

## A 3D Likelihood Analysis Tool for LHAASO-KM2A data

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The square kilometer array (KM2A) is the main array of the Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO), which is the most sensitive gamma-ray detector for energies above a few tens of TeV. We are developing a software pipeline based on the experimental data, Monte-Carlo simulations and the pointing track of the arrays. The pipeline is able to perform 3D (sky images at different energies) fits of KM2A data, similar to those used for Fermi-LAT and DAMPE gamma-ray analysis. This 3D likelihood analysis could fit source models of arbitrary morphology to the sky images, and get energy spectra information and detection significances simultaneously. The analysis with this software could give consistent results with those using traditional method.

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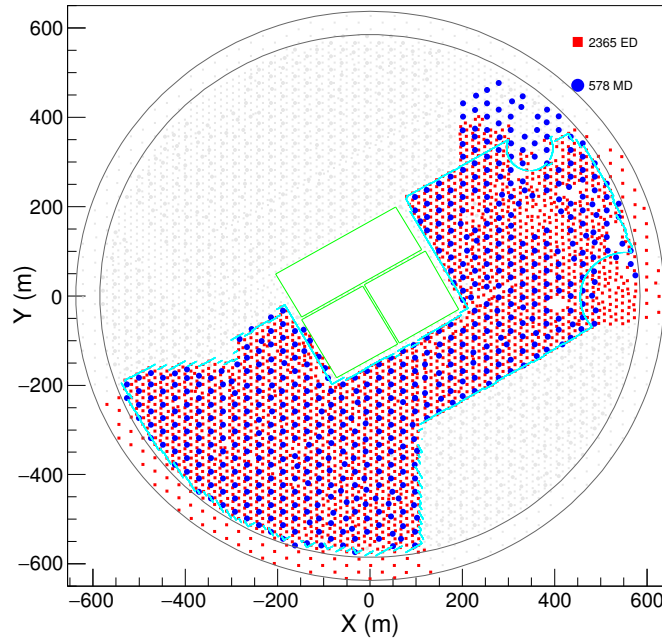
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## 1. Introduction

The Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) project[1, 2] is a new generation instrument, built at 4410 meters of altitude in the Sichuan province of China, with the aim of studying the energy spectrum, the elemental composition and the anisotropy of cosmic rays in the energy range between  $10^{12}$  and  $10^{17}$  eV with unprecedented sensitivity, as well as to act simultaneously as a wide aperture ( $\sim 2$  sr), continuously-operated gamma-ray telescope in the energy range between  $10^{11}$  eV and  $10^{15}$  eV.

As a sub-array of LHAASO, the square kilometer array (KM2A) is mainly designed to cover a large fraction of the northern sky to hunt for gamma-ray sources at energies above 10 TeV. The whole KM2A array will consist of 5195 electro-magnetic detectors (EDs,  $1 \text{ m}^2$  each) and 1188 muon detectors (MDs,  $36 \text{ m}^2$  each), deployed over an area of  $1.3 \text{ km}^2$ . Even though the detector construction is still underway, a half of the KM2A array has been operating stably since the end of 2019. Figure 1 shows the planned layout and the fiducial area of the current KM2A half-array used in this analysis. The atmosphere shower and detector response have been simulated for KM2A half-array, and the event reconstruction including the core, direction and energy reconstruction and the gamma-ray/cosmic-ray discrimination have been implemented on the simulated and experimental data[3].



**Figure 1:** Planned layout of all LHAASO-KM2A detectors[3]. The red squares and blue circles indicate the EDs and MDs in operation, respectively. The area enclosed by the cyan line outlines the fiducial area of the current KM2A half-array used in this analysis.

Similar to the Fermi-LAT and DAMPE gamma-ray analysis[4], we are developing a 3D likelihood analysis software for the KM2A data. Based on the experimental data, Monte-Carlo sim-

ulations and the pointing track of the arrays, the 3D likelihood analysis could fit source models of arbitrary morphology to the sky image, get the energy spectra information and detection significances simultaneously. The analysis with this software could give consistent results with those using traditional method[3].

