Towards precision VHE gamma-ray astronomy in the CTA-LST era

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- ATMOSCOPE (CTA site evaluation, 9 candidate sites, 6 countries)
- MAGIC LIDAR system
- Atmospheric calibration method for MAGIC
- multi-year obs. campaign of Galactic Center
- Analysis software for extended sources
- Observation scheduler for MAGIC
- Convener of ATCA and Galactic WG



Imaging Air Cherenkov Telescopes and CTA in a nutshell



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Atmospheric calibration using LIDAR measurements

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The effect of clouds/aerosols in the field of view



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The MAGIC LIDAR system (measuring transmission)



- Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) system operating alongside with MAGIC
- ► Using 25 µJ pulse energy, 532 nm pulsed laser ('micro'-LIDAR)
- Hybrid Photo Detector (HPD) for single photon counting
- GAsP photocathode for high QE (> 50%)
- Automatically slave-tracking MAGIC coordinates on robotic mount

image credit: Robert Wagner, Matthias Bergmann

New analysis technique for elastic LIDAR measurements

- Plot: solid angle corrected back-scattered **ph.e. counts** v.s. **altitude**
- Example: real data with cloud and aerosol layer (small zenith distance)
- Assumption: clear air regions with dominant Rayleigh scattering (532nm) ►
- Method: fitting/comparing Rayleigh model to LIDAR data in sliding window ►
- Final result: integral transmission to ground ►



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1st order: instrument response is function of observed energy $A(E_{obs.})$

Correcting Crab Nebula data (7h low transmission sample, unfolded)



- Crab Nebula spectrum (standard candle, ApJ 674, not a fit!)
- Before correction: flux underestimated by ~ 40%
- After correction: good match, considering the bad quality of the data

First successful atmospheric correction method for IACTs based on LIDAR

- Presented at several conferences: arXiv:1403.3591, EPJ Web of Conferences 89, 02003 (2015)
- Paper currently being finalized (together with Markus Gaug)
- First papers applying the method to scientific data:
 - Mrk501 MWL campaign (Furniss et al, ApJ, 812 (2015) 65) only 5h of 22h surviving standard cuts, 10 more h recovered using this method
 - V339 Del nova outburst (Ahnen et al. A&A, (2015), 582, A67) adjustment of upper limits
- Plans for future (CTA):
 - Implement for use with first (LST) science data
 - Adapt/improve (new instruments, Raman LIDAR, better calibration)
 - Explore more sophisticated methods (tailored Monte Carlo)

Studying the VHE emission from the Galactic Center

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image source: http://images.nrao.edu

- ► GC hosts Super Massive Black Hole (SMBH) (4 · 10⁶ M_☉)
- very dense and active astrophysical environment
- considered good place to search for DM annihilation/decay



image source: ESO

- Gas cloud of $3 m_{\uparrow}$ on its way towards SgrA^{*} (S. Gillessen et al. 2012)
- Pericentre passage 2013-2014, at ~ 2000 r_g (S. Gillessen et al. 2013)
- Possible interaction with the SMBH
- \Rightarrow Monitoring campaigns triggered in nearly all wavelengths (radio to γ rays)
- Observations by MAGIC in 2012 2015 (and also 2016)
- Publishing paper in A&A (accepted for publication, arXiv:1611.07095)

- ► Culmination: ~58° Zd
- Observation between 58° and 70°
- Larger light pool size
- Cherenkov light diluted
- Enhanced absorption
- Energy threshold × 4 to 10
- Collection area × 4 to 10



Light curve during G2 pericentre passage

- MAGIC light curve for the central point-like (SgrA*) source: E > 1 TeV, E > 10 TeV
- Integration radius 0.1° around SgrA*
- Only very good quality 2012/13/14/15 data (~67h)
- Flux compatible with constant in all energy bands
- Also no reports about unusual flux variability in other wavebands



Spectral energy distribution (SED)

- MAGIC SED compared to other previous measurements
- Integration radius 0.1° around SgrA*, ~67h of very good quality 2012/13/14/15 data
- Power law with exponential cutoff fit (forward folding):

 $\frac{\mathrm{d}F}{\mathrm{d}E} = (7.26 \pm 0.89)\,\mathrm{cm}^{-2}\mathrm{s}^{-1}\mathrm{TeV}^{-1}\left(\frac{E}{2\,\mathrm{TeV}}\right)^{(-1.85 \pm 0.13)}\,\mathrm{exp}^{-}\frac{E}{(7.57 \pm 2.29)\,\mathrm{TeV}}$



