Neutrino Search with ToO: Analysis, ICRC proceedings, and Journal Paper

Tobias Heibges



ICRC Proceedings / Journal Paper

- Proceedings are mostly written
- Analysis mostly complete
- Journal paper will be extension of ICRC proceedings

PROCEEDING ^{OF} SCIENCE

Using the Cherenkov Telescope onboard EUSO-SPB2 for Target of Opportunity searches of very high energy neutrino sources

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P₂S

The Extreme Universe Space Observatory on a Super Pressure Balloon 2 (EUSO-SPB2) mission launched from Wanaka New Zealand on May 13 2023. The onboard Cherenkov Telescope (CT) was pointed just below Earth's horizon to conduct Target of Opportunity (Tol) observations, in order to follow up on possible sources of >10PeV neutrinos. For these observations, the earth is used as a tau-neutrino to tau-lepton converter, and the CT searches for optical signals from extensive air showers induced by tau-lepton decays. The EUSO-SPB2 mission lasted 36h due to a leak in the balloon, resulting in a loss of the payload in the Pacific Ocean. In this contribution, we will present possible neutrino source candidates that crossed the CT's field of view of 6.4° x 12.8° during the two nights of observation, and their associated neutrino fluence limits. These observations demonstrate the viability of conducting ToO follow-up observations from a near space environment. We will present our new software tool designed for scheduling observations, the Neutrino Target Scheduler, and our prospects for conducting ToO searches with the future mission POEMMA Balloon with Radio, a scaled-down version of the Probe Of Extreme Multi-Messenger Astrophysics (POEMMA) design.

PRIMA CONTRACTOR



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Earth Skimming Technique



1. Neutrino source crosses through detector FoV

 A v_τ interacts and produces a τ 3. The **t** decays and produces an EAS. **4.** Detector triggers on Cherenkov **signal**



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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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ToO Sources Candidates



Example ToO Source

- Example source chosen:
 - Fermi 705413051 alert
 - GRB 230510A
- Observed at:
 - 12:04:06.93 on 10 May 2023
 - RA: 318, DEC: 34
 - T90: 144s
- Total time in the FoV:

• 35s

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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



General CT Simulation Chain



EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim) → Detector Simulation

NUTS (Neutrino Target Scheduler)

- Collects alerts from alert networks
 - **GCN** (Uniform alert messages): GRBs, neutrinos, GW, ...
 - **TNS** (Machine readable): SN, TDEs, FRB,...
 - ATels (Human radable): AGN/Balzar Flares, ...
- Calculate position of source in sky based on detector location
 - Flight logs, Constant position, kml file predictions from CSBF
- During Astronomical night calculates when a source would be in observable band (0-6.4deg from limb)
- Select subset of sources based on prioritization scheme
 - Relative distance to source
 - Relative occurrence rate
 - Time source is in FoV



Source Type	Priority
Galactic transient	1
Binary neutron star mergers	2
Tidal disruption events	3
Flaring blazar or active galactic nuclei	4
Gamma-ray bursts	5
Supernovae outside of the galaxy	6
Other transients	7
Steady sources	8



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Neutrino Simulation (NuSpaceSim)

- 2. Samples v_{τ} interaction and τ propagations in the Earth to estimate P_{exit} based on NuPyProp/NuLeptonSim tables
- 3. Samples T probability based on exponential decay and produces EAS
- 4. Uses NuSpaceSim internal EAS model or samples EASCherSim shower library

EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

Detector Simulation





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EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

\rightarrow Detector Simulation





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EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

Detector Simulation





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EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

→ Detector Simulation







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EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov Light Simulation (EASCherSim)

Detector Simulation

In depth detector simulation OffLine:

- 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?



