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High Energy neutrino Astrophysics

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Astronomy and Astrophysics Library Maurizio Spurio

Probes of Multimessenger Astrophysics

Cosmic Rays, Neutrinos, γ-Rays and Gravitational Waves

Second Edition

LIBRARY EXTRAS ONLINE

🖄 Springer

Neutrinos from the Cosmos



Why HE neutrino astronomy?

- Neutrino Astronomy is a quite recent and very promising experimental field.
- Advantages:
 - γ-rays: interact with CMB and matter (r~10 kpc @100 TeV)
 - Protons: interact with CMB (r~10 Mpc@10¹¹ GeV) and are deflected by magnetic fields (Δθ>3°, E<5·10¹⁰ GeV)
 - Neutrons: are not stable (r~10 kpc @10⁹ GeV)
- <u>Drawback</u>: large detectors (~GTon) are needed.





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CRs and Secondary neutral particles@sources (Chap. 9)



- <u>Galactic sources</u>: these are near objects (few kpc) so the luminosity requirements are much lower.
 - Micro-quasars



- Micro-quasars: a compact object (BH or NS) towards which a companion star is accreting matter.
- Neutrino beams could be produced in the Micro-quasar jets.

- <u>Galactic sources</u>: these are near objects (few kpc) so the luminosity requirements are much lower.
 - Micro-quasars
 - Supernova remnants



Several different objects (with different neutrino production scenarios):

- Plerions (center-filled SNRs)
- Shell-type SNRs:
- SNRs with energetic pulsars

- <u>Galactic sources</u>: these are near objects (few kpc) so the luminosity requirements are much lower.
 - Micro-quasars
 - Supernova remnants
 - Magnetars
 - ..



- Isolated neutron stars with surface dipole magnetic fields ~10¹⁵ G, much larger than ordinary pulsars.
- Seismic activity in the surface could induce particle acceleration in the magnetosphere.

- <u>Galactic sources</u>: these are near objects (few kpc) so the luminosity requirements are much lower.
 - Micro-quasars
 - Supernova remnants
 - Magnetars
 - ...
- <u>Extra-galactic sources</u>: most powerful accelerators in the Universe
 - AGNs



- Active Galactic Nuclei includes Seyferts, quasars, radio galaxies and blazars.
- Standard model: a super-massive (10⁶-10⁸ M_o) black hole towards which large amounts of matter are accreted.

- <u>Galactic sources</u>: these are near objects (few kpc) so the luminosity requirements are much lower.
 - Micro-quasars
 - Supernova remnants
 - Magnetars
 - ..
- <u>Extra-galactic sources</u>: most powerful accelerators in the Universe
 - AGNs
 - GRBs



- GRBs are brief explosions of γ rays (often + X-ray, optical and radio).
- In the fireball model, matter moving at relativistic velocities collides with the surrounding material. The progenitor could be a collapsing super-massive star.
- <u>Time correlation</u> enhances the neutrino detection efficiency.

Recipes for a Neutrino Telescope (NT)



M. Markov:

"We propose to install detectors deep in a lake or in the sea and to determine the direction of the charged particles with the help of Cherenkov radiation"

1960, Rochester Conference

M.A. Markov and B.M. Pontecorvoat the International conference on neutrino physics and astrophysics. Baksancanyon, Cheget, the Caucasus, 1977

Neutrino cross section



- neutrino interaction on nucleons
- Right: the DIS The cross-section increases linearly $\sigma \sim E_v$ up to 10^4 GeV;
- At higher energies, the linear rise of the cross section starts flattening out.

 Below few GeV, the neutrino interaction cross section is dominated by processes in which conservation rules play an important effect: we will discuss this in Chap. 12 for solar neutrinos and neutrinos from SN explosion.



