Development of an advanced Compton telescope prototype for MeV-range gamma-ray astronomy





MeV range gamma-ray astronomy : a wide range of phenomena

Astrophysical jets

- Active galactic nuclei
- Gamma-ray bursts
- Magnetars, pulsars and X-ray binaries

Nucleosynthesis and chemical evolution of the universe

- Nuclear lines in novae and supernovae
- Diffuse emission of long-lived radioactive isotopes

Cosmic rays physics

- Propagation of cosmic rays in the galaxy
- Effect of low-energy cosmic rays in the interstellar medium

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Jet (beam of matter with relativistic speed) from M87, an active galactic nuclei

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Vela 5B (source : nasa)

August 1963: Nuclear test ban treaty October 1963: First Vela 1A and 1B satellites launch







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First GRB detected by Vela 4 in 1967, Klebesadel et al. 1973

August 1963: Nuclear test ban treaty October 1963: First Vela 1A and 1B satellites launch July 1967: First GRB detection 1990's: GRB distribution is isotropic





9

Gamma-ray bursts jets



Gamma-ray bursts jets



Polarization in GRBs





CD : Compton drag

SR : Synchrotron with random magnetic field (shocks)

Measuring the polarization will rule out some models. It gives a better understanding of the jet mechanism, that points to the physics of the progenitor. 12^{12}

Gamma-ray astronomy : What observables ?



the direction it comes from.



Compton imaging:

$$\theta = \arccos \left| 1 - m_e c^2 \left| \frac{1}{E_2} - \frac{1}{E_1 + E_2} \right| \right|$$

Advanced Compton imaging:

Electron tracking constrain the event circle to an event arc

Compton telescope



Compton image of one source (Zoglauer, 2006)

Advanced Compton telescope



Compton image of one source with an advanced Compton telescope (Zoglauer, 2006)



$$\left|\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right|_{KN} = \frac{r_e^2 \epsilon^2}{2} (\epsilon + \epsilon^{-1} - 2\sin^2\theta \cos^2\phi)$$

with $\epsilon = \frac{E}{E_0}$



Part II

Current instrumental developments

Space mission concepts

Array of tracker+calorimeter modules



Big, very sensitive instrument

One tracker+calorimeter module per nanosatellite



Constellation of nanosatellites for all-time full-sky coverage

Great for studying GRBs

Current instrumental developments



Build a module prototype for a nanosatellite

Current instrumental developments



Build a module prototype for a nanosatellite

The calorimeter

The goals:

- High stopping power
- High spectral resolution
- High spatial resolution

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The calorimeter



Interaction position determination







Experimental setup

The module can move to span all possible positions of interaction

Radioactive source and collimator generate a gamma-ray beam



Module in position 1





Module in position 2

Data characterization

- Events can have different morphologies
- Peaked morphologies are easier to use for position reconstruction







Data characterization

- Events can have different morphologies
- Peaked morphologies are easier to use for position reconstruction
- They can be sorted using a morphological cut
- Unusable data represent less than 15% of the datasets







Artificial neural networks (ANNs)





(x, y)(z)

Artificial neural networks (ANNs)



An artificial neuron



Some meta-parameters of ANNs

- Activation function
- Training algorithm
- Number of layers
- Number of neurons
- What datasets to use ?



Examples of activation function (top: elu, bottom: sigmoid)



Systematic exploration of metaparameters space



Reconstructing the z coordinate

Module in position 1





Module in position 2

Module in position 3



Module in position 4

Some Results

- For the x and y coordinates, an ANN with 2 hidden layers and 20 neurons per layer is a good complexity/performance compromise
- For the z coordinate, we need a more complex ANN (4 hidden layers, 80 neuron per layer)
- For each x, y and z
- coordinate we have a spatial
- resolution of ⟨σ ⟩≈2 mm



Laviron et al., in prep

Spectral resolution





- Spectral resolution without corrections is about 9% @ 662 keV
- Good spatial resolution and proper characterization of the detector allow for corrections and down to 4.5% @ 662 keV



Upcoming work

- Integration of a calorimeter module and a silicon tracker into a working prototype
- Build a module using SiPMs instead of a multi-anode PMT
- Simulations of the actual performance of a nanosatellite
- Test measurements as part of a particle accelerator experiment or during a stratospheric balloon flight





Thank you for your attention