



Lepton Flavor Universality

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Reference: D.B., A. Crivillen, V. Cirigliano, and G. Inguglia, [2111.05338](#) [hep-ph],
Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. (to be pub.)

The University of British Columbia, Point Grey campus, and TRIUMF are located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people.

The Flavor Puzzle

Quarks

u	c	t
d	s	b

Leptons

e	μ	τ
ν_e	ν_μ	ν_τ

Experiment/observations (way) ahead of theory.

Unexplained observations (no theory of flavor)

- Three (“identical”) generations; universal interactions (why = 3? $\langle ? \rangle$?)
- Huge mass differences between and within the generations
 - Exceptionally small neutrino mass*
- CP violation (at least in the quark sector)
- Remarkable symmetry between leptons and quarks (GUT, scale?)

How to Delve into the Flavor Puzzle?

Experiments

- Particle properties: dipole moments
- Lepton Flavor Universality (LFU) tests: compare ratios of rates “ $X \rightarrow \ell_i / X \rightarrow \ell_j$ ”
- Non-SM flavor violation searches: $\ell_i \rightarrow \ell_j \gamma$

Theories – some may distinguish among flavors

- Short Distance effects
 - Distinct $W-\ell-\nu$ couplings
 - Lepto-quarks
 - ...
- Compositeness
- Heavy neutral leptons (confuse experimental tests)

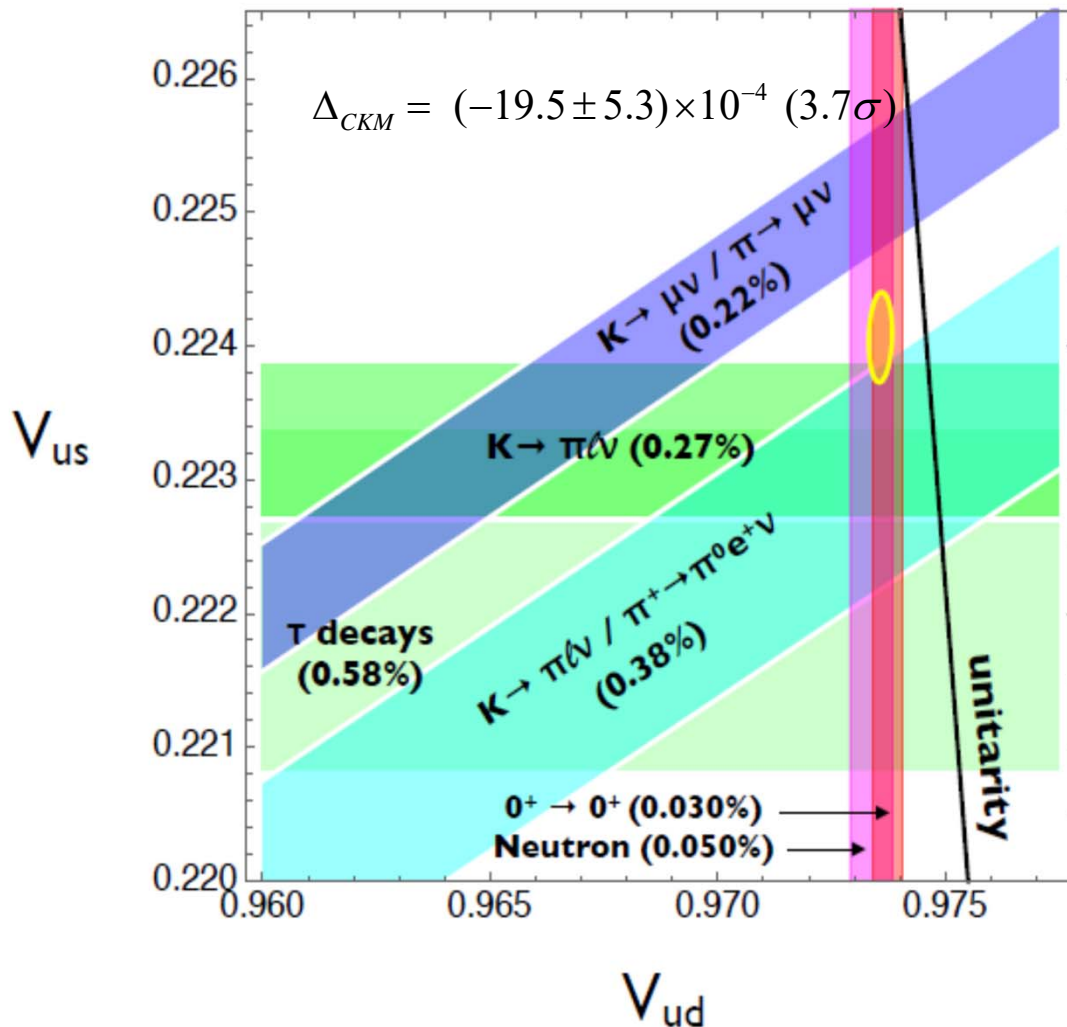
Current Flavor Tensions in the SM

Several high precision measurements of accurately predicted SM processes show possible indications of violating Lepton Flavor Universality and CKM unitarity.

- Muon $g-2$ (4.2σ)
Deviation from theory -- new physics?
- B Decay ratios: $B \rightarrow D^* \tau \nu / B \rightarrow D^* \mu \nu$; $B \rightarrow K^* \mu \mu / B \rightarrow K^* e e$
 $R(D^{(*)}), R(K^*), R(K)$: ($2-4 \sigma$);
 $O(10\%)$ deviations from universality.
Both heavy quarks and leptons involved!
- CKM unitarity tests (3.7σ): β and K decays
May be related to LFUV.
- Lepton Flavor Universality in agreement with the SM at $O(10^{-3})$ level in π , τ and K decays.

CKM Unitarity

$$SM : V_{ud}^2 + V_{us}^2 + V_{ub}^2 = 1$$



Connection to LFU

V_{ud} from β -decay & n-decay

G_F^μ Fermi const. from μ decay

used to extract V_{ud}

V_{us} from K_{l3} and τ decay

$$\frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} \text{ from } \frac{K_{\mu 2}}{\pi_{\mu 2}}; \text{ also } \frac{K_{l3}}{\pi_{l3}}$$

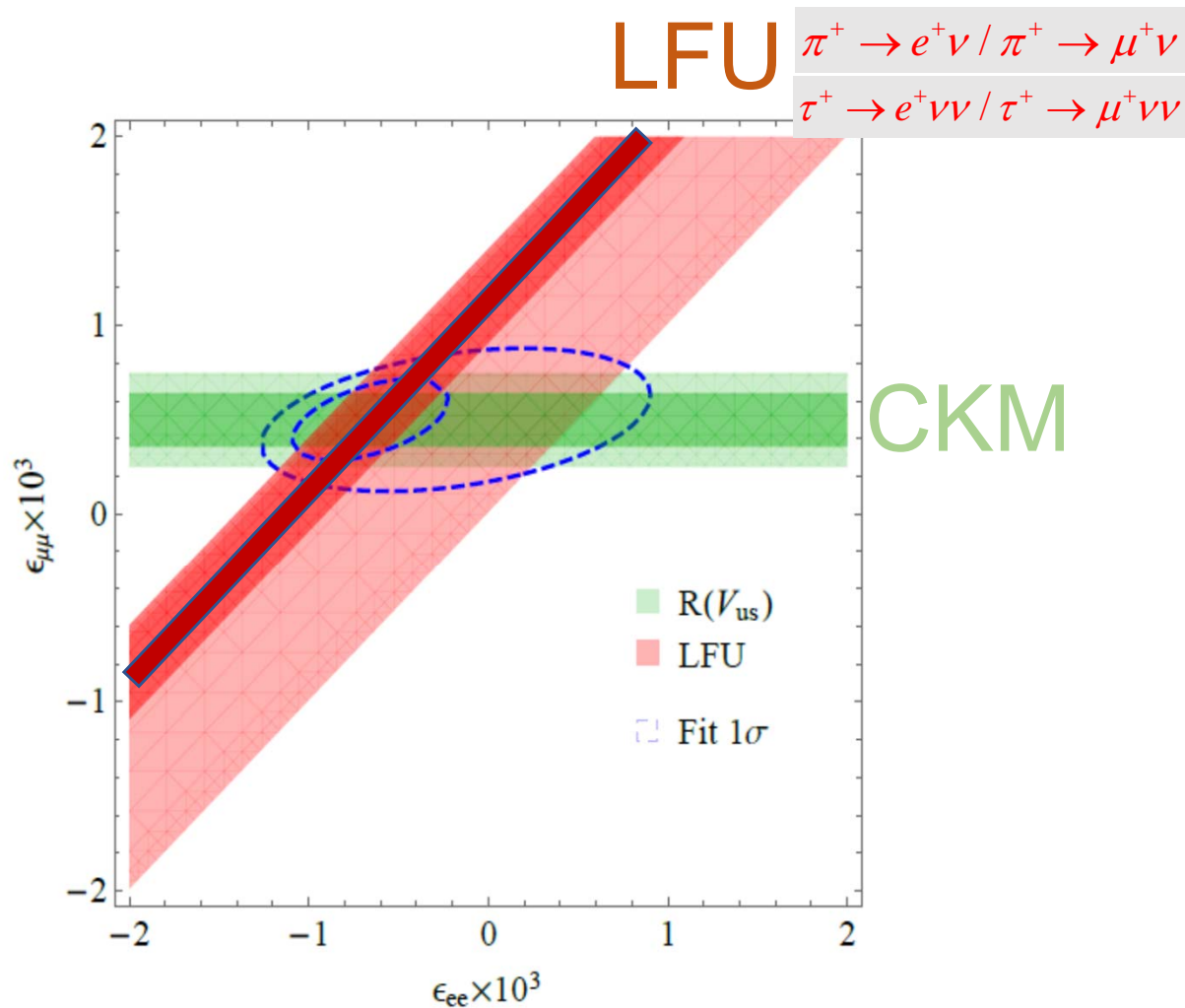
Agreement is poor; uncertainties from experiment and theory.

Deviations could be explained by small corrections ε_{ij} to $W-l-\nu$ couplings*

Connecting CKM Unitarity and Lepton Flavor Universality

Modified $W - l - \nu$ Couplings from μ decay; $G_F = G_F^{\mathcal{L}}(1 + \varepsilon_{ee} + \varepsilon_{\mu\mu})$

input to V_{ud} from Super-allowed β decay: $V_{ud}^{\beta} = V_{ud}^{\mathcal{L}}(1 - \varepsilon_{\mu\mu})$



Charged Lepton Flavor Universality in π Decay

$$R_{e/\mu}^{theory} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow e\nu(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu(\gamma))} = (1.23524 \pm 0.00015) \times 10^{-4} \quad (\pm 0.012\%)$$

Marciano/Sirlin \rightarrow Cirigliano

Possibly the most accurately calculated decay process involving hadrons.

