





MoEDAL

First search for magnetic monopoles through the Schwinger mechanism

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for the MoEDAL Collaboration

Magnetic monopoles in a nutshell

- Why? Because they symmetrise Maxwell's equations
 electric ↔ magnetic charge duality
- Single magnetic charge (Dirac charge): g_D = 68.5e
 - higher charges are integer multiples of Dirac charge: g = ng_D, n = 1, 2, ...
 - if carries electric charge as well, is called **Dyon**
- Photon-monopole coupling constant
 - large: g/hc ~ 20 (precise value depends on units)
- Dirac monopole is a *point-like* particle; GUT monopoles are *extended* objects
 - $\, \circ \,$ production of composite monopoles exponentially suppressed by $e^{-4/\alpha}$
- Monopole spin is not determined by theory \rightarrow free parameter
- Monopole mass not theoretically fixed → free parameter

For a review on monopole theory and searches: Mavromatos & VAM, <u>Int.J.Mod.Phys.A 35 (2020) 2030012</u>



MoEDAL Collaboration

Monopole & Exotics Detector At LHC







LHC's first dedicated *search* experiment (approved 2010)

MoEDAL physics goals

- MoEDAL has pioneered the search for long-lived particles
 - complementary to ATLAS, CMS and LHCb
- MoEDAL is optimised for the detection of (meta)stable highly ionising particles
 - → high charges (high z)
 ⇒ electric and/or magnetic charges
 - \rightarrow slow moving (**low** β)
 - \Rightarrow massive

MoEDAL physics program Int. J. Mod. Phys. A29 (2014) 1430050



Baseline MoEDAL detector





THREE DETECTOR TECHNOLOGIES

- ① Nuclear Track Detectors
- (2) Monopole Trapping detector(MMT) aluminum bars
- 3 **TimePix** radiation background monitor

- Mostly passive detectors; no trigger; no readout
- Permanent physical record of new physics
- No Standard Model physics backgrounds

Baseline MoEDAL detector





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 Nuclear Track Detectors
 Monopole Trapping detector (MMT) – aluminum bars
 TimePix radiation background

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MMTs deployment

2012

11 boxes each containing 18 Al rods of 60 cm length and 2.54 cm diameter (**160 kg**)

LHC beam pipe; interaction point \rightarrow (x)



2015-2018

- Installed in forward region under beam pipe & in sides A & C
- Approximately **800 kg** of aluminium
- Total 2400 aluminum bars





MMT scanning

- Monopoles can bind to nuclei and get trapped
- MMTs analysed in superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) at ETH Zurich
- **Persistent current:** difference between resulting current after and before
- Outliers are scanned several times further





SQUID analysis – Persistent current after first two passages for all samples



M0EDAL, <u>PRL 123 (2019) 021802</u>

Monopole results

- 2016 First results @ 8 TeV
 <u>CERN Press Release</u>

 JHEP 1608 (2016) 067 [arXiv:1604.06645]
- 2017 First results @ 13 TeV Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) 061801 [arXiv:1611.06817]
- 2018 MMT results Phys.Lett.box 782 (2018) 510–516 [arXiv:1712.09849]

 - β-dependent coupling
- 2019 MMT results Phys.Rev.Lett. 123 (2019) 021802 [arXiv:1903.08491]
- 2020 MMT search for Dyons ← FIRST in colliders
 Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 071801 [arXiv:2002.00861]
- 2021 Schwinger thermal production ← FIRST Nature 602 (2022) 7895, 63 [arXiv:2106.11933]
- - First limits in highly electrically charged objects





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Magnetic monopole limits

- Novelties in monopole models: β-dependent coupling, spin-1 monopoles, γγ fusion
- MoEDAL set world-best collider limits for |g| > 2 gD
- Overall, MoEDAL achieved extended reach by combining Drell-Yan and γ-fusion mechanisms



See also, Baines, Mavromatos, VAM, Pinfold, Santra, <u>Eur.Phys.J.C 78 (2018) 966</u>



Mass limits extracted with Feynman-*like* diagrams that **ignore non-perturbativity of large monopole-photon coupling**

Monopoles via thermal Schwinger mechanism

- Schwinger mechanism originally described spontaneous creation of *e*⁺*e*⁻ pairs in presence of an extremely strong *electric field*
- Same mechanism can work for monopole pairs in the presence of strong magnetic fields
- Advantages over DY & γγ-fusion production
 - cross-section calculation using semiclassical techniques
 - \Rightarrow does not suffer from non-perturbative nature of coupling
 - no exponential suppression e^{-4/α} for finite-sized monopoles

