## Searches for ultra-high energy cosmic neutrinos with the IceCube neutrino detector

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#### Contents

- Introduction
- The IceCube detector
- Description of the ultra-high energy neutrino analysis
- Results from the analysis
- Ongoing improvements

## Ultra-high Energy Neutrinos: *PeV and above*



- Energies above dominant atmospheric neutrinos
- Cosmic frontier PeV gamma-ray horizon limited to a few tens of kpc (our galaxy radius)
- Cosmogenic neutrino production is a 'guaranteed' v source

#### The First Piece of the Puzzle - Cosmic-rays



## Neutrinos in the Astronomical Objects

high energy cosmic-ray sources, e.g. AGN, GRB...



#### Idea of the cosmic neutrino is simple and attractive

Investigate source candidates such as AGNs/GRBs distribute larger distance than attenuation length of photon with another undeflected and less absorbed particles!!



# The highest energy neutrinos

*cosmogenic neutrinos* induced by the interactions of cosmic-ray and CMB photons

Off-Source (<50Mpc) astrophysical neutrino production via



GZK (Greisen-Zatsepin-Kuzmin) mechanism

The main energy range:  $E_v \sim 10^{8-10}$  GeV  $p\gamma_{27K} \rightarrow \pi^+ + X \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu \rightarrow e^+ + \nu's$ **Carries important physics** Location of the cosmic-ray sources Cosmological evolution of the Various cosmic-ray sources **GZK**v Cosmic-ray spectra at sources models The highest energy of the cosmc-rays Composition of the cosmicrays Particle physics beyond the energies accelerators can reach

## Question is why we have not seen them yet?



## High energy neutrino telescopes in the world



## The IceCube Collaboration

http://icecube.wisc.edu

#### 36 institutions, ~270 members

#### Canada

University of Alberta

#### US

Bartol Research Institute, Delaware Pennsylvania State University University of California - Berkeley University of California - Irvine Clark-Atlanta University University of Maryland University of Wisconsin - Madison University of Wisconsin - River Falls Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. University of Kansas Southern University, Baton Rouge University of Alaska, Anchorage University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa Georgia Tech Ohio State University

#### **Barbados**

**University of West Indies** 

Sweden Uppsala Universitet Stockholms Universitet

UK Oxford University DESY-Zeuthen Universität Dortmund Universität Wuppertal Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin MPI Heidelberg RWTH Aachen Universität Bonn Ruhr-Universität Bochum

#### **Belgium**

Université Libre de Bruxelles Vrije Universiteit Brussel Universiteit Gent Université de Mons-Hainaut

Germany

**Universität Mainz** 

Switzerland EPFL, Lausanne

ANTARCTICA Amundsen-Scott Station



The first results from the full detector!

Japan Chiba University

**New Zealand** University of Capterbury Aya Ishihara





## Event rates

Strings	Data (year)	Livetime	trigger rate (Hz)	HE v rate (per day)
AMANDAII(19)	2000-2006	3.8 years	100	~5 / day
IC40	2008-09	375 days	1100	~40/ day
IC59	2009-10	350 days	1900	~70/ day
IC79	2010-11	320 days	2250	~100/day
IC86-I	2011- 2012	~ year	2700	processing
IC86-II	current		2700	running

# IC86 achieving ~ 99% uptime

# Neutrino Example



With 40 strings, 2009 May

# IceCube Events

#### With 79 strings, 2010 June



Energy threshold ~10 GeV >10<sup>8</sup> muons/day >100 neutrinos/day

#### With 40 strings, 2008 Dec





# Digital Optical Module

- PMT: 10 inch Hamamatsu
- Power consumption: 3 W
- Digitize at 300 MHz for 400 ns with custom chip
- 40 MHz for 6.4 µs with fast ADC
- Flasherboard with 12 LEDs
- Local HV



Dynamic range 500 photoelectron/15ns



Waveforms, times digitized in each DOM



25 cm PMT 33 cm Benthosphere

# Waveform examples from spe to 10000 pe

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( )

single pe level



# Time resolution: ~1ns for bright pulses

• Time difference between neighboring DOMs fired with (bright) flasher pulses: 1 ns.