Current Result (PDG): $R_{e/\mu}^{exp} = 1.2327 \pm 0.0023 \times 10^{-4} \quad (\pm 0.19\%)$



$$\frac{A_{\mu}}{A_e} = 1.0010 \pm 0.0009 \quad (\pm 0.09\%)$$

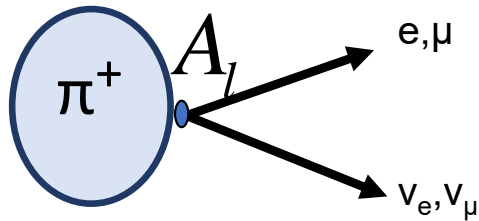
GOALS: PEN, PIENU ($R_{e/\mu}^{exp} \leq \pm 0.1\%$); PIONEER ($\pm 0.01\%$)

Experiments are an order of magnitude less precise than theory.

μ -e Flavor Universality tested at $O(10^{-3})$

Light meson and Tau experiments compare SM expectations ($A_e=A_\mu=A_\tau$)

$$A_l = -2\sqrt{2}G_F V_{ud}$$

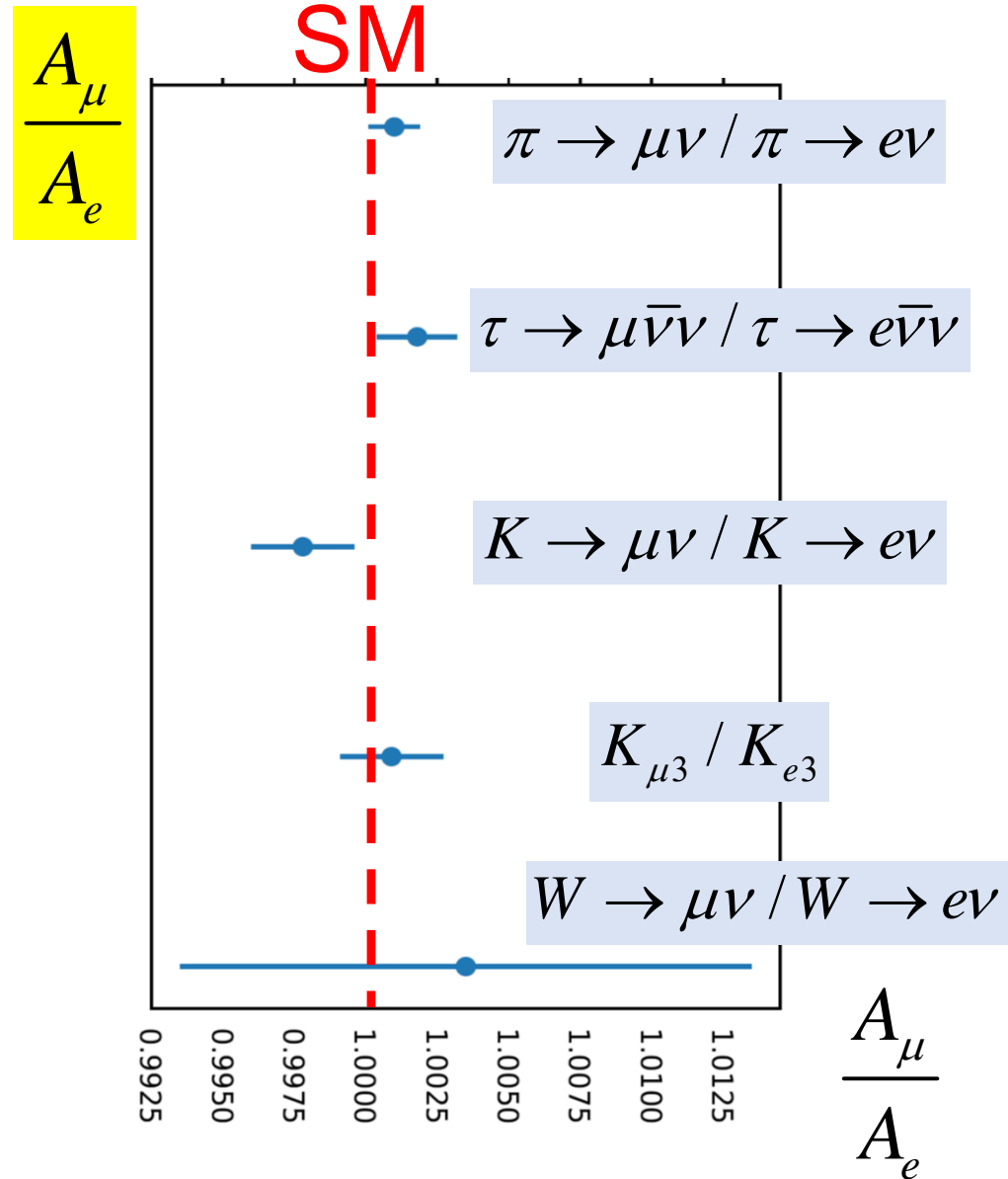


$$\left(\frac{A_\mu}{A_e}\right)_\pi = 1.0010 \pm 0.0009$$

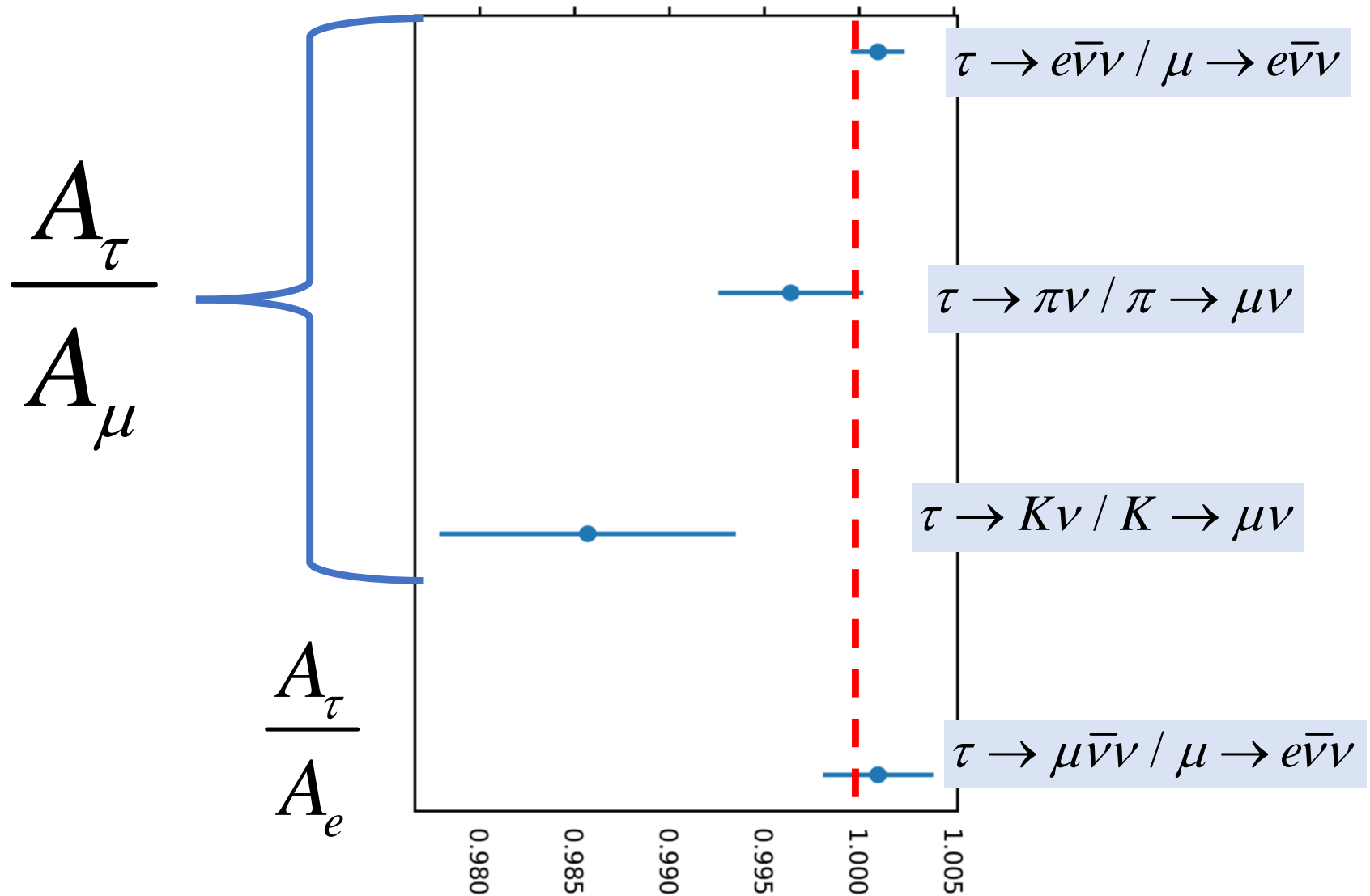
$$\left(\frac{A_\mu}{A_e}\right)_\tau = 0.9918 \pm 0.0014$$

$$\left(\frac{A_\mu}{A_e}\right)_{Kl2} = 0.9978 \pm 0.0018$$

$$\left(\frac{A_\mu}{A_e}\right)_{Kl3} = 1.0009 \pm 0.0018$$

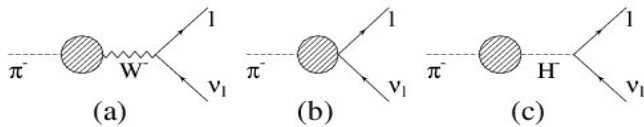


τ - μ/e Flavor Universality tested at $O(10^{-3})$



$\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$ LFU Tests: Sensitivity to High Mass Scales

Pseudoscalar interactions



Charged Higgs (non-SM coupling)

$$1 - \frac{R_{e/\mu}^{New}}{R_{e/\mu}^{SM}} \sim \mp \frac{\sqrt{2}\pi}{G_\mu} \frac{1}{\Lambda_{eP}^2} \frac{m_\pi^2}{m_e(m_d + m_u)} \sim \left(\frac{1\text{TeV}}{\Lambda_{eP}}\right)^2 \times 10^3 \quad \text{Marciano...}$$

