An undiscovered pulsar in the Local Bubble as an explanation of the local high energy cosmic ray all-electron spectrum

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Cosmic ray electrons and positrons are tracers of particle propagation in the interstellar medium (ISM). A recent measurement performed using H.E.S.S. extends the all-electron (electron+positron) spectrum up to 20 TeV, probing very local sources and transport due to the 10 kyr cooling time of these particles. An additional key local measurement was the recent estimation of the ISM diffusion coefficient around Geminga performed using HAWC. The inferred diffusion coefficient is much lower than typically assumed values. It has been argued that if this diffusion coefficient is representative of the local ISM, pulsars would not be able to account for the all-electron spectrum measured at the Earth. Here we show that a low diffusion coefficient in the local ISM is compatible with a pulsar wind nebula origin of the highest energy electrons, if a so far undiscovered pulsar with spin-down power $\sim 10^{34}$ erg/s exists within 30 to 80 pc of the Earth. The existence of such a pulsar is broadly consistent with the known population and may be detected in near future survey observations. The results included in this proceeding and shown in this presentation were published in [1]. The details about this analysis can be found in the aforementioned reference.

References