

ACCOUNTING FOR METEOROLOGICAL EFFECTS IN THE DETECTOR OF THE CHARGED COMPONENT OF COSMIC RAYS

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Abstract. In this paper, we discuss the influence of meteorological effects on the data of the ground installation CARPET, which is a detector of the charged component of secondary cosmic rays (CRs). This device is designed in the P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute (LPI, Moscow, Russia) and installed at the Dolgoprudny scientific station (Dolgoprudny, Moscow region, N55.56°, E37.3°; Geomagnetic cutoff rigidity (R_c) = 2.12 GV) in 2017. Based on the data obtained in 2019–2020, the barometric and temperature **correction** coefficients for the CARPET installation were determined. The barometric coefficient was calculated from the data of the barometric pressure sensor included in the installation. To determine the temperature effect, we used the data of upper-air sounding of the atmosphere obtained by the Federal State Budgetary Institution «Central Aerological Observatory» (CAO), also located in Dolgoprudny. Upper-air sounds launch twice a day and can reach altitude more than 30 km.

Keywords: cosmic rays; CARPET detector; meteorological effects

1. Introduction

The CARPET installation is designed for permanent monitoring of charged component of secondary CRs flux at the ground level. It allows analysis of secondary CRs fluxes variations, caused by geomagnetic and solar activity on the processes affecting the behavior of cosmic rays in near-Earth space and Earth's atmosphere (Makhmutov et al., 2013, 2015).

The basis of the CARPET installation (Fig. 1) is the STS-6 gas-discharge Geiger – Müller counters, combined in 12 detector blocks of 10 counters each. The detector block consists of two layers: 5 upper and 5 lower counters, separated with an aluminum absorber (filter) 7 mm thick. Experimental data are recorded using three channels with a time resolution of 1 ms. The first channel (UP) corresponds to the integral count rate of charged particles passing through the top layer of 60 counters. The second channel (LOW) corresponds to the integral count of charged particles passing

through the bottom layer of 60 counters. Particles simultaneously registered by **both** the upper and
35 lower counters, i.e., passed through the filter are registered in the coincidence channel - TEL.

In addition, there is a channel of auxiliary information ("telemetry"), which consist of the data on
atmospheric pressure, temperature and supply voltages.

The CARPET installation detects particles of the following energies: in the UP and the LOW
channels there are electrons and positrons with energies $E > 200$ keV, protons with $E > 5$ MeV,
40 muons with $E > 1.5$ MeV (**efficiency~100%**), and photons with $E > 20$ keV (efficiency $< 1\%$). The
TEL coincidence channel registers more energetic particles: electrons with energies $E > 5$ MeV,
protons with $E > 30$ MeV, and muons with $E > 15.5$ MeV. Detailed information on the principles
of CARPET operation was given previously (Philippov et al., 2020a). **In addition to the CARPET
installations, there are 2 other types of detectors which are also integrated to the network: «Neutron
45 detector» (ND) installations (Philippov et al., 2020c), which are sensitive to the neutron component
of cosmic rays, and «Gamma-spectrometer» installations (Philippov et al., 2021), which are
sensitive to gamma rays with energies from 50 keV to 5 MeV.**

Nowdays there is an international network of the CARPET installations: first module was launched
in 2006 (De Mendonca et al., 2011, 2013; Mizin et al., 2011) at CASLEO (San Juan, Argentina,
50 $S31.47^\circ$, $W69.17^\circ$, **geomagnetic cutoff rigidity** $R_c = 9.8$ GV), two modules were launched
(Maghrabi et al., 2020) in 2015 at KACST (King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology,
Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, $N24.39^\circ$, $E46.42^\circ$; $R_c = 14.4$ GV). In 2015 and 2016 at L.N. Gumilyov
Eurasian National University (Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan, $N51.10^\circ$, $E71.26^\circ$; $R_c = 2.9$
GV), the first and second modules of the CARPET installation were launched (Philippov et al.,
55 2020b; Tulekov et al., 2020).

This paper investigates the influence of meteorological conditions on the data of the installation,
which has been operating since 2017 at the Dolgoprudny Scientific Station of the Lebedev Physical
Institute RAS.

2. Instrumentation and data analysis

60 Ground-based CARPET installations detect secondary charged particles, mainly muons, generated
in the interaction of primary CRs with nuclei in the atmosphere. Muons are not nuclear-active
particles (**such as protons, neutrons, and also charged pions and kaons**) and lose energy for the
excitation and ionization of air atoms. **Ionization losses depend on the amount of matter above the
detector; therefore, the barometric effect must be taken into account. The altitude of muon
65 generation in the π / K -decays is temperature dependent, therefore the temperature effect in the
atmosphere must be taken into account.** (Dorman, 1972, 2004, 2006).

2.1 Barometric effect

The barometric effect can be determined through variations in **atmospheric pressure** at the level of CRs registration (equation 1):

$$\left(\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}\right)_P \cong \beta \Delta P, \quad (1)$$

70 where

$\left(\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}\right)_P$ – relative variation of the count rate of the CARPET installation;

$\Delta N = N - N_0$;

$\Delta P = P - P_0$;

N_0 – average (standard) count rate [pulses/h] for the period of measurements;

75 N – current count rate [pulses/h];

P_0 – average (standard) ground **atmospheric pressure** [hPa] for the period of measurements;

P – current **atmospheric pressure** [hPa].

