

Three lectures on Beyond the Standard Model (BSM)

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UC Santa Cruz



TRISEP 2025

TRIUMF

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Overview

Chapter 1: **Introduction:**
The Standard Model and its open problems

Heavy New Physics

Chapter 2:

- * The hierarchy problem (SUSY and EFTs)
- * The SM and the NP flavor puzzle, EFT
- * NP flavor puzzle, UV models
- * The origin of neutrino masses

Chapter 3: **Light New Physics**

- * Dark Matter and the dark sectors in the MeV-GeV range
- * Axions and axion-like-particles

TODAY

TOMORROW

Goal: Some basics + overview of what I find exciting about BSM theories + pheno

Disclaimer: not comprehensive!

Please interrupt to ask questions! We do not have to go through all slides! :)

List of references for BSM

Obviously, this is a very vast topic...

One can start with these TASI, TRISEP, ESHEP lectures:

A. Wulzer, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1901.01017>
ESHEP 2015 (hierarchy problem and SUSY)

M. McCullough, <https://inspirehep.net/files/dbd74aa24943e72752778f0bb7e5656d>
TRISEP 2018 (hierarchy problem and strong CP problem/axions)

A. Hook, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1812.02669>
TASI 2018 (strong CP problem and axions)

T. Lin, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1904.07915>
TASI 2018 (light Dark Matter)

W. Altmannshofer, <https://inspirehep.net/files/4522a7c318aaec7fffb5de3321b62501>
TASI 2022 (flavor physics)

Please send me a message,
if you have questions!
sgori@ucsc.edu

Let us start!

Chapter 1: Introduction: The Standard Model and its open problems

see lectures
by N. Blinov



What we know

First: what is the Standard Model (SM)?

The SM is

- * a remarkably successful description of nature
- * a Quantum Field Theory
- * based on symmetry principles
- * ~minimal
- * a model with an enormous predictive power

But we do not understand why it works so well. . .



First: what is the Standard Model (SM)?

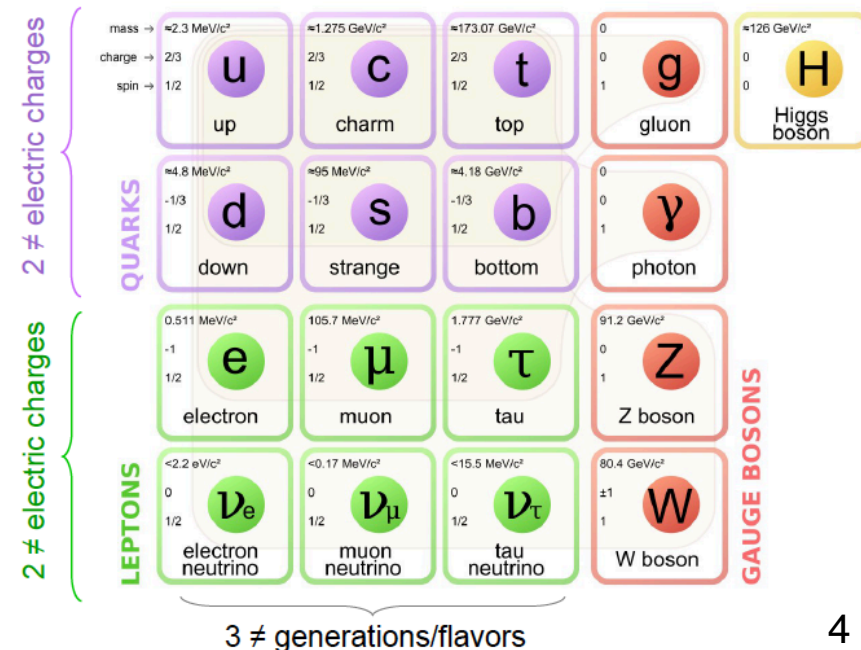
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Particle
content:




Fundamental principles of the SM

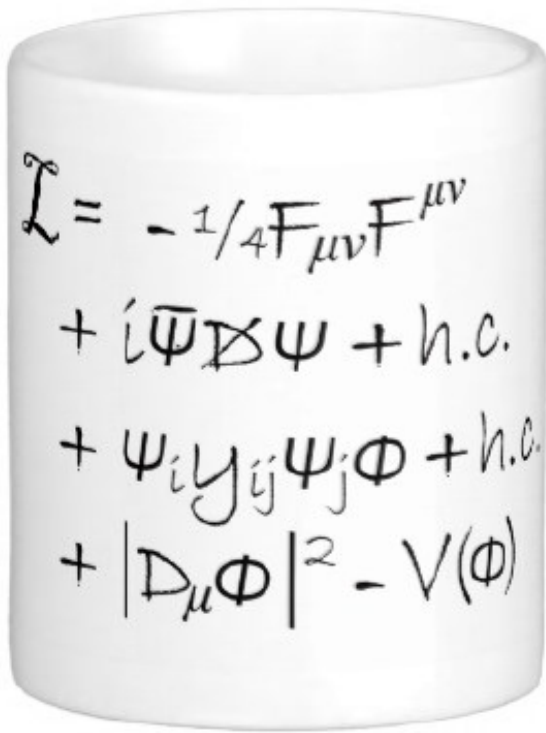
We write down a Lagrangian based on

- * minimality: only observed and/or unavoidable objects
- * unitarity
- * renormalizability: finite predictions for the physical observables
- * symmetries

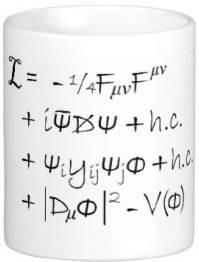
Symmetries:

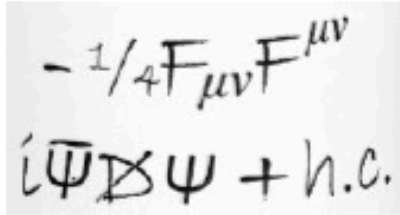
- * Lorentz symmetry
 - * Gauge symmetries: $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$
 - * we do not impose global symmetries. They are "accidental": e.g.
 - ✓ $SU(3)^5$ flavor symmetry broken by the Higgs interactions with fermions
 - ✓ Lepton and baryon number
 - ✓ ...
-  We will introduce this in the context of the New Physics (NP) flavor puzzle

Free parameters of the SM Lagrangian


$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} = & -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \\ & + i\bar{\Psi}\not{D}\Psi + h.c. \\ & + \psi_i y_{ij} \psi_j \phi + h.c. \\ & + |D_\mu \phi|^2 - V(\phi)\end{aligned}$$

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$$-\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + i\bar{\Psi}\not{D}\Psi + h.c.$$

- Describes the gauge interactions of quarks and leptons
- Parametrized by **3 gauge couplings**
 g_1, g_2, g_3
- Stable with respect to quantum corrections
- Highly symmetric

Gauge sector

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Gauge sector

- Breaks electro-weak symmetry and gives mass to the W and Z bosons
- **2 free parameters:**
Higgs mass
Higgs vev
- Not stable with respect to quantum corrections
(hierarchy problem)



Higgs sector

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Higgs sector

$$+ \psi_i y_{ij} \psi_j \Phi + h.c.$$

- Leads to masses and mixings of the quarks and leptons
- **10+10 free parameters in the quark+lepton sector** (12 in the lepton sector in case of Majorana masses)   **(flavor puzzle)**
- Stable with respect to quantum corrections

Flavor sector

Open problems/questions for the SM

Let us re-write the SM Lagrangian allowing also for operators up to dimension 6 in the SM fields

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} \sim & \Lambda^4 - \Lambda_H^2 H^2 + \lambda H^4 \\ & + \bar{\psi} \not{D} \psi + (D_\mu H)^2 + (F_{\mu\nu})^2 \\ & + F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} + Y H \bar{\psi} \psi \\ & + \frac{1}{\Lambda} (LH)^2 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \sum_i O_i(\text{dim}6)\end{aligned}$$

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1. Cosmological constant problem

$$\left(\frac{\Lambda}{M_{\text{Planck}}} \right)^4 \sim 10^{-120}$$

2. Hierarchy problem

$$\left(\frac{m_h}{M_{\text{Planck}}} \right)^2 \sim 10^{-36}$$

3. Vacuum stability problem

4. Strong CP problem

$$\frac{\Theta}{16\pi^2} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}, \quad \Theta \leq 10^{-10}$$

5. SM Flavor puzzle

$$\frac{y_t}{y_u} \sim 10^{-5}$$

6. Origin of neutrino masses

7. New Physics flavor puzzle



Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) physics?

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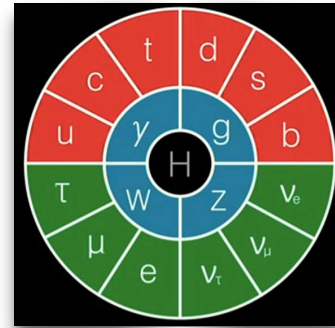
7. New Physics flavor puzzle ←



Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) physics?

More open problems for the SM

Nature of Dark Matter ←



+ ?

We do not know (if and) how it interacts with the Standard Model

See lectures by C.Wagner

Baryon-antibaryon asymmetry

The observable universe contains **matter**, but almost no **antimatter**.

From CMB + BBN measurements: $\eta_B \equiv \frac{n_B - n_{\bar{B}}}{n_\gamma} \simeq 6 \cdot 10^{-10}$

Early universe: baryon + antibaryon in equal amounts → they should completely annihilate

Today: ~Only matter survives → requires a mechanism to generate the asymmetry

Principles to build a “good” BSM theory

- * Take a **local, lorentz invariant, unitary** field theory;
- * Preserve **gauge invariance** ($SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$), **anomaly free**;
- * (Typically) do not introduce too large sources of breaking of the **accidental / approximate symmetries** of the SM classical Lagrangian



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 - baryon and lepton number
 $B_{\text{quark}} = 1/3, B_{\text{anti-quark}} = -1/3, B_{\text{lepton}} = 0$ ($L_{\text{lepton}} = 1, L_{\text{anti-lepton}} = -1, L_{\text{quark}} = 0$)
 - Individual lepton families
 L_e, L_μ, L_τ (these are broken by neutrino masses in the SM (tiny))
 - Custodial symmetry: $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \rightarrow SU(2)_V$ (diagonal)
(this is broken by hypercharge and Yukawas in the SM)
 - $SU(3)^5$ flavor symmetry (this is broken by the Yukawas in the SM)



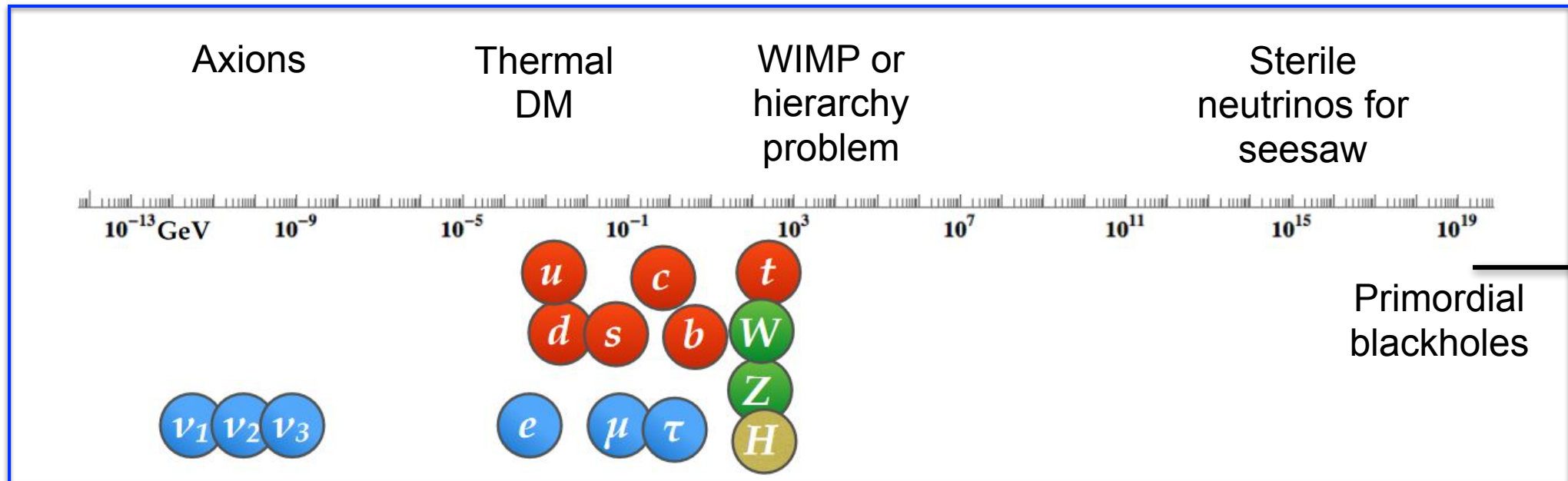
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- * **Not be ruled out by experiments!**



The scale of New Physics

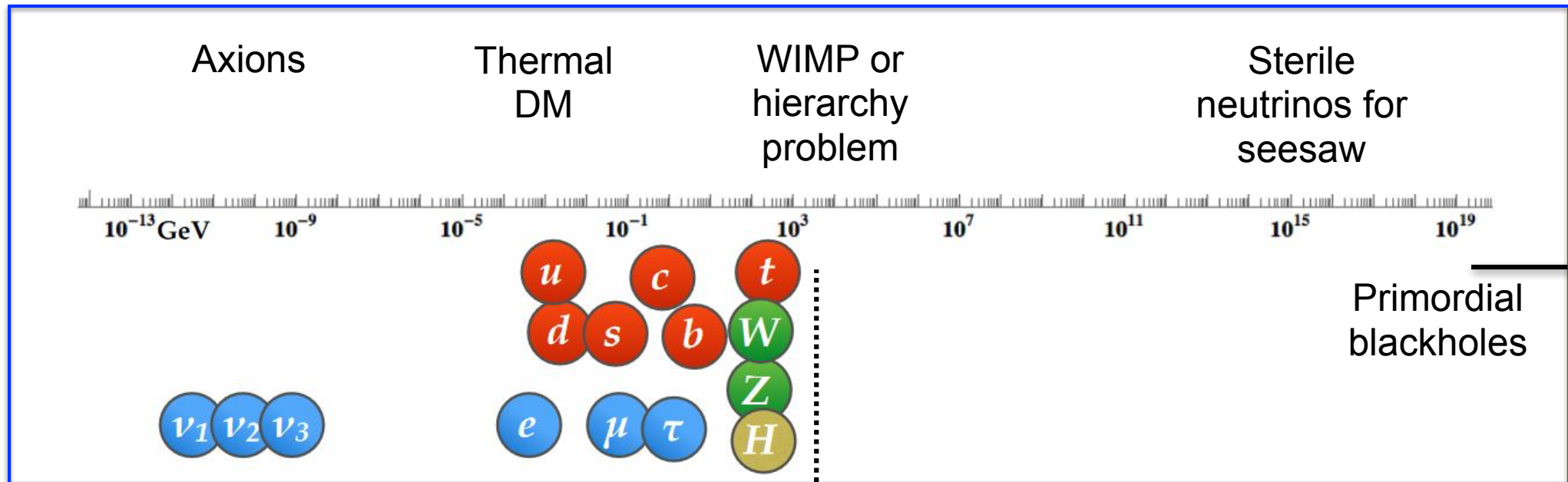
Very unknown



We need to keep searching as broadly as possible!

The scale of New Physics

Very unknown



We need to keep searching as broadly as possible!

We will include here NP at the \sim electro-weak (EW) scale

Light New Physics

Chapter 3

Heavy New Physics
SM effective theory (SMEFT)

Chapter 2

Chapter 1: Introduction:
The Standard Model and its open problems



Heavy New Physics

- Chapter 2:**
- * The hierarchy problem (SUSY and EFTs)
 - * The SM and the NP flavor puzzle, EFT
 - * NP flavor puzzle, UV models
 - * The origin of neutrino masses

Heavy New Physics



The hierarchy problem

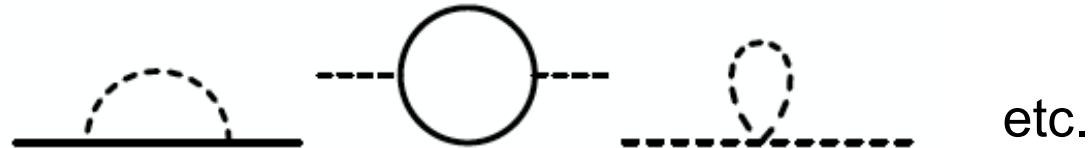
Let us take a generic theory of scalars, ϕ , and fermions, ψ :

$$\mathcal{L} = |\partial_\mu \phi|^2 + \bar{\psi} i \not{\partial} \psi - m_f^0 \bar{\psi} \psi - y \phi \bar{\psi} \psi + \mu_0^2 |\phi|^2 - \lambda |\phi|^4$$

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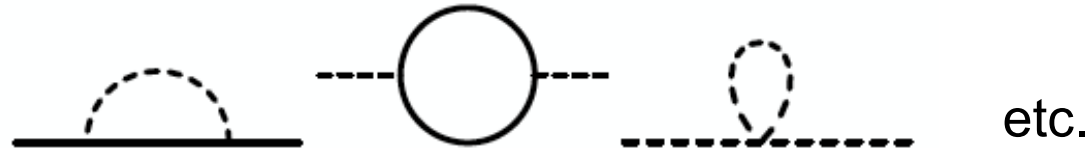


$$\begin{aligned} \Delta m_f &\sim -\frac{y^2}{16\pi^2} m_f \log\left(\frac{\Lambda}{m_f}\right) \\ \Delta \mu^2 &\sim \frac{y^2 - \lambda}{16\pi^2} \Lambda^2 + \dots \quad \mu^2 = \mu_0^2 + \Delta \mu^2 = \mathcal{O}((100 \text{ GeV})^2) \end{aligned}$$

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Scalars are very sensitive to the highest scale of the theory

Generically, we would expect some **New Physics** at the scale

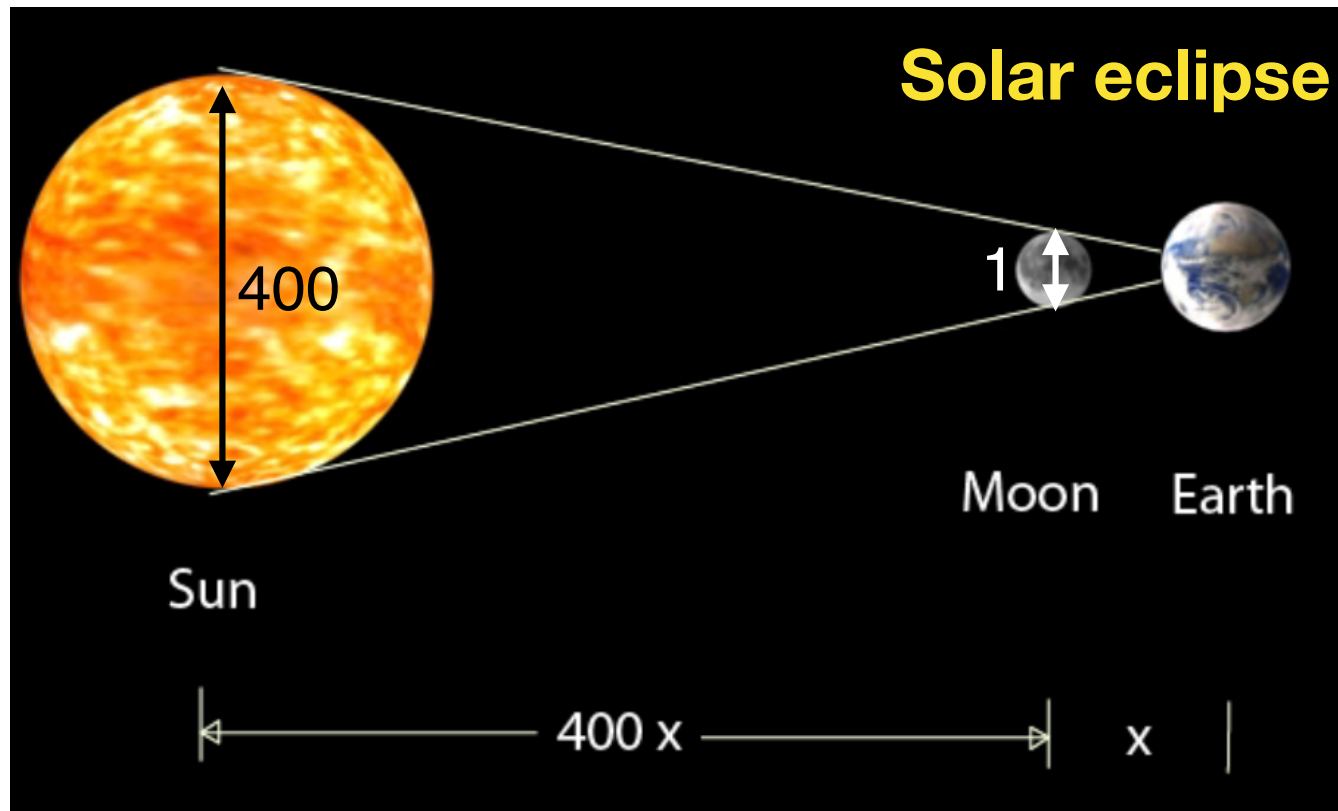
$$\Lambda = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{4\pi}{g} m_h\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_h &\sim 125 \text{ GeV} \\ M_{\text{Planck}} &\sim 10^{19} \text{ GeV} \end{aligned}$$

~TeV scale New Physics?

This argument has been motivating NP searches at the LHC

Putting it in perspective...



The distance 1 : 400 should be precise at the ~ 0.05 level

→ to compare

[illegible]

Addressing the hierarchy problem

Most studied

Supersymmetry

Composite Higgs models or, equivalently, extra-dimensional models

A bit more recently:

Neutral naturalness models (twin Higgs, [Chacko et al, 0506256](#)),

Relaxation models ([Graham et al, 1504.07551](#)),

Nnaturalness ([Arkani-Hamed et al, 1607.06821](#)), ...



**Signals
at the LHC**

Addressing the hierarchy problem

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**Signals
at the LHC**



SUSY (basic principle)

Introduce **new scalar degrees of freedom** that are related to the fermions of the SM

$$\Delta\mu^2 \sim \frac{y^2 - \lambda}{16\pi^2} \Lambda^2 + \dots$$

Cancel the quadratic sensitivity of the Higgs mass to the New Physics scale

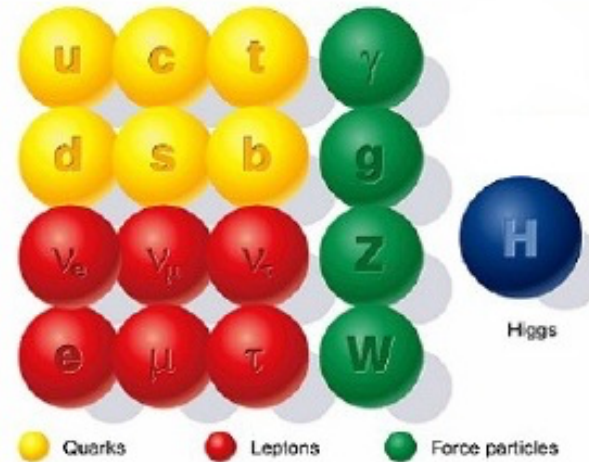
Neutral naturalness (basic principle)

Introduce **new fermionic degrees of freedom** that are related to the fermions of the SM but **not charged under the SM gauge symmetries**

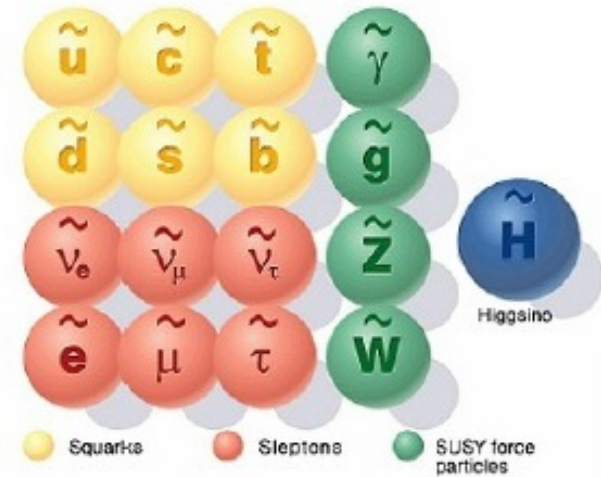
Cancellation of the quadratic sensitivity is ensured by a **global symmetry** (e.g. $SU(4) \times Z_2$).

Supersymmetry

Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM)



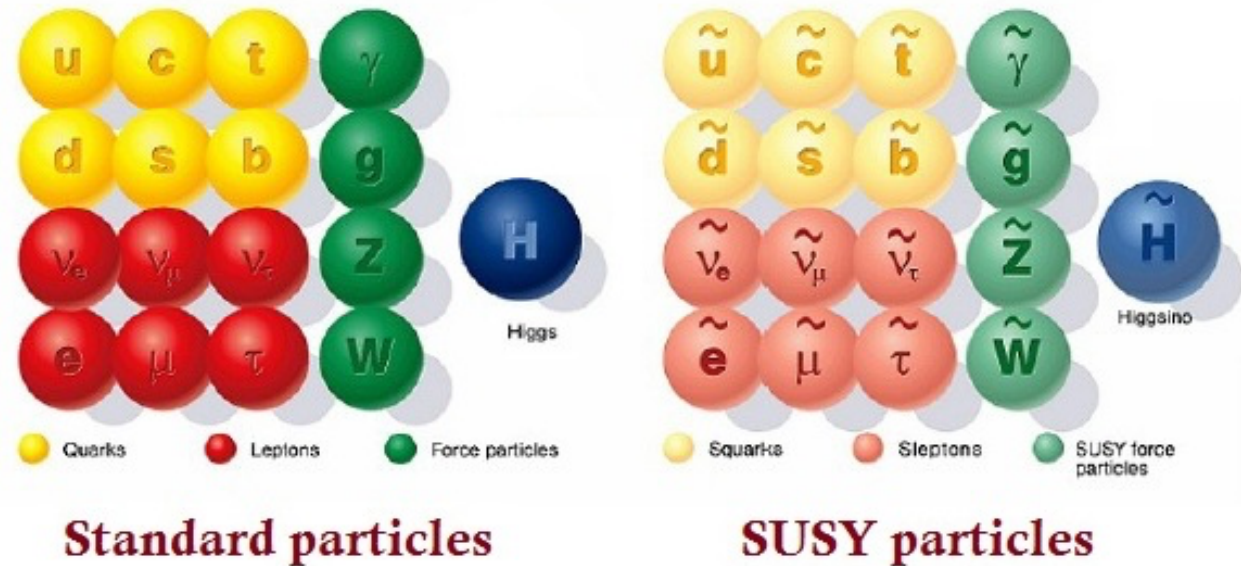
Standard particles



SUSY particles

Supersymmetry

Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM)



SUSY is broken

(in fact, we know that e.g. the sbottom cannot have the same mass as the bottom quark)

Log sensitivity of the Higgs mass to the New Physics scale:

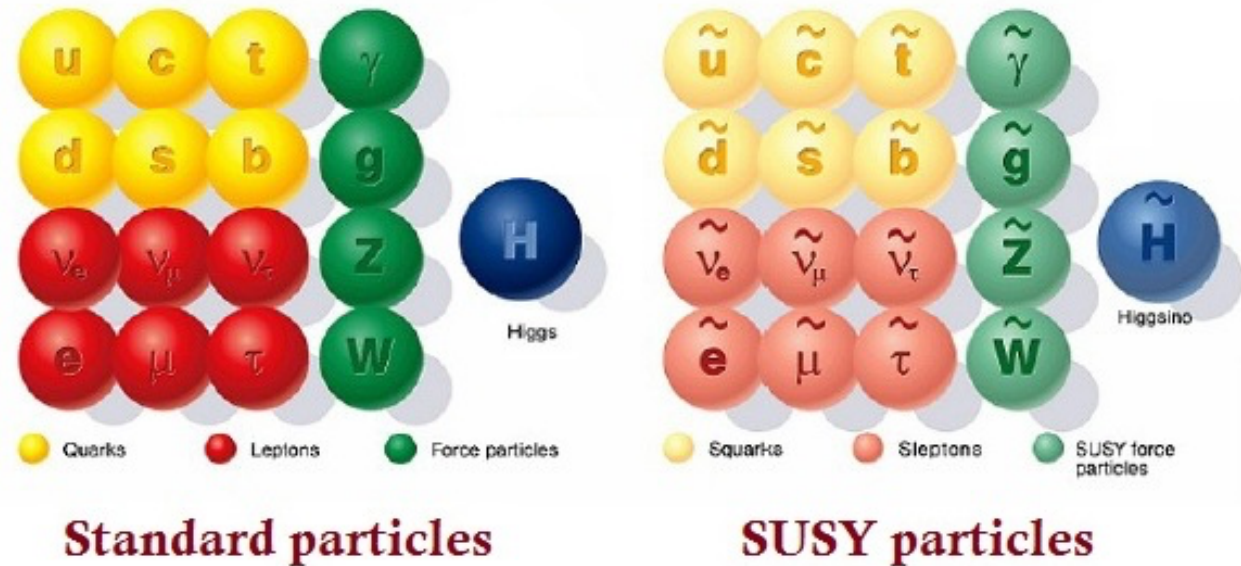
$$\Delta\mu_h^2 \sim \frac{C^2}{4\pi^2} m_{\text{SUSY}}^2 \log\left(\frac{\Lambda}{m_t}\right) \quad \text{TeV-scale SUSY?}$$

$$\Delta\mu^2 \sim \frac{y^2 - \lambda}{16\pi^2} \Lambda^2 + \dots$$

cancel because of SUSY

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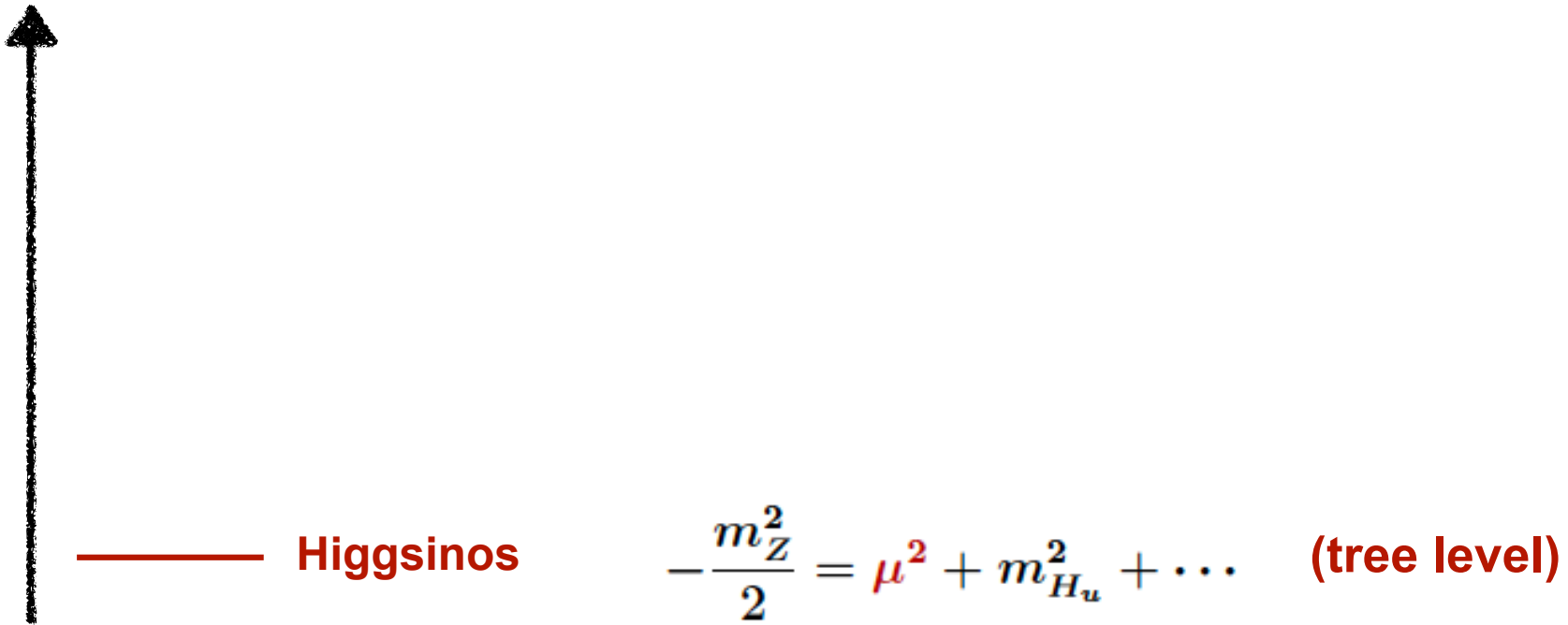
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Additional remarkable properties:

- * **Gauge coupling unification**: if SUSY particles are not too heavy, $g_3 \sim g_2 \sim g_1$ at M_{GUT}
- * If we impose R-parity (sparticles with R-parity = -1, SM particles with R-parity = +1), the lightest SUSY particle can be **WIMP Dark Matter** (see lectures by C. Wagner)

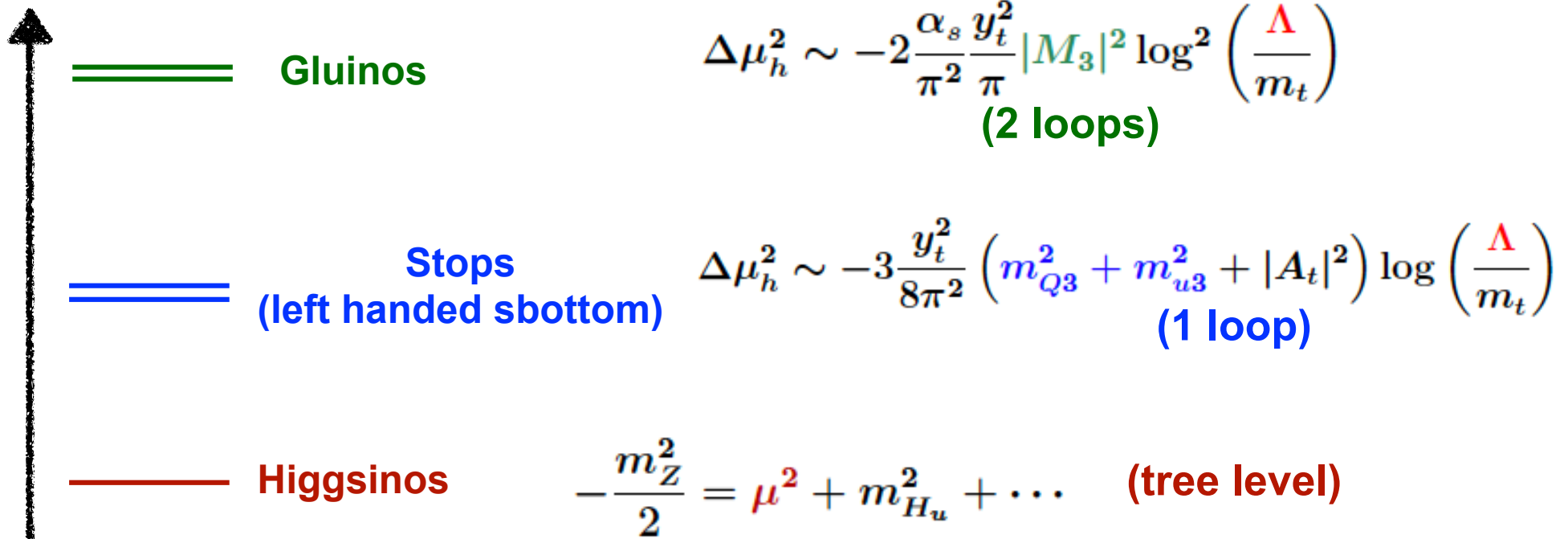
The SUSY mass scale

The “natural spectrum”:



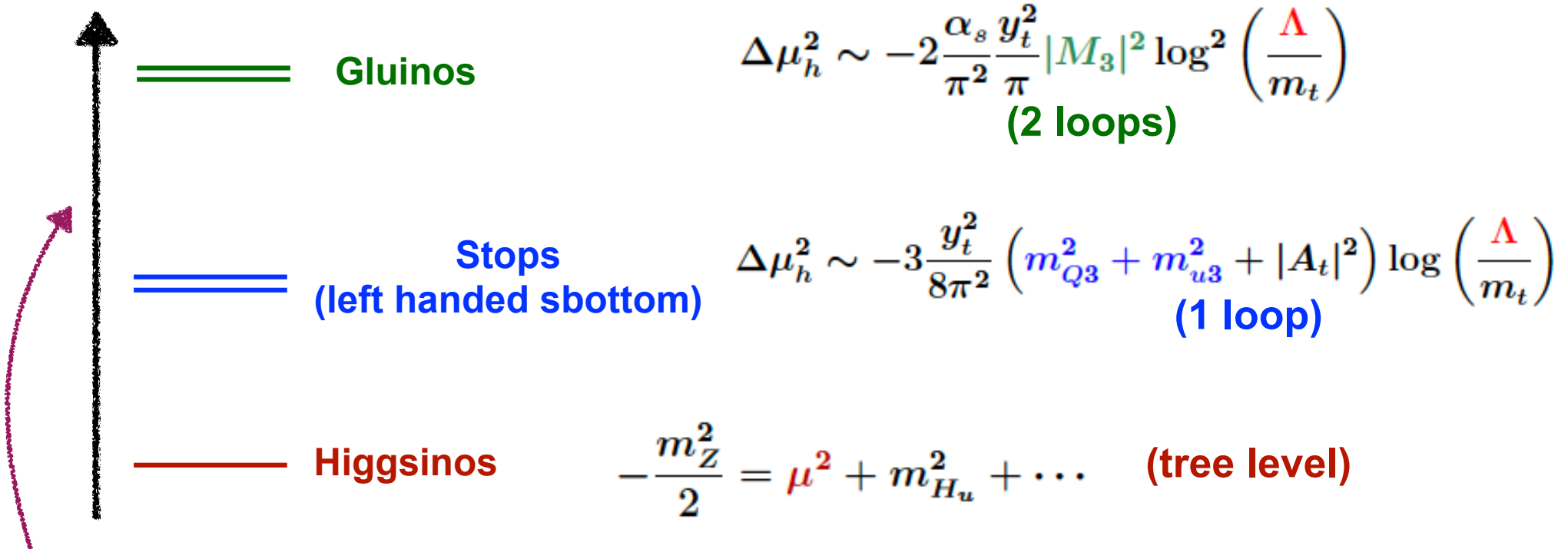
The SUSY mass scale

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The SUSY mass scale

The “natural spectrum”:



What is the exact scale?

Said in other words: what is the level of “fine tuning” we are comfortable allowing?

No guaranteed discovery. Exploration of the SUSY paradigm!

(TeV-scale stops imply $\sim O(1\%)$ fine tuning)

(Some) pheno of SUSY particles

SUSY provides a remarkably rich set of signatures for the LHC

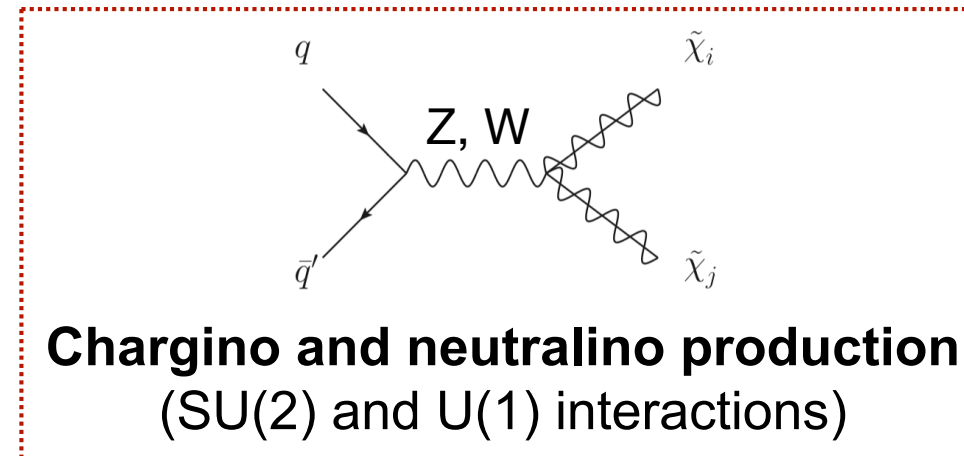
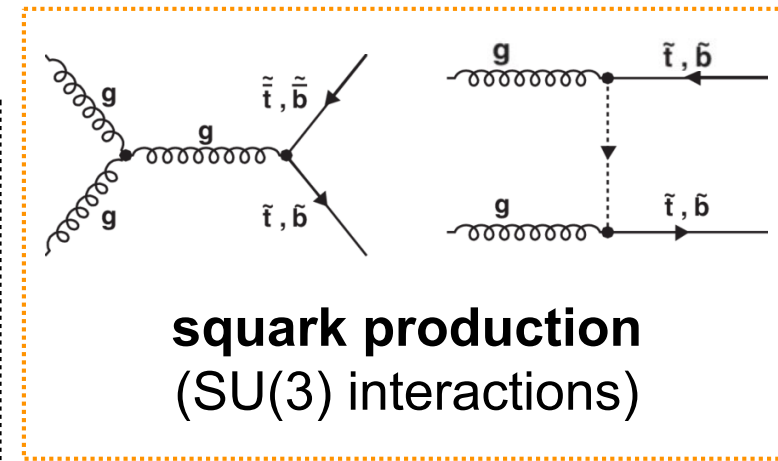
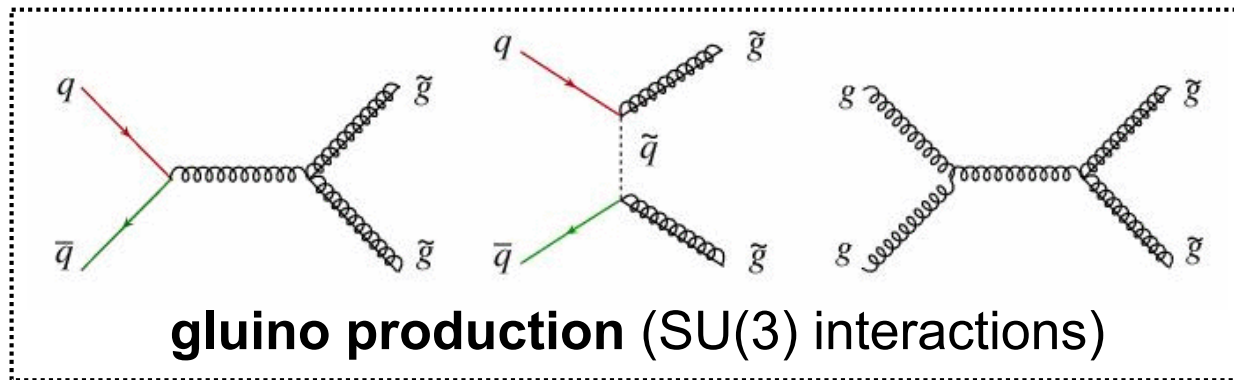
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All SUSY particles are **charged under the SM gauge symmetries**.

