Astronomical instruments



Optical telescopes





When light strikes the concave primary mirror of the Hubble Space Telescope, it is reflected to the convex secondary mirror, then back through a hole in the center of the primary mirror. There, the light comes to the focal point and passes to one of Hubble's instruments. Telescopes of this design are called Cassegrain telescopes, after the person who designed the first one.

Fluxes in the optical and near infrared bands : Magnitudes

Apparent Magnitude : $m - m_0 = -2.5 Log_{10}(F/F_0)$ Absolute Magnitude : $M = m - 5 \ Log \frac{D}{10 \ pc}$



Very Large Telescope



Adaptive optics



Extremely Large Telescope



Astronomical Mirrors



Atmosphere transparency



ALMA as an Interferometer

66 antennas working as one radiotelescope. Is as if we had a 15km radiotelescope.

How interferometry works

One antenna the resolution goes λ/D , where D is the diameter of the antenna.

Two antennas the resolution goes λ/B , where B is the baseline between the two antennas.

How interferometry works

ALMA bands

Chajnantor - 5000m, 0.25mm pwv

Main molecules per band

ALMA Band	Frequency (GHz)	Main Lines
1	31 - 45	
2	67 - 90	
3	84 - 116	CO(1-0)
4	125 - 163	H ₂ O
5	163 - 211	
6	211 - 275	CO (2-1)
7	275 - 373	CO (3-2), [CII] z=5
8	385 - 500	CO (4-3), [CII] z=3
9	602 - 720	CO (6-5), [CII] z=2
10	787 - 950	CO (7-6), CO (8-7)

Found 15 lines in ALMA Band 3 (84-116 GHz), showing 1 - 15 Click on the chemical formula below for more information about that species.

	Species	Chemical Name	Ordered Freq (GHz) (rest frame, redshifted)	Resolved QNs	CDMS/JPL Intensity	Lovas/AST Intensity	E _L (cm ⁻¹)	E _L (K)	Linelist
1	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	85.31068, 85.31068	50(6,44)-50(6,45)	-11.01730		3390.2754	4877.8220	CDMS
2	SiO v = 0	Silicon Monoxide	86.84696, 86.84696	2-1	-2.48320	1.5	1.4485	2.0841	CDMS
3	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	89.56506, 89.56506	13(2,11)-13(2,12)	-4.78500		253.2493	364.3672	CDMS
4	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	89.93780, 89.93780	45(2,43)-44(4,40)	-10.82770		2564.5250	3689.7582	CDMS
5	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	95.93231, 95.93231	31(4,27)-31(4,28)	-6.77550		1338.2468	1925.4276	CDMS
6	$C\overline{S} v = 0$	Carbon Monosulfide	97.98095, 97.98095	2 - 1	0.00000	6.94	1.6340	2.3509	SLAIM
7	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	100.51110, 100.51110	22(3,19)-22(3,20)	-5.00180		689.1894	991.5841	CDMS
8	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	101.33299, 101.33299	6(1,5)-6(1,6)	-4.04410	<0.1	57.4804	82.7010	CDMS
9	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	104.15793, 104.15793	41(5,36)-41(5,37)	-8.16510		2298.5855	3307.1328	CDMS
10	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	104.93181, 104.93181	51(6,45)-51(6,46)	-11.11150		3514.0612	5055.9211	CDMS
11	C18O	Carbon Monoxide	109.78218, 109.78218	1-0	0.00000	2.1	0.0000	0.0000	SLAIM
12	13CO y = 0	Carbon Monoxide	110.20135, 110.20135	1-0	-5.06620	9.3	0.0000	0.0000	CDMS
13	H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde	110.93421, 110.93421	21(3,18)-22(1,21)	-6.30110		634.5972	913.0386	CDMS
14	C170	Carbon Monoxide	112.35928, 112.35928	J= 1- 0	0.00000	0.20	0.0000	0.0000	SLAIM
15	CO y = 0	Carbon Monoxide	115.27120, 115.27120	1-0	0.00000	60.0	0.0000	0.0000	SLAIM

Found 15 lines in ALMA Band 3 (84-116 GHz), showing 1 - 15

ALMA discoveries

 The sharpest image ever taken by ALMA. It shows the protoplanetary disc surrounding the young star HL Tauri. These new ALMA observations reveal substructures within the disc that have never been seen before and even show the possible positions of planets forming in the dark patches within the system.

Fluxes in the Radio band

Gamma-rays telescopes

X-rays telescopes

HEAD A-1 ALL-SKY X-RAY CATALOG

X-rays telescopes in space

Chandra Xrays Observatory (NASA) 1999 -

Energy range : < 10 keV Ang. Res : 0.5"

XMM-Newton Telescope (ESA) 2000 -

Energy range : < 15 keVAng. Res : 5'' - 10''

NuSTAR (NASA) 2014 -

Energy range : < 80 keV Ang. Res : 10 "

Coded Mask Telescopes

Photons interaction with matter

- $\mu ph \rightarrow photoelectric effect,$
- $\mu cs \rightarrow$ Compton scattering,
- $\mu ca \rightarrow Compton absorption$
- $\mu p \rightarrow pair production.$
- $\mu a \rightarrow$ total mass absorption coefficient ($\mu a = \mu ph + \mu p + \mu ca$)
- $\mu \rightarrow$ total mass attenuation coefficient ($\mu = \mu ph + \mu p + \mu c$ where $\mu c = \mu cs + \mu ca$).

