

# Complex Analysis of Askaryan Radiation: A Fully Analytic Model in the Time-Domain

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The detection of ultra-high energy (UHE,  $\geq 10$  PeV) neutrinos via detectors designed to utilize the Askaryan effect has been a long-time goal of the astroparticle physics community. The Askaryan effect describes radio-frequency (RF) radiation from high-energy cascades. When a UHE neutrino initiates a cascade, cascade properties are imprinted on the radiation. Thus, observed radiation properties must be used to reconstruct the UHE neutrino event. Analytic Askaryan models have three advantages when used for UHE neutrino reconstruction. First, cascade properties may be derived from the match between analytic function and observed data. Second, analytic models minimize computational intensity in simulation packages. Third, analytic models can be embedded in firmware to enhance the real-time sensitivity of detectors. We present a fully analytic Askaryan model in the time-domain for UHE neutrino-induced cascades in dense media that builds upon prior models in the genre. We then show that our model matches semi-analytic parameterizations used in Monte Carlo simulations for the design of IceCube-Gen2. We find correlation coefficients greater than 0.95 and fractional power differences  $< 5\%$  between the the fully analytic and semi-analytic approaches.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The extrasolar flux of neutrinos with energies between  $[0.01\text{--}1]$  PeV has been measured by the IceCube collaboration [1]. Previous analyses have shown that the discovery of UHE neutrinos (UHE- $\nu$ ) will require an expansion in detector volume because the flux is expected to decrease with energy [2–6]. The UHE- $\nu$  flux could potentially explain the origin of UHE cosmic rays (UHECR), and provides the opportunity to study electroweak interactions at record-breaking energies [7, 8]. Utilizing the Askaryan effect expands the effective volume of UHE- $\nu$  detector designs, because this effect offers a way to detect UHE- $\nu$  with radio pulses that travel more than 1 km in sufficiently RF-transparent media such as Antarctic and Greenlandic ice [9–11].

The Askaryan effect occurs within a dense medium with an index of refraction  $n$ . A relativistic particle with  $v > c/n$  initiates a high-energy cascade with negative total charge. The charge radiates energy in the RF bandwidth, and the radiation may be detected if the medium does not significantly attenuate the signal [12, 13]. The IceCube EHE analysis has constrained the UHE- $\nu$  flux to be  $E_\nu^2 \phi_\nu \leq 2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ GeV cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$  between  $[5 \times 10^{15} - 2 \times 10^{19}] \text{ eV}$  [4]. Arrays of  $\mathcal{O}(100)$  *in situ* detectors encompassing effective areas of  $\approx 10^4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ sr}$  per station, spaced by  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  RF attenuation length could discover a UHE- $\nu$  flux beyond the EHE limits. The most suitable ice formations exist in Antarctica and Greenland, and a group of prototype Askaryan-class detectors has been deployed. These detectors seek to probe unexplored UHE- $\nu$  flux parameter-space from astrophysical and cosmogenic sources [5, 6, 14, 15].

Askaryan radiation was first measured in the laboratory in silica sand, and later ice [16–18]. Cascade properties affect the amplitude and phase of the radiation. At RF wavelengths, cascade particles radiate coherently, and the radiation amplitude scales with the total track length of the excess negative charge. The RF pulse shape is influenced by the *longitudinal length* of the cascade, and the pulse is strongest when the viewing angle is close to the Cherenkov angle,  $\theta_C$ . The *excess charge profile* describes the excessive negative charge versus longitudinal position on the cascade axis. Radiation wavelengths shorter than the *lateral width* of the cascade, perpendicular to the cascade axis, are attenuated. At energies far above 10 PeV in ice, however, excess charge profiles generated by *electromagnetic* cascades experience the LPM effect and can have multiple peaks [19, 20]. This theoretical foundation has been constructed from a variety of experimental and simulation results.

The field of Askaryan-class detectors requires this foundation for at least two reasons. First, the theoretical form of the Askaryan RF pulse is used to optimize RF detector designs. Askaryan models are incorporated into simulations [21–23] in order to calculate expected signals and aid in detector design. For example, reconstruction tools for the radio component of IceCube-Gen2 combine machine learning and insights from Askaryan radiation physics [24–26]. Second, Askaryan models are used as templates to search large data sets for signal candidates [5, 27]. The signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) at RF channels are expected to be small ( $\text{SNR} \approx 3$ ), because the amplitude of the radiated field decreases with the vertex distance ( $1/r$ ), and the signal is attenuated by the ice [9, 28, 29]. Low SNR signals require correspondingly low RF trigger thresholds, but signals must be sampled for a bandwidth of  $[0.1\text{--}1] \text{ GHz}$ . Thus, RF channels are triggered at high rates by thermal noise. UHE- $\nu$  signals will be hidden within millions of thermal triggers. Template-

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waveform matching between models and data is a powerful technique for isolating potential UHE- $\nu$  candidates [27, 30].

Askaryan models fall into three categories: full Monte Carlo (MC), semi-analytic, and fully analytic. The original work by E. Zas, F. Halzen, and T. Stanev (ZHS) [13] was a full MC model. The properties of cascades with total energy  $\leq 1$  PeV were examined. A parameterization for the Askaryan field below 1 GHz was offered, attenuating modes above 1 GHz via a frequency-dependent form factor tied to the lateral cascade width. The semi-analytic approach was introduced by J. Alvarez-Muñiz *et al* (ARVZ) [31]. This approach accounts for fluctuations in the charge excess profile, and provides an analytic vector potential observed at the Cherenkov angle. The vector potential at the Cherenkov angle is labeled the form factor, and observed fields are derived from the derivative of the vector potential once convolved with a charge excess profile from MC. Recent work also accounts for differences in fit parameters from electromagnetic and hadronic cascades, and other interaction channels, while matching full MC simulations [32].

Finally, fully analytic models of Askaryan radiation from first principles have been introduced. J. Ralston and R. Buniy (RB) gave a fully analytic model valid for observations of cascades in the near and far-field, with the transition encapsulated by a parameter  $\eta$  [33]. The result was complex frequency-domain model. Recently, a model and software implementation was given by J. C. Hanson and A. Connolly (JCH+AC) that built upon RB by providing an analytic form factor derived from GEANT4 simulations, and accounted for LPM elongation [34]. This work connected the location of poles in the complex frequency plane to  $\eta$  and the form factor. The poles combine to form a low-pass filter for the Askaryan radiation. The JCH+AC results match the ZHS results while demonstrating the physical origins of model parameters. The RB and JCH+AC results are given in the Fourier domain, but most UHE- $\nu$  searches (like template matching) have taken place in the time-domain. *The goal of this work is to present a fully analytic time-domain model valid for all viewing angles  $\theta$  and  $\eta < 1$ , and to demonstrate that it matches semi-analytic models.*

In Section II, the cascade geometry, units, and vocabulary are defined. In Section III, we describe how the JCH+AC form factor fits into the current model [34]. In Section IV, the analytic Askaryan field, observed at  $\theta = \theta_C$  (*on-cone*), is presented. In Section V, the analytic Askaryan field observed for  $\theta \neq \theta_C$  (*off-cone*) is presented. In Section VI, fully analytic fields are matched to semi-analytic fields generated with NuRadioMC [23] at 10 PeV (electromagnetic cascades) and 100 PeV (hadronic cascades). Though the LPM effect is activated in NuRadioMC, it has a negligible influence on the waveform comparison at these energies. In Section VII, the results are summarized and potential applications of the fully analytic time-domain model are described.

## II. UNITS, DEFINITIONS, AND CONVENTIONS

The coordinate system of the Askaryan radiation from a vector current density  $\vec{J}$  is shown in Fig. 1 (a)-(b). Primed cylindrical coordinates refer  $\vec{J}$ , and the unprimed spherical coordinates refer to the observer. The zenith or *viewing angle* is measured with respect to the *longitudinal axis* ( $z'$ ). The observer displacement is  $r = |\vec{x} - \vec{x}'|$ , in the  $\hat{r}$  direction. The origin is located where the cascade has the highest instantaneous charge density (ICD). The ICD is treated with cylindrical symmetry, so it has no  $\phi'$ -dependence. This assumption is based on the large number of cascade particles and momentum conservation. The lateral extent of the ICD is along the *lateral axis* ( $\rho'$ ). The viewing angle is  $\theta$  in spherical coordinates, and the Cherenkov angle occurs when  $\theta$  satisfies  $\cos(\theta_C) = 1/n_{\text{ice}}$  with  $n_{\text{ice}} = 1.78 \pm 0.003$  [35].

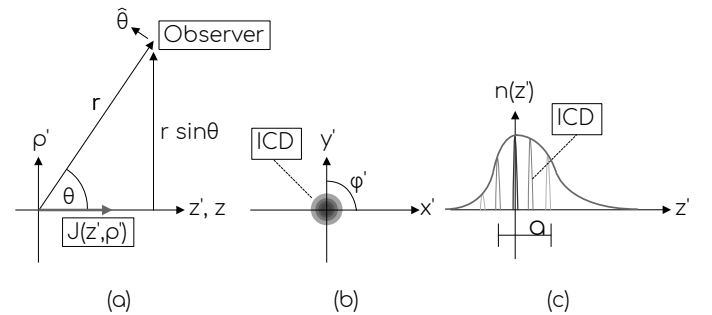


FIG. 1: (a) Side view of the coordinate systems used in the analysis. Spherical unprimed coordinates refer to the observer. Primed cylindrical coordinates refer to  $\vec{J}(\rho', z')$ . (b) Front view of the coordinate system. The instantaneous charge density (ICD) is assumed to have no  $\phi'$ -dependence. (c) The function  $n(z')$  describes the total cascade excess charge, and it has a characteristic width  $a$ . The ICD has an instantaneous width much smaller than  $a$  [34].

In Fig. 1 (c), an example excess charge profile  $n(z')$  is shown with characteristic longitudinal length  $a$ . The individual ICDs represent the excess charge density for small windows of time, and  $n(z')$  refers to the total excess charge as a function of  $z'$ . Approximating the central portion of  $n(z')$  as a Gaussian distribution  $N(\mu, \sigma)$  corresponds to setting  $a = 2\sigma$ . Askaryan radiation occurs because  $n(z')$  represents excess negative charge [13, 34, 36]. Cascades may be characterized as *electromagnetic*, initiated by charged outgoing leptons from UHE- $\nu$  interactions, or *hadronic*, initiated by the interaction between the UHE- $\nu$  and the nucleus. Electromagnetic cascades follow the Greisen distribution and hadronic cascades follow the Gaisser-Hillas distribution. An example of such an implementation via the ARVZ semi-analytic parameterization is AraSim [11].

The units of the electromagnetic field in the Fourier domain are V/m/Hz, often converted in the literature

to V/m/MHz. To make the distance-dependence explicit, both sides of field equations are multiplied by  $r$ , as in  $r\vec{E} = \dots$ , making the units V/Hz. Throughout this work, an overall field normalization constant  $E_0$  is used.  $E_0$  may be linearly scaled with energy, as in other Askaryan models. We show that the on-cone field amplitude is proportional to  $E_0$  times a characteristic frequency-squared, so the units of  $E_0$  are V/Hz<sup>2</sup>. For off-cone results, we show that the field amplitude is proportional to  $E_0$  times a characteristic frequency divided by a characteristic pulse width, and the units of  $E_0$  remain V/Hz<sup>2</sup>.

In Section IIIB, we review briefly the energy-dependence of the longitudinal length  $a$  in both the electromagnetic and hadronic cases. For the Greisen distribution with critical energy  $E_{\text{crit}}$ , it can be shown that if  $n_{\text{max}} = n(z_{\text{max}})$ , where  $z_{\text{max}} = \ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})$ , then  $n_{\text{max}}a \sim E_C/E_{\text{crit}}$ . Thus, the area under the curve  $n(z')$  scales with  $E_C$ . RB demonstrated that the Askaryan radiation amplitude is proportional to  $n_{\text{max}}a$  and therefore  $E_C$ . The cascade develops over a length  $\approx a$ , but the radiation is coherent over a length  $\Delta z'_{\text{coh}}$  for which the displacement is constant to first order relative to a wavelength. The  $\eta$  parameter is the square of the ratio of  $a$  to  $\Delta z'_{\text{coh}}$ :

$$\eta = \left( \frac{a}{\Delta z'_{\text{coh}}} \right)^2 = \frac{k}{r} (a \sin \theta)^2 \quad (1)$$

In far-field,  $\eta < 1$ . In the first JCH+AC model, a limiting frequency  $\omega_C$  (Equation 2) was shown to filter the Askaryan radiation [34]:

$$\eta = \frac{\omega}{\omega_C} \quad (2)$$

The effect of  $\omega_C$  is described in Section IV. The Askaryan radiation is primarily polarized in the  $\hat{\theta}$ -direction, with a small amount along  $\hat{r}$  [31, 34]. The wavevector is  $k = (2\pi)/(\lambda)$ , where  $n$  is the index of refraction. A 3D wavevector was defined by RB, equivalent to  $\vec{q} = nk(1, \vec{\rho}/R)$ . The vector current density is treated by RB as a charge density times the velocity of the ICD:  $\vec{J}(t, \vec{x}') = \rho(z' - vt, \rho')\vec{v}$ . Further, the charge density is factored into  $n(z')$  times ICD:  $\rho(z' - vt, \rho') = n(z')f(z' - vt, \rho')$ . The form factor  $\tilde{F}$  is the three-dimensional spatial Fourier transform of the ICD [33].

