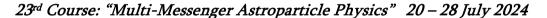
# Radio detection of extensive air showers Precision measurements of the properties of cosmic rays



ETTORE MAJORANA» FOUNDATION AND CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC CULTURE

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF COSMIC-RAY ASTROPHYSICS «MAURICE M. SHAPIRO»



PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE: PROFESSOR A. ZICHICHI

DIRECTORS OF THE COURSE: PROFESSORS J.R. HÖRANDEL, T. STANEV, R. SPARVOLI - J.P. WEFEL (director emeritus)









characterize cosmic rays:

- -direction
- -energy
- -mass
- @100% duty cycle

Jörg R. Hörandel

RU Nijmegen, Nikhef, VU Brussel

http://particle.astro.ru.nl

# Radio detection of extensive air showers Precision measurements of the properties of cosmic rays

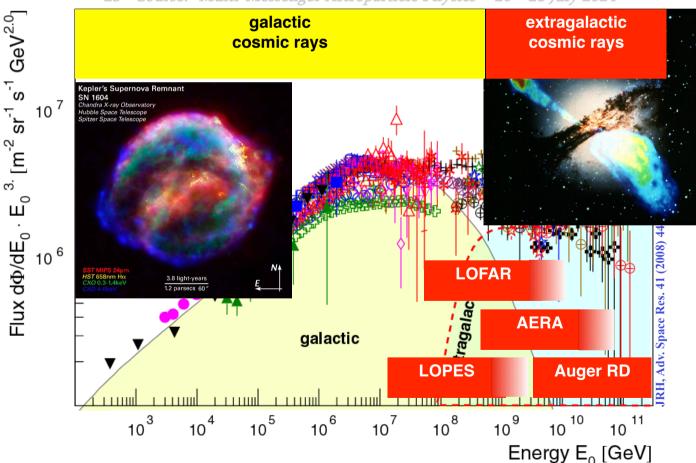


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23rd Course: "Multi-Messenger Astroparticle Physics" 20 – 28 July 2024





characterize cosmic rays:

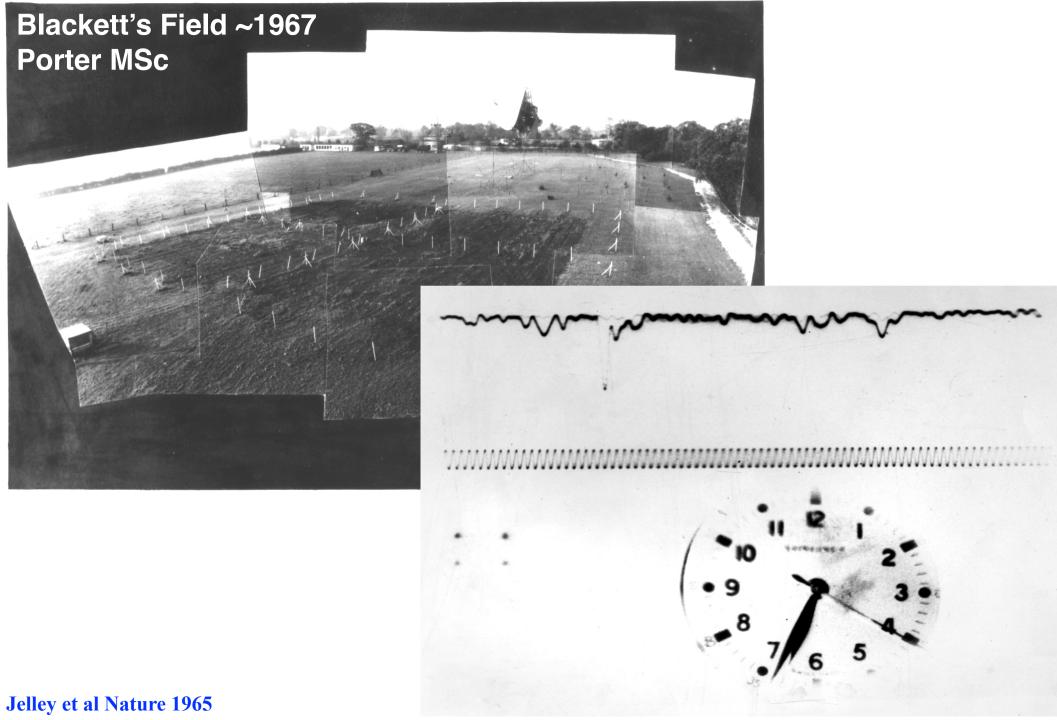
- -direction
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- @100% duty cycle

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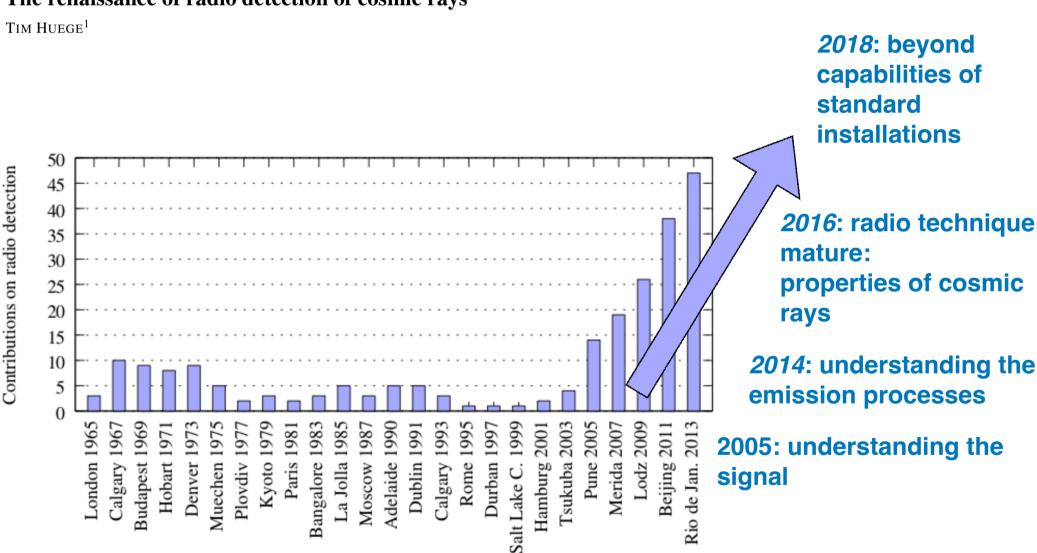
http://particle.astro.ru.nl

### First radio detection of air showers 1965





#### The renaissance of radio detection of cosmic rays



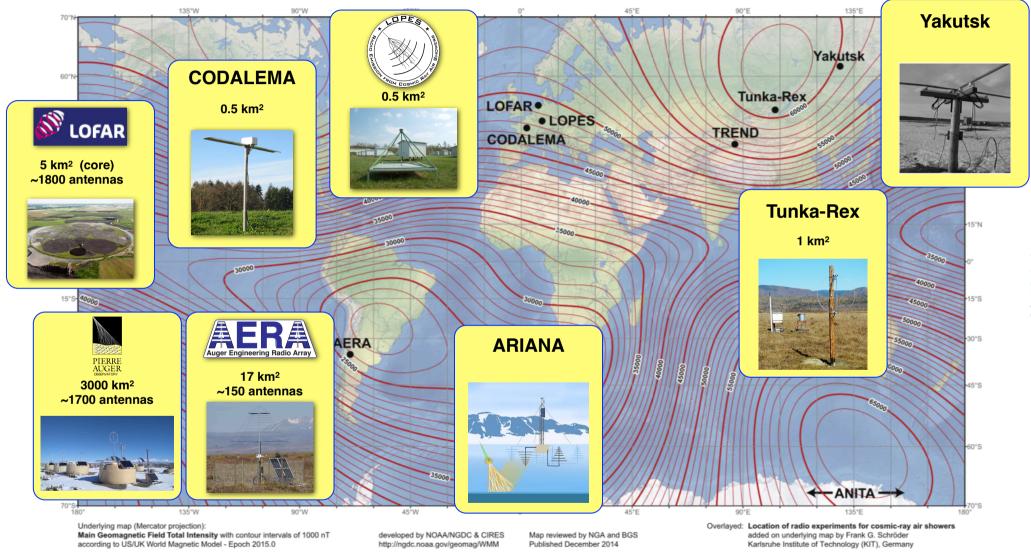
**Figure 1**: Number of contributions related to radio detection of cosmic rays or neutrinos to the ICRCs since 1965. The field has grown very impressively since the modern activities started around 2003. Data up to 2007 were taken from [11].

# Radio Detectors

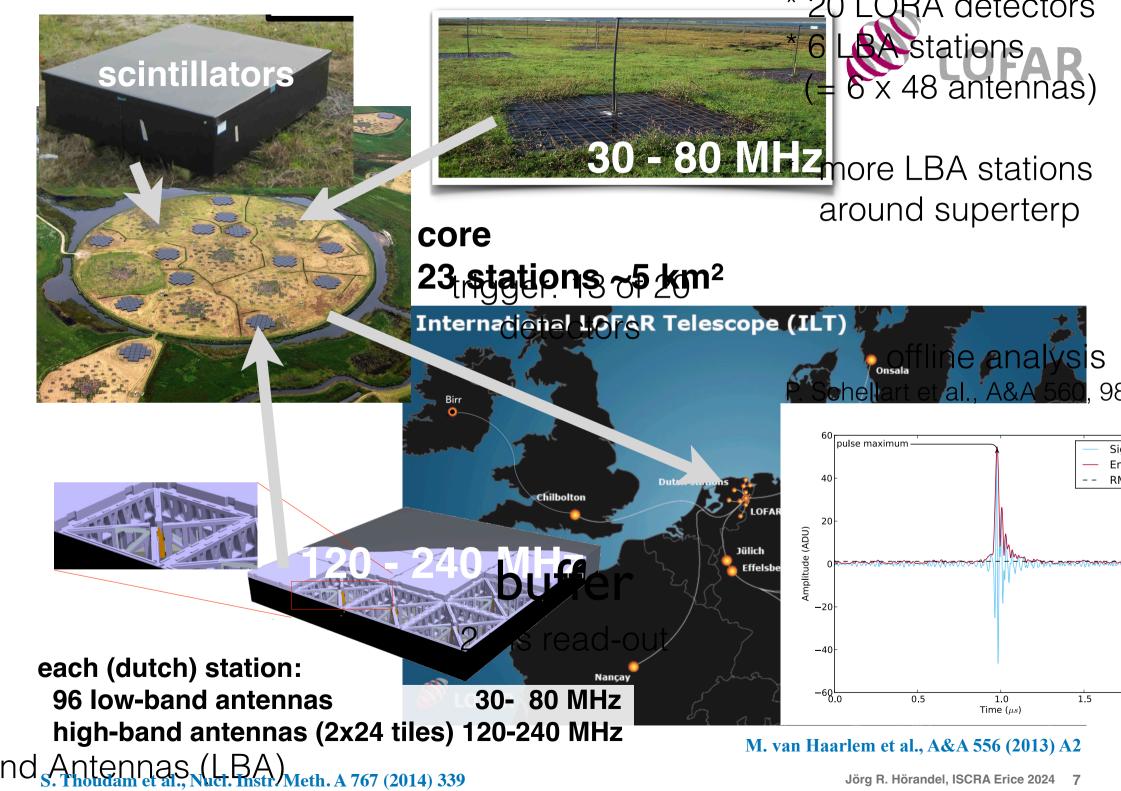


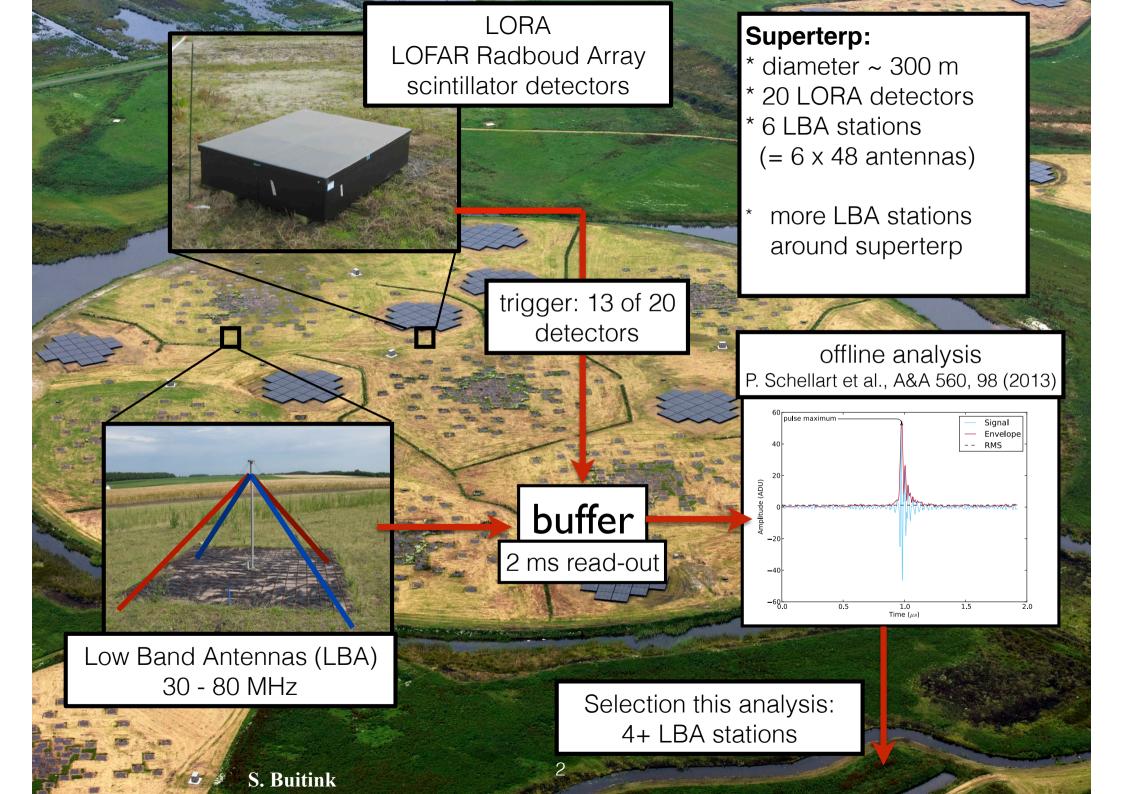
# F.G. Schröder, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 92 (17)

