





Axion Detection: Techniques Experiments & Instrumentation

Dr. Ben McAllister

Swinburne University of Technology, University of Western Australia



Australian Government Australian Research Council





Australian National University









THE UNIVERSITY OF







Axion Detection: Techniques Experiments & Instrumentation

Dr. Ben McAllister

Swinburne University of Technology, University of Western Australia



Australian Government Australian Research Council





Australian National University











Overview

- Dark Matter Problem
- Axions
- Axion Detectors
- Haloscopes
- Current Generation: ADMX, ORGAN
- Future

• Quick look back to Standard Model

• Quick look back to Standard Model



Standard Model of Elementary Particles

• Quick look back to Standard Model



Standard Model of Elementary Particles

- Just a handful of particles
- Most of the regular matter made of just three of these things

• All of biology, chemistry



- All of biology, chemistry
- People, planets, stars





- All of biology, chemistry
- People, planets, stars
- But we've known for a while that there's a lot more stuff...





Dark Universe

- Most of Universe made of DE, DM
- What is DM?



Dark Universe

- Most of Universe made of DE, DM
- What is DM?
 - Doesn't interact with light
 - Has mass
 - ~5x as much as the regular matter



Dark Universe

- Most of Universe made of DE, DM
- What is DM?
 - Doesn't interact with light
 - Has mass
 - ~5x as much as the regular matter
 - New particles?



Evidence

• Evidence for Dark Matter is largely cosmological/astrophysical in nature

Evidence

- Evidence for Dark Matter is largely cosmological/astrophysical in nature
- Main pieces of evidence:
 - Galactic Rotation Curves
 - Gravitational Lensing
 - CMB Anisotropies

Evidence

- Evidence for Dark Matter is largely cosmological/astrophysical in nature
- Main pieces of evidence:
 - Galactic Rotation Curves
 - Gravitational Lensing
 - CMB Anisotropies
- What we know:
 - Has mass
 - Weakly coupled to SM (no EM, no strong interaction, maybe weak?)

• Looking back at our standard model of particle physics:



Standard Model of Elementary Particles

• Looking back at our standard model of particle physics:



- Broadly candidates come in a few classes:
 - Weakly Interacting Massive Particles
 - Weakly Interacting Sub-eV Particles
 - Sterile Neutrinos
 - Massive Compact Halo Objects
 - Others...

- Broadly candidates come in a few classes:
 - Weakly Interacting Massive Particles
 - Weakly Interacting Sub-eV Particles (especially the axion)
 - Sterile Neutrinos
 - Massive Compact Halo Objects
 - Others...

- Broadly candidates come in a few classes:
 - Weakly Interacting Massive Particles
 - Weakly Interacting Sub-eV Particles (especially the axion)
 - Sterile Neutrinos
 - Massive Compact Halo Objects
 - Others...

~THE OTHER DARK MATTER~







• Light boson first proposed in '70s as consequence of solution to the strong CP problem

- Light boson first proposed in '70s as consequence of solution to the strong CP problem
- Strong CP problem in quantum chromodynamics
- There exist natural CP violating terms within the QCD Lagrangian

$$\mathscr{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{n_f g^2 \theta}{32\pi^2}F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^{\mu}D_{\mu} - me^{i\theta'\gamma_5})\psi$$

- Light boson first proposed in '70s as consequence of solution to the strong CP problem
- Strong CP problem in quantum chromodynamics
- There exist natural CP violating terms within the QCD Lagrangian

$$\mathscr{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{n_f g^2 \theta}{32\pi^2}F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^{\mu}D_{\mu} - me^{i\theta'\gamma_5})\psi$$

- Key point: if θ is non-zero, CP symmetry is violated, and measurable effects would occur
- Specifically, neutron would develop electric dipole moment



- Experiments constrain neutron EDM to be very small if non-zero
- So, a fine tuning problem emerges in this otherwise very precise theory
- Why should this free parameter be zero?

