CT Cosmic-Ray Paper Status

Tobias Heibges

37th JemEUSO Collaboration meeting 06/05/2025 Paris



Paper status

- First draft by Eliza and Mahdi
 - Not complete and needs cross checks
- Analysis and simulation chain using OffLine complete
 - Different from simulation chain used by GT group
- Different data analysis strategy
 - Need to cross check cuts
- Main task: Merging analysis that have been performed

Observation of Cosmic Rays above the limb via Cherenkov Telescope on-board EUSO-SPB2 mission

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Abstract. The Extreme Universe Space Observatory on a Super Pressure Balloon 2 (EUSO-SPB2) was launched in May 13, 2023 from Wanaka, New Zealand as a pathfinder, carrying a Fluorescence Telescope (FT) and a Cherenkov Telescope (CT). The Cherenkov Telescope was able to slew and tilt towards neutrino transient targets and use the Earth-skimming technique to observe air-showers from cosmic rays above the limb and search for Very-High-Energy (VHE) tau neutrinos below the Earth's limb (E > 10 PeV). The 1 m^2 Cherenkov telescope was equipped with a 512-pixel silicon photomultiplier camera, covering 12.8° x 6.4° (Horizontal x Vertical) field of view, that utilized a novel stereo optical system. The camera signals were digitized with a 100 MS/s readout system. During its two nights of observation, the CT collected several hours of data from above and below the limb of the Earth. Eventually, the balloon flight was terminated after 36 hours due to an unexpected leak in the balloon. In this work, we report on the analysis of air showers from cosmic rays during above the limb observation.

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CT Flight Operations

Night 1				
Begin Time	End Time	Telescope Status	Tilt	Pointing
06:25:00	08:01:00	Commissioning	-	-
08:01:00	08:12:00	Observations	-5.8°	0.0°
08:12:00	08:23:00	Tilting/Observations	-5.8° to -9.62°	0.0°
08:15:00	08:35:00	Commissioning	-9.62°	0.0°
08:38:00	11:24:00	Observations	-9.62°	0.0°
11:25:00	12:02:00	Observations	-8.62°	0.0°
12:03:00	12:26:00	Tilting/Observations	-8.62° to -2.69°	0.0°
12:26:00	12:42:00	Observations	-2.69°	0.0°
12:43:00	12:55:00	Tilting/Observations	-2.69° to -9.69°	0.0°
12:55:00	13:39:00	Observations	-9.69°	0.0°
13:40:00	13:52:00	Observations	-9.69°	315.0°
13:52:00	-	Shutters Closed	-5.8°	315.0°
Night 2				
Begin Time	End Time	Telescope Status	Tilt	Pointing
05:37:00	05:40:00	Observations	-8.6°	0.0°
05:40:00	05:58:00	Tilting/Observations	−8.6° to −1.68°	0.0°
05:58:00	06:46:00	Observations	-1.68°	Spinning
06:47:00	07:02:00	Tilting/Observations	-1.68° to -7.6°	Spinning
07:02:00	07:10:00	Observations	-7.6°	Spinning
07:10:00	09:24:00	Troubleshooting	-7.6°	Spinning
09:10:00	12:40:00	Observations	-7.6°	Spinning
12:40:00	-	Shutters Closed	-7.6°	Spinning



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Flight Cloud Coverage

- Assumed homogenous cloud cover
 - Night 1: low-level (2km)
 - Night 2: high-level (12km)
- Clouds impact neutrino acceptance
 - Need light creation above clouds
 - Requirement on Energy and tau decay location



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General CT Simulation Chain



Cosmic Ray / **Neutrino Geometry** Sampling

EAS Profile Simulation (Conex)

EAS Cherenkov (EASCherSim)

Light Simulation → Detector Simulation



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Cosmic Ray / EAS Profile EAS Cherenkov Neutrino Geometry Simulation (Conex) Light Simulation Detector Simulation









Cosmic Ray / Neutrino Geometry Simulation (Conex) Sampling

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

Detector Simulation

Cosmic Ray / EAS Simulations

- 1. Sample CR composition from measurements by Auger and TALE
- 2. Inject trajectory into MC EAS Simulation Conex