The result for  $\tilde{F}$  was derived analytically by JCH+AC [34], and that derivation is briefly described in Section III A. JCH+AC define a parameter  $\sigma$ , and  $\tilde{F}$  is a function of  $\sigma$ :  $\tilde{F}(\sigma)$ . The variable  $\sigma$  is related to the ratio of lateral ICD width to radiated wavelength. In the derivation of  $\tilde{F}$ , it is convenient to set  $\sigma$  equal to the ratio of angular frequency to the low-pass cutoff frequency  $\omega_{\text{CF}}$  of  $\tilde{F}$ :

$$\sigma = \frac{\omega}{\omega_{\text{CF}}} \quad (3)$$

Armed with  $\tilde{F}$ , the longitudinal length  $a$  and the corresponding energy-dependence on  $E_0$ , the RB field equations  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}$ , and the displacement  $r$ , the Askaryan electromagnetic field may be assembled according to the following form [33]:

$$r\vec{E}(\omega, \theta) = E_0 \left( \frac{\omega}{2\pi} \right) \psi \vec{\mathcal{E}}(\omega, \theta) \tilde{F}(\omega, \theta) \quad (4)$$

The factor  $E_0$  is proportional to cascade energy. The factor  $\omega$  is the angular frequency. The variable  $\psi$  is  $\psi = -i \exp(ikr) \sin \theta$ . The function  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}(\omega, \theta)$  contains the vector and complex pole structure of the field (see [33] and [34]). The model represented by Equation 4 is an *all- $\theta$* , *all- $\omega$*  model. That is, Equation 4 is valid at all frequencies and all viewing angles, provided one accepts the approximation of the central portion of  $n(z')$  as Gaussian. The first goal of this work is to build an *all- $\theta$* , *all- $t$*  model in the time-domain, derived from Equation 4, and the second goal is to compare it to semi-analytic parameterizations.

### III. THE FORM FACTOR AND LONGITUDINAL LENGTH PARAMETER

To arrive at the main electromagnetic field in the time-domain, the individual pieces of Equation 4 must first be assembled. The first piece will be the form factor  $\tilde{F}$  that accounts for the 3D ICD, followed by some remarks about the energy-dependence of the longitudinal length parameter  $a$ .

#### A. The Form Factor

As presented in Section II the form factor is the 3D Fourier transform of the ICD  $f(z', \vec{\rho}')$ , with  $\vec{q} = nk(1, \vec{\rho}/R)$ :

$$F(\vec{q}) = \int d^3x' f(z', \rho') e^{-i\vec{q} \cdot \vec{x}'} \quad (5)$$

The goal is to evaluate  $\tilde{F}$  in the Fourier domain for an ICD definition informed by cascade simulations. Simulations of the cascade induced by UHE- $\nu$  indicate a thin wave of charge in  $z'$  spread uniformly in  $\phi'$ , that decreases exponentially in  $\rho'$ . Using these observations JCH+AC complete the derivation in [34]. The final result was a simple analytic formula:

$$\tilde{F} = \frac{1}{(1 + \sigma^2)^{3/2}} \quad (6)$$

The form factor acts as a low-pass filter with the cutoff-frequency  $\omega_{\text{CF}}$  introduced in Section II:  $\sigma = \omega/\omega_{\text{CF}}$ :

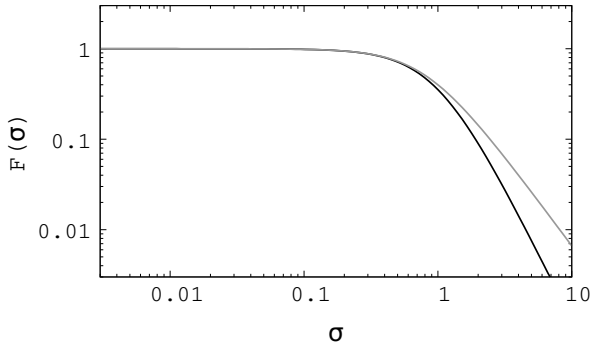


FIG. 2: (Black) Equation 6, graphed versus  $\sigma = \omega/\omega_{\text{CF}}$ . (Gray) The two-pole approximation.

$$\tilde{F} = \frac{1}{(1 + \sigma^2)^{3/2}} \approx \frac{1}{1 + \frac{3}{2}\sigma^2} \quad (7)$$

$$\tilde{F} \approx \frac{1}{(1 + i\sqrt{3/2}\sigma)(1 - i\sqrt{3/2}\sigma)} \quad (8)$$

$$\tilde{F} \approx \frac{\omega_0^2}{(\omega + i\omega_0)(\omega - i\omega_0)} \quad (9)$$

The definition  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{2/3} \omega_{\text{CF}}$  has been used in the final step. Equation 9 matches the original ZHS parameterization (see Equation 20 of [13]).

#### 1. A Note about the Molière Radius

In Section VIB, the decay constant  $l$  of the lateral component of the ICD is inferred from best-fit values of  $\omega_0$ . The connection between the  $l$ -parameter and  $\omega_0$  was described by JCH+AC [34]. Put simply, the ICD decays by a factor of  $1/e$  a lateral distance  $l$  from the cascade axis. Note, however, that the  $l$ -parameter is not the Molière radius. The Molière radius is the lateral radius which forms a cylinder containing 90% of the energy deposition of the cascade. For ice with a density of  $0.917 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ , one can estimate  $R_M \approx 9.2 \text{ cm}$  using standard formulas. Although it is tempting to compare  $l$  to  $R_M$ , these parameters have different definitions. Knowing that  $l$  is related to  $\omega_0$ ,  $l$  may be estimated as  $\lambda/2$  in ice at the cutoff-frequency. At 3 GHz in ice,  $\lambda/2 \approx 2.8 \text{ cm}$ , and at 1 GHz in ice,  $\lambda/2 \approx 8.4 \text{ cm}$ . Although the results are at the same order of magnitude as  $R_M$ , there are three effects limiting the high-frequency spectrum of the radiation:  $\omega_0$ ,  $\omega_C$ , and the viewing angle. Thus,  $l < R_M$  is possible for a radiation spectrum extending to  $\lesssim 1 \text{ GHz}$ .

### B. The Longitudinal Length Parameter

The next piece required in the assembly of the main electromagnetic field is the energy-dependence of the

overall amplitude, and the energy dependence of the longitudinal length parameter,  $a$ , which is a part of  $\tilde{\mathcal{E}}$  in Equation 4 [33]. What follows are two separate discussions, one for electromagnetic cascades, and one for hadronic cascades. Though we share these calculations for convenience, note that a variety of theoretical and experimental results on this topic are available [16] [37] [38].

#### 1. Electromagnetic Case

The number of charged particles versus distance in radiation lengths  $n(z')$  in an electromagnetic cascade taking place in a dense medium with initial cascade energy  $E_C$ , critical energy  $E_{\text{crit}}$ , normalization parameter  $n_0$ , and age  $s$  is [34]

$$n(z') = \frac{n_0}{\sqrt{\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})}} \exp \left\{ z' \left( 1 - \frac{3}{2} \ln(s) \right) \right\} \quad (10)$$

To find the energy-dependent width of the Greisen distribution, four steps are necessary: (1) normalization of  $n(z')$  as a fraction of the maximum excess charge, (2) conversion of  $n(z')$  to  $n(s)$ , (3) determination of the width of  $n(s)$  by approximating the central portion as a Gaussian distribution, and (4) conversion of the width from  $s$  units to radiation lengths  $z'$ , and then converting those results to a distance. Define the ratio  $R = n(a/2)/n_{\text{max}}$ , so the FWHM occurs when  $R = 0.5$ . The final result in radiation lengths is

$$a = \sqrt{\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})} \sqrt{-6 \ln(R)} \quad (11)$$

Since  $R < 1$ ,  $\ln(R) < 0$  and  $a$  is real-valued. Equation 11 is in radiation lengths. In solid ice the density is  $\rho_{\text{ice}} = 0.917 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ , and the electromagnetic radiation length is  $z_0 = 36.08 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$  [34]. Converting to distance gives

$$a = \frac{z_0}{\rho_{\text{ice}}} \sqrt{\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})} \sqrt{-6 \ln(R)} \quad (12)$$

Note that  $a \propto \sqrt{\ln(E_C)}$ , as shown by RB and others. The product  $n_{\text{max}}a$  is proportional to the energy  $E_C/E_{\text{crit}}$ . For this reason RB took  $n_{\text{max}}a$  as the field normalization rather than  $E_C$  [33]. As an example, let  $R = 0.4$ , and  $E_{\text{crit}} \approx 10^8 \text{ eV}$ , gives  $a \approx 4 \text{ meters}$  for  $E_C = 10^{16} \text{ eV}$ . We show in Section VI that our fitted  $a$ -values are close to 4 meters when matched to semi-analytic parameterizations.

#### 2. Hadronic Case

The Gaisser-Hillas distribution describes hadronic cosmic-ray air showers, but has also been applied to

hadronic cascades in dense media [22]. The original function reads

$$n(z') = n_{max} \left( \frac{z' - z_0}{z_{max} - z_0} \right)^{(z_{max} - z_0)/\lambda} e^{\frac{z_{max} - z'}{\lambda}} \quad (13)$$

The variables are defined as follows:  $n_{max}$  is the instantaneous maximum number of particles in the cascade,  $z'$  is the longitudinal distance in radiation lengths,  $z_0$  is the initial starting point,  $\lambda$  is the interaction length, and  $z'_{max}$  is the location of  $n_{max}$ . Using the same steps as the electromagnetic case, we find

$$a = \sqrt{\lambda z'_{max}} \sqrt{-8 \ln(R)} \quad (14)$$

The  $a$  parameter again goes as  $\sqrt{z_{max}} \propto \sqrt{\ln(E_C)}$  which produces similar lengths as the electromagnetic case when scaled by the appropriate interaction length and ice density.

#### IV. ON-CONE FIELD EQUATIONS

The  $\hat{\theta}$ -component of the electromagnetic field at  $\theta = \theta_C$  will now be built in the time-domain from Equation 4. Setting  $\theta = \theta_C$  in the general RB field equations (Appendix A), with Equation 6 for  $\hat{F}$ ,  $\sigma = \omega/\omega_{CF}$  and  $\eta = \omega/\omega_{CF}$ , and letting  $E_0$  be proportional to cascade energy  $E_C$  produces Equation 45 from JCH+AC [34]:

$$r\tilde{E}(\omega, \theta_C) = \frac{(-i\omega)E_0 \sin(\theta_C) e^{i\omega r/c}}{(1 - i\omega/\omega_C)^{1/2} (1 + (\omega/\omega_{CF})^2)^{3/2}} \quad (15)$$

More detail is provided in Appendix A. Let the retarded time be  $t_r = t - r/c$ , and let  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\omega_{CF}$  and  $\hat{E}_0 = E_0 \sin \theta_C$ . Finally, let  $\epsilon = \omega_0/\omega_C$ . The inverse Fourier transform of Equation 15 is

$$rE(t, \theta_C) = \frac{\hat{E}_0 i \omega_C \omega_0^2}{\pi} \frac{d}{dt_r} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\omega t_r}}{(2i\omega_C + \omega)(\omega + i\omega_0)(\omega - i\omega_0)} d\omega \quad (16)$$

In Equation 16, the derivative with respect to the retarded time  $d/dt_r$  is introduced to remove a factor of  $(-i\omega)$  from the numerator. Accounting for the complex

poles and the sign of  $t_r$ , complex integration and expansion to first-order in  $\epsilon$  yields

$$rE(t, \theta_C) = \frac{1}{3} \hat{E}_0 \omega_{CF}^2 \begin{cases} (1 - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon) e^{\omega_0 t_r} & t_r < 0 \\ (2e^{-2\omega_C t_r} - (1 + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon) e^{-\omega_0 t_r}) & t_r > 0 \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

Equation 17 represents the time-domain solution for the on-cone  $\hat{\theta}$ -component of the Askaryan electric field. The expansion to first-order in  $\epsilon$  is not necessary to solve the problem, but done so the final result resembles semi-analytic parameterizations [31, 32]. Table I summarizes the definitions of the parameters in Equation 17. Fit results for the parameters of Table I are shown in Section VI.

