VHE Galactic Source Highlights from VERITAS

Rene A. Ong (LLR-Ecole Polytechnique / UCLA)

for the VERITAS Collaboration

TeVPA 2011 Stockholm (3 Aug 2011)

OUTLINE

- Scientific Motivations
- The atmospheric Cherenkov technique and VERITAS
- Selection of new Galactic source results
  - Galactic Center
  - Supernova Remnants (SNRs) – Tycho
    Pulsar Wind Nebulae (PWN) – CTA1
  - Cygnus region
  - Crab Pulsar

  (No time to show nice results on many other sources, including binary systems, other PWN and SNRs)
- Future Prospects and Summary

Scientific Motivations

Some of many motivations for Galactic VHE γ-ray sources:

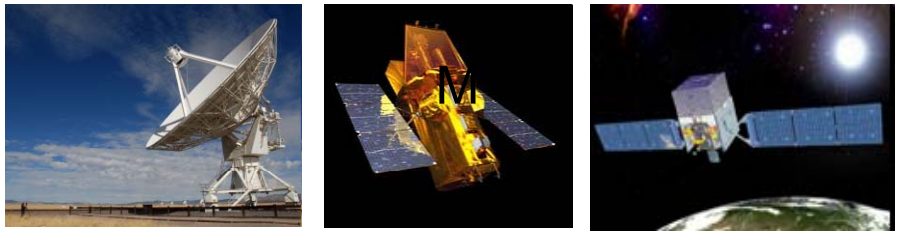
PHYSICS Motivations

- Origin of Cosmic Rays
  - energy balance of Galaxy
- Physics of compact objects
- Dark matter

ASTRONOMICAL Motivations

- New observational window ! (non-thermal Universe)
- High energy particle (e,p) accel.
  - shocks, stellar winds, jets, etc.

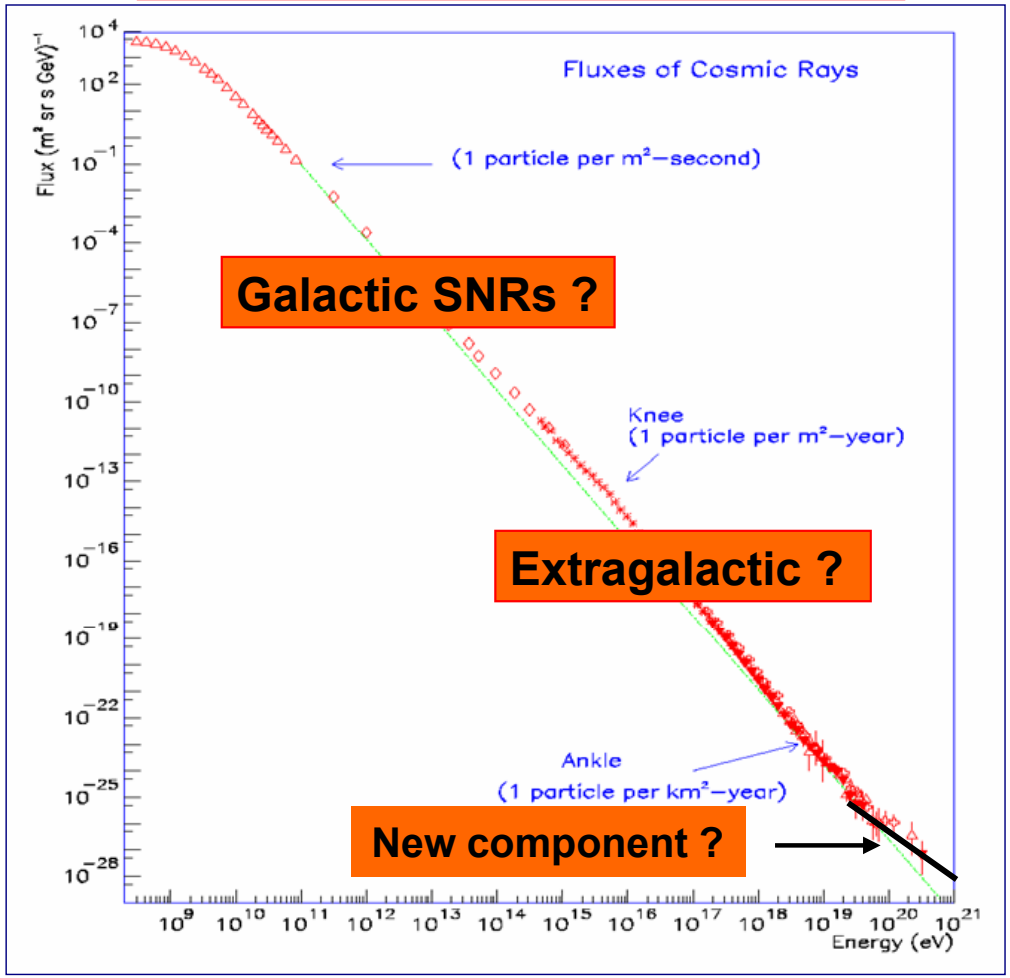
Multiwavelength Observations



Radio X-rays Fermi LAT

Origin of Cosmic Rays

Diffuse, all particle spectrum



S. Swordy

90 year old mystery !

- Enormous E range
- Mostly charged particles
- E density ~ 1 eV/cm^3

Neutral messengers:

γ, ν

are required to directly observe cosmic accelerators.

Variety of VHE Galactic Sources

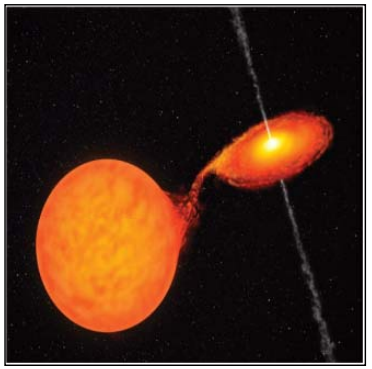
Pulsars
Pulsar Wind Nebulae

NS dynamo
Winds

Supernova Remnants

Shocks
Fermi mechanism

Binary systems

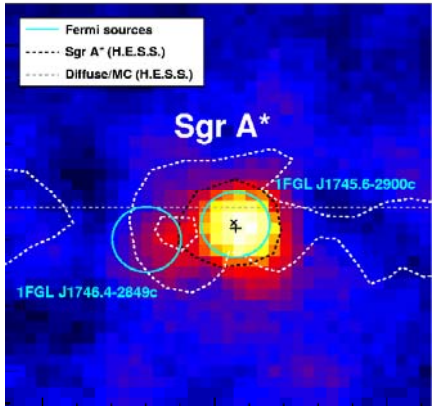


Accretion-powered jets,
Colliding winds, or …?

Star Forming Regions

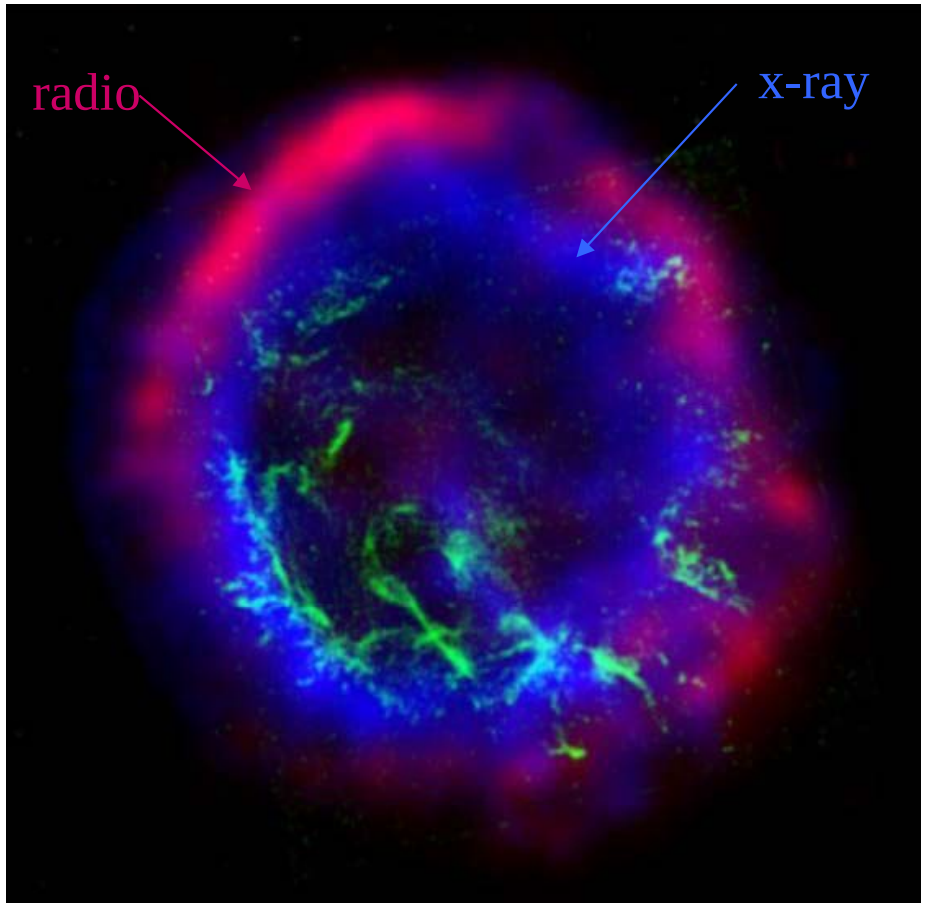
OB Assoc., WR stars
HII regions, molcular clouds

Un-Identifieds



???

Supernova Remnants (SNRs)



SNR E102

- Collapse of massive star or detonation of white dwarf.
- Outer layers ejected with $v \sim 3 \times 10^3$ km/s.
- Shell expands and shock front forms as it sweeps up material from ISM.
- Acceleration of particles via "canonical" Fermi process – or diffusive shock acceleration.
- In ~ 10^4 yrs, blast wave deccelerates and dissipates.
- Can supply and replenish CR's if ε ~ 5-10%.

Electrons or Protons ?

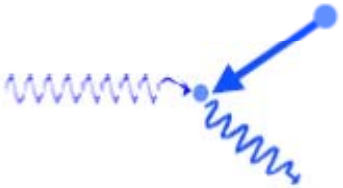
VHE γ-rays are:

- *Not deflected* by interstellar magnetic fields.
- *Tracers* of parent particle populations – those particles accelerated by shocks.

But both electrons and protons produce γ-rays.