EAS Profile

3. Use EASCherSim to estimate Cherenkov light production and propagation to detector for each EAS





Cosmic Ray / **Neutrino Geometry** Sampling

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EAS Profile Simulation (Conex)

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

CONEX Longitudinal EAS profile simulation from MC Simulation

Accounts for change in energy (beyond simple scaling)

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Changes in elongation rate based on primary particle

 $\times 10^{\circ}$ 1.0 r = 1 km $\times 10^{16}$ r = 2kmr = 3km0.8 r = 4kmr = 5 kmPhoton Number [1/ns] 70 9.0 9.0 r = 6 kmPhoton Number [1/nm] r = 7 kmr = 8 kmr = 9km0.2 0.0 10^{-1} 10^{0} 10^{2} 10^{4} 10^{1} 10^{3} 300 400 500 600 700 1000 800 900 Time [ns] Wavelength [nm]

EASCherSim Cherenkov light simulation based on longitudinal EAS profile, which provides

Detector Simulation

- Radial photon profile
- Wavelength profile
- Photon timing profile
- Angular photon profile





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Cosmic Ray / Neutrino Geometry Sampling In depth detector simulation OffLine:

EAS / Neutrino Simulation EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

CT

Detector Simulation

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- 1. Optics simulation (GEANT 4)
- 2. Photon PE conversion
- 3. Background simulation
- 4. Optical cross-talk
- 5. Bi-focal trigger
- 6. Signal pile up
- 7. Output pulse shaping
- 8. Digitization
- Result: Can not reproduce camera response accurately
- Event by event level
- Derived quantities like trigger rate

Lack of calibration data / understanding of instrument

Only use parts that can be verified: 1, 2

Need a different approach to estimate the camera response



→ Can we rely purely on data?

Observation time

As per recommendation from the GT group time periods with more than **500events/min** are considered over triggered and are remove

	Observation Time (min)	Events Recorded
Night 1	$50 \rightarrow 35$	$11250 \rightarrow 3305$
Night 2	$136 \rightarrow 112$	$20019 \rightarrow 7694$
Night 2 above limb	$41 \rightarrow 21$	$5537 \rightarrow 1043$
Night 2 below limb	$95 \rightarrow 78$	$14482 \rightarrow 6651$



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Observation Conditions

System	Acceptable range	Status during flight
HVPS	40-44V	\checkmark
LVPS	24-26V	\checkmark
СоВо Тетр	<60C	\checkmark
SiPM Temp	<30C (<25C preferred)	\checkmark
EMONs	<300 pW (<100pW preferred)	x

- Two EMONs mounted above and below the camera
- No clear labeling of EMON1 and EMON2
- 2 Scenarios:
 - One side of the camera sees significantly more light than the other
 - One of the EMONs is malfunctioning



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Trigger Overview

- Number of times a pixels contains the larges peak in the event
- Dominated by a few pixels
- Large discrepancy between top and bottom of camera
- Separate treatment of the backplanes
 - Expected number of counts: $\mu = \frac{N_{events}}{N_{pixels}}$
 - Pixels more than 5σ from expectation are flagged as overtriggering



Baseline distribution

- Baseline defined as the 200 time bins before the main peak of the trace
- Should be free of ringing and other artifacts

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- Unphysical peak in the first 4 time bins
- Ringing and general trend unexplained

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SiPM row 0





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Trigger Threshold Estimation

Baseline distribution can be used to estimate Bi-Focal trigger rate for a trigger threshold "a"

 $P_{ ext{trigger}} = (2 \cdot n_{ ext{timebins}} - 1) \cdot n_{ ext{bifocal partners}} \cdot n_{ ext{pixels}} \cdot P(x > a)^2$

Comparison with triggers found in baseline shown

- Saturation at low PE values because only one trigger can be found in 2us
- Most high PE baseline triggers can be identified as 'bad'-events by eye but the algorithm does not catch them

Background rate threshold of 1E-7 Hz



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Event Criteria

To select signatures that look like EAS signatures

1. The event has to have **two**

bifocal spots each above the PE-threshold

- The triggering pixels are not overtriggering
- 3. The peak occurs in the same 10ns timebin

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Signal classification

C0: Event triggered off cross-talk

C1: Event is within 2 pixels of an overtriggered pixel or in a separate SiPM matrix

C2: Event is on the edge row of pixels

P: Passing event. The event is by itself, with the camera fully operational.

