



超轻轴子的引力波信号

黄发朋 (Fa Peng Huang) 中山大学物理与天文学院

based on recent work with my Ph.D students: Ning Xie, FPH, arXiv:2503.10347; FPH, arXiv: 2409.19906 Aidi Yang, FPH, arXiv:2404.18703, JCAP (2025) ; Jing Yang, Ning Xie, FPH, JCAP 11 (2024) 045; Ning Xie, FPH, SCPMA Vol.66, No.1(2024).

Axion Dark Matter: Theory and Phenomenology @山东大学, 青岛, 2025.05.11



Outline

- 1. Axion and axion dark matter (DM), Gravitational wave (GW)
- 2. DFSZ axion and its phase transition GW signals
- 3. µeV axion and radio signals of axion DM (multi-messenger)
- 4. 10⁻¹²-10⁻¹⁷ eV axion: GW and pulsar timing measurement
- 5. 10⁻²¹ eV fuzzy axion DM GW
- 6. Summary and outlook



Motivation



aLIGO, FAST, SKA, NanoGrav, Cosmic Explorer...)

Dark Energy 68.3%

Axion particle cosmology

Ultralight axion is a promising DM candidate.



Direct searchesPoS ICHEP2018 (2019) 397 with Phys.Rev. D98 (2018) no.9, 095022 pulsar timing Phys.Lett. B788 (2019) 288arrays 黄发朋 (Fa Peng Huang), 超轻轴子的引力波信号

GW detection of DM

The observation of GW@LIGO initiates a new era of exploring DM and new physics by GW.

Fundamental Physics and Cosmology with TianQin, arXiv: 2502.20138

J.Jaeckel, V. V. Khoze, M. Spannowsky, Phys.Rev. D94 (2016) no.10, 103519 Zhaofeng Kang, et.al. arXiv:2101.03795, arXiv:2003.02465 Yan Wang, Chong Sheng Li, and **FPH**, arXiv:2012.03920 **FPH**, Eibun Senaha Phys.Rev. D100 (2019) no.3, 03501 FPH **FPH**, Chong Sheng Li, Phys.Rev. D96 (2017) no.9, 095028 **FPH**, Jiang-Hao Yu, **FPH**, Xinmin Zhang, Haipeng An, et.al, arXiv: 2208.14857, arXiv:2009.12381, arXiv:2201.05171







What is GW ?



64 32

0.5

LIGO Livingston

0.6

0.7

0.8

Time (sec)

GW radiation in a nutshell

The quadruple nature of GW !

EM wave radiation

GW radiation

$$\ddot{d} = e\ddot{x}$$

$$\ddot{\boldsymbol{d}} = \sum_{\text{particles } A} m_A \ddot{\boldsymbol{x}}_A = \dot{\boldsymbol{p}} = 0$$

$$L_{\text{electric quadrupole}} = \frac{1}{20} \, \ddot{Q}^2 \equiv \frac{1}{20} \, \ddot{Q}_{jk} \ddot{Q}_{jk}$$

$$Q_{jk} \equiv \sum_{A} e_A \left(x_{Aj} x_{Ak} - \frac{1}{3} \, \delta_{jk} r_A^2 \right)$$

$$L_{\text{mass quadrupole}} = \frac{1}{5} \langle \ddot{I}^2 \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{5} \langle \ddot{H}_{jk} \ddot{H}_{jk} \rangle$$
$$H_{jk} \equiv \sum_{A} m_A \left(x_{Aj} x_{Ak} - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{jk} r_A^2 \right)$$

Cosmological source of GW

General GW source from the early universe 🔒

$$\ddot{h}_{ij}(\mathbf{x},t) + 3H\dot{h}_{ij}(\mathbf{x},t) - \frac{\nabla^2}{a^2}h_{ij}(\mathbf{x},t) = 16\pi G\Pi_{ij}(\mathbf{x},t)$$

