PAMELA satellite: fragmentation in the instrument

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The PAMELA apparatus



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



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Flux at the top-of-apparatus in each energy bin E:

$$\Phi(E) = \frac{N(E)}{\varepsilon(E) \cdot A_{cce}(E) \cdot \Delta E \cdot \Delta T} \qquad [\text{GeV} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sr} \cdot \text{s}]^{-1}$$

where N(E) is the number of detected particles, $\varepsilon(E)$ is the total selection efficiency, $A_{cce}(E)$ is the apparatus acceptance and T is the livetime

- Selection efficiencies were derived using flight data (combined information from different subdetectors) and account for the time-dependecy of the instrument performances
- Simulations (and Beam Tests data) used to cross-check results, and to evaluated the apparatus acceptance and the background in the measured samples





✤ The factor of proportionality between counting rates (corrected by selection efficiencies) and incident fluxes is by definition the apparatus gathering power $Γ_F$:

$$\Gamma_F = \int_{\Omega} d\omega F(\omega) \int_{S} d\sigma \cdot \hat{r} = \int_{\Omega} d\omega F(\omega) A(\omega) \quad [\text{cm}^2\text{sr}] \qquad (Sullivan \ 1971)$$

- where F(ω) represents the angular dependence of the incident flux and
 A(ω) is the detector response function
- For isotropic exposition $F(\omega)=1$, and Γ_F is called the **geometric factor** G_F
- The effective apparatus acceptance A_{cce} is given by a convolution of the geometric factor with the losses in the instrument
 - inelastic reactions, multiple scattering, etc.

$$A_{cce}(E) = G_F(E) \otimes K_{loss}(E)$$

PAMELA simulation: GPamela





- Full simulation of the PAMELA apparatus
 - accurate detector description, including the aluminium container, mechanical supports, etc.
 - detector response (spatial residuals, etc.) tuned to reproduce flight data performances
- Based on GEANT 3.21
 - Cross sections updated using PDG data

PAMELA simulation: FLUKA





PAMELA geometry has been esported from GEANT3 to FLUKA (standalone)

- very accurate description of hadronic interactions
- ✤ N/N interactions:
 - modified RQMD (<5 GeV/n)</p>
 - DJMJET 3 (>5 GeV/n)

PAMELA simulation: FLUKA/G3



2 STEPS SIMULATION:



STEP1:

FLUKA standalone

- Simplified geometry
 - > only top parts of the apparatus simulated
- Possibility of selecting events of interest, to be propagated in the rest of the apparatus

STEP2:

- > GPAMELA
- reads output from STEP1
- performs simulation in the rest of the apparatus

PAMELA simulation: the Virtual MC





- The Virtual Monte Carlo (VMC) has been developed by the ALICE Offline project in the close collaboration with the ROOT team
- The VMC allows to run different simulation Monte Carlo without changing the user code and therefore the input and output format as well as the geometry and detector response definition
 - GEANT3
 - GEANT4 ←
 - FLUKA (discontinued by the FLUKA team in 2010)

PAMELA VMC

- Materials and Volumes migrated from GEANT3
- The GPAMELA HIT structure has been migrated to a ROOT tree (no limitation on number of hits)
- GEANT4 physics list introduced

PAMELA simulation: the Virtual MC











Background evaluation

- secondaries (mostly π-) produced in the top parts of the apparatus
- Correction for losses inside the apparatus
 - inelastic reactions, events scattered out of the apparatus, etc

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Antiprotons: pion contamination

- Above 1 GV the combined ToF+Trk info are not enough to provide unambiguos pbar/pion discrimination
- Simulation study \checkmark
 - Very large statistics required!

2-step simulation chain (FLUKA+GPAMELA)

- 2π isotropic generation
- Rigidity range: 0.4-1500 GV
- Input spectra:
 - Proton and He nuclei fluxes as measured by PAMELA
 - geomagnetic modulation accounted for
- Step1 pre-selection (FLUKA):
 - all events interacting in the top parts of the apparatus, with production of secondary charged particles inside acceptance
- Step2 pre-selection (GPAMELA):
 - different trigger configurations









Antiprotons: pion contamination





Antiprotons: acceptance



NB - fiducial acceptance: trajectories required to be at least 1.5mm apart from the spectrometer cavity walls





The acceptance accounts for the loss of events due to interactions with the apparatus (inelastic reactions, multiple scattering, ionization, deflection due to the spectrometer magnetic field, etc.)

The antiproton spectrum





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- Selection efficiencies
 - derived using flight data, cross-checked by full GEANT4 simulations
- Correction factors
 - contaminations from nuclear spallation in the apparatus (e.g. ¹²C→¹¹B)
 - Ioss due to inelastic interactions in the apparatus
 - FLUKA simulations



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H/He isotopes geometrical factor







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H/He isotopes: contamination





- The expected contamination in the ²H sample from ⁴He spallation is shown on the left
- contamination in the ³He sample from ⁴He is less than 1%.
- contamination by secondary He coming from heavier nuclei spallation was estimated to be negligible.









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H/He isotopes spectra & ratios





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(preliminary!)

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0.1

0.05

Carbon-12

inal GF

Effective GF
 2 GV threshold

E₀ (GeV/n)



g

0.1

0.05 F

010'

10 E₀ (GeV/n)

GF (cm²

12

0.45 0.4 0.35 0.3 (00) 0.25 0.2 0.15 0.1 E 0.05 - o E

25

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E (GeV/n)



B & C nuclei: contamination from C/O nuclei spallation





number of secondary B and C nuclei produced by incident C and O nuclei inside the apparatus

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10³

10²

10 E (GeV/n)

The Carbon spectrum





Conclusions



- PAMELA is in orbit since June 2006
 - >10⁹ triggers registered and >25 TB of down-linked data
- Very important results in many fields of CR physics
 - indirect search for dark matter
 - search for cosmological antimatter
 - study of CR origin and propagation in the Galaxy
 - solar & magnetospheric physics
- The use of simulation tools in PAMELA analysis has been discussed
 - dedicated applications for the study of different items (interactions in the apparatus, background, ...)
 - different MC (cross-checking results)

Thanks for your attention!





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