## <span id="page-0-1"></span><span id="page-0-0"></span>The hunt for non-resonant signals of new physics at the LHC

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#### Targeting non-resonant signals of new physics



#### Effective Field Theories



## Effective Field Theories

#### Fermi Theory of  $\beta$  decay

#### Bottom-up paradigm



measuring EFT parameters reveals properties of full theory  $\rightarrow$  complement direct searches, reach into higher energies



**EFT** fully specified by **fields+symmetries at E** =  $\mu$ 

- $\rightarrow$  no reference to underlying model
- $\rightarrow$  free couplings that can be measured!

## The Standard Model Effective Field Theory – SMEFT

promoting the Standard Model to an EFT

add higher-dimensional terms made of SM fields and respecting the SM symmetries

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \frac{1}{\Lambda} \mathcal{L}_5 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{L}_6 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^3} \mathcal{L}_7 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^4} \mathcal{L}_8 + \dots \qquad \mathcal{L}_d = \sum_i C_i \mathcal{O}_i^{(d)}
$$

 $C_i =$  Wilson coefficients

 $\mathcal{O}^{(d)}_i =$  gauge-invariant soperators forming a <u>basis</u>: a complete, non-redundant set Buchmüller, Wyler 1986

- **•** describes any beyond-SM theory, provided it lives at  $\Lambda \gg v$
- a complete catalogue of all allowed beyond-SM effects, organized by expected size
- ▶ not experiment-specific! can be used as a common framework for LHC and other experiments
- § a proper QFT! renormalizable order-by-order, systematically improvable in loops

