

Study of the eHWC J1825-134 Region at Highest Energies with HWAC

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eHWC J1825-134 is one of the brightest Galactic γ -ray sources above 50 TeV observed by High Altitude Water Cherenkov γ -Ray Observatory (HAWC). Detailed morphological studies have revealed a new point-like source inside this region with a spectral energy distribution extending beyond 200 TeV without any cutoff. These very-high-energy γ rays emission can originate from leptonic or hadronic processes. The new point-like source is located in a region containing PWNe and a high density giant molecular cloud [MML2017]99. If the source emission is associated with the hadronic scenario the TeV γ rays may have been produced by cosmic rays colliding with ambient gas. If this were the case, eHWC J1825-134 is an indicator of the existence of a galactic PeVatron in the region that accelerates particles up to PeV energies.

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1. Introduction

Ever since the Austrian-American scientist, Victor Hess detected cosmic rays over a hundred years ago, the origin of these charged particles has been a puzzle for mankind. People believe cosmic rays up to the "knee" are of the galactic origin. This means inside our galaxy extremely powerful accelerators are accelerating charged particles beyond PeV, the so called PeVatrons.

Sitting on the Sierra Negra volcano near Puebla, Mexico at the altitude of 4100 meters above the sea level, the HAWC Observatory observes γ rays produced by high energy particles accelerated by these powerful sources in the Northern Hemisphere. The high duty cycle, large field of view, and excellent sensitivity above 10 TeV make HAWC one of the greatest instruments to study the galactic γ -ray sources[1]. Additionally, newly installed outrigger array increases HAWC's sensitivity by a factor of 4 at highest energies. This upgrade will be crucial for studying PeVatrons at the highest energy range.

Using 1038 days of HAWC data, there are 9 eHWC sources with the emission beyond 56 TeV [2]. Among those high energy galactic γ -ray sources, the most bright source eHWC J1825-134 stands out with the emission above 100 TeV.

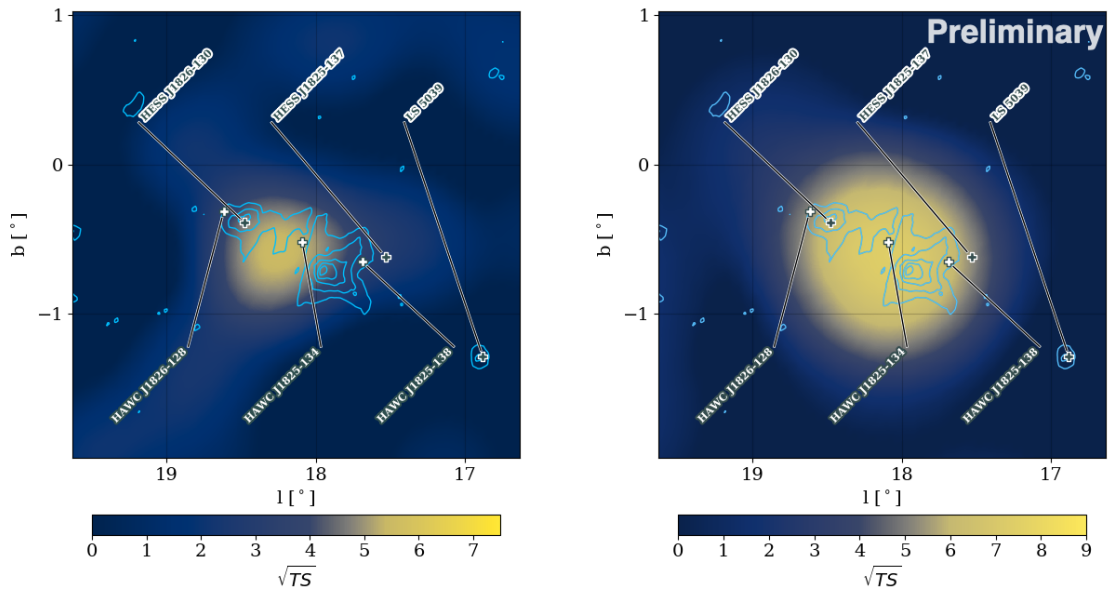


Figure 1: Significance map of eHWC J1825 region with energy greater than 177 TeV. The blue contours corresponding to H.E.S.S. excess at 20, 35, 50, 60, and 70 counts with energies beyond 10 TeV [3]. Significance maps are made assuming a point-source hypothesis and a powerlaw spectrum with -2.6 index.

