Wino dark matter in light of the AMS-02 2015 data

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The AMS-02 collaboration has recently reported the antiproton to proton ratio with improved accuracy. In view of uncertainties of the production and the propagation of the cosmic rays, the observed ratio is still consistent with the secondary astrophysical antiproton to proton ratio. However, it is nonetheless enticing to examine whether the observed spectrum can be explained by a strongly motivated dark matter, the wino dark matter. As we will show, the antiproton flux from the wino annihilation can explain the observed spectrum well for its mass range 2.5–3 TeV. The fit to data becomes particularly well compared to the case without the annihilation for the thermal wino dark matter case with a mass about 3 TeV. The ratio is predicted to decrease quickly at the energy several hundreds of GeV, which will be confirmed or ruled out in the near future when the AMS-02 experiment accumulates enough data at this higher energy region.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The AMS-02 collaboration has recently reported the antiproton to proton ratio with improved accuracy [1]. The observed spectrum of the antiproton fraction looks flatter than the one expected for the secondary astrophysical antiproton. At this point, however, it is premature to say that the observed fraction requires new sources of antiproton such as dark matter. In fact, the detailed analyses in [2,3] have shown that the observed spectrum is still consistent with the one of the secondary antiproton within the uncertainties of the production and the propagation of the cosmic rays.

Having said so, it is nonetheless enticing to examine whether a theoretically motivated dark matter candidate, the wino dark matter, can fit the spectrum when the secondary astrophysical antiproton cannot fully explain the spectrum of the fraction. The wino dark matter is, in fact, anticipated in a wide class of supersymmetric standard models where the gaugino masses are generated by the anomaly mediated supersymmetry breaking contributions [4]. In particular, in conjunction with the high scale supersymmetry breaking [5–11] (see also [12]), the models with anomaly mediated gaugino masses are considered to be one of the most attractive possibilities. In addition to a good dark matter candidate (i.e. the wino), this class of models explains the observed Higgs boson mass about 125 GeV [13] simultaneously.1

As a phenomenologically notable feature of the wino dark matter, it is not only a good candidate for weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP) but also predicts a rather large annihilation cross section (mainly into a W± pair) due to the so-called Sommerfeld enhancement [16–18]. Thus, the wino dark matter predicts strong signals in indirect detection searches. In particular, the signals in the antiproton flux is one of the promising discovery channels of the wino dark matter, where the antiprotons are produced from the W± in the main annihilation mode.

In this paper, we demonstrate how well the observed spectrum of the antiproton fraction can be fitted by the annihilation of the wino dark matter. As we will show, the antiproton flux from the wino annihilation can explain the observed spectrum very well for its mass about 2.5–3 TeV. In particular, the fit to the data becomes very well compared to the case without the annihilation for the thermal wino dark matter case with a mass about 3 TeV. It should be emphasized that the wino dark matter has only one free parameter, the mass of the wino M_Wino, and hence, it is quite nontrivial that the spectrum can be fitted very well by the wino annihilation contribution.

II. THE WINO DARK MATTER

Let us briefly review the wino dark matter in the high scale supersymmetry breaking models. Here, we take the pure gravity mediation model [7,8] as an example, although the following properties are not changed significantly in other models as long as the Higgsinos are heavy enough. In the model, the gaugino masses are dominantly generated by the anomaly mediation [4],2 which are one-loop suppressed compared to the gravitino mass. The Higgsino mass is, on

1Apart from the supersymmetric theories, the wino-like dark matter is also discussed extensively as “minimal dark matter scenario” [14] (see also [15]).

2See [19–21] for discussion of the anomaly mediation mechanism in superspace formalism of supergravity.
So far, the mass of the wino dark matter has been constrained by collider experiments. Among them, the searches for disappearing tracks made by a short lived charged wino inside the detectors put a lower limit on the mass of the wino dark matter,

\[ M_{\tilde{w}} \gtrsim 270 \text{ GeV}, \quad (1) \]

with 20 fb\(^{-1}\) data at LHC 8 TeV running [28].\(^3\) At the 14 TeV running, the limit can be pushed up to 500 GeV with 100 fb\(^{-1}\) data [30]. See also Refs. [31–33] for more details on the future prospects of the wino dark matter searches at the collider experiments.

