Triggering the PAO science



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Outline

- Observatory overview
 - Fluorescence detector
 - Surface detector
 - Observatory upgrade: AugerPrime
- DAQ and triggers
 - Fluorescence detector
 - Surface detector
 - Radio detector
 - Elves





PIFR

RF

Pierre Auger Observatory

- detection of ultra high-energy cosmic rays via extensive air shower
- hybrid concept
 - array of 1660 Water Cherenkov Detectors
 - 27 Fluorescence telescopes at 4 sites
- located at Argentina, province Mendoza, city Malargüe (observatory campus)
- operated from 2004 Phase I, Phase II from 2024











Pierre Auger Observatory



- large exposure
- 3000km²
- Central Data Acquisition system (CDAS) Malargüe



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4

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Fluorescence detector

Fluorescence Detector

27 fluorescence telescopes (in 4 different places)



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Fluorescence telescope





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- FD camera: 22 rows x 20 cols, hexagonal arrangement
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• PMT + HeadElectronics





Surface detector

Surface Detector

1,660 surface detector stations (1,500 m apart from each other)



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8

Surface detector - station









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AugerPrime – upgrade of the Observatory

- scintillator detector (SSD)
- upgraded electronics UB \rightarrow UUB
- small PMT (extend dyn. range by ~32)
- radio detector (RD)
- underground scintillator muon detector
- 61 AMIGA stations at 750m grid (infill area)
- burried 2.3m, 3x10m² modules arXiv:1604.03637

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(Upgraded) Unified Board

- electronics of WCD station
- Unified Board (UB)
 - power supply/station management
 - analog frontend + 2x3 channels ADC (10bit @40MHz) + data processing (FPGA) + radio communication with CDAS
 - time synchronization by GPS module
- Upgraded Unified Board (UUB)
 - more powerful, 10 channels ADC (12bit @120MHz)
 - PMT signal electronically divided by 32 low & high gain
 - Zynq Z7020 (Artix-7 FPGA + 2 ARM cores)
 - interface to Amiga and RD





power supplies slow control GPS Zynq

RD comm. FE+ADC PMT control

11

Comparison of detectors at Pierre Auger Observatory

- FD direct observation of shower longitudinal profile, low duty-cycle (~13%)
- SD shower footprint on earth, full-time operation
- Amiga direct observation of muons, only small area
- SSD discriminate muon components partially, whole array, thin scintillator \rightarrow vertical showers
- RD inclined showers, electromagnetic component of the shower





Comms at PAO





• Wireless LAN:

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- ISM 902-928 MHz, 500kHz channel spacing, TDMA, coherent QPSK
- 28 sectors of upto 68 WCD
- over-air-rate 200kbps
- eff. uplink payload 1200bps/st.
- microwave backbone 7GHz
 - data rate 24Mbps
- CDAS: central data acquisition system



Relation between physical and electronics quantities

- Vertical Equivalent Muon VEM
 - response to muon vertically passing WCD
 - peak current I_{VEM} / collected charge Q_{VEM}
- Minimum ionizing particle MIP
 - response to muon/electron passing scintillator



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Readout scheme of an FD site





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FLT + Analog board

• AB

- adjust channel gain
- anti-aliasing filter (4th order Bessel, 3.4MHz)
- adapts 15bit range to 12bit ADC (virtual channels, 20:1 HG/LG)
- FLT (FPGA): data from 22-channel column
 - continuously digitized signal from AB @10MHz
 - generate pixel trigger (moving sum) for each channel, measure the hit rate for each channel
 - compensate background, maintain pixel trigger rate at 100Hz (adjust threshold)



FLT : AB





SLT + MirrorPC + EyePC

• SLT

- read pixel triggers from 20 FLTs
- search for straight tracks
- generates trigger if pattern found
- MirrorPC
 - readout from SLT
 - filter lightning using multiplicity from FLT \rightarrow generate TLT
- EyePC
 - merge coincident events, generate hybrid T3 event \rightarrow CDAS







Triggers in SD







CDAS triggering role

- local stations retain T1 triggered traces for 8s, apply T2 and sent list of T2 timestamps to CDAS
- CDAS collects T2 from SD array as well as FD telescopes and generates T3 trigger eventually (time/space correlation)
- CDAS receives traces from local stations and FD sites and build the event





Local triggers

- Compatibility Single Bin
 - signal over threshold in 1 bin
- Compatibility Multiplicity of Positive Steps (MOPS)
 - aggregate positive steps, min/max height constrained, count in 3µs sliding window
- Time-over-threshold trigger (ToT)
 - low threshold, count bins over treshold in 3µs sliding window
- Time-over-threshold trigger deconvolved (ToTD)
 - first deconvolve exponential ligth decay in a water reservoir
- configurable PMT multiplicity







New WCD/SSD triggers

- Be more efficient for neutrino and photon primaries & horizontal showers
- Direct Light trigger
 - characteristic narrow spike generated when Cherenkov photons hit the PMT directly (without a diffuse wall reflection)
- Electromagnetic trigger
 - signal spread in time (similar to ToT)
- Electromagnetic Integral trigger
 - This trigger compares the integral of the WCD signal with the SSD signal
 - Selects cases where SSD/WCD is larger than typical





Radio Detector at Pierre Auger Observatory



- RD part of AugerPrime
- sensitive to inclined shower
- https://doi.org/10.1051/epjconf/201921006005

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RD data acquisition



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- Small Aperiodic Loaded Loop Antenna, 2 loops for NS/EW polarisation
- sampled @ 250MHz/12 bit





- currently slave mode of UUB
- RD T1/T2 trigger under development
 - to be triggered only by WCD may miss inclined showers
- concept:
 - increase of photon detection rate
 - compatibility with the limited bandwidth
 - trigger purity





Elves



Elves:

200 (Sri) 180 Ja

160.Ō

140 Lirst Lirst

120 a

20



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- transient luminous events
- radial extent > 250 km
- lower ionosphere above strong electrical storms
- FD: TLT for lightning noise
 - radially expanding light front
- https://doi.org/10.1029/2019EA000582