## Ice Models

### airborne radar imaging

(Blankenship et al.)

(One of the most important uncertainties)

South Pole station and IceCube



#### What causes scattering in the ice?

- In the *shallow ice*, scattering is predominantly caused by air bubbles.
- In the deeper ice, *below 1400 m*, the bubbles have converted to non-scattering air hydrate crystals, so-called clathrates, and scattering is caused by **dust**.
- This dust has four main components: mineral grains, salt, acids, and soot. Scattering is mainly caused by the mineral grain component.

The wavelength dependence of the scattering coefficient is described (in the wavelength range 300-600 nm) by a power law:

This power law was fitted to pulsed data at 4 wavelength for IceCube.

Absorption is caused by dust and the ice itself.



# Dust Logger

Since scattering is caused by **dust**. It is important to understand



#### dust logger data string 21



#### dust logger data of multiple location



#### Package Dimensions

# Flasher on the every DOM





#### Above a dust layer



#### Partially in a dust layer



## The Ice is very clear Effective scattering length vs Depth



## Absorption length vs Depth



Absorption length [m]

## **Optical Properties**

- Combining all the possible information
- These features are included in simulation
- We're always be developing them Nature never tell us a perfect answer but obtained a satisfactory agreement with data!



#### In-situ Absolute Calibration

#### Calibrated light source: Standard Candle

- in-situ calibrated N<sub>2</sub> pulsed laser
- light wavelength 337 nm
- at 100% intensity generates 4x10<sup>12</sup> photons per pulse emitted at 41°
- output adjustable between 0.5% ~ 100%



#### Checks of non saturated region

Red:data Blue:MC

Comparisons of normalized waveforms in non saturated region (shape = photon timing)



# UHE neutrino analysis 2010-2012

Total 75 GBytes/day from the South Pole to the North

Name in Filter	Actual BW used (MB/day)	Rate of selected events (Hz)	
MuonFilter_11	18400	30.25	$\rightarrow$ NPE > 1000
SlopFilterTime_11	480	0.45	
EHEFilter_11	3500	2.33 —	
SlopFilterTrig_11	2850	0.81	
DeepCoreFilter_11	9040	26.86	
CascadeFilter_11	8750	27.12	
IceTopSTA3_InIceSMT_11	2100	3.17	
IceTopSTA3_11	2460	6.40	
SDST_LowUp_11	600	31.36	
SDST_VEF_11	160	7.96	
GCLEStarting_11	2070	6.62	
SDST_GCMinBias_11	7900	270.16	
SDST_GCHE_11	3040	104.38	
SDST_GCNWStarting_11	4700	190.94	
FilterMinBias_11	860	<b>2.69</b>	
PhysicsMinBiasTrigger_11	290	<b>1.28</b>	

## Data samples

Effective livetime of 670.1 days

2010-2011 - 79 strings config. **May/31/2010-May/12/2011** Effective livetime 319.9days 2011-2012 – 86 strings config May/13/2011-May14/2012 Effective livetime 350.1 days 9 strings (2006) 22 strings (2007) 40 strings (2008) 59 strings (2009) 79 strings (2010) 86 strings (2011)



IceCube has been in a stable operation for more than 5 years

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#### Background

- Atmospheric muons
- Atmospheric neutrinos

#### Major background is cosmic-ray muons (muon bundles)



#### Atmos. muon distribution



Relatively easy to cut them away

## Basic strategies for search for GZK neutrinos



Background energy smaller than signal

Background is vertical downwardgoing while signal comes near horizon

## Atmospheric neutrinos in PeV

- Conventional atmospheric neutrinos from decays of pion and kaons
- Prompt atmospheric neutrinos form decays of heavy flavor short lived mesons (charm, bottom)
- Prompt harder than conventional still steeper than astronomical spectra
- Transition around 3 x 10<sup>5</sup> GeV depending on the models

#### No clear evidence of prompt atmospheric v observed so far



#### Atmospheric neutrinos in a wide energy range




# Note that there is position dependence



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# The analysis flow in 2011-2012



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# Coincident $\mu$ track cleaning

