

# Milli-eV Frontier of Axion Physics

Georg G. Raffelt, Max-Planck-Institut für Physik, München

# The meV mass frontier of axion physics

Georg G. Raffelt,<sup>1</sup> Javier Redondo,<sup>1</sup> and Nicolas Viaux Maira<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), Föhringer Ring 6, 80805 München, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Departamento de Astronomía y Astrofísica, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile,

Av. Vicuña Mackenna 4860, 782-0436 Macul, Santiago, Chile

(Received 7 September 2011; published 29 November 2011)

We explore consequences of the idea that the cooling speed of white dwarfs can be interpreted in terms of axion emission. In this case, the Yukawa coupling to electrons has to be  $g_{ae} \sim 1 \times 10^{-13}$ , corresponding to an axion mass of a few meV. Axions then provide only a small fraction of the cosmic cold dark matter, whereas core-collapse supernovae release a large fraction of their energy in the form of axions. We estimate the diffuse supernova axion background in the Universe, consisting of 30 MeV-range axions, to be a radiation density comparable to the extragalactic background light. The diffuse supernova axion background would be challenging to detect. However, axions with  $m_a \lesssim 10$  meV could be accessible in a next-generation axion helioscope.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.84.103008

**Milli-eV frontier reloaded**

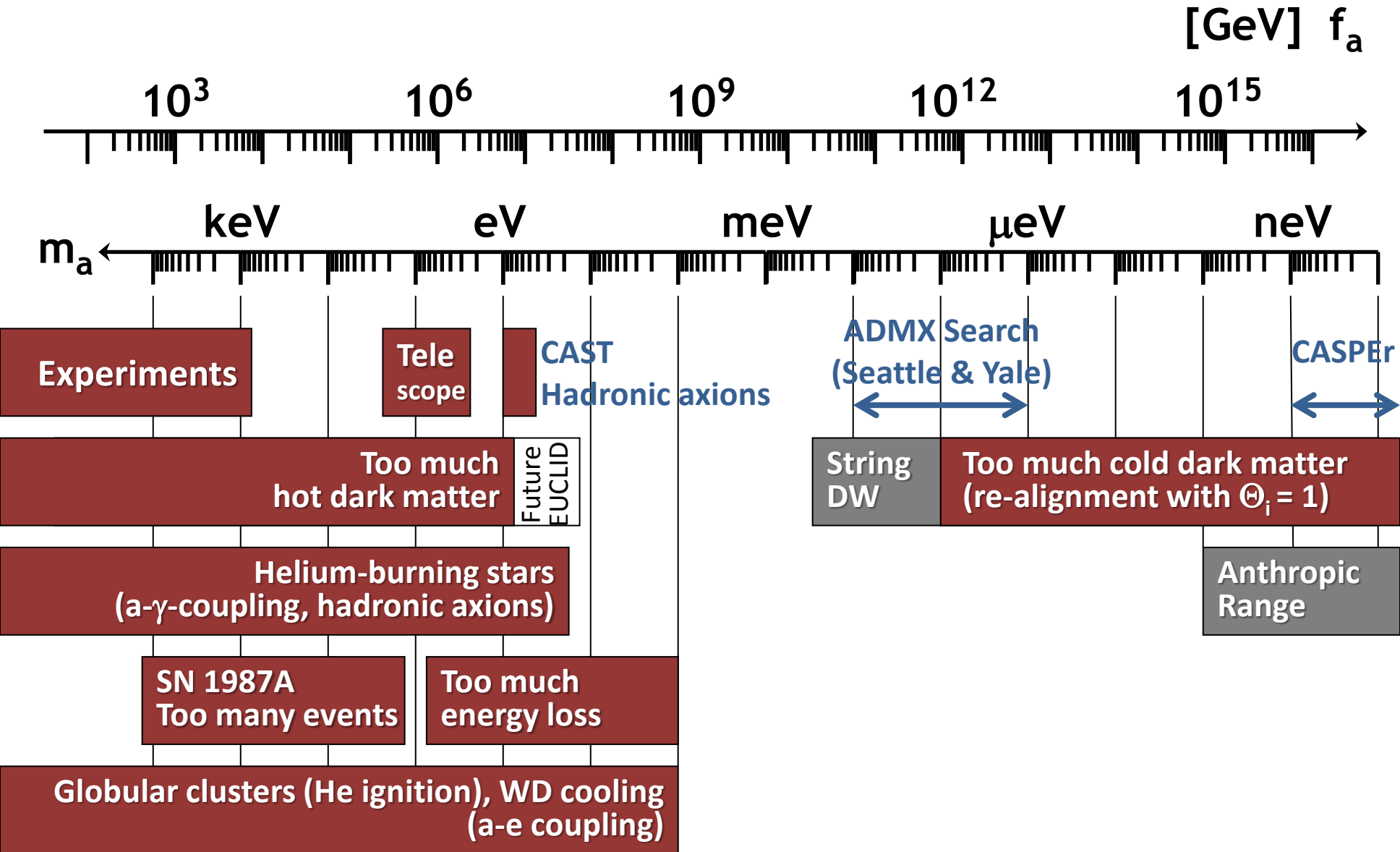
...ity could correspond to  $m_a$  as large as a few  $100 \mu\text{eV}$  [9]. Either way, meV-mass axions provide only a subdominant CDM component.

## II. COOLING OF COMPACT STARS

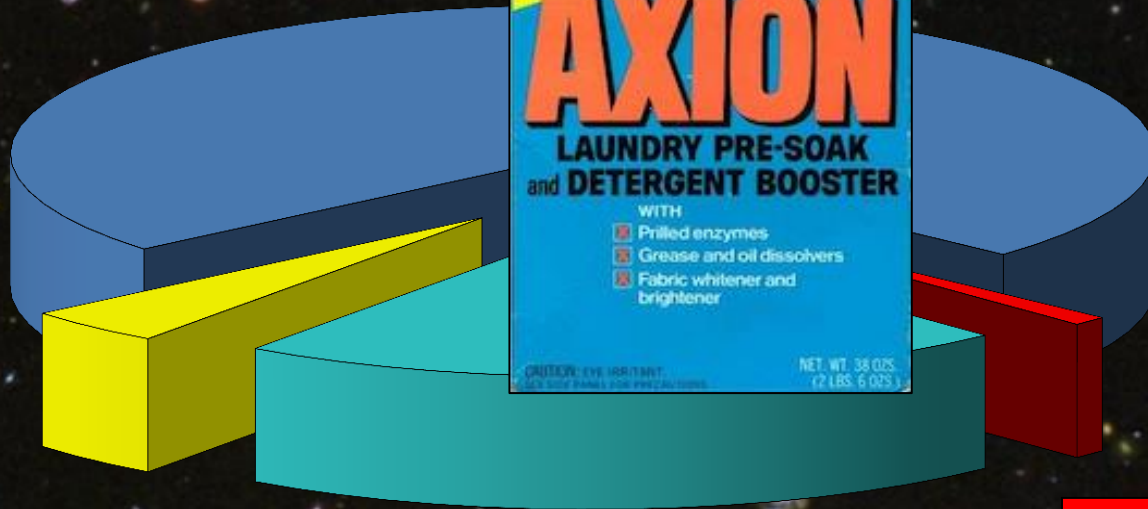
...maps the absence of the QCD vacuum structure. A notable consequence is the existence of the axion, the Nambu-Goldstone boson of a new  $U(1)_{\text{PQ}}$  symmetry. Axions acquire a mass  $m_a \sim m_\pi f_\pi / f_a$  by their mixing with neutral mesons, where  $m_\pi = 135$  MeV and  $f_\pi = 92$  MeV are the pion mass and decay constant, and  $f_a$  is a large energy scale related to the spontaneous breaking of  $U(1)_{\text{PQ}}$ . Axions generically interact with hadrons and photons. They may also interact with charged leptons, the DFSZ model [4] being a generic case. All interactions are suppressed by  $f_a^{-1}$ , so for large  $f_a$ , axions are both very light and very weakly interacting. For example, the axion

The most restrictive astrophysical limits on those axion models that couple to charged leptons arise from WDs. An early study used the WD cooling speed, as manifested in their luminosity function, to derive a limit on the axion-electron coupling of  $g_{ae} \lesssim 4 \times 10^{-13}$  [10]. In the early 1990s, it became possible to test the cooling speed of pulsating WDs, the class of ZZ Ceti stars, by their measured period decrease  $\dot{P}/P$ . In particular, the star G117-B15A was cooling too fast, an effect that could be

# Axion Bounds and Searches



**Dark Energy ~70%**  
**(Cosmological Constant)**



**Ordinary Matter ~5%**  
**(of this only about 10% luminous)**

**Dark Matter**  
**~25%**

**Neutrinos**  
**0.1–0.4%**

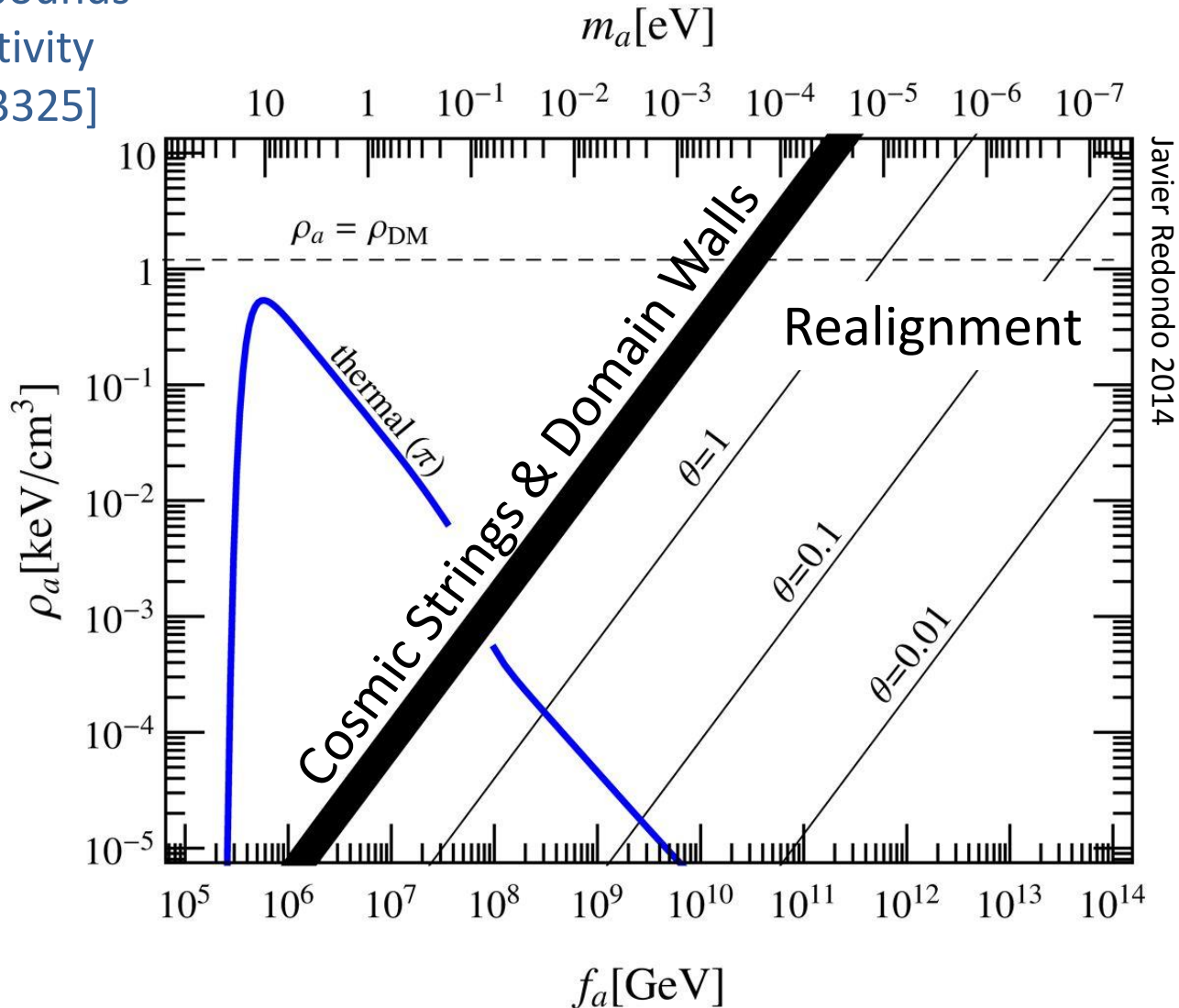


# Axion Dark Matter Density

Partly excluded by →  
cosmic HDM bounds  
& Euclid sensitivity  
[arXiv:1502.03325]

Hot DM

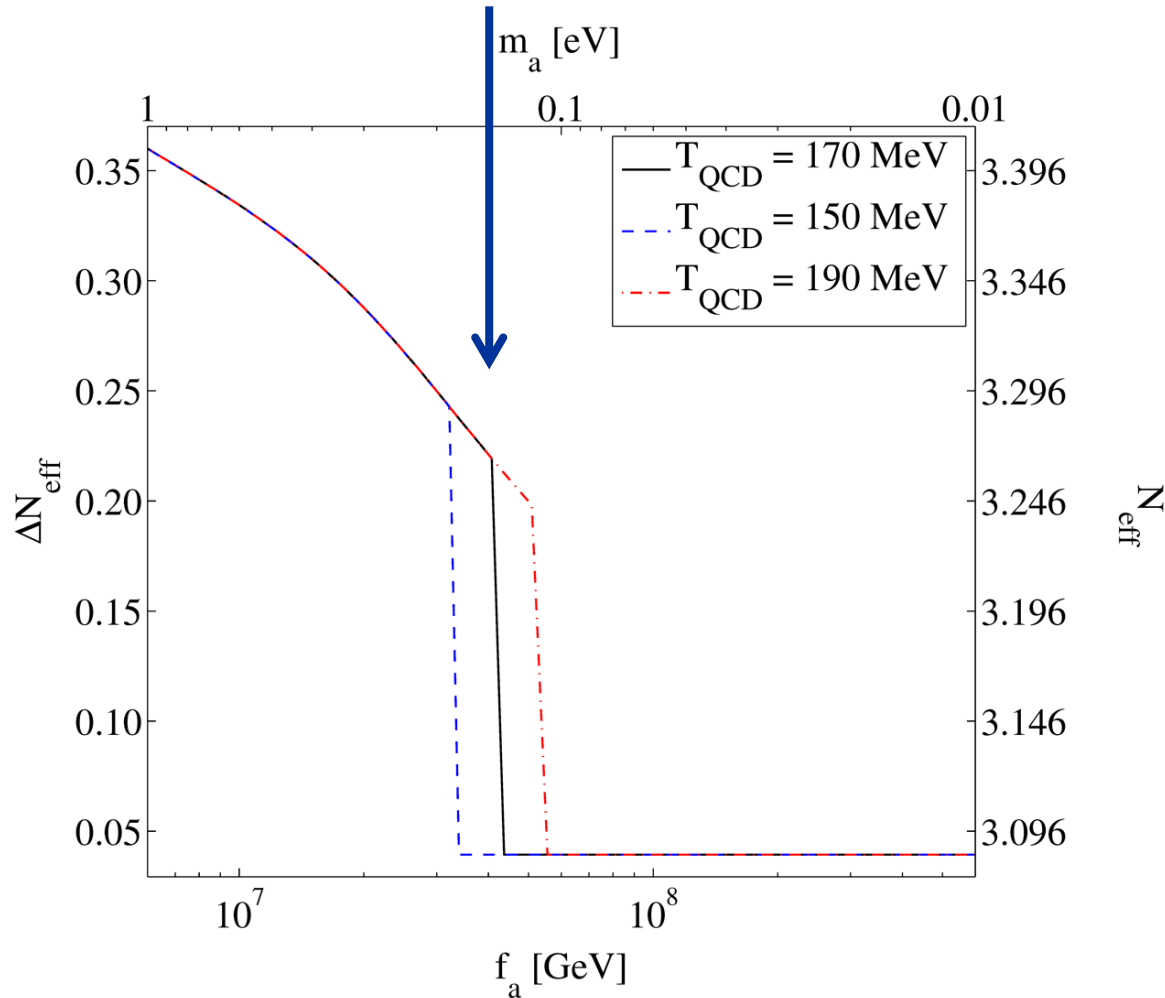
Cold DM



Javier Redondo 2014

# Thermal Axion Density and EUCLID Sensitivity

Hot dark matter sensitivity of future surveys (EUCLID) is around minimal  $m_\nu$   
Can probe axions down to  $m_a \sim 0.15$  eV

