

# Sensitivity of the $\eta^{(\prime)} \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma \gamma$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \eta \gamma \gamma$ decays to a sub-GeV leptophobic $U(1)_B$ boson

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The sensitivity of the rare decays  $\eta^{(\prime)} \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma \gamma$  and  $\eta' \rightarrow \eta \gamma \gamma$  to signatures of a leptophobic  $B$  boson in the MeV-GeV mass range is analyzed in this work.

By adding an explicit  $B$ -boson resonance exchange,  $\eta \rightarrow B \gamma \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma \gamma$ , to the Standard Model contributions from vector and scalar meson exchanges, and employing experimental data for the associated branching ratios, it allows us to improve the current constraints on the  $B$ -boson mass  $m_B$  and coupling to Standard Model particles  $\alpha_B$ .

From these constraints and the analysis of the available experimental  $\gamma \gamma$  invariant mass distribution, we show that a  $B$ -boson signature in the resonant mass range  $m_{\pi^0} \leq m_B \leq m_{\eta'}$  is strongly suppressed and would be very difficult to experimentally identify, assuming that the leptophobic  $B$  boson only decays to Standard Model particles.

In contrast, the limits outside this mass window are less stringent and the corresponding  $t$ - and  $u$ -channel signatures may still be observable in the data, as it occurs with the nonresonant Standard Model  $\rho$ ,  $\omega$  and  $\phi$  meson exchanges.

In addition, we make use of experimental data from the  $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma \gamma$  and  $\eta' \rightarrow \eta \gamma \gamma$  decays to explore larger  $B$ -boson masses.

Our results are relevant for the  $B$ -boson search programs at existing and forthcoming light-meson facilities, such as KLOE(-II) and Jefferson Lab Eta Factory experiments.

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