



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation

**3rd Joint ILIAS-CERN-DESY AXION-WIMPS TRAINING WORKSHOP**

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# **LOW ENERGY SOLAR AXIONS**

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# OUTLINE

- Primakoff axion production in the Sun
- CAST limit on  $\sim$  keV axion flux
- PVLAS inspired models and solar axion flux
- Low energy solar axion flux
- Production of solar axions in B-fields
- Conclusions

# AXION PRODUCTION IN SUN

In the Sun, axions are produced by Primakoff photon-axion conversions in the microscopic fluctuating E-fields of the charged particles of the plasma



$$L_{a\gamma} = g_{a\gamma} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} a$$

# PRIMAKOFF PROCESS IN THE SUN

[G.Raffelt, PRD 33, 897 (1986)]

## Conversion rate

$$\Gamma_{\gamma \rightarrow a} = \frac{g_{a\gamma}^2 T k_s^2}{32\pi} \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{k_s^2}{4\omega^2} \right) \ln \left( 1 + \frac{4\omega^2}{k_s^2} \right) - 1 \right]$$

## Screening scale

$$k_s^2 = \frac{4\pi\alpha}{T} n_B \left( Y_e + \sum_j Z_j^2 Y_j \right)$$

## Plasma frequency

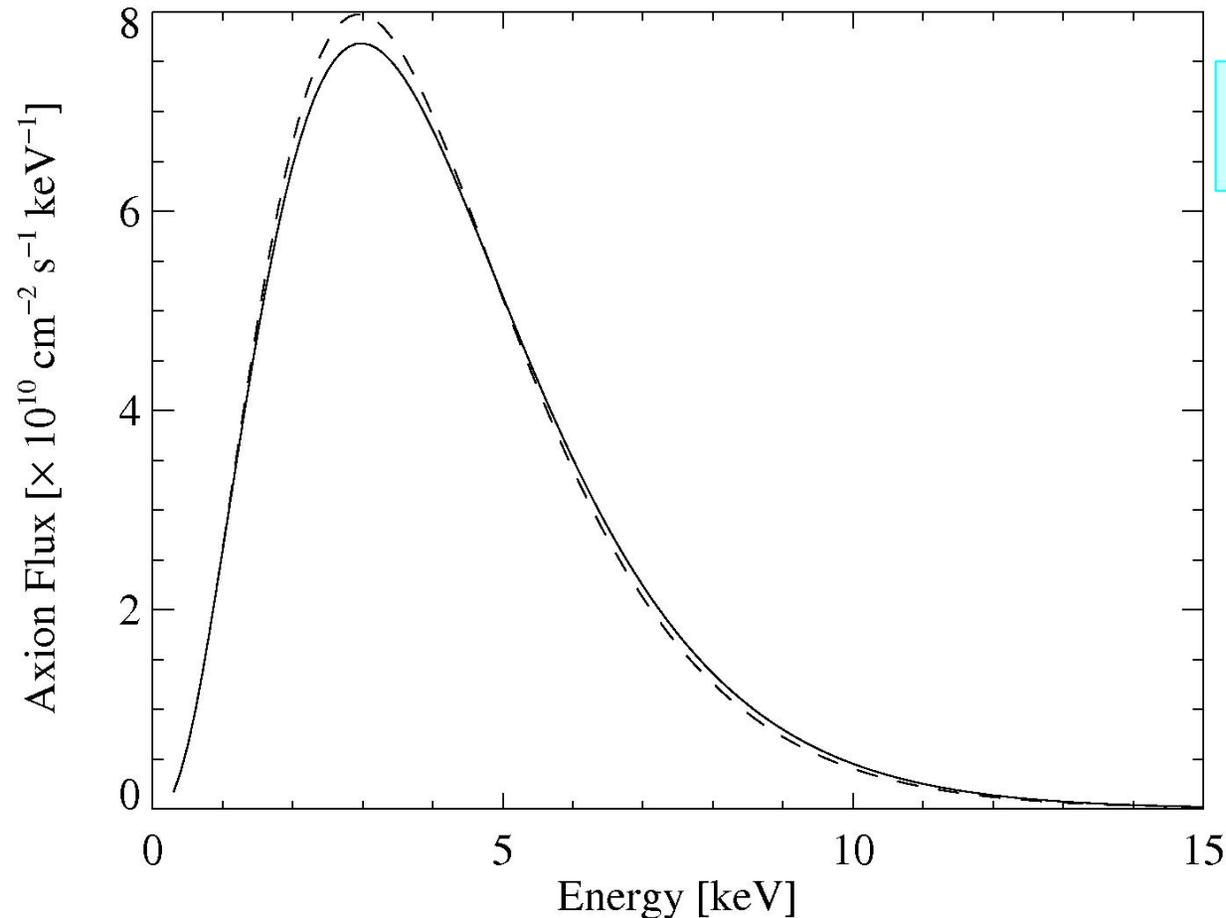
$$\omega_{pl}^2 = \frac{4\pi\alpha n_e}{m_e}$$

## Axion luminosity

$$L_a = \int_0^{R_\odot} dr 4\pi r^2 \int \frac{2d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\omega}{e^{\omega/T} - 1} \Gamma_{\gamma \rightarrow a}$$

# SOLAR AXION FLUX

CAST Collaboration: (hep-ex/0702006)



