

Seminar

Friday, 8 October 2010

11 am - Room 701

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***Gamma-ray astronomy – probing the extreme
environments with extreme radiation***

Very High Energy (VHE) gamma-rays represent the highest energy photons detected so far. Emitted through non-thermal processes, these energetic photons allow us to explore some of the most extreme environments within the Universe, thus permitting us to study the laws of physics in conditions we cannot recreate in the lab. In short, VHE gamma-ray emission requires charged particles of the same energy, if not more. Therefore, VHE gamma-ray observations are a key diagnostic tool in our understanding of the most energetic particles in the Universe. Recent improvements in gamma-ray telescope sensitivity has resulted in an explosion of discoveries from the VHE gamma-ray community over the last few years. These discoveries have shown VHE gamma-ray source types to range from exploding stars, to binary systems, to neutron stars, to super-massive black holes to the unknown. In this talk we discuss some of the exciting results from the field of ground based gamma-ray astronomy.

All Welcome

Contact Details

For further information phone 364 2404, or visit our website: www.phys.canterbury.ac.nz