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Y.B. Xamrayev

Samarkand State Pedagogical Institute, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

yu-hamrayev@mail.ru

ORCID: 0009-0001-8347-7415

V.G. Yanke

Pushkov Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Ionosphere and Radiowave Propagation of the Russian Academy of

Sciences, Moscow, RF

yanke@izmiran.ru

D.X. Bekov

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Tashkent State Transport University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

E-mail: dilshodbekxus88@gmail.com

ORCID: 0009-0002-5638-2880

ANALYSIS OF THE VARIATION SPECTRUM OF COSMIC RAY FLUX RECORDED IN EARTH'S ORBIT BASED ON AMS-02 MAGNETIC SPECTROMETER DATA

Abstract; For the first time, based on the experimental data of AMS-02, a three-parameter spectrum of variations of galactic cosmic rays was obtained in the range of rigidity 1- 30 GV, to which neutron monitors are most sensitive. It was found that during the period of negative polarity of the solar magnetic field, a power-law spectrum of variations is observed with a strong exponential decay in the region of high rigidity. When the polarity changes to positive at the beginning of the new 24th solar cycle, the spectrum of cosmic ray variations becomes purely power-law. The transition to the experimentally obtained spectrum of variations will make it possible to remove a number of uncertainties and increase the accuracy of the analysis of data from the ground network of detectors. This will make it possible to retrospectively obtain fluxes of galactic protons with an average monthly resolution for the period of the space era based on ground-based monitoring on a network of neutron monitors.

Keywords: long-term variations, AMS-02, spectrum of variations, ground-based detectors.

Ю.Б. Хамраев

Самаркандский государственный педагогический институт, Самарканд, Узбекистан

В.Г. Янке

Институт земного магнетизма, ионосферы и распространения радиоволн им

Пушкова Российской академии наук, Москва, РФ

Д.Х. Беков

Доктор философии (PhD) Ташкентский государственный транспортный университет, Ташкент, Узбекистан

АНАЛИЗ ВАРИАЦИОННОГО СПЕКТРА ПОТОКА КОСМИЧЕСКИХ ЛУЧЕЙ, ЗАРЕГИСТРИРОВАННЫХ НА ОРБИТЕ ЗЕМЛИ, НА ОСНОВЕ ДАННЫХ МАГНИТНОГО СПЕКТРОМЕТРА AMS-02

Аннотация; Впервые на основе экспериментальных данных AMS-02 был получен трёхпараметрический спектр вариаций галактических космических лучей в диапазоне жёсткости 1–30 ГВ, к которому нейтронные мониторы наиболее чувствительны. Было установлено, что в период отрицательной полярности солнечного магнитного поля наблюдается степенной спектр вариаций с сильным экспоненциальным спадом в области высоких жёсткостей. При смене полярности на положительную в начале нового 24-го солнечного цикла спектр вариаций космических лучей становится чисто степенным. Переход к экспериментально полученному спектру вариаций позволит устранить ряд неопределённостей и повысить точность анализа данных наземной сети детекторов. Это даст возможность ретроспективно получать потоки галактических протонов со среднемесячным разрешением за период космической эры на основе наземного мониторинга сети нейтронных мониторов.

Ключевые слова: долгосрочные вариации, AMS-02, спектр вариаций, наземные детекторы.

Yu. B. Hamrayev

Samarqand davlat pedagogika instituti, Samarqand, O'zbekiston

V. G. Yanke

Pushkov nomidagi Yer magnitizmi, ionosfera va radioto'lqinlarning tarqalishi instituti, Rossiya Fanlar akademiyasi, Moskva, Rossiya

D. X. Bekov

Falsafa fanlari doktori (PhD) Toshkent davlat transport universiteti, Toshkent, O'zbekiston

AMS-02 MAGNET SPEKTROMETRI MA'LUMOTLARI ASOSIDA YER ORBITASIDA YOZILGAN KOSMIK NURLAR OQIMINING VARIATSION SPEKTRINI TAHLILI.

