The PAMELA experiment: shedding new light on dark matter ?



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Summary

- The PAMELA experiment: short review
- Results on cosmic-ray antimatter abundance:
 - Antiprotons
 - Positrons
- Other results:
 - Cosmic-ray galactic light nuclei (primaries & secondaries)
 - Solar physics
 - Terrestrial physics
- Conclusions

The PAMELA experiment: short review

Tha PAMELA collaboration



PAMELA

Payload for Antimatter/Matter Exploration and Light-nuclei Astrophysics

→ Direct detection of CRs in <u>space</u> → Main focus on <u>antimatter</u> component



+ Roberta Sparvoli + May 6th, 2009 + LPNHE, Paris

Everything starts with ...

•Antiprotons in the cosmic radiation are expected as "secondary" products of interactions of the primary cosmic radiation, principally protons, with the ambient interstellar medium (ISM).

•The first positive measurements [Golden 79,Bogomolov 90, Buffington 82] reported higher antiproton fluxes than predicted by contemporary models of cosmic ray transport.

•Many different theories to justify these data were proposed at that time



Golden et al. (1984; **open circle**), Bogomolov et al. (1987, 1990; **open triangle**), Buffington et al. (1981; **open square**)



Cosmic-ray Antimatter from Dark Matter annihilation

Annihilation of relic Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs) gravitationally confined in the galactic halo

→ Distortion of antiproton and positron spectra from purely secondary production

 A plausible dark matter candidate is neutralino (χ), the lightest SUSY Particle (LSP).
 Most likely processes:

 χχ → qq → hadrons → anti-p, e⁺,...
 χχ → W⁺W⁻,Z⁰Z⁰,... → e⁺,... ⇒ positron peak Ee+~Mχ/2

 \Rightarrow positron continuum Ee+~M χ /20

 Another possible candidate is the lightest Kalusa-Klein Particle (LKP): B⁽¹⁾
 Fermionic final states no longer suppressed:
 B⁽¹⁾B⁽¹⁾ → e⁺e⁻
 direct decay ⇒ positron peak Ee+ ~ M_{B(1)}





CR antimatter: available data

Why in space?



PAMELA detectors

Main requirements \rightarrow high-sensitivity antiparticle identification and precise momentum measure



GF: 21.5 cm² sr Mass: 470 kg Size: 130x70x70 cm³ Power Budget: 360W



Principle of operation









Principle of operation



The Resurs DK-1 spacecraft



PAMELA design performance

		Maximum detectable
Magnetic curvature & trigger	spillover shower	rigidity (MDR)
	/ containme	ent 🚬
	/ / /	
	energy range /particles in 3-	<u>ýears</u>
Antiprotons	80 MeV ÷190 GeV	O(10 ⁴)
Positrons	50 MeV ÷ 270 GeV	O(10 ⁵)
Electrons	up to 400 GeV	$O(10^{6})$
Protons	up to 700 GeV ∠	$O(10^8)$
Electrons+positrons	up to 2 TeV (from calorime	eter)
Light Nuclei	up to 200 GeV/n He/Be/C:	$O(10^{7/4/5})$
Anti-Nuclei search	sensitivity of 3x10 ⁻⁸ in anti-He/He	

 → Unprecedented statistics and new energy range for cosmic ray physics (e.g. contemporary antiproton and positron maximum energy ~ 40 GeV)
 → Simultaneous measurements of many species

PAMELA milestones

Launch from Baikonur → June 15th 2006, 0800 UTC.

'First light' \rightarrow June 21st 2006, 0300 UTC.

