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Air-shower measurements with KASCADE-Grande

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# Air-shower measurements with KASCADE-Grande

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## What is the origin of the (first) knee?





#### extensive air showers

Differences in the shower development give hints to primary energy and mass



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### **Measurement Techniques of Air Showers**

energy ? mass ? direction ? interaction ?

➔ large number of observables

→ multidetector system





## Experiment: KASCADE-Grande

= <u>KA</u>rlsruhe <u>Shower</u> <u>Core and Array</u> <u>DE</u>tector + Grande and LOPES

Measurements of air showers in the energy range  $E_0 = 100 \text{ TeV} - 1 \text{ EeV}$ 





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## KASCADE : multi-parameter measurements





### **KASCADE** set-up

#### Multi-Detector-Setup !

Aim: measure as much as possible observables of the air-shower!











#### **KASCADE – event example**

Array



Run 3226, File 2, leve 65041, Ymd 10215, Hms 225810, Neds 250, Npds 138 (Xc,Yc) = (-45.4,-51.0), (Ze,Phi) = (36.7,228.6), log10(Ne)=6.14, log10(Lmuo)=4.66

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#### **KASCADE** set-up

#### Multi-Detector-Setup ! Aim: measure as much as possible observables of the air-shower !







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#### **HE Muon Measurements at KASCADE**



#### first: analysis of basic observable

Total muon number and electron number → mass estimator
 high-energy local muon density → energy estimator



**KASCADE : Astroparticle Physics 16 373 2002** 

- KNEE CAUSED BY DECREASING FLUX OF LIGHT ELEMENTS
- Do we need hadronic interaction models?

→ yes, for normalization of absolute energy and mass scale!!



#### Experiment

#### Simulation





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#### **KASCADE : energy spectra of single mass groups**





Measurement: KASCADE array data 900 days; 0-18° zenith angle 0-91m core distance Ig N<sub>e</sub> > 4.8; Ig N<sub>µ</sub><sup>tr</sup> > 3.6 → 685868 events

 $\label{eq:searched:Earched:Earched:Earched:Earched:Earched:Earched:Earched:Cosmic Ray Particles Given:Cosmic Ray Particles Given:Cosmic Ray Particles Ray$ 

→ solve the inverse problem

 $g(y) = \int K(y,x) p(x) dx$ 



#### **KASCADE Unfolding procedure**

$$\frac{dJ}{d\lg N_e \, d\lg N_{\mu}^{tr}} = \sum_{A} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dJ_A}{d\lg E} \left( p_A(\lg N_e, \lg N_{\mu}^{tr} \mid \lg E) \, d\lg E \right)$$

- kernel function obtained by Monte Carlo simulations (CORSIKA)
- contains: shower fluctuations, efficiencies, reconstruction resolution



KASCADE collaboration, Astroparticle Physics 24 (2005) 1-25, astro-ph/0505413



#### **KASCADE** results

- same unfolding but based on two different interaction models:
- SIBYLL 2.1 and QGSJET01 (both with GHEISHA 2002) all embedded in CORSIKA



#### KASCADE collaboration, Astroparticle Physics 24 (2005) 1-25, astro-ph/0505413



#### **KASCADE : sensitivity to hadronic interaction models**





#### **KASCADE:** sensitivity to hadronic interaction models



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#### **KASCADE results: confirmation**

- same unfolding but based on two different low energy interaction models and different zenith angle ranges:

- GHEISHA 2002 and FLUKA (both with QGSJET01)
- 0-18°, 18-25.9°, 25.9-32.3° (all with QGSJET01/FLUKA)



- Less dependence for unfolding based on different low energy hadronic interaction models

- Weak dependence on zenith angular binning (not significant)

**KASCADE** collaboration, Astroparticle Physics (2009), accepted



#### **Hadronic Interactions: Problems**

- Extrapolation of cross-sections to ultra-high energies
- Secondary particle multiplicity in high-energy interactions
- Extrapolation of kinematics to the extreme forward region (diffractive part of X-sections)



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#### Hadrons in EAS!



