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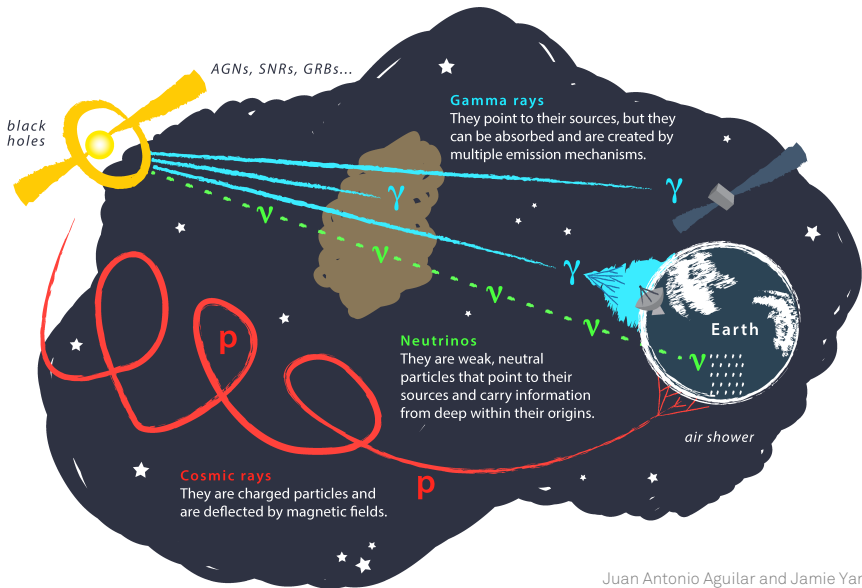
## Event Reconstruction for the Cherenkov Telescope Array

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Maximilian Nöthe

Dortmund Data Science Center Kolloquium – 2022-01-11

Astroparticle Physics – TU Dortmund



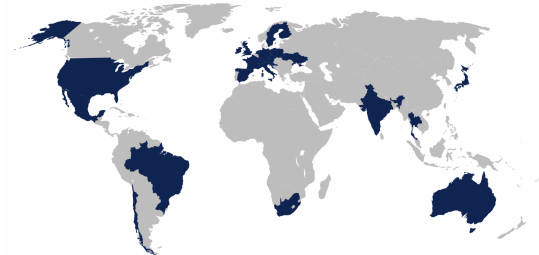
Juan Antonio Aguilar and Jamie Yang. IceCube/WIPAC





cherenkov  
telescope  
array

- CTA will be the next generation gamma-ray astronomy observatory
- The first ground-based gamma-ray instrument to operate as an open observatory
- ~100 telescopes of four types at two sites, one in each hemisphere
- Energy range from 20 GeV to 300 TeV
- Prototypes of all telescopes are operating
- Construction of first phase to be finished in 2025

