UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PPDDEER

A next generation rare pion decay experiment

Quentin Buat (University of Washington) — Nov 14, 2023

The SM of Particle Physics



Fundamental interactions



Known forces in Nature and their associated energy scale

Explore the gap between EW and Gravity scales

Look for feeble interactions below the EW scale

The direct approach Collide particles at the highest possible energy



What else can we do?

Consider "well-defined" SM quantities and measure them very precisely

High energy particles can have an impact at lower energy through quantum effects

Precision measurements require large datasets: opportunity to discover feeble interactions

 e^+



Rare Pion Decays

Probing weak universality

- Charged currents in the SM are mediated by the exchange of a W boson between left-handed fermions and right-handed anti-fermions
 - The coupling is the same for all fermions



$$G_F^{(\beta)} \sim g^2 V_{ij} / M_w^2 \sim G_F^{(\mu)} V_{ij}$$

Lepton Flavour Universality

$$\left[G_{F}^{(\beta)}\right]_{e} / \left[G_{F}^{(\beta)}\right]_{\mu} = 1$$

Cabbibo Universality $|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 1$

PIONEER will test both!



$$R_{e/\mu} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi \to e\nu(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi \to \mu\nu(\gamma))}$$

$$R_{e/\mu} = \frac{m_e^2}{m_\mu^2} \left(\frac{m_\pi^2 - m_e^2}{m_\pi^2 - m_\mu^2}\right)^2 \times \left[1 + \text{EW corrections}\right] = 1.23524(015) \times 10^{-4}$$

The $\pi \rightarrow ev$ branching ratio is so small that for a while it was excluded $BR(\pi \rightarrow \mu \nu) \approx 0.9998770$, meaning ~1 out of every 10⁴ pions decay to an electron

Lokanathan and Steinberger (1955):

Range telescope at Columbia Nevis cyclotron: $R_{e/\mu} < 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$ (90% CL)

Anderson and Lattes (1957):

Magnetic spectrometer at Chicago cyclotron: $R_{e/\mu} < 1.3 \times 10^{-5}$ (90% CL)

$$R_{e/\mu} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi \to e\nu(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi \to \mu\nu(\gamma))}$$

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Causing a lot of confusion...

Theory of the Fermi Interaction

R. P. FEYNMAN AND M. GELL-MANN California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California (Received September 16, 1957)

PR 109, 193 (1958)

In any event one would expect a decay into $e + \bar{\nu}$ also. The ratio of the rates of the two processes can be calculated without knowledge of the character of the closed loops. It is $(m_e/m_{\mu})^2(1-m_{\mu}^2/m_{\pi}^2)^{-2}=13.6\times10^{-5}$. Experimentally¹⁶ no $\pi \rightarrow e + \nu$ have been found, indicating that the ratio is less than 10^{-5} . This is a very serious discrepancy. The authors have no idea on how it can be resolved.

DISCOVERY!

At a small lab that opened 4 years prior on the outskirts of Geneva, Switzerland



CERN circa 1958

 $R_{e/\mu} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi \to e\nu(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi \to \mu\nu(\gamma))}$

ELECTRON DECAY OF THE PION

T. Fazzini, G. Fidecaro, A. W. Merrison, H. Paul, and A. V. Tollestrup^{*} CERN, Geneva, Switzerland (Received September 12, 1958)



FIG. 1. Experimental layout, and (inset) typical $\pi-\mu-e$ and $\pi-e$ pulse.

~ 40 $\pi \rightarrow e\nu$ events





Best measurement from PIENU at TRIUMF tested charged LFU at $O(10^{-3})$

 $R_{e/\mu}$ [Exp.] = 1.23270(230) × 10⁻⁴ $R_{e/\mu}$ [SM] = 1.23524(015) × 10⁻⁴

To match the precision of the SM prediction

PIONEER aims to measure $R_{e/\mu}$ to 0.01% precision

15-fold improvement over the current world best

EFT analysis (JHEP. **2013**, 46 (2013)) BSM constraints: Up to ~330 TeV (pseudo scalar) ~5.5 TeV (axial currents)

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Rare Pion Decays Testing CKM Unitarity

