Limits on DM annihilation from an analysis of Galactic center in gamma rays

Dmitry Malyshev
Erlangen Center for Astroparticle Physics

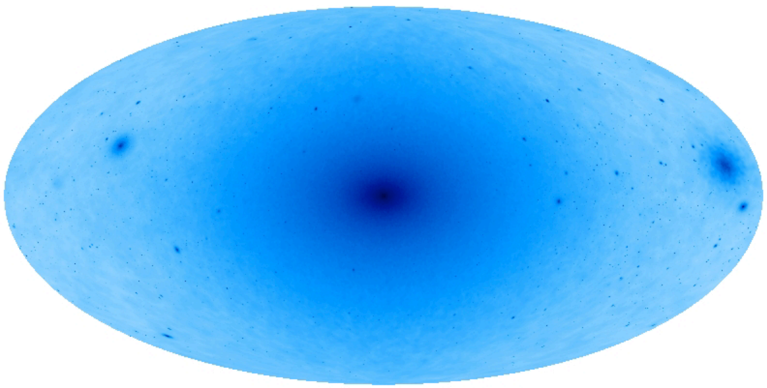
Andrea Albert (Los Alamos),
Elliott Bloom (SLAC),
Eric Charles (SLAC),
Anna Franckowiak (DESY, Zeuthen),
Luigi Tibaldo (MPIK, Heidelberg)

on behalf of the Fermi LAT collaboration

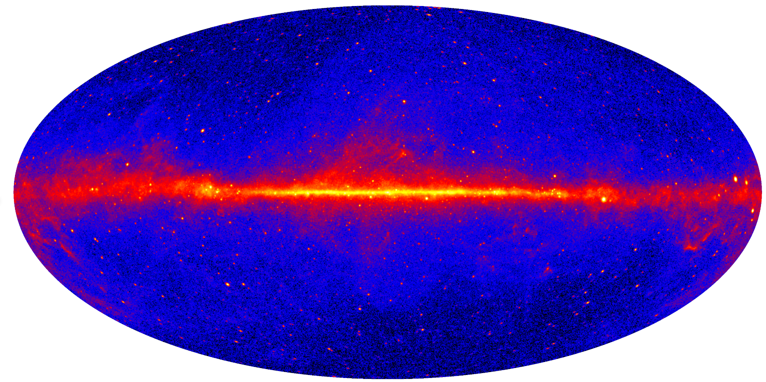
Fermi LAT @ CERN
March 29, 2017

Dark matter annihilation

- **Is the DM annihilation signal present in the gamma-ray data?**



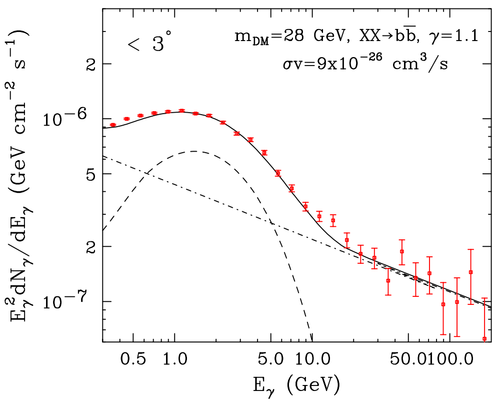
Via Lactea II, Kuhlen et al, Science, 325 (2009)



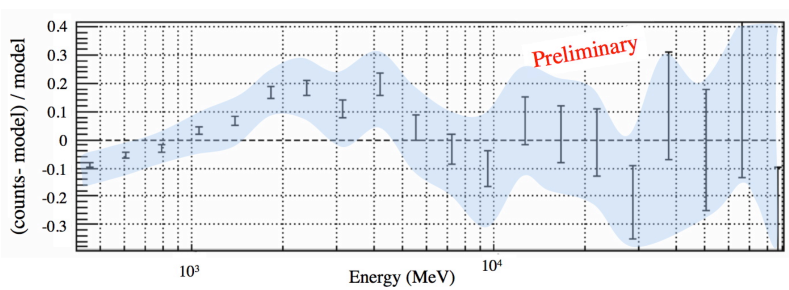
Fermi Large Area Telescope (LAT),
8 years, Pass 8 data

GC excess emission

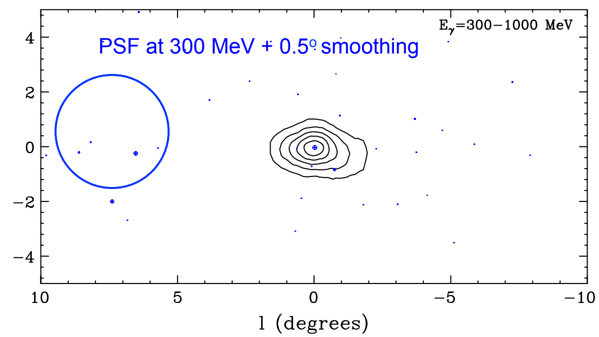
- **First hints of an excess**



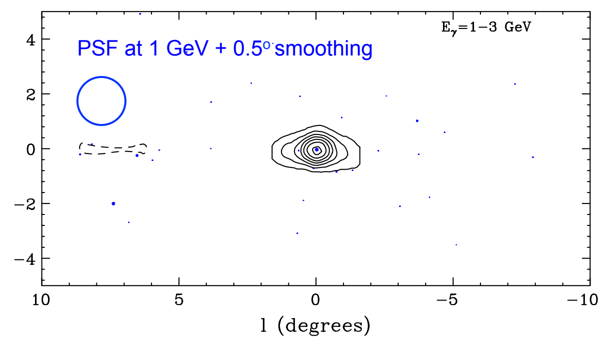
Goodenough & Hooper
arxiv:0910.2998



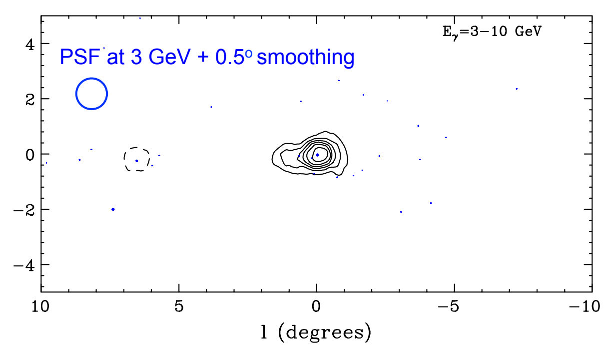
Vitale & Morselli
arxiv:0912.3828



300 MeV – 1 GeV



1 GeV – 3 GeV

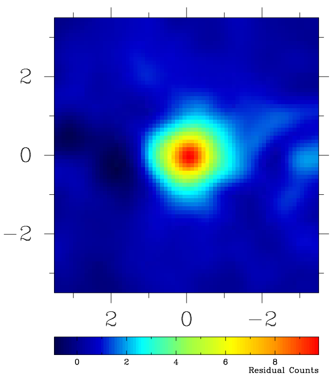


3 GeV – 10 GeV

Hooper & Linden
PRD, 84 (2011)

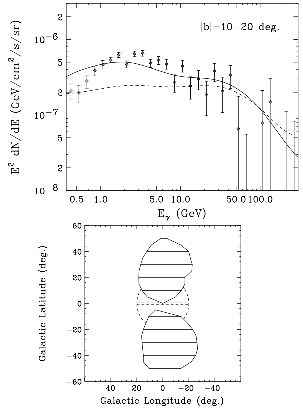
GC excess emission

- **More recent analysis**

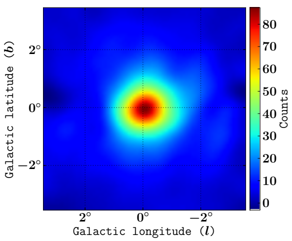


Abazajian & Kaplinghat
PRD 87 (2012)

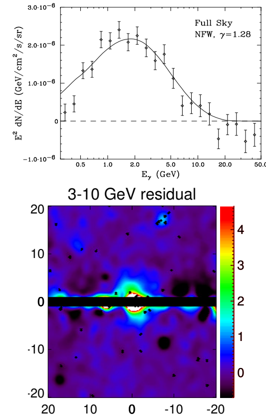
10° – 20° in latitude



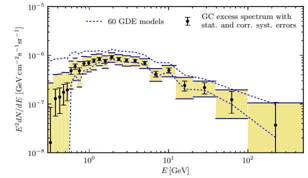
Hooper & Slatyer
Phys.Dark Univ. 2 (2013)



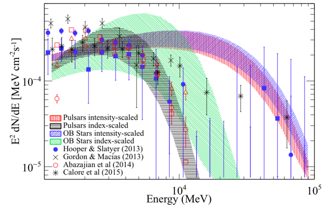
Gordon & Macias
PRD 88 (2013)



Daylan et al.
Phys.Dark Univ. 12 (2016)



Calore et al.
JCAP 1503 (2015)

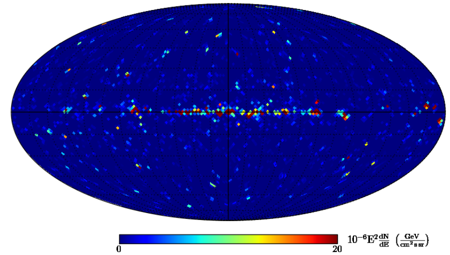


Ajello et al.
ApJ 819 (2016)

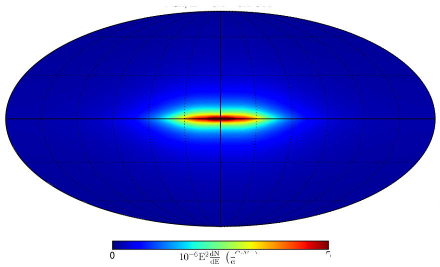
- **Possible interpretations:**
  - **DM annihilation, millisecond pulsars (e.g., Brand&Kocsis 2015), cosmic-ray sources near the GC (e.g., Carlson et al 2016)**

