THE 511 keV EMISSION OF POSITRON ANNIHILATION IN THE MILKY WAY

NP, Boehm, Bykov, Diehl, Ferrière, Guessoum, Jean, Knoedlseder, Marcowith, Moskalenko, Strong, Weidenspointner Reviews of Modern Physics, 2011 (arXiv: 1009.4620)

POSITRON HISTORY

- 1928 (Dirac): Prediction of "anti-electron"
- 1932 (Anderson): Discovery of "positron" from cosmic rays
- 1934 (Klemperer and Chadwick): Annihilation gamma-ray line at 511 keV
- 1934 (P. Joliot and I. Curie): Production in β^+ -decay
- 1934 (Mohorovicic): Prediction of *positronium*
- 1951 (Deutch): Production of positronium
- 1956 (Ginzburg): p-p collisions in cosmic rays produce e⁺
- 1964 (Shong et al.): Discovery of positrons in cosmic rays
- 1969 (Stecker): In ISM, most e⁺ should form positronium

Annihilation of positrons with electrons

Either **directly** (2 γ of E = 511 keV each), or, after formation of **Positronium (Ps),** with probability **f**



Positron annihilation radiation from the Galactic center region

First (and brightest) y-ray line detected outside the solar system (Johnson et al. 1972, Rice U. Na detector : Leventhal et al. 1978 Bell-Sandia Ge detector)

Flux (~10⁻³ cm⁻² s⁻¹) + Distance (8 kpc) \Rightarrow Luminosity ~10³⁷ erg/s (a few 10³ L_o) Activity maintained for 10¹⁰ years: 3 M_O of positrons annihilated





Early reports (80ies) for flux variability not confirmed by OSSE/CGRO Flux correlated with instrument field of view =>diffuse emission INTEGRAL (ESA) Launched October 2002

Largest part of INTEGRAL's orbit is found outside Earth's magnetic (Van Allen) belts, which are full of cosmic ray particles and are sources of background noise for gamma-ray detectors.



- Accurate point source imaging and location.
- Broad lines and continuum.
- 15 keV 10 MeV
- 16384 CdTe (ISGRI), 4096 CsI (PICsIT) detectors. E/ΔE ~10.
- 9°x 9°degree fully coded FOV. Angular resol 12' FWHM
- 630 kg
- PI Institutes: IAS Roma (I), CEA-Saclay (F), ITESRE – Bologna (I)
- Optical monitoring of high-energy sources
- 500 600 nm wavelength range
- CCD (2048 x 1024 pixels)
- 5° x 5° FOV, 20" imaging
- 17 kg
- Sensitivity: 18.2 mag in 1000 s

ОМС

 PI Institute: INTA/LAEFF (Esp)





- Source identification and monitoring in X-rays
- 3 –35 keV X-ray monitoring
- Microstrip Xe gas detectors
- 5° degree FOV with 3' spatial resolution
- Energy resolution of 15% at 10 keV

• 65 kg

- PI institute: DSRI (Dk)
- Fine spectroscopy of narrow lines
- Diffuse emission on > deg scales.
- 20 keV to 8 MeV
- 19 Ge detectors @ 90 K,
- E/∆E ~500.
- 16° fully coded FOV. Angular resolution 2° FWHM
- 1300 kg

SPI

 PI Institutes: CESR Toulouse (F) and MPE Garching (D)

SPI/INTEGRAL all-sky distribution of the 511 keV line of e⁻ - e⁺ annihilation



Weidenspointner	et al. (2008b) :	$\begin{array}{c} F_{511} \\ (10^{-4} \ \mathrm{cm}^{-2} \ \mathrm{s}^{-1}) \end{array}$	${{L_{511}}\atop{(10^{42} \ {\rm s}^{-1})}}$	\dot{N}_{e^+} (10 ⁴² s ⁻¹)
	$Bulge + thick \ disk$			
	Narrow bulge Broad bulge Thick disk Total	$2.7^{+0.9}_{-0.4}$ $4.8^{+0.7}_{-0.4}$ $9.4^{+1.8}_{-1.4}$ 17.1	$2.3^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$ $4.1^{+0.6}_{-0.4}$ $4.5^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$ 10.0	$4.1^{+1.5}_{-1.2} \\7.4^{+1.0}_{-0.8} \\8.1^{+1.5}_{-1.4} \\10.6$
	Tota	11.1	10.9	19.0

High Bulge/Disk emission ratio:No equivalent in any other wavelength !



