## Lepton flavor violation with tau leptons

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## Standard Model of Particle Physics



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## Symmetries of the Standard Model

• Rephasing lepton and quark fields:

 $\mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{B}} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{L}_{\mathsf{e}}} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{L}_{\mu}} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{L}_{\tau}}$ 

$$\mathsf{U}(\mathtt{L})_{\mathsf{B}+\mathsf{L}} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{B}-\mathsf{L}} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{L}_{\mu}-\mathsf{L}_{\tau}} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{L}_{\mu}+\mathsf{L}_{\tau}-2\mathsf{L}_{\mathsf{e}}}$$

- Broken non-perturbatively, but unobservable. ['t Hooft, PRL '76]
- True accidental global symmetry:

$$\mathbb{Z}_3^{(\mathsf{B}+\mathsf{L})/2} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{B}-\mathsf{L}} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{L}_\mu-\mathsf{L}_\tau} \times \mathsf{U}(1)_{\mathsf{L}_\mu+\mathsf{L}_\tau-2\mathsf{L}_{\mathsf{e}}}.$$

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#### Lepton flavor conservation!

## Neutrino oscillations = flavor violation

- Observations of  $v_{\alpha} \rightarrow v_{\beta}$ prove that  $M_{\nu} \neq 0$  and  $U(1)_{L_{\mu}-L_{\tau}} \times U(1)_{L_{\mu}+L_{\tau}-2L_{e}}$ is broken!
- Amplitudes for charged lepton flavor violation are suppressed:





 $\mathcal{A}(\ell_{lpha}^{-} 
ightarrow \ell_{eta}^{-}) \propto rac{(\mathsf{M}_{
u}\mathsf{M}_{
u}^{\dagger})_{lphaeta}}{\mathsf{M}_{u}^{2}} < 10^{-24} \, .$ 

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## Neutrino mass *⇒* charged LFV!

• Neutrino-mass induced charged LFV is unobservable.

Observation of CLFV  $\rightarrow$  beyond SM and beyond M<sub>v</sub>!

•  $M_v \Leftrightarrow CLFV$  connection possible but not necessary.

 $\Rightarrow$  Can ignore M<sub>v</sub> in CLFV studies!

- (How) Is  $U(1)_{L_{\mu}-L_{\tau}} \times U(1)_{L_{\mu}+L_{\tau}-2L_{e}}$  broken in CLFV?
- Heavy new physics: SMEFT! [Lew & Volkas, 9410277; JH, '16]
  - 888 CLFV operators at d=6:

$$\frac{C_{ijnm}}{\Lambda^2}\ell^c_i\ell_j\ell^c_n\ell_m\,, \frac{C_{ijnm}}{\Lambda^2}\ell^c_i\ell_jd^c_nd_m\,, \frac{C_{ij}}{\Lambda^2}\ell^c_i\sigma_{\alpha\beta}\ell_j\mathsf{HF}^{\alpha\beta}\,, \dots$$

[Weinberg '79; Buchmüller & Wyler, '86; Grzadkowski++, '10; Fonseca, '17]

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#### Dimension 6 operators

















Future:

## $\Delta \tau = 2$ operators

- 10 complex d=6 SMEFT operators, e.g.  $\bar{\tau} \bar{\tau} \mu \mu$ :  $y_{\tau \mu \tau \mu}^{LL} \bar{L}_{\tau} \gamma^{\alpha} L_{\mu} \bar{L}_{\tau} \gamma_{\alpha} L_{\mu} + y_{\tau \mu \tau \mu}^{LR} \bar{L}_{\tau} \gamma^{\alpha} L_{\mu} \bar{\ell}_{\tau} \gamma_{\alpha} \ell_{\mu} + y_{\tau \mu \tau \mu}^{RR} \bar{\ell}_{\tau} \gamma^{\alpha} \ell_{\mu} \bar{\ell}_{\tau} \gamma_{\alpha} \ell_{\mu}$
- No neutrinoless decay modes, no limits for d=6 LFV op?!