Accelerated electrons
→ TeV γ-rays

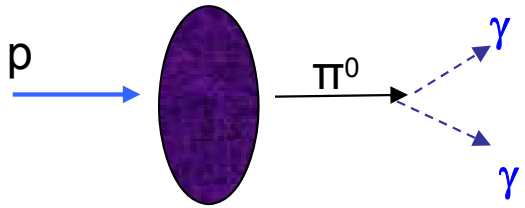
Up-scattering of soft photons



Inverse Compton Scattering

Accelerated protons
→ TeV γ-rays

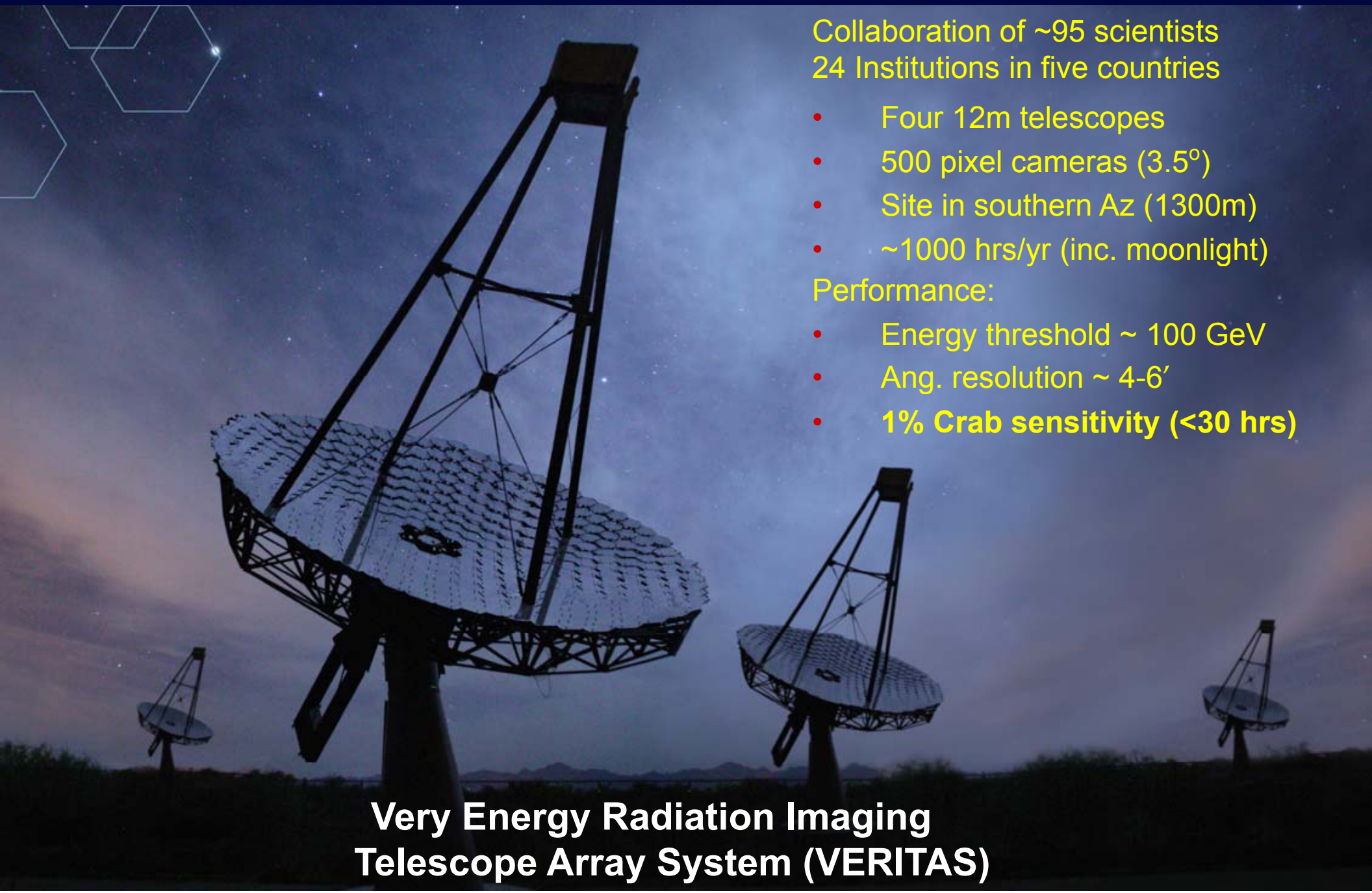
Target interaction, π^0 decay



π^o and target material

There is now good evidence for SNR acceleration of CRs, but the case is not yet ironclad.

VERITAS



Collaboration of ~95 scientists
24 Institutions in five countries

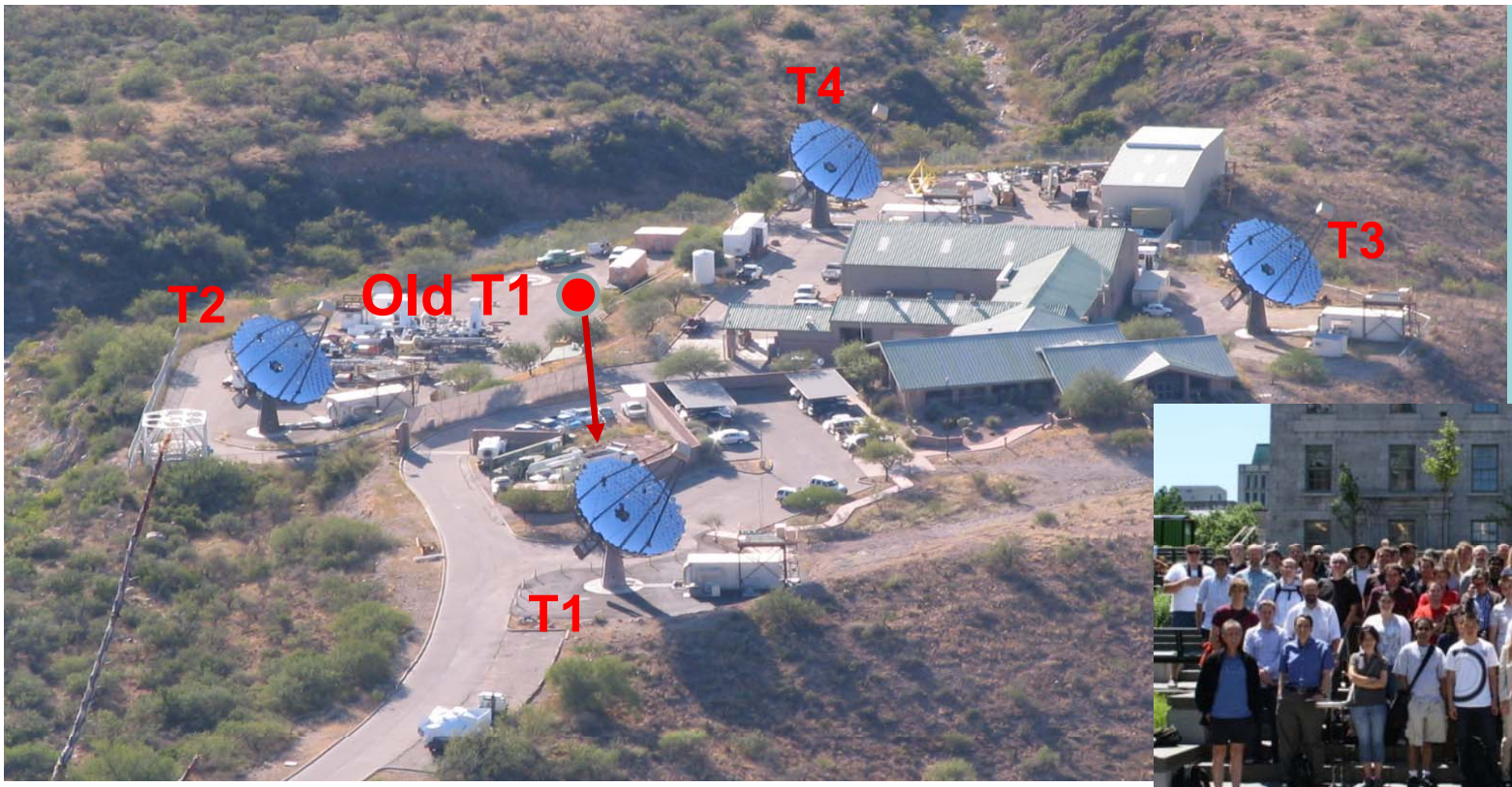
- Four 12m telescopes
- 500 pixel cameras (3.5^{o})
- Site in southern Az (1300m)
- ~1000 hrs/yr (inc. moonlight)

Performance:

- Energy threshold ~ 100 GeV
- Ang. resolution ~ 4-6′
- **1% Crab sensitivity (<30 hrs)**

Very Energy Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS)

VERITAS @ Mt Hopkins, AZ USA



Support from:

U.S. DOE
U.S. NSF
Smithsonian
STFC (U.K.)
NSERC (Canada)
SFI (Ireland)

Collaboration Mtg.
July 2011, McGill University

U.S.
Adler Planetarium
Argonne Nat. Lab
Barnard College
DePauw Univ.
Grinnell College
Iowa St. Univ.
Purdue Univ.
SAO
UCLA
UCSC
U. of Chicago
U. of Delaware
U. of Iowa
U, of Minnesota
U. of Utah
Washington U.

Canada
McGill Univ.

U.K.
Leeds Univ.

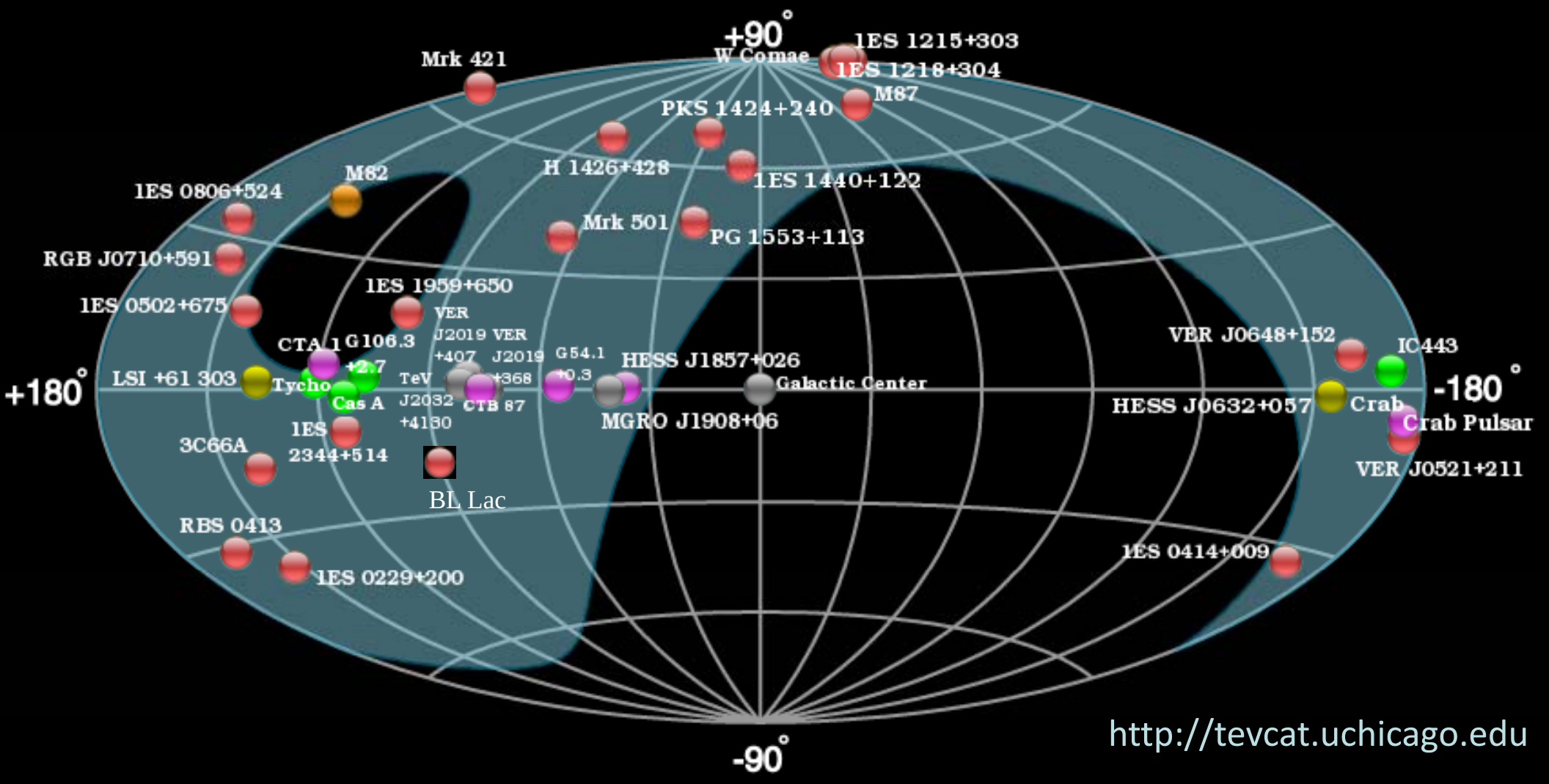
Ireland
Cork Inst. Tech.
Galway-Mayo Inst.
N.U.I. Galway
Univ. College Dublin

Non-Affiliated Members
DESY/Potsdam
Penn State U.

+ 35 Associate Members
Theorists, MWL partners, IceCube, Fermi, Swift, etc.

