

# Reconstruction of Charge Number of Heavy Cosmic Rays using Cherenkov Light

Robert Stein  
CID 00819615

Imperial College  
London



Supervisor: Professor Dieter Horns

A thesis presented for the degree of  
**Master in Science**

Physics Department  
Imperial College London

June 21, 2016

## **Abstract**

Between impact with the upper atmosphere and decay into a charged particle shower, heavy cosmic ray elements such as Iron emit Cherenkov Light at an angle determined by the Refractive Index of the air and the energy per nucleon. This direct Cherenkov Light forms a characteristic circular light distribution on the Earth's surface with an intensity proportional to the square of the cosmic ray charge. A new method has been developed to reconstruct this charge number, by fitting the received Cherenkov Photons to the characteristic Lateral Photon Distribution. The expected performance for various existing and planned installations will be discussed.

## **Zusammenfassung**

Between impact with the upper atmosphere and decay into a charged particle shower, heavy cosmic ray elements such as Iron emit Cherenkov Light at an angle determined by the Refractive Index of the air and the energy per nucleon. This direct Cherenkov Light forms a characteristic circular light distribution on the Earth's surface with an intensity proportional to the square of the cosmic ray charge. A new method has been developed to reconstruct this charge number, by fitting the received Cherenkov Photons to the characteristic Lateral Photon Distribution. The expected performance for various existing and planned installations will be discussed.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Preface</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Cosmic Ray Event Simulation</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Cherenkov Emission . . . . .	4
<b>4</b>	<b>LPD Event Reconstruction</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1	Log Likelihood Minimisation . . . . .	5
4.2	Extracting Charge Resolution . . . . .	8
4.3	Iterative Scanning Minimisation . . . . .	8
4.4	Boosted Decision Trees . . . . .	9
<b>5</b>	<b>DC Pixel Identification</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1	Image Simulation . . . . .	10
5.2	Classic HESS1 DC Pixel Identification . . . . .	12
5.3	Boosted Decision Tree DC Identification . . . . .	12
5.4	HESS-2 BDT . . . . .	14
5.5	High Multiplicity Events . . . . .	15
5.6	Proton Background . . . . .	16
<b>6</b>	<b>HESS-type Event Reconstruction</b>	<b>17</b>
6.1	Determining $True_{DC}$ . . . . .	17
6.2	Error in calculated $DC_{count}$ . . . . .	19
6.3	Regression BDT for $DC_{Count}$ . . . . .	20
6.4	Full-Shower LPD . . . . .	24
6.5	Other Stuff Like . . . . .	27
6.6	Iron Flux and Energy . . . . .	28
6.7	First Interaction Height . . . . .	28
6.8	First Interaction and Energy Saturation . . . . .	31
6.9	Extended Air Shower Background . . . . .	31
6.10	Reconstructed Charge Resolution . . . . .	31
<b>7</b>	<b>Optimised Telescope Array</b>	<b>31</b>
7.1	Count Rates . . . . .	31
7.2	Saturation Region Energies . . . . .	33
7.3	High Speed Telescopes . . . . .	33
<b>8</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>33</b>

# **1 Preface**

I basically just did everything. It was great.

## 2 Introduction

There are numerous Telescope Arrays which image the Cherenkov Light emitted by Cosmic Rays in the atmosphere, including the HESS, MAGIC and VERITAS Experiments. All rely on Hillas Analysis with extracted parameters from each of the camera images being used to reconstruct the events, but heavy atmospheric blurring means that charge resolution is very poor. For Iron Nucleus events, we would expect to reconstruct

$$Z \approx 26 \pm 5$$

with a core position resolution of roughly  $d \approx 20m$  [1].

Cosmic Rays that are imaged by these telescopes have energies between 13TeV and 200TeV. At present, no study of the relative abundance of different cosmic ray elemental abundances exists at these energies. It could provide important clues regarding the mechanism of Cosmic Ray formation and propagation in the galaxy, but current charge resolution from Hillas Analysis is not small enough to undertake such a study.

Instead of Hillas Analysis, we consider a new method for event reconstruction, in which we fit the known Direct Cherenkov (DC) Light observed by each telescope to a characteristic Lateral Photon Distribution (LPD) function. This new technique is valid both for currently running experiments, as well as planned experiments such as the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA). It uses only the information from the DC Pixel identified in the shower images.

A theoretical study by Kieda in 2001 [2] suggested that for a core position resolution of  $d \approx 5$  m, we could expect to see a charge resolution of  $\sigma_Z \approx 1$  for elements of  $Z = 20$  or higher. In this case the core position resolution would be the limiting value. Thus, if the LPD method can achieve this core position resolution, the precision will be sufficient to extract the abundances of the different Cosmic Ray Elements. This the prime motivation for the new LPD technique.

## 3 Cosmic Ray Event Simulation

In order to reconstruct events using the LPD method, we require saturation of the Cosmic Ray Energy, and that the event can be seen by at least 4 telescopes. These restrictions confine us to Cosmic Rays with specific characteristics.

### 3.1 Cherenkov Emission

Cosmic Rays follow a well-defined power law where  $\frac{dN(E)}{dt} \propto E^{-\gamma}$  and experimentally  $\gamma = 2.7 \pm ?$ . Consequently higher energy Cosmic Rays are heavily suppressed. The Energy Threshold for Cherenkov Light Emission as a function of height is illustrated in 1. Once the Energy of a Cosmic Ray exceeds the local Cherenkov Energy Threshold of the atmosphere, the Nucleus will begin emitting a ring of Cherenkov Light.

Above threshold, Cherenkov Emission is determined by the Frank Tamm formula [3]. Under the assumption of constant magnetic permittivity and a zenith angle of  $90^\circ$ , and with the vertical distance travelled in meters  $\Delta_h$  and the emission energy range in eV  $\Delta_E$ , we can find an approximate Cherenkov Emission formula.

$$\frac{d^2 N_{photons}}{dE dh} = \frac{\alpha Z^2}{\hbar c} \sin^2 \theta_c(E) \approx 370 Z^2 \sin^2 \theta_c(E) \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ eV}^{-1}$$

$$N_{photons} \approx (37000 \times Z^2 \times \Delta_h \times \Delta_E(E)) \text{ m}^{-1} \text{ eV}^{-1}$$

A full simulation of the LPD was undertaken, with the assumption that  $\Delta_E \approx 0.7$  independent of Energy. Although this is certainly an oversimplification of the true picture, it will allow us to understand the variation of the LPD with height. A more rigorous LPD parameterisation will be found later to account for the dependence of  $\Delta_E$  on the Energy.

If we divide the number of emitted photons by the area of the annulus between the ring radii at  $h$  and  $h - \Delta_h$ , we retrieve the LDF shown in 2, which varies with  $\rho_{DC} = f(r) \times Z^2$ . Thus the amplitude of the LDF is proportional to the charge of the Cosmic Ray, enabling the Charge to be determined from the DC emission. This is the basis for charge reconstruction in the LDF method.

The Refractive Index of the atmosphere, and thus the Cherenkov angle  $\theta_C$ , increases as the altitude decreases. The refractive index at a series of heights, based on data from the HESS site, is shown 2. Exponentials are fitted between points to provide interpolation, and a comparison can be made to a linear interpolation that is also plotted. Despite the exponential interpolation, discontinuities in the second derivative of the refractive index prevent the LPD from being smooth in the simulation. This is unimportant, because in reality the variation due to atmospheric conditions and random noise will smear out any discontinuities in the LDF.

Emission continues until the first interaction with the atmosphere, occurring at a randomly distributed height we call  $h$ . Then for a given Telescope Array altitude above sea level, simple trigonometry yields the radius of the LDF on the ground:

$$Radius(height = altitude_{array}) = \tan[\theta_C(h)] \times (h - altitude_{array})$$

Thus the upper atmosphere emission contributes to the inner LDF, while the lower atmosphere emission contributes to the outer LDF. As the cosmic ray travels down through the atmosphere, Cherenkov Emission continuously illuminates new areas on the ground that were previously unlit, without re-illuminating inner regions. This is extremely useful, because it means that for all distances up to the maximum radius, the LPD will be completely independent of the emission height. One full parameterisation of the LPD will thus be valid for all heights, provided the maximum radius is known.

We can also see ground emission radius as a function of height in 1. We find that the high-radius emission (occurring near the first interaction region) varies little between different high energies. We deem this to be ‘Saturated Emission’.

To accurately quantify Saturated Emission, we can compare the photon density to the theoretical maximum photon density, corresponding to an infinite-energy particle with  $\beta = 1$ . The illustrated maximum is useful as a reference, although because the atmosphere is not modelled beyond an altitude of 120km, the small-radius emission is not accurately simulated entirely correctly. However, real cosmic rays in the considered energy regime will all cross the emission threshold and begin emission at an altitude much lower than 120km, so can be considered accurately modelled. Absorption WAS/WAS NOT modelled.

However, in the 4 telescope height region, the Cherenkov Threshold Energy is  $E_{Threshold} \approx 0.35$  TeV per Nucleon as shown in 2! The saturation in for these heights occurs roughly at 0.7 TeV per Nucleon or something...

## 4 LPD Event Reconstruction

### 4.1 Log Likelihood Minimisation

In order to fully reconstruct an event, we need to find the x/y core position, the Energy per Nucleon, the first interaction height and the charge. However, if one telescope in a

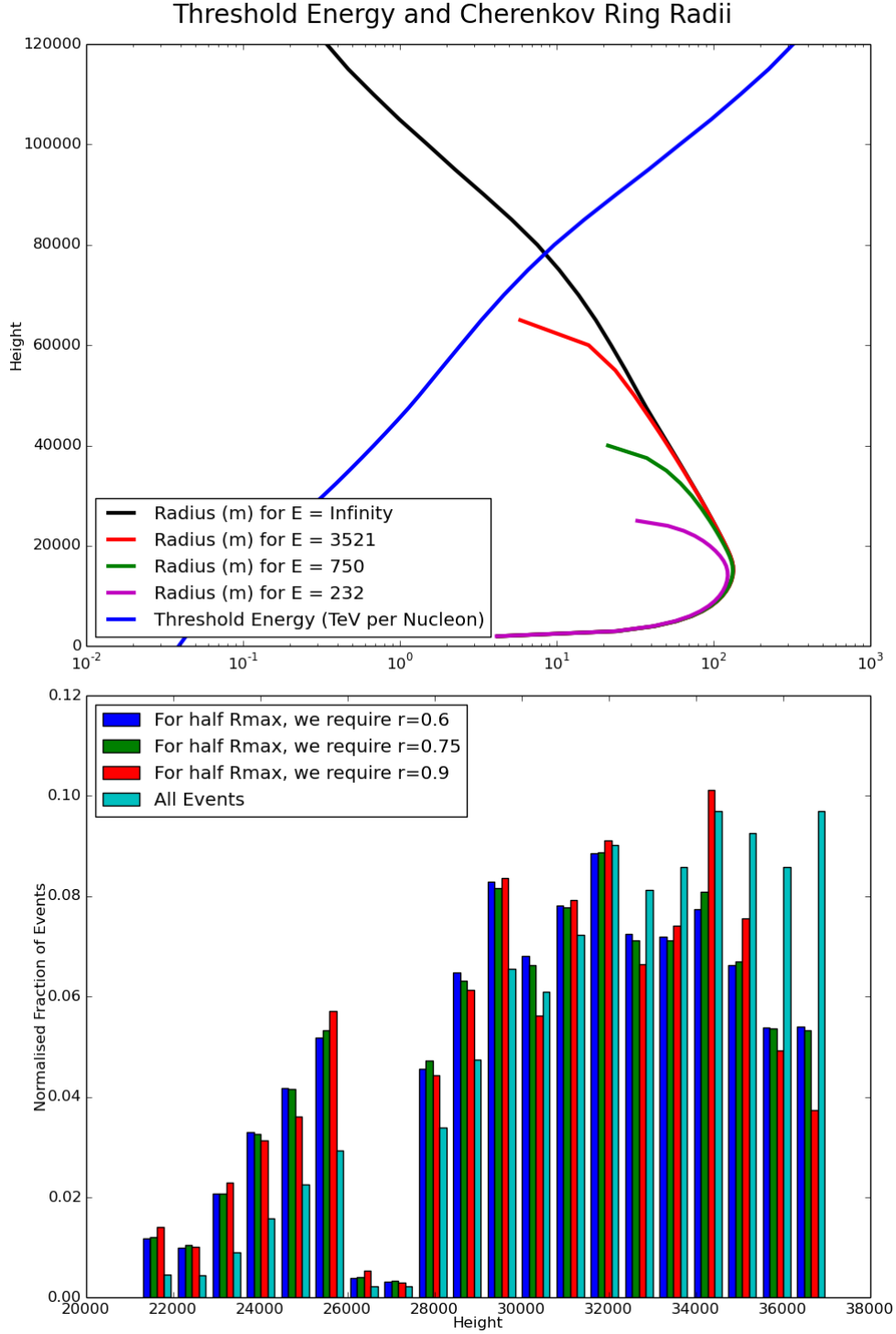


Figure 1: The Threshold Energy for Cherenkov Emission is marked in blue. With the assumption of  $\beta = 1$ , the maximum emission radius is marked in black. The red and green and magenta line show the emission radius at 3.57 and 0.75 and 0.23 TeV per Nucleon respectively. The Green line is sufficiently close to the background to be saturated at 24km, while the magenta line is not.

