Using lasers and magnets to search for new physics

GamsmeV

William Wester Fermilab

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New Physics

- The next layer of the "new physics" has already started to reveal itself.
 - Neutrinos have mass!
 - Dark Matter exists!
 - There is something called Dark Energy!
- "Quarks to the Cosmos" and "The Quantum Universe" ask current fundamental questions in particle physics, astroparticle physics, and related fields.



Dark Matter exists







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Gam meV Strong CP problem

- The theory of the strong force predicts an electric dipole moment of the neutron.
- Precision measurements: d_{FDM} < 10⁻²⁸ e-cm
- be any number between 0 and 2π . Why ~0?
- Preferred solution is a new field with a new boson called the axion
- A real mystery in particle physics !!



Axions

Axions "clean-up"
 the strong-CP problem!



"If the axion does not exist, please tell me how to solve the strong CP problem." (Wilczek)





"Axions may be intrinsic to the structure of string theory." (Witten)

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Gam meV Axions as dark matter

• The axion is also a viable candidate for the dark matter of the universe!



GammeV motivation

- sub-eV (10⁻³) eV mass scale arises in various areas in modern particle physics.
 - Dark Energy density
 - $\Lambda^4 = 7 \times 10^{-30} \text{ g/cm}^3 \sim (2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV})^4$
 - Neutrinos
 - $(\Delta m_{21})^2 = (9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV})^2$
 - $(\Delta m_{32})^2 = (50 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV})^2$
 - See-saw with the TeV scale:
 - meV ~ TeV²/ M_{planck}
 - Dark Matter Candidates
 - Certain SUSY sparticles (low mass gravitino)
 - Axions and axion-like particles

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Energy frontier Neutrinos Astrophysics all in one!

Gamer PVLAS Experiment

 Designed to study the vacuum by optical means: birefringence (generated ellipticity) and dichroism (rotated polarization)





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Gamer PVLAS Rotation Results



PRL 96, 110406, (2006)

Gam MeV PVLAS ALP Interpretation

A new axion-like particle with mass at 1.2 meV and $g\sim 2\times 10^{-6}$ is consistent with rotation and ellipticity measurements.



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Light Shining Through a Wall Experiment



New Yorker



Light Shining Through a Wall Experiment





Light Shining Through a Wall Experiment



Assuming 5T magnet, the PVLAS "signal", and 532nm laser light

$$P_{regen}^{GammeV} = (3.9 \times 10^{-21}) \times \frac{(B_1/5 \text{ T})^2 (B_2/5 \text{ T})^2 (\omega/2.33 \text{ eV})^4}{(M/4 \times 10^5 \text{ GeV})^4 (m_{\phi}/1.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV})^8}$$

$$\times \sin^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{(m_{\phi}/1.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV})^2 (L_1/2.0 \text{ m})}{(\omega/2.33 \text{ eV})}\right) \sin^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{(m_{\phi}/1.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV})^2 (L_2/2.0 \text{ m})}{(\omega/2.33 \text{ eV})}\right)$$

Gamer BFRT Experiment

• Brookhaven, Fermilab, Rochester, Trieste (1992)



Gamer BFRT Experiment

• Brookhaven, Fermilab, Rochester, Trieste (1992)



GammeV Collaboration

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Ten person team including a summer student, 3 postdocs, 2 accelerator / laser experts, 4 experimentalists (nearly everyone had a day job) PLUS technical support at FNAL

Nov 2006 : Initial discussion and design (Aaron Chou, WW leaders)

- Apr 2007 : Review and approval from Fermilab (\$30K budget!)
- May 2007 : Acquire and machine parts
- Jun 2007 : Assemble parts, test electronics and PMT calibration
- Jul 2007 : First data but magnet and laser problems
- Aug 2007 : Start data taking in earnest
- Sep 2007 : Complete data taking and analysis
- Jan 2008 : PRL Accepted





GammeV Proposal

Search for evidence of a sub-eV particle in a light shining through a wall experiment to unambiguously test the PVLAS interpretation of an axion-like (pseudo-)scalar Calibration diode Temporary dark room





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Existing laser in Acc. Div. nearly identical with a similar spare available

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The "wall" is a welded steel cap on a steel tube in addition to a reflective mirror.







High-QE, low noise, fast PMT module (purchased)



Vary wall position to change baseline: **Gamered** Tune to the correct oscillation length A <u>unique feature</u> of our proposal to cover larger m_b range magnet $P_{\gamma \to \phi} = \frac{4B^2 \omega^2}{M^2 (\Lambda m^2)^2} \left(\sin \frac{\Delta m^2 L}{\Lambda m} \right)^2 \qquad \text{L = distance traversed in B field}$ $P_{regen} = \left(\frac{4B^2\omega^2}{M^2(\Lambda m^2)^2}\right)^2 \left(\sin\frac{\Delta m^2 L_1}{4\omega}\right)^2 \left(\sin\frac{\Delta m^2 L_2}{4\omega}\right)^2$



Apparatus

Gamme**V** was located on a test stand at Fermilab's Maget Test Facility. Two shifts/day of cryogenic operations were supported.

Laser

Tevatron magnet





Cryogenic magnet feed can Cryogenic magnet return can



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Data acquisition



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QuarkNet timing cards

- Built by Fermilab for Education Outreach (High School cosmic ray exp'ts.)
- Interfaces to computer via USB (Visual Basic software for our DAQ)
- Four inputs, phase locked to a GPS 1pps using a 100MHz clock that is divided by eight for 1.25ns timing.
- Boards also send firing commands to the laser and LED pulser system
- Digital oscilloscope recorded PMT signals for LED photons and for rare coincidences.

