



The CTA "Extragalactic Transients" Key Science Project

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Very High Energy Transients



Short time-scale transients represent a very "wide" science case although they are key science targets for both current IACT collaborations and for CTA. Short time-scale follow-ups often differ from normal observations:

- interruption of nominal operations, fast repointing, special setup, custom data analysis
- They cover all areas of the experiment: instrument, analysis & physics

Source	Duration	Energy Release	Energy Source
		[erg]	
Fast Radio Burst (FRB)	<~msec	~10 ⁵⁰	B field (?)
Gamma-ray Burst (GRB)	msec - min	$\sim 10^{49}$ - 10^{53}	Gravity
Tidal Disruption Event (TDE)	min - months	~10 ⁵²	Gravity
Supernovae (SNe)	min - years	~10 ⁴⁴	Gravity
Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN)	min -days	~10 ⁴³ erg/s	Gravity

+ Multi-messenger: GW, Nu....

Hot topics at the frontiers of VHE and multi-messenger astrophysics

Requirements:

- low energy threshold
- fast repointing
- synergies with other facilities

Very High Energy Transients

A) Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs), based on external alerts from monitoring facilities. Thought to be triggered by special types of stellar collapse and merger events involving NSs and/or BHs, these highly luminous and distant explosions in the universe are also one of its most mysterious phenomena, with many basic aspects still poorly understood [254, 14, 255]. In addition to addressing B) Galactic transients, based on external alerts from monitoring facilities. A wide range of compact the physics of GRBs, CTA will use GRBs as probes of cosmic-ray physics, observati fundamental physics [14, 31, 256]. G) VHE transient survey, utilizing divergent pointing and in conjunction with the CTA Extragalactic nicroguasars and other X-ray binaries (NSs or BHs accreting matter from a stellar compan-

Survey KSP (Chapter 8). As a novel capability of CTA, observations in divergent pointing mode covering a large instantaneous FoV could offer not only more efficient surveying of the extragalactic sky [9, 253, 274], but also unique prospects for a VHE transient survey not biased by alerts. The potential discovery space includes detection of GRBs from their onset and consequently improved tests of Lorentz invariance violation (LIV), searches for new classes of VHE transients, and simultaneous multiwavelength (MWL) and/or multi-messenger (MM) studies with other wide FoV facilities of short-duration transients such as SSBs and FRBs.

objects in our Galaxy exhibit different types of jets and winds that accelerate high-energy particles in sporadic outbursts, whose production mechanisms can be greatly clarified through CTA observations [257, 15, 20]. These include flares from pulsar wind nebulae (PWNe; relativistic outflows driven by rototice NCoV [15, 258], flares from magnetars (NSs with anomalously high magnetic fields), jet ejection

novae (explosions on the surfaces of white dwarfs) [259], etc.

C) X-ray, optical and radio transients, based on alerts from "transient factory" facilities. Large numbers of X-ray, optical and radio transient phenomena will be newly identified by current and upcoming transient factories capable of regularly monitoring large areas of the sky in these wavebands [260], including tidal disruption events (TDEs) [261], supernova shock breakout (SSB) events [262] and fast radio bursts (FRBs) [263]. Observing a selected sample of such alerts with CTA offers new strategies for elucidating vertice known types of transients, as well as the potential for discovering completely new source classes.

Scienc with the Cherenkov

Arrav

Telescope

F) Serendipitous VHE transients, identified via the CTA real-time analysis (RTA) during scheduled CTA observations. The RTA can recognize new transients or flaring states of known sources at very high energies anywhere in the FoV and automatically issue alerts within 30 sec [272, 273]. As with transient factory events, follow-up of a selected sample will greatly advance studies of known and unknown transients.