Requirements from the positron source(s)

1) Total production Rate (Steady state) : ~2. $10^{43} e^+ s^{-1}$ ~1.2 $10^{43} e^+ s^{-1}$ (Bulge) ~0.8 $10^{43} e^+ s^{-1}$ (Disk)

2) Morphology: Bulge/Disk >1.4

(assuming that positrons annihilate close to their sources)

3) Positron injection energy < a few MeV (constraint from observed GC spectrum in MeV region) Spectrum in the > MeV region: constrains the energy of *released* e+ (or the mass of their parent dark matter particles) because they may annihilate in-flight



IF Dark Matter : mass much smaller than "canonical" (GeV) values

POSITRON SOURCES

I. Stellar Nucleosynthesis of radioactive nuclei

Astrophysical positron producing radioactivities

Nuclide	Decay chain	Decay mode	Lifetime	Associated $\gamma\text{-ray}$ lines	Endpoint e^+	Sources
Ŷ		and $e^+ BR^a$		Energy in keV (BR^a)	energy (keV)	
⁵⁶ Ni		$ \begin{array}{c} \mathrm{EC}^{b} \\ \mathrm{e}^{+} \ (0.19) \end{array} $	6.073 d 77.2 d	158(0.99), 812(0.86) 2598(0.17), 1771(0.15)	1458.9	SNIa
²² Na	22 Na \longrightarrow 22 Ne*	e^+ (0.90)	2.61 y	1275(1)	1820.2	Novae
⁴⁴ Ti		$ \begin{array}{c} \mathrm{EC}^{b} \\ \mathrm{e}^{+} \ (0.94) \end{array} $	59.0 y 3.97 h	$\begin{array}{c} 68(0.94),\ 78(0.96)\\ 1157(1)\end{array}$	1474.2	Supernovae
²⁶ Al	26 Al $\longrightarrow ^{26}$ Mg [*]	e^+ (0.82)	$7.4 \ 10^5 \ y$	1809(1)	1117.35	Massive stars

(a) BR:Branching Ratio (in parenthesis); (b) EC: Electron capture

SN	N RATES IN MI	LKY WAY	SNIa		Core collapse SN	
	Stellar mass ^{a}	Spectral type	Specific rate ^{b}	Rate	Specific rate ^{b}	Rate
	$10^{10} \ \mathrm{M}_{\odot}$		$_{\rm SNuM}$	$century^{-1}$	$_{\rm SNuM}$	$century^{-1}$
Bulge	1.4	E0	0.044	0.062		-
Nuclear Bulge	0.15	$\mathrm{Sbc/d}\text{-}\mathrm{Irr}^{c}$	0.17 - 0.77	0.025 - 0.115	0.86 - 2.24	0.13 - 0.33
Thin disk	2.3	Sbc	0.17	0.4	0.86	2
Thick disk	0.5	E0	0.044	0.022		
Total bulge	1.5			0.087 - 0.18		0.13 - 0.33
Total disk	2.8			0.42		2
Total Milky Way	y 4.3			0.5 - 0.6		2.13 - 2.33

COMPTEL / CGRO legacy: 1.8 MeV map of Galactic ²⁶Al (long lived : τ ≈ 1 Myr)



Complete CGRO Mission (Plüschke et al. 2001)

Total flux: \approx 4 10⁻⁴ cm⁻² s⁻¹ $\Rightarrow \approx$ 2.8 M_{\odot} of ²⁶Al per Myr

Emission hot-spots in directions tangent to **spiral arms** suggest **massive stars** at the origin of ²⁶AI

Each ²⁶Al decay releases 0.82 e⁺ : **0.4** 10^{43} e⁺/s produced (= 0.5 SPl disk)

Decay of Ti44, produced in CC-SN : all positrons escape (**T** ~ 80 yr) Estimated e⁺ production Rate ~ 3 10⁴² s⁻¹ ; OK FOR 0.5 DISK, NOT FOR BULGE



What fraction of the e⁺ produced by the short-lived Co56 manage to escape the SNIa ejecta? It depends on unknown intensity and configuration of the supernova magnetic field





Other sources of positrons from nucleosynthesis?

Hypernova(e)/Gamma Ray Burst in Galactic Center ? (Rudaz and Stecker 1988, Nomoto et al. 2001, Cassé et al. 2003, Parizot et al. 2005)

Hypernova/GRB models suggest/require large amounts of Ni56 (0.5 M_{\odot}) and easier escape of e⁺ along the rotation axis *(if one forgets about magnetic fields !)*

But: more massive stars/HN explosions expected in the disk, particularly in the molecular ring...