80 According to the data for 2019, hourly averaged average count rate and atmospheric pressure for the CARPET-MOSCOW installation $N_0 = 53667$ pulses/h, mean square deviation of the count rate $\sigma_N = 2187$ pulses/h; $P_0 = 988.7$ hPa, mean square deviation of the atmospheric pressure $\sigma_P = 9.8$ hPa.

For calculating the barometric coefficient β , it is necessary to determine the linear relationship between $\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}$ and ΔP (Fig. 2). Barometric coefficient β for the CARPET-MOSCOW **installation** (which is located at the Dolgoprudny Scientific Station of the Lebedev Physical Institute RAS, **Moscow region**) is determined on the data of June 2019 (During this period there were no significant geomagnetic, solar and temperature disturbances): $\beta = -0.1861 \pm 0.0025\%/hPa$; coefficient of determination $R^2 = 0.8975$. Using Eq. (1), we obtain pressure-corrected data:

$$N_{PC} = N - \beta N_0 \Delta P, \quad (2)$$

where

N_{PC} – Average **pressure corrected** count rate [impulses/h] of the CARPET installation.

90 To prove that secondary CRs variations, associated with barometric effect are more significant than variations of primary CRs variations, we use pressure corrected data of the Moscow neutron monitor (<http://cr0.izmiran.ru/mosc/>). Average count rate according to the data of 2019: $\overline{N_{nm}} = 9699$ pulses/min; $\sigma_{nm} = 66$ pulses/min.

Fig. 3 shows neutron monitor count rate variations on the data of 2019. **The black horizontal line is the average count rate [pulses/min] according to the annual data. Black vertical dashed lines are the boundaries of the months. The names of the month are signed at the bottom. The standard**

deviations for the data of each month are shown at the top. The relative magnitude of the effect determined by the variations in primary CRs over a given period of time can be estimated by the ratio $\sigma_{nm}/\overline{N_{nm}} = 0.007$ (0,7%).

100 Magnitude of the barometric effect of the CARPET-MOSCOW can be estimated as $\beta \cdot \sigma_p = 0.018$ (1.8%), which is more than 2 times higher than variations of primary CRs. Therefore, the barometric effect is significant for the CARPET installations and must be taken into account in the further data processing.

2.2 Temperature effect

105 The muon component of secondary CRs is characterized by a significant temperature effect (Yanke, et al., 2011). To correct the CR measurements for this effect, it is necessary to carry out temperature measurements in the atmosphere close to the location of the CR instrument. The temperature effect has two components: negative and positive. The negative temperature effect is associated with a decrease in muon fluxes during heating and expansion of the atmosphere. The
 110 positive temperature effect is associated with the appearance of additional muons, due to a decrease in the density of the atmosphere and, in connection with this, a decrease in the probability of interaction of charged pions and kaons with air nuclei. As a consequence, the probability of decays of charged pions and kaons and the appearance of additional muons increases. These two effects (positive and negative) are competitive (Dorman, 1972, 2004, 2006; Yanke et al., 2011).

115 To estimate the temperature effect, we used data of the TEL channel of the CARPET – MOSCOW installation for 2019–2020. The altitude profiles of temperature and pressure were determined from the experimental data of the Central Aerological Observatory (CAO; Dolgoprudny). The temperature effect was determined in two ways: based on the effective generation level method and the integral method (Dmitrieva et al., 2013; Ganeva et al., 2013; Zazyan et al., 2015).

2.2.1 Effective generation level method

To eliminate the barometric effect, original data (Fig. 4a) were processed according to Equation 1 (Fig. 4b). The barometric correction mainly compensates for the daily variations in the count rate. The effective generation rate method is based on the assumption that muons are mainly generated at a certain isobaric level, which is 100 hPa (Dmitrieva et al., 2013). The height H of this level
 125 depends on the atmospheric temperature. The deviation of the count rate of the installation, therefore, depends on the change in the height of the generation level ΔH and the change in the temperature of this layer of air:

$$\left(\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}\right)_T = \alpha_H \Delta H + \alpha_T \Delta T \quad (3)$$

where

$\left(\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}\right)_T$ – count rate relative variations of the CARPET installation;

130 ΔH – absolute deviation of the effective generation level [km];

α_H – negative temperature coefficient [%/km];

ΔT – absolute temperature deviation at the level of effective generation [°C];

α_T – positive temperature coefficient [%/°C].

Upper-air meteorological sondes are launched twice a day, at 11:30 and 23:30 UTC (Kochin et al.,
135 2021). The picture of a typical MRZ-3AK1 sonde is presented in Fig. 5. Flights last, on average,
about 1.5 hours, therefore, from the available data of the CARPET-MOSCOW installation were
made samples of hourly data from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC and 00:00 to 01:00 UTC.

To calculate the contribution of the negative component of the temperature effect, we define the
linear relationship between $\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}$ and ΔH (Fig. 6),

140 where

$$\Delta N = N_{PC} - N_0;$$

$$\Delta H = H - H_0;$$

H_0 – average (standard) height of the level of effective generation [km] for 2019–2020;

H – current height of the level of effective generation [km].

