

New Insights Into Axion-Lepton Interactions

Network for Neutrinos, Nuclear
Astrophysics, and Symmetries Seminar

[2209.00665]

Altmannshofer, JD, and Gori

Jeff Dror



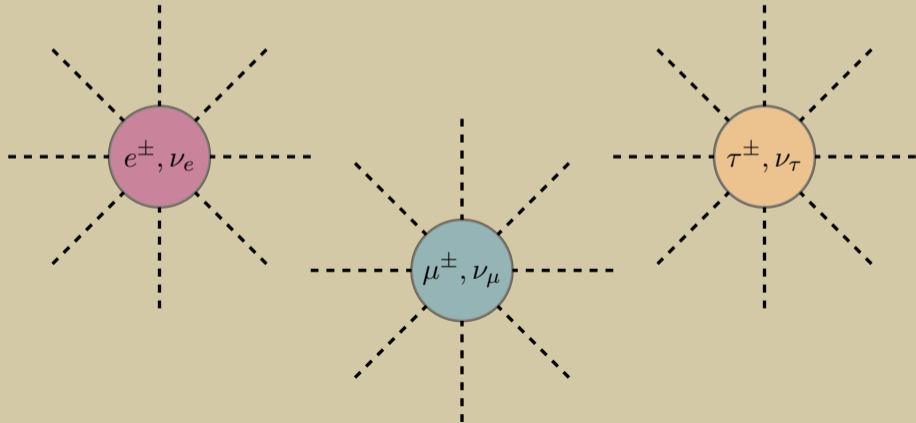
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Outline

Introduction to Lepton-Axion
Interactions

Lagrangian reformulation

New set of detection
strategies

Implications

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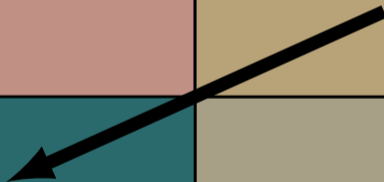
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Implications

Leptophilic Effective Theory

Shift symmetry:

$$\mathcal{L} = \partial_\mu a j_{PQ}^\mu$$

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Convenient
normalization



Vector
coupling



Axial-vector
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Neutrino
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Neutrino coupling



Claims in the literature

“The vector coupling is unphysical”

“The neutrino coupling is suppressed by m_ν ”

$$\left. \frac{1}{2m_e} \partial_\mu a \bar{e} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 e = a \bar{e} \gamma_5 e \right”$$

$$j_{\text{PQ}}^\mu = \frac{1}{2m_\ell} \left(\bar{g}_{\ell\ell} \bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \ell + g_{\ell\ell} \bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \ell + g_{\nu\ell} \bar{\nu}_\ell \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_\ell \right)$$

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Should we demand electroweak invariance
($\bar{g}_{\ell\ell} - g_{\ell\ell} = g_{\nu_\ell}$)?

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Yes, duh...

↳ PQ charges are EW-symmetric

↳ Two parameters

↳ Benchmark model:

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Majoron:	$\bar{g}_{\ell\ell} = g_{\nu\ell}$,	$g_{\ell\ell} = 0$
DFSZ axion:	$\bar{g}_{\ell\ell} = g_{\ell\ell}$,	$g_{\nu\ell} = 0$
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Whether or not this is required has dramatic consequences

$$\mathcal{L} = -a\partial_\mu j_{PQ}^\mu$$

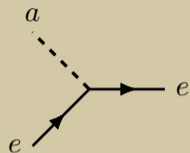
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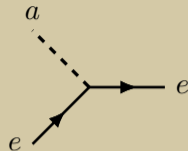
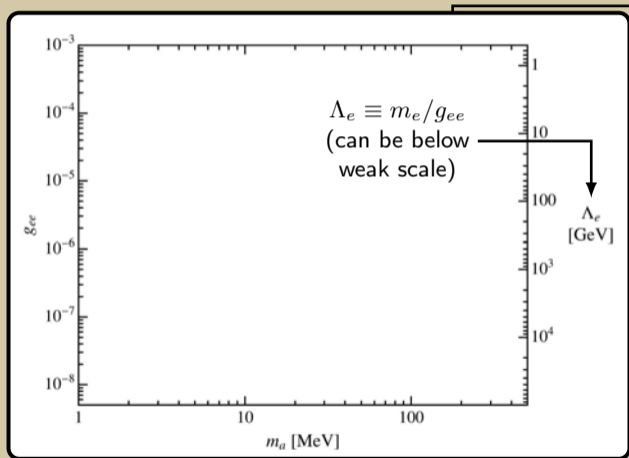
$$\partial_\mu j_{PQ}^\mu = g_{\ell\ell}(\bar{\ell}i\gamma_5\ell)$$

“Standard”
form



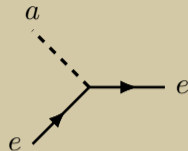
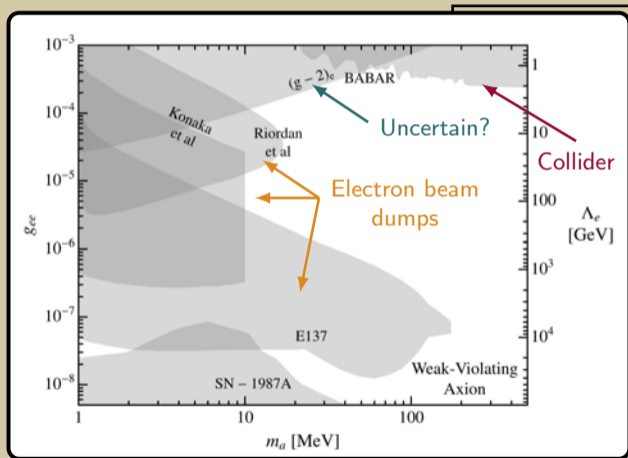
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[BABAR - '14], [Riordan et al - '87], [Bjorken et al - '88], [Bross et al - '91]
 [Morel et al - '20], [Lucente, Carenza - '21]