Notice that the amplitude is asymmetric, and the the parameter  $\epsilon$  influences the asymmetry. The  $\epsilon$  parameter was studied in JCH+AC in detail. For example, Fig. 10 of [34] shows that  $\epsilon \approx [0.1 - 1]$  for inverse lateral width  $l^{-1} = \sqrt{2\pi}\rho_0 \approx 20 \text{ m}^{-1}$  and  $a \approx 4 \text{ m}$ . These values are typical of 10 PeV cascades (see Section. VI). The expression for  $\epsilon$  is the product of the ratio of the lateral

to longitudinal length, and the longitudinal length to the vertex distance, making it a physical parameter connecting the event geometry to the cascade shape. Figure 3 displays normalized examples of Equation 17 for different values of  $\omega_0$ ,  $\omega_C$ , and  $\epsilon$ . The values shown are motivated by comparisons to semi-analytic parameterizations in Sec. VI.

##### A. Verification of the Uncertainty Principle

As a check on the procedures used to perform the inverse Fourier transform that produces Equation 17, we verify below that the uncertainty principle holds, for  $\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0$ . JCH+AC provide the Gaussian width of the

Parameter	Definition
$\hat{E}_0$	$E_0 \sin(\theta_C)$
$E_0$	$\approx n_{\max} a$
$\omega_0$	$\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \omega_{\text{CF}}$
$\omega_{\text{CF}}$	$(c\sqrt{2\pi\rho_0})/(n \sin \theta)$ (see Eqs. 22,23, and 46 of [34])
$\omega_C$	$(rc)/(na^2 \sin^2 \theta)$ (see Eq. 39 of [34])
$\epsilon$	$\omega_0/\omega_C$
$t_r$	$t - r/c$

TABLE I: The parameters used to build Equation 17. Fitted values in comparison to semi-analytic parameterizations are shown in Section VI.

radiation in the Fourier domain:  $\sigma_\nu$ , where  $\nu$  represents the frequency in Hz. Generally speaking, Fourier transform pairs must obey  $\sigma_\nu \sigma_t \geq 1/(2\pi)$ . The following procedure is used to compute the width  $\sigma_t$  of the on-cone field. First, the  $t_r < 0$  and  $t_r > 0$  cases are each treated as probability distributions and normalized. Next, the average positive and negative retarded times,  $\bar{t}_{r,+}$  and  $\bar{t}_{r,-}$ , are computed. Finally, subtracting the two averages yields  $\sigma_t$ :

$$\sigma_t = \bar{t}_{r,+} - \bar{t}_{r,-} = \frac{\epsilon + 2}{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{\omega_C} + \frac{2}{\omega_0} \quad (18)$$

The result has the correct units and the limiting cases are sensible. Suppose  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  ( $\omega_C \gg \omega_0$ ), then  $\sigma_t \rightarrow 2/\omega_0$ , which is expected from observing Equation 17 if the  $\omega_C$  exponential disappears. If  $\epsilon = 1$  ( $\omega_C = \omega_0$ ), then  $\sigma_t = 3/\omega_0$ . That is, the pulse is wider if there is more than one relevant cutoff frequency.

Equation 36 of JCH+AC [34] provides  $\sigma_\nu$ :

$$\sigma_\nu = \frac{c}{2\pi a \Delta \cos \theta} (1 + \eta^2)^{1/2} \quad (19)$$

Expanding to first order in  $\Delta \cos(\theta) = \cos(\theta) - \cos(\theta_C)$ ,

$$\sigma_\nu \approx \frac{c}{2\pi a \sin(\theta_C) \Delta \theta} (1 + \eta^2)^{1/2} \quad (20)$$

From Table I:  $\omega_C^{-1} = na^2 \sin^2(\theta_C)/(rc)$ , and  $\omega_0^{-1} = nl \sin(\theta_C)/c$ , with  $l = \sqrt{3/2}/(\sqrt{2\pi\rho_0})$ . Multiplying  $\sigma_t$  and  $\sigma_\nu$  with the far-field limit ( $\eta < 1$ ) gives the inequality

$$\sigma_\nu \sigma_t \geq \frac{n}{2\pi} \left( \left( \frac{a}{r} \right) \frac{\sin(\theta_C)}{\Delta \theta} + 2 \left( \frac{l}{a} \right) \frac{1}{\Delta \theta} \right) \quad (21)$$

Therefore, in order to satisfy  $\sigma_\nu \sigma_t > 1/(2\pi)$ ,

$$n \left( \frac{a}{r} \right) \sin(\theta_C) + 2n \left( \frac{l}{a} \right) > \Delta \theta \quad (22)$$

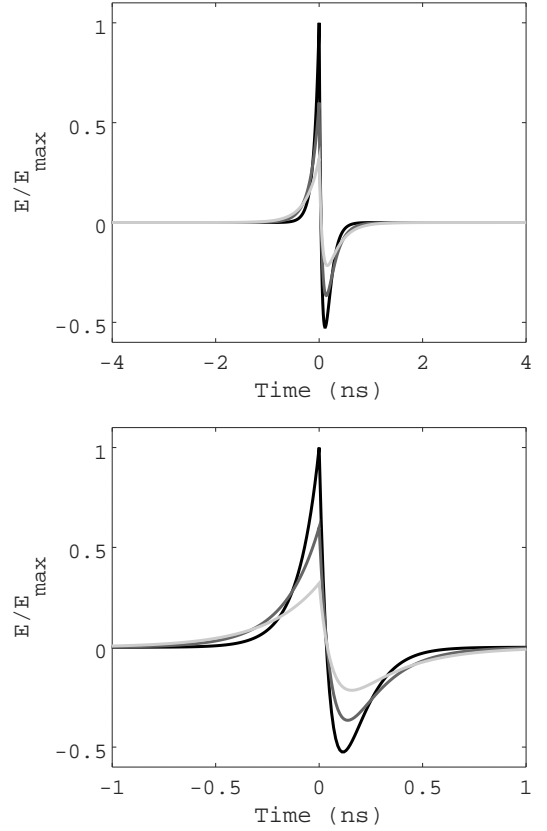


FIG. 3: (Top) Equation 17 from  $[-4, 4]$  ns, with (black)  $\omega_C = 2\pi(1.25)$  GHz,  $\omega_0 = 2\pi(1.56)$  GHz,  $\epsilon = 1.25$ , (gray)  $\omega_C = 2\pi(1.25)$  GHz,  $\omega_0 = 2\pi(0.94)$  GHz,  $\epsilon = 0.75$ , (light gray)  $\omega_C = 2\pi(1.25)$  GHz,  $\omega_0 = 2\pi(0.625)$  GHz,  $\epsilon = 0.5$ . The amplitudes of all curves are normalized to the peak of the  $\epsilon = 1.25$  (black) data. (Bottom) Same as top panel, plotted between  $[-1, 1]$  ns.

Although  $a/r \ll 1$  and  $l/a \ll 1$ , as long as these expressions do not approach zero as fast as  $\Delta \theta \rightarrow 0$  in Equation 22, the uncertainty principle holds. Yet these are exactly the conditions of the problem: a displacement  $r$  in the far-field (but not infinitely far away) and a longitudinal length  $a$  much larger (but not infinitely larger) than the lateral ICD width  $l$ . Thus,  $\sigma_\nu \sigma_t > 1/(2\pi)$  holds.

## V. OFF-CONE FIELD EQUATIONS

Turning to the case for which  $\theta \neq \theta_C$ , the  $\hat{\theta}$ -component of the electromagnetic field will now be built in the time-domain. The RB field equations for the  $\hat{\theta}$  and  $\hat{r}$  components are summarized in both RB and JCH+AC [33, 34], and Appendix A. Recall the general form of the electromagnetic field, given in Equation 4:

$$r\vec{E}(\omega, \theta) = E_0 \left( \frac{\omega}{2\pi} \right) \psi \vec{\mathcal{E}}(\omega, \theta) \tilde{F}(\omega, \theta) \quad (23)$$

Variable	Definition
$u$	$1 - i\eta$
$x$	$\cos(\theta)$
$x_C$	$\cos(\theta_C)$
$\sin^2(\theta)$	$1 - x^2$
$q$	$(xx_C - x_C^2)/(1 - x^2)$
$y$	$(\frac{1}{2})(ka)^2(\cos\theta - \cos\theta_C)^2$
$p$	$\frac{1}{2}(\frac{a}{c})^2(\cos\theta - \cos\theta_C)^2$

TABLE II: Useful variables for the derivation of the off-cone Askaryan electromagnetic field.

Function	Definition
$f(u, x)$	$\left(u + 3\frac{(1-u)^2}{u}\frac{x^2 - xx_C}{1-x^2}\right)^{-1/2}$
$g(u, x)$	$\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(ka)^2(x - x_C)^2u^{-1}\right)$
$h(u, x)$	$\left(\frac{1-u}{u}\right)q$
$\vec{\mathcal{E}}(u, x) \cdot \hat{\theta}$	$f(u, x)g(u, x)(1 - h(u, x))$

TABLE III: Useful functions for the derivation of the off-cone Askaryan electromagnetic field. The last row contains the vector structure of the  $\hat{\theta}$ -component of the field.

The first task is to simplify  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}(\omega, \theta)$  before taking the inverse Fourier transform. The simplification involves expanding  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}(\omega, \theta)$  in a Taylor series such that  $u = 1 - i\eta \approx 1$ , restricting  $\eta < 1$  (far-field). Once  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}(\omega, \theta)$  is simplified, the inverse Fourier transform of Equation 23 may be evaluated to produce the result. Table II contains useful variable definitions, Table III contains useful function definitions, and Table IV contains special cases of the functions in Table III.

The original form of  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}(\eta, \theta)$  is shown in Appendix A. Changing variables to  $u$  and  $x$  (Tab. II) and using the function definitions and values in Tabs. III-IV,  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}(u, x) \cdot \hat{\theta} = \mathcal{E}(u, x)$  becomes

$$\mathcal{E}(u, x) = f(u, x)g(u, x)(1 - h(u, x)) \quad (24)$$

Expanding  $\mathcal{E}(u, x)$  near  $u = 1$  gives

Function ( $u = 1$ )	Result
$f(x, 1)$	1
$\dot{f} _{u=1}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$
$g(x, 1)$	$\exp(-y)$
$\dot{g} _{u=1}$	$y \exp(-y)$
$h(x, 1)$	0
$\dot{h} _{u=1}$	$-q$

TABLE IV: Special cases of the functions defined in Table III, when  $u = 1$ .

$$\mathcal{E}(u, x) = \mathcal{E}(x, 1) + (u - 1)\dot{\mathcal{E}}(x, 1) + \mathcal{O}(u - 1)^2 \quad (25)$$

The details of the expansion are shown in Appendix B. The result is

$$\mathcal{E}(x, u) = e^{-y} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}j\eta(2y + 2q - 1)\right) \quad (26)$$

The inverse Fourier transform of the  $\hat{\theta}$ -component gives the time-domain results, after including the expanded  $\mathcal{E}(u, x)$ :

$$rE(t, \theta) = \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left\{ E_0 \left( \frac{\omega}{2\pi} \right) \tilde{F}\psi\mathcal{E} \right\} \quad (27)$$

Intriguingly, the result is proportional to the *line-broadening function*,  $H$  (DLMF 7.19, [39]) common to spectroscopy applications. There are three terms in Equation 26. Two terms ultimately vanish, being integrals over odd integrands (see Appendix B). The integral that remains contains  $H$ , with  $\omega_1 = t_r/(2p)$ :

$$I_0 = 2\pi i \left( \frac{\omega_C}{\omega_0} \right) e^{-\frac{t_r^2}{4p}} H(\sqrt{p}\omega_0, i\omega_1\sqrt{p}) \quad (28)$$

The line-broadening function is similar to a convolution between a Gaussian function and a Lorentzian function, and cannot be expressed analytically, though there are examples of polynomial expansions [40]. Note that, for situations relevant to the current problem,  $\omega > \omega_1$ . Requiring that  $\omega > \omega_1$  amounts to a restriction between  $\Delta\theta$  and  $|t_r|$ :

$$|t_r| < |2p\omega| \quad (29)$$

It is shown in the next section that  $\sqrt{2p}$  is the pulse width  $\sigma_t$ , so  $|2p\omega|$  has units of time. Using the results of Sec. V A below, the restriction on the retarded time may be written  $|t_r|/\sigma_t < \omega\sigma_t = 2\pi(\sigma_t/T)$ . That is, the accuracy of the waveform should be trusted within a number of pulse widths that is less than  $2\pi$  times the ratio of the pulse width to the period of the lowest frequency. This is not a strong requirement, since the field quickly approaches zero after several pulse widths. Hereafter, this step will be called the *symmetric approximation*, because the result for  $r\vec{E}(t_r, \theta)$  in Equation 30 has equal positive and negative amplitude. Evaluating the line-broadening function numerically would account for amplitude asymmetry. The restriction on  $\Delta\theta$  is formalized in Sec. V B. Solving  $I_0$  using the symmetric approximation clears the way for the final result (see Appendix B):

$$rE(t, \theta) = -\frac{E_0\omega_0 \sin(\theta)}{8\pi p} t_r e^{-\frac{t_r^2}{4p} + p\omega_0^2} \operatorname{erfc}(\sqrt{p}\omega_0) \quad (30)$$

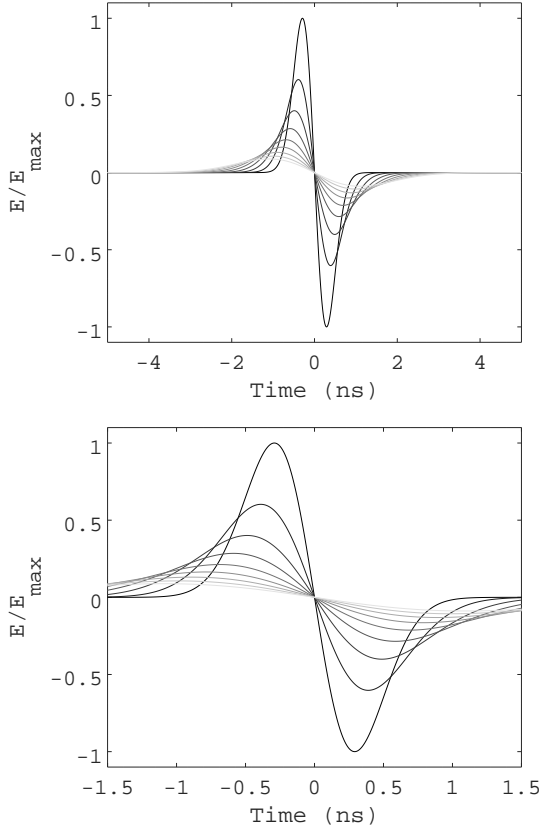


FIG. 4:  $E(t, \theta)$  vs.  $t_r$  (Equation 30), normalized. The viewing angle  $\theta$  is varied from  $\theta_C + 1.5^\circ$  to  $\theta_C + 5.5^\circ$  in steps of  $0.5^\circ$ . Top:  $\omega_0/(2\pi) = 1.0$  GHz. Bottom: Same as top, zoomed in on central region.

