



# The LHAASO project: from γ-Ray Astronomy to Cosmic Rays

**G. Di Sciascio** for the LHAASO Collaboration INFN - Roma Tor Vergata *disciascio@roma2.infn.it* 

CRIS2015 - Cosmic Ray International Seminar 2015 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Gallipoli, ITALY

- What is LHAASO ?
- Why LHAASO ?
- The scientific case: open problems in Cosmic Ray Physics
- The LHAASO Experiment
- Status and prospects

# What is LHAASO ?

The Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) project is a new generation all-sky instrument to investigate the '*cosmic ray connection*' through a combined study of Cosmic Rays and Gamma-Rays in the wide energy range 10<sup>11</sup> -- 10<sup>17</sup> eV.

LHAASO will consist of the following major components:

- 1 km<sup>2</sup> array (LHAASO-KM2A), including 5635 scintillator detectors, with 15 m spacing, for electromagnetic particle detection.
- An overlapping 1 km<sup>2</sup> array of 1221, 36 m<sup>2</sup> underground water Cherenkov tanks, with 30 m spacing, for muon detection (total sensitive area about <u>40,000</u> m<sup>2</sup>).
- A close-packed, surface water Cherenkov detector facility with a total area of 90,000 m<sup>2</sup> (LHAASO-WCDA), four times that of HAWC.
- 24 wide field-of-view air Cherenkov (and fluorescence) telescopes (LHAASO-WFCTA).
- 452 close-packed burst detectors, located near the centre of the array, for detection of high energy secondary particles in the shower core region (LHAASO-SCDA).

### The LHAASO site

The experiment will be located at 4400 m asl (600 g/cm<sup>2</sup>) in the Haizishan (Lakes' Mountain) site, Sichuan province

Coordinates: 29° 21' 31'' N, 100° 08' 15'' E

700 km to Chengdu 50 km to Daocheng City (3700 m asl, guest house !) 10 km to airport







### Questions to the knee energy range



# Why LHAASO ?

LHAASO will be the next generation ground-based experiment, capable of acting simultaneously as a Cosmic Ray Detector and a Gamma Ray Telescope.

• Cosmic Ray Physics ( $10^{12} \rightarrow 10^{18} \text{ eV}$ ): precluded to Cherenkov Telescopes



- Gamma-Ray Astronomy ( $10^{11} \rightarrow 10^{15} \text{ eV}$ ): full sky continuous monitoring
  - <u>Below 20 TeV</u>: continuous monitoring of the Northern sky at < 0.01 of the Crab flux</li>
     → Sky survey: complementarity with CTA
  - <u>Above 20 TeV</u>: continuous monitoring of the Northern sky up to PeV with a sensitivity 2000x CTA for sky survey > 70 TeV → search for PeV CR sources (*PeVatrons*)







# Approaching the knee

The origin of the *knee* in the all-particle spectrum of CRs is inextricably connected with the issue of the end of the Galactic CR spectrum and the transition to extragalactic CRs.

The standard model:

- Knee attributed to light (proton, helium) component
- Rigidity-dependent structure (Peters cycle): cut-offs at energies proportional to the nuclear charge  $E_Z = Z \times 4.5$  PeV
- The sum of the flux of all elements with their individual cut-offs makes up the all-particle spectrum.
- Not only does the spectrum become steeper due to such a cutoff but also heavier.







### Experimental results still conflicting !

# KASCADE-Grande

- spectrum all-particle not a single power law
- hardening of the spectrum above 10<sup>16</sup>eV
- steepening close to  $10^{17}$ eV (2.1  $\sigma$ )



Phys.Rev.Lett. 107 (2011) 171104 Phys.Rev.D (R) 87 (2013) 081101

relative abundances different for different high-energy hadronic interaction models

Adv. Sp. Res. 53 (2014) 1456



- steepening due to heavy primaries (3.5  $\sigma$ )
- hardening at  $10^{17.08}$  eV (5.8  $\sigma$ ) in light spectrum
- slope change from  $\gamma = -3.25$  to  $\gamma = -2.79$  !