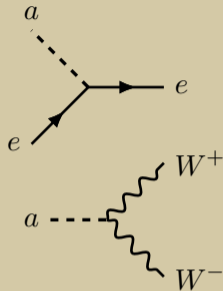
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$$-\frac{1}{64\pi^2} \frac{1}{m_\ell} (g_{\ell\ell} - \bar{g}_{\ell\ell} - g_{\nu\ell}) g^2 W_{\mu\nu}^+ \tilde{W}^{-\mu\nu} + \dots$$

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Anomaly
terms



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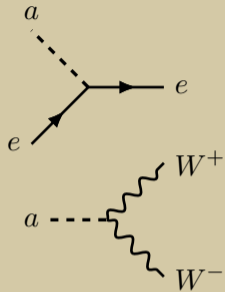
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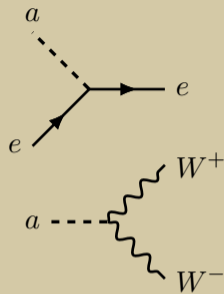
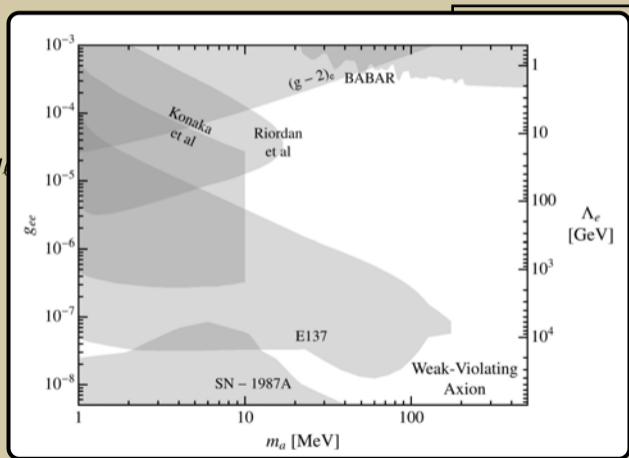
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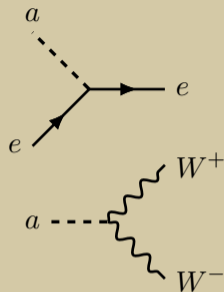
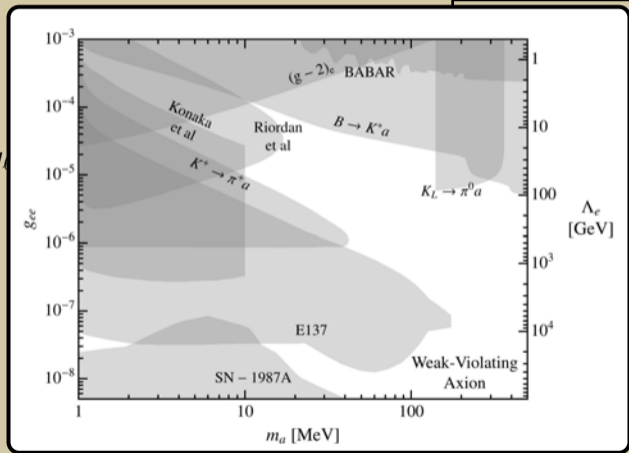
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[Bauer et al - '21]

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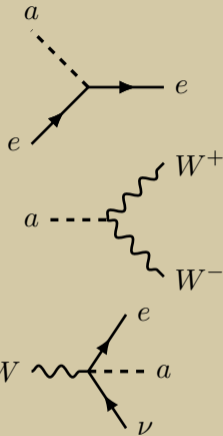
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Weak
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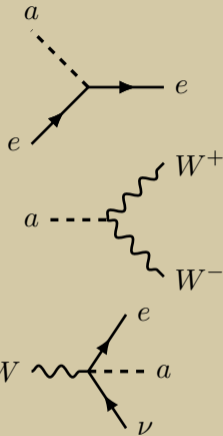
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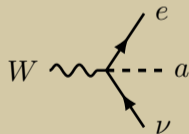
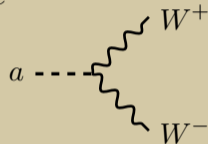
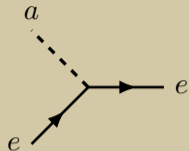
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Weak
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This work:

(1) Importance of weak vertex

(2) New bound on standard vertex

New detection opportunities

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```
graph TD; A[New detection opportunities] --> B[Charged meson decays];
```

Charged meson decays

Relevant for all
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Focus on electron coupling

ALPs from π^+ decay*

↳ ALP removes helicity suppression

$$\nu \longleftrightarrow e^+$$

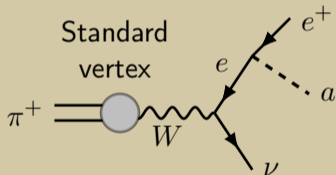
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E.g., [Krauss, Wise - '86], [Bardeen et al - '87],
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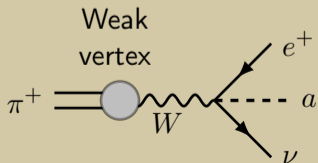
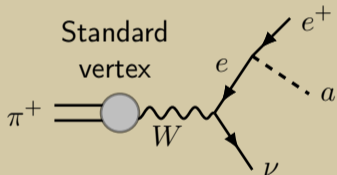
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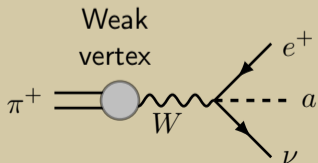
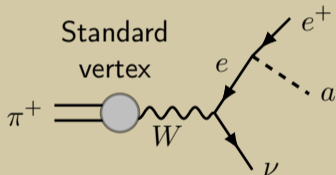
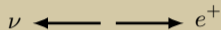


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Weak-preserving

$$\Gamma_{\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a} \propto g_{ee}^2 \frac{m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2}{m_W^4}$$

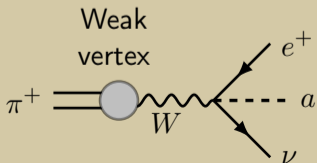
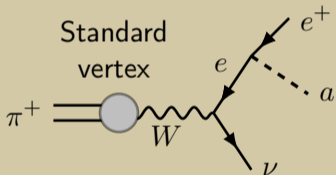
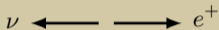
$$\text{Br}(\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a) \simeq 1.0 \times 10^{-8} \left(\frac{g_{ee}}{10^{-3}} \right)^2$$

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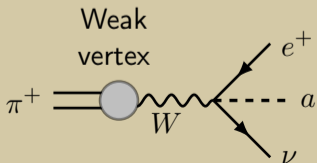
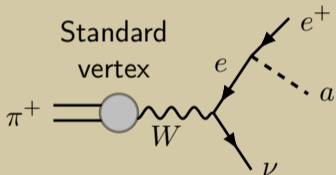
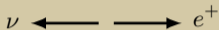