Gould, Ho, Rajantie, <u>PRD 100, 015041 (2019)</u>, <u>PRD 104, 015033 (2021)</u> Ho & Rajantie, <u>PRD 101, 055003 (2020)</u>, <u>PRD 103 (2021) 11, 115033</u>





Schwinger production results

- Exposure of MMTs in 0.235 nb⁻¹ of Pb-Pb heavy-ion collisions at 5.02 TeV per nucleon
 - peak magnetic field strength $B \approx 10^{16} \, T$
 - four orders of magnitude greater than strongest known astrophysical magnetic fields: the surfaces of Magnetars
- MMT scanning in SQUID showed no monopole in exposed samples
- Kinematics of produced monopoles assumes *free-particle approximation* (see next slide)
- Cross-section limits set for magnetic charge of up to 3 g_D







Schwinger production results – mass limits

- Two approximations to the calculation of the overall MM production cross-section
 - FPA (free-particle approximation): spacetime dependence of EM field of the heavy ions is treated exactly, but MM self-interactions are neglected
 - MM self-interactions enhance expected cross sections
 - LCFA (locally constant field approximation): spacetime dependence of EM field is neglected, but MM selfinteractions are treated exactly
 - spacetime dependence of EM field enhances expected cross sections
- Complementary approaches with uncorrelated uncertainties leading to conservative results

Limits on monopoles of $1 - 3 g_D$ and masses up to 75 GeV



Monopole mass reach appears to be 20–30 times lower than current bounds from ATLAS and MoEDAL, however, this cross-section calculation is theoretically sound



Schwinger production results

- <u>First</u> limits from collider experiment based on nonperturbative calculation of monopole production cross section
- <u>First</u> direct search sensitive to non point-like monopoles





News ' News ' Topic: Physics

MoEDAL bags a first

The MoEDAL experiment has conducted the first search at a particle collider for magnetic monopoles produced through the Schwinger mechanism

2 JULY, 2021 | By Ana Lopes



MoEDA

Schwinger production: Nature 602 (2022) 7895, 63

Article Published: 02 February 2022

Search for magnetic monopoles produced via the **Schwinger mechanism** RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

B. Acharya, J. Alexandre, ... O. Vives

+ Show authors

Nature **602**, 63–67 (2022) Cite this article

PHYSICS TODAY

Nature Reviews Physics | https://doi.org/10.1038/s42254-022-00428-4 | Published online 2 February 2022

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DOI-10 1063/PT 6 1 20220222a

22 Feb 2022 in Research & Technology

A new search for magnetic monopoles

The latest results from CERN's Large Hadron Collider have established a lower mass limit for the still elusive hypothesized particle.

Alex Lopatka

Particle physics

Sonia Kabana

Single magnetic charges in the largest of fields

Nature | Vol 602 | 3 February 2022 | 39

Collisions between lead ions have produced the largest measured magnetic field in the Universe, enabling a search for elusive exotic particles that carry an isolated magnetic charge. See p.63



Iulia Georgescu

nature

PARTICLE PHYSICS

Searches for magnetic monopoles

Future analyses and prospects

- Analysis of full NTD data from Run-2 heavy-ion collisions
- HL-LHC projection for MoEDAL's MMTs
 - Conservative theoretical assumptions
 - Nuclear track detectors not included in projection
 - Assuming 2.5 nb⁻¹ Pb-Pb collisions at $Vs_{NN} = 5.52$ TeV



~20 GeV increase in sensitivity in HL-LHC heavy-ion run

Opportunities for new physics searches with heavy ions at colliders, Snowmass 2021 white paper, <u>arXiv:2203.05939</u>



For FCC : $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \sim 40 \text{ TeV}$ $\Rightarrow M \gtrsim 600 \text{ GeV}$

Theoretical improvements in semiclassical and fully classical approaches



Conclusions

- MoEDAL pioneered searches for long-lived particles at the LHC
 - sole contender in high magnetic charges
 - sole dyon search in accelerator experiment
 - entered the arena of searches *electrically* charged particles
- First search for monopoles produced via the Schwinger mechanism
 - evades non-perturbativity of monopole-photon coupling
 - sensitive to finite-size monopoles
- Stay tuned for upcoming results!





