# A bright electron-positron annihilation line in the BOAT GRB221009A





### **ZZ\***, H. Lin\*, Z. Li\*, S.–L. Xiong\* et al., **ApJL**, 2405.12977 S.–X. Yi\*, **ZZ\***, et al., **MNRAS**, 2409.08485



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KEY LABORATORY OF PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS, CAS

#### Discoveries of $\gamma$ -ray lines in GRB 221009A

# M. E. Ravasio et at. 2023, 2024 12 MeV ≥ 6 MeV

023	M.E. Ravasio et al. (2023) arXiv
28 Mar 2	A bright megaelectron volt emission line in $\gamma\text{-ray}$ burst GRB 221009A
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#### Science

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RESEARCH ARTICLE GAMMA-RAY BURSTS

#### A mega-electron volt emission line in the spectrum of a gamma-ray burst



M.E. Ravasio et al. (2024)

#### □ Y. Q. Zhang et at. 2024

#### 37 MeV 5 6 MeV

#### Power-law evolution of line energy and flux



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里程碑。相关研究成果7月25日以封面论文形式在《中国科学:物

理学 力学 天文学》(英文版)期刊正式发表。

#### **Brightest-of-all-time (BOAT) GRB 221009A**

#### GECAM-C/HXMT/Fermi-GBM: main burst (keV-MeV-sub GeV)

- this burst is so bright that the Fermi–GBM detector suffered significant data loss and pile–up effect during the bright part of the burst, making reliable data analysis very difficult. (HXMT & GECAM 2024)
- Fortunately, GECAM–C did not experience such problems thanks to its dedicated design of the instrument; thus, the GECAM–C data was used to correct the Fermi/GBM data.

(Y.-Q. Zhang et al. 2024)

#### □ LHAASO: TeV afterglow

MeV lines: the biggest surprise in the prompt GRB spectra in at least a decade

--- 第三届南京伽马射线暴国际会议

#### 中国十大科学进展 (2023年)



# GECAM

Gravitational wave high-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor

GECAM-C (SATech01/HEBS)

#### GECAM-D (DRO/GTM)

GECAM-A

GECAM-B

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# GECAM

Gravitational wave high-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor

- GECAM twins → GECAM series
  - GECAM-A: Dec. 10, 2020 Few observation
  - GECAM-B: Dec. 10, 2020 Operation
  - HEBS (GECAM-C): Jul. 27, 2022 Operation
  - DRO/GTM (GECAM-D): Mar. 13, 2024 Commissioning
- GECAM detected many transients
  - GRBs, SGRs, especially those associated with FRBs
  - Solar Flares, Terrestrial Gamma-ray Flashes & new type of events
- Characteristics of GECAM series
  - **FOV :** ~ 100% all-sky
  - Energy band : 6 keV 5 MeV
  - Sensitivity : ~ 1E-8 erg/cm<sup>2</sup>/s
  - **Localization :** ~2 deg (1- $\sigma$  stat., 1E-5 erg/cm<sup>2</sup>)



GECAM-A/B launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC)



GECAM-C onboard SATech-01 launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center

### Light Curve: GECA<mark>M vs.</mark> Fermi/GBM



### The global picture of $\gamma$ -bursts (GRBs)



**relativistic jet**  $\Rightarrow$  e.g., internal shocks  $\rightarrow$  main burst external shocks  $\rightarrow$  TeV afterglow



### Y.-Q. Zhang et al. (2024); **ZZ** et al. (2024)

- Gaussian lines: *non-blackbody*
- non-thermal continuum



#### 发射线的主要观测特征:

Q1: line energy:  $E_{\text{line}} \propto (t - t_0)^{-1}$ Q2: line luminosity:  $L_{\text{line}} \propto (t - t_0)^{-2.1}$ Q3: extremely bright:  $L_{\text{line},0} \gtrsim 10^{51-52} \text{ erg/s}$ Q4: narrow line width:  $\sigma/E_{\text{line}} \sim 0.1$ 



### Creation, annihilation, and decouping of $e^{\pm}$ pairs

no assumptions on  $e^{\pm}$  pairs' particle physics origin





- **Super-QED interactions** in ultra-strong magnetic fields (Kostenko & Thompson 2018, 2019)
- Pair annihilation lines @  $E'_{line} \sim m_e c^2 \sim 0.511 \text{ MeV} \ll 37 \text{ MeV}$