2. Analysis of eHWC J1825-134 Region

To do a detail study of eHWCJ1825-134 region, the maximum likelihood analysis was performed using the Multi-Mission Maximum Likelihood (3ML) [4] and Hal plugin[5] [6]. The result was reported in a recent HAWC publication [7].

From this study we found the eHWC J1825-134 region can be well described by two extended sources HAWC J1825-138 and HAWC J1826-128 plus one point source HAWC J1825-134 on top of the galactic diffuse emission (GDE). The two extended sources are likely to have known γ -ray counterparts which are HESS J1825-137 and HESS J1826-130 [8], respectively.

The spectral energy distribution (SED) analysis shows both extended sources are well fitted with the power-law with an exponential cutoff. Both SEDs start cutting off at below 30 TeV. However, the new point source shows no indication of any cutoff up to 200 TeV with a best fit power-law index at $2.28^{+0.12}_{-0.12} {}^{+0.1}_{-0.04}$, the uncertainties are statistical and systematic, in that order. Located close to our new point source HAWC J1825-134 is a young star cluster, [BDS2003]8, with

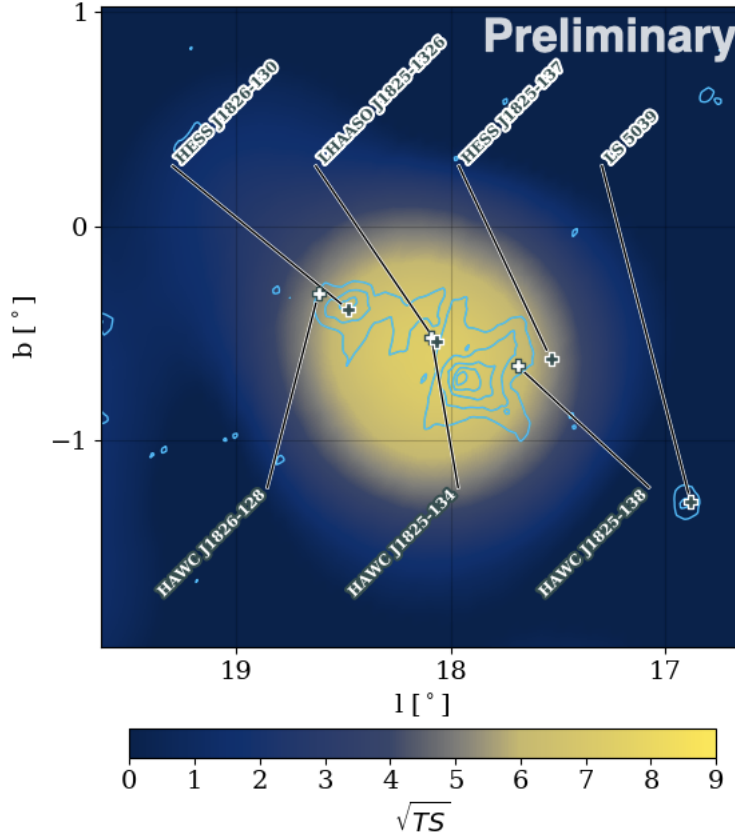


Figure 2: Preliminary Pass5 Significance map of eHWC J1825-134 region with energy greater than 177 TeV include the location from LHAASO publication [12]. The blue contours corresponding to H.E.S.S. excess at 20, 35, 50, 60, and 70 counts with energies beyond 10 TeV [3]

the age of ~ 1 million years and a distance of 4kpc from the Earth [9] [10]. The total energy budget can reach 1.5×10^{52} erg [11]. We only need a small fraction of this energy to accelerate a proton up to PeV. The PeV protons confined in the region likely collide with the giant molecular cloud [MML2017]99 to produce the emission observable by HAWC. From our analysis of eHWC J1825-134 region supports that young star clusters are galactic PeVatron candidates to contribute in the cosmic-ray flux up to the knee.

3. High Energy Point Source HAWC J1825-134

The preliminary HAWC Pass5 analysis shows that the new point source HAWC J1825-134 becomes more significantly in our map. With this new Pass5 data set we observe 7.3σ at the energies beyond 177 TeV. Also, the maximum significance pixel has moved towards to the HAWC J1825-134. We do have a slight worse point spread function (PSF) at this region (0.4° in the publication and 0.43° in the new data-set). This will be investigated in a future analysis.

