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The spectrum of cosmic rays in the energy range 10^16 -10^18 eV according to the Small Cherenkov Array in Yakutsk

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The experimental data on the energy spectrum cosmic rays, obtained from Small Cherenkov Array in Yakutsk on the measurement of Cherenkov radiation in showers with energy 10^15 –10^18 eV are discussed. The data were obtained by means of continuous array operation since 1994. Found that the spectrum of the all particle in this energy region has a complex shape and cannot be described by a simple exponential function with a single slope indicator g. After the first kink at energy 3•10^15 eV (knee), the spectrum becomes steeper at Dg = 0.4 to energy < 2•10^16 eV, then part of the spectrum to > 8•10^16 eV becomes flat, the slope of the spectrum is g = 2.92 ± 0.03 and then again changes slope to Dg = 0.32 ± 0.05, since about energy ~2•10^17 eV. The second kink in the spectrum observed at the Yakutsk EAS array at ~2•10^17 eV, or also called second knee is the significant result for space astrophysics of ultra-high cosmic rays. In this paper we discuss possible scenarios for spectrum formation of cosmic rays by the galactic sources to energies < 10^17 eV, mainly supernovae remnants SNR and Metagalactic origins in the energy range 10^17 –10^18 eV. Most likely, that measurement of second knee is related with transitional region, galactic to extragalactic origin of cosmic rays.

Collaboration

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Primary author: KNURENKO, Stanislav (Yu. G. Shafer Institute of Cosmophysical Research and Aeron-

omy)

Co-author: PETROV, Igor (Yu. G. Shafer Institute of Cosmophysical Research and Aeronomy)Presenter: PETROV, Igor (Yu. G. Shafer Institute of Cosmophysical Research and Aeronomy)

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