



Università degli Studi di Bari «Aldo Moro»  
Dipartimento interateneo di Fisica «Michelangelo Merlin»



# Characterization of massive ALPs emissivity from a core-collapse Supernova

**Alessandro Lella**

Work in progress with :

**Pierluca Carenza, Giuseppe Lucente, Alessandro Mirizzi, Maurizio Giannotti**

**...To be published soon!**

**Bari, 24th November 2022**

# Outline

- Axions and ALPs nuclear interactions.
- Supernova (SN) explosion and neutrino emission.
- Massive ALP emission via NN Bremsstrahlung.
- Massive ALP emission via Pionic Compton processes.
- Cooling Bound on the ALP-nucleon coupling.
- ALP Gravitational trapping.
- Conclusions.

# Axions and Axion-like particles

- The QCD axion is a hypothetical particle postulated by Wilzcek and Weinberg in relation to the Peccei-Quinn mechanism [*Peccei & Quinn, Phys. Rev. Lett. 38 (1977)*] to solve the strong-CP problem of the QCD [*Weinberg, PRL 40 (1978); Wilzcek, Phys. Rev. Lett. 40 (1978)*].
- Axion-like particles (ALPs) are novel particles which behave similarly to the QCD axion. They emerge in UV completions of the Standard Model.
- The QCD axion acquires a small mass as a consequence of the mixing with pions.

$$m_a f_a \approx f_\pi m_\pi$$

- For ALPs no relation between their mass and couplings.

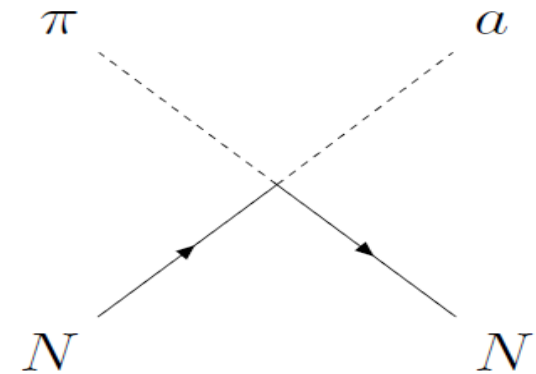
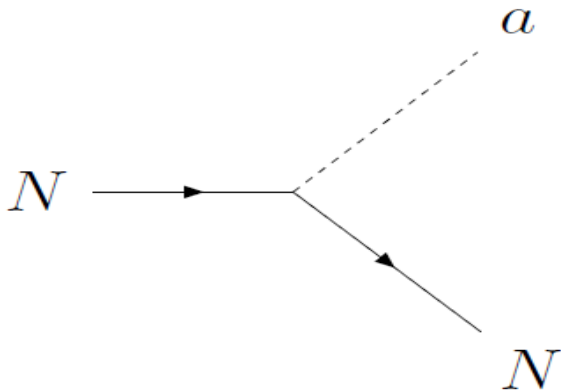
# Axions and Axion-like particles

- Axions and ALPs could interact with all the Standard model particles.

$$\mathcal{L}_a = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu a \partial^\mu a + \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi f_a} a \text{Tr} G^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{g_{a\psi}}{2 m_\psi} \bar{\psi} \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu \psi \partial^\mu a - \frac{1}{4} g_{a\gamma} a \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

- In this work we focus on their interaction with nuclear matter

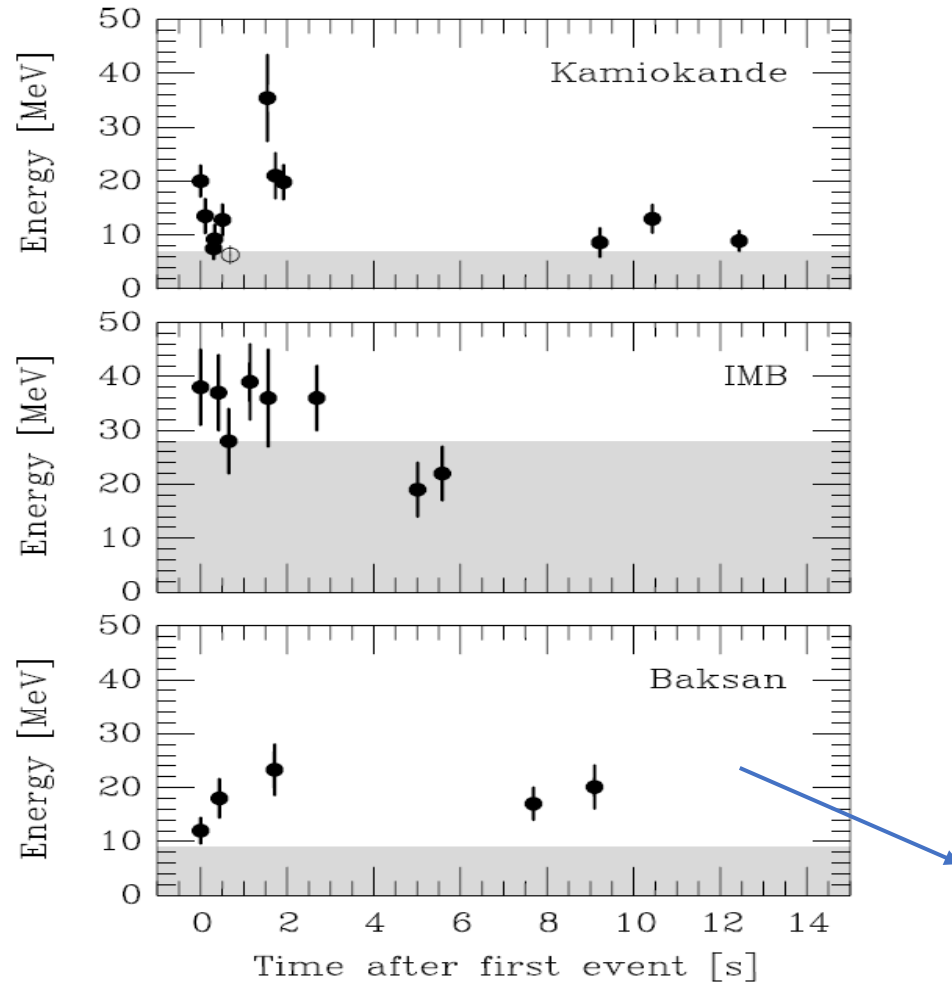
$$\mathcal{L}_{nuc} = \sum_{i=p,n} \frac{g_{ai}}{2m_N} \bar{N}_i \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 N_i \partial^\mu a + \frac{g_{a\pi N}}{f_\pi} \partial^\mu a (i\pi^+ \bar{p} \gamma_\mu n - i\pi^- \bar{n} \gamma_\mu p)$$



# Supernova explosion and Neutrino emission

Core-collapse SN is the terminal phase of a massive star [ $M \geq 8 M_{\odot}$ ].

➤ Subsequent SN explosion and cooling of the remnant by neutrino emission.



The explosion of SN 1987A confirmed the prediction from the SN simulation.

- Duration of the burst  $\sim 10$  s
- $\langle E_{\nu} \rangle \sim 15$  MeV
- $L_{\nu} \approx 10^{52}$  erg/s

Events from SN 1987A

# Bounds on the ALP-nucleon coupling

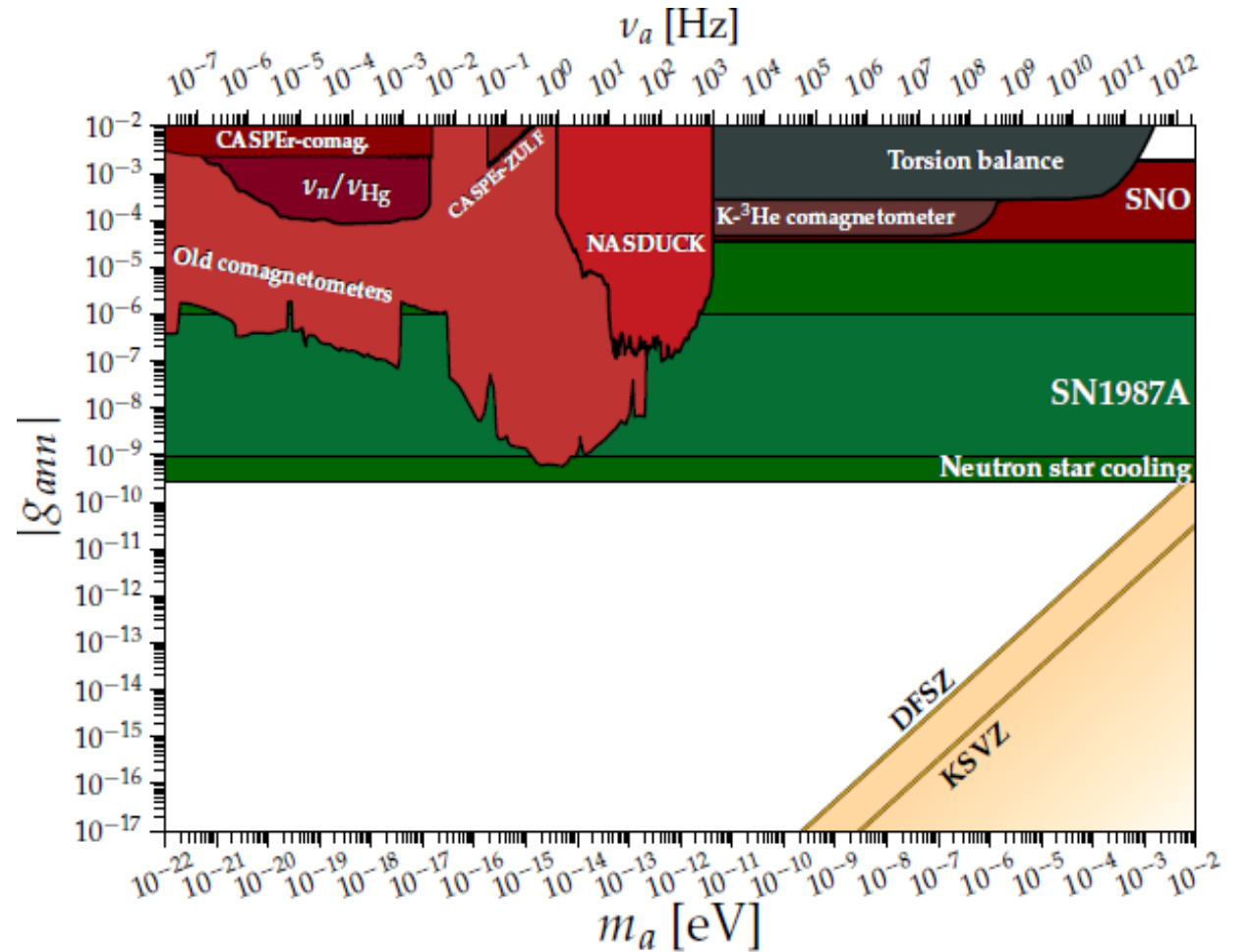
- ALPs emission could represent an additional energy-loss channel during a SN explosion, which could shorten significantly the neutrino burst.  
 → Cooling bound.

