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Resistive Plate Chambers in the ARGO-YBJ experiment: operational features, monitoring and control

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The Resistive Plate Chambers used in the ARGO-YBJ experiment have been working uninterruptedly since the deployment of the detector was completed in October, 2007. The ARGO-YBJ Detector Control System provides constant monitoring of the environmental parameters and of the operational conditions of the RPCs. Here we summarize the monitoring records collected in the last four years by correlating the environmental trends (temperature and pressure) with the current absorbed by the RPCs in order to show the stability of the detector operation. In addition, a monitoring telescope of RPCs was installed at the experimental site in order to test the regulation of the applied voltage on the ARGO-YBJ RPCs accounting for the monitored changes in the environmental parameters, with the goal to keep the effective voltage constant. The test results, which are crucial in view of the implementation of this procedure in the experiment, are presented here.

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