Cosmic-ray physics with IceCube

125 m

IceTop is the surface component of IceCube as a three-dimensional cosmic-ray air shower detector



Cosmic-ray physics with IceCube

- IceCube sees cosmic ray events from all directions
 - 30,000 atmospheric v/year
 - 100 billion atmospheric μ /year
 - 1 billion air showers/yr in IceTop
 - ~10% in coincidence with deep IceCube
- Spectrum/composition:
 - TeV to EeV



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Huge μ statistics allows study of anisotropy @ < 1 per mil Comparison to the Northern Hemisphere Tibet Array and IceCube



Relative Intensity of Cosmic Rays (IC22, IC40 & IC59)



Year	Rate (Hz)	LiveTime(Days)	CR Median Energy (TeV)	Median Angular Resolution (degrees)	Number of Events (billion)
2007-IC22	240	~226	~19	3	~4
2008-IC40	780	~324	~19	3	~15
2009-IC59	1300	~324	~19	3	~23

From presentation of R. Abbasi, SNOPAC 2011

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Weather with IceCube

- Muon production samples stratospheric temperature
 - Higher T, lower ρ , more π^{\pm} decay before interaction \rightarrow more μ



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Solar & heliospheric physics

- ~2 kHz rate per IceTop tank with 162 tanks
 - study of solar cosmic ray events & solar modulation with fine time resolution & spectral resolution



Energy range of atmospheric v_{μ}

- Most events
 - 0.3 to 10 TeV
 - E_{CR} ~ 3 to 100 TeV/nucleon
- Rate (>100 TeV)
 - Prompt v (charm)
 - ~100's per yr
 - Absorption in Earth distorts angular dist.



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Neutrino effective area

$$A_{\text{off}}(\Theta, E_{\nu}) = \epsilon(\Theta) A(\Theta) P_{\nu}(E_{\nu}, E_{\nu}, min) e$$

$$(\mathsf{P}_{v} \sim \sigma_{v} \mathsf{X} \mathsf{R}_{\mu})$$

- Rate:
- $= \int \phi_{v}(E_{v}) A_{eff}(E_{v}) dE_{v}$
- Earth absorption
 - Starts 10-100 TeV
 - Biggest effect near vertical
 - Higher energy v's absorbed at larger angles



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Atmospheric muons in IceCube



Similar energy range to atmospheric v

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Primary composition with μ & ν

- Calibration criterion: consistency of
 - Primary spectrum / composition
 - Spectrum & angular distribution of μ and ν
- Interesting region for primary spectrum/composition
 - ATIC, CREAM, PAMELA
 - Spectra harder E > 200 GeV/A





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Spectrum/composition with IceCube/IceTop

- Threshold energy
 ≤ 300 TeV
- Maximum energy
 - Limited by km² size
 - Coincident events
 - A $\Omega = 0.3 \text{ km}^2 \text{ sr}$
 - $E_{max} = EeV$
 - IceTop only ($\theta < 60^{\circ}$)
 - A $\Omega = 3 \text{ km}^2 \text{ sr}$
 - $E_{max} = 3 \text{ EeV}$
 - In-ice trigger & reco
 - $E_{max} = 3 \text{ EeV}$



Anchor to direct measurement of composition ~300 TeV

Tom Gaisser

Look for transition to extra-galactic < EeV

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Composition from IceTop, In-ice coincident events

- Reconstruct muon bundle to get energy deposition by muons in deep IceCube
- Reconstruct surface shower to get E_{primary}
- Require consistency with angular distribution and µ/e measured on the surface



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Composition from IceTop, In-ice coincident events



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Recent data (June 2010, large, vertical event)



Large, inclined event in IceTop-73



Current IceTop size spectrum Six months IceTop-73 2010/11



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Extending the range of IceTop

- With present array we can use events reconstructed in deep ice that pass outside of IceTop
- Two benefits:
 - 1. Veto for horizontal GZK neutrino candidates
 - 2. Spectrum / composition physics
- To illustrate 2
 - I need a figure that shows trigger efficiency to get 3 or more IceTop stations as a function of primary energy and distance of the shower core from center of IceTop.

IceTop as a veto

Present Icetop improves point source sensitivity by a factor of 2 for overhead sources



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Radio Air Shower Test Array Symbiotic with ARA

 RASTA is a project for observing EAS via radio signals, using Geo-synchrotron Effect: Charged particles emit radio waves in the magnetic field of the earth





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Brüssel, September 2010



April 4, 2011

Radio Air Shower Test Array: simulation

- Showers are simulated with CORSIKA
- The radioemission of the shower is simulated with "REAS 2", gives output of the antenna response on designated positions → more detail, useful also for IceTop/InIce alone
- Alternative routine for parametrized (REAS 1) radio showers (by S. Böser)



Prospects for RASTA

- Energy range
- Area
- Relation to ARA
- Proposed timeline & cost

Summary comments

- High rate of atmospheric $\mu \rightarrow$ fine resolution for
 - Anisotropy
 - Temperature effects
 - Solar, heliospheric studies with IceTop
- Primary spectrum & composition
 - To > 100 TeV with atmospheric μ , ν
 - IceTop, IceCube coincidenct events extend to EeV
 - Uniform acceptance from below knee to EeV
 - Look for transition to extra-galactic component $E \le EeV$
- Extend IceTop acceptance for veto and science
 - Use events with cores outside IceTop
 - Build RASTA