# Radio detection of extensive air showers around the world

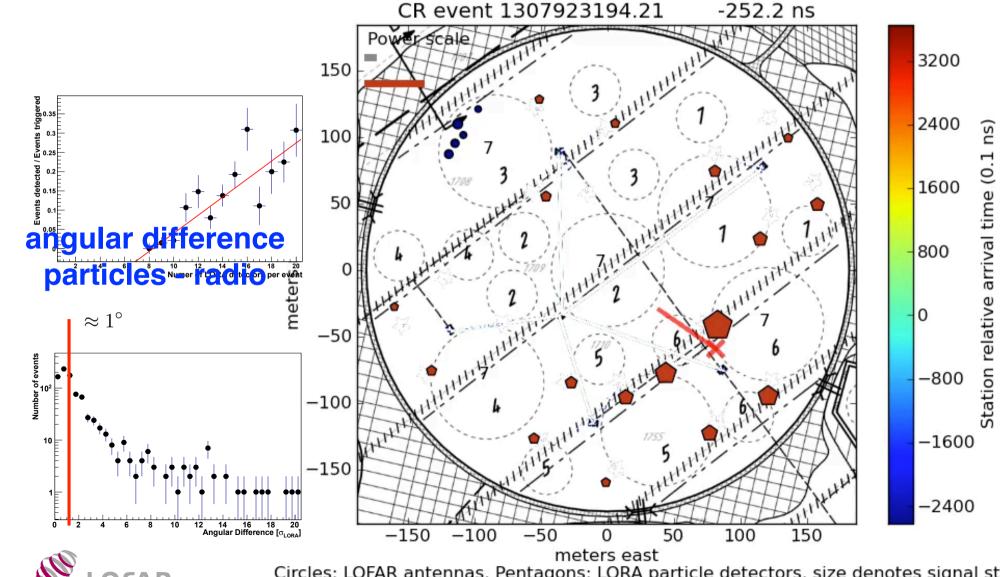


**Fig. 21.** Map of the total geomagnetic field strengths (world magnetic model [207]) and the location of various radio experiments detecting cosmic-ray air showers.

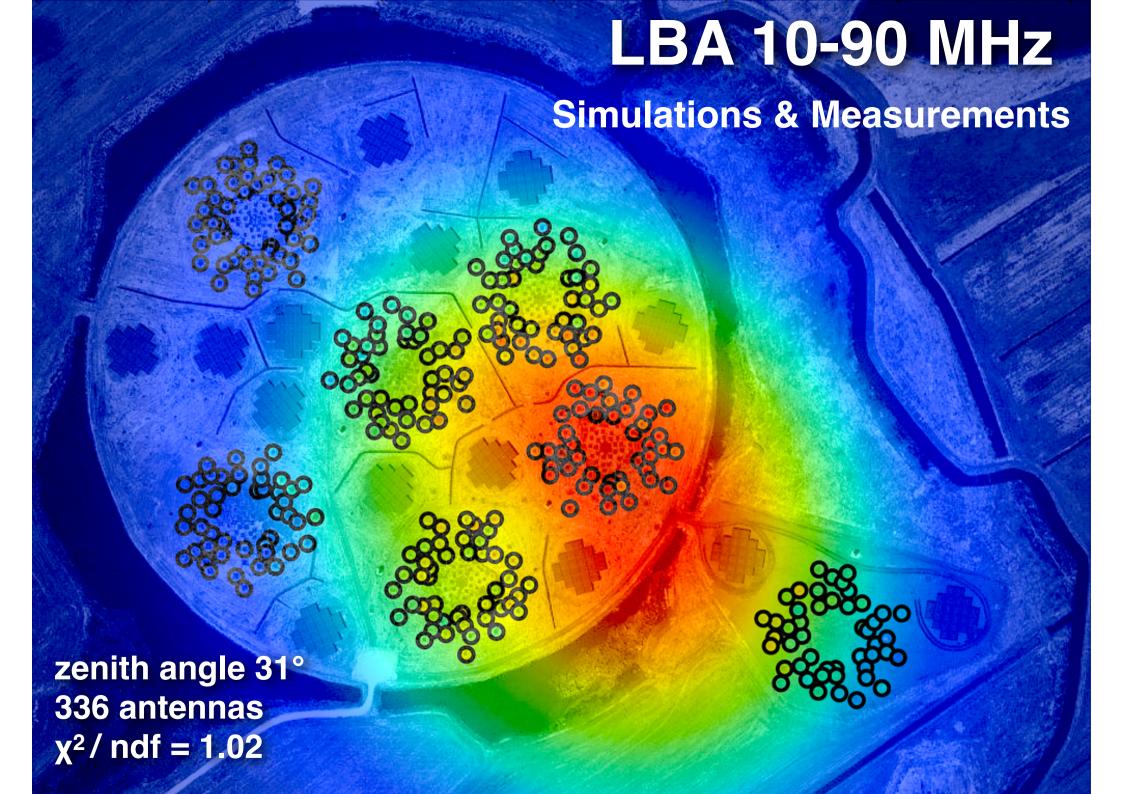




### A measured air shower



Circles: LOFAR antennas, Pentagons: LORA particle detectors, size denotes signal strength



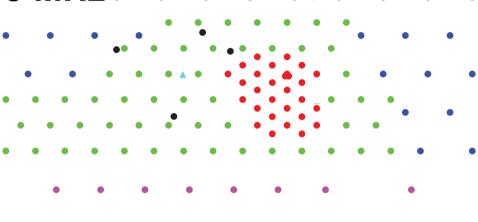




#### ~150 antennas

~17 km<sup>2</sup>

30-80 MHz.



# LOFAR CORE 23 stations ~5 km<sup>2</sup>



>2000 antennas

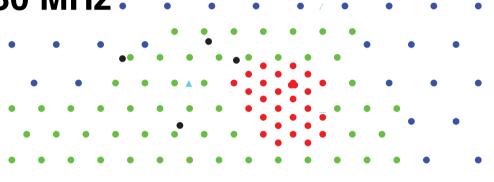
1 km

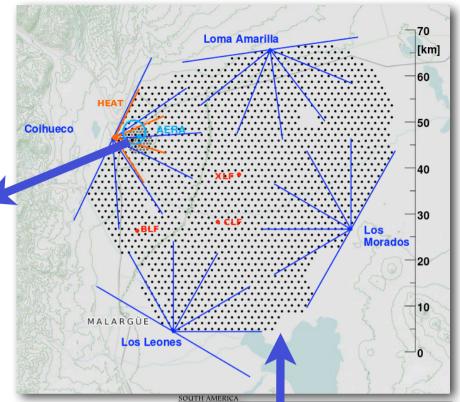




#### ~150 antennas

~17 km<sup>2</sup> 30-80 MHz.











~150 antennas

~17 km<sup>2</sup>

30-80 MHz.

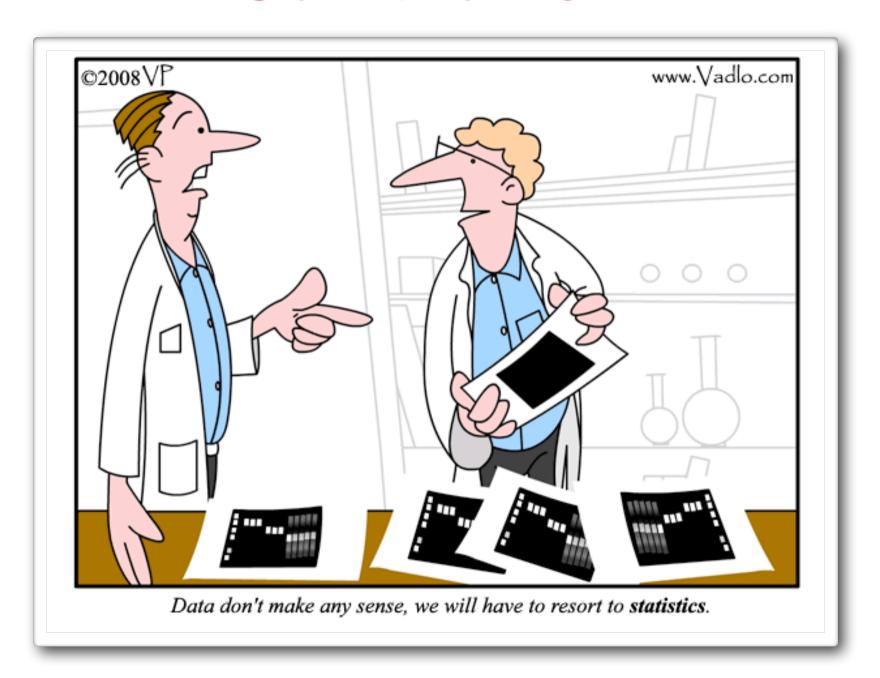








# Calibration



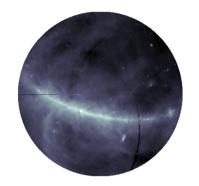
## **Simulating Galaxy Noise**



Visible galaxy at 00.00,6:00,12:00,18:00 Local Sidereal Time





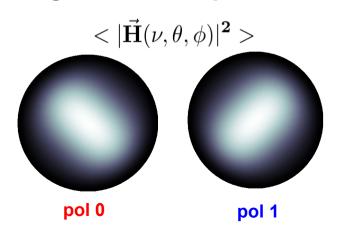


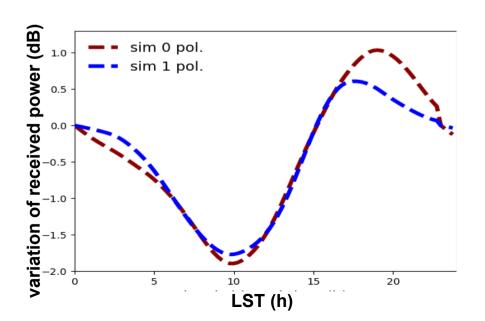




$$\mathbf{P}(\nu) = \frac{\mathbf{2k_B}}{\mathbf{c^2}} \nu^{\mathbf{2}} \int \mathbf{T_{sky}}(\nu, \theta, \phi) \frac{|\vec{\mathbf{H}}(\nu, \theta, \phi)|^{2} \mathbf{Z_0}}{\mathbf{2Z_a}} d\Omega \quad \mathbf{WHz^{-1}}$$

#### Average antenna response at 55 MHz







#### Uncertainties of the 30–408 MHz Galactic emission as a calibration source for radio detectors in astroparticle physics