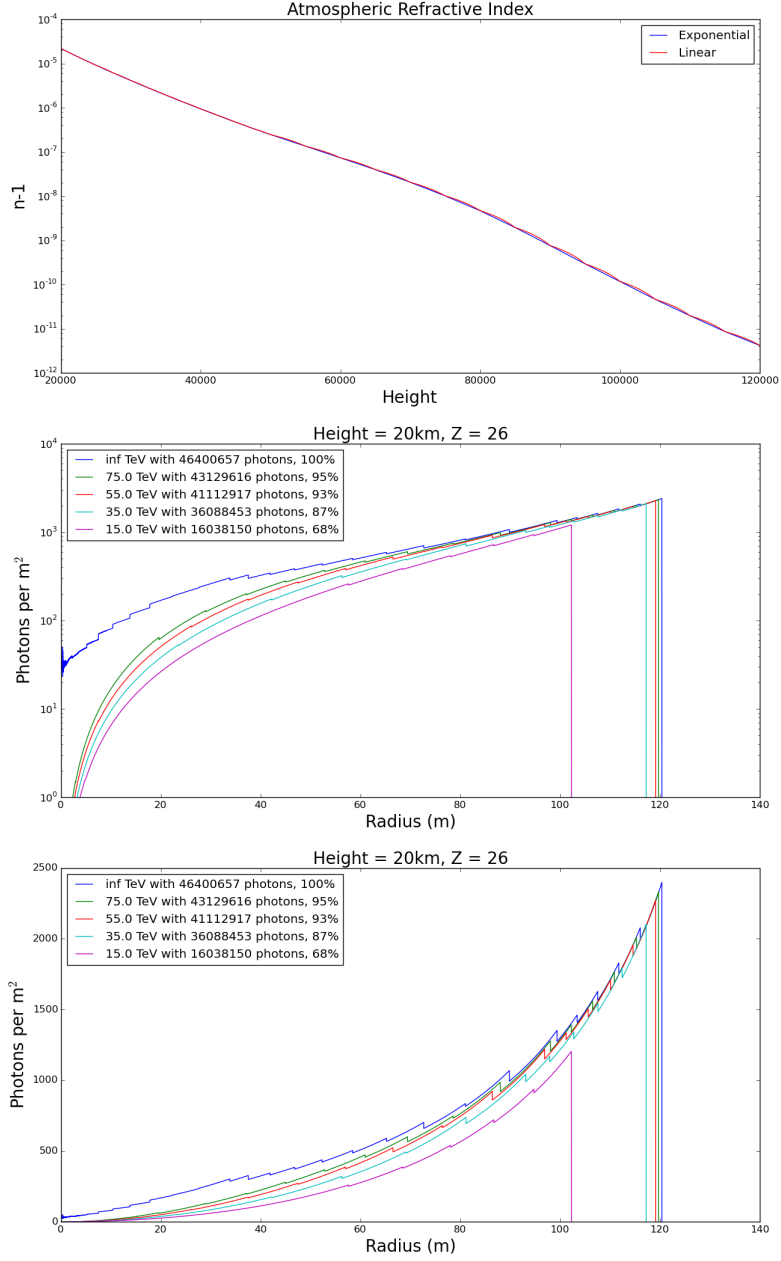


Figure 2: The LPD obtained from simulation of an Iron Nucleus up to a first interaction height of 25km for a range of Core Energies. An altitude of 1.8km for the experimental array is assumed. Atmospheric absorption, although neglected, is broadly constant across the emission range leading to uniform amplitude scaling.



five-telescope array does not observe DC light, this data point can be used to constrain the core position. Thus, for the LDF method to be applied, we require a minimum of five telescopes, four or more of which must image the DC light. We consider the amount of DC light that each telescope receives to be Gaussian, with an expectation of  $\mu(X, Y, Z, height, Epn)$  and a standard deviation of  $\sigma(\mu)$ .

$$P_i(N_{i,Received} | X, Y, Z, height, Epn) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(N_{i,Received} - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

We then minimise the Log Likelihood function, assuming  $n$  is the total number of telescopes in the array.

$$-\ln(L) = -\sum_{i=1}^n \ln(P_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \frac{1}{2} \ln(2\pi) + \ln(\sigma) + \frac{(N_{i,Received} - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

## 4.2 Extracting Charge Resolution

Having reconstructed many events, we can then derive the  $\sigma_Z$  of the dataset, giving us a number to directly compare the quality of event reconstruction. However, a simple Gaussian 68% method will yield only half integer values of  $\sigma_Z$  and very frequently 0. This will be unhelpful for comparisons of minor modifications of reconstruction methods.

Instead, we can assume a Gaussian with tails at the highest and lowest reconstructed charge values in the dataset. The size of the dataset can be used to calculate the fraction of events that the extreme values represent, and this probability can be converted into a ‘number of standard deviations from mean’. Dividing the Gaussian total width by the number of standard deviations gives us a value for  $\sigma$ . Although this will in most cases tend to overestimate the spread of the data, it will also be sensitive to all increases in the proportion of correctly reconstructed events.

## 4.3 Iterative Scanning Minimisation

Through  $\sigma_Z$  calculation, we find that the LDF method initially provides very poor charge reconstruction. This is as a result of varying Threshold Energies and the sharp drop in the LDF above the maximum radius, which means the Log Likelihood is frequently discontinuous within the parameter space. Consequently, a Minuit-type minimisation algorithm will only be able to find a local minimum near the starting values for the fit parameters.

To overcome this problem, we can iterate over a series of starting values for the parameters, with the aim of scanning the true minimum among the many minima found. To simplify matters, we can scan only the integer  $Z$  values over the range  $20 \leq Z \leq 32$ , rather than considering the charge to be a free floating parameter.

In order to reduce the number of calculations needed, we can consider the core position region derived from camera images, as in Hillas Analysis. Each telescope will have a Gaussian smeared central axis indicating the direction of the core. We overlay the simulated telescope array with a grid of points with grid width 1m. Then we select all points satisfy the condition of lying within the shower axis direction confidence interval for every telescope. The angular width of the confidence interval from the shower axis will be determined by the precision of the telescopes.

Having determined the relevant Height and Energy ranges, we can then consider combinations of Energy and Height for which the Energy is above the Cherenkov Emission Threshold (and is saturated!). This gives us a second set of starting ‘Coordinates’.

The Z value is fixed and the LL function is then minimised with the assigned starting values, with the other four variables allowed to float freely. Minimisation typically scans 13 Z values, 10 core position coordinates, and 50 Height/Energy coordinates, yielding  $13 \times 10 \times 50 = 6500$  minimisations in total. Such a technique is resource intensive but reduces  $\sigma_Z$  by a factor of 5 or more. (CHECK this quantitatively and get a graph yo. Want to see some plateauing of sigma Z!).

#### 4.4 Boosted Decision Trees

Using one quarter of a large sample of Monte Carlo data, we can train a Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) for a given telescope multiplicity, using the reconstructed x/y core position, height and energy, as well as the Log Likelihood. The BDT is told whether each event is ‘signal’ (correctly reconstructed) or ‘background’ (incorrectly reconstructed).

For every simulated event, this trained BDT can then be used to assign a ‘Signal Probability’. On a second quarter of the dataset we can optimise a cut on the minimum signal probability, in order to maximise the ratio of signal to background. We find that the  $\sigma_Z$  of the remaining ‘Test’ Monte Carlo data is reduced when the same BDT cut is applied.

### 5 DC Pixel Identification

**Cosmic Rays will emit Direct Cherenkov (DC) light in the upper atmosphere, before generating an Extended Air Shower (EAS) through interaction with the lower atmosphere.**

In telescope images, the DC light is usually concentrated in a single ‘DC pixel’. Identifying this pixel is challenging, because the brighter EAS Cherenkov light background often overlaps with the DC pixel. In order to apply the LPD method to data, we must first identify the DC pixel in a shower image, and determine the number of DC photoelectrons present.

We define the variable  $Q_{DC} = \frac{Intensity_{N,N,max}}{Intensity}$  as the ratio of the largest neighbouring pixel intensity to the intensity of a given pixel. In previous experiments, the DC pixel candidate was identified by applying a number of cuts to pixels in an image [1], and from the subset of pixels passing the specified cuts, selecting the pixel with the smallest  $Q_{DC}$  as the ‘DC candidate’. Due to the low pass rate for cuts, we obtain a small low-contamination dataset, while the majority of telescope images are left without a DC pixel candidate. An improved method would aim to increase the number of correctly identified DC pixels, while still enabling cuts which discriminate well between correctly and incorrectly identified DC pixels.

Classifiers provide an alternative method of identification, making use of supervised machine learning to find rules for categorising pixels. To train a classifier, we require a set of training pixels, as well as the correct class for each pixel. Once trained, a classifier can then be used to predict the class of a pixel.

The CORSIKA package [4] was used to generate Cosmic Ray events, and the Sim\_telarray package [5] was used to generate corresponding HESS array telescope images. Simulation with EAS background was used to produce training pixel sets, while corresponding simulation without EAS background was used to find the true DC pixel in each training image. As part of a new method developed for this analysis, a Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) classifier was trained with the data to identify DC pixels. Once trained, the BDT was applied to a separate ‘testing’ set of simulated telescope images. As before, the true DC pixel was determined from a second EAS-free simulation. Thus, the accuracy of BDT identification for test telescope images was calculated.

## 5.1 Image Simulation

The full simulation of air showers was performed using the CORSIKA package, with a standard atmospheric profile derived from measurements conducted at the HESS site in Namibia. In total, 5000 training events and a further 10000 testing events were simulated. The simulated particles were  $Fe^{56}$ , within the Energy Range of 35 – 135 TeV and a spectrum  $\phi(E) \propto E^{-2.7}$ . For each set of simulated event, 4 unique random number seeds were used to generate the shower. An altitude of 1800m was assumed, again corresponding to the HESS site. The simulated zenith angle ranged from  $0^\circ < \theta < 2^\circ$ , while the simulated azimuth angle ranges from  $-2^\circ < \phi < 2^\circ$ . The four smaller HESS-phase-1 telescopes were arranged in a cross along the x/y axis with the larger HESS-phase-2 ‘CT5’ telescope placed at the center. The length of each cross arm was 85m. The simulated target region of the cores was chosen to be a square centered on CT5, with each 300m-long side bisecting the x/y axis. Due to hardware differences between CT5 and the original HESS 1 telescopes, we analyse HESS1 and HESS2 images separately. To determine the true class of each pixel, a simulation was initially run with an energy cut of 10 PeV on all muons and electrons. Because this cut exceeded the primary particle energy, neither daughter muons and electrons, nor the photons they would have emitted, were simulated. Thus the hadronic Cherenkov Light from the primary particle and daughter fragments, but not the EAS light, was present in the camera image. A second identical ‘EAS Simulation’ was run including the same random seeds, but without the energy cut on muons and electrons. This gave a complete EAS image including identical DC light.

With the `sim_telarray` package, the expected HESS hardware response to each air shower was simulated. Among other things, the program accounts for atmospheric transmission and density, mirror positions, sizes and reflectivities, camera shadowing and triggering, quantum efficiency and pulse responses. For the full-shower image, the night sky background was also simulated by `sim_telarray`. Due to the comprehensive and detailed nature of these hardware simulations, the resultant images can be considered ‘realistic’. However, `sim_telarray` introduces various sources of random noise to the simulation, leading to some divergence in the DC light between the EAS-free and full-shower images.

The various pixel entry variables were found from the `sim_telarray` output. The HESS telescope pixels have a high gain Channel 0 and a low gain Channel 1, with both voltages undergoing a Flash Analogue-to-Digital Conversion (FADC). The simulated value of the FADC Voltage for each channel was found. Using the pedestal and gain, the quantity  $Intensity = (FADC - Pedestal) \times Gain$  was calculated for each channel. Due to possible saturation of the high gain FADC, only the low gain  $Intensity$  was used. `Sim_telarray` also derives various Hillas whole-image parameters. These include the image width and length measured in degrees, from which the aspect ratio  $A.R = \frac{width}{length}$  was calculated. The reconstructed shower direction and the shower center of gravity were also calculated, as positions in azimuth and zenith. Additionally the estimated energy and distance from each telescope to core,  $r_{core}$ , were found.

