Astrofisica Nucleare e Subnucleare GeV Astrophysics

Detector Project



Gamma-ray astrophysics above 100 MeV



Picture of the day, Feb. 28, 2011, NASA-HEASARC[®]

Scientific Highlights of the LAT



Where to find data?



The Fermi Science Support Center (FSSC) runs the guest investigator program, creates and maintains the mission time line, provides analysis tools for the scientific community, and archives and serves the Fermi data. This web site is the portal to Fermi for all guest investigators.



This view shows the entire sky at energies greater than 1 GeV based on five years of data from the LAT instrument on NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. Brighter colors indicate brighter gamma-ray sources. Image Credit: NASA/DOE/Fermi LAT Collaboration

Look into the "Resources" section for finding schedules, publications, useful links etc. The "Proposals" section is where you will be able to find the relevant information and tools to prepare and submit proposals for guest investigator projects. At "Data" you will be able to access the Fermi databases and find the software to analyse them. Address all questions and requests to the helpdesk in "Help".

Fermi Observations for MW 829

Mission Week 829 begins with a continuation of the symmetric +/-50 deg. profile from the previous week. Then, on DOY 109 (2024-4-18) at 01:05 UT a 10-minute freeze observation occurs during which a symmetric +/-50 deg. profile is loaded. This profile continues until the end of the mission week. The survey repeat period DECREASED from 5694s to 5693s. Note that positive rock angles are south, and negative rock angles are north.

» More Timeline Info

Latest News

Apr 16, 2024

NASA's Fermi Mission Sees No Gamma Rays from Nearby Supernova

A nearby supernova in 2023 offered astrophysicists an excellent opportunity to test ideas about how these types of explosions boost particles, called cosmic rays, to near light-speed. But surprisingly, NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope detected none of the high-energy gamma-ray light those particles should produce.





https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.14172



https://arxiv.org/pdf/2303.16223



https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/grb221009a.html

Exercise on GeV gamma-rays

- Find the web sites of AGILE and Fermi/LAT
- Check the status of "new" gamma-ray detectors (CALET, DAMPE, Gamma-400, HERD, other?)

How the LAT detects electrons

Trigger and downlink

Very versatile and configurable

 Triggering on ~ all particles that cross the LAT

• Including electrons (8M/yr)

- On board filtering to fit bandwidth
 - Remove many charged particles
 - Keeps all events with more than 20 GeV in the CAL (HE)
 - Prescaled (1:250) sample of unfiltered triggers (LE)

Electron identification

The challenge is identifying the good electrons among the proton background

- Rejection power of $10^3 10^4$ required
- Can not separate electrons from positrons
- → Dedicated high energy electron event selection



Importance of a direct CRE measurement

- Probe CR models
 - Sources (including DM), interactions, propagation, diffusion
- Probe CR targets (ISM, ISRF)
 - Propagation and diffusion
 - Strong connection with diffuse gamma-ray radiation
- Probe possible nearby sources
 - limited electron lifetime within Galaxy
- Answers to long-standing questions and vast literature

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 162:L181-L186, December 1970 © 1970. The University of Chicago. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

PULSARS AND VERY HIGH-ENERGY COSMIC-RAY ELECTRONS

C. S. SHEN* Department of Physics, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana 47907 Received 1970 June 8; revised 1970 September 19



Positron Fraction Measurements



PAMELA and Fermi-LAT observe a rise in local e⁺ fraction above ~10 GeV
This disagrees with conventional models (e.g., GALPROP) for cosmic rays (secondary e⁺ production only)
No similar rise is seen in anti-proton fraction

Future Gamma-ray Experiments?

Scientific Motivations and Technical Design Considerations for Future High-Energy γ -ray Telescopes in Light of Lessons Learned from the Fermi Large Area Telescope.