Annotatsiya. Birinchi marta AMS-02 tajriba ma'lumotlari asosida galaktik kosmik nurlar variatsiyalarining uch parametrlilik spektri olindi. Ushbu spektr neytron monitorlari eng sezgir bo'lgan 1–30 GV rigidlik diapazonini qamrab oladi. Aniqlanishicha, Quyosh magnit maydonining manfiy qutblanish davrida yuqori rigidlik sohasida kuchli eksponensial kamayishga ega bo'lgan darajali (power-law) variatsiya spektri kuzatiladi. Yangi 24-Quyosh siklining boshida qutblanish musbatga o'zgarganda esa kosmik nurlar variatsiyasi spektri sof darajali ko'rinishga ega bo'ladi. Tajribaviy ravishda olingan variatsiya spektriga o'tish bir qator noaniqliklarni bartaraf etish va yer usti detektorlari tarmog'i ma'lumotlarini tahlil qilish aniqligini oshirish imkonini beradi. Bu esa neytron monitorlari tarmog'ida olib borilgan yer usti monitoringi asosida kosmik davr davomida galaktik protonlar oqimini o'rtacha oylik aniqlikda retrospektiv ravishda tiklash imkonini beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: uzoq muddatli variatsiyalar, AMS-02, variatsiyalar spektri, yer usti detektorlari.

1. Introduction

Despite the significant progress achieved in recent decades, the physical mechanisms underlying the modulation of galactic cosmic rays in the heliosphere still the subject of discussion. The complex process of particle transfer creates problems for the development of a universal picture of long-term variations in galactic cosmic rays, which covers a long observational period (on the order of 70 years) of continuous monitoring of cosmic radiation.

Experimental data on flux variations over the period from the mid-1950s to the present could be obtained with good accuracy only from continuous ground-based measurements on a network of cosmic ray detectors. The need to analyze the results of such long-term ground monitoring led to the creation of special methods. One of the earliest and most successful implementations of the global method was created in Yakutsk [12] and was named the "Global Spectrographic Method" (GSM), since the calculations used data from a network of detectors distributed across the globe. Around the same time, Japanese researchers proposed their methodology [15]. In essence, in all variants this is a method of spherical analysis, where the expansion of the function of cosmic ray variations in spherical harmonics is used. But this takes into account cascade processes in the atmosphere and the movement of particles in the Earth's magnetosphere. With this in mind, we can say that GSM is essentially a sophisticated version of spherical analysis. IZMIRAN has created its own version of GSM [5], which has been used for many years for a detailed and comprehensive study of variations in cosmic rays of the zero harmonic (isotropic component of cosmic ray variations), the first spherical harmonic, and sometimes the second harmonic of cosmic ray variations.

In the simplest case, the problem is reduced to solving a system of equations describing the cosmic ray variations at each point and obtaining the parameters of the isotropic component variation. Directly observed variations in the count rate of the i -th cosmic ray detector (where N_B is the base count rate relative to which the variations are calculated) can be represented as

$$v_i = \int_{R_c^i}^{\infty} W^i(R, R_c^i, h_0^i) \cdot \frac{\delta J}{J}(R) \cdot dR + \sigma^i. \quad (1)$$

Here $W^i(R, R_c^i, h_0^i)$ is a coupling function between primary cosmic ray and variations of the secondary cosmic ray registered by detector i located in the point with geomagnetic cut off rigidity R_c^i on the atmospheric depth h_0 . The spectrum of the primary cosmic radiation and the desired spectrum of the isotropic variation are designated, respectively, as $J(R)$ and $\delta J/J(R)$. The discrepancy σ^i reflects the inadequacy of the used model of variations and possible hardware variations.

The coupling functions determine the influence of the Earth's atmosphere, and the magnetosphere effect takes into account the rigidity of the geomagnetic cutoff of the considered detector. The coupling functions of the neutron component were calculated by us [4], the coupling functions of the muon component were used from Fujimoto et al. (1976).

