

Gamma-ray counterpart searches to neutrino astrophysical sources with the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory: simulations and performance studies

Wednesday 4 September 2024 08:15 (1 minute)

Gamma-ray counterparts to astrophysical neutrino sources is a topic of big interest, being the contemporary observation of both these messengers a smoking gun for cosmic-ray production.

The Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO) will be the next major observatory in the Very High Energy gamma-ray band. Based on the imaging atmospheric Cherenkov technique, it will reach unprecedented performances with respect to the current generation of instruments. In particular CTAO will be a leading observatory of the gamma-ray transient sky, given both its sensitivity at short timescales and its rapid repointing system, with a very fast slewing to and from anywhere in the observable sky of the order of 1 minute.

In this work, we explore CTAO performances combined with capabilities of current and future neutrino observatories, like IceCube and Km3NeT.

In particular, we investigate the CTAO ability to detect gamma-ray counterparts to neutrino simulated extragalactic sources, by exploiting the open-source simulation software called FIRESONG. Two types of populations are considered: steady sources and transient “flaring blazar-like” ones. Neutrino simulations are selected by considering IceCube and Km3NeT discovery potentials. The CTAO performance under different configurations and array layouts is finally computed, giving the detection probability of gamma-ray counterparts for both CTAO sites.

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Session Classification: Poster hang