



# GAPS – Dark matter search using low-energy antimatter

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### **Cosmic Ray Anomalies**



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#### AMS Anti-He Candidate Events

S.C.C. Ting, CERN Colloquium, https://indico.cern.ch/event/592392/



+ γ-rays from Galactic Center ...

# Are these signs for DM annihilation ??

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### **Antideuteron Searches**

# Anti-D's can be produced by BSM dark matter, and unlike $e^{-}$ , $e^{+}$ , $\overline{p}$ , they are essentially background free:



# Low-Energy Antiprotons



## GAPS will make precision flux measurement of low-energy antiprotons – strong constraints on DM, PBH models:



- Complementary to direct/indirect searches and collider expts.
  - x10 more statistics @ 0.25 GeV than BESS/PAMELA/AMS
  - Search for light DM, gravitino DM, LZP in extra dimension theories, and PBHs

GAPS also has capability for detection of anti-He, using the exotic atom technique

→ studies ongoing to estimate the sensitivity

### The GAPS Experiment



# The GAPS Experiment



- General AntiParticle Spectrometer (GAPS): specifically designed for low-energy antideuterons and antiprotons
- Long-duration balloon (LDB) flight in Antarctic low geomagnetic cutoff
- Now approved by NASA for funding and launch in late 2020
- Strong international participation with Japan (JAXA) and Italy (INFN)

### **GAPS** Instrument Design



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#### Time of Flight (TOF)

- Plastic scintillator 1.8m x 0.18m x 0.5cm
- Read out on both ends using PMTs/Si-PMs
- 500ps timing resolution



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#### Time of Flight (TOF)

**THE REAL** 

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#### Si(Li) Target/Tracker

- 4" Si(Li) disks, 2.5mm thick
- Dual energy range (X-rays, min-I)
- 3 keV energy resolution



GAPS

Rare event search required good particle ID and excellent background rejection:



• Combination of: TOF velocity ( $\beta$ ), dE/dx, and depth, combined with unique X-ray emission and  $\pi$ /p from nuclear annihilation  $\rightarrow$  strong rejection power

### The GAPS Team



#### GAPS Team @UCLA March 2017







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The GAPS Experiment

### pGAPS – Successful prototype flight





S.A.I. Mognet et al., NIM A735, 24 (2014) P. von Doetinchem et al., Astropart. Phys. 54, 93 (2014) June 2012 launch, Taiki, Japan





- Demonstrated stable operation of Si(Li) and TOF detectors during flight
- Studied Si(Li) cooling approach
- Measured background levels

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Event in pGAPS

### Current Work: Si(Li) Detectors



- GAPS will use 1350 4-inch, 4-strip Si(Li) detectors, 2.5mm thick
- Fabrication scheme developed at Columbia University; plan to have detectors produced by commercial company – Shimadzu in Japan.
- Confirmed leakage current and performance with cosmic rays and X-ray source



# Currently optimizing fabrication; ramp up to trial production runs in early 2018

### Current Work: TOF Detector



- The TOF will consist of 225 scintillation counters, read out on both ends
- PMTs (used in pGAPS) and Si-PMs being considered
- Custom board for readout using DRS-4 ASIC @ 2 GS/s
- TOF will measure particle  $\beta$ , dE/dx, provide rough tracking and master trigger



Prototype 1.2m paddles



R7600-UBA PMT and base



Si-PM testing



Stopping depth simulations (100 MeV antideuterons)

#### Major tasks: PMT/Si-PM decision, determining trigger algorithm





- Discovery of antideuterons in cosmic rays would a <u>very significant</u> result.
- GAPS is specifically designed for low-energy anti-D's and antiprotons
- Technique is different and complementary to AMS; if AMS sees some events, GAPS can confirm and go deeper.
- Prototype GAPS flight completely successful, verified detector operation
- Rapid timeline from funding start to GAPS construction, integration and first science flight in late 2020

Note: Two advertised postdoctoral positions, see: https://inspirehep.net/record/1505690 https://inspirehep.net/record/1495582



#### Si(Li) Electronics



