On the Detection of QCD Axion Dark Matter by Coherent Scattering

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In collaboration with
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Based on
arXiv:2112.13536

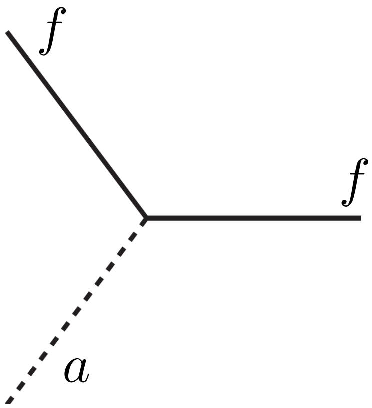
Outline

- Axion coherent scattering with matter.
  Torsion balance from axion DM wind
- Refraction: f_a^{-2} Contribution
  Forward scattering. Modified dispersion relation in matter.
- Hard scattering: f_a^{-4} Effect
  Coherent effect, stimulation emission
- Conclusion

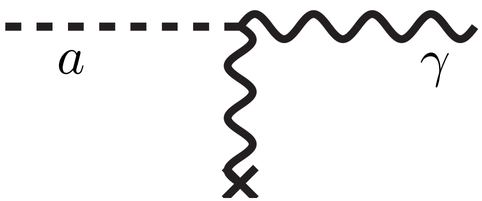
Axions

- A Nambu-Goldston boson to solve the strong CP problem.
- Light CP odd particle which couples to gauge bosons.
- Most important candidate for dark matter (DM).
- Coupling between SM and axion is suppressed by axion decay constant fa .
- fa > $O(10^8)$ GeV , ma < O(0.1) eV is prime target region.

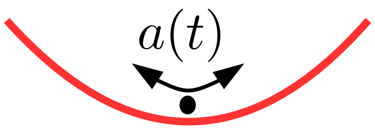
Axion DM detection



Absorption



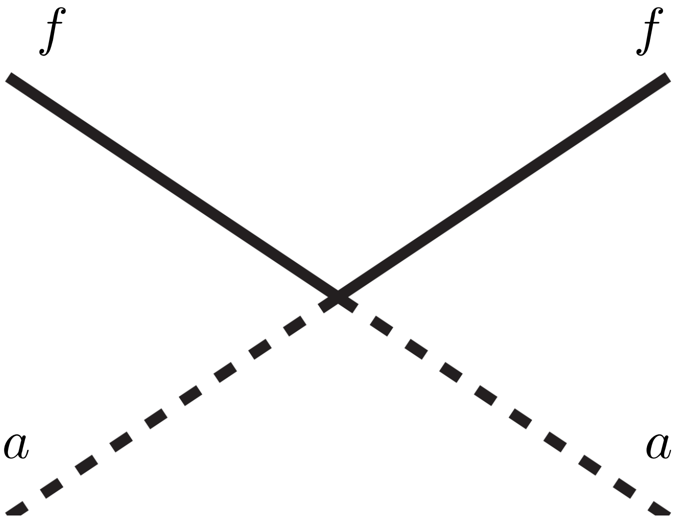
Conversion



$$\propto \frac{1}{f_a}$$

Time varying parameter
from coherent state DM

Axion DM Scattering



$$\propto \frac{1}{f_a^2}$$

Axion-Nucleon Interaction

With chiral perturbation, we have spin- and velocity-independent interaction:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{g_{aN}}{f_a^2} a a \bar{N} N$$

$$g_{aN} = \frac{m_N}{2(m_u + m_d)^2} (m_d^2 f_{Tu}^N + m_u^2 f_{Td}^N)$$

$$f_{Tq}^N = \frac{\langle N | m_q \bar{q} q | N \rangle}{m_N}$$

c.f., pion sigma term

In the limit $m_q \to 0$, the axion is massless and this interaction is zero.

Elastic Scatter of Axion DM

$$\mathcal{L} \sim \frac{m_N}{1000 f_a^2} a a \bar{N} N$$

fa: decay constant
N: nucleon field

- The interaction is doubly suppressed by the decay constant.
- But quantum mechanical effect is helpful?
- As the DM density is 0.3 GeV/cm^3 and velocity ~ 100 km/s

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Macroscopic Compton length → Coherent enhancement?

