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Updated results from VERITAS on the Crab pulsar

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The Crab pulsar and plerion are some of the brightest and best studied non-thermal astrophysical sources. The recent discovery of pulsed gamma-ray emission above 100 GeV from the Crab pulsar with VERITAS (the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System) challenges commonly accepted pulsar emission models and puts the gamma-ray emission region far out in the magnetosphere –close to or even beyond the light cylinder. We present updated VERITAS results from the analysis of a data set that is twice the original data set published in 2011. The results are discussed in the context of discriminating between different models put forward to explain gamma-ray emission mechanisms and acceleration regions within the Crab pulsar’s magnetosphere.

Collaboration

VERITAS

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