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High-energy gamma-ray astronomy and dark matter searches with Imaging Air Cherenkov observatories: Status and prospects

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R. Wagner, OKC-Stockholm University: DM with IACT (Higgs-DM Workshop, Geilo, Norway, 141216)

Setting the stage: messengers



• Gamma-rays are ideal messenger particles

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• Trace non-thermal particle acceleration processes



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Windows for Astronomy



VHE y-ray astronomy ... a new window to the universe

resolve sources

VHE y-ray astronomy ... a new window to the universe



VHE y-ray astronomy ... a new window to the universe



measure flux variability

VHE y-ray sky ...more than 150 sources known



VHE y-ray sky ...more than 150 sources known



(Some) topics of VHE y-ray astronomy



Astrophysics

- Which are the cosmic PeVatrons?
- How do they work?
- Acceleration, emission, propagation

Fundamental Physics

- Indirect Dark Matter searches
- Energy dependence of speed of light



Cosmology

- Extragalactic Background Light
 - \rightarrow star formation in the early universe
- Galaxy clusters as storehouses of cosmic rays





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High-energy particles will end up producing gamma-rays:



Hadronic High-Energy particles Neutrinos as "smoking gun"

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 Fermi acceleration in shocks, in extragalactic sources often substantially Doppler-boosted

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Information brought by the gamma-ray quanta:

- 1. Location of the high-energy particles, source direction
- 2. Lower limit to the energy of the high-energy particles
- **3. Time information** variable emission key piece of information

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THE IMAGING AIR CHERENKOV TECHNIQUE

Detection Principle

Gamma Ray



Detection Principle



Atmosphere

Particle Shower

10 γ-rays / m² yr from the Crab nebula

but > 50.000 m² detection area

 \rightarrow flux of > 1 γ -ray / min

Cherenkov Light

~ 120 m



Detection Principle

Atmosphere

Particle Shower

~ 120 m

Cherenkov Light

- image intensity
 - → γ-ray energy
- Image form
 - background reduction

Camera

- Image orientation
 - \rightarrow γ -ray direction



Cosmic Rays...

...main background for Cherenkov astronomy



- Ratio γ /hadron $\approx 1/1000$
- Cuts on image parameters

 → 99.9% background
 reduction
- Remaining S/B ~ 1..10, depending on source strength and source size

CURRENT INSTRUMENTS: MAGIC, VERITAS, H.E.S.S.



Major IACTs to date



4x12m IACTs, Crab sensitivity ~36 σ/√hr, 1% Crab in 35 hours 2x17m IACTs ~ 19 σ/\sqrt{hr} , 2.2% of Crab in 50 hours





All instruments have similar light collection area and have a "peak energy" of around 50-120 GeV (trigger level) but ~150..300 GeV after typical tight analysis cuts

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600 m² mirror area 0.07° pixels ~20 GeV peak trigger rate in stand-alone mode







THE INDIRECT SEARCH FOR DARK MATTER



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 DM is expected out there: 80% of the total matter content of the Universe is constituted by one or more new types of particles.
 DM has shaped the formation of the first stars and galaxies





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 - LHC results seem to indicate high-mass DM, TeV or above

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History of a hunt

 searches started with the target classes that 10 years ago were supposed to be the best candidates:

the galactic center, galaxy clusters and dwarf satellite galaxies

- More recently, the attention has been also focused on different kinds of searches: intermediate mass black holes, DM subhalos, signatures of line-emission.
- raised by the all-electrons and positron ratio anomalies observed in the past 5 years, – DM searches extended to signatures from cosmic ray leptons, observation which is also possible with IACTs.


Gamma-Ray Emission



- gamma rays from internal bremsstrahlung,
 - → pronounced **bump** of gamma rays toward the mass cutoff
- from line-processes (direct two-body decay)
 - Monochromatic line \rightarrow loop processes, whose intensity strongly depends on the specific DM realization

mγ

Energy

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All in all, IACTs observe photons.

