

CP and Flavour Violation as a probe for New Phenomena

Athens Xmas Workshop in Theoretical Physics – 2025

Emmanuel Stamou

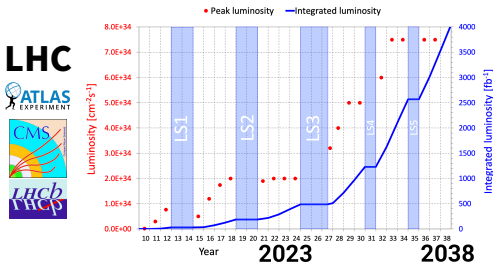
emmanuel.stamou@tu-dortmund.de

 technische universität
dortmund

National and
Kapodistrian
University of Athens

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The next decade at the particle-physics frontier



LHC

ATLAS
EXPERIMENT

CMS

LHCb
THCP

Bottom

LHCb
THCP

Belle II

Kaons

NA62

KOTO

Beam-dump



SHIP

Search for Hidden Particles

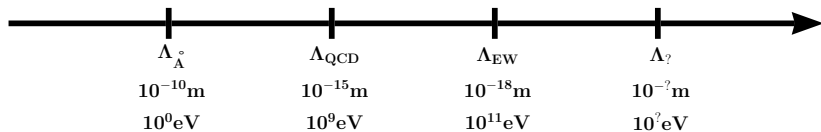
Charm

BES III

EDMs, $(g - 2)_\mu$ (FNAL/J-PARC), **neutrino facilities** (DUNE),
Dark-Matter direct detection (XENONnT), **axion searches** (BabyIAXO),...

Huge amount of data – combine, maximize impact & guide future

(Some) open questions



- $H \equiv H_{\text{SM}}?$
- New CP violating sources for baryogenesis?
SM \rightarrow *not sufficient CP*
- Have we missed d.o.f. at any scale?
Dark matter, QCD axion, ...
- Next “fundamental” scale, $\Lambda_?$

Dynamics Beyond the Standard Model must exist

Baryogenesis / Dark Matter / ν masses-oscillations / gravity

Hierarchy Problem / Strong-CP Problem / Flavour Puzzle / ...

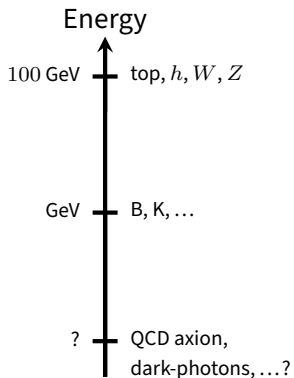
Not clear which BSM

can be probed with ongoing/future experiments

Key Strategies

data-driven questions, model-independent interpretations, precision

Outline



today's talk

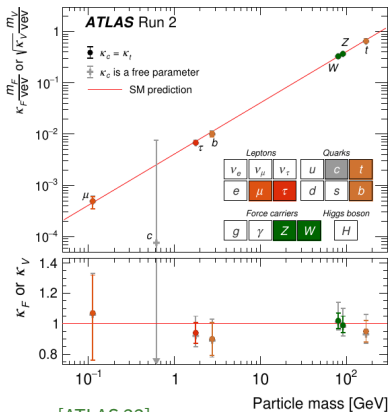
Anomalous Higgs couplings

Higgs CP violation & EDMs

Flavour probes of light NP

Flavoured QCD-axions and dark-photons

Higgs

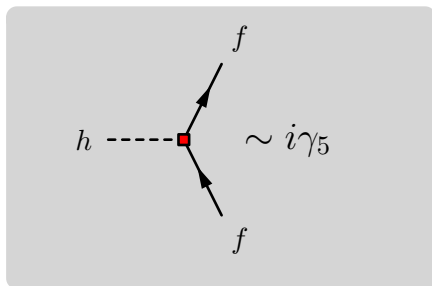


- couplings in SM CP conserving $\propto m/v$

- only subset of properties measured

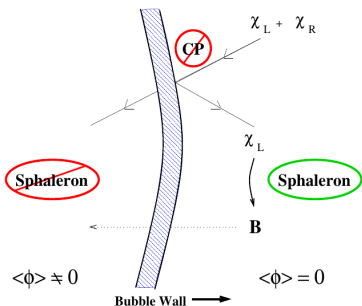
- CP properties key for **EW Baryogenesis**

Why focus on CP-violating Yukawas?