# LHAASO vs other EAS arrays

|                | Altitude (m) | e.m. Detection Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Instrumented Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Coverage             |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
|                |              |                                       |                                     |                      |
| KASCADE        | 110          | $5 \times 10^{2}$                     | $4 \times 10^{4}$                   | $1.2 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| IceTop         | 2835         | $4 \times 10^{2}$                     | $10^{6}$                            | 4×10 <sup>-4</sup>   |
| KASCADE-Grande | 110          | 370                                   | $5 \times 10^{5}$                   | $7 \times 10^{-4}$   |
| LHAASO         | 4410         | 5×10 <sup>3</sup>                     | <b>10</b> <sup>6</sup>              | 5×10 <sup>-3</sup>   |
|                |              | μ Detection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )    | Instrumented Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Coverage             |
| KASCADE        | 110          | $6 \times 10^{2}$                     | <b>4×10<sup>4</sup></b>             | $1.5 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| LHAASO         | 4410         | <b>4.4</b> ×10 <sup>4</sup>           | <b>10</b> <sup>6</sup>              | 4.4×10 <sup>-2</sup> |

- ✓ LHAASO will operate with a coverage similar to KASCADE (about %) over a much larger effective area.
- ✓ The detection area of muon detectors is about 70 times larger than KASCADE (coverage 5%) !
- ✓ Redundancy: different detectors to study hadronic models dependence
- Working at high altitude (4410 m asl):
  - 1. p and Fe produce showers with similar size
  - 2. Small fluctuations: shower maximum
  - Low energy threshold: absolute energy scale calibration with the Moon Shadow technique and overposition with direct measurements (→ ARGO-YBJ)



### Take Home Message - 1

- Energy range 10<sup>14</sup> 10<sup>18</sup> eV crucial
- Experimental results still conflicting !

# Homework

- ✓ Spectra of individual mass groups !!
- $\checkmark$  Multi-parameter EAS measurements to validate hadronic interaction models
- $\checkmark$  The right observation altitude !
- ✓ Absolute energy scale calibration: low energy threshold !

# Cosmic Ray diffusive propagation and anisotropy



#### Galactic Cosmic Rays

- Accelerated in SNRs
- Propagate diffusively

#### Consequences for anisotropy

- CR density gradients are visible as anisotropy
- Anisotropy amplitude ≤ 10<sup>-2</sup>
- Amplitude increases with energy
- Dipole shape
- Phase pointing towards the most significant sources

Generally speaking, the dipole component of the anisotropy is believed to be a tracer of the CR source distribution, with the largest contribution from the nearest ones.

Measuring the anisotropy of CRs provides important information on the propagation mechanisms and the identification of their sources.

### The CR anisotropy 'problems'

- Observed anisotropy much smaller than expectations according to diffusive models
- Unexpected evolution with energy, 'dramatic' above 100 TeV

0.5

 $\Delta N/N$  [×10





- Anisotropy not a simple dipole as foresee by diffusive models: small scale structures
- Dipole component no more dominant above 100 TeV



0.5

 $\Delta N/N$  [×10<sup>-</sup>

10<sup>-3</sup>

Ł

10-4

10<sup>15</sup>

10<sup>1</sup>

# Energy Spectrum, Anisotropy & Mass Composition

A combined measurement of CR energy spectrum, mass composition and anisotropy inevitably probes the properties and spatial distribution of their sources as well as of the long propagation journey through the magnetized medium.

In fact, propagation of CRs in the galactic medium is known to affect their spectrum and direction distribution.

Non-dipolar structure of the anisotropy >100 TeV:

propagation effects from a given sources ? heavier nuclei in the knee energy region ?

study correlation between anisotropy & spectral features vs primary mass

Anisotropy for different primary particle masses crucial !



# Anisotropy for p+He nuclei: ARGO-YBJ results



The analysis, yet at a preliminary stage, showed an interesting potential, outlining possible correlations between the known LSA structures and LIGHT-induced deviations from isotropy.

LHAASO, with 20x trigger rate, will be able to deepen and extend these observations.

# Take Home Message - 2

- Anisotropy important to understand the origin and propagation of CRs and to probe the structure of the magnetic fields through which CRs travel.
- Anisotropy not a dipole.
- Anisotropy amplitude too small.

## Homework

✓ High statistics in a large energy range (→  $10^{16-17}$  eV)

✓ The new frontier: composition dependent anisotropy studies !!!



/ERITAS



-180

Complex scenario: each source is individual and has a unique behaviour. In general one expects a combination of leptonic and hadronic emission !

# But 'smoking gun' still missing...

**TeV Cosmic Rays** Photons > 100 GeV !

+ rest

 $\gamma\gamma$ 

+90

HESS survey

TeVatron Sky

 $(p, \gamma)$ 

p



+180

# Galactic TeV source populations



### How complete is the Survey?

If there is a (bright) PeVatron out there, would we have detected it already?





