Neutrinos from Blazars – what we learned from the TXS0506+056 observations

Animation by Science Communication Lab & DESY

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HELMHOLTZ RESEARCH FOR GRAND CHALLENGES

What is a blazar?

- Active core (nucleus) of a galaxy
- Energy extracted from the Super-Massive Black Hole (SMBH) drives a jet
- The jet is oriented towards the observer (us)
- Characteristic radiation pattern
 (SED)
- Emits bright flares every couple of years that last for weeks or months

Animations by <u>Science Communication Lab</u> and DESY: check out <u>https://multimessenger.desy.de/</u> for interactive version

Core region of an active galaxy



Dusty torus

- SMBH drives accretion disk
- The radiation from the disk heats the environment; BLR and Torus
- Accretion of matter drives jet (of galactic dimension ~ kpc)
- Turbulent flow and plasma instabilities in the jet form radiation zones (blobs)
- Electrons and protons accelerate to ~PeV energies
- Radiation off relativistic particles produces observed spectrum

AGN/Blazar types

- In fact there are many "blazars", but they are not necessarily called blazars
- If emission of messengers (Cosmic Rays and neutrinos) is not beamed then many more dim sources as known from gamma-ray catalogs
- Two interesting blazar types for high-energy observations are BL Lacs & FSRQs



a/M (?) spin Page 4

Radiation from the "blob"



$\gamma + \gamma \rightarrow e^+ + e^ \gamma + e \rightarrow \gamma + e$ (IC) Leptonic cascade $e + B \rightarrow e + \gamma$ (syn.) γ **e**⁺ **e**⁺ **e** Ambient γ

e



BL Lacs vs Flat Spectrum Radio Quasars (FSRQ)

Rodrigues, AF, Gao, Boncioli, Winter, ApJ 854 (2018)

Abdo+ 11







FSRQ:

25

- 1. Line, disk and thermal emission
- 2. High luminousity (high second peak)
- Low maximal photon energy 3.

(controversial) Blazar sequence: distribution of source classes



Multi-messenger implications of the blazar sequence



Neutrino production increases with the target photon density.



Neutrino observation points to one source of high-energy cosmic rays NSF

The real thing

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Multimessenger observations of a flaring blazar coincident with high-energy neutrino IceCube-170922A

The IceCube Collaboration, Fermi-LAT, MAGIC, AGILE, ASAS-SN, HAWC, H.E.S.S., INTEGRAL, Kanata, Kiso, Kapteyn, Liverp...

+ See all authors and affiliations

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Science 13 Jul 2018: Vol. 361, Issue 6398, eaat1378 DOI: 10.1126/science.aat1378

Neutrino emission from the direction of the blazar TXS 0506+056 prior to the IceCube-170922A alert

IceCube Collaboration*,†

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Science 13 Jul 2018: Vol. 361, Issue 6398, pp. 147-151 DOI: 10.1126/science.aat2890 Letter Published: 05 November 2018

Modelling the coincident observation of a high-energy neutrino and a bright blazar flare

Shan Gao, Anatoli Fedynitch 📉, Walter Winter & Martin Pohl

Nature Astronomy (2018) Download Citation 🕹

+ many other follow-up papers!

Theoretical challenges of the TXS0506+056 MM observation



Explain why the **neutrino** is detected **during flare and not during quiscence**



Source model



S. Gao, AF, W. Winter and M. Pohl Nature Astronomy, November 2018

- One or multiple emission regions (blob or plasmoid) is spherical in its rest frame
- Radiation and particle momenta assumed isotropic
- Injection of accelerated particles (no explicit simulation)
- Particles escape at constant rate
- Studied models with a one and two zones

Time-dependent hadro-leptonic code (AM³)*

*Astrophysical Modeling with Multiple Messengers

$$\partial_t n(\gamma, t) = -\partial_\gamma \{ \dot{\gamma}(\gamma, t) n(\gamma, t) - \partial_\gamma [D(\gamma, t) n(\gamma, t)]/2 \} - \alpha(\gamma, t) n(\gamma, t) + Q(\gamma, t)$$

