

Trigger in underground experiments

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Introduzione alle Tecniche di Trigger e Data Acquisition in Esperimenti di Fisica

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Outline

- □ Introduction to the Trigger Architectures
 - Global vs trigger-less
- □ Trigger-less DAQ in underground experiments: two case studies
 - KM3NeT experiment
 - DAQ constraints
 - A modular readout
 - \circ Time synchronization
 - Trigger & DAQ system
 - Software trigger & Data filtering
 - XENONnT experiment
 - Low background experiment
 - $\circ~$ A streaming DAQ without any online trigger
 - Architecture & readout modules
 - Time synchronization
 - \circ $\;$ Event builder servers and live processing $\;$
 - o OnLine Monitor
- **G** Summary

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Trigger Requirements



Trigger

The goal is to select events of interest and suppress background as efficiently as possible...

Trigger basic requirements

- High efficiency for selecting processes for physics analysis
- Good reduction of rate from unwanted high-rate processes
- Robustness is essential
- Highly flexible, to react to changing conditions
- System must be affordable

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A trigger system must match the physics event rate to the data acquisition rate

Global Trigger



Globally triggered:

- An "external device" decides that data are interesting
- There is a **coherent event ID** throughout the readout
- Front-end data are organized into fragments associated to the event ID
- A Front-end pipeline must "buffer" events while waiting for trigger decision
- Can be implemented in multiple levels realized in hardware or software

Muon G-2 at FNAL (data taking 2018-2023)

- FE readout manages 12 Hz average rate of muon fills that consist of two sequences (with a \sim 200 ms gap) of eight successive 700 μ s fills with 10 ms fill-separations.
- The TTC protocol provides synchronous triggering (Begin-of-fill signals) to the WFD AMCs to start data collection (hardware)
- Time-averaged rate of raw ADC samples is 20 GB/s
 - EB throughput ~ 200 MB/s by selecting regions of interest or "islands" for recording (**software**, reduced by a factor of 100)



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Trigger-less readout

.... but in experiments

- without beam crossing reference and where
- Physics signals occur at arbitrary times extracted from huge background and detector noise

Trigger-less readout very attractive

- A local trigger component decides the data readout (e.g. signal above th.)
 - per-channel triggering
- There is no concept of a global event ID at the readout level
- Several benefits:

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- **no bias** due to the trigger decision
- **more flexible** relying on online/offline algorithms
- streaming DAQ allows the **parallelization** ...
- but some challenges:
 - higher data rate to the Event Builder/CPU farm
 - time-stamped needed for each fragment => same timing for all the subdetectors





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Event filtering for data reduction => with the online trigger (KM3NeT experiment) All data long term stored => without the online trigger (XENON experiment)

Trigger-less readout: KM3NeT



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aggregation and routing







The KM3NeT collaboration

55 institutes in 16 countries 4 continents — 2 detectors



- KM3NeT is the neutrino research infrastructure under construction[®]in ٠ two sites of the deep Mediterranean Sea -ARCA(offshore Capo Passero, It@3500mdepth) -ORCA(offshore Toulon, Fr@2500mdepth)
- Same collaboration, same technology •

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ORC

~ GeV

Abyss

studies

Oscillation

Research with

Designed for low-E

2500m



The KM3NeT neutrino telescope



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Neutrino detection technology in KM3NeT

Modular, incremental telescopes **Detection Unit**: a string of 18 **Digital Optical Modules (**DOM), each one with: 12 3" PMTs in the top hemisphere 19 3" PMTs in the bottom hemishere



ARCA	ORCA
Italy (Sicily)	France (Toulon)
3450 m	2450 m
100 km	40 km
115×2 blocks	115
90 m	20 m
36 m	9 m
18	18
31	31
1 Gton	7 Mton
28	18

DAQ constraints

 \odot big volumes

 \odot water optical properties (absorption & scattering of blue-green photons ~ 50-100 m) \odot good angular resolution O(.1°) for pointing (neutrino ASTRONOMY)

Many detection elements (N. OMs > $O(1000)/km^3$) deployed in bunches

SCALABLE DAQ design

○ <u>No "beam crossing" reference</u> such as for experiments at Colliders

• complex DAQ structures in extreme conditions (mandatory: minimal underwater complexity)

ALL DATA TO SHORE (a.k.a. trigger-less streaming readout) approach

DRAWBACKS

signal-to-noise ratio extremely disfavoured :

muon rate (atmospheric dominating)

⁴⁰K decays (~constant)

Bioluminescence (occasional)

- : O(100) Hz/km³
- : O(10) kHz/PMT(3", 0.5 p.e. threshold)
- : O(100) kHz/PMT(3", 0.5 p.e. threshold)

High continuous throughput to shore, needed large bandwidth and strong data reduction







DOM modular readout

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The WR protocol synchronizes all CLB clocks in the detector ==> The protocol is based on the synchronous Ethernet (SyncE) and Precision Time Protocol standards.