Observation period	Total number of passing events	C0	C1	C2	Р
Night 1 below the limb	0	0	0	0	0
Night 2 above the limb	8	2	1	3	2
Night 2 below the limb	1	0	1	0	0



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Signal classification

C0: Event triggered off cross-talk

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C2: Event is on the edge row of pixels

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Observation period	Total number of passing events	C0	C1	C2	Р
Night 1 below the limb	0	0	0	0	0
Night 2 above the limb	8	2	1	3	2
Night 2 below the limb	1	0	1	0	0



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Cosmic Ray Acceptance - OffLine



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Uncertainty Estimation

- Many effect contributing in different ways
- Very conservative estimates

	Average trigger rate in [Hz]	Deadtime percentage
Night 1	1.57	0.20% - $16.7%$
Night 2	1.14	0.16% - 13.7%
Night 2 above-the-limb	0.83	0.11% - 9.9%
Night 2 below-the-limb	1.42	0.20% - $16.9%$



(N2) (1)			
Observation Period	Effect	Uncertainty	
Night 1	Baseline trend	$0.3\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2	Baseline trend	$0.4\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2 above-the-limb	Baseline trend	$0.4\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2 below-the-limb	Baseline trend	$0.4\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 1	Baseline oscillation	$0.2\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2	Baseline oscillation	$0.2\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2 above-the-limb	Baseline oscillation	$0.3\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2 below-the-limb	Baseline oscillation	$0.2\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 1	Extrapolation	(+0.0067 / -0.0935) PE	
Night 2	Extrapolation	(0.0047 / -0.0653) PE	
Night 2 above-the-limb	Extrapolation	(0.00008 / - 0.0012) PE	
Night 2 below-the-limb	Extrapolation	(0.0140 /- 0.1959) PE	
Night 1	Extrapolation Top BP	(0.0016 / - 0.0228) PE	
Night 2	Extrapolation Top BP	(0.0189 /-0.2648) PE	
Night 2 above-the-limb	Extrapolation Top BP	(0.00004 / -0.0005) PE	
Night 2 below-the-limb	Extrapolation Top BP	(0.0142 / -0.1987) PE	
Night 1	Extrapolation Bottom BP	(0.0171 / - 0.2392) PE	
Night 2	Extrapolation Bottom BP	(0.0023 /-0.0322) PE	
Night 2 above-the-limb	Extrapolation Bottom BP	(0.00004 / - 0.0006) PE	
Night 2 below-the-limb	Extrapolation Bottom BP	(0.0276 /- 0.3862) PE	
Night 1	ADC to PE conversion	16.7%	
Night 2	ADC to PE conversion	33.3%	
Night 2 above-the-limb	ADC to PE conversion	33.3%	
Night 2 below-the-limb	ADC to PE conversion	33.3%	
Night 1	Total	$\pm 11.20\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2	Total	$\pm 17.50\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2 above-the-limb	Total	$\pm 17.50\mathrm{PE}$	
Night 2 below-the-limb	Total	$\pm 17.50\mathrm{PE}$	



System Monitoring

- Calibrated Health-LED
 - Flashes at 5 different intensities
- Average values around the central peak



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Expected number of CR

Where in the camera do simulated passing events occur?

Distribution in the camera matches location of events



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 - Different from simulation chain used by GT group
- Different data analysis strategy
 - Need to cross check cuts
- Main task: Merging analysis that have been performed
- Remaining Items:
 - Simulating finer grain energy bins
 - Simulating more statistics
 - Merging analysis
 - Finish writing remaining sections

Observation of Cosmic Rays above the limb via Cherenkov Telescope on-board EUSO-SPB2 mission

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Thank you!