For every pixel, in addition to the  $Intensity$ , its location within the telescope image was determined using the standard HESS layout. The variables  $\Delta_{C.o.G}$ ,  $\Delta_{Direction}$  and  $\Delta_{Line}$  were defined as the distance from the pixel to the shower center of gravity, shower direction, and the line joining those two points. Furthermore, the nearest neighbouring pixel IDs were calculated for every pixel position, enabling the  $Intensity$  in each neighbouring pixel to be found. The largest neighbouring intensity was identified, and the ratio  $Q_{DC} = \frac{Intensity_{N.N.max}}{Intensity}$  was derived. Similarly the largest neighbouring FADC was found, and the ratio  $rawQ = \frac{FADC_{N.N.max}}{FADC}$  was calculated. In addition, the Nearest Neighbour Mean Intensity  $Mean_{N.N}$  was recorded, as well as the smallest neighbouring

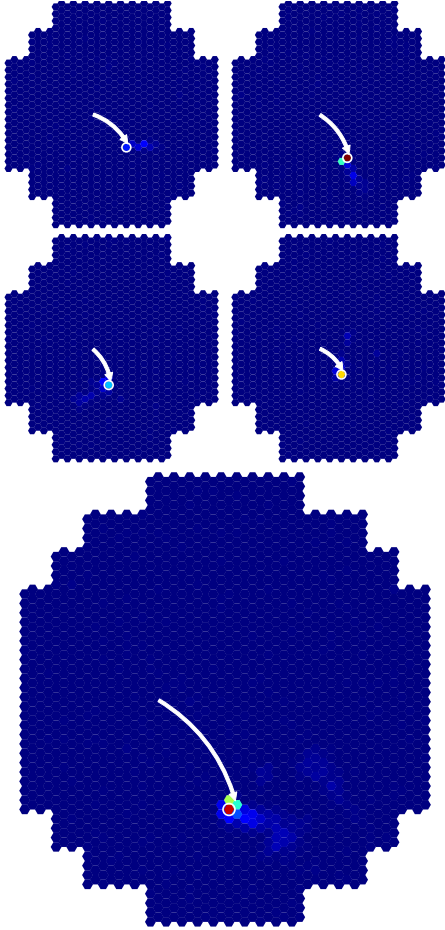


Figure 3: A typical camera image without the EAS shower. The DC light is visible in every telescope, indicated by the white arrow. The DC pixel is circled in white. The largest telescope image is from CT5, but was not used in analysis.

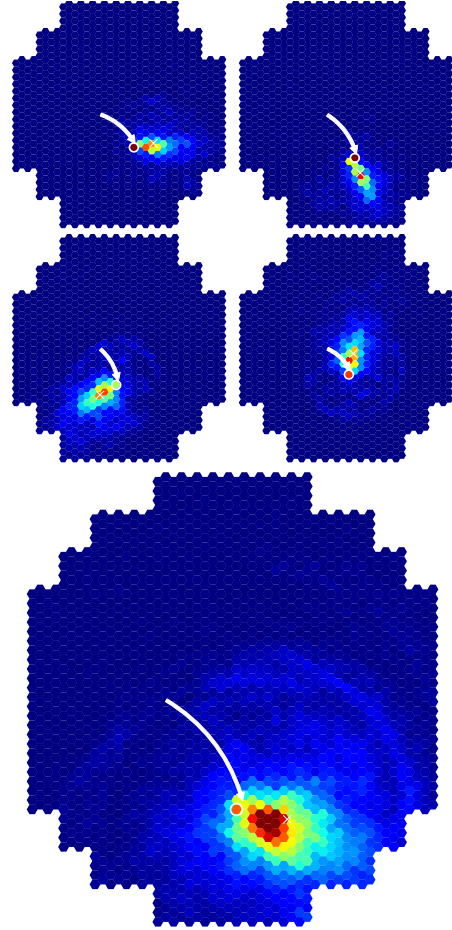


Figure 4: The same shower as in 3 is shown here with the inclusion of the EAS shower. The DC light is pixels indicated with a white arrow and circle. The shower center of gravity is marked by a white cross.

pixel intensity  $Intensity_{N.N.min}$ . The variable  $DC_{Signal} = Intensity - Mean_{N.N}$  was defined as an rough guess of the ‘DC signal’ component in the pixel. Lastly the Image Amplitude  $I_{tot}$ , defined as the total image intensity after the default tail cuts have been applied to the image.

## 5.2 Classic HESS1 DC Pixel Identification

As a basis for comparison, the original HESS cuts listed in Table 1 were replicated for the set of test data. For every HESS1 image, the total image amplitude  $I_{tot}$  was used alongside the zenith angle  $\theta$  to determine a dynamic cut,  $Q_{DC} < 0.14 \times \log(\frac{I_{tot}}{161 \times \cos \theta})$ . Among those pixels passing all cuts, the one with the smallest  $Q_{DC}$  was selected as the DC pixel candidate for the image. Because many images had no pixel that passed all cuts, the  $Q_{DC}$  method was frequently unable to identify a DC pixel. In the original analysis, an additional cut  $r_{core} > 40m$  was applied. However, the uncertainty in determining the core position through Hillas Analysis is typically of the order of  $\pm 30m$ . Consequently, this particular cut was omitted.

Table 1: Cuts applied to image pixel sets, used by HESS collaboration [1]

Variable	Cut
$\Delta_{C.o.G}$	$>0.17$
$\Delta_{C.o.G}$	$<0.91$
$\Delta_{Direction}$	$<0.45$
$\Delta_{Line}$	$<0.23$
Aspect Ratio	$<0.75$
$Q_{DC}$	$<0.14 \times \log(\frac{I_{tot}}{161 \times \cos \theta})$

The candidates were checked against the true DC pixels identified in the EAS-free images. From the testing sample, 1.81% of all HESS1 images were correctly identified and passed the cuts. Once misidentified events were considered, the post-cuts sample was 77.8% accurate, as shown in Figure 5. These values will serve as a useful benchmark for BDT performance. Increasing the acceptance rate will be essential for enabling spectroscopic analysis of cosmic rays, by providing more events to analyse.

## 5.3 Boosted Decision Tree DC Identification

As an alternative to use of  $Q_{DC}$ , a new method of DC pixel identification was developed as part of this analysis by using a BDT trained with the Scikit Learn Python package [6]. Using the training set of 2000 CORSIKA events, and randomly split further, with 90% in a learning subset and 10% in a subset to check for overtraining. Within the learning subset, every HESS 1 image was used, provided it was triggered in both EAS-free and full-shower simulations. For each of the triggered image pixels, an entry was formed with the variables listed in table 2. A class of 0 was assigned to every non-DC pixel, and a class of 1 was assigned to every DC pixel. Having created a dataset, the BDT was then trained with a maximum depth of 8, and with 100 trees generated. The data was provided in the form of individual pixel entries, rather than as discrete sets for images or events.

The relative importance of each ‘feature’ is automatically calculated by the Scikit Learn package, and is also recorded in table 2. The variable  $DC_{Count}$  was consistently the most importance variable across many combinations of included variables and BDT training parameters. It was found that, under the conditions listed above, the BDT was

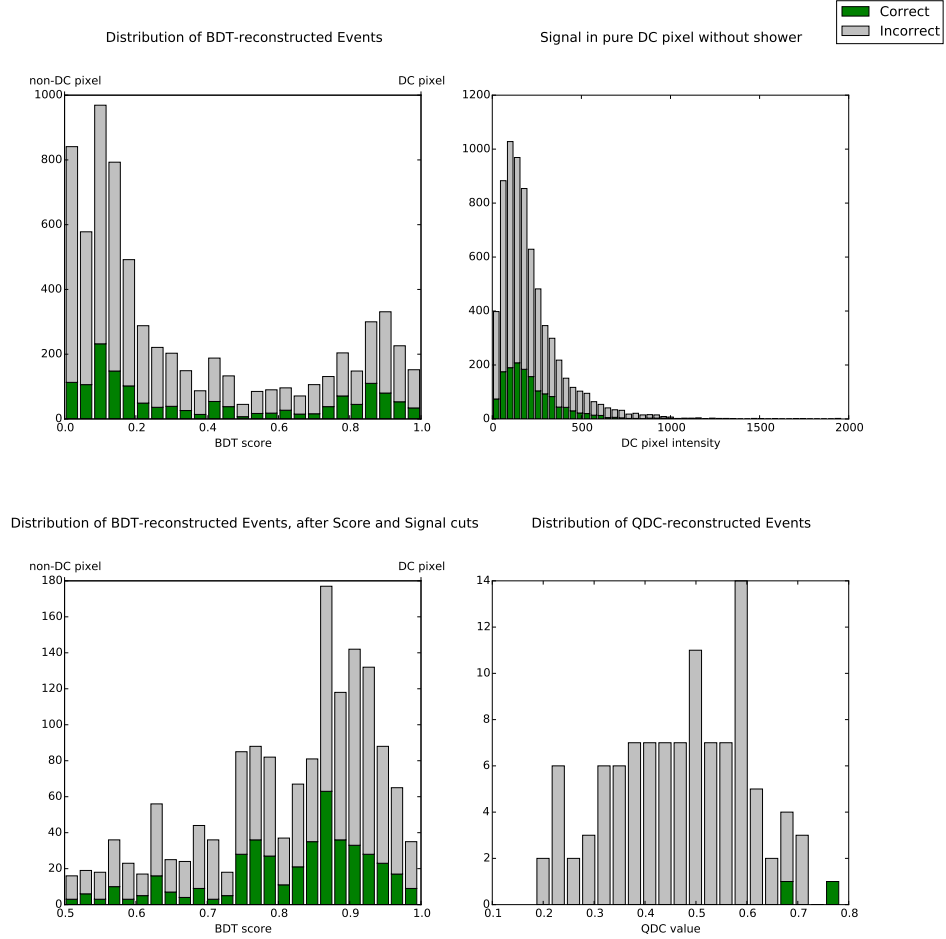


Figure 5: The DC signal in the shower-free pixel is shown in the top left, with a broad gaussian distribution with the tail of the night-sky background extending up to approximately 5000. Events below this are unlikely to be identified correctly because the DEC light is too faint. In the top right- the distribution of the dataset is shown, once all the non- $Q_{DC}$  cuts have been applied. In the bottom left, the BDT score distribution is shown before any cuts. On the bottom right, we see the same distribution after both signal and BDT score cuts are applied. All green events are ones in which the DC pixel has been correctly identified, while red events are ones that have been incorrectly identified.

Table 2: Relative Feature Importance in HESS-1 BDT training

Variable	Relative Importance
$DC_{Count}$	0.33
$Mean_{N.N}$	0.24
$Q_{DC}$	0.14
$\Delta_{Direction}$	0.12
Image Amplitude	0.07
$raw_Q$	0.05
$\Delta_{Line}$	0.02
$Intensity$	0.02

99.94 % accurate for the learning pixel subset, and 99.94 % accurate for the overtraining-check pixel subset. This indicates that the BDT was not significantly overtrained, which would otherwise be manifested by a large divergence in accuracy between learning and overtraining-check data.

Having trained the BDT successfully, it was then applied to the same test dataset as for the classic  $Q_{DC}$  identification. In each camera image, the event with the largest BDT score was deemed to be ‘most signal-like’, and thus selected as the DC pixel candidate. A cut was applied, requiring  $P_{signal} > 0.5$  for the DC candidate to be accepted. A second cut requiring  $DC_{Count} > 150$  removed many incorrectly identified events. Application of this combined cut greatly increases the successful identification rate. From the testing sample, 16.01% of all images were correctly identified and passed the cuts. The BDT was found to be 79.2% accurate in identifying DC pixels which passed the cuts. This represents a very significant improvement in pixel identification efficiency, as well as a minor increase in accuracy after cuts.

The results are summarised in Table 3. The BDT method represents a clear improvement in DC pixel identification over the previous  $Q_{DC}$  method, and corresponds to a fifteen-fold increase in identified pixels.