Equation 30 represents the time-domain solution for the off-cone  $\hat{\theta}$ -component of the Askaryan electric field. Equation 30 is graphed in Figs. 4 and 5. In Fig. 4 (top),  $E(t, \theta)$  is shown normalized to the maximum value for the angular range displayed,  $[\theta_C + 1.5^\circ, \theta_C + 5.5^\circ]$ , from  $t = [-5, 5]$  ns. Pulses with viewing angles closer to  $\theta_C$  have larger relative amplitudes and shorter pulse widths. Figure 4 (bottom) contains the same results, but for  $t = [-1.5, 1.5]$  ns. The pulses are symmetric and all zero crossings are at  $t_r = 0$  ns. Figure 5 contains contours of the same results as in Fig. 4.

As in the on-cone result, the overall field amplitude scales with energy ( $E_0 \sim n_{\max} a$ ). However, the amplitude scales also with  $\omega_0/p$ . The units of  $E_0$  remain  $\text{V Hz}^2$  because of the factors of  $t_r$  and  $p$ , which have units of time and time-squared, respectively. The argument of the complementary error function,  $\sqrt{p}\omega_0$ , is unitless. This factor is strictly positive, so the range of the complementary error function is  $(0, 1)$ . The factor  $\sqrt{p}\omega_0$  cannot be zero without setting  $\theta = \theta_C$ , or setting  $\omega_{\text{CF}} = 0$ . Both cases are not allowed. Equation 30 represents the *off-cone* ( $\theta \neq \theta_C$ ) solution, so  $p \neq 0$ . Setting  $\omega_{\text{CF}} = 0$  is not physical, for then  $l \rightarrow \infty$  and cascade particles have finite transverse momentum. Another possibility is that

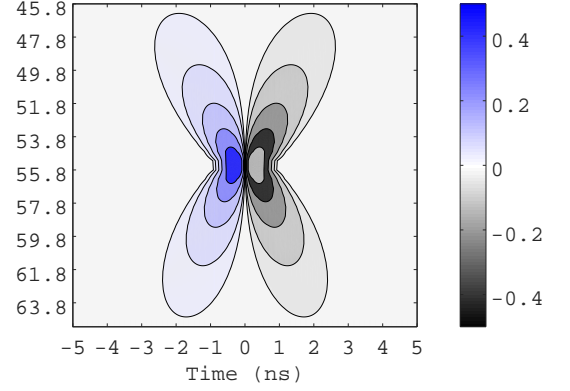


FIG. 5: Contours of  $E(t, \theta)$  vs.  $\theta$  vs.  $t_r$  (Equation 30), normalized. The normalization is the same as Fig. 4. Although the contour lines extend into the region near  $\theta_C$ , Equation 5 is only being evaluated at  $\Delta\theta > 1.5^\circ$  (see text for details).

$p = 0$  if  $a = 0$ , but this implies  $E_0 = 0$ . Therefore,  $0 < \text{erfc}(\sqrt{p}\omega_0) < 1$ .

#### A. Verification of the Uncertainty Principle

As in Section IV A, the uncertainty principle should be checked. Equation 30 is an anti-symmetric Gaussian function with pulse width  $\sigma_t = \sqrt{2p}$ . Let  $\Delta \cos \theta = (\cos \theta - \cos \theta_C)$ . Using Table II, the expression  $\sqrt{2p}$  evaluates to

$$\sigma_t = \sqrt{2p} = \left(\frac{a}{c}\right) (\Delta \cos \theta) \quad (31)$$

Recall that  $\sigma_\nu$  is given by

$$\sigma_\nu = \frac{c}{2\pi a \Delta \cos \theta} (1 + \eta^2)^{1/2} \quad (32)$$

The uncertainty product is

$$\sigma_t \sigma_\nu = \frac{1}{2\pi} (1 + \eta^2)^{1/2} \quad (33)$$

In the far-field,  $\eta < 1$ , so  $\sigma_t \sigma_\nu \geq 1/(2\pi)$  holds:

#### B. Usage of the On-Cone versus Off-Cone Fields

The form of Equation 30, and the restriction between  $\Delta\theta$  and  $|t_r|$  from the symmetric approximation suggests the limit  $\Delta\theta = \theta - \theta_C$  must be examined carefully. Since  $p \propto (\cos \theta - \cos \theta_C)^2$ , probing the model near  $\theta = \theta_C$  is equivalent to taking the limit that  $p \rightarrow 0$ . Intriguingly, the  $p^{-1}$ -dependence in the field does not lead to a divergence. As the field grows in amplitude from  $p^{-1}$  as  $p \rightarrow 0$ , the field *width*,  $\sqrt{2p}$ , approaches zero.



Equations 18 and 31 contain the pulse widths of the on-cone and off-cone fields, respectively. Power in the off-cone case is limited by the pulse width  $\sqrt{2p}$ , and the observed power increases as  $\Delta\theta$  and  $\sqrt{2p}$  both decrease. Thus, a reasonable constraint on when  $\Delta\theta_{\min}$  is large enough to use Equation 30 is given by setting the off-cone pulse width equal to the on-cone pulse width:

$$\frac{1}{\omega_C} + \frac{2}{\omega_0} = \sqrt{2p} \quad (34)$$

Expanding the expression for  $p$  near  $\theta = \theta_C$ , and evaluating the square root leads to

$$\frac{1}{\omega_C} + \frac{2}{\omega_0} = \frac{a}{c} \sin \theta_C \Delta\theta_{\min} \quad (35)$$

Using  $\epsilon = \omega_0/\omega_C$ , and letting  $k_0 = \omega_0/c$ , the formula may be rearranged:

$$\epsilon + 2 = ak_0 \sin \theta_0 \Delta\theta_{\min} \quad (36)$$

Squaring both sides, and then dividing both sides by  $r$  yields

$$\frac{(\epsilon + 2)^2}{r} = k_0 \left( \frac{k_0 (a \sin \theta_C)^2}{r} \right) \Delta\theta_{\min}^2 \quad (37)$$

The quantity in parentheses on the right-hand side is  $\eta$ , with  $\omega = \omega_0$ . Setting  $\omega = \omega_0$  means  $\eta = \epsilon$ . Solving for  $\Delta\theta_{\min}$  gives

$$\Delta\theta_{\min} = \frac{\epsilon + 2}{\sqrt{\epsilon k_0 r}} \quad (38)$$

Assuming  $\epsilon \approx 1$ ,  $f_0 \approx 1$  GHz,  $n = 1.78$  for solid ice, and  $c = 0.3$  m ns<sup>-1</sup> (see Sec. VI A),  $k_0 \approx 35$  m<sup>-1</sup>. Taking  $r = 1000$  m,  $\Delta\theta_{\min} \approx 1^\circ$ . Simple rules-of-thumb for the application of Equation 30 field are:

$$\Delta\theta_{\min} \geq 1^\circ \quad (39)$$

$$\Delta\theta_{\min} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{kr}} \quad (40)$$

## VI. COMPARISON TO SEMI-ANALYTIC PARAMETERIZATIONS

The fully analytic model will now be compared to the ARVZ semi-analytic parameterization used in NuRadioMC to predict signals in IceCube-Gen2 Radio [23]. Specifically, the comparison is between Equations 17 and 30 and the implementation of the semi-analytic parameterization given in [32]. To provide concrete comparisons, a small set of waveforms was generated with NuRadioMC, for both electromagnetic and hadronic cascades, on and off-cone. The electromagnetic cascades

have  $E_C = 10^{16}$  eV, while the hadronic cascades have  $E_C = 10^{17}$  eV. These choices minimize the impact of the LPM effect.

The comparison involves three stages. First, waveforms and  $a$ -values are generated for each cascade type, energy, and angle:  $\theta = \theta_C + 3.0^\circ$ , and  $\theta = \theta_C$ . Second, Equations 17 and 30 are tuned to match the waveforms. In each fit, the Pearson correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) is maximized, and the sum-squared of amplitude differences  $((\Delta E)^2)$  is minimized. Finally, best-fit parameters are tabulated.

Two remarks are important regarding the fit criteria. First, the Pearson correlation coefficient is not sensitive to changes in amplitude because it is normalized:

$$\rho = \frac{\text{cov}(f_{\text{data}}, f_{\text{model}})}{\sigma_{\text{data}} \sigma_{\text{model}}} \quad (41)$$

Parameters that affect  $\rho$  are those that scale  $t_r$ . Second, parameters that control  $(\Delta E)^2$  are those that scale the waveform amplitude. If  $E_i$  represent the samples of the model, then

$$(\Delta E)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N (E_{i,\text{data}} - E_{i,\text{model}})^2 \quad (42)$$

### A. Waveform Comparison: $\theta = \theta_C$

**Electromagnetic case.** Six different electromagnetic cascades and the corresponding Askaryan fields were generated using the ARZ2019 model from NuRadioMC [23] [32] for comparison to Equation 17. The cascades have  $E_C = 10$  PeV, and  $r = 1000$  meters. The LPM effect is activated in NuRadioMC for all comparisons in this work. The units of  $\vec{E}(t_r, \theta_C)$  are mV/m versus nanoseconds, so the units of  $r\vec{E}$  are Volts. The sampling rate of the digitized semi-analytic parameterizations was 100 GHz, with  $N = 2048$  samples. Let  $f_C = \omega_C/(2\pi)$  and  $f_0 = \omega_0/(2\pi)$ . The frequencies  $f_C$  and  $f_0$  were varied from [0.6 - 6.0] GHz. The parameter  $E_0$  was varied from [0.05 - 5.0] V GHz<sup>-2</sup>. In a simple 2-level for-loop, the Pearson correlation coefficient  $\rho$  was maximized by varying  $f_0$  and  $f_C$ . Next, the sum of the squared amplitude differences  $(\Delta E)^2$  was minimized by varying  $E_0$ , while holding  $f_0$  and  $f_C$  fixed. Several other schemes were studied, including a 3-level for-loop, but the two-stage process produced the best results. The results are shown in Fig. 6.