145 For the CARPET-MOSCOW installation: $H_0 = 16.1$ km, $\sigma_H = 0.3$ km. Using the least squares
method, we define the approximating line, the slope of which is equal to α_H .

$$\alpha_H = -4.00684 \pm 0.0652\%/km; \text{ coefficient of determination } R^2 = 0.8191.$$

Corrected data series (Fig. 4c) is calculated by the equation:

$$N_{HPC} = N_{PC} - \alpha_H N_0 \Delta H, \quad (4)$$

where

150 N_{HPC} – count rate [pulses/h] of the CARPET installation with negative temperature effect
correction.

To calculate the contribution of the positive component of the temperature effect, we define the
linear dependence between $\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}$ and ΔT (Fig. 7),

where

155 $\Delta N = N_{HPC} - N_0;$

$$\Delta T = T - T_0;$$

T_0 – average (standard) temperature at the level of effective generation [°C] for 2019-2020
according to CAO measurements;

T – current temperature at the level of effective generation [°C].

160 $T_0 = -56.9$ °C, $\sigma_T = 6.0$ °C.

Using the least squares method, we define the approximating line, which slope is α_T .

$\alpha_T = 0.0080 \pm 0,0038\%/^{\circ}\text{C}$; coefficient of determination $R^2 = 0,0049$.

As seen in Fig. 7, there is a slight positive temperature effect. Corrected data series is calculated by the equation (Fig. 4d):

$$N_{THPC} = N_{HPC} - \alpha_T N_0 \Delta T, \quad (5)$$

165 where

N_{THPC} – count rate [pulses/h] of the CARPET installation with positive temperature effect correction.

2.2.2 Integral method

Consider the integral method for determining the temperature effect:

$$\left(\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}\right)_T = \int_0^P \alpha(x) \Delta T(x) dx \quad (6)$$

170 where

P – atmospheric pressure at the point of determination of the temperature effect [hPa];

$\alpha(x)$ – density of the temperature coefficient [$\% \cdot ^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1} \cdot \text{hPa}^{-1}$];

$\Delta T(x)$ – temperature deviation from the average value in the air layer corresponding to the pressure from x to $x+dx$.

175 There are 16 isobaric surfaces commonly accepted while analyzing upper-air atmospheric effects: 1000, 925, 850, 700, 500, 400, 300, 250, 200, 150, 100, 70, 50, 30, 20, and 10 hPa. They are also used in observations by CAO. It was decided to exclude the surface of 10 hPa from the calculations, since for the time period 2019 - 2020 there are only 148 measurements for this isobaric surface pressure level.

180 Represent equation 6 as a sum:

$$\left(\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}\right)_T = \sum_P \alpha(P) \Delta T(P) \quad (7)$$

where

$\alpha(P)$ – temperature coefficient for a given isobaric surface [$\%/^{\circ}\text{C}$];

$\Delta T(P)$ – deviation of temperature from the average value for a given isobaric surface [°C].

Starting from the first isobaric surface (20 hPa), we will determine the dependence between $\frac{\Delta N}{N}$ and ΔT . The corrected data for the first surface is then used to determine the temperature coefficient for the next surface, and so on:

$$N_{i+1} = N_i(1 - \alpha_{i+1} \Delta T_{i+1}), \quad (8)$$

where

$\alpha_{i+1}(P)$ – temperature coefficient of the isobaric surface $i+1$ [%/°C];

$\Delta T_{i+1}(P)$ – temperature deviation from the average value for the isobaric surface $i+1$ [°C];

N_i – count rate of the CARPET-MOSCOW, with temperature correction along the isobaric surface i ;

N_{i+1} – count rate of the CARPET-MOSCOW, with temperature correction along the isobaric surface $i+1$;

The results are shown in Table 1: the first column is the atmospheric pressure on the given surface, the second column is the average temperature according to the data for 2019 - 2020, the third column is the standard deviation of the temperature, the fourth column is the temperature coefficient for the given isobaric surface, the fifth column is number of measurements (number of launches at which the sound reached the required altitude). In fig. 4e shown the count rate of the CARPET-MOSCOW installation, corrected with integral method, according to the data for 2019 - 2020.

Comparison of Figures 4c and 4d shows that the contribution of the positive temperature effect is small. Comparison of Figures 4d and 4e demonstrates that the efficiency of data correction using the integral method is worse than using the effective generation method.

We can compare the efficiency of the correction for positive and negative temperature effects by comparing the CARPET-MOSCOW data with the data of a neutron monitor, which is practically not sensitive to the influence of temperature. The correlation coefficient between the pressure-corrected neutron monitor data for the period of 2019-2020 and the CARPET-MOSCOW data corrected for pressure and the negative temperature effect is $R = 0.38$, while taking into account the positive temperature effect is $R = 0.39$. Thus, the contribution of the correction for the positive temperature effect to the results of the CARPET-MOSCOW installation is small”

3. Conclusion

This paper describes the CARPET installation, designed for detecting the charged component of secondary CRs. The barometric coefficient was determined using the built-in pressure sensor. The temperature coefficient was determined by two methods using the data of the upper-air sounding. The integral method for determining the temperature effect is the most accurate, however, due to the lack of regular measurements at high altitudes (since not all sounds reach high altitudes), it can be seen that the data processed by this method are less accurate. It also shows less correlation with the data of the Moscow neutron monitor. In this connection, it is more optimal to use the method of the effective generation level, since it does not require a complete temperature profile. Also, for the CARPET-MOSCOW installation, it is possible to use only the negative component of the temperature effect, since variations of the count rate have good ($R^2 = 0.8191$) correlation with ΔH .

