Lecture 1: Neutrino Telescopes

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C Vladstudio www.vladstudio.com why neutrino astronomy?

detection techniques

current projects

Since this is a school, I will focus more on the technical aspects and analysis methods, rather than giving a review of the latest results at the end of the lecture you should be able to construct and operate your own neutrino telescope, and know what kind of physics to do with it I will concentrate in high-energy neutrino telescopes, ie, will not cover underground detectors like SuperKamiokande, which also have sensitivity to some of the physics I will mention

I will mainly show results from IceCube to keep the talk short (and because I am a member of the collaboration)

Results on the topics I will touch upon exist of course for the other projects I will mention (ANTARES, Baikal). See the recent summer conferences for the latest results from them:

Neutrino 2014, http://neutrino2014.bu.edu/ TeVPA/IDM, http://indico.cern.ch/event/278032/



Today we know CR's are p's, γ 's and heavier nuclei

CR's detected at extremely high energies

Sources: where do we expect them from?

Sources should also produce neutrinos (undetected so far ?)

How?:

\rightarrow neutrino telescopes

aim of neutrino telescopes: neutrino astronomy

Cygnus A

<u>cosmic accelerators:</u> Active Galactic Nuclei, Gama-ray Bursts, Supernovae remnants, micro Quasars

(point-source searches)

Hi-res JPG file download - Resolution 5000x3750 px - www.psdgraphics.com

particle production in cosmic accelerators

HOI

- shock acceleration: hadrons/nuclei
- inverse compton: γs
- synchrotron radiation, bremmstrahlung: $\gamma {\rm s}$
- particle decays: γs, vs

Cygnus A

<u>cosmic accelerators:</u> Active Galactic Nuclei, Gama-ray Bursts, Supernovae remnants, micro Quasars

(point-sources)

100 Kpc (MN 31 Kpc)

cosmic rays, cosmic neutrinos

Hi-res JPG file download - Resolution 5000x3750 px - www.psdgraphics.com



γ ray sky (Fermi.LAT)

even if individual sources are too faint, one could expect a diffuse high-energy neutrino flux from the contribution of all unidentified sources

(all-sky searches)

-Astroparticle physics studies the cosmos through these 'signatures': hadrons (p/nuclei), leptons (e+,e-), photons and neutrinos:

- protons are charged \rightarrow deflected by intergalactic magnetic fields (only very high energy CR's, E>10¹⁸ eV, useful for astronomy: they can point)
- γ 's easily absorbed by intervening matter
- v's extremely difficult to detect (only weak interaction)

Detectors:

- p/nuclei, e's: Air shower arrays (surface), satellites (space)
- γ's, e's: Cherenkov telescopes (surface), satellites (space)
- v's: neutrino 'telescopes' (underground/underwater)



other physics with neutrino telescopes



low-energy (MeV) neutrinos from Supernovae explosions

(no pointing)

other physics with neutrino telescopes



neutrinos from dark matter annihilations (tomorrow's lecture)



particle physics: neutrino properties monopole/nuclearite searches, fundamental laws... (not covered this time) Reminder:

In modern particle accelerators we collide counter-rotating particles, ie, $p_{beam} = -p_{target}$. That is, the CM system

(b=beam,

$$\boldsymbol{P}_{\boldsymbol{b}} = \left(\boldsymbol{E}_{b}, \, \vec{p}_{b} \right)$$

 $\boldsymbol{P}_t = (\boldsymbol{E}_t, \vec{\boldsymbol{p}}_t)$

t=target)

$$s = (P_{b} + P_{t})^{2} = (E_{b} + E_{t}, \vec{p}_{b} + \vec{p}_{t},)^{2} = (E_{b} + E_{t})^{2} = E_{CM}^{2}$$

= 0 since $\vec{p}_{t} = -\vec{p}_{b}$

In the lab frame (rest frame of the target particle), most usual case in detection of astrophysical processes:

$$P_{b} = (E_{b}, \vec{p}_{b})$$

$$P_{t} = (m_{t}, \vec{0})$$

$$s = (P_{b} + P_{t})^{2} = (E_{b} + m_{t}, \vec{p}_{b})^{2} = (E_{b} + m_{t})^{2} - p_{b}^{2} =$$

$$= E_{b}^{2} + m_{t}^{2} + 2E_{b}m_{t} - p_{b}^{2} = m_{b}^{2} + m_{t}^{2} + 2E_{b}m_{t} = E_{CM}^{2}$$

$$\rightarrow E_{cm} \propto \sqrt{E_b}$$

reminder: neutrino Xsection with matter

R. Ghandi et al, Astropart. Phys. 5, 81 (1996); J. A. Formaggio, G. P. Zeller, Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1307, 2012

