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ANTIMATTER MEASUREMENTS AT THE LHC AND IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIRECT DARK MATTER SEARCHES

F. Bellini (CERN, Switzerland) 57th International Winter Meeting on Nuclear Physics Bormio, 22nd January 2019



- * Anti-matter from dark matter annihilation
- Background from secondary cosmic ray
- * LHC as anti-matter factory
- * Results from the LHC with impact for indirect searches
 - **1.** anti-proton cross section from p-He collisions in LHCb fixed target
 - 2. anti-deuteron and anti-³He in pp collisions with ALICE
- ✤ Outlook

Disclaimer: not possible to have a comprehensive list of models and calculations, but a personal selection.

Searching for dark matter WIMPs

One hypothesis is that DM is constituted by WIMPs (χ) = weakly interacting massive particles that are thermal relics of the early Universe.

Direct searches look for elastic scattering of a WIMP on nuclei in the detector, production at colliders [\rightarrow G. Landsberg, 21/01]



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Indirect searches look for signals from $\chi\chi$ pair annihilation or χ decay into standard model particles in the Galaxy (e.g. in the Galactic halo).

Focus on: indirect searches for anti-matter in cosmic rays (CR) → Look for anti-deuterium and anti-³He because of low secondary CR background

Signal = anti-nuclei from Dark Matter source (1)

- 1. Anti-p and anti-n are produced by **WIMP annihilation into SM channels**
- 2. Anti-deuterons and anti-³He produced via **coalescence** of anti-nucleons

Modeling of the DM source depends on the details of the particle physics model and the DM density in a given point of the Galaxy

$$q_{\rm DM}(E_{\bar{D}},\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\rho(\vec{x})}{m_{\rm DM}} \right)^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle_{b\bar{b}} \frac{dN_{\bar{D}}^{b\bar{b}}}{dE_{\bar{D}}}$$

[M. Korsmeier, F. Donato, N. Fornengo, PRD 97 (2018) 103011]

- * thermally-averaged annihilation cross section into SM channel, e.g. $\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi\chi \rightarrow bbar} \sim 3 \times 10^{-26} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$
- **★ DM mass**, e.g. 30 < *m*_{DM} < 100 GeV
- energy spectrum of the products

[M. Tanabashi et al. (PDG), PRD 98 (2018) 030001]

✤ DM density in the vicinity of the solar system, p^{local}_{DM} ~ 0.4 GeV/cm³

Signal = anti-nuclei from Dark Matter source (2)

- 1. Anti-p and anti-n are produced by **WIMP annihilation into SM channels**
- 2. Anti-deuterons and anti-³He produced via **coalescence** of anti-nucleons

Anti-nucleons coalesce into anti-nuclei if they are close in phase-space, a condition which is encoded in the coalescence probability B_A

$$E_{A} \frac{dN_{A}}{d^{3}P_{A}} = B_{A} \left(E_{p} \frac{dN_{p}}{d^{3}P_{p}} \right)^{Z} \left(E_{n} \frac{dN_{n}}{d^{3}P_{n}} \right) \Big|_{P_{p} = P_{n} = P_{A}/A}^{N}$$

related to

[M. Korsmeier, F. Donato, N. Fornengo, PRD 97 (2018) 103011; P. Chardonnet, J. Orloff, P. Salati, PLB 409 (1997) 313; and others...]

- * coalescence momentum $p_C \rightarrow$ tuned to e+e- data [ALEPH, PLB 639 (2006) 129]
- * Mass of the nucleus

[K. Blum et al., PRD 96 (2017) 103021; R. Scheibl, U. Heinz, (1999) PRC 59 (1999) 1585-1602; FB, A. Kalweit, arXiv:1807.05894v2]

- * Size of the nucleus relative to the size of the source (Hanbury-Brown-Twiss interferometry)
- * Nucleus wave-function (quantum-mechanical approach)

Background = secondary Cosmic Ray source (1)

Largest fractions of primary CR are protons and helium. There are no anti-nuclei as primary CR.

Secondary anti-p, anti-d, anti-³He produced by interaction of **primary CR with the InterStellar Matter** (pp, p-He, ...) constitute a background for the DM signal.

