



# Detecting low-mass primordial black holes as the dark matter candidate

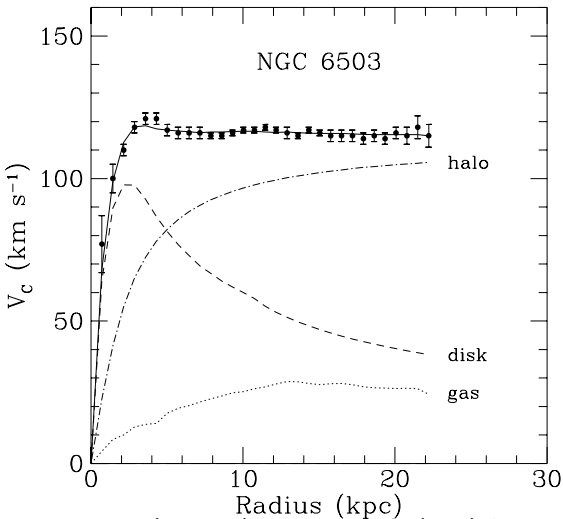
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Center for High Energy Physics  
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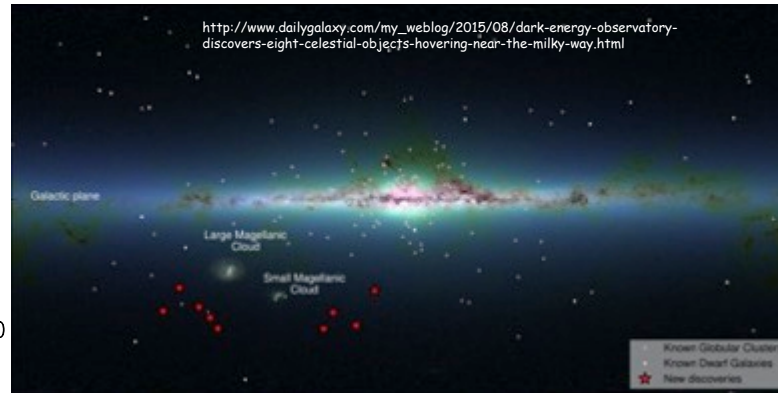


Thanks to my collaborators: Anupam Ray, Regina Caputo, Basudeb Dasgupta, Julian B. Muñoz, Philip Lu, Tracy R. Slatyer, and Volodymyr Takhistov

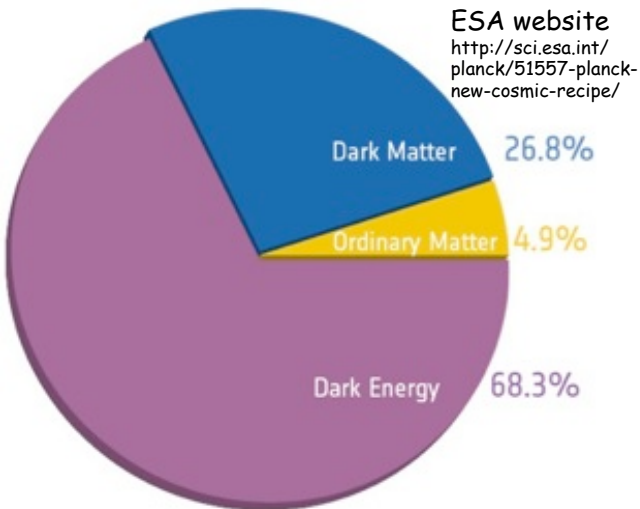
# Gravitational detection of dark matter



Begeman, Broeils & Sanders MNRAS 249 (1991) 523



Bullet cluster  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:1e0657\\_scale.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:1e0657_scale.jpg)



Real observation from Hubble eXtreme Deep Field Observations: left side

Mock observation from Illustris: right side  
 Illustris website



# Dark matter candidates

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$10^{-22}$  eV

$\sim 100 M_{\odot}$

Wide range in dark matter candidate masses

We need to thoroughly test all well-motivated candidates

It is important to test all regions of the parameter space where dark matter candidates saturate the cosmic dark matter density

# Contents

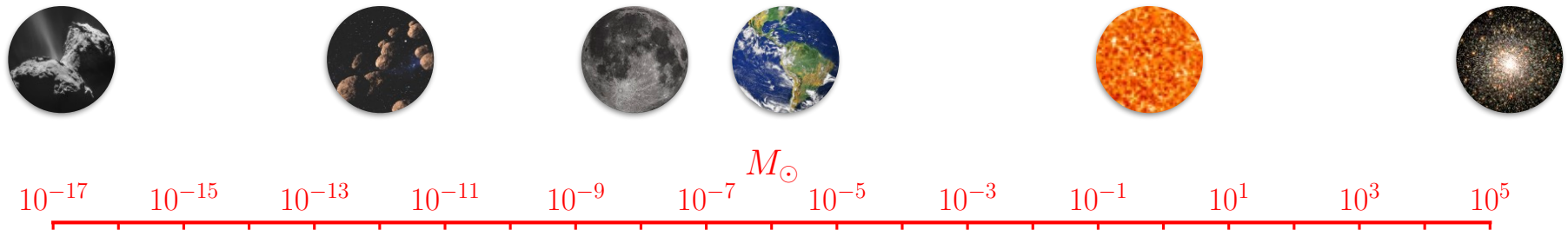
- Primordial black hole (PBH) introduction
- PBH dark matter
- PBH constraints from Hawking radiation
  - (a) Limits from the measurement of Galactic Center positrons
  - (b) Limits from the measurement of Galactic Center photons
  - (c) Future projections from an AMEGO-like experiment
- Conclusions

# Primordial black holes (PBHs)

What are **primordial black holes**? PBHs are exotic compact objects which can form in the early Universe due to **large density perturbations** (numerous formation models) and/ or due to **new physics** (Zel'dovich and Novikov Astron. Zh. 1966, Hawking MNRAS 1971, Carr and Hawking MNRAS 1974, Chapline Nat. 1975 and many others)

$$M_{\text{PBH}} \approx 10^{15} \left( \frac{t}{10^{-23} \text{ s}} \right) \text{ g (for PBHs formed in the early Universe)}$$

PBHs can have a **wide range of masses** and can form the **entire dark matter density** of the Universe

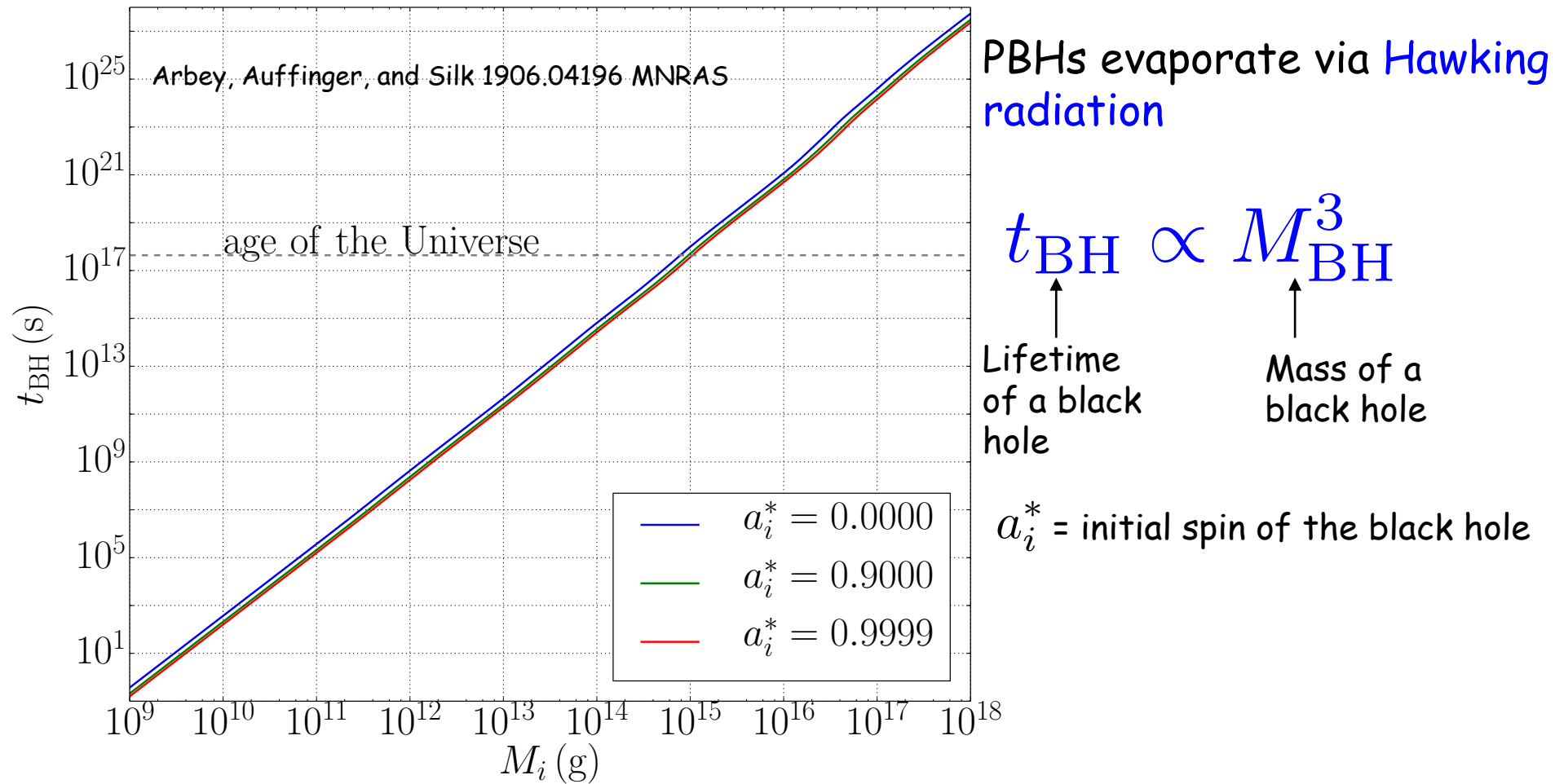


$$1 M_{\odot} \approx 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg} \approx 1.1 \times 10^{57} \text{ GeV}$$

