Complex Analysis of Askaryan Radiation: Towards UHE-ν energy Reconstruction via the Hilbert Envelope of Observed Signals

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This is a work in progress.

I. INTRODUCTION

The introduction.

II. UNITS, DEFINITIONS, AND CONVENTIONS

The units.

III. COLLECTION OF MAIN RESULTS

Here is a list of the basic results and ideas for this paper.

- Let the signal model $s(t)$ be

$$s(t) = -E_0 t e^{-\frac{1}{2}(t/\sigma_t)^2} \tag{1}$$

This is the off-cone field equation from [1]. The parameter $\sigma_{\rm t}$ is the pulse width, and it depends two quantities: the longitudinal length of the UHE-ν-induced cascade, and the angle at which the cascade is observed relative to the Cherenkov angle. The parameter E_0 is the amplitude normalization, and it depends on two parameters: $\sigma_{\rm t}$, and ω_0, the cutoff frequency from the cascade form factor. In Sec. III, E_0 and σ_t will be treated as constants, since neither depends on time. In Sec. IV, the implications of these dependencies will be explored.

- Let $\widehat{s}(t)$ represent the Hilbert transform of $s(t)$. The *analytic signal* of $s(t)$ is

$$s_{\rm a}(t) = s(t) + j\widehat{s}(t) \tag{2}$$

The magnitude of the analytic signal, $|s_a(t)|$, is the *envelope* of the signal. The Hilbert transform $\widehat{s}(t)$ is equivalent to the convolution of $s(t)$ and the tempered distribution $h(t) = 1/(\pi t)$.

- Let $S(f)$ be the Fourier transform of $s(t)$. The Fourier transform of the analytic signal is

$$\mathcal{F}\{s_{\rm a}(t)\}_f = S_{\rm a}(f) = S(f)(1 + {\rm sgn}\, f) \tag{3}$$

The sign function, sgn gives -1 if $f < 0$, 0 if $f = 0$, and 1 if $f > 1$.

- Taking the inverse Fourier transform of Eq. 3, the analytic signal may be written in terms of $S(f)$:

$$s_{\rm a}(t) = 2 \int_0^\infty S(f) e^{2\pi j f t} df \tag{4}$$

- The Fourier transform of Eq. 1 is

$$S(f) = E_0 \sigma_t^3 (2\pi)^{3/2} j f e^{-2\pi^2 f^2 \sigma_t^2} \tag{5}$$

- Using the gaussian spectral width $\sigma_{\rm f}$ from [2], and the guassian width of $s(t)$ from [1], it was shown in [1] that the uncertainty principle holds for off-cone signals:

$$\sigma_t \sigma_f \geq \frac{1}{2\pi} \tag{6}$$

The equality is reached in the limit the far-field parameter limits to zero: $\eta \to 0$. This makes the signal spectrum

$$S(f) = E_0 \sigma_t^3 (2\pi)^{3/2} j f e^{-\frac{1}{2}(f/\sigma_f)^2} \tag{7}$$

Inserting $S(f)$ into Eq. 4, $s_{\rm a}(t)$ is

$$s_{\rm a}(t) = \frac{E_0 \sigma_t^3 (2\pi)^{3/2}}{\pi} \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{1}{2}(f/\sigma_f)^2} e^{2\pi j f t} df \tag{8}$$

- Let $k^2/4 = \frac{1}{2}(f/\sigma_f)^2$, and $x = t/(\sqrt{2}\sigma_t)$. Equation 8 can be broken into real and imaginary parts:

$$s_{\rm a}(t) = \frac{E_0 \sigma_{\rm t}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{dI}{dx} \tag{9}$$

$$\Re\{I\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-k^2/4} \cos(kx) dk \tag{10}$$

$$\Im\{I\} = \int_0^\infty e^{-k^2/4} \sin(kx) dk \tag{11}$$

The real part of I is even, so it can be extended to $(-\infty, \infty)$ if it is multiplied by $1/2$. The result is

$$\Re\{I\} = \sqrt{\pi} e^{-x^2} \tag{12}$$

The imaginary part of I is proportional to *Dawson's integral*, $D(x)$ [3]:

$$\Im\{I\} = 2D(x) \tag{13}$$

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- The overall analytic signal, $s_a(t)$, is

$$s_a(t) = -E_0\left(te^{-\frac{1}{2}(t/\sigma_t)^2} - \frac{2j\sigma_t}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{dD(x)}{dx}\right) \quad (14)$$

The signal envelope is $|s_a(t)|$. It is important to note that, though $D(x)$ is not evaluated analytically, a high-precision algorithm for computing $D(x)$ was given in [4]. Note that $s_a(0) \neq 0$, since $dD(x)/dx = 1 - 2xD(x)$.