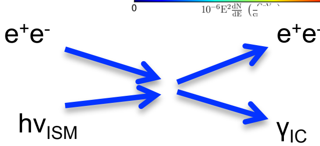
Gamma-ray emission components

Point sources

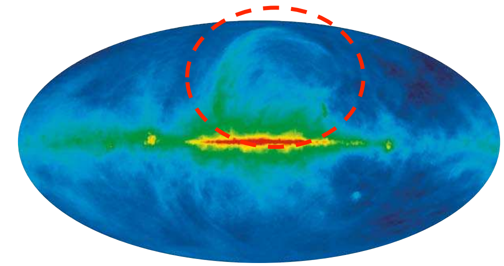


Inverse Compton



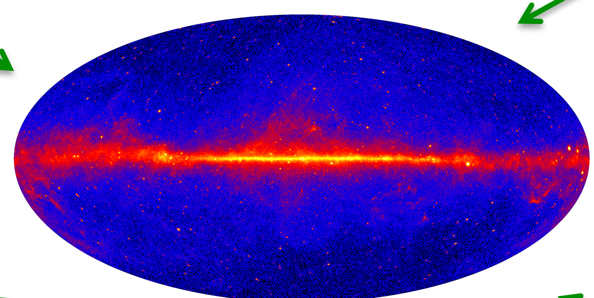


Loop I

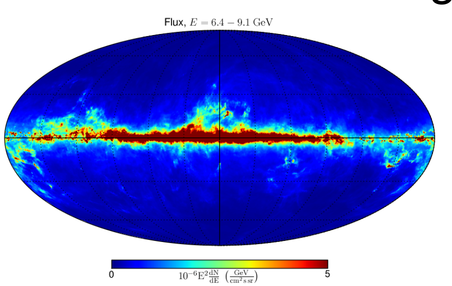


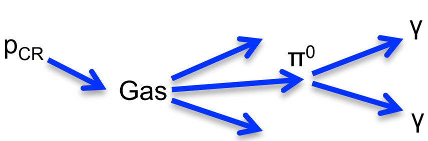
Gold et al (WMAP)
ApJS 192 (2011)

Data

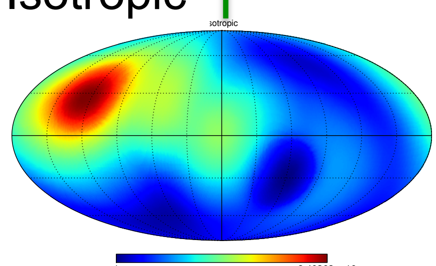


π^0 and bremsstrahlung

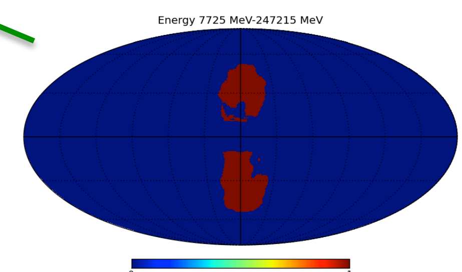




Isotropic



Bubbles



Ackerman et al (Fermi LAT)
ApJ 793 (2014)

ERLANGEN CENTRE FOR ASTROPARTICLE PHYSICS

Sample Model

Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope

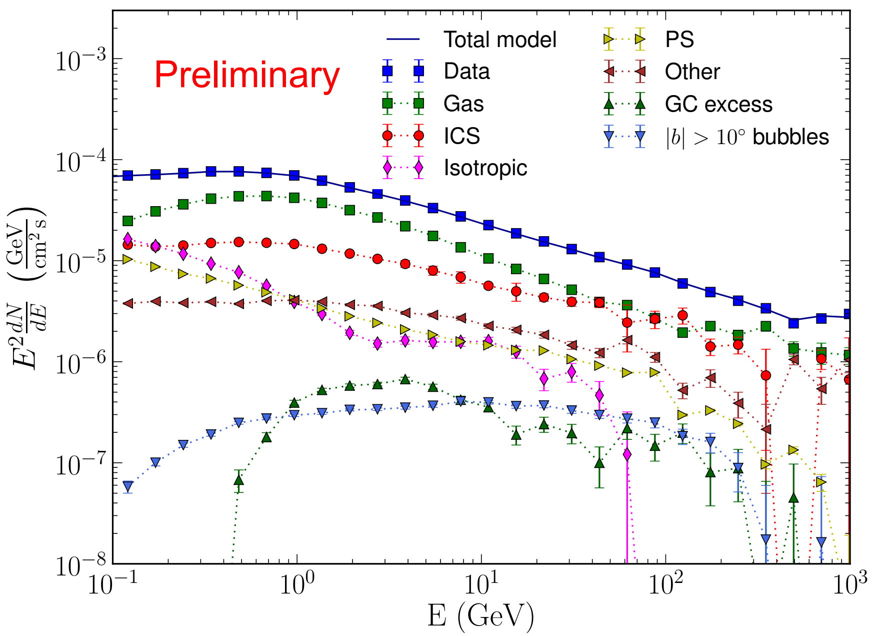
- 6.5 years of Pass 8 data
  - 100 MeV to 1 TeV in 27 logarithmic bins
- Gas correlated (π^0 decay, bremsstrahlung) – propagation and interaction of cosmic rays computed with GALPROP code
- Inverse Compton – GALPROP
- Loop I (Wolleben, ApJ 664 (2007))
- Isotropic
- Fermi Bubbles (Fermi collaboration, ApJ 793 (2014))
- Point Sources – 3FGL catalog
  - The cores of 200 bright PS are masked
- Sun / Moon (Fermi Science Tools)
- Excess template
  - Generalized NFW DM annihilation: γ = 1.25

$$\rho(r) \propto \frac{1}{\left(\frac{r}{r_s}\right)^{\gamma}\left(1+\frac{r}{r_s}\right)^{3-\gamma}}$$