The "burn-sample" data



After

After

# Zenith angle resolution in the UHE analysis

- resolution (RMS) for background is  $\sim$  1.2 deg
- resolution (RMS) for signal is ~10 deg due to its stochastic nature
  - $_{\circ}$   $\,$  resolution improves with increasing Nch  $\,$
  - $_{\circ}$   $\,$  No strong dependence with NPE  $\,$



resolution for signal mu, tau tracks



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## Filtering level NPE and cos theta distributions

#### NPE and cos zenigh angle distributions comparisons with burn sample



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## Reco Zenith and NPE distributions (Level-1: #OM > 300, log NPE > 3.5)

Year-1 IC86 data sample

Green – iron CORSICA Blue – proton CORSIKA Black – burn sample Red - signal MC

#### 2011-2012 dataset



# The Event Selection for 2011-2012

- Optimization fully based on MC (blind analysis)
- MC verification based on 10% experimental 'burn' sample
- Optimization for 2010-2011 data very similar slightly different in values





## Total updated background per 670 days

	Total background (IC79+IC86)
Atmospheric µ	0.0363
Atmospheric conventional v	0.0212
Total	0.0573 (with prompt 0.190)
prompt v (Enberg et al.)	0.133+/-0.0007

2011-2012

2010-2011

	rates per livetime		rates per livetime
Atmospheric µ	0.0089+/-0.0030	Atmospheric µ	0.02742 +/- 0.0054
Atmospheric conventional v	0.0060 +/- 0.0004	Atmospheric conventional v	0.01520 +/- 0.0007
Total	0.0147 (0.0628)	Total	0.0426 (0.127)
prompt v	0.0481 +/- 0.0004	prompt v	0.0851 +/- 0.0007

# After unblind - Observation of 2 events

Run119316-Event36556705 NPE 9.628x10<sup>4</sup> GMT time: 2012/1/3 9:34:01



Run118545-Event6373366

NPE 6.9928x104 GMT time: 2012/8/8 12:23:18



2 events / 670 days background (atm. μ + conventional atm. ν) expectation 0.057 events Preliminary

p-value 1.581x10<sup>-4</sup> (2.95<sub>5</sub>)

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# The highest Charged String Positions



### Reconstruction of the two cascade events

Direction and Energy

# Consistent with cascade events in detector



# CC/NC interactions in the detector

**No** indication that they are instrumental artifacts that they are cosmic-ray muon induced

we can use **dedicated cascade hypothesis** to the reconstructions of these special events Many students/posdocs contributed





#### EHE-Jan-2012 **Recorded pulses**

#### EHE-Aug-2011

Calibrated ATWD waveform above and below the highest charged DOM (S63-29)

Calibrated ATWD waveform above and below the highest charged DOM (S53-23)







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## What are their energies and directions?

Maximizing the Poisson likelihood based on the recorded waveforms
Charges and timing information







Distance to source (vertical) [m]

# PDF of the deposited energy

The "top-down" approach : Inject MC electrons with the event-relevant

phase space and reconstruct them by the same method

Preliminary

Jan 2012 event <u>1.3 PeV</u>
Aug 2011 event <u>1.14 PeV</u>

Jan 2012 event





#### Deposited Energy $\rightarrow \nu$ Energy (At the IceCube depth = in-ice energy)

 $v_e \rightarrow e + X$  (CC reaction) energy deposit = neutrino energy

 $v_x \rightarrow v_x + X$  (NC reaction) energy deposit = a partial neutrino energy

# Jan 2012 event Aug 2011 event Both events: ~1 PeV < Ev < ~4 PeV</td>



#### **In-ice** v **Energy** $\rightarrow$ v Energy at the Earth surface

#### The in-earth $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ propagation effects

What is  $E_V^{surface}$  that could induce the PeV event?

when the primary v spectrum  $\phi(E_V) \sim E_{..}^{-2}$ 10 Event 118545 probability [arbitrary] 10-1 10-3 10-1 101 7 5 6 8 9 10 Log10(v energy at the Earth surface [GeV])

when the primary v spectrum  $\phi(Ev) \sim a \ la \ GZK$ : harder spectrum



Log10(v energy at the Earth surface [GeV])

Sharp fall-off of  $\nu_{e}$  and  $\nu_{\mu}$  at 10' GeV

higher energy population should have converted to the charge leptons (e or  $\mu$ ) before reaching to the IceCube instrumentation volume

**EeV (=10<sup>9</sup> GeV) tail of**  $v_{\tau}$ The regeneration:  $v \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow v$ 

# **Earth-surface Ev probability**



Even assuming the hard GZK-type spectrum and the in-earth propagation effects,

the primary energy of these 2 events must be  $1 \text{PeV} < E_V < 50 \text{ PeV}$  at 90% C.L.