**SMEFT** at  $d = 6$ : the Warsaw basis

$\,^3$		$\varphi^6$ and $\,\varphi^4D^2\,$		$\psi^2\varphi^3$		
$Q_G$	$f^{ABC} G_\mu^{A\nu} G_\nu^{B\rho} G_\rho^{C\mu}$	$Q_\varphi$	$(\varphi^{\dagger} \varphi)^3$	$Q_{e\varphi}$	$(\varphi^\dagger \varphi)(\bar l_p e_r \varphi)$	
$Q_{\widetilde{G}}$	$f^{ABC}\widetilde{G}^{A\nu}_\mu G^{B\rho}_\nu G^{C\mu}_\rho$	$Q_{\varphi\Box}$	$(\varphi^{\dagger} \varphi) \Box (\varphi^{\dagger} \varphi)$	$Q_{u\varphi}$	$(\varphi^\dagger \varphi) (\bar q_p u_r \widetilde \varphi)$	
$Q_{\cal{W}}$	$\varepsilon^{IJK}W^{I\nu}_\mu W^{J\rho}_\nu W^{K\mu}_\rho$	$Q_{\varphi D}$	$\left(\varphi^\dagger D^\mu \varphi\right)^\star \left(\varphi^\dagger D_\mu \varphi\right)$	$Q_{d\varphi}$	$(\varphi^\dagger \varphi) (\bar q_p d_r \varphi)$	$\odot$ 249
$Q_{\widetilde{\underline{W}}}$	$\varepsilon^{IJK} \widetilde{W}^{I\nu}_\mu W^{J\rho}_\nu W^{K\mu}_\rho$					
$X^2\varphi^2$		$\psi^2 X \varphi$		$\psi^2 \varphi^2 D$		
$Q_{\varphi G}$	$\varphi^\dagger\varphi\,G^A_{\mu\nu}G^{A\mu\nu}$	$Q_{eW}$	$(\bar l_p \sigma^{\mu\nu} e_r) \tau^I \varphi W_{\mu\nu}^I$	$Q_{\varphi l}^{(1)}$	$(\varphi^{\dagger}i\overset{\cdot}{D}_{\mu}\varphi)(\bar{l}_{p}\gamma^{\mu}l_{r})$	go j1
$Q_{\varphi\widetilde{G}}$	$\varphi^\dagger\varphi \, \widetilde{G}^A_{\mu\nu} G^{A\mu\nu}$	$Q_{eB}$	$(\bar l_p \sigma^{\mu\nu} e_r) \varphi B_{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{\varphi l}^{(3)}$	$(\varphi^\dagger i \widetilde{D}_\mu^{\,I} \, \varphi) (\bar l_p \tau^I \gamma^\mu l_r)$	syr
$Q_{\varphi W}$	$\varphi^\dagger\varphi\,W^I_{\mu\nu}W^{I\mu\nu}$	$Q_{uG}$	$(\bar q_p \sigma^{\mu\nu} T^A u_r) \widetilde\varphi\, G^A_{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{\varphi e}$	$(\varphi^{\dagger}i\ddot{D}_{\mu}\varphi)(\bar{e}_{p}\gamma^{\mu}e_{r})$	Faroug Greljo
$Q_{\varphi\widetilde W}$	$\varphi^\dagger\varphi \, \widetilde{W}_{\mu\nu}^I W^{I\mu\nu}$	$Q_{uW}$	$(\bar q_p \sigma^{\mu\nu} u_r) \tau^I \widetilde{\varphi} \, W^I_{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{\varphi q}^{(1)}$	$(\varphi^\dagger i \overset{.}{D}_\mu \varphi)(\bar q_p \gamma^\mu q_r)$	IB 201
$Q_{\varphi B}$	$\varphi^{\dagger} \varphi B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{uB}$	$(\bar q_p \sigma^{\mu\nu} u_r) \widetilde{\varphi} B_{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{\varphi q}^{(3)}$	$(\varphi^\dagger i \, \breve{D}_\mu^{\,I} \, \varphi) (\bar q_p \tau^I \gamma^\mu q_r)$	tł
$Q_{\varphi\widetilde{B}}$	$\varphi^\dagger\varphi \, \widetilde{B}_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{dG}$	$(\bar{q}_p \sigma^{\mu\nu} T^A d_r) \varphi G^A_{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{\varphi u}$	$(\varphi^{\dagger}i\overset{.}{D}_{\mu}\varphi)(\bar{u}_{p}\gamma^{\mu}u_{r})$	at
$Q_{\varphi WB}$	$\varphi^\dagger \tau^I \varphi \, W^I_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{dW}$	$(\bar q_p \sigma^{\mu\nu} d_r) \tau^I \varphi \, W_{\mu\nu}^I$	$Q_{\varphi d}$	$(\varphi^{\dagger}i\overset{\leftrightarrow}{D}_{\mu}\varphi)(\bar{d}_{p}\gamma^{\mu}d_{r})$	
$Q_{\varphi \widetilde{\underline{W}} \underline{B}}$	$\varphi^\dagger \tau^I \varphi \, \widetilde{W}^I_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{dB}$	$(\bar{q}_p\sigma^{\mu\nu}d_r)\varphi B_{\mu\nu}$	$Q_{\varphi ud}$	$i(\widetilde{\varphi}^{\dagger}D_{\mu}\varphi)(\bar{u}_{p}\gamma^{\mu}d_{r})$	

free parameters

down to  $O(100)$ mposing flavor mmetries, CP, B  $\frac{1}{2}$ hy et al 2005.05366 et al 2203.09561 IB 2012.11343

> hey are  $\sim$ never all relevant the same time

Grzadkowski,Iskrzynski,Misiak,Rosiek 1008.4884

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## **SMEFT** at  $d = 6$ : the Warsaw basis





go down to O(100) imposing flavor symmetries, CP, B Faroughy et al 2005.05366 Greljo et al 2203.09561 IB 2012.11343

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### Challenges for the bottom-up SMEFT program

1. being sensitive to indirect BSM effects  $\rightarrow$  needs uncertainty reduction



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## Challenges for the bottom-up SMEFT program

