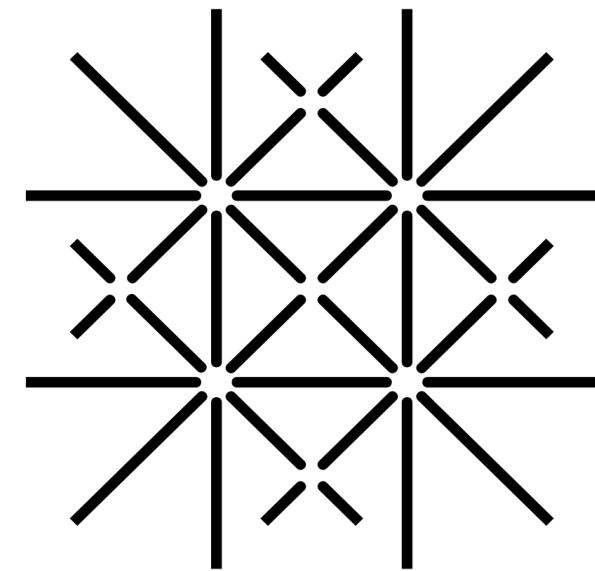


Froggatt-Nielsen ALP

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Based on [2407.02998](#) in collaboration with Admir Greljo, Aleks Smolkovič



**Universität
Basel**

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What is the lowest FN scale compatible with present experimental constraints?

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Answer:

The current energy frontier

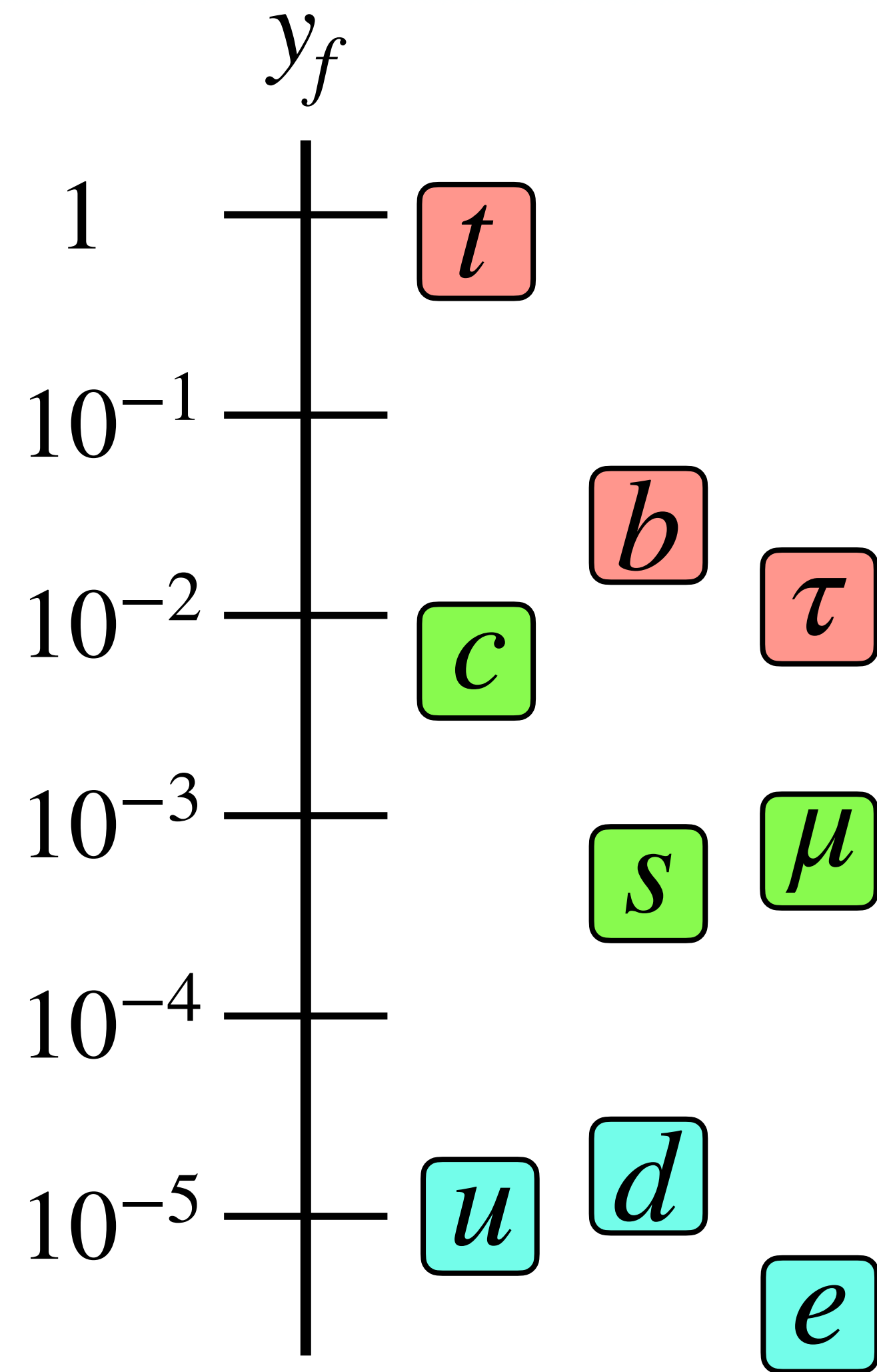
Outline

1. Introduction: flavor puzzle and Froggatt-Nielsen models
2. Z_N Froggatt-Nielsen
3. The minimal model: Z_4
 - Setup
 - Phenomenology
4. Conclusion

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1. The flavor puzzle and Froggatt-Nielsen models



Standard Model

$SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ gauge theory, 3 generations

Gauge sector: $U(3)^5$ symmetric

Higgs sector (Yukawa): $U(3)^5$ broken (partially)

Why is the breaking so hierarchical?

The flavor puzzle

1. The flavor puzzle and Froggatt-Nielsen models

Froggatt-Nielsen

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} \supset \sum_{F,f} y_{ij}^f \bar{F}_{L,i} H f_{R,j} + \{ \tilde{H} \} + \text{h.c.}$$

FN idea: $y_{ij}^f \longrightarrow x_{ij}^f \epsilon^{n_{ij}^f} \quad x_{ij}^f \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$

$$U(1)_{\text{FN}}$$

Froggatt, Nielsen (1978)

$$[F_i] = Q_i^F \quad [f_j] = Q_j^f \quad [\epsilon] = 1$$

$U(1)_{\text{FN}}$ -breaking spurion

Selection rules $\leftrightarrow n_{ij}^f \leftrightarrow$ flavor pattern

1. The flavor puzzle and Froggatt-Nielsen models

Froggatt-Nielsen

Dynamical realization: $\epsilon \longrightarrow \frac{\langle \Phi \rangle}{M} \quad [\Phi] = 1$

$$\left(y_{ij}^f \longrightarrow x_{ij}^f \epsilon^{n_{ij}^f} \right)$$

$$\Phi = \frac{v_\Phi + \rho}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i \frac{a}{v_\Phi}} \quad \left(\langle \Phi \rangle = \frac{v_\Phi}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

$$U(1)_{\text{FN}} \text{ SSB} \longrightarrow \mathbf{ALP} \ a$$

Froggatt-Nielsen

- If $U(1)_{\text{FN}}$ has anomaly with QCD \longrightarrow Strong CP for free!
flaxion/axiflavor

Calibbi, Goertz, Redigolo,
Ziegler, Zupan (2016)

Ema, Hamaguchi,
Moroi, Nakayama (2016)

1. The flavor puzzle and Froggatt-Nielsen models

Froggatt-Nielsen

- If $U(1)_{\text{FN}}$ has anomaly with QCD \longrightarrow Strong CP for free!

flaxion/axiflavor

- Bound: $\mathcal{L} \sim \epsilon^{n_{sd}} e^{ia/v_{\Phi}} \bar{s}_L H d_R + \text{h.c.}$

Calibbi, Goertz, Redigolo,
Ziegler, Zupan (2016)

Ema, Hamaguchi,
Moroi, Nakayama (2016)

E787+E949 (2007)
95% CL

$$\text{Br}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ a) < 9.5 \times 10^{-11}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{\Phi} \gtrsim 10^{12} \text{ GeV} \times \epsilon^{n_{sd}}$$

Camalich, Pospelov, Vuong,
Ziegler, Zupan (2020)

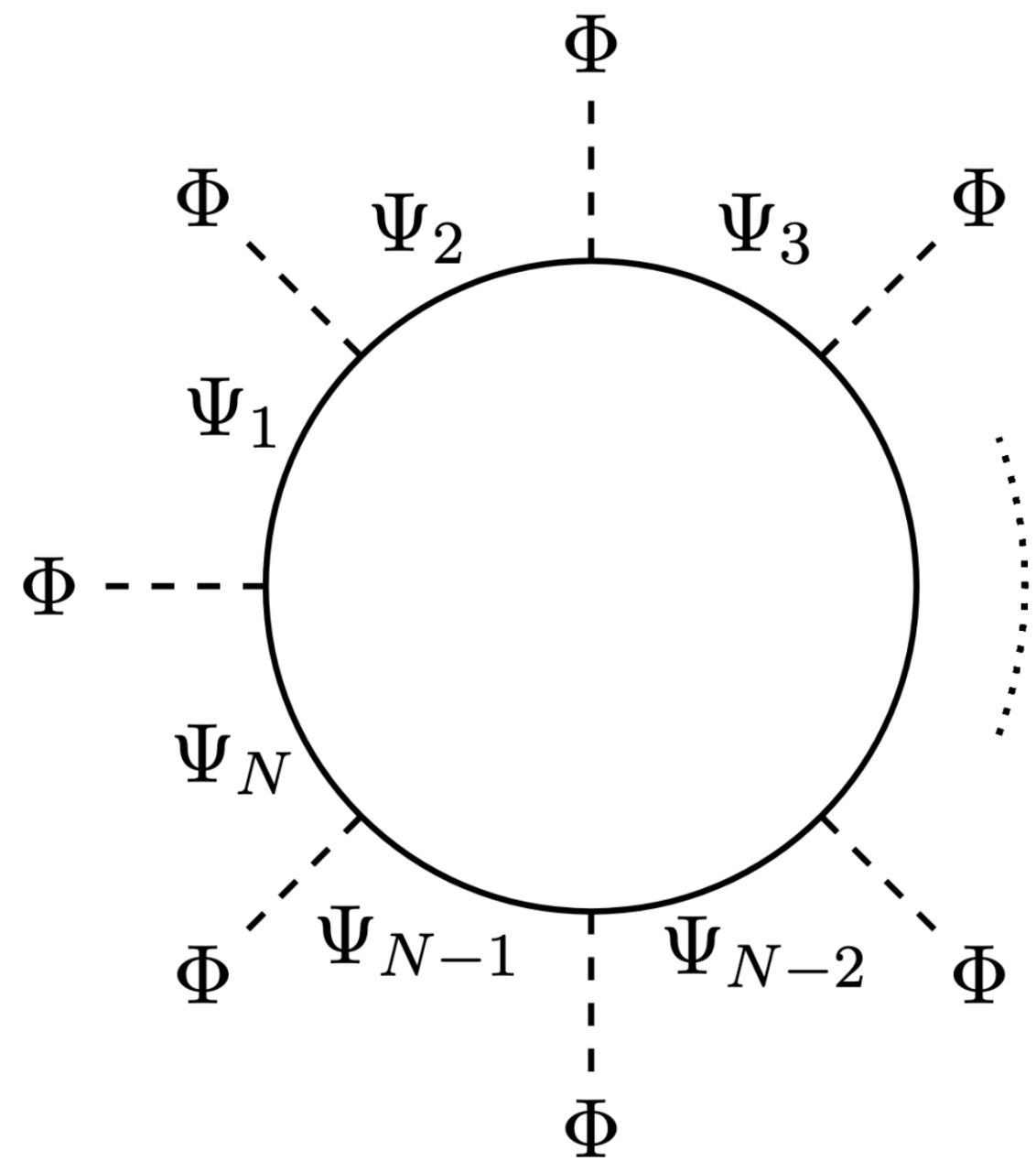
Can we lower this?