**Axion-photon coupling**

$$g_{10} = g_{a\gamma} / 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$$

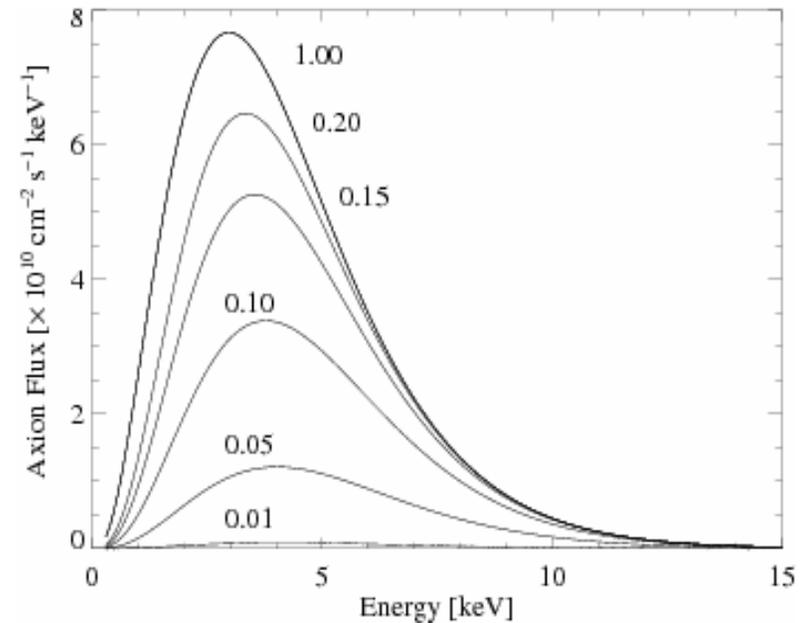
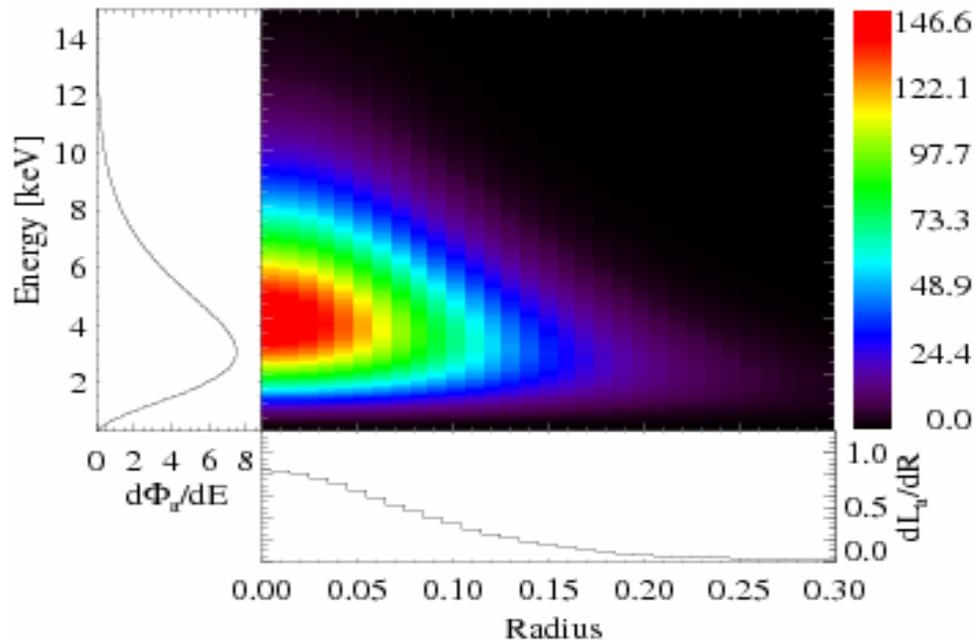
**Solar axion flux**

$$\phi_a = 3.75 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} g_{10}^2$$

**Solar axion luminosity**

$$L_a = g_{10}^2 1.85 \times 10^{-3} L_{\odot}$$

# SOLAR AXION RADIAL DISTRIBUTION

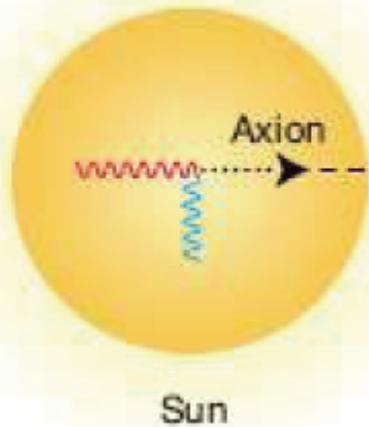


**Most of the axion flux emerge from the inner 20% of the solar disk**

# SOLAR AXION SEARCHES

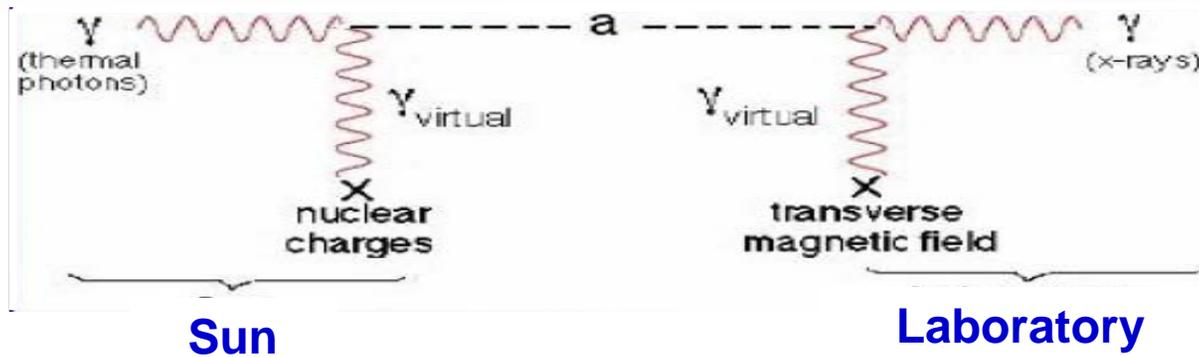
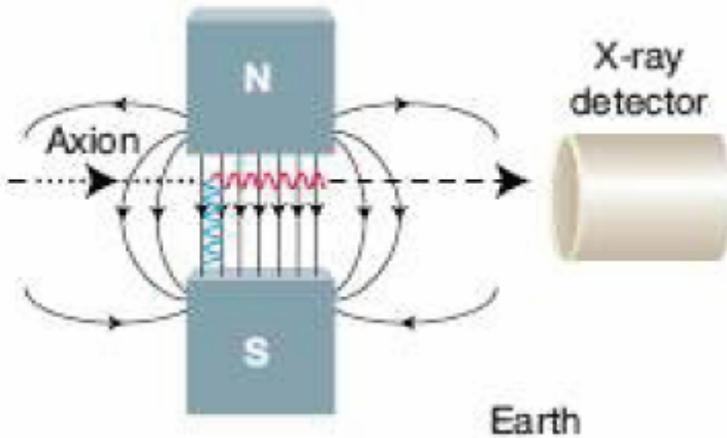
## Searches for solar axions: Axion helioscopes

### Primakoff process



500 s  
Flight time

### Axion-photon oscillation



- Tokyo axion helioscope  $\longrightarrow$  Results since 1998
- CERN Axion Solar Telescope (CAST)  $\longrightarrow$  Data since 2003

## Conversion probability axion-photon

$$P_{a \rightarrow \gamma} = \left( \frac{g_{a\gamma} B}{q} \right)^2 \sin^2 \left( \frac{qL}{2} \right) \approx \left( \frac{g_{a\gamma} B}{2} L \right)^2 \quad \text{for } qL \ll 1$$

