Modern Tests of Spacetime Symmetry

outline

1. Introduction 2. Test of Lorentz violation 3. Lorentz violation in astrophysics

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ZIMÁNYI SCHOOL 2024

Introduction

(I want to say) Einstein is wrong!

OBJECT: here's how to overcome the speed of light.

I can demonstrate under scientific control and in a repeatable the speed of light. The brain has the energetic power of instantar the problem was to prove it scientifically, today it is possible, I can

Theory of Special Relativity

Special relativity is a basis of both quantum field theory and general relativity

Special relativity is based on Lorentz symmetry

Lorentz symmetry is isotropy of the spacetime

If the universe has a special direction, space doesn't have Lorentz symmetry and Lorentz transformation is violated \rightarrow Lorentz violation

All fundamental physics phenomena must be experimentally tested including Lorentz symmetry

Michelson-Morley experiment

The experiment tried to measure the motion of the Earth relative to æther.

The experiment shows the speed of light is constant regardless the motion of the Earth.

This result suggests the isotropy of the space, and Lorentz symmetry.

Lorentz symmetry is valid down to $\Delta c/c \sim 10^{-9}$

[Nagel et al, Nature Comm., 6\(2015\)8174](https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms9174)

Michelson-Morley experiment

The experiment has been improved over 100 years.

[Nagel et al, Nature Comm., 6\(2015\)8174](https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms9174)

Michelson-Morley experiment

The experiment has been improved over 100 years.

Technology shift (interferometer \rightarrow optical cavity) around 2000s

[Nagel et al, Nature Comm., 6\(2015\)8174,](https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms9174)

Optical cavity experiment

Modern Michelson-Morley experiment

- Saphire crystal resonator
- Whispering gallery mode
- Vacuum insulation, liquid helium cooling to 4K
- Turntable to actively rotate

This experiment is sensitive to the anisotropy of speed of light down to $\Delta c/c \sim 10^{-18}$

Why we keep testing this?

Why do we expect Lorentz violation?

[Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 125 \(2022\) 103948](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0146641022000096?via%3Dihub)

Quantum gravity

Searching Lorentz violation is well motivated

Lorentz violation in Planck scale theories

- string theory
- noncommutative field theory
- quantum loop gravity
- extra dimensions

etc

Lorentz violation is seen as

- spacetime fluctuation
- background field in vacuum etc

Lorentz violating field - background field of the universe (æther)

quantum foam

- quantum fluctuation of space-time

Quantum gravity

Searching Lorentz violation is well motivated

Quantum field theory and general relativity are the foundation of modern physics.

Lorentz symmetry is a basis for both quantum field theory and general relativity

How to formulate Lorentz violation in our theories?

Lorentz symmetry could be spontaneously broken, if so, this doesn't violate existing framework of modern physics

Spontaneous symmetry breaking

Nature has many examples of spontaneous symmetry breaking

- Condensed matter (magnetization, crystallization, etc)
- Phase transition in vacuum (Higgs mechanism, spontaneous Lorentz symmetry breaking)

Magnetization Higgs mechanism

Spontaneous symmetry breaking

Searching Lorentz violation is well motivated

Math is a good approximation of nature There is no perfect symmetry in nature, all somewhat broken

So why space-time symmetry is so perfect?!

Fibonacci number and broccoli Golden ratio and seashell

Standard-Model Extension (SME)

Search of Lorentz violation is to find anomalous effects due to the couplings of background fields and ordinary fields (electrons, muons, neutrinos, etc)

SME is an effective field theory framework to look for Lorentz violation

 $\mathcal{L} = i \bar{\psi} \gamma_{\mu} \partial^{\mu} \psi - m \bar{\psi} \psi + \frac{i}{\psi} \bar{\psi} \gamma_{\mu} a^{\mu} \psi + \bar{\psi} \gamma_{\mu} c^{\mu \nu} \psi \cdots$ Standard Model **Couplings with background fields**

Physics of Lorentz violation

- Spectrum distortion,
- Sidereal time dependence, etc…

e.g.) vacuum Lagrangian for fermion

24h 00min 00sec: Solar day 23h 56min 4.1sec: Sidereal day

Alan Kostelecky, Indiana University

2025 recipient, Norman F. Ramsey Prize

For the development of the Standard Model Extension and for its application to, and inspiration for, a broad set of precision measurement tests across various physical systems, some of which have reached Planck-scale sensitivity.

noon

noon

Bluhm, Kostelecky, Lane, Russell PRL 2002

Tests of Lorentz violation

[EötWash, PRL85\(2000\)2869](https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.85.2869), PRL100**,**[\(2008\)041101](https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.100.041101)

Torsion pendulum

Eötvös experiment \rightarrow EötWash experiment

- Modern torsion balance
- Newton constant
- Equivalent of Principle

etc

Eric G. Adelberger, University of Washington, Seattle

2025 recipient, Einstein Prize

For outstanding contributions to experimental gravity using precision torsionbalance measurements, which have profound implications for fundamental physics.