Thank you for your attention!





1 Nuclear Track Detectors (NTDs)

- Passage of a highly ionising particle through the plastic NTD marked by an *invisible* damage zone ("latent track") along the trajectory
- Damage zone revealed as a **cone-shaped etch-pit** when the plastic sheet is **chemically etched**
- Plastic sheets are later scanned to detect etch-pits





600 mm × 900 mm scanning Area & 4,4 μm pixel size







MoEDAL

Run-2 NTD deployment



Low-threshold NTD NTDs sheets kept in boxes mounted onto cavern walls



Low-threshold NTD • Top of VELO cover • Closest possible location to IP HCC-NTD JL4 - . Installed in LHCb acceptance between RICH1 and Trigger Tracker

MMT deployment

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- Timepix chips used to measure online the radiation field and monitor spallation product background
- Essentially act as little electronic "bubble-chambers"
- The only active element in MoEDAL



23

- 256×256 pixel with 55 μ m pitch
- Time-of-interaction precision 1.56 ns
- 3D track reconstruction
- Energy deposition measured via timeover-threshold
- Particle ID through *dE/dx*



330 GeV Pb-ion measured at the SPS





Tracks accumulated during 1s in MoEDAL during Pb-Pb run

MoEDAL, PoS ICHEP2020 (2021) 720

Magnetic monopoles

- Symmetrise Maxwell's equations
 electric ↔ magnetic charge duality
- Paul Dirac in 1931 hypothesised that the magnetic monopole exists
 - monopole is the end of an infinitely long and infinitely thin solenoid (*Dirac's string*)
 - Dirac's quantisation condition: $ge = n\left(\frac{\hbar c}{2}\right)$ OI
- In 1974 't Hooft and Polyakov found that GUTs predict monopoles as topological solitons
 - produced in early Universe with mass 10¹⁷ 10¹⁸ GeV
- Yongmin Cho & D. Maison proposed in 1986 the Electroweak monopole
 - non-trivial hybrid between (Abelian) Dirac and (non-Abelian) 't Hooft-Polyakov monopoles
 - magnetic charge 2g_D
 - mass between 4 to 7 TeV I detectable at LHC!

Laws	Without monopoles	With magnetic monopoles					
Gauss's law	$\mathbf{\nabla}\cdot\mathbf{E}=4\pi\rho_e$	$\mathbf{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{E} = 4\pi \rho_e$					
Gauss's law for magnetism	$\boldsymbol{\nabla}\cdot\mathbf{B}=0$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 4\pi\rho_m$					
Faraday's law	$-\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$	$-\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \cdot \underbrace{4\pi \mathbf{J}_m}$					
Ampère's law	$\mathbf{\nabla} \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} + 4\pi \mathbf{J}_e$	$\mathbf{\nabla} \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} + 4\pi \mathbf{J}_e$					

$$R \quad g = \frac{n}{2\alpha}e = ng_D = n(68.5e)$$

$$N \quad (0.1100) \quad S \quad (0.1100$$

Monopole results



- 2016 First results @ 8 TeV
 <u>CERN Press Release</u>

 JHEP 1608 (2016) 067 [arXiv:1604.06645]
- 2017 First results @ 13 TeV Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) 061801 [arXiv:1611.06817]
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- 2021 Schwinger thermal production ← FIRST Nature 602 (2022) 7895, 63 [arXiv:2106.11933]
- 2021 NTD & MMT combination ← FIRST NTD analysis <u>arXiv:2112.05806</u>
 - First limits in highly electrically charged objects

Search for dyons

- Dyons possess both electric and magnetic charge
- MMT scanning searching for captured dyons
 - 6.46 fb⁻¹ of 13 TeV *pp* collisions during 2015-2018
- Analysis considered
 - dyons of spin 0, ½, 1
 - Drell-Yan production
- Excluded cross sections as low as 30 fb



First explicit accelerator search for direct dyon production!



