D rk sector search at BESH

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On behalf of the BESIII collaboration

Apri 11, Genova, Italy







There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now.





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There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now.

Galactic rotation curve









19.0 $a_{\mu} \times 10^9 - 1165900$

17.5

18.0

18.5

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BMW Collab.

19.5

20.0

20.5 21.0

There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now.

Galactic rotation curve



PRL 131, 161802(2023)

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Physics BSM must exist!



• A collection of particles that are not charged directly under the SM strong, weak, or electromagnetic forces.

• May interact with SM particle through portal interactions, not through gravitational effect only.



The main of this talk **<** Invisible decay of K⁰_S
 arXiv: 2501.06426 accepted by JHEP

- $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p + \text{invisible}$ Phys.Lett.B 852 (2024) 138614
- Muonphilic particle in $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- X$ Phys.Rev.D 109 (2024) 3, L031102
- ← (Massless) Dark photon in $D^0 \rightarrow \omega \gamma', \gamma \gamma'$ Phys.Rev.D 111 (2025) 1, L011103



- ➡ Dark sector particles
 - New invisible particles
 - New particle decay to SM particles

LDMA2025

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BEPCII

O A symmetric e^-e^+ collider running at tau-charm region $|E_{CM}| = 1.84 \sim 4.95 \text{ GeV}|$

• **BEPCII**: Electron–positron colliders: accelerate the e^+ , e^-

Beijing Electron Positron Collider II





*Can't do B physics

o Double rings

o $E_{CM} = 1.84 \sim 4.95 \text{ GeV}$

• Peak luminosity @Ecm=3.77 GeV $\mathscr{L}_{peak} = 1.1 \times 10^{33} \text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{1}$

O 2009~today: BESIII physics runs;



🗼 12 KM

BESIII detector



- High statistic of data
- Clean background environment
- Angular coverage is almost 4π
- Data collected at the threshold

Sensitive to invisible signal!





BESIII has collected large data samples in τ -c energy region! which can benefit the search for the LDM in the **MeV-GeV** range





Invisible decay of K_S^0

Light Dark Matter at Accelerators (LDMA) 2025

Accelerators (EDIVIA) 2023



Invisible decay of $K_{\rm S}^0$



particle oscillations

Input for CPT test

Bell-Steinberger relation connects CPTV to the amplitudes of all decay channels of neutral kaons. BUT currently assumes no invisible modes

Phys.Rev.D 91 (2015) 1, 015004

 $K_{\rm S}^0$

Invisible

\gg Invisible decay of K_S^0

Decay to SM $K_S^0 \to \nu \bar{\nu}$

Phys.Rev.D 91 (2015) 1, 015004

FCNC & helicity suppression, $BF < 10^{-16}$

Decay to DM Never, been measured before lev. 1 (2024) 5

Ordinary-mirror particle oscillations

 $K_S^0 \dashrightarrow K_S^{0'}$

Mirror matter model $BF \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-6})$

arXiv: 2006.10746

Input for CPT test

Bell-Steinberger relation connects CPTV to the amplitudes of all decay channels of neutral kaons. BUT currently assumes no invisible modes

Phys.Rev.D 91 (2015) 1, 015004

Invisible

K_S^0 source

• $J/\psi \to \phi K_S^0(\text{tag})K_S^0, K_S^0(\text{tag}) \to \pi^+\pi^-$ from **10Billion** J/ψ events



Why this channel?









K_S^0 source

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• $J/\psi \to \phi K_S^0(\text{tag})K_S^0, K_S^0(\text{tag}) \to \pi^+\pi^-$ from 10Billion J/ψ events





lower background

• But still have $J/\psi \to K^+ K^- K_S^0 K_L^0$

Using the deposited energy in **EMC**(energy calorimeter) to identify the invisible signal



Signal extraction



 $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p + \text{invisible}$

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$\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p + \text{invisible}$



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• 10B J/ψ events, $J/\psi \to \Sigma \overline{\Sigma}$ (~10⁷ $\Sigma^{+}\overline{\Sigma}^{-}$ pairs), double tag method



Signal extraction



See talks by Anna Marini



Muon-philic particle

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Accelerators (EDIVIA) 2025



Muon-philic particle

• $U(1)_{L_u-L_\tau}$ model : a new massive vector boson X_1 or scalar boson X_0 only

couple to the second or third generations of leptons $(\mu, \nu_{\mu}, \tau, \nu_{\tau})$ with the coupling strength g'_1, g'_0

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mu}^{\text{scalar}} = -g_0 X_0 \overline{\mu} \mu,$ $\mathcal{L}_{\mu}^{\text{vector}} = -g_1 X_{1\alpha} \overline{\mu} \gamma^{\alpha} \mu.$



Three cases of muon-philic particles



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Recoil mass spectrum of $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- X_{0,1}$