VERITAS Sky Map (2011)

40+ sources covering 8 source classes
At least 17 sources are likely Galactic (SNRs, PWNe, Binaries, Unids, Pulsars)

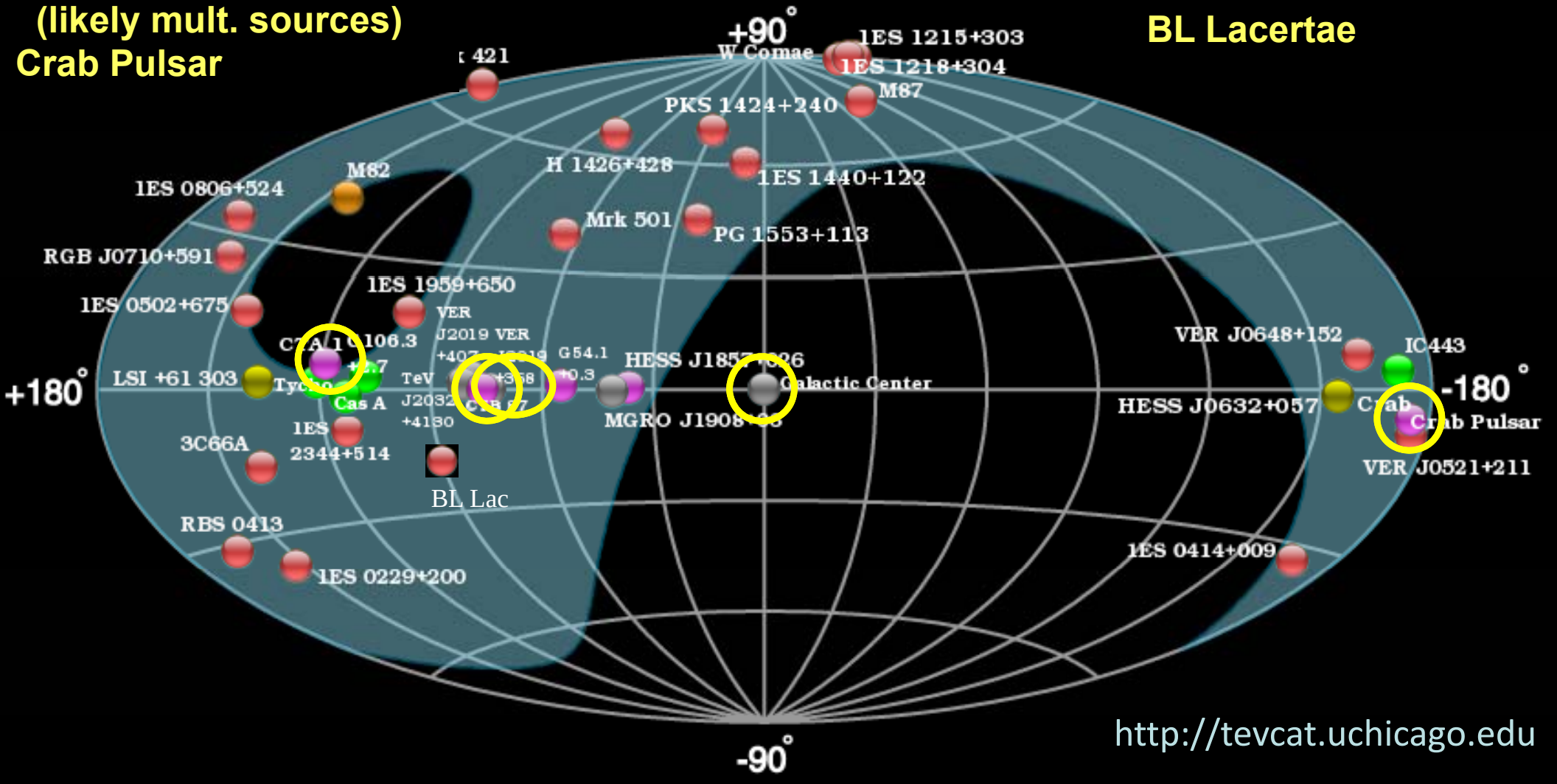


http://tevcat.uchicago.edu

VERITAS New Sources (2011)

CTA 1
VER J2016+372: CTB 87
Cygnus OB1 ext. region
(likely mult. sources)
Crab Pulsar

Other new Detections:
Galactic Center
H1426+428
BL Lacertae



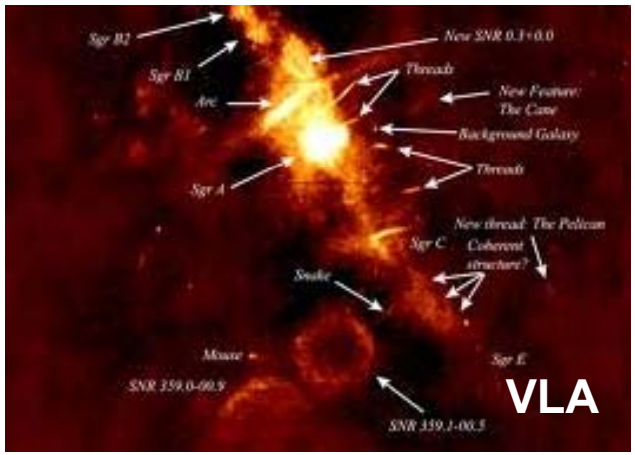
http://tevcat.uchicago.edu

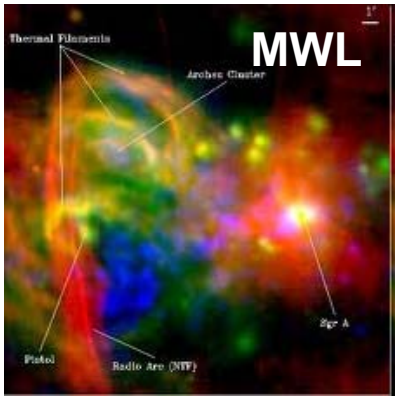
New VERITAS Results on Galactic VHE Sources

Galactic Center

Complex region:

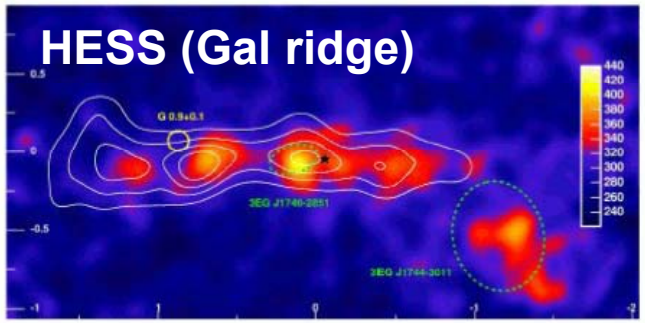
- Sgr A*, ~3x10^6 solar mass BH.
- Possible SNRs or PWN
  - increased level of CR density.
- Transients seen in X-rays, GeV γ-rays.
- Dark matter ?





GeV / TeV Observations:

- **EGRET**: strong source 3EG 1746-2851.
- **CANGAROO-II (2001/2):** 10% Crab, steep spect.
- **Whipple 10m (1995-2003, LZA)** : ~4σ evidence.
- **H.E.S.S. (2004-2006):** strong detection, hard spectrum E$^{-2.1}$ with cutoff ~15 TeV consistent with SGR A*; also diffuse emission.
- **MAGIC (2004-2005, LZA)**: 25h, 7.3σ, confirm H.E.S.S. spectrum.
- **Fermi-LAT:** Numerous sources in region.



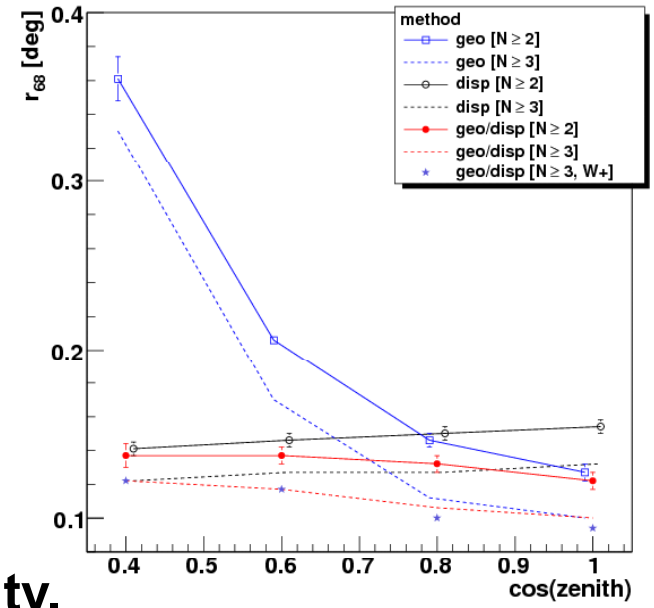
VERITAS LZA Observations

Large Zenith Angle (LZA) method:

- Large effective area at high energies.
- Increased E_{th} and poorer angular recon.

Displacement method (Lessard et al. 2001):

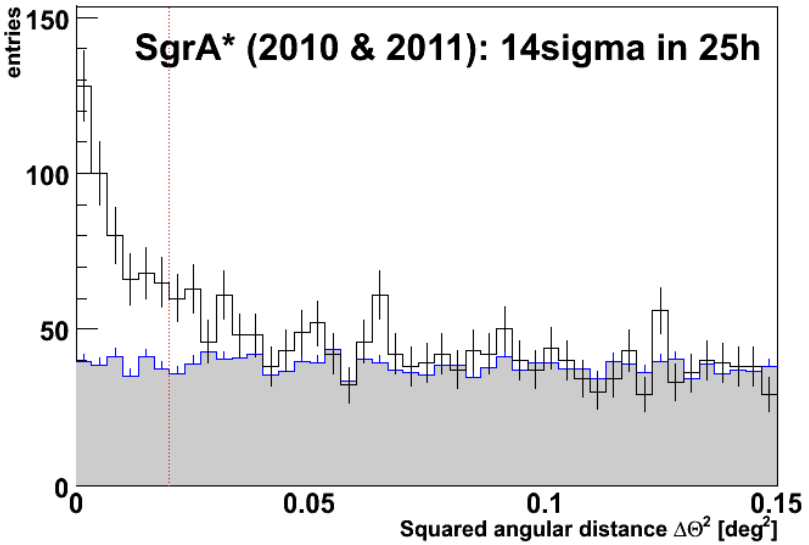
- Ang. distance between image centroid and source.
- Combine with standard geometric method.
- Test using LZA observations of Crab.
- **Significantly improved angular resolution/sensitivity.**



2010-11 Observations:

- 24.7 hrs, zenith ~65°, E > 2 TeV
- 14σ detection
- No evidence for variability

5σ detection possible in ~3h using LZA technique

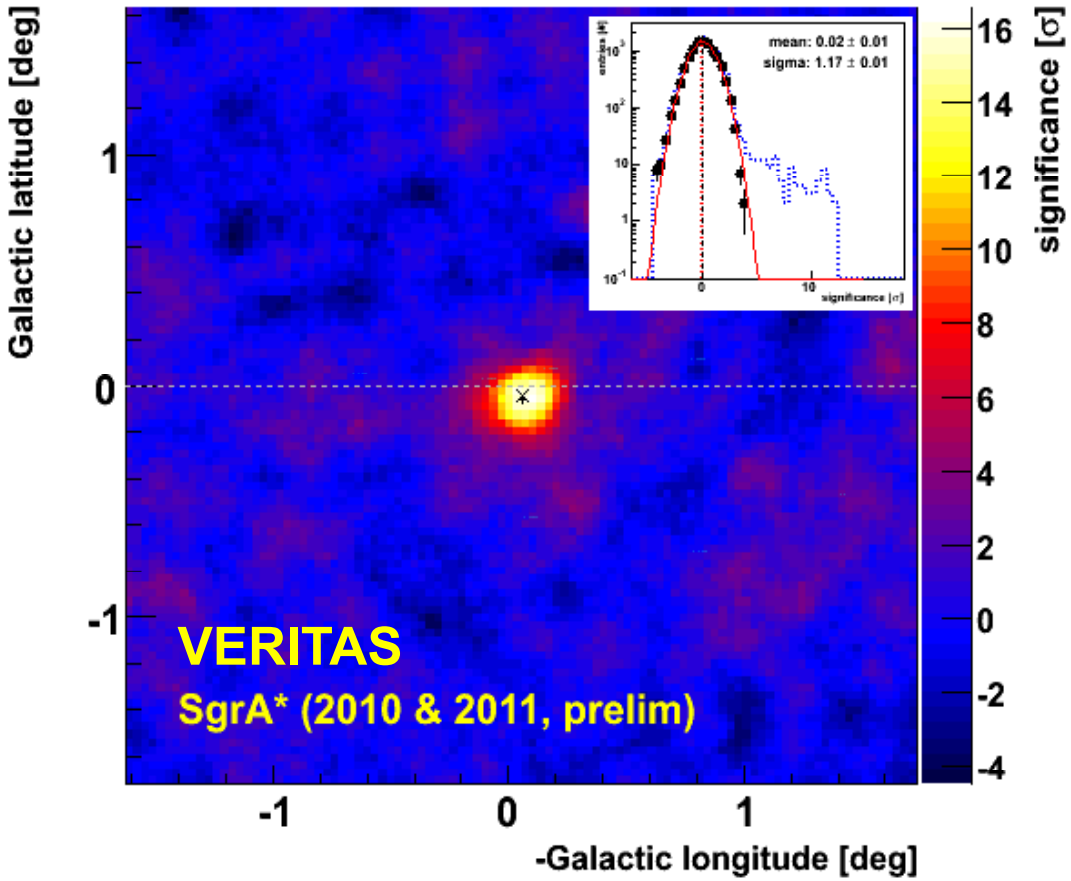


M. Beilicke et al., 3rd Fermi Symposium (2011)

VERITAS GC Observations

Sky map:

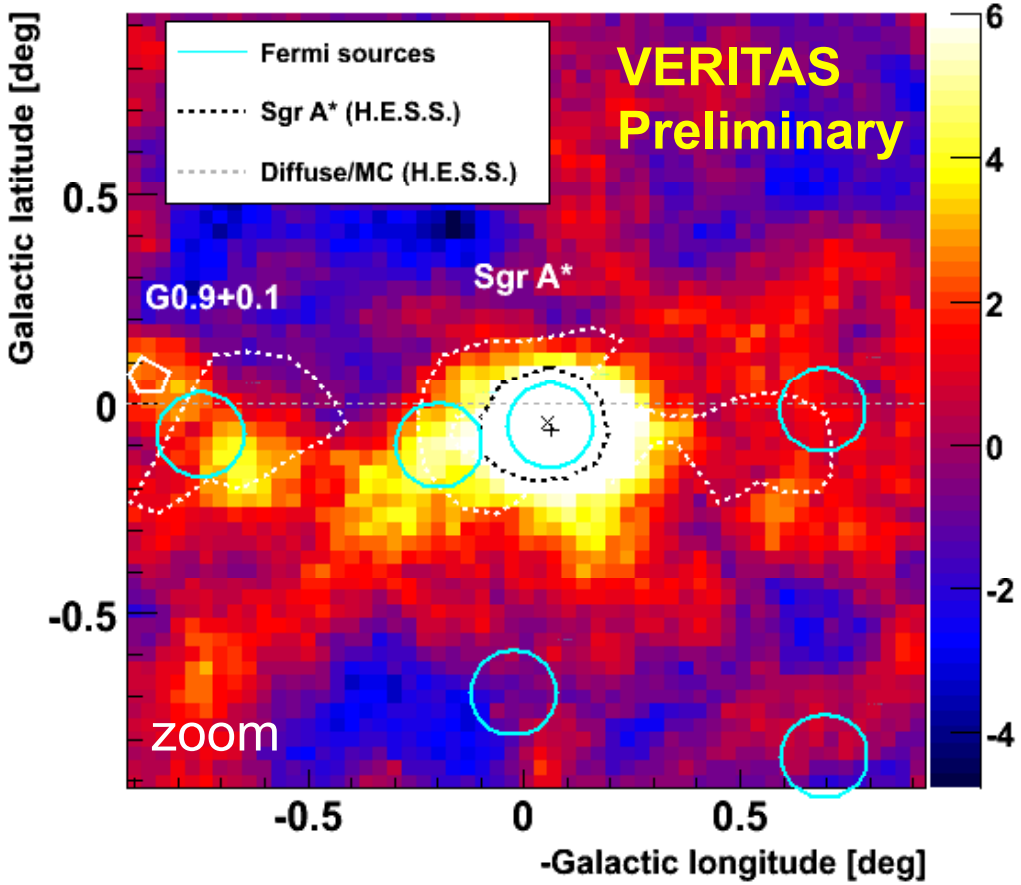
- Excess at GC, fit position:
  l =-0.06 ± 0.02; b = -0.06 ± 0.01
- Consistent with H.E.S.S. (overlay)



VERITAS GC Observations

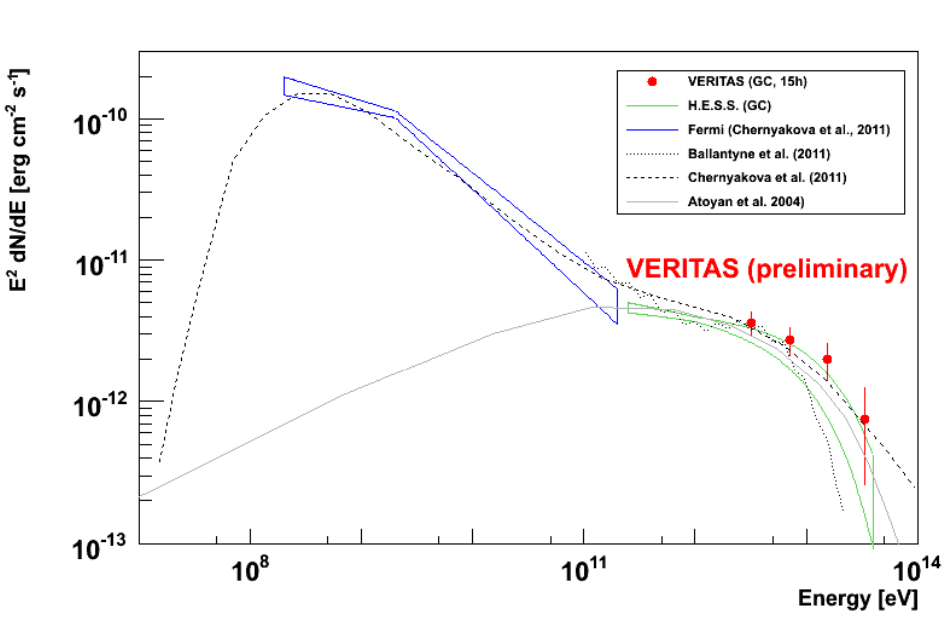
Sky map:

- Excess at GC, fit position:
  l =-0.06 ± 0.02; b = -0.06 ± 0.01
- Consistent with H.E.S.S. (overlay)



Spectrum (preliminary):

- Compatible with Whipple, H.E.S.S. and MAGIC.
- Conservative flux systematic ~40% (from Crab LZA).



Future:
Improved >10 TeV data (spectrum & variability) to constrain cut-off.

CTA 1: First Blind-Search Fermi Pulsar

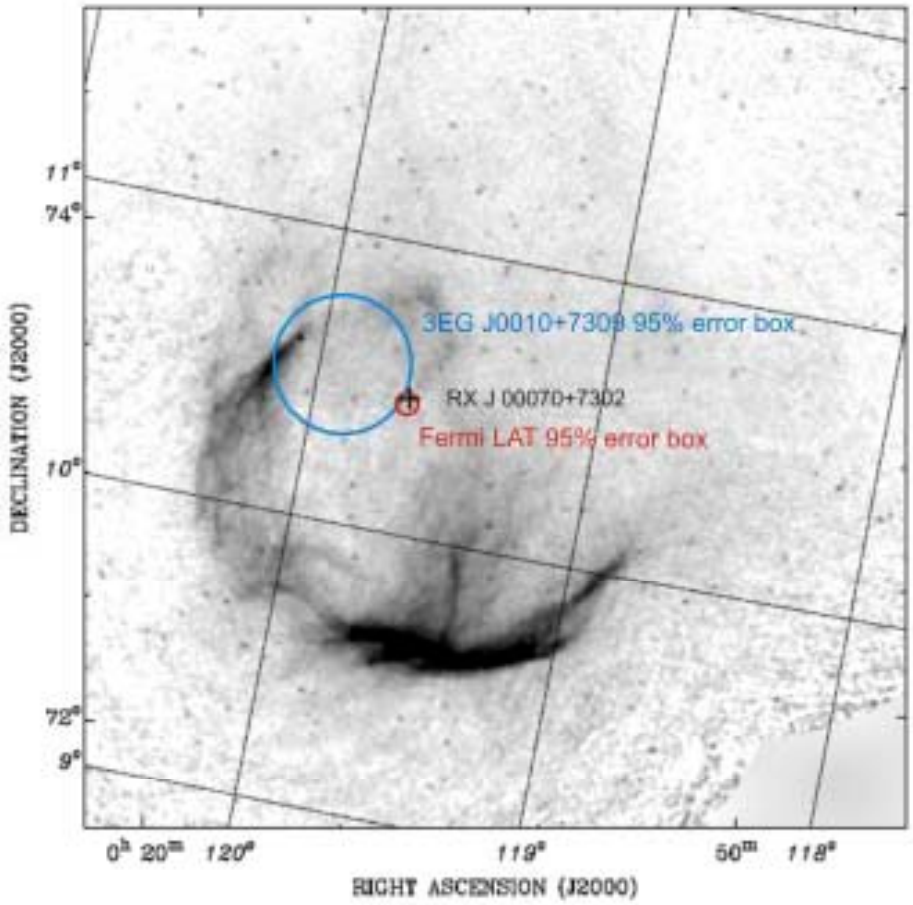
CTA 1:

- Composite SNR with an X-ray filled radio shell ~1.8^{o} diameter.
- Age ~ 13ky, D~ 1.4 ± 0.3 kpc .
- No known pulsar (before Fermi).

Fermi-LAT Observations (2008):

- Pulsar discovered in blind search in first four months of data – coincident with X-ray source, presumed PWN.
- Period = 316.9ms, E_{cutoff} ~ 5 GeV; characteristic pulsar age ~ SNR age.
- X-ray pulsar subsequently detected with Chandra (P. Caraveo et al. 2010).

A. Abdo et al., Science 322, 1218 (2008)



Fermi-LAT source (red), X-ray PWN), EGRET source (blue) and radio contours.

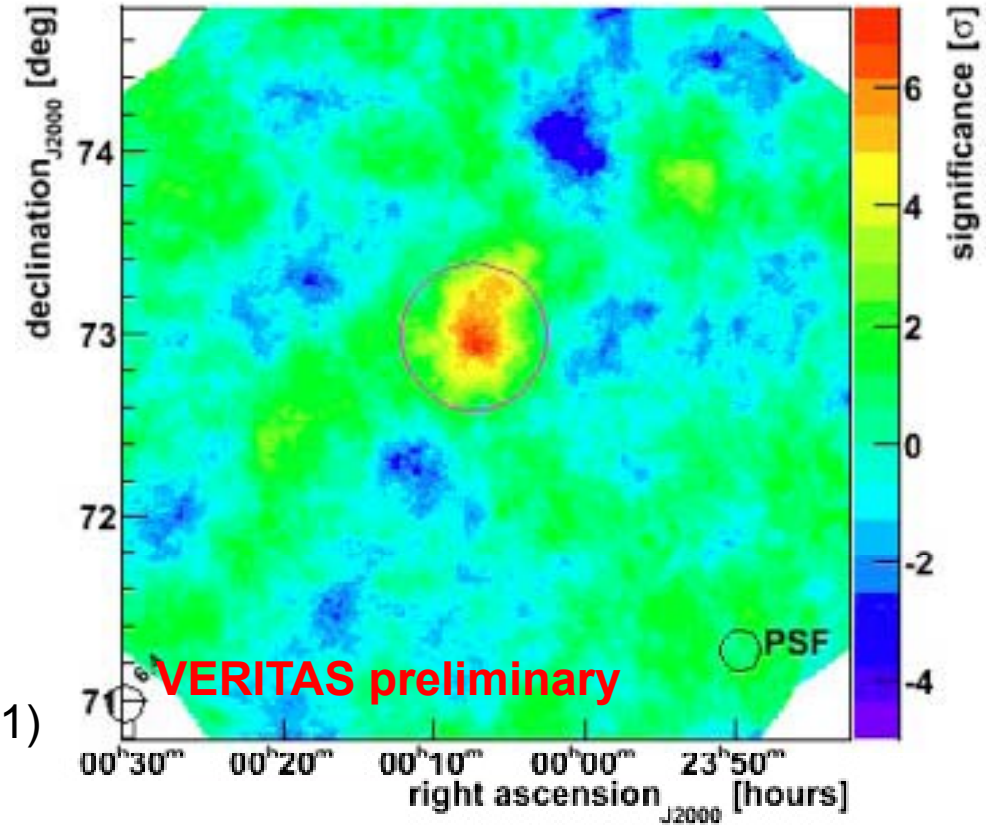
CTA 1: VERITAS Detection

VERITAS Observations:

- 26 hrs, Oct 2010-Jan 2011 at 0.7° wobble.
- Search region: circle of r=0.4°, tiled in 0.04° square sections; pt-source & ext cuts.
- Trials factor ~ 1300.

Detection:

- Significance ~6.3σ post-trials.
- F (> 1 TeV) ~ 4% Crab Nebula.
- Clearly extended source.



S. McArthur et al.
3rd Fermi Symposium (2011)

CTA 1: VERITAS Detection

VERITAS Observations:

- 26 hrs, Oct 2010-Jan 2011 at 0.7° wobble.
- Search region: circle of r=0.4°, tiled in 0.04° square sections; pt-source & ext cuts.
- Trials factor ~ 1300.

