





# Accelerator input to air shower physics: status and future prospects

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#### Artist impression of air shower

Image credit: Rebecca Pitt, Discovering Particles, CC BY-ND-NC 2.0



### Overview

- Cosmic-ray induced air showers are driven by hadronic cascades
- CORSIKA 8 should accurately predict
  - First two moments of muon number  $N_{\mu}$  and  $X_{max}$
  - Atmospheric neutrino flux
  - Radio/gamma ray production
- Need reference data and and good models of soft-QCD processes
  - Production of long-lived hadrons and  $\pi^0$
  - Ratio of strange hadrons to unflavored
  - Charm production
- LHC/SPS experiments provide important reference data
  - Challenge: Limited information on forward hadron production
  - Very promising: p-O collisions planned at LHC in 2023/24

### Air shower cascade



Haungs et al., JoP Conf. Ser. 632 (2015) 012011

### Muon deficit in simulated showers

#### PoS(ICRC2021)349



$$z_{\rm mass} \approx \frac{\langle \ln A \rangle}{\ln 56}$$

- Line model with slope fitted to  $\Delta z = z z_{mass}$
- Slope is  $8\sigma$  (10 $\sigma$ ) away from zero for EPOS-LHC (QGSJet-II.04)
- Onset of deviation around 40 PeV corresponds to  $\sqrt{s} \sim 8$  TeV; in reach of LHC

# Air showers and QCD

R. Ulrich, R. Engel, M. Unger, PRD 83 (2011) 054026

- Modify hadronic features in SIBYLL-2.1 and other models with energy-dependent factor *f*(*E*)
- Study effect in 10<sup>19.5</sup> eV shower simulations



- cross-sections inelastic cross-section of all interactions
- hadron multiplicity total number of secondary hadrons
- **elasticity** =  $E_{\text{leading}}/E_{\text{all}}$
- $\pi^0$  fraction



### From shower muons to QCD





- Number of muons produced,  $N_{\mu}$ 
  - Very sensitive to  $\pi^0$  fraction
  - Sensitive to hadron multiplicity

- Depth of shower maximum, X<sub>max</sub>
  - Very sensitive to cross-section
  - Sensitive to hadron multiplicity

### From shower muons to QCD



### What to measure at the LHC

- Inelastic cross-section
- Production of long-lived hadrons and  $\pi^0$ 
  - Hadron multiplicity
  - Energy ratio R
- Hadron elasticity
  - Fluctuations of  $X_{max}$  and  $N_{\mu}$
- Forward charm production (D<sup>0</sup>)
- Need pp, pPb, and pO data to understand nuclear effects

### Large Hadron Collider (LHC)



#### Hans Dembinski | TU Dortmund

# LHC collision systems

#### Collision systems at the LHC





### LHC collision systems







p-O collisions mimic air shower interactions

n=3

# LHC collision systems







Fixed target data at sub-TeV (LHCb only)

- p+(p,...,O,N,...) @ 0.11 TeV
- Pb+(p,...,O,N,...) @ 0.07 TeV
- O+O, O+p @ 0.08 TeV (in Run 3)

p-O collisions mimic air shower interactions

 $\pi$ -N and  $\pi$ -O .

 $\pi^+\pi^-$ 

n=2

n=3

### Inelastic cross-section

TOTEM, EPJC (2019) 79:103 (see references therein for ALICE, ATLAS, CMS, LHCb)



### Importance of forward acceptance



J. Albrecht, HD, et al., Astrophys. Space. Sci. **367**, 27 (2022) PoS(ICRC2021)463 in arXiv:2112.11761

### Importance of forward acceptance

Y.S. Jeong et al. + Honda et al. from L. Anchordoqui et al. arXiv:2109.10905 Conventional flux:  $v_{\mu}$  from light flavor Prompt flux:  $v_{\mu}$  from open charm and beauty



M. Garzelli: "We mostly need charm data at y = 4 to 7"

### ATLAS vs. LHCb



#### ATLAS: Symmetric spectrometer

• Optimized for study of new heavy particles



# LHC experiments and Muon Puzzle

arXiv:2105.06148



# Forward charged particle spectra



- Data available up to |η| = 6.4 in p-p and partially in p-Pb ALICE, Eur.Phys.J.C 77 (2017) 12 CMS & TOTEM, Eur.Phys.J.C 74 (2014) 10, 3053 LHCb, JHEP 01 (2022) 166 ...
- Models agree at mid-rapidity in p-p, but not in the forward region
- Models do not agree on extrapolation from p-p to p-O; new LHC data will fix this