- \rightarrow Every process is valuable as long as it provides enough photons to detect.
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$$\frac{d\Phi}{dE}(E;\Delta\Omega) = \frac{B_F}{4\pi} \frac{\langle \sigma_{ann} v \rangle}{2 \, m_{\chi}^2} \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dE} \int_{\Delta\Omega} \int_{los} d\theta ds \, \rho^2(\theta,s)$$



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So where to look then?

- Many models of dark matter densities are peaked towards the center- leading to a large signal from the center of a dark matter halo.
- Typical targets are either high signal sources, such as the galactic center, or have a large fraction of inferred dark matter versus ordinary matter- such as dwarf galaxies.



Via lactea n-body simulation of a galaxy

The "dark catalog"

Target	Year	Time	Experiment	Target	Year	Time	Experiment	
	Globular Clusters				Galaxy Clusters			
M15	2002	0.2	Whipple	Abell 2029	2003 - 2004	6	Whipple	
	2006 - 2007	15.2	H.E.S.S.	Perseus	2004 - 2005	13.5	Whipple	
M33	2002 - 2004	7.9	Whipple		2008	24.4	MAGIC	
M32	2004	6.9	Whipple	Fornax	2005	14.5	H.E.S.S.	
NGC 6388	2008 - 2009	27.2	H.E.S.S.	Coma	2008	18.6	VERITAS	
Dwarf Satellite Galaxies				The Milky Way central region				
Draco	2003	7.4	Whipple	MW Center	2004	48.7	H.E.S.S.	
	2007	7.8	MAGIC	MW Center Halo	2004 - 2008	112	H.E.S.S.	
	2007	18.4	VERITAS		Other searches			
Ursa Minor	2003	7.9	Whipple	IMBH	2004 - 2007	400	H.E.S.S.	
	2007	18.9	VERITAS		2006 - 2007	25	MAGIC	
Sagittarius	2006	11	H.E.S.S.	Lines	2004 - 2008	112	H.E.S.S.	
Canis Major	2006	9.6	H.E.S.S.		2010 - 2013	158	MAGIC	
Willman 1	2007 - 2008	13.7	VERITAS	UFOs	_	_	MAGIC	
	2008	15.5	MAGIC		_	_	VERITAS	
Sculptor	2008	11.8	H.E.S.S.	All-electron	2004 - 2007	239	H.E.S.S.	
Carina	2008 - 2009	14.8	H.E.S.S.		2009 - 2010	14	MAGIC	
Segue 1	2008 - 2009	29.4	MAGIC	Moon-shadow	_	_	MAGIC	
	2010 - 2011	48	VERITAS					
	2010 - 2013	158	MAGIC					
Boötes	2009	14.3	VERITAS					

Several target classes, tens of sources, hundreds hour observation

No hint so far...

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The Centre of the Milky Way



The Centre of the Milky Way



HESS J1745-290 ... not much room for Dark Matter



radial source profile fits NFW DM at first glance, but...

HESS J1745-290 ... not much room for Dark Matter



- radial source profile fits NFW DM at first glance, but...
 ... point-like after subtraction of diffuse emission
- DM density stronger peaked than r^{-1.2} (99% CL)

HESS J1745-290 ... not much room for Dark Matter

- energy spectrum: straight powerlaw exponential cutoff: E_c > 9 TeV @ 95% CL
- curved annihilation spectra
 - + "uncomfortably large" masses in MSSM
- 10% DM contribution not ruled out
 - \rightarrow derived limits on $\langle \sigma v \rangle$ do not constrain models





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 rather small (order 10⁷ M☉), gravitationally bound to the Milky Way, located in the Milky Way dark matter halo, at distances below 250 kpc.





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➡ exclusion limits obtained with DSGs are possibly the most robust for indirect DM searches with IACTs with upper limits reaching cross-section values of the order of 10⁻²⁴ cm³ s⁻¹.