## 2. Instrument Response Functions from Simulation Data

Instrument Response Functions (IRFs) including the effective area, point-spread function and energy dispersion represent the performance of the detections like efficiency, angular and energy resolution[5]. The effective area,  $A_{\text{eff}}(E, \hat{\nu})$ , is product of the geometrical cross-section area, the efficiency of event trigger, reconstruction and selection for gamma-ray with energy  $E$  and direction  $\hat{\nu}$  in detector reference frame. The point spread function,  $P(\hat{\nu}', E, \hat{\nu})$ , and the energy dispersion,  $D(E', E, \hat{\nu})$ , are the probability distributions of the reconstructed direction  $\hat{\nu}'$  and reconstructed energy  $E'$  for gamma-ray with energy  $E$  and direction  $\hat{\nu}$  respectively. Given the spatial and spectral model of gamma-ray source  $F(E, \hat{p})$ , where  $\hat{p}$  refers to the celestial direction of gamma-ray source, the expected distribution of observed gamma-ray photons is

$$r(E', \hat{p}') = \int \int \int F(E, \hat{p}) A_{\text{eff}}(E, \hat{\nu}(t, \hat{p})) P(\hat{\nu}'(t, \hat{p}'), E, \hat{\nu}(t, \hat{p})) D(E', E, \hat{\nu}(t, \hat{p})) dE d\Omega dt,$$

where  $\hat{p}'$  is the reconstructed celestial directions of the photons. The integrals are over the time and energy range of interest and the solid angle in the celestial reference frame.

We research the KM2A half-array IRFs for gamma-ray detection as functions of primary energy and incident angle from simulation data. The simulation gamma-ray events are sampled in the energy range from 1 TeV to 10 PeV following a powerlaw function with a spectral index of -2. The zenith angle is distributed from  $0^\circ$  to  $70^\circ$ . The sample area is a circular region with a sufficiently large radius of 1000 m. We binned the simulation data into 20 logarithm energy bins from 1 TeV to 10 PeV and 10 secant of zenith angle bins from  $0^\circ$  to  $60^\circ$ .

Effective area is the numerical function varying with energy of a gamma-ray photon and its incident direction in the instrument reference frame. The effective area for the bin centering  $E_i$  and  $\theta_j$  is

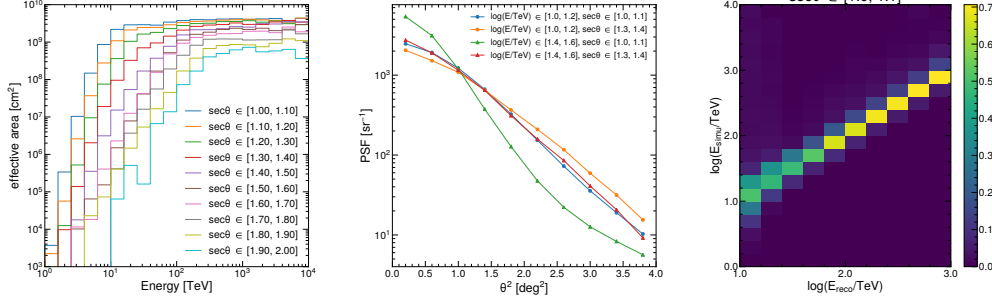
$$A_{\text{eff}}(E_i, \theta_j) = \frac{N_{\text{pass},i,j}}{N_{\text{simu},i,j}} S \cos \theta_j,$$

where  $N_{\text{simu},i,j}$  and  $N_{\text{pass},i,j}$  are the number of photons generated in the simulation and passed the trigger, reconstruction and selection.  $S$  is the sample area. Here we ignore the phi dependence of effective area. In the left panel of Figure 2 shows the effective areas in different zenith angle range.

The point spread function (PSF) is the probability distribution of the deviation between reconstructed and simulated direction  $\delta\nu = |\hat{\nu}' - \hat{\nu}|$ . We binned the deviation as the square of the angle, and get the distribution functions related with the energy and incident angle. The middle panel of Figure 2 shows some example of PSF. In the same energy, the less incident angle means the better angular resolution. In the same incident angle, the higher energy means the better angular resolution.