1. being sensitive to indirect BSM effects  $\rightarrow$  needs uncertainty reduction

in bulk 
$$
\sim \frac{v^2}{\Lambda^2} = \frac{v^2 g_{UV}}{M^2}
$$
.  $g_{UV} \simeq 1$ ,  $M \simeq 2 \,\text{TeV} \rightarrow 1.5\%$   
on tails  $\sim \frac{E^2}{\Lambda^2} \simeq \frac{E^2 g_{UV}}{M^2}$   $E \simeq 1 \,\text{TeV}, M \simeq 3 \,\text{TeV} \rightarrow 10\%$ 

2. making sure that, if we observe one, we interpret it correctly. needs:

- ▶ retaining all relevant contributions: all operators, NLO corrections...
	- $\downarrow$ – handling many parameters in predictions and fits
	- understanding the theory structure
- ▶ correct understanding of uncertainties and correlations
- § systematic mapping to BSM models

### A complex game

many free parameters entering many places  $\rightarrow$  scaling complexity  $+$  non-trivial interconnections



Global analyses combining several measurements are necessary

- to access as many operators as we can
- ▶ to avoid bias in interpretation [safer than ad-hoc choices]

### A field with many ramifications



#### SMEFT analyses: state of the art

- ▶ theory fits:  $Higgs + EW$  (incl LEP) + top quark typically 30-35 param.
- $\triangleright$  SMEFT theory predictions: computed at tree-level / 1-loop in QCD

$$
|\mathcal{M}_{\text{SMEFT}}|^2 = |\mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}}|^2 + \sum_{\alpha} \frac{C_{\alpha}}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{M}_{\alpha} \mathcal{M}_{\text{SM}}^\dagger + \sum_{\alpha \beta} \frac{C_{\alpha} C_{\beta}}{\Lambda^4} \mathcal{M}_{\alpha} \mathcal{M}_{\beta}^\dagger
$$



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## SMEFT combined analyses in ATLAS and CMS

LHC experiments gearing up to do dedicated combination

#### important in order to use the full experimental information: better uncertainty and correlation estimates

ultimate goal: a cross-experiment cross-sector combined study

 $c_{0a}^{(\ell)}$  $c_{\alpha i}^{-\ell}$  $c_{\alpha\ell}^{3(\ell)}$ **ATI AS Preliminary** · Best Fit **Higgs**  $EWPO$  $\sqrt{s}$  = 13 TeV 36 1-139 fb  $-68$  % CL  $C_{\omega t} + 2$  $...$  Q5 % CI  $-EW$ SMEET  $\Lambda = 1$  Tel. Linear narameterisation  $c_{\rm nth}$  $c_{MC}$  $10 \times c_{HVV,VH}^{[1]}$  $c_{\alpha 0}^3$  $\begin{array}{c} c_{HVV,VH}^{[2]}\\ c_{HVV,VH}^{[3]}\\ c_{HVV,VH}^{[4]}\\ c_{HVV,VH}^{[5]}\\ c_{HVV,VH}^{[5]}\\ \end{array}$ ATL-PHYS-PUB-2022-037 022-037  $c_{\text{bW}}$  $c_{10} \times 2$ ....  $-0.04 - 0.02$  $0.02$  $0.04$  $\Omega$ 001 CMS-TOP-19-001  $c_{\omega 0}$ + ΩÒ a dedicated Ξ  $-19$  $c_{\text{tot}} \div 5$ ....... CERN Working Group cw υ'n Š  $c_{HVV,Vm}^{[6]}$ <br> $c_{HVV,Vm}^{[7]}$ <br> $c_{HVV,Vm}^{[8]}$ TL-PHY created in 2020  $C_{17}$ to coordinate  $c_{\text{tw}}$ ž  $C_{\text{BH}}$  $-15 -10$  $-20$ 15 20 [lpcc.web.cern.ch/lhc-eft-wg](#page-0-1)  $-0.4$  $-0.2$  $\Omega$  $0.2$  $0.4$  $0.4$  $0.6$  $10$ Parameter value expected fractiona Wilson coefficient CI /  $\Lambda^2$  ITeV<sup>-2</sup>1 contribution Ilaria Brivio (UniBo & INFN) [The hunt for non-resonant signals of new physics at the LHC](#page-0-0) 11/25