Eric Charles^a

on behalf of the Fermi Large Area Telescope Collaboration

^aKavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, 2575 Sand Hill Road, M/S 29 Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA;

ABSTRACT

Five years into the *Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope* (*Fermi*) mission we have learned a great deal about the γ -ray sky, yet many open questions remain, and many new puzzles have arisen. In this contribution we will consider the science drivers for a variety of topics in high-energy gamma-ray astronomy, and how these drivers map into design considerations for future gamma-ray instruments in the energy range above 5 MeV. Specifically, we take the performance parameters and data set of the Large Area Telescope on the *Fermi* observatory (*Fermi*-LAT) as a baseline, and consider the scientific questions that could be probed by improving those parameters. We will also discuss the current state of detector technologies used in space-based γ -ray telescopes and discuss the magnitude of advances that would be required to make a future *Fermi*-like mission transformational enough to warrant the cost and effort. These summaries are intended to be useful for selecting technologies and making basic design decisions for future γ -ray telescopes.

Table 1. Summary of the importance of instrument performance parameters for science topics in high-energy γ -ray astronomy. Key performance parameter are marked as "1", other important parameters as "2", marginally relevant parameters as "3" and irrelevant parameters are unmarked. The performance parameters are background rejection ("Bkg"), point-source sensitivity ("Source"), on-axis A_{eff} (" A_{eff} "), field-of-view (FOV), point-source localization ("PSF Loc."), extension detection/ associating a given γ ray with a particular source ("PSF Ext."), energy bandpass ("Band"), energy resolution ("Energy Res."), spectral resolution ("Energy spec."), relative timing and deadtime between readouts ("Timing Rel.") and absolute timing ("Timing Abs.").

			Acceptance		PSF		Energy			Timing	
Topic	Bkg.	Source	$A_{ m eff}$	FOV	Loc.	Ext.	Band	Res.	Spec.	Rel.	Abs.
GRB Detection	2	1	1	1	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
GRB Localization	2	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRB Modeling	2	2	1	1	-	2	1	2	1	2	3
GRB EBL Studies	2	3	1	1	-	2	2	2	-	-	3
GRB LIV Studies	3	-	1	1	-	2	2	2	-	1	2
AGN Pop. Studies	3	1	1	2	1	-	1	3	2	-	-
AGN Variability	3	1	1	1	-	-	2	3	2	-	-
AGN EBL Studies	3	1	1	2	-	1	2	3	3	-	-
Nearby Galaxies	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	-	-
Galactic Diffuse	1	2	2	2	-	1	3	3	2	-	-
Extra-Galactic Diffuse	1	2	2	2	-	2	1	3	2	-	-
Radio Timed Pulsars	3	1	1	1	-	2	2	3	2	3	1
Blind Search Pulsars	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	1
Pulsar Radio Targets	3	1	1	2	1	-	3	3	3	-	-
Pulsar Modeling	3	2	1	2	-	2	2	2	1	3	1
SNR / PWN	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	-	-
X-ray Binaries	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	3	2	-	-
Galactic Novae	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	3	2	-	-
Earth	-	-	3	2	-	3	1	3	1	-	-
Sun / Moon	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	-	-
Solar Flares	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	2	2	-
TGFs	-	-	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	1	2
DM dSph	2	1	1	2	-	2	2	3	2	-	-
DM Galaxy Clusters	2	1	1	2	-	1	2	3	2	-	-
DM Inner Galaxy	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	-	-
DM Lines	1	-	2	2	-	3	1	1	1	-	-

Design considerations

- Summary of interaction processes
 - Radiation Length
 - Pair conversion and Compton scatter
 - Energy Losses of Electrons and Positrons
 - Electromagnetic Shower Propagation
 - Multiple Coulomb Scattering
 - Plane thickness and Hit spacing

Implication for Instrument Performance

- Background rejection versus FOV.
- Aeff versus PSF.
- Sky-survey versus Pointed Observations
- PSF, Timing Resolution versus Power Budget.
- Energy Resolution versus Aeff and FOV.
- Size versus Complexity of Event Readout, Triggering and Filtering.
- Optimal Orbit.

