Disovering ultra-high-energy neutrinos with GRAND, the Giant Radio Array for Neutrino Detection

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VHEPA 2016

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu - January 08, 2016







Ultra-high-energy cosmic rays

After 50+ years of UHECR measurements ----



The electromagnetic sky



High-energy astrophysical neutrinos: they exist!

The era of neutrino astronomy has begun!

- IceCube has reported 54 events with 30 TeV - 2 PeV in 4 years



We expect the > PeV ν sky to be populated: cosmogenic neutrinos

They are produced in proton (or nuclei) interactions with CMB photons:

$$\underbrace{p}_{10^{20} \text{ eV}} + \underbrace{\gamma_{\text{CMB}}}_{0.1 \text{ meV}} \rightarrow \underbrace{\nu_{\mu} + \bar{\nu}_{\mu} + \nu_{e}}_{10^{18} \text{ eV}} = \text{EeV}$$

We have not seen them - why are they worth looking for?

- They are sensitive to the UHECR composition (fewer ν 's if nuclei)
- They probe the high-redshift UHECR evolution
- Probe v properties at previously unexplored energies
- (Because they are out there)

The problem: the flux is low. Possibly very low.

CMB photons are abundant but UHECRs are much less so

... The cosmogenic neutrino flux is low

The ν flux is affected by UHECR properties, e.g.,

- composition: lower for heavier composition
- maximum CR energy: lower for lower maximum energy
- redshift evolution of source density: lower for weaker evolution

But at least the detection cross section (ν -nucleon) grows with energy

How low can low be?



The present-day picture

The latest IceCube search (6 years) found only one candidate event — the most optimistic predictions are disfavored



Predictions vs. detectors — now



Predictions vs. detectors — now



Predictions vs. detectors — now



Two philosophies:

- 1 Build larger water/ice Cherenkov detectors
 - Pro: the technique is mature (IceCube-Gen2, KM3NeT)
 - Con: unfeasible to cover very large area
- 2 Use more suitable techniques: EAS detection
 - Pro: surface arrays can cover large areas (e.g., Auger, ANITA)
 - Con: limited exposure, technique has not been as developed

Predictions vs. detectors — future



Enter GRAND

Sensitivity to pessimistic scenarios of cosmogenic neutrinos can realistically be achieved only with dedicated EAS detectors

How can the nightmare scenario be overcome?

- 1 Build big. Really big.
- ${f 2}$ Use radio emission attenuation length is \sim 100 km in air

GRAND: Giant Radio Array for Neutrino Detection



- Detects Earth-skimming ν_τ's with 10^{8.5}–10^{11.5} GeV
- Via radio emission of *τ*-initiated extensive air showers
- $\blacktriangleright~\sim 10^5$ antennas covering $2\times 10^5~km^2$

Building big — comparing the surface areas



Building big — comparing the surface areas



GRAND $(2 \times 10^5 \text{ km}^2)$

GRAND cuts deep



For cosmogenic neutrinos, GRAND is ...

- ... a discovery and precision instrument for optimistic fluxes: 600–1400 events yr⁻¹
- ... a discovery instrument for pessimistic fluxes:
 6–15 events yr⁻¹
- ▶ ... and a strong-exclusion instrument, if < 1 event yr⁻¹





- ▶ Let us start assuming UHECRs (> 10⁸ GeV) are protons
- They create cosmogenic neutrinos of ~ EeV by interacting with cosmological photons:

$$p + \gamma \rightarrow \Delta^{+}(1232) \rightarrow \pi^{+} + n$$

$$\pi^{+} \rightarrow \mu^{+} + \nu_{\mu}$$

$$\mu^{+} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\mu} + \nu_{e} + e^{+}$$

$$n \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e} + e + p$$

- Δ resonance is \sim 50% of the total
- There are more channels: heavier resonances, multi-pion production (see, e.g., HÜMMER et al., ApJ 721, 630 (2010) [1002.1310])

Propagating the UHECRs to Earth

We propagate protons to Earth:

Comoving number density of protons (GeV⁻¹ cm⁻³):

$$Y_{\rho}(E,z) = n_{\rho}(E,z) / (1+z)^3$$
,

with n_p the real number density

Transport equation (comoving source frame):



Spectral shape

Two main photon targets:

- CMB
- Cosmic infrared/optical background (CIB)





Cosmogenic neutrinos by flavor

Roughly equal flux of each flavor at Earth:



A "guaranteed" flux of cosmogenic u_{τ}

- Assume unconstrained flavor composition at production time (with and w/o ν_τ)
- Vary the mixing parameters within their 1σ, 3σ ranges
- Use standard flavor mixing to find the flavor ratios at Earth, f_{α,⊕}
- Guaranteed τ-flavor content between 15% – 50% of total
- ∴ A ν_τ signal is "guaranteed" even if we do not know the production mechanism
- Possible caveat: new physics



[MB, J. BEACOM, W. WINTER, PRL 115, 161302 (2015) [1506.02645]]

Four UHECR knobs control cosmogenic neutrinos

The spectrum (shape and normalization) of cosmogenic neutrinos depends mainly on four UHECR properties:

1 Mass composition

— heavier CRs make fewer ν 's

Redshift evolution of the density of CR sources
 more sources at high redshift result in more v's

- Maximum CR energy reached at the sources — higher maximum energy results in more v's
- 4 Spectral index of the CR injection spectrum
 - complicated dependence, depends on the other parameters

Also:

5 Start energy of the transition to extragalactic CRs

Cosmogenic neutrinos — three broad scenarios

- UHECRs are mostly extragalactic protons above 10⁹ GeV — "proton dip model"
- UHECRs are mostly extragalactic protons above the ankle (4 EeV)
 — "ankle model"
- 3 UHECRs are a mix of nuclei, maybe dominated by heavy ones — "mixed composition"



KOTERA, ALLARD, OLINTO, JCAP 1010, 013 (2010)

Challenging the proton dip

We can fit UHECR pure-proton fluxes to 7-year TA spectrum — the associated cosmogenic ν fluxes already overshoot the IceCube bound:



This challenges a pure proton UHECR composition

J. HEINZE, D. BONCIOLI W. WINTER, MB, 1512.05988

Cosmogenic ν 's from mixed-composition UHECRs

- ▶ Nuclei photodisintegrate on the CMB: $A + \gamma \rightarrow (A 1) + n$
- Less efficient at producing neutrinos
- > In ankle models, minimum fluxes yield \lesssim 1 event yr⁻¹ in GRAND:



M. AHLERS, F. HALZEN, PRD 86, 083010 (2012)

High-energy neutrino interactions

- ho \gtrsim 100 GeV u-nucleon interactions are deep-inelastic scattering
- > \gtrsim 100 TeV: outgoing leptons carry \sim 70% of the initial u energy

Neutral current: $\nu_l + N \rightarrow \nu_l + X$

- Final hadrons X create hadronic shower
- $\sigma_{\rm NC} \approx 0.4 \sigma_{\rm CC}$
- Compensated by three flavors
- NC showers have $E_{\rm sh} \approx 0.3 E_{\nu}$
- So they are subdominant

Charged current: $\nu_l + N \rightarrow l + X$

- ν_{μ} : final μ creates muon track
- > ν_e : final *e* creates e.m. shower
- ν_τ: final τ creates hadronic
 (e.m.) shower 83% (17%) of the time
- CC showers have $E_{\rm sh} \approx E_{
 u}$

What happens to CC showers of different flavors?

• The electron from CC ν_e quickly showers underground



> The muon from CC ν_{μ} travels into air and decays much later



• The tau from CC ν_{τ} decays in air and creates a large shower



 $\gamma c \tau_{\tau} \approx 50 \text{ m} (E/\text{PeV})$

In 1992, Zas, Halzen, and Stanev discussed radio detection of ν 's:

"It has been claimed that the relatively **low cost of electromagnetic [radio] pulse detectors may allow a large detection area to be covered with arrays of aerials**, providing a cost effective method for detection of neutrino interactions in the energy range above 1 TeV."