$ V_{ud} $	$\left V_{us} ight $	$\left V_{ub} ight $		0.97370 ± 0.00014	0.2245 ± 0.0008	0.00382 ± 0.00024]	
$ V_{cd} $	$ V_{cs} $	$\left V_{cb} ight $	=	0.221 ± 0.004	0.987 ± 0.011	0.0410 ± 0.0014	
$ V_{td} $	$ V_{ts} $	$ V_{tb} $		0.0080 ± 0.0003	0.0388 ± 0.0011	1.013 ± 0.030	

$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |Vub|^2 = 1$$

Since $|V_{ub}| \ll |V_{us}|$, the third term can be neglected and the first row can be studied in a 2D plane

 $\sim 3\sigma$ tension in the first-row of CKM unitarity test

Often referred to as the Cabbibo Angle Anomaly (or CAA)



Rare Pion Decays Testing CKM Unitarity





$$R_{\pi\beta} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi^+ \to \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e)}{\Gamma(\pi^+ \to \text{all})}$$

Pion beta decay provides the theoretically cleanest determination of $|V_{ud}|$

Current best measurement from PIBETA at PSI $R_{\pi\beta}^{Exp} = 1.036(0.006) \times 10^{-8}$

PIONEER aims to measure $R_{\pi\beta}$ to 0.06% precision

Ten-fold improvement over current world best

Constraint on $|V_{ud}|$ comparable to super-allowed beta decay

Rare Pion Decays

Direct searches for new physics

- Collecting very large samples of rare pion decay
 - Search for new weakly coupled particle in the MeV range
 - Popular models involve sterile neutrinos or axion-like particles



J. Dror review at 2022 Rare Pion Decays Workshop indico contribution



Introducing PIONEER Outline

- Phase I measurement strategy
- PSI Pion beam line
- Detector developments
- Simulation studies



Phase I measurement strategy



The pion stops in the target and decay

Phase I measurement strategy



The pion stops in the target and decay

Phase I measurement strategy



Phase I measurement strategy







Guiding principles to the design of the experiment:

- 1. Collect very large datasets of rare pion decays (2e8 $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e$ during Phase I)
- 2. Tail must be less than 1% of total signal \rightarrow Shower containment in the calorimeter
- 3. Tail must be measured with a precision of $1\% \rightarrow$ Event identification in the active target

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Pion Beamline at PSI



Pion Beamline at PSI

- Specifications:
 - Rate: O(10⁷ Hz)
 - Momentum p=55-70 MeV/c
 - $E \times B$ separation of π from μ and e
 - Tight beam spot (< 2 cm²) and small divergence
 - Narrow momentum bite (dp/p <2%) to stop π+ in 3±0.5mm silicon target

2022 test beam study

Beamline Position	$p_{\pi}~({ m MeV}/c)$	π^+ Rate X	10 ⁶ Hz
QSB43	55	6.3	-
CALO Center	55	1.0	
QSB43	75	61.5	-
CALO Center	75	11.1	_



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Two recent Pion Decay Experiments

3π

Csl

12 X₀

PIENU

PEN/PIBETA

DURE

PEN detector 2009-10

MWPC[.]



- Experiment at TRIUMF
- Nal slow, but excellent resolution
- Single large crystal not uniform enough (material and effective "depth")
- Small solid angle



- Experiment at PSI
- Large acceptance but calorimeter depth of 12X₀ too small to resolve tail under the π-μ-e spectrum.

Both experiments took data a while ago but have (known) challenges to overcome before final results



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Calorimeter Developments

Liquid Xenon Prototype

- Series of prototypes leading to a large 100L, 28X₀ cylinder
 - Measure resolution for 70 MeV
 positrons
 - Check and correct simulations
- Build expertise with LXe handling
- Bonus: prototype could set stringent limits on µ→eeeee (arXiv:2306.15631)





Calorimeter Alternative

Liquid Xenon



Fast response Highly homogeneous response Detector can be reshaped

BUT

Expensive? Unsegmented calorimeter impacts pileup rejection

LYSO Crystals



Fast response High stopping power Intrinsically segmented

BUT

Resolution better than 4% has not been demonstrated for an array of LYSO crystals at 70 MeV

Growing long homogeneous crystals is a challenge

Calorimeter Developments

LYSO Test Beam studies



- Goals:
 - LYSO resolution for 70 MeV positrons
 - Albedo modelling validation
- Ongoing prep work at UW with the in-house accelerator
 - Testing with a sharp 17.6 MeV gamma from a Li-7 source
 - Moving setup at PSI for test beam at the end of November