★ A power law spectrum reaching 100 TeV without a cutoff is a very strong indication of the hadronic origin of the emission

# Opening the PeVatron range



# Opening the PeVatron range



G. Di Sciascio, CRIS 2015, Sept. 16, 2015

# Diffuse $\gamma$ -rays from the Galactic Plane

Diffuse  $\gamma$ -rays are produced by relativistic electrons by bremsstrahlung or inverse Compton scattering on bkg radiation fields, or by protons and nuclei via the decay of  $\pi^{\circ}$  produced in *hadronic interactions* with interstellar gas. The space distribution of this emission can trace the location of the CR sources and the distribution of interstellar gas.

The intensity of diffuse Galactic gamma-rays for a standard CR spectrum with the knee at **3 PeV** on a 'standard' molecular cloud.



If near some molecular cloud the knee is at 0.6 PeV, the spectrum of diffuse gamma rays from that region would follow the red dashed line.

Is the knee a source property, in which case we should see a corresponding spectral feature in the gamma-ray spectra of CR sources, or the result of propagation, so we should observe a *knee that is potentially dependent on location*, because the propagation properties depend on position in the Galaxy?

Observing a location dependence of the knee energy (or of the spectral index !) would provide important clues on the nature of the knee.

High Energy Observation of Diffuse Emission

# Diffuse $\gamma$ Emission

Diffuse gamma-ray emission from the Galactic plane for  $|b| < 5^{\circ}$ 

| 0                                |              |                   | 1           |                   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| l Intervals                      | Significance | Spectral index    | Energy(GeV) | Flux <sup>a</sup> |
| $25^{\circ} < l < 100^{\circ}$   | 6.9 s.d.     | $-2.80 \pm 0.26$  | 390         | $8.06 \pm 1.49$   |
|                                  |              |                   | 750         | $1.64\pm0.43$     |
|                                  |              |                   | 1640        | $0.13\pm0.05$     |
|                                  |              |                   | $1000^{b}$  | $0.60\pm0.13$     |
| $40^{\circ} < l < 100^{\circ}$   | 6.1 s.d.     | $-2.90 \pm 0.31$  | 350         | $10.94 \pm 2.23$  |
|                                  |              |                   | 680         | $2.00\pm0.60$     |
|                                  |              |                   | 1470        | $0.14\pm0.08$     |
|                                  |              | $\langle \rangle$ | $1000^{b}$  | $0.52\pm0.15$     |
| $65^{\circ} < l < 85^{\circ}$    | 4.1 s.d.     | $-2.65 \pm 0.44$  | 440         | $5.38 \pm 1.70$   |
|                                  |              |                   | 780         | $1.13\pm0.60$     |
|                                  |              |                   | 1730        | $0.15\pm0.07$     |
|                                  |              |                   | $1000^{b}$  | $0.62\pm0.18$     |
| $25^{\circ} < l < 65^{\circ} \&$ | 5.6 s.d.     | $-2.89 \pm 0.33$  | 380         | $9.57 \pm 2.18$   |
| $85^\circ < l < 100^\circ$       |              |                   | 730         | $1.96\pm0.59$     |
|                                  |              |                   | 1600        | $0.12\pm0.07$     |
|                                  |              |                   | $1000^{b}$  | $0.60\pm0.17$     |
| $130^{\circ} < l < 200^{\circ}$  | -0.5 s.d.    | —                 | _           | $< 5.7^{c}$       |

<sup>*a*</sup>In units of  $10^{-9}$  TeV<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup>.

Interestingly, the energy spectrum of the light component (p+He) up to 700 TeV measured by ARGO-YBJ follows the same spectral shape as that found in the Cygnus region.

A precise comparison of the spectrum of young CRs, as those supposed in the Cygnus region, with the spectrum of old CRs resident in other places of the Galactic plane, could help to determine the distribution of the sources of CRs.

G. Di Sciascio, CRIS 2015, Sept. 16, 2015

ApJ 806 (2015) 20



### LHAASO sensitivity to diffuse $\gamma$ -ray emission

Gamma-ray diffuse emission with cutoff at 50 TeV **PRELIMINARY !!!** 

25° < l < 100°; |b| < 5°





# Sensitivity to gamma point sources



### Spectra measurement with LHAASO



G. Di Sciascio, CRIS 2015, Sept. 16, 2015

### Take Home Message - 3

- Sky maps of the gamma-ray sky not unbiased.
- PeVatrons smoking gun signature still missing.
- Study of extended sources (Molecular Clouds, diffuse emission) very important.
- Monitoring of flaring emissions (GRBs, AGNs, etc) important

# Homework

 $\checkmark$  All-sky survey instrument for an unbiased map of the sky.