An important situation is when the analytical form of the desired solution is known, or the solution can be approximated with a high degree of reliability by a model built on the basis of a priori information. In this case, as a rule, the corresponding system of equations for finding a small number of unknown parameters turns out to be well conditioned. The advantage of this situation is that it is practically impossible to obtain an absurd solution if the analytical model is

chosen in accordance with the process under study.

The objective of this work is to establish the analytical form of the spectrum of variation with a minimum number of parameters for use in analyzing data from the global network of ground-based cosmic ray detectors using the AMS-02 experimental data on the spectrum of protons and nuclei in the range of rigidity from several GV to several tens of GV. This will make it possible to abandon the empirically specified spectra of variation.

2. Data of magnetic spectrometer AMS-02

High-precision data of the orbital detector of cosmic rays AMS-02 for the study of dark matter and antimatter also provide a unique opportunity to measure spectral characteristics at moderate and high rigidity of the particles.

Direct measurements of galactic cosmic rays in the range of rigidities from one to several tens of GV were carried out on the PAMELA [1] and AMS-02 (Ting et al., 2013) spacecraft. The statistical accuracy of the data of the AMS-02 magnetic spectrometer is significantly higher, since the geometric factor of the AMS-02 is about $0.5 \text{ m}^2 \text{ sr}$, and the PAMELA spectrometer is only $21.5 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ sr}$. This work was based on the data of the AMS-02 magnetic spectrometer.

AMS-02 [1,2] is a magnetic spectrometer operating onboard the *International Space Station* from 2011 to the present. The digital data is available in the database [7]. A description of the database can be found in DiFelice et al. (2017). Sampling by rigidity or by time (t, R) is possible with fixing one of the parameters. For a given moment in time, proton spectra can be obtained in a very wide range of rigidities. In this work, we limited ourselves to the particle rigidity in the range 1 - 30 GV, to which the network of ground-based neutron monitors is most sensitive.

3. Ground methods

In Belov et al. [6] a variant of the global spectrographic method is described specially adapted for studying the long-term behavior of isotropic CR variations. The analysis is carried out using the monthly average data of neutron monitors (about 45 detectors), muon telescopes, and stratospheric sounding. In the simplest case of isotropic variations the problem is reduced to solving the system of equations (1). In the model, it was assumed that the spectrum of variations is given in a three-parameter empirical form and is defined as:

$$\delta J/J(R) = a_1/(R_L + R)^\gamma. \quad (2)$$

Area of the parameter changes: $\gamma = 1 \div 2$ and $R_L = (0 \div 4)$ GV. A three-parameter approximation of the galactic CR variation spectrum is suitable for describing the spectrum of long-term variations in the 5-50 GV regions.

Figure 1 shows the parameters of the spectrum of variations in galactic CR: a_{10} , R_L and γ , obtained by this method. The bottom panel shows the standard deviations of the experimental data from the model, which makes it possible to assess the adequacy of the applied variation model.

The spectrum of variations in the form (2) was chosen empirically, but other options were also considered. A direct experimental verification of the shape of the spectrum of variations in the range of rigidity from one to several tens of GV has never been carried out, since the maximum rigidity of particles in measurements of fluxes outside the magnetosphere at best reached 2 GV. Direct measurements in a wide range of rigidities using unique magnetic spectrometers will solve this problem.