Others profiled

 $c_i^{\eta_\ell}$ 

 $c_i^{S(i)}$  $c_{i\alpha}^{(\ell)}$  $c_{ii}^{(\ell)}$ 

Others profiled (1a) Others fixed to SM (2o)

Others fixed to SM (1st

 $\pm$ 

41.5 fb<sup>-1</sup> (13 TeV)

**CMS** 

## Some open fronts

- $\triangleright$  treatment of RG effects : 2-loop RGE, account for running+mixing in MC...
- ▶ improve theory predictions: optimize MC strategies, include EFT in backgrounds, PDFs...
- § properly account for experimental uncertainties and correlations in fits
- ▶ define optimal observables to improve sensitivity
- § understand and treat SMEFT-born uncertainties [scale dependence, missing higher orders in loops and EFT. . . ]
- ▶ incorporate more processes: VBS, high-multiplicity final states, flavor physics, CP tests. . .
- $\blacktriangleright$  handle 50+ dimensional likelihood
- ▶ explore interplay with resonance searches
- ▶ explore alternative EFT setups?



### Non-resonant signals from light NP

Non-resonant signals can also be induced by new light states

 $\rightarrow$  off-shell, in the limit  $\sqrt{s}\gg m$   $\rightarrow$  typically happens for heavy final states

 $\rightarrow$  most relevant if they have momentum-enhanced couplings (EFT)



graviton G has  $d = 5$  coupling  $(G_{\mu\nu}\bar{t}_R \gamma^{\mu} D^{\nu} t_R)$ , all others are  $d = 4$ top-philic  $\rightarrow$  not ruled out by direct searches

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### An interesting case: Axion-Like Particles

#### $ALP$  = pseudo-Goldstone boson from breaking of BSM symmetry





#### Fundamental properties

- § neutral, pseudo-scalar: spin 0, odd parity
- **•** approx. shift symmetry  $a(x) \rightarrow a(x) + c$   $\Rightarrow$  m<sub>a</sub> naturally small

#### Why so interesting?

- **naturally the lightest remnant of heavy NP sectors**  $\rightarrow$  **easiest to discover**
- **•** spontaneous symmetry breakings are **ubiquitous** in BSM  $\rightarrow$  high relevance
- ▶ under certain conditions: good DM candidate

### ALP Effective Field Theory

- ▶ ALPs can be described in a EFT where heavy sector is integrated out
- ▶ SM fields + a & SM symmetries + ALP shift sym.  $(+ CP)$
- **►** Cutoff:  $f_a$  (ALP char. scale, reminiscent of  $f_\pi$ ). LO: dimension 5

CP even: Georgi,Kaplan,Randall PLB169B(1986)73

$$
\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{ALP} &= \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\mu}a\partial^{\mu}a - \frac{m_a^2}{2}a^2 \\ &+ C_{\tilde{B}}O_{\tilde{B}} + C_{\tilde{W}}O_{\tilde{W}} + C_{\tilde{G}}O_{\tilde{G}} \\ &+ C_uO_u + C_dO_d + C_eO_e + C_QO_Q + C_LO_L \quad + \mathcal{O}(\mathit{f}_{a}^{-2}) \end{aligned}
$$

$$
O_{\tilde{B}} = -\frac{a}{f_a} B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu} \qquad O_{\tilde{W}} = -\frac{a}{f_a} W^I_{\mu\nu} \tilde{W}^{I\mu\nu} \qquad O_{\tilde{G}} = -\frac{a}{f_a} G^A_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{A\mu\nu}
$$

$$
O_{f,ij} = \frac{\partial^{\mu} a}{f_a} (\bar{f}_i \gamma^{\mu} f_j) \qquad \rightarrow C_f: \quad N_g \times N_g \text{ symmetric matrices in flavor space}
$$