Fig 1 Left: Schmidt catadioptric optics of the Cherenkov telescope. The mirrors focus the light onto the curved focal plane located between the corrector plate and the mirror. Middle: CAD drawing of the camera without housing. Right: Half assembled camera (Lego figures for scale).





Fig 2 Left and Middle: The bi-focal optics duplicates the image and projects it to two separate locations in the camera. The telescope readout is triggered if two pixels separated by the bi-focal split record a signal within 100 ns. Right: Partially assembled camera and the readout electronics.

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Fig 3 Left: SPB2 Cherenkov telescope mirrors and camera. Right: Simulated snapshot of the SPB2 bifocal optics in GrOptics.





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Fig 9 Label sections on the plot (first and last overtriggered runs, gap for threshold adjustment, events faster then the dead time, etc). Change x-axis to hrs in UTC, should I make this plot with a trigger time on y axis as well or dt? total time observed is 45min, however at the beginning there and end of the run there are over-triggered data runs. also there was a 10min gap in data taking after the first run to adjust the trigger threshold. Therefore he total observation time with all the dead time subtracted is: ???? calculate this.

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Camera Characterization



Backplane discrepancy

- Number of times a pixels contains the larges peak in the event
- Dominated by a few pixels
- Large discrepancy between top and bottom of camera
 - Expectation Poissonian distribution with mean: $\mu = \frac{N_{events}}{N_{pixels}}$
 - Difference between top and bottom $>5\sigma$
- Separate treatment of the backplanes
 - Pixels that contain more triggers than 5σ from expectation are flagged as overtriggering



Night 2 above limb



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Event Criteria

To select signatures that look like EAS signatures

- The event has to have two bifocal spots each above the PE-threshold
- The triggering pixels are not overtriggering
- The peak occurs in the same
 10ns timebin



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Overtriggering pixels

- Dominated by a few pixels
- Large discrepancy between top and bottom of camera
 - Expectation Poissonian distribution with mean: Nevents/Npixels
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- Separate treatment of the backplanes
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Night 2 above limb



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2025

Trigger Overview

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Overtriggering pixels

- Number of times a pixels contains the larges peak in the event
- Dominated by a few pixels
- Large discrepancy between top and bottom of camera
- Separate treatment of the backplanes
 - Expected number of counts: $\mu = \frac{N_{events}}{1}$
 - $\mu \frac{1}{N_{pixels}}$
 - Pixels more than 5σ from expectation are flagged as overtriggering

	Number of masked pixels	Top BP	Bottom BP	Camera fraction
Night 1	37	24	13	7.2%
Night 2	23	8	15	4.5%



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Overtriggering pixels

- Number of times a pixels contains the larges peak in the event
- Dominated by a few pixels
- Large discrepancy between top and bottom of camera
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Baseline distribution

- Baseline defined as the 200 time bins before the main peak of the trace
- Should be free of ringing and other artifacts
- Unphysical peak in the first 4 time bins
- Ringing and general trend unexplained



CR-Simulation



Cosmic Ray Simulations





Detector Simulation

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Expected CR Number

The expected number of CRs for the EUSO-SPB2 flight

$$N = \int \mathcal{A}(E) N_{\text{injected}}(E) \, dE$$

where

$$N_{\text{injected}} = A_{\text{throw}} \Omega_{\text{throw}} T_{\text{obs}} E \Phi_e(E)$$



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Calculating Expected CR rate

- 1. Mimic the distribution of VHECRs
 - 1. Inject CR trajectories homogenously and isotropically
 - 2. Sample the CR type composition
 - 3. Build first visibility cuts
- 2. EAS shower simulation
 - 1. Longitudinal shower simulation using MC framework Conex
 - 2. Cherenkov light simulation and propagation through the Atmosphere using EASCherSim
- 3. Estimate the detector response
 - 1. Simplified detector response model on all showers
 - 2. More in depth simulation on passing showers
- 4. Apply signal search cuts to events
- 5. Calculate the acceptance of the detector as a function of energy
- 6. Numerically integrate the product of expected flux and acceptance



Cosmic Ray Acceptance - OffLine



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Calculating Expected CR rate

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CR Flux

 Power-law fit to HAWC, TALE and Auger data

$$\Phi(E) = A \cdot E^B$$

Parameter	Value	Uncertainty
А	$2.16 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ eV}^{-1} \text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$	$\pm 0.76 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ eV}^{-1} \text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$
В	-2.94	± 0.01





Cosmic Ray / **Neutrino Geometry** Sampling

EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

Neutrino Simulation (NuSpaceSim)

3.

