

Effect of optical properties of FDs on reconstruction analysis

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Abstract. The TA experiment uses fluorescence telescopes to observe cosmic ray air showers. The telescope camera uses PMTs as Pixels. The telescope's PMT pointing direction has an uncertainty of 0.1° , and more precise measurements of the telescope's optical properties are needed to more accurately reconstruct the cosmic ray air showers. We have developed the Opt-copter which is a light source mounted on a drone that can be flown within the telescope's field of view. Observational experiments with the Opt-copter have provided a more accurate analysis of the telescope viewing direction. In this study, we estimate the effect of this measurement of accurate telescope viewing direction on the reconstruction of cosmic ray air showers.

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1. Introduction

The Telescope Array (TA) experiment, located in Utah, U.S.A., observes ultra-high energy cosmic rays with energies greater than $10^{18.0}$ eV. The TA uses two types of detectors: Fluorescence Detectors (FD) that measures photons emitted from air molecules along the path of the cosmic ray induced air shower, and Surface Detector (SD) that sample of the air shower particles on the ground. It is important that we understand the optical properties of the telescopes to reconstruct observed cosmic ray air showers [1, 2].

The "Opt-copter," an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) mounted with a light source and RTK-GPS, was developed to understand and calibrate the optical properties of FDs (Left in Figure 1). This device can be flown within the Field of View (FoV) of the FD and can determine the exact location of the light source mounted on the UAV. It is possible to measure the optical properties of the FD by flying this device into the FD's FoV and observing the light source with the FD (Right in Figure 1)[3]. We performed the observation of the Opt-copter with FD at the Black Rock Mesa(BRM) station in 2018 and 2019. From the observation experiment, the FoV direction of the FD can be analyzed by comparing the actual drone position measured by RTK-GPS with the direction of the light source observed by the FD. Therefore, we analyzed the FoV direction of the FD with an accuracy of 0.03 degrees. Table 1 shows the FoV direction shift of the telescope analyzed using the Opt-copter. This is a shift from the FoV direction based on the star analysis currently used. The uncertainty of the PMT pointing direction based on star analysis is 0.1 degrees. The relationship between the RTK-GPS position and the light-receiving center of gravity depends on the focused image of the camera. We analyzed aberrations that recreate this relationship searching for optimal values through simulation.[4]

In this report, we apply the telescope FoV direction obtained by the "Opt-copter analysis" (hereinafter called the "Copter analysis") to the cosmic ray air shower analysis. We estimate the effect of the reconstruction using the FoV direction obtained by the Copter analysis compared to the reconstruction using the FoV direction obtained by the conventional method of the star analysis.



Figure 1: Left: The appearance of the Opt-copter that has eight arms, all of which are able to be folded. A RTK-GPS antenna is mounted on the top of this device. Right: The image of UV-LED light emission from the Opt-copter to the FD

	FD00	FD01	FD02	FD03	FD04	FD05	FD06	FD07	FD08	FD09	FD10	FD11
Δ Azimuth [deg.]	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.01	-0.04	0.01	-0.05	-0.02	0.01
Δ Elevation [deg.]	0.11	-0.04	0.02	-0.03	-0.04	-0.12	-0.05	-0.14	-0.12	-0.19	-0.14	-0.15

Table 1: The FoV direction shift of the telescope at BRM station analyzed using the Opt-copter. The uncertainty of the opt-copter analysis is 0.03 degrees.

2. Effect of FoV on reconstruction analysis

The field of view direction is an important parameter in the reconstruction of cosmic rays, and the field of view direction of telescope in BRM station analyzed by the Opt-copter is more accurate than conventional methods. The FoV direction analyzed has an overall downward shift and the elevation angle shift is larger than the azimuth angle. The Star analysis, conventional method, observes stars in FDs and determines the FoV direction from the star catalogs. In order to apply the FoV direction of the Copter analysis to cosmic ray air shower analysis, it is important to estimate the effect of the reconstruction using the FoV direction obtained by the Copter analysis compared to the reconstruction using the FoV direction obtained by the conventional method of the the star analysis.