- Detectors operated as expected after launch
- Different trigger and hardware configurations evaluated

→ PAMELA in continuous data-taking mode since commissioning phase ended on July 11th 2006



Trigger rate* $\sim 25 \text{Hz}$ Fraction of live time* $\sim 75\%$ Event size (compressed mode) $\sim 5 \text{kB}$ 25 Hz x 5 kB/ev $\rightarrow \sim 10$ GB/day (*outside radiation belts)

Till May 2008:
~500 days of data taking
~10 TByte of raw data downlinked
~12•10⁸ triggers recorded and analysed
(Data from May till now under analysis)



 \rightarrow the quasi-polar orbit allows to study low-energy cosmic rays (R>100MV)

PAMELA science

PAMELA is a Space Observatory @ 1AU

- •Search for dark matter
- •Search for primordial antimatter
- ... but also:
- Study of cosmic-ray origin and propagation
 Study of solar physics and solar modulation
 Study of terrestrial magnetosphere



PAMELA



Antiprotons

High-energy antiproton analysis

- Analyzed data July 2006 February 2008 (~500 days)
- Collected triggers $\sim 10^8$
- Identified ~ 10 10⁶ protons and ~ 1 10³ antiprotons between 1.5 and 100 GeV (100 p-bar above 20 GeV)
- Antiproton/proton identification:
 - rigidity (R) \rightarrow SPE
 - $|Z| = 1 (dE/dx \text{ vs } R) \rightarrow SPE\&ToF$
 - β vs R consistent with $M_p \rightarrow ToF$
 - p-bar/p separation (charge sign) \rightarrow SPE
 - p-bar/e⁻ (and p/e⁺) separation \rightarrow CALO
- Dominant background → **spillover protons**:
 - finite deflection resolution of the SPE ⇒ wrong assignment of charge-sign @ high energy
 - proton spectrum harder than positron \Rightarrow p/p-bar increase for increasing energy (10³ @1GV 10⁴ @100GV)
 - \rightarrow Required strong SPE selection



Antiproton identification









Antiproton-to-proton ratio



PAMELA: Antiproton Flux



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statistical errors only energy in the spectrometer



Positrons

High-energy positron analysis

- Analyzed data July 2006 February 2008 (~500 days)
- Collected triggers $\sim 10^8$
- Identified ~ 150 10^3 electrons and ~ 9 10^3 positrons between

1.5 and 100 GeV (180 positrons above 20 GeV)

- Electron/positron identification:
 - rigidity (R) \rightarrow SPE
 - $|Z| = 1 (dE/dx = MIP) \rightarrow SPE\&ToF$
 - $\beta=1 \rightarrow \text{ToF}$
 - e^-/e^+ separation (charge sign) \rightarrow SPE
 - e^+/p (and e^-/p -bar) separation \rightarrow CALO
- Dominant background → interacting protons:
 - fluctuations in hadronic shower development $\Rightarrow \pi_0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ might mimic pure em showers
 - proton spectrum harder than positron $\Rightarrow p/e^+$ increase for increasing energy (10³ @1GV 10⁴ @100GV)



 \rightarrow Required strong CALO selection

Positron identification with CALO

- Identification based on:
 - Shower topology (lateral and longitudinal profile, shower starting point)
 - Total detected energy (energy-rigidity match)
- Analysis key points:
 - Tuning/check of selection criteria with:
 - test-beam data
 - simulation
 - flight data \rightarrow dE/dx from SPE & neutron yield from ND
 - Selection of pure proton sample from flight data ("pre-sampler" method):
 - Background-suppression method
 - Background-estimation method

51 GV positron







Final results make <u>NO USE</u> of test-beam and/or simulation calibrations. The measurement is based only on flight data with the <u>background-estimation</u> method



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Positron identification



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Positron identification



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Positron identification



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Energy loss in silicon tracker detectors:

 $\rightarrow -\frac{dE}{dx} = Kz^2 \frac{Z}{A} \frac{1}{\beta^2} \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2 \gamma^2 T_{\text{max}}}{I^2} - \beta^2 \left(\frac{\delta(\beta)}{Z} \right) \right]$

Top: positive (mostly p) and negative events (mostly e⁻)
Bottom: positive events identified as p and e⁺ by trasversal profile method





Relativistic rise



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Tracker dE/dx (mip)



Proton background evaluation



Proton background evaluation



Positron selection with calorimeter



PAMELA: Positron fraction



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((Do we have any antimatter excess in CRs?))

