
Unfolding the cosmic ray spectrum using stopping muons in IceCube

Janina Bolles

29. October 2021

Experimentelle Physik 5b

Fakultät Physik

Overview

Motivation

Event Selection and Reconstruction

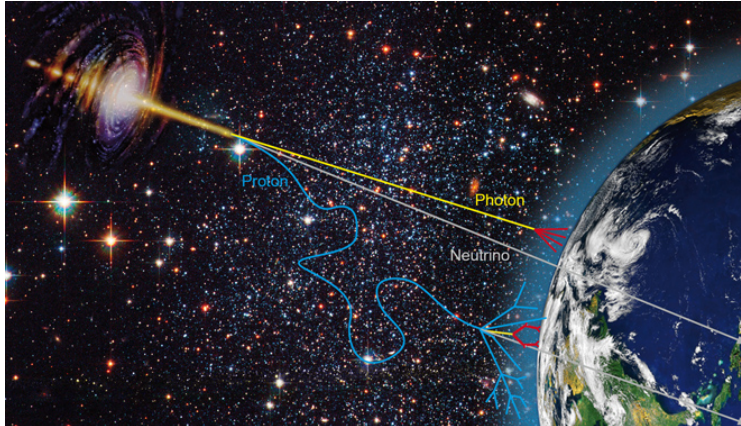
Data-MC-Agreement

Unfolding Primary Spectrum

Outlook

Motivation

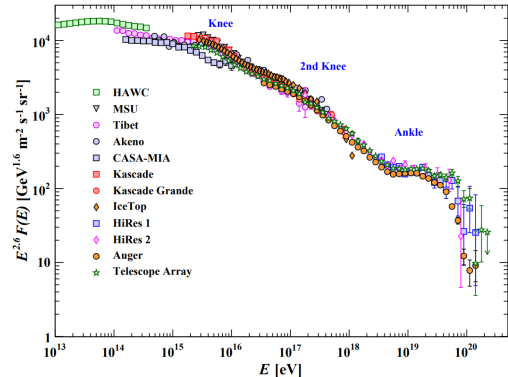
Motivation



[https://astro.desy.de/theory/multi_messenger_astrophysics/index_eng.html]

Charged Cosmic Rays

- 85% protons, 12% helium nuclei, 2% leptons, 1% heavier nuclei
- broken power law spectrum
 - "the knee" ≈ 5 PeV
 - "the ankle" ≈ 3 EeV
- for energies exceeding 1×10^{20} eV cosmic ray flux drops
 - GZK-cutoff above 5×10^{19} eV

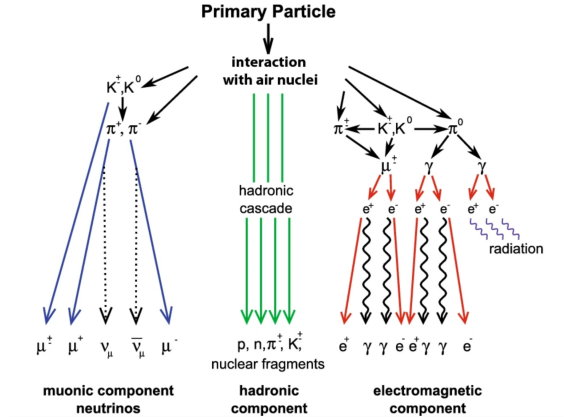


C. Patrignani et al. "Review of Particle Physics (RPP)"

Atmospheric Air Showers

- charged CRs engage in interactions with atmospheric molecules
 - hadronic cascades
 - contain lots of secondary particles
 - secondaries can be detected by ground based telescopes
- muon component: charged pion decay

