

# Dark sector search with hadrons

—Wish list beyond Belle II Physics Book—

Oct 14, 2024 [Belle II Physics Week, KEK]

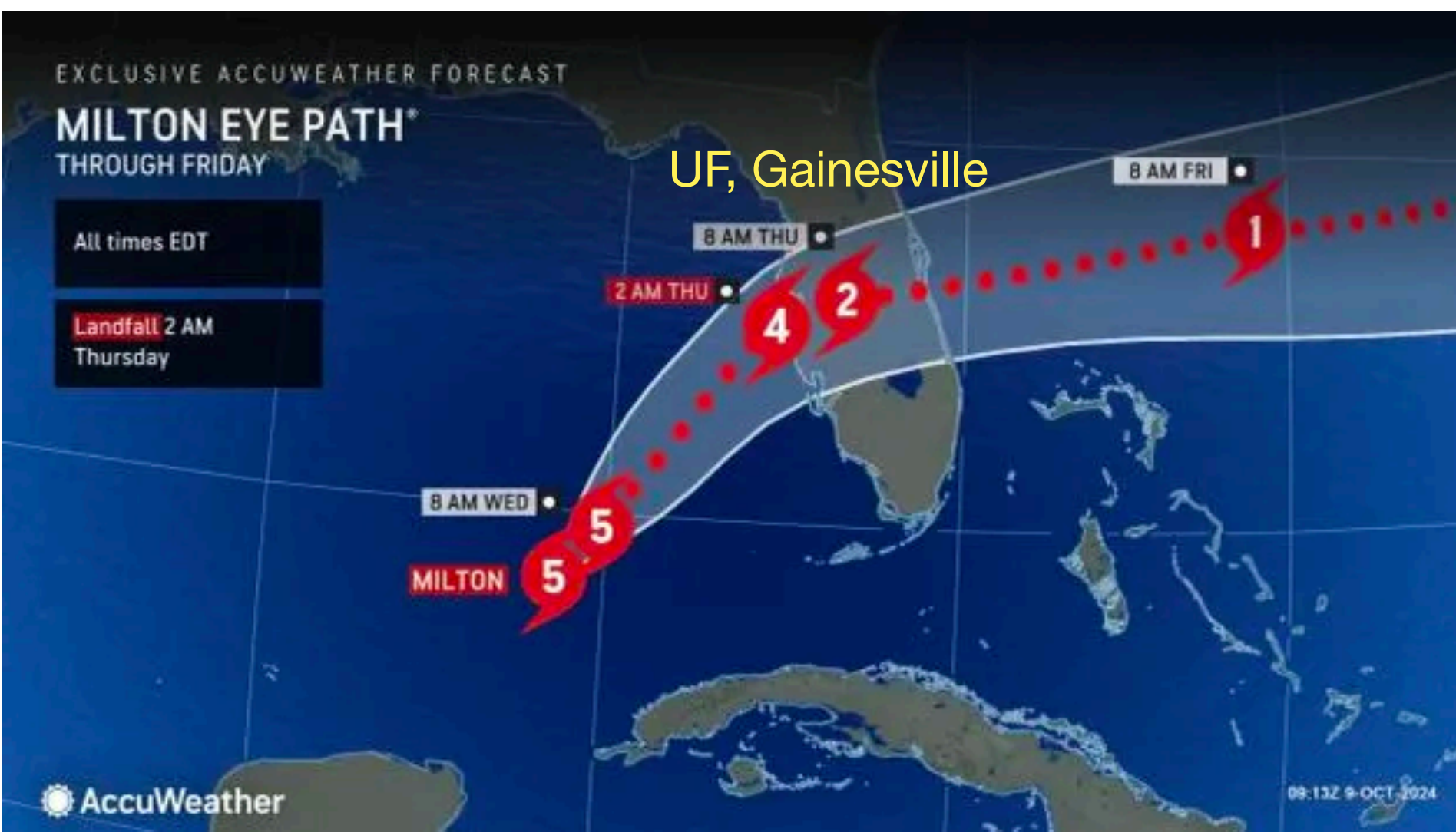
**Kohsaku Tobioka [Tobi]**

Florida State University, KEK Theory center



# Before start...

Degeneracy in Florida





# Before start...

- Originally I wanted to overview many proposals for Belle II, but I realize I already have many for given time. [Apologies!]

->My wish list for young exp colleagues. [**5 modes**]

**B-factory is quite unique**



<https://www.irasutoya.com/>

- I'm attending only Mon/Tue/(Wed?), but feel free to interact/email or ZOOM. Many collaborations with experimentalists started over corridor chats (for me).

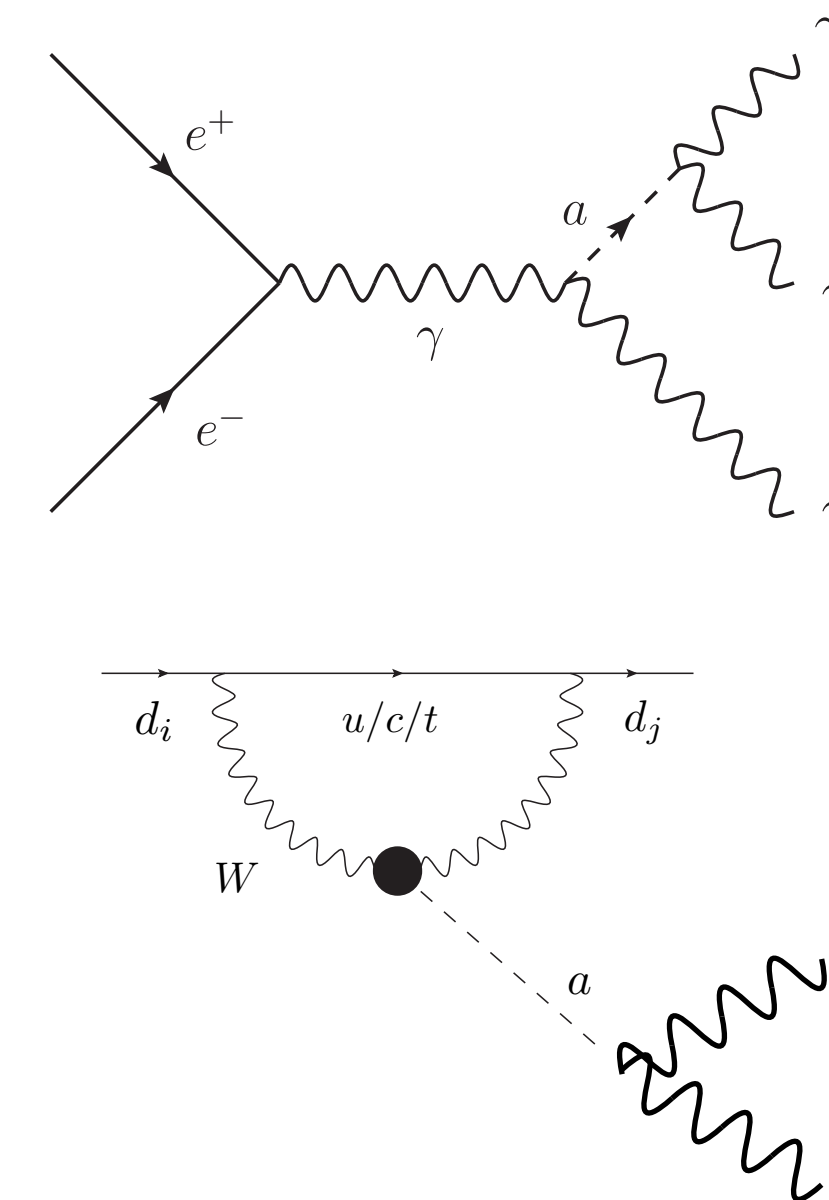
[ktobioka@fsu.edu](mailto:ktobioka@fsu.edu) not @ufl.edu...

# BSM wishlist beyond Belle II Physics Book

16	Dark Sectors and Light Higgs	550
16.1	Theory	551
16.2	Experiment: Scattering Processes	558
16.2.1	Search for Dark Photons decaying into Light Dark Matter (“Single-photon search”)	558
16.2.2	Search for Axion-like particles	566
16.2.3	Search for Dark Photons decaying into charged leptons and charged hadrons	567
16.2.4	Search for Dark Photons decaying into Light Dark Matter in $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'\ell^+\ell^-$	568
16.3	Experiment: Quarkonium Decay	569
16.3.1	Searches for BSM physics in invisible $\Upsilon(1S)$ decays	569
16.3.2	Probe of new light $CP$ even Higgs bosons from bottomonium $\chi_{b0}$ decay	571
16.3.3	Search for a $CP$ -odd Higgs boson in radiative $\Upsilon(3S)$ decays	572
16.3.4	Prospects for lepton universality tests in $\Upsilon(1S)$ decays	573
16.4	Conclusions	574

This list will be expanded [all the afternoon talks!]

Only electroweak boson couplings!!



► Many interesting channels  
with **hadronic/gluon couplings**  
**Heavy QCD axion**

[S. Gori’s talk for lepton couplings.]



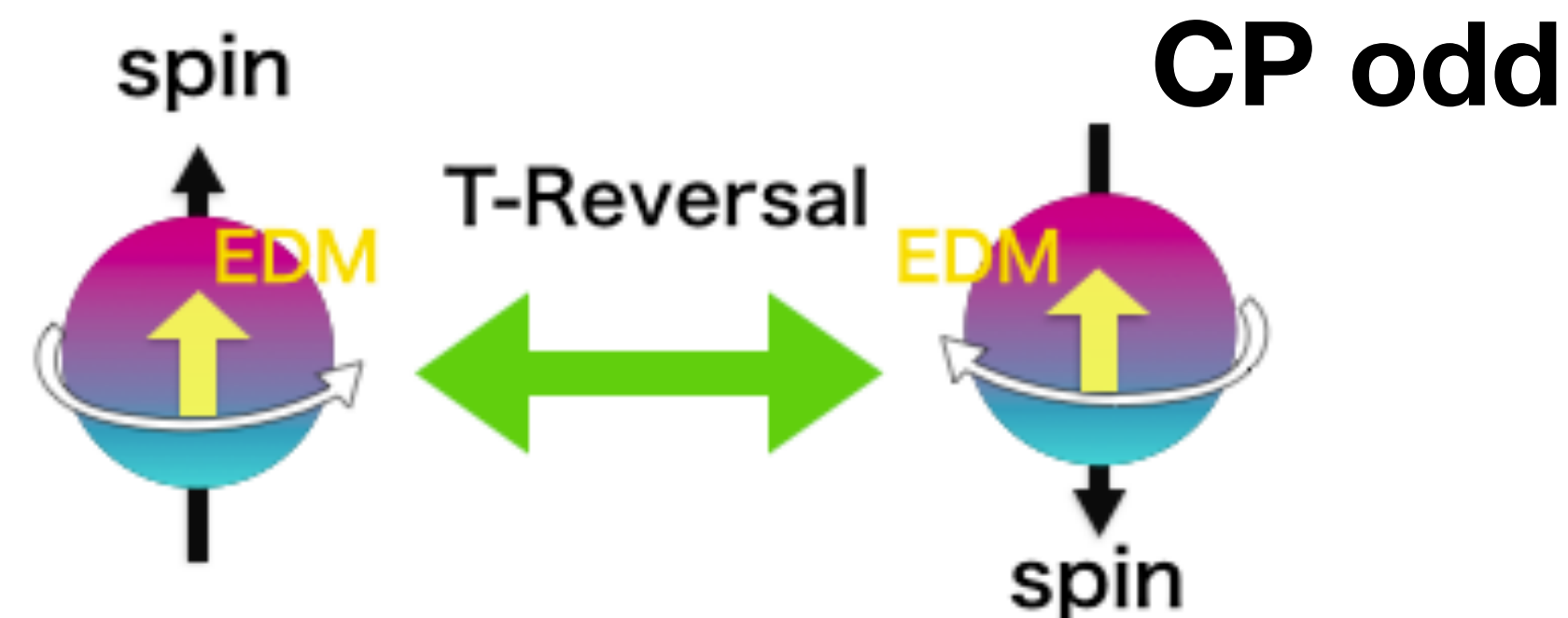
# Strong CP problem and QCD Axion

## The strong CP problem

- The unknown of the SM: CP phase in the strong sector
- Neutron EDM sets a very stringent upper bound:  $\bar{\theta} \lesssim 10^{-10}$
- We expect the order 1 number because CP is violated in the CKM matrix (thanks to Belle and Babar).

$$\frac{\alpha_s \bar{\theta}}{8\pi} G^{a\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{a\mu\nu}$$

*If we start from CP conserving theory for  $\theta$ , we need to break it to explain CKM.*



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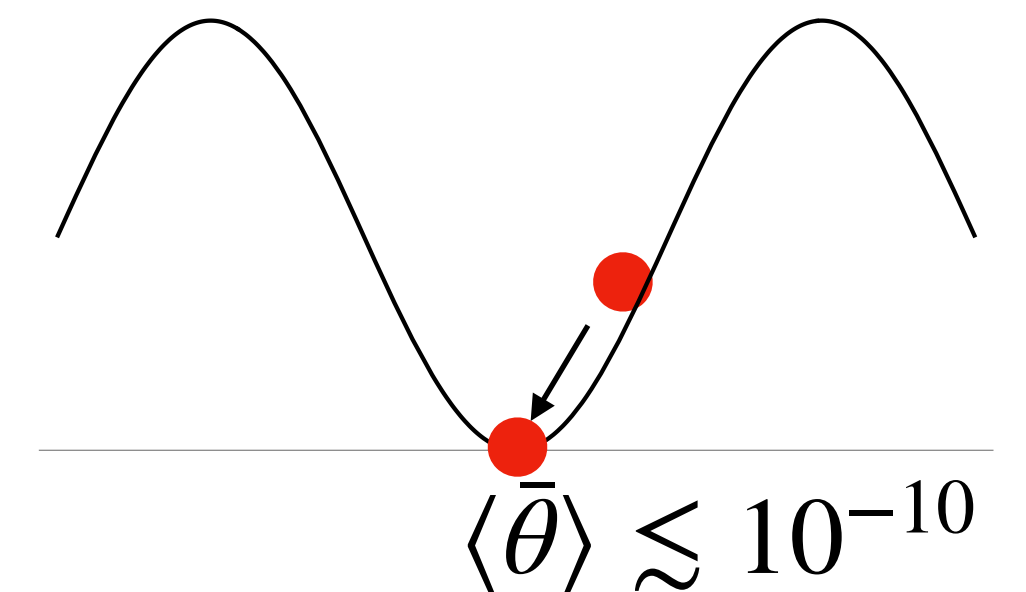
*If we start from CP conserving theory for  $\theta$ , we need to break it to explain CKM.*

## QCD Axion solution

- Promote  $\bar{\theta}$  to a field  $a/f_a$  dynamically settles the CP phase to the minimum.
- Peccei-Quinn symmetry: Global U(1) that generates the axion as a Nambu-Goldstone boson.  **$f_a$  is the breaking scale.**
- Attractive **dark matter** candidate, typically  $m_a < \text{meV}$ .

$$\frac{\alpha_s \bar{\theta}}{8\pi} G^{a\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{a\mu\nu}$$

$$\frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} G^{a\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{a\mu\nu} \quad \text{after QCD phase transition}$$





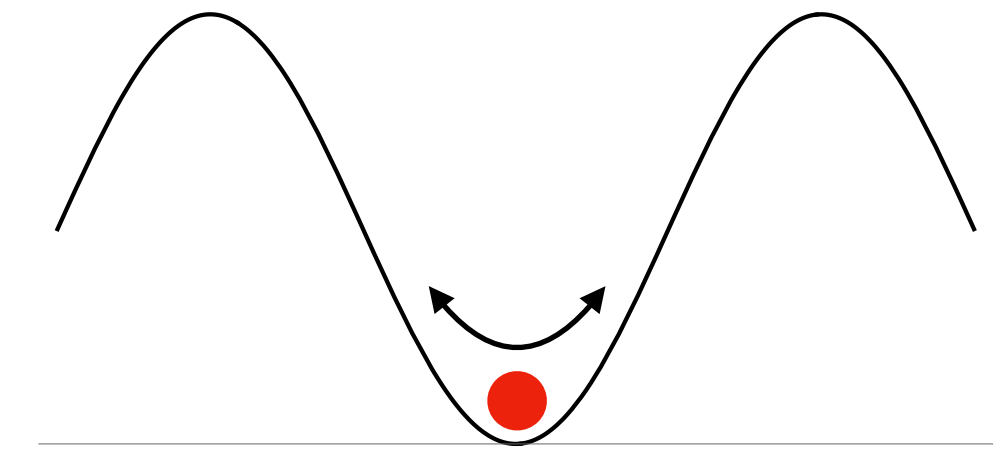
# From QCD Axion to Heavy QCD Axion

- Standard QCD axion has mass prediction

$$m_a \sim \frac{m_\pi f_\pi}{f_a} \sim 0.1 \text{MeV} \left( \frac{100 \text{GeV}}{f_a} \right)$$

- Heavy QCD axion, axion heavier than “standard mass”

$$m_a \sim \left( m_0^2 + \frac{m_\pi f_\pi}{f_a} \right)^{1/2} \gg \frac{m_\pi f_\pi}{f_a}$$



Models: additional QCD  $SU(3)'$  to raise  $m_a$   
 Berezhiani et al('01); Hook('04); Fukuda et al('04).  
 Dimopoulos et al('16); Hook et al('19); Valenti ('22)...  
 Another class: Agrawal and Howe ('17)...

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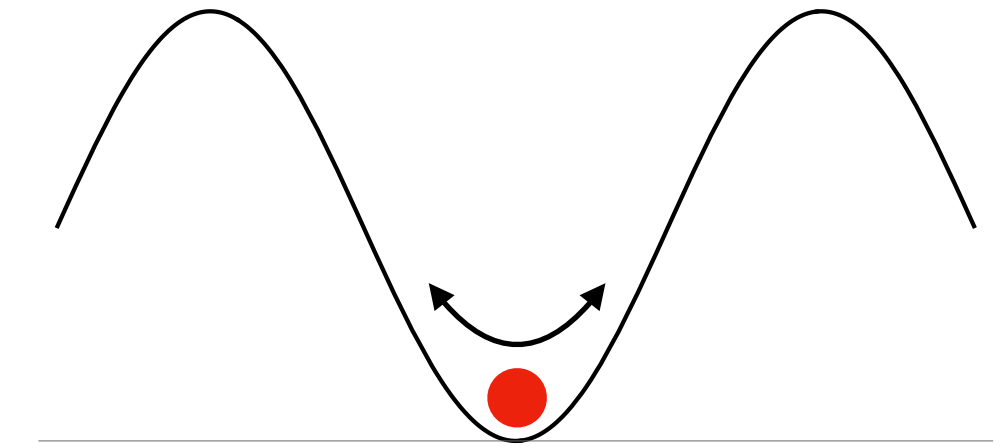
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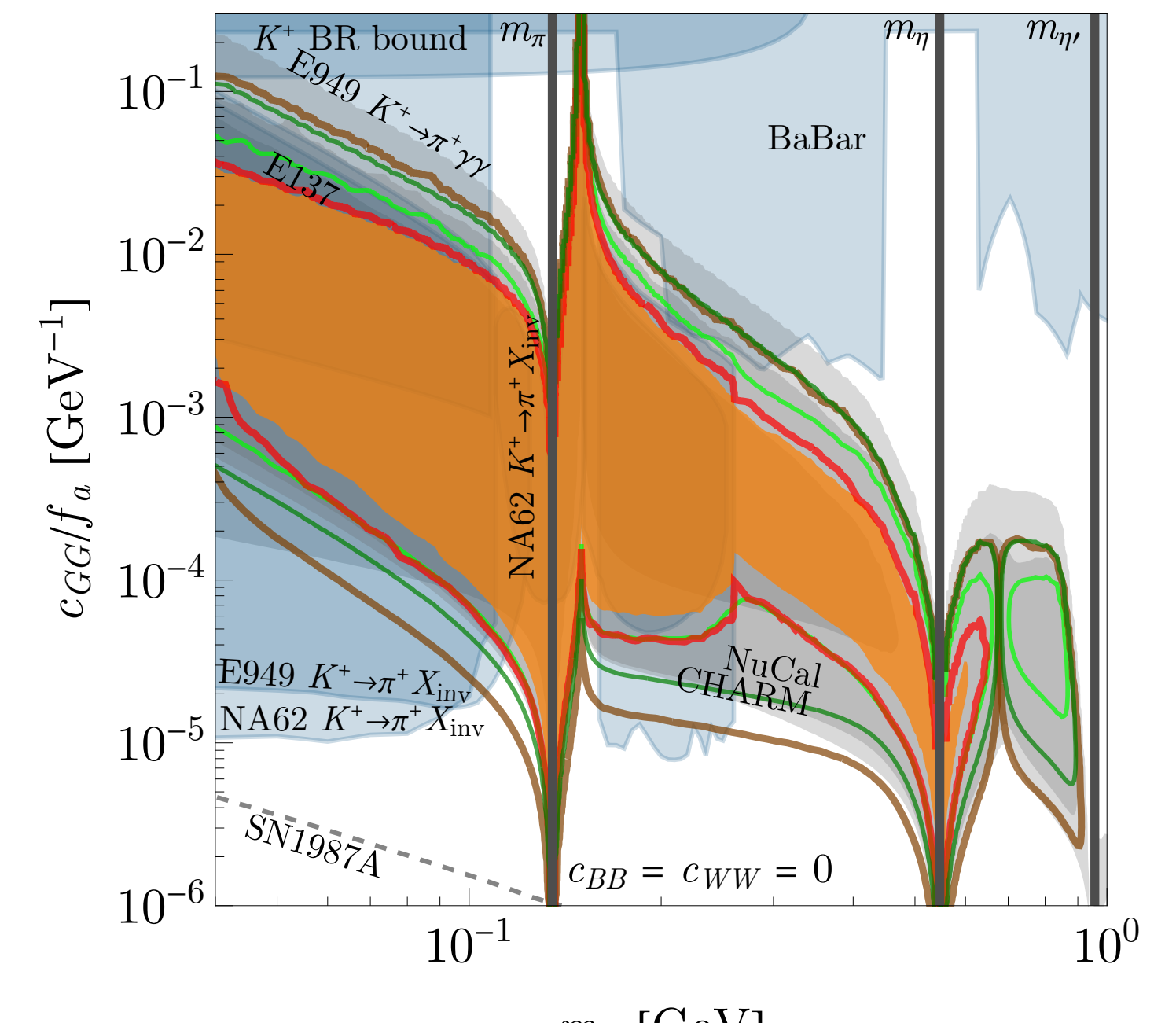
Why interesting?

1. Viable with lower  $f_a$ . Should cover  $m_a > 100 \text{MeV}$ .
2. Better quality of PQ symmetry

✱ It is not dark matter  
because it decays in cosmological time scale



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# ALPs: Axion-like Particles vs Heavy QCD Axion

## ► Typical ALPs

- couplings

$$\frac{\alpha_W c_2}{8\pi} a W \tilde{W} \quad \frac{\alpha_1 c_1}{8\pi} a B \tilde{B}$$

$$\frac{\alpha_{EM} c_\gamma}{8\pi} a F \tilde{F} = \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F \tilde{F}$$

- mass

Completely free

## ► Heavy QCD Axion

Must:  $\frac{c_g \alpha_s}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} G^{a\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu}$

Optional:  $a B \tilde{B}, a W \tilde{W}, a F \tilde{F}$

Heavier than standard one  $m_a \gg \frac{m_\pi f_\pi}{f_a}$

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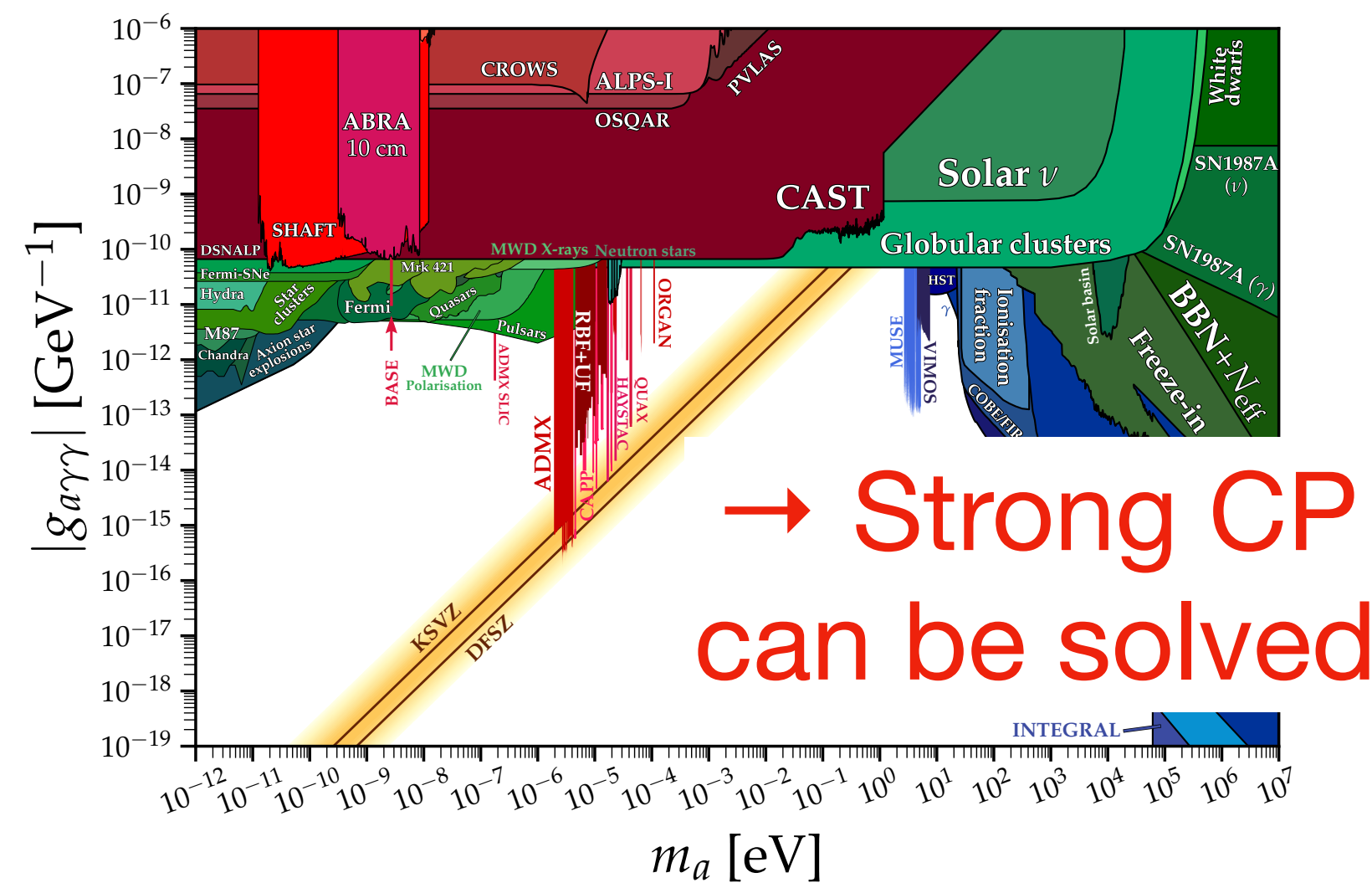
# Completely free

► **Heavy QCD Axion**

Must:  $\frac{c_g \alpha_s}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} G^{a\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu}$

Optional:  $aB\tilde{B}$ ,  $aW\tilde{W}$ ,  $aF\tilde{F}$

Heavier than standard one  $m_a \gg \frac{m_\pi f_\pi}{f_a}$



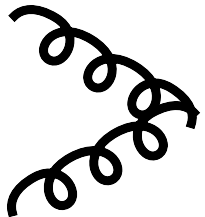
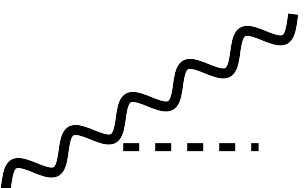


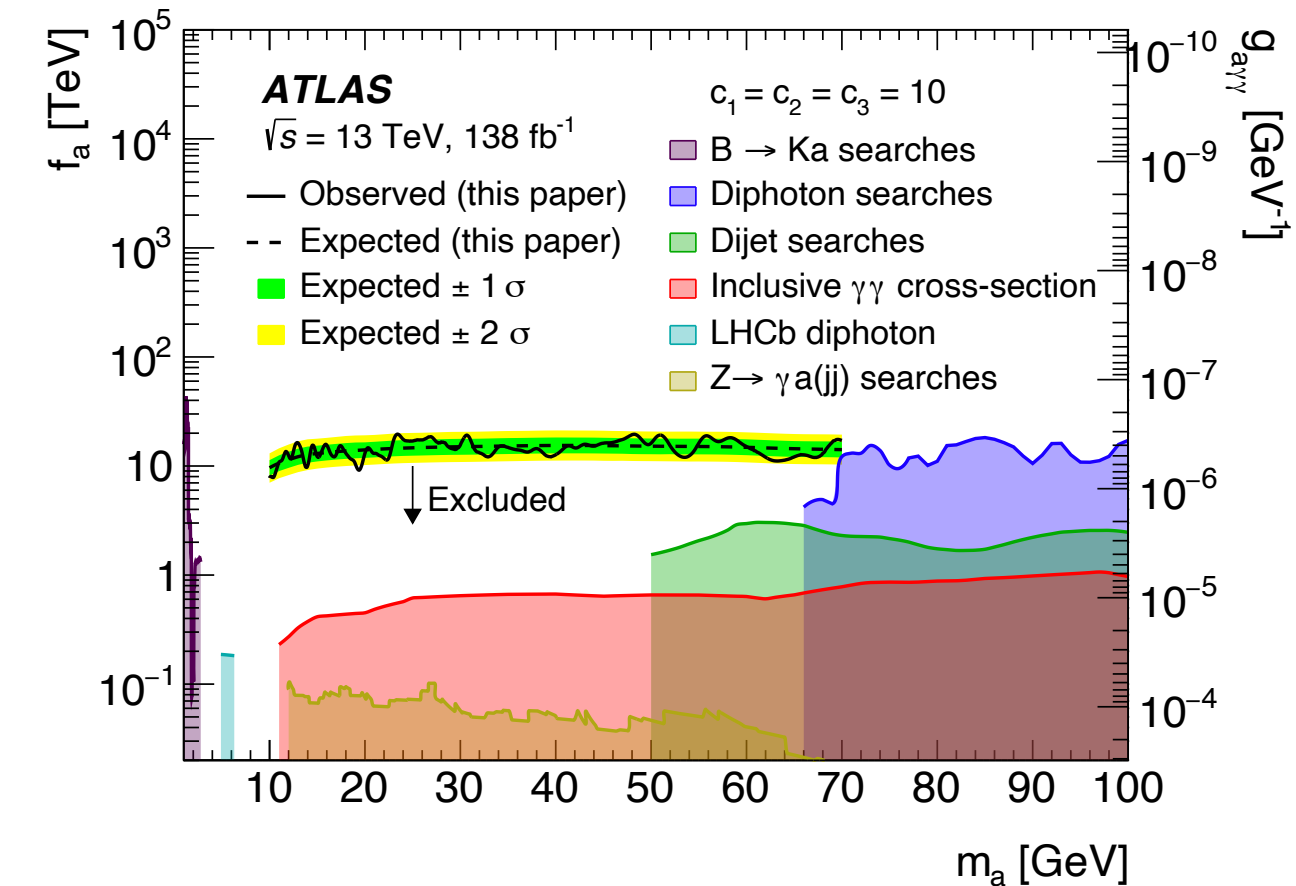
# Why Belle II is unique? Resonance search

- To get ideas, consider resonance search, from LHC to lower mass

Using narrow width approximation with  $c_\gamma \sim c_g$ :

$$\sigma \cdot \text{BR} \sim \frac{\Gamma_{\text{prod}}}{m_a E_{CM}^2} \frac{\Gamma_{\text{decay}}}{\Gamma_{\text{tot}}} \quad \alpha_s^2 \gg \alpha_{EM}^2 \rightarrow \Gamma_{\text{tot}} \sim \Gamma_g \gg \Gamma_\gamma$$

<div> <div>     </div> <div> <div>Prod \ BR</div> </div> </div>	$\frac{\Gamma_g}{\Gamma_{\text{tot}}} : a \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$	$\frac{\Gamma_\gamma}{\Gamma_{\text{tot}}} : a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$
Gluon fusion $\Gamma_g$	$\sim \Gamma_g$	$\sim \Gamma_\gamma$
Photon fusion, brem $\Gamma_\gamma$	$\sim \Gamma_\gamma$	$\sim \frac{\Gamma_\gamma^2}{\Gamma_g} \sim 10^{-2} \Gamma_\gamma$



[A. Mariotti, F. Sala, D. Redigolo, KT,  
1710.01743;  
ATLAS 2211.04172]

