The search for solar hadronic axions

by nuclear resonant method

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Axions: theor. motivations Experimental methods of search Nuclear resonant absorption of solar hadronic axions Conclusions and prospects

Dark matter



Among the best candidates for the dark matter particles: **Axions**

A slide from presentation of C. Rubbia (Venice, 2008):

Dark Matter Candidates ?

- Despite the impressive amount of astrophysical evidence, the exact nature of Dark Matter is still unknown.
- All present evidence is now limited to gravitational effects. The main question is that if other types of interactions may be also connected to DM. A key question is the presence of a electroweak coupling to ordinary matter.
- Elementary particle physics provides a number of possible candidates in the form of long lived, Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs).
- Good bets are, at the moment, the lightest SUSY particle (the Neutralino) and the Axion.

 Kaluza-Klein DM inUED Kaluza-Klein DM in RS Axion Axino Gravitino Photino SM Neutrino Sterile Neutrino Sneutrino Light DM Little Higgs DM Wimpzillas Q-balls Mirror Matter Champs (charged DM) D-matter Cryptons Self-interacting Superweakly interacting Braneworls DM Heavy neutrino **NEUTRALINO** Messenger States in GMSB Branons Chaplygin Gas Split SUSY Primordial Black Holes

Slide# : 13

Venice, April 16, 2008

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•Kaluza-Klein DM inUED

Axion

 Gravitino Photino SM Neutrino Sterile Neutrino Sneutrino Light DM Little Higgs DM Wimpzillas Q-balls Mirror Matter Champs (charged DM) D-matter Cryptons Self-interacting Superweakly interacting Braneworls DM -NEUTRALINO

•Messenger States in GMSB •Branons •Chaplygin Gas •Split SUSY •Primordial Black Holes

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LNGS seminar, 2017.02.14

Slide# : 13

Prediction of axions

Axion is a hypothetical neutral massive particle, introduced to theory in connection with the problem of strong CP-violation. The QCD includes the so-called θ -phase, which is experimentally very small (0 or, at least, $<10^{-10}$ – from the upper limit on EDM of neutron), but its smallness is not required by the theory (θ -phase can take any value between 0 and 2π) – the strong CP problem.

Peccei and Quinn (1977) proposed a mechanism to make $\theta = 0$ by introducing a new symmetry, with θ being a dynamical variable, of zero value at the minimal energy state. The spontaneous violation of the PQ symmetry creates the (pseudo-)Goldstone boson, which was named *axion* by Frank Wilczek. The first model, PQWW (Peccei, Quinn, Weinberg, Wilczek), was not confirmed, but other models of *invisible* axion were built. Usually, $m_a \sim 1/f_a$ (m_a – mass and f_a – coupling constant).

Axion is considered as one of the best candidates for the Dark Matter particles, because it is massive and its interaction with normal matter should be extremely small.

Axion: interactions and models



Mass of axion varies from 10^{-18} to 1 MeV in different variants of theory. Spin/parity is 0^- (pseudoscalar particle).

The DFSZ-axion (Dine-Fischler-Srednicki-Zhitnitsky) interacts with usual quarks and leptons directly and requires two Higgs doublets; the hadronic axion (prototype: Kim-Shifman-Vainshtein-Zakharov, KSZV-axion) – requires a new heavy quark. Axion-like particles (ALPs) are also considered (familons, majorons, dark photons etc.), with some common properties, like coupling with 2 photons.

Laboratory searches for axions

(I will not discuss here astrophysical and cosmological restrictions, see http://pdg.lbl.gov/2016/reviews/rpp2016-rev-axions.pdf)
In many cases, the searches are based on axion-photon conversion in magnetic field.



$$\Gamma_{a\gamma\gamma} = \frac{G_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 m_a^3}{64\pi} = 1.1 \times 10^{-24} \,\mathrm{s}^{-1} \left(\frac{m_a}{\mathrm{eV}}\right)^5$$

Haloscope: Resonant conversion of relic axions to microwave photons in a tunable resonant cavity (with high quality factor) in magnetic field.



