### Optimization of Cherenkov telescope Array performances with NectarCAM



### **Maxim Shayduk**



- Introduction to Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes (IACTs)
- Next-generation IACT facility: Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA)
- How to optimize CTA performance with camera hardware design?
- CTA physics: Young Supernova Remnants as seen by CTA
- CTA physics: Pulsars in Very High Energy domain
- NectarCAM integration at Irfu

### Ground-based gamma-ray astronomy



Crab Nebula Energy Spectrum (Whipple, 10m)

started operation in 1968 first source in 1988 retired in 2011

### **Cherenkov telescope design**



### Imaging Cherenkov telescope technique



### **Imaging Cherenkov telescope technique**

#### Gamma-ray/background separation:

- 1. Getting the shower signals: Trigger and Image cleaning.
- 2. Parametrization of images by Hillas parameters (2-d covariance matrix)

3. Multivariate analysis in multi-dimensional image features space: Neural networks, Random Forest, Boosted Decision Trees, 3D-shower model analysis



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### **VHE gamma-ray observatories**



Next-generation IACT facility: Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA)

### **VHE gamma-ray observatories**



### Next generation observatory: CTA

### **CTA Consortium:**

- Collaboration of many experiments: MAGIC, H.E.S.S., Veritas, Fermi-LAT...
- >1000 members
- ~10 times higher sensitivity
- Enhanced angular resolution
- Improved energy resolution
- Widened energy range

Design Prototyping 2008-2015, Construction 2017-2022

# Fermi LAT 3-years sky map > 1 GeV ~2000 sources in the MeV-GeV range ~150 sources in the >100 GeV range



# **CTA** Physics targets

#### 1. Galactic Gamma-Ray Sources:

Supernova Remnants Pulsars, Pulsar Wind Nebulae X-Ray Binaries & Micro-quasars **Star-Formation Regions** The Galactic Centre

#### 2. Extragalactic Gamma-Ray Sources:

Active Galactic Nuclei Extragalactic Background Light Gamma-Ray Bursts Galaxy Clusters

#### **3. Fundamental Physics:**

Dark Matter Quantum Gravity Charged Cosmic Rays ...... and more



### Next generation observatory: CTA

Array of >50 telescopes Energy Range: 20 GeV to >300 TeV Improved angular resolution Two observatories: North and South

#### High Energy:

>10 TeV ~50 Small Size Telescopes (4-7m) ~10deg FoV

#### Low Energy:

10GeV-100GeV A few Large Size Telescope (23m) 4-5 deg FoV

#### Medium Energy: 100GeV – 10 TeV ~20 Middle Size Telescopes (12m) 8 deg FoV

### **CTA performance: Telescopes energy domains**



Crab Nebula "Standard candle" of ground-based gamma-ray astronomy)

C.U. - flux in Crab Nebula units



# How to optimize CTA performance with the camera design?

### Performance simulation. How to optimize?

### Night Sky Background noise:

**1.** Cherenkov telescopes operate under the condition of Night Sky Background (NSB) light: noise rate of O(100 Mhz)/pixel.

2. Due to the photoelectrons (p.e.) induced by NSB and PMT afterpulsing, some charge is always found in EVERY pixel !
=> to distinguish between shower signal and NSB noise Trigger and Image Cleaning procedure are needed.

#### How to Improve signal to noise?

Shower signal waveforms should be recorded to properly select the region of interest => extract the maximum charge within the small window. What electronic bandwidth should be used?



FADC trace

1σ

Maximal integrated charge

(shower signal candidate)

Night Sky Background

Amplitude, phe 0,

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### **Performance Simulations:**



