

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT THE EXTRA-GALACTIC INFRARED BACKGROUND FROM MARKARIAN 421?

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The recent, very strong flaring activity of Markarian 421 during February 2001 was observed by the Whipple γ -ray ACT. These observations have provided the largest available photon database for spectral studies. We will discuss implications of the spectrum analysis of this AGN for constraining diffuse extragalactic photon field in the range from 0.6 to 20 μm .