Phase I PIONEER Goal: 0.01 % measurement $\rightarrow \Lambda \sim 3000$ TeV

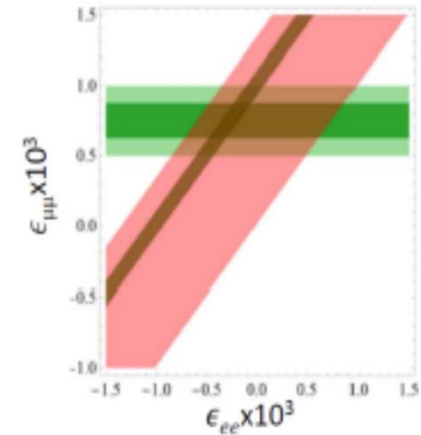
Many others:

- Leptoquarks
- Excited gauge bosons
- Compositeness
- SU(2)xSU(2)xSU(2)xU(1)
- Hidden sector

Induced Scalar Currents

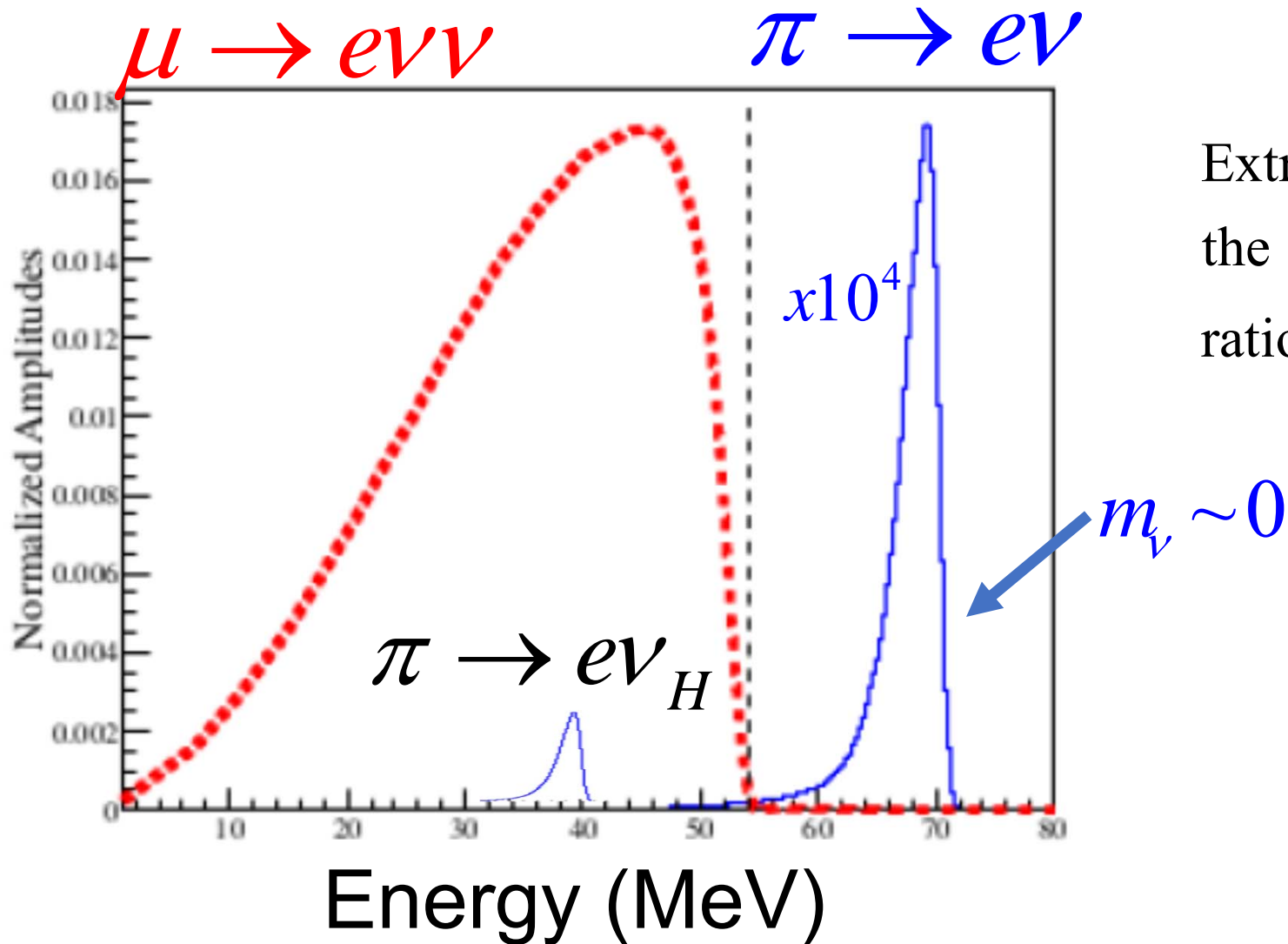
Campbell and Maybury (2005), Marciano

$$R_{e/\mu} (0.01\%): \quad \Lambda_s > 180\text{TeV} (!)$$



Apparent LFUV could also appear via massive sterile neutrinos (e.g. in $\pi^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu_H$ with implications for leptogenesis (Elahi et al. 2109.09751).

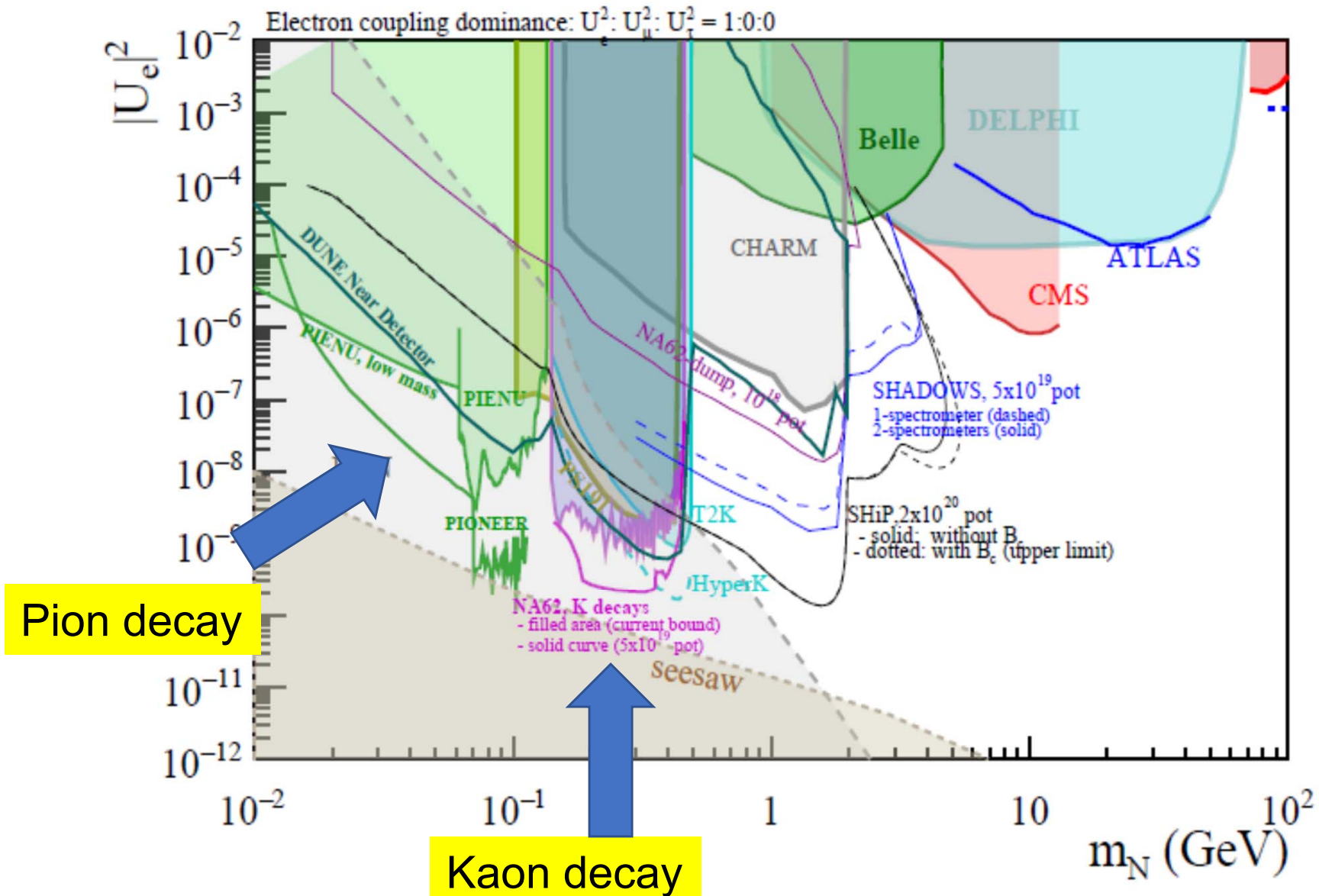
“LFU Violation” Example: Massive Sterile Neutrinos e.g. $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_H$



Extra channel changes
the $\pi \rightarrow e \nu$ branching
ratio $R_{e/\mu}^{\text{exp}}$

Heavy Neutral Leptons Coupling to 1st Generation

2203.08039 [hep-ph]



CKM Unitarity: V_{ud} , V_{us}/V_{ud}

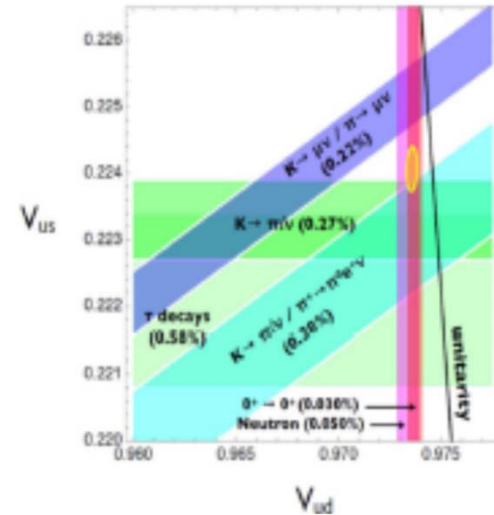
Tested in super-allowed β (V_{ud}) and K decays (V_{us}/V_{ud})

Czarnecki,
Marciano,
Sirlin (2020)

$\frac{B(K \rightarrow \pi l \nu)}{B(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu)}$: Theoretically clean method to obtain $\frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}}$.