The newly published result from Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) [12] confirms our observation around the eHWC J1825-134 region. LHAASO observed the emission at greater than 100 TeV with 16.4σ using half of Kilometer Square Array (KM2A) with 308 days of data. They reported the maximum energy from this region reaching up to 420 TeV [12]. Figure 2 shows the significance map made with preliminary Pass 5 data. We can see the location of the point source HAWC J1825-134 almost overlapping with LHAASO J1825-1326. From the HAWC analysis both extended sources start cutting off before 30 TeV. Considering LHAASO-KM2A has great sensitivity at beyond 10 TeV, LHAASO-KM2A's result likely confirms the high energy emission between two extended sources.

In addition to the location, we also compared with the flux from LHAASO. From Figure 3 the LHAASO flux point at 200 TeV agrees with the HAWC J1825-134 spectrum well. Beyond 300 TeV we do see that the spectrum becomes softer even if we consider the $\gamma - \gamma$ absorption. Since the absorption becomes significant once the energy passes 200 TeV, detailed analyses of eHWC J1825-134 from LHAASO and HAWC outriggers will be crucial to study the spectrum beyond 200 TeV.

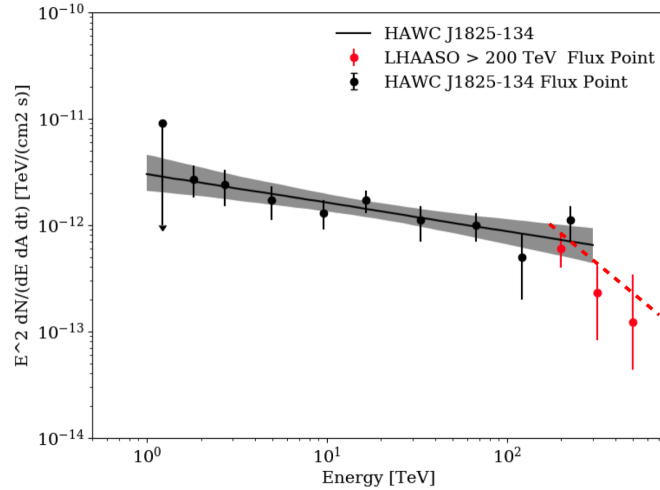


Figure 3: The black spectrum and points are showing the best fit spectrum and flux points of HAWC J1825-134. The red data points are LHAASO flux points greater than 200 TeV, the dash red line is the estimated LHAASO spectrum after corrected from $\gamma - \gamma$ absorption.

4. Energy Dependent Morphology of HAWC J1825-138

To understand the eHWC J1825-134 region better, we preform morphology study to one of the extended sources HAWC J1825-138 inside this region. A previous result from H.E.S.S. [13] [3] shows there is a clear trend of γ -ray index becoming softer when the emission moves further away from the PSR J1826-1334. This can be explained through the γ rays been produced by electrons up-scattering the ambient low energy photons. The high energy electrons will be cooling faster that will cause the high energy γ -ray emission to be closer to the accelerator, PSR J1825-1334 in this case.