M. Büsken<sup>1,2</sup>, T. Fodran<sup>3</sup>, and T. Huege<sup>4,5</sup>

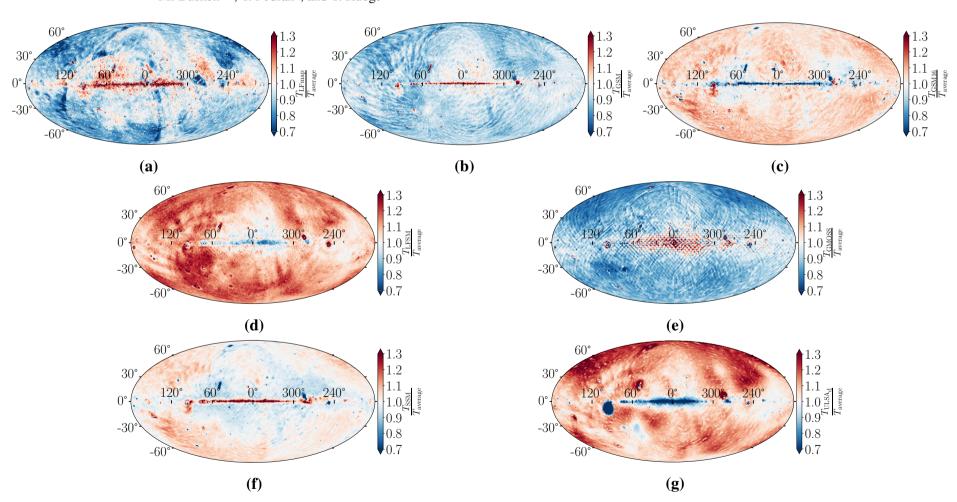
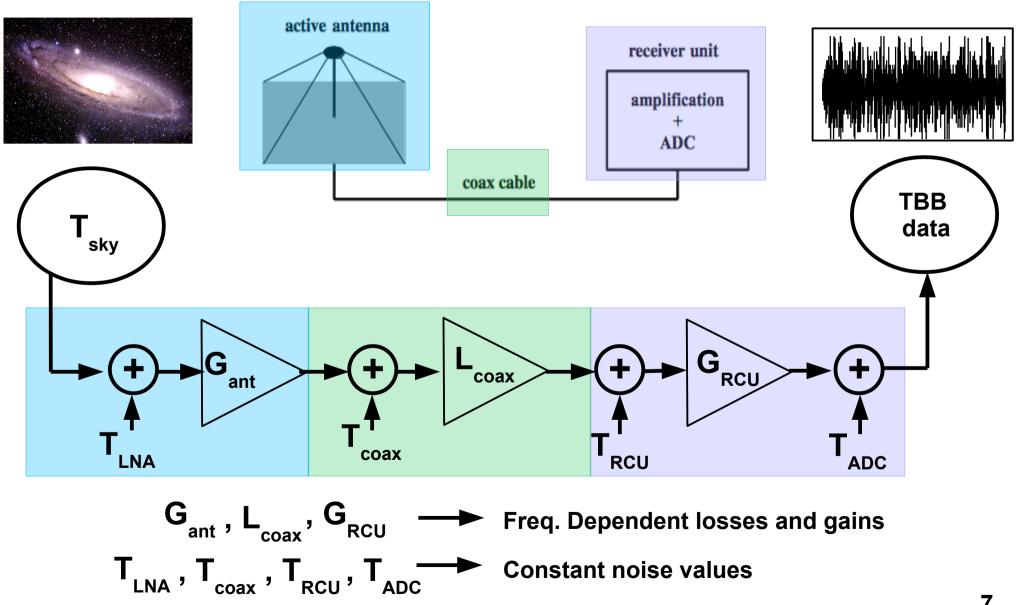
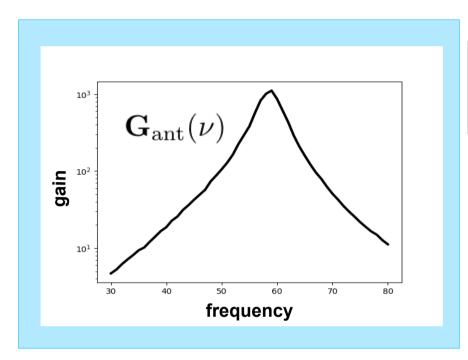


Fig. 2. Sky maps showing the temperature ratio of each model to the average from all seven models at 50 MHz in Galactic coordinates. The models are denoted as (a) LFmap, (b) GSM, (c) GSM16, (d) LFSM, (e) GMOSS, (f) SSM, (g) ULSA.





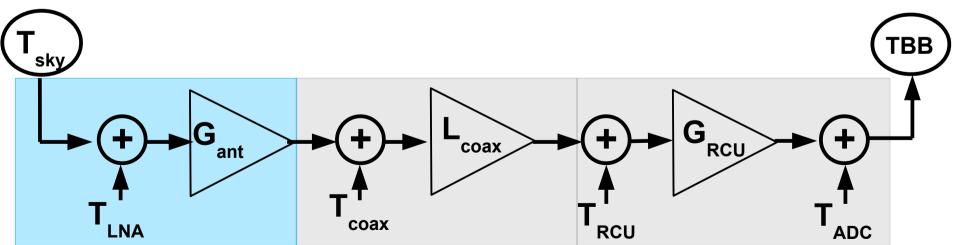




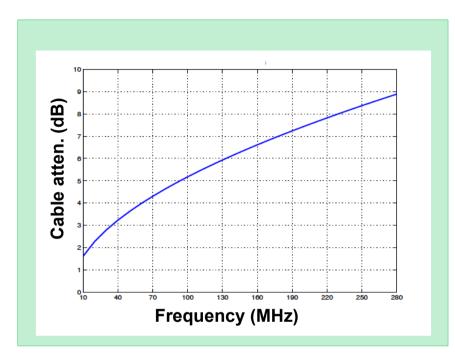
$$\left(\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sky}}(\nu, \mathbf{t}) + \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{LNA}}\right) \mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{ant}}(\nu) \mathbf{A}(\nu)$$

Antenna gain, simulated with  $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{ant}}(\nu)$ WIPL-D software, with known misaligned resonance frequency

correction to antenna model



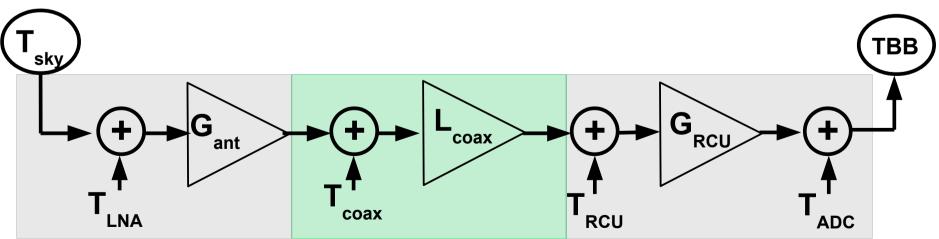




$$\left(\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sky}}(\nu, \mathbf{t}) + \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{LNA}}\right) \mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{ant}}(\nu) \mathbf{A}(\nu) \mathbf{L}_{\mathrm{coax}}(\nu)$$

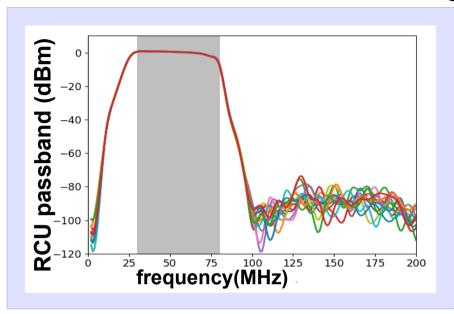
$$\mathbf{L}_{\mathrm{coax}}(
u)$$
 Cable attenuation (50m, 80m, 115m)

$$\mathbf{T_{coax}} << \mathbf{T_{LNA}}, \mathbf{T_{RCU}}, \mathbf{T_{ADC}}$$
 (not included in model)



9





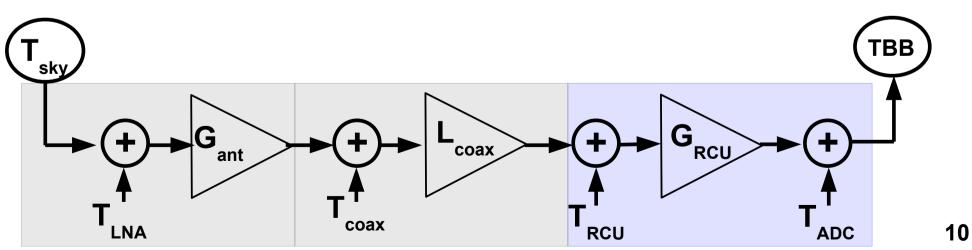
 $T_{RCU}$ Noise from amplification in RCU

 $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{RCU}}(
u)$  RCU passband filter

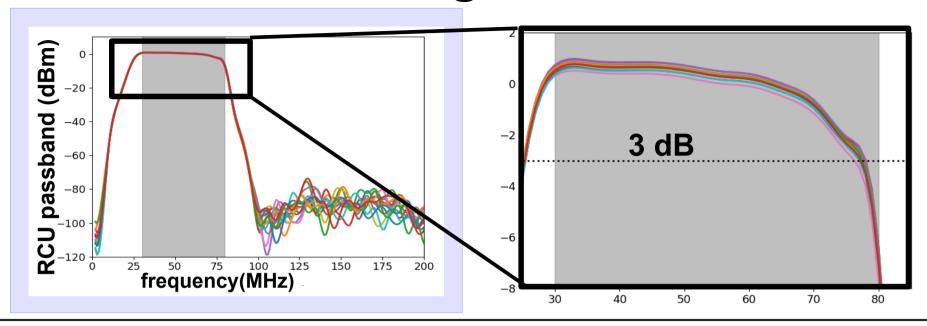
scale factor between voltage and ADC units

 $\mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{ADC}}$ time jitter noise from digitization

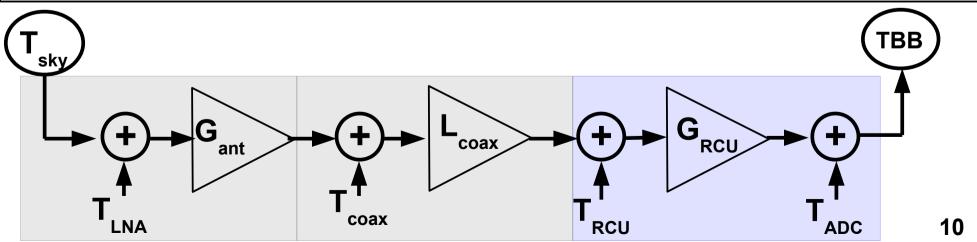
$$\left(\left(\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sky}}(\nu, \mathbf{t}) + \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{LNA}}\right)\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{ant}}(\nu)\mathbf{A}(\nu)\mathbf{L}_{\mathrm{coax}}(\nu) + \mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{RCU}}\right)\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{RCU}}(\nu)\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{ADC}} = \mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sim}}(\nu, \mathbf{t})$$







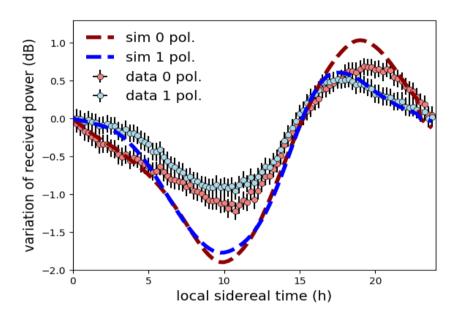
$$\left(\left(\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sky}}(\nu, \mathbf{t}) + \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{LNA}}\right)\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{ant}}(\nu)\mathbf{A}(\nu)\mathbf{L}_{\mathrm{coax}}(\nu) + \mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{RCU}}\right)\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{RCU}}(\nu)\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{ADC}} = \mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sim}}(\nu, \mathbf{t})$$



# Fitting for Electronic Noise W LOFAR



$$\left(\left(\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sky}}(\nu, \mathbf{t}) + \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{LNA}}\right) \mathbf{\underline{G}}_{\mathrm{ant}}(\nu) \mathbf{A}(\nu) \mathbf{\underline{L}}_{\mathrm{coax}}(\nu) + \mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{RCU}}\right) \mathbf{\underline{G}}_{\mathrm{RCU}}(\nu) \mathbf{\underline{S}} + \mathbf{\underline{T}}_{\mathrm{ADC}} = \mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sim}}(\nu, \mathbf{t})$$

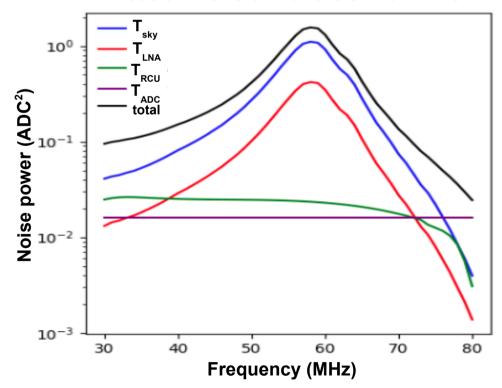


$$X^{2} = \sum \frac{(P(\nu, t)_{data} - P(\nu, t)_{sim})^{2}}{\sigma(\nu, t)_{data}}$$

All noise contributions are required to fit simulation to data at all frequencies

known, frequency dependent quantity unknown, constant quantity

#### Fitted noise values at ADC

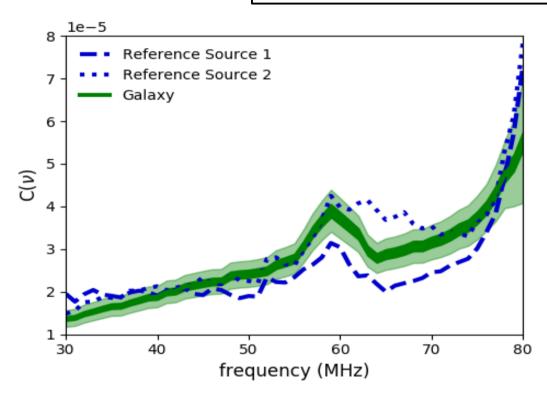


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### **Calibration Results**

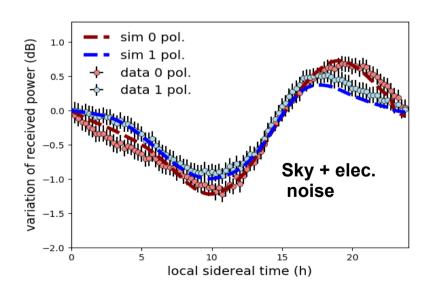


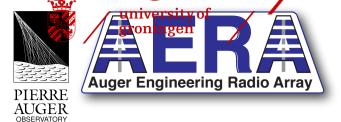
$$\mathbf{C^2}(\nu) = \mathbf{A}(\nu) \mathbf{L}_{\mathrm{coax}}(\nu) \mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{RCU}}(\nu) \mathbf{S}$$