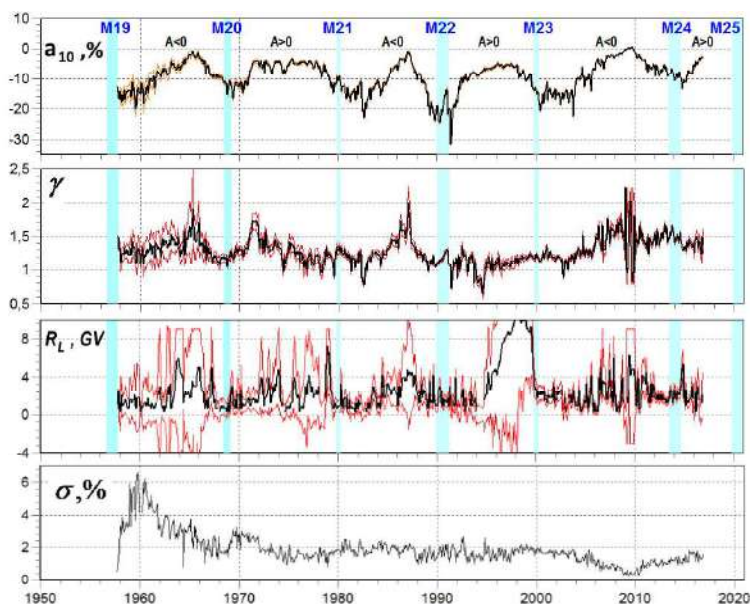


Figure 1. Parameters of the galactic cosmic rays variation spectrum: a_{10} , R_L and γ the model discrepancy is shown at the bottom. The error range is shown in red.

4. Method of experimental determination of the spectrum of variations

To experimentally determine the spectrum of GCR variations, we used data from the AMS-02 magnetic spectrometer

for the entire period of its operation. The time course of AMS-02 flux variations relative to the 2009 base period and their comparison with the GSM results are shown in the top panel of Fig. 2. The period of the polarity reversal of the Sun magnetic field from the second half of 2013 to the first half of 2014 is also highlighted here (Sun, 2015). But above all, the measured flux was freed from the contribution of solar cosmic rays.

For this, the periods of solar events were excluded from the analysis: 13 SPE, including 6 GLEs. The selection criterion for the events was the excess of the proton flux > 100 MeV threshold of 1 pfu (graphical data can be found on the website (SWPC, 2020)).

Analysis shows that the contribution ($< 10^{-4}\%$) of solar cosmic rays can be neglected by considering the averaged galactic CR flux per Carrington revolution. In fig. 2 (top left panel), the SPE and GLE moments during the AMS-02 operation period are marked with vertical segments, the length of which is proportional to the effect.

The result of the analysis in Fig. 2 is shown for the period of negative polarity (left) and positive polarity (right) of the Sun magnetic field, and the time point is marked with a vertical line in the upper panel of the figure.

The middle panel shows the spectrum of particles (protons) J for the considered moment of time and the spectrum of particles J_B for the base period. Due to the lack of data for a later period, January-April 2017 was selected as the base period (horizontal segment on the top panel), although the SA minimum and the maximum count rate are observed in April 2020. The results should be considered as preliminary and should be revised after updating the AMS-02 data.

Changes in the particle spectrum relative to the particle spectrum in the base period determine the spectrum of variations. By definition, the spectrum of variations for each point in time is defined as:

$$v = J/J_B - 1 \quad (3)$$

In the last expression, the variables are functions of time and rigidity, i.e. $v(t, R)$, $J(t, R)$ and $J_B(R)$.

The experimental spectrum of variations, in this way determined, is shown in the lower panel of Fig. 2 (points and errors in their determination) for two polarities of the total magnetic field of the Sun.