That means that SUSY particles will be copiously produced at the LHC

In the case of R-parity conservation:



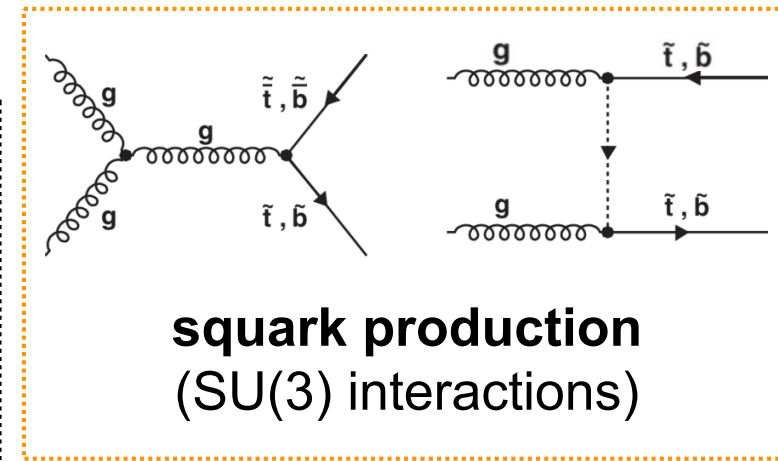
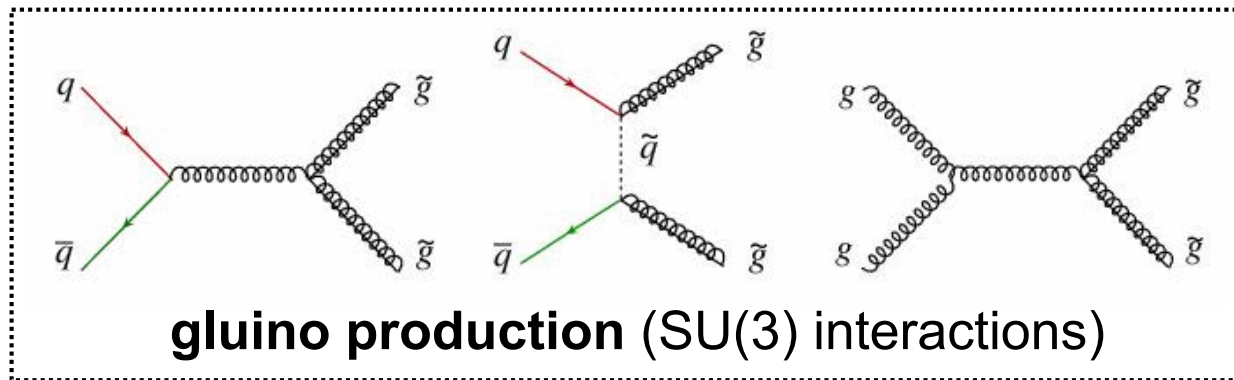
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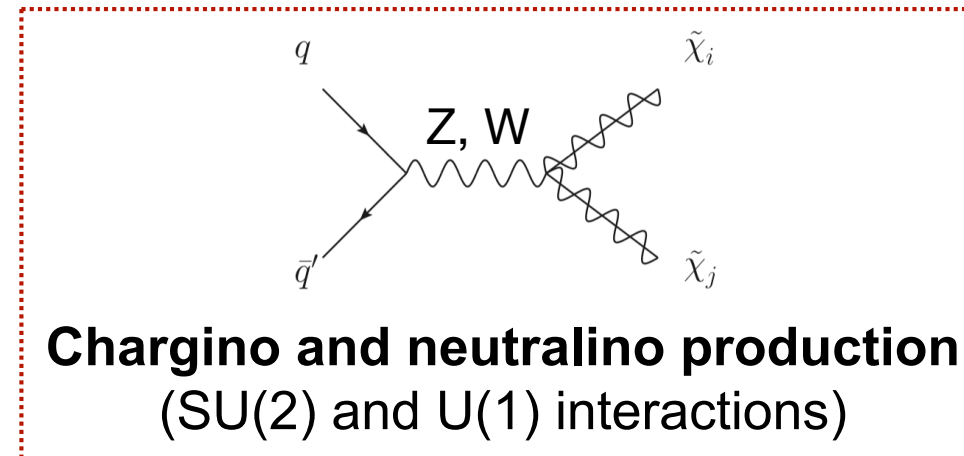
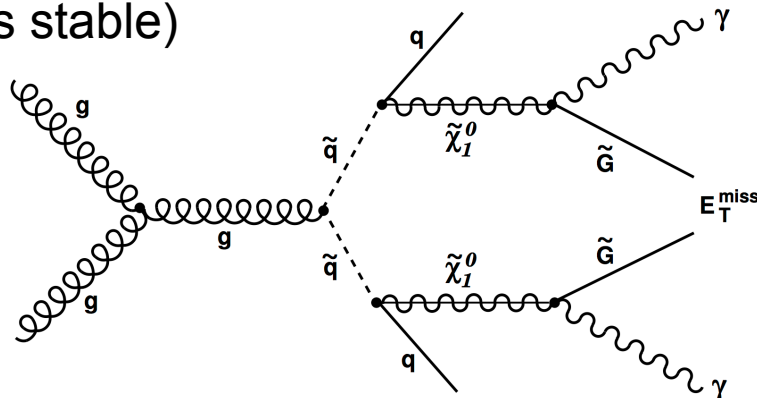
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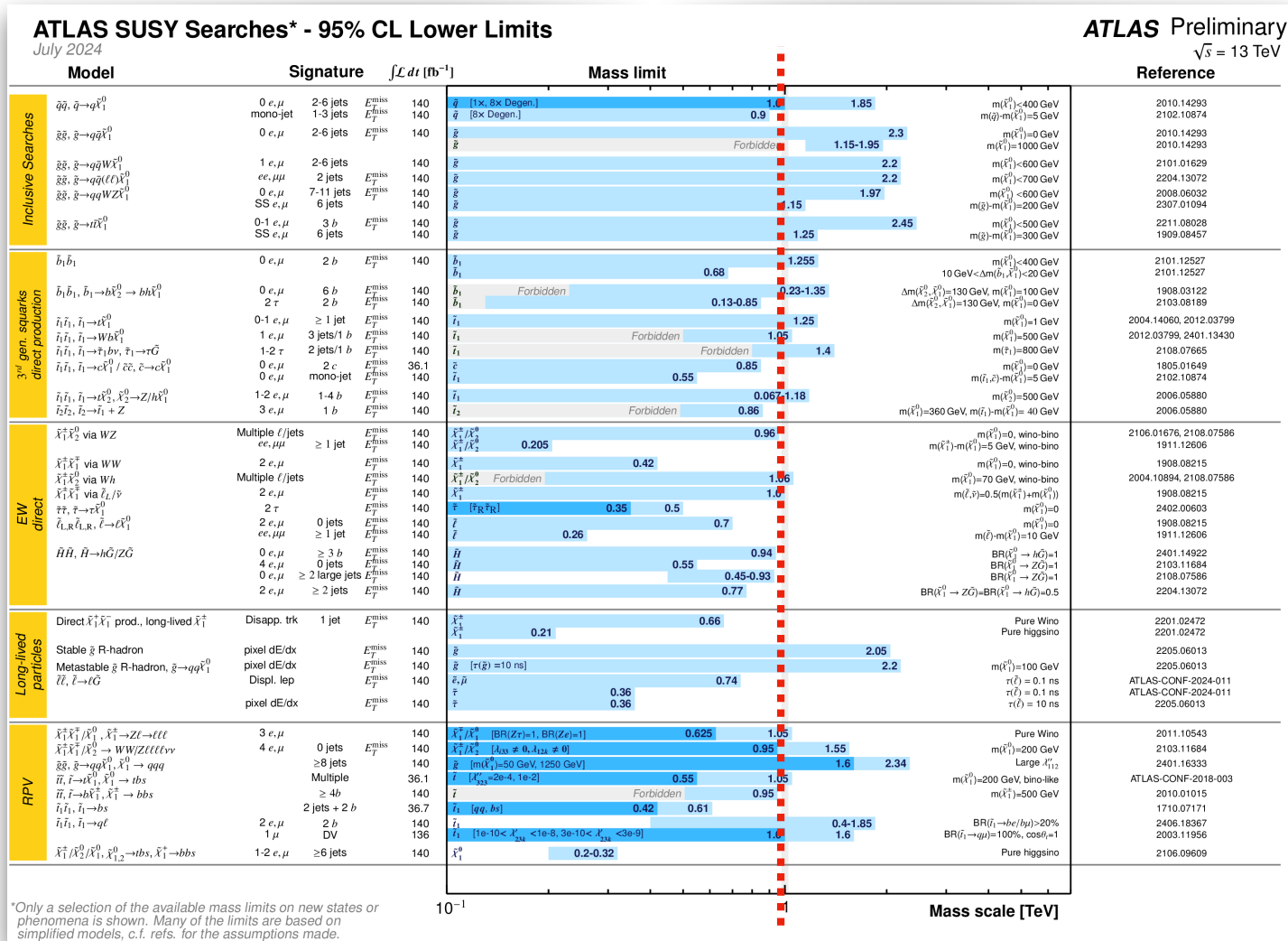


Missing energy-enriched signatures

(MET arises from the lightest SUSY particle that is stable)



Stringent bounds on SUSY from the LHC



Perhaps SUSY is hidden because of a compressed spectrum?
Perhaps the SUSY mass scale is a (little) bit **higher than the TeV scale?**

Effective field theories

The SM Lagrangian can be only the **low-energy limit** of a more complete theory with new particles with a mass (well) above the electroweak scale.

Effective field theory (EFT)

New degrees of freedom are expected at a scale Λ above the electroweak scale. These new degrees of freedom can be too heavy for being directly produced and detected at the LHC, with $s = (14 \text{ TeV})^2$

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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_{d \geq 5} \frac{c_n}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \mathcal{O}_n^{(d)}(\text{SM})$$

Renormalizable

Wilson coefficients

Operators of dimension $d \geq 5$ containing SM fields only, and compatible with the SM gauge symmetry

see e.g.,
Grzadkowski et al., 1008.4884;
Alonso et al., 1312.2014

This is the most general parameterization of the new degrees of freedom, (assuming Λ above the electroweak scale), as long as we perform low-energy ($s \ll \Lambda^2$) experiments

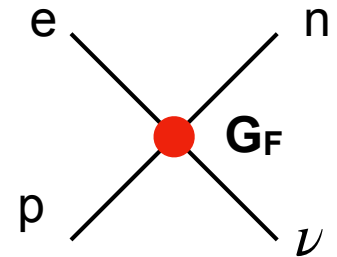
Following Fermi: The birth of an effective field theory

Fermi's Theory (1934) describes beta decays of nuclei (four-fermion interaction)

$$\mathcal{L}_F = -\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}}(\bar{p}\gamma^\mu n)(\bar{e}\gamma_\mu\nu_e) \quad \text{Dimension-6 operator}$$

Parity violation \Rightarrow only **left-handed fermions** couple to weak force

$$\gamma_\mu \Rightarrow \gamma_\mu\gamma_5$$



Now interpreted as a **low-energy effective field theory**

Following Fermi: The birth of an effective field theory

Fermi's Theory (1934) describes beta decays of nuclei (four-fermion interaction)

$$\mathcal{L}_F = -\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}}(\bar{p}\gamma^\mu n)(\bar{e}\gamma_\mu\nu_e) \quad \text{Dimension-6 operator}$$

Parity violation \Rightarrow only **left-handed fermions** couple to weak force

$$\gamma_\mu \Rightarrow \gamma_\mu \gamma_5$$

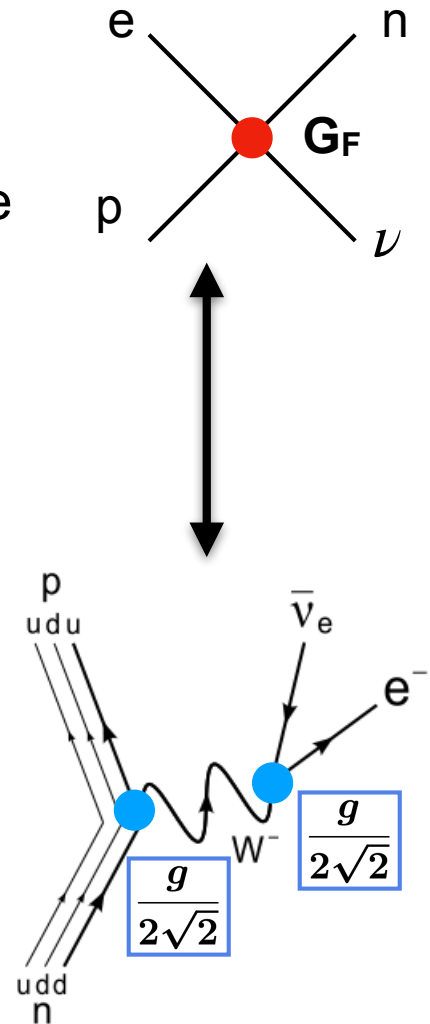
Now interpreted as a **low-energy effective field theory**

Discovery of the W Boson (CERN, 1983),
Direct production at UA1/UA2 experiments


Fermi interaction arises from **integrating out** the W boson

$$\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{g^2}{8m_W^2} \Rightarrow m_W = \Lambda$$

(NP scale)



EFTs at the LHC, the Higgs

These higher dimensional operators have an effect on SM processes that are accurately measured at the LHC  constraints on the Wilson coefficients

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For example, the rate and distributions of $pp \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ are affected by the presence of higher dimensional operators

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{c_{HW}}{\Lambda^2} (H^\dagger H) W_{\mu\nu}^i W^{\mu\nu,i} \\ & \frac{c_{HB}}{\Lambda^2} (H^\dagger H) B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} \\ & \frac{c_{HWB}}{\Lambda^2} (H^\dagger \sigma^i H) W_{\mu\nu}^i B^{\mu\nu} \\ & \frac{c_{HG}}{\Lambda^2} (H^\dagger H) G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{\mu\nu,a} \end{aligned}$$

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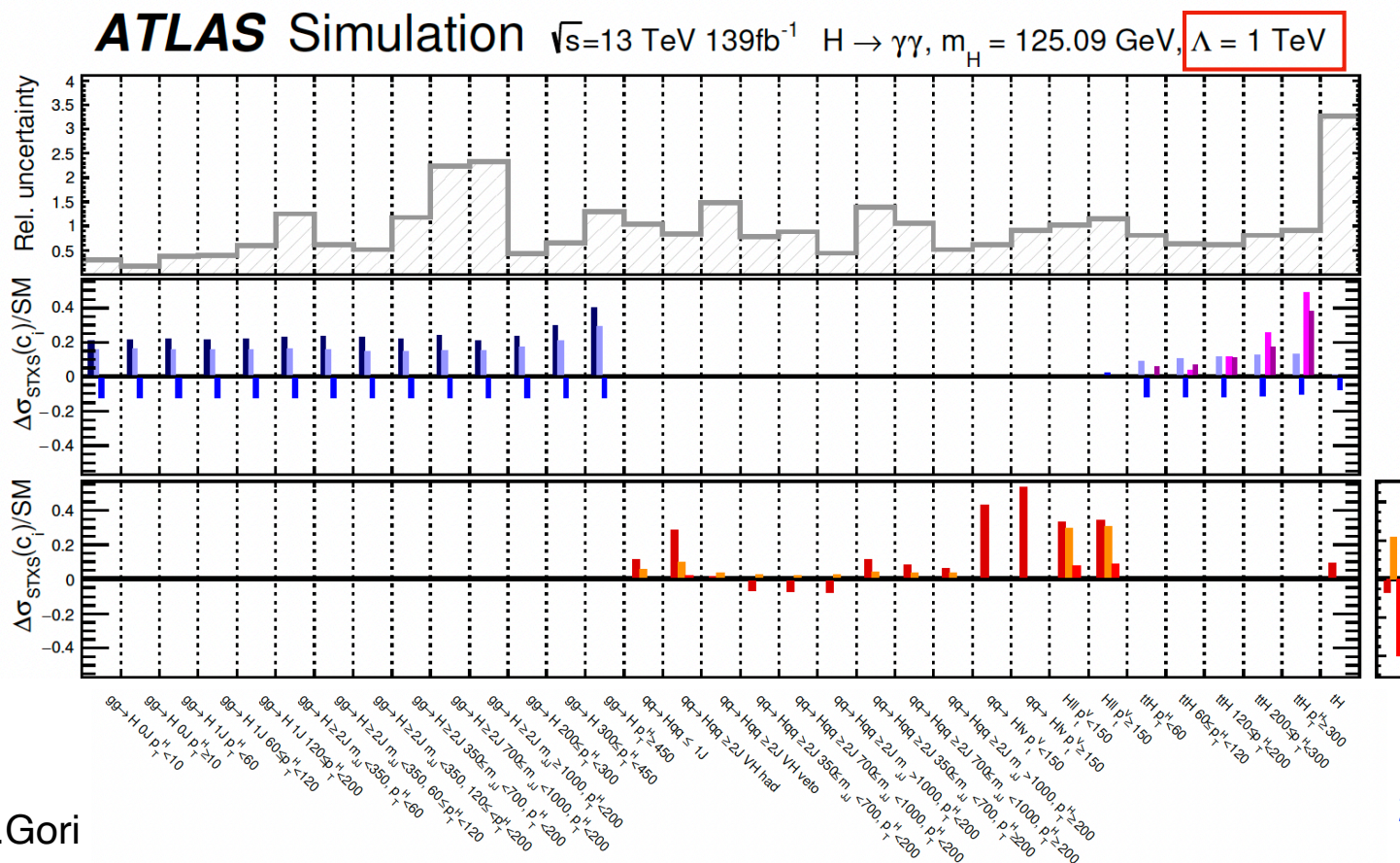
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$$\frac{c_{HG}}{\Lambda^2} (H^\dagger H) G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{\mu\nu,a}$$


$$C_{HG} = 0.005$$
$$C_{UG} = 0.1$$
$$C_{UH} = 1.0$$
$$C_G = 1.0$$
$$c_{gg}^{(3)'} = 0.2$$
$$C_{HW} = 0.5$$
$$C_{HWB} = 1.0$$
$$C_{HB} = 1.0$$

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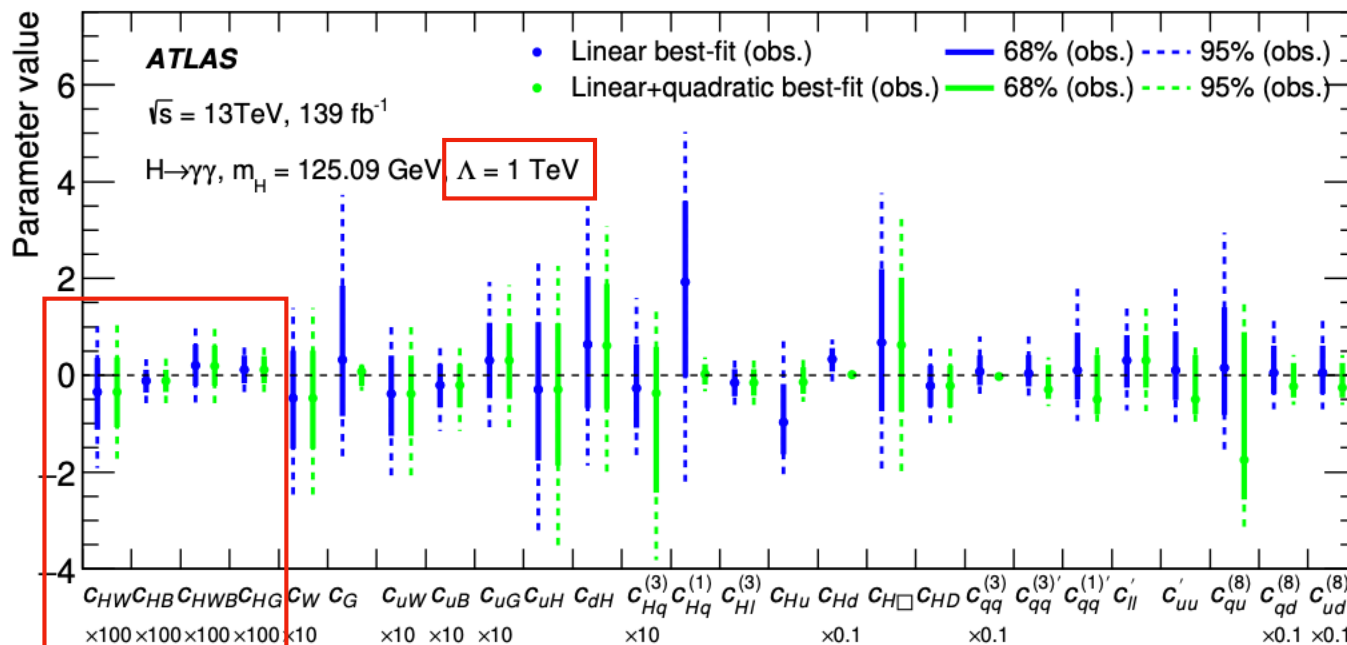
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2207.00348

EFTs at the LHC, other SM measurements

It's not just the Higgs. Fits of SMEFT coefficients include

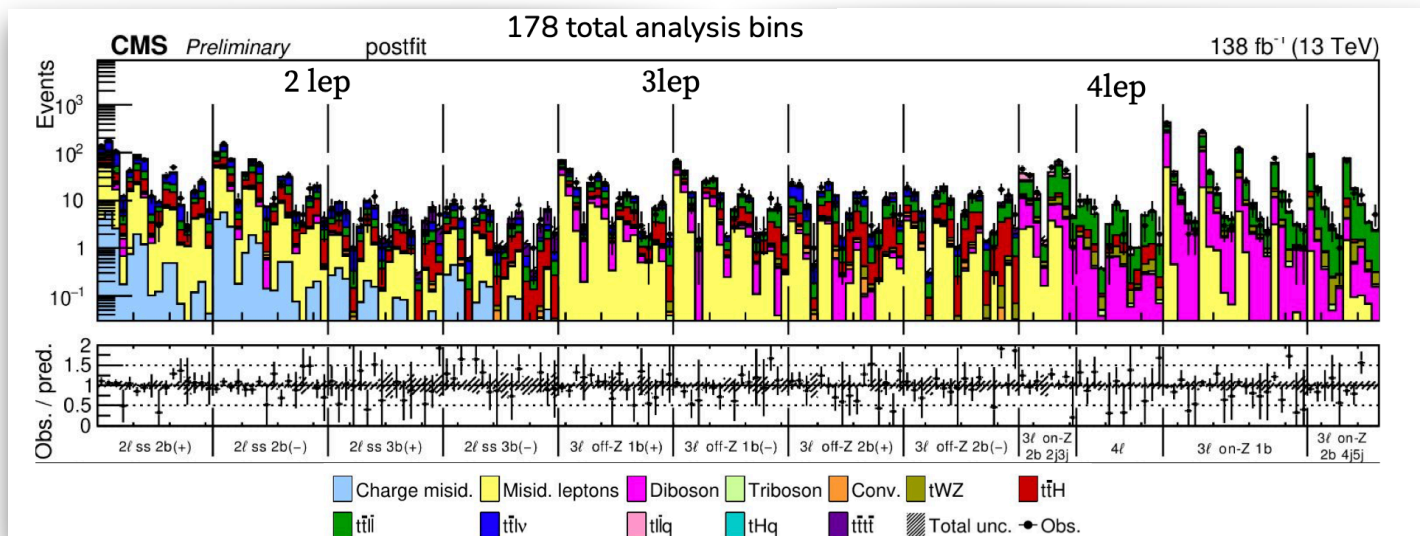
- * Higgs data,
- * top quark data,
- * gauge boson pair production,
- * EW precision observables

EFTs at the LHC, other SM measurements

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For example:



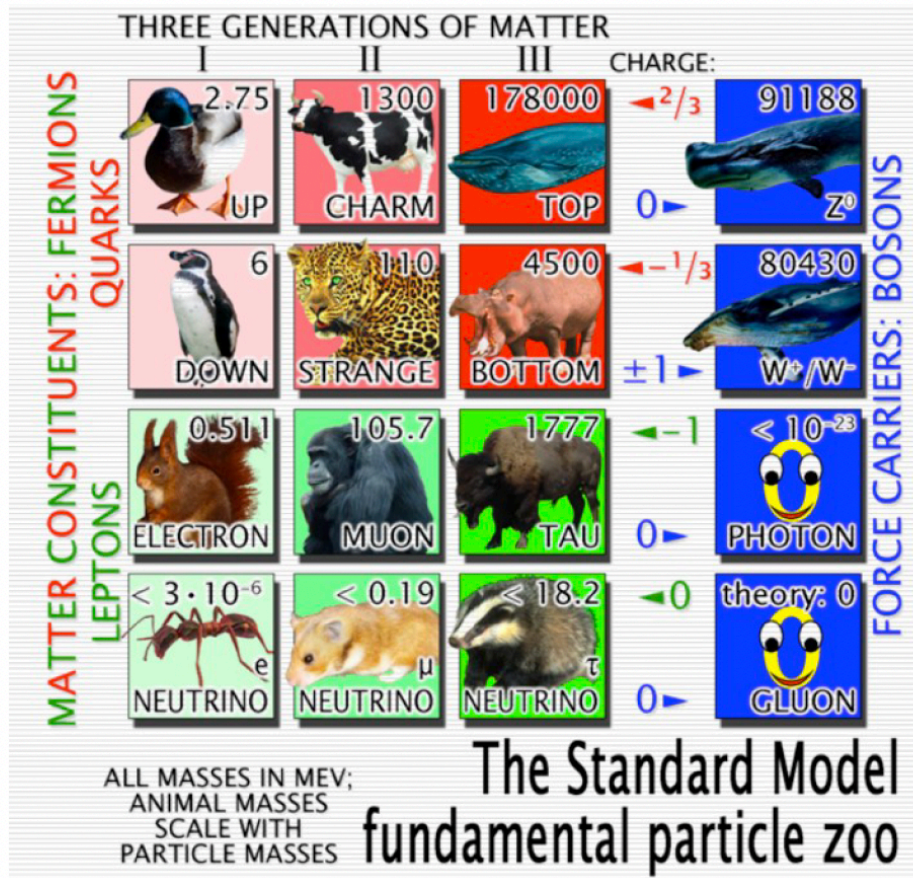
CMS PAS
TOP-22-006

Operator category	WCs
Two heavy quarks	$c_{tq}, c_{\bar{q}q}, c_{\bar{q}q}^3, c_{qt}, c_{qtb}, c_{tW}, c_{tZ}, c_{bW}, c_{tG}$
Two heavy quarks two leptons	$c_{Q\ell}^{3(\ell)}, c_{Q\ell}^{-3(\ell)}, c_{Q\ell}^{(\ell)}, c_{t\ell}^{(\ell)}, c_{t\ell}^{S(\ell)}, c_t^{T(\ell)}$
Two light quarks two heavy quarks	$c_{Qq}^{31}, c_{Qq}^{38}, c_{Qq}^{11}, c_{Qq}^{18}, c_{tq}^1, c_{tq}^8$
Four heavy quarks	$c_{QQ}^1, c_{Qt}^1, c_{Qt}^8, c_{tt}^1$

Future indirect discovery of a New Physics scale, Λ ?

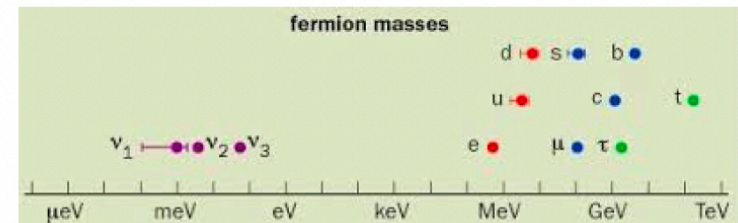
The SM flavor puzzle

Measurements tell us that:



E.Lunghi

$$V_{CKM} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0.974 & 0.225 & 0.0037 e^{-i 70^\circ} \\ 0.225 & 0.973 & 0.041 \\ 0.0087 e^{-i 20^\circ} & 0.041 & 0.999 \end{pmatrix}$$



Reminder for the gauge couplings: $g_1 \sim 0.35$; $g_2 \sim 0.65$; $g_3 \sim 1.2$

This structure does not seem accidental. New dynamics?

Is there a New Physics scale associated to it?

Froggatt-Nielsen mechanism

Nucl.Phys.B 147 (1979) 277-298

Basic idea: fermion masses are forbidden by **flavor symmetries** and arise only after spontaneous breaking of the symmetry

Simple $U(1)_{FN}$ model:

$$Q(t_L) = Q(t_R) = 0; Q(u_L) = - Q(u_R) = 3$$

$$Q(h) = 0; Q(\phi) = -1$$

Flavon = scalar field with a potential such that $\langle \phi \rangle \neq 0$
(it breaks the $U(1)_{FN}$ symmetry)

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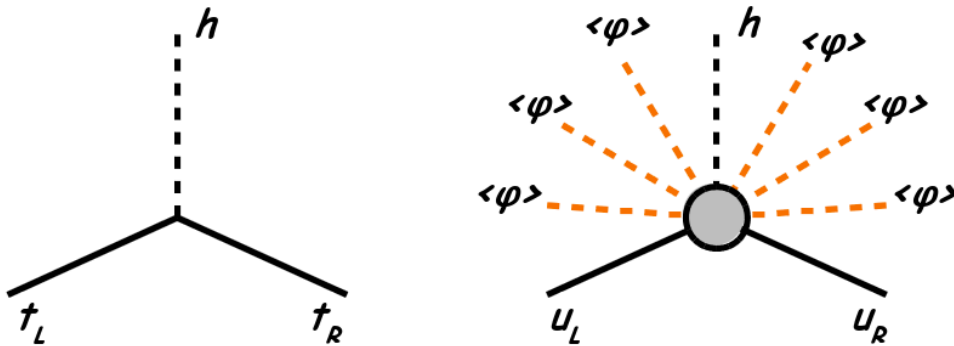
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Quark and lepton mass and mixing hierarchies are given by powers of the “spurion”, $\langle \phi \rangle / M$

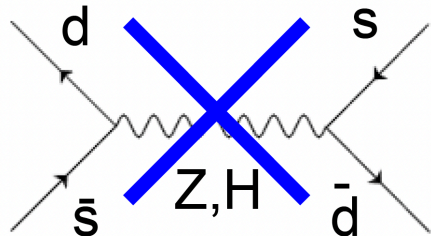
In this specific case:

$$\frac{m_u}{m_t} \sim \left(\frac{\langle \phi \rangle}{M} \right)^6$$

M = heavy mass scale of the system
(typically vector like fermions charged under $U(1)_{\text{FN}}$)

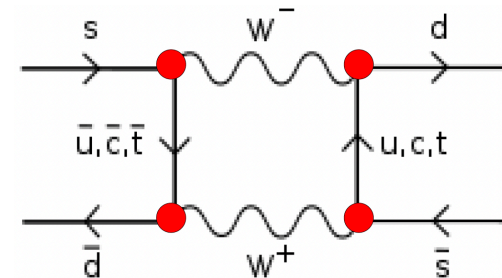
Flavor transitions in the SM and in SMEFT

In the SM, there are no FCNCs
at the tree level



(example for Kaon mixing)

Only loop mediated processes
with charged interactions

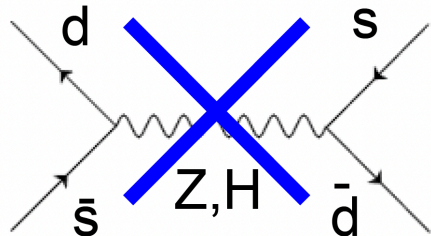


(example for Kaon mixing)

A lot of flavor transitions (including observables in Kaon mixing) have been precisely measured and they agree with the SM predictions

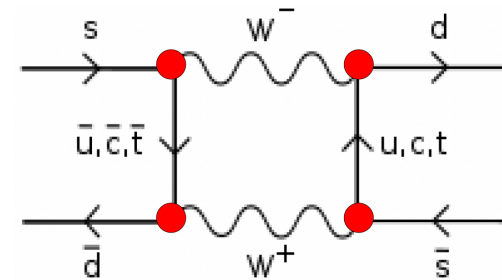
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A lot of flavor transitions (including observables in Kaon mixing) have been precisely measured and they agree with the SM predictions

In the context of the SMEFT, we can write dimension-6 operators that contribute to flavor transitions. For example, for Kaon mixing:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_i \frac{C_i}{\Lambda^2} Q_i$$

$$Q_1^{\text{VLL}} = (\bar{s}\gamma_\mu P_L d)(\bar{s}\gamma^\mu P_L d) \quad (\text{SM operator})$$

$$Q_1^{\text{LR}} = (\bar{s}\gamma_\mu P_L d)(\bar{s}\gamma^\mu P_R d)$$

$$Q_2^{\text{LR}} = (\bar{s}P_L d)(\bar{s}P_R d)$$

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$$Q_2^{\text{SLL}} = (\bar{s}\sigma_{\mu\nu} P_L d)(\bar{s}\sigma^{\mu\nu} P_L d)$$

The NP flavor puzzle

Updated from Isidori, Nir, Perez, 1002.0900

Operator	Kaon, $c_i = 1$, $\Lambda[\text{TeV}]$		B_d , $c_i = 1$, $\Lambda[\text{TeV}]$		B_s , $c_i = 1$, $\Lambda[\text{TeV}]$		D , $c_i = 1$, $\Lambda[\text{TeV}]$	
	Re	Im	Re	Im	Re	Im	Re	Im
Q_1^{VLL}	1000	$2 \cdot 10^4$	700	1000	100	200	1300	3200
Q_2^{LR}	10^4	$2 \cdot 10^5$	1600	2300	300	600	4200	10^4

Note: generically, the LHC probes NP particles with $\sim \text{TeV}$ mass

Remember: $\mathcal{L} = \sum_i \frac{c_i}{\Lambda^2} Q_i$

Precision flavor measurements impose **very stringent bounds on the NP scale**, much beyond the LHC reach

**New Physics
flavor puzzle**

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Precision flavor measurements impose **very stringent bounds on the NP scale**, much beyond the LHC reach

OR

The **NP flavor structure** is highly non generic \Rightarrow **Minimal Flavor Violation?**

**New Physics
flavor puzzle**

End of the first class

What did we learn yesterday?

Reasons to go beyond the Standard Model

The hierarchy problem and SUSY.

Perhaps SUSY is a bit heavier than the TeV?  Effective field theories (EFTs)

The SM flavor puzzle and Froggatt Nielsen

The NP flavor puzzle. Very high energy scales are probed by flavor

For today...

We will conclude the discussion about flavor: Minimal flavor violating theories

The origin of neutrino masses and sterile neutrinos

Light ($< \text{GeV}$) New Physics: Dark Matter/dark sectors and axions

Breaking the SM flavor symmetry

Flavor symmetry: $U(3)^5 = \textcolor{red}{SU(3)}_Q \times \textcolor{green}{SU(3)}_U \times \textcolor{blue}{SU(3)}_D \times \dots$
(global symmetry of the SM gauge sector)

Symmetry-breaking terms: $\bar{Q}_L^i Y_D^{ij} d_R^j \Phi + \bar{Q}_L^i Y_U^{ij} u_R^j \tilde{\Phi}$
(quark Yukawa couplings)

This specific symmetry + symmetry-breaking pattern is responsible for all the successful SM predictions in the quark flavor sector

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However, we can (formally) promote this symmetry to be an exact symmetry, assuming the Yukawa matrices are the vacuum expectation values of appropriate auxiliary fields: **spurions**

$Y_D \sim (\textcolor{red}{3}, \textcolor{green}{1}, \textcolor{blue}{\bar{3}})$, $Y_U \sim (\textcolor{red}{3}, \textcolor{green}{\bar{3}}, 1)$ (transformation under $\textcolor{red}{SU(3)}_Q \times \textcolor{green}{SU(3)}_U \times \textcolor{blue}{SU(3)}_D$)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{ccccc}
 \bar{Q}_L & Y_D & D_R & \Phi & + & \bar{Q}_L & Y_U & U_R & \tilde{\Phi} \\
 \nearrow & \uparrow & \nearrow & & & \uparrow & \uparrow & \nwarrow & \\
 (\bar{\textcolor{red}{3}}, \textcolor{green}{1}, 1) & (\textcolor{red}{3}, \textcolor{green}{1}, \textcolor{blue}{\bar{3}}) & (1, 1, \textcolor{blue}{3}) & & & (\bar{\textcolor{red}{3}}, 1, 1) & (\textcolor{red}{3}, \textcolor{green}{\bar{3}}, 1) & (1, \textcolor{green}{3}, 1) &
 \end{array} \\
 \Rightarrow (\textcolor{red}{1}, \textcolor{green}{1}, 1)
 \end{array}$$

The Minimal Flavor Violation ansatz

In all generality, New Physics theories with additional degrees of freedom can further break this flavor symmetry

A natural mechanism to reproduce the SM successes in flavor physics is the MFV hypothesis: **The SM Yukawa couplings are the only sources of flavor violation in and beyond the Standard Model**

Chivukula,
Georgi '87

Going back to EFTs...

A low-energy EFT satisfies the criterion of MFV if all higher-dimensional operators, constructed from SM and Y fields, are (formally) invariant under the flavor group

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For example, for processes with external down-type quarks, the relevant FCNC vertices:

$$\bar{Q}_L Y_U Y_U^\dagger Q_L, \bar{D}_R Y_D^\dagger Y_U Y_U^\dagger Q_L, \bar{D}_R Y_D^\dagger Y_U Y_U^\dagger Y_D D_R$$

Where, for convenience, we have chosen the basis for which

$$Y_D = \text{diag}(y_d, y_s, y_b), Y_U = V^\dagger \text{diag}(y_u, y_c, y_t)$$

CKM matrix
introduced by
N. Blinov

If we expand, at the leading order in the quark masses and CKM elements:

$$y_t^4 \left(\bar{Q}_L^i V_{3i}^* V_{3j} \gamma_\mu Q_L^j \right)^2$$

The Wilson coefficient, C,
is not anymore O(1)!

TeV scale New Physics is now allowed by flavor!

D'Ambrosio, Giudice, Isidori, Strumia, 0207036

	Minimal flavor violating dimension 6 operator	Main observables	Λ [TeV]	
			-	+
One of the operators seen before	$\mathcal{O}_0 = (\bar{Q}_L \lambda_{\text{FC}} \gamma_\mu Q_L)^2$	$\epsilon_K, \Delta m_{B_d}$	9.1	7.1
Other flavor transitions	$\mathcal{O}_{F1} = H^\dagger (\bar{D}_{Rd} \lambda_{\text{FC}} \sigma_{\mu\nu} Q_L) F_{\mu\nu}$	$B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$	9.3	12.4
	$\mathcal{O}_{G1} = H^\dagger (\bar{D}_{Rd} \lambda_{\text{FC}} \sigma_{\mu\nu} T^a Q_L) G_{\mu\nu}^a$	$B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$	2.6	3.5
	$\mathcal{O}_{\ell 1} = (\bar{Q}_L \lambda_{\text{FC}} \gamma_\mu Q_L) (\bar{L}_L \gamma_\mu L_L)$	$B \rightarrow (X) \ell \bar{\ell}, K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}, (\pi) \ell \bar{\ell}$	3.1	2.7
	$\mathcal{O}_{\ell 2} = (\bar{Q}_L \lambda_{\text{FC}} \gamma_\mu \tau^a Q_L) (\bar{L}_L \gamma_\mu \tau^a L_L)$	$B \rightarrow (X) \ell \bar{\ell}, K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}, (\pi) \ell \bar{\ell}$	3.4	3.0
	$\mathcal{O}_{H1} = (\bar{Q}_L \lambda_{\text{FC}} \gamma_\mu Q_L) (H^\dagger i D_\mu H)$	$B \rightarrow (X) \ell \bar{\ell}, K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}, (\pi) \ell \bar{\ell}$	1.6	1.6
	$\mathcal{O}_{q5} = (\bar{Q}_L \lambda_{\text{FC}} \gamma_\mu Q_L) (\bar{D}_R \gamma_\mu D_R)$	$B \rightarrow K \pi, \epsilon'/\epsilon, \dots$	~ 1	
$\lambda_{\text{FC}})_{ij} = y_t^2 V_{3i}^* V_{3j}$			Without MFV, this would be $\sim 10^3 - 10^4$ TeV!	

The MFV ansatz leads to a very predictive framework...