PBHs can have a **log-normal mass function** or a **power law mass function** and can have a **wide range of spins**

# PBH dark matter

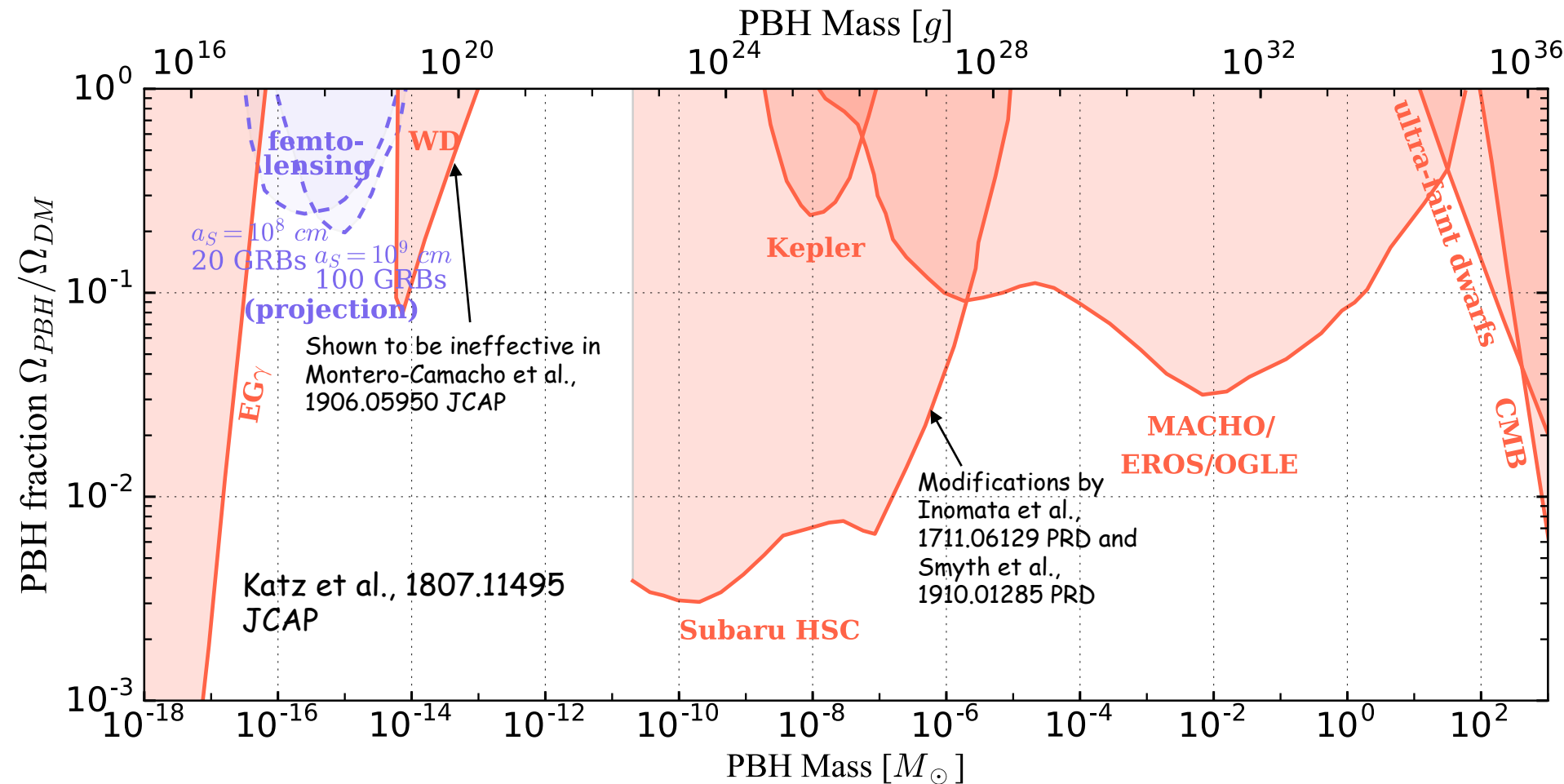
# Masses of PBHs for dark matter



Minimum mass of non-spinning PBH DM  $\approx 5 \times 10^{14}$  g

Non-zero spin increases the minimum mass of PBH DM

# PBH dark matter (in 2018/ early 2019)

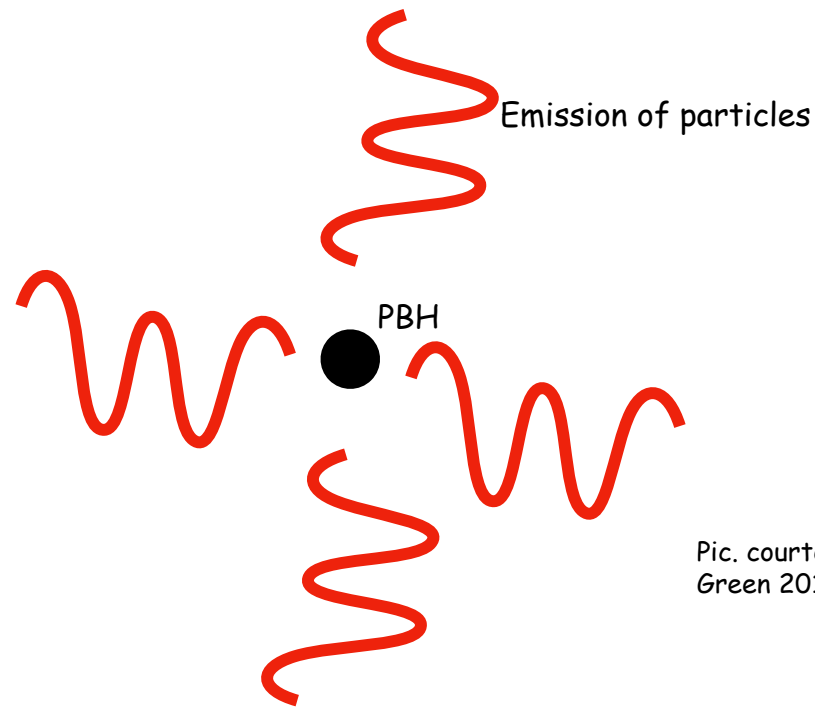


Multiple constraints exist over wide range of masses (all of these are not shown for clarity)

Multiple revisions/ many more constraints (see Dasgupta, Laha, and Ray 1912.01014; Carr et al., 2002.12778; Carr and Kuhnel 2006.02838; Green and Kavanagh 2007.10722 for up-to-date constraints)



# PBH constraints from Hawking evaporation



Pic. courtesy:  
Green 2019 talk

# Evaporation of low-mass PBHs

Black holes evaporate to produce Standard Model particles and can have observable consequences

Temperature of the black hole  $\rightarrow T_{\text{BH}} = 1.06 \left( \frac{10^{10} \text{ kg}}{M_{\text{BH}}} \right) \text{ GeV}$