Table 3: Comparison of  $Q_{DC}$  and HESS 1 BDT Performance

	$Q_{DC}$	BDT
Pixels Accepted and Correctly Identified (%)	1.81	16.01
Pixels Accepted and Incorrectly Identified (%)	0.52	4.22
Sample Purity (%)	77.8	79.2

## 5.4 HESS-2 BDT

The original HESS study predated the construction of the larger CT5 telescope, and thus focused exclusively in the four HESS-1 telescopes. Although the cuts in ?? were not optimised for the differing pixel size and angular viewing region of CT5, they were replicated to provide a basis for comparison. Based on CT5 images from the training sample, an increased 5.6% of DC pixels were correctly identified and passed the required cut. A further 11.3 % of all pixels passed the cuts, despite being misidentified. This represented a very heavy decrease in sample purity to just 33.0%. We can assume that better optimised CT5 cuts could remove many of these misidentified events, though it is unlikely that any significant improvement in the number of correctly identified DC pixels would be possible. Thus, the number of DC pixels successfully identified using the  $Q_{DC}$  method is still a valid benchmark for comparative BDT performance. A true accuracy

rate closer to the HESS 1 rate of 90% could be expected. Due to the distinctiveness of the CT5 telescope, direct application of the HESS1 classifier to the CT5 telescope yields poorer BDT performance. To improve CT5 pixel identification, a separate HESS2 BDT was instead trained with the same variables as above. The relative feature importance is listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Relative Feature Importance in HESS-2 Classifier BDT training

Variable	Relative Importance
$DC_{Count}$	0.32
$Mean_{N.N}$	0.24
$raw_Q$	0.09
$Q_{DC}$	0.08
$\Delta_{Direction}$	0.8
Image Amplitude	0.07
$Intensity$	0.06
$\Delta_{Line}$	0.04

For the training events, the classifier was 99.97% accurate, while for the overtraining check data, it was 99.96% accurate. The classifier was thus not significantly overtrained. Applying the new classifier led to an improvement in CT5 classification, with 17.9 % of pixels being correctly identified and accepted, and an accuracy of 66.1%. Despite this improvement, a clear gap emerged between the performance of HESS1 classifier on old telescopes, and the performance of the HESS2 classifier on CT5. Part of this discrepancy can be explained by the HESS2 learning dataset, which has just one DC pixel per event rather than the four HESS1 DC pixels. Additionally, HESS 2 images will have roughly 2600 non-DC pixels per event, versus 3600 DC pixels per event for HESS 1 images. The HESS2 classifier was thus trained on significantly fewer DC pixels, so we would expect to see the clear performance gap in comparison to the HESS1 classifier.

Table 5: Comparison of  $Q_{DC}$  and HESS 2 BDT Performance

	$Q_{DC}$	BDT
Pixels Accepted and Correctly Identified (%)	5.59	18.52
Pixels Accepted and Incorrectly Identified (%)	14.75	4.44
Sample Purity (%)	27.5	80.6

## 5.5 High Multiplicity Events

For LPD event reconstruction, we require at least four measurements of the DC light. We define the telescope multiplicity of an event as the number of DC pixels which are identified and pass all cuts. Telescope multiplicity measures both HESS1 and HESS2 pixels. A ‘high-multiplicity event’ is one in which we have telescope multiplicity  $> 3$ . If we only consider high-multiplicity events, we can determine the  $Q_{DC}$  performance for use in LPD reconstruction. After applying this cut, there were just one single high-multiplicity event found using the  $Q_{DC}$  method. This meant that just 0.01% of all pixels were accepted, although with a sample purity of 100%. Because the final sample consisted of just three HESS1 pixels, and one HESS2 pixel, the associated Poissonian error in acceptance rates and accuracy rates will be extremely large.

Through the application of the two HESS classifiers, we can find the comparative high-multiplicity BDT performance. If we only consider high-multiplicity BDT events,



the fraction of correctly identified HESS1 DC pixels falls to 2.2%, while the fraction of incorrectly identified pixels passing the cuts falls to 0.2%. The sample purity increases slightly to 91.2%. In the case of the high-multiplicity HESS2 images, the BDT performance gap narrows somewhat. In total 1.9% of pixels are correctly identified and accepted, although the accuracy rate is only increased to 80.7%. The relatively high fraction of passing events is in excess of the random expectation of  $0.16^4 = 0.07\%$  and  $0.19^4 = 0.13\%$  for HESS1 and HESS2. This suggests that DC pixel identification between different telescope images is strongly correlated. The same is true for the  $Q_{DC}$  high multiplicity rates. As well as general BDT accuracy improving after high-multiplicity cuts, the performance gap over the  $Q_{DC}$  method is vastly increased for high-multiplicity events. As a result of the two-hundred-fold increase in acceptance rate for high multiplicity events, the expected data sample size will increase dramatically. This should enable spectroscopic analysis of Cosmic Ray Elements to be conducted after a much shorter experimental run time than for the  $Q_{DC}$  method.

Table 6: Comparison of high-multiplicity performance

	HESS 1		HESS 2	
	$Q_{DC}$	BDT	$Q_{DC}$	BDT
High Multiplicity Pixels Accepted and Correctly Identified (%)	0.01	2.20	0.01	1.61
High Multiplicity Pixels Accepted and Incorrectly Identified (%)	0.00	0.43	0.01	0.22
Sample Purity (%)	100.0	83.8	100.0	88.0

## 5.6 Proton Background

It is important to discriminate between the heavy cosmic ray elements, such as iron, and the much more abundant proton events. Protons tend to emit negligible DC light, so will contaminate any data sample with events that cannot be reconstructed using the LPD method. To determine the acceptance rate for proton events, a simulation was conducted with 5000 proton events in CORSIKA. For HESS1, the raw acceptance rate was 15.1% while the sample purity of 32.2%. For HESS2, the raw acceptance rate was 58.6% while the sample purity of 6.8%. Although the HESS1 acceptance rate is relatively small, the proton flux is approximately ten times greater than iron flux. A mixed sample would have many more proton images than iron images. Once multiplicity cuts are applied, the acceptance rate falls steeply to just 2.9%. With the factor 10 discrepancy in flux, the number of proton and iron images will be comparable. Of those passing the cuts, 24.5% are correctly identified. For HESS2, the comparable number is 21.7% with multiplicity cuts. The sample purities are just 24.4% and 7.7% respectively. This poor performance motivates our desire to remove protons from our sample for analysis.

We require an additional cut to remove the majority of these proton events. If we can eliminate one or two accepted proton images per event, then the remaining proton pixels will all be rejected by the multiplicity cuts. Hence, loose cuts can sharply reduce the acceptance rate of protons. In this case, as shown in Figure 6, there is a fair degree of separation between proton and Iron Aspect Ratio for pixels which pass all cuts. We aim to remove proton pixels but not iron pixels. Applying a cut requiring Aspect Ratio  $> 0.35$  eliminated all accepted proton events for HESS1 and HESS2. With 17792 total HESS1 images, just 6195 images were triggered by DC light. Of all 17792 images, there were none passing all of the required cuts. We can place a poissonian upper limit on the acceptance rate of  $< 0.02\%$ . Of the for 4448 HESS2 images, just 2169 contained DC light. As no image passed all cuts, we place an upper limit of  $< 0.07\%$ .

Using poissonian statistics, we can place a 95% confidence upper limit on the rate of accepted, high-multiplicity  $Q_{DC}$  events. By virtue of passing a multiplicity cut, the number of accepted pixels must be at least 4, or none. It is thus more appropriate to instead consider the total number of events for calculations of an upper limit. There were 4711 fully triggered events, of which none were ‘High multiplicity Events’. We find a value for the mean  $\lambda$  such that the probability of not observing a high multiplicity event is less than 5%.

$$P(n|\lambda) = \frac{e^{-\lambda}\lambda^n}{n!} \implies P(0|\lambda) = \frac{e^{-\lambda}\lambda^0}{0!} = e^{-\lambda} = 0.05 \implies \lambda = -\ln(0.05) = 3.00$$

Thus, we can conclude that if the mean was greater than the mean  $\lambda > 3$ , we would have expected to observe at least one event with a 95% probability. As we did not observe an event, we conclude that the mean high multiplicity event rate is less than  $\frac{3}{4711} = 0.06\%$ .

For HESS1 iron events, the total acceptance rate falls slightly from 2.4% to 2.3%, while the sample purity decreases slightly to 89.0%. For HESS2, the total acceptance rate falls slightly from 2.4% to 2.3 %, while the sample purity decreases slightly to 79.8%. Iron images form at least 75% of a sample, because most proton images are at least one hundred times less likely to be accepted. Use of this BDT method is thus assumed throughout the rest of this analysis.

Table 7: Comparison of Proton and Iron Acceptance

	HESS1	HESS2
Proton Pixels Accepted (%)	15.10	32.68
Sample Purity (%)	10.1	5.1
High Multiplicity Proton Pixels Accepted (%)	0.83	1.03
Sample Purity (%)	6.8	4.3
Proton Pixels Accepted after All Cuts(%)	< 0.06	< 0.06
Sample Purity (%)	/	/
Iron Pixels Accepted after All Cuts(%)	2.44	1.66
Sample Purity (%)	84.3	88.2

## 6 HESS-type Event Reconstruction

### 6.1 Determining $True_{DC}$

Determining the value of  $True_{DC}$  is important for determining the error in our LPD measurements. However, there are two natural ways of quantifying  $True_{DC}$ . In the basic case, we can simply consider the EAS-free intensity  $Intensity_{max}$  in the DC pixel. An alternative is to take the entire EAS-free image amplitude  $I_{tot}$  as our  $True_{DC}$  value. The use of Image Amplitude accounts for the fact that the DC light is almost always split between two or more pixels. Although in most cases, one pixel has the majority of the light, in extreme cases the light can be evenly split between two. As a result of the smaller angular region covered by each CT5 pixel, this happens much more frequently for HESS2 than for HESS1. A countervailing argument is the susceptibility of the Image Amplitude measurement to edge effects. A DC pixel lying near the image edge will be unaffected by this fact, but the total image amplitude may decline because dimmer pixels move over the image edge.

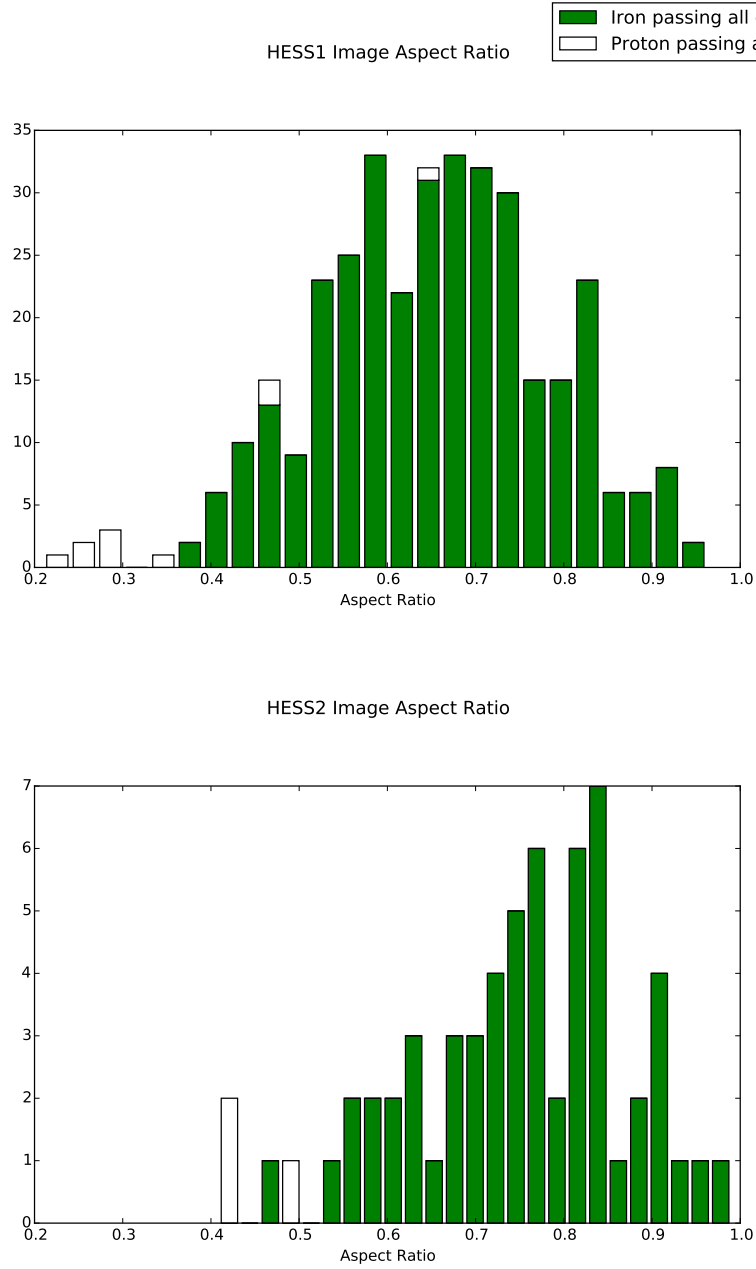


Figure 6: The aspect ratio of images in events which pass the multiplicity cut are shown. It is clear that the proton events have a strong tendency towards lower Aspect Ratios. We must remove the white proton pixels passing all other cuts, without removing dark green iron pixels passing all other cuts. A cut requiring Aspect Ratio  $> 0.35$  should remove a large proportion of proton images without reducing the pass rate for iron nuclei.

To quantitatively compare the two methods, we can measure the error associated with both values of  $True_{DC}$ . A study of 2000 events was conducted, in which each cosmic ray was simulation without night sky background or EAS background. Each telescope image simulation was conducted twice, and difference between  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  was plotted as in 7. The fractional difference from the mean Intensity of an image was defined as  $\Delta = 2 \times \frac{I_2 - I_1}{I_2 + I_1}$ .

