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

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September 19, 2024







### Concept and Motivation

#### 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:

$$oldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}_{oldsymbol{a}}=-rac{1}{arepsilon}oldsymbol{g}_{oldsymbol{a}\gamma\gamma}oldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}_{\mathrm{ext}}oldsymbol{a}$$



ŞВ



## Reflector compared to Resonant Cavity

Resonant Cavity:

- $P_{
  m sig} \propto Q B^2 V$
- Narrowband
- Resonant enhancement
- Volume becomes very small for short wavelength signals

Reflector:

- $P_{
  m sig} \propto B^2 A$
- 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



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#### 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





#### 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





#### Custom coaxial horn antenna



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## The GigaBREAD Reflector

 $A=0.5~{\rm m}^2$ 





#### 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



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#### GigaBREAD RF Amplifier Chain



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## 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



### **Block Diagram**

 $\bullet\,$  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

### 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 $44 \, to 52 \, \mu eV$ 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 52, aeV (10.7 – 12.5 GHz) using a room-emperature dish anterna setup called (GB2RREAD. Dark photon dark matter converts to ordinary photons on a cylindrical metallic emission surface with area 0.5 mill 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  $\chi \geq 10^{-12}$  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

#### ALPs at Argonne

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





## 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

#### 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/

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### Thanks!

#### **BREAD Collaboration:**

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## Backup

#### The QCD Axion

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

$$\mathcal{L}_{
m QCD} \supset heta rac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G ilde{G}$$

- 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.



Backup

#### 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.



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#### DAQ Firmware Deadtime



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#### DAQ Firmware Signal Injection



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### Reflector Surface Characterization with CMM





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#### 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.



#### Backup

### Coaxial Antenna

• Coaxial horn design used for GigaBREAD







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#### 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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Backup

### Horn Efficiency



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#### Backup

#### 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:

$$Y = rac{P_{
m on}}{P_{
m off}}$$

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



#### 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.



#### Attenuators to prevent standing waves between amplifiers and match gain LO (~10.6 GHz) → LNA Bandpass Bandpass Bandpass Bandpass Amplifier Amplifier Amplifier LNA: +28 dB LNF-LNR10.30A $T_{\nu} = 120K$ Bandpass Filters: -8 dB each ZXHE-K14M + ZXLE-K133 Total gain: ~70 dB Amplifiers: +27 dB each ZX60.24A.5

IQ Mixer: -12 dB

Attenuators: -3 dB each

GigaBREAD RF Amplifier Chain

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IO Mixe

• 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

$$\sim 20 \text{ h}$$
  $\sim 20 \text{ h}$   $\sim 20 \text{ h}$ 

# Sum all the ~ 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



Backup

#### Final Excess Power



Backup

#### ALP Setup at ANL: More Detailed View

