

# Rethinking the QCD axion

LNGS Seminars - 20.06.19

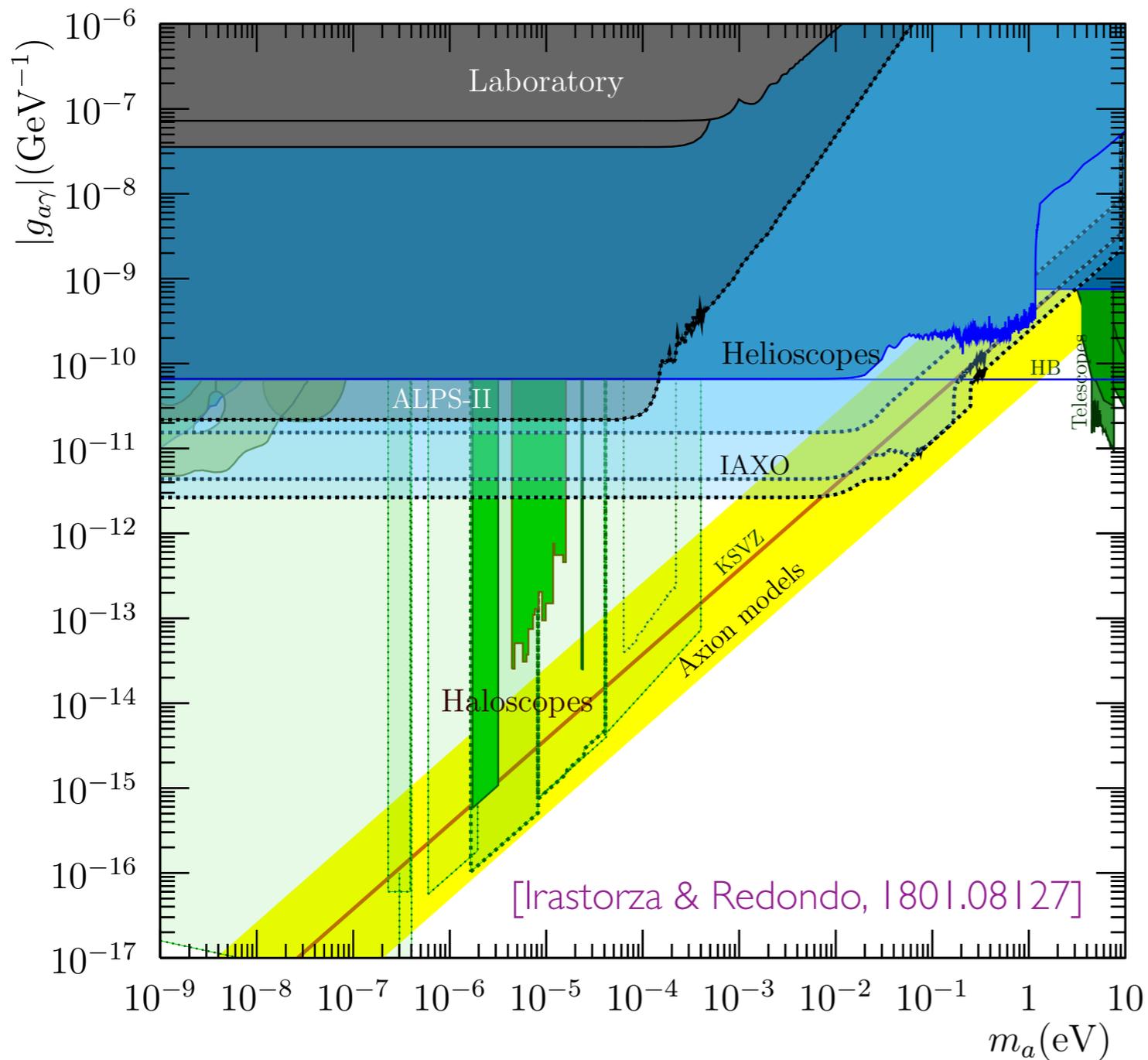
Luca Di Luzio



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA



# In 10 years from now ?



- ✿ A great opportunity to discover the QCD axion !
- ★ Time now to get prepared and rethink the QCD axion

# Outline

1. Strong CP problem
2. QCD axion
3. Current limits and search strategies
4. Beyond standard axion scenarios

Based on:

LDL, Mescia, Nardi 1610.07593 (PRL) + 1705.05370 (PRD)

LDL, Mescia, Nardi, Panci, Ziegler 1712.04940 (PRL) + ...

# The strong CP problem

- CP violation in QCD

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \sum_q \bar{q} (i\not{D} - m_q e^{i\theta_q}) q - \frac{1}{4} G_a^{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}^a - \theta \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a \quad (\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} G^{a,\rho\sigma})$$

# The strong CP problem

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- GGtilde is a total derivative (no effects in PT)

- QCD instantons

[Belavin, Polyakov, Schwarz, Tyupkin PLB59 (1975), 't Hooft PRL37 + PRD14 (1976)]

$$Z = \int \delta G e^{-\frac{1}{4} \int GG - i\theta \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} \int G\tilde{G}} \sim e^{-\frac{8\pi}{g_s^2}} e^{i\theta} \xrightarrow{\text{I + AI}} e^{-\frac{8\pi}{g_s^2}} \cos \theta$$

# The strong CP problem

- CP violation in QCD

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \sum_q \bar{q} (i\not{D} - m_q e^{i\theta_q}) q - \frac{1}{4} G_a^{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}^a - \theta \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a$$

- Non-trivial role of quark fields: under a chiral transformation

$$q \rightarrow e^{i\gamma_5 \alpha} q \quad \longrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \theta_q \rightarrow \theta_q + 2\alpha \\ \theta \rightarrow \theta + 2\alpha \end{array} \right.$$

from non-invariance of path integral measure  
(chiral anomaly)

[Fujikawa, PRL 42 (1979)]

$$\mathcal{D}q\mathcal{D}\bar{q} \rightarrow \exp\left(-i\alpha \int d^4x \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a\right) \mathcal{D}q\mathcal{D}\bar{q}$$

$$\longrightarrow \quad \bar{\theta} = \theta - \theta_q \quad \underline{\text{invariant}}$$

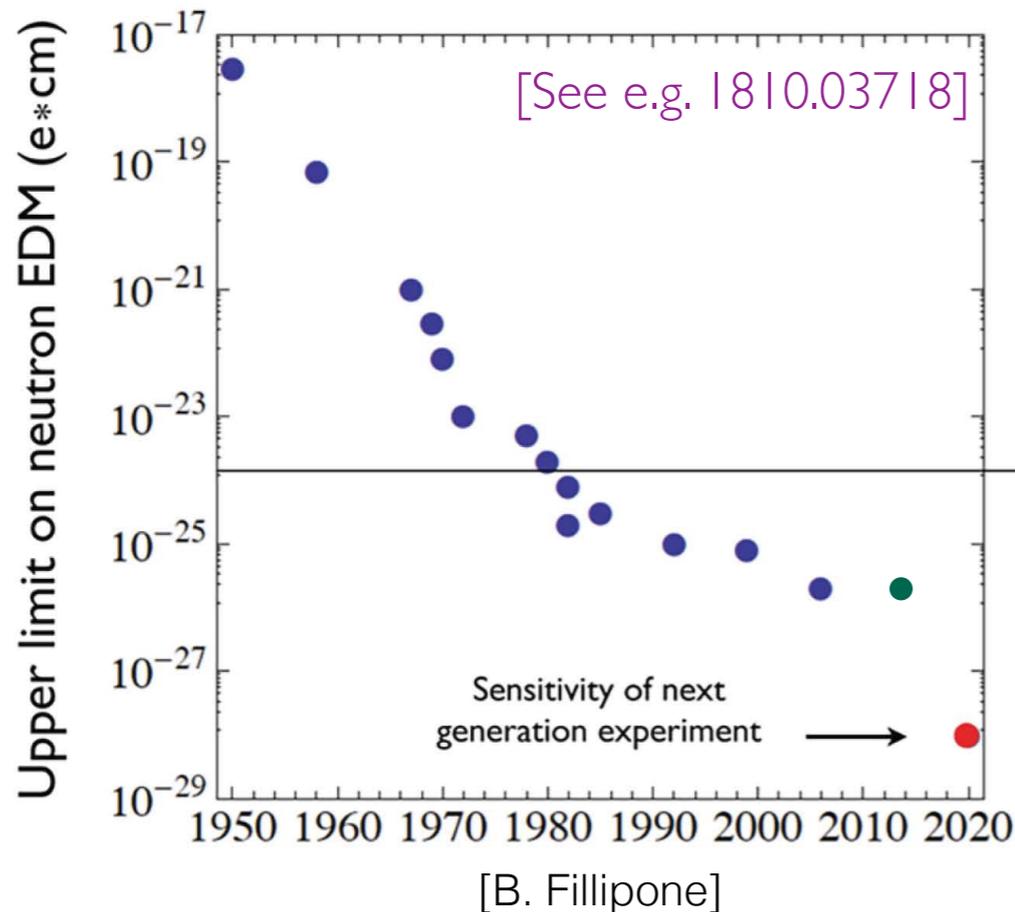
$$= \theta - \arg \det(Y_u Y_d) \quad (\text{generalization to an arbitrary chiral transf. in the EW theory})$$

# The strong CP problem

- CP violation in QCD

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \sum_q \bar{q} (i\not{D} - m_q e^{i\theta_q}) q - \frac{1}{4} G_a^{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}^a - \theta \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a$$

- Non-zero neutron EDM



$$\mathcal{L}_\chi \supset d_n \bar{n} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma_5 n F_{\mu\nu}$$

$$d_n \approx \frac{e |\bar{\theta}| m_\pi^2}{m_n^3} \approx 10^{-16} |\bar{\theta}| e \text{ cm}$$

[Baluni PRD 19 (1979),  
Crewther, Di Vecchia, Veneziano,  
Witten PLB 88 (1979), ... ]



$$|\bar{\theta}| \lesssim 10^{-10}$$

why so small ?

# “Small value” problems

- Strong CP: qualitatively different from other small value problems of the SM



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1. theta is radiatively stable (unlike  $m_H^2 \ll \Lambda_{UV}^2$ )

[Ellis, Gaillard NPB 150 (1979),  
Khriplovich, Vainshtein NPB 414 (1994)]

$$\bar{\theta} \sim \frac{1}{(4\pi)^{14}} g'^2 [Y^2(u_R) - Y^2(d_R)] J_{CKM} \log \Lambda_{UV}$$



$$J_{CKM} = \text{Im Det} [Y_U Y_U^\dagger, Y_D Y_D^\dagger] \approx 10^{-29}$$

- divergence expected to arise at **7-loops**



Fig. 9. Generic topology of a class of divergent *CP* violating 14th-order diagrams in the Kobayashi-Maskawa model [21,22].

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1. theta is radiatively stable (unlike  $m_H^2 \ll \Lambda_{UV}^2$ )

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2. it evades anthropic explanations (unlike  $\Lambda_{c.c.}$  and  $y_{e,u,d} \sim 10^{-6} \div 10^{-5}$ )

nuclear physics and BBN practically unaffected for  $\bar{\theta} \lesssim 10^{-2}$

[See e.g. Ubaldi, 0811.1599]

 Solution of strong CP likely unrelated to other small value problems in the SM ?

# “Small value” problems

- Strong CP: qualitatively different from other small value problems of the SM

1. theta is radiatively stable (unlike  $m_H^2 \ll \Lambda_{UV}^2$ )

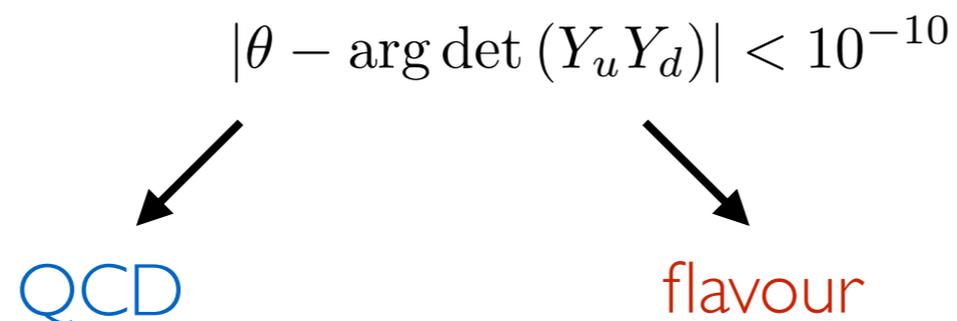
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- More than a small value problem ?



(imagine a theory of flavour generating Yukawas: would expect  $O(1)$  phases like CKM)

# Solutions

- Do we really understand QCD vacuum structure ?
  - e.g. confinement might screen theta term [Polyakov...]
  - attempts in this direction failed (so far) to solve eta' problem !

$$m_{\eta'} \approx 958 \text{ MeV}$$

$$m_{\eta'} < \sqrt{3}m_{\pi}$$

[Weinberg sum-rule for pNGB]

$$m_{\eta'}^2 = \frac{6\mathcal{X}}{f_{\pi}^2} + \mathcal{O}(m_q) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{N_c^2}\right)$$

[Witten NPB156 (1979),  
Veneziano NPB159 (1979)]

$$\mathcal{X} = -i \int d^4x \langle 0 | T \frac{1}{32\pi^2} G\tilde{G}(x) \frac{1}{32\pi^2} G\tilde{G}(0) | 0 \rangle$$

# Solutions

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- Do we really understand QCD vacuum structure ?
- A massless quark would make the theta term unphysical (excluded at  $20\sigma$  by Lattice)
- Spontaneous CP (or P) violation [Nelson PLB 136 (1983), PLB 143 (1984)]  
[Barr PRD 30 (1984)]
  - $\bar{\theta} = 0$  in the CP limit
  - need to generate CKM (and CP violation for BAU) without inducing a too large  $\bar{\theta}$
  - non-trivial model building + no clear experimental signature

# Solutions

- Do we really understand QCD vacuum structure ?
- A massless quark would make the theta term unphysical (excluded at  $20\sigma$  by Lattice)
- Spontaneous CP (or P) violation
- PQ mechanism [Peccei, Quinn PRL 38 (1977), PRD 16 (1997)]
  - assume a global  $U(1)_{PQ}$  : i) QCD anomalous and ii) spontaneously broken
  - axion: pNGB of  $U(1)_{PQ}$  breaking [Weinberg PRL 40 (1978), Wilczek PRL 40 (1978)]

$$a(x) \rightarrow a(x) + \delta\alpha f_a$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \underbrace{\left( \bar{\theta} + \frac{a}{f_a} \right)}_{\theta_{\text{eff}}(x)} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a - \frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu a \partial_\mu a + \mathcal{L}(\partial_\mu a, \psi)$$

$\theta_{\text{eff}}(x)$   set to zero by QCD dynamics

# $\theta$ -dependence of QCD vacuum

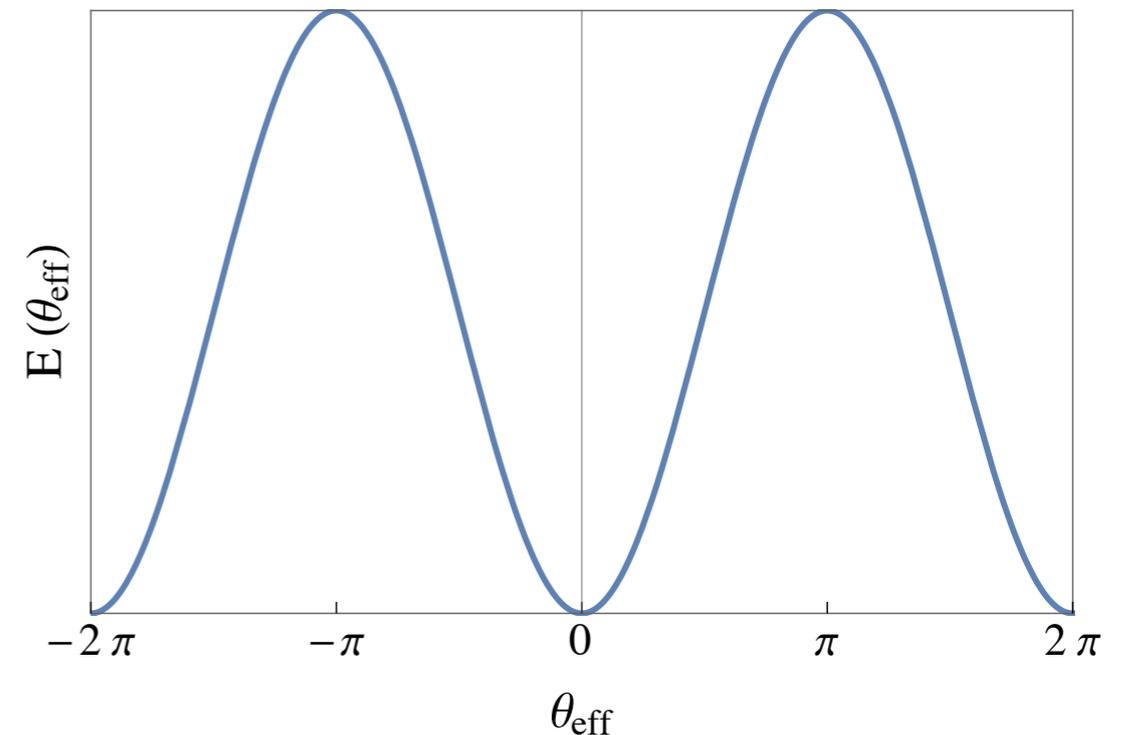
- Ground state energy in Euclidean  $V_4$

[Vafa, Witten PRL 53 (1984)]

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-V_4 E(\theta_{\text{eff}})} &= \int \mathcal{D}\varphi e^{-S_0 + i\theta_{\text{eff}} G\tilde{G}} \\ &= \left| \int \mathcal{D}\varphi e^{-S_0 + i\theta_{\text{eff}} G\tilde{G}} \right| \\ &\leq \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \left| e^{-S_0 + i\theta_{\text{eff}} G\tilde{G}} \right| = e^{-V_4 E(0)} \end{aligned}$$



$$E(0) \leq E(\theta_{\text{eff}})$$



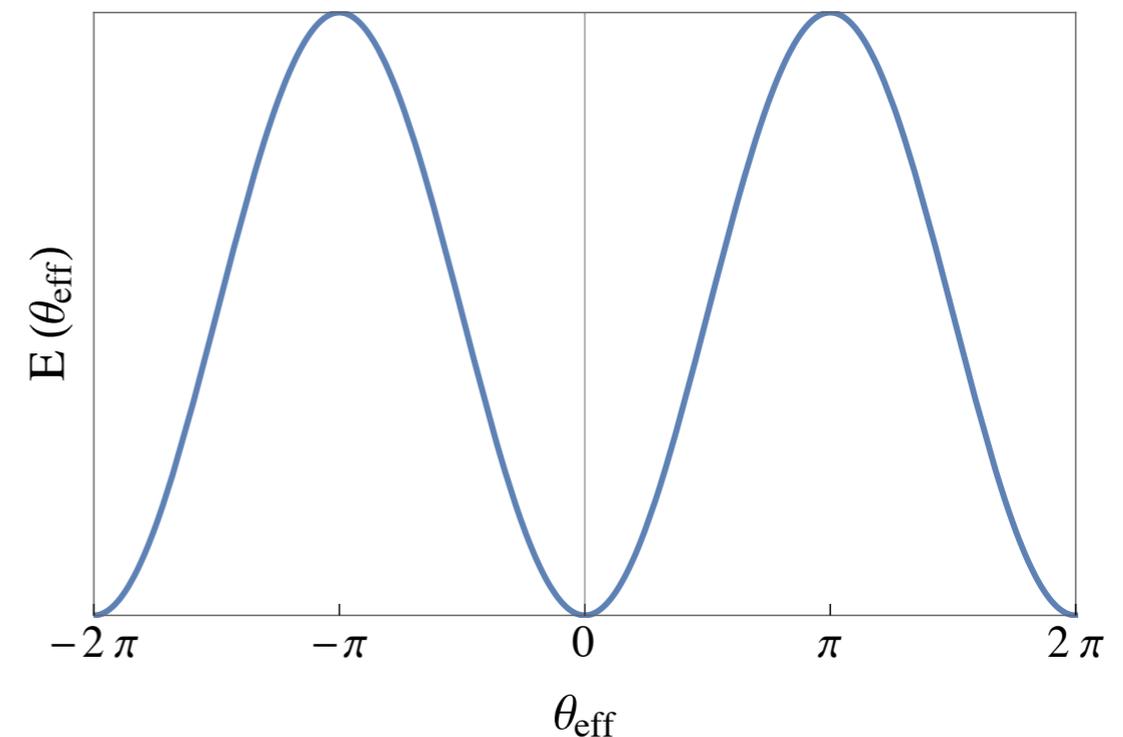


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 &\leq \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \left| e^{-S_0 + i\theta_{\text{eff}} G\tilde{G}} \right| = e^{-V_4 E(0)}
 \end{aligned}$$



- theta term dynamically relaxed to zero on the axion ground state  $\langle a(x) \rangle = -\bar{\theta} f_a$

$$\left( \bar{\theta} + \frac{a}{f_a} \right) \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a \quad \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow \langle a \rangle + a} \quad \frac{a}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a$$

-  $aGG$  tilde not a total derivative (effects in PT)



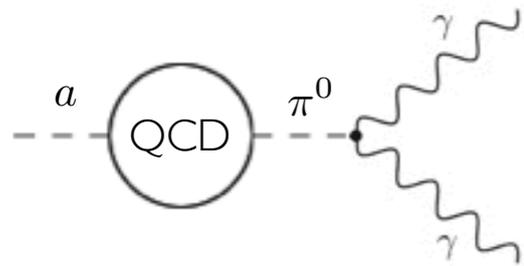
# Axion properties [EFT]

- Consequences of  $\frac{a}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a$

- generates axion mass

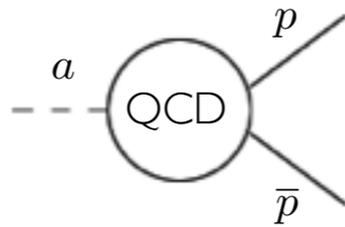
$$\begin{array}{c} a \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} \text{QCD} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{---} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} a \\ \text{---} \end{array} \sim \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^4}{f_a^2} \quad \longrightarrow \quad m_a \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 / f_a \simeq 0.1 \text{ eV} \left( \frac{10^8 \text{ GeV}}{f_a} \right)$$

- generates “model independent” axion couplings to photons, nucleons, electrons, ...