Improve $B(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu)$ precision by $>3x \rightarrow \frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} < \pm 0.2\%$.

Offers a new complementary constraint in the $V_{us} - V_{ud}$ plane.



$\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu$: Theoretically cleanest method to obtain V_{ud}

PIBETA Experiment ($\pm 0.6\%$)

$$B(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu) = (1.038 \pm 0.004_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.004_{\text{syst}} \pm 0.002_{\pi e 2}) \times 10^{-8}$$

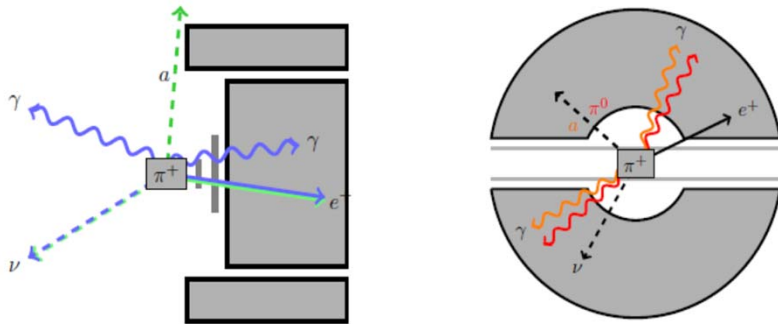
$$V_{ud} = 0.9738(28)_{\text{exp}} (1)_{\text{th}}$$

Not presently competitive precision for V_{ud} . (Needs 10x precision.)

Pion “ β ” Decay with Axion-like particles (ALP):

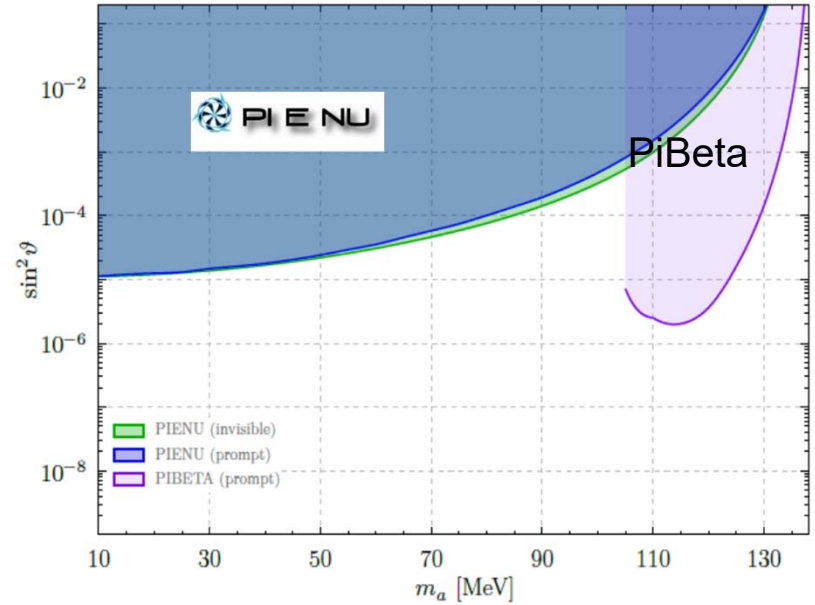
$$\pi \rightarrow e \nu a \text{ \& \ } \pi \rightarrow e \nu a; a \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$$

alp – π Mixing vs. m_a

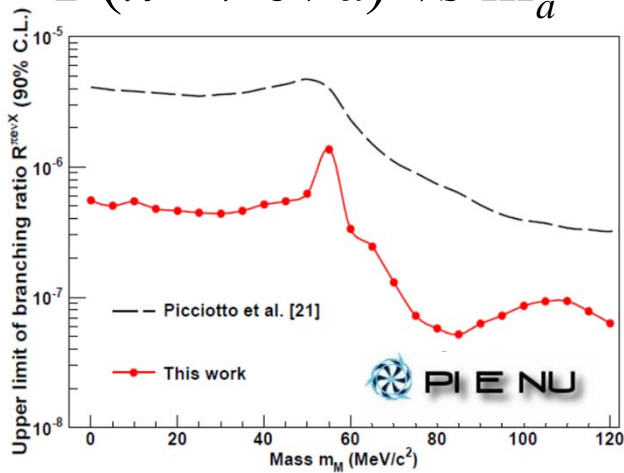


PIE NU

PiBeta

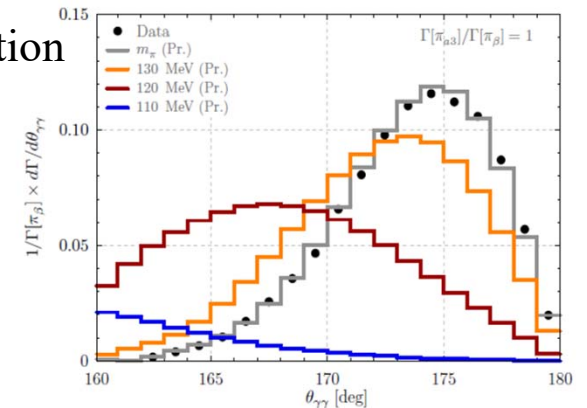


$B(\pi \rightarrow e \nu a)$ vs m_a

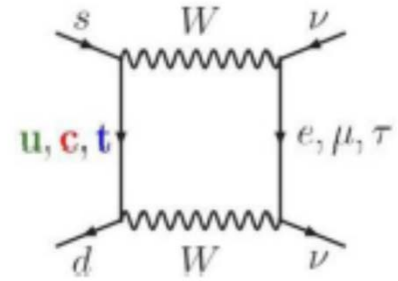


$a \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ Angular distribution

$\pi \rightarrow e \nu a; a \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$
for different m_a



Testing LFU with $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$



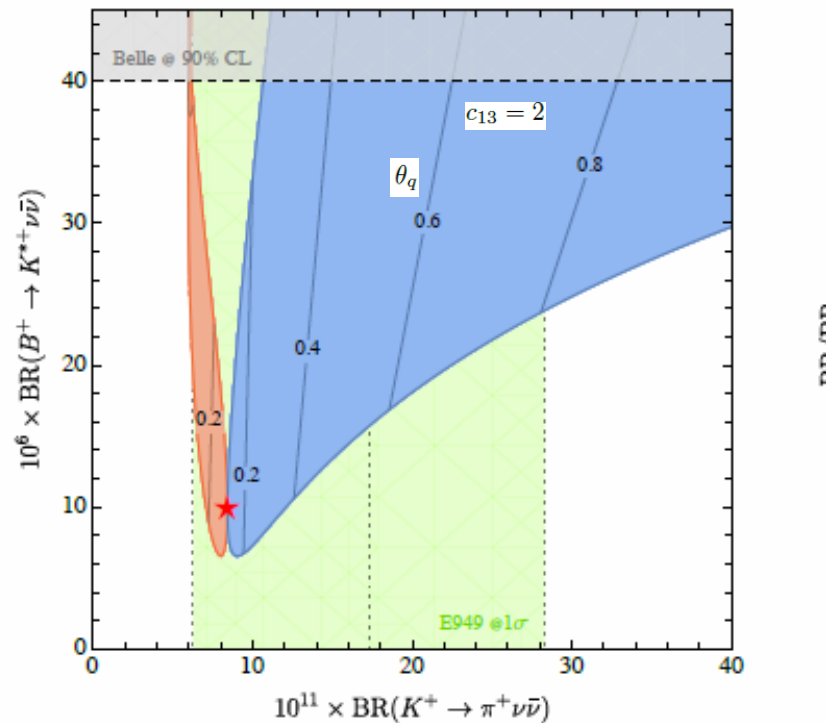
Involves third generation quarks (top) and leptons (τ, ν_τ)

EFT approach to LFU violations new interactions with $U(2)_q \times U(2)_l$ symmetry. NP coupled to left-handed lepton and quark singlets. Tuned to $R(D^*)=1.25 \times \text{SM}$.

$$\mathcal{L}_{s \rightarrow d \nu \bar{\nu}}^{\text{NP}} = \frac{1 - c_{13}}{\Lambda^2} \theta_q^2 V_{ts}^* V_{td} (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu d_L) (\bar{\nu}_\tau \gamma_\mu \nu_\tau).$$

Correlation of $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$
with $B^+ \rightarrow K^{*+} \nu \bar{\nu}$

$$B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) [-30\%, +100\%]$$



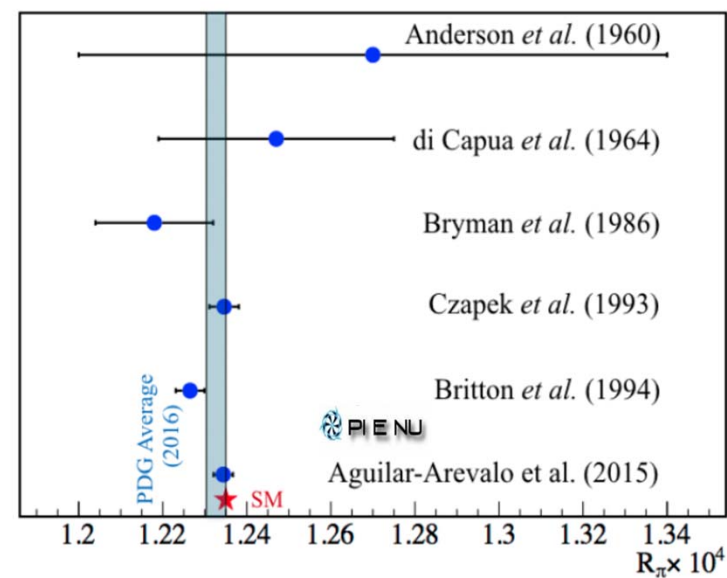
How to improve experimental precision by another order of magnitude to match theory?

$$R_{e/\mu}^{th} = (1.23524 \pm 0.00015) \times 10^{-4} \quad \pm 0.012\%$$

15 x more precise than experiments!