$$(m_a v_{\rm DM})^{-1} \sim \frac{0.1\,\mathrm{eV}}{m_a}\,\mathrm{cm}$$

$$N_{\rm target} = O(10^{23})$$

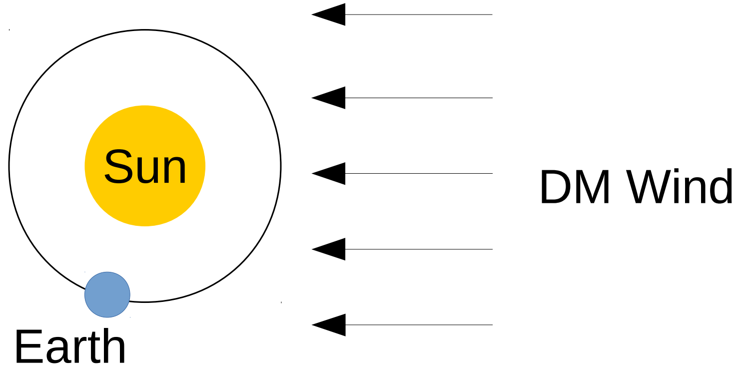
Large phase number density → Stimulation effect?

$$f_{\rm DM} \sim \frac{\rho_{\rm DM}}{m_{\rm DM}\,(m_{\rm DM} v_{\rm DM})^3} \sim 10^7 \left(\frac{m_{\rm DM}}{0.1\ \mathrm{eV}}\right)^{-4}$$

$$\sigma(aN \to aN) \to \sigma(aN \to aN) \times (1 + f_{\rm DM})$$

Scattering Signature

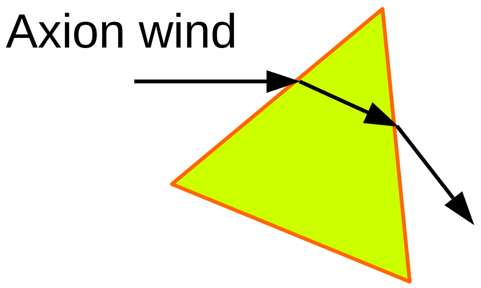
- Each axion has low momentum $p_a = m_a v, \quad (v \sim 10^{-3})$
- Single scatter of axion DM is hard to detect.
- Collective scattering of axion may provide visible signature.
- For proper motion of solar system, there is DM wind (~100 km/s)



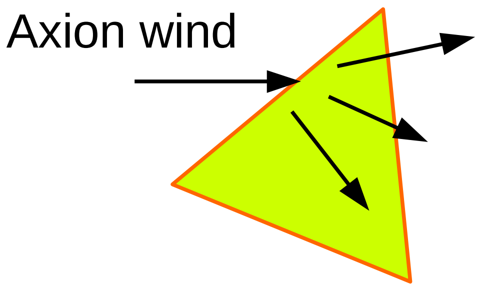
- “Friction” from DM wind causes additional acceleration on materials.
  - Torsion balance: ultimate sensitivity : 10^{-23} cm/s^2

Detection of Axion DM

Such axion can lead additional acceleration to detector, e.g., torsion balance



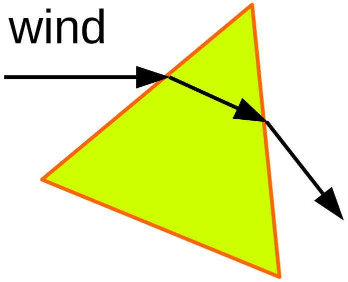
Refraction: $O(f_a^{-2})$ effect.



Scattering: $O(f_a^{-4})$ effect

+ coherent + stimulate effect?

Refraction



Refraction: $O(f_a^{-2})$ effect.

Modification of dispersion relation of axion.

$$\frac{m_N}{f_a^2} aa\langle \bar{N} N\rangle \rightarrow \frac{\rho_{\rm matter}}{f_a^2} aa$$

Refraction index

$$n - 1 \simeq \frac{\rho_{\rm matter}}{v^2 m_a^2 f_a^2} \simeq 10^{-11} \left(\frac{\rho_{\rm matter}}{1\ g/{\rm cm}^3}\right)$$

independent on fa.

Force from Refraction?

Indeed, single axion particle has momentum transfer $O((n-1)p_a)$

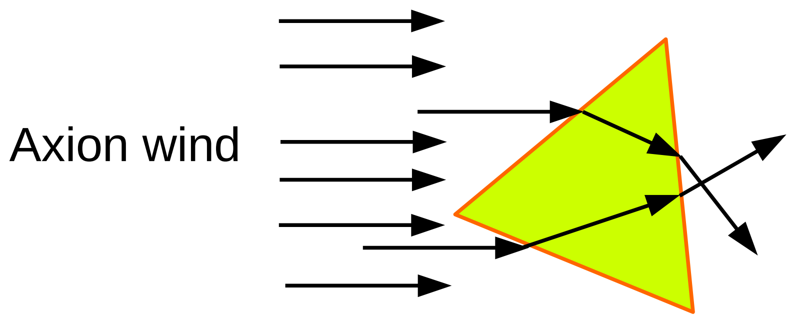
Naive guess:

