Extensive Air Shower and cosmic ray physics above 10¹⁷ eV

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Outline:

- » Part I: A general overview of cosmic ray science.
- » Part II: The interconnection between cosmic ray and particle physics.
- » I will mention aspects that will be discussed in detail in the talks that follow in this session (S. Ostapchenko, R. Ulrich, D. Veberic, R. Abbasi).
- » A few key slides taken by J. Pinfold and R. Engel review talks at ICRCs 2013 and 2015.

Part I:

A general overview of cosmic ray science





AMS: A TeV Magnetic Spectrometer in Space (3m x 3m x 3m, 7t)



300,000 channels of electronics Δt = 100 ps, Δx = 10 μ



E < 10¹⁴ eV

Extensive Air Showers (EAS)



Air showers: electromagnetic and hadronic components



(RE, Pierog, Heck, ARNPS 2011)



Very efficient transfer of hadronic energy to em. component

High-energy interactions most important

(Matthews, APP22, 2005)

R. Engel (KIT)

Development in atmosphere of EAS produced by protons or Fe nuclei at E=10¹⁵ eV

Hadronic Interaction Models needed to simulate the particle interactions in atmosphere: EPOS, QGSjet, SIBYLL,...

They are embedded in a software that simulates the EAS cascade in atmosphere such as CORSIKA.



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EAS detection techniques



$E > 10^{17} eV$

The Pierre Auger Observatory



Cosmic ray flux and interaction energies



Laboratory energy

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COSMIC RAY SPECTRUM





Origin of the knee?





Results in the knee region



M.B., Comptes Rendus (2014)



R. Engel (KIT)

2 ...the ankle marks the transition between galactic and extra galactic cosmic rays ?



KASCADE-Grande results:



M.B., Comptes Rendus (2014)

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Composition vs Energy



M.B., Comptes Rendus (2014)



R. Engel (KIT)

Random path of Cosmic Rays

$\boldsymbol{\Phi}(r, E; r_{o}, E_{o})$: structure function



• : solar system \vec{r} ($r \sim 10$ kpc, $z \sim 0$)

x : source
$$\vec{r}_{\theta}(r_0, z_0)$$





IceCube & IceTop



IceTop - 400 TeV



IceTop - 2 PeV



Where does this anisotropy comes from? Why it changes above hundred TeV?

Tsunesada, ICRC 2013



R. Engel (KIT)

The cosmic microwave background at 3 ^oK makes the Universe opaque to the cosmic rays of extreme energy K. Greisen – G.T.Zatsepin & V.A.Kuz'min (1966)



M. Bertaina

Astroparticle Physics

ORIGIN and PROPAGATION of UHECRs

GZK cut-off for protons

$$p + \gamma_{2,7K} \rightarrow \Delta \rightarrow n + \pi^{+}$$

$$p + \gamma_{2,7K} \rightarrow \Delta \rightarrow p + \pi^{0}$$

$$p + \gamma_{2,7K} \rightarrow \Delta \rightarrow p + e^{+} + e^{-}$$

Laboratory System: E proton = 10²⁰ eV; E photon: 0.5 meV

Proton reference system: E proton = 0 eV ; E photon: 300 MeV

Cosmic rays with energy $E > 7 \cdot 10^{19}$ eV must have their sources within 50Mpc Photo-dissociation for heavier nuclei

$$A + \gamma_{2,7K} \rightarrow (A - 1) + N$$
$$A + \gamma_{2,7K} \rightarrow (A - 2) + 2N$$
$$A + \gamma_{2,7K} \rightarrow A + e^{+} + e^{-}$$



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Other possibility: end of spectrum due to the fact that sources are running out of steam



Globus et al. (ICRC 2015)

Cosmic Ray Propagation in our Galaxy

Deflection angle < 1 degree at 10²⁰eV for protons



Anisotropy Hints >60 EeV

Statistically limited evidence for Comic Ray Anisotropy above $5.7x \ 10^{19} eV$ in the North and South



The connection with the 'knee' and the highest energies



Cosmic Rays

Part II:

The interconnection between cosmic rays and particle physics



Measurement of proton-air cross section



(Auger PRL 109, 2012; Telescope Array 1505.01860)

R. Engel (ICRC 2015)

Rapidity regions of CR experiments and LHC detectors



Challenge of limited phase space coverage







Electron Profile



More than 50% of shower from $\eta > 8$

(Salek et al., 2014)

R. Engel (ICRC 2015)

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Charged particle distribution in pseudorapidity



(data from all LHC experiments, CMS shown as example)

R. Engel (ICRC 2015)

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Forward Spectra





$pp \rightarrow \gamma + X$ Model predictions bracket the LHC data

MINIMUM BIAS CR interaction models can yield better results Than HEP models



Cosmic ray interaction models



Pinfold, ICRC 2013

Examples of tuning interaction models to LHC data



First LHC data at 13 TeV c.m. energy



(ATLAS, EPS Geneva 2015)

R. Engel (ICRC 2015)

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Shortcomings of the hadronic interaction models

Muon number in inclined showers





Several measurements: indications for muon discrepancy

Combination of information on mean depth of shower maximum and muon number at ground



R. Engel (ICRC 2015)

Average shower maximum and RMS



Dip model (ankle due to pure proton flux) seems to be ruled out

II Pierre Auger Collaboration (ICRC 2015)

Shortcomings of the hadronic interaction models



Pierre Auger Collaboration (ICRC 2015)

CONCLUSIONS

A review of the current understanding of cosmic ray data at different energies has been presented.

The interpretation of CR data requires the knowledge of the physics of hadronic interactions in atmosphere, but at the same time provides a means to cross-check the validity of the physics principles embedded in the models.

Hadronic interaction models do a fairly well job not only in the interpretation of EAS cascades in atmosphere but also of LHC data.

However, shortcomings exist! LHC data are extremely helpful in fine tuning the models and give solid bases for the extrapolation at high energies.

CR remain the sole mean to test hadronic interactions at energies well beyond those reachable with colliders.

CRs and accelerator data provide an excellent mix of information to understand the physics of interactions!

THANK YOU