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Detailed studies of atmospheric calibration in imaging Cherenkov astronomy

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The current generation of imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescopes are allowing the sky to be probed with greater sensitivity than ever before in the energy range below and around 100 GeV. To minimize the systematic errors on derived fluxes a full calibration of the atmospheric properties is important given the calorimetric nature of the technique. In this talk we will recount an approach used to address this problem by using a ceilometer co-pointed with the H.E.S.S. telescopes and present the results of the application of this method to a set of observational data taken on the active galactic nucleus (AGN) PKS 2155-304 in 2004 and the standard candle of VHE gamma-ray astronomy the Crab Nebula.

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