

KSETA Seminar

Opening a New Window on the Universe from the South Pole

Prof. Francis Halzen

(University Wisconsin-Madison, USA)

- 24.10.2018 15:00 16:30 h
- 25.10.2018 10:30 12:00 h
- 13:30 15:00 h
- 26.10.2018 09:30 11:00 h

KIT Campus North, bldg. 425, room 206 (tbc)

Abstract:

The IceCube project has transformed a cubic kilometer of natural Antarctic ice into a neutrino detector. The instrument detects more than 100,000 neutrinos per year in the GeV to PeV energy range. Among those, we have isolated a flux of high-energy neutrinos of cosmic origin. We will explore the IceCube telescope and the significance of the discovery of cosmic neutrinos. We recently identified their first source: alerted by IceCube on September 22, 2017, several astronomical telescopes pinpointed a flaring galaxy, powered by an active supermassive black hole, as the source of a cosmic neutrino whose energy exceeds 300 TeV. Most importantly, the large cosmic neutrino flux observed implies that the Universe's energy density in high-energy neutrinos is close to that in gamma rays, suggesting that the sources are connected and that a multitude of astronomical objects await discovery.

Additionally, we will discuss particle physics and particle astrophysics problems that can be explored by exploiting the observations of very high energy cosmic neutrinos.

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