Currently, the most sensitive experiment:

Typical design of a haloscope

Restrictions from ADMX

[S. J. Asztalos et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 104 (2010) 041301]



LNGS seminar, 2017.02.14



Optical experiments: scheme "Light Shining through Wall"

The probabilities of conversion can be resonantly enhanced in Fabry-Perot resonators ("axionic laser"): P.Sikivie *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **98** (2007) 172002;

Best limits:

 $G_{a\gamma\gamma} < 0.7 \times 10^{-7} \, \text{GeV}^{-1}$

for $m_a < 0.5 \text{ meV}$

A. Afanasev *et al.* (LIPSS coll.), Phys. Rev. Lett. **101** (2008) 120401; K. Ehret *et al.* (ALPS coll.), Phys.Lett. B **689** (2010) 149.

Also the experiments QSQAR, BMV,...

Optical experiments: vacuum refraction index

Admixture of axion to photon in magnetic field has to produce two observable effects: vacuum birefringence (Re n > 1) and vacuum dichroism (Im n > 0). $\Delta n_{QED} = n_{\parallel} - n_{\perp} = k_{QED} B^2$



Experiments: PVLAS (P. Berceau *et al.*, Appl. Phys. B 100 (2010) 803), BMV (A.Cadene *et al.*, <u>arXiv 1302.5389)</u>, QSQAR

Laboratory search for solar axions

The predicted solar axion luminosity for DFSZ-axions:

$$L_a = 3.6 \times 10^{-3} L_{\Theta} \left(\frac{m_a}{1 \,\mathrm{eV}}\right)^2$$

Their mean energy is predicted to be 4.2 keV, the maximum of their spectrum is at 3.0 keV. The flux at Earth is $(G_{ayy} \cdot 10^{10} \text{ GeV})^{-2} \cdot 3.75 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$.

In order to detect the axions, they are converted to X-ray quanta with strong transversal magnetic field. X-rays are then detected by an appropriate detector. The most sensitive experiment of this kind is the axio-helioscope CAST (CERN), using a huge de-commissioned accelerator magnet.



Solar axions: continuous spectrum (Primakoff effect: photon-to-axion conversion in the electric field of a nucleus). Other contributions to the continuous axion spectrum are from axio-Compton ($\gamma + e \rightarrow a + e$) and from axio-bremsstrahlung ($Z + e \rightarrow a + Z + e$).

<u>Laboratory search for solar axions</u> (helioscopes and other detectors)

CAST helioscope

Restrictions in the range of $m_a = 0.39-0.64 \text{ eV}$ and $f_a = 0.98-1.6 \times 10^7 \text{ GeV}$



The next generation of helioscopes, based on the same principle - IAXO (project)



The plot from: http://pdg.lbl.gov/2016/reviews/rpp2016-rev-axions.pdf

Laboratory search for solar axions

Other searches for solar axions have been carried out using crystal detectors, exploiting the coherent conversion of axions into photons when the axion angle of incidence satisfies a Bragg condition with a crystal plane:

F.T. Avignone *et al.*, (SOLAX) Phys.Rev.Lett. 81 (1998) 5068
A. Morales *et al.* (COSME Collab.), Astropart.Phys.16 (2002) 325
R. Bernabei *et al.* (DAMA), Phys. Lett. B515(2001)6
Z. Ahmed *et al.* (CDMS). Phys.Rev.Lett. 103(2009)141802

Laboratory search for solar axions

Resonant absorption of solar axions.

The thermal excitation of low-energy nuclear levels (of few keV, f.i., ⁵⁷Fe) can be excited in the solar core (T = 1.3 keV). These levels can (in some conditions) deexcite via emission of an axion which escapes from the Sun almost freely. In Earth, the axion can resonantly excite a nucleus of the same kind which then de-excites by emission of a detectable gamma quantum. Many experiments are based on this scheme.

Modification: the level of the nucleus-emitter is populated not by thermal excitation, but in a nuclear reaction (for example, the 478 keV excited level of ⁷Li is populated by the electron capture of ⁷Be in the *pp*-chain with ~10% branching ratio)



Solar axions: continuous spectrum (Primakoff effect: photon-to-axion conversion in the electric field of a nucleus). Other contributions to the continuous axion spectrum are from axio-Compton ($\gamma + e \rightarrow a + e$) and from axio-bremsstrahlung ($Z + e \rightarrow a + Z + e$).