2.1 Analysis Method

The FoV direction of the telescope from the Copter analysis is different from the FoV direction of the telescope by the star analysis used in the conventional reconstruction. It is assumed that the Copter analysis is able to recreate the actual FoV direction of the telescope, then the FoV direction that should be used in the reconstruction is the FoV direction by the Copter analysis. We evaluate the effect of changing the FoV direction used for cosmic ray reconstruction from the FoV direction of the star analysis to the FoV direction of the Copter analysis. This analysis is performed as follows.

1. Simulates the observation of an air shower using the FoV direction by the Copter analysis.
2. It performs two reconstructions for one simulation data.
 - Reconstruction using FoV direction by the Copter analysis.
 - Reconstruction using FoV direction by the Star analysis.
3. Compare the results of the two reconstructions.

The FoV direction in the simulation uses the Copter analysis, which is presumed to be the actual telescope FoV direction. Therefore, this analysis estimates to determine the effect of changing the FoV direction of the reconstruction with the actual observation. The FoV direction by the star analysis is the standard FoV direction used in TA experiments.

2.2 Data set

The simulations and reconstructions use the data set in Table 2. This analysis uses the monocular reconstruction analysis to estimate the effect of the telescope's FoV direction only. The quality cuts summarized in Table 3 are applied to all reconstructed events.

Primary Composition	Proton, Iron
Interaction model	QGSJET II-04
Log(E/eV)	Proton: 18.5, 19.0, 19.5, 20.0 Iron: 18.5, 19.0, 19.5
Zenith angle	0 - 65 degrees
Azimuth angle	0 - 360 degrees
Number of event	100000 for each event
Reconstruction mode	Monocular mode

Table 2: Simulation data set

Track length	> 10 degrees
Time extent	> 2 μ s
Number of PMTs	> 10
Zenith angle	< 55 degrees
$\chi^2_{geom}/n.d.f.$	< 100
Xmax in the FoV of FDs.	The geometrical and the longitudinal fittings are converged.
	Could be reconstructed in both FoV direction

Table 3: Quality Cut

As shown in Table 1, the FoV direction shift of the FD analyzed by the Opt-copter is a bit different for each telescope. In order to perform this analysis, it is necessary to change the FoV direction of each telescope in the analysis software.

2.3 Result and Discussion

Figure 2 shows the Xmax distributions at $10^{19.0}$ eV for proton reconstructed by each FoV direction. The left figure shows the result for events reconstructed using FoV direction by the Copter analysis, and the right figure shows for events reconstructed using FoV direction by the star analysis. Reconstructed Xmax mean and standard error are 781.6 ± 1.0 g/cm² for the FoV direction using the Copter analysis and 774.8 ± 1.0 g/cm² for the FoV direction using the star analysis. Using the FoV direction of the Copter analysis in the reconstruction, Xmax is deeper than using the FoV direction of the star analysis. The analysis was performed for each particle and energy, and the means are summarized the Figure 3 Left. For all particles and energies used in this analysis, Xmax is deeper when using the FOV direction determined by the Copter analysis. Each effect is checked by taking the difference between the average of $X_{max,Copter}$ and $X_{max,Star}$. Figure 3 Right shows the difference between the $X_{max,Coptere}$ mean value and the $X_{max,Star}$ mean value. As energy increases, the difference between the means of each Xmax increases. We infer the effect increases with energy because the observable distance from the FD increases with energy.

We analyze the differences per event to evaluate the effect on a single event. The following is performed in the reconstruction.