✓ Observation of gamma-ray sky in the 100 TeV region !

- $\checkmark$  Wide-angle instrument for very extended sources and diffuse emission.
- ✓ Survey for new, unexpected classes of VHE sources ('*dark accelerator*')

# LHAASO main components







Coverage area: 1.3 km<sup>2</sup>



WFCTA: 24 telescopes 1024 pixels each





WCDA: 3600 cells 90,000 m<sup>2</sup>



### Status of LHAASO

- LHAASO is one of the '*Five top priorities*' projects of the Strategic Plan of IHEP approved by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).
- The government of Sichuan province approved funding the total cost of the infrastructure construction: 300 M CNY.
- "The official approval of LHAASO drafted, waiting the chief of funding agency to sign on it".

Schedule (August 2015)

★ July 2015: start of construction of infrastructures.
 ★ Nov. 2015: start of big scale construction.

★ Autumn/Winter 2016: start of construction of first quarter of WCDA and KM2A.

★ Winter 2018: start scientific operation of the first quarter of LHAASO.

 $\star$  2021: conclusion of installation of main components.

# Landscape of the LHAASO site

### Mt. Haizi 4400 m asl, Sichuan province, China









### Geo survey and weather monitoring



# Updated layout after site survey

Roads under construction:

- Connection to S217
- Major transportation ways on site
- Paths to MDs
- Start of field preparation expected in **Dec. 2015.**
- Sites of MDs have been surveyed.
- 1146 MD sites (of the 1221 planned) confirmed and fixed after the survey.
- Position of EDs measured and fixed.
- Deep geo-survey for WCDA pools started in June.



#### New MC simulations with the final layout under way

# Water Cherenkov Detector Array

50







| Item                           | Value                       |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Cell area                      | 25 m <sup>2</sup>           |  |
| Effective water depth          | 4 m                         |  |
| Water transparency             | > 15 m (400 nm)             |  |
| Precision of time measurement  | 0.5 ns                      |  |
| Dynamic range                  | 1-4000 PEs                  |  |
| Time resolution                | <2 ns                       |  |
| Charge resolution              | 40% @ 1 PE<br>5% @ 4000 PEs |  |
| Accuracy of charge calibration | <2%                         |  |
| Accuracy of time calibration   | <0.2 ns                     |  |
| Total area                     | 90,000 m <sup>2</sup>       |  |
| Total cells                    | 3600                        |  |

PMTs R5912 and XP1805 under test

# Gamma/proton discrimination





#### Brightest "sub-core":

• Signal of the brightest PMT outside the shower core region (e.g., 45 m).

Shower "Compactness" to reject cosmic ray background:

Q-factor: 7 @ 1 TeV; 22 @ 5 TeV.

30

### Effective Area & Angular Resolution



Effective area (internal events):

• ~1000 m<sup>2</sup> @ 100 GeV; >80,000 m<sup>2</sup> @ 5 TeV.

#### Angular resolution:

• Optimized bin size: 0.55° @ 1 TeV; 0.23° @ 5 TeV.

### Electromagnetic particle Detector







| Item                           | Value                                     |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Effective area                 | 1 m <sup>2</sup>                          |  |
| Thickness of tiles             | 2.5 cm                                    |  |
| Number of WLS fibers           | 32/tile×4 tile                            |  |
| Detection efficiency (> 5 MeV) | <b>&gt;</b> 95%                           |  |
| Dynamic range                  | 1-10,000 particles                        |  |
| Time resolution                | <2 ns                                     |  |
| Particle counting resolution   | 25% @ 1 particle<br>5% @ 10,000 particles |  |
| Aging (<20%)                   | >10 years                                 |  |
| Spacing                        | 15 m                                      |  |
| Total number of detectors      | 5635                                      |  |
|                                |   |  |

# Water Cherenkov Muon Detector





| Item                         | Value                                     |
|------------------------------|---|
| Area                         | <b>36 m<sup>2</sup></b>                   |
| <b>Detection efficiency</b>  | >95%                                      |
| Purity of $N_{\mu}$          | >95%                                      |
| Time resolution              | <10 ns                                    |
| Dynamic range                | 1-10,000 particles                        |
| Particle counting resolution | 25% @ 1 particle<br>5% @ 10,000 particles |
| Aging (<20%)                 | >10 years                                 |
| Spacing                      | 30 m                                      |
| Total number of detectors    | 1221                                      |