Antiproton-to-proton ratio

Secondary Production Models





Antiproton-to-proton ratio

Secondary Production Models





No evidence for any <u>antiproton</u> excess

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Positron fraction

Secondary Production Models



Primary positron sources

Dark Matter

- e⁺ yield depend on the dominant decay channel
 - \rightarrow LSPs (SUSY) seem <u>disfavored</u> due to suppression of e⁺e⁻ final states
 - \rightarrow low yield (relative to p-bar)
 - \rightarrow soft spectrum from cascade decays
 - \rightarrow LKPs seem <u>favored</u> because can annihilate directly in e⁺e⁻
 - \rightarrow high yield (relative to p-bar)
 - \rightarrow hard spectrum with pronounced cutoff @ M_{LKP} (>300 GeV)
- Boost factor required to have a sizable e⁺ signal

 \rightarrow NB: constraints from p-bar data!!

•Other hypothesys possible and under study (i.e. decaying DM, a new Dark Force,)



Which DM spectra can fit the data?

E.g. a DM with: -mass $M_{\rm DM} = 150 \,{
m GeV}$ -annihilation DM DM $\rightarrow W^+W^-$ (a possible SuperSymmetric candidate: wino)



Courtesy of Marco Cirelli

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Which DM spectra can fit the data?

E.g. a DM with: -mass $M_{\rm DM} = 10 \,{\rm TeV}$ -annihilation DM DM $\rightarrow W^+W^$ but...: -boost $B = 2 \cdot 10^4$ cm



Courtesy of Marco Cirelli

Which DM spectra can fit the data?

E.g. Minimal DM: -mass $M_{\rm DM} = 9.7 \,{\rm TeV}$ [Cirelli, Strumias et al. 2006] -annihilation DM DM $\rightarrow W^+W^-$ -boost $B \simeq 30$

Positrons:



Anti-protons:



Courtesy of Marco Cirelli

Which DM spectra can fit the data?

A DM with: -mass $M_{\rm DM} = 1 \,{ m TeV}$ -annihilation DM DM $\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$

Positrons

Antiprotons

Courtesy of Marco Cirelli



Which DM spectra can fit the data?

Model-independent results:

fit to PAMELA positrons + anti-protons



Which DM spectra can fit the data?

Model-independent results:

Boost required by PAMELA



Courtesy of Marco Cirelli

Primary positron sources

Astrophysical processes

- Local **pulsars** are well-known sites of e⁺e⁻ pair production:
 - → they can individually and/or coherently contribute to the e⁺e⁻ galactic flux and explain the PAMELA e⁺ excess (both spectral feature and intensity)
 - \rightarrow No fine tuning required
 - → if one or few nearby pulsars dominate, anisotropy could be detected in the angular distribution
 - → possibility to discriminate between pulsar and DM origin of e⁺ excess



Astrophysical explanation?

Or perhaps it's just a young, nearby pulsar...



'Mechanism': the spinning \vec{B} of the pulsar strips e^- that emit γ that make production of e^{\pm} pairs that are trapped in the cloud, further accelerated and later released at $\tau \sim 0 \rightarrow 10^5$ yr.

Must be young (T < 10⁵ yr) and nearby (< 1 kpc); if not: too much diffusion, low energy, too low flux.

Predicted flux: $\Phi_{e^{\pm}} \approx E^{-p} \exp(E/E_c)$ with $p \approx 2$ and $E_c \sim \text{many TeV}$

Try the fit with known nearby pulsars and diffuse mature pulsars:





Maybe only secondary production ...