Data availability. Data related to this article are available upon request to the corresponding authors.

CRedit author statement

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F. Zagumennov: Data curation, Original draft preparation,

V. Fomenko: Data curation,

Yu. Stozhkov: Conceptualization,

A. Orlov: Data curation.

4. Acknowledgments

The authors express their gratitude to the Neutron Monitor Database (NMDB) team (www01.nmdb.eu) and IZMIRAN team (<https://www.izmiran.ru/>) for the data from the ground network of neutron monitors and Federal State Budgetary Institution «Central Aerological Observatory» (CAO) team (<http://www.cao-rhms.ru/>) for providing the data of upper-air sounding of the atmosphere for 2019-2020.

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Figures

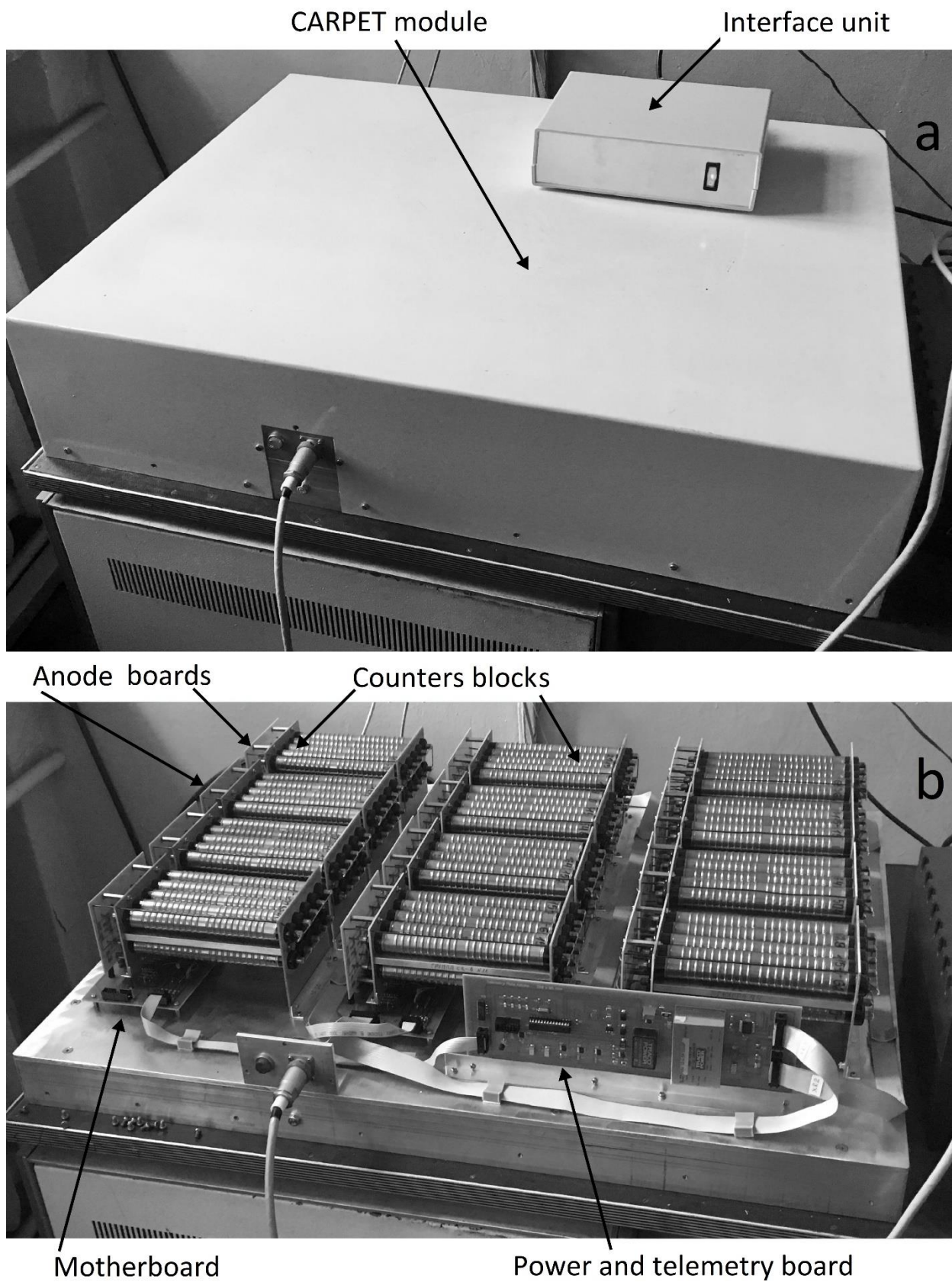


Fig. 1. CARPET-MOSCOW installation and its components. On panel *a* – CARPET module with cover and on panel *b* – CARPET module without cover.

