

## Highlights of Gamma-ray Astronomy with VERITAS

Brian Humensky\* for the VERITAS Collaboration^



\*University of Chicago, ^http://veritas.sao.arizona.edu/conferences/authors?icrc2009

### **VERITAS** Collaboration





#### U.S.

- Adler Planetarium Argonne Nat. Lab Barnard College DePauw Univ. Grinnell College Iowa St. Univ.
- Purdue Univ. SAO UCLA UCSC Univ. of Chicago Univ. of Delaware

Univ. of Iowa Univ. of Massachusetts Univ. of Utah Washington Univ. Canada McGill Univ.

#### U.K. Leeds Univ.

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

Ireland

#### + 25 Associate Members

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Highlights of Gamma-ray Astronomy with VERITAS

T. B. Humensky

#### ~ 100 Scientists

22 Institutions in 4 Countries

#### Support from:

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

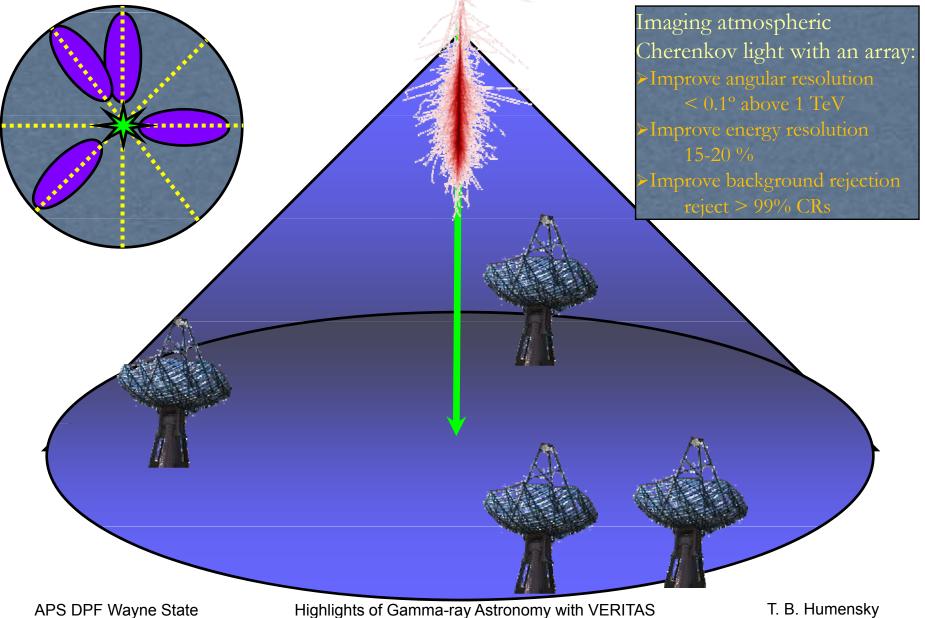
### Outline



- VERITAS Telescope Array
  - Layout, technical details, performance
- Observation Strategy and Summary
- **Science**:
  - Starburst Galaxy: M 82
  - Galactic Plane Survey
  - Extragalactic Source Highlights
  - Galactic Source Highlights
- VERITAS Upgrade Plans

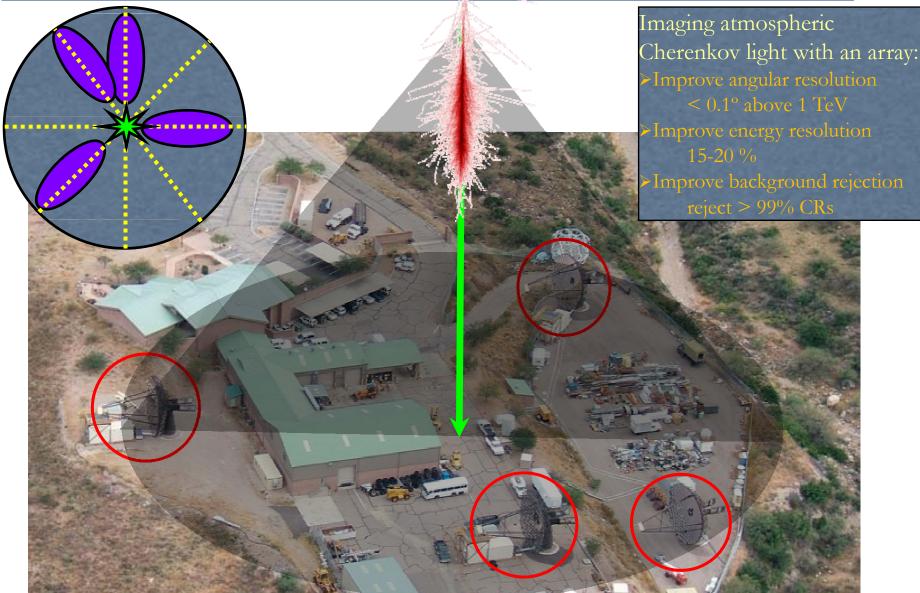
### VERITAS Telescope Array





### **VERITAS** Telescope Array





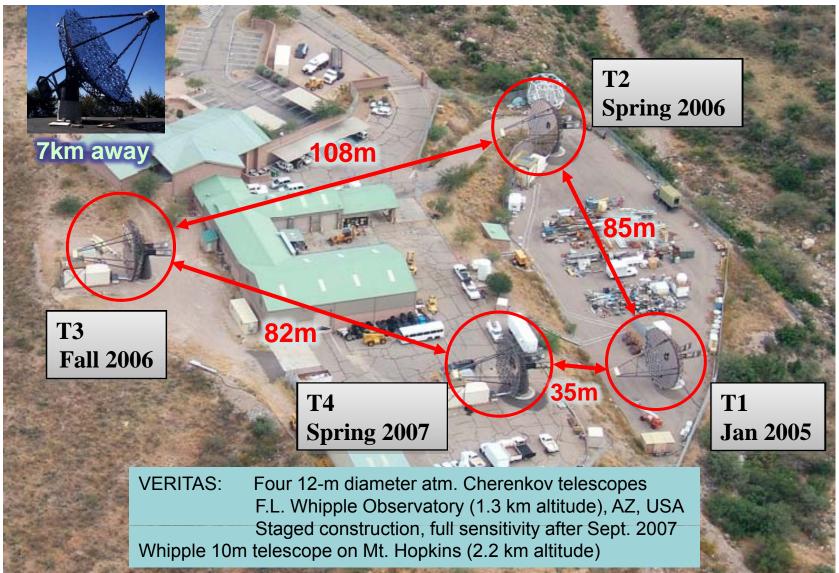
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### **VERITAS** Telescope Array