# QCD factorisation

- Difficult to change *R* within standard QCD
  - String fragmentation universal  $\rightarrow$  hadron ratios universal
  - Iso-spin symmetry:  $\pi^+: \pi^-: \pi^0 \sim 1: 1: 1$

#### Probabilities to generate quark pairs independent of collision details



# QCD factorisation breaking effects

- Collinear framework cannot describe rich phenomenology found in pPb at LHC
  - Strangeness enhancement & collective fluid-like phenomena observed in pPb and pp
  - Enhanced strangeness and baryon production observed at mid-rapidity (Muon Puzzle!)
- Alternative hadronization models
  - Become important when density of produced partons is high: heavy-ion collisions, high-energy collisions → collisions in air showers!
  - Not constrained by data from ee colliders
  - LHCb data provides evidence for alternatives models in forward region
- Core-Corona model (e.g. EPOS)
  - Statistical hadronization from Quark Gluon Plasma (QGP) at midrapidity (core)
  - String and remnant fragmentation in the forward region (corona)
- String-string interactions (e.g. DIPSY)
  - Strings overlapping in space-time interact with each other
- Quark coalescence model
  - Hadrons directly formed from pairs of quarks produced in collision

# QCD factorisation breaking effects

Enhanced forward baryon and  $\rho^0$  production in  $\pi$ -air collisions





#### **Observed at NA61/SHINE**

- More baryons and  $\rho^0 \rightarrow \text{less } \pi^0$  $\rightarrow$  more muons in air showers
- Large increase of muon number in ٠ SIBYLL model, but not enough to solve muon puzzle
- Effect also included by EPOS (core-corona model)

# Strangeness enhancement

Enhanced strangeness production observed at mid-rapidity





- ALICE discovered universal enhancement of strangeness production in *pp*, *p*Pb, PbPb ALICE, Nature Phys. 13 (2017) 535
- More strangeness → less π<sup>0</sup>
   → more muons in air showers
   R ≈ 0.41 0.45 (low density)
   R ≈ 0.34 (high density) (≈ -20 %!)

arXiv:1902.09265 arXiv:2202.03095

- Enhancement seems to depend **only** on density of charged particles → predictive power!
- Does it extend forward to  $\eta \gg 1?$ 
  - Data from CMS inconclusive CMS, Eur.Phys.J.C 79 (2019) 11, 893
  - Many studies started in LHCb; first results next slide

### Forward strangeness enhancement

LHCb-PAPER-2022-001, arXiv:2204.13042



- B<sub>s</sub><sup>0</sup>/B<sup>0</sup> ratio proxy for probability ratio to form hadron with **d** or s quark (b quark irrelevant)
- **3.4σ evidence** for multiplicity-dependent strangeness enhancement
- No trend if ratio plotted vs. backward-going tracks
- Effect local in rapidity?

### Direct very forward measurement of R





#### *R*<sub>reco</sub> > *R* here, because of detector effects

### Forward identified hadron spectra



- Just published: precise measurements of charged particle density at 1-2 % level
- *R* constrained by  $\pi$ , K, p ratios measured in p-p at 0.9 and 7 TeV; analysis of 13 TeV data in progress
- Potential of fixed target studies:  $\bar{p}$  production in p-He at 0.11 TeV LHCb, PRL 121 (2018) 22, 222001

### Forward charged particle production

LHCb PRL 128 (2022) 14, 142004 p-p, p-Pb @ 5 TeV

- Nuclear modification
  - Suppression at small pT in forward region
  - Enhancement in backward region
- $R_{p
  m Pb}(\eta, p_{
  m T}) \equiv rac{1}{A} rac{{
  m d}^2 \sigma_{p
  m Pb}^{
  m ch}(\eta, p_{
  m T})/{
  m d} p_{
  m T} {
  m d} \eta}{{
  m d}^2 \sigma_{pp}^{
  m ch}(\eta, p_{
  m T})/{
  m d} p_{
  m T} {
  m d} \eta}$
- Collinear model not consistent with backward region



