

Measuring the Galaxy's Antimatter From a Balloon

What is the science goal?

The Compton Spectrometer and Imager (COSI) aims to measure gamma rays from the annihilation of matter and antimatter.

Why a balloon?

Balloons provide a fast, cost-effective way to do science and demonstrate new technologies.

What was the impact?

We found the distribution of antimatter around the center of our Milky Way galaxy to be more broad than previous measurements. The team is working towards a satellite version of COSI to further explore this science question.

Why does it matter to non-scientists?

The source of antimatter in our galaxy remains a puzzle even after 50 years of study, but now COSI has taught us something new without ever leaving Earth's atmosphere.