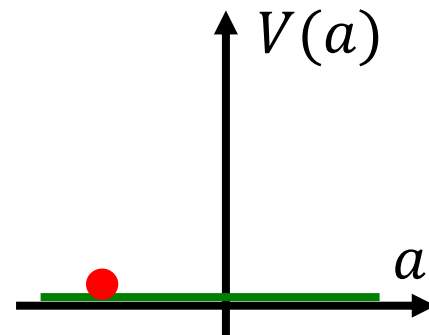
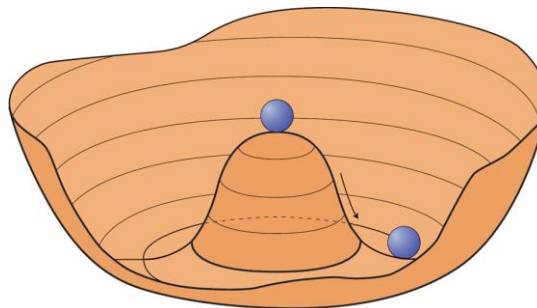


Archidiacono, Basse, Hamann, Hannestad, Raffelt & Wong, arXiv:1502.03325

# Creation of Cosmological Axions by Re-alignment

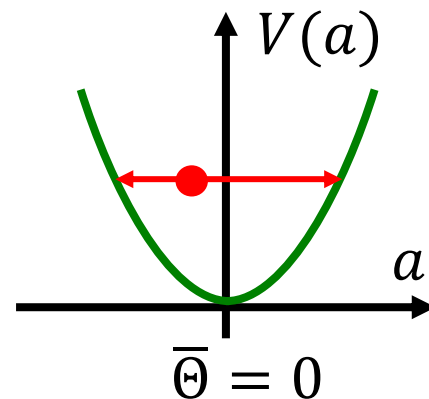
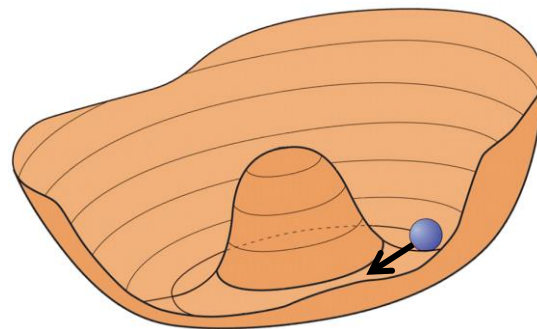
**$T \sim f_a$  (very early universe)**

- $U_{\text{PQ}}(1)$  spontaneously broken
- Higgs field settles in “Mexican hat”
- Axion field sits fixed at  $a_i = \Theta_i f_a$



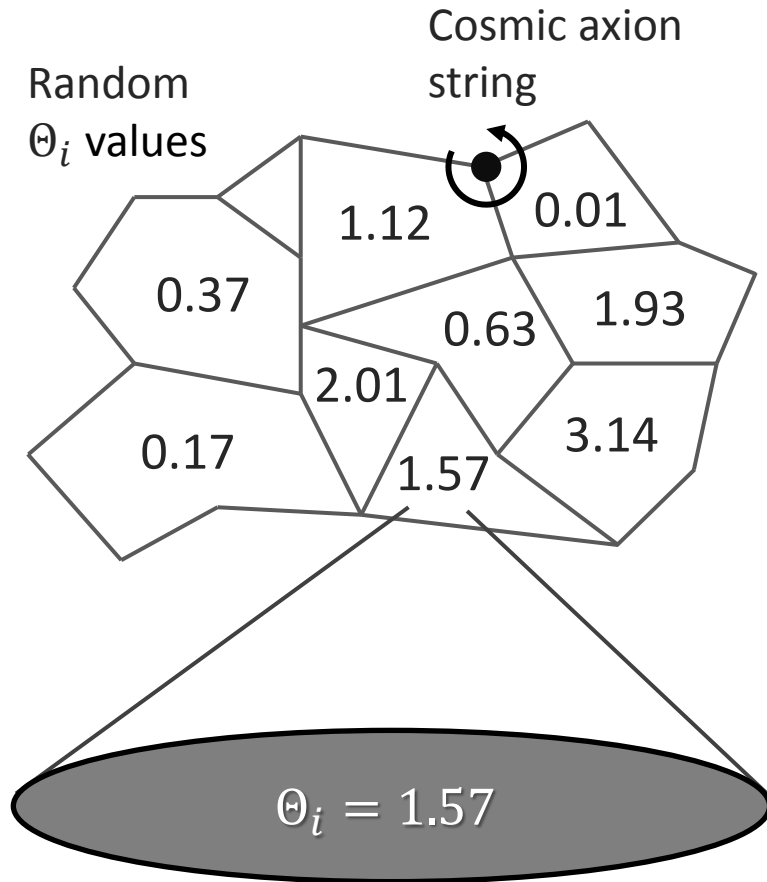
**$T \sim 1 \text{ GeV}$  ( $H \sim 10^{-9} \text{ eV}$ )**

- Axion mass turns on quickly by thermal instanton gas
- Field starts oscillating when  $m_a \gtrsim 3H$
- Classical field oscillations (axions at rest)



**Axions are born as nonrelativistic, classical field oscillations**  
**Very small mass, yet cold dark matter**

# Cold Axion Populations



## Scenario 1

- Cosmic inflation first
- PQ symmetry breaking at  $T \sim f_a$
- Every causal patch has different random  $\Theta_i$
- Topological defects at interfaces
- Axion dark matter from
  - average re-alignment
  - cosmic-string (CS) & domain-wall (DW) decay

## Scenario 2

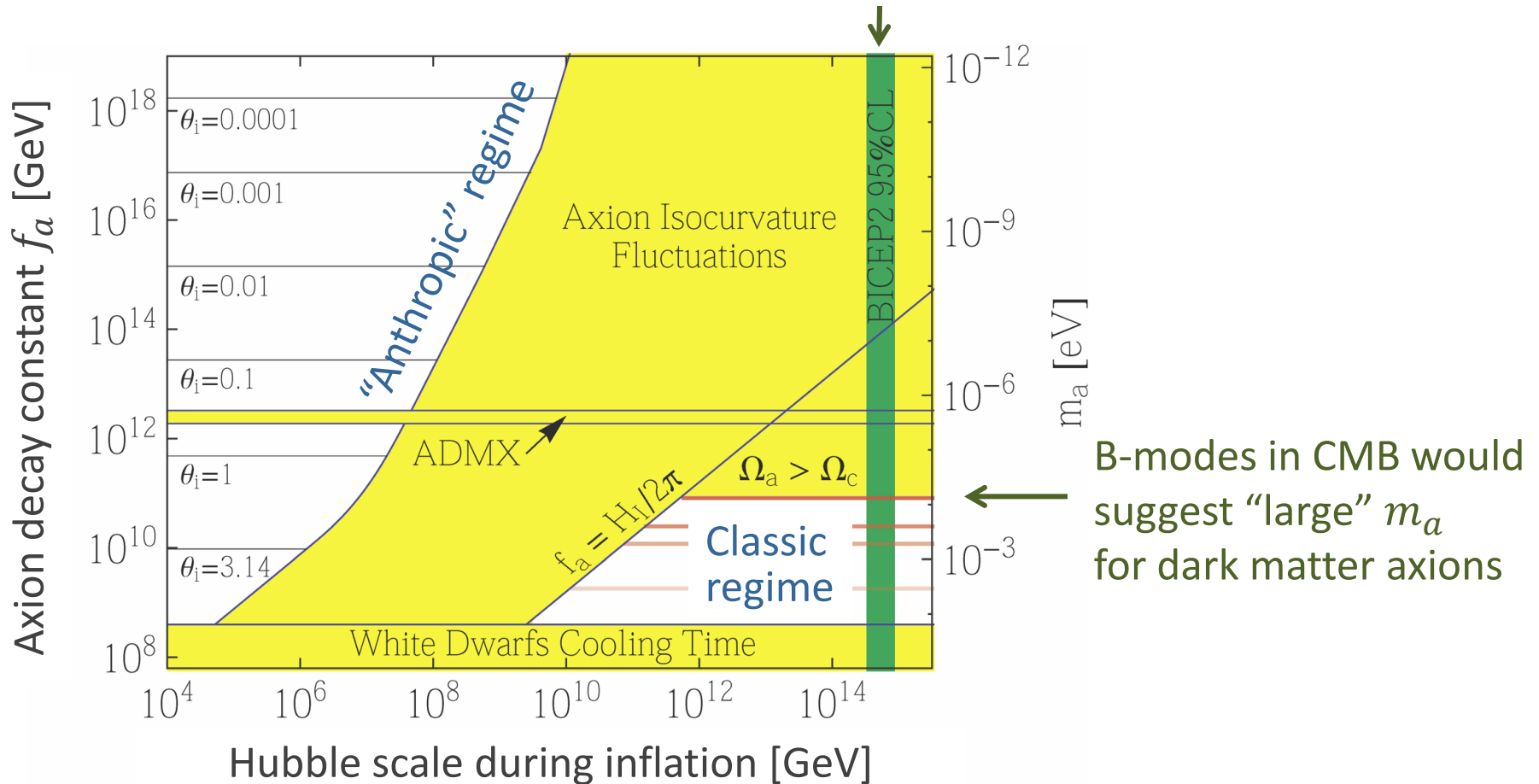
- Cosmic inflation after PQ symmetry breaking
- All axions from re-alignment of one random  $\Theta_i$  in our patch of the universe
- Allows large  $f_a$  if  $\Theta_i \ll 1$  (“anthropic” case)

$$\Omega_a h^2 = 0.20 \Theta_i^2 \left( \frac{f_a}{10^{12} \text{GeV}} \right)^{1.184} = 0.11 \Theta_i^2 \left( \frac{10 \mu\text{eV}}{m_a} \right)^{1.184}$$



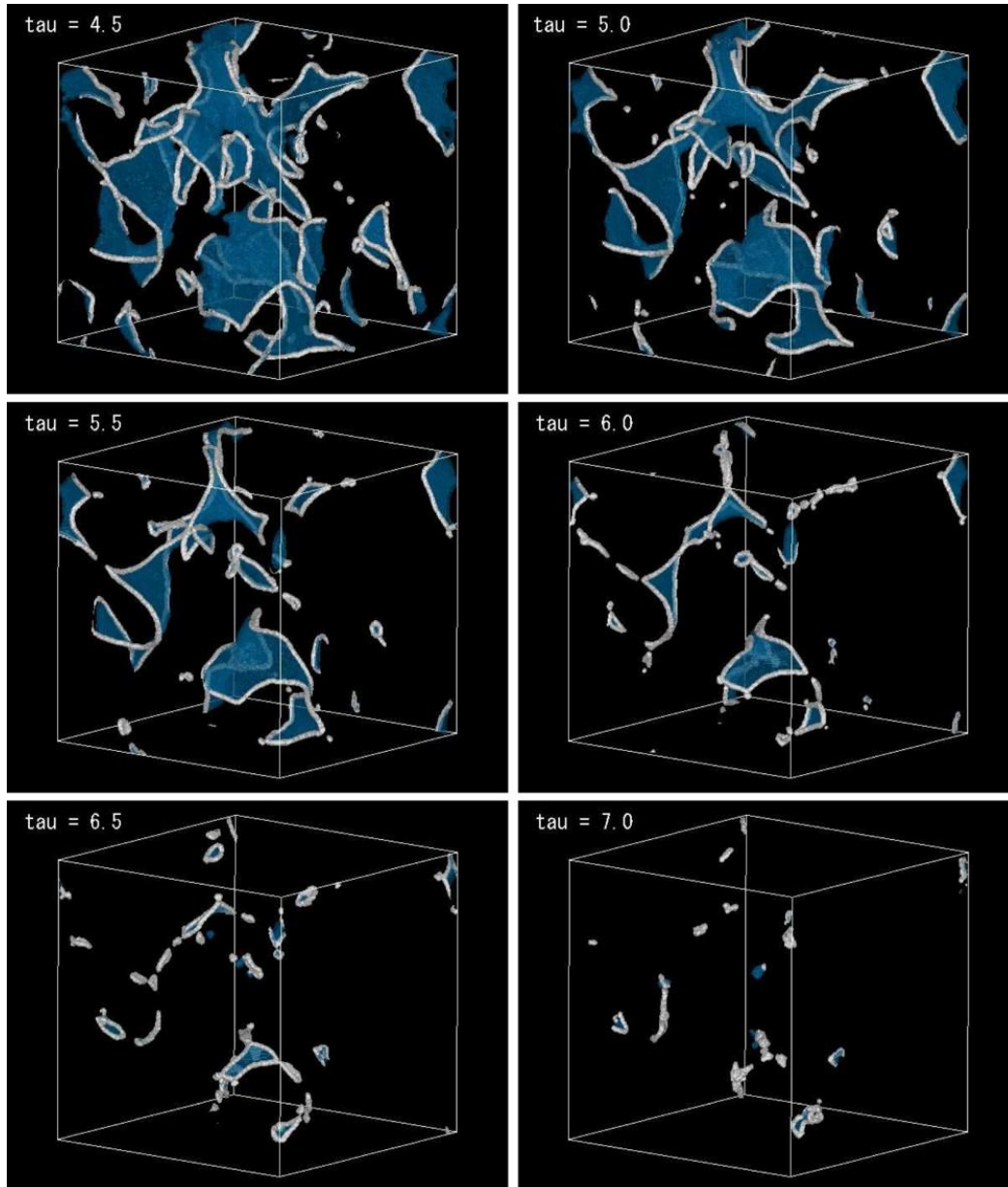
# Isocurvature Constraints

B-modes in CMB would exclude  
“anthropic” regime of large  $f_a$



Visinelli & Gondolo, arXiv:1403.4594

# Axion Production by Domain Wall and String Decay



Recent numerical studies of collapse of string-domain wall system

$$\Omega_a h^2 = (8.4 \pm 3.0) \left( \frac{f_a}{10^{12} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1.19} \times \left( \frac{g_{*,1}}{70} \right)^{-0.41} \left( \frac{\Lambda}{400 \text{ MeV}} \right)$$

