

High Energy Neutrinos to See Inside the Earth

E. Borriello^{1,2}, G. De Lellis^{1,2}, A. Marotta², G. Miele^{1,2,3}, P. Migliozzi², S. Pastor³, O. Pisanti^{1,2}, P. Strolin^{1,2} and A. Zollo¹ (presented by G. Miele)

¹Dip. Scienze Fisiche, Università di Napoli Federico II, Italy

²Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN), Sezione di Napoli, Italy

³Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), Valencia, Spain

High energy neutrino astronomy with Neutrino Telescopes (NTs) is one of the most promising research lines in astroparticle physics. This perspective has stimulated the construction of a km³ under-ice neutrino detector (IceCube) and several proposals and R&D projects for a detector in the deep water of the Mediterranean sea, namely ANTARES, NESTOR and NEMO, which in the future could lead to the construction of a km³ telescope as pursued by the KM3NeT project. The energy–zenith angle event distribution in a NT, in the extreme high energy regime, provides a unique tool to determine several interesting physical observables like the neutrino-nucleon cross section at extreme kinematical regions, and the high energy neutrino flux. Recently it has been also proposed the use of atmospheric neutrinos to perform a *radiography* of the inner part of the Earth by estimating the density of crossed matter through the observed number of charged lepton events at a NT. For this purpose, we present a development of the methods already applied to study the high energy performance of under-water NTs due to the 3D surface profile nearby the experimental setup. The implemented tool is a Monte Carlo code, based on the two event simulators HERWIG and GEANT, capable to follow the generation of a neutrino-induced cascade in matter, till the NT. By using this code we analyze the sensitivity of an under-water NT to the Earth radial density profile parameterization. The tool can be also applied to a *conceptually* similar problem provided by the study of the inner structure of a volcano (Vesuvius) by means of high energy muons from cosmic rays (see the talk by P. Strolin).