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Search for dyons – results

- Mass limits
 750-1910 GeV were set for dyons with
 - up to 5 Dirac magnetic charges (5g_D)
 - electric charge
 1e 200e
- Previous searches for highly ionising particles would, in principle, also have sensitivity to dyons
 - caution on behaviour under magnetic field



MoEDAL, <u>Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 071801</u>

MoEDA

CMS beam pipe

Beam pipe

most directly exposed piece of material

- overs very high magnetic charges
- 1990's: materials from CDF, D0 (Tevatron) and H1 (HERA) subject to SQUID scans for trapped monopoles
- 2012: first pieces of CMS beam pipe tested [EPJC72 (2012) 2212]; far from collision point
- Feb 2019: CMS officially transfers ownership of the Run-1 CMS beam pipe to MoEDAL

Beam pipe scanned with SQUID at ETH Zurich Interpretation in progress





Electrically charged particles

- Run 1 results on HECOs (and monopoles)
- Prospects for low charges (1*e* 4*e*)



NTD+MMT search for HECOs and monopoles



- Highly Electrically Charged Objects (HECOs): finite-sized objects (Q-balls), condensed states (strangelets), microscopic black holes (through their remnants)
- MoEDAL exposed in 2.2 fb⁻¹ of pp collisions at 8 TeV (Run 1)
- Prototype NTD array of 125 × 25 cm × 25 cm stacks (7.8 m²)
 - three layers of 1.5 mm thick CR39[®] polymer \rightarrow low threshold Z/ β ~ 5 \Rightarrow time intensive analysis
 - three layers of Makrofol DE[®] 0.5 mm thick **w used in analysis (less "visual noise"); threshold Z/β ~ 50**
 - three layers of Lexan[®] and 0.25 mm thick
 - protective layers only





NTD analysis



- Calibration with 158 A GeV Pb⁸²⁺ and 13 A GeV Xe⁵⁴⁺ ion beams at the CERN SPS, University of Montreal & University of Alabama
- Scanning efficiency for detection above threshold is >99%
- Detectors were etched in 6N KOH+20% ethyl alcohol at 50°C for 10 hours in INFN Bologna
- After etching, the size of the etch pits was measured with an automatic scanning system providing the cone base area and the coordinates of the centre of the etch pits



No candidates were found in the stacks examined

MoEDAL, arXiv:2112.05806

NTD+MMT acceptance





- For HECOs
 - Z* exchange is also taken into account for fermions [Song & Taylor, J.Phys.G 49 (2022) 4, 045002]
 - non-perturbativity of large coupling can be tackled by appropriate resummation (in progress)
- Acceptance determined by an interplay of
 - geometrical disposition of NTD modules and MMT detectors
 - energy loss in the detectors
 - particle mass
 - spin-dependent kinematics of the interaction products



 $2g_{D}$

1 500

Mass (GeV/c²)

2 000

500

1 0 0 0

0

Spin- 1 Spin- 1/2

3 000

2 500

NTD+MMT results – monopoles

- Limits on DY production of magnetic monopole pairs with cross-section in the range of ~40 fb – 5 pb were set for magnetic charges up to 4g_D and mass as high as 1.2 TeV
- Monopole limits not competitive with recent Run-2 collider limits due to
 - limited acceptance of MMT and NTD Run-1 prototype detectors compared to Run-2
 - smaller Vs, hence DY cross-section at Run-1
 - lower integrated luminosity of Run-1 compared to Run-2

	Magnetic charge $(g_{\rm D})$										
	1	2	3	4							
Spin	95%	CL m	ass lin	nits $[GeV/c^2]$							
0	590	740	710	520							
1/2	910	1090	1020	700							
1	1030	1190	1190	1110							

MoEDAL, arXiv:2112.05806



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NTD+MMT results – HECOs

- Limits set on the DY production of HECO pairs with cross-sections from ~ 30 – 70 pb, for electric charges in the range 15e – 175e and masses from 110 – 1020 GeV
- HECOs limits are the strongest to date, in terms of charge, at any collider experiment
 - ATLAS has set limits on HECOs of 20e 100e
 [PRL 124, 031802 (2020)]





	Electric charge (e)											
	15	20	25	50	75	100	125	130	140	145	150	175
Spin	$95\% \text{ CL mass limits } [\text{GeV/c}^2]$											
0	110	190	310	580	580	560	510	510	490	470	460	380
$1/2$ (γ -exchange)	310	440	560	800	780	730	650	640	600	590	550	-
$1/2 (\gamma/Z^*-exchange)$	300	430	560	780	750	710	650	640	590	-	-	-
1	400	570	740	1010	1020	1000	970	950	930	921	900	850

Prospects for electrically charged particles

- If sufficiently slow moving, even singly or multiply (\$10) charged particles may leave a track in NTDs
- Supersymmetry offers such long-lived states: sleptons, R-hardons, charginos
- Multiply charged scalars or fermions are predicted in Higgs bosons and in several models of v masses