## Recent developments in ALP EFT

relatively simple  $EFT \rightarrow$  convenient theory playground. recently borrowed some expertise from SMEFT

- ▶ discussion on basis completeness
- ▶ RGE evolution, including CP-odd and shift-breaking terms Das Bakshi,Machado-Rodriguez,Ramos 2306.08036
- **▶ RGE mixing into SMEFT** Galda, Neubert,Renner 2105.01078
- ▶ comprehensive 1-loop study, incl. finite parts Bonilla, IB, Gavela, Sanz 2107.11392
- **b** unitarity constraints **IB, Eboli, González-García** 2106.05977
- ▶ flavor-invariant parameterization of shift-breakings Bonnefoy, Grojean, Kley 2206.04182
- ▶ Operator basis up to dim-8 Song,Sun,Yu 2305.16770
- **Hilbert series for operator counting** Group and Group Grojean, Kley, Yao 2307.08563
- ▶ Global analysis of LEP, LHC and flavor data Bruggisser, Grabitz, Westhoff 2308.11703

Chala,Guedes,Ramos,Santiago 2012.09017 Bauer,Neubert,Renner,Schnubel,Thamm 2012.12272 Bonilla,IB,Gavela,Sanz 2107.11392

#### Why?

How?

- ▶ tree-level access to couplings to heavy SM particles  $(W, Z, h, t)$
- $\blacktriangleright$  access to heavy ALPs ( $m_a \gtrsim 10s$  GeV)



#### Why?

- ▶ tree-level access to couplings to heavy SM particles  $(W, Z, h, t)$
- $\blacktriangleright$  access to heavy ALPs ( $m_a \gtrsim 10s$  GeV)



#### Why?

- Exter-level access to couplings to heavy SM particles  $(W, Z, h, t)$
- F access to heavy ALPs ( $m_a \gtrsim 10s$  GeV)



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#### Why?

▶ tree-level access to couplings to heavy SM particles  $(W, Z, h, t)$ 

```
F access to heavy ALPs (m_a \gtrsim 10s GeV)
```


#### Non-resonant ALP signals at LHC

ZZ, γγ, tt: Gavela, No, Sanz, Troconiz 1905.12953, CMS PAS B2G-20-013 2111.13669 WW,  $Z_{\gamma}$ : Carrá, Goumarre, Gupta, Heim, Heinemann, Küchler, Meloni, Quilez, Yap 2106.10085

ALP off-shell for  $\boxed{m_a\ll m_1 + m_2\leqslant \sqrt{s}}$  "too light to be resonant"



### Non-resonant ALP signals at LHC

ZZ, γγ, tt: Gavela, No, Sanz, Troconiz 1905.12953, CMS PAS B2G-20-013 2111.13669 WW,  $Z_{\gamma}$ : Carrá, Goumarre, Gupta, Heim, Heinemann, Küchler, Meloni, Quilez, Yap 2106.10085

ALP off-shell for  $\boxed{m_a\ll m_1 + m_2\leqslant \sqrt{s}}$  "too light to be resonant"



puts a constraint on  $(g_{aGG} \times g_{aVV})$  product for  $g_{aGG}$  not too small, competitive bounds on  $g_{aVV}$ 

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#### Non-resonant searches in VBS

#### same principle, applied to Vector Boson Scattering

 $\rightarrow$  independent of  $g_{aGG}$  (if pure ALP signal dominates, adding  $C_{\tilde{G}}$  does not worsen bounds)

 $\rightarrow$  compare to actual analyses by CMS:  $W^{\pm}W^{\pm}$ ,  $W^{\pm}Z$ ,  $W^{\pm}\gamma$ ,  $Z\gamma$ , ZZ