- Signal data in detectors designed to observe Askaryan pulses is equivalent to the convolution of the signal and detector response functions. Signal models are convolved with measured detector responses to create *signal templates*. Signal templates are cross-correlated with observed data to identify UHE-ν signals. The oscillations of signal templates and observed data can introduce various uncertainties when cross-correlated. This problem intensifies when the signal-to-noise ratio between Askaryan pulse data and thermal noise decreases. To reduce these uncertainties, the Hilbert envelope of observed signals is used in cross-correlations instead of the original signals. We seek an analytic equation for the Hilbert envelope of the data. That is, we seek the envelope of the convolution of the analytic signal model with a typical detector response. The RLC damped oscillator is a standard circuit model for the RF dipole antennas used in RNO-G and the proposed IceCube Gen2 [5–7].

- There are two paths to calculating the final result. The first option involves three steps. First, the detector response, $r(t)$ is convolved with $s(t)$. Second, the analytic signal of the result is found. Third, the magnitude of the analytic signal is computed, which can be compared to envelopes of observed signals. The second option involves computing the envelope of the convolution of $r(t)$ with $s(t)$ directly from $s_a(t)$ and $r_a(t)$.

- Let $s(t) * r(t)$ represent the convolution of $s(t)$ and $r(t)$. Let the envelope of the convolution be $\mathcal{E}_{s*r}(t)$. $\mathcal{E}_{s*r}(t)$, $s_a(t)$, and $r_a(t)$ are related by

$$\mathcal{E}_{s*r}(t) = \frac{1}{2}|s_a(t) * r_a(t)| \quad (15)$$

The proof of Eq. 15 is based on two ideas. First, the Hilbert transform of a function $s(t)$ is equivalent to convolving it with the "tempered distribution" $h(t) = 1/(\pi t)$. Second, computing the Hilbert transform twice yields the original function, multiplied by -1: $h * h * s = -s$. Given the definitions of the analytic signal and the Hilbert transform,

$$(s * r)_a(t) = s * r + j\,\widehat{s * r} \quad (16)$$
$$\mathcal{E}_{s*r}(t) = |s * r + js * r * h| \quad (17)$$

However,

$$r_a * s_a = (r + j\hat{r}) * (s + j\hat{s}) \quad (18)$$
$$r_a * s_a = r * s + jr * \hat{s} + j\hat{r} * s - \hat{r} * \hat{s} \quad (19)$$
$$r_a * s_a = r * s - r * h * s * h + 2jh * r * s \quad (20)$$
$$r_a * s_a = r * s - h * h * r * s + 2jh * r * s \quad (21)$$
$$r_a * s_a = 2r * s + 2jh * r * s \quad (22)$$

Multiplying both sides $1/2$ and taking the magnitude completes the proof:

$$\frac{1}{2}|r_a * s_a| = |r * s + jh * r * s| = \mathcal{E}_{s*r}(t) \quad (23)$$

- Assume that a signal arrives in an RLC damped oscillator at $t = 0$. For $t \geq 0$, the impulse response and corresponding analytic signal are

$$r(t) = R_0 e^{-2\pi\gamma_f t}\cos(2\pi f_0 t) \quad (24)$$
$$r_a(t) = R_0 e^{-2\pi\gamma_f t}e^{2\pi j f_0 t} \quad (25)$$

The parameters γ_f and f_0 are the *decay constant* that corresponds to the *fall time* of the output signal, and the resonance frequency. Note that the envelope of $r(t)$, $|r_a(t)|$, is $R_0 \exp(-2\pi\gamma_f t)$, as expected. To prove Eq. 25, first compute the Fourier transform of $r(t)$:

$$R(f) = \frac{R_0}{4\pi j}\left(\frac{1}{f - z_+} + \frac{1}{1 - z_-}\right) \quad (26)$$
$$z_+ = f_0 + j\gamma_f \quad (27)$$
$$z_- = -f_0 + j\gamma_f \quad (28)$$

Given Eq. 4, the procedure to find $r_a(t)$ is to multiply the *negative* frequency components by 0 and the *positive* frequency components by 2, and take the inverse Fourier transform. The inverse Fourier transform may be completed by extension to the complex plane using the upper infinite semi-circle as a contour, and applying Jordan's lemma. The residue from the pole at z_+ drives the final result.