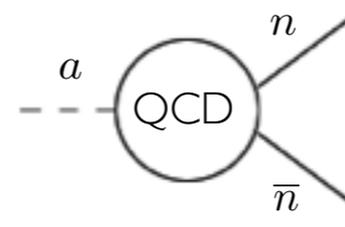
$$C_\gamma = -1.92(4)$$

$$\frac{\alpha}{8\pi} \frac{C_\gamma}{f_a} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$



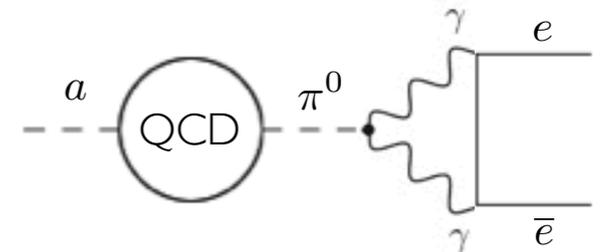
$$C_p = -0.47(3)$$

$$C_\Psi m_\Psi \frac{a}{f_a} [i\bar{\Psi}\gamma_5\Psi]$$



$$C_n = -0.02(3)$$

$$(\Psi = p, n, e)$$



$$C_e \simeq 0$$

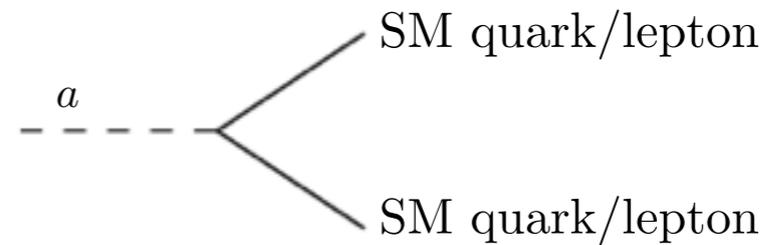
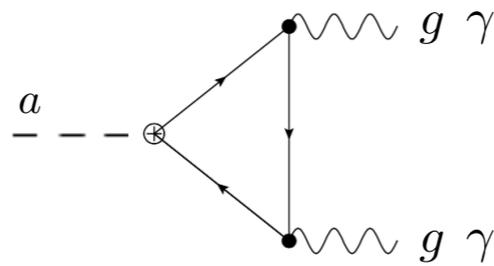
[From NLO Chiral Lagrangian, Grilli di Cortona et al., 1511.02867]

# Axion properties [EFT]

- Consequences of  $\frac{a}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_a^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a$

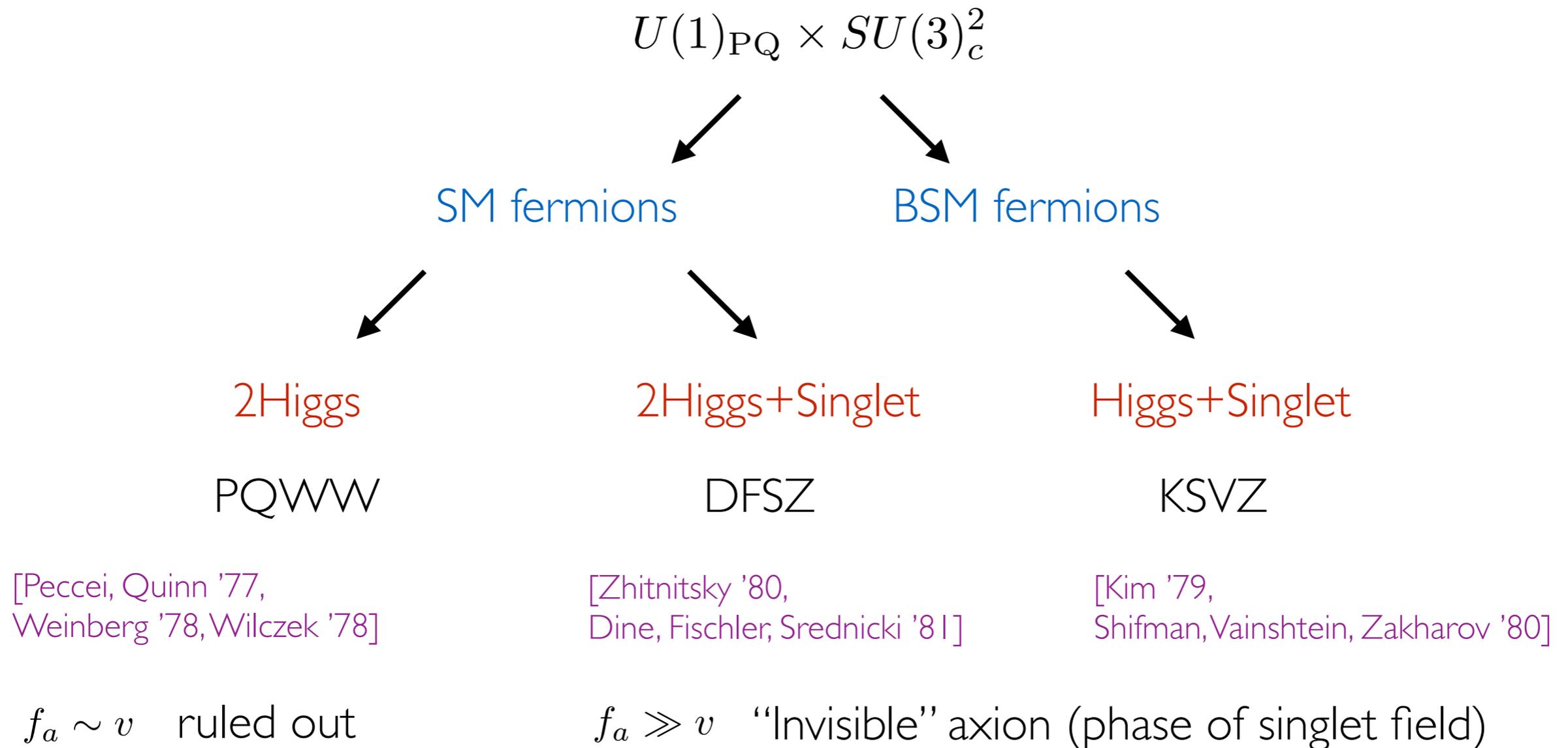
- EFT breaks down at energies of order  $f_a$

→ UV completion can still affect low-energy axion properties !



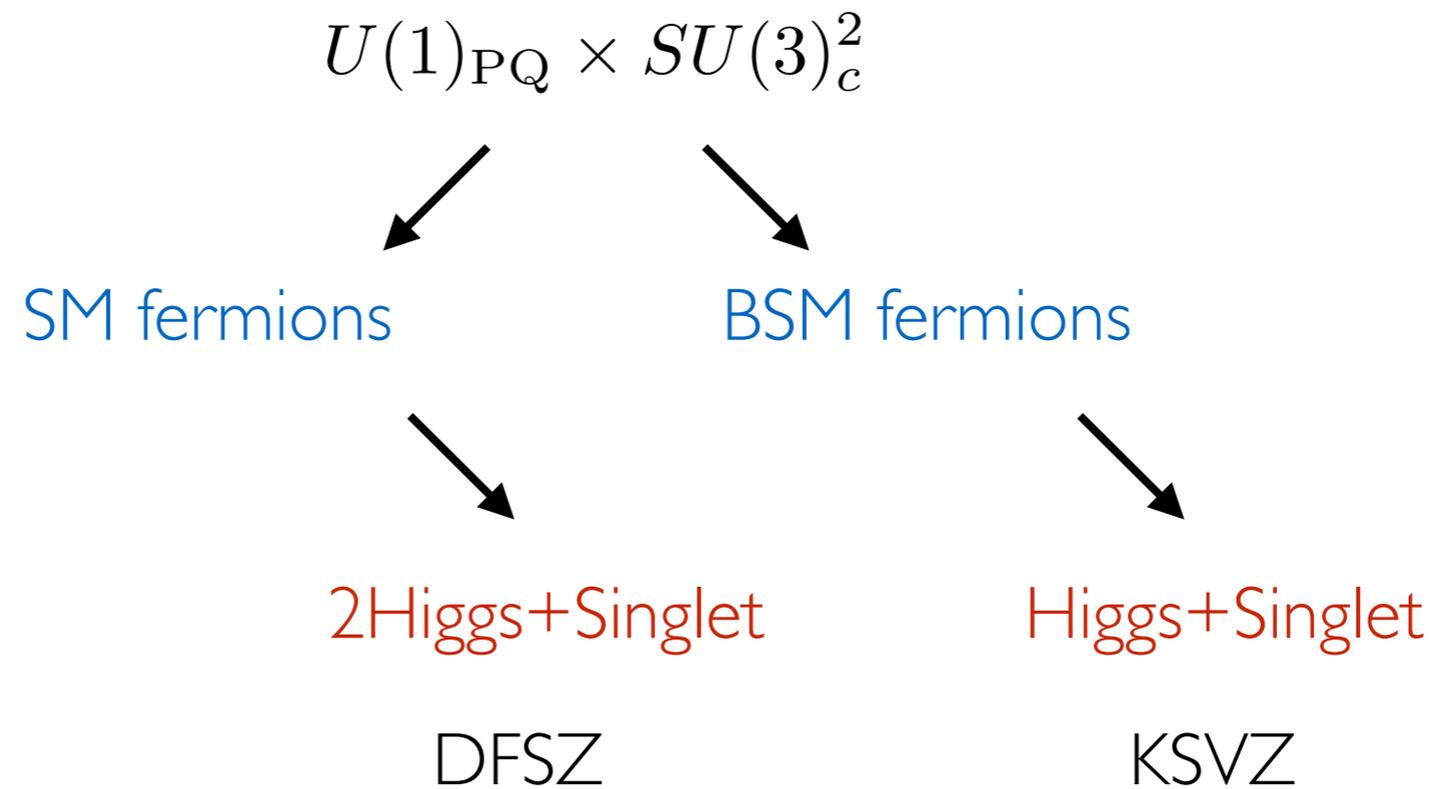
# Axion models [UV completion]

- anomalous PQ breaking (fermion sector) + spontaneous PQ breaking (scalar sector)

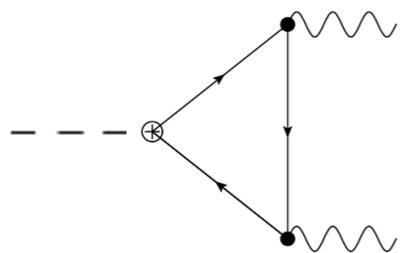


# Axion models [UV completion]

- anomalous PQ breaking (fermion sector) + spontaneous PQ breaking (scalar sector)



$$C_\gamma = E/N - 1.92(4)$$



$$C_{p,n,e}(\beta) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

$$\tan \beta = v_2/v_1$$

$$C_p \simeq -0.5$$

$$C_{n,e} \simeq 0$$

# Astro bounds

- Stars as powerful sources of light and weakly coupled particles [see e.g. Raffelt, hep-ph/0611350]
  - light:  $m_a \lesssim 10 T_\star$  [e.g. typical interior temperature of the Sun  $\sim 1$  keV]
  - weakly coupled [otherwise we would have already seen them in labs]

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  - weakly coupled [otherwise we would have already seen them in labs]
- constraints from “energy loss”, relevant when more interacting than neutrinos

neutrino interactions (d=6 op.)

$$G_F m_e^2 \simeq 10^{-12}$$

axion interactions (d=5 op.)

$$\frac{m_e}{f_a} \simeq 10^{-12} \left( \frac{10^8 \text{ GeV}}{f_a} \right)$$

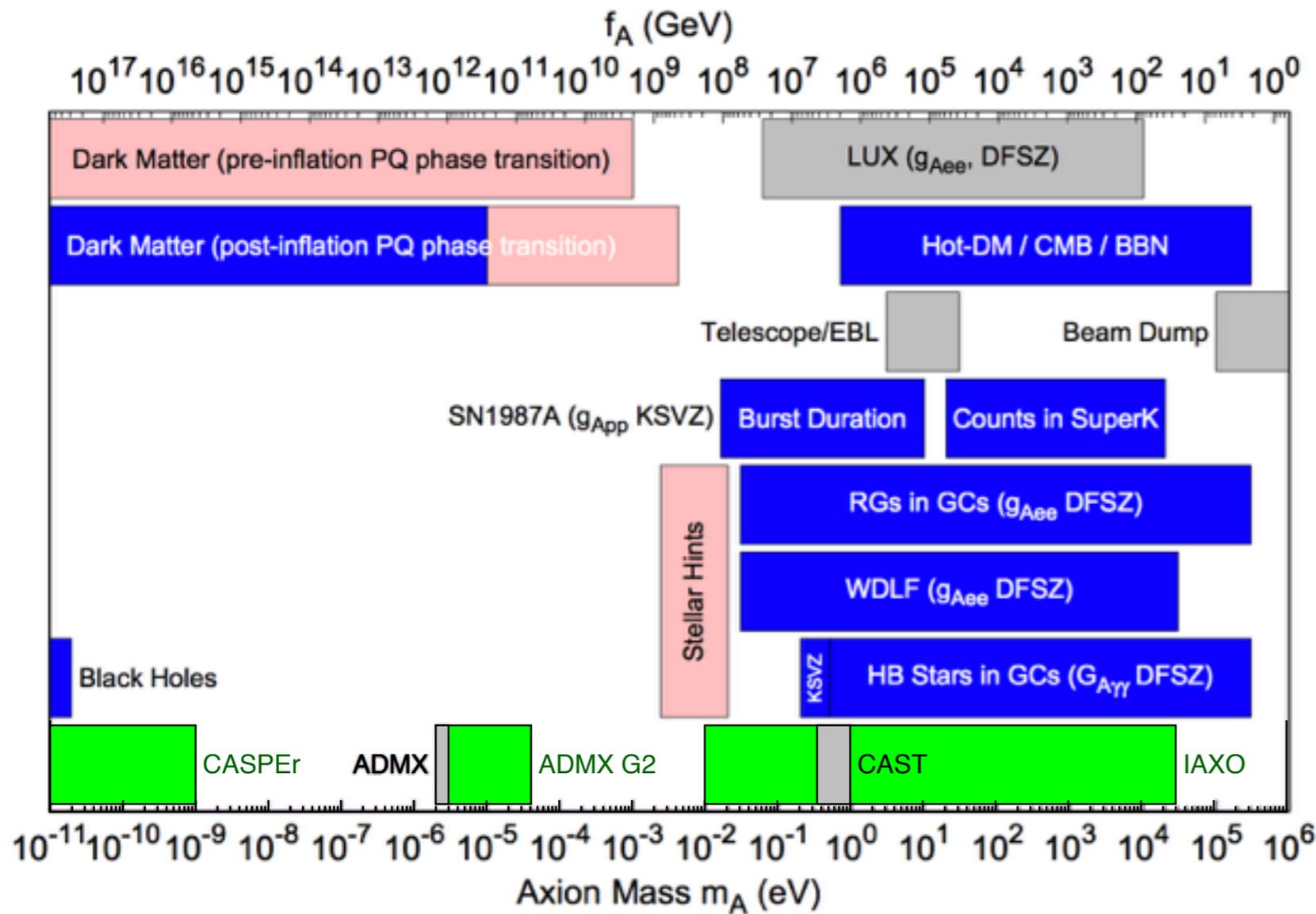


axions are a perfect target

$$m_a \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 / f_a \simeq 0.1 \text{ eV} \left( \frac{10^8 \text{ GeV}}{f_a} \right)$$



# Axion landscape



[Ringwald, Rosenberg, Rybka, Particle Data Group]

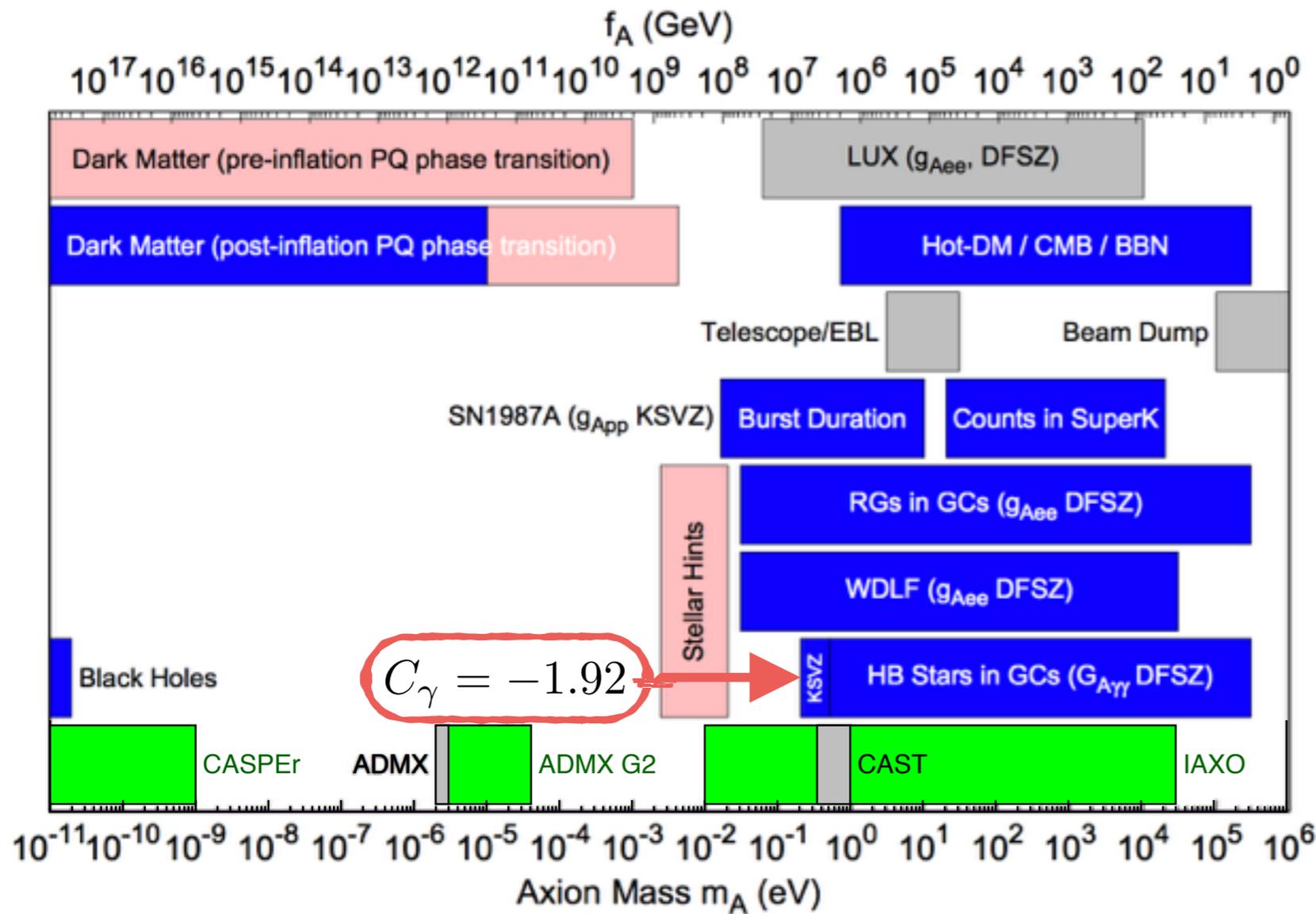
Lab exclusions

Astro/cosmo exclusions

DM explained / Astro Hints

Exp. sensitivities

# Axion landscape



[Ringwald, Rosenberg, Rybka, Particle Data Group]

