

Search for cLFV mediated by a new light particle at PSI

Wednesday 6 July 2022 14:45 (15 minutes)

The search for charged Lepton Flavour Violation (cLFV) in muon decays is a sensitive tool to probe the Standard Model (SM). In this context, the MEG II and Mu3e experiments at the Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI) search for $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma$ and $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ e^- e^+$, respectively. In addition to their main channels, both experiments appear to be competitive in searching for more exotic processes, in which the flavour violation occurs in presence of an invisible axion-like particle (ALP), denoted with X . A suitable candidate is the two-body decay $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ X$, whose only signature is a monochromatic positron close to kinematic endpoint of the $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \bar{\nu}_\mu$ background.

Since the higher-order radiative corrections in this region are greatly enhanced by the emission of soft photons, the experimental hunt for such an elusive signal requires extremely accurate theoretical predictions. This is one of the problems that led to the development of McMule, acronym of Monte Carlo for MUons and other LEptons. McMule is a generic framework for the numerical computation of fully-differential QED corrections for low-energy processes involving leptons, based on the FKS² subtraction scheme.

In this presentation, we focus on the implementation of $\mu \rightarrow e X$ and $\mu \rightarrow e \nu \bar{\nu}$ in the McMule framework. In both cases the muons are assumed to be polarised and the electron mass is kept at its physical value. The signal $\mu \rightarrow e X$ is computed using an effective field approach, including the QED corrections at next-to-leading order (NLO). The background $\mu \rightarrow e \nu \bar{\nu}$ includes weak corrections at NLO, hadronic contributions at LO, exact QED corrections at NNLO and logarithmically approximate at N³LO and N⁴LO. Going beyond fixed-order calculations, an analytical resummation of soft emissions is also included. This results in a theoretical precision of 10^{-5} on the positron energy spectrum, the highest achieved for polarised muon decay.

As a preliminary study, we assume the nominal performances of the MEG II and Mu3e experiments to estimate their sensitivity on $\mu \rightarrow e X$ for different masses and couplings of the ALP. The branching ratio of this hypothetical process has been limited to $5.8 \cdot 10^{-5}$ by the TWIST experiment. We show that MEG II can provide an independent measurement close to this limit, while Mu3e can improve it up to three orders of magnitude. In this regard, the McMule predictions are currently being implemented in the experimental analysis codes for more detailed studies.

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Session Classification: Young researcher session

Track Classification: Young researcher session