4.



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- Sample CR composition from measurements 1.
- 2. Inject trajectory into MC EAS Simulation Conex
- 3. Use EASCherSim to estimate Cherenkov light production and propagation to detector for each EAS



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Samples v_T interaction and T propagations in the Earth to estimate P_{exit} based on NuPyProp/NuLeptonSim tables

Detector Simulation



- Samples T probability based on exponential decay and produces EAS
- Uses NuSpaceSim internal EAS model or samples EASCherSim shower library

Detector Simulation



Detector Response - OffLine

- Optics simulation (GEANT 4)
- Photon to photoelectron conversion
- Background simulation
- Optical cross-talk
- Bi-focal trigger logic with 50ns coincidence window
 - Hardware and Software trigger to detect true bi-focal events
- Signal pile up

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- Minimum resolvable signal 30ns
- Output pulse shaping
 - Based on delta function input combined with cross-talk
 - Does not fully recover edge cases
- Digitization saturation

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- To be cross checked against
 - Data, GT Simulation chain, Lab tests



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Detector Response - Background simulation

- Based on estimated night sky background measurements from SPB2
- PE rate of ~180MHz
- Implemented in OffLine by sampling from Poisson distribution with a mean of 1.8PE per digitization bin



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Detector Response - Pile Up and Pulse Shaping

- Pile up:
 - Minimum pulse shape resolution of 30ns
 - 30ns sliding window
- Pulse shaping:
 - 1ps laser response curves for different input PEs
 - Pick closest trace in PEs



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Detector Response -Photons to Photoelectrons



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- Photon detection efficiency (PDE):
 - Peak around 480 nm
 - Range 200nm to 1000nm
 - Constant with incoming angles of -60° to 60°
 - PDE was applied to the incoming photons in OffLine



Detector Response – Simplified model

10

5 -

0

Camera Geometry

Wavelength dependent PE-threshold

Includes:

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- ACP through put
- Mirror reflectivity
- SiPM efficiency
- Gap estimation

Close to absolute calibration efficiency measured in the field

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0

PSF

PSF Projection

og₁₀(Intensity)

10

10

5

0



Detector Response - Trigger

- Hardware Trigger
 - Coincident signal between two neighboring music chips within 50ns.
 - Does not mean a bifocal pair...
- Software Trigger
 - Requires that two triggering pixels are a bifocal pair.
- Implemented by Diksha Garg





Above the limb Cosmic Rays

First pass at signal searches:

- Only high amplitude events (>800 ADC counts)
- Several CR candidates while looking above the limb
- Some unidentified signals

	Night 1	Night 2	
Event type	Number	Number	
Cosmic Ray Candidates	15	19	
Extended events	20	5	
Up-going extended events	1	0	
Health LED or Bad Events	170	16	
Total	205	57	









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Cosmic Ray / Neutrino Geometry Sampling

EAS / Neutrino Simulation EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

FOV

Light Simulation → Detector Simulation

Geometries:

- CRs: Isotropic and homogenous
- Diffuse neutrinos: Isotropic and homogenous
- ToO neutrinos: Quasi parallel





Cosmic Ray / **Neutrino Geometry** Sampling

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EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov (EASCherSim)

Light Simulation → Detector Simulation



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Cosmic Ray / Neutrino Geometry Sampling + EAS / Neutrino Simulation (EASCherenkov (EASCherSim) + Detector Simulation









Shower Library









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Passing Events



Below limb



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Above limb





Above limb



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Above limb






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