The first level trigger of JEM-EUSO: concept and tests

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Monitored area: > 1.3 x 10⁵ km² Pixel FoV at ground: ~ 500 - 600 m Time resolution: ~ 2.5 µs





ISS height: 400 km ISS speed: ~ 7.6 km/s Orbit duration: ~ 90 minutes



The 1st level trigger should satisfy the following requirements:

- Keep the average trigger rate on false events (i.e. anthropogenic lights, lightnings, meteors, etc...) below 1 Hz per Elementary Cell.
- Adjust the trigger parameters in order to fire on EAS of energy $E_{thr} < 3 5$ x 10¹⁹ eV) on variable level of light intensity
- It should be implemented on FPGA (Virtex6, XC6VLX240T)
- It should exploit the different time duration of EAS (50 150 µs) compared to other atmospheric phenomena (ms or s)

Trigger Concept:

- The trigger logic works at EC level subdividing it in 144 boxes of 3x3 pixels partially overlapping.
- Boxes can not cross MAPMTs
- Pixel counts over a certain threshold (N) are summed for P consecutive Gate Time Units (GTU = $2.5 \ \mu s$).
- In M ≤ P GTUs there should be a pixel in the box with at least N counts.
- If the summation in P GTUs of a box exceeds a pre-fixed threshold (S) a pre-trigger alert is issued.
- N, P and S values are set based on the average background level (night-sky brightness) according to a LUT.
- N, P and S are set every 128 GTUs (250 µs) at EC level by subdividing the EC in 32 blocks of 4x2 pixels and averaging the count-rate in each block every 128 GTU. Parameters are set based on the block with the highest count-rate.
- If a 3x3 box exceeds the S value, a pre-trigger alert is issued.
- If the number of GTUs with a pre-trigger alert in one EC does not exceed a pre-fixed value (i.e. T = 72) the trigger is issued. If exceeded, the trigger is not issued because the time duration of the event is not compatible with the EAS duration in the box FoV. With this logic, all anthropogenic lights as well as lightning, meteors, etc.. are eliminated because of their much longer duration (ms or s).

off

Signal duration

(pre-trigger and trigger)

72 GTU

MAPMT and 3x3 pixel boxes

Trigger block diagram





Validation of the Trigger logic at TurLab

