Simulations for CTA for Pedestrians

DESY Seminar - 2018, June 20th

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Simulations for CTA for Pedestrians





Overview

- Air Shower Simulations
- Atmosphere
- Telescope & Camera Simulations
- Gamma-ray like proton events
- Conclusions

Why do we need simulations for CTA?

during preparation phase:

- site selection
- array layout optimisation
- design optimisation
- during pre-construction design phase
 - verification of requirements
- during operation phase
 - calculation of instrument response functions

Simulations / Measurements / Analysis





Extensive Air Showers



Extensive Air Showers



Extensive Air Showers



Cherenkov Emission

emitted when velocity *v* of charged particle exceeds local speed of light:

 $nv/c = n\beta > 1$

light is emitted along a cone with half opening angle θ

 $\cos\Theta = 1/(\beta n)$

number of Cherenkov photons per path length x:

$$\frac{d^2N}{dxd\lambda} = \frac{2\pi\alpha z^2}{\lambda^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2(\lambda)}\right)$$



atmospheric density

MOD

MOD^{*}

COF

 $n = 1 + 0.000283 \ \rho(h) / \rho(0)$



Cherenkov radiation: emission angle



Cherenkov radiation: emission angle



Cherenkov radiation: emission angle



Index of refraction



Imaging Technique - Air Showers



Lateral distribution comparison











Geomagnetic Field



Krause 2011

Atmosphere

- aerosol layers
- molecular profile
- clouds
- different levels of ozone
- star field and/or night-sky background levels



Propagation of Cherenkov Photons in the Atmosphere



Wavelength [nm] Aerosols and ozone content shows significant variability at each site Deep tropospheric ozone intrusions might be an issue for CTA S

Multiple Scattering of Photons



Propagation of Cherenkov Photons in the Atmosphere



Molecular profiles



Cherenkov radiation: wavelength distribution



Cherenkov light production

- a single singly-charged vertical particle could emit up to half a million photons
- gamma shower of 100 TeV may result in more than 100 billion photons
- challenge to simulate!
- ignore wavelength dependency of index of refraction
- photons are emitted in bunches (typically 5 photons per bunch)



Step size needs to be small enough (e.g. bending in geomagnetic field)



- a: recorded photon bunch
- b: not recorded because not intersecting sphere
- c: recorded (not in 'shadow' but hitting a shadow grid cell)
- d: not recorded because not hitting a shadow grid cell



VERITAS

- 4 x 12 m diameter telescopes
- 4 x 500 pixel PMT cameras
- 500 MHz FADC readout
- Sensitivity <1% in 25 h
- Energy range 100 GeV to 30 TeV
- typically per year:
- 850 h dark operation
- 200 h moonlight operation
- 250 h very bright moonlight conditions
- in operation since >10 years:
 - >12 000 h observations

CTA Telescopes



Sm 4-5 >5 larg larg

CTA Telescopes

Mid-size telescope 12 m diameter 90 GeV to 10 TeV large field of view precision instrument

Small-size telescope 4-5 m diameter >5 TeV large field of view large collection area Large-size telescope 23 m diameter >20 GeV rapid slewing (<50s)

Gamma-ray effective area



CTA Layout



Telescope Simulations

Optical Ray-tracing

By Koji Noda





Digitisation, Trigger, Readout



Figure 2 – Very simple illustration of the FADC signal creation.

Al Samari 2015

Amplitude distributions



Night-sky background



Camera trigger rates



CTA Zoo of Cameras



Typical readout rate: 350 Hz Signal rate from a strong source 0.3 Hz

v-ray

σ

about every 100th event is

Typical Events

event display VERITAS



(each frame 2 ns long)

37

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Gamma-hadron separation



Gamma-hadron separation



Background Suppression

 Imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescope are extremely powerful in suppressing background hadronic events

Triggered : Reconstructed : After Cuts =

400 Hz : 350 Hz : <1 Hz

- large MC productions required for instrument design optimisation: e.g. for CTA:
 - ~100 billion proton events 4 GeV 600 TeV
 - 0.5-1 Petabyte of detector simulation
 output

Remaining background: gamma-ray like proton events



log₁₀ energy [TeV]

Input variable: MSCW

Computing



Background suppression



(note that plots depend heavily on scatter area for the core numbers)

Less than 10,000 proton events left after all cuts... (and each MC shower has been used 10 times)



Cosmic ray background



10⁶

CTA Sensitivity

Signal

Background



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background limited







Instrument Design and Optimisation

telescope design, array layout, sites, ...

Instrument Design and Optimisation

Gamma-ray like proton events

Gamma-ray like proton events

particle distribution after first interactions

fraction of events after gamma/ hadron separation cuts

before / after gamma/hadron separation

Impact of Hadronic Interaction Models

Surprisingly little in literature...

Parson et al 2011

Unpublished internal CTA studies show differences up to a factor of two in remaining number of background events

Cherenkov Photon Density Relative to QGSJet-II

LHCf: energy spectra of single y

Conclusions

- CTA Monte Carlo contributed to all major design decisions
 - telescope sizes and number of telescopes
 - site selections
 - layout
- Next big step is the verification of the actual instrument design
- And of course the fun starts with actual data