- From SN 1987A [Carenza & al., JCAP 1010 (2019)]:

$$g_{ap} < 1.2 \times 10^{-9}$$

- From Neutron Star cooling (Hess J1731-347) [Beznogov, Phys. Rev. C 98.3 (2018)]:

$$g_{an} < 2.8 \times 10^{-10}$$



[Payez, JCAP 02 (2020)]

# Aim of the work

- Extend the computation for ALP emissivity via nuclear interaction to massive ALP [ $m_a \sim \mathcal{O}(10 - 100 \text{ MeV})$ ], including all the effects due to the nuclear medium.
  - $T_{core} \sim 30 \text{ MeV} \longrightarrow$  Boltzmann suppression  $\sim e^{-\frac{m_a}{T}}$  for  $m_a \sim \mathcal{O}(100 \text{ MeV})$ .
- Obtain a complete overview of ALP emission via nuclear processes in a realistic SN model.
- Extract new bounds on  $g_{aN}$  in the whole range of masses studied.

Two main processes for ALP production in a nuclear medium:  
*NN bremsstrahlung* and *pion conversions*.

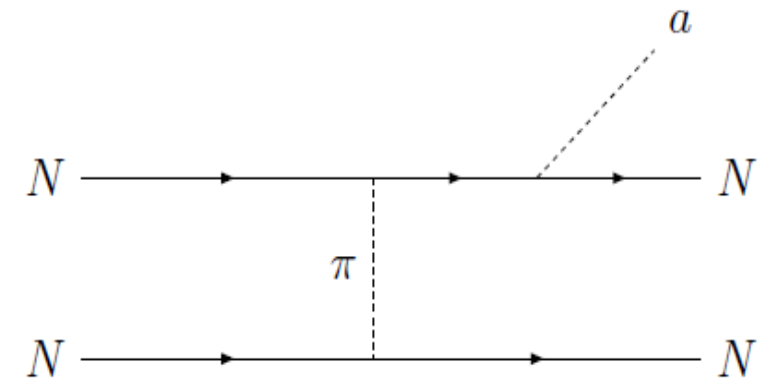
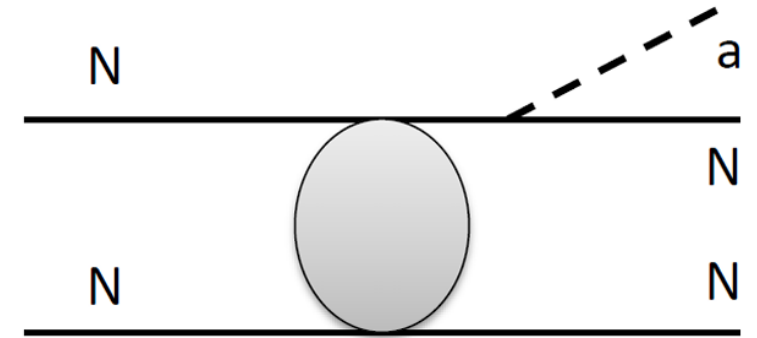
# NN Bremsstrahlung

NN Bremsstrahlung is the emission of an ALP after the scattering of two nucleons in a dense nuclear medium.

- First approach: «One Pion Exchange (OPE) approximation»
- In the massive case, the matrix element in OPE is given by [\[Giannotti & Nesti, Phys. Rev. D 72 \(2005\)\]](#):

$$S \sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}|^2 = \left( \frac{\mathbf{p}_a^2}{\omega_a^2} \right) |M_0|^2$$

Where  $|M_0|^2$  is the matrix element in the massless case.



OPE Approximation

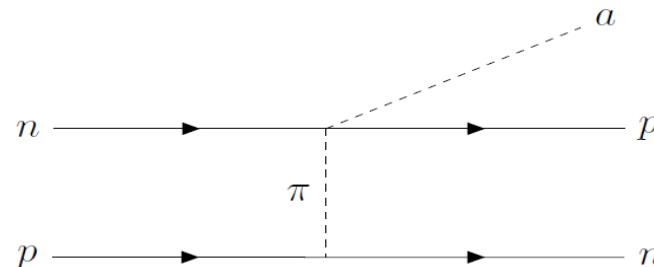


# NN Bremsstrahlung

Corrections to the OPE approximation for the massless case [*Carenza et al., JCAP 10.10 (2019)*]:

- Non zero Pion mass in the propagator  $\longrightarrow \frac{|\mathbf{k}|^2}{|\mathbf{k}|^2 + m_\pi^2}$
- Two pions exchange  $\longrightarrow \frac{|\mathbf{k}|^2}{|\mathbf{k}|^2 + m_\pi^2} \rightarrow \frac{|\mathbf{k}|^2}{|\mathbf{k}|^2 + m_\pi^2} - C_\rho \frac{|\mathbf{k}|^2}{|\mathbf{k}|^2 + m_\rho^2}$
- Nucleons multiple scattering  $\longrightarrow S_\sigma(\omega_a) = \frac{\Gamma_\sigma}{\omega_a} s(\omega_a) \rightarrow \frac{\Gamma_\sigma}{\omega_a + \Gamma^2} s(\omega_a)$
- Effective nucleon mass  $\longrightarrow m_N^* = m_N + \Sigma_S$

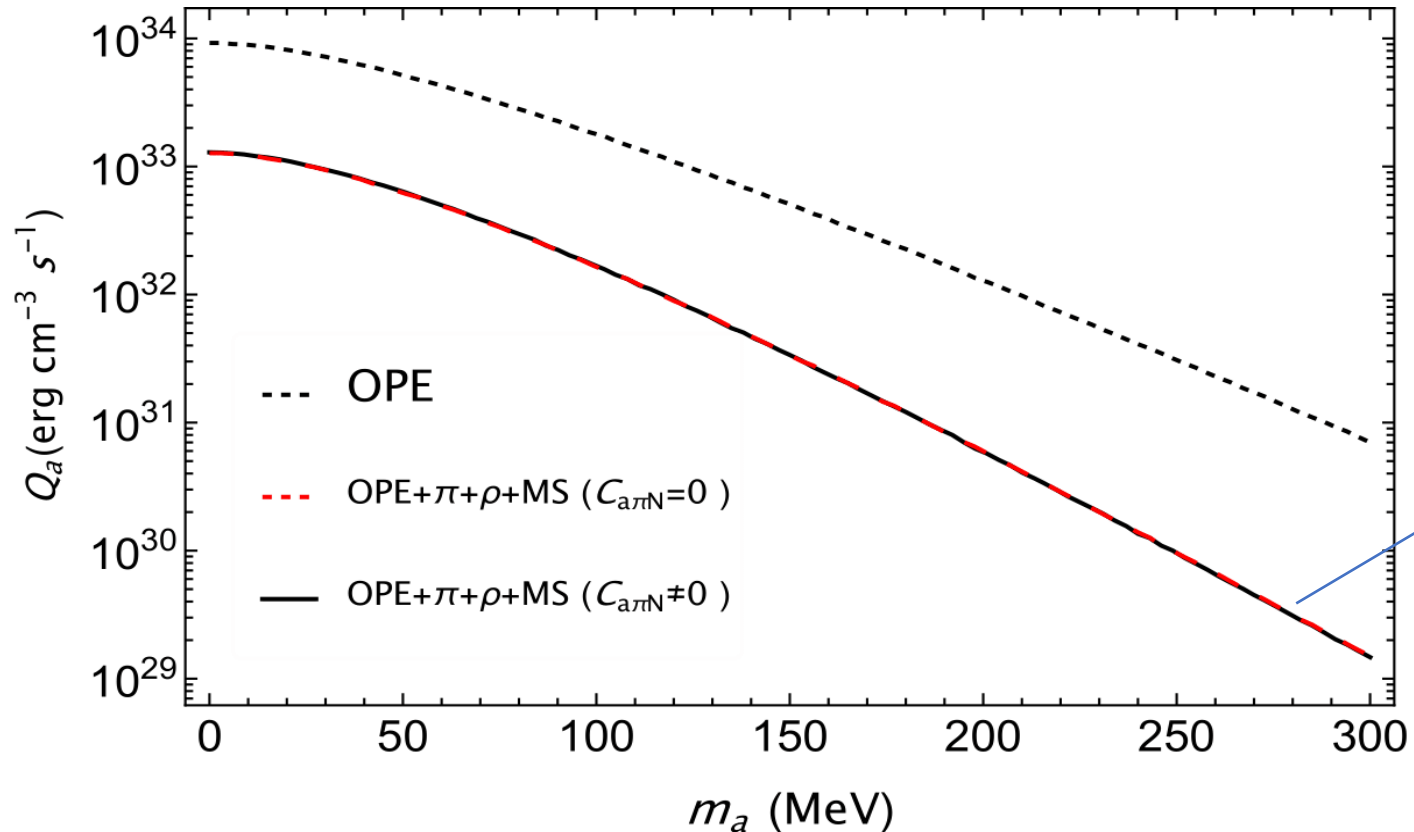
- Contact interaction contribution  $\longrightarrow$