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Discrete Froggatt-Nielsen models

Simplest setup: $U(1)_{\text{FN}} \rightarrow Z_N \text{ symmetry}$



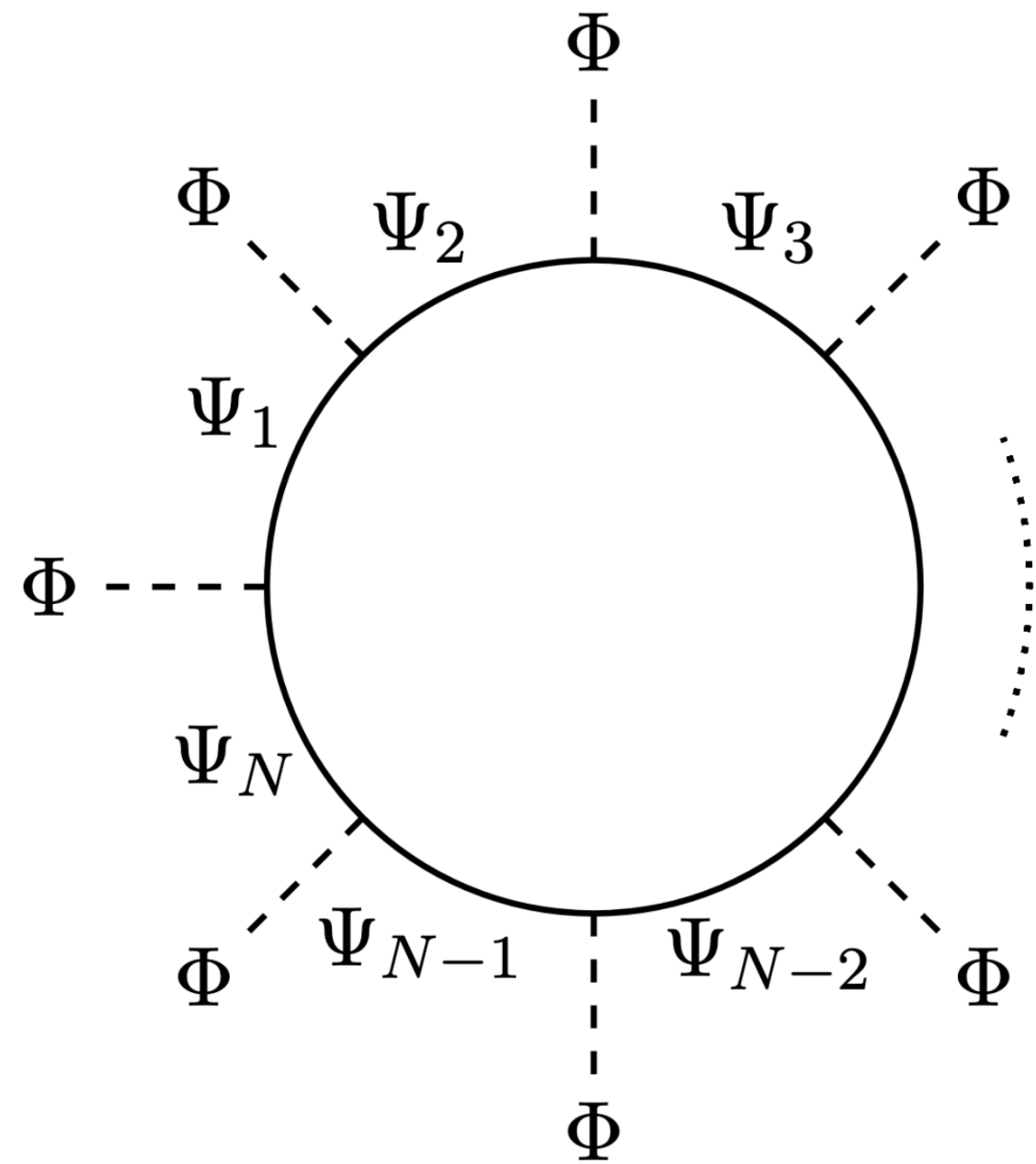
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4} \frac{\lambda'_N}{M_\Phi^{N-4}} [\Phi^N + (\Phi^*)^N]$$

$$M_\psi \sim M_\Phi \sim M$$

Discrete Froggatt-Nielsen models

Simplest setup:

$$U(1)_{\text{FN}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_N \text{ symmetry}$$



$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4} \frac{\lambda'_N}{M_\Phi^{N-4}} [\Phi^N + (\Phi^*)^N]$$

$$m_a^2 \sim \lambda'_N v_\Phi^2 \left(\frac{v_\Phi}{M_\Phi} \right)^{N-4} \sim \lambda'_N v_\Phi^2 \epsilon^{N-4} \quad \left(\lambda'_N \sim \frac{\prod_k y_k}{16\pi^2} \right)$$

$K \rightarrow \pi a$ not kinematically allowed!

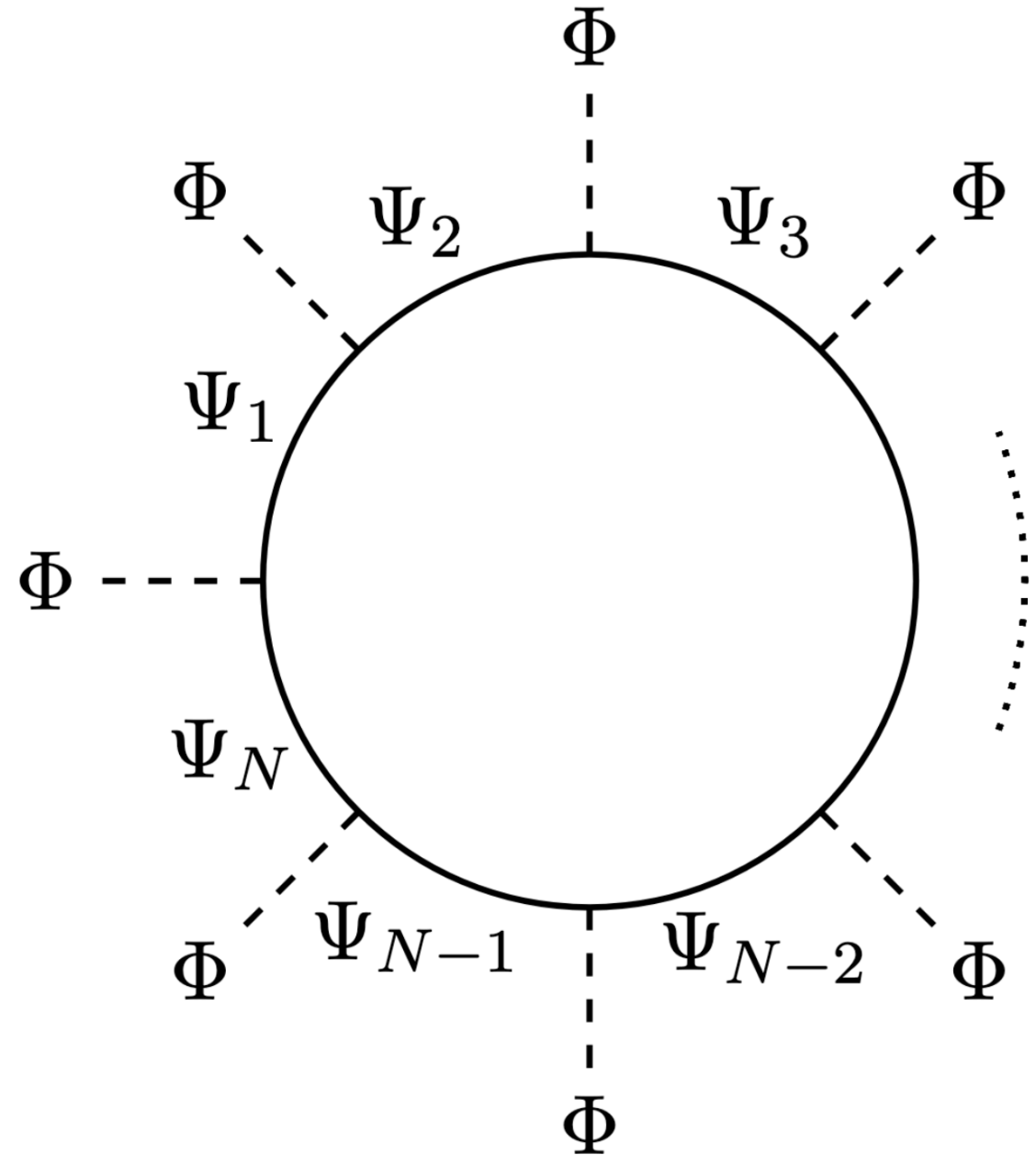
(Strong CP solved externally)

$$M_\psi \sim M_\Phi \sim M$$

Discrete Froggatt-Nielsen models

Simplest setup:

$$U(1)_{\text{FN}} \rightarrow Z_N \text{ symmetry}$$



$$M_\psi \sim M_\Phi \sim M$$

Hierarchies:

$$\left(\frac{\Phi}{M}\right)^{n_{ij}^f} \bar{F}_L H f_R \longrightarrow \left(\frac{\Phi^*}{M}\right)^{N-n_{ij}^f} \bar{F}_L H f_R$$

$$\Phi^m \sim (\Phi^*)^{N-m}$$

(Exception: SUSY)