S. W. Hawking, Nature 248 (1974) 30-31.  
S. W. Hawking, Commun. Math. Phys. 43 (1975) 199-220.

Dimensionless absorption probability for the emitted species

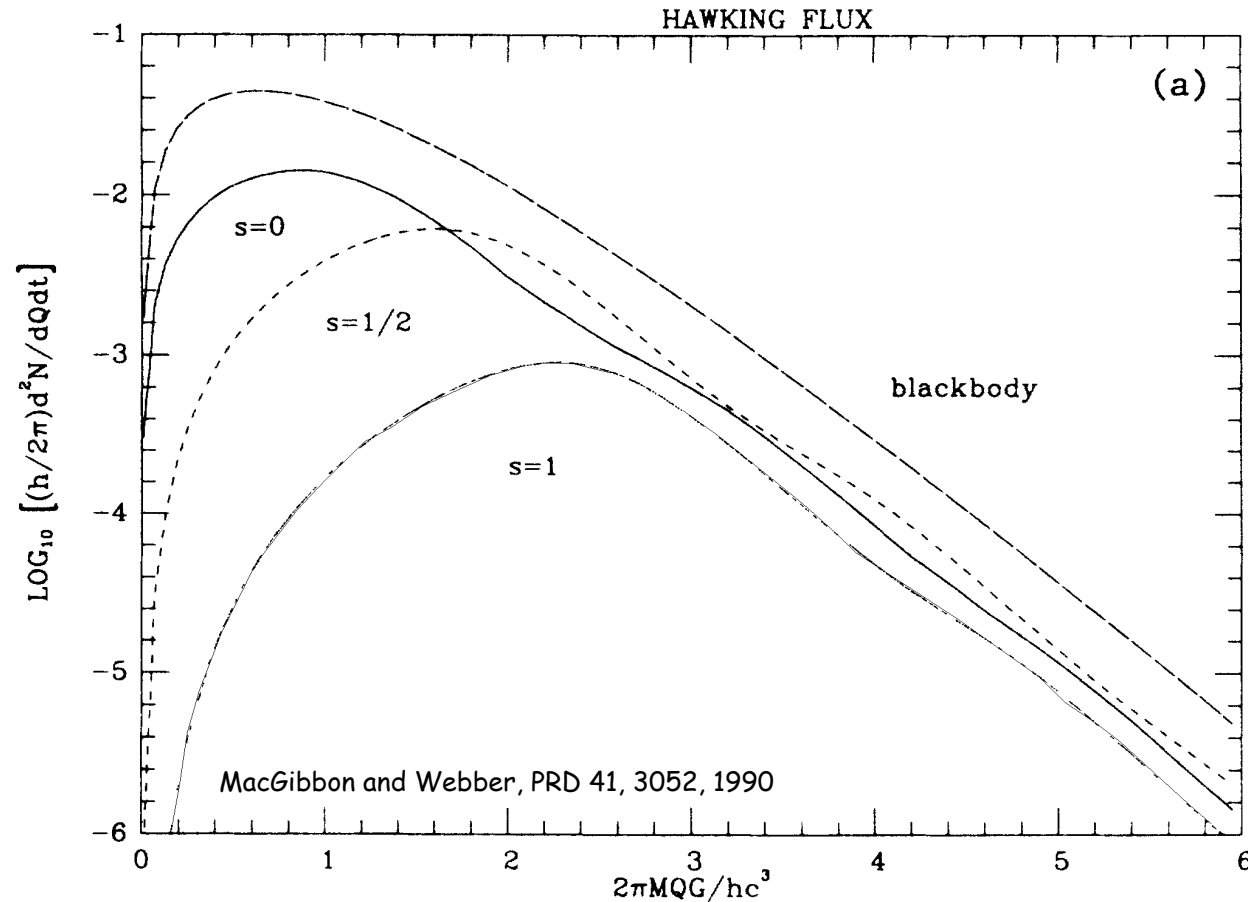
Mass of the black hole

$$\frac{dN_s}{dE} = \frac{\Gamma_s}{2\pi} \int dt \frac{1}{\exp(E/T_{\text{BH}}) - (-1)^{2s}}$$

Evaporation energy spectrum of particle of spin  $s$  from a non-spinning black hole

Page PRD 13, 198, 1976  
Page PRD 14, 3260, 1976  
Page PRD 16, 2402, 1977  
Arbey and Auffinger, EPJC 79, 693, 2016

# Hawking radiation spectrum



$Q$  = total energy of the emitted particles

This is for a non-rotating uncharged black hole

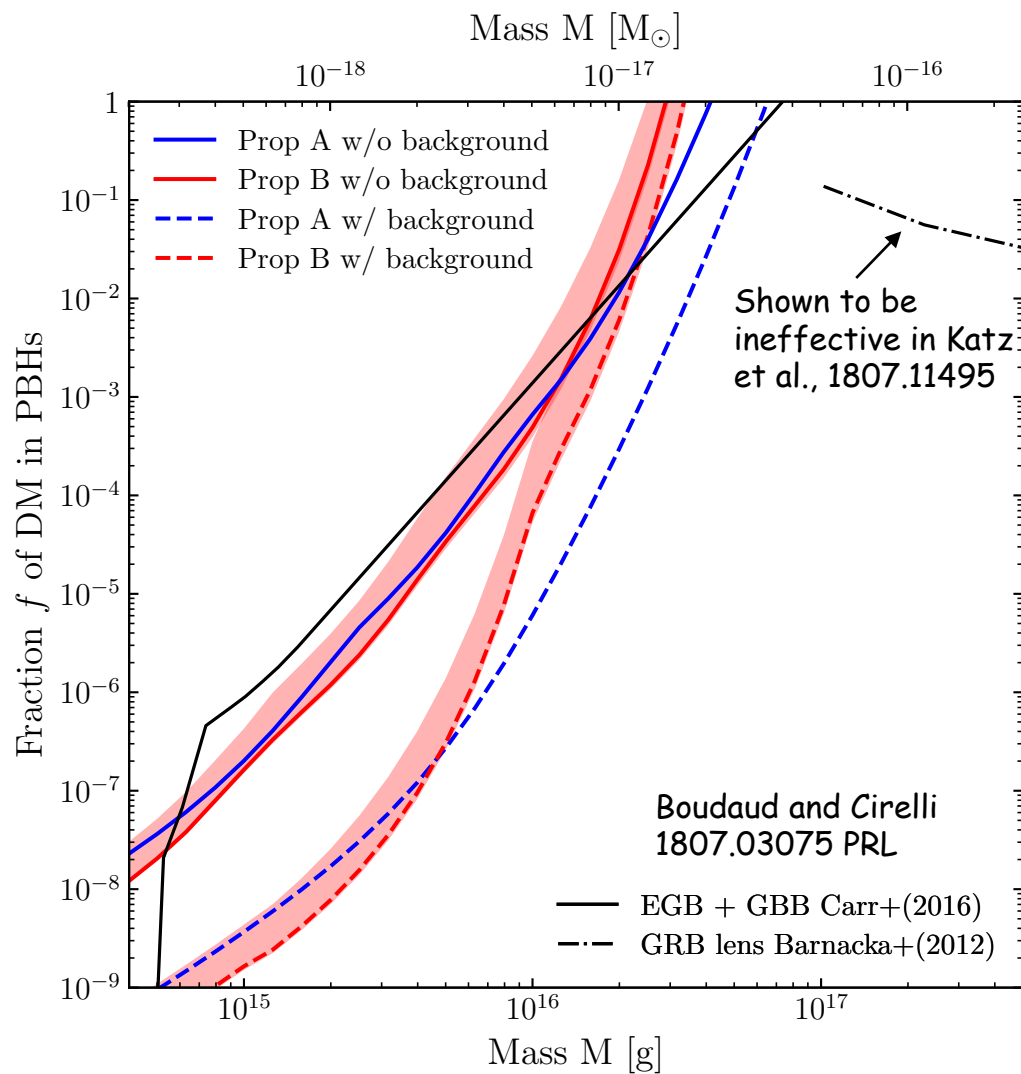
Emission of pion,  $e^\pm$ , and photon via Hawking radiation

The spectrum closely resembles a black-body radiation

The peaks in the flux per particle mode measured at infinity occur at:

$$Q_{s=0} \approx 2.81 T_{\text{BH}} \quad Q_{s=1/2} \approx 4.02 T_{\text{BH}} \quad Q_{s=1} \approx 5.77 T_{\text{BH}}$$

# Ultra-light PBH (in 2018)



Ultra-light PBH dark matter ( $M_{\text{PBH}} \lesssim 10^{17}$  g) are most strongly constrained via its Hawking radiation into Standard Model particles

The strongest constraint on ultra-light PBHs in late-2018 were from **gamma-ray** (Carr et al., 0912.5297) and **Galactic cosmic-ray** measurements (Boudaud and Cirelli 1807.03075)

Can we probe **new regions of parameter space** using Hawking radiation?

How to probe higher PBH masses?

Limits from the measurement of  
Galactic Center positrons

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## Primordial Black Holes as a Dark Matter Candidate Are Severely Constrained by the Galactic Center 511 keV $\gamma$ -Ray Line

Ranjan Laha  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **123**, 251101 – Published 16 December 2019

Article References No Citing Articles PDF HTML Export Citation

Issue  
Vol. 123, Iss. 25 – 20 December 2019

Check for updates

ABSTRACT

We derive the strongest constraint on the fraction of dark matter that can be composed of low mass primordial black holes by using the observation of the Galactic Center 511 keV  $\gamma$ -ray line. Primordial black holes of masses  $\lesssim 10^{15}$  kg will evaporate to produce  $e^+e^-$  pairs. The positrons will lose energy in the Galactic Center, become nonrelativistic, then annihilate with the ambient electrons. We derive robust and conservative bounds by assuming that the rate of positron injection via primordial black hole evaporation is less than what is required to explain the SPI-INTTEGRAL observation of the Galactic Center 511 keV  $\gamma$ -ray line. Depending on the primordial black hole mass function and other astrophysical uncertainties, these constraints are the most stringent in the literature and show that primordial black holes contribute to less than 1% of the dark matter density. Our technique also probes part of the mass range which was completely unconstrained by previous studies.