- **Phenomenology:** Still room for large deviations from SM
- **Theory:** Relevant for models of EW Baryogenesis

Electroweak Baryogenesis



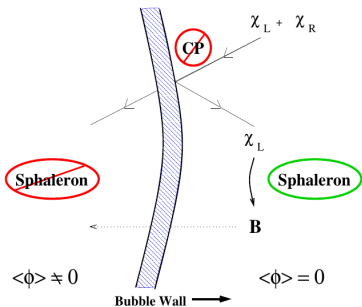
Minimally two EFT operators

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{\Lambda_{\text{CP}}^2} (H^\dagger H)^3 + \frac{1}{\Lambda_{\cancel{\text{CP}}}^2} (H^\dagger H) \bar{Q}_3 \tilde{H} t_R + \text{h.c.}$$

[see Huber, Pospelov, Ritz 06, review Morrissey, Ramsey-Musolf 12 and refs. therein]

- extra sources of $\cancel{\text{CP}}$ & allow for a 1st-order EW phase transition
- $\Lambda_{\text{CP}}, \Lambda_{\cancel{\text{CP}}} \approx 1 \text{ TeV}$ for correct photon-baryon ratio

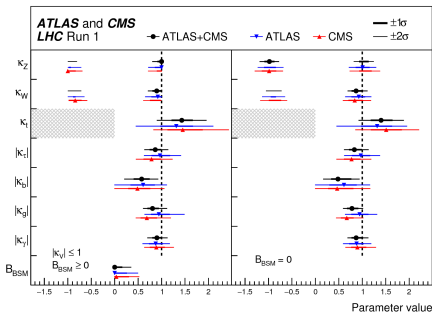
Electroweak Baryogenesis



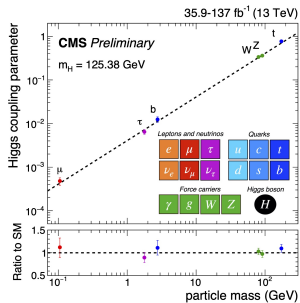
→ Natural expectation
~~CP~~ in Higgs Yukawas

→ Look for all ~~CP~~ Higgs Yukawas

Higgs at LHC



[ATLAS+CMS combination of Run I]



[$H \rightarrow \mu\mu$ CMS 20]

- Couplings to gauge bosons, 3rd gen. fermions, and 2nd gen. muons (charm)
- **Only a subset of Higgs couplings/properties**
- ✗ Weak constraints on light-fermion Yukawas and \mathcal{CP}

Novel search strategies for LHC

- **exclusive Higgs decays**

[Bodwin et al 13; Kagan et al 14; Perez et al 15; König, Neubert 15; ...]

- **charm-tagging**

[Perez et al 15, 16] [ATLAS/CMS search]

- **Higgs kinematics / distributions**

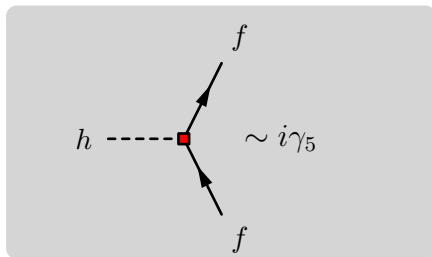
[Bishara et al 16; Soreq et al 16]

Limited (direct) sensitivity to CP violation

(Example $h \rightarrow \tau\tau$ [Harnik et al 13] [CMS 22])

EDMs: complementary, indirect info on Higgs CP

Why focus on *flavour-conserving* \mathcal{CP} Yukawas?



- Typically \mathcal{CP} accompanied by **flavour violation strongly constrained** by FCNC searches

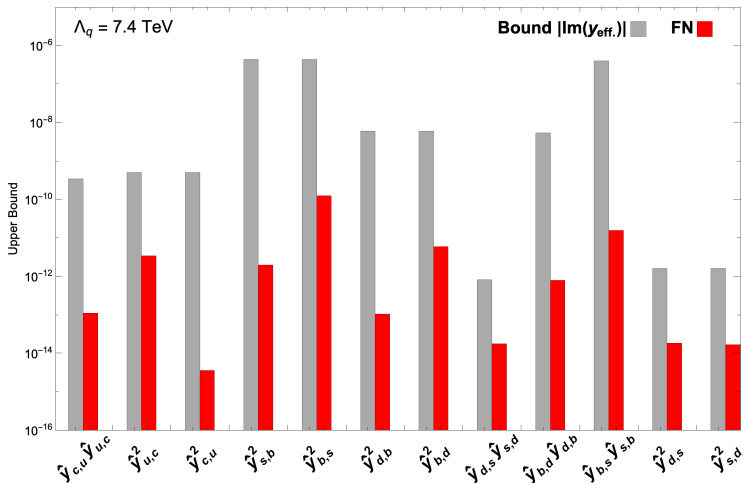
($\epsilon_K, K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu\nu$, CP-asymmetries of B decays, etc)

