Cosmic-Ray Measurements with the PAMELA Space-Borne Experiment

Mirko Boezio INFN Trieste, Italy

On behalf of the PAMELA collaboration

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PAMELA detectors

Main requirements → high-sensitivity antiparticle identification and precise momentum measure



Cosmic Ray Spectra

Cosmic-Ray Acceleration and Propagation in the Galaxy







- Single good-quality track in the spectrometer
 → Particle rigidity (R = pc/Ze)
- Downward-going (β >0) & positive-curvature (R>0) trajectory
 - \rightarrow Positive-charge particle from above
- Clean pattern through the apparatus
 - \rightarrow Not an interaction product

30

25

20

15

10

• Energy deposits in the tracking system consistent with H and He nuclei

10²

He

10

→High-statistic (~10⁸) sample of H and He (no isotope separation)

→Negligible bk of
 -interaction products
 -misidentified particles

10

R (GV)





Selection efficiencies

General approach:

- Efficiency evaluated from flight data
 → Real performances
- Cross-checks and corrections from MC simulation
 - → Complete information
 → Test of measurement
 procedure
- Evaluated every 2 months





Spectrum unfolding



Spectrometer Systematic Uncertainties



Overall systematic uncertainties

- At low R selectionefficiency uncertainties dominate
- Above 500GV tracking-system (coherent) misalignment dominates





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Check of systematics

Fluxes evaluated by varying the selection conditions:

- Flux vs time
- Flux vs polar/equatorial
- Flux vs reduced acceptance
- Flux vs different tracking conditions (⇒ different response matrix)









Proton and Helium Nuclei Spectra



PaMel

H & He absolute fluxes @ high energy

- Deviations from single power law (SPL):
- Spectra gradually soften in the range 30÷230GV
- Spectral hardening @
 R~235GV Δγ~0.2÷0.3
- SPL is rejected at 98% CL Origin of the structures?
- At the sources: multipopulations, non-linear DSA
- Propagation effects



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H/He ratio vs R

Instrumental p.o.v.

 Systematic uncertainties partly cancel out

Theoretical p.o.v.

- Solar modulation negligible
- → information about IS spectra down to GV region
- Propagation effects small above ~100GV
 → information about source spectra







Light Nuclei Selection



Boron and Carbon nuclei Spectra







Secondary nuclei







C/O ratio





H isotopes separation



PaMéL



NFN



PAMELA ²H/⁴He







PAMELA ³He/⁴He







Antiparticles with PAMELA





Antiproton / positron identification



Time-of-flight: trigger, albedo rejection, mass determination (up to 1 GeV)

Bending in spectrometer: sign of charge

Ionisation energy loss (dE/dx): magnitude of charge

Interaction pattern in calorimeter: electron-like or proton-like, electron energy



ANTIPROTONS







Antiproton to proton ratio (0.06 GeV - 180 GeV)



O. Adriani et al., PRL 102, 051101 (2009); PRL 105, 121101 (2010)

Antiproton Flux (0.06 GeV - 180 GeV)



O. Adriani et al., PRL. 105, 121101 (2010)

PAMELA trapped antiprotons



O. Adriani et al., APJL 737 L29 (2011); arXiv:1107.4882

POSITRONS





Proton / positron discrimination





Positron



Positron selection with calorimeter

Fraction of energy released along the calorimeter track (left, hit, right)



Positron selection with calorimeter Rigidity: 20-30 GV



Pamela

Fraction of charge released along the calorimeter track (left, hit, right)

+

•Energy-momentum match •Starting point of shower



Positron to Electron Fraction





Adriani et al., Astropart. Phys. 34 (2010) 1 Nature 458 (2009) 607





Positron selection with calorimeter Rigidity: 20-30 GV





- Fraction of charge released along the calorimeter track (left, hit, right)
- +

- Energy-momentum match
- Starting point of showerLongitudinal profile



Positron to Electron Fraction



PAMELA Positron to Electron Fraction



PAMELA & Fermi Positron Fraction





M. Ackermann, astro-ph: 1109.0521



A Challenging Puzzle for CR Physics





A Challenging Puzzle for CR Physics



ELECTRONS







All Electron (e⁻ + e⁺) spectra



All three ATIC flights are consistent



"Source on/source off" significance of bump for ATIC1+2 is about 3.8 sigma J Chang *et al. Nature* **456**, 362 (2008)

ATIC-4 with 10 BGO layers has improved e, p separation. (~4x lower background)

"Bump" is seen in all three flights.

Significance for ATIC1+2+4 is 5.1 sigma





PAMELA e⁻ and e⁺ spectra



PAMELA electron (e⁻) spectrum





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PAMELA & Fermi electron (e⁻+e⁺) spectra





PAMELA & Fermi electron (e⁻+e⁺) spectra







• PAMELA has been in orbit and studying cosmic rays for 5 years. >10⁹ triggers registered and >25 TB of data have been down-linked.

•The proton and helium nuclei spectra have been measured up to 1.2 TV. The observations challenge the current paradigm of cosmic ray acceleration and propagation.

• Antiproton-to-proton flux ratio and antiproton energy spectrum (~100 MeV - ~200 GeV) show no <u>significant</u> deviations from secondary production expectations.

• High energy positron fraction (>10 GeV) increases significantly (and unexpectedly!) with energy. Primary source?

•The e⁻ spectrum up to 600 GeV shows spectral features that may point to additional components.

• Waiting for AMS to compare contemporary measurements.