The energy dispersion is the distribution of reconstructed energy, it can be represented by the energy translation matrix between reconstructed and simulated energy. The right panel of

Figure 2 shows the energy translation matrix in one incident angle bin. The colorbar represents the probability density within each simulated energy bin.



**Figure 2:** The IRFs obtained from the simulation gamma-ray data for KM2A half-array. The left panel is the effective area in different incident angle range, the middle panel is the PSF example in different energy and incident angle range, the right panel is the energy dispersion example in one incident angle bin.

### 3. Exposure and Likelihood Analysis

For a particular source in the sky, its direction in the detector reference frame varies with time. Since the IRFs vary appreciably across the KM2A's FoV, we define the exposure  $\epsilon$  for any given energy  $E$  and direction in the sky  $\hat{p}$  as the integral of the effective area over the time range of interest,

$$\epsilon(E, \hat{p}) = \int A_{\text{eff}}(E, \hat{v}(t, \hat{p})) dt.$$

The exposure can also be expressed as an integral over the solid angle in the detector reference frame,

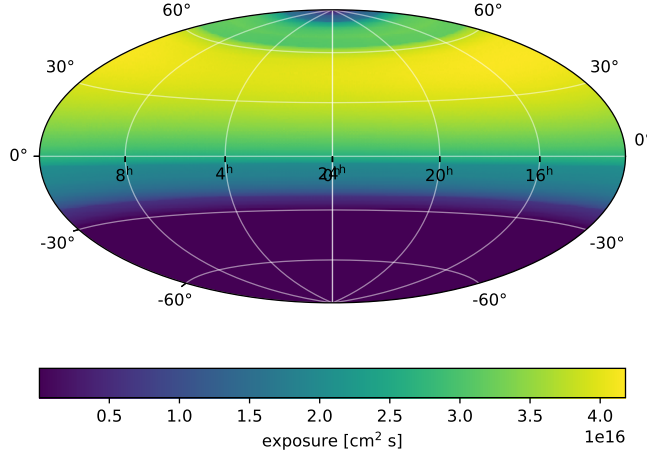
$$\epsilon(E, \hat{p}) = \int A_{\text{eff}}(E, \hat{v}) t_{\text{obs}}(\hat{v}, \hat{p}) d\Omega.$$

Here the  $t_{\text{obs}}$  is defined as the total time which KM2A has observed the direction  $\hat{p}$  with director frame direction  $\hat{v}$  during the time range of interest. Figure 3 shows the exposure map of KM2A half-array at 10 TeV in the equator coordinate with Aitoff projection.

We characterize a source by its photon flux density  $F(E, \hat{p}, t; \vec{\lambda})$ , here  $\vec{\lambda}$  is the parameters needed to be fitted in the source model. In order to reduce the computational burden, we assume the source is stationary during the time range in each likelihood analysis. For a variable source, time dependence of the flux can be achieved by repeating the analysis in finer time bins. The model predicted photon rate in the bin  $ij$  (centered at  $E_i$  and  $\hat{p}_j$ ) from source  $k$  is:

$$r_{ijk}(E'_i, \hat{p}'_j, \vec{\lambda}_k) = \int \int F(E, \hat{p}; \vec{\lambda}_k) \epsilon(E, \hat{p}) P(\hat{p}'_j, E, \hat{p}) D(E'_i, E, \hat{p}) dE d\Omega.$$

The predicted photon distribution is compared with the observed data to determine the model parameters. We binned the data into counts cube according to the reconstructed energies and directions. For each bin, the photon number  $N$  follows a Poisson distribution with unknown mean



**Figure 3:** The exposure map of KM2A half-array at 10 TeV in the equator coordinate with Aitoff projection.

$R$ :  $p(N; R) = R^N / N! e^{-R}$ . Taking into account all the bins with numbers  $\{N_i\}$ , the Poisson distribution becomes

$$p(\{N_i\}; \{R_i\}) = \prod_{i=1}^{N_{\text{bins}}} \frac{R_i^{N_i}}{N_i!} e^{-R_i}.$$