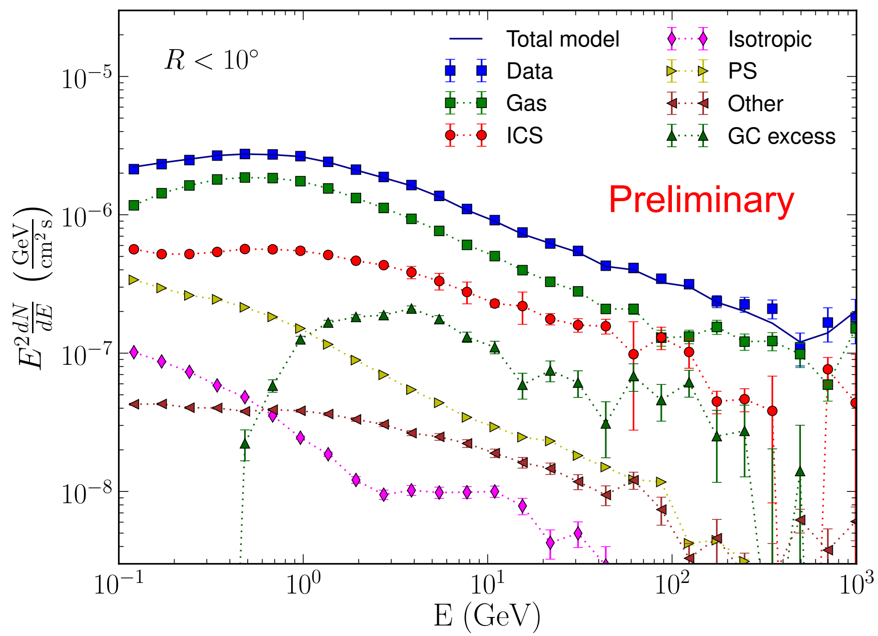
Sample Model Spectra

- **All sky-fit**
- **Fit normalization in each energy bin for each template**

Flux integrated over the whole sky

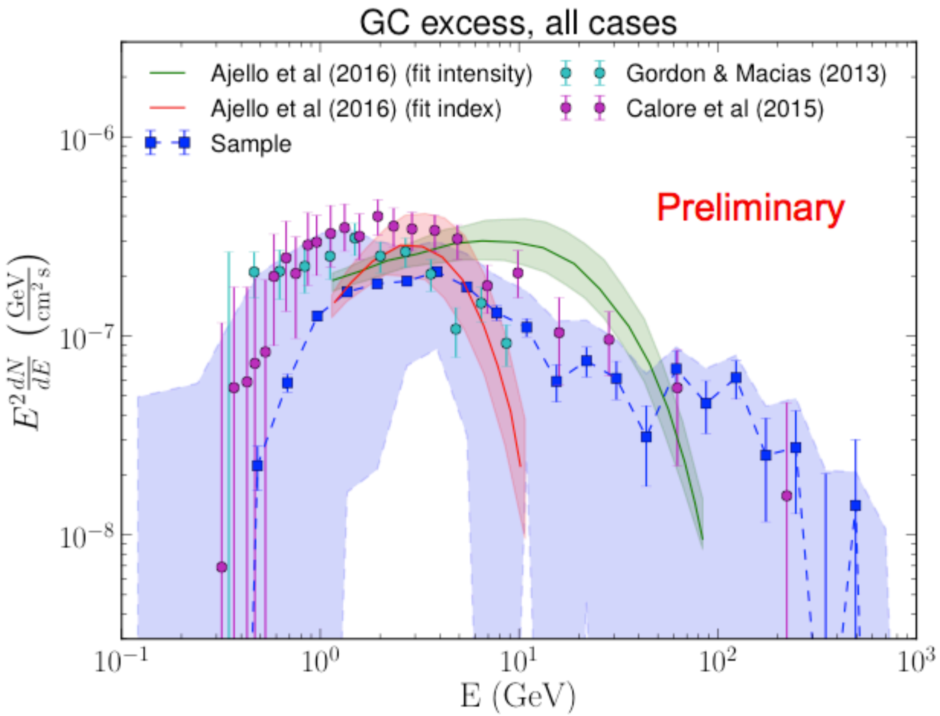


Flux integrated over R < 10°



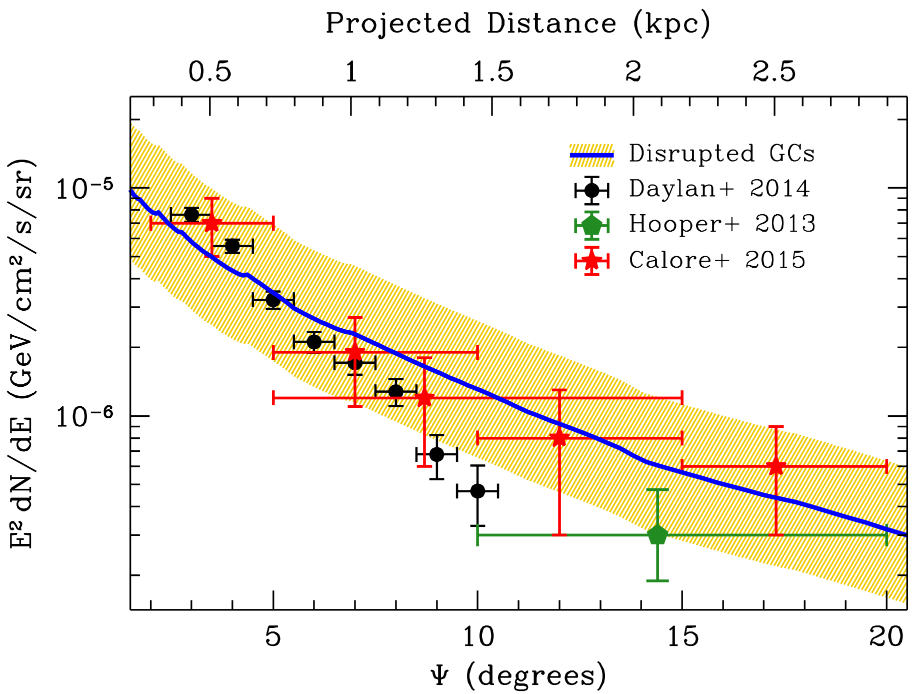
Band of GC excess fluxes

- **The spectrum uncertainty band comes from**
  - **Variations of GALPROP models and gas distribution**
  - **Additional sources of cosmic rays near the GC**
  - **Fermi bubbles at low latitudes**
  - **Properties of point sources near the GC**

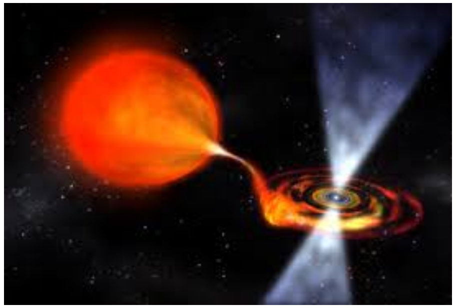


GC excess via millisecond pulsars

- There exist models that predicted a population of millisecond pulsars (MSPs) which can explain the GC excess



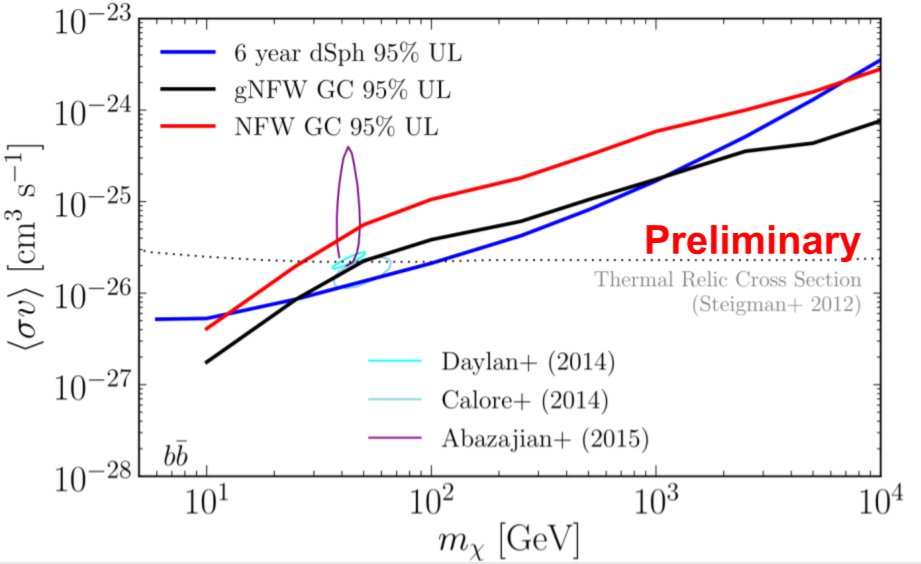
Brandt & Kocsis, ApJ 812 (2015)

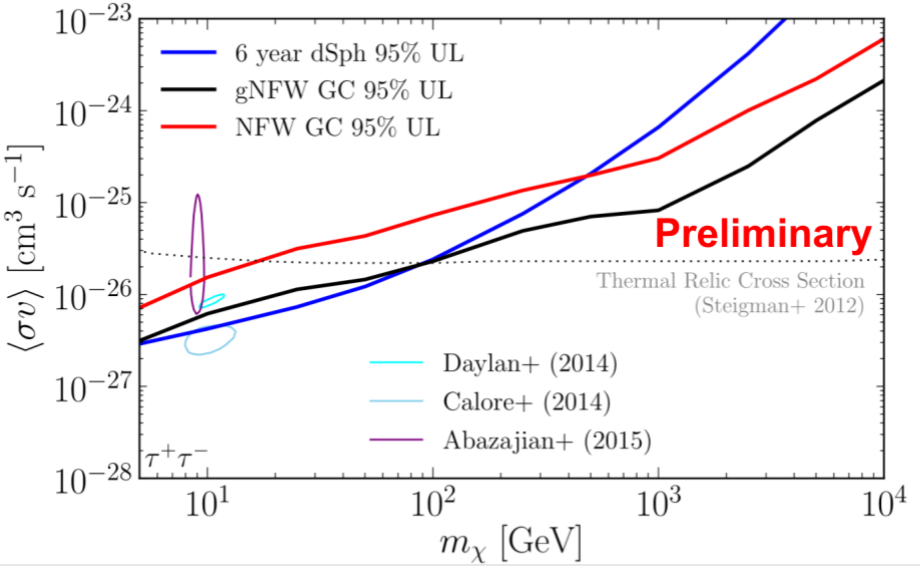


- MSP are created from regular pulsars by accreting matter from a companion star
- They have a characteristic spin-down time of billions of years

DM limits

- Since the GC excess signal is not significant relative to the modeling uncertainties, we conservatively put limits on DM annihilation
- For the limits we require that the DM annihilation signal not exceed the upper bound of the modeling uncertainty band for the GC excess flux





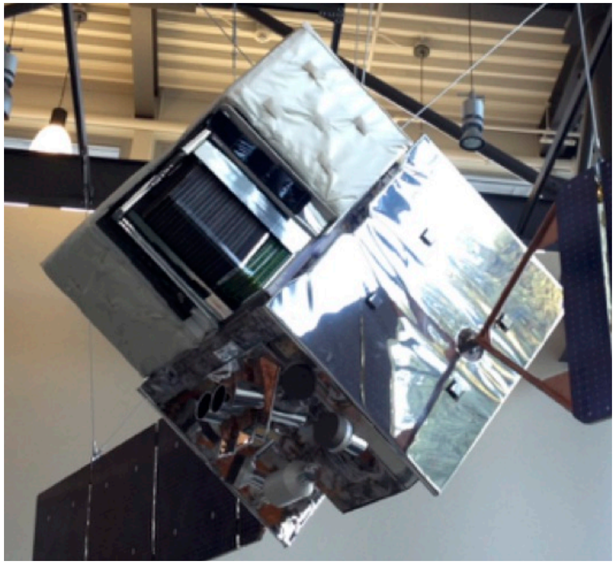
Conclusions

- Galactic center excess in gamma-rays exists
- The origin of the the excess is not clear yet
- Possible sources include
  - CR injection near the GC
  - Population of weak point sources, e.g., MSPs
  - DM annihilation
- Dark matter annihilation limits are derived
  - Comparable to the limits from dwarf galaxies

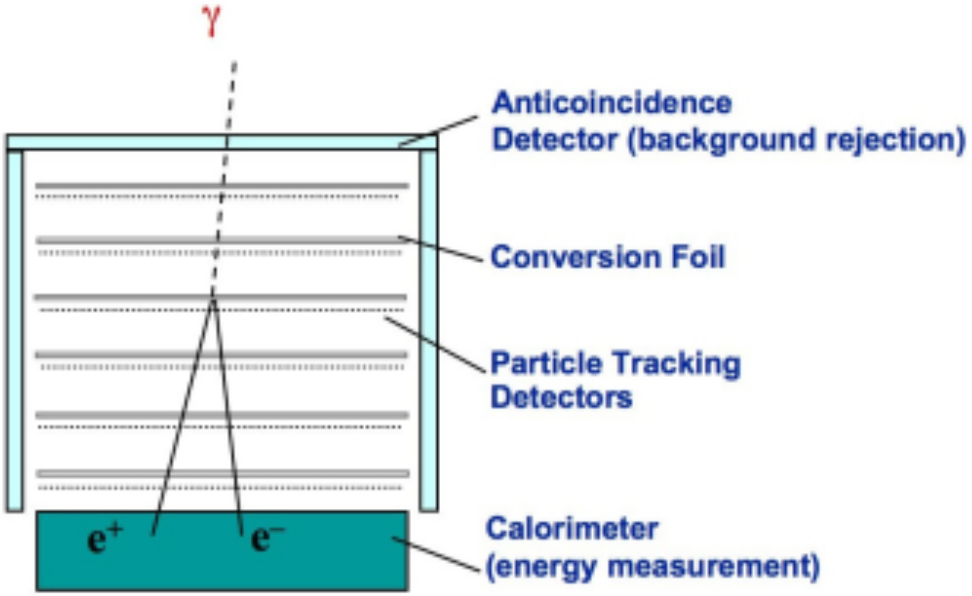
Backup slides

Fermi LAT

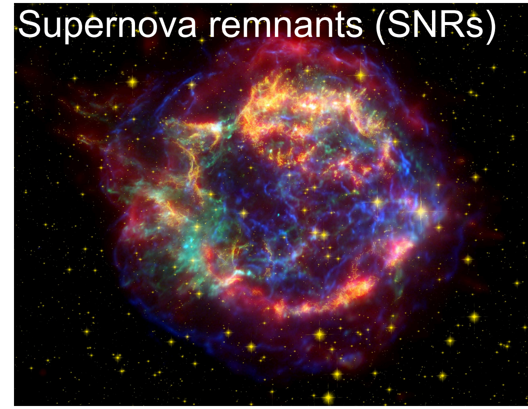
- Fermi Large Area Telescope – gamma-ray space telescope
- Launched on June 11, 2008
  - 2.8 tons, 650 watts
  - 20 MeV to more than 300 GeV
  - 2.4 sr field of view
  - Better than 1° resolution above 1 GeV



