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S. Scott: The Follow-up of Cosmic Explosions with VERITAS

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Much can be learned about the particle acceleration and emission processes involved in cosmic explosions through the study of gamma rays in the very-high-energy (VHE; E > 100GeV) regime. Ground-based imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescopes (IACTs), which are sensitive to VHE gamma-ray photons, therefore have much to contribute in the effort to characterize these transients. VERITAS, an IACT array located at Whipple Observatory in southern Arizona, has actively followed up gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) since 2006. In the last few years, VERITAS has also initiated programs to investigate LIGO/Virgo gravitational wave events and IceCube neutrino alerts. This presentation will cover the current status and future of the VERITAS transient follow-up programs.

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