Neutrino interaction: Deep inelastic Scattering

- At energies above some GeV, neutrino interactions occur via the so-called "deep inelastic scattering (DIS)"
- High energy neutrinos interact with *partons* of the nucleons, via either charged current (CC) weak interactions (*l* = e; μ; τ)

 $\nu_l + N \rightarrow l + X$

• or neutral current (NC)

 $\nu_l + N \rightarrow \nu_l + X$

- The hadronic system X carries part of the incoming neutrino energy.
- **Question**: why we do not mention the neutrino cross-section on electrons?
- Which is the expected behavior for v+e?



$\boldsymbol{\nu}$ absorption in the Earth

• The interaction length (Chapter 3) is:

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{n\sigma} \ [cm]$$

n=number density (nucleons) that depends on the mass M, density of the material

$$n = \frac{N_A}{M}\rho \ [cm^{-3}]$$

 Due to the interaction length, the surviving fraction of particles is:

 $N(x) = N_o e^{-x/\lambda}$

- A γ -ray of 1 TeV has an interaction length (in water) λ = 42 cm;
- a v of 1 TeV has $\lambda \sim 2x10^9$ m.
- The increase of the σ_v with energy is such that the Earth absorption becomes not negligible at $E_v > 100$ TeV.



Deep in a transparent medium

Water and Ice:

- large and inexpensive target for v interaction
- transparent radiators for Cherenkov light;
- large deep: protection against the cosmic-ray muon background

Figure: Flux as a function of the cosine of the zenith angle of:

- *i.* atmospheric muons for two different depths;
- ii. Neutrino-induced muons (CC interactions of atm. $v_{\mu\nu}$) for two different muon energy thresholds, E_{μ} . Up- (down-) going events have $\cos\theta < 0$ (>0)



The background in neutrino telescopes

- Down- and up-going hemisphere: atmospheric neutrinos
- **Downgoing hemisphere**: atmospheric μ 's dominate by many order of magnitude the muons induced by neutrinos
- \bullet Only upward-going particles are candidate for extraterrestrial ν .



Shower- and track-like events

- v_e, v_{τ} , neutral currents: <u>showers</u> in the detector
 - Better energy measurement (energy dissipated in the detector)
- v_{μ} <u>tracks</u> in the detector
 - Better direction estimate (the muon collinear with the neutrino)



Shower- and track-like events



- Cherenkov photons emitted by charged particles are correlated (space/time)
- Event Reconstruction based on timespace correlations of fired PMTs (hits) in the PMTs
- Tracks (CC v_{μ}): Long pattern in the detector
- Cascades (CC v_e+ NC): Short pattern (point like)
- Neutrino Direction reconstructed from time-space correlation between *hits* produced by Cherenkov photons
- Neutrino Energy reconstructed from signal amplitudes of the detected hits





Two real events in IceCube



Cherenkov light emission

- The detection principle of operating NT is based on the collection of the optical photons produced by the Cherenkov effect of relativistic particles.
- The light is measured by a three-dimensional array of photomultiplier tubes (PMTs).
 The information provided by the number of photons detected and their arrival times are used to infer the neutrino flavor, direction and energy.
- Cherenkov radiation is emitted by charged particles crossing an insulator medium with speed exceeding that of light in the medium. The coherent radiation is emitted along a cone with a characteristic angle θ_c such that $\theta_c = \frac{1}{\beta \cdot n}$, where n is the refracting index of the medium and β is the particle speed in units of c.
- For relativistic particles ($\beta \sim 1$) in seawater (n=1.364), the Cherenkov angle is $\theta_C = 43^o$
- The number of Cherenkov photons, per unit wavelength interval, dλ, and unit distance travelled, dx, by a charged particle of charge e is given bv the Frank-Tamm formula:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 N_C}{\mathrm{d}x \mathrm{d}\lambda} = \frac{2\pi}{137\lambda^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2 \beta^2}\right)$$



Cherenkov light emission (exercise)