Detection:

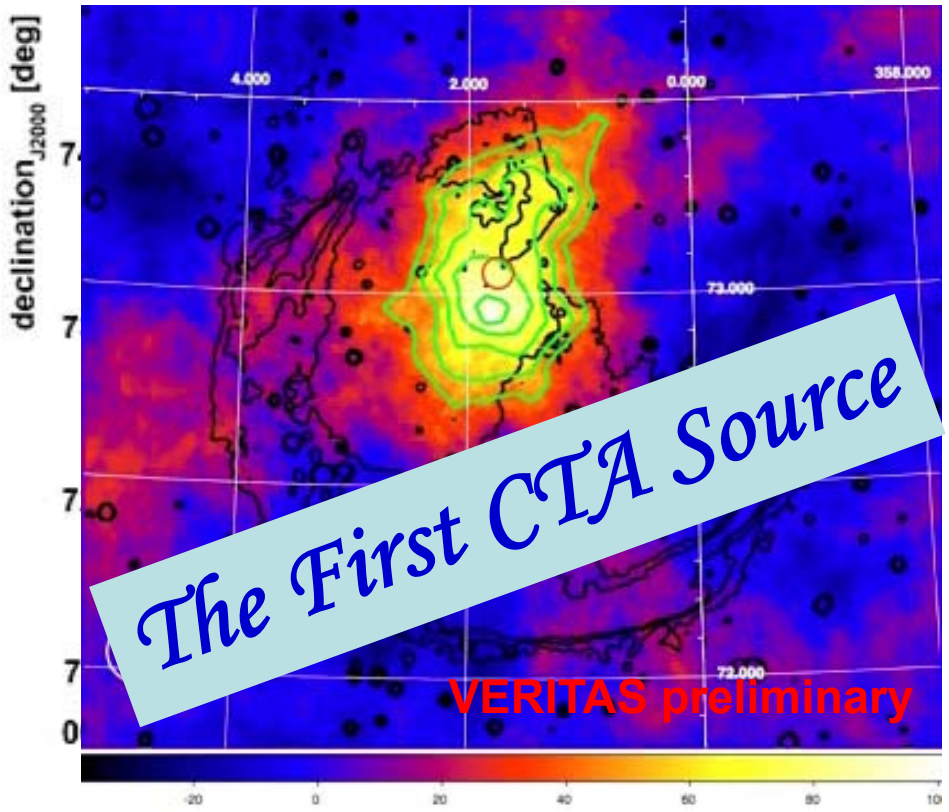
- Significance ~6.3σ post-trials.
- F (> 1 TeV) ~ 4% Crab Nebula.
- Clearly extended source.

MWL Picture:

- VERITAS emission surrounds the Fermi-LAT pulsar.
- Properties of CTA 1 in middle range of known TeV/X-ray PWN.

Good evidence that CTA 1 is a PWN (new indications from Fermi-LAT too)

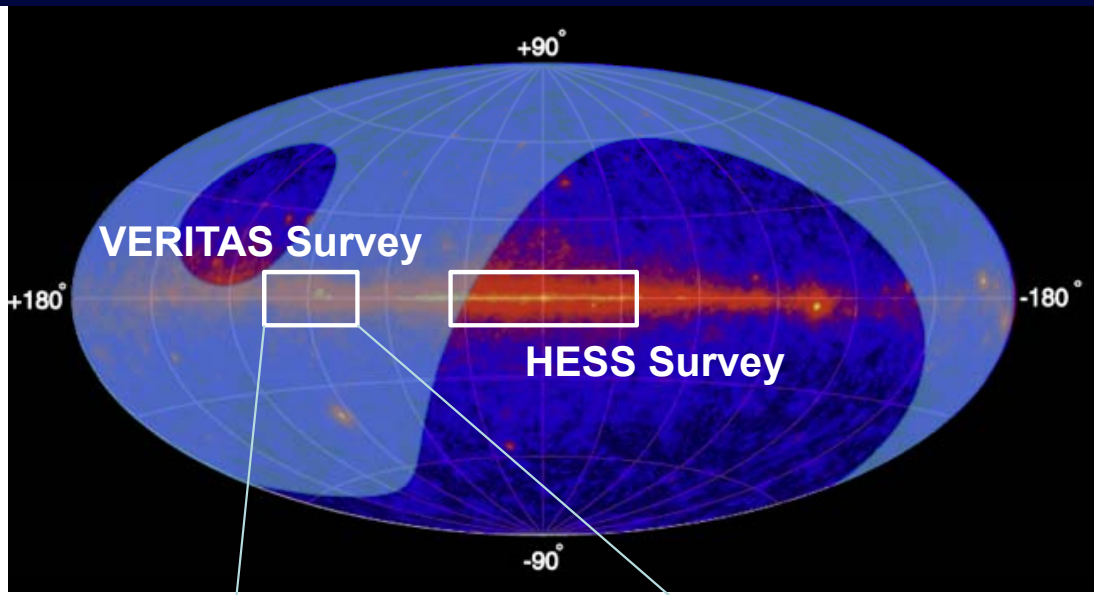
Color: VERITAS excess map with green contours from 3-7σ.
Black: Radio 1420 MHz (T. Landecker).
Red: Fermi-LAT error circle.



VERITAS Cygnus Sky Survey

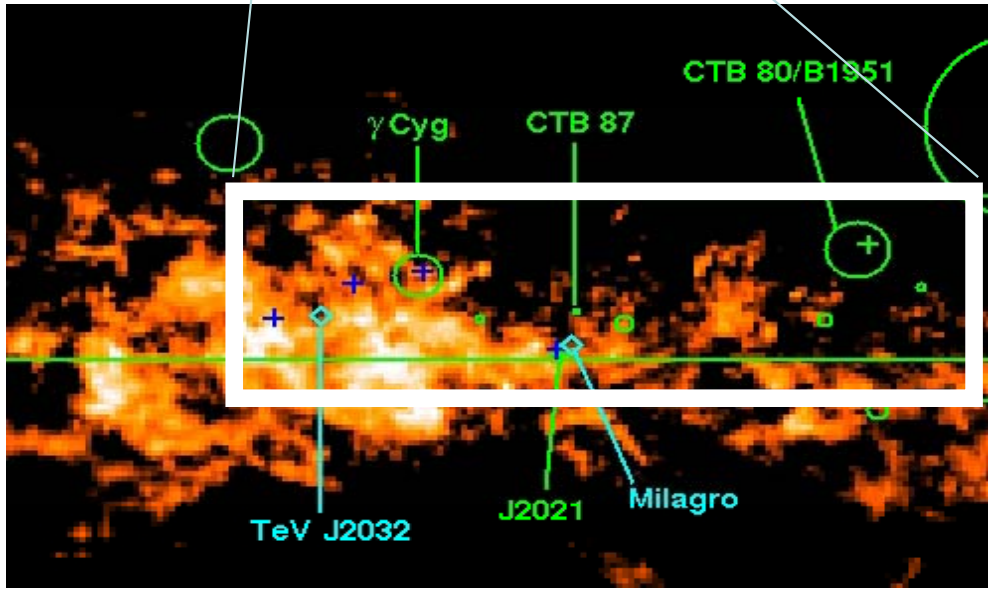
VHE Sky Surveys:

- **HEGRA (97-02):** North, ~25% Crab.
- **HESS (03-04):** South, ~3% Crab. and extended (05-08).
- **Milagro (01-07):** North, ~35% Crab at E > 10 TeV.

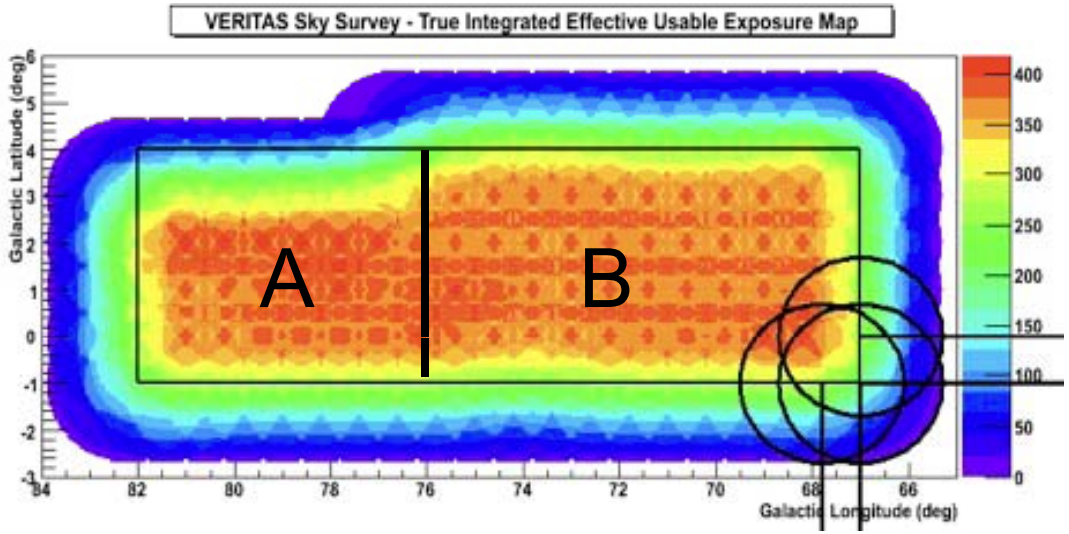


VERITAS Sky Survey (07-09):

- N. Hemisphere – Cygnus arm.
- 115h + 55h follow-up; done before improvements to sensitivity.
- ~3% Crab (99%) for E > 200 GeV.



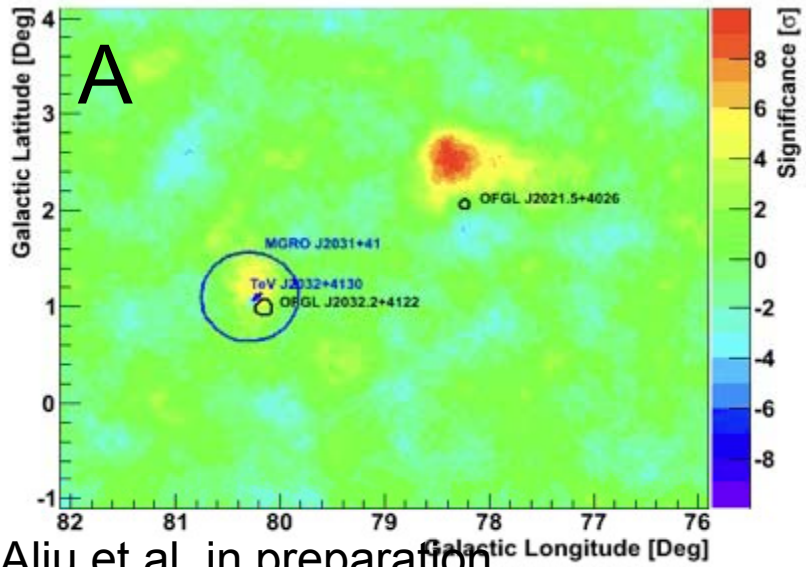
VERITAS Cygnus Sky Survey



Survey exposure map

- Survey done by pointings spaced by 0.8° in l and 1.2° in b.
- Overall scope limited by summer and weather conditions.

Left side region (2010)



E. Aliu et al. in preparation

TeV J2032+4130

- First UnID TeV source

VER J2019+407

- New source near γ-Cygni.
- SNR interaction with HI shell ?

Now, discuss some results from region B.

VERITAS Observations of Cygnus OB1

Observations and Analysis:

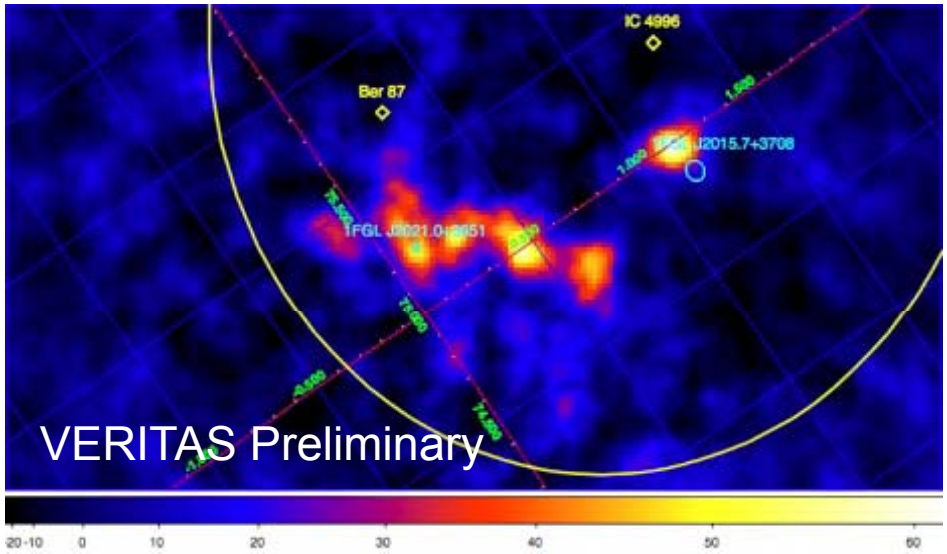
- 75h, May-Dec 2010.
- 0.7^{o} wobble around PSR J2021+3651.
- Pt-source and extended search (0.25^{o}).
- Hard cuts, E_{th} ~ 600 GeV.

