

In Situ measurements with PBR and GSFC modeling status



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For PBR, there is significant geometry factor for the PBR instruments to be within the EAS cascade development:

- Provides a unique environment for in Situ EAS measurements EAS development is in rarified atmosphere that provides a different 'medium' (e.g. vs downward moving) that influences the cascade development.
- What EAS measurements can be performed -> guide the instrument suite/response for PBR.



What we know



- 1. There is GF for events where PBR will be in the midst of the EAS development.
- 2. The energy threshold for these events will be < PeV.
- 3. CR event rate should be significant.





10⁵

104

103

102

101

100

10-1

10-2

Integrated Slant Depth g cm⁻²

$500 \text{ g/cm}^2 \text{ can be a long } > 1000 \text{ km length } \dots$



2.5

3.0

~1300 km

1500

1750

87.1

1250

• PeV-scale EAS can have development to Xmax on > 1000 km length which is much larger than that for that for downward EAS development.

10²

0.0

• If $\lambda_{\rm I} \sim 60$ g/cm², this would correspond to ~100 km length, initial hadronic interactions can be widely spaced away from each other ...

100 TeV upward, $\beta_E = 5$ deg, proton starting at 10 km altitude

slamth depth (g/cm*2)

200

250

500

750

1000

Distance Along Shower Axis (km)

0.5

1.5

Shower Age s

2.0

1.0

HaHa's have very large range of slant depths thru the atmosphere





Balloon-borne instrument can be within the early stage of development for EAS with small slant depths before and around shower max!

EASVAEL : EAS Viewed Above the Earth's Limb in Cherenkov

Potential for X-ray measurements from e^{+/-} synchrotron radiation





Figure 2. Average energy of synchrotron photons emitted by electrons with different ener

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High energy positron detection via synchrotron emission in magnetosphere

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- 1. Will have Cherenkov from the EAS ...
- 2. Will have geomagnetic radio from the EAS ...
- 3. Measurements of charged particles depends on shower age ... early age will have a core component : quantification needs to be performed.

PBR Paris Meeting - June 2025

4. The early age, trans-TeV electron/positron component will lead to an X-ray/g-ray signal due to synchrotron and bremsstrahlung : what is the signal strength?





EAS e^{+/-} population vs shower age







There exists a significant population (> 1e3) of e^{+/-} at early EAS age with energies larger than 1 TeV

EAS trans-TeV e^{+/-}generated: Initial results from CREST experiment studies



S. Coutu et al. / Nuclear Physics B (Proc. Suppl.) 215 (2011) 250-254





Figure 3. Example of a simulated x-ray photon 10^{4} [electrons] × 10^{4} [Photons/electron] = 2 × 10^{6} [Brem Photons] geometric distribution at balloon altitudes $2^{1} \times 10^{6} / 2.5 \times 10^{5}$ [cm²] ≈ 10 Brem (1 MeV) photons/cm² 10 TeV incident electron. ≈ 10 Synch photons/cm² (?)

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EAS trans-TeV e^{+/-}generated: Initial results from CREST experiment studies



S. Coutu/CREST TeVPA2013





1 MeV photo signal from one 10 TeV Electron: MC has minimal time spread for signal photons.

0.02 × 10⁴ [electrons] @ 10 TeV

0.02 × 10⁴ [electrons] × 10⁻² [Photons/cm²] = 2 [Photons/ cm²]



Issues and Path Forward ...

- While not stated in Nerling (doi:10.1016/j.astropartphys.2005.09.002) in Appendix A: the paper states the work is based on shower age around s = 1.
 - Need to use CORSIKA or Cosmos to determine e[±] at early shower ages.

| No. of word | Contents of word (as real numbers R*4) |
|----------------------|--|
| $7 \times (n-1) + 1$ | particle description encoded as: |
| | part. $id \times 1000 + hadr.$ generation ⁹⁷ $\times 10 + no.$ of obs. level |
| | [for additional muon information or id 95/96: part. id×1000 + hadr. generation ⁹⁸ |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 2$ | px, momentum in x direction in GeV/c |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 3$ | py, momentum in y direction in GeV/c |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 4$ | pz, momentum in -z direction in GeV/c |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 5$ | x position coordinate in cm |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 6$ | y position coordinate in cm |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 7$ | t time since first interaction (or since entrance into atmosphere) ⁹⁹ in nsec |
| | [for additional muon information or id 95/96: z coordinate in cm] |
| | for $n = 139$ |
| | if last block is not completely filled, trailing zeros are added |

- 1. CREST used GEANT4 model to calculate X-ray/ γ -ray Synch/Brehm from trans-TeV electrons: model robust.
- 2. Guidance for PBR GX instrument:
 - As of now, most important input is that X-ray energy threshold needs to be below 30 keV.
 - Fast timing should help with reducing background.
- 3. Near area of research ... still have work to do ... 6/4/2025 PBR Paris Meeting - June 2025







