Two Stories About Axion Physics

Matt Reece Harvard University June 15, 2021 online seminar at Mainz

based on: 2104.03267 with Buen-Abad, Fan, Sun; 2105.09950 with Fan, Fraser, Stout



In my usage, "axion" = "axion-like particle", not necessarily the QCD axion. The axion is a **periodic** scalar field, $a \cong a + 2\pi f_a$, with f_a being the decay constant.

- As a (pseudo-)Nambu-Goldstone boson of a spontaneously broken U(1) global symmetry.
- As a Wilson loop of a higher-dimensional U(1) gauge field, like $a(x) = \oint dx^5 A_5(\vec{x}, x^5)$, where the periodicity is inherited from A_5 gauge transformations with winding. (Could also be higher-form generalizations, $\oint dx^5 dx^6 B_{56}(\vec{x}, x^5, x^6)$, etc.)

What is an axion?

- With *approximate* continuous shift symmetry. Two ways such a field can arise:



Part 1. Axions and the g - 2 Anomaly

arXiv:2104.03267 with Buen-Abad, Fan, Sun

Axion Basics

energy phenomenology theories (Peccei, Quinn, Wilczek, Weinberg).

symmetry in the axion's interactions. For example,

$$\frac{\partial_{\mu}a}{f_a} \left(\bar{\ell}_L k_L \gamma^{\mu} \ell \right)$$

First we consider flavor-diagonal entries.

- Axion arises ubiquitously from top-down theory (Svrcek, Witten 2006) and low-
- Exact discrete shift symmetry on the field and approximate continuous shift
 - $\ell_L + \bar{\ell}_R k_R \gamma^{\mu} \ell_R$ $\ell : SM$ charged leptons
- k_L , k_R are 3 × 3 Hermitian matrices in the mass basis. The off-diagonal entries could be severely constrained by lepton flavor violation processes (more later).



Side comment: one could encounter an irrational $c_{\gamma\gamma}$. For example, the infrared contribution to the leading order coupling of QCD axion to the photons through mixing with the pions is irrational. But no periodicity violation! The reason is that the leading order coupling and high-order couplings (e.g: $a^2 F \tilde{F}$, $a^3 F \tilde{F}$) could be repacked into a periodic function. (Appendix A of 1709.06085 Agrawal, Fan, Reece and Wang).

Low-energy axion EFT for muon g-2

Quantized "Chern-Simons term" e^{iS} is invariant only if $c_{\gamma\gamma}$ is quantized and takes rational value (canonically normalized field strength)





Chang et.al 2001; Marciano et.al. 2016; Bauer et.al. 2017.



Chang et.al 2001; Marciano et.al. 2016; Bauer et.al. 2017.



Chang et.al 2001; Marciano et.al. 2016; Bauer et.al. 2017.

Different combinations of the axion couplings: Darme et.al 2020





 $\Rightarrow c_{\mu\mu}/c_{\gamma\gamma} < 0$

Case 1: only
$$c_{\mu\mu}$$
 , $c_{\gamma\gamma}$

$$\left|\frac{c_{\gamma\gamma}/c_{\mu\mu}}{c_{\gamma\gamma}}\right| \lesssim (10-25) \,\mathrm{GeV}, \quad \left|\frac{f_a}{c_{\mu\mu}}\right| \lesssim 100$$

Buen-Abad, Fan, Reece, Sun, 2021







<u>Case 2</u>: only $c_{\mu\mu}$, c_{ee}



 $\Rightarrow c_{\mu\mu}/c_{ee} < 0$



 $\frac{c_{\mu\mu}c_{ee}\alpha}{16\pi^3}$

<u>Case 2</u>: only $c_{\mu\mu}$, c_{ee}



Buen-Abad, Fan, Reece, Sun, 2021

$$m_a \gtrsim 2 \,\mathrm{GeV}, \quad c_{ee}/c_{\mu\mu} < 0,$$

 $\left|\frac{f_a}{c_{\mu\mu}}\right| \lesssim 100 \,\mathrm{GeV}, \quad \left|\frac{f_a}{c_{ee}}\right| \lesssim 25 \,\mathrm{GeV} \quad \mathrm{for} \quad m_a = 5 \,\mathrm{GeV} .$

Explanation with off-diagonal couplings

Off-diagonal coupling, such as $c_{e\mu}$, was used to explain muon g - 2, as well as electron g - 2 based on measurement of α using Cs atoms (Parker et.al 2018).