Laha 1906.09994  
Physical Review Letters

APS  
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## Neutrino and Positron Constraints on Spinning Primordial Black Hole Dark Matter

Basudeb Dasgupta, Ranjan Laha, and Anupam Ray  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 101101 – Published 31 August 2020

Article References No Citing Articles Supplemental Material PDF HTML Export Citation

Issue  
Vol. 125, Iss. 10 – 4 September 2020

Check for updates

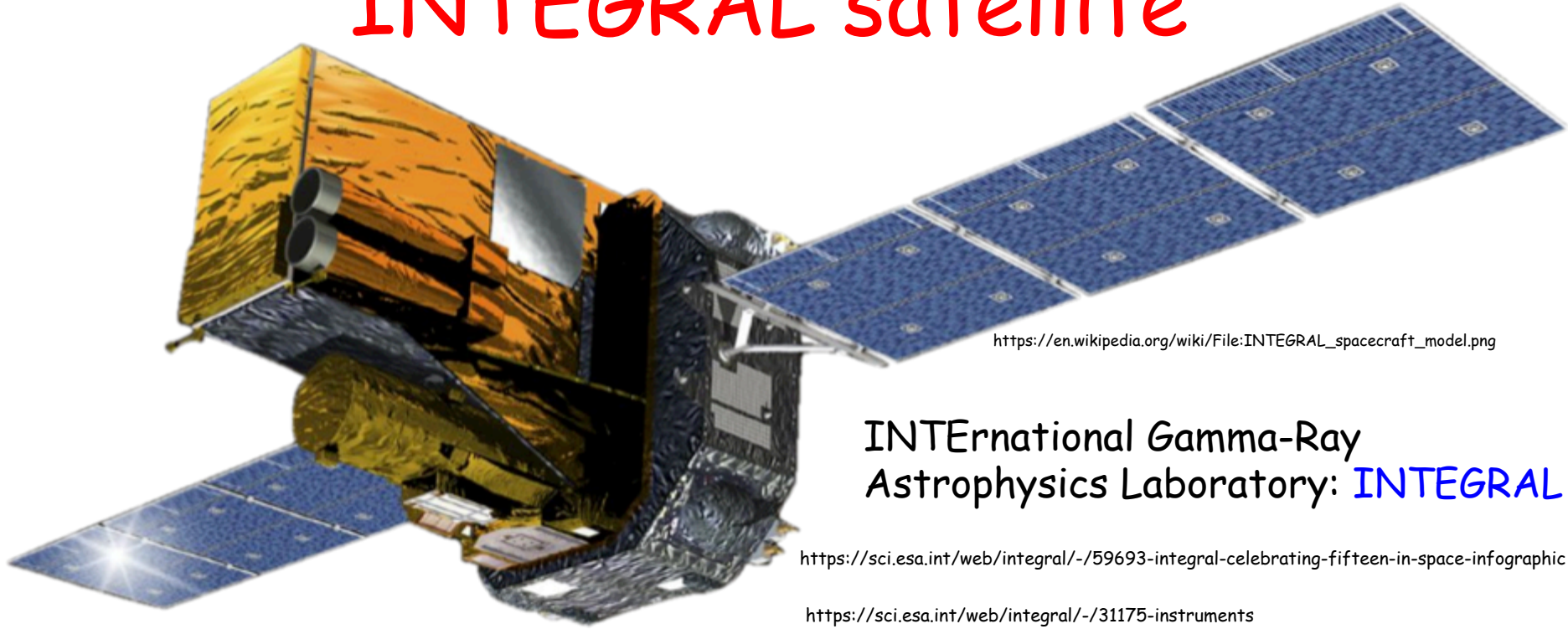
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ABSTRACT

Primordial black holes can have substantial spin—a fundamental property that has a strong effect on its evaporation rate. We conduct a comprehensive study of the detectability of primordial black holes with non-negligible spin, via the searches for the neutrinos and positrons in the MeV energy range. Diffuse supernova neutrino background searches and observation of the 511 keV gamma-ray line from positrons in the Galactic center set competitive constraints. Spinning primordial black holes are probed up to a slightly higher mass range compared to nonspinning ones. Our constraint using neutrinos is slightly weaker than that due to the diffuse gamma-ray background, but complementary and robust. Our positron constraints are typically weaker in the lower mass range and stronger in the higher mass range for the spinning primordial black holes compared to the nonspinning ones. They are generally stronger than those derived from the diffuse gamma-ray measurements for primordial black holes having masses greater than a few  $\times 10^{14}$  g.

Dasgupta, Laha, and Ray 1912.01014  
Physical Review Letters

# INTEGRAL satellite



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:INTEGRAL\\_spacecraft\\_model.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:INTEGRAL_spacecraft_model.png)

INTERNATIONAL Gamma-Ray  
Astrophysics Laboratory: **INTEGRAL**

<https://sci.esa.int/web/integral/-/59693-integral-celebrating-fifteen-in-space-infographic>

<https://sci.esa.int/web/integral/-/31175-instruments>

Energy range

Energy resolution

SPECTROMETER of INTEGRAL (**SPI**):

18 keV to 8 MeV

~ 0.2% at 1.33 MeV

Imager on-Board the INTEGRAL  
Satellite (**IBIS**):

15 keV to 10 MeV

~ 10% at 1.33 MeV

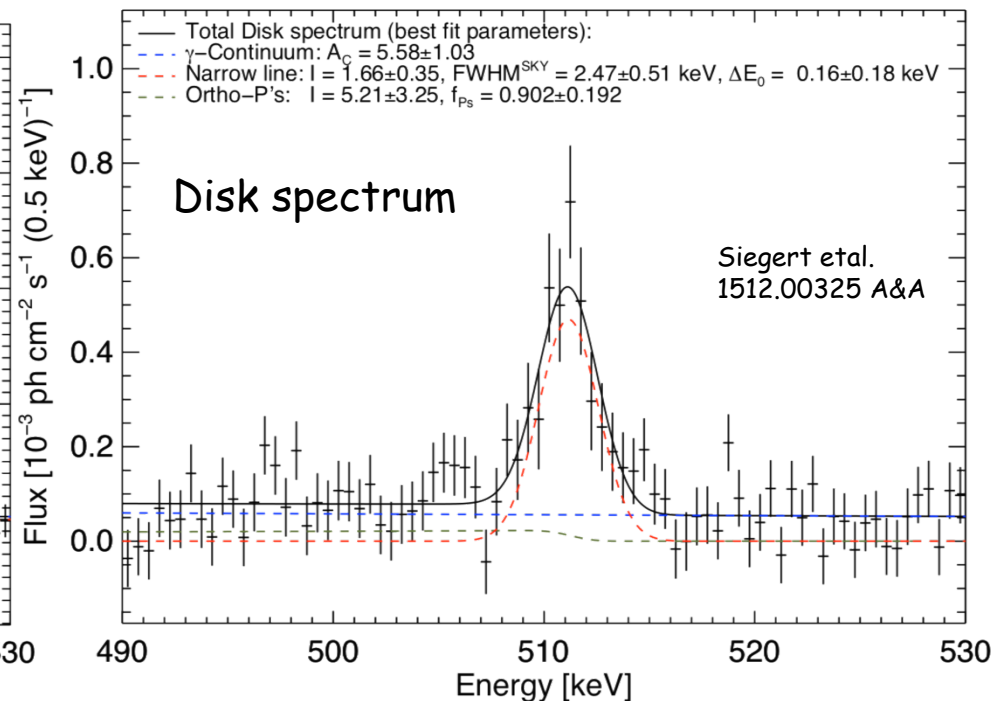
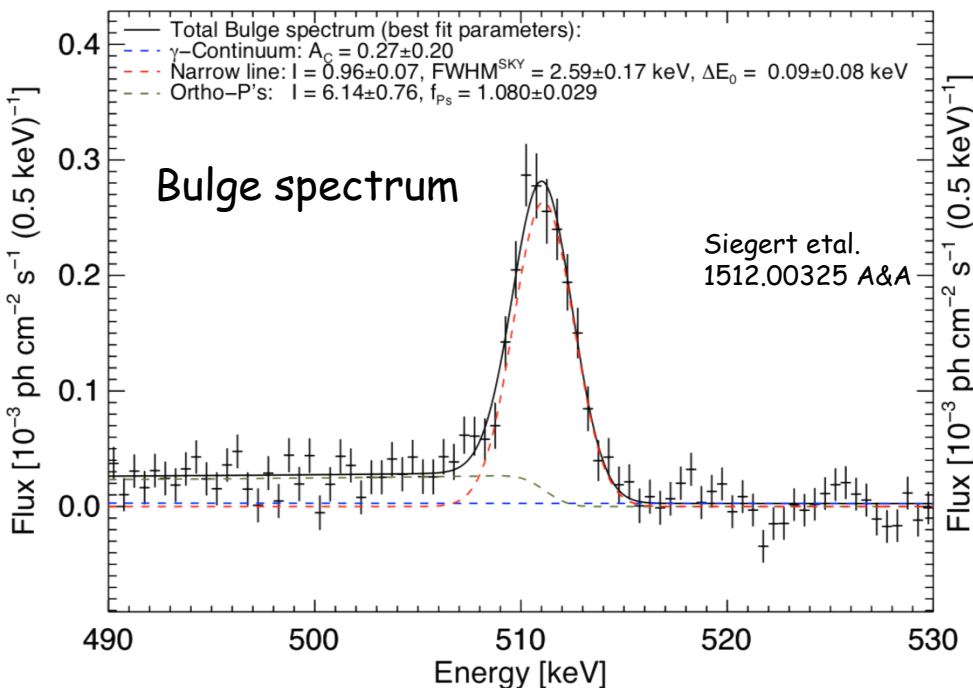
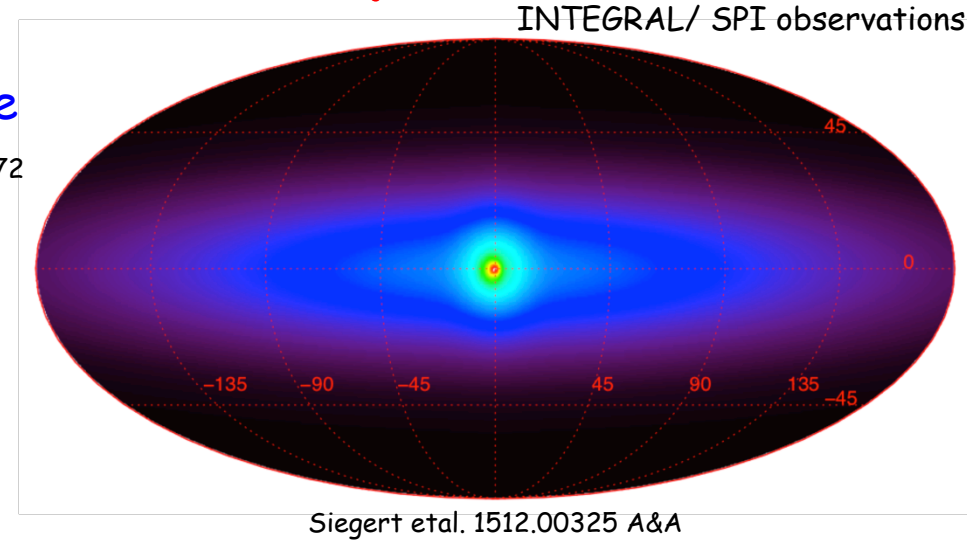
Other instruments are also present in INTEGRAL