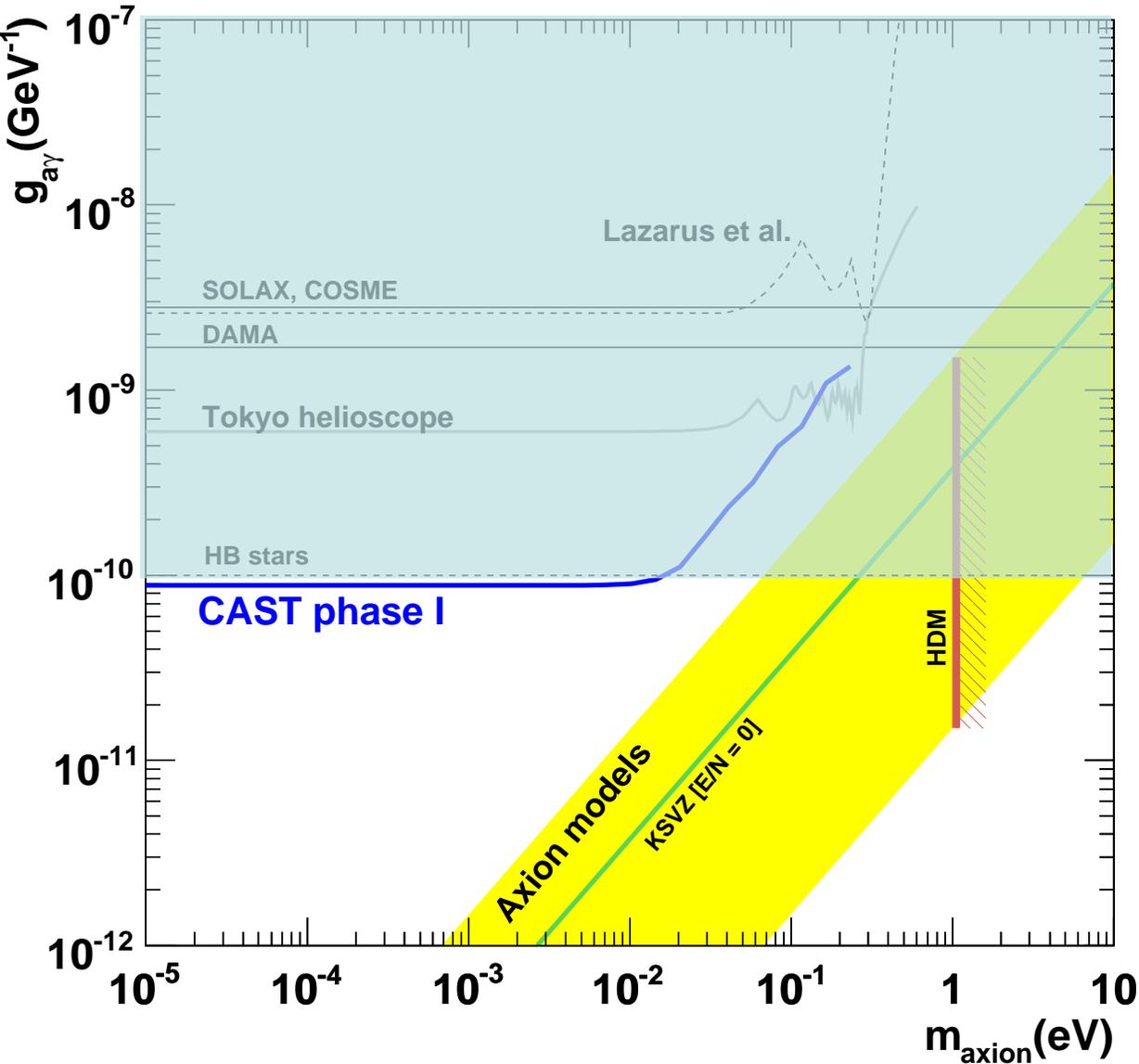
$$\approx 1.7 \times 10^{-17} \left( \frac{BL}{9T \times 9.26m} \right)^2 g_{10}^2$$

$$q = m_a^2 / 2E$$

## X-rays flux at CAST

$$\phi_\gamma = 0.51 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1} g_{10}^4 \left( \frac{L}{9.26 \text{ m}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{B}{9.0 \text{ T}} \right)^2$$

# CAST EXCLUSION RANGE (2004 DATA)



CAST Collaboration:  
(hep-ex/0702006)

$g_{ay} < 8.8 \times 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$  at  
95% CL for  $m_a < 0.02 \text{ eV}$

It supersedes the limit  
from the Globular  
cluster stars

# PVLAS AXION-LIKE PARTICLE (ALP)

In 2006 the PVLAS collaboration has reported the observation of a rotation of a polarization plane of a laser propagating through a transverse magnetic field. This signal could be explained by the existence of a new axion-like particle (ALP) with

$$m_a \approx 10^{-3} \text{ eV}$$

$$g_{a\gamma} \approx 2.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$$

[Zavattini et al., *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 96, 110406 (2006)]