- Numerically solves a set of coupled transport equations for
 - Photons
 - e+, e-
 - Protons and neutrons
 - pions + muons (implicit)
 - neutrinos

	injection	escape	synchrotron	inverse Compton $\gamma \gamma \leftrightarrow e^{\pm}$		Bethe-Heitler	$p\gamma$
e^{-}	$\rm Q_{e,inj}$	$lpha_{ m e,esc}$	$\dot{\gamma}_{\mathrm{e,syn}}, \mathrm{~D}_{\mathrm{e,syn}}$	$\dot{\gamma}_{\rm e,IC}, \ {\rm D}_{\rm e,IC}, \ \alpha_{\rm e,IC}, \ {\rm Q}_{\rm e,IC}$	$\alpha_{\mathrm{e,pa}}, \mathrm{Q}_{\mathrm{e,pp}}$	Q_{BH}	$ m Q_{e,p\gamma}$
e^+	—	$lpha_{ m e,esc}$	$\dot{\gamma}_{\mathrm{e,syn}}, \mathrm{~D}_{\mathrm{e,syn}}$	$\dot{\gamma}_{\mathrm{e,IC}}, \mathrm{~D_{e,IC}}, \mathrm{~\alpha}_{\mathrm{e,IC}}, \mathrm{~Q_{e,IC}}$	$\alpha_{\mathrm{e,pa}}, \mathrm{Q}_{\mathrm{e,pp}}$	Q_{BH}	${ m Q}_{ m e,p\gamma}$
γ	—	$\alpha_{ m f,esc}$	$\alpha_{\rm f,ssa}, {\rm Q}_{\rm f,syn}$	$lpha_{ m f,IC},~{ m D}_{ m f,IC}$	$\alpha_{\rm f,pp}, { m Q}_{ m f,pa}$	$lpha_{ m f,BH}$	$\alpha_{\mathrm{f},\mathrm{p}\gamma}, \ \mathrm{Q}_{\mathrm{f},\mathrm{p}\gamma}$
р	$\mathrm{Q}_{\mathrm{p,inj}}$	$lpha_{ m e,esc}$	$\dot{\gamma}_{\mathrm{p,syn}}, \mathrm{~D}_{\mathrm{p,syn}}$	$\dot{\gamma}_{\rm p,IC} \ {\rm D}_{\rm p,IC}, \ \alpha_{\rm p,IC}, \ {\rm Q}_{\rm p,IC}$	_	$\dot{\gamma}_{\mathrm{p,BH}}, \mathrm{~D}_{\mathrm{p,BH}}$	$\alpha_{\mathrm{p,p}\gamma}, \ \mathrm{Q}_{\mathrm{p,p}\gamma}$
n	—	$lpha_{ m f,es}$	_	_	_	_	$\alpha_{n,p\gamma}, Q_{n,p\gamma}$
ν	_	$\alpha_{ m f,es}$	_	—	_	—	$\mathrm{Q}_{ u,\mathrm{p}\gamma}$

Gao, Pohl, Winter, APJ 843 (2017)

- ~500 energy bins per species
- Energy "bandwidth" ~20 orders of magnitude (Radio-EeV)
- Very efficient: < 2 min to reach stationary solution of time-dependent simulation
- Photo-hadronic interactions following Hümmer et al., APJ 712, 2010

Common types of one-zone models

Gao, Pohl, Winter, APJ 843 (2017)

	First peak (eV-keV)	Middle range (keV-MeV)	Second peak (MeV-TeV)	Neutrinos
SSC	L	L	L	0
(Pure leptonic)	Primary e^- synchrotron	SSC	SSC	0
LH-SSC	L	Н	L	
(Lepto-hadronic)	Primary e^- synchrotron	Secondary leptonic	SSC by primary e^-	$L_{\nu} < L_{\gamma}$
$ m LH$ - π	L	Н	Н	
(Lepto-hadronic)	Primary e^- synchrotron	Secondary leptonic	Secondary leptonic or γ -rays from direct π^0 decay	$L_{\nu} = L_{\gamma}$
$\mathbf{LH} ext{-}\mathbf{psyn}$	L	Н	Н	1<
(Proton synchrotron)	Primary e^- synchrotron	Proton synchrotron or secondary leptonic	Proton synchrotron	$ UHE E_n \& E_p $



