# Laser plasma wakefield based axion generation and detection

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Axion – a candidate particle of dark matter being searched for globally

Outline

- Modelling axion-photon interaction in a PIC code
- Laser wakefield based axion generation and detection
- Summary





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### Astronomical evidence for the existence of dark matter



Dark matter mainly participates in gravitational interactions. It has very weak interactions with the particles of the Standard Model and is extremely difficult to detect directly. Therefore, it is almost "invisible".

# Types of dark matter and their proportions in the universe



WIMPs

#### **Axions/ALPs**

**Sterile Neutrinos** 

**Small Black Holes** 

**Mixed Scenario** 





### **Axion in universe**



#### PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 120, 231102 (2018)

#### Editors' Suggestion

#### Axion laser Stimulated Axion Decay in Superradiant Clouds around Primordial Black Holes

#### João G. Rosa<sup>1,\*</sup> and Thomas W. Kephart<sup>2,†</sup>

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The superradiant instability can lead to the generation of extremely dense axion clouds around rotating black holes. We show that, despite the long lifetime of the QCD axion with respect to spontaneous decay into photon pairs, stimulated decay becomes significant above a minimum axion density and leads to extremely bright lasers. The lasing threshold can be attained for axion masses  $\mu \gtrsim 10^{-8}$  eV, which implies superradiant instabilities around spinning primordial black holes with mass  $\lesssim 0.01 \ M_{\odot}$ . Although the latter



#### universe

#### Review

#### A Review of Axion Lasing in Astrophysics

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- \* These authors contributed equally to this work.

Abstract: Axions can be stimulated to decay into photons by ambient photons of the right frequency or by photons from the decay of neighboring axions. If the axion density is high enough, the photon intensity can be amplified, which is a type of lasing or an axion maser. Here, we review the astrophysical situations where axion lasing can appear and possibly be detected.



### Various detection schemes are being used to search dark matter





A special dark matter candidate particle – axion & its interaction with electromagnetic fields

Axions are theoretically proposed particles that emerge after the introduction of spontaneous symmetry breaking in quantum chromodynamics and possess electromagnetic interactions.





#### Conversion efficiency $\propto (BL)^2$

| Lab           | B field | length |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| Fermi: GammeV | 5 T     | 6 m    |
| CERN: LHC     | 10 T    | 10 m   |



### Current existing detection methods of axions





### **Current existing detection methods of axions**





#### Regions which has been excluded



10



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# Developing a simulation tool for axion in plasma

#### Matter and **Radiation at Extremes**

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Featured

#### Modeling of axion and electromagnetic fields interaction in particle-in-cell simulations



#### Coupling of axion and EM fields

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\rm EM} + \mathcal{L}_{\phi} + \mathcal{L}_{\rm int},$$
  

$$\mathcal{L}_{\rm EM} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + A_{\mu} j_e^{\mu},$$
  

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\mu} \phi \partial^{\mu} \phi - \frac{1}{2} m_a^2 \phi^2,$$
  

$$\mathcal{L}_{\rm int} = -\frac{1}{4} g_{\phi\gamma\gamma} \phi F_{\mu\nu} G^{\mu\nu} = g_{\phi\gamma\gamma} \phi \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

Interaction between axion and photon

#### For details, please go to the POSTER session.

Modeling of axion and electromagnetic fields interaction in particle-in-cell simulations

- 15 Apr 2025, 17:00
- () 1h 40m

P Hotel Continental, Ischia Island (Naples, Italy)



#### Speaker

Le Institute, Shangyan An (Tsung-Dao Lee Institute, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China)

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{E} = \rho - g_{\phi\gamma\gamma} \boldsymbol{B} \cdot \nabla \phi,$$

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{B} = 0, \quad \text{Extremely small}$$

$$\nabla \times \boldsymbol{E} = -\partial_t \boldsymbol{B}, \quad \textbf{How to include it?}$$

$$\nabla \times \boldsymbol{B} = \partial_t \boldsymbol{E} + \boldsymbol{j} + g_{\phi\gamma\gamma} [(\partial_t \phi) \boldsymbol{B} - \boldsymbol{E} \times \nabla \phi]$$

$$\boldsymbol{\nabla} \text{Eq. of axion} \quad \partial_t^2 \phi - \nabla^2 \phi + m_a^2 \phi = g_{a\gamma\gamma} \boldsymbol{E} \cdot \boldsymbol{B}$$

We use field perturbation separation method to describe the axion generated EM field to avoid the numerical noise

#### Field Perturbation Separation (FPS) method:

Considering  $E = E_0 + E_1$ ,  $B = B_0 + B_1$ ,  $E_0$ ,  $B_0$  satisfy the Maxwell Eqs. w/o axion

