

Astrophysical neutrinos and very high-energy astrophysics (with ASTRI and CTA)

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- Neutrino astrophysics
- Astronomical counterparts of IceCube neutrinos
- Strong synergy with very high-energy astrophysics



Energy notations

- 1 eV \equiv **2.42** 10¹⁴ Hz \equiv 12,400 Å
- 1 GeV (10⁹) \equiv 2.42 10²³ Hz (γ -rays) \equiv 1.24 10⁻⁵ Å
- 1 TeV (10¹²) \equiv 2.42 10²⁶ Hz (VHE γ -rays) \equiv 1.24 10⁻⁸ Å
- 1 PeV (10¹⁵) \equiv 2.42 10²⁹ Hz
- 1 GeV \equiv 1.602 10⁻³ erg
- 1 TeV \equiv 1.602 erg
- 1 PeV \equiv 1.602 10³ erg



Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA)



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Neutrinos in a nutshell

- Italian for "little neutral one"
- Tiny mass: < 0.8 eV/c² (KATRIN Collaboration 2022),
 < 1/640,000 m_e (= 9 10⁻²⁸ g)
- Electrically neutral, weakly interacting elementary subatomic particle
- Three types: electron (v_e), muon (v_μ), and tau (v_τ)
- Everywhere:
 - \checkmark ~ 340 cosmic neutrinos/cm³ in the Universe
 - $[E~\sim~0.0002~eV]$
 - \checkmark ~ 10¹¹ solar neutrinos/cm²/s on Earth \rightarrow
 - \sim 10^{14} s^{-1} through our bodies [E \lesssim 1 MeV]
- Probably the second most common particle in the Universe (dark matter?)
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Neutrino astrophysics

The Sun



SN 1987A



E < 1 MeV (nuclear fusion)

E ~ 10 MeV (Supernova explosion)





The IceCube Neutrino Observatory





Neutrino sky distribution







The first (extragalactic) neutrino source

ng 1.01

0.99

1.02

xn[j 1.01

0.99

1.02

xn 1.01

0.99

8700

ormalized





Figure 3. Close-up of the normalized optical spectrum (obtained with $R \sim 1300$) of TXS 0506+056 around the three faint detected emission lines. Top: the emission line at 4981.5 Å identified as [O II] 3727 Å (EW = 0.12 Å). Middle: the emission line at 6693.6 Å identified as [O III] 5007 Å (EW = 0.17 Å), Bottom: the emission line at 8800.5 Å identified as [N II] 6583 Å (EW = 0.05 Å). The short vertical bars indicate the fainter component of the doublet.

Wavelength (Å)

High-energy neutrino physics





High-energy neutrino physics or photons E $E_{\gamma} \approx 2 \times E_{\nu}$ and $F_{\gamma} \approx 2 \times F_{\nu}$ Sho F **All neutrino sources HAVE** to be (intrinsically) γ-ray sources!









alaxy out of blazar!

The status of IceCube detections after TXS 0506+056. 1. IceCube results

- <u>2.9σ</u> detection from NGC 1068 (Aartsen et al. 2020)
- <u>3.3σ</u> combined excess in the northern sky due to NGC 1068 and three blazars: TXS 0506+056, PKS 1424+240, and GB6 J1542+6129 (Aartsen et al. 2020)
- ♦ <u>3.00</u> cumulative time-dependent excess in the northern sky due to NGC 1068, M87, and two blazars: TXS 0506+056, and GB6 J1542+6129 (Abbasi et al. 2021)

The status of IceCube detections after TXS 0506+056. 2. other results

- <u>3.2σ</u> correlation excess for 47 γ-ray blazars
 [intermediate- and high-peaked sources (IBLs and HBLs): v_{peak,synch} > 10¹⁴ Hz] (Giommi et al. 2020)
- <u>2.9σ</u> correlation excess for strong very-long-baseline interferometry (VLBI)-selected AGN; four brightest associations are all blazars [low-peaked sources (LBLs: v_{peak,synch} < 10¹⁴ Hz)] (Plavin et al. 2020)
- <u>3.0σ</u> correlation excess for strong VLBI-selected AGN, different IceCube sample (Plavin et al. 2021)
- <u>2.6σ</u> association between 5 neutrinos detected by ANTARES and an IceCube event for the blazar MG3
 J225517+2409 [HBL] (Albert et al. 2021)

