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Analysis of GCR Spectra and Composition Using Penetrating Particle Data from the CRIS Instrument on ACE

Saturday, August 1, 2015 3:30 PM (1 hour)

The Cosmic Ray Isotope Spectrometer (CRIS) on NASA's Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) spacecraft has been making precise measurements of cosmic-ray elemental and isotopic composition and energy spectra for nearly 18 years. This instrument uses the dE/dx versus total energy technique to identify nuclei that stop in thick stacks of silicon solid-state detectors and to measure their energy. The energy range covered for these stopping particles extends up to ~280 MeV/nuc for O and ~570 MeV/nuc for Fe. We have developed a new technique for identifying particles that penetrate the entire detector stack that relies on a combination of the total energy deposited in the stack and the change of dE/dx from the front to the back of the stack. This technique allows us to extend energy spectra for cosmic-ray elements to higher energies and can be used for bridging the energy gap between the CRIS stopping-particle spectra and measurements made in low-Earth orbit by instruments such as HEAO-C2, PAMELA, and AMS-02. We will describe the technique, show some applications to extending the energy limit of the CRIS spectra, and discuss the limitations on the energy coverage that can be achieved.

Collaboration

- not specified -

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