Backup Slides







Requirements for X-ray measurements in situ of EAS: signal 10+ γ /cm²





1. Energy Range: 10 keV - 1 MeV
2. Minimal Area : TDB - but ~ cm² looks ok
3. Directionality: TDB: but Bkgnd at 1 MeV:
3 x 10⁻⁴ [counts/s/cm²/keV] * 100 [keV] ~ 0.03 [counts/s/cm²]





Fig. 17. Background spectrum measured during flight, excluding the ASIC of the rearend detector that only worked intermittently, and the result of the Geant4 simulation. Counts are normalized to geometric area of the CZT detectors. The shaded region indicates the core energy range for polarization measurements.



Synch vs Brehm : Update based on input from Scott Nutter





Bremsstrahlung to synchrotron comparison Surviving photons per primary





Energy of surviving photons per primary



8

Synch vs Brehm : Update based on input from Scott Nutter





Need to assess low energy spectra of brehm photons, in particular at X-ray energies

14

The rate of HaHa CR events w/PBR will be significant



SPB2 CT: $A_{EFF} = 0.68 \text{ m}^2$, 6.4° x 12.8° angular span (Δ nadir vs Δ azimuth angles), 0.4° pixel size

Earth's Atmosphere acts as an energy filter due to increased Cherenkov light attenuation as the viewing angle from nadir θ_d gets close to that for the limb ($\theta_{LIMB} = 84.2^{\circ}$)

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Austin's EASCherSim studies: PBR should have lower E_{Thr} and 个 CRrate

Result

Note: iFoV = 0.2 deg : PBR iFoV = 0.4 deg : EUSO-SPB2

- Total event rate increase x2
 - ~9000 over 30d flight, ~62.5/h
- Important energies:
 - $\circ~$ Threshold: 700TeV \rightarrow 400TeV
 - $\circ~$ Max sensitivity: 4PeV \rightarrow 2PeV
- Curves are generated only for protons
 - Heavier primaries would result in more events (~2 drop in threshold)

Mssion Goals and Technique







EAS development can be' frozen' in the rarified atmosphere and can have modified longitudinal profiles ...





EAS components densities in the rarified atmosphere ...





At 33 km altitude, pressure is < 0.1 atm -> EAS width at Xmax (Moliere radius) ~ 8 km

If N=10⁸ particles, then get < 1e-4 particles/cm² from bulk (EM component) of EAS



$$\rho(R) = \frac{N_e}{2\pi R_M^2} C(s) \left(\frac{R}{R_M}\right)^{(s-2)} \left(\frac{R}{R_M} + 1\right)^{(s-4.5)}$$
NKG formula: 0.8 < s < 1.6

 If measurements occur earlier in shower age, EAS still has a strong core which would increase charged particle density.

EAS e^{+/-} population vs shower age: Initial results from CORSIKA







(b) Electron energy distribution that I generated for a 100 PeV cosmic ray event with a downward going EAS observed at the shower age of, s = 0.85. Zenith angle was set to $\theta = 5^{\circ}$.

Results from initial CORSIKA runs accessing e[±] 4-momentum

EAS trans-TeV e^{+/-}generated: Initial results from CREST experiment studies



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Figure 3. Example of a simulated x-ray photon geometric distribution at balloon altitudes for a 10 TeV incident electron.



Example brem event





Figure 2. Schematic representation of the CREST payload layout and the electron detection technique via the geosynchrotron x-ray photons.

Red=photons from Crestmag thrown at CREST

Green=crystals with E_{dep}>40keV

> 4 brem photons in this event





EASVAEL have very large range of optical attenuation correlated to slant depths





Non-insignificant amount of grammage for shower development

- Typical EAS develop over ~1000g/cm²
- >100g/cm² even above θ_D = 90° for balloon altitudes

Atmospheric extinction is minimal O5/4 Dominated by ozone absorption BR Paris Meeting - June 2025







EAS Cascade Development Primer



Pion Counting

1st Interaction

 π^+ , π^- , π^0 (2/3 hadronic, 1/3 EM)

2nd Interaction

π⁺ , π⁻ , π⁰ (4/9 hadronic, <u>5/9</u> EM)

3rd Interaction

....

Significant EAS energy put into EM component at very early EAS stage Can we use this to study the EAS itself including probing hadronic interactions?





https://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/hfm/CosmicRay/Showers.html

Radio work from vSpaceSim Development: Saturation of geomagnetic radiation for high-altitude EAS



Simulations of Upgoing EAS Observed from Low-Earth Orbit





Figure 4: Radio emission profiles upgoing extensive air shower from a tau decay at ground altitude observed at 525 km. Top left is for a shower zenith angle of 89° in the 30-300 MHz band while top right is for the same zenith angle in the 300-1000 MHz band. The bottom left and right at for a shower zenith angle of 80° in the 30-300 MHz band (bottom left) and 300-1000 MHz band (bottom right).