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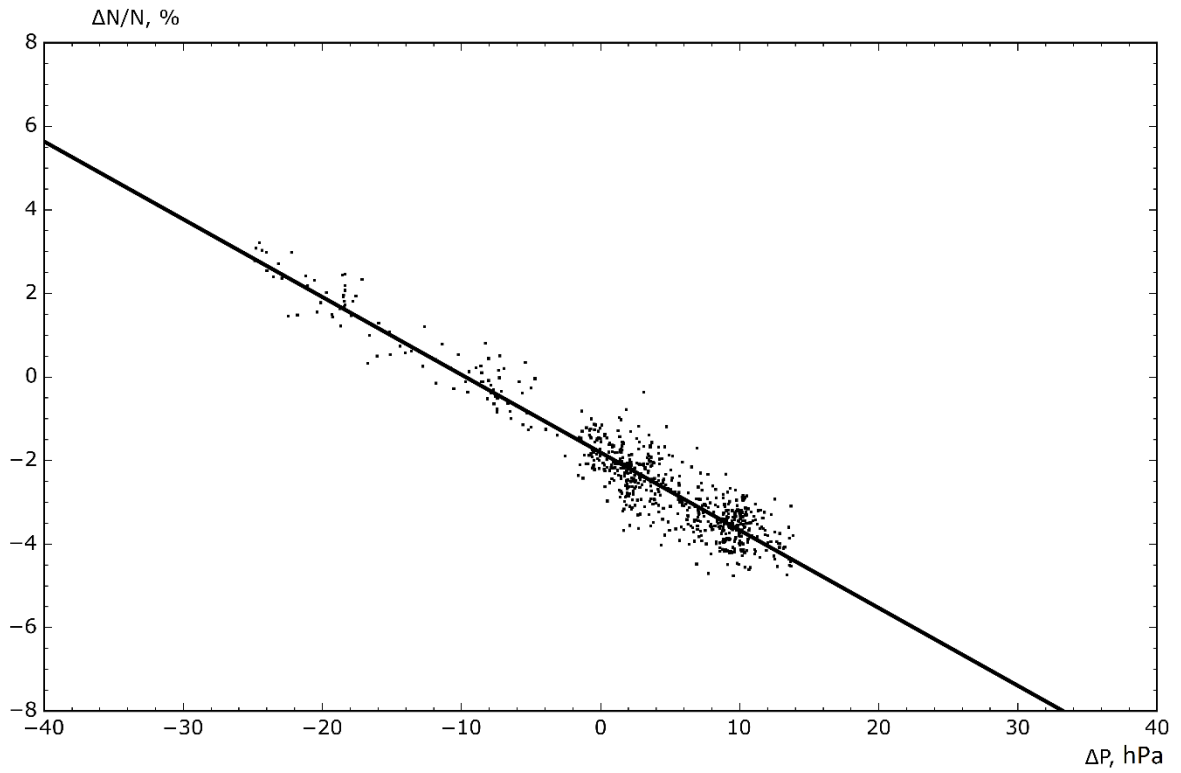


Fig. 2. Relationship between $\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}$ and ΔP for the CARPET-MOSCOW installation determined on the data of June 2019

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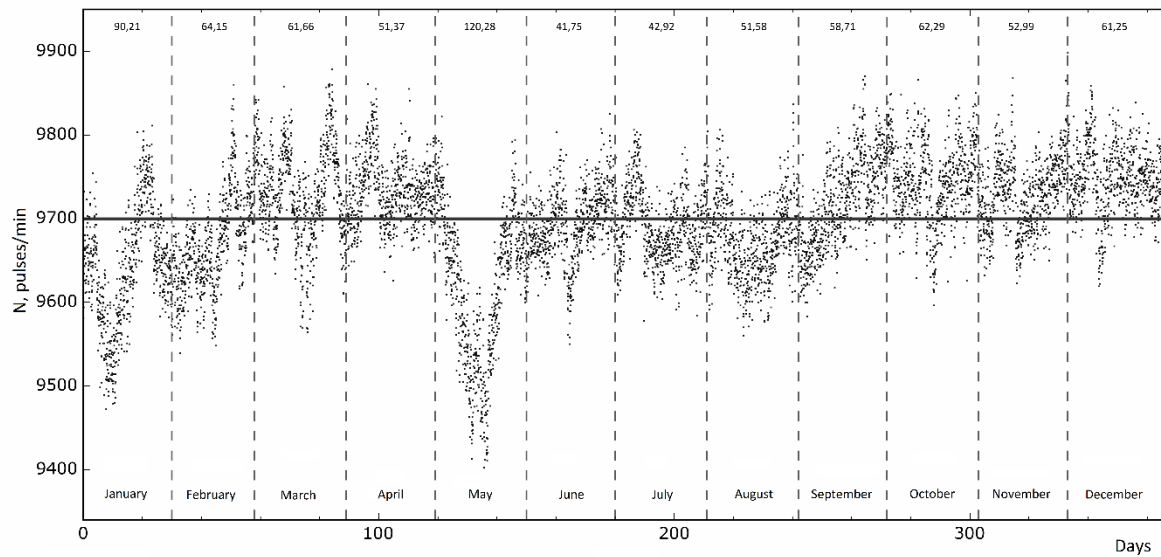


Fig. 3. Pressure corrected count rate variations of the Moscow neutron monitor for the period of 2019. The horizontal line is the average count rate. The vertical dashed lines are the boundaries of the months. The standard deviations for the data of each month are shown at the top.