**In serious conflict with astrophysical constraints and CAST result !**

## Solar axion luminosity by Primakoff process

$$L_a = g_{10}^2 1.85 \times 10^{-3} L_{\odot}$$

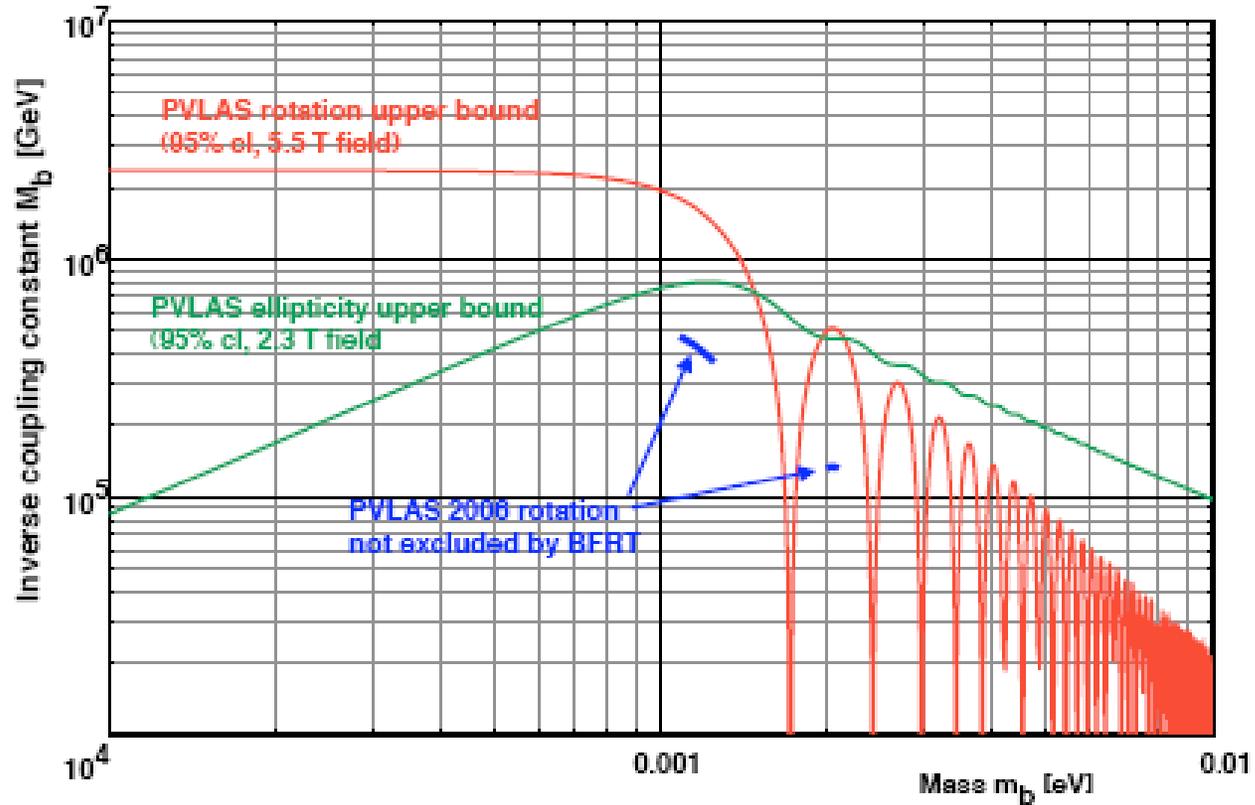
For  $g_{a\gamma} = 2.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$

$$L_a (\text{PVLAS}) \approx 10^6 L_{\odot}$$

It can not be accomodated in a self-consistent solar model

# NEW PVLAS RESULTS

[E. Zavattini et al., 07063419 (hep-ex)]



# Different new models have been proposed to evade astrophysical constraints

See, e.g.,

- E. Masso, and J. Redondo, hep-ph/0504202, hep-ph/0606063
- R. Mohapatra, S. Nashri, hep-ph/0610068
- I. Antoniadis, A. Boyarsky, O. Ruchayskiy, hep-ph/0606306
- .....

**Beyond PVLAS, could these models have some possible signature?**

# DYNAMICAL SUPPRESSION FROM MACROSCOPIC ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETERS

[*Jaeckel, Masso, Redondo, Ringwald, Takahashi, hep-ph/0610202*]

A possibility is to assume that axion-photon coupling can depend on an environmental parameter  $\eta$  [*E. Masso, and J. Redondo, hep-ph/0606063; R. Mohapatra, S. Nashri, hep-ph/0610068*]

$$g_{a\gamma} \rightarrow g_{a\gamma}(\eta)$$

$$\eta = \omega_{pl}, T, k_s^2, \rho, q^2, \dots$$

such that the production of ALPs is suppressed in stellar environment.

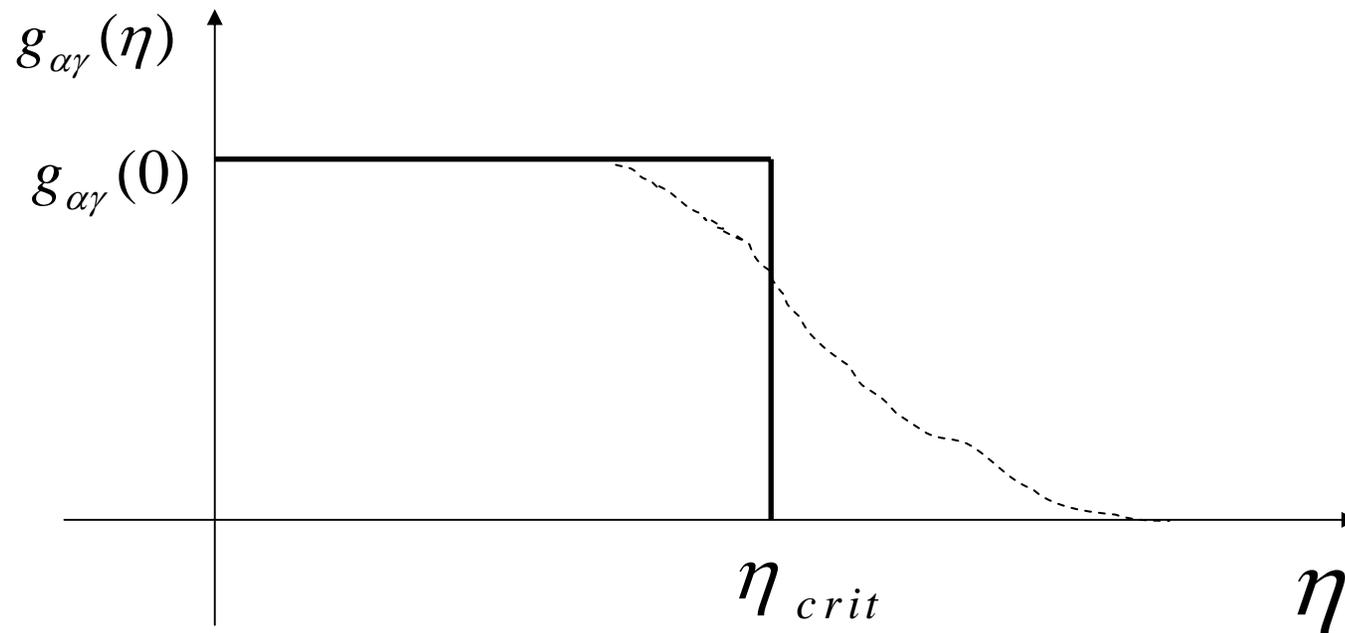
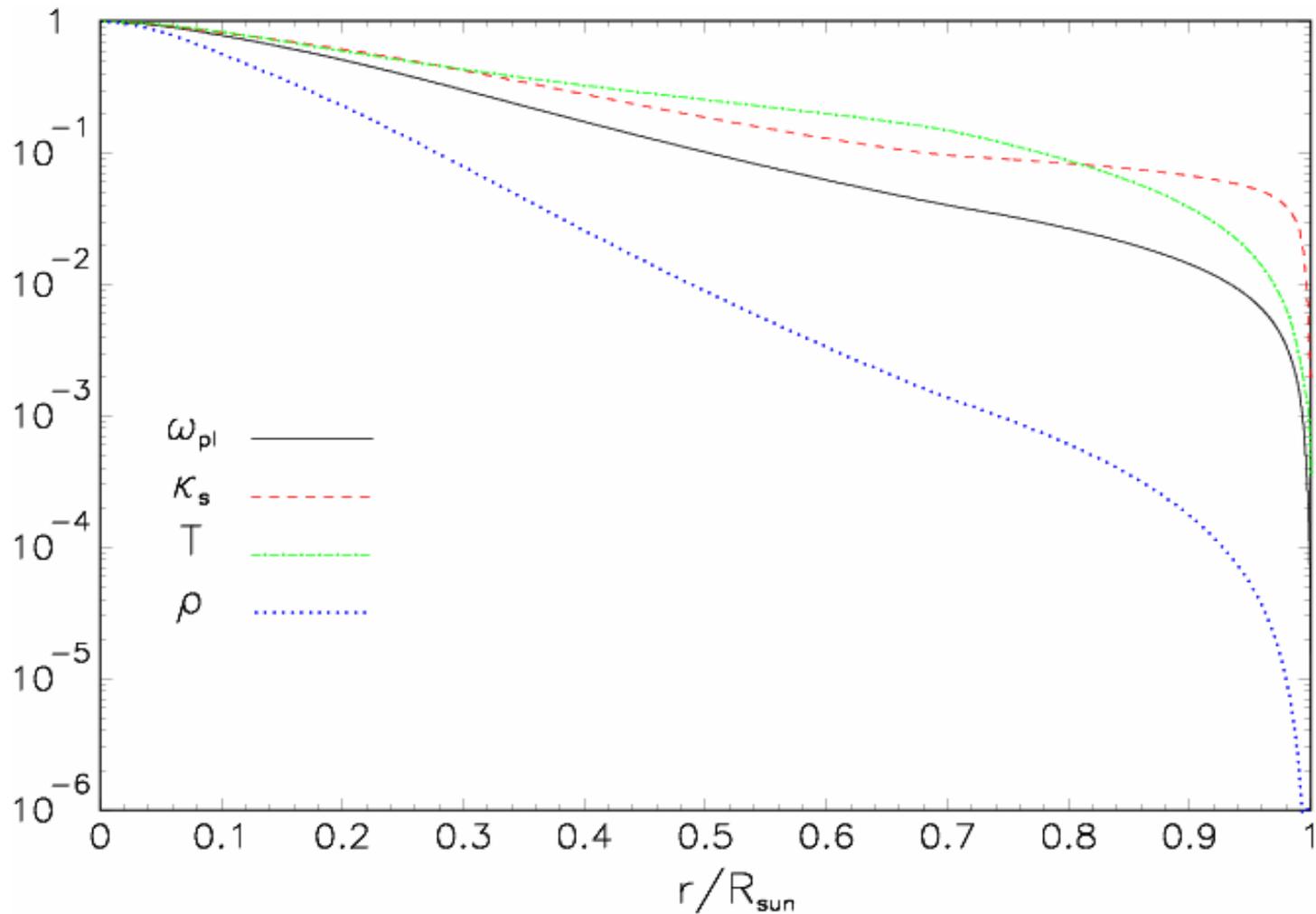