Implies a CDM axion mass of

$$m_a \sim 300 \mu\text{eV}$$

Hiramatsu, Kawasaki, Saikawa & Sekiguchi, arXiv:1202.5851 (2012)

More recently by the same group

$$m_a \sim 90 - 140 \mu\text{eV}$$

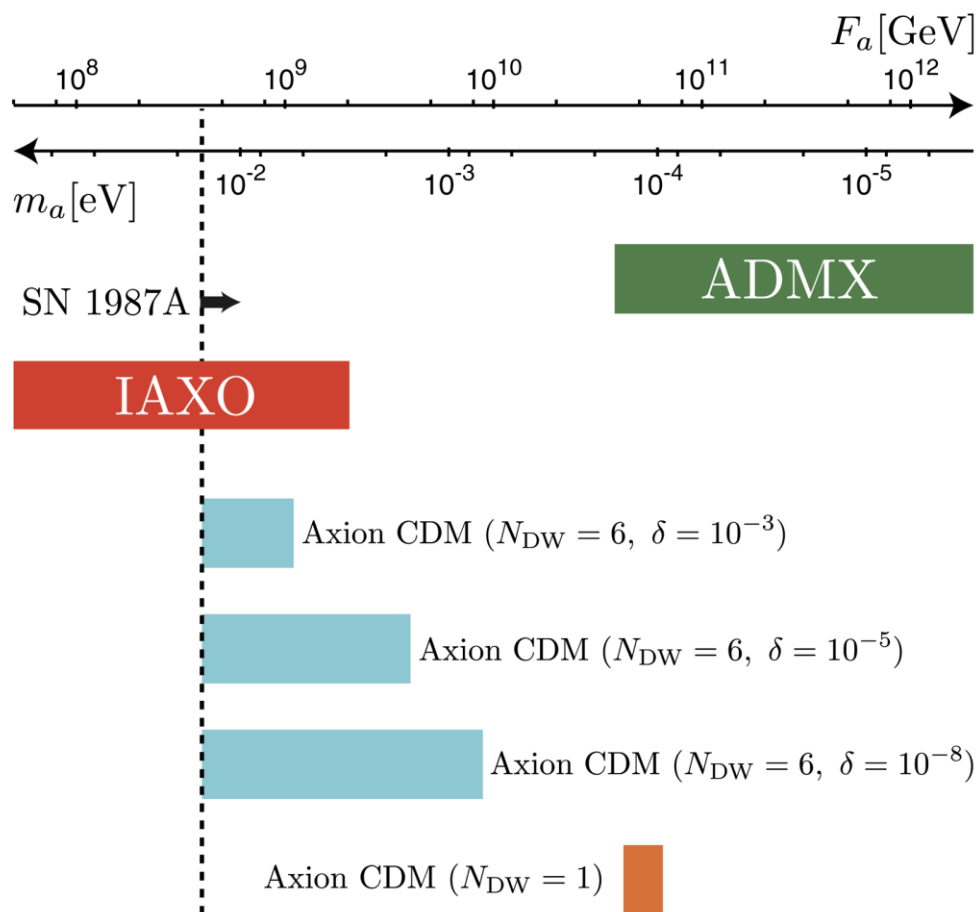
Kawasaki, Saikawa & Sekiguchi, arXiv:1412.0789 (PRD 2015)



← Editor's suggestion

# Axion dark matter from topological defects

Masahiro Kawasaki,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Ken'ichi Saikawa,<sup>3,†</sup> and Toyokazu Sekiguchi<sup>4,‡</sup>



Diversity of scenarios for cosmic axion production depending on domain-wall index  $N_{\text{DW}}$  and phase parameter  $\delta$  of the bias term

# Historical Neutrino Dark Matter Lessons

## Early 1980s

- If neutrinos have mass, probably they are dark matter ( $m_\nu \sim 10$  eV) (“Neutrinos are known to exist”, only SM candidate)
- Detection of  $m_{\nu_e} \sim 30$  eV at ITEP, Moscow (PRL 58:2019, 1987)
- Dedicated oscillation experiments (NOMAD 1995–1998 and CHORUS 1994–1997)

## Status 2015

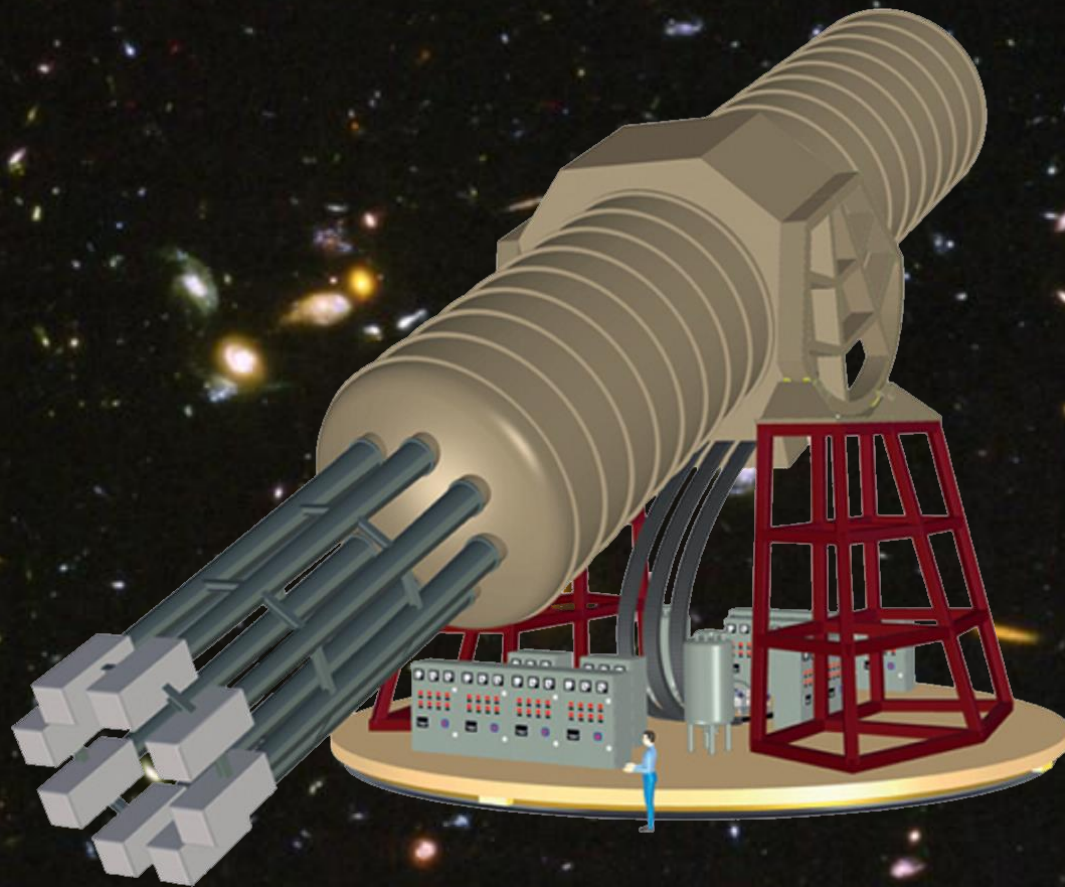
- 70% of gravitating “mass” is dark energy
- Dark matter must be mostly “cold” (structure formation)
- Neutrinos have sub-eV masses (oscillations, cosmo limits)
- Sub-dominant dark matter component

History does not always repeat itself, but ...

- If axions (or similar) exist, **MUST** be **ALL** of dark matter?

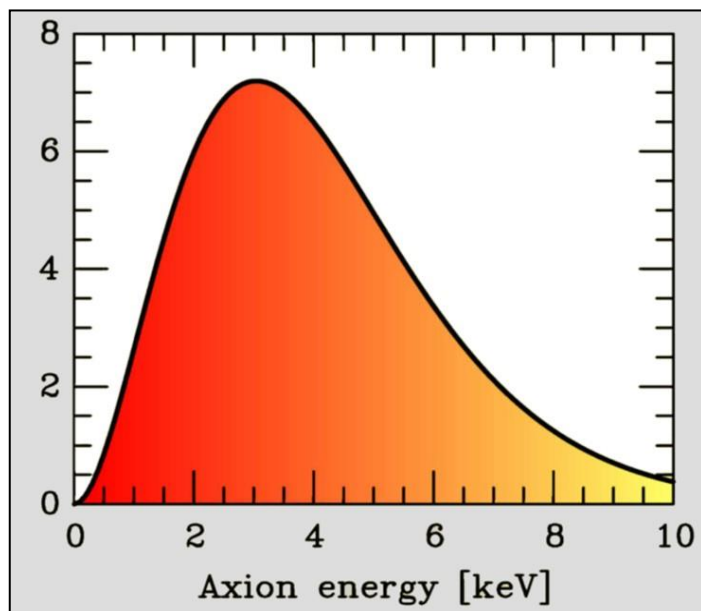
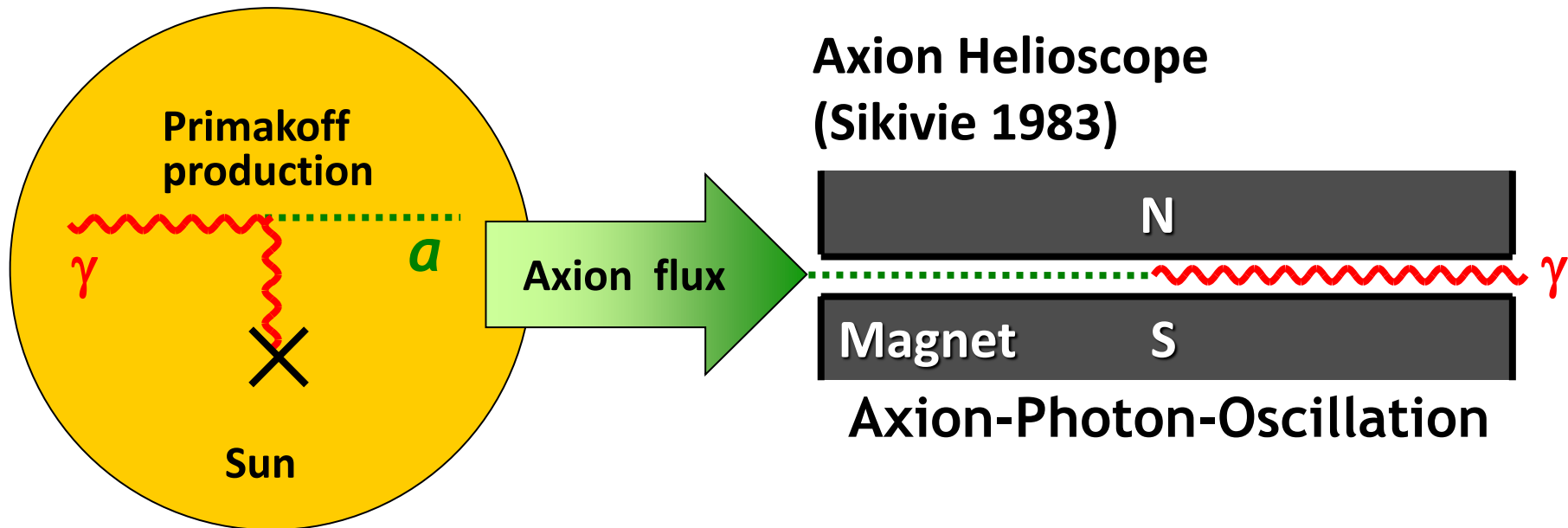
# International Axion Observatory (IAXO)

To boldly go where no man has gone before  
(in axion parameter space)





# Search for Solar Axions



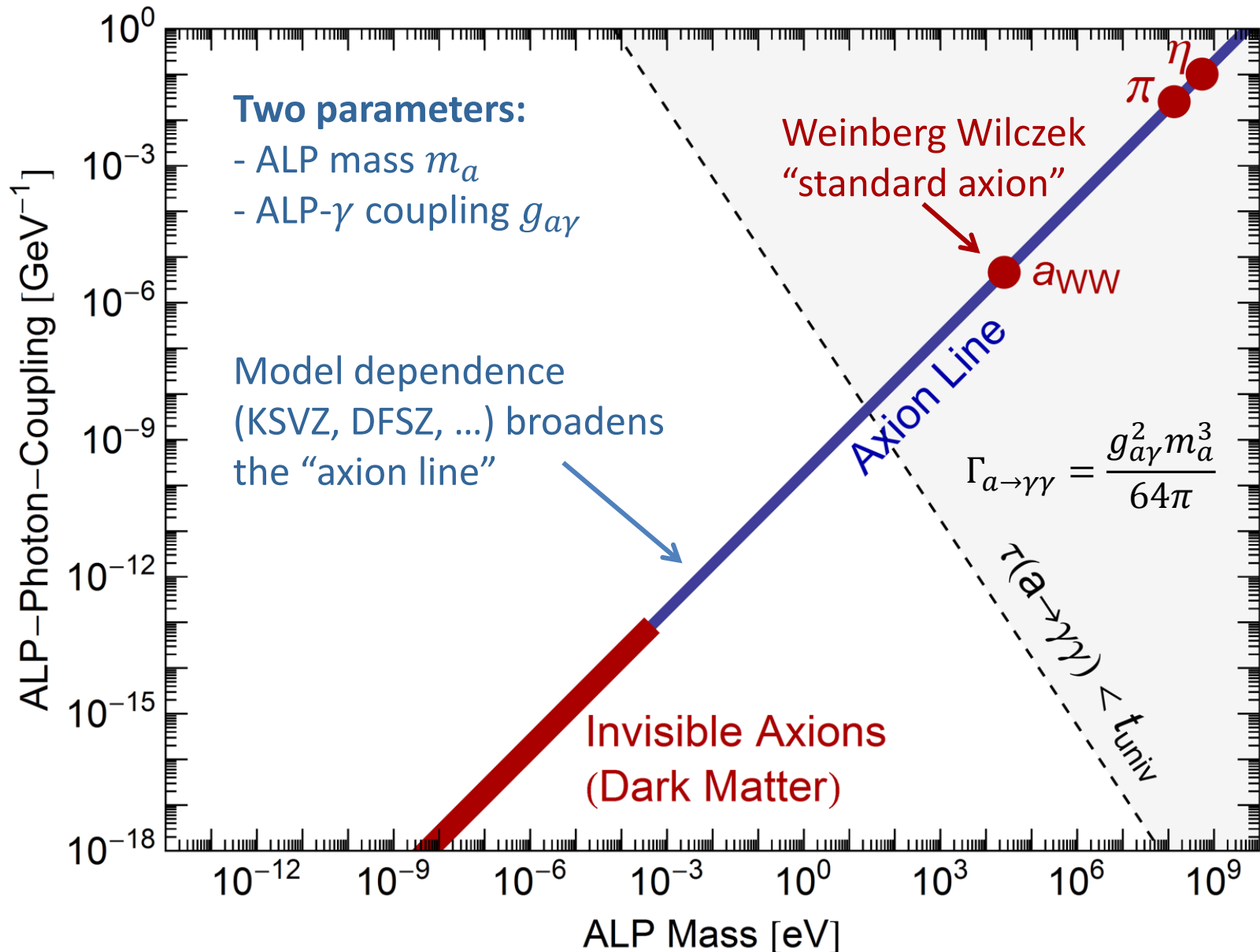
- Tokyo Axion Helioscope (“Sumico”) (Results since 1998, up again 2008)
- CERN Axion Solar Telescope (CAST) (Data since 2003)