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Sagittarius Dwarf

- Satellite galaxy in the Local Group
- 24 kpc distance, so close-by
- Several Galactic disk crossings
 → likely disrupted w/o
 large DM content
- Galaxy core is point-like for H.E.S.S.





- No significant signal detected
 - → derive flux upper limit (95% CL): $F(>250GeV)<3.6\times10^{-12}cm^{-2}s^{-1}$ or less than 56 γ-rays...

Sagittarius Dwarf

- Used both NFW and "cored" profile adjusted to object parameters
- Calculate pMSSM annihilation cross section limits
- Can constrain some models depending on core profile
- WMAP compliant models still viable



Globular Clusters



- share some properties with DSGs, but in general are less bright and less massive.
- stellar population: GCs more homogeneous stellar content in terms of star classification.
- GCs M15, M32 and M33 observed from 2002 to 2004 by Whipple and later on M15 was reobserved together with NGC6388 by H.E.S.S. in 2006–2009.
 - ➡ The best exclusion curves for annihilating DM come from the H.E.S.S. results, and are the order of $10^{-24} 10^{-25}$ cm³ s⁻¹, however they rely on strong assumptions of the dominance on DM in these objects.

Subhalos



- Prediction of the existence of small DM overdensities at all scales within a galaxy's main smooth halo.
- Some of these "subhalos" too small to have attracted enough baryonic matter to initiate star formation?
 → invisible to past and present astronomical observations at all wavelengths.
- Gamma rays due to annihilations or decays of DM?
 → "Dark Gamma-Ray Sources", need gamma-ray all-sky monitoring programs.

 Following this idea, the MAGIC and VERITAS collaboration investigated among the unidentified Fermi objects, (no obvious counterparts, no variability, hard spectra) that could be explained as subhalos

IMBHs

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- between $10^2 10^6 \text{ M}_{\odot}$
- Many of them could reside in the Milky Way halo.
- Remnants of collapse of massive Population III stars → on the order of about a thousand.
- or originate from massive objects formed directly during the collapse of primordial gas → about a hundred.
- gravitational potential due to infalling baryons on a central accreting system, DM could have readjusted and shrunk, giving rise to the formation of what are called "mini-spikes".
- adiabatic growth of the spike leads to a final DM density profile even cuspier than the NFW
- gamma-ray luminosity would be of the order of the gamma-ray luminosity of the entire Milky Way halo

→ H.E.S.S. could exclude scenario B at a 90% confidence level for dark matter particles with velocity-weighted annihilation cross-section $\langle \sigma v \rangle$ above 10–28 cm³ s⁻¹ and mass between 800 GeV and 10 TeV.

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Clusters of Galaxies



- with masses around 10¹⁴ 10¹⁵ M☉, the largest gravitationally bound objects and the most recent structures to form
- DM account for up to 80% of mass budget
- complex environment, also other gamma-ray sources (NGC 1275, IC310)
- different morphologies of DM (extended), cosmic-ray (compact) and the individual galaxies (point-like) could be used as a discriminator for the different components, as well as the obvious differences in the expected gamma-ray spectra
- deepest exposures are performed with MAGIC (Perseus cluster) and VERITAS (Coma cluster). For DM searches, probably the strongest constraints come from the observation of the Fornax galaxy clusters, expected to be the most DM dominated one.
- only upper limits on any CR and DM associated emission. Fermi-LAT satellite measurements in the GeV mass range, complement the latter in the TeV mass range.

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NGC 1265, also in the Perseus Cluster; O'Dea & Owen (1998)



NGC 1265, also in the Perseus Cluster; O'Dea & Owen (1998)

Upper limits on the gammaray emission constraining the emission produced by •cosmic rays: CR-to-thermal pressure <4% for cluster core, <8% for entire cluster dark matter annihilation: limit consistent with boost factors of ≈10⁴ central radio galaxy NGC1275: compatible with Fermi-LAT detection.