- The goal is now to apply Eq. 15 by convolving $s_a(t)$ with $r_a(t)$. The calculation may be split into two parts: $r_a(t) * \Re\{s_a(t)\}$, and $r_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\}$. Let $u(t)$ represent the Heaviside step function. Starting with $r_a(t) * \Re\{s_a(t)\}$:

$$r_a(t) * \Re\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$R_0 e^{2\pi j f_0 t}e^{-2\pi\gamma t}u(t) * \left(-E_0 te^{-\frac{1}{2}(t/\sigma_t)^2}\right) \quad (29)$$

Let $x = t/(\sqrt{2}\sigma_t)$, $y = \tau/(\sqrt{2}\sigma_t)$, and $z = (2\pi j f_0 - 2\pi\gamma)\sqrt{2}\sigma_t$. Changing variables while accounting for the relationship between $u(t)$, x, and y, gives

$$r_a(t) * \Re\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$-2R_0 E_0\sigma_t^2\int_{-\infty}^{x} e^{z(x-y)}ye^{-y^2}dy \quad (30)$$

Note that the units for the convolution of $r(t)$ and $s(t)$ correspond to $R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2$. Let $u = x - y$, so that $du = -dy$. The result is

$$r_a(t) * \Re\{s_a(t)\} = 2R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \left(\frac{dI(x,z)}{dz} - xI(x,z) \right) \quad (31)$$

where

$$I(x,z) = \int_0^\infty e^{zu} e^{-(u-x)^2} du \quad (32)$$

Let $b = x + \frac{1}{2}z$. Completing the square in the exponent and substituting $k = u - b$ gives

$$I(x,z) = e^{-x^2} e^{b^2} \int_{-b}^\infty e^{-k^2} dk$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} e^{-x^2} e^{b^2} \operatorname{erfc}(-b) \quad (33)$$

Let $b = jq$, and $w(q)$ be the *Faddeeva function* [3]. The integral becomes

$$I(x,z) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} e^{-x^2} w(q) \quad (34)$$

The chain rule is required to find dI/dz:

$$\frac{dI}{dz} = \frac{dI}{dq}\frac{dq}{dz} = -\left(\frac{j}{2}\right)\frac{dI}{dq} \quad (35)$$

The final result is

$$r_a(t) * \Re\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$- \sqrt{\pi} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \left(xe^{-x^2} w(q) + \left(\frac{j}{2}\right) e^{-x^2} \frac{dw(q)}{dq} \right) \quad (36)$$

- Turning to the convolution of $r_a(t)$ with $\Im(s_a)$,

$$r_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$\left(R_0 e^{2\pi j f_0 t} e^{-2\pi \gamma t} u(t) \right) * \left(\frac{2E_0 \sigma_t^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{dD(t/\sqrt{2}\sigma_t)}{dt} \right) \quad (37)$$

Note that $f'(t) * g(t) = f(t) * g'(t) = (f(t) * g(t))'$. Thus,

$$r_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \frac{d}{dt} \left(e^{2\pi j f_0 t} e^{-2\pi \gamma t} u(t) * D(t/\sqrt{2}\sigma_t) \right) \quad (38)$$

Accounting for the step function in the convolution gives

$$r_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \frac{d}{dt} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{(2\pi j f_0 - 2\pi \gamma)(t-\tau)} D(\tau/\sqrt{2}\sigma_t) d\tau \quad (39)$$

Adopting the earlier definitions of x, y, and z gives

$$r_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \frac{d}{dx} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{z(x-y)} D(y) dy \quad (40)$$

Using the fundamental theorem of calculus, and the limiting cases of $D(x)$,

$$r_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \left(D(x) + z \int_{-\infty}^x e^{z(x-y)} D(y) dy \right) \quad (41)$$

Let $u = x - y$, $z = -k$, and note that $D(x)$ is an odd function. These substitutions give

$$r_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\} =$$
$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \left(D(x) + k \int_0^\infty e^{-ku} D(u-x) du \right) \quad (42)$$

The remaining integral is the Laplace transform of the shifted Dawson function, $\mathcal{L}\{D(u-x)\}_k$. The final result is

$$r_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \left(D(x) + k\mathcal{L}\{D(u-x)\}_k \right) \quad (43)$$

Though a closed analytic form for $\mathcal{L}\{D(u-x)\}_k$ is elusive, finishing this calculation through numerical integration is straightforward.