Alternative technique:

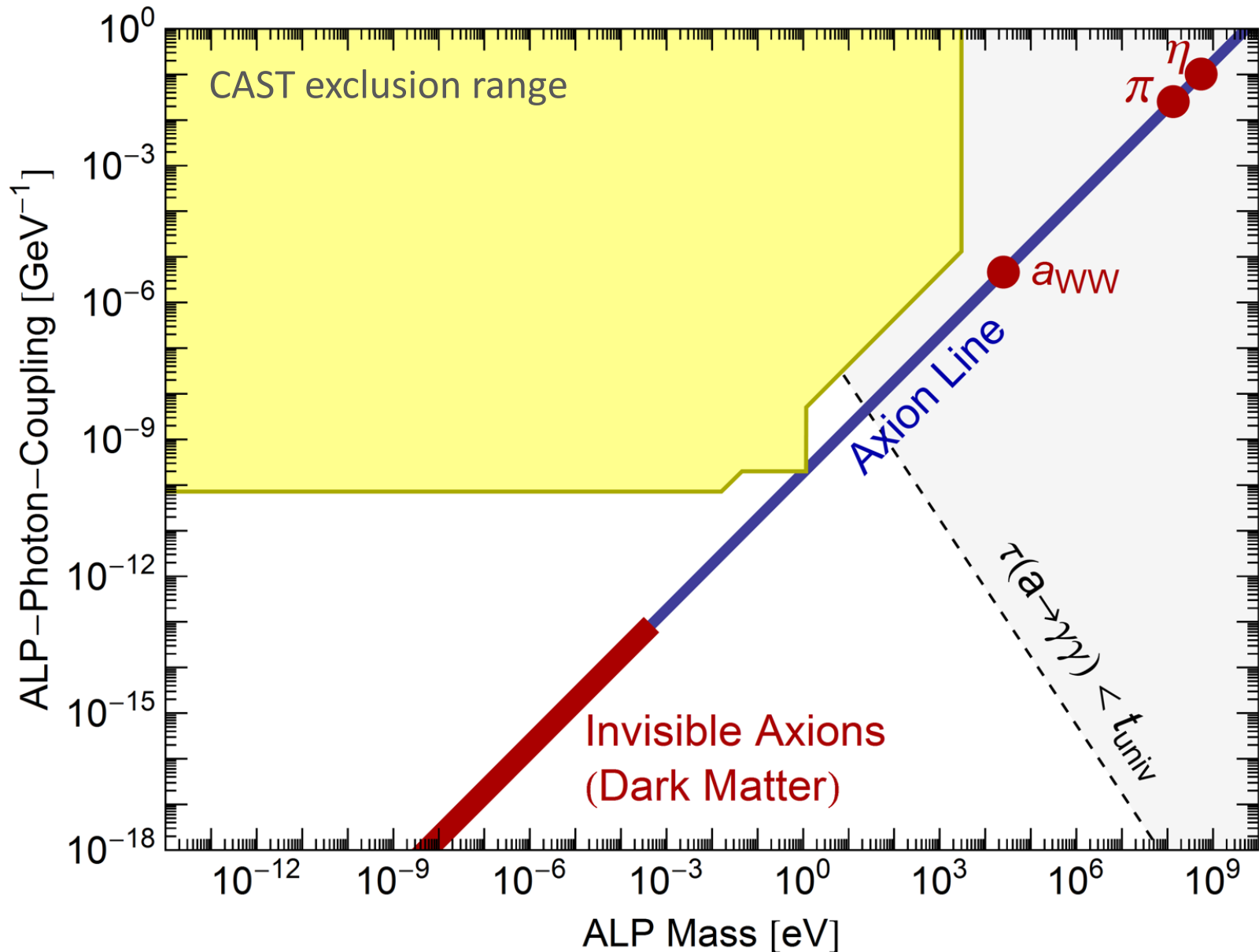
Bragg conversion in crystal

Experimental limits on solar axion flux from dark-matter experiments (SOLAX, COSME, DAMA, CDMS ...)

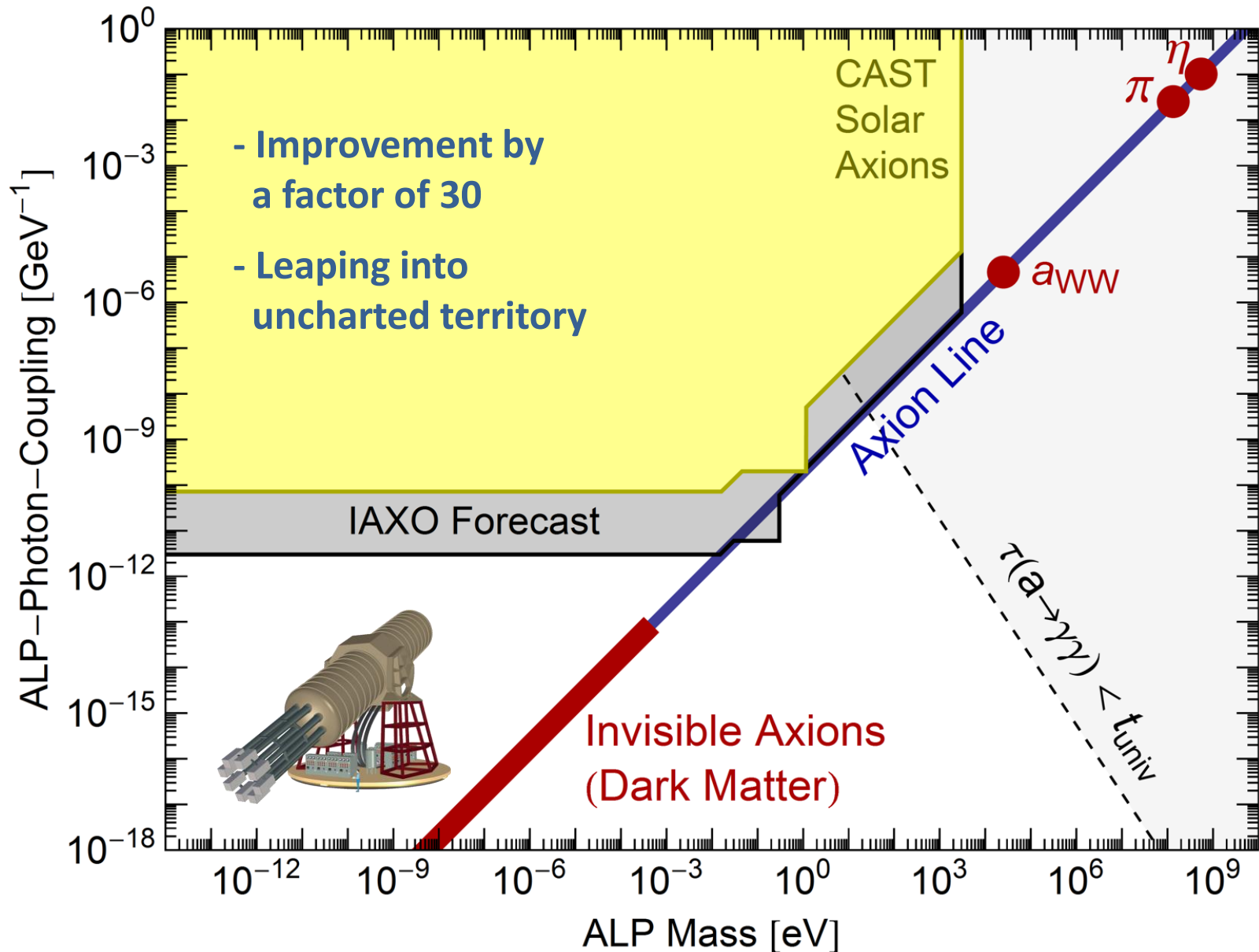
# Parameter Space for Axion-Like Particles (ALPs)



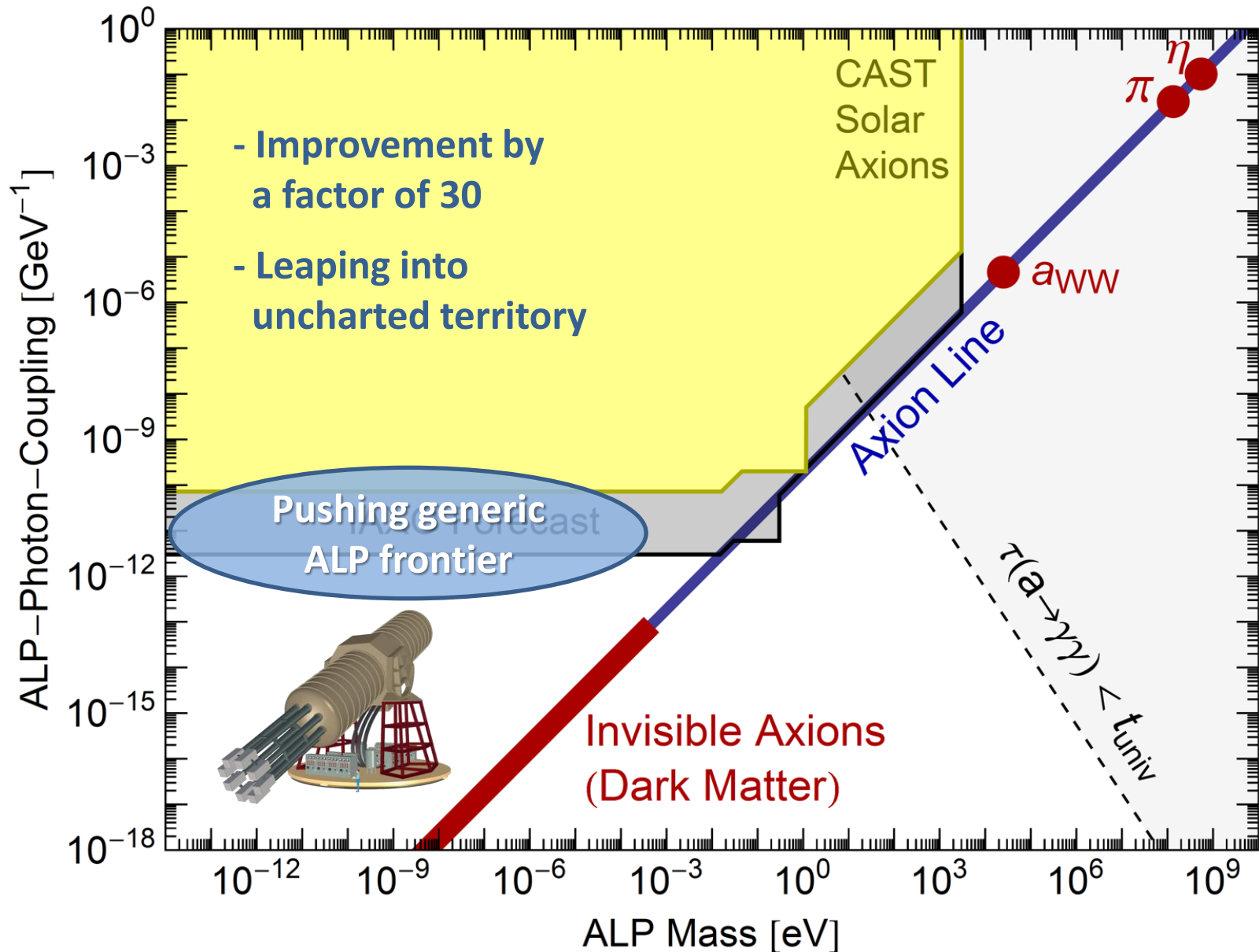
# Parameter Space for Axion-Like Particles (ALPs)