# 511 keV gamma-ray line

An enduring astrophysics mystery:  
observation of the 511 keV gamma-ray line  
in the **Galactic bulge and disk** (Johnson et al. ApJ 172  
L1 1972, Leventhal et al. ApJ 225 L11 1978, Cheng et al. ApJ 481 L43 1997,  
..., Siegert et al. 1512.00325 A&A, Siegert et al. 1906.00498 A&A)

Detected via different instruments

What is the **source** of this radiation?

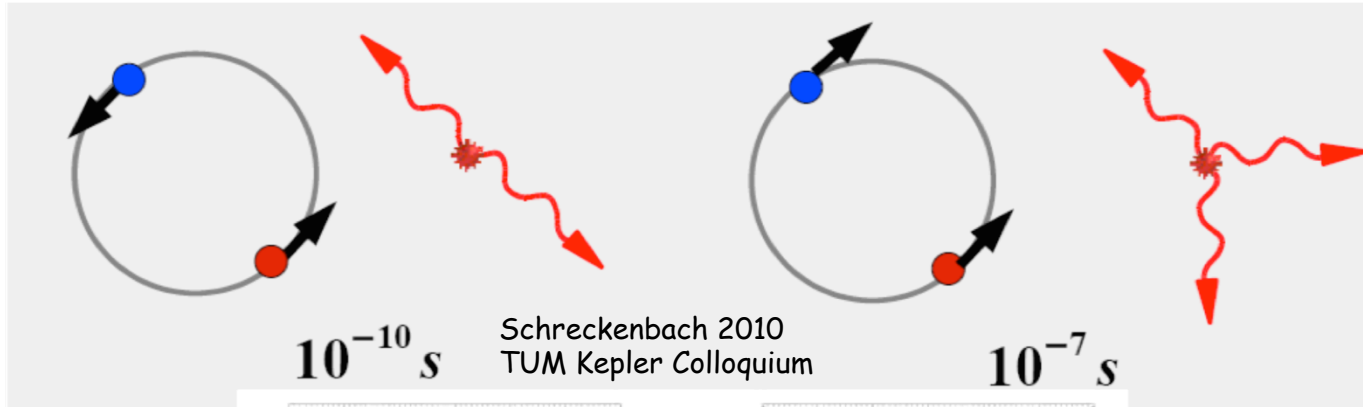




# Positron annihilation

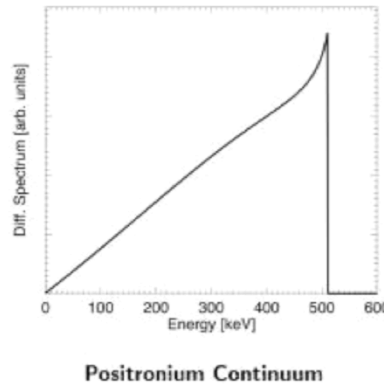
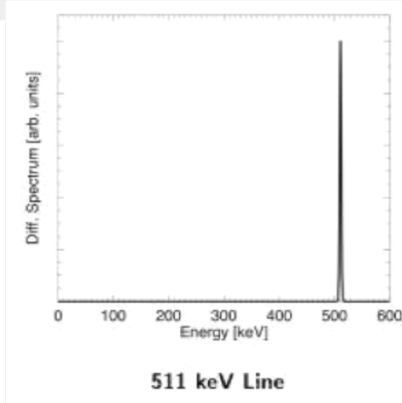
Para Positronium,  $I=0$

Ortho Positronium  $I=1$



Positron annihilation can produce **two monochromatic 511 keV photons** or **3 photons with a total energy of 1.022 MeV** (production to larger number of photons are suppressed)

2 Gammas, monoenergetic  
(here spectrum in one detector)



3 Gammas, continuous  
(here spectrum in one detector)

Ratio of the mono-chromatic to the continuum radiation flux can be used to estimate the **positronium fraction**:  $f_{Ps} \approx 0.99 \pm 0.07$  (Siebert et al. 1512.00325 A&A)

Measurement of **gamma-rays at higher energies ( $> 511$  keV)** help constrain the **injection energy of the positron** (Beacom and Yuksel astro-ph/0512411, Sizun et al. astro-ph/0607374 PRD)

# 511 keV gamma-ray line

The flux of 511 keV gamma-ray line and low-energy continuum gamma-ray measurements imply a **positron injection rate** of  $\sim 2 \times 10^{43} \text{ s}^{-1}$

**Multiple sources are postulated** to give rise to these positrons: millisecond pulsars, low-mass X-ray binaries, neutron star mergers, supernovae, pair-plasma jets from Sgr A\* or dark matter, although none are confirmed to give rise to this entire emission (Kierans et al. 1903.05569) (Siebert et al 2109.03691 claim a nucleosynthesis origin of this signal)

Can we derive a **robust constraint on PBHs** using this observation? (see earlier works in Okele and Rees 1980, Okeke 1980, MacGibbon & Carr 1991, and Bambi et al. 2009)

# A robust and conservative bound on PBHs

Any **exotic dark sector source cannot inject more positrons** than what is allowed by the Galactic Center 511 keV and continuum gamma-ray measurements

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Fraction of dark matter in the} \\
 \text{form of PBHs} \\
 \downarrow \\
 f_{\text{DM}}
 \end{array}
 \frac{\int dV \rho_{\text{DM}}(r)}{M_{\text{PBH}}}
 \int dE \frac{d^2 N_e}{dt dE} \lesssim \underbrace{2 \times 10^{43} \text{ s}^{-1}}_{\text{Positron luminosity required by INTEGRAL/ SPI observation}}$$

$\rho_{\text{DM}}(r)$  ← dark matter density  
 $M_{\text{PBH}}$  ← Mass of the PBH  
 $\frac{d^2 N_e}{dt dE}$  ← Number of positrons emitted per unit time and per unit energy by PBHs

PBHs are like **decaying** dark matter: the formula mimic those of decaying dark matter

