TIME-DEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF HERCULES X-1 OBSERVATIONS WITH THE HEGRA CHERENKOV TELESCOPE SYSTEM

M. Beilicke (1), J. Ripken (1) and the HEGRA Collaboration (2)

(1) II. Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Luruper Chaussee 149, D-22761 Hamburg, Germany.
\texttt{matthias.beilicke@desy.de}

The X-ray binary Hercules X-1, consisting of an accretion-powered pulsar (about 1.3 \( M_\odot \)) and its companion star Hz Her (about 2.2 \( M_\odot \)), is a well studied object in a wide range of the electromagnetic spectrum. Except for the 1.24s pulsar period and the 1.7d orbital period, the system shows a 35d cycle of varying X-ray intensity which is permanently measured by the RXTE All Sky Monitor since 1994. From August 1999 to August 2000 Hercules X-1 was monitored with the stereoscopic system of five imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescopes (IACT) of the HEGRA Collaboration at \( E_{\text{thr}} > 0.5 \text{ TeV} \). The observation is motivated by a 3\( \sigma \) excess from the direction of Hercules X-1 observed with the HEGRA Scintillator and AIROBICC array (\( E > 20 \text{ TeV} \)) in 1993/94. In addition to the 1999/2000 data (all collected during the anomalous low state which ceased at the end of 2000) further data are scheduled to be taken in 2001. The results of a time dependent analysis will be presented.