Require $\max [n_{ij}^f] \leq N/2$

2. Discrete Froggatt-Nielsen

Theory constraints:

1. Stability $V(\Phi) = -m^2 |\Phi|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} |\Phi|^4 - \frac{1}{4} \frac{\lambda'_N}{M_\Phi^{N-4}} [\Phi^N + (\Phi^*)^N] + \dots$

$$0 \leq m_\rho^2 \leq \lambda v_\Phi^2$$

$$0 \leq m_a^2 \leq \left(\frac{N}{N-2} \right) \lambda v_\Phi^2$$

2. Discrete Froggatt-Nielsen

Theory constraints:

1. Stability

2. QCD contribution

$$m_a^2 \gtrsim m_{a,\text{QCD}}^2 \sim \frac{m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2}{v_\Phi^2} N^2 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{(no fine-tuning)} \\ \text{(assuming anomaly)} \end{array}$$

2. Discrete Froggatt-Nielsen

Theory constraints:

1. Stability

2. QCD contribution

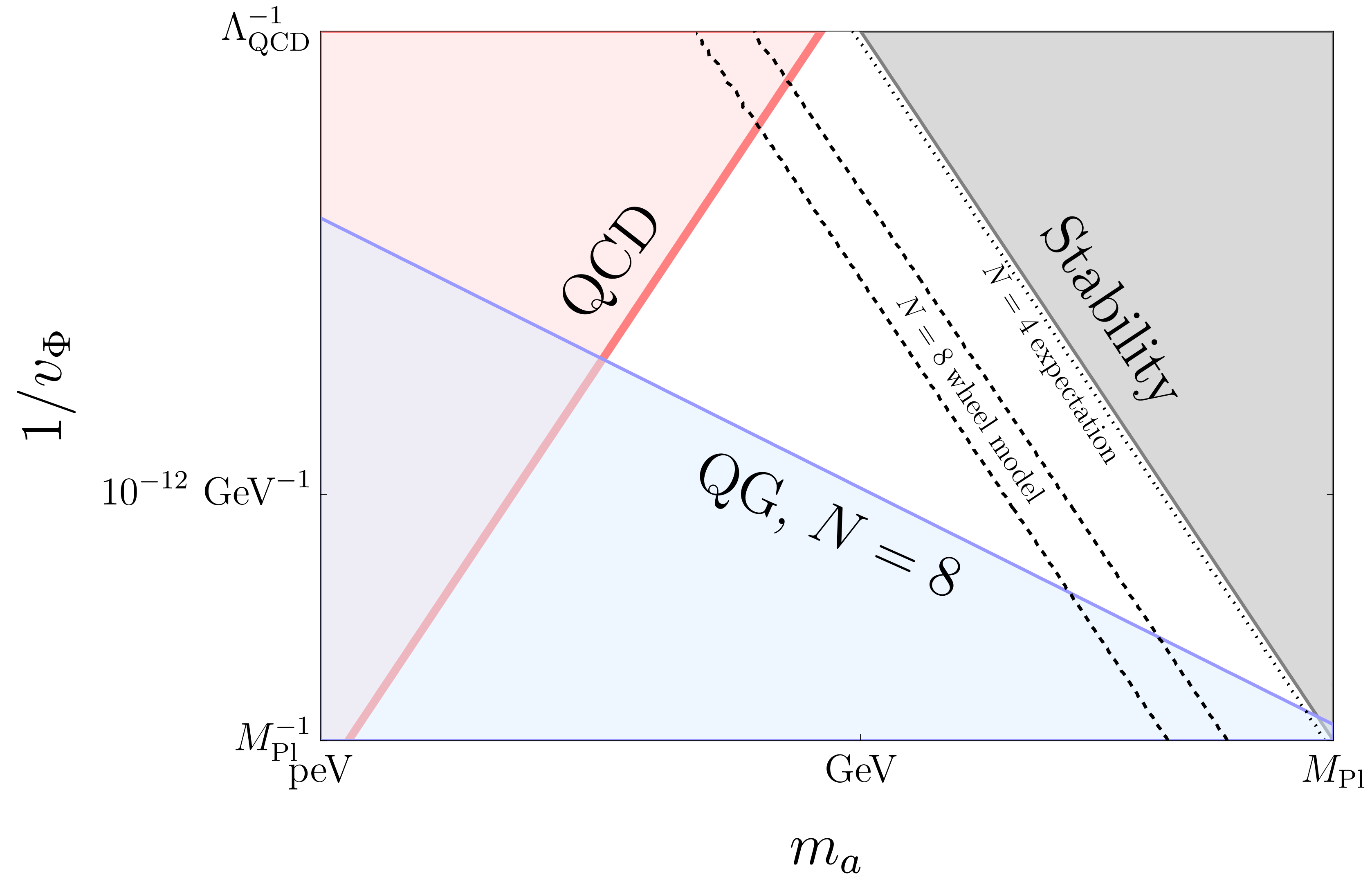
3. QG contribution

$$V_{\Phi} \supset -\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{M_P^{N-4}} [\Phi^N + (\Phi^*)^N]$$

$$m_a^2 \gtrsim 8\pi^2 \left(\frac{N^2}{2^{N/2}} \right) \left(\frac{v_{\Phi}}{M_P} \right)^{N-4} v_{\Phi}^2 \quad (\text{no fine-tuning})$$

2. Discrete Froggatt-Nielsen

Theory constraints:



$$\lambda = 0.5$$

$$\lambda'_4 = \lambda/4$$

$$\lambda'_8 = \frac{\prod_k y_k}{16\pi^2}$$

$(y_k \sim U(0,1),$
10th – 90th percentiles)

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3. The minimal model: Z_4

Minimal model: Z_4

$$q_{1,2,3} \sim (2,1,0) \quad \bar{e}_{1,2,3} \sim (2,1,0)$$

$$Y_d = \begin{pmatrix} 0.55\epsilon^2 & 2.5\epsilon^2 & (0.73 - 1.8i)\epsilon^2 \\ 0 & 0.049\epsilon & 0.10\epsilon \\ 0 & 0 & 0.011 \end{pmatrix} \quad Y_u = \begin{pmatrix} 0.25\epsilon^2 & z_{u_2}\epsilon^2 & z_{u_3}\epsilon^2 \\ 0 & 0.57\epsilon & y_{u_3}\epsilon \\ 0 & 0 & 0.71 \end{pmatrix} \quad Y_e = \begin{pmatrix} 0.15\epsilon^2 & 0 & 0 \\ z_{e_2}\epsilon^2 & 0.14\epsilon & 0 \\ z_{e_3}\epsilon^2 & y_{e_3}\epsilon & 0.01 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} y_{t,b,\tau} \sim 1 \\ y_{c,s,\mu} \sim \epsilon \\ y_{u,d,e} \sim \epsilon^2 \end{cases}$$

$$\epsilon \simeq 4.4 \times 10^{-3}$$

- “Acceptable” fit ($O(10^{-2})$ tuning)
- Pattern similar to $U(2)_{q+e}$ models

Antusch, Greljo, Stefanek, Thomsen (2023)

3. The minimal model: Z_4

Minimal model: Z_4

UV completion: $\underline{\text{VLQ}} \quad Q_2^a, Q_1 + \underline{\text{VLL}} \quad E_2^a, E_1$

$$Z_4 \sim \quad (0, 1) \quad (0, 1)$$

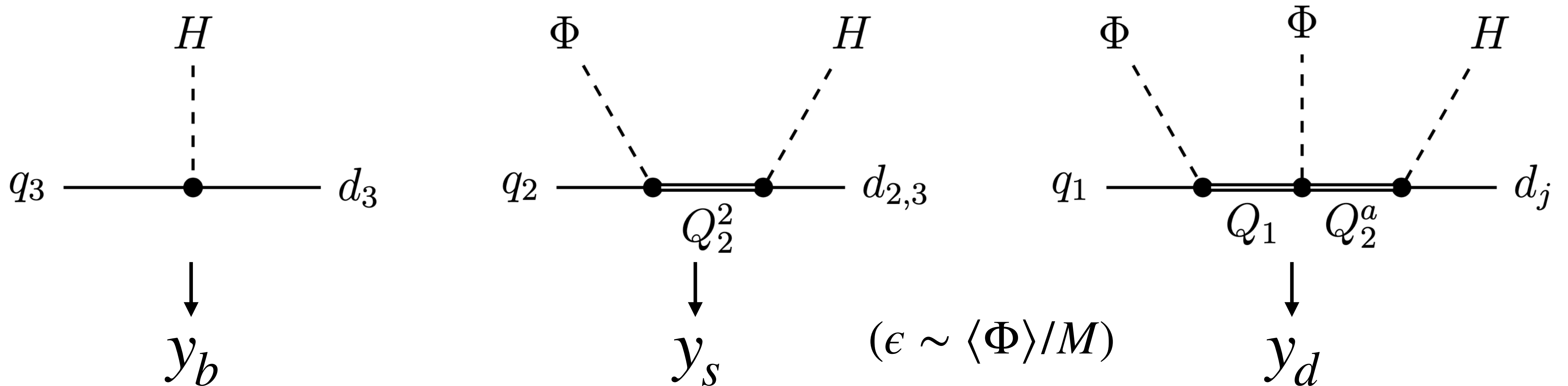
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{UV}} \supset & -z_j^d \bar{q}_3 H d_j - z_j^u \bar{q}_3 \tilde{H} u_j - z_j^e \bar{\ell}_3 H e_j \\ & + x_1^q \Phi \bar{q}_1 Q_1 + x_{12}^{qa} \Phi \bar{Q}_1 Q_2^a + x_2^{qa} \Phi \bar{q}_2 Q_2^a - y_j^{da} \Phi \bar{Q}_2^a H d_j - y_j^{ua} \Phi \bar{Q}_2^a \tilde{H} u_j \\ & + x_1^e \Phi \bar{E}_1 e_1 + x_{12}^{ea} \Phi \bar{E}_2^a E_1 + x_2^{ea} \Phi \bar{E}_2^a e_2 - y_j^{ea} \bar{\ell}_i H E_2^a \end{aligned}$$