- * TeV scale NP with interesting flavor effects
- * Opportunities for discoveries at the LHC

Effective Lagrangians for B meson decays

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_i C_i Q_i$$

A new flavor structure can appear in this Wilson coefficient (if no MFV)

Semileptonic operators



d.o.f =
degree
of freedom

$$\mathcal{O}_{10} = (\bar{b}\gamma_\mu P_L s)(\bar{\mu}\gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \mu) \text{ (the one of the SM)}$$

$$\mathcal{O}'_{10} = (\bar{b}\gamma_\mu P_R s)(\bar{\mu}\gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \mu)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_S = (\bar{b}P_L s)(\bar{\mu}\mu)$$

$$\mathcal{O}'_S = (\bar{b}P_R s)(\bar{\mu}\mu) \quad \left(P_{L,R} = \frac{1 \mp \gamma_5}{2} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_P = (\bar{b}P_L s)(\bar{\mu}\gamma_5 \mu)$$

$$\mathcal{O}'_P = (\bar{b}P_R s)(\bar{\mu}\gamma_5 \mu)$$

$$\text{BR}(B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) \propto m_\mu^2 \left(\left| (C_{10}^{\text{SM}} + C_{10}^{\text{NP}} - C'_{10}) + \frac{m_{B_s}}{2m_\mu} (C_P - C'_P) \right|^2 + \left| \frac{m_{B_s}}{2m_\mu} (C_S - C'_S) \right|^2 \right)$$

The helicity suppression can be eliminated thanks to the scalar/pseudoscalar operators

The prediction of MFV models

* To satisfy the MFV condition:

$$C_i \sim V_{tb}^* V_{ts} \quad (B_s \text{ decay})$$

$$C_i \sim V_{tb}^* V_{td} \quad (B_d \text{ decay})$$

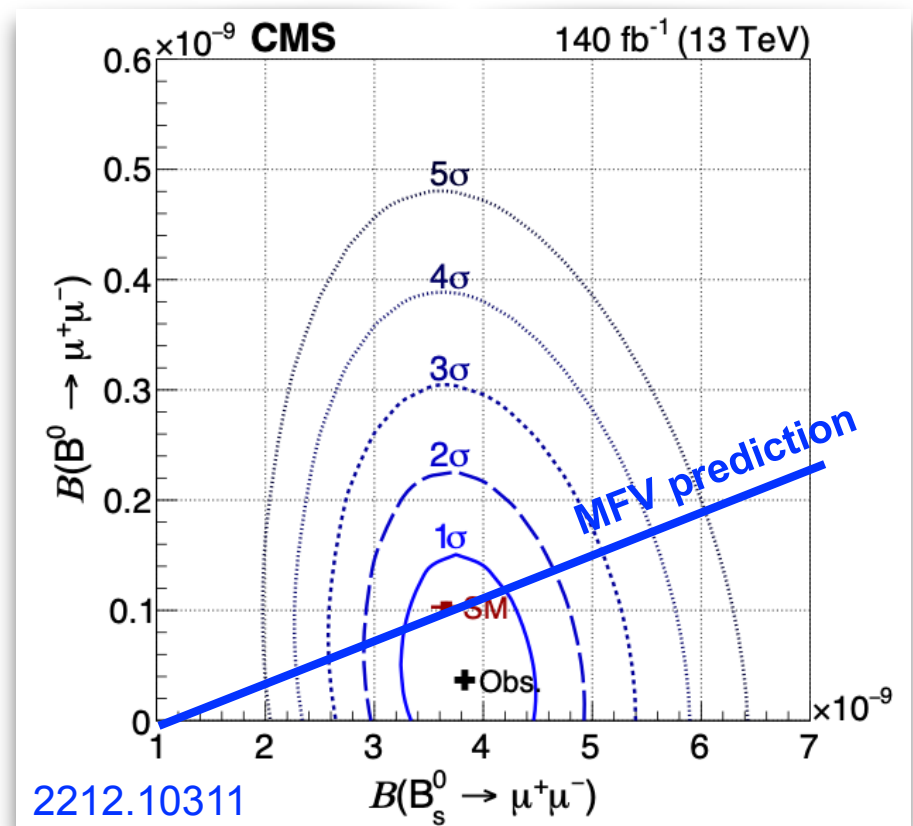
* Therefore, in MFV theories we always get

$$\frac{\text{BR}(B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)}{\text{BR}(B_d \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)} \sim \left| \frac{V_{ts}}{V_{td}} \right|^2$$

Large part of the theory uncertainty
(top mass, decay constant, ...)
is canceled in the ratio

We can extract info on
 $\text{BR}(B_d \rightarrow \mu\mu)$ using
info on $\text{BR}(B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu)$ that
is better measured

Theory
uncertainty
~ few %



Beyond EFTs

- * Up to now, we have considered effective theories arising from more complete theories beyond the SM, with new heavy degrees of freedom that they can be integrated out

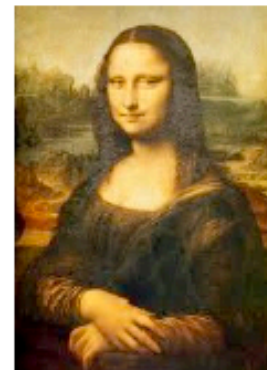
Effective
operator:



SM fields

New degrees
of freedom (d.o.f.)

- * What is the complete BSM theory?
What are the new degrees of freedom?



Next: models
with additional
Higgs bosons...

A Two-Higgs-Doublet-Model (2HDM)

- * Several extensions of the SM involve an **extended Higgs sector**, with more than one Higgs doublet.

Most studied example: SUSY

- * A two Higgs doublet: $H_1 = (1, 2, -1/2)$, $H_2 = (1, 2, 1/2)$ \Rightarrow **Physical fields:** h, H, A, H^\pm

SM doublet

- * Most general Lagrangian

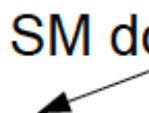
$$V(H_1, H_2) = \mu_1^2 |H_1|^2 + \mu_2^2 |H_2|^2 + (bH_1 H_2 + \text{h.c.}) + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} |H_1|^4 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} |H_2|^4 + \lambda_3 |H_1|^2 |H_2|^2 + \lambda_4 |H_1 H_2|^2 + \left[\frac{\lambda_5}{2} (H_1 H_2)^2 + \lambda_6 |H_1|^2 H_1 H_2 + \lambda_7 |H_2|^2 H_1 H_2 + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

These coefficients are generically complex.
Possible new sources of CP violation

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- * Most general Lagrangian

$$V(H_1, H_2) = \mu_1^2 |H_1|^2 + \mu_2^2 |H_2|^2 + (bH_1 H_2 + \text{h.c.}) + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} |H_1|^4 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} |H_2|^4 + \lambda_3 |H_1|^2 |H_2|^2 + \lambda_4 |H_1 H_2|^2 + \left[\frac{\lambda_5}{2} (H_1 H_2)^2 + \lambda_6 |H_1|^2 H_1 H_2 + \lambda_7 |H_2|^2 H_1 H_2 + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

These coefficients are generically complex.
Possible new sources of CP violation

$$\mathcal{H}_Y^{\text{gen}} = \bar{Q}_L X_{d1} D_R H_1 + \bar{Q}_L X_{u1} U_R H_1^c + \bar{Q}_L X_{d2} D_R H_2^c + \bar{Q}_L X_{u2} U_R H_2$$

Each Higgs doublet can generically couple to up and down quarks.

Flavor Changing Neutral Currents in a 2HDM

$$\mathcal{H}_Y^{\text{gen}} = \bar{Q}_L X_{d1} D_R H_1 + \bar{Q}_L X_{u1} U_R H_1^c + \bar{Q}_L X_{d2} D_R H_2^c + \bar{Q}_L X_{u2} U_R H_2$$

We can rotate to the basis in which only one Higgs has a VEV

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Phi_v \\ \Phi_H \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_\beta & s_\beta \\ -s_\beta & c_\beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} H_1 \\ H_2^c \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} \langle \Phi_v^\dagger \Phi_v \rangle &= v^2/2, \\ \langle \Phi_H^\dagger \Phi_H \rangle &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad \tan \beta \equiv \frac{\langle H_2 \rangle}{\langle H_1 \rangle}$$

Flavor Changing Neutral Currents in a 2HDM

$$\mathcal{H}_Y^{\text{gen}} = \underline{\bar{Q}_L X_{d1} D_R H_1} + \bar{Q}_L X_{u1} U_R H_1^c + \underline{\bar{Q}_L X_{d2} D_R H_2^c} + \bar{Q}_L X_{u2} U_R H_2$$

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$$\langle \Phi_v^\dagger \Phi_v \rangle = v^2/2,$$

$$\langle \Phi_H^\dagger \Phi_H \rangle = 0$$

$$\tan \beta \equiv \frac{\langle H_2 \rangle}{\langle H_1 \rangle}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_Y^{\text{gen}} = \bar{Q}_L \left[\frac{\sqrt{2}}{v} M_d \Phi_v + Z_d \Phi_H \right] D_R.$$

3x3 matrices

$$\begin{cases} Z_d = \cos \beta X_{d2} - \sin \beta X_{d1} \\ M_d = \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} (\cos \beta X_{d1} + \sin \beta X_{d2}) \end{cases}$$

(analogous in the up sector)

Generically
not proportional
to each other!



It is not possible
to diagonalize
them simultaneously

Flavor Changing Neutral Currents in a 2HDM

$$\mathcal{H}_Y^{\text{gen}} = \underline{\bar{Q}_L X_{d1} D_R H_1} + \bar{Q}_L X_{u1} U_R H_1^c + \underline{\bar{Q}_L X_{d2} D_R H_2^c} + \bar{Q}_L X_{u2} U_R H_2$$

We can rotate to the basis in which only one Higgs has a VEV

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Phi_v \\ \Phi_H \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_\beta & s_\beta \\ -s_\beta & c_\beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} H_1 \\ H_2^c \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle \Phi_v^\dagger \Phi_v \rangle = v^2/2,$$

$$\langle \Phi_H^\dagger \Phi_H \rangle = 0$$

$$\tan \beta \equiv \frac{\langle H_2 \rangle}{\langle H_1 \rangle}$$

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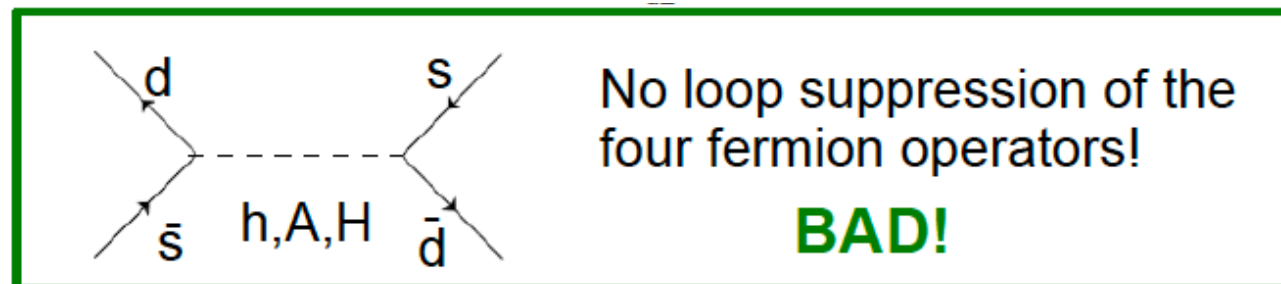
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A MFV 2HDM

$$\mathcal{H}_Y^{\text{gen}} = \bar{Q}_L X_{d1} D_R H_1 + \bar{Q}_L X_{u1} U_R H_1^c + \bar{Q}_L X_{d2} D_R H_2^c + \bar{Q}_L X_{u2} U_R H_2$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{d1} = Y_d \\ X_{u1} = \epsilon_u Y_u + \epsilon'_1 Y_u^\dagger Y_u Y_u + \epsilon'_2 Y_d^\dagger Y_d Y_u + \dots \\ X_{d2} = \epsilon_b Y_d + \epsilon_1 Y_d^\dagger Y_d Y_d + \epsilon_2 Y_u^\dagger Y_u Y_d + \dots \\ X_{u2} = Y_u \end{array} \right.$$

higher orders in the small Yukawa couplings

The ϵ_i are in general complex coefficients

- * The most studied 2HDMs are the so called **Type I, II, III, IV**: these are models where up and down quarks only couple to one Higgs type.

Example: **Type II**: U_R only couple to H_2 and D_R only coupled to H_1

$$(X_{u1} = X_{d2} = 0)$$

- * All these models are a particular limit of a MFV 2HDM

Flavor phenomenology of a MFV 2HDM

* Constraints from meson mixing observables

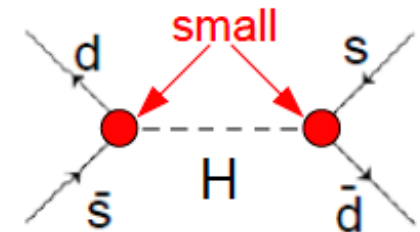
$$\text{Kaon} \sim \frac{A_0}{M_H^2} \tan^4 \beta m_s m_d [V_{ts}^* V_{td}]^2$$

$$B_d \sim \frac{A_1}{M_H^2} \tan^4 \beta m_b m_d [V_{tb}^* V_{td}]^2$$

$$B_s \sim \frac{A_2}{M_H^2} \tan^4 \beta m_b m_s [V_{tb}^* V_{ts}]^2$$

Larger NP effect

A_i are combinations of the ε_i of the previous slide



Flavor phenomenology of a MFV 2HDM

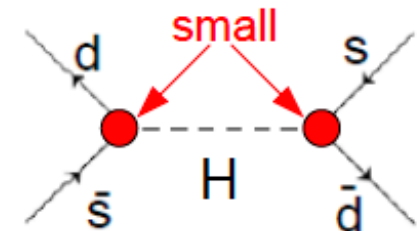
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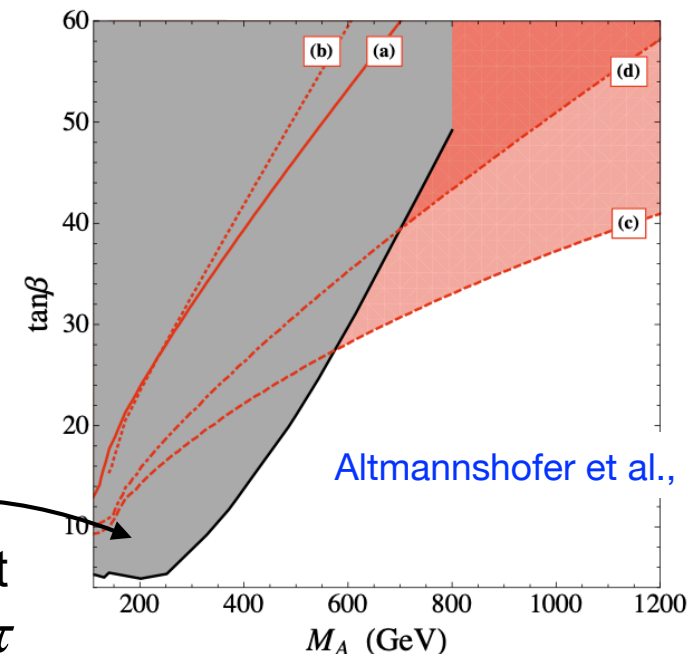


A_i are combinations of the ε_i of the previous slide

* Some possible NP in rare B-decays

$$\frac{\text{Br}(B_q \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)}{\text{Br}(B_q \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)_{\text{SM}}} = (|1 + R_q|^2 + |R_q|^2)$$

$$R_q \propto \frac{M_{B_q}^2 t_\beta^3}{M_H^2}$$



Altmannshofer et al., 1211.1976

Interplay with direct
searches, $H/A \rightarrow \tau\tau$

The origin of fermion masses

In 2012, the LHC ATLAS and CMS collaborations announced the discovery of the Higgs boson.

Is the Higgs field indeed responsible of giving mass to the elementary fermions?

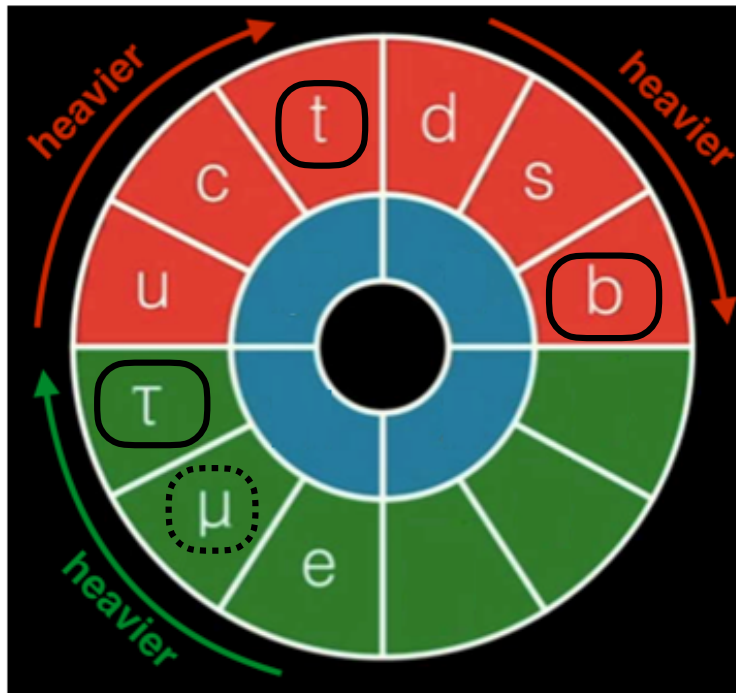
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The Standard Model of particle physics predicts

$$Y_f = m_f / v$$

vacuum expectation
value of the Higgs

Higgs-fermion
interaction strength

○ These interactions are already discovered
➔ the Higgs gives mass to the top, bottom, tau

○ First evidence of the muon-Higgs coupling
~2, 3σ (through the search for $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$)

CMS: JHEP 01 (2021) 148

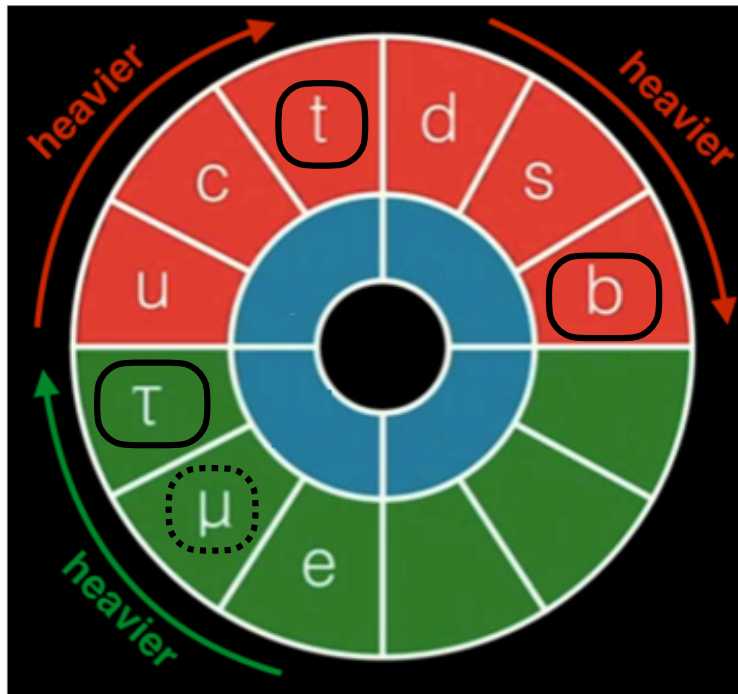
ATLAS: Phys.Lett.B 812 (2021) 135980

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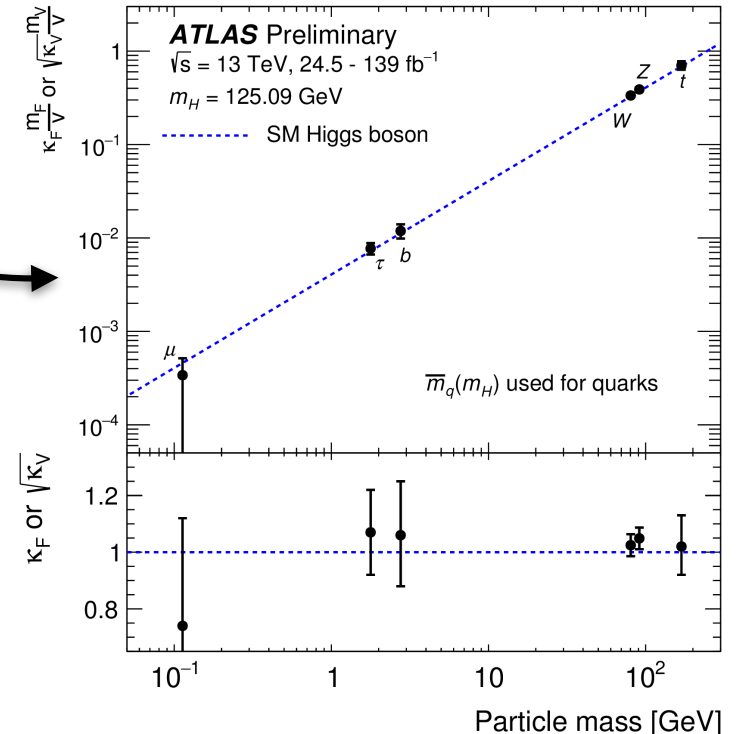
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The Standard Model of particle physics predicts

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Accurate test
of this
proportionality



Future tests of fermion mass generation

We will most probably discover the Higgs interaction with **muons** ✓

➡ Higgs responsible for the muon mass

Testing the mass generation of electrons and light quarks is very challenging



* **Electrons**: $\text{BR}(H \rightarrow ee) \sim 10^{-9}$ but the LHC will only produce $\sim \mathcal{O}(10^8)$ Higgs bosons

Future e^+e^- collider running at the Higgs peak? ($\sqrt{s} \simeq m_h$)

see e.g., JHEP 05 (2015) 125;
Eur.Phys.J.Plus 137 (2022) 2, 201;
Phys.Rev.D 110 (2024) 7, 075026

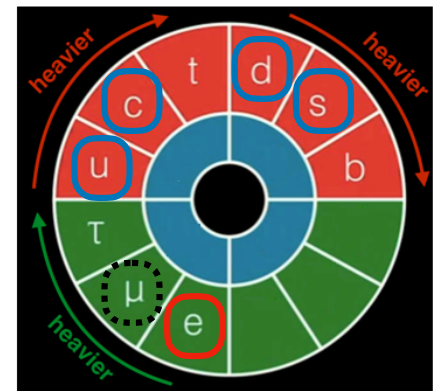
* **Charm**: several ways to test this coupling:

for a review, see e.g., Phys.Lett.B 832 (2022) 137255

$H \rightarrow cc$, Higgs kinematical distributions, VH associated production, ...

$y_c \lesssim (1 - 2)y_c^{\text{SM}}$ at the High-luminosity stage of the LHC
(a factor of ~ 10 more data if compared to now)

* **Lighter quarks**: even more challenging



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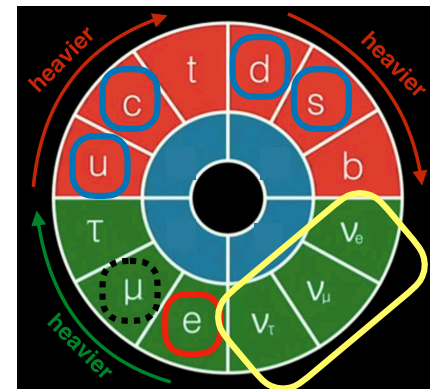
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And what about neutrino masses?



Do neutrino have a mass?

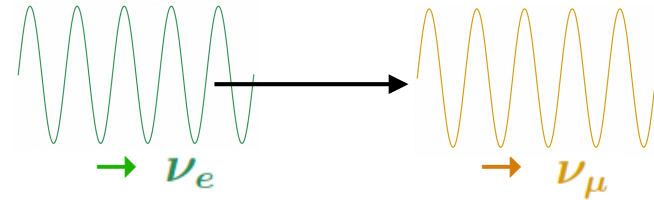
YES! At least 2 neutrinos have a non-zero mass

See lectures
by S. Li

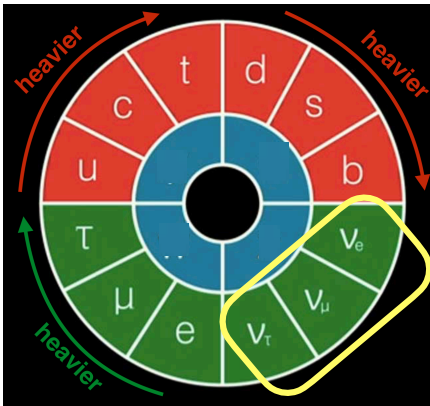
How do we know about it?

We have observed “**neutrino oscillations**”

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix}$$



What is the origin of these masses?



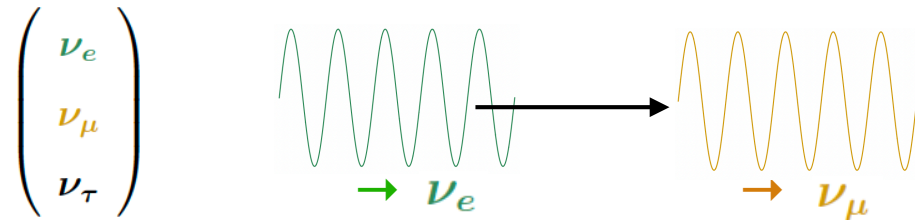
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Brief historical note on neutrinos and neutrino oscillations:

- 1930: “Neutrino” hypothesis by Pauli to explain missing energy in beta decay (later called neutrinos by Fermi).
- 1956: **Neutrino Discovery** by C. Cowan and F. Reines.
- 1958: Neutrino oscillation hypothesis by Pontecorvo.
- 1962: **Discovery of the Muon Neutrino** by Lederman, Schwartz, and Steinberger at BNL
- 1968: **Solar Neutrino Problem**: deficit of electron neutrinos from the sun
- 1986: **Atmospheric Neutrino Anomaly**: deficit of muon neutrinos from cosmic rays
- 1998: **Discovery of Atmospheric Neutrino Oscillations** by Super-Kamiokande in Japan.
- 2001: Confirmation of solar neutrino oscillations by Sudbury Neutrino Observatory.

The problem with neutrino masses

The SM is based on a $SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ gauge symmetry

The building blocks of the SM are the fermion representations:

$$Q_L = \begin{pmatrix} u_L \\ d_L \end{pmatrix} = (3, 2, 1/6), \quad u_R = (3, 1, 2/3), \quad d_R = (3, 1, -1/3)$$

$$L_L = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_L \\ \ell_L \end{pmatrix} = (1, 2, -1/2), \quad e_R = (1, 1, -1)$$

SM neutrinos.

Need to have a mass

$$\begin{array}{c} \swarrow \text{yukawas} \\ \searrow \text{yukawas} \end{array} H = (1, 2, 1/2)$$

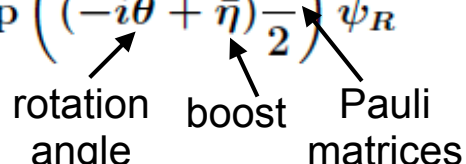
There is no Yukawa interaction that we can write down that involves the ν_L fields \Rightarrow **In the SM, the neutrinos would be massless!**

We need to go **beyond the SM** to explain neutrino masses.
What's the mechanism that gives mass to neutrinos?

Let's start with a little background...

Dirac or Majorana neutrinos

There are two different types of spinors under Lorentz transformations

- Left handed (LH) Weyl spinors: $\psi_L \rightarrow \exp \left((-i\bar{\theta} - \bar{\eta}) \frac{\bar{\sigma}}{2} \right) \psi_L$
 - Right handed (RH) Weyl spinors: $\psi_R \rightarrow \exp \left((-i\bar{\theta} + \bar{\eta}) \frac{\bar{\sigma}}{2} \right) \psi_R$
- 

Different chirality

Dirac or Majorana neutrinos

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- Different chirality
- rotation angle boost Pauli matrices

From here, we can build a **Dirac fermion**

$$\psi_D = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_L \\ \psi_R \end{pmatrix}$$

4-degrees of freedom
(2 complex Weyl spinors)



A **Majorana fermion** is a **particle that is equal to its anti-particle**:

$$\psi_M = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_L \\ i\sigma_2 \psi_L^* \end{pmatrix}$$

2-degrees of freedom



We do not know if neutrinos are Dirac or Majorana fermions

(all the other Standard Model fermions are Dirac fermions since particle \neq anti-particle)

Dirac and Majorana masses

In all generality, spinors can have two different types of masses:

Dirac masses & Majorana masses

$$-\mathcal{L}_M = \frac{1}{2} \left(m_D \bar{\psi}_L \psi_R + m_D \bar{\psi}_R^c \psi_L^c + \frac{M_R}{2} \bar{\psi}_R^c \psi_R + \frac{M_L}{2} \bar{\psi}_L^c \psi_L \right) + \text{h.c.}$$

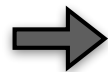
conjugate fermion

Both terms are allowed
by Lorentz invariance

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\psi}_L & \bar{\psi}_R^c \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} M_L & m_D \\ m_D & M_R \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_L^c \\ \psi_R \end{pmatrix} + \text{h.c.}$$

If $M_L, M_R = 0$

If $M_L, M_R \neq 0$



Dirac fermion

Majorana fermion

One possible realization of Majorana neutrinos

So far, we know of the existence of three **LH neutrinos** that interact through the $SU(2)_L$ weak interactions, ν_L

If we add three **RH neutrinos**, N_R , that are not charged under $SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$, then we can write the following Lagrangian terms (invariant under both the SM gauge symmetries and the Lorentz symmetry)

$$-\mathcal{L}_\nu = (Y_\nu \bar{L}_L H N_R + \text{h.c.}) + M \bar{N}_R^c N_R$$

$$L_L = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\nu_L} \\ \ell_L \end{pmatrix}$$

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Dirac neutrinos, $M = 0$

$Y_\nu \simeq 10^{-12}$ a really tiny Yukawa interaction would be needed. **Why so small?**

For comparison, the electron Yukawa: $Y_e \simeq 10^{-6}$

Neutrinos behave exactly as all the other SM fermions

we do not know if RH neutrinos exist

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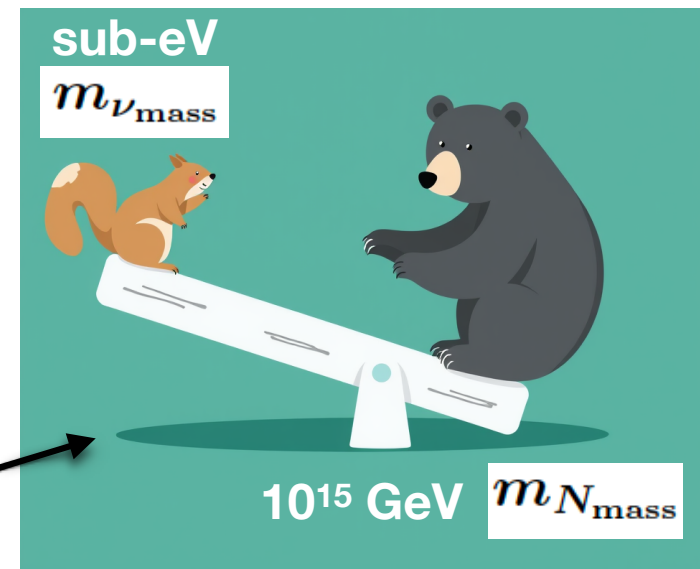
if $Y_\nu v \ll M$, $m_{\nu_{\text{mass}}} = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{Y_\nu^2 v^2}{M}\right)$, $m_{N_{\text{mass}}} \sim M$

$Y_\nu \simeq 1$ and $M \simeq 10^{15}$ GeV

RH neutrinos can be lighter if smaller Yukawa

(Type-I) seesaw mechanism

we do not know if RH neutrinos exist



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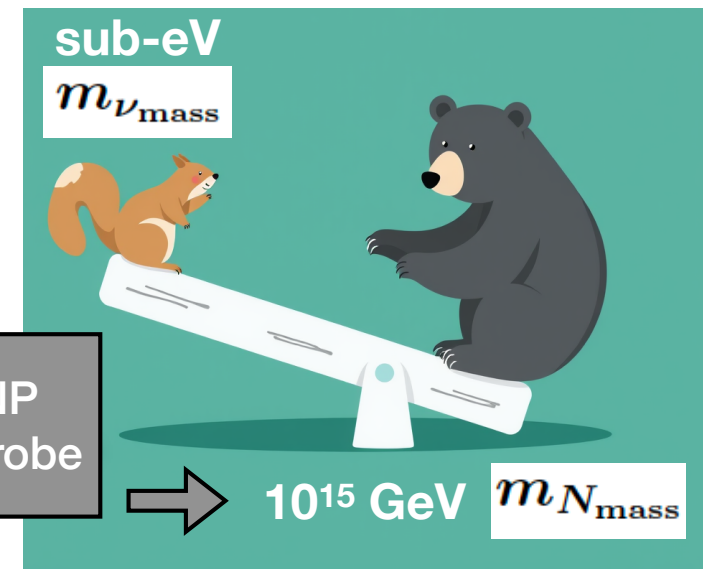
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$Y_\nu \simeq 1$ and $M \simeq 10^{15} \text{ GeV}$
RH neutrinos can be lighter if smaller Y_ν

This is a very heavy NP scale. Challenging to probe

(Type-I) seesaw mechanism

we do not know if RH neutrinos exist



A “mixed” solution: lighter sterile neutrinos

$$m_{\nu_{\text{mass}}} = \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{Y_{\nu}^2 v^2}{M} \right), \quad m_{N_{\text{mass}}} \sim M$$

Sterile neutrinos can be **lighter** than 10^{15} GeV.
For example, if $Y_{\nu} \sim Y_e$, $M \sim \text{TeV}$

How to detect this type
of neutrinos?

A “mixed” solution: lighter sterile neutrinos

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This operator will generically induce some mixing of N with the three active SM neutrinos, $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$

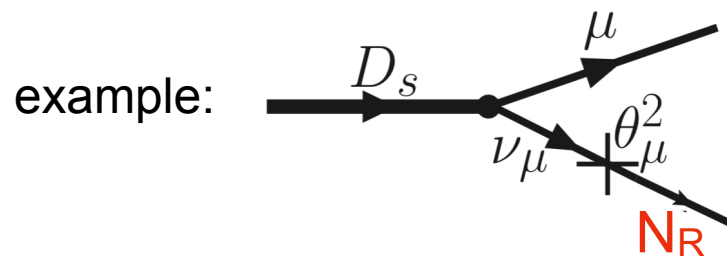
$$U \sim \frac{yv}{M}$$

➡ Whenever we produce SM neutrinos, we can also produce sterile neutrinos

Sterile neutrinos @ colliders

Production

* From meson decays:



* At higher energies, decays of W, Z, H

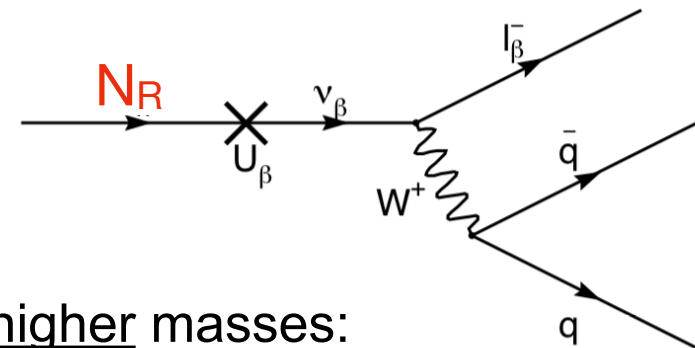
$W \rightarrow l N$, $Z/H \rightarrow NN$, $Z/H \rightarrow N\nu$
 (mass eigenstate)

see Atre et al., 0901.3589

Gorbunov, Shaposhnikov, 0705.1729

$$U \sim \frac{yv}{M}$$

Decay



At higher masses:

$N \rightarrow Z^{(*)}\nu$, $N \rightarrow W^{(*)}l$, $N \rightarrow H^{(*)}\nu$

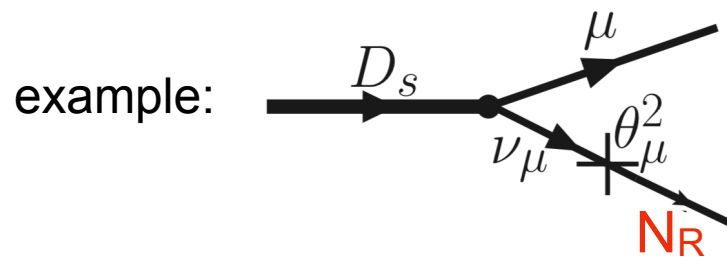
At lower masses: vector meson dominance technique:

$N \rightarrow l \text{ meson}(s)$, $N \rightarrow \nu \text{ meson}(s)$, ...

Sterile neutrinos @ colliders

Production

- * From meson decays:

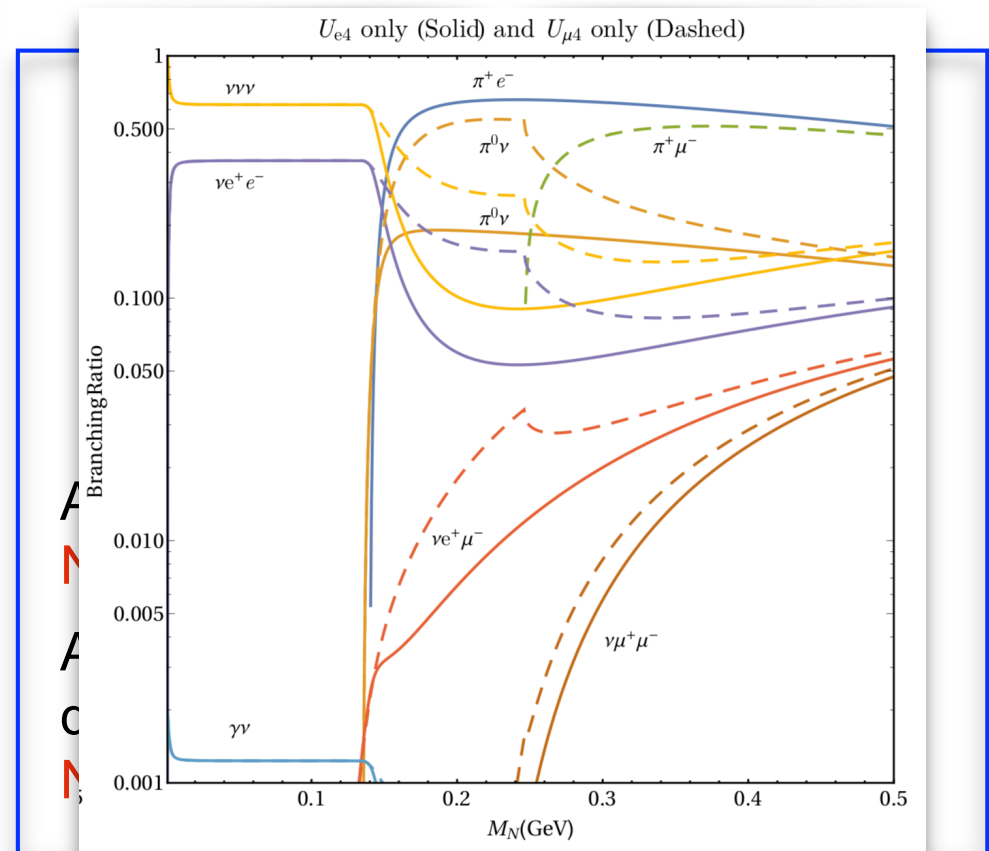


- * At higher energies, decays of W, Z, H
 $W \rightarrow l N$, $Z/H \rightarrow NN$, $Z/H \rightarrow N\nu$
 (mass eigenstate)

see Atre et al., 0901.3589
 Gorbunov, Shaposhnikov, 0705.1729

$$U \sim \frac{y\nu}{M}$$

A diagram showing the decay of a Higgs boson (H) into a sterile neutrino (N_R) and a neutrino (ν_α). A vertical dashed line represents the Higgs boson. At a vertex, it splits into two particles: a sterile neutrino (N_R) and a neutrino (ν_α). The vertex is marked with a blue 'X'.