## $\Delta \tau = 2$ operators

• 10 complex d=6 SMEFT operators, e.g.  $\overline{\tau} \overline{\tau} \mu \mu$ :

 $\mathbf{y}_{\tau\mu\tau\mu}^{\mathsf{LL}} \bar{\mathbf{L}}_{\tau} \gamma^{\alpha} \mathbf{L}_{\mu} \, \bar{\mathbf{L}}_{\tau} \gamma_{\alpha} \mathbf{L}_{\mu} \, + \mathbf{y}_{\tau\mu\tau\mu}^{\mathsf{LR}} \bar{\mathbf{L}}_{\tau} \gamma^{\alpha} \mathbf{L}_{\mu} \, \bar{\ell}_{\tau} \gamma_{\alpha} \ell_{\mu} + \mathbf{y}_{\tau\mu\tau\mu}^{\mathsf{RR}} \bar{\ell}_{\tau} \gamma^{\alpha} \ell_{\mu} \, \bar{\ell}_{\tau} \gamma_{\alpha} \ell_{\mu}$ 

- No neutrinoless decay modes, no limits for d=6 LFV op?!
- For y<sup>LL</sup> and y<sup>LR</sup> still have wrong-v-flavor decays:  $\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^- \nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_\tau$ 
  - Only modifies τ lifetime, not spectrum.
  - Violates flavor universality, comparison with  $\mu^- \rightarrow e^- \nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_e$ gives limits around  $|y^{LL,LR}| < (0.6 \text{ TeV})^{-2}$ . (See talk by P. Feichtinger.)
- $y^{RR}$  is difficult, either  $Z \rightarrow \overline{\tau} \overline{\tau} \mu \mu$  or  $\mu \mu \rightarrow \tau \tau$  at new collider, or analyze UV completions (Z' or k<sup>++</sup>). (See talk by W. Altmannshofer.) [Altmannshofer++, PLB '16; Altmannshofer++, 2205.10576; Bigaran++, 2212.09760]

## Not done with d=6 LFV yet!

[**JH** & M. Sokhashvili,

in progress]

#### Currently being probed:





Future:

## $\tau^{-} \rightarrow \mu^{-}\mu^{-}\mu^{-}e^{+}e^{+}?$

- Impose  $L_{\mu}$ +4 $L_{e}$ -5 $L_{\tau}$  to kill other LFV.
- Not difficult, but rate is suppressed:

$$\mathsf{BR}\sim 5\times 10^{-10}\left(\frac{30\,\text{GeV}}{m_S}\right)^{12}.$$



- Secretly dimension 10 operator.
- Better constraints on S from  $Z \rightarrow SS$  etc.? [JH, in progress]

#### **Requires full models**

## Baryon number violation

- So far assumed  $\Delta B = 0$ , but can also do LFV with  $\Delta B \neq 0$ .
- Example: proton decay ( $\Delta B = 1$ ).
- Super-K limits on  $p \rightarrow e^+\pi^0$ ,  $\mu^+\pi^0$  are 10<sup>34</sup> years!
- Probes scales up to 10<sup>15</sup> GeV!
- Future: JUNO (China), DUNE (US), Hyper-K (Japan).







Currently being probed: Old results: Doable:



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 $\Delta B = \Delta L = 1$ 



## $\Delta \tau = \Delta B = 1$ operators

- d=6 operators:  $y^1 duQL_{\tau} + y^2 QQQL_{\tau} + y^3 QQu\ell_{\tau} + y^4 duu\ell_{\tau}$
- All induce  $\tau^- \to \bar{p}\pi^0, \bar{p}\eta$ .
- But  $y^1$  and  $y^2$  immediately give  $n \to \bar{\nu}_{\tau} \pi^0, \bar{\nu}_{\tau} \eta$ .
- $p \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\tau} \pi^+$  probes a linear combination of y<sup>3</sup> and y<sup>4</sup>.
- Last linear combination induces  $p \longrightarrow \chi^{\overline{\tau}} / \nu_{\tau}$  $p \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{\tau} \pi^{+} \eta$ , only ancient inclusive limits! [JH & Watkins, in progress]
- Still, even with finetuning it seems difficult to get  $\tau^- \to \bar{p}\pi^0, \bar{p}\eta$ .
- Currently analyzing  $d \ge 6 \Delta \tau = \Delta B = 1$  operators in analogy.