TABLE I. Comparison between the values of environmental parameters, such as the temperature  $T$ , typical momentum transfer  $q$ , plasma frequency  $\omega_p$ , and matter energy density  $\rho$ , in the stellar plasma and in the PVLAS experiment. Other parameters to consider could be the Debye screening scale  $k_s$ , or, to name something more exotic, the neutrino flux, or the average electromagnetic field.

Env. param.	Solar core	HB core	PVLAS
$T$ [keV]	1.3	8.6	$\sim 0$
$q^2$ [keV <sup>2</sup> ]	$\sim 1$	$\sim 1$	$\sim 10^{-18}$
$\omega_p$ [keV]	0.3	2	0
$\rho$ [g cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	$1.5 \times 10^2$	$10^4$	$< 10^{-5}$



*Saclay Solar Seismic model, Turck-Chieze et al., ApJ, 555:L69-L73, 2001*

Referring to definiteness to PVLAS, if a flux of ALPs from a stellar plasma is suppressed by a factor  $S$ , to have a consistent scenario

$$\left( S g_{PVLAS}^2 \right) g_{PVLAS}^2 < g_{CAST}^2 g_{CAST}^2$$

$$S < \left( \frac{g_{CAST}}{g_{PVLAS}} \right)^4 \sim 10^{-20}$$

In [Jaeckel, Masso, Redondo, Ringwald, Takahashi, hep-ph/0610202] the suppression factor  $S$  has been evaluated as function of  $R_{\text{crit}}$

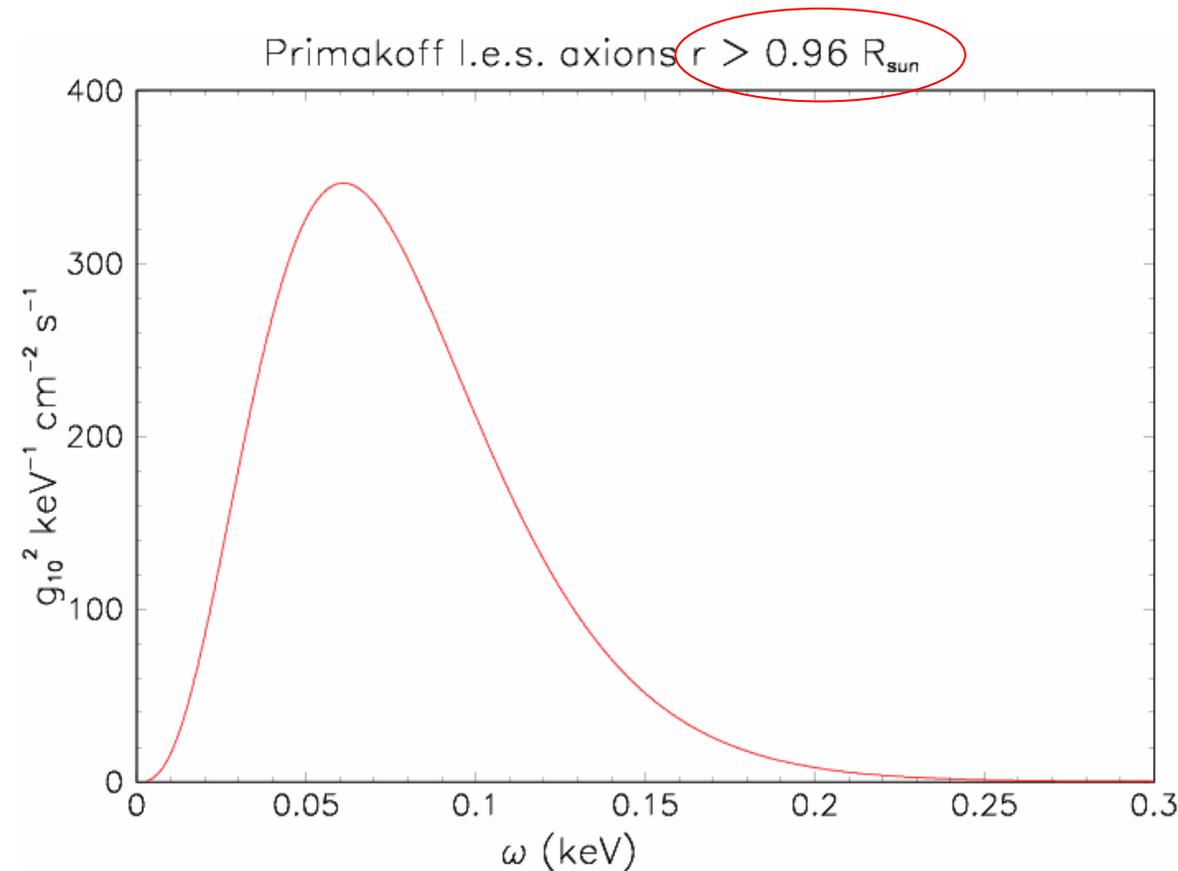
TABLE II. Several values of  $S(\omega_0 = 1 \text{ keV}, R_{\text{crit}})$  with their respective values of the suppression scales  $\eta_{\text{crit}}$ .