Area Mass

$$a \overset{?}{\sim} \frac{\rho_{\rm DM} v_{\rm DM} |n-1| S}{M} = 10^{-17} \left(\frac{|n-1|}{10^{-10}}\right) \left(\frac{S}{\rm cm^2}\right) \left(\frac{\rm g}{M}\right) \ {\rm cm/s^2}.$$

$$\gg a_{\rm ultimate} = O(10^{-23}) \ {\rm cm/s^2}$$

No Net Refraction Force



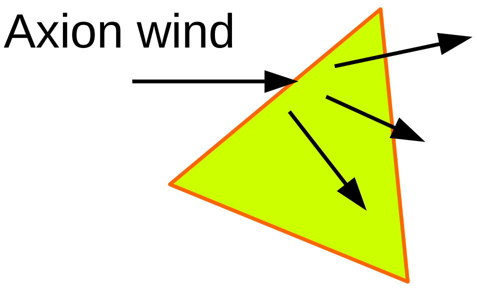
We need integrate over axion flux. However,

$$F \propto \int_S \vec{a} = 0$$

There is no force for uniform axion wind.

c.f., relic neutrino case:
[Cabibboa&Maiani, PLB 114 (1982) 115]

Axion Scattering



Scattering: $O(f_a^{-4})$ effect

+ coherent + stimulate effect?

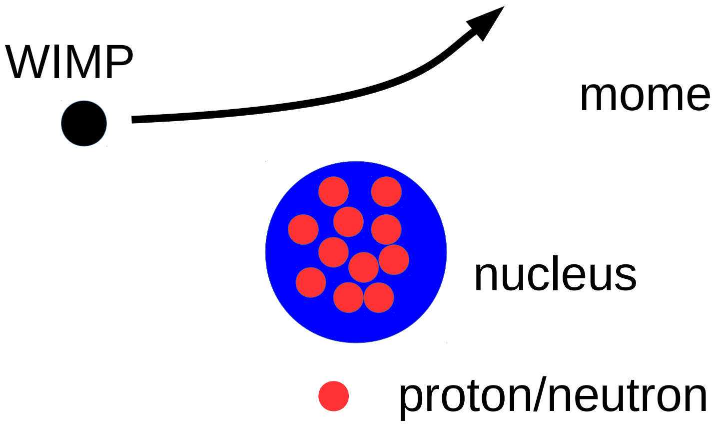
Coherent Effect

As the Compton length is macroscopic $(m_a v_{\rm DM})^{-1} \sim \frac{0.1\,{\rm eV}}{m_a}\,{\rm cm}$

Axion can scatter with macroscopic number $O(10^{24})$ of nucleons, coherently.

Similar to WIMP spin independent scattering:

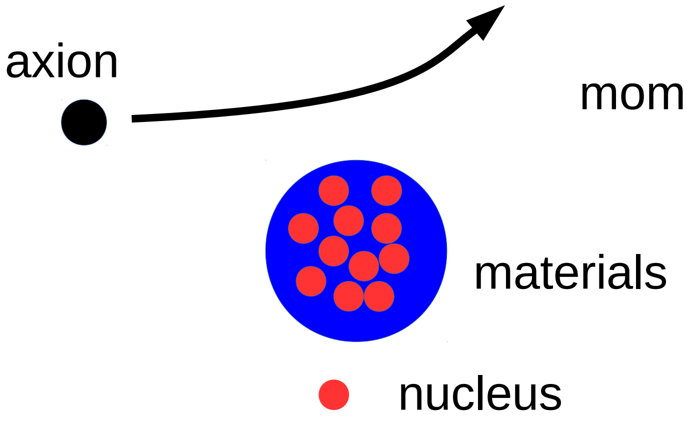
Coherent Scattering



momentum transfer < (nucleus size)$^{-1}$

$\sigma \propto A^2$ A: sum of proton/neutron inside a nucleus.

Coherent Scattering



momentum transfer < (O(cm))$^{-1}$

$$\sigma \propto N_{\mathrm{avo}}^2 \sim 10^{48}$$

Stimulate Effect

Process: $X \to Y$ (X,Y: boson)

Initial state: # of X is 1 and # of Y is zero

Hamiltonian $H \sim H_{XY} a^{\dagger}_{Y} a_X$

$$\mathcal{M}_0 \sim \langle N_X = 0, N_Y = 1 \, | H | \, N_X = 1, N_Y = 0 \rangle$$

Stimulate Effect

Process: $X \to Y$ (X,Y: boson)

Initial state: # of X is 1 and # of Y is N_Y

Hamiltonian $H \sim H_{XY} a_Y^\dagger a_X$

$$\mathcal{M}_{N_Y} \sim \langle N_X = 0, N_Y + 1 \,|H|\, N_X = 1, N_Y \rangle = \sqrt{N_Y + 1}\mathcal{M}_0$$

$$|N_Y\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_Y!}} (a_Y^\dagger)^{N_Y} |0\rangle$$

$$[a, a^\dagger] = 1$$

Due to large number of final state particle, the cross section is enhanced.