$\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$ Experiments -- stopped pions

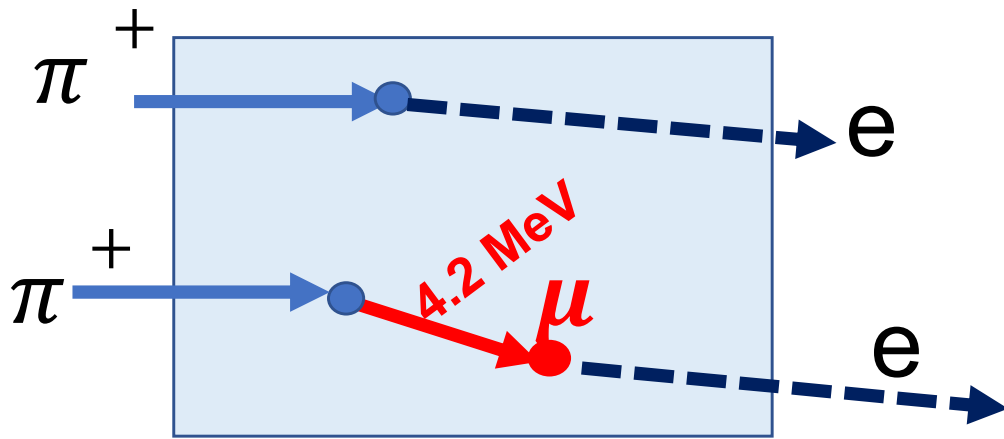
- CERN (1958) 6 events
- Chicago (1960) – **magnetic spectrometer**
 - 1st precise measurement $\pm 6\%$
- Columbia (1964) **Nal(Tl) crystal**; $\pm 2\%$
- TRIUMF (1986, 1992, 2015 \rightarrow **PIENU**)
Nal(Tl)/Csl crystals
 $\pm 0.24\% \rightarrow 0.1\%?$ 10^7 events
- PSI (1994 \rightarrow **PEN**)
BGO \rightarrow Csl crystals $>10^7$ events
 $\pm 0.4\% \rightarrow <0.1\%?$
- **PIONEER:** $\rightarrow <0.01\%?$



L. Doria

$\frac{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow e\nu)}{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu)}$: Experimental Method

Simple experiment: count e^+ from π^+ decay

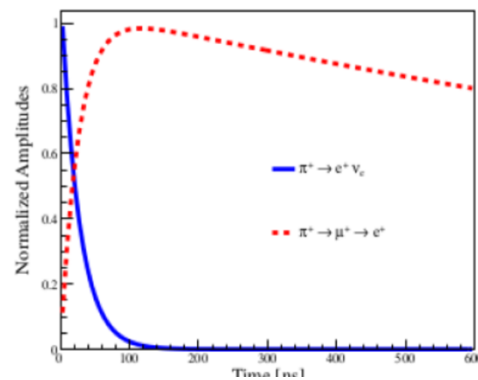


$$\frac{N(\pi \rightarrow e\nu)}{N(\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu)} \rightarrow \frac{N(\pi \rightarrow e\nu)}{N(\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e\nu\nu)}$$

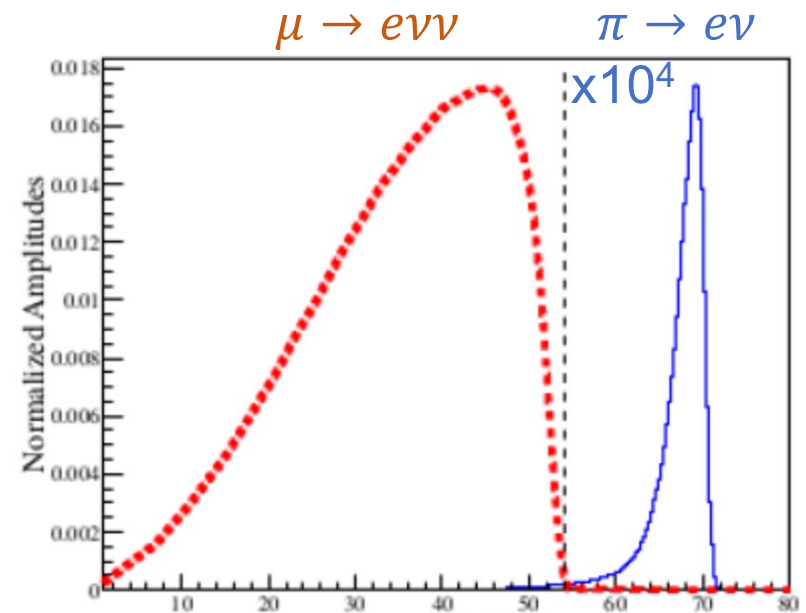
Lifetimes

$$\tau_\pi = 26ns$$

$$\tau_\mu = 2.2\mu s$$



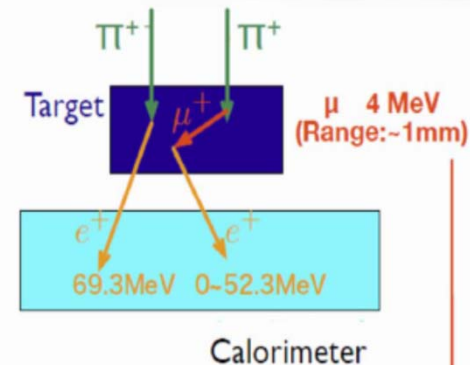
Time (ns)



Energy (MeV)

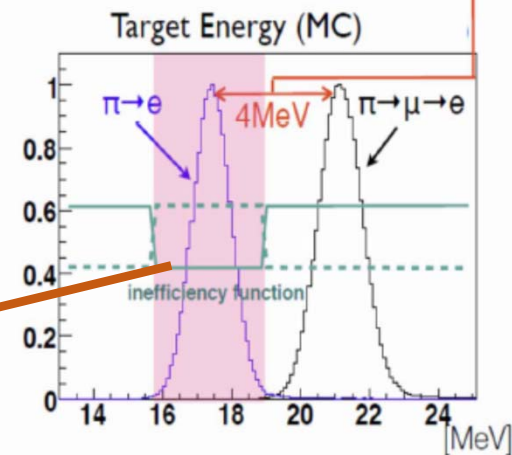
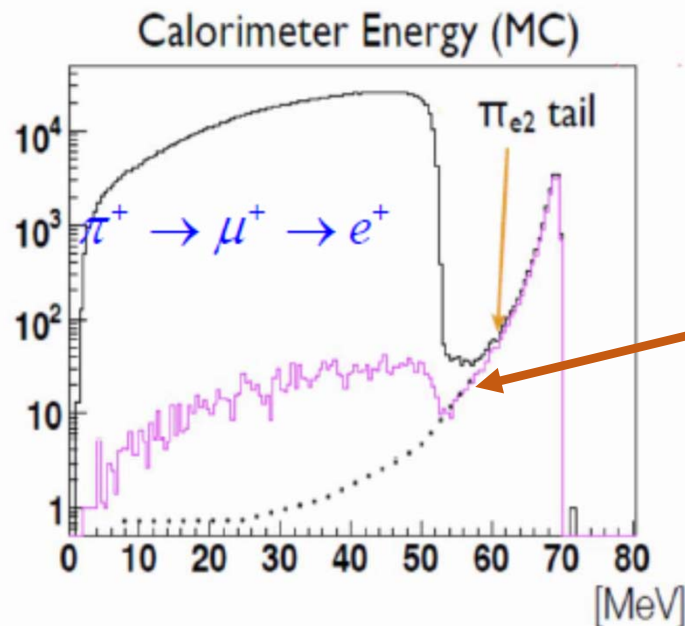
$\pi \rightarrow e\nu$: Experimental Method

- Pions stopped in an active target
- Positrons tracked and energy measured in a calorimeter
- Decays tagged in target and by energy and timing
- Principal systematic uncertainty: Low energy "tail" of $\pi \rightarrow e\nu$ events under $\mu \rightarrow e\nu\nu$ "background".



Many systematic effects cancel in measuring the ratio

$$\frac{\pi \rightarrow e}{\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e}$$



$$\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu$$

$$T_\mu = 4.2 \text{ MeV}$$

PIONEER

Next Generation Rare Pion Decay Experiment Paul Scherrer Institut

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Gorringe¹⁵, S. Gori²³, A. Grillo²³, D. Hertzog¹², Z. Hodge¹², M. Hoferichter¹⁶, S. Ito¹⁸,
T. Iwamoto¹⁷, D. Jaffe¹⁹, P. Kammel¹², J. Kaspar¹², S. Kettel¹⁹, B. Kiburg²⁴, A.
Knecht⁶, T. Koffas²⁶, K. Labe¹³, J. LaBounty¹², U. Langenegger⁶, C. Malbrunot⁸, W.
Marciano¹⁹, S. M. Mazza²³, S. Mihara²⁰, R. Mischke³, T. Mori¹⁷, J. Mott¹⁹, E.
Muldoon¹², T. Numao³, W. Ootani¹⁷, C. Ortega Hernandez¹, K. Pachel³, D.
Počanić¹⁴, C. Polly²⁴, D. Ries¹¹, R. Roehnel¹², D. Salvat²¹, B. Schumm²³, A.
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¹¹ Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz

¹² University of Washington

¹³ Cornell University

¹⁴ University of Virginia

¹⁵ University of Kentucky

¹⁶ University of Bern

¹⁷ University of Tokyo

¹⁸ Okayama University

¹⁹ Brookhaven National Laboratory

²⁰ KEK

²¹ Indiana University

²² University of Victoria

²³ University of California Santa Cruz

²⁴ Fermilab

²⁵ ETH Zurich

²⁶ Carleton University

²⁷ Stony Brook University

²⁸ University of Chicago

²⁹ Pennsylvania State University

PIONEER

Next Generation Rare Pion Decay Experiment

PIONEER Goals:

- Phase I:

- * Measure $R_{e/\mu} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow e\nu + \pi \rightarrow e\nu\gamma)}{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu + \pi \rightarrow \mu\nu\gamma)} : O(\pm 0.01\%)$

- * Improve exotic decay search sensitivities by an order of magnitude

e.g. $\pi \rightarrow e\nu_H; \pi \rightarrow \mu\nu_H; \pi \rightarrow e / \mu\nu\nu\bar{\nu}; \pi \rightarrow e / \mu\nu X$

- Phase II \rightarrow III:

- * Measure $R_{\pi\beta} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu)}{\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow all)} : O(\pm 0.2\% \rightarrow \pm 0.05\%)$

PIONEER Method : $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$

(→ Improvements Compared to PIENU)