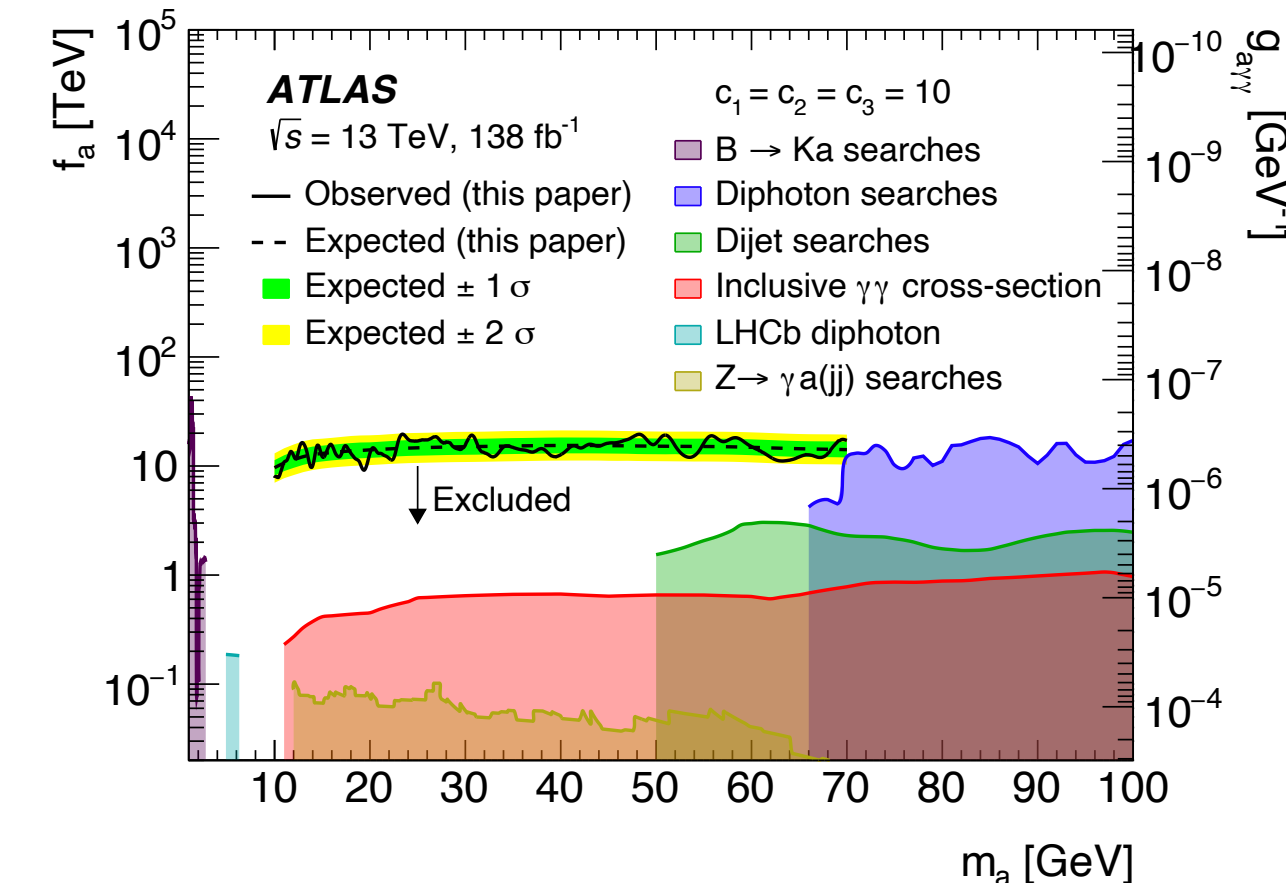
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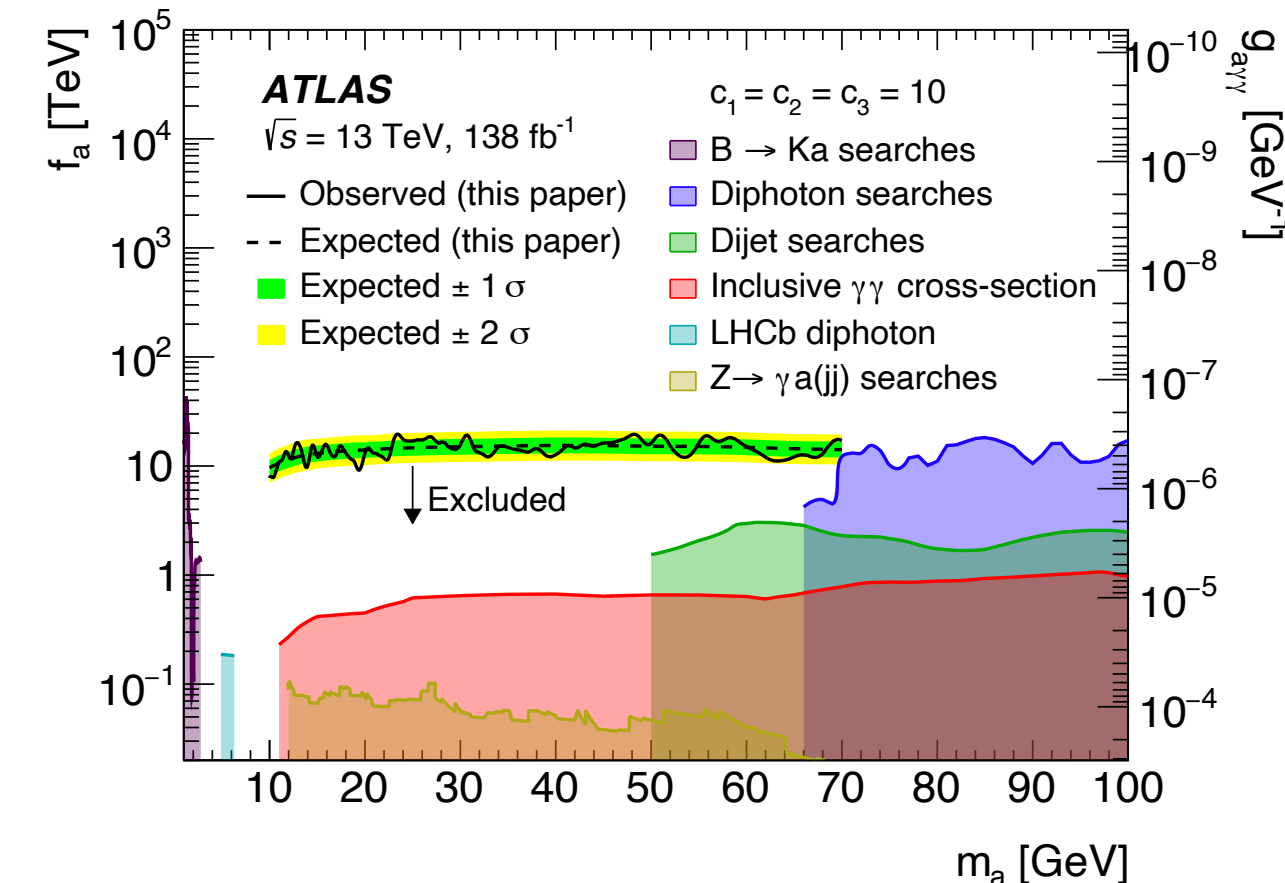
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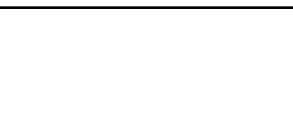
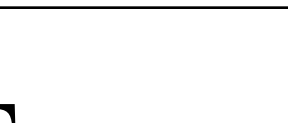


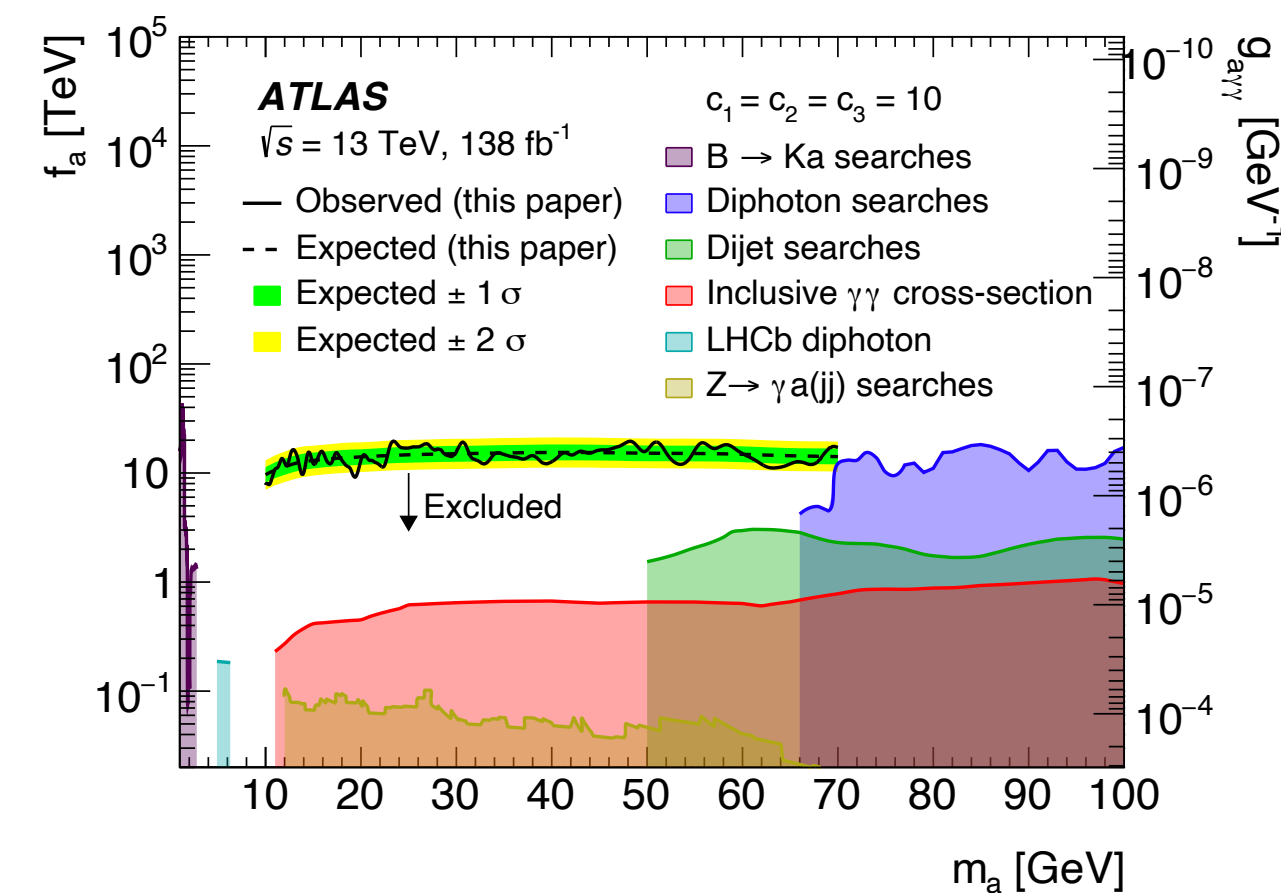
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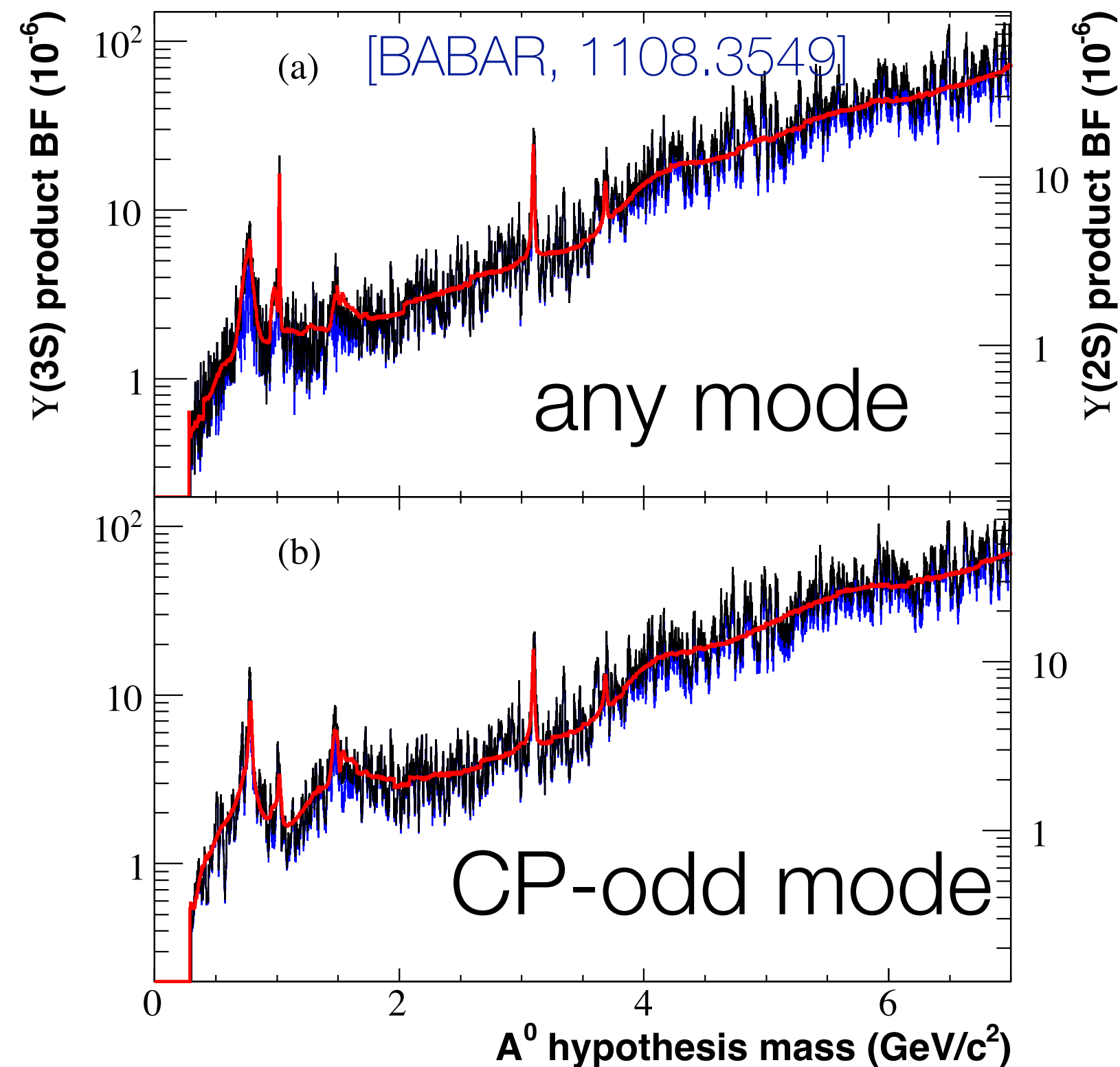
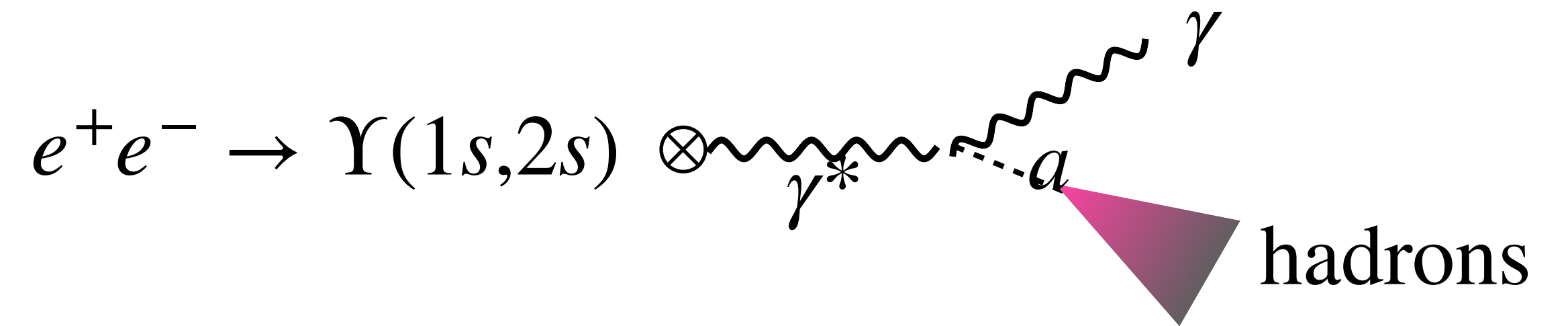
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	<div>Photon fusion, brem</div> $\Gamma_\gamma$	<div><math>\sim \Gamma_\gamma</math></div> <div>Using B-factory triggers</div> <div>Probe <math>m_a = 0.5\text{--}7 \text{ GeV}</math></div> <div><math>ee \rightarrow Y \rightarrow \gamma a, a \rightarrow \text{had.}</math></div> <div>Babar. Belle II?</div>	$\sim \frac{\Gamma_\gamma^2}{\Gamma_g} \sim 10^{-2} \Gamma_\gamma$



[A. Mariotti, F. Sala, D. Redigolo, KT,  
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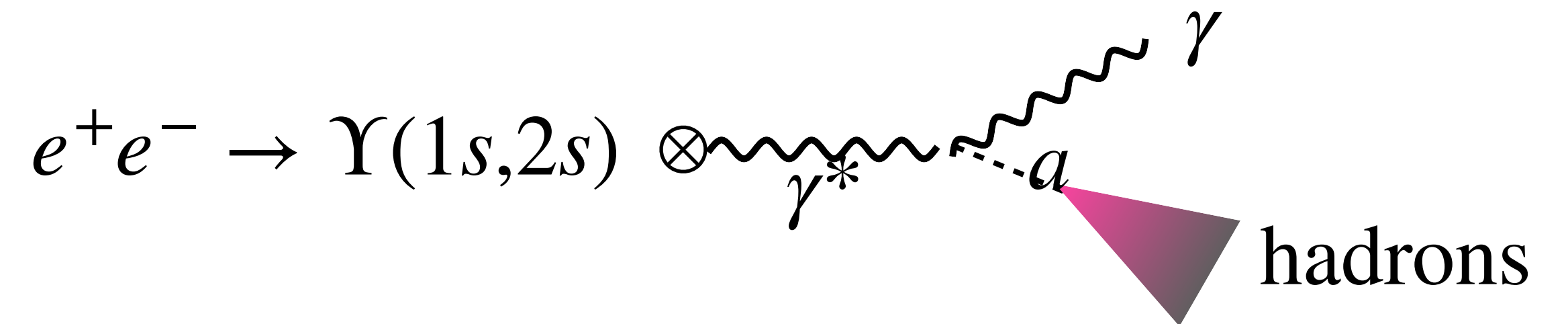
# Wish 1: $e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon(1s,2s) \rightarrow \gamma a, a \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$

- Upsilon(1S,2S) can decay to  $\gamma a(\Gamma_\gamma)$   
and use  $a \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$  with BR~100%



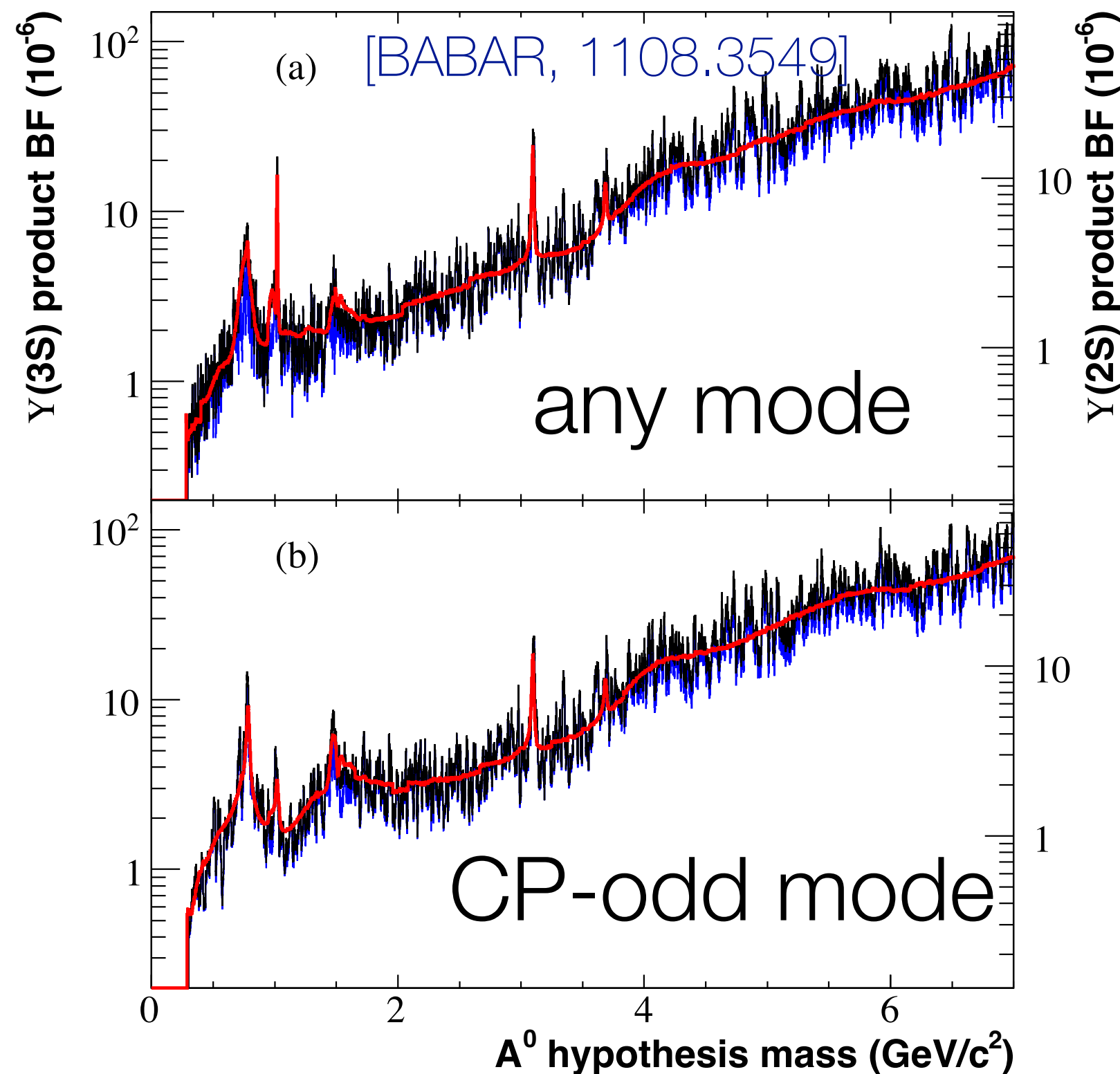
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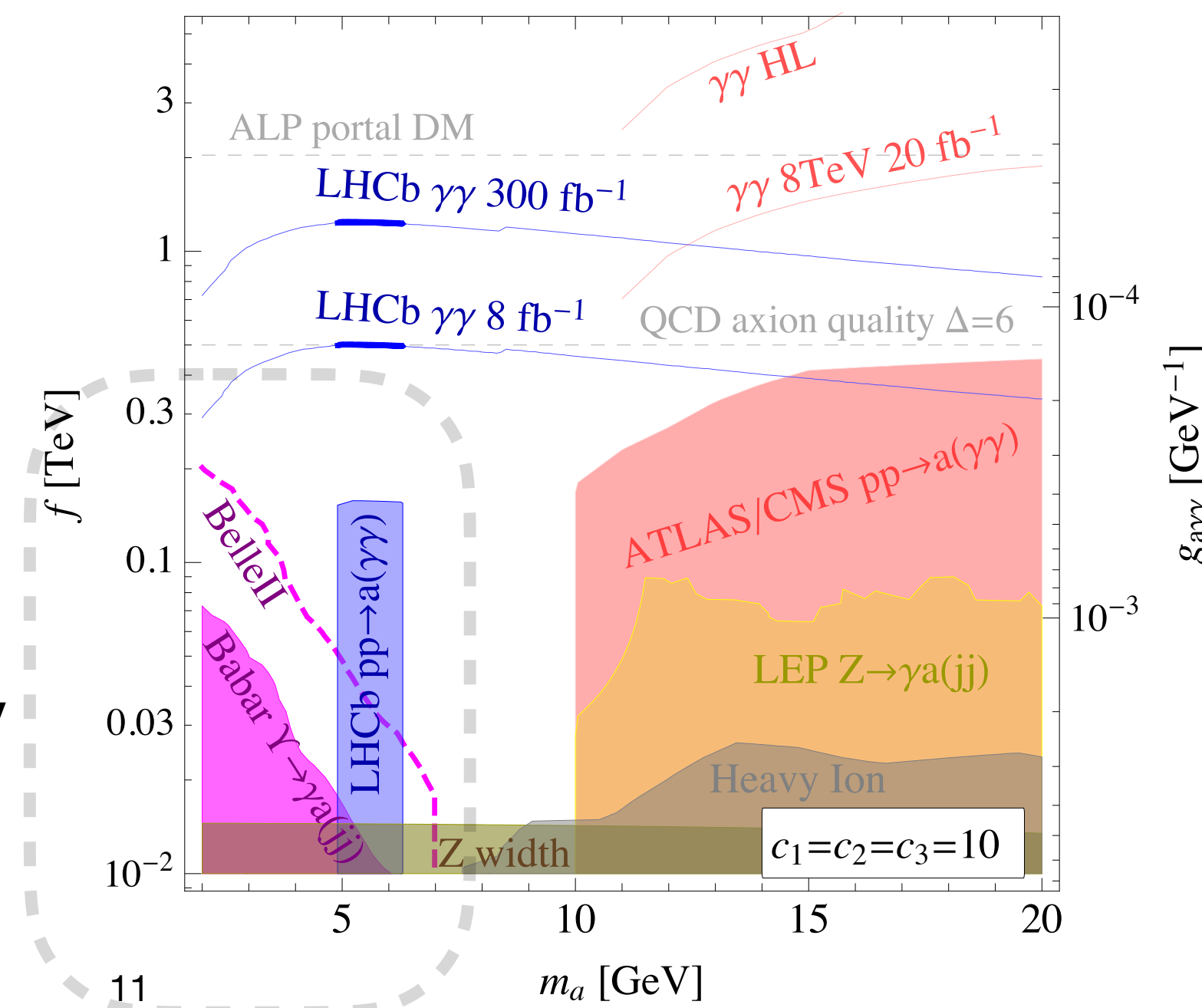


- Calculate rate and rescale to Belle II (x100)

$$\frac{\text{BR}(\Upsilon \rightarrow \gamma a)}{\text{BR}(\Upsilon \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})} \simeq 2E^2 \frac{\alpha_{\text{em}}}{4\pi} \left( \frac{m_\Upsilon}{4\pi f} \right)^2 \left( 1 - \frac{m_a^2}{m_\Upsilon^2} \right)^3$$



B-factory  
is unique



**Mass coverage:  
0.5GeV-7GeV**

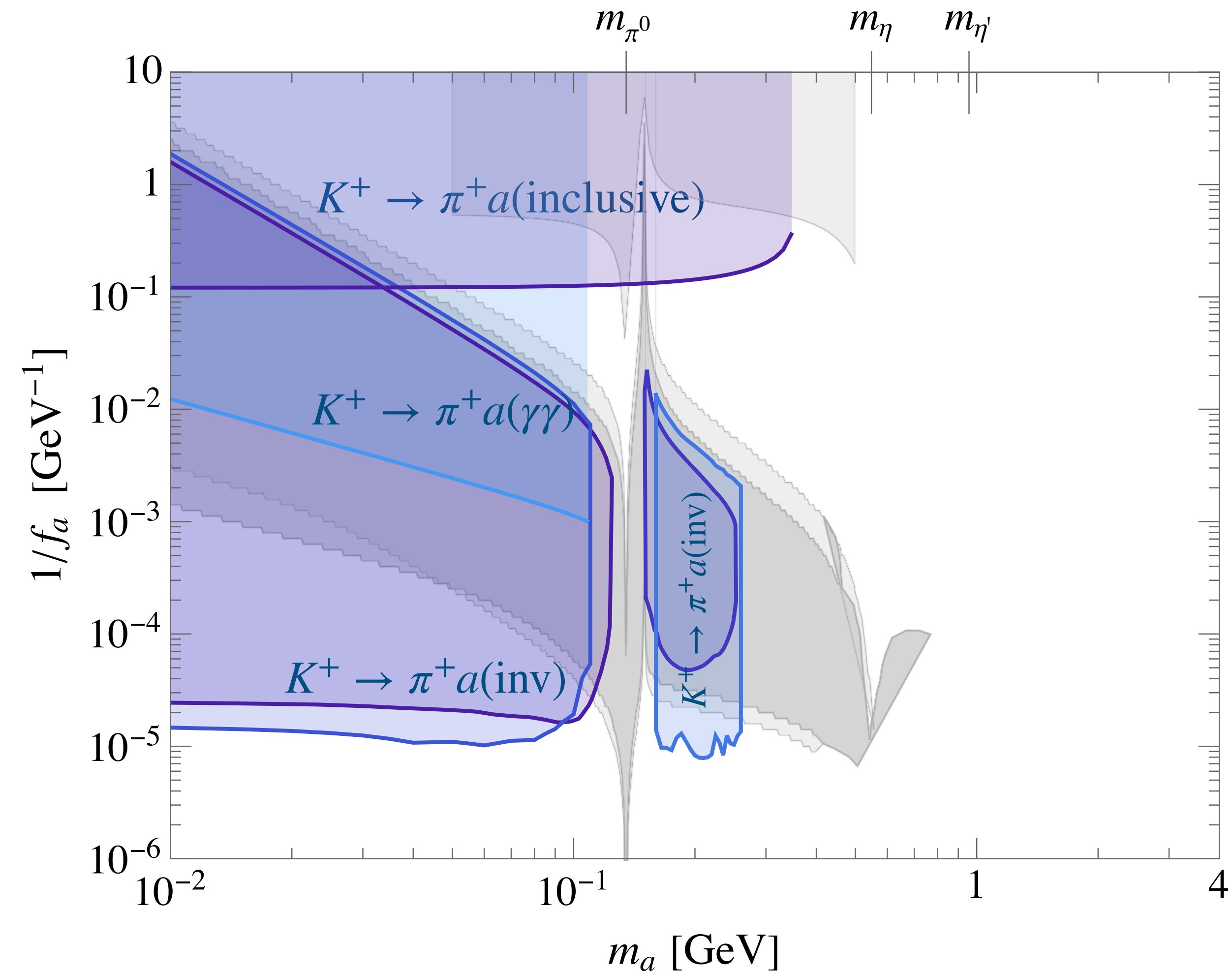
- LHCb analysis  
is on-going.

[X. Cid Vidal, A. Mariotti, F. Sala,  
D. Redigolo, KT, 1710.01743]



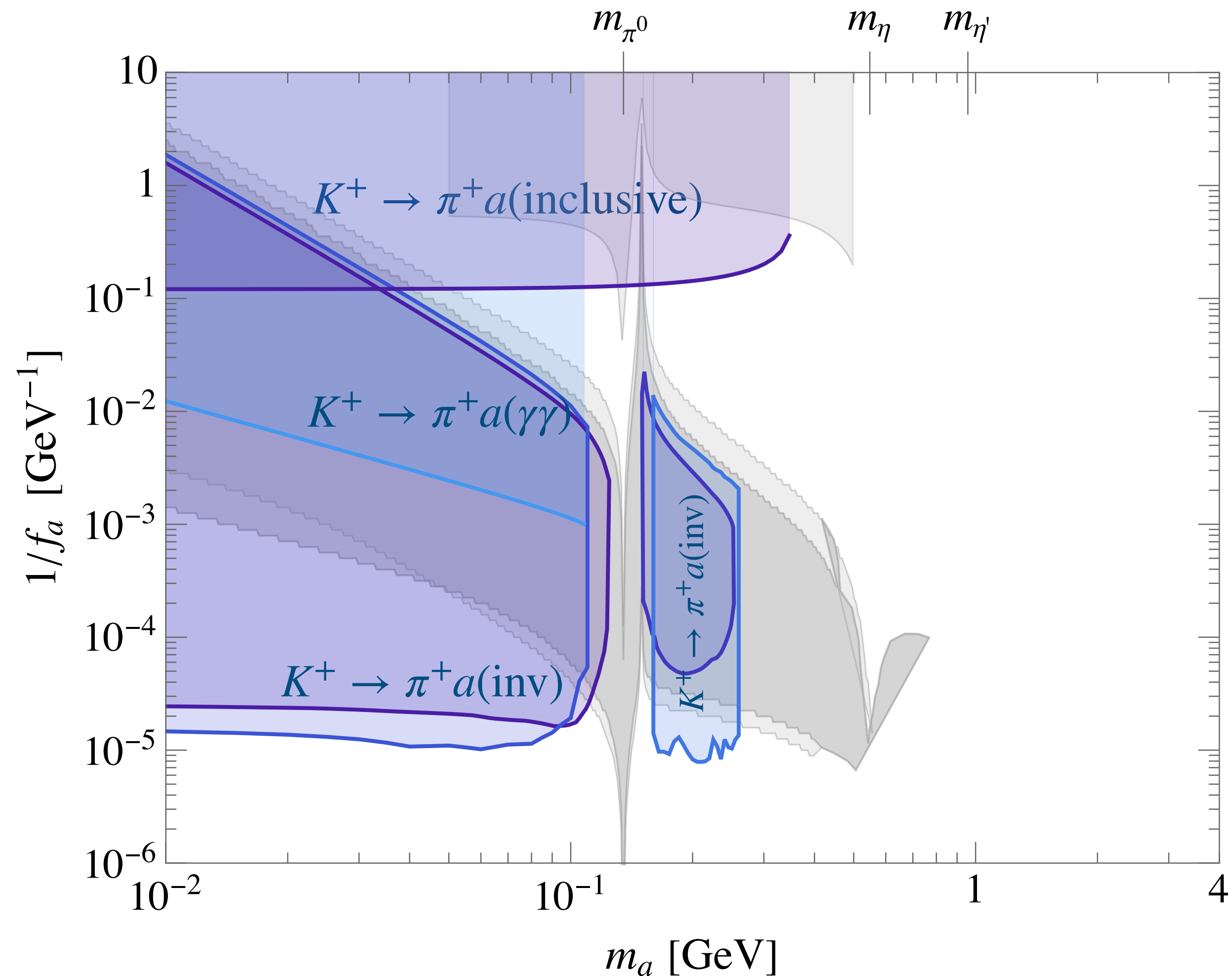
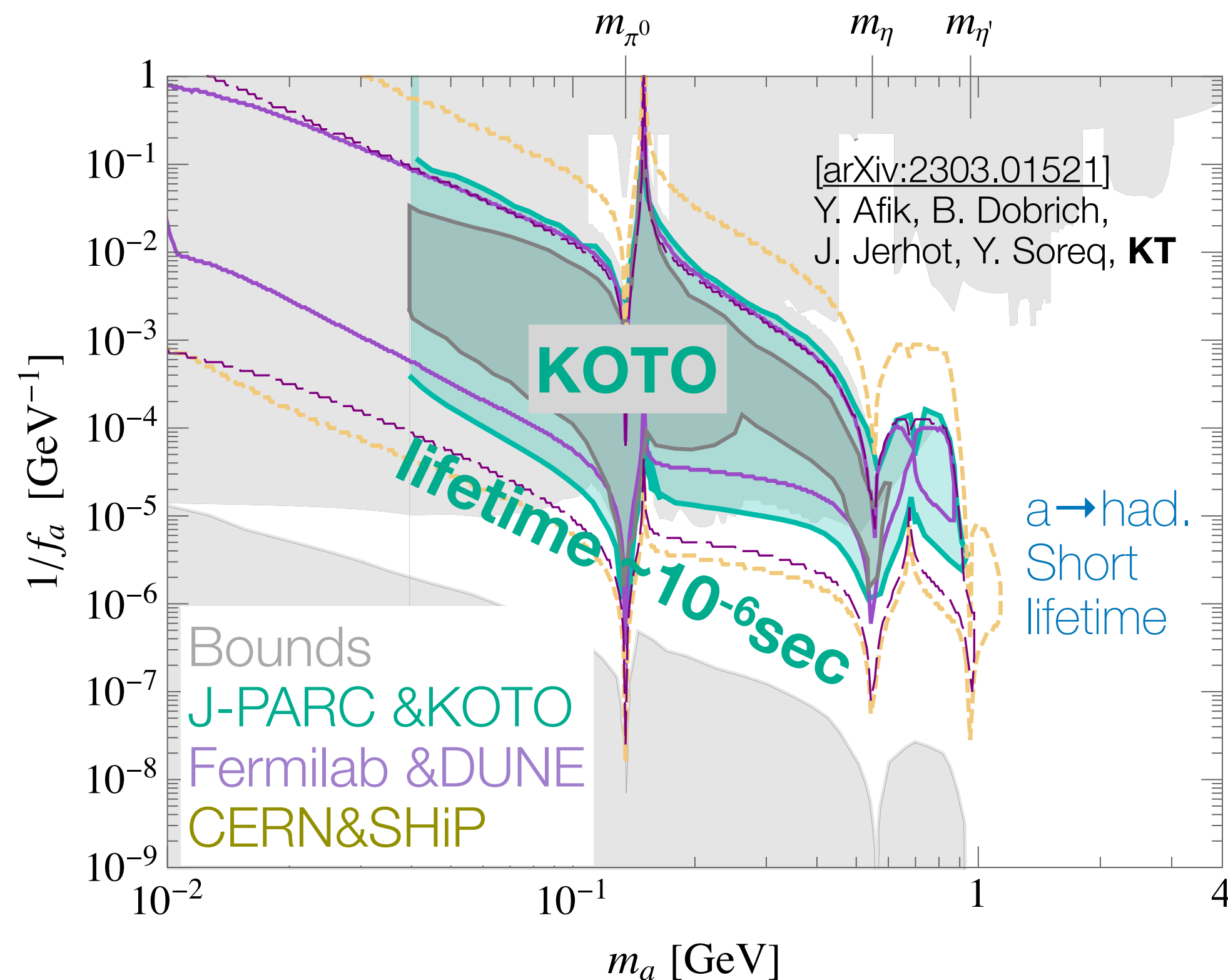
# MeV-GeV range, kaon and proton beam-dump