Also, HN improbable in high metallicity regions, like the GC... (Stanek et al. 2005, Woosley and Heger 2005)

Novae?

Nova distribution in M31 peaked in bulge (Ciardulo et al. 1987)

Positron production through ¹³N(14 min), ¹⁸F(2.6 hr), ²²Na(3.75 yr)

Novae models (Hernanz et al. 2002) ¹³N: abundant BUT too short-lived (e⁺ trapped) ²²Na: long-lived BUT not enough (factor 40)





POSITRON SOURCES

2. High Energy processes in (or induced by) compact objects

Pair production of positrons, ejected by Outflows/Jets in Low Mass X-ray Binaries (LMXB) ? (NP 2004)



However, 80% of total LMXB X-ray emissivity comes from a dozen or so bright sources, not clustered in the bulge...

If $L_{e^+} \propto L_X$, morphology is not OK

LMXBs strongly concentrated in low galactic longitude (Grimm et al. 2002)



Total X-emissivity of Galactic LMXBs: 2 10³⁹ erg/s (2 10³⁸ erg/s for HMXB, Grimm et al. 2002) Energy required for 10⁴³ e⁺/s: 1.6 10³⁷ erg/s OK, IF about 1% of X-ray radiated energy is used for e⁺ formation





Other sources of galactic positrons ? Dark matter ?

1) Light (MeV) DM particles ?

1a) Annihilating (Boehm et al. 2004, Gunion et al. 2006, Ascasibar et al. 2005)

1b) Decaying (Hooper and Wang 2004, Piccioto and Pospelov 2005, Pospelov et a. 2008)

2) Heavy (GeV-TeV) DM particles ?

De-exciting (provided they possess ~MeV energy levels) (*Finkbeiner and Weiner 2007, Pospelov and Ritz 2007*)

In Milky Way: velocity dispersion ~100 km/s ⇒ Kinetic energy of a 500 GeV DM particle ~1 MeV

Case 1a produces more peaked profiles than Case 2 and even more peaked than Case 1b However: density profiles of DM in inner Galaxy and signal intensity virtually unknown



In all panels: Red isocontours: 511 keV observations (from Weidenspointner et al. 2008a)

Top panel: Blue isocontours: 1.8 MeV (Al26) observations (= Massive stars)

> Middle panel: Blue isocontours: Expected SNIa

Bottom panel: Green Dots: Observed Hard LMXRBs (asymmetric?) No observed or expected distribution of known astrophysical sources is as peaked as the observed 511 keV one

Only some specific distributions (M99, NFW) of annihilating Dark Matter particles are as peaked as the observed 511 keV one They are apparently ruled out by observations of dwarf galaxies



The Supermassive Black Hole in the Galactic Center



Positrons must diffuse throughout the bulge, escaping the Central Molecular Zone (CMZ)

Accretion of gas from one (or many) disrupted star(s) up to 10⁷ yr ago onto the SMBH and proton acceleration ; secondary e+ produced in p-p collisions (*Cheng et al. 2006*)

High magnetic field (>0.4 mG) required for e⁺ to lose energy before inflight annihilation (*Cheng et al. 2010*)

Model requires higher activity in the past since Sgr A* is ~inactive now NO MORE STEADY STATE ASSUMPTION

Candidate positron sources in the Galaxy

NP et al. (2010)

Source	Process	$E(e^+)^a$	e^+ rate ^b	Bulge/Disk ^c	Comments
		(MeV)	$\dot{N}_{e^+}(10^{43} \text{ s}^{-1})$	B/D	
Massive stars: ²⁶ Al	β^+ -decay	~ 1	0.4	< 0.2	N, B/D: Observationally inferred
Supernovae: ⁴⁴ Ti	β^+ -decay	~ 1	0.3	< 0.2	\dot{N} : Robust estimate
SNIa: ⁵⁶ Ni	β^+ -decay				Assuming $f_{e^+,esc}=0.04$
Novae	β^+ -decay	~1	0.02	<0. 5	Insufficent e ⁺ production
Hypernovae/GRB: ⁵⁶ Ni-	β^+ -decay	~1	?	<0. 2	Improbable in inner MW
Cosmic rays	p-p	~30	0.1	<0.2	Too high e ⁺ energy
LMXRBs	$\gamma - \gamma$				Assuming $L_{e^+} \sim 0.01 \ L_{obs,X}$
Microquasars (μ Qs)	$\gamma - \gamma$				e ⁺ load of jets uncertain
Pulsars	$\frac{\gamma \gamma / \gamma \gamma_B}{\gamma}$	>30	0.5	< 0.2	Too high e ⁺ energy
ms pulsars	$\frac{\gamma - \gamma}{\gamma - \gamma_B}$	>30	0.15	< 0.5	Too high e^+ energy
Magnetars	$\gamma = \gamma / \gamma = \gamma_B$	>30	0.16	< 0.2	Too high e ⁺ energy
Central black hole	p-p	High			Too high e^+ energy, unless $B > 0.4 \text{ mG}$
	$\gamma - \gamma$	1			Requires e^+ diffusion to $\sim 1 \text{ kpc}$
Dark matter	Annihilation	1(?)			Requires light scalar particle, cuspy DM profile
	Deexcitation	1			Only cuspy DM profiles allowed
	Decay	1	?		Ruled out for all DM profiles
Observational constraints		<7	2	>1.4	