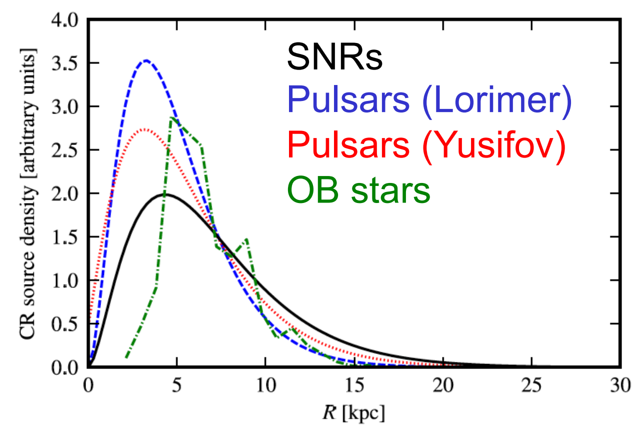
Model (half scale) of the Fermi satellite at SLAC



Modeling of Galactic Diffuse Emission
CR Sources



Cas A SNR
Spitzer, Hubble, Chandra



Assumption: azimuthal symmetry

Image credit: Nick Risinger. Stars: Anna Franckowiak

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Gas-correlated emission

Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope

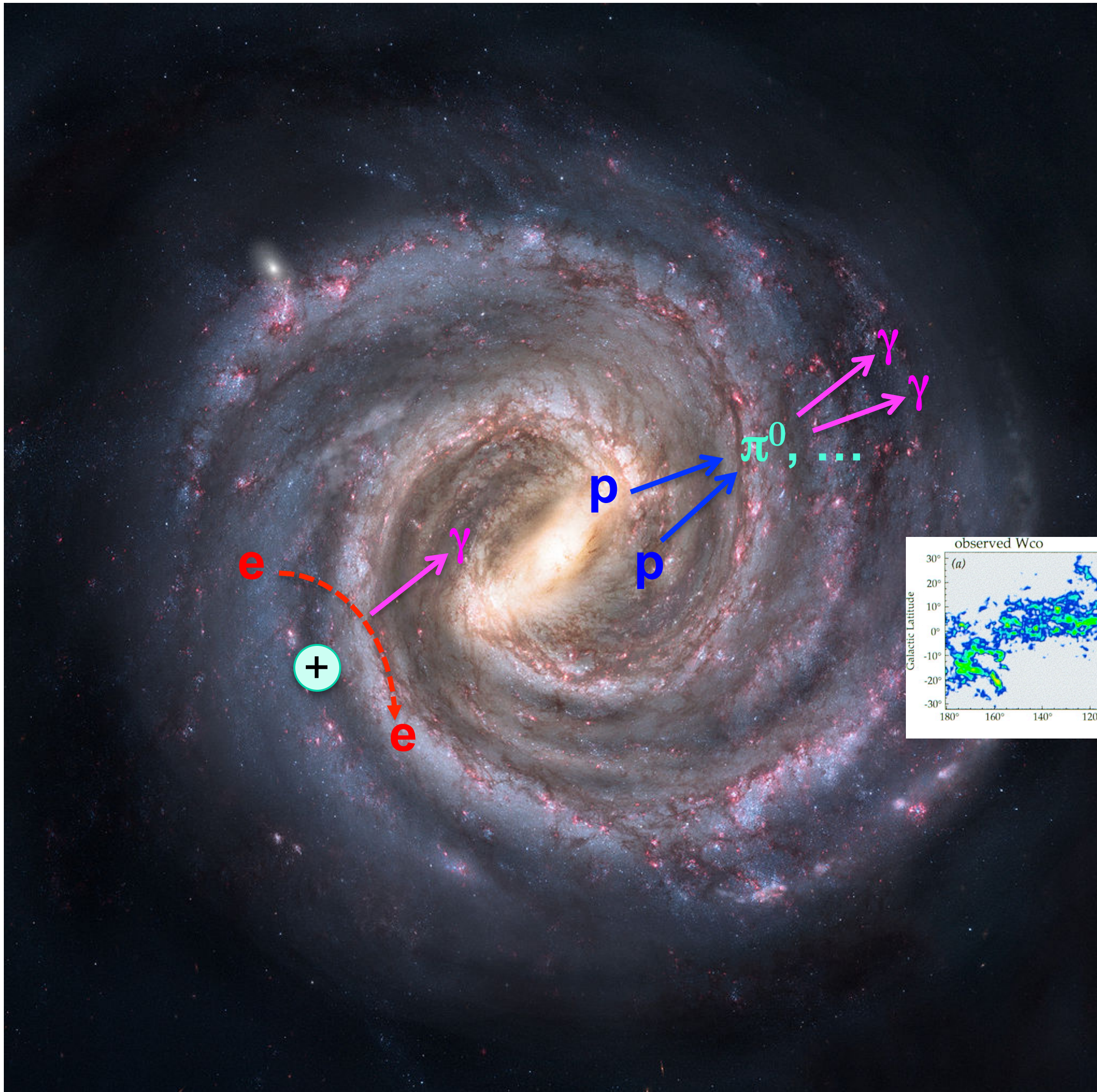
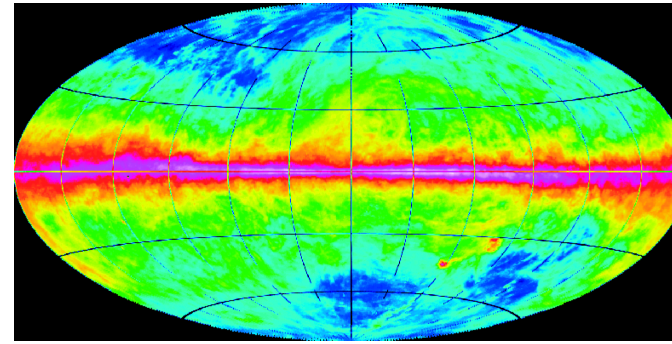
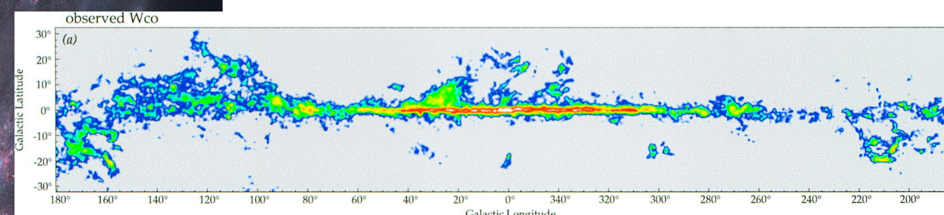


Image credit: Nick Risinger. Graphics: Anna Franckowiak



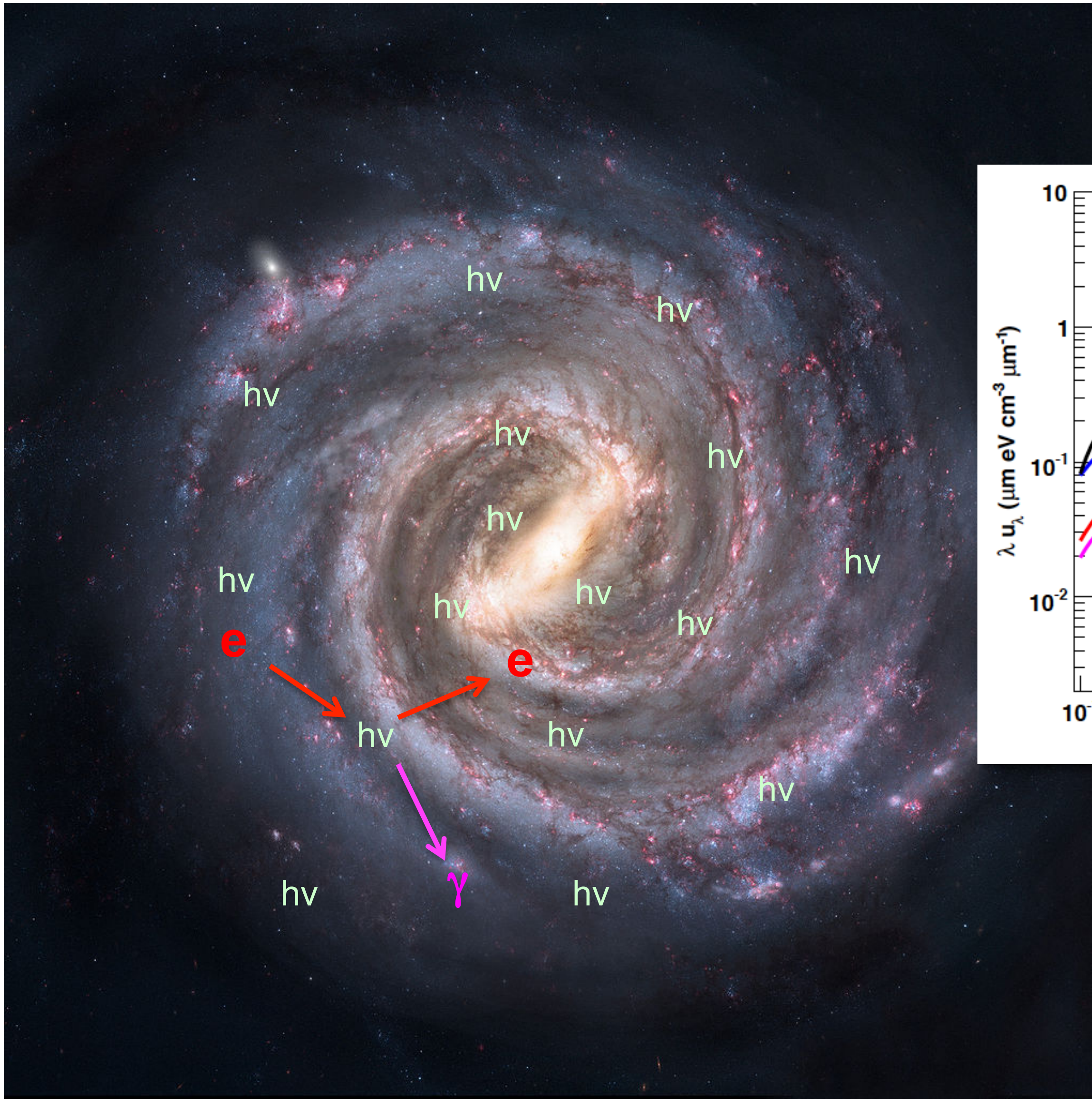
Leiden/Argentine/Bonn Galactic 21cm atomic hydrogen survey
(Kalberla et al. A&A 440, 2005)