 $P = \sigma N_{A} \rho L$

$$\sigma_{v_v N}^{CC} = 0.677 \times 10^{-38} cm^2 \left(\frac{E_v}{1 \, GeV}\right) \qquad for E_v \leq TeV$$

$$\sigma_{v_v N}^{CC} = 5.53 \times 10^{-36} cm^2 \left(\frac{E_v}{1 \, GeV}\right)^{0.363} \qquad for E_v \geq PeV$$

$$\sigma_{v_v N}^{NC} = 0.28 \times 10^{-38} cm^2 \left(\frac{E_v}{1 \, GeV}\right) \qquad for E_v \leq TeV$$

$$\sigma_{v_v N}^{NC} = 2.31 \times 10^{-36} cm^2 \left(\frac{E_v}{1 \, GeV}\right)^{0.363} \qquad for E_v \geq PeV$$

$$\int_{0}^{10^{-30}} \frac{10^{-30}}{10^{-32}} \sqrt{10^{-32}} \sqrt{10$$

example: interaction length of a ν_{μ} of energy E GeV

[cm² nucl⁻¹] [nucl gr⁻¹] [gr cm⁻³] [cm]

$$L = \frac{P}{\sigma N_A \rho} = \frac{1}{\sigma N_A \rho} = \frac{1}{0.7 \times 10^{-38} E N_A \rho}$$
$$L = \frac{1}{0.7 \times 10^{-38} E 6.022 \times 10^{23} 1} =$$
$$= \frac{1}{4.21 \times 10^{-15} E / GeV} cm$$
$$= \frac{2.37 \times 10^9}{E / GeV} km$$



reminder: neutrino Xsection with matter

R. Ghandi et al, Astropart. Phys. 5, 81 (1996); J. A. Formaggio, G. P. Zeller, Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1307, 2012



 $(1 \text{ barn } = 10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2 \quad 1 \text{ nanobarn } = 10^{-33} \text{ cm}^2)$

neutrino detection principle







Detect Cherenkov light of interaction products



 μ tracks >100m @ E>100 GeV





 e^{+-} :electromagnetic shower τ^{+-} : hadronic shower

neutrino detection principle



Array of optical modules in a transparent medium to detect the light emitted by relativistic secondaries produced in chargedcurrent v-nucleon interactions

Need ns timing resolution

Need HUGE volumes (tiny Xsects & fluxes)

neutrino detection principle





- e, τ , immediately loose energy through radiative processes \rightarrow deposit energy in a localized region around the interaction point
- worst pointing. No lever arm to reconstruct tracks
- better energy estimation through amount of light deposited in the detector

Cherenkov emission



v < c/n



v > c/n

Emission of light by relativistic charged particles traversing a medium at a higher speed than the speed of light in the medium, c/n. The radiation is emitted at a characteristic angle

$$\cos\theta = \frac{1}{\beta n}$$

and it appears above a critical velocity $\beta > 1/n$, ($cos\theta$ must be ≤ 1) which depends on the medium. For the most common case of relativistic particles, $\beta \approx c$, $cos\theta = 1/n$.

Atoms in the vicinity of the particle become polarized and emit coherent radiation when returning to the equilibrium state The number of photons emitted per unit length and wavelength is (α is the EM constant)

$$\frac{dN^2}{dxd\lambda} = \frac{2\pi\alpha}{\lambda^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2} \right)$$

typical wavelengths of emission are ultraviolet-blue

$$\frac{dN}{dx} = 2\pi\alpha\sin^2\theta\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} - \frac{1}{\lambda_2}\right) \text{ photons/cm}$$

\sim 150 photons/cm in water for the relevant λ range.