#### Non-resonant searches in VBS: Run 2 results



#### Comparison with other constraints



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#### Non-resonant searches in VBS: projections

HL-LHC: sensitivity improves  $\times$  5 – 8 on XS  $\rightarrow \times$  1.5 – 1.7 on  $C_i / f_a$ 



#### SMEFT vs ALPs in VBS

 $pp \rightarrow i j Z Z$  in SMEFT







- ▶ the Standard Model of particle physics is extremely successful, but not the ultimate theory!
- ▶ the Large Hadron Collider at CERN hasn't found evidence for new resonances vet
- in the next 20 years, it will collect 20 times more data than today  $\rightarrow a$  precision machine!
- $\triangleright$  SMEFT and EFTs in general can help us make the most out of this dataset!  $\rightarrow$  a very challenging program, being developed by theory and experiments
- ▶ Non-resonant signals interesting also for light new physics, e.g. top-philic bosons, ALPs...  $\rightarrow$  relevant at  $\sqrt{s} \gg m$ 
	- $\rightarrow$  can help cover **unexplored regions** of parameter space
- ▶ Interplay of non-resonant signals from heavy and light states not much explored yet



a newly approved COST Action!

#### "COmprehensive Multiboson Experiment-Theory Action"

- $\Lambda$  very broad scientific program
	- ▶ SMEFT/HEFT studies of multi-boson processes (as many  $H/W/Z$  as wished), also with global perspective
	- ▶ precision calculations and development of MC, PS etc
	- ▶ W, Z polarizations: conventions, higher-order predictions, MC
	- $\blacktriangleright$  development of ML-based tools, together with ML experts outside academia: polarization taggers, jet taggers for VBF topologies, optimal observables. . .
- $\epsilon$  for networking: will organize **workshops, schools, topical meetings**  $+$  funds for short/medium-term visits to other institutions within Europe
- **g** currently  $\sim 1/3$  theorists  $+ 2/3$  experimentalists  $+$  a few ML experts

funding will start in November, activities in  $2024 - 2027$ 

sign up & more info at [www.cost.eu/actions/CA22130/](https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22130/)

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# Backup slides

### SMEFT fit results



#### Fisher information





ttV op. constrained by  $h \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ , single-t, t $\bar{t}V$ 

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#### Top and Higgs interplay



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#### Reduced fits via matching to UV models



#### Impact of higher order operators

EFT obtained from matching to full model



#### Impact of higher order operators

EFT obtained from matching to full model



#### Impact of higher order operators

EFT obtained from matching to full model



top-down:  $C_i$  fixed by matching  $\rightarrow$  EFT not valid in high-E region

**bottom-up**: fit  $C_i$  to data tends to make EFT match full result  $\rightarrow$  find wrong values of  $C_i$ 

how to keep this into account?

sliding upper cut: Contino,Falkowski,Goertz, Grojean,Riva 1604.06444

uncertainty band: Trott et al 1508.05060,2007.00565,2106.13794 Hays,Martin,Sanz,Setford 1808.00442 Shepherd et al 1812.07575,1907.13160

compute at  $O(\Lambda^{-4})$ compute at U(۸ )<br>Boughezal,Mereghetti,Petriello 2106.05337 Asteriadis,Dawson,Fontes,Homiller,Sullivan 2110.06929,2205.01561,2212.03258

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## SMEFT or HEFT?

a component of the  $d = 6$  vs model discrepancy can be removed by reabsorbing higher powers of v within  $d = 6$  coefficients instead of leaving them to  $d \ge 8$ 

conceptually same as matching to HEFT instead





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rather than  $H$  doublet: singlet  $h +$  Goldstones U Feruglio 9301281, Grinstein, Trott 0704.1505, Buchalla, Catà 1203.6510, Alonso et al 1212.3305, IB et al 1311.1823,1604.06801, Buchalla et al 1307.5017,1511.00988. . .

$$
H \mapsto \frac{v+h}{\sqrt{2}} \boxed{\mathbf{U}}, \qquad \mathbf{U} = \exp\left(\frac{i\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\pi}}{v}\right)
$$

 $HEFT \supset SMEFT \supset SM$ 

- more general than SMEFT because implements weaker symmetry requirement
- **more complicated** power counting, mix of  $\chi$ PT and canonical dimensions
- more operators order-by-order in the expansions

however, the  $H \rightarrow h$ , **U** map above must be an **unphysical** field redefinition!