We test <u>all</u> current one-zone models for compatibility with TXS0506+056 observations

Scan for hadronic models with semi-analytics



see Gao, Pohl, Winter, ApJ (2017) for more details on the method

Hadronic model excluded $p\gamma \rightarrow \pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

... from fully time-dependent hadro-leptonic calculations



- Various constraints from proton-synchrotron, SSC emission, Bethe-Heiler, etc.
- Example (left) for overshooting Bethe-Heitler constrains
- No viable model in large parameter scans
- Hadronic model excluded

No obvious correlation between Fermi, TeV and v lightcurves!

Leptonic SSC fit of the flare



- We find a good fit through extensive parameter scan
- Remarkably simple assumptions r~10¹⁶ cm, B~0.16G and electrons with a $E^{-3.5}$ spectrum between $10^4 < \gamma < 6x10^5$
- If neutrino association is real, leptonic model is excluded

Hybrid lepto-hadronic one-zone model



- Dominant part of the SED originates from leptonic SSC
- Sub-leading hadronic component from proton injection with max. energy ~4.5 PeV
- **Reproduces neutrino energy** ~ 0.2 few PeV
- γγ self-absorption and EBL absorption (z=0.34) cascade down PeV photons to GeV energies
- X-Ray variability sensitive to hadronic component

Problem with energy constraints: exceeds Eddington luminosity by 10³

Boost ν efficiency with UHECR injection



 Instead of protons with E_{max} ~4.5 PeV we injected up to E_{max}~17 EeV

Target photon energy moves down and the density up the synchrotron peak

• Less power required for the interaction rate and almost identical SEDs (many other models use this fact)

 However, neutrinos production is at wrong energy and a very low rate < 10⁻³/yr expected

Two zone (core) model





- Large zone r~10^{17.5} cm for quiescent state
- Flare generated through formation of a compact core r_{core}~10¹⁶ cm during the short period of the flare
- To power the core 7xL_{Edd} needed to saturate X-ray flux, quiescent state is sub-Eddington
- Neutrino rate is ~0.3/yr, consistent with the observation of one neutrino during the flare

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Time dependence of the core model



- TeV delay and flikering is natural
 - Neutrino rate limited by X-rays

- Leptonic processes react swiftly to changes in injection
- Neutrino emission needs sustained flare activity

Overview of other explanations for the MM flare







- Ansoldi et al. (MAGIC) (1807.04300): UHECR, spine-sheath
- Cerruti et al. (1807.04335): UHECR, proton-syn.
- Keivani et al. (AMON) (1807.04537): ext. field
- Murase et al. (1807.04748): ext. field
- Righi et al. 2018 (ADAF, "re-scattering with acc. disk")
- **H. Zhang** et al. (2018), UHECR, proton synchrotron

Spine-sheath models (non-thermal external radiation fields)

External fields disk, dust, BLR,.. (for Spine-Sheath can be synchr.) are boosted into jet frame \rightarrow more target photons more neutrinos



Proton-proton interactions?





- Liu et al. 2018, (1807.05113)
- Sahakyan (1808.05651)
- + others only qualitatively

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...but no obvious coincidence with flare, pp and pgamma emission can lie months or years apart

Theory challenges from 2014-2015 "historical" neutrino flare



A few gamma-ray photons can be interpreted as hardening

DESY. | TXS0506+056 | 2018/12/12 Colloquium GSSI, l'Aquila | Anatoli Fedynitch

typ. energies tens of TeV

Jet – star/cloud interaction, a possible scenario?

Ruoyu Liu, TeVPa 2018



M. Barkov et al. 2010, 2012; Khangulyan et al. 2013

Rate not well constrained

 In Barkov's models the ablated protons still need an additional acceleration mechanism

E (eV)

 Comptonized radiation T~10⁷ K "hides" GeV emission

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Lepto-hadronic one-zone models in tension with observation

Fitting the SED



- Only 1.9 neutrinos if model is compatible with SED
- Strong overshoot of indirect X-ray constraints if fitting the neutrino number
- Any other viable alternative?