Bauer, Neubert, Renner, Schnubel and Thamm 2019; Cornelia, Paradisi, Sumensari 2019.



Electron g - 2 anomaly is in doubt given the latest measurement of α using Rb atoms (Morel et.al 2020).

This explanation for muon g - 2 is ruled out by muonium oscillation Endo, Iguro and Kitahara 2020.





To use flavor-diagonal axion-coupling to the SM particles (i.e., muon and electron/photon) to explain muon g - 2, we need them to be huge:

Cutoff of the axion EFT $4\pi f_a$ is also low.

Recap

 $\frac{f_a}{|c|} \lesssim 25 \,\mathrm{GeV}$

Enhancing axion-photon couplings

 $|f_a|/|c_{\gamma\gamma}| \leq (10-25) \,\text{GeV} \Rightarrow \text{new d.o.f, such as charged matter, with masses of}$ $\mathcal{O}(10-25)$ GeV. E.g. KSVZ model where one integrates out heavy charged *vector-like fermions* with masses of order f_a , assuming that these fermions have order one charges and PQ charges. Kim, Shifman, Vainshtein, Zakharov 1980

1. <u>Large charges</u>

- Landau pole of $U(1)_{Y}$: hypercharge ≤ 6 for pole above Planck scale; - Highly charged fermions may not decay quickly.



2. <u>Large PQ charges</u>

Masses of the fermions are exponentially suppressed

E.g.:
$$\frac{\phi^m}{\Lambda^{m-1}} L\tilde{L}$$
,

 ϕ : PQ scalar with VEV f_a and unit PQ charge, $L(\tilde{L})$: vector-like leptons, m: PQ charge of $L(\tilde{L})$. Mass of $L(\tilde{L})$: $f_a\left(\frac{f_a}{\Lambda}\right)^{m-1}$.

One could UV complete it by adding a chain of vector-like fermions or clockworking. Agrawal, Fan, Reece and Wang 2017

3. <u>Alignment/clockwork mechanism</u>: enhance f_a of the axion compared to the fundamental period F_a . Dvali 2007; Kim, Nilles, Peloso 2014; Choi, Im; Kaplan, Rattazzi 2015





Choi, Kim, Yun '14



Applications to get photophilic axion: Farina, Pappadopulo, Rompineve, Tesi 2016; Agrawal, Fan, Reece, Wang 2017.

In theses models (mostly KSVZ-type), the fundamental period of the axion $F_a \sim f_a / |c_{\gamma\gamma}| \sim \mathcal{O}(10 - 25) \,\mathrm{GeV}$

while f_a could be much larger. But one still needs new charged matter with masses of order F_a in these models.

A possible exception: clockworking n Higgses ($n \sim O(10)$) in the DFSZ-type model (Dine, Fischler, Srednicki, Zhitnitsky 1981) so that the Higgs coupling to one flavor of SM fermion has a huge PQ charge ~ 2^n . Darme et.al 2020



Enhancing axion-fermion couplings

KSVZ-type model: mixing with vector-like fermions SM right_ihanded lepton

$$\mathscr{L} \supset \chi^{\dagger} (i\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}\partial_{\mu})\chi - y\tilde{\chi} \Phi_{s} E^{c} - M\tilde{\chi}\chi$$
$$\downarrow$$
PQ scalar: $\Phi_{s} = f_{a}/\sqrt{2} e^{ia/f_{a}}$

Integrating out χ : $\chi = -\frac{y\Phi_s E^c}{M}$, we have muon g-2, $M \lesssim 125 \text{ GeV}\left(\frac{y}{\sqrt{4\pi}}\right) \left(\frac{1/25}{c_{\mu\mu}}\right)$

$\chi, \tilde{\chi}$: heavy vector-like fermions with mass *M*

$$= f_a / \sqrt{2} e^{ia/f_a}$$
we $- \left| \frac{y f_a}{M} \right|^2 \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a} E^{c\dagger} \bar{\sigma}^\mu E^c$. Then to explain
$$\frac{25 \,\text{GeV}}{2\mu\mu} f_a$$

Three issues:

- axion-photon couplings).
- 2. Light vector-like fermions with mass ~ $\mathcal{O}(100)$ GeV;
- 3. The vector-like fermions have sizable contributions to muon g-2.