# NN Bremsstrahlung

The extension to the massive case of the complete axion emission rate (emissivity) is given by:

$$Q_a^{NN} = \frac{g_a^2}{16\pi^2} \frac{n_B}{m_N^2} \int_{m_a}^{+\infty} d\omega_a \omega_a (\omega_a^2 - m_a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{\omega_a}{T}} S_\sigma \left( \frac{\omega_a}{T} \right)$$



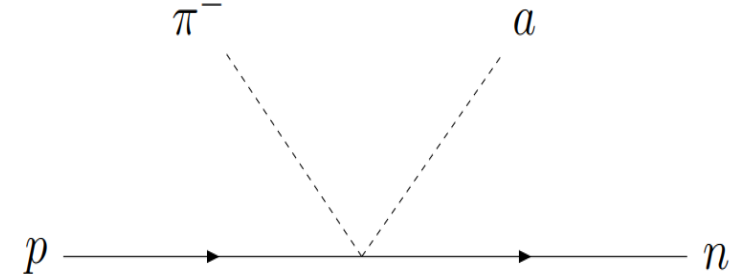
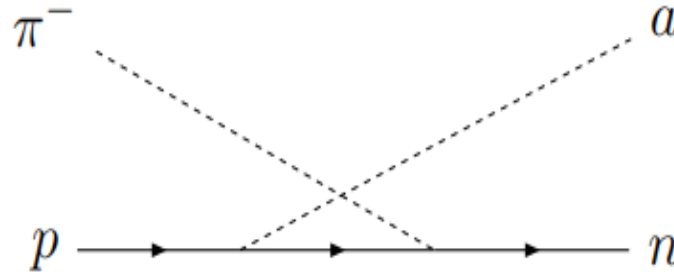
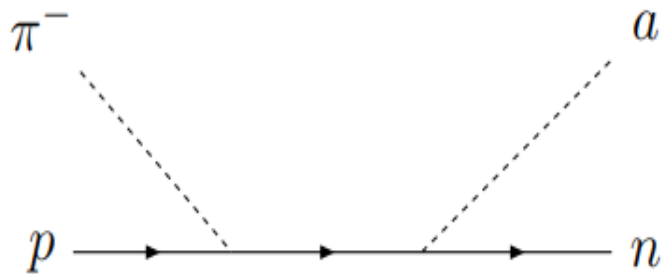
[Carena & Peccei,  
Phys. Rev. D 40  
(1989) 652]

# Pionic Compton processes

In this processes a pion is converted into an ALP after the scattering on a nucleon.

- If the fraction of pions inside the SN core is high enough, pion conversions could become competitive with  $NN$  Bremsstrahlung [*Carenza et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 126.7 (2021)*].
- In [*Fore & Reddy, Phys. Rev. C 101.3 (2020)*] it has been proved that

$$\frac{n_{\pi^0}}{n_{\pi^-}} \sim \frac{n_{\pi^+}}{n_{\pi^0}} \sim \frac{n_p}{n_n} = \mathcal{O}(0.1)$$

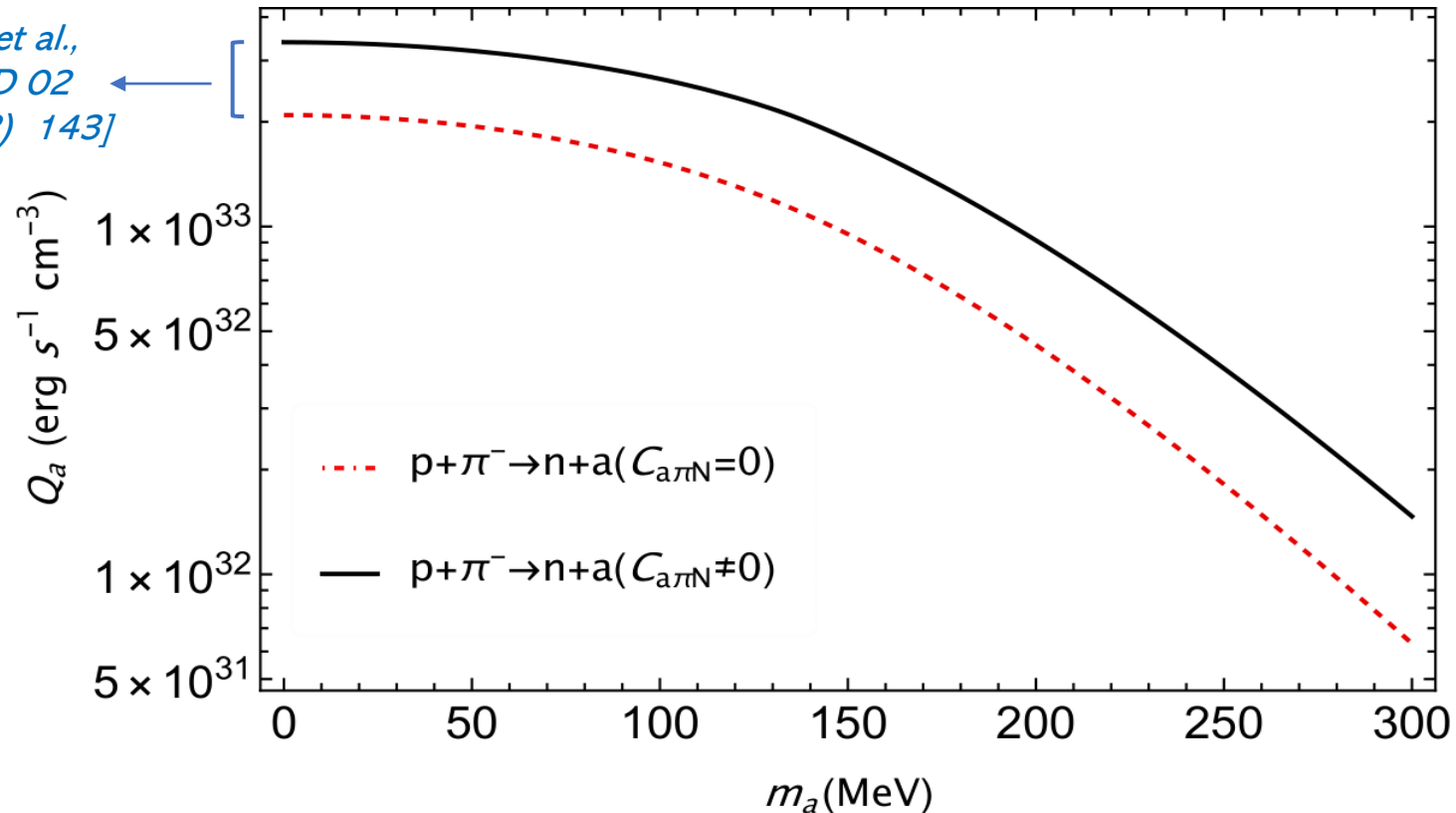


# Pionic Compton processes

The complete expression for ALP emissivity via Pionic Compton processes is:

$$Q_a^\pi = \frac{g_{aN}^2}{\sqrt{8}\pi^5} \left(\frac{g_A}{2f_\pi}\right)^2 \frac{T^{7.5}}{\sqrt{m_N}} \int_{\max[\frac{m_a}{T}, y_\pi]}^{+\infty} dx_a x_a \sqrt{x_a^2 - \frac{m_a^2}{T^2}} \sqrt{x_a^2 - y_\pi^2} \frac{C_a^{p\pi^-}}{e^{x_a - y_\pi} e^{-\widehat{\mu}_\pi} - 1} \int_0^{+\infty} dy y^2 (e^{y^2} e^{-\widehat{\mu}_\pi} + 1)^{-1} (e^{y^2} e^{-\widehat{\mu}_n} + 1)^{-1}$$

[Choi et al.,  
JHEP D 02  
(2022) 143]

