
On the Acceleration of the Secondary Cosmic Ray Component in Low Atmosphere by Thunderstorms

D. Cattani,¹ S. Cecchini,² M. Galli,¹ G. Giovannini,¹ and A. Pagliarin,¹

(1)*Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Universita', I-40126 Bologna, Italy*

(2)*IASF/CNR, Sez. Bologna, I-40129 Bologna, Italy*

Abstract

During atmospheric stormy events, variations in the gamma ray intensities in the energy range from 50 keV to a few MeV have been observed. These phenomena can be attributed to variations of the electrical potential gradient in the lower atmosphere that can affect the cosmic ray charged particle energies. Some examples of the effect will be shown and discussed.