Cold Atom Probes of Fundamental Science

- Ultralight Dark Matter
- Gravitational Waves
- Quantum Mechanics



John Ellis

AION Principle of Atom Interferometry



Effect of Dark Matter on Atom Interferometer



Effect of Gravitational Wave on Atom Interferometer





Atomic Multi-Gradiometer



Multiple atomic interferometers in the same vertical shaft, manipulated with same laser beam. Eliminate laser noise, minimize gravity gradient noise.

AION Collaboration

L. Badurina², S. Balashov², E. Bentine³, D. Blas¹, J. Boehm², K. Bongs, A. Benjaval¹
D. Bortoneux, and Bowcock⁵, W. Bowden^{6,*}, C. Brew², O. Buchmueller⁶, J. Coleman, J. Carlton
G. Elertas, J. Ellis¹, ⁸, C. Foot³, V. Gibson⁷, M. Haehnelt⁷, T. Harte⁷, R. Hobson^{6,*}, M. Holynski, A. Khazov², M. Langlois⁴, S. Lellouch⁴, Y.H. Lien⁴, R. Maiolino⁷,
P. Majewski², S. Malik⁶, J. March-Russell, C. McCabe, D. Newbold², R. Preece³,
B. Sauer⁶, U. Schneider⁷, I. Shipsey³, Y. Singin, M. Tarbutt⁶, M. A. Uchida⁷,
T. V-Salazar², M. van der Grinten², J. Vossebeld⁴, D. Weatherill³, I. Wilmut⁷, J. Zielinska⁶

¹Kings College London, ²STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, ³University of Oxford, ⁴University of Birmingham, ⁵University of Liverpool, ⁶Imperial College London, ⁷University of Cambridge



Network with MAGIS project in US

MAGIS Collaboration (Abe et al): arXiv:2104.02835



Atom Interferometer Observatory & **Network**





AION – Staged Programme

- AION-10: Stage 1 [year 1 to 3]
- 1 & 10 m Interferometers & site investigation for 100m baseline
 Initial funding from UK STFC
- AION-100: Stage 2 [year 3 to 6]
- 100m Construction & commissioning
- AION-KM: Stage 3 [> year 6] Workshop @ CERN, March 13/14, 2023
- Operating AION-100 and planning for 1 km & beyond
- AION-SPACE (AEDGE): Stage 4 [after AION-km]
- Space-based version



AION-10 @ Beecroft building, Oxford Physics

10m

- New purpose-built building (£50M facility)
- AION-10 on basement level with 14.7m headroom (stable concrete construction)
- World-class infrastructure
- Experienced Project Manager:
- Engineering support from RAL (Oxfordshire)





