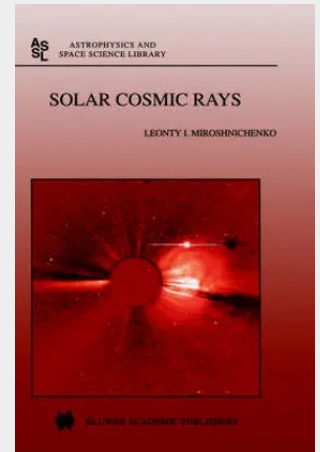


Solar Cosmic Rays

It turned out to be really a rare and happy occasion that we know exactly when and how a new branch of space physics was born, namely, a physics of solar cosmic rays. It happened on February 28 and March 7, 1942 when the first "cosmic ray bursts" were recorded on the Earth, and the Sun was unambiguously identified for the first time as the source of high-velocity particles with energies up to > 10 eV. Just due to such a high energy these relativistic particles have been called "solar cosmic rays" (SCR), in distinction from the "true" cosmic rays of galactic origin. Between 1942 and the beginning of the space era in 1957 only extremely high energy solar particle events could be occasionally recorded by cosmic ray ground-level detectors and balloon borne sensors. Since then the detection techniques varied considerably and the study of SCR turned into an essential part of solar and solar-terrestrial physics.

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194,95 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

*Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage***Artikelnummer:** 9780792369288**Medium:** Buch**ISBN:** 978-0-7923-6928-8**Verlag:** Springer Netherlands**Erscheinungstermin:** 31.05.2001**Sprache(n):** Englisch**Auflage:** 1. Auflage 2001**Serie:** Astrophysics and Space Science Library**Produktform:** Gebunden**Gewicht:** 1930 g**Seiten:** 480**Format (B x H):** 156 x 234 mm