**Ultra-relativitistic effect**  $\rightarrow E_{\text{line}} \sim \delta_D E'_{\text{line}}$ ,  $\delta_D = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1 - \beta \cos \theta)} \sim 10^{2-3}$ 

- decoupling of e<sup>±</sup> pairs from jet plasma (Ruffini et al. 1999, 2000, 2001)
- Yi et al. (2024): storyline & multi-band signals







 $\circ~$  Line flux  $\mathcal{F}_{line}$  evolves as:



Data Fitting  $\rightarrow a \sim 0.9$ 

线辐射:与结构化喷流有差异

- Two key problems: Q3 & Q4
- Q4 is a big chanllenge !

ignored in the literature



### **Q3: Why the MeV line is so bright ?**



### Pair production optical depth $\tau_{\gamma\gamma} \Rightarrow \varepsilon_c$

$$\frac{dN_{\pm}}{dt'dN_{\gamma}(\epsilon_{1}')} \approx \frac{c}{2} \int (1-\mu') \frac{d\Omega'}{4\pi} \int \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dV'd\epsilon_{2}'} \sigma_{\gamma\gamma} d\epsilon_{2}' \qquad dN_{\gamma}/d\epsilon \propto L_{e}/\epsilon \propto e^{-(\alpha+1)}$$
Svensson, R. 1987, =  $(\eta_{\alpha}/2) c\sigma_{T}(1/\epsilon_{1}') \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dV'd\epsilon_{2}'} \Big|_{\epsilon_{2}'=1/\epsilon_{1}'} \qquad \alpha \approx p/2 \approx 1, \eta_{\alpha}/2 = 11/180$ 
(2)  $N_{>\delta_{D}/c} \approx (\delta_{D}^{2}/\epsilon)^{-\alpha} \delta_{N_{\gamma}}$ 

$$\approx \frac{(\eta_{\alpha}/2) \sigma_{T}}{4\pi R^{2}} (\delta_{D}^{2}/\epsilon_{1}) \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{dt'd\epsilon_{2}} \Big|_{\epsilon_{2}'=\delta_{D}^{2}/\epsilon_{1}} \qquad (3) \qquad \delta_{F_{\gamma}'} = \delta_{N_{\gamma}} \delta_{D} m_{e} c^{2};$$
(1)  $\tau_{\gamma\gamma}(\epsilon_{1}) = \frac{dN_{\pm}}{dN_{\gamma}(c_{1})} \approx \frac{(\eta_{\alpha}/2) \sigma_{T}}{4\pi R^{2}} (\delta_{D}^{2}/\epsilon_{1}) \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{d\epsilon_{2}} \Big|_{\epsilon_{2}'=\delta_{D}^{2}/\epsilon_{1}} = \frac{\Gamma^{2}}{\epsilon_{p}} \Big[ \frac{4\pi r^{2} \epsilon_{p} m_{e} c^{2}}{(\alpha \eta_{\alpha}/2) \sigma_{T} \delta E_{\gamma}} \Big]^{1/\alpha}$ 

$$= \frac{(\alpha \eta_{\alpha}/2) \sigma_{T} N_{>\delta_{D}^{2}/\epsilon_{1}}}{4\pi R^{2}} \approx \frac{(11/180) \sigma_{T} N_{>\delta_{D}^{2}/\epsilon_{1}}}{4\pi R^{2}} \Rightarrow \epsilon_{c} \sim \max(\epsilon |_{\tau_{\gamma\gamma}=1}, \delta_{D}) \text{ at } \alpha = 1)$$

**ZZ**, H.Lin, Z.Li, S.Xiong et al. (2024); Z. Li 2010

#### $L_{\text{line}} \gg 10^{51} \text{ erg/s is required!}$

- $\delta N_{\gamma}$ : photon number above the spectral peak;
- $\delta E_{\gamma} = \delta N_{\gamma} \, \delta_D \, m_e \, c^2$  $\frac{L_{\epsilon}}{\epsilon} \propto N_{\gamma}(\epsilon) \propto \epsilon^{-(\alpha + 1)}$

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#### **Q4: Why the MeV line is so narrow ?**



