# Studies on cosmic ray-lightning correlations in the Pierre Auger Observatory

Julian Rautenberg, Lukas Niemietz Bergische Universität Wuppertal

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PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY 3000 km<sup>2</sup> at 1400 m 1660 Surface Detectors 27 Fluorescence Telescopes

# Autonomous Particle Detector

#### Cherenkov light in water

Communicationantenna

#### Electronic cover

**GPS** antenna

Solar panel

Battery

EZRA

- Photomultiplier

Plastic tank filled with 12 tons of water

#### **Energy spectrum to the highest energies**



C

# **SD Trigger efficiency**



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Lightning@Auger

- JINST 6 P01003 (2011)
- Count 12 ns bins with signal above 3 FADC counts (dE/dx ~ 15MeV) and upper bound of 20 FADC counts (~ 100MeV) to remove muon background for GRBs searches
- Average ~ 2 kHz
- Good correlation with neutron monitors
- "Space weather"





Days since 13 May 2005 00:00 UTC (Period I)

Should you use these data for any publication, acknowledgement to the Pierre Auger Observatory should be given and JINST 6 P01003 (2011) should be cited. You can also download an ascii file with all the dataset.

#### Latest scaler data





oservatory.



SD-Trace of a lightning event Scalers count many "particles" Analysis of Traces give better lightning-indicator



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0h36hPpeJE



SD-Trace of a lightning event Scalers count many "particles" Analysis of Traces give better lightning-indicator

Preliminary result: No correlation with Auger-Events due to high energy-threshold log(E/eV)>18.5

Xavier Bertou



# **Lightning Detectors**

- 60 66 MHz observation
- 25 MHz sampling
- Log detector



Rison et al., Geophys. Res. Lett., 26 (1999)





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# Lightning Mapping Array @ Auger



Brown et al., Eur. Phys. J. Plus (2012)

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# Radio-Detection of Extensive Air Showers

#### **Renaissance of Radio Detection: Theory**

- Early measurements in the 70ties
- Renaissance: Falcke & Gorham A.Ph. (2003)
- Full MC predicting few ns pulses with rather smooth falling frequency dependence and energy scaling
- Geomagnetic effect: v x B
- Coherent emissions from billions of Elektrons
- Emission is focused in beam direction



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#### **Renaissance of Radio Detection: Experiment**

For R&D ideal environment:

- take a running experiment (KASCADE-Grande)
- add new hardware (from new experiment, LOFAR)
- have a look, how EAS look like (Nature 435, 2005)

externally triggered understand radio-emission of extended air shower

energy-range from KASCADE-Grande balance shower-rate and signal-height

Inverted V-shape dipole 40 — 80 MHz 30 channels mainly EW-pol.

#### LOfar PrototypE Station

### **LOPES: Interferometric Reconstruction**

• Cross-correlated beam:

$$cc[t] = \frac{+}{-} \sqrt{\left| \frac{1}{N_{Pairs}} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j>i}^{N} s_i[t] s_j[t] \right|}$$

*s*[*t*] : signal of station *i* at time *t* 

- SNR scales with # antenna
- Pulse-hight scales with energy



log(Primary Energy/GeV)



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#### **Thunderstorm effect on CR's radio signal**



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Lightning@Auger

#### **LOPES E-Fiels mill as Lightning detector**

- Strong jumps of kV/m within 1 sec (sampling rate)
- Thunderstorm DAQ-mode reading longer traces



### **LOPES Lightning CR correlation**

- Analysis of thunderstorm data for correlation
- Signal from relatvistic runaway electron avalance (RREA)? Dwyer, J. Geophys. Res., 115, A00E14, (2009)



#### No significant correlation found

Similar RREA-pulse confirmed by Gurevich et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 110 (2013)

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Radio-Detection of Extensive Air Showers at Energies E>10<sup>18</sup> eV

#### Radio EAS detection @ Auger

- 160 radio detector stations on 20 km<sup>2</sup>
- Phase II deployed May 2013



#### **AERA Station**



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#### Radio EAS detection @ Auger



#### **AERA E-field thunderstorm detection**

- E-Field mill (Campbell Scientific CS110)
- No spatial resolution
- 1 sec sampling
- 2 stations at Auger





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#### **AERA E-field thunderstorm detection**



15 minutes around found event are marked as thunderstorm

#### **AERA E-field thunderstorm detection**

- Available in Auger Monitoring
- Already at 25 km differences in detection on ground



### Lightning detection for AERA

#### **Boltek StormTracker:**

- Sensitive in kHz-region
- Semiprofessional system
- Lightning detection up to 500 km
- Roughly estimation of direction via fraction of N/S and E/W polarization
- Three systems installed in November 2012 in Argentina
- Time accuracy of PC

Uncertainty of order 10 ms not enough for triggering other detectors





### Lightning detection for AERA

CheckUp System (www.checkup-technik.de)

- 13 Boltek StormTracker with GPS-module in Germany
- Time of Arrival Reconstruction
- ca. 100 m spacial resolution
- Webinterface delivers Google Earth data



## Lightning detection for AERA

- Lightning data in Auger Mointoring available
- Clear signal e.g. for 9th of March 1:36 am elve



#### **GPS-Extension for Boltek StormTracker**

- ublox LEA-6T module
- Read out via USB
- Time Mark External Input from StormTracker Trigger
- Systematic ~ 20 ns
- Resolution ~ 10 ns





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# Lightning measuring with AERA

- LMA used 60-66 MHz, AERA uses 30-80 MHz
- Lightning measurements with 180 MHz sampling
- Modification of standard analysis for multiple pulses
- Need full buffer (7 sec) read-out



#### EFM triggered AERA Data



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#### EFM triggered AERA Data



## Lightning correlation with CR

Lightning measurments with:

- Surface Detector,
- E-Field mill,
- Boltek StormTracker,
- Lightning Mapping Array,
- CR Radio Detector

Correlation difficult because needs

- Precise Lightning detection / measurment
- Precise high energy CR (statistics)
- Radio-measurent promising, might do both, but needs verification