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Cosmic ray physics with ARGO—YBJ

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The ARGO—YBJ experiment has been in stable data taking for more than five years at the Yangbajing cosmic ray observatory (Tibet, P.R. China, 4300 m a.s.l.). The detector collected about 5×10^{11} events in a wide energy range from few TeVs up to the PeV region. In this work we summarize the latest results in cosmic ray physics particularly focusing on the cosmic ray energy spectrum. The results of the measurement of the all—particle and proton plus helium energy spectra in the energy region between 10^{12} - 10^{16} eV are discussed. A precise measurement of the cosmic ray energy spectrum and composition in this energy region allows a better understanding of the origin of the knee and provides a powerful cross—check among different experimental techniques.

Primary author: MONTINI, Paolo (ROMA2)

Presenter: MONTINI, Paolo (ROMA2)

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