The search for diffuse extra-terrestrial high energy neutrinos: AMANDA and IceCube

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Photograph: Forest Banks

Neutrino and gamma production in cosmic ray accelerators? $pp, p\gamma \rightarrow \pi^{0} \rightarrow (\gamma \gamma)$ The TeV gammas?

//-rays from synchrotron

Let's look for these neutrinos!

Hadronic accelerator? – cosmic ray origin?

Neutrinos at the earth



 "Atmospheric muons" from cosmic ray showers, penetrating to the detector from above

- "Atmospheric neutrinos" from the same air showers, forming a diffuse background and calibration beam
- Astrophysical neutrinos: interesting signal

Atmospheric Neutrinos



The diffuse HE neutrino sky



Diffuse searches are hard

- Background *must be well predicted from* simulation (no "off-source" / "side-band" region for direct measurement as in a point source search!)
- Backgrounds
 - atmospheric muons (angle)
 - atmospheric neutrinos (angle, energy)
 - pi, k decays ("conventional")
 - charm decays ("prompt")

Also search for prompt flux as a signal









Real data, trigger level, after first directional reconstruction



Remove wrongly reconstructed atmospheric muons by tightening event selection criteria...













Clean upgoing neutrino sample mostly atmospheric neutrinos – diffuse analysis level





Low energy data is compared to the simulation.





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The simulation is scaled so that the number of low energy events predicted matches the low energy data.



Data 2000 - 2003

Uncertainty in atmospheric v

Barr et al. atms. v + prompt v



16 TeV – 2.5 PeV Gary C. Hill, TeV-III, Venice, August 29, 2007

The high energy data set is unblinded.

The number of high energy (N_{ch}>100) data events is counted and compared to the background simulation.





Background prediction varies between 6.1 and 8.3 events

Average bg predicted = 7.0

6 data events observed

FC upper limit on signal contribution = 4.95

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An upper limit on the level of the signal flux is established based on what was observed in the high N_{ch} region.

Events

 10^{2}

10

1

10⁻¹

10⁻²0

20

40

60

80

100

120

140

160 N_{ch}



$\Phi \sim \text{E}^{\text{-2}}$ Flux Models and Upper Limits



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Other astrophysical models and upper limits



Prompt atmospheric neutrino models and upper limits



UHE diffuse analysis – 2000-02 Lisa Gerhardt







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- Searched three years of data from 2000 2002
 456.8 days of livetime
- Found no significant excess

 $E^{-2} \Phi < 2.4 \text{ x } 10^{-7} \text{ GeV/(cm^2ssr)}$ (PRELIMINARY) valid over the energy range of $2 \text{ x } 10^5 \text{ GeV} - 10^9 \text{ GeV}$ (including uncertainties)

All-flavour – divide by 3 to compare to muon limits







What next for diffuse analyses?

- IceCube 9 and 22 string analysis...
- "Cut and count" Poisson analysis constrains the sum of contributions in excess of the background
- Can constrain extra-terrestrial flux if you assume something about charm flux and vice-versa
- Will use information in the shape of the sensitive observables (likelihood analysis in e.g. Nch, zenith) to simultaneously detect/constrain the conventional, prompt and extra-terrestrial components
- multivariate methods, likelihood analysis





Event Signatures in IceCube





Hot Water Drilling



IceCube EHWD significant operation – entire drill camp setup, including generators, heater plants, fuel systems, and support workshops. This camp doesn't move during the season.

2 drill towers connect to central plants and leapfrog over holes.





99% of 604 DOMs survive deployment and freeze-in Gary C. Hill, TeV-III, Venice, August 29, 2007



IC-9 atmospheric neutrinos

John Pretz



IC-9 diffuse – Kotoyo Hoshina IC-22 under analysis!

Full IceCube detector

Table 3

Sensitivity to diffuse neutrino fluxes. Expected limits and minimal detectable fluxes in units of cm⁻²s⁻¹sr⁻¹GeV for a generic E^{-2} source spectrum. Event numbers correspond to a hypothetical source strength of $E_{\nu}^2 \times dN_{\nu}/dE_{\nu} = 1 \times 10^{-7} \,\mathrm{cm}^{-2} \mathrm{s}^{-1} \mathrm{sr}^{-1} \mathrm{GeV}$.

