

OBSERVATIONS OF MKN 421 AND MKN 501 IN 2000 AND 2001 WITH THE HEGRA STEREOSCOPIC IACT SYSTEM

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The blazar-type active galaxies Mkn 421 and Mkn 501 are highly variable TeV gamma-ray emitters. The non-thermal gamma-ray emission is thought to arise in a relativistic jet, but the origin of the emission, i.e. the responsible emission and particle acceleration mechanisms are still a subject of debate. Both objects were observed extensively in 2000 and 2001 with the HEGRA stereoscopic Cherenkov telescope system. We will report on spectral and temporal analysis of low-state Mkn 501 data from the year 2000, as well as on Mkn 421 observations of several flares during February and May 2000 and a spectacular long-duration outburst during January and February 2001.