The monoenergetic lines can also be present in the solar axion spectrum.



The method was proposed by S.Moriyama [PRL 75(1995)3222]. Other natural isotopes with low-lying levels, de-excitated via M1-transitions, can be (and are) also used; for example, ⁸³Kr (9.4 keV).



⁵⁷Fe ('iron') solar axions allow to exclude axion mass values between ~7 keV (E<<14.4 keV) and (on today) 0.145 keV [A.V.Derbin et al., PAN 74 (2011) 596].

Other possible origin of lines in the solar axion spectrum: non-thermal excitation of source nuclei





a monoenergetic axion.

4. Emission of gamma/IC.5. Detection.

First experiment: M.Krcmar *et al.* [PRD 64(2001) 115016] (m_a < 32 keV) Best limit: P.Belli *et al.* (DAMA+KINR) [Phys.Lett.B711(2012) 41] (m_a < 8.6 keV) LNGS seminar, 2017.02.14 Our experiment (DAMA+KINR):

- 1. Lithium fluoride (LiF) was chosen as a target due to:
 - a) its high density of Li nuclei in comparison to other Li compounds;
 - b) chemical passivity;
 - c) non-hygroscopicity.
- Few samples of LiF (powder of 99.99% purity, a single crystal) were placed on two HPGe detectors in Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (3800 m w.e.).

LiF(W) single crystals



Total mass is ~550 g.

If we would observe a gamma peak at 478 keV with area S, mass of axion would be:

 $m_a = 1.55 \times 10^{11} \times (S \ / \epsilon \ t \ N_7)^{1/4} \ eV$

 ε – efficiency of the detector, t – time of measurement, N_7 – number of ⁷Li nuclei in the sample.



The problem with this experiment is that the detection efficiency is small, ~2.3 %. The LiF crystals are used only as a target, the emitted gammas are registered by an external HPGe SCD.

But there was the same problem with all the experiments of such scheme: if the target mass was high, the efficiency was small, and vice versa.

For example, the mean range of 14.4 keV photon in Fe is only 20 μ m, so the passive target should be a thin foil.

⁷Li lines in the solar axion spectrum: non-thermal excitation of source nuclei

⁷Li is created in the *pp*-chain (the main energy source of the Sun).

Another possible reaction from the *pp*-chain with emission of monoenergetic axions:

 $p + d \rightarrow {}^{3}He + a + 5.5 MeV$

This line was searched for by BOREXINO (using a non-resonant method, see PRD 85(2012)092003). There was a proposition to search for resonant absorption in ³He target (S.Nagorny, I.Drachnev, private comm.), but the registered signal should be only proton + deuteron with E = O(1 eV).

Experiments on search for nuclear resonant absorption of solar axions.

