

# The future of gamma-ray astronomy

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Comptes Rendus Physique, 2016 Vol. 17, Issue 6, pp. 663-678

# Observing gamma rays



# History of gamma-ray astronomy

#### Number of detected sources in red



#### Achievements Cosmic rays in the Nucleosynthesis in Cosmic accelerators the Universe **Galaxy and beyond** 2013: Proton acceleration in SNR 2011: Crab nebula flares 2014: <sup>56</sup>Co lines from SN Ia 2010: Fermi bubbles. 2010 First radio galaxy lobe, First nova 2009: First starburst galaxies 2008: Crab pulsar 2005: First binary 2004: First resolved SNR 2009: First millisecond pulsars, First starburst galaxies 2003: <sup>60</sup>Fe lines from Galaxy 2002: First unidentified TeV source 2000 2000: First SNR 1994: <sup>44</sup>Ti lines from Cas A 1993: Galactic origin of cosmic rays 1992: Diffuse I MC emission 1992: Mkn 421 1990 1989: Crab nebula 1988: <sup>56</sup>Co lines from SN II 1984: <sup>26</sup>Al line from Galaxy 1981: 25 point-like sources 1980 1978: First blazar 1974: Crab pulsar 1973: GRB, solar deexcitation lines 1972: e⁺e⁻ 511 keV line 1972: Diffuse Galactic emission 1970 1969: Crab pulsar 1962: Cosmic background 1961: 22 photons > 50 MeV 1960 1958: Solar flare GeV TeV MeV

# Scientific Challenges

The nature of Dark Matter



- Indicates a major flaw in our understanding of nature
- Proposed solutions include new fundamental particles (WIMPs, axions, etc.)
- Decay products of these particles (or their effects) may be detectable in gamma rays

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The origin of Cosmic Rays



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- Unveiling the Galactic PeVatrons
- Impact of low-energy cosmic rays on interstellar chemistry
- Cosmic-ray propagation
- Impact of environment

# Scientific Challenges

#### The nature of Dark Matter

The origin of Cosmic Rays



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### The physics of Particle Acceleration



- What mechanisms are actually at operation in a given source?
- Insights from variability (time domain astronomy)
- Elusive source classes

### Space-based projects

Parameter	Adept	e-ASTROGAM	CALET	DAMPE	GAMMA-400	HARPO	HERD	PANGU
Context	R&D	M5?	ISS	China	Russia	R&D	China	ESA/CAS?
Launch date	-	2029?	launched	launched	~2021	-	>2020	2021?
Energy range (GeV)	0.005-0.2	0.0003–3	0.02-10000	2-10000	0.1-3000	0.003-3	0.1-10000	0.01-5
Ref. energy (GeV)	0.07	0.1	100	100	100	0.1	100	1
$\Delta E/E$	30%	30%	2%	1.5%	1%	10%	1%	30%
$A_{\rm eff}~(\rm cm^2)$	500	1500	t.b.d.	3000	5000	2700	t.b.d.	180
Sensitivity (mCrab)	10	10	1000	100	100	1	10	t.b.d.
Field of view (sr)	t.b.d.	2.5	1.8	2.8	1.2	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	2.2
Angular resolution	1°	1.5°	0.1°	0.1°	0.02°	$0.4^{\circ}$	0.1°	0.2°
MDP (10 mCrab)	10%	20%	-	-	-	t.b.d.	-	t.b.d.
Technology	TPC	Si + CsI	$fib. + PbWO_4$	Si + BGO	Si + CsI	TPC	Si + LYSO	Si (fib.) + <b>B</b>

- Detection sensitivities are still poor in the MeV domain
- Considerable potential exists in using modern, **space-proven** highly pixelised semiconductor detectors in a **compact configuration** with a **minimum amount of passive material** to detect gamma rays through Compton and pair creation interactions
- At GeV energies, succeeding to Fermi-LAT will be challenging (Fermi spacecraft weight is 4.3 tons, difficult to build a much bigger detector)
- Area of improvement is angular resolution (i.e point spread function); can be achieved by decreasing density of tracker and increasing spacing between tracker and calorimeter
- Potential to cover both aspects in a single mission

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# Ground-based projects

Parameter	СТА	HAWC	HISCORE	LHAASO	MACE
Site(s)	t.b.d.	Sierra Negra (Mexico)	Tunka Valley (Russia)	Daocheng (China)	Hanle (India)
Altitude (m)	$\sim$ 2000	4100	675	4300	4270
Latitude	t.b.d.	19°N	51.8°N	29°N	32.8°N
Start of operations	2020	started	t.b.d.	2020?	2016
Lifetime (years)	30	10	t.b.d.	> 10	t.b.d.
Energy range (TeV)	0.02-300	0.1-100	50-10000	0.1-1000	t.b.d.
$\Delta E/E$	10%	50%	10%	20%	t.b.d.
$A_{\rm eff}~({\rm m}^2)$	$3 imes 10^6$	30 000	10 <sup>8</sup>	$8 \times 10^5$ (KM2A) $10^6$ (WCDA)	t.b.d.
Sensitivity (mCrab)	1	50	100	10	t.b.d.
Field of view	5°-10°	1.8 sr	0.6 sr	1.5 sr	<b>4</b> °
Angular resolution	$0.05^{\circ}$	$0.5^{\circ}$	0.1°	0.3°	t.b.d.