Results:

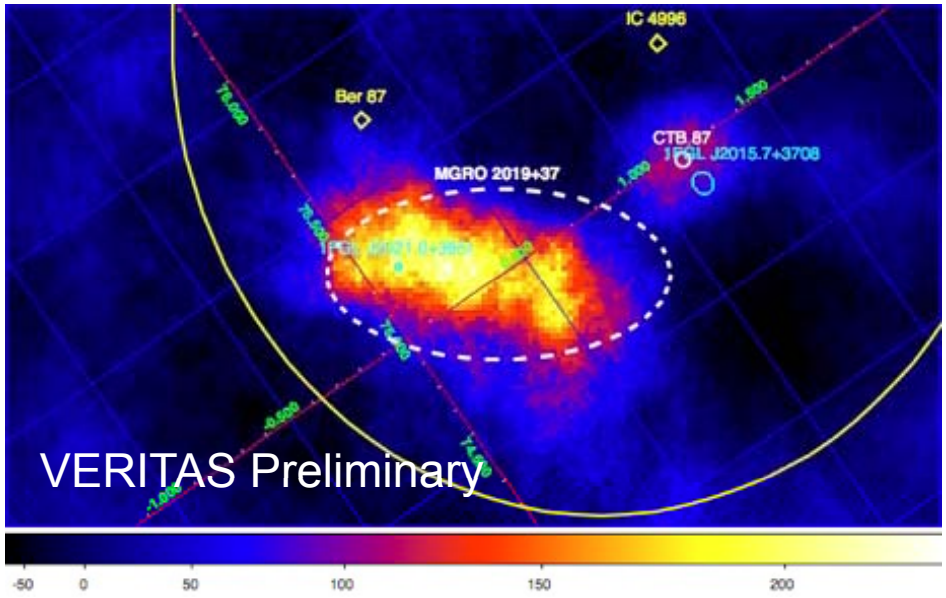
- Point source and extended source both detected above 6σ, post-trials.
- The extended source is a complex region, most likely made up of multiple sources.

E. Aliu et al.,
3rd Fermi Symposium (2011)

Pt-source



Extended source

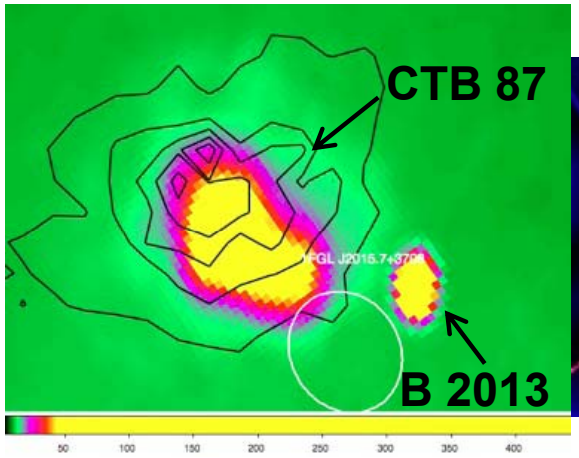


VER J2016+372 and Cisne

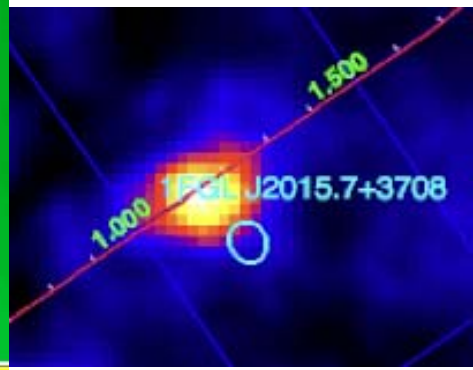
VER J2016+372:

- Consistent with CTB 87 (PWN candidate).
- At edge of B 2013+379 (blazar).
- 1FGL J2015.7+3708 most consistent with blazar (variability seen).
- VERITAS source is likely a new TeV PWN, not seen at GeV energies.

CGPS (1420 MHz)
VERITAS 3σ to 7σ contours

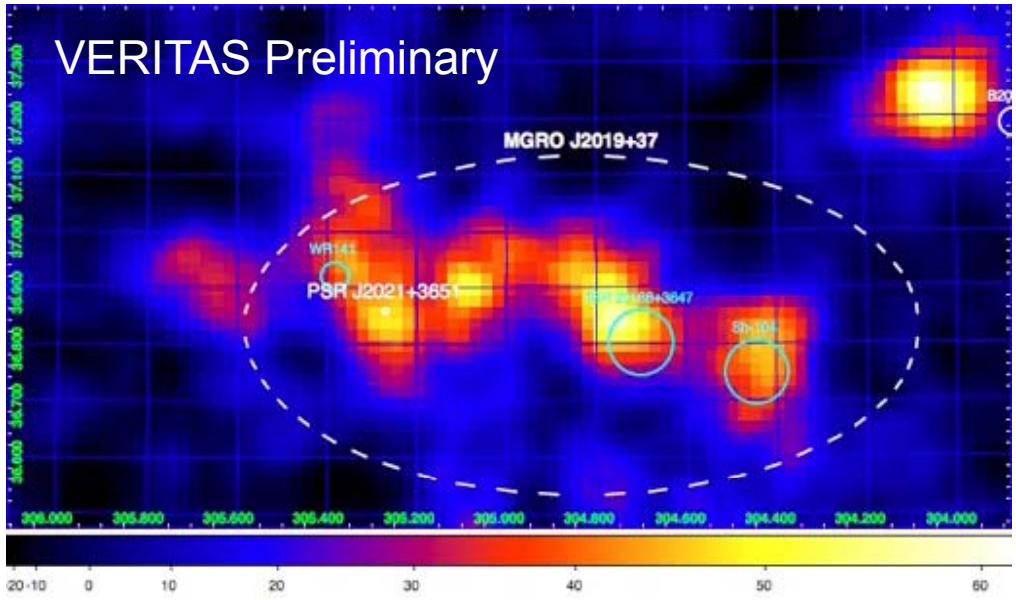


VERITAS Emission &
1FGL J2015.7+3708



Cisne:

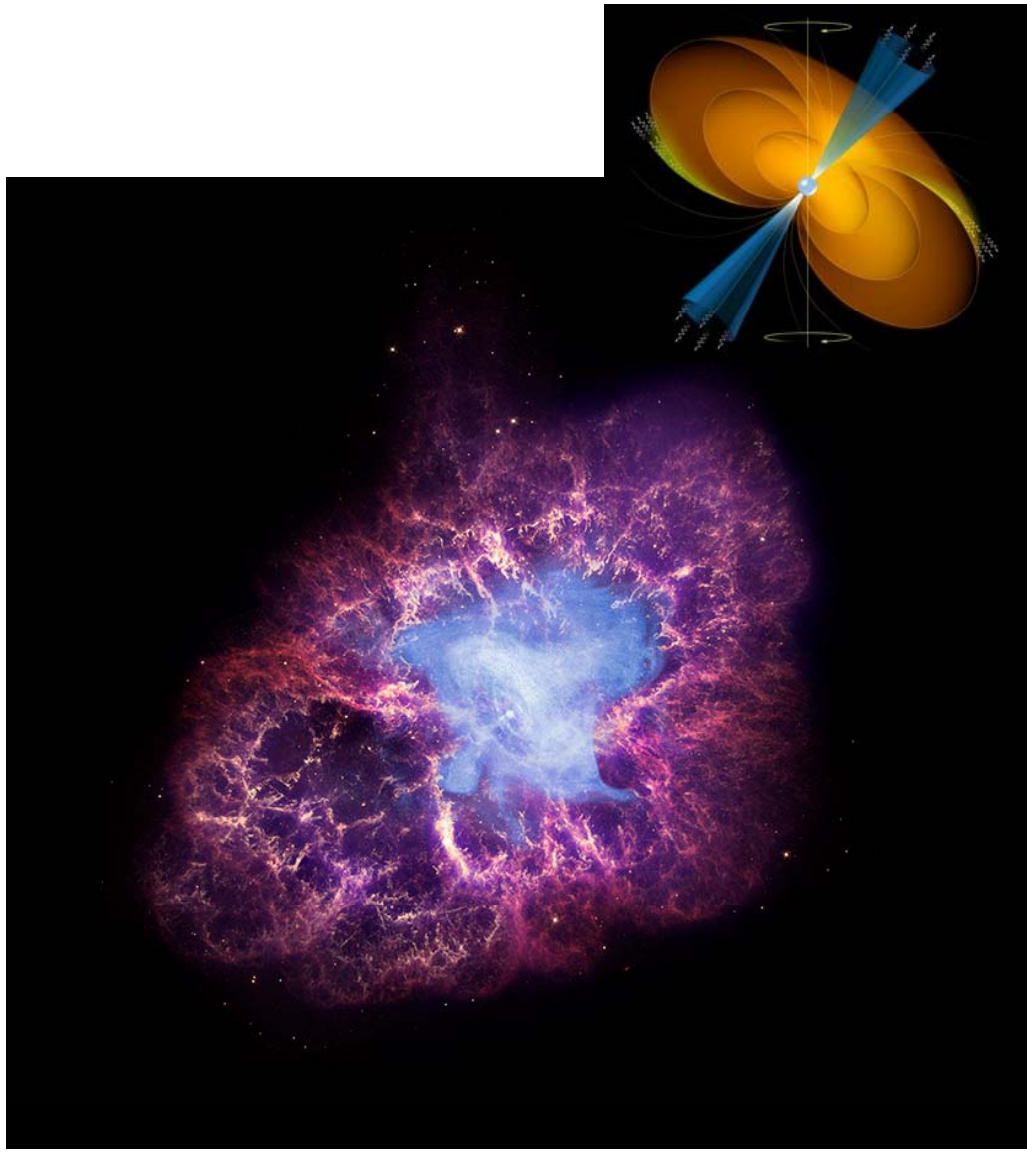
- VERITAS data consistent with MGRO J2019+37, but reveals more detail.
- Most likely multiple (possibly extended) sources.
- Need more VHE and lower energy data; Fermi-LAT analysis to be presented at ICRC 2011 (Beijing).



Crab

Crab Nebula and Pulsar

- Remnant from historical SN in 1054.
- One of the most energetic pulsars and brightest γ–ray pulsars.
- Nebula is the brightest, steady VHE source.



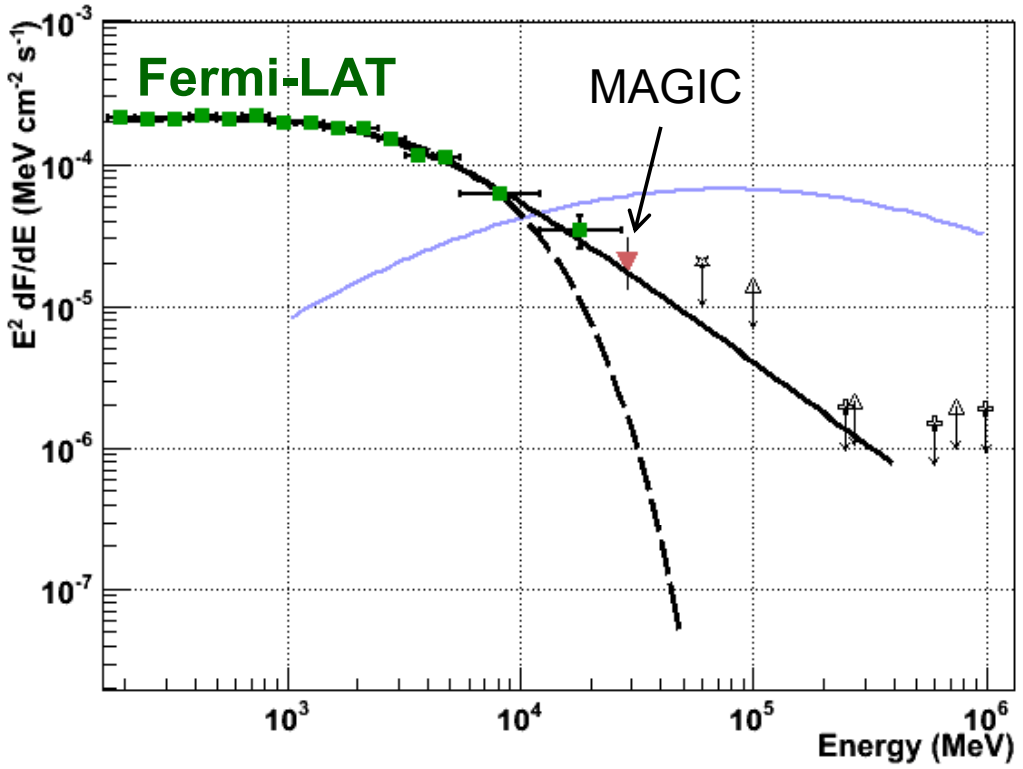
γ-ray observations of Pulsar

- **Fermi-LAT (first EGRET):** exquisite measurements around spectral break near few GeV.
- **MAGIC:** detection at 25 GeV and hint at 60 GeV.
- Numerous, constraining limits from **many VHE experiments**.
- 30-year effort to detect at VHE.