For  $I_{tot}$ , it was found that the standard deviation in fractional difference was  $\sigma_{I_{tot}} = 0.06$ , meaning that there is an inherent error of 6 % in measurements of  $True_{DC}$ . In later calculations of the error in Intensity, this fractional error can be subtracted in quadrature. The distribution did not vary between HESS1 and HESS2 telescopes. For the alternative  $Intensity_{max}$  measurement, the standard deviation was  $\sigma_{I_{max}} = 0.09$  for HESS1 and  $\sigma_{I_{max}} = 0.12$ , a clear increase. This implies that the  $I_{tot}$  measurements are more reliable.

For an alternative measurement of error in the LPD, a simulation of 2000 events was conducted with a fixed energy of 56TeV, and both Zenith and azimuth fixed to 0 degrees. The interaction height was fixed at 23km above sea level. The true distance to core was recorded from Sim\_telarray, and a graph was plotted of DC pixel intensity against core distance. As expected, a characteristic LPD is observed, as seen in Figure 8. Due to the application of a signal cut to the BDT candidates, we are only able to see the LPD at around  $r_{core} > 35m$ , at which point the LPD intensity crosses the threshold of 150 p.e. From here, there is a clear LPD continuing up to around 100m. Above roughly 100m, the LPD becomes dominated by highly random hadron fragmentation, and thus ceases to be coherent.

The region 35-90m is considered, and if an exponential is fitted to the LPD, then the fractional deviation  $\Delta_{TrueDC} = \frac{signal_{fit} - True_{DCcount}}{signal_{fit}}$  can be found. Using the 68th centile of all absolute fractional deviations  $\Delta_{TrueDC}$ , we find that the HESS LPD for  $I_{tot}$  has an error of  $\sigma_{I_{tot}} = 0.12$ . Repeating for  $Intensity_{max}$  calculated values, the resultant LPD had an error of  $\sigma_{I_{max}} = 0.24$ . Again, it is clear that the  $I_{tot}$  value has a smaller associated error than  $Intensity_{max}$ .

It is interesting to note that the values of  $I_{max}$  and  $DC_{count}$  are strongly correlated with one another. The mean fractional deviation between  $I_{max}$  and  $DC_{count}$  is relatively small, at 0.34. In the LPD plot, it becomes clear that the  $I_{max}$  value, and thus the  $DC_{count}$  value, consistently underestimates the quantity of DC light in an image. This is not surprising, and indicates the degree to which DC light is often split between multiple pixels. As this effect is clearly not negligible, we choose to define  $True_{DC} = I_{tot}$  for the rest of this analysis.

## 6.2 Error in calculated $DC_{count}$

Having successfully identified the DC pixel in many events, we can find the error  $\sigma_{LPD}$  in our calculated  $candidate_{DCcount}$ , through comparison with the correct value  $True_{DC}$ . However,  $True_{DC}$  also has an associated error  $\sigma_{STA}$ , originating in the use of internal random numbers for Sim\_telarray simulations. If we neglect to account for this  $\sigma_{STA}$ , our final  $\sigma_{calculated}$  will be an overestimate that also includes the random fluctuation of  $True_{DC}$  around the actual DC intensity. As we cannot directly measure the actual DC intensity, we must instead measure  $\sigma_{TrueDC}$ .

A study of 2000 events was conducted, in which each cosmic ray was simulation without night sky background or EAS background. Each telescope image simulation was conducted twice, and difference between  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  was plotted in 7. The fractional difference from the mean Intensity of an image was defined as  $\Delta = 2 \times \frac{I_2 - I_1}{I_2 + I_1}$ . It was found that the standard deviation in fractional difference was  $\sigma_{STA} = 0.06$ , meaning that there is an inherent error of 6 % in measurements of  $True_{DC}$ . In later calculations

of the error in Intensity, this fractional error can be subtracted in quadrature.

$$\sigma_{LPD}^2 = \sigma_{calculated}^2 - \sigma_{STA}^2$$

STUFF!

Taking account of  $\sigma_{STA}$ , we deduce that the true associated error in the LPD is  $\sigma_{TrueLPD} = \sqrt{(\sigma_{TrueDC}^2 - \sigma_{STA}^2)} = 0.11$ . Thus we conclude that, in an ideal case, any LPD calculated from full shower images would always have a minimum error of 11%. This is reasonably high, and can be partially explained by the random nature of atmospheric conditions, among other things.

The same exercise was repeated using the value of  $DC_{Count}$  for the BDT candidate pixels in a full shower image, if the pixel had passed both the  $DC_{Count}$  and  $P_{signal}$  cuts. This provides a more reasonable estimate of the expected LPD error likely to be obtained experimentally, and includes the additional complication of having incorrectly identified pixels in the dataset. As before, the absolute fractional deviation of each pixel from the fit of the  $True_{DC}$  LPD was found. Due to consistent underestimate of the  $True_{DC}$  value using the simple  $DC_{Count}$  method, the error was much larger, with  $\sigma_{DCcount} = 0.57$  and the  $\sigma_{STA}$  being negligible in comparison. This representative error is extremely large, and will pose significant problems for event reconstruction.

### 6.3 Regression BDT for $DC_{Count}$

In order to reduce the LPD error, an alternative method of calculating the DC signal was developed. Supervised machine learning was again used to solve the problem, through training of a BDT Regressor. As with Classifiers, Regressors are initially trained using individual data entries. Instead of the true classes for the entries, regressors require the true value of a continuous variable. Once trained, the Regressor can be used to predict a value of the variable for a given data entry. In this case, the Regressor is trained to estimate the quantity of DC light  $True_{DC}$  for a given pixel. Once a DC pixel has been identified, the Regressor is applied to it. The Regressor returns the calculated value of  $DC_{rgr}$ , an alternative estimate of the DC signal.

Accurate measurement of the value of  $True_{DC}$  is hindered because the DC light can be split into multiple pixels. Instead of the brightest pixel intensity the total Image Amplitude in the EAS free image was used. However, for high altitude/zenith angles, the DC light may lie partially outside the telescope image. To account for this, a new training sample was simulated in CORSIKA with both zenith and azimuth angle fixed at 0. Despite intuitive expectation that regressor performance should worsen significantly when it was tested on the use 2000-event testing sample, the more accurate  $True_{DC}$  values for the training more than compensated for this.

The training set of data consisted of the true DC pixel in each full shower image. A regressor BDT was trained to extrapolate the DC signal, using the variables listed in Table 8. To account for the differing hardware, a separate regressor was trained, as before, for the CT5 camera. However, initial performance was poor, due to the size of the training dataset. Only one pixel per image was usable, leading to a small training dataset. Initial performance, as measured by deviation in ??, was initially poor. However, an expanded dataset of 5000 events greatly reduced the deviation from  $True_{DC}$  values. The final BDT was trained with 1000 estimators and a max depth of 3. The Feature Importances for the HESS1 and HESS2 regressor are listed in Table 8 and Table 9 respectively. There is again a discrepancy in variable importance between the two BDTs.

Repeating the comparison for the HESS1 regressor, we find for  $\sigma_{rgrfit} = 0.35$ , a significant improvement over  $\sigma_{DCcount}$ . Taking into account  $\sigma_{STA}$ , we find that ultimately  $\sigma_{rgr1} = 0.34$ , a fairly large value that nonetheless should be acceptable in 4-telescope

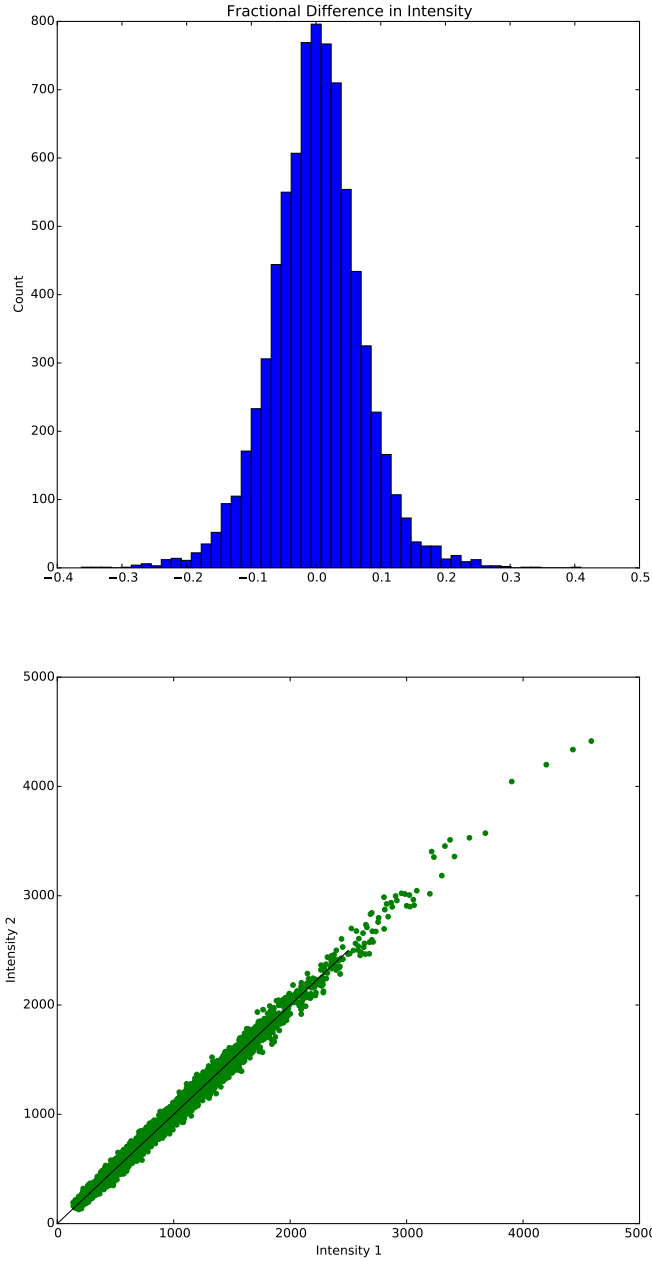


Figure 7: The fractional difference in total Image Intensity between the two simulations is shown in the graph above. A clear symmetric Gaussian is observed, with a mean of 0.00, and a standard deviation of 0.06. Below, the two intensities are plotted against one another. The distribution does not deviate significantly from the ideal 1:1 correspondence illustrated with the black line.

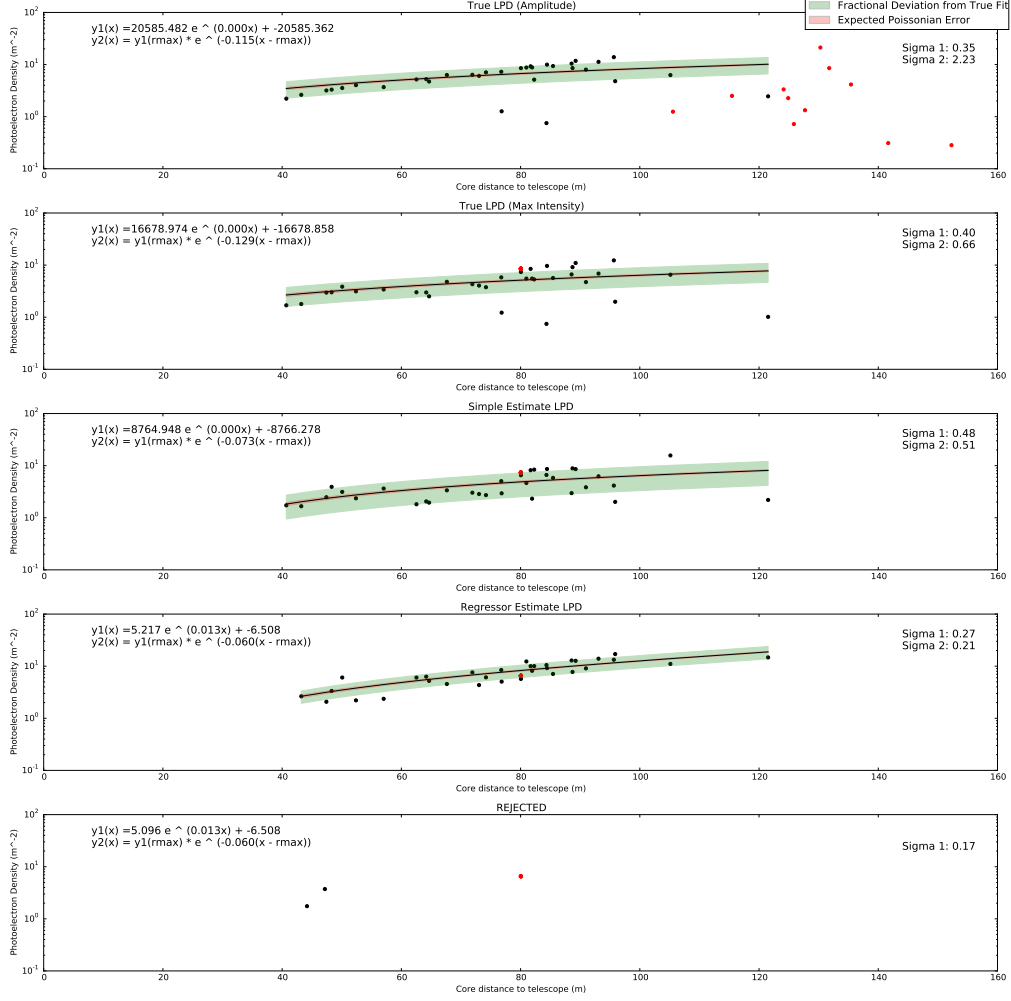


Figure 8: The two LPDs shown above are estimates of HESS1  $True_{DC}$  calculated via  $I_{tot}$ , as well as for the maximum pixel  $Intensity$ . The two full-shower calculated LPDSs are shown underneath, with the simple guess  $DC_{Count}$ , and the regressor calculated  $DC_{gr}$ . An exponential is fit to the  $True_{DC}$  distribution, and the 68% fractional deviation is shown in green. The same curve is shown on the two derived DC values, with the new fractional deviation being much greater.