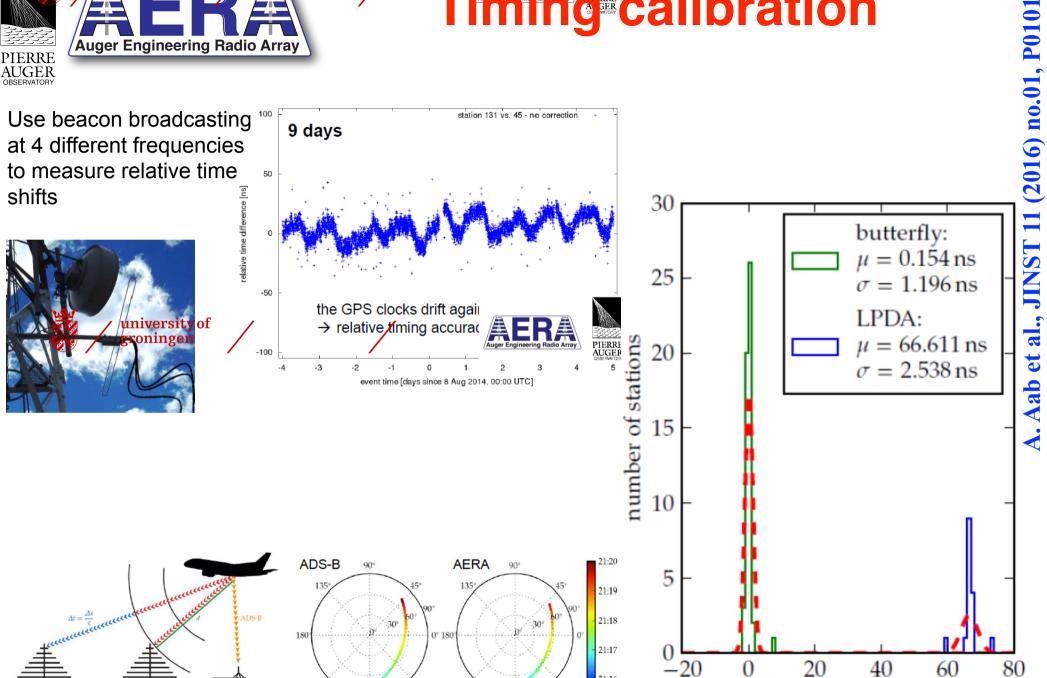
- Galaxy model now limits systematic uncertainties
- Uncertainties from electronic noise are found by comparing resulting calibration constants for different antennas

Uncertainty	Percentage
event-to-event fluctuation	4
galaxy model	12
electronic noise $< 77 \text{ MHz}$	5-6
electronic noise $> 77 \text{ MHz}$	10-20
m total < 77~MHz	14





AERA Calibration



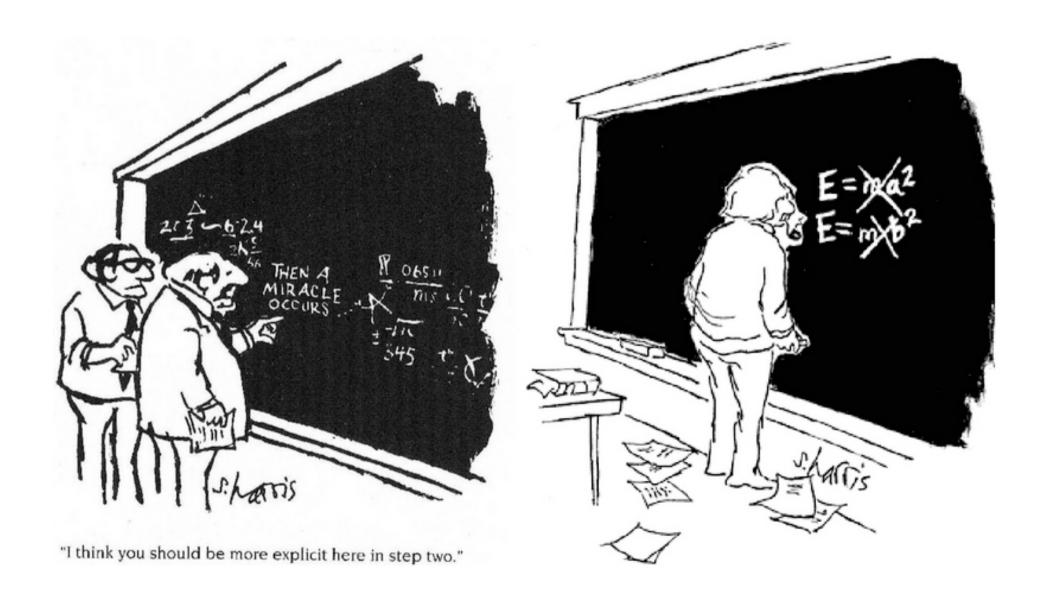
21:16

21:15

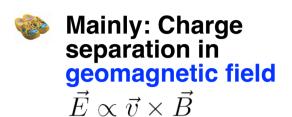
mean  $\mu$  of the time correction values

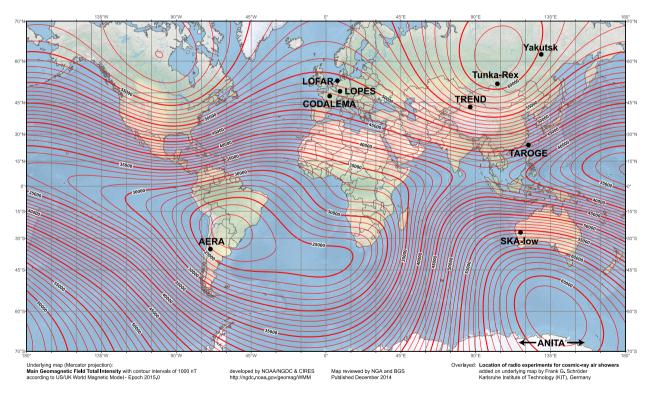
AUGER

# Radiation Processes

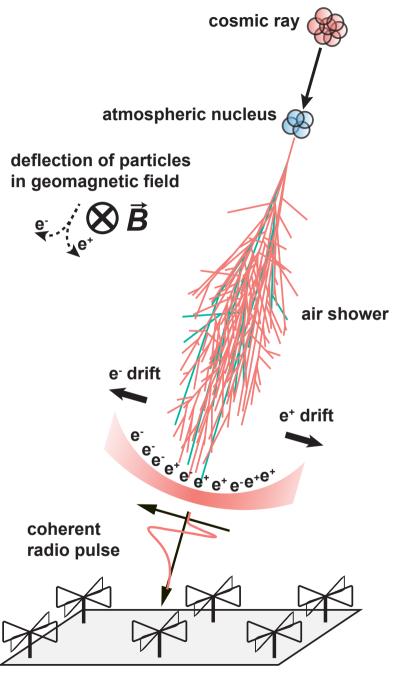


#### **Radio Emission in Air Showers**



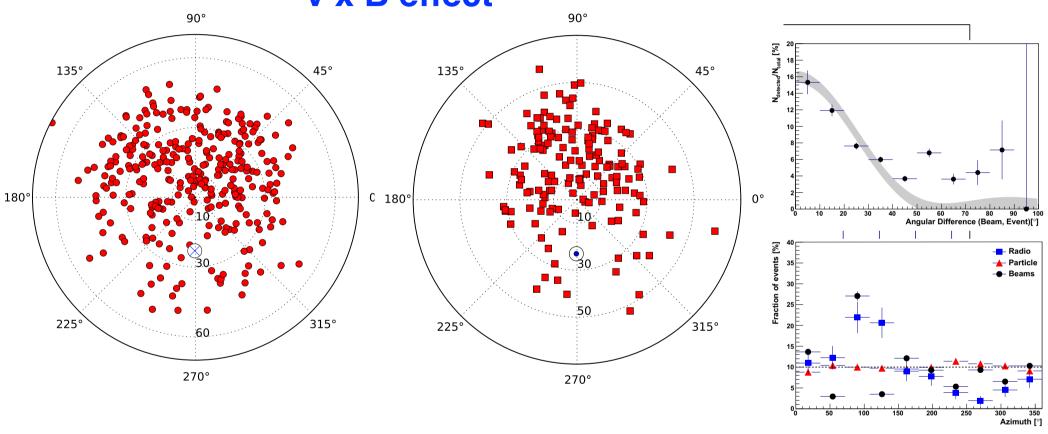


F. Schröder, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 93 (2017) 1

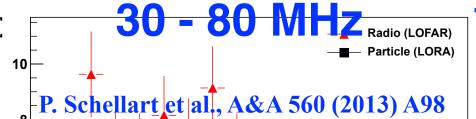


# Arrival direction of showers with strong radio signals

north-south asymmetry v x B effect





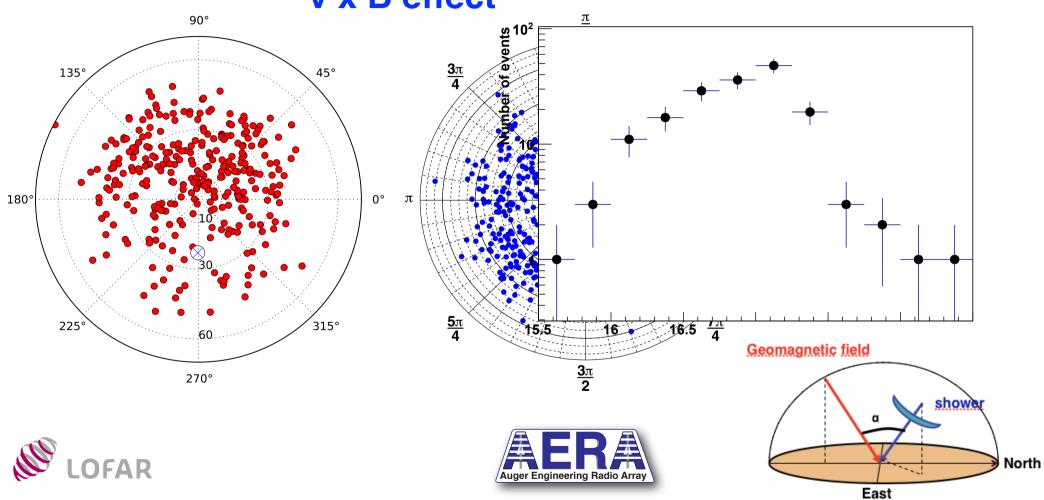


110 - 190 MHz

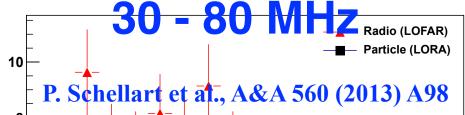
A. Nelles et al., Astroparticle Physics 65 (2015) 11

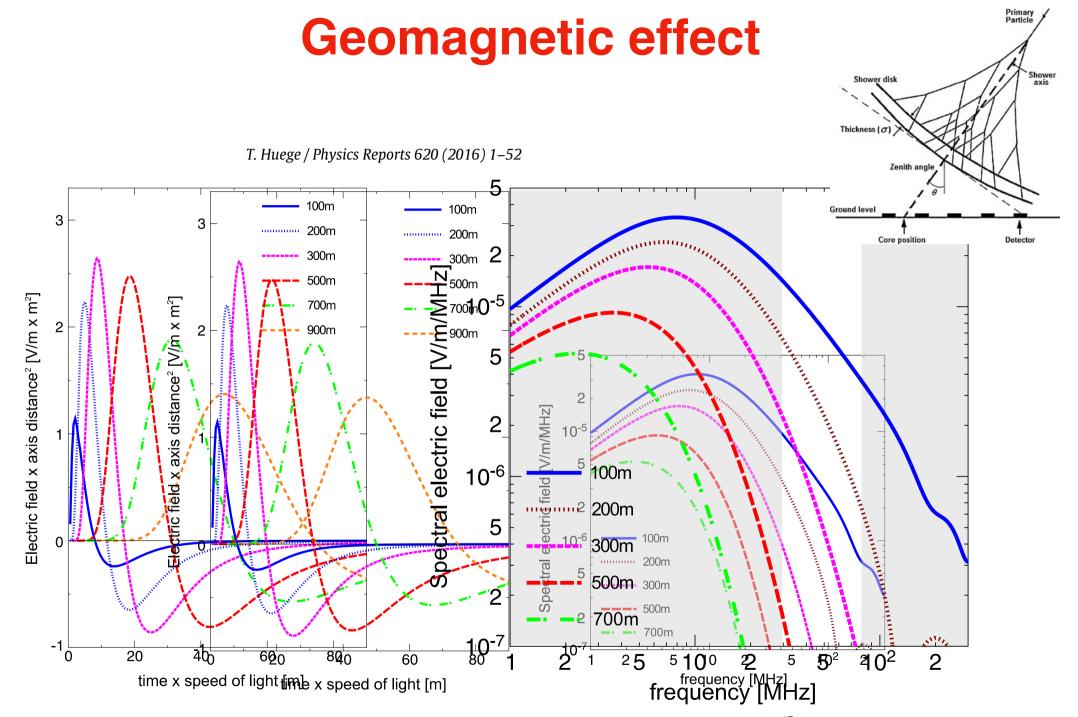
# Arrival direction of showers with strong radio signals

north-south asymmetry v x B effect









**Fig. 4.** Radio pulses (top) arising from the time-variation of the geomagnetically induced transverse currents in a 10<sup>17</sup> eV air shower as observed at various observer distances from the shower axis and their corresponding frequency spectra (bottom). Refractive index effects are not included. Source: Adapted from [18].