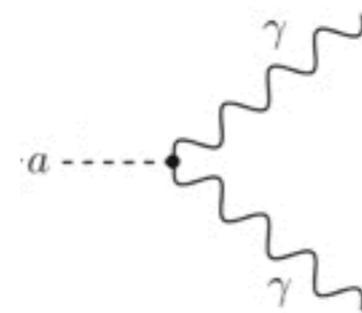
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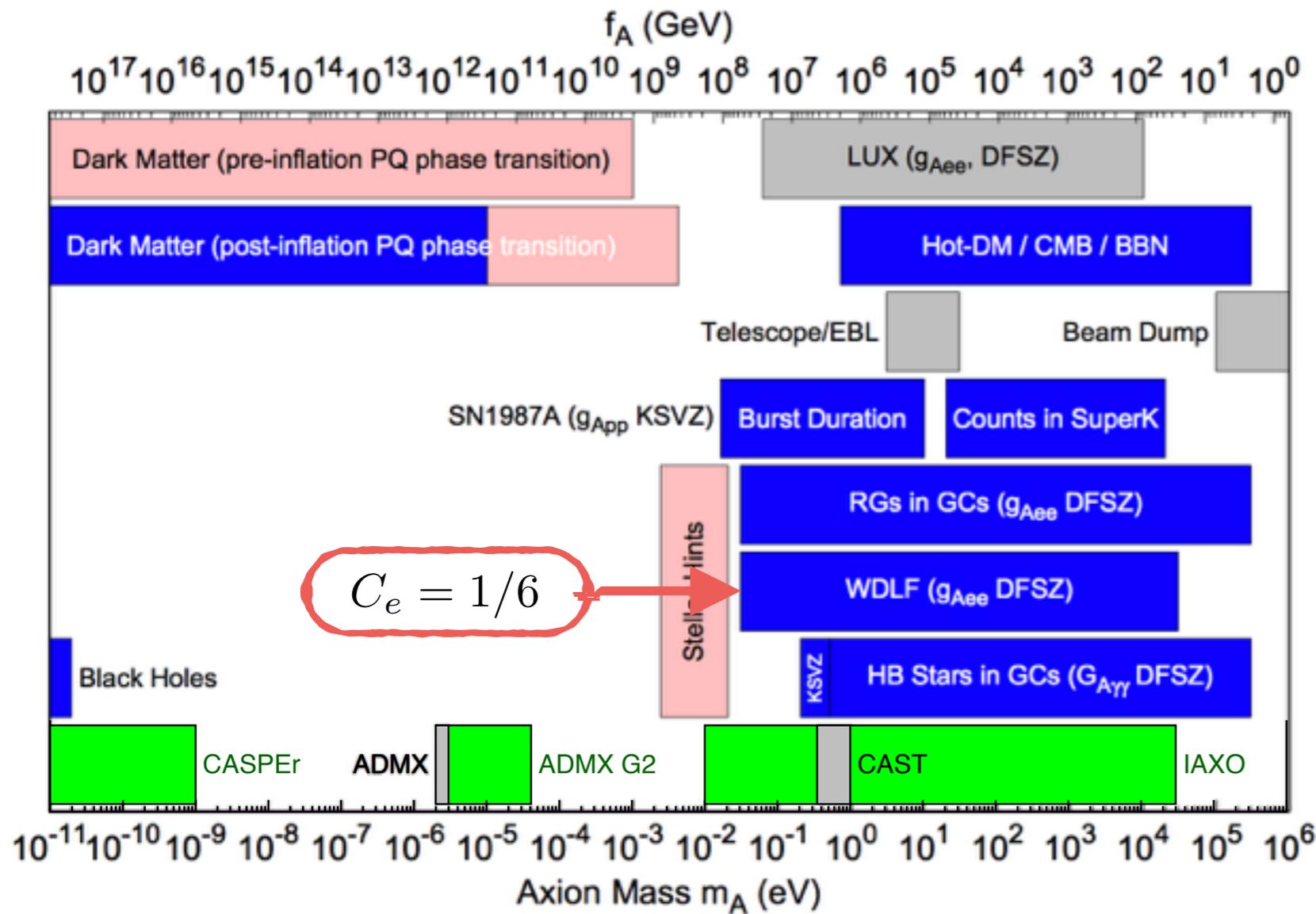
Exp. sensitivities

- Horizontal branch star evolution in globular clusters



$$\frac{\alpha}{8\pi} \frac{C_\gamma}{f_a} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$

# Axion landscape



[Ringwald, Rosenberg, Rybka, Particle Data Group]

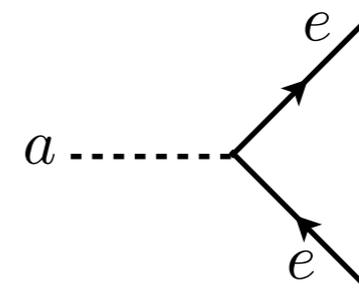
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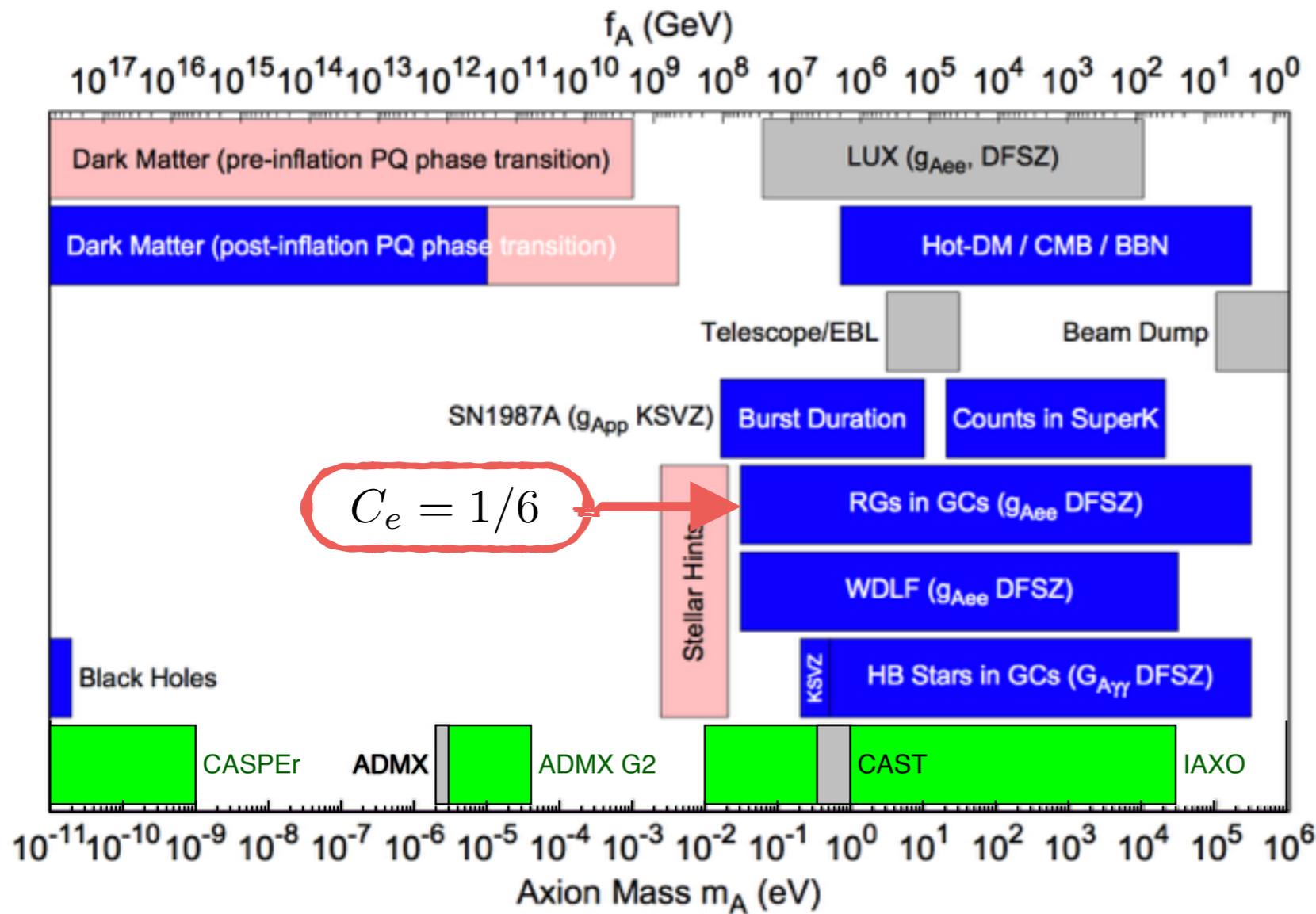
Exp. sensitivities

- White dwarfs luminosity function (cooling)



$$C_e m_e \frac{a}{f_a} [i\bar{e}\gamma_5 e]$$

# Axion landscape



[Ringwald, Rosenberg, Rybka, Particle Data Group]

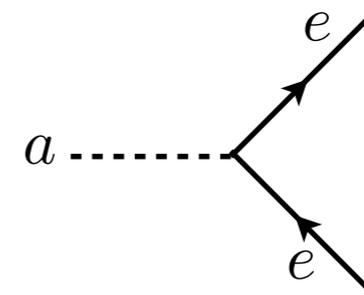
Lab exclusions

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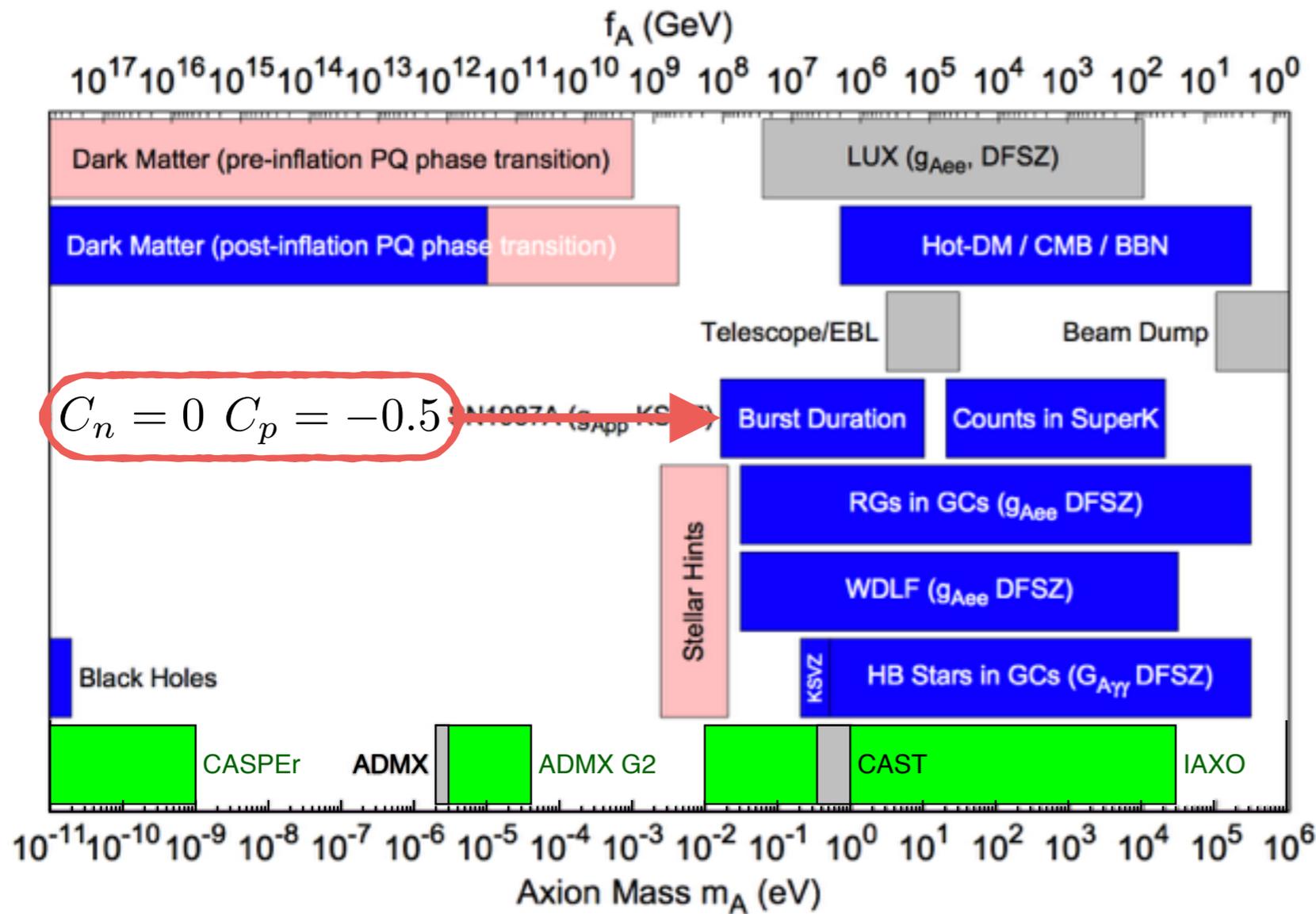
Exp. sensitivities

- Red giants evolution in globular clusters



$$C_e m_e \frac{a}{f_a} [i\bar{e}\gamma_5 e]$$

# Axion landscape



[Ringwald, Rosenberg, Rybka, Particle Data Group]

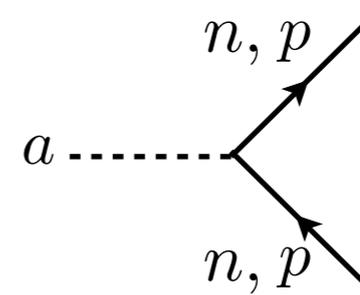
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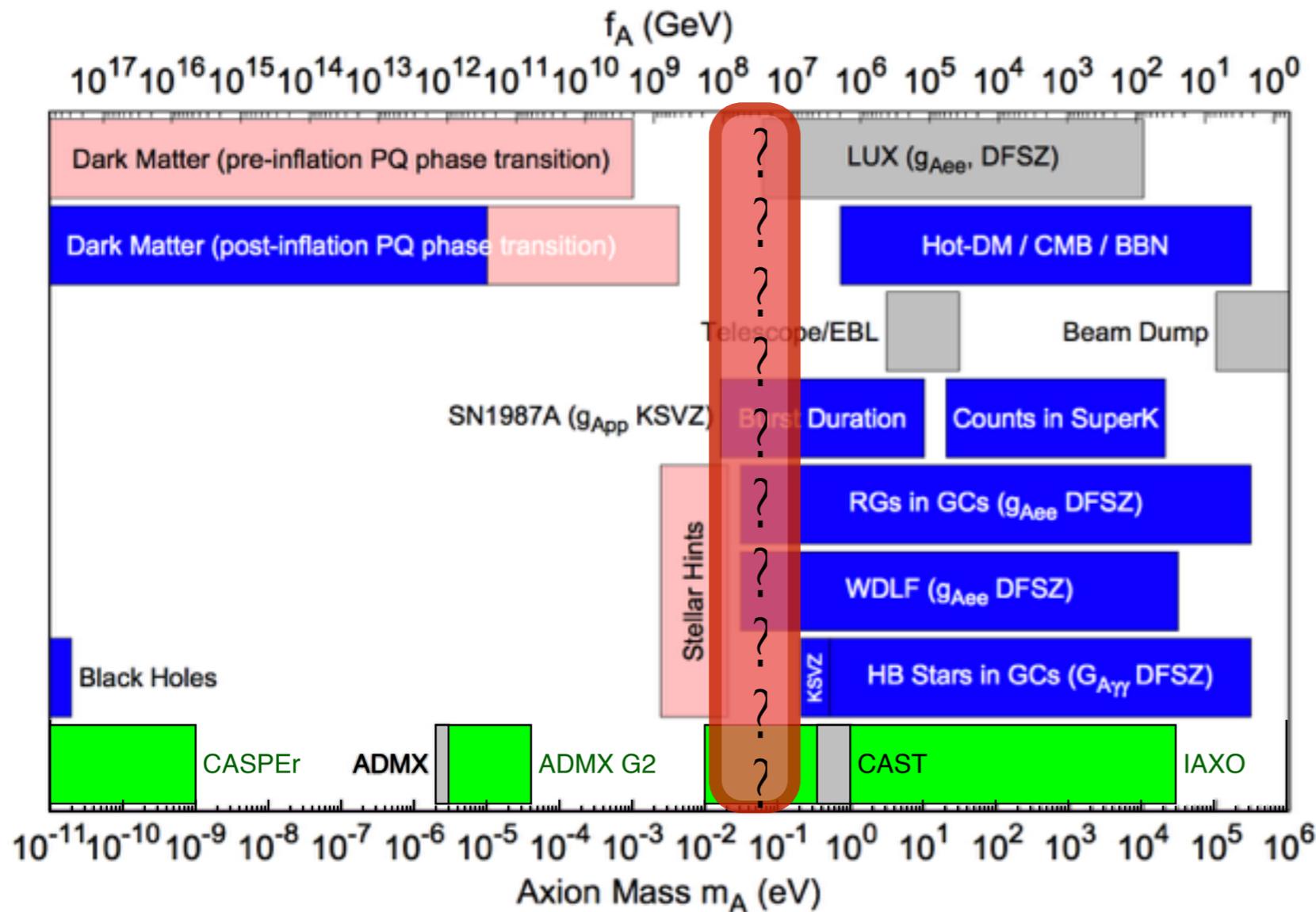
- Burst duration of SN1987A nu signal



$$C_n m_n \frac{a}{f_a} [i\bar{n}\gamma_5 n]$$

$$C_p m_p \frac{a}{f_a} [i\bar{p}\gamma_5 p]$$

# Axion landscape



[Ringwald, Rosenberg, Rybka, Particle Data Group]

Lab exclusions

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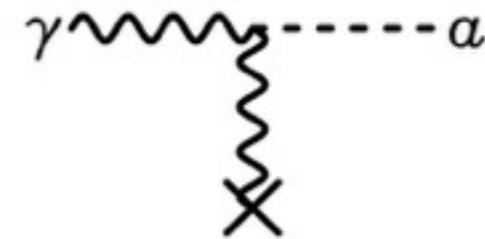
- Bound on axion mass is of practical convenience, but misses model dependence !

# Search strategies

- Most laboratory search techniques are sensitive to  $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$

Primakoff effect: axion-photon transition in external static E or B field

$$\mathcal{L}_{a\gamma\gamma} = -\frac{1}{4}g_{a\gamma\gamma} a F \cdot \tilde{F} = g_{a\gamma\gamma} a \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$



1. Light Shining through Walls (axions in the lab)

[See e.g. Redondo, Ringwald hep-ph/10113741]

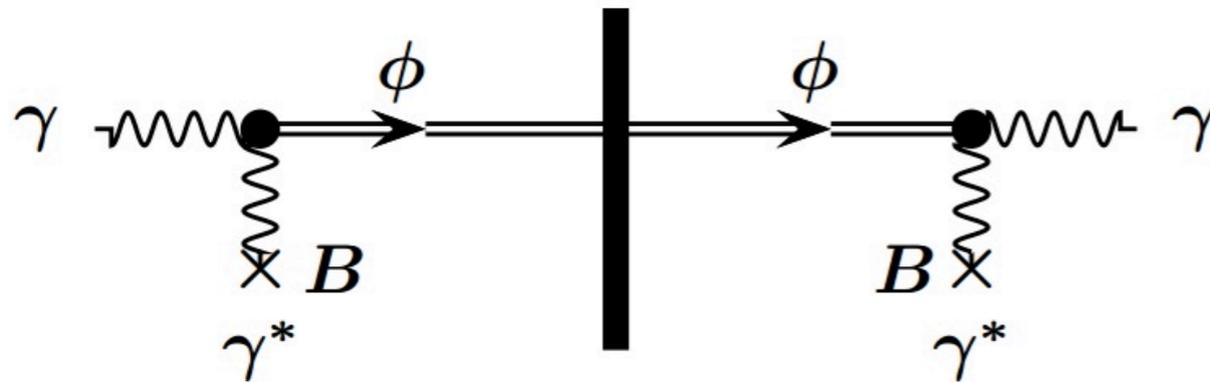
2. Haloscopes (axion Dark Matter)

[Sikivie PRL 51 (1983)]

3. Helioscopes (axions from the Sun)

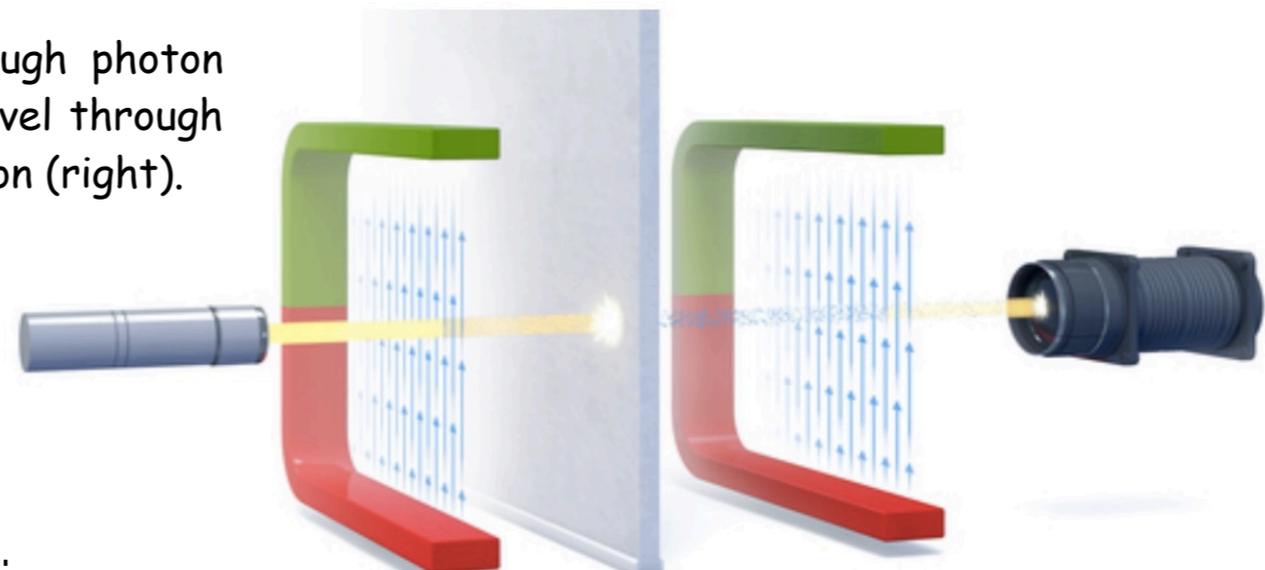
# Light Shining through Walls (LSW)

- Any Light Particle Search (DESY) **ALPS-I** (2007\*-2010) and **ALPS-II** (2013-...)



Artist view of a light shining through a wall experiment

Schematic view of axion (or ALP) production through photon conversion in a magnetic field (left), subsequent travel through a wall, and final detection through photon regeneration (right).