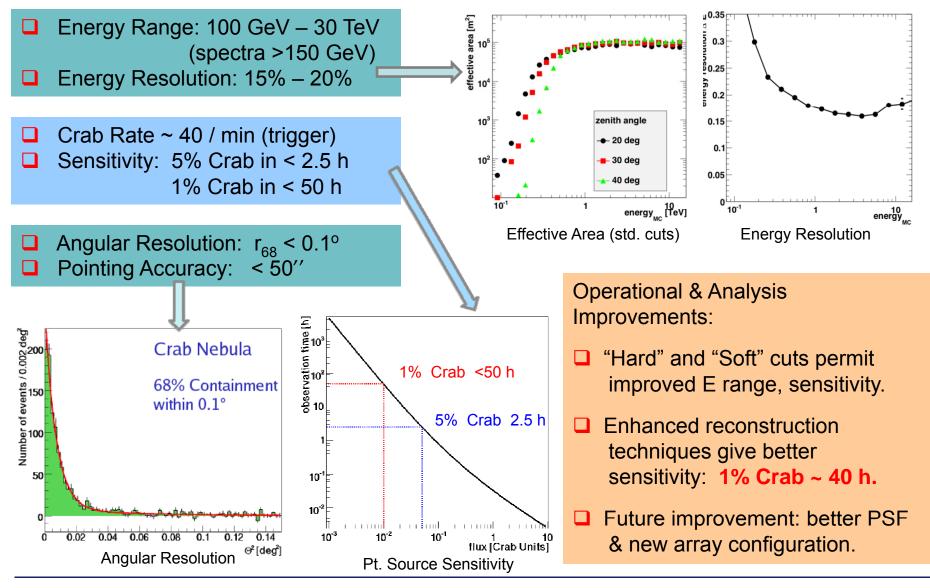




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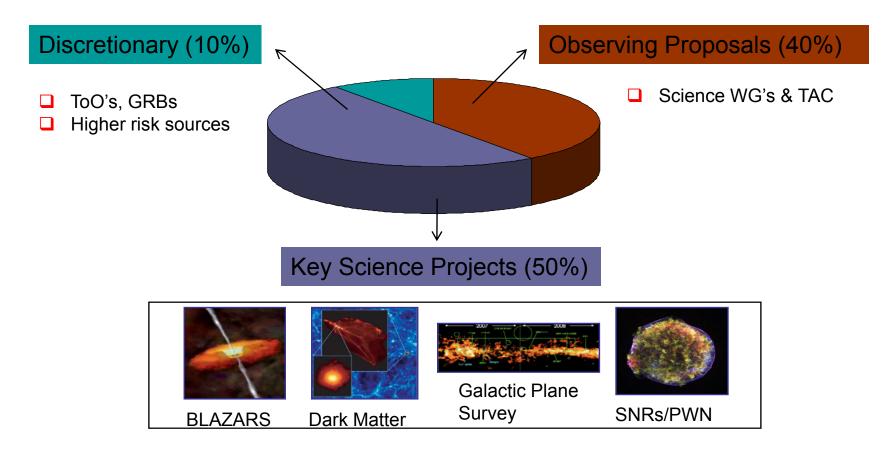
### **VERITAS** Performance





### **Observation Strategy 2007-09**





□ 750 hours/year Dark Time + 30% Moonlight (= 975 hours total).

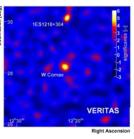
□ > 95% Data taken with all four telescopes operational.

### VERITAS Science Highlights (so far)



#### 2007:

- Detection of SNR IC 443 (w. MAGIC).
- Detection of binary LS I +61 303, confirming variability.
- Detection of blazar 1ES 1218+304 and radio galaxy M87.



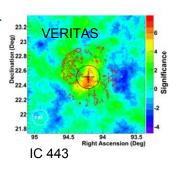
W Comae & 1ES 1218+304

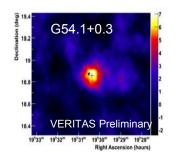
#### 2008:

2009:

35.6 35.4 35.2 Right Ascension (Deg)

- Detection of blazar 1ES 2344+514, correlated TeV flare with X-ray.
- Discovery of blazar 1ES 0806+524 (ATEL #1415).
- Discovery of blazar W Comae (ATEL #1422), a new LBL.
  - Detection of SNR Cas-A.
    - Discovery of blazar 3C 66A (ATEL #1753), the first IBL.





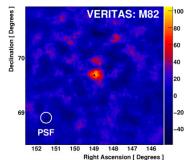
**ERITAS** 

3C 66A

43 :

42.9 42.8 3C66B

- Measurement of source extent of SNR IC 443.
  - Simultaneous MWL observations of Mrk 421 reported (w. MAGIC).
- Discovery of blazar RGB 0710 (ATEL #1941).
- Discovery of blazar PKS 1424+240 (ATEL #2084, Fermi trig).
- MWL observations of LS I +61 303 (w. Swift, RXTE). Radio imaging of TeV emission region of M87
  - (w. MAGIC, HESS, VLBA).
- Evidence for variability in HESS J0632+057.
- **Discovery of TeV emission from starburst galaxy M82.**





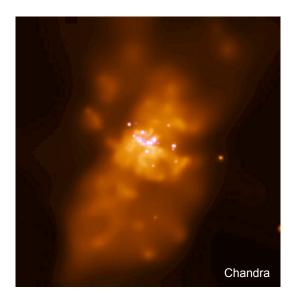
# Highlight: Detection of Starburst Galaxy M82

Highlight: Galactic Plane Survey

### Highlight: Starburst Galaxy M82

- M82: Prototype starburst galaxy
  - Interacting with group of galaxies over hundreds of Myrs.
  - Tidal forces → active starburst region (HST shows > 200 massive star clusters.
  - SMBH < 3 x  $10^7 M_{sun}$ , no AGN activity.
- Starburst Region
  - High star formation and SNR rate.
  - High CR density (from radio emission).
  - High gas density ~ 150 /cm<sup>3</sup>.
  - γ-rays from cosmic rays (ions and electrons) interacting with gas and photon fields. Clues on origin of CR's.
  - Previous limits < 10% Crab (HEGRA, Whipple).





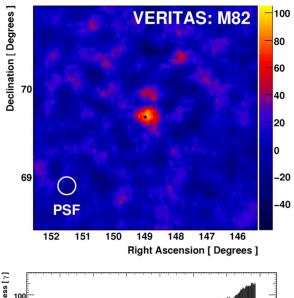
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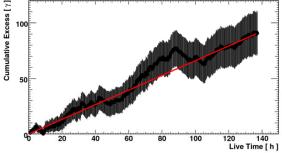




### Highlight: Starburst Galaxy M82

- VERITAS Data & Analysis
  - 2007-09: 137 h live time.
    Only dark time (no moonlight).
  - "Hard cuts" from *a priori* study of Crab data at similar zenith (θ ~ 40°).
- Detection !
  - 5.0  $\sigma$  excess (pre-trials), 4.8  $\sigma$  (post-trials). Consistent with point source at M82.
  - Many systematic checks of analysis procedure, background method, and potential biases.
    - (E > 700 GeV)
  - Among weakest VHE sources ~0.9% Crab.
- Interpretation
  - First detection of an extragalactic VHE source not clearly associated with AGN activity.
  - Consistent with predictions, general nature of CR interactions.