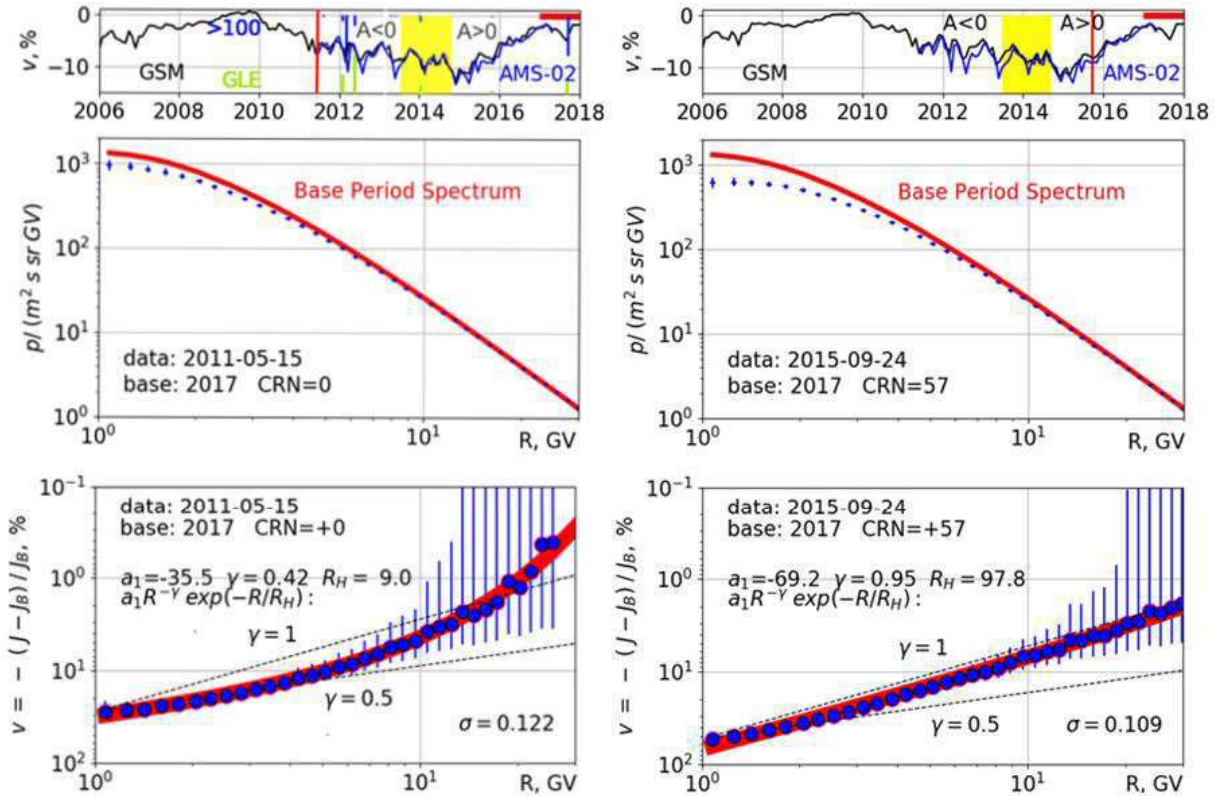


Figure 2. An example of spectra for two points in time: for a period of negative (left) and positive polarity (right) of the total magnetic field of the Sun. The middle panels show the particle spectra (obtained from AMS-02) and the spectra of variations found on their basis, shown in the lower panels.

The choice of the approximating function for the spectrum of variation depends on the rigidity range and the problem being solved. Several analytical models of the spectra of cosmic ray variations were considered, including the spectrum of variations of the form (2).

However, the most successful for approximating the experimental spectrum of cosmic ray variations in a wide range of rigidities was the power-law spectrum modulated by an exponential in the region of upper rigidities, i.e.

$$v = a_1 R^{-\gamma} \exp(-R/R_H), \quad (4)$$

where R_H -upper rigidity. This is the so-called Ellison-Ramaty spectrum (1985). Function (4) is nonlinear with respect to the parameters a_1 , γ and R_H . System (4) can be reduced to linear by taking the logarithm. As a result, we obtain a system of linear equations for the parameters $\ln a_1$, γ and $1/R_H$:

$$\ln v_i = \ln a_1 - \gamma \ln(R_i) - R_i/R_H \quad (5)$$

The parameters of approximation a_1 , γ and R_H for two time moments with positive and negative polarity of the total magnetic field of the Sun also presented at the bottom panels in Fig.2. More common model:

$$v = a_1(R_L + R)^{-\gamma} \exp(-R/R_H) \quad (6)$$

In the region of lower rigidities v is also controlled by a parameter, but the model has not yet been considered, since it remains nonlinear even after the logarithm procedure.

