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Detection of Cosmic-Ray particles with the Fermi Large Area Telescope

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The Fermi Gamma-Ray Space Telescope recently completed its third year in orbit. During this time, the Fermi mission has recorded a remarkable variety of novel observations relating to astronomy and particle astrophysics. The performance of the Large Area Telescope (LAT) on board the Fermi satellite has largely exceeded the most optimistic expectations. Besides offering new insights on the high-energy gamma-ray sky, the telescope has provided measurements of the cosmic-ray electron and positron spectra and anisotropies. I will describe the challenges involved in the measurement of charged particles with the LAT, which will offer a unique perspective on the characteristics of the telescope.

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