$R_{\text{crit}}/R_{\odot}$	$T_{\text{crit}}$ [keV]	$\rho_{\text{crit}}$ [ $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ]	$\omega_{\rho, \text{crit}}$ [keV]	$S$
0	1.35	150	0.3	1
0.2	0.81	35	0.16	0.67
0.5	0.34	1.3	0.03	0.08
0.7	0.2	0.2	0.01	$2 \times 10^{-3}$
0.8	0.12	0.09	0.008	$2 \times 10^{-5}$
0.85	0.08	0.05	0.006	$2 \times 10^{-7}$
0.9	0.05	0.03	0.004	$4 \times 10^{-11}$
0.95	0.025	0.009	0.0025	$\sim 10^{-20}$

Critical environmental parameters are quite small, and  $R_{\text{crit}}$  is in the region close to Sun surface.

# LOW ENERGY SOLAR AXION FLUX

If  $g_{a\gamma}$  switches to the a larger value in outer regions of Sun, a low energy axion flux could result



$$L_a = 2 \times 10^{-15} g_{10}^2 L_{\odot}$$

$$\phi_a \approx 30 g_{10}^2 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

For  $g_{a\gamma} = 2.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$

$$L_a \approx 1.7 \times 10^{-6} L_{\odot}$$

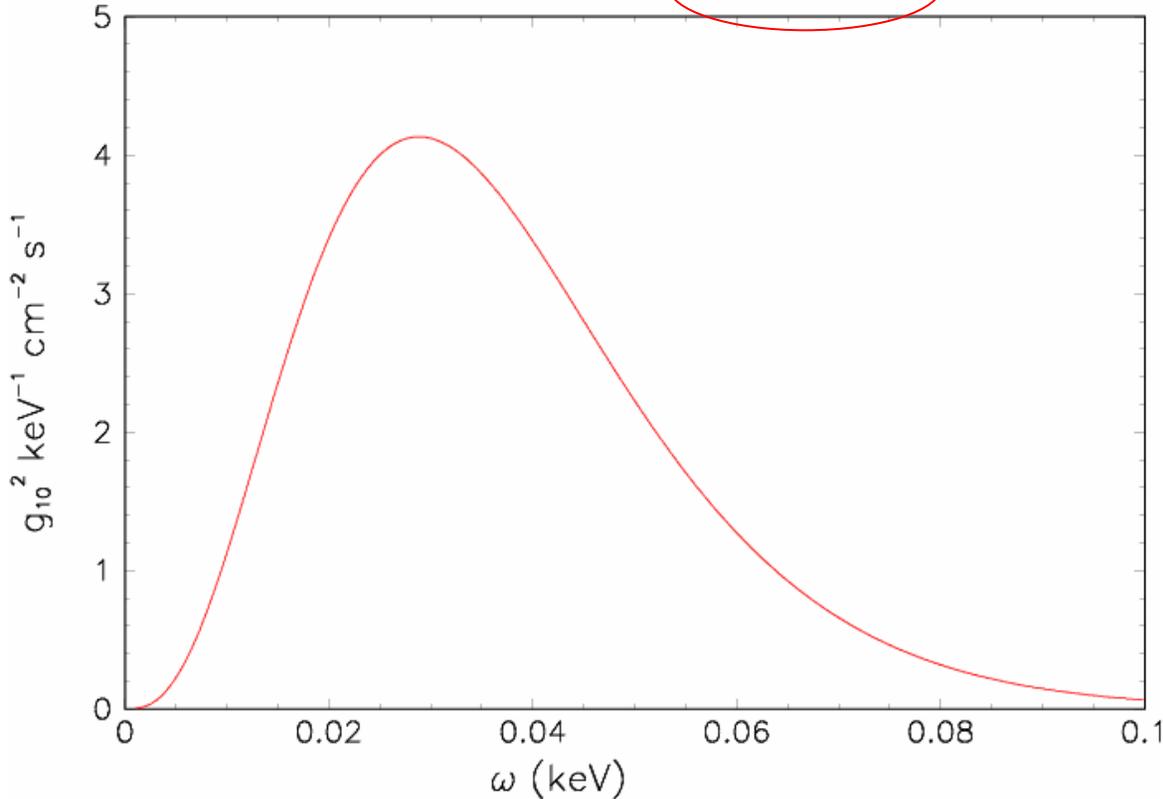
$$\phi_a = 1.8 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\phi_{\gamma} \approx 190 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

@ CAST

~90-95 % ionization

Primakoff l.e.s. axions  $r > 0.98 R_{\text{sun}}$



~only H ionized

$$L_a = 7 \times 10^{-18} g_{10}^2 L_{\odot}$$

$$\phi_a \approx 0.17 g_{10}^2 \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$$

For  $g_{a\gamma} = 2.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{GeV}^{-1}$

$$L_a \approx 4 \times 10^{-9} L_{\odot}$$

$$\phi_a \approx 10^8 \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$$

$$\phi_{\gamma} \approx 1 \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$$

@ CAST

# SOLAR AXIONS FROM B-FIELD CONVERSION

[*Calculation by G.Raffelt*]

In addition to the Primakoff process, axion can be produced by photon conversions in large-scale coherent B-fields.