### **Trigger simulations**

Trigger Algorithms:		Camera pixel	Shower light s	spot	
<ol> <li>Two options for signal processing: digital and analog</li> <li>Various trigger patches (7-, 14-, 21-pixels areas)</li> <li>Smart triggers: "Time Gradient", etc</li> </ol>		P	'7 (Singlet)	P7-2 (Doublet)	P7-3 (Triplet)
Overall ~ 70 trigger scenarios evaluated. <b>Figure of Merit:</b> Triggered γ–rate (the higher the better) versus energy		)			
Concept	Algorithm	_			
Majority Trigger	Majority 3/7 Majority 4/7		Р3	P3-4 (12 pixels)	P3-7 (21 pixels)
	Majority 5/21	49	)-pixels cluster:		$\rightarrow$
Analogue Sum Trigger	SumSinglet SumDoublet SumTriplet	_			
Digital Trigger	P7-2				
	P7-3 P3-4	Tin	ne Gradient Patches:		
Binary Trigger	Maj. 3/7 OR Maj. 4/7 Maj. 5/21 OR Maj. 7/21 Time Gradient	Ì			
Published in: U. Schwanke, M. Shayduk et.al., "A versatile digital camera trigger for telescopes in the Cherenkov Telescope Array", NIM A 782, (2015), 92-103		 ! ;			

### Sensitivity comparison

#### **NSBx1** sensitivities:

Analysis steps:

1. Signal extraction: dynamic integration window (ToT, all slices above 5σ are integrated) Minimal length: 4ns (High-BW) and 12ns (Low-BW)

2. Optimized Next-neighbor image cleaning (*M.Shayduk, ICRC2013*)

3. Standard analysis chain.

Design of the readout system influence the array performance:

Faster (High-BW) readout yields better performance



### Sensitivity comparison (brighter background)

#### NSBx4.5 sensitivities:

Analysis steps:

1. Signal extraction: dynamic integration window (ToT, all slices above 3o are integrated) Minimal length: 4ns (High-BW) and 12ns (Low-BW)

2. Optimized Next-neighbor image cleaning (*M.Shayduk, ICRC2013*)

3. Standard analysis chain.

Design of the readout system influence the array performance:

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# CTA physics: Young Supernova Remnants as seen by CTA

### Young SNRs variety as "seen" by CTA

Supernova Remnants (SNRs) are believed (established: *Ackermann et al., 2013*) to be the acceleration sites of the bulk of cosmic rays:

=> Long-term challenge of "Origin of Cosmic Rays".

Most efficient CR acceleration: When SNR is young! (i.e. shock is most energetic)

#### **Overview:**

- Explosion types
- Input:
  - SNR models
  - Diffuse Astrophysical Background
  - CTA response matrices
- Results:
  - Detectability and resolvability study
  - Radii reconstruction
  - Morphology hints
  - Model recovery



#### RX J1713.7-3946, H.E.S.S.







Aharonian et.al. Nature (2004)

M. Renaud for CTA, arXiv:1109.4326v1,(2011)

### Young SNRs variety as "seen" by CTA

#### **Overview:**

**1.** Theoretical models of young (<2000years) SNR (**Type-Ia, Type-Ic, Type-IIP**) are build based on time-dependent simulations of hydrodynamics and magnetic field evolution and the CR acceleration in both forward (**FS**) and reverse shocks (**RS**).

2. Theoretical skymaps and energy spectra convolved with CTA response functions.

**3.** Simulated Background: structured astrophysical (diffuse gamma-rays) and residual background from cosmic rays (hadrons and electrons)



Type-IIP

**Morphology** 

IC

SX

 $\bigcirc$ 

PSF

3

PD

SR

IIΡ

PD

E >0.7 TeV

[deg]

≻ 1.5

### **Emission spectra of young SNRs**

SNR gamma-ray emission: Tot = Forward (FS) + reverse shock (RS), FS = forward shock only

#### Thermonuclear type la merger

#### Core-collapse type: Ic and IIP



Evolution of gamma-ray emission spectra from type-Ia, type-Ic and type-IIP SNRs due to pion-decay (PD) and inverse Compton (IC) radiation.

I.Telezhinsky, V.Dwarkadas, M.Pohl APh 35, 300 (2012) I.Telezhinsky, V.Dwarkadas, M.Pohl A&A 552, A102 (2013)

### Input: Energy and Age dependent intensity maps

PD: 1TeV IC: 1 TeV SX: 3keV SR: 1.4GHz

Intensities normalized to maximum in each image.

All images are normalized by the Forward Shock (FS) radius.