With the model predicted photon rates and the reconstructed data, and based on the Poisson statistics, we construct the binned likelihood function (in logarithm form) by summing over all  $N_{\text{bins}}$  bins and  $N_s$  sources

$$\log L(\vec{\lambda}) = \sum_{i,j=1}^{N_{\text{bins}}} \left( - \sum_{k=1}^{N_s} R_{ijk} + N_i \log \sum_{k=1}^{N_s} R_{ijk} \right).$$

Where  $R_{ijk}$  is model expected photon numbers in bin  $ij$  from source  $k$ . By maximizing the likelihood function, we can fit the free parameters in the source model to get the best-fit values. By decreasing one from the maximal likelihood value, we can get the errors of free parameters. The confidence level of source  $k$  is described by the test statistics

$$TS_k = -2(\log L(\vec{\lambda}_{0,k}) - \log L(\vec{\lambda}_0)),$$

where the  $\vec{\lambda}_0$  is the best-fit value of model parameters and  $\vec{\lambda}_{0,k}$  is the best-fit parameters without the source  $k$  includes in the model. The  $TS_k$  follows a  $\chi^2$  distribution with  $h-m$  degrees of freedom[6], where  $h$  and  $m$  are the number of free parameters in the model with/out source  $k$ .

#### 4. Implementation and examples

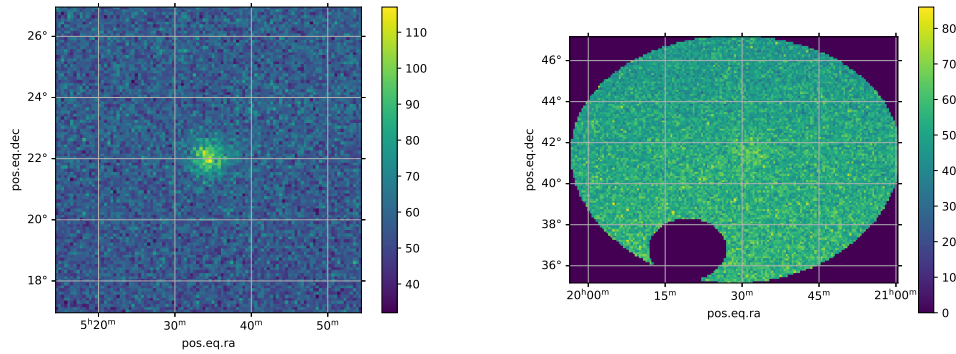
The code is written with python, based on the NumPy[7], SciPy[8], AstroPy[9], and Minuit[10] package. For expandability, the software are structured with modules. The input modules include SkyMap, IRFs, SpatialModel, Spectrum, Model and fitRegion. The process modules include Exposure, Source, LikelihoodBase and BinnedLikelihood. LikelihoodAnalysis

is the output module. We also provide some scripts for users including `plotCountsMap.py`, `plotfitRegion.py`, `plotSpatialModel.py`, `plotSpectrum.py` and `BinnedAnalysis.py`. The `fitRegion` and `model` file are described with YAML format.

As examples, Figure 4 shows the counts map around the Crab Nebula binned with  $0.1 \times 0.1$  degree<sup>2</sup> with CAR projection and fit region around Cygnus Cocoon which is in a  $6^\circ$  radius circle region around (RA=307.17°, DEC=41.17°) and removed a  $1.5^\circ$  radius circle region around (RA=304.85°, DEC=36.80°) plotted with `plotCountsMap.py` and `plotfitRegion.py` scripts.

Figure 5 shows the spatial map which is an extended source centered at (RA=307.65°, DEC=40.93°) with a Gaussian width of  $2.13^\circ$  and power-law spectrum  $dN/dE = N_0(E/E_0)^\Gamma$  with  $N_0 = 9.3 \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ TeV}^{-1}$ ,  $\Gamma = -2.64$ ,  $E_0 = 4.2 \text{ TeV}$  of Cygnus Cocoon[11] plotted with `plotSpatialModel.py` and `plotSpectrum.py` scripts.

