Update and Recent Results from GigaBREAD 19th Patras Workshop on Axions, WIMPs, and WISPs

Gabe Hoshino

September 19, 2024

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[Concept and Motivation](#page-1-0)

The BREAD Reflector Concept

- In the presence of a strong magnetic field, axions cause the emission of photons at the conductive walls of the reflector.
- A parabolic reflector is placed in the middle of the cylinder to focus the photons onto a point.

Axion induced E-field:

$$
\boldsymbol{E}_{a}=-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}g_{a\gamma\gamma}\boldsymbol{B}_{\rm ext}a
$$

Reflector compared to Resonant Cavity

Resonant Cavity:

- \bullet $P_{\text{sig}} \propto QB^2V$
- **•** Narrowband
- **e** Resonant enhancement
- Volume becomes very small for short wavelength signals

Reflector:

- $P_{\rm sig} \propto B^2 A$
- **Broadband**
- Minimal to no resonant enhancement
- Area can be kept large even for short wavelength signals

 \implies Reflectors are a compelling technology to push axion sensitivity to mm-wave and beyond!

A Reflector Designed to Fit Inside Large Solenoid Magnets

A Reflector Designed to Fit Inside Large Solenoid Magnets

A BREAD reflector in a real solenoid magnet at Argonne National Laboratory!

BREAD as a Platform for Different Sensor Technologies

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GigaBREAD

- GigaBREAD is the GHz BREAD pilot designed to look for axions and dark photons in the 10.7-12.5 GHz range
- In the GHz regime, the reflector can be coupled to a microwave horn antenna

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Custom coaxial horn antenna

The GigaBREAD Reflector

 $A = 0.5$ m²

Horn Position Calibration

Efficiency as a function of antenna position (simulated)

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Horn Position Calibration

Reflectivity as a function of antenna position (simulated)

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Horn Position Calibration

Reflectivity as a function of antenna position (measured)

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[Amplifier Chain and DAQ](#page-12-0)

Background Veto Antenna for ALPs at Argonne

- The environment around the ANL MRI magnet was full of backgrounds
- To mitigate backgrounds, a second antenna was used to mask frequency bins with significant backgrounds

Xilinx ZCU111 Board

Performs realtime fast fourier transforms and averaging implemented in the FPGA firmware

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Block Diagram

• The board can sample a 2 GHz bandwidth at a time using a \sim 4 GSPS ADC

LO Frequency Hopping: RFI Rejection Scheme

Shifting the LO frequency while taking data can reduce RFI from the readout band

Without LO hopping: With LO hopping:

High Frequency Background Rejection

For the ALP search at Argonne, a separate antenna and amplifier chain was used to monitor backgrounds and mask bins accordingly

[Dark Photon Search](#page-20-0)

Setup

- \bullet Data was taken for \sim 24 days
- During data taking, the reflector, antenna, and amplifier chain were inside an RF-shielded room
- Data is taken at different antenna positions
- Antenna passes through the focal spot every \sim 4 hours

Dark Photon Limit

Plots modified from <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>

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Read more about this result in PRL!

First Results from a Broadband Search for Dark Photon Dark Matter in the 44 to 52μ eV range with a coaxial dish antenna

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We present first results from a dark photon dark matter search in the mass range from 44 to 52μ eV $(10.7-12.5 \text{ GHz})$ using a room-temperature dish antenna setup called GigaBREAD. Dark photon dark matter converts to ordinary photons on a cylindrical metallic emission surface with area 0.5 m^2 and is focused by a novel parabolic reflector onto a horn antenna. Signals are read out with a low-noise receiver system. A first data taking run with 24 days of data does not show evidence for dark photon dark matter in this mass range, excluding dark photon - photon mixing parameters $\chi \gtrsim 10^{-12}$ in this range at 90% confidence level. This surpasses existing constraints by about two orders of magnitude and is the most stringent bound on dark photons in this range below $49 \mu eV$.

[Axion-Like Particle Search](#page-24-0)

ALPs at Argonne

- We took data in a 3.9 T field using an MRI magnet at Argonne National Laboratory
- \bullet We were able to take \sim 3 days of data at a system noise temperature of \sim 400 K and \sim 27 days at a system noise temperature of \sim 600 K.

Installing Shielding

Finding the Blind Injected Signal

During both the dark photon and ALP experiment, blind signal was injected during data taking using a pin antenna.

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Final Excess Power

Preliminary ALP Limit

Plots modified from <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>

[Future Plans](#page-30-0)

Next Steps

- A GigaBREAD run in a 9.4 T solenoid magnet at Fermilab may be possible in the near future
- We may consider making the experiment cryogenic and using quantum-limited amplification
- Additionally, higher frequency versions of BREAD are being developed operating in mm-wave, terahertz, and infrared regimes

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Future GigaBREAD Projections

Plots modified from <https://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/>

Thanks!