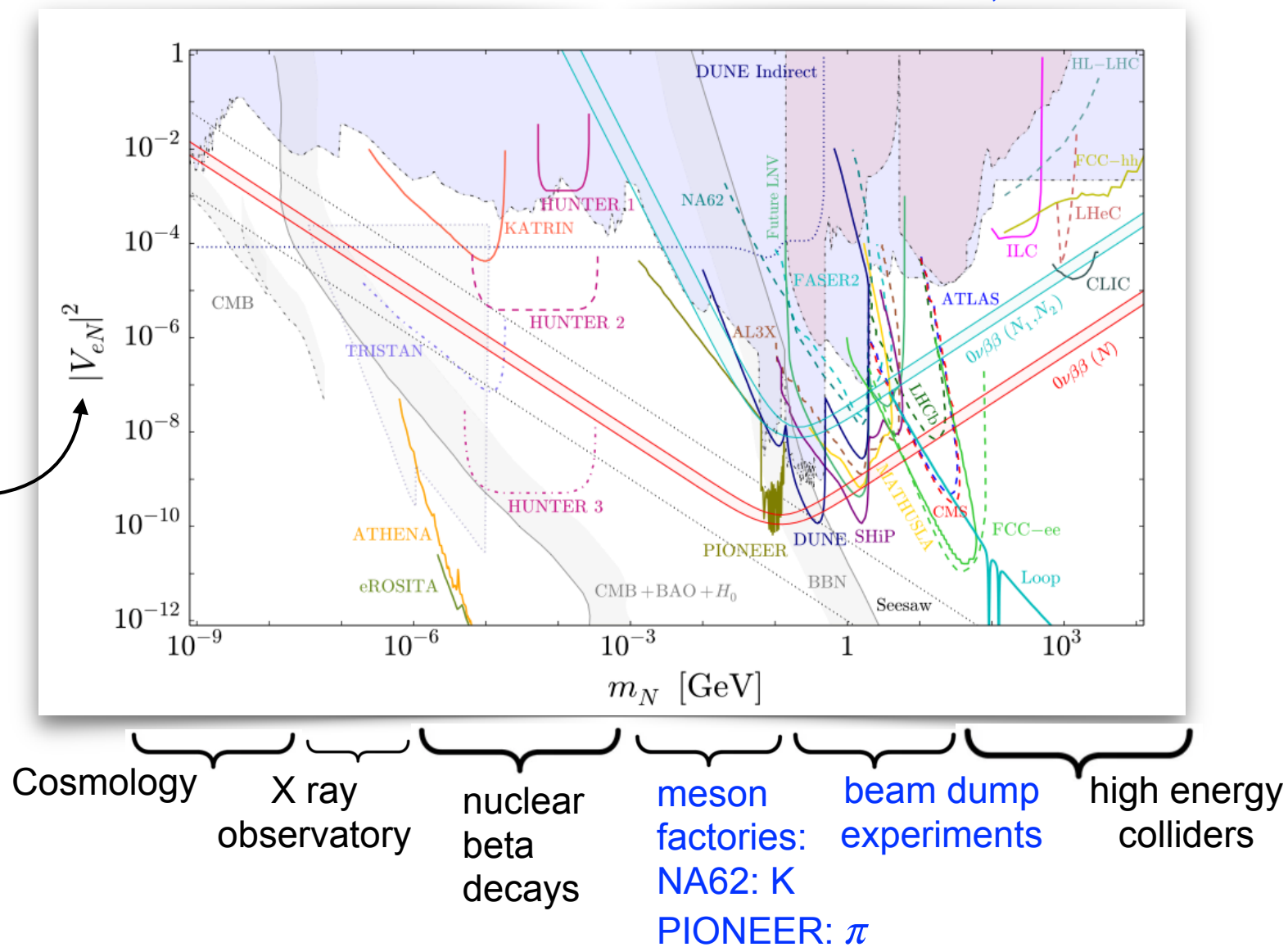


Ballett et al., 1610.08512

Bounds on sterile neutrinos

Bolton et al., 2206.01140

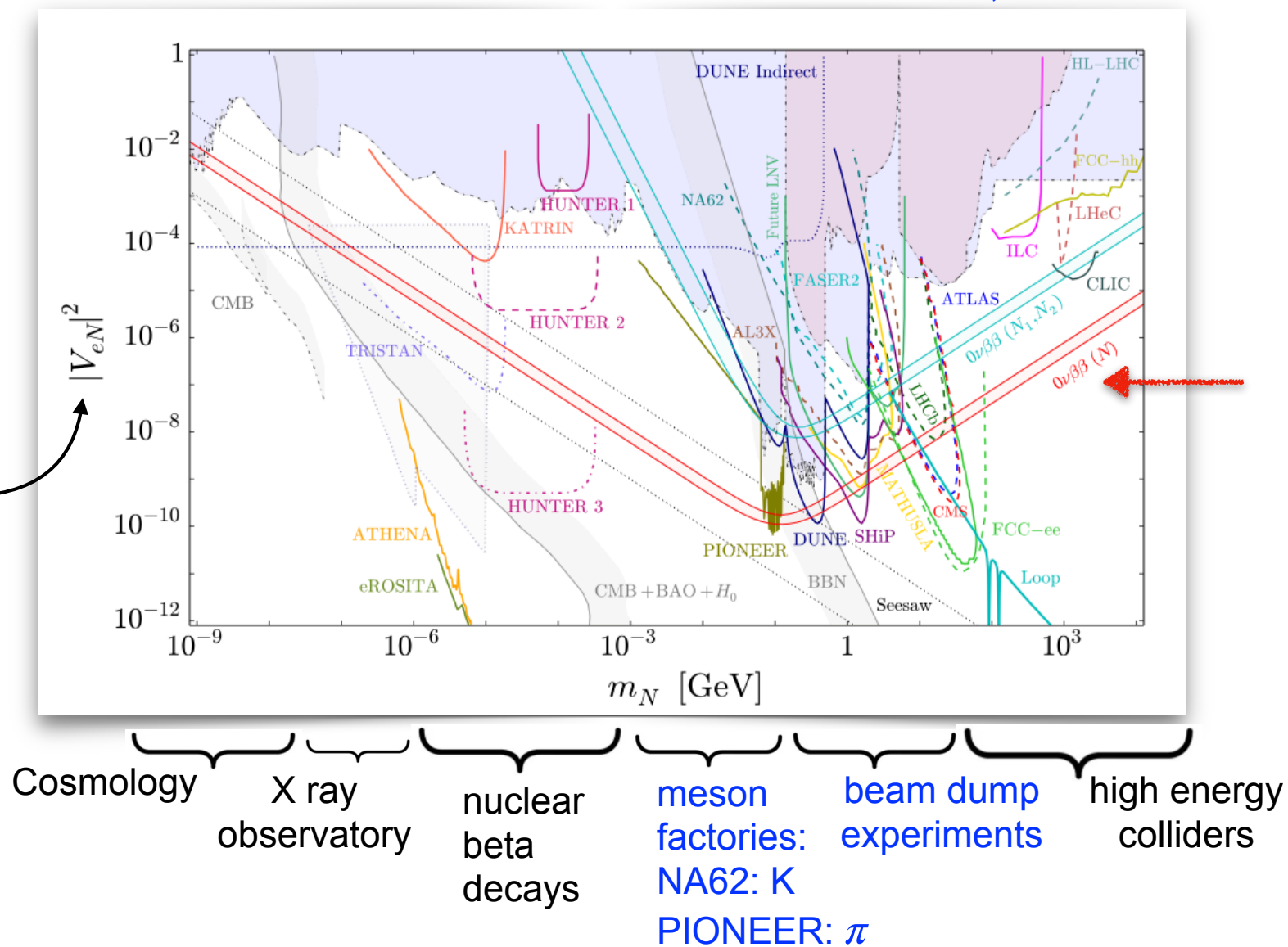
sterile neutrino
that mixes with the
SM electron neutrino



Bounds on sterile neutrinos

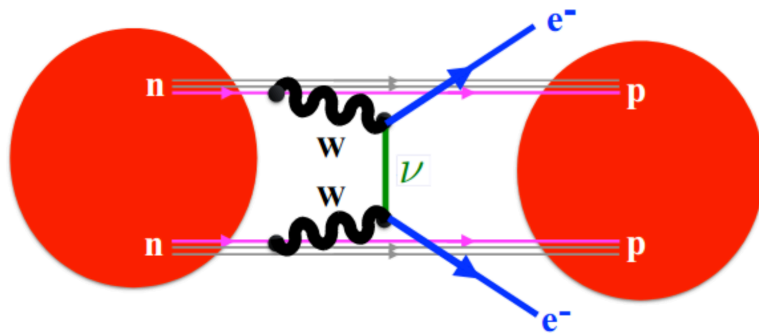
Bolton et al., 2206.01140

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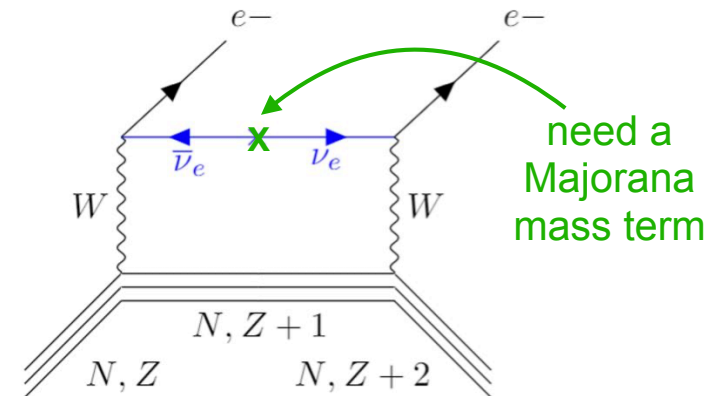
More on
these experiments
later...

Neutrino-less-double-beta decay



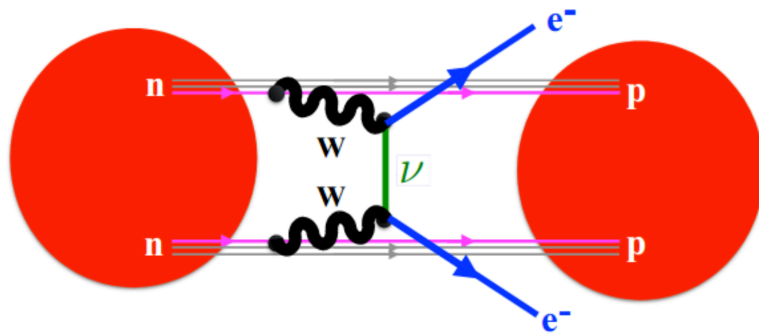
nucleus with N nucleons
and Z atomic number

nucleus with N nucleons
and Z+2 atomic number



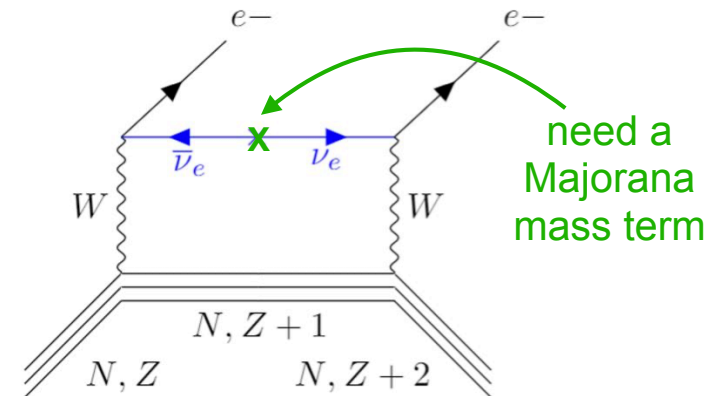
violation of the lepton number

Neutrino-less-double-beta decay



nucleus with N nucleons
and Z atomic number

nucleus with N nucleons
and Z+2 atomic number



violation of the lepton number

$$1/T_{1/2} = G_{0\nu} |M_{0\nu}|^2 m_{ee}^2$$

Phase space factor

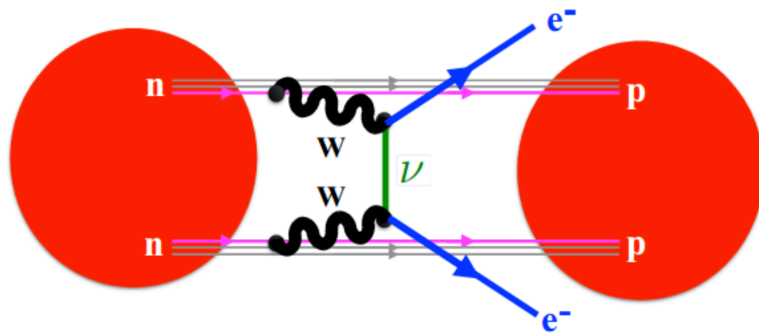
Nuclear Matrix Element. Difficult
calculation with large uncertainties

$$m_{ee} = \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 m_i U_{ei}^2 \right| = \left| \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1 e^{2i\eta_1} \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2 \sin^2 \theta_{12} e^{2i\eta_2}) + m_3 e^{2i\delta} \sin^2 \theta_{13} \right|$$

with the PMNS matrix:
(introduced in the lectures by N.Blinov)

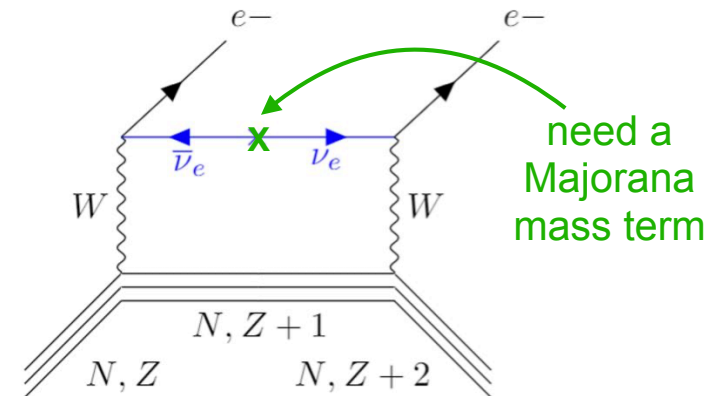
$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & s_{13} e^{-i\delta} & \\ & 1 & \\ -s_{13} e^{i\delta} & & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\eta_1} & & \\ & e^{i\eta_2} & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Neutrino-less-double-beta decay



nucleus with N nucleons
and Z atomic number

nucleus with N nucleons
and Z+2 atomic number



need a
Majorana
mass term

violation of the lepton number

$$1/T_{1/2} = G_{0\nu} |M_{0\nu}|^2 m_{ee}^2$$

Phase space factor

Nuclear Matrix Element. Difficult
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In the presence of
sterile neutrinos:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{10^{28} \text{ yr}}{T_{1/2}} = \left(\frac{|V_{eN}|^2}{10^{-9}} \frac{1 \text{ GeV}}{m_N} \right)^2, & m_N \gtrsim 100 \text{ MeV} \\ \frac{10^{28} \text{ yr}}{T_{1/2}} = \left(\frac{|V_{eN}|^2}{10^{-9}} \frac{m_N}{10 \text{ MeV}} \right)^2, & m_N \lesssim 100 \text{ MeV} \end{cases}$$

Experimental searches for $0\nu\beta\beta$

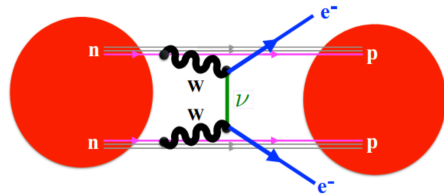
Current experimental bound: $m_{ee} < (28 - 122) \text{ meV}$

(range due to nuclear
matrix element uncertainties)

This correspond to a half-time, $T_{1/2}$: **$3.8 \times 10^{26} \text{ years!}$**

KamLAND-Zen, 2406.11438

Five decays per Year per Ton of Isotope!



Key of these searches:

we have **Avogadro numbers** of nuclei!

Is this a larger number? YES

for comparison

- **age of the universe $\sim 10^{10} \text{ years}$**
- **neutrino double beta decay $\sim 10^{26} \text{ years}$**
- **proton decay $> 10^{30} \text{ years}$**

Future goal:
probing half-time
of **$\sim 10^{28} \text{ years}$**
(LEGEND-1000, nEXO)

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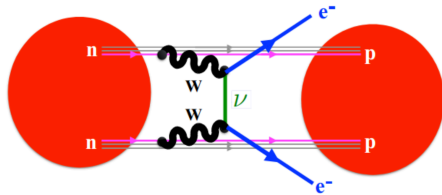
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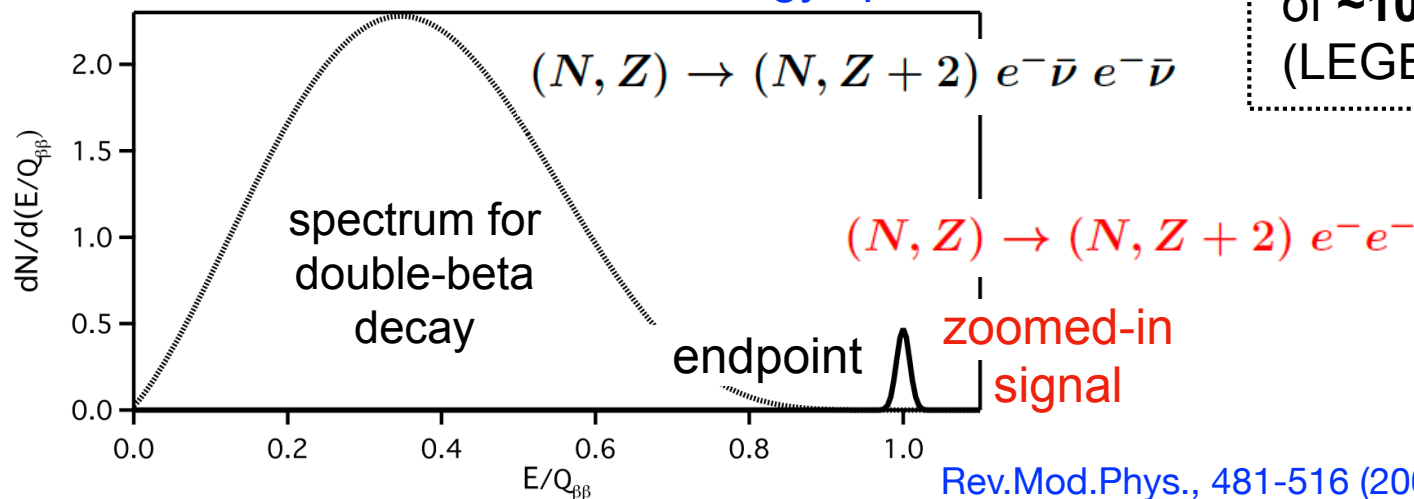
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measurement of the **electron energy spectrum**:



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**More in
S.Li's lectures**

Chapter 3: Light New Physics

- * Dark Matter and the dark sectors in the MeV-GeV range
- * Axions and axion-like-particles



Dark Matter (DM) is there!

What do we know about it? **Not much**

1. It gravitates

1933 Fritz Zwicky



Coma cluster (of galaxies)

1970, Vera Rubin



Andromeda Galaxy

- 2. It is dark (i.e. it does not interact with photons)
- 3. It is stable on cosmological scales



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Fun fact: There is lots of DM in the Universe, but

for DM particles weighing several hundred times the mass of the proton, there should be about **one DM particle per coffee-cup-sized volume of space.**

“Weakly” interacting or collision less DM

Optical, **X-ray gas (ordinary matter)**, **dark matter**



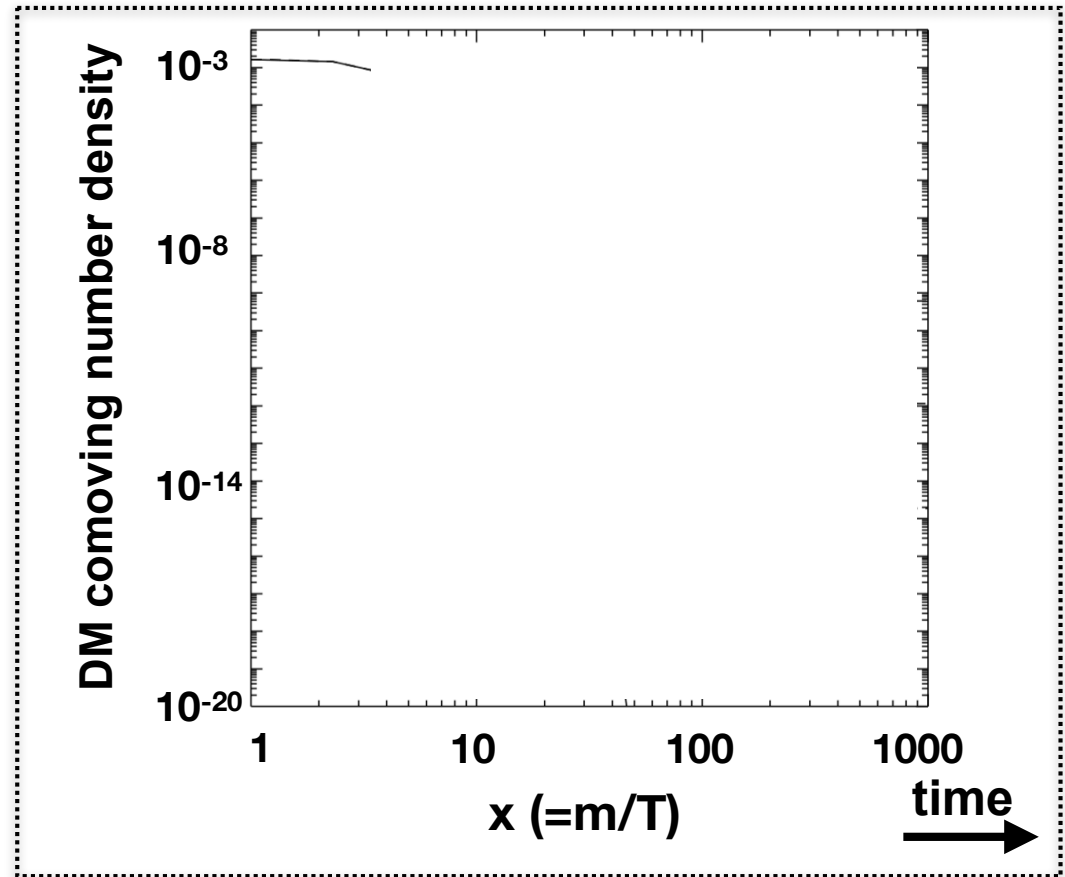
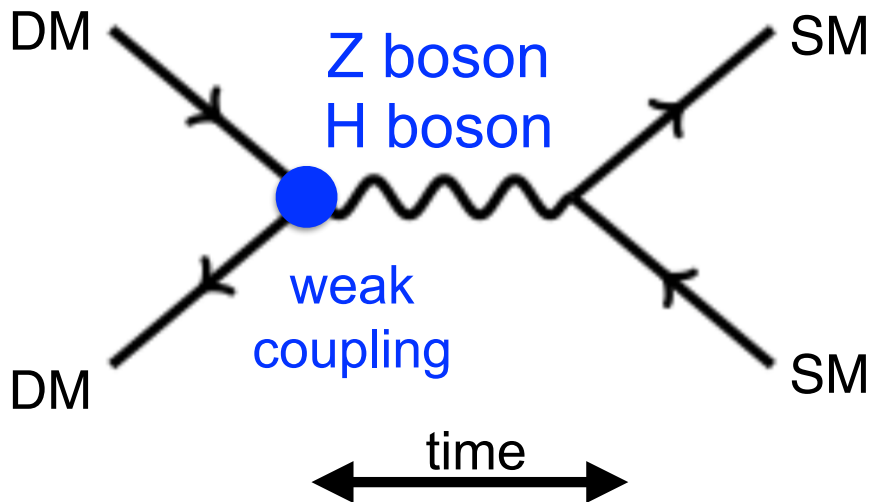
The “WIMP” paradigm

Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMP) models:
One of the dominant models for more than 3 decades

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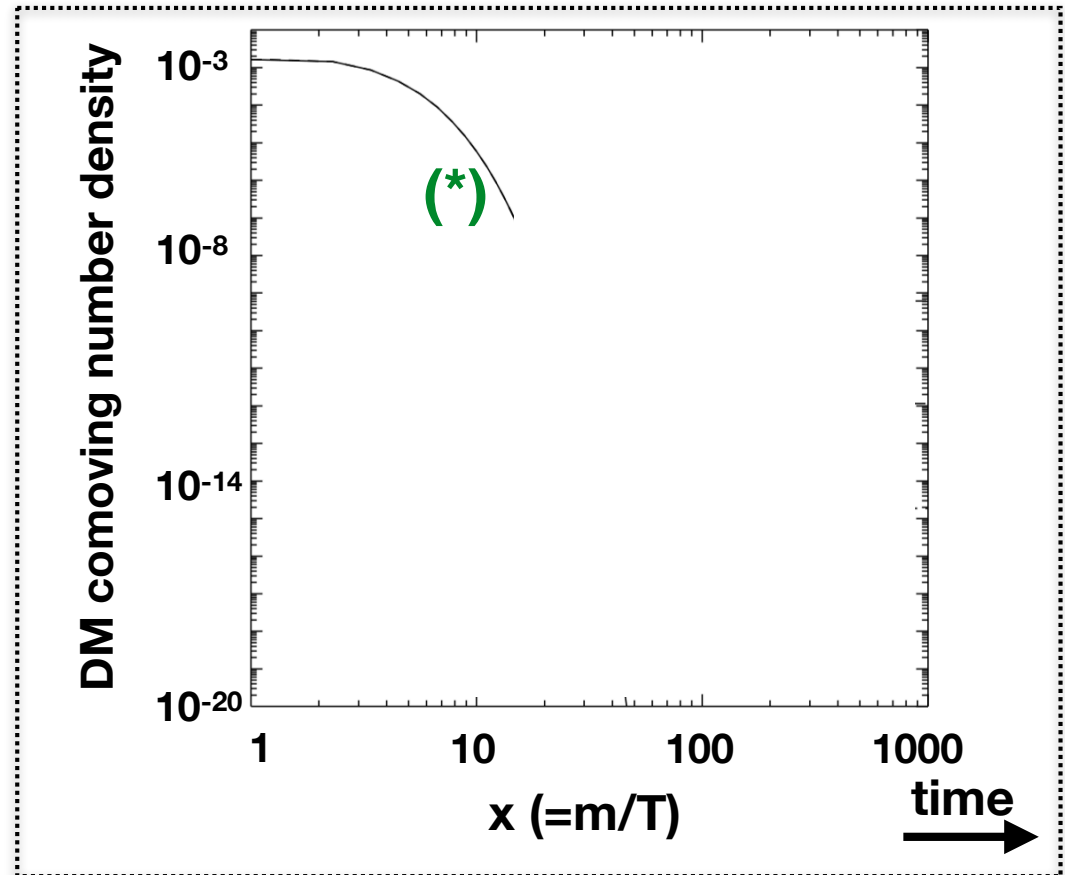
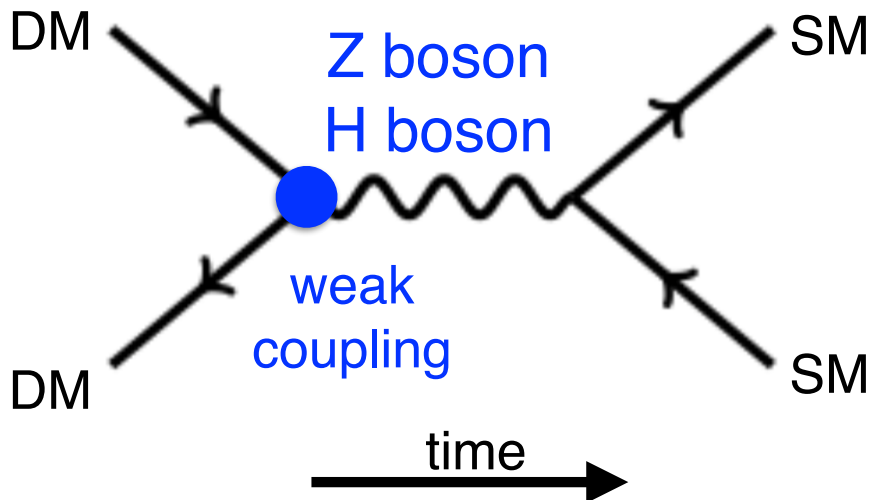
Thermal Dark Matter



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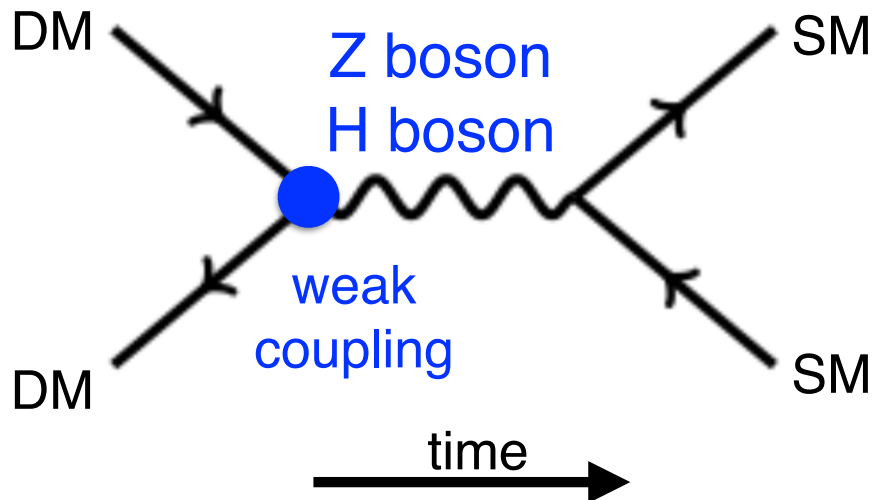
DM annihilation to SM (*):



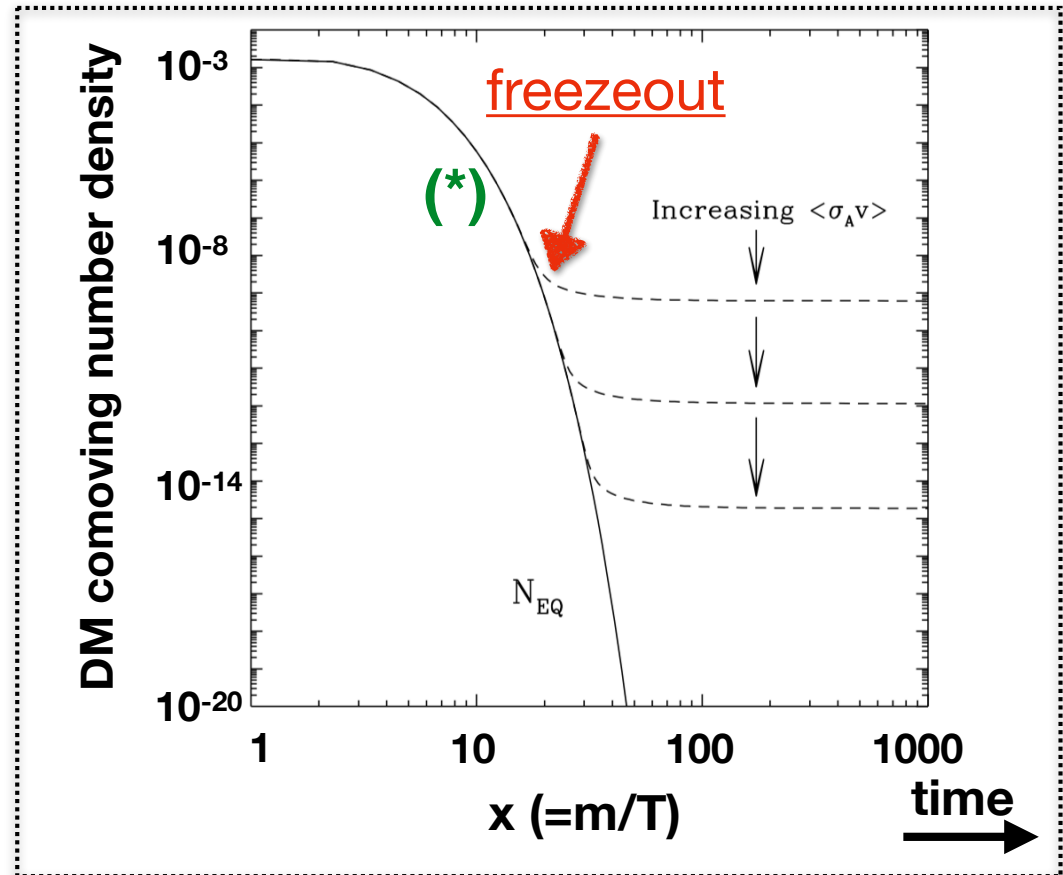
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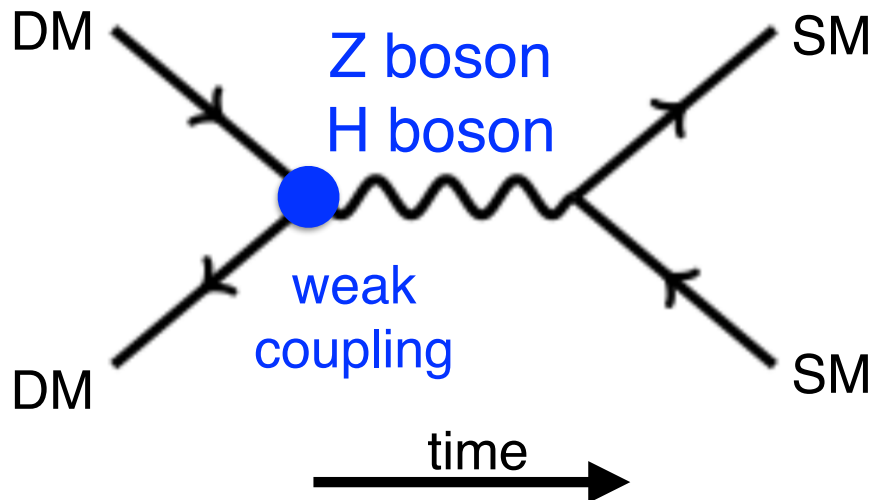
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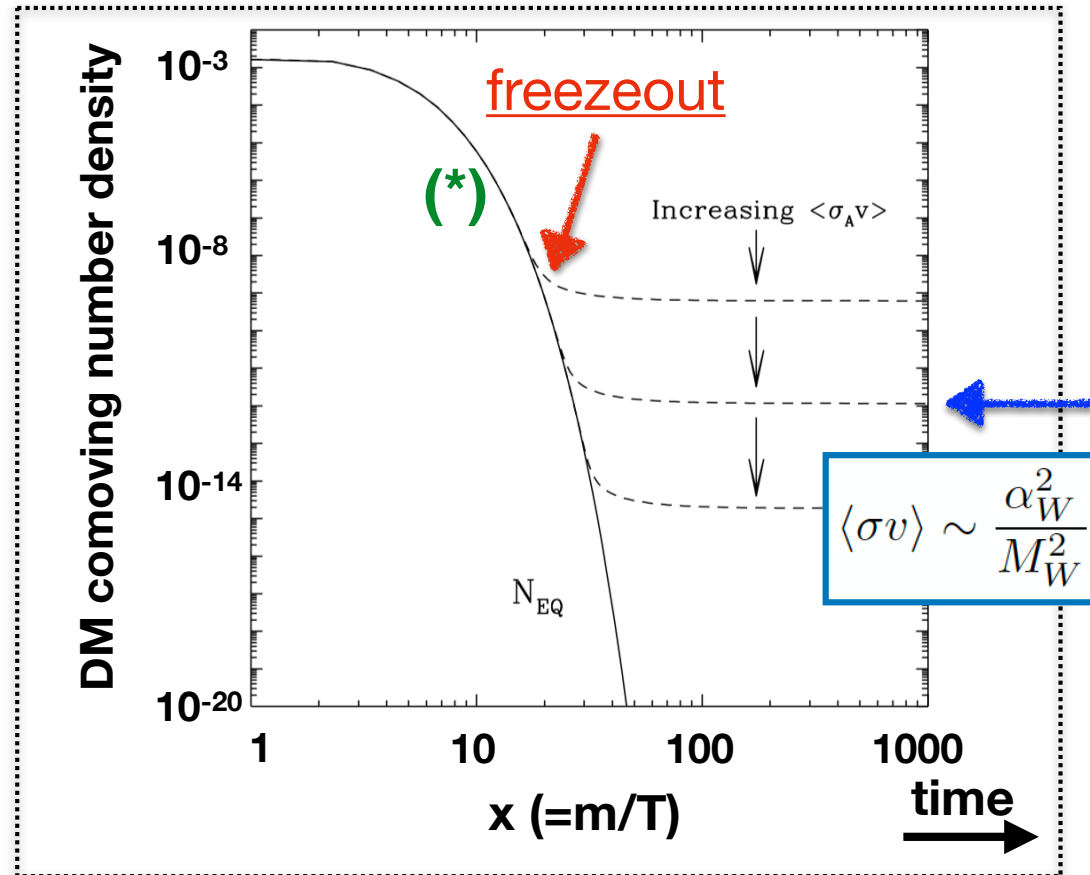
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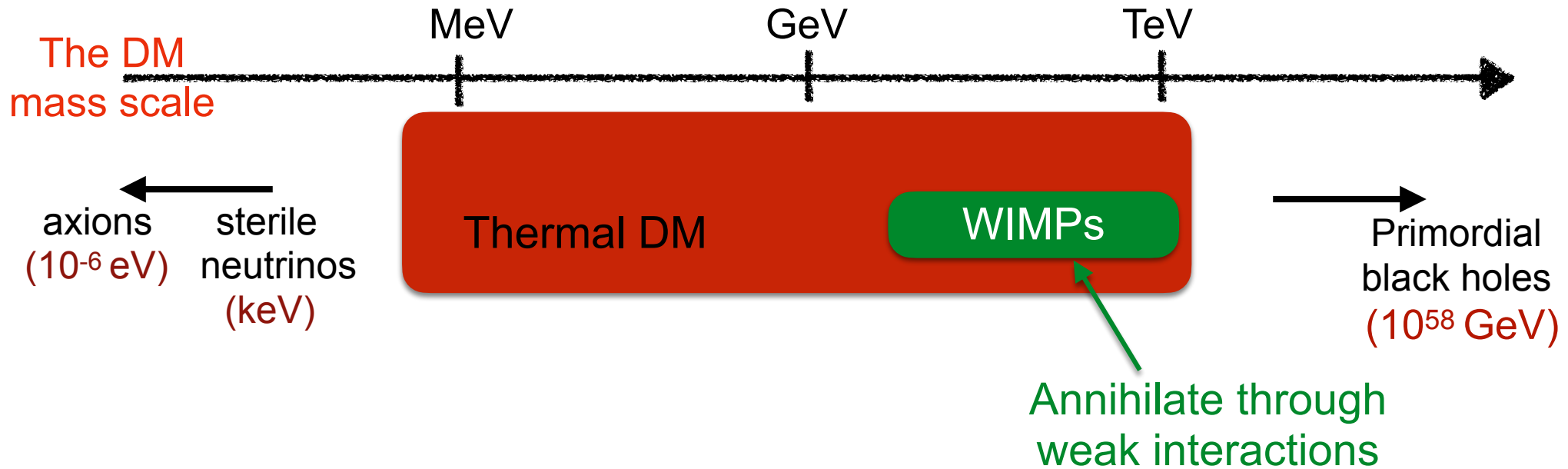
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Thanks to these interactions, DM with a mass $O(100 \text{ GeV})$ can freeze-out and obtain the measured relic abundance

WIMP “miracle”?
... or “coincidence”

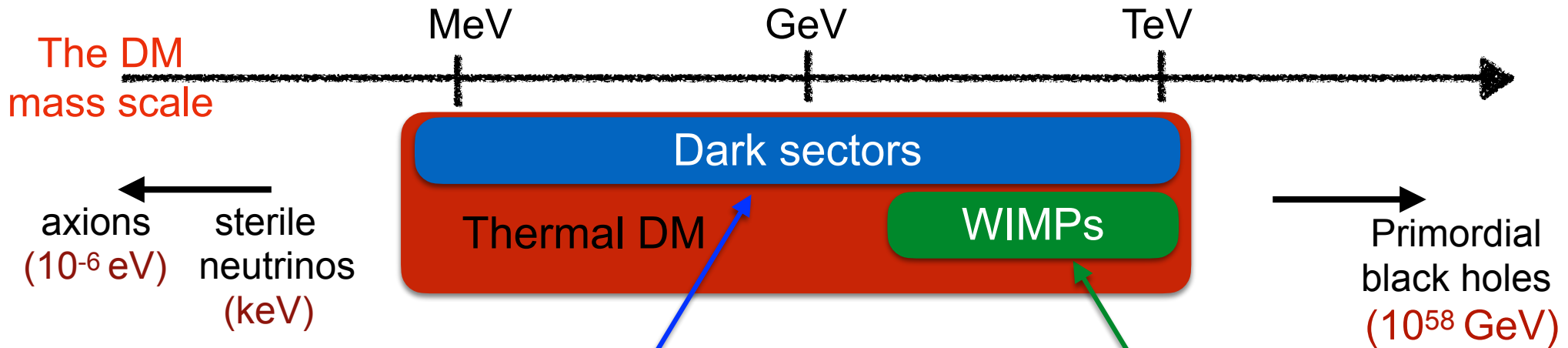
Dark Matter & dark sectors



The dark matter scale is unknown.