Implication for Instrument Performance

Semiconductor-based solid state trackers. These include both strip and pixel detectors made from semiconductors such as silicon, germanium or diamond. All of these can achieve very precise positional accuracy, generally better than 30% of the channel pitch and as good as half that for detectors that use pulse height information to place hits between channels. Semiconductor detectors can also provide good measurements of the ionization energy deposited.

The limitation of these technologies are primarily geometrical. First, they they are generally built with thin flat planes, providing one measurement per plane (or two for double-sided detectors). The thickness of the planes is > $200\mu m$, corresponding to > $0.002X_0$ for particles at normal incidence, and increasing as the cos⁻¹ of the incidence angle. Furthermore, the semiconductor wafers require support structures, increasing the X_0 per measurement. Second, they achieve high precision by having extreme segmentation, and the number of readout channels can grow very large and present challenges for the power and thermal budget and the available data transmission bandwidth (see Sec. 4.2). The 18 bi-layer LAT has 884k channels. Building an instrument with 200 layers of $0.005X_0$ each for a total of $1X_0$ of conversion target would increase that 100-fold. Furthermore, with the LAT's spatial resolution of ~ $70\mu m$ the layers would need to be placed at least 2 cm apart to avoid degrading the PSF at 100 MeV. This would result in a 4 m tall instrument.

Implication for Instrument Performance

Time Projection Chambers. TPCs work by using a near uniform electric field to drift charge carries produced by ionization to the sides of the detector, where they are read out by sensor pads, which provide positional information in both direction transverse to the drift direction. Positional information in the longitudinal direction comes from measuring the drift time of the charge carriers.

Advances in solid-state sensor technology have made it possible to build very small individual channels on the amplification and sensor pads, allowing for excellent ($50\mu m$ or better) resolution in the transverse directions. However, the diffusion of the charge carriers limits the positional resolution in the longitudinal direction, particularly for large gas TPCs. With careful tuning of the drift gas longitudinal resolutions of $< 200\mu m$ for 1 m scale TPCs have been achieved.

TPCs can also quantify the ionization, which is useful for particle identification and quantifying the energy lost by charge particles in the TPC. The latter is particularly important for reconstructing Compton-scattering events.

One advantage of gas TPCs is that the density of the gas is low enough that several position measurement can contribute to the direction measurement, giving an excellent PSF. Furthermore, the density can be tuned to optimize the X_0 per-measurement. However, even the densest gases would require extreme pressures to provide enough target material for pair-conversion to reach LAT-like level; e.g., using Xe would require 50 bar of pressure at 300 K to reach $1X_0/m$. This suggests either segmented TPC cells with converter material between them, or placing converter material in the TPC.

Gas TPCs have other potential disadvantages. 1) The lower resolution in the longitudinal direction. 2) The difficulties in keeping the gas tuned for optimal performance. 3) The degradation of the gas and the readout sensor from chemical interaction between the two. 4) The difficulties in operating high-pressure gas systems in orbit. These last two suggest that the drift gas is potentially a mission-limiting consumable. On the other hand, it is worth noting that gas-based detection systems have been used successfully in several mission.

Solid-state (i.e., drift-detectors) or liquid TPCs offer less flexibility in tuning the X_0 per-measurement, but are also somewhat less difficult to operate in orbit. However, it is worth nothing that liquid Ar (as in LArGO) requires substantial cooling, potentially creating a mission-limiting consumable or increasing the heat load on the spacecraft radiators.

Implication for Instrument Performance

Hodoscopic Crystal Calorimeters Calorimeters for pair-conversion γ -ray mission have been homogeneous high-Z scintillating crystals. For ground-based calorimeters where the shower is largely contained, the energy resolution is usually parametrized as:

$$\frac{\sigma_E}{E} = \frac{a}{\sqrt{E}} \oplus b \oplus \frac{c}{E},\tag{12}$$

where the first term represents stochastic and sample fluctuations, the second term comes from the calibration uncertainties, and the third term from the electronics noise in the channels contributing to the shower. Typical ground-based electromagnetic have 15 to 20 X_0 , and can achieve resolutions as good as $2\%/\sqrt{E/1\text{GeV}}$. Mass constraints for space missions coupled with the generally smooth spectra of astrophysical sources in the GeV range suggest using somewhat thinner calorimeters. The LAT, for example, is only $8.6X_0$ at normal incidence, and achieves energy resolution of better than 10% from 1 GeV to 100 GeV. Once the shower-maximum (Eq. (8)) is beyond the calorimeter depth, Eq. (12) breaks down with increasing energy.