 \rightarrow the Galaxy as "fixed target experiment"



Background = secondary Cosmic Ray source (2)

Production of secondary anti-nuclei by **spallation** reactions of primary CR with ISM

- * Need **cross-sections** for anti-p production in pp, p-He, p-A
- * Threshold for anti-nuclei production
 - to produce anti-d by pp in c.m. $\sqrt{s} \ge 6 m_p \rightarrow 1$ ab frame / Galaxy: $E \ge 17 m_p$
- * By coalescence mechanism
 - same as the DM signal, but different anti-nucleon distributions
 - coalescence momentum unknown

Flux calculations sensitive to the astrophysical details

→ Introduce model dependency

- * Acceleration by Super Novae remnants
- Diffusion in the galactic magnetic field (~µGauss)
- * Energy loss / gain (for loosely bound nuclei, break-up dominates)
- Solar modulations (matter mostly at low *E*, where DM signal prominent)



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Production of secondary anti-nuclei by **spallation** reactions of primary CR with ISM

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- Threshold for anti-nuclei production *
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 TUNE ON ASTRO DATA
 Energy loss / gain (for loosely bound nuclei, ON ASTRO DATA
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Antiproton production in p-He with LHCb

p-He collisions in **fixed target mode with SMOG** [JINST 9 (2014) P12005, \rightarrow G. Manca, 24/01] $E_{\text{beam}} = 6.5 \text{ TeV}, \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 110 \text{ GeV}$

Analysis details:

- 33M reconstructed p-He collisions
- ✤ in p-N frame, -2.8 < y* < 0.2</p>
- PID with RICH I (12 and RICH II (30
- Momentum resolution better than 1% for p < 110 GeV/c</p>
- Dominated by systematic uncertainty, < 10%</p>





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Precise multi-differential measurement of the antiproton cross-section



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Data compared to hadronization models, including low-energy extension of QGSJETII-04 (m) motivated by CR anti-protons

- Unsatisfactory descriptions at low *p*
- Yield differences up to 2x



Light (anti-)nuclei production with ALICE



Anti-nuclei up to A = 4 are currently in reach at accelerators.

The anti-alpha is the heaviest observed so far and was first seen by the STAR experiment in 2011, and recently measured by ALICE at the LHC in Pb-Pb collisions (2018).

LHC as "anti-matter factory"



Anti-nuclei production in pp at the LHC



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Anti-deuteron



Multiplicity dependence at 7 TeV \rightarrow paper in preparation

First observation of anti-³He in pp collisions



Measured coalescence parameter for anti-deuteron

$$E_{A} \frac{\mathrm{d}^{3} N_{A}}{\mathrm{d} p_{A}^{3}} = B_{A} \left(E_{\mathrm{p,n}} \frac{\mathrm{d}^{3} N_{\mathrm{p,n}}}{\mathrm{d} p_{\mathrm{p,n}}^{3}} \right)^{A} \Big|_{\vec{p}_{\mathrm{p}} = \vec{p}_{\mathrm{n}} = \frac{\vec{p}_{A}}{A}}$$



Low background for low-energy DM anti-d and anti-³He



Coalescence momentum p_0 constrained by ALICE measurement of B_2 in pp collisions at 7 TeV

 $0.01 < B_2 < 0.02 \text{ GeV}^2/c^3$

$$B_2 = \frac{m_D}{m_p m_n} \frac{\pi p_c^3}{6}$$

 $208 < p_C < 262 \text{ MeV/}c$

Uncertainties due to the modeling of the CR propagation

Low background for low-energy DM anti-d and anti-³He



GAPS, AMS-02 sensitive to anti-deuteron signal but anti-³He seems out of reach * Caveat: scaling of coalescence with nuclear properties [K. Blum et al., PRD 96, 103021 (2017)]

Testing coalescence models



Reminder: production probability encoded in coalescence parameter B_A

$$B_A = \frac{2J_A + 1}{2^A} \frac{1}{\sqrt{A}} \frac{1}{m_T^{A-1}} \left(\frac{2\pi}{R^2 + (\frac{r_A}{2})^2}\right)^{3/2(A-1)}$$

The trend with multiplicity can be explained as an increase in the **source size** (radius *R* from HBT) in coalescence models [Scheibl, Heinz, PRC 59 (1999) 1585; K. Blum et al., PRD 96, 103021 (2017)]

Scaling properties of coalescence can be tested by measuring systematically different (hyper-)nucleus species in different systems

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Measurements at LHC with impact on astrophysics



Previous estimates of the coalescence probability **underestimated by >10x**

[Duperray et al, PRD71 083013 (2005)]

 \rightarrow Translates into an **updated background estimate for DM searches** in space-based experiments (e.g. AMS-02)

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Anti-⁴He in the Cosmos



Observations on ⁴He 1. We have two ⁴He events with a background probability of 3×10^{-3} .

- Continuing to take data through 2024 the background probability for ⁴He would be 2x10⁻⁷,
 - i.e., greater than 5-sigma significance.
- 3. The ³He/⁴He ratio is 10-20% yet ³He/⁴He ratio is 300%.
 More data will resolve this mystery.

S. Ting (AMS), CERN Colloquium 24/05/2018

What is the source of the anti-⁴He seen by AMS-02?