Completely different search strategies depending on the mass of dark matter

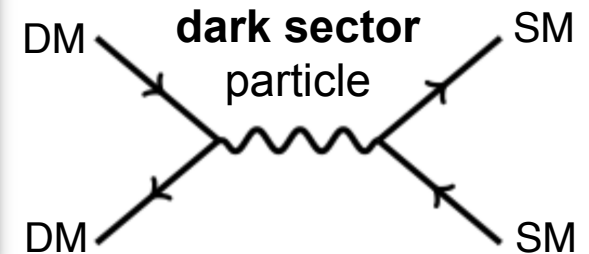
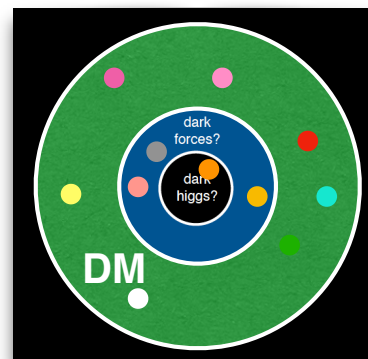
Dark Matter & dark sectors



Neutral under the SM interactions.
If **thermal**, Dark Matter **generically needs additional particles to annihilate with**

Annihilate through weak interactions

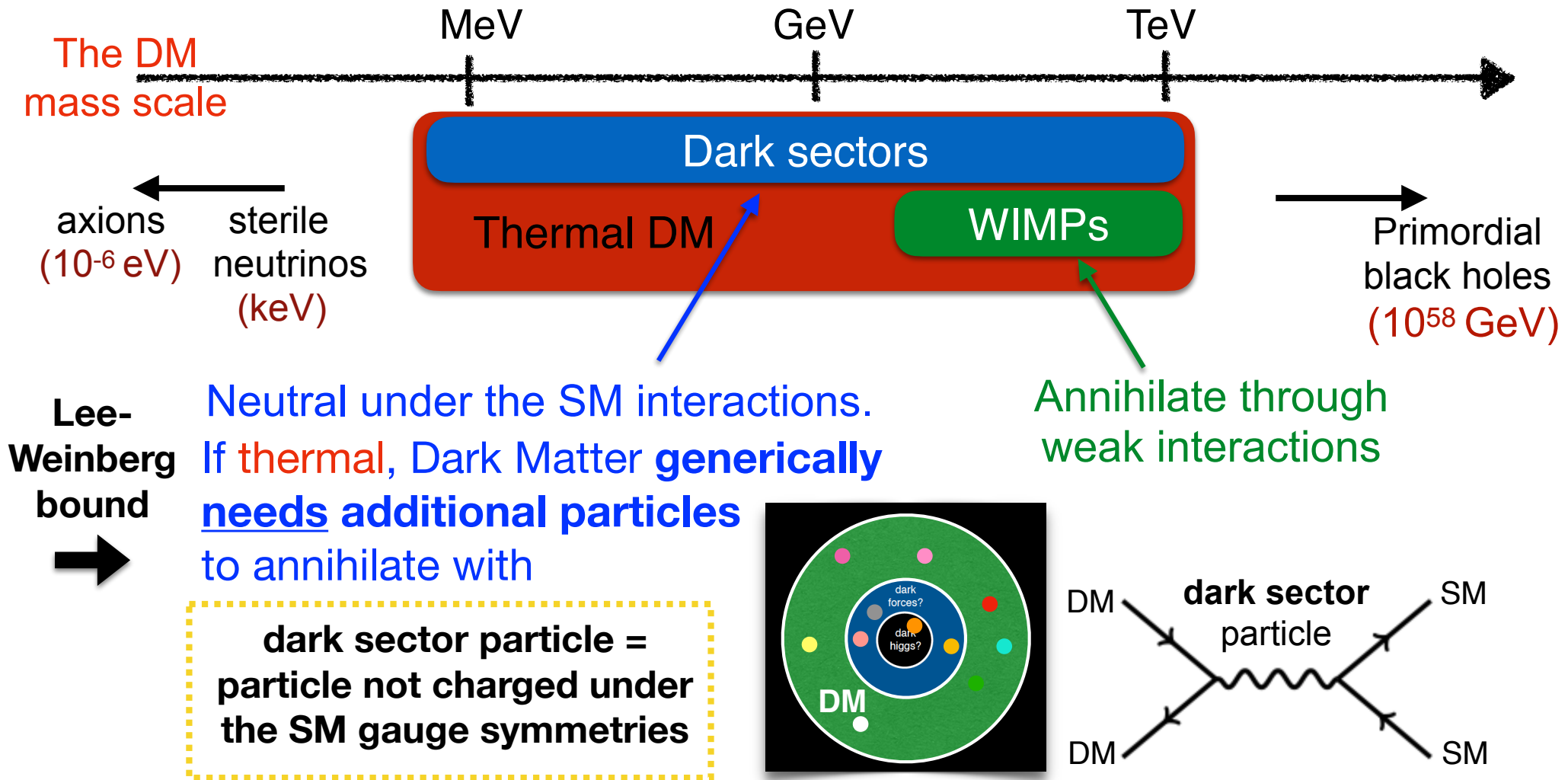
dark sector particle = particle not charged under the SM gauge symmetries



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Dark Matter & dark sectors

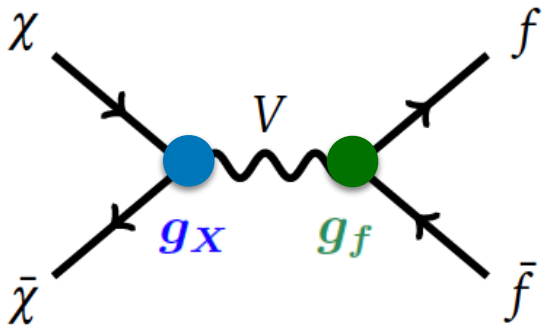


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Completely different search strategies depending on the mass of dark matter

Computation of the Lee-Weinberg bound

Thermal freezeout calculation for a (light) DM particle annihilating to light fermions

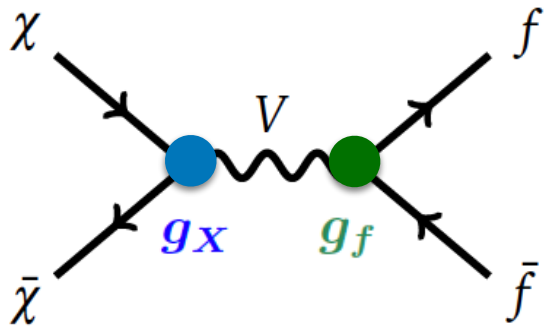


Minimum annihilation cross section needed for a thermal relic DM candidate (to avoid overabundance):

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle^{\min} \simeq \frac{1}{10^9 \text{GeV}^2}$$

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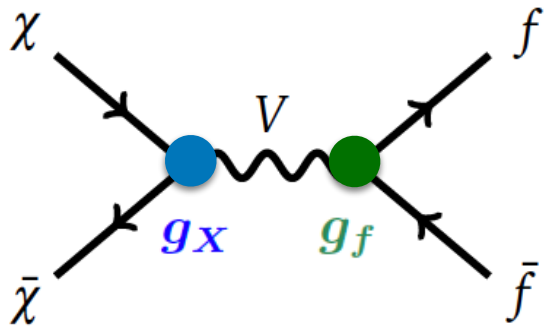
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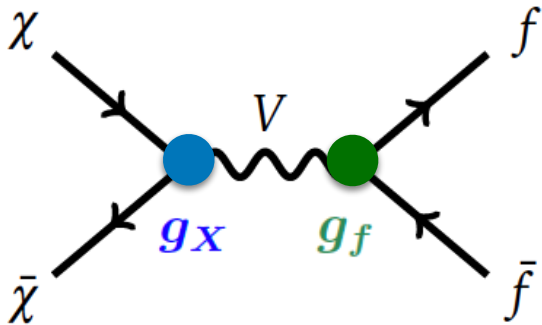
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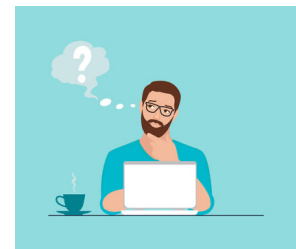
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**Thermal origin is a simple and compelling idea for the origin of dark matter.
How does it work at low mass?**



End of the second class

Dark sector portals to the Standard Model

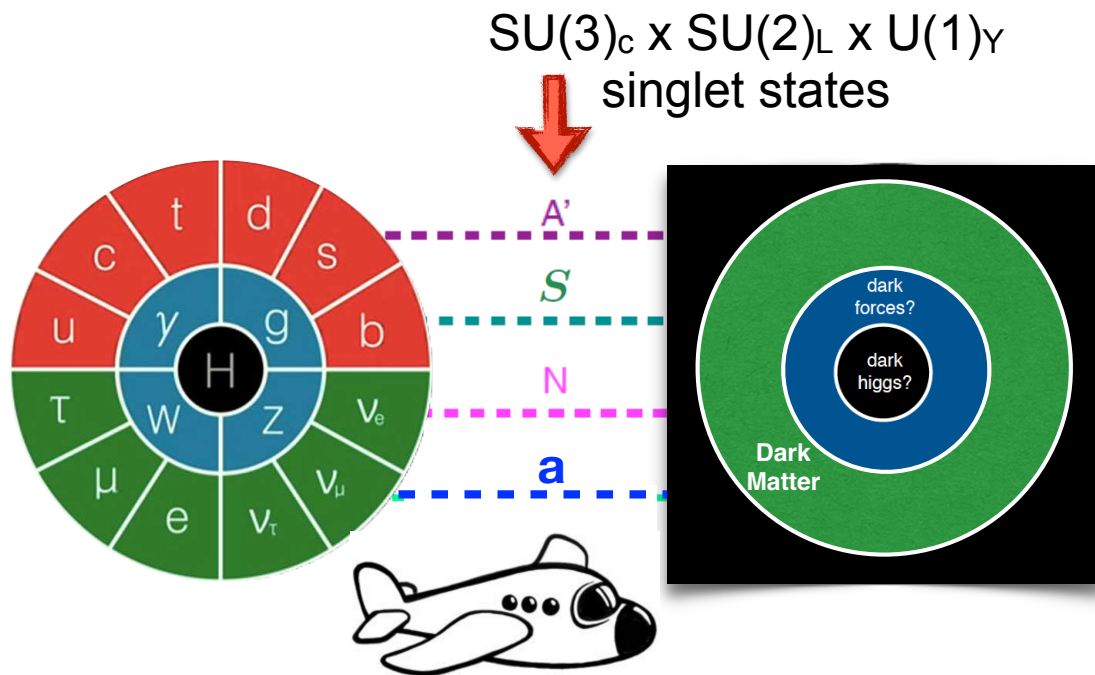
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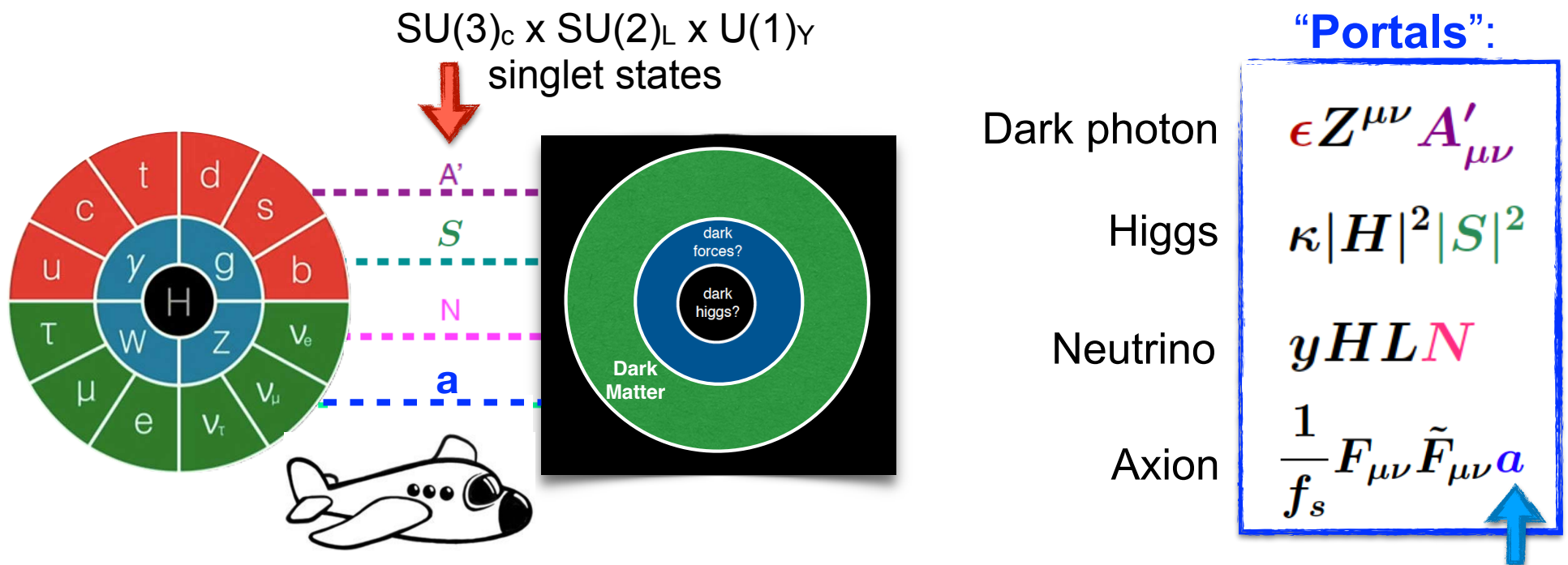


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There is only a small set of “portal” interactions with the SM



We can also gauge an anomaly-free approximate symmetry of the SM, $U(1)_{B-L}$, $U(1)_{L_\mu - L_\tau}$: $(\bar{f} \gamma^\mu f) Z'_\mu$

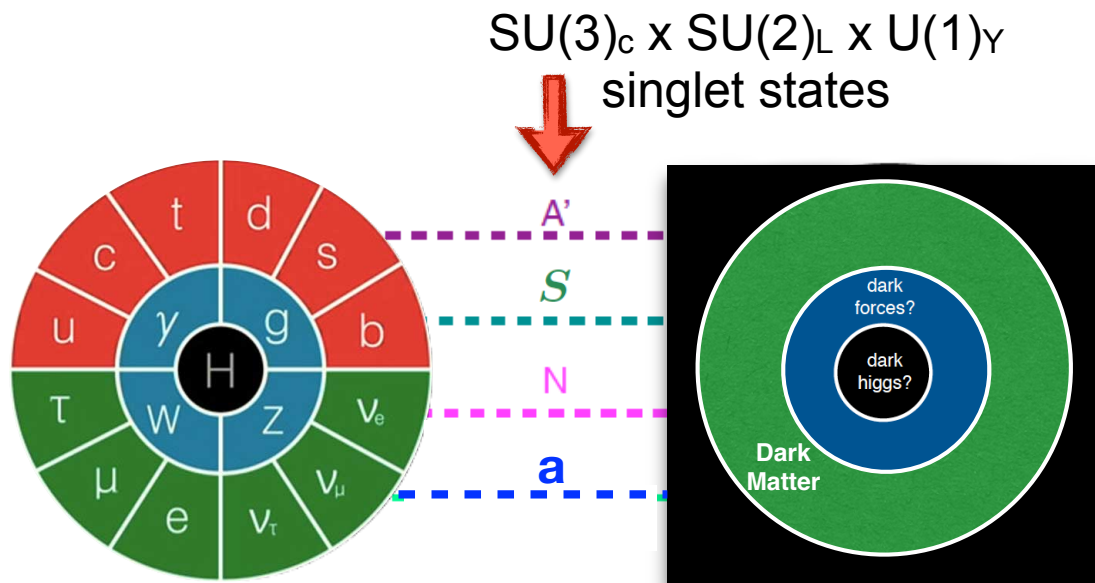
Only possible couplings at dimension < 6 , consistent with SM symmetries

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“Portals”:

Dark photon

$$\epsilon Z^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu} \quad (*)$$

Higgs

$$\kappa |H|^2 |S|^2$$

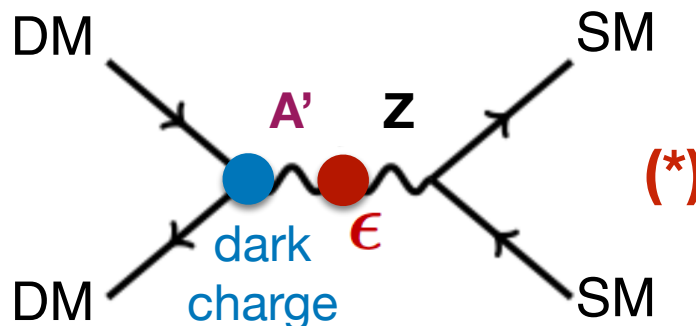
Neutrino

$$y H L N$$

Axion

$$\frac{1}{f_s} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} a$$

Example:



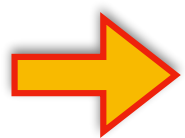
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“Thermal goal” for Dark Matter models

Dark photon	$\epsilon Z^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$
Higgs	$\kappa H ^2 S ^2$
Neutrino	$y H L N$
Axion	$\frac{1}{f_s} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} a$

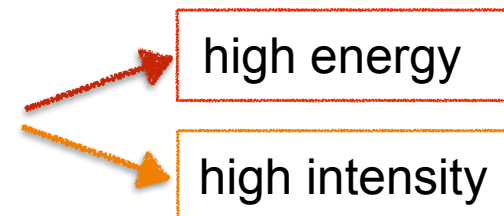
The **portal coupling** cannot be too small if we want to have a thermal Dark Matter freeze-out scenario

The Standard Model needs to be at least a little coupled to the dark sector



**Experimental
thermal target**

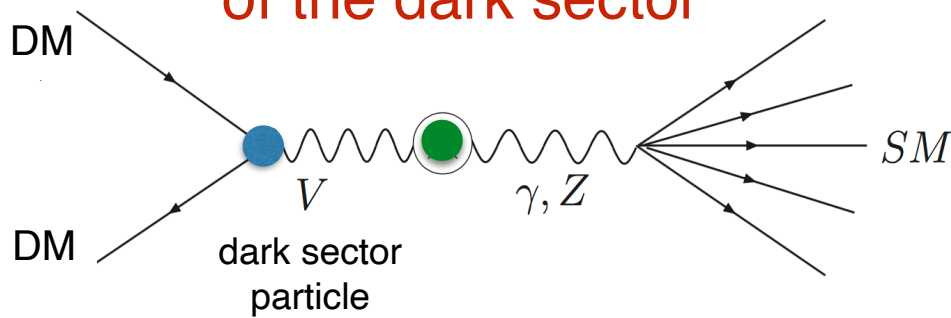
Many opportunities for collider experiments!



Thermal targets

Two general classes of thermal DM:

1. DM is the lightest state of the dark sector

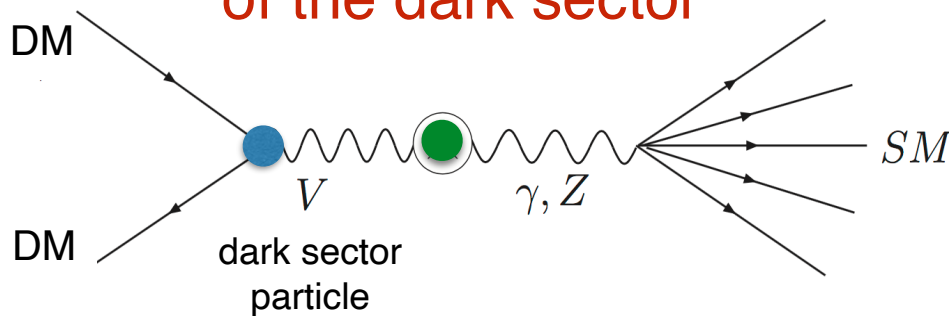


Relic abundance regulated by ●, ●

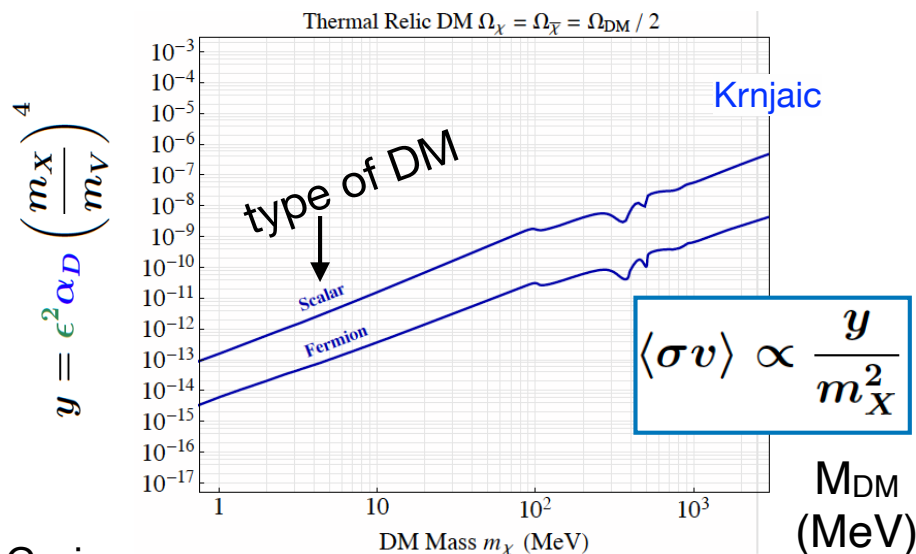
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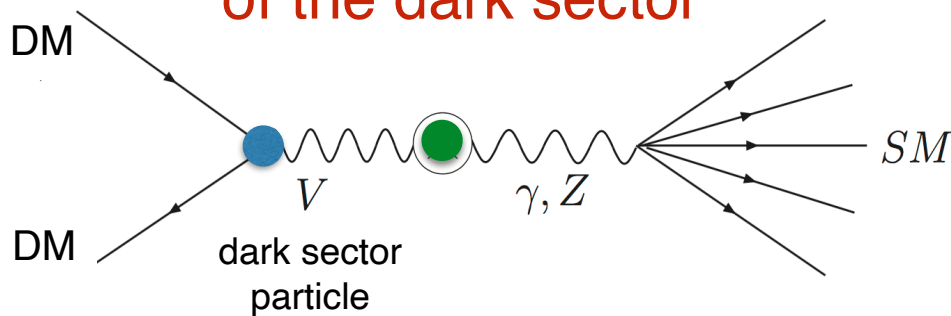
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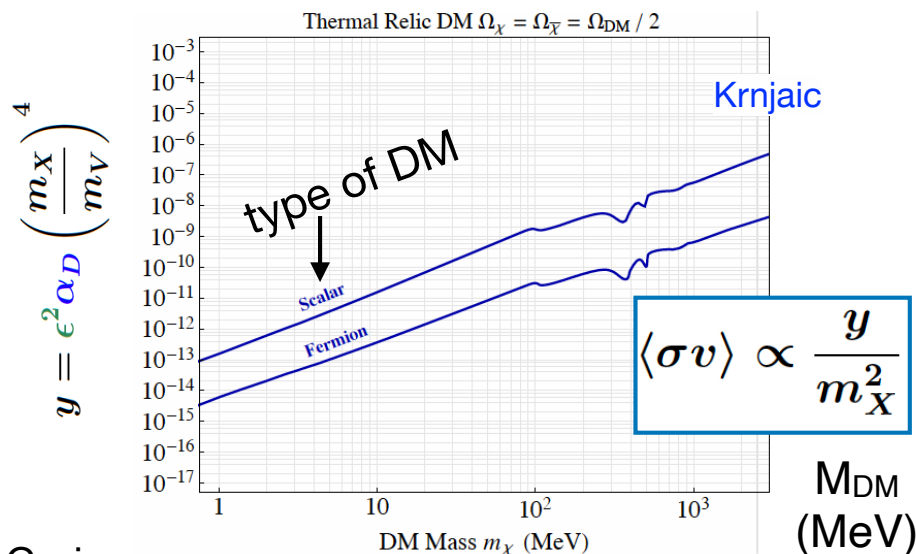
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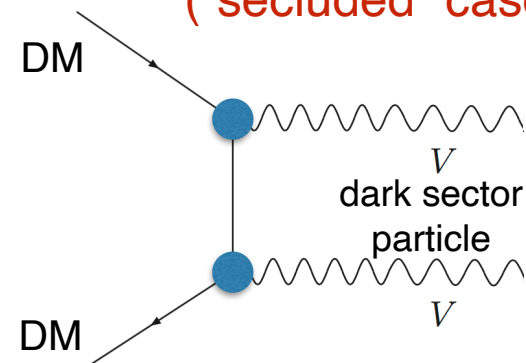
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2. One (or more) particles of the dark sector are lighter than DM ("secluded" case)



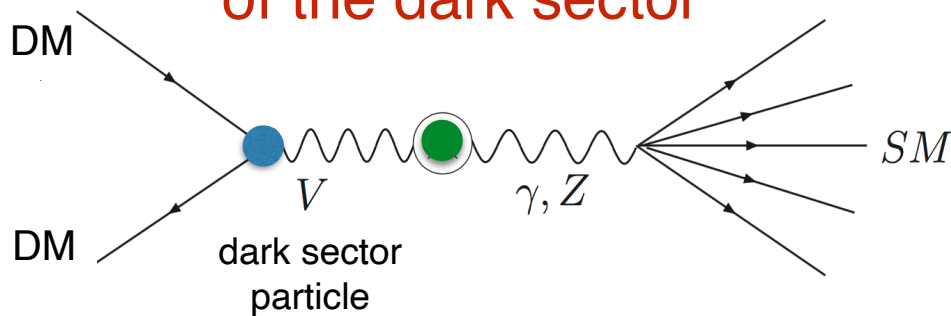
Pospelov, Ritz, Voloshin, 0711.4866

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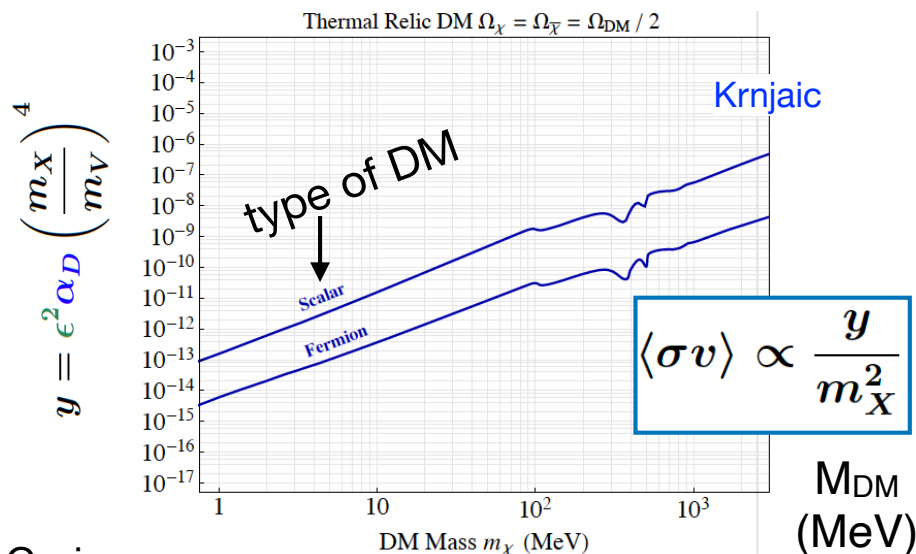
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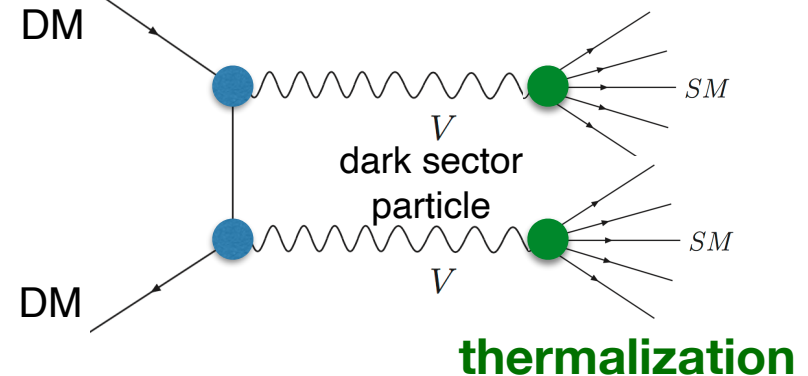
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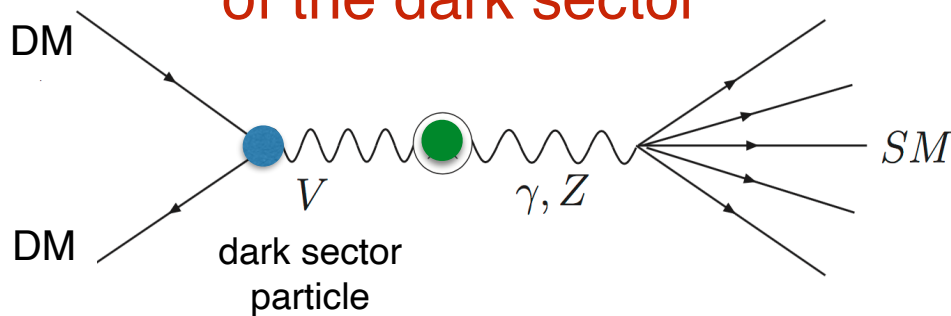
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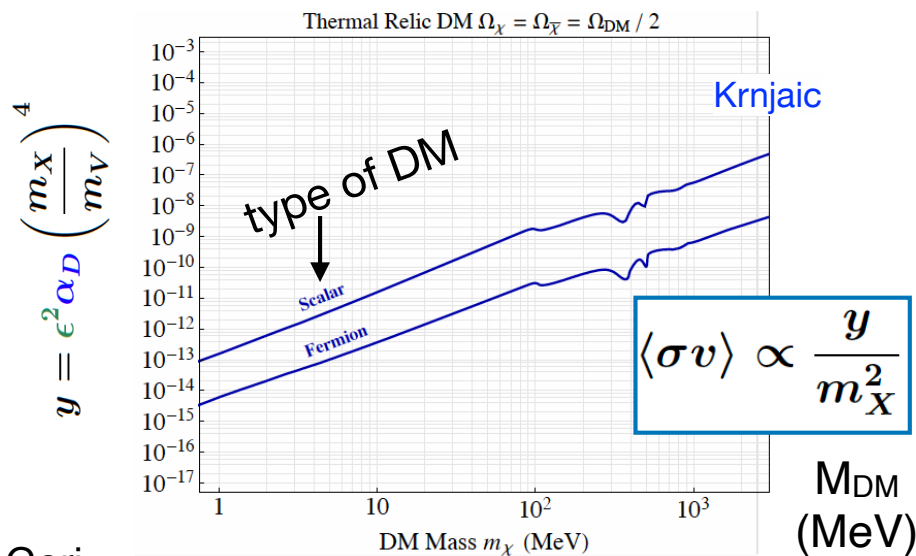
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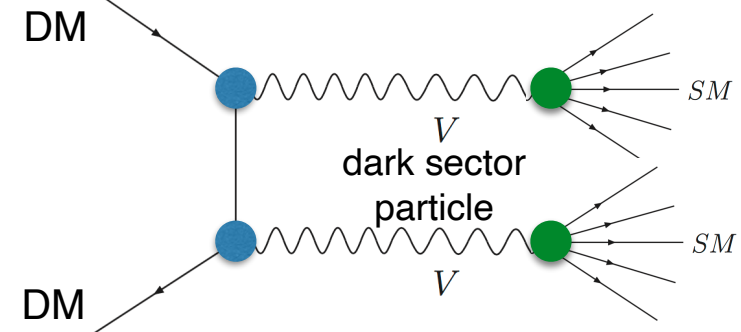
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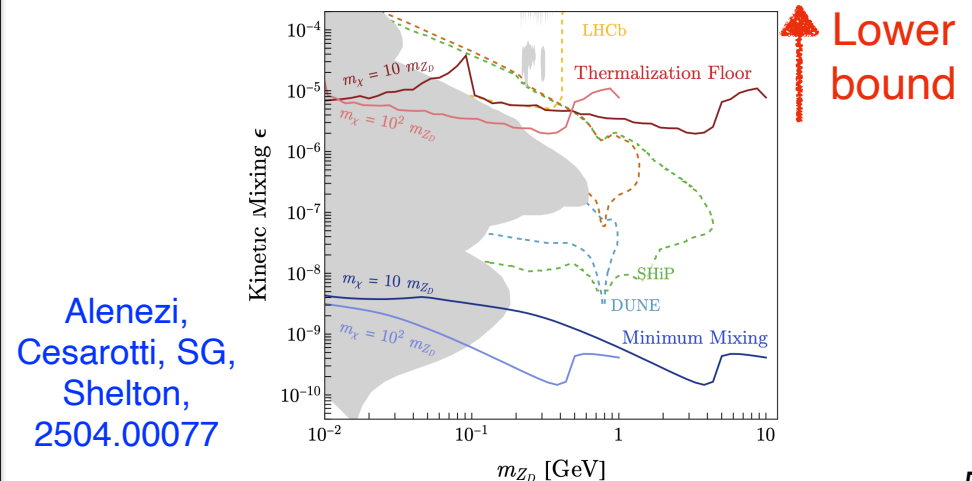
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Thermalization regulated by ●



Alenezi,
Cesarotti, SG,
Shelton,
2504.00077

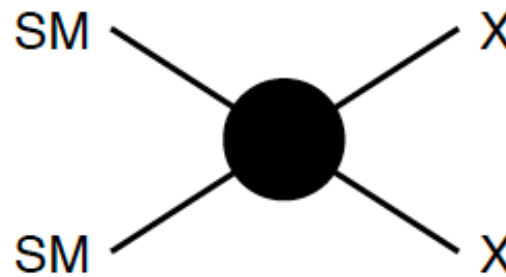
Complementary probes of thermal DM

Accelerator searches

3.



make it

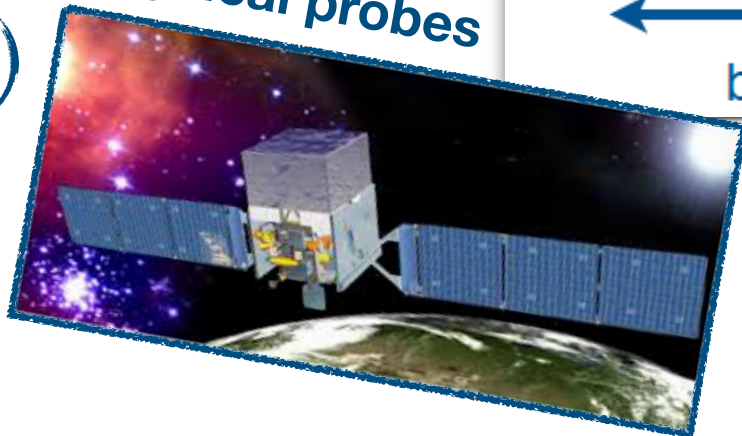


shake it

break it

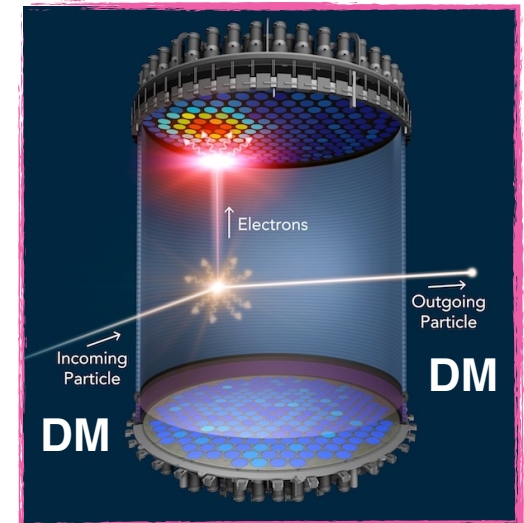
Astrophysical probes

1.



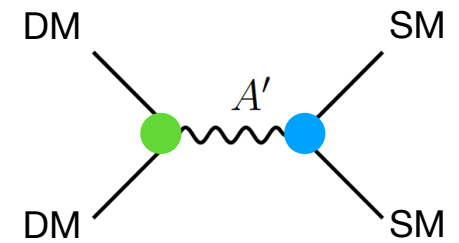
2.

Direct detection



Accelerators / DM direct detection complementarity

annihilation



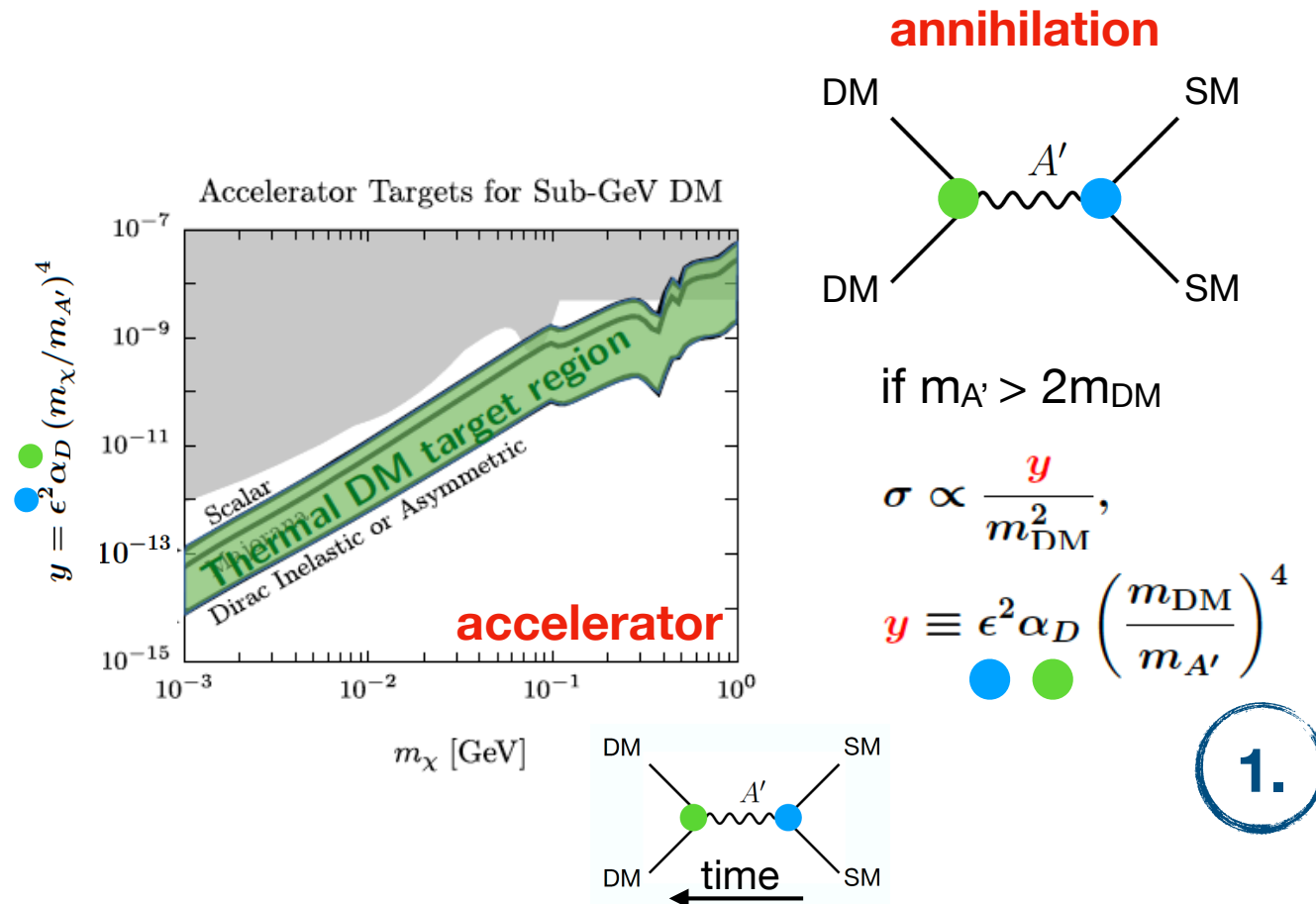
if $m_{A'} > 2m_{\text{DM}}$

$$\sigma \propto \frac{y}{m_{\text{DM}}^2},$$

$$y \equiv \epsilon^2 \alpha_D \left(\frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{m_{A'}} \right)^4$$

1.

Accelerators / DM direct detection complementarity



Accelerator production recreates the kinematic conditions of the early universe.

It is \sim unaffected by the nature of DM

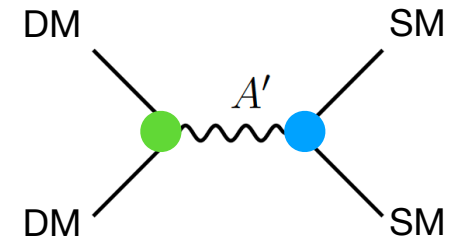
3.

Accelerators / DM direct detection complementarity

2.

To connect these two probes,
one needs to make
model assumptions

annihilation

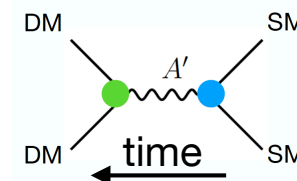


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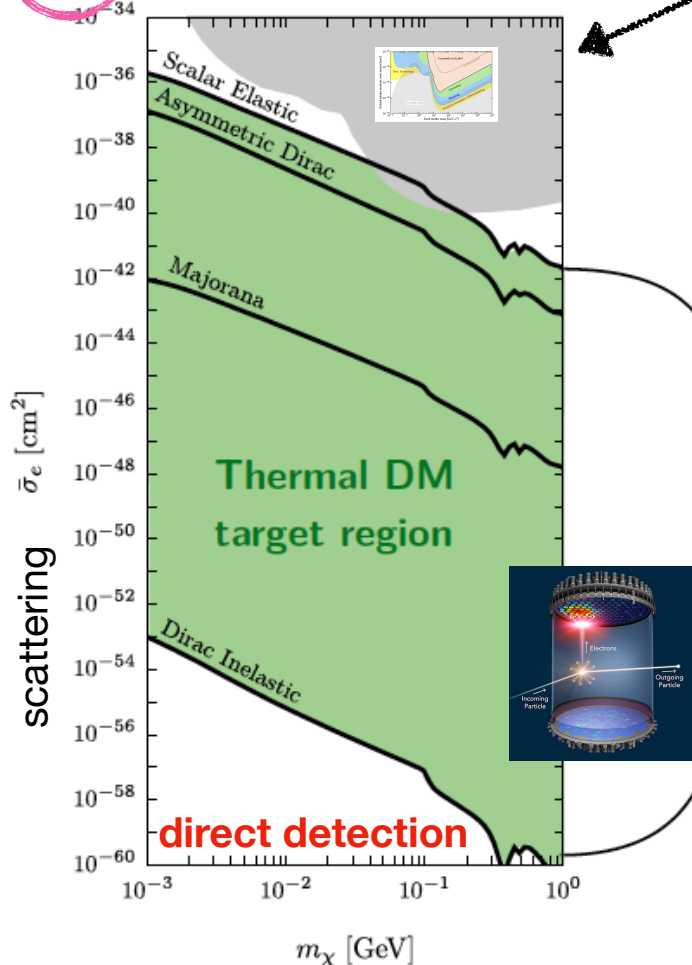


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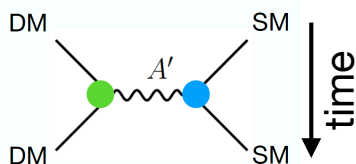
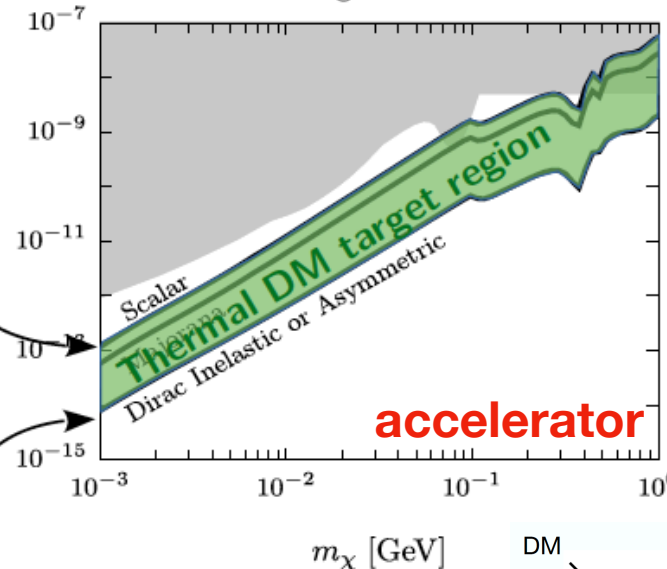
It is \sim unaffected by the nature of DM

3.

Direct Detection of Sub-GeV DM



Accelerator Targets for Sub-GeV DM

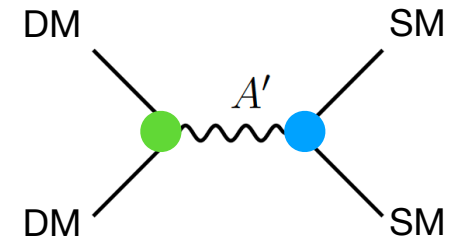


Accelerators / DM direct detection complementarity

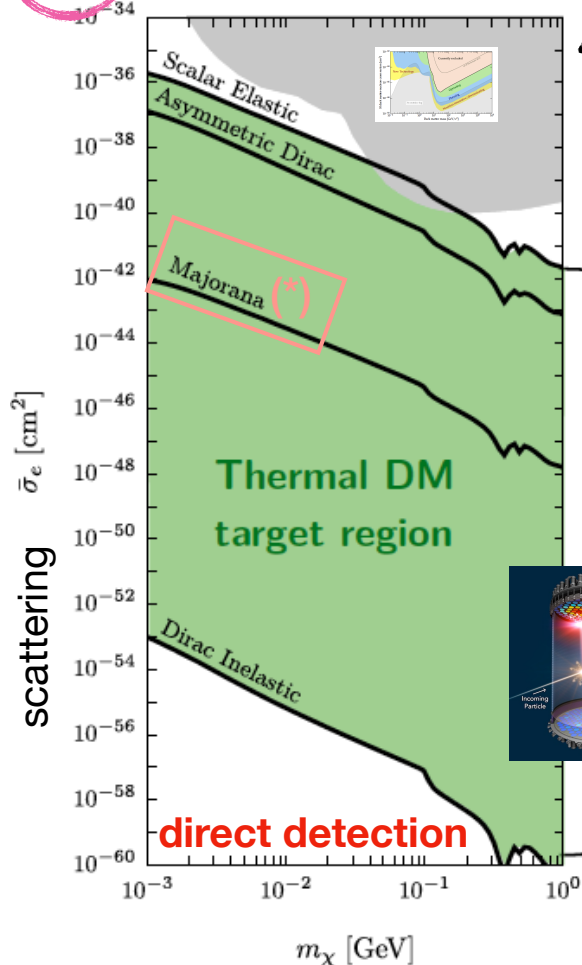
2.