3. The minimal model: Z_4

Minimal model: Z_4

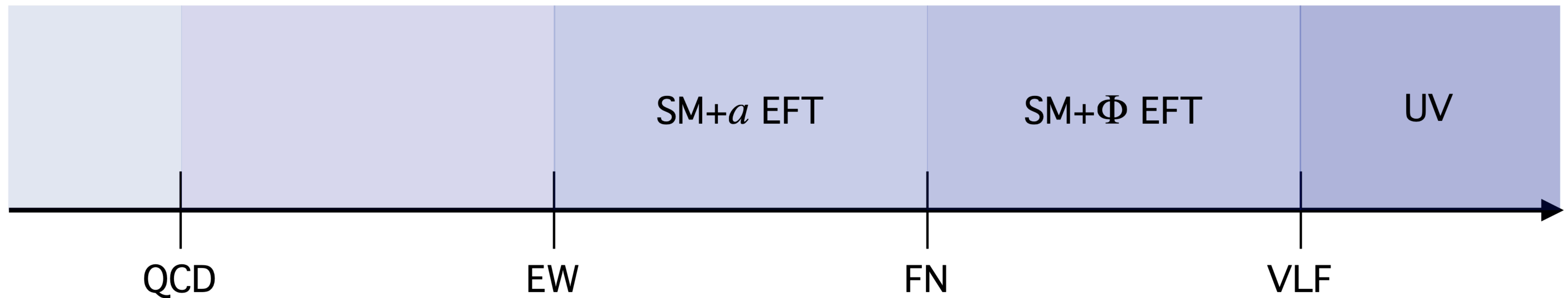
UV completion: $\underline{\text{VLQ}} \ Q_2^a, Q_1 + \underline{\text{VLL}} \ E_2^a, E_1$

$$Z_4 \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



up quarks, leptons analogous (with appropriate replacements)

Phenomenology: tower of EFTs



Interplay between UV (VLF) and ALP effects

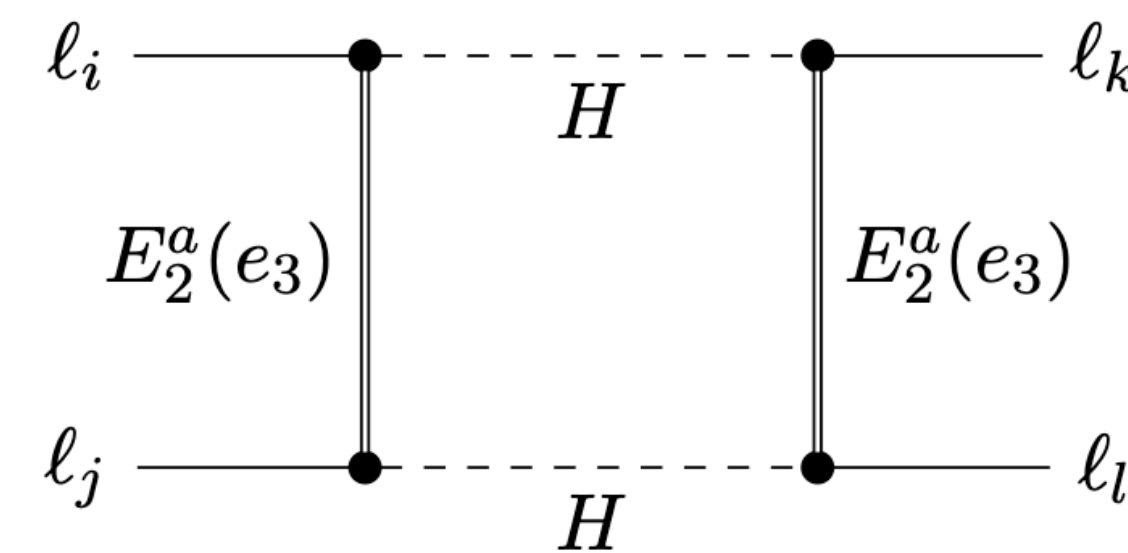
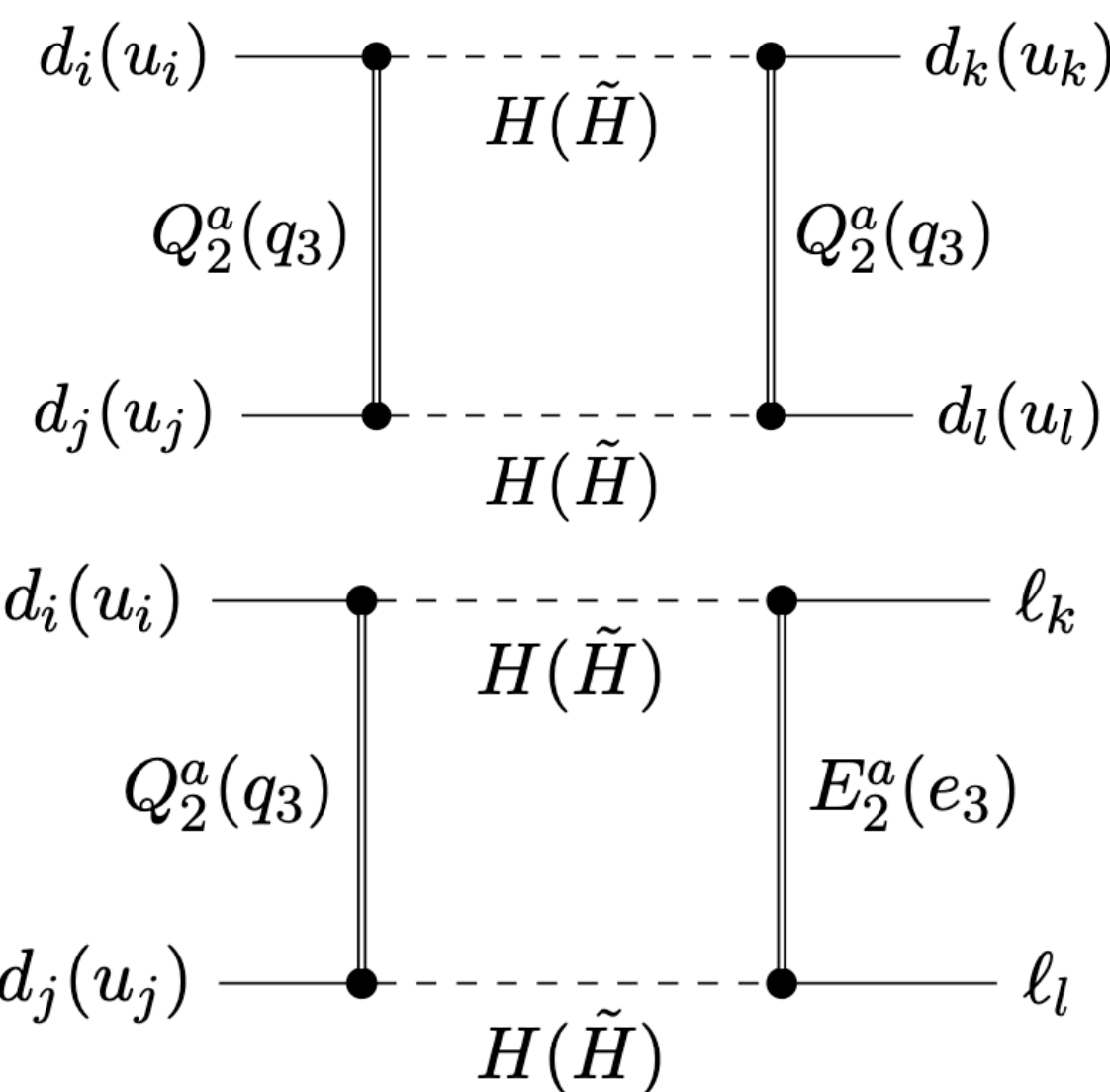
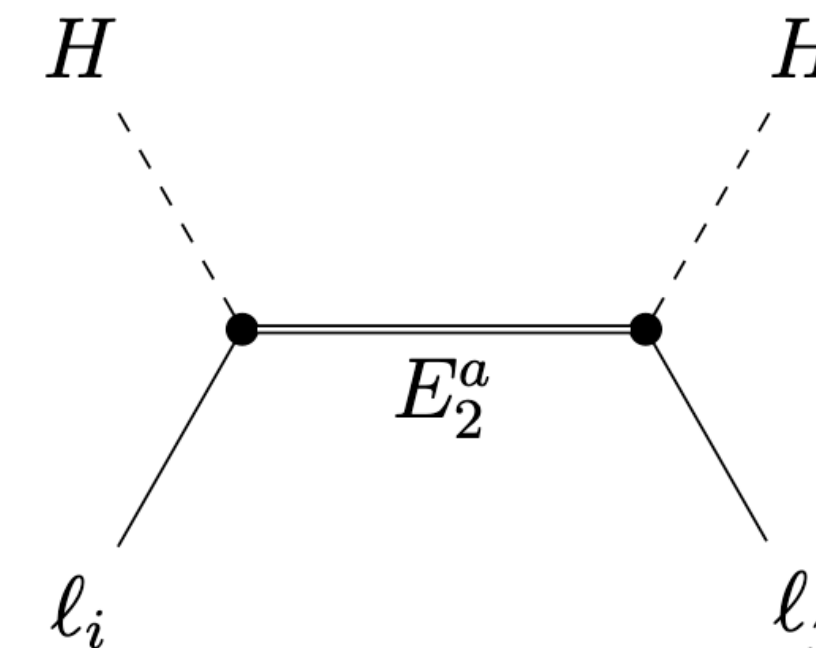
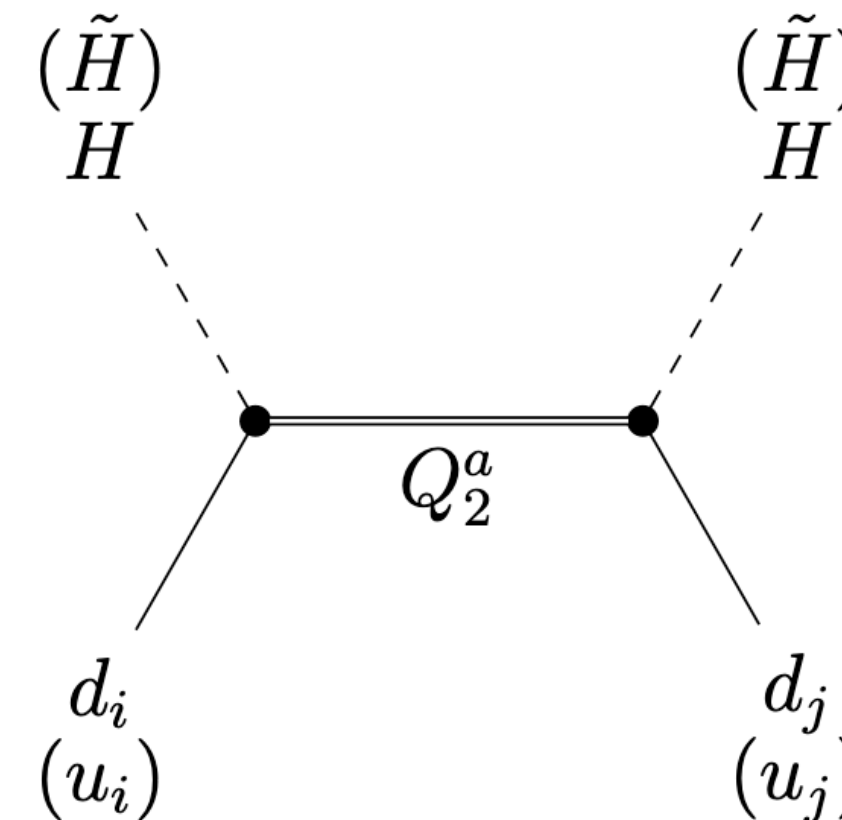
Phenomenology: tower of EFTs

