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Maturità del candidato (20 punti), completezza nell'esposizione (10 punti).

#### PRIMA PROVA SCRITTA

#### TRACCIA N. 1

Si descriva l'origine delle radiazioni energetiche potenzialmente nocive per i dispositivi elettronici in una missione spaziale.

#### TRACCIA N. 2

Descrivere le caratteristiche principali delle particelle energetiche provenienti dal sole e il loro impatto nel danno da radiazione.

#### TRACCIA N. 3

Descrivere l'effetto della magnetosfera terrestre sui raggi cosmici.

### SECONDA PROVA SCRITTA A CONTENUTO TEORICO -PRATICO

#### TRACCIA N. 1

Il candidato descriva e commenti i principali software di calcolo di danno da radiazione.

#### TRACCIA N. 2

Il candidato descriva, evidenziandone vantaggi e criticità, un sistema on-line di calcolo di danno da radiazione.

#### TRACCIA N. 3

Il candidato descriva le principali caratteristiche di un sistema software di gestione di irraggiamenti dedicati allo studio del danno da radiazione.

### Prova orale:

#### **Quesito nr. 1)**

- Il candidato descriva l'importanza dell'impiego di facility di irraggiamento per i componenti spaziali.
- Il candidato descriva vantaggi e criticità in termini di riferimento in ambito scientifico e computazionali di un sistema on-line di calcolo di danno da radiazione.

### Conoscenza delle apparecchiature e applicazioni informatiche più diffuse:

Il candidato faccia un esempio, in uno scripting language di sua scelta, di una iterazione su una lista (di file o altro)

Conoscenza della lingua inglese

Per l'accertamento della lingua inglese si veda stampa allegata: leggere e tradurre.

**Quesito nr. 2)**

- Descrivere i processi che generano il danno da radiazione su elementi a semiconduttore.
- Il candidato descriva le problematiche e le possibili soluzioni tecniche per un sistema unico nazionale di gestione di irraggiamenti, con particolare attenzione alle componenti di gestione on-line degli stessi

Conoscenza delle apparecchiature e applicazioni informatiche più diffuse:

Il candidato faccia un esempio in SQL di una selezione da database che rispetti alcune clausole a scelta e che ne modifichi l'output, possibilmente ridirigendolo su file

Conoscenza della lingua inglese

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Milano, 13/01/2022

Il Presidente della Commissione

Prof. Massimo Gervasi





**Method and results of the analysis of data on vertical rigidities of cosmic rays cutoff in the geomagnetic field**

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**Abstract:** The method of the analysis of data on vertical rigidities of cosmic rays cutoff is presented based on the particle trajectory calculations in the geomagnetic field described by the Tsyganenko-89 model. The essence of the method consists in the fact that both the experimental data and the calculation results are described in the form of change of their value relative to the values related to IGRF. The value of these relative changes depends quite certainly on the rigidity itself and on the level of geomagnetic field disturbance (the  $K_p$ -index). The proposed model describes well calculation data and agrees with the results of cutoff rigidity measurements carried out by satellites.

**Introduction**

The effective cutoff rigidity (ECR) is an important parameter, that characterizes the given point of the near-Earth space, and defines the fluxes at this point as both galactic cosmic rays, and solar energetic particles (SEP) generated during solar flares. These fluxes, along with trapped particles of the Earth's radiation belt, determine the radiation situation onboard the spacecraft. In addition, the geomagnetic cutoff effect allows one to study SEP spectra and fluxes using the data from both neutron monitors (NM), and spacecraft situated inside the magnetosphere.

In practice, the vertical ECR is usually applied (EVCR), which represents a fine estimate averaged over the total ECR body angle [1].

The ECR calculations are based on numerical integration of the equations of motion of charged particles in the geomagnetic field described by any model. Till now, the ECRs were calculated by this technique both for the points of the global NM network, and for many typical orbits of spacecraft, the International Space Station for instance [2, 3]. Note that the ECR depends both on geomagnetic disturbance level, and on the local time [4]. The possibilities of direct ECR calculation permanently grow due to growing power of computers; however, some practical tasks require simpler and

less labor-consuming ECR calculation techniques, such as interpolation ones. So, Smart et al have calculated a set of EVCR tables for various conditions and developed the tools for interpolation [5].