To connect these two probes,
one needs to make
model assumptions

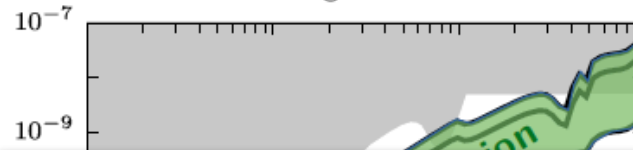
annihilation



Direct Detection of Sub-GeV DM



Accelerator Targets for Sub-GeV DM



$$y = \epsilon^2 \alpha_D (m_\chi / m_{A'})^4$$

Why such a spread in cross sections at
direct detection experiments?

The cross section can be suppressed
by different factors, e.g. DM velocity or small
mass splittings.

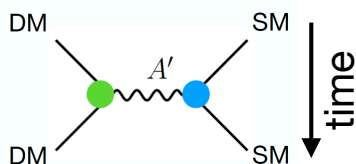
For example, in the case of **Majorana DM (*)**,

$$\bar{\sigma}_e \propto v_{\text{DM}}^2$$

→ ~6 orders of magnitude suppression,
if compared to the Dirac DM case

$$\left(\frac{v_{\text{DM}}}{v_{A'}} \right)^4$$

1.

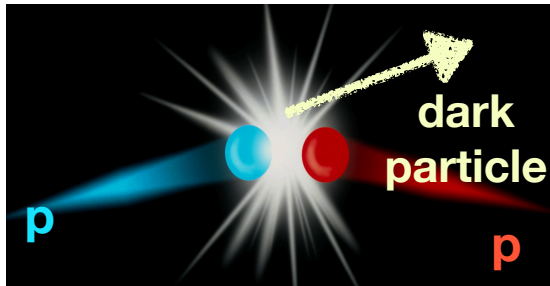


3.

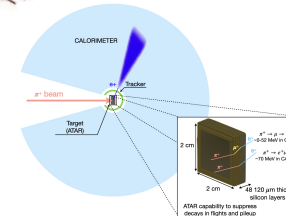
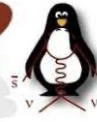
A broad program at accelerator experiments

... of light ($< \text{few GeV}$) DM and dark-sector particles

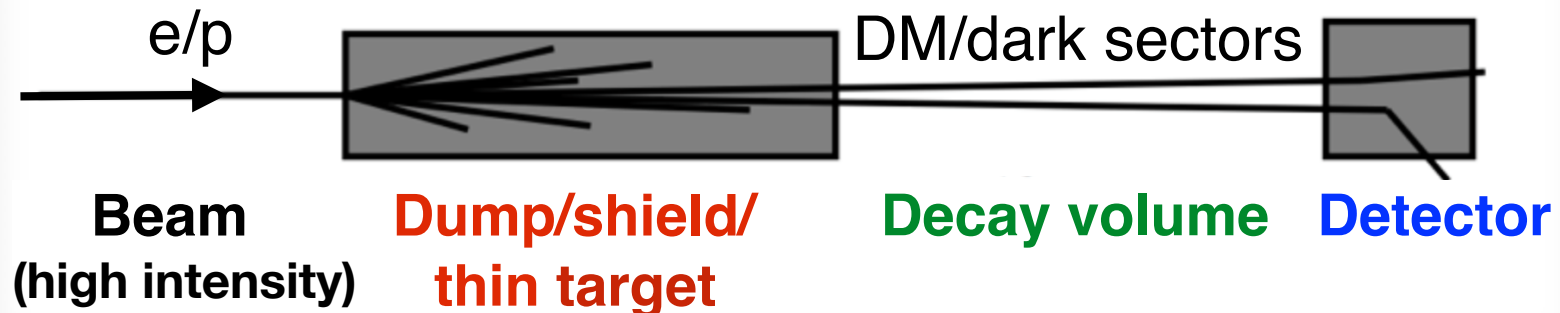
The LHC



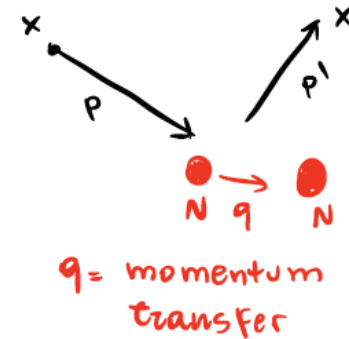
Meson factories



Fixed target experiments



Beyond accelerator experiments: DM direct detection



$$E_R^{\max} = \frac{q_{\max}^2}{2m_N} = \frac{2\mu_{\chi N}^2 v^2}{m_N}$$

DM velocity

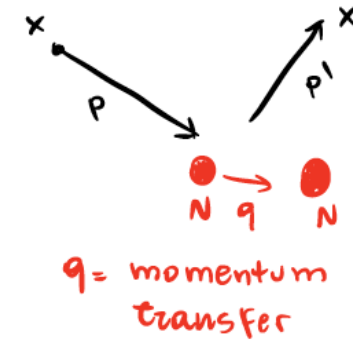
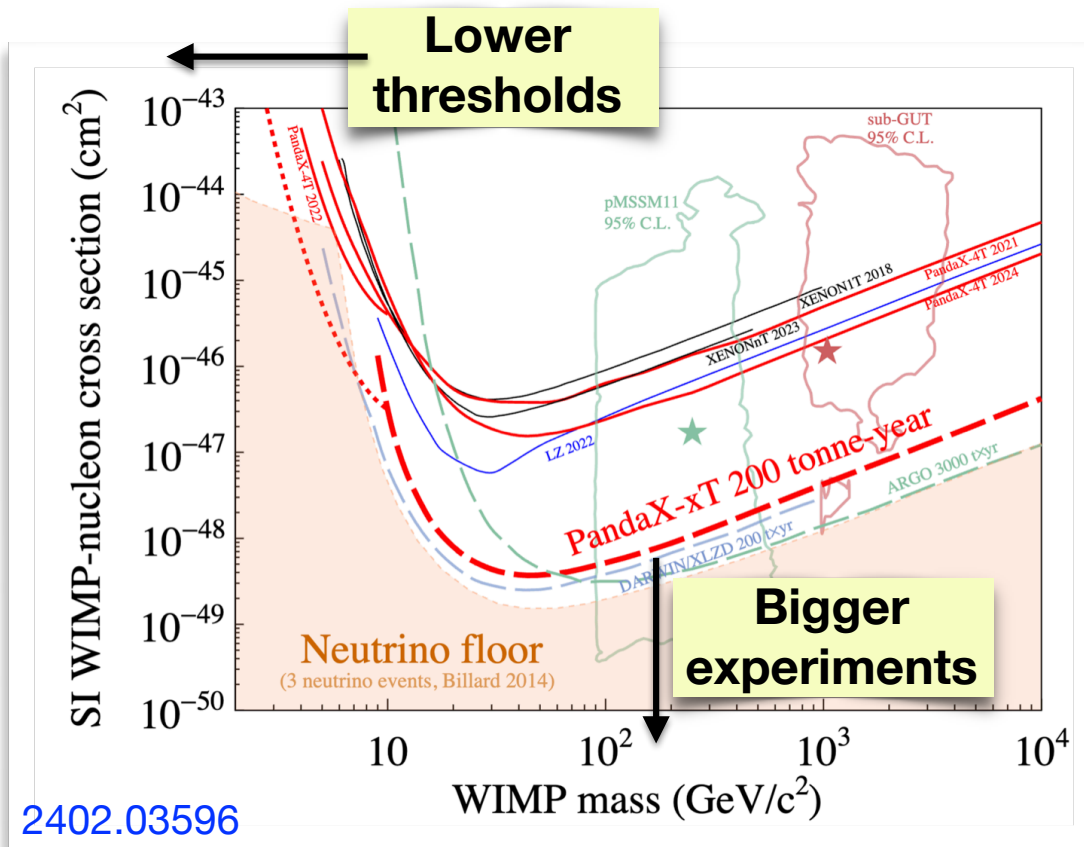
Reduced mass of the DM-nucleus system: $\mu_{\chi N} = \frac{m_\chi m_N}{m_\chi + m_N} \simeq m_\chi$

E.g., $m_\chi = 1 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow E_R^{\max} \sim \mathbf{0.2 \text{ keV}}$

$E_R \geq \mathcal{O}(\text{keV})$ in most experiments

This gives a ~lower bound on the DM masses we can probe.

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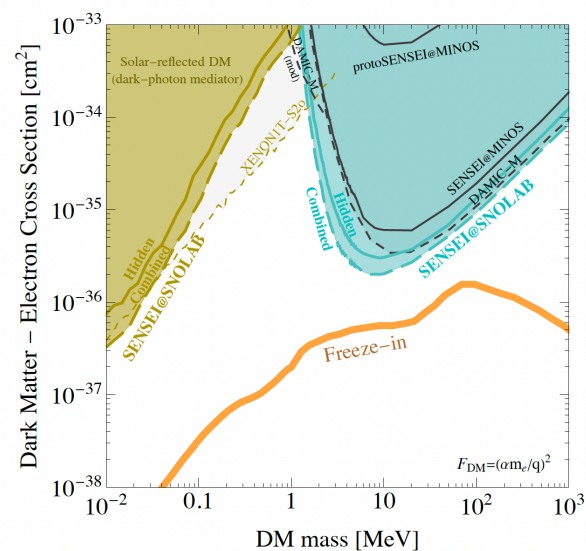
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Light (\approx GeV) DM at direct detection

Many new ideas in the past ~ 10 years:

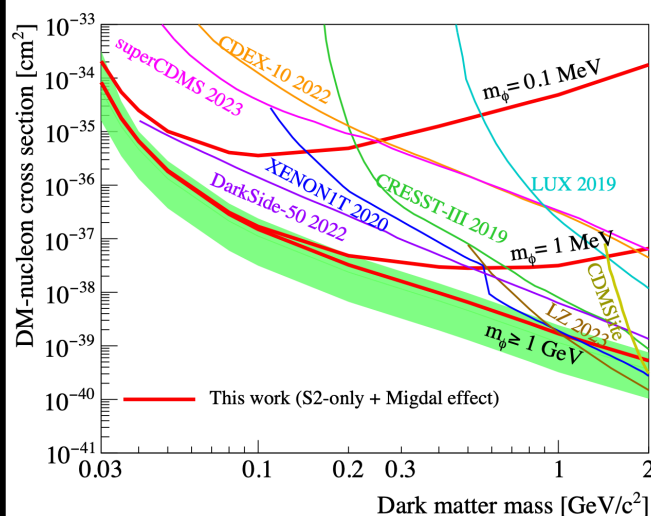
DM-electron scattering



2312.13342

Very low energy thresholds.
It allows to transfer $O(1)$
amount of DM kinetic energy

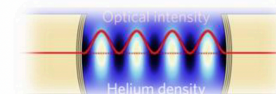
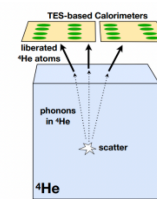
Migdal effect



2308.01540

Nuclear recoil + delayed
electron signal (excitation /
ionization of the atom)

Low-threshold detectors



R&D,
several experiments
ongoing or planned for
the coming years.
TESSERACT,
HeRALD, DELight

for a review: Fabbrichesi, Gabrielli, Lanfranchi, 2005.01515

Let's study one example in more details:

DM models mediated by the dark photon, A'
(focus on accelerator experiments and visible A')

in backup, you can find the invisible A'

Apologies...sometimes the dark photon will be called A' , sometimes Z' or Z_D ...

The dark photon / Z boson

Nature seems well described by a $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ gauge theory. We need to check this assumption!

Additional gauge symmetries in nature? $U(1)'$?

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Holdom, '86

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4}\hat{B}_{\mu\nu}\hat{B}^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}\hat{Z}_{D\mu\nu}\hat{Z}_D^{\mu\nu} + \frac{\epsilon}{2\cos\theta}\hat{Z}_{D\mu\nu}\hat{B}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{D,0}^2\hat{Z}_D^\mu\hat{Z}_{D\mu} - g_D\hat{Z}_D^\mu(\bar{X}\gamma_\mu X)$$

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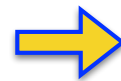
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Mixing with the
SM hyper-charge
gauge boson

coupling to DM

arising from

- * dark Higgs mechanism or
- * Stueckelberg mechanism



Massive photon

The dark photon / Z boson

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After electroweak symmetry breaking, the mass terms are given by:

~SM photon $(A^\mu, Z_0^\mu, Z_{D,0}^\mu)$ $m_{Z,0}^2$

~dark photon/Z

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\epsilon \tan\theta \\ 0 & -\epsilon \tan\theta & \epsilon^2 \tan^2\theta + \frac{m_{D,0}^2}{m_{Z,0}^2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A^\mu \\ Z_0^\mu \\ Z_{D,0}^\mu \end{pmatrix}$$

having defined

$$\begin{pmatrix} Z_{D,0} \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{1 - \frac{\epsilon^2}{\cos^2\theta}} & 0 \\ -\frac{\epsilon}{\cos\theta} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{Z}_D \\ \hat{B} \end{pmatrix}$$

mixing

after diagonalization: A, Z, Z' (mass eigenstates)

How large is ϵ ?

* This is a dimensionless parameter  it can be $O(1)$

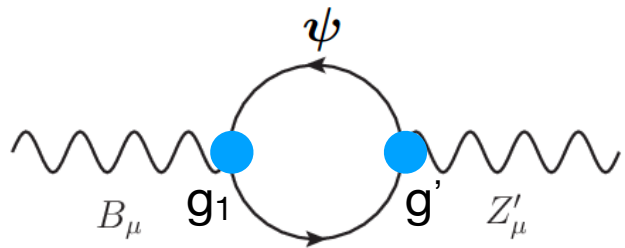
$$\frac{\epsilon}{2 \cos \theta} \hat{Z}_{D\mu\nu} \hat{B}_{\mu\nu}$$

How large is ϵ ?

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$$\frac{\epsilon}{2 \cos \theta} \hat{Z}_{D\mu\nu} \hat{B}_{\mu\nu}$$

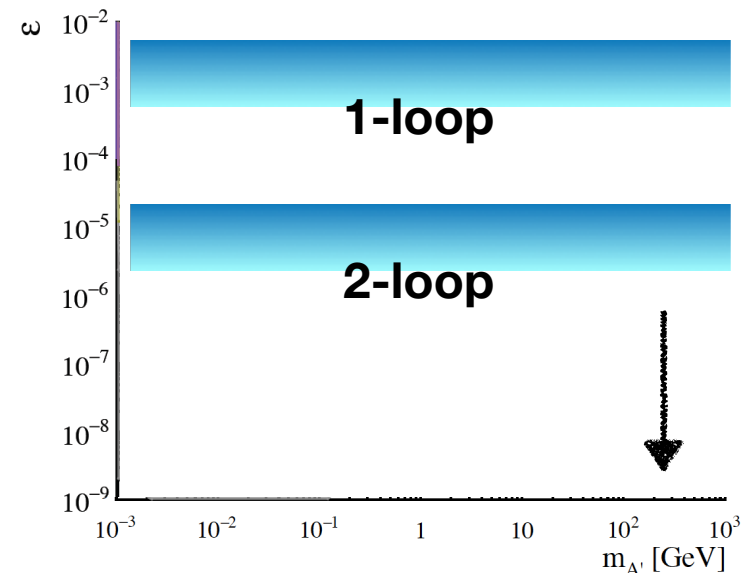
- * If it is absent at the tree level, it can be generated by the loop of heavy New Physics particles charged under both $U(1)'$ and $U(1)_Y$



$$\epsilon = \frac{g' g_1}{16\pi^2} \log \left(\frac{M_\psi}{\Lambda} \right) \simeq 10^{-3} \mathcal{O}(1 - 10)$$

- * Some theories predict a even smaller kinetic mixing parameter: New Physics particles in doublets of opposite dark charges

\Rightarrow 2-loop contributions, $O(10^{-5})$

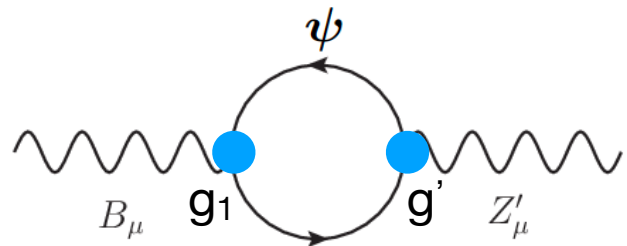


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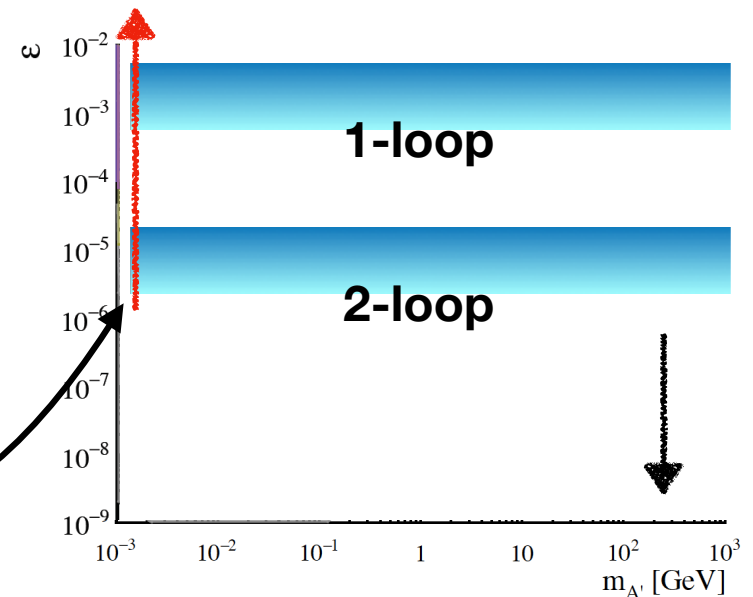


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We have seen that to have SM-dark sector **thermalization**, we need $\epsilon \gtrsim \text{few} \times 10^{-6}$



Couplings of the dark photon

$$\mathcal{L}_{Z' f \bar{f}} = g_{Z' f \bar{f}} Z'_\mu (\bar{f} \gamma^\mu f)$$

Couplings to
SM fermions

$$g_{Z' f \bar{f}} \equiv \frac{g}{\cos \theta} \left(-\sin \alpha (t^3 \cos^2 \theta - Y \sin^2 \theta) + \epsilon \cos \alpha \tan \theta Y \right)$$

$$g_{Z' f \bar{f}} \simeq e Q \epsilon \text{ for a light } Z' \text{ (photon-like couplings)}$$

$$\sin \alpha \propto \epsilon$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{Z' \bar{X} X} = g_{Z' X \bar{X}} Z'_\mu (\bar{X} \gamma^\mu X)$$

Coupling to
DM


$$g_{Z' X \bar{X}} \equiv g_D \cos \alpha$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{h Z Z'} &= \left[\frac{2i \epsilon \tan \theta}{v} m_{Z_0}^2 \left(2 \frac{\epsilon^2 \tan^2 \theta - 1}{\epsilon \tan \theta} \sin 2\alpha - \cos 2\alpha \right) \right] h Z^\mu Z'_\mu \\ &\simeq \frac{2i \epsilon \tan \theta}{v} \frac{m_{Z'}^2 m_Z^2}{m_Z^2 - m_{Z'}^2} h Z^\mu Z'_\mu \end{aligned}$$

Coupling to
the Higgs

Does the dark photon decay?

For $m_{Z'} > 2m_X$, Z' mainly decays to DM particles

(in fact, experimental bounds constrain ϵ to be small  larger g_D to obtain a DM thermal relic with the measured relic abundance, $\langle \sigma v \rangle \simeq \epsilon^2 \alpha_D \frac{m_X^2}{m_{Z'}^4}$)

1.

Does the dark photon decay?

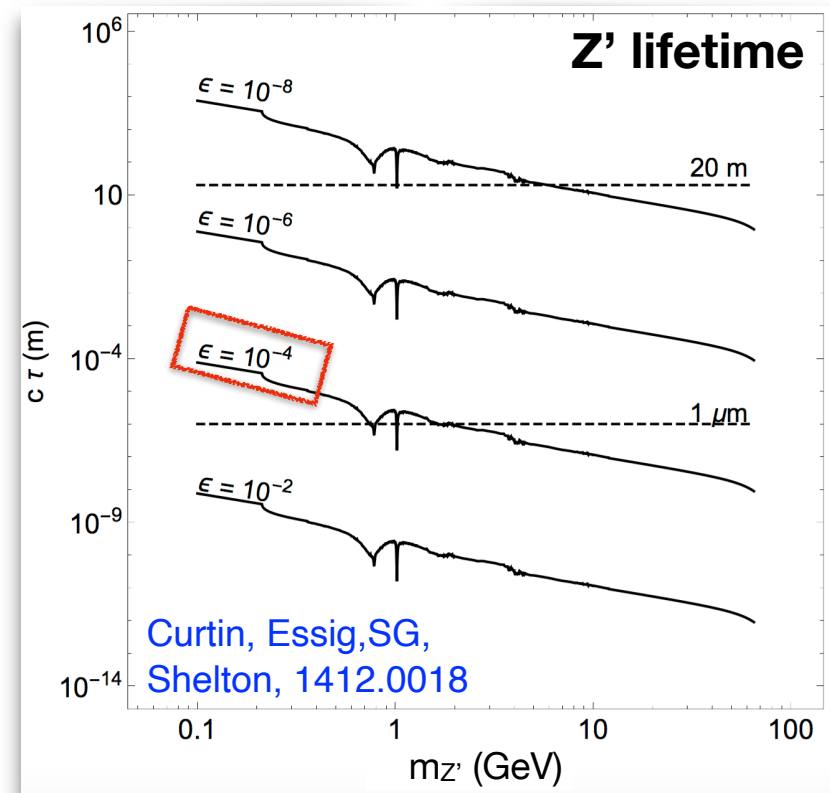
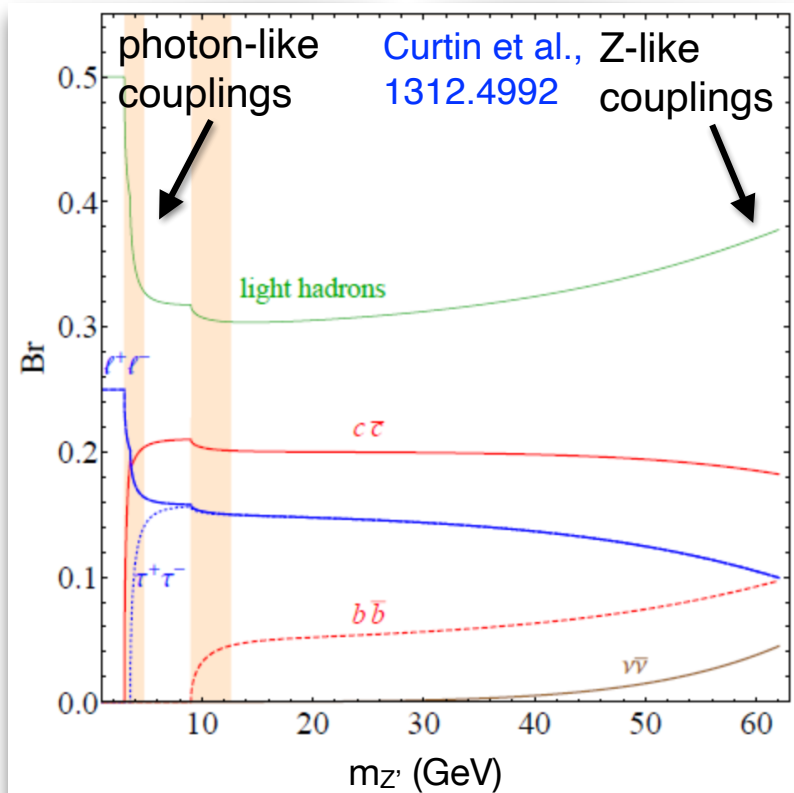
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1.

For $m_{Z'} < 2m_X$, Z' only decays to SM particles

2.




No ϵ dependence

Does the dark photon decay?

For $m_{Z'} > 2m_X$, Z' mainly decays to DM particles

1.

(in fact, experimental bounds constrain ϵ to be small  larger g_D to obtain a DM thermal relic with the measured relic abundance, $\langle \sigma v \rangle \simeq \epsilon^2 \alpha_D \frac{m_X^2}{m_{Z'}^4}$)

For $m_{Z'} < 2m_X$, Z' only decays to SM particles

2.

Some detail on the calculation:

Define the ratio: $R_{Z'} \equiv \frac{\Gamma(Z' \rightarrow \text{hadrons})}{\Gamma(Z' \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)} = R_{Z'}(m_{Z'})$

then the total width: $\Gamma_{Z'} = R_{Z'} \Gamma(Z' \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) + \sum_{f=\ell, \nu} \Gamma(Z' \rightarrow \bar{f} f)$

$R(s) \equiv \frac{\sigma(e^+ e^- \rightarrow \text{hadrons})}{\sigma(e^+ e^- \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)}$ is measured accurately and is highly dominated by off-shell $\gamma^* \rightarrow f\bar{f}$ in the s-channel.

 We can use experimental data to determine $R_{Z'}(m_{Z'}) = R(m_{Z'}^2)$

In this way, we can determine all branching ratios of the dark photon at low mass (where the dark photon has photon-like couplings)

How to produce a dark photon? (“direct”)

(At low mass) Z' couples proportionally to the electric charge

⇒ Whenever there is a γ , there is a Z'

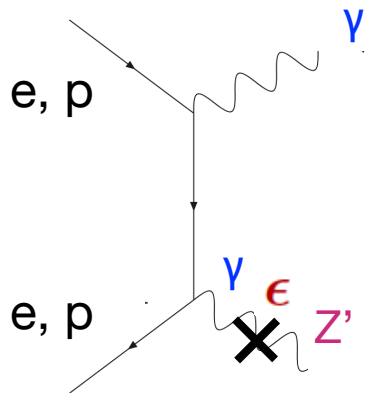
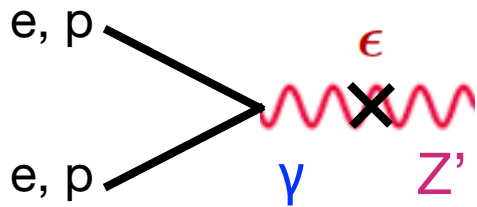
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Collider experiments

Drell-Yan production:



$$\sigma \propto \frac{\epsilon^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2}{E^2}$$

1/fb at 1GeV (KLOE)
competes with
1/ab at 10 GeV
(B-factories)

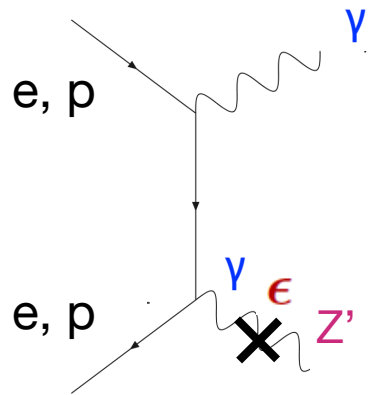
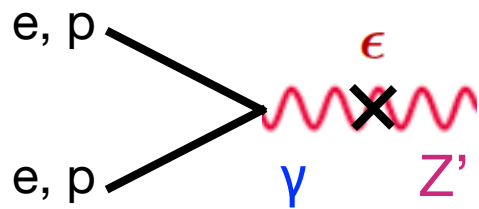
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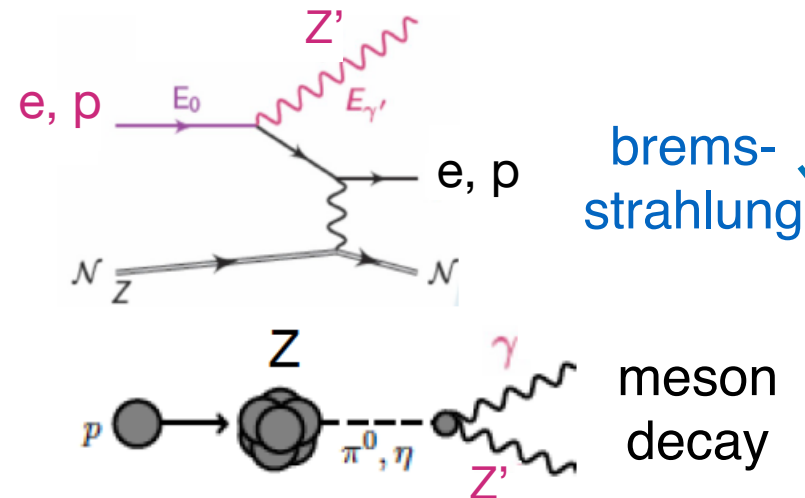
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Fixed target experiments

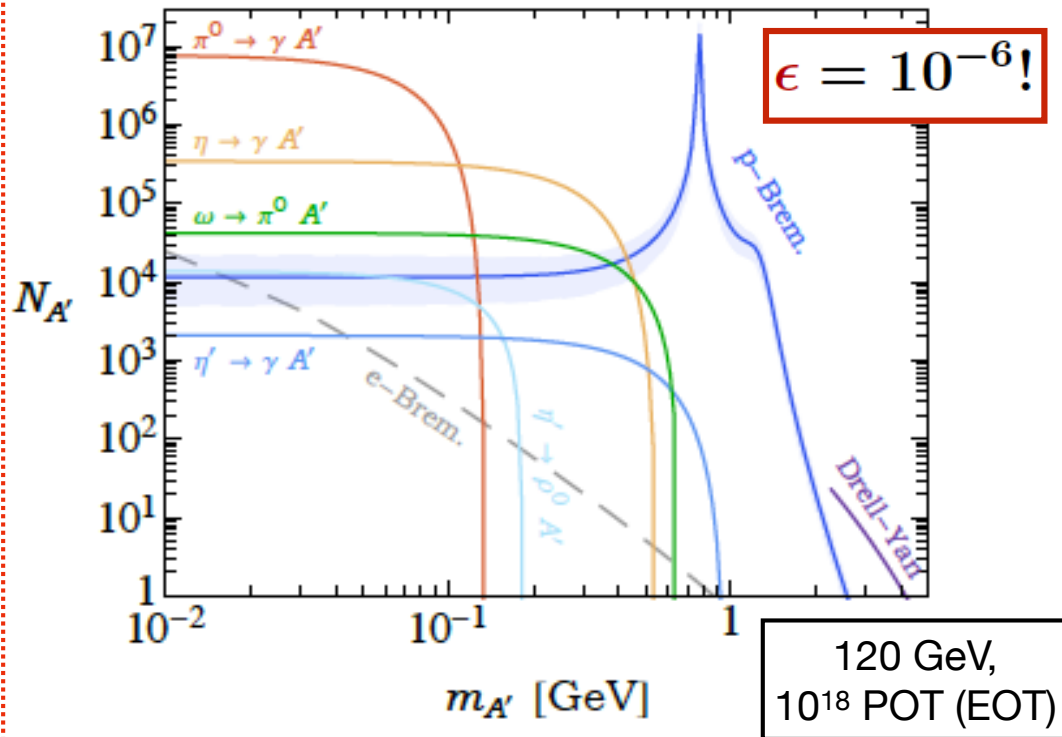


$$\sigma \sim \alpha_{\text{em}} \epsilon^2 \times \sigma_{pp} \quad \text{proton}$$

$$\sigma \sim \frac{\alpha_{\text{em}}^3 \epsilon^2}{m_{Z'}^2} Z^2 \quad \text{electron}$$

Many dark photons can be produced

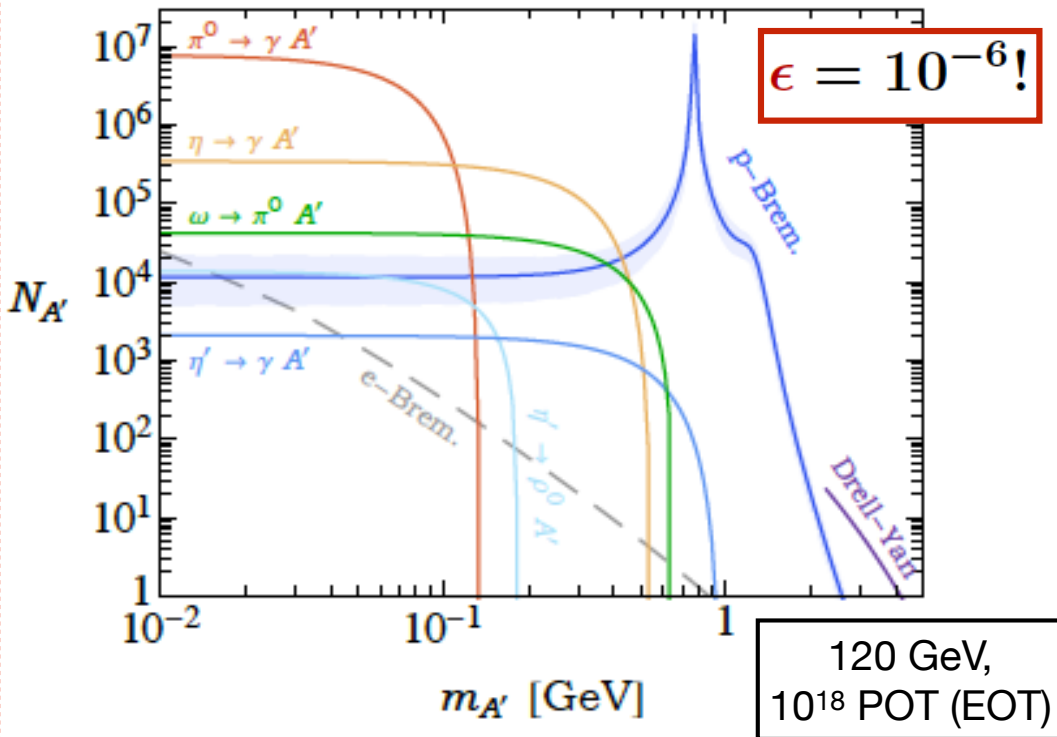
Berlin, SG, Schuster, Toro, 1804.00661



Number of dark photon @ proton
fixed target

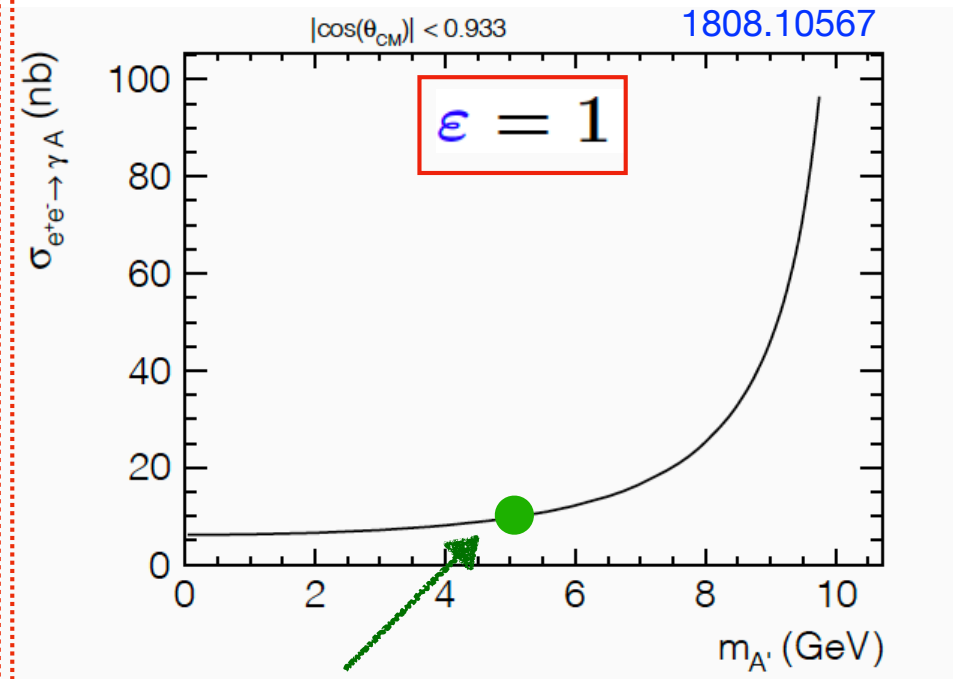
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Berlin, SG, Schuster, Toro, 1804.00661



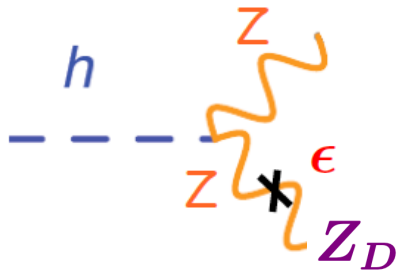
Number of dark photon @ proton
fixed target

production cross section
@ Belle II

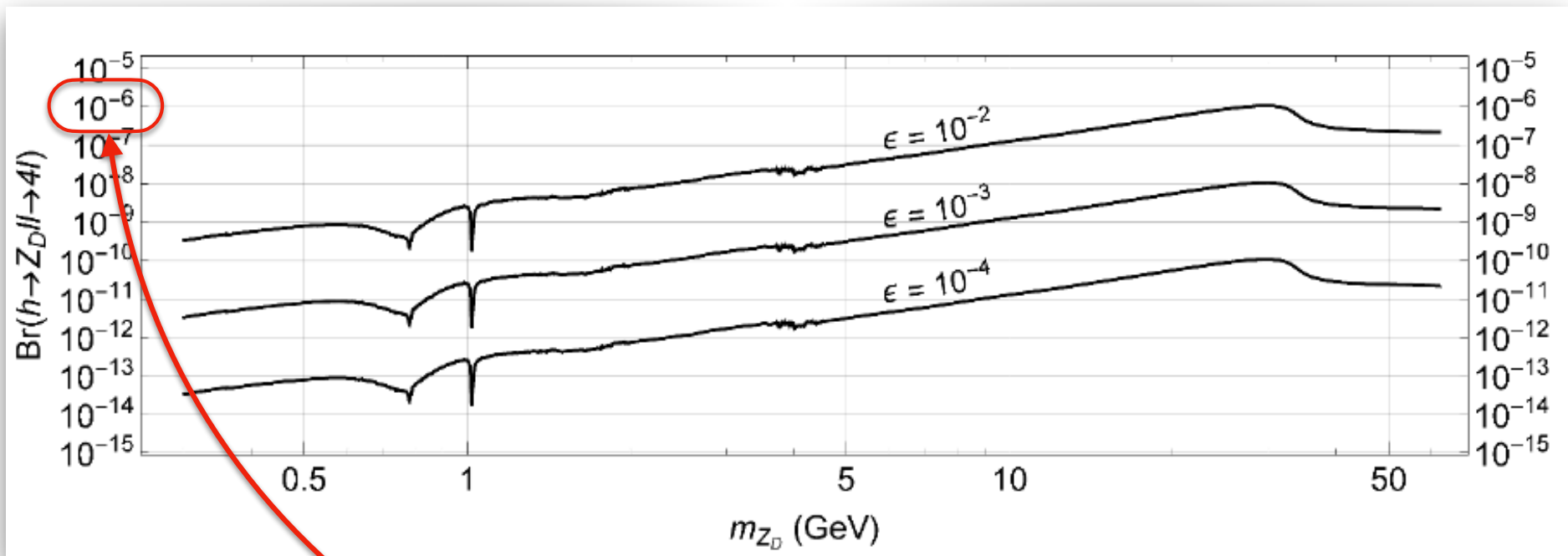


$N_{A'} \sim 10^{10}$ for 50/ab luminosity

How to produce a dark photon? (Higgs decays)



Curtin, Essig, SG, Shelton, 1412.0018



Roughly 100 event at the HL-LHC

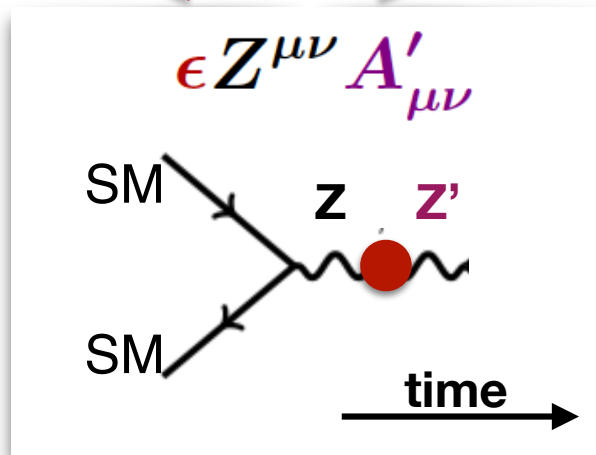
What to look for at accelerator experiments?

(Typically) high energy

Colliding beam experiments



- * B-factories (Belle-II)
e⁺e⁻ collider
- * The LHC (pp collider)



(Typically) high intensity

Fixed target experiments



- * Kaon exp.
- * proton beam dump exp.
- * electron beam dump exp.
- * electron fixed target exp.
- * neutrino exp.
- * light meson (e.g. pion) exp.

Two different types of accelerator experiments

What to look for at accelerator experiments?

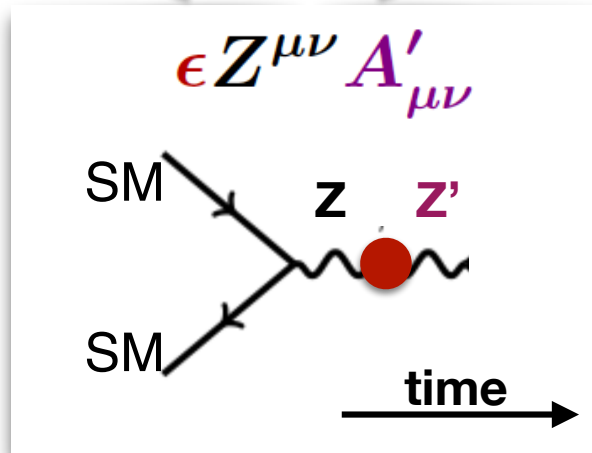
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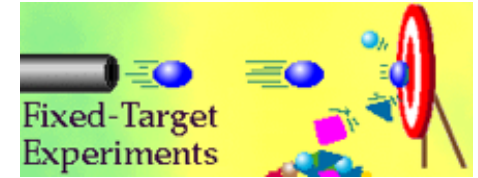
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1.



