

The Search for New Physics in Hyperon Decays: Results from the HyperCP Experiment

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HyperCP Collaboration

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HQL06



HyperCP: Fermilab experiment searching for rare and forbidden charged hyperon decays

Primary Goal:

• Search for exotic sources of CP violation in $\Xi^{\pm} \rightarrow \Lambda \pi^{\pm} \rightarrow p \pi^{\pm} \pi^{\pm}$ decays

Secondary Goals

- Search for CP violation in $\Omega^{\pm} \rightarrow \Lambda K^{\pm}$
- Make precision measurement of hyperon decay parameters:
 - $-\alpha$, β , and γ decay parameters in $\Xi^- \rightarrow \Lambda \pi^-$ decays
 - α decay parameter in $\Omega^{\pm} \rightarrow \Lambda K^{\pm}$
- Search for rare and forbidden charged hyperon (and kaon) decays
 - lepton-number violation: $\Xi^- \rightarrow p\mu^-\mu^-$
 - FCNC: $K^{\pm} \rightarrow \pi^{\pm} \mu^{+} \mu^{-}$
 - − Δ S > 1 decays: Ξ⁻→pπ⁻π⁻, Ω⁻→Λπ⁻
 - Search for θ^+ pentaquark
 - $-\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p \mu^+ \mu^-$

New hyperon beam and high-rate spectrometer built





Charged Secondary Beam

- 800 GeV protons on 2x2mm² target
- mean momentum: 167 GeV/c
- rate: 10-15 MHz

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alternate +/- beam polarity

High-Rate Magnetic Spectrometer

- 8 high-rate, narrow-pitch NWPCs
- left and right muon stations: only pid
- simple hyperon decay trigger
- dimuon and single-muon triggers
- very high-rate DAQ: 100,000 evts/s to tape

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HyperCP Yields



Why Search for CP Violation in Hyperon Decays?

- After 40 years of intense effort and many beautiful experiments we still no little about CP violation: the origin of CP violation remains unknown and though nicely accommodated by the Standard Model it is not explained by the Standard Model
- The importance of *CP* violation to our understanding of particle physics, indeed the universe, cannot be overstated
- The asymmetry in hyperon decays can be relatively large: up to O(10⁻²)
- The price is modest:
 - No new accelerators needed
 - Apparatus is modest in scope and cost
- Hyperons are sensitive to sources of CP violation that, for example, kaons are not
- Almost all scenarios for New Physics produce large CP asymmetries

"We are willing to stake our reputation on the prediction that dedicated and comprehensive studies of *CP* violation will reveal the presence of New Physics"

Bigi and Sanda, CP Violation

How to Search for CP Violation in A Decays

Due to parity violation the proton likes to go in the direction of the Λ spin:



Problem: to extract α_{Λ} ($\overline{\alpha}_{\Lambda}$) the Λ ($\overline{\Lambda}$) polarizations must be precisely known

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We are Sensitive to CP in both Ξ and Λ Decays

$$\boldsymbol{A}_{\Xi\Lambda} = \frac{\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{\Xi}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{\Lambda} - \overline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_{\Xi}\overline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_{\Lambda}}{\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{\Xi}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{\Lambda} + \overline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_{\Xi}\overline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_{\Lambda}} \approx \boldsymbol{A}_{\Xi} + \boldsymbol{A}_{\Lambda}$$

$$A_{\Xi} = \frac{\alpha_{\Xi} + \overline{\alpha}_{\Xi}}{\alpha_{\Xi} - \overline{\alpha}_{\Xi}}$$
$$A_{\Lambda} = \frac{\alpha_{\Lambda} + \overline{\alpha}_{\Lambda}}{\alpha_{\Lambda} - \overline{\alpha}_{\Lambda}}$$

- What we experimentally measure is the slope of the proton (antiproton) cosθ distribution in the rest frame of the Λ (Λ).
- We do this in a special Λ rest frame called the Lambda Helicity Frame in which the Λ direction in the Ξ rest frame defines the polar axis.



where

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Bad News: SM Theoretical Predictions Small



Note: no unambiguous connection between $\delta_{CKM} \Leftrightarrow A_{\Xi}, A_{\Lambda}$

Good News: SM Theory Predictions are Small

- Most beyond-the-standard-model theories predict new and large CP-violating phases
- These predictions are often not well constrained by kaon CP measurements as hyperon CP violation probes both parity conserving and partiy violating amplitudes
- A paper by Tandean (2004) shows that the upper bound on $A_{\Xi\Lambda}$ from ϵ'/ϵ and ϵ measurements is $O(10^{-2})$.
- For example, some supersymmetric models that do not generate ε'/ε, can lead to A_Λ of O(10⁻³).