GW sources	Sources of tensor anisotropic stress	General form Π_{ij}
Collisions of bubble walls	scalar field gradients	$[\partial_i \phi \partial_j \phi]^{TT}$
Sound waves and turbulence	bulk fluid motion	$[\gamma^2(\rho+p)v_iv_j]^{TT}$
Primordial magnetic fields	gauge fields	$[-E_i E_j - B_i B_j]^{TT}$
Scalar perturbations	second order scalar perturbations	$\partial_i \Psi, \partial_i \Phi$

A Phase transition GW in a nutshell



calculate the finite-temperature effective potential using the thermal field theory: free energy density.

$$V_{\rm eff}^{(1)}(\bar{\phi}) = \sum_{i} n_i \left[\int \frac{\mathrm{d}^D p}{(2\pi)^D} \ln\left(p^2 + m_i^2(\bar{\phi})\right) + J_{\rm B,F}\left(\frac{m_i^2(\bar{\phi})}{T^2}\right) \right]$$

$$S(T) = \int d^4x \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right)^2 + V_{\text{eff}} (\phi, T) \right]$$

 $\Gamma = \Gamma_0 e^{-S(T)}$

Strong first-order phase transition (SFOPT) 这世上的热闹,源自隧穿

Xiao Wang, FPH, Xinmin Zhang, JCAP05(2020)045

A Phase transition GW in a nutshell



Xiao Wang, FPH, Xinmin Zhang, JCAP05(2020)045

2025/05/11

by LIGO.

GW

A Phase transition dynamics

Theory:相变引力波信号、 相变暗物质、早期宇宙电弱 重子生成机制最核心却最 难计算的是泡泡膨胀速度

 \mathcal{V}_{W}

Experiment: 实验 上最重要的相变参数 也是泡泡膨胀速度





LISA/TianQin/Taiji~2034





2025/05/11

黄发朋 (Fa Peng Huang), 超轻轴子的引力波信号



- Expected around 2035
- > Geocentric orbit, normal triangle constellation, radius $\sim 10^{5}$ km
- Unique frequency band 10⁻⁴-1 Hz, easier for deployment, tracking, control, and communication





Next generation: Einstein telescope Cosmic Explorer



Kertain And Antice Antice

2023 June 29th: NANOGrav, EPTA, InPTA, Parkes PTA, CPTA



Hellings-Downs correlation curve First observation of stochastic GW

FAST SKA High sensitivity sub $\mu J y$



Outline

- 1. Axion and axion dark matter (DM), Gravitational wave (GW)
- 2. DFSZ axion and its phase transition GW signals
- 3. µeV axion and radio signals of axion DM (multi-messenger)
- 4. 10⁻¹²-10⁻¹⁷ eV axion: GW and pulsar timing measurement
- 5. 10⁻²¹ eV fuzzy axion DM GW
- 6. Summary and outlook



Strong CP problem and QCD axion



M. Dine, W. Fischler, and M. Srednicki, Physics letters B 104, 199 (1981).

The U(1) Peccei-Quinn symmetry breaking might be a SFOPT process, which could produce detectable phase transition GW.

$$V_{\text{tree}} = -\mu_1^2 |H_u|^2 - \mu_2^2 |H_d|^2 + \lambda_1 |H_u|^4 + \lambda_2 |H_d|^4 + \lambda_4 |H_u^{\dagger} H_d|^2 - \mu_3^2 |\sigma|^2 + \lambda_3 |\sigma|^4 + \lambda_{12} |H_u|^2 |H_d|^2 + \lambda_{13} |\sigma|^2 |H_u|^2 + \lambda_{23} |\sigma|^2 |H_d|^2 + \left(\lambda_5 \sigma^2 \tilde{H}_u^{\dagger} H_d + \text{h.c.}\right), \sigma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(v_{\sigma} + \sigma^0 + i\eta_{\sigma}^0\right).$$

$$V_{\text{eff}}(\sigma^0, T) \equiv V_{\text{tree}}(\sigma^0) + V_{\text{CW}}(\sigma^0) + V_T(\sigma^0, T),$$



Aidi Yang, **FPH***, arXiv:2404.18703, JCAP (2025)

2025/05/11

There exists a substantial parameter space for realizing a SFOPT in the DFSZ model.