In the work [14], a five-parameter model is proposed that better approximates the spectrum of cosmic ray variations over a wide range of rigidities, but which is not linearizable and is therefore inconvenient for practical use.

5. Discussion of the results

The parameters of approximation a_1 , γ , and R_H in the considered model (4) were obtained for each solar rotation since May 2011. In the period of negative polarity of the solar magnetic field ($A < 0$) before the polarity reversal, the parameter R_H is close to 10 GV, and during this period, a power-law spectrum of galactic CR variations with strong exponential decay in the areas of rigidity > 30 GV is observed. With a change in polarity and at the beginning of a new 24th solar cycle, the parameter R_H becomes close to 100 GV, and the spectrum turns into a purely power-law spectrum.

During periods of positive magnetic polarity, particles enter the heliosphere from the polar regions, drift toward the equator, and leave the heliosphere along the neutral current sheet. The detector is located near the Sun. When drifting from the pole to the equator, particles lose energy corresponding to the potential difference of the heliosphere Φ . Since the potential Φ weakly depends on the magnetic field disturbance, at the SA minimum the maximum amplitude of the isotropic variation is flat. The intensity of variations is proportional to $\Delta\Phi/R$ [9], i.e. the index $\gamma \approx 1$, which is observed. At negative polarity in the weak modulation approximation (i.e. high energies), particles drift from the outer heliosphere along the neutral current sheet and leave the heliosphere through the polar regions. Thus, the modulation of particles is determined only by energy losses during propagation in the equatorial region, determined by the mean free path of the particles. That is, the particle spectrum observed on Earth correlates well with the level of magnetic field disturbance, therefore, at the minimum of SA, the maximum is sharp. For high energies $\lambda \sim p^2$ [9] and the index $\gamma \approx 2$. Which is also experimentally observed at a rigidity of ~ 10 GV.

It can be noted that before the solar activity maximum in 2014 and the polarity reversal, the experimentally measured variations on the AMS-02 experiment in some periods are almost twice as large as the variations obtained by the GSM method from the data of ground-based detectors. This coincides with the period of negative polarity $A < 0$ of the solar magnetic field, in the period of positive polarity $A > 0$ after the polarity reversal of the solar magnetic field, this effect is not observed.

6. Summary and conclusions

Due to its unique capabilities, the satellite experiment AMS-02 for the first time made it possible to obtain an experimental spectrum of cosmic ray variations in the range of rigidities to which the ground-based network of neutron monitors is sensitive. This, in turn, will make it possible to remove the uncertainty in the choice of the spectrum of cosmic ray variations during GSM analysis, since until now the spectrum of cosmic ray variations was determined only empirically.

In this work, based on AMS-02 data, for the first time, the experimental spectrum of cosmic ray variations and its temporal changes in the range of rigidity 1-30 GV for the period from May 2011 to April 2017 are obtained. The found form of the spectrum of variations will make it possible to increase the accuracy of the reconstructed parameters of the spectrum of cosmic ray variations outside the magnetosphere from the data of the network of ground-based cosmic ray detectors.

An important result of this work is the transformation of the form of the spectrum at different periods of polarity of the interplanetary magnetic field. During the period of negative polarity $A < 0$ of the solar magnetic field, a power-law spectrum of variations with a strong exponential decay is observed in the region of upper rigidities.

When the polarity changes $A > 0$ the spectrum of cosmic ray variations transforms into a purely power-law spectrum. In the work for the base period, the data of January-April 2017 were used, but when new data are published, including the minimum SA and the maximum count rate in April 2020, the calculations of the spectrum of variations must be updated.

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