Gamma-ray Space Telescope

Observations and Models of Gamma-ray Emission Toward the Galactic Center the case of the *Fermi* GeV Excess



Multi-Messenger and Multi-Wavelength Astrophysics Time Domain Astronomy • Searches for Dark Matter • Particle Astrophysics



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• First hints of an excess in Fermi-LAT data:





#### **GC "Excess Emission"**



#### More recent Fermi – LAT analyses



#### Dark matter annihilation, unresolved sources, CR electrons?

Mirabal (MNRAS 436 (2013) 2461), Petrovic et al. (JCAP 1502 (2015) 02,023), Cholis et al. (JCAP 1512 (2015) 12, 005), Lee et al. (arXiv:1506.05124), Bartels et al. (arXiv:1506.05104), Brandt & Kocsis (ApJ 812 (2015) 1, 15), Carlson et al. (arXiv:1510.04698) etc.



#### Fermi-LAT Analysis of Diffuse Emission Toward the Inner Galaxy



- Fore/background modeling is critical to studying IG
  - ~80% of the emission (1-100 GeV) in the line of sight is from fore/background interstellar emission
- Goal: study the effects of varying diffuse emission modeling on the GeV excess
- 6.5 years of Pass 8 data Ultracleanveto Class zenith angle < 90°</li>
- 100 MeV 1 TeV
  27 bins in log energy
- Binned into HEALPix maps of order 6 / 7 (1° / 0.5°)





#### Gamma-ray emission component templates (continued)



• Baseline templates:

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- Gas correlated (π<sup>0</sup> decay, bremsstrahlung)
   GALPROP in 5 rings
  - Separate H I and CO templates (trace atomic and molecular hydrogen)
- Inverse Compton (starlight, IR, CMB) GALPROP
- Loop I (Wolleben, ApJ 664 (2007))
- Isotropic
- Fermi Bubbles (The Fermi-LAT Collaboration, Ackermann et al. ApJ 793 (2014))
- Point Sources (preliminary 4FGL list)
  - Derived with 6 years of Pass 8 data
  - The cores of 300 brightest PS are masked
- Sun / Moon (Fermi-LAT Science Tool gtsuntemp etc.)
- Template for the GeV Excess:
  - Model as for DM annihilation, generalized NFW profile (gNFW),  $\gamma = 1.25$

	R [kpc]
٦	0 – 1.5
Inner -	1.5 – 3.5
L	3.5 – 8
Local	8 – 10
Outer	10 – 50

#### Reference template model all-sky fit



#### Space Telescope Baseline templates: All-sky fit is made separately in each energy bin.



• GC excess template:

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- Model for DM annihilation, generalized NFW profile (gNFW),  $\gamma$  = 1.25



#### **Some Modeling uncertainties**



- Cosmic ray distribution in the Galaxy
  - -Sources of Cosmic rays
    - •CR sources near the GC
  - -Propagation parameters
- Distribution of targets in the Galaxy
  - -Gas
  - -Interstellar radiation fields
- Fermi bubbles near the GC



#### **Alternative Gas Maps**



- Hard to model distribution of gas towards the GC due to lack of **Doppler shift** information
  - In our usual decomposition of the gas distribution into rings the Gas distribution is interpolated from |Lon| > 10°, the total column densities are then adjusted to match the data.
- Use starlight (SL) extinction (Schultheis et al., A&A 556 (2014)) to find the distribution of dust along the LOS towards the GC
  - Derive the distribution of gas assuming homogeneous mixing of dust and gas
- Not meant to be a substitute for the current gas maps
  - useful for estimation of modeling uncertainties

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# Potential sources of additional CR electrons near the GC



- CR electron sources in the bulge (Petrovic et al. JCAP 1502 (2015) 02)
  - Electrons are produced by MSPs in the bulge
- Starbursts in molecular clouds near the GC
  - Burst-like emission from the GC nucleus (Cholis et al. JCAP 1512 (2015) 12)
  - Steady-state CR production traced by molecular clouds (Carlson et al. arXiv:1510.04698)
- Similar to Carlson et al. (2015), we find that a source of CR electrons in the central molecular zone (CMZ) region can reduce the flux associated with gNFW template below ~ 20 GeV:





#### **Bubbles template**



- Assume that the bubbles have the same spectrum near the GC as at high latitudes ~E<sup>-2</sup> between 1 and 10 GeV
- Cut on significance to obtain the full bubbles template including b=0



- The Fermi bubbles template in the inner Galaxy looks similar to the residual found in Casandjian, et al (2016)
- But beware of modeling uncertainties





#### **Additional & Alternative Templates**



- Variation of GALPROP model parameters
   Small effect on spectrum of the GeV excess
- Alternative gas maps based on 3D dust extinction model

Softer excess spectrum at low energies (< 1 GeV)

- Include additional sources of cosmic-ray electrons in the GC
   Excess is reduced
- Add data-driven template for low-latitude Fermi Bubbles
   Excess above 10 GeV is gone, excess below 10 GeV is reduced







The spectrum uncertainty band in purple comes from additions/ variations described on previous slides





 Many papers have shown a population of unresolved MSPs can account for the excess

-In this presentation we do not include a MSP template in our fits

 See Talk by Mattia Di Mauro, "Searches for Point Sources in the Galactic Center region" later this session.