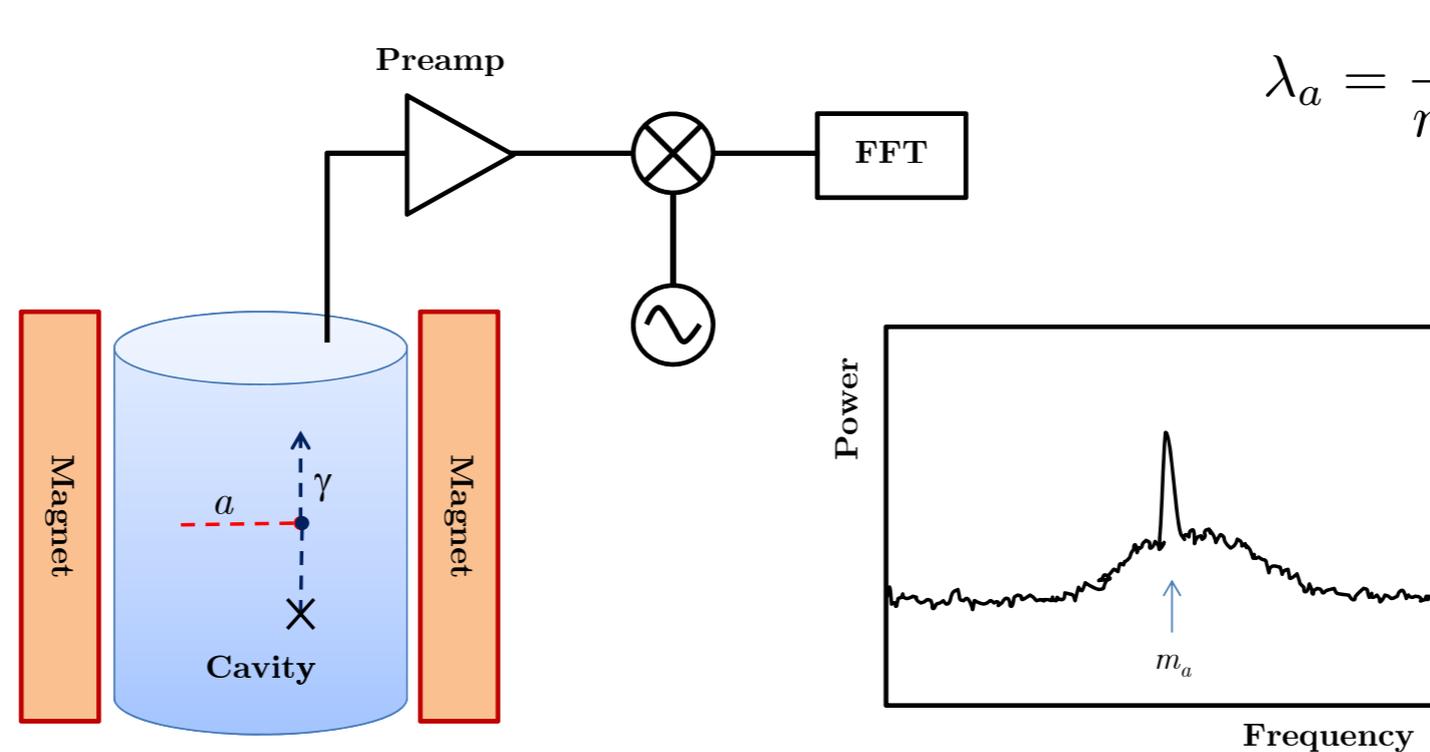
LSW experiments pay a  $g_{a\gamma\gamma}^4$  suppression

*\*Boost of exp. activity after PVLAS discovery claim in 2006*



# Haloscopes

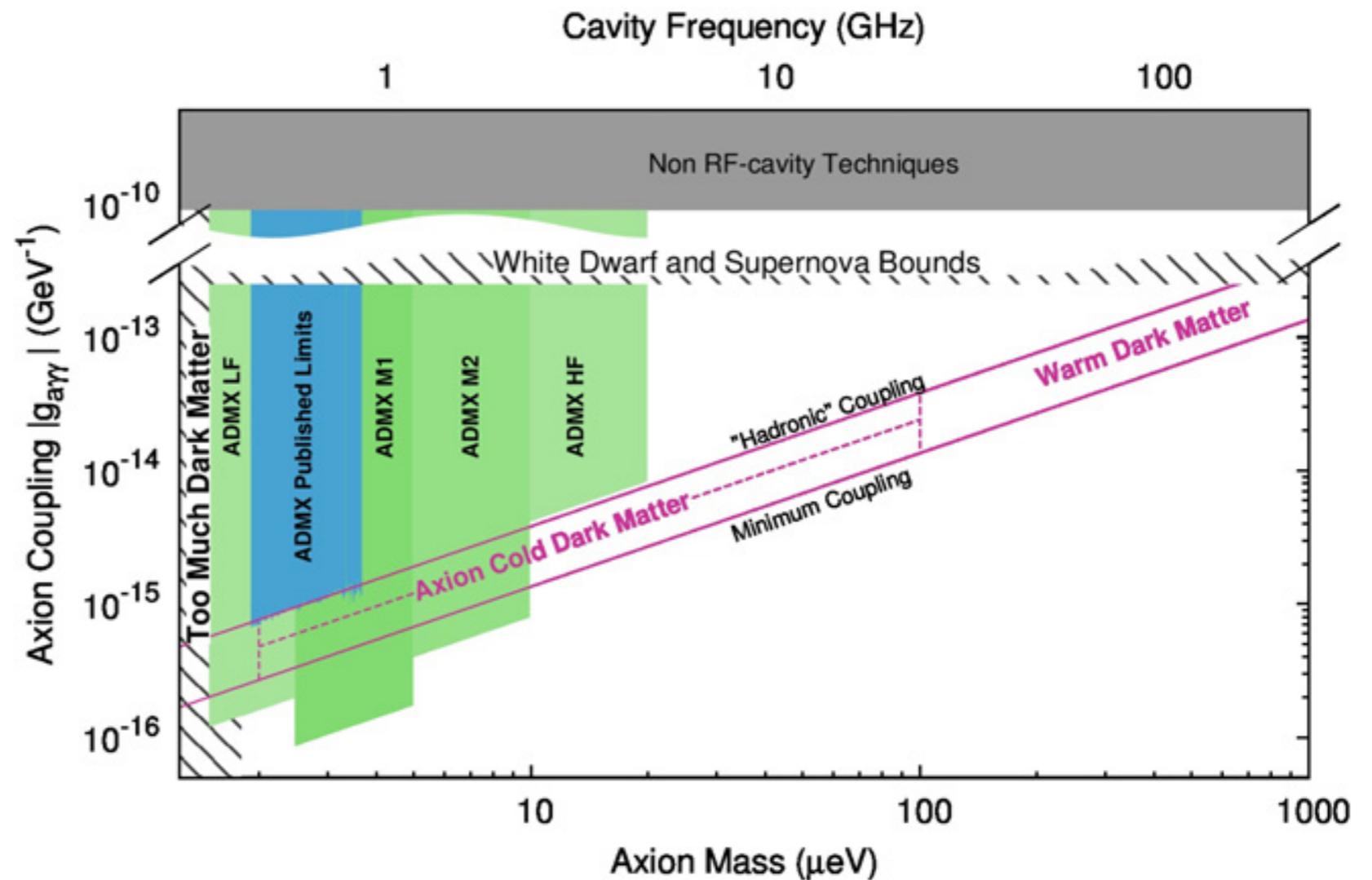
- Look for DM axions with a microwave resonant cavity
  - power of axions converting into photons in an EM cavity  $P_a = C g_{a\gamma\gamma}^2 V B_0^2 \frac{\rho_a}{m_a} Q_{\text{eff}}$
  - resonance condition: need to tune the frequency of the EM cavity on the axion mass



$$\lambda_a = \frac{h}{m_a c} \sim 20 \text{ cm} \frac{\mu\text{eV}}{m_a}$$

# Haloscopes

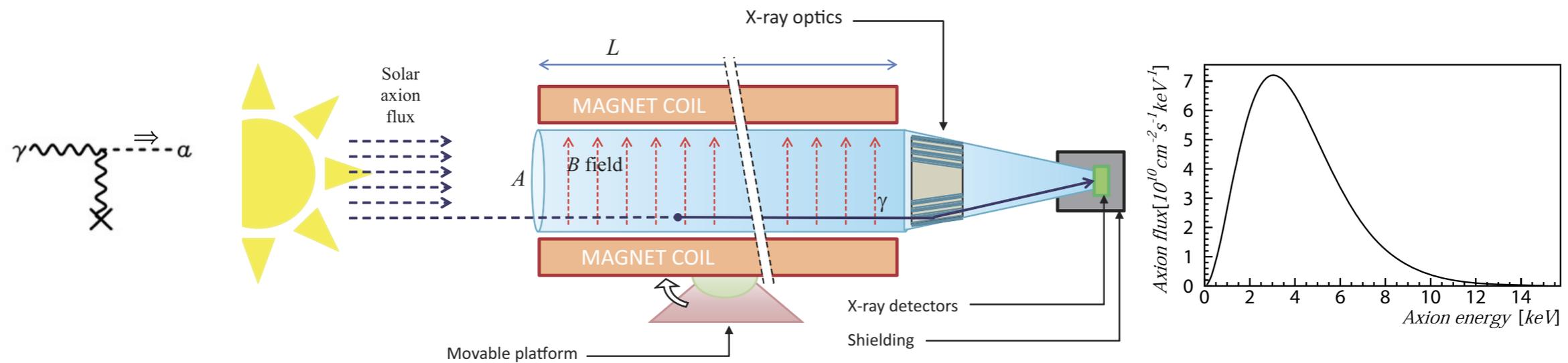
- Look for DM axions with a microwave resonant cavity
  - Axion Dark Matter eXperiment (ADMX) (U. of Washington)



[ADMX Collaboration, Phys. Dark Univ. 4 (2014)]

# Helioscopes

- The Sun is a potential axion source



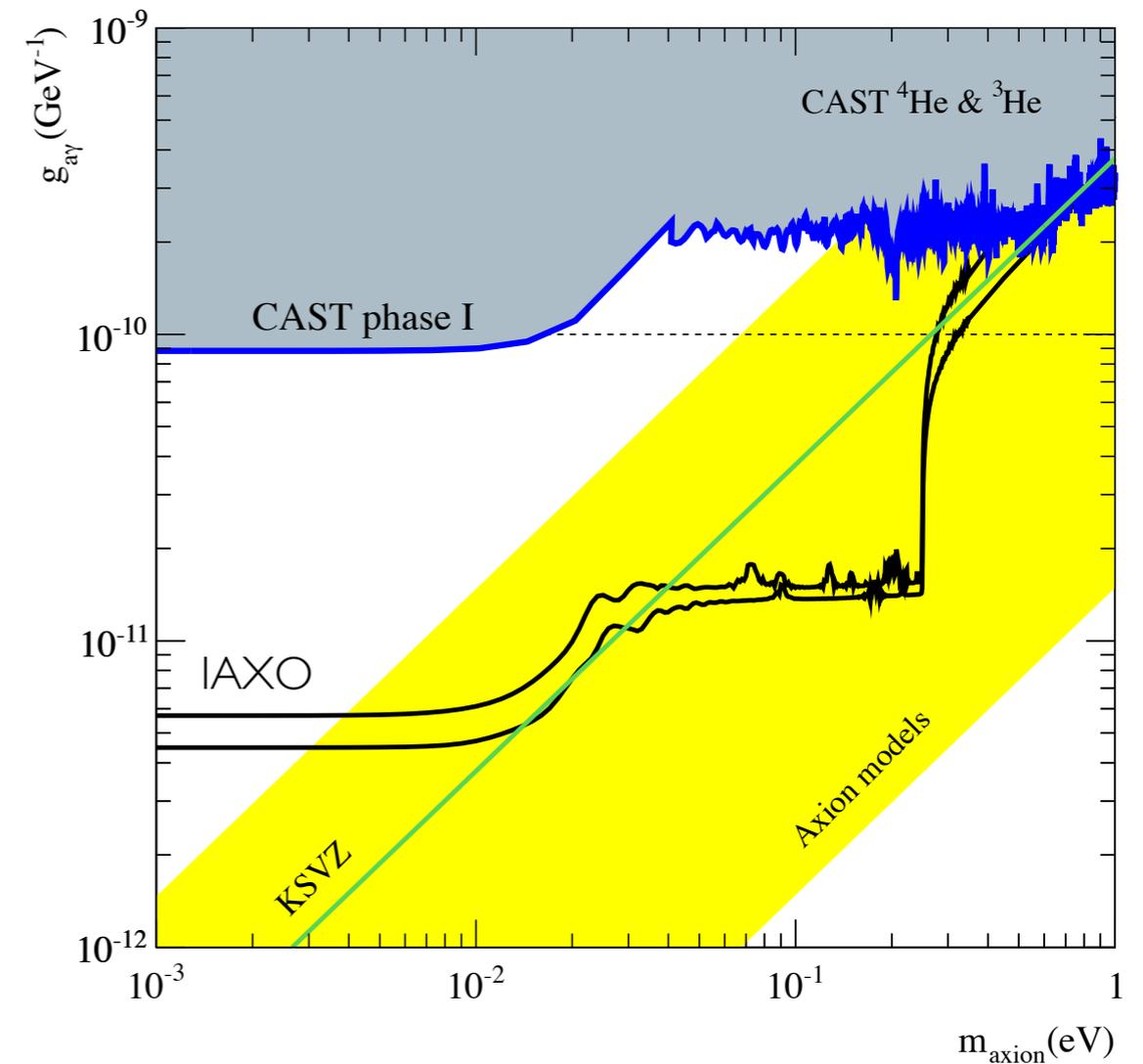
- macroscopic B-field can provide a coherent axion-photon conversion rate over a big volume

# Helioscopes

- The Sun is a potential axion source
  - CERN Axion Solar Telescope (**CAST**)



- International AXion Observatory (**IAXO**)



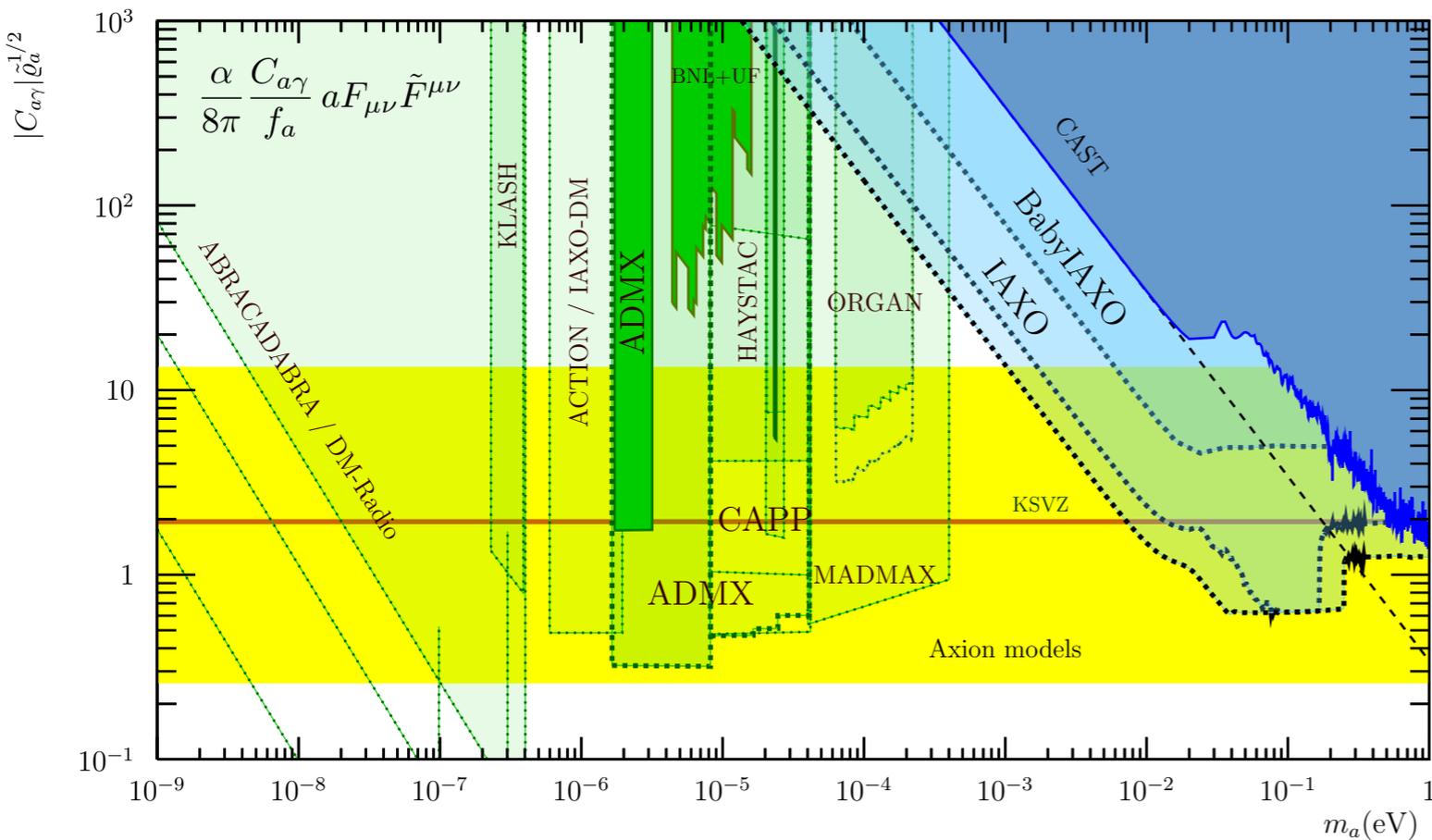
[IAXO "Letter of intent", CERN-SPSC-2013-022]



# The Axion Rush

- Outburst of exp. proposals (last ~ 5 years)

[Irastorza & Redondo, 1801.08127]



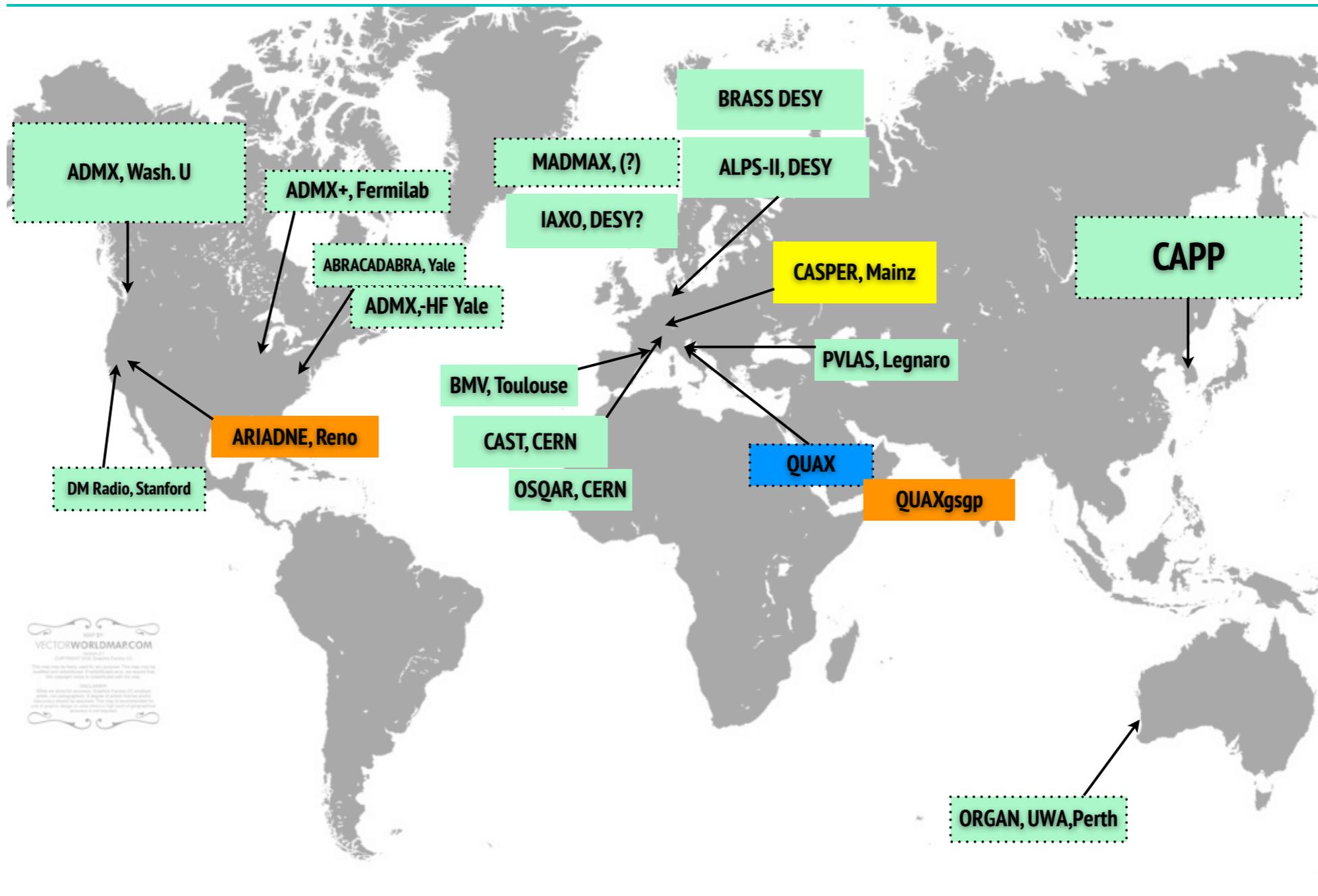
electrons ←  
 nucleons ←

EXP	STATUS
CAST (CERN)	finished
ADMX (Seattle)	running
HAYSTAC (New Haven)	running
ALPs-II (DESY)	construction
CAPP (South Korea)	construction
ORGAN (Perth)	prototype
ABRACADABRA (MIT)	prototype
(Baby)IAXO (DESY)	preparation
MADMAX (DESY)	preparation
ACTION (South Korea)	proposed
KLASH (Frascati)	proposed
QUAX (Legnaro)	prototype
CASPEr (Mainz)	proposed
...	...