## Don't be discouraged to look for $\Delta B$ tau decays!

# Probing *light* particles

- SMEFT only works for *heavy* new particles!
- *Light* new particles X give new signatures:
- $\mu \rightarrow e \ X \text{ or } \tau \rightarrow \ell \ X$ , followed by (displaced)  $X \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ ,  $\gamma \gamma$ ? [JH & Rodejohann, PLB '18; Cheung++, JHEP '21]
- Mu3e and Belle II can improve limits, maybe others too? [i Tormo++, PRD '11; Uesaka, PRD '20; Calibbi, Redigolo, Ziegler, Zupan, JHEP '21]
- Light particles as mediators change rate expectations.
- X = axion/ALP/majoron/familon/Z', connected to DM?
- Or: SMEFT + X.

[Georgi, Kaplan, Randall, '86; Brivio++, '17; Dror, Lasenby, Pospelov, '17 & '19]

Far from finished!

## Example: Majoron



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## Summary

- Charged LFV gives info complementary to v oscillations.
- Tau LFV fertile ground for new-physics searches:
  - Access to many directions in flavor space.
  - Essential to study fate of  $U(1)_{L_{\mu}-L_{\tau}} \times U(1)_{L_{\mu}+L_{\tau}-2L_{e}}$ even if  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  found tomorrow.
- Future goals: tackle  $\Delta \tau = 2$  and d > 6 operators at Belle-II and future colliders.
- Light new physics open new avenues, can probe particles up to m<sub>1</sub>.

## Explore every corner of our lamppost!

## Backup

## Effective field theory view

- SM symmetry:  $G = U(1)_{B-L} \times U(1)_{L_{\mu}-L_{\tau}} \times U(1)_{L_{\mu}+L_{\tau}-2L_{e}}$ .
- Effective field theory with Majorana v:



## Example: $\tau^- \rightarrow e^-e^-\mu^+$

- Conserves  $L_{\mu} L_{\tau}$ , so impose this!
- Simplest UV model:

	$U(1)_Y$	$U(1)_{L_{\mu}-L_{\tau}}$
$k^{++}$	+2	0
S	0	+1
$N_{e,\mu, au}$	0	0, +1, -1



• Only  $\tau^- \rightarrow e^-e^-\mu^+$  is unsuppressed by  $M_{\mu}$ .

 $\nu$  oscillations but approximate symmetry in  $\ell$  sector.



# Flavor violating decays



- Prime example:  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  @ MEG.
- Observation = new particles (beyond SM and  $M_{\nu}$ ).
- $\mu \rightarrow e$  conversion @ Mu2e can probe scales up to  $10^7 \text{GeV}$ .

m LFV	process	current	future	$\exp$
	$\mu  ightarrow e \gamma$	$4.2 \times 10^{-13}$	$6 \times 10^{-14}$	MEG-II
- <i>π</i> ,	$\mu \to e \bar{e} e$	$1.0 \times 10^{-12}$	$10^{-16}$	Mu3e
$\Delta L$	$\mu \to e \text{ conv.}$	$\mathcal{O}(10^{-12})$	$10^{-16}$	Mu2e, COMET
	$h \to e \bar{\mu}$	$6.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$10^{-5}$	LHC
$L_{e} $	$Z \to e \bar{\mu}$	$7.5  imes 10^{-7}$	$10^{-10}$	FCC-ee
$\overline{\Delta}$	$had \rightarrow e\bar{\mu}(had)$	$4.7 \times 10^{-12}$	$10^{-12}$	NA62

# Flavor violating decays



- Produce tauons at B factories (BaBar, Belle, LHCb).
- Observation = new particles (beyond SM and  $M_{\nu}$ ).
- $\tau \rightarrow e^-e^+e^-$  @ Belle II will probe scales up to  $2 \times 10^4 \text{GeV}$ .

m LFV	process	current	future	$\exp$
	$ au  ightarrow e\gamma$	$3.3  imes 10^{-8}$	$10^{-9}$	Belle II
	$\tau \to e \bar{\ell} \ell$	$2.7 \times 10^{-8}$	$10^{-9}$	Belle II
$\Delta L$	$\tau \to e  \mathrm{had}$	$\mathcal{O}(10^{-8})$	$10^{-9}$	Belle II
	$h \to e \bar{\tau}$	$4.7  imes 10^{-3}$	$10^{-4}$	LHC
$L_{e} $	$Z \to e \bar{\tau}$	$9.8  imes 10^{-6}$	$10^{-9}$	FCC-ee
$\overline{\Delta}$	$had \rightarrow e\bar{\tau}(had)$	$\mathcal{O}(10^{-6})$	—	Belle II