EötWash

[EötWash, PRL97\(2006\)021603](https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.97.021603) , [PRL122\(2019\)231301](https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.122.231301)

Torsion pendulum (electron)

Electron spin – background field coupling

- AlNiCo: all magnetic field is from electron spin
- SmCo₅: electron orbital motion creates magnetic field
- Magnetize them to cancel magnetic field, so that the pendulum has net electron spin
- Look for coupling between electron spin and background field

Double gas maser (neutron)

The most sensitive magnetometer

- Optical pump for Rb, K
- Spin transfer to noble gas $(Xe, {}^{3}He)$, monitor ${}^{3}He$ precession
- Look for coupling between neutron spin and background field

[ZEUS, PRD107\(2023\)092008](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.107.092008) and many others

Collider physics (quarks)

HERA p-e⁻ collider

- ZEUS deep-inelastic scattering data
- Monitor sidereal time dependence
- Similar tests are possible for other data

Neutrino physics

Neutrinos in the standard model

The standard model describes 6 quarks and 6 leptons and 3 types of force carriers.

Neutrinos are special because,

1. they only interact with weak nuclear force.

2. interaction eigenstate is not Hamiltonian eigenstate, and propagation of neutrinos changes their species (flavours), called neutrino oscillation.

Neutrino oscillation is an interference experiment (cf. double slit experiment)

For double slit experiment, if path v_1 and path v_2 have different length, they have different phases and it causes interference.

Neutrino oscillation is an interference experiment (cf. double slit experiment)

Neutrino flavour eigenstates are super-position of Hamiltonian eigenstates v_1 and v_2

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Neutrino flavour eigenstates are super-position of Hamiltonian eigenstates v_1 and v_2 Difference in velocities cause quantum interference

The detection may be different flavour (neutrino oscillations)

Neutrino propagation may be affected by background fields

 \rightarrow anomalous neutrino oscillation results

[LSND, PRD64\(2001\)112007](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.64.112007), [MiniBooNE, PRL121\(2018\)22180](https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.121.221801)

Neutrino oscillation experiments

Neutrino physics \rightarrow Home of anomalies

- Solar and atmospheric neutrino anomalies (Nobel prizes, 2002, 2015)

SNO detector

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015

hoto © Takaaki Kajita Takaaki Kajita Prize share: 1/2

ueen's University **SNOLAE** Arthur B. McDonald Prize share: 1/2

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2002

laymond Davis Jr. Prize share: 1/4

Prize share: 1/4

[LSND, PRD64\(2001\)112007](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.64.112007), [MiniBooNE, PRL121\(2018\)22180](https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.121.221801)

Neutrino oscillation experiments

Neutrino physics \rightarrow Home of anomalies

- Solar and atmospheric neutrino anomalies (Nobel prizes, 2001, 2015)
- OPERA Neutrino-faster-than-Speed-of-Light (detector problem)
- LSND excess
- MiniBooNE excess

violation, data may show sidereal time dependence 27 If these anomalous neutrino oscillation data are due to Lorentz MiniBooNE excess [LSND, PRD72\(2005\)076004, MiniBooNE, PLB718\(2013\)1303, TK, MPLA27\(2012\)1230024](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.72.076004)

Neutrino oscillation experiments

Neutrino physics \rightarrow Home of anomalies

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Tests of Lorentz violation – Summary

Limits of SME parameters are summarized in tables <https://arxiv.org/abs/0801.0287v17>

So far, there is no compelling evidence of Lorentz violation

Table D15. Photon sector, $d=3$

Table D32. Neutrino sector, $d = 4$ (part 1 of 13)

ble D12. Neutron sector, $d = 3, 4$ (part 2 of 2)

When do we find Lorentz violation???

