The status of the Fermi-LAT γ-ray excess at the Galactic Center

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University of Amsterdam

















VHEPO, QUINNON, VIEtham, TZ August 2018



Goodenough & Hooper 2009, Vitale+ (Fermi coll.) 2009, Hooper & Goodenough 2011, Hooper & Linden 2011, Boyarsky+ 2011 (no signal), Abazajian & Kaplinghat 2012, Hooper & Slatyer 2013, Huang+ 2013, Gordon & Macias 2013, Macias & Gordon 2014, Zhou+2014, Abazajian+ 2014, Daylan+2014, Calore+ 2014, Gaggero+ 2015, Carlson+ 2015, Huang+ 2016, de Boer+ 2017, Fermi-LAT 2017, Macias+ 2017, Bartels+ 2018

White: Spatial template fitting analyses Yellow: Spectral template analyses Blue: Skyfact



A signal from dark matter?



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(From traditional template fitting)

Spectrum

Morphology



Calore, Cholis & Weniger (2014)

Calore, Cholis, McCabe & Weniger (2015)

(From traditional template fitting)

Spectrum

Morphology





Calore, Cholis, McCabe & Weniger (2015)

Dark matter?
 Millisecond pulsars?

Calore, Cholis & Weniger (2014)

3) Something else?

(From traditional template fitting)

Spectrum

Morphology





Calore, Cholis & Weniger (2014)

Dark matter?
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 Something else?

Calore, Cholis, McCabe & Weniger (2015)

spherically symmetric

(From traditional template fitting)

 10^{-1}

Spectrum





Calore, Cholis & Weniger (2014)

Dark matter? 1) Millisecond pulsars? 2) something else? 3)

Large systematic uncertainty. Calore et al. (2014) bracket this using different setups for the cosmic-ray propagation code <u>galprop</u>:

- **Diffusion constant**
- Halo properties
- Magnetic field
- Distribution of sources!!
- etc...

But this is still incomplete!

Observational summary (2014)

- Highly significant feature at the Galactic Center, confirmed by many groups and robust w.r.t. interstellar emission modelling
- Spectrum peaks at ~2 GeV
- Roughly spherically symmetric
- Olympic Unknown origin

Interpretation

Candidate	Spectrum	Morphology
Dark Matter		
MSPs		
Transient event		
Steady CR source		
Molecular clouds		

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Dark Matter 2





Calore et al. (2015b)

Dark Matter 2



Chances for DM

- There are DM hints compatible with the GCE:
 - Reticulum II dSph: excess —> More dwarf signals soon? (Geringer-Sameth+ 2016)
 - Anti-proton anomaly? (Cuoco+ 2016, Cui+ 2016)
- Chances at LHC?
 - GCE compatible with "natural" SUSY Achterberg+ 2015, van Beekveld+ 2016





Millisecond pulsars

- Old stars: likely to be found in the Bulge
 - Formed in-situ or from disrupted
 globular cluster (e.g. Brandt & Kocsis 2015)
- Correct spectrum
- $\mathcal{O}(10^4)$ MSPs can explain the GCE



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 Given the ratio of bright LMXBs-to-MSPs in globular clusters. We should have seen more bright LMXBs in the bulge.
 Cholis+ 2014 (1407.5625), Haggard+ 2017 (1701.02726)

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<u>Bottom-line:</u> MSPs in the bulge face no serious difficulties.

Interpretation: summary

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Transient event

- Active past of the GC
 Petrovic+ 2014, Carlson+ 2014,
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- Protons: cannot reproduce the morphology
- Electrons: could work...



Cholis et al. (2015)



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10⁶ years

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Molecular clouds

- de Boer+ 2017 use a Spectral template fit!
- CRs interact with molecular clouds
- Spectrum due to solar-modulation-like effect: prevents low-energy CRs from entering cloud



Steady CR source

 Additional source of CRs in the Galactic Center!!! Gaggero et al. (2015); Carlson et al. (2016)
 But spectrum ...



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Steadv CR source

Even if it does not absorb all of the GCE, additional CR injection can alter the GCE characteristics! (Carlson et al, 2016; Fermi-LAT 2017)

It will contribute to some extent!

he Galactic

6

8

Galactocentric Radius [kpc]

et al. (2016)



Carlson et al. (2016)

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 $f_{\rm H2} = 0.2 + \rm SNR$

Yusifov (Pulsars) Lorimer (Pulsars)

SNR CB98 SNR G15

OB Stars

12

14

CR Source Surface Densit

 10^{0}

 10^{-1}

2

Interpretation: summary

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CR source	?	?	
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Interpretation: summary



How to tell two ducks apart?

dark matter only



point sources only



DM or MSPs? or: diffuse vs. point-like

- If MSPs cause the GCE, they are likely dim and not yet identified as point sources.
- Now ~4 complementary methods to study this
 - 1. Wavelets RB+ 2015 (but also see Balaji+ 2018)
 - 2. NPTF Lee+ 2015
 - 3. Deep Learning Caron+ 2017
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Lee et al. PRL 116 (2016)

Template fitting analysis including a nonpoissonian templates (Here: NFW PS).



Deep Learning

Caron et al., JCAP 1805 (2018) no.05, 058

ConvNet (for image recognition)





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- Predict $f_{src} = 0.887 \pm 0.105$ on subset of the data.





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- o Under further development!





Fermi-LAT, arXiv:1705.00009

 Using the detected γ-ray MSPs alone there is no evidence for or against a bulge population.



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Photon clustering summary

- Corroborative evidence for bulge sources
- Caveat: do we model the small scale gas correctly?



Assumed background

True background

γ-rays alone unlikely to provide a definitive answer.

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 Looks like a point

Looks like a point source

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https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sunearth/news/gallery/galaxy-location.html



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Have not yet been applied in analyses of the GCE



SkyFACT in a Nutshell

Hybrid between image reconstruction & template fitting

Original Template



SkyFACT in a Nutshell

Hybrid between image reconstruction & template fitting

Best-fit Template



SkyFACT in a Nutshell

Hybrid between image reconstruction & template fitting

This means: freedom in spectral and spatial templates to adapt to errors/incompleteness!

Best-fit Template

e.g. "dark gas"



Revisit GCE morpholgy

RB, Storm, Weniger & Calore, Nature Astronomy (2018)

Use usual templates, but with modulation









r5_RCG_NB_msp 20 10 $b \; [deg]$ -10-2060 4020-20-60-8080 0 -40 $\ell \, [\text{deg}]$

Isotropic





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DM vs. Galactic Bulge



DM vs. Galactic Bulge





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X-shaped GCE

Macias et al., Nature Astronomy (2018)

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- Nuclear bulge + X-shaped or boxy-bulge preferred over NFW



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ROI

+**0**°

358°

4

359°

3

From here:
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3. Directly detect the bulge source population with improved catalogs (2FIG, 4FGL).

E.g. Ajello et al. (2017) or Saz-Parkinson et al. (2016) J. Ballet, Friday@11.00

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4. If MSPs: present (Meerkat) and upcoming (SKA) <u>radio</u> surveys will likely detect bulge MSPs! Calore et al. 2016

Radio prospects



The current status

- The GCE is a significant feature that so-far stood the test of time (9 years) despite ever improving background models.
- Although its characteristics have been altered.
 No longer preference for NFW with γ~1.26
- ~50 GeV DM and bulge MSPs look very similar...
- Series Evidence in favour of MSPs is slowly accumulating
- Improved γ-ray analyses can maybe teach us a little more, but radio will probably be the next breakthrough.