Table 8: Relative Feature Importance in HESS-1 Regressor BDT training

Variable	Relative Importance
$Q_{DC}$	0.17
$DC_{Count}$	0.16
Image Amplitude	0.15
$Intensity_{N.N.min}$	0.14
$Intensity_{N.N.max}$	0.14
$Intensity$	0.13
$Mean_{N.N}$	0.11

Table 9: Relative Feature Importance in HESS-2 Regressor BDT training

Variable	Relative Importance
Image Amplitude	0.20
$Intensity_{N.N.min}$	0.15
$Q_{DC}$	0.15
$Mean_{N.N}$	0.14
$DC_{Count}$	0.13
$Intensity_{N.N.max}$	0.13
$Intensity$	0.13

events. The comparative performance is recorded in Table 10. Instead of rejecting DC pixels which do not meet out  $DC_{count}$  and  $P_{signal}$  cuts, we can separately measure their deviation from the LPD. In this way, we can include the information from these DC pixels in later analysis, while accounting for the larger uncertainty in their LPD measurements. For images which do pass only the multiplicity cuts, but not the  $P_{signal}$  or  $DC_{count}$  cuts, we find that the regressor error is  $\sigma_{rejected1} = 0.32$ .

Table 10: Fractional error from fitted 56-TeV LPD distribution up to  $r_{core} = 90$ , accounting for  $\sigma_{STA}$

	HESS1	HESS2
$\sigma_{TrueDC}$	0.13	0.29
$\sigma_{DCcount}$	0.69	0.91
$\sigma_{rgr}$	0.27	0.53
$\sigma_{rejected}$	0.32	0.43

To get a more accurate estimate of the error, the testing set of 2000 events with varying azimuth/zenith was again considered. The fractional difference

$$\Delta = \frac{candidate_{DCcount} - True_{DCcount}}{True_{DCcount}}$$

was binned in a histogram format, as shown in Figure 9. It was observed that the mean was 0.09 and the median was -0.08, meaning the distribution was partially skewed. If the absolute deviation from the  $True_{DC}$  value is considered, then 68% of pixels have a fractional deviation less than 0.33. Accounting for  $\sigma_{STA}$ , we find that the  $\sigma_{LPD} = \sigma_{rgr1} = 0.32$ , an improvement over the fixed 56TeV directly incident simulation. For the high-multiplicity rejected events, we find the regressor has an error of  $\sigma_{rejected1} = 0.41$ .



For HESS2, the mean was 0.22 while the median was -0.09, leading to an even more skewed distribution. However the 68% absolute fractional deviation was 0.29, and with  $\sigma_{STA}$ , we find that  $\sigma_{LPD} = \sigma_{rgr} = 0.29$ , slightly better than for HESS1. The improved performance can be explained by the matching energy distribution for the training and testing datasets. Higher-energy events have more background EAS light without consequently increased DC light, meaning the signal becomes harder to extract. The testing dataset has predominantly low-energy events, with reduced background. For the rejected events, we find that  $\sigma_{rejected2} = 0.63$ , with  $\sigma_{STA}$  being negligible.

Table 11: Fractional error from  $True_{DC}$  for all high-multiplicity test pixels

	HESS1	HESS2
$\sigma_{rgr}$	0.32	0.29
$\sigma_{rejected}$	0.41	0.63

We can parameterise the error by considering the energy and distance to the core for a selection of DC pixels. We find that, for a fixed energy...

## 6.4 Full-Shower LPD

Having restricted ourselves to high-multiplicity events, we reduce our data sample to mostly images in which air shower lies relatively close to the center of the telescope field of view. We can conclude that in many of our images, the air shower will lie mostly within the telescope image. In the same way as for DC light, we can look for the existence of a Characteristic LPD describing the Total Shower Intensity, where we define  $I_{tot}$ =Image Amplitude. The results for high-multiplicity events at various energies is shown in Figure 10.

For each energy, a clear exponential decay in Image Amplitude is observed. The data is fitted with a line of the form  $y_i(x) = A_i \exp(K_i x)$ . The fractional deviation from the fit is found in an analogous way to the DC LPD found in Figure 8. Across all Energies, the mean fractional deviation from the fitted exponential was roughly 0.15. For the purposes of reconstruction, an exponential decay with a varying exponent and amplitude will not be particularly useful, because there are two degrees of freedom.

In order to overcome this, we can instead parameterise the exponential fits. Across all energies, a fit is made and the exponent coefficients are recorded. A plot of the  $K_i$  exponent values is then made, as shown in Figure 11. The  $K$  coefficients follow a clear linear distribution, to which a line is fitted. We obtain an equation to determine the exponent of each power law.

$$K_i = K(E_i) = -0.00004E_i + -0.00692$$

Having retrieved a law for  $K$ , each dataset is then fitted a second time. The exponent is determined by the Energy, leaving only one degree of freedom for the fit. The fitted Amplitudes  $A_i$  are then recorded, and are also plotted in Figure 11. A clear linear relationship is again observed. A straight line is fitted to the data, and we retrieve a second relationship describing the amplitude as a function of the Energy.

$$A_i = A(E_i) = 9.4E_i + -204.1$$

Through combined use of the two equations, we can parameterise the entire Full-Shower LPD using only the Energy. These fitted LPDs are also plotted in Figure 10. The fractional deviation bands are also shown in green, with a mean fractional deviation of

□

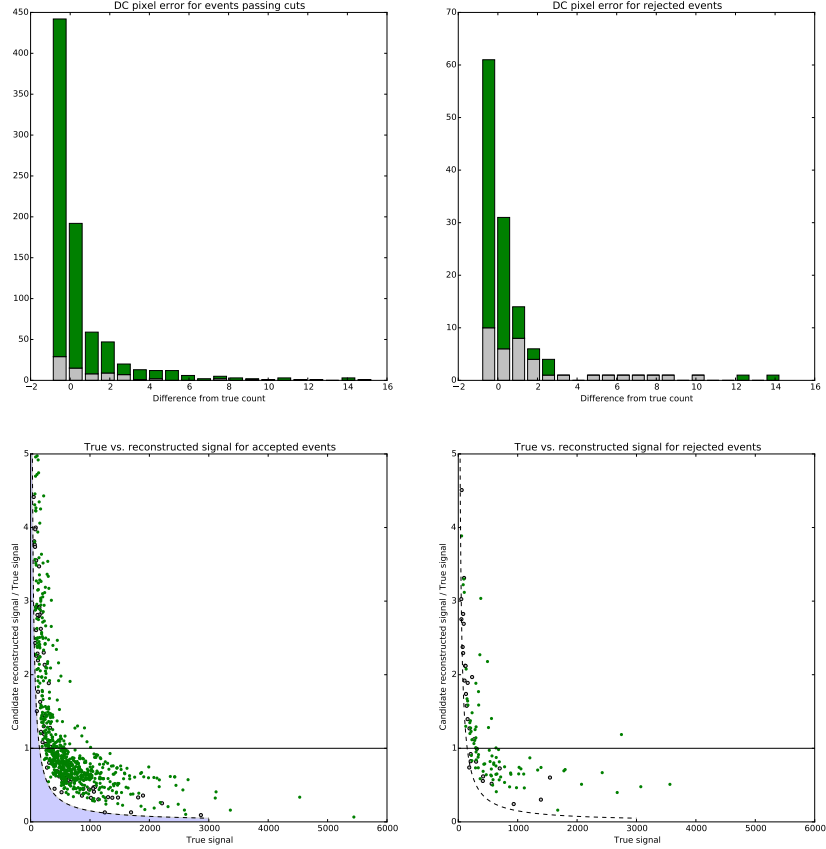


Figure 9: The difference between true and reconstructed DC signal for events passing the cuts is shown in the top left. In the top right the same is shown for events which were rejected. The true DC signals for events which passed the cuts is plotted against the reconstructed signals in the lower left, and for rejected events in the lower right. As in 5, in all plots a green event is one in which the DC pixel has been correctly identified, while a red event is one that has been incorrectly identified.

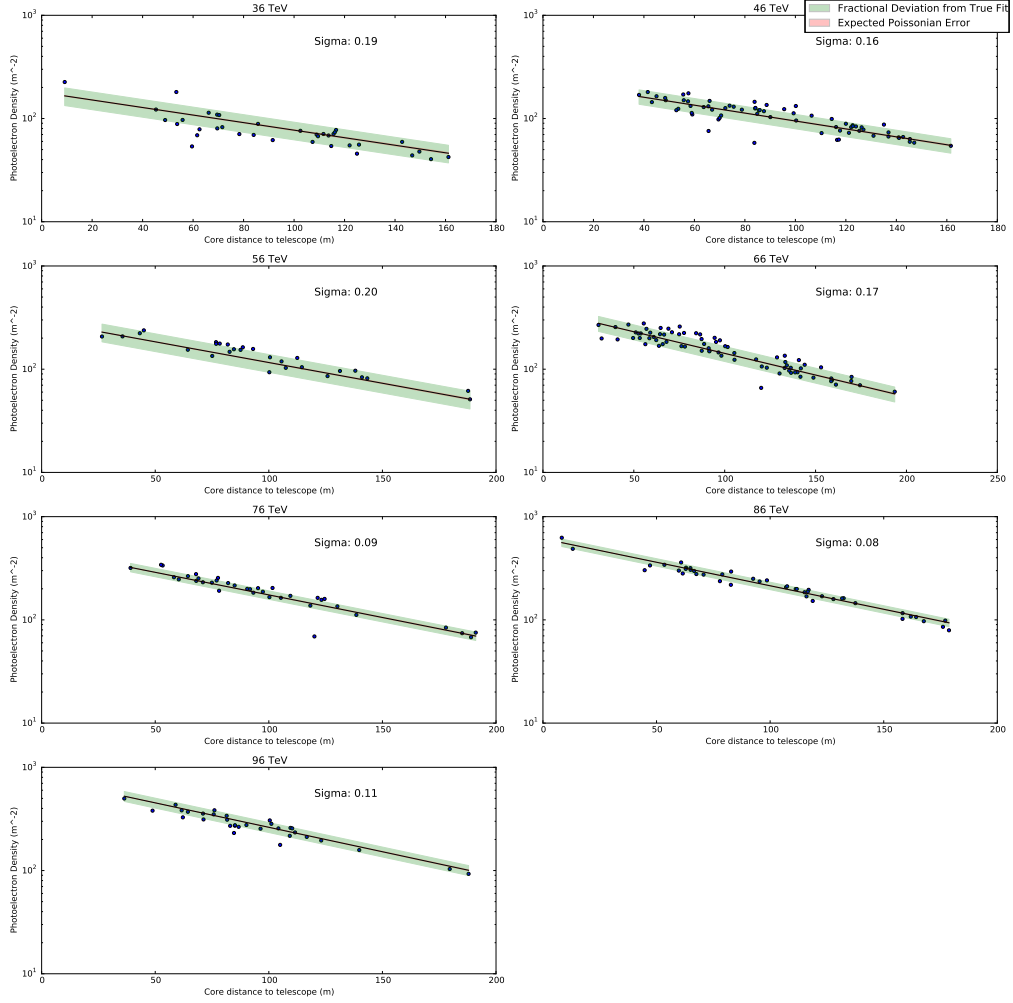


Figure 10: The distribution of HESS 1 Image Amplitude is shown for various energies in the range 36-96 TeV. In each case, the exponential fit is indicated, along with the fractional deviation band in green.