The White Rabbit: time synchronisation over network

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DAQ network for a DU detector

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A factor 10 of reduction





DU time calibration in dark box

Full time calibration of all the DOMs in the DU before deployment \rightarrow dark box calibration



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Inter-DOM time calibration:

- to measure the time delays between DOMs of a single DU due to the different propagation time of the clock to reach each DOM.
- method: blue laser source that illuminates simultaneously 2 PIVITs of each DOM at SPE levels
 - light pulses time stamped ==> estimate the correction offset to add to each DOM so that the full string is calibrated with respect to the DU Base.





Trigger and DAQ System (TriDAS)

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The optical data-stream (TDC channel) is composed of the digitised signals (the hits, time of occurrence and the timeoverthreshold).

used to retrieve the position of each element of the strings.

σ

0

t-a

S

ta

σ

- dataframe time interval.
- feedbacks from the DOMs.
- compass, temperature and relative humidity sensors.

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The acoustic data-stream (AES channel) is composed of the digitised signals of the acoustic sensors (piezo-electric sensors on the DOMs, hydrophones on the BM). The acoustic information is

The **monitoring channel** is composed of a stream of subsequent data-frames from every DOM, each of the same duration (generally 100 ms) and containing the status occurred during the

The slow control data-stream is composed of all the broadcasts, multicasts for distributing commands from the shore-station to the offshore detector, and the possible

The instrument data-stream is composed of data from

Optical (TDC) Data Processing

• **Timeslice** (TS): it is the abstract subdivision of the continuity in the time-line of the experiment.





Acoustic (AES) Data Processing

• **Timeslice** (TS): it is the abstract subdivision of the continuity in the time-line of the experiment.

it is the group of information of a certain flavour (TDC, AES, MON) occurred in a DOM • Frame:



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Distributing the computational load

- Each trigger also applied to one full set of frames of one TS.
- Multiple TSs handled in parallel

Acoustic World

Acoustic data must be sent in a continuous stream, addressing all data from one DQ to a single Acoustic DF. Independent reconstruction of the *Time Of Arrival* (**TOA**) of acoustic signals from various beacons



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during aTS.

Triggering for data filter

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Trigger Levels:

Level 0 : all hits over threshold (i.e. all hits sent by the CLBs) Level 1 : local coincidence in the same DOM within 25 (10) ns Level 2 : combinations of Level 1 seeds (and occasionally also L0 hits) using more complex topological and temporal conditions

Trigger Rates for DetID-116 Wed Aug 24 14:28:04 2022 UTC



Approach Target	Topological Trigger	Simple Causality Trigger	Sky Scan Trigger	Tracking	Vertex / Inertia
muon	~	~	~	>	~
cascades	~	~	~	~	~
slowly moving particles	~	~	~	>	~
sources	~			~	~
External alerts	~	 ✓ 		~	~

trigger seed: every hit that satisfies one of the L1 trigger conditions



Triggering for data filter

Wed Aug 24 14:27:18 2022 UTC



Mean PMT Rates for DetID-123 DU-10 - colours from 1.0kHz to 20.0kHz (HRV ratio threshold 0.5) PMTs ordered from top to bottom - 2022-08-24 14:31:51.088379





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ARCA 19 throughputs



Periodic data transfer to permanent storage @CC-Lyon and @CNAF

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Dark matter direct detection with the XENONnT experiment



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XENONnT experiment

- Located @LNGS in Italy
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- Time Projection Chamber with 5.9 t of LXe in the active region and 8.5 t in total in the system

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Depth of 3600 m water equivalent Muon Veto and Neutron Veto (~700 t ultrapure water, prepared for Gd-loading)

The XENON collaboration

Dark matter direct detection experiment Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (LNGS) Dual phase xenon time projection chamber 170 scientists, 27 institutions, 12 countries





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Working Principle

The XENON detectors were conceived and designed to search for nuclear recoil signals from WIMPs



produced from an impinging particle.

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Working principle of dual-phase liquid noble gas time projection chambers (TPCs)

- Prompt light signal (S1) \checkmark
- Secondary light in GXe from drifted charges (S2) \checkmark
- Energy reconstruction using the combined S1 and S2 signal
- Position reconstruction
 - z from S1-S2-delay time
 - x-y from S2 hit pattern





Low background: ER component

- Since WIMP scattering off target nuclei is due to a **low energy interaction**, the research requires an ultra-low bkg:
- shielding the detector from the environmental radioactivity;
- enhancing the radiopurity of all the detector materials;
- placing the detector underground to reduce cosmic rays background.

ability to recognize and mitigate the bkg sources.