1. Select the same event that were reconstructed in both FoV.
2. $\Delta X_{max}(n) = X_{max,Coptere}(n) - X_{max,Star}(n)$

Figure 4 Left shows the ΔX_{max} distributions at $10^{19.0}$ eV for Proton and Figure 4 Right shows the mean and standard error of the same analysis for each energy and particle type. Each air shower event tends to be deeper. As shown in Table 1, the FoV direction by the Copter analysis tends to be lower compared to the FoV direction by the star analysis. This shows that the shift in FoV direction results in a deeper Xmax. Additionally, there is a difference in ΔX_{max} between protons and iron. We speculate that this is due to the different telescopes triggered by the depth of shower development

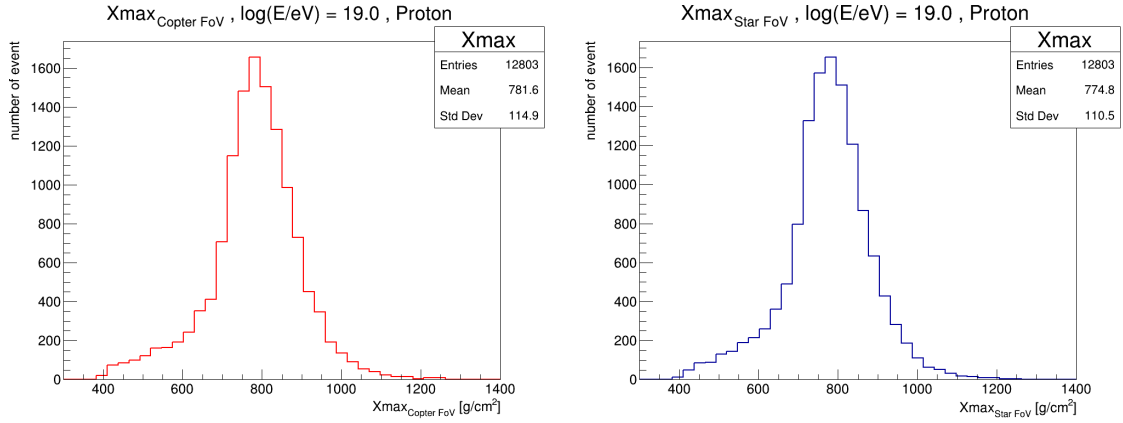


Figure 2: Left: Reconstructed X_{max} distribution using the FoV direction by the Copter analysis for a Proton at $10^{19.0}$ eV, Right: Reconstructed X_{max} distribution using the FoV direction by the star analysis for a Proton at $10^{19.0}$ eV