Note that it is not the particle that emits the radiation, but the material. The particle does not loose energy through Cherenkov radiation and therefore the effect can be used over large distances



Cherenkov emission



simulation of the Cherenkov light emitted by a muon in ice

red: earlier photons ----> blue: late photons (with respect to the muon track)

range/lifetime of a 1 TeV muon

$$E^{2} = p^{2}c^{2} + m^{2}c^{4} \qquad (E = 1 \text{ TeV}, m = 105 \text{MeV}/c^{2})$$

$$E \approx pc = mc\gamma v = mc \frac{v}{\sqrt{1 - v^{2}/c^{2}}} = mc^{2} \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^{2}}}$$

$$\beta = \frac{E/mc^{2}}{\sqrt{1 + E^{2}/m^{2}c^{4}}} \qquad \text{for } E = 10^{6} \text{ MeV}, \quad \beta = 0.999999994$$

$$t' = \frac{t}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}$$

for $\beta = 0.999999994$, $t' = 10^4 t = 10^4 \times 2.2 \times 10^{-6} s = 0.022s$ $v = 0.999999994c \Rightarrow v \approx 3 \times 10^8 m/s$ $L = v \times t \approx 10^3 km$

no energy losses taken into account ! Just time dilation

range/lifetime of a 1 TeV tau

$$E^{2} = p^{2}c^{2} + m^{2}c^{4} \qquad (E = 1 \text{ TeV}, m = 1.78 \text{ GeV} / c^{2})$$
$$E \approx pc = mc\gamma v = mc \frac{v}{\sqrt{1 - v^{2} / c^{2}}} = mc^{2} \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^{2}}}$$

$$\beta = \frac{E/mc^2}{\sqrt{1 + E^2/m^2c^4}} \quad \text{for } E = 10^3 \text{ GeV}, \quad \beta = 0.99999841$$

$$t' = \frac{t}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}$$

for $\beta = 0.999998$, $t' = 561t = 561 \times 290 \times 10^{-15} s = 1.63 \times 10^{-10} s$ $v = 0.999998c \implies v \approx 3 \times 10^8 m / s$ $L = v \times t \approx 0.05m$

no energy losses taken into account ! Just time dilation

energy loss of secondaries in detector medium

what about energy losses? We are talking of HUGE detectors compared with traditional particle physics detectors

 $-dE/dx = \alpha(E) + \beta(E)E$

 α and β material-dependent constants

<u>ionization</u>: \propto 1/m

photonuclear: inelastic interaction of muons with nuclei

pair production:



bremsstrahlung: radiation emitted by an a(de)celerated particle when interacting with the EM field of nuclei in a material, $\propto 1/m^2$



Chrenkov light detection: optical modules



Cherenkov emission



a muon as recorded in IceCube

red: earlier photons ----> blue: late photons (with respect to the trigger time)

timing: need ns resolution

need ns resolution in order to be able to reconstruct muon direction.

Fiber optics provide the desired signal resolution. But:

- expensive for big detectors
 (~km³ instrumented volume)
- not reliable in the extreme conditions of cold/pressure

Copper cables: Robust but signal is delayed in the ~km long path to the data center

→ modern neutrino telescope designs digitize the PMT signal in-situ and send the resulting bit sequence to the computers in the lab in the surface.



collecting light: the photomultiplier tube





A 'reverse lightbulb' : light → electrical pulse

Based on the photoelectric effect:

incident photons eject electrons from a sensitive material deposited on the entrance window

The electrons are accelerated in steps through HV-separated secondary cathodes (dynodes), where the incoming electron ejects more electrons. Dynodes are made of materials with easy secondary electron emission (BeO, Mg-O-Cs, Sb-K-Cs ...)

Operational voltage: several hundred to few thousand V

The whole chain can reach amplification factors of 10⁸

 \rightarrow a measurable electrical pulse is produced: O(few hundred) mV and few ns wide.

Advantage: PMTs are sensitive to individual photons!

Not all incident photons will cause electron emission

→ Quantum efficiency: N_e/N_γ Usually ~20%

Performance determined by window transparency



physics vs technology: what you get and what you see





Cherenkov emission: continuous as a function of $1/\lambda$





lower wavelengths cut-off by OM protective glass transparency



photcathode
sensitivity
to light: need
a minimum hv to
extract electron



higher wavelengths cut-off by photomultiplier tube efficiency

Chrenkov light detection: example, IceCube optical modules



- PMT: Hamamatsu, 10''

-Digitizers:

ATWD: 3 channels. Sampling 300MHz, capture 400 ns

<u>FADC</u>: sampling 40 MHz, capture 6.4 μs

Dynamic range 500pe/15 nsec, 25000 pe/6.4 μ s



- Flasher board:

12 controllable LEDs at $0^\circ~\text{or}~45^\circ$ for calibration purposes

- Dark Noise rate ~ 400 Hz
- Local Coincidence rate ~ 15 Hz
- Deadtime < 1%
- Timing resolution \leq 2-3 ns
- Power consumption: 3W

Clock stability: $10-10 \approx 0.1$ nsec / sec Synchronized to GPS time every ≈ 5 sec with 2 ns precision

the projects

the projects

BAIKAL

KM3NET ANTARES /NESTO

ICECUBE

neutrino telescopes are multipurpose...



... multi-flavour detectors

neutrino event signatures (IceCube examples):





Tau neutrino, CC $v_{\tau} + N \rightarrow \tau + X$

(simulation)



T production

transparent medium: ice/water

event reconstruction by Cherenkov light timing: array of optical modules with ~1ns resolution

 \rightarrow optical properties of the medium of prime importance

absorption length scattering length

South Pole ice (IceCube)	110 m (@ 400nm)	20 m (@ 400nm)
Lake Baikal	25 m (@ 480nm)	59 m (@ 480nm)
Mediterranean (ANTARES/KM3NET)	~60 m (@ 470nm)	100-300 m (@ 470nm

longer absorption length \rightarrow larger effective volume longer scattering length \rightarrow better timing, (ie pointing resolution)

neutrino astronomy possible since

 $\Theta_{\mu\nu} \approx 0.7^{\circ} \cdot (E_{\nu} / \text{TeV})^{-0.7}$



the Baikal neutrino telescope





NT-200

- 8 strings with 192 optical modules
- 72 m height, 1070 m depth
- μ effective area >2000 m² (E_µ>1 TeV)
- Running since 1998

NT-200+

- commisioned April 9, 2005.
- 3 new strings, 200 m height
- 1 new bright Laser for time calibration
- new DAQ
- 2 new 4km cables to shore

the ANTARES neutrino telescope

2.5 Km deep in the Mediterranean

350 m long strings (active height)

14.5 m vertical storey separation

0.04 km³ instrumented volume

effective area ~ $1m^2@ 30 \text{ TeV}$

median angular resolution ~0.4°

25 'storeys' with 3 OMs each

~70 m inter-string separation

12 lines





the IceCube neutrino telescope

86 strings, 5160 optical modules

86 ice tanks on the surface

- ~ 50 GeV energy threshold
- $\sim 1^{\circ}$ angular resolution



IceTop: Air shower detector

80 stations/2 tanks each threshold ~ 300 TeV

1450 m

AMANDA 120m x 450 m

Inice array: 80 Strings 60 Optical Modules 17 m between Modules 125 m between Strings v threshold ≲100 GeV 2450 m

> **DeepCore array:** 6 additional strings 60 Optical Modules 7/10 m between Modules 72 m between Strings v threshold ~10 GeV





Figure 13: A 10-TeV muon track in IceCube.



Figure 14: A 6-PeV muon track in IceCube.

Neutrino telescopes do not have a fixed (hit or miss) collection area.

The efficiency to detect a neutrino of a given energy E_v is characterized by the effective area of the detector, which represents the equivalent area of a detector with 100% detection efficiency

$$A_{eff}(E_{v}) = \frac{N_{det}}{N_{gen}} \times A_{gen}$$

which **can only be obtained by Monte Carlo simulations**. N_{gen} is the number of events generated in Monte Carlo, distributed over an area A_{gen} , which covers the detector geometrically, and N_{det} is the number of surviving events after a given analysis.

→ There is no a unique effective area of a neutrino telescope!
 It depends on the analysis



Galileo's telescope, ~21 cm²

the physics

backgrounds

Hajo Drescher, Frankfurt U.

time = -300 µs

backgrounds

atmospheric muons and neutrinos

μ

some terminology



backgrounds





To identify v's:

- a) use Earth as a filter, ie, look for upgoing tracks, $cos(\theta) < 0$
- b) define "starting tracks" in the detector. Use any angle





$$CR + N \longrightarrow \pi' s + X$$
$$\pi^{+} \rightarrow \mu^{+} + v_{\mu},$$
$$\downarrow \rightarrow e^{+} + v_{e} + \bar{v}_{\mu}$$

$$\dot{e} \rightarrow \mu^{-} + \bar{v}_{\mu}$$

 $\dot{e} \rightarrow e^{-} + \bar{v}_{e} + v_{\mu}$

 π^{-}

expected flavour ratio:

$$\frac{N(v_{\mu} + \overline{v}_{\mu})}{N(v_{e} + \overline{v}_{e})} \approx 2$$



measurements agree with predictions based on the cosmic ray flux and neutrino production physics

atmospheric neutrinos: the prompt component

standard: from π/k decays

 $CR + N \rightarrow \pi' s + X$

$$\pi^{+} \rightarrow \mu^{+} + \nu_{\mu}, \qquad \pi^{-} \rightarrow \mu^{-} + \overline{\nu}_{\mu}$$
$$\stackrel{|}{\rightarrow} e^{+} + \nu_{e} + \overline{\nu}_{\mu} \qquad \stackrel{|}{\rightarrow} e^{-} + \overline{\nu}_{e} + \nu_{\mu}$$

but: π/K are long lived. They loose energy in the atmosphere before decaying. Resulting v's are low-energy



prompt: from charm decays

 $CR + N \rightarrow D^{0,+,-} + X$

Hadrons containing heavy quarks, c or b, are extremely short lived, $c\tau \sim \mu m$. They decay before they have time to loose energy in the atmosphere. Produced neutrinos have higher energies

But: Calculation of charm production needs knowledge of parton distribution functions at low Bjorken x, much smaller than provided by colliders (cosmic rays have energies much higher than any man-made accelerator), and non-perturbative QCD calculations



recap: sources of cosmic neutrinos

cosmic accelerators (point-source searches)



Supernovae



diffuse neutrino flux (all-sky searches)





dark matter (tomorrow's lecture)

diffuse high energy neutrino search: the IceCube discovery



diffuse high energy neutrino search: the IceCube discovery



Expected background:



observed events: 37



 5.7σ deviation from expected atmospheric ν spectrum

diffuse high energy neutrino search: the IceCube discovery



Fermi bubbles: excess of γ and x-rays in extended regions (bubbles) perpendicular to the Galactic Center (Su, Slatyer, Finkbeiner, ApJ. 724, 1044 (2010))

Neutrinos can be produced if hadronic processes involved (Crcker&Aharonian, PRL 106, 101 (2011))



other diffuse neutrino searches: ANTARES Fermi bubbles



4-year (IC40+IC59+IC79+IC86-I) neutrino sky.

total livetime 1371.7 d total number of events: 178000 upgoing 216000 downgoing (atm muons)





4-year (IC40+IC59+IC79+IC86-I) neutrino sky.

total livetime 1371.7 d total number of events: 178000 upgoing 216000 downgoing (atm muons)

5-year ANTARES neutrino sky.

total livetime 1338 d total number of events: 5515 upgoing



-log₁₀ p



search for point sources





Lacking a positive signal, the different collaborations have set limits on the neutrino flux from a selection of potential sources



search for neutrinos from GRBs



Time and position of the bursts taken from satellite data

 \rightarrow low background analysis due to both space and time coincidence search!

fireball protons interact with remnant of the star

fireball protons and photons interact & produce neutrinos which can escape afterglow protons interact with inter-stellar medium







search for neutrinos from GRBs





Main detection: inverse β -decay, $\overline{v}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$ e⁺ tracks about 5 cm in ice Expect ~10⁷ low E (~10 MeV) v's from a SN@10 kpc

- → A nearby Supernova will illuminate uniformly the ice during a very shot time due to the Cherenkov radiation of the positrons produced in the huge amount of neutrino interactions
- → Translates into a collective rate increase, 10^5 'hits'/15 s expected



Disadvantage: no pointing. Need correlation with optical detectors for identification in the sky

- Neutrino telescopes aim at studying the high energy universe
- I hope I have convinced you that this is fun
- IceCube has discovered an excess of neutrinos at energies >50 TeV which is incompatible with known atmospheric neutrino production and it is considered the discovery of high energy cosmic neutrinos
- Individual sources still need to be identified
- KM3NET in the Mediterranean and the IceCube extension at the South Pole being planned to gather more statistics
- Neutrino telescopes also used for particle-physics related topics
- We are in a discovery era!