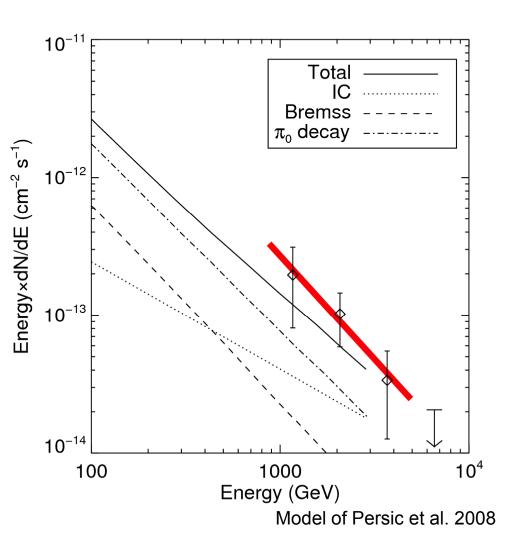


"Discovery of Gamma-ray Emission from a Starburst Galaxy," Acciari et al., submitted to Nature.

### Highlight: Starburst Galaxy M82

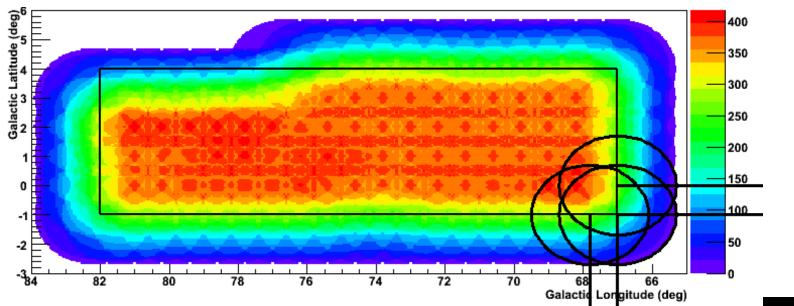


- Fit Range:
  - 875 GeV to ~5 TeV
  - Fit to  $dN/dE \sim (E / TeV)^{-\Gamma}$
  - $\chi^2$  = 0.1, 1 NDF; P( $\chi^{2}$ ) = 0.7
- Γ= 2.5 ± 0.6
- VHE flux close to predictions
  - Incl. both leptonic & hadronic channels
    - Pohl 1994
    - Völk et al. 1996
    - Persic et al. 2008
    - de Cea del Pozo et al. 2009



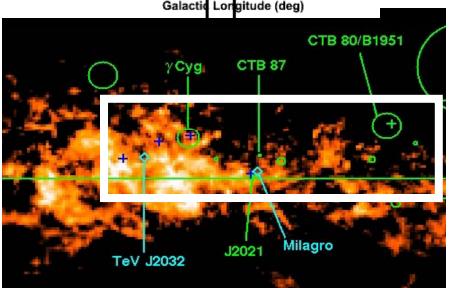
### Highlight: Galactic Plane Survey





#### VERITAS Survey of Cygnus Region

- 2007-09, 112 h (base survey) + 32 h (follow-up).
- Grid pointings covering 67° < I < 82°, -1° < b < 4°</li>
- Region of numerous SNRs, PWNe, XRBs, dense gas, massive stars



### Highlight: Galactic Plane Survey



- Sensitivity Estimate
  - Comes from injecting simulated γ-rays into background survey fields taken from data.
    - Blank survey fields for background
    - Spectra between 2.5 and 2.0, varied source extent
  - Estimates are
    - Conservative (zenith angle, configuration variations)
    - Consistent with VERITAS sensitivity curve & "effective" exposure time.
- New Result (Preliminary):
  - No sources > 5.0σ (post-trials) in the base survey.
    → Limits (99% CL) < 3% Crab (pt. src), < 8.5% Crab (ext) at 200 GeV.</li>

**VERITAS survey is much deeper than previous work (HEGRA).** 

- Cygnus region is qualitatively different than S. Hemisphere (H.E.S.S. survey saw 12 sources above 5% Crab).
- Work is continuing. Correlation with Fermi-LAT & Milagro data will be valuable.



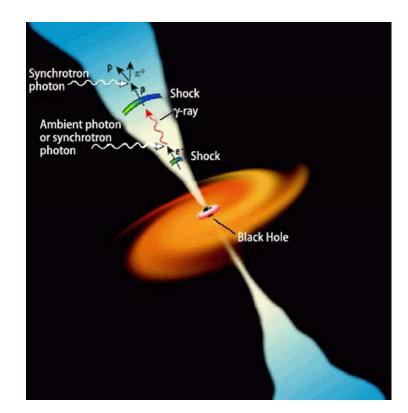
### **Extragalactic Sources**

### **Extragalactic Sources**

- Active Galactic Nuclei
  - BH accretion powers relativistic jet & VHE particle acceleration.
  - Science goals: emission mechanism, jet physics, BH accretion, etc.

Blazars

- Dominant VHE extragalactic source class (so far).
- "Double-peaked" SED. Simultaneous MWL data crucial.
- Probe EBL from spectra via:  $\gamma_{VHE} + \gamma_{EBL} \rightarrow e^+ e^-$
- Radio Galaxies: M87, Cen-A
  - Closer, so structure can be better resolved.
- Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs)
  - Most powerful γ-ray events known.



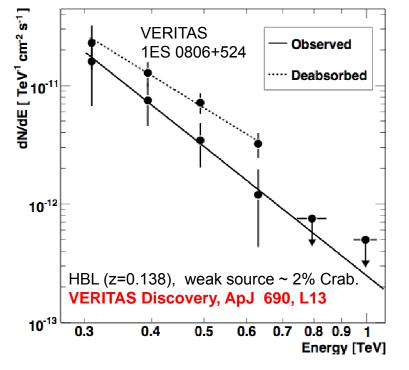


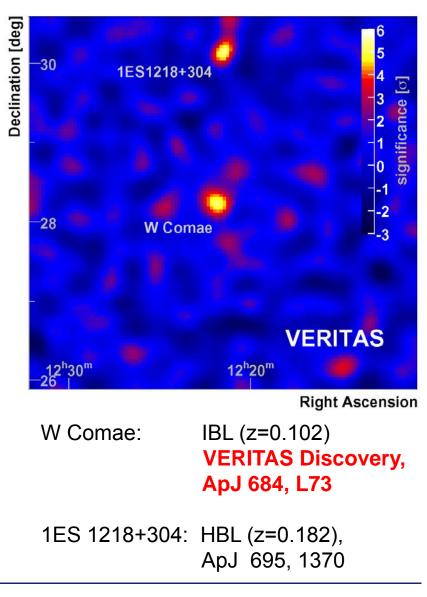
- Searches for Dark Matter
  - See talk by R. Dickherber, Tues 2:40pm



### **VERITAS Blazar Program**

- Strategy and Results
  - 1/3 Discovery, 1/3 MWL Campaigns, 1/3 ToO's
  - >60 Blazars observed, so far.
  - 11 Detections, 5 Discoveries. New LBL's and IBL's.