Aidi Yang, **FPH***, arXiv:2404.18703, JCAP (2025)

Each point plotted in the figure represents a set of parameters for which a SFOPT occurs. The color of each point in the figure indicates the value of α , with the color bar ranging from blue to red.

Parameter space exploration results of the SFOPT in the DFSZ axion model.



Aidi Yang, **FPH***, arXiv:2404.18703, JCAP (2025)

All four points fall within the expected yellow region which represents the range of axion masses and coupling constants that have not yet been excluded by ALP-photon coupling experiments.

The m_a and $g_{\alpha\gamma\gamma}$ obtained from all four benchmark points

10⁻³-10⁻⁵ eV DFSZ axion

	$f_{\rm PQ} \ [{\rm GeV}]$	$m_a [{\rm eV}]$	$g_{a\gamma\gamma} \; [\text{GeV}^{-1}]$
BP_1	1.24×10^9	4.59×10^{-3}	7.01×10^{-13}
BP_2	$7.01 imes 10^9$	8.12×10^{-4}	1.21×10^{-13}
BP_3	1.62×10^{10}	3.51×10^{-4}	5.37×10^{-14}
BP_4	1.57×10^{11}	3.63×10^{-5}	5.54×10^{-15}

Aidi Yang, **FPH***, arXiv:2404.18703, JCAP

The axion mass and axion-photon coupling constant predicted by the DFSZ model are consistent with current experimental constraints.

The corresponding m_a and $\boldsymbol{g}_{\alpha\gamma\gamma}$ values.



Aidi Yang, FPH*, arXiv:2404.18703, JCAP (2025)

$$-CE - BP_1 v_w = 0.92 - BP_3 v_w = 0.92$$

$$- ET - BP_1 v_w = 0.8 - BP_3 v_w = 0.8$$



To assess the constraining power of CE on these phase transition parameters more precisely, we need to quantify the uncertainties of each parameter. FM analysis is a powerful statistical tool widely used to estimate the precision with which model parameters can be determined from a given set of observations.

Aidi Yang, **FPH***, arXiv:2404.18703,JCAP (2025)

The differences in the frequency and strength of the GW spectra for DFSZ model with $v_w = 0.92$ and $v_w = 0.8$.

Relative uncertainty with phase transition dynamics parameters bubble wall speed V_w , transition strength α , Hubble-scaled mean bubble spacing R_H , and nucleation temperature T_n . From dark blue to light green, the relative uncertainties gradually increase.

By Fisher matrix analysis, CE will be most sensitive to v_w

实验上最先确定的相变参数将是 泡泡膨胀速度 *v_w*





Outline

- 1. Axion and axion dark matter (DM), Gravitational wave (GW)
- 2. DFSZ axion and its phase transition GW signals
- 3. µeV axion and radio signals of axion DM (multi-messenger)
- 4. 10⁻¹²-10⁻¹⁷ eV axion: GW and pulsar timing measurement
- 5. 10⁻²¹ eV fuzzy axion DM GW
- 6. Summary and outlook







FPH, K. Kadota, T. Sekiguchi, H. Tashiro, Phys.Rev. D97 (2018) no.12, 123001

✓ 天体磁层中的轴子-光子共振过程

$$L_{\rm int} = \frac{1}{4} g \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} a = -g \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} a,$$

Massive Photon: In the magnetosphere of the neutron star, photon obtains effective mass in the plasma.

$$m_{\gamma}^{2} = \omega_{plasma}^{2} = 4\pi \alpha \frac{n_{e}}{m_{e}}$$

$$B(r) = B_{0} \left(\frac{r}{r_{0}}\right)^{-3} \quad n_{e}(r) = n_{e}^{\text{GJ}}(r) = 7 \times 10^{-2} \frac{1s}{P} \frac{B(r)}{1 \text{ G}} \frac{1}{\text{cm}^{3}}$$
Thus, the photon mass is location dependent, and within some region