- Theoretically **possible** to have new (low-energy) sources of \mathcal{CP} *without* flavor-violation beyond the SM

(requires some type of flavour alignment)

(Typically) flavour- and CP-violation is correlated

example from Froggatt-Nielsen-type models



[Alonso-Gonzalez et al 2103.16569 ; see also Alonso-Gonzalez et al 2109.07490]

Theory setup (EFT)

Require a proper setup to accurately **correlate signals** of \mathcal{CP} from observables of **different energy scales**

Higgs EFTs

- **SMEFT**
Linear realisation of electroweak symmetry breaking, $\Lambda \gg 100 \text{ GeV}$
- **HEFT/chiral electroweak theory**
Also non-linear realisation of electroweak symmetry breaking possible
- **κ -framework?**
Intuitive interpretation, widely used by experimental collaborations

SMEFT and BSM Yukawas

- Only one type of dim.-6 operator modifies Higgs Yukawas

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}} = -\bar{F}_L \hat{H} Y_f f_R + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (H^\dagger H) \bar{F}_L \hat{H} C'_{fH} f_R + \text{h.c.}$$

- Y_f and C'_{fH} generic, complex 3×3 matrices
- rewrite in broken phase, rotate to mass-eigenstate basis

UV assumption

CP-violation without flavour-violation Setup

\equiv

$$C_{fH} \equiv U_f^\dagger C'_{fH} W_f \text{ diagonal with phases}$$

SMEFT Yukawa operators in mass-basis

$$C_{fH} = \underbrace{C_{fH+}}_{\text{CP-even}} + i \underbrace{C_{fH-}}_{\text{CP-odd}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_f = \left(-m_f - m_f \frac{h}{v} + \frac{v^3}{2\sqrt{2}\Lambda^2} C_{fH+} \left(2\frac{h}{v} + 3\frac{h^2}{v^2} + \frac{h^3}{v^3} \right) \right) \bar{f}f + \frac{v^3}{2\sqrt{2}\Lambda^2} C_{fH-} \left(2\frac{h}{v} + 3\frac{h^2}{v^2} + \frac{h^3}{v^3} \right) \bar{f}i\gamma_5 f$$

(Unitarity gauge)

(Goldstone-boson contributions required for gauge-invariant computations)

- Place direct and indirect constraints on $C_{fH\pm}/\Lambda^2$
($f = u, c, t, d, s, b, e, \mu, \tau$)

$$\mathcal{L}_f = \left(-m_f - m_f \frac{h}{v} + \frac{v^3}{2\sqrt{2}\Lambda^2} \mathbf{C}_{fH+} + \left(2\frac{h}{v} + 3\frac{h^2}{v^2} + 1\frac{h^3}{v^3} \right) \right) \bar{f}f + \frac{v^3}{2\sqrt{2}\Lambda^2} \mathbf{C}_{fH-} + \left(2\frac{h}{v} + 3\frac{h^2}{v^2} + 1\frac{h^3}{v^3} \right) \bar{f}i\gamma_5 f$$

- Difference between SMEFT and HEFT
→ coefficients of $(h/v)^n$ are uncorrelated
- If leading effects controlled by the h/v -term the analysis also applies for HEFT
(this is the case in our analysis)

SMEFT / κ -framework

$$\mathcal{L}_f = \left(-m_f - m_f \frac{h}{v} + \frac{v^3}{2\sqrt{2}\Lambda^2} C_{fH+} + \left(2\frac{h}{v} + 3\frac{h^2}{v^2} + 1\frac{h^3}{v^3} \right) \right) \bar{f}f$$

$$+ \frac{v^3}{2\sqrt{2}\Lambda^2} C_{fH-} + \left(2\frac{h}{v} + 3\frac{h^2}{v^2} + 1\frac{h^3}{v^3} \right) \bar{f}i\gamma_5 f$$

(Unitarity gauge)

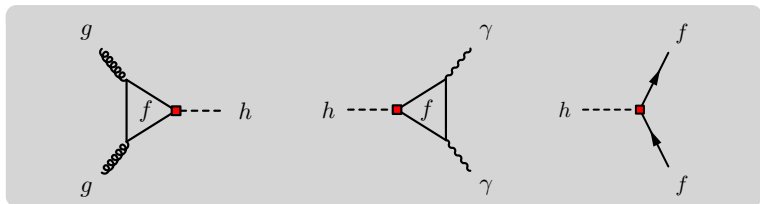
- κ -framework is “ $n = 1$ ” HEFT in unitarity gauge

$$\mathcal{L}_f^\kappa = -\frac{y_f^{\text{SM}}}{\sqrt{2}} \kappa_f \bar{f} (\cos \phi_f + i\gamma_5 \sin \phi_f) f,$$

$$\kappa_f \cos \phi_f \doteq 1 - \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}m_f} \frac{v^2}{\Lambda^2} C_{fH,+} \quad \kappa_f \sin \phi_f \doteq -\frac{v}{\sqrt{2}m_f} \frac{v^2}{\Lambda^2} C_{fH,-}$$