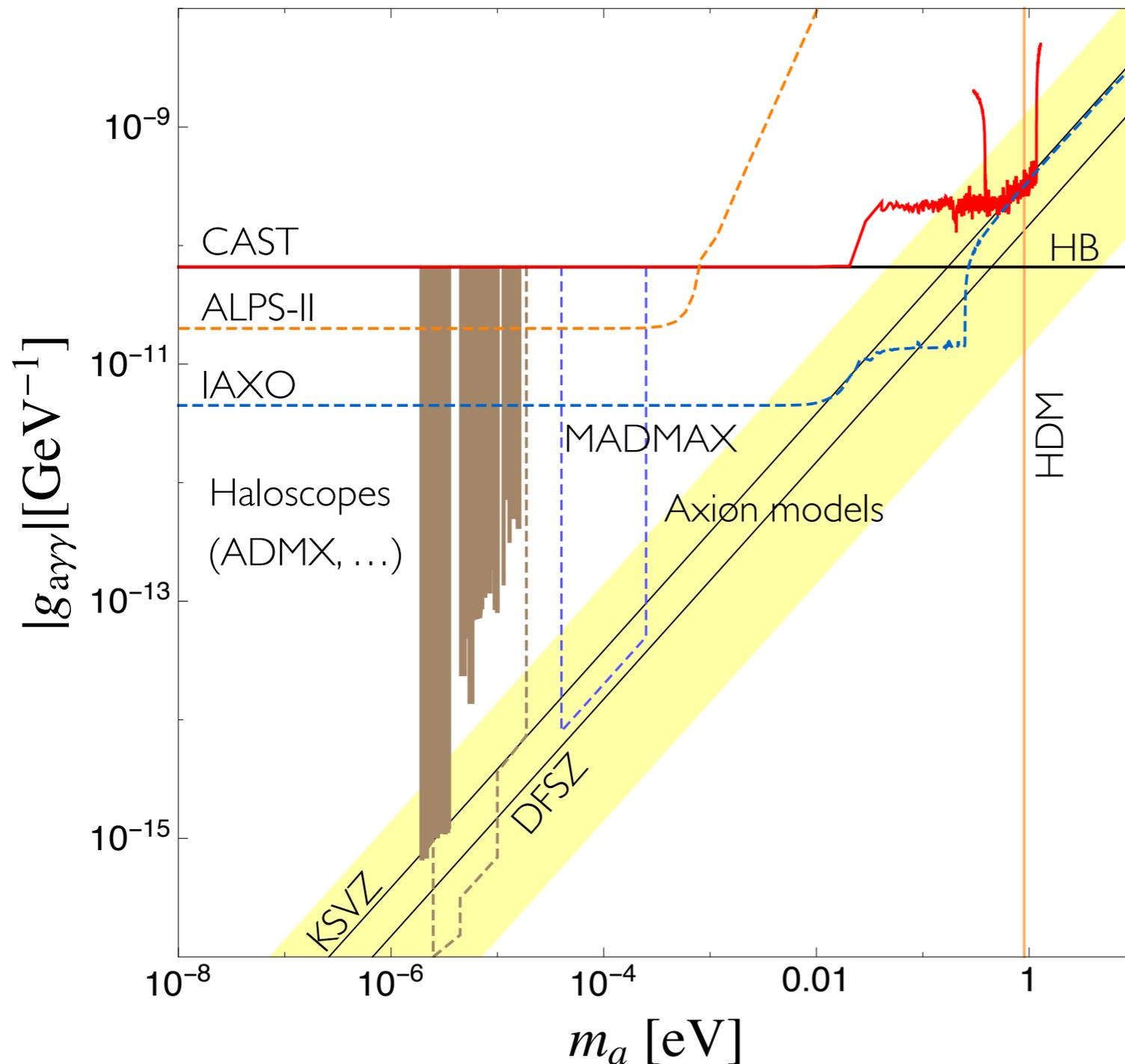
# The Axion Rush

- Outburst of exp. proposals (last ~ 5 years)

[Redondo, circa end of 2017]



# Need to know where to search



$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} = \frac{m_a}{\text{eV}} \frac{2.0}{10^{10} \text{ GeV}} \left( \frac{E}{N} - 1.92 \right)$$

E/N anomaly coefficients, depend on UV completion

$$|E/N - 1.92| \in [0.07, 7]$$

[Particle Data Group (since end of 90's). Chosen to include some representative KSVZ/DFSZ models e.g. from:  
 - Kaplan, NPB 260 (1985),  
 - Cheng, Geng, Ni, PRD 52 (1995),  
 - Kim, PRD 58 (1998)]



# KSVZ axions

- Field content

Field	Spin	$SU(3)_C$	$SU(2)_L$	$U(1)_Y$	$U(1)_{PQ}$
$Q_L$	1/2	$\mathcal{C}_Q$	$\mathcal{I}_Q$	$\mathcal{Y}_Q$	$\mathcal{X}_L$
$Q_R$	1/2	$\mathcal{C}_Q$	$\mathcal{I}_Q$	$\mathcal{Y}_Q$	$\mathcal{X}_R$
$\Phi$	0	1	1	0	1

[Kim '79,  
Shifman, Vainshtein, Zakharov '80]

PQ charges carried by a vector-like quark  $Q = Q_L + Q_R$

[original KSVZ model assumes  $Q \sim (3, 1, 0)$ ]

$$\partial^\mu J_\mu^{PQ} = \frac{N\alpha_s}{4\pi} G \cdot \tilde{G} + \frac{E\alpha}{4\pi} F \cdot \tilde{F}$$

$$N = \sum_Q (\mathcal{X}_L - \mathcal{X}_R) T(\mathcal{C}_Q)$$

$$E = \sum_Q (\mathcal{X}_L - \mathcal{X}_R) Q_Q^2$$

} anomaly coeff.

and a SM singlet  $\Phi$  containing the “invisible” axion ( $f_a \gg v$ )

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\rho(x) + f_a] e^{ia(x)/f_a}$$

# KSVZ axions

- Field content

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$\Phi$	0	1	1	0	1

[Kim '79,  
Shifman, Vainshtein, Zakharov '80]

- Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_a = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{PQ}} - V_{H\Phi} + \mathcal{L}_{Qq} \quad |\mathcal{X}_L - \mathcal{X}_R| = 1$$

-  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{PQ}} = |\partial_\mu \Phi|^2 + \bar{Q} i \not{D} Q - (y_Q \bar{Q}_L Q_R \Phi + \text{H.c.}) \quad \longrightarrow \quad m_Q = y_Q f_a / \sqrt{2}$

-  $V_{H\Phi} = -\mu_\Phi^2 |\Phi|^2 + \lambda_\Phi |\Phi|^4 + \lambda_{H\Phi} |H|^2 |\Phi|^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad m_\rho \sim f_a$

-  $\mathcal{L}_{Qq}$   $d \leq 4$  mixing with SM quarks (depends in Q-gauge quantum numbers)

# Q stability

- Symmetry of the kinetic term

$$U(1)_{Q_L} \times U(1)_{Q_R} \times U(1)_\Phi \xrightarrow{y_Q \neq 0} U(1)_{PQ} \times U(1)_Q$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{PQ} = |\partial_\mu \Phi|^2 + \bar{Q} i \not{D} Q - (y_Q \bar{Q}_L Q_R \Phi + \text{H.c.})$$

- $U(1)_Q$  is the Q-baryon number: if exact, Q would be stable



cosmological issue if thermally produced  
in the early universe !

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-  $U(1)_Q$  is the Q-baryon number: if exact, Q would be stable

- if  $\mathcal{L}_{Qq} \neq 0$   $U(1)_Q$  is further broken and Q-decay is possible

[Ringwald, Saikawa, 1512.06436]

- decay also possible via  $d > 4$  operators (e.g. Planck-induced)

 stability depends on Q representations

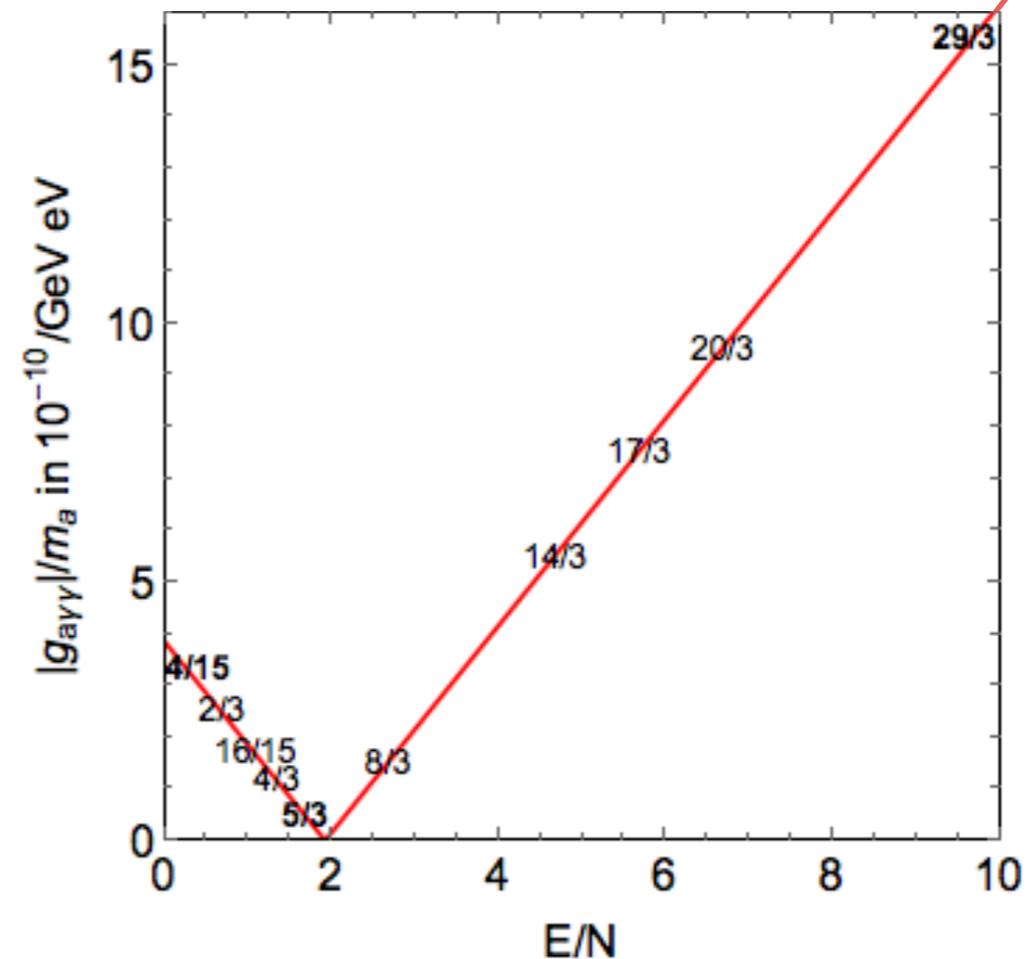
# Pheno preferred KSVZ fermions

- Q short lived + no Landau poles < Planck

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} = \frac{m_a}{\text{eV}} \frac{2.0}{10^{10} \text{ GeV}} \left( \frac{E}{N} - 1.92(4) \right)$$

$$\frac{E}{N} = \frac{\sum_Q Q_Q^2}{\sum_Q T(C_Q)}$$

$R_Q$	$\mathcal{O}_{Qq}$	$\Lambda_{\text{Landau}}^{2\text{-loop}} [\text{GeV}]$	$E/N$
(3, 1, -1/3)	$\bar{Q}_L d_R$	$9.3 \cdot 10^{38} (g_1)$	2/3
(3, 1, 2/3)	$\bar{Q}_L u_R$	$5.4 \cdot 10^{34} (g_1)$	8/3
(3, 2, 1/6)	$\bar{Q}_R q_L$	$6.5 \cdot 10^{39} (g_1)$	5/3
(3, 2, -5/6)	$\bar{Q}_L d_R H^\dagger$	$4.3 \cdot 10^{27} (g_1)$	17/3
(3, 2, 7/6)	$\bar{Q}_L u_R H$	$5.6 \cdot 10^{22} (g_1)$	29/3
(3, 3, -1/3)	$\bar{Q}_R q_L H^\dagger$	$5.1 \cdot 10^{30} (g_2)$	14/3
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(3, 3, -4/3)	$\bar{Q}_L d_R H^{\dagger 2}$	$3.5 \cdot 10^{18} (g_1)$	44/3
( $\bar{6}$ , 1, -1/3)	$\bar{Q}_L \sigma_{\mu\nu} d_R G^{\mu\nu}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{37} (g_1)$	4/15
( $\bar{6}$ , 1, 2/3)	$\bar{Q}_L \sigma_{\mu\nu} u_R G^{\mu\nu}$	$5.1 \cdot 10^{30} (g_1)$	16/15
( $\bar{6}$ , 2, 1/6)	$\bar{Q}_R \sigma_{\mu\nu} q_L G^{\mu\nu}$	$7.3 \cdot 10^{38} (g_1)$	2/3
(8, 1, -1)	$\bar{Q}_L \sigma_{\mu\nu} e_R G^{\mu\nu}$	$7.6 \cdot 10^{22} (g_1)$	8/3
(8, 2, -1/2)	$\bar{Q}_R \sigma_{\mu\nu} \ell_L G^{\mu\nu}$	$6.7 \cdot 10^{27} (g_1)$	4/3
(15, 1, -1/3)	$\bar{Q}_L \sigma_{\mu\nu} d_R G^{\mu\nu}$	$8.3 \cdot 10^{21} (g_3)$	1/6
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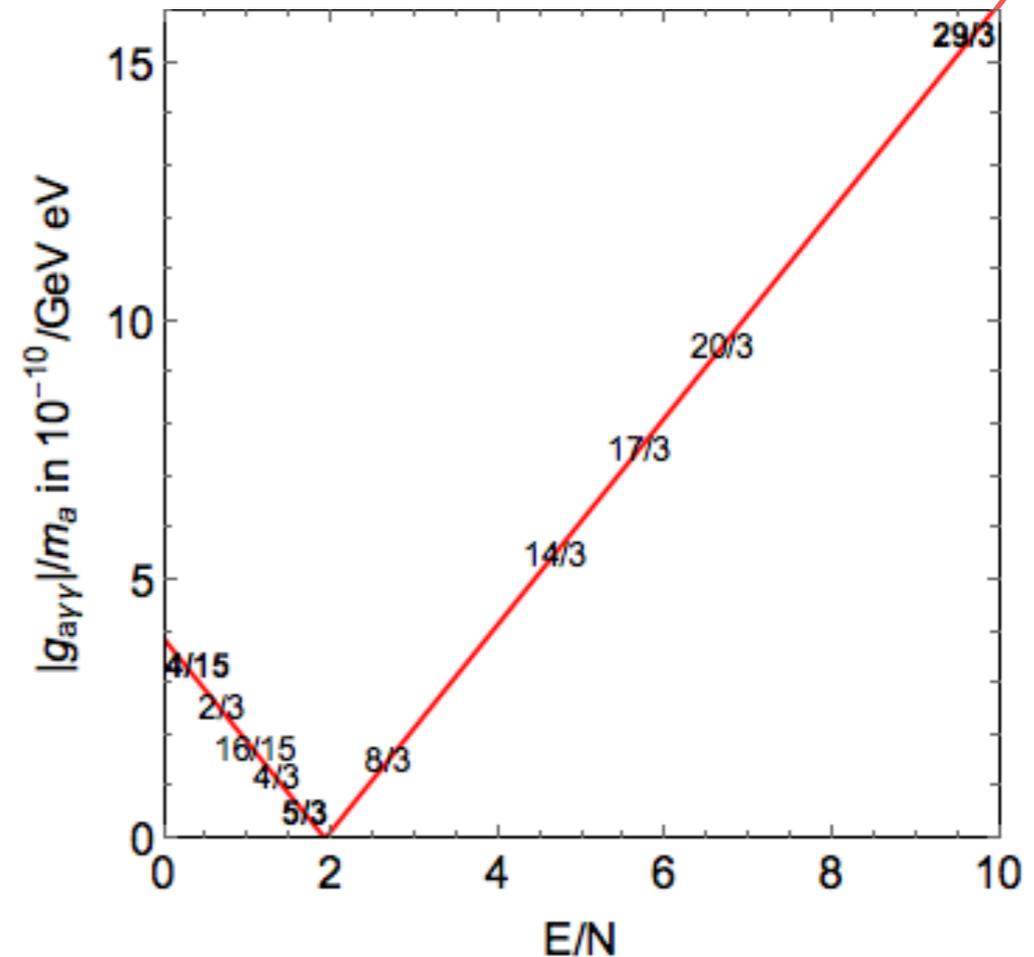
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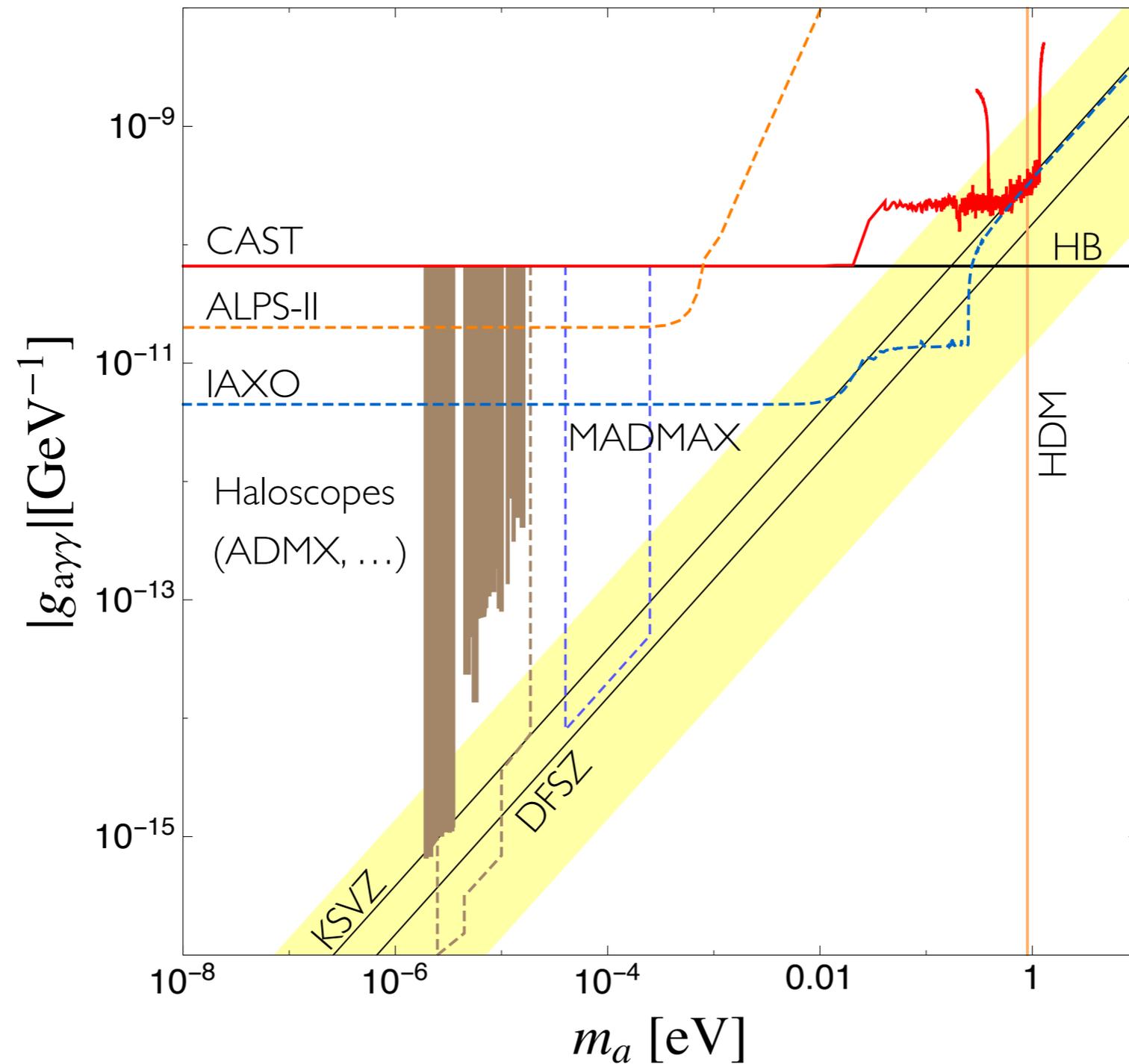
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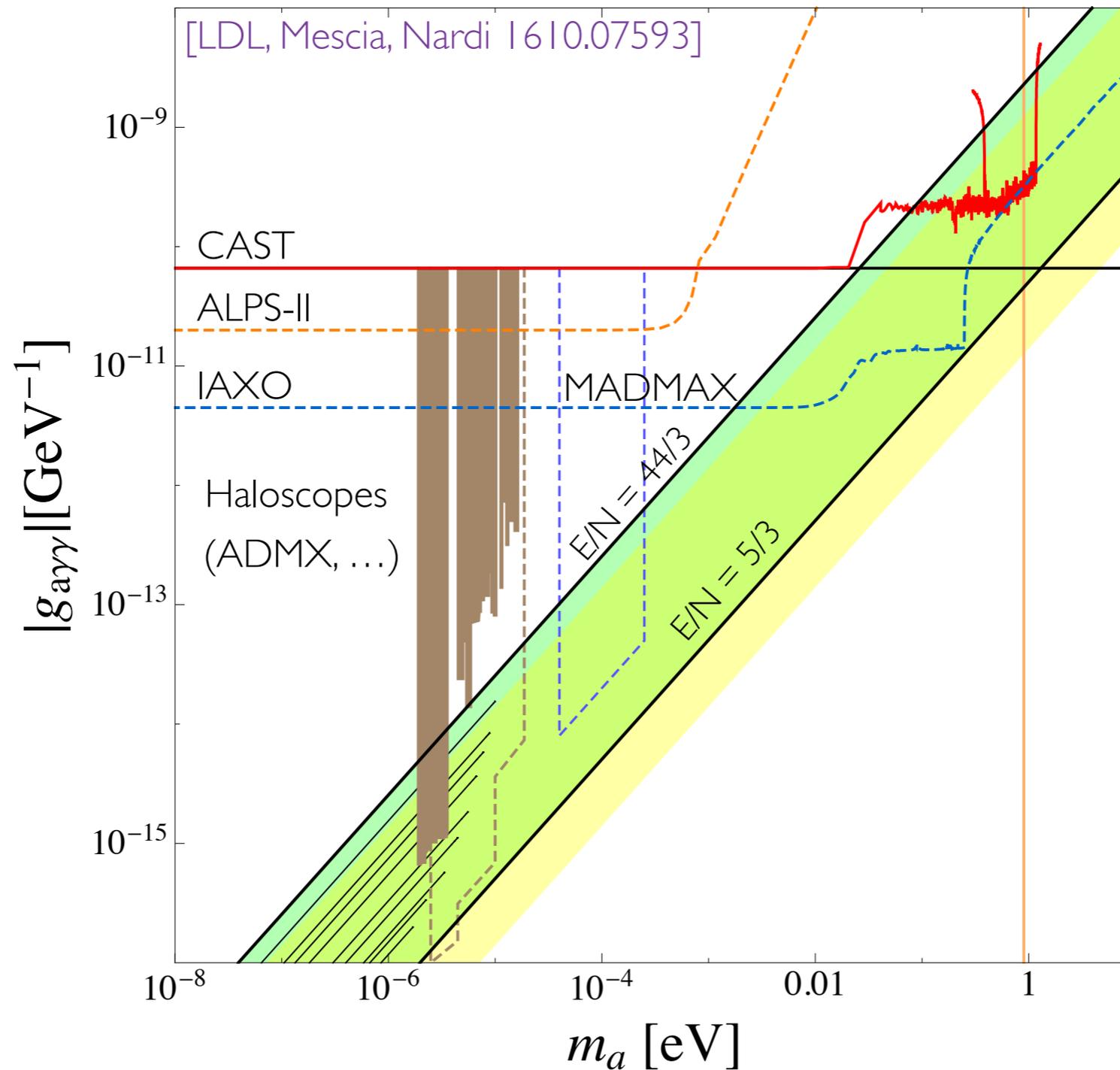
	$R_Q$	$\mathcal{O}_{Qq}$	$\Lambda_{\text{Landau}}^{2\text{-loop}} [\text{GeV}]$	$E/N$
$R_Q^w$	(3, 1, -1/3)	$\bar{Q}_L d_R$	$9.3 \cdot 10^{38} (g_1)$	2/3
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# Redefining the axion window



