Instrumentation in Ground and Space Astrophysics

An elementary introduction



Apart from the visible and radio windows, observation at other wave lengths usually requires going to space

RADIO MICROWAVES

The Very Large Array (VLA)



VLA



The Jodrell Bank antenna



100 m Green Bank radio telescope in West Virginia (USA) (0.6 to 30 cm)



Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA) is an array of ten 25 m diameter radio telescopes spread over the northern hemisphere from Hawaii to the Virgin Islands. All telescopes can operate between 90 cm and 7 mm wavelengths.



The Arecibo antenna



Wilkinson Microwave Asymmetric Probe, WMAP



VISIBLE INFRARED ULTRAVIOLET

The Hubble Space Telescope



GRB's : SWIFT watching a baby black hole



The Very Large Telescope





Coudé Near Infrared Camera 1 to $5\mu m$ 256×256 HgCdTe $(1-2.5\mu m)$ 1024×1024 InSb $(1-5\mu m)$ 35K



From left to right: the telescope adapter (dark blue), NAOS (light blue), and the CONICA cryostat (red). The control electronics is located in the white cabinet.





NAOS (Nasmyth Adaptive Optics System) uses a flexible mirror that can be deformed very rapidly (faster than the characteristic frequency of atmospheric turbulences). A star is used as reference. Part of the light collected in the telescope is deviated by a dichroic plate toward a pixel array through a corresponding array of micro-lenses, each micro-lens focusing the image on the associated pixel. The mirror – a reflective membrane stretched on a circular ring – is deformed to bring the reference star image in the centre of each pixel using 185 piezoelectric fingers that can stretch over 10 μ m with a precision of 30 nm.



NAOS field of view varies between 14 and 73 arc sec. NAOS uses two wave front sensors, one in the visible and one in the near-infrared spectral range. One speaks of diffraction limited imaging.







ESO PR Photo 33a/01 (3 December 2001)



Separation of a Very Close Double Star (VLT YEPUN + NAOS-CONICA)





26" = 45 km





The Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope **X RAYS**





Schematic arrangement of the CHANDRA mirrors



The CHANDRA optics



CHANDRA's High Resolution Camera (HRC)



Advanced CCD Imaging Spectrometer High resolution



Schematic drawing of a multichannel plate



XMM NEWTON



GAMMA RAYS

The High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS, Namibia) A gamma ray observatory detecting the Cherenkov light produced by the showers indiced by the interaction of the gamma rays with the atmosphere











Gamma ray astronomy as a tracer of cosmic ray sources

Contrary to cosmic rays, gamma rays travel straight in the universe and point back to the sources. They are good at detecting the high energy decay photons coming from neutral pions produced in the interaction of very high energy cosmic rays with interstellar matter.



High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS, Namibia): four telescopes at the corners of a 120×120 m² square, operating above 100 GeV. Field of view of 5° and resolution of a few arc minutes. It takes only 30 seconds to take a picture of the Crab while it was taking 50 hours a few years ago.

HESS





A HESS mirror

HESS mirrors are 108 m^2 in area and have a reflectivity >80%. The telescope can only be operated during clear moonless nights.



Each is made of 382 smaller mirrors of 60 cm diameter each (quartz coated aluminized glass). Their orientations are individually adjusted.



Left: an image of a muon captured by the mirror of a Hess telescope. Right: a typical image of a shower.



The HESS camera includes 960 PMT arranged as a pixel array. The electronics samples and records the signals of the light detectors at 1 GHz. A trigger circuit is used to select good candidates that are recorded for further analysis.

COSMIC RAYS





Robert Millikan at Pikes Peak and Pierre Auger at the Jungfrau Joch









Casa in Utah



COS-B, a pioneer in space





A recent example of space measurements in solar astronomy: NASA's Advanced **Composition Explorer** ACE was launched from Cape Canaveral in 1997 to the Lagrange point between Sun and Earth

Pierre Auger Observatory

A developing shower

1600 Cherenkov counters on ground measure the shower transverse profile and 4×6 fluorescence telescopes measure the longitudinal profile with a 10% duty cycle (clear moonless nights)
In both cases timing gives the direction (1°) and intensity gives the energy (10%)

Four stations of six eyes each, each eye covering a field of view of 30°×28° with a mirror focusing on an array of 22×20 pixels (PMTs), each having 1.5° aperture. Measure the induced fluorescence of nitrogen molecules (near UV).

The first four-fold event May 2007, ~10¹⁹ eV

EUSO concept: a space TPC

EUSO Collaboration