- VLF**

$$(H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \quad (H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \quad (H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu \ell)$$

SM Z

$$\begin{aligned} &(\bar{d}\gamma_\mu d)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) & & (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \\ &(\bar{d}\gamma_\mu d)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) & & (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \\ &(\bar{u}\gamma_\mu u)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) & & (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu \ell) \end{aligned}$$



Phenomenogy: tower of EFTs

- **VLF**

$$(H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \quad (H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \quad (H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu \ell)$$

$$v_\Phi \sim \epsilon M_{Q,E}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &(\bar{d}\gamma_\mu d)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \\ &(\bar{d}\gamma_\mu d)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \quad (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \\ &(\bar{u}\gamma_\mu u)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \quad (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \quad (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu \ell) \end{aligned}$$

Phenomenogy: tower of EFTs

• VLF

$$(H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \quad (H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \quad (H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu \ell)$$

$$v_\Phi \sim \epsilon M_{Q,E}$$

Observables:

- Rare meson decays
- Rare lepton decays
- Meson mixings
- ...

$$\begin{array}{l} (\bar{d}\gamma_\mu d)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \\ (\bar{d}\gamma_\mu d)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \\ (\bar{u}\gamma_\mu u)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \\ (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \end{array} \quad (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu \ell)$$

Phenomenogy: tower of EFTs

• VLF

$$(H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) \quad (H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) \quad (H^\dagger i\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H)(\bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu \ell)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &(\bar{d}\gamma_\mu d)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) & (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{d}\gamma^\mu d) & (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu \ell) \\ &(\bar{d}\gamma_\mu d)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) & (\bar{\ell}\gamma_\mu \ell)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) & \\ &(\bar{u}\gamma_\mu u)(\bar{u}\gamma^\mu u) & & \end{aligned}$$

$$v_\Phi \sim \epsilon M_{Q,E}$$

Observables:

- Rare meson decays
- Rare lepton decays
- Meson mixings
- ...

Leading: ϵ_K

$$v_\Phi \gtrsim 3 \text{ TeV}$$

Phenomenogy: tower of EFTs

- VLF
- **ALP**

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_{f=u,d,e} c_{ij}^f \bar{f}_{L,i} (\rho + ia) f_{R,j} + \text{h.c.} + \text{h.o.}$$

See also:

Björkeröth, Chun, King (2018)

Bauer, Schnell, Plehn (2016)

Bauer, Neubert, Renner, Schnubel, Tamm (2017,2020,2022)

....

$$c_{ij} = \frac{1}{v_\Phi} \left[(U_L^{f\dagger} Q^F U_L^f) \hat{m}^f - \hat{m}^f (U_R^{f\dagger} Q^f U_R^f) \right]_{ij}$$

Phenomenology: tower of EFTs

- VLF
- **ALP**

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_{f=u,d,e} c_{ij}^f \bar{f}_{L,i} (\rho + ia) f_{R,j} + \text{h.c.} + \text{h.o.}$$

See also:

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Bauer, Schnell, Plehn (2016)

Bauer, Neubert, Renner, Schnubel, Tamm (2017,2020,2022)

....

- $c^u, (c^e)^t$ analogous
- $m_a \sim \lambda_4 v_\Phi$ free parameter
($\lambda_4 \sim 1$ natural expectation)

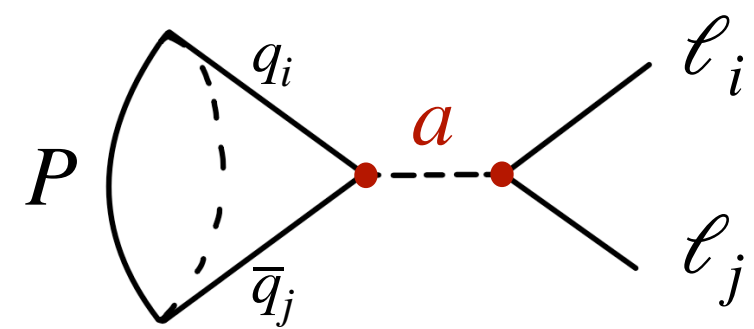
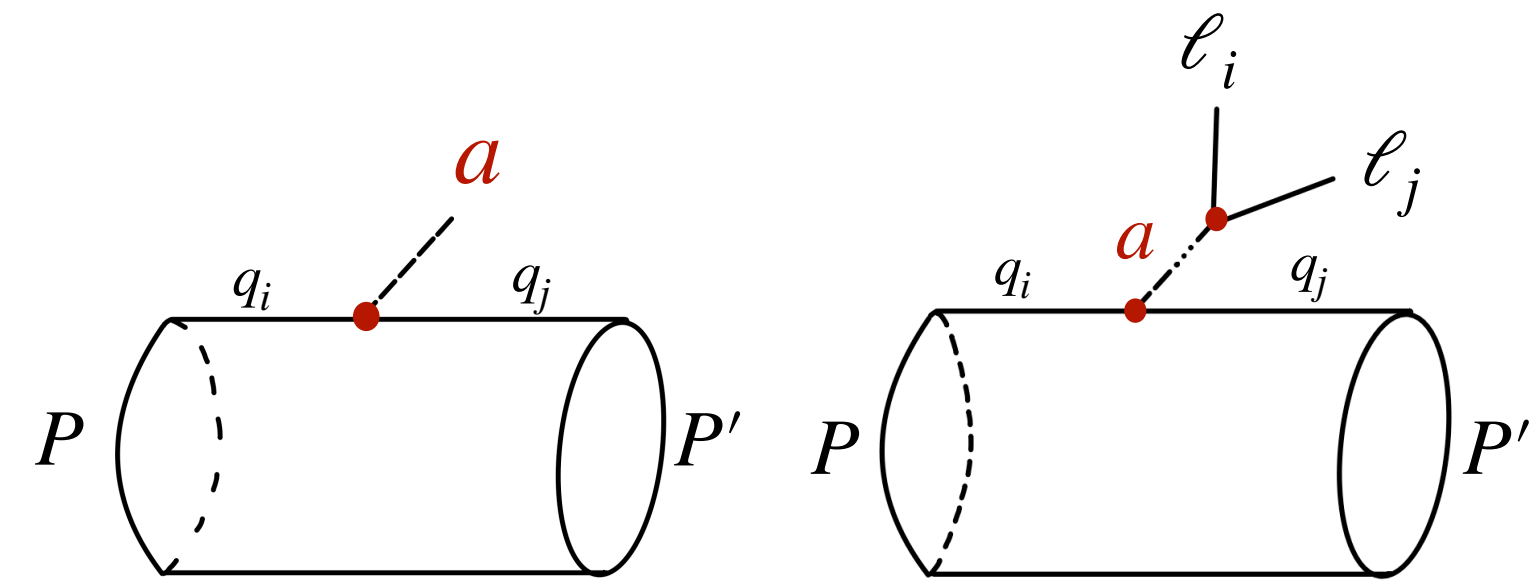
$$c_{ij} = \frac{1}{v_\Phi} \left[(U_L^{f\dagger} Q^F U_L^f) \hat{m}^f - \hat{m}^f (U_R^{f\dagger} Q^f U_R^f) \right]_{ij}$$

$$c^d \sim \begin{pmatrix} m_d & m_s \frac{m_d}{m_s} & m_b \frac{m_d}{m_b} \\ m_d \frac{m_d}{m_s} & m_s & m_b \frac{m_s}{m_b} \\ m_d \frac{m_d}{m_d} & m_s \frac{m_s}{m_b} & m_b \frac{m_s^2}{m_b^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Phenomenology: tower of EFTs

- VLF
- **ALP**

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_{f=u,d,e} c_{ij}^f \bar{f}_{L,i} (\rho + ia) f_{R,j} + \text{h.c.} + \text{h.o.}$$



