Precision Measurement of Positron Fraction and Combined Positron Electron Flux by AMS

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5m x 4m x 3m 7.5 tons

Dark Matter search in space

- There are particles (protons, electrons) and antiparticles (positrons, antiprotons, anti-deuterons) in the cosmos.
- Particles are produced in many astrophysical sources.
- Antiparticles are much less abundant from astrophysical processes.
- Both particles and antiparticles can be produced by new physics sources, like Dark Matter.



Measuring antiparticles are more sensitive to Dark Matter, because the astrophysical background is much smaller.

AMS: A unique TeV precision, multipurpose, magnetic spectrometer

Transition Radiation Detector (TRD) Identify e⁺, e⁻

Time of Flight (TOF) Z, E



Unique feature of AMS

- The synergy of the Energy from ECAL and the Momentum from tracker can be used for proton separation .
- The protons deposit less energy in the calorimeter



Unique feature of AMS

- The energy scale is the most important source of systematic errors for non-magnetic cosmic ray experiments.
- AMS determines the energy scale by using the tracker and magnet



By comparing the ISS data with beam data and MC simulation, the energy scale uncertainty is estimated to be 2% from 10-290GeV, 3% at 2 TeV

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Proton rejection power

- Proton rejection 10³ to 10⁴
 with TRD
- Proton rejection is above 10⁴ with ECAL and tracker
- TRD and ECAL is separated by the magnet, and have independent proton rejection power.
- The proton rejection power is better than 10⁶



Calibration of the AMS Detector



In 7 years on ISS, AMS has collected over 120 billion cosmic rays. Search for Dark Matter is one of the main physics topic of AMS .



The measurement of electrons and positrons in AMS

A 960 GeV positron

Primary cosmic ray particle:

• E>1.2·max cutoff

TOF:

- Down-going particle β>0.8
- Charge |Z|=1 particle

TRD:

- Provide proton rejection
- tracker and magnet:
- Provide accurate momentum measurement
- Charge |Z|=1 particle

ECAL:

- Provide accurate energy measurement.
- Provide proton rejection with 3D shower shape



Analysis method to determine the number of e^+

- ECAL selection to remove bulk of the proton background.
- For each bin, fit templates to positive data sample in ($\Lambda_{TRD} \Lambda_{CC}$) plane
- Positron signal template from data using electrons
- Proton background template from proton data
- Charge confusion electron template from electron MC



With 28.1 million electrons and 1.9 million positrons,

the study of systematic errors is crucial

- 1. Charge confusion
- 2. Template selection
- 3. Template statistical fluctuation



Statistical errors dominates above 30 GeV for positron flux

AMS Positron fraction



AMS Positron fraction together with earlier experiments



A sample of papers on AMS data from more than 2300 publications



Models to explain the AMS Positron Fraction Measurements

0.4

0.3

0.2

Some models are constrained by other measurements by AMS. **Examples 1: Modified propagation of cosmic rays**

R. Cowsik et al., Ap. J. 786 (2014) 124, (pink band) explaining that the AMS positron fraction (gray circles) above 10 GV is due to propagation effects. However, this requires a specific energy dependence of the B/C ratio



The AMS Boron-to-Carbon (B/C) flux ratio

PRL 117, 231102 (2016)

11 million nuclei

10³

Models explain the AMS Positron Fraction Measurements

Some models are constrained by other measurements by AMS.

Examples 2: Supernova Remnants



Not able to fit simultaneously the positron and B/C.



AMS measurement of positron anisotropy (presentation by Jorge Casaus) constrains the pulsar origin of positrons



The combined (e⁺ + e⁻) flux



The spectrum is smooth, no sharp structure is observed

AMS (e⁺ + e⁻) data with a few non-magnetic detectors





With 1.9 million positrons and 28.1 million electrons, AMS extends the positron fraction measurement to 1 TeV, and the combined (positron + electron) flux to 2 TeV.

AMS positron fraction by far exceeds the prediction from collisions of cosmic rays and appears to be in excellent agreement with a Dark Matter model.

By 2024 AMS will collect 4 million positrons, and will be able to determine the origin of the positron excess.