

THE ATTENUATION COEFFICIENT FOR OULU NEUTRON MONITOR

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The attenuation coefficient (α) for Oulu neutron monitor data was investigated during the different phases of the solar cycle n. 22 to establish the time variability of the α -coefficient. The yearly data sets were divided into quarterly subsets, and using some auxiliary cosmic ray stations we obtained the yearly α -values. We show that the value $\alpha = 0.987 \text{ \%}/\text{mmHg}$ or $0.74 \text{ \%}/\text{hPa}$, used for the ordinary data correction, is reliable only for low solar activity years. Whereas, during the maximum phase of the solar activity cycle the coefficient should be smaller than the used one.