\doteq means “only the h/v term contributes”

LHC observables



Main effects captured by modifications in:

- $gg \rightarrow h$ & $h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ($hWW / hZZ / hZ\gamma$ numerically less relevant)
- $\text{BR}(h \rightarrow b\bar{b})$
- **total width Γ_h**
- **$t\bar{t}$ and single- t production**

Use collider likelihoods from HiggsSignals2.5.0 & HiggsBounds5.8.0 interfaced with GAMBIT

[Bechtle et al 06,12 and Athron et al 17]

EDMs = stringent tests of flavour-diagonal CP

Multiple experimental targets

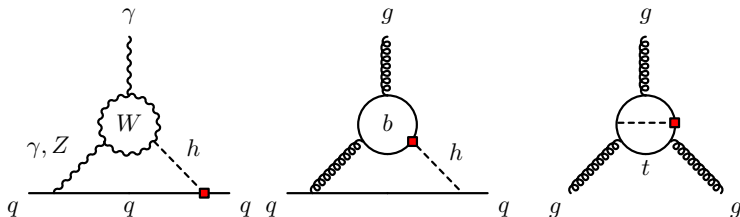
[e cm]	d_e	d_n	$d_{p,D}$
current	1.1×10^{-29}	2.9×10^{-26}	–
expected	10^{-34}	1.0×10^{-28}	1.0×10^{-29}
	d_{Hg}	d_{Xe}	d_{Ra}
current	7.4×10^{-30}	5.5×10^{-27}	4.2×10^{-22}
expected	1.0×10^{-29}	5.0×10^{-29}	1.0×10^{-27}

[Hewett et al 12; Baker et al 06; ACME 18, Graner et al 16; EDM3 collaboration]

- ✓ Impressive improvements expected
- ✓ Progress in lattice-QCD
- Indirect probes of “low-scale” **CP** in Higgs Yukawas

Higgs \mathcal{CP} affects EDMs

induce $e\text{EDM}$, $q\text{EDM}$, $q\mathcal{C}(\text{hromo})\text{EDM}$, \mathcal{CP} -Weinberg operators



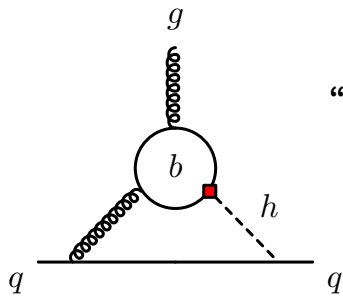
- **Often main focus only on single-flavour cases**

(electrons [Panico et al 18; Altmannshofer et al 15], 3rd gen [Fuchs et al 20, Brod et al 13], b/c [Brod, ES 18], light-quarks [Brod, Skodras 18], ...)

- **First steps towards global picture**

[Brod et al 22 and Bahl et al 22]

- Precision in theory predictions
- Cross-correlations/cancellations
- Global SMEFT analysis and fit to LHC



“Naive” Barr-Zee type computation

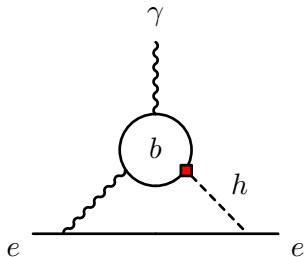
$$\tilde{d}_q = g_s^3 \left(\# + \# \log \frac{m_b}{m_h} \right) \frac{v^2}{\Lambda^2} C_{bH-}$$

- Naive computation is a **bad** approximation
→ **factor 5 uncertainty in qCEDM**
- Reason: multi-scale problem, $\alpha_s \log(m_b/m_h) \sim 1!$
- **Precision:** use EFT to resum the large logs and estimate uncertainties
(@LL [Brod et al 13] and @NLL [Brod, ES 18])

Typically RGE effects are assumed to be small and neglected for leptonic operators