Taken from: I. Telezhinsky, V. Dwarkadas, M. Pohl A&A 552, A102 (2013)

### Simulation example: young SNR "seen" by CTA

# Type-la



- Fit for two energy ranges:
  - <1TeV (LE, possible contribution from RS):  $F_{\text{LE}}(E) \cdot E^2 = A_{\text{LE}} \cdot E^{2-\alpha}$

>1TeV (HE):

•

$$F_{\rm HE}(E) \cdot E^2 = A_{\rm HE} \cdot E^{2-\alpha} \cdot \exp(-E/E_{\rm c})$$

Profile fit function (smeared disc + gauss shell):

$$I(r) = I_0 \cdot \left[ \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{R_p - r}{\sqrt{2 \cdot \sigma_d^2}}\right) + \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{R_p + r}{\sqrt{2 \cdot \sigma_d^2}}\right) + \phi(r) \right]$$

gauss shell

1

### **Detectability and resolvability**



- Best observables: la are detectable throughout the galaxy
- Tycho-like SNRs resolved (compared to point-source) up to 3.5 kpc

# Type-IIP: 2000yr, 1kpc, 200h

PD emission from high-density central part:

IC emission on uniform CMB:



# Type-Ic: 2000yr, 1kpc, 200h

Y, deg "Minimal" diffuse gamma-ray BG: > С Can affect morphology studies for low energies 1.5 Careful BG treatment is needed: limited wobble position choice, detailed BG modeling...etc. 0.5 Total SNR flux: ~7% C.U. (at 0.7TeV) -0.5 flux within PSF circle: ~0.03% C.U. NB: Diffuse gammas from unresolved sources : -1.5 K. Egberts et. al. for H.E.S.S. collaboration. arXiv:1308.0161 -2 -1



### Summary

- > There is no "standard" *young* SNR (even among generic!):
  - emission and morphology are type and age dependent
- > The best observable are type-Ia SNRs (brighter with age).
- > Type II core-collapse SNRs become dim with age but are interesting:
  - spectral features and pronounced energy-dependent morphology
- If reverse shock acceleration is present spectra will give a hint!
- Astrophysical background is an issue for low-energy (<1TeV) analysis of faint sources</li>
- Next: VHE emission from SNR swept-up shell and nearby molecular clouds



High energies: Sensitivity is statistically limited => larger arrays Low energies:  $\gamma$ /background separation and NSB limited =>

high performance (i.e low threshold) trigger and readout are required

#### SNR RX J1713.7-3946

H.E.S.S., Aharonian et.al. Nature (2004)



#### RX J1713.7 "measured" by CTA



M. Renaud for CTA, arXiv:1109.4326v1, 2011

### **CTA physics: Pulsars in VHE**

### **Observation of Pulsars in VHE range**



### **Observation of Pulsars in VHE range**

### **Pulsar's energy spectra cutoffs:**

**Observational challenge since many years!** Space-borne experiments lack statistics at VHE.

Cutoff shape and energy contains a lot of information about the acceleration and radiation mechanisms of pulsars: allows to distinguish between different models.

For Cherenkov telescopes: Sensitivity below 100 GeV needed => this was provided **for the first time** by the new Analog Sum Trigger and high efficiency image cleaning!





### First Detection of Crab Pulsar above 25 GeV by MAGIC

### **Concept of Analog Sum Trigger:**

Sum of analog signals in some patch (~18 pix):

#### Advantage:

Sums up **all** signals from shower in the patch, even those that would be below discriminator threshold in conventional trigger schemes => **increases signal to noise ratio !** 

=> lower light intensities can be triggered and lower energy threshold can be achieved compared to conventional triggers.

#### Problem:

Too high noise rate at large signal amplitudes due to PMT after-pulses. One noise pulse can dominate the sum and pass the final discriminator.

#### Solution:

Clip signal in every pixel at the certain amplitude (5-6 p.e.) Small signals are unaffected and still contribute to the trigger decision.



Shower light spot

### **Development of the low-threshold trigger**

### **Energy Threshold:**

#### Analog Sum Trigger:

Provided twice lower energy threshold compared to next-neighbor triggers!

#### Hardware Implementation:

Simple concept and flexible design of MAGIC telescope allowed to develop, produce and commission the new trigger system in less then half a year ! (joint effort with electronic engineers)

*M.* Shayduk et. al., AIP Conference Proceedings, 2009, 1112(1): 72-78

*M. Rissi, N. Otte, T. Schweizer, M. Shayduk, IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science, 2009, 56(6): 3840-3843,* 

#### **Concept influence:**

This successful concept is one of the main design options for CTA camera trigger!