(bed) 43.4

Declination () 43.2

43.1

43

42.9

42.8

42.7

VERITAS

3C66B

36

35.8

35.6

20

15

10

-5

35.2

3C66A

35.4

**Right Ascension (Deg)** 

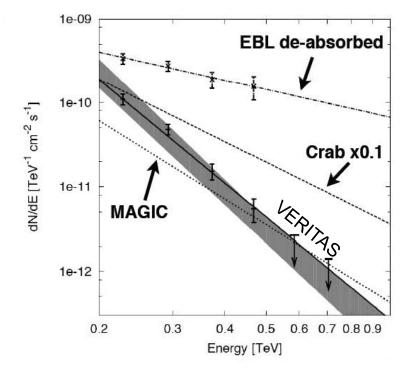
### Highlight: 3C 66A

- □ 3C 66A
  - IBL at nominal z=0.44 (uncertain).
  - VERITAS flare discovery, 2008 21σ, 33h, E<sub>th</sub> ~ 120 GeV. (ATEL #1753, ApJ 693, L104).
  - Soft spectrum: Γ = 4.1 <u>+</u> 0.4<sub>stat</sub> <u>+</u> 0.6<sub>sys</sub> (due to EBL ?).
  - Fermi-LAT detection (ATEL #1759). Joint Fermi-VERITAS paper in preparation: SSC-only model disfavored.



UERITAS data excludes 3C66B at  $4.3\sigma$ .







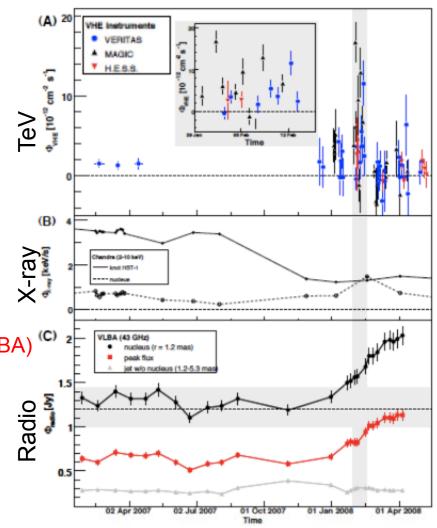
### M 87: A Beautiful Laboratory



#### 🗋 M87

- Giant radio galaxy in Virgo (z =0.004).
- Misalignment and distance allow jet to be imaged in radio, optical and X-ray.
- After first detection by HEGRA, M87 is now well studied by major TeV γ-ray telescopes.
- VERITAS observations
  - 2007, 2009: detected at 1-2% Crab.
  - 2008: joint campaign with MAGIC, H.E.S.S. TeV flaring correlated with radio emission (VLBA) from M87 core.





### GRBs

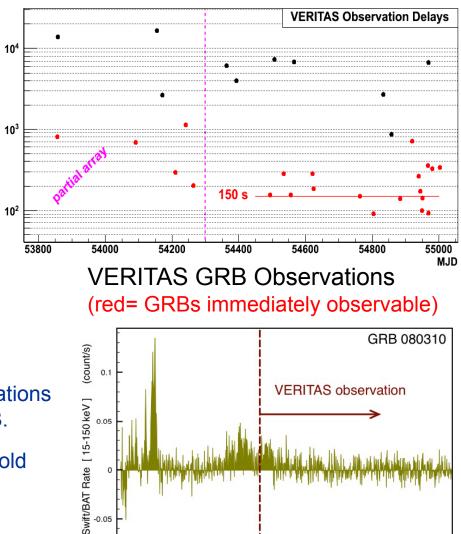


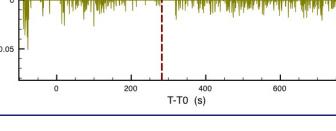
#### GRBs

- Most powerful explosions known. Complex acceleration mechanisms, possibly involving shocks in a relativistic jet.
- VHE emission not yet detected (EGRET/Fermi see 10's GeV γ-rays).

#### VERITAS observations

- 31 GRBs observed since 2006.
  No Detections.
- <u>Rapid response time</u> allows for observations during delayed-emission phase of GRB.
- Improved sensitivity and energy threshold with upgraded VERITAS.





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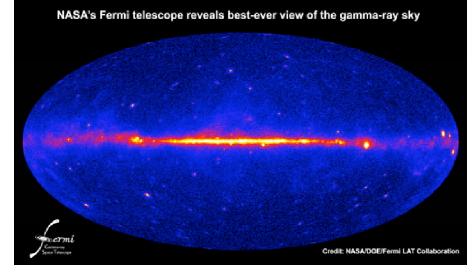


### **Galactic Sources**

### **VHE Galactic Sources**



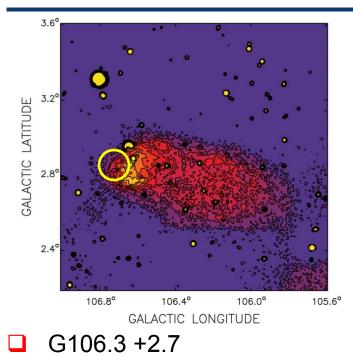
- Galactic plane is rich in γ-ray emission:
  - 90% photons seen in GeV range.
  - Variety of VHE sources: Pulsars/PWN SNRs Binaries Unidentifieds



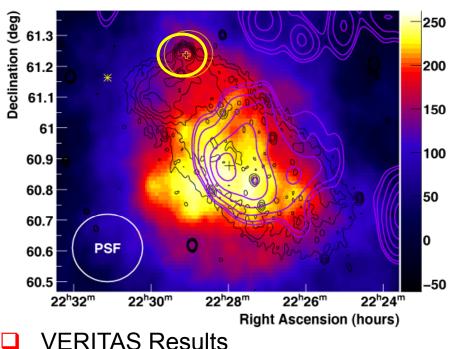
- Probe acceleration of e, p in shock fronts, colliding winds, superbubbles, etc.
   Hope to pin down CR Origin (at last!).
- Recent VERITAS Results
  - Discovery of TeV emission associated with two PWNe
  - Studies of the SNRs IC 443 and Cas A
  - Discovery of variability in HESS J0632+057



### Highlight: G106.3 +2.7 ("Boomerang")



- Energetic pulsar PSR J2229+6114 and SNR/PWN with E-dot ~ 2 x 10<sup>37</sup> erg/s, age ~ 10 ky.
- 3EG J2227+6112 error ellipse. Fermi-LAT source J2229.0+6114.
- Milagro reports > 10 TeV emission from region (Abdo et al., 2009).



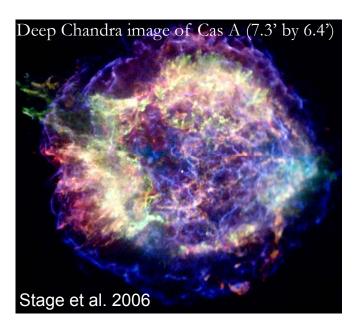
- (V. A. Acciari et al., sub. to Astrophys. J, 2009) (E > 1 TeV)
- 33 hr data in 2008, 6.0 $\sigma$  , ~5% Crab.
- Clearly extended, peak overlaps CO.
- Γ = 2.3 ± 0.3stat ± 0.3sys, consistent w. power-law to 35 TeV.