# Wide field of view Cherenkov Telescope Array



# Engineering Array at YBJ

#### 1% - 10% of LHAASO in operation for more than 2 years at the ARGO-YBJ site

#### 42 EDs, 2 MDs, 9-unit WCDA, 2 telescopes, 100 shower core detectors

Fully implemented the LHAASO design including White Rabbit-based clock distribution, "triggerless" DAQ, etc

Average water temperature: 4-6°C; The lowest temperature: ~0.5°C

Chinese Physics C Vol. 38, No. 3 (2014) 036002



# Engineering Array at YBJ

#### 1% - 10% of LHAASO in operation for more than 2 years at the ARGO-YBJ site

#### 42 EDs, 2 MDs, 9-unit WCDA, 2 telescopes, 100 shower core detectors

Fully implemented the LHAASO design including White Rabbit-based clock distribution, "triggerless" DAQ, etc



Average water temperature: 4-6°C; The lowest temperature: ~0.5°C

Chinese Physics C Vol. 38, No. 3 (2014) 036002

### Event Rate and Moon Shadow

Scintillator array operated 2 years with ARGO-YBJ:

Event rate in agreement with MC and ARGO-YBJ

Moon shadow observed in 2 years at 5.8 s.d.



Chinese Physics C Vol. 38, No. 2 (2014) 026001

# International Collaboration

#### FRANCE: IPNO Orsay and OMEGA

**Tiina Suomijärvi** group: ASIC-based FEE for Cherenkov telescopes Simulations of muon detectors

CAS Project for the China-France collaboration approved (1.1 M CNY) last year

#### **RUSSIA: INP, RAS**

**Yuri Stenkin** group: Neutron detectors for hadron measurement (test of prototype at YBJ) Alternative proposal for core detectors

#### THAILAND:

D. Ruffolo group: Solar Physics

#### **ITALY: INFN**

proposal for DAQ system of the experiment under discussion



ASIC-based FEE for telescopes

### Conclusions

The LHAASO experiment has very interesting prospects, being *able to deal with all the main open problems of cosmic ray physics at the same time.* 

It is proposed to study CRs in a *unprecedented wide energy range 10<sup>11</sup> - 10<sup>18</sup> eV*, from those observable in space with AMS and approaching those investigated by AUGER, thus including, in addition to the 'knee', the whole region between 'knee' and 'ankle' where the galactic/ extra-galactic CR transition is expected.

At the same time it is proposed as a tool of great sensitivity - unprecedented above 30 TeV - to monitor 'all the sky all the time' a gamma-ray domain extremely rich of sources variable at all wavelengths.

Construction of infrastructures started.

Commissioning of first quarter of the experiment (more sensitive than HAWC) expected in 2018.

Conclusion of installation of main components expected in 2021.

G. Di Sciascio, CRIS 2015, Sept. 16, 2015

# Shower Core Detector Array

• 425 close-packed burst detectors, located near the centre of the array, for the detection of high energy secondary particles in the shower core region.

#### **Burst Detector**



The burst detectors observe the electron size (burst size) under the lead plate induced by high energy e.m. particle in the shower core region



• Core position resolution: 1.5 m @50 TeV

Each burst detector is constituted by 20 optically separated scintillator strips of 1.5 cm  $\times$  4 cm  $\times$  50 cm read out by two PMTs operated with different gains to achieve a wide dynamic range (1- 10<sup>6</sup> MIPs).



Lead plate (80 cm X 50 cm X 7 rl)
Iron plate (1 m X 1 m X 1 rl)





# Dwarf Spheroidal galaxies (dSph)

Low luminosity galaxies that are companions to the Milky Way.

The total amount of mass inferred from the motions of stars in dSph is many times that which can be accounted for by the mass of the stars themselves ➡ this is seen as a sure sign of dark matter Because of the extremely large amounts of dark matter in these objects, they may deserve the title "most dark matter-dominated galaxies"



# DM search with LHAASO

Caveat:

- 30 dSphs (3x) (supposing the observation of new dSphs)
- -10% from spatial extension (source extension increases the signal region at high energy)

LHAASO advantage: combined analysis of different dwarf galaxies observed at the same time





# Extended Source Sensitivity

### $\approx 70$ % of TeV Galactic Sources are extended !

IACT's rely on angular resolution for excellent background rejection.

• When the source size is large compared to PSF, sensitivity is reduced by a factor of

 $\sim \sigma_{detector} / \sigma_{source}$ 

Source larger than camera

• When the source size is large compared to the FOV, sensitivity is reduced by

 $\sim \sigma_{detector} / \sigma_{source}$ 