**Positron propagation** and **dark matter density profile** introduces uncertainty

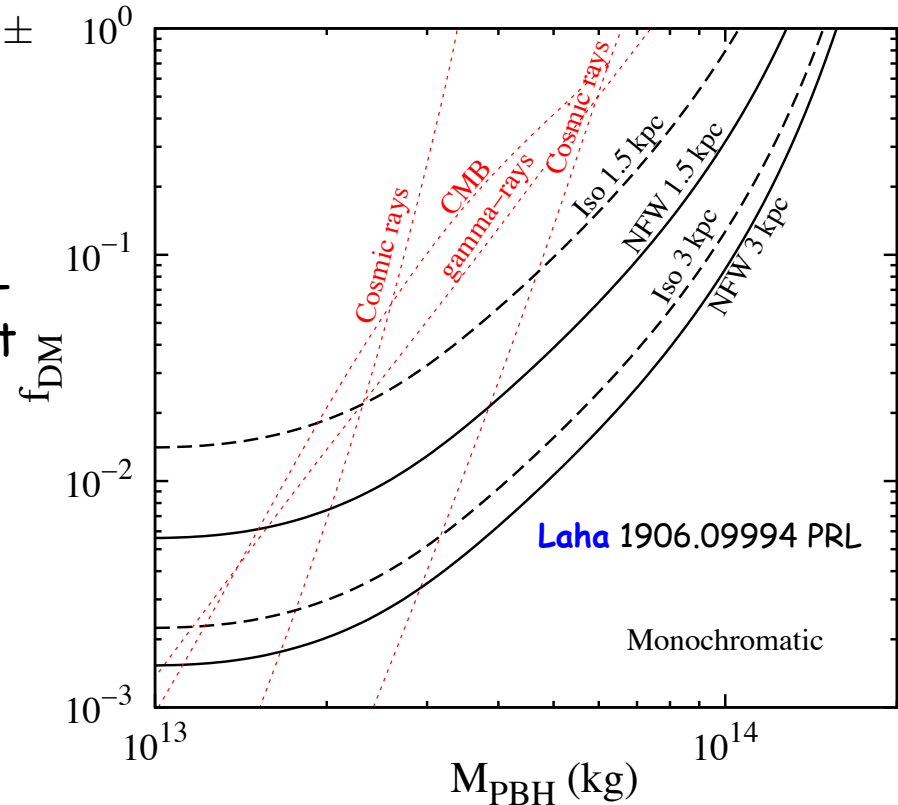
# Low-mass PBHs and Galactic Center 511 keV line

Low-mass PBHs can evaporate to produce  $e^\pm$  pairs

The positrons will lose energy, become non-relativistic, and annihilate with the ambient electrons to produce photons

Galactic Center observations reveal an intense flux of 511 keV and associated continuum gamma-ray photons produced by unknown source(s)

Requiring that the positrons from PBH evaporation do not overshoot the positron luminosity produces the strongest limit on their abundance with masses between  $\sim 10^{13}$  kg to  $10^{14}$  kg



Similar results in DeRocco and Graham 1906.07740 PRL

See also Keith and Hooper 2103.08611 PRD

$$\frac{dN}{dM} \propto \delta(M - M_{\text{PBH}})$$

How to probe higher PBH masses?

Limits from the measurement of  
Galactic Center photons

# Can we probe PBHs using Galactic Center gamma-ray emission?

The image shows a screenshot of the Physical Review D website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the APS physics logo, a dropdown menu for 'Journals' (set to 'Physics Magazine'), and a 'Help/Feedback' link. A search bar on the right contains the text 'Journal, vol, page, DOI, etc.' and a 'Log in' button. Below the navigation bar is a yellow banner with text about COVID-19 response. The main header area is dark teal and contains the journal title 'PHYSICAL REVIEW D' and its subtitle 'covering particles, fields, gravitation, and cosmology'. A horizontal menu below the header lists 'Highlights', 'Recent', 'Accepted', 'Authors', 'Referees', 'Search', 'Press', 'About', and 'Staff'. The article title 'INTEGRAL constraints on primordial black holes and particle dark matter' is prominently displayed, with an 'Open Access' badge to its left. Below the title, the authors 'Ranjan Laha, Julian B. Muñoz, and Tracy R. Slatyer' and the publication information 'Phys. Rev. D 101, 123514 – Published 15 June 2020' are listed. A row of buttons allows users to view the 'Article', 'References', 'Citing Articles (3)', 'PDF', 'HTML', and 'Export Citation'. The 'ABSTRACT' section is partially visible, starting with 'The International Gamma-Ray Astrophysics Laboratory (INTEGRAL) satellite has yielded unprecedented measurements...'. On the right side, there is an 'Issue' section for 'Vol. 101, Iss. 12 – 15 June 2020', a 'Check for updates' button, and a 'Reuse & Permissions' button.

Laha, Muñoz, and Slatyer 2004.00627 Physical Review D

# Gamma-ray measurements of the cosmic-ray electrons and positrons

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 739:29 (15pp), 2011 September 20  
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doi:10.1088/0004-637X/739/1/29

## DIFFUSE EMISSION MEASUREMENT WITH THE SPECTROMETER ON *INTEGRAL* AS AN INDIRECT PROBE OF COSMIC-RAY ELECTRONS AND POSITRONS

LAURENT BOUCHET<sup>1,2</sup>, ANDREW W. STRONG<sup>3</sup>, TROY A. PORTER<sup>4</sup>, IGOR V. MOSKALENKO<sup>4</sup>,  
ELISABETH JOURDAIN<sup>1,2</sup>, AND JEAN-PIERRE ROQUES<sup>1,2</sup>

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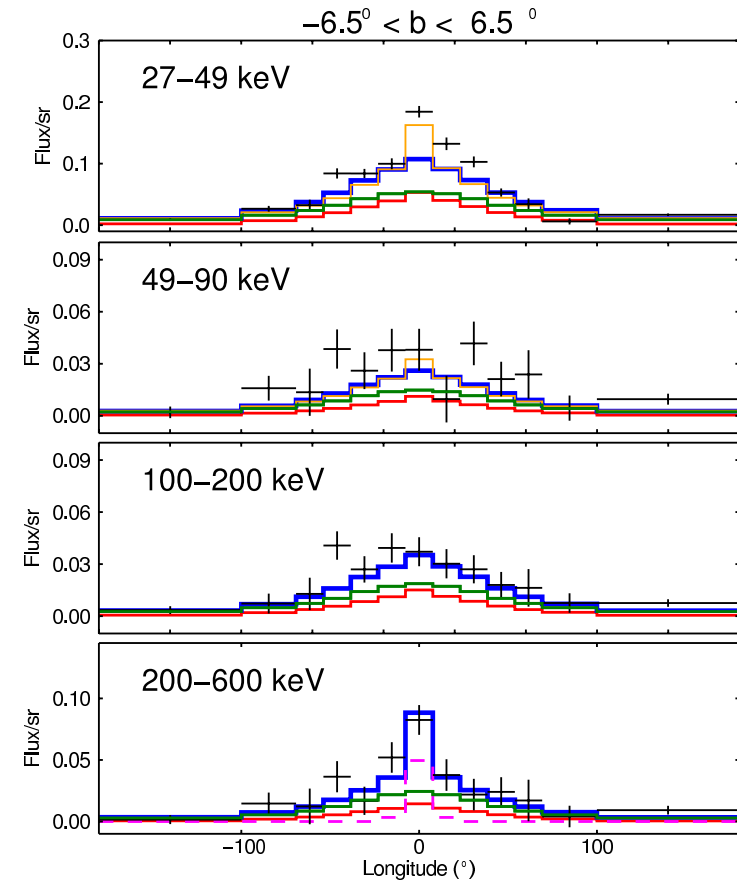
<sup>3</sup> Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik, Postfach 1603, 85740 Garching, Germany

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*Received 2011 May 3; accepted 2011 June 29; published 2011 September 1*