The axion generated  $E_1$ ,  $B_1$  satisfies:

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{E}_{1} = \frac{\rho_{1}}{\varepsilon_{0}} - cg_{a\gamma\gamma}\boldsymbol{B}_{0} \cdot \nabla\phi,$$
  

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{B}_{1} = 0,$$
  

$$\nabla \times \boldsymbol{E}_{1} = -\partial_{t}\boldsymbol{B}_{1},$$
  

$$\nabla \times \boldsymbol{B}_{1} = \frac{\partial}{c^{2}\partial t}\boldsymbol{E}_{1} + \mu_{0}\boldsymbol{j}_{1} + \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{c}[(\partial_{t}\phi)\boldsymbol{B}_{0} - \boldsymbol{E}_{0} \times \nabla\phi].$$

We solve two sets of Maxwell Equations at the same time to include the axion generated EM fields.

 $\nabla \times B_0 = \partial_t E_0 + j_0.$ 

The perturbated current  $j_1$   $x = x_0 + x_1$ ,  $p = p_0 + p_1$ ,  $v = v_0 + v_1$ ,

The force felt by the particle

$$(F = E_{x,y,z}, B_{x,y,z}):$$

$$F|_{x=x_0+x_1} = (F_0 + F_1)|_{x=x_0+x_1} = \sum_{ijk} S(r_{ijk} - x_0 - x_1) \left(F_{0,ijk} + F_{1,ijk}\right)$$
$$= \sum_{ijk} S(r_{ijk} - x_0) F_{0,ijk}$$
$$+ \sum_{ijk} \left[ \frac{\partial S(r_{ijk} - x)}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=x_0} \cdot x_1 \right] F_{0,ijk} + \sum_{ijk} S(r_{ijk} - x_0) F_{1,ijk}$$
$$= F_{nop} + F_p \qquad \text{Perturbation force}$$

### Code benchmark: axion generation by a laser field in a background static B field



$$m = 10^{-3} \text{ eV}, \ g_{\phi\gamma\gamma} = 2.65 \times 10^{-13} \text{ GeV}^{-1}.$$
  
 $\lambda_0 = 800 \text{ nm}, \ a_0 = 3, \ B_0 = 423 \text{ T}.$ 

The theory prediction of the photon-axion conversion rate

$$P_{\gamma \to \phi} = P_{\phi \to \gamma} \approx \frac{1}{4} \left( g_{\phi \gamma \gamma} B_0 l \right)^2 \left[ \frac{\sin \left( \kappa l/2 \right)}{\kappa l/2} \right]^2, \qquad \text{(natural units)}$$

$$P_{\gamma \to \phi} = P_{\phi \to \gamma} \approx \frac{c}{4\mu_0 \hbar} \left( g_{\phi \gamma \gamma} B_0 l \right)^2 \left[ \frac{\sin\left(\kappa l/2\right)}{\kappa l/2} \right]^2, \qquad (\text{SI units})$$

#### Conversion efficiency

$$P_{\gamma \to \phi, \text{sim}} = \frac{H_{\phi}}{H_{\gamma}} = \frac{\int \int \mathcal{H}_{\phi} \, \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{d}y}{\int \int \mathcal{H}_{\gamma} \, \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{d}y},$$
$$\mathcal{H}_{\phi} = \frac{\hbar}{2c} \left( \frac{1}{c^2} \, |\partial_t \phi|^2 + |\nabla \phi|^2 + \frac{m_a^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \phi^2 \right),$$
$$\mathcal{H}_{\gamma} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \varepsilon_0 E^2 + \frac{1}{\mu_0} B^2 \right).$$



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Ultra-strong lasers have the potential to generate axions in a controlled manner, opening the door to the world of dark matter.