He, Murayama, Pakvasa, Valencia, PRD 61, 071701 (2000).

Any CP-violation signal will almost certainly indicate New Physics



Extracting the CP Asymmetry

 If CP is good then the proton and antiproton cosθ distributions are identical

 $\frac{dN_{-}}{d\cos\theta} = A_{-}\frac{N_{-}}{2}\left(1 + \alpha_{\Xi}\alpha_{\Lambda}\cos\theta_{-}\right)$

 $\frac{dN_{+}}{d\cos\theta} = A_{+}\frac{N_{+}}{2}\left(1 + \overline{\alpha}_{\Xi}\overline{\alpha}_{\Lambda}\cos\theta_{+}\right)$



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The CP Asymmetry

- ~10% of data sample: 119 million Ξ⁻, 42 million Ξ⁺
- Apply no acceptance corrections: however we do weight the Ξ⁻ and Ξ⁺ events by their momentum-dependent variables to equalize distributions
- Subtract background asymmetry:

 $\frac{\Xi^{-}:0.43\%}{\Xi^{+}:0.41\%} \right\} 0.43\sigma \text{ effect}$

- Estimate systematic errors
- With no efficiency corrections:

 $A_{\Xi\Lambda} = \frac{\alpha_{\Xi}\alpha_{\Lambda} - \overline{\alpha}_{\Xi}\overline{\alpha}_{\Lambda}}{\alpha_{\Xi}\alpha_{\Lambda} + \overline{\alpha}_{\Xi}\overline{\alpha}_{\Lambda}}$ $= [0.0 \pm 5.1(\text{stat}) \pm 4.4(\text{syst})] \times 10^{-4}$

 Factor of 20 improvement in sensitivity over previous limit





CP Violation Search in $\Omega \rightarrow \Lambda K$ Decays





Hints of New Physics in the Decay $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p \mu^+ \mu^-$



Motivation

In SM $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p\mu^+\mu^-$ highly suppressed \rightarrow leading diagrams FCNC and WR decays





Hence sensitive to New Physics







Two further Kaon removal cuts



Second cut removes events with $\pi^+\mu^+\mu^-$ mass within ±10 MeV (3 σ) of K⁺ mass



Three $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p\mu^+\mu^-$ decays survive all cuts



- Observe 3 events with 1σ of the Σ mass (1189 MeV)
- Backgrounds 20σ away from Σ mass
- f_{hadron} and $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ cuts get rid of all but 7 events



Backgrounds: other hyperon decays

- No other positively charged hyperon •
- Anti-hyperons have a different decay topology:
 - an opposite-sign highest momentum track
 - like-sign π or K's whose decays-inflight produce same-sign dimuons
- Negligible \Rightarrow

 $\overline{\Xi}^{\scriptscriptstyle +} \rightarrow \overline{\Lambda} \pi^{\scriptscriptstyle +} \rightarrow \overline{\rho} \pi^{\scriptscriptstyle +} \pi^{\scriptscriptstyle +}$ $\overline{\Sigma}^+ \rightarrow \overline{n} \pi^+$ $\overline{\Omega}^{\scriptscriptstyle +} \to \overline{\Lambda} K^{\scriptscriptstyle +} \to \overline{\rho} \, \pi^{\scriptscriptstyle +} K^{\scriptscriptstyle +}$ $\rightarrow \overline{\Xi}{}^{0}\pi^{+} \rightarrow \overline{\Lambda}\gamma\gamma\pi^{+} \rightarrow \overline{\rho}\pi^{+}\pi^{+}\gamma\gamma$ $\rightarrow \overline{\Xi}^{+}\pi^{0} \rightarrow \overline{\Lambda}\pi^{+}\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \overline{\rho}\pi^{+}\pi^{+}\gamma\gamma$



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Backgrounds: other Σ^+ decays