#### **←** Direct access by hadrons



#### hadrons in air shower cores



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## hadrons in air shower cores: test of hadronic interaction models

#### **KASCADE** observables per individual EAS:

from detector array: general shower parameters from calorimeter:

- number of reconstructed hadrons ( $E_{h}$ >100GeV)  $N_{h}$
- sum of the reconstructed hadronic energy  $\Sigma E_{h}$
- energy of the leading hadron  $E_{h}^{max}$
- parameters of the spatial hadron distributions









Investigated many correlation of observables of all three particle components Electromagnetic Muonic Hadronic By using full simulations (including detector response)



## KASCADE data analyses: shower observable correlations



correlation of observables:
 <u>no hadronic interaction model describes data consistently</u> !
 → tests and tuning of hadronic interaction models !
 → close co-operation with theoreticians
 (CORSIKA including QGSJET, SIBYLL, FLUKA, GHEISHA,....)







## Sibyll 2.1Shower observable correlations:Model tests with composition

 $N_e$ - $N_\mu$  analysis





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#### **KASCADE : test of new hadronic interaction models** EPOS 1.61





### **KASCADE:** new hadronic interaction model: EPOS

#### - unfolding based EPOS 1.61 and FLUKA (with CORSIKA 6.6)



- -) very proton dominant, but knee caused by light primaries
- -) no iron needed

→ EPOS predict too many muons or too less electrons (for KASCADE)

KASCADE collaboration, ICRC 2007; J.Phys G (2008), in print

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#### **KASCADE – Test of EPOS 1.6 with hadrons**

 $\Sigma E_h - N_u$ 





 $\rightarrow$  energy per hadron too small

EPOS delivers not enough hadronic energy to the ground

## → EPOS 1.6 is NOT CONSISTENT with KASCADE observations!



Shower observable correlations: Model tests



•EPOS 1.6 is not compatible with KASCADE measurements

- •QGSJET-II has some deficiencies
- •QGSJET 01and SIBYLL 2.1still most compatible models
- New models are welcome for cross tests with KASCADE data





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**Unusual events?** 

Hadrons measured in the calorimeter at an accelerator and in air showers

Fluctuations in shower development, unusual events, long-flying component ← In agreement with simulations





### primary proton flux from hadron measurements



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#### primary proton flux from hadron measurements



Average number of interactions when a single hadron was detected at KASCADE (simulations).







### **Spatial distribution: test of transverse momentum p<sub>t</sub> in hadronic interaction**



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#### **Hadron Attenuation Length**

#### Method: measure hadronic energy sum at sea-level:

$$\Sigma E_H = E_0 \exp\left(-\frac{X_0}{\lambda_E}\right)$$

## Divide data sample in light and heavy generated showers



#### **Compare with simulations**

#### **KASCADE coll, submitted to PRD**



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## **KASCADE Summary**



- -) knee caused by light primaries -> composition gets heavier across knee
- -) positions of knee vary with primary elemental group
- -) relative abundancies depend strongly on high energy interaction model
- -) result only weakly dependent on low energy interaction model
- -) result consistent for different data sets
- -) no (interaction) model can describe the data consistently
- -) all-particle spectra agree inside uncertainties (EPOS a bit lower)
- -) proton spectra agree with direct measurements (not for EPOS)



#### A or Z?



#### Data: KASCADE, H.Ulrich, XIV ISVHECRI, Weihai, China 2006

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### Motivation for measurements 100 – 1000 PeV





### **KASCADE-Grande :** multi-parameter measurements





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**KASCADE-Grande:** Reconstruction

## 1) core position and angle-of-incidence from Grande array data

 2a) shower size (charged particles) from Grande array data
 2b) muon number from KASCADE muon detectors

3) electron number

from Grande by subtraction of muon content

4) two dimensional size spectrum for the unfolding analysis





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 $\rightarrow$ 





## Way to all-particle energy spectrum : constant intensity cut method CIC (N<sub>u</sub>)





## Way to all particle energy spectrum : constant intensity cut method CIC $(N_{\mu})$

#### **QGSJET II** hadronic interaction model



Present work: investigations of systematic uncertainties....

#### .....coming next: ICRC

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### **KASCADE-Grande : unfolding analysis**



Unfolding of 2-dimensional shower size spectrum possible

- ➔ energy & composition
- → still improvements in systematics needed
- ➔ higher statistics

#### Muon spectra

KG data vs MC

Discrepancy between MC (QGSJET II) and KG data increases with zenith angle.

## Discrepancy also found when using EPOS





**Effect in Energy Spectrum?** 



Discrepancy between energy spectra from vertical and inclined showers



#### **Muon attenuation length**





#### muon density investigations



muon (local) density reconstruction possible for different distances
 composition sensitivity
 model tests



## KASCADE-Grande + model tests





## KASCADE-Grande Collaboration

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