#### Figure of Merit:

Triggered  $\gamma$ -rate (the higher the better) vs  $\gamma$ -energy



### **Detection of Crab Pulsar above 25 GeV**



### **Detection of Crab Pulsar above 25 GeV**



### **Pulsars in VHE: current status**

IACTs, > 50 GeV	Crab, Vela		
Fermi, >25 GeV	13		
Fermi, > 100 MeV	~150		
Radio	~2000		
Energy band	Number of Pulsars		

Only two pulsars are detected above 50 GeV: => Fermi-LAT lacks statistics above 20-30 GeV.

Spin-down power due to magnetic dipole radiation:

$$\dot{E} = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} I \Omega \right) = I \Omega \dot{\Omega} = \frac{2}{3c^3} |m_B|^2 \Omega^4 \sin^2 \alpha$$

 $\alpha$  - the angle between the rotation and magnetic axis





### **Pulsars in VHE: current status**

Energy band	Number of Pulsars		
Radio	~2000		
Fermi, > 100 MeV	~150		
Fermi, >25 GeV	13		
IACTs, > 50 GeV	Crab, Vela		

Pulsar observations in VHE bring an important input to constrain pulsar models. More and more details learned:







#### VERITAS Crab Pulsar (PSR B0531+21)



### **Prospects for CTA**

#### Given the high sensitivity of CTA:

- CTA will perform precise measurement of VHE pulsed emission >30 GeV for power-law "cut-off" scenarios
- 2. CTA will extend and complement Fermi-LAT and current IACTs (1/10 of the CTA sensitivity) for exponential cut-offs
- 3. CTA low energy sensitivity starts to significantly cover the energy domain of Fermi VHE pulsars



Energy [GeV]

Simulated(!) Crab Pulsar spectrum "measured" by CTA

#### Again (like in SNR case):

## An effort must be put into improving CTA low energy sensitivity to increase the scientific outcome.

- High energies: Sensitivity is statistically limited => larger arrays
- Low energies: Sensitivity is limited by  $\gamma$ /background separation and NSB =>

## Optimizations of trigger (i.e lowering threshold) and readout are required

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### **NectarCAM** integration at Irfu

### **NectarCAM to optimize CTA performance**

#### **NectarCAM:**

Designed to provide the balanced CTA sensitivity in both low and high gamma-ray energy domains.

#### Integration hall at CEA-Irfu:

1. 19-modules demonstrator (7x19 channels)

2. Integration of full-scale MST camera prototype

Prototype will be deployed in the dark room.

Trigger and DAQ tests will be performed



### **NectarCAM integration at CEA-Irfu**

#### **Full-scale NectarCAM:**

Integration of full-scale camera prototype (1855 channels) will be performed in the dark room at CEA-Irfu.

#### **19-drawers camera demonstrator:**

1-drawer: 7 channels



- Comprehensive tests:
- 1. Trigger with two options (digital and analog)
- 2. Readout
- 3. Camera control, etc...



### Single drawer optical test



### Single drawer optical test: single p.e. spectra

#### Conversion to p.e. (peak) :

FADC/p.e. (5ns) = 58 cnts/p.e.

FADC/p.e.(10ns) = 82 cnts/p.e.

FADC/p.e.(16ns) = 90 cnts/p.e.

Pedestal noise(<16ns): < 0.25 p.e. for all channels

Noise (RMS over 1ns): ~7 cnts (might be improved by better grounding)

FADC/p.e.(Ampl) ~ 21 cnts/p.e.



### Single drawer optical test

#### **Charge resolution:**



Blue curve is the physical limit for the setup used: σ/Charge = F/ sqrt(N<sub>p.e.</sub>), F ~1.15 is the excess noise factor of R11920-100 at 40k gain

### Single drawer optical test

#### **Time resolution:**



Blue curve is the physical limit for the setup used:  $\sigma_{TTS} = sqrt(\sigma_{TTS}^2 + \sigma_{LED}^2) / sqrt(N_{p.e.})$ ,  $\sigma_{TTS} = PMT$  transit time spread,  $\sigma_{LED}$  pulsed LED intrinsic time spread (estimated on Slide 16)

### Many tests performed:

#### L1 trigger mezzanines:

- 1. Calibration of discriminators.
- 2. Amplitude flat-fielding (att. at L0-mez.)