Calorimeter Developments

LYSO Test Beam studies



Large discrepancies of the albedo effect between different simulation models





Guiding principles to the design of the experiment:

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Active target ("4D") based on low-gain avalanche diode (LGAD) technology

Tentative design

- 48 layers X/Y strips: 120 µm thick
- 100 strips with 200 µm pitch covering 2x2 cm² area
- Sensors are packed in stack of two with facing HV side and rotate 90



Guiding principles to the design of the experiment:

- 1. Collect very large datasets of rare pion decays (2e8 $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e$ during Phase I)
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Requirements

- Thick and highly segmented target to
 - stop the pion
 - tag and measure the decay chain
- Measure energy, time and position



Pattern Recognition



Energy loss of particles through silicon Device needs to accommodate large range of energy scales



Decay chain time is very different between $\pi \rightarrow e\nu$ and $\pi - \mu - e$ events Device needs to separate signal within 1 ns apart

Active Target Pion Decay tagging



Glossary:

DAR: Decay At Rest — particle stops in material before decaying

DIF: Decay In Flight — particle decays before depositing all its kinetic energy

MIP: Minimum Ionizing Particle – particle at the threshold of being detectable through ionisation

(i.e. a positron through silicon)

Low Gain Avalanche Diodes



Traditional silicon diode

Low Gain Avalanche Diode

In silicon sensors, when applying a very large electric field (300 kV/cm), electrons (and holes) acquire kinetic energy and can generate additional e/h pairs by impact ionisation → 'avalanche' effect

Obtained by implanting an appropriate acceptor or donor layer when depleted, generate a very high field

The signal amplification allows for thin sensors and very high timing resolution The gain mechanism saturates for large energy deposit

Low Gain Avalanche Diodes

TCAD Simulations:

- Large gain suppression effect with high input charge density
- Gain suppression reduced if input charges are spread more evenly
- Gain of LGAD produced by impact ionization in high field region of gain layer
 - Very sensitive to electric field magnitude

Critical for PIONEER's feasibility to understand the MeV-scale response of LGADs

Performing our own tests



100

х

150

Υ

50

ł

Tandem Accelerator at the University of Washington





Test beam this summer at CENPA to understand LGAD response of **MeV-scale** deposit

Tandem Van de Graaf Accelerator

Test beam setup

1mmx1mm sensor with 50µm thickness



Active Target LGAD gain saturation studies



- Studied sensor response at various energy from 1.8 to 5 MeV
- Expected gain increase with increasing bias voltage
- Observed large gain reduction compared to the response from a beta source
- Impact of charge localisation: angular dependency of the response

Active Target LGAD gain saturation studies



Trying to reproduce observed behaviour in simulations

Introducing PIONEER Outline

- Phase I measurement strategy
- PSI Pion beam line
- Detector developments
- Simulation studies
- Timeline of the project



Simulation efforts

- Geant4 simulation
 - Spec the detector
 - Study sensitivity
- Precise model of the experiment
 - Dead material, electronic response, etc
 - Critical to reach the 10⁻⁴ level of precision!





Realistic detector geometry





Prototyping the data analysis



Finding the signal in a 'sea' of backgrounds

Prototyping the data analysis



Finding the signal in a 'sea' of backgrounds

Prototyping the data analysis



This is what real data could look like

Finding the signal in a 'sea' of backgrounds

Prototyping the data analysis



Prototyping the data analysis



Prototyping the data analysis



Simulation studies Prototyping the data analysis



An easy case: pion and muon decay at rest



A difficult case: muon decaying in flight



A difficult case: muon decaying in flight



A difficult case: muon decaying in flight



We can learn a lot about a particle travel through material from measuring its energy!

A difficult case: muon decaying in flight

Step 1: Precisely determining the pion stopping position



A difficult case: muon decaying in flight



First non pion hit $\Delta(Z)$

A difficult case: muon decaying in flight



The instrumented active target is a fantastic tool to understand the backgrounds and achieve our target sensitivity

