



# The results of the development of the setup of SPHERE-3 for studying the composition of the PCR in the field of 1-1000 PEV. The status of 2025.

#### **Dmitry Chernov**

and

Elena Bonvech, Vladimir Galkin, Vladimir Ivanov, Timofey Kolodkin, Natalia Ovcharenko, Olga Cherkesova, Dmitriy Podgrudkov, Maxim Ziva, Tatyana Roganova, Elena Entina #37

# On the method of reflected Cherenkov light investigation

In 1972, A.E. Chudakov proposed installing two photomultipliers and two electron-optical converters with identical fields of view of 45 degrees on the aircraft. All four devices were to observe the snow-covered surface of the Earth from a height of about 10 km.



АКАДЕМИЯ НАУК СССР Якутский филиал Сибирского отделения Институт космофизических исследований и аэрономии Научный совет по комплексной проблеме "Космические лучи"

ЭКСПЕРИМЕНТАЛЬНЫЕ МЕТОДЫ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ КОСМИЧЕСКИХ ЛУЧЕЙ СВЕРХВЫСОКИХ ЭНЕРГИЙ

> (Материалы Всесоюзного симпозиума. 19 - 23 июня 1972 г., г. Якутск)

Целью настоящей земетки является обратить внимание на возможность прямого измерения полного потока черенковского света, создаваемого ливнем. Для этого надо светоприёмник расположить на большой высоте, чтобы регистрировать свет, отраженный от поверхности, на которую падает ливень. Идеальные условия в смысле отражения черенховского света ливня от поверхности земли можно ожидать в заснеженной тундре в северных районах СССР.

ЯКУТСК 1974



# Experimental scheme of the SPHERE project

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The setup rises above the snow-covered surface of the earth and records the reflected Cherenkov light of the EAS. The measured signal is proportional to the total flow of Cherenkov light of the EAS and the energy of the primary cosmic particle.

It is possible to record the direct flow of Cherenkov light if a wide-angle lens or a coding mask with a luminosity of about 100 cm<sup>2</sup> is installed on the mirror.



The experiment with the SPHERE-2 setup was carried out in the period 2008-2013 by SINP MSU and FIAN with the support of INR RAS near the neutrino telescope NT-200

#### **SPHERE-2 detector results**

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#### Method for estimation the PCR composition using reflected Cherenkov light

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The 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Cosmic Rays and Astrophysics (ISCRA-2025) 26 June 2025, MEPhI, Moscow

#### LDF model from vertical EAS



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### Construction of the SPHERE-3 detector

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# Preliminary version of the optical system of the <sup>9</sup> SPHERE-3 detector



Spot shape optimization Mosaic diameter 550 mm  $S_{eff}$ ~1.13 $M^2$ 

Mirror diameter 2160 мм Diameter of the diaphragm 1320 mm Aspherical mirror

### Characteristics of the designed detectors

Parameter	SPHERE-2	Prototype	SPHERE-3
Effective sensitive area of optics (aperture entrance window), m <sup>2</sup>	0,5	0,16*	1,13*
Mirror diameter, mm	1500	800*	2200*
Optical system viewing angle, degrees	±25	±23*	±23*
Number of mosaic elements	109	300*	2-3x10 <sup>3 *</sup>
Detector weight, kg	90	15*	100*
Detector height, m	up to 900 (balloon)	up to 500 (UAV)	up to 2000 (UAV)

\* - preliminary

(10)

## One way to register direct Cherenkov light

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Development and modification of the method for estimating the mass of a 12 primary particle with simultaneous registration of EAS by direct and reflected light detectors of the SPHERE-3 facility

Poster presentation ID: #9, O. Cherkesova



(13)Development and modification of the method for estimating the mass of a primary particle with simultaneous registration of EAS by direct and reflected light detectors of the SPHERE-3 facility

major axis

Poster presentation ID: #9, O. Cherkesova Preliminary results of Here p - probability of proton the mass estimation using the length of the

misclassification, p-N – probability to take N for proton, N-Fe – probability to take N for Fe, Fe – probability of Fe misclassification.

р	p-N	N-Fe	Fe
0.22	0.15	0.19	0.14

**Preliminary results of** the mass estimation using dual classification

Energy	10 PeV		30 PeV	
Incline	15°	20°	15°	20°
р	0.25	0.27	0.31	0.30
p-N	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28
N-Fe	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.28
Fe	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.28

р	p-N	N-Fe	Fe
0.32	0.32	0.31	0.33

Preliminary results of the mass estimation using ratio of integrals of reflected light

#### Conclusion

- Work is underway to improve the method for the detection of the reflected Cherenkov light
- A preliminary design of the detector and optical system for the SPHERE-3 detector and its prototype has been developed.
- High sensitivity of the direct Cherenkov light to the primary mass was demonstrated.
- Method of the primary mass estimation using the data of both detectors was created

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# Thank you for your attention!