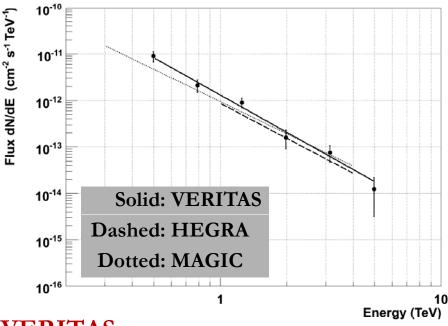
Hadronic Origin ?

### Cassiopeia A



- Young (330 yr), well studied shell-type SNR at a distance of ~3.4 kpc.
- 5' diameter (~TeV angular resolution)
- Discovered in TeV by HEGRA (232 hrs, 5 σ), confirmed by MAGIC (47 hrs, 5.3 σ)
  - Flux ~ 3.3 % Crab above 1 TeV





#### **VERITAS:**

- 22 hr data in 2007, 8.3 σ
- Size comparable to PSF
- Well fit by a power-law spectrum:

$$\begin{split} \Gamma &= 2.61 \pm 0.24_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.20_{\text{sys}} \\ F(E > 1 \,\text{TeV}) = (7.76 \pm 1.10_{\text{stat}} \pm 1.55_{\text{sys}}) \times \\ 10^{-13} \,\text{cm}^{-2} \,\text{s}^{-1} \,(3.5\% \,\text{Crab}) \end{split}$$

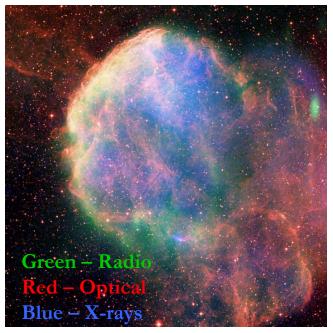
• No sign of a cut-off at high energy.

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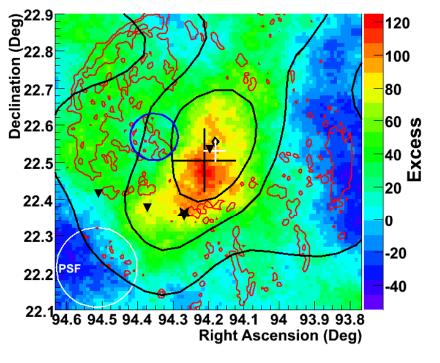
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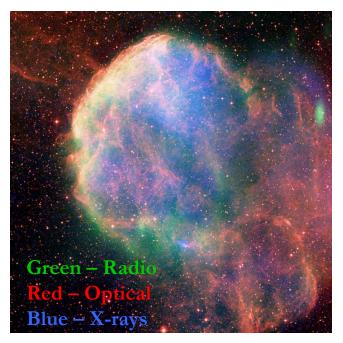


- Shell interacting with molecular cloud → potential target material
  - 30 kyr age, 45 arcmin diameter
  - Fermi emission centered on remnant, overlaps cloud
  - MAGIC emission centered on cloud
- **PWN** at southern edge of shell



- Discovered in TeV in 2007
  - by MAGIC (5.7  $\sigma$  in 29 hrs)
  - by VERITAS (7.1/6.0 σ pre/post-trials in 15.9 hrs)
- Total livetime: 37.9 hrs.
- 8.3  $\sigma$  peak significance pre-trials



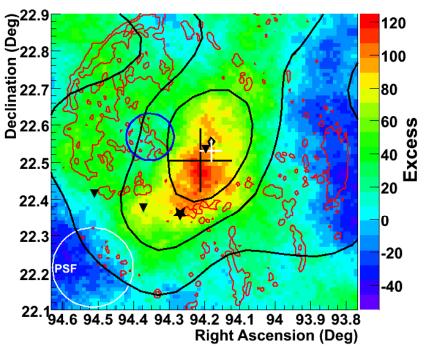


• Power-law fit 0.3 – 2 TeV:

 $\Gamma = 2.99 \pm 0.38_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.30_{\text{sys}}$ 

• F(E > 300 GeV): 3.2% Crab (4.63  $\pm$  0.90<sub>stat</sub>  $\pm$  0.93<sub>sys</sub>) × 10<sup>-12</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

2-D Gaussian profile fit: Centroid: 06 16.9 +22 32.4  $\pm$  0.03°  $_{stat} \pm$  0.07°  $_{sys}$ Extension:  $\sigma \sim 0.17^{\circ} \pm 0.02^{\circ}_{stat} \pm 0.04^{\circ}_{sys}$ 



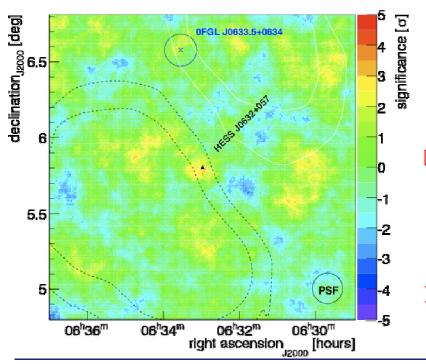
- TeV emission may be
  - CR-induced pion production in cloud
  - associated with the pulsar wind nebula to the south
- GeV and TeV emission spatially separated

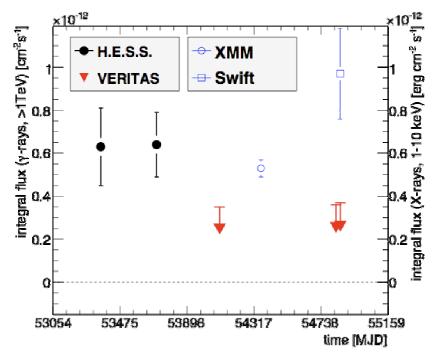
### Variability in HESS J0632+057





- Unidentified, consistent with point source.
- Region of Monoceros Loop and Rosette Nebula.
- Postulated as new γ-ray binary (Hinton et al., 2008).

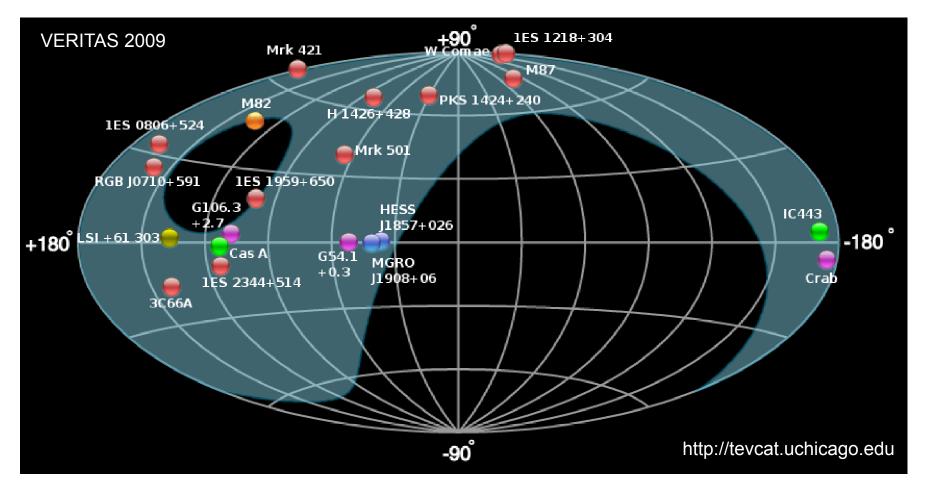




- □ VERITAS Observations, ~30hrs over 3 years
  - No emission detected, excludes steady flux measured by HESS at  $4\sigma$ .
- ➢ New TeV binary or a new source class ?

