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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
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**Possible Observation of fractionalized excitations in a Relativistic Mott Insulator**

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The combination of electronic correlation and spin-orbit coupling is thought to precipitate a variety of highly unusual electronic phases in solids, including topological and quantum spin liquid states. I will discuss our recent optical measurements that provide evidence for the relativistic Mott Insulating ground state of  $\alpha$ - $\text{RuCl}_3$ . Furthermore I will discuss the broad-continuum of scattering we observe, whose energy and temperature dependence suggest the presence of fractionalized excitations emerging from a quantum spin-liquid.