V Line-like radio signal from axion DM

 $\nu_{\text{peak}} \approx \frac{m_a}{2\pi} \approx 240 \frac{m_a}{\mu eV} \text{MHz} \qquad 1 \text{ GHz} \sim 4 \text{ }\mu\text{eV}$

FAST: 70MHz–3GHz, SKA: 50MHz–14GHz, GBT:0.3–100GHz Radio telescopes can probe axion mass of 0.2–400 µeV

Signal: For a trial parameter set, $S_{\gamma} \sim 0.51 \mu Jy$. Sensitivity: $S_{\min} \sim 0.48 \mu Jy$ for the SKA1 $S_{\min} \sim 0.016 \mu Jy$ for SKA2 with 100 hours observation time.

SKA-like experiment can probe the axion DM and the axion mass which corresponds to peak frequency.

Working in progress on more delicate study.



FPH, K. Kadota, T. Sekiguchi, H. Tashiro, Phys.Rev. D97 (2018) no.12, 123001, arXiv:1803.08230, Cited by 119 times

- Promising approaches at SKA&FAST, more and more nice works
- more details see the timely new review papers
- ✓ Physics Briefing Book :

Input for the European Strategy for Particle Physics Update 2020, [arXiv:1910.11775]

- ✓ 2021 white paper by EuCAPT [arXiv:2110.10074]
- ✓ Pierre Sikivie, Rev.Mod.Phys.93(2021)1,015004
- ✓ 2022 Snowmass papers: [arXiv:2203.06380, arXiv: 2203.07984]
- ✓ Phys. Rept. 1052(2024)1-48
- ✓ Science Advances Volume 8, Issue 8 2025/05/11 黄发朋 (Fa Per

Generalize to axion star/FRBs



James Buckley, Bhupal Dev, Francesc Ferrer, FPH, Phys. Rev. D 103 (2021) 4, 043015

黄发朋 (Fa Peng Huang), 超轻轴子的引力波信号

Generalize to dark photon DM case

Haipeng An, FPH, Jia Liu, Wei Xue, Phy. Rev. Lett.126, 181102 (2021)





See Jia Liu, Haipeng An's works for further study with real data



Outline

- 1. Axion and axion dark matter (DM), Gravitational wave (GW)
- 2. DFSZ axion and its phase transition GW signals
- 3. µeV axion and radio signals of axion DM (multi-messenger)
- 4. 10⁻¹²-10⁻¹⁷ eV axion: GW and pulsar timing measurement
- 5. 10⁻²¹ eV fuzzy axion DM GW
- 6. Summary and outlook





Exponential growth solution of Klein-Gordon equation due to the boundary condition at the

图6.8 当一个"克尔"黑洞的旋转加快时 它的赤道附近鼓了出来。而零旋转的黑洞是

书名:时间简史(插图本) horizon of Kerr BH. Ultralight axion can form axion 作者:【英】霍金 cloud around rotating BH, Gravitational atom (GA). 2025/05/11 黄发朋 (Fa Peng Huang), 超轻轴子的引力波信号

GW of ultralight DM from black hole:

Gravitational atom from superradiance

1. Axions can annihilate to GW

2. Energy-level transition of GA







 Jing Yang, FPH
 Phys.Rev.D 108 (2023) 10, 103002

 Jing Yang, Ning Xie, FPH
 arXiv:2306.17113

 Ning Xie, FPH
 SCPMA Vol.66, No.1(2024)

 Ning Xie, FPH*, arXiv:2503.10347;

2025/05/11

GW of ultralight DM from black hole

Axions can annihilate to GW

A. Arvanitaki and S. Dubovsky, Phys. Rev. D 83, 044026 (2011)
R. Brito, V. Cardoso and P. Pani, Class. Quant. Grav. 32, no.13, 134001 (2015)
H. Yoshino and H. Kodama, PTEP 2014, 043E02 (2014)

Jing Yang, FPH, Phys.Rev.D 108 (2023) 10, 103002





Microscopic physics



GW radiation from axion annihilation



✓ monochromatic GW signal $\omega_{ann} \sim 2 m_a$ ✓ gradually depletion of axion cloud (DC) and reduce GA mass

GW radiation from axion annihilation



✓ monochromatic GW signal $\omega_{ann} \sim 2 m_a$ ✓ gradually depletion of axion cloud (DC) and reduce GA mass



- ✓ Simple and straightforward.
- ✓ Easy to include Kerr metric effects.
- ✓ Microscopic physics is intuitive.
- ✓ It is clearly and simple to demonstrate the analytic approximation formulae.