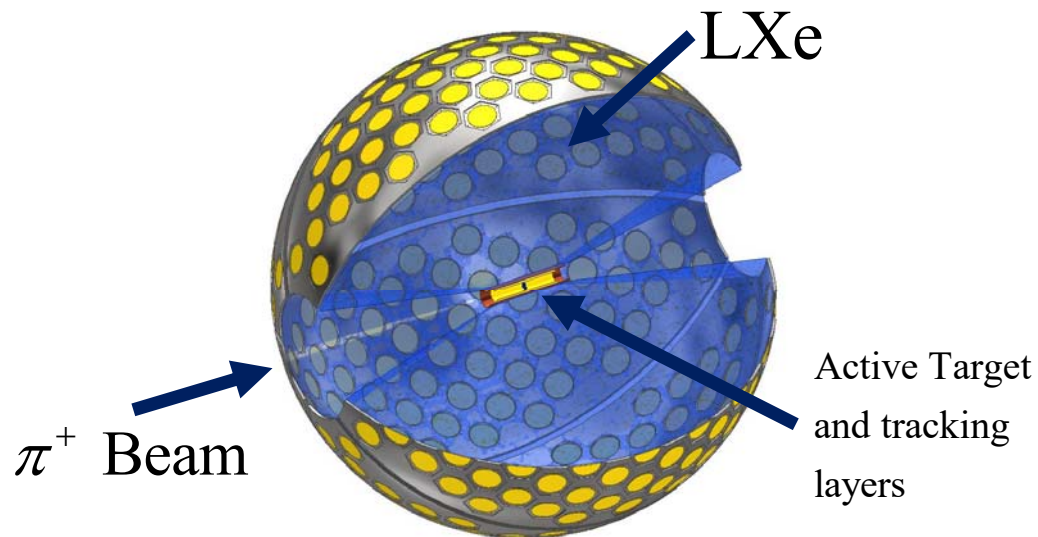
$25 X_0, 3\pi$ sr calorimeter → Reduce Tail correction (5 x); → Improve uniformity (5 x)

Fast scintillation response (LXe)

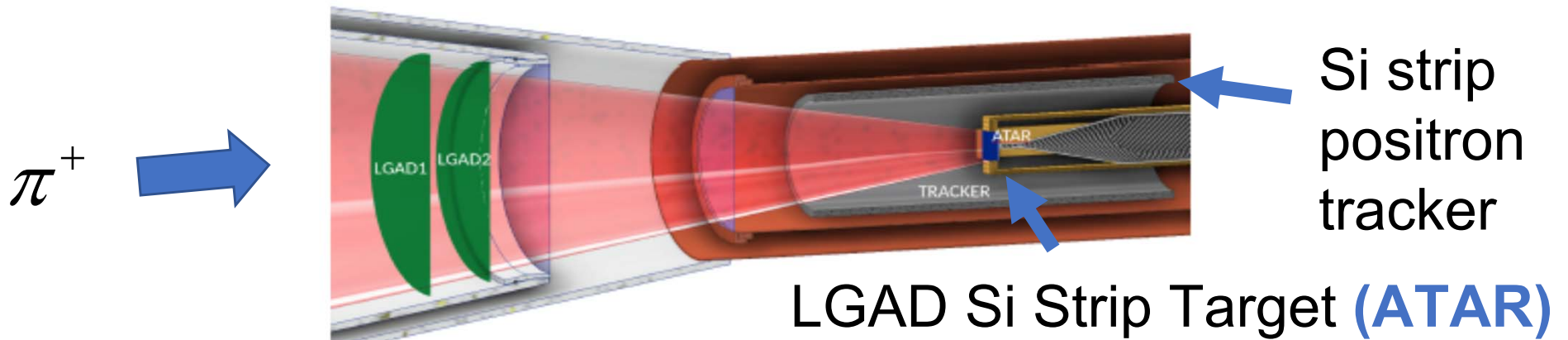
Active Tracking Target → Reduce Tail correction uncertainty (10 x)

Fast pulse shape → allow $\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e$ decay chain observation

Fast electronics and pipeline DAQ → Improve efficiency



PIONEER Central Region



Active Target (ATAR)

Low Gain Avalanche Detector

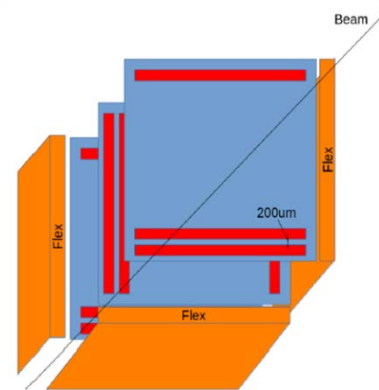
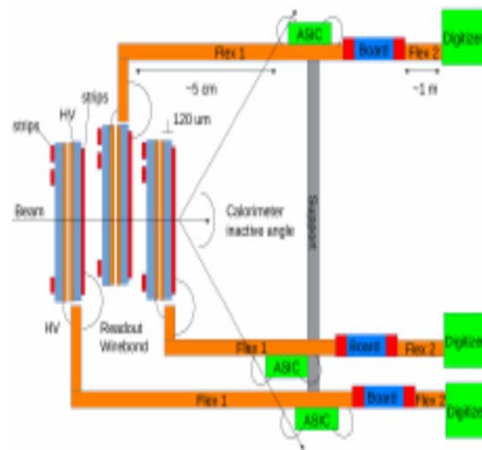
$\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e$ tracking

48 layers X/Y strips

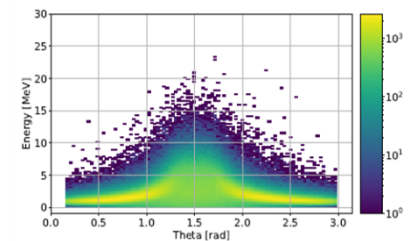
Strips: 120 μm thick, 200 μm wide

Fast pulses, timing <100 ps

Fully active for energy measurements



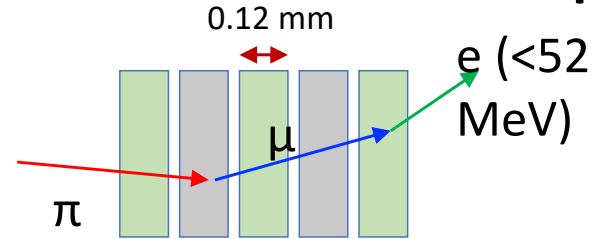
ATAR: ΔE_{e^+} vs θ



LGAD Si Strip Target

- **Design: 48 layer Si strip target; stop pions**

- Compact 2x2x1 cm block full of silicon strips
- See all $\pi \rightarrow \mu$ decays;
- Track $\pi \rightarrow e$ and $\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e$



- **Requirements**

- **Longitudinal segmentation:**

Track, stop, localize pions; *detect decays in flight*

- **Compact, efficient:** no dead material

- **Fast collection time:** separate pulses that are close in time from $\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e$ and $\pi \rightarrow e$ decays

- **Large Dynamic range (1000):** detect energy deposition from positrons and slow pions/muons

R&D in progress

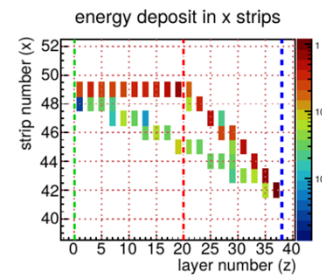
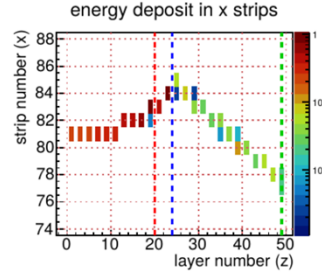
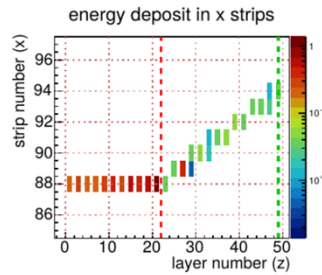
Simulated ATAR Event Displays

$\pi \rightarrow e$

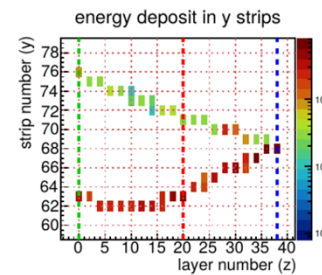
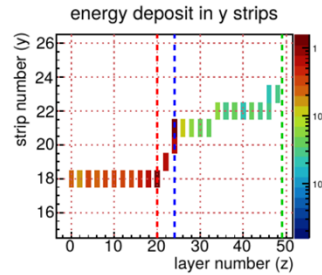
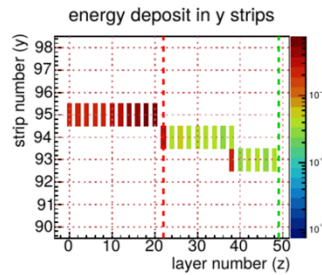
$\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e$

$\pi DIF \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e$

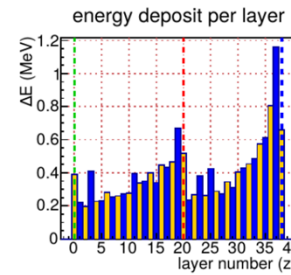
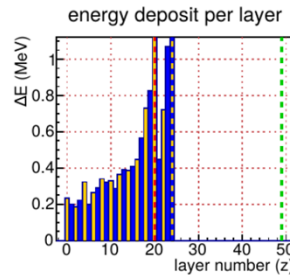
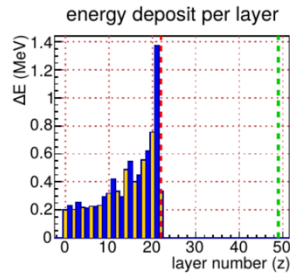
X vs. Z