 $\Delta a_{\mu} \approx 11 \times 10^{-10} y^2 \left(\frac{100 \,\text{GeV}}{M}\right)^2$

1. Always generate axion-fermion couplings of the same sign (case 2 doesn't work; case 1 might work but need to introduce new matter to generate large



DFSZ model: two Higgs doublets with PQ charges

Field	$SU(2)_L$	U(
H_l	2	_
H_q	2	
Φ	1	

large coupling to leptons: $f_a \sim v_{\Phi} \leq 25 \text{ GeV}, v_q \sim v_{\text{EW}}$ coupling to photons: $\frac{6}{f_a} \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$





Three issues:

- same sign;
- 2. Light charged Higgs boson and light radial mode of Φ mixes with the Higgs: $h \to aa, a \to \gamma\gamma, \ell^+\ell^-;$
- 3. Additional Higgs bosons contribute to muon g-2 as well.

A possible exception as before: clockworking n Higgses $(n \sim O(10))$ so that the are relatively heavy and have suppressed VEV

 $v_k \sim \frac{v_{k-1}^2}{m^2} v_{\rm EV}$ m_k^2

Darme et.al 2020

1. Always generate axion-fermion couplings and axion-photon coupling of the

Higgs coupling to the lepton has a huge PQ charge 2^n . The additional Higgses

$$_{\rm W}$$
, $k=2,\cdots n$



tantalizing potential solution to muon g - 2.

Yet to get these couplings, usually new states (charged or neutral but mixed with the Higgs boson) with masses of order a few 10's to a few 100's of GeV have to be present.

strongly constrained and also contribute to muon g - 2.

Part 1 Conclusion

A heavy axion-like particle with couplings to leptons and photons provides a

It is not a no-go theorem, but suggests that to consider an axion's contribution to muon g - 2, one needs to consider more complete models specifying the origins of the couplings and other relevant d.o.f. These new d.o.f. could be



Part II. Axion mass from monopole loops

arXiv:2105.09950 with Fan, Fraser, Stout



New origin of axion potential

It is well known that for axion coupling to non-Abelian gauge group, instantons generate a potential for axion.

Yet for axion coupling to *Abelian* gauge fields, axion could still acquire a potential through *loops of magnetic monopoles*. Fan, Fraser, Reece and Stout 2021

Existence of magnetic monopoles: "*completeness hypothesis*" Polchinski 2003

Monopole refresher: 't Hooft-Polyakov

't Hooft-Polyakov ('t H-P) monopole.



gauge transformation, not vanishing at infinity).

review: Shifman, Advanced Topics in Quantum Field Theory, Chapter 4

 $SU(2) \rightarrow U(1)$ symmetry broken by an adjoint vev: classical solution of

$$\hat{F}^{a}H(r), \quad A_{i}^{a} = e^{aij}\frac{1}{r}\hat{r}^{j}F(r)$$

: $H(r) \rightarrow 1, \ F(r) \rightarrow 1$
 $H(r) \rightarrow 0, \ F(r) \rightarrow 0$

- The solution has 4 zero modes (collective coordinates): 3 translations, 1 U(1) (large

with both magnetic and electric charges).

The ground state is the magnetic monopole (with no electric charge) and the excited states are dyons.



Possible charged states: not only magnetic monopoles, but also dyons (particles

E.g., in 't H-P case, a residual unbroken global U(1) rotation could be realized by a compact real scalar. In 4d, this is described by QM of a particle living on a circle, $\sigma \cong \sigma + 2\pi$ (dyonic collective coordinate). This has a spectrum labelled by integers.

> Dyon tower $\begin{cases} \vdots \\ \pm 3e \\ \pm 2e \\ \pm 2e \\ \end{bmatrix}$ excited states $m_n^2 = m_M^2 + (m_\Delta^2 n^2)$ ----- 0e ground state $m_0^2 = m_M^2$



Given
$$\frac{e^2\theta}{8\pi^2}F \wedge F = \frac{e^2\theta}{16\pi^2}F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$
 ($\theta = a/f_a$ and e : unit of electric c
point magnetic monopole (no electric charge when $\theta = 0$) at the
Maxwell equations are modified:
Magnetic Gauss' law: $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = \frac{g_m}{4\pi}\delta(\mathbf{r}), g_m$: unit of magnetic char
Dirac quantization condition;
Electric Gauss' law: $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} + \frac{e^2}{4\pi^2}\theta(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{Q_E}{e} = -\frac{\theta}{2\pi}$

A monopole obtains an effective electric charge in the presence of an axion background!