The number of Cherenkov photons, per unit wavelength interval, dλ, and unit distance travelled, dx, by a charged particle of charge e is given by the Frank-Tamm formula:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 N_C}{\mathrm{d}x \mathrm{d}\lambda} = \frac{2\pi}{137\lambda^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2 \beta^2}\right)$$

Determine that for a relativistic particle (β=1) in seawater (n=1.364), in the range of optical wavelength between 300 and 600 nm the emitted number of photons for Z=1 charged particles is about 300/cm



Water/Ice properties

- The effects of the medium (water or ice) on light propagation are **absorption** and **scattering** of photons. These affect the reconstruction capabilities of the telescope.
- Water/ice are transparent only for wavelengths 300 nm < λ < 600 nm.
- The absorption length is ~100 m for deep polar ice in the blue-UV region; it is ~ 70m for see water (see fig. on the right).
- Scattering changes the direction of the Cherenkov photons, and consequently delays their arrival time on the PMTs; this degrades the measurement of the direction of the incoming neutrino.



- Seawater has a smaller value of the absorption length w.r.t. ice, which is more transparent. The same instrumented volume of ice corresponds to a larger effective volume with respect to seawater.
- The effective scattering length for ice is smaller than water. This is a cause of a larger degradation of the angular resolution of detected events in ice w.r.t. water.

Optical modules

- The **optical background** in seawater has two main natural contributions: the decay of radioactive elements dissolved in water, and the bio-luminescence
- The ⁴⁰K is by far the dominant of all radioactive isotopes present in seawater, and its β -decay is above the threshold for Cherenkov light production.
- The deep polar ice is almost free from radioactive elements (no optical background)
- Figure shows one typical optical module configuration used in NT.
- The PMT quantum efficiency (right side) is large within the wavelength range 300– 600 nm, matching well the region in which ice and water are transparent to light.



a) PMT in an Optical Module (OM)

b) OM quantum efficiency



Background: atmospheric muons and neutrinos



Detecting cosmic $\boldsymbol{\nu}$



Example: neutrinos from a Galactic source

TeV γ-rays and v's can be produced from photoproduction hadronic processes:

 $p + \gamma \rightarrow \Delta^+ \rightarrow \pi^o + p$ $p + \gamma \rightarrow \Delta^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + n$

• The same occurs in **<u>beam-dump collisions</u>** of CRs with matter

p + p \rightarrow many hadrons (mostly $\pi^+, \pi^-, \pi^{\text{o}}$)

seen by HESS (γ -rays) Then, neutral mesons decay in photons: $\pi^{o} \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ **10¹⁰** While charged mesons decay in neutrinos: 10¹¹ $TeV cm^{-2}s$ Flux [cm²s⁻¹TeV⁻¹ $\pi^+ \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + \mu + \mu^+ \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + \nu_e + e^+$ 10¹² $\pi^- \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + \mu^- \qquad \mu^- \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + \nu_e + e^-$ 10¹³ • In all cases, at first order: 10¹⁴ $d\Phi_{\nu}$ $d\Phi_{\nu}$ 10¹⁵ dEdE $10^{-11}E^{-2}$ TeV cm⁻²s⁻¹ 10¹⁶ 100 10 0,1 Energy [TeV]

Figure: **RX J1713.7-3946** as

$$A_{\nu}^{eff}(E) = A \cdot P_{\nu \to \mu}(E, E_{\mu}) \cdot \epsilon_{det} \cdot e^{-\sigma(E) \cdot \rho \cdot N_A \cdot Z(\theta)}$$