The wino dark matter is also constrained by the indirect detections of dark matter in cosmic rays. To date, the most robust limit comes from the gamma-ray searches from the dwarf spheroidal galaxies (dSphs) at the Fermi-LAT experiment. By taking uncertainties of the dark matter profile of the dSphs [35,36], it has excluded \( M_{\tilde{w}} \lesssim 320 \text{ GeV} \) and \( 2.25 \text{ TeV} \lesssim M_{\tilde{w}} \lesssim 2.43 \text{ TeV} \) at the 95% confidence level (C.L.) using four-year data [34].\(^4\) It should be noted that the constraints on the wino dark matter via monochromatic gamma-ray searches from the galactic center [37] and from the dSphs [38] by the H.E.S.S experiments are less stringent due to large uncertainties of the dark matter profile at the galaxy center (see e.g. Ref. [39]) and the small cross section into the monochromatic gamma rays.

\(^3\)See [29] for a two-loop calculation of the wino mass splitting.

\(^4\)For uncertainties and future prospects of the searches for the wino dark matter via the gamma rays from the dSphs, see e.g. [35,36].
III. ANTIPROTON FLUX FROM THE WINO ANNIHILATION

Now, let us discuss the antiproton flux from the annihilation of the wino dark matter. The wino annihilation in the dark matter halo produces the weak bosons, whose subsequent decay and hadronization make the antiprotons. In this work, we assume the dark matter mass density is the Navarro–Frenk–White (NFW) profile [40] with profile parameters \( \rho_\odot = 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3 \) (the local halo density), \( r_c = 20 \text{ kpc} \) (the core radius), and \( r_s = 8.5 \text{ kpc} \). The antiproton energy spectrum is estimated with the program PYTHIA6 [41]. We have used the programs DRAGON [42], to calculate the antiproton propagation in the galaxy.

In Fig. 1(a), we show the constraints on the parameters \( M_{\text{DM}} \) and \( \langle \sigma v \rangle \). The red solid, blue dashed, and green dotted lines show the upper bound on the annihilation cross section at 95% C.L. for MIN, MED and MAX propagation models [43], respectively. To get the conservative upper bounds, we assume the background antiproton spectrum is arbitrary. The figure shows, for example, that \( m_\tilde{w} \lesssim 500 \text{ GeV} \) is excluded for MED propagation model, although the constraint is much weaker for the MIN propagation model.

In the figure, we also show the preferred parameter space as the shaded regions for each propagation model to explain the AMS-02 “excess” (1\( \sigma \)) level. In this analysis, we take the best-fitted background of Ref. [2] assuming the background only hypothesis, and add the dark matter contributions. For the fitting, we use the AMS-02 \( \bar{p}/p \) data with \( T_p > 50 \text{ GeV} \).

The orange band shows the upper bound on the annihilation cross section from dSphs with six years Fermi-LAT data [44]. Here, the width of the band represents an uncertainty of the constraint from the ultrafaint dSphs which comes from the uncertainties of the dark matter density profile of the ultrafaint dSphs. According to Ref. [44], we adopt a factor 5 as an uncertainty of the Fermi-LAT constraints. We show the cross section of the wino and the Higgsino annihilation to the weak bosons (upper and lower black solid line, respectively). The yellow vertical band shows the mass range in which the thermal relic abundance of the wino is the observed dark matter density [24].

In Fig. 1(b), we show the antiproton to proton ratio with the wino dark matter contributions. Here we take the wino mass 2.5 TeV for MIN (red), 2.9 TeV for MED (blue) and 3.2 TeV for MAX (green), which give the best fits. The dashed lines show the best fit result without the dark matter contributions [2].

Note that the estimation of the antiproton flux have various uncertainties [45]. The most important uncertainty is the propagation model as seen in Fig. 1(a). Another significant effect comes from the dark matter halo model. For instance, if we adopt the Burkert halo profile [46], a few times larger cross section is needed for the best fit, depending on the propagation model. The uncertainty of the local dark matter density also affects the predicted cross section, which is scaled as \( \langle \rho_\odot / 0.4 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3} \rangle^{-2} \). The higher order corrections to the annihilation process [47,48] and uncertainty of the hadronization affect the prediction of the antiproton flux by \( O(10) \% \).