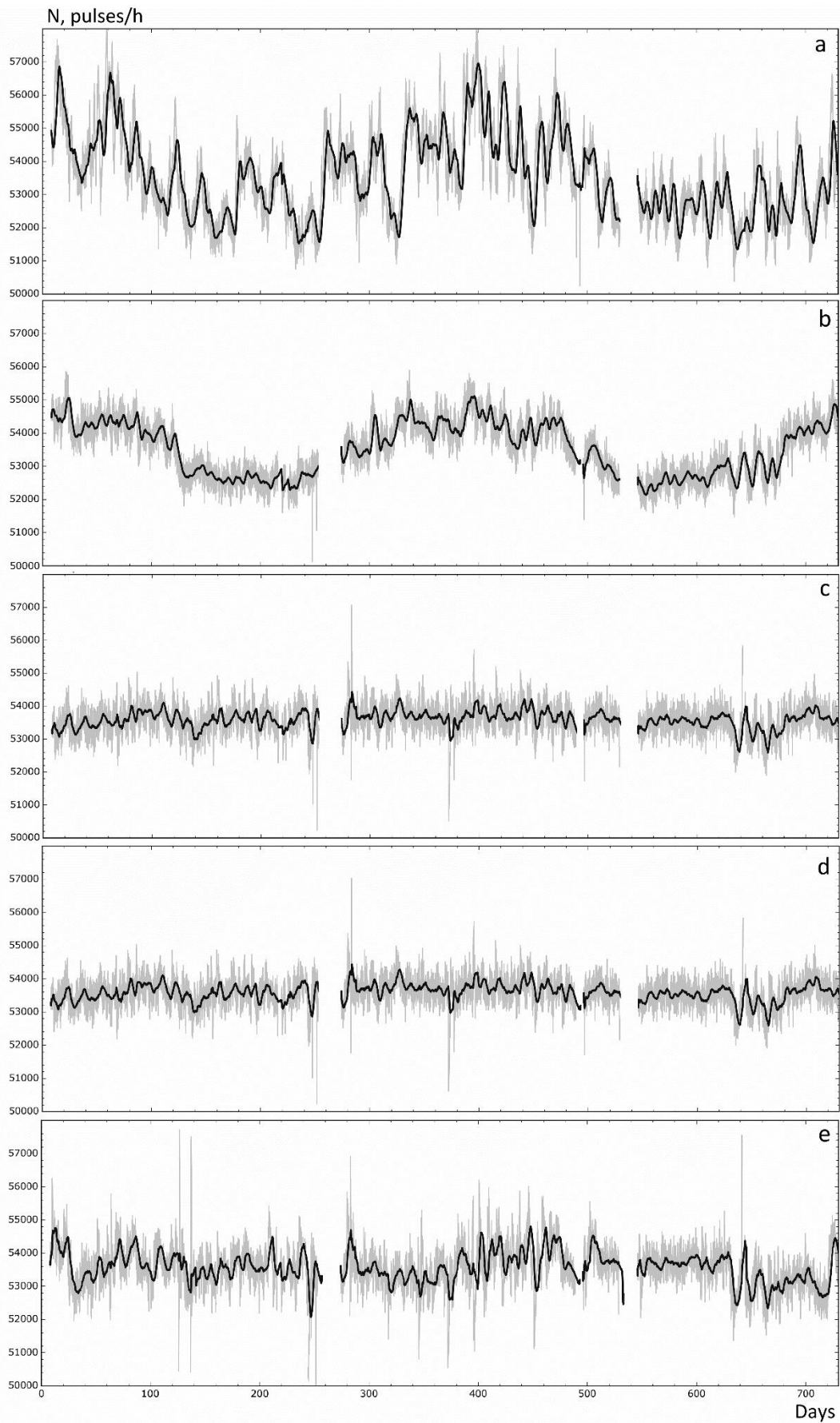


Fig. 4. Count rate variations of the CARPET-MOSCOW installation for the period of 2020-2021: *a* – uncorrected data, *b* – pressure corrected data, *c* - pressure and temperature (negative effect

325 applying the effective generation method) corrected data, d – pressure and temperature (negative and positive effect applying the effective generation method) corrected data, e – pressure and temperature (the integral method) corrected data. Grey lines - initial data, Black lines – data with averaging by 24 points.