(22±0.1)°C







Possible CERN Location of AION-100m

General view of LHC Point 4

Possible layout in PX46 shaft



AEDGE: Atomic Experiment for Dark Matter and Gravity Exploration in Space

Beyond LISA

Yousef Abou El-Neai,¹ Cristiano Alpigiani,² Sana Amairi-Pyka,³ Henrique Araújo,⁴ Antun Balaž,⁵ Angelo Bassi,⁶ Lars Bathe-Peters,⁷ Baptiste Battelier,⁸ Aleksandar Belić,⁵ Elliot Bentine,⁹ José Bernabeu,¹⁰ Andrea Bertoldi,^{8,*} Robert Bingham,¹¹ Diego Blas,¹² Vasiliki Bolpasi,¹³ Kai Bongs,^{14,*} Sougato Bose,¹⁵ Philippe Bouyer,^{8,*} Themis Bowcock,¹⁶ William Bowden,¹⁷ Oliver Buchmueller,^{4,@} Clare Burrage,¹⁸ Xavier Calmet,¹⁹ Benjamin Canuel,^{8,*} Laurentiu-Ioan Caramete,^{20,*} Andrew Carroll,¹⁶ Giancarlo Cella,^{21,22} Vassilis Charmandaris.²³ Swapan Chattopadhyay.^{24,25} Xuzong Chen,²⁶ Maria Luisa Chiofalo,^{21,22} Jonathon Coleman,^{16,*} Joseph Cotter,⁴ Yanou Cui,²⁷ Andrei Derevianko,²⁸ Albert De Roeck, 29, 30, * Goran Diordievic, 31 Peter Dornan, 4 Michael Doser, 30 Ioannis Drougkakis,¹³ Jacob Dunningham,¹⁹ Ioana Dutan,²⁰ Sajan Easo,¹¹ Gedminas Elertas,¹⁶ John Ellis,^{12,32,33,*} Mai El Sawy,³⁴ Farida Fassi,³⁵ Daniel Felea,²⁰ Chen-Hao Feng,⁸ White paper Robert Flack,¹⁵ Chris Foot,⁹ Ivette Fuentes,¹⁸ Naceur Gaaloul,³⁶ Alexandre Gauguet,³⁷ Remi Geiger.³⁸ Valerie Gibson.³⁹ Gian Giudice.³³ Jon Goldwin.¹⁴ Oleg Grachov.⁴⁰ Peter W. Graham,^{41,*} Dario Grasso,^{21,22} Maurits van der Grinten,¹¹ Mustafa Gündogan,³ submitted to Martin G. Haehnelt,^{42,*} Tiffany Harte,³⁹ Aurélien Hees,^{38,*} Richard Hobson,¹⁷ Bodil Holst,⁴³ Jason Hogan,^{41,*} Mark Kasevich,⁴¹ Bradley J. Kavanagh,⁴⁴ Wolf von Klitzing,^{13,*} ESA Voyage Tim Kovachy,⁴⁵ Benjamin Krikler,⁴⁶ Markus Krutzik,^{3,*} Marek Lewicki,^{12,47,*} Yu-Hung Lien,¹⁵ Miaoyuan Liu,²⁶ Giuseppe Gaetano Luciano,⁴⁸ Alain Magnon,⁴⁹ Mohammed Mahmoud,⁵⁰ 2050 Call Sarah Malik,⁴ Christopher McCabe,^{12,*} Jeremiah Mitchell,²⁴ Julia Pahl,³ Debapriya Pal,¹³ Saurabh Pandey,¹³ Dimitris Papazoglou,⁵¹ Mauro Paternostro,⁵² Bjoern Penning,⁵³ Achim Peters,^{3,*} Marco Prevedelli,⁵⁴ Vishnupriya Puthiya-Veettil,⁵⁵ John Quenby,⁴ Ernst Rasel,^{36,*} Sean Ravenhall,⁹ Haifa Rejeb Sfar,²⁹ Jack Ringwood,¹⁶ Albert Roura,^{56,*} Dylan Sabulsky,^{8,*} Muhammed Sameed,⁵⁷ Ben Sauer,⁴ Stefan Alaric Schäffer,⁵⁸ Stephan Schiller,^{59,*} Vladimir Schkolnik,³ Dennis Schlippert,³⁶ Christian Schubert,^{3,*} Armin Shayeghi,⁶⁰ Ian Shipsey,⁹ Carla Signorini,^{21,22} Marcelle Soares-Santos,⁵³ Abou El-Neaj, ..., JE et Fiodor Sorrentino,^{61,*} Yaipal Singh,^{14,*} Timothy Sumner,⁴ Konstantinos Tassis,¹³ Silvia Tentindo,⁶² Guglielmo Maria Tino,^{63,64,*} Jonathan N. Tinsley,⁶³ James Unwin,⁶⁵ al Tristan Valenzuela,¹¹ Georgios Vasilakis,¹³ Ville Vaskonen,^{12,32,*} Christian Vogt,⁶⁶ arXiv:1908.00802 Alex Webber-Date,¹⁶ André Wenzlawski,⁶⁷ Patrick Windpassinger,⁶⁷ Marian Woltmann,⁶⁶ Michael Holynski,¹⁴ Efe Yazgan,⁶⁸ Ming-Sheng Zhan,^{69,*} Xinhao Zou,⁸ Jure Zupan⁷⁰

Search for Ultralight Dark Matter



'Ultra-Light' dark matter

Massive' dark matter



Ultralight Dark Matter

A scalar ULDM $\phi(x, t)$ field would be present throughout the Solar System



Ultralight Dark Matter

Interactions with the ULDM field lead to oscillations in fundamental 'constants'

 $\omega_{\rm Sr}$

 $m_{\rm DM}$

Tiny oscillations induced in transition energies:

Searches for Ultralight Dark Matter AlON

Linear couplings to gauge fields and matter fermions

Gravity Gradient Noise

Seismic waves on the surface (Rayleigh waves) change the gravitational field experienced by the atoms and lead to a phase shift

$$\Phi_{ ext{Rayleigh}} \, = \Big(\widetilde{A} e^{-qkz_0} + \widetilde{B} e^{-kz_0} \Big) \xi_V \cos(\omega T + \Theta)$$

$$\widetilde{A}, -\widetilde{B} \propto rac{\sin\left(rac{\omega T}{2}
ight)^2}{\omega^2}$$