- The effective area, $A_{\nu}^{eff}(E)$ of a NT corresponds to the quantity that, convoluted with the neutrino flux, gives the event rate.
- The A_{eff} depends on the neutrino flavor and interaction type (if the interaction yields a track- or shower-like, the latter either through a CC or NC interaction); on the neutrino energy and incoming direction; on the status of the detector; and on the cuts that each particular analysis uses for the suppression of the background.
- A is the geometrical area of the detector (the surface of the instrumented volume)
- $P_{\nu \to \mu}$ represents the probability that a neutrino with energy E produces a muon arriving with a residual threshold energy E_{μ} at the detector.
- ϵ_{det} is the detector efficiency (only determined through Monte Carlo)
- The $e^{-\sigma(E)\cdot \rho \cdot N_A \cdot Z(\theta)}$ term takes in the account the Earth absorption;
- In the following, we describe the ingredients necessary to construct, in a simplified analytic method A_{eff} for the v_{μ} CC channel, assuming only dependence on energy E_{ν} .
- Only detailed and dedicated Monte Carlo simulations can determine A_{eff}

The $P_{\nu ightarrow \mu}$ term in the detector effective area

• $P_{\nu \to \mu}(E, E_{\mu})$ = Probability that a ν induces a muon reaching the detector:

$$P_{\nu \to \mu}(E, E_{\mu}) = \sigma_{\nu \mu} \times n(cm^{-3}) \times R(cm)$$

• The neutrino CC cross-section can be parameterized as

$$\sigma_{\nu\mu} \cong 10^{-35} \left(\frac{E}{TeV}\right) (cm^2)$$

- Roughly, half of the neutrino energy is transferred
- The target number density is $n \cong 10^{23} \ cm^{-3}$;
- The muon range R depends on the muon energy,
- **Exercise**: a better analytical solution for the range of a muon of energy E is determined by the muon energy-loss formula: $-\frac{dE}{dx} = (a + bE)$, with a=2 MeV g⁻¹ cm⁻² and b=4x10⁻⁶ g⁻¹ cm⁻². Determine the muon range at high energy (E>0.5 TeV).
- In the high energy limit the muon range $R = \int (\frac{dE}{dx})^{-1} dx \approx 10^6$ cm;
- Thus, and estimate of the probability is:

$$\mathbf{P}_{\nu \to \mu}(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{E}_{\mu}) = 10^{-35} \left(\frac{E}{TeV}\right) \times 10^{23} (cm^{-3}) \times 10^{6} (cm) = 10^{-6} \left(\frac{E}{TeV}\right)$$

 $A_{\nu}^{\text{eff}}(E_{\nu}) = A \cdot P_{\nu\mu}(E_{\nu}, E_{\text{thr}}^{\mu}) \cdot \epsilon \cdot e^{-\sigma(E_{\nu})\rho N_{A}Z(\theta)}$

$$A_{\nu}^{eff}(E) = A \cdot P_{\nu \to \mu}(E, E_{\mu}) \cdot \epsilon_{det} \cdot e^{-\sigma(E) \cdot \rho \cdot N_A \cdot Z(\theta)}$$

- The effective area, $A_{\nu}^{eff}(E)$ of a NT corresponds to the quantity that, convoluted with the neutrino flux, gives the event rate.
- In a detector with projected surface: $A = 1 \text{ km}^2 = 10^{10} \text{ cm}^2$:
- Under very simple assumption for $\nu \rightarrow \mu$: •

Detector effective area

- For a perfect detector:
- Neglecting the Earth absorption:

$$\boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{\nu} \to \boldsymbol{\mu}} \cong 10^{-6} \left(\frac{E}{TeV}\right)$$
 ;
 $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{det} = 1$

$$e^{-b(E)\cdot p\cdot N_A\cdot Z(b)} = 1$$

 $\sigma(\mathbf{F})$, $\sigma(\mathbf{N})$, $\mathbf{7}(\mathbf{A})$

$$A_{\nu}^{eff} = A \cdot P_{\nu \to \mu} \cdot \epsilon \cong 10^4 \left(\frac{E}{\text{TeV}}\right) [\text{cm}^2] = 1 \left(\frac{E}{\text{TeV}}\right) [\text{m}^2]$$