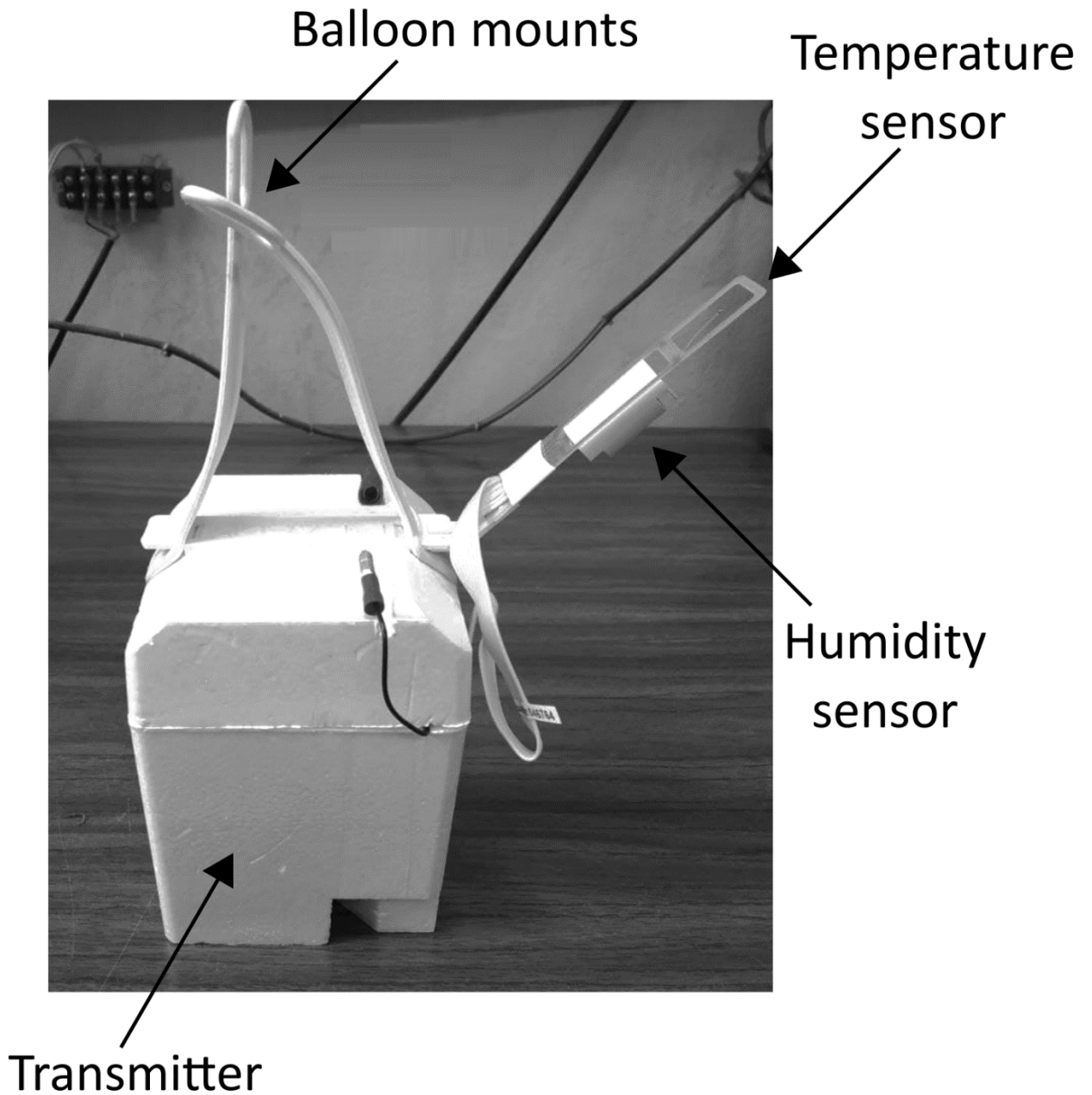


Fig. 5. Upper air sonde MRZ-3AK1 (CAO; Dolgoprudny)