And they found large arrays are necessary:

"To sample 1 km in depth, a 5-PeV neutrino is anticipated and the existing limits on high energy neutrinos imply very low event rates unless detectors of area much larger than 1 km² are considered."

PRD 45, 362 (1992)

Radio emission: Askaryan and geomagnetic

Geomagnetic





Askaryan

- Time-varying transverse current
- Linearly polarized in the direction of the Lorentz force
- Main mechanism in air showers
- Time-varying negative charge excess ~ 20%
- Linearly polarized towards axis
- Subdominant in air showers (dominant in ice)

FIGURES BY H. SCHOORLEMMER AND K. D. DE VRIES

Lateral distribution of the radio signal

A superposition of geomagnetic and Askaryan emission:



CoREAS simulation from HUEGE, LUDWIG, JAMES, AIP Conf. Proc. 1535, 128 (2013)

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UHE neutrinos with GRAND

Coherent emission

- The shower front moves compactly as a "particle pancake" ~ 1 cm thick and a few cm wide
- At radio wavelengths, emission adds coherently:



Cherenkov ring

- Air shower front travels at \sim light speed
- Radio signal propagates more slowly due to refraction
- This leads to Cherenkov-like time compression of radio pulses with high power
- Seen by CROME in the 3.4–4.2 GHz band (CoREAS overlaid):



EAS radio detection

- Radio antennas are well-suited for very large arrays:
 - They are simple detectors
 - Extensive technical development
- Atmosphere transparent to radio
- Emission from horizontal EAS of $\gtrsim 2 \cdot 10^8$ GeV still detectable 100 km away from interaction vertex
- Short waves prevent detection below 25 MHz
- Sky noise level: 15 µV m⁻¹ for 30–100 MHz



ADAPTED FROM O. MARTINEAU

TREND, the predecessor of GRAND (2011-2014)

- TREND: Tianshan Radio Experiment for Neutrino Detection
- 50 monopolar antennas deployed over 1.5 km²
- Proposed in 2008 by D. Ardouin et al. [Astropart. Phys. 34, 717 (2011) [1007.4359]]
- Site: Ulastai, XinJiang Province, China (21CMA interferometer site)
- Main goal: autonomous EAS radio detection and identification
- 465 EAS candidates in 317 live days (offline analysis)



Goal achieved: autonomous EAS detection with radio antennas is possible



ADAPTED FROM O. MARTINEAU



GRAND sensitivity study — setup

- MC simulation includes:
 - ν_τ propagation
 - τ propagation + decay
 - shower development
 - radio emission
- Primary energy 10⁸–10¹² GeV
- Earth-skimming only: ±4° around the horizon



- Mountains are sizeable targets: ~ 40% of total
- Antenna triggers if:
 - In direct view of shower
 - Inside a light cone of a few degrees (0.5–3°)
 - τ decay vertex is 14–120 km away
- Shower detected if one cluster of 8+ antennas fired
- ▶ Simulation array: 90000 antennas over $220 \times 270 \approx 60000 \text{ km}^2$ in Tianshan mountains (800 m step size)

GRAND sensitivity study – simulation



GRAND effective area

GRAND-60 effective area (preliminary):



upgoing (Earth) ◀► downgoing (mountains)

For GRAND-200, scale by $200/60 \approx 3.33$

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UHE neutrinos with GRAND

GRAND field of view — at 1 EeV



3-year average:



GRAND angular resolution

- Computed analytically for all detected showers following simulation by Ardouin *et al.* [1007.4359]
- Assumes 3 ns trigger timing precision
- High resolution due to extended trigger zone



GRAND energy resolution

- Presently, we do not reconstruct neutrino energy
- But we know that $E_{\nu} > E_{sh}$
- The flight distance of the \(\tau\) may help:



Main goal: discovery of cosmogenic neutrinos regardless of flux

- Point sources
- Transient sources
- Neutrinos from GRB afterglows
- UHECR detection (á la AERA)
- Flavor composition at EeV
- New physics

Still to be determined:

Will GRAND be able to reconstruct neutrino directions in real time?

