

### Early Physics with the LHCf Experiment at LHC ICHEP 2010 Paris 22-28 July 2010

Alessia Tricomi on behalf of the LHCf Collaboration University and INFN Catania, Italy



### What is LHCf?

### Experimental Set-up & Detectors



### What is LHCf?

### Experimental Set-up & Detectors

# The LHCf experiment at LHC

LHCf, the smallest LHC experiment, is a fully dedicated collider experiment to HECR Physics

Two independent electromagnetic calorimeters equipped with position sensitive layers, on both sides of IP1







7 TeV + 7 TeV proton collisions at LHC correspond to  $E_{LAB} = 10^{17} eV$ 

Measure energy and position for |η|
>8 of γ from π<sup>o</sup> decays and neutrons produced in pp interaction at LHC

International Collaboration Japan-Europe-USA (about 30 members)

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## The LHCf Collaboration

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## Experimental Set-up



Detectors installed in the TAN region, 140 m away from ATLAS Interaction Point (IP1)

**\*** Here the beam pipe splits in 2 separate tubes.

- \* Charged particle are swept away by magnets
- ★ We will cover up to  $y \rightarrow \infty$







## Experimental Set-up



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Protons Charged particles Neutral particles Beam pipe

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## Experimental Set-up



Detectors installed in the TAN region, 140 m away from ATLAS Interaction Point (IP1)

magnets

separate tubes.



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experiment at LHC , 2010, Paris

× Here the beam pipe splits in 2

**×** Charged particle are swept away by

× We will cover up to  $y \rightarrow \infty$ 





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Why LHCf?

### Physics goals & motivations



Why LHCf?

### Physics goals & motivations



Extensive Air Showers Extensive Air Showers Extensive Air Showers Experimental observations: at E>100 TeV only EAS (shower of secondary particles) lateral distribution particle type arrival direction

> Astrophysical parameters: (primary particles) spectrum composition source distribution origin and propagation

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Extensive Air Showers/

Experimental observations: at E>100 TeV only EAS (shower of secondary particles) lateral distribution longitudinal distribution particle type arrival direction

> Air shower development (particle interaction in the atmosphere)

Astrophysical parameters: (primary particles) spectrum composition source distribution origin and propagation

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### HECR Open Issues



The <u>depth of the</u> maximum of the shower X<sub>max</sub> in the atmosphere depends on energy and type of the primary particle

±18%

~10%

2003)

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### **Development of atmospheric showers**

lectromagnet

Primary Particle

7'7



Determination of E and mass of CRs depends on description of primary UHE QCD (p+N,O-Fe+N,O) interaction Hadronic MC's need tuning with data The dominant contribution to the energy flux is in the very forward region ( $\theta \approx 0$ ) In this forward region the highest energy available measurements of  $\pi^0$  cross section done by UA7 (E=10<sup>14</sup> eV, y= 5÷7)



### **Development of atmospheric showers**



 Primary Particle

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Determination of E and mass of CRs depends on description of primary UHE QCD (p+N,O-Fe+N,O) interaction
Hadronic MC's need tuning with data
The dominant contribution to the energy flux is in the very forward region (θ ≈0)
In this forward region the high available measurements of π ection done by UA7 (E=10<sup>14</sup> e)

Early Physics



LHCf: use LHC  $\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV} \Rightarrow E_{\text{lab}} = 10^{17} \text{ eV}$ to calibrate MCs

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ICHEP 2010, JULY 22-28, 2010, Paris



### How LHCf can calibrate MC?

**Physics Performances** 



### How LHCf can calibrate MC?

**Physics Performances** 

### LHCf : Monte Carlo discrimination @ 14 TeV



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### LHCf : Monte Carlo discrimination @ <14 TeV



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LHCf at work!!!

### Data taking & Analysis



LHCf at work!!!

### Data taking & Analysis

# LHCf operation @ 900 GeV

#### With Stable Beam at 900 GeV 06 Dec – 15 Dec 2009

- 2.6 h for commissioning
- 27.7 hours for physics
- ~5x10<sup>5</sup> collisions at IP1
- ~2,800 shower events in Arm1
- ~3,700 shower events in Arm2
- With Stable Beam at 900 GeV 02 May 27
  - 15 hours for physics
  - ~5.5x10<sup>6</sup> collisions at IP1 (Statistics x 11 wrt 2009)
  - ~44,000 shower events in Arm1
  - ~63,000 shower events in Arm2
  - Beam Gas significantly reduced wrt 2009









# ARM1: z event at 900 GeV



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# ARM2: z event at 900 GeV



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## Particle Identification



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### 900 GeV analysis: consistency check



### No angular dependance

#### **Comparison between two ARMs**



#### ARM1 vs ARM2 Spectra consistent

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### LHCf spectra at 900 GeV



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# LHCf operation @ 7 TeV

From 30/3 till 19/7 we took data with and without  $100 \mu$ rad crossing angle for different vertical detector positions

	Shower	Gamma	Hadron	п <sup>0</sup>
Arm1	172,263,255	56,846,874	111,971,115	344,526
Arm2	160,587,306	52,993,810	104,381,748	676,157



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### **π<sup>0</sup> reconstruction:** the mandatory tool for energy scale calibration



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### **π<sup>0</sup> reconstruction:** the mandatory tool for energy scale calibration



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- Another calibration point for more robust energy scale
  - Typical  $\eta/\pi^{\circ} = 10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4}$  at 7TeV.

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10<sup>3</sup> Energy [GeV] 10<sup>3</sup> Energy [GeV]



10<sup>3</sup> Energy [GeV]

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### Summary

- LHCf is a dedicated astroparticle experiment to measure neutral particle produced in the very forward region at LHC
- LHCf successfully completed data taking at 900 GeV and 7 TeV. The detector has been removed from the TAN on July 20
- 900 GeV analysis is almost final and ready to be submitted for publication while 7 TeV analysis is progressing quickly
- The detector will be upgraded during 2011 to improve radiation hardness
- LHCf will provide crucial calibration of hadron interaction for CR study with the actual and forthcoming data





We wish to thanks all the people who contributed to this successful first data taking period and say...



Looking forward to come back very soon for 14 TeV data taking!!!



LHCf Backup

#### Some additional infos...

## Physics Performances: Energy and position resolution for y







# Radiation Damage

Light yield of plastic scintillators inserted in calorimeters is decreasing due to the radiation damage, in agreement with what we expect from our irradiation measurements

We are monitoring light yield by nitrogen laser and  $\pi 0$  invariant mass. Stability of  $\pi^0$  mass peak at Arm<sup>2</sup>



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### Integrated dose

#### Timeseries Chart between 2010-03-30 06:34:00 and 2010-07-15 06:34:00 (LOCAL\_TIME)



In agreement with our expectations for the Integrated Luminosity

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# Radiation Damage studies



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