Time the laser pulses (20Hz) and time the PMT pulses (120Hz). Look for time correlated single photons. All pulses are ~10ns wide.

| | Ch0 | Ch1 | Ch2 | Ch3 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| PMT Quark Net | PMT pulse | LED pulse | Scope trigger | Isochro nous CLK |
| Laser Quark Net | Laser Photo diode | Laser Splash | Laser Synch pulse | Isochro nous CLK |

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Gamev Gammev Procedure

- Take data in four configurations
 - Scalar (with $\frac{1}{2}$ -wave plate) with the plunger in the center and at 1m
 - Pseudoscalar also with the plunger in the center and 1m positions
- In each configuration, acquire about 20 hours of magnet time or about 1.5M laser pulses at 20Hz.
 - Monitor the power of the laser using a power meter that absorbs the laser light reflected back into the laser box using NIST traceable calibration to +/-3%
- Total efficiency (25 +/- 3)%
 - PMT detection efficiencies from factory measurements QE x CE 39% x 70% = 27%
 - Measured attenuation in BK7 windows and lens: 92%
- Background in a 10ns wide search region is estimated by counting the events in a 10,000ns wide window around all the laser pulses and dividing by 1000.

GammeV Results

| Spin | Position | # Laser pulse | # photon / pulse | Expected Background | Signal Candidates |
|--------|----------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Scalar | Center | 1.34 M | 0.41e18 | 1.56±0.04 | 1 |
| Scalar | 1 m | 1.47M | 0.38e18 | 1.67±0.04 | 0 |
| Pseudo | Center | 1.43M | 0.41e18 | 1.59±0.04 | 1 |
| Pseudo | 1m | 1.47M | 0.42e18 | 1.50±0.04 | 2 |



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Gamer Gamme Results

• Results are derived. We show 3σ exclusion regions and completely rule out the PVLAS axion-like particle interpretation by more than 5σ .

Pseudoscalar



PRL 100, 080402 (2008)

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Scalar



• We competed with a number of other efforts worldwide



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Other WISPs

 New symmetries give weakly interacting sub-eV particles that interact with known particles





Other WISPs

 "paraphotons" and "mini-charged particles" are two examples. Constrained by LSW experiments.



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Chameleons

 A theory of dark energy exists that invokes an axion-like particle with the property that it changes its properties depending on it's environment!



 Vacuum environment, the chameleon is almost massless, Dense environment, the chameleon becomes massive

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"Particle in a Jar"

- Chameleon properties depend on their environment effective mass increases when encountering matter.
 - A laser in a magnetic field might have photons that convert into chameleons which reflect off of the optical windows. A gas of chameleons are trapped in a jar.
 - Turn off the laser and look for an afterglow as some of the chameleons convert back into detectable photons.



Chameleon Search

Apparatus

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Replace the wall with a straight-through tube with an exit window

• Procedure

Turn on pulsed laser for 5hrs using both polarizations. Turn off laser and look for an afterglow above PMT dark rate, either constant or exponentially decaying depending on the photon coupling.



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Chameleon Results

Coupling to photons vs effective mass

- Blue region is pseudoscalar, green line is scalar exclusion region



Reduced sensitivity at higher masses due to experimental configuration

Also, uncertainties in the vacuum levels limit sensitivity of possible potentials.

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Gam mev New experiment (next week)

GammeV - Chase (chameleon afterglow search)

Improve vacuum (cryo pump) and monitoring.

Use a shutter to switch to PMT readout quickly.

Use a run plan that with lower B fields in case the coupling is strong. Tevatron Dipole Vacuum System Laser Transparent Windows Removable Rack Mirror Shutter

Use a lower noise PMT.

Employ the "dish rack" to effectively have 4.7m, 1m, and 30cm magnetic field regions.

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Goal: Extend the Chameleon Limits

Extend the sensitivity in coupling vs mass



Gam meV Next axion experiment

- World-wide renewed interest in axions and the possibility of new physics at the sub-eV mass scale
- Next experiments to probe new regions will still be small, but not negligible (~couple to few \$M scale)
- Fermilab can play a large role in developing a program to probe new unexplored regions for new physics using lasers and magnets

Resonant regeneration

"This time we mow the axion down for good"



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Resonant regeneration



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Gam Mev And while we're doing R&D

- New idea (C. Hogan) related to black holes and a Planck scale cutoff predicts so-called Holographic noise - a jitter in space time.
- Build two laser interferometers and look for a correlated signal of this jitter.
- Collaboration with Fermilab, Univ. of Chicago, MIT, Univ. of Michigan, Cal Tech.
- Favorably reviewed by the PAC some additional theory review also done.
 Director/DOE deciding how to proceed.

The holometer



- Two interferometers (one shown) with 40m arms
- LIGO-like technology (easier at 100 KHz-few MHz)
- Systems: vacuum/mechanical, optical, electronics/DAQ
- Considering warehouse rental for siting

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Conclusion

• At FNAL, a small group of us are having fun. There are days I've gone into work thinking today *might* be the day that a new revolutionary particle might appear.

 We achieved the goal of excluding a region of interest for an axion-like particle with a high confidence level.

- We made a first search for chameleon particles.
- R&D is beginning for a future axion project
- Along the way, an interesting proposal to test space-time

Finally, just like there are theories that are "Not Yet Thought Of", so there are also opportunities for such experiments. Maybe something like a chameleon or something even stranger will be the next New Physics.