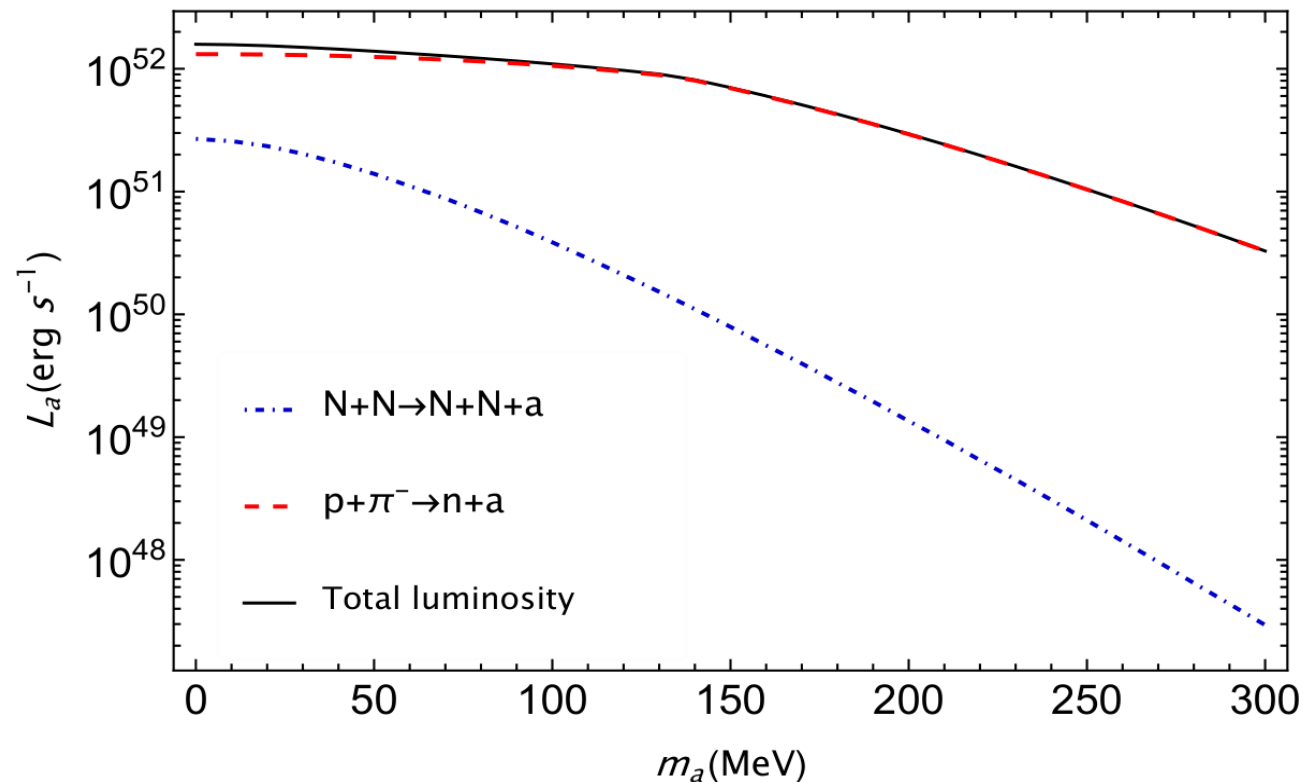


# Axion luminosity

The energy emitted per unit time (luminosity) is obtained integrating emissivity over the SN model:

$$L_a = 4\pi \int_0^{r_{max}} \alpha^2 Q_a(r) r^2 dr$$

↓  
Lapse factor

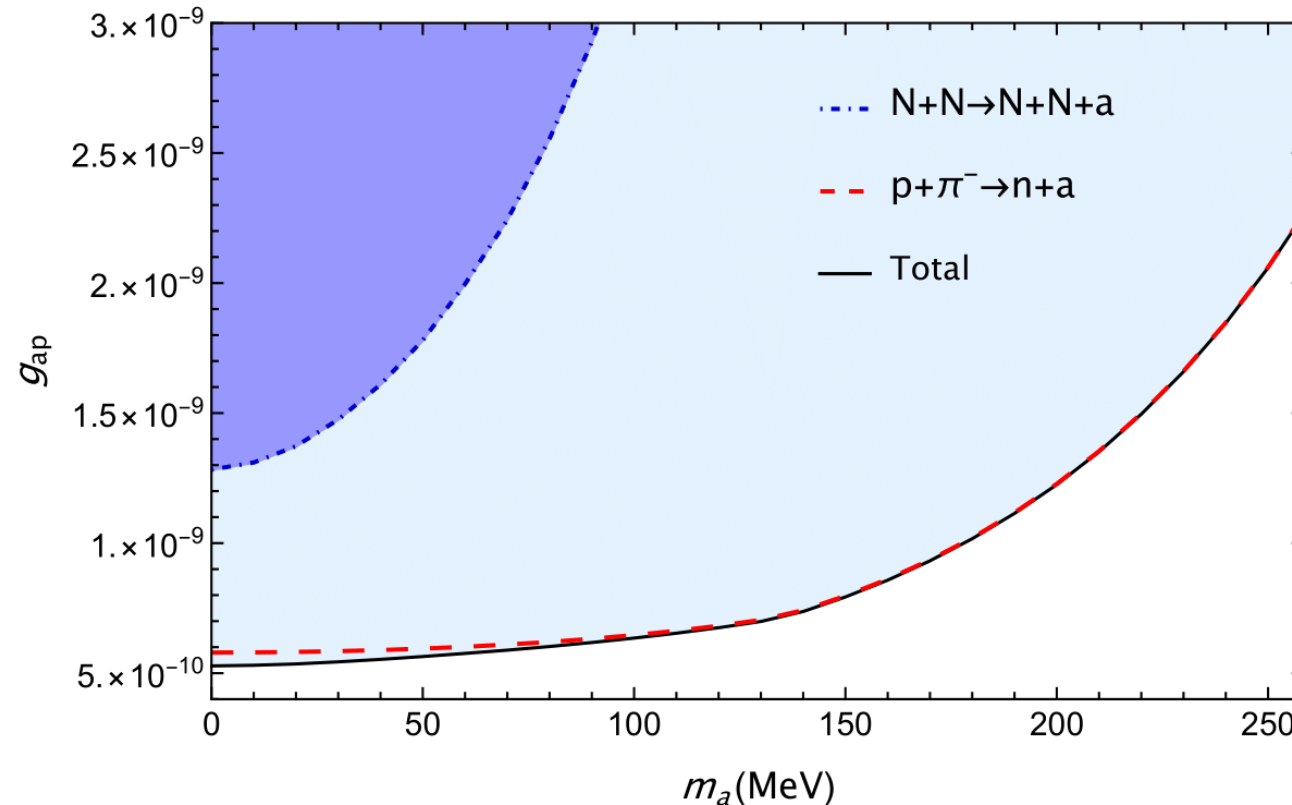


# The cooling bound

Assuming that the neutrino burst observed from SN 1987A should not be shortened more than  $\sim 1/2$  it is necessary that

$$L_a(\sim g_a^2) \lesssim L_\nu \approx 3 \times 10^{52} \text{ erg/s}$$

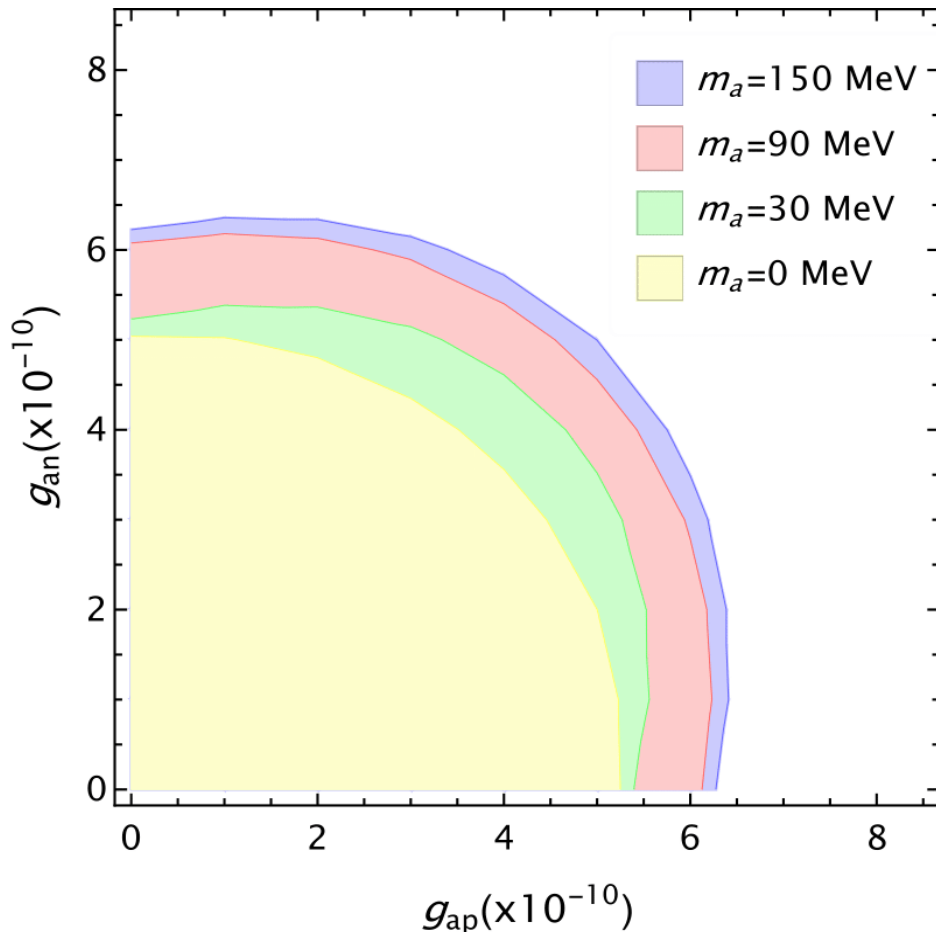
at  $t = 1 \text{ s}$  [Raffelt, *Phys. Rept.* 198 (1990)].



# Comparison with previous bounds

Dependence on  $g_{an}$  and  $g_{ap}$  can be extracted from the following fitting formula:

$$L_a \simeq \epsilon \times (g_{an}^2 + b \times g_{ap}^2 + c \times g_{ap}g_{an} + d \times g_{a\pi N}) \text{ erg/cm}^{-3} \lesssim 3 \times 10^{52} \text{ erg/cm}^{-3}$$



In the massless case:

SN 1987A cooling

$$g_{ap} < 1.2 \times 10^{-9}$$



Updated Bound

$$g_{ap} < 5 \times 10^{-10}$$

Neutron Star cooling

$$g_{an} < 2.8 \times 10^{-10}$$



New Bound

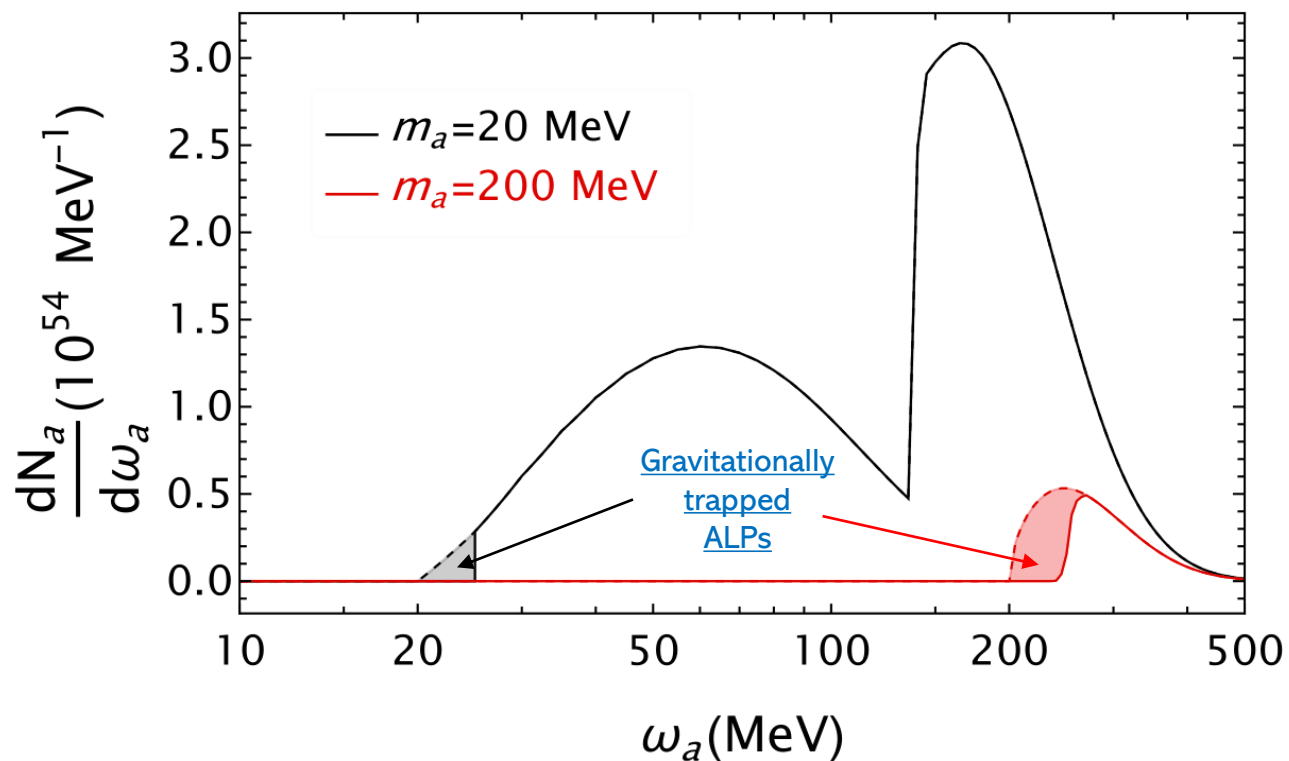
$$g_{an} < 2 \times 10^{-10}$$

# Gravitational trapping

Massive axions experience the strong gravitational effects due to the dense inner core. In order to be emitted they must have energy enough to overcome the gravitational potential:

$$\left(\frac{dN_a}{d\omega_a}\right)_{grav} = \frac{dN_a}{d\omega_a} \Theta\left(\omega_a - \frac{m_a}{\alpha}\right)$$

Where  $\alpha = \sqrt{1 - 2M/R}$  is the lapse factor.





# Gravitational trapping

- Let us assume that the trapped axion decay into photons.

$$a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$$

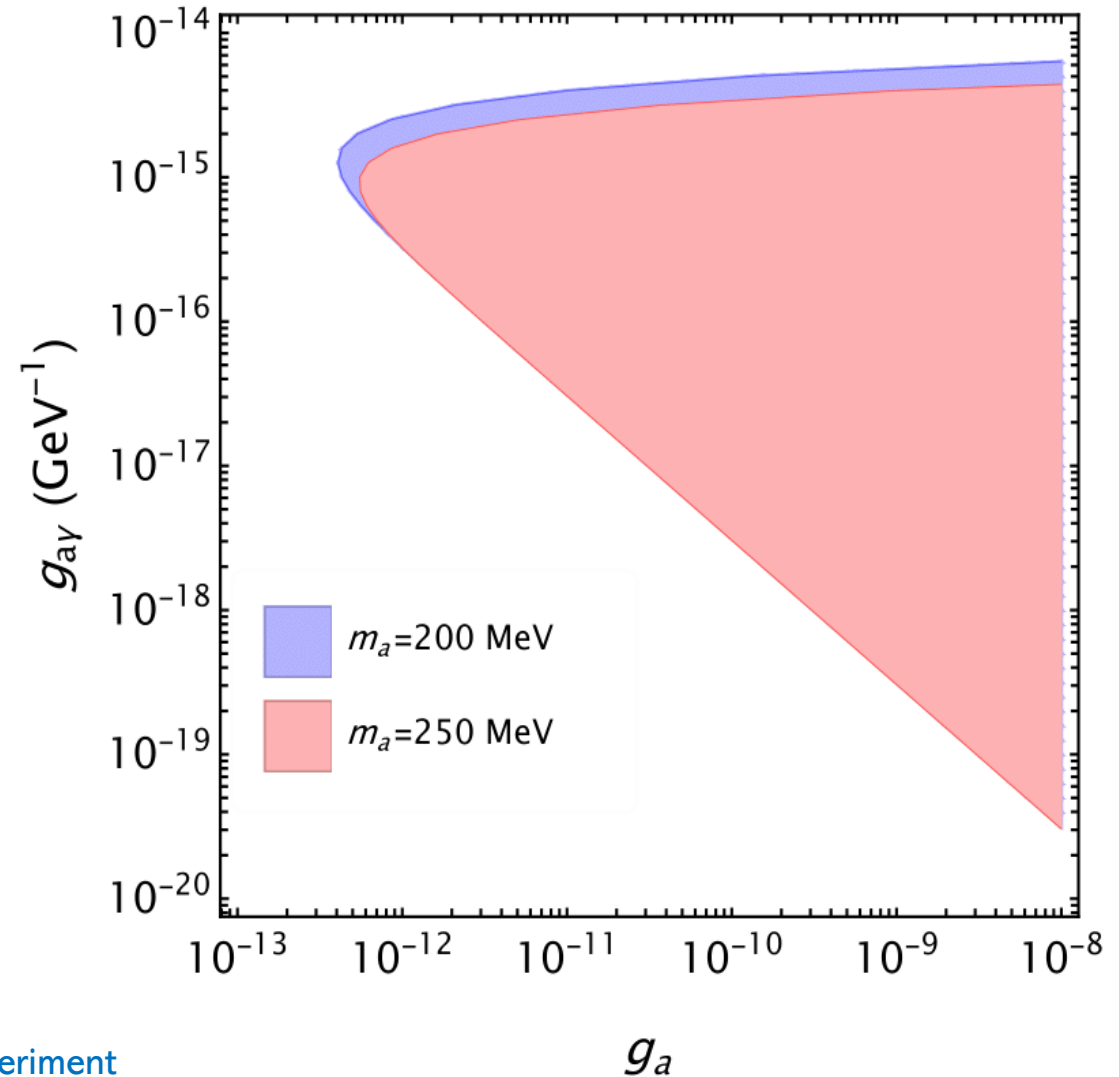
- This would give rise to an additional photon flux from a SN remnant

$$\frac{d\phi_\gamma}{dE_\gamma} (\sim g_a^2; \sim g_{a\gamma}^2) = \frac{1}{4\pi d^2} 2 \left[ \frac{dN_a(2E_\gamma)}{dE_\gamma} \right]_{trap} \Gamma_{a\gamma\gamma} e^{-\Gamma_{a\gamma\gamma} t}$$

- We can consider the SN remnant Cas A ( $d \approx 3.4$  kpc,  $t \approx 320$  yrs). Since no photon flux has been observed from Cas A [*Hannestad & Raffelt, Phys. Rev. Lett. 88 (2002)*]:

$$\phi_{E>100 \text{ MeV}} \lesssim 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

→ Sensitivity of the EGRET experiment



# Summary

- Inside the SN core ( $T \sim 30 - 40$  MeV) massive ALPs could be copiously produced by means of Bremsstrahlung and pionic Compton-like processes.
- We extended the computation of the ALP emission rates for these two processes to the case of massive ALPs.
- The energy-loss argument allowed us to constrain  $g_{aN}$  in the mass range  $[0,300]$ MeV. In particular in the low mass limit we found  $g_{ap} \lesssim 5.2 \times 10^{-10}$ , strengthening the previous bounds.
- Using gravitational trapping we also constrain the  $g_{a\gamma}$ - $g_a$  ALP parameter space.



**THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION**

The image features a dark, starry night sky as the background. The stars are densely packed, creating a rich, textured appearance. In the lower portion of the frame, the silhouettes of three trees are visible against a slightly lighter, orange-tinged horizon. The trees are dark and intricate, with their branches clearly defined. The overall composition is serene and evocative, suggesting a quiet night in a rural or natural setting.



# The QCD axion

The *QCD axion* is a pseudoscalar particle postulated in relation to the Peccei-Quinn (PQ) mechanism to solve the *Strong-CP problem* in QCD.