Witten effect

charge) and a e origin, the

rge; $eg_m = 2\pi$ due to

Witten, 1979





$$\frac{Q_E}{e} = n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi},$$

In general, the dyon electric charge is shifted to be $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \cdots$ The corresponding energy spectrum will be modified as well! $L = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\sigma}^2 + \frac{\theta}{2\pi}\dot{\sigma} \qquad \sigma: \text{ dyonic collective coordinate}$ Conjugate momentum: $\Pi_{\sigma} = \dot{\sigma} + \frac{\theta}{2\pi}$ Hamiltonian: $H = \frac{1}{2} \left(\Pi_{\sigma} - \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2 \implies E_n = \frac{1}{2} \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2$ $\frac{1}{2}\left(-i\partial_{\sigma}-\frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)^{2}\psi_{n}=E_{n}\psi_{n}$

The corresponding energy spectrum



ground state monopole mass at $\theta = 0$



Integrating out these states \Rightarrow vacuum potential for the axion θ !

periodicity through "monodromy" or rearrangement of the eigenstates:

 $n \to n+1, \quad \theta \to \theta + 2\pi$

monopole plasma! Fischler, Preskill 1983; Kawasaki et.al; Nomura et.al. 2015...

A plasma of monopoles and anti-monopoles could be generated through Kibble-Zurek mechanism in the early Universe.

Here we talk about the axion potential from the *virtual* effects of monopole (dyon) loops.

Side note: *different* from the axion potential generated by *monopole and anti-*



Our calculation can be carried out from two viewpoints:

- I.
- 2. Do the path integral over all monopole loops.



Integrate out the dyons to get a Coleman-Weinberg potential for axion.

Related by Poisson resummation



Fan, Fraser, Reece and Stout, 2021



 $\left(1+\frac{3m_{\Delta}}{2\pi\ell m_{\mathrm{M}}}+\frac{3m_{\Delta}^{2}}{(2\pi\ell m_{\mathrm{M}})^{2}}\right),$

Fan, Fraser, Reece and Stout, 2021

In a hidden gauged U(1) sector with an axion and monopoles: both axion and monopole contribute to DM $m_a(T) = m_a^{\text{loop}} + m_a^{\text{plasma}}(T)$



dark gauge coupling

Conclusions

— Axion-like particles may appear in models of the muon g - 2 anomaly, but we need a complete model beyond the axion EFT to have a full explanation.

— There is new source of axion potential from the axion coupling to Abelian gauge fields, via loops of magnetic monopoles. This should lead to a minimum mass to any axion coupling to photons (work in progress).

Still a lot to explore—both phenomenology and QFT—in axion physics!





BACKUP

Effective theory of axion and monopoles $S = \int \left| \frac{1}{2} f^2 \mathrm{d}\theta \wedge \star \mathrm{d}\theta \right|$ •

 $\sigma: \text{dyonic collective} \quad S = \int_{\gamma} \left| \frac{1}{2} l_{\sigma} d_A \sigma \wedge \star d_A \sigma + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} d_A \sigma \right|$ coordinate, coordinate, $\sigma \cong \sigma + 2\pi$

$$E_n = \frac{1}{2l_{\sigma}} \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2. \quad l_{\sigma} \sim \frac{4\pi}{e^2 k^2} r_*, \quad r_* = \max(r_c, r_0),$$

classical radius of magnetic length scale of axion screening:
monopole: $r_c = \pi/(e^2 m_M)$ $r_0 = ke/(8\pi^2 f)$

$$0 - \frac{1}{2e^2}F \wedge \star F + \frac{k\theta}{8\pi^2}F \wedge F$$

 $d_A \sigma \equiv d\sigma + kA$

Monopole loops

Euclidean path integral $Z(\theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Z(\theta)$ wor

Effective potential $V_{\text{eff}}(\theta) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

Assuming that single monopole loop dominates $\mathbf{\infty}$

$$\mathcal{Z}(\theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \left(Z_{\mathrm{S}^1} \right)^n = \exp\left(Z_{\mathrm{S}^1}(\theta) \right).$$