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Timeline of the project

	2024	2025 2024	2026 2025	2027 2026	2028 2027 202	9 2028	2030 2029	2031	2030	2032	2031	2032	
	◆ CD0	♦ CD1 ♦ CD0	◆ CD1 / PSI :	Shutdown 🔶 CD	2/PSI Shutdown / U	pgade 🔸	CD4	• (CD4				
	LXe 100 L	LXe 100	Active Tgt Test	Active Tg	t Test	Run-1	Run-2	Rum-13	Run-2	Run-4	Run-3	Run-4	
	R&D	R&D	R&D L	arge Prototype	Major construction	on period	Install			<mark>Phy</mark> s		Phy <mark>s</mark> s	<mark>Phy</mark> s
Funding													
Profile		Operating gr	ants and small s	supplements	Large purchases:								
		Ine _{spe} rt _{&} p	aVardioSproto	types	LXe procurement								
		Project funds	S		Photosensors and	electronic	cs						
Integral of green					Calibration system	n							
equals Project				ASIC dev	All electronics		LXe and ta	nks					
Request		R&D: Act	tive Target,	2nd LXe test			Final insta	l eng	OPE	RATION	SUPPO	RT OF GROUPS	
		LXe Prototyp	e and Electronic	s Elect / DAQ									

- Detector R&D in calorimetry and tracking
- Simulation studies to model a high precision experiment
 - i.e. we need to understand $\pi \rightarrow ev$ and $\pi \rightarrow \mu v$ acceptance difference to 10⁻⁴...
- Putting an experiment together from concept to first data:
 - Civil engineering, beam optics, detector manufacturing, LXe acquisition, electronics, ...

A growing collaboration



Proposal submitted last year at PSI



First collaboration meeting mid October at CENPA

Conclusion

- PIONEER is a new proposal for a rare pion decays experiment at PSI
 - Stringent tests of flavour universality
 - Up to PeV scale sensitivity to BSM effects
- **Concept** of the experiment has been established and **is very promising**
- Ongoing effort to move from concept to serious prototype
 - Lots of opportunities for new collaborators to get involved!
 - Get in touch: Quentin Buat: <u>qbuat@uw.edu</u>, Chloé Malbrunot: <u>cmalbrunot@triumf.ca</u>, David Hertzog: <u>hertzog@uw.edu</u>, Doug Bryman: <u>doug@triumf.ca</u>

Unofficial logo, ongoing contest



Trigger/DAQ

Additional slides

Error Source	%	%	
Statistics	0.19	0.007	
Tail Correction	0.12	< 0.01	(Calorimeter/ATAR)
t_0 Correction	0.05	< 0.01	(ATAR timing/dE/dx)
Muon DIF	0.05	0.005	(ATAR)
Parameter Fitting	0.05	< 0.01	$(Calorimeter/\Lambda T \Lambda R)$
Selection Cuts	0.04	< 0.01	(Calorimeter/AIAR)
Acceptance Correction	0.03	0.003	(Calorimeter/AIAR)
Total Uncertainty [*]	0.24	\leq 0.01	(Calorimeter)

To be verified by simulations and prototype measurements.

*Pion lifetime uncertainty not

included

Newly proposed measurement at TRIUMF

PiBetaPIONEER (Phase II)Statistics0.4%0.1%Systematics0.4%<0.1% (ATAR (β), MC, Photonuclear, $\pi \rightarrow e v$)Total0.64%0.2%

Quotes for 70 L (220kg) LXe

- Quote from <u>CERN</u> in June (20 kg each cylinder, 3.3m³ at STP)
 - **\$2.7 per gram,** high quality with certified content of SF_6 below 0.01 ppm
- Xenon pricing from China (10 m³ each cylinder, 4 pieces in total)
 - Xenon price is 10 times less than the same time last year and at a historically low level
 - <u>Wuhan Iron and Steel Corporation</u> can offer **\$1.8 per gram***. They have supplied Xenon to SJTU, Columbia, and UCSD. They have sufficient Xenon in stock for shipping right now.
 - <u>Fuhaicryo</u> offered \$1.62 per gram*. They have also sold to the US previously. They have sufficient Xenon in stock for shipping right now.
 - Price slightly increased from the last time we reported to the collaboration (Wuhan \$1.62/g, Fuhaicryo \$1.38/g)
- Xenon pricing from domestic suppliers
 - Praxair/Linde (US) **\$12.35 per gram*** 2023, **\$16.15 per gram*** in 2024
 - <u>Airgas/Air Liquide</u> can't even provide a quote for Xenon due to being in Force Majeure with Xenon supply in the next 4-5 months, the previous informal quote was \$18 per gram*

*Shipping and custom duties excluded. Estimated cost of shipping is in the order \$10k-20k

