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First Tests to detect Cherenkov Light from Cosmic Air Showers by Geiger-mode Avalanche Photodiodes

A small arrangement of Geiger-mode avalanche photodiodes (G-APDs) and two PMTs has been set up on an air Cherenkov telescope for gamma-ray astronomy in order to test if it is possible to detect Cherenkov light from cosmic air showers. The aim of this test, a possible proof of concept, is to evaluate the use of G-APDs as a replacement of PMTs in future imaging air Cherenkov telescopes. First test results will be presented and advantages and problems discussed.

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