Plastic Scintillators. Plastic scintillators are efficient, low-cost detectors. They have been used successfully as anti-coincidence charged particle vetoes in several γ -ray telescopes, and can provide particle background rejection factors better than to 10⁴. Furthermore, the LAT has shown that segmenting the veto system can avoid "self-veto" from backsplash particles in high-energy γ -ray events.

As mentioned in Sec. 3.5, very high rates of X-rays are observed in the LAT ACD during bright solar flares. This raises the possibility of designing the readout system of any veto system so that it can double as a bright transient detector and spectrograph.

Discussion

Optimizing the PSF. The largest potential gains in many science areas come from improving the PSF, particularly at the lower energies in the MCS dominated regime (< 1 GeV). Furthermore, no space-based instrument can feasibly compete with CTA above ~ 50 GeV in terms of A_{eff} and detection sensitivity, which limits the need to extend the energy bandpass to the highest energies where almost all analyses would be signal-limited. This in turn suggests that for future instruments, the balance between improving the PSF or the A_{eff} should be pushed in favor of the PSF relative to the LAT. For a practical figure of comparison when considering instrument designs it would make sense to try and obtaining the best possible PSF while keeping the on-axis A_{eff} with a factor of two of the LAT over the energy bandpass of the instrument.

Interestingly, improving the PSF requires decreasing the MCS, which will also increase the sensitivity to polarization.

Increasing the Low-Energy A_{eff} . The low-energy A_{eff} (i.e, below 100 MeV) of the LAT is limited primarily be three factors. 1) The falling cross section for pair-conversion. 2) The need to pass through 3-layer of highdensity converter to leave enough hits to reconstruct a track. 3) The dearth of information about the event deposited in the detector, which makes background rejection much more difficult. Fortunately, these issues can be mitigated by including the measurement of Compton-scattering events in the instrument design and by reducing the MCS scattering in the tracking volume.

Discussion

Choosing the FOV and the Instrument Geometry. The large FOV of the LAT and the all-sky survey mode it allowed has enabled many breakthroughs and is well-suited to the highly variable nature of many γ -ray emitting sources. It is worth recalling that the FOV of the LAT is 2.5 sr as compared to the un-occulted sky in low Earth orbit of 8.4 sr or 12.6 sr for the whole sky. Thus, the maximum potential gain in the FOV is somewhere between a factor of 3.5 to 5, depending on the orbit. Although not huge, this could be combined with a factor of 2 to 3 increase in the average effective area to obtain a factor of 10 increase in the acceptance without hugely increasing the size of the instrument, an important limitation in space missions.

On the other hand, the best ways to improve the PSF are to decreases the density of the material in the tracker and to space the tracking element further apart. Given the space limitations, both of these could result in a FOV that is somewhat smaller than the LAT's. These considerations present two alternate instrument geometries as opposite extremes to consider.

The first, designed to have an excellent PSF and a limited FOV, would be tall and relatively narrow, and maximize the lever-arm in the direction of travel of the incoming γ rays. Such an instrument would be suited to an observing strategy of scanning the Galactic plane with occasional pointings and limited surveys of high-Galactic latitude sources and regions.

The second, designed to maximize the FOV while retaining a very good PSF, would be as compact as possible for a given surface area, i.e., cubic or spherical. In this geometry, one of the challenges it so avoid building an intrinsic directionality into the instrument, e.g., a design with a tracker above a calorimeter is only sensitive to γ rays going "down", can not exceed a FOV 6.3 sr, and is unlikely to do better than about FOV 3 sr unless the tracker is extremely squat. So, in this case it is worth considering novel geometries, such a calorimeter sandwiched between two trackers.