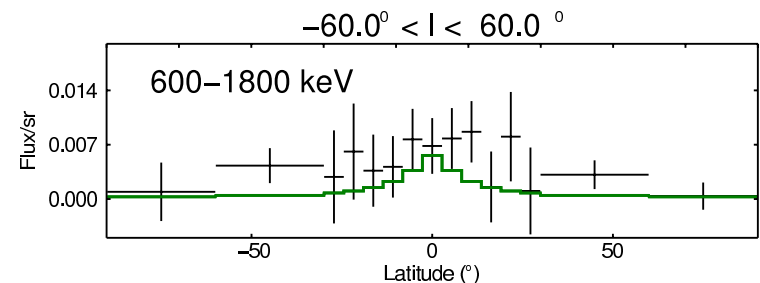
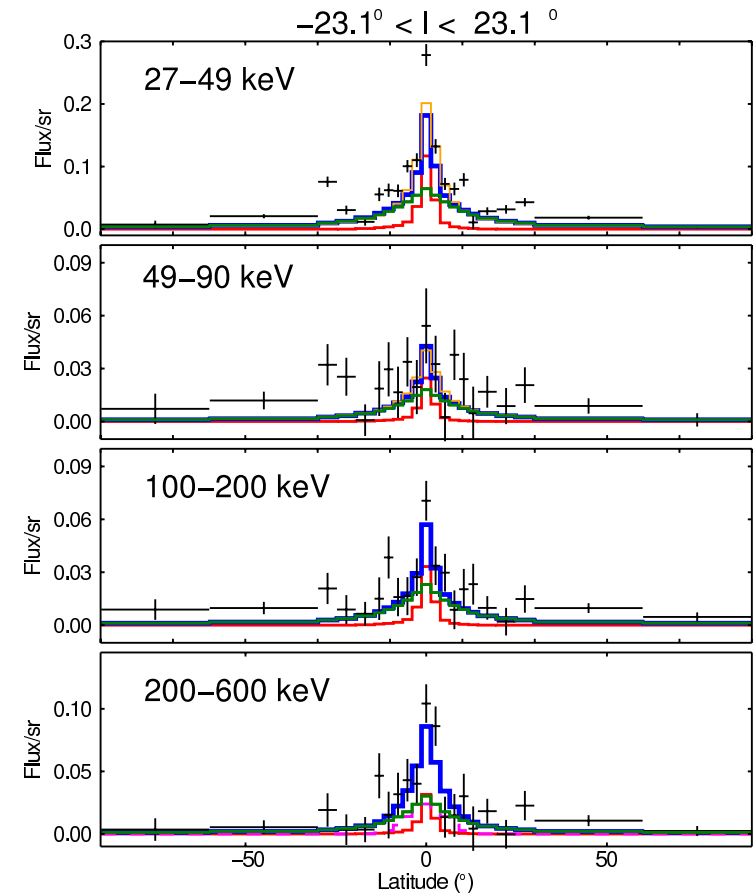
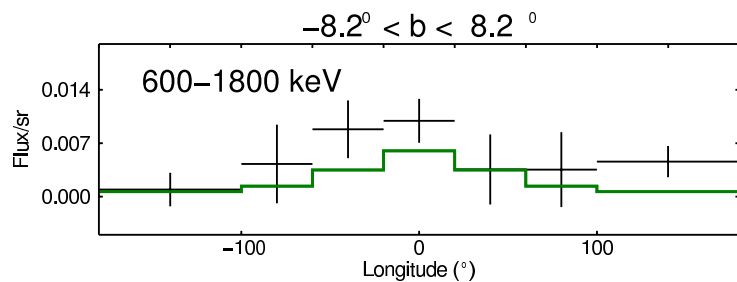
Measurement of the gamma-ray emission in the inner Galaxy and the contribution of cosmic-ray electrons and positrons

# Gamma-ray measurements of the cosmic-ray electrons and positrons



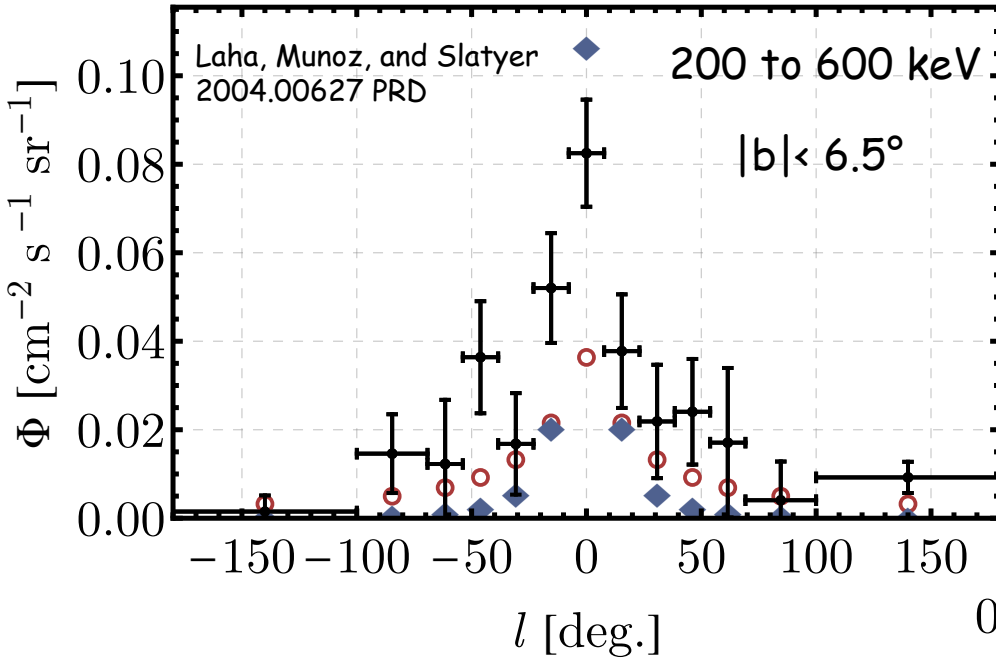
A good description of the data due to **inverse Compton emission, stellar emission, and annihilation radiation**

Bouchet et al., 1107.0200





# Angular dependence of the PBH signal and the INTEGRAL data



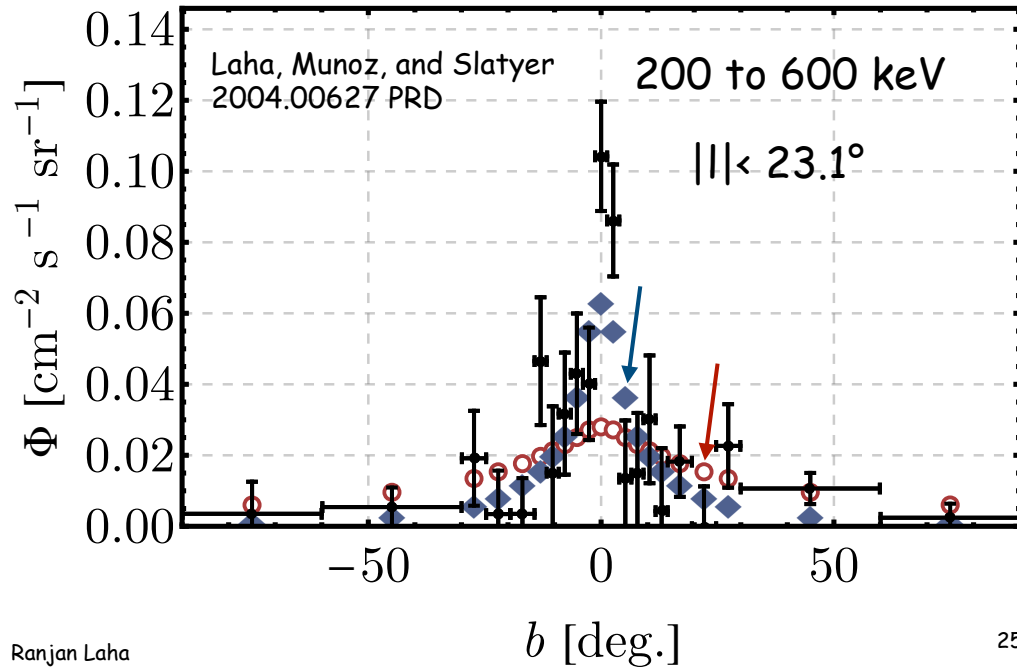
Red circle = Predicted photon emission from Hawking-evaporating PBHs with