- LHC down to 10GeV(2GeV).  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ a$  constraints  $m_a < m_K - m_\pi \sim \mathbf{0.35\text{GeV}}$



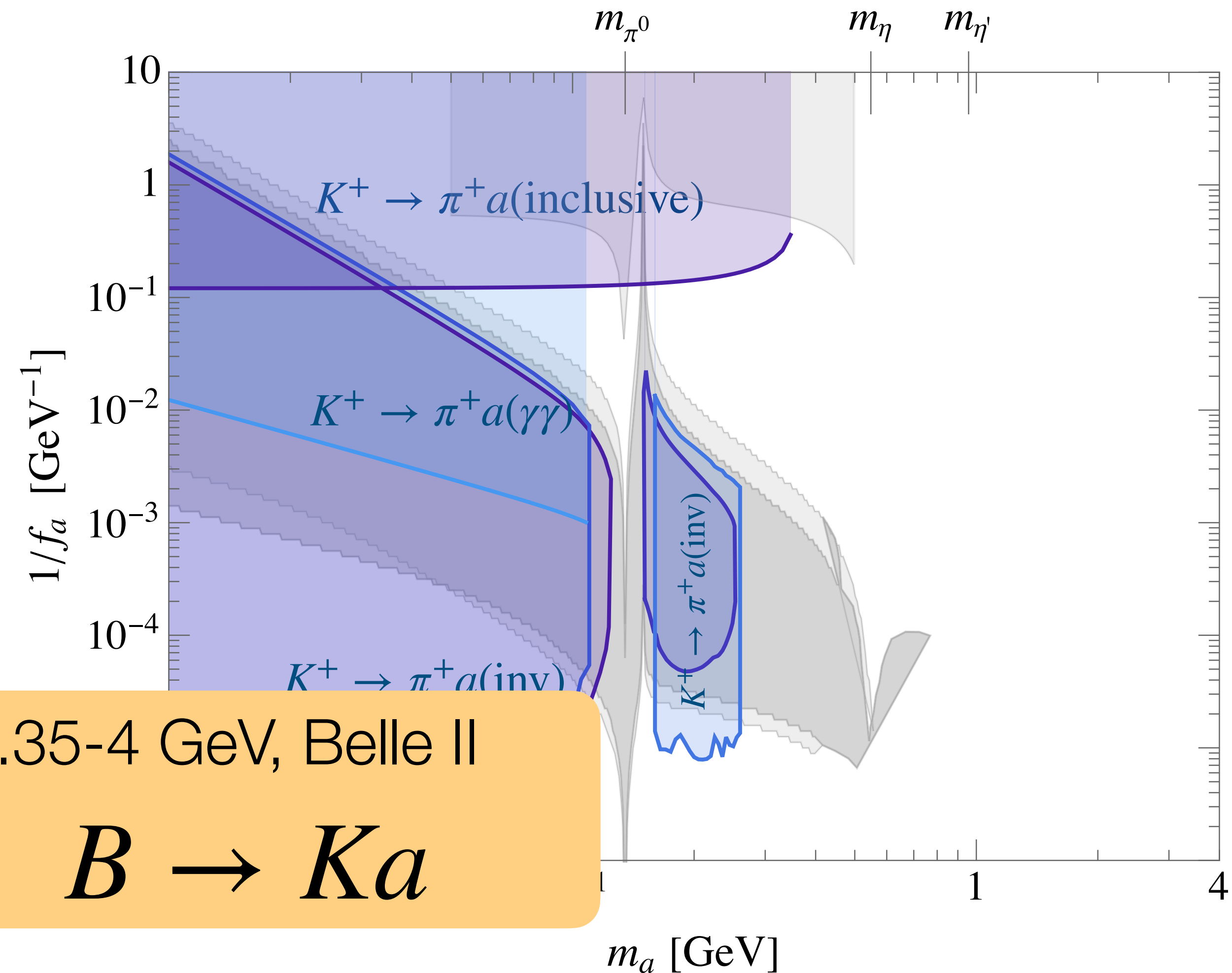
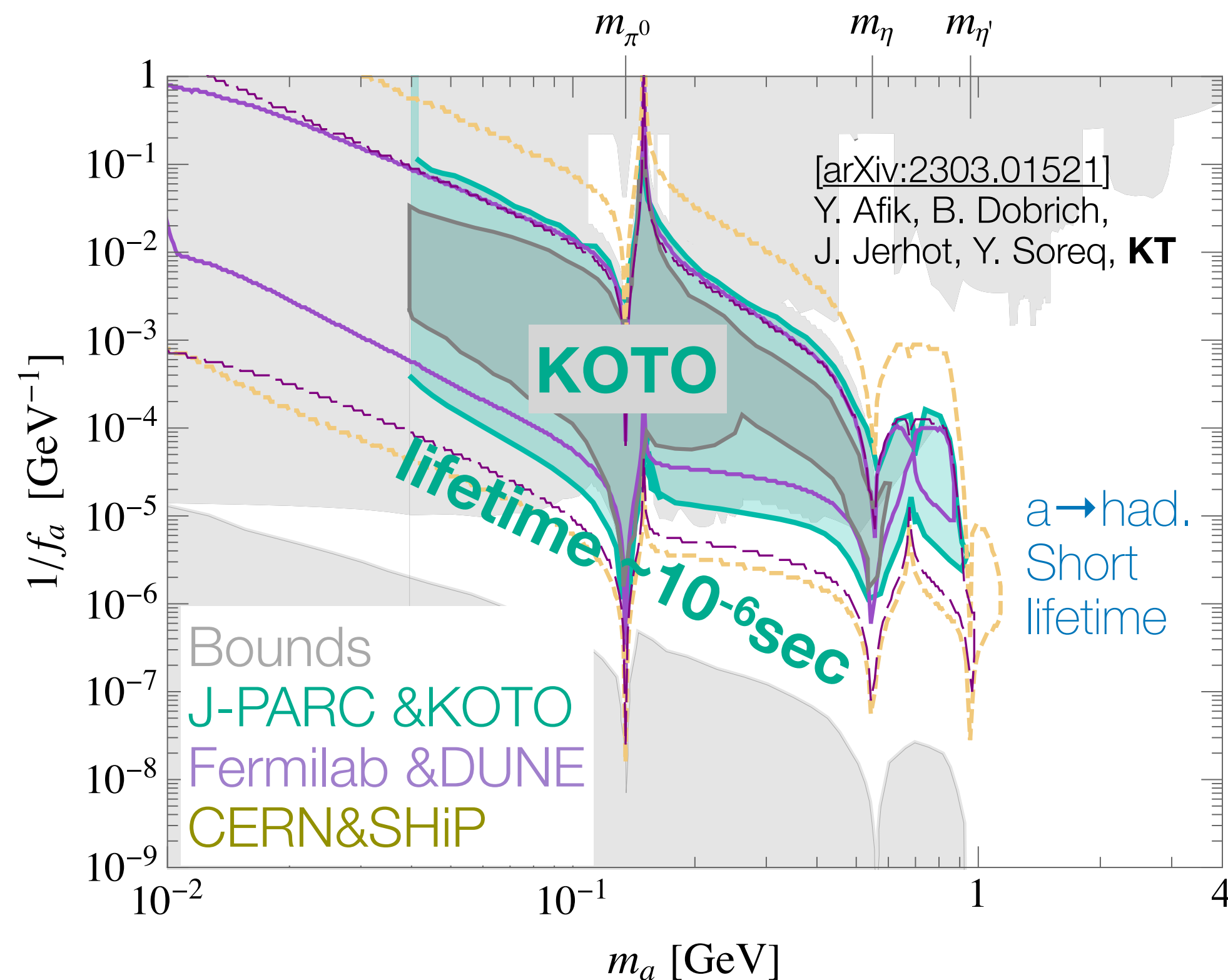
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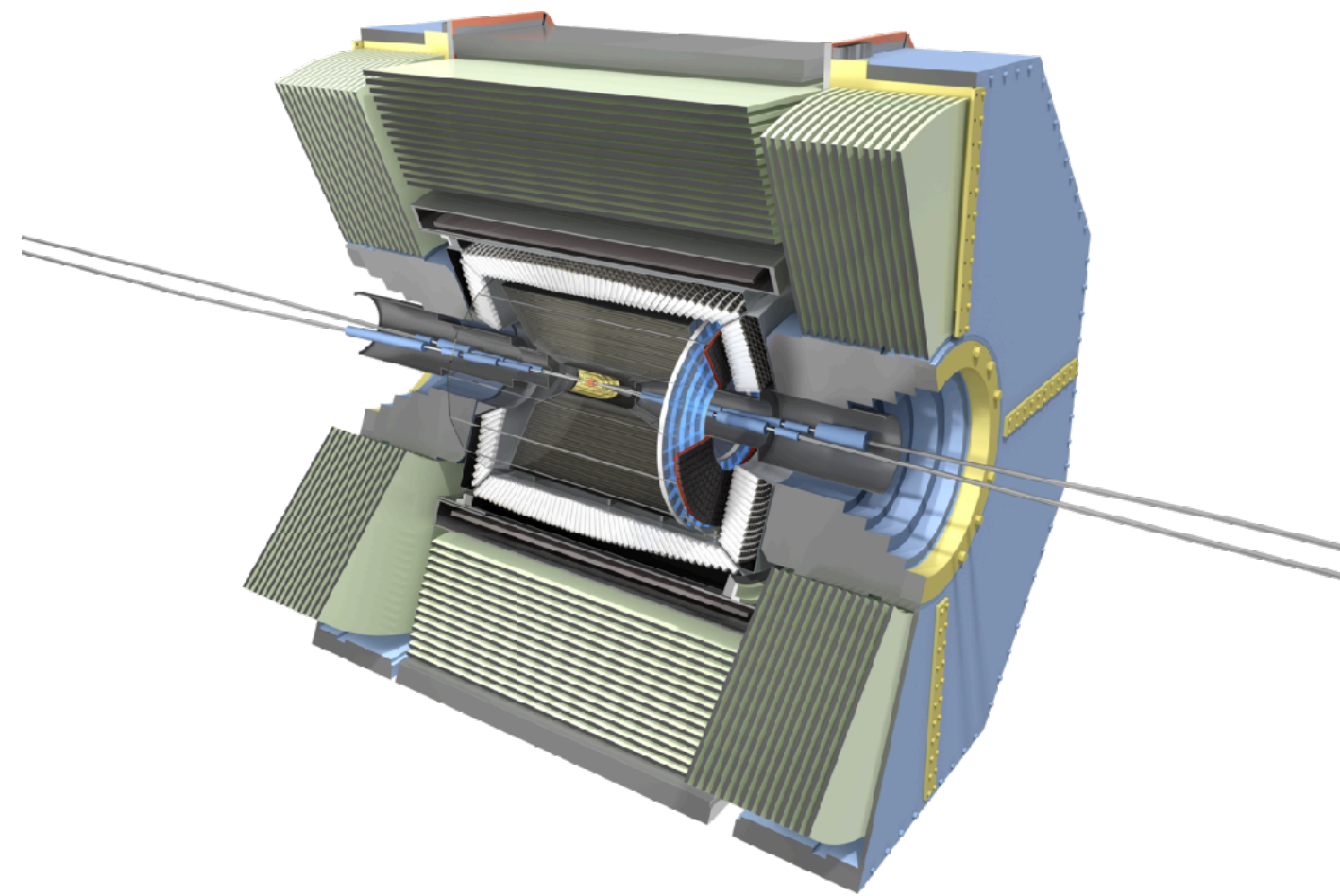


- 0.35-4 GeV, Belle II

$$B \rightarrow Ka$$

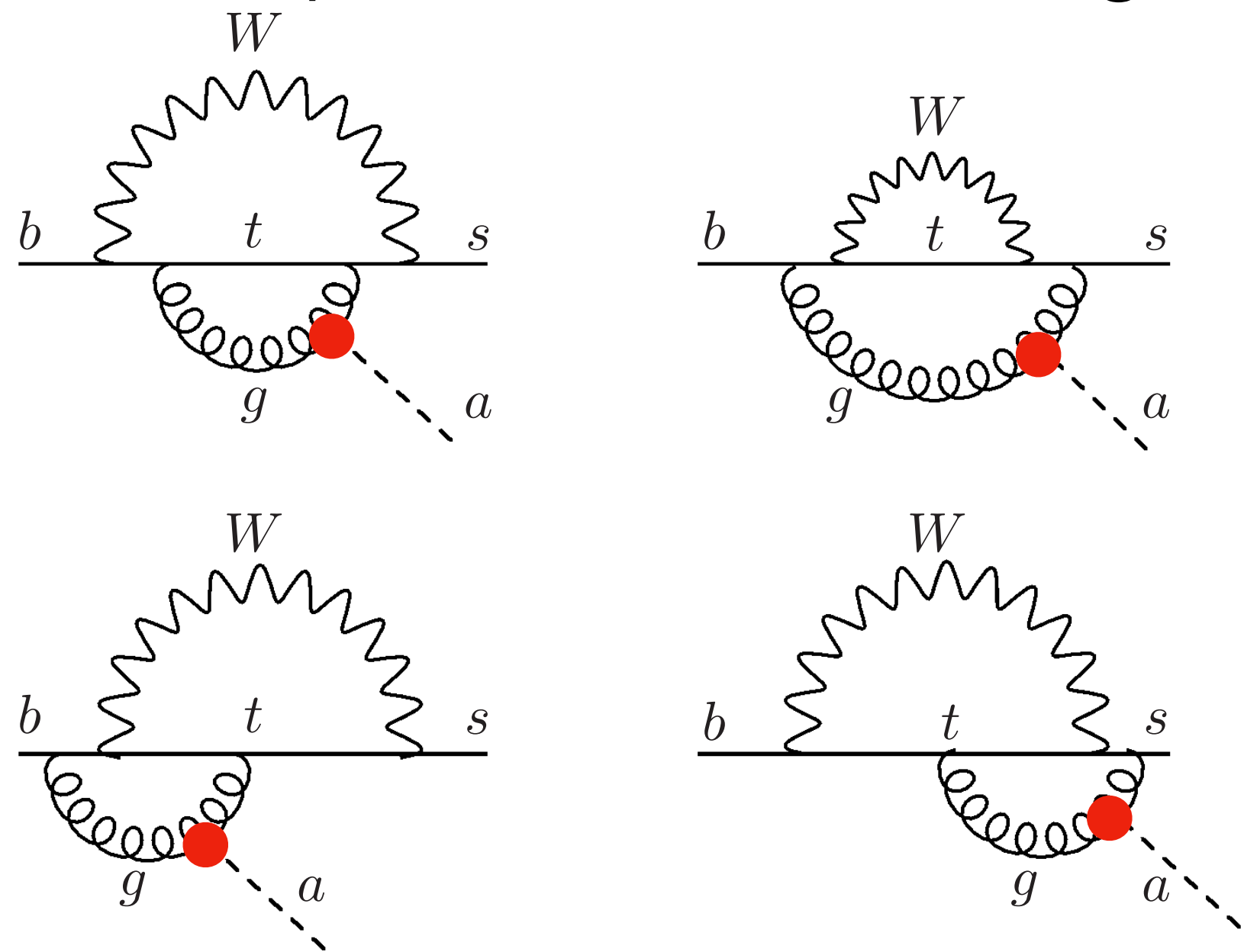
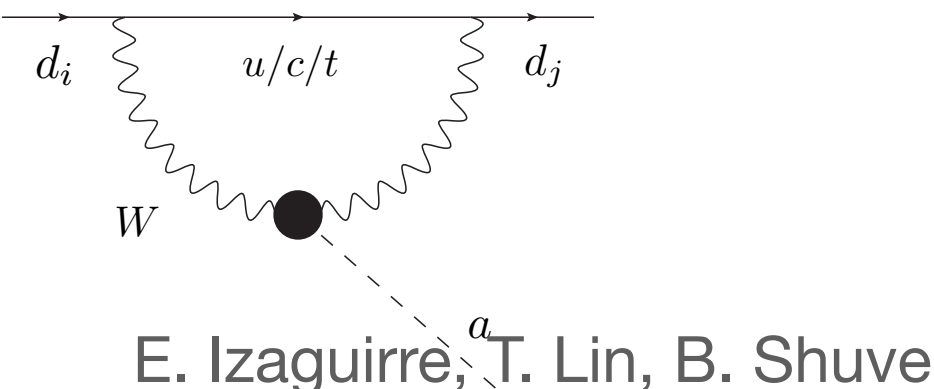


$B \rightarrow Ka$  for  $m_a \sim \text{GeV}$

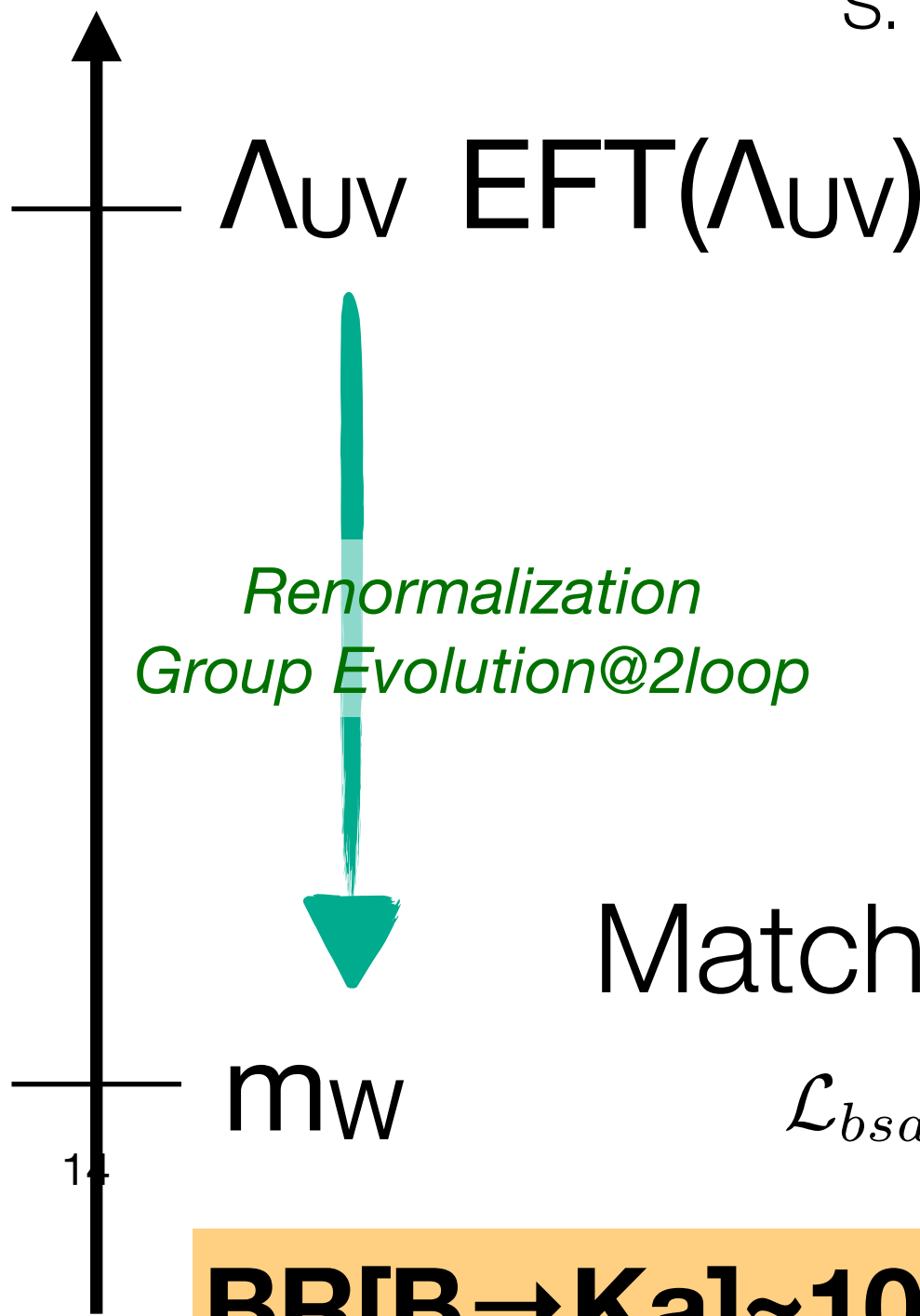


# Production rate of $B \rightarrow Ka$

- If the optional aWW coupling exists, there is 1-loop contribution [finite due to GLM, diverge at 2-loop].
- Robust production is from gluon coupling: leading is at 2-loop!



PRD 104 (2021) 055036  
S. Chakraborty, M. Kraus, V. Loladze, T. Okui, **KT**



$$\mathcal{O}_{gg} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu} ,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{qq} = \sum_q \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q ,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{bs} = \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{s}_L \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 b_L + \text{h.c.} .$$

Matching to weak-scale EFT @2loop

$$\mathcal{L}_{bsa} = C_W \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{s}_L \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 b_L$$

$$\text{BR}[B \rightarrow Ka] \sim 10^{-5} (f_a/100\text{GeV})^{-2}$$

Need 2-loop to generate  $b \rightarrow sa$  from aGG

- 1-loop QCD for aqq
- 1-loop with W-boson for flavor changing

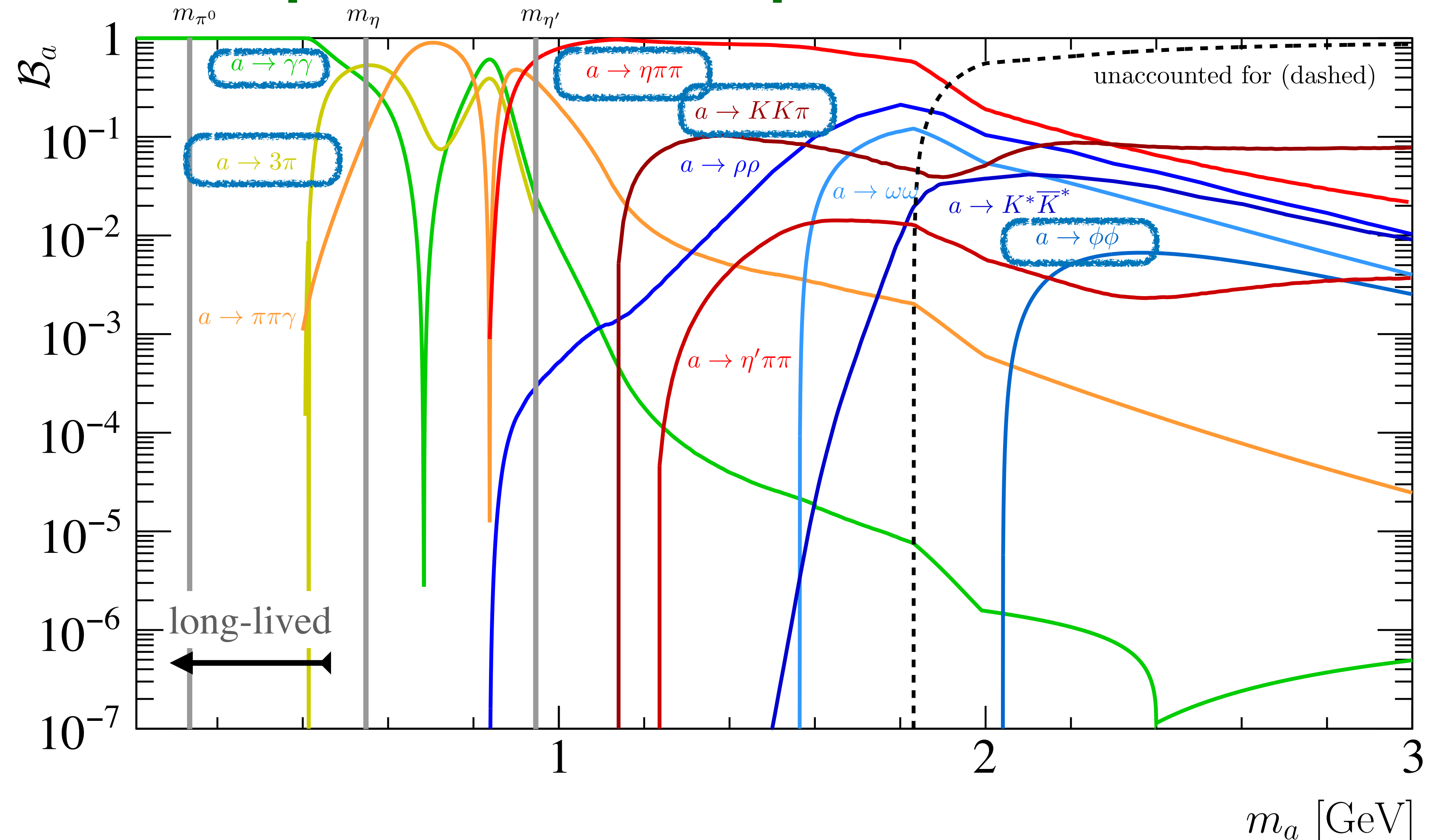
# Heavy QCD axion decay patterns

- Chiral perturbation theory,  $m_a < 1 \text{ GeV}$

[1811.03474, D. Aloni, Y. Soreq, M. Williams]

- Data-driven method,  $m_a \sim 1\text{-}2 \text{ GeV}$  [essential for  $B \rightarrow Ka$ ]

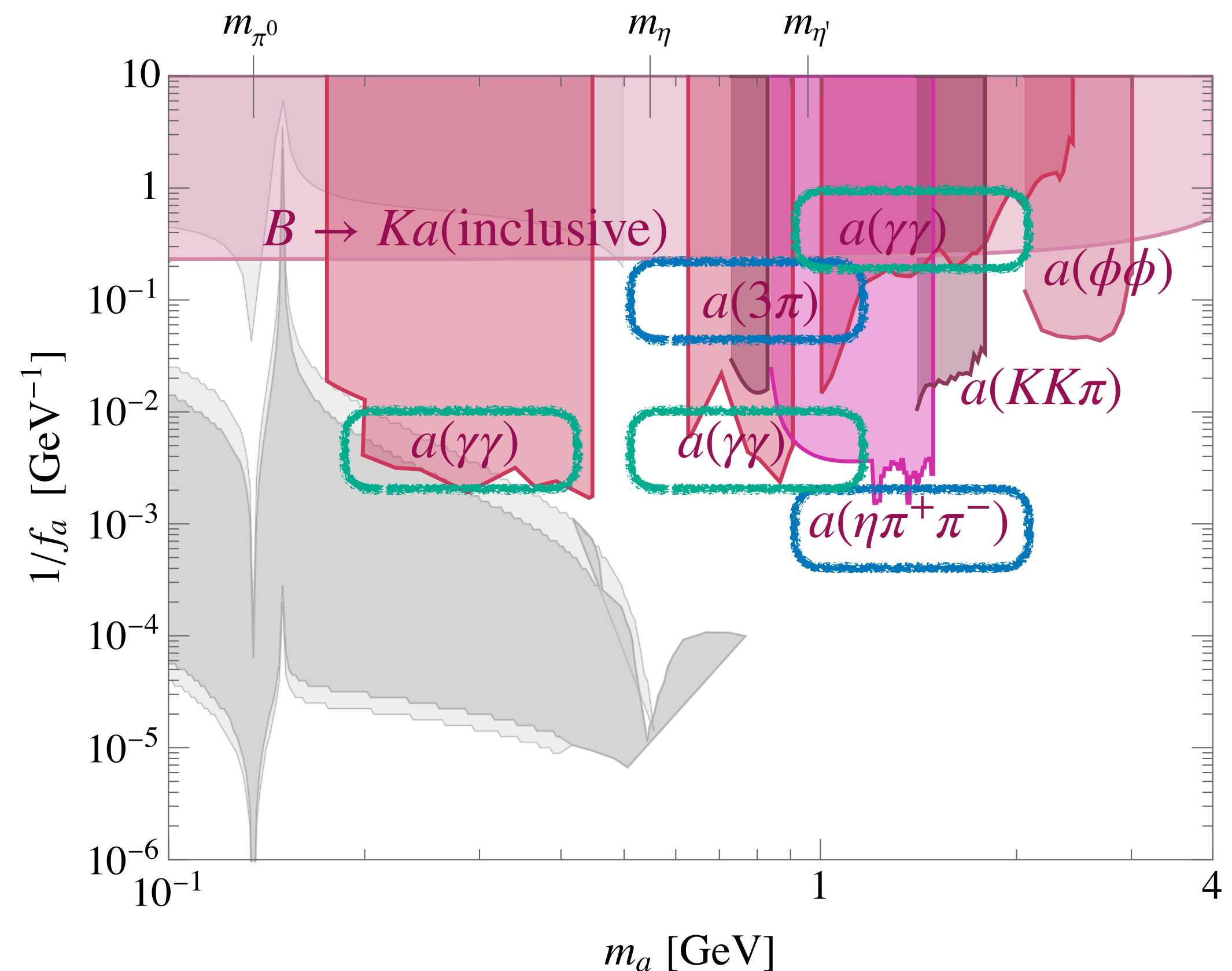
Axion-vector meson-vector meson



# Heavy QCD axion decay patterns

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Axion-vector meson-vector meson

- Recast  
Old (Babar) and new (Belle II) analyses  
 $B \rightarrow KX(\pi^0\pi^+\pi^-, \eta\pi^+\pi^-, KK\pi, \phi\phi, \gamma\gamma),$
- Need similar/dedicated analyses at Belle II  
Also new searches.