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$$f(\vec{p}) \sim f_0 = \frac{\rho_{\rm DM}}{m_a (m_a v_{\rm DM})^3} \sim 10^{11} \left(\frac{\rho_{\rm DM}}{0.3\,{\rm GeV/cm^3}}\right)\left(\frac{m_{\rm DM}}{10^{-2}\ {\rm eV}}\right)^{-4}$$

Force of Axion DM

$$\vec{F} = \int d^3p_i d^3p_f \delta(|\vec{p_f}| - |\vec{p_i}|) \frac{|\vec{p_i}|}{m_a} (\vec{p_i} - \vec{p_f}) \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_{if}} f(\vec{p_i})(1 + f(\vec{p_f})).$$

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$f(\vec{p_i})f(\vec{p_f})$

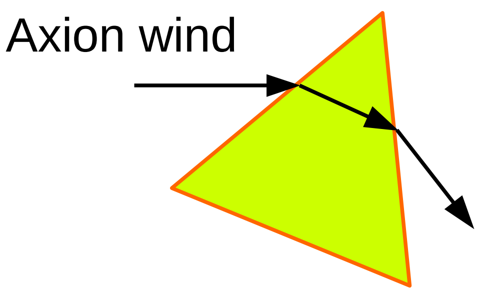
$p_i \leftrightarrow p_f$ +1 -1 +1 +1

Stimulation effect part is odd, and no contribution to force.

$$a \simeq O(10^{-29})\,\mathrm{cm/s^2} \times \left(\frac{\rho_{\mathrm{DM}}}{0.3\,\mathrm{GeV/cm^3}}\right)\left(\frac{\rho}{1\,\mathrm{g/cc}}\right)\left(\frac{10^{-3}}{v_{\mathrm{DM}}}\right)\left(\frac{m_a}{10^{-1}\,\mathrm{eV}}\right)$$

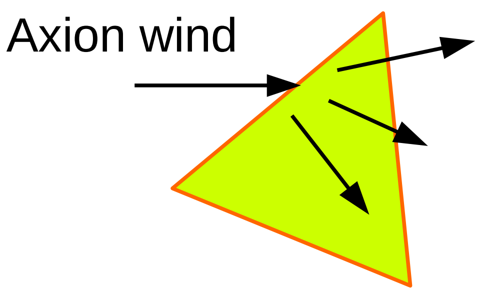
Detection of Axion DM

Such axion can lead additional acceleration to detector, e.g., torsion balance



Refraction: O(f_a^{-2}) effect.

No net effect for uniform DM density.



Scattering: O(f_a^{-4}) effect
+ coherent + stimulate effect?

Stimulation effect is canceled.

c.f., relic neutrino case:
[Cabibboa&Maiani, PLB 114 (1982) 115]

After all...

- Direct detection of elastic scatter of axion DM is hard, even with help of quantum mechanical enhancement.

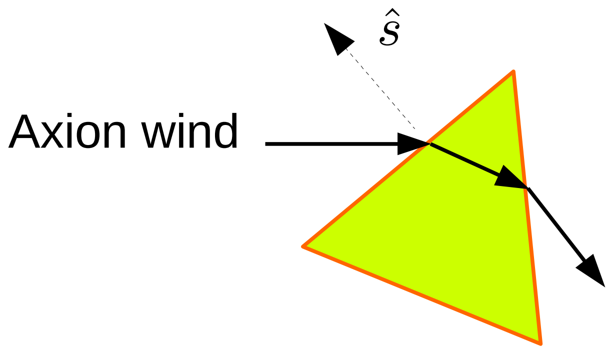
$$\Delta a_{\text{axion}} \sim 10^{-30}\ \text{cm/s}^2 \left(\frac{m_a}{1\ \text{meV}}\right)$$

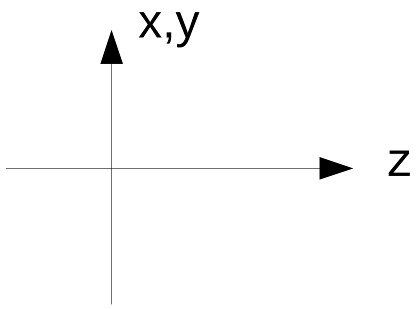
- Not enough static force. Ultimate experimental reach ~ 10^{-23} cm/s^2

- With non-uniform DM density, time-varying force is possible.

- Axion can scatter off the Sun with large probability. Any chance?

Cancel of Refraction





At $O(n-1)$ level,

$$\vec{F} = (n-1)p \int_S d\vec{a} = 0 \qquad d\vec{a} = \frac{\hat{s}}{s_z} dx dy$$

$$\int_S da_i = \int_V d^3x \partial_j (\delta_{ij}) = 0$$

Gauss law