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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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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



Observation Period	PE threshold	Top BP threshold	Bottom BP threshold
Night 1	67	64	66
Night 2 above the limb	53	34	53
Night 2 below the limb	47	47	44

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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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ToO Source Acceptance- GRB 230510A



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ToO Source Sensitivity- GRB 230510A

- Comparison of CT Sensitivity with other experiments
- Overlayed is a GRB fluence model for a distance of
 - 200pc

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- Redshift z=1 (~6.7Gpc)
- Expected number of events in 35s at z=1 (~6.7Gpc)

$$N_{\nu,1,\text{clouds}} = 2.9^{+4.0}_{-2.1} \cdot 10^{-26}$$
$$N_{\nu,2,\text{clouds}} = 6.6^{+9.4}_{-4.6} \cdot 10^{-24}$$
$$N_{\nu,1,\text{no clouds}} = 8.6^{+1.2}_{-7.4} \cdot 10^{-18}$$
$$N_{\nu,2,\text{no clouds}} = 2.0^{-2.6}_{-1.7} \cdot 10^{-15}.$$

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ICRC Proceedings / Journal Paper

- Proceedings are mostly written
- Analysis mostly complete
 - $\circ\,$ Needs to be cross checked
 - Change units to standard units
 - Rerun more statistics
- Journal paper will be extension of ICRC proceedings
 - Include different sources
 - Projection using SuperBit/Simulated trajectories
 - Fit measured light curve with power law
 - Will include fluence weighting by measured light curve

PROCEEDIN

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Thank you!



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



Event Criteria

To select signatures that look like EAS signatures

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



Overtriggering pixels

- Dominated by a few pixels
- Large discrepancy between top and bottom of camera
 - Expectation Poissonian distribution with mean: Nevents/Npixels
 - Difference between top and bottom >5sigma
- Separate treatment of the backplanes
 - Pixels that contain more triggers than 5sigma from expectation are flagged as overtriggering

Night 2 above limb



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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
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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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System Monitoring

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



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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



Observation time

- Commissioning and testing lead to frequent on-off changes
- As per recommendation from the GT group time periods with more than 500events/min are considered over triggered and are remove
- Nominal dead-time of 1.44ms per event

	Observation Time (min)	Events Recorded
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Data Calibration

- Calibration performed by GT-team
- Compensates for
 - Temperature of SiPMs
 - Voltage settings
- Based on peak offset from baseline



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



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



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

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- Does not fully recover edge cases
- Digitization saturation

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



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

-5 -

 $-10 \cdot$

-10

Camera Geometry

Ω

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



PSF

Ω

10

5

0

-10

-5

10

PSF Projection

0

10

10

5

0

-5

-10

10

-10

og₁₀(Intensity)

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



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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

	1. Mar. 1. J.	
	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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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



EAS / Neutrino Simulation

EAS Cherenkov (EASCherSim)

Light Simulation → Detector Simulation





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







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NuSpaceSim

Diksha Garg et al. Neutrino propagation in the Earth and emerging charged leptons with nuPyProp. JCAP, 01:041, 2023. doi: 10.1088/1475-7516/2023/01/041.

- Monte Carlo Simulation tool for Earth skimming neutrino searches from above
- Designed for diffuse neutrinos
- Calculates:
 - Neutrino Interaction probability
 - Earth emergence probability
 - Tau-lepton decay location
 - Airshower profile
 - Cherenkov light production
 - Cherenkov light at a detector





Diksha Garg et al. Neutrino propagation in the Earth and emerging charged leptons with nuPyProp. JCAP, 01:041, 2023. doi: 10.1088/1475-7516/2023/01/041.

Shower Library









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Sensitivity Expectation



Sensitivity Calculation

The sensitivity is given by:

$$\mathcal{F}_{\rangle} = \frac{2.44}{\ln(10) \cdot E_{\nu_i} \cdot \mathcal{A}(E_{\nu_i})}$$

Where the effective area is:

$$\mathcal{A}(E_{\nu_{\tau}}) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} dt \mathcal{A}(t, E_{\nu_{\tau}})$$

And changes as the source moves in the sky



ToO Source

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Passing Events



Below limb



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