#### Bounds on ALP couplings



#### Bounds on ALP couplings



### Dependence on ALP mass and width



ightharpoonup as  $q^2 \gg m_a, \Gamma_a$  , independent of exact values of mass and width "reverse" of an EFT  $(q^2 \gg m^2 \text{ vs } q^2 \ll m^2 \text{ limit})$ 

▶ XS stable up until  $m_a \le 100$  GeV

#### Perturbative unitarity

 $partial-wave decomposition for 2 \rightarrow 2 scattering:$ 

$$
V_i = \text{vector bosons or scalars}
$$
\n
$$
\lambda_i = \text{helicities } (V:\lambda_i = 0, \pm 1, S:\lambda_i \equiv 0), \lambda = \lambda_1 - \lambda_2, \mu = \lambda_3 - \lambda_4
$$
\n
$$
T^J = \text{amplitude for } J\text{-wave scattering}
$$
\n
$$
V_1^{\lambda_1}
$$
\n
$$
= 16\pi \sum_j (2J+1)\sqrt{1 + \delta_{V_1\lambda_1}^{V_2\lambda_2}}\sqrt{1 + \delta_{V_3\lambda_3}^{V_3\lambda_4}}e^{i(\lambda - \mu)\phi}d_{\lambda\mu}^J(\theta) \frac{T^J(V_1^{\lambda_1}V_2^{\lambda_2} \to V_3^{\lambda_3}V_4^{\lambda_4})}{T^J(V_1^{\lambda_1}V_2^{\lambda_2} \to V_3^{\lambda_3}V_4^{\lambda_4})}
$$

 $\text{unitarity} = \left| T^{J} (V_1^{\lambda_1} V_2^{\lambda_2} \rightarrow V_1^{\lambda_1} V_2^{\lambda_2}) \right| \leq 1 \text{ for } s \gg (M_1 + M_2)$ [defined for elastic scattering]

unitarity violation = unphysical pred.  $\rightarrow$  the theory is not valid: new dynamical states must be included pert. expansion is not valid: entering a non-perturbative regime

$$
\text{in ALP EFT: } \boxed{|T^J| \sim \left[ C_i \frac{\sqrt{s}}{f_a} \right]^n \left[ \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_W} \right]^m} \text{ becomes } > 1 \text{ for large } \sqrt{s} \text{ or } (C_i/f_a)
$$

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## Perturbative unitarity in ALP EFT

Calculation strategy **IB, Eboli, González-García** 2106.05977 also: Corbett, Éboli, González-García, 1411.5026,1705.09294

- 1. compute partial waves for <u>all</u> possible  $2 \rightarrow 2$  processes in large  $\sqrt{s}$  lim:
	- $V_1V_2 \rightarrow V_3V_4$   $V_1a \rightarrow V_2a$   $V_1V_2 \rightarrow aa$   $V_1V_2 \rightarrow V_3a$  $ha \rightarrow ha$   $hh \rightarrow aa$   $f_1 \bar{f_2} \rightarrow Va$
- $\, {\bf 2.} \,$  construct  $\, T^{J=0},\, T^{J=1} \,$  matrices in final states (particle and helicity) space  $\rightarrow$  block-diagonal classifying processes by Q and color contraction
- **3. diagonalize**  $T^J$  matrices  $\rightarrow$  "overall" constraint on theory
- **4.** apply elastic unitarity requirement  $|t^J| \leq 1$  on each eigenvalue

## Unitarity constraints on ALP couplings



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