### VERITAS VHE Sky (July 2009)





#### 21 Source Detections in 6 source classes



### FUTURE



- □ VERITAS operates very well with excellent sensitivity.
- With the excitement in the field and the unique capabilities of Fermi, we want to improve VERITAS.

Plans to improve the sensitivity and to extend the energy range are ongoing or discussed:

- 1. Improved optical point spread function accomplished
- 2. Relocating telescope T1 ← ongoing

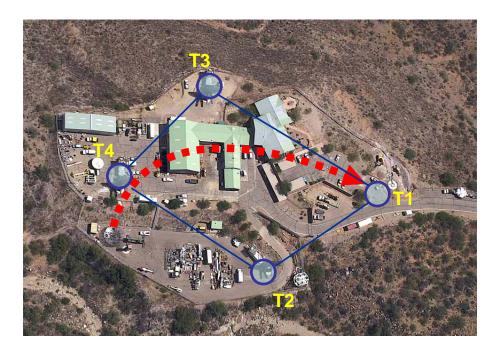
likely in this order

- 3. Upgrading cameras with high efficiency PMTs  $\leftarrow$  proposed
- 4. New trigger system ← proposed
- 5. An automatic mirror alignment system ← possible in the future
- 6. An additional telescope T5  $\leftarrow$  possible in the future

### **Telescope 1 Relocation**



□ T1 Relocation will significantly improve baseline.



- Move is well underway with completion expected by September 2009.
- Expected improvement in sensitivity ~20% (equivalent to additional ~400 h/year)



24 June 2009



### Baseline Upgrade Plan (2009-2011)



We plan to replace the PMT cameras and L2 trigger system to significant improve the sensitivity and energy threshold.

#### **CAMERA Upgrade**

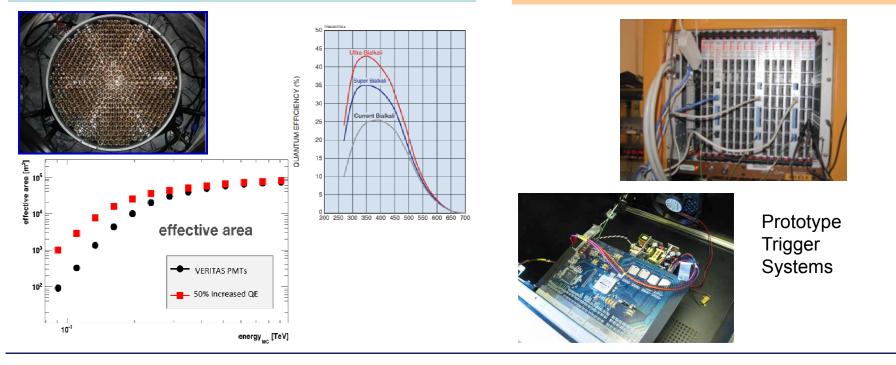
PMT replacement with high efficiency PMTs.

Increase photon collection by ~35%.

Improves background rejection, E<sub>th</sub>, sensitivity.

#### **TRIGGER Upgrade** Smaller coincidence window Topological Trigger

Improves  $E_{th}$  and CR event rejection.



### Summary



- VERITAS is operating very well (> 95% uptime) with two good years of data in hand.
- Many new results, including:
  - Discovery of  $\gamma$ -ray emission from starburst galaxy M82.
  - Stringent limits from Galactic plane survey.
  - Detection of 5 new blazars: (1ES0806+524, W Com, 3C 66A, RGB 0170+541, PKS 1424+240)
  - Correlated radio-TeV emission from M87 (w. MAGIC, HESS).
  - Detection of 2 new PWN/SNR: G106.3+2.7, G54.1+0.3.
  - Detailed studies of SNRs: IC 443 and Cas-A.
  - Limits on Dark Matter annihilation to  $\gamma$ -rays from 6 targets.
    - See talk by R. Dickherber, Tues 2:40pm
- □ VERITAS Upgrade will significantly improve sensitivity.
- Coordinated work with Fermi immediately fruitful!
- Future will require even closer collaboration and cooperation between major GeV, TeV γ-ray and v telescopes.

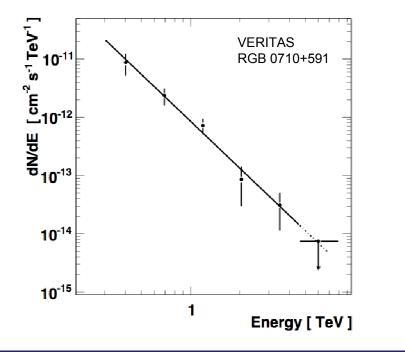


### BACKUP

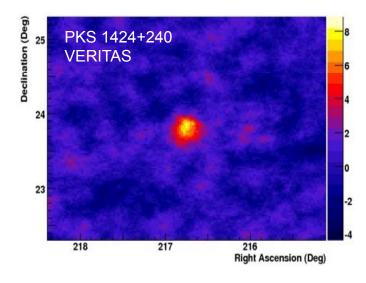
### Highlight: Two New Blazars



- **RGB 0710+591** 
  - HBL at z = 0.125.
  - 5.5σ discovery in 2009 from 22h (ATEL #1941).
  - Hard spectrum will constrain EBL.
  - MWL SED modeling (w. Fermi-LAT).

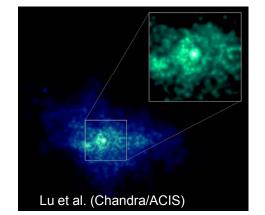


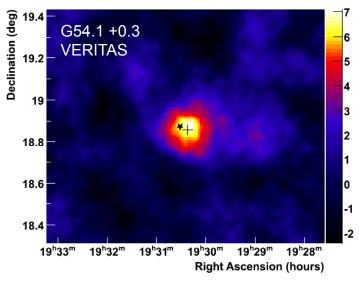
- PKS 1424+240
  - IBL at z = 0.16.
  - Detected by Fermi-LAT (Abdo et al. 2009).
  - VHE discovery by VERITAS (ATEL #2084).
    7.5σ in full data set.
    MAGIC detection (ATEL #2098).
  - 1<sup>st</sup> VHE discovery motivated by Fermi !