$$\text{Br}(\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a) \simeq 4.5 \times 10^{-5} \left(\frac{g_{ee}}{10^{-3}} \right)^2$$

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LIMITS FOR SHORT-LIVED NEUTRAL PARTICLES EMITTED IN μ^+ OR e^+ DECAY

SINDRUM Collaboration

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Future

PSI Ring Cyclotron Proposal R-22-01.1
PIONEER: Studies of Rare Pion Decays

W. Altmannshofer¹, H. Blum², E. Blum³, J. D. Brennan^{4,5}, I. Chakraborty⁶

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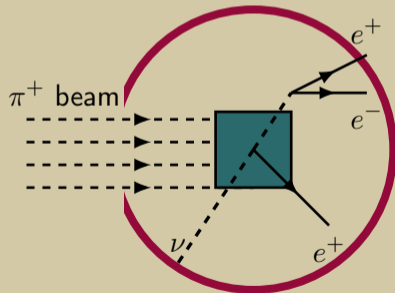


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PSI Ring Cyclotron Proposal R-22-01.1
PIONEER: Studies of Rare Pion Decays

W. Altshuler, M. Kiefer, J. H. Thomas, E. Rho, J. D. Heman, J. I. Pomeroy

π^+
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Rare Pion
Decay
Workshop

UC Santa Cruz
October 6-8, 2022

Experimental Capabilities

Past

LIMITS FOR SHORT-LIVED NEUTRAL PARTICLES EMITTED IN ρ^+ OR e^+ DECAY

SINDRUM Collaboration

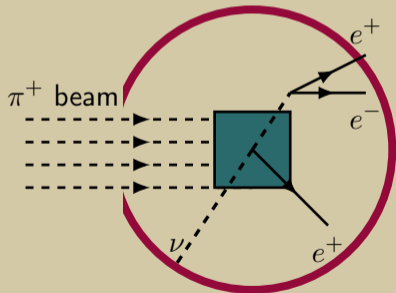


↳ Reached $\text{Br}_{\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_a} \lesssim 10^{-10}$

Future

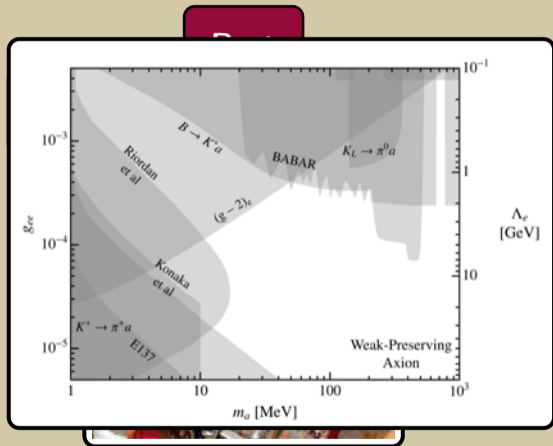
PSI Ring Cyclotron Proposal R-22-01.1
PIONEER: Studies of Rare Pion Decays

W. Altshuler, J. H. Thomas, E. Ruch, J. D. Haxton, J. J. C. Paschos



↳ Reach $\text{Br}_{\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_a} \lesssim 10^{-11}?$

Experimental Capabilities

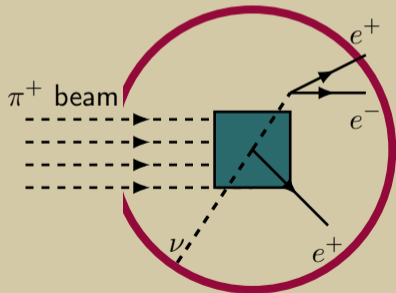


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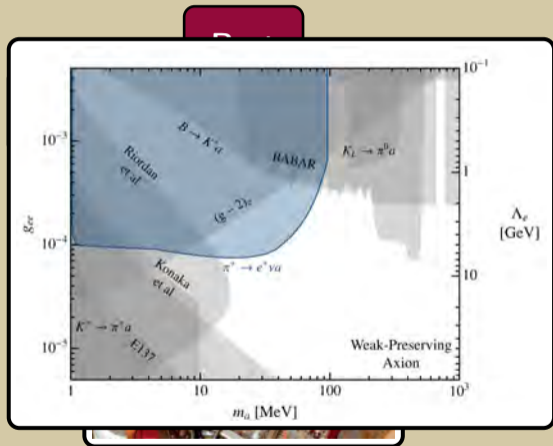