# Parameter Space for Axion-Like Particles (ALPs)

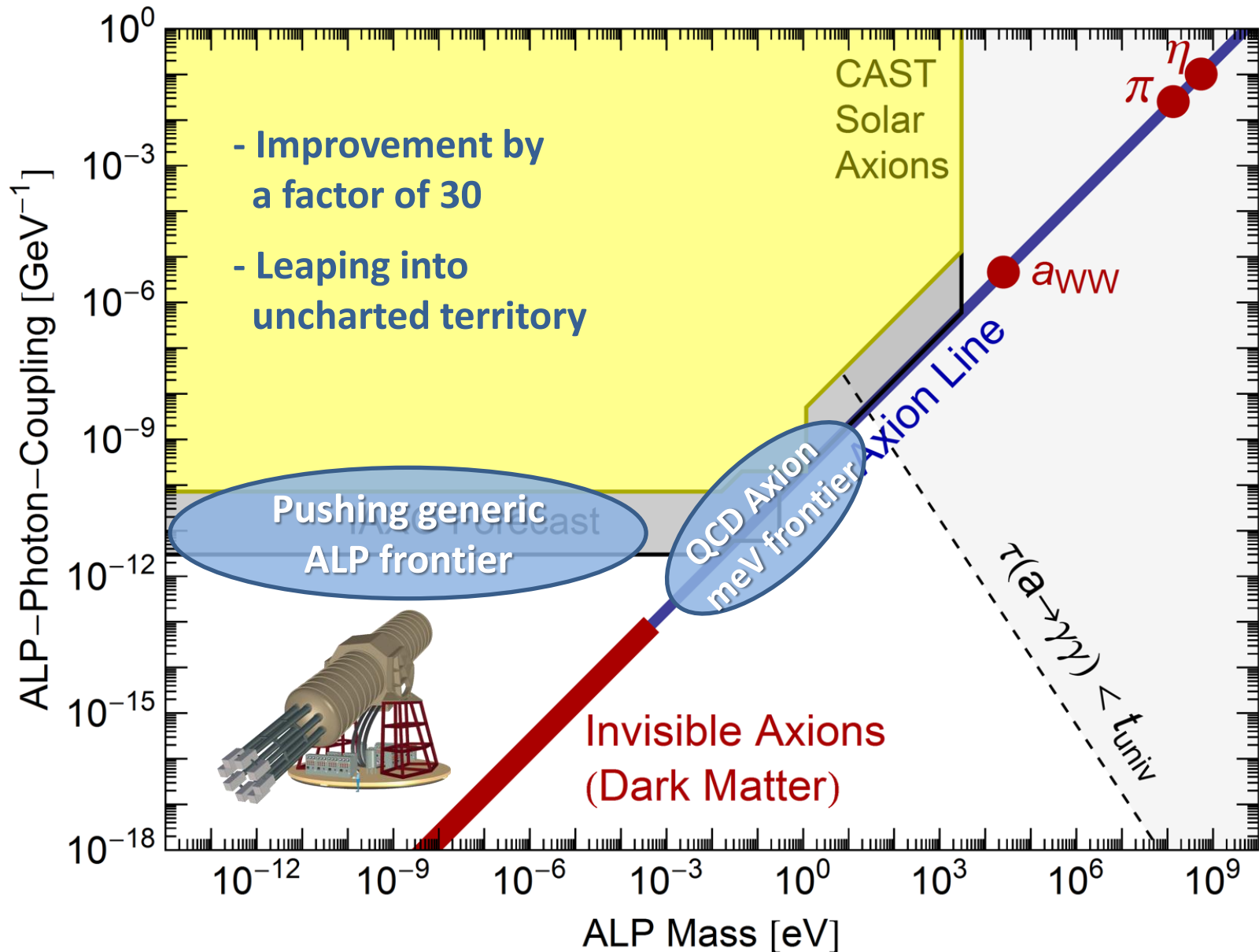


# Parameter Space for Axion-Like Particles (ALPs)

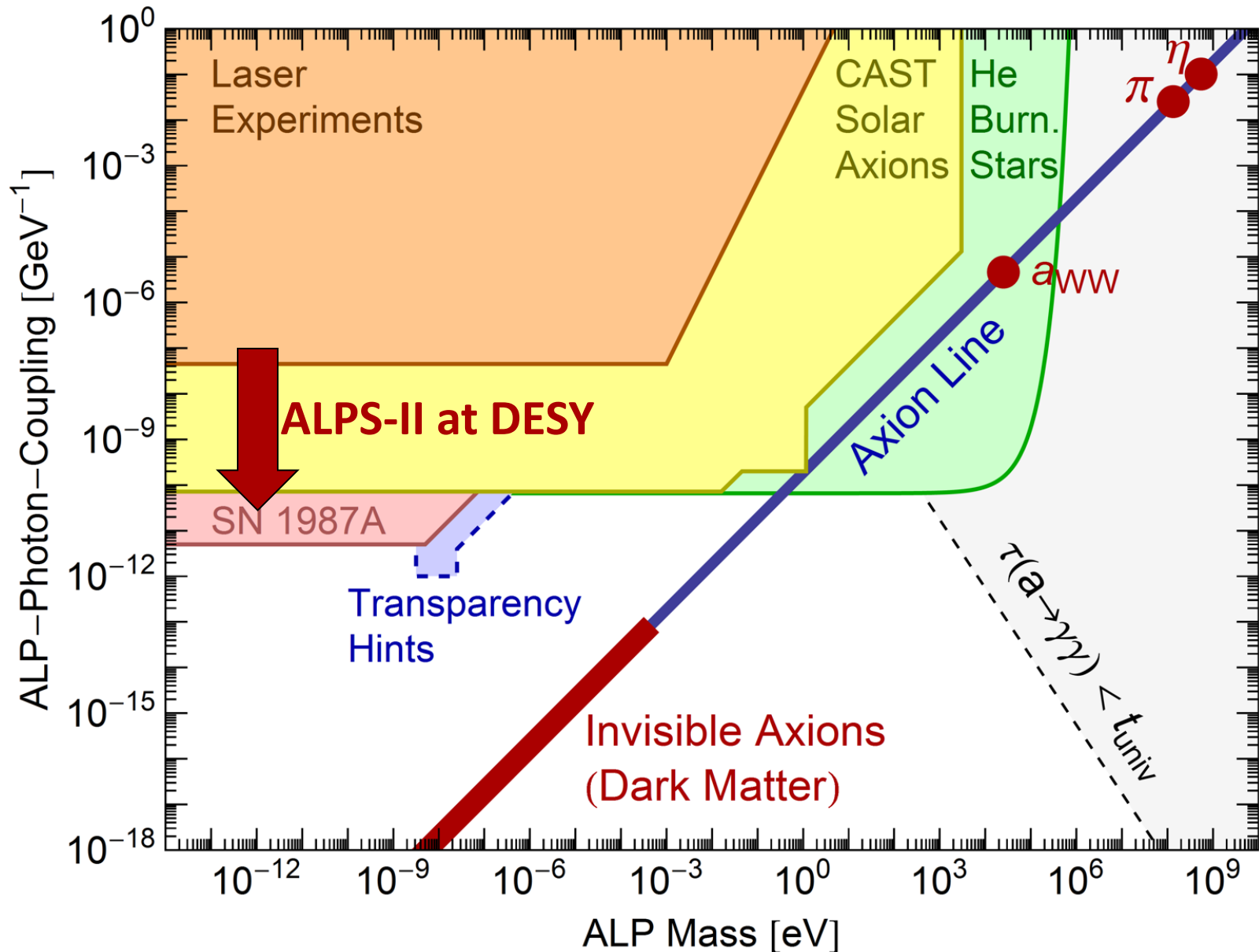




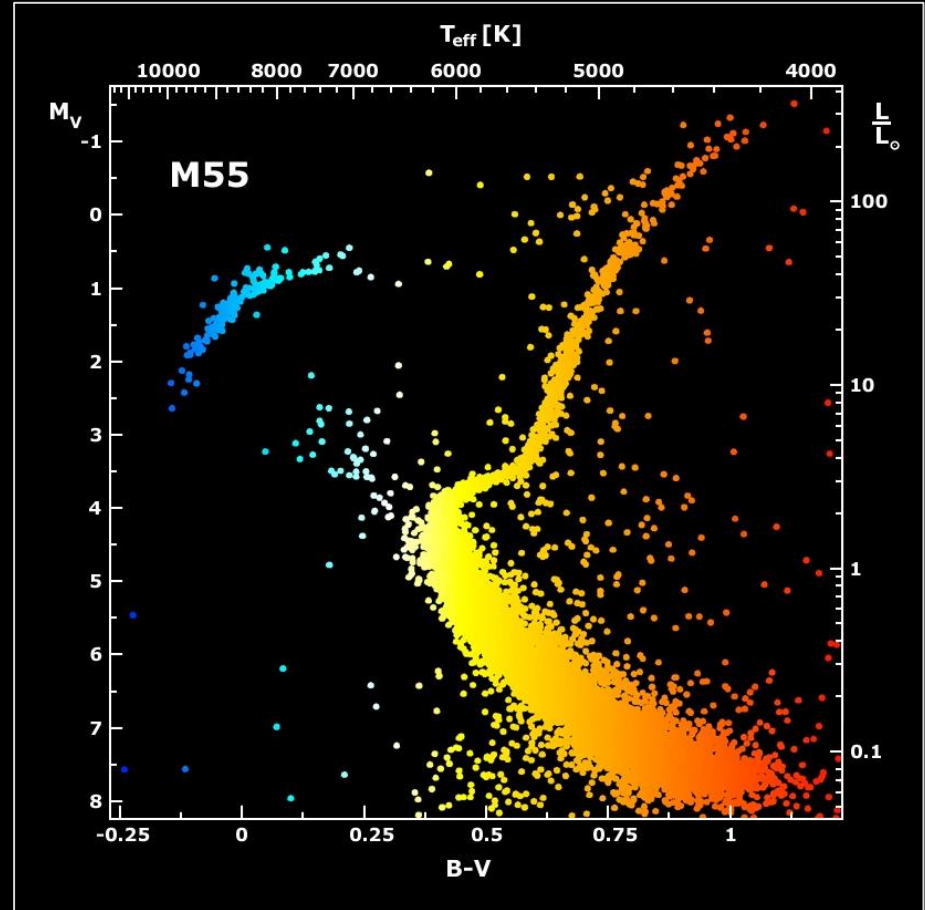
# Parameter Space for Axion-Like Particles (ALPs)



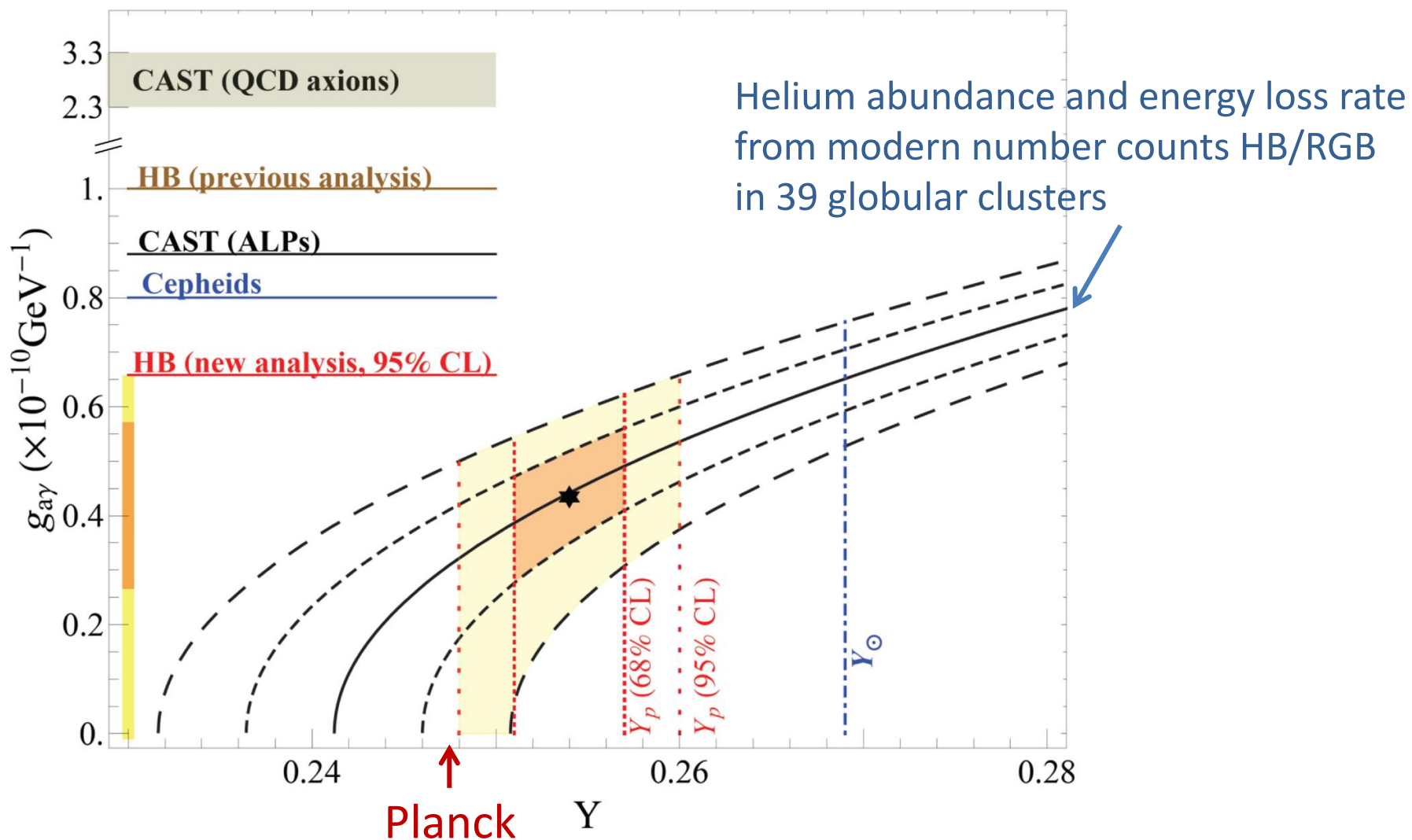
# Parameter Space for Axion-Like Particles (ALPs)