Rare
meson
decays

(Leading)

$$K \rightarrow \pi a, B \rightarrow Ka$$

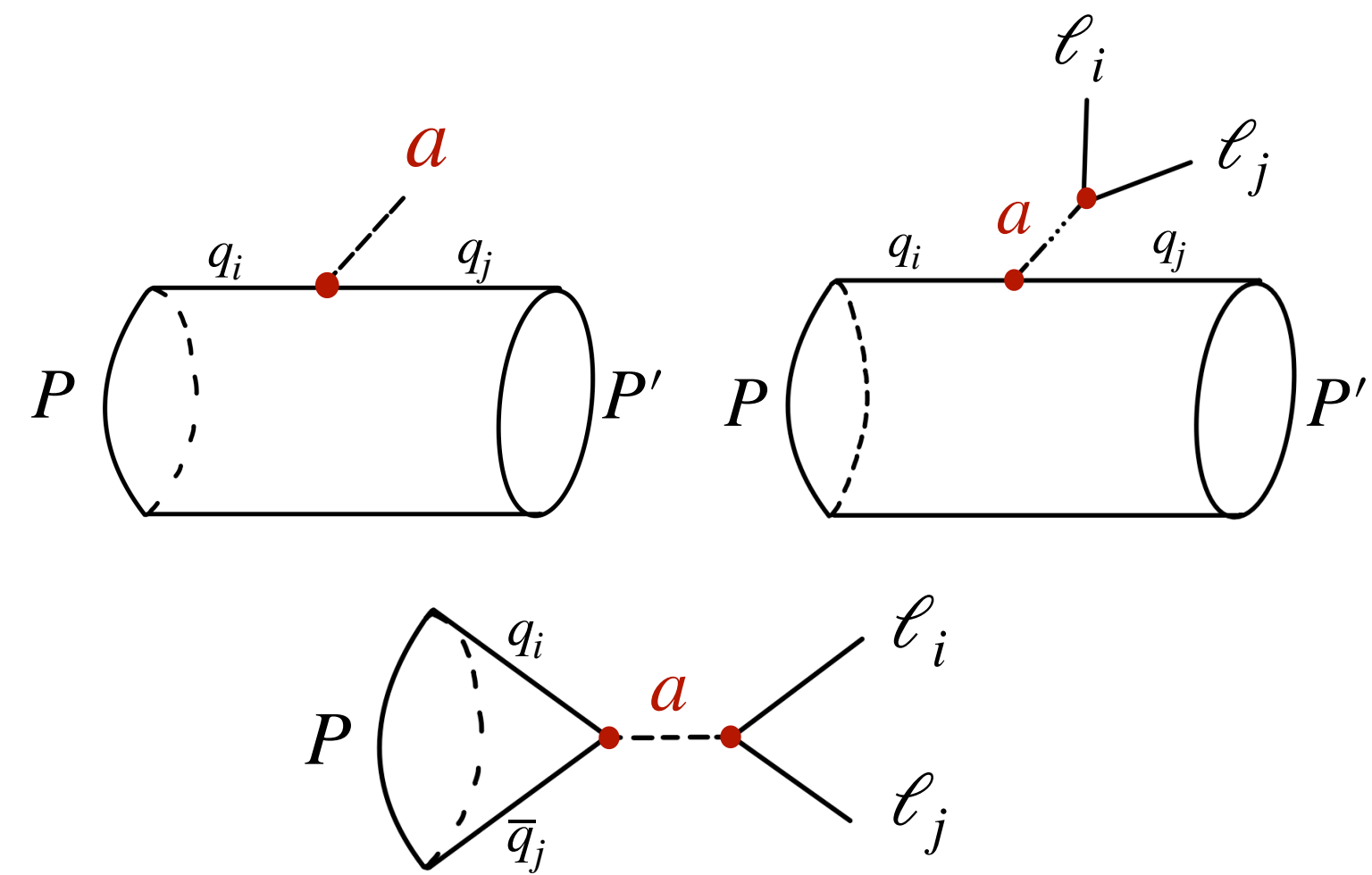
$$\text{Displaced } B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \mu \mu$$

$$K_L \rightarrow \mu \mu, K_L \rightarrow \mu e$$

Phenomenology: tower of EFTs

- VLF
- **ALP**

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_{f=u,d,e} c_{ij}^f \bar{f}_{L,i} (\rho + ia) f_{R,j} + \text{h.c.} + \text{h.o.}$$

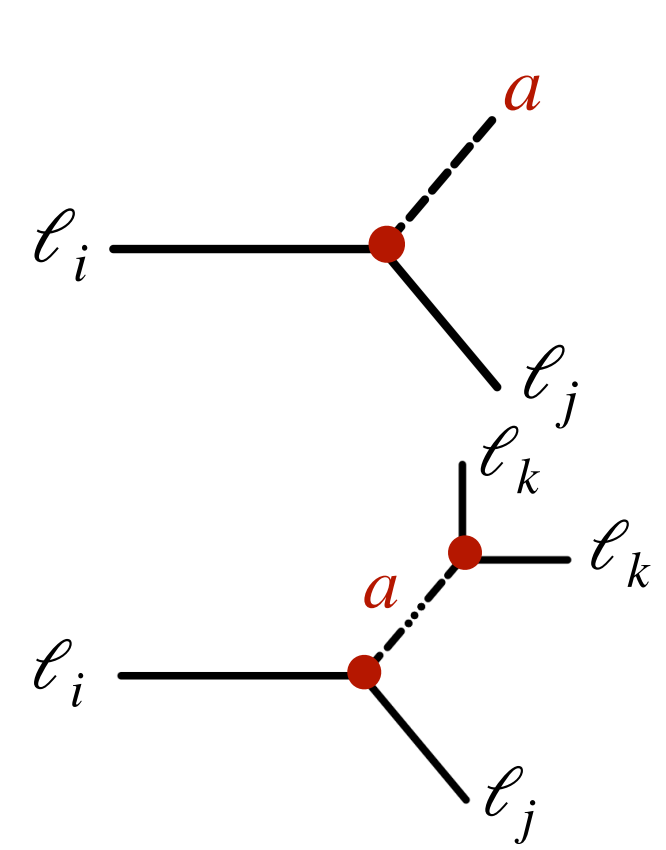


Rare meson decays

(Leading)

- $K \rightarrow \pi a, B \rightarrow Ka$
- Displaced $B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \mu \mu$
- $K_L \rightarrow \mu \mu, K_L \rightarrow \mu e$

(Leading)



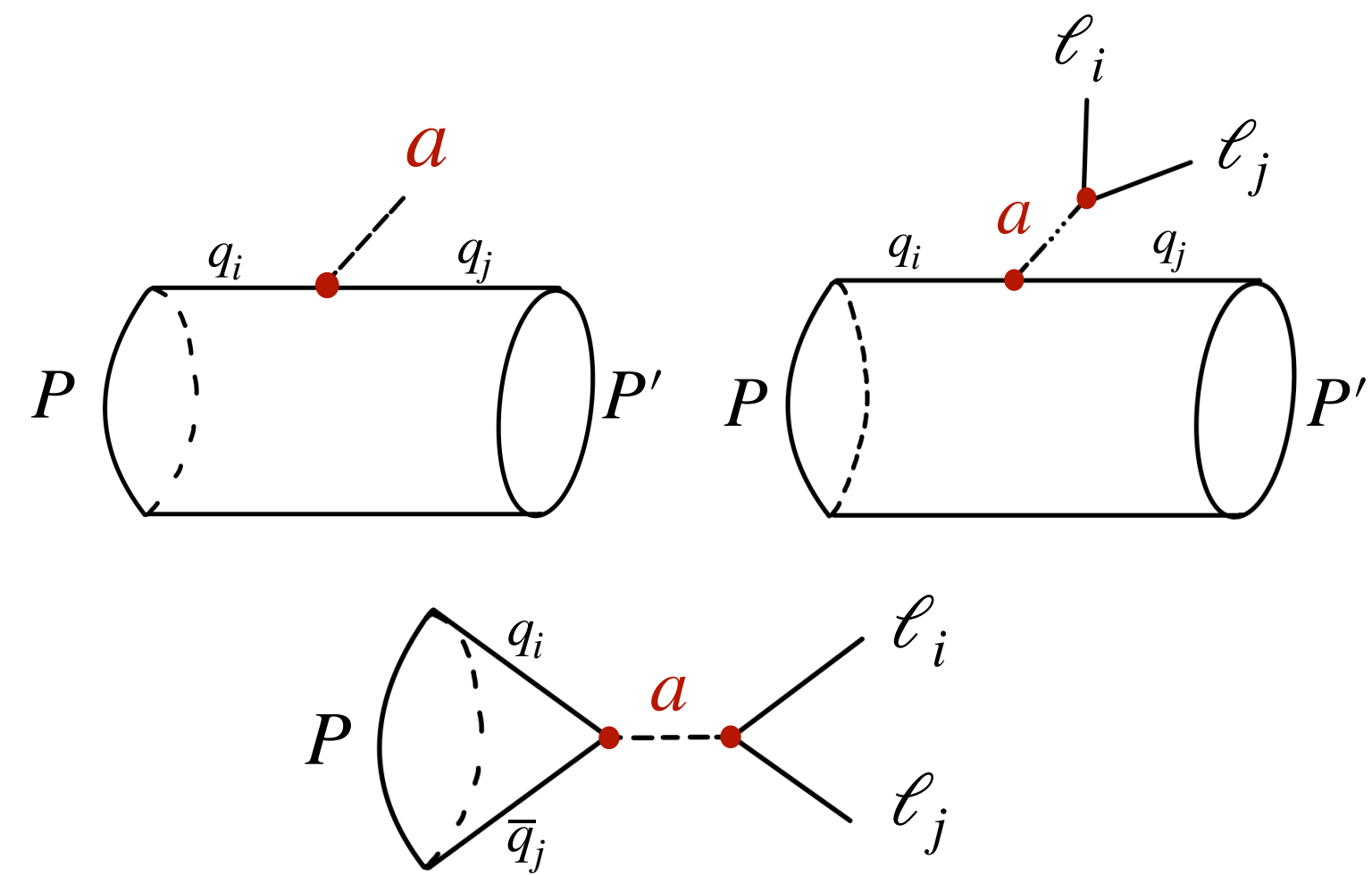
Rare lepton decays

- $\tau \rightarrow \mu a$
- $\tau \rightarrow 3\mu$ (displaced?)