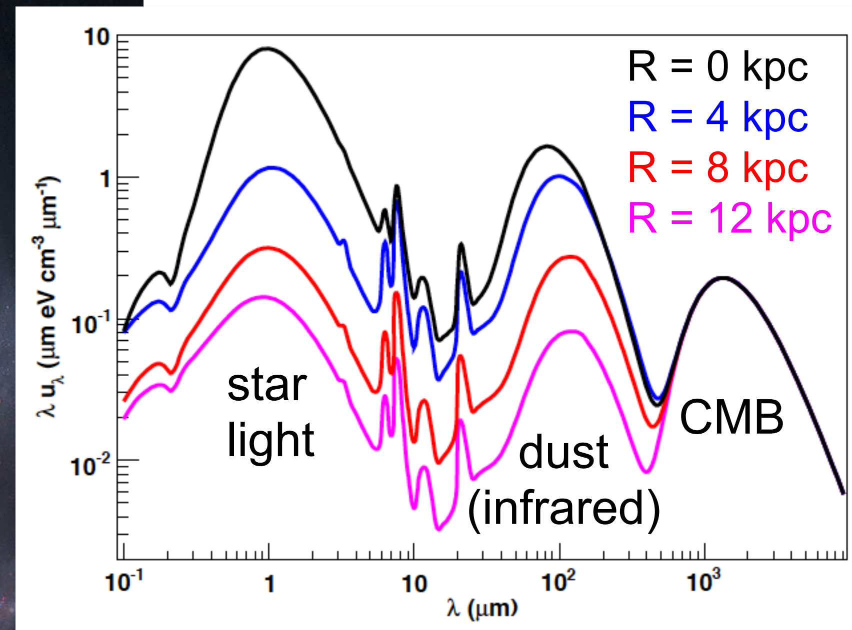
CO surveys to trace molecular hydrogen
(Dame et al. ApJ 547, 2001)

We use GALPROP
(Moskalenko&Strong ApJ 493, 1998)
for propagation and interactions of CRs

Inverse Compton emission



Milky Way interstellar radiation field model



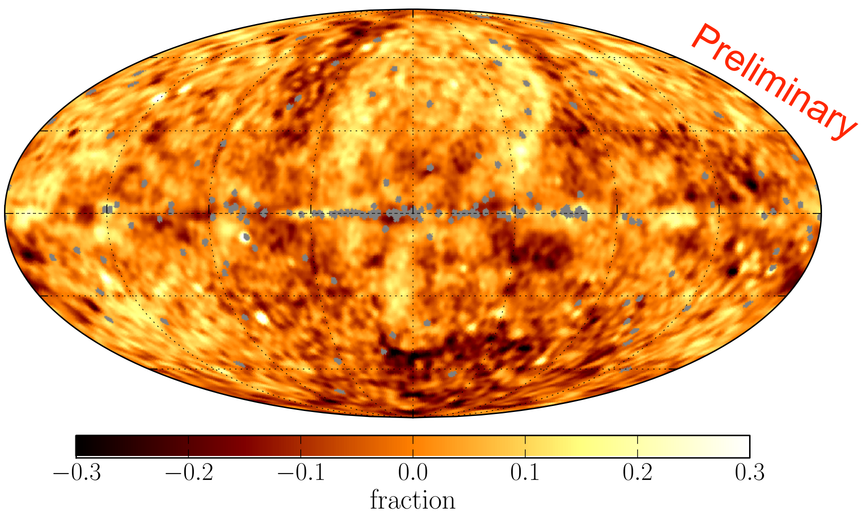
Porter et al.,
ApJ, 682 (2008)

Image credit: Nick Risinger.

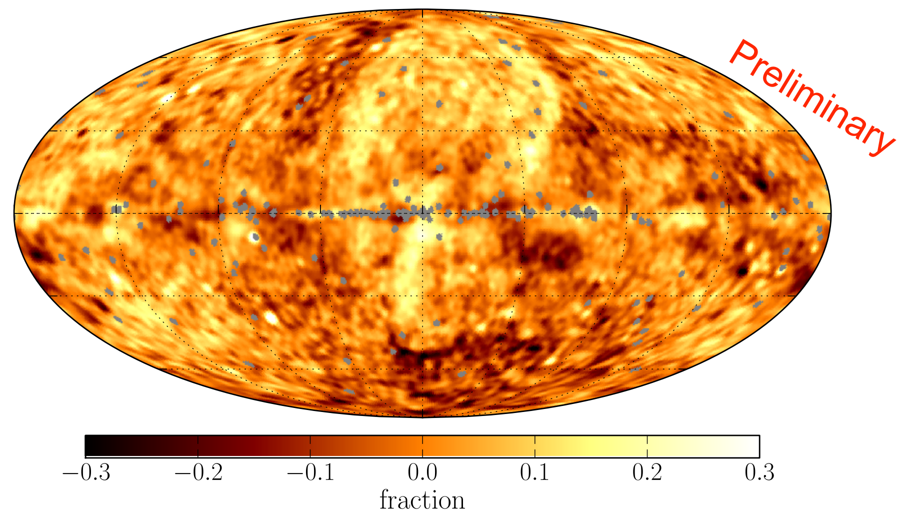
Residuals

- The residual near the GC is clearly visible
- Hard to say whether the morphology is spherical
- Similar fractional size as other residuals

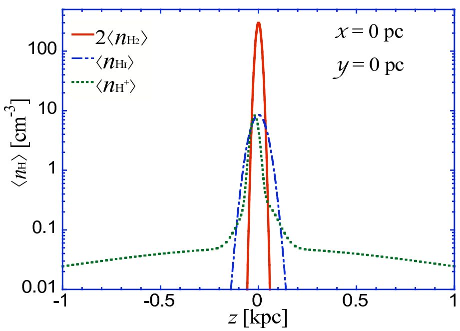
Fractional residual, 1.1 – 6.5 GeV



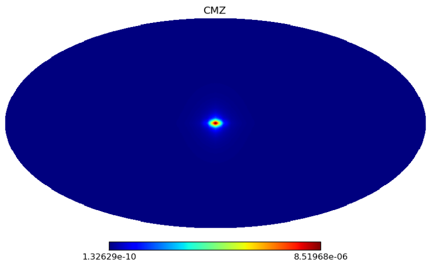
Add back the gNFW template

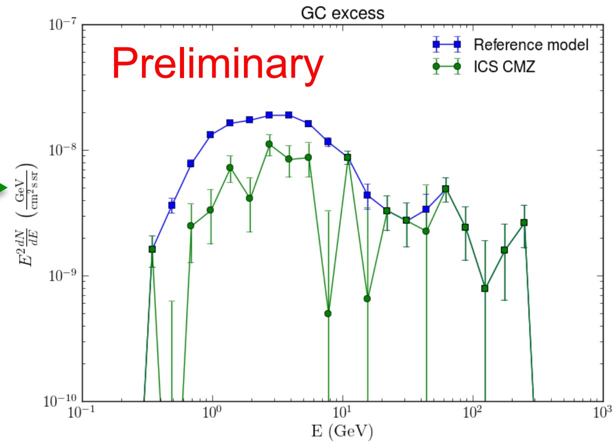


Possible sources of CR electrons near the GC



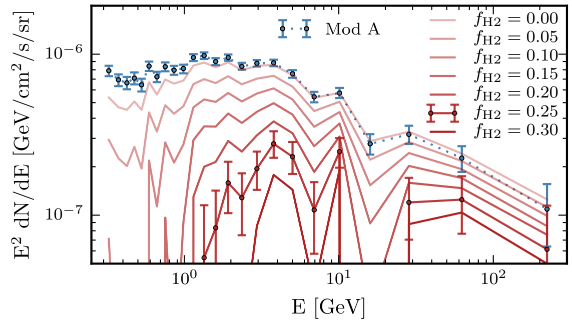
Ferriere et al., A&A, 467 (2007)





- **A source of CR electrons in the central molecular zone (CMZ) region can reduce the flux associated with gNFW template**
  - **Burst-like emission from the GC nucleus (Cholis et al. JCAP 12, 2015)**
  - **CR production correlated with molecular clouds in CMZ**

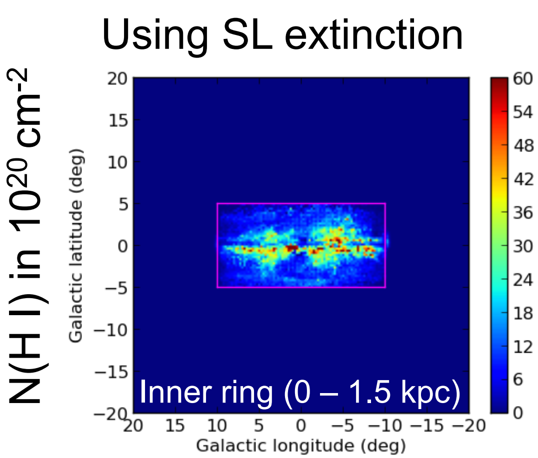
Gaggero et al JCAP 12, 2015
Carlson et al PRL 117, 2016

