TIPP 2011 - 2nd International Conference on Technology and Instrumentation in Particle Physics



Contribution ID: 514

Type: Oral Presentation

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

Saturday 11 June 2011 12:30 (30 minutes)

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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Track Classification: Astrophysics and Space Instrumentation