 $Z_{\mathrm{S}^{1}} = \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}\tau}{2\tau} Z(\tau,\theta),$

$$\sum_{\text{Idlines}} \int \mathcal{D}(\text{fields}) \, \mathrm{e}^{-S_{\mathrm{E}}[\text{fields}, \text{worldlines}, heta]} \,,$$

$$\lim_{\mathcal{V}\to\infty}\frac{1}{\mathcal{V}}\log\mathcal{Z}(\theta)\,.$$

Sum over all paths that are topologically a circle S^1

invariant length: τ



sum over transition amplitudes at fixed θ of all trajectories with invariant length τ

$$\langle x'|x \rangle_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi\tau)^2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau}(x-x')^2 - m^2\tau\right)$$

$$V_{\text{eff}} = -\int_0^\infty \frac{d\tau}{2\tau} \frac{1}{2(2\pi\tau)^2} \exp\left(-\frac{m^2\tau}{2}\right).$$

$$= m_n^2 = m_M^2 + m_\Delta^2 \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)^2$$

$$-\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_0^\infty \frac{d\tau}{4\tau (2\pi\tau)^2} \exp\left(-\frac{m_M^2\tau}{2} - \frac{m_\Delta^2\tau}{2} \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)^2\right).$$

$$\text{ummation} \quad \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}m_\Delta^2\tau \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)^2} = \sum_{\ell \in \mathbb{Z}} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{m_\Delta^2\tau}} \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi^2\ell^2}{m_\Delta^2\tau} + i\ell\theta\right)$$

Poisson resummation

$$\langle x'|x\rangle_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi\tau)^2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau}(x-x')^2 - m^2\tau\right)$$

$$V_{\text{eff}} = -\int_0^\infty \frac{d\tau}{2\tau} \frac{1}{2(2\pi\tau)^2} \exp\left(-\frac{m^2\tau}{2}\right).$$

$$m_n^2 = m_M^2 + m_\Delta^2 \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)^2$$

$$-\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} \int_0^\infty \frac{d\tau}{4\tau (2\pi\tau)^2} \exp\left(-\frac{m_M^2\tau}{2} - \frac{m_\Delta^2\tau}{2} \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)^2\right).$$

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}m_\Delta^2\tau \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)^2} = \sum_{\ell\in\mathbb{Z}} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{m_\Delta^2\tau}} \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi^2\ell^2}{m_\Delta^2\tau} + i\ell\theta\right)$$

$$-\frac{\pi^2}{m_{\Delta}} \sum_{\ell \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_0^\infty \frac{\mathrm{d}\tau \,\mathrm{e}^{i\ell\theta}}{(2\pi\tau)^{7/2}}$$

$$V_{ ext{eff}}(heta) = -\sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} rac{m_{\Delta}^2 m_{ ext{M}}^2}{32\pi^4 \ell^3} \mathrm{e}^{-2\pi \ell m_{ ext{M}}/m_{\Delta}} \cos(\ell heta) imes \ \left(1 + rac{3m_{\Delta}}{2\pi \ell m_{ ext{M}}} + rac{3m_{\Delta}^2}{(2\pi \ell m_{ ext{M}})^2}
ight),$$



$$S_{\rm M} = m_{\rm M} \int_{\gamma} \mathrm{d}\lambda \sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{d}x_{\mu}}{\mathrm{d}\lambda} \frac{\mathrm{d}x^{\mu}}{\mathrm{d}\lambda}} + \frac{l_{\sigma}}{m_{\rm M}} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}_A\sigma}{\mathrm{d}\lambda}\right)^2 + \int_{\gamma} \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \mathrm{d}_A\sigma \,,$$

$$(12)$$

$$x', \sigma' | x, \sigma \rangle_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi\tau)^{5/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau}(x'-x)^2 - \frac{l_{\sigma}}{2m_{\rm M}\tau}(\sigma'-\sigma)^2 - \frac{m_{\rm M}^2\tau}{2} + \frac{i\theta}{2\pi}(\sigma'-\sigma)\right) \,.$$

to a length ~ 1/m.

$$m_n^2 = m_{\rm M}^2 + m_{\Delta}^2 \left(n - \frac{\theta}{2\pi}\right)^2$$

$$m_{\Delta}^2 \sim n$$

In the presence of a light fermion with $m \ll m_{\rm M}$, dyon's electric charge dispersed

 $m_{\rm M}m$

 $m \to 0, \quad m_{\Delta}^2 \to 0$