- Combining Eq. 36 and Eq. 43 gives $r_a(t) * s_a(t)$, since

$$r_a(t) * s_a(t) = r_a(t) * \Re\{s_a(t)\} + jr_a(t) * \Im\{s_a(t)\} \quad (44)$$

which yields

$$r_a(t) * s_a(t) =$$
$$- \sqrt{\pi} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \left(xe^{-x^2} w(q) + \left(\frac{j}{2}\right) e^{-x^2} \frac{dw(q)}{dq} \right) +$$
$$\frac{2j}{\sqrt{\pi}} R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \left(D(x) + k\mathcal{L}\{D(u-x)\}_k \right) \quad (45)$$

The units of convolution should be $R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2$, and each term in Eq. 45 has these units. Remember that the relationship between q and x is given by

$$q = -jb = -j\left(x + \frac{z}{2}\right) \quad (46)$$

Taking the magnitude of Eq. 45, and multiplying by $1/2$, yields the **Hilbert envelope of the convolution of $s(t)$ with $r(t)$:**

$$\mathcal{E}_{r*s}(t) = \frac{1}{2}|r_a(t) * s_a(t)| \quad (47)$$

- It is important to note that the convolution of $s(t)$ and $r(t)$ may be done analytically in the time-domain:

$$s * r = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} s(t-\tau)r(\tau)d\tau \quad (48)$$

Inserting the definitions of $s(t)$ and $r(t)$,

$$s * r = $$
$$-E_0 R_0 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}(t-\tau)e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{t-\tau}{\sigma_t}\right)^2}\Re\left\{e^{2\pi j f_0\tau}e^{-2\pi\gamma\tau}\right\}u(\tau)d\tau \quad (49)$$

Using the previous definitions of x, y, and z gives

$$s * r = -2R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \int_0^{\infty}(x-y)e^{-(x-y)^2}\Re\left\{e^{zy}\right\}dy \quad (50)$$

Note that the $\Re\{\}$ operator can encompass the whole integral, since $s(t)$ is real. Splitting the integral and employing differentiation under the equals sign yields

$$s * r = $$
$$-2R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 \Re\left\{xe^{-x^2}I(x,z) - \frac{1}{2}e^{-x^2}\frac{dI(x,z)}{dx}\right\} \quad (51)$$

with

$$I(x,z) = \int_0^{\infty}e^{-y^2+(2x+z)y}dy \quad (52)$$

As above, let $b = x + \frac{1}{2}z$, and $b = jq$. In a procedure resembling the calculation for $r_a(t) * \Re\{s_a(t)\}$, the result for $I(x,z)$ is

$$I(x,z) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}w(q) \quad (53)$$

where $w(q)$ is the Faddeeva function. Note that the Faddeeva function is *entire*, meaning the $\Re\{\}$ operator and differentiation commute. Inserting this result into Eq. 51, and distributing the $\Re\{\}$ operator to the instances of $I(x,z)$, gives

$$s * r = -\sqrt{\pi}R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 $$
$$\left(xe^{-x^2}\Re\{w(q)\} - \frac{1}{2}e^{-x^2}\frac{d\Re\{w(q)\}}{dx}\right) \quad (54)$$

From the definition of q and the chain rule, $dw(q)/dx = -jdw(q)/dq$, and $dw(q)/dq = -2qw(q) + 2j/\sqrt{\pi}$ [3]. The final result is left in terms of the real part of the Faddeeva function, which may be computed using the *Voigt function* $U(x,t)$ [1, 3].