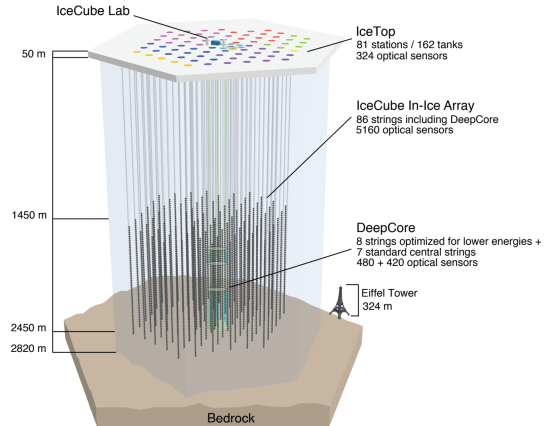
$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu \text{ and } \pi^- \rightarrow \mu^- + \bar{\nu}_\mu$$



A. Haungs et al. "The KASCADE Cosmic-ray Data Centre KCDC: granting open access to astroparticle physics research data"

The IceCube Detector

- located at geographical South Pole
- instrumented volume: 1 km^3
- 5160 digital optical modules (DOMs) at strings at depth between 1.5 km and 2.5 km
- DOMs detect Cherenkov light emitted by charged particles entering the ice
- mainly observation of astrophysical neutrinos
- atmospheric muons are background to neutrino observations



The IceCube Collaboration. "The IceCube Neutrino Observatory: Instrumentation and Online Systems"

Stopping Muons

- atmospheric muons are created in bundles
 - contain hundreds up to thousands of individual muons
- only few muons stop in detector volume
 - stopping muons
 - usually most energetic muon in bundle
 - created early in air shower
- stopping muons carry information about primary particle
- goal: use stopping muons to reconstruct primary flux

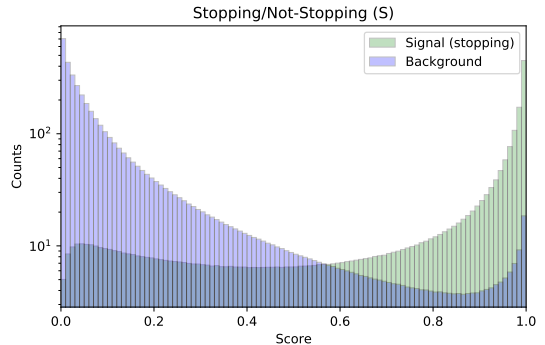
Event Selection and Reconstruction

Event Selection and Reconstruction

- using Deep Neural Network to classify muon events as stopping or background
→reconstructs key parameters (energy, stopping depth, direction)
- start with Level 2 data (basic reconstructed and filtered)
- combine two CORSIKA datasets:
 - 11058: 600 GeV - 100 TeV
 - 11057: 100 TeV - 100 EeV
 - 1291507 events

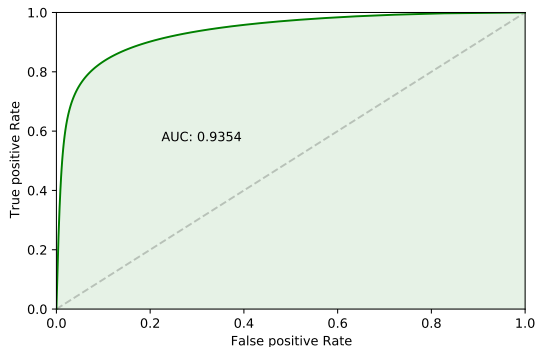
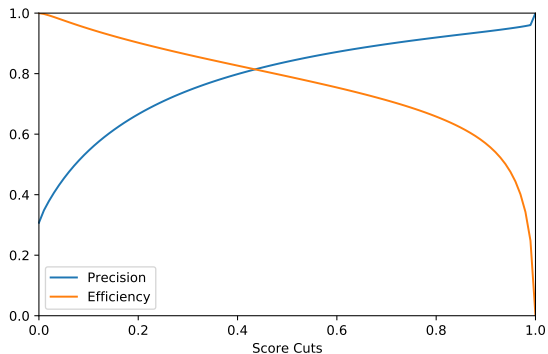
DNN Scores

