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The potential of the HAWC Observatory to observe violations of Lorentz Invariance

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The framework of relativistic quantum-field theories requires Lorentz Invariance, which among other things implies a constant velocity of light. Many theories of quantum gravity, on the other hand, include violations of Lorentz Invariance at small scales and high energies. This generates a log of interest in establishing limits on such effects, and, if possible, observe them directly. Gamma ray observatories provide a tool to probe parts of the parameter space of models of Lorentz Invariance Violation that is not accessible in terrestrial laboratories and man-made accelerators. Transients, especially gamma-ray bursts, are a particularly promising class of events to search for such phenomena. By combining cosmological distances with high energy emission and short duration, emitting photons up to 30 GeV in less than a second, one can measure the energy dependence of the speed of photons to one part in 10^16. We will discuss the potential of HAWC to detect effects of the violation of Lorentz Invariance and place its sensitivity in the context of existing limits.

Collaboration

HAWC

Registration number following "ICRC2015-I/"

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Primary author: Dr NELLEN, Lukas (I. DE CIENCIAS NUCLEARES, UNAM)

Presenter: Dr NELLEN, Lukas (I. DE CIENCIAS NUCLEARES, UNAM)

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