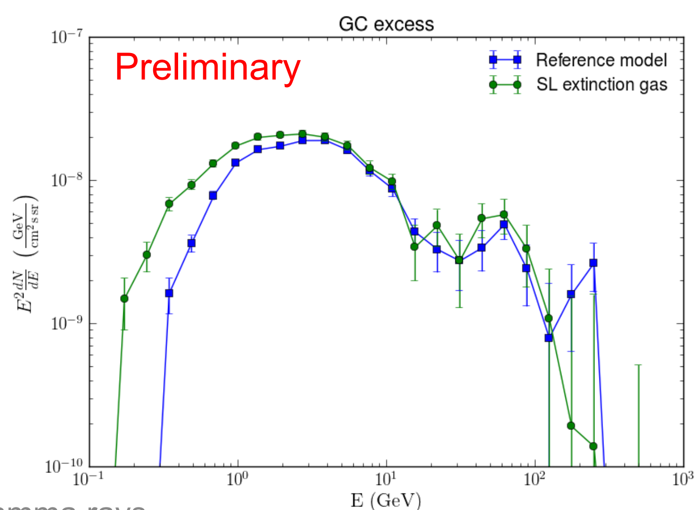


Carlson et al PRL 117, 2016

Alternative gas maps

- Hard to model distribution of gas towards the GC due to **lack of Doppler shift** information
  - Gas distribution is interpolated from |Lon| > 10°
- **Use starlight (SL) extinction** (Schultheis et al, A&A 566 (2014)) to find the distribution of dust along the line of sight towards the GC
  - Derive the distribution of gas assuming homogeneous mixing of dust and gas (not necessarily more accurate but can be used as an alternative)

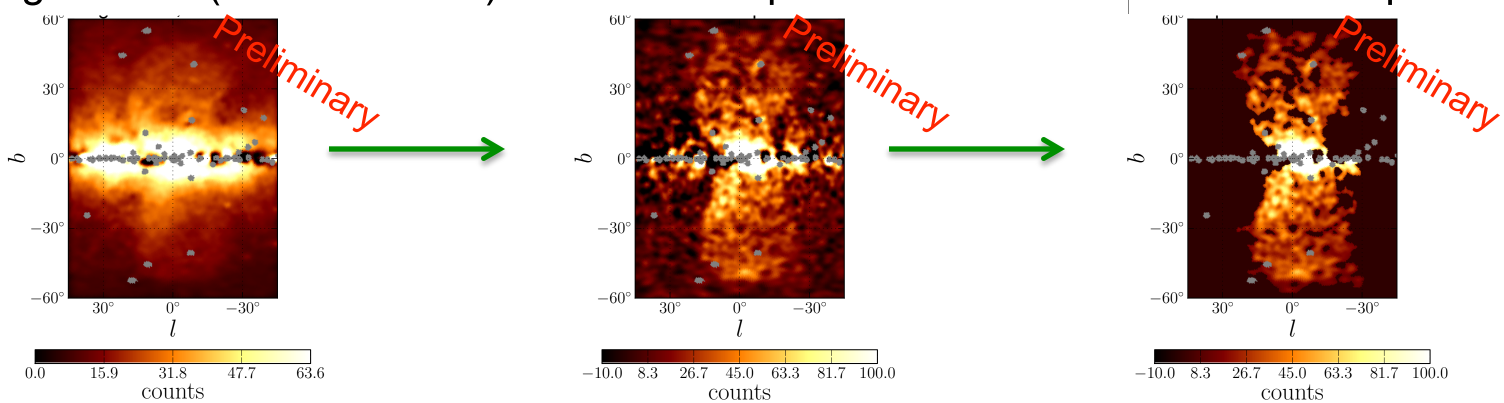




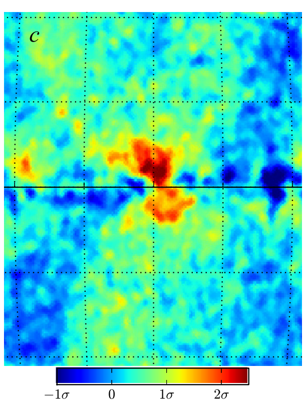
Bubbles template from spectral components analysis (SCA)

- **Assume that the bubbles have the same spectrum near the GC as at high latitudes ~$E^{-1.9}$ between 1 and 10 GeV**
- **Cut on significance to obtain the bubbles template**

Data – gas – PS (1.1 – 6.5 GeV) | ~$E^{-1.9}$ component | Bubbles template



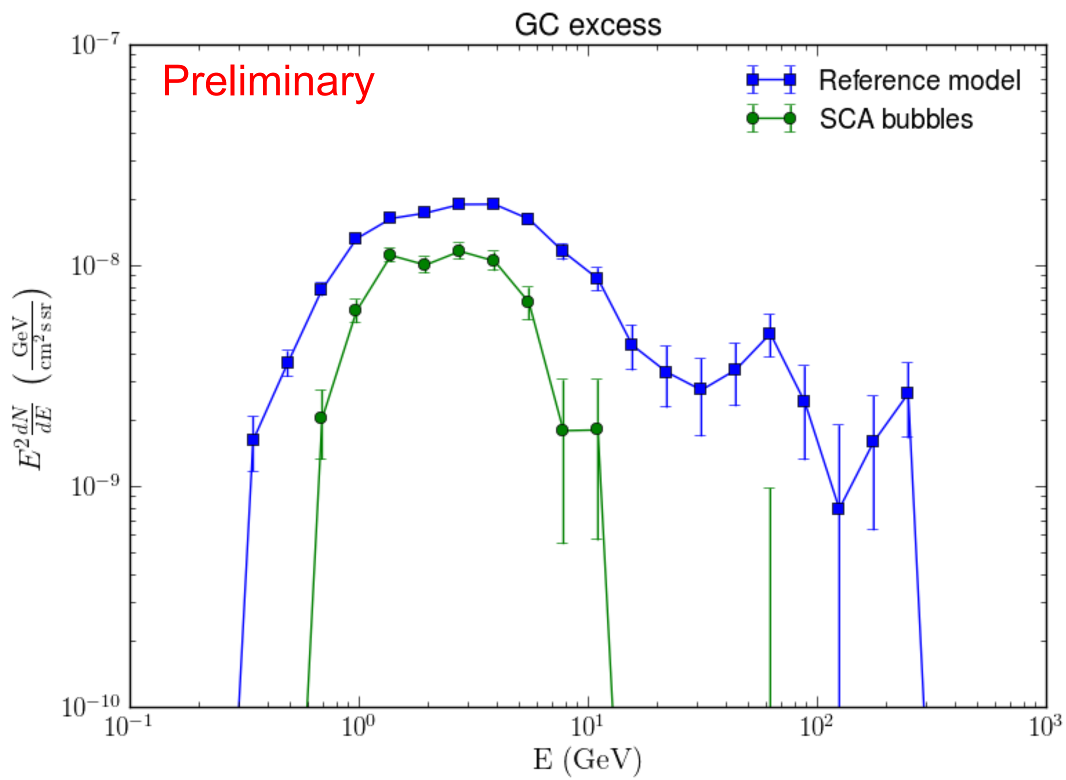
- **Comparison with the Fermi diffuse model paper:**



Acero et al (Fermi LAT), ApJS 223 (2016)

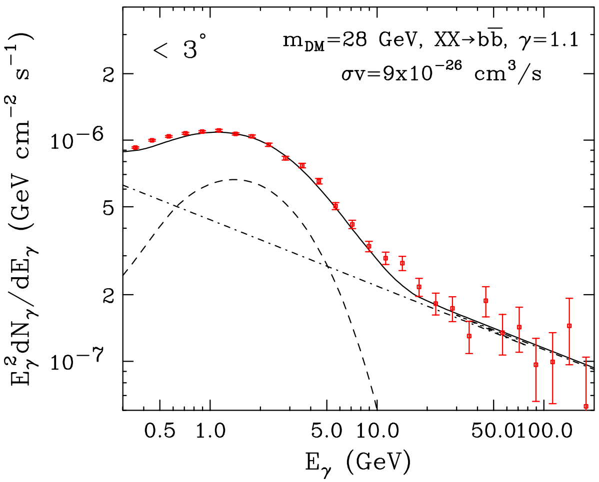
GC excess and all-sky bubbles

- **Fit the gNFW profile together with the all-sky bubbles determined with spectral components analysis**
  - **The high-energy tail of the GC excess is gone**
  - **Overall normalization is reduced**

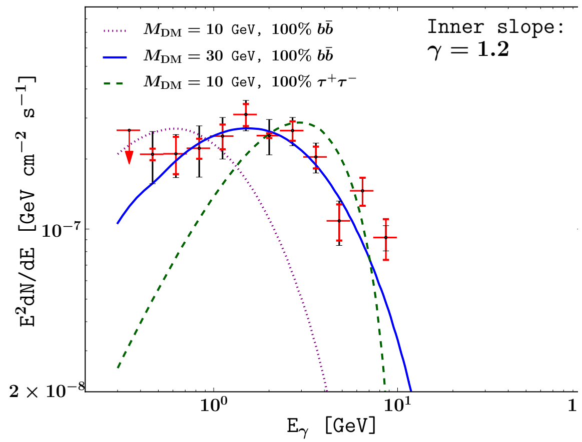


Dark Matter

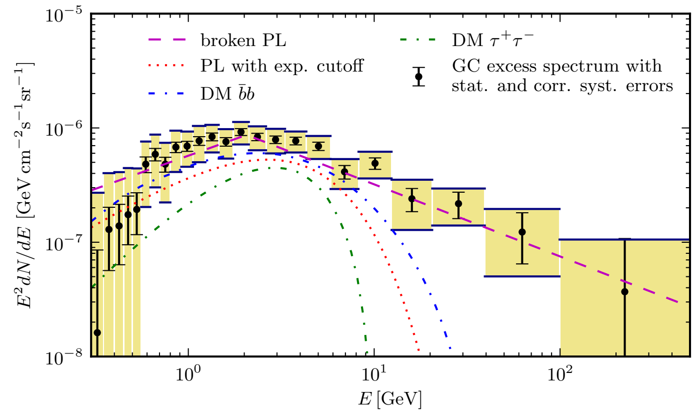
- **Dark matter models fit the excess spectrum reasonably well**



