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Precision Experiments with Trapped Antihydrogen at ALPHA

Hydrogen is the best studied physical system, both theoretically and experimentally, therefore antihydrogen, the antimatter equivalent of hydrogen, offers a unique way to test matter-antimatter symmetry. In particular, the CPT invariance theorem implies that hydrogen and antihydrogen have the same spectrum. The ALPHA experiment at CERN can synthesize and confine a large number of antihydrogen atoms for extended periods of time. This enabled successful experimental campaigns to measure the frequency of the 1S-2S transition [1, 2] and the hyperfine splitting of the ground state [3], owing to improved antihydrogen production techniques [4, 5]. An important aspect of the ALPHA experimental methodology is the identification of the antihydrogen annihilations by means of the silicon vertex detector. The combination of the above techniques allowed ALPHA to probe the CPT symmetry to an absolute energy sensitivity of 2×10^{-20} GeV.

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- [1] Ahmadi, M. et al. , Nature 548, 506 (2017)\
- [2] Ahmadi, M. et al. , Nature 557, (2018)\
- [3] Ahmadi, M. et al., Nature 541, 66 (2017)\
- [4] Ahmadi, M. et al. , Nature Comm. 8, 681 (2017)\
- [5] Ahmadi, M. et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 120 , 025001 (2018)

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