“Naive” Barr-Zee type computation

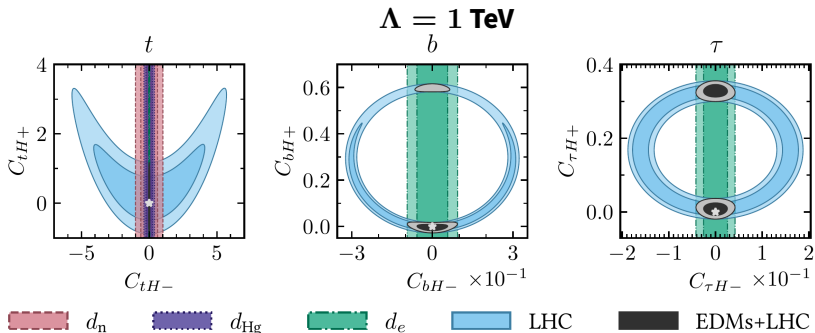
$$d_e = e^3 \left(\# + \# \log \frac{m_b}{m_h} \right) \frac{v^2}{\Lambda^2} C_{bH-}$$



- Factor of 2 uncertainty from QCD ambiguity ($m_b(M_H)$ vs $m_b(2 \text{ GeV})$)
- Difficulty: $\alpha_s \log$ resummation within a 2-loop electromagnetic contribution

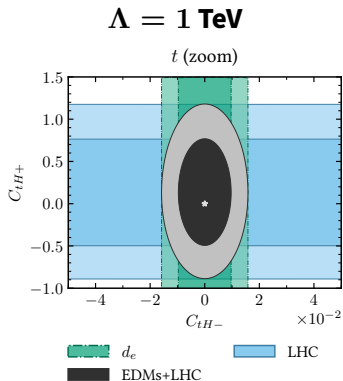
[Brod, Polonsky, ES 23]

2 parameter scan – single flavour – 3rd generation



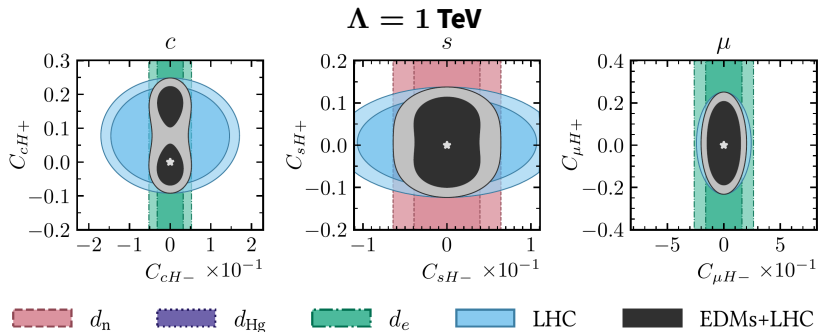
- EDM–LHC complementarity [see also recent CMS $h \rightarrow \tau\tau$ analysis]
- EDMs only sensitive to C_{fH-}
- **electron EDM** constraint dominates over **quark EDMs**
- Caveat of eEDM constraint: relies on electron coupling to Higgs

2 parameter scan – top (magnification)



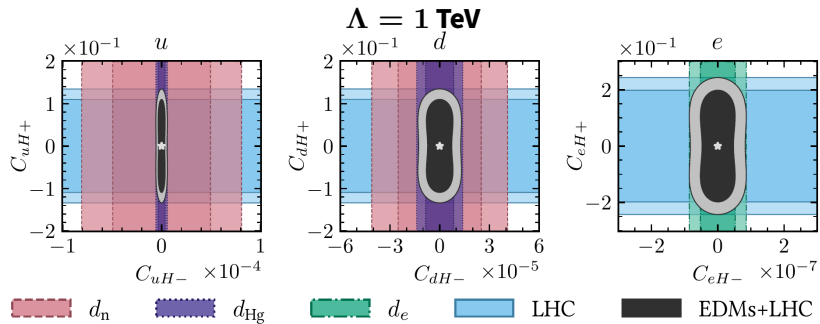
- possible to relax strong eEDM constraints by turning on other C_{fH-} couplings
- need global analysis to expose cancellations in EDMs

2 parameter scan – single flavour – 2nd generation



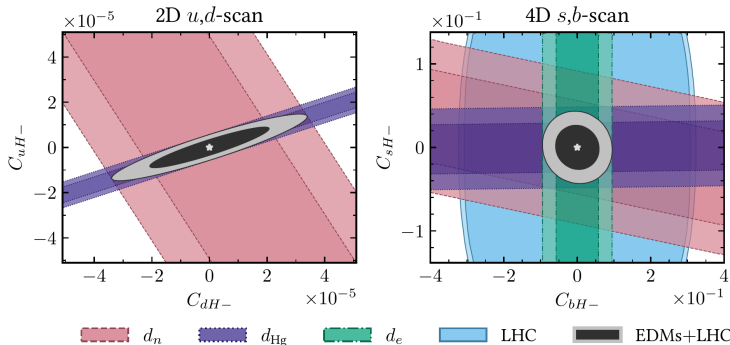
- EDM proportional to fermion mass \rightarrow for s **qEDM** main constraint
- c -tagging at LHC, μ CMS search, s total width