- DNN predicts value between 0 and 1
→0: most likely background
→1: most likely stopping event
- visible separation between signal and background
- upgoing background near value 1: coincident muon events

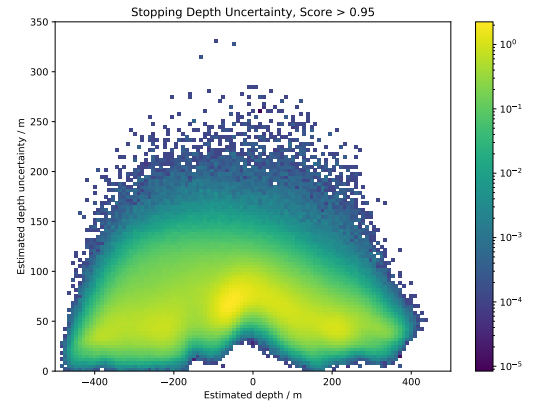
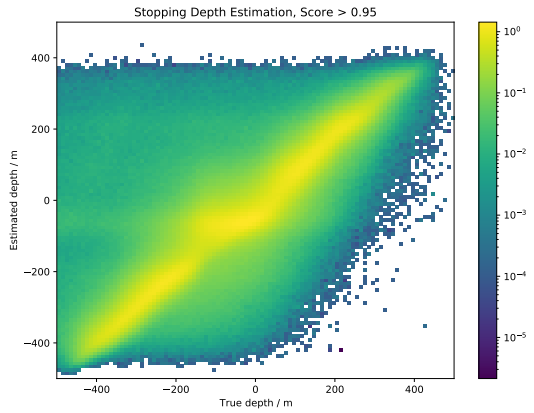


Precision and Efficiency

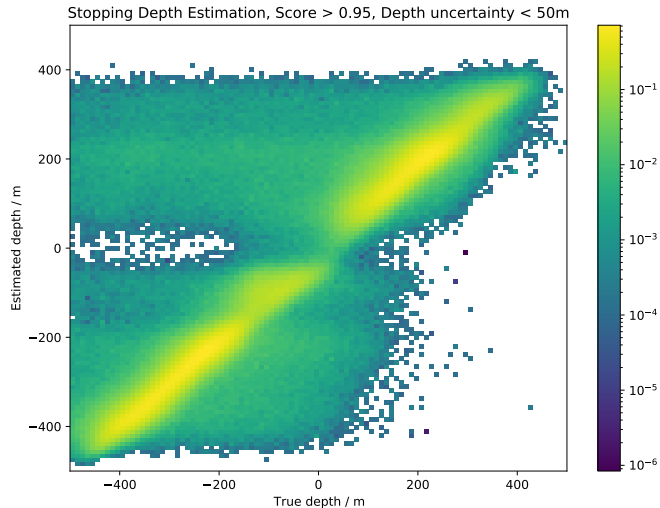
■ choose Score Cut at 0.95



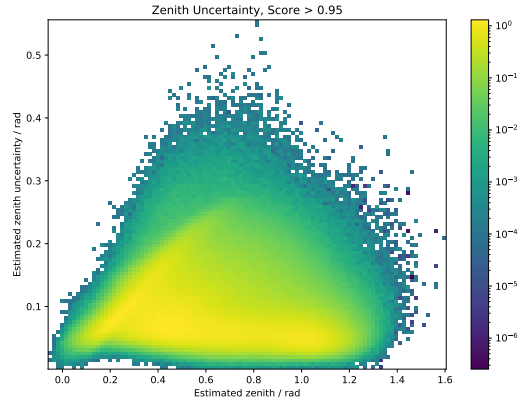
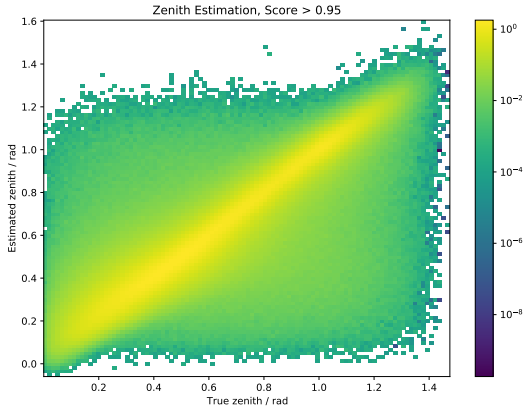
Stopping Depth and Uncertainty for Score Cut at 0.95