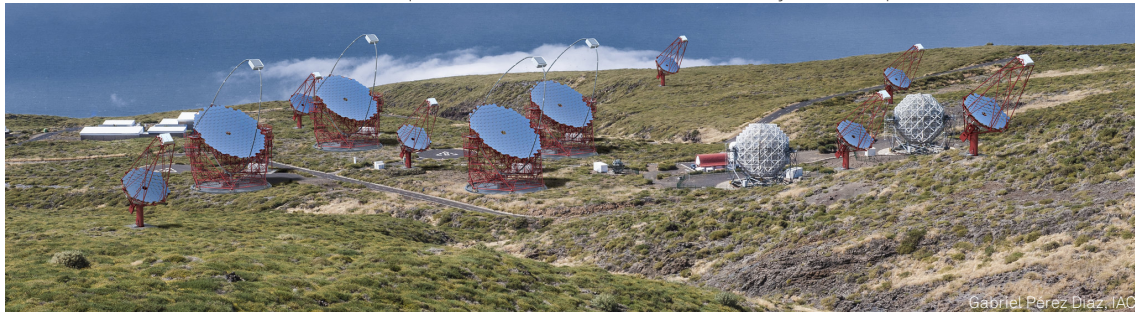


1500 Members  
from 150 institutes  
in 25 countries



## Planned Array in the Northern Hemisphere

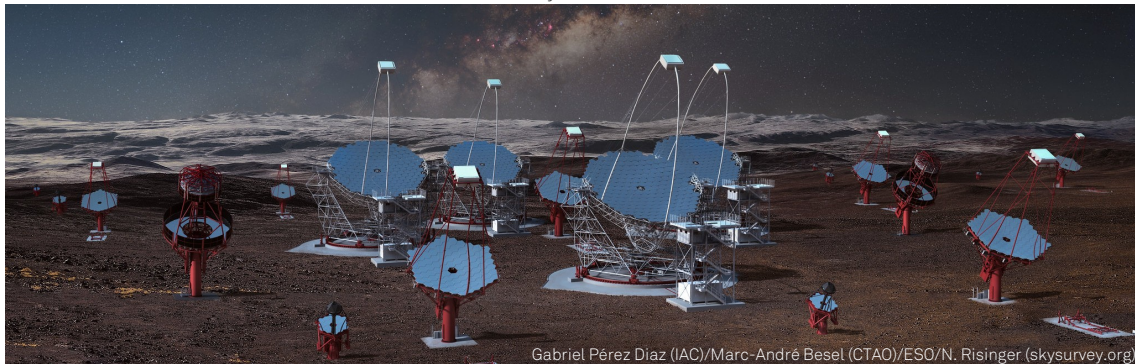
Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain



- Currently planned for first stage: 4 Large Sized Telescopes (23 m), 9 Medium Sized Telescopes (12 m)
- Goal: 4 LSTs, 15 MSTs

## Planned Array in the Southern Hemisphere

Paranal Observatory, Atacama Desert, Chile



- Currently planned for first stage: 14 Medium Sized Telescopes (12 m), 37 Small Sized Telescopes (4 m)
- Goal: 4 LSTs, 25 MSTs, 70 SSTs

## The LST Prototype

- Inaugurated in 2018
- Currently in commissioning
- Lots of observations already taken  
→ “real” data
- Energy range: **20 GeV to 50 TeV**  
(Dominating CTA sensitivity between  
20 GeV and 200 GeV)



## The LST Prototype

- Inaugurated in 2018
- Currently in commissioning
- Lots of observations already taken  
→ “real” data
- Energy range: **20 GeV to 50 TeV**  
(Dominating CTA sensitivity between  
**20 GeV** and **200 GeV**)
- Observations stopped since 2021-09-26  
due to volcano eruption





## How does CTA data look like?

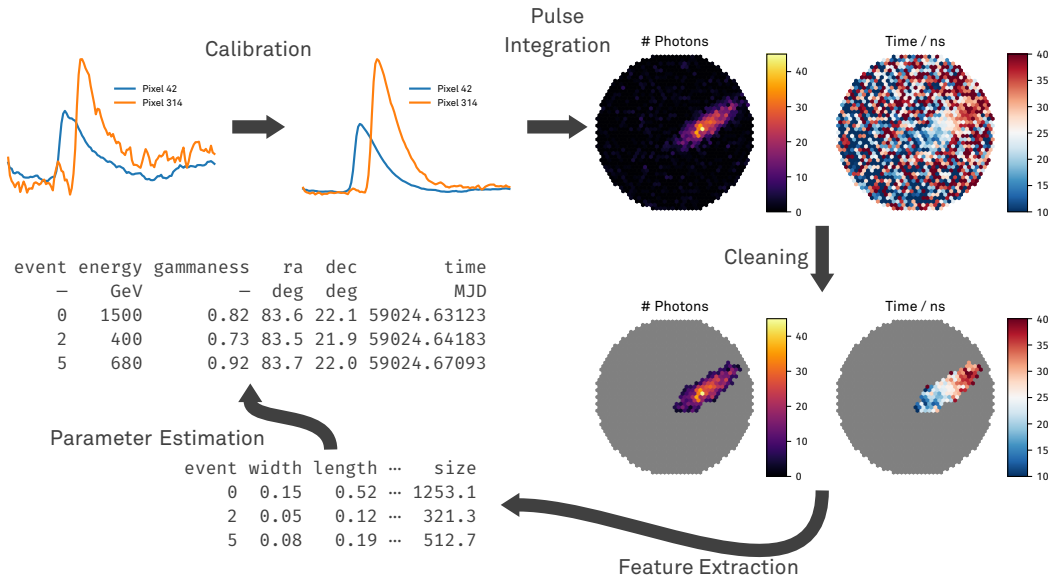
- Cherenkov telescopes feature extremely fast, sensitive cameras
- Detect single to hundreds of photons in a time frame of  $\approx 40 \text{ ns}$
- Recorded data consists of time series for each pixel
- LST single telescope losslessly compressed raw data rate:  $10\,000 \text{ Events/s} \Rightarrow \approx 3 \text{ TB h}^{-1}$
- Typical good observation time:  $2\,000 \text{ h/year}$
- CTA goal: maximum of  $20 \text{ PB/year} \Rightarrow$  Lossy data volume reduction needed