# Redefining the axion window





# More Q's

- Combined anomaly factor

$$R_Q^1 + R_Q^2 + \dots \quad \frac{E_c}{N_c} = \frac{E_1 + E_2 + \dots}{N_1 + N_2 + \dots}$$

- Strongest coupling (compatible with LP criterium)

$$(3, 3, -4/3) \oplus (3, 3, -1/3) \ominus (\bar{6}, 1, -1/3) \quad \longrightarrow \quad E_c/N_c = 170/3$$

- Complete decoupling within theoretical error possible as well:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} (3, 3, -1/3) \oplus (\bar{6}, 1, -1/3) \\ (\bar{6}, 1, 2/3) \oplus (8, 1, -1) \\ (3, 2, -5/6) \oplus (8, 2, -1/2) \end{array} \right\} E_c/N_c = (23/12, 64/33, 41/21) \approx (1.92, 1.94, 1.95)$$

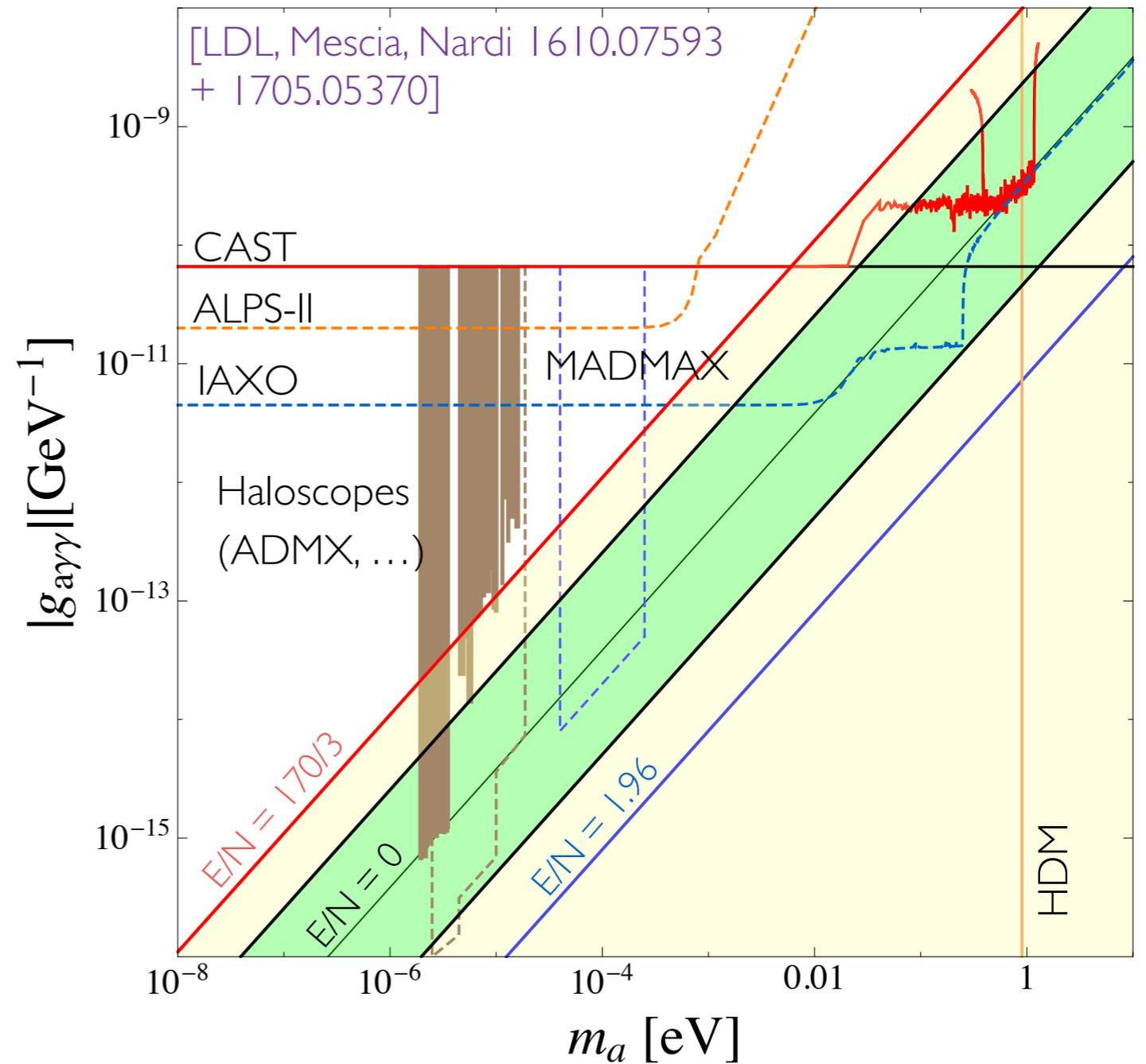
$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} = \frac{m_a}{\text{eV}} \frac{2.0}{10^{10} \text{ GeV}} \left( \frac{E_c}{N_c} - 1.92(4) \right)$$

*about photophobia: "such a cancellation is immoral, but not unnatural"*

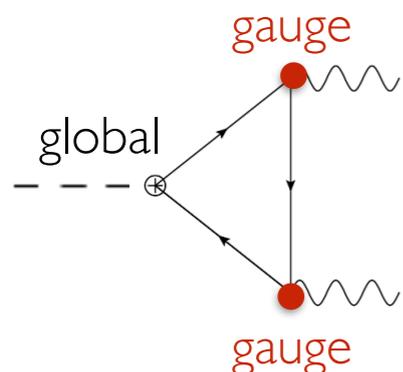
[D. B. Kaplan, (1985)]

# Axion-photon summary

- **Red line** set by perturbativity [KSVZ] (going above requires very exotic constructions [more in backup slides])
- **Blue line** corresponds to a 2% 'tuning in theory space'

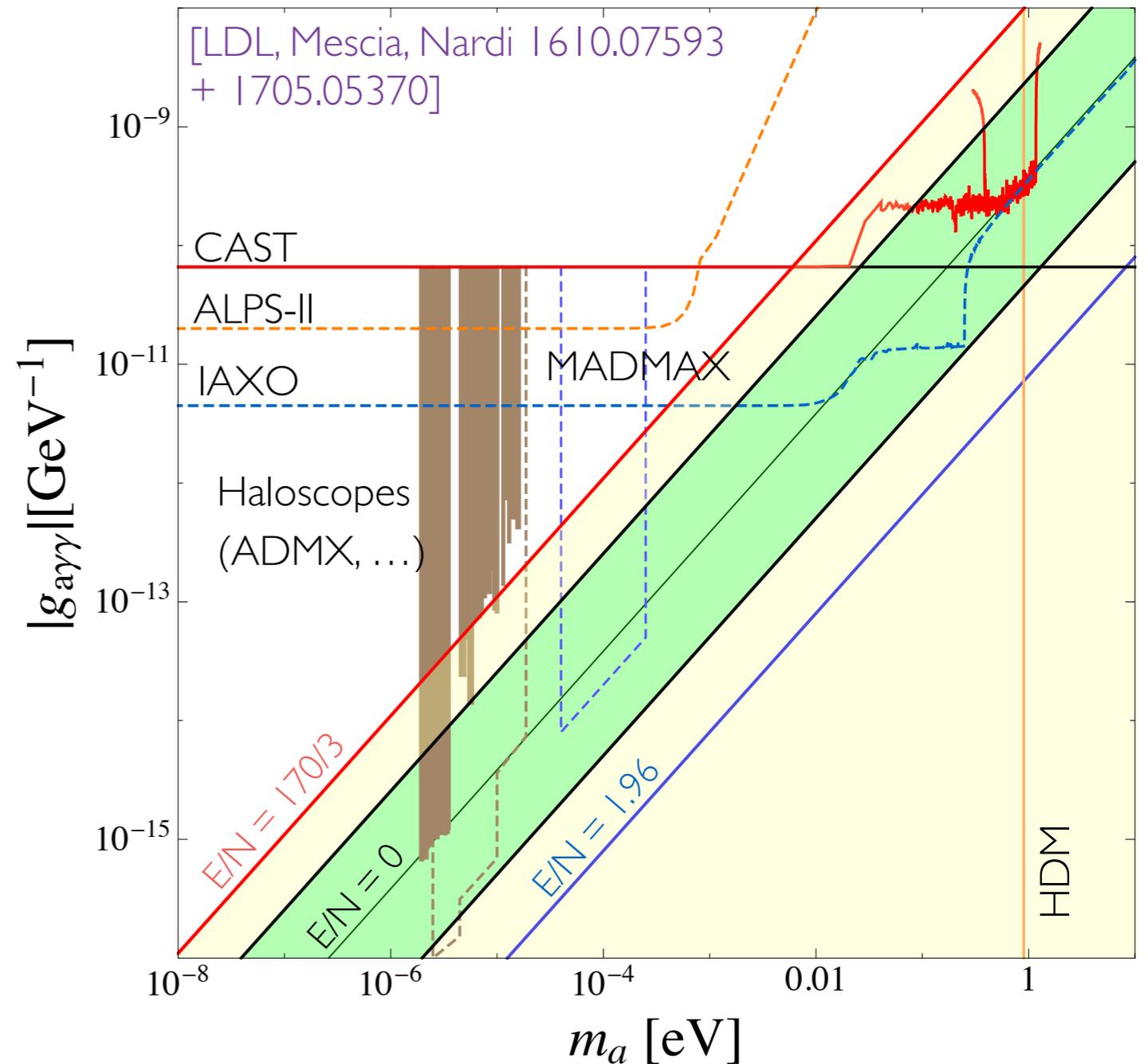


$$C_\gamma = E/N - 1.92(4)$$



# Axion-photon summary

- **Red line** set by perturbativity [KSVZ] (going above requires very exotic constructions *[more in backup slides]*)
- **Blue line** corresponds to a 2% 'tuning in theory space'
- Messages for exp.'s :
  1. The QCD axion might already be in the reach of your experiment !
  2. Don't stop at  $E/N = 0$  (go deeper if you can)



# Astrophobia

- Is it possible to decouple the axion both from nucleons and electrons ?



nucleophobia + electrophobia = astrophobia

- Why interested in such constructions ? [\[LDL, Mescia, Nardi, Panci, Ziegler 1712.04940\]](#)

1. is it possible at all ?

2. would allow to relax the upper bound on axion mass by  $\sim 1$  order of magnitude

3. would improve visibility at IAXO (axion-photon)

4. would improve fit to stellar cooling anomalies (axion-electron) [\[Giannotti et al. 1708.02111\]](#)

5. unexpected connection with flavour

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nucleophobia + electrophobia\* = astrophobia

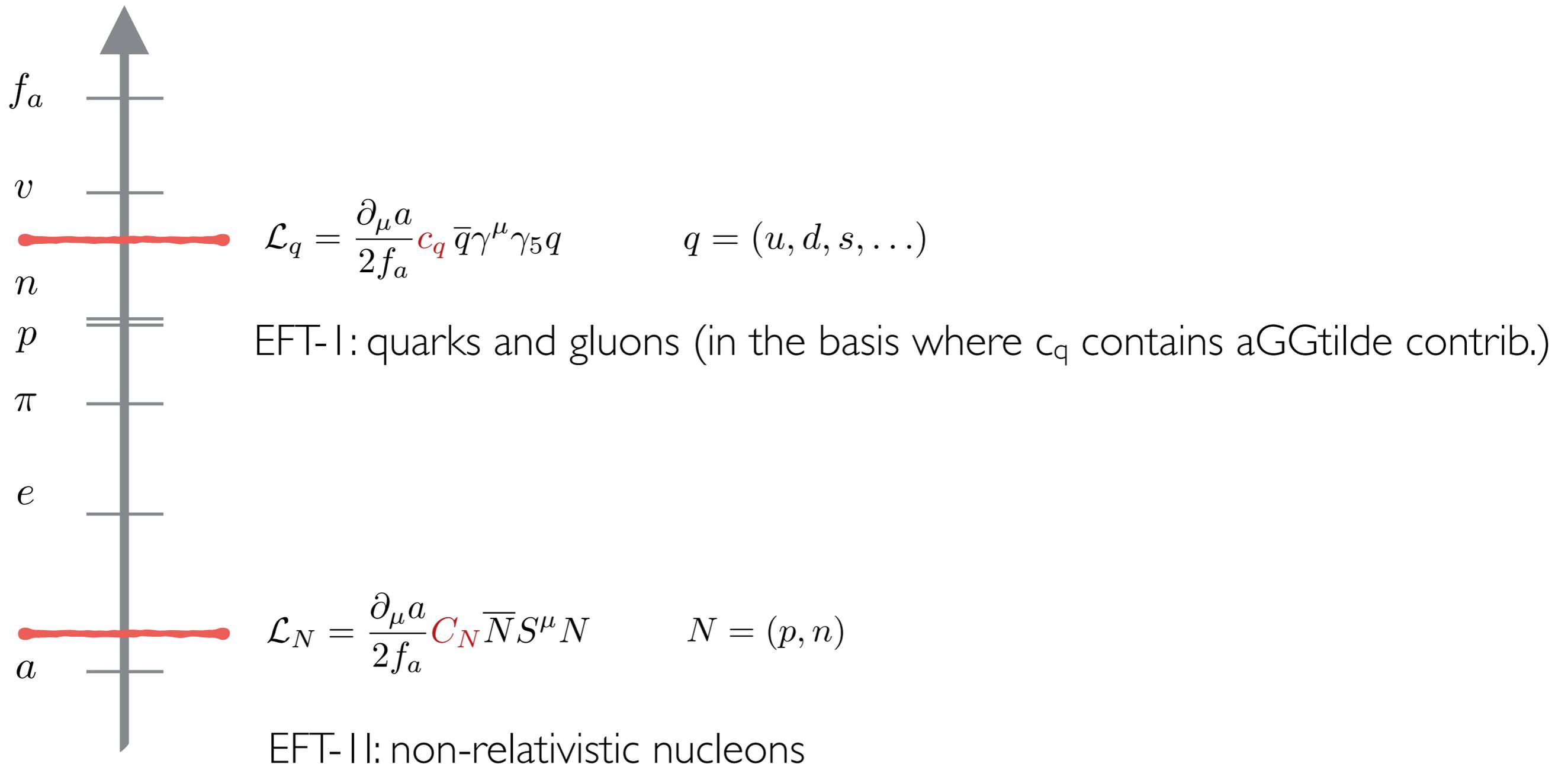
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  4. would improve fit to stellar cooling anomalies (axion-electron) [\[Giannotti et al. 1708.02111\]](#)
  5. unexpected connection with flavour

\*conceptually easy (e.g. couple the electron to 3rd Higgs uncharged under PQ)

# Conditions for nucleophobia

- Axion-nucleon couplings

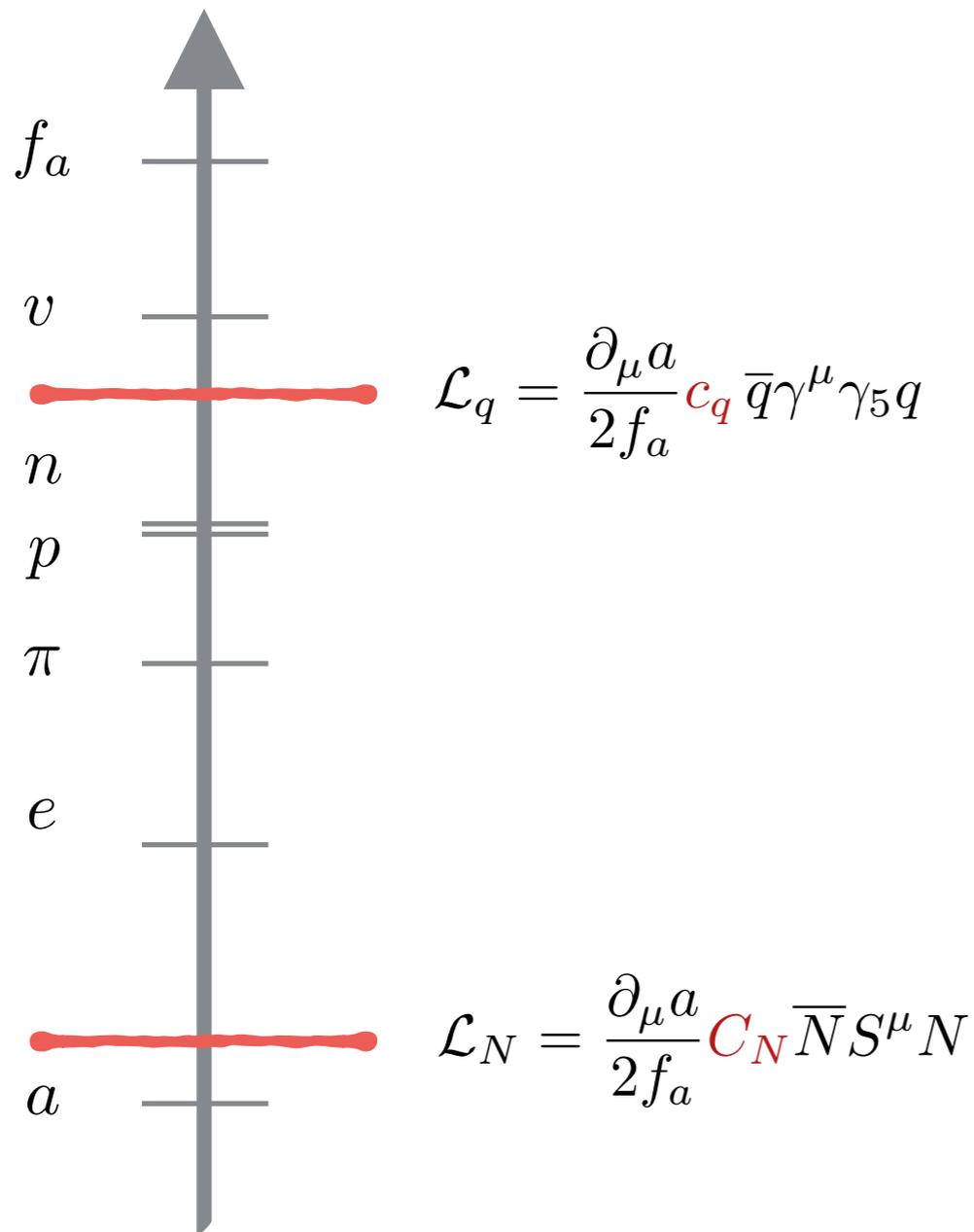
[Kaplan NPB 260 (1985), Srednicki NPB 260 (1985), Georgi, Kaplan, Randall PLB 169 (1986), ..., Grilli di Cortona et al. 1511.02867]



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- Axion-nucleon couplings

[Kaplan NPB 260 (1985), Srednicki NPB 260 (1985), Georgi, Kaplan, Randall PLB 169 (1986), ..., Grilli di Cortona et al. 1511.02867]



$$\langle p | \mathcal{L}_q | p \rangle = \langle p | \mathcal{L}_N | p \rangle$$



$$s^\mu \Delta q \equiv \langle p | \bar{q} \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 q | p \rangle$$

$$C_p + C_n = (c_u + c_d) (\Delta_u + \Delta_d) - 2\delta_s \quad [\delta_s \approx 5\%]$$

$$C_p - C_n = (c_u - c_d) (\Delta_u - \Delta_d)$$

Independently of matrix elements:

$$(1): C_p + C_n \approx 0 \quad \text{if} \quad c_u + c_d = 0$$

$$(2): C_p - C_n = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad c_u - c_d = 0$$

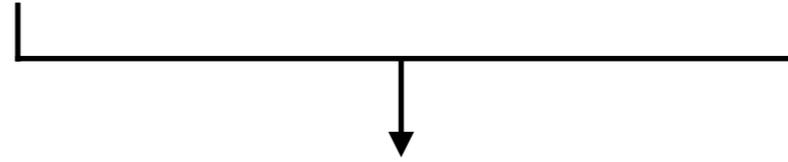
# KSVZ/DFSZ no-go

$$\mathcal{L}_a \supset \frac{a}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G\tilde{G} + \frac{\partial_\mu a}{v_{PQ}} [X_u \bar{u}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5 u + X_d \bar{d}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5 d]$$



