

PALACKÝ UNIVERSITY OLMOUC
FACULTY OF SCIENCE
JOINT LABORATORY OF OPTICS

BACHELOR THESIS

Calibration and monitoring of astroparticle
telescopes



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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I elaborated this bachelor thesis independently under the supervision of Ing. Ladislav Chytka, Ph.D., using only information sources referred in the Literature chapter.

In Olomouc August 21, 2021

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Bibliographical identification

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Introduction

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Chapter 1

Astroparticle detection

More than 100 years have passed since Victor Franz Hess first encountered cosmic radiation. Since those times the techniques and methods of detection have been strongly improved. We have moved up from elevating electroscopes by balloons to observe growing electric charge to specialized techniques, which allows us to measure particles' energies, trajectories, etc.

1.1 Cosmic rays and particles

1.2 Ultra-high energy cosmic rays (UHECRs)

1.3 Detection principles

Chapter 2

FAST telescope

The Fluorescence detector Array of Single-pixel Telescopes (FAST) is an international project of fluorescence telescope sensitive to UHERCs.

Until today there are four prototypes in active service. Three of them are situated in Black Rock Mesa site of the Telescope Array experiment in central Utah and one in Argentina near Pierre Auger Observatory.

2.1 Principle of operation

Main detection part of telescope consists of superreflective UV mirrors and photomultipliers.

The entire telescope along with monitoring systems and other instruments is situated in a hut with remote shutter, where it is protected from negative metrological phenomena, such as rain or fast wind, but also from dust and aerosols. Exposure of mirrors to any of this phenomena could lead to reduction of theirs reflectivity. It is also necessary to monitor and protect PMTs from unwanted light sources. Even a low-intensity sources could decrease PMT's service life.

2.2 Remote control and monitoring

2.3

Chapter 3

Instrumentalization and measurement preparation

To perform all of necessary measurements we need to use various types of optical and electronical equipment.

3.1 Integration sphere

3.2 Photomultiplier

3.3 Hardware for experiment and measurement control

3.3.1 Raspberry Pi

3.3.2 STM32 based microcontrollers

Conclusion

We are completely f****d.

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