- Experiments constrain neutron EDM to be very small if non-zero
- So, a fine tuning problem emerges in this otherwise very precise theory
- Why should this free parameter be zero?
- Possible solution: introduce a new broken symmetry to QCD which has the effect of "cancelling out" the heta term
- Peccei and Quinn in 1977
- When this symmetry is broken at some point in the Universe's history, a particle is created which has been named the axion
- Has some mass
- Weak coupling to SM particles

- Experiments constrain neutron EDM to be very small if non-zero
- So, a fine tuning problem emerges in this otherwise very precise theory
- Why should this free parameter be zero?
- Possible solution: introduce a new broken symmetry to QCD which has the effect of "cancelling out" the heta term
- Peccei and Quinn in 1977
- When this symmetry is broken at some point in the Universe's history, a particle is created which has been named the axion
- Has some mass
- Weak coupling to SM particles
- Most properties governed by a single unknown parameter:

$$m_a \propto \frac{1}{f_a}$$
 $g_{a\gamma\gamma} \propto \frac{1}{f_a}$

• f_a is a number which defines the energy level at which the symmetry breaks, and is completely unconstrained by this theory

• It was later realized that for a certain range of masses (neV to a meV) axions could comprise dark matter

- It was later realized that for a certain range of masses (neV to a meV) axions could comprise dark matter
- They are a neat candidate since they solve the strong CP problem
- Have various interesting couplings to standard model particles

- It was later realized that for a certain range of masses (neV to a meV) axions could comprise dark matter
- They are a neat candidate since they solve the strong CP problem
- Have various interesting couplings to standard model particles
 - e.g. photons



- It was later realized that for a certain range of masses (neV to a meV) axions could comprise dark matter
- They are a neat candidate since they solve the strong CP problem
- Have various interesting couplings to standard model particles
 - e.g. photons



• Experiments attempt to exploit this coupling

- It was later realized that for a certain range of masses (neV to a meV) axions could comprise dark matter
- They are a neat candidate since they solve the strong CP problem
- Have various interesting couplings to standard model particles
 - e.g. photons



- Experiments attempt to exploit this coupling
- Plenty of other couplings, too electrons, nucleons, etc



From CA O'Hare's Axion Limit Plotting Tool


From CA O'Hare's Axion Limit Plotting Tool



From CA O'Hare's Axion Limit Plotting Tool

Axion Detectors

• Going to focus on axion-photon coupling



Axion Detectors

- Going to focus on axion-photon coupling
- Broadly speaking, three classes of detector:
 - Light shining through a wall
 - Helioscope
 - Haloscope



Axion Detectors

- Going to focus on axion-photon coupling
- Broadly speaking, three classes of detector:
 - Light shining through a wall
 - Helioscope
 - Haloscope



- Experiments that exploit axion-photon coupling twice
- Do not require axions to be DM

- Experiments that exploit axion-photon coupling twice
- Do not require axions to be DM
- Less assumptions, but less sensitive than DM experiments

- Experiments that exploit axion-photon coupling twice
- Do not require axions to be DM
- Less assumptions, but less sensitive than DM experiments



• ALPS, OSQAR





From CA O'Hare's Axion Limit Plotting Tool

• Assume axions generated in the sun, stream to earth

- Assume axions generated in the sun, stream to earth
- Track sun with telescope-like structures, convert axions back to photons

- Assume axions generated in the sun, stream to earth
- Track sun with telescope-like structures, convert axions back to photons



• CAST, IAXO

- CAST, IAXO
- CAST in particular is a long running, broadband experiment



- CAST, IAXO
- CAST in particular is a long running, broadband experiment
- Also doesn't assume local DM density of axions





From CA O'Hare's Axion Limit Plotting Tool

• Axions convert into photons in presence of strong magnetic field

- Axions convert into photons in presence of strong magnetic field
- Conservation of energy dictates that

$$hf = m_a c^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_a v_a^2$$

• Velocity comes from velocity of DM halo with respect to detector ($v_a \approx 10^{-3}c$ for isothermal halo model, but possibly much narrower for other models)

- Axions convert into photons in presence of strong magnetic field
- Conservation of energy dictates that

$$hf = m_a c^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_a v_a^2$$

• Velocity comes from velocity of DM halo with respect to detector ($v_a \approx 10^{-3}c$ for isothermal halo model, but possibly much narrower for other models)



- Axions convert into photons in presence of strong magnetic field
- Conservation of energy dictates that

$$hf = m_a c^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_a v_a^2$$

- Velocity comes from velocity of DM halo with respect to detector ($v_a \approx 10^{-3}c$ for isothermal halo model, but possibly much narrower for other models)
- Mass is unknown
- So: narrowband photon signal of an unknown frequency is generated
- If resonant cavity has correct frequency, photons resonate inside cavity, and can be read out