#### **Fast cooling mechanisms**

○ Cooling equation → Energy-lose rate:  $U' = U'_{R} + U'_{\gamma}$ 

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\gamma'_{e}}{\mathrm{d}t'} = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{\gamma'_{e}^{2}\beta'_{e}^{2}\sigma_{\mathrm{T}}cU'}{m_{e}c^{2}} = -\frac{\gamma'_{e}^{2}\beta'_{e}^{2}}{2\tau} \qquad \text{[see ZZ et al. (2024)]}$$

• Timescale for Cooling of  $e^{\pm}$  pairs:  $\tau = 3\pi r^2 \Gamma^2 m_e c^2 / 2\sigma_T L_{\rm em}$ 

#### **Q4: Why the MeV line is so narrow?**

#### **b).** Constraint on bulk motion

 $\circ$  Variations over EATS:

 $\Delta(1 - \beta\cos\theta)r + (1 - \beta\cos\theta)\Delta r = 0$ 

 $\circ~$  Narrow line width of  $\sim 10\%~$ 

 $\frac{\Delta r}{r} = \frac{\Delta \delta_D}{\delta_D} \lesssim 0.1$ Independent of line's origins!  $\Rightarrow \text{The HLE approximation} \\ \text{holds well! (also see Yi et al. 2024)}$ 

• Fast cooling & annihilation timescales:  $t'_{\rm NR}$  &  $t'_{\rm ann} \leq 0.1 t'_{\rm dyn}$ 

✓ The line central energy evolving as 
$$t^{-1} \Rightarrow t'_{dyn} = \frac{r}{\Gamma c} =$$

$$t'_{\rm dyn} = \frac{r}{\Gamma c} = A/m_e c^2 = 1.64 \times 10^3 s$$

 $\delta_D = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1 - \beta \cos \theta)}$ 

 $\implies$  further constraints on  $e^{\pm}$  pair's creation, cooling, and annihilation

engine

Earth

EATS

**ZZ** et al. (2024)

 $r + \Delta r$ 

#### **Further constraints**



 $\circ t'_{ann} \leq 0.1 t'_{dyn} \Rightarrow$  fast annihilation of  $e^{\pm}$  pairs :

- Cross section of annihilation:  $\sigma_{e^+e^-} = \frac{3}{8} \sigma_T \beta_e'^{-1}$
- Timescale for pair annihilation:  $t'_{ann} \simeq \frac{1}{n'_{\pm}\sigma_{e^+e^-}\beta'_e c} = \frac{8}{3} \frac{1}{\sigma_T n'_{\pm} c} \lesssim 0.1 t'_{dyn}$

How to estimate the number density  $n'_+$  of  $e^\pm$  pairs ?

#### Number density of NR $e^{\pm}$ pairs $n'_{\pm} = ?$

If the spatial distribution of NR pairs is **clumpy** with volume filling factor  $f_v < 1$ , then  $n'_+ = f_v^{-1} \langle n'_+ \rangle$ 

 Here, f<sub>v</sub> < 1 may arise from magnetic connection, shocks, baryonic interaction, and NP mechanisms?

• **Balance** between **formation** and **annihilation of**  $e^{\pm}$  pairs:

formation rate density = annihilation rate density

$$\frac{\dot{N}_{\gamma}|_{\epsilon_c}}{4\pi r^2 c \Gamma t'_{\text{dyn}}} \simeq (\epsilon_c/\epsilon_p)^{-\alpha} L_{\gamma}/4\pi r^3 m_e c^2 \epsilon_p \iff \langle n'_{\pm} \rangle / t'_{\text{ann}} \simeq (3/8) \langle n'_{\pm} \rangle n'_{\pm} \sigma_T c$$
(spatially averaged)
(spatially averaged)
(spatially averaged)

$$\Rightarrow n'_{\pm} = f_{v}^{-1/2} [(8/3)(\epsilon_{c}/\epsilon_{p})^{-\alpha}L_{\gamma}/4\pi r^{3}m_{e}c^{3}\sigma_{T}\epsilon_{p}]^{1/2}$$



#### **Optical depth problem**

♦ Q3: large  $L_{\text{line}}$  → high  $n'_{\pm}$  ↑ → large  $\tau_{\text{es}}$  ↑ → blackbody  $\Rightarrow$  Q4: narrow Gaussian line

• Generally, the Thompson optical depth of a GRB jet for a photon:

$$\tau_{\rm es} = \left\langle n'_{\pm} \right\rangle \sigma_T \, r/\Gamma = \frac{8}{3} f_{\nu} \, \frac{t'_{\rm dyn}}{t'_{\rm ann}} \sim \frac{80}{3} f_{\nu}$$