Phenomenology: tower of EFTs

- VLF
- **ALP**

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_{f=u,d,e} c_{ij}^f \bar{f}_{L,i} (\rho + ia) f_{R,j} + \text{h.c.} + \text{h.o.}$$



Rare meson decays

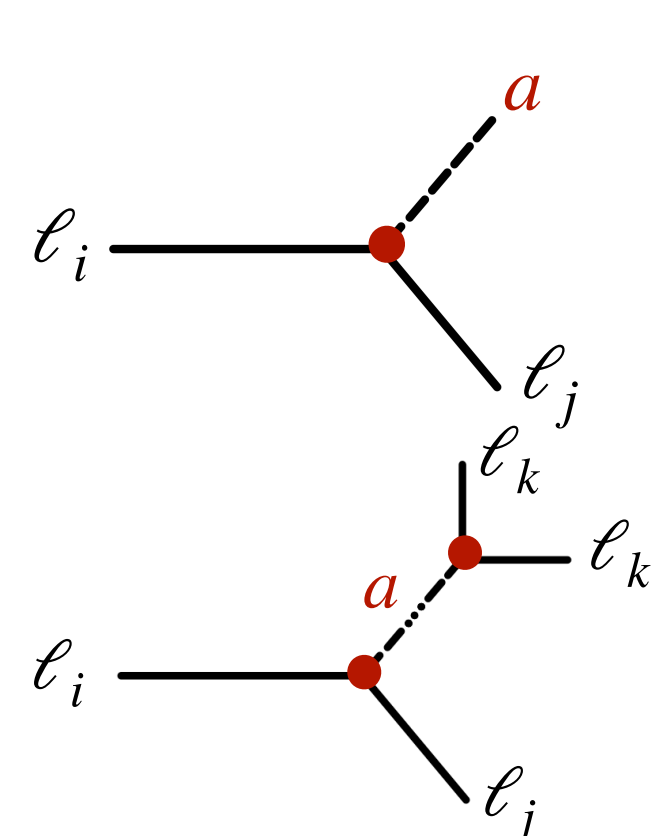
(Leading)

$$K \rightarrow \pi a, B \rightarrow Ka$$

$$\text{Displaced } B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \mu \mu$$

$$K_L \rightarrow \mu \mu, K_L \rightarrow \mu e$$

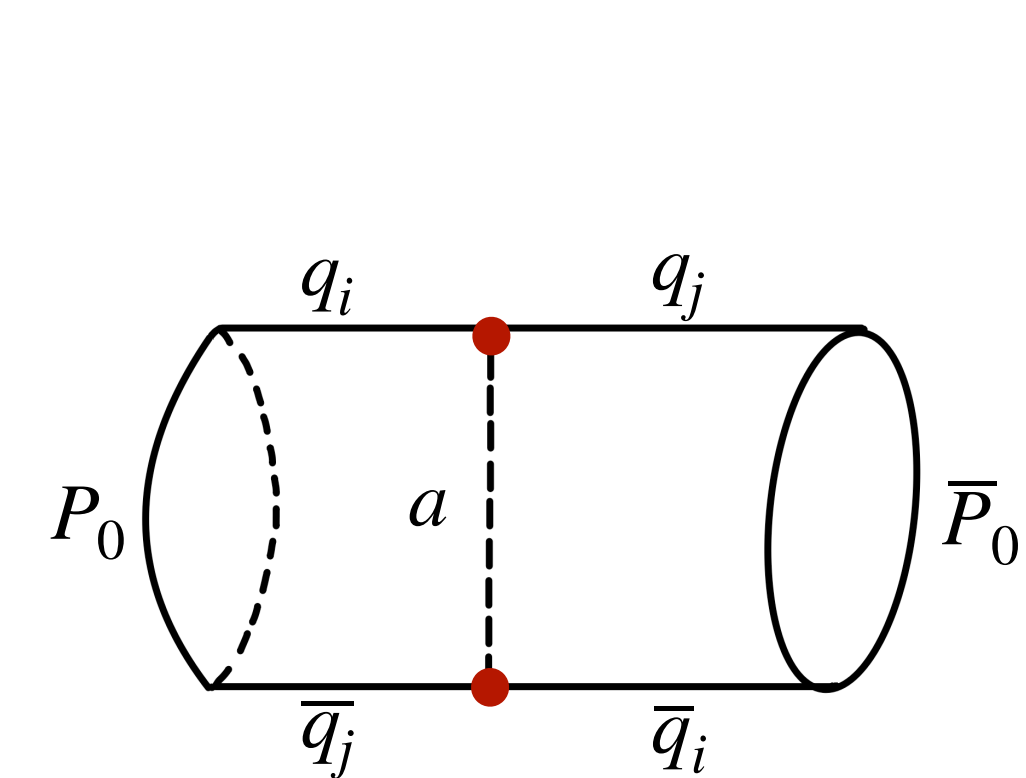
(Leading)



Rare lepton decays

$$\tau \rightarrow \mu a$$

$$\tau \rightarrow 3\mu \text{ (displaced?)}$$



(Leading)

$$K - \bar{K} \quad (\epsilon_K)$$

$\Delta F = 2$

Phenomenology: tower of EFTs

- VLF
- **ALP**

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_{f=u,d,e} c_{ij}^f \bar{f}_{L,i} (\rho + ia) f_{R,j} + \text{h.c.} + \text{h.o.}$$

$$+ \ell_i \rightarrow \ell_j \gamma \quad \longrightarrow \quad \tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma, \mu \rightarrow e \gamma, \dots$$

+ $\mu \rightarrow e$ conversion

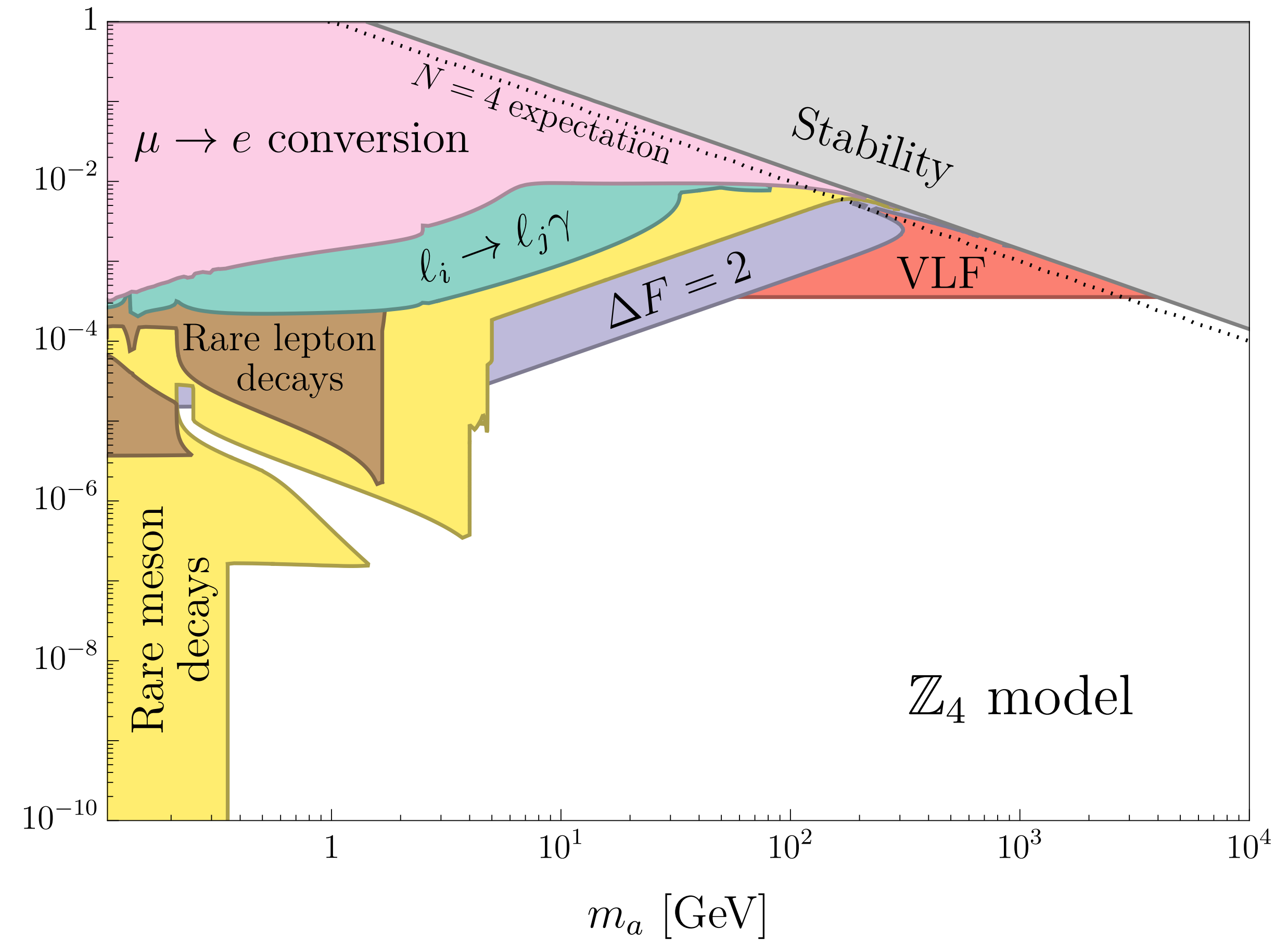
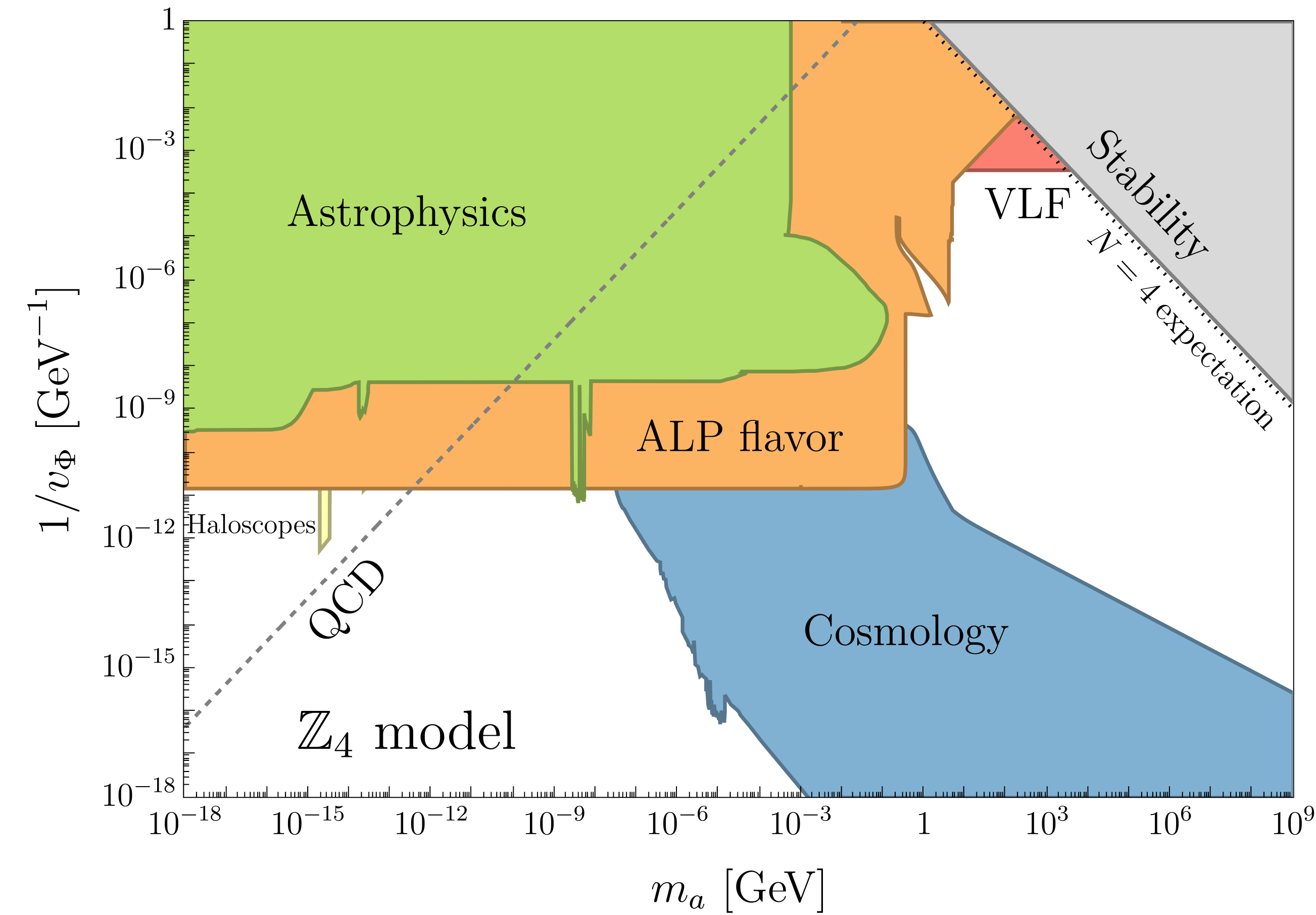
+ ...

