Preliminary Results of the Tomography of the Galeras Volcano with the use of Atmospheric Muons.

Jaime Betancourt[1], Alex Tapia[2], David Martinez[3]
David Dueñas[1], Danilo Arturo[1], Jairo Rodriguez[1], Jhon Paz[4]

[1]Universidad de Nariño, Pasto, Colombia.
[2] Department of Basic Sciences, Universidad de Medellín, Medellín, Colombia.
[3] IIT Center for Accelerator and Particle Physics, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-IL (USA).
[4] Autonoma Corporation of Nariño, Pasto, Colombia.
danilolead1109@gmail.com, dafra90@gmail.com, jairo3584@gmail.com

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

VII SCHOOL ON COSMIC RAYS AND ASTROPHYSICS

Abstract

Muon radiography is based on the observation of the absorption of muons in matter, as the ordinary radiography does by using X-rays. The interaction of cosmic rays with the atmosphere produce Extensive Air Showers (EAS), which provide abundant source of muons. These particles can be used for various applications, in particular to study the internal structure of different volcanoes edifice. For the interaction of the cosmic rays with the atmosphere we have used the CORSIKA software [1]. Using Geant4 [2], we present a simulation of the volcanic cone and a scintillation detector that has been calibrated with a radioactive source. Subsequently, the scintillation detector was placed at a previously studied point on the Galeras Volcano (GV), and the production of muon flux was realized as a function of the zenith angle and to different energies that cross the Geological structure and hit the scintillation detector. In the same way a prototype detector is being calibrated to install it at the points studied.

Introduction

The GV with a height of 4276 m a.sl., located in San Juan de Pasto city with an estimated age of 4.500 years, is one with the highest activity in Colombia with important records of eruptions in the past. The increasing of population in higher risk areas around the volcano has motivated to develop special techniques of monitoring the volcano activity, especially for its records respecting to pyroplastic flux generated.
The tomography with muons help us to understand the internal volcano structure and its dinamics present

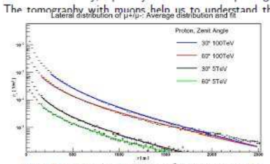


Fig 1:Number of muons per m^2 from protons [6]

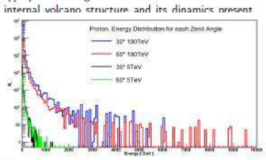


Fig 2:Energy spectrum for μ expected from protons [6]

Simulation of the scintillation detector of atmospheric muons in Geant4[2]

In the radiation-matter program Geant4[2], was designed and simulated a scintillation detector of Polyvinyltoluene bars C_9H_{10}, predetermined material in Geant4 [2](**Fig. 3**). The chosen shape of the bars is based on the experiment MINERvA[7], which allow us to observe how interact the muons when cross the detector, the physical processes involved, the energy that they deposit in it and as their tracks are affected. (**Fig. 4**).

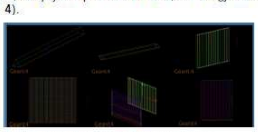


Fig. 3:Detector simulation process.

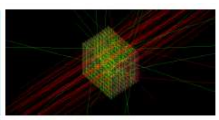


Fig. 4:Simulation of muon interactions with a scintillation detector

GV Geometry in Geant4[2]

For the implementation of the GV in Geant4[2] We used different softwares, in order to include the coordinates of the level curves provided by the Colombian geological service[8],and build the solid volcanic complex which was exported to a GDML format[9] that can be read by Geant4[2].The simulation of the geometry of the GV (**Fig. 5**)is composed of standard rock and his crater of air (**Tables 1 and 2**).

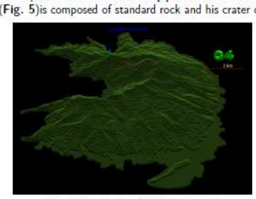


Fig 5:Simulation of GV in Geant4.

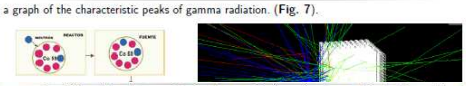
Composition	Percent Weight in Earth's Crust
O	46.6
Si	27,7
Al	8.3
Fe, Ca, Na, K, Mg	17.4

Characteristic of simulated volcano	
Crater Diameter	320 m
Height	1100 m
Crater Depth	250 m

Tables: 1 and 2

Calibration of scintillation detector

For the calibration of the scintillation detector was used a source of Co_{60}. Co_{60} is artificially produced by activation of Co_{59} isotope neutron. Co_{60} decays by the disintegration beta of Ni_{60} stable isotopes (**Fig. 6**).The activated nickel nucleus emits two gamma rays with energies of 1.17 and 1.33 MeV.
In order to the detector can get a detection of the decays of the source of Co60, was added and modified new classes to the program, such as: "GammaPhysics", "PhysicList", "EmStandardPhysics" and get a graph of the characteristic peaks of gamma radiation. (**Fig. 7**).



The two geometries (GV and the detector with its characteristics), are implemented in the Geant4 simulation. The location of detector is an aspect of great importance when applying muongraphy on geological bodies, because the distance that muons cross through the structure, depends of the topography of the place and the location of the area of interest. The best location points are indicated on the map.(**Fig. 8**)

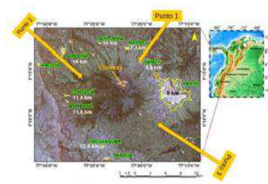


Fig. 8:Convenient points to the disposition of muon detector[8].

Fig. 9:Location on which the simulation is performed[8].

To place the location point at the simulation (**Fig 9**) We transformed the geographical coordinates of the volcano and the detector to Cartesians coordinates (X,Y,Z). After,a translation was made to the origin of the coordinate system in Geant4.

Simulation's results in Geant4 and Prototype detector calibration

We used ROOT[10] for the analysis of data obtained of the simulation. We simulated 2000 events of interactions of Co_{60} source with the scintillation detector. In **Fig 10** you can see the decays of the Co_{60} source and In the figure **Fig. 11** can be observed the prototype detector to be calibrated and used in the preliminary measurement of the flow of muons at the points measured.

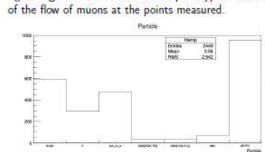


Fig. 10:The characteristic peaks of gamma radiation.

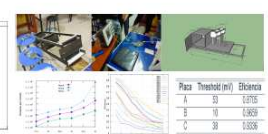


Fig. 11:Prototype detector.

We are working with an extraordinary geometry and many events of interaction, so that the GV simuation has been scaled to units of "mm". To observe the location point of the scintillation detector in the graphical interface, the simulation has been performed with a considerable size detector. The results can be seen in **Fig. 12** and **Fig. 13**.

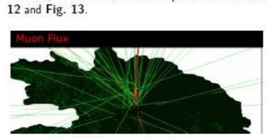


Fig. 12:Muon crossin volcanic cone and the scintillation detector

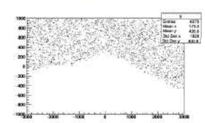


Fig. 13:Muon flux which arrived to the test detector.

Conclusions

-Next step we will calculate the atmospheric profile for Pasto city
-We will develop a real size simulation
-We will do a preliminary measurement of muon flux with the prototype detector in the three locations.

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