| Experiment, nuclide | <i>M</i> of nuclide, substance | N of nuclei | T, days | Efficiency, % | FWHM (%, keV) |
|---|---|----------------|---------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Krcmar 1998, ⁵⁷ Fe | 0.03153 g (33 mg ⁵⁷ Fe foil, 95%) | 3.16e20 | 61.343 | 1.6(1)% | 1.6%, 0.235 keV @14.4 keV |
| Krcmar 2001, ⁷ Li | 56.72 g (61.4 g nat. metal Li) | 4.88e24 | 111.11 | 0.83% | 0.3%,1.4 keV @478 keV |
| Jacovcic 2004, ⁸³ Kr | 0.193 g (1.7 g nat.Kr gas) | 1.40e21 | 23.5 | 99% | 50%,4.7 keV @9.4 keV |
| Derbin 2005, ⁷ Li | 1048 g (3900 g nat. LiOH) | 9.02e25 | 126.5 | 0.92(10)% | 0.6%, 3 keV @478 keV |
| Derbin 2007, ⁵⁷ Fe | 0.0128 g (16 mg ⁵⁷ Fe foil, 80%) | 1.35e20 | 29.7 | 0.41% | 10.3%, 1.48 keV @14.4keV |
| Namba 2007, ⁵⁷ Fe | 0.206 g (0.215 g ⁵⁷ Fe foil, 96%) | 2.8e21 | 13.92 | 14.8% | 16.3%, 2.35 keV @14.4 keV |
| Belli 2008, ⁷ Li | 61 g (243 g nat. LiF powder) | 0.30e25 | 30.08 | 2.27% | 0.4%, 2keV @478 keV |
| Derbin 2011, ¹⁶⁹ Tm | 1.75 g (2 g Tm ₂ O ₃) | 6.23e21 | 76.5 | 6.16(30)% | ~20%, 1.6 keV @8.41 keV |
| Derbin 2011a, ⁵⁷ Fe | 1.15 g (1.26 g ⁵⁷ Fe foil, 91%) | 1.21e22 | 44.8 | 8.91% | 10.3%, 1.48 keV @14.4 keV |
| Belli 2012, ⁷ Li | 138.3 g (552.6 g nat. LiF(W) crystal) | 1.19e25 | 168.5 | 2.27% | 3%, 14 keV @478 keV |
| Our unpublished work, 2014, ⁸³ Kr | 347 g of Kr (Enr) (82 g of ⁸³ Kr) | 5.14e23 | 260.12 | 91.7 % | 10%, 0.93 keV @9.4 keV |

Experiments on search for nuclear resonant absorption of solar axions (only low energies)

| Experiment, nuclide | <i>M</i> of nuclide, substance | Number of nuclei x days x efficiency | FWHM (%, keV) |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| Krcmar 1998, ⁵⁷ Fe | 0.03153 g (33 mg ⁵⁷ Fe foil, 95%) | 3.1e20 | 1.6%, 0.235 keV @14.4 keV |
| Jacovcic 2004, ⁸³ Kr | 0.193 g (1.7 g nat.Kr gas) | 3.3e22 | 50%,4.7 keV @9.4 keV |
| Derbin 2007, ⁵⁷ Fe | 0.0128 g (16 mg ⁵⁷ Fe foil, 80%) | 1.6e19 | 10.3%, 1.48 keV @14.4keV |
| Namba 2007, ⁵⁷ Fe | 0.206 g (0.215 g ⁵⁷ Fe foil, 96%) | 5.8e21 | 16.3%, 2.35 keV @14.4 keV |
| Derbin 2011, ¹⁶⁹ Tm | 1.75 g (2 g Tm ₂ O ₃) | 2.9e22 | ~20%, 1.6 keV @8.41 keV |
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| Our unpublished work, 2014, ⁸³ Kr | 347 g of Kr (Enr) (82 g of ⁸³ Kr) | 5.5e25 | 10%, 0.93 keV @9.4 keV |

Candidate nuclides

| Nuclide | E _{exc.} , keV | τ _{exc.} | Γ _{exc.} | η, % | log ₁₀ bsn | $\frac{J^{\pi} (\text{exc.})}{J^{\pi} (\text{g.s.})}$ | Transi- tion |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| ¹⁶⁹ Tm | 8.4103 | 5.9 ns | 0.11 μeV | 100.0 | -2.7 | <u>3/2+</u> 1/2+ | M1+E2 |
| ⁸³ Kr | 9.396 | 212 ns | 3.10 neV | 11.55 | -0.80 | <u>7/2+</u> 9/2+ | M1+E2 |
| ¹⁸⁷ Os | 9.746 | 3.4 ns | 0.19 μeV | 1.6 | -3.6 | <u>3/2-</u> 1/2- | M1(+E2) |
| ⁴⁵ Sc | 12.40 | 458 ms | 1.4 feV | 100.0 | -1.0 | <u>3/2+</u> 7/2- | (M2) |
| ⁵⁷ Fe | 14.4125 | 141 ns | 4.66 neV | 2.14 | +0.97 | <u>3/2-</u> 1/2- | M1+E2 |

 $E_{\text{exc.}}$, $\tau_{\text{exc.}}$ and $\Gamma_{\text{exc.}}$ – energy, mean time and width of the level, η – Solar isotopic abundance of the nuclide, $\log_{10} s$ – photosphere elemental abundance normalized to $\log_{10} s(\text{H})=12.00$,