- If resonant cavity has correct frequency, photons resonate inside cavity, and can be read out
- Embed tuneable resonant cavity inside magnet, and wait for axion conversion to occur inside





- Detector must be very well shielded from environment, to reduce ambient photon noise
- Thermal photons are also dominant noise source -> cryogenic temperatures
- Also, cryogenics allows for strong superconducting magnets, and quantum technology in readout
- Cavity must be tuneable



- Detector must be very well shielded from environment, to reduce ambient photon noise
- Thermal photons are also dominant noise source -> cryogenic temperatures
- Also, cryogenics allows for strong superconducting magnets, and quantum technology in readout
- Cavity must be tuneable
- A bunch of haloscopes these days: ADMX, ORGAN, CAPP, QUAX, MADMAX, etc



- Expected Signal
- Note: Shape of signal, its motion in time will shed light on nature of DM distribution



- Because photon frequency (axion mass) is unknown, must scan large range of cavity frequencies
- Difficult engineering problem

- Because photon frequency (axion mass) is unknown, must scan large range of cavity frequencies
- Difficult engineering problem
- Figure of merit for experiment is allowable rate of frequency scanning:

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{qoal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

- Because photon frequency (axion mass) is unknown, must scan large range of cavity frequencies
- Difficult engineering problem
- Figure of merit for experiment is allowable rate of frequency scanning:



Top-down view of cavity cross-section as rod tunes

Haloscopes Detector Design

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{goal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

Haloscopes Detector Design

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{goal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

• Things set by nature

Haloscopes Detector Design $\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{acd}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_d}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$

- Things set by nature
- Things to do with readout, refrigeration system, magnet

Haloscopes Detector Design



- Things set by nature
- Things to do with readout, refrigeration system, magnet
- Things to do with resonant cavity

Haloscopes Detector Design $\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{acd}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$

• Things to do with resonant cavity

Haloscopes Detector Design $\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{goal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$

- Things to do with resonant cavity
 - C 'form factor', to do with EM field pattern of resonant mode

Haloscopes Detector Design $\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{goal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$

- Things to do with resonant cavity
 - C 'form factor', to do with EM field pattern of resonant mode
 - V volume, inversely proportional to frequency


- Things to do with resonant cavity
 - C 'form factor', to do with EM field pattern of resonant mode
 - V volume, inversely proportional to frequency
 - Q quality factor, how long photons live inside resonator

Haloscopes Detector Design

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{goal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

• Form factor

$$C = \frac{\left(\int \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}_0 \, dV\right)^2}{\left(\int \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_0 \, dV\right) \left(\int \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \, dV\right)}$$

Haloscopes Detector Design

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{goal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

• Form factor

$$C = \frac{\left(\int \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}_0 \, dV\right)^2}{\left(\int \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_0 \, dV\right) \left(\int \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \, dV\right)}$$

For typical haloscopes, only TMOnO modes have non zero C

Haloscopes Detector Design

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{goal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

• Form factor

$$C = \frac{\left(\int \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}_0 \, dV\right)^2}{\left(\int \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_0 \, dV\right) \left(\int \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \, dV\right)}$$

- For typical haloscopes, only TMOnO modes have non zero C
- Very uniform modes, hard to tune -> need for tuning rods







40,000 receptors in stripes on the bill

Platypus turns head in saccades to locate prey

Best accuracy is outwards and downwards

Muscles of prey create small electrical signals

A Search for Halo Axions

by

Edward John Daw

Bachelor of Arts, New College, Oxford University, England.

Submitted to the Department of Physics in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

at the

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

February 1998

© Edward John Daw, MCMXCVIII. All rights reserved.

The author hereby grants to M.I.T. permission to reproduce and to distribute copies of this thesis document in whole or in part.

A Search for Halo Axions by Edward John Daw

Bachelor of Arts, New College, Oxford University, England.

Submitted to the Department of Physics in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

at the

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

February 1998

© Edward John Daw, MCMXCVIII. All rights reserved.

The author hereby grants to M.I.T. permission to reproduce and to distribute copies of this thesis document in whole or in part.