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Sky Map of the GC region - fitting/subtracting known sources

- Excess in units of background $(N_{on} N_{off})/N_{off}$ with TS significance contours
- ▶ Point-like emission from the locations of SgrA* and G0.9+0.1 (left: fitted/subtracted)
- Diffuse emission from along the Gal. plane (ridge seen by H.E.S.S.)
- New source MAGIC J1746.4-2853 at location of radio Arc
- Possible coincidence with 3FGL J1746.3-2851c, HESS J1746-285 and VER J1746-289
- Possible counterparts/scenarios:
 - Bremsstrahlung from cosmic electrons in MCs? (Yusef-Zadeh et al., 2013)
 - CRs (past activity of SgrA* or Supernovae) interacting with MC (Oka et al. 2001)?
 - PWN candidate at location of the source (Lemiere et al. 2015)
- Complex morphology, difficult to analyze with available software (opt. for point srcs.)!



New software tools for extended sources

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Motivation and concept

- Energy spectra from arbitrary morphology and sky pos.
- ► Spatially overlapping components ⇒ simultaneous fit required!
- Developing software tools with levgen Vovk and Marcel Strzys
- Energy bin-wise Poissonian likelihood fit
- Similar to Fermi analysis





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The ingredients for the fit

On-events

Background model

 γ -Exposure (MC) PSF (MC)



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The ingredients for the fit

On-events

Background model

 γ -Exposure (MC) PSF (MC)



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The ingredients for the fit

On-events

Background model

 γ -Exposure (MC) PSF (MC)



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Modeling the emission form the GC region

- Fitting single point source at position of SgrA* (left: SED, right: observation/model/residuals for 2nd E bin)
- All results are still preliminary!



Modeling the emission form the GC region

- Including point sources at position of radio Arc and G0.9
- All results are still preliminary!



Modeling the emission form the GC region

- ▶ Including also CS dist. (tracer for dense molecular material \rightarrow CR target)
- All results are still preliminary!



- Developed new LIDAR based technique for calibrating IACT data
 - Method performs well and reduces systematic errors
 - Can be implemented for CTA-LSTs, especially for first science data
 - Plans for CTA: implementation, improvements, new instruments, new techniques
- Observing GC with MAGIC during G2 fly-by (since 2012)
 - Paper accepted by A&A (arXiv:1611.07095)
 - Detailed study of spectrum and light curve (no variability)
 - New emission region close to radio Arc of unknown nature
 - Complex morphology needs new analysis tools
 - Plans for CTA: GC is important target, LSTs can continue HZD study from LP
- Developing new analysis software with levgen Vovk and Marcel Strzys
 - Likelihood fit of spatial model to sky maps in spectral bins
 - First results look promising, final release within few months
 - Second publication on GC diffuse emission in the pipeline
 - Plans for CTA: mandatory for Gal. science, already collaborating with DL3 WG
- Other activities for MAGIC and CTA:
 - ATMOSCOPEs for site selection (Fruck et al., J. Inst. 10, P04012 (2015))
 - Scheduler for MAGIC observations (in team of 3)
 - Convener of the Gal. physics WG (4) and ATCA WG (2)
- Plan for MAGIC: investigate possibility of making operation (semi)-robotic

Thanks for your attention!

Backup

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General Background

IACTs in context of other Instruments



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Short excursion: How are VHE γ -rays produced?

- > γ -rays in the TeV regime are exclusively of non-thermal origin.
- They are always produced as a by-product of the acceleration of charged particles to VHE
- The favored acceleration scenarios are: Diffusive shock acceleration and acceleration in rotating magnetic fields (Pulsars, BH plerions)
- Leptonic γ prod.: Bremsstrahlung, Curvature radiation, Inverse Compton scattering (IC)
 – mostly on synchrotron radiation produced by the same population (SSC)
- Hadronic γ prod.: decay of π^0 form pp interaction







image credit: Robert Wagner / CORSIKA

Detection technique - Imaging Air Cherenkov Telescopes



- The two cameras consist of 1039 photomultiplier pixels each (3.5° FoV)
- Events last only a few ns
- Different coincidence criteria (charge concentration in small region of camera in one and simultaneous such events in both telescopes) required for the events to be recorded
- Typical CR event rate 300 Hz
- Event classification offline via Random Forests