2 parameter scan – single flavour – 1st generation



- LHC constraints only from Γ_h
- qEDMs dominant constraint on quark Yukawas
- eEDM dominant constraint on electron Yukawa

Beyond single-flavour – two-flavour survey



[Brod et al 22, see also Chien et al 15]

- profiled over not-plotted directions
- complementarity of EDMs (d_n vs d_{Hg} vs d_e)
- global picture requires precise measurements and predictions in multiple EDMs

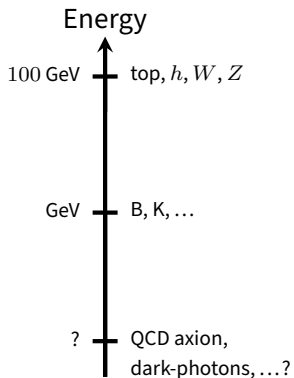
Phenomenologically attractive setup

- Low-scale NP effects still possible, excellent prospects
- Relevant for models of EW Baryogenesis
- Accurate EFT computations important in light of expected progress

Cancellations / Correlations

- Global picture required to assess Higgs \mathcal{CP}
- Complementarity of LHC and EDM constraints persists in multi-param. surveys

Outline



today's talk

Anomalous Higgs couplings

Higgs CP violation & EDMs

Flavour probes of light NP

Flavoured QCD-axions and dark-photons

Flavour Changing Neutral Currents: SM vs NP

SM

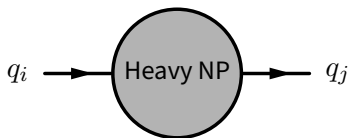
loop induced, precision



Heavy NP

virtual, indirect probe

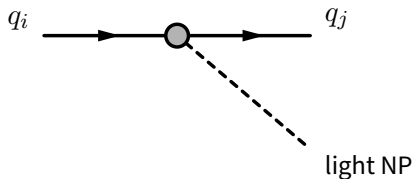
SUSY, Composite Higgs, Extra Dimensions, ...



Light NP

decays to "invisible"

Axions, Dark Photons, ...



Flavour – the answer to all?

- Exp. data have **potential** to provide at least some answers.
- However, there are **no guarantees**.
 - FV in NP may be fully aligned to FV in SM
 - D.o.f. associated to BSM FV may be too heavy for discovery
 - our experiments may have blind spots (compressed spectra, missing energy, ...)
- **Two (semi-orthogonal) strategies:**
 - Expose deviations through precision and global fits
(golden observables: EDMs, clean FCNCs, ...; EFTs: WET, SMEFT, ...)
 - Go beyond established interpretation of data and observables
(radiative modes, distributions, light-NP interpretations, ...)

Light-NP & flavour – example QCD Axion

$$\Gamma_K^{\text{tot}} \sim M_K^5 / M_W^4$$

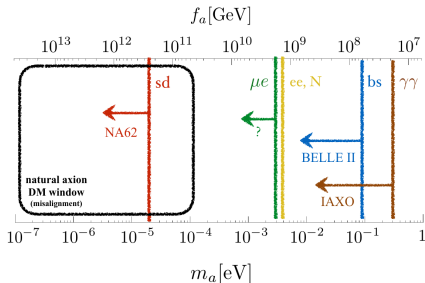
$$\Gamma_B^{\text{tot}} \sim M_B^5 / M_W^4$$

- Dimension-5 QCD axion couplings: $\frac{\partial^\mu a}{f_a} \bar{q}_i \gamma_\mu (\gamma_5) q_j$

$$\text{BR}(K \rightarrow \pi a) \propto \frac{M_W^4}{M_K^2 f_a^2}$$

$$\text{BR}(B \rightarrow \pi a) \propto \frac{M_W^4}{M_B^2 f_a^2}$$

→ High sensitivity to light NP



(for $C_i = 1$)

[from R. Ziegler @ La Thuille]

Light NP

- **Scalars**
QCD axion (best motivated light NP scenario), ALPs,...
- **Fermions**
light sterile neutrinos, fermionic DM, ...
- **Vectors**
dark Photons, light Z' , ...

