ARIANNA

Recent results from the Ross Ice Shelf



Anna Nelles for the ARIANNA Collaboration





Looking for the counterpart



Concept of ARIANNA

- On ice-shelf: Ice-water boundary almost perfect reflector for radio emission
- Independent antenna stations can be installed at low costs on the surface
- Real-time data transfer via satellite
- Solar and wind power possible
- High gain antennas (50 1000 MHz) can be used to instrument a large volume
- Array of about 1200 antennas needed: ~ 30 Million USD



Current status of ARIANNA



Current status of ARIANNA





Current status of ARIANNA

- Stations with four data channels
- 2 GHz or 1 GHz data digitization, waveforms of 256 samples
- Trigger: coincidence in antennas of threshold crossings



- Solar powered with 20 Amph Li-Ion batteries for buffering
- Power consumption station: 2.2 3 W (5W if comms on)
- Satellite communication (and long range wifi), real-time data transfer





Outlook on Limits



10⁻⁹

10⁶

ARA37 projection using arXiv:1507.08991v2

see S. Barwick Overview Talk (ICRC 2015)

10⁷

IceCube measurement from Phys. Rev. D91, 022001 (2015)

IceCube UHE limit from Ishihara, PoS 1064 (ICRC 2015)

10⁸

10⁹

10¹⁰

10¹¹

10¹²

Energy (GeV)

significant limits at interesting energies

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Continuous background



Spectrum integrated over 1ms of data

- Dedicated study with oscilloscope and upward pointing antenna 50-1000 MHz
 - extremely quiet radio environment
 - small, time-varying contribution of narrowband emitters
 - spectrum clearly dominated by Galactic noise
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Galactic Background

Upward facing antennas



- Irreducible background: Galactic radio emission
- ARIANNA is triggering on the Galactic noise floor (3.5 sigma) in upward facing antennas



Triggered background

Threshold from 3.7 to 4.0 sigma



- ARIANNA stations run on fixed threshold triggers on ~ 4 sigma noise level
- Only short periods (< 1% of time) of (wind-related) pulsed background
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Livetime



- Goal: 100% livetime
 - no data-taking during communication
 - battery performance improved in last season
 - only a few hours with dead-time due to high trigger rates

 Stations have become more radio-quiet over the years and show consistent performance



Ice studies through signal bouncing

- Quality of the ice will need more studies since it is essential for reconstruction
- First studies very promising:
 - Several papers about ice studies already published
 - Bounced signal reconstructs to position within 1 degree
- · Plans for next season: drill hole to lower transmitter



Signal search strategy



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Signal simulation



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Cosmic Rays



Raw electric field spectrum



- Air shower signals through front-lobe of LPDA have a unique characteristic
- High frequency chirping followed by lower frequencies
- Due to short broadband pulses and group delay of antenna

Cosmic Rays in upward antenna

Site X

Using simulations as search template





- Cosmic rays in through front-lobe of LPDA have predicted unique characteristic
- Correlation with simulations show separate population of individual events, in RFI free periods
- Signals are strongly polarized and in qualitative agreement with expectations
- Simulations are not as good as data (yet)

Measured air shower



Air shower simulation



- Detected multiple coincidences: horizontal showers
- Full detector simulation and dedicated simulations for big Peak amplitude [mV] events
 - Experiment with method as tested in LOFAR and AERA
 - Use polarization information
 - Fully independent reconstruction of air shower parameters

Measured air showers



- ARIANNA directly measures air showers from 50 - 500 MHz with no filtering against RFI
- Signals will be interesting to study spectral behaviour of air shower signals
- Antenna and amp response still to unfold

Cosmic Ray rate calculation



Neutrino search

- Neutrino search based on three very simple assumptions
 - Events cannot be clustered in time: livetime loss < 2%
 - Events cannot be narrowband signal
 - Events need to have correlation better than 0.6 with neutrino template



Neutrino efficiency

- Events cannot be clustered in time (periods of high trigger rates) livetime loss < 2%, no efficiency loss
- Events cannot be narrowband signal, L1 parameter excludes fraction of 6x10⁻⁵ neutrinos
- Events need to have correlation better than
 0.6 with neutrino template, largest efficiency factor



Neutrino search

- Only background in signal region: certain cosmic rays
 - Identified by coincidences and upward pointing antennas





Future Plans



- R&D with current ARIANNA:
 - Increase livetime by adding wind generators
 - Study ice properties in detail
 - Upgrade Cosmic ray station
 - Future ARIANNA:
 - Decide on final station design: Number of channels, sampling, data-transfer options, antenna orientation, ...
 - Aim: 1296 stations (~ 30 Million USD)

We are looking forward to the next three years of operation of ARIANNA and to a large radio array for neutrino detection in 2020.





With thanks to my colleagues from the ARIANNA Collaboration