

## LOOKING FOR A POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN OF LOCAL LORENTZ INVARIANCE FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC PHENOMENA: THEORY AND FIRST EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

**Umberto Bartocci**

*Dipartimento di Matematica, Universita' di Perugia  
Via Vanvitelli 1  
06100 Perugia, Italy  
bartocci@dipmat.unipg.it*

**Fabio Cardone**

*Dipartimento di Fisica, Universita' de L'Aquila  
Via Vetoio  
67010 Coppito, L'Aquila, Italy  
and  
I.N.D.A.M. - G.N.F.M.*

**Roberto Mignani**

*Dipartimento di Fisica "E. Amaldi"  
Universita' degli Studi "Roma Tre"  
and  
I.N.F.N. - Sezione di Roma III  
Via della Vasca Navale, 84  
I-00146 Roma, Italy  
mignani@fis.uniroma3.it*

Received 27 June 2000; revised 7 December 2000

We propose a new electromagnetic test of breakdown of local Lorentz invariance. It is based essentially on the detection of a non-zero force between a circular steady current and a charge, both at rest in the Earth frame. A preliminary experimental run gave a positive evidence for such an effect, which appears strongly dependent on the orientation of the circuit. Possible theoretical interpretations are briefly discussed.

**Key words:** Lorentz invariance, symmetry breaking, experimental results.