D) High-energy neutrino transients, based on alerts from neutrino observatories. Cosmic high-energy neutrinos are clear indicators of hadronic cosmic-ray production [264] and have begun to be detected by current facilities [45], although their origin is yet unclear [265]. CTA follow-up of appropriately selected alerts can determine their origin [266, 267] and can possibly give insight on extragalactic and/or Galactic

E) GW transients, based on alerts from GW observatories. GWs are most cosmic ravs as well.

cosmic transients and were directly detected for the first time from binary bin integer evenus 17, 291 without any clear evidence of associated electromagnetic signals [268] (see however [269]). More GW detections are expected in the coming years, including those of NS mergers accompanied by electro-

Very High Energy Transients NAF Science with the Cherenkov A) Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs), based on external alerts from monitoring facilities. Thought to be trig-Telescope gered by special types of stellar collapse Arrav luminous and distant explosions in the ur Energy [erg] many basic aspects still poorly understood ** cilities. A wide range of compact the physics of GRBs, CTA will use GRBs a ccelerate high-energy particles in **Transient handler region** fundamental physics [14, 31, 256]. larified through CTA observations : relativistic outflows driven by rohigh magnetic fields), jet ejection G) VHE transient survey, utilizing diverge 1052 Human in the loop region eting matter from a stellar compan-Survey KSP (Chapter 8). As a novel capab 9], etc. ering a large instantaneous FoV could offer [9, 253, 274], but also unique prospects for 10⁵⁰ tial discovery space includes detection of G from "transient factory" facilities. Large numbers Lorentz invariance violation (LIV), searches t wly identified by current and upcoming transient wavelength (MWL) and/or multi-messenger (he sky in these wavebands [260], including tidal transients such as SSBs and FRBs. AGN kout (SSB) events [262] and fast radio bursts ts with CTA offers new strategies for elucidating I for discovering completely new source classes. F) Serendipitous VHE transi1040 CTA observations. The BTA c high energies anywhere in the sient factory events, follow-up (transients. trino observatories. Cosmic high-energy 1 [264] and have begun to be detected by 10^{-3} S 10⁻¹s 10 min days years Log(Time Scale) 1 min CTA follow-up of appropriately selected

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Very High Energy Transients

Transient KSP

- □ Initially written in 2014 → published in 2017 in the core science paper
- Requirements based on our knowledge of transients in early "20tenth"

	Observation times (h yr $^{-1}$ site $^{-1}$)							
Priority	Target class	Early phase	Years 1-2	Years 3–10	Years 1-10			
1	GW transients	20	5	5				
2	HE neutrino transients	20	5	5				
3	Serendipitous VHE transients	100	25	25				
4	GRBs	50	50	50				
5	X-ray/optical/radio transients	50	10	10				
6	Galactic transients	150	30	0(?)				
	Total per site (h yr $^{-1}$ site $^{-1}$)	390	125	95				
	Total both sites (h yr $^{-1}$)	780	250	190				
	Total in different CTA phases (h)	1560	500	1520	2020			



From where these numbers con

"old" approach: extrapolation of observed X-ray and gamma-ray emission toward the VHE band using GRB 090902B and GRB 080916C as template for spectra and light curves reconstruction

+

Phenomenological model for detection rate: "bandex" & "fixed" approach





From where these numbers con



CTA (T=T0+1100 sec.) MAGIC (T=T0+1100 sec.)

5 GLiMa detection level

Lombardi, Carosi,

Antonelli, 2013

From where these numbers come from



Need to re-evaluate these numbers basing on new instruments characteristics and "new" VHE landscape

For CTA: tiling

SiPM (??)

For CTA: 70deg

- The Sun is below the astronomical horizon (zenith > 103°).
- The angular distance from the GRB to the Moon is $> 30^{\circ}$.
- The zenith angle for the GRB observation is < 60°. Under moonlight the maximal zenith angle is reduced to 55°.

Because of their $_{1d}r_{,e}e$ localization uncertainties, *Fermi* GBM lerts are not follow d $_{p}$ by many ground based telescopes. n order to increase the character for simultaneous observations with MAGIC and *Fermi* \downarrow . T some GBM alerts are accepted coording to the following cr. $er_{,e}$:

- Flight generated: error < 4°, sty al-to-noise > 100, hardness ratio (counts at 15-50keV rel ave to 50-300keV) < 1
- Ground generated: error $< 4^\circ$, signa⁻¹. If ise > 40.
- The pointing is updated if more precise coordinates arrive.
- Abort of the observation after 1 h if error > 1.5° .

