THE COSMIC AXION SPIN PRECESSION EXPERIMENT

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What we really need to search for dark matter...



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FANTASTIC COLLABORATION!





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OUTLINE

- Ultralight bosonic dark matter and axions.
- CASPEr-electric.
- CASPEr-wind Ultralow Field.
- CASPEr-wind Low Field.

Many ultralight bosons can occupy a single state.

Standard Halo Model: manifest as a classical oscillating field with a coherence length given by their deBroglie wavelength.



Locally observed dark matter amplitude is the result of interference of bosonic waves with random phases, thus has stochastic fluctuations (akin to chaotic light).



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Affects interpretation of data if few coherence times are sampled in experiment!



Centers et al., arXiv:1905.13650.

Discussed in



Axions

Axions are spin-zero bosons that arise due to symmetries broken at a high energy scale f_a .

They appear in many extensions of the Standard Model (e.g., in string theory and in solutions to the hierarchy problem).

The axion mass is proportional to the symmetry-breaking scale:

$$m_a \propto \frac{1}{f_a}$$

Probing high energy scales by searching for ultralight bosons



Axion couplings





Coupling to electromagnetic field



Axion-induced spin precession

 $\mathbf{B}_{0} \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{n} \quad \mathbf{E}$ $\tau_{\rm EDM} = \mathbf{d}_n(t) \times \mathbf{E}$ $d_n = g_d a_0 \approx \frac{g_d}{m_a} \sqrt{\frac{2\hbar^3}{c}} \rho_{\rm DM}$ $\mathbf{B}_{0} \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{n} \quad \mathbf{B}_{a}(t)$ CASPEr Wind $\mathbf{B}_{a}(t)$ $\tau_{\rm wind} = \boldsymbol{\mu}_n \times \mathbf{B}_a(t)$ $B_a pprox 10^{-3} imes rac{g_{aNN}}{\hbar \gamma_n} \sqrt{2\hbar^3 c^3
ho_{\rm DM}}$

Axion field detection

sample

Completely analogous to nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)!



Larmor frequency = axion field oscillation frequency → resonant enhancement.

CASPEr Electric

Axion-induced electric dipole moments (EDMs)

Nuclear EDM from the strong interaction (strong CP problem):

 $d \approx 3 \times 10^{-16} \text{ e} \cdot \text{cm} \times \theta_{\text{QCD}}$.

Nuclear EDM from axion field:

 $d \approx 3 \times 10^{-16} \text{ e} \cdot \text{cm} \times \frac{a}{f_a} , \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Can be thought of as} \\ \text{an oscillating } \theta_{\text{QCD}} \end{array}$ $\approx \frac{3 \times 10^{-16} \text{ e} \cdot \text{cm}}{f_a} \times a_0 \cos(m_a t) .$

Axion oscillation frequency

Determined by the axion mass, related to the global symmetry breaking scale f_a :

$$m_a \sim \frac{\left(200 \text{ MeV}\right)^2}{f_a} \sim \text{MHz} \times \left(\frac{10^{16} \text{ GeV}}{f_a}\right)$$

 f_a at GUT scale \rightarrow MHz frequencies,

 f_a at Planck scale \rightarrow kHz frequencies.

Axion-induced oscillating EDM

Assuming axions are the dark matter, the dark matter density fixes the ratio a_0/f_a :

$$\rho_{\rm DM} \sim m_a^2 a_0^2 \sim \frac{(200 \text{ MeV})^4}{f_a^2} a_0^2 \sim 0.3 \frac{\text{GeV}}{\text{cm}^3} ,$$
$$\frac{a_0}{f_a} \sim 3 \times 10^{-19} .$$

This generates an oscillating EDM:

$$d \sim 10^{-34} \,\mathrm{e} \cdot \mathrm{cm} \times \cos\left(m_a t\right) \,.$$

Signal estimate $M \approx nP\mu_n \varphi_{\text{EDM}} \approx nP\mu_n \frac{\varepsilon_S d_n E^* T_2}{\hbar}$ $\approx nP\mu_n \frac{\varepsilon_S E^* T_2}{\hbar} \frac{g_d}{m_a} \sqrt{\frac{2\hbar^3}{c}} \rho_{\text{DM}}$,

n = nuclear spin density, P = nuclear polarization, μ_n = magnetic moment, E^* = effective electric field, ε_S = Schiff suppression, Ω_L = Larmor frequency.

Sample choice

 $E^* \approx 3 \times 10^8 \frac{\mathrm{V}}{\mathrm{cm}} !$

Better sensitivity with larger *n*, *P*, E^* , and long T_2 .

For the first generation CASPEr-Electric experiment, we use a ferroelectric crystal: PMN-PT.

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Nuclear-spin relaxation of ²⁰⁷Pb in ferroelectric powders

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PMN-PT

In a ferroelectric oxide, oxygen electrons penetrate into the Pb ion core, creating a gradient of electron density at the Pb nucleus.

Avoids Schiff cancellation via finite size nucleus and relativistic effects.





PMN-PT



Experimental strategy

(1) Thermally polarize spins in a cryogenic environment at high magnetic field (~ 10 T);

(2) Scan magnetic field down from 10 T -- Larmor frequency decreases from ~ 50 MHz;

(3) Integrate for ~ 10 ms at each frequency, complete scan takes around 1000 s $\approx T_1$ to complete.



Detection

Low Noise Amplifier



Tuned probes
Low noise amplifiers at 300K and 4K

Superconducting Quantum Interference Devices (SQUIDs)

- Measured noise level on order of $\mu \Phi_0 / \sqrt{Hz}$
- Broadband

Experiments are underway!









NMR of Pb in PMN-PT

Preliminary search for axions

CASPEr Wind: Ultralow Field

Zero-to-ultralow field (ZULF) NMR

Comagnetometry

Comagnetometry

Comagnetometry

Higher frequencies: Oscillating axion field \rightarrow sidebands

NMR sideband detection

NMR sideband detection

Detection: best phase search

No signal detected in search

No signal detected in search

CASPEr Wind: Low Field

Signal amplification

$$B(Coil \ 1) = \frac{8\pi\mu}{3}n$$

During coherence time τ , polarized spins rotate by angle:

 $\varphi pprox B_{ALP} \mu au$,

Signal amplification

Oscillating field detected by Coil 2 is given by:

Sample choice: liquid Xenon

Density	Magnetic Moment	T_2
(n)	(µ)	
$1.3\times10^{22}\frac{1}{\mathrm{cm}^3}$	$0.35\mu_N$	1300 s

Relatively large sample can be hyperpolarized.

The enhancement factor can be on the order of 10⁶.

Coupling constant in magnetic field units is:

 $g_{aNN} \approx 3 \times 10^3 \times B[\text{G}] \text{ GeV}^{-1}$.

Experiments underway!

Experiments underway!

CASPEr Wind sensitivity

Thank you!

