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VERITAS: Observatory Status and Recent Highlights

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Abstract: The VERITAS array of 12-m atmospheric-Cherenkov telescopes began full-scale operations in 2007, and is one of the worlds most sensitive detectors of astrophysical VHE (E ¿ 100 GeV) gamma rays. The Arizona-based experiment continues to perform well and VERITAS observations have resulted in the detections of more than 40 VHE gamma-ray sources. These emitters include a variety of galactic (e.g. pulsar wind nebuale, supernova remnants, binary systems and a pulsar) and extragalactic (e.g. blazars, radio galaxies and a starburst galaxy) phenomena, as well as sources whose physical origin is unidentified. In 2012, the VERITAS collaboration completed a major upgrade of the experiments instrumentation. This presentation provides an overview of the current status of the observatory and its capabilities, and summarizes recent results from the VERITAS collaboration.

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