Physics of 511 keV line profile



Implicit assumption :

Positrons annihilate close to their sources

Gamma-ray morphology reflects source morphology

Not necessarily true



Most of SNIa positrons released outside the gaseous disk, in low density medium

Positron propagation and annihilation in the interstellar medium **Positrons are born hot** (> a few hundred keV in any case) **They decelerate** (ionization, excitation, Coulomb losses) They annihilate directly (on bound and free electrons) (Radiative recombination, in ionized medium) Or, after formation of Positronium (Charge exchange, in neutral medium and E > 6.8 eV) **ENERGY** 1 MeV Critical parameters: Hot ionized Densities and filling factors (rarefied) of the various phases 10 keV of the ISM Warm

3/2 kT

YFARS

. 10⁵

100 eV

1 eV

Cold

(dense)

10³

(Bussard et al. 1979)

+ the presence of **dust grains** (Zurek 1983)

+ intensity and configuration of magnetic field

Distance travelled by positrons before annihilating



Positrons released in a hot and low density medium can travel far away from their sources (many kpc) in a calm, unmagnetized plasma

BUT, propagation of low energy positrons in the turbulent, magnetized ISM is very poorly understood

The Galactic Magnetic field

Irregular (turbulent) field dominant in the disk (a few μG , but there is also a substantial **regular (toroidal)** component (1-2 μG), with intensity inverted between spiral arms



But, the magnetic field configuration away from the disk is unknown

IF the galactic magnetic field has a poloidal component (*Han 2004*) a (difficult to estimate) fraction of disk positrons should escape the disk and be chaneled (through the low density halo) to the bulge, where they are better confined (because of its stronger magnetic field) and they finally annihilate (NP 2006)



However, radio-observations of magn. field configuration in external spirals suggest rather an X-shaped filed (*Heesen et al. 2009*)

Possible to explain full 511 keV emission with radioactivities alone (Co56 from SNIa and AI26+Ti44 from CCSN)

Enhanced Bulge (from transfer of 50% disk SNIa positrons) + Thick disk (remaining 50% of disk SNIa positrons away from their sources) + Thin disk (positrons from AI26 and Ti44 close to their sources: spiral arms)



Summary

The origin of the oldest known and brightest extra-solar gamma-ray line remains unknown at present

Its spatial morphology cannot be explained by conventional astrophysical sources, Unless positrons produced in the disk annihilate away from it or positrons produced in the Galactic center diffuse in the bulge

Possible astrophysical scenarios:

-A specific bulge (=old)? population (LMXRBs, microquasars, ms pulsars?)

- Transfer of disk positrons to the bulge through magnetic field?
 - Diffusion of positrons from central black hole to the bulge?

Positron propagation is the key issue !

Particle physics solutions ???

(annihilating dark matter particles, tangle of superconducting cosmic strings...)

The future of studies of Galactic 511 keV emission

- (i) Observations of 511 keV emission:
- what is the true spatial distribution of the emission?
- how far do the spheroid and disk extend ?
- are there yet undetected regions of low surface brightness?
- is the disk emission asymmetric indeed?
- how do the 1.8 MeV and 511 keV disk emissions compare to each other?

• (ii) Physics of e+ sources:

- what is the e+ escaping fraction in SNIa ?
- what is the SNIa rate in the inner (star forming) and in the outer (inactive) bulge?
- what are the e+ yields, activity timescales, and spatial distribution in the bulge of LMXRBs or microquasars?
- how can the past level of activity of the central supermassive black hole be reliably inferred?

• (iii) Positron propagation:

- what is the large scale configuration of the Galactic magnetic field?
- what are the properties of interstellar plasma turbulence and how do they affect the positron transport?
- what are the dominant propagation modes of positrons and what is the role of re-acceleration?