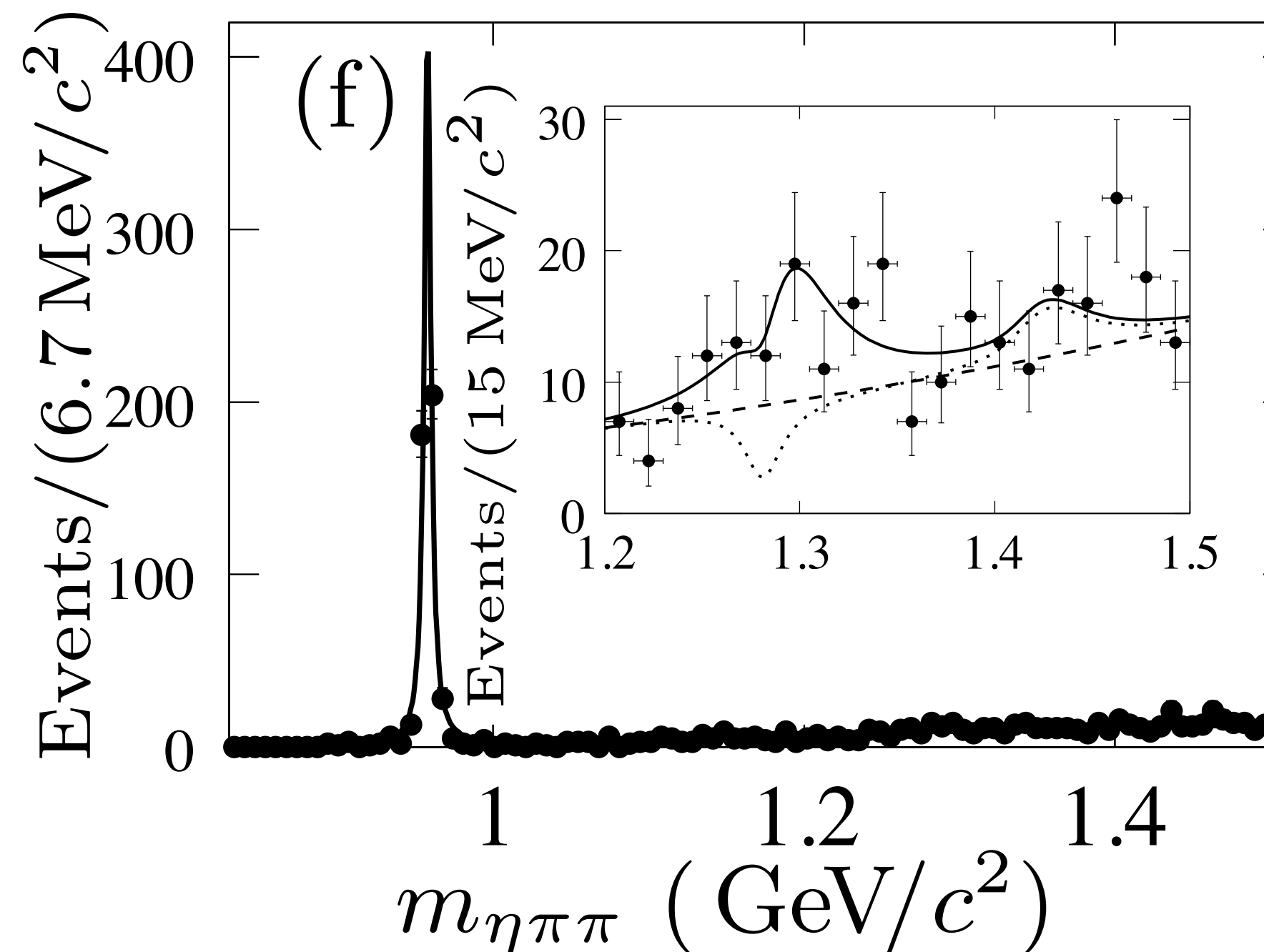


# Wish 2: $B \rightarrow Ka$ and $a \rightarrow \eta\pi\pi$

- **Babar** [0804.0411]  $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \eta_X (\rightarrow \eta\pi\pi)$  search

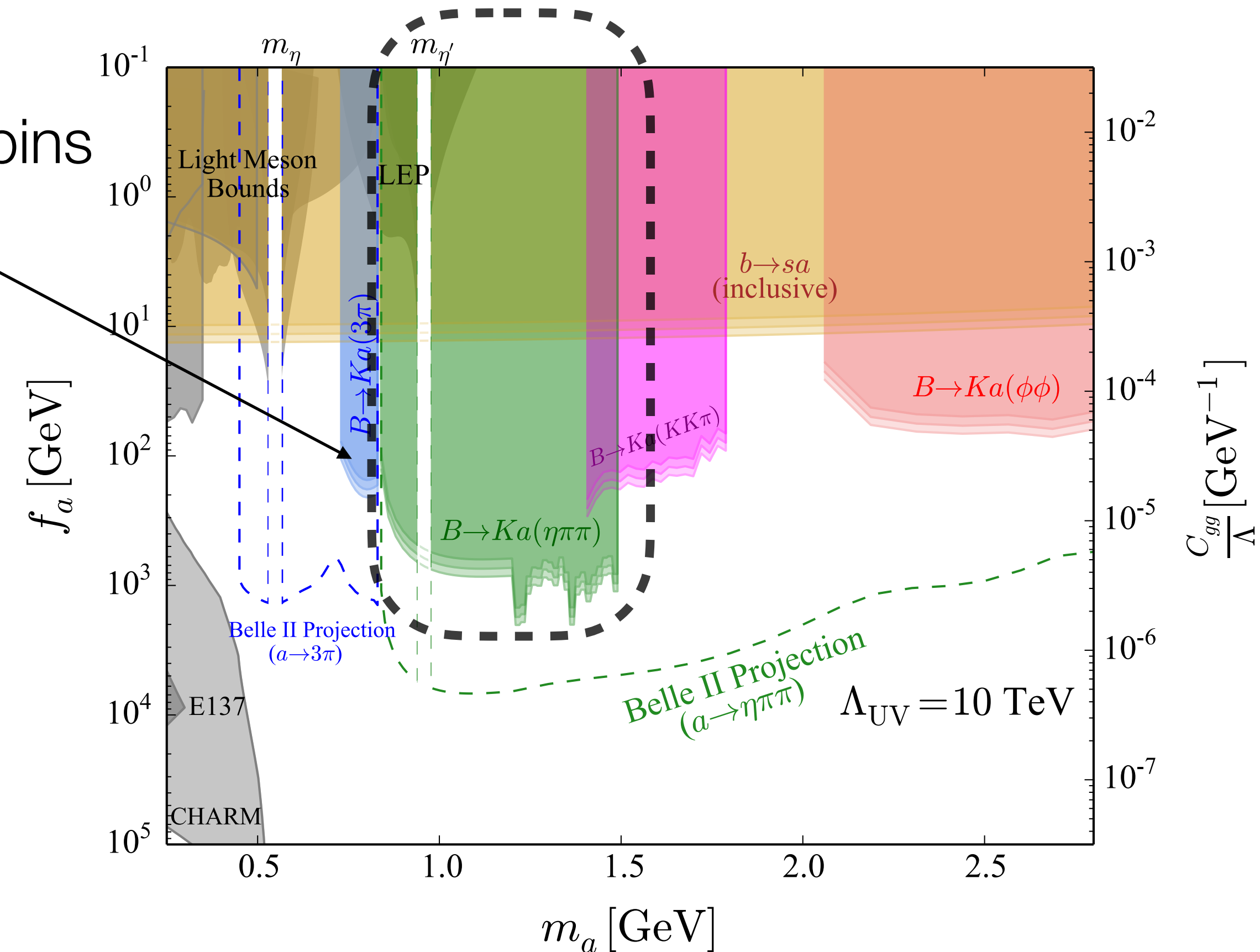
$3.9 \times 10^8 B\bar{B}$ ,  $0.85 \text{ GeV} < m_a < 1.5 \text{ GeV}$

- Take axion peak smearing same as  $\eta'$  peak  
require  $S < (D - B) + 2\sqrt{D}$  inside relevant 2 bins



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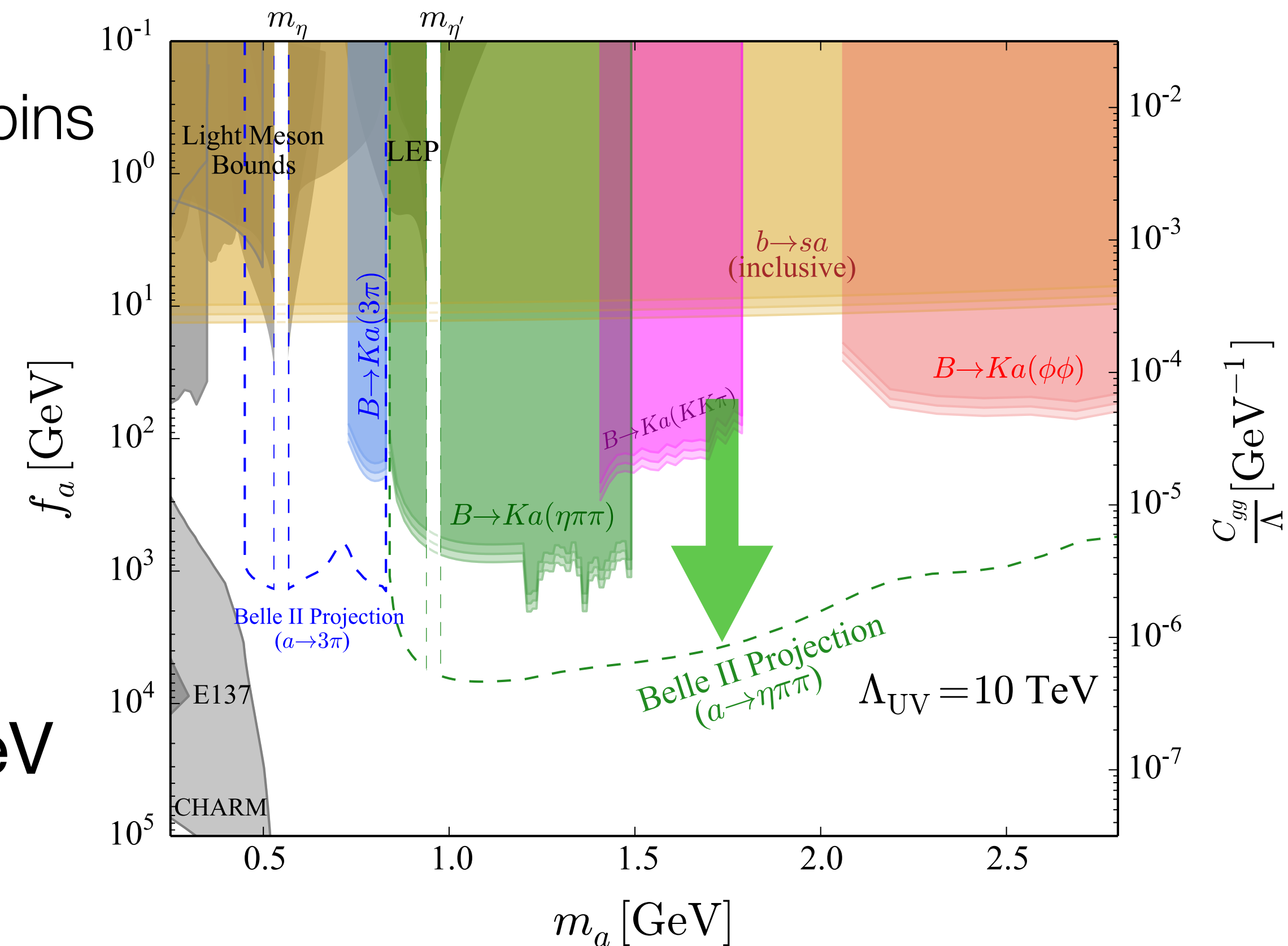
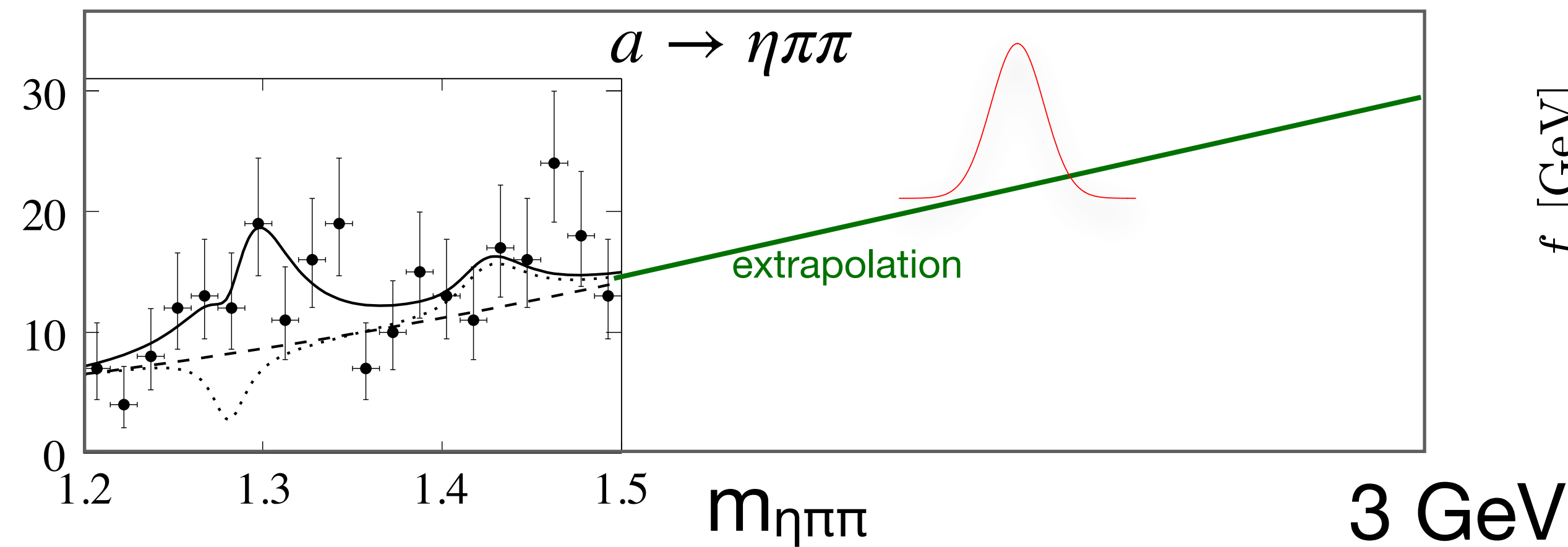
- **Babar** [0804.0411]  $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \eta_X (\rightarrow \eta\pi\pi)$  search

$3.9 \times 10^8 B\bar{B}$ ,  $0.85 \text{ GeV} < m_a < 1.5 \text{ GeV}$

- Take axion peak smearing same as  $\eta'$  peak  
require  $S < (D - B) + 2\sqrt{D}$  inside relevant 2 bins

PRD 104 (2021) 055036

S. Chakraborty, M. Kraus, V. Loladze, T. Okui, **KT**



# Wish 3: $B \rightarrow Ka$ , prompt/displaced $a \rightarrow 3\pi$

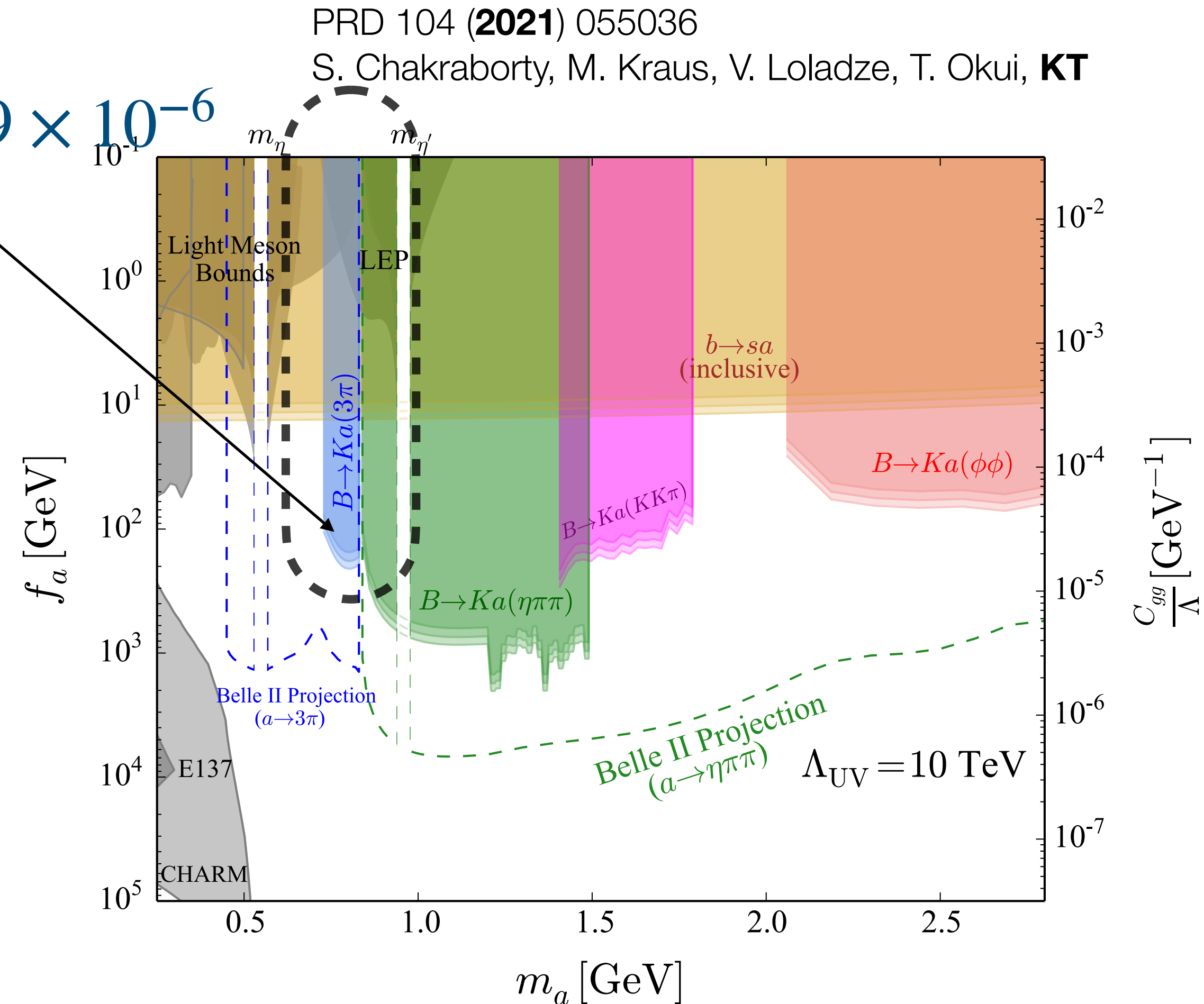
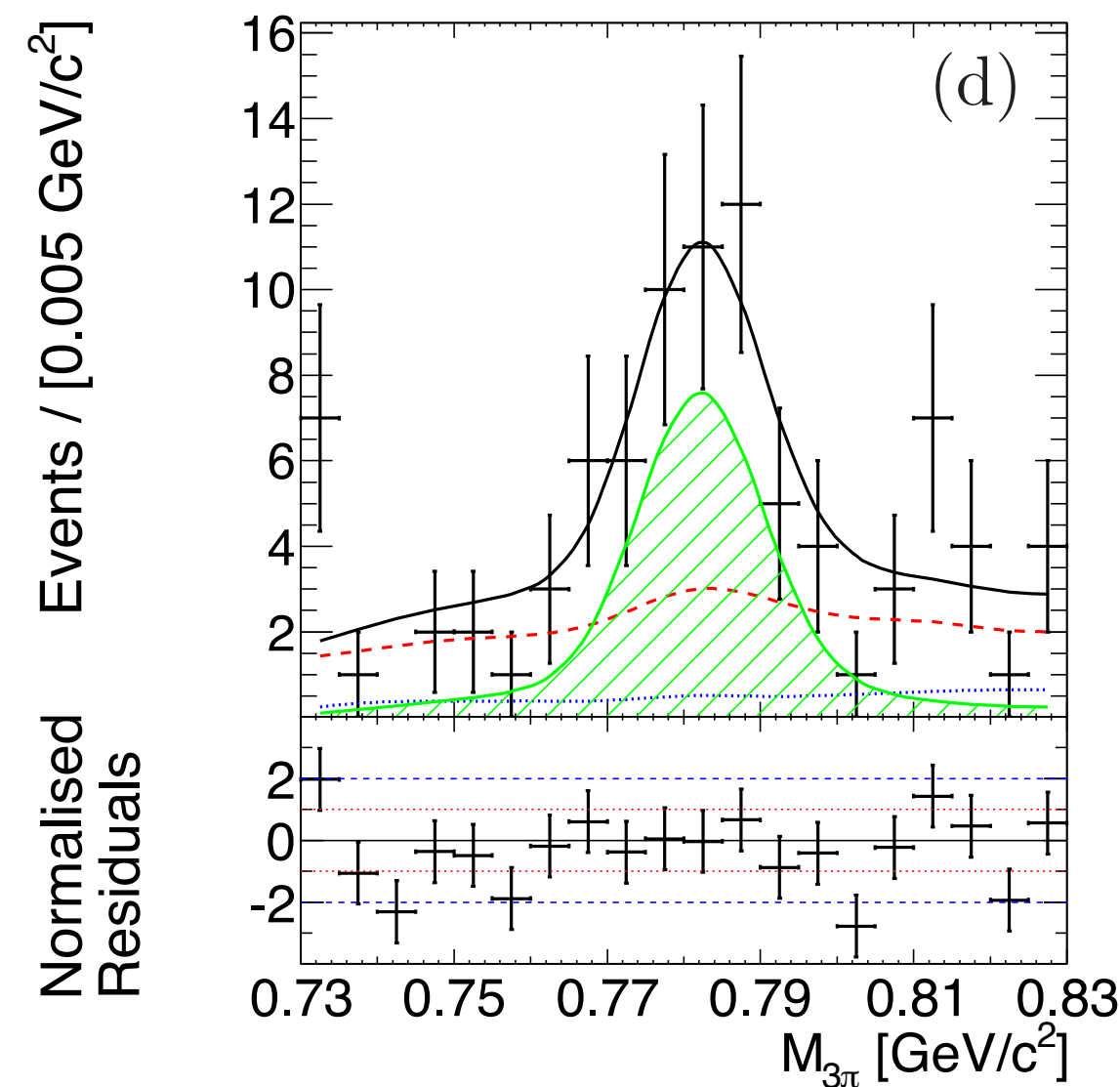
- Belle [1311.6666]  $B^{+,0} \rightarrow K^{+,0}\omega(\rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\pi^0)$  search

- $7.7 \times 10^8 B\bar{B}$  pairs,  $0.73 \text{ GeV} < m_a < 0.83 \text{ GeV}$

$\Rightarrow$  Recast  $\text{BR}(B^0 \rightarrow K^0 a, a \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\pi^0) < 4.9 \times 10^{-6}$

PRD 104 (2021) 055036

S. Chakraborty, M. Kraus, V. Loladze, T. Okui, **KT**



# Wish 3: $B \rightarrow Ka$ , prompt/displaced $a \rightarrow 3\pi$

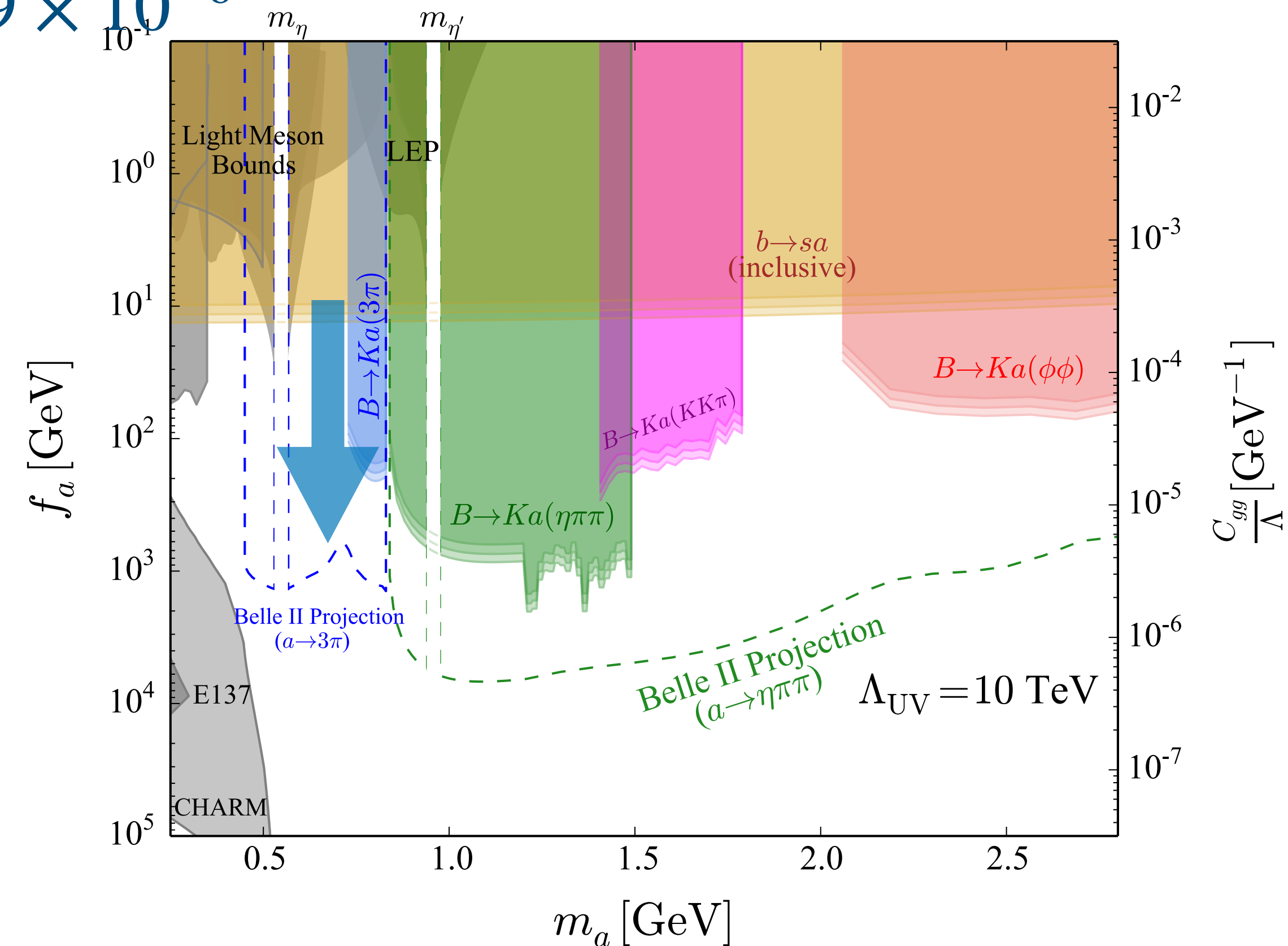
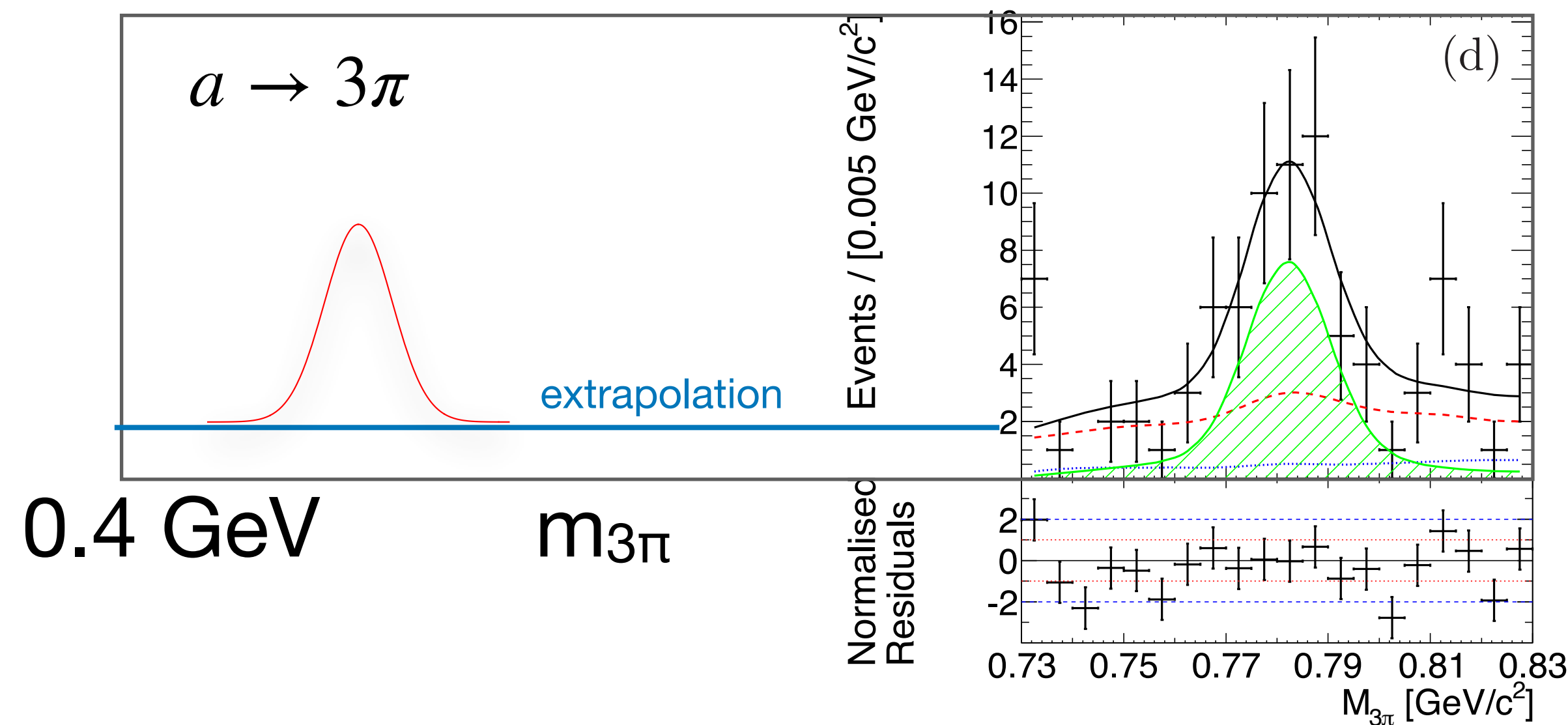
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PRD 104 (2021) 055036

S. Chakraborty, M. Kraus, V. Loladze, T. Okui, **KT**



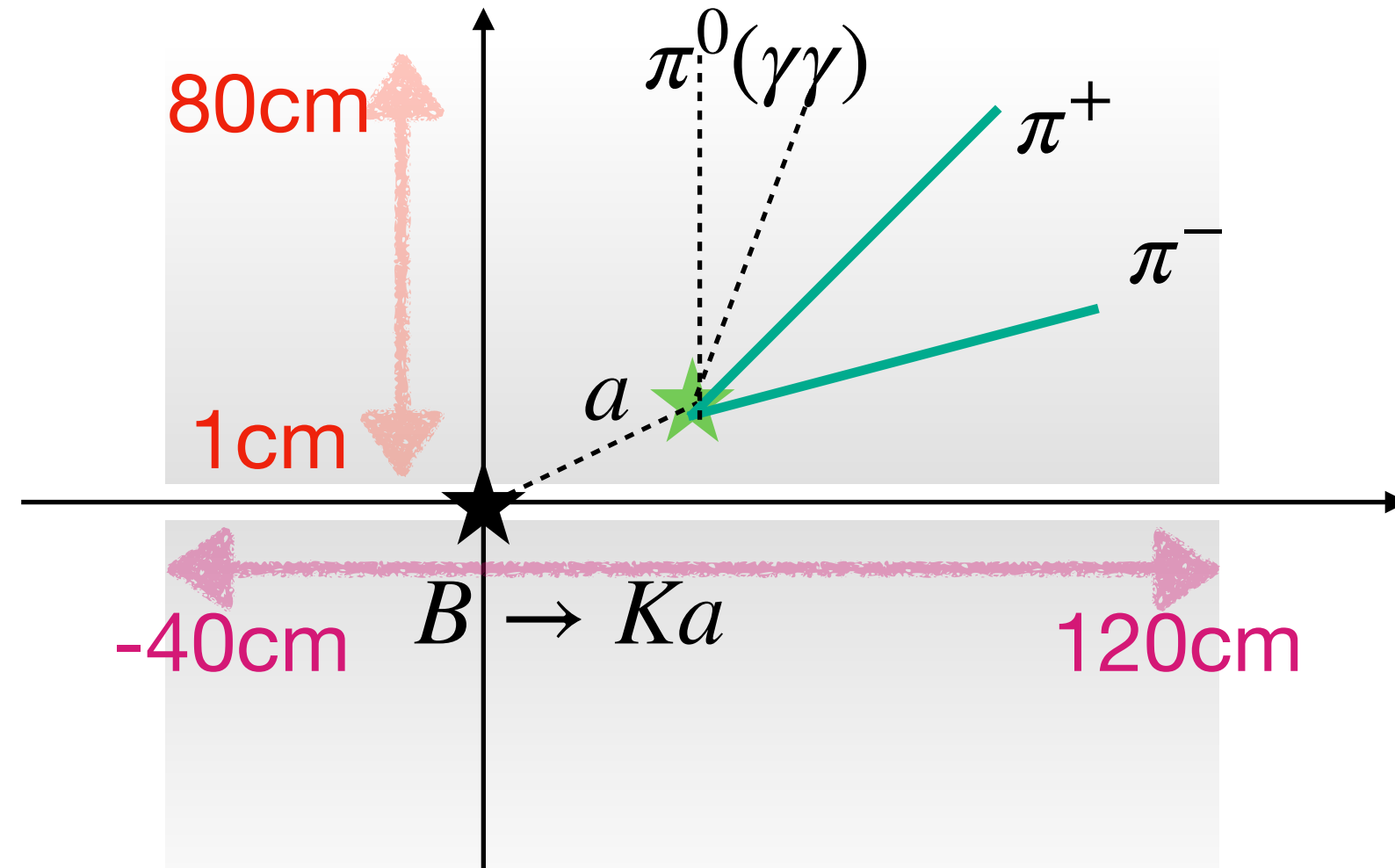


# Wish 3: $B \rightarrow Ka$ , prompt/displaced $a \rightarrow 3\pi$

- **Displaced decay** is also possible because 2 charged pions reconstruct vertex.