The MAGIC telescopes

- Imaging Air-shower Cherenkov Telescopes for observing γ -rays from 80 GeV to 30 TeV
- located on the Roque de los Muchachos (at 2200 m a.s.l.) on the Canary island La Palma
- two 17m diameter parabolic dish, f/D = 1, telescopes
- photomultiplier (PMT) cameras with 1039 pixels recording at 2CS/s
- support structure from carbon fiber



image credit: Robert Wagner

ATMOSCOPE
Site search instrumentation for CTA



- Autonomous Tool for Measuring Observatory Site COnditions PrEcisely
- deployed at several CTA site candidates and taking data since ~ 2 years
- paper published in JINST (Instrumentation for comparing night sky quality and atmospheric conditions of CTA site candidates, Fruck et al. 2015)

- Total of 9 ATMOSCOPES deployed in 6 countries
- One LONS-only in La Palma



ATMOSCOPE LoNS sensor



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Scheduling



LIDAR

Light scattering in the atmosphere at 532nm



Rayleigh scattering

- always present
- scattering on molecular dipoles
- λ^{-4} dependency

Mie/aerosol scattering

- only important in boundary layer and inside clouds
- scattering on water droplets or aerosol/ice particles
- (comparably) weak wavelength dependency
- enhanced cross-section for forward scattering
- plot: example for a dielectric water sphere of $d = 10\lambda$

The MAGIC LIDAR system





$$dN(r) = N_0 C G(r) \frac{A}{r^2} \beta(r) dr \exp\left(-2 \int_0^r \sigma(r') dr'\right)$$

- N₀,dN(r): photons: in laser pulse, in range bin
- C,G(r): overall efficiency, overlap (laser-FOV) and focus effects
- $\frac{A}{r^2}$: solid angle (detector seen from location of scattering)
- ► $\beta(r)$ dr: volume backscattering coefficient times range bin length
- $\exp\left(-2\int_0^r \sigma(r') dr'\right)$ total attenuation on the way
- two unknown functions: $\beta(r)$ and $\sigma(r)$
- $\frac{1}{r^2}$ dependency demands for high dynamic range

Examples: Few high altitude clouds



Examples: Mid altitude clouds



Collection area correction strategy:



- only correcting the energy is not sufficient: A_{eff} (from MC) is still wrong
- $A_{eff} = A_{sim} \cdot N_{rec} / N_{sim}$ is estimated using MC assuming optimal conditions
- events affected by atmospheric extinction "mimic an events of lower energy"
- energy correction + binning \rightarrow migration matrix
- recalculating A_{eff} by applying matrix to vector of inverse A_{eff} from MC

Some corr. examples:



LIDAR: range corrected photon counts

- last days with "Calima" (Sahara dust intrusion) in beginning of September 2013
- should be easy to correct since shower is not "deformed" by aerosol laver

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- transmission is at constantly ~ 80%
- about 20% upscaling of the energy will be needed ...







- this is a "horrible" example of cloudy sky conditions that can occur on La Palma from time to time
- it is hard to believe that IACTs can work properly under such conditions



- actually part of the data (>50%) had to be removed because the transmission was below 40% for the given sample
- here air-showers get "truncated" and therefore the "hadronnes"





LIDAR: range corrected photon counts

- another quite cloudy example from Dec 24th 2013
- this time medium level clouds of quite high opacity



- another quite cloudy example from Dec 24th 2013
- this time medium level clouds of quite high opacity



Larger data sample:





- Degree of improvement becomes clear only when comparing the χ^2 values in respect to the spectrum published in ApJ 674
- Before correction: 458 with 7 degrees of freedom
- After correction: 22 with 7 degrees of freedom

Galactic Center

Milky Way galaxy:



- disk (30 kpc x 0.3 kpc): young stars, gas, molecular clouds, dust
- bar (4.5 kpc) and bulge (1.5 kpc): old stars low star formation
- Galactic Center (250 pc): dense molecular clouds high star formation rate

image source: ESO/S. Brunier

GC region in 20cm, 1.1mm, IR



- VLA (20cm): H II regions that are illuminated by hot, massive stars, supernova remnants, and synchrotron emission
- Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (1.1mm): cold (20-30 K) dust associated with molecular gas
- Spitzer (IR): primarily emission from stars and from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

image source: http://images.nrao.edu

Radio sources SgrA and SgrA*



- bright point-like radio source
- at the center of SgrA-West (Mini-Spiral)
- at the edge of SNR SgrA-East
- thought to be SMBH
- from stelar motions: $\approx 4 \cdot 10^6 M_{\odot}$



image source (left): N. E. Kassim, D. S. Briggs, T. J. W. Lazio, T. N. LaRosa, J. Imamura (NRL/RSD) image source (right): astro.ucla.edu

The Galactic Center S-star cluster — stellar motion reveals the SMBH



- few 10 OB stars confined inside the central arc-sec around SgrA*
- star S2 periastron: 120 AU, period: 15.6 y

refer to for example: Ghez, A. M., et al. The Astrophysical Journal 509.2 (1998): 678.