## Photon-axion conversion probability

$$P_{a \rightarrow \gamma} = \left( \Delta_{a\gamma} L \right)^2 \frac{\sin^2 (\Delta_{osc} L / 2)}{(\Delta_{osc} L / 2)^2}$$

$$\Delta_{a\gamma} = \frac{g_{a\gamma} B}{2}$$

$$\Delta_{osc} = \left[ 4\Delta_{a\gamma}^2 + \left( \frac{\omega_{pl}^2 - m_a^2}{2\omega} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

At resonance,  $m_a \approx \omega_{pl}$  the resonant oscillation length is

$$L_{res} = \frac{2\pi}{\Delta_{osc}} = \frac{2\pi}{g_{a\gamma} B} = \frac{6.3 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}}{g_{10} B_4} \quad B_4 = \frac{B}{10^4 \text{ G}}$$

which is greater than the photon mean free path in the Sun (cm): photons scatter before an oscillation cycle is complete

### Conversion rate

$$\Gamma_{\gamma \rightarrow a} = P_{a \rightarrow \gamma} L^{-1}$$

L is the photon mean-path in Sun

## SOLAR AXION FLUX

Even slightly off resonance the transition rate is very much smaller than the on-resonance rate. For a given axion mass only a small fraction of solar volume is close to the resonance condition

$$L_a = 96\zeta_5 \left( \frac{g_{a\gamma} B}{m_a} \right)^2 R_{res}^2 R_e T_{res}^5$$
$$\phi_a = 4 \left( \frac{g_{a\gamma} B}{m_a} \right)^2 R_{res}^2 R_e \frac{\omega^3}{e^{\omega/T_{res}} - 1}$$

where  $R_e = \left| \frac{d \ln n_e}{dr} \right|_{res}^{-1}$

For a simplified (exponential) solar axion model one obtains

$$\frac{L_{a,B}}{L_{a,P}} = 5 \times 10^{-4} B_4^2 \left( \frac{m_a}{451 \text{ eV}} \right)^{4/3} \log_{10}^2 \left( \frac{m_a}{451 \text{ eV}} \right)$$

After the integration over the entire Sun, the Primakoff effect dominates. However, in the region where the resonance condition is satisfied there could be a significant magnetic conversion effect.

# SOLAR MAGNETIC FIELD

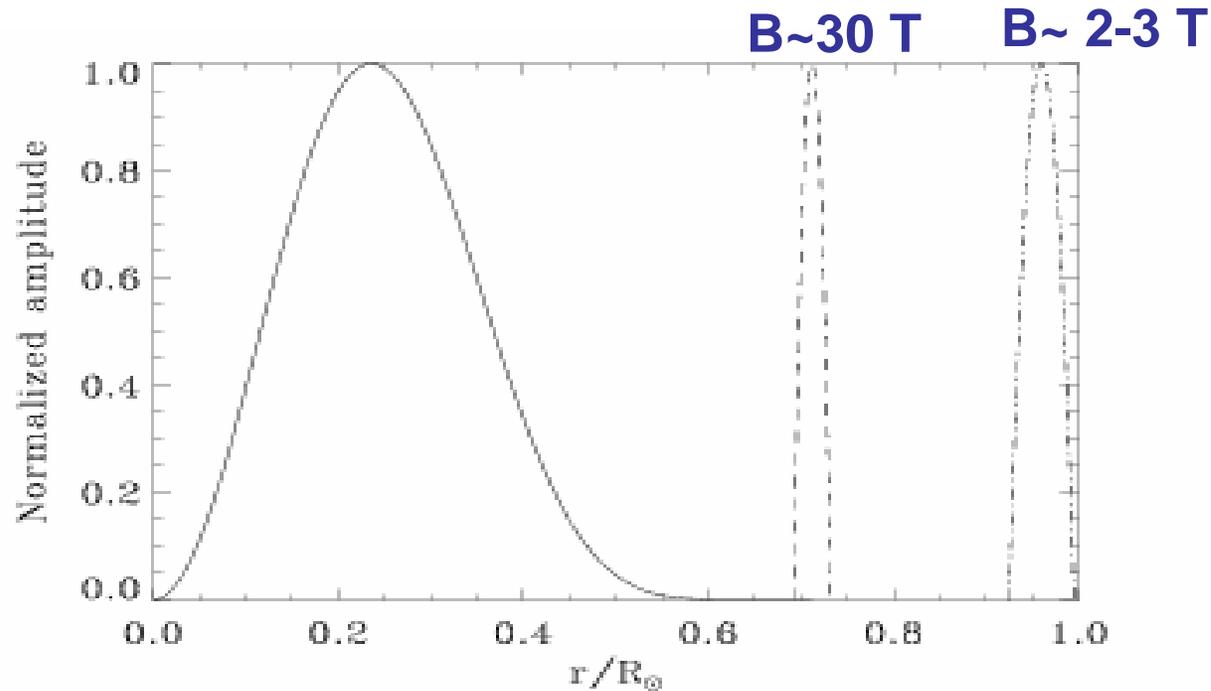
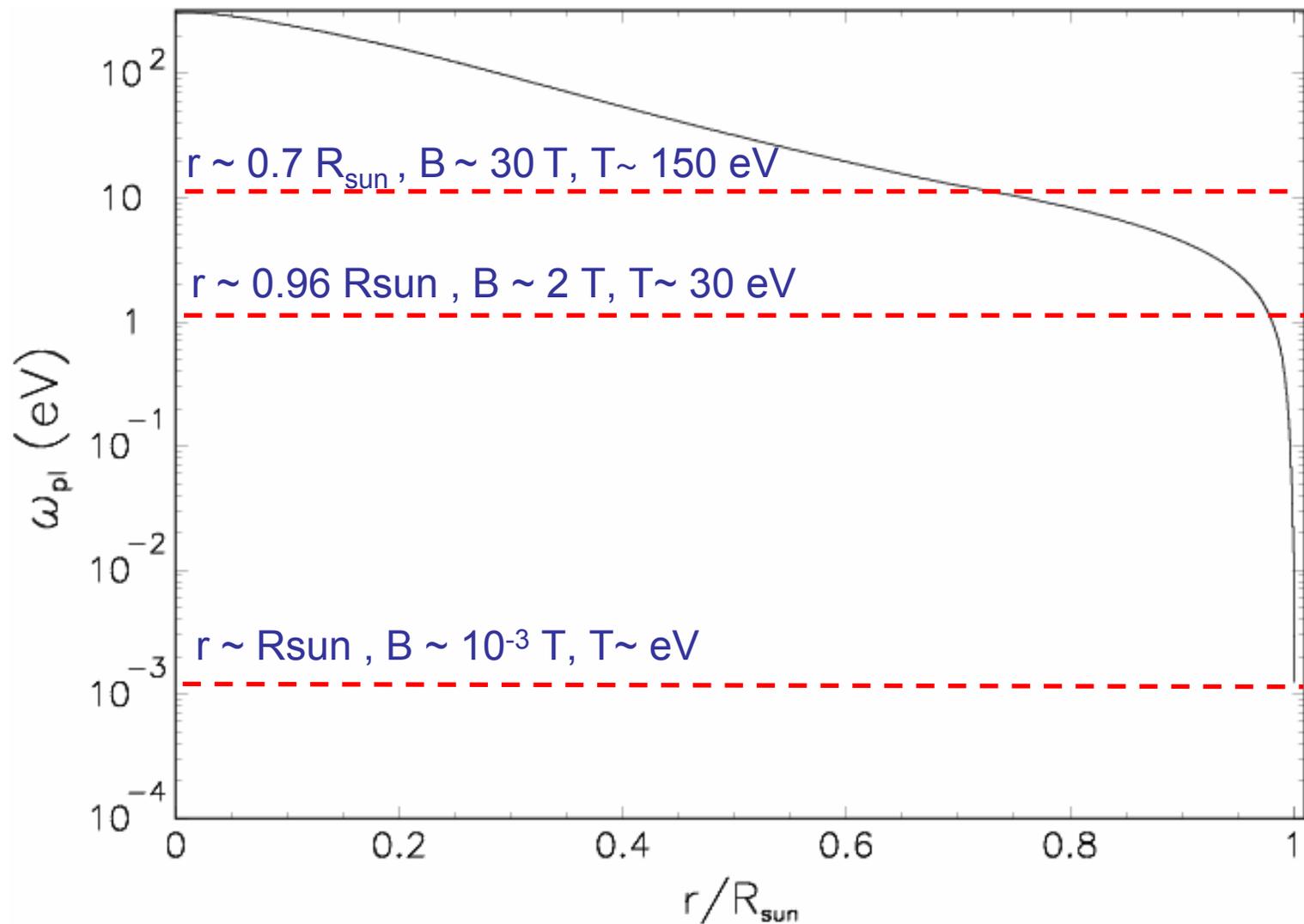