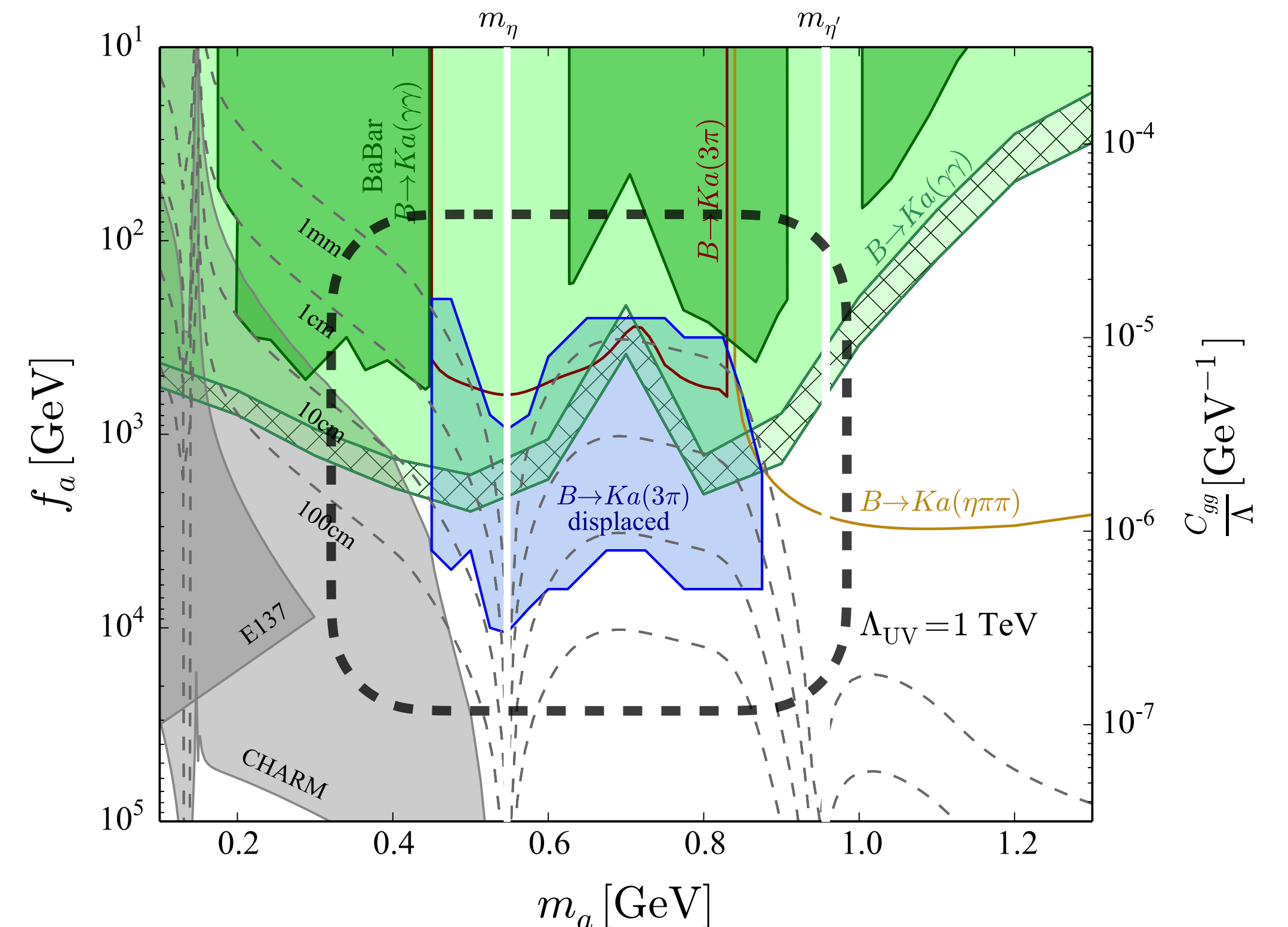
- **Very low background due to >1cm DV.**

$$B \rightarrow KK^*(\rightarrow \pi^0 K_L, K_L \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$$



Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022) L071701

E. Bertholet, S. Chakraborty, V. Loladze, T. Okui, A. Soffer, **KT**

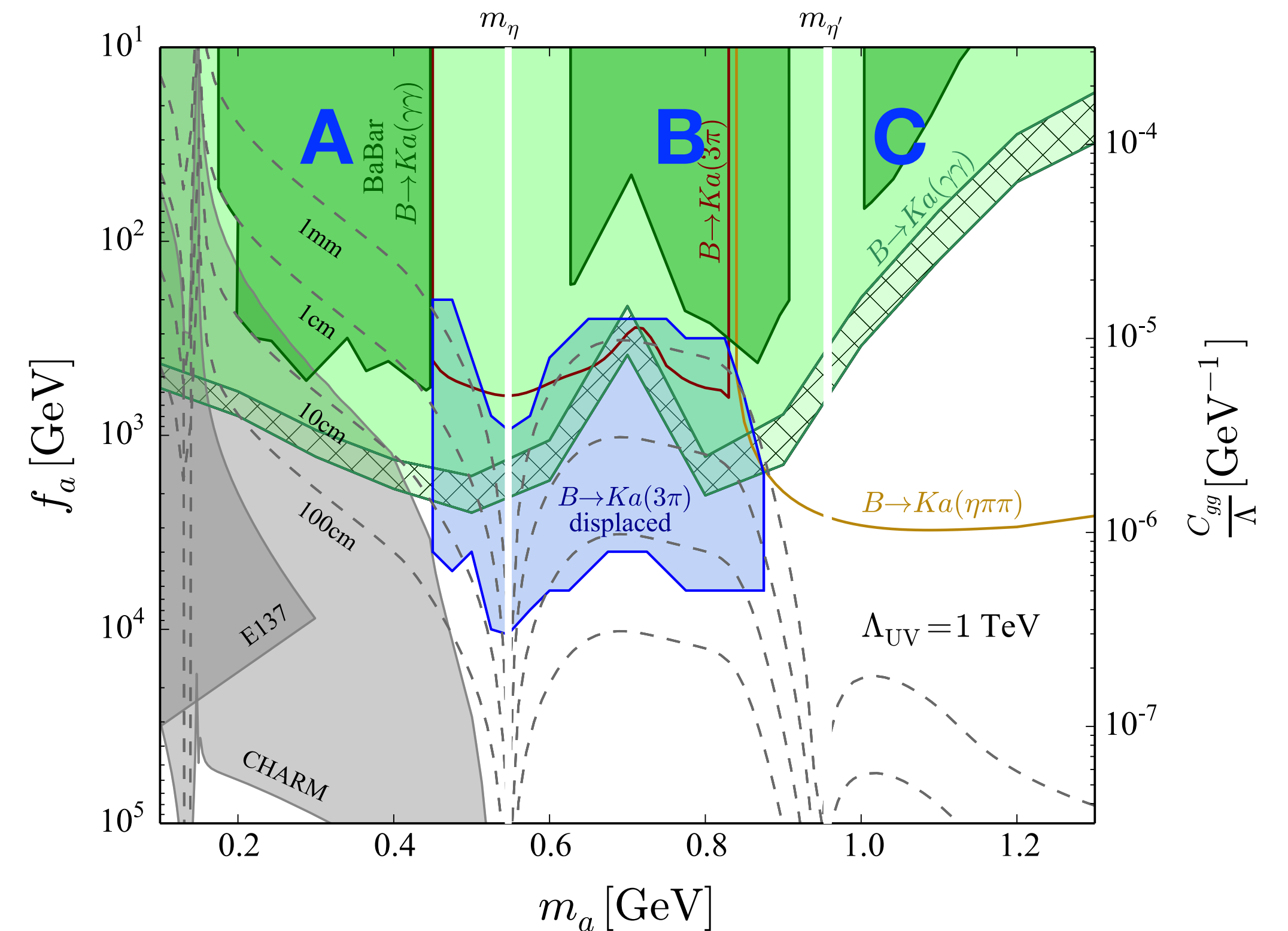
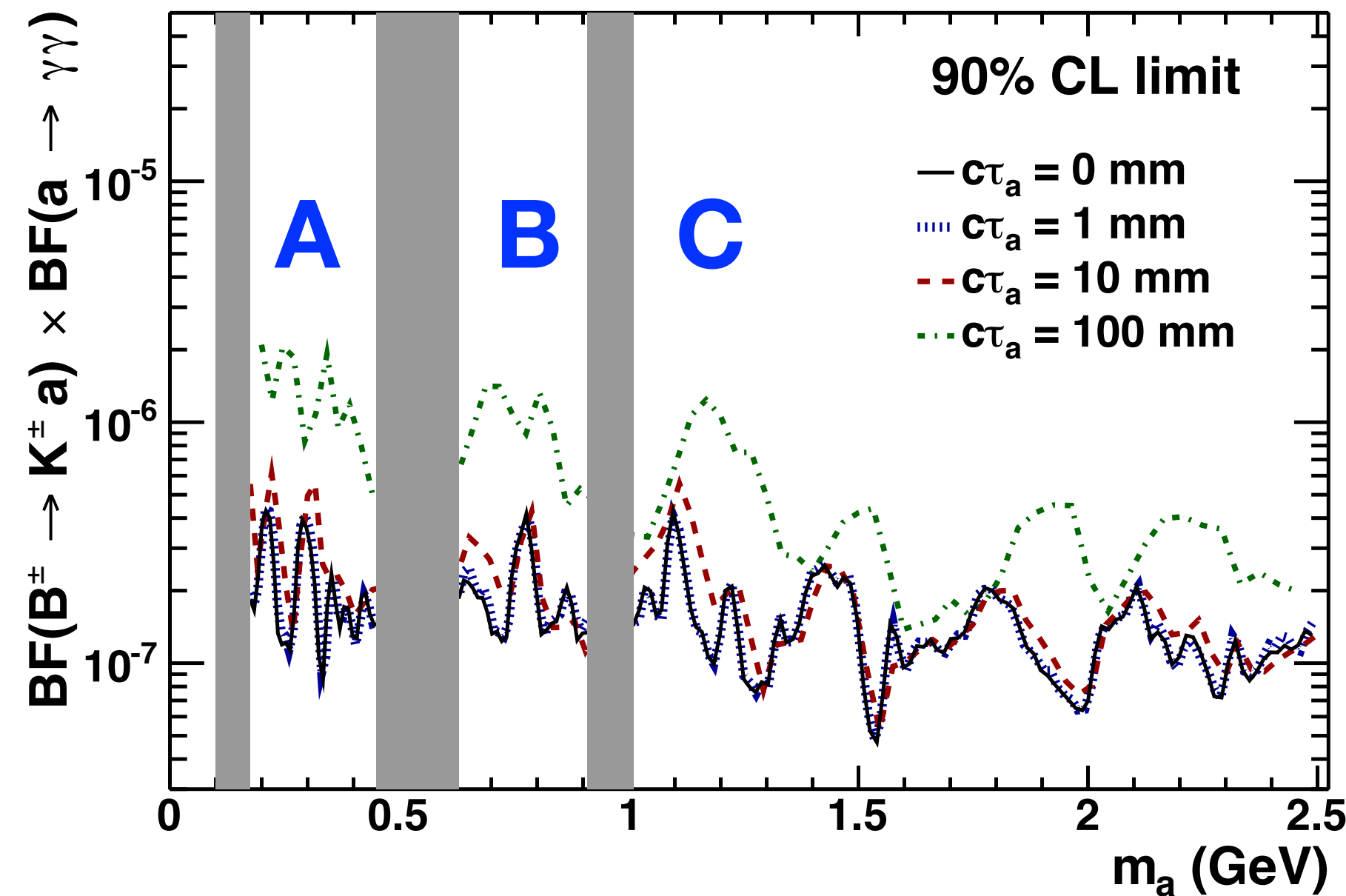


# Wish 4: $B \rightarrow Ka$ and $a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

- Babar [2111.01800] (B. Shuve) dedicated ALP search. Reinterpret.
- Same/better analysis can be done at Belle II.

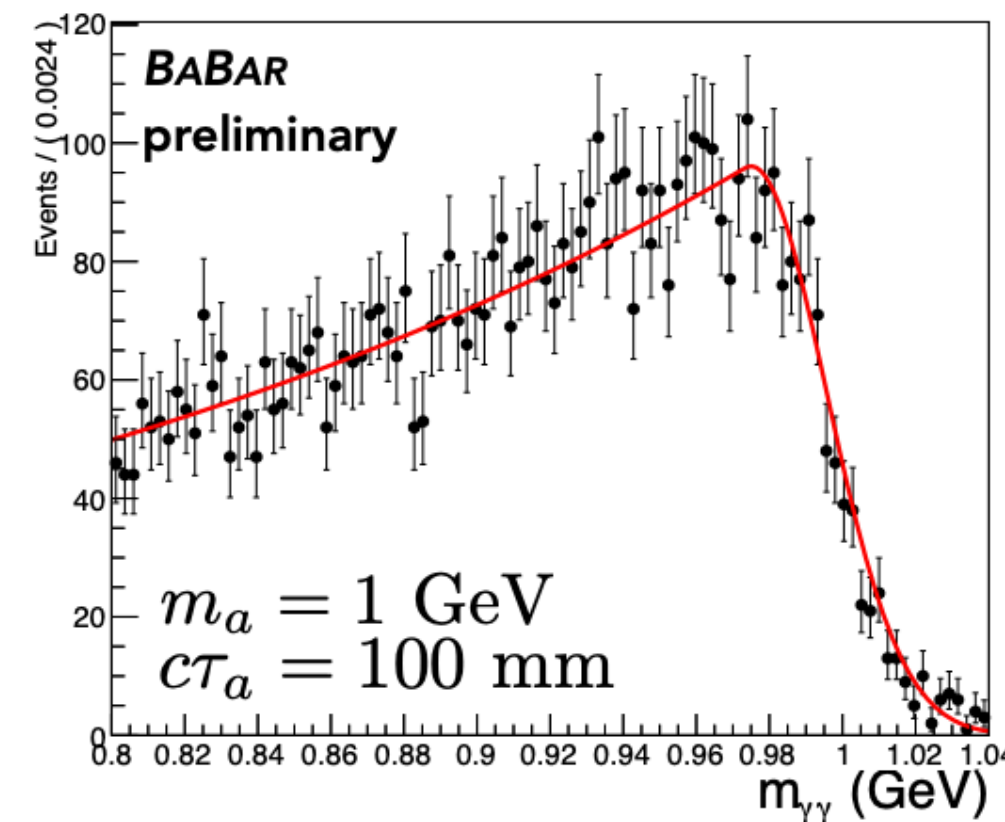
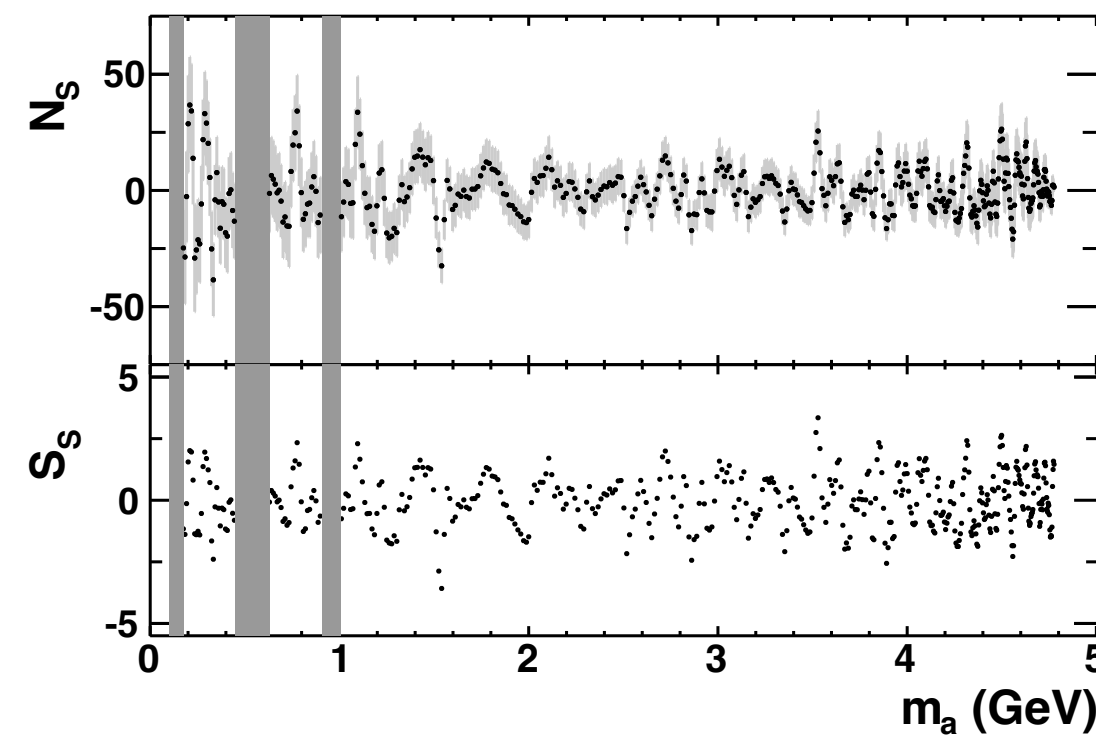
Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022) L071701

E. Bertholet, S. Chakraborty, V. Loladze, T. Okui, A. Soffer, **KT**



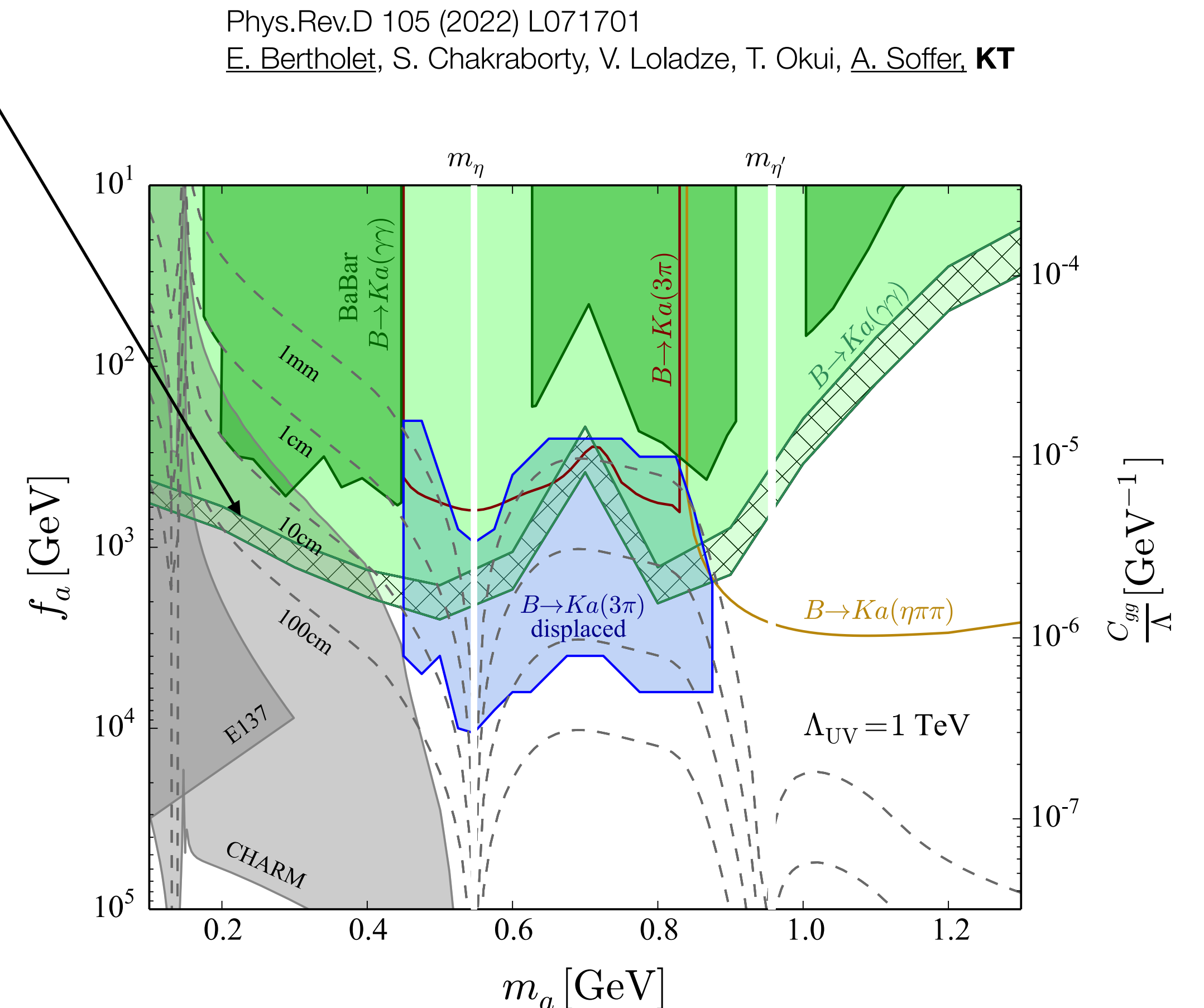
# Wish 4: $B \rightarrow Ka$ and $a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

- For long-lived axion distribution smeared, mesons and axion don't overlap. Gap regions can be covered.



<https://indico.cern.ch/event/868940/contributions/3814877/>

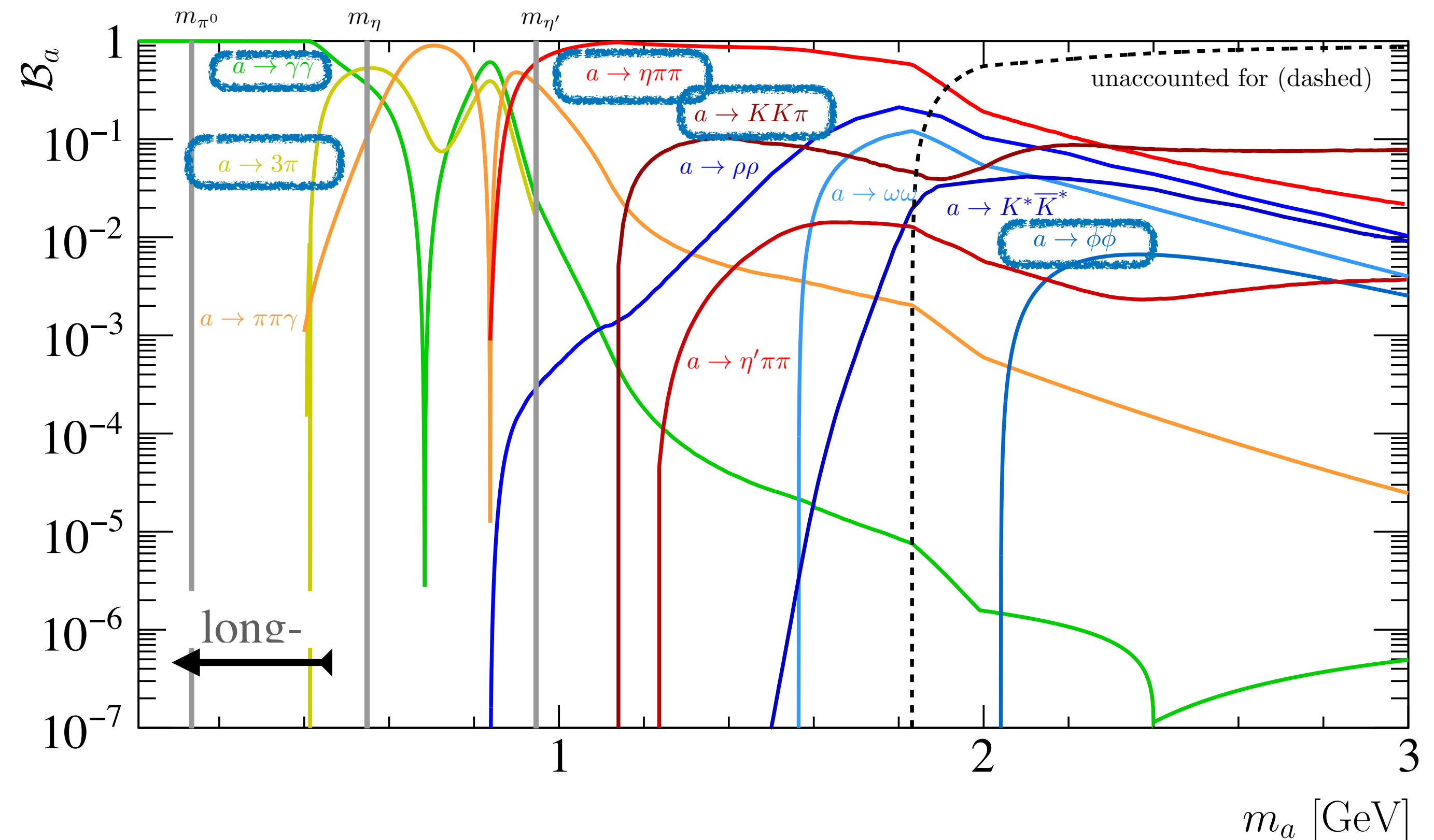
- Further improvement [2311.01837]  
NA62  $K \rightarrow \pi a$  with long-lived  $a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ .  
Basically look at  $(p_{K^+} - p_{\pi^+})^2$  not  $m_{\gamma\gamma}^2$   
Report signal efficiency as  $f(\tau_a)$ .



# Wish 5: $B \rightarrow Ka, a \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$

- **Exclusive BR** calculation is unstable for  **$m_a > 2\text{GeV}$**   
but **inclusive mode** can be used. Similar to  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon \rightarrow \gamma a (\rightarrow \text{hadrons})$

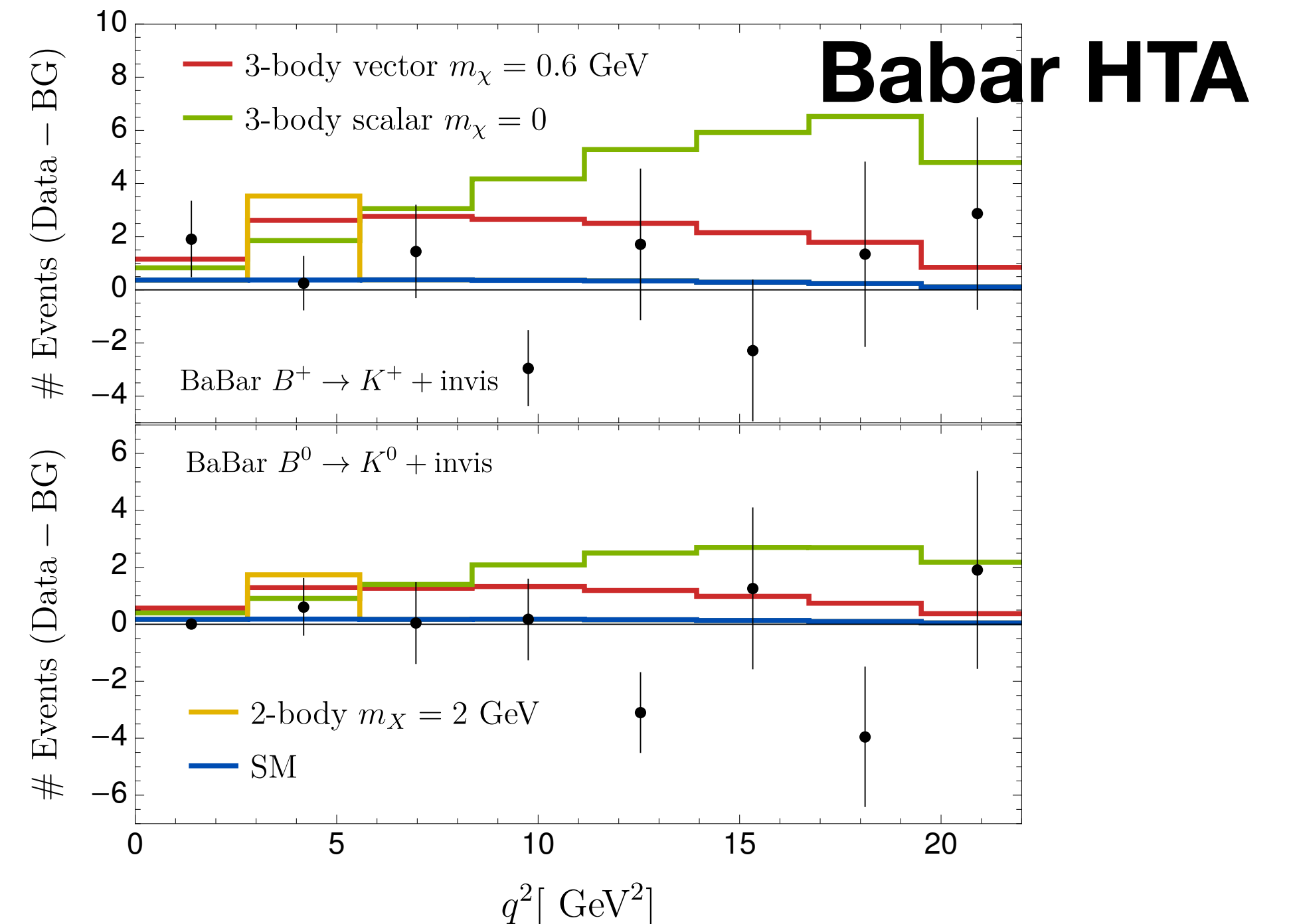
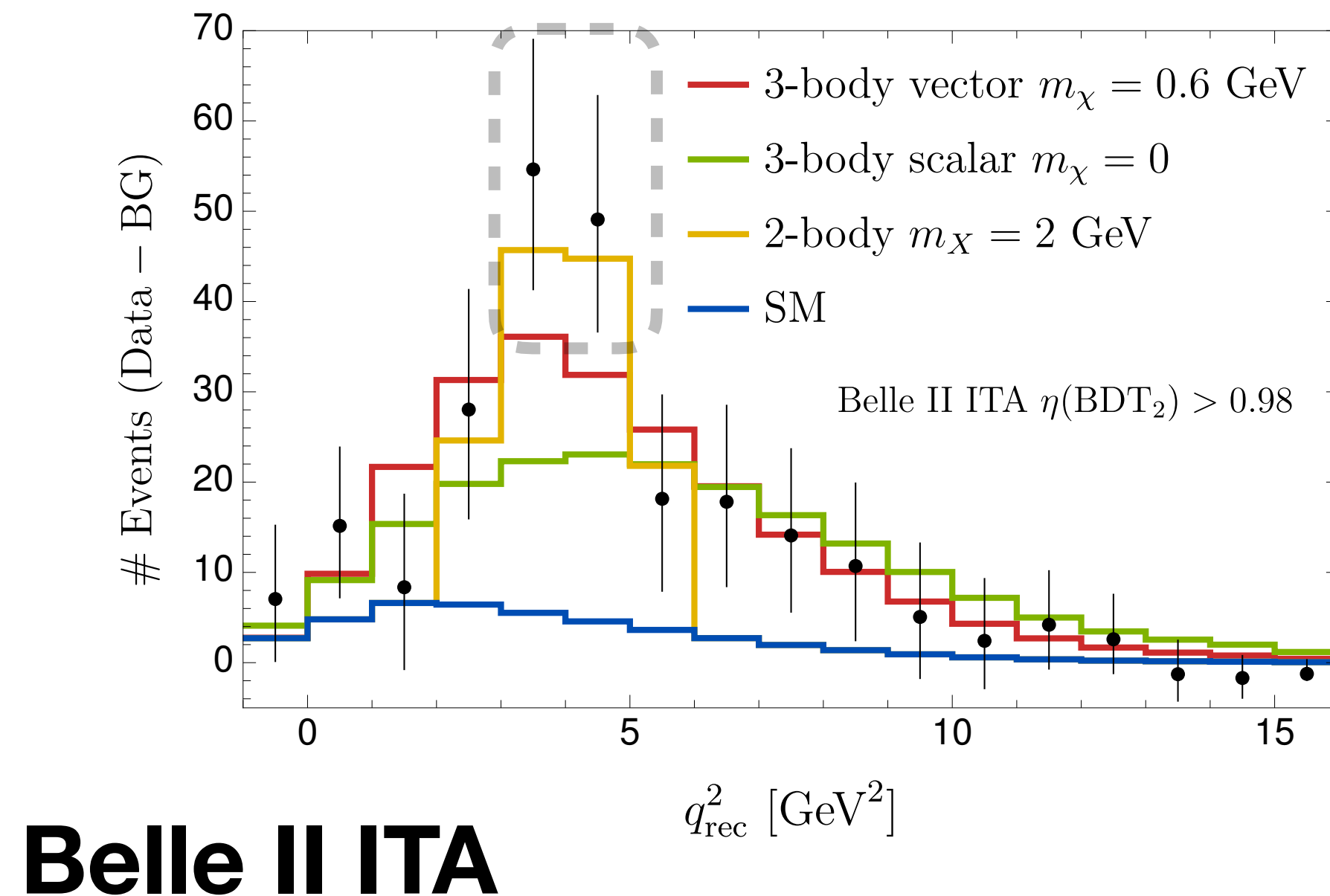
- Mass reach  $\sim 4\text{ GeV}$
- Sensitivity ??





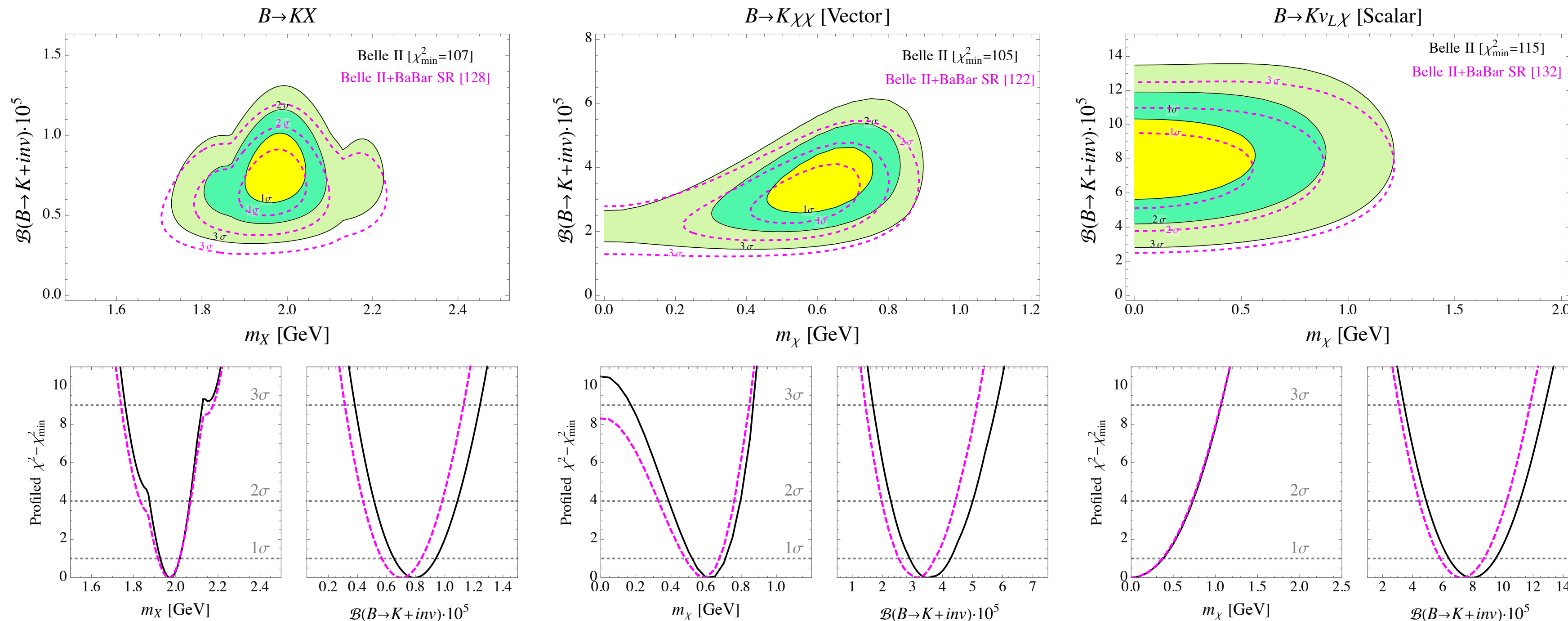
# Excess in $B \rightarrow K + \text{inv}$ and inclusive tagging

- Latest **Belle II** data shows an excess around  $m_{\text{inv}} \sim 2 \text{ GeV}$  [2311.14647]
- With only this data 3-body decay (vector current) and 2-body are reasonable.
- But combining past Babar analysis disfavors 2-body kinematics.



# Excess in $B \rightarrow K + \text{inv}$ and inclusive tagging

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- With only this data 3-body decay (vector current) and 2-body are reasonable.
- But combining past Babar analysis disfavor 2-body kinematics.