NGC 1265, also in the Perseus Cluster; O'Dea & Owen (1998)

Line emission

- An analysis by Weniger of Fermi-LAT data(arxiv:1204.2797v2) showed a line feature in the spectrum at 130 GeV from the galactic center, with a 3.2σ significance.
- The feature corresponded to a cross section of <σv>=1.27e-27 cm^3/s.
- Su and Finkbeiner (arxiv: 1206.1616) located the signal at 1.5° west of the galactic center, and found a 5σ detection.
- The significance has been seen to be decreasing with more data.



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DM searches via CR electron(s)



- Many experiments find anomalies in CRs fluxes
 - PAMELA, AMS+: rising e+/e± ratio above 10 GeV
 - Fermi, HESS: rising e± spectrum above 100 GeV
- Explanations: nearby astrophysics sources, Dark Matter annihilation/decay, different CR propagation

DM DM $\rightarrow e^+e^-$ gives too hard/peaked electron spectrum DM DM $\rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ gives too soft electron spectrum

Either direct decay into muons, or via light scalar (N3, AH4) viable
 Large boost-factors needed to explain large fluxes

Status today

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 Fermi is more sensitive below few hundreds GeV

Doro 2014

- Observation at dSph needs large boost factor for detection
- Galactic Center observation are promising
- Are we close or far?



Some key object classes still elusive, e.g.

- Galaxy clusters as cosmological storehouses of CRs
- Very high energy emission from GRB
- Dark Matter annihilation signatures
 Some key mechanisms remain to be understood, e.g.
- Supernovae as sources of cosmic rays: do they provide sufficient peak energy & energy output?
- Cosmic ray escape from accelerators and propagation
- Energy conversion in pulsars

Energy range & angular resolution of current instruments insufficient to probe details
A crucial step forward: Enter CTA

10-fold improvement in sensitivity 10-fold improvement in usable energy range much larger field of view strongly improved angular resolution but also: Observatory, community-driven science

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Cherenkov Telescope Array



- A project for a new generation of Cherenkov Telescopes
- Gamma-ray precision astronomy and astrophysics from few tens of GeV to >100 TeV
- Two sites: one Southern and one Northern
- Hundred telescopes in total

http://www.cta-observatory.org/



From current arrays to CTA



Light pool radius R ≈100-150 m ≈ typical telescope spacing

Sweet spot for best triggering and reconstruction: Most shower cores miss it!

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From current arrays to CTA

Light pool radius R ≈100-150 m ≈ typical telescope spacing

Sweet spot for best triggering and reconstruction: Most shower cores miss it!

> Large detection area More images per shower Lower trigger threshold

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Sites: Candidates





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PHYSICS AHEAD

Unique science goals with CTA



Unique in the sense that no other instrument has a similar ability in the same energy regime.

SURVEY

The ability of producing the deepest surveys of the sky (with unprecedented angular and energy resolution, and energy coverage) at gamma-ray energies

• TIME DOMAIN

 The ability to perform the first sensitive observation of short timescale phenomenology at gamma-ray energies

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Simulated Galactic Plane surveys



H.E.S.S.



CTA, for same exposure



Expect ~1000 detected sources over the whole sky

Funk et al., Amer. Inst. Phys. Conf. Proc. 1085, 886 (2008)

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Source types, galactic





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Resolving complex sources







CTA AND THE HUNT FOR DARK MATTER

Differential sensitivity



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The CTA Concept



CTA Consortium, Experimental Astronomy, Volume 32, Issue 3, pp.193-316



- Arrays in northern and southern hemispheres for full sky coverage
- 4 large (~23 m) telescopes in the center (LSTs) Threshold of ~30 GeV
- ≥25 medium (9-12 m) telescopes (MSTs) covering ~1 km²
 Order of magnitude sensitivity improvement in 100 GeV–10 TeV range
- Small (~4 m) telescopes (SSTs) covering >3 km² in south >10 TeV observations of Galactic sources
- Construction begins in ~2015

Sensitivity in units of Crab flux





telescope array

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improved sensitivity → detection probability



flux sensitivity

improved sensitivity → detection probability

extended energy range: overlap with Fermi-LAT, sensitivity to lower m







We can point the telescopes!