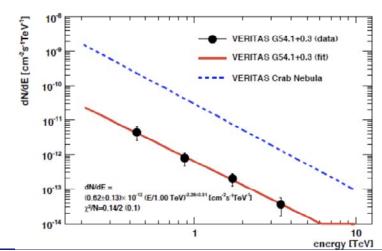
### Highlight: G54.1 +0.3 (PWN)







- G54.1 +0.3 (PSR J1930 +1852)
  - Similar to Crab; X-ray jet and torus. ۲
  - E-dot ~  $10^{37}$  erg/s, age ~ 3 ky. •
  - Nearby molecular cloud. •
- **VERITAS** Detection
  - 31 h, 7.0 $\sigma$  detection, ~3% Crab (E > 1 TeV). •
  - Consistent with point source at pulsar location. ٠



•  $\Gamma = 2.3 \pm 0.3_{stat} \pm 0.3_{sys}$  (preliminary)

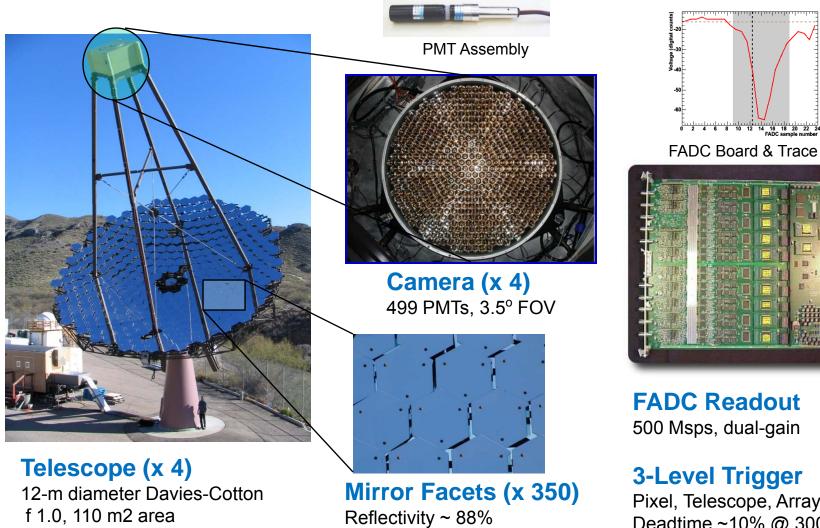
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### **Technical Details**





Pixel, Telescope, Array Deadtime ~10% @ 300 Hz

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(Recoated every 2 years)

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### Old Favorites and MWL Studies



#### Mrk 421

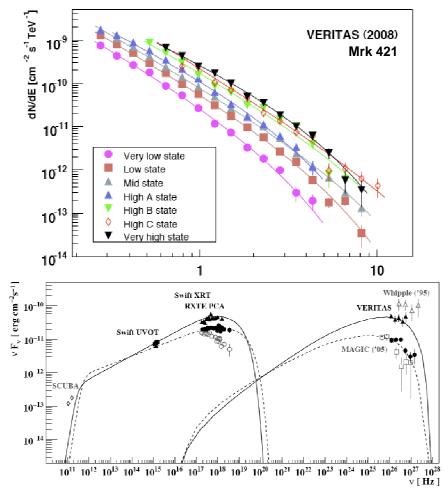
- 2008 flare, Whipple 10m (ATEL #1506).
- VERITAS data, Jan Jun 2008 Strong signal ~280σ, > 30,000 γ-rays. Clear spectral hardening. MWL coverage with Swift, RXTE, optical.
- June 2008: Broad MWL coverage of Mrk 421 led by AGILE and MAGIC. (Donnarumma et al., ApJ 691, L13). See ICRC poster by R. Wagner (#0926).

#### Mrk 501

 March-May 2008, extended campaign from radio to TeV.
 See ICRC poster by D. Krannich (#1346).

#### □ 1ES 2355+514

VERITAS detection ~20σ in 18h in late 2007.
 0.5 Crab flare on 07 Dec 2007, well fit by one-zone SSC model.
 (Acciari et al., Submitted to ApJ, 2009)





### **Other Science Results**

#### T. B. Humensky

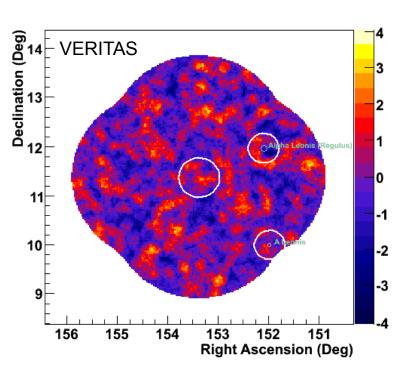
# IceCube Hotspot

IceCube Hotspot

- All-sky neutrino map from 22-string detector reveals "hotspot" at (10h13m30s,+11d22m30s). (T. Montaruli, private communication).
- 7.7 excess events ( $4.8\sigma/2.2\sigma$  pre/post trials).
- Collaboration between IceCube & VERITAS
  → DDT request to observe with VERITAS.
- VERITAS Observations
- 2.5h in moonlight in April 2009.
- No signal observed, fluctuations consistent with background.

 $\gamma$ -ray Flux Limit (E>1 TeV) < 4.0% Crab (at hotspot position)

Useful exercise – keep sending interesting candidates!





### **Dark Matter Searches**

#### Dark Matter (DM)

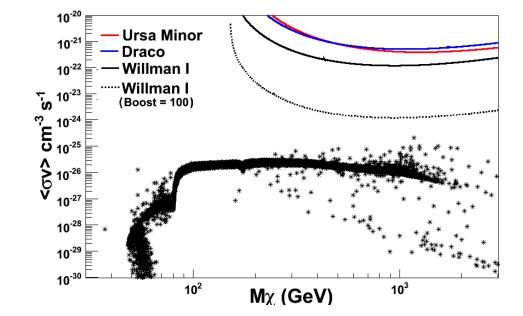
- A major scientific puzzle, inferred from a variety of measurements.
- Particle DM candidates (SUSY, KK)
  → unique HE γ-ray signatures.

#### VERITAS DM Program

 Comprehensive program, ~ 7% of observing time, variety of classes:

> Dwarf Galaxies (e.g. Draco...) Local Galaxies (e.g. M32, M33) Globular Clusters (e.g. M5) Galaxy Clusters (e.g. Coma)