Lorentz violation is motivated by Planck scale theories, so it is suppressed with the power of Planck mass (\sim 10¹⁹ GeV)

$$
\sim \frac{M}{M_{Pl}}, \left(\frac{M}{M_{Pl}}\right)^2, etc.
$$

In effective field theory, non-renormalizable operators are the signature of new physics, dimension analysis guides target sensitivity to look for Lorentz violation.

dimension-5 LV operator $< 10^{-19}$ GeV⁻¹ dimension-6 LV operator $< 10^{-38}$ GeV⁻² etc

These numbers can be used as a guidance to design new experiments

Steven Weinberg (CERN Courier Nov. 2017) *"We don't know anything about non-renormalizable interaction terms, but I'll swear they are there!'*

Tests of Lorentz violation – Astrophysics

Terrestrial experiments

- controlled, high-precision
- various systems (optics, pendulum, gas, particle physics, etc)

So far, no compelling evidence of Lorentz violation

Astrophysical and cosmological experiments

- not controlled, low-precision
- extreme systems (highest energy, longest distance, etc)
- more sensitive to nonrenormalizable operators

Tests of Lorentz violation in Astrophysics

[Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 125 \(2022\) 103948](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0146641022000096?via%3Dihub)

Lorentz violation in Astrophysics

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Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics

Contents lists available at ScienceDire

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ppn

Review

Quantum gravity phenomenology at the dawn of the multi-messenger era-A review

Highest energy particles – Ultra-high-energy cosmic rays Longest propagating particles – Gravitational waves, cosmic microwave background High-energy and long propagation – Gamma-ray, High-energy astrophysical neutrinos [Amelino-Camelia et al, Nature 393\(1998\)763,](https://www.nature.com/articles/31647) [Stecker, et al, PRD91\(2015\)045009](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.91.045009), and many others

Cut-off in high-energy cosmic ray spectrum

Lorentz violation $=$ media in vacuum - Attenuate high-energy cosmic rays?

High-energy astrophysical neutrino spectrum

[Amelino-Camelia et al, Nature 393\(1998\)763,](https://www.nature.com/articles/31647) [Auger, JCAP01\(2022\)023,](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1475-7516/2022/01/023) and many others

Cut-off in high-energy cosmic ray spectrum

Lorentz violation $=$ media in vacuum - Attenuate high-energy cosmic rays?

[Huang and Ma, Communications Physics1\(2018\)62, Amelino-Camelia et al, Nature Astronomy](https://www.nature.com/articles/s42005-018-0061-0) [7\(2023\)996](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41550-023-01993-z) and many others

Time delay of high-energy cosmic rays

Lorentz violation $=$ media in vacuum

- Time difference between photons and neutrinos?

Gamma Ray Bursts

- Not identified as point neutrino sources
- Time delay or advance proportion to neutrino energy and sign may fit with data

Could quantum gravity slow down neutrinos?

Giovanni Amelino-Camelia[⊠], Maria Grazia Di Luca, Giulia Gubitosi, Giacomo Rosati & Giacomo D'Amico

Nature Astronomy 7, 996-1001 (2023) Cite this article

[IceCube, Nature Physics 18\(2022\)1287](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41567-022-01762-1)

Anomalous neutrino mixings in vacuum

Lorentz violation $=$ media in vacuum

- Neutrino oscillations are affected by media

- If the universe is saturated with background field, they would affect flavours of astrophysical neutrinos

Sensitive to the target signal region of Lorentz violation $\approx ($ < 10⁻³⁸ GeV⁻² for dimension-6 operators), no anomalous neutrino oscillation is discovered yet

Neutrino astronomy – Summary

Neutrino astronomy has a high potential to look for Lorentz violation. But there are many unknowns;

- Energy spectrum
- Sources (5 known sources, Sun, SN1987, TXS0506+056, NGC1068, Galactic plane)
- Flavour structure

So far, astrophysical neutrino data are low statistics and further data are needed to search Lorentz violation

[Hyper-Kamiokande, ArXiv:1805.04163](https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.04163)

Hyper-Kamiokande and IceCube-Gen2

New international neutrino astronomy projects around the world

Hyper-K

Hyper-Kamiokande

71 m

Super-Kamiokande

40m

[IceCube-Gen2, J.Phys.G48\(2021\)060501](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1361-6471/abbd48)

Hyper-Kamiokande and IceCube-Gen2

New international neutrino astronomy projects around the world

IceCube (~1Gton)

Gen2-Optical (~8 Gton)

DeepCore (>7 GeV) IceCube-Upgrade (>3GeV)

The first stage of Gen2 (IceCube upgrade) is ongoing

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Bluhm, Kostelecky, Lane, Russell PRL 2002 **Conclusion**

Lorentz violation is motivated from Planck-scale theories

There is a worldwide effort to look for Lorentz violation, using various state-of-the-art techniques, but so far no compelling evidence of Lorentz violation

Neutrino oscillation and neutrino astronomy are powerful tools to look for Lorentz violation

Merry Christmas!