Anti-⁴He measurement in pp collisions in reach with ALICE with the High-Luminosity LHC phase (Run3-4, 2021-2028) \rightarrow measurement of production probability for A = 4

Secondary-to-secondary flux ratios

The flux of secondary anti-nuclei can be calculated with only minor sensitivity to the details of CR astrophysics if **secondary-to-secondary flux ratios** (at given rigidity) are used

→ astrophysical uncertainties largely cancel [Katz et al. , Mon.Not.Roy.Astron.Soc. 405 (2010) 1458]

$$\frac{J_{\overline{d}}(\mathcal{R})}{J_{\overline{p}}(\mathcal{R})} = \frac{\int_{\epsilon_{\overline{d}}}^{\infty} d\epsilon J_p(\epsilon) \frac{d\sigma_{pp \to \overline{d}}(\epsilon, \epsilon_{\overline{d}})}{d\epsilon_{\overline{d}}}}{\int_{\epsilon_{\overline{p}}}^{\infty} d\epsilon J_p(\epsilon) \frac{d\sigma_{pp \to \overline{p}}(\epsilon, \epsilon_{\overline{p}})}{d\epsilon_{\overline{p}}} + \left(\sigma_{\overline{d}}(\epsilon_{\overline{d}}) - \sigma_{\overline{p}}(\epsilon_{\overline{p}})\right) J_{\overline{p}}(\mathcal{R})}$$

$$\frac{n_a(\mathcal{R})}{n_b(\mathcal{R})} \approx \frac{Q_a(\mathcal{R})}{Q_b(\mathcal{R})}$$

 $Q_{a,b}(R)$ = net production of species a per unit ISM column density $n_{a,b}(R)$ = particle density



Perspectives at the LHC Runs 3 and 4

CR anti-nuclei flux ratio used to estimate amount of secondary anti-nuclei produced in cosmic ray interactions as **background for DM searches** \rightarrow **Require** precision on *R*, of the order of **O(10%)** or better

 \rightarrow Require precision on B_A of the order of O(10%) or better



- ★ Low p_T (≤ 0.5 GeV/c) most relevant \rightarrow ALICE is in a good spot!
- Possibility to reduce systematics by measuring the hadronic cross-section of anti-nuclei in material
- ***** Beyond ALICE capabilities: rapidity dependence (y = O(1)) and $\sqrt{s} = O(10 \text{ GeV})$

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- Anti-deuteron and anti-³He detection in CR look promising for indirect searches of DM, due to the low background from secondary CR
- * LHC can be used as **anti-matter factory** to study the production of anti-p and light anti-nuclei
- ***** Recent results from the LHC with impact for indirect searches
 - 1. anti-proton cross-section from p-He collisions in LHCb fixed target
 - 2. anti-deuteron and anti-³He in pp collisions with ALICE
- * The increased integrated luminosity foreseen for Runs 3+4 will allow us to reach the 10% precision on the measured coalescence probability needed to constrain secondary CR anti-nuclei flux ratios.



Thank you!

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Additional material

LHC meets cosmic rays



LHC pp collisions cover the energy-pernucleon range between the 1st and the 2nd knee of the CR spectrum

LHC collision energy √s _{NN} (TeV)		
System	Run I	Run II
рр	0.9, 2.76, 5.02, 7, 8	5, 13
p-Pb	5.02	5.02, 8.16
Pb-Pb	2.76	5.02
Xe-Xe	-	5.44

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Coalescence probability for deuteron



Coalescence probability for (hyper-)nuclei with A≤4



Coalescence probability decreases with transverse momentum for all A and R.

 B_A vs R



Test production models with L = 10 nb⁻¹ at LHC Run 3+4



At the LHC Runs 3 and 4 (2021-2029), Pb-Pb integrated luminosity will be 100x larger than Runs 1 and 2 Nuclei with A = 3 and A = 4 will be measurable more differentially \rightarrow Hyper-triton will allow for a ~10 σ discrimination between models

Smooth relative production across collision systems



Smooth evolution of d/p ratio with multiplicity across systems

No significant centrality dependence in Pb-Pb indication for decrease of d/p ratio in most central collisions

No significant $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ dependence

ALI-PREL-146196

Nuclei and anti-nuclei identification in ALICE

* Identification at mid-rapidity

- * dE/dx in the ALICE **TPC** at low momenta
- * Mass from time-of-flight measured in **TOF** at intermediate momenta
- * Mass from Cherenkov angle in HMPID at high momenta



ALICE, Phys. Rev. C 93 (2015) 024917 ALICE, Eur. Phys. J. C 77 (2017) 658

Dealing with detector material

* Knock-out from detector material is a background for nuclei, not for anti-nuclei

- * Fits to the Distance of Closest Approach (DCA) to the primary vertex (PV) used to reject secondaries
- Source of large systematic uncertainty for anti-nuclei, due to poor knowledge of the hadronic interaction cross section