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W. Altmannshofer¹, H. Blum², E. Blum³, D. Brannan^{4,5}, I. Chakraborty⁶



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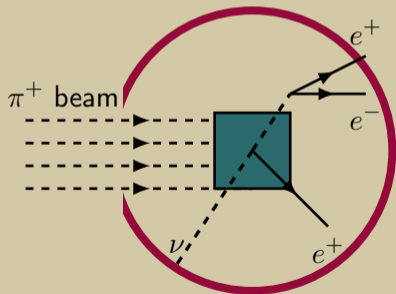


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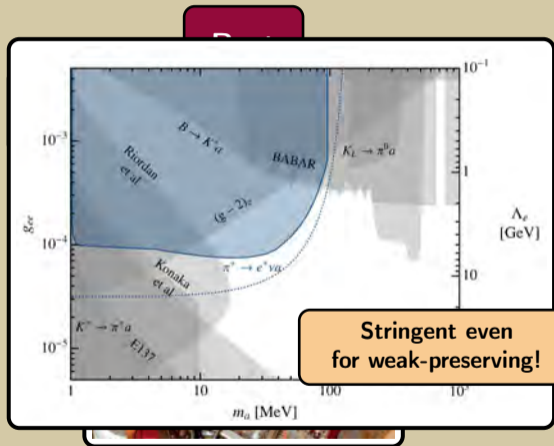
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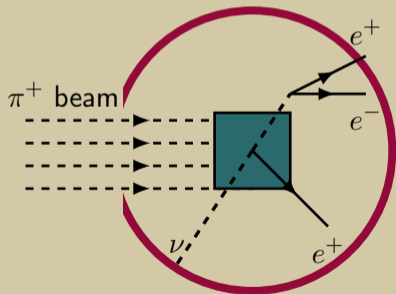


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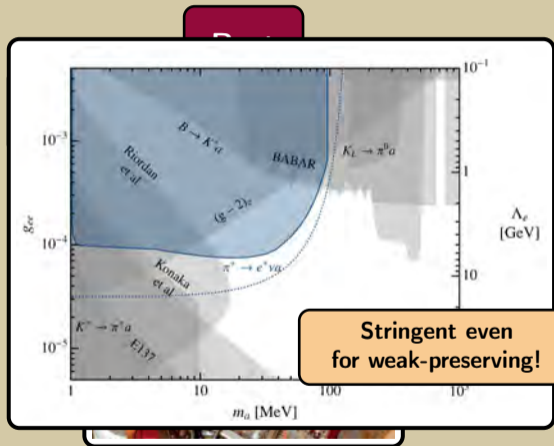
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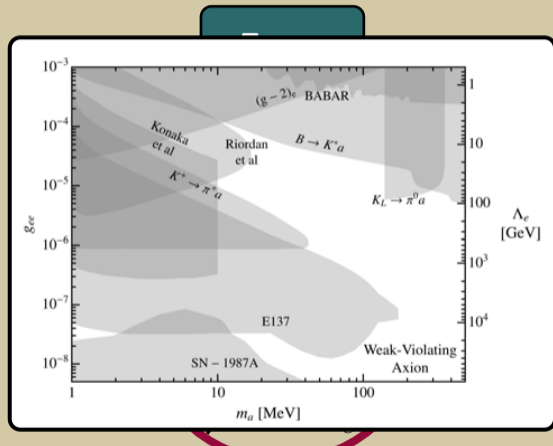


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Experimental Capabilities

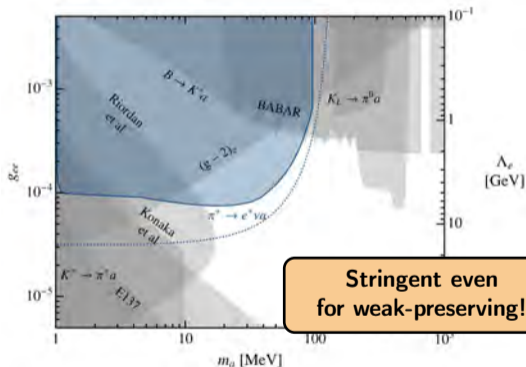


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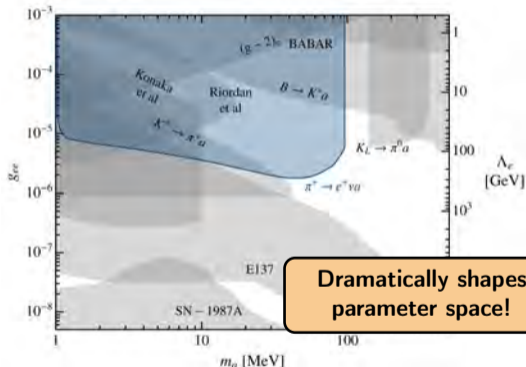
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Experimental Capabilities



Stringent even
for weak-preserving!

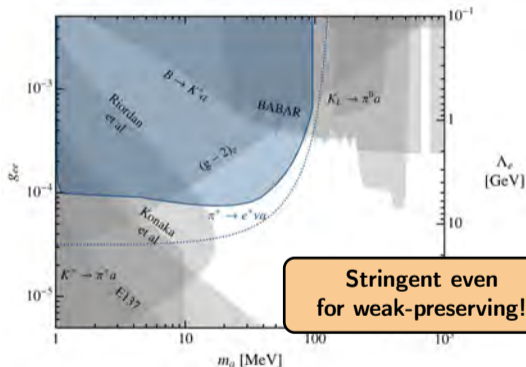
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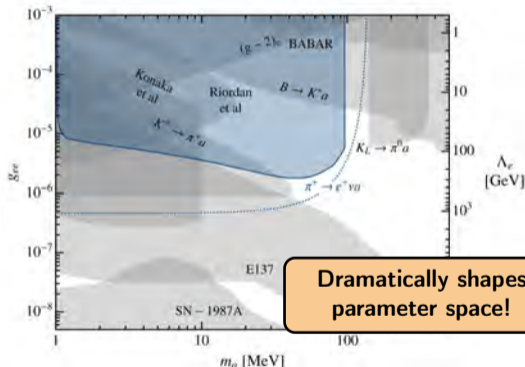
Dramatically shapes
parameter space!

↳ Reach $\text{Br}_{\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a} \lesssim 10^{-11}$?

Experimental Capabilities



↳ Reached $\text{Br}_{\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a} \lesssim 10^{-10}$



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Other charged mesons

Win by
 m_{meson}^2/m_e^2

Kaons

↳ $K^+ \rightarrow e^+\nu$ is small ($\Gamma \propto m_e^2$)

↳ Search for $K^+ \rightarrow e^+\nu e^+e^-$

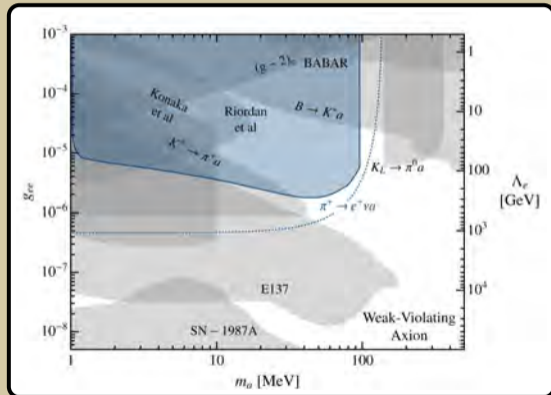
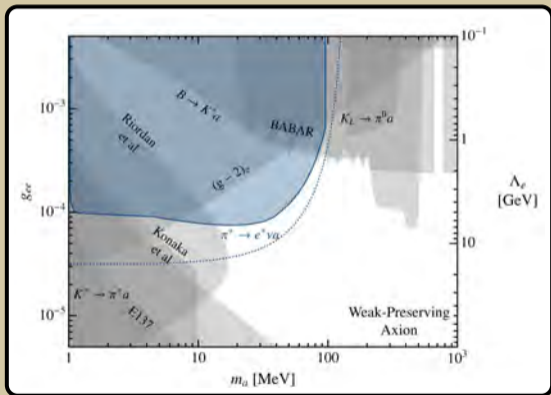