#### Radio Emission in Air Showers

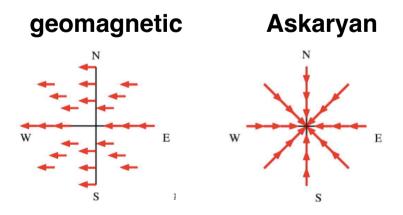
Mainly: Charge separation in geomagnetic field

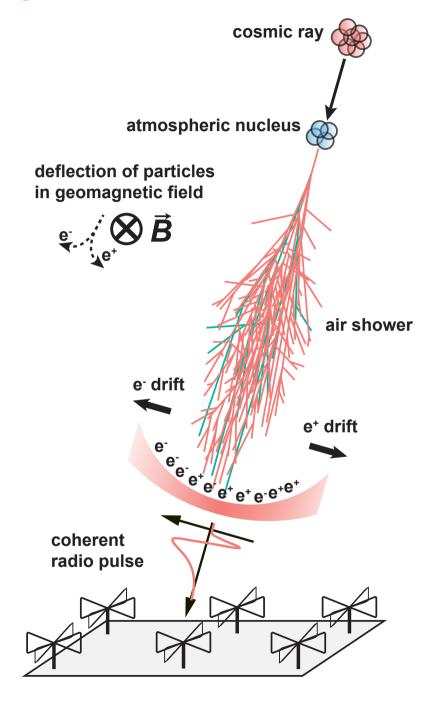
$$\vec{E} \propto \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$

**Theory predicts** additional mechanisms:

- excess of electrons in shower: charge excess
- superposition of emission due to **Cherenkov** effects in atmosphere

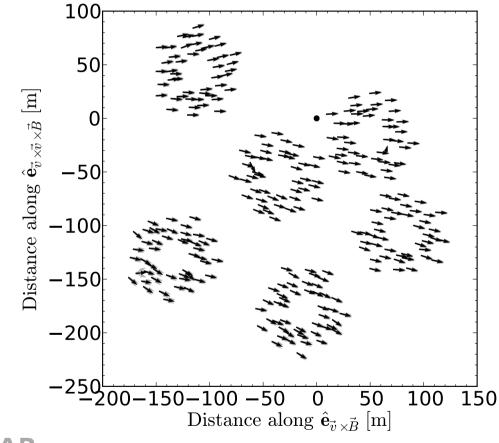
#### polarization of radio signal

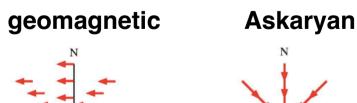


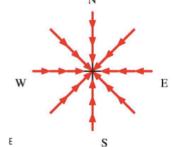


# **Polarization footprint**

### of an individual air shower



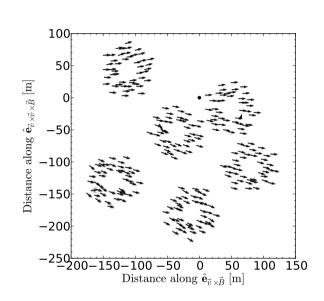


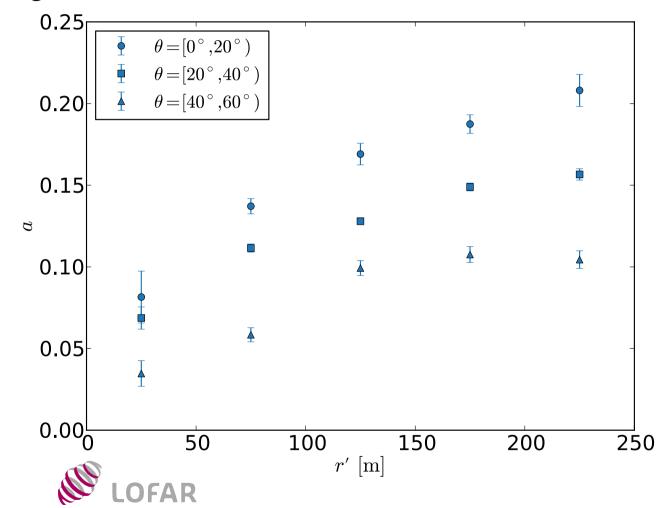




# Charge excess fraction

#### **Askaryan geomagnetic**

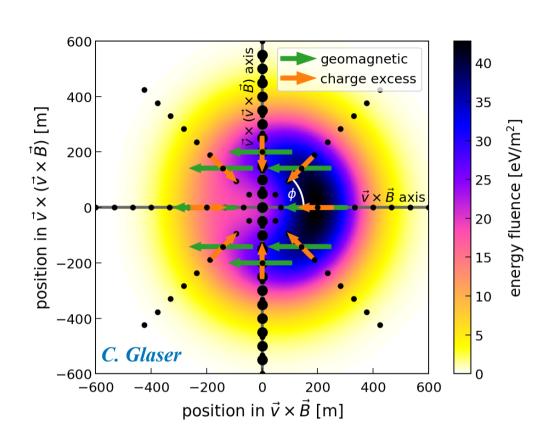


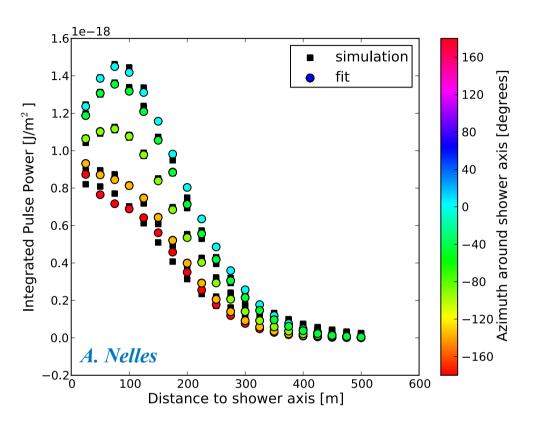


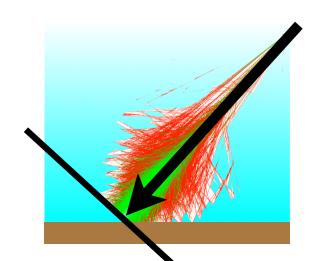
#### geomagnetic

#### **Askaryan**

# Footprint of radio emission on the ground







# Properties of incoming cosmic ray

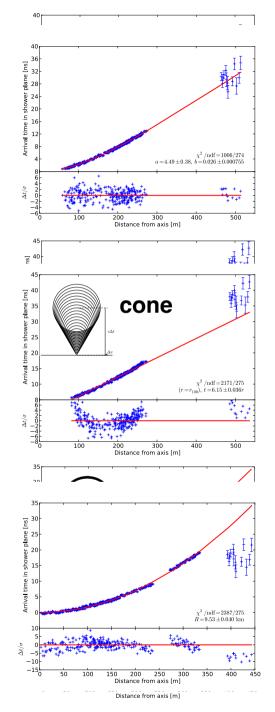
- direction
- energy
- type

# Direction

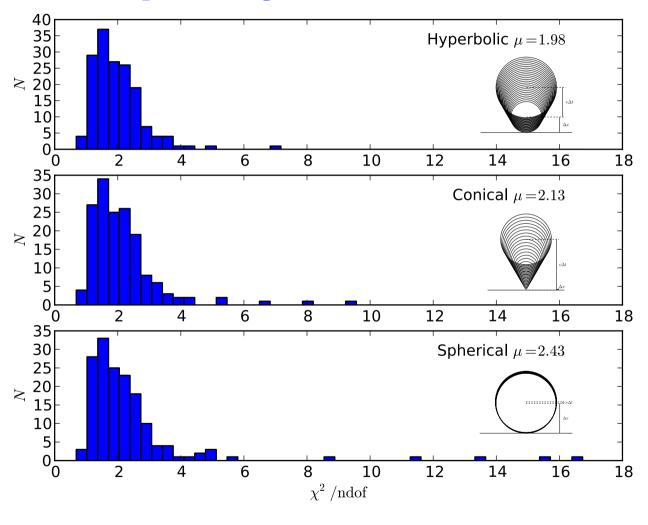


# **hape of Shower Front**

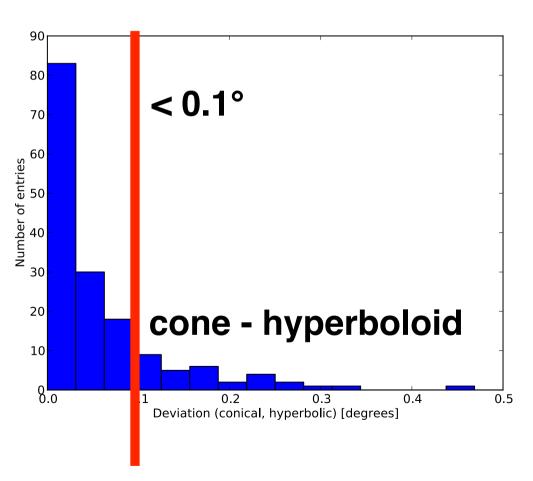




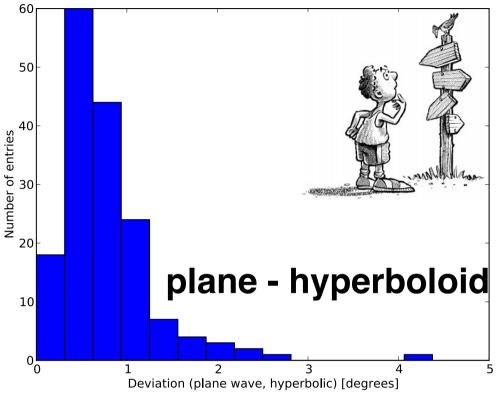
# fit quality



## Number o **Accuracy of Shower Direction** angular difference

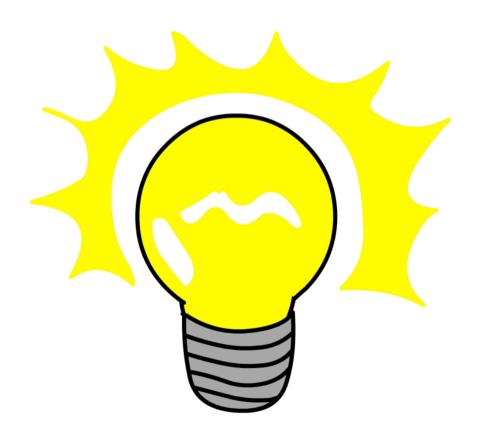


Deviation (plane wave, hyperbolic) [degrees]

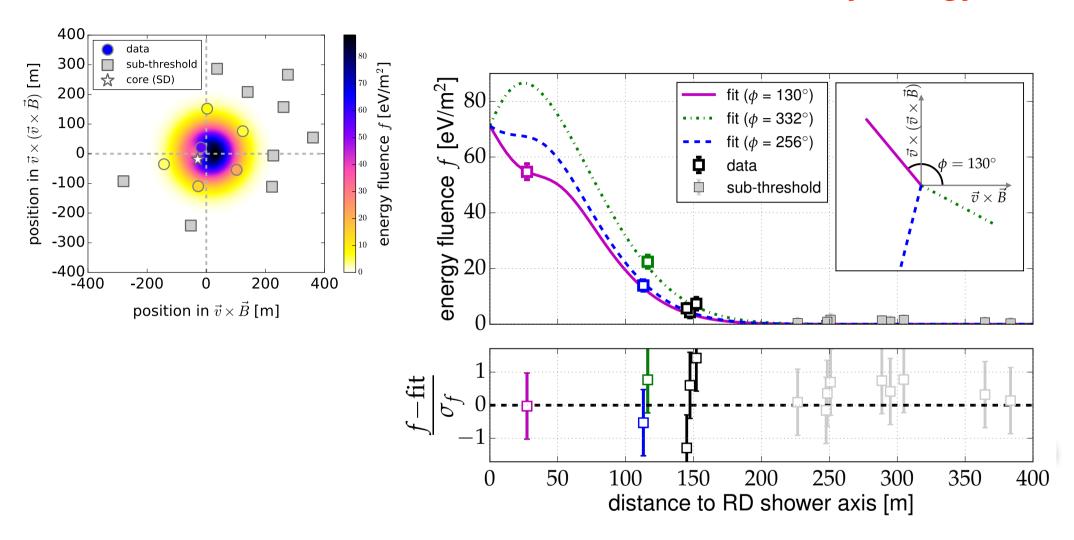




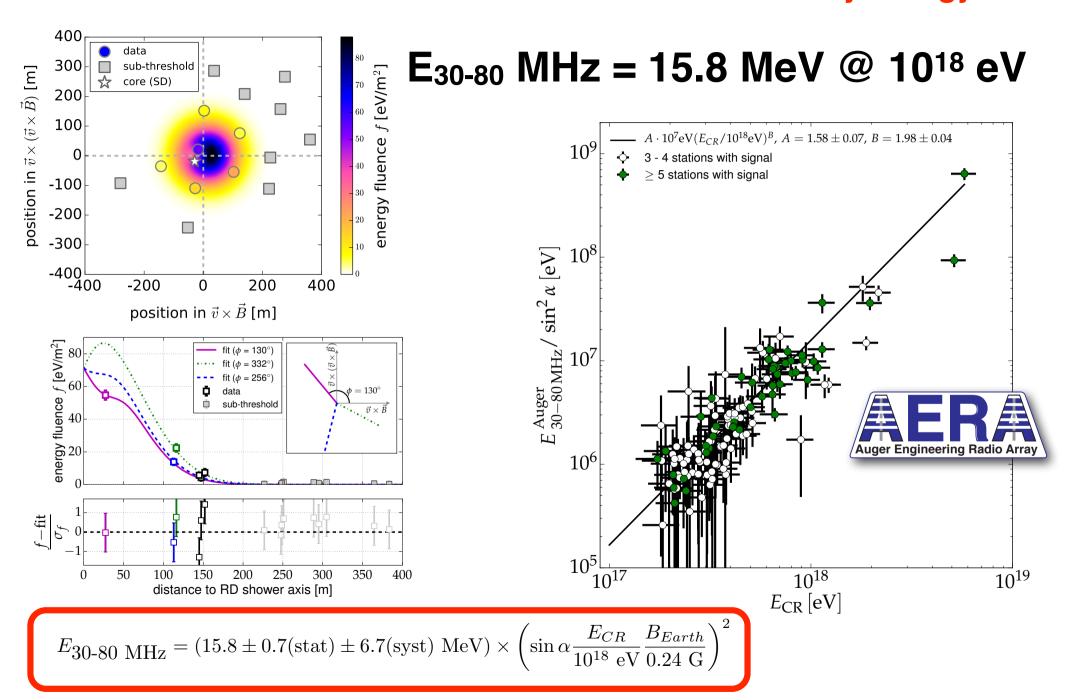
# Energy



#### Measurement of the Radiation Energy in the Radio Signal of Extensive Air Showers as a Universal Estimator of Cosmic-Ray Energy

