THE AMS TIME OF FLIGHT SYSTEM

L. Baldini (1), L. Brocco (2), **D. Casadei** (2), G. Castellini (3), F. Cindolo (1), A. Contin (2), G. Laurenti (1), G. Levi (2), F. Palmonari (2) and A. Zichichi (2) (1) INFN, Bologna, Italy, (2) Bologna University and INFN, Bologna, Italy, (3) CNR-IROE, Florence, Italy.

Diego.Casadei@bo.infn.it

The Time of Flight (TOF) system of the AMS experiment has to give the fast trigger to the detector and to measure the crossing particle direction, velocity and charge. AMS was operated aboard of the shuttle Discovery on June 1998 (NASA STS-91 mission) and will be upgraded and installed on the International Space Station at the end of 2003, for 3 years of data taking. The performances of the TOF during the precursor flight and its improvements for the final version of the detector are shown.