- Traditionally,  $f_v = 1 \rightarrow \tau_{es} \gg 1$  (always). If so, any spectral line should appear as blackbody emission, inconsistent with observations. [That's why we introduce  $f_v < 1$ ]
- As fast pair annihilation occurs, it reduces the time that a photon can interact with pairs to 0.1  $t'_{dyn}$ . Thus, the Thompson optical depth of the line emission

$$\tau_{\rm es} = 0.1 \left\langle n'_{\pm} \right\rangle \sigma_T \, r/\Gamma = \frac{8}{30} f_v \, \frac{t'_{\rm dyn}}{t'_{\rm ann}} \sim \frac{8}{3} f_v$$

- If  $\tau_{es} = 1$ ,  $f_v < \frac{3}{8} \Rightarrow$  the presence of a slightly clumpy region;
- The MeV line is able to freely escape from the pair plasma.



→ directly restrict the physics of GRB jets with observations, leaving a large parameter space available.

- 1) 粗黑线(Q1):  $E_{\text{line}} \propto t^{-1}$
- 2) 灰色阴影:~37 MeV
- 3) 褐色阴影(Q3): L<sub>line,0</sub> ≳ 10<sup>51-52</sup> erg/s
- 4) 红(虚)线(Q3↔Q4): τ<sub>es</sub> = 1?
- 5) 绿(虚)线(Q4): σ/E<sub>line</sub>~ 0.1

# → High-latitude emission from a bright $e^{\pm}$ annihilation line!

--- partially confirmed by Pe'er & Zhang; Yi et al. 2024



#### Dynamic mechanism / TeV afterglow origin !?

Jet's bulk Lorentz factor:  $\Gamma \propto (t - t_0)^{-k}$  Medium density:  $n \propto r^{-s}$ 

If  $s \in [0, 3)$ , k = (3 - s)/(8 - 2s) < 3/8

If  $s \ge 3$ , n will decrease steeply with r and the shock even speeds up with r  $\checkmark k \approx 1 \rightarrow \text{large density bumps in the medium}$  front of shocks  $\Rightarrow$  modify THs of GRBs  $\checkmark \Gamma$  decreases to  $\sim 10$  within  $t_{\text{dur}} \sim 100$ s, in contradiction with TeV afterglow data  $(\Gamma \sim 440 \nearrow 700)$ 

At the deceleration radius (LHAASO 2024),

 $r_{\rm dec} \sim 10^{17} \,\mathrm{cm}(E_{\rm k}/10^{55} \,\mathrm{erg})^{1/3} (\Gamma_0/440)^{-2/3} (n/1 \,\mathrm{cm}^3)^{-2/3}$ 

✓ → The born pairs are unable to reach a NR state because the luminosity  $L_{\text{TeV}}$  of the external shock emission is too low

### Atomic line / Nuclear line !?

- o keV-scale atomic line of heavy element
  - E. Ravasio et al.(2024) Wei et al.(2024)
    Eline ~ 8 − 10 MeV → Γ ~ 800-1700
    Y.Q. Zhang et al.(2024)
    If Eline ~ 37 MeV, Γ ≫ 700, in contradiction with TeV afterglow data (Γ ~ 440 ∠ 700)
- o nuclear decay line
  - line central energy:  $E_d \sim 0.1 3 \text{ MeV}$

Hadronic Processes : How to cool baryons to NR?

- mean lifetime  $(\tau_d)$ :  $t_{dur} \sim 135$  s, i.e.,  $\tau_d \gtrsim \Gamma t_{dur} \gtrsim 10^3 10^4$  s
- total mass of radioisotope  $(M_{iso})$ :

$$L_{\text{line}} = \frac{\Gamma^2 f_d E_d M_{\text{iso}}}{f_d E_d M_{\text{iso}}} / (\tau_d A_{\text{iso}} m_b) \sim 10^{51} \text{erg s}^{-1} \implies M_{\text{iso}} \gtrsim A_{\text{iso}} f_d^{-1}$$

A traditional core collapse supernova:  $\leq 0.1 M_{\odot}$  <sup>56</sup>Ni with  $\tau_d \sim 10^6 s$ 