$$s * r = -\sqrt{\pi}R_0 E_0 \sigma_t^2 $$
$$\left(xe^{-x^2}\Re\{w(q)\} + \left(\frac{j}{2}\right)e^{-x^2}\frac{d\Re\{w(q)\}}{dq}\right) \quad (55)$$
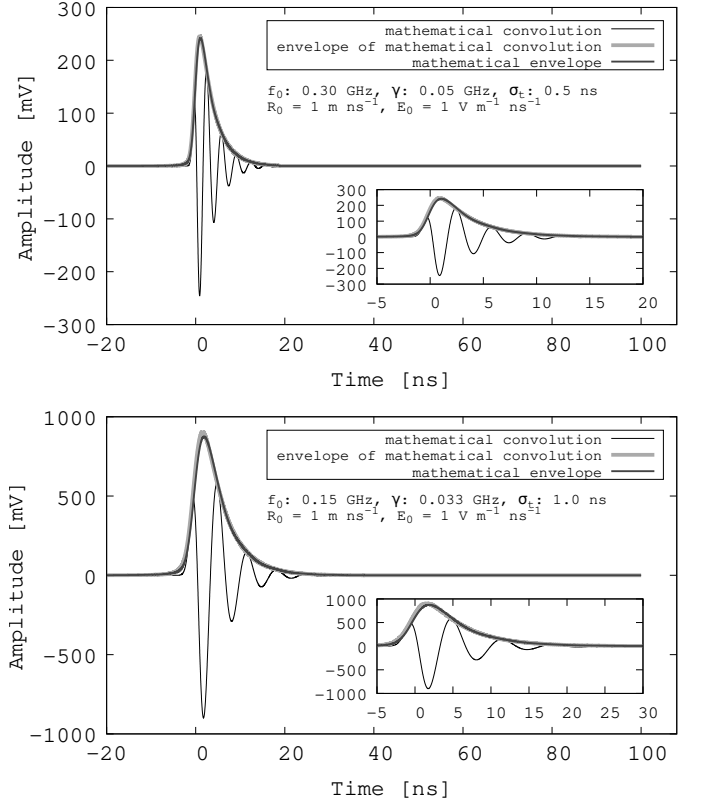

FIG. 1: (Top) The thin black line represents $s(t) * r(t)$. The light gray envelope represents the envelope of $s(t) * r(t)$ computed with the Python3 SciPy function scipy.special.hilbert. The dark gray envelope represents Eq. 45-47. (Bottom) Same as top, for different parameter values.

- To illustrate the accuracy and efficiency of the model, Eq. 45-47 and 55, are shown in Fig. 1.

- To demonstrate that *numerical convolution* of $s(t)$ and $r(t)$ produces the same results as the *mathematical convolution* of $s(t)$ and $r(t)$ (Eq. 55), the corresponding waveforms are shown in Fig. 2.

IV. THE AMPLITUDE OF THE SIGNAL MODEL, $s(t)$

- The result for $\mathcal{E}_{r*s}(t)$, Eqs. 45 and 47, depends on the model for $s(t)$, Eq. 1. The parameters E_0 and σ_t in Eq. 1 were held constant in Sec. III, because neither depends on time. The full expression for $s(t)$ was first derived by the authors of [1]:

$$r\vec{E}(t_r,\theta) = -\frac{E_0\omega_0\sin(\theta)}{8\pi p}t_r e^{-\frac{t_r^2}{4p}+p\omega_0^2}\text{erfc}(\sqrt{p}\omega_0) \quad (56)$$

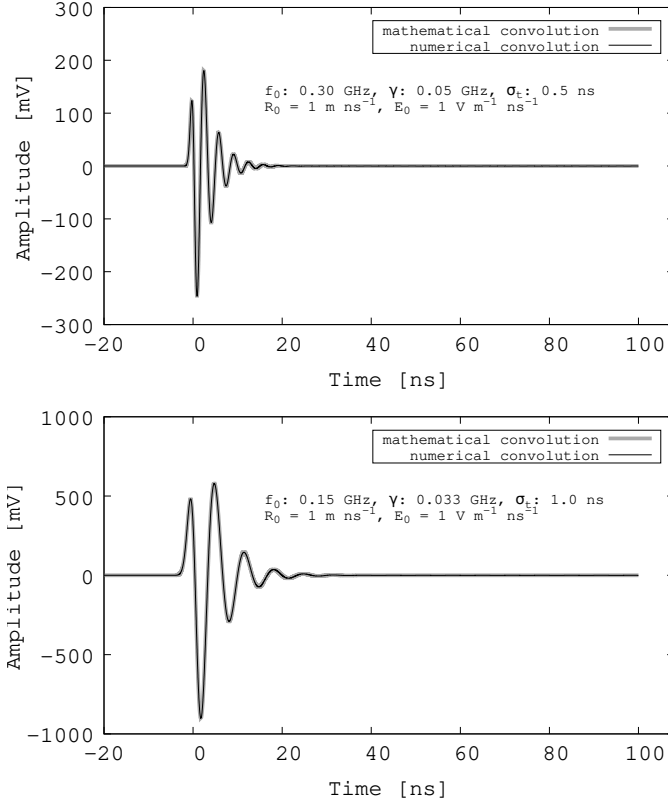The parameters of Eq. 56 are shown in Tab. I. Though Ralston and Buniy (RB) [8] used c for the

