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Starlight beneath the waves : in search of TeV photon emission from Gamma-Ray Bursts with the ANTARES Neutrino Telescope

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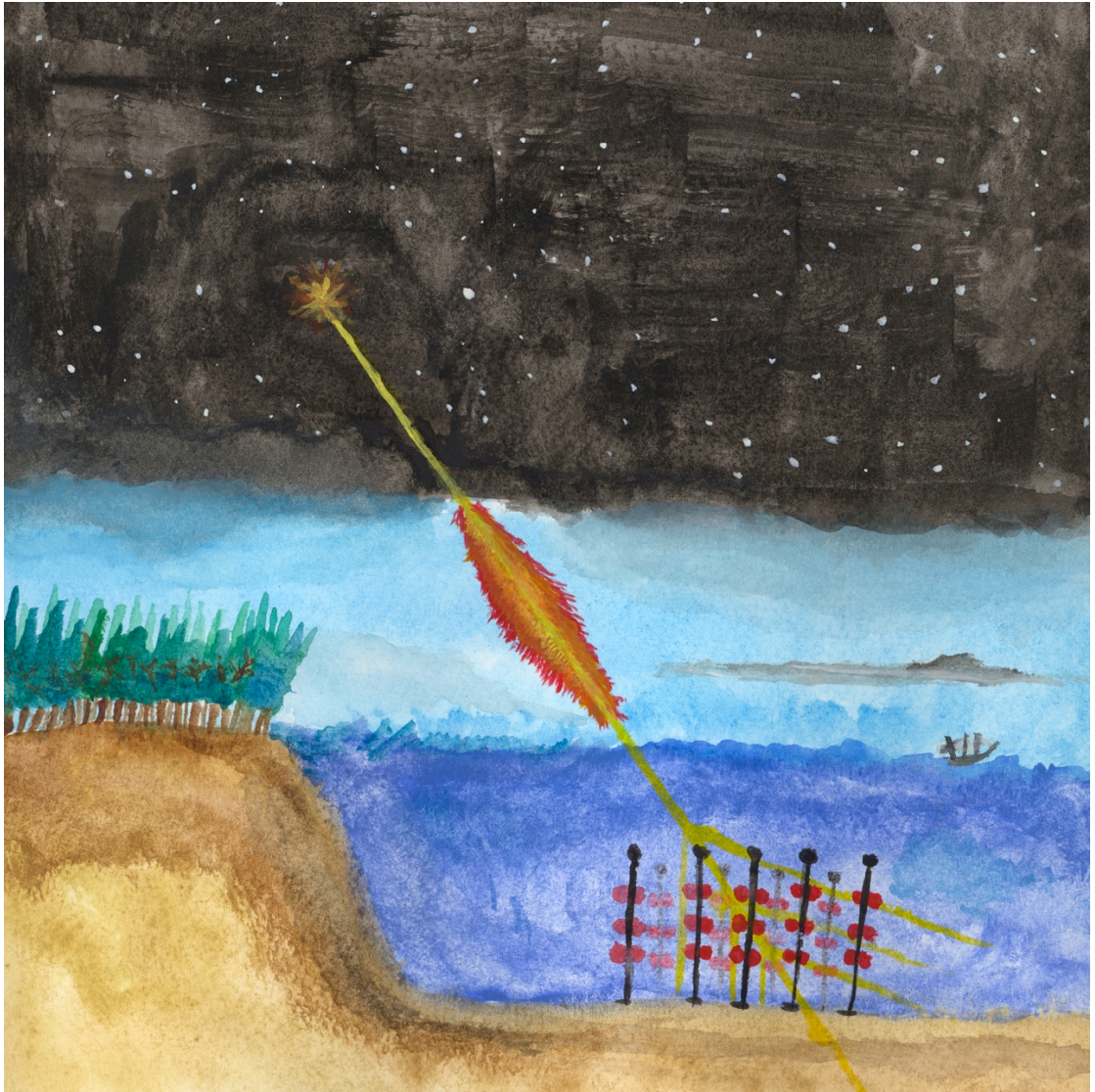
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Starlight beneath the waves



Frontispiece: An illustration of the physical processes described in this dissertation. A Gamma-Ray Burst (GRB) emits high-energy γ -rays towards the Earth. Depending on the distance to the GRB and the energy of the γ -ray, some of them will get annihilated by the cosmic infrared background. Those that survive will initiate electromagnetic showers in the atmosphere, producing some amount of muons. The muons then penetrate the sea, losing their energy along the way. As the muons traverse the sea, electromagnetic shock-waves will be generated in the form of Čerenkov photons. These photons will then be detected as signals by the array of photomultiplier tubes that comprise ANTARES. Illustration by the author.

Starlight beneath the waves

In search of TeV photon emission from Gamma-Ray Bursts
with the ANTARES Neutrino Telescope

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Dit is zeker echt niets nieuws
dit smalle pad is al vaak betreden
alleen deze keer
is het om de weg uit te stippelen.