Crab Pulsar at HE and VHE

MAGIC Result at 25 GeV
(Aliu et al., 2008)

- Special trigger to lower E_{th}.
- Similar pulse profile to EGRET.
- Exponential E_{cutoff} ~ 18 GeV.
- Rule out polar cap model.



Conventional view:

- Spectral break is described by exponential cut off; i.e. there is a single component.
- Curvature radiation – most-favored γ-ray production mechanism.
- Emission come from outer regions >6 stellar radii. Outer-gap or slot-gap models favored.

VERITAS Observations & Analysis

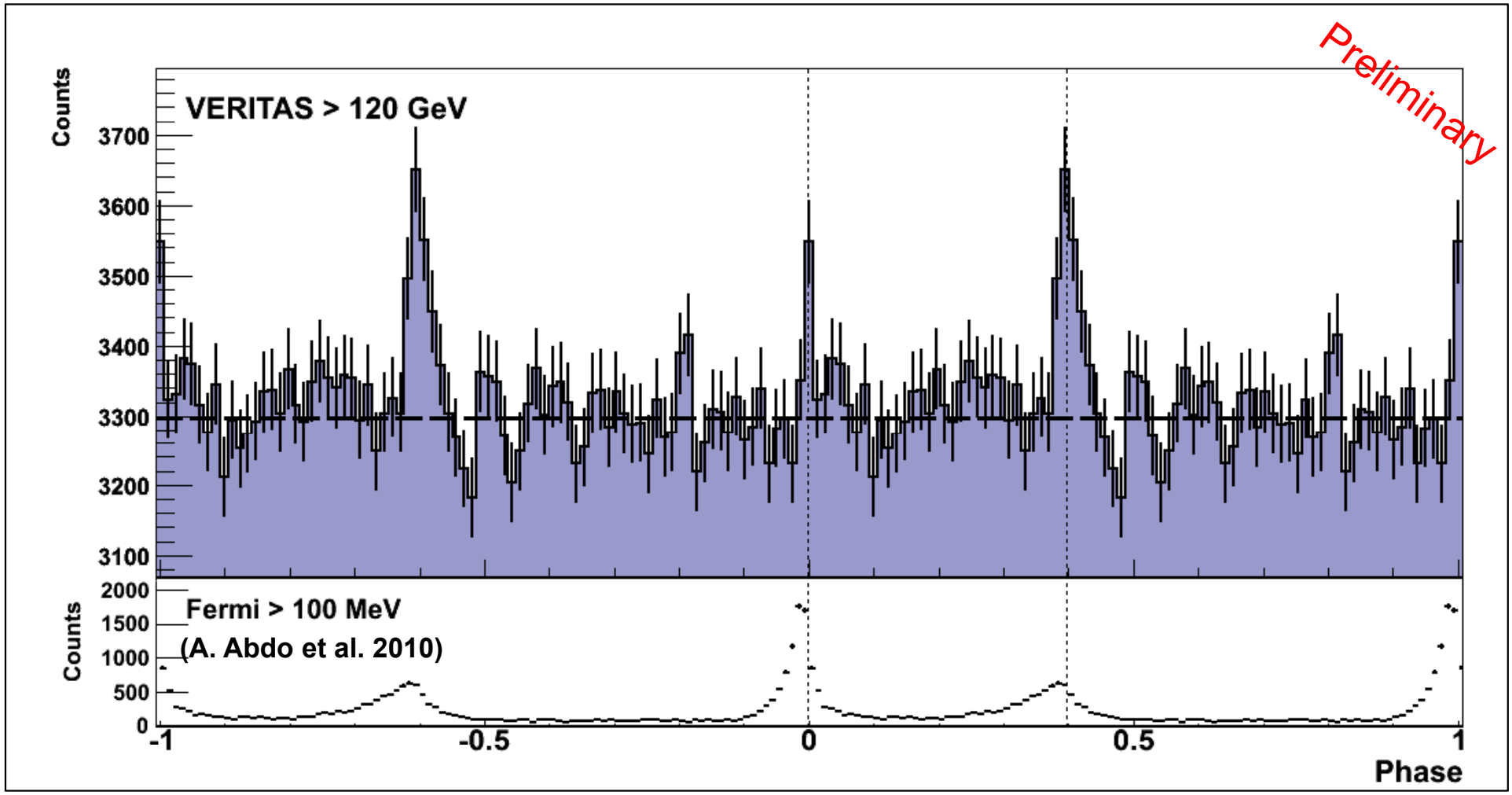
VERITAS Observations:

- Total of 107h of data (2007-09: 45h, 2010: 62 h), taken with 4 telescopes.
- Wobble with 0.5^{o} offset.
- Zenith angle < 25^{o}.
- Event times from four independent GPS receivers (1 μs accuracy).

Analysis:

- Standard trigger, standard analysis tools (two independent packages).
- Hillas image analysis with stereo reconstruction.
- Analysis selection set *a priori* for weak (few % Crab Nebula) source with soft spectrum, Γ = 4.
- Event time barycentering with two custom codes and tempo2.
- Phase folding of data using Jodrell Bank empherides.

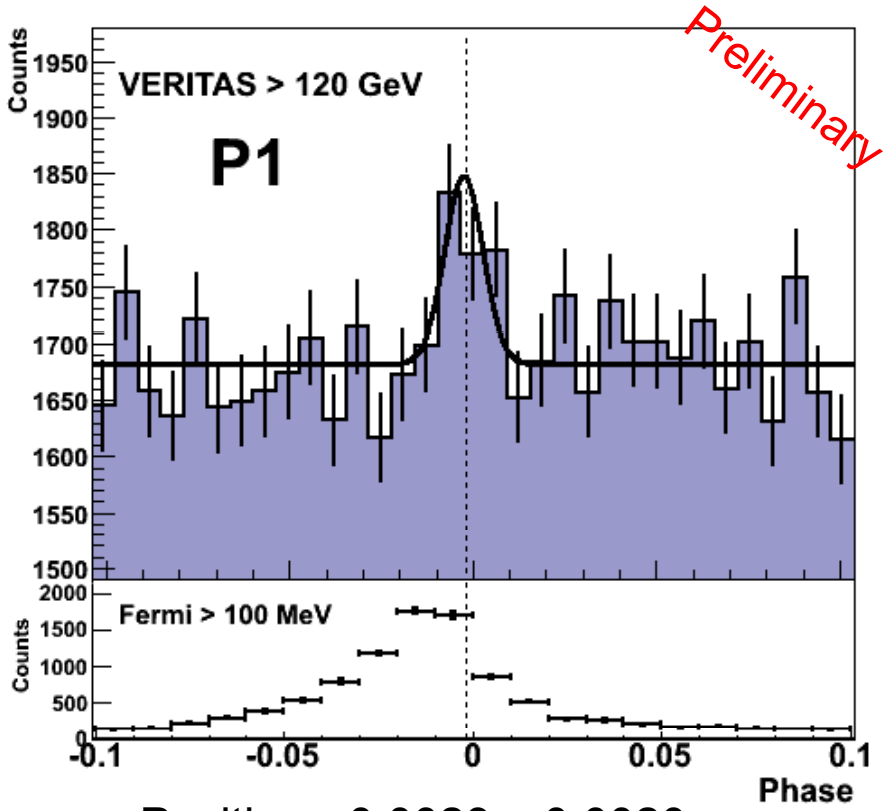
VERITAS Pulsed Signal



Statistical significance of pulsed signal:
H-Test value of 50, i.e. 6.0σ.

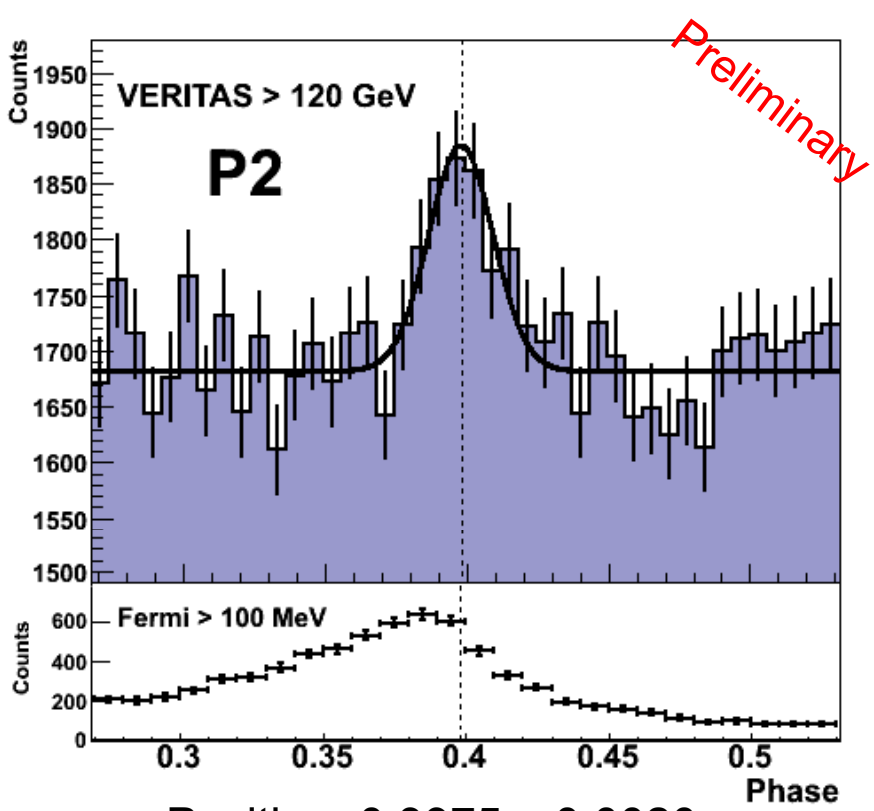
E. Aliu et al.,
submitted to Science (2011)

A Closer Look at the Peaks



Position: -0.0023 ± 0.0020

Width: 0.0132 ± 0.0035 FWHM



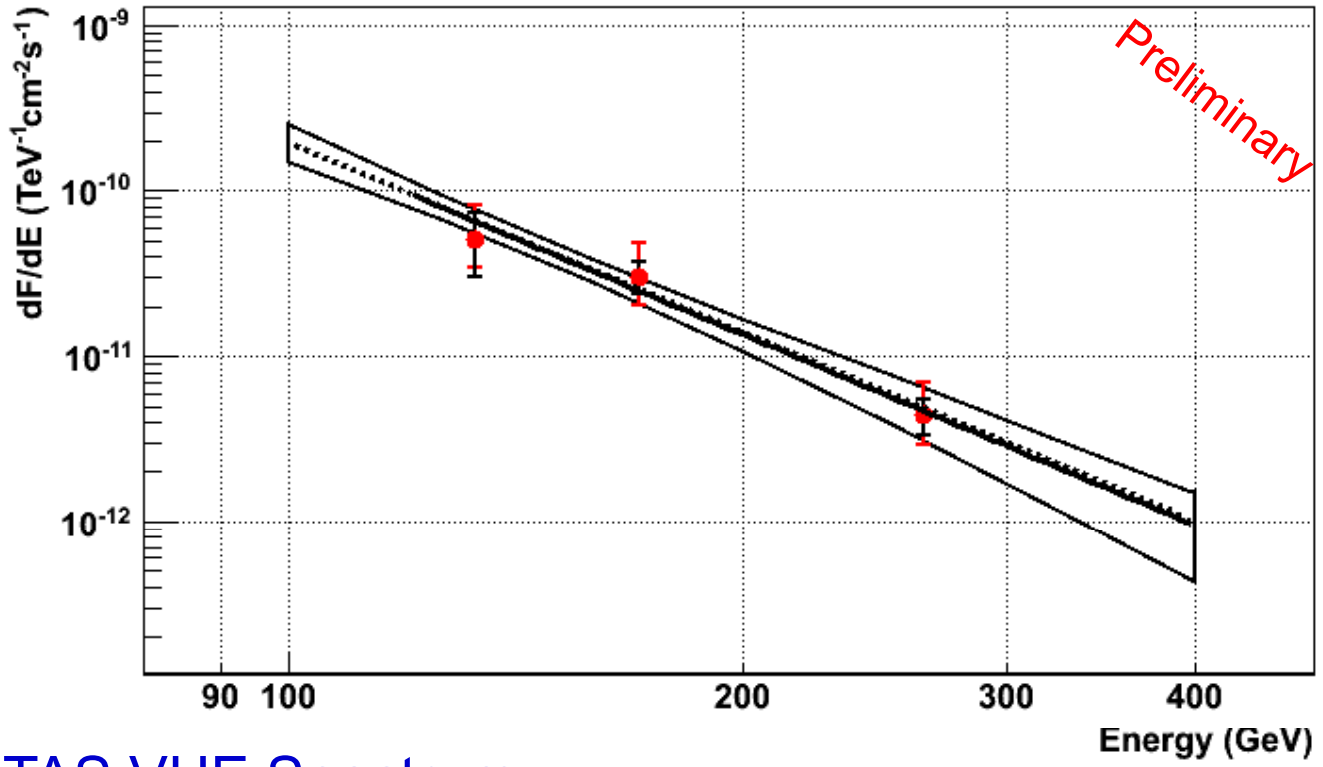
Position: 0.3975 ± 0.0020

Width: 0.0268 ± 0.0052 FWHM

Peak positions **aligned with peak positions in radio.** The shift with respect to Fermi-LAT data is an analysis effect