PQ mechanism: the introduction of a global symmetry  $U(1)_{\text{PQ}}$  spontaneously broken at  $f_a$  and the Goldstone boson is the axion [Peccei & Quinn, PRL 38 (1977)]

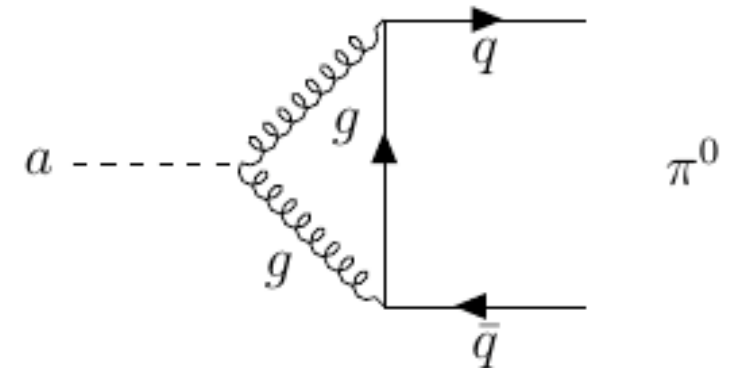
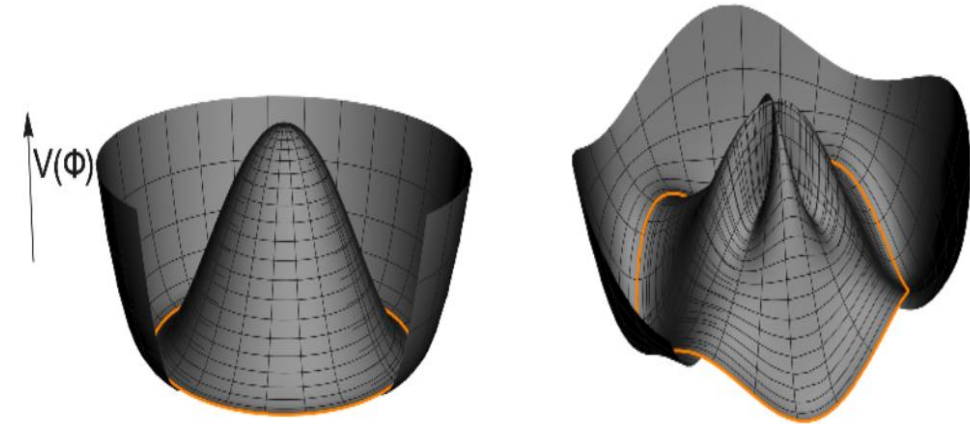
- Axion lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_a = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu a \partial^\mu a + \frac{\alpha_s}{8\pi f_a} a \text{Tr} G^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{g_{a\psi}}{2 m_\psi} \bar{\psi} \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu \psi \partial^\mu a - \frac{1}{4} g_{a\gamma} a \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

- Axions acquire a small mass as a consequence of their mixing with pions

$$m_a f_a \approx m_\pi f_\pi$$

- The coupling constants depends on the energy scale  $f_a$

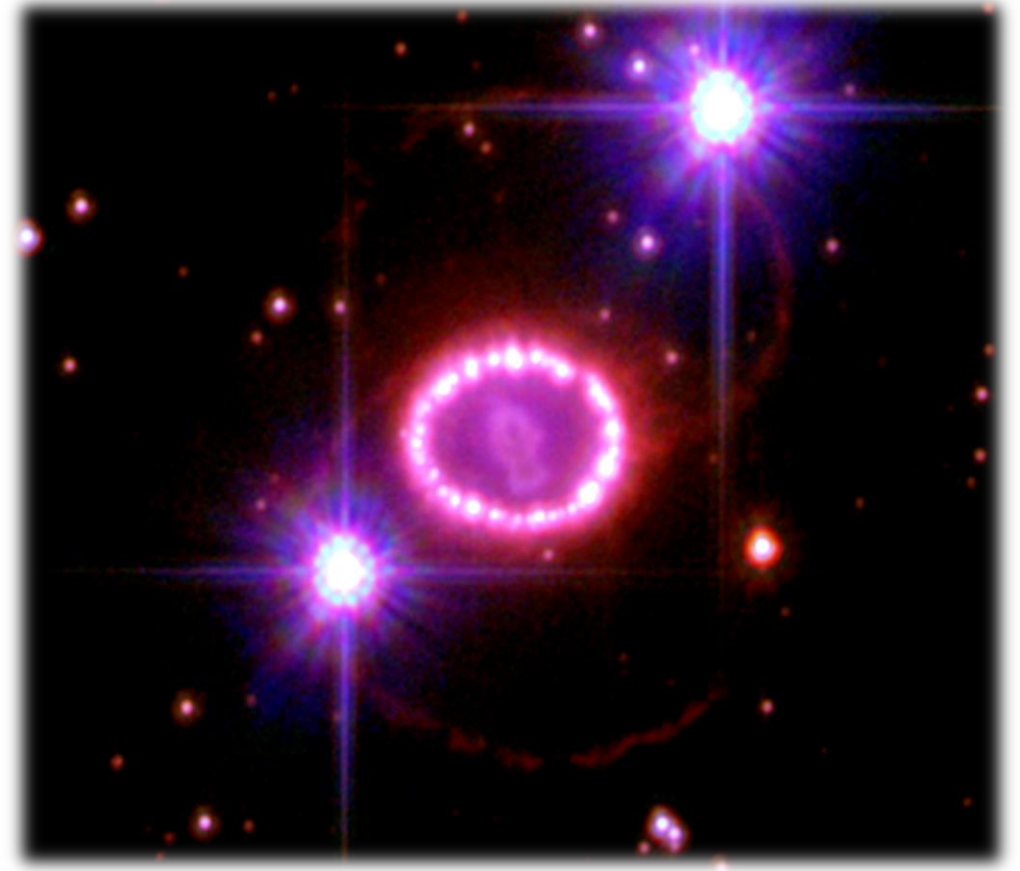


# Supernova explosion and Neutrino emission

Core-collapse SN is the terminal phase of a massive star [ $M \geq 8 M_{\odot}$ ].

- An initial gravitational collapse takes place.
- Shock-wave formation and propagation.
- Ejection of the outer layers of the star.
- Neutrino cooling.

About the 99% of the released energy ( $\sim 10^{53}$  erg) is emitted by  $\nu$  and  $\bar{\nu}$  of all flavours.



# Structure functions

$$S_\sigma = \frac{\Gamma_\sigma}{\omega^2} s \left( \frac{\omega_a}{T} \right)$$

$$s(x) = s_{nn}(x) + s_{pp}(x) + s_{np}(x)$$

$$s_{nn}(x) = \frac{1}{3} Y_n^2 C_{an}^2 (s_{\mathbf{k}} + s_{\mathbf{l}} + s_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{l}} - 3s_{\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{l}})$$

$$s_{pp}(x) = \frac{1}{3} Y_p^2 C_{ap}^2 (s_{\mathbf{k}} + s_{\mathbf{l}} + s_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{l}} - 3s_{\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{l}})$$

$$s_{np}(x) = \frac{4}{3} Y_n Y_p (C_+^2 + C_-^2) s_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{4}{3} Y_n Y_p (4C_+^2 + 2C_-^2) s_{\mathbf{l}} + \frac{8}{3} Y_n Y_p [(C_+^2 + C_-^2) s_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{l}} - (3C_+^2 - C_-^2) s_{\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{l}}].$$

$$s_{\mathbf{k}} = \int \frac{d \cos \delta}{2} \frac{d\phi}{2\pi} \frac{\sqrt{w} dw}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{dz}{2} du \left[ \frac{\rho Y_1}{2m_N} \left( \frac{2\pi}{m_N T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]^{-1} \left[ \frac{\rho Y_2}{2m_N} \left( \frac{2\pi}{m_N T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]^{-1} e^{u-\eta_3} e^{w-\eta_4} \sqrt{u(u-x)} [H_u^+ H_u^- H_v^+ H_v^- F_+^2]_{v=u-x} \quad (3.49)$$

$$s_{\mathbf{l}} = \int \frac{d \cos \delta}{2} \frac{d\phi}{2\pi} \frac{\sqrt{w} dw}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{dz}{2} du \left[ \frac{\rho Y_1}{2m_N} \left( \frac{2\pi}{m_N T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]^{-1} \left[ \frac{\rho Y_2}{2m_N} \left( \frac{2\pi}{m_N T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]^{-1} e^{u-\eta_3} e^{w-\eta_4} \sqrt{u(u-x)} [H_u^+ H_u^- H_v^+ H_v^- F_-^2]_{v=u-x} \quad (3.50)$$

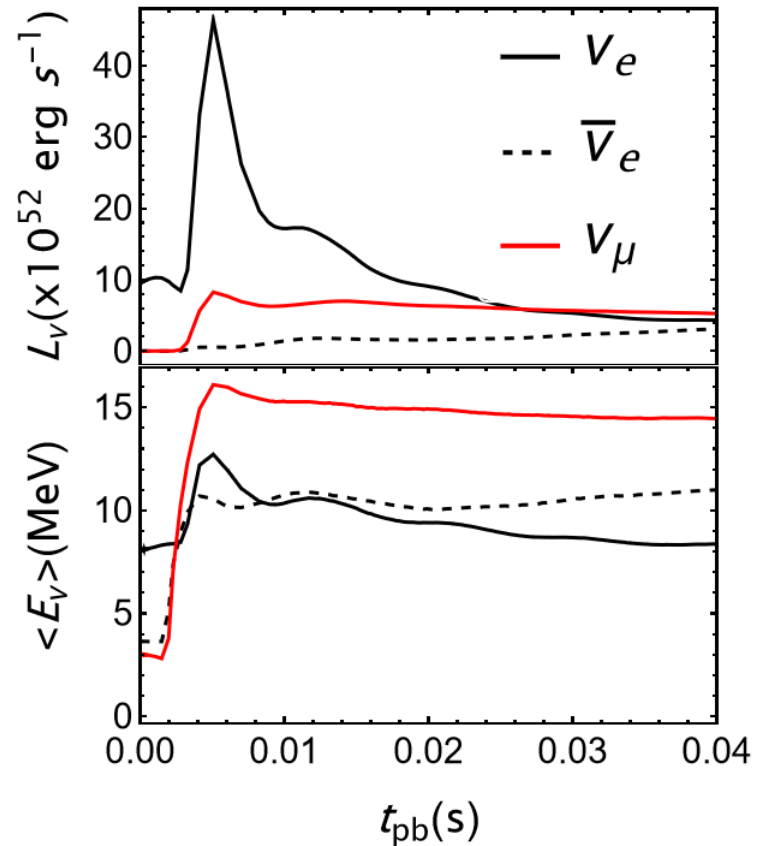
$$s_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{l}} = \int \frac{d \cos \delta}{2} \frac{d\phi}{2\pi} \frac{\sqrt{w} dw}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{dz}{2} du \left[ \frac{\rho Y_1}{2m_N} \left( \frac{2\pi}{m_N T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]^{-1} \left[ \frac{\rho Y_2}{2m_N} \left( \frac{2\pi}{m_N T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]^{-1} e^{u-\eta_3} e^{w-\eta_4} \sqrt{u(u-x)} [H_u^+ H_u^- H_v^+ H_v^- F_+ F_-]_{v=u-x} \quad (3.51)$$

$$s_{\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{l}} = \int \frac{d \cos \delta}{2} \frac{d\phi}{2\pi} \frac{\sqrt{w} dw}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{dz}{2} du \left[ \frac{\rho Y_1}{2m_N} \left( \frac{2\pi}{m_N T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]^{-1} \left[ \frac{\rho Y_2}{2m_N} \left( \frac{2\pi}{m_N T} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]^{-1} e^{u-\eta_3} e^{w-\eta_4} \sqrt{u(u-x)} \left[ H_u^+ H_u^- H_v^+ H_v^- F_+ F_- \frac{\zeta}{3} \right]_{v=u-x} \quad (3.52)$$