- Under our simple estimates, the effective area of a neutrino telescope of 1 km² area ٠ for neutrinos of 1 TeV is $\sim 1 \text{ m}^2$. It increases with increasing energy
- **Exercize**: Compare the neutrino effective area with the effective area of the Fermi-LAT ٠ satellite γ -ray experiment

Example in the following: the ν_{μ} channel

- The μ reconstruction allows the measurement of the v direction
- For E_{ν} >TeV, μ and ν are almost collinear.
- For shower-like events, the angular resolution is worse (3°-15°, depending on the neutrino energy)

Figure: Average differences between the true and reconstructed muon directions (red Δ) and the difference with respect to the neutrino direction (pink **o**), evaluated with a Monte Carlo vs. event energy in the ANTARES detector. This value represents the **angular resolution** of the detector at a given energy



«Real» effective areas

- Neutrino effective area as a function of the true simulated neutrino energy obtained for the events selected by the IceCube and ANTARES detectors.
- A full Monte Carlo simulation is necessary to describe the triggering, tracking and selection efficiencies of the two detectors (term ϵ_{det} in the effective area)
- The plots refer to the ν_μ channel for upgoing particles, selected in order to have angular resolution
 <1° and small contamination of atmospheric muons



Number of expected events in a Neutrino Tel

$$\frac{N_{\nu}}{T} = \int dE \cdot \frac{d\Phi_{\nu}}{dE} \cdot A_{\nu}^{eff}(E)$$

- Let us merge all the above information to have the event rate N_v/T ;
- The cosmic signal is provided by the neutrino flux from the galactic source is

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dE} = 10^{-11} / E^2 \quad [\text{TeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}]$$

- The effective area is of the order of $\sim 1 \text{ m}^2$ at 1 TeV and increases with energy
- Integrating the event rate formula between 1 TeV and 100 TeV, we obtain

$$N_{\nu} = T \int_{1}^{100} \frac{10^{-11}}{E^2} \cdot 10^4 \ E \ \cdot dE = T \cdot 10^{-7} \ln(100)$$

- For $T=1y=3 \ 10^7$ s, this corresponds to $N_{\nu} = \text{ some event/y}$
- (depends on the value of detector efficiency ϵ_{det}).



How many light sensors $\rightarrow \in$?

Exercize: Assume a muon track of $L_{\mu}=1$ km. How many PMTs (N_{PMT}) are needed in 1 km³ detector volume in order to detect ~100 p.e. (N_{pe}) ? Note that O(100 p.e.) in O(10) PMTs are necessary for track reconstruction





Difference between ice...







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... and Mediterranean water

Hotel - Ristorante Scala

 Image: State State

Tanca

Salva







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IceCube @South Pole



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40 km to shore

unction Box





Optical background



Baseline:

⁴⁰K decays + bacteria luminescence

Bioluminescence bursts:

Animal species which emit light by flashes, spontaneous or stimulated around the detector.



ANTARES: atmospheric muons



ANTARES: ν -induced muon



Detecting cosmic neutrinos: status in 2021

- Point-like neutrino sources: search for significant excess of events in the sky map.
 Based on measurement of the <u>v direction</u>
- II. Excess of high-energy neutrinos over the background of atmospheric events.
 Based on the estimation of the <u>v energy</u>
- III. Coincident event in a restricted time/direction windows with $EM/\gamma/GW$ counterparts: **transient/ multimessenger** information



• Atmospheric neutrino flux (background): dN

$$\frac{dN}{dE} = k_b E^{-3.6}$$

- Dominant < 50 TeV
- Cosmic flux

$$\frac{dN}{dE} = k_s E^{-2}$$

First HE detection from IceCube... 2013



Excess of HESEvents over background

- High Energy Starting Events (HESE) in IceCube
- Events selected in a restricted fiducial volume (SK-like)
- Mostly showers with poor angular determination (>10°)

• Excess fitted with a power-law: $\Phi_{\nu} = \Phi_{o} E^{-\Gamma}$





- Atmospheric muons
- Atmospheric neutrinos
- Signal= excess of HE events

Deposited energies E_{dep} (left) and arrival directions (right) of IceCube events (crosses), 6 years. The hashed region shows uncertainties on the sum of all backgrounds, due to atmospheric muons and atmospheric neutrinos. The contribution of an astrophysical (v + v) flux for E_{dep} > 60 TeV is signal-background.