O Data samples: **9B** J/ψ events

58 different $X_{0,1}$ mass values, ranging from 1 to 1000 MeV/ c^2 , in step of 10~2 0MeV/ c^2

No evidence for $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- + X_{0,1}$ signals

• The maximum local significance is 2.5σ at $M(X_{0,1}) = 720 \text{ MeV}/c^2$



Low mass region, with

High mass region, with $M(X_{0,1}) = 720 \text{MeV}/c^2$



Coupling constraint



Solution Dark photon in $D^0 \rightarrow \omega \gamma', \gamma \gamma'$

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Massless Dark photon

See talks by Fernando Arias Aragon

• A minimal extension to SM, $U(1)_D$, causing the associated spin-one boson, the dark photon



- Massive γ' , if the symmetry is spontaneously **broken**
- Massless γ' , if the symmetry is **unbroken** This work

Only couple to SM particles through operators of higher dimension

PRL 94, 151802 (2005)

LDMA2025

Dimension-**six** operator

$$\mathcal{L}_{NP} = \frac{1}{\Lambda_{NP}^{2}} \left(\begin{array}{c} C_{jk}^{U} \overline{q}_{j} \sigma^{\mu\nu} u_{k} \widetilde{H} + C_{jk}^{D} \overline{q}_{j} \sigma^{\mu\nu} d_{k} H + C_{jk}^{L} \overline{l}_{j} \sigma^{\mu\nu} e_{k} H + h. c. \right) \overline{F}_{\mu\nu}$$
Up type quarks Down type quarks Charged leptons Massless coupling dark photon
$$\underbrace{\text{Experimental search:}}_{\mu \to e\gamma'} \quad (H \to \gamma\gamma') \quad (H$$

Slides from Zhijun Li @Hadron2025

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Search for $D^0 \rightarrow \omega \gamma'$ and $D^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma'$

Phys.Rev.D 111 (2025) 1, L011103



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Signal extraction





 $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 K_L^0$ background

Signal extraction of
$$D^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma'$$

Signal extraction of $D^0 \rightarrow \omega \gamma'$

Coupling constraint

This work
$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{B}(D \to V\gamma') = \frac{\tau_D f_{DV}^2 (m_D^2 - m_V^2)^3}{2\pi m_D^3} (|\mathbb{C}|^2 + |\mathbb{C}_5|^2) \\ \mathcal{B}(D \to \gamma\gamma') = \frac{\alpha_e}{2} \tau_D f_{D\gamma}^2 m_D^3 (|\mathbb{C}|^2 + |\mathbb{C}_5|^2) \\ \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_c \to p\gamma') = \frac{\tau_{\Lambda_c} f_{\Lambda_c p}^2 (m_{\Lambda_c}^2 - m_p^2)^3}{2\pi m_{\Lambda_c}^3} (|\mathbb{C}|^2 + |\mathbb{C}_5|^2) \end{cases}$$
Previous BESIII $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_c \to p\gamma') = \frac{\tau_{\Lambda_c} f_{\Lambda_c p}^2 (m_{\Lambda_c}^2 - m_p^2)^3}{2\pi m_{\Lambda_c}^3} (|\mathbb{C}|^2 + |\mathbb{C}_5|^2)$

•
$$\mathbb{C} = \Lambda_{NP}^{-2} (C_{12}^U + C_{21}^{U*}) v / \sqrt{8}$$

• $\mathbb{C}_5 = \Lambda_{NP}^{-2} (C_{12}^U - C_{21}^{U*}) v / \sqrt{8}$

The constraint from $D^0 \rightarrow \omega \gamma'$ goes into the dark matter (DM) and vacuum stability (VS) allowed region for the first time, **improved by more than 1 order**



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More recent results on LDM search...



ALPs-photon Coupling

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Summary

- ⇒New results of K_S^0 (Σ^+) invisible decay, muonphilic particle, dark photon, ALP at BESIII
- →No evidence and more stringent constraint on NP
- ⇒BESIII has collected $10^{10} J/\psi$, $2.7 \times 10^9 \psi$, 20 fb⁻¹ ψ (3770) and more
- →More & better results are coming soon

Thanks you!





Thanks for your attention!