# Galactic Globular Clusters

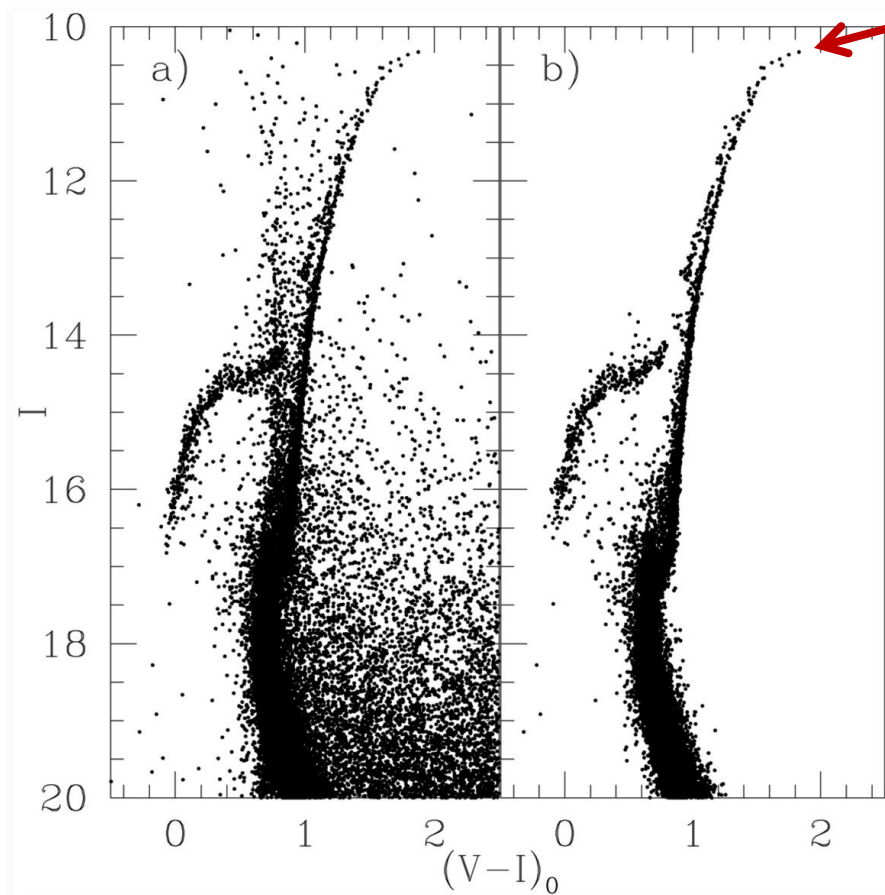


# New ALP Limit from Globular Clusters

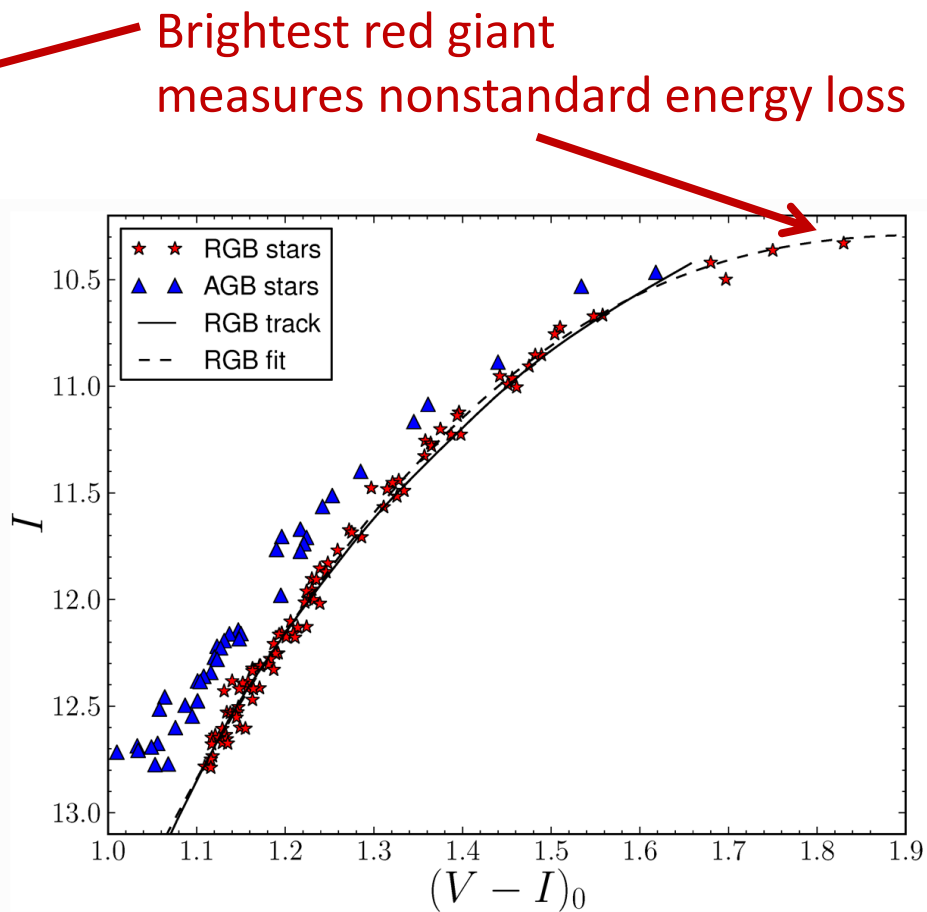


Ayala, Dominguez, Giannotti, Mirizzi & Straniero, arXiv:1406.6053

# Color-Magnitude Diagram of Globular Cluster M5



CMD (a) before and (b) after cleaning



CMD of brightest 2.5 mag of RGB

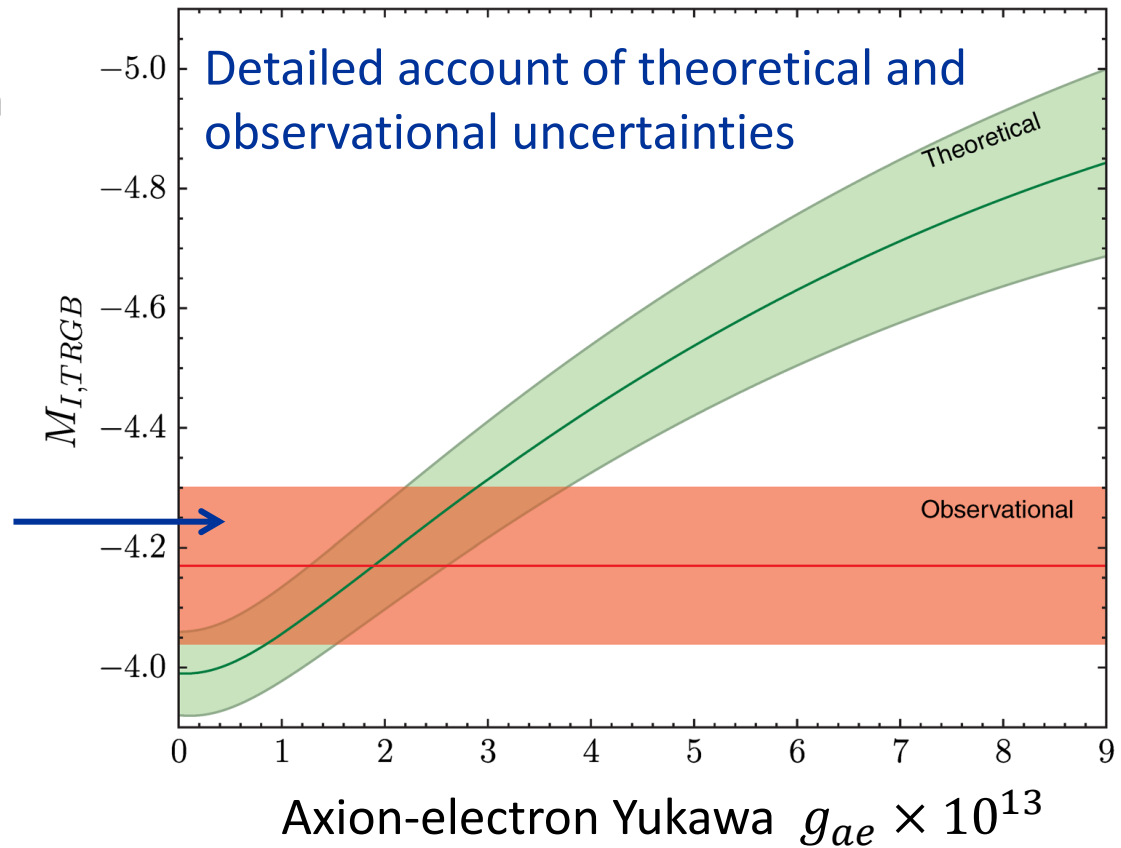
Viaux, Catelan, Stetson, Raffelt, Redondo, Valcarce & Weiss, arXiv:1308.4627



# Limits on Axion-Electron Coupling from GC M5

I-band brightness  
of tip of red-giant branch  
[magnitudes]

- Uncertainty dominated by distance
- Can be improved in future (GAIA mission)



Limit on axion-electron Yukawa

$$g_{ae} < \begin{cases} 2.6 \times 10^{-13} & (68\% \text{ CL}) \\ 4.3 \times 10^{-13} & (95\% \text{ CL}) \end{cases}$$

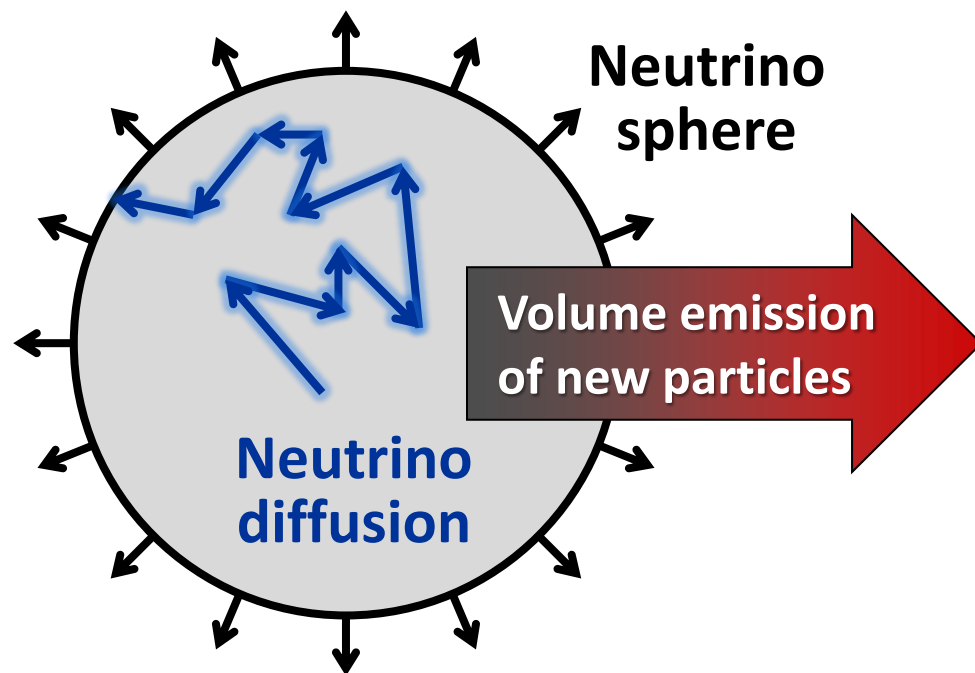
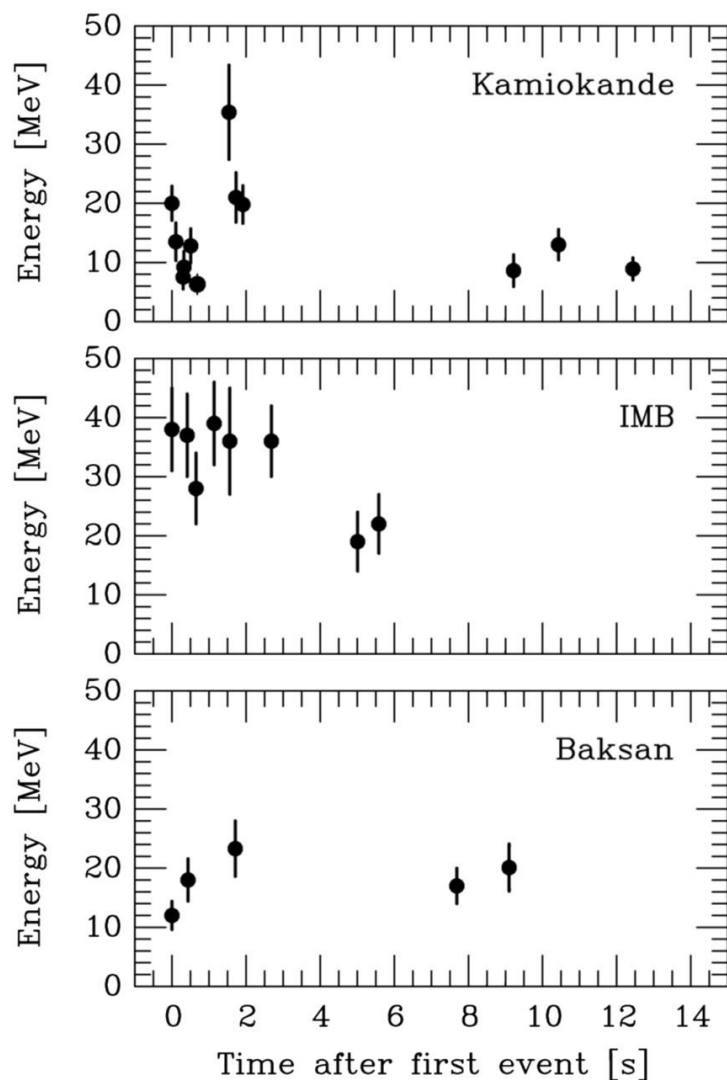
Mass limit in DFSZ model

$$m_a \cos^2 \beta < \begin{cases} 9.3 \text{ meV} & (68\% \text{ CL}) \\ 15.4 \text{ meV} & (95\% \text{ CL}) \end{cases}$$

Viaux, Catelan, Stetson, Raffelt, Redondo, Valcarce & Weiss, arXiv:1311.1669

# Supernova 1987A Energy-Loss Argument

## SN 1987A neutrino signal



Emission of very weakly interacting particles would “steal” energy from the neutrino burst and shorten it.  
(Early neutrino burst powered by accretion, not sensitive to volume energy loss.)

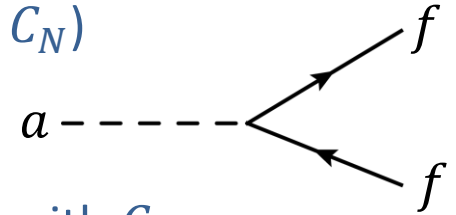
**Late-time signal most sensitive observable**

# Axion-Nucleon Couplings

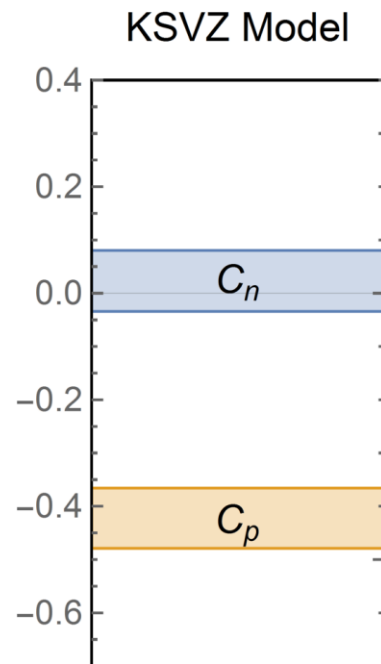
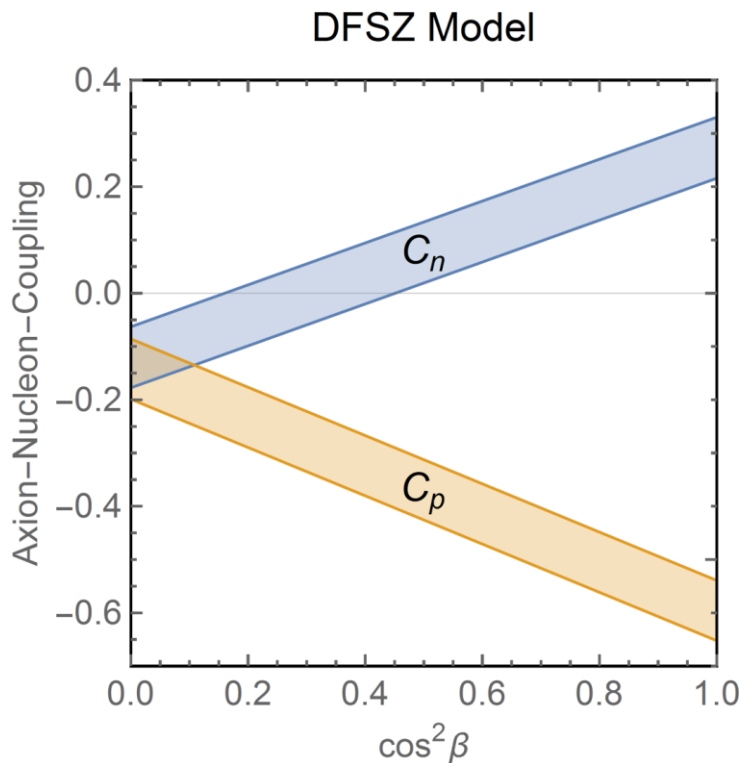
**Axion-nucleon coupling** (model-dependent numerical factors  $C_N$ )

$$\mathcal{L}_{aN} = C_N \bar{\Psi}_N \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \Psi_N \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a}$$

- Axial-vector current
- Spin-dependent int'n



**Axion-electron coupling** in non-hadronic models is analogous with  $C_e$



Uncertainty mostly from  
 $z = \frac{m_u}{m_d} = 0.38 \dots 0.58$

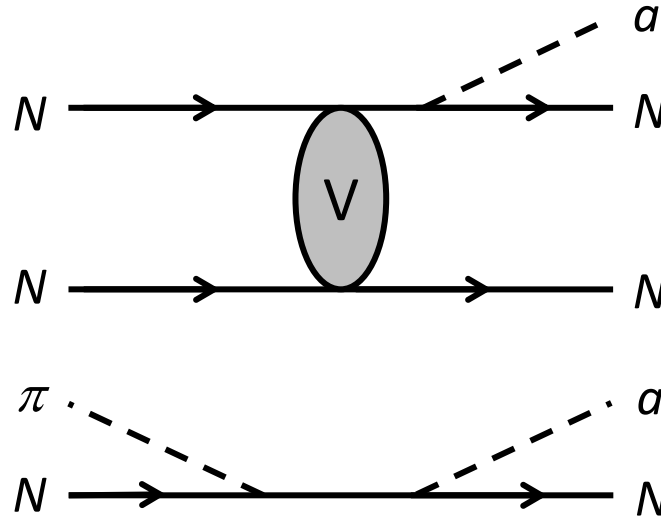
**Coupling to neutron could be very small!**

# Axion Emission in a Nuclear Medium

## Axion-nucleon coupling

$$\mathcal{L}_{aN} = c_N \bar{\Psi}_N \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \Psi_N \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a}$$

- axial-vector structure
- spin-interaction



Bremsstrahlung

Free pions for some conditions?