An interesting alternative is the possibility of a "monolithic" instrument, i.e., one with a single sub-system that measures both the direction and energy of the incoming γ rays. In practice, this likely would be done in one of three ways, each of which would present substantial design challenges. 1) Adding a magnet to measure the momenta of the charged particles in the tracking volume. 2) Building a particle tracker that is several radiation lengths thick. 3) Increasing the readout granularity of a hodoscopic calorimeter to extent that it does not limit the PSF.

Conclusion

Summary We have presented a series of summaries of information that may be useful in the design of future high-energy γ -ray telescopes. Specifically, we have summarized the instrument performance factors critical for scientific goals, the physical mechanisms influencing the detector design, and the most popular detector technologies. We have also laid out the key trade-offs that must be considered.

Almost all of this information is available in greater detail elsewhere. However, we hope that this contribution will prove useful by consolidating the material in a single source.

Exercise on GeV gamma-rays

- Find the web sites of AGILE and Fermi/LAT
- Check the status of "new" gamma-ray detectors (CALET, DAMPE, Gamma-400, HERD, other?)

CALET?

CALorimetric Electron Telescope (CALET)

P. S. Marrocchesi for the CALET Collaboration – RICAP11 – 2011 May 26

- Instrument: High Energy Electron and Gamma-Ray Telescope
- Carrier: HTV: H-IIA Transfer Vehicle
- Attach Point on the JEM-EF: #9 for heavy (< 2000 kg) payloads
- Nominal Orbit: 407 km, 51.6° inclination
- Launch plan: FY 2013
- Life Time: ≥ 5 years



Firenze Pisa Siena Roma Tor Verg



1 GeV ~ 20 TeV for electrons 20 MeV ~ TeV for gamma-rays Weight: 500 kg GF (fiducial volume): ~ 0.12 m²sr Power Consumption: 640 W Data Rate: 300 kbps

CALET?

CALET Overview

Observation

- > Electrons : 1 GeV 10 TeV
- > Gamma-rays : 10 GeV-10 TeV (GRB > 1 GeV)
 - + Gamma-ray Bursts : 7 keV-20 MeV
- > Protons, Heavy Nuclei:
- several 10 GeV- 1000 TeV (per particle)
- Solar Particles and Modulated Particles in Solar System: 1 GeV-10 GeV (Electrons)

Instrument

High Energy Electron and Gamma-Ray Telescope:

- CHarge Detector (CHD) (Charge Measurement in Z=1-40)
- Imaging Calorimeter (IMC) (Particle ID, Direction)
 Total Thickness of Tungsten (W): 3 X₀ 0.11 λ₁ Layer Number of Scifi Belts: 8 Layers
- (X,Y) - Total Absorption Calorimeter (TASC)
- (Energy Measurement, Particle ID) PWO 20mm × 20mm × 320mm Total Depth of PWO: 27 X_0 (24cm), 1.35 λ_r



CALET



CALET gamma-sky



Galactic Longitude [deg]

The CALorimetric Electron Telescope (CALET) is a Japan-led international mission funded by the Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) in collaboration with the Italian Space Agency (ASI), NASA and several universities in Japan, Italy, and the United States. The instrument was launched on August 19, 2015 by a Japanese carrier, H2 Transfer Vehicle (HTV), and robotically installed on the Japanese Experiment Module-Exposed Facility (JEM-EF) on the International Space Station (ISS). First events were recorded in October 2015.

Mission Characteristics

- Lifetime : October 2015 present
- Energy Range : 7 keV 1 TeV
- Special Features : extremely high energy photon and cosmic ray particle detection

Payload :