Goodenough & Hooper
arxiv:0910.2998

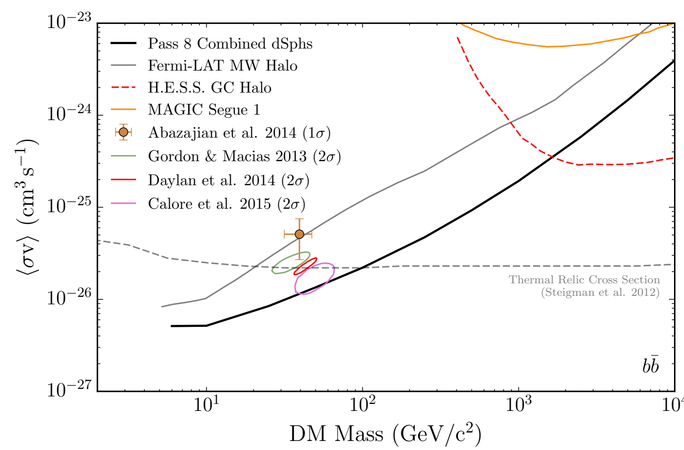


Gordon & Macias
PRD 88 (2013)



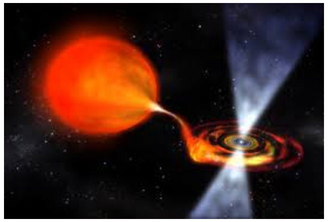
Calore et al.
JCAP 3 (2015)

- **Comparison with dwarfs:**
  - **There is a slight tension with DM limits from observation of dwarf galaxies**

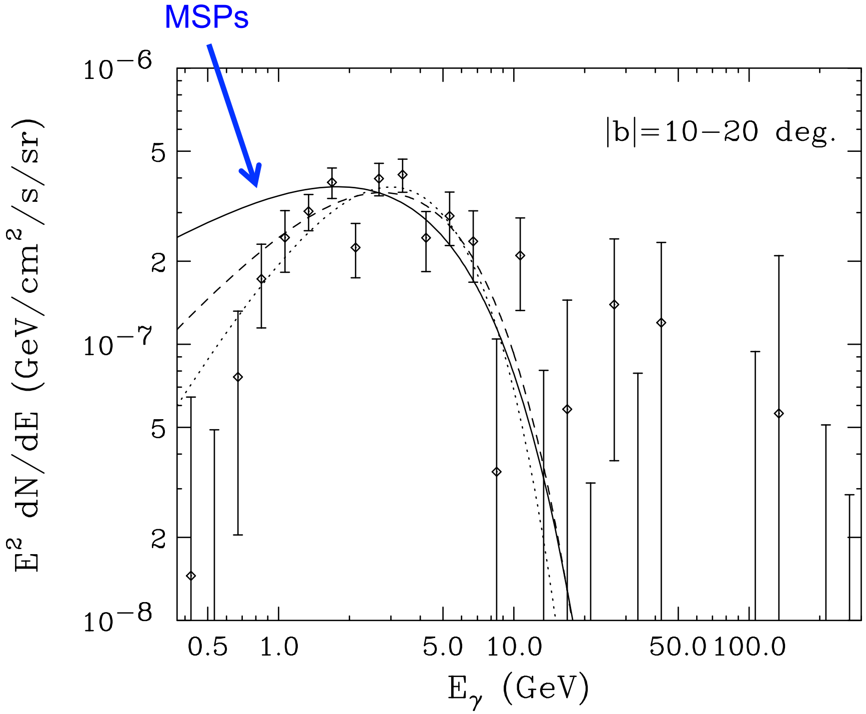


Ackerman et al. (Fermi LAT) PRL 115 (2015)

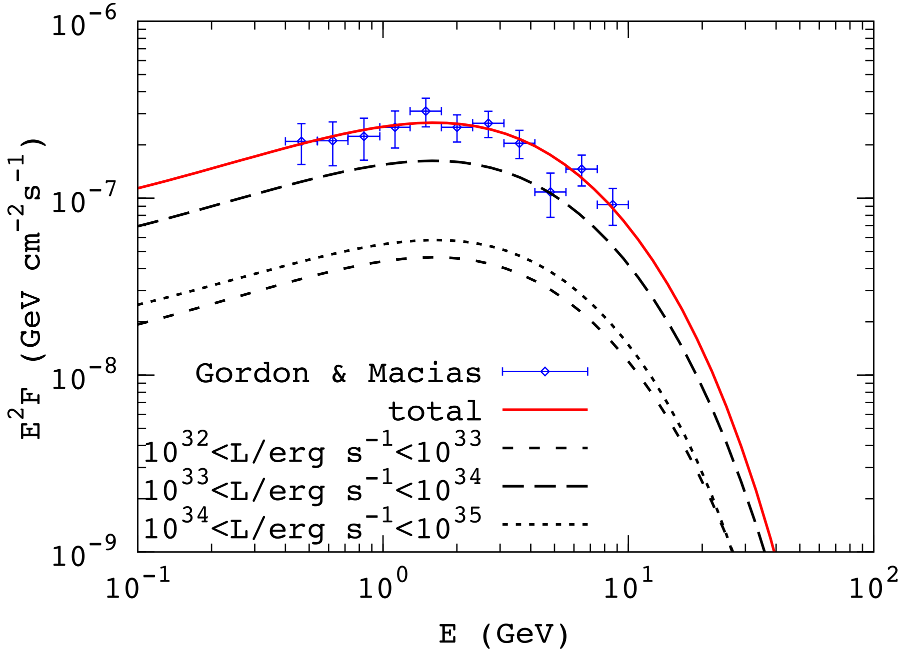
Millisecond pulsars (MSPs)



- **MSPs – pulsars spun up by accretion from a companion**
  - **Have a spectrum similar to the GC excess**
  - **Long lifetime (billions of years) – there may be a population of MSPs in the Galactic bulge**



Hooper et al, PRD 88 (2013)



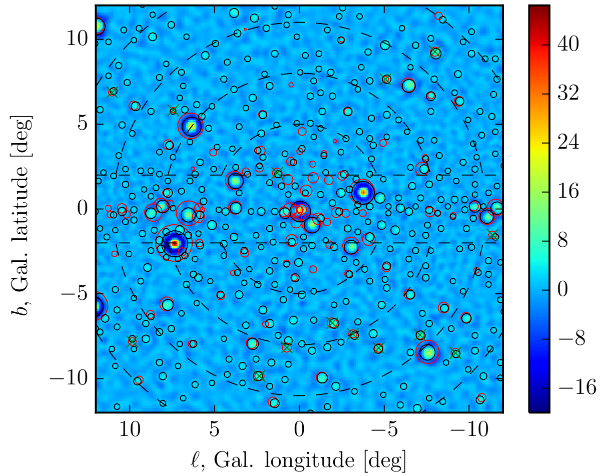
Yuan & Zhang, JHEAp 3 (2014)

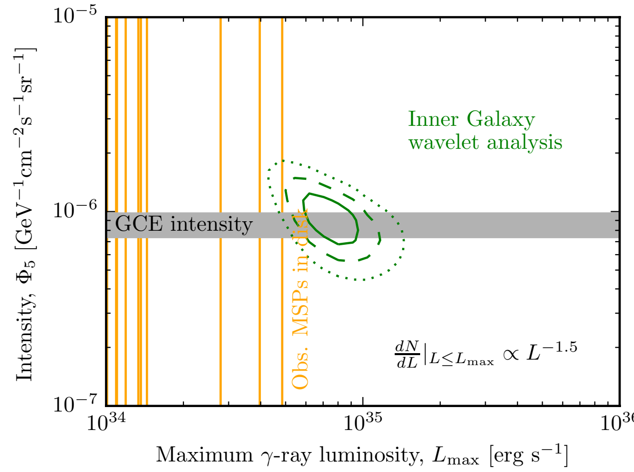
GC excess – DM or not?