Pulses above 120 GeV **2-3 times narrower than in Fermi-LAT data** → possible interpretation: the acceleration zone tapers

VHE Spectrum of Crab Pulsar



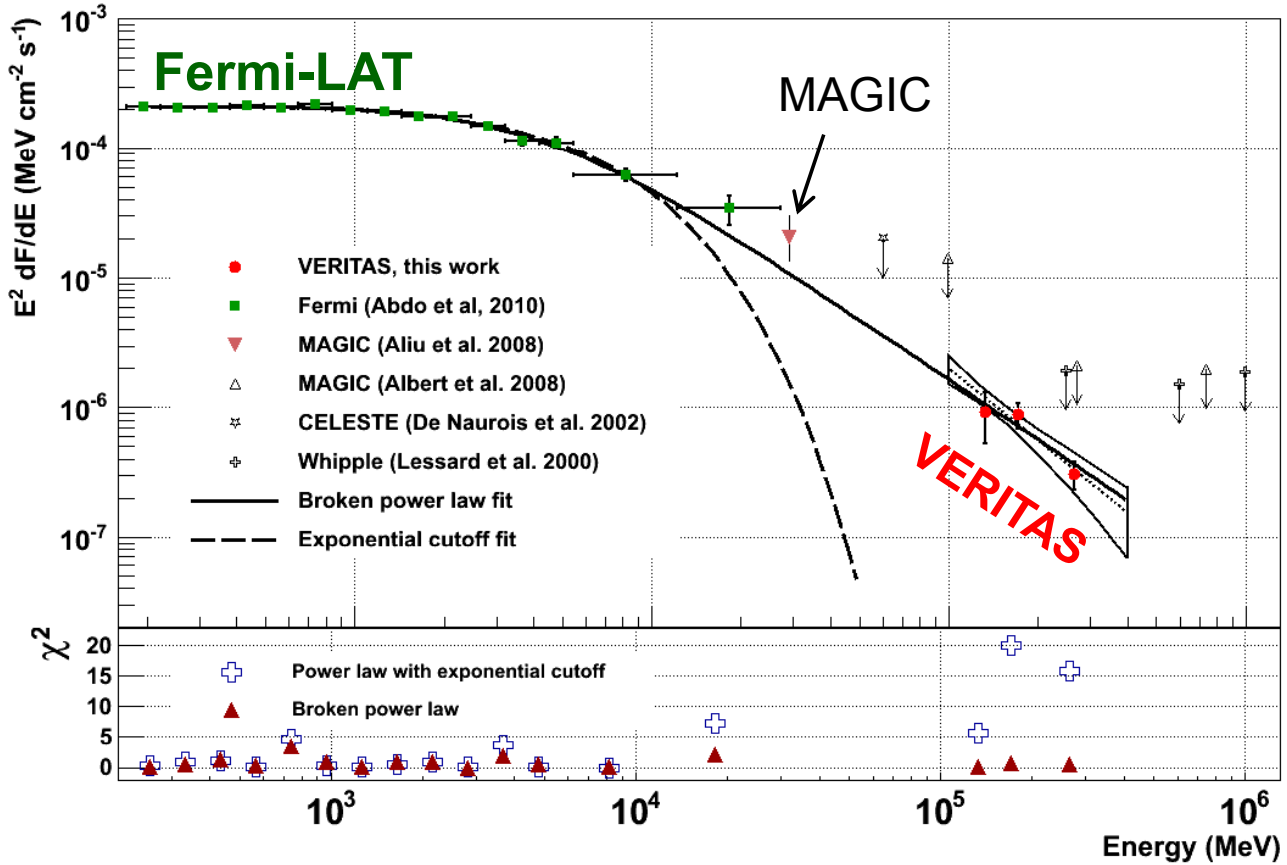
E. Aliu et al., submitted to Science (2011)

VERITAS VHE Spectrum:

- Combine P1 and P2 regions – good approx.of phase-averaged spectrum.
- Highest energy point at 280 GeV.
- Crab Pulsar ~ 1% Nebula flux at 150 GeV.
- **Power-law form !**

$$dN/dE = A(E/150\ \text{GeV})^{\alpha} \quad \text{for } \alpha = -3.8 \pm 0.5_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.2_{\text{syst}}$$

The New Picture of the Crab Pulsar



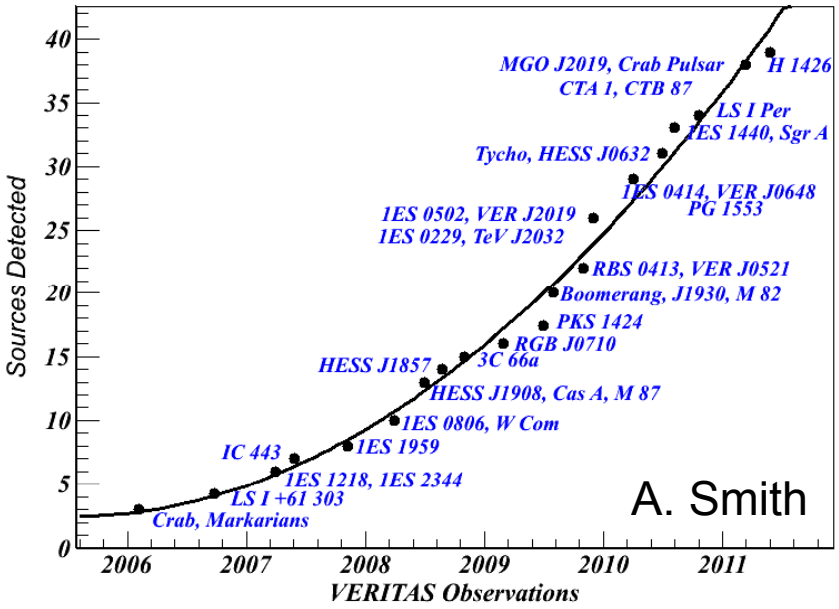
- **First detection of a pulsar above 100 GeV.**
- VERITAS detection @ 280 GeV → emission region > 10 stellar radii.
- Detection above 100 GeV → curvature radiation unlikely to be dominant mech.
- Narrowing of pulses → tapered acceleration region ?
- What other pulsars are out there at E > 100 GeV ?

Future Prospects: VERITAS Upgrade

VERITAS in 2011:

- Operating smoothly in excellent sensitivity and science output.
- With excitement of field (and power of Fermi), we want to improve sensitivity – especially at ~100 GeV.

VERITAS Detections vs time



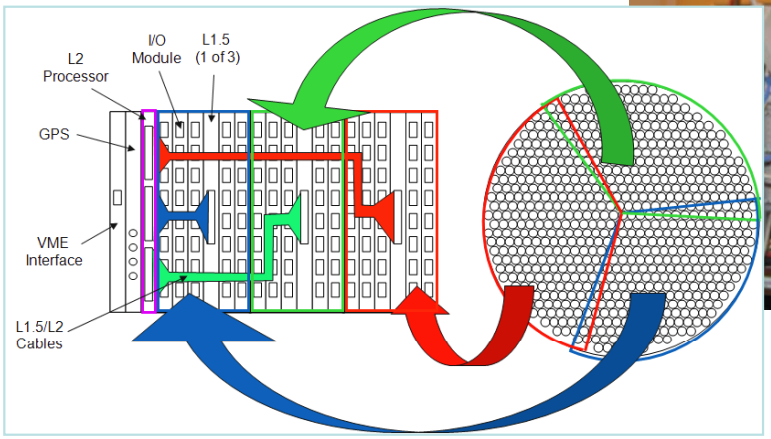
VERITAS UPGRADE (2009-2012):

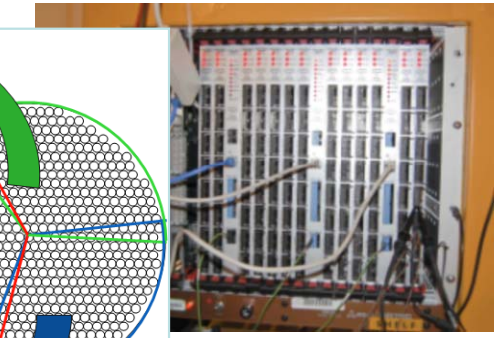
1. Improved optical point spread function ← completed
2. Relocating telescope T1 ← completed
3. Upgrading cameras with high efficiency PMTs ← ongoing
4. New trigger system ← ongoing
5. An additional telescope T5 ← possible in the future

VERITAS Trigger & PMT Upgrade

Trigger upgrade (2009-2011):

- Camera trigger processing done by special (L1.5) FPGA-trigger cards.
- L2 processor combines L1.5 signals.
- Deployed June-Sept 2011.

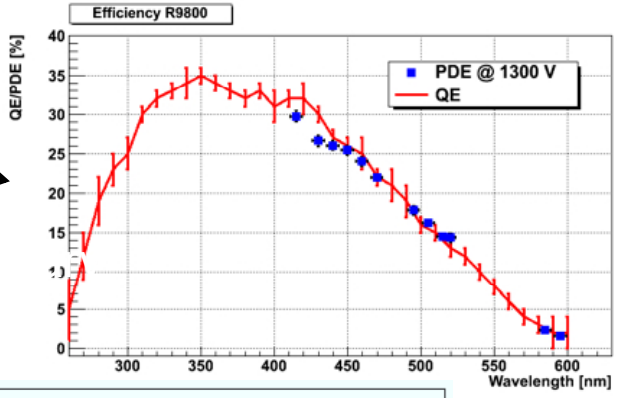




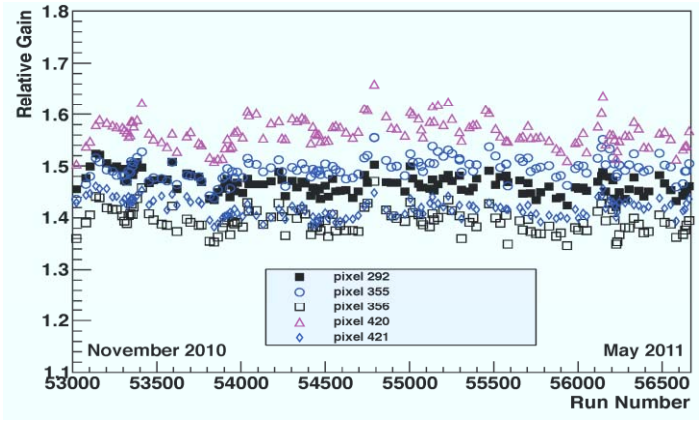
Camera upgrade (2010-2012):

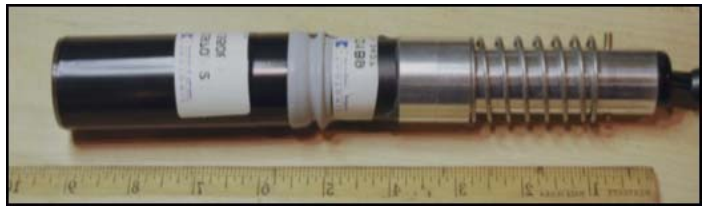
- Replace all PMTs with HQE ones (Hamamatsu R9800 SBA); new mount tube and pre-amp.
- Improve sensitivity and lower E threshold (120 GeV→ 80 GeV) .
- Installed Summer 2012.

Measured QE/PDE (50% increase)



PMT stability (*in situ*)





Summary

Lots of new results from VERITAS:

- Galactic Center: competitive observations possible using LZA technique.
- SNRs: we detect young shell-type SNRs directly and older ones through interaction with material. **Tycho** is a relatively clean system that supports hadronic acceleration picture.
- **CTA 1**: VHE discovery by VERITAS; indicates a likely PWN.
- Cygnus Region: new sources: **VER J2019+407** (γ-cygni, OB2) and – **VER J2016+372** (CTB 87, OB1) neither seen (yet) by Fermi-LAT. **MGRO J2019** is complex object likely containing multiple sources.
- **Crab Pulsar**: detected for first time above 100 GeV. Pulse profile is different than at lower energies – new understanding of pulsars needed !
- VERITAS operates very well and will further improve with upgrade (2012).