• Only certain modes (TMOnO modes) are axion sensitive

- Only certain modes (TMOn0 modes) are axion sensitive
- As they tune they run into intruder modes



- Only certain modes (TMOn0 modes) are axion sensitive
- As they tune they run into intruder modes
- This is a significant design issue in all resonant haloscope experiments





- Experiment upgraded in the 2000s
- Implemented a SQUID-based amplifier

- Experiment upgraded in the 2000s
- Implemented a SQUID-based amplifier





- Experiment upgraded in the 2000s
- Implemented a SQUID-based amplifier
- Phys. Rev. Lett 104, 041301 (2010)





- Experiment upgraded in the 2000s
- Implemented a SQUID-based amplifier
- Phys. Rev. Lett 104, 041301 (2010)



ADMX Searches - Current Generation

- Run 1a Run 1d with current setup
- Hosted at University of Washington
- Custom Dil Fridge ~100 mK
- Custom magnet 8T
- Uses Josephson Parametric Amplifier
- Targets ~650 ~1200 MHz



Images borrowed from Chelsea Bartram

ADMX Searches - Current Generation



$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{aoal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{aoal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

- Cavity volume inversely proportional to TM010 mode frequency
- Noise temperature goes up

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{SNR_{aoal}^2} \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4 B^4 C^2 V^2 \rho_a^2 Q_L Q_a}{m_a^2 (k_B T_n)^2}$$

- Cavity volume inversely proportional to TM010 mode frequency
- Noise temperature goes up
- Solution -> more cavities in sync





- Haloscope in Australia
- Many cavities together
- The Oscillating Resonant Group AxioN Experiment

- Haloscope in Australia
- Many cavities together
- The Oscillating Resonant Group AxioN Experiment





- Mass range of interest 60-200 micro-eV
- Motivations:

- Mass range of interest 60-200 micro-eV
- Motivations:
 - SMASH model
 - Josephson Junction results

Unifying Inflation with the Axion, Dark Matter, Baryogenesis, and the Seesaw Mechanism

Guillermo Ballesteros, Javier Redondo, Andreas Ringwald, and Carlos Tamarit Phys. Rev. Lett. **118**, 071802 – Published 15 February 2017

Possible Resonance Effect of Axionic Dark Matter in Josephson Junctions

Christian Beck Phys. Rev. Lett. **111**, 231801 – Published 2 December 2013



- Mass range of interest 60-200 micro-eV
- Motivations:
 - SMASH model
 - Josephson Junction results
 - High mass range relatively unexplored
- Broken down into Phases:
 - Phase 1 targeted 1 GHz scans ~month(s) scale
 - Phase 2 wider scans with enhanced sensitivity, broken into 5 GHz chunks, ~year scale





Phase 1

- Targeted scans around 15 GHz and 26 GHz
- Commenced in 2021, completed 2023
- Traditional, ADMX-like haloscope technology
- HEMT amplifiers



Phase 1a



Phase 1a

• Also limits on dark photons and scalar dark matter



https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.01971
Phase 1a

• Also limits on dark photons and scalar dark matter



https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.01971

Phase 1b















Future Haloscopes



- Things to do with readout, refrigeration system, magnet
- Things to do with resonant cavity

Future Haloscopes



- Things to do with readout, refrigeration system, magnet
- Things to do with resonant cavity
- Attack these things wherever possible

Future Haloscopes



- Things to do with readout, refrigeration system, magnet
- Things to do with resonant cavity
- Attack these things wherever possible
- Even harder at higher frequencies for a few reasons...

• Lots of idea for new types of resonator beyond standard TM010 tuning rod resonators

- Lots of idea for new types of resonator beyond standard TM010 tuning rod resonators
- Keep C high, go to higher frequencies, be tunable

- Lots of idea for new types of resonator beyond standard TM010 tuning rod resonators
- Keep C high, go to higher frequencies, be tunable
- Use dielectrics, new geometries, combine many resonators
- Ongoing field of research

- Lots of idea for new types of resonator beyond standard TM010 tuning rod resonators
- Keep C high, go to higher frequencies, be tunable
- Use dielectrics, new geometries, combine many resonators
- Ongoing field of research



• Can coat cavities with Type-II superconductor

- Can coat cavities with Type-II superconductor
- e.g. Nb3Sn, NbTi
- Allows for higher Q values than bare copper



- Can coat cavities with Type-II superconductor
- e.g. Nb3Sn, NbTi
- Allows for higher Q values than bare copper
- Ongoing R&D to implement