$$M_{\text{PBH}} = 1.5 \times 10^{17} \text{ g}$$

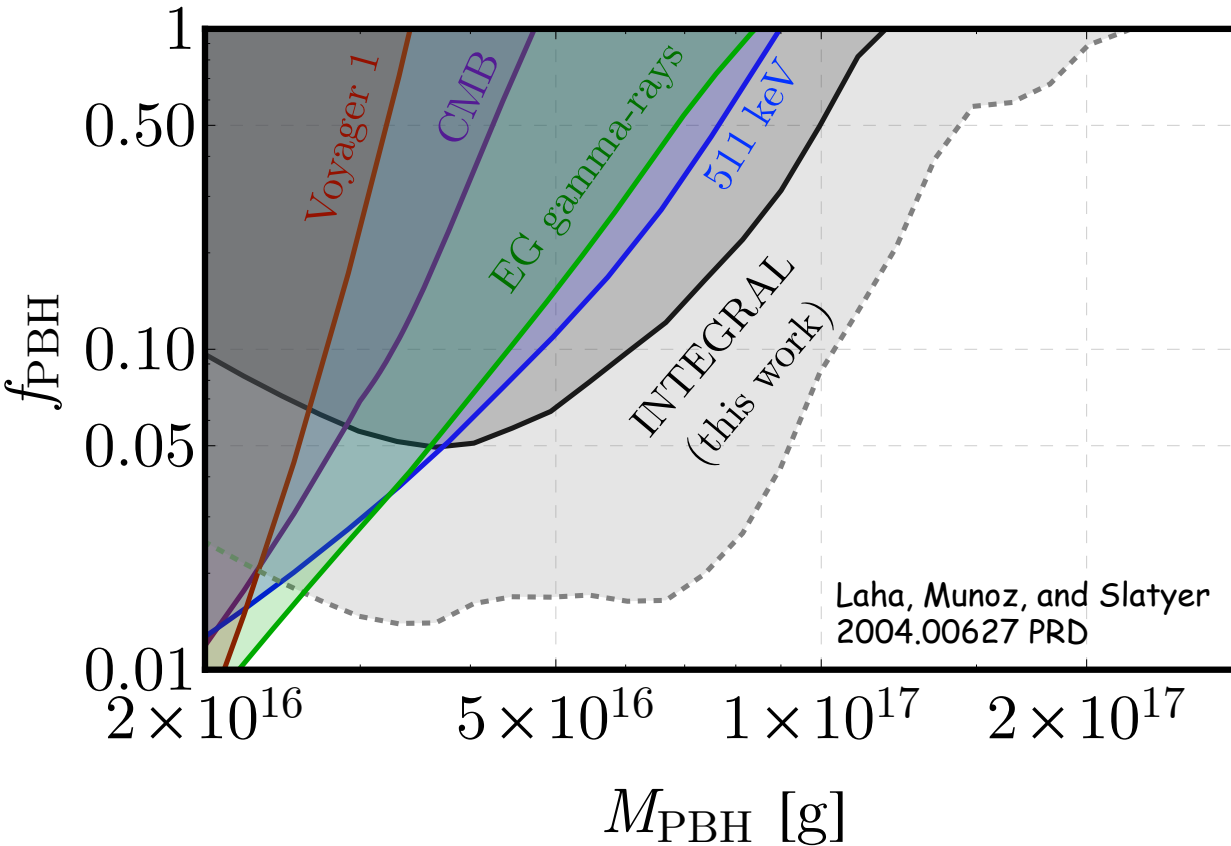
Energy range considered 0.027 to 1.8 MeV

**Constraint strategy:** PBH signal not overproduce any data point by more than 2x the error bar

Modeling the PBH signal + astrophysical background (due to emission of Galactic Center  $e^\pm$ ) will lead to **stronger constraints**



# Angular dependence of the PBH signal and the INTEGRAL data



One of the **best probes** of ultra-light PBHs

This constraint is **relatively insensitive** to the dark matter profile

Assumes a **mono-chromatic** mass function of **non-spinning** PBHs

Equally constraining probe for an **extended mass function** of PBHs and for **spinning** PBHs

Similar constraints from **COMPTEL measurements** by Coogan et al., arXiv: 2010.04797

How to probe higher PBH masses?

Future prospects

# Can we probe PBHs using near-future gamma-ray instruments?

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## PHYSICAL REVIEW D

*covering particles, fields, gravitation, and cosmology*

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### Near future MeV telescopes can discover asteroid-mass primordial black hole dark matter

Anupam Ray, Ranjan Laha, Julian B. Muñoz, and Regina Caputo  
Phys. Rev. D **104**, 023516 – Published 15 July 2021

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#### ABSTRACT

Primordial black holes (PBHs), formed out of large overdensities in the early Universe, are a viable dark matter (DM) candidate over a broad range of masses. Ultralight, asteroid-mass PBHs with masses around  $10^{17}$  g are particularly interesting as current observations allow them to constitute the entire DM density. PBHs in this mass range emit  $\sim$  MeV photons via Hawking radiation which can directly be detected by the gamma ray telescopes, such as the upcoming AMEGO. In this work we forecast how well an instrument with the sensitivity of AMEGO will be able to detect, or rule out, PBHs as a DM candidate, by searching for their evaporating signature when marginalizing over the Galactic and extra-Galactic gamma-ray backgrounds. We find that an instrument with the sensitivity of AMEGO could exclude nonrotating PBHs as the only DM component for masses up to  $7 \times 10^{17}$  g at 95% confidence level for a monochromatic mass distribution, improving upon current bounds by nearly an order of magnitude. The forecasted constraints are more stringent for PBHs that have rotation, or which follow extended mass distributions.

Issue  
Vol. 104, Iss. 2 – 15 July 2021

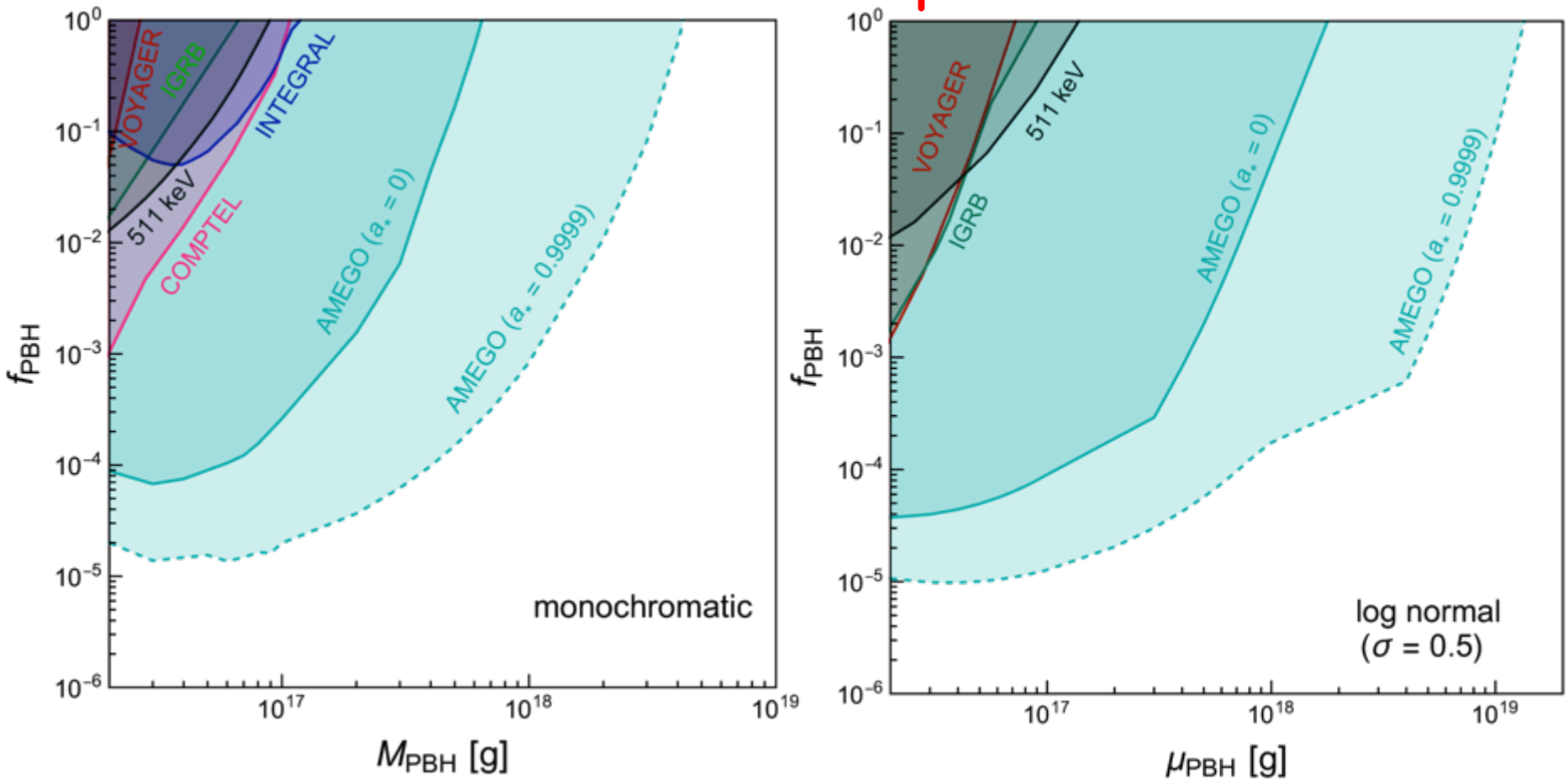
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Ray, Laha, Muñoz, and Caputo arXiv: 2102.06714  
Physical Review D

# Projections in PBH parameter space using an AMEGO-like experiment



Ray, Laha, Muñoz, and Caputo arXiv: 2102.06714  
(similar work by Coogan et al. arXiv: 2010.04797 and Ghosh et al arXiv: 2110.03333)

# Conclusions

Primordial black hole (PBH) is a well motivated dark matter candidate

There are large regions of the parameter space where PBHs can make up the entire dark matter density or a substantial portion of it

The observation of low-energy positrons in the Galactic Centre via the 511 keV and associated continuum gamma-ray photons put a strong constraint on low-mass PBHs

The observation of Galactic Center photons also puts an equally strong constraint on low-mass PBHs

Near future MeV telescope, like AMEGO, can probe new parts of the PBH DM parameter space

It is important to probe this entire parameter space to as small a cosmic density as possible