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Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes: Present and Future.

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The current generation of imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescope arrays have been operating for over a decade, and have succeeded in measuring the high energy emission from almost 200 sources. These observations probe the mechanisms of particle acceleration in a wide variety of extreme environments, and over a huge range of spatial scales - from pulsar magnetospheres to the jets of active galaxies.

While current instruments have demonstrated the power of the technique, they are far from reaching its limits. A major new facility, the Cherenkov Telescope Array, promises to achieve sensitivity improvements of an order of magnitude, with a corresponding explosion in the source population.

I will discuss some of the highlight results from the past few years of TeV gamma-ray astronomy, and provide some expectations for the future

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