Fitting neutrinos

Compact core model v2





- Compact core model, as for the flare, produces 1.9 neutrinos and is limited by the gamma rays
- Low X-ray luminosity
- Hardening in gamma rays

External fields boosted into the jet frame





- **!8! neutrinos**, but gamma rays **too soft**
- Gamma rays in light tension @ 1.7 neutrinos
- Gamma rays compatible @ 0.4 neutrinos
- Very high energy gamma rays absorbed due to $\tau_{\gamma\gamma}$

What we learned from TXS 0506+056 observations

Multi-messenger flare:

□ TXS0506+056 can indeed be the **source of the one neutrino**, but detection is lucky

□ Most of the "elegant" one zone models excluded through observational constraints or energetics

- □ Additional mechanism (two zones) required to boost $p\gamma$ efficiency, either through a compact core, or spine-sheath structures, or external fields → more free parameters and insufficient experimental constraints \bigotimes
- Soft/hard X-ray's and TeV (+GeV) gammas are the strictest constraints, all calculations/authors (e.g. Keivani et al., Cerruti et al.) agree on that
- Historical flare:
 - **Real challenge** due to the lack of activity in gamma rays and **no proper X-ray measurements**
 - □ Jet-star/cloud interaction is a possible explanation, but requires lots of fine tuning

 $\hfill\square$ One and two zone models in 2σ tension with observations

TXS alone is not enough to understand why this particular blazar a neutrino source.

Proton synchrotron scenario



Requires UHECR energies

• Qualitatively **similar** constraints as in **UHECR case**

Results in neutrinos at wrong energy and thus in a negligible rate

MAGIC and VERITAS observations important (red line)

Model parameters

Parameter	Description	Fit	Hybrid		Hadronic
			Quiescent	Flare	Flare
\overline{z}	Redshift	fixed	0.34		0.34
$B'(\mathbf{G})$	Magnetic field		0.007	0.14	2.0
$R'_{\rm blob}~({ m cm})$	Blob size		$10^{17.5}$	10^{16}	10^{16}
$\Gamma_{ m bulk}$	Doppler factor		28.0		20.0
$L'_{e,\text{inj}}$ (erg/s)	Electron injection luminosity		$10^{40.5}$	$10^{40.9}$	$10^{41.3}$
$lpha_e$	Electron spectral index		-2.5	-3.5	-2.3
$\gamma_{e,\min}'$	Min. electron Lorentz factor		$10^{4.2}$		$10^{3.3}$
$\gamma'_{e,\max}$	Max. electron Lorentz factor		$10^{5.6}$	$10^{5.1}$	$10^{4.4}$
$L'_{p,\text{ini}}$ (erg/s)	Proton injection luminosity		$10^{44.5}$	$10^{45.7}$	$10^{47.0}$
$\gamma'_{p,\min}$	Min. proton Lorentz factor	fixed	10.0		10.0
$\gamma'_{p,\max}$	Max. proton Lorentz factor		$10^{5.4}$		$10^{5.6}$
α_p	Proton spectral index	fixed	-2.0		-2.0
$\eta_{ m esc}$	escape velocity of e^{\pm} and p		c/300	c/300	c/10
Results					
$L_{\rm Edd}$ (erg/s)	Eddington luminosity *		$10^{47.8}$		$10^{47.8}$
$L_{ m jet}/L_{ m Edd}$	jet physical luminosity (in $L_{\rm Edd}$)		0.4	6.2	62.8
$E_{\nu,\mathrm{peak}}, \mathrm{TeV}$	peak energy of neutrino spectrum		250		330
N_{ν}/yr	Expected neutrino rate in IceCube		$10^{-3.8}$	0.27	9.8

Increasing p & e⁻ injection by factor 3 explains flare



Increasing p & e⁻ injection by factor 3 explains flare



Ratio between QS and FS is x2.5 in optical and x6 in GeV supports SSC model