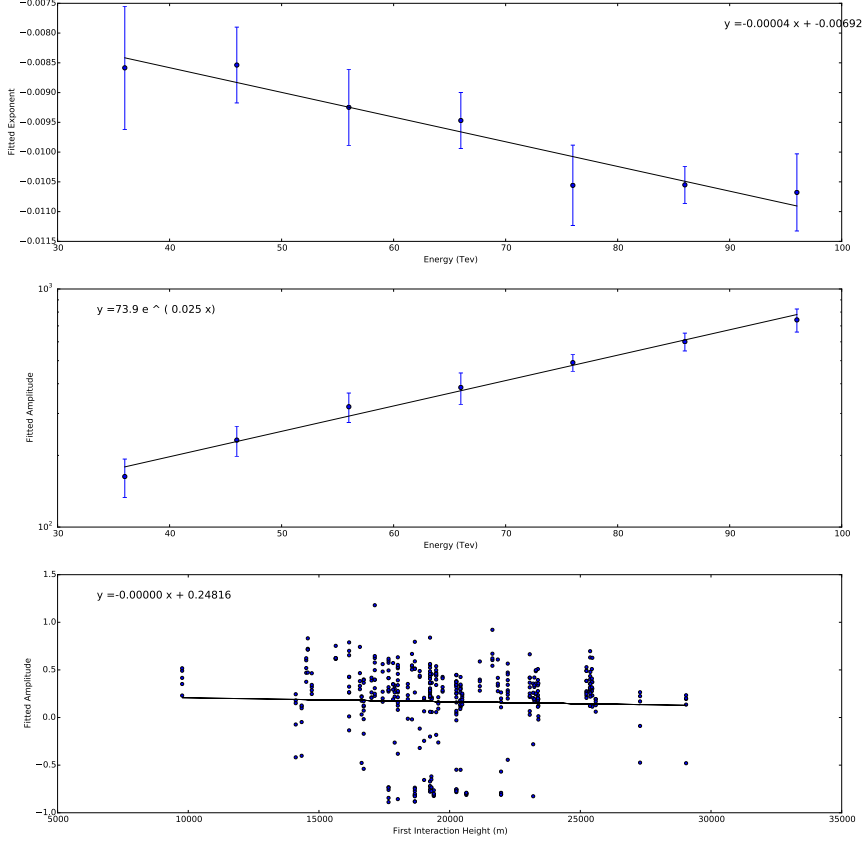


Figure 11: The fitted exponents  $K_i$  are shown above, along with the equation of the Fitted Exponent Line  $K(E)$ . Once the fitted exponents are used, the resultant amplitudes  $A_i$  are shown below, along with the fitted Amplitude Line  $A(E)$ .

roughly 0.15 across the energies. The Full Shower LPDs continue to be large enough to trigger telescopes for several hundred meters. It is thus likely that, for high-multiplicity events, we will obtain an additional four or five data points from the Full Shower LPD. Although the Full Shower LPDs do not depend upon the charge of the primary particle, they will still enable the core position and energy to be effectively constrained. This in turn should reduce the uncertainty when determining the charge of the primary particle.

## 6.5 Other Stuff Like

Having obtained a parameterisation of the LPD, and an associated error in the case of a HESS-type array, the Charge reconstruction Technique can be applied to a simplified Monte Carlo simulation of the HESS array, developed as part of this analysis. Conducting a Monte Carlo simulation using the Gaussian-smeared LPD, we can measure the effectiveness of the LPD-reconstruction technique.

## 6.6 Iron Flux and Energy

Iron nuclei, like all Cosmic Rays, follow a well-defined power law where  $\phi(E) = \frac{dN(E)}{dt} = \phi_0 E^{-\gamma}$  for some constant  $\phi_0$ . Using the SIBYLL model for Cosmic Ray Simulation, we assume that  $\gamma = 2.76 \pm 0.11$  and  $\phi_0 = 0.029 \pm 0.01 m^{-2} s^{-1} sr^{-1} TeV^{-1}$  [1]. Considering the same Energy Range of 35-135 TeV, we can calculate the integrated Iron Flux.

$$F(35-135TeV) = \int_{35}^{135} \phi_0 E^{-2.76} dE = \frac{\phi_0}{1.76} [35^{-1.76} - 135^{-1.76}] = 2.86 \times 10^{-5} m^{-2} s^{-1} sr^{-1}$$

Within CORSIKA, a square simulation of 300 x 300m was simulated. We can consider an identical 90000m<sup>2</sup> target region for core position simulation. The HESS telescope additionally has a solid and field of view of 5 degrees (0.09 rad), meaning an expected telescope array Iron Flux of  $F(35 - 135TeV) = 0.22 s^{-1}$ . On the basis of efficiency calculations in DC pixel identification, it is clear that 2.2% of Iron Ray events will produce high-multiplicity DC pixels accepted by the BDT. Thus, we will ultimately obtain an hourly flux of  $F(35 - 135TeV) = 4.4 \times 10^{-4} s^{-1} = 1.58 h^{-1}$  high-multiplicity Iron events.

The full 5-telescope HESS array has been in operation since 2012 [7], and has thus had time to collect several years of data. Due to the requirement of night operation under favourable weather conditions, the HESS phase 2 experiment has collected approximately 5000 hours of data. On the basis of our high-multiplicity flux rate, we can assume that a rough expected event count would be roughly 7900 high-multiplicity iron events. The Monte Carlo simulations will be run with approximately this number of events.

To accurately model the Cosmic Rays, the Energy Power Law must be simulated. To generate the random Energy value  $En(R)$  following the power law, a uniformly distributed random number  $R$  is generated. The value of  $R$  represents a random fraction of the total simulated flux  $F(R) = R \times F(35-135TeV)$ , and can thus range from 0-1. Having determined the Integrated Flux corresponding to the random number, the Energy corresponding to this flux can be calculated. The energy  $E$  is defined as the lower bound of the integral which would produce the chosen integrated flux  $F$ . Thus  $R=0$  corresponds to an Energy of 135TeV yielding no Integrated Flux, while  $R=1$  would correspond to an Energy of 35TeV and the full Integrated Flux. Thus the simulated Cosmic Rays will obey the power law, with high-energy events being realistically suppressed.

$$F(R) = F(En(R)-135TeV) = \int_{En(R)}^{135} \phi_0 E^{-2.76} dE = \frac{\phi_0}{1.76} [En(R)^{-1.76} - 135^{-1.76}] = R \times F(35-135TeV)$$

$$\implies En(R) = \left( \frac{1.76 \times R \times F(35 - 135TeV)}{\phi_0} + 135^{-1.76} \right)^{\frac{-1}{1.76}}$$

## 6.7 First Interaction Height

Cosmic Rays survival in from the top of the atmosphere follows an exponential decay with the number of 'interaction lengths' passed.

The mean free path  $\ell$  of a Cosmic Ray is a function of atmospheric cross section and number density, which are themselves functions of height, so that  $\ell(h) = \frac{1}{\sigma(h)n(h)}$ . It is instead easier to consider a new variable  $x$ , which we name the 'Interaction Distance', so that the survival probability of a cosmic ray follows a simple exponential decay with the interaction distance passed. We thus define one Interaction Length,  $x_0$  such that a cosmic ray traveling through one interaction length will have a non-interaction probability of  $\frac{1}{e}$ , and in general  $P_{survival} \propto e^{\frac{-x}{x_0}}$ . The geometric distance corresponding to one interaction length will vary as a function of height.

The Interaction Length is inversely proportional to the interaction cross section, which is itself proportional to local atmospheric number density, so that  $x_0 \propto \frac{1}{n(h)}$ . Thus, because the number density of the atmosphere increases with decreasing height, the local interaction length will be geometrically shortened as the height of the cosmic ray decreases. If we consider the Integrated Interaction Distance as the total number of interaction lengths passed by a Cosmic Ray from the top of the atmosphere to a given height  $h$ , we see in Figure 12 that the total integrated interaction distance increases exponentially with increasing height. We use the standard HESS-based data tables also found in the CORSIKA software, containing information regarding the integrated interaction distance and refractive index over a range of heights. As a function of  $x$ , the corresponding local interaction rate  $\Gamma_{interact}(x)$  will be a product of the survival probability and the probability of interacting  $P_{interact}(x) = -\frac{dP_{survival}(x)}{dx}$ .

$$\Gamma_{interact}(x) = P_{interact} \times N_{survived} = -\frac{dP_{survival}(x)}{dx} \times (N \times P_{survival})$$

The fraction of surviving and interacting cosmic rays are shown in Figure 12, alongside the resultant distribution of interactions binned by height  $h$  rather than interaction length  $x$ . The height of each bin can be considered an average local value for  $\Gamma_{interact}(h)$ , and it is clear that the function  $\Gamma_{interact}(h)$  peaks at a height of around 40km. This is thus the height region where most of our cosmic rays will interact with the atmosphere.

To simulate the First Interaction Height, we assign a uniform random number  $R$  to each event, corresponding to the  $P_{survival}$  at which the cosmic ray will interact.  $R$  can be interpreted fraction of events that will have interacted before the simulated cosmic ray does. It ranges from  $R=0$  for interaction at the top of the Atmosphere to  $R=1$  for an event reaching the ground. Having determined the fraction of events, we assume the survival probability is normalised. As with all exponential distributions, we see that the expectation value is equal to one Interaction Length.

$$P_{survival}(x) = ke^{\frac{-x}{x_0}} \implies \int_0^\infty P_{survival}(x)dx = kx_0[e^0 - e^{-\infty}] = 1 \implies k = \frac{1}{x_0}$$

$$P_{half}(x) = \int_0^{x_{median}} ke^{\frac{-x}{x_0}} dx = [1 - e^{\frac{-x_{median}}{x_0}}] = \frac{1}{2} \implies x_{median} = x_0 \ln(2)$$

$$\langle x \rangle = \int_0^\infty P_{survival}(x)dx = x_0 = \frac{x_{median}}{\ln(2)}$$

Thus, we can simply calculate  $x_0$  as the expectation value of interaction length. This parameter is free-floating, and can only be determined through experimental study of Cosmic Rays. Experimental results indicate an approximate cross section of  $\sigma_{Fe-air} = 2000mb$  and a corresponding thus  $x_0 \approx 12gcm^{-2}$  [8].

As with energy, we wish to simulate a realistic spectrum for the first interaction heights. We must thus convert the uniform random number  $R$  to an interaction distance  $X$ . Using the standard atmospheric tables, the corresponding height value can be found using exponential interpolation.

$$R = \int_0^X ke^{\frac{-x}{x_0}} dx = [1 - e^{\frac{-X}{x_0}}] \implies X = -x_0 \ln(1 - R)$$

As cited by the HESS study, a typical first interaction height is roughly 30km for a Cherenkov-Emitting event [1]. With the assumed value of  $x_0$ , a simulation was conducted to determine the expected interaction heights for Cosmic Rays. It is found that the mean first interaction height of 36.9km and a median first interaction height of

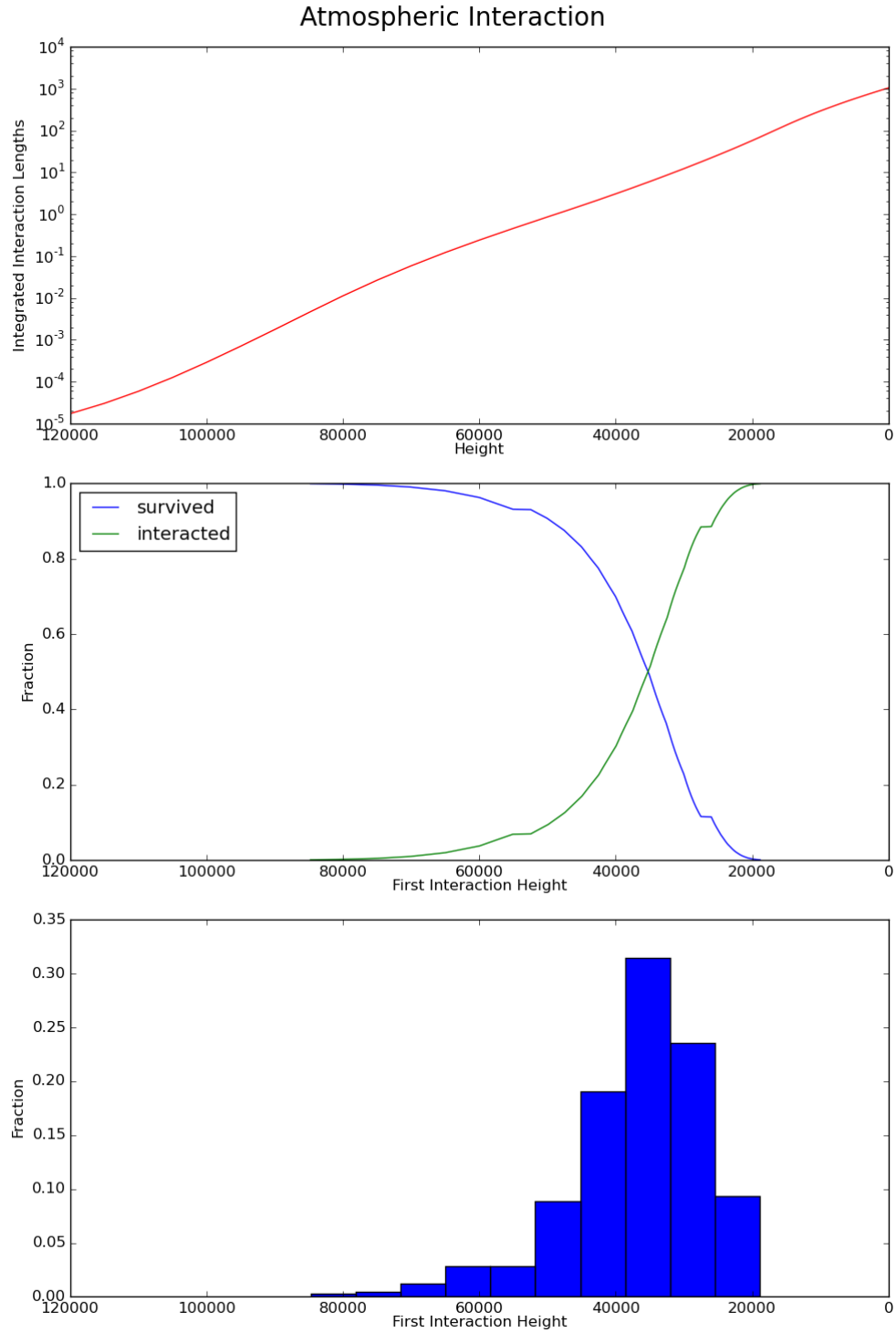


Figure 12: The integrated interaction lengths increases as height decreases. Thus the decay probability follows a exponentially increasing distribution. The mean first interaction height for all events is roughly 40km above sea level.

