## Understanding the Surface Detector signal in the upgraded Pierre Auger Observatory

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Artwork by Sandbox Studio, Chicago with Pedro Rivas

# Understanding the Surface Detector signal in the upgraded Pierre Auger Observatory

## Mart Pothast NNV 2019 Scintillator Surface Detector



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Fluorescence Detector

## We measure extensive air showers from ultra high energy cosmic rays





## Some results from the Pierre Auger Observatory

## **Spectrum**

Features with high precision: ankle, cutoff



## Composition

#### Heavier at higher energy



## Amazing! But...



**Photo-disintegration scenario** *Cutoff due to propagation effects*  Maximum rigidity scenario Cutoff due to power of sources

#### Need to know composition at highest energy

## Time to upgrade!

Fluorescence Detector ~ 10% duty cycle

**Surface Detector ~ 100%** 

Number of muons is a good mass discriminator

Other upgrades also planned: UMD, **Radio**, extend fluorescence cycle, electronics



NEW: Scintillator Surface Detector OLD: Water Cherenkov Detector (still important!)

#### How? -> Add a new detector



## By the way

#### SSD only works for vertical showers

#### For inclined showers we will have radio





## Scintillator Surface Detector (SSD)

#### SSD has a different response to the particle content than the Water Cherenkov Detector (WCD):

Can use this difference to resolve the signal from muons and from electromagnetic particles. Always need good old WCD.

Matrix inversion

$$\begin{pmatrix} S_{\text{SSD}} \\ S_{\text{WCD}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \,\mathcal{A}_{\text{SSD}} & \mathcal{A}_{\text{SSD}} \\ \beta \,\mathcal{A}_{\text{WCD}} & \mathcal{A}_{\text{WCD}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{F}_{\text{em}} \\ \mathcal{F}_{\mu} \end{pmatrix}$$







#### Shower universality





## If we apply our *deep neural matrix inversion universality* algorithm on the raw signal, do we understand why it does (not) work?

-> Need to understand what the signal looks like

-> Simulate the signal for 1 particle, keep it simple (stupid)

## What does the signal look like for 1 particle?



## What does the signal look like for 1 particle?



## But need to implement the energy spectrum

Electrons have on average much lower energy than muons





#### Injecting particles with the spectrum from an EAS:



WCD [VEM] SSD [MIP]

1.75

2.00

SSD counts particles, irrespective of energy. There are more electrons than muons so the **SSD signal is dominated by electrons.** 

WCD is sensitive to high energy particles, these are mostly muons. So the WCD is on average more sensitive (*than the SSD*) to muons.

#### In progress:

Can we see that the response of the WCD/SSD is different in data?

## Todo/in progress:

How can a *deep neural matrix inversion universality* algorithm distinguish between signal from muons and electromagnetic particles, with/without SSD?



Muons are early, electrons are late

## Thank you!

## Backup

## **Results from the Pierre Auger Observatory**



A.Yushkov [Pierre Auger Coll.], PoS(ICRC2019) 482.

The Pierre Auger Coll., Science 357 (2017), 1266.