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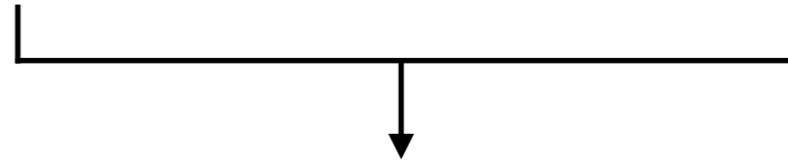
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$$\left(f_a = \frac{v_{PQ}}{2N}\right) \quad \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a} \left[ \frac{X_u}{N} \bar{u}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5 u + \frac{X_d}{N} \bar{d}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5 d \right]$$

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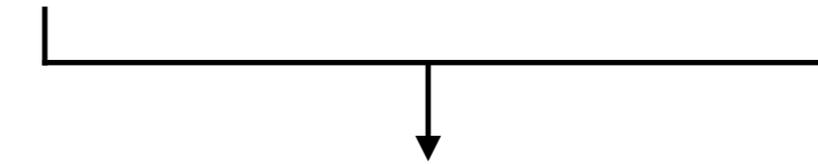


$$\frac{X_u}{N} \rightarrow c_u = \frac{X_u}{N} - \frac{m_d}{m_d + m_u}$$

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$$\frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a} \left[ \frac{X_u}{N} \bar{u}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5 u + \frac{X_d}{N} \bar{d}\gamma^\mu\gamma_5 d \right]$$



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1st condition  $0 = c_u + c_d = \frac{X_u + X_d}{N} - 1$



2nd condition  $0 = c_u - c_d = \frac{X_u - X_d}{N} - \underbrace{\frac{m_d - m_u}{m_d + m_u}}_{\simeq 1/3}$



# KSVZ/DFSZ no-go

1st condition  $0 = c_u + c_d = \frac{X_u + X_d}{N} - 1$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{\text{KSVZ}} \\ X_u = X_d = 0 \end{array} \right. -1$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{\text{DFSZ}} \\ N = n_g(X_u + X_d) \end{array} \right. \frac{1}{n_g} - 1$

# KSVZ/DFSZ no-go



Nucleophobia can be obtained in DFSZ models with non-universal (i.e. generation dependent) PQ charges, such that

$$N = N_1 \equiv X_u + X_d$$

1st condition  $0 = c_u + c_d = \frac{X_u + X_d}{N} - 1$

{	KSVZ → $X_u = X_d = 0$	$-1$
	DFSZ → $N = n_g(X_u + X_d)$	$\frac{1}{n_g} - 1$

# Implementing nucleophobia

- Simplification: assume 2+1 structure  $X_{q_1} = X_{q_2} \neq X_{q_3}$

$$N \equiv N_1 + N_2 + N_3 = N_1$$



$$N_1 = N_2 = -N_3$$

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$$N_1 = N_2 = -N_3$$

- $N_2 + N_3 = 0$  easy to implement with 2HDM

$$\mathcal{L}_Y \supset \bar{q}_3 u_3 H_1 + \bar{q}_3 d_3 \tilde{H}_2 + (\bar{q}_3 u_2 \dots + \dots) \\ + \bar{q}_2 u_2 H_2 + \bar{q}_2 d_2 \tilde{H}_1 + (\bar{q}_2 d_3 \dots + \dots)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{N}_{3rd} = 2X_{q_3} - X_{u_3} - X_{d_3} = X_1 - X_2 \\ \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}_{2nd} = 2X_{q_2} - X_{u_2} - X_{d_2} = X_2 - X_1$$

- 1st condition automatically satisfied

# Implementing nucleophobia

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$\mathcal{L}_Y \supset \bar{q}_3 u_3 H_1 + \bar{q}_3 d_3 \tilde{H}_2 + (\bar{q}_3 u_2 \dots + \dots)$ $+ \bar{q}_2 u_2 H_2 + \bar{q}_2 d_2 \tilde{H}_1 + (\bar{q}_2 d_3 \dots + \dots)$	$\Rightarrow \mathcal{N}_{3rd} = 2X_{q_3} - X_{u_3} - X_{d_3} = X_1 - X_2$ $\Rightarrow \mathcal{N}_{2nd} = 2X_{q_2} - X_{u_2} - X_{d_2} = X_2 - X_1$
---	---

- 2nd condition can be implemented via a 10% tuning

$$\tan \beta = v_2/v_1 \quad c_u - c_d = \underbrace{\frac{X_u - X_d}{N}}_{c_\beta^2 - s_\beta^2} - \underbrace{\frac{m_d - m_u}{m_u + m_d}}_{\simeq \frac{1}{3}} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad c_\beta^2 \simeq 2/3$$

$$X_1/X_2 = -\tan^2 \beta$$



# Flavour connection

- Nucleophobia implies flavour violating axion couplings !

$$[\mathbf{PQ}_d, Y_d^\dagger Y_d] \neq 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad C_{ad_i d_j} \propto (V_d^\dagger \mathbf{PQ}_d V_d)_{i \neq j} \neq 0$$

e.g. RH down rotations become physical

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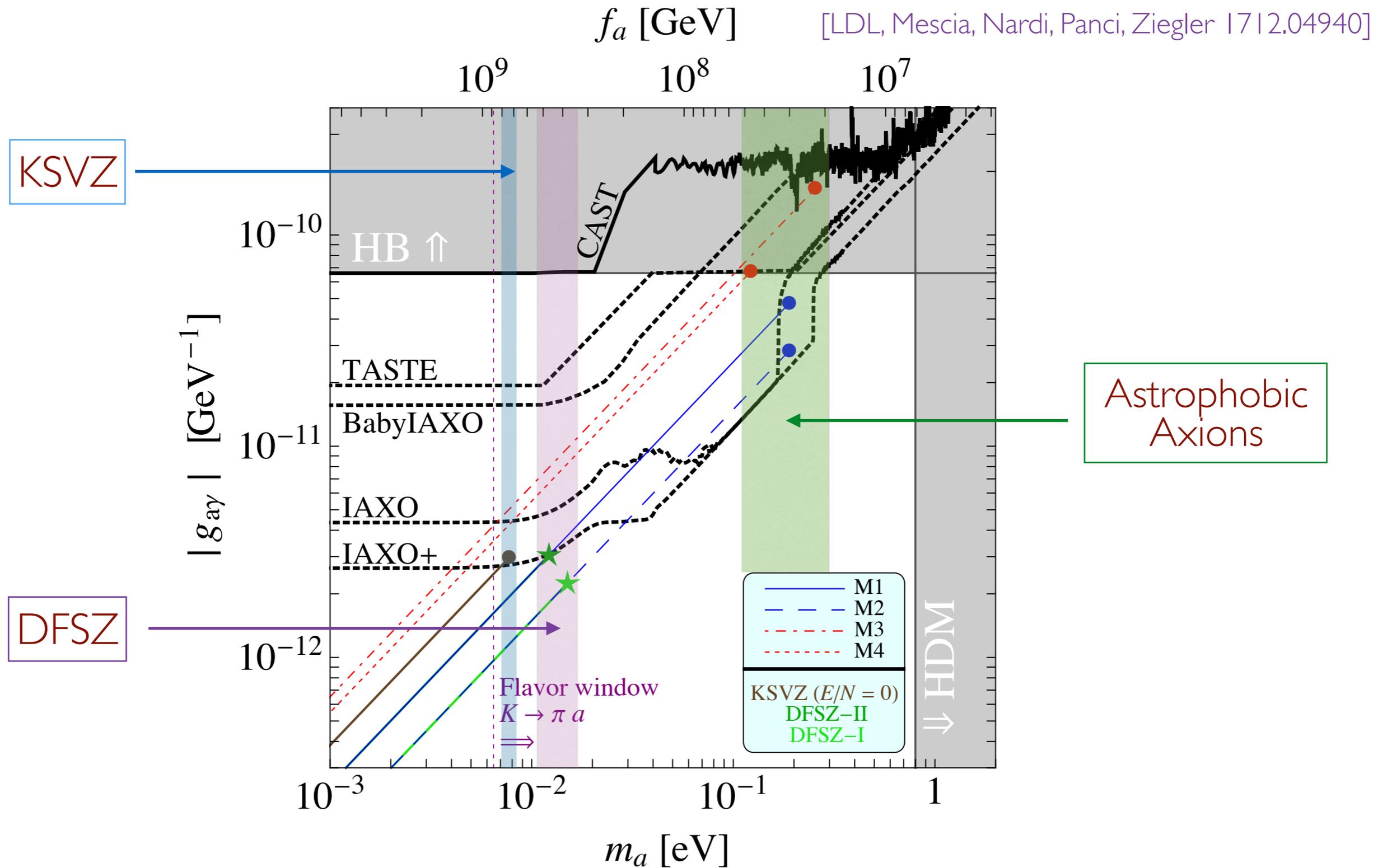
- Plethora of low-energy flavour experiments probing  $\frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a} \bar{f}_i \gamma^\mu (C_{ij}^V + C_{ij}^A \gamma_5) f_j$

-  $K \rightarrow \pi a$  :  $m_a < 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \frac{\text{eV}}{|C_{sd}^V|}$  [E787, E949 @ BNL, 0709.1000]  $\longrightarrow$  NA62

-  $B \rightarrow Ka$  :  $m_a < 3.7 \times 10^{-2} \frac{\text{eV}}{|C_{bs}^V|}$  [Babar, 1303.7465]  $\longrightarrow$  Belle-II

-  $\mu \rightarrow ea$  :  $m_a < 3.4 \times 10^{-3} \frac{\text{eV}}{\sqrt{|C_{\mu e}^V|^2 + |C_{\mu e}^A|^2}}$  [Crystal Box @ Los Alamos, Bolton et al PRD38 (1988)]  $\longrightarrow$  MEG II

# Astrophobic axion models



# Conclusions

- QCD axion: 2 birds with 1 stone
  - solves the strong CP problem
  - provides an excellent DM candidate
- Experimentally driven phase
  - we are entering now the preferred window for the QCD axion

# Conclusions

- QCD axion: 2 birds with 1 stone
  - solves the strong CP problem
  - provides an excellent DM candidate
- Experimentally driven phase
  - we are entering now the preferred window for the QCD axion
- KSVZ and DFSZ are well-motivated minimal benchmarks, but...
  - axion couplings are UV dependent
  - worth to think about alternatives when confronting exp. bounds and sensitivities

# Backup slides

# Axions as Dark Matter

Heavy particle vs. light scalar field

(WIMPs)

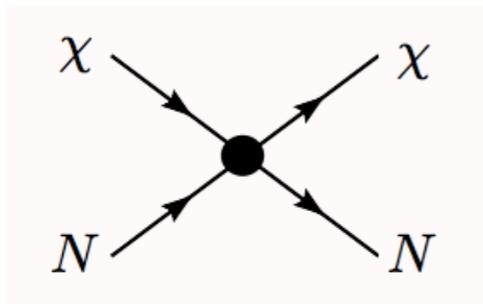
(Axions)



search for single particle scattering



search for coherent effects of the entire field, not particle scattering

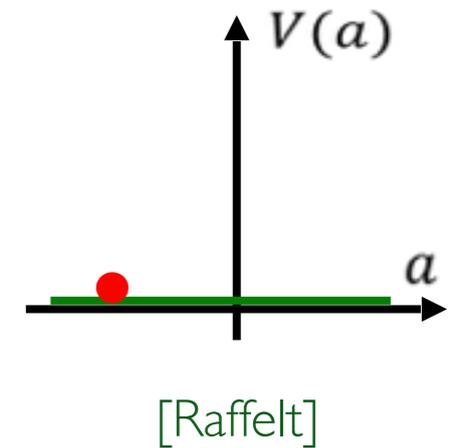


(e.o.m. in a FRW background)

$$\ddot{a} + 3H\dot{a} + m_a^2(T)f_a \sin\left(\frac{a}{f_a}\right) = 0$$

# Axions as Dark Matter

- $T \sim f_a$  (very early Universe)
  - $U(1)_{PQ}$  spontaneously broken, but axion massless
  - axion field sits at  $a_0 = \theta_0 f_a$

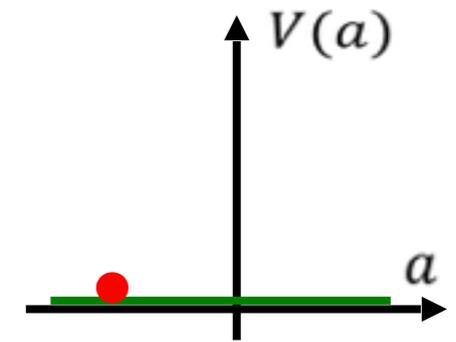


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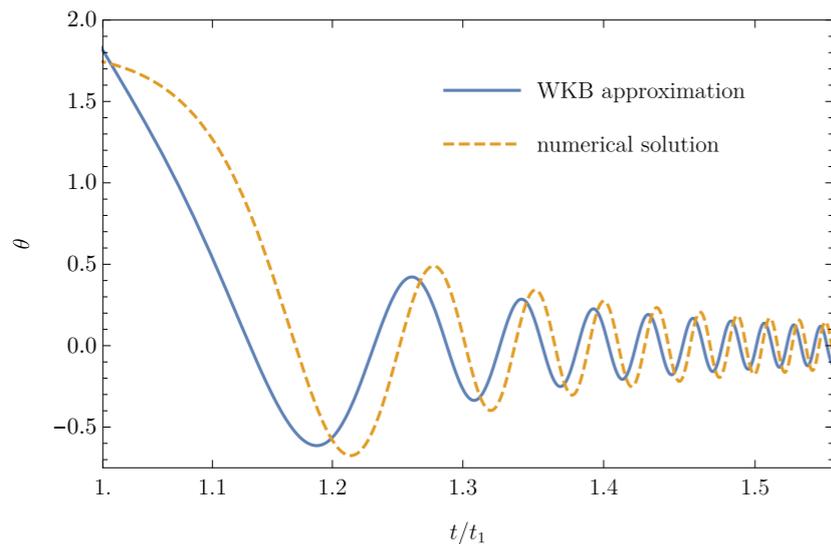
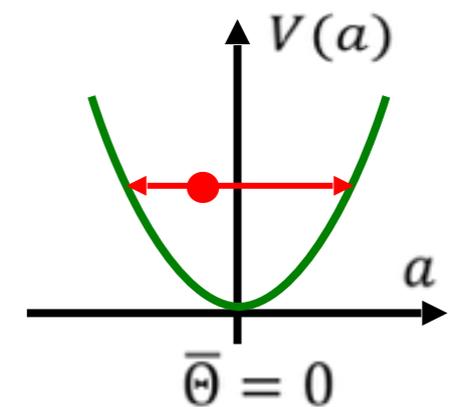


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  - field starts oscillating when  $m_a \gtrsim 3H$



[Raffelt]

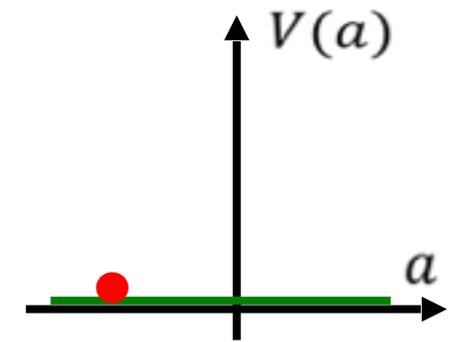


[J. Stadler]

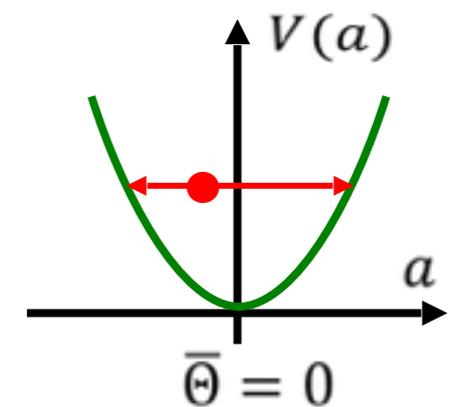
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  - field starts oscillating when  $m_a \gtrsim 3H$
- Energy stored in axion oscillations behaves as Cold DM



[Raffelt]



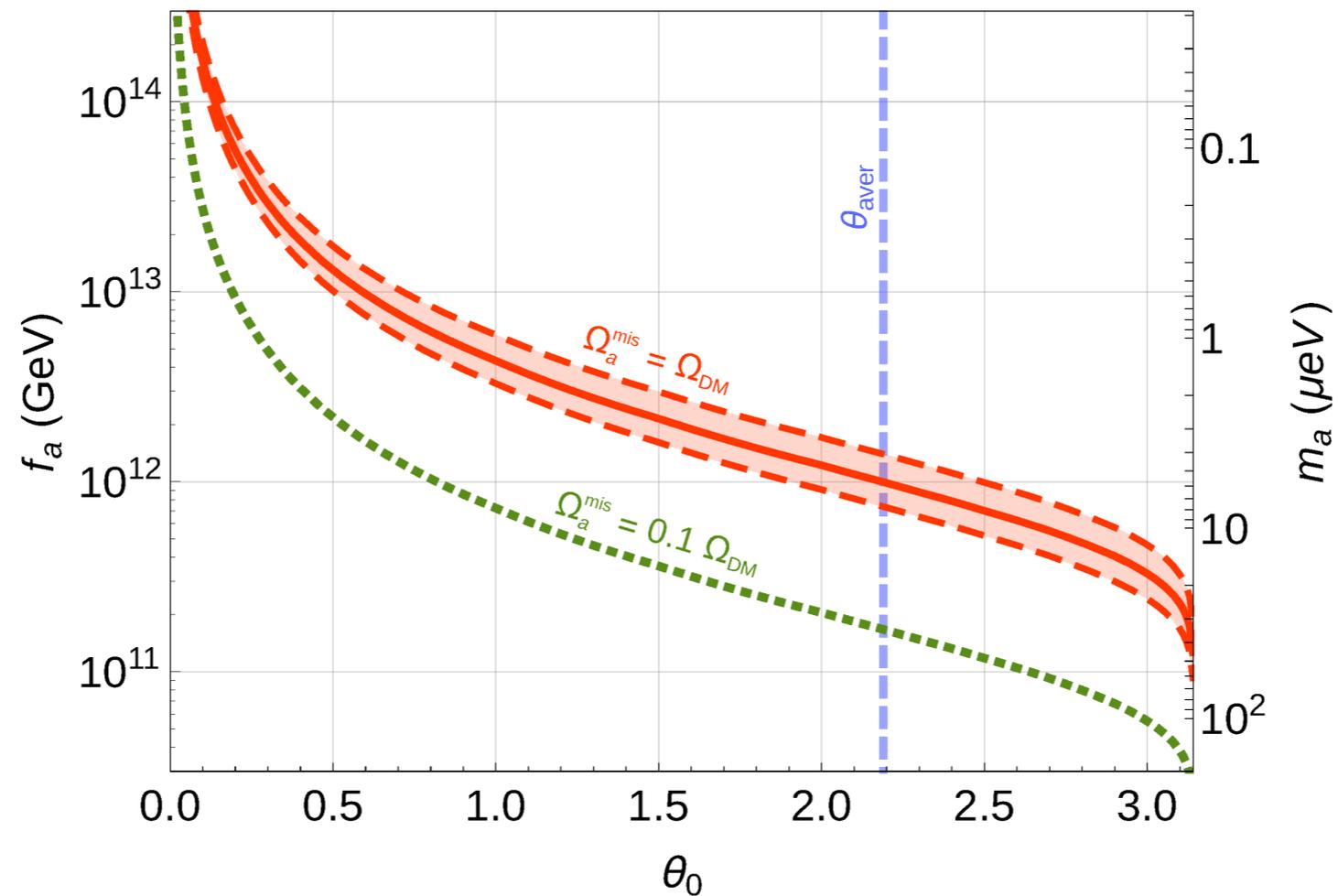
[Preskill, Wise, Wilczek PLB 120 (1983),  
Abott, Sikivie PLB 120 (1983),  
Dine, Fischler PLB 120 (1983)]

$a(t) = a_0 \cos(m_a t)$   depends on the initial condition: misalignment mechanism

# Relic abundance

- From lattice QCD simulations:  $f_a \lesssim 10^{11 \div 12}$  GeV for  $\theta_0 = \mathcal{O}(1)$

[Bonati et al. 1512.06746,  
Petreczky et al. 1606.03145,  
Borsanyi et al. 1606.07494, ...]