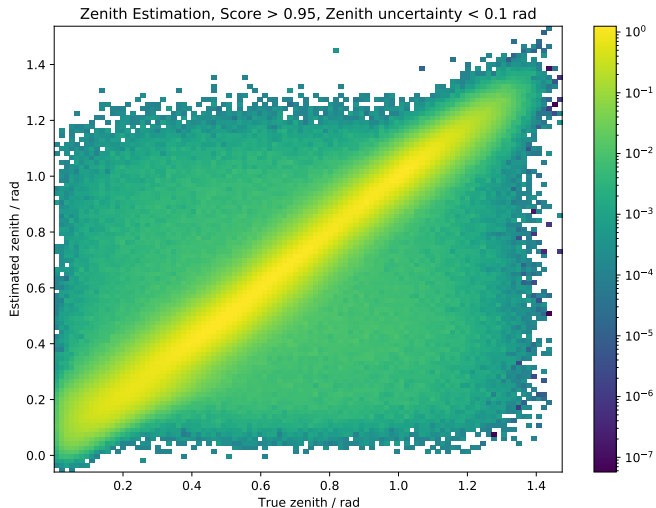
Stopping Depth and Uncertainty for Score Cut at 0.95



Zenith and Uncertainty for Score Cut at 0.95



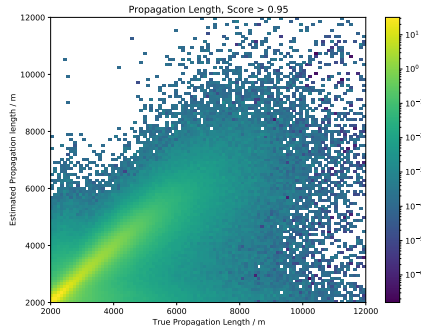
Zenith and Uncertainty for Score Cut at 0.95



Propagation Length for Score Cut at 0.95

- propagation length depends on two observables: zenith angle and stopping depth

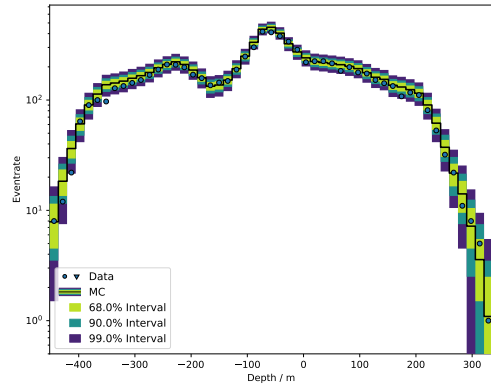
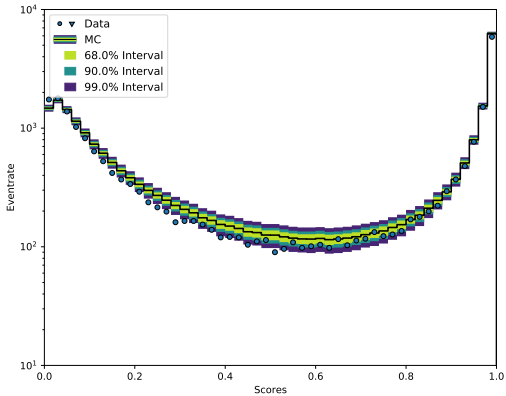
$$r = \sqrt{\left(R_E^2 - (R_E - z_{\text{stop}})^2\right) \sin^2 \Theta_Z + R_E^2 \cos^2 \Theta_Z} - (R_E - z_{\text{stop}}) \cos \Theta_Z$$