+ **Cosmology** \longrightarrow BBN ($\Gamma_a \gtrsim H(T_{\text{BBN}})$),
X-rays, ...

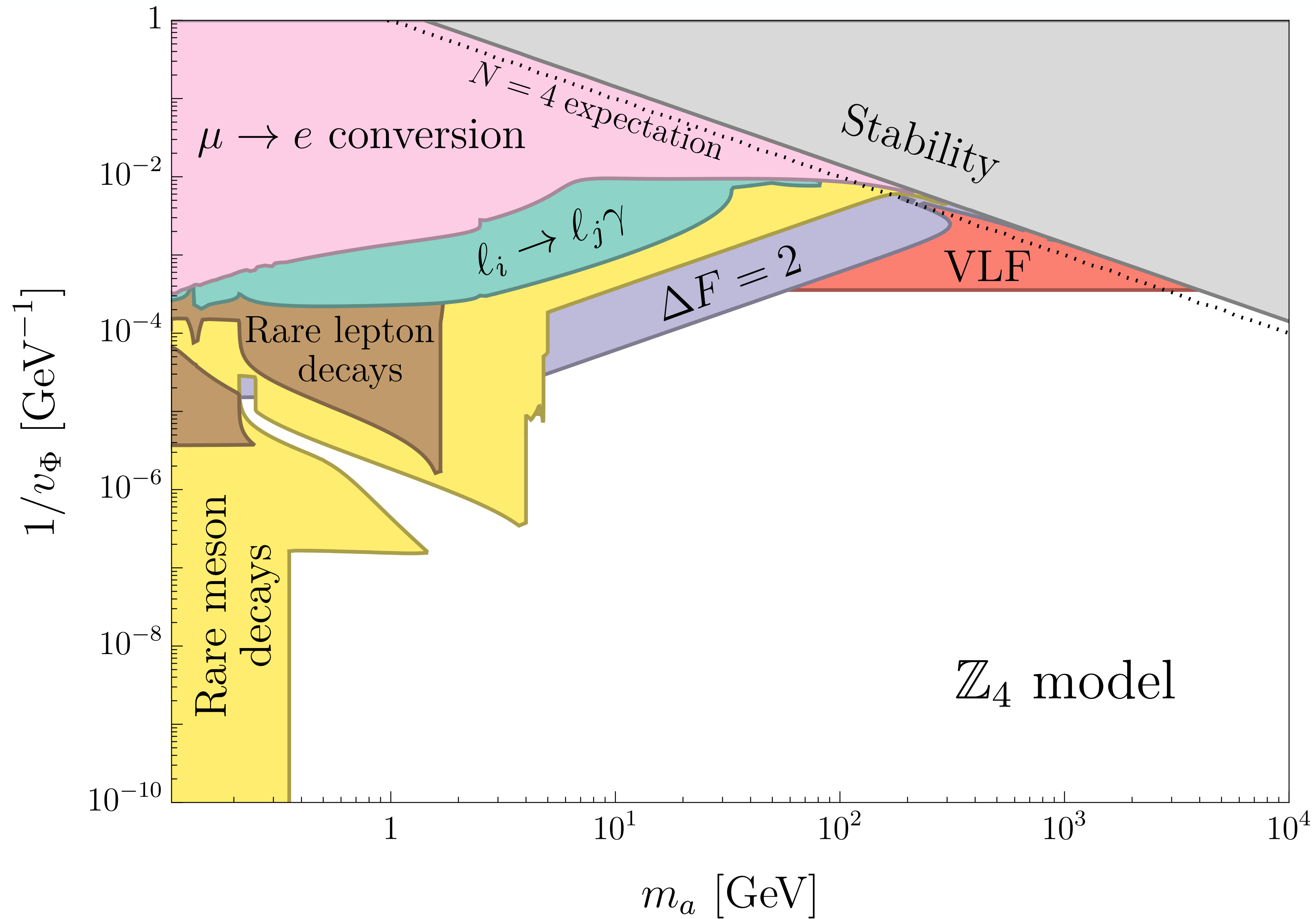
+ **Astrophysics** \longrightarrow SN1987, ...

+ **Haloscopes** + ...

3. The minimal model: Z_4



3. The minimal model: Z_4



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4. Conclusion

- FN models remain some of the most popular flavor models
- *Discrete* FN models allow massive ALP, lower FN scale
- Z_4 : minimal, predictive framework with simple UV completion
- Phenomenology: interplay between VLF and ALP crucial
- FN models can live at few TeV scale!

Thank you for your attention!

Backup

Z_N potential

$$V(\Phi) = -m^2 |\Phi|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} |\Phi|^4 - \frac{1}{4} \frac{\lambda'_N}{M_\Phi^{N-4}} [\Phi^N + (\Phi^*)^N] + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{UV} \supset \sum_k y_k \Phi \bar{\Psi}_{L,k+1} \Psi_{R,k} \longrightarrow \frac{\lambda'_N}{M_\Phi^{N-4}} \sim \frac{1}{M_\psi^{N-4}} \frac{\prod_k y_k}{16\pi^2}$$

$$\frac{m_a}{v_\Phi} \sim \frac{N}{8\pi} \epsilon^{N/2-2} \sqrt{\prod_k y_k}$$

- $\epsilon^{N/2} \sim (y_e/y_t) \longrightarrow$ large N disfavored $\left(\epsilon \sim (y_e/y_t)^{2/N} \right)$

Z_8 model

$$q_{1,2,3} \sim (2,1,0) \quad \bar{u}_{1,2,3} \sim (2,1,0) \quad \bar{d}_{1,2,3} \sim (2,2,2)$$

$$\ell_{1,2,3} \sim (4,4,4) \quad \bar{e}_{1,2,3} \sim (0,1,2)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \hat{y}_{ii}^{d,e} \sim (\epsilon^4, \epsilon^3, \epsilon^2) \\ \hat{y}_{ii}^u \sim (\epsilon^4, \epsilon^2, 1) \\ \epsilon \simeq 6.6 \times 10^{-2} \end{array} \right. \quad Y_d \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 0.55\epsilon^4 & 2.5\epsilon^4 & (0.73 - 1.84i)\epsilon^4 \\ 0 & 0.74\epsilon^3 & 1.51\epsilon^3 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.4\epsilon^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_u \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 0.25\epsilon^4 & z_{u_2}\epsilon^3 & z_{u_3}\epsilon^2 \\ y_{u_1}\epsilon^3 & 0.57\epsilon^2 & y_{u_3}\epsilon \\ x_{u_1}\epsilon^2 & x_{u_2}\epsilon & 0.71 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Y_e \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 0.15\epsilon^4 & 0 & 0 \\ z_{e_2}\epsilon^4 & 2.1\epsilon^3 & 0 \\ z_{e_3}\epsilon^4 & y_{e_3}\epsilon^3 & 2.3\epsilon^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Z_8 model

UV completion:

$$[L_N] = 0, \quad [L_{N-1}^a] = -1, \quad [L_{N-2}^i] = -2, \quad [L_{N-3}^i] = -3$$

$$[Q_2^a] = 0, \quad [Q_1] = 1,$$

$$[U_2^a] = 0, \quad [U_1] = -1,$$

$$[D_2^i] = 0, \quad [D_1^i] = -1.$$