# Supernova Neutrinos

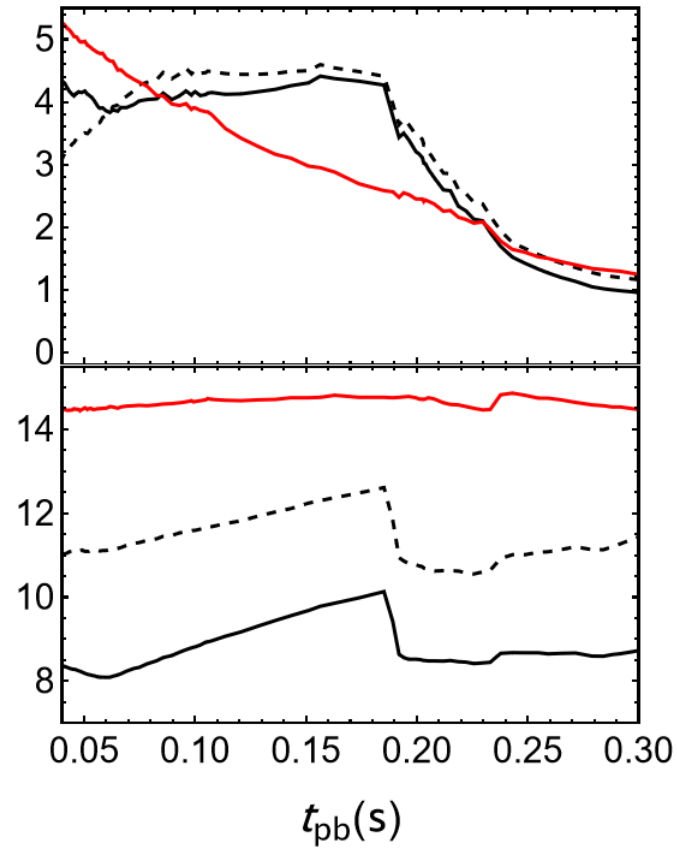
## Neutronization burst

- Electron capture in the inner core



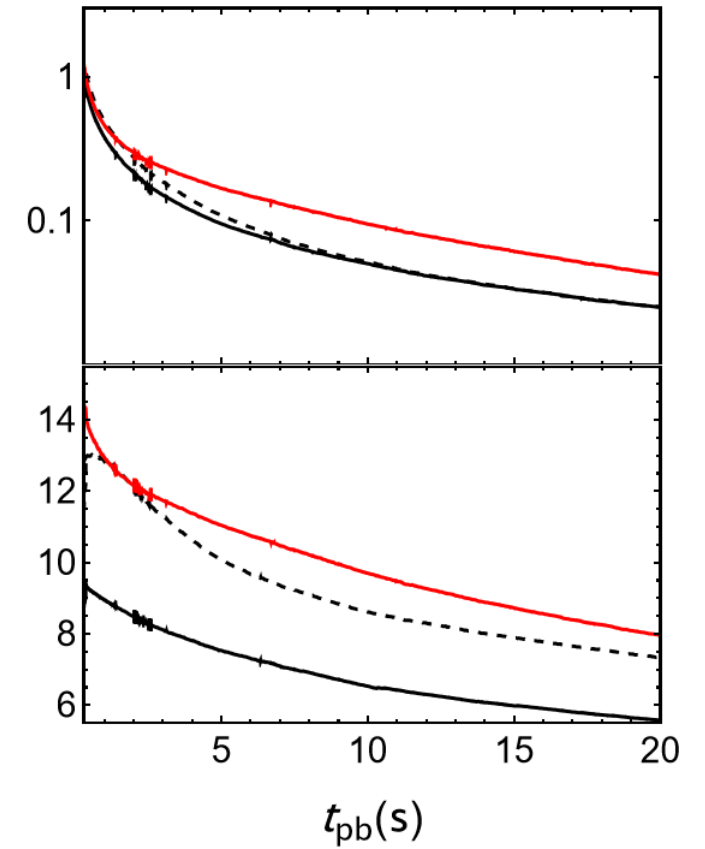
## Accretion

- When shock stalls,  $\nu$  powered by infalling matter



## Cooling

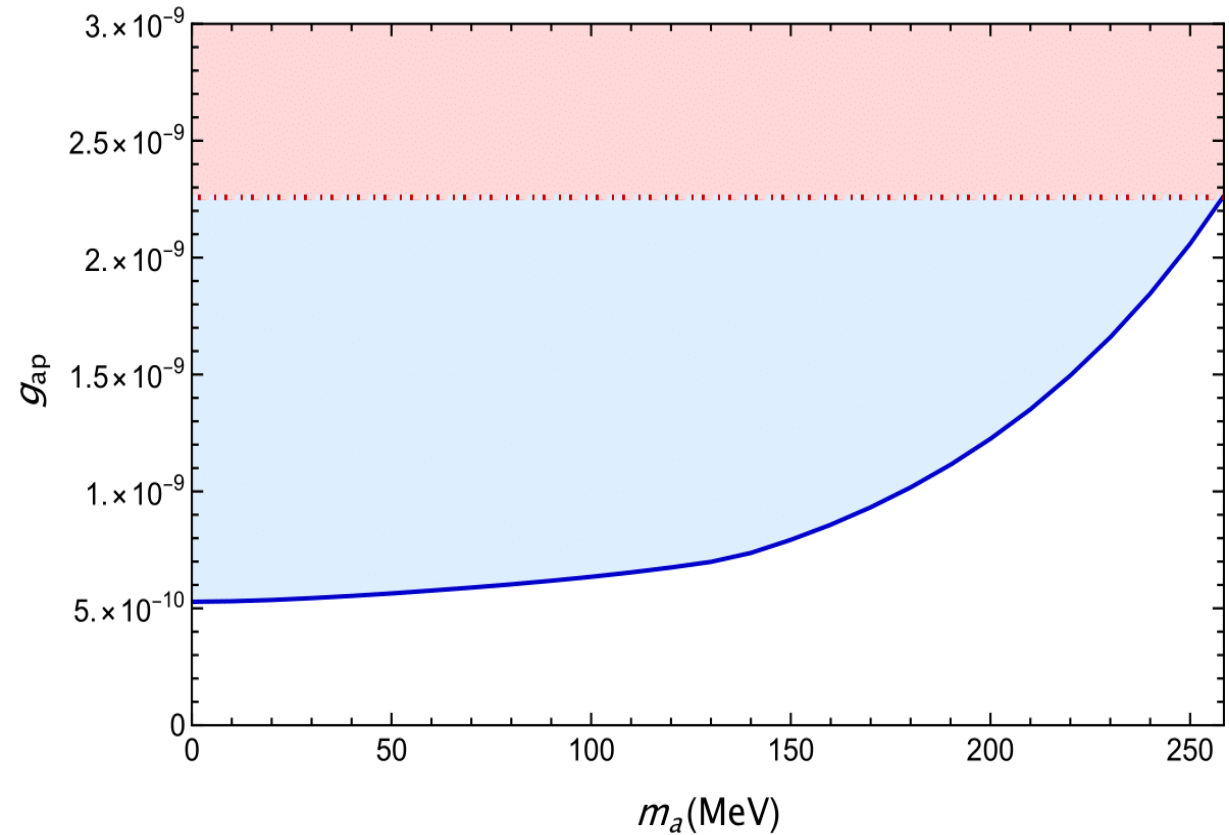
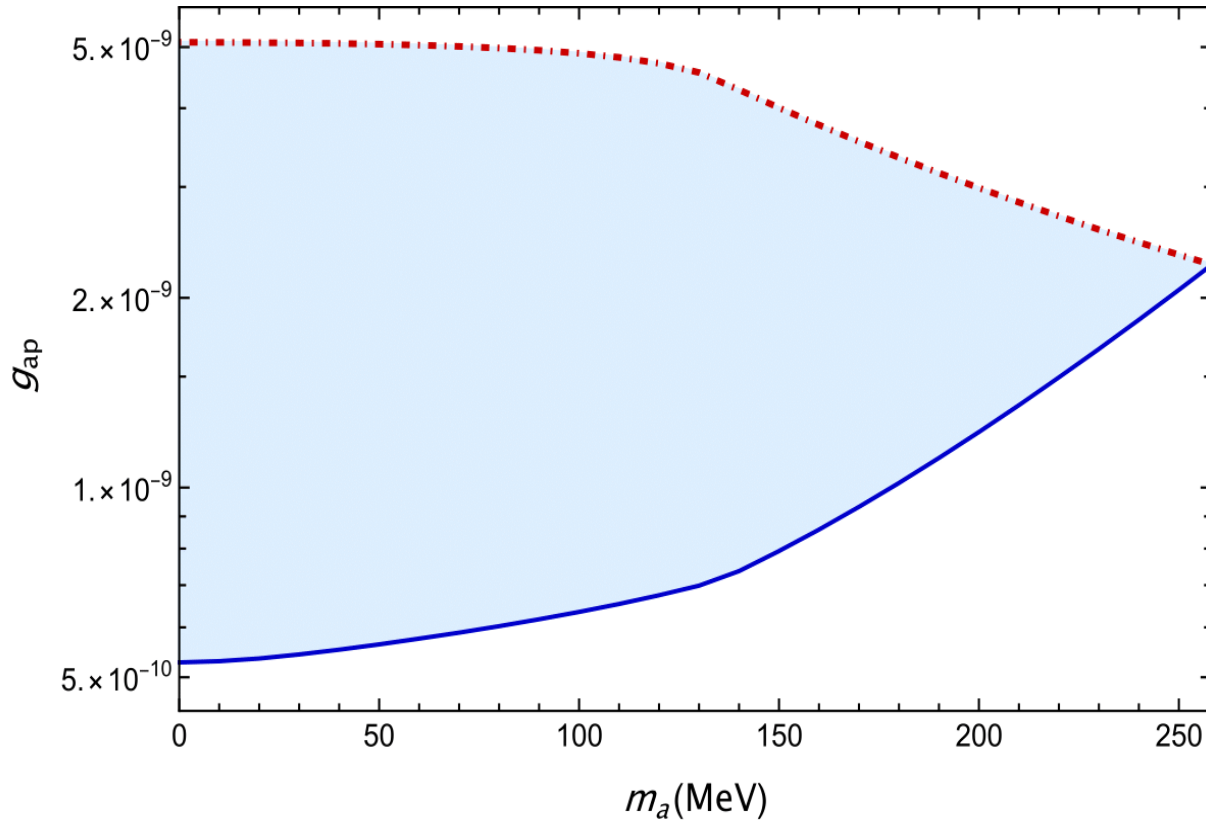
- Cooling on  $\nu$  diffusion time scale



