On the search for VHE emission from Fermi LAT Gamma-Ray Bursts with the High Altitude Water Cherenkov Observatory

KATHRYNE SPARKS WOODLE, Penn State University, HAWC COLLABORATION — Gamma-Ray bursts (GRBs) are extremely powerful transient events that occur at cosmological distances. Observations of energy spectra of GRBs can constrain the extra-galactic background light and test Lorentz invariance at high energies as well as provide information about the source itself. The High Altitude Water Cherenkov Observatory (HAWC) is a second-generation extensive air shower detector built near the peak of Sierra Negra in Mexico at an altitude of 4100 m. With its wide field of view (~2 sr) and high duty cycle, HAWC is sensitive to gamma rays in the sub-TeV to TeV energy range and can constrain the shape and cutoff of high-energy GRB spectra, especially in conjunction with observations from other detectors such as the Fermi LAT satellite. We will present a likelihood-based search for VHE emission from the Fermi LAT GRBs that occurred in the field of view of HAWC from May 2013 to August 2014.

Kathryne Sparks Woodle
Penn State University

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