Important for the GW and axion search. More precise calculations and more broad applications are working in progress.

Imprints of axions on GW



Imprints of axions on GW

Without ultralight axions

$$-\frac{\mathrm{d}E_0}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{GW}} \quad \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{GW}} = \frac{32}{5}\mu^2 r^4 \omega^6$$

With ultralight axions

$$-\frac{dE}{dt} = (\mathcal{P}_{\rm GW} + \mathcal{P}_{\rm DC} + \mathcal{P}_{\rm DF} + \mathcal{P}_{\rm DR})$$

dynamical friction (DF), depletion of axion cloud (DC), dipole radiation(DR)

Ning Xie, FPH, SCPMA Vol.66, No.1(2024)



f [Hz]

10⁻²

10⁻¹

Imprints of axions on GW

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}r}{\mathrm{d}t} = \left(-\frac{Mm_{\mathrm{NS}}}{2r^2}\right)^{-1} \left(\mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{GW}} + \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{DC}} + \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{DF}} + \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{DR}}\right)$$

$$\Delta \phi \sim 15\pi \left(\frac{m_a}{10^{-12} \text{ eV}}\right) \left(\frac{f_T}{10^{-2} \text{ Hz}}\right) \left(\frac{T}{5 \text{ yrs}}\right)^2$$

Ning Xie, FPH, SCPMA Vol.66, No.1(2024)

Complementary search: GW+PTA



Axions modify the rate of binary period change

$$\Delta \dot{P} = \left| \dot{P} - \dot{P}_{\rm vac} \right| \approx 10^{-12} \text{ s/s}$$

Future Pulsar timing measurement precision, such as SKA

$$10^{-15}$$
 s/s



Outline

- 1. Axion and axion dark matter (DM), Gravitational wave (GW)
- 2. DFSZ axion and its phase transition GW signals
- 3. μeV axion and radio signals of axion DM
- 4. 10⁻¹²-10⁻¹⁷ eV axion: GW and pulsar timing measurement
- 5. 10⁻²¹ eV fuzzy axion DM GW
- 6. Summary and outlook





Fuzzy axion (DM) particles



Jing Yang, Ning Xie, FPH*, JCAP 11 (2024) 045

The cosmic populated SMBHs dressed with axion cloud as a natural source of nano-Hertz SGWB. The energy level transition process can radiate GWs continuously, which naturally fall in nano-Hertz frequency band.

Consequently, the PTA could detect this new source which provides a new approach to probe ultralight axion DM and isolated BHs.

Fuzzy axion (DM) particles





随机引力波背景

$$\begin{split} \Omega_{\rm gw}(f) &= \frac{f}{\rho_c} \int dM dz \frac{dt}{dz} \frac{d\dot{n}}{dM} \frac{dE_s}{df_s}, \\ dt/dz &= \frac{1}{H_0(1+z)\sqrt{\Delta(z)}} \\ d\dot{n}/(dM) &= (1/t_0)(dn/dM) \\ \frac{dE_s}{df_s} \approx E_{\rm GW} \delta \left(f(1+z) - f_s \right) \end{split}$$





图注:不同超轻轴子质量下随机引力波背景的能量密度







图注:NG15数据给出的超轻轴子质量的后验分布,红色虚线标出了最大概率的质量大小



GW and radio telescope might provide new approaches to explore DM with multi-messenger and multi-band.

Thanks? Comments and

collaborations are welcome!

2025/05/11

黄发朋 (Fa Peng Huang), 超轻轴子的引力波信号

huangfp8@sysu.edu.cn

 10^{-22} eV classic window $10^{-6} - 10^{-4} \text{ eV}$

``Ultralight" DM