Cosmic ray physics at accelerators

Gaku Mitsuka (University of Florence, INFN Firenze, and JSPS fellow)



LTS1 Workshop, NP-QCD (22-24 May, 2014)



Outline

- Introduction: from cosmic ray to accelerator
- Recent LHC results: LHCf, diffraction, and cross section
- What's next ?
 - Extrapolation and scaling
 - RHICf project
 - Light-ion collision
- Summary

Cosmic ray observation



Indirect observation of cosmic rays



Surface detectors (charged+photon)

- It is impossible to directly* measure cosmic rays properties above 10¹⁴eV, but possible indirectly using the cascade shower of daughter particles, Extensive Air-Shower (EAS).
- Dependence of EAS on a mass composition and energy of cosmic rays is used for PID and energy reconstruction.
- * direct measurement of cosmic ray <10¹⁴eV is done by balloon, satellite, and ISS.



Fluorescence detectors (UV light from excited N₂)



Hadronic interaction in air shower

E~TeV



Cosmic ray interaction at accelerator







10(W)cm x 10cm(H) x 30cm(D) Sampling calorimeter, 44X₀, 1.6λ



Results at the LHC: LHCf analyses

	Photon (EM shower)	Neutron	π0 (EM showor)
Test beam at SPS	NIM. A 671, 129–136 (2012)	(2014)	
p-p at 900GeV	Phys. Lett. B 715, 298-303 (2012)		
p-p at 7TeV	Phys. Lett. B 703, 128–134 (2011)	To be submitted	Phys. Rev. D 86, 092001 (2012)
p-p at 2.76TeV			Submitted to Phys Rev. C
p-Pb at 5.02TeV			arXiv:1403.7845, CERN-PH-EP-2014-059

- LHCf analysis activity was so far directed to the EM shower events for its simplicity.
- We have extended the activity to neutron event analysis based on improved tools.
- Also we show the analysis results in p-Pb collisions (submitted to Phys. Rev. C).

Analysis on blank parts are ongoing or planed.

Inclusive $\pi^0 p_T$ spectra in p-Pb at 5.02TeV



- The LHCf data in p-Pb (filled circles) show good agreement with DPMJET and EPOS.
- The LHCf data in p-Pb are clearly harder than the LHCf data in p-p at 5.02TeV (shaded area). The latter is interpolated from the results at 2.76TeV and 7TeV.

Nuclear modification factor in p-Pb at 5.02TeV



Inclusive neutron energy spectra in p-p at 7TeV



- In η >10.76 huge amount of neutron exists. Only QGSJET roughly reproduces the LHCf result.
- In other rapidity regions, the LHCf results are enclosed by the variation of models.
- These results may indicate small inelasticity in very forward region.

Results at the LHC: diffraction



Results at the LHC: cross section



- There is no drastic change from EPOS 1.99 to EPOS LHC.
- Better agreement with TOTEM is found in QGSJET II-04 compared with QGSJET II-03.
- Post LHC models show overall good agreement with data up to the LHC energy.
- They are converged into similar values even at 10⁶GeV.

Prediction of X_{max} with retuned models



- Difference of <X_{max}> in p-air among pre LHC models is about 50g/cm² at 10²⁰eV, although a difference between p-air and Fe-air is about 100g/cm².
- Retuned models with the the LHC data are somehow converged into pre-LHC model SIBYLL 2.1.
- Difference between p and Fe is reduced to 20g/cm².

What's next?

- Inelastic p-p cross section
 - It is and will be strongly constrained by the measurements at the LHC.
- Inelasticity and forward energy/p_T spectra
 LHCf analyses at 7TeV were done. Similar analyses will be performed at 13TeV.
- Extrapolation to ultrahigh energy
 - Understanding of scaling raw is of importance to validate an extrapolation.
 - Precise measurements in many collision energies are necessary; 900GeV, 2.76TeV, 7TeV and 8TeV so far, and 13TeV soon.
- Nuclear effects
 - p-Pb collision at 5.02TeV is good to imitate a very dense matter which can be realized in p-air collision at E>>TeV.
 - nucleon light-ion collision (e.g. p-N/O) is needed to test the current implementation of hadronic interaction models at TeV energy region.

Extrapolation and scaling



- Feynman scaling of forward photon energy and $\pi^0 p_T$ distributions are found at LHCf.
- More precise extrapolation to ultrahigh energy.
 - LHC at 13 TeV
 - Extension to lower energy (e.g. RHIC at $\sqrt{s}=510$ GeV).

RHICf project (the LHCf detector at RHIC)



- Testing the Feynman scaling of energy and p_T spectra between SPS and LHC energies.
- Pseudo rapidity can be down to 6 (η>8.4 at LHCf).
- Possibly operation in d(p)-Au collisions.
- Additional contribution to spin asymmetry measurements.



Light-ion collision



- Cross section at ultrahigh energy inevitably involve an uncertainty due to the extrapolation from the LHC energies. A model difference gets bigger above 10⁴GeV (> LHC energy).
- Main uncertainty of p-air cross sections is owing to a conversion from p-p to p-air.
- Proton light-ion collision (N and O) is the best bench to test hadronic interaction models for cosmic ray physics.

Summary

- Understanding of hadronic interaction is crucial to reduce an uncertainty in cosmic ray observation.
- LHC is the best occasion to improve/tune the hadronic interaction models towards an observation of ultrahigh energy cosmic ray.
- Retuned models with LHC data indeed show convergence at the LHC energy.
- Next target is
 - performing a precise extrapolation based on a robust scaling.
 - RHICf; an extension of the LHCf activity to low energy but to wide rapidity range.
 - (hopefully) light ion collision.