## Difficulties include:

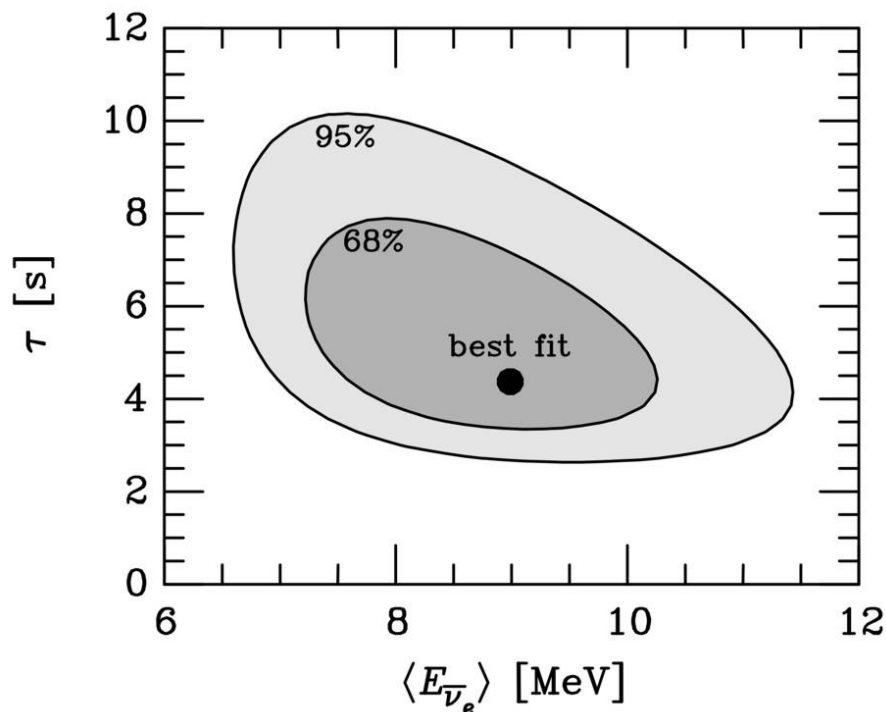
- Realistic nucleon-nucleon interaction potential for spin-dependent part (even in vacuum)
- Many-body effects (effective mass, spin-spin correlations ...)
- Axion couplings in the nuclear medium (axial current!)
- Multiple-scattering effects:
  - Frequency of NN collisions exceeds typical axion energy:  $\tau_{\text{coll}}^{-1} > E_a$
  - Expect LPM-type destructive interference effects

→ **Need proton and neutron dynamical spin structure function in SN medium**

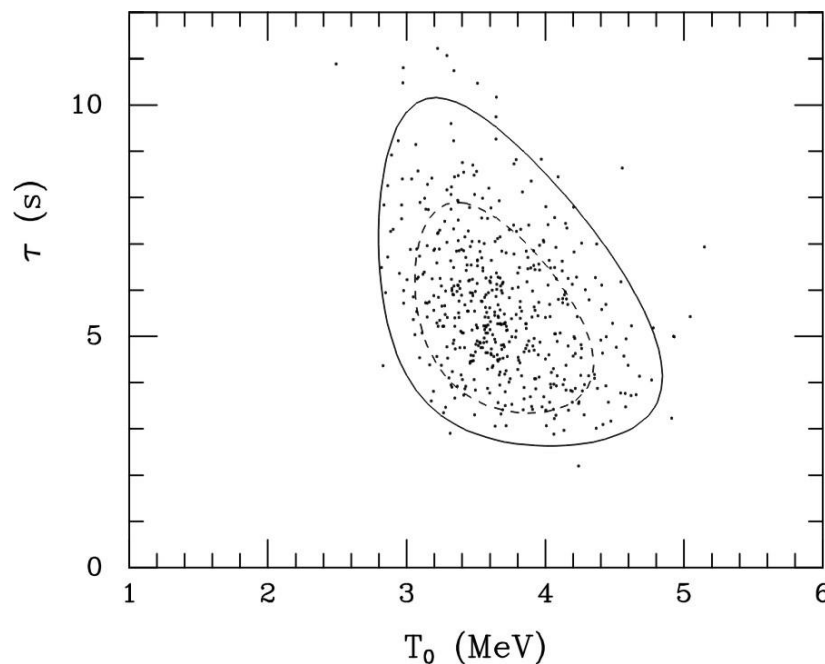
# Cooling Time Scale

Exponential cooling model:  $T = T_0 e^{-t/4\tau}$ , constant radius,  $L = L_0 e^{-t/\tau}$

Fit parameters are  $T_0$ ,  $\tau$ , radius, 3 offset times for KII, IMB & BST detectors



Loredo and Lamb  
Unpublished preprint 1995



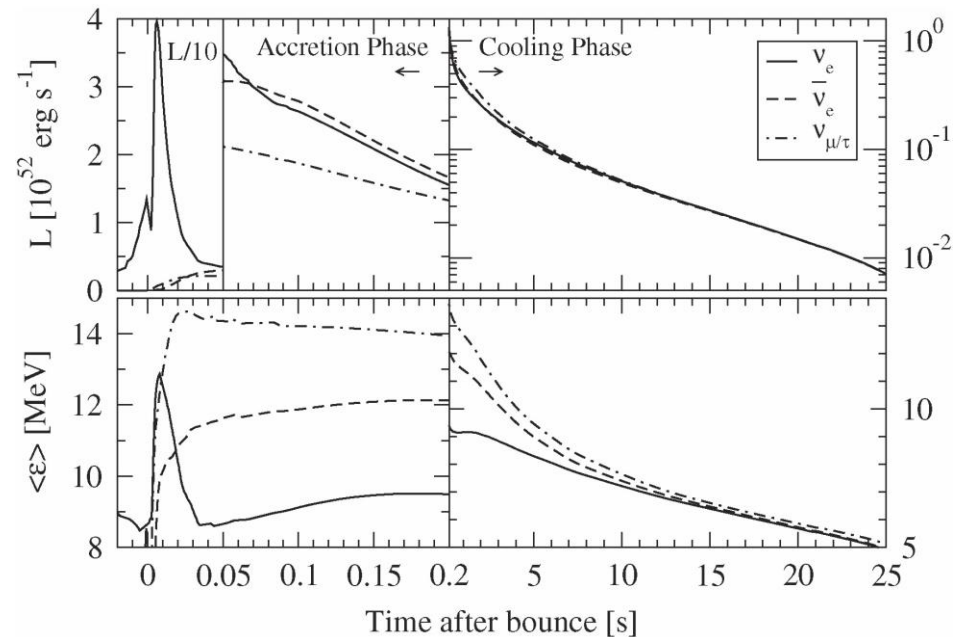
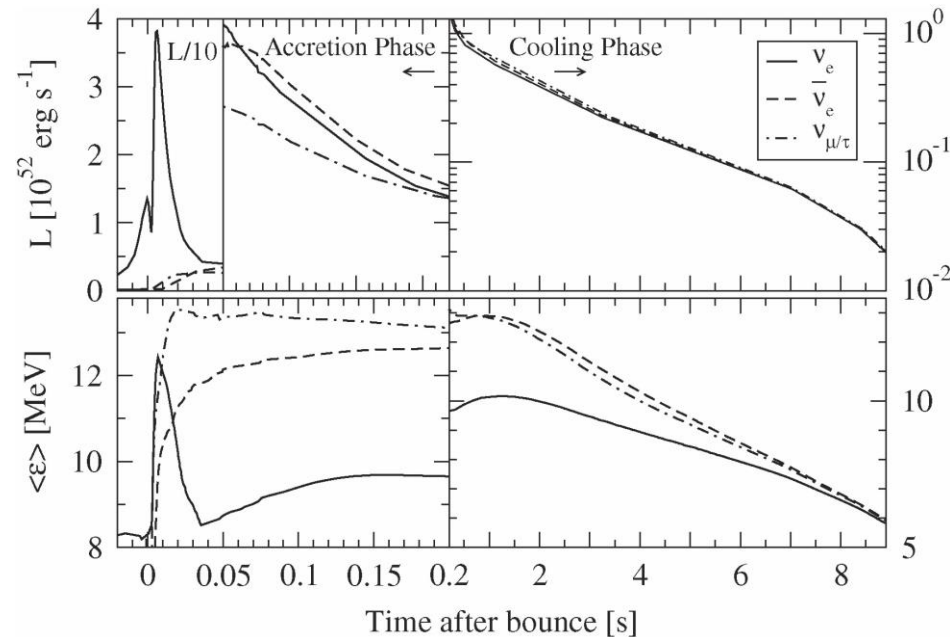
Loredo and Lamb, Bayesian analysis  
astro-ph/0107260



# Long-Term Cooling of EC SN (Garching 2009)

Neutrino opacities with strong  
NN correlations and nucleon  
recoil in neutrino-nucleon scattering.  
Exponential cooling with  $\tau = 2.6$  s  
Barely allowed by SN 1987A

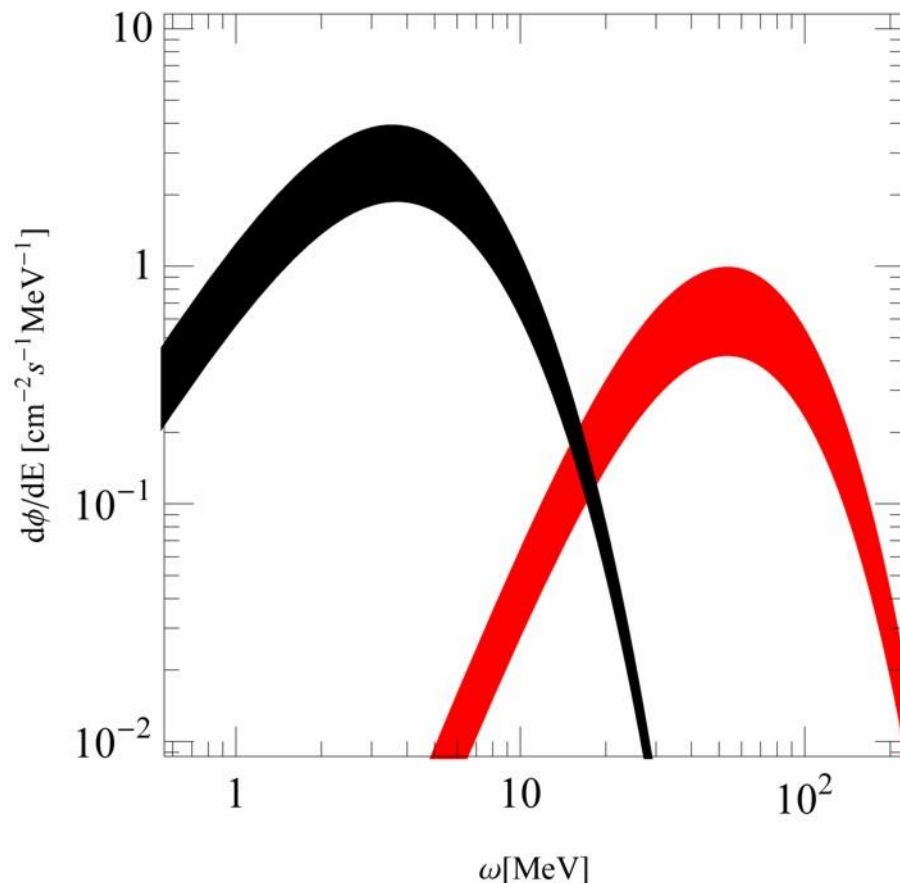
Neutrino opacities without these effects  
(~ Basel case?)  
Much longer cooling times



L. Hüpdepohl et al. (Garching Group), arXiv:0912.0260

# Diffuse Supernova Axion Background (DSAB)

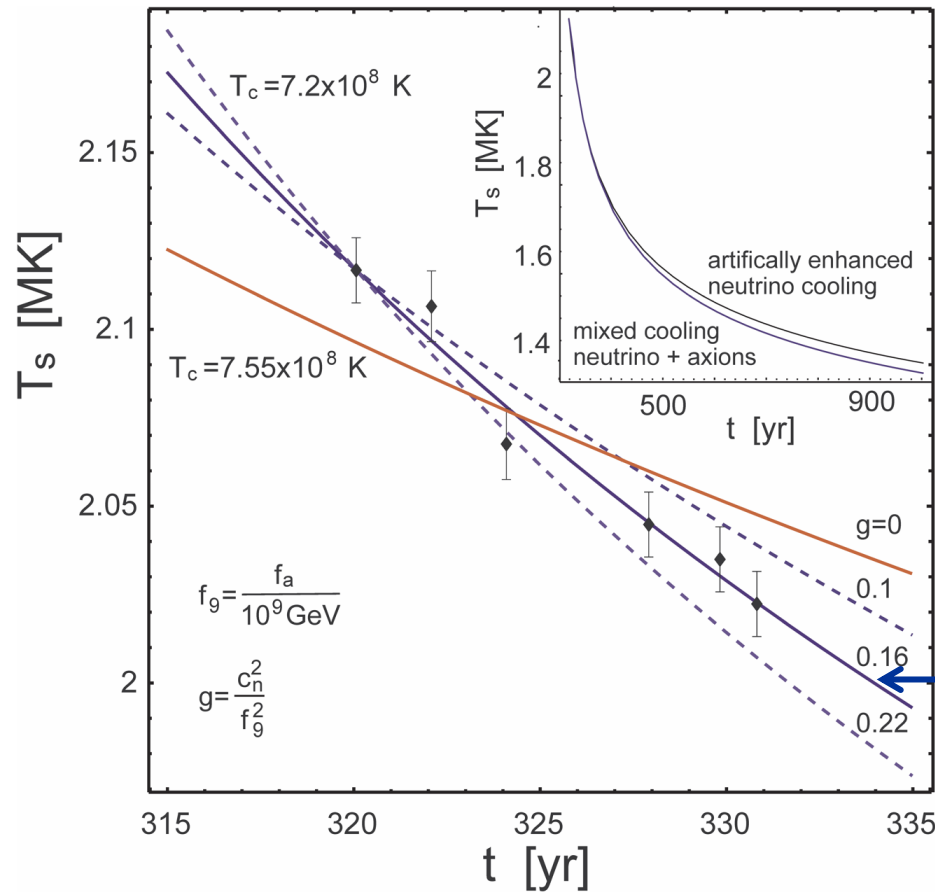
- Neutrinos from all core-collapse SNe comparable to photons from all stars
- Diffuse Supernova Neutrino Background (DSNB) similar energy density as extra-galactic background light (EBL), approx 10% of CMB energy density
- DSNB probably next astro neutrinos to be measured



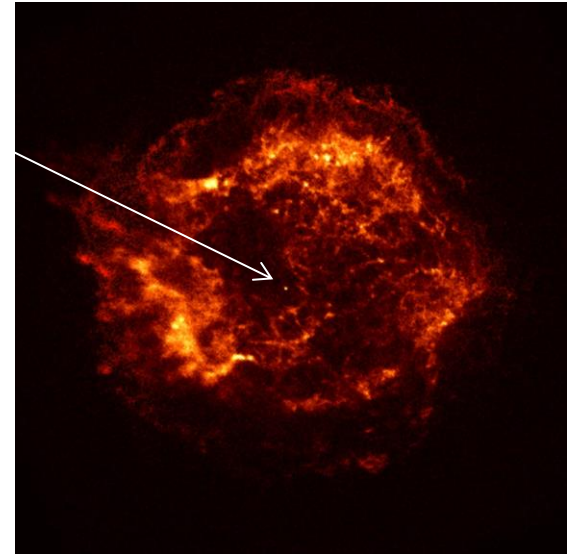
- Axions with  $m_a$  near SN 1987A energy-loss limit
- Provide DSAB with comparable energy density as DSNB and EBL
- No obvious detection channel

Raffelt, Redondo & Viaux  
arXiv:1110.6397

# Cooling of Neutron Star in Cas A



Chandra  
x-ray  
image of  
non-pulsar  
compact  
remnant



$C_n m_a \sim 2.4 \text{ meV}$

Measured surface temperature over 10 years reveals unusually fast cooling rate

- Neutron Cooper pair breaking and formation (PBF) as neutrino emission process?
- Evidence for extra cooling (by axions)?