## Laser plasma based axion generation and detection



#### PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 120, 181803 (2018)

#### **Axion-Plasmon Polaritons in Strongly Magnetized Plasmas**

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|   |   |
| Axion-like particle generation i  | n laser-plasma interaction  |
| Axion-like particle generation i<br>Shan Huang <sup>1,2,4</sup> , Baifei Shen <sup>1,3,*</sup> , Zhigang Bu<br>Shuhua Zhai <sup>1,2,3</sup>   | n laser-plasma interaction<br><sup>1</sup> , Xiaomei Zhang <sup>1,3</sup> , Liangliang Ji <sup>1</sup> and  |
| Axion-like particle generation i<br>Shan Huang <sup>1,2,4</sup> (0), Baifei Shen <sup>1,3,*</sup> (0), Zhigang Bu<br>Shuhua Zhai <sup>1,2,3</sup> (0)   | n laser-plasma interaction<br><sup>1</sup> , Xiaomei Zhang <sup>1,3</sup> , Liangliang Ji <sup>1</sup> , and<br>hai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Science  |
| Axion-like particle generation i<br>Shan Huang <sup>1,2,4</sup> , Baifei Shen <sup>1,3,*</sup> , Khigang Bu<br>Shuhua Zhai <sup>1,2,3</sup><br><sup>1</sup> State Key Laboratory of High Field Laser Physics, Shang<br>Shanghai 201800, People's Republic of China<br><sup>2</sup> University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049,   | n laser-plasma interaction<br><sup>1</sup> , Xiaomei Zhang <sup>1,3</sup> , Liangliang Ji <sup>1</sup> , and<br>hai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Science<br>.People's Republic of China   |
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| Axion-like particle generation i<br>Shan Huang <sup>1,2,4</sup> , Baifei Shen <sup>1,3,*</sup> , Zhigang Bu<br>Shuhua Zhai <sup>1,2,3</sup><br><sup>1</sup> State Key Laboratory of High Field Laser Physics, Shang<br>Shanghai 201800, People's Republic of China<br><sup>2</sup> University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049,<br><sup>3</sup> Department of Physics, Shanghai Normal University, Shang<br><sup>4</sup> Present address: School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv | n laser-plasma interaction<br><sup>1</sup> , Xiaomei Zhang <sup>1,3</sup> , tiangliang Ji <sup>1</sup> , and<br>thai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Science<br>People's Republic of China<br>ghai 200234, People's Republic of China<br>'University, Tel Aviv-Yafo 6997801, Israel. |

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### Axion excitation by intense laser fields in a plasma

#### J T Mendonça $^{1,3} \odot$ , H Terças $^1 \odot$ and J D Rodrigues $^2$

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# Laser plasma wakefield based axion generation



Advantage: Magnetic intensity and length ( $Bl:10^2Tm \rightarrow 10^5Tm$ ), conversion efficiency is 6 orders higher, the intense laser also increases the axion amount for another 6 orders.



### Axion and secondary EM fields generation

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_t^2 - \nabla^2 + m_a^2 \end{pmatrix} \phi = g_{a\gamma\gamma} \boldsymbol{E} \cdot \boldsymbol{B}, \\ \nabla \times \boldsymbol{E}_1 = -\partial_t \boldsymbol{B}_1, \\ \nabla \times \boldsymbol{B}_1 = \partial_t \boldsymbol{E}_1 + g_{a\gamma\gamma} \left[ (\partial_t \phi) \, \boldsymbol{B}_0 - \boldsymbol{E}_0 \times \nabla \phi \right]$$

Laser: **y polarized**  $N_{\gamma}$ : Envelope of the drive laser $E_y = \frac{a_0}{2} N_{\gamma}(\zeta_0, y, z) e^{i\xi_0} + c.c.,$  $B_z = \frac{a_0 k_0}{2\omega_0} N_{\gamma}(\zeta_0, y, z) e^{i\xi_0} + c.c.,$ 

 $\xi_0 = k_0 x - \omega_0 t$  is the laser phase Wake fields: radial polarized

$$E_x = \frac{k_p \zeta_0}{2} \frac{\omega_p}{\omega_0}, \quad E_y = -B_z = \frac{k_p y}{4} \frac{\omega_p}{\omega_0},$$
$$B_x = 0, \quad E_z = B_y = \frac{k_p z}{4} \frac{\omega_p}{\omega_0}.$$

The main parts of E, B, *i.e.*  $E_0$ ,  $B_0$  come from both laser fields & wakefields

The EM fields generated by axions (AREM) are extremely weak and are labeled by  $E_1$ ,  $B_1$ .



# Character of Axion regenerated EM (AREM) field

 $\kappa = k_0 - k_a$  matching between laser & axion  $\xi_{\mu}^{(1)} = k_{\mu}^{(1)}x - \omega_{\mu}^{(1)}t$  is the AREM phase  $\omega_{\mu}^{(1)} = \mu\omega_0, k_{\mu}^{(s)} = k_a - k_0, k_a, k_a + k_0$  $\mu = 0, 1, 2$  
$$\begin{split} \phi &\propto g_{a\gamma\gamma}x\operatorname{sinc}(\kappa x/2), \\ P_a &\propto \phi^2 \propto g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 x^2\operatorname{sinc}^2(\kappa x/2), \\ A_1/a_0 &\propto g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 x^2\operatorname{sinc}(\kappa x/2)\operatorname{sinc}(\kappa' x/2). \end{split}$$
E<sub>1</sub> fields show new frequency components, 0\omega\_0, \omega\_0, 2\omega\_0