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Backgrounds: Look at Data

- MC indicates backgrounds not a problem but with ~1x10¹⁰ K⁺ decays non-gaussian tails can be a problem
- Look at data:
 - Negative polarity data sample
 - about ½ size of positive polarity sample
 - Note: anti-Σ⁺ production down by ~10X
 - no events below 1230 MeV
 - Single muon trigger sample
 - 30X larger: more background
 - prescaled by 10X: expect no events
 - no events below 1205 MeV



3 signal events



Extracting the branching ratio

- Since our acceptance is not perfect we need to know the form factors
- Four form factors: a, b, c, d
 - a and b (at $q^2 = 0$) come from WR decay $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p\gamma$
 - c and d limited by on $B(\Sigma^+ \rightarrow pe^+e^-) < 7 \times 10^{-6}$

 $B(\Sigma^{+} \to \rho \mu^{+} \mu^{-}) = \left[13^{+10}_{-8} \pm 7\right] \times 10^{-8} \text{ (uniform decay)}$ $B(\Sigma^{+} \to \rho \mu^{+} \mu^{-}) = \left[8.6^{+6.6}_{-5.4} \pm 5.5\right] \times 10^{-8} \text{ (form factor)}$

 smallest branching ratio ever measured for a baryon





What does theory say?

Bergström, Safadi and Singer, ZPC 37, 281 (1988)

B(Σ⁺→p $\mu^{+}\mu^{-}$) ~ 10⁻⁸

Updated calculation by He, Tandean, and Valencia, PRD 72, 074003 (2005)

 $1.6 \times 10^{-8} \leq B(\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p \mu^+ \mu^-) \leq 9.0 \times 10^{-8}$

• HyperCP result consistent with theory, albeit a bit high.

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Can this be real?

- Is it a statistical fluctuation?
 - Probability of 3 events having $\mu^+\mu^-$ mass within 1 MeV of each other anywhere in the kinematically allowed range is ~1%
 - Form factors can't be fudged to increase that probability by much
- Is it muonium? Not likely: it is 3.0 MeV (6.0 σ) above 2m_µ
- Is it Σ⁺→pγ, γ→ μ⁺μ⁻? Probability is negligible and if true we would see loads of events in the e⁺e⁻ mode.
- Is it another hyperon decay? All of the charged hyperons have the wrong decay topology
- Is it the analysis or detector? We've looked hard, but we don't see anything wrong.





What about $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow pe^+e^-?$





Suppose X⁰ is real

- What properties does it have?
 - HyperCP can say little on this subject
 - know its mass
 - lifetime: not a resonance and not super long-lived
 - don't know its spin
 - don't know branching ratios: however $X^0 \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ must be large
- Why wasn't it seen before?
- Is there any theoretical context for such a particle?
- Where else can we look for it?



Kaon searches eliminate all but a parity-conserving pseudoscaler or axial vector

- If either parity violating, or scalar or vector, HyperCP and others would have seen it in K⁺→π⁺μ⁺μ⁻ at several orders of magnitude more than the (8.1±1.4)×10⁻⁸ BR
- However: existing constraints on parityconserving pseudoscalar or axial vector weak







Theoretical context: Supersymmetry?

- Sgoldstino: superpartner to the goldstino, the longitudinal component of the gravitino
- Properties: Spin: 0, all other properties ill-determined:
 - Unknown, but expected to be light
 - Lifetime: can be long or short lived
 - Should be two: scalar (S) and pseudoscalar (P)
 - Can have flavor conserving and flavor violating interactions
 - Interactions with quarks may or may not conserve parity: however theoretical motivation for parity-conserving interaction
 - Branching ratio to dimuons can be large if light (< $2m_{\pi}$)

"Parity conservation in sgoldstino interactions with quarks and gluons may not be accidental...It is likely that sgoldstino interaction will conserve parity in supersymmetric versions of other models designed to solve the strong CP problem without introducing light axion."