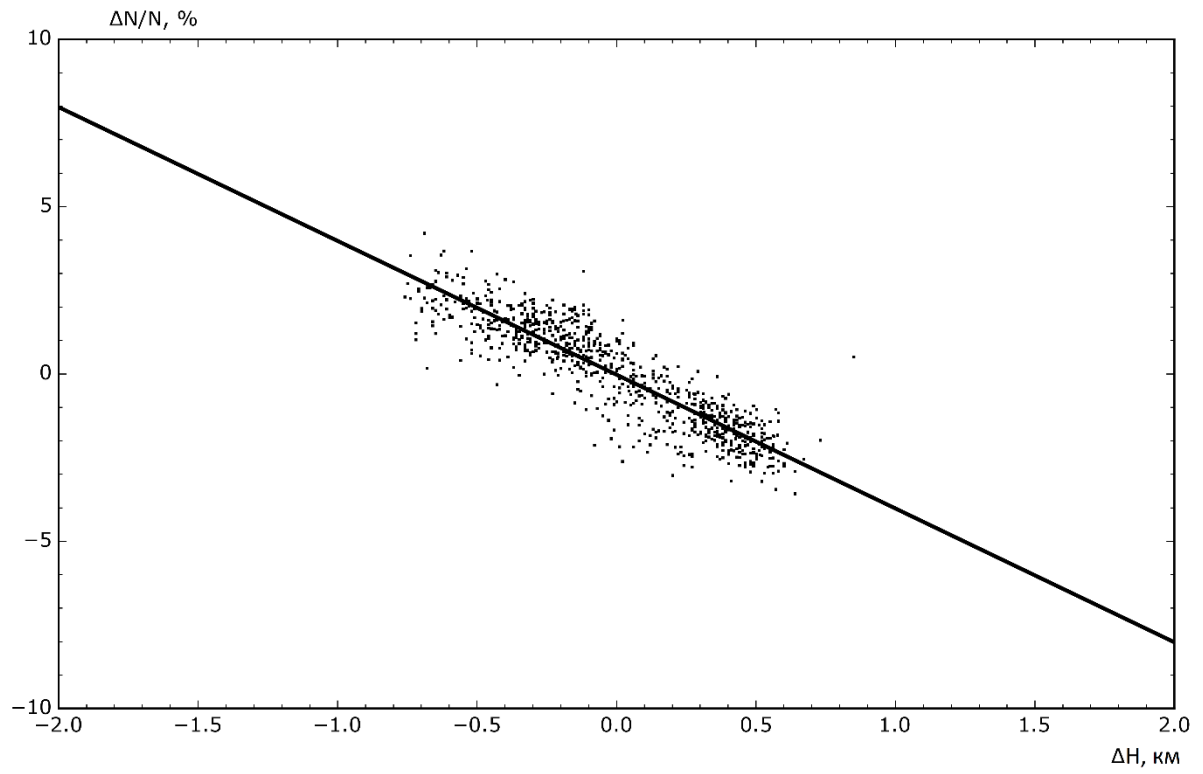
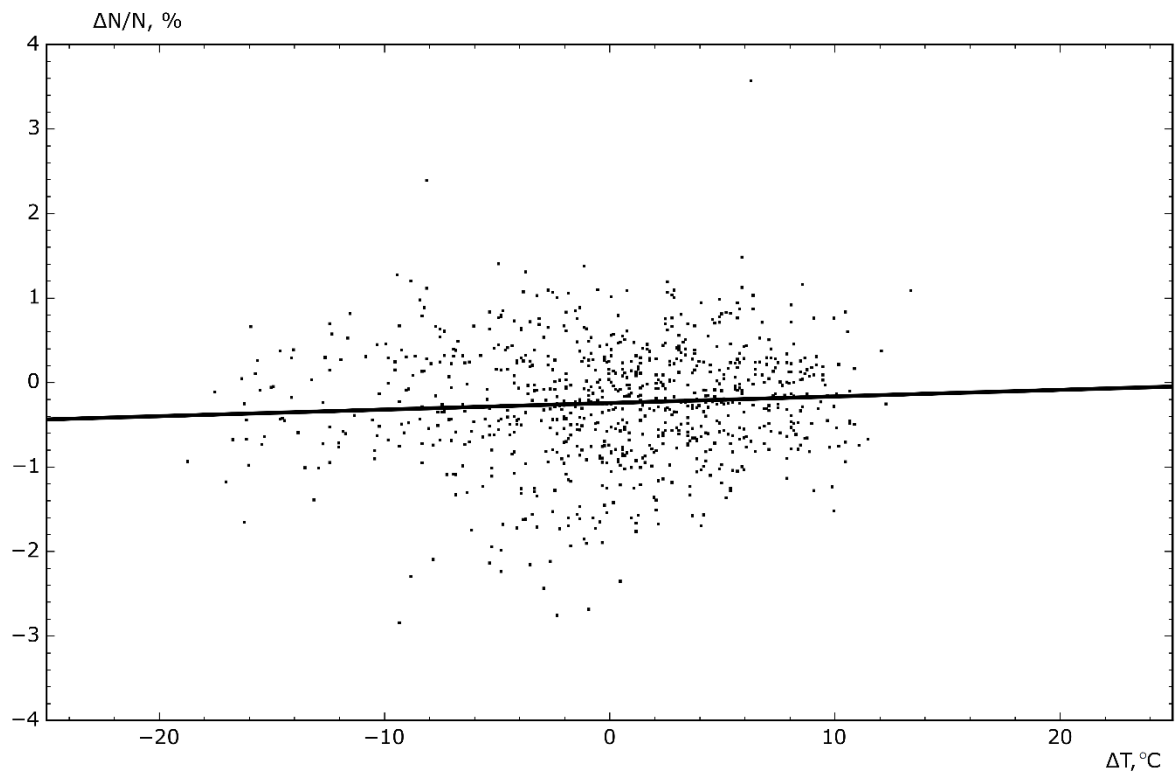


Fig. 6. Relationship between $\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}$ and ΔH (negative temperature effect) for the CARPET-MOSCOW installation determined on the data of 2019-2020



335 **Fig. 7.** Relationship between $\frac{\Delta N}{N_0}$ and ΔT (positive temperature effect) for the CARPET-MOSCOW installation determined on the data of 2019-2020

Tables

P , hPa	\bar{T} , °C	σ_T , °C	α , %/°C	n
20	-57,13	11,30	-0,0909±0,0041	670
30	-59,00	9,04	-0,0193±0,0047	764
50	-59,09	7,45	-0,0078±0,0055	807
70	-58,30	6,46	0,0023±0,0015	826
100	-56,97	6,00	-0,0004±0,0067	859
150	-55,52	6,46	-0,0100±0,0068	849
200	-56,56	7,03	0,0094±0,0031	859
250	-54,03	5,57	-0,0580±0,0069	863
300	-47,63	5,91	-0,0657±0,0061	863
400	-33,62	7,11	-0,0366±0,0049	868
500	-22,22	7,45	-0,0078±0,0047	868
700	-6,79	7,30	-0,0071±0,0025	874
850	0,76	7,78	0,0086±0,0045	881
925	3,92	9,00	0,0161±0,0039	879
1000	2,62	8,71	0,0124±0,0098	170

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Table.1. The results of determining the temperature coefficient for each isobaric surface.