- Imaging Air Cherenkov Telescopes (IACTs) have been proven most efficient to study gamma-ray induced atmospheric Cherenkov light (excellent angular resolution, strong background rejection power)
- Drawbacks are low duty cycles (~10%) and narrow fields of view (~5°)
- Performance increase through more telescopes covering a larger area and eventually using SiPM instead of PMTs
- Water Cherenkov Detectors (WCDs) are most successful devices for studying the tails of extended air showers ("tail catcher detectors")
- While modest in angular resolution and background rejection, they have excellent duty cycles and wide field of view (complementary to IACTs)
- Performance increase through larger surface areas, moving the detector to higher altitude, and improving the detector configuration
- Open access observatories

### **Cherenkov Telescope Array**





### Cherenkov Telescope Array





Hernanzfest (2017)

### Expected performance

#### Sensitivity gain

- access VHE populations across entire Galaxy
- sample fast variability (AGN, GRB)

#### **FoV > 8°**

- measure diffuse emissions
- efficient survey of large fields

### Arcmin angular resolution

resolve extended sources (SNR, starbursts)

#### Broad energy coverage

- < 100 GeV to reach higher redshifts
- > 10 TeV to search for PeVatrons



### **Key Science**



#### Planned surveys: a deep view of the high-energy Universe

Full galactic plane (1620 h) Deep survey of the Galactic Centre region (825 h) The Large Magellanic Cloud (340 h) One-pi extragalactic survey down to 6 mCrab (500 h)

Hernanzfest (2017)

### Large size telescopes



#### **Science drivers**

- Lowest energies (< 200 GeV)
- Transient phenomena
- DM, AGN, GRB, pulsars

### Characteristics

- Parabolic design
- 23 m diameter
- 370 m<sup>2</sup> effective mirror area
- 28 m focal length
- 1.5 m mirror facets
- 4.5° field of view
- 0.11° PMT pixels
- active mirror control
- Carbon-fibre arch structure (fast repointing)

### Array layout

- South site: 4
- North site: 4



#### Status

- Some elements prototyped
- First full telescope under construction in La Palma (<u>http://www.lst1.iac.es/webcams.html</u>)

# Mid size telescopes



#### Status

- Telescope prototyped (Berlin-Adlershof)
- Prototype cameras under construction (2 types: NectarCAM & FlashCam)

### **Science drivers**

- Mid energies (100 GeV 10 TeV)
- DM, AGN, SNR, PWN, binaries, starbursts, EBL, IGM

### Characteristics

- Modified Davies-Cotton design
- 12 m diameter
- 90 m<sup>2</sup> effective mirror area
- 1.2 m mirror facets
- 16 m focal length
- 8° field of view
- 0.18° PMT pixels

#### Array layout

- South site: 25
- North site: 15

# Small size telescopes



#### Characteristics

- Davies-Cotton design
- 4 m diameter
- 8.5 m<sup>2</sup> effective mirror area
- 5.6 m focal length
- 9° field of view
- 0.24° SiPM pixels

#### Status

- Prototype telescope built •
- Camera prototype under commissioning



#### Characteristics

- Schwarzschild-Couder design
- 4.3 m primary diameter
- 1.8 m secondary diameter
- 6 m<sup>2</sup> effective mirror area
- 2.2 m focal length
- 9.6° field of view
- 0.17° SiPM pixels

#### Status

- Prototype telescope built
- Camera prototype installed



#### Characteristics

- Schwarzschild-Couder design ٠
- 4 m primary diameter
- 2 m secondary diameter
- 6 m<sup>2</sup> effective mirror area
- 2.3 m focal length
- 8.6° field of view
- 0.16° SiPM pixels

#### **Status**

- Prototype telescope structure built
- Tested with MAPMT-based CHEC camera

### **Science drivers**

- **Highest energies** (> 5 TeV)
- Galactic science. **PeVatrons**

#### Array layout

- South site: 70
- North site: -

### **First CTA light**



### Calendar

#### **Project Phases**



### CTA site work

### Chile (South)

### La Palma (North)



### Some other projects

**LHAASO** 

#### **Hiscore**



- Non-imaging air-shower Cherenkov light-front sampling
- Up to 100 km<sup>2</sup> area covered
- Wide field of view (~0.6 sr)
- Extend sensitivity to the PeV regime
- Complemented by IACTs and surface & underground stations for measuring muon component of air showers

- Hybrid detector array
- Gamma ray detectors
  - Large (4 x HAWC) Water Cherenkov detector array (0.1-30 TeV)
  - Electromagnetic particle detectors and muon detectors (30-1000 TeV)

MACE



- 21 m diameter IACT to be installed at Hanle (4270 m a.s.l)
- Design inspired from MAGIC

### Sensitivity: past – present – future



# Conclusions



### **Ground-based**

- The Cherenkov Telescope Array will expand on all aspects of current IACTs (sensitivity, energy range, angular resolution)
- Will enable
  - WIMP detections from few 100 GeV to few TeV
  - search of **PeVatrons** in the entire Galaxy
  - measurement of **sub-minute variability** in AGN
  - comprehensive population studies of particle accelerators
  - studies of particle acceleration in and particle propagation near individual sources

#### Space-based

- An instrument covering the MeV GeV energy range has the highest discovery potential (e.g. e-ASTROGAM, ComPair)
- Will enable
  - measurement of **pion-bumps** characteristic of hadronic accelerators in many sources
  - study of the still elusive low-energy cosmic-ray component
  - observation of gamma-ray lines (nucleosynthesis, de-excitation, e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> annihilation)
  - gamma-ray polarisation measurements