(Typically) high intensity

Fixed target experiments



- * Kaon exp.
- * proton beam dump exp.
- * electron beam dump exp.
- * electron fixed target exp.
- * neutrino exp.
- * light meson (e.g. pion) exp.

2.

Two different types of accelerator experiments

We will focus on the dark photon,
but (broadly speaking) similar
studies hold for the other portals

$$\epsilon Z^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu} \quad \kappa |H|^2 |S|^2$$

$$y H L N \quad \frac{1}{f_s} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} a$$

Last topic of
these lectures

1. Dark photons at the LHC

Higgs exotic decays are one of the primary mechanisms to produce dark photons at the LHC

It is challenging to constrain the Higgs width at the LHC.

Few % branching ratio into exotic particles is a reasonable target for the duration of the LHC program.

Reason: At the LHC, we measure rates:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= \sigma(pp \rightarrow H) \times \text{BR}(H \rightarrow \text{SM}) \\ &= \sigma(pp \rightarrow H) \times \frac{\Gamma(H \rightarrow \text{SM})}{\Gamma_{\text{tot}}}\end{aligned}$$

1% of Higgs bosons decaying to dark photons would mean $O(10^6)$ dark photons produced!

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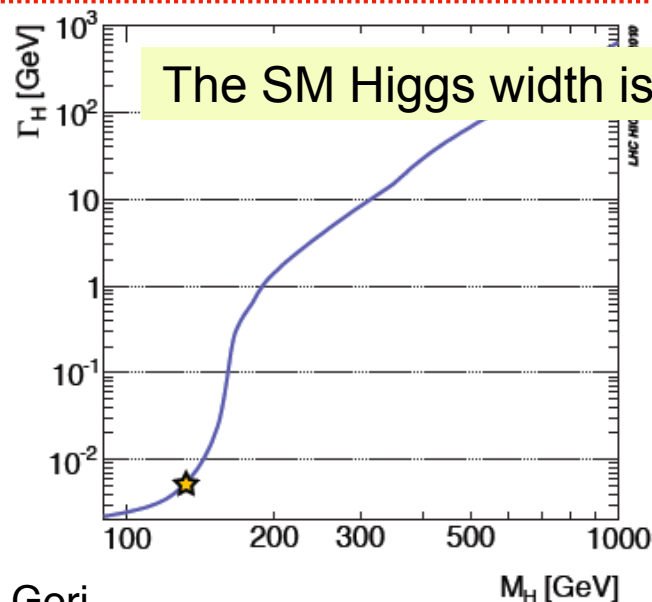
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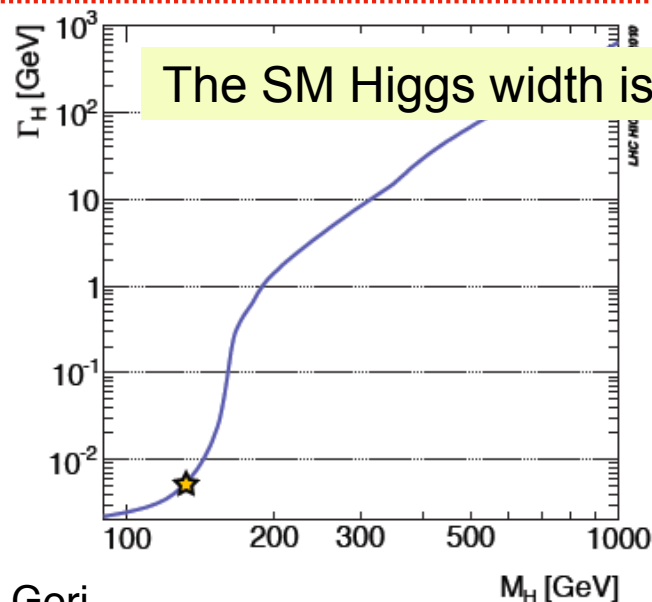
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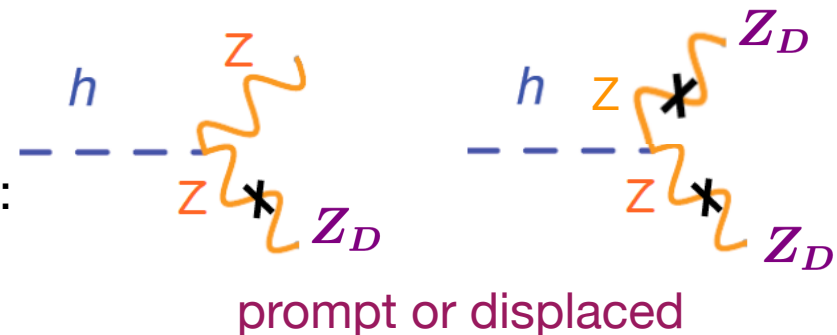
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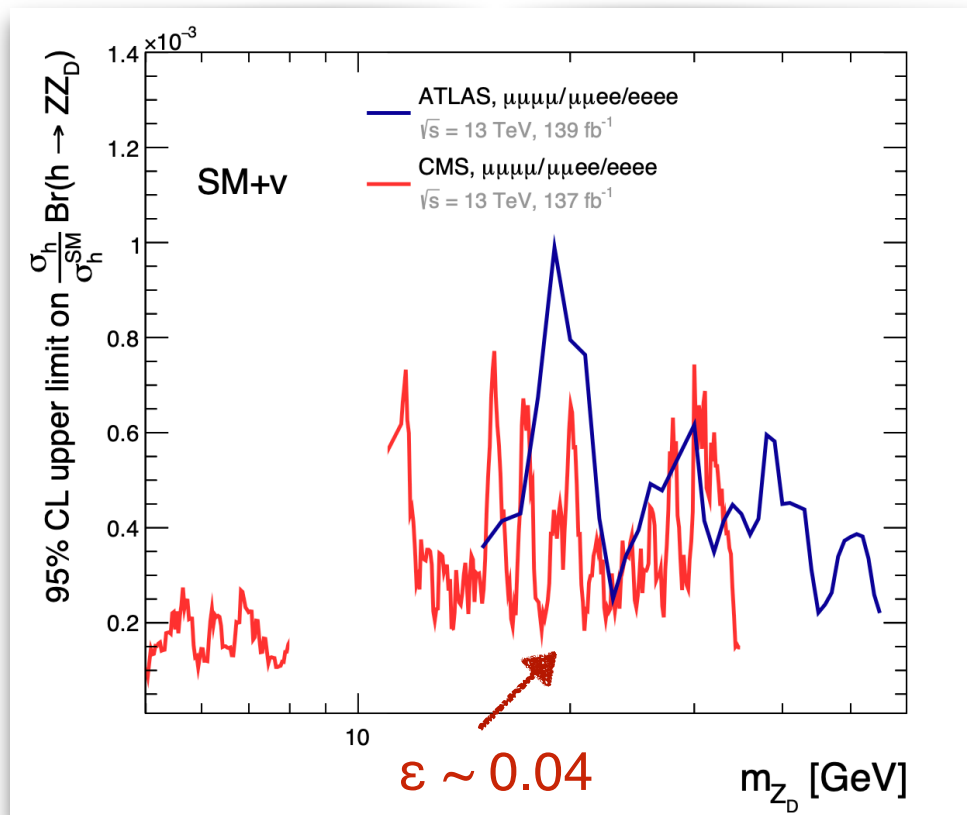
(all these conclusions would be completely different if $m_H > 200\text{GeV}$)

LHC productions:



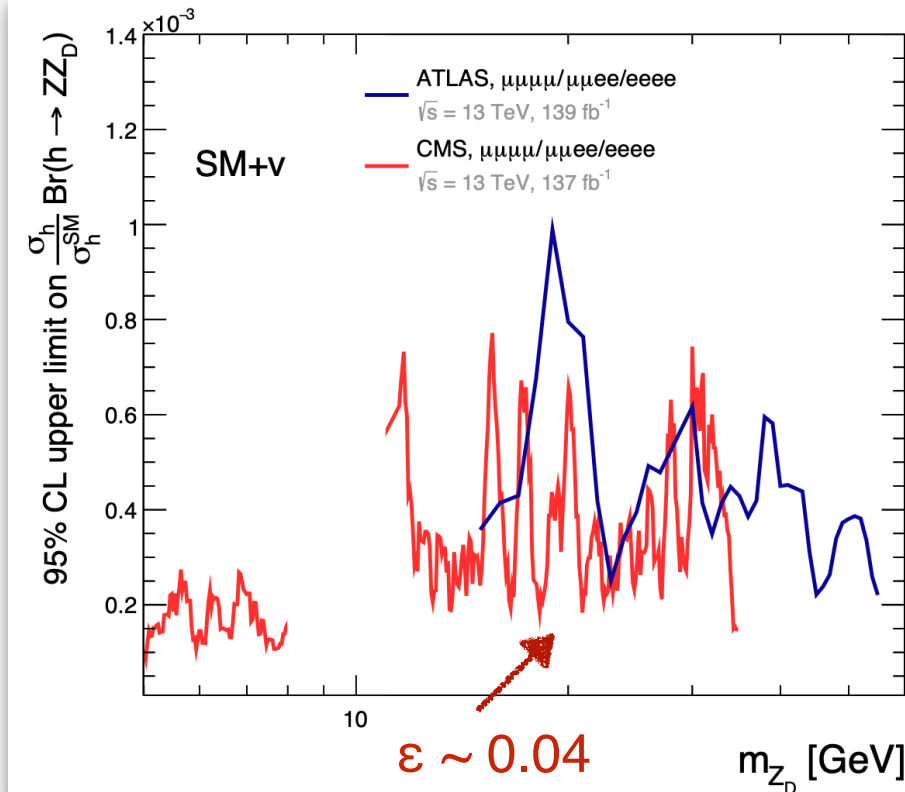
Visible dark photons from Higgs exotic decays (prompt)

$$h \rightarrow Z Z_D \rightarrow 2\ell 2\ell'$$

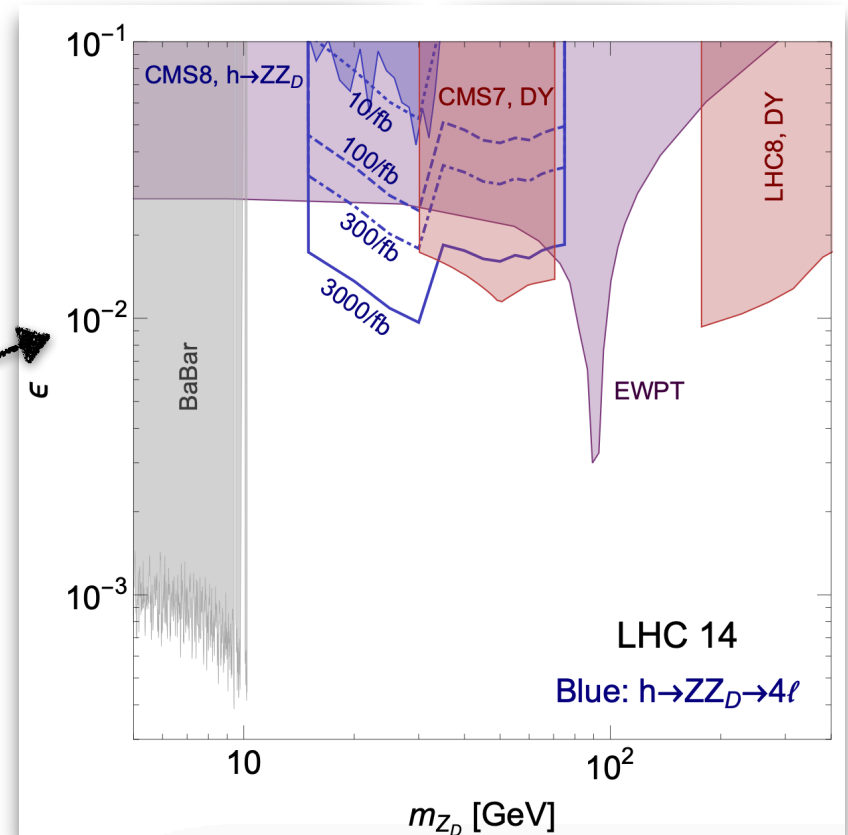


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$$h \rightarrow Z Z_D \rightarrow 2\ell 2\ell'$$



Curtin, Essig, SG, Shelton, 1412.0018

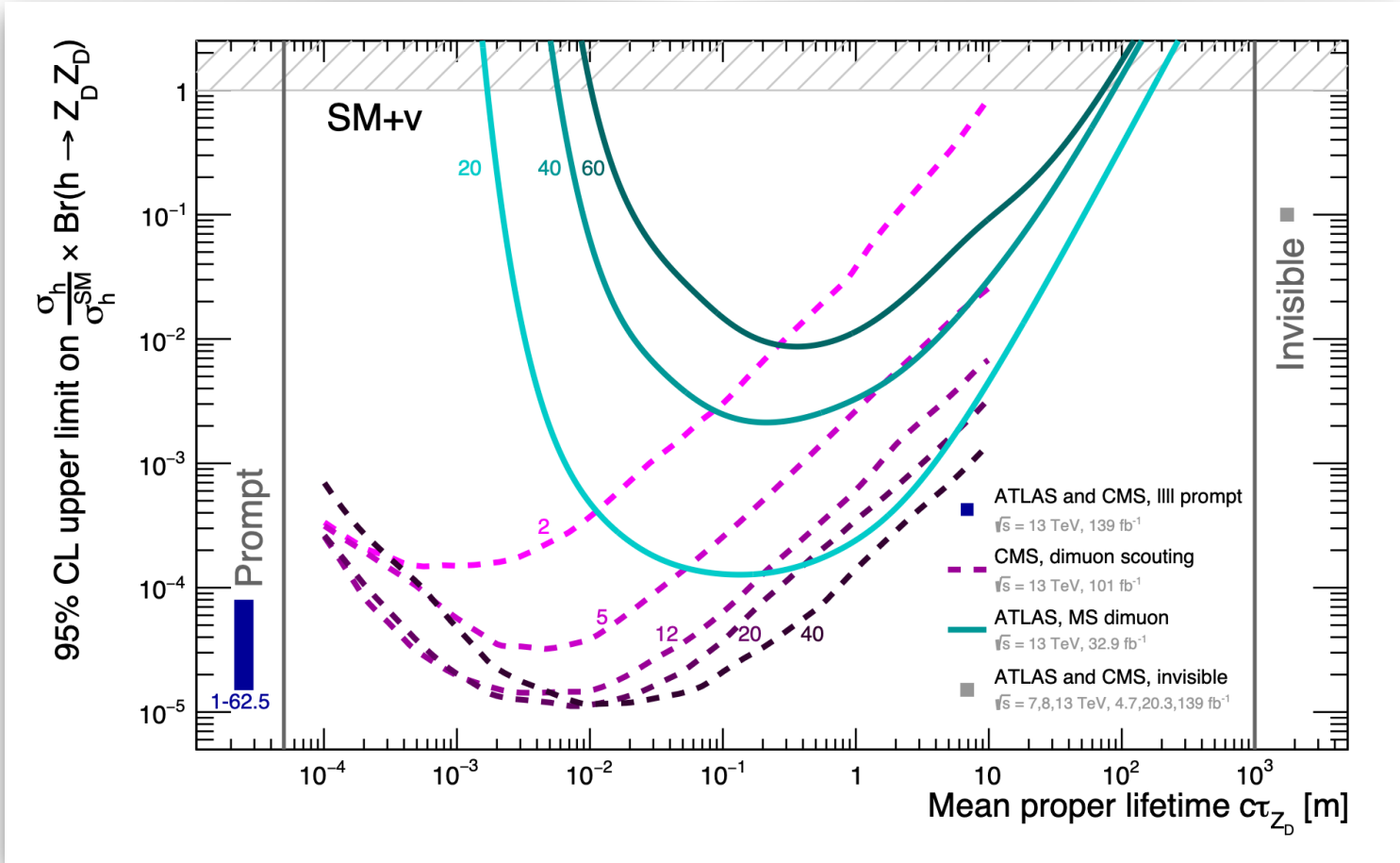


interplay with direct searches for

$$pp \rightarrow Z_D \rightarrow 2\ell$$

Visible dark photons from Higgs exotic decays (displaced)

Cepeda, SG, Martínez Outschoorn, Shelton, 2111.12751



$$h \rightarrow Z_D Z_D \rightarrow 2\ell \ 2\ell'$$

long-lived dark photons (small values of ϵ)

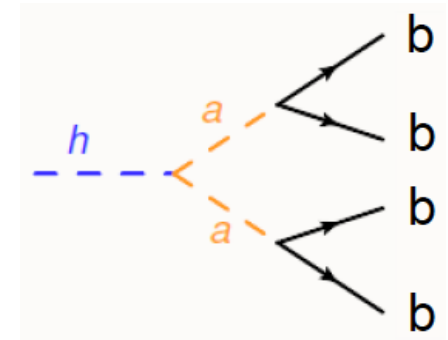
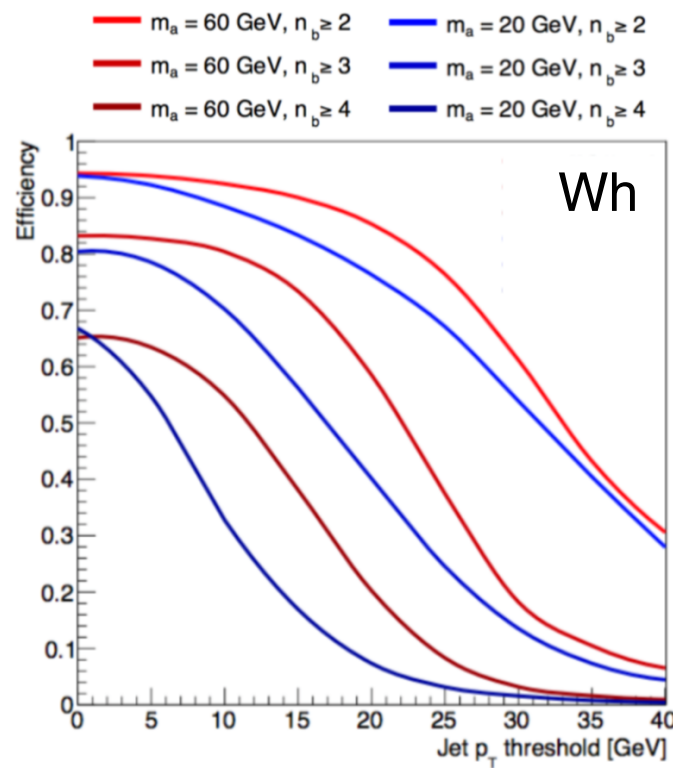
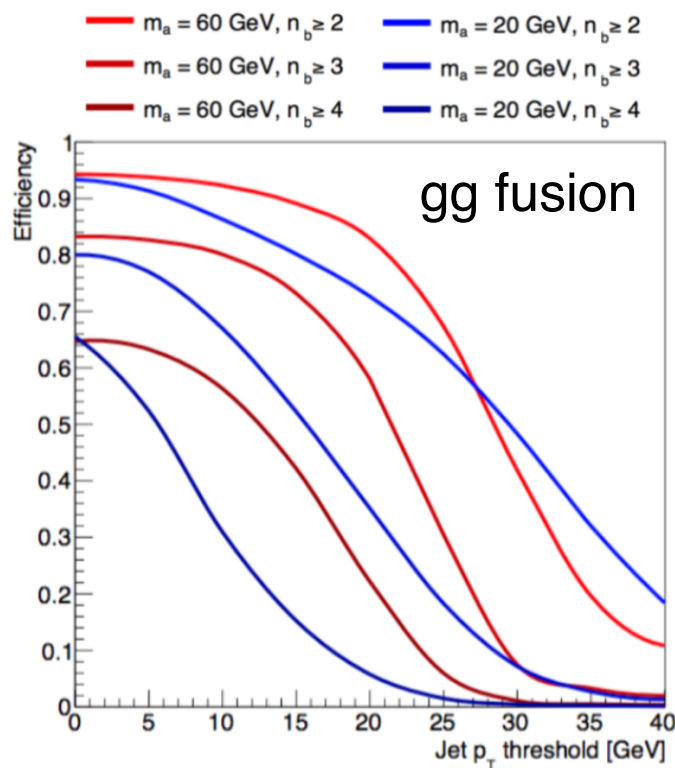
The challenge of Higgs exotic decays: soft objects

To be sensitive to Higgs exotic decays, dedicated studies of **trigger strategies** are needed

The challenge of Higgs exotic decays: soft objects

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Let us take, for example, the challenging decay mode $h \rightarrow a a \rightarrow 4b$

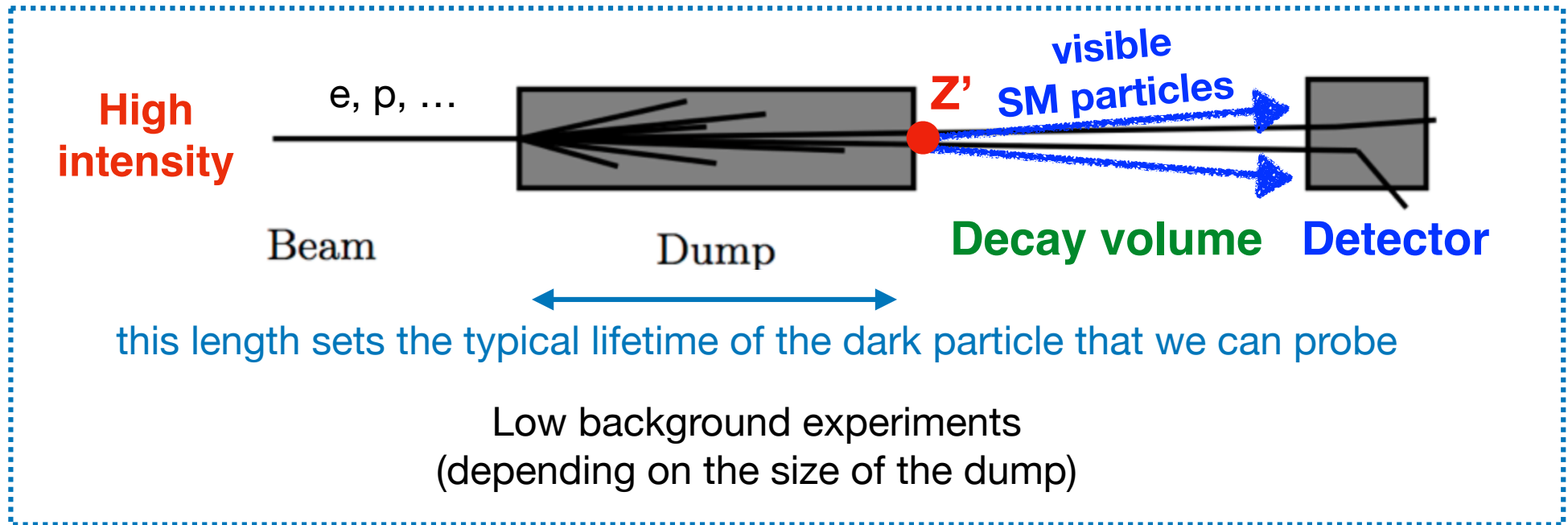


Risk of losing the signal already at the trigger level

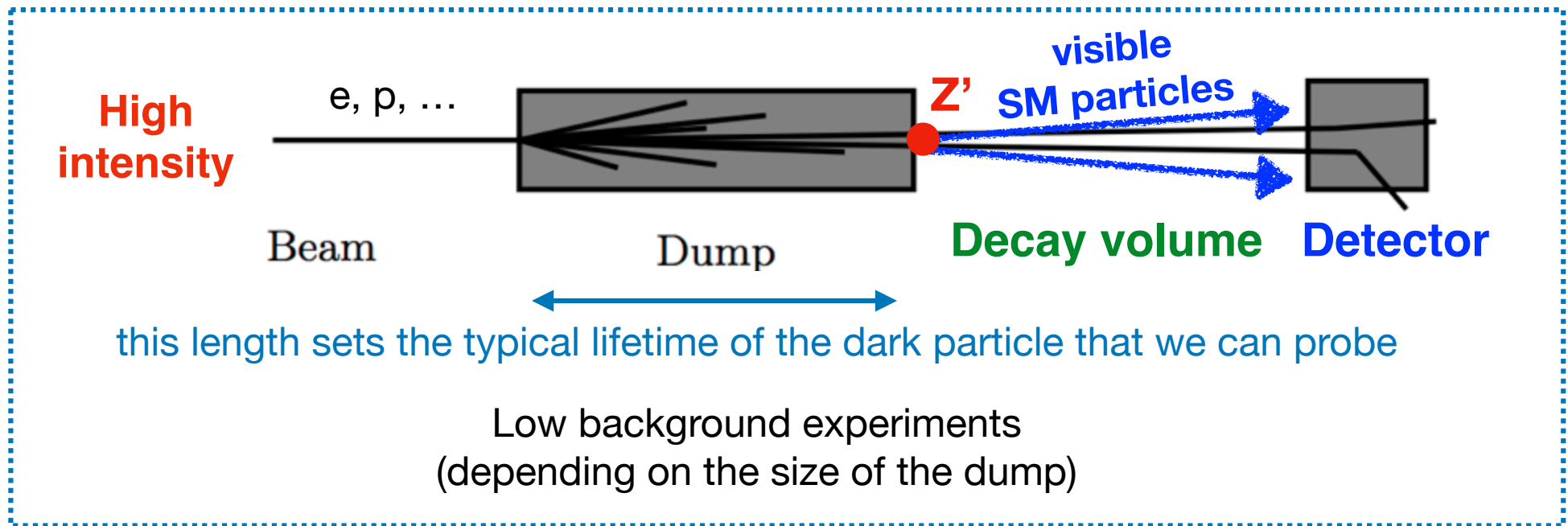


From the LHC Higgs cross section working group, Yellow report 4, 1610.07922

2. Visible dark photons at beam dump experiments



2. Visible dark photons at beam dump experiments



p beam for the SeaQuest/DarkQuest experiment at Fermilab

p beam for the NA62 experiment at CERN

e- beam for the HPS experiment at JLAB

e- beam for the DarkLight experiment here at TRIUMF

...

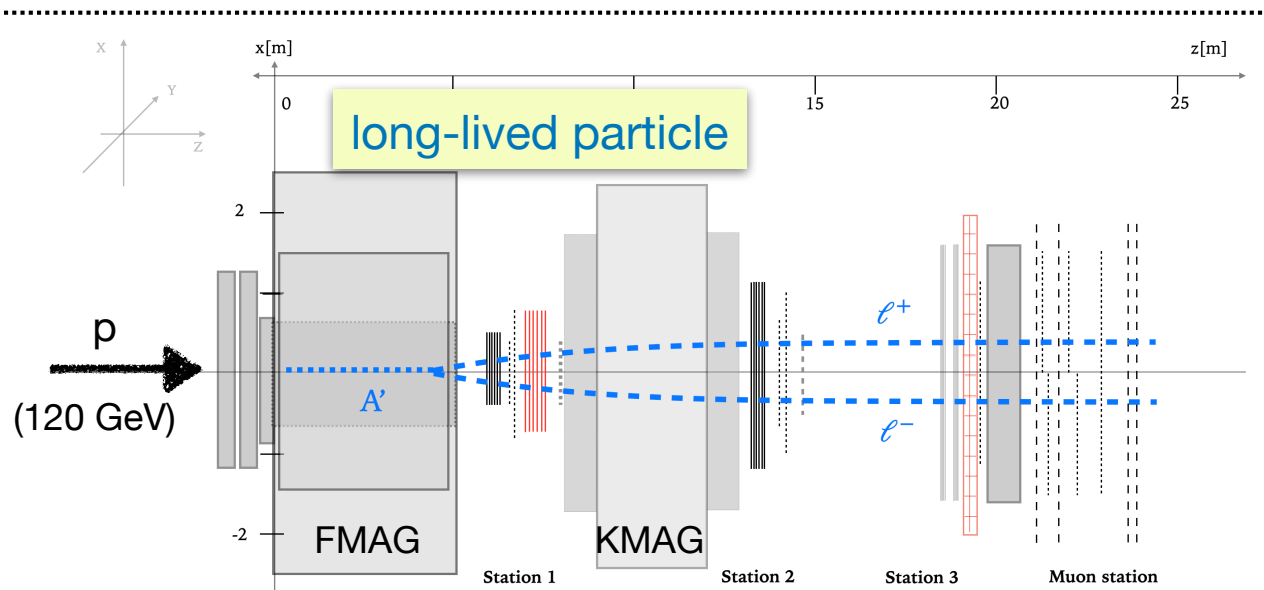
Proton (beam dump) vs. electron fixed target experiments:

Protons: typically **higher energies** (➡ reach towards larger dark sector masses)
but larger backgrounds (needs shielding!)

Running
experiments

Future
experiments

The DarkQuest experiment @ Fermilab



SeaQuest
1706.09990

→ **SpinQuest**
polarized target
+ displaced trigger
NOW

→ **DarkQuest**
upgrade
(calorimeter +
more tracking layers +
hodoscope for triggering)

FUTURE

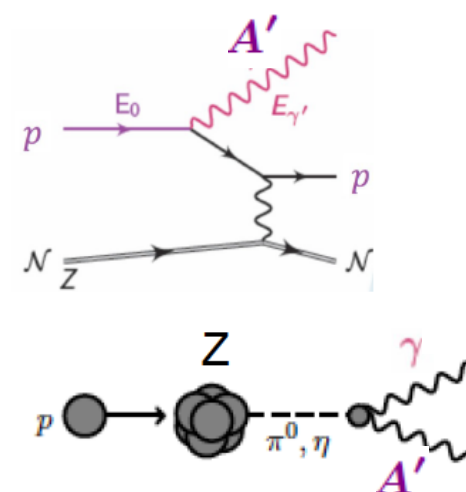
Initial proposal:

Gardner, Holt, Tadeipalli, 1509.00050

Berlin, SG, Schuster, Toro, 1804.00661

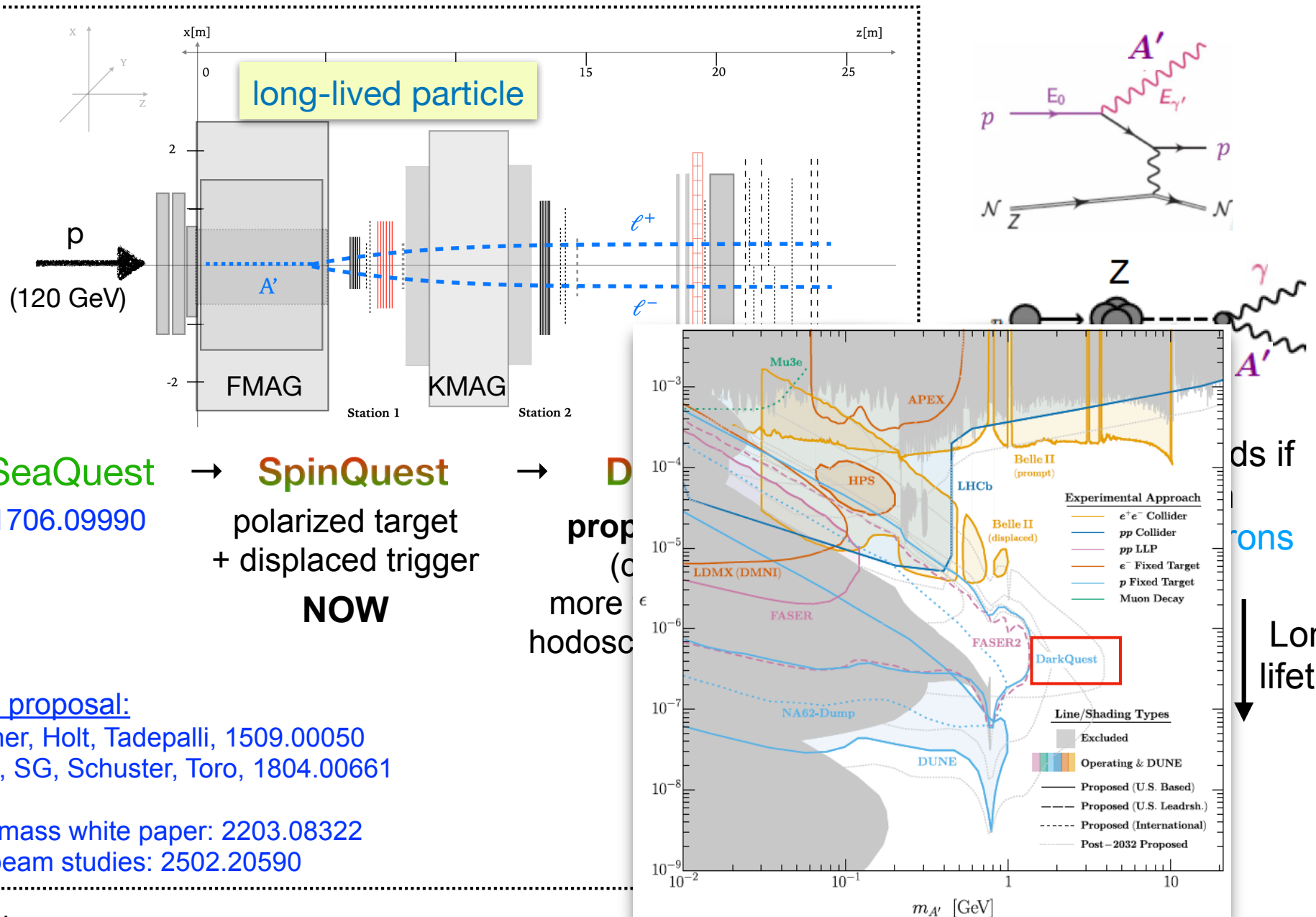
Snowmass white paper: 2203.08322

Test beam studies: 2502.20590



Low backgrounds if
the dark photon
decays to **electrons**

The DarkQuest experiment @ Fermilab



The strong CP problem and axions

Strong CP problem:

why is the QCD $\bar{\theta}$ parameter so small? $\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} \supset \bar{\theta} \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$ (CP violating term)
 $\bar{\theta} \equiv \theta + \arg(\det(Y_u Y_d))$

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Let's introduce a global $U(1)_{\text{PQ}}$ symmetry that is broken spontaneously by a complex scalar field

Peccei-Quinn symmetry
breaking scale

$$V(\Phi) = \lambda(|\Phi|^2 - f_a^2/2)^2$$

This spontaneous breaking will lead to a massless goldstone boson, the **axion**, a .

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{f_a}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i a(x)/f_a}$$

When QCD enters the confining phase, it generates an axion potential that is minimized at $a = -\bar{\theta} f_a$ and this cancel the Lagrangian term that contributes to the neutron EDM.

It also generates a non-zero mass for the axion: $m_a f_a \sim f_\pi m_\pi$

The generic expectation is that the axion couples $\sim 1/f_a$

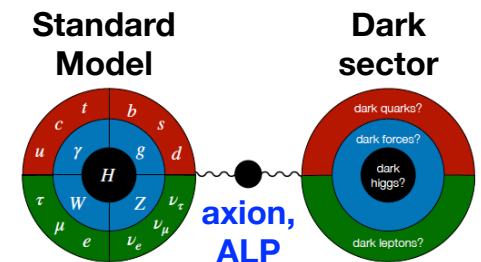
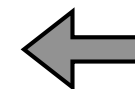
Additional motivations for sub-GeV axions (or ALPs)

Beyond the strong CP problem...

Axions or axion-like-particles (ALPs) are pretty generic new physics particles
Pseudo Nambu Goldstone boson in models with a spontaneously broken global symmetry

Couplings with the Standard Model (SM) particles determined by the particular UV theory

- Models to address the gauge hierarchy problem (relaxion)
- SUSY extended models (NMSSM with an approximate PQ symmetry)
- Generic feature of string compactification
- Models addressing anomalies in data
(($g-2$) $_{\mu}$, galactic center excess for DM, ...)
- General (low dimensional) portal to the dark sector



The minimal canonical axion models

Couplings	KSVZ	DFSZ
Gluons	$\frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi f_a}$	
Photons	$-\frac{\alpha}{8\pi f_a}(1.924)$	$\frac{\alpha}{8\pi f_a}(\frac{8}{3} - 1.924)$
Quarks	Loop suppressed	up : $\frac{\cos^2 \beta}{6f_a}$, down : $\frac{\sin^2 \beta}{6f_a}$
Leptons	Loop suppressed	Type I : $\frac{\sin^2 \beta}{6f_a}$, Type II : $-\frac{\cos^2 \beta}{6f_a}$

Kim-Shifman-Vainshtein-Zakharov (KSVZ) model, Phys. Rev. Lett. 43 (1979) 103, Nucl. Phys. B 166 (1980) 493.

UV model with a vector-like color-triplet fermion and a complex scalar

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UV model with a complex weak-singlet scalar and an additional Higgs doublet

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$$f_a \gtrsim \begin{cases} 3.9 \times 10^8 \text{ GeV} & \text{(KSVZ)} \\ 1.2 \times 10^9 \text{ GeV} \sin^2 \beta & \text{(DFSZ-I)} \\ 1.2 \times 10^9 \text{ GeV} \cos^2 \beta & \text{(DFSZ-II)} \end{cases}$$

supernova cooling bounds (axion-nucleon interaction)

cooling bounds on red giant (axion-electron interaction)

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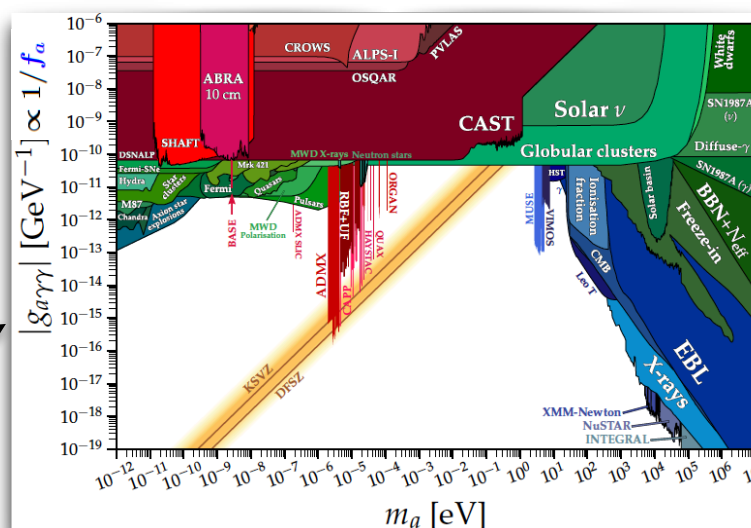
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Common plot that we can find in the literature:

coupling
to photons



Present probes

Adams et al.,
2003.14923

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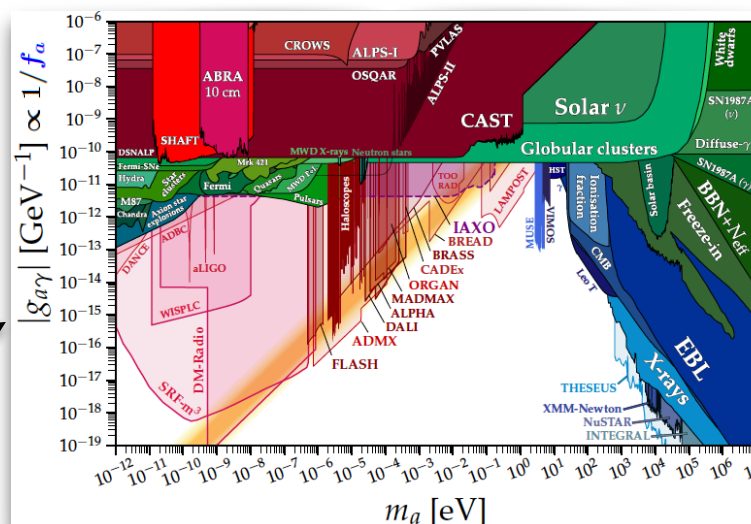
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Future probes

Adams et al.,
2003.14923

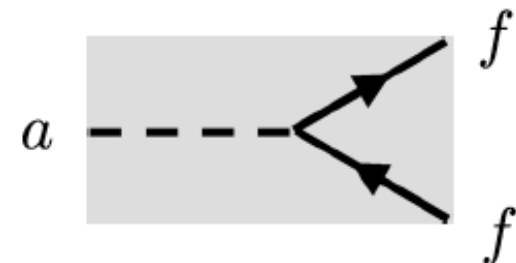
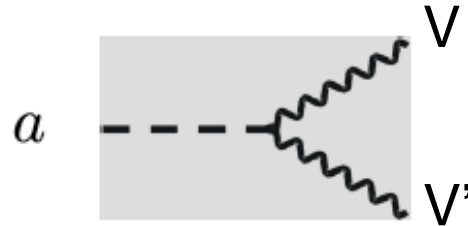
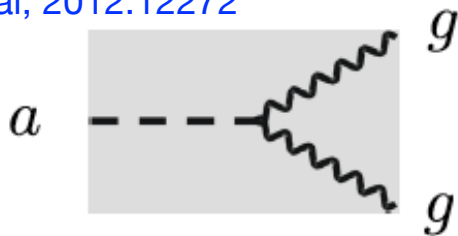
Let's go back to the EFT for axions

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Georgi, Kaplan, Randall 1986

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{g_{ag}}{4} a G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu} - \frac{g_{aW}}{4} a W_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{W}^{a\mu\nu} - \frac{g_{aB}}{4} a B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu} + ig_{af} (\partial_\mu a) (\bar{f} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 f)$$

For the complete one-loop analysis, see
Bonilla et al, 2107.11392
Bauer et al, 2012.12272



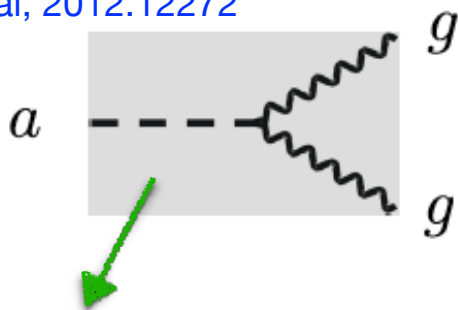
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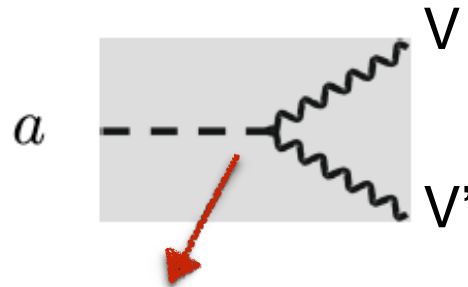
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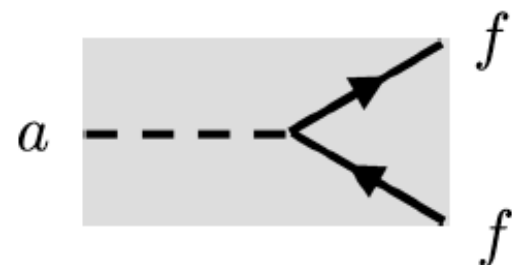


Minimal coupling expected if connection to the strong CP problem.