### **Summary and Conclusions**

Global Picture [see Yi et al. 2024 for details] :

large amount of prompt photons -> formation of  $e^{\pm}$  pairs -> two-photon annihilation -> balance before decoupling -> fast cooling -> annihilation line -> broadening factors -> escaping emission line from jet plasma

- Restricted the jet physics & emission mechanisms with observations, leaving a large parameter space available for the origin and mechanism of  $e^{\pm}$  annihilation line
- 1)  $\theta_{\text{jet}} \gtrsim 0.8^{\circ}$  [new method; direct measurement]
- 2)  $r \gtrsim 10^{16}$  cm &  $\Gamma$  (~ r const.)  $\gtrsim$  120 [also see Yi et al. 2024]
- 3)  $L_{\text{line}} \propto t^{-2.1} \rightarrow \text{angle dependence of line, as high-latitude emission } (E_{\text{line}} \propto t^{-1})$
- 4)  $\Gamma \gtrsim 400$  (TeV afterglow)  $\rightarrow$  a magnetic-energy dominated jet
- The γ-ray line can be naturally attributed to the high-latitude emission from the electron-positron annihilation line, basically excluding other origins such as atomic and nuclear lines, in consideration of conditions within GRB jets.



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# BACKUP

#### Jet's half-opening angle

- $\circ$  Narrow line width of  $\sim 10\%$  $\Rightarrow$  The HLE approximation holds well!
- Line central energy:
  - $\rightarrow E_{\text{line}} \sim \delta_D E'_{\text{line}} \propto (t t_0)^{-1}$

The power-law decay lasts for  $\gtrsim 135$  s

 $\theta_{\rm jet} \gtrsim 0.017 \text{ rad} \left(\frac{1}{500}\right)$  $\Rightarrow$  $pprox 0.8^{o}$  consistent with TeV afterglow observation

- **Direct**, independent measurement !
- **New** method !!

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Insight-HXMT and GECAM-C observations of the brightest-of-all-time GRB 221009A

 $\Delta r$ 

#### Insight-HXMT& GECAM collaboration

GRB 221009A is the brightest gamma-ray burst ever detected since the discovery of this kind of energetic explosions. However, an accurate measurement of the prompt emission properties of this burst is very challenging due to its exceptional brightness. With joint observations of Insight-HXMT and GECAM-C, we made an unprecedentedly accurate measurement of the emission during the first ~1800 s of GRB 221009A, including its precursor, main emission (ME, which dominates the burst in flux), flaring emission and early afterglow, in the hard X-ray to soft gamma-ray band from  $\sim$  10 keV to  $\sim$  6 MeV. Based on the GECAM-C unsaturated data of the ME, we measure a record-breaking isotropic equivalent energy  $(E_{iso})$ of  $\sim 1.5 \times 10^{55}$  erg, which is about eight times the total rest-mass energy of the Sun. The early afterglow data require a significant jet break between 650 s and 1100 s, most likely at  $\sim 950$  s from the afterglow starting time  $T_{AG}$ , which corresponds to a jet opening angle of  $\sim 0.7^{\circ} (\eta_{\gamma} n)^{1/8}$ , where n is the ambient medium density in units of cm<sup>-3</sup> and  $\eta_{\gamma}$  is the ratio between  $\gamma$ -ray energy and afterglow kinetic energy. The beaming-corrected total  $\gamma$ -ray



#### LHAASO Collaboration\*<sup>†</sup>

Some gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) have an afterglow in the tera-electronvolt (TeV) band, but the early onset of this afterglow has not been observed. We report observations with the Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory of the bright GRB 221009A, which serendipitously occurred within the instrument field of view. More than 64,000 photons (above 0.2 TeV) were detected within the first 3000 seconds. The TeV photon flux began several minutes after the GRB trigger, then rose to a flux peak about 10 seconds later. This was followed by a decay phase, which became more rapid at  $\sim 650 \, \mathrm{s}$  after the peak. The emission can be explained with a relativistic jet model with half-opening angle  $\sim 0.8^\circ$ , consistent with the core of a structured jet. This interpretation could explain the high isotropic energy of this GRB.

 $\frac{\Delta \delta_D}{=} \lesssim 0.1$  $\delta_D$ also see Yi et al. (2024);  $\delta_D =$ no HLE-like assumption  $\cos\theta$  $\Delta l$ EATS engine Earth  $r + \Delta r$ **ZZ** et al. (2024)

**B1**