#### L0 trigger mezzanines:

- 1. Calibration of discriminators
- 2. Time flat-fielding

#### **PPS/trigger distribution:**

- 1. PPS time flat-fielding (PPS from TIB)
- 2. L1 daisy chain configuration
- 3. L1 time flat-fielding

#### **Burst trigger test:**

1. Event buffering demonstration

#### **Random trigger readout test:**

1. Dead-time measurement with the Poisson event rate



#### **Readout Rate:**

Testing the readout of the NectarCAM readout chain:

1. 12-drawers mini-camera is triggered with Poisson signals

2. Readout with Event Builder with **N<sub>f</sub>=60** slices.

3. Trigger rate is measured independently with two counters

Results:

For  $N_f$ =40 the event loss is below 5% for trigger rates up to 12 kHz (fullfills the CTA requirements)



### Readout of Poisson trigger events

### Summary

#### Single drawer:

• Optical tests: NectarCAM electronics chain fulfills CTA requirements for time and charge resolution

#### **19 modules demonstrator:** (currently 12)

- L1/L0 mezzanines: discriminators calibrated and analog signal are flat-fielded in amplitude
- Analog Sum trigger: PPS/L1 distribution through daisy chain is done for 12 drawers
- Events recording with Event Builder and storage in ZFits format.
- Dead time of the current version of NectarCAM allows to fulfill 5% event loss limit up to 12.5 kHz. Reading out of 40 slices does not affect the CTA performance.
- Ready for optical tests in the dark room (given the components delivery to Irfu)

#### (Near)Future plans:

- Digital (DESY) trigger tests (this week:)).
- First optical tests of fully equipped drawer (with DUs and IRAP HV interface board)

#### **NectarCAM** in on the right track to provide the best CTA performance!

#### Thank you for your attention

### **Back-up: Imaging Cherenkov telescope technique**



### **Back-up: Imaging Cherenkov telescope technique**

**Secondary particles** detected through Cherenkov light=>should not necessarily reach ground=>low detection threshold

Rate of  $\gamma$ -rays ~1000 times smaller compared to hadron rate

=> very effective methods of gamma/hadron separation are needed.

#### Hadron-induced showers:

- 1. Larger transverse momentums. Wider angular spread of secondary particles
- 2. Higher intrinsic particle density fluctuations.
- 3. Sub-showers.
- 4. Muon component.

etc..



### **Back-up: SNR modeling**

### SNR models:

- Early SNR evolution and detailed hydrodynamics is taken into account. No "generic" Sedov-like explosion.
- Complex ISM density profiles before explosion are assumed.
- Acceleration in the reverse shock (RS) is considered
- Test-Particle approach.
- VHE emission from pion-decay (PD) and inverse Compton (IC):

PD:  $\sim n_{CR}(r,E,t) \ge n_{p/He}(r,t)$ IC:  $\sim n_{CR}(r,E,t)$  (IC on CMB)

For models details see:

I.Telezhinsky, V.Dwarkadas, M.Pohl APh 35, 300 (2012) I.Telezhinsky, V.Dwarkadas, M.Pohl A&A 552, A102 (2013)

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### Back-up: Structured gamma-ray background

#### Diffuse gamma-ray BG maps:

- Only p/He emission. IC is neglected
- 5x5 deg with 0.1 deg resolution.
- SNR RX J1713-3949 location (*I*=347.340)
- BG around galactic latitude *I*=3350
- 80 bins in log energy: 10GeV 100TeV



#### Fermi-LAT, 3 years, $E_{\gamma} > 10 \text{GeV}$

### **Back-up: SNR progenitors**

#### **Type-la Supernova**

CE

#### **Type-IIP Supernova**



Courtesy of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.; from the 1989 Britannica Yearbook of Science and the Future; illustration by Jane Meredith

### **Backup: Reconstructed effective radii**



- SNR radii are reasonably reconstructed up to resolvability horizons
- · Additional important parameter for multi-wavelength studies

age: 400 1000 2000

r(la): 3.6 5.7 7.9

r(lc): 4.3 8.7 14.0

r(2p):1.4 4.1 8.5

### **Backup: CTA angular resolution**



number of images

arcminutes

10

### Backup



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