Transfer of positrons produced by SNIa from the "outer bulge" (?) (hot, tenuous) to the inner one (*Higdon et al. 2009*)

Fate of radioactivity positrons of SNIa

1) Local annihilation of all positrons + downscattering of 511 keV photons : no e⁺ escape, no 511-emission seen
2) Local annihilation of all positrons + escape of 511 keV photons : no e⁺ escape, local 511-emission seen

3) Some positrons escape local annihilation and annihilate... somewhere in the ISM



And so do Strinziger and Sollerman (2007), for SN2001e1



An asymmetric disk detected in 511 keV after 4 years of data



But: Bouchet et al. (2008) see no disk and no asymmetry...

Similar asymmetry detected in disk distribution of Hard-state Low Mass XRBs

511 keV: Weidenspointner et al., 2008



20-100 keV LMXBs: Bird et al., 2007 Catalog

But: distribution of LMXRBs able to account for <40% of bulge 511 keV emission

W7: a very successful parameterized SNIa model



Then move at densities $10^7 \cdot 10^8$ g/cm^{3,} to produce ≈ 0.7 MO of Ni56 in intermediate layers (for the optical light curve) and ≈ 0.2 MO of Si, S, Ar, Ca (for the early spectra)



3D (aspherical) models suggest that a substantial fraction (10%) of Ni56 may be found in the outer layers ; its decay positrons may escape more easily (?) the ejecta





e+ production from X – γ ray interactions in the GC region (*Titarchuk and Chardonnet 2006*)

> X-rays from the GC Supermassive Black Hole

γ-rays from dozens of small (10¹⁷ g) accreting black holes in a region the size of the Solar system



INTEGRAL (ESA)

INTEGRAL was launched on October 22, 2002

Large part of INTEGRAL's orbit is found outside Earth's magnetic (Van Allen) belts, which are full of cosmic ray particles and are sources of background noise for gamma-ray detectors.



127 elements coded tungsten mask

heavy (500 kg) active BGO collimator and anticoincidence shield SPI

INTEGRAL

19 cooled Germanium detectors

Instrument design

- 19 cooled high purity Germanium detectors
- active cryogenic system (85 K)
- active collimator and anticoincidence shield made of 91 BGO crystals
- 127 elements coded tungsten mask
- 20 keV 8 MeV
 FOV ≈ 15 / 33 degrees (fully / partially)
- ∆E ≈ 2.2 2.5 keV @ 1 MeV
- ∆α ≈ 2.5 degrees

SP

Source	Process E(e ⁺) < a few MeV	Morphology Bulge/Disk > 3	Intensity 2 10 ⁴³ s ⁻¹	Comments
Al26 decay	Radioactivity	Disk	~Observed 511 keV disk	
SNIa	Radioactivity	B/D<1	2 10 ⁴³ s ⁻¹ IF 5% of e+ escape	Needs e+ transport from disk to bulge
Novae	Radioactivity	?? Up to B/D~1 if M31-like	<2 10 ⁴¹ s ⁻¹	
GC Hypernova	Radioactivity	Outer disk	Unknown	
Ti44 decay	Radioactivity	Disk	3 10 ⁴² s ⁻¹	
Cosmic rays	p – p interactions	Disk	3 10 ⁴¹ s ⁻¹	
LM-XRBs	Pair production	B/D~1 IF strongest sources neglected	OK if 1% of obs. X converted to e+	Needs e+ transport ???
Microquasars	Pair production	Bulge-like clustering but insufficient data	Up to 10 ⁴³ s ⁻¹	Needs e+ transport ???
Pulsars	e+ accelerated to high energy	Disk	10 ⁴⁰ s ⁻¹	
ms pulsars	e+ accelerated to high energy	Obs. In local disk; in Bulge, 6000 needed	5 10 ⁴² s ⁻¹ to explain EGRET obs. in GC	Descendents of LM- XRBs
GC SM Black Hole	p – p (Cheng et al.) Pair prod. (<i>Totani</i>)	Point source for SPI	Unknown	Needs e+ transport from GC to bulge





Prantzos (2006) A (difficult to estimate) fraction of disk positrons should escape the disk (T_{Annhil} ~ several Myr, distance ~ several kpc)

Those positrons could be channeled by the poloidal magnetic field - *if* it is a dipole towards the bulge, where they are better confined (because of the stronger magnetic field of the bulge) and they finally annihilate

The "magnetic mirror effect" does not deflect them back to the disk, because they enter the poloidal field with a strong velocity component parallel to it (continuity of magnetic field lines from disk (toroidal) to halo (poloidal) field)