Excess of HE neutrinos in IceCube: diffuse cosmic



Diffuse flux of cosmic neutrinos vs CRs and γ -rays



Multimessenger: the GCN/AMON networks

- The GCN is a system that distributes information (*notices*) about GRBs and other transients detected by various ground and space experiments and receives and distributes messages (*circulars*) about follow-up observations to interested individuals and institutions.
- **AMON** searches for multimessenger transients using the messenger particles of all four fundamental interactions. **Follow-up Observatories** receive and respond to AMON alerts
 - **Triggering**: IceCube, ANTARES, Pierre Auger, HAWC, VERITAS, FACT, Swift BAT, Fermi LAT & GBM, LIGO-Virgo*
 - Follow-up: Swift XRT & UVOT, VERITAS, FACT, HESS, MAGIC, MASTER, LCOGT





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Multi-messenger approaches



The first evidence for a v source (2018)



First public v Alert: IceCube-160427



- IceCube-170922: a neutrino alert issued by IceCube
- Fermi and MAGIC identify a spatially coincident flaring blazar (TXS 0506+056)
- A v-flare was found in archival IceCube data



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Neutrinos from the blazar TXS 0506+056 (I)

Sept. 22, 2017: A neutrino in coincidence with a blazar flare



- An electromagnetic follow-up campaign of the event IceCube-170922A* indicated that this event came from the direction of a known AGN blazar named TXS 0506+056.
- TXS 0506+056 is a BL Lac object, found at redshift z=0.3365±0.0010
- It was at that time flaring at multiple wavelengths.
- In particular, TXS 0506+056 was monitored by FERMI-LAT and observed by MAGIC after the IC trigger
- * muon neutrino, angular resolution < 1°

Science 361 (2018) no. 6398, eaat1378

Neutrinos from the blazar TXS 0506+056 (II)

2014-2015: A (orphan) neutrino flare found from the same object in historical data



Fermi-LAT data; Padovani et al, MNRAS 480 (2018) 192



PoS(ICRC2019)1032

- A further analysis of archival IceCube
 data revealed that this blazar was
 emitting neutrinos before;
- Within Oct. 2014-March 2015 an excess of 13±5 events over background was found.
- During this period, there was no significant EM flaring activity
- Not simple theoretical interpretation

IceCube conclusion: **Compelling** evidence of a HE ν from a blazar

KM3NeT online alert system



Still, we do not have a "neutrino map"





Neutrino sky map



New telescopes in water: KM3NeT



https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=tzxHlLgAahE

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https://www.youtube.com/wa tch?v=omIFkdCkbYk&t=3s

KM3Net: the future



KM3NeT Detector technology



KM3NeT Detector technology



The KM3NeT Digital Optical Modules (DOMs) and Detector Units (DUs). Left: a DOM consisting of a 17" pressure-resistant glass sphere with 31 small (3") PMTs. Middle: a DU string with the breakout box and the fixation of the DOMs on the two parallel ropes. Right: Photo of a launch vehicle deployment containing a DU with 18 OMs. Credit: KM3NeT Collaboration Adrián-Martínez et al. (2016)

ANTARES and KM3NeT collaborations



New telescopes in water: GVD (Baikal)



New telescopes in water: GVD (Baikal)











Despite harsh ice conditions this winter

two new clusters were deployed (576 OMs)

Thanks to: Zh.-A. Dzhilkibaev, INR (Moscow), for the Baikal Collaboration (Neutrino Tescopes 2021, Venice)