Select most promising targets Competition: Have ~1200 h/yr Have "just" 5-10° FoV



Dark Matter and Fundamental Physics with CTA

- Prospects published in 2013 by CTA
- Dark matter, Lorentz Invariance Violation, Axion-like particles, and more
- Tests capabilities of different array layouts



Dark matter and fundamental physics with the Cherenkov Telescope Array



M. Doro^{k,*}, J. Conrad^{h,i,*}, D. Emmanoulopoulos¹, M.A. Sànchez-Conde^{r,s,t}, J.A. Barrio^a, E. Birsin^b, J. Bolmont^c, P. Brun^d, S. Colafrancesco^{e,f}, S.H. Connell^{*}, J.L. Contreras^a, M.K. Daniel^j, M. Fornasa^{m,n}, M. Gaug^k, J.F. Glicenstein^d, A. González-Muñoz^{m,n}, T. Hassan^a, D. Horns^o, A. Jacholkowska^c, C. Jahn^p, R. Mazini^q, N. Mirabal^a, A. Moralejoⁿ, E. Moulin^d, D. Nieto^a, J. Ripken^h, H. Sandaker^u, U. Schwanke^b, G. Spengler^b, A. Stamerra^v, A. Viana^d, H.-S. Zechlin^o, S. Zimmer^h, for the CTA Consortium.

Best targets to point with CTA



GALACTIC CENTER+GALACTIC HALO Possible observation time: 300-500h Very good prospects if profile is cusp, i.e. baryons do not reduce the DM density



GALATIC SUBHALOS (DSPH, DARK CLUMPS...) Possible observation of 100 h per year

- Cleanest from astrophysical sources and less background systematics
- News expected in next years



GALAXY CLUSTERS

- Expectations for annihilating DM are low
- Promising targets for **decaying** DM

Sculptor Limits (bb channel)



Sculptor Halo Parameters: $J = 7 \times 10^{18} \text{ GeV}^2 \text{ cm}^{-5} r_s = 1.7 \text{ kpc}$



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Sculptor Limits (tau channel)



Sculptor Halo Parameters: $J = 7x10^{18} \text{ GeV}^2 \text{ cm}^{-5} \text{ r}_s = 1.7 \text{ kpc}$



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GC Halo Limits (bb channel)





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Line searches

- A large effort is currently at place in CTA to improve the energy resolution and bias through through instrument and atmospheric calibration
- Low-energy threshold and larger sensitivity go along well with line searches
- GC is the best target
- Basically every CTA array under discussion will have sensitivity to the Bringmann-Weniger line



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COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Stockholms Norway, 141216)

Do you believe in CTA?

- 1. We have shown that there is at least a part (for now) of the **parameter space** that we can curb with CTA (DM at the GC-halo)
- 2. In case LHC-14 do not discover DM, CTA has still chance if **DM is heavy**
- 3. CTA can be the **sole player** if DM is heavy for 2020-2030.
- 4. CTA can make identification



- CTA science community is currently working on Key-Science Projects definitions:
 - To define core program
 - To secure proprietary time
 - To define schedule
- Guest time relevant and photons will be distributed along with analysis tools a-la Fermi
- First time of a Cherenkov observatory!

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Summary

- CTA has good prospects for reaching WIMP models with thermal relic cross section and mass > 100 GeV
- Galactic Center: Fraction of parameter space finally accessible with CTA particularly at high LSP masses (>1 TeV)
- **Dwarf Galaxies:** need high boost factor or new sources discovered (possibly dark clumps, HVC?)
- Other probes (electrons, anisotropy) are viabl
- CTA will **be complementary** to LHC and direct detection searches and can be unique player in some regions of the parameter space
- CTA is the first ground-based Cherenkov telescopes observatory

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Thanks, tusen takk, tack så mycket!

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