

# Searching for light dark matter at accelerators



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## The dark matter problem



Many solutions and open questions. Is dark matter made of new particles?



## Is the dark matter a known particle?

Dark matter has a mass.

Dark matter has gravitational interaction.

Dark matter interacts weakly with SM particles.

Dark matter contains one or more stable particles.

Is any particle we know a good dark matter candidate?



### Leptons



Higgs

### Is the dark matter a known particle?

strong electromagn. unstable

they move too fast (hot dark matter) to form the observed large scale structure



Forces

### Dark sectors a possible solution



- Standard model only includes <20% of the matter in the universe</p>
  - We only know dark matter interacts gravitationally
- Many open questions
  - What is dark Matter made of?
  - How dark matter interact, if it does, with SM particles?
  - Does one or more new dark force exist?
  - How complex is the dark sector spectrum?

### Dark sectors and portal interactions



The **mediator** can be scalar, fermion, vector, axion...

The relic **dark matter (DM)** can be **either the mediator** particle or just coupled to SM via a hidden interaction

**Different portals can co-exist:** e.g. dark photon and Higgs, or dark photon and axion

Dark sectors can conceal **not only the DM** problem, other **SM anomalies**:

Muon g-2 anomaly, proton radius, inflation, <sup>8</sup>Be anomaly, ...

The vector portal is the simplest both from the theoretical [additional U(1) gauge symmetry] and experimental point of view [just replace an ordinary  $\gamma$  with a dark photon **A**' in any QED processes]

### Many candidates: how to choose?

#### Dark Sector Candidates, Anomalies, and Search Techniques



#### A very wide panorama but some anomalies at low energy are interesting to guide the eye arXiv:1707.04591v1

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### Simplest dark photon model

- The simplest hidden sector model just introduces one extra U(1) gauge symmetry and a corresponding gauge boson: the "dark photon" or A' boson.
- The coupling constant and the charges can be generated effectively through the kinetic mixing between the QED and the new U(1) gauge bosons

- In this **case the new coupling constant = e** is just proportional to electric charge and it is equal for both quarks and leptons.
- As in QED, this will generate new interactions with SM fermions of type:

$${\cal L}~\sim~g'q_far{\psi}_f\gamma^\mu\psi_f U'_\mu$$



- Not all the SM particles need to be charged under this new symmetry
- In the most general case q<sub>f</sub> is different in between leptons and quarks and can even be 0 for quarks. P. Fayet, Phys. Lett. B 675, 267 (2009)

B. Holdom Phys.Lett. B166 (1986) 196

# Dark photon and $g-2_{\mu}$



g-2 in the standard model



About  $3\sigma$  discrepancy between theory and experiment. Could be due to hadronic uncertainties on the Light by Light scattering?

#### $10^{-}$ g-2 and A' Excluded by $\Delta Br_{K to \pi ee} < 3.10$ $\kappa^2$ Additional diagram with dark 10 <6.10<sup>-9</sup> photon exchange can fix the discrepancy! (with sub GeV A' masses $\bigcirc$ ) $10^{-5}$ Ц Can be probed by search of resonances |muon g-2|<2 $\sigma$ A' M. Pospelov 10 MeV 500 MeV 100 MeV Phys.Rev. D80 (2009) 095002 $m_{V}$

### A' decay modes MeV-GeV scale



- If  $1 \text{MeV} < M_{A'} < 2m\chi$  dilepton decays "visible" decays
  - Min  $M_{A'}$ >1MeV lifetime depends mostly on  $\epsilon^2$  long lived
- $\square 2m\chi < M_{A'} \text{ dark matter decays "invisible" decays}$ 
  - Min  $M_{A'}$ <1 MeV lifetime depends mostly on  $\alpha_D^2$  short lived

**Decays in**  $3\gamma$  are not interesting for the accelerator searches

# A' decays in SM particles

- BR visible is =1 if dark matter is massive.
- A' "visible" decay modes
  - ♦ A'→e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup>,
  - A'→μ<sup>+</sup>μ<sup>-</sup>,
  - ♦ A'→hadrons,
- For M<sub>A'</sub><210 MeV A' only decays to e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> with BR(e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup>)=1
- At higher masses hadronic decay are also allowed



### How to search for A' visible decays?



### A' production in "visibile" decay exp.





Proton machines production:

- Mesons decays  $\pi^0,\eta,D^0$
- QCD production lepton jets
- Electron machines production
  - 🔶 e- Bremsstrahlung
  - e-e+ annihilation + meson decays

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 $A' \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$  visible searches status



- Grey regions: excluded regions
- Colored lines: future experiments projections
- Green band: region in which A' will explain g-2 anomaly

### How to search for A' invisible decays?





### Invisible decays present status



Great progress in the beginning of 2017

Still large regions of parameter space unexplored

Only 1 experiment in most of the parameter space covered

New result by NA62 see P. Massarotti's talk

### Few invisible decay examples

#### **Running experiments**

#### **Future experiments**



### The PADME experiment @LNF



First fixed target A' experiment with positron running since October 2018

### The PADME physics cases



Measurement of low energy (100-500 MeV) EM-cross sections

- Bremsstrahlung cross section e<sup>+</sup>N→e<sup>+</sup>Nγ
- Annihilation cross sections:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma(\gamma)$

### PADME detector in a nutshell



### PADME experiment technique



- Search for  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma + nothing$ 
  - Measure the visible gamma missin mass
    - Be sure no other photons or e+ e- is around.