$\chi^2_{\min} - 100$	2b	V	V'	S	T	SM
Belle II	6.8	15.2	4.7	15.1	11.9	44.6
+ BaBar SR	27.6	30.4	22.1	31.8	29.8	61.0
+ BaBar $s_B < 0.8$	73.3	78.8	72.9	90.2	86.9	106.7

K. Fridell, M. Ghosh, T. Okui, **KT** ('23)

# Summary

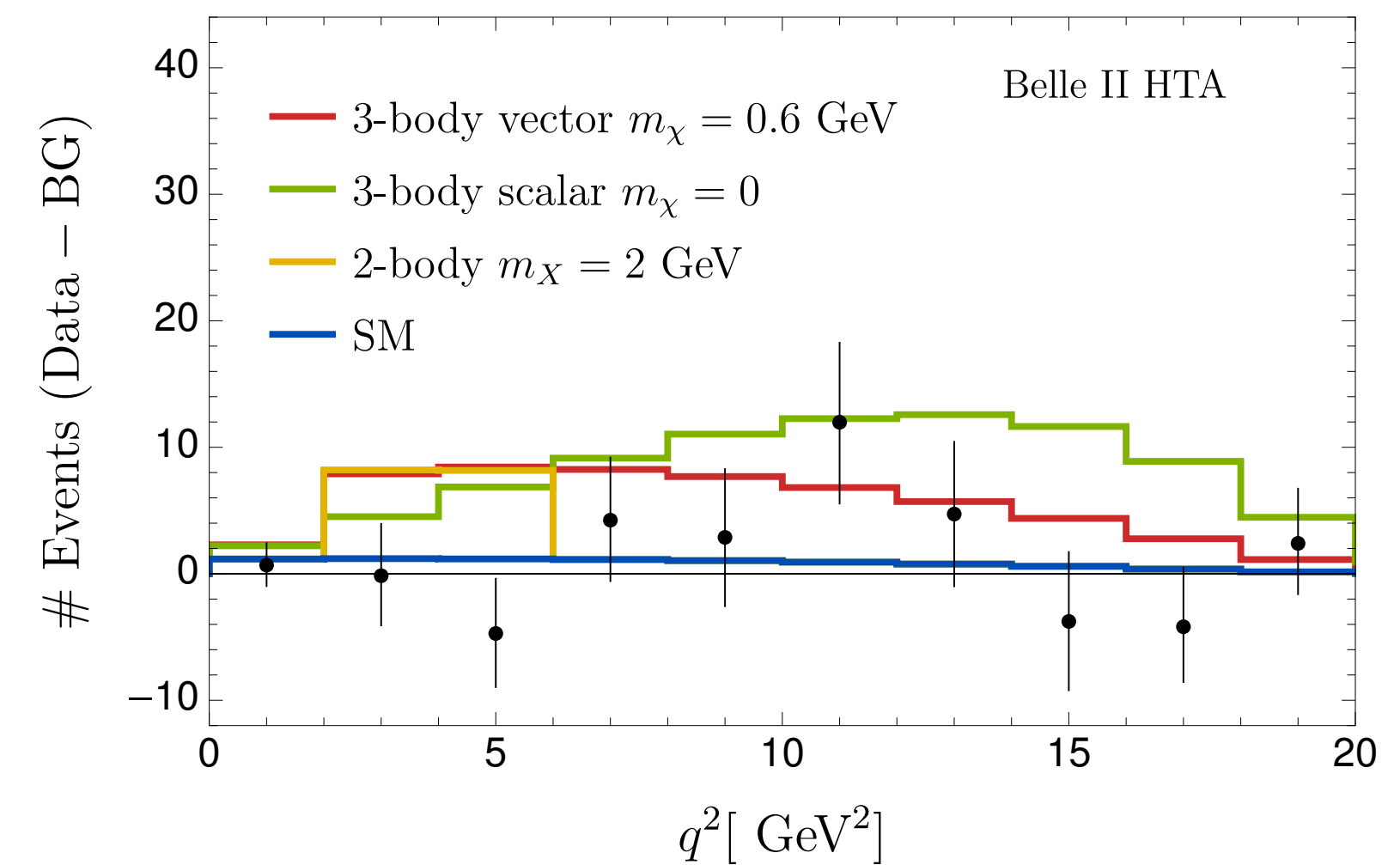
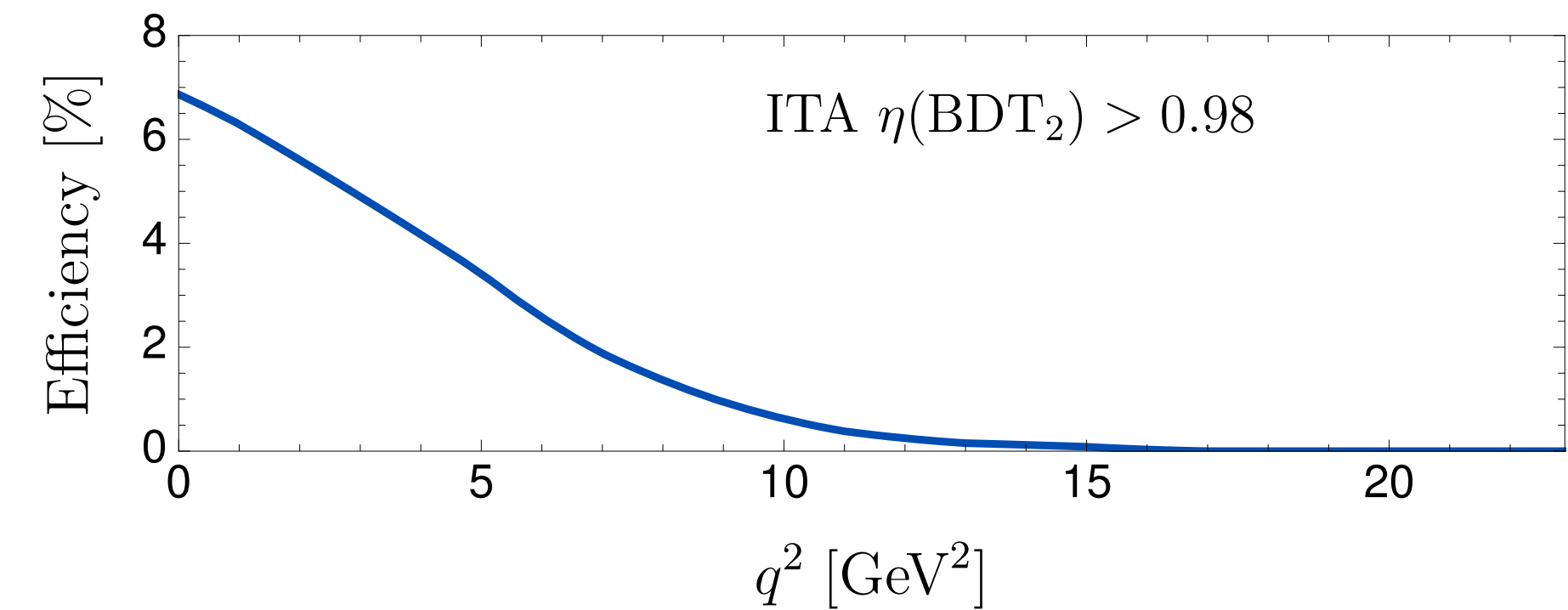
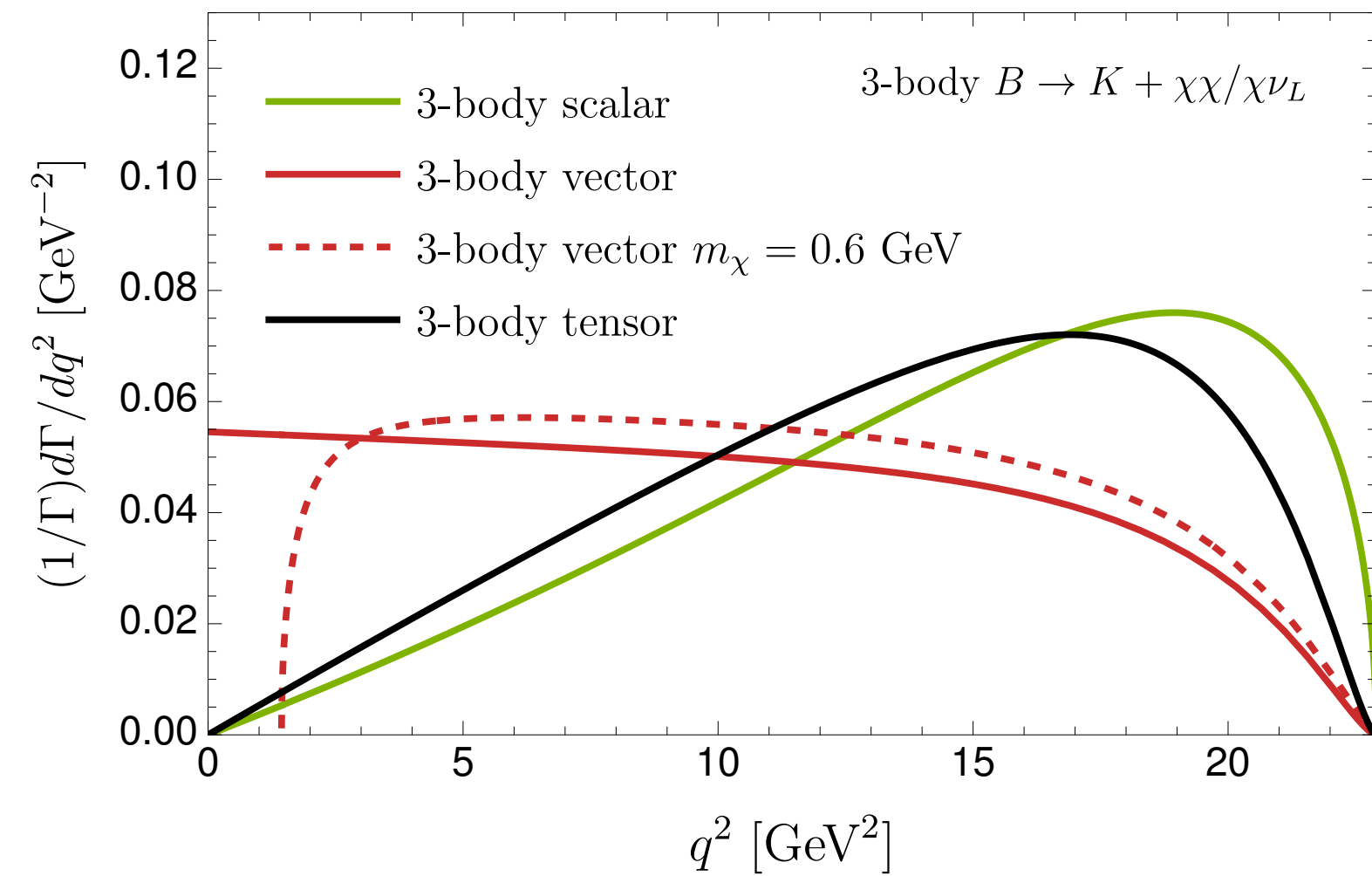
- Unique possibilities to probe Heavy QCD axion @ Belle II based on **hadrons**.
- Wishlist
  1.  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon \rightarrow \gamma a, a \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$  [previous work: Babar recast]
  2.  $B \rightarrow Ka, a \rightarrow \eta\pi\pi$  [Babar recast]
  3.  $B \rightarrow Ka, a \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$  prompt [Belle recast] / displaced [new]
  4.  $B \rightarrow Ka, a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  [Babar dedicated analysis, possible to improve further]
  5.  $B \rightarrow Ka, a \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$  [new]
- CP even scalar  $\rightarrow \pi\pi, KK$  would be interesting too.

**Thank you!**



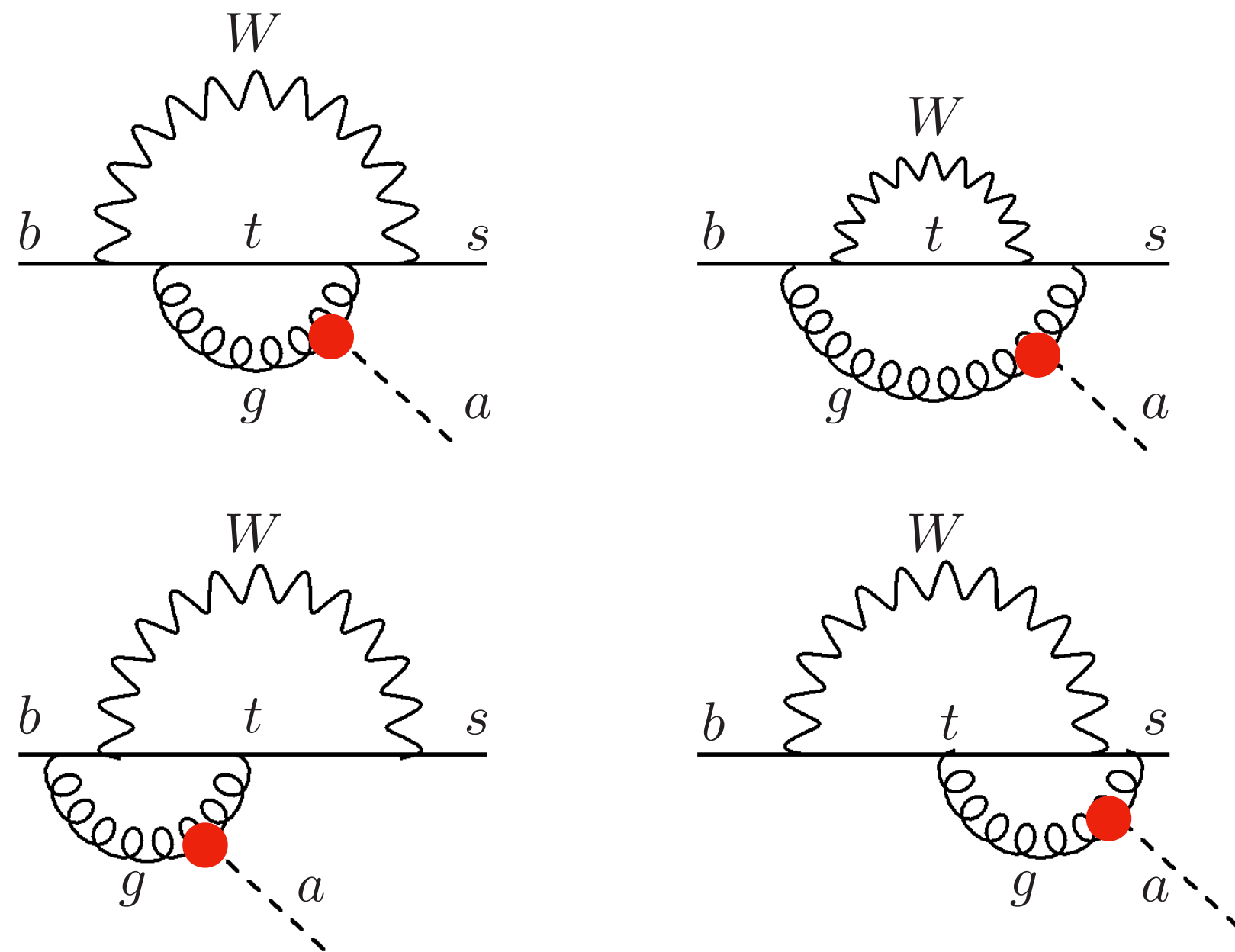
# Backup

# Excess in $B \rightarrow K + \text{inv}$ and inclusive tagging



# Two-loop calculation from the EFT

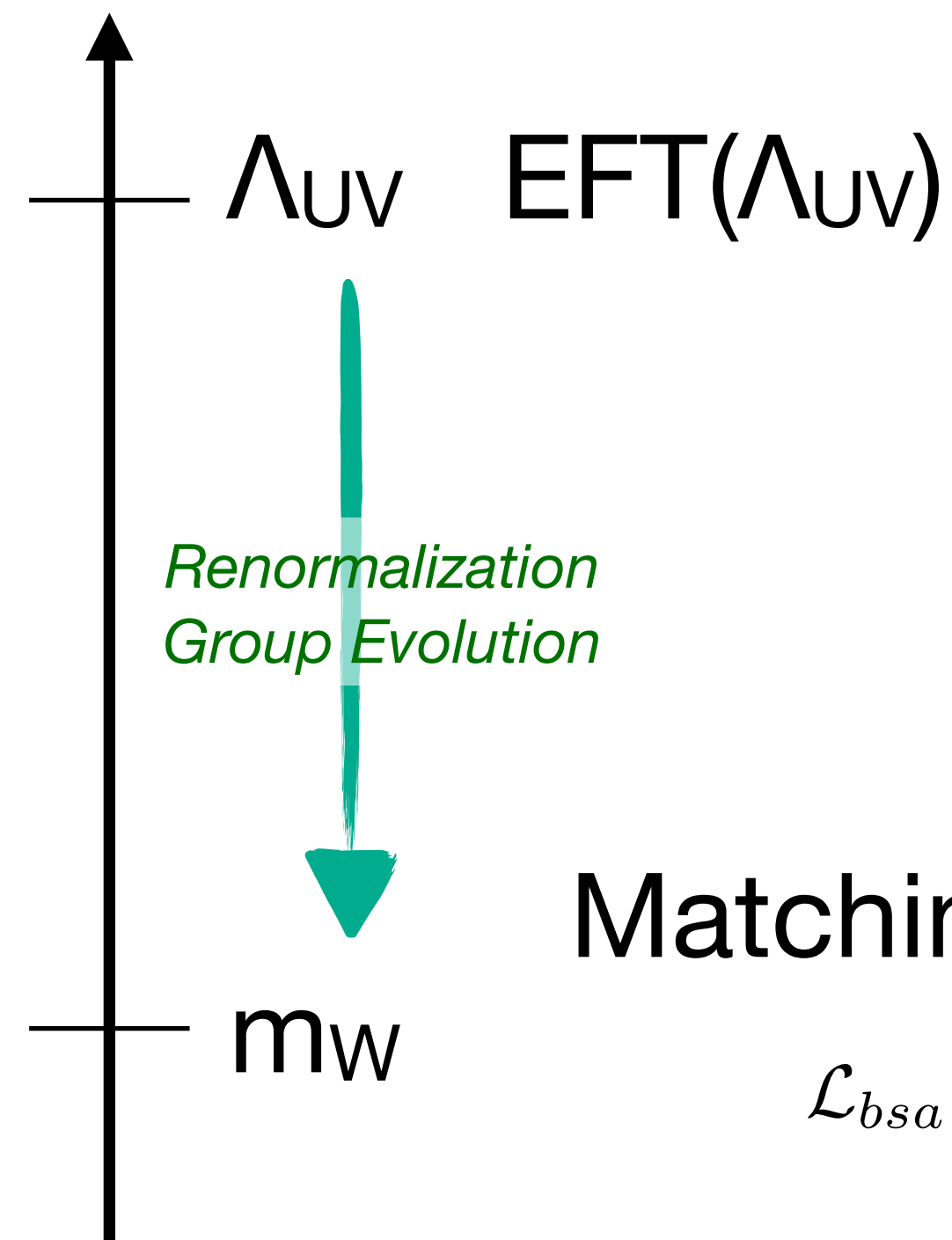
*\*two-loop is the leading order!*



Need 2-loop to generate  $b \rightarrow sa$  from aGG

- 1-loop QCD for aqq
- 1-loop with W-boson for flavor changing

Previous estimate: Ref[Yotam, etc]



$$\mathcal{O}_{gg} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu},$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{qq} = \sum_q \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{bs} = \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{s}_L \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 b_L + \text{h.c.}$$

Matching to *weak-scale EFT* @2loop

$$\mathcal{L}_{bsa} = C_W \frac{\partial_\mu a}{f_a} \bar{s}_L \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 b_L$$

RGE is essential  $C_W \sim \frac{\alpha_w}{4\pi} \left( \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^2 V_{tb} V_{ts}^* \frac{m_t^2}{m_W^2} \ln[\Lambda_{UV}^2/M_W^2]$

Two boundary conditions at  $\Lambda_{UV}$

1. Size of  $\Lambda_{UV}$  ( $> 4\pi f_a$ )  $\rightarrow$  require  $\Lambda_{UV} > \text{TeV}$
2. Size of  $C_{qq}(\Lambda_{UV}), C_{bs}(\Lambda_{UV}) \rightarrow$  fix as big as the counter term

# Axion Production Rate from $B \rightarrow Ka$

$$\Gamma_{B \rightarrow Ka} = |C_W|^2 \frac{m_B^3}{64\pi f_a^2} \left(1 - \frac{m_K^2}{m_B^2}\right)^2 \lambda_{Ka} [f_0(m_a^2)]^2$$

our result

- Form factor

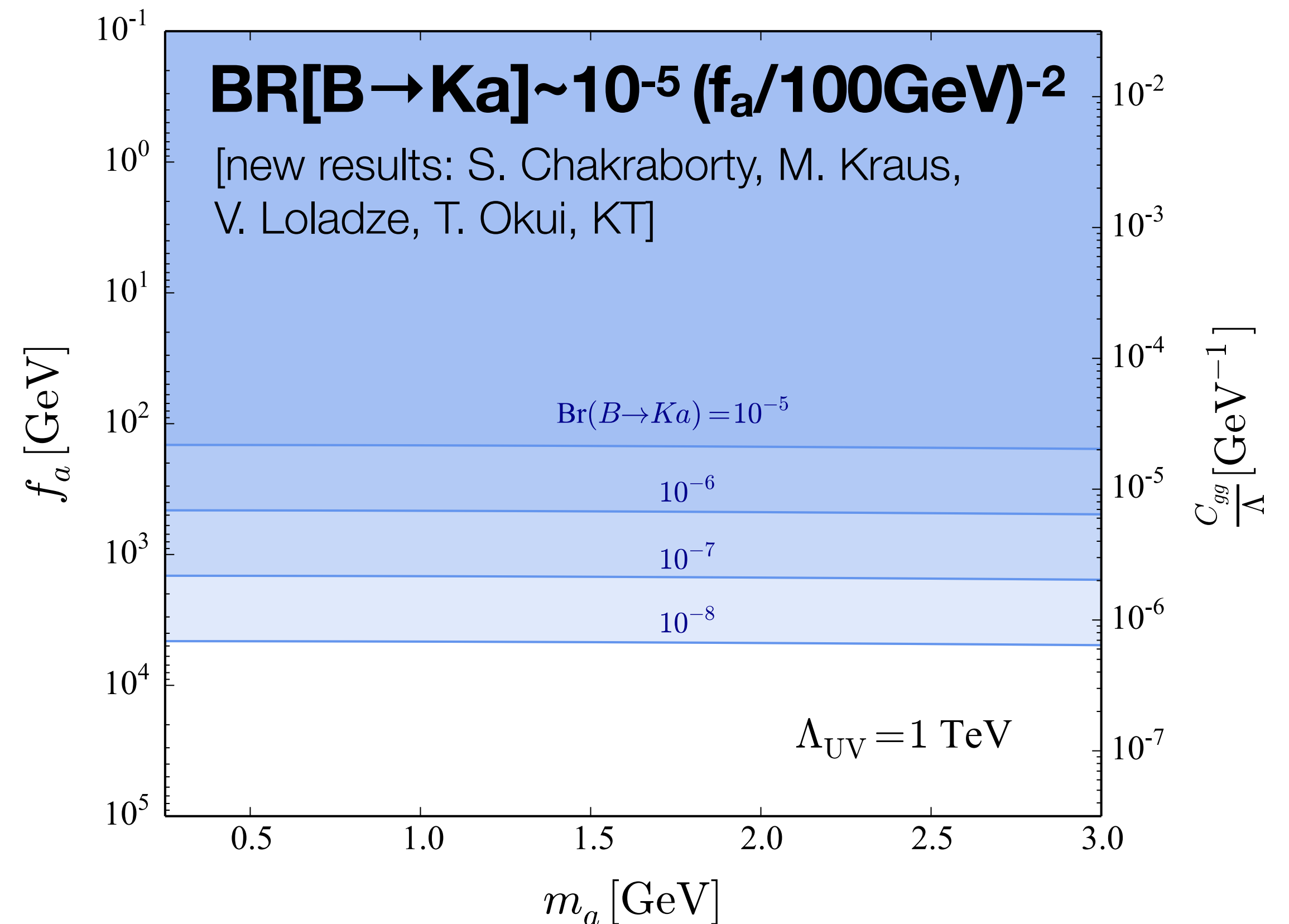
$$f_0(m_a^2) = \frac{0.330}{1 - m_a^2/37.5 \text{ GeV}^2}$$

- Phase space

$$\lambda_{Ka} = \left[ \left(1 - \frac{(m_K + m_a)^2}{m_B^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{(m_K - m_a)^2}{m_B^2}\right) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

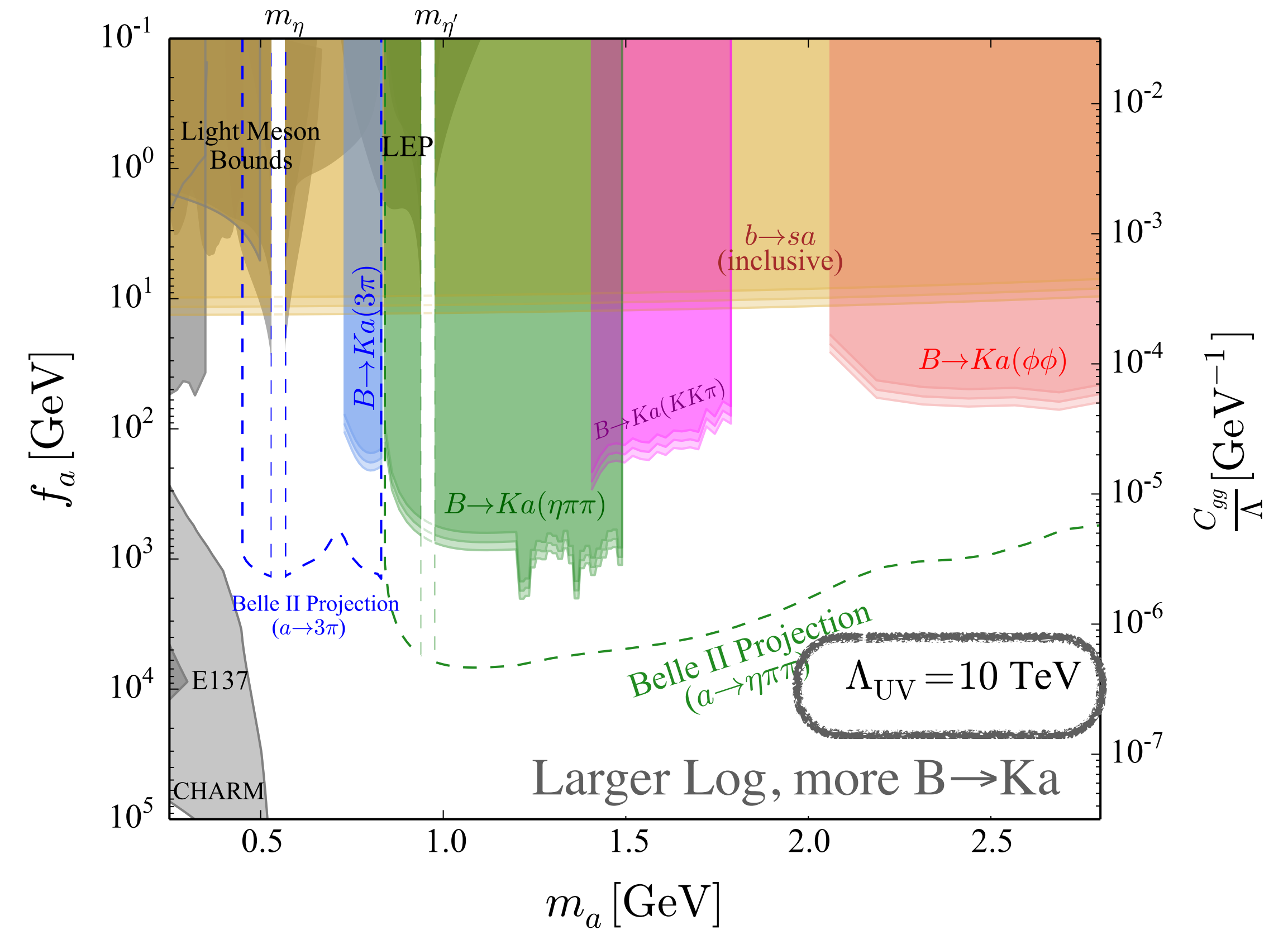
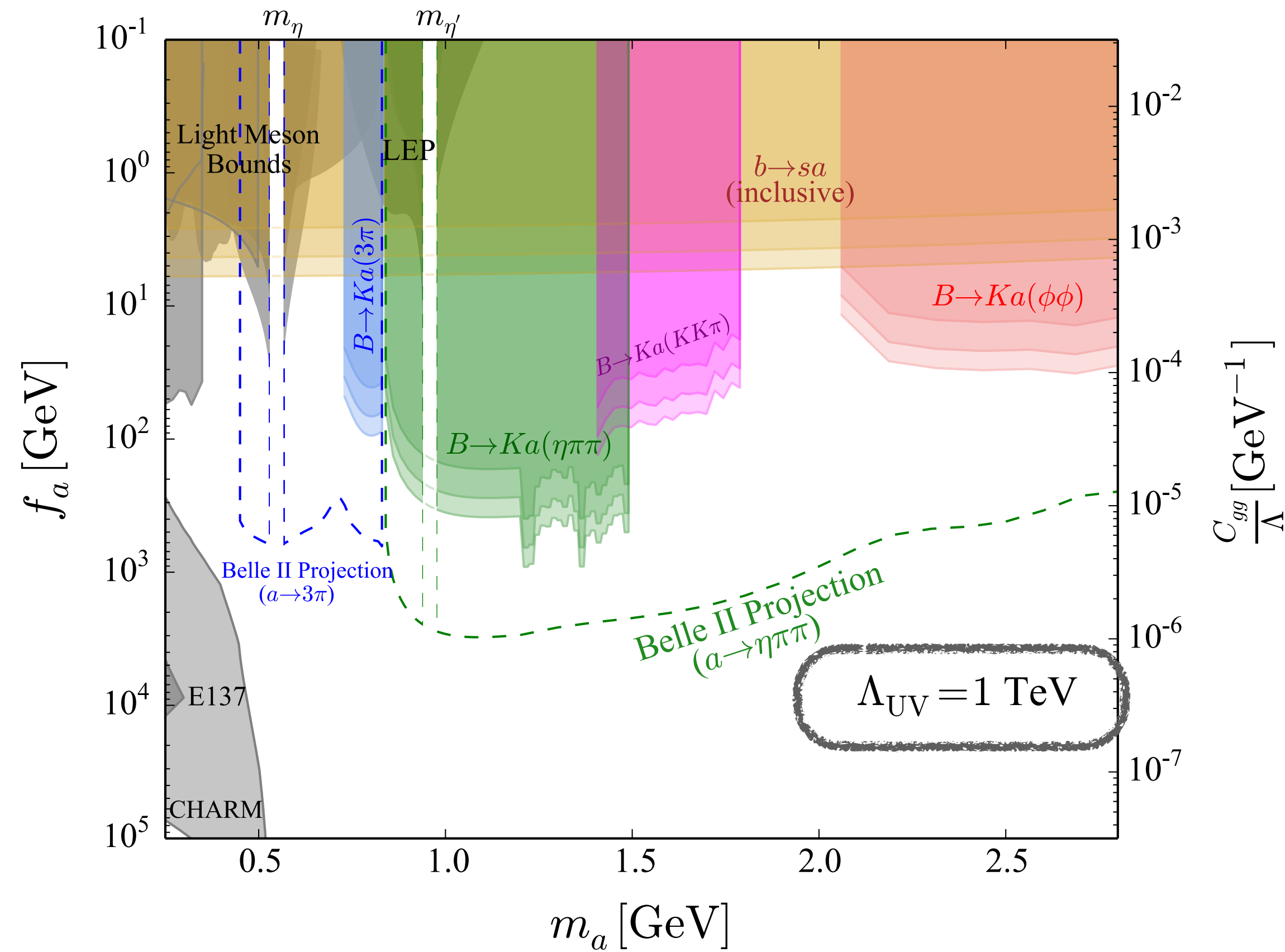
Two boundary conditions

1.  $\Lambda_{UV} = 1 \text{ TeV}$ . Larger  $\Lambda_{UV}$ , more  $\text{BR}[B \rightarrow Ka]$
2. Size of  $C_{qq}(\Lambda_{UV})$ ,  $C_{bs}(\Lambda_{UV}) \rightarrow$  here set to 0





# Updated bounds from $B \rightarrow Ka$



# Updated bounds from $B \rightarrow Ka$

## Inclusive bound

- Test untagged BR by

$$\text{BR}(B^+ \rightarrow \bar{c}X) = 97 \pm 4\%$$

- Require  $\text{BR}(b \rightarrow sa) < 11\%$

$$\text{BR}(b \rightarrow sa) \simeq \frac{|C_W|^2}{\Gamma_B f_a^2} \frac{(m_B^2 - m_a^2)^2}{32\pi m_B}$$