FIG. 2: (Top) The thin black line represents $s(t) * r(t)$, produced using the Python3 SciPy function scipy.signal.convolve. The dark gray line represents Eq. 55. (Bottom) Same as top, for different parameter values.

Variable	Definition	Units
c	speed of light in medium	m ns^{-1}
r	distance to cascade peak	m
t_r	$t - r/c$	ns
θ_C	Cherenkov angle	radians
θ	viewing angle from cascade axis	radians
a	longitudinal cascade length (see [8])	m
n_{max}	max excess cascade particles (see [8])	none
E_0	$\propto n_{max}a$ (see [8])	V GHz^{-2}
p	$\frac{1}{2}(a/c)^2 (\cos\theta - \cos\theta_C)^2$ (see [1])	ns^2
ω_0	$\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}(c\sqrt{2\pi}\rho_0)/(\sin\theta)$ (see [2])	GHz
$\sqrt{2\pi}\rho_0$	lateral ICD width (see [2])	m^{-1}

TABLE I: things.

vaccuum value of the speed of light, the formulae for $r\vec{E}$ presented in [8] refer to the wavenumber k in the medium, which is proptional to the index of refraction. Thus, the use of c in this work refers to the speed of light in the medium. For example, a phase factor of $\exp(jkr)$ could also be written $\exp(jr\omega/c)$, if c refers to the value in the medium. The distance r is between the observer and the radi-

ating charge at the cascade peak. The longitudinal length over which $\Delta r < \lambda$, the RF wavelength in ice, is named the *coherence zone* Δz_{coh} in the RB model. The Δz_{coh} is limited by what RB call the "acceleration argument," that $r(t)$ is accelerating while keeping $\Delta r < \lambda$.

The longitudinal cascade length, a, is set by the cascade physics. The ratio $\eta = (a/\Delta z_{coh})^2$ corresponds to the far-field limit as $\eta \to 0$, but this is not a requirement of the RB model. In fact, the RB equations are valid when $\eta > 1$. Hanson and Connolly (JCH+AC) have shown that η corresponds to low-pass filter with cutoff ω_C that limits the RF emissions, $\eta = \omega/\omega_C$ [2]. JCH+AC also studied ω_C over the frequency and a parameter space, because this parameter space is relevant for the LPM effect.

The time t is the independent variable of the inverse Fourier transform of the equations in [8]. The delayed time is $t_r = t - r/c$. The Cherenkov angle θ_C is set by the index of refraction, n, via $\cos\theta_C = 1/n$. The value for the RF bandwidth in solid ice ($n = 1.78$) is 55.8 degrees. More detail on the index of refraction in polar ice is given in [9, 10]. The viewing angle θ is measured relative to the cascade axis, and the Askaryan radiation is concentrated when $\theta \approx \theta_C$. The n_{max} parameter is the maximum excess negative charge in the cascade, and the overall RF amplitude is propotional to $n_{max}a$. Hanson and Hartig (HH) have shown that the parameter p is related to σ_t [1]:

$$\sigma_t = \sqrt{2p} \tag{57}$$

The authors of [1] have shown that, because $\cos\theta - \cos\theta_C \approx -\sin\theta_C(\theta - \theta_C)$ to first order in $\Delta\theta = (\theta - \theta_C)$, $p \propto \Delta\theta^2$ to second order, and

$$a\Delta\theta = \frac{c\sigma_t}{\sin\theta_C} \tag{58}$$

Qualitatively, this notion was identified by RB in Sec. III of [8]. HH provided an analysis of the relationship between a, the cascade energy E_C and the critical energy E_{crit} [1]. Let $E_C/E_{crit} = \Lambda$. HH found that

$$\frac{\sigma_{\ln\Lambda}}{\ln\Lambda} = 2\left(\frac{\sigma_a}{a}\right) \tag{59}$$

V. CONCLUSION

The conclusion.

Appendix A: Details

The details.

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