Maximizing  $\rho$  corresponds to minimizing  $(\Delta E)^2$ . In Fig. 7,  $(\Delta E)^2$  is graphed versus  $\rho$  for one event. Best-fit  $\rho$ -values are  $\approx 0.97$  for this set, corresponding to best-fit  $(\Delta E)^2$  values of  $\approx 7\%$ . Contours of  $\rho > 0.95$  for  $f_0$  versus  $f_C$  are shown in Fig. 6 (left column). The crosses represent the best-fit location. The dashed gray line at  $y = x$  corresponds to  $f_0/f_C = \epsilon = 1$ . Though

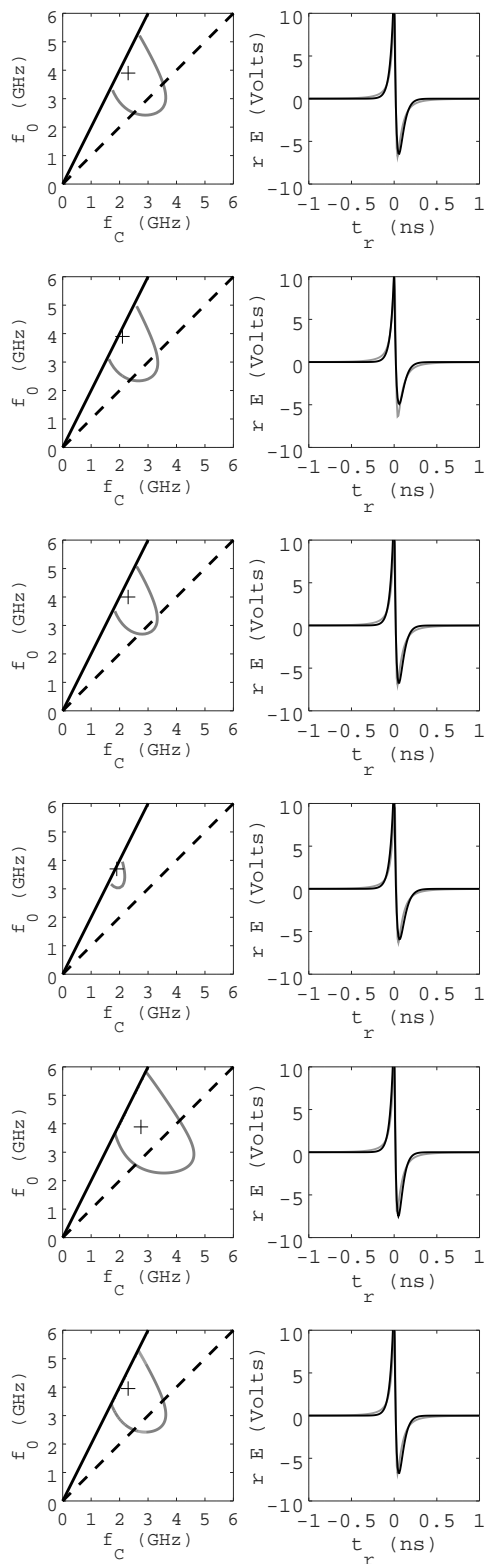


FIG. 6: **Fit results: electromagnetic case,  $\theta = \theta_C$ ,  $E_C = 10$  PeV.** The rows correspond to NuRadioMC waveforms 1-6, 10 PeV electromagnetic cascades. (Left column) The best-fits for  $f_0$  and  $f_C$ . Dashed line:  $\epsilon = 1$ . Solid line:  $\epsilon = 2$ . Gray contour:  $\rho > 0.95$ . Black cross: best-fit. (Right column) Best-fit waveforms. Gray: semi-analytic parameterizations from [23]. Black: Equation 17.

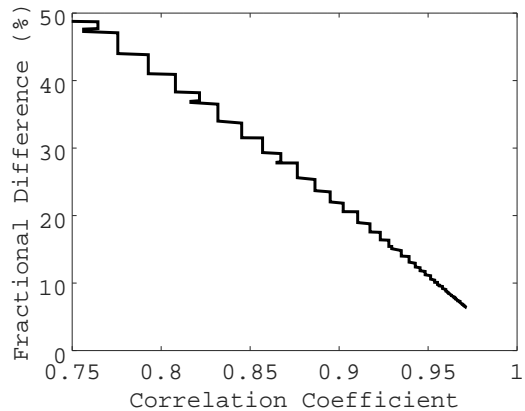


FIG. 7: The fractional difference in the sum of amplitude differences squared  $((\Delta E)^2)$  versus correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) for waveform 1 at  $E_C = 10$  PeV, electromagnetic case.

Equation 17 contains an expansion to first order in  $\epsilon$ , making it resemble the derivative of the vector potential from the ARVZ semi-analytic parameterization [32], the expansion is optional. There is a restriction that  $\epsilon \neq 2$  (see Equation A14 of Appendix A). Thus, the best-fit  $\epsilon$ -values avoid the solid black lines ( $\epsilon = 2$ ) in Fig. 6, but are large enough to account for pulse asymmetry. The best-fit waveforms are shown in Fig. 6 (right column). The gray curves correspond to the semi-analytic parameterization in [32], as implemented in NuRadioMC, and the black curves represent Equation 17.

Table V contains the best-fit results for the Equation 17 parameters, along with best-fit  $\rho$ -values and  $(\Delta E)^2$ -values. The horizontal and vertical distances from the crosses to the  $\rho > 0.95$  contour are used as error estimates for  $f_0$  and  $f_C$  in Tab. V. Though this choice leads to large fractional errors in the frequencies and  $a$ , the  $a$ -errors encompass the  $a$ -values from NuRadioMC. The full region in  $[f_0, f_C]$  space for which UHE- $\nu$  signals are expected for IceCube-Gen2 radio will be the topic of future studies, along with the apparent difference in  $\epsilon$ -value depending on the electromagnetic or hadronic classification of the cascade (see Figure 8).

**Hadronic case.** Using the same procedure as the electromagnetic case, NuRadioMC was used to generate six hadronic cascades at 100 PeV for comparison to Equation 17. The energy was increased to show that the model scales with energy, so the waveforms are larger in amplitude by a factor of 10. The LPM effect is activated in NuRadioMC for all comparisons in this work. The correlation contours represent  $\rho = 0.985$ . The main results are shown in Figure 8.

The results shown in Figure 8 demonstrate that modeling hadronic cascades at  $\theta = \theta_C$  is similar to the electromagnetic case, with one interesting difference. The contours enclose best-fit  $\epsilon$ -values below the dashed line, whereas the fits to the electromagnetic cases were above the dashed line. This could indicate a potential discrim-

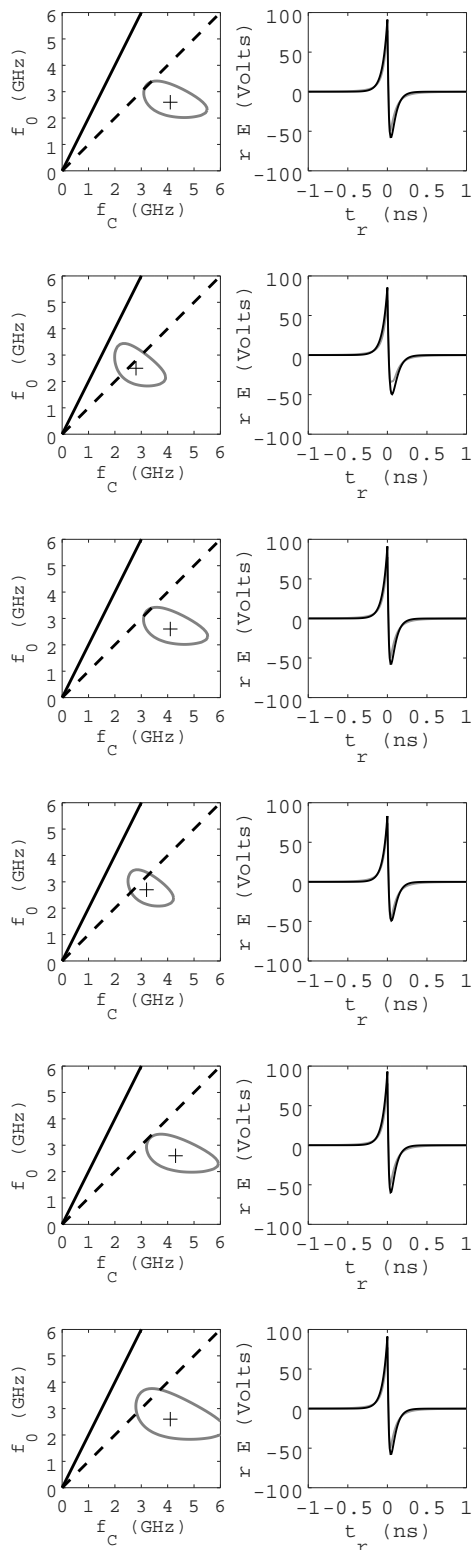


FIG. 8: **Fit results: hadronic case**,  $\theta = \theta_C$ ,  $E_C = 100$  PeV. The six rows (from top to bottom) correspond to NuRadioMC waveforms 1-6, 100 PeV hadronic cascades. (Left column) The best-fits for  $f_0$  and  $f_C$ . Dashed line:  $\epsilon = 1$ . Solid line:  $\epsilon = 2$ . Gray contour:  $\rho > 0.9$ . Black cross: best-fit. (Right column) The best-fit waveforms. Gray: semi-analytic parameterizations from [23]. Black: Equation 17.

#	$f_0$ (GHz)	$f_C$ (GHz)	$E_0$ (V GHz $^{-2}$ )	$a_{\text{wave}}$ (m), $a_{\text{MC}}$ (m)	$\rho$	$(\Delta E)^2$ (%)
1	$3.9^{+0.2}_{-1.9}$	$2.3^{+1.3}_{-0.3}$	0.3	$4.1^{+1.2}_{-0.3}$ , 4.85	0.97	6.5
2	$3.9^{+0.3}_{-1.5}$	$2.1^{+0.9}_{-0.1}$	0.5	$4.3^{+1.8}_{-0.2}$ , 6.35	0.97	10.9
3	$4.0^{+1.2}_{-1.0}$	$2.3^{+0.8}_{-0.4}$	0.35	$4.1^{+0.7}_{-0.4}$ , 4.48	0.96	7.5
4	$3.7^{+0.1}_{-0.5}$	$1.9^{+0.5}_{-0.1}$	1.85	$4.5^{+1.1}_{-0.3}$ , 5.6	0.955	8.9
5	$3.9^{+1.4}_{-0.9}$	$2.7^{+1.4}_{-0.8}$	0.18	$4.0^{+2.0}_{-1.2}$ , 4.48	0.97	5.7
6	$3.9^{+1.3}_{-1.9}$	$2.3^{+1.3}_{-0.3}$	0.31	$4.1^{+2.0}_{-0.5}$ , 4.85	0.97	6.4
Ave.	3.88	2.3	0.6	4.18	0.966	7.7
Err.	3.08	0.1	0.3	0.07	0.003	0.8

TABLE V: **Fit results: electromagnetic case**,  $\theta = \theta_C$ ,  $E_C = 10$  PeV. The six rows (from top to bottom) correspond to NuRadioMC waveforms 1-6, 10 PeV electromagnetic cascades. From left to right, the form-factor cutoff-frequency, coherence cutoff-frequency, energy-scaling normalization, longitudinal length parameter, the best-fit correlation coefficient, and the relative power difference between NuRadioMC semi-analytic parameterization and the fully analytic model. The parameter means and errors in the mean are quoted in the bottom two rows.

inator for cascade classification. Another difference between the electromagnetic and hadronic cases is that the gray contours in Fig. 8 correspond to  $\rho = 0.985$ , as opposed to  $\rho = 0.95$  in the electromagnetic case.

Table VI contains the best-fit parameters corresponding to Figure 8. The typical power difference  $(\Delta E)^2$  has decreased with respect to the electromagnetic case. The  $\rho$ -values all exceed 0.985, and the  $(\Delta E)^2$  results are typically below 2 percent. Intriguingly,  $\epsilon < 1$  means higher  $f_C$  values, which in turn yields systematically low  $a$ -values relative to those generated in NuRadioMC, despite the increased energy. Reconstructed  $a$ -values are still within a factor of 2 of the MC-true values. Despite the systematic offset, the best-fit  $a$  and the NuRadioMC  $a$ -values are tightly correlated (see Fig. 11 below).

## B. Waveform Comparison: $\theta \neq \theta_C$

**Electromagnetic case.** The general comparison procedure of Section VIA was repeated with the same semi-analytic parameterization from NuRadioMC, but with twelve new events each viewed at  $\theta = \theta_C + 3.0^\circ$  (six electromagnetic cascades, six hadronic). One difference is that  $\omega_0$  only changes the waveform amplitude, along with  $E_0$ . The pulse width  $\sigma_t = \sqrt{2p}$  connects the longitudinal length  $a$  and the viewing angle with respect to the Cherenkov angle.

The fit procedure was performed in two stages. First,  $\theta$ -values and  $a$ -values were scanned from  $[\theta_C + 1.5^\circ, \theta_C + 10.0^\circ]$  and  $[0.1, 10]$  meters, respectively, to maximize  $\rho$ . Once the best-fit values for  $a$  and  $\theta$  were determined,

#	$f_0$ (GHz)	$f_C$ (GHz)	$E_0$ (V GHz <sup>-2</sup> )	$a_{\text{wave}}$ (m), $a_{\text{MC}}$ (m)	$\rho$	$(\Delta E)^2$ (%)
1	$2.6^{+0.6}_{-0.6}$	$4.1^{+1.1}_{-1.0}$	1.0	$3.1^{+0.8}_{-0.8}$ , 5.23	0.99	1.86
2	$2.5^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$	$2.8^{+0.9}_{-0.8}$	1.25	$3.75^{+1.2}_{-1.1}$ , 6.35	0.99	1.83
3	$2.6^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$	$4.1^{+1.2}_{-0.9}$	1.0	$3.1^{+0.9}_{-0.7}$ , 5.23	0.99	1.83
4	$2.7^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$	$3.2^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$	1.0	$3.5^{+0.9}_{-0.7}$ , 6.35	0.99	2.5
5	$2.6^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$	$4.3^{+1.4}_{-1.1}$	1.0	$3.0^{+1.0}_{-0.75}$ , 4.85	0.99	1.755
6	$2.6^{+1.4}_{-0.7}$	$4.1^{+1.9}_{-1.2}$	1.0	$3.1^{+1.4}_{-0.9}$ , 5.23	0.99	1.86
Ave.	2.60	3.75	1.04	3.3	0.99	1.9
Err.	0.03	0.25	0.04	0.1	0.0	0.1

TABLE VI: **Fit results: hadronic case**,  $\theta = \theta_C$ ,  $E_C = 100$  PeV. The six rows (from top to bottom) correspond to NuRadioMC waveforms 1-6, 100 PeV hadronic cascades. From left to right, the form-factor cutoff-frequency, coherence cutoff-frequency, energy-scaling normalization, longitudinal length parameter, the best-fit correlation coefficient, and the relative power difference between NuRadioMC semi-analytic parameterization and the fully analytic model. The parameter means and errors in the mean are quoted in the bottom two rows.