(from Grupen, Particle Detectors)

Astronomical bands

Compton Telescopes

En. range : 0.75 - 30 MeV Ang. Res : few deg

The MeV sky

En. range : > 30 MeV

Ang. Res : few deg / E

Detection in pair production telescopes

the pair conserves p and E

but:

Only projection information Multiple Scattering Noise hits

Multiple scattering

Moliere formula :

$$\theta_{rms} = \frac{13.6}{E_{c}[MeV]} \sqrt{\frac{z}{X_{0}}} \left(1 + 0.038 \ln \frac{z}{X_{0}}\right)$$

• Measure of MS angles along the track and crossed thickness

- Three-dimensional track reconstruction
- Energy loss (bremsstrahlung and ionization)

Track reconstruction - Kalman F.

Angular Resolution

SAS 2 (NASA)

1973 - 1974

GCRO/EGRET (NASA)

1991 - 2000

		7
AGILE (ASI)		1
(2007 -)	Fermi (NASA)	
	(2008 -)	*

The GeV Sky

Existing Cherenkov Telescopes

HESS telescope

H.E.S.S consists currently of 4 telescopes arranged in a square with 120 m side length and provide multiple <u>stereoscopic view of air showers</u>.

Each telescope consists of a dish with an effective area of 107 m^2 and a camera.

The mirrors collect <u>Cherenkov light from air</u> <u>showers</u> and focus it onto the camera.

Maximum slewing speed: 100°/ min.

The Davies Cotton telescopes have a focal length of 15 m and a reflectivity of \sim 80 %.

Air showers with a single telescope

Air showers from gamma rays with E > 100 GeV develop at a height of about 10 km. A pool of Cherenkov light from the shower with a radius of ~120 m reaches the ground.

The image of the shower can be seen as a single track with the camera of one telescope.

Air showers with a single telescope

Stereoscopic Observation of an Air Shower

Air Shower Image Projection

(figures taken from the Ph.D. thesis by Oliver Bolz, Ludwigshafen 2004) The image of the air shower that is projected onto the camera has the form of an ellipse.

In the reconstruction of the air shower, one fits an elliptical form to the image to extract the "Hillasparameters" that characterize the air shower. Two important parameters are the width and the length of the ellipse.

One also takes into account the distribution of intensities over the PMTs that are part of the image.

In the image shown here, the red pixel has the largest number of photoelectrons. It indicates the direction of the shower core.

Reconstruction of the Direction of the Air Shower

The stereoscopic observation provides information on the direction of the air shower.

All telescopes point at the same direction in the sky, so we can superpose the images from the air shower seen in different cameras.

Reconstruction of the Direction of the Air Shower

In this case, the air shower came directly from the direction the telescopes are pointing at.

If they are pointing at a known source, one would identify the shower with a photon from that source.

The angular resolution of H.E.S.S. is a few arc minutes.

Reconstruction of the Shower Impact Point

Geometrical determination of the shower impact point on the ground provides a better understanding of the shower geometry.

This is very useful for the energy reconstruction of the event.

Reconstruction of the Shower Energy

The energy of the primary particle, i.e. the γ -ray, is determined from the total recorded signal size, which can be converted into a flux of Cherenkov photons.

Once the geometry of the air shower – i.e. the inclination of the shower axis and the impact point – has been determined, one compares the recorded signal to lookup tables.

These lookup tables are generated with Monte Carlo simulations of γ -ray induced air showers at different energies and geometries. They contain lateral distributions of Cherenkov photon densities for each simulated shower.

A comparison of the recorded signal size and the simulated photon fluxes provides the energy of the observed shower.

The energy resolution of H.E.S.S. is on the order of 15 %.

Background - Muons

Muons that hit the telescope leave a ring-shaped Cherenkov light signal and are easily identifiable. Muons that pass the telescope at some (not too large) distance can leave a signature that is not easy to distinguish from the image of an air shower. Due to the large muon flux in the atmosphere, this is a considerable source of background.

Muons can however be rejected by requiring at least two telescopes to be triggered simultaneously.

Background - Hadronic Showers

Hadronic showers do not leave a clear track. They look more like a "blob". When fitting an ellipse to the image, the width of the ellipse is usually larger than in the case of a γ -ray shower.

One rejects hadronic showers by applying a cut on the observed width.

Galactic Plane Survey

Galactic Longitude (deg.)

All sky telescopes - Milagro

located near Los Alamos, NM, USA; altitude 2650 m

- a pond of size 80m x 60m x 8 m filled with pure water
- 175 tanks in a larger array
- 2 layers of PMTs (723 in total) observe Cherenkov light from air shower particles
- upper layer: electrons, positrons lower layer: muons

All sky telescopes: Milagro

100% duty cycle, very large field of view (~ 1 sr), good sensitivity at TeV energies => ideal for all (northern) sky survey of gamma-ray sources

Only 0.8 degree angular resolution, higher energy threshold than IACTs

=> complementary method to IACTs and satellites; similar method used by ARGO (Tibet)

Future Projects

Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA):

A joint project of the gamma-ray groups (HESS, MAGIC, etc.). The idea is to have a large array with many telescopes to increase sensitivity.

Future Projects

<u>Cherenkov</u> <u>Telescope</u> <u>Array (CTA)</u>:

A joint project of the gamma-ray groups (HESS, MAGIC, etc.). The idea is to have a large array with many telescopes to increase sensitivity.

<u>High Altitude Water Cherenkov</u> <u>array (HAWC):</u>

next generation of the Milagro style detectors, larger effective area, higher altitude (lower E threshold)

LIGO, NSF, Illustration: A. Simonnet (SSU)

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