We consider the simplest scenario: Isotropic sourcing around the shaft, single geological stratum present (so only the fundamental Rayleigh mode)

Badurina, Gibson, McCabe & Mitchell, in preparation

Gravity Gradient Noise

Exponential suppression and frequency dependence

Badurina, Gibson, McCabe & Mitchell, in preparation

Vertical displacement (Rayleigh distributed)

Gravity Gradient Noise Alon

Unimportant for AION-10

Not large for AION-100

Important for AION-1km

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Black Hole & Neutron Stars

Supermassive Black Holes in Active Galactic Nuclei: Image of M87

Mass ~ 6.5 × 10⁹ solar masses

How to Make a Supermassive BH?

SMBHs from mergers of intermediate-mass BHs (IMBHs)?

Intermediate Mass Black Holes Identified as Low-Luminosity Active Galactic Nuclei

How to Observe Mergers of Intermediate Mass BHs?

Volonteri, Habouzit & Colpi, arXiv:2110.10175

Gravitational Waves from IMBH Mergers AION

Probe formation of SMBHs Synergies with other GW experiments (LIGO, LISA), test GR

adurina, Buchmueller, JE, Lewicki, McCabe & Vaskonen: arXiv:2108.02468

AION Collaboration (Badurina, ..., JE et al): arXiv:1911.11755 GWs from IMBH Mergers: SNR = 8

AEDGE: Abou El-Neaj, ..., JE et al: arXiv:1908.00802

Gravitational Waves from IMBHs

Probe BHs in 10² solar-mass gap out to $z \sim 10^3$ Mergers of ~ 10³ solar-mass BHs out to $z > 10^2$ Detect mergers of ~ 10⁴ solar-mass BHs with SNR 1000 out to $z \sim 10$

Lighter shades: inspiral Darker shades: merger + ringdown Complementarity + synergy

Black Hole Superradiance

Boson emission may cause spin-down of black holes (if self-interactions weak)

 M/M_{c}

Brito, Cardoso & Pani: arXiv:1501.06570

Boson emission causes spin-down of black holes (if self-interactions weak)

Prospective Spin AION Measurements with AION-km, AEDGE

E & Vaskonen: in preparation

Alonso, ..., Badurina, ..., JE, ..., McCabe et al, arXiv:2201.07789

Proposed ESA Road-Map for Cold Atoms in

Space

ESA Call for M, F-Class Science Missions

call for missions 2021

Call for missions 2021 » Home

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Briefing meeting				
Phase-1 proposal				
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Q & A				

CALL FOR A MEDIUM-SIZE AND A FAST MISSION OPPORTUNITY IN ESA'S SCIENCE PROGRAMME

Update 3 February 2022: A Q&A page has been added with answers to questions posed after the briefing meeting.

Update 13 January 2022: The presentation from the briefing meeting is available to download here (pdf).

Issue date: 13 December 2021

The ESA Director of Science solicits the scientific community in ESA's Member States for proposals for both a "Fast" mission opportunity (to be launched in the 2030-2031 timeframe) and for a Medium mission opportunity (to be launched around 2037).

The new long-term scientific plan Voyage 2050, for the Science Programme of the European Space Agency (ESA), has been issued in June 2021, following a broad consultation of the scientific community and a peer review process, with final recommendations issued by an independent scientific Senior Committee.

The plan includes three Large (L) missions in selected science themes (Moons of the Giant Planets, From Temperate Exoplanets to the Milky Way, and New Physical Probes of the Early Universe) and a set of Medium (M) and Fast (F) missions.

The definition of the F and M space missions is based on a competitive, peer-reviewed selection process. Even though the Voyage 2050 plan identifies a set of possible themes for the Medium missions, proposals in all fields of space science will be considered, with no prejudice.

DOCUMENTATION

Letter of Invitation from the Director of Science (pdf)

·eesa

Call for a Medium-size and a Fast mission opportunity in ESA's Science Programme (pdf)

Technical Annex for this Call (pdf)

Voyage 2050 Senior Committee Report (pdf)

Added 13 January 2022: Presentation from the briefing meeting

Added 3 February 2022: Q & A page with answers to questions posed after the briefing meeting.