$(\Delta E)^2$  was minimized by varying  $f_0 = \omega_0/(2\pi)$  and  $E_0$  from  $[0.3, 3.0]$  GHz and  $[0.1, 2.0]$  V GHz<sup>-2</sup>, respectively. The  $(\theta, a)$  scan and the  $(f_0, E_0)$  scan were each separate 2-level for loops. The results are shown in Figure 9.

In Figure 9 (left column), the best-fit  $a$ -values and  $\theta$ -values are marked with a cross. The circles represent the MC-true values. Circles and crosses lie on the dashed lines, because an uncertainty principle connects  $a$ -values to  $\theta$ -values (see Section V A). Specifically, Equation 31 may be used to show, to first-order in  $\Delta\theta = \theta - \theta_C$ :

$$a\Delta\theta = \frac{c\sqrt{2p}}{\sin\theta_C} = \text{constant} \quad (43)$$

The pulse width  $\sigma_t = \sqrt{2p}$  is a constant derived from the waveform, implying that the product of  $a$  and  $\Delta\theta$  is constant. The parameters  $a$  and  $\Delta\theta$  are therefore inversely proportional:  $a \propto \Delta\theta^{-1}$ . The shape of the  $\rho > 0.95$  contour follows this inverse proportionality. The dashed lines represent Equation 43. These results suggest that a measurement of the natural Askaryan pulse width would constrain the cascade shape and geometry. The best-fit waveforms are shown in Figure 9 (right column). Typical correlation coefficients exceed  $\rho = 0.98$ . Table VII contains the fit results. The fit results include estimates of the lateral width parameter,  $l$ , derived from  $f_0$  (see Section III A). Despite making the symmetric approximation to arrive at Equation 30, the fits include fractional power differences of  $\approx 3\%$ .

**Hadronic case.** The fit procedure for the hadronic cascades was the same as the electromagnetic case, except that the range for  $E_0$  was expanded to  $[1.0, 20.0]$  V GHz<sup>-2</sup>. As in the on-cone procedure, the hadronic cas-

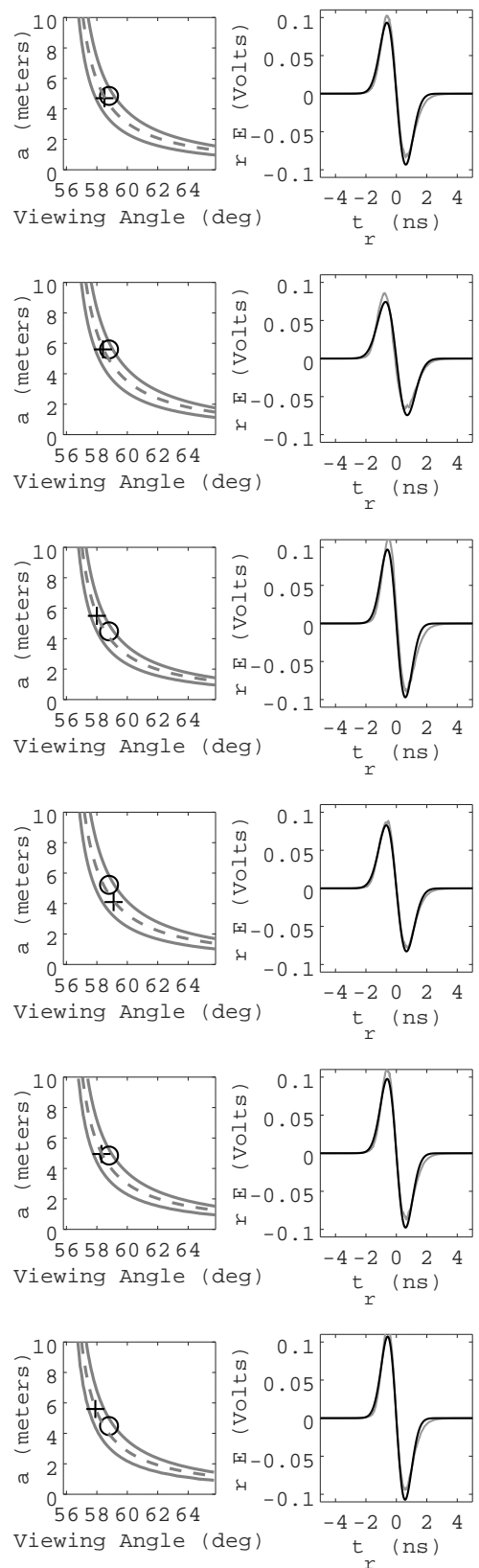


FIG. 9: **Fit results: electromagnetic case**,  $\theta \neq \theta_C$ ,  $E_C = 10$  PeV. The six rows (from top to bottom) correspond to NuRadioMC waveforms 1-6, 10 PeV electromagnetic cascades. (Left column) Best-fit  $\theta$  and  $a$ -values. Crosses: best-fits. Circles: MC true values. Gray contour:  $\rho > 0.95$ . Dashed line:  $a$  versus  $\theta$  from Equation 31. (Right column) The best-fit waveforms. Gray: semi-analytic parameterizations from [23]. Black: Equation 30.

#	$\theta_{\text{wave}}$ (deg), $\theta_{\text{MC}}$ (deg)	$a_{\text{wave}}$ (m), $a_{\text{MC}}$ (m)	$f_0$ (GHz)	$E_0$ (V GHz <sup>-2</sup> )	$l$ (cm)	$\rho$	$(\Delta E)^2$ (%)
1	$58.5^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$ , 58.8	$4.7^{+1.3}_{-1.0}$ , 4.85	0.75	1.2	$3.4^{+0.9}_{-0.7}$	0.99	1.93
2	$58.4^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$ , 58.8	$5.6^{+1.4}_{-1.1}$ , 5.60	1.0	1.2	$2.6^{+0.4}_{-0.3}$	0.99	2.61
3	$58.0^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$ , 58.8	$5.5^{+1.3}_{-1.0}$ , 4.48	1.0	1.1	$2.6^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$	0.98	4.47
4	$59.1^{+0.9}_{-0.7}$ , 58.8	$4.1^{+1.2}_{-0.9}$ , 5.23	0.75	1.2	$3.4^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$	0.995	0.80
5	$58.3^{+0.7}_{-0.5}$ , 58.8	$4.95^{+1.4}_{-1.1}$ , 4.85	0.75	1.2	$3.4^{+0.4}_{-0.3}$	0.99	1.8
6	$57.9^{+0.6}_{-0.4}$ , 58.8	$5.6^{+1.5}_{-1.2}$ , 4.48	0.75	1.2	$3.5^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$	0.99	1.83
Ave.	58.4	5.1	0.83	1.18	3.2	0.989	2.2
Err.	0.2	0.2	0.05	0.02	0.2	0.002	0.5

TABLE VII: **Fit results: electromagnetic case,  $\theta \neq \theta_C$ ,  $E_C = 10$  PeV.** The six rows (from top to bottom) correspond to NuRadioMC waveforms 1-6, 10 PeV electromagnetic cascades. From left to right, the viewing angle, longitudinal length parameter, form-factor cutoff frequency, the energy-scaling normalization, the lateral width of the cascade  $l = 1/(\sqrt{2\pi\rho_0})$ , the best-fit correlation coefficient, and the relative power difference between NuRadioMC semi-analytic parameterization and the fully analytic model. The parameter means and errors in the mean are quoted in the bottom two rows.

cade energy was  $E_C = 100$  PeV. The results are shown in Figure 10.

As with the electromagnetic case,  $\rho$  is maximized and  $(\Delta E)^2$  is minimized. Table VIII contains the best-fit parameters, along with  $\rho$  and  $(\Delta E)^2$ . Solutions with  $\rho \approx 0.98$  and  $(\Delta E)^2 \approx 5\%$  were found. Similar to the results shown in Table VII, the results in Table VIII are in agreement with the MC values from NuRadioMC. The  $E_0$ -values match expectations for 100 PeV cascades, because they are a factor of 10 higher than those of the 10 PeV electromagnetic case. The results for  $a$ ,  $l$ , and  $f_0$ , however, are not statistically different between Tables VII and VIII. Future studies will require computing the probability distributions of these parameters from large numbers of UHE- $\nu$  cascades.

As a first exercise for statistical energy reconstruction from waveform parameters, assume that  $\theta = \theta_C + 3.0^\circ$  is already measured. For example,  $\theta$  could be determined by measuring the cutoff-frequency in the Fourier domain below 1 GHz [34]. Scanning Equation 30 over all NuRadioMC waveforms at fixed  $\theta = \theta_C + 3.0^\circ$  yields Figure 11, in which the fitted  $a$ -value from each waveform is graphed versus the MC-true  $a$ -value. The  $a$ -errors in all cases are taken to be  $\pm 10$  cm ( $\pm$  two  $\Delta a$  step-sizes). A least-squares linear fit was applied to the data. The

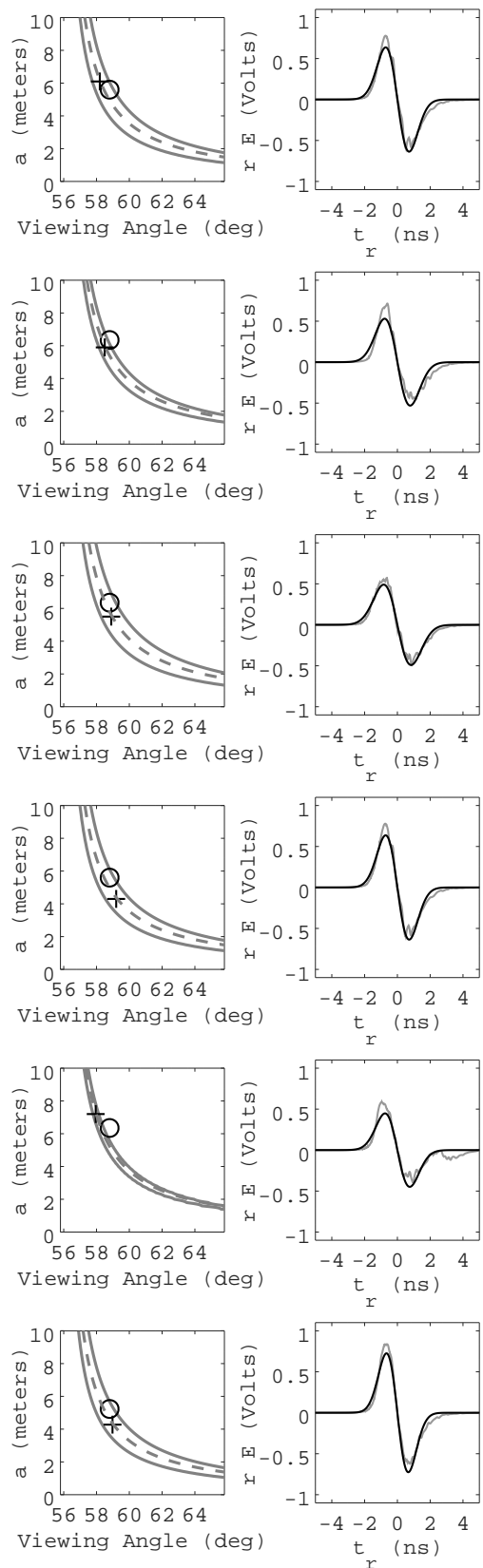


FIG. 10: **Fit results: hadronic case,  $\theta \neq \theta_C$ ,  $E_C = 100$  PeV.** The six rows (from top to bottom) correspond to NuRadioMC waveforms 1-6, 100 PeV hadronic cascades. (Left column) Best-fit  $\theta$  and  $a$ -values. Crosses: best-fits. Circles: MC true values. Gray contour:  $\rho > 0.95$ . Dashed line:  $a$  versus  $\theta$  from Equation 31 (uncertainty principle). (Right column) The best-fit waveforms. Gray: semi-analytic parameterizations from [23]. Black: Equation 30.