E<sub>1</sub> fields show new spatial modes (LG<sub>Lp</sub>)

# PIC simulations: Evolution and spatial distributions of the axion and EM fields



E<sub>1</sub>: y and z polarized, high order LG mode



## High order LG modes of AREM fields

We decompose the fields of the AREM according to the Laguerre-Gaussian (LG) modes.

$$u_{pl} = a_{pl} \frac{1}{w_{\perp}} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}r_{\perp}}{w_{\perp}} \right)^{|l|} L_{p}^{|l|} \left( \frac{2r_{\perp}^{2}}{w_{\perp}^{2}} \right) e^{-r_{\perp}^{2}/w_{\perp}^{2}} e^{-il\theta} \qquad C_{pl} = \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\theta \int_{0}^{\infty} dr_{\perp} r_{\perp} A_{1} u_{pl}$$

$$A_{1,y,\omega_{0}} : C_{pl} \propto \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\theta \sin^{2}(\theta) e^{-il\theta} \neq 0$$

$$l = 0, \pm 2$$

$$A_{1,z,\omega_{0}} : C_{pl} \propto \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\theta \sin(\theta) e^{-il\theta} \neq 0$$

$$l = \pm 1$$

$$A_{1,z,\omega_{0}} : C_{pl} \propto \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\theta \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) e^{-il\theta} \neq 0$$

$$l = \pm 2$$

$$A_{1,z,\omega_{0}} : C_{pl} \propto \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\theta \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) e^{-il\theta} \neq 0$$

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$$REM \text{ fields}$$

$$y(\mu m) \int_{0}^{50} \int_{0}^{4\pi} d\theta \sin^{2}(\theta) e^{-il\theta} \neq 0$$

$$AREM \text{ fields}$$

$$y(\mu m) \int_{0}^{50} \int_{0}^{4\pi} d\theta \sin^{2}(\theta) e^{-il\theta} \neq 0$$

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$$y(\mu m) \int_{0}^{50} \int_{0}^{4\pi} d\theta \sin^{2}(\theta) e^{-il\theta} \neq 0$$

$$AREM \text{ fields}$$

$$y(\mu m) \int_{0}^{50} \int_{0}^{4\pi} d\theta \sin^{2}(\theta) e^{-i\theta} e^{-i$$

### Axion generation efficiency along with the guiding length

$$\phi \propto g_{a\gamma\gamma} x \operatorname{sinc}(\kappa x/2),$$

$$P_a \propto \phi^2 \propto g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 x^2 \operatorname{sinc}^2(\kappa x/2),$$

$$A_1/a_0 \propto g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 x^2 \operatorname{sinc}(\kappa x/2) \operatorname{sinc}(\kappa' x/2).$$



The efficiency can be increased by extending the guiding length. However, even the laser is well guided, photon & axion phase mismatching will limit the axion generation. The maximum distance is limited by:

 $x \lesssim l_d \equiv 2\pi/|\kappa|$  Axion mismatch with laser photon  $x \lesssim l'_d \equiv 2\pi/|\kappa|'$  Axion mismatch with AREM photon



$$\begin{split} \omega_0^2 &= \omega_p^2 + k_0^2 \\ \omega_{p,\text{eff}}^2 &= n_{\text{eff}} e^2 / (\gamma_\perp m_e) \\ \gamma_\perp &= \sqrt{1 + a_0^2 / 2} = 3.7 \\ \kappa &= \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \omega_{p,\text{eff}}^2} - \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - m_a^2} \end{split}$$

An empty bubble can lower the limitation of the detectable axion mass. Using beam driven?

## Detection methods & limitation on the g<sub>ayy</sub> constraint





# Summary

- Axion is one of the candidate particles of dark matter. Its coupling with the EM field (Primakoff effect ) provides a possible way for intense laser based dark matter searching.
- Plasma wake can support huge E and B fields. When it interacts with a well guided intense laser, axions can be generated. The inverse process can generate secondary EM fields, which shows higher frequency and spatial modes.
- The intense fields from both of the laser and wake make the axion generation efficiency in this scheme is orders of magnitude higher than the existed schemes. It may also be a new application of LWFA.
- For shorter distance (meter long) interaction, the AREM photon number is limited, one should combine the wakefield based axion generation with the LSW scheme to detect the axion. If one wants to use AREM to detect the axions, long distance wake & laser guiding inside the bubble is still required. Beam driven may be a solution. Km level "AWAKE" based axion searching?
  Thanks for your attention!

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