- We cannot exclude neither DM nor astrophysical interpretation of the GC excess
- Is the GC excess signal significant relative to modeling uncertainties?
  - Independent estimate of uncertainties by scanning gNFW profile along the Galactic plane where we do not expect to see the DM annihilation signal
  - Compare the "DM-like" signals along the plane (relative to background) to the excess at the GC
- Even if the GC excess is not robust relative to modeling uncertainties, we can still put limits on DM annihilation from the observations of the Galactic center

Statistical analysis

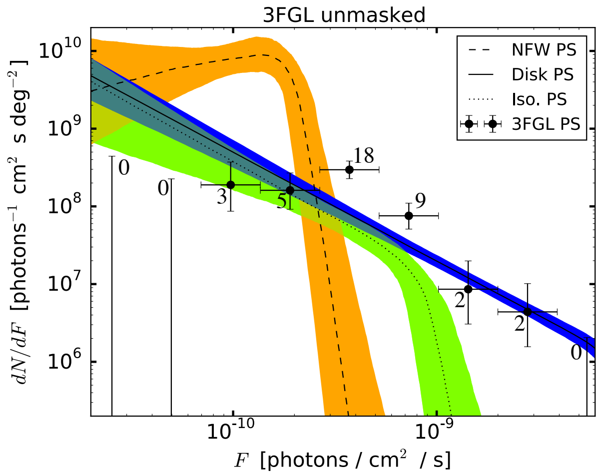
- **Wavelets**

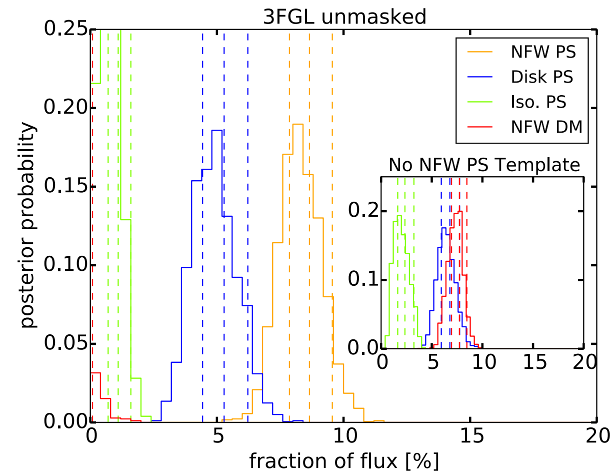




Bartels et al, PRL 116 (2016)

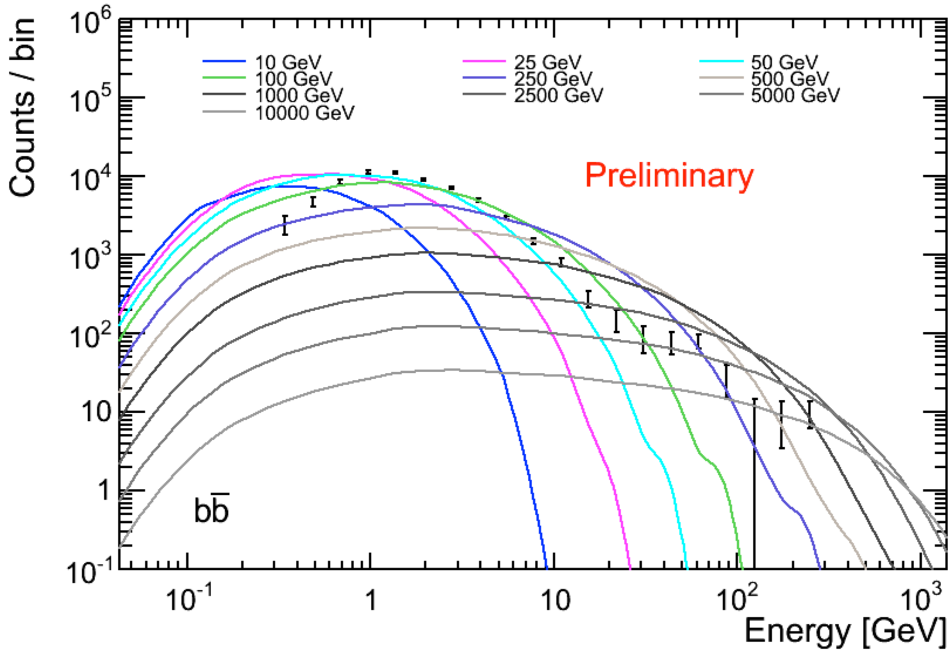
- **Non-Poissonian templates**





Lee et al, PRL 116 (2016)

GC Excess as a Fractional Signal



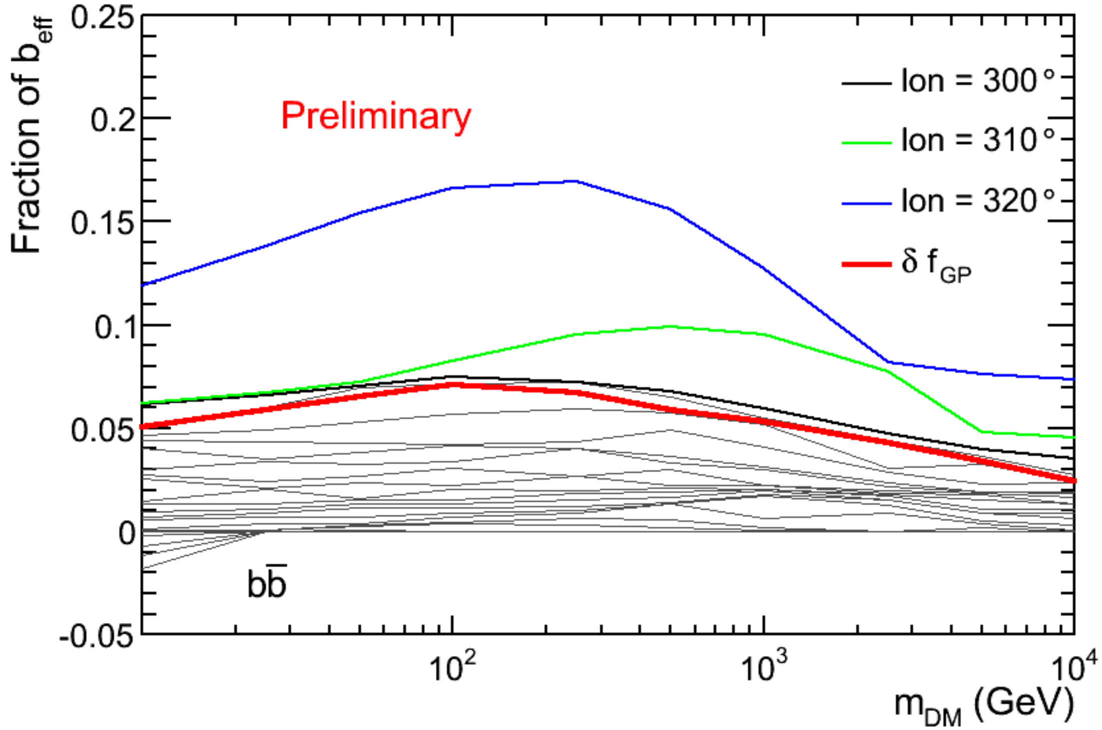
To estimate the modeling significance of the GC excess we compare the fractional excess at the GC to excesses along the Galactic plane away from the GC:

$$f = n_{sig} / b_{eff}$$

- **Signal counts (n_{sig}):**
  - **We fit gNFW template in each energy bin independently**
  - **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_{sig}**
- **Effective background (b_{eff}): background counts weighted with gNFW spatial profile and DM annihilation spectrum**

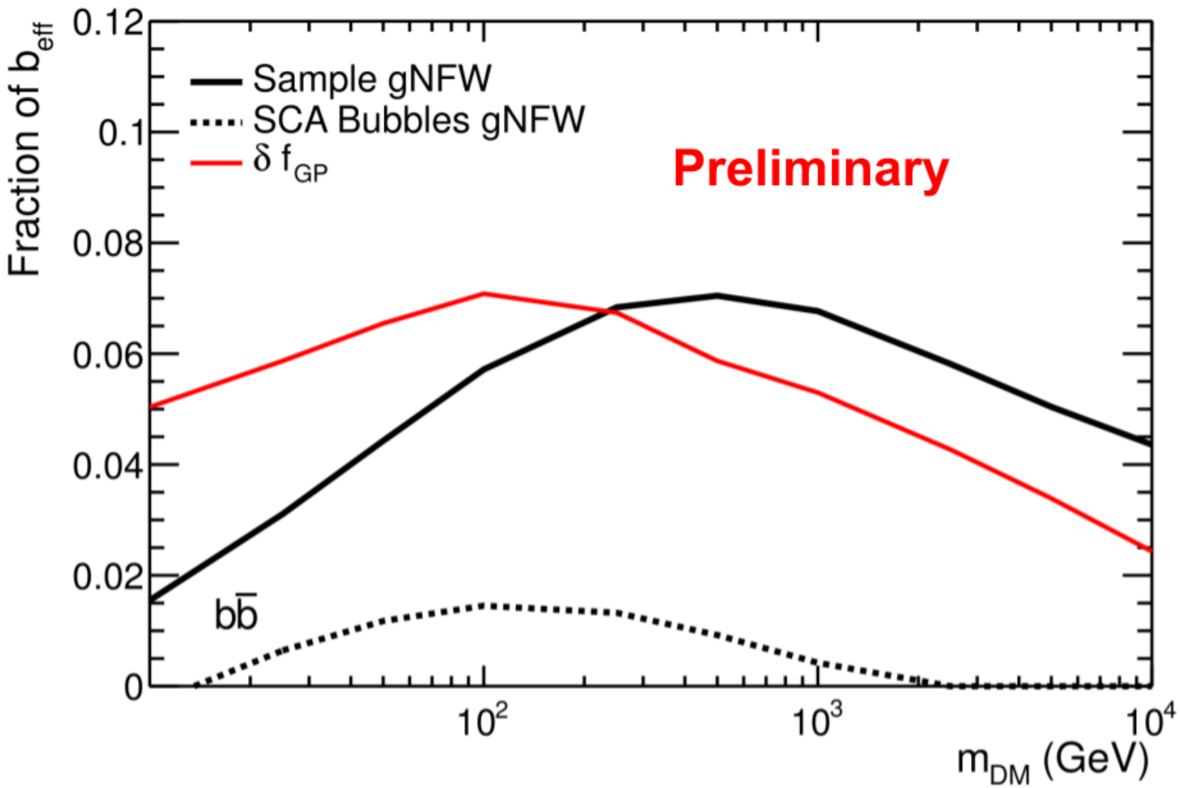
Modeling uncertainty

- We calculate the ratio of DM-like signal to effective background for locations along the Galactic plane away from the GC
- We use 84% (one-sided "1 sigma" exclusion) as an estimate of modeling uncertainty



Modeling significance of GC excess

- **The observed fractional signal at the GC is at most two times larger than the modeling uncertainty**



Future

- eROSITA – new X-ray all-sky survey
  - Modeling of the Fermi bubbles
  - Look for correlated features near the Galactic center
- Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA)
  - Fermi bubbles near the GC are much brighter
  - Possible to see with Cherenkov telescopes?
- MeerKAT, SKA – new radio telescopes
  - Search for individual pulsars in the halo around the GC
- e-ASTROGAM, AMEGO – proposed low energy gamma-ray missions
  - Low energy gamma-ray measurements