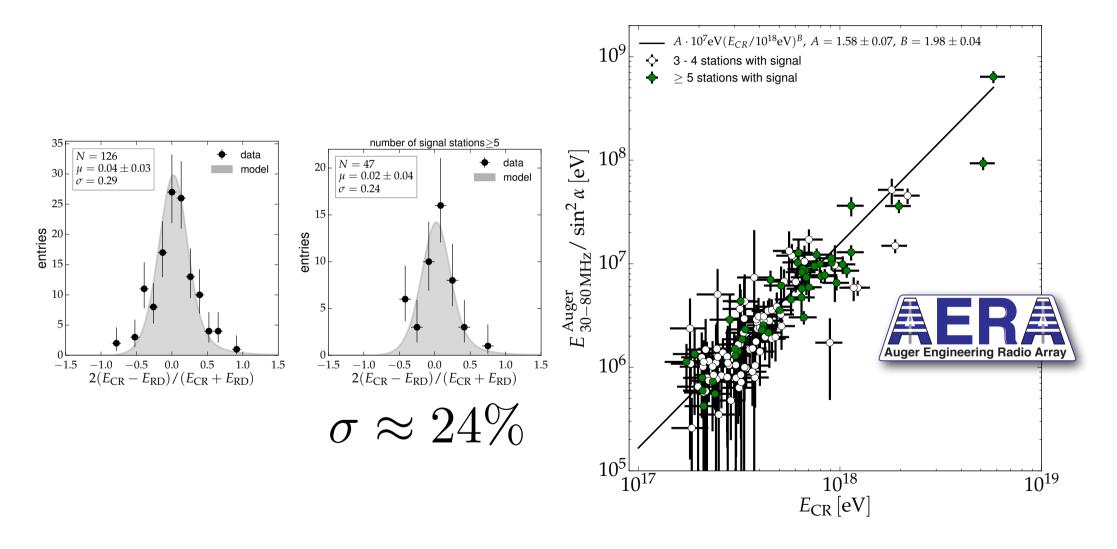


#### Measurement of the Radiation Energy in the Radio Signal of Extensive Air Showers as a Universal Estimator of Cosmic-Ray Energy



## **Energy Estimation of Cosmic Rays with the Engineering** Radio Array of the Pierre Auger Observatory

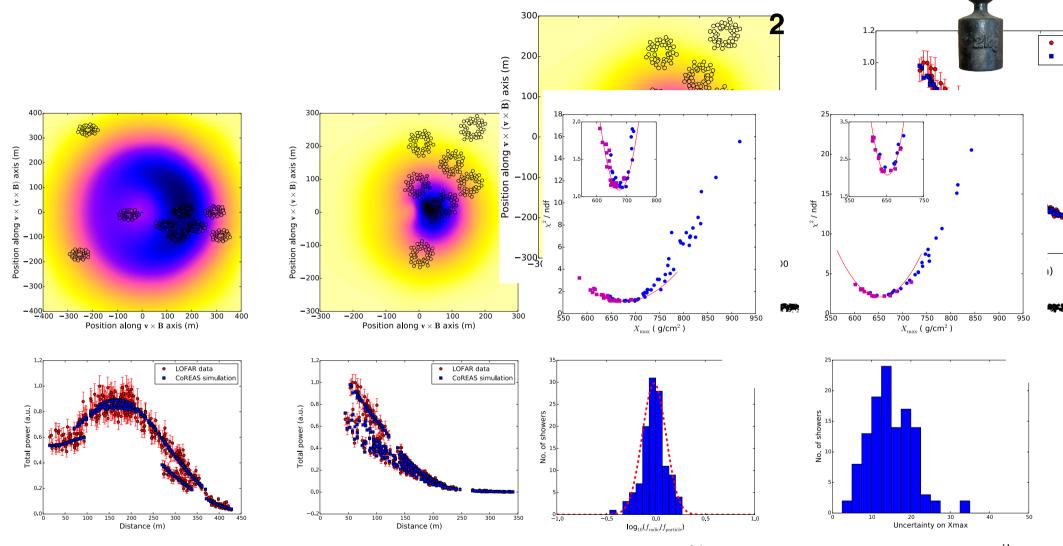
 $E_{30-80}$  MHz = 15.8 MeV @  $10^{18}$  eV



## Mass



## Measurement of appetration with the second s



[5] The energy resolution of 32% is given by the distribution of the ratio between the energy scaling factor of the radio reconstruction and the particle reconstruction from the LORA array

[6] The uncertainty on Xmax is found with a Monte Carlo study. For this sample the mean uncertainty is 17 g/cm<sup>2</sup>

## Depth of the shower maximum

#### LETTER nature

doi:10.1038/nature16976

#### A large light-mass component of cosmic rays at $10^{17}$ - $10^{17.5}$ electronvolts from radio observations

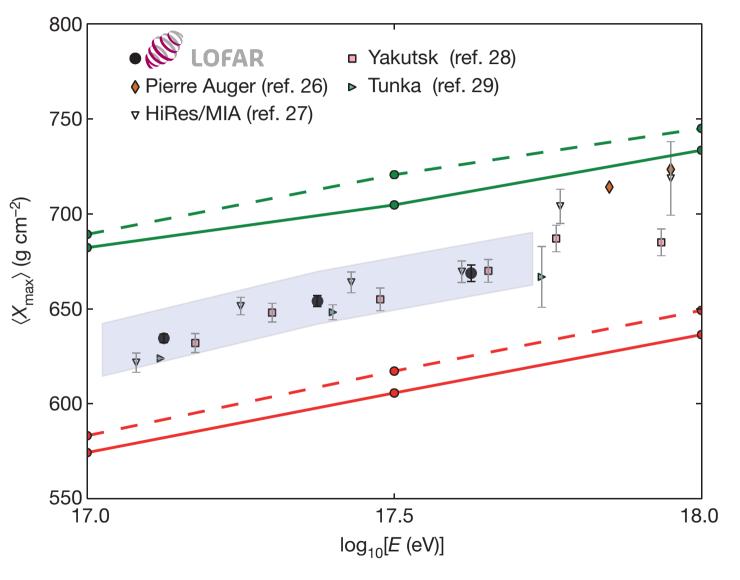
S. Buitink<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Corstanje<sup>2</sup>, H. Falcke<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>, J. R. Hörandel<sup>2,4</sup>, T. Huege<sup>6</sup>, A. Nelles<sup>2,7</sup>, J. P. Rachen<sup>2</sup>, L. Rossetto<sup>2</sup>, P. Schellart<sup>2</sup> S. Buitink-L<sup>\*</sup>, A. Corstanje<sup>\*</sup>, H. Falcker-L<sup>\*</sup>, J. R. Horandel-\*, T. Huege<sup>\*</sup>, A. Nelles-\*, J. P. Rachen\*, L. Rossetto\*, P. Schell O. Scholten\*, S. Fer Veen\*, S. Thoudam\*, T. N. G. Trinh\*, J. Anderson<sup>\*</sup>, A. Asgekan<sup>\*</sup>, I. M. Avrotch<sup>\*</sup>, B. Eelh<sup>\*</sup>, M. J. Bentum<sup>\*</sup>, S. Fer Veen\*, S. Thoudam\*, T. N. G. Trinh\*, J. Anderson<sup>\*</sup>, D. W. Brodericks<sup>\*</sup>, W. N. Brouw<sup>\*</sup>-Li, M. Brüggen\*, H. B. Butcher<sup>\*</sup>, D. Carbone<sup>\*</sup>, B. C. Icardie\*, J. E. Comaya\*, F. de Gasperin\*, E. Geossi-Sa, D. Aleit\*, R. J. Dettmagn\*, P. C. Lander, R. J. Dettmagn\*, P. C. Lander, R. J. Dettmagn\*, P. L. Lander, R. J. Dettmagn\*, P. L. Lander, R. Lander, R. L. Lander, R. L. Lander, R. L. Lander, R. Lander, R. Lander, R. Lander, R. Lander, R. L. Lander, R. Lander, R. Lander, R. L. Lander, R. Lan H. R. Butcher", D. Carlone", B. Clardi", J. E. Comway", F. de Gasperin", E. de Geus"—R. A. Deller", R. -J. Dettmar", G. van Dieper", S. Duscha", J. Eisfolfe", D. Engels", J. E. Enrique", R. A. Fallows R., F. Fender", G. Ferrari", W. Prieswijc", M. A. Garrett M. J. M. Grießmeier M. A. W. Gunst', M. P. van Haarlem", T. E. Hassall", G. Heald M. J. W. T. Hessels M. M. Geriger, A. K. Group M. G. Karlone M. G. Karlone M. G. Karlone M. G. Karlone M. K. Karlone M. K. G. Karlone M. K. G. Karlone M. K. G. Karlone M. K. Karlone M. K. G. Karlone M. K. G. Karlone M. K. Karlone M. Karlone M. K. Karlone M. K. Karlone M. K. Karlone M. K. Karlone M D. McKay-Bukowski<sup>11,12</sup>, J. F. McKeain<sup>11,12</sup>, M. Wilse<sup>11</sup>, D. D. Mulicany<sup>11</sup>, H. Munik<sup>2</sup>, M. J. Norden<sup>2</sup>, E. Ortra<sup>2</sup>, H. Paas<sup>2</sup>, M. Pardey-J. Orphalfis<sup>3</sup>, W. Reich<sup>3</sup>, H. J. A. Robergering<sup>2</sup>, A. M. Scalfe<sup>2</sup>, D. J. Schwarz<sup>4</sup>), M. Serylak<sup>3</sup>0, J. Silman<sup>3</sup>, O. Smirnovi<sup>1,2</sup>4, B. W. Stappers<sup>3</sup>0, M. Steinmetz<sup>20</sup>, A. Stewart<sup>30</sup>, J. Swinbank<sup>23,45</sup>, M. Tagger<sup>3</sup>3, Y. Tang<sup>3</sup>, C. Tasse<sup>4,46</sup>, M. C. Torthiol<sup>3,2</sup>, R. Vermeulen<sup>3</sup>, C. Vocks<sup>3</sup>0, C. Vogh<sup>3</sup>, R. J. van Weeren<sup>16</sup>, R. A. M. J. Wijers<sup>23</sup>, S. J. Wijnbolds<sup>3</sup>, M. W. Wise<sup>2,3</sup>0, O. Wucknitz<sup>2</sup>, S. Yatawatta<sup>3</sup>, P. Zarka<sup>4</sup> & I. A. Zensus<sup>5</sup>

of 1017-1018 electronyolts are essential to understanding whether spectrum of the cosmic rays; we find a mixed composition, with that the astrophysical neutrino signal comes from accelerators cent, Unless, contrary to current expectations, the extragalactic capable of producing cosmic rays of these energies<sup>2</sup>. Cosmic rays initiate air showers—cascades of secondary particles in the rays initiate air showers—cascades of secondary particles in the atmospher—and their masses can be inferred from measurements of the atmospheric depth of the shower maximum <sup>1</sup>(X<sub>max</sub>; the depth of the shower when it contains the most particles) or of the composition of shower particles reaching the ground <sup>2</sup>. Current are disclosed in the composition of shower particles reaching the ground <sup>2</sup>. Current are disclosed in the composition of shower particles reaching the ground <sup>2</sup>. Current are disclosed in the composition of shower particles reaching the ground <sup>2</sup>. Current are disclosed in the composition of shower particles reaching the ground <sup>2</sup>. Current are disclosed in the composition of shower particles reaching the ground <sup>2</sup>. Current are disclosed in the composition of shower particles reaching the ground <sup>2</sup>. Current are disclosed in the composition of shower particles are disclosed in the composition of shower measurements\* have either high uncertainty, or a low duty cycle
and a high energy threshold. Radio detection of cosmic rays<sup>6-8</sup> is

records the radio signals from air showers, while simultaneously a rapidly developing technique for determining  $X_{max}$  (refs 10, 11) running astronomical observations. It comprises a scintillator array with a duty cycle of, in principle, nearly 100 per cent. The radiation (LORA) that triggers the read-out of buffers, storing the full waveis generated by the separation of relativistic electrons and positrons in the geomagnetic field and a negative charge excess in the shower from the period June 2011 to January 2015 from the Jeriod June 2011 to January 2015 with radio pulses detected in at least 192 antennas. The total uptime