- •Anomalous primary electron source spectrum
- •Spectral feature in the proton flux responsible for secondaries
- •Role of Helium nuclei in secondary production
- •Difference between local and ISM spectrum of protons
- •Anomalous energy-dependent behaviour of the diffusion coefficient
- •Rising cross section at high energies

•High energy beaviour of the e+/e-

P. Serpico hep-ph 0810.4846

Standard Positron Fraction Theoretical Uncertainties



T. Delahaye et al., arXiv: 0809.5268v3

Conclusions on positron excess

PAMELA positron fraction alone insufficient to understand the origin of positron excess

Additional experimental data will be provided by PAMELA:

- $-e^+$ fraction @ higher energy (up to 300 GeV)
- individual e- and e+ spectra
- anisotropy (...maybe)
- high energy e^++e^- spectrum (up to 2 TV)

Complementary information from:

- gamma rays
- neutrinos



Electron flux

PAMELA electron flux measurements

Key points wrt other experiments (ATIC, HESS, FERMI) :

- ♦ Combination of CALO and SPECTROMETER allow energy selfcalibration in flight → no dependence on ground calibrations or MC simulations
- ♦ Very deep CALO (16 X₀) → containment of the shower maximum beyond 1 TeV
- Neutron detector help proton rejection, especially at high energy
- No atmospheric contamination

But ..

 \clubsuit Smaller acceptance \rightarrow lower statistics

ATIC electron data



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FERMI does not confirm the ATIC bump (but attention to systematics !!) but finds an excess wrt conventional diffusive models

Galactic cosmic-ray origin & propagation



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Light nuclei

Statistics collected until December 2008:

- ✤ 120.000 C nuclei
- ✤ 45.000 B nuclei
- 16.000 Be nuclei
- * 30.000 Li nuclei

between 200 MeV/n and 100 GeV/n, with quite stringent selection cuts (30% efficiency and 0.01% contamination among species).

Secondary/Primary ratios in progress !

Solar physics

Solar modulation Solar Energetic Particle events (SEPs)



Charge dependent solar modulation



December 2006 CME/SEP events Wind/WAVES: 2006/12/13 03:06 SOHO/LASCO SOHO/EIT 10 1.0 MHz 0.1 **Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)** C2: 2006/12/13 03:06 EIT: 2006/12/13 03:00 2006/12/13 07:27 02:00 04:00 06:00 GOES Space Environment Monitor 10⁻³ X-ray flares GOES-12 Solar X-Rays (1-Min Avgs) 10 Watts/m² 10 10-6 Willind will Will Miller Al _ XL 10 10 Solar Energetic Particles (SEPs) 10 GOES-11 Protons & α-Particles (5-Min Avgs) 10⁴ protons: 1-100 MeV 10³ Particles/cm²sec sr 102 10 10 12 13

14

15

16

17

13

12

15 8 17

A5

A6

10-1

10-2

10⁻³

10-4

4

alphas: 150÷500 MeV

6

8

9

10

11

December 2006 (Universal Time)

7

5



Terrestrial physics

Magnetosphere Radiation belts & SAA Interactions of CRs with the atmosphere





Trigger rate



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The future of PAMELA (I)

The PAMELA Collaboration made official request for prolongation of the mission until end 2011.

* High energy antiprotons *

- Estimated increase of the current statistics by 100%;
- Release of selection cuts (very strict until now):

-> possibility to reach the nominal limit of 200 GeV

6.5 antiproton events between 100-200 GeV expected by end 2011

The future of PAMELA (II)

* High energy positrons and electrons *

- Estimated increase of the current statistics by 100%;
- Release of selection cuts (very strict until now):

→ possibility to go beyond 100 GeV
→ possibility to perform *anisotropy studies* of the incoming direction of e+ and e-, to study astrophysics sources (few percent level above 10 GeV)

Conclusions

• PAMELA is the first space experiment which is measuring the <u>antiproton</u> and <u>positron</u> cosmic-ray components to the high energies (>100GeV) with an unprecedented statistical precision

 \rightarrow search for evidence of DM candidates

 \rightarrow "direct" measurement of particle acceleration in astrophysical sources (pulsars?)

• Furthermore:

.....

- PAMELA is providing measurements on low-mass elemental (and isotopical) spectra with an unprecedented statistical precision
 - \rightarrow study of particle origin and propagation in the interstellar medium
- PAMELA is able to measure the high energy tail of solar particles.
- PAMELA is measuring composition and spectra of <u>trapped and re-entrant albedo</u> <u>particles</u> in the Earth magnetosphere

Thanks!!