- If yes, event excesses can triger follow-up by other instruments (*e.g.*, via GCN, AMON)
- If no, GRAND can act as a follow-up partner in archival searches for temporal and spatial Coincidence

For transient astronomy, the shorter the latency, the better for a crude reconstruction of arrival direction

FOTEINI ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟ

GRBs explained - the fireball model



What?

Emission occuring when the GRB jet reaches the circumburst medium

When?

Between a few hours and a day after the prompt emission

How?

Neutrino production via $p\gamma$ – depends on the matter profile of medium

Why interesting?

Flux sits right where EAS detectors -including GRAND- are sensitive

GRB prompt vs. afterglow neutrinos

Prompt neutrinos

- Modeled via *p*γ in internal in-jet collisions
- Flux peaks at ~ PeV
- Use IceCube, ANTARES, KM3NeT

Afterglow neutrinos

- Modeled via *p*γ in jet-medium collisions
- Flux peaks at $\sim \text{EeV}$
- Use ARA, ARIANNA, ANITA, GRAND



Sensitivity to GRB afterglow neutrinos



Neutrino flavor composition at EeV

- IceCube measures the flavor ratios in the range 30 TeV 2 PeV
- No measurement exists at higher energies (EHE)
- Since GRAND is sensitive only to ν_τ, it cannot determine the flavor composition by itself
- ARA, ARIANNA are sensitive to all flavors

 however, it is unclear if they can tag flavors, and how well
- EHE flavor ratios might be determined by combining GRAND+ARA+ARIANNA+ANITA data

What are the flavor-tagging capabilities of ARA, ARIANNA, ANITA?

Challenge: antenna design and deployment

- How realistic/affordable is it to deploy, run, and maintain an array of 200 000 antennas?
- Answer: keep it as basic as possible
 - Basic (analog) trigger on transient signal
 - Record 4 words/trigger (max. amplitude × 3 channels + GPS trigger time)
 - Rely on commercial solutions for electronics and data transfer
- <1 W and < USD 500 / antenna</p>
- Total budget (instrument):

 $\frac{\text{USD 500}}{\text{antenna}} \cdot 10^5 \text{ antennas} = \text{USD 50 million}$



ADAPTED FROM K. KOTERA

Challenge: background rejection

- 1 Atmospheric muons and neutrinos: negligible above 10⁷ GeV
- 2 UHECR showers can be filtered out by looking below the horizon:
 - Only use showers coming from 1° below horizon
 - ► For 0.2° angular resolution, suppression factor is 5 · 10⁻⁷
 - Affects marginally the detection efficiency (< 10%)
- **3** Terrestrial (man-made) background:
 - Scaling up TREND background yields ~ 3 · 10⁸ events yr⁻¹
 - \blacktriangleright To see a neutrino signal of \sim 0–100 events yr^{-1}, we need a rejection factor of \sim 10 9
 - How?
 - cut out data from the direction of known man-made sources
 - filter by trigger pattern on the ground?
 - use polarization?





GRAND tentative timeline



O. MARTINEAU

GRANDproto

- Hybrid setup: 35 3-polar antennas + 24 scintillators
- Deployed at the noisiest location of the TREND array
- ► Target: (standard) air showers coming from the north with $40^{\circ} < \theta_z < 70^{\circ}$
- Principle: select radio candidates from polar information, use scintillators as cross-check
- Quantitative determination of the rejection factor
- Deployment ongoing, to be completed in June 2016
- Proposal to perform similar tests at Auger-AERA







GRAND team

France:

- Olivier Martineau-Huynh (LPNHE, CNRS-IN2P3, Universités Paris VI & VII)
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- Julia Schmid (Laboratoire AIM, Université Paris Diderot/CEA-IRFU/CNRS)
- Charles Timmermans (SUBATECH, CNRS-IN2P3, Université de Nantes)

23 people Expertise from TREND and theory

USA:

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GRAND activities and documentation

GRAND workshops and slides:

- GRAND workshop LPNHE, Paris, Feb 2015 http://indico.in2p3.fr/event/10976/
- GRAND mini-workshop KICP, Chicago, Dec 2015 http://kicp.uchicago.edu/kicp-workshops/grand2015/

GRAND proceedings:

- ICRC 2015 http://arxiv.org/abs/1508.01919
- VLVnT 2015 https://goo.gl/hbIJbI

White paper: soon!