ER component

- Background from intrinsic radioactive isotopes
 - ²¹⁴Pb a daughter of ²²²Rn -

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- Beta decay of ⁸⁵Kr
- Additional components:
 - Solar neutrino electron-scattering
 - Background from internal radioactive isotopes (¹³⁷Cs, ⁴⁰K, ⁶⁰Co U/Th decay chain) from detector material

=> reduced by a detector component selection in terms of high radio-purity following an extensive screening campaign

=> Factor x5 improved background compared to XENON1T Unprecedented low ER background (15.8±1.3) events/(t·y·keV)

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Distillation +

New pumps

Remove by cryogenic distillation





Low background: NR component

NR backgrounds

- Isotopes, like ²³⁸U and ²³²Th are present in the detector materials as well as in the environmental materials.
 - Muon Veto: water tank (passive) shields
- Cosmogenic neutrons:
 - neutrons from CR up to tens of GeV (might cross the water tank and penetrate inside the TPC and mimic a WIMP-like interaction, contributing to the NR background).

=> Muon Veto exploits the Cherenkov light emitted along the muon path and detected by the PMTs => tagging the muon event.

- **CEvNS** constrained from solar 8B neutrino flux: ~ **0.2 events**
 - astrophysical neutrinos can cause NRs as the result of the Coherent Elastic Nucleus scattering (CEvNS).
- **Radiogenic neutron:** Neutron background from spontaneous fission and (α, n) -reactions (from detector materials etc..). That is the major contribution generated in the MeV energy range through spontaneous fission of ²³⁸U, ²³⁵U and ²³²Th

=> NV tagging: 1.3±0.3 neutron events/yr in 4t fiducial volume without NV to 0.17 ± 0.05 evt/yr (with NV) → factor 6 reduction





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The XENONnT experiment

Three nested detectors:

- Water Cherenkov muon veto (MV)
- Gd-loaded water-based neutron veto (NV)
- Dual phase time projection chamber (TPC)

Service building facility provides the systems for the auxiliary components (Cryogenics and purification, DAQ and SC, ...)







XENONnT TPC



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- Increases the TPC drift length to 1.5 m (from 1m)
- Contains a 5.9 t active mass (from 2 t)
- High reflectivity PTFE panels
- 5 electrodes
- Two sets of field shaping rings
- Doubles the number of **PMTs to 494**, and has a larger light detection efficiency (34->36%)
- Carefully selected materials to minimize backgrounds
- Field shaping rings, tuneable potential for the top ring for fine tuning









XENONnT: Neutron Veto



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- Cherenkov Muon veto from 1T
- New Neutron veto of 4m x 3m is enclosing the TPC, with 120 PMTs placed inside an enclosure of reflective panels
- NV optically separated from MV by high reflectivity PTFE panels cage
- Neutron tagging efficiency projected to 87% with (planned) Gd-doping, ~53% with current pure water
- The Neutron veto is vital for WIMP search by tagging neutrons, we expected ~0.2 neutrons per t·y





XENONnT a continuous DAQ

XENON1T to XENONnT

XENON1T based on **self-trigger** readout with an **online trigger** for data reduction and the definition of physical interactions

New requirements:

- The increasing of TPC size => increasing of front-end channels and maximum drift time
 - a continuous drift length exceeds several ms
- Several searches (in Xenon1T) complicated or less ٠ sensitive by the enforced event trigger definition
 - science data vs calibration data
 - 3 sub-detectors operated as an unique system
- Buffer database would not scale effectively to match the increased load foreseen by the demands of a larger system



The solution is to forego the software trigger, saving all the data and leaving the determination of events only offline: facilitating a wide range of scientific searches, calibration options and detailed background studies





XENONnT a continuous DAQ

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Removing all triggers except the per-channel digitization threshold does **not lead to significantly increased storage requirements**. Large part of data rate is not PMT dark counts or other small signals seen by only a few channels, rather large S2 signals with wf above threshold for ~ms for a large number of channels

Events rate vs data volume				
th	% of tot event rates	% of tot data volume		
1 SPE	~30	2		
10 ³	1-2	~30		

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XENON

DAQ system

VME crates with 1724s/1730s



- 1st stage PMT signal Front-End electronics and ٠ digitization with CAEN V1724/V1730
- 2nd stage data readout and writing on Ceph f.s. ۲ (raw data)
- 3rd stage OnLine processing for S1/S2 peaks and ۲ events reconstructions, Online Monitor steps can be easily benefit from high level processing
- AUX custom logic for busy management and ۲ **Acquisition Monitor**

