Workshop di Sezione sulla Strategia Europea per la Fisica delle Particelle Elementari Bari, 21/11/2024

## THE SEARCH FOR FEEBLY INTERACTING PARTICLES (FIPs) AT THE INTENSITY FRONTIER

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«Measure what can be measured, and make measurable what cannot be» (Galileo Galilei)



## OPEN QUESTIONS

- What is dark matter?
- What dynamics is responsible for neutrino masses?
- How is the matter-antimatter asymmetry generated?
- What physics underlies the Higgs sector and sets the weak scale?
- Why is CP conserved by the strong interactions?

These and other questions strongly motivate explorations of physics beyond the SM.



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## **Physics Briefing Book**

Input for the European Strategy for Particle Physics Update 2020

#### 4. To what extent can current or future accelerators probe feebly-interacting sectors?

The absence, so far, of unambiguous signals of new physics from direct searches at the LHC, indirect searches in flavour physics and direct DM detection experiments invigorates the need for broadening the experimental effort in the quest for new physics and in exploring ranges of interaction strengths and masses different from those already covered by existing or planned projects. *While exploration of the high-mass frontier remains an essential target, other research directions have valid theoretical motivations and deserve equal attention*. Feebly-interacting particles (see Sect. 8.6) represent an alternative paradigm with respect to the traditional BSM physics explored at the LHC. The full investigation of this paradigm over a large range of couplings and masses requires a great variety of experimental facilities. In this context, the physics reach of experiments at future colliders is complemented by beam-dump facilities which typically cover the range of low masses and extremely feeble couplings.



## THE PORTAL TO DARK SECTOR

There may be a dark sector (or hidden sector, etc.) containing new SM gauge singlet states. The dark sector states may have masses well below the weak scale and communicate weakly with the visible sector through a portal interaction linking gauge invariant SM operators to a mediator.



## HOW TO GET FIPS IN THE PORTAL APPROACH?

Expand the SM with the minimal set of operators of lowest dimension gauge-invariant and renormalizable. This guarantees that the theoretical structure of the SM is preserved and any NP is just a simple (natural?) extension of what we already know.

Portal	Coupling
Dark Photon, $A_{\mu}$	$-\frac{\epsilon}{2\cos\theta_W}F'_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu}$
Dark Higgs, $S$	$(\mu S + \lambda S^2) H^{\dagger} H$
Axion, $a$	$\frac{a}{f_a}F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu},  \frac{a}{f_a}G_{i,\mu\nu}\tilde{G}_i^{\mu\nu},  \frac{\delta_{\mu}a}{f_a}\overline{\psi}\gamma^{\mu}\gamma^5\psi$
Sterile Neutrino, $N$	$y_N LHN$

The full set of allowed renormalizable interactions for dark sector with SM, consistent with SM Gauge invariance (plus one notable generalization)



2020 UPDATE OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PARTICLE PHYSICS

by the European Strategy Group



# **ESPP** Recommendations

- "4. Other essential scientific activities for particle physics:
- a) The quest for dark matter and the exploration of flavour and fundamental symmetries are crucial components of the search for new physics.
- This search can be done in many ways, for example through precision measurements of flavour physics and electric or magnetic dipole moments, and <u>searches for axions, dark sector candidates and feebly interacting particles</u>.
- There are many options to address such physics topics including energy-frontier colliders, accelerator and non-accelerator experiments. <u>A diverse programme that is complementary to the energy frontier is an essential part of the European particle physics Strategy</u>.

https://cds.cern.ch/record/2721370/files/CERN-ESU-015 2020%20Update%20European%20Strategy.pdf

## A PHYSICS CASE: AXIONS AND AXION-LIKE-PARTICLES (ALPS)

a - photon Las = - Jar FFa = gar E·Ba



github.com/cajohare/AxionLimits

#### Sub-eV axions accessible at helioscopes (Sun) and haloscopes (DM)

CAST







Astroparticle realm: BBN, CMB, X-rays, SN 1987A, Globular clusters, Solar lifetime, etc







P. Carenza, M. Giannotti, J. Isern, A.Mirizzi and O. Straniero, *«Axion Astrophysics,»* [arXiv:2411.02492 [hep-ph]]. Prepated for Physics Report

#### Alessandro Mirizzi

#### Bari, 21/11/2024







## MeV-10 GeV range accessible at accelerator based experiments





#### COST ACTION CA21106

(H) COSMIC WISPers in the Dark Universe:

Theory, astrophysics and experiments











cosmicwispers.eu



# WISPs

WISPs are very Weakly Interacting Slim (m<GeV) Particles which emerge in several extensions of the Standard Model of Particle Physics.

# CHALLENGE

The aim of this Action is an exhaustive study of these WISPs, notably axions, axion-like particles (ALPs) and dark photons, ranging from their theoretical underpinning, over their indirect observational consequences in astrophysics, to their search at colliders and beam-dump and their direct detection in laboratory experiments.





 $\sim 400 \text{ participants}$  from all over the world

## CONCLUSIONS

- FIP physics is a field in full expansion, which has developed from a niche activity to a world-wide effort with significant competition.
- Planned experiments will allow to explore a significant part of parameter space in 10-20 years
- The international community needs support by integrating FIP searches in the future European strategy on particle physics

### THE NEXT NEW BIG DISCOVERY COULD COME FROM HERE!