# Relic abundance

- From lattice QCD simulations:  $f_a \lesssim 10^{11 \div 12}$  GeV for  $\theta_0 = \mathcal{O}(1)$

*post-inflationary PQ breaking*

$$f_a < \max\{H_I, T_R\}$$

$\theta_0$  averaged over several Universe patches

$$\langle \theta_0 \rangle = \pi/\sqrt{3}$$

$$\Omega_a^{\text{mis}} < \Omega_{\text{DM}} \quad \longrightarrow \quad f_a \lesssim 5 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ GeV}$$

+ contribution from topological defects

[See e.g. Ringwald, Saikawa 1512.06436  
Gorghetto, Hardy, Villadoro 1806.04677]

*pre-inflationary PQ breaking*

$$f_a > \max\{H_I, T_R\}$$

$\theta_0$  arbitrary

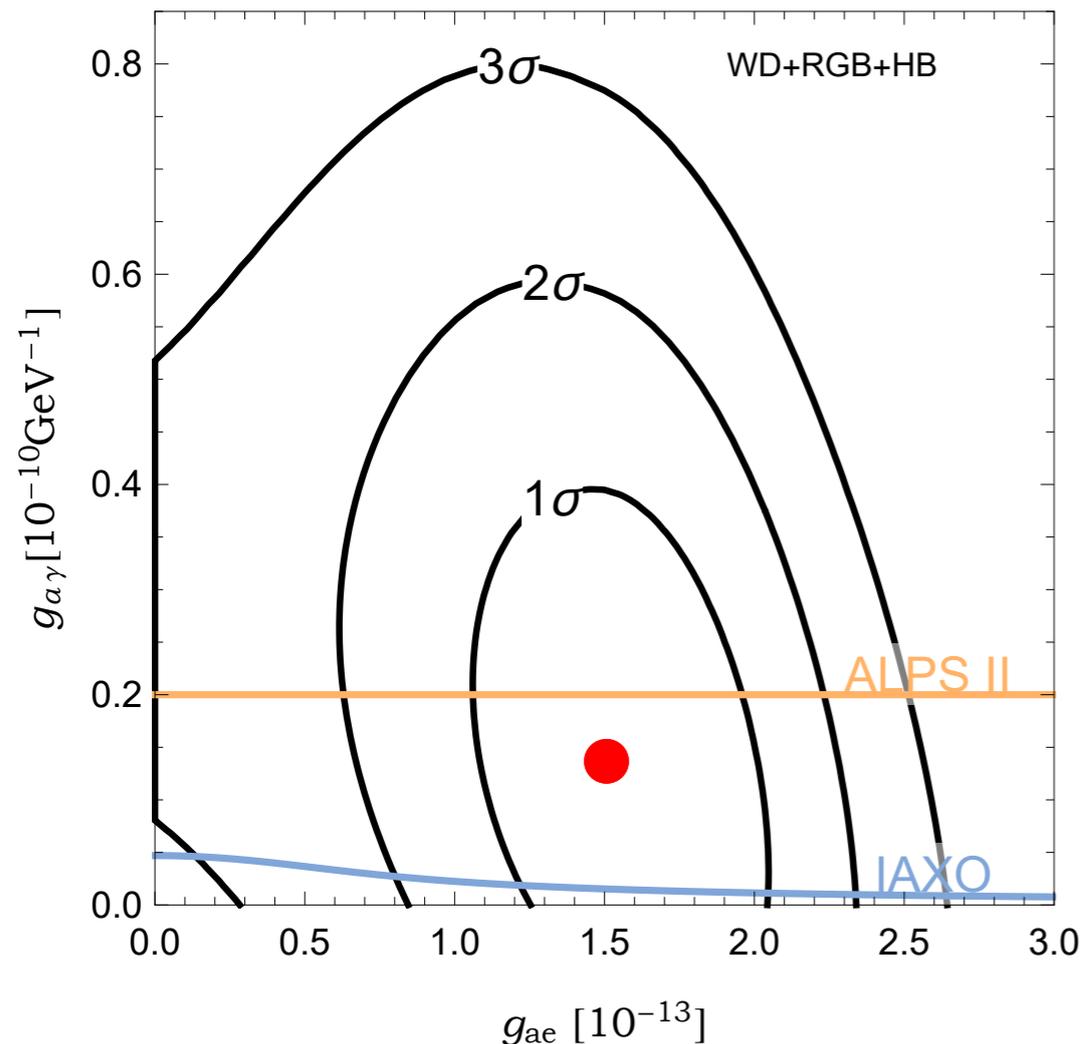
misalignment contribution unique,  
but depends on initial conditions

$$f_a \gg 10^{12} \text{ GeV only for } \theta_0 \ll 1$$

# Stellar cooling anomalies

- Hints of excessive cooling in WD+RGB+HB can be explained via an axion
  - requires a sizeable axion-electron coupling in a region disfavoured by SN bound\*

[Giannotti, Irastorza, Redondo, Ringwald, Saikawa | 708.02111]



Model	Global fit includes	$f_a$ [ $10^8$ GeV]	$m_a$ [meV]	$\tan \beta$	$\chi^2_{\min}/\text{d.o.f.}$
DFSZ I	WD,RGB,HB	0.77	74	0.28	14.9/15
	WD,RGB,HB,SN	11	5.3	140	16.3/16
	WD,RGB,HB,SN,NS	9.9	5.8	140	19.2/17
DFSZ II	WD,RGB,HB	1.2	46	2.7	14.9/15
	WD,RGB,HB,SN	9.5	6.0	0.28	15.3/16
	WD,RGB,HB,SN,NS	9.1	6.3	0.28	21.3/17

★ Nucleophobic axions should improve fit, allowing for fully perturbative Yukawas

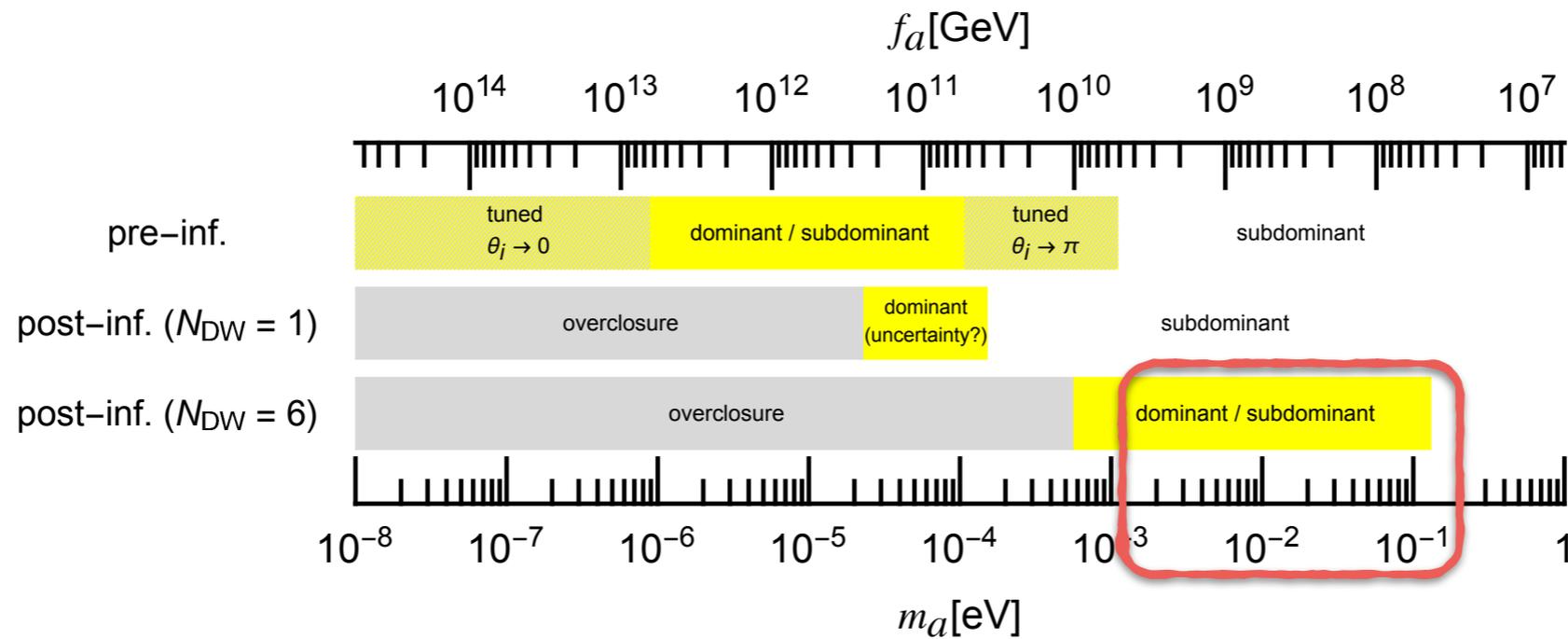
\*SN bound a factor  $\sim 4$  weaker than PDG one ?

[Chang, Essig, McDermott | 803.00993]

# DM in the heavy axion window

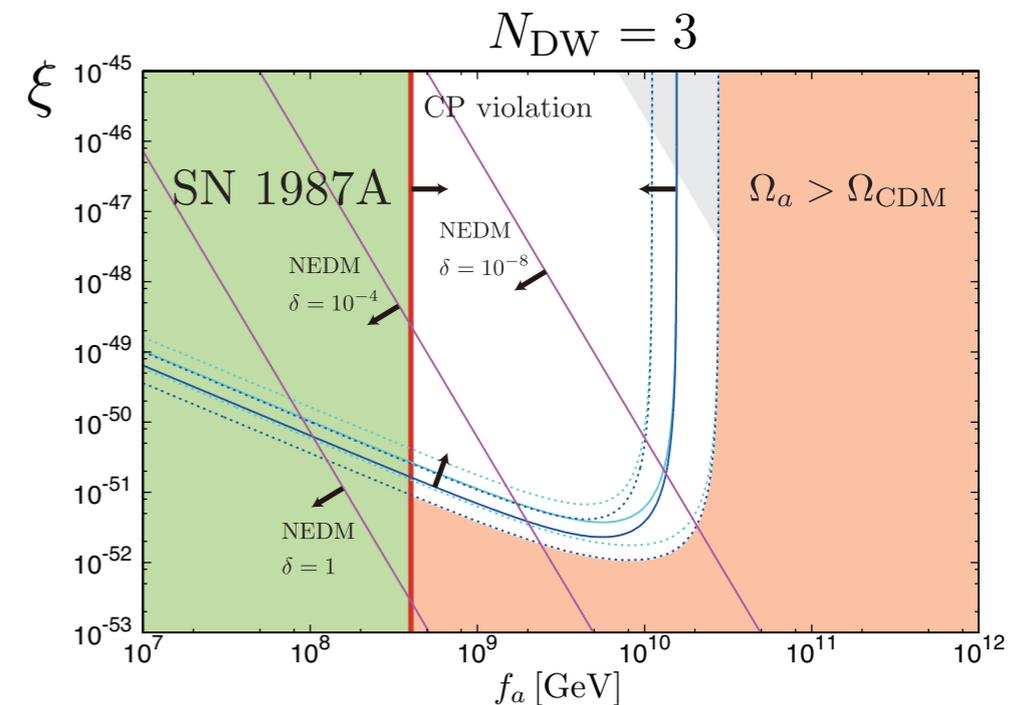
- Post-inflationary PQ breaking with  $N_{\text{DW}} \neq 1$

[Kawasaki, Saikawa, Sekiguchi, IJGMP 14(2):0789-0809 (2011)]



- axion production from topological defects
- requires explicit PQ breaking term

$$\Delta V \sim -\xi f_a^3 \Phi e^{-i\delta} + \text{h.c.}$$



# Boosting E/N in DFSZ

- Potentially large E/N due to electron PQ charge

$$\frac{E}{N} = \frac{\sum_j \left( \frac{4}{3} X_u^j + \frac{1}{3} X_d^j + X_e^j \right)}{\sum_j \left( \frac{1}{2} X_u^j + \frac{1}{2} X_d^j \right)}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_Y = Y_u \bar{Q}_L u_R H_u + Y_d \bar{Q}_L d_R H_d + Y_e \bar{L}_L e_R H_e + \text{h.c.}$$

- with  $n_H$  Higgs doublets and a SM singlet  $\phi$ , enhanced global symmetry

$$U(1)^{n_H+1} \rightarrow U(1)_{\text{PQ}} \times U(1)_Y$$

must be explicitly broken in the scalar potential via non-trivial invariants (e.g.  $H_u H_d \Phi^2$ )



*non-trivial constraints on PQ charges of SM fermions*

# Boosting E/N in DFSZ

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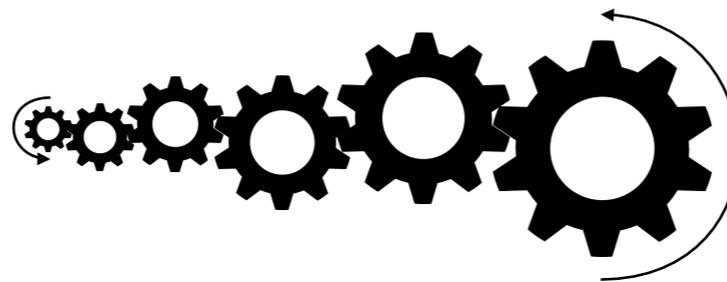
$$\mathcal{L}_Y = Y_u \bar{Q}_L u_R H_u + Y_d \bar{Q}_L d_R H_d + Y_e \bar{L}_L e_R H_e + \text{h.c.}$$

- Clockwork-like scenarios allow to **boost** E/N [LDL, Mescia, Nardi 1705.05370]
  - n up-type doublets which *do not couple* to SM fermions (n ≈ 50 from LP condition)

$$(H_u H_d \Phi^2)$$

$$(H_k H_{k-1}^*)(H_{k-1}^* H_d^*)$$

$$(H_e H_n)(H_n H_d)$$



[Giudice, McCullough]



$$E/N \sim 2^n$$

[See also Farina et al. 1611.09855, for KSVZ clockwork]



# Axion coupling to photons

- Axion effective Lagrangian

[See e.g. Grillo di Cortona et al., 1511.02867]

$$\mathcal{L}_a = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu a)^2 + \frac{a}{f_a} \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{4} a g_{a\gamma\gamma}^0 F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \quad g_{a\gamma\gamma}^0 = \frac{\alpha_{em}}{2\pi f_a} \frac{E}{N}$$

field-dependent chiral transformation to eliminate  $aGG$  tilde:  $q = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow e^{i\gamma_5 \frac{a}{2f_a} Q_a} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d \end{pmatrix}$

$$\text{tr } Q_a = 1$$

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- Axion effective Lagrangian

[See e.g. Grilli di Cortona et al., 1511.02867]

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$$g_{a\gamma\gamma}^0 = \frac{\alpha_{em}}{2\pi f_a} \frac{E}{N}$$



$$\mathcal{L}_a = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu a)^2 + \frac{1}{4} a g_{a\gamma\gamma} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$

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$$\text{tr } Q_a = 1$$

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} = \frac{\alpha_{em}}{2\pi f_a} \left[ \frac{E}{N} - 6 \text{tr} (Q_a Q^2) \right] = \frac{\alpha_{em}}{2\pi f_a} \left[ \frac{E}{N} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{4m_d + m_u}{m_d + m_u} \right] = \frac{m_a}{\text{eV}} \frac{2.0}{10^{10} \text{ GeV}} \left( \frac{E}{N} - 1.92(4) \right)$$

$$Q_a = \frac{M_q^{-1}}{\langle M_q^{-1} \rangle} \quad (\text{no axion-pion mixing})$$

model independent  
depends on UV completion

# Selection criteria

- We require: [for  $T_{\text{reheating}} > m_Q \sim f_a$  (post-inflat. PQ breaking)]

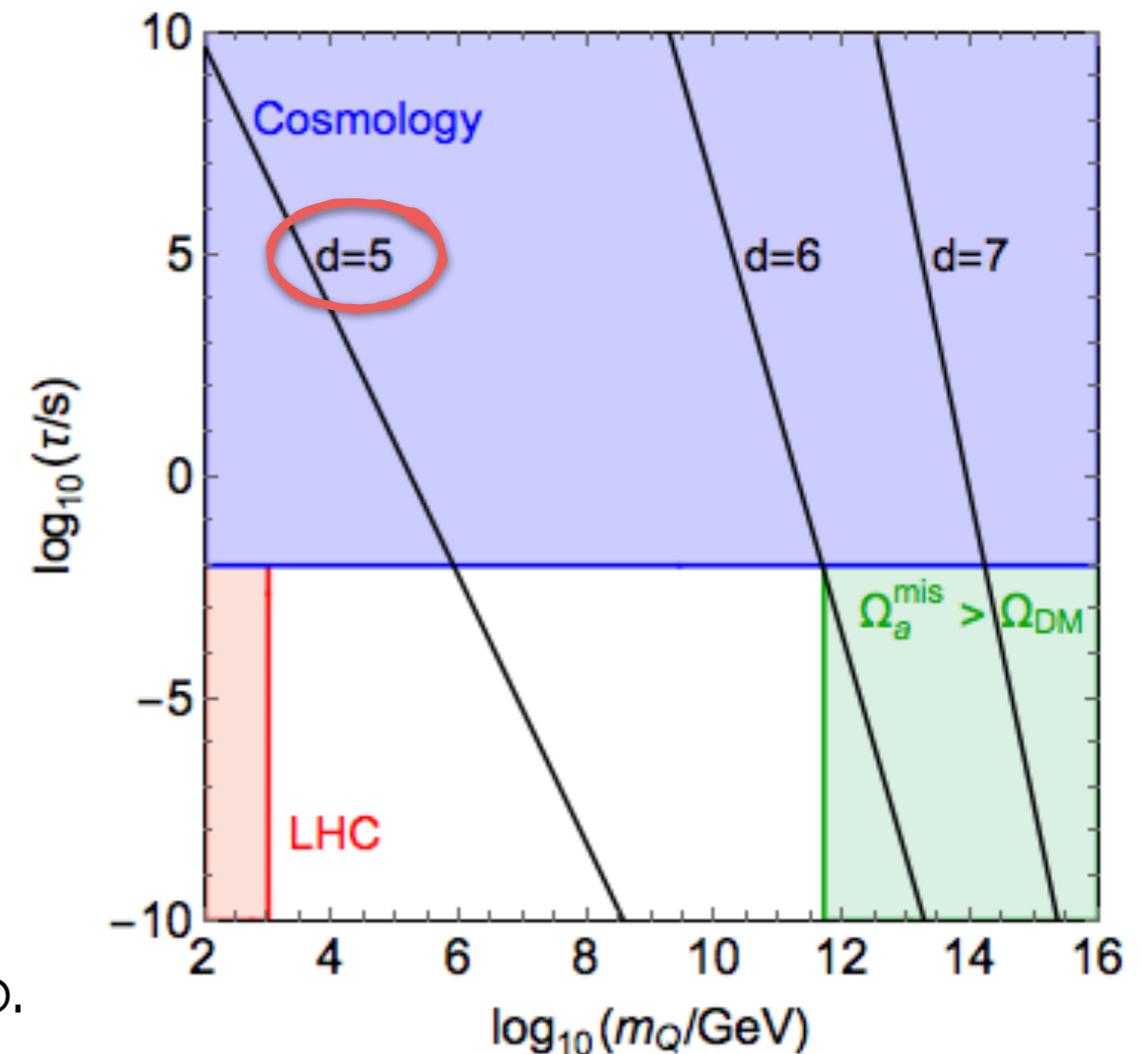
I.  $Q$  sufficiently short lived  $\tau_Q \lesssim 10^{-2}$  s

- decays via  $d=4$  operators are fast enough
- decays via effective operators

$$\mathcal{L}_{Qq}^{d>4} = \frac{1}{M_{\text{Planck}}^{(d-4)}} \mathcal{O}_{Qq}^{d>4} + \text{h.c.}$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{NDA}} = \frac{1}{4(4\pi)^{2n_f-3} (n_f-1)! (n_f-2)!} \frac{m_Q^{2d-7}}{M_{\text{Planck}}^{2(d-4)}}$$

→ “safe”  $Q$  must allow for  $d=4$  or 5 decay op.



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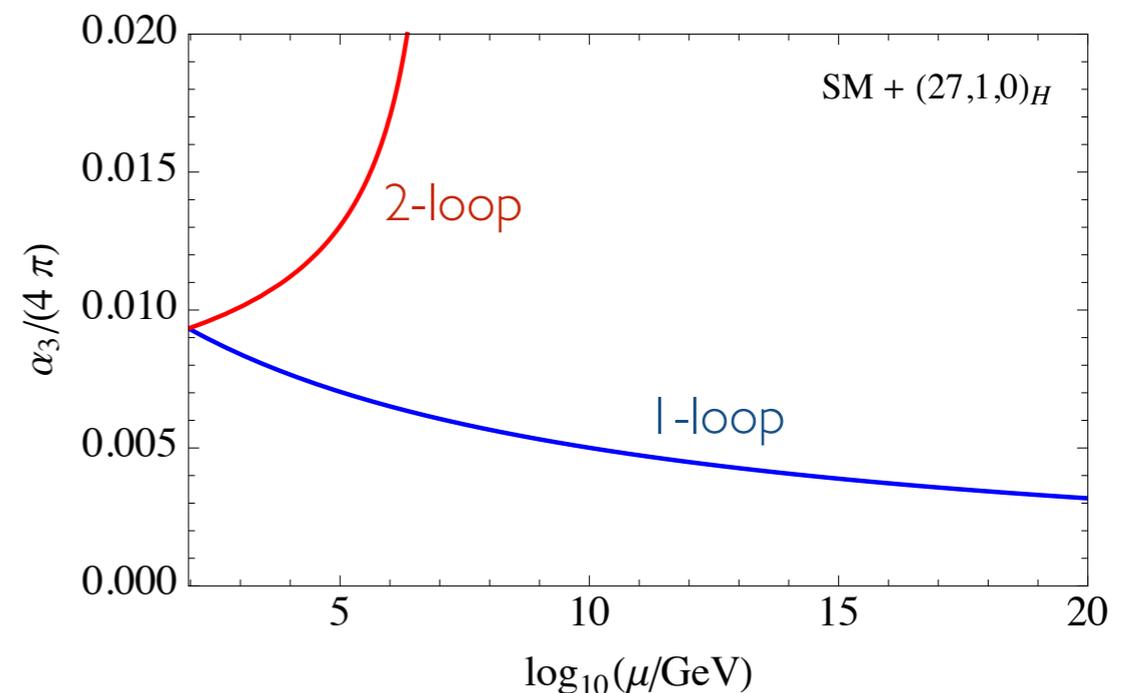
2. No Landau poles below  $10^{18}$  GeV

- bound on  $Q$  multiplet dimensionality

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} g_i = -b_i g_i^3 \quad b_i = \text{gauge -matter}$$

N.B. two-loop effects crucial if 1-loop b.f. is accidentally small

[LDL, Gröber, Kamenik, Nardecchia, 1504.00359]



# The Axion Rush

PHYSICAL REVIEW X **4**, 021030 (2014)

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PRL **113**, 161801 (2014) PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS week ending  
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Olaf Reimann,<sup>1</sup> Frank Simon,<sup>1</sup> and Frank Steffen<sup>1</sup>  
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*Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics, Department of Physics, Stanford University,  
Stanford, California 94305, USA*

(Received 16 December 2014; published 7 April 2015)

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*Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA*  
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Woohyun Chung<sup>\*</sup>

*Center for Axion and Precision Physics Research, Institute for Basic Science (IBS), Republic of Korea*

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