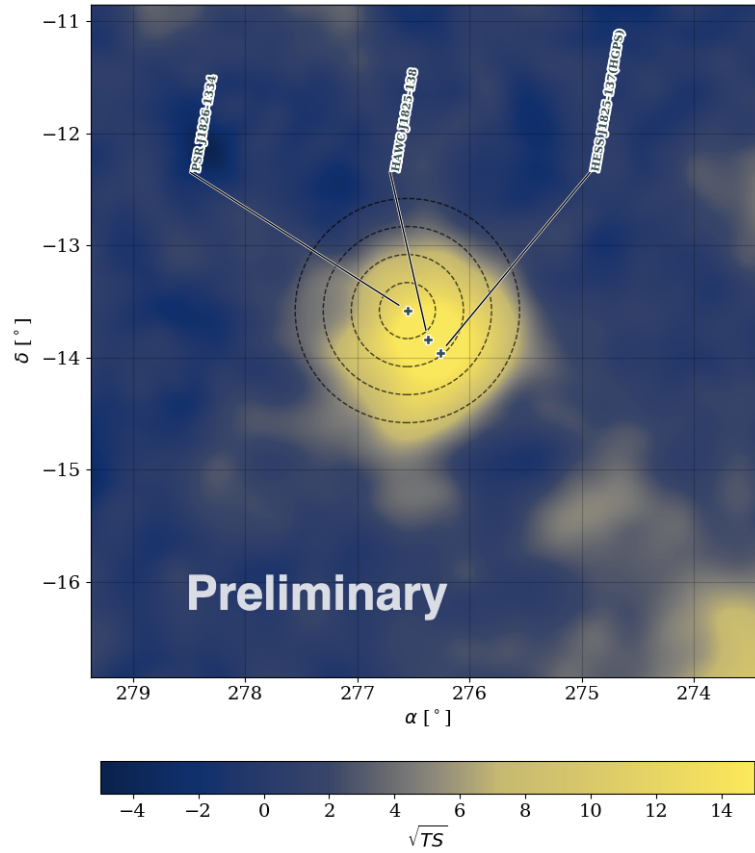


Figure 4: Significance map of HAWC J1825-138 after subtracting HAWC J1826-128, HAWC J1825-134 and galactic diffuse emission.

To do the analysis, first we subtract the best fitted model of the extended source HAWC J1826-128, point source HAWC J1825-134 and galactic diffuse emission from the HAWC data. Figure 4 shows the residual map of HAWC J1825-134 after subtracting the fitted HAWC J1826-128, HAWC J1825-134 and GDE. The symmetric Gaussian morphology with 0.47° width fits the HAWC data well. To cover the most of the emission region we choose four rings centered at PSR

J1825-1334, the center ring has 0.25° in radius, the remaining three rings have extra 0.25° compared to the inner-most ring.

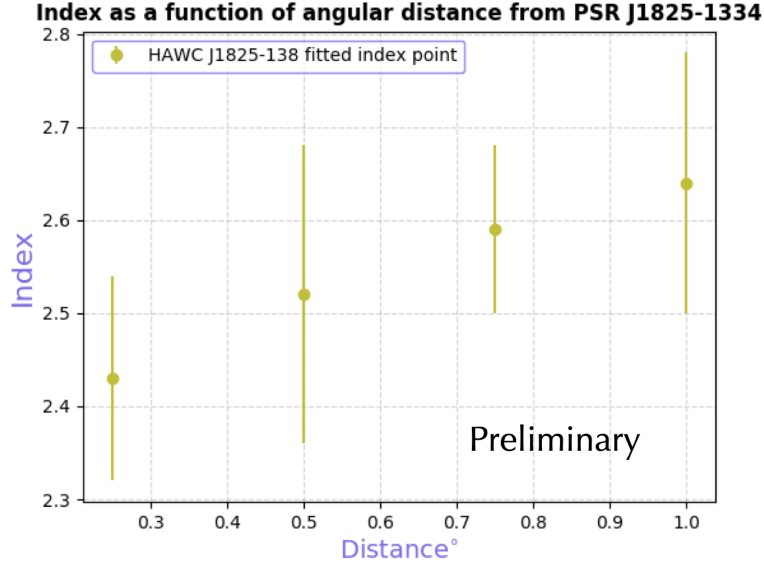


Figure 5: Index as a function of distance from PSR J1826-1334

Then we fit the power-law spectrum inside each ring. The result is shown in Figure 5. We can see the index becomes softer as the emission move further from the pulsar. Although, we do have large error bars with this analysis. More careful analysis is needed using the upcoming HAWC data to identify this trend.

5. Conclusion

The studies of eHWC J1825-134 region from HAWC [7] and LHAASO [12] found the γ -ray emission extended beyond 200 TeV. LHAASO's flux point at 200 TeV agrees with HAWC J1825-134 best fit spectrum. We do see the last two flux points step down possible caused by $\gamma - \gamma$ absorption. The future analysis that including the HAWC outrigger array will be important at the highest energies.

Also, the energy-dependent morphology of large extended source HAWC J1825-138 shows the potential indicating that the power-law spectrum index becomes softer as the emission move further from the pulsar. A recent publication suggests this extended source could be a hybrid of TeV halo and pulsar wind nebula [14]. The future HAWC analysis will help to solve the puzzles in the eHWC J1825-134 region.

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