- Change UV boundary conditions

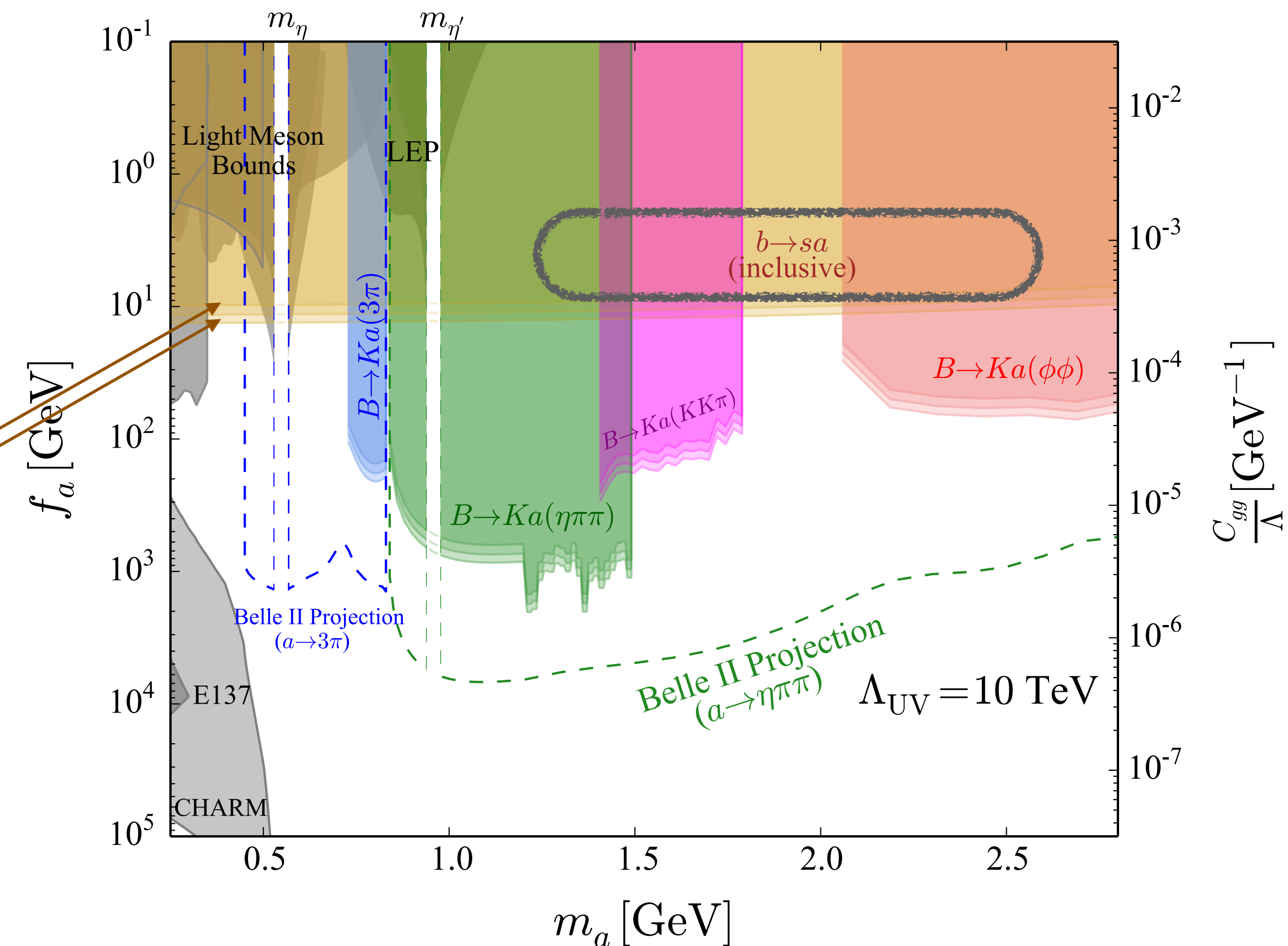
$-3 < A, B < 3 \Rightarrow 3 \text{ lines [optimistic, pesmistic, } A=B=0]$

$$C_{qq}(\Lambda_{\text{UV}}) \equiv AC_F \left( \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^2,$$

$$C_{bs}(\Lambda_{\text{UV}}) \equiv BC_F \left( \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^2 \frac{\alpha_w}{4\pi} \sum_k V_{ik} V_{kj}^* \xi_k$$

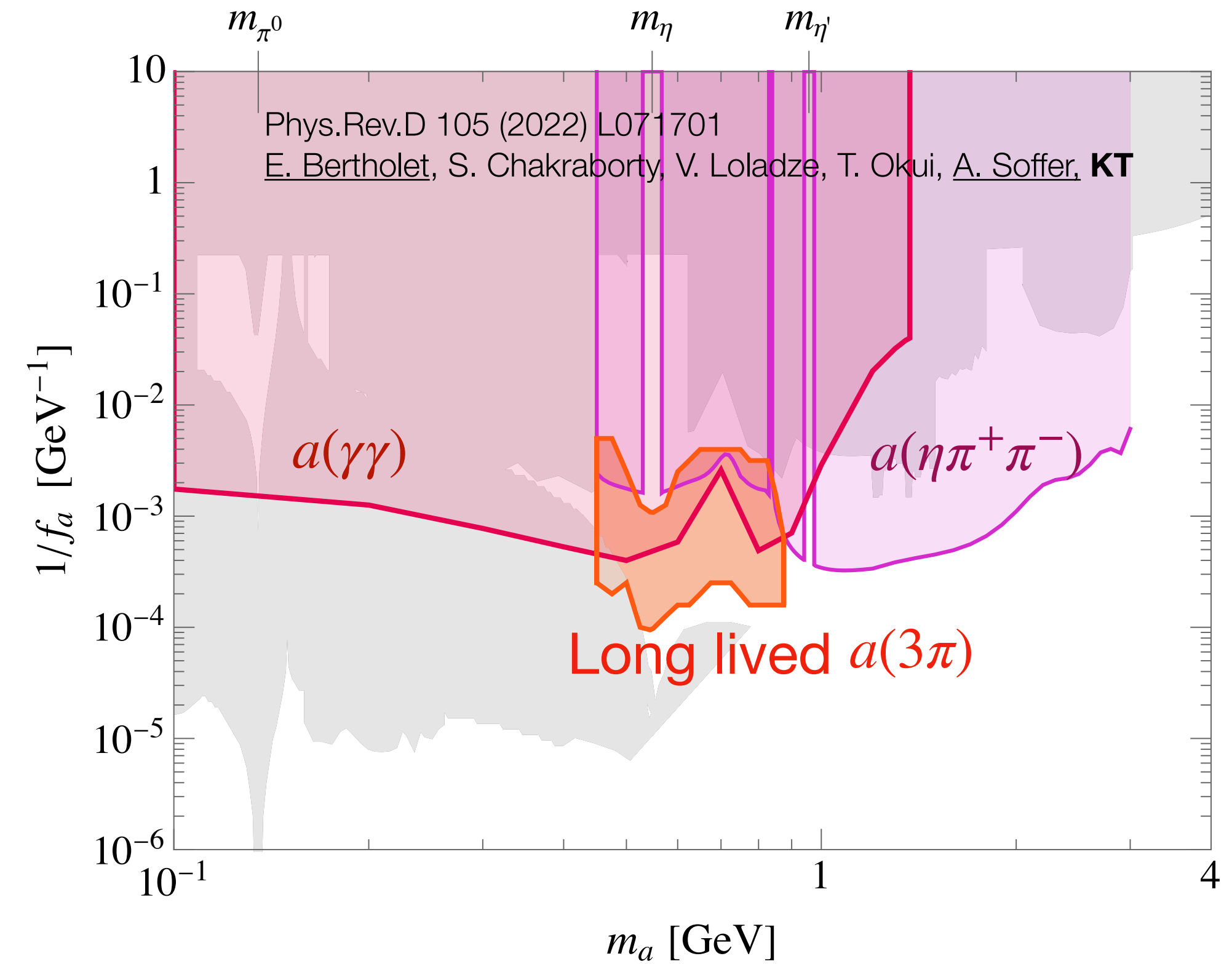
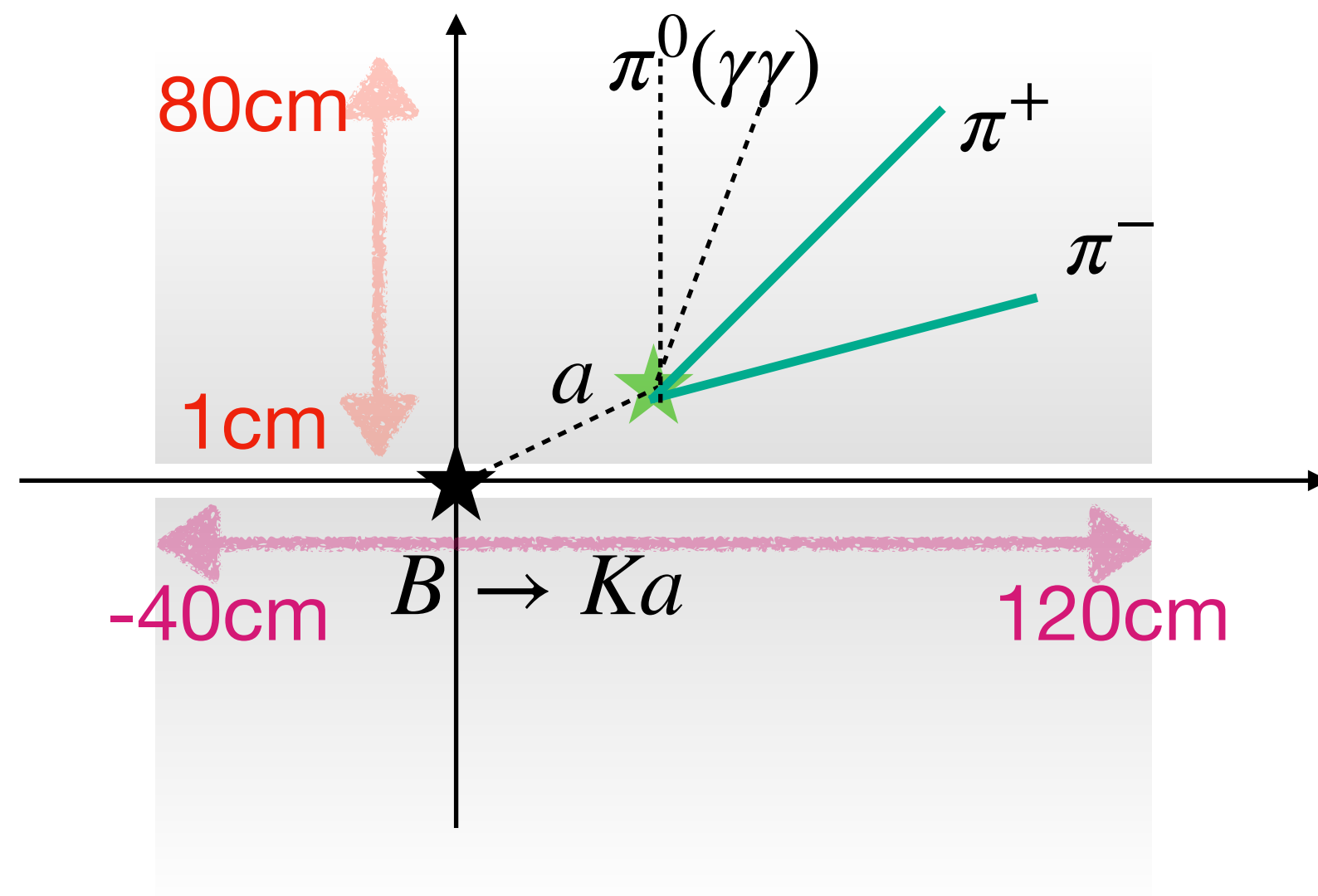
PRD 104 (2021) 055036

S. Chakraborty, M. Kraus, V. Loladze, T. Okui, **KT**



# More on B decays at Belle II

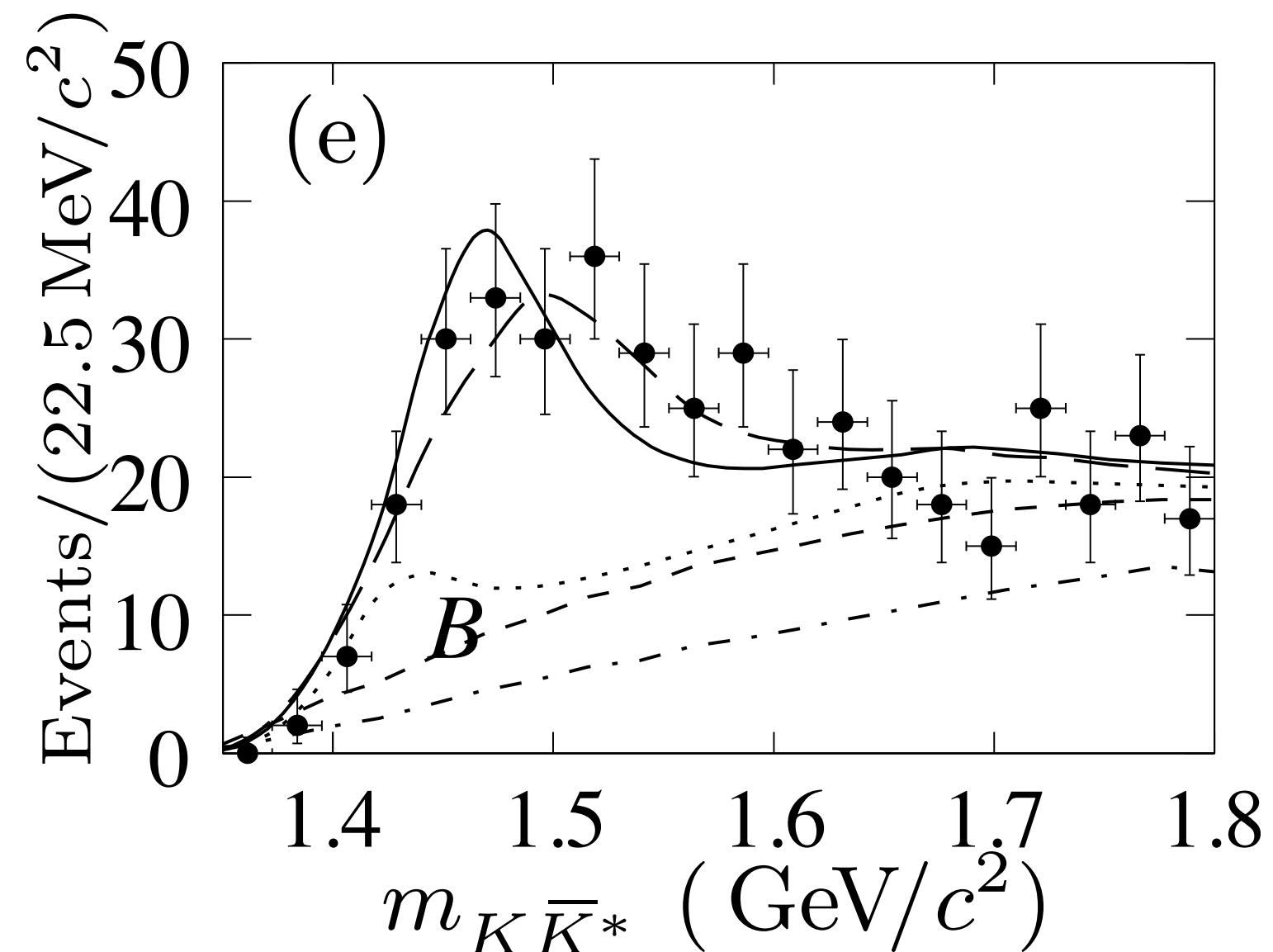
for prompt decays and displaced decay (nanosecond lifetime)



# Other channels

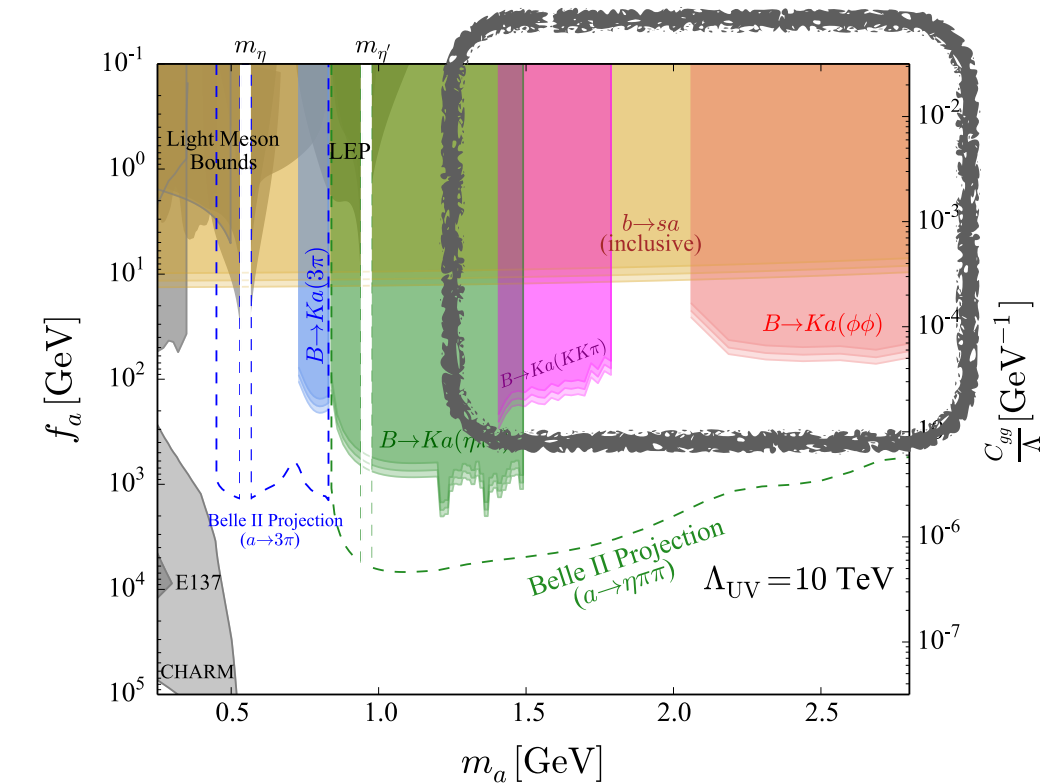
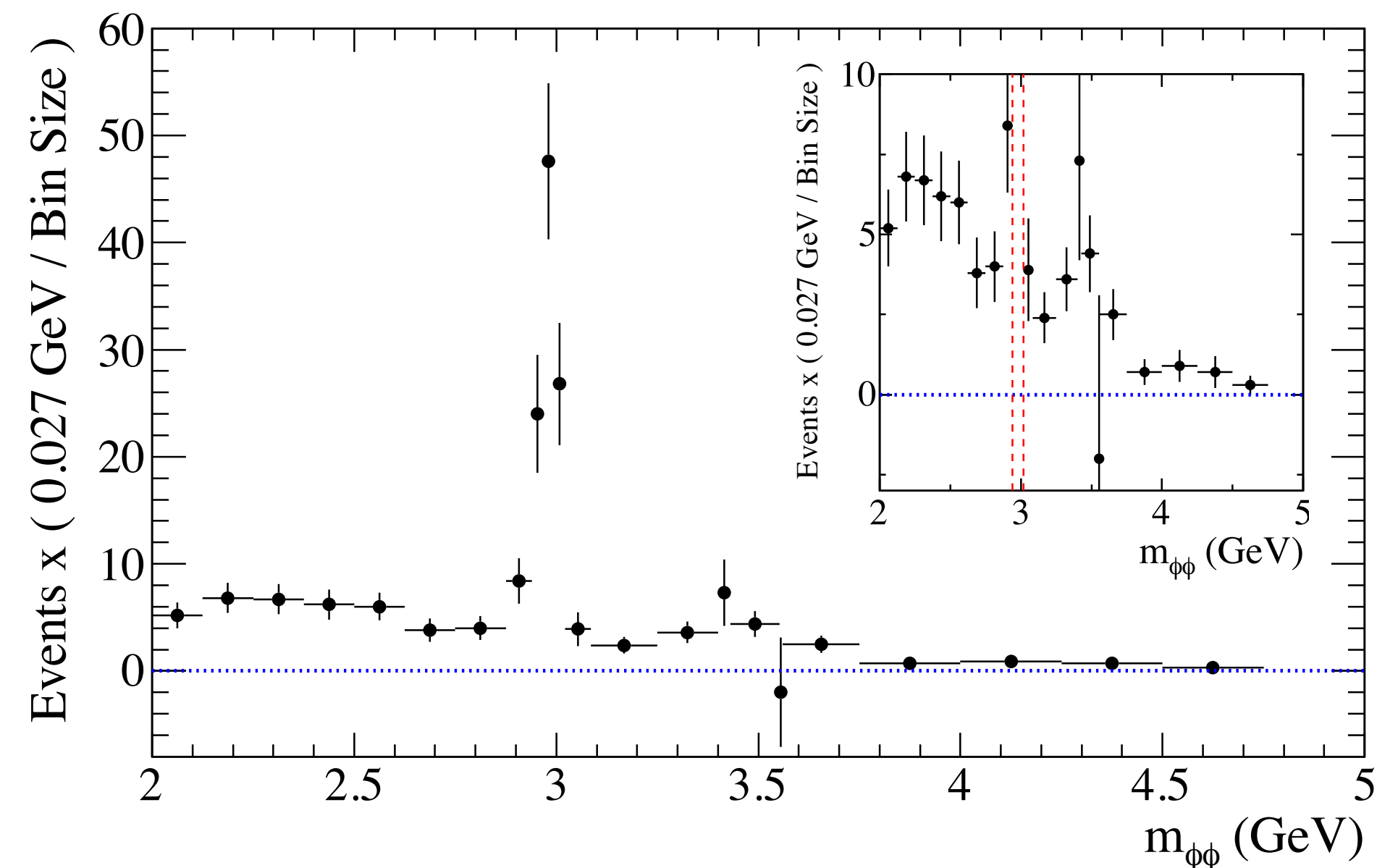
$a \rightarrow KK\pi$  Babar [0804.0411]  
 $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \eta_X (\rightarrow KK^* \rightarrow KK\pi)$  search

- $3.9 \times 10^8 B\bar{B}$ ,  $1.4 \text{ GeV} < m_a < 1.8 \text{ GeV}$
- take 2 bins around the axion mass (45 MeV)  
 $S < (D - B) + 2\sqrt{D}$



$a \rightarrow \phi\phi$  Babar [1105.5159]  
 $B \rightarrow K\phi\phi$  search

- $4.6 \times 10^8 B\bar{B}$ ,  $2 \text{ GeV} < m_a < 3 \text{ GeV}$
- take 1 bin around the axion mass (125 MeV)  
require  $2\sqrt{D}$  inside relevant bins





# Typical axion search

1. **Photon coupling** is probed in most searches.

$$\frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} G\tilde{G} \xrightarrow{m_a < \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} \frac{c_\gamma \alpha}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} F\tilde{F} + (a\text{-hadron couplings})$$

Original gluon coupling                      Photon coupling

❖ Hadronic coupling is often ignored.

2. Axion dark matter is the most popular.  $\Lambda_{\text{CP}} \sim \Lambda_{\text{DM}}$   
Often assume it's 100% DM and extremely light.

► **Mass  $m_a \sim 10^{-4} - 10^{-6}$  eV**

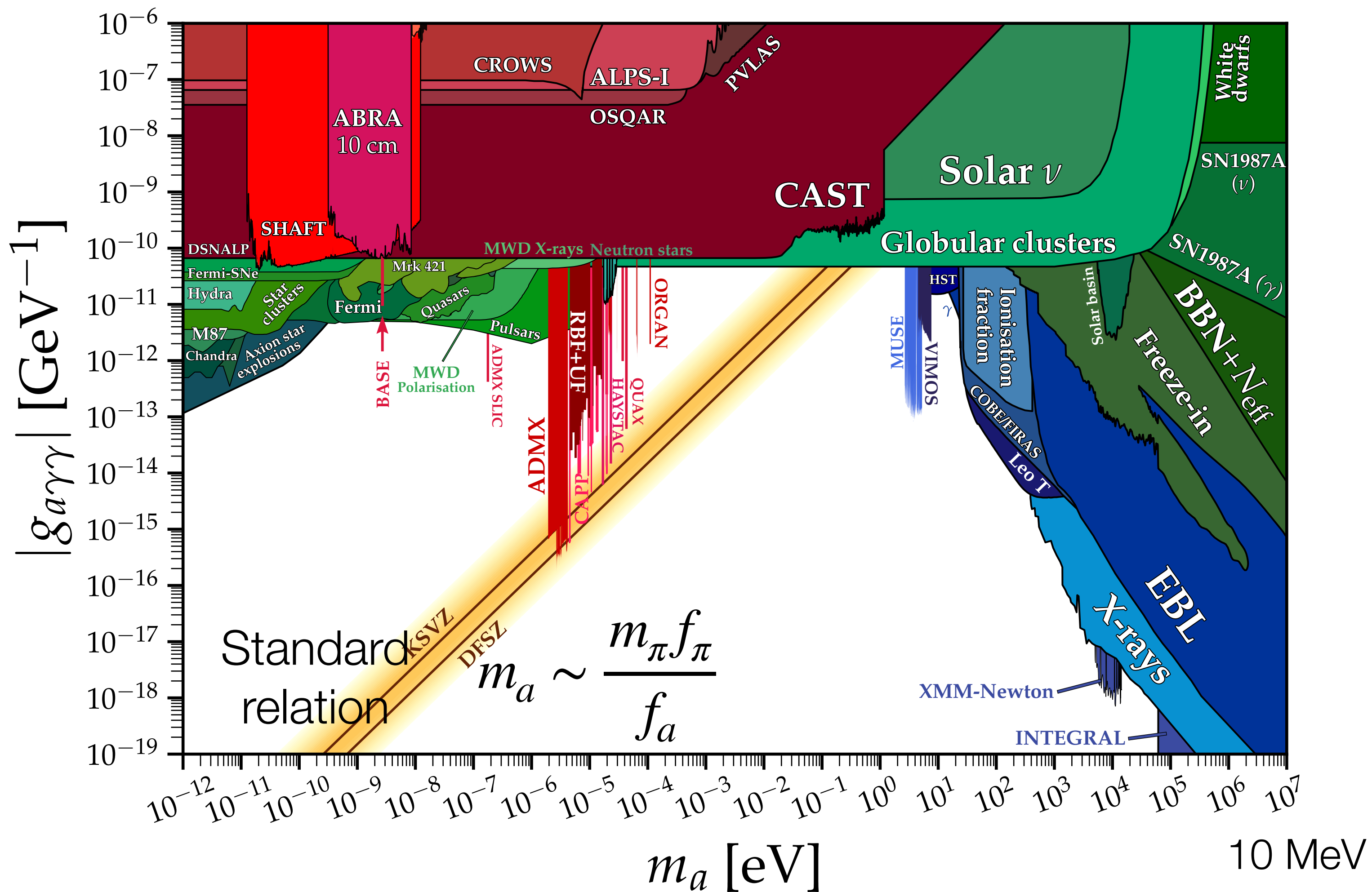
# Typical axion search

based on

$$\frac{c_\gamma \alpha_{\text{EM}}}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} F\tilde{F} \equiv \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F\tilde{F}$$

$$\frac{c_\gamma \alpha_{\text{EM}}}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} F \tilde{F} \equiv \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F \tilde{F}$$

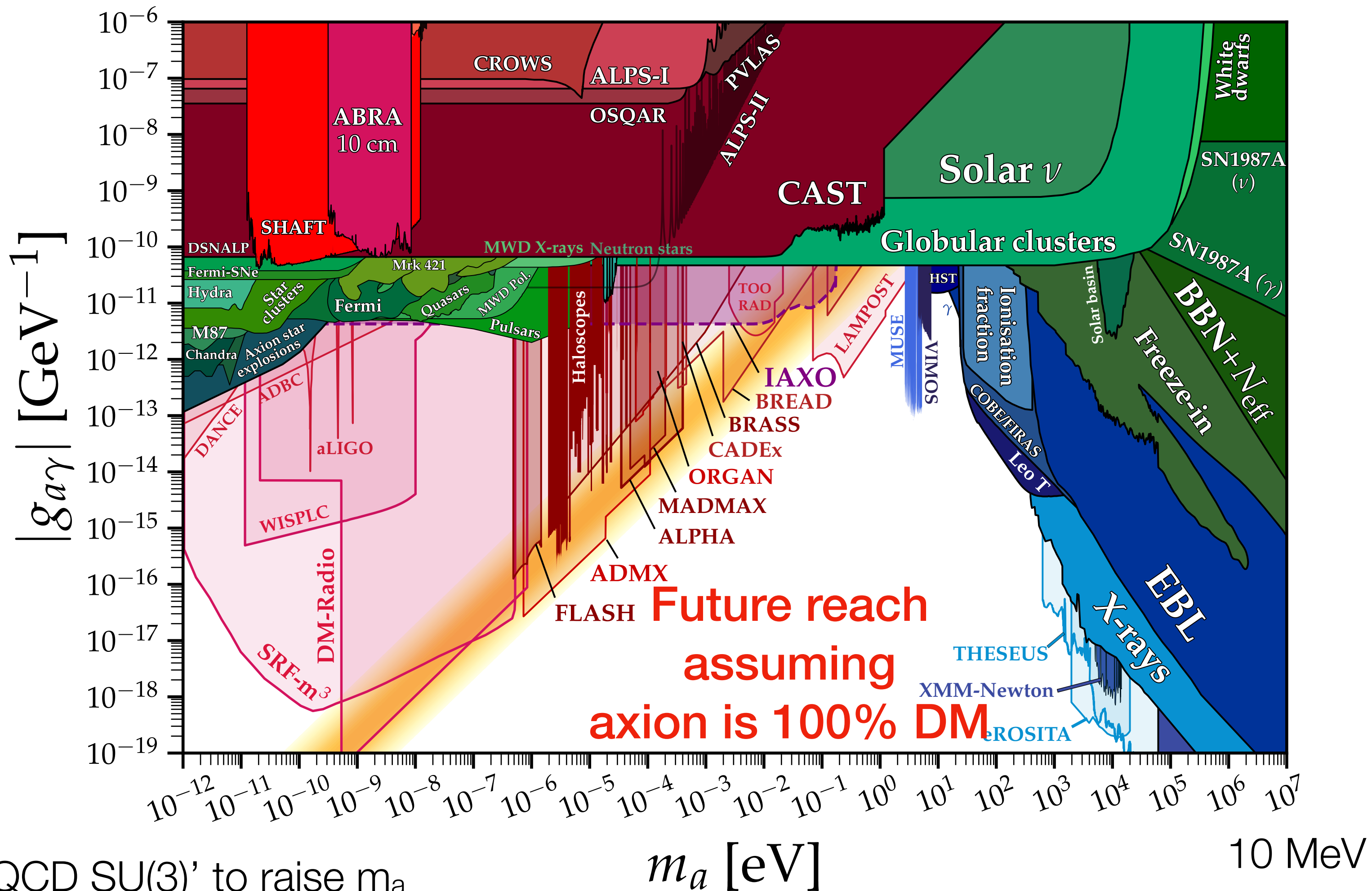
$$\frac{1}{f_a} \propto$$



# Typical axion search

$$\frac{c_\gamma \alpha_{\text{EM}}}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} F\tilde{F} \equiv \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F\tilde{F}$$

$$\frac{1}{f_a} \propto$$



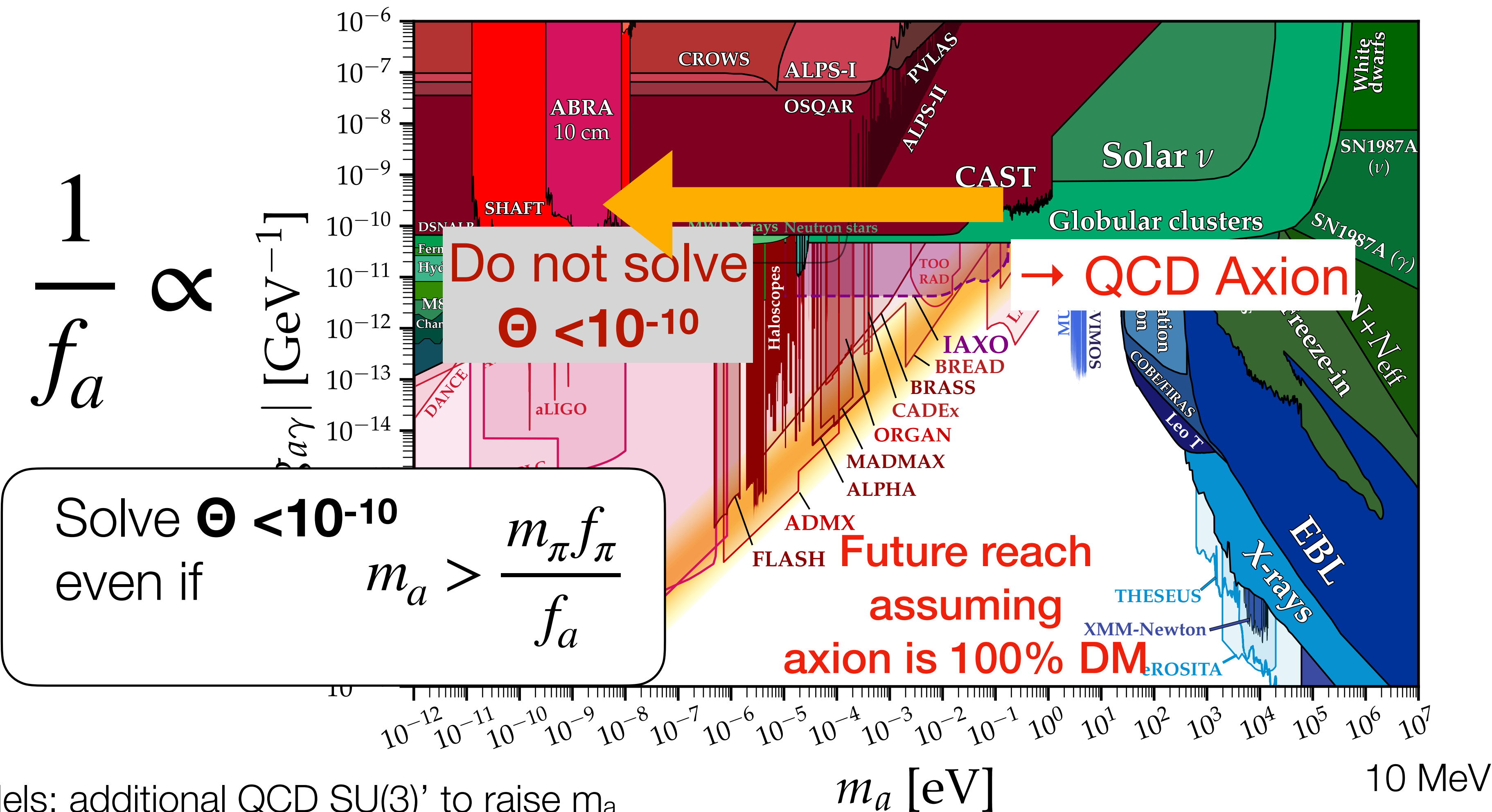
Models: additional QCD SU(3)' to raise  $m_a$   
 Berezhiani et al('01); Hook('04); Fukuda et al('04).  
 Dimopoulos et al('16); Hook et al('19); Valenti ('22)...  
 Another class: Agrawal and Howe ('17)...