STE-QUEST Proposal

Compare free fall of clouds of Rb and K

STE-QUEST

Space Time Explorer and QUantum Equivalence principle Space Test

A M-class mission proposal in response to the 2022 call in ESA's science program

Lead proposer: Peter Wolf SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris-PSL, CNRS, Sorbonne Université, LNE 61 Av. de l'Observatoire, 75014 Paris, France e-mail: peter.wolf@obspm.fr

June 28, 2022

Core Team:

- Angelo Bassi, Department of Physics, University of Trieste, and INFN Trieste Section, Italy
- Kai Bongs, Midlands Ultracold Atom Research Centre, School of Physics and Astronomy University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
- Philippe Bouyer, LP2N, Université Bordeaux, IOGS, CNRS, Talence, France
- Claus Braxmaier, Institute of Microelectronics, Ulm University and Institute of Quantum Technologies, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Germany
- Oliver Buchmueller, High Energy Physics Group, Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom
- Maria Luisa (Marilu) Chiofalo, Physics Department "Enrico Fermi" University of Pisa, and INFN-Pisa Italy
- John Ellis, Physics Department, King's College London, United Kingdom
- Naceur Gaaloul, Institute of Quantum Optics, Leibniz University of Hanover, Germany
- Aurélien Hees, SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris-PSL, CNRS, Sorbonne Université, LNE, Paris, France
- Philippe Jetzer, Department of Physics, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Steve Lecomte, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- Gilles Métris, Université Côte d'Azur, Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, CNRS, IRD, Géoazur, France
- Ernst M. Rasel, Institute of Quantum Optics, Leibniz University of Hanover, Germany
- Thilo Schuldt, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Institute of Quantum Technologies, Ulm Germany
- Carlos F. Sopuerta, Institute of Space Sciences (ICE, CSIC), Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC), Spain
- Guglielmo M. Tino, Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia and LENS, Università di Firenze, INFN, CNR Italy
- Wolf von Klitzing, Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser, Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, *Greece*
- Lisa Wörner, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Institute of Quantum Technologies, Ulm Germany
- Nan Yu, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91109, USA
- Martin Zelan, Measurement Science and Technology, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, Borås, Sweden

Other contributors: Leonardo Badurina, Baptiste Battelier, Matteo Carlesso, Robin Corgier, Sandro Donadi, Gina Kleinsteinberg, Sina Loriani, Dennis Schlippert, Christian Schubert, Christian Struckmann, Jens Grosse, and the numerous colleagues who contributed to the past STE-QUEST proposals.

Testing the Equivalence Principle

Class	Elements	η	Year [ref]	Comments
	Be - Ti	2×10^{-13}	2008	Torsion balance
Classical	Pt - Ti	1×10^{-14}	2017	MICROSCOPE first results
Classical	Pt - Ti (-	$1.5 \pm 2.7) \times 10^{-1}$	⁵ 2022	MICROSCOPE full data
	¹³³ Cs - CC	7×10^{-9}	2001	Atom Interferometry
Hybrid	⁸⁷ Rb - CC	$7 imes 10^{-9}$	2010	and macroscopic corner cube (CC)
	³⁹ K - ⁸⁷ Rb	$3 imes 10^{-7}$	2020	different elements
	⁸⁷ Sr - ⁸⁸ Sr	2×10^{-7}	2014	same element, fermion vs. boson
Quantum	⁸⁵ Rb - ⁸⁷ Rb	$3 imes 10^{-8}$	2015	same element, different isotopes
	⁸⁵ Rb - ⁸⁷ Rb	$3.8 imes 10^{-12}$	2020	10 m tower
	⁴¹ K - ⁸⁷ Rb	(10^{-17})	2037	STE-QUEST
Antimatter	\overline{H} - H	(10^{-2})	2023 +	under construction at CERN

MICROSCOPE Collaboration, PRL 129, 121102, 2022

STE-QUEST Science: Searching for Ultralight Dark Matter

Wave-Function Collapse?

- Transition from quantum to classical behaviour?
- Black holes: information loss across horizon causes pure states → mixed states
- Non-factorising scattering matrix $\rho_{out} = \$ \rho_{in} : \$ \neq SS^{\dagger}$
- Non-Hamiltonian evolution: $\partial_t \rho = i[\rho, H] + \mathscr{H} \rho$ due to information loss via microscopic black holes?
- e.g., 2-state system with equal energies:

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & e^{-\lambda t} \\ e^{-\lambda t} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

• General parametrisation: $e^{-\frac{d}{r_c}}, e^{-\lambda t}$

JE, Hagelin, Nanopoulos, Olive & Srednicki, 1984

Ghirardi, Rimini & Weber, 1986

STE-QUEST Science: Probe of Quantum Mechanics

STE-QUEST Science Programme

Probe the boundaries of our fundamental theories and the interfaces between them