Aarde der Mensen
Pramoedya Ananta Toer

Dedicated to the next generation
Putri Mahalia
and
Aria Widiadana Astraatmadja



Contents

	<i>Preface</i>	9
1	<i>Introduction</i>	11
1.1	<i>Photon, cosmic ray, and neutrino astronomy</i>	12
1.2	<i>Gamma-ray burst astronomy</i>	18
1.3	<i>Teraelectronvolt astronomy: tools of the trade</i>	36
1.4	<i>The rise of neutrino telescopes</i>	45
1.5	<i>This thesis: Neutrino telescopes as γ-ray observatories</i>	52

PART I THEORY

2	<i>The creation and propagation of TeV photons</i>	57
2.1	<i>VHE γ-ray productions and the photon spectrum of a GRB</i>	57
2.2	<i>Normalising the observed photon spectrum</i>	73
2.3	<i>Photon absorption by ambient infrared photons</i>	75
3	<i>Muon production in the atmosphere</i>	80
3.1	<i>The cascade equation: Approximation A</i>	81
3.2	<i>Pion decay</i>	82
3.3	<i>Direct muon-pair production</i>	84
3.4	<i>Other channels of muon production</i>	89
3.5	<i>Cosmic ray-induced muon background</i>	89
3.6	<i>Passage of muons through seawater</i>	90
3.7	<i>On the multiplicity of downgoing muons</i>	93
4	<i>Muon event rate from single GRBs</i>	98
4.1	<i>Muon flux from a fictive test source</i>	98

4.2	<i>Muon flux from single GRB</i>	99
4.3	<i>Conclusions</i>	105
5	<i>Muon event rate and discovery potential from stacked GRB events</i>	108
5.1	<i>GRB world model</i>	108
5.2	<i>GRB event generation and muon flux calculations</i>	116
5.3	<i>Result and conclusions</i>	117

PART II DETECTOR & SIMULATIONS

6	<i>The ANTARES neutrino telescope</i>	121
6.1	<i>Čerenkov photons</i>	121
6.2	<i>Detection principle of a neutrino telescope</i>	122
6.3	<i>The ANTARES detector</i>	123
6.4	<i>Data acquisition (DAQ) system</i>	127
6.5	<i>Calibrations</i>	130
6.6	<i>Triggering and track reconstruction</i>	132
7	<i>Simulation of the detector response to downgoing muons</i>	140
7.1	<i>Simulation chains</i>	140
7.2	<i>Detector performance</i>	143
8	<i>The point spread function and the optimization of quality cuts</i>	157
8.1	<i>Background data</i>	157
8.2	<i>Weighting scheme and the point spread function</i>	159
8.3	<i>Optimization for discovery: The model discovery potential</i>	164

8.4 *Optimization for sensitivity: The model rejection factor* 168

9 *Hypothesis testing* 171

PART III DATA ANALYSIS

10 *Prospective GRB sources* 181

10.1 *Selection Procedure* 181

10.2 *GRB 090907A* 186

10.3 *GRB 070220* 187

11 *Analysis of ANTARES data coinciding with two GRB events* 190

11.1 *Muon production* 190

11.2 *Muon duplication* 192

11.3 *Further simulation chains* 196

11.4 *Results of the reconstruction* 197

11.5 *Optimization* 201

11.6 *Summary* 205

11.7 *The result of data unblinding* 206

PART IV EPILOGUE

12 *Conclusions and outlook* 211

Summary 216

Samenvatting 224

Ringkasan 232

Bibliography 240

Curriculum vitae 249

Preface

THIS booklet is a doctoral dissertation which came out as a result of four years of research conducted at the National Institute for Subatomic Physics (Nikhef) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Some of the text written in this dissertation is based on the following material:

- Astraatmadja T. L. 2011. *On the detection of TeV γ -rays from GRB with km^3 neutrino telescopes — I. Muon event rate from single GRBs.* *MNRAS*, **418**: 1774–1786 (Sections 1.5, 2.2–2.3, 3.1–3.6, Chapter 4)
- Astraatmadja T. L., 2012a, *On the detection of TeV γ -rays from GRB with km^3 neutrino telescopes: ANTARES's responses to down-going muons.* Technical Report ANTARES-PHYS-2012-005 (Section 3.7, Chapters 7–10)
- Astraatmadja T. L., 2012b, *On the detection of TeV γ -rays from GRB with km^3 neutrino telescopes: Simulation and optimization of three selected GRBs.* Technical Report ANTARES-PHYS-2012-006 (Chapter 11)

THE OFFER to do this research project came from Maarten de Jong. I attended his class on astroparticle astrophysics in 2007, during my master studies at the Leiden Observatory. He was later appointed as a professor at Leiden University and offered me a PhD position. I was interested and quite enthusiastic, but was unsure to undertake a project in such an unfamiliar topic. During my visit to Nikhef for the job interview, the then leader of the ANTARES group at Nikhef (to which I was later attached), Gerard van der Steenhoven, assured me that somebody with my background and capabilities could be a useful addition to the group. I was convinced. I would like to thank Gerard for his confidence and for telling me that there is a place for an astronomer like me in astroparticle physics.

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Tri L. Astraatmadja