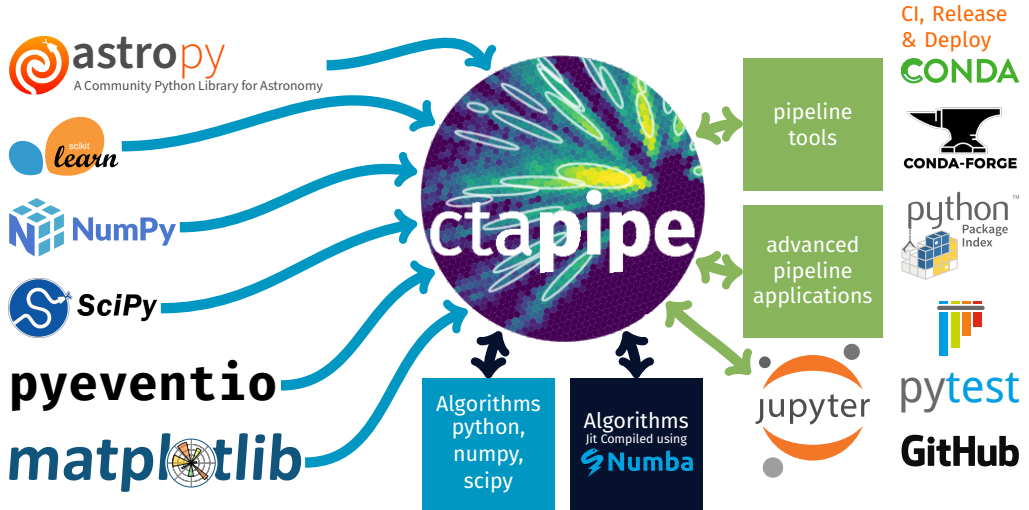
**First Analysis Goal:** Estimate the key properties of the primary particle in each event

Energy 1d-Regression

Particle type Classification

Direction of origin 2d-Regression

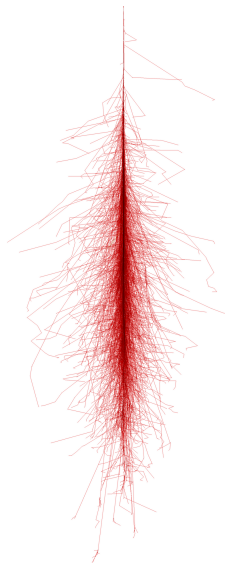




<https://github.com/cta-observatory/ctapipe>

## Side note: Labeled Data

- Supervised learning for the event property estimation
- Mostly decision tree based ensemble methods
- ⇒ Labeled datasets are needed for training
- Air shower physics and detector electronics are Monte-Carlo simulated for known primaries
- Brings its own challenges with respect to
  - Data storage
  - Computation time
  - Agreement between simulations and actual observations
- Several Multi-PB simulation datasets used for the planning and optimization of CTA



F. Schmidt, U. Leeds



## After the Event Property Estimation: Solving the inverse Problem

- The full measurement process of a Cherenkov Telescope can be described using

$$e(\hat{E}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\delta}, t) = \int R(\hat{E}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\delta} | E, \alpha, \delta, t) \cdot I(E, \alpha, \delta, t) dE d\Omega + b(\hat{E}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\delta}, t)$$

with

$\hat{E}, E$  estimated / true gamma-ray energy

$\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\delta}, \alpha, \delta$  estimated / true gamma-ray direction in celestial coordinates

$t$  Time

$e(\hat{E}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\delta}, t)$  Observed event distribution

$R(\hat{E}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\delta} | E, \alpha, \delta, t)$  Instrument Response Function

$I(E, \alpha, \delta, t)$  True gamma-ray signal distribution

$b(\hat{E}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\delta}, t)$  Background from cosmic rays and other sources

Goal: Estimate  $I$  from  $e$ ,  $R$  and  $b \Rightarrow$  Inverse Problem, Unfolding

More labeled data needed to calculate  $R$

$R$  changes rapidly ( 20 minutes) during observations due to environmental conditions, pointing direction, moon light, ...



## Summary

- The Cherenkov Telescope Array will be the next, large step in gamma-ray astronomy
- The scale and tasks of the project pose unique challenges to data processing and physics analysis
- Event reconstruction is the central part of the analysis pipeline before data is given out to astronomers
- Data given out to users of the observatory will consist of reconstructed event lists with corresponding instrument response functions
- Further analysis of this data requires solving the inverse problem, e. g. using unfolding techniques