- resolution only reasonable for E > 1 GeV
- hint for G0.9+01, Arc?

H.E.S.S. and Veritas



Galactic longitude [deg]

 Total observability throughout the year (only about 1/3 of the year available for monitoring)



Due to limited trigger delay between both telescopes, part of the observable window is lost

- ► Collection area increases with $1/cos(Zd)^2$ $A_{col,60^{\circ}Zd}/A_{col,0^{\circ}Zd} \approx 4$ $A_{col,70^{\circ}Zd}/A_{col,0^{\circ}Zd} \approx 9$
- Influence of the Atmosphere is increasing → need good weather conditions
- Need dark conditions for reasonable energy threshold
- Stereo power is decreasing?
- Focusing?
- MAGIC standard analysis is not optimized for HZD? However, the analysis seems to work quite well!

Lightcurve fitted with:

$$F(t) = F_0 + \alpha (t[MJD] - 56000)$$



Spectral Energy Density (SED) – MAGIC + Fermi

► Correlated fit:
$$\frac{dF}{dE} = f_{0,1} \left(\frac{E}{5 \text{ GeV}}\right)^{\alpha_1 + \beta_1 \log\left(\frac{E}{5 \text{ GeV}}\right)} + f_{0,2} \left(\frac{E}{3 \text{ TeV}}\right)^{\alpha_2 + \beta_2 \log\left(\frac{E}{3 \text{ TeV}}\right)}$$



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SED including 2015 Fermi data and models



- peculiar 2-bump structure none-trivial for modeling
- hadronic scenarios are exploiting morphology (target) and time variability (source)
- leptonic models have problems explaining the spectral shape with single source
- the available data does not yet allow discrimination of models

Origin of the extended emission

- good correlation between 90 cm radio image and TeV skymap
- ► G0.9 is known TeV source (Aharonian et al., 2005)
- radio Arc has TeV counterpart (not previously studied in TeV, Fermi GeV data available)
- $\Rightarrow\,$ developed method for calculating spectrum from the elliptical region defined by the radio image



radio image: N. E. Kassim, D. S. Briggs, T. J. W. Lazio, T. N. LaRosa, J. Imamura (NRL/RSD)

Attempting to calculate spectrum of the Arc

On-Skymap



Background estimate (oversampled)



SEDs from skymap regions

10³

E [GeV]

10⁴

Source candidates for extended emission



- Expanding giant molecular cloud G0.11-0.11 exactly matching the coordinates of MAGIC excess (M. Tsuboi et al. 1997) — possible origin: 10 - 100 SNE
- Possible origin of Arc γ-radiation from GMC G0.11-0.11 maybe interaction of linear filaments and expanding GMC?
- Fe K_α emission either X-ray echo of SgrA* (M. Clavel et al. 2013) flare or excited by CRs (F. Yusef-Zadeh et al. 2013)
- Are same CRs also producing the TeV emission?

Simple hadronic model for GeV-TeV emission from the Arc

- Yusef-Zadeh et al., 2013 modeling Fermi data with e⁻-Bremsstrahlung
- are γ rays from π_0 decay also possible? (formul.: Aharonian et al., 2013)
- ▶ assuming CR interaction with G0.11-0.11 ($6.3 \cdot 10^5 M_{\odot}$) (Handa et al. 2006)
- single power-law spectrum with exponential cut-off (for protons)



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- ► Flux for the central object (GC/SgrA*): $F_{E>1 \text{ TeV}} \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, $F_{E>2 \text{ TeV}} \approx 1 \cdot 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, $F_{E>5 \text{ TeV}} \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$
- This corresponds to ≈20 evts/h, ≈15 evts/h, ≈7 evts/h in case of MAGIC taking into account the average effective collection areas
- The observations are of course not background free
- \Rightarrow We are quite statistics limited, especially at high energies
 - Also, because of the detection technique the angular resolution is always worse than 0.05°

Systematics

What changes when going to large Zd?