BREAD Collaboration:

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The QCD Axion

• The strong force is expected to violate CP symmetry via the following term in the QCD Lagrangian:

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} \supset \theta \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \tilde{\mathsf{G}} \tilde{\mathsf{G}}
$$

- Roberto Peccei and Helen Quinn have explained the lack of any observed CP violation by introducing the axion.
- Couplings between the axion and standard model particles can be feeble, making it a good dark matter candidate.

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Axion Parameter Space

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Setting up the Simulation in COMSOL

- The axion and dark photon fields modify Maxwell's equations by adding new sources for EM fields.
- We implement this in COMSOL by treating the axion/dark photon excitations as a space-filling oscillating current with a direction which is parallel/anti-parallel to the direction of the magnetic field in the experiment.

$$
\frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{J}_{\text{eff}}}{\partial t}
$$

$$
\frac{\partial^2 \vec{B}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{J}_{\text{eff}}
$$

Setting up the Simulation in COMSOL

- Simulations are performed using the RF module in COMSOL.
- The rotational symmetry of our reflector allows us to solve for the EM fields in 2D.
- Boundary conditions are set for the reflector and horn antenna based on their material properties.
- Absorbers are implemented using scattering boundary conditions and perfectly matched layers.

DAQ Firmware Deadtime

DAQ Firmware Signal Injection

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Reflector Surface Characterization with CMM

Matching Antenna to the Reflector Beam Shape

In order to get the best performance, we look for an antenna with a near-field pattern similar to that of the reflector.

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Coaxial Antenna

Coaxial horn design used for GigaBREAD

Far-Field Measurement Setup

- **Horns are mounted on robotic arms in the** RF isolation chamber.
- The robotic arms can be made to rotate together as shown on the right which allows us to determine the far-field transmission at different angles.

Far-Field Measurement Setup

Far-Field Measurement Results

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Horn Efficiency

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Y-factor Method

- The Y-factor method is a method for measuring the system noise temperature.
- **•** This method is convenient because it allows for the system noise temperature to be measured without first measuring the exact gain of the amplifier chain.
- Using a calibrated noise source which adds a known amount of noise to the amplifier chain input, the noise added by the amplifier chain can be determined.

Y-factor Method

- Power spectrum was measured with a noise source connected and either on or off.
- The two measurements were then used to calculate the noise temperature:

$$
Y = \frac{P_{\text{on}}}{P_{\text{off}}}
$$

$$
T_{\text{amp}} = \frac{(290 \text{ K})(\text{ENR}) - (Y - 1)(290 \text{ K})}{Y - 1}
$$

Thermal Measurement and S_{11} Comparison

We can check measurements made with our DAQ and amplifier chain against reflectivity measurements done with a network analyzer.

- Consists of one low noise amplifier followed by three additional amplifiers.
- All amplifiers are operated at room temperature.

• To avoid saturation effects, a bandpass is placed between the amplifiers.

• 3 dB attenuators are placed between the amplifiers to attenuate standing waves.

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Amplifier Chain

• A mixer converts the 10.7-12.5 GHz signal into a 0.1-1.9 GHz signal.

GigaBREAD RF Amplifier Chain

Total gain: ~70 dB

Bandpass Filters: -8 dB each ZXHF-K14M + ZXLF-K133

Amplifiers: +27 dB each ZX60-24A-S

IQ Mixer: -12 dB MMIQ-0520HS

Attenuators: -3 dB each

• A cavity filter bandpass blocks the unwanted sideband of the mixer below 10.6 GHz.

• Frequency hopping can reduce low frequency background that.

• LO shifting moves high frequency signal peaks with respect to the background.

• Software shift keeps high frequency signal peaks fixed.

- Hopping is repeated many times.
- Size of hopping is drawn from a Gaussian distribution.
- Background smeared out and becomes less significant than noise.

Example of Smeared Out Peak

This is an example of a peak that is too big to mitigated with this method because it increases the noise non-negligibly in the bins around it. It is still a nice visualization of what happens to low frequency backgrounds due to frequency hopping.

Background Veto Procedure

- 1. Compare data from both receivers
- 2. Mask bins with significant backgrounds

 \sim 20 h \sim 20 h

Sum all the \sim 20 h spectra together

Accounting for Dark Matter Lineshape

- The lineshape of axions and dark photons means that our expected signal spills over into multiple bins
- We can account for this by performing a cross-correlation with the lineshape at each frequency

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Finding the Blind Injected Signals

Test signals at two frequencies were injected using a pin antenna during data taking

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Final Excess Power

ALP Setup at ANL: More Detailed View

