Axions-2020

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ICCPA-2020, October 6



Some of the original results obtained jointly with A. Korochkin, G. Rubtsov, M. Libanov, D. Gorbunov, P. Tinyakov, I. Tkachev, M. Fairbairn, T. Rashba

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A general U(1): axion-like particles (ALPs)



spontaneous breaking of U(1): Goldstone boson (massless)

(one scale)



spontaneous + small explicit breaking: pseudo-Goldstone boson (light)

(two scales)



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The U(1): Peccei & Quinn 1977





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Roberto PECCEI 1942 - 2020

Personal: "Peccei's money" 1993



 Nuclear Physics B412 (1994) 607-620

 North-Holland

 Tree amplitudes at multiparticle threshold in a model with softly broken O(2) symmetry

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 Institute for Nuclear Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 60th October Anniversary prospect, 7a, 117 312 Moscow, Russian Federation

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Axions and ALPs are popular...



- strong CP problem
- fundamental symmetries
- string theories
- dark matter
- cosmological structure formation
- topological defects
- stellar evolution
- supernovae

.....

- gamma-ray astronomy
- UHE cosmic rays
- solar corona heating



ALP-photon interaction

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}(\partial a)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2a^2 - \frac{1}{4}gaF_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$



- allowed by all symmetries, hence appears
- dimensionful coupling g suppressed by the U(1) breaking scale
 - ✓ related to the ALPmass for a particular model, e.g. the QCD axion
- photon/ALP mixing in the external magnetic field
- conversion probability depends on the mass, coupling, energy and field

$$\frac{a}{M}F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}, \quad M \sim f_A \sim \frac{\Lambda_{\rm QCD}^2}{m}$$

• coupling of a (pseudo)Goldstone boson determined by the current algebra

ALP-fermion interaction

- dimensionless coupling suppressed by the U(1) breaking scale
 - ✓ related to the ALP mass for a particular model, e.g. the QCD axion
- zero or not, depending on particular quantum numbers
- electron-ALP coupling of particular interest





ALP-photon: shining light through walls





Pair production: the Universe is opaque to gamma rays

Nikishov 1962







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ALP-photon: shining light through the Universe





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ALP: "anomalous transparency of the Universe"?



 "IR/TeV crisis" – individual sources spectra of distant sources look differently compared to physically similar nearby ones statistics of "deabsorbed" spectra: features right at the energies for which the correction becomes important!

State of the art – increasing statistics, better known distances:

- the anomaly is confirmed for a part of sources both "old" and "new" ones
- many new, weaker sources do not demonstrate any problem
- modest overall statistical significance of the anomaly

Korochkin, Rubtsov, ST 2019



Anisotropy: anomalous sources point to the local filament!



Supports the axion-TL. photon mixing in largescale structure filaments Fairbairn, Rashba, ST 2009 $\gamma_{\rm EBL}$ a а MW TT ST 2020



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Future tests of the anisotropy and its ALP explanation



- isotropic samples of blazars
- tests of *HiRes* BL Lac correlations with *Telescope Array*
- search for the ALP in a lab
 - ✓ *ALPS-IIc* in DESY (light through walls)
 - ✓ *babyIAXO* (solar axions/ALPs)





XENON1T 2020 – a claim for a solar ALP

- liquid xenon experiment for dark-matter search in Gran Sasso
- electronic recoil
- excess of counts at low energies (2-3 keV, range 1-30 keV)
- consistent with a signal from solar ALP interacting with electrons
- axion explanation preferred over known systematics/backgrounds XENON1T 2020









ALPs affect stellar evolution

light particles with very suppressed interactions remove energy from stellar interiors evolutionary timescales shorten

*

light particles with stronger but suppressed interactions result in energy transfer between parts of a star mechanical construction of a star changes

relevant for the electron coupling:

white-dwarf luminosity function average rate of WD cooling *Blinnikov, Vysotsky 1990*

pulsating white dwarf period change rate of individual WD cooling Isern et al. 1992 HB stars to red giants ratio time scale of helium burning Dicus et al. 1978

tip of the red-giant branch time of helium ignition

Raffelt 1990

constrains much stronger than from laboratory experiments reviews: *Raffelt 1996 (book), Giannotti et al. 2015, 2017*



XENON1T 2020 – axion explanation excluded from stars

- ALP-electron coupling too large! •
- no helium-burning stars form at all... •
- solar lifetime OK ٠



19 sigma exclusion. 10 times lower coupling already excluded at 99% CL



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Solar data excl.

+ LUX excl.

CAST excl. $(m_a < 0.7 \text{ eV})$

Purely laboratory axion experiment: ALPS-IIc



- straightened HERA magnets
- locked cavities
 - (resonant generation and regeneration)
- data taking soon









European axion helioscope funded: babyIAXO

- similar concept and sensitivity as TASTE
- proposed in 2017, few months after TASTE
- 6.5 MEuro received from European grants
- construction started in DESY
- former TASTE groups joining babyIAXO now











Axions-2020

• tribute to late Roberto Peccei, wish more discoveries to Helen Quinn



• axions in gamma-ray astronomy: some hints and more tests to come

• XENON1T excess: axion explanation excluded from stars by 19 sigma



 new laboratory experiments are coming, but not in Russia



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CAST excl. (ma

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 10^{-10}

 $g_{a\gamma}[{\rm GeV}^{-1}]$

0.7 eV)

WDLF excl.

Solar data excl.

AST excl. (m_a < 20 meV

→ LUX excl.