 J^{π} (g.s.) and J^{π} (exc.) – spin and parity of the ground state and the excited level, b – Boltzmann factor of $b=\exp(-E_{exc.}/kT)$. The search for mono-energetic axions from the Sun can be performed also without resonant nucleus as a target (the resonant target only allows to decrease its mass by increasing the cross-section). Such the searches were carried out by Borexino and CAST collaborations (both are mentioned above) for ⁷Li solar axions, and by CUORE – for ⁵⁷Fe solar axions. In these cases, not the g_{aNN} itself, but the product of coupling constants ($g_{aNN}g_{aee}$ or $g_{aNN}g_{ayy}$) is tested.

F. Alessandria et al. (Cuore Coll.), Search for 14.4 keV solar axions from M1 transition of Fe-57 with CUORE crystals. JCAP 05 (2013) 007 [arXiv:1209.2800]:

 $m_a \le 19.2 \text{ eV}$ and $m_a \le 250 \text{ eV}$ at 95% C.L. in the DFSZ and KSVZ models, respectively.



The "geophysical" modification of this approach: we have a lot of iron within the Earth core; let us consider it as a target for "iron" solar axions. The resonant absorption of 14.4 keV axions by ⁵⁷Fe nuclei would heat the Earth core, and the thermal flow through the Earth surface outwards (measured: ~42 TW) would give us the upper limit on probability of such the process.



Taking into account that the part of this heat flow is produced by radioactive transitions (U, Th, K) in the Earth crust, we have set the upper limit on the hadronic axion mass of m_a <1.6 keV.

F.Danevich et al., *Kinematics and Physics of Celestial Bodies*, 25(2009)102 (arXiv:0811.3836).

Candidate nuclides

| Nuclide | E _{exc.} , keV | τ _{exc.} | Γ _{exc.} | η, % | $\log_{10} bs$ η | $\frac{J^{\pi} (\text{exc.})}{J^{\pi} (\text{g.s.})}$ | Transi- tion |
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| ⁵⁷ Fe | 14.4125 | 141 ns | 4.66 neV | 2.14 | +0.97 | $\frac{3/2-}{1/2-}$ | M1+E2 |

One can see that Kr-83 is the second nuclide after Fe-57 in number of thermally excited nuclei.

The total amount of Kr-83 in the Sun is 0.57 M_{Earth} .

Inside the layer with T > 1 keV, $M(Kr-83) = 0.09 M_{Earth}$.

New search is performed with the setup created for a DBD experiment with ⁷⁸Kr (a proportional chamber, Baksan Neutrino Observatory): Both the efficiency and the target mass are high.



Fig. 1. Schematic view of the LPC in section along the anode wire: (1) wire (collecting electrode), (2) load-carrying insulator, (3) cathode, (4) tubular bulge of the anode, (\times) insulator, (∞) copper, and (\cdots) steel.

Yu. M. Gavrilyuk *et al.* Phys. Rev. C 87 (2013) 035501 LNGS seminar, 2017.02.14 Shield: 8 cm borated polyethylene 20 cm lead 20 cm copper

Depth: 4900 m w.e.





P = 5.6 bar, $M_{Kr-83} = 101$ g (7.3x10²³ nuclei), V = 8.77 dm³



Isotopic abundances of the samples.

| Kr (enriched) | | Kr (depleted) | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| lsotope | Abundance(%) | Isotope | Abundance (%) | |
| Kr78 | 99.810 | Kr78 | 0.002 | |
| Kr80 | 0.170 | Kr80 | 0.411 | |
| Kr82 | 0.005 | Kr82 | 41.355 | |
| Kr83 | 0.005 | Kr83 | 58.229 | |
| Kr84 | 0.005 | Kr84 | 0.003 | |
| Kr86 | 0.005 | Kr86 | 0.00 | |

The current restriction: $m_a < 130 \text{ eV}$ (95% CL) for 26.5 days data collection with 101 g of ⁸³Kr [Yu.M.Gavrilyuk *et al.*, arXiv:1405.1271]. It is the best limit obtained by this method (the second best is $m_a < 145 \text{ eV}$ by A.V.Derbin et al., 2011, for ⁵⁷Fe).