Backup

Gravity test

Matter wave interferometer

 \boldsymbol{g}

High-energy astrophysical neutrinos

Above ~100 TeV, neutrinos are only particles pointing to their high-energy sources

High-energy astrophysical neutrinos

60TeV- 2PeV astrophysical neutrinos are observed by IceCube Neutrino Observatory

IceCube-Gen2, J.Phys.G48(2021)060501

IceCube event morphology

Track v_μ CC $\nu_\mu + N \rightarrow \mu + X$

Cascade v_e CC, v_τ CC, NC $v_e + N \rightarrow e + X$ $\nu_{\tau} + N \rightarrow \tau + X'$ $\nu_x + N \rightarrow \nu_x + X$

Double cascade v_rCC (L~50m•E/PeV) $\nu_{\tau} + N \rightarrow \tau + X$ $\tau \rightarrow X'$

Spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB)

vacuum Lagrangian for fermion
$$
L = i \bar{\psi} \gamma_{\mu} \partial^{\mu} \psi
$$

In the Standard Model, a phase transition of a scalar field gives nonzero field value in vacuum

Spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB)

vacuum Lagrangian for fermion
$$
L = i \bar{\psi} \gamma_{\mu} \partial^{\mu} \psi - m \bar{\psi} \psi
$$

In the Standard Model, a phase transition of a scalar field gives nonzero field value in vacuum

Particle acquires mass term!

 $L=$ 1 2 $\partial_\mu \phi$ 2 − 1 2 $\mu^2 \phi^2$ – 1 4 $\lambda \phi^4$

Spontaneous Lorentz symmetry breaking (SLSB)

vacuum Lagrangian for fermion $\; L = i \bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu \partial^\mu \psi - m \bar{\psi} \psi \;$

In the Standard Model, a phase transition of a scalar field gives nonzero field value in vacuum

In String Theory, a vector field can be frozen in vacuum by spontaneous symmetry broken

Spontaneous Lorentz symmetry breaking (SLSB)

vacuum Lagrangian for fermion $\;L=i\bar{\psi}\gamma_{\mu}\partial^{\mu}\psi-m\bar{\psi}\psi\;+\bar{\psi}\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\psi\;$

In the Standard Model, a phase transition of a scalar field gives nonzero field value in vacuum

In String Theory, a vector field can be frozen in vacuum by spontaneous symmetry broken

Lorentz symmetry is spontaneously broken!

 $\overline{\mathsf{Y}}(\mathsf{x})\mathfrak{g}_{\mathsf{m}}\mathsf{a}^{\mathsf{m}}\mathsf{Y}(\mathsf{x})$

 $\overline{\mathsf{Y}}(\mathsf{x})\mathfrak{g}_{\mathsf{m}}\mathsf{a}^{\mathsf{m}}\mathsf{Y}(\mathsf{x})$

Under the particle Lorentz transformation:

 $U \overline{Y}(x)$ g_ma^m $Y(x)U^{-1}$

Under the particle Lorentz transformation:

$$
\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x) \to U[\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x)]U^{-1}
$$

$$
\neq \overline{\Psi}(\Lambda x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(\Lambda x)
$$

Lorentz violation is observable when a particle is moving in the fixed coordinate space

Under the particle Lorentz transformation:

$$
\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x) \to U[\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x)]U^{-1}
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$$

Lorentz violation is observable when a particle is moving in the fixed coordinate space

y x

 $\overline{\mathsf{Y}}(\mathsf{x})\mathfrak{g}_{\mathsf{m}}\mathsf{a}^{\mathsf{m}}\mathsf{Y}(\mathsf{x})$

Under the observer Lorentz transformation:

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Under the particle Lorentz transformation:

$$
\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x) \to U[\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x)]U^{-1}
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$$
\neq \overline{\Psi}(\Lambda x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(\Lambda x)
$$

Lorentz violation is observable when a particle is moving in the fixed coordinate space

Under the observer Lorentz transformation:

 $\overline{\mathsf{Y}}(\mathsf{x})\mathfrak{g}_{\mathsf{m}}\mathsf{a}^{\mathsf{m}}\mathsf{Y}(\mathsf{x})$ $X \rightarrow \Lambda^{-1}X$

Under the particle Lorentz transformation:

$$
\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x) \to U[\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x)]U^{-1}
$$

$$
\neq \overline{\Psi}(\Lambda x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(\Lambda x)
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Lorentz violation is observable when a particle is moving in the fixed coordinate space

Under the observer Lorentz transformation:

$$
\overline{\Psi}(x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(x)\frac{\Lambda^{-1}}{\phantom{a^{\mu}}} \to \overline{\Psi}(\Lambda^{-1}x)\gamma_{\mu}a^{\mu}\Psi(\Lambda^{-1}x)
$$

Lorentz violation cannot be generated by observers motion (coordinate transformation is unbroken)

all observers agree for all observations