Back UP

Data samples at BESIII



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Massless dark photon



• Dark photon couples to the SM matter





A portal to connect the SM matter and the dark sector



SM photon couples to the dark sector particles

Massless dark photon has no interaction with the SM matter in the dimension-4 operator

arXiv:2005.01515

The interaction of γ'





Decay width of $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- X$

Probing new physics scenarios of muon g – 2 via J/ψ decay at BESII

J. High Energy Phys. 10 (2020) 207

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{M}_{\mu\mu X_{0}}|^{2} &= \left(\frac{2}{3}e^{2}g_{0}\frac{f_{J}}{m_{J}}\right)^{2}\frac{-8}{3\,m_{J}^{2}(m_{J}-2\,E_{-})^{2}(-2\,E_{-}-2\,E_{X}+m_{J})^{2}} \left(-4\,m_{\mu}^{2}\left(4\,E_{-}^{2}\left(m_{X}^{2}-2\,E_{X}\,m_{J}\right)\right)\right) \\ &+ E_{-}\left(-8\,E_{X}^{2}m_{J}+4\,E_{X}\left(m_{X}^{2}+2\,m_{J}^{2}\right)-4\,m_{X}^{2}m_{J}\right) - E_{X}^{2}\left(m_{X}^{2}-6\,m_{J}^{2}\right)-2\,E_{X}\,m_{J}\left(m_{X}^{2}+m_{J}^{2}\right)+m_{X}^{2}m_{J}^{2}\right) \\ &+ 4\,E_{-}^{2}\left(2\,E_{X}^{2}\,m_{J}^{2}+m_{X}^{2}\,m_{J}(m_{J}-2\,E_{X})+m_{X}^{4}\right) \\ &+ 4\,E_{-}\left(2\,E_{X}^{3}\,m_{J}^{2}-2\,E_{X}^{2}\,m_{J}\left(m_{X}^{2}+m_{J}^{2}\right)+E_{X}\left(m_{X}^{4}+3\,m_{X}^{2}\,m_{J}^{2}\right)-m_{X}^{2}\,m_{J}\left(m_{X}^{2}+m_{J}^{2}\right)\right) \\ &- 16\,E_{X}^{2}\,m_{\mu}^{4}+m_{J}\left(-4\,E_{X}^{3}\,m_{J}^{2}+2\,E_{X}^{2}\left(3\,m_{X}^{2}\,m_{J}+m_{J}^{3}\right)-2\,E_{X}\left(m_{X}^{4}+2\,m_{X}^{2}\,m_{J}^{2}\right)+m_{X}^{2}\,m_{J}\left(m_{X}^{2}+m_{J}^{2}\right)\right), \end{aligned}$$

$$\Gamma_{\mu\mu X_{0,1}} = \int_{E_X^{min}}^{E_X^{max}} \int_{E_-^{min}}^{E_-^{max}} \frac{|\mathscr{M}_{\mu\mu X_{0,1}}|^2}{64\pi^3 m_J} dE_- dE_X$$

where E_{-} , the energy of μ^{-} and E_X , the energy of X_0 are measured in the rest frame of J/ψ .

$$\begin{split} |\mathcal{M}_{\mu\mu X_{1}}|^{2} &= \left(\frac{2}{3}e^{2} g_{1} \frac{f_{J}}{m_{J}}\right)^{2} \frac{-16}{3 m_{J}^{2}(m_{J}-2 E_{-})^{2}(-2 E_{-}-2 E_{X}+m_{J})^{2}} \left(16 E_{-}^{4} m_{J}^{2}+32 E_{-}^{3} m_{J}^{2}(E_{X}-m_{J}) + 2m_{\mu}^{2} \left(4 E_{-}^{2} \left(m_{J}(m_{J}-2 E_{X})+m_{X}^{2}\right)-4 E_{-} \left(2 E_{X}^{2} m_{J}-E_{X} \left(m_{X}^{2}+3 m_{J}^{2}\right)+m_{J} \left(m_{X}^{2}+m_{J}^{2}\right)\right) + 2 E_{X}^{2} \left(m_{X}^{2}+3 m_{J}^{2}\right)-2 E_{X} m_{J} \left(m_{X}^{2}+2 m_{J}^{2}\right)+m_{J}^{2} \left(m_{X}^{2}+m_{J}^{2}\right)\right) + 4 E_{-}^{2} \left(m_{J}^{2} \left(6 E_{X}^{2}-14 E_{X} m_{J}+7 m_{J}^{2}\right)+m_{X}^{2} m_{J} (3 m_{J}-2 E_{X})+m_{X}^{4}\right) + 4 E_{-} \left(2 E_{X}^{3} m_{J}^{2}-2 E_{X}^{2} m_{J} \left(m_{X}^{2}+4 m_{J}^{2}\right)+E_{X} \left(m_{X}^{4}+5 m_{X}^{2} m_{J}^{2}+9 m_{J}^{4}\right)-m_{J} \left(m_{X}^{4}+3 m_{X}^{2} m_{J}^{2}+3 m_{J}^{4}\right)\right) + 8 E_{X}^{2} m_{\mu}^{4}+m_{J} \left(-4 E_{X}^{3} m_{J}^{2}+2 E_{X}^{2} \left(3 m_{X}^{2} m_{J}+5 m_{J}^{3}\right)-2 E_{X} \left(m_{X}^{2}+2 m_{J}^{2}\right)^{2}+m_{J} \left(m_{X}^{4}+3 m_{X}^{2} m_{J}^{2}+2 m_{J}^{4}\right)\right)\right), \end{split}$$

where E_{-} , the energy of μ^{-} and E_{X} , the energy of X_{0} are measured in the rest frame of J/ψ .