Cosmic rays are the highest-energy particles found in nature. Initiated by cosmic rays with energies of  $10^{17}$ - $10^{17.5}$  electronvolts. Measurements of the mass composition of cosmic rays with energies of  $10^{17}$ - $10^{17.5}$  electronvolts. This high resolution in  $X_{\text{max}}$  enables us to determine the mass they have galactic or extragalactic sources. It has also been proposed a light-mass fraction (protons and helium nuclei) of about 80 per

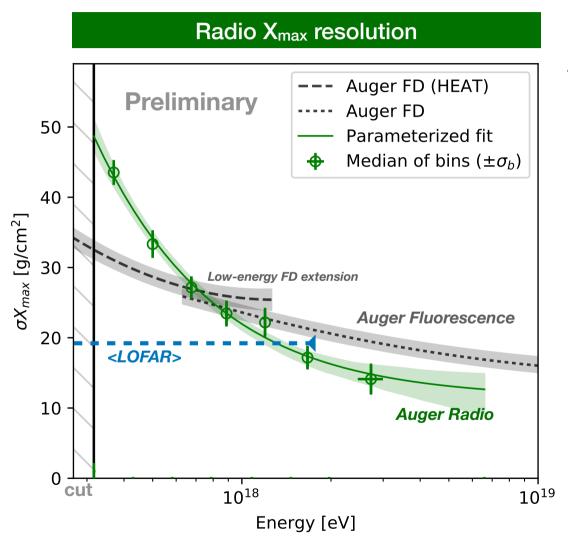
certainty of 16 grams per square centimetre for air showers was about 150 days, limited by construction and commissioning of the







#### Results: Resolution of AERA X<sub>max</sub> method



A. Abdul Halim et al., Phys. Rev. D, 109 (2024) 022002 A. Abdul Halim et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 132 (2024) 021001

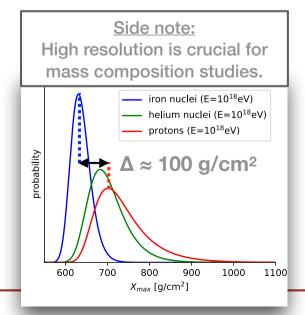


#### Resolution improves with energy.

- Up to 'better than 15 g/cm² '
- Trend driven by low SNR at low energy.

#### Resolution competitive with e.g.:

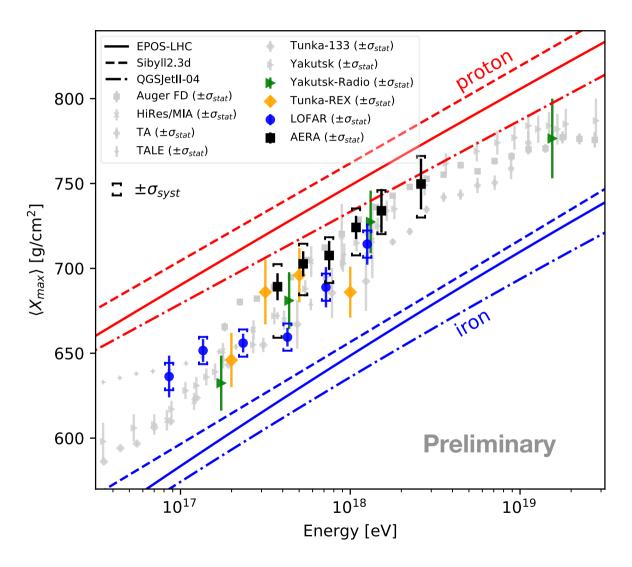
- Auger fluorescence [arXiv:1409.4809]
- LOFAR radio (E=10<sup>16.8...18.3</sup>eV) [arXiv:2103.12549v2]







### Results: AERA vs other (radio) experiments





- No general radio-bias w.r.t other techniques (within uncertainties).
- Highlights that systematic uncertainties are key to interpret and compare.
- LOFAR-AERA differences are being investigated in a working group

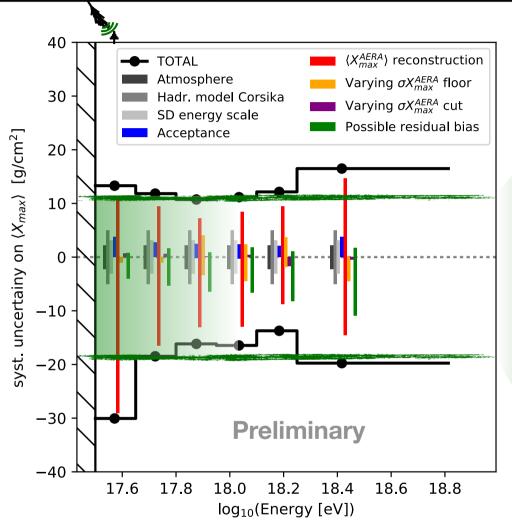
-> come talk to us during coffee and lunch!

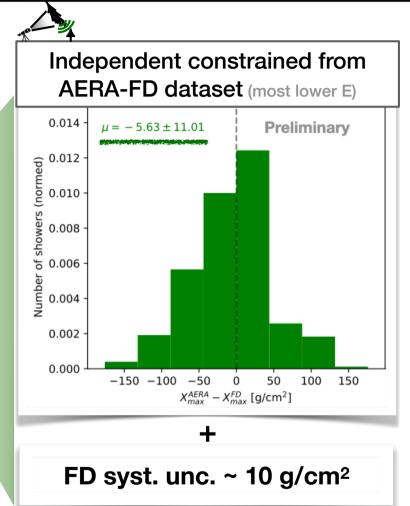
A. Abdul Halim et al., Phys. Rev. D, 109 (2024) 022002 A. Abdul Halim et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 132 (2024) 021001





Two independent estimates of systematic uncertainties





- Cross check: two independent estimates for total systematic uncertainties are in agreement.
  - -> suggests systematic uncertainties are well-understood and no significant contribution is missing.

## Determine the properties of the incoming particle with the radio technique

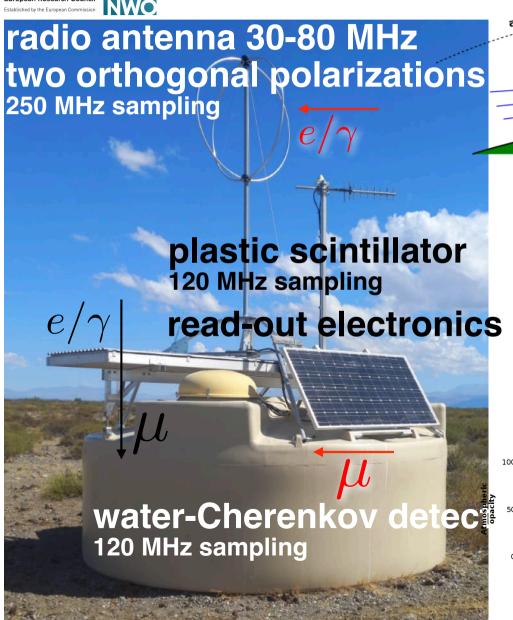
- direction  $\sim 0.1^{\circ} 0.5^{\circ}$
- energy ~ 15% 30%
- type  $(X_{max}) \sim 20 30 \text{ g/cm}^2$

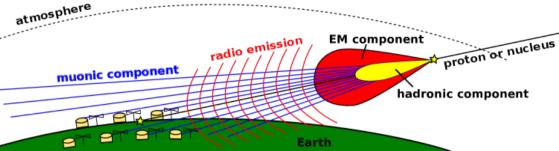
(depending on energy, detector spacing, ...)

-> radio technique is routinely used to measure properties of cosmic rays

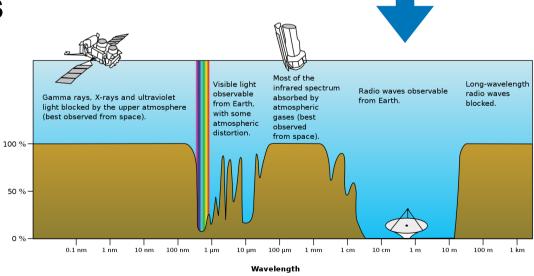


## The Radio Detector of the Pierre **Auger Observatory** erc

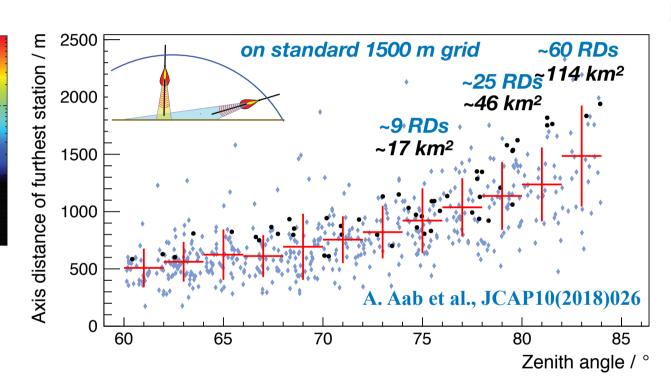




atmosphere of Earth is transparent in 30-80 MHz band

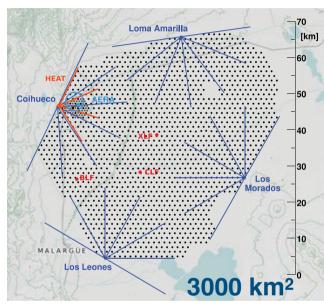


## Horizontal air showers have large footprints in radio emission



this is MEASURED with the small 17km<sup>2</sup> AERA

#### **Pierre Auger Observatory**



**Surface Detector array: Water Cherenkov Detector, Surface Scintillator Detector. Radio Detector** 1600 stations on 1500 m grid 61 stations on 750 m grid

#### extend mass sensitivity to inclined showers $\theta > 60^{\circ}$

erc



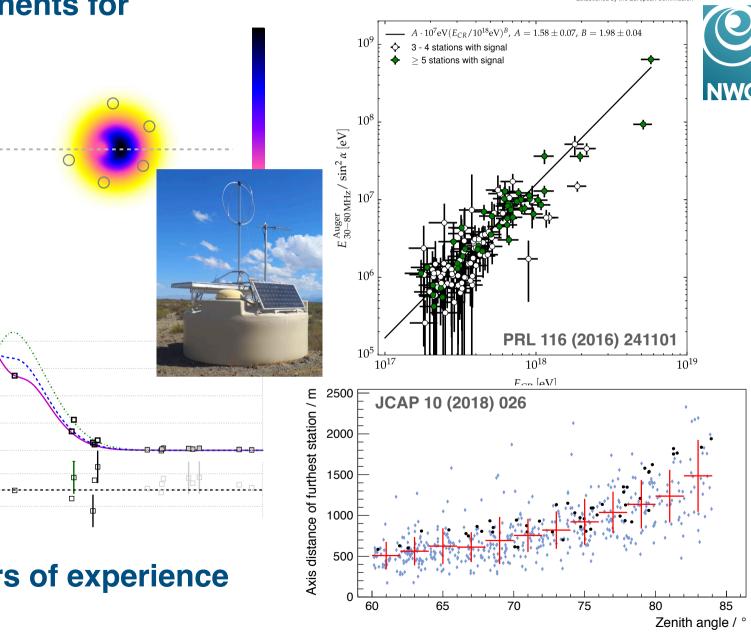
European Research Council stablished by the European Commission

 increasing measurements of e/m and  $\mu$  components for inclined shov of magnitude

close to idea separation

- increase sky overlap with
- RD/WCD has systematic eff compared to \$
- clean measure shower comp -> independe scale

