

THE SPECTRUM OF COSMIC RAY ELECTRONS AND POSITRONS MEASURED BY THE PAMELA EXPERIMENT: A REAL PROBLEM STILL SEEKING A SOLUTION

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The Payload for Antimatter Matter Exploration and Light-nuclei Astrophysics (PAMELA) has now provided a very accurate measurement of the spectrum of cosmic-ray electrons and positrons. These results are consistent with a single power-law, but visually they suggest an excess emission from about 100 GeV to 1 TeV, which leads to the emergence of a debate about the existence and the source of this excess: Could come from nearby pulsars or dark-matter annihilation? We do not know, each one has its reasons. In this work we will try to study this controversy by clarifying this spectrum using the GALPROP code.

1 Introduction

Knowledge of the primary cosmic ray electron spectrum near the earth $\leq 1\text{kpc}$ allows us to understand several astrophysical problems. In fact, the first hint for the existence of this type of rays in our Galaxy (*MilkyWay*) came from the interpretation in 1950 of the non-thermal radio noise¹. The first direct observation of primary cosmic ray electrons was made in 1960^{2,3}, in the energy ranges of 100 MeV to several TeV. Since then, the electron spectrum has been extensively investigated.

Before 2008, the high-energy electron spectrum $E_e \geq 10$ GeV was measured by balloon borne experiments⁴ and by a single space mission AMS-01⁵. To date, we have at hand data from new instruments, such as Pamela⁶, Fermi⁷, H.E.S.S.⁸, and ATIC⁹. These measurements represent a unique probe for studying the origin and diffusive propagation of high energy cosmic-ray electrons in the interstellar medium within the GeVTeV energy range, as well as for constrain current models of the observed Galactic diffuse gamma-ray emission¹⁰ such as the cosmic ray propagation package GALPROP¹¹.

In this work, we explore the possibility of interpreting the aforementioned data sets concerning the electrons spectrum by a model with reacceleration for the production and propagation of positrons and electrons in the Galaxy. In this framework, we start with obtaining a set of propagation parameters which reproduce the cosmic-ray B/C ratio, then we perform the calculation of the spectra of positrons and electrons using the GALPROP code. we compare

with recent observations reported by ATIC, Fermi, HESS, and other experiments.

2 Results and discussion

In this study, we have chosen the diffusion reacceleration model, which has been used in a number of studies utilizing the GALPROP code. This model is two dimensional (2D) with cylindrical symmetry in the Galaxy, and the basic coordinates are (R, z, p) where R is Galactocentric radius, z the distance from the Galactic plane and p the total particle momentum. The propagation region is bounded by $R_h = 30$ kpc and vertical boundaries (halo size) $Z = z_h$. The spatial diffusion coefficient is given by ¹²:

$$D_{xx} = \beta D_0 \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^\delta \quad (1)$$

Where $D_0 = 5.5 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ is a free normalization at the fixed rigidity, $\rho_0 = 4 \text{ GV}$. The power-law index is $\delta = 1/3$ for Kolmogorov diffusion. The main free parameter in this relation is the Alfvén speed $v_0 = 30 \text{ km/s}$. The injection spectrum of nucleons is assumed to be a power law in momentum, $q(p) \propto p^{\gamma_0}$ the value of $\gamma = 2.4$ can vary with species.

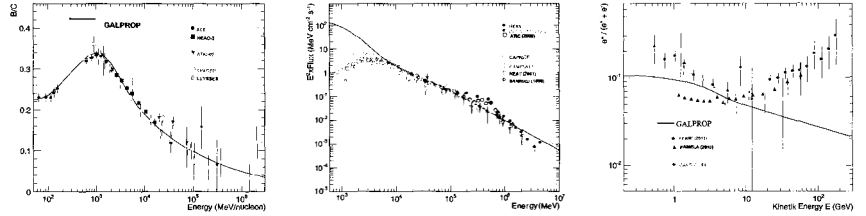


Figure 1: The *left panel* show B/C ratio which is computed by our model given above and compared with experimental data. The electron ($e^+ + e^-$) spectrum is shown for the same model in *center panel* and the corresponding positron fraction ($e^+ / (e^+ + e^-)$) curve computed under the same conditions is shown in the *Right panel* and compared with experimental data.

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