$K_S^0 \rightarrow invisible: Strategy$

Signal sample

▷
$$J/\psi \to \phi K_S^0(\text{tag}) K_S^0$$
, $K_S^0(\text{tag}) \to \pi^+ \pi^-$, $K_S^0 \to \text{invisible}$

$$N_{\text{signal}} = 2 \times N_{J/\psi \to \phi K_S^0 K_S^0} \times \mathcal{B}(\phi \to K^+ K^-) \times \mathcal{B}(K_S^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-) \times \mathcal{B}(K_S^0 \to \text{invisible}) \times \varepsilon_{\text{signal}},$$
(3.2)

Normalization sample

$$J/\psi \to \phi K_S^0(\operatorname{tag}) \mathrm{K}_S^0, \quad \mathrm{K}_S^0(\operatorname{tag}) \to \pi^+ \pi^-, K_S^0 \to \operatorname{non} - \pi^+ \pi^-$$
$$N_{\operatorname{norm.}} = 2 \times N_{J/\psi \to \phi K_S^0 K_S^0} \times \mathcal{B}(\phi \to K^+ K^-) \times \mathcal{B}(K_S^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-)$$
$$\times (1 - \mathcal{B}(K_S^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-)) \times \varepsilon_{\operatorname{norm.}},$$
$$(3.1)$$

$$\mathcal{B}(K_S^0 \to \text{ invisible}) = rac{N_{ ext{signal}}}{N_{ ext{norm.}}\left(arepsilon_{ ext{norm.}}
ight)} \left(1 - \mathcal{B}(K_S^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-)
ight).$$

$K_S^0 \rightarrow invisible: Strategy$

Normalization sample

$$> J/\psi \to \phi K_S^0(\operatorname{tag}) \mathrm{K}_S^0, \quad \mathrm{K}_S^0(\operatorname{tag}) \to \pi^+ \pi^-, K_S^0 \to \operatorname{non} - \pi^+ \pi^-$$



Search for an axion-like particle in radiative J/ψ decays PLB 838 137698 (2023)

- **O** Data samples: 2.7B $\psi(3686)$ events
- **O** Strategy: Search for $J/\psi \to \gamma a, a \to \gamma \gamma$ with J/ψ sample obtained from $\psi(3686) \to \pi^+ \pi^- J/\psi$
 - $\psi(3686)$ decay: avoid the pollution from non-resonant production $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \to \gamma a)}{\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \to e^+e^-)} = \frac{m_{J/\psi}^2}{32\pi\alpha} g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 (1 - \frac{m_a^2}{m_{J/\psi}^2})^3$$

Decay width of $a \to \gamma\gamma : \Gamma_a = \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 m_a^3}{64\pi}$

- Taking g_{aγγ} ~ 10⁻⁴ GeV⁻¹, m_a ~ GeV, the lifetime of ALP is short in the detector
 Assume BF(a → γγ)~100%
- Three $\gamma\gamma$ combinations per event, extract signal from $M_{\gamma\gamma}$ distribution =
 - 674 mass hypotheses

•



Search for an axion-like particle in radiative J/ψ decays

• No significant ALP signal is observed



ALPs-photon Coupling



Search for an axion-like particle in radiative J/ψ decays arXiv:2404.04640

O Data samples: 10B J/ψ events

NEWEST RESULT!

Most stringent constraints to date for $0.18 < m_a < 2.85$ GeV

- **O** Strategy: Search for $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma a, a \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ with J/ψ data on threshold
 - Non-resonant process $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma a$ is indistinguishable from $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma a$
 - The ratio, $\sigma_{non-res}/\sigma_{res}$ is calculated to be 4.4%
 - The contribution from $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma a$ is subtracted from the signal yields (interference between $\sigma_{non-res}, \sigma_{res}$ is negligible).

✓ The 95% CL. upper limits of $\mathscr{B}(J/\psi \to \gamma a)$ is set based on 10B data

Accepted by Phys. Rev. D (Letter) Previous 10² result BF UL (10⁻⁸) New resul Expected average I Expected limit (±2o) 0.5 2.5 1.5 2 m_a (GeV/ c^2) **ALPs-photon Coupling** 10-2 _{aw} (GeV)⁻¹ BABAR CMS 10-3 BESIII (1/w) 10^{-4} Beam dump 10^{-2} 10^{-1} 10^{-3} 10⁰ 10¹ m_a (GeV/ c^2)

10B J/ψ



Invisible decay of K_S^0