Perspectives

GRAND: an instrument to discover cosmogenic neutrinos even in nightmare scenarios and to make precision measurements otherwise

- A great tool for multi-messenger astronomy
- GRAND proposal is being set up (science case + detailed simulations)
- Possible timeline:
 - 2016: GRANDproto + proposal
 - > 2018: engineering array of $\mathcal{O}(1000 \text{ km}^2)$
 - 2021: start building full array

Join us!



Backup slides

Neutrino production with heavy UHECRs



KOTERA, ALLARD, OLINTO, JCAP 1010, 013 (2010)

Why should we expect $\nu'_{\tau}s$?

Neutrino production via pion decay:

 $p\gamma \rightarrow \Delta^+$ (1232) $\rightarrow \pi^+ n$ $\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_\mu$

Flavor ratios at the source: $(f_e : f_\mu : f_\tau)_S \approx (1/3 : 2/3 : 0)$

At Earth, due to flavor mixing:

$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta} P_{\nu_{\beta} \to \nu_{\alpha}} f_{\beta,\mathbf{S}} = \sum_{\beta} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{3} |U_{\alpha i}|^2 |U_{\beta i}|^2 \right) f_{\beta,\mathbf{S}}$$

 $(1/3:2/3:0)_{S} \xrightarrow{\text{flavor mixing, NH, best-fit}} (0.36:0.32:0.32)_{\oplus}$

Other compositions at the source:

 $\begin{array}{rcl} (0:1:0)_{S} & \longrightarrow & (0.26:0.36:0.38)_{\oplus} \mbox{ (``muon damped'')} \\ (1:0:0)_{S} & \longrightarrow & (0.55:0.26:0.19)_{\oplus} \mbox{ (``neutron decay'')} \\ (1/2:1/2:0)_{S} & \longrightarrow & (0.40:0.31:0.29)_{\oplus} \mbox{ (``charmed decays'')} \end{array}$

IceCube analysis of flavor composition

Using contained events + throughgoing muons:



- Best fit: $(f_e: f_\mu: f_\tau)_{\oplus} = (0.49: 0.51: 0)_{\oplus}$
- Compatible with standard source compositions
- Bounds are weak need more data and better flavor-tagging

Number of events:

$$N_{\nu} = 2\pi \cdot t_{\exp} \cdot f_{\tau,\oplus} \times \int_{10^{8.5}}^{10^{11.5}} dE_{\nu} \int_{86^{\circ}}^{93^{\circ}} \sin \theta_z d\theta_z \ A_{\text{eff}}\left(E_{\nu}, \theta_z\right) \Phi_{\nu_{\text{all}}}\left(E_{\nu}\right) \ ,$$

where

 $t_{exp} = 3$ yr: detector exposure time

 $f_{ au,\oplus}$: fraction of total flux that is $u_{ au} + ar{
u}_{ au}$ – assumed 1/3 here

 $\Phi_{\nu_{all}}$: diffuse all-flavor $(\nu + \bar{\nu})$ flux

Afterglow ν predictions for radio neutrino detectors

From recent work [G. NIR, D. GUETTA, H. LANDSMAN, E. BEHAR, [1511.07010]]:



- $\blacktriangleright\,\lesssim 3\cdot 10^{-11}~GeV~cm^{-2}~s^{-1}~sr^{-1}$ needs > 3 yr of GRAND exposure
- Alternative calculation with more models and parameter variations in preparation (MB, I. Tamborra)

Probing UHECR + neutrino production in GRBs

If no cosmogenic ν 's are detected in 15 yr, the parameter space for GRBs as sources of UHECRs + ν 's will be tightly constrained —



direct p escape, n = 1.0

P. BAERWALD, MB, W. WINTER, Astropart, Phys. 62, 66 (2015) [1401.1820]

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direct p escape, n = 1.0

UHE neutrinos with GRAND