based on 15 years of experience with AERA



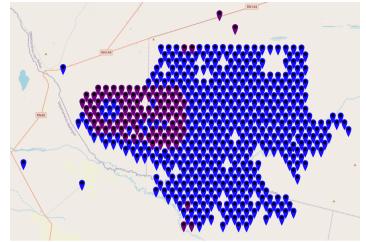




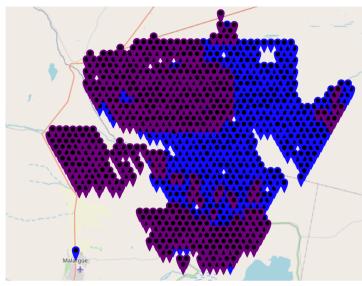
Jörg R. Hörandel, ISCRA Erice 2024 53

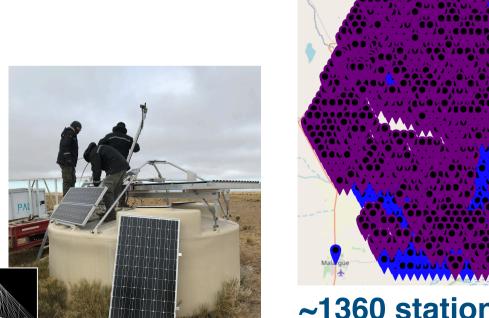
#### ~500 stations Nov 2023

#### ~1000 stations Mar 2024



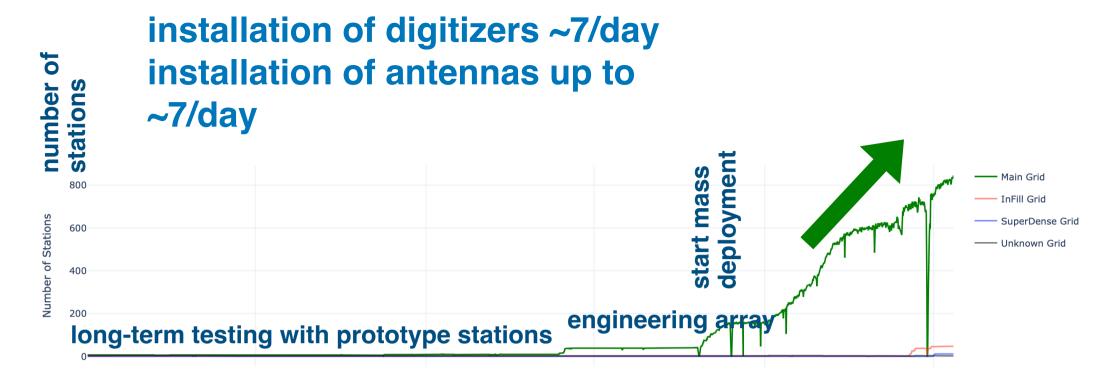






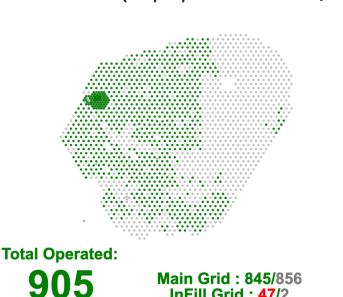


~1360 stations July 2024

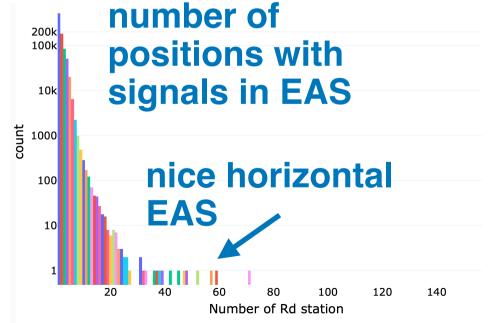


#### positions in DAQ

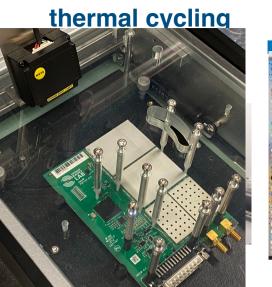
Current Status (22/07/2024 at 07h23) 1

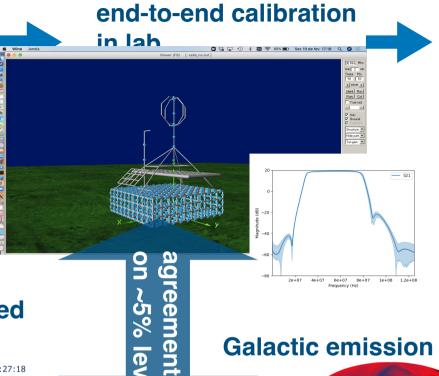


InFill Grid: 47/2 SuperDense Grid: 11/4 Test Grid: 2/82



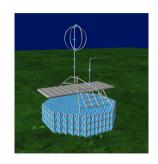
#### **Calibration procedure**

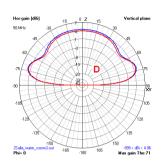




#### simulation of antenna pattern **NEC**



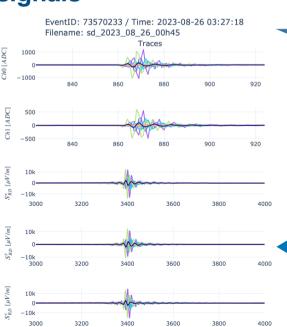


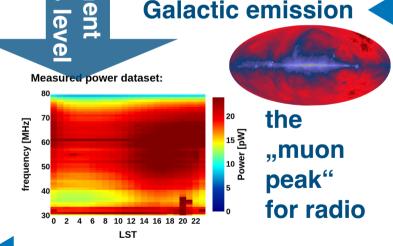




in-situ calibration with reference antenna

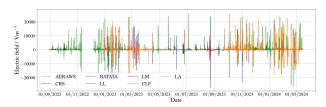
#### absolutely calibrated signals





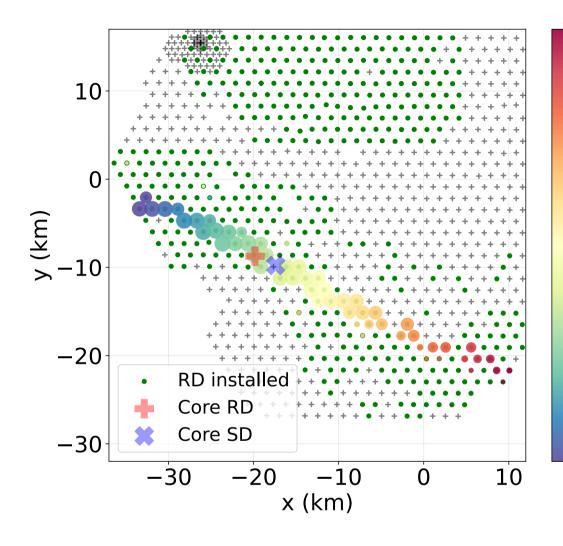
**Galactic emission** 

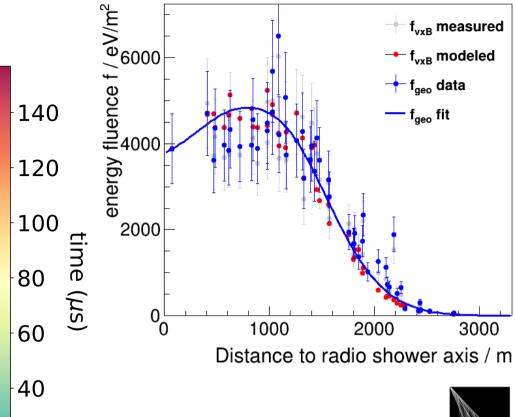
#### atmospheric electric field





#### A measured cosmic ray





	RD	SD
Azimuth (deg)	156.99±0.01	157±0.1
Zenith (deg)	84.7±0.01	84.7±0.1
Energy (EeV)	$36.23 \pm 3.34$	$38.55 \pm 2.92$
Core X (km)	-19.8	-17.40±0.88
Core Y (km)	-8.73	-9.78±0.45

JCAP01(2023)008

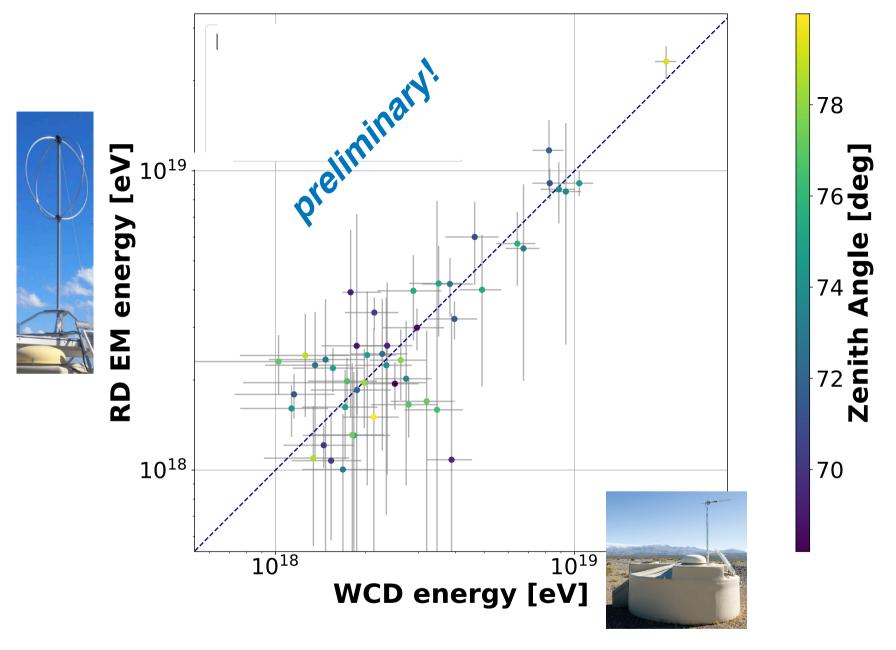
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> Signal model and event reconstruction for the radio detection of inclined air showers

ournal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics

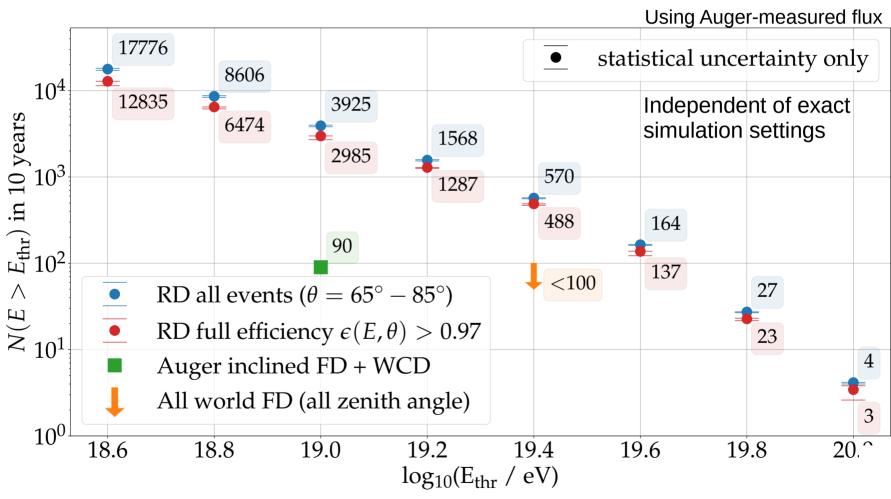
PIERRE





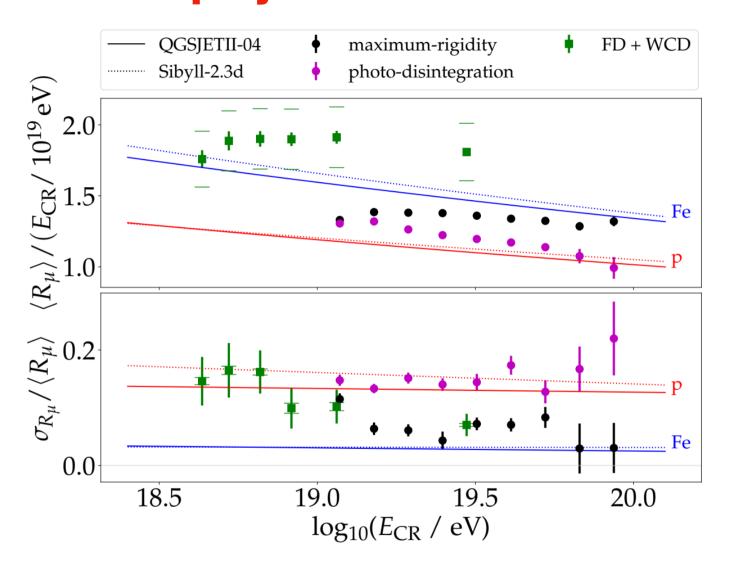
-> full end-to-end verification of complete chain

## Expected number of cosmic rays after 10 years



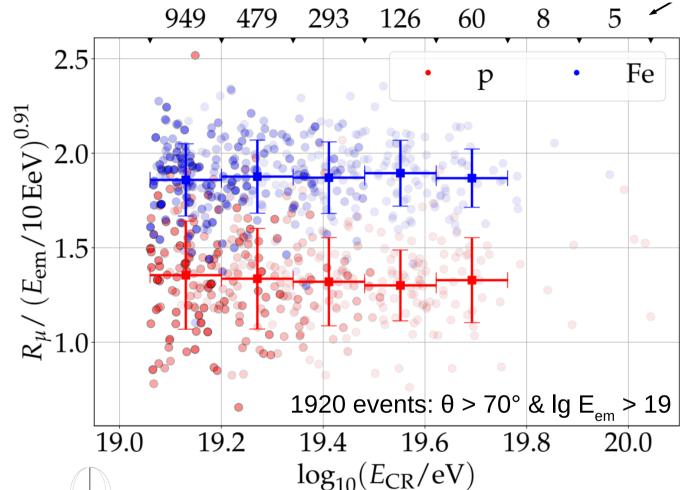
Felix Schlüter - felix.schlueter@kit.edu

## Particle physics in air showers



## **Muons in** inclined air showers -> investigation of muon deficit

## Particle type for each cosmic ray



Felix S

üter - 1

50/50 p-Fe composition with 10 yr RD measurements

#### figure of Merit:

$$FOM = \frac{|\langle r_{\rm p} \rangle - \langle r_{\rm Fe} \rangle|}{\sqrt{\sigma_{r_{\rm p}}^2 + \sigma_{r_{\rm Fe}}^2}}$$

 $FOM = 1.61 \pm 0.04$ 

equal to X<sub>max</sub> with perfect resolution

goal for the upgrade: 1.5





## **UHECR 2024**

Malargüe, Argentina - November 17-21 2024

The symposium is the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of a series of meetings that bring together the UHECR community. It covers the latest results from UHECR observations, theoretical developments, and future plans in the field. The symposium will focus on the highest energy cosmic rays as well as on cosmic rays with energies above 1 PeV. The agenda includes invited reviews, contributed talks, and reports from inter-collaborative working groups, all in plenary sessions.

Poster contributions are also foreseen.

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