- Can coat cavities with Type-II superconductor
- e.g. Nb3Sn, NbTi
- Allows for higher Q values than bare copper
- Ongoing R&D to implement
- Another option ReBCO tapes, some success in this area recently



• Single Photon Detection is superior to SQL linear amplification under the right conditions

- Single Photon Detection is superior to SQL linear amplification under the right conditions
- Take ORGAN as an example
 - 100 mK
 - 15 GHz
 - SQL Noise ~ 1K
- Ratio of SQL linear amp to SPD noise power:

- Single Photon Detection is superior to SQL linear amplification under the right conditions
- Take ORGAN as an example
 - 100 mK
 - 15 GHz
 - SQL Noise ~ 1K
- Ratio of SQL linear amp to SPD noise power:

$$\frac{P_{\ell}}{P_{sp}} = \frac{\bar{n}+1}{\sqrt{\bar{n}}} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta\nu_a}{\eta\Gamma}}$$

- Single Photon Detection is superior to SQL linear amplification under the right conditions
- Take ORGAN as an example
 - 100 mK
 - 15 GHz
 - SQL Noise ~ 1K
- Ratio of SQL linear amp to SPD noise power:

$$\frac{P_{\ell}}{P_{sp}} = \frac{\bar{n}+1}{\sqrt{\bar{n}}} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta\nu_a}{\eta\Gamma}}$$

• This ratio can be tens or even thousands of times depending on the specifics

- Single Photon Detection is superior to SQL linear amplification under the right conditions
- Take ORGAN as an example
 - 100 mK
 - 15 GHz
 - SQL Noise ~ 1K
- Ratio of SQL linear amp to SPD noise power:

$$\frac{P_{\ell}}{P_{sp}} = \frac{\bar{n}+1}{\sqrt{\bar{n}}} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta\nu_a}{\eta\Gamma}}$$

- This ratio can be tens or even thousands of times depending on the specifics
- Not a lot of options for GHz SPCs...but a few!

- Single Photon Detection is superior to SQL linear amplification under the right conditions
- Take ORGAN as an example
 - 100 mK
 - 15 GHz
 - SQL Noise ~ 1K
- Ratio of SQL linear amp to SPD noise power:

$$\frac{P_{\ell}}{P_{sp}} = \frac{\bar{n}+1}{\sqrt{\bar{n}}} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta\nu_a}{\eta\Gamma}}$$

- This ratio can be tens or even thousands of times depending on the specifics
- Not a lot of options for GHz SPCs...but a few!
- SIS Josephson Junctions, SNSPDs, MKIDs...

• Layer of superconductor – insulator – superconductor

• Layer of superconductor – insulator – superconductor



Josephson tunnel junction

> L. S. Kuzmin et al., IEEE Transactions on Applied Superconductivity, 2018

- Layer of superconductor insulator superconductor
- Exhibits Josephson effect: supercurrent across junction until critical current reached -> becomes
 resistive



L. S. Kuzmin et al., IEEE Transactions on Applied Superconductivity, 2018

- Can be used as weak current sensor in the GHz range...in principle
- 10s of μeV + energy thresholds



- Can be used as weak current sensor in the GHz range...in principle
- 10s of μ eV+ energy thresholds
- Gets easier at higher energy...



- Can be used as weak current sensor in the GHz range...in principle
- 10s of μ eV+ energy thresholds
- Gets easier at higher energy...





• Samples under testing both for ORGAN and other haloscopes (QUAX, etc)



Conclusions

- Axions are cool particles (and good DM candidates)
- There are a variety of ways to search for them
- Most focus on axion-photon coupling
- Haloscopes are an increasingly common experiment
- Lots of room for innovation!
- ADMX and ORGAN are two such experiments in different mass ranges
- Future haloscopes will require new instrumentation and technology
- Quantum technology is a common area of pursuit for haloscope searches

Conclusions

- Axions are cool particles (and good DM candidates)
- There are a variety of ways to search for them
- Most focus on axion-photon coupling
- Haloscopes are an increasingly common experiment
- Lots of room for innovation!



- ADMX and ORGAN are two such experiments in different mass ranges
- Future haloscopes will require new instrumentation and technology
- Quantum technology is a common area of pursuit for haloscope searches