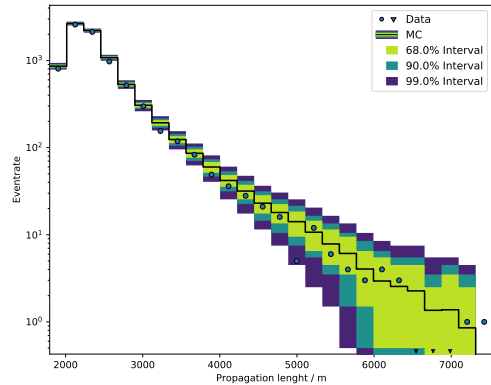
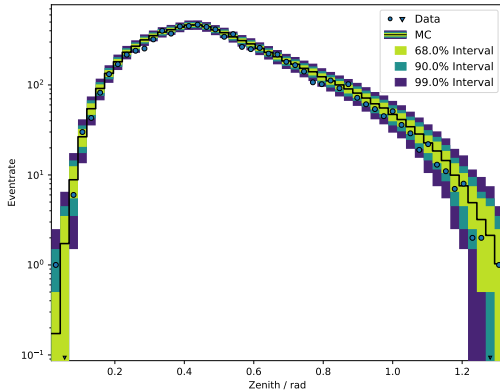
Data-MC-Agreement

Data-MC-Agreement

- Score cut at 0.95
- 130 s of data from 08/28/2015



Data-MC-Agreement



Unfolding Primary Spectrum

Unfolding

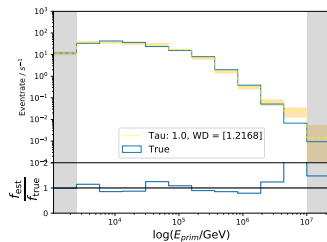
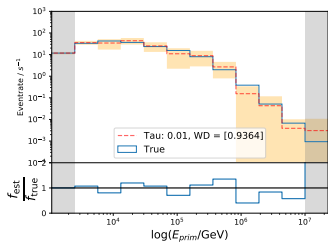
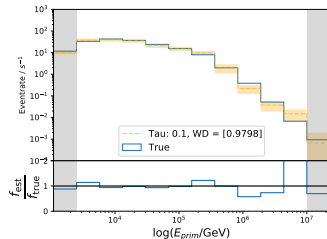
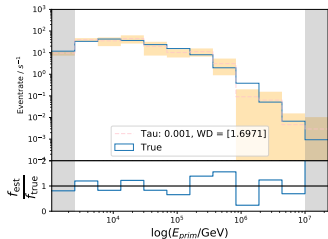
- not all events in true spectrum are represented in observable spectrum
- also, observable spectrum contains events not related to true physical events of interest
- measured observables related to true spectrum via detector response:

$$\vec{g} = A \cdot \vec{f} + \vec{b}$$

- instead of directly inverting: minimize negative log-likelihood
- approach still yields oscillation solutions
 →Tikhonov regularisation $\tau(f)$

$$-l(\vec{g}|\vec{f}) = \sum_i (A \cdot f)_i - g_i \ln((A \cdot f)_i) + \tau(f)$$

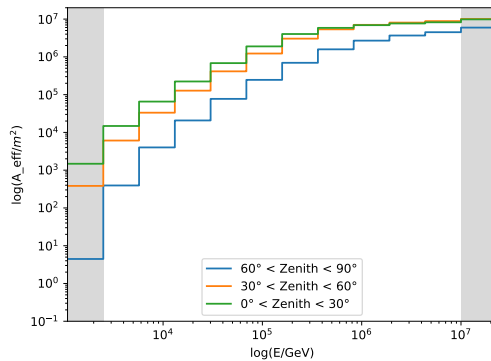
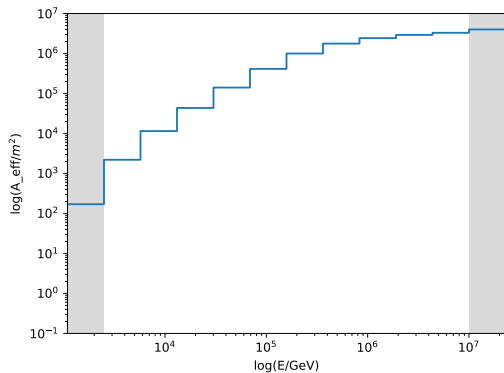
Eventrates for different regularisation parameters