35.2km for all cosmic rays. However, when Cherenkov-Emitting events are considered, we have both a median and mean first interaction height of 30.3km, which clearly agrees with our expectations.

Another parameter exponentially interpolated using the data tables is the optical depth to the surface,  $\tau$ . The Cherenkov Light, mostly emitted in the visible blue part of the EM spectrum, experiences relatively little atmospheric absorption. The major of Rayleigh scattering-based atmospheric absorption occurs in the lower part of the troposphere, and thus the atmospheric absorption is almost independent of emission up to first interaction height. For a given emitted intensity  $I_0$  we find that the corresponding I received on the ground decays exponentially with optical depth, so that  $\frac{I}{I_0} = e^{-\tau}$  with  $\tau = \int_0^l ds$ .

## 6.8 First Interaction and Energy Saturation

Using the theoretical LPD found from the Frank-Tamm formula, we see that this LPD will have a very abrupt discontinuity.

The mean first interaction height for all Cherenkov Emitting Cosmic Rays in the atmosphere is 40km, and neglecting variations in atmospheric density profiles around the Earth, this can be considered independent of experimental array. However, the multiplicity of event is determined by equipment efficiencies, altitude and telescope layout. When the HESS layout is simulated, we find that the 4 telescope events have a mean height of  $h \approx 23 \pm 5$  km, as shown in 13.

## 6.9 Extended Air Shower Background

Having successfully parameterised the LPD using CORSIKA simulations, we can replicate it for our Monte Carlo simulation. We have found that the DC LPD is broadly independent of both height and Energy.

## 6.10 Reconstructed Charge Resolution

In the preliminary HESS simulation, it was found that the 4 telescope event reconstruction had a charge resolution of  $\sigma_Z = 1.4$ . However, requiring that the BDT signal probability satisfied  $P > 0.81$  removed 75% of events, while reducing the Charge resolution to  $\sigma_Z = 0.9$ . With this cut, core position resolution was  $d \approx 1.4m$ . For 5 telescope events, it was found that the charge resolution was also  $\sigma_Z = 1.4$ . However, requiring that the signal probability satisfied  $P > 0.05$  removed 53% of events, including all wrongly reconstructed ones. This placed an upper limit on the charge resolution of  $\sigma_Z < 0.35$ . With this cut, core position resolution was  $d \approx 0.8m$ .

However, the simulated number of hours for the data was 1200? hours, and comparisons with HESS data show just 12 4-telescope events rather than 600. Thus, although the technique is valid and effective for HESS, the count rate will limit the potential to conduct any statistical analysis from this experiment.

# 7 Optimised Telescope Array

NO Background!!!!

## 7.1 Count Rates

In order to improve the count rate of high-multiplicity events, we can consider a 3x3 array of Cherenkov Telescopes, which we want to use for identifying Cosmic Ray Elements



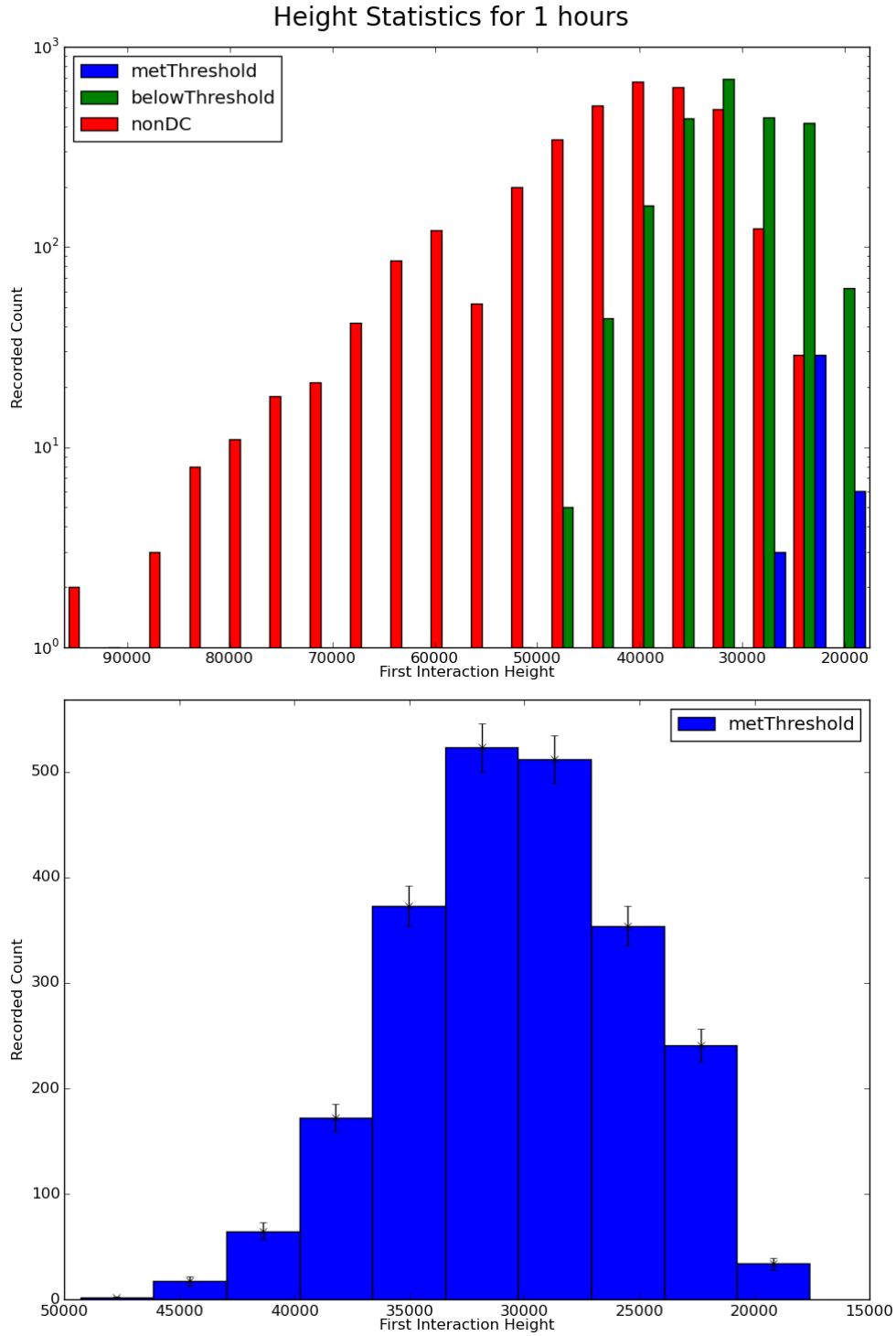


Figure 13: The mean first interaction height for all Cherenkov Events is 40km???. Events in blue met the multiplicity threshold, with DC light in four telescopes. The mean first interaction height for four telescope events in the HESS array is 23km

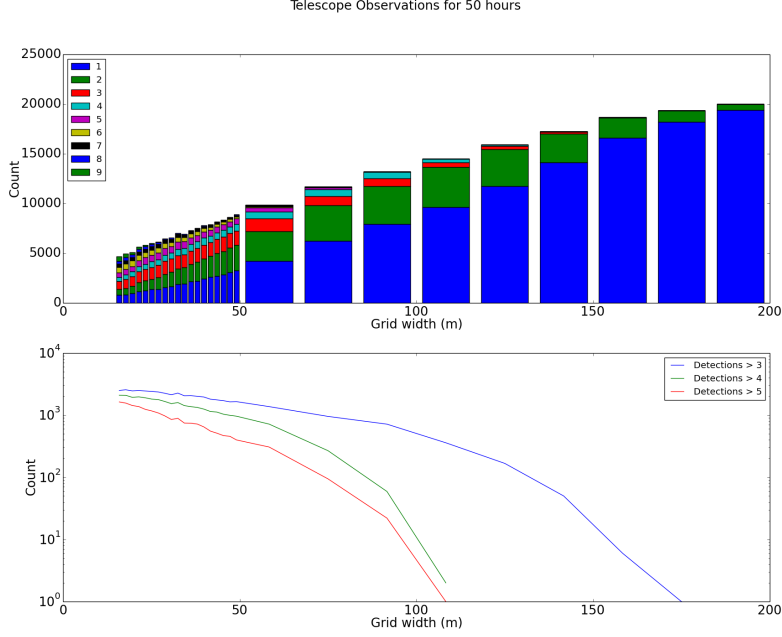


Figure 14: A simulation of 50 hours of run time for various grid spacing for a 3x3 telescope array. Although raw count rate increases with increasing grid width, the ‘good count’ rate of events observed by sufficient telescopes falls rapidly with increasing grid width

accurately. In 14 we see that the ‘High Multiplicity Count Rate’ of events observed by 4 or more telescopes falls with increasing grid separation. We can clearly see that the optimum grid spacing will likely lie in the 20-50m region to provide a reasonable count rate. Competing with this effect is the reliance of LDF reconstruction on sampling the entire lateral distribution. Thus the reconstruction quality will decrease as Grid Width decreases. Further study of  $\sigma_Z$  in this region is required to determine the optimum layout (not necessarily be a grid) for event reconstruction.

## 7.2 Saturation Region Energies

## 7.3 High Speed Telescopes

By definition, the EAS shower will arrive on the ground shortly before the DC light. There are currently several high-speed Cherenkov telescopes capable of distinguishing between these, allowing a background-free LDF to be fitted. Additional study of alternative energy regimes and layouts will also be considered for the case of a high-speed imaging telescope array.

# 8 Conclusion

Preliminary results suggest that the LDF reconstruction technique will significantly improve charge reconstruction, to a level sufficient for cosmic ray abundance studies. However, reliance on high-multiplicity events means that although applicable to current

experiments such as HESS, a new optimised telescope array would be required for a statistical analysis. Such an array may have a grid spacing of 20-50m, although further study is needed to determine the ideal layout.

## References

- [1] F. Aharonian et al. First ground based measurement of atmospheric Cherenkov light from cosmic rays. *Phys. Rev.*, D75:042004, 2007.
- [2] D. B. Kieda, S. P. Swordy, and S. P. Wakely. A high resolution method for measuring cosmic ray composition beyond 10-TeV. *Astropart. Phys.*, 15:287–303, 2001.
- [3] K Nakamura and Particle Data Group. Review of particle physics. *Journal of Physics G: Nuclear and Particle Physics*, 37(7A):075021, 2010.
- [4] D. Heck, J. Knapp, J. N. Capdevielle, G. Schatz, and T. Thouw. *CORSIKA: a Monte Carlo code to simulate extensive air showers*. February 1998.
- [5] Konrad Bernlohr. Simulation of Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes with CORSIKA and sim\_telarray. *Astropart. Phys.*, 30:149–158, 2008.
- [6] F. Pedregosa, G. Varoquaux, A. Gramfort, V. Michel, B. Thirion, O. Grisel, M. Blondel, P. Prettenhofer, R. Weiss, V. Dubourg, J. Vanderplas, A. Passos, D. Cournapeau, M. Brucher, M. Perrot, and E. Duchesnay. Scikit-learn: Machine learning in Python. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 12:2825–2830, 2011.
- [7] F. Krayzel, G. Maurin, L. Brunetti, J.-M. Dubois, A. Fiasson, L. Journet, G. Lamanna, T. Leflour, B. Lieunard, I. Monteiro, S. Rosier-Lees, and for the H. E. S. S. Collaboration. Improved sensitivity of H.E.S.S.-II through the fifth telescope focus system. *ArXiv e-prints*, July 2013.
- [8] Hans Montanus. An extended Heitler-Matthews model for the full hadronic cascade in cosmic air showers. 2013.