Leinson, arXiv:1405.6873

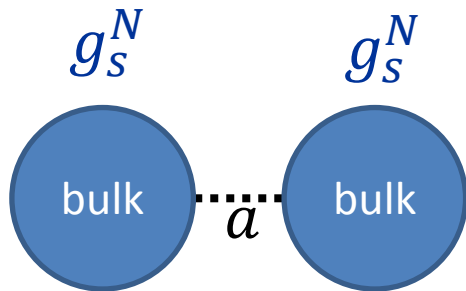
## New macroscopic forces?

J. E. Moody\* and Frank Wilczek

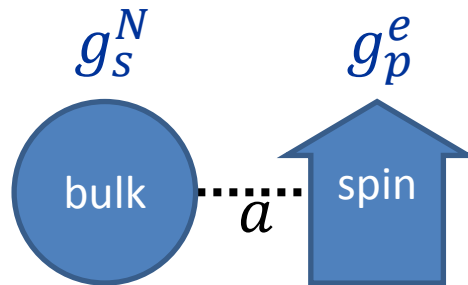
*Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106*

(Received 17 January 1984)

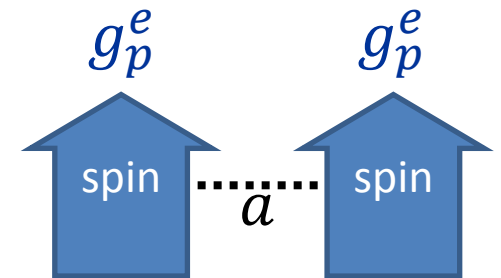
The forces mediated by spin-0 bosons are described, along with the existing experimental limits. The mass and couplings of the invisible axion are derived, followed by suggestions for experiments to detect axions via the macroscopic forces they mediate. In particular, novel tests of the  $T$ -violating axion monopole-dipole forces are proposed.



Tests of Newton's law  
& equivalence principle:  
Scalar axion coupling  $(g_s^N)^2$



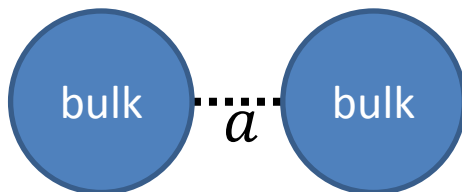
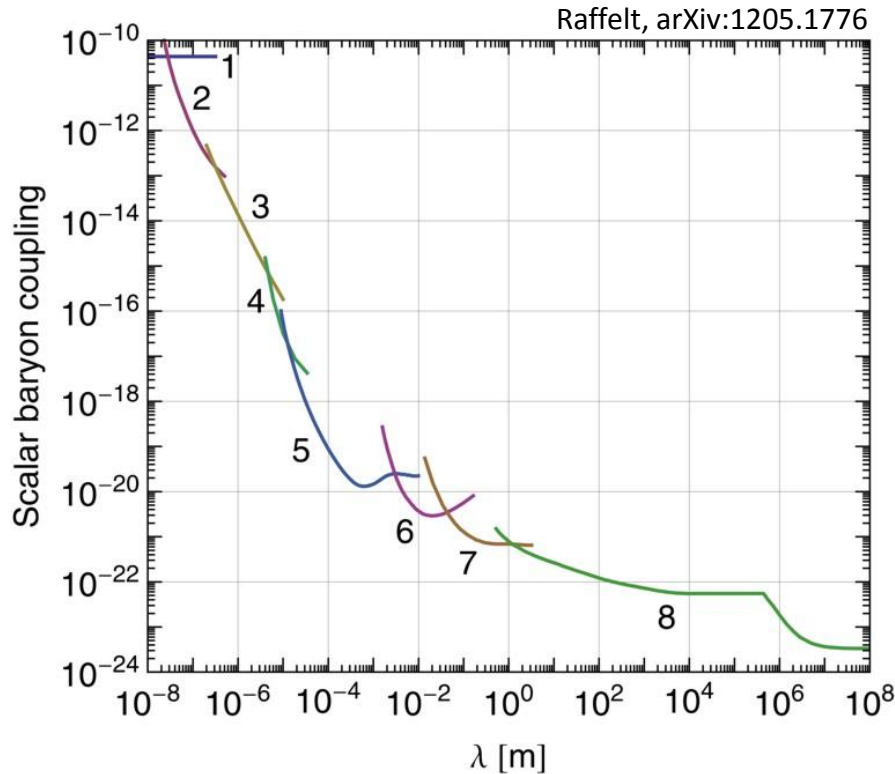
Torsion balance using  
polarized electron spins  
Axion couplings  $g_s^N g_p^e$   
 $T$ -violating force



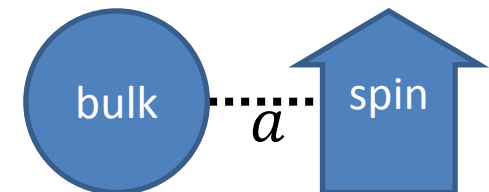
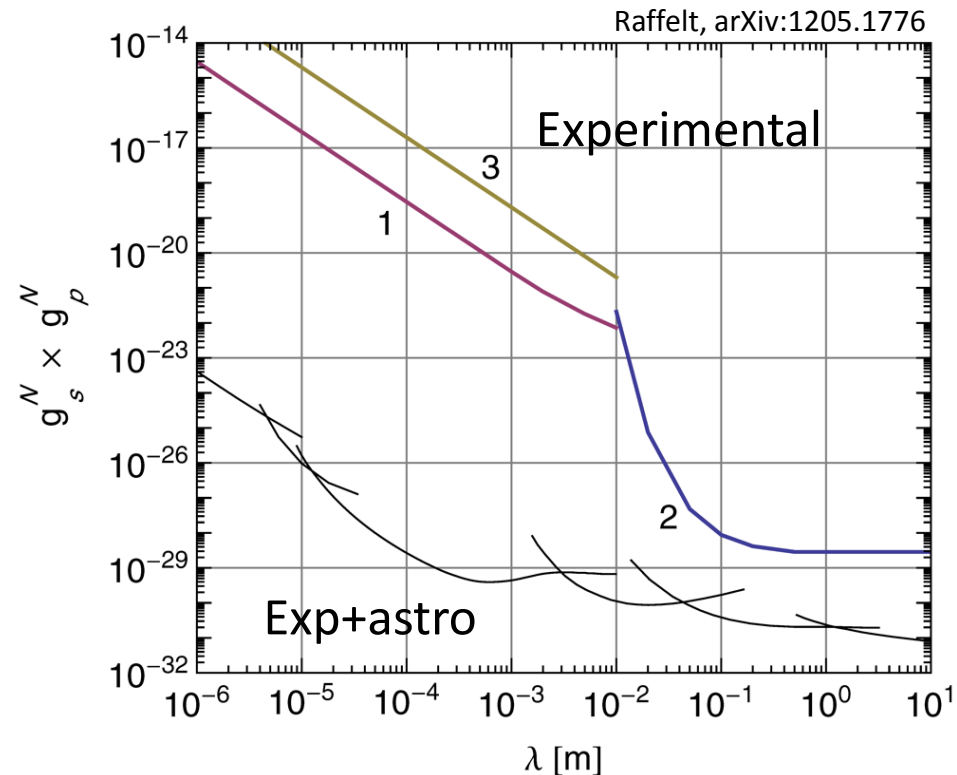
Spin-spin forces  
hard to measure  
Axion couplings  $(g_p^e)^2$

# Long-Range Force Experiments

Long-range force limits from tests of Newton's law and equivalence principle (Mostly from Eöt-Wash Group, Seattle)



Limits from long-range  $g_s^N$  limits times **astrophysical  $g_p^N$  limits**, compared with direct  $g_s^N g_p^N$  constraints



Resonantly Detecting Axion-Mediated Forces with Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Asimina Arvanitaki<sup>1</sup> and Andrew A. Geraci<sup>2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 2Y5, Canada*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Physics, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557, USA*

(Received 5 March 2014; revised manuscript received 27 August 2014; published 14 October 2014)

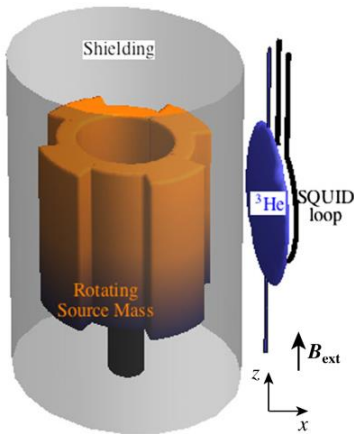


FIG. 1 (color online). A source mass consisting of a segmented cylinder with  $n$  sections is rotated around its axis of symmetry at frequency  $\omega_{\text{rot}}$ , which results in a resonance between the frequency  $\omega = n\omega_{\text{rot}}$  at which the segments pass near the sample and the resonant frequency  $2\vec{\mu}_N \cdot \vec{B}_{\text{ext}}/\hbar$  of the NMR sample. Superconducting cylinders screen the NMR sample from the source mass and (not shown) the setup from the environment.

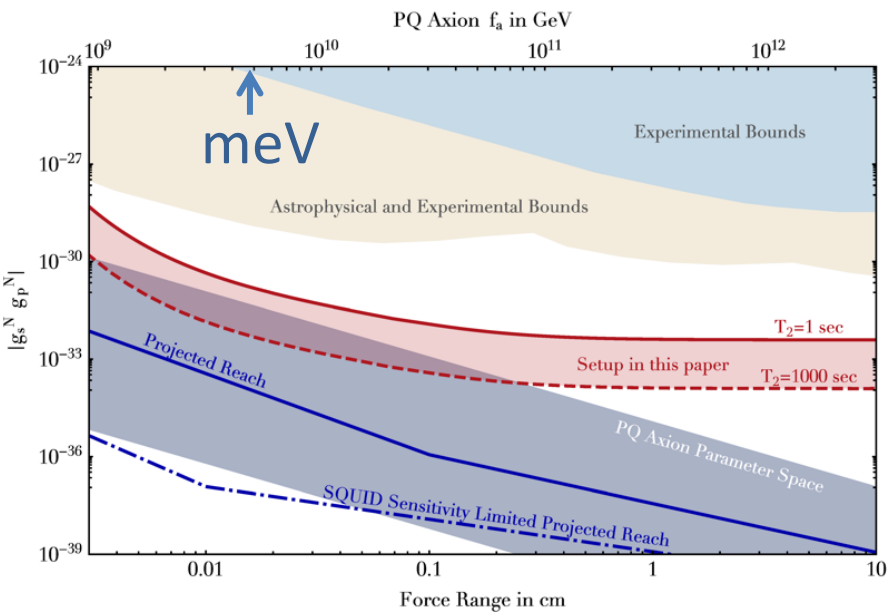


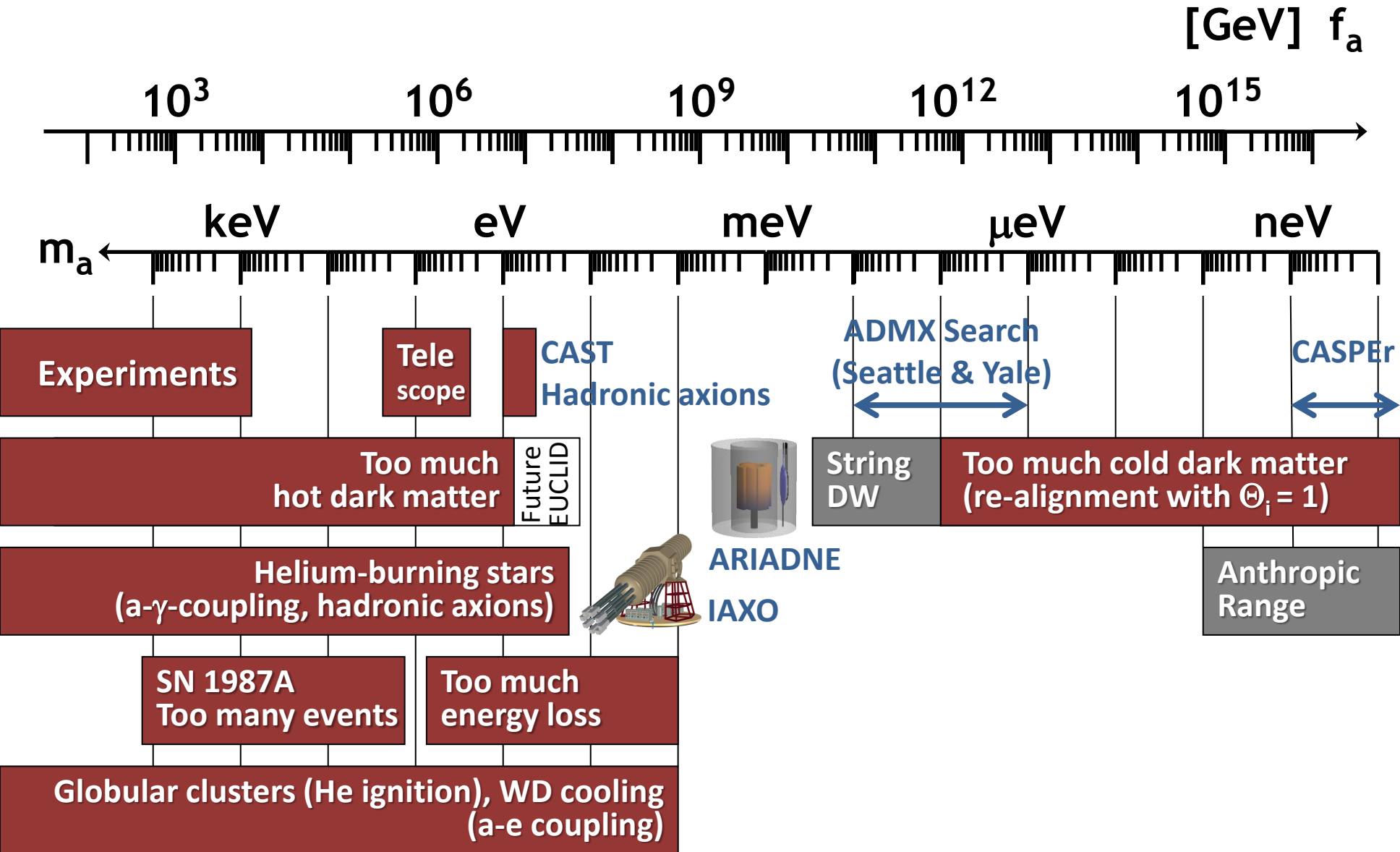
FIG. 2 (color online). Projected reach for monopole-dipole axion mediated interactions.

ARIADNE: Axion Resonant InterAction Detection Experiment

A.Geraci, A.Arvanitaki, A.Kapitulnik, Chen-Yu Liu, J.Long, Y.Semertzidis, M.Snow



# Axion Bounds and Searches



Milli-eV range quite relevant  
for axion searches