Background spectrum of Kr-83

Fit by background and effect response functions.

The Kr-81 background is: 13.47 keV peak (tot.abs.) and 11.91 keV peak (K_{a1,2} of Br).

Expected effect: Peak at 9.405 keV.

Lim $S = -(259 \pm 153)$ events

Limit: *m_a* < 100 eV (95% C.L.)



Obtained restrictions (95% CL)

Live time of measurements: 188,3 days Mass of Kr-83: 101 g

Model independent (for $m_a < 2 \text{ keV}$):

 $\omega_a / \omega_\gamma < 2.4 \times 10^{-12}$

 $|g^{(3)} - g^{(0)}|_{aN} < 1.3 \times 10^{-6}$

Model dependent:

*m*_{*a*} < 100 эВ

Current live time of measurements: ~3 years (not published yet)

Preliminary estimated limit: $m_a < 70...75 \ \Im B$

Prospects

The "detector=target" geometry demonstrates its good performance in search for solar hadronic axions by nuclear resonant absorption. Next possible steps: to use much bigger detectors containing nuclei of interest. Fe-57 and Li-7 are still preferred (for example, the flux of "iron" axions should be $10^{1.8} \approx 63$ times more than that of "krypton" axions). There is an idea (by A.Gangapshev) to use FeS₂ single crystals (pyrite) as a semiconductor detector, possibly with enriched Fe-57. Pyrite is used as semiconductor in photovoltaic applications.



Natural iron pyrite

Photo by Albarubescens - CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=53382044

Prospects

Another possibility is to use Li containing single crystals as bolometric cryogenic detectors. For example, lithium molybdate crystals are already tested as such detectors for search of DBD of ¹⁰⁰Mo (they also have scintillation properties which are used for suppression of background)

Crystals for bolometric search for solar ⁷Li axion

Cylindrical crystals with D = H, M = 1 kg

| Crystal | Dopant content (at. %) | Density (g/cm3) | Diameter and height (mm) | Full absorp. efficiency (%) | N (kg ⁻¹) |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| LiF(Pure) | 0 | 2.635 | 78.47 | 1.0 | 2.13x10 ²⁴ |
| LiF(Ca) | 3 | 2.635 | 78.47 | 1.7 | 2.06x10 ²⁴ |
| LiF(W) | 1 | 2.635 | 78.47 | 19.5 | 2.10x10 ²⁴ |
| LiF(TI) | 0.8 | 2.635 | 78.47 | 14.2 | 2.11x10 ²⁴ |
| LiF(Pb) | 0.3 | 2.635 | 78.47 | 7.8 | 2.12x10 ²⁴ |
| Li ₂ WO ₄ | 0 | 4.560 | 65.35 | 55 | 4.25x10 ²⁴ |
| Li ₂ MoO ₄ | 0 | 2.660 | 78.20 | 19.1 | 6.38x10 ²⁴ |
| Li ₆ Eu(BO ₃) ₃ | 0 | 3.188 | 73.64 | 32 | 9.03x10 ²⁴ |
| Li ₃ Sc(BO ₃) ₂ | 0 | 2.631 | 78.51 | 4 | 9.06x10 ²⁴ |
| Li ₆ Gd(BO ₃) ₃ | 0 | 3.246 | 73.20 | 33.6 | 8.91x10 ²⁴ |
| Li ₆ Y(BO ₃) ₃ | 0 | 2.760 | 77.26 | 16.9 | 1.61x10 ²⁵ |

(Geant4 simulations by Ali Luqman)

Conclusions

- 1. Axions are the second best candidate for DM particles (after neutralinos).
- 2. Resonant conditions in many cases enhance the sensitivity of experiments to search for axions.
- 3. In the experiment with ⁸³Kr in a proportional chamber, the nuclear resonant absorption of solar hadronic axions has been searched (in the first time with large target and good detection efficiency). The best upper limit on the mass of hadronic axion had been set.

Thank you for attention