Table 9.2 - Summary of GRB follow-up strategy and observing time for one array site. The numbers are equal	
for the CTA-South and CTA-North sites.	

Strategy	Expected event	Exposure per	Exposure per
	rate (yr^{-1})	follow-up (h)	year (h yr ⁻¹)
Prompt follow-up of accessible alerts	~12	2	25
Extended follow-up for detections	0.5-1.5	10-15	10-15
Late-time follow-up of HE GRBs not accessible promptly	~1	10	10

Very High Energy Transients

VHE Transient Astrophysics is "warming up" in the last years:

GRB detection at VHE: a long-awaited result!

MAGIC GRB 190114C... (2019, Nature, 575, 455/459) H.E.S.S. GRB 190829A... (2021, Science , 372, 6546)

Name	T ₉₀ [s]	Redshift	E _{iso} [erg]	IACT	aobs	Emax
180720B	48.9	0.653	6×10^{53}	H.E.S.S.	3.7 ± 1.0	440 GeV
190114C	362	0.4245	3×10^{53}	MAGIC	5.43 ± 0.22	1 TeV
190829A	58.2	0.0785	$2 imes 10^{50}$	H.E.S.S.	2.59 ± 0.08	3.3 TeV
201216C	48	1.1	$5 imes 10^{53}$	MAGIC	-	-
201015A	9.8	0.423	10^{50}	MAGIC	-	-



GWs astrophysics (now in O4)

- GW 170817: sGRB are mergers
- H.E.S.S. GW 170817

(2017, ApJL, 850, L22)

many more alerts expected in O4

Neutrino/VHE connections for TXS 0506+056

- Blazar Found in flaring state by Integral, Fermi/GBM, MAGIC, ...
- Then neutrinos founds by IceCube...

(2018, Science, 361, 6398) AVENGe - 2023/05/30

+ GRB 221009A LHAASO >10 TeV (?)



+ steady nu source (NGC 1068)





AVENGe - 2023/05/30

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GRB: what have we learned

(see Lara's talk)



Although the quest for the first detection is over, we are now moving to the phase of physics interpretation and, possibly, populations studies

- □ Which are the emission mechanisms? VHE during afterglow and/or prompt? **Do all GRB have a VHE component?** Why haven't we detected GRB before ?
- □ We now had few detections (like GRB 180720B and GRB 190114C) that were somehow 'expected' (bright, powerful etc). However, we also have something that is (apparently) different. Are we observing the first (or one of the first) event of a new GRB population? Or do we just have to think that the parameters space of the possible VHE-emitter GRB is much larger than we thought in the past?



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GRB: where we are heading in CTA



- Simulation of a GRB population by assuming a few intrinsic properties (E_{peak} & z distribution + E_{peak}-E_{iso} correlation)
- Bulk Lorentz factor distribution obtained by measured time of afterglow onset → Bulk Lorentz factor of the coasting phase
- Assumed spectrum allow to compute the flux and fluence in the energy bands corresponding to the instruments used to calibrate the sample

- GRB detection rate and parameter space study
- ➢ Spectra & Light curves
- Assess the effect on different array conf.

Bernardini+2019, <u>POSyTIVE - a GRB population</u> <u>study for the Cherenkov Telescope Array</u>, ICRC 2019, id. 1177

GW: where we are heading in CTA



NAF







□ Major challenge: poor localization→GBM-like GRBs & GW

- localization uncertainty ranging from 10-1000 deg²
- optimizing pointing strategy for tiling observations





These numbers won't fit easily with the numbers of hours reported in the original KSP that, in this regard, didn't report enough details