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Figure 5: Geomagnetic field angle dependence on radio emission. Top left: the peak electric field value as a function of geomagnetic field inclination angle I_B for a 50° zenith angle shower. The colors indicate the decay altitude of each shower. Bottom left: the trends in the plot above have been fitted to a clipped sine wave and normalized by the peak amplitude of the fitted sinusoid and plotted in terms of the angle between the geomagnetic field vector and the shower axis (α) to illustrate the effect of the geomagnetic emission clipping fraction. Right top and bottom are the same as the left top and bottom, respectively, but for a shower zenith angle of 87°.

23



Radio work from Austin Cummings



Radio

- Results from past simulations:
 - Saturation effect of electric field w.r.t the geomagnetic angle I_B at high altitudes
 - Large decrease in Electric field from $\theta_{\rm EE} = 87^\circ \rightarrow \theta_{\rm EE} = 89^\circ$
- Active simulation efforts to improve the modeling in ZHAireS



Fixed 9km decay altitude with different Earth emergence angles (red is steep)







- How does the cosmic ray nuclear composition evolve in the energy range 500 TeV to 1 EeV, which spans the energy range between direct and indirect cosmic ray measurements.
 - PBR will use a new technique using Optical Cherenkov and geomagnetic radio from EAS to perform these measurements (different measurement with different systematics than measuring particle content on the ground, e.g. IceTop, KASCADE, etc.
 - Method has history with non-imaging Cherenkov techniques on the ground, e.g. NICHE.
- 2. Using the unique environment of the rarified atmosphere to measure the EAS electromagnetic development and evolution early in the EAS (and near the first interaction) to distinguish between primary CR (hadronic) interaction models.
 - Need to define what e^{+/-} measurements early in the EAS can accomplish to distinguish between hadronic interaction models.

Cherenkov and radio signal dominated by \mathbf{S}_{MAX} contribution

Detector

h

 R_E

S_{MAX}

 $z_{\rm atm}$









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0.0

0.2

0.4

0.6

Angle off-axis (Degrees)

0.8

1.0

1.2

Spread (ns)

90% Time

10²

6/4/2025



27



Initial CORSIKA Results by Mehreen Sultana



ISSUES:

- If choose detector plane (measurement) at early shower age, do not have rest of EAS development, i.e. may not have EAS X_{MAX} for these events.
 - Need to reuse event random numbers to study full profile.
- 2. Individual particle info is available in CORSIKA Particle data subblock.

| Particle data sub-block : (up to 39 particles, 7 words each) | |
|--|--|
| No. of word | Contents of word (as real numbers R*4) |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 1$ | particle description encoded as: |
| | part. id $\times 1000$ + hadr. generation ¹⁰¹ $\times 10$ + no. of obs. level |
| | [for additional muon information or id 95/96: |
| | part. $id \times 1000 + hadr. generation^{102}$] |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 2$ | px, momentum in x direction in GeV/c |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 3$ | py, momentum in y direction in GeV/c |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 4$ | pz, momentum in -z direction in GeV/c |
| $7 \times (n-1) + 5$ | x position coordinate in cm |
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| $7 \times (n-1) + 7$ | t time since first interaction |
| | (or since entrance into atmosphere) ¹⁰³ in nsec |
| | [for additional muon information or id 95/96: z coordinate in cm |
| | for $n = 1 39$ |
| | if last block is not completely filled, trailing zeros are added |



(a) The electron energy distribution [4] of a smic ray induced EAS as a funcer age determined by the Nerling Ref. [24].



(b) Electron energy distribution that I generated for a 100 PeV cosmic ray event with a downward going EAS observed at the shower age of, s = 0.85. Zenith angle was set to $\theta = 5^{\circ}$.

re 6: Characterization of a CORSIKA simulated 100 PeV induced EAS.[4]



Table 10: Structure of particle data sub-block.

Early EAS Variability modeling from Austin Cummings



Longitudinal Profiles

- X0 has a huge effect on the number of electrons emitting near the detector
 2 orders of magnitude for Xtot < 300g/cm2
- Mistake in my Cherenkov calculations...
 - Using a scaled 100PeV profile to represent 1PeV underestimates particle content by a factor of ~3-10
 - Being in active shower development requires careful handling!



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 - Using a scaled 100PeV profile to represent 1PeV underestimates particle content by a factor of ~3-10
 - Being in active shower development requires careful handling!
- Heavier nuclei add another factor of 2!