Phenomenology depends strongly on:
masses, lifetimes, and couplings to SM

Most promising search strategies may differ!

example for this talk: light vectors

EFTs for light, flavoured vectors V'

- Dipole interaction

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{FCNC}}^D = \frac{C_{ij}^D}{\Lambda} \bar{f}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} f_j F'_{\mu\nu} + \frac{C_{ij}^{D5}}{\Lambda} \bar{f}_i i \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma_5 f_j F'_{\mu\nu}$$

* $SU(2)_L$ gauge invariance $\rightarrow \bar{Q}_L H \sigma^{\mu\nu} q_R F'_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow$ dim-6 counting

- Vector interaction

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{FCNC}}^V = \frac{m_{V'}}{\Lambda} C_{ij}^V \bar{f}_i \gamma^\mu f_j V'_\mu + \frac{m_{V'}}{\Lambda} C_{ij}^{V5} \bar{f}_i \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 f_j V'_\mu$$

* gauge invariance \rightarrow no flavour violation for $m_{V'} = 0$ at dim-4

* power, n , of $(m_{V'}/\Lambda)^n$ model dependent

Flavour phenomenology of light Vectors

- dependence on mass of light Vector (& Form Factors)
→ recast of searches required
- multiple channels and experiments required to probe all couplings

Two-body decays to invisible V'

Pseudoscalar → **Pseudoscalar** + V'

Pseudoscalar → **Vector** + V'

Baryon → **Baryon** + V'

C_{ij}^{D} C_{ij}^{D5} C_{ij}^{V} C_{ij}^{V5}
sd
cu
bs
bd
depend on V' mass

[Folch et al 24]

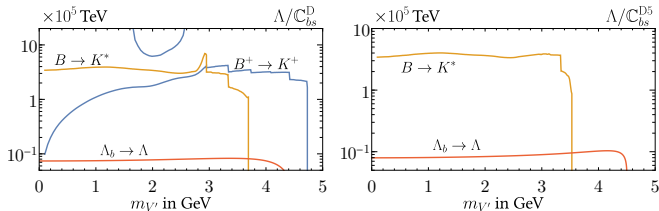
Summary of searches included

Quark Transition	Hadronic Process	Form Factors	Experimental Limit
$s \rightarrow d$	$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + V'$	[65, 66]	NA62 [17, 38, 39]
	$\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p + V'$	[34, 67–69]	BES III [70], Lifetime _r [22, 63]
	$\Xi^- \rightarrow \Sigma^- + V'$	[34, 67–69]	Lifetime _r [22, 63]
	$\Xi^0 \rightarrow \Sigma^0 + V'$	[34, 67–69]	Lifetime _r [22, 63]
	$\Xi^0 \rightarrow \Lambda + V'$	[34, 67–69]	Lifetime _r [22, 63]
	$\Lambda \rightarrow n + V'$	[34, 67–69]	Lifetime _r [22, 63]
$b \rightarrow s$	$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ + V'$	[71, 71]	BaBar _r [41], Belle II _r [44, 62]
	$B \rightarrow K^* + V'$	[71, 71]	BaBar _r [41, 62]
	$\Lambda_b \rightarrow \Lambda + V'$	[72, 72]	Lifetime _r [22, 63]
$b \rightarrow d$	$B^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + V'$	[71, 73]	BaBar _r [40]
	$B \rightarrow \rho + V'$	[71, 71]	LEP _r [60, 61]
	$\Lambda_b \rightarrow n + V'$	[72, 74]	Lifetime _r [22, 63]
$c \rightarrow u$	$D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + V'$	[75, 76]	CLEO _r [22, 42]
	$\Lambda_c \rightarrow p + V'$	[77, 77]	BES III [45], Lifetime _r [22, 63]

[Folch et al 24]

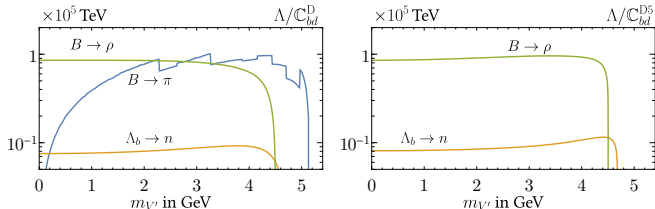
Dipole interaction — B sector

$b - s$ transition



* $\sim 2\sigma$ excess in 2023 $B \rightarrow K\nu\nu$ Belle2 measurement [recast from Altmannshofer et al 23]

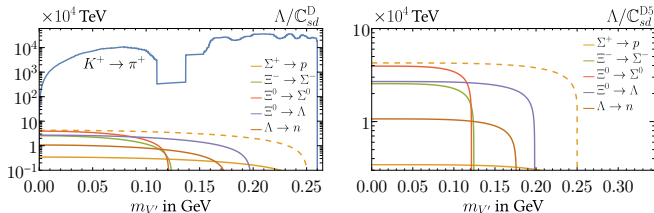
$b - d$ transition



pseudoscalar \rightarrow pseudoscalar decays **insensitive to dipoles** for small $m_{V'}$!