**Proposed EVCR determination technique**

The approach we propose is based on interpolation of a basic set of ECRs calculated with using a series of physical concepts and computational models. The changes of the EVCR value under an effect of magnetosphere disturbance (described by  $K_p$ -index) and local time (T) using the Tsyganenko's-89 geomagnetic model [6] are used in the given technique as corrections, whose values are described by the attenuation factor  $\Delta$ , determined by Nymmik [7] as:

$$\Delta(R_0, K_p, T) = \frac{R_0}{R(R_0, K_p, T)} - 1 \quad (1)$$

where  $R_0$  is the initial rigidity calculated for the IGFR model. The reverse conclusion follows from this statement, namely: if the value  $\Delta(R_0, K_p, T)$  is known for the given point, then the real EVCR can be determined by the same formula. The analysis of the results of particles trajectory calculations, carried out according to Tsyganenko's mag-



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## Force-field parameterization of the galactic cosmic ray spectrum: Validation for Forbush decreases

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**Abstract**

A useful parametrization of the energy spectrum of galactic cosmic rays (GCR) near Earth is offered by the so-called force-field model which describes the shape of the entire spectrum with a single parameter, the modulation potential. While the usefulness of the force-field approximation has been confirmed for regular periods of solar modulation, it was not tested explicitly for disturbed periods, when GCR are locally modulated by strong interplanetary transients. Here we use direct measurements of protons and  $\alpha$ -particles performed by the PAMELA space-borne instrument during December 2006, including a major Forbush decrease, in order to directly test the validity of the force-field parameterization. We conclude that (1) The force-field parameterization works very well in describing the energy spectra of protons and  $\alpha$ -particles directly measured by PAMELA outside the Earth's atmosphere; (2) The energy spectrum of GCR can be well parameterized by the force-field model also during a strong Forbush decrease; (3) The estimate of the GCR modulation parameter, obtained using data from the world-wide neutron monitor network, is in good agreement with the spectra directly measured by PAMELA during the studied interval. This result is obtained on the basis of a single event analysis, more events need to be analyzed. © 2015 COSPAR. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

*Keywords:* Cosmic rays; Heliosphere; Forbush decrease

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**1. Introduction**

Galactic cosmic rays (GCRs) are always present in the vicinity of Earth, and their intensity varies as a result of modulation in the heliosphere by solar magnetic activity. While a theory of the heliospheric transport and modulation of GCR is well developed (see, e.g., a review by Potgieter (2013)), a simple parametrization of the energy spectrum of GCR near Earth (e.g., Vainio et al., 2009) is required for many practical purposes, without referring to physics behind. Such parameterizations are widely used in many practical applications, for example studying atmospheric effects of cosmic rays, production of cosmogenic radionuclides, long-term variability of solar activity, etc. (e.g., Bazilevskaya et al., 2008; Beer et al., 2012; Usoskin, 2013). One such parametrization is based on the force-field approximation and describes the spectrum of GCRs with good precision, using a single parameter.

Although the force-field approximation is derived using a physical basis (Gleeson and Axford, 1968; Caballero-Lopez and Moraal, 2004), the modulation potential has no clear physical meaning. Moreover, the physical assumptions used to derive the approximation, such as quasi-steadiness of the solar wind, spherical symmetry, etc., are apparently invalid for short time scales and disturbed heliospheric conditions. In fact, they are not fully valid even for the regular condition (Caballero-Lopez and Moraal, 2004). Thus, no one expects that physics of the force-field model would be applicable during a major Forbush decrease (FD). However, the force-field formalism was found to provide a very useful and comfortable mathematical parametrization of the GCR spectrum in the energy range from a few hundred MeV up to 100 GeV, irrespective of the (in) validity of physical assumptions behind the force-field model. The GCR differential energy spectrum is formally described by the force-field model

with one variable parameter, the modulation potential  $\phi$ , and the prescribed shape of the local interstellar spectrum (LIS) (see formalism in Usoskin et al. (2005)). This parametrization works better and uses fewer parameters than, e.g., a power-law in rigidity or other formal parameterizations. It has been shown (Usoskin et al., 2005, 2011) that the GCR spectrum parameterized in this way agrees quite well (within  $\approx 5\%$ ) with direct measurements of GCR spectrum performed by balloon- and space-borne detectors for the monthly time scale. The value of  $\phi$  is usually obtained empirically from the data of the worldwide network of neutron monitors. The exact value of the modulation potential depends on the employed LIS, but they can be easily recalculated between each other (Usoskin et al., 2005; Herbst et al., 2010).

Sometimes the flux and spectrum of cosmic rays near Earth are greatly modified by solar/interplanetary transient phenomena, such as solar energetic particle (SEP) events or Forbush decreases. FD is a sudden suppression of GCR intensity near the Earth, caused by interplanetary transients such as a shock or magnetized ejecta of coronal mass ejections (Cane, 2000). While the force-field parameterization is obviously unable to describe the SEP spectrum, the question of its applicability to fit the GCR spectrum during FDs has never been explicitly considered because of the lack of direct measurements of GCR spectra up to high energy during a strong FD. The shape of the GCR spectrum during a FD was not directly measured and left room for speculations. E.g., Ahluwalia and Fikani (2007) speculated, using data from the ground-based NM data, that it can be still described by the force-field model but it was hardly possible to confirm or disprove that. Although FDs are known as suppressions of the ground-based detector count rates since long (Forbush, 1954), direct measurements of GCR energy spectra during FDs were not performed until the launch of PAMELA