### GC Excess modeled as DM --Fractional Signal





- We can quantify dark-matter-like signals as a fraction of the effective background (b<sub>eff</sub>)
  - -b<sub>eff</sub> is the "background counts under the signal"
  - -see backup slide for details on b<sub>eff</sub>
    - •also see Buckley et al. PRD 91 10 1020001 (2015) and Ackermann et al. PRD 91 12 122002 (2015)



Fit gNFW template in each energy bin independently

-DM models do not provide a good fit to entire excess

• For a specific annihilation channel (e.g.  $\chi\chi \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ ) and DM mass, we find the best fit to the gNFW template spectrum

-Integrate over energy to get total n<sub>sig</sub>

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  - -Integrate over energy to get total n<sub>sig</sub>
- Galactic Center excess is only a small fraction of b<sub>eff</sub>

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 Perform same fitting with the gNFW template centered along the Galactic Plane, but excluding the center

- Off-center GP is a control region where very little dark matter is expected
- $\circ~$  Use 68% containment from GP scan as an estimate of the level of dark-matter-like residuals,  $\delta f_{syst}$
- Size of dark-matter-like residuals at other longitudes is comparable to the fractional signal in the Galactic Center







- We investigated the robustness of the GC excess against many modeling uncertainties
- A Galactic Center excess in γ-rays exists
- The origin of this excess is not yet clear
- Possible contributions to the excess include:
  - A population of weak point sources, e.g., MSPs
  - CR injection near the GC
  - The Fermi Bubbles
  - Dark matter

- ...

- Statistical methods prefer a new population of point sources, but there are modeling uncertainties – References on slide 14
- The dark matter limits from this GC study are a factor of a few greater [except at ~15 GeV mass] than the current limits from dwarf galaxies

 The fractional size of the GC excess is similar to that of other excesses along the GP where no DM signal is expected.



#### **Backup Slides**





## LAT Inner Galaxy Results



Results from a complementary LAT-team work exploring the Galactic Center Excess template used was standard NFW, excess spectrum modeled with exponential cut-off power-law 22



 Spectral model of the Galactic diffuse emission + NFW DM —Improvement of the fit with the DM component:



#### **GALPROP** parameters

4.0





- Use models from Fermi LAT diffuse analysis (Ackermann et al. ApJ 793 (2014))
- Cosmic-ray source distribution:
  - Pulsars (Lorimer et al., MNRAS 372 (2006) 777-800)
  - **SNR** (Case & Bhattacharya, ApJ 504 (1998) 761)
  - Pulsars (Yusifov & Kucuk, A&A 422 (2004) 545-553 )
  - OBStars (Bronfman et al., A&A 358 (2000) 521 )
- CR propagation volume
  - Radius: 20/30 kpc
  - Height: 4/10 kpc
- Spin Temperature
  - 150K/optically thin

#### CR source density [arbitrary units] 3.5 3.0 **OBStars** 2.5 Yusifov 2.0 Lorimer 1.5 SNR 1.00.5 0.05 10 15 20 25 30 R [kpc]

#### Reference model parameters shown in blue



# GALPROP parameters and alternative gas distribution



 Variation of GALPROP parameters and the distribution of gas along the line of sight systematics



## Effective Background



b<sub>eff</sub> is the weighted "number of background counts under the signal"
 Background Model (P<sub>bkg</sub>) = adopted Reference Model
 Signal Model (P = ) = aNEW (x = 1.25) contered on P = 0°

-Signal Model ( $P_{sig}$ ) = gNFW ( $\gamma$  = 1.25) centered on B = 0°

 If signal model and background model overlap more, the effective background is higher





- It is useful to define  $\delta f_{syst} = \delta n_{syst} / b_{eff}$  since  $b_{eff}$  and  $n_{syst}$  both scale with the total number of counts in the fit -We define  $\delta f_{syst} = max(\delta f_{68,GP}, 0.01)$
- Separate best fit "apparent signal" into n<sub>syst</sub> and n<sub>sig</sub> using a nuisance parameter
  - -Constrain  $n_{syst}$  with a gaussian prior with width  $\delta n_{syst} = \delta f_{syst} * b_{eff}$

 Can only observe a signal when n<sub>sig</sub> > n<sub>syst</sub>
 We are only sensitive to dark matter signals larger than the dark-matterlike signals seen in control regions

• Similar to technique used in LAT-Collaboration P8 Line Search and Search for Dark Matter in the LMC

-Ackermann, M. et al. 2015, Phys. Rev. D, D91, 122002

-Buckley, M. R. et al. 2015, Phys. Rev. D, 91, 105004



The projected limits for the dSph DM search scale faster than the sqrt(time) due to the discovery of more dSphs..