The status of IceCube detections after TXS 0506+056. 2. other results

<u>3.2σ</u> correlation excess for 47 γ-ray blazars [intermediate- and high-peaked sources (IBLs and HBLs): v_{peak,synch} > 10¹⁴ Hz] (Giommi et al. 2020)



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The status of IceCube detections (after TXS 0506+056). 3. take home messages

- 1. Additional $\gtrsim 3\sigma$ associations (still missing the "magical" 5σ !)
- 2. Blazars keep popping up
- 3. Strong hints that only somewhat rare blazar sub-classes are involved (our group)
- Consistent with overall result that blazars can explain only < 17 – 27% of the IceCube signal (IceCube collaboration 2017, 2019 + our group)



Why TXS 0506+056?

Monthly Notices of the royal astronomical society

MNRAS 00, L1 (2019)



doi:10.1093/mnrasl/slz011

TXS 0506+056, the first cosmic neutrino source, is not a BL Lac

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Accepted 2019 January 19. Received 2019 January 15; in original form 2018 September 21

ABSTRACT

We present evidence that TXS 0506+056, the first plausible non-stellar neutrino source, despite appearances, is *not* a blazar of the BL Lac type but is instead a masquerading BL Lac, i.e. intrinsically a flat-spectrum radio quasar with hidden broad lines and a standard accretion disc. This reclassification is based on: (1) its radio and OII luminosities; (2) its emission line ratios; (3) its Eddington ratio. We also point out that the synchrotron peak frequency of TXS 0506+056 is more than two orders of magnitude larger than expected by the so-called 'blazar sequence', a scenario which has been assumed by some theoretical models predicting neutrino (and cosmic ray) emission from blazars. Finally, we comment on the theoretical implications this reclassification has on the location of the γ -ray emitting region and our understanding of neutrino emission in blazars.

Key words: neutrinos – radiation mechanisms: non-thermal – galaxies: active – BL Lacertae objects: general – gamma-rays: galaxies.



- Real BL Lacs: lines are intrinsically weak (EW low because lines are weak) → low-excitation galaxies (radiatively inefficient accretion)
- Masquerading BL Lacs*: lines are intrinsically strong but swamped by the jet (EW low because continuum is high) → intrinsically FSRQs, hence highexcitation galaxies (radiatively efficient accretion)
- TXS 0506+056 IS a masquerading BL Lac!

* Giommi, PP, et al. (2012)

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Why TXS 0506+056?

Heckman & Best 2014



Masquerading BL Lacs



Masquerading BL Lacs > 25% of the Giommi et al. 2020's sample



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More masquerading BL Lacs

Monthly Notices of the ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



MNRAS 511, 4697–4701 (2022) Advance Access publication 2022 February 11 https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stac376

PKS 1424+240: et another masquerading BL Lac object as a possible IceCube neutrino source

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Accepted 2022 February 8. Received 2022 February 8; in original form 2022 January 19

ABSTRACT

We show that the blazar PKS 1424+240, which has been recently associated by IceCube with a mean-ine encess at the 3.3 σ level together with three other sources, is similar to the first plausible non-stellar neutrino source, TXS 0506+056, in being also a masquerading BL Lac object, i.e. intrinsically a flat-spectrum radio quasar with hidden broad meaned e standard accretion disc. We point out that these two sources share other properties, including spectral energy distribution, high powers, parsec scale properties, and possibly radio morphology. We speculate that the relatively rare combination of proton-loaded jets, possibly typical of high-excitation sources, and efficient particle acceleration processes, related to their relatively high synchrotron peak frequencies, might favour neutrino production in these two sources GB6 J1542+6129 which has also recently appeared twice in a list of IceCube associations, seems also to belong to this rare blazar action belons, which includes at most \approx 20 *Fermi*-4LAC blazars.

Key words: neutrinos-radiation mechanisms: non-thermal-galaxies: active-BL Lacertae objects: general-gamma-rays: galaxies-radio continuum: galaxies.

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And more...