1 TeV (SUSY breaking scale)

Gorbunav and Rubakov, PRD 64, 054008 (2001)

В(Р→е₋е_)	0.001%	0.01%
Cτ(CM)	0.02	0.003

~100 GeV (order of photino mass)

A_I: soft-mass term

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Where to look for parity-conserving pseudoscalar

Expected BRs based on HyperCP BR (with $X^0 \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$)

	10 12
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 X^0$	~ 10-12
$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 X^0$	~ 10 ⁻⁸
$\rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- X^0$	~ 10 ⁻¹³ - 10 ⁻⁹
$K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 X^0$	~ 10 ⁻¹¹
$\rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-X^0$	~ 10 ⁻¹⁶ - 10 ⁻¹²
$\Omega^{-} \rightarrow \Xi^{-} X^{0}$	~ 10-6
$D^+ \rightarrow \rho^+ X^0$	~ 10 ⁻⁹ - 10 ⁻⁶

Four-body kaon decay limits weak

- No data on $K \rightarrow \pi \pi \mu \mu$
- $K_L \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^- = 3.1 \times 10^{-7}$
- $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 e^+ e^- < 6.6 \times 10^{-9}$
- If X⁰ sgoldstino then $X^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- > X^0 \rightarrow e^+ e^-$
- B and D limits getting to upper range of predictions

Gorbunov and Rubakov, He, Tandean and Valencia, Deshpande, Eilam and Jiang, Gorbunov and Demidov Only other hyperon mode accessible. SM BR ~10⁻⁸

HyperCP is looking for $\Omega^- \rightarrow \Xi^- \mu^+ \mu^- \rightarrow \Lambda \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^- \rightarrow p \pi^- \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^-$

~ 10⁻⁹ - 10⁻⁶

At best we expect 1 or 2 events

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 $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*+}X^0$

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There are more exotic explanations!

Diether and Inopin, physics/0601110

To this date, no one has been able to successfully explain the mass spectrum of all the known particles. We don't pretend that we can fully explain it either but we expect the solution to be a geometrical one of some fashion. Our 2D Spin Matrix geometry is our first attempt for a geometrical solution and it has some promising features that warrant further investigation. Starting with the rest mass energy of the electron or positron, our geometry generates energy states that can be applied to the up and down quarks, pi zero mesons, the new HyperCP particle and many others. We have to stress that our scheme is parameter-free.





Conclusions and Outlook

- With one of the largest data samples ever taken HyperCP has pioneered highsensitivity searches in hyperon decays
- This program is complementary to those carried out in other sectors, and often more sensitive
- Our CP-violation search is probing limits not constrained by Kaon, B, or EDM measurements

"...we can then conclude that the available preliminary measurement by HyperCP has already begun to probe the parity even contributions better than ε does."

Tandean, 2004

- Our $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p\mu^+\mu^-$ result is intriguing and begs to be confirmed
- Mounting an experiment with 10X the statistics of HyperCP would be easy
- Unfortunately, the Tevatron no longer available for fixed-target physics at Fermilab, so it may be some time before we will learn more about these rare hyperon decays



Background Slides



Backgrounds: Relaxed Cuts

- Relax all basic selection cuts by $\sim 1\sigma$
- No events within 8σ





Searches for light boson

- Many experiments have searched for a light boson
- Few searches for a short-lived boson of mass ~200 MeV/c²

Decay Mode	Exp. Limit	Range
		S=short lived, L=long lived
$K^+ \to \pi^+ X^\circ$	$< 4.5 \times 10^{-8}$ to 10^{-11}	$0 < m_{X^{\circ}} < 300 \text{ MeV} (L)$
$K^+ \to \pi^+ X^{\circ}, X^{\circ} \to \gamma \gamma$	$< 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$	$0 < m_{X^{\circ}} < 100 \; { m MeV} \; ({ m S})$
$K^+ \to \pi^+ X^{\circ}, X^{\circ} \to \mu^+ \mu^-$	$< 1.5 \times 10^{-7}$	$220 < m_{X^{\circ}} < 300 \text{ MeV} (S)$
$K^+ \to \pi^+ X^{\circ}$	$< 2 \times 10^{-5}$	$5 < m_{X^{\circ}}^{-} < 300 \text{ MeV} (S \& L)$
$\eta ightarrow \gamma X^{\circ}$	$< 6 \times 10^{-5}$	$200 < m_{X^{\circ}} < 525 \text{ MeV} (L)$
$\Upsilon ightarrow \gamma X^{\circ}$	$< 1.3 \times 10^{-5}$	$m_{X^{\circ}} < 5 \text{ GeV} (L)$
$\Upsilon \to X^{\circ}X^{\circ}$	$< 1 \times 10^{-3}$	$m_{X^{\circ}}^{-}$ < 3.1 GeV (L)