BNS NSBH BBH Merger rate per unit comoving volume per unit proper time Spc ⁻³ year ⁻¹ , log-normal uncertainty) 210^{+240}_{-120} $8.6^{+9.7}_{-5.0}$ $17.1^{+19.2}_{-10.0}$ ensitive volume: detection rate / merger rate Spc ³ , Monte Carlo uncertainty) $0.172^{+0.013}_{-0.012}$ $0.78^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ $15.15^{+0.42}_{-0.41}$ 4 HKLV $0.827^{+0.044}_{-0.042}$ $3.65^{+0.47}_{-0.43}$ $50.7^{+1.2}_{-1.2}$ Innual number of public alerts og-normal merger rate uncertainty × Poisson counting uncertainty) 4 HKLV 36^{+49}_{-22} 6^{+11}_{-5} 260^{+330}_{-150} 5 HKLV 180^{+220}_{-100} 31^{+42}_{-20} 870^{+1100}_{-480}	Observing run	Network	Source class	https:/	//emfollow.do
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ROFISIC

INAF



Optimization of these type of observations must be done now.

- scheduling/divergent pointing (see Irene's talk)
- Lest-bench for ET (see Biswajit's talk)

Observing run	Network	Source class	https:	https://emfollow.do		
		BNS	NSBH	BBH		
Merger rate per (Gpc ⁻³ year ⁻¹ , log	unit comoving v g-normal uncerta	olume per unit propo hinty)	er time			
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+ GRB 221009A LHAASO >10 TeV (?)

fast reaction & low threshold are important but not as important as we thought **for pure detection rate**

However, the physics they give access to is dramatically different (prompt-to-early-afterglow phase, time resolved spectra, high redshift...)



Core Collapse Sn



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- CCSNe (type II) originating from (massive) stellar progenitors with dense winds can fulfil the right conditions for CR acceleration (Katz et al. 2011; Murase et al. 2011; Bell et al. 2013, Cristofari et al. 2022)
- VHE emission is expected in Type II CC-SNe but the gamma-ray signal can be attenuated in the first days (Cristofari et al. 2022) and can rise again about 5-10 days later.





Alessandro Carosi

New Generation Transient Factories



Supernovae: LSST will observe ~10 million supernovae in 10 years (~1 million per year)

Active Galactic Nuclei: LSST is predicted to observe millions of AGN. If 10% show any variability at any given time, then the estimate is that ~0.1 million alerts over 15.000 deg 2 would generate ~7 alerts deg 2

TDE, GRB, Galactic Transients....



To be set up: alert chain & FILTERS!



Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA): a facility **(observatory)** for Very High Energy gamma-ray astrophysics in the next decades





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First regular follow-up started at the end 2020/beginning of 2021 :

- Quite some events observed so far
- Still human-in-the-loop follow-up but implementation of dedicated automatic procedure is ongoing
- Tuning of observations/alerts chain/BA/analysis
- Initial science already possible (still but hopefully not for long, with ULs...)



LST-1 & MAGIC





Separation between MAGICs and LST-1 is ~100m

 The same events can trigger all telescopes

~40% improvement in sensitivity for MAGIC+LST-1 analysis wrt MAGIC-only (better bkg suppression)



(My biased) conclusions



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KSP on transients need to be re-formulated:

- Too wide, very heterogeneous needs in terms of technical, analysis and science requirements
- GRB (GW): the quest is over-> to abandon the "detection rate" approach and focus on the physics (GRB/GW CPs are on this line)
 - Time request re-evaluation

In the north, science phase is not "formally" started....but it will soon to come (2025?). We (as INAF & INFN) are at forefront with MAGIC, LST-1 and (why not?) ASTRI. We will be the first one in setting up the machinery for follow up of alerts triggered by new-generation transient facilities (Vera Rubin): italian groups very active since years (Franz, Antonio and many many other collaborators)

- it's not guarantee that transients will be a KSP (and which transient?)

- Synergies are crucial both for triggering and characterization: spectral and variability Alessandro Studies (INAF experience in this regard is simply huge!) + long experience in follow-up

(My biased) conclusions





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- it's not guarantee that transients will be a KSP (and which transient?)
- Synergies are crucial both for triggering and characterization: spectral and variability studies (INAF experience in this regard is simply huge!) + long experience in follow-up programs: **how to translate this in our "rewards"?**
- Difficult to disentangle technical part from science in the early phase: transient handler (the core for these observations, is in other's hands)