# Typical axion search

based on

$$\frac{c_\gamma \alpha_{\text{EM}}}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} F \tilde{F} \equiv \frac{g_{a\gamma\gamma}}{4} a F \tilde{F}$$

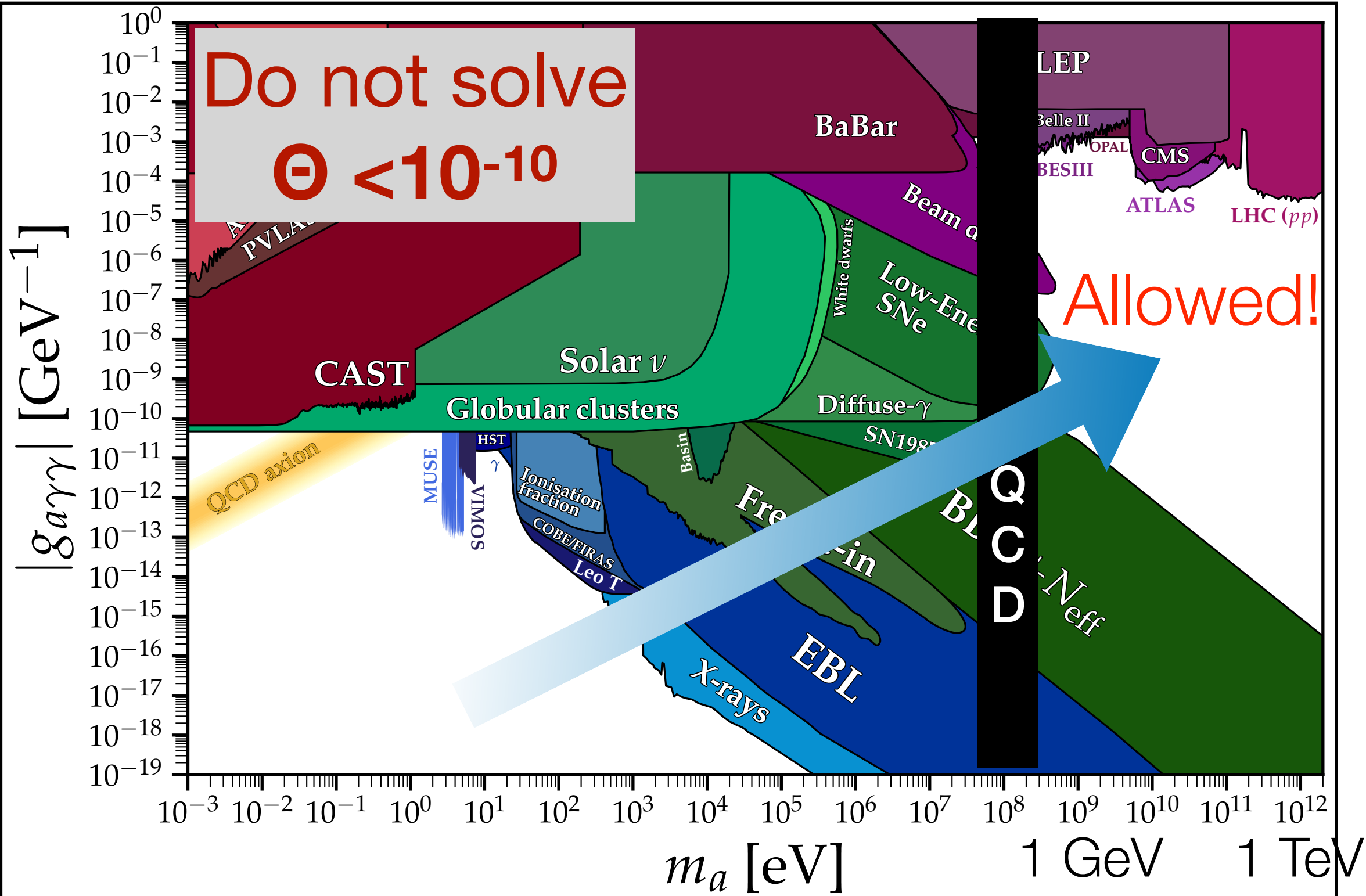
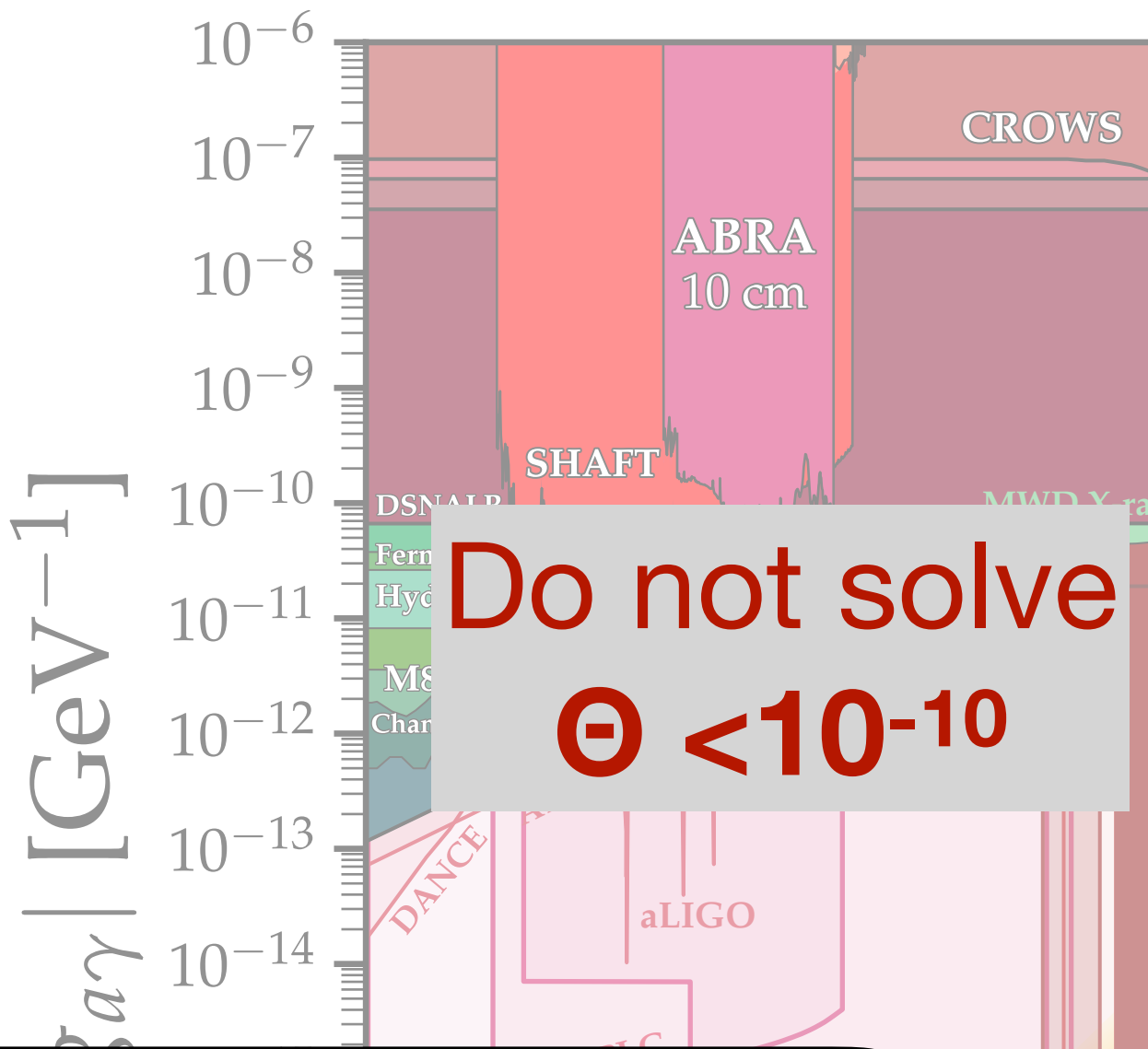


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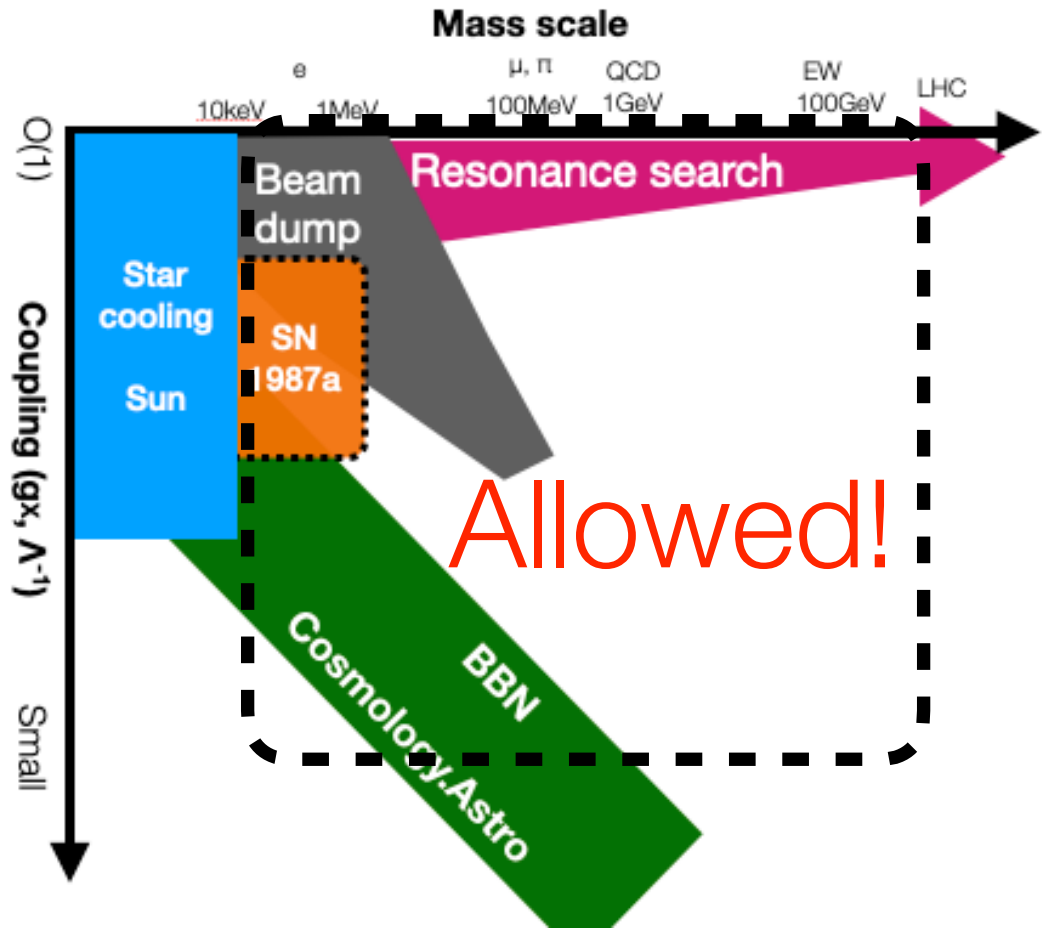
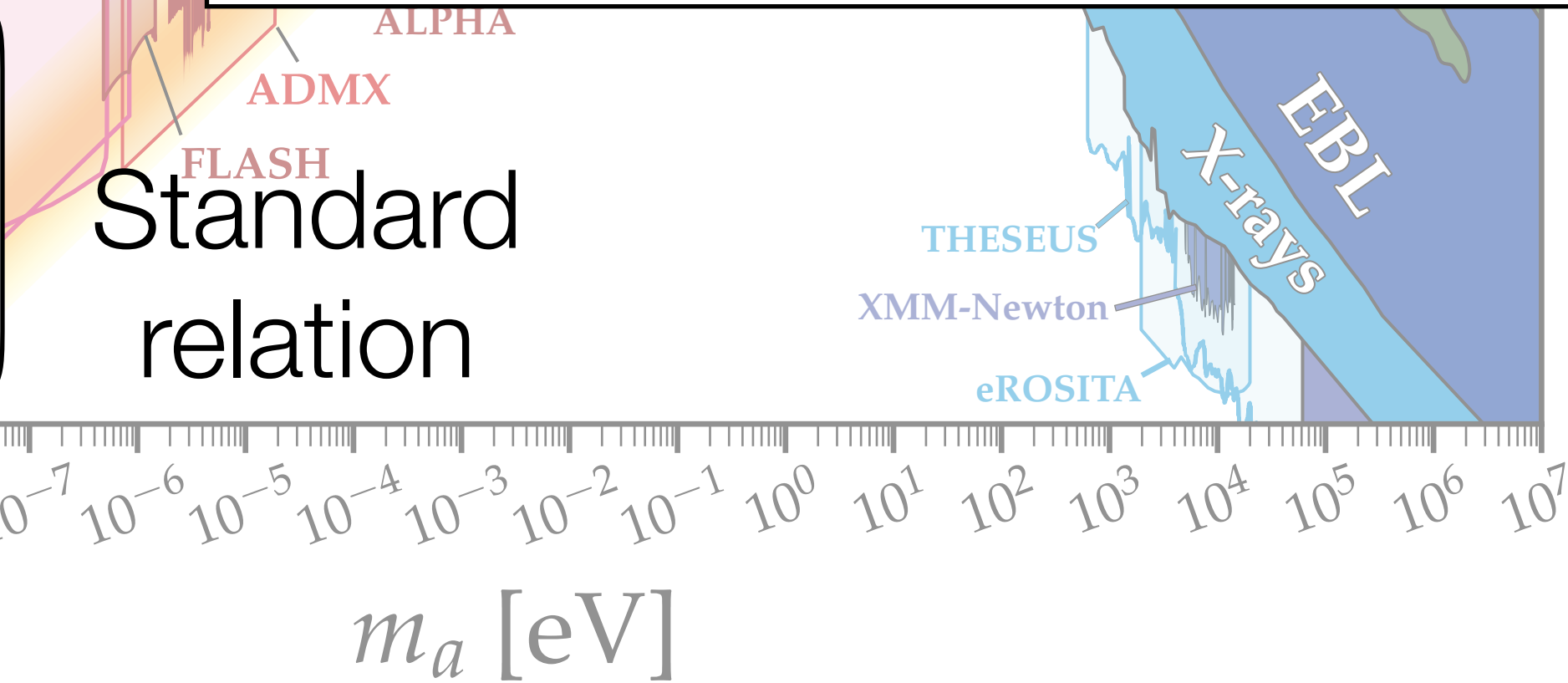
# MeV-GeV QCD axion

$$\frac{1}{f_a} \propto$$



Solve  $\Theta < 10^{-10}$   
even if  $m_a > \frac{m_\pi f_\pi}{f_a}$

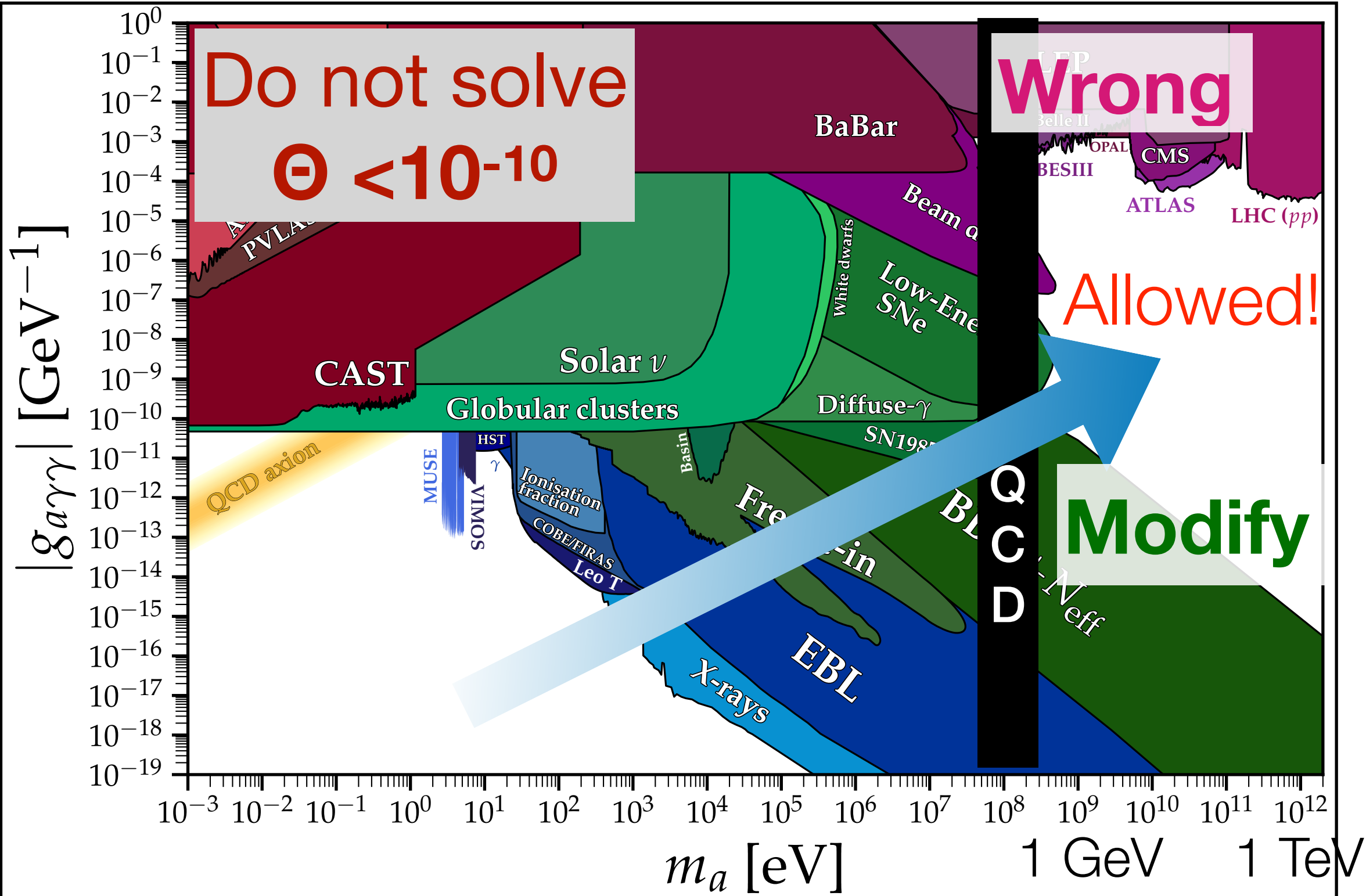
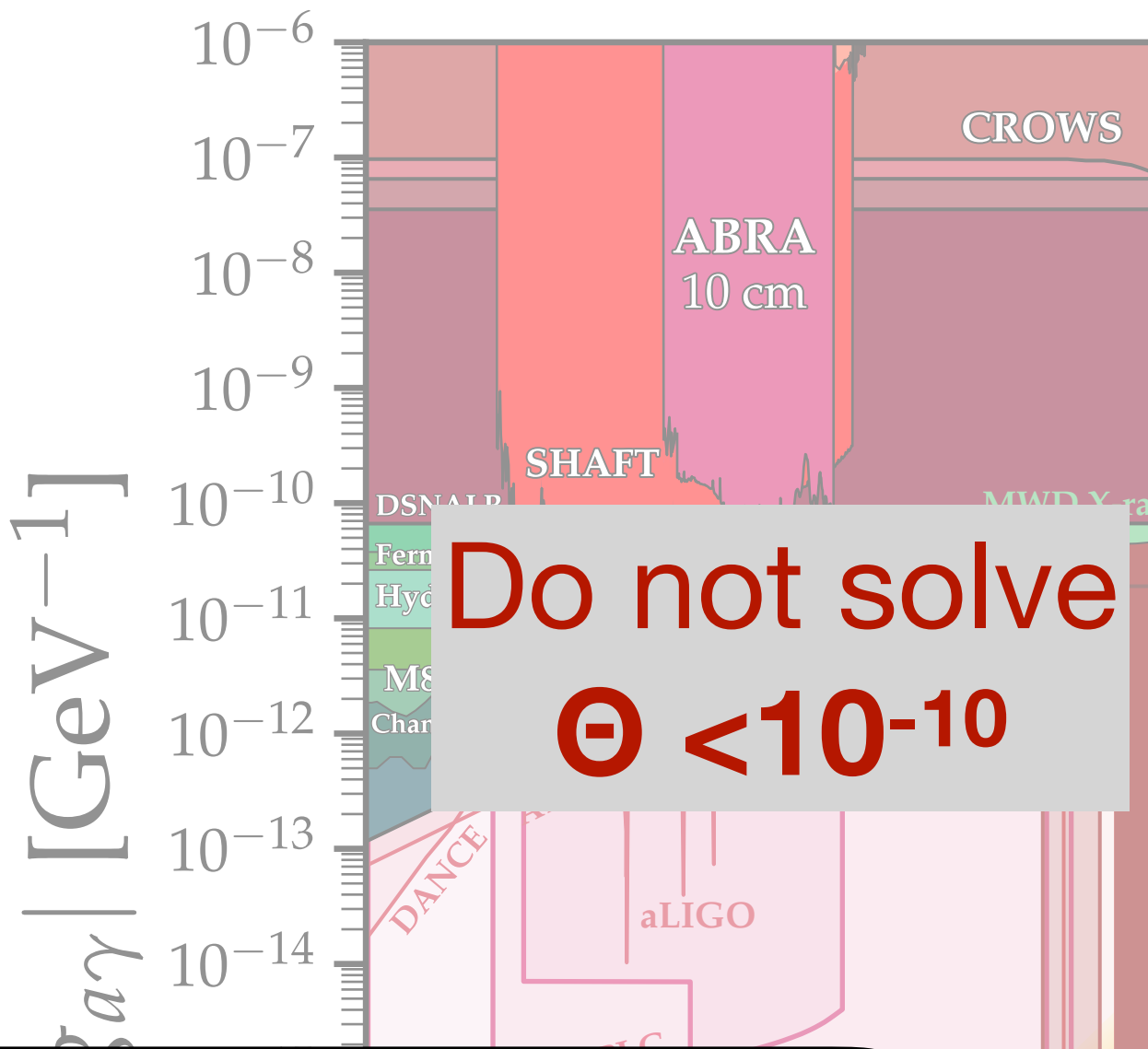
Standard  
relation



Models: additional QCD SU(3)' to raise  $m_a$   
Bereziani et al('01); Hook('04); Fukuda et al('04).  
Dimopoulos et al('16); Hook et al('19); Valenti ('22)...  
Another class: Agrawal and Howe ('17)...

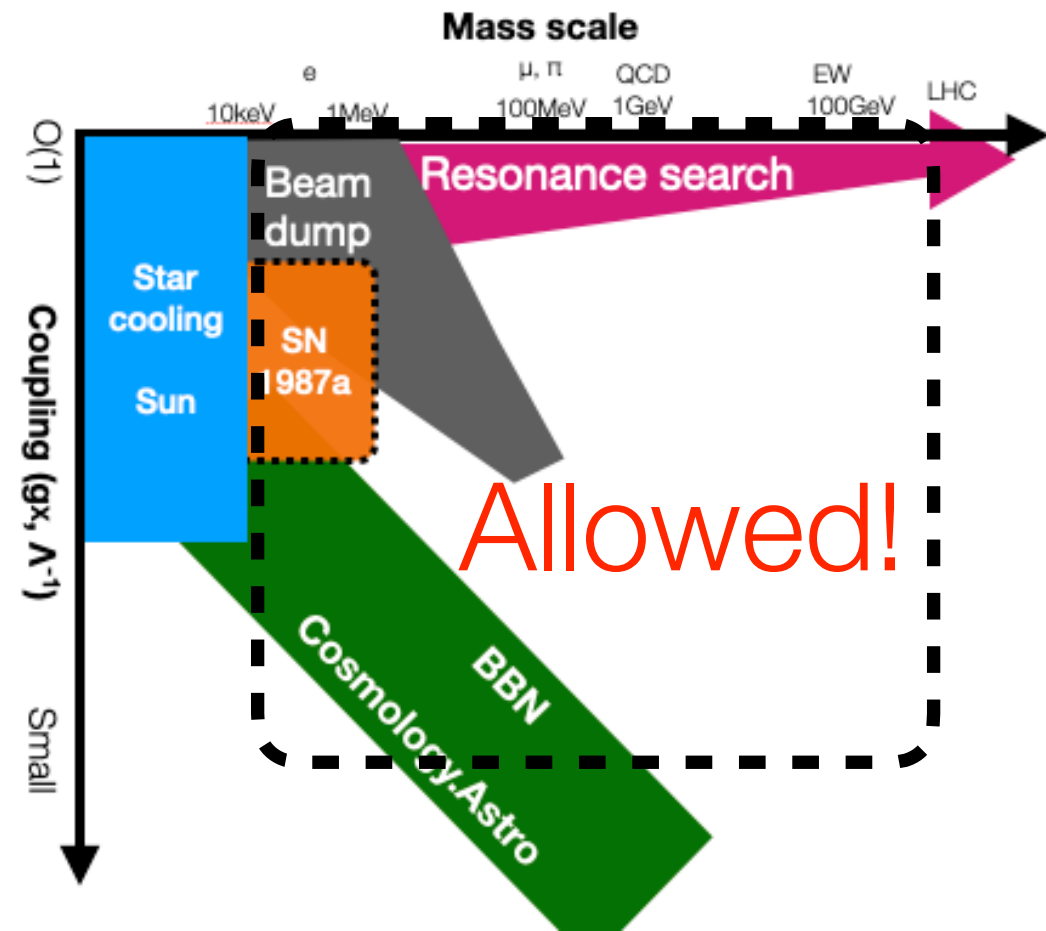
# MeV-GeV QCD axion

$$\frac{1}{f_a} \propto$$



Solve  $\Theta < 10^{-10}$   
even if  $m_a > \frac{m_\pi f_\pi}{f_a}$

- Hadronic interactions are essential.
- Lower  $f_a$  is favored, making  $U(1)_{PQ}$  more robust (quality prob.)

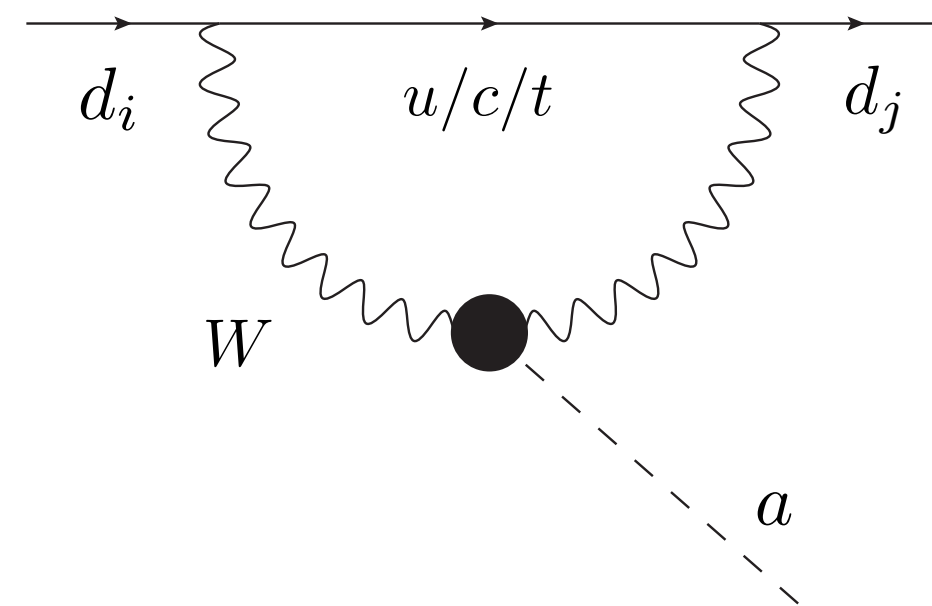


Models: additional QCD  $SU(3)'$  to raise  $m_a$   
Bereziani et al('01); Hook('04); Fukuda et al('04).  
Dimopoulos et al('16); Hook et al('19); Valenti ('22)...  
Another class: Agrawal and Howe ('17)...

# Impact of other couplings

- We've considered  $aG\tilde{G}$  coupling.  $B \rightarrow Ka$  is from 2-loop (our work).
- Other reasonable couplings  $\rightarrow$  Production from 1-loop, more signal rate.

$$\frac{\alpha_w}{8\pi} \frac{a}{f_a} W\tilde{W}$$



1611.09355 , E. Izaguirre, T. Lin, B. Shuve

For axion-quark coupling example, see 2002.04623  
J. Martin Camalich, M. Pospelov, P. N. H. Vuong, R. Ziegler, J. Zupan

- As long as the strong CP problem is concerned, can't drop  $aG\tilde{G}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  **Hadronic decay modes are still dominant** ( $a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  can be enhanced).
- \*Many ALPs can't solve the strong CP because  $aG\tilde{G}$  is omitted.*
- Lepton-axion couplings are optional. Cleaner signal as  $B \rightarrow Ka( \rightarrow \mu\mu)$   
 but other bounds become more stringent too (e.g. LEP, LHC)



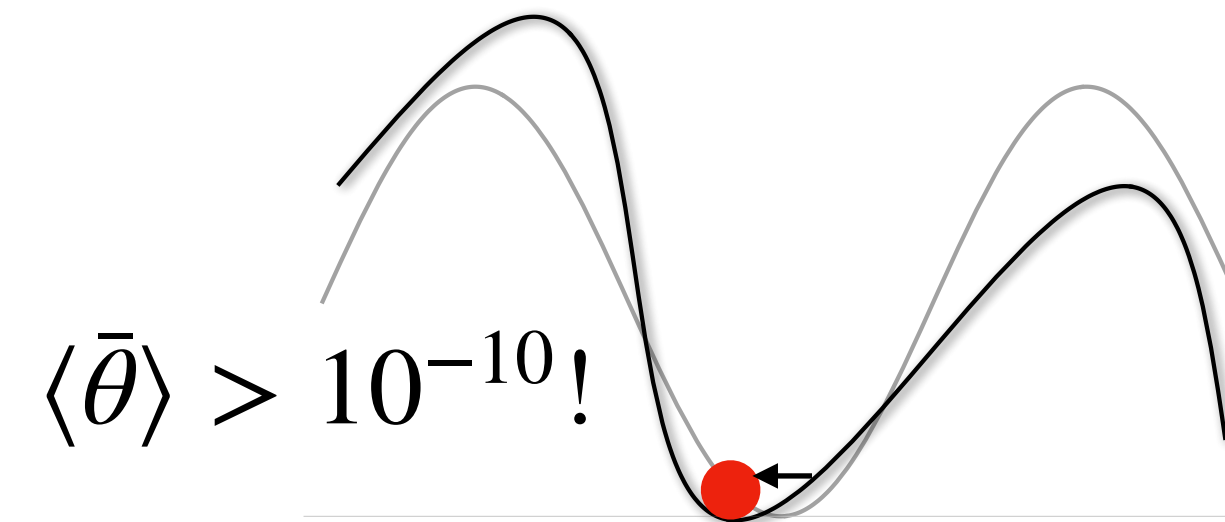
# Additional motivation: Quality problem

- Parameter for axion DM:  $f_a=10^9\text{-}10^{13}$  GeV
- With such high  $f_a$ , known theoretical issue: “*axion (PQ) quality problem*” Refs
- Any global symmetry including  $U(1)_{PQ}$  expected to be broken by the gravity

**Even tiny breaking**

**easily ruins axion-solution for the strong CP problem**

$$\frac{\Phi^2 |\Phi|^4}{M_{pl}^2} \rightarrow \frac{f_a^5}{M_{pl}^2} a$$

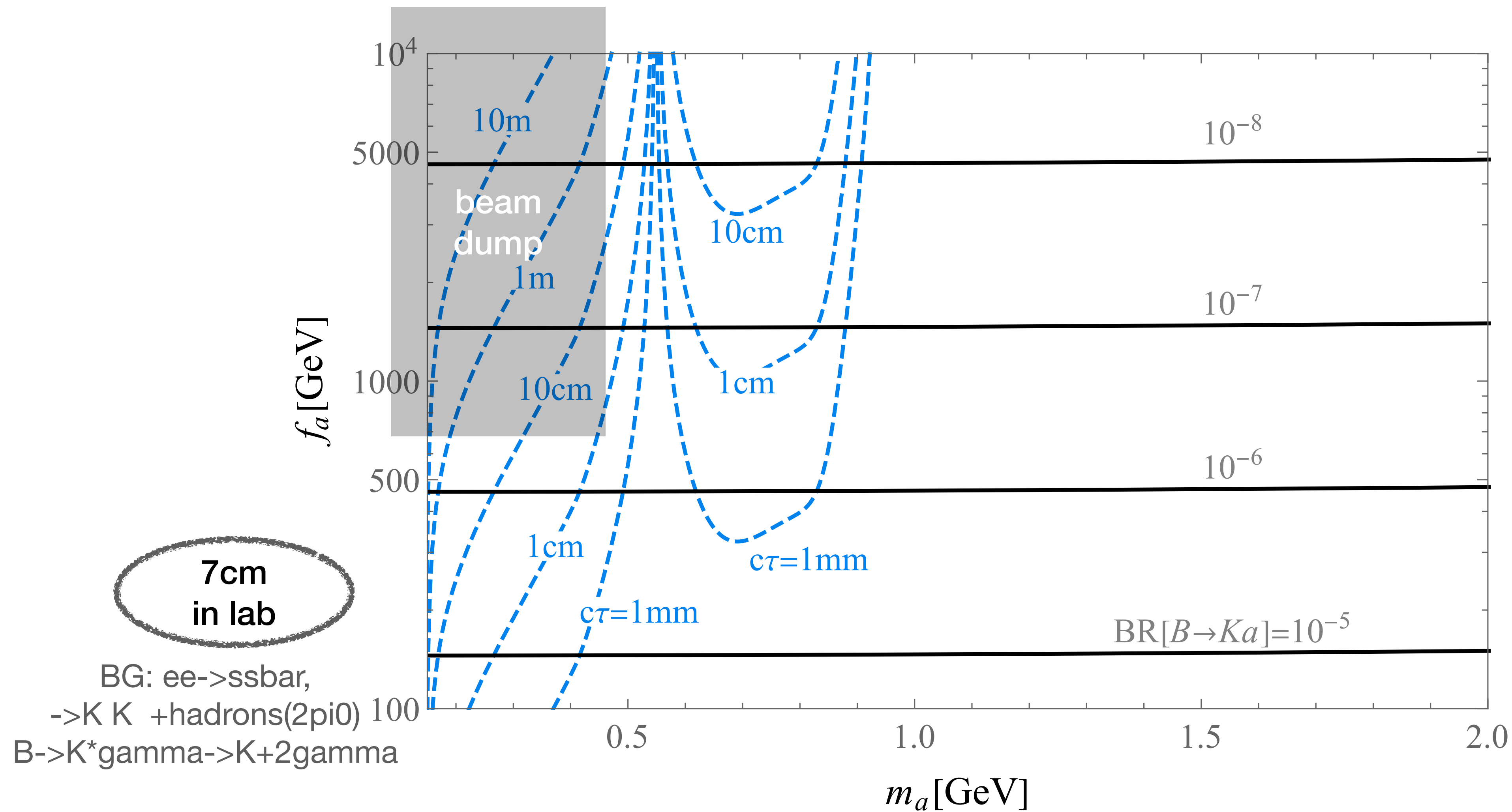


Need model building → going to non-minimal is necessary

- The **heavy QCD axion** has no issue because  $f_a$  is much lower.  
 $f_a$  below 10TeV is generically OK.



# Lifetime



# Decay modes

1811.03474, D. Aloni, Y. Soreq, M. Williams