$$\text{Br}_{K^+ \rightarrow e^+\nu a} \lesssim 3 \times 10^{-8}$$

[Exp 865 - '02]

↳ Improve with Kaon factories

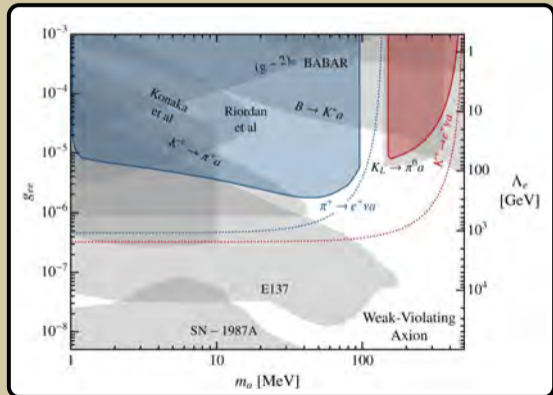
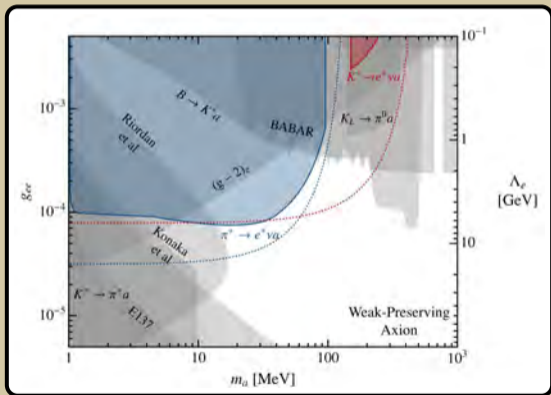
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[Exp 865 - '02]

↳ Improve with Kaon factories

$D/D_s/B/B_c$ mesons

↳ Large flavor preserving decays

↳ Suppresses branching ratio

↳ D_s/B_c win by CKM factor

↳ Need to reach $\mathcal{O}(10^{-6})$

W^+ boson decay

W^+ boson decay

W boson decay width $\propto m_W^2/m_e^2$
for weak-violating ALP

$$\text{Br}_{W^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a} \sim \left(\frac{\bar{g}_{ee}}{10^{-3}} \right)^2$$

Irrelevant for
weak-preserving

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Bound on rare W -boson decays?

W^+ DECAY MODES	Fraction (Γ_i/Γ)	Confidence level	p (MeV/c)
$\ell^+ \nu$	[b] (10.86 \pm 0.09) %		—
$e^+ \nu$	(10.71 \pm 0.16) %		40189
$\mu^+ \nu$	(10.63 \pm 0.15) %		40189
$\tau^+ \nu$	(11.38 \pm 0.21) %		40170
hadrons	(67.41 \pm 0.27) %		—
$\pi^+ \gamma$	< 7	$\times 10^{-6}$	95% 40189
$D_s^+ \gamma$	< 1.3	$\times 10^{-3}$	95% 40165
cX	(33.3 \pm 2.6) %		—
$c\bar{s}$	(31 $^{+13}_{-11}$) %		—
invisible	[c] (1.4 \pm 2.9) %		—
$\pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$	< 1.01	$\times 10^{-6}$	95% 40189

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↳ Contribute to total width,

$$\Gamma_W = 2.085 \pm 0.04 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\text{Br}_{W^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a} \lesssim 0.04$$

↳ Dedicated search:

$$\text{Br}_{W^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu a} \lesssim \mathcal{O}(10^{-5})$$

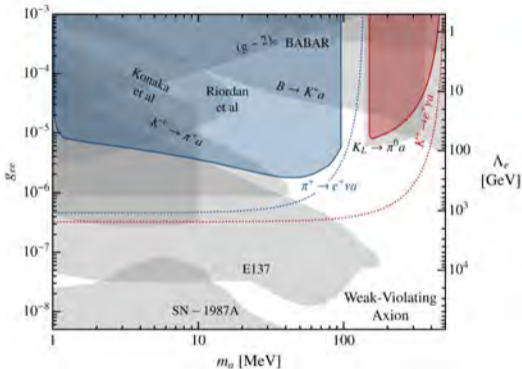
W^+ boson decay

W boson decay width
for weak-violating

Irrelevant for
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W^+ DECAY MODES

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 $e^+\nu$
 $\mu^+\nu$
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$(31 \pm 13) \%$
 $[c] (1.4 \pm 2.9) \%$
 $< 1.01 \times 10^{-6}$ 95% 40189

contribute to total width,

$m_W = 80.385 \pm 0.04$ GeV

$\text{Br}(W^+ \rightarrow e^+\nu) \lesssim 0.04$

↳ Dedicated search:

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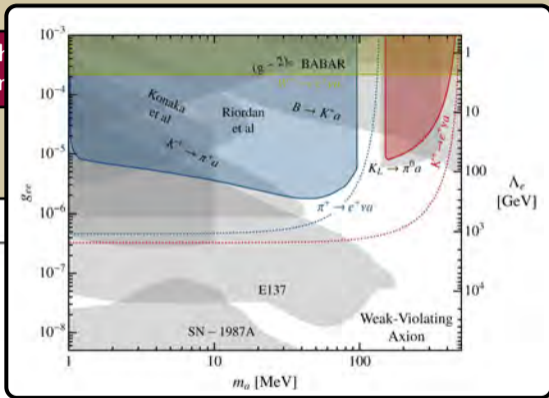
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W^+ DECAY MODES

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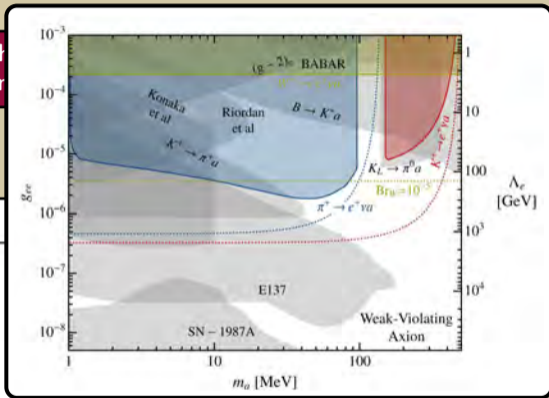
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- hadrons
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Proton beam dump experiments

Ex: CHARM experiment

proton
source

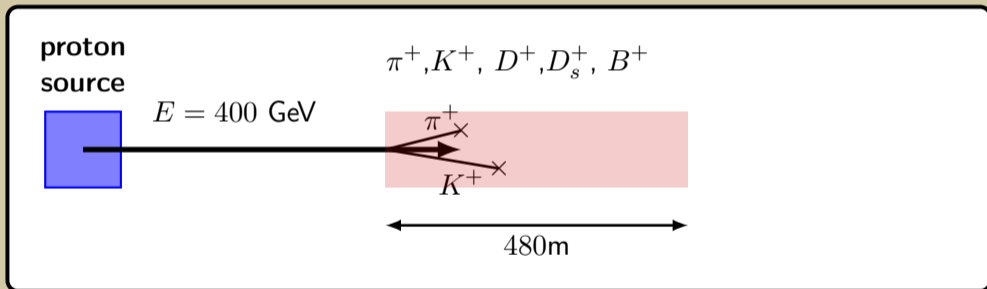


$E = 400 \text{ GeV}$



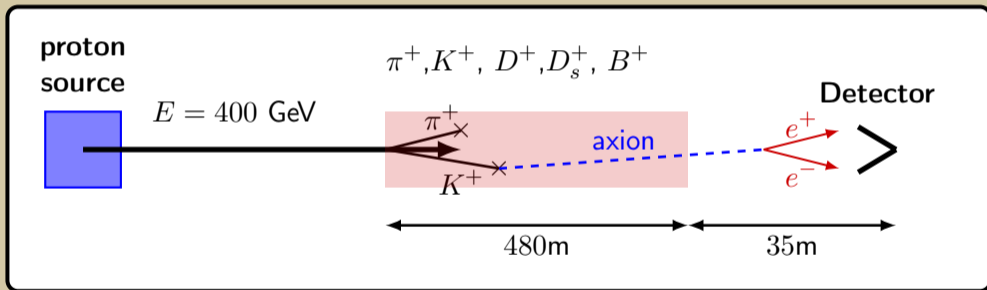
Proton beam dump experiments

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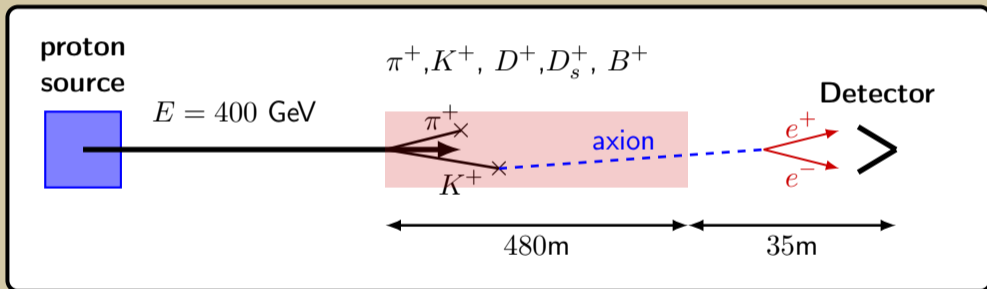
Proton beam dump experiments

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Proton beam dump experiments

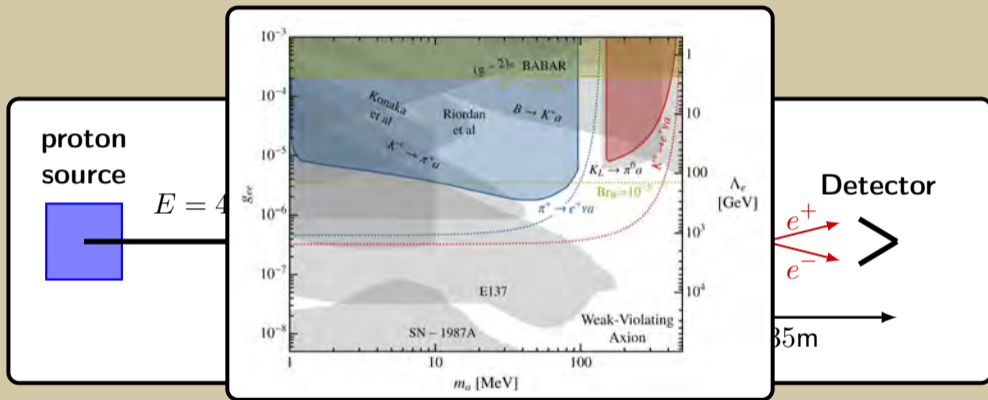
Ex: CHARM experiment



First use of
 D, D_s, B_c mesons

Observed zero
events [CHARM - 1985]

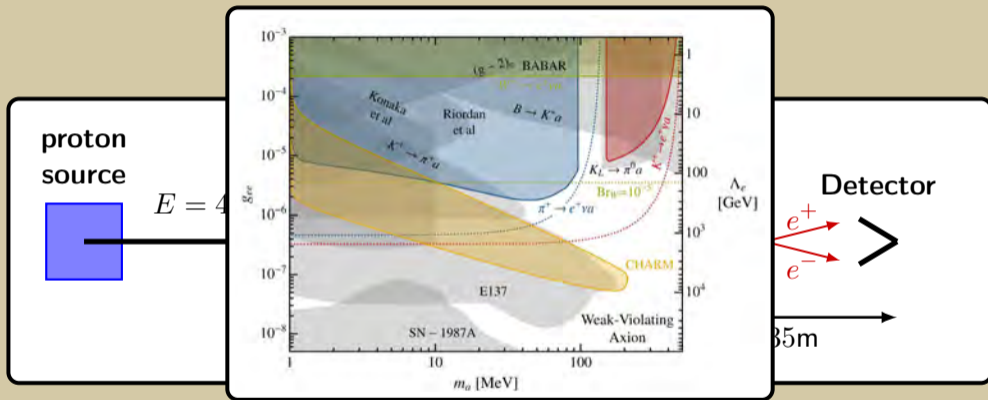