MNRAS 000, 1-12 (2022)

Preprint 12 April 2022

Compiled using MNRAS LATEX style file v3.0

A multi-messenger study of the blazar PKS 0735+178: a new major neutrino source candidate

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Accepted XXX. Received YYY; in original form ZZZ

ABSTRACT

PKS 0735+178 is a bright radio and γ -ray blazar that is possibly associated with multiple neutrino events observed by the IceCube, Baikal, Baksan, and KM3NeT neutrino telescopes. The source was found to undergo a major flaring activity in γ -ray, X-ray, ultraviolet (UV) and optical bands. We present a long-term detailed study of this peculiar blazar to investigate the temporal and spectral changes in the multi-wavelength emission when the neutrino events were observed. The analysis of Swift-XRT snapshots reveal a flux variability of more than a factor 2 in about 5×10^3 seconds during the observation on December 17, 2021. In the γ -ray band, the source was in its historical highest flux level at the time of the arrival of the neutrinos. The observational comparison between PKS 0735+178 and other neutrino source candidates, such as TXS 0506+056, PKS 1424+240, and GB6 J1542+6129, shows that all these sources share similar spectral energy distributions, very high radio and γ -ray powers, and parsec scale jet properties. Moreover, PKS 0735+178, like all the others, is a masquerading BL Lac. We perform comprehensive modelling of the multiwavelength emission from PKS 0735+178 within one-zone lepto-hadronic models considering both internal and external photon fields and estimate the expected accompanying neutrino nax. The most optimistic scenario invokes a jet with luminosity close to the Eddington value and the interactions of ~ PeV protons with an external UV photon field. This scenario predicts ~ 0.067 muon and antimuon neutrinos over the observed 3-week flare. Our results are consistent with the detection of one very-high-energy neutrino like IceCube-211208A.

Key words: neutrinos - gamma-rays: galaxies - X-rays: galaxies - radiation mechanisms: non-thermal

1 INTRODUCTION

P. Padovani - OAS the discovery of a flux of very high-energy (VHE; > 100 GeV) neu-(Aartsen et al. 2013, 2020) and the first reliable association of Icebetween VHE neutrinos and blazars (see Giommi & Padovani 2021, for a recent review).

 \sim





With neutrinos we are now exploring an energy range which is, and will always be, **inaccessible** with photons at any redshift

→ New window on very high-energy astrophysics



Extragalactic Background Light



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Photon Horizon



Figure 1. Distance horizon at which the universe becomes non-transparent to electromagnetic radiation as a function of photon energy.

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The mystery of cosmic rays



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No "smoking gun"!

 Blazars appear (*have*, I think!) to be involved but other classes have to be as well

 Still not clear which process is producing the γ-ray photons in blazars

Still no hard evidence of high-energy protons



The synergy with VHE astrophysics: the issue of γ-ray photons

MKN 421



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Inverse Compton emission

$$e^- + \gamma_{low-energy}
ightarrow \gamma_{high-energy}$$

Leptonic models

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The synergy with VHE astrophysics: the issue of γ-ray photons



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Leptonic vs. hadronic emission



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CTA: leptonic or hadronic?





CTA and blazars



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CTA and blazars

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 815:L23 (8pp), 2015 December 20 © 2015. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved.

doi:10.1088/2041-8205/815/2/L23





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+357 (z = 0.944), PKS 1441+25 is the most distant very high energy (VHE) blazar detected to date. The observations were triggered by an outburst in 2015 April seen at GeV energies with the Large Area Telescope on board *Fermi*. Multi-wavelength observations suggest a subdivision of the high state into two distinct flux states. In the band covered by MAGIC, the variability timescale is estimated to be 6.4 \pm 1.9 days. Modeling the broadband

originating in the jet outside the broad-line region (BLR) during the period of high activity, while being partially within the BLR during the period of low (typical) activity. The observed VHE spectrum during the highest activity





CTA and blazars

- Our knowledge of blazar very high energy γ -ray emission is very biased and patchy
 - CTA will provide a systematic approach and will detect ~ 10 times more sources reaching higher energies







- We are witnessing the birth of extragalactic Neutrino Astronomy
- Various ≈ 3σ IceCube associations largely with blazars
- Neutrinos are providing a new window on very highenergy astrophysics (blazar jet physics) at energies forever inaccessible with photons
- CTA will be invaluable to prove (or disprove) the existence of hadronic processes in blazars and to provide an unbiased view of their ≈ TeV properties