SEARCH FOR TEV γ-RAY EMISSION FROM GIANT RADIOGALAXIES WITH THE HEGRA SYSTEM OF CHERENKOV TELESCOPES

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Giant radiogalaxies contain huge amounts of mass and exhibit large scale jets, probably powered by a supermassive black hole in the center of these objects. In contrast to Blazars, the jet of a radiogalaxy and the observer's line of sight are not aligned. A large amount of nonthermal particles which are supposed to emitt TeV γ-radiation by several processes is expected to be confined within giant radiogalaxies. The three prominent nearby objects M 87, NGC 1275 and Cygnus A have been observed in the years 1998 to 2000 using the stereoscopic system of Cherenkov telescopes operated on the Canary island of La Palma by the HEGRA Collaboration. Results of a search for TeV emission will be presented.