# Upcoming CLFV

LORENZO CALIBBI and GIOVANNI SIGNORELLI



Figure 47. – Projected time lines for different projects searching for CLFV decays. MEG IIis expected to start data taking in 2018 after an engineering run in 2017; Mu3e magnet and detectors are expected at the end of 2019; Mu2e foresees three years of data taking starting in 2021; COMET Phase-I is expected to start commissioning and data taking in 2018 for two-three years, followed by a stop to develop and deploy the beamline and detectors for Phase-II; DeeMe is expected to start soon and take data with graphite and silicon carbide targets in sequence; Belle II is schedule to start data taking at end 2018.

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# Probing light particles

- Mu3e: BR( $\mu \rightarrow e X$ ) from  $10^{-6}$  to  $10^{-8}$ .
- Belle II: BR( $\tau \rightarrow \ell X$ ) from  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-5}$ . [JH, PLB '16]
- Followed by (displaced)  $X \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ ,  $\gamma \gamma$ ? [JH, Rodejohann, PLB '18]
- Example: Majoron.
  - Pseudo-Goldstone boson of lepton number.
  - Potential dark matter candidate. [JH, Garcia-Cely, JHEP '17]
  - Tree-level coupling only to neutrinos.



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## $\mu \rightarrow e \ X \ with \ X \rightarrow \ visible$

- Take  $X e \gamma_5 e m_e / \Lambda_{ee}$ .
- Decay length determines signature.
- Displaced vertex gives new observable.
   [JH, Rodejohann, PLB '18]
- Muon at rest:

$$\gamma c\tau \simeq \tfrac{\pi m_{\mu} \Lambda_{ee}^2}{m_e^2 m_X^2} \simeq 2.5 \, \mathrm{cm} \left( \tfrac{\Lambda_{ee}}{100 \, \mathrm{GeV}} \right)^2 \left( \tfrac{10 \, \mathrm{MeV}}{m_X} \right)^2.$$

### Sub-GeV X with ee coupling allowed?



 $\mu \rightarrow e X$  with  $X \rightarrow e e$ 



 $\text{Log}_{10}(m_X/\text{GeV})$ 

$$\begin{split} \mathrm{BR}(\mu \to \mathsf{eX}) \mathrm{BR}(\mathsf{X} \to \mathsf{ee}) (1 - \mathsf{P}(\mathsf{I}_{\mathrm{dec}})) \\ \simeq \mathrm{BR}(\mu \to \mathsf{eX}) \frac{\mathsf{I}_{\mathrm{dec}}}{\gamma \mathsf{c} \tau} \,. \end{split}$$

 $\mu \rightarrow e X$  with  $X \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ 



#### Muons difficult, taus easier.

## $\tau \rightarrow e \ X \ with \ X \rightarrow \ visible$

- Tau at rest, higher X boost.
- Arbitrary decay lengths possible.
- Similar for  $X \rightarrow ee, \mu\mu, \mue.$
- Worthwhile in LHCb and Belle (II).



[Limits: Dolan et al, JHEP '17]

#### New signatures from light physics!

## Neutrino mass $\Rightarrow$ charged LFV?

• SM + Dirac neutrinos:  $L = L_{SM} - (y\overline{L}H\nu_R + h.c.) + i\overline{\nu}_R \partial \!\!\!/ \nu_R$ 



$$\begin{array}{l} (\mathsf{yLH}\nu_{\mathsf{R}} + \mathsf{h.c.}) + \mathsf{I}\nu_{\mathsf{R}} \phi \nu_{\mathsf{R}} \\ \mathsf{m}_{\nu} = \mathsf{y} \langle \mathsf{H} \rangle \\ = \mathsf{U} \operatorname{diag}(\mathsf{m}_{1}, \mathsf{m}_{2}, \mathsf{m}_{3}) \mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{R}} \\ \overset{!}{\lesssim} \mathsf{eV} \end{array}$$

• All CLFV is GIM suppressed:

$$\frac{\Gamma(\ell_{\alpha} \to \ell_{\beta} \gamma)}{\Gamma(\ell_{\alpha} \to \ell_{\beta} \nu_{\alpha} \overline{\nu}_{\beta})} \simeq \frac{3\alpha_{\rm EM}}{32\pi} \left| \sum_{j=2,3} U_{\alpha j} \frac{\Delta m_{j1}^2}{M_{W}^2} U_{j\beta}^{\dagger} \right|^2 < 5 \times 10^{-53}$$

[1977: Petcov; Bilenky, Petcov, Pontecorvo; Marciano, Sanda; Lee, Pakvasa, Shrock, Sugawara]

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## Seesaw mass $\Rightarrow$ charged LFV?