#	$\theta_{\text{wave}}$ (deg), $\theta_{\text{MC}}$ (deg)	$a_{\text{wave}}$ (m), $a_{\text{MC}}$ (m)	$f_0$ (GHz)	$E_0$ (V GHz <sup>-2</sup> )	$l$ (cm)	$\rho$	$(\Delta E)^2$ (%)
1	$58.2^{+0.6}_{-0.4}$ , 58.8	$6.1^{+1.5}_{-1.2}$ , 5.6	0.8	10.6	$3.2^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$	0.98	3.55
2	$58.5^{+0.4}_{-0.3}$ , 58.8	$5.9^{+0.9}_{-0.8}$ , 6.35	0.85	10.3	$3.0^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$	0.96	7.1
3	$58.9^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$ , 58.8	$5.5^{+1.4}_{-1.1}$ , 6.35	0.9	10.8	$2.8^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$	0.98	2.64
4	$59.2^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$ , 58.8	$4.3^{+1.1}_{-0.8}$ , 5.6	0.85	10.5	$3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$	0.98	3.10
5	$58.0^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$ , 58.8	$7.2^{+0.6}_{-0.6}$ , 6.35	0.9	8.2	$2.9^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	0.955	8.76
6	$59.0^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$ , 58.8	$4.3^{+1.1}_{-0.9}$ , 5.23	0.85	10.4	$3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$	0.985	3.00
Ave.	58.6	5.5	0.86	10.1	3.2	0.973	5
Err.	0.2	0.5	0.015	0.4	0.2	0.005	1

TABLE VIII: **Fit results: hadronic case**,  $\theta \neq \theta_C$ ,  $E_C = 100$  PeV. The six rows (from top to bottom) correspond to NuRadioMC waveforms 1-6, 10 PeV hadronic cascades. From left to right, the viewing angle, longitudinal length parameter, form-factor cutoff frequency, the energy-scaling normalization, the lateral width of the cascade  $l = 1/(\sqrt{2\pi\rho_0})$ , the best-fit correlation coefficient, and the relative power difference between NuRadioMC semi-analytic parameterization and the fully analytic model. The parameter means and errors in the mean are quoted in the bottom two rows.

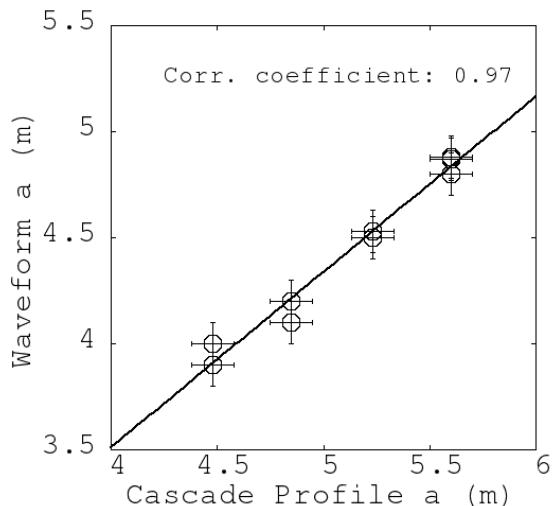


FIG. 11: The longitudinal length parameter  $a$  derived from the Equation 30 best-fit versus the  $a$ -value derived from the cascade profile in NuRadioMC. A linear fit and correlation coefficient are shown (slope:  $0.83 \pm 0.05$ , intercept:  $0.2 \pm 0.2$  (m), correlation coefficient = 0.97).

linear function fits the data, and the correlation coefficient is 0.97. The results in Figure 11 imply an energy reconstruction technique using the formulas found in Section III B. Consider the relationship between  $a$  and  $\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})$ :  $a = c_1 \sqrt{\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})}$ . The fractional error in  $\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})$  is proportional to the fractional error in  $a$ :

$$\frac{\sigma_{\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})}}{\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})} = 2c_1 \left( \frac{\sigma_a}{a} \right) \quad (44)$$

## VII. CONCLUSION

To advance the field of UHE- $\nu$  detection, a fully analytic Askaryan model in the time-domain has been presented, that accounts for the UHE- $\nu$  cascade energy, and lateral and longitudinal geometry. The fully analytic model was compared to published results generated with a semi-analytic parameterization used commonly in NuRadioMC, a simulation being used to design IceCube-Gen2. Pearson correlation coefficients between the fully analytic and semi-analytic parameterizations were found to be greater than 0.95, and typical fractional differences in total power were found to be  $\approx 5\%$ . What follows is a brief summary of new results, and a list of potential uses for a fully analytic model in UHE- $\nu$  detection.

### A. Summary of New Results

The main results are summarized in Table IX. Beginning with the analytic form factor, it was shown that the lateral component of the cascade ICD leads to the effect of a two-pole, low-pass filter on the radiated Askaryan field. The analytic form factor was first presented in [34], however this work has introduced the first complete study of the effect of its complex poles on the Askaryan radiation. The longitudinal factor  $a$  was introduced by Ralston and Bunyi [33], who described the connection to cascade energy. In this work, a technique for cascade energy reconstruction was presented, based on constraining  $a$ -values by fitting analytic functions to observed waveforms. The connection was made for both electromagnetic cascades and hadronic cascades via common parameterizations of each cascade type.

The on-cone field equations were derived, similar to the final section of [34]. This work represents the first time the two pole frequencies  $f_0$  and  $f_C$  and the asymmetry parameter  $\epsilon$  have been used to characterize the time-domain field equations such that they match semi-analytic parameterizations. The  $\epsilon$  parameter reveals a potential cascade type identification scheme. Finally, the on-cone field equations were shown to satisfy the uncertainty principle for Fourier transform pairs. The off-cone field equations were derived as well, and were shown to be in excellent agreement with semi-analytic parameterizations. Cascade parameters like  $a$  and the viewing angle

Result	Location
$\tilde{F}(\omega, \theta)$ , analytic form factor	Eq. 6, Sec. III A
$a \propto \sqrt{\ln(E_C)}$ , longitudinal parameter	Eqs. 11 and 14, Sec. III B
$r\tilde{E}(t_r, \theta_C)$ , on-cone field ( $\hat{\theta}$ )	Eq. 17, Sec. IV
$\sigma_t\sigma_\nu$ , on-cone uncertainty principle	Eq. ??, Sec. IV A
$r\tilde{E}(t_r, \theta)$ , off-cone field ( $\hat{\theta}$ )	Eq. 30, Sec. V
$\sigma_t\sigma_\nu$ , off-cone uncertainty principle	Eq. 33, Sec. V A
On-cone EM comparison to NuRadioMC	Fig. 6, Tab. V
On-cone HAD comparison to NuRadioMC	Fig. 8, Tab. VI
Off-cone EM comparison to NuRadioMC	Fig. 9, Tab. VII
Off-cone HAD comparison to NuRadioMC	Fig. 10, Tab. VIII

TABLE IX: A summary of results in this work.

$\theta$  were fit directly from the waveforms. Finally, matching off-cone field equations to data shows promise as an energy reconstruction.

To obtain the off-cone field, a Taylor series to first order in  $(u - 1)$  was used, with  $u = 1 - i\eta$ . Further, an approximation involving  $\eta = \omega/\omega_C$  was made in  $\tilde{F}$ . Both steps imply  $\eta < 1$ . The restriction  $\eta < 1$  means that Eqs. 17 and 30 must be applied to the far-field. Given that  $a$  and  $\theta_C$  are fixed by cascade physics and ice density, and that the relevant Askaryan bandwidth for ice is  $[0.1 - 1]$  GHz, the parameter most easily varied within  $\eta$  is the observer distance  $r$ . Taking  $\nu = 0.5$  GHz,  $n = 1.78$ ,  $c = 0.3$  m GHz,  $\theta = \theta_C$ , and  $a = 5$  m, requiring that  $\eta = 1$  gives  $r \geq 0.4$  km. Scaling to  $\nu = 0.25$  GHz gives  $r \geq 0.2$  km. According to NuRadioMC [23] (Fig. 13), the  $r$  corresponding to UHE- $\nu$  at  $10^{18}$  eV ranges from 0.7-3.2 km, and 0.2 km is rare.

The “acceleration argument” invoked by RB in [33] states that if  $r(t)$  points to the ICD,  $r(t)$  must be constant enough to ensure that  $\Delta r < \lambda$ . Using the law of cosines, with two sides being  $r$  and  $r + \Delta r$ , and a third being  $a$ , the criteria that  $(a/r)^2 \ll 1$  leads to  $|\Delta r| \approx a/n$  which is  $\mathcal{O}(2)$  m. When in doubt about usage and event geometry, determining if  $(a/r)^2 \ll 1$  is a good check. If the UHE- $\nu$  event is a charged-current interaction with an electromagnetic cascade above the LPM energy,  $a$  grows faster than  $\sqrt{\ln(E_C/E_{\text{crit}})}$  (Sec. III B) [20]. Since future work with this fully analytic treatment will focus on developing probability distributions for parameters like  $a$  as part of an energy reconstruction, it will straightforward to study in parallel when the far-field requirement breaks down by comparing to ARZ models in NuRadioMC [23].

## B. Utility of the Analytic Model

There are at least four main advantages of fully analytic models that accurately model the central Askaryan radiation peak. First, when analytic models are matched to observed data, cascade properties may be derived directly from the waveforms. Second, in large scale sim-

ulations required for the design of IceCube-Gen2 radio, evaluating a fully analytic model technically provides a speed advantage when compared to the semi-analytic parameterizations. Third, fully analytic models, combined with RF antenna response, can be embedded in firmware to form a *matched filter* that enhances detection probability. Fourth, parameters in analytic models may be *scaled* to produce results that apply to media of different density than ice. This application is useful for understanding potential signals in the Antarctic *firm*, or the upper layer of snow and ice that is of lower density than the solid ice beneath it.

The ability to fit cascade properties from waveforms will be a useful tool for IceCube-Gen2 radio. Examples of current reconstruction techniques include the forward-folding method [25] and information field theory (IFT) [26]. In particular, the longitudinal length parameter  $a$  leads to a reconstruction of  $\ln(E_C)$ , given knowledge of  $\Delta\theta$  (Fig. 11 and Equation 44). Further, all designs for detector stations in IceCube-Gen2 radio include many distinct RF channels and one phased-array of channels. Treating each waveform like a separate trial would increase cascade parameter precision. Even pulse width measurements without *a priori* knowledge of  $a$  or  $\theta$  contain information about  $(\theta, a)$  via the uncertainty principle (see gray contours of Figures 4 and 5).

Much thought has been devoted to improving the speed of NuRadioMC and other codes that rely on Askaryan emissions models. In one example, AraSim, convolution with pre-simulated cascade profiles was dropped in favor of on-the-fly convolution with the Greisen (EM) and Gaisser-Hillas (hadronic) cascade profiles [22]. While this reduced the number of steps required to produce a simulated data set, it required the code to make a determination of the optimal time-window before convolution. To boost speed in NuRadioMC, a shower library is implemented that pulls realistic cascade profiles from memory and performs the convolutions event-by-event. This strategy provides accuracy regarding randomly forming sub-showers due to the LPM effect, but it still requires a convolution for each event [23]. A fully analytic model provides fast accuracy in the energy range of 10-100 PeV without the need for a shower library.

The most intriguing usage for a fully analytic Askaryan model would be to embed the model as a *matched filter* in detector firmware. Matched filters are commonly used in radar systems that maximize detected SNR by correlating incoming data with a pre-defined function. Because the cascade properties would not be known in advance, an array of matched filters could be implemented to form a *matched filter bank*. One example of this approach was the TARA experiment [41], which was designed to detect low-SNR cosmic ray radar echoes. This is similar to the challenge faced by IceCube-Gen2 radio: pushing the limit of low-SNR RF pulse detection in a remote setting. For example, a matched filter bank could be formed with an array of off-cone field formulas with fixed  $a$ -value and varying  $\theta$ -values, which would then be convolved with the

RF channel impulse response (see Section 6 of [27]).

Finally, a fully analytic model enhances the ability of IceCube-Gen2 radio to identify signals that originate in the firn. At the South Pole, the RF index of refraction begins around 1.35 and does not reach the solid ice value of 1.78 until 150-200 meters [28]. There are at least two signals that could originate in the firn: UHE- $\nu$  events that create Askaryan radiation, and UHE cosmic ray cascades partially inside or fully inside the firn. The altitude of the South Pole makes the latter possible. The Askaryan radiation of the firn UHE- $\nu$  events could be modeled via appropriate density-scaling of the longitudinal length  $a$  and the lateral width  $1/(\sqrt{2\pi}\rho_0)$ . Being lower in density, the firn would contain cascades of different size and shape relative to solid ice, which would alter the radiation. The Askaryan radiation of UHE cosmic ray cascades within the firn could be similarly modeled, with the caveat that the cosmic ray cascades would also generate geosynchrotron radiation. In the atmosphere, the geosynchrotron radiation dominates. In the firn, the UHE cosmic ray cascade would only be meters in length instead of kilometers, and the Askaryan radiation is expected to dominate.

### VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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#### Appendix A: Details of the On-Cone Field Equation Derivation

The original equations for the  $\hat{\theta}$ -component of  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}$  are:

$$\mathcal{W}(\eta, \theta) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(ka)^2 \frac{(\cos\theta - \cos\theta_C)^2}{1-i\eta}\right)}{\left(1 - i\eta \left(1 - 3i\eta \frac{\cos\theta}{\sin^2\theta} \frac{\cos\theta - \cos\theta_C}{1-i\eta}\right)\right)^{1/2}} \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$\vec{\mathcal{E}}(\eta, \theta) \cdot \hat{\theta} = \mathcal{W}(\eta, \theta) \left(1 - i\eta \frac{\cos\theta_C}{\sin^2\theta} \frac{\cos\theta - \cos\theta_C}{1-i\eta}\right) \quad (\text{A2})$$

Letting  $\theta = \theta_C$  yields

$$\vec{\mathcal{E}}(\eta, \theta) \cdot \hat{\theta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-i\eta}} \quad (\text{A3})$$

The complete field from the original RB model [33], including the form factor  $\tilde{F}$ ,  $\psi = -i \exp(ikr) \sin\theta$ , and  $\vec{\mathcal{E}}$  is

$$r\vec{E}(\omega, \theta) = E_0 \left(\frac{\omega}{2\pi}\right) \psi \vec{\mathcal{E}}(\eta, \theta) \tilde{F} \quad (\text{A4})$$

Let Equation 6 for the form factor, with  $\sigma = \omega/\omega_{\text{CF}}$  and  $\eta = \omega/\omega_{\text{CF}}$ , and letting  $E_0$  be proportional to cascade energy  $E_C$ :

$$r\tilde{E}(\omega, \theta_C) = \frac{(-i\omega)E_0 \sin(\theta_C) e^{i\omega r/c}}{(1 - i\omega/\omega_C)^{1/2} (1 + (\omega/\omega_{\text{CF}})^2)^{3/2}} \quad (\text{A5})$$

Suppose  $\omega < \omega_C$ , and  $\omega < \omega_{\text{CF}}$ , such that the following approximations of the factors in the denominator are valid:

$$(1 - i\omega/\omega_C)^{1/2} \approx 1 - \frac{i}{2} \frac{\omega}{\omega_C} \quad (\text{A6})$$

$$(1 + (\omega/\omega_{\text{CF}})^2)^{3/2} \approx 1 + \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_{\text{CF}}}\right)^2 \quad (\text{A7})$$

Using the approximations introduces simple poles into the complex formula for the frequency-dependent electric field. Inserting the approximations in the denominator of Equation A5, we have

$$r\tilde{E}(\omega, \theta_C) = \frac{(-i\omega)E_0 \sin(\theta_C) e^{i\omega R/c}}{(1 - \frac{i}{2}\omega/\omega_C) (1 + \frac{3}{2}(\omega/\omega_{\text{CF}})^2)} \quad (\text{A8})$$

The denominator can be rearranged by factoring the  $\omega$  coefficients, and defining  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\omega_{\text{CF}}$ .

$$r\tilde{E}(\omega, \theta_C) = \frac{2i\omega_C\omega_0^2(-i\omega)E_0 \sin(\theta_C) e^{i\omega r/c}}{(2i\omega_C + \omega)(\omega + i\omega_0)(\omega - i\omega_0)} \quad (\text{A9})$$

Let  $\hat{E}_0 = E_0 \sin(\theta_C)$ , and let the retarded time be  $t_r = t - r/c$ . Taking the *inverse* Fourier transform, using the same sign convention as RB [33] ( $f(t) = (2\pi)^{-1} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \tilde{F}(\omega) e^{-i\omega t} d\omega$ ), converts the field to the time-domain:



$$rE(t, \theta_C) = \frac{\hat{E}_0 i \omega_C \omega_0^2}{\pi} \frac{d}{dt_r} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\omega t_r}}{(2i\omega_C + \omega)(\omega + i\omega_0)(\omega - i\omega_0)} d\omega \quad (\text{A10})$$

1. If  $t_r > 0$ : Consider the contour comprised of the real axis and the clockwise-oriented negative infinite semi-circle. On the contour, the exponential phase factor in Equation A10 goes as

$$\exp(-i\omega t_r) = \exp(-i(R \cos \phi + iR \sin \phi)t_r) \quad (\text{A11})$$

For the semi-circle,  $\phi \in [\pi, 2\pi]$ , so  $\sin \phi < 0$  and  $t_r > 0$ . Exponential decay occurs and the integrand vanishes on the semi-circle for  $|\omega| = R \rightarrow \infty$ .

2. If  $t_r < 0$ : Consider the contour comprised of the real axis and the counter-clockwise-oriented positive infinite semi-circle. On the contour, the exponential phase factor in Equation A10 goes again

as

$$\exp(-i\omega t_r) = \exp(-i(R \cos \phi + iR \sin \phi)t_r) \quad (\text{A12})$$

For the semi-circle,  $\phi \in [0, \pi]$ , so  $\sin \phi > 0$  and  $t_r < 0$ . Exponential decay occurs and the integrand vanishes on the semi-circle for  $|\omega| = R \rightarrow \infty$ .

Using cases 1 and 2, Equation A10 can be solved using the Cauchy integral formula. Beginning with  $t_r > 0$ , two poles are enclosed in the semi-circle: one that originated from the coherence cutoff frequency, and the other that originated from the form factor. The Cauchy integral formula yields

$$rE(t, \theta_C) = 2\hat{E}_0 \omega_C \omega_0^2 \frac{d}{dt_r} \left( \frac{e^{-2\omega_C t_r}}{i^2(-2\omega_C + \omega_0)(-2\omega_C - \omega_0)} + \frac{e^{-\omega_0 t_r}}{i^2(-\omega_0 + 2\omega_C)(-2\omega_0)} \right) \quad (\text{A13})$$

Define the ratio of the cutoff frequencies:  $\epsilon = \omega_0/\omega_C$ . After evaluating the time derivatives, Equation A13 becomes

$$rE(t, \theta_C) = \hat{E}_0 \omega_0^2 \left( \frac{e^{-2\omega_C t_r}}{(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2})(1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2})} - \frac{e^{-\omega_0 t_r}}{(2)(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2})} \right) \quad (\text{A14})$$

Expanding to linear order in  $\epsilon$ , assuming  $\epsilon < 1$ , and recalling that  $\omega_0^2 = \frac{2}{3}\omega_{\text{CF}}^2$ :

$$rE(t, \theta_C) \approx \frac{1}{3}\hat{E}_0 \omega_{\text{CF}}^2 \left( 2e^{-2\omega_C t_r} - \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2}\right) e^{-\omega_0 t_r} \right) \quad (\text{A15})$$

Turning to the case of  $t_r < 0$ , consider integrating Equation A10 along the contour comprised of the real axis and the counter-clockwise-oriented positive infinite semi-circle. The contour encloses one pole, and the exponent ensures convergence:

$$rE(t, \theta_C) = (2\pi i)\hat{E}_0(\pi)^{-1}i\omega_C \omega_0^2 \frac{d}{dt_r} \left( \frac{e^{\omega_0 t_r}}{(2i\omega_C + i\omega_0)(2i\omega_0)} \right) \quad (\text{A16})$$

After evaluating the derivative, the expression simplifies with  $\epsilon = \omega_0/\omega_C$ :

$$rE(t, \theta_C) = \frac{1}{2}\hat{E}_0 \omega_0^2 \left( \frac{e^{\omega_0 t_r}}{1 + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon} \right) \quad (\text{A17})$$

Finally, using the same first-order approximation in  $\epsilon$  as the  $t_r > 0$  case:

$$rE(t, \theta_C) \approx \frac{1}{3}\hat{E}_0 \omega_{\text{CF}}^2 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon \right) e^{\omega_0 t_r} \quad (\text{A18})$$

Collecting the  $t_r > 0$  and  $t_r < 0$  results together:

$$rE(t, \theta_C) = \frac{1}{3}\hat{E}_0 \omega_{\text{CF}}^2 \begin{cases} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon\right) e^{\omega_0 t_r} & t_r < 0 \\ \left(2e^{-2\omega_C t_r} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon\right) e^{-\omega_0 t_r}\right) & t_r > 0 \end{cases} \quad (\text{A19})$$

## Appendix B: Details of the Off-Cone Field Equation Derivation

Using Tabs. II-IV, Equation A2 reduces to

$$\mathcal{E}(u, x) = f(u, x)g(u, x)(1 - h(u, x)) \quad (\text{B1})$$

Expanding to first-order with respect to  $u$  near ( $u = 1$ ) gives

$$\mathcal{E}(u, x) = \mathcal{E}(x, 1) + (u - 1)\dot{\mathcal{E}}(x, 1) + \mathcal{O}(u - 1)^2 \quad (\text{B2})$$

The first term is  $fg(1-h)$  evaluated at  $u = 1$ :  $\exp(-y)$  (Table IV). The second term requires the first derivative of  $\mathcal{E}(u, x)$  with respect to  $u$ , evaluated at  $u = 1$ .

$$\dot{\mathcal{E}}(u, x) = f\dot{g} + \dot{f}g - (fg\dot{h} + f\dot{g}h + \dot{f}gh) \quad (\text{B3})$$

$$\dot{\mathcal{E}}(1, x) = \left( f\dot{g} + \dot{f}g - (fg\dot{h} + f\dot{g}h + \dot{f}gh) \right) |_{u=1} \quad (\text{B4})$$

The first-derivatives of  $f$ ,  $g$ , and  $h$ , evaluated at  $u = 1$ , are given in Tab. IV. Because  $h(x, 1) = 0$ , terms proportional to  $h$  will vanish. The result is

$$\dot{\mathcal{E}}(1, x) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-y}(2y + 2q - 1) \quad (\text{B5})$$

Inserting Equation B5 into Equation B2,

$$\mathcal{E}(u, x) = e^{-y} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2}(u - 1)(2y + 2q - 1) \right) \quad (\text{B6})$$

Using the definition of  $u$  (Table II), the result may be written

$$\mathcal{E}(u, x) = e^{-y} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2}j\eta(2y + 2q - 1) \right) \quad (\text{B7})$$

Proceeding with the inverse Fourier transform of the  $\hat{\theta}$ -component:

$$rE(t, \theta) = \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left\{ E_0 \left( \frac{\omega}{2\pi} \right) \tilde{F}\psi\mathcal{E} \right\} \quad (\text{B8})$$

Let  $\eta = \omega/\omega_C$ ,  $y = p\omega^2$  (Table II). Inserting the Taylor series for  $\mathcal{E}$ , the form factor  $\tilde{F}$ , and  $\psi = -i \exp(ikr) \sin \theta$  (Sec. II), and following the same steps as the on-cone case produces

$$2\pi rE(t, \theta) = \frac{E_0\omega_0^2 \sin(\theta)}{4\pi i\omega_C} \frac{d}{dt_r} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\omega t_r - p\omega^2} (2i\omega_C + 2p\omega^3 + (2q - 1)\omega)}{\omega^2 + \omega_0^2} d\omega \quad (\text{B9})$$

Unlike the on-cone case, Equation B9 cannot be integrated with infinite semi-circle contours, because the exponential term diverges along the imaginary axis far from the origin. Let  $I_0$  represent the constant term with respect to  $\omega$  in the numerator:

$$I_0 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\omega t_r - p\omega^2} (2i\omega_C)}{\omega^2 + \omega_0^2} d\omega \quad (\text{B10})$$

Further, let  $I_1$  and  $I_3$  represent the linear and cubic terms, respectively. Completing the square in the exponent of  $I_0$ , with  $\omega_1 = t_r/(2p)$ , yields

$$I_0 = 2i\omega_C e^{-\frac{t_r^2}{4p}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-p(\omega + i\omega_1)^2}}{\omega^2 + \omega_0^2} d\omega \quad (\text{B11})$$

Equation B11 may be re-cast as the *line-broadening function*,  $H$  (DLMF 7.19, [39]) common to spectroscopy applications:

$$I_0 = 2\pi i \left( \frac{\omega_C}{\omega_0} \right) e^{-\frac{t_r^2}{4p}} H(\sqrt{p}\omega_0, i\sqrt{p}\omega_1) \quad (\text{B12})$$

Assume that  $\omega > \omega_1$ . This approximating step will be called the *symmetric approximation*.

$$I_0 \approx 2i\omega_C e^{-\frac{t_r^2}{2p}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-p\omega^2}}{\omega^2 + \omega_0^2} d\omega \quad (\text{B13})$$

The result for  $I_0$  involves the complementary error function (DLMF 7.7.1, [39]):

$$I_0 = 2i\omega_C e^{-\frac{t_r^2}{2p}} \pi\omega_0^{-1} e^{p\omega_0^2} \text{erfc}(\sqrt{p}\omega_0) \quad (\text{B14})$$

The integrals  $I_1$  and  $I_3$  are zero by symmetry, with odd integrands over  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . Inserting the result for  $I_0$  into Equation B9 and evaluating the derivative finishes the problem (see Sec. V).

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