#### So far, no Detections → Limits on 7 candidate sources



VERITAS limits on dwarf galaxies





### Other VERITAS Results @ ICRC 2009

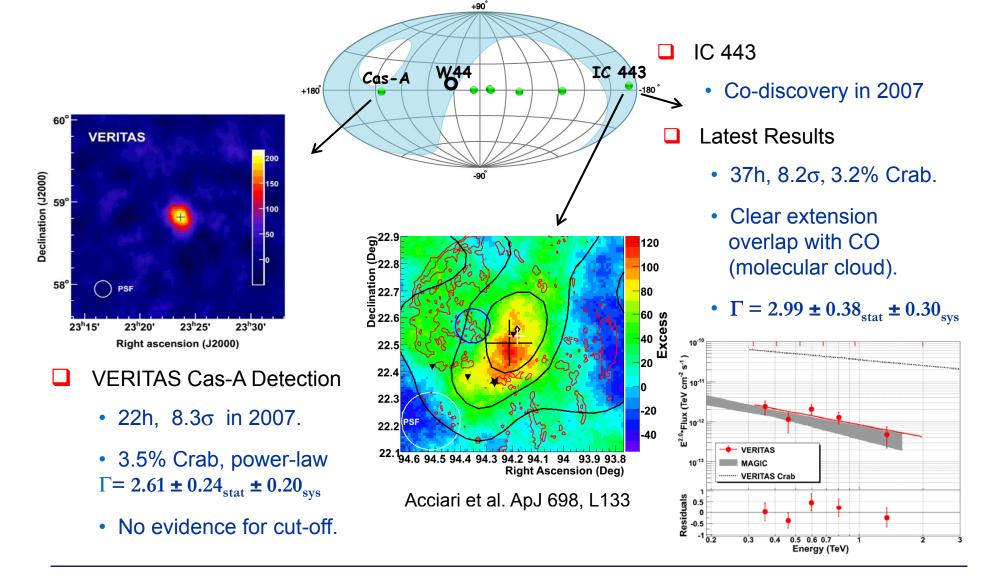
Presenter	Title	Session	Paper #
Talks:			
J. Grube	Highlights of MWL Observations of VHE Blazars with VERITAS	OG 2.3	0782
J. Holder	VERITAS Observations of LS I +61 303 in the Fermi Era	OG 2.2	1155
A. Imran	VERITAS Discovery of Variability in the VHE gamma-ray Emission of 1ES 1218+304	OG 2.3	0510
D. Mazin (MAGIC)	A First Joint M87 Campaign in 2008 from Radio to TeV $\gamma$ -Rays	OG 2.3	1313
A. Pichel	Highlights from the Whipple 10m Blazar Monitoring Program	OG 2.3	0636
Posters:			
G. Finnegan	Search for TeV Emission from Geminga by VERITAS	OG 2.2	1348
N. Galante	Observation of Radio Galaxies and Clusters of Galaxies with VERITAS	OG 2.3	0774
R. Guenette	VERITAS Observations of X-ray Binaries	OG 2.2	0521
R. Guenette	VERITAS Observations of Magnetars	OG 2.2	0632
J. Holder	VERITAS Observations of a "Forbidden Velocity Wing"	OG 2.2	1157
D. Krannich (MAGIC)	MWL Observations of Mrk 501 in 2008	OG 2.3	
G. Maier	Multiwavelength Observatons of a TeV Flare from W Com	OG 2.3	0511
A. McCann	An Alignment System for IACTs	OG 2.7	0650
M. McCutcheon	VERITAS Observations of Globular Clusters	OG 2.2	1316
M. Schroedter	Search for Short Bursts of Gamma Rays above 100 MeV from the Crab using VERITAS and SGARFACE	OG 2.2	1301
M. Schroedter	A Topological Trigger System for IACTs	OG 2.7	1312
R. Wagner (MAGIC)	The June 2008 Flare of Mrk 421 from Optical to TeV Energies	OG 2.3	0926

Highlights of Gamma-ray Astronomy with VERITAS

T. B. Humensky

### SNRs ICR 443 & Cas-A

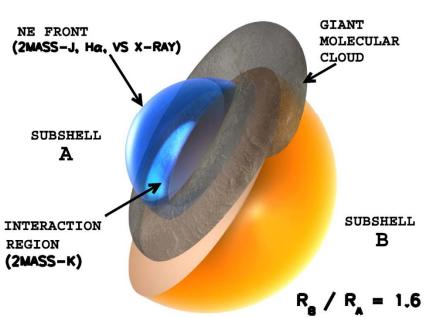




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- Shell interacting with molecular cloud → potential target material
  - EGRET emission centered on remnant, overlaps cloud
  - MAGIC emission centered on cloud
- **PWN** at southern edge of shell

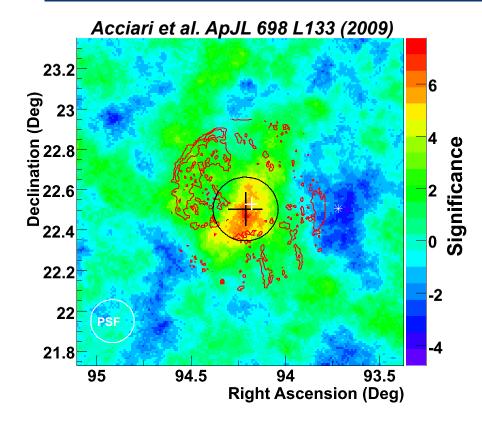


- Distance ~ 1.5 kpc
- Age ~ 30,000 years
- Diameter 45'
- Distinct shell in radio, optical

Compelling reasons to study TeV emission from IC 443:  $\gamma$ s from cosmic rays, or from the PWN?





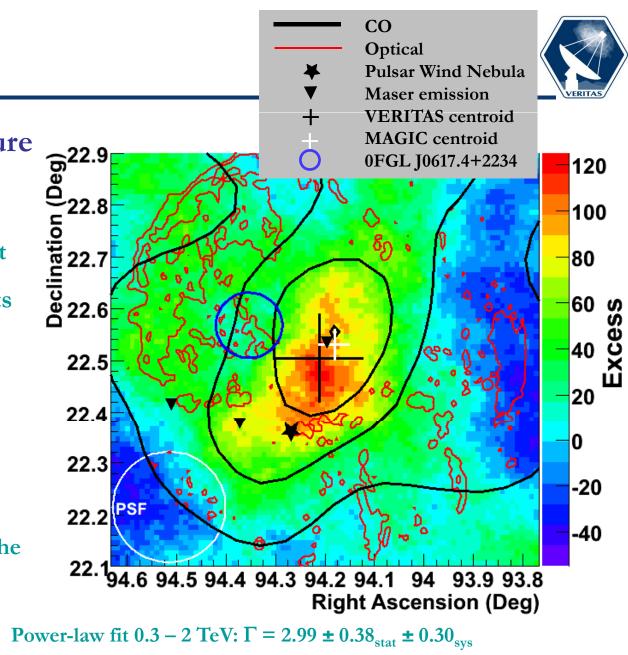


2-D Gaussian profile fit: Centroid: 06 16.9 +22 32.4 ± 0.03°(stat) ± 0.07°(syst) Extension: σ ~ 0.17° ± 0.02°(stat) ± 0.04°(syst)

- Discovered in TeV in 2007
  - by MAGIC (5.7  $\sigma$  in 29 hrs)
  - by VERITAS (7.1/6.0 σ pre/post-trials in 15.9 hrs)
- Wobble-mode observations, 0.5° offset
- Observed during two epochs:
  - Feb / Mar 2007 with 3 telescopes
    - PWN location, CXOU J061705.3+222127
  - Oct / Nov 2007 with 4 telescopes
    - Center of Feb/Mar hot spot: 06 16.9 +22 33
- Total livetime: 37.9 hrs.
- 8.3  $\sigma$  peak significance pre-trials

#### **Multiwavelength Picture**

- Overlap with CO indicating molecular cloud along line of sight
- Maser emission suggests SNR shock interacting with cloud
- TeV emission could be
  - CR-induced pion production in cloud
  - associated with the pulsar wind nebula to the south
- GeV and TeV emission spatially separated?



• F(E > 300 GeV):  $(4.63 \pm 0.90_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.93_{\text{sys}}) \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} (3.2\% \text{ Crab})$