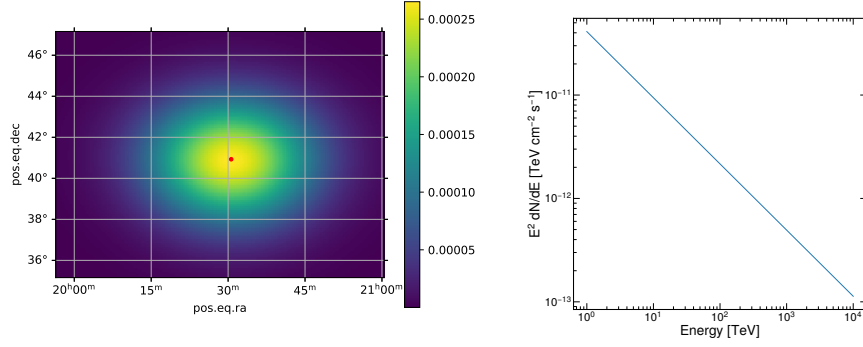
Figure 6 shows the spectral energy distribution (SED) and test statistics (TS) map of the Crab Nebula fitted with `BinnedAnalysis.py`. Compared with the results in [3], the analysis with this software could give consistent results with those using traditional method.



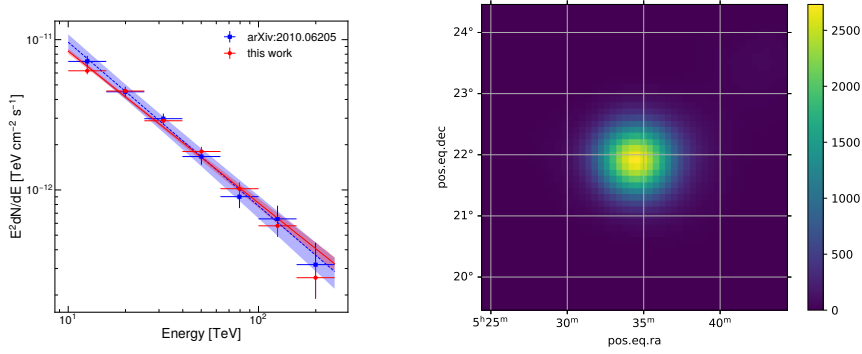
**Figure 4:** Left panel shows the counts map around the Crab Nebula binned with  $0.1 \times 0.1$  degree<sup>2</sup> with CAR projection, right panel shows the fit region around Cygnus Cocoon which is in a  $6^\circ$  radius circle region around (RA= 307.17°, DEC=41.17°) and removed a  $1.5^\circ$  radius circle region around (RA=304.85°, DEC=36.80°).

## 5. Summary

The very-high-energy gamma-ray sky is an important observation target for KM2A, the sub-array of LHAASO. To facilitate analyzing the KM2A gamma-ray data, we have developed a dedicated software, which implements maximum likelihood analysis to extract the parameters of sources that contribute to the observed gamma-rays. The KM2A IRFs that are essential to the gamma-ray data analysis, including the effective area, PSF and energy dispersion, are also derived based on statistics from simulation data. Applying the KM2A IRFs and the software that are detailed in this paper, scientific analyses of the gamma-ray data could be carried out to obtain the best-fit spectral parameters, fluxes and corresponding statistical uncertainties, and further the spectral energy distribution, promoting our understanding of the nature of very-high-energy gamma-ray phenomena.



**Figure 5:** Cygnus Cocoon spatial map which is a extended source centered at (RA=307.65°, DEC=40.93°) with a Gaussian width of 2.13° and power-law spectrum  $dN/dE = N_0(E/E_0)^\Gamma$  with  $N_0 = 9.3 \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ TeV}^{-1}$ ,  $\Gamma = -2.64$ ,  $E_0 = 4.2 \text{ TeV}$  of Cygnus Cocoon[11].



**Figure 6:** The spectral energy distribution (SED) and test statistics (TS) map of the Crab Nebula.

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