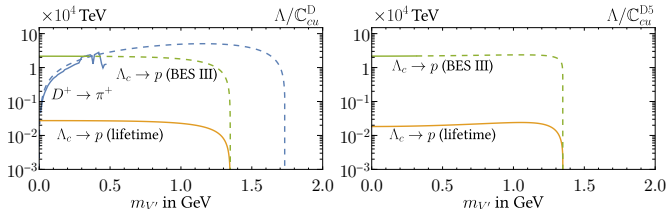
Dipole interaction — K, D sector

$s - d$ transition



* not including a recast of the new NA62 measurement of $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \nu$

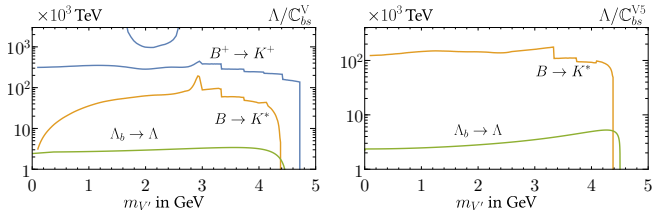
$c - u$ transition



pseudoscalar \rightarrow pseudoscalar decays **insensitive to dipoles** for small $m_{V'}$!

Vector interaction — B sector

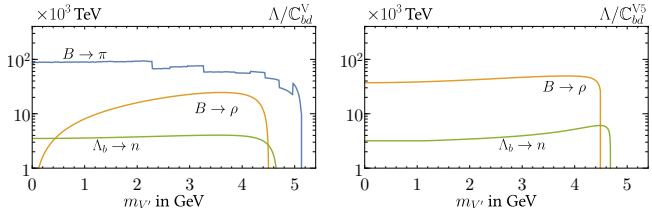
$b - s$ transition



pseudoscalar \rightarrow pseudoscalar limits **survive** for $m_{V'} \rightarrow 0$

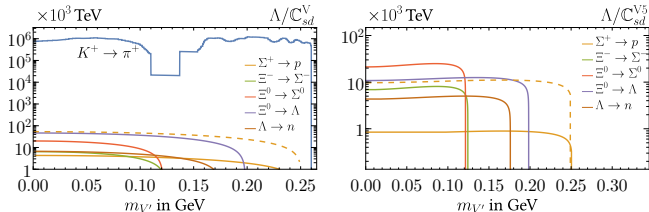
analogous to $t \rightarrow Wd$ decay in gauge-less limit in SM

$b - d$ transition



Vector interaction — K, D sector

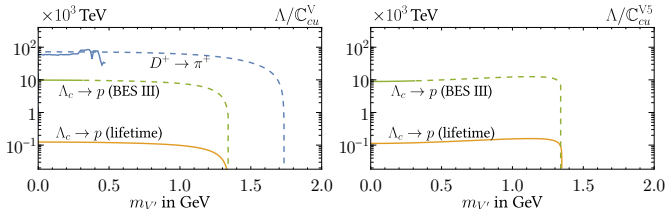
$s - d$ transition



pseudoscalar \rightarrow pseudoscalar limits **survive** for $m_{V'} \rightarrow 0$

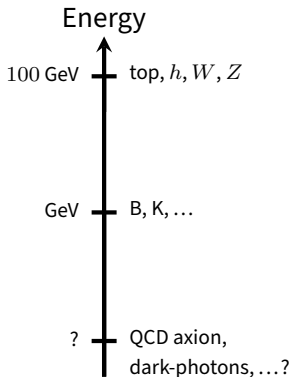
analogous to $t \rightarrow Wd$ decay in gauge-less limit in SM

$c - u$ transition



- Possible to hide NP with **Light NP**
 - QCD axions, sterile ν 's, and dark-photons/light dark vectors
 - Quark-flavour can provide competitive tests
 - Look for interpretations of invisible signatures
- **Light Dark Vectors**
 - Rich flavour phenomenology
 - Considered vector- and dipole-type couplings
 - Multiple channels and dedicated analyses needed for full picture

Conclusions



Anomalous Higgs couplings

Higgs CP violation & EDMs

Flavour probes of light NP

Flavoured QCD-axions and dark-photons

- Even if heavy particles are experimentally **not directly accessible**, they can leave their **imprints in low-energy** observables.
- **Precision** and **broad/novel interpretation** of data important to disentangle such NP.