In this analysis, we have fixed astrophysical backgrounds to the best-fitted ones of Ref. [2]. Let us here comment on the case that we fully fit the spectrum with both the background and the dark matter contributions. In the low-energy region \( T_p < O(10) \text{ GeV} \), the contributions from the dark matter get tiny and the antiproton to proton ratio in this region determined almost solely by the background contributions. For the higher energy region, on the other hand, both the background and dark matter contributions are comparable for the background we took in our analysis. Thus, for a smaller background antiproton flux, the larger dark matter contributions are required to compensate the spectrum. Therefore, we expect that full fitting (including background flux) leads to a larger best fit region towards a larger cross section and a smaller mass region, so that the dark matter contribution can be enhanced.

With these uncertainties, it is hard to conclude that the AMS-02 result points only the 3 TeV wino region. Depending on these uncertainties, the lighter wino \( (M_{\tilde{w}} \lesssim 1.5 \text{ TeV}) \) can also fit the antiproton to proton ratio, if the nonthermal wino production realizes the observed dark matter density. For instance, the 1.5 TeV wino with the MED propagation model and the lower local halo density e.g., 0.3 GeV cm\(^{-3}\) also provides good fitting, as seen in Fig. 1(a). However we expect the 3 TeV region is always preferred, even if we include these uncertainties.

IV. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSIONS

We have examined how the annihilation of the wino dark matter affects the antiproton to proton ratio in the light of new data reported by the AMS-02 collaboration [1]. As a result, we found that the annihilation of the wino dark matter can explain the observed spectrum of the antiproton fraction for \( M_{\tilde{w}} = 2.5–3 \text{ TeV} \) when the spectrum cannot be fully explained by the secondary astrophysical antiprotons. The fit to the data becomes particularly well compared to the case without the annihilation for the thermal wino dark matter, i.e. \( M_{\tilde{w}} = 3 \text{ TeV} \) as can be clearly seen in Fig. 1. It is worth notifying that the lighter wino \( (M_{\tilde{w}} \lesssim 1.5 \text{ TeV}) \) can also account for the AMS-02 excess because of several

\[^5\text{In the case of the NFW profile, the gamma-ray constraints from the galactic center are severe. However, these constraints strongly owe to the assumption that the dark matter density profile at the galactic center exactly obeys the NFW profile. A small modification of the central structure can drastically relax the gamma-ray constraints, while the effect to the antiproton flux is small.}\]
uncertainties on the propagation of antiprotons, the DM profile, etc., as mentioned before.

It is of course premature to conclude that the wino dark matter is needed to explain the ratio reported by the AMS-02 collaboration. The observed data is still consistent with the traditional secondary astrophysical antiproton to proton ratio within systematic uncertainties associated with cosmic-ray propagation [2,3]. However, this interesting possibility of the wino contribution can be tested in near future when the AMS-02 experiment accumulates more data on the ratio at $T_p \gg O(100)$ GeV, for the constitution is predicted to be decreased quickly at this $T_p$ region.

In addition to the antiproton flux, the AMS-02 can also precisely measure other secondary-to-primary ratios such as boron-to-carbon (B/C), which will lead to very strong constraints on the cosmic-ray propagation model [49]. This high-precision measurement may reveal the wino dark matter really account for the AMS-02 “anomaly.”

Several comments are in order. Besides the antiproton to proton ratio, the AMS-02 collaboration has also reported the electron and the positron fluxes as well as the positron fraction with high accuracy [50–52]. As is well known, these data seem to require some new contributions to those fluxes in addition to the standard ones. The annihilation of the wino dark matter (without any astrophysical boost factors unfortunately) gives too small contributions to the fluxes when its mass is $O(1)$ TeV [53]. Thus, the anomalies should be explained by some other sources, such as nearby pulsars [54–57] in the case that the antiproton flux is explained by the wino annihilation. As an alternative possibility, it is also possible to explain the excesses in the positron flux/fraction by the decay of the wino dark matter with a lifetime of $10^{26}–10^{28}$ sec caused by a slight $R$-parity violation by $LLE^*$-type interactions [58–60]. With the decay, the wino with a mass of around 3 TeV can explain the observed positron/electron spectrum. In this model, the decay does not contribute to the antiproton flux significantly. Therefore the decaying wino dark matter can explain the observed antiproton and positron fluxes simultaneously.

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