Systematic effect	Uncertainty	_	
F-Factor	10% ES	-	
atmospheric transmission	$\lesssim 10\%$ ES		15%
mirror reflectivity	8% ES	-	
PMT electron collection efficiency	5% ES	-	
light collection in a Winston Cone	5% ES	-	
PMT quantum efficiency	4% ES	-	
signal extraction	3% ES	-	
temperature dependence of gains	2% ES	-	
charge flat-fielding	2-8% ES FN	-	
analysis and MC discrepancies	\lesssim 10-15% FN		?
background subtraction	1-8% FN		
broken channels/pixels	3% FN	-	
mispointing	1-4% FN	-	
NSB	1-4% FN	-	
trigger	1% FN	-	
unfolding of energy spectra	0.1 SL	_	
non-linearity of readout	0.04 SL	-	

Table: J. Aleksic et al. 2012, Astroparticle Physics 35, 2012, 435448

Systematics (atm. trans.)

- LIDAR cannot be used at large Zd.
- Starguider as alternative?
- Limiting magnitude of identified stars as indicator for changes in atm. trans.
- The std. of relative spread within one year is between 11% and 14%.
- Nearly (> 90%) of the daily averages lie in this range.
- Zd ranges: < 64 deg, > 64 deg



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Systematics - flux and energy scale

- How do errors propagate into $d\phi/dE$ or SED?
- Error in flux normalization: Easy, allways linearly in Y-Axis direction.
- Error in energy scale: Not that easy ...

$$\left.\frac{d\phi}{dE}\right)_{assumed} = \frac{N}{\Delta E \cdot A_{eff}(E) \cdot T_{eff}}$$

Energy scale wrong by factor α ($E \rightarrow \alpha E$)

$$\left(\frac{d\phi}{dE}\right)_{true} = \frac{N}{(\alpha \cdot \Delta E) \cdot A_{eff}(\alpha \cdot E) \cdot T_{eff}}$$

Approximate A_{eff} as power law, locally



Approximate A_{eff} as power law with index β , locally



Systematics – flux and energy scale (GC)

And this is how it would looks like for the GC ...



Systematics – unfolding methods (spectral deconvolution)



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SkyPrism (Likelihood code)



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High Zd 10² Crab ApJ 674 Flute to a free CrabNebula $E^2 dN/dE$, $[eV/(cm^2 * sec)]$ 101 100 10 Energy, eV ΔF/F 101 1012 1013 1014



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Low Zd







1.0 83.0 83.5 84.0 84.5









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High Zd





0.5





21.0 21.5 21.0 83.0 83.5 84.0 84.5









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Collection area fit

- MC statistics require special strategy for coll. area map
- Applying multi-component fit using binomial statistics
- Error is propagated by creating 100 random maps based on fit parameters and errors



MCMC

EMCEE: "stretch move" - Goodman and Weare (2010)

Select new position in parameter space according to:

 $X_k(t) \rightarrow Y = X_j + Z(X_k(t) - X_j), j \neq k$

Z is a random scaling factor which is distributed like:

$$g(Z) \propto \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} & , Z \in \left[\frac{1}{a}, a\right] \\ 0 & , \text{ else} \end{cases}$$

a is the only parameter, on which to tune (eventually)





Parameter covariance using emcee:



 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Model:} \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}F}{\mathrm{d}E} = f_0 \left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)^{-\alpha} \exp\left(-\frac{E}{E_{cut}}\right) \end{array}$



These histograms are literally showing you how likely a parameter value is to appear in the posterior distribution!

Parameters:

$$F_0 = 7.95^{+1.022}_{-0.766} \times 10^{-13}$$
, $\alpha = 1.89^{+0.126}_{-1.31}$, $\log 10(E_{cut}) = 0.962^{+0.150}_{-0.140}$

SED sampled with emcee using HESS+VERITAS spectrum as prior Archer et al. 2016



Parameter covariance using HESS+VERITAS spectrum as prior Archer et al. 2016:



Model: $\frac{\mathrm{d}F}{\mathrm{d}E} = f_0 \left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)^{-\alpha} \exp\left(-\frac{E}{E_{cut}}\right)$



Parameters:

 $F_0 = 6.97^{+0.168}_{-0.169} \times 10^{-13}$, $\alpha = 2.03^{+0.033}_{-0.033}$, $\log 10(E_{cut}) = 1.12^{+0.038}_{-0.042}$