# Forward $\pi^0$ production

#### LHCb-PAPER-2021-053, arXiv:2204.10608 pPb 8.16 TeV

#### Special $\pi^0$ reconstruction

- Photon 1 detected in ECal
- Photon 2 detected as converted ee pair
- Better momentum resolution
- No bias from overlapping ECal hits





- Total uncertainty < 6 % in most bins</li>
- Forward suppression similar to that of charged particles

### Forward D and B production

- LHCb designed to study forward heavy-flavor production
- Detailed data on forward D and B meson production
  - Forward open charm production in p-p, p-Pb
    - LHCb: Nucl.Phys.B 871 (2013) 1-20; JHEP 10 (2017) 090; ...
  - Forward open beauty production in p-p, p-Pb
    - LHCb: JHEP 08 (2013) 117, PRL 118 (2017) 5, 052002;
       PRD 99 (2019) 5, 052011; ...
  - Constraints on gluon PDF in nucleon up to  $x = 10^{-6}$





#### PROSA, EPJ C 75 (2015) 8, 396



### Fixed-target experiments with LHCb

- SMOG device at LHCb
  - Injects noble gas into vertex detector
  - Former precision luminosity record LHCb, JINST 9 (2014) P12005
  - Physics potential: Study nuclear effects at  $\sqrt{s} = 0.1$  TeV with different targets
- Anti-proton production in p-He
  - LHCb, PRL 121 (2018) 222001
  - LHCB-PAPER-2022-006-002
  - Used to predict background for DM searches in cosmic  $\bar{p}$ /p ratio
- First look at charm production in p-He, p-Ar
  - LHCb, PRL 122 (2019) 13, 132002
  - Study potential intrinsic charm in proton
- SMOG2 Upgrade for Run 3 CERN-LHCC-2019-005
  - Window-less storage cell
  - Well-controlled gas density, 100x higher
  - Non-noble gases possible: oxygen, nitrogen!



### Zero-degree measurements



- LHCf: zero degree calorimeters ( $\eta > 8$ ) around ATLAS to detect neutral particles
- RHICf: Similar detector at RHIC to study p-p at 0.51 TeV PoS(ICRC2021)301

### Zero-degree measurements with LHCf

- LHCf constraints R by photon,  $\pi^0$ , neutron production cross-sections in p-p, p-Pb
  - LHCf, PRD 94 (2016) 3, 032007, LHCf, JHEP 07 (2020) 016, ...
- Plans to study strangeness production via  $K_{S}^{0} \rightarrow 4\gamma$  in Run 3  $Po_{A}^{S}(1CRC2.921)301$



# Summary & outlook

- Cosmic-ray induced air showers are driven by hadronic cascades
- Primarily need reference data at y = 4 to 10 for air showers
- LHC/SPS experiments provide important reference data
  - Extremely precise pp cross-section
  - NA61/SHINE results on  $\rho^0$  and anti-p production in  $\pi\text{-}C$
  - ALICE and LHCb results on strangeness enhancement
  - LHCb precision results on forward prodution of long-lived hadrons and  $\pi^{0}$
  - LHCf results on  $\pi^0$  and neutron production, neutron-elasticity
- LHC data show QCD factorization breaking effects important for air showers
- Collaborative Research Center 1491 (Dortmund, Bochum, Wuppertal) funded
  - Fully exploit LHCb data
  - Tune generators used in astroparticle simulations with collider and air shower data
- LHC outlook
  - Measurements with p-O collisions in 2023/24
  - Forward strangeness production with LHCf
  - Forward physics facility (FPF)
  - FoCal, forward calorimeter for ALICE
  - Forward calorimeter for LHCb?

# Predictive power of universality

- Multiplicity increases with *number of nucleons* and with *sqrt(s)*
- Average p-air collision at sqrt(s) = 100 TeV  $dN_{ch}/d\eta \approx 80$
- Peripheral Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC sqrt(s) = 2.76 TeV  $dN_{ch}/d\eta \approx 80$
- If universality holds for forward production: Predict collisions of *lighter nuclei at energies beyond the LHC* using data from *heavier nuclei at LHC energies*