• SM + seesaw neutrinos:  $L = L_{SM} + i\overline{N}_R \partial N_R$ 

$$-\left(\frac{1}{2}M_{R}\overline{N}_{R}^{c}N_{R}+y\overline{L}HN_{R}+h.c.\right)$$
• Violates  $\Delta L$  = 2. For large  $M_{R}$ :  
 $m_{D}\overline{\nu}_{L}N_{R}$ 

 $M_N\simeq M_R\,,\qquad M_\nu\simeq -m_D M_R^{-1}m_D^T=U^*\operatorname{diag}(m_1,m_2,m_3)U^\dagger.$ 

• Majorana neutrinos!

• LFV: 
$$\frac{\Gamma(\ell_{\alpha} \to \ell_{\beta} \gamma)}{\Gamma(\ell_{\alpha} \to \ell_{\beta} \nu_{\alpha} \overline{\nu}_{\beta})} \simeq \frac{3\alpha_{\rm EM}}{8\pi} |(m_{\rm D} M_{\rm R}^{-2} m_{\rm D}^{\dagger})_{\alpha\beta}|^{2}.$$
[Cheng & Li '80]
$$\mathcal{O}(M_{\nu}^{4}/m_{\rm D}^{4})$$
Not true with fine-tuning or structure in  $m_{\rm D}$ .

# $$\begin{split} &\text{Neutrino-mass models } can \text{ give LFV} \\ &L_{\rm seesaw} = L_{\rm SM} + i \overline{N}_R \partial \!\!\!/ N_R - (\frac{1}{2} M_R \overline{N}_R^c N_R + m_D \overline{\nu}_L N_R + h.c.) \end{split}$$

- $\Rightarrow \quad \mathsf{M}_{\nu} \simeq -\mathsf{m}_{\mathsf{D}}\mathsf{M}_{\mathsf{R}}^{-1}\mathsf{m}_{\mathsf{D}}^{\mathsf{T}} \quad \& \quad \mathrm{BR}(\ell_{\alpha} \to \ell_{\beta}\gamma) \propto |(\mathsf{m}_{\mathsf{D}}\mathsf{M}_{\mathsf{R}}^{-2}\mathsf{m}_{\mathsf{D}}^{\dagger})_{\alpha\beta}|^{2}.$
- One to one correspondence

 $\{\mathsf{m}_\mathsf{D},\mathsf{M}_\mathsf{R}\}\leftrightarrow\{\mathsf{M}_\nu,\mathsf{m}_\mathsf{D}\mathsf{M}_\mathsf{R}^{-2}\mathsf{m}_\mathsf{D}^\dagger\}.$ 

[Broncano, Gavela, Jenkins, hep-ph/0210271]

• Matrix structure decouples LFV from M<sub>v</sub>.

LFV complementary to M<sub>v</sub>!

• Fairly generic conclusion, makes it difficult to predict LFV.

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## Scalar-triplet seesaw

[Konetschny & Kummer '77; Magg & Wetterich, '80; Schechter & Valle '80; Cheng & Li, '80; Mohapatra & Senjanovic, '81]

$$\mathsf{L} = \mathsf{L}_{\mathrm{SM}} + |\mathsf{D}_{\alpha}\Delta|^{2} - (\mathsf{y}\overline{\mathsf{L}}^{\mathsf{c}}\Delta\mathsf{L} + \mu\mathsf{H}\Delta\mathsf{H} + \mathsf{h.c.})$$



[Pich, Santamaria, Bernabeu, '84; Abada++, 0707.4058]

## Prediction of LFV *ratios* via M<sub>v</sub>!

CDF's W-mass first hint for this triplet with O(100 GeV) mass? [Heeck, 2204.10274]