## PADME A'-invisible decay sensitivity

### Sensitivity 10<sup>13</sup>e+ on target



- Based on 2.5x10<sup>10</sup> fully GEANT4 simulated 550 MeV e+ on target events
  - Number of BG events is extrapolated to 1x10<sup>13</sup> electrons on target
- Using N(A' $\gamma$ )= $\sigma$ (NBG)

$$\frac{\Gamma(e^+e^- \to A'\gamma)}{\Gamma(e^+e^- \to \gamma\gamma)} = \frac{N(A'\gamma)}{N(\gamma)} \frac{Acc(\gamma\gamma)}{Acc(A'\gamma)} = \varepsilon \cdot \delta$$

 $\delta$  enhancement factor:  $\delta(M_{A'}) = \sigma(A'\gamma)/\sigma(\gamma\gamma)$  with ε=1 due to A' mass

**PADME** 2-years of data taking **at 60%** efficiency with bunch length **of 200 ns**  $4x10^{13}$  EOT = 20000 e+/bunch×2×3.1·10<sup>7</sup>sx0.6x49 Hz

### Future of the dark sector searches



### Conclusions

- Dark sectors searches are an extremely vital in the last 5-10 years
  - Recast of old experiment
  - New experiments are running
  - New experimental proposals are approved
- New generation of dedicated experiment is on the way to explore the dark sectors
  - Different techniques and different final states searches are needed to provide reliable exclusions.



### SPARE slides

## The <sup>8</sup>Be anomaly





Is this an evidence of a new light dark photon?



- Sanity checks performed
  - Excess disappears as one scans through the proton beam resonance kinetic energy of 1.03 MeV
  - excess becomes more pronounced when restricting to the subset of events with E>18 MeV and is absent for lower energy events.

Can nuclear physics explain the anomaly observed in the internal pair production in the Beryllium-8 nucleus?

Xilin Zhang<sup>1,\*</sup> and Gerald A. Miller<sup>1,†</sup> <sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA (Dated: March 16, 2017)

Can only mitigate the anomaly by  $1\sigma$  by improving nuclear treatment. j.physletb.2017.08.013

### <sup>8</sup>Be\* anomaly: the proto-phobic 5<sup>Th</sup> force



### The <sup>8</sup>Be anomaly interpretation

PRL 117, 071803 (2016)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

12 AUGUST 2016

#### Protophobic Fifth-Force Interpretation of the Observed Anomaly in <sup>8</sup>Be Nuclear Transitions

Jonathan L. Feng,<sup>1</sup> Bartosz Fornal,<sup>1</sup> Iftah Galon,<sup>1</sup> Susan Gardner,<sup>1,2</sup> Jordan Smolinsky,<sup>1</sup> Tim M. P. Tait,<sup>1</sup> and Philip Tanedo<sup>1</sup>



#### Protophobia

Equations (5) and (8) may be satisfied with a mild  $\sim 10\%$  cancellation, provided the charges satisfy

$$-2.3 < \frac{\varepsilon_d}{\varepsilon_u} < -1.8, \qquad -0.067 < \frac{\varepsilon_p}{\varepsilon_n} < 0.078. \tag{9}$$

Given the latter condition, we call the general class of vector models that can both explain the <sup>8</sup>Be anomaly and satisfy pion decay constraints "protophobic."



Strongest experimental limit on the electron coupling comes from KLOE data:  $\varepsilon_e$ <2E-3





### <sup>8</sup>Be anomaly at PADME

#### PHYSICAL REVIEW D 97, 095004 (2018)

Resonant production of dark photons in positron beam dump experiments

Enrico Nardi,<sup>1,\*</sup> Cristian D. R. Carvajal,<sup>2</sup> Anish Ghoshal,<sup>1,3</sup> Davide Meloni,<sup>3,4</sup> and Mauro Raggi<sup>5</sup>

- Exploit the fact that you "know" where to search 17 MeV  $\S$
- Exploit the unique possibility to have e<sup>+</sup> at 282.7MeV @LNF<sup>\*</sup>
  Tupe E<sub>+</sub>, such that E<sub>+</sub>=sart(2\*m<sub>\*</sub>\*E<sub>p</sub>)=17MeV
- Tune  $E_{e+}$  such that  $E_{CM}$ =sqrt(2\* $m_e$ \* $E_B$ )=17MeV
  - Produce A' of 17MeV on shell through direct annihilation ee->A'
  - Parametrically enhanced ee->A'  $O(\alpha)$  wrt ee->A'  $\gamma O(\alpha^2)$
- Use threshold effect to have solid evidence if a
- Absorb any SM BG in W dump
- Work ongoing on thin target reaches



$\epsilon / N_{A'}^{\text{prod}}$	$E_{\rm res}~(v_e=0)$	$E_{\rm res}$	$E_{\rm res} + 2\sigma_b$
$1.0  imes 10^{-3}$	$7.69\times10^{11}$	$1.51\times10^{11}$	$4.72\times10^{11}$
$5.0  imes 10^{-4}$	$1.81 \times 10^{11}$	$3.79  imes 10^{10}$	$1.17 \times 10^{11}$
$1.0  imes 10^{-4}$	$7.25 \times 10^9$	$1.49 \times 10^{9}$	$4.73 \times 10^{9}$





### PADME data taking during Run I



## LDMX: P<sub>Miss</sub> experiment



## Future M<sub>Miss</sub> fixed target experiments

