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OBSERVATION OF TEV GAMMA-RAY EXTENDED SOURCES WITH ARGO-YBJ

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A large fraction of unidentified TeV gamma-ray sources observed in the Galaxy are spatially extended, raising the question of why there are so few point-like VHE sources. The study of these objects is important because the extended emission could be the result of cosmic ray interactions with the ambient medium which provides the target to produce TeV gamma-rays.

Since the instrument sensitivity decreases for extended sources, the shower detectors, with their limited angular resolution, are less affected with respect to Cerenkov telescopes.

The ARGO-YBJ experiment (Yangbajing Cosmic Ray Laboratory, Tibet, China, 4300 m asl) is an air shower detector able to observe VHE gamma rays with an integrated sensitivity of 0.29 Crab units at energies above a few hundred GeV. In this paper the observation of galactic extended sources with ARGO-YBJ during 5 years is reviewed.

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