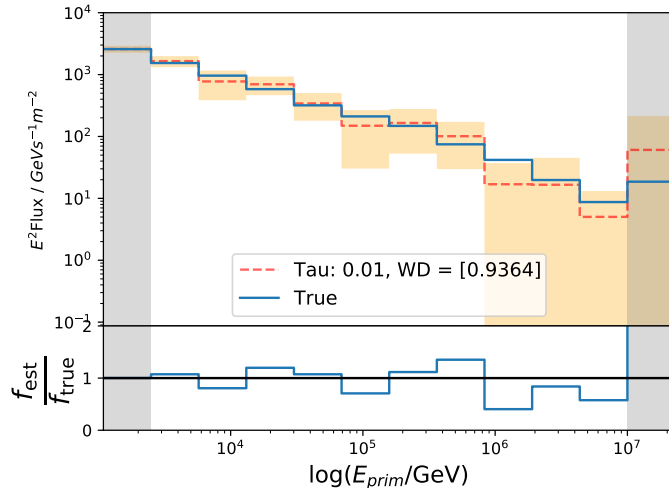
Effective Area

- to calculate flux: effective area has to be considered
- accounts the efficiency of detector
- rescaling detector area with fraction of selected to generated events
- in this work: calculate generation probability
 - how many particles are generated per energy, area and solid angle
- to estimate effective area: invert generation probability and histogram

Effective Area

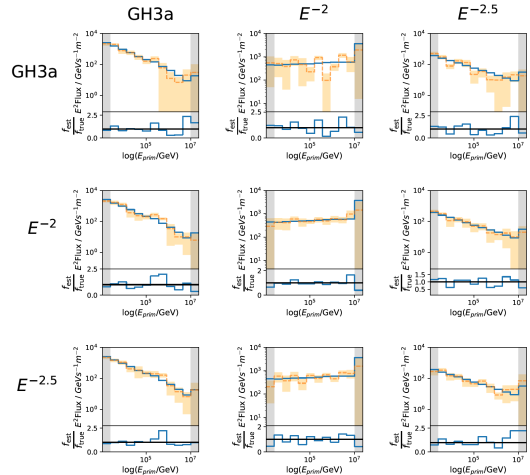


Unfolded Cosmic Ray Flux



Testing Unfolding with different spectra

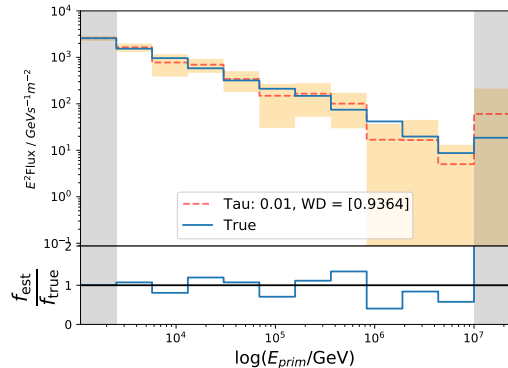
- show that unfolded spectrum is independent of assumed training spectrum
- choose different training spectra for response matrix
- do unfolding with different combinations of training and test spectra



Outlook

Outlook

- still need of fixing the MC-labeling for coincident muon events
- more bootstrapping iterations
- unfolding dependent on zenith angle
- due to high statistics choose higher binning
- test on burnsample



Thank you!