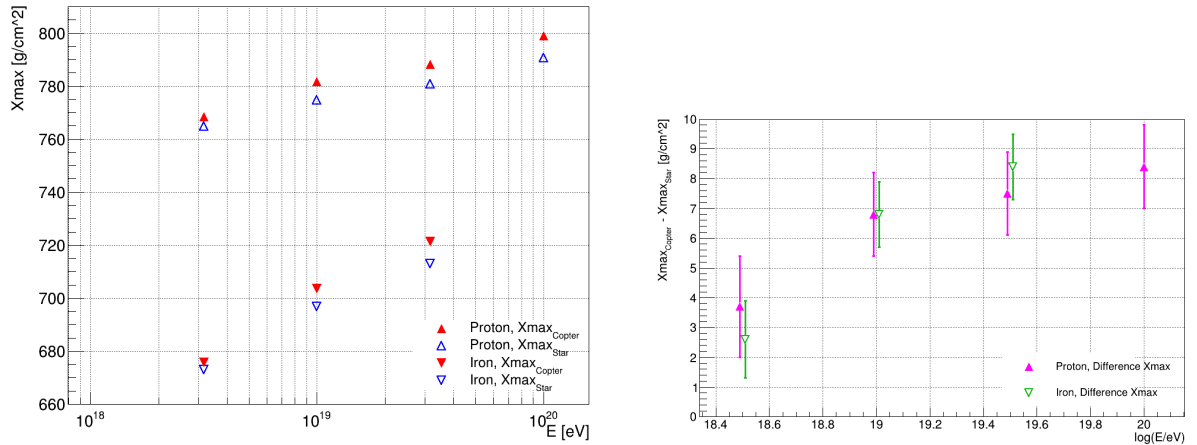


Figure 3: left: Reconstructed X_{max} value for proton and iron primary cosmic rays at various energies in this study. (Red: Using FoV direction by the Copter analysis, blue: Using FoV direction by the star analysis.) Right: Differences between $X_{\text{max}_{\text{Copter}}}$ and $X_{\text{max}_{\text{Star}}}$ at various energies. As energy increases, the difference also increases.

and the different distances from the telescope that are likely to be observed by different particle types. In the future, we will analyze the effect of individual differences in the shift of the telescope's field of view direction and its effect at the distance observed. And we estimate the effect of FoV direction on cosmic ray reconstruction using the hybrid mode (Reconstruction method using FD and SD data). In order to apply the FoV direction of the Copter analysis to the TA experiment and to perform a more accurate cosmic ray air shower analysis, it is necessary to conduct a measurement experiment of optical properties at all stations at the TA site (Long Ridge station and Middle Drum station).

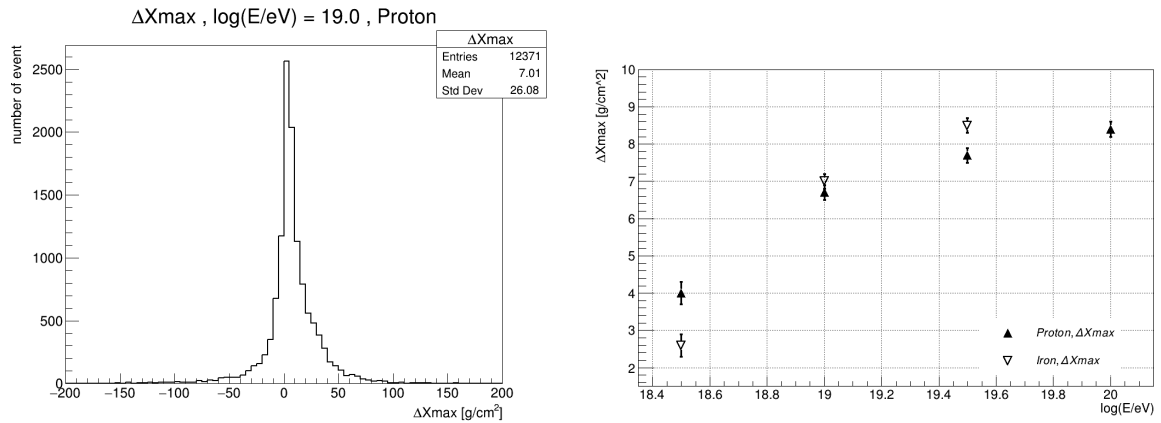


Figure 4: Left: Distribution of ΔX_{\max} for proton at $10^{19.0}$ eV. Right: Mean ΔX_{\max} values with standard errors at various energies.

3. Conclusion

We estimated the effect of changing the FoV direction to the more accurate FoV direction analyzed by the Opt-copter on the cosmic ray analysis. We have found that the reconstructed X_{\max} is deeper when using the FoV direction from the Copter analysis than when using the conventional FoV direction. Reconstructed X_{\max} mean and standard error are 781.6 ± 1.0 g/cm² for the FoV direction using the Copter analysis and 774.8 ± 1.0 g/cm² for the FoV direction using the star analysis. The X_{\max} increases as the energy of cosmic rays in the simulation is increased. In the future, we will estimate the effect of FoV direction on cosmic ray reconstruction using hybrid mode. In order to apply the FoV direction of the Copter analysis to the TA experiment, it is necessary to conduct a measurement experiment of optical properties at all stations at the TA site (Long Ridge station and Middle Drum station).

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