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Digitizers

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Readout servers

TPC

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- 5 VME crates, 95 boards (CAEN V1724) connected to readout • servers via daisy-chained optical links based on CAEN A3818 PCIe (4 - 1 Gb/s links sustaining ~ 90 MB/s)
- One CAEN V2718 crate control module to synchronize data acquisition (sync/start/stop signals)
- A general-purpose CAEN V1495 board running custom firmware, which manages the busy subsystem
- 1 VME crate, 12 boards (CAEN V1724) connected to readout server
- One CAEN V2718 crate control module for acquisition signal distribution
- A general-purpose CAEN V1495 board for busy management
- 1 VME crate, 8 boards (CAEN V1730) connected to readout • servers
- N One CAEN V2718 crate control module for acquisition signal distribution
 - A general-purpose CAEN V1495 board for busy management

Reader **O PCI Express** digitize card which Ct Ct allows the control of up o 4 CONET2 independent networks (each up 90 MB/s)

Readers

- Ceph buffer in 0.5 s chunks
- servers within the DAQ network.

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• 7 readout (2 backup) servers to read data from digitizers in block transfers via the CAENVMElib C++ library

• The readout threads transfer data asynchronously to processing threads. Each processing thread periodically compresses its buffered output data and writes it to the

Ceph cluster is a single high-speed buffer disk with approximately 10 TB of capacity that is accessible from all

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During Science Run0 (2021) all three DAQ subsystems operated stably, collecting in total more than 200 days of commissioning and science data, and close to 100 days of various calibration data.

- The deadtime fraction induced by the operation of the busy veto is 2×10⁻⁵ for the majority of SRO science data (which is typically ≤25 MB/s)
- The average deadtime fraction for all SRO science data is 3×10^{-4} .
- During high-rate ²²⁰Rn and AmBe calibration periods the deadtime resulting from the combined operation of the busy and HEV on average amounts to $\sim 10\%$.



Time synchronization



DAQ subsystems (TPC/MV/NV) are operated in linked 3 mode with full time synchronization (115 digitizers in 7 VME crates):

- XENONnT DAQ relies on a CAEN DT4700 clock generator module.
- 50 MHz LVDS clock signals via 7 shielded custommanufactured cables to the first digitizer in each VME crate.
- The distribution within each VME crate is made through the board **chain via clk-in** and **clk-out** connectors.
- Time offsets in these clock chains manually calibrated out, securing synchronization well below the digitizer temporal resolution (≤ 1 ns).



The time synchronization across all sub-detectors verified: with 0.1 Hz GPS signal distributed with high precision (<0.1 ۲ ns) to several digitizers and measuring the timestamps of

- these signals
- with a muon event passing through all XENONnT sub-۲ detectors

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Event builder servers and live processing

Strax/Straxen:

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The data stream of raw data from digitizers is **fully processed onsite** at LNGS -> STRAX





Performance: Live processing

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Processing time for different datatypes: raw-records (the lowest level), peaks and events.





OnLine monitor

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- The use of **fully reconstructed data to monitor** the state of the detector during the data collection. ۲
- Several datatypes are uploaded during data collection: ۲
 - acquisition monitor data
 - all the fully reconstructed events and selections of data from the MV and NV
 - selection of the peaks data from the TPC



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area of peaks vs width of the sum-waveform of a peak; useful for identifying peak populations.

S1 and S2 area

reconstructed event positions throughout the TPC

Control and monitor page

The status page displays instantaneous data rates for each readout process in the entire DAQ system, information about the current activity of each eventbuilder, and the current status of the Ceph high-speed buffer disk.

Front-end website developed using NodeJS

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Summary

- A trigger system selects physics events of interest and suppresses background as efficiently as possible.
 - must match the event rate to the data acquisition rate.
- **Trigger-less DAQ** very attractive for underground experiments (i.e. neutrino telescope, direct dark matter detector, cosmic rays detector etc...) when events occur at arbitrary times
 - Typically no needs to have a full detector readout ٠
 - background within random timing ٠
 - **Benefits:**
 - No bias due to a trigger decision Ο
 - More flexible and powerful trigger (online/offline) algorithms Ο
 - Software trigger can rely on a commercial hardware (switches/farms)
 - steaming DAQ able to read out many parallel continuous stream of data Ο
 - calibration and monitoring without the need for special runs deterministic time-ordered data transfer with corresponding strorage giving the opportunities for more streamlined and parallelization
 - Challenges:
 - Larger data rate to Event builder/CPU farm Ο
 - A careful design to avoid bottlenecks
 - Stable and accurate timing is essential for time-stamping of each fragment Ο
 - Common clock for each subdetectors
 - Time calibration
- The triggerless streaming readout for two underground experiments (KM3NeT and XENONnT) have been presented; DAQ constraints, construction design and performance are discussed.

Thanks for your attention!



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Backup slides



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