

Testing the Pointing of IceCube Using the Moon Shadow in Cosmic-Ray-Induced Muons

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What is this contribution about?

The shadow in cosmic-ray-induced muons caused by the moon's absorption of cosmic rays is measured with IceCube using more sophisticated methods than in previous analyses.

Why is it relevant / interesting?

The moon shadow can be used to test new analysis methods or a new detector calibration, compare algorithms for the directional reconstruction of muons, or be used to investigate the geomagnetic field.

What has been done?

New methods for the moon analysis were developed and applied to three muon reconstruction algorithms to test their relative performance.

What is the result?

The new methods are shown to improve the significance of the moon shadow. A machine-learning-based muon reconstruction algorithm shows only a slightly worse performance than the prevailing likelihood-based algorithm. A high-energy improvement of the prevailing algorithm shows similar performance due to the limited energy range of the moon data.