- The CALET Calorimeter (CCAL) measures the cosmic-ray total electron spectrum from energy ~1 GeV up to Tev region. It's components are:
 - Charge Detector (CHD), a plastic scintillator hodoscope for absolute charge measurement. It contains two orthogonal layers. Each layer contains of 14 plastic scintillator paddles measuring 45 x 3.2 x 1 cm. It can detect charge between 1 and ~40 Z
 - IMaging Calorimeter (IMC), a sampling calorimeter. It consists of 16 kayers of scintillating fibers (SciFi) with 1 mm² cross section, with alternating layers arranged orthogonally. It also includes interspacing thin tungsten absorbers, and tracks early show profile through the first 3 X₀
 - Total AbSorption Calorimeter (TASC), a thick lead tungstate (PWO) hodoscope with 12 alternating layers of X-Y arranged logs, with a total shower depth of 27 X₀
- The CALET Gamma Ray Burst Monitor (CGBM) is sensitive from the soft X ray (~7 keV) to gamma ray (~20 MeV) energy range.
 - Hard X-ray Monitor (HXR; two identical units)
 - 7 1000 keV
 - Lanthanum bromide (LaBr₃(Ce)) scintillation detector
 - 61 mm diameter with 12.7 mm thick detector
 - ~ 3 sr field of view
 - Soft Gamma-ray Monitor (SGM; one unit)
 - 100 keV 20 MeV
 - Bismuth germanate (BGO) scintillation detector
 - 102 mm diameter with 76 mm thick detector
 - ~ 8 sr field of view

In addition to the primary instruments, there are two other main components. The Advance Stellar Compass (ASC) to determine the attitude with arcseconds precision. The Mission Data Controller (MDC) capture and format the data from the instruments, and sends the telemetry to the NASA ground station.

Science Highlights:

- · High precision measurements of cosmic-ray electron and proton spectrum up to several TeV
- · Measurements and monitoring of galactic diffuse gamma rays
- Set limits on hard X-ray and gamma-ray emissions from gravitional wave event GW151226



CALET

https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/calet/calet.html

CALET



CALorimetric Electron Telescope (CALET) on the ISS

The CALET mission is designed to investigate the High Energy Universe, as a next generation experiment to build upon discoveries made by Fermi, PAMELA, AMS, Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes (ACT) and balloon instruments. CALET is a calorimeter-based instrument with superior energy resolution and excellent separation between hadrons and electrons and between charged particles and gamma rays. With these capabilities, it will be possible for CALET to address many of the outstanding questions in High Energy Astrophysics (HEA) including (1) signatures of dark matter in either the high energy electron or gamma ray spectrum, (2) the nature of the sources of high energy particles and photons through the high energy electron spectrum, and (3) the details of particle propagation in the galaxy by a combination of energy spectrum measurements of electrons, protons and higher-charged nuclei. **Thus, CALET can be thought of as an HEA "observatory".**

https://calet.phys.lsu.edu//

CALET



Gamma-400?



Gamma400





Gamma 400



DAMPE





The detector is consisted of 4 parts: Top scintillators (charge measurement) Si tracker (5 layers) BGO calorimeter (31 X₀) Neutron detector

DAMPE Gamma results

DAMPE γ-ray Selection: Different Events



e(γ)/p separation: BGO shower pattern
 e/γ separation: PSD and STK charge measurement

DAMPE Gamma results





DAMPE

DArk Matter Particle Explorer



DAMPE has been launched the 17th December 2015 at 00:12 UTC!







Link to the launch video!

DAMPE (DArk Matter Particle Explore) is one of the five satellite missions in the framework of the Strategic Pioneer Research Program in Space Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). DAMPE has been launched the 17 December 2015 at 08:12 Beijing time into a sun-synchronous orbit at the altitude of 500 km.

https://dpnc.unige.ch/dampe/

HERD



HERD

The High Energy cosmic Radiation Detection facility

A Cosmic Lighthouse Program onboard China's Space Station, planned to be launched and assembled in 2020.

The HERD experiment

HERD(High Energy Cosmic Radiation Detection) facility is one of the Cosmic Lighthouse Program onboard China's Space Station, planned to be launched and assembled in 2020. The main science objectives of HERD onboard china's space station are detecting dark matter particle, study of cosmic ray composition and high energy gamma-ray observations. The main constraints imposed on HERD are: total weight less than around 2 tons and total power consumption less than around 2 kilowatts.

http://herd.pg.infn.it/