MoEDAL-MAPP

- MoEDAL baseline detectors
 - redeployment for Run-3 pending LHCb green light
 - plans to operate during HL-LHC
- MAPP can further explore the *low ionisation* regime
 - millicharged particles
 - neutral long-lived particles giving rise to displaced vertices → dark sectors, neutrino portals, SUSY, ...
- MAPP installation plan
 - Phase-1 approved by CERN Research Board on Dec 1st 2021
 - Phase-1 (MAPP-mQP) installation for Run-3 in UA83 is underway; start taking data in 2023 to probe millicharged particles
 - Phase-2 HL-LHC: Reinstall Phase-1 in UA83 and add MAPP-LLP in UGC1 to expand the physics reach to neutral long-lived particles

MoEDAL-MAPP flythrough:

http://www.physixel.com/JLP_MAPP_FlyOver1.mp4





MAPP location



MAPP-mQP Phase-1 detector concept





- 400 scintillator bars (10×10×75 cm³) in 4 sections readout by PMTs
- Protected by a hermetic VETO counter system

MAPP-mQP Phase-1 installation



complete section



MAPP – MoEDAL Apparatus for Penetrating Particles



- Consists of two subdetectors:
- core millicharged particle detector MAPP-mQP
 - particles with charges *<< 1e* leaving a trace of low ionisation
- very long-lived weakly interacting neutral particle detector MAPP-LLP
- At forward region w.r.t.
 beam axis
- Protected by ~100 m of rock overburden



Prototype mQP installed in 2017 in UGC1 gallery

- 3×3 bars (~30×30 cm)
- ~10% of full detector

MAPP Phases

- Phase-1: mQP → Run-3 Approved by CERN Research Board on Dec 1st 2021
- Phase-2: mQP + LLP → HL-LHC

MAPP locations







MAPP Phase 2 includes LLP detector

- "Box-within-a-box" structure to detect charged tracks from neutralparticle decays
- Scintillator strips in *x-y* configuration readout by SiPMs
 - resolutions ~1cm × 1cm on each hit
 - 500 ps or better timing resolution
- To be installed during LHC Long Shutdown 3 and run in HL-LHC





 χ^0 from IP

/ A DC

MoEDAL

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The MAPP-mQP detector

- Central milli-charged (mCP) detection sections
- Forward veto from SM particles coming from IP8
- 100 × (10 cm × 10 cm × 75 cm) scintillator bars in 4 lengths, 2 lengths/section readout by 4 low noise 3.1" PMTs in coincidence
- No background from dark counts and radiogenic backgrounds



Calibration by pulsed blue LEDs + neutral density filter

mQP & millicharged particles (mCPs)

Dark photon decays to mCPs



Heavy neutrino with large EDM



Frank et al, Phys.Lett.B 802 (2020) 135204

Limits that MAPP can place on heavy neutrino production with large EDM at Run-3 and HL-LHC at IP8

Extremely Long-Lived Charged Particles with MAPP-mQP



- MAPP-mQP can be used to monitor MoEDAL's exposed trapping detector for the decays of electrically charged trapped particles
 - exposed trapping volumes moved directly underground to UA83
 - lifetimes longer than 10 years can be probed

SuperWIMP model for cold dark matter

- WIMP \rightarrow SM + SWIMP
- SuperWIMP particles may explain the observed lithium under-abundance



Feng, Rajaraman, Takayama, <u>Phys. Rev. D 68, 063504 (2003)</u>

MAPP-LLP – dark matter & supersymmetry

Dark Higgs scenario



Reach for 30 fb⁻¹/300 fb⁻¹ for a scenario where a dark Higgs ϕ mixes with SM H⁰ (mixing angle $\theta \ll 1$), leading to exotic $B \rightarrow X_{s}\phi$ decays with $\phi \rightarrow \ell^{+}\ell^{-}$



MAPP-LLP – extended neutrino models

Heavy neutrino via Z' production



Pair production of RH neutrinos from the decay of an additional neutral Z' boson in the gauged B-L model – Run-3 (30 fb⁻¹)

adopted from Phys.Rev.D 100 (2019) 035005

Sterile neutrinos



Minimal scenario: interactions are purely mediated by W- and Z-bosons via active-sterile neutrino mixing

De Vries, Dreiner, Günther, Wang, Zhou, JHEP 03 (2021) 148