A axion-photon coupling is generated in the broken phase

$$g_{aB} \cos^2 \theta + g_{aW} \sin^2 \theta$$



This is the **main coupling** that has been considered for phenomenological studies of axions in the sub-GeV scale.

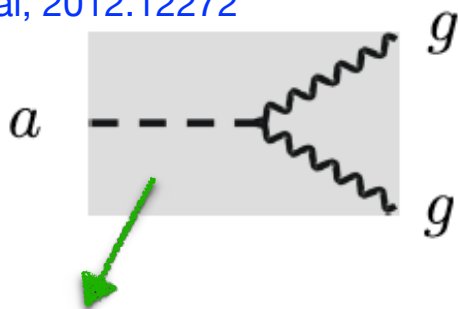
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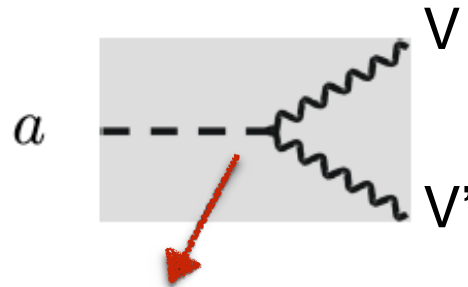
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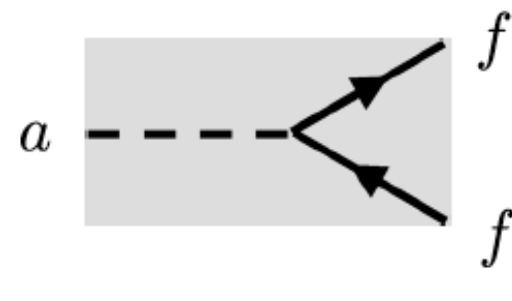
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These are the **least studied couplings**. Nevertheless they are present and sizable even in the minimal DFSZ QCD axion model.

Fast progressing number of theory studies + experimental searches

Many signatures still to explore!

Axions at pion experiments

Axions can be produced from pion decays

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a$$

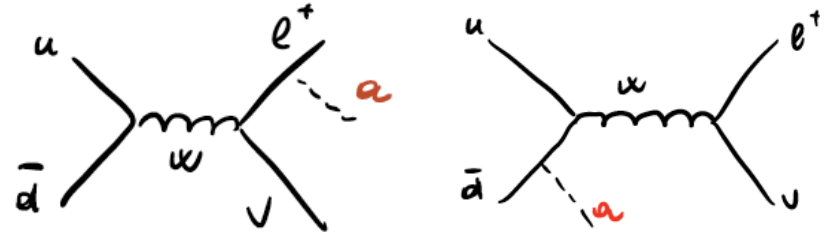
not helicity suppressed (as $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$),
nor phase-space suppressed (as $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu$)

These decays are very generic and they happen in any UV theory where

- ♦ the axion mixes with the SM π^0
- ♦ the axion couples to quarks
- ♦ the axion couples to leptons

[Altmannshofer, SG, Robinson, 1909.00005](#)

[Altmannshofer, Dror, SG, 2209.00665](#)



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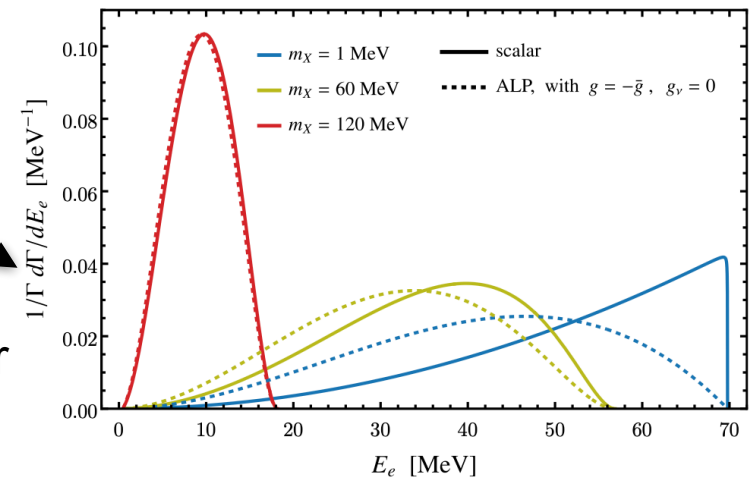
Altmannshofer, Dror, SG, 2209.00665



Altmannshofer, Giffin, SG, Jackson, Luong, in progress

- * If the axion is **invisible**, it will affect the measurement of the e^+ spectrum in $\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$ (PIENU experiment here at TRIUMF + future PIONEER experiment)

- * If the axion **decays back to the SM**, we can search for exotic pion signatures. E.g. $\pi^+ \rightarrow a e^+ \nu \rightarrow (\gamma\gamma) e^+ \nu$ (possibly searched for in the future by PIONEER)



Take home message on BSM

Many motivations to consider physics beyond the Standard Model (BSM)

Some motivations are more “theory driven” (hierarchy problem, flavor puzzle, ...); some are observational (origin of neutrino masses, DM, ...)

The range of phenomena that are predicted by BSM theories is vast. In fact, we don't know where the next NP scale is going to be

It is important to look as broadly as possible for NP at many different experiments and to explore a variety of theories!

Backup

Precision pion experiments

Several (past and present) small-scale experiments built to measure π^+ rare decays

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu$$

$$\text{BR} \sim \frac{m_e^2 (m_\pi^2 - m_e^2)^2}{m_\mu^2 (m_\pi^2 - m_\mu^2)^2}$$

Helicity suppressed decay

- * Most precise measurement:
PIENU experiment @ TRIUMF

$$\text{BR}^{\text{exp}} = (1.234 \pm 0.004) \times 10^{-4}$$

Mainly stat. uncertainty

- * Theoretical uncertainty
~1 order of magnitude smaller!
- * PIONEER future measurement:
~20 times more accurate

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu$$

$$\text{BR} \sim \frac{(m_{\pi^\pm} - m_{\pi^0})^5 m_{\pi^\pm}^3}{f_\pi^2 m_\mu^2 (m_{\pi^\pm}^2 - m_\mu^2)^2}$$

Phase space suppressed decay

- * Most precise measurement:
PIBETA experiment @ PSI

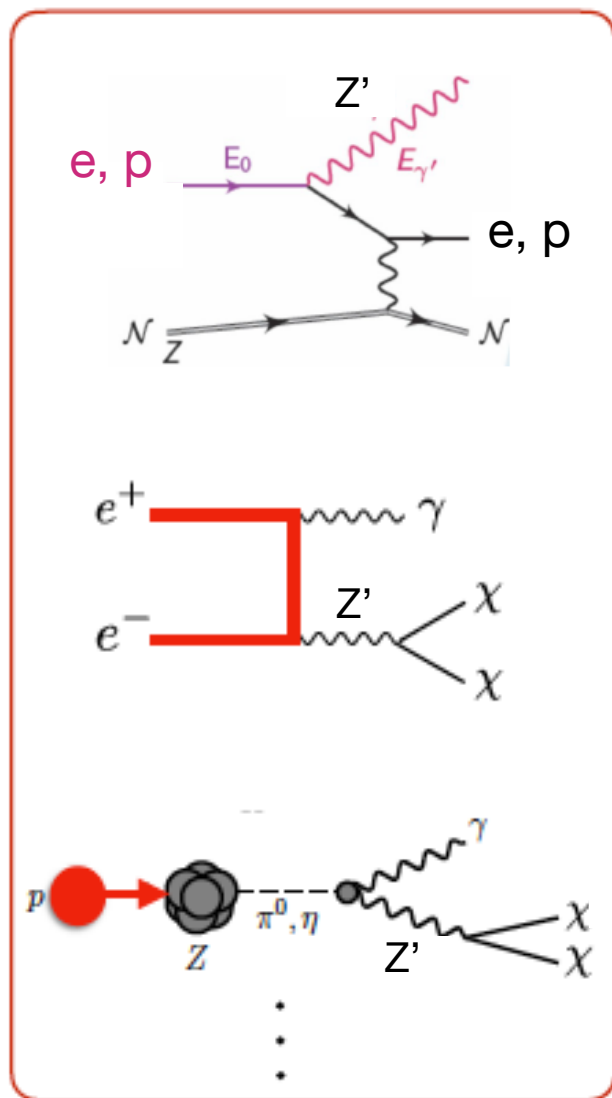
$$\text{BR}^{\text{exp}} = (1.036 \pm 0.006) \times 10^{-8}$$

Comparable stat. and sys. uncertainties

- * Theoretical uncertainty a factor
of ~2 smaller
- * PIONEER future measurement:
~10 times more accurate

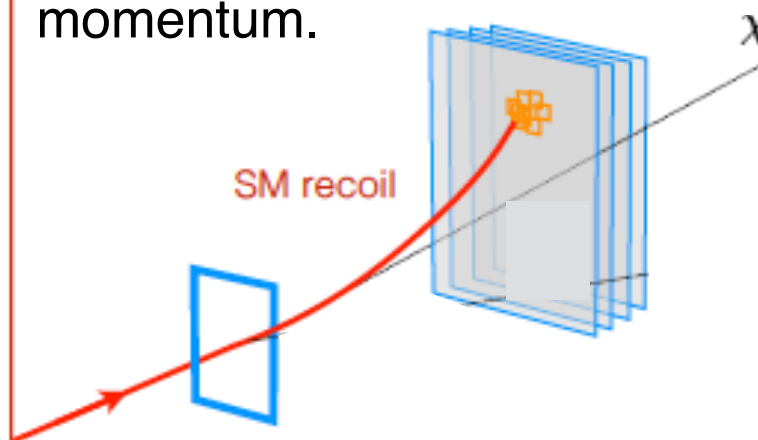
Invisible dark photons. DM production

$$m_{Z'} > 2m_\chi$$



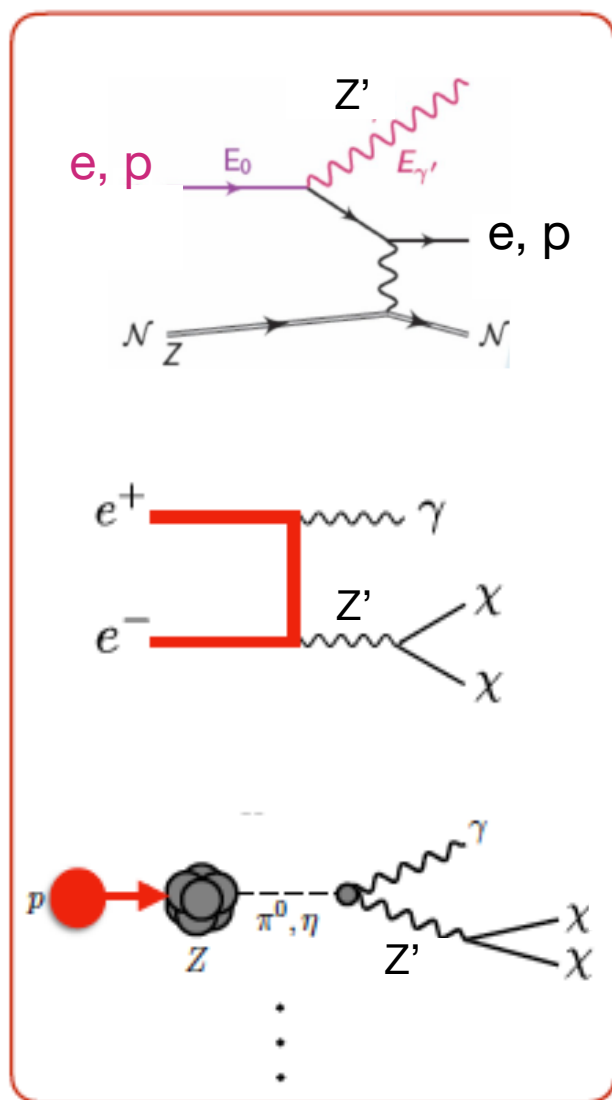
(1)

“Disappearance” of a sizable fraction of the beam energy/momentum.

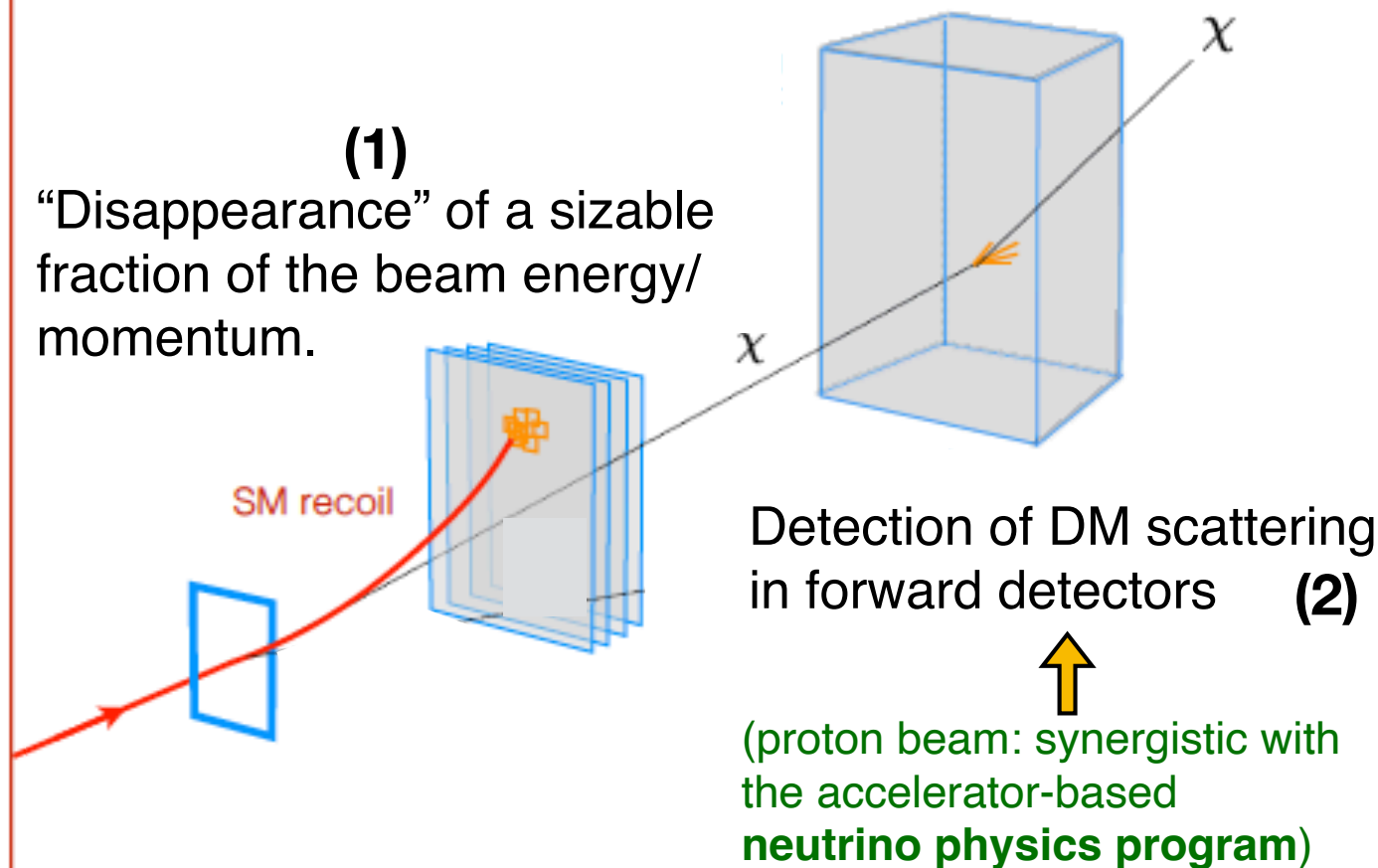


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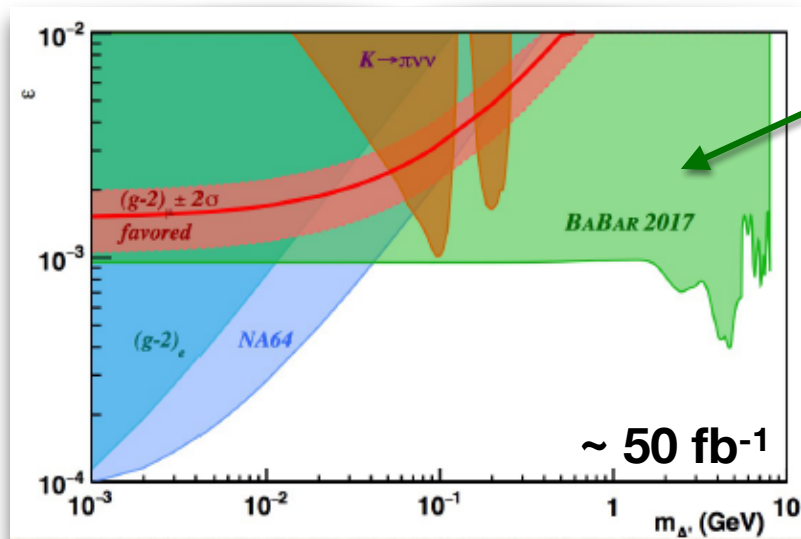


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Invisible dark photon at Belle II

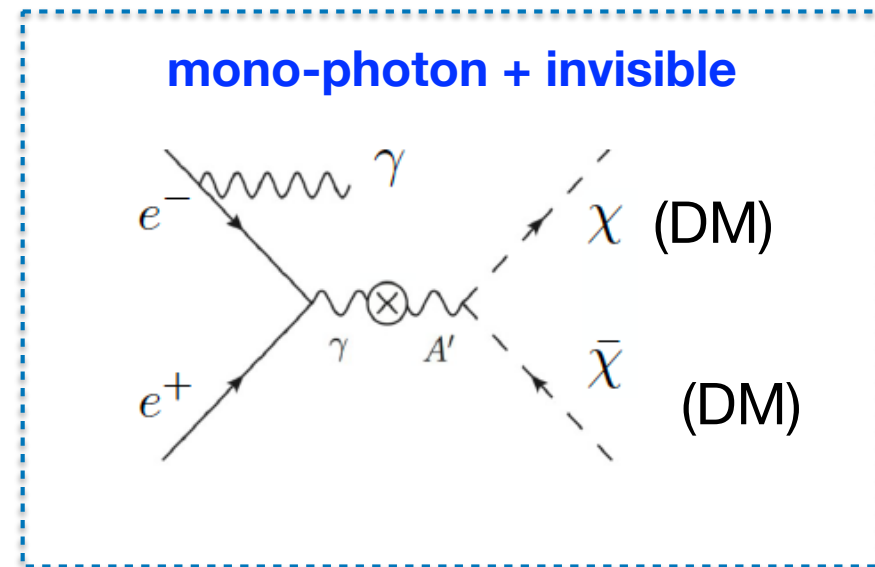
1702.03327



Babar
search

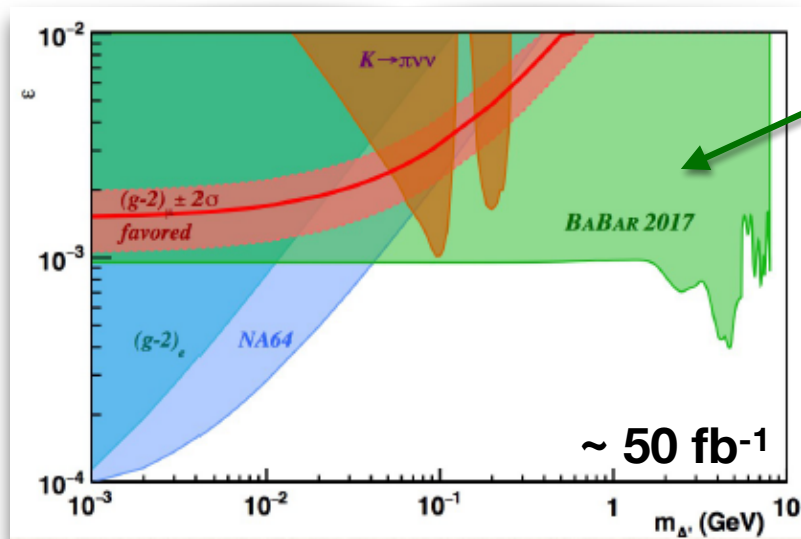
single-photon trigger

This analysis excludes the entire
region **avored by $(g-2)_\mu$** !



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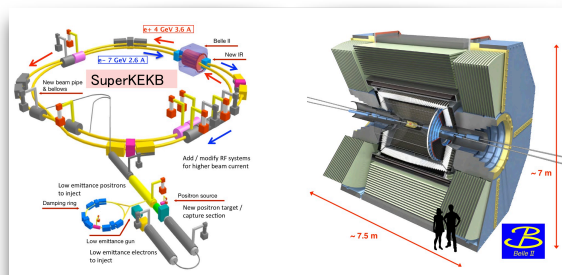
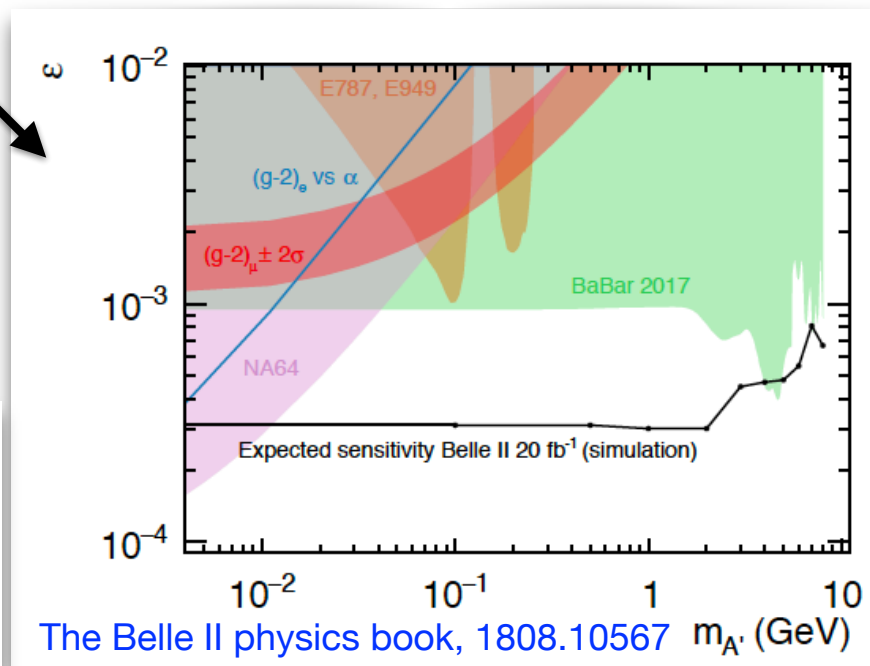
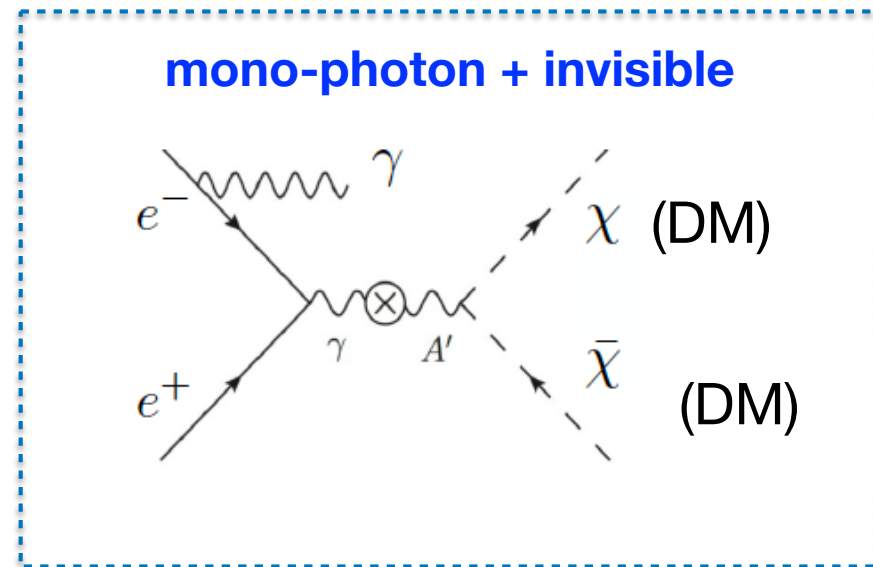
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Babar search

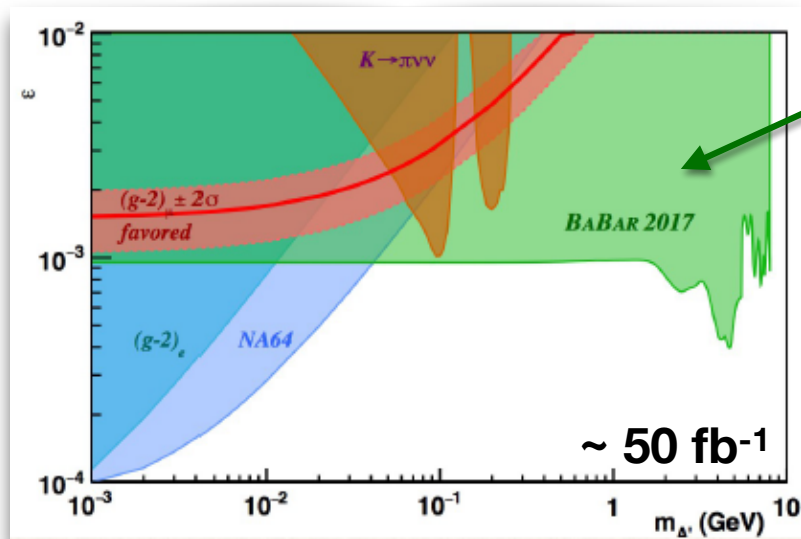
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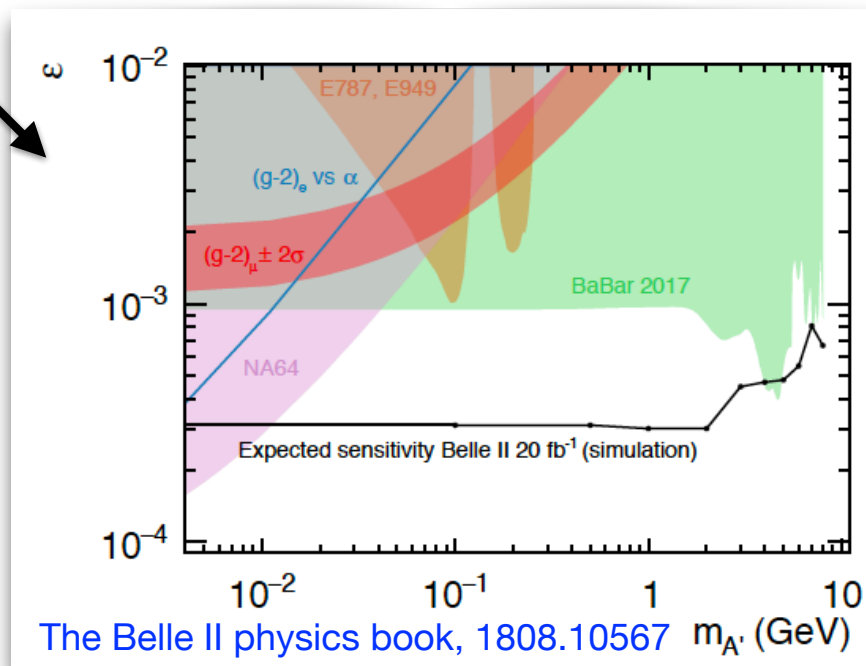
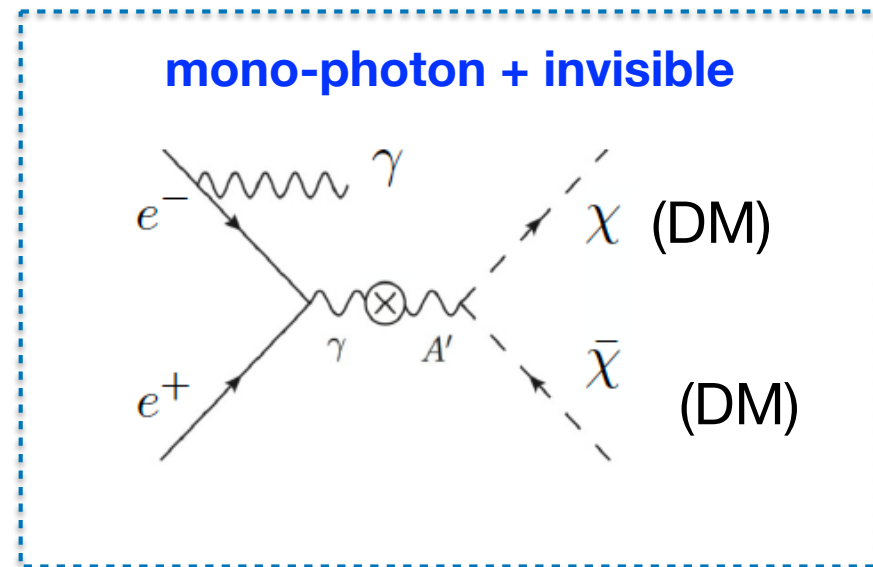
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single-photon trigger

This analysis excludes the entire region **favored by $(g-2)_\mu$** !

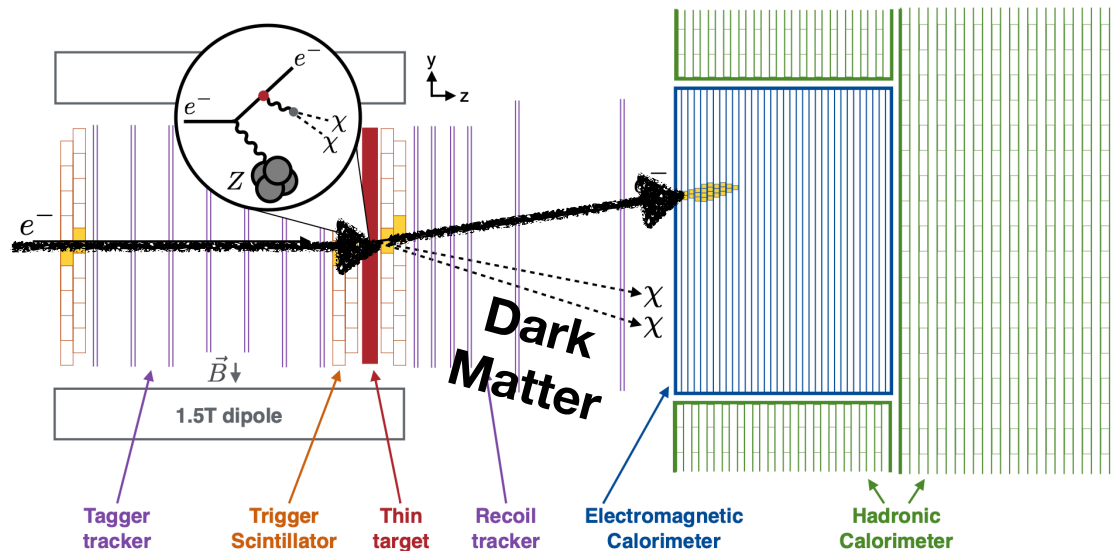
Belle II is supposed to collect 50 ab⁻¹!



Invisible dark photon at LDMX

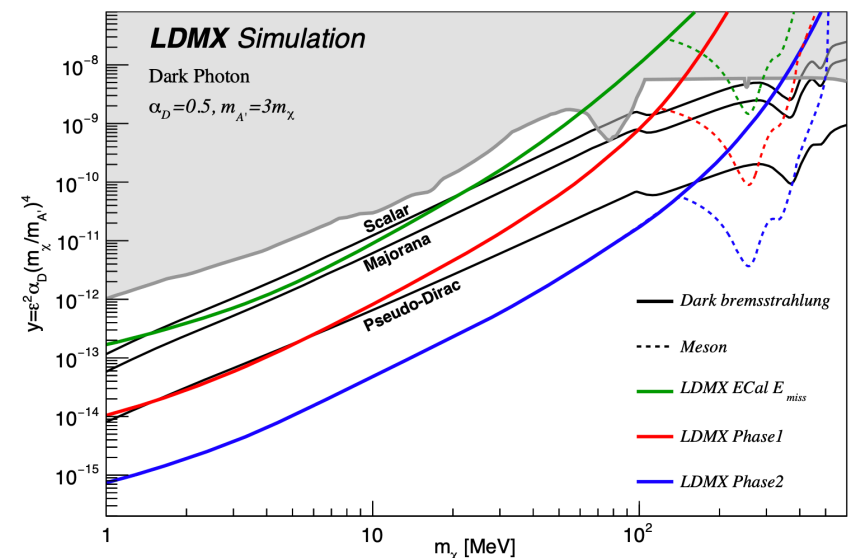
Akesson et al., 2203.08192

High intensity
electron beam
(4 and 8 GeV)



See
Izaguirre, Krnjaic,
Schuster, Toro,
1411.1404
for the initial proposal

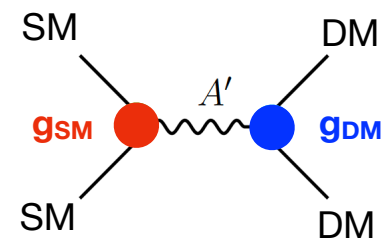
Missing momentum experiment
(accurate measurement of the momentum of
the deflected electron beam)



Summary: the invisible dark photon

$$\epsilon B^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$$

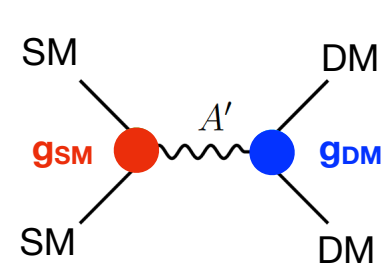
$$A' \rightarrow \text{DM DM}$$



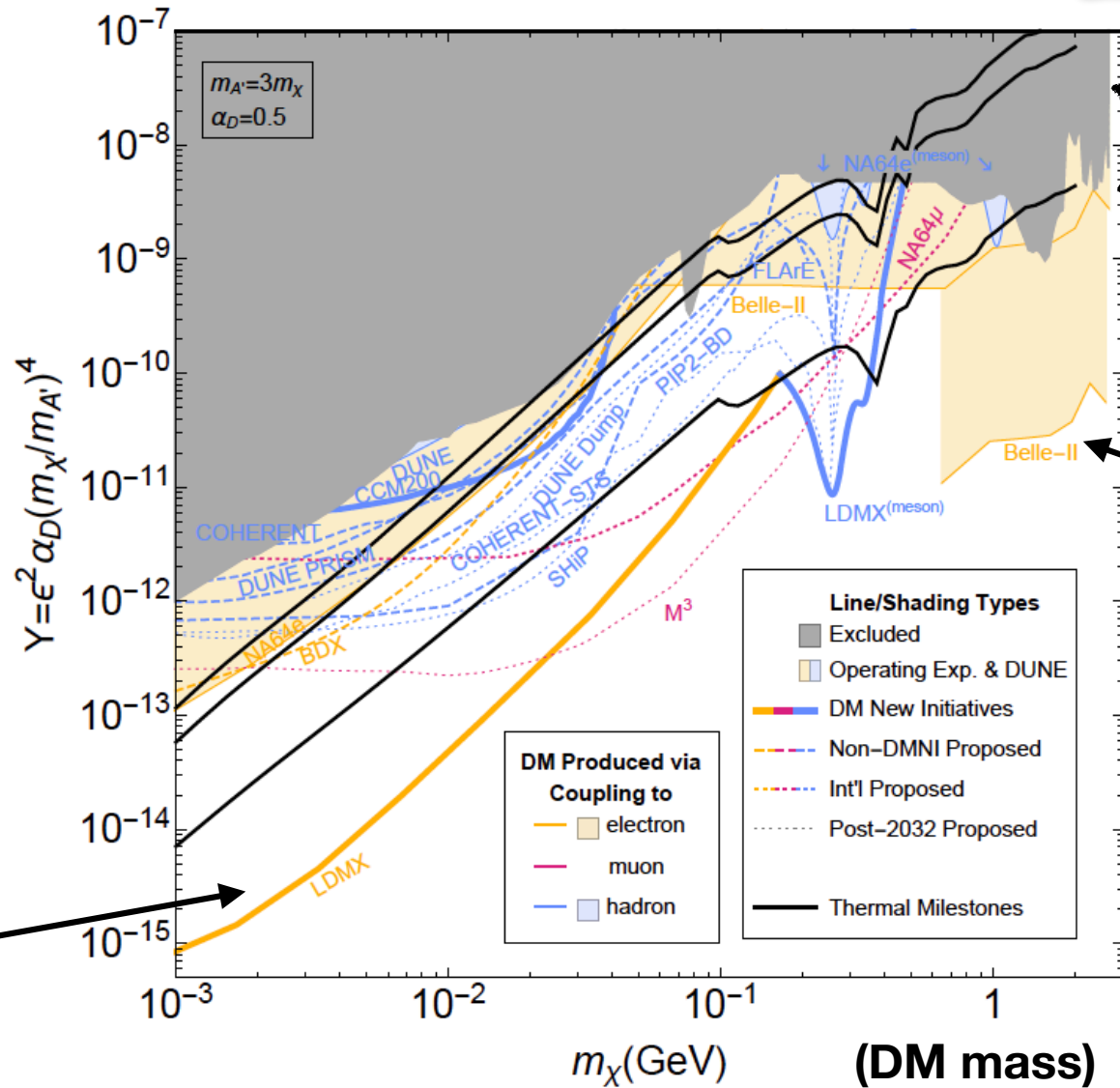
Summary: the invisible dark photon

$$\epsilon B^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$$

$$A' \rightarrow \text{DM DM}$$



LDMX



→ LHC

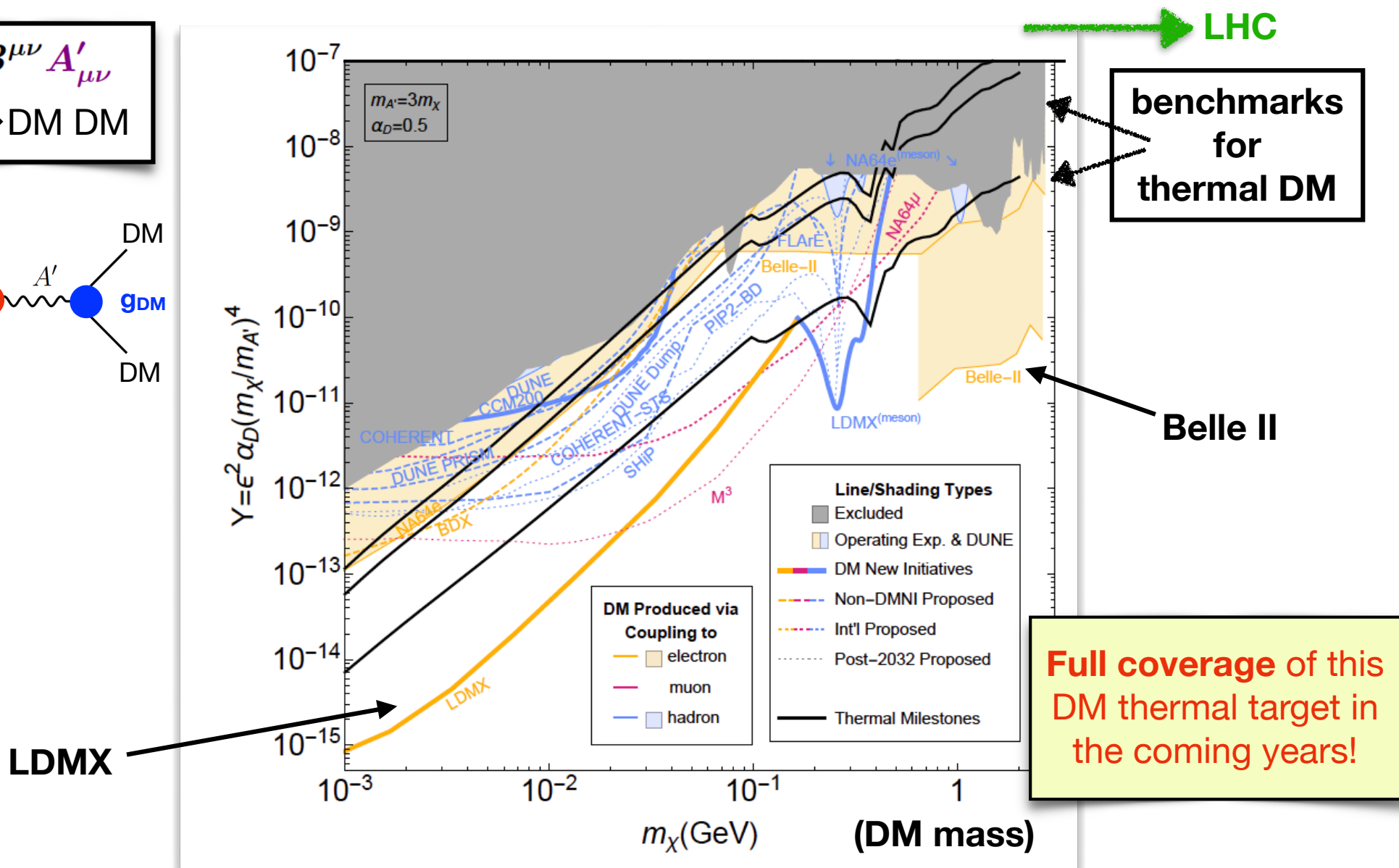
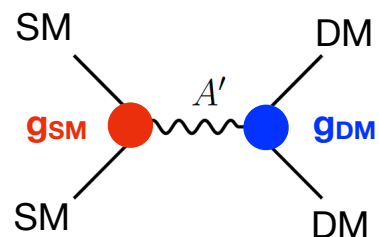
benchmarks
for
thermal DM

Belle II

Summary: the invisible dark photon

$$\epsilon B^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$$

$$A' \rightarrow \text{DM DM}$$



Krnjaic, Toro et al, 2207.00597