This is very conservative statement on their energies

## Final selection level - NPE distributions



## Final selection level – Energy distribution



# Numbers of UHE Events

Preliminary	lceCube 2008-2009 Phys. Rev D83 092003 (2011) 333days	IceCube 2010-2012 per 670days		
Models		E <sup>detector</sup> < 10 <sup>8</sup> GeV and interaction in detector (A)	All contributi ons (B)	(B) - (A)
Background (conv. atm. $v$ + atm. $\mu$ )	0.11		0.14	
Experimental data	0	2	2	0
GZK (Yoshida m=4)*	0.57	0.4	2.1	1.7
GZK (Ahlers max) **	0.89	0.5	3.2	2.7
GZK (Ahlers best fit) **	0.43	0.3	1.6	1.3
GZK (Kotera, dip FRII) ***		1.7	4.1	2.4
GZK (Kotera, dip SFR1)***		0.6	1.0	0.4

\*Yoshida et al The ApJ 479 547-559 (1997), \*\*Ahlers et al, Astropart. Phys. 34 106-115 (2010), \*\*\*Kotera et al, ^R. Enberg, M.H. Reno, and I. Sarcevic, Phys. Rev. D 78, 043005 (2008), ^ Talk G. Sullivan This conference

#### A note on the power law fluxes







A factor of ~4 improved from the previous IceCube results

- The world's best sensitivity!
- Will constrain the
   neutrino fluxes down
   to mid-strong
   cosmological
   evolution models

## On-going improvements

- IceTop VETO
- Starting event

Note that we also have seen positive fluctuation from 2008-2009 cascade analysis and 2009-2010 muon neutrino analysis

# Summary

- Searched for neutrinos with PeV and greater energies in nearly full 2 years of the IceCube data
- Two candidate events observed
  - PeV to 10PeV energy cascade-channel neutrino events (CC/NC interactions within the detector)
  - The highest energy neutrino events observed ever!
- Beyond the conventional atmospheric neutrinos
- Any post-unblinding analysis indicates higher significance (but not official)
- Hints for the PeV events origin from different energy-region
  - More cascade event sensitive analysis
  - Lower energy regions for the spectral transition
  - more statistics

will answer some of questions in relatively short time

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## Backup

# An improvement 1 Background Veto with IceTop

Downward-going region is airshower induced muon background dominated





- Unblinded for 2010-2011 data, no event passed
- Eff area 10% improved in down going region

Number of Events

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#### Starting event analysis

Nathan Whitehorn and Claudio Kopper (UW)

- Bright (>6000pe)
  - was > 63000pe, this reduces energy threshold an order
- Outer veto cut to reject backgroun
  - Events started in detector


### New effective area

Improvements in 100TeV region





#### Nathan Whitehorn and Claudio Kopper



We'll expect another 10 events from the fluxes consistent with the 2 events



# IceCube Event Classifications

- Event Topology
  - All direction
  - Flavor sensitive
- Event Direction
  - Upward-going neutrinos
    - neutrino induced muon sensitive analy
    - Conventional atmospheric neutrinos
    - Prompt neutrinos + astrophysical neutr
- Event Energy
  - All direction
  - Higher energy than background
  - All Flavor

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IceCube Event Topology



#### sub-channels "Composite Bright Track"



High  $E v_{\tau}$ : lollipops and double bangs



# ミューオンの走る距離



# Muon range in ice >>1Km





 $\mu \rightarrow \mu \pi$  (数10~100mに一回)Photonuclear

## Case of tau



• Neutrino cross-section