# Estimation of the mean free path

$$Q_a = \int \omega_a \frac{d\mathcal{N}}{d\Pi_a} d\Pi_a \quad \lambda_a^{-1} = \frac{1}{2|\mathbf{p}_a|} \frac{d\mathcal{N}}{d\Pi_a}$$

$$\lambda_a^{-1}(\omega_a) = \frac{g_a^2}{\sqrt{2}\pi^3} \left( \frac{g_A}{2f_\pi} \right)^2 \frac{T^{\frac{7}{2}}}{m_N^{\frac{1}{2}}} \sqrt{\frac{x_a^2 - y_\pi^2}{x_a^2 - \left(\frac{m_a}{T}\right)^2}} \frac{\mathcal{C}_a^{p\pi^-}}{e^{x_a - y_\pi} e^{-\hat{\mu}_\pi} - 1} \\ \times \int_0^\infty dy y^2 \frac{1}{e^{y^2} e^{-\hat{\mu}_p} + 1} \frac{1}{e^{-y^2} e^{\hat{\mu}_n} + 1}.$$





# Gravitational effects on axion emissivity

Gravitational effects lead to a shift of the axion energy and time intervals:

$$\omega_a \rightarrow \omega_a' = \alpha \omega_a \quad dt \rightarrow dt' = \frac{t}{\alpha}$$

So the emissivity becomes:

$$Q'_\alpha = \int_{m_a}^{\infty} d\omega'_a \omega'_a \frac{dn}{d\omega'_a dt'} = \alpha^2 \int_{m'_a}^{\infty} d\omega'_a \omega'_a \frac{dn}{d\omega'_a dt'}$$

With:

$$m'_a = \frac{m_a}{\alpha} \simeq m_a \left( 1 + \frac{M}{R} \right)$$

# Axion couplings and contact term

$$C_{ap} = g_{ap}/g_a$$

$$C_{an} = g_{an}/g_a$$

$$C_{a\pi N} = \frac{C_{ap} - C_{an}}{\sqrt{2}g_A}$$

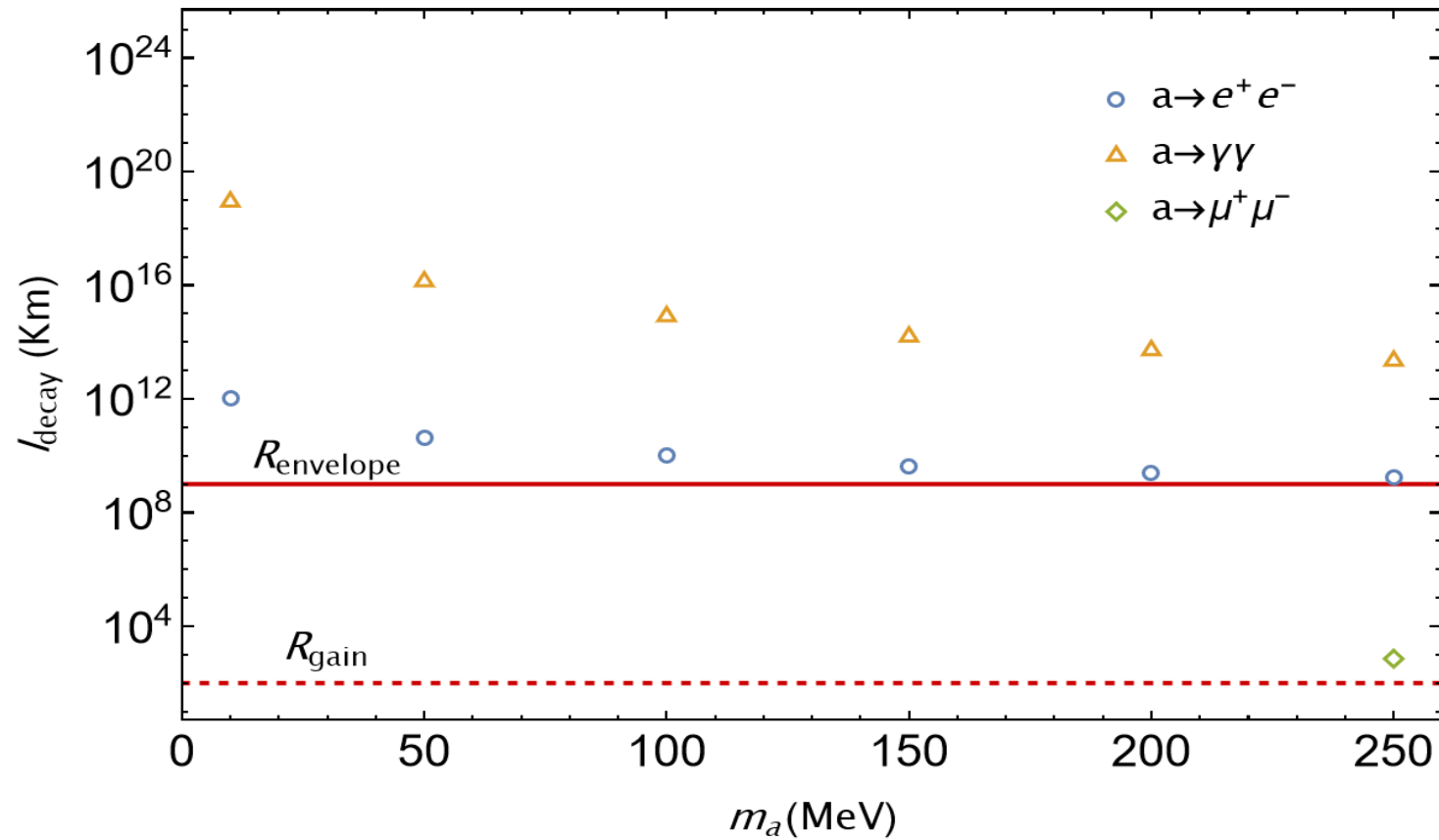
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{np} = & (C_+^2 + C_-^2) \left( \frac{\mathbf{k}^2}{\mathbf{k}^2 + m_\pi^2} \right)^2 + (4C_+^2 + 2C_-^2) \left( \frac{\mathbf{l}^2}{\mathbf{l}^2 + m_\pi^2} \right)^2 + \\ & - 2[(C_+^2 + C_-^2) - (3C_+^2 + C_-^2) \frac{\xi}{3}] \left( \frac{\mathbf{k}^2}{\mathbf{k}^2 + m_\pi^2} \right) \left( \frac{\mathbf{l}^2}{\mathbf{l}^2 + m_\pi^2} \right) + \\ & + 3C_{a\pi n}^2 \frac{\mathbf{k}^2 \mathbf{p}_a^2}{(\mathbf{k}^2 + m_\pi^2)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$C_a^{p\pi^-} = |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 \frac{|\mathbf{p}_a|^2}{\omega_a^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2}(C_{ap}^2 + C_{an}^2) + \frac{1}{3}C_{ap}C_{an} \right] + \frac{C_{a\pi N}^2}{g_A^2} \omega_a^2$$

# Decay lengths

$$\lambda_\gamma = \frac{\gamma\beta_a}{\Gamma_{a\gamma\gamma}} = \frac{\omega_a}{m_a} \sqrt{1 - \frac{m_a^2}{\omega_a^2}} \frac{64\pi}{g_{a\gamma}^2 m_a^3}$$

$$\lambda_\ell = \frac{8\pi}{g_{a\ell}^2 m_a} \frac{\omega_a}{m_a} \sqrt{\frac{1 - m_a^2/\omega_a^2}{1 - 4m_\ell^2/m_a^2}}$$



# Energy deposition bound

$$E_{\text{dep}} = \int dt \int_0^{R_{\text{PNNS}}} dr 4\pi r^2 \int_0^\infty d\omega_a \omega_a \frac{dn_a}{d\omega_a dt} \exp[-R_{\text{PNNS}}/\lambda_\gamma] (1 - \exp[R_{\text{env}}/\lambda_\gamma]) < 0.1B$$