Y vs. Z



$dE_{\pi, \mu}$ vs. Z



PIONEER: LXe Scintillation Calorimeter

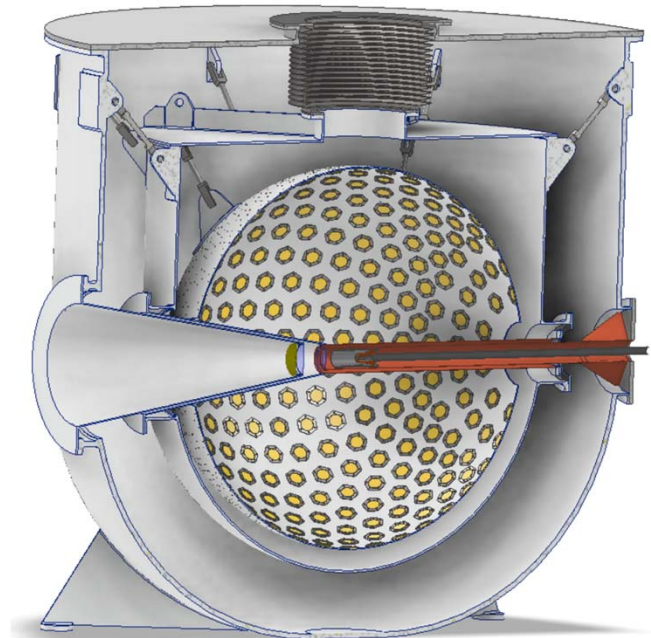
Performance expectations based on MEG LXe calorimeter
Active volume 2000 l

$$25 X_0$$

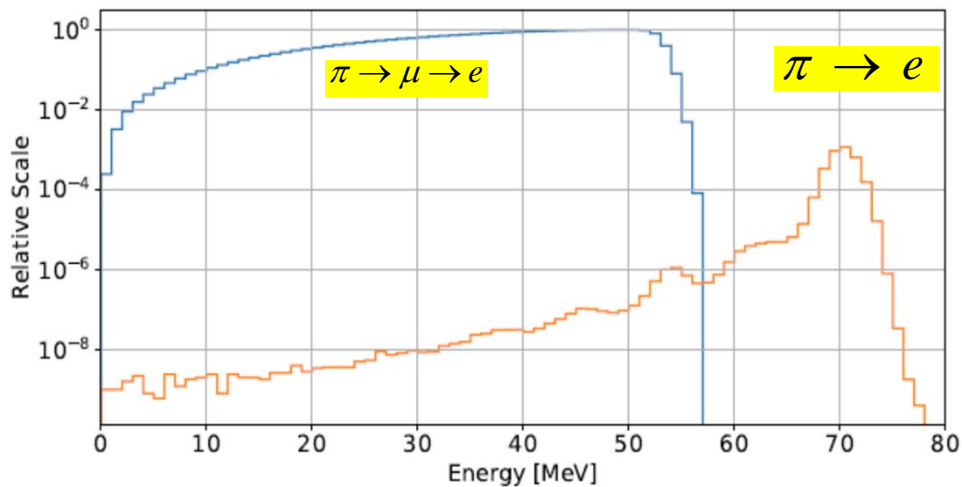
$$\Delta t \sim 100 \text{ ps}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_E}{E} \sim 1.5\%$$

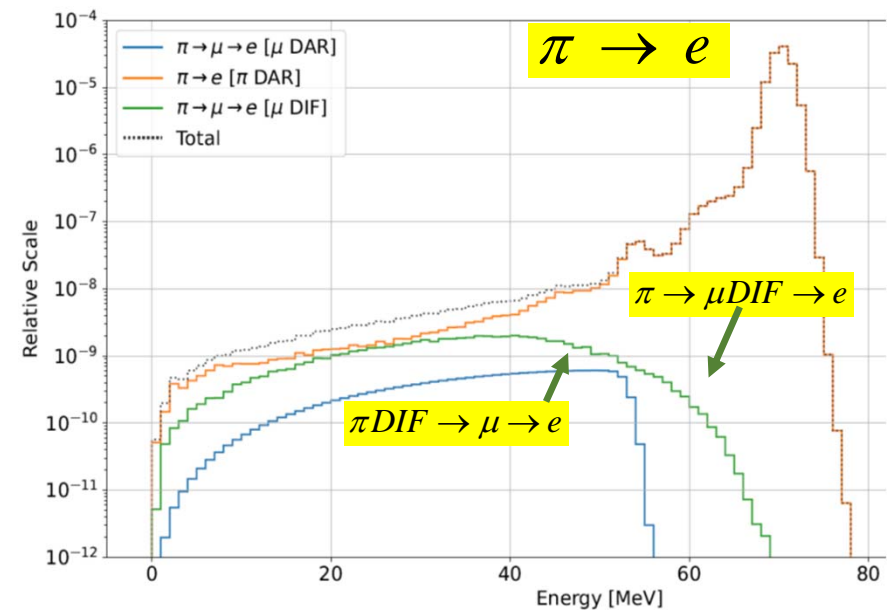
LXe



PIONEER Simulated Energy Spectra



Background Suppression



Low energy tail measured *in situ* using ATAR suppression of μ decay backgrounds.

$\pi \rightarrow e\nu$: Estimated Uncertainties

Error Source	PIENU 2015 PIONEER Estimate	
	%	%
Statistics	0.19	0.007
Tail Correction	0.12	<0.01
t_0 Correction	0.05	<0.01
Muon DIF	0.05	0.005
Parameter Fitting	0.05	<0.01
Selection Cuts	0.04	<0.01
Acceptance Correction	0.03	0.003
Total Uncertainty*	0.24	≤ 0.01

To be verified by simulations and prototype measurements.

(Calorimeter/ATAR)
 (ATAR timing/dE/dx)
 (ATAR)
 (Calorimeter/ATAR)
 (Calorimeter/ATAR)
 (Calorimeter)

* Pion lifetime uncertainty not included

$\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu$: Estimated Uncertainties

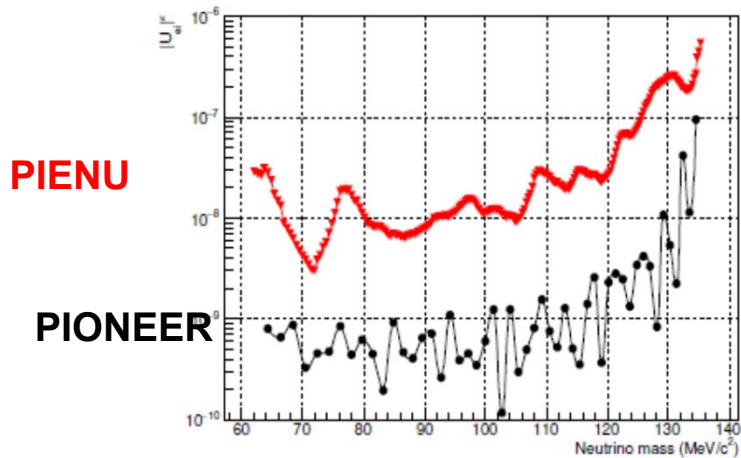
	PiBeta	PIONEER (Phase II)
Statistics	0.4%	0.1%
Systematics	0.4%	<0.1% (ATAR (β), MC, Photonuclear, $\pi \rightarrow e\nu$)
Total	0.64%	0.2%

Exotic Searches in PIONEER Phase I

Searches for Sterile Neutrinos

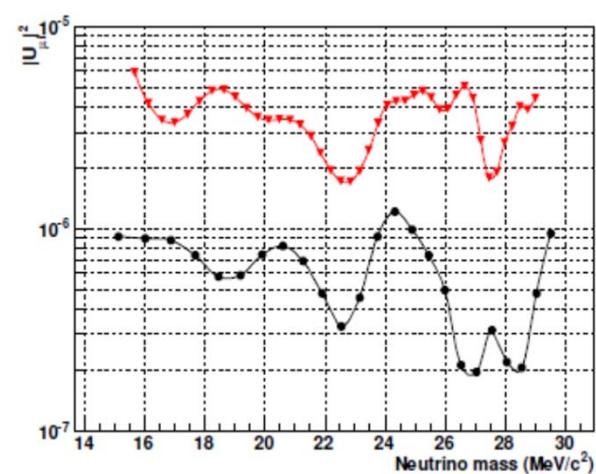
$$\pi \rightarrow e\nu_H$$

$$\left|U_{e4}^2\right| \text{ vs } m_H$$



$$\pi \rightarrow \mu\nu_H$$

$$\left|U_{\mu 4}^2\right| \text{ vs } m_H$$



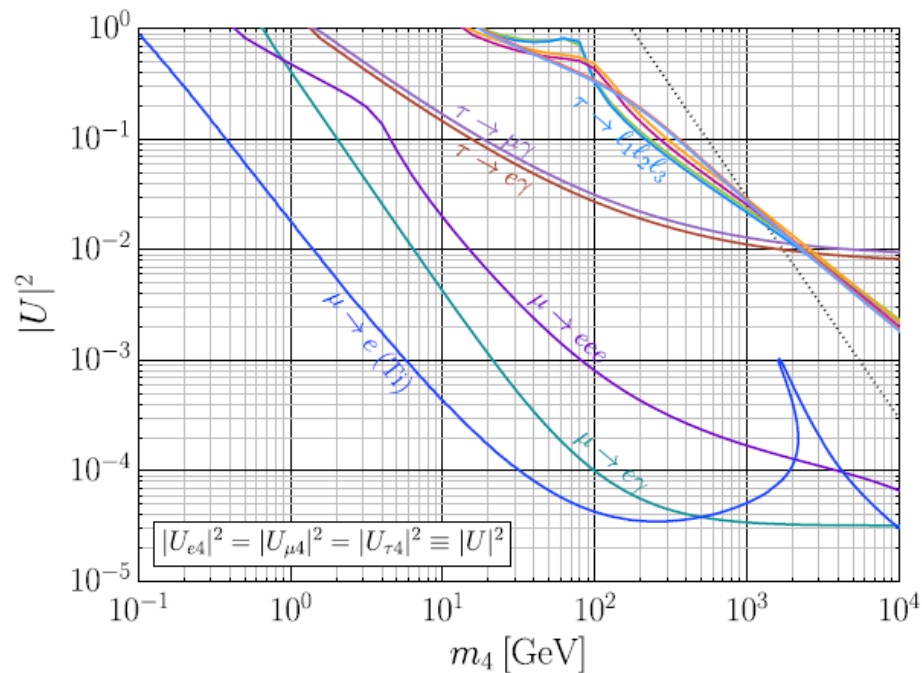
Also to be improved by an order of magnitude:

$$\pi \rightarrow e/\mu\nu X; \pi \rightarrow e/\mu\nu\nu\bar{\nu}$$

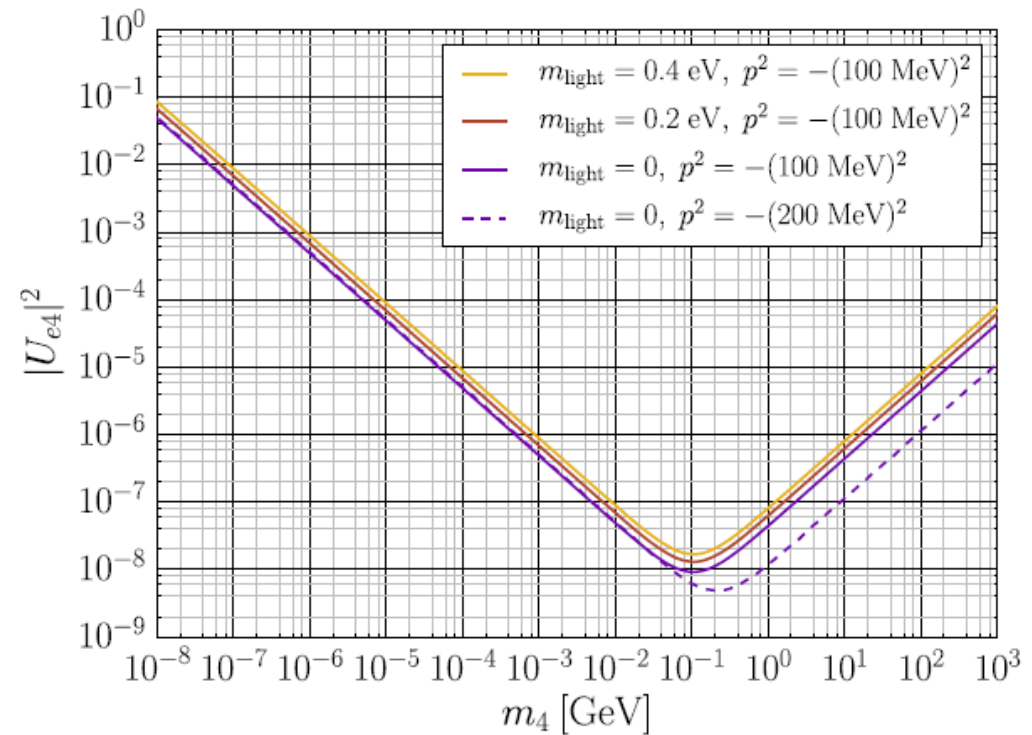
Connections: LFU, LFV, LNV and Sterile Neutrinos

Constraints on $|U_{ei}|^2$

$\mu / \tau \rightarrow e\gamma, \mu / \tau \rightarrow 3e, \mu eC$



$0\nu \beta\beta$ Decay -- Majorana ν



Other connections with LNV : $\mu^- Z \rightarrow e^+ (Z - 2), K \rightarrow \pi\mu\mu\dots$

Charged Lepton Flavor Violation

Another probe of the flavor puzzle

Many ongoing CLFV Experiments:

$\mu - e$ Conversion ($\mu^- Z \rightarrow e^- Z$): Mu2e (Fermilab); COMET (JPARC)

$$O(10^{-12}) \rightarrow O(10^{-17})$$

$\mu \rightarrow e \gamma, \mu \rightarrow 3e$: MEG (PSI); Mu3e (PSI)

$$O(10^{-13}) \rightarrow O(10^{-14}), O(10^{-12}) \rightarrow O(10^{-16})$$

$\tau \rightarrow e / \mu \gamma, \tau \rightarrow 3e \dots$: Belle II (KEK), BESIII

$$O(10^{-8}) \rightarrow O(10^{-9})$$

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu e, \dots$: NA62 (CERN)

$$O(10^{-10}) \rightarrow O(10^{-11})$$

$B \rightarrow \mu e, \pi \mu e \dots$: LHCb (CERN)

$$O(10^{-9}) \rightarrow O(10^?)$$

$Z \rightarrow \mu e, \tau \mu, \tau e \dots$: LHC ATLAS, CMS (CERN)

$$O(10^{-7}) \rightarrow O(10^?)$$

Could a future upgrade of ARIEL or PERLE@Orsay Contribute?

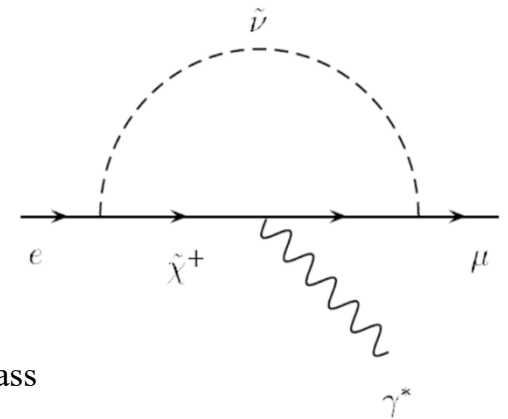
CLFV at “ARIEL200” or PERLE

Blazek and King (arXiv:hep-ph/0408157v1) estimated the cross section for $e+N \rightarrow \mu+N$ at $E_e=200$ MeV in the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM):

$$\sigma(e+N \rightarrow \mu+N) \sim 10^{-1} \left(\frac{M_W}{M_2} \right)^4 \left(\frac{(M_L^2)_{12}}{M_2^2} \right)^2 fb; \text{ and}$$

$$\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) \sim 10^{-4} \left(\frac{M_W}{M_2} \right)^4 \left(\frac{(M_L^2)_{12}}{M_2^2} \right)^2$$

M_2 Gaugino mass
 $(M_L)_{21} \sim$ Slepton mass



$$\sigma(e+N \rightarrow \mu+N) = 10^3 \times \text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) fb$$

Using the current MEG limit $\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) < 4.2 \times 10^{-13}$ results in $\sigma(e+N \rightarrow \mu+N) < 4.2 \times 10^{-10} fb$.

Is this measurable?

ARIEL200 Fantasy Experiment

Say, MEG II discovers $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$ at $\text{BR} = 4.2 \times 10^{-13}$

$$\sigma_{200\text{MeV}}(e^+\text{Ta} \rightarrow \mu^+\text{Ta}) = 4.2 \times 10^{-10} \text{ fb}$$

10 mA; 10 mm thick Ta target

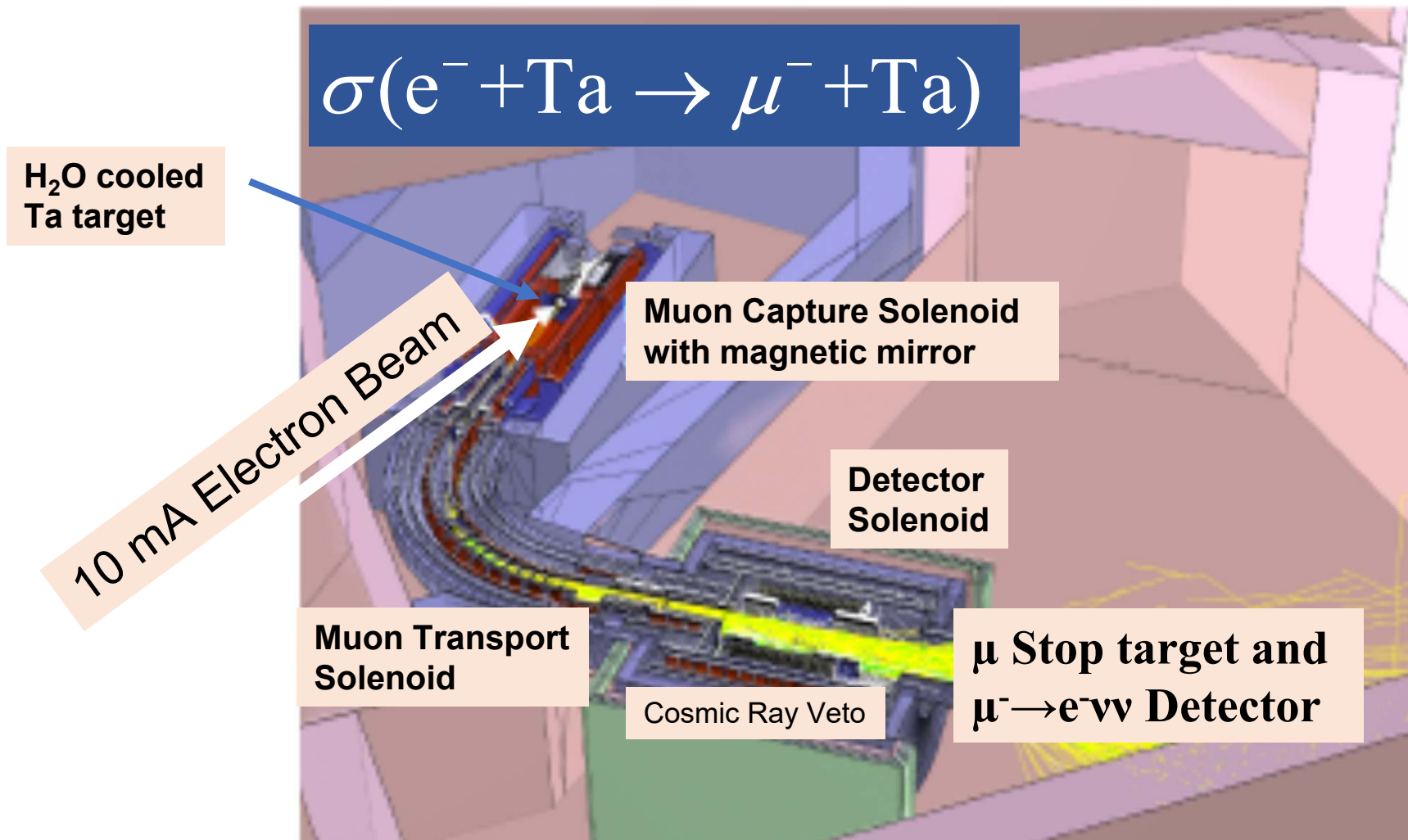
Number of μ^- events in 5 years: 230

Or, if 0 events observed $\rightarrow \sigma(e^+\text{Ta} \rightarrow \mu^+\text{Ta}) < 4 \times 10^{-12} \text{ fb}$

$$\rightarrow \text{BR}_{MSSM}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) < 4 \times 10^{-15}$$

(O(10) x lower than current MEGII goal)

ARIEL200 Fantasy Experiment (à la COMET Phase 1)



Conclusions: Lepton Flavor Universality

- **Lepton Flavor Universality and Lepton Flavor Violation reactions are especially sensitive to new physics effects hinted at by several anomalies.**
- **$\mu/\pi/K/\tau/B/Z$ results anticipated from Muon g-2, MEGII, Mu2e, Mu3e, COMET, PIENU, PEN, NA62, BESSIII, BELLE-II, LHCb, LHC ATLAS/CMS. Important connections with searches for sterile neutrinos/dark sector particles, high mass scale physics, LNV, and $0\nu\beta\beta$ searches.**
- **A next generation pion decay experiment **PIONEER** aims at order of magnitude improvements in high precision for measurements of $\pi \rightarrow e\nu$ and pion beta decay to provide uniquely sensitive new information on Lepton Flavor Universality and CKM unitarity.**
- **Could a future ARIEL upgrade or PERLE@Orsay play a role in this field?**