

AtmoHEAD: Atmospheric Monitoring for High-Energy Astroparticle Detectors



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Atmospheric considerations for CTA site search

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The Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA) will be the next high-energy gamma-ray observatory. Selection of the sites, one in each hemisphere, is not obvious since several factors have to be taken into account. Among them, and probably the most crucial, are the atmospheric conditions. Since July 2012, the site working group has deployed automatic ground based instrumentation (ATMOSCOPE) on all the candidate sites. Due to the limited time span available from ground based data, long term weather forecast models become necessary tools for site characterization. It is then of prime importance to validate the model by comparing it to the ATMOSCOPE measurements. We will describe the sources of data (ATMOSCOPE and weather forecasting model) for the site evaluation and how they will be used and combined.

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