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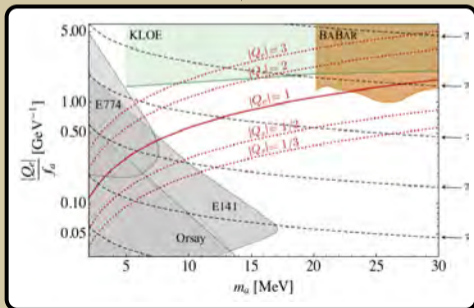
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Implications

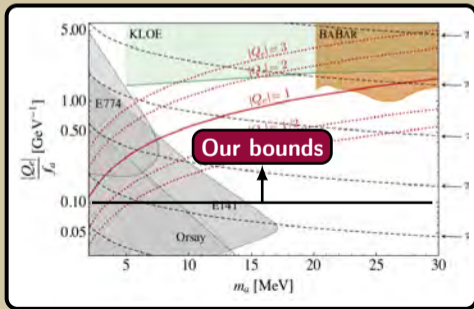
Implications

[Alves, Weiner - '17] , [Alves - '21]
revisited possibility of
MeV QCD axion



Implications

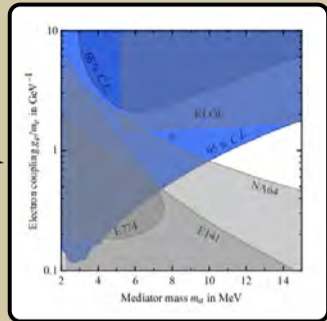
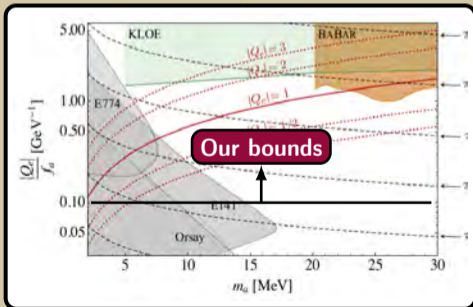
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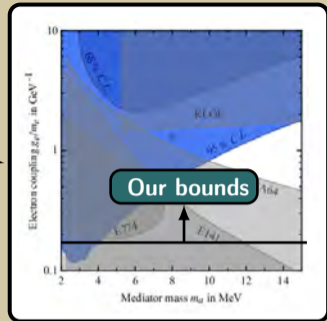
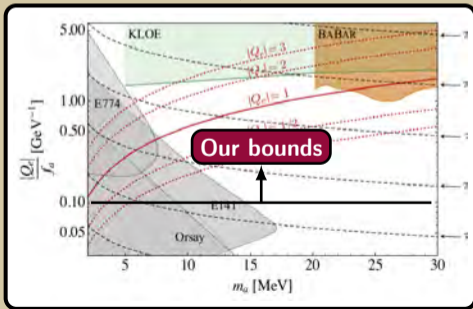
[Buttazzo et al - '21]
propose ALP mediate
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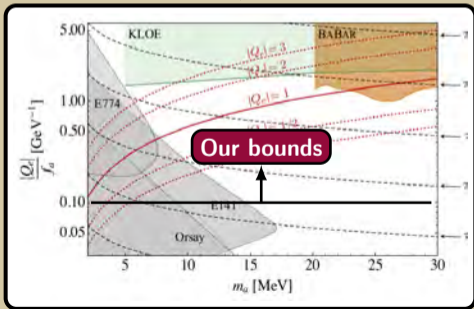
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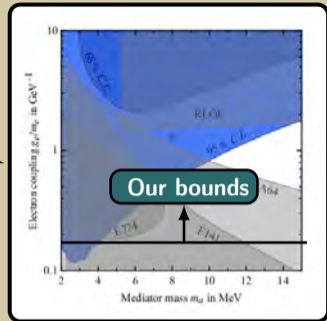


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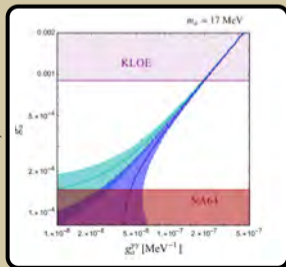
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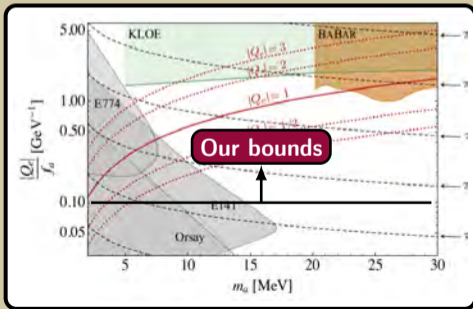


[Liu, McGinnis, Wagner,
Wan - '21], ALP
for Atomki excess

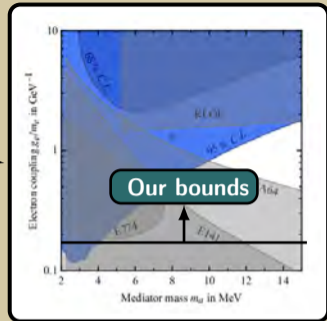


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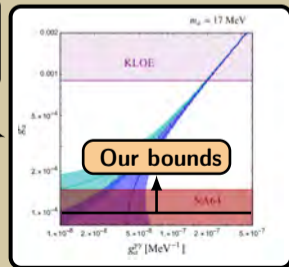
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[Liu, McGinnis, Wagner,
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Summary

Revisited theory of leptophilic ALPs

weak-preserving

Need to
distinguish

weak-violating

Strong bounds in either case

Charged meson
decays

W boson
decays

Proton beam
dumps

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**Final
musings**

**Weak-violating ALPs
drive new
phenomenology**

**Every model has
some weak-violation.
Implications?**