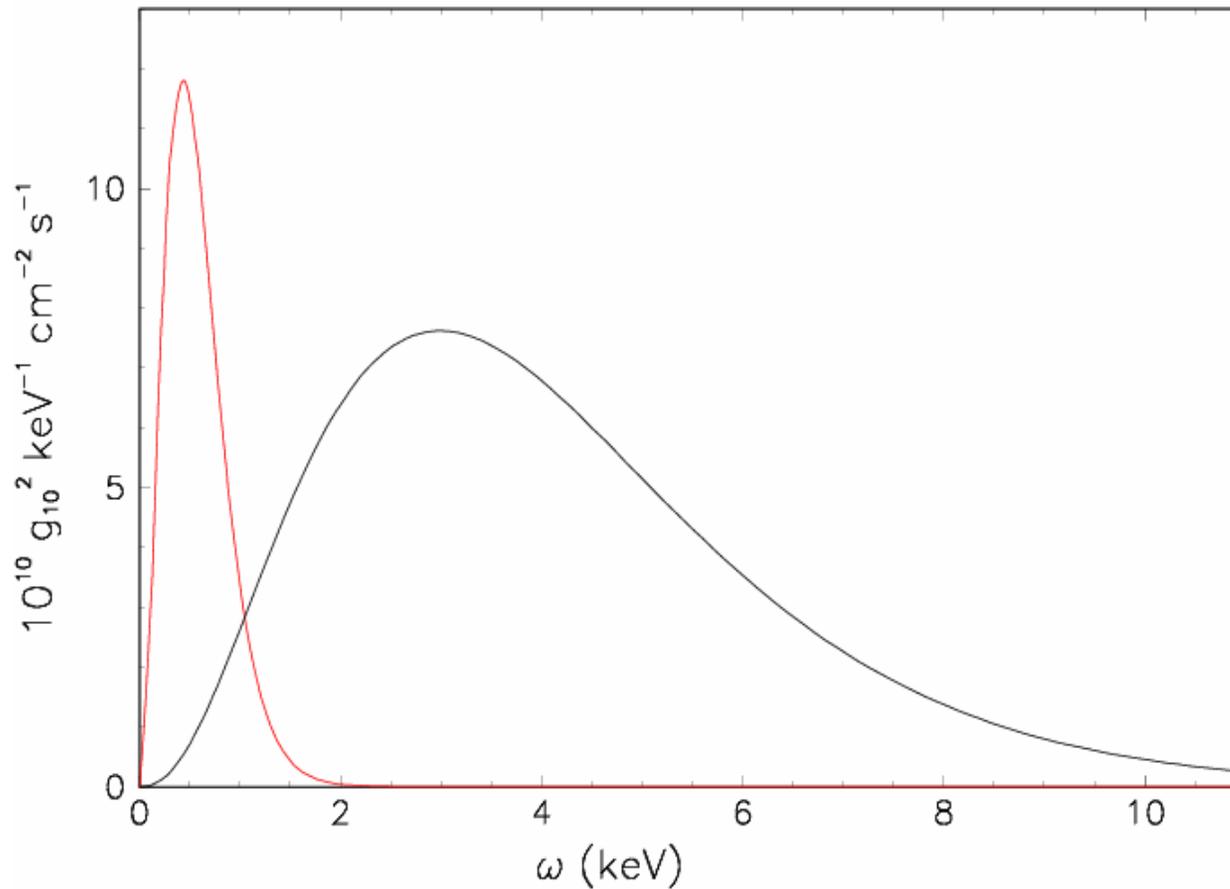
FIG. 7.—Magnetic fields simulated: in the radiative interior (*solid curve*), in the tachocline (*dashed curve*), in the upper layers (*dot-dashed curve*). The amplitudes of the fields have been normalized by their maximum intensity.

[S.Couvidat, S. Turck-Chieze, A. Kosovichev, *APJ* 599, 1434 (2003)]

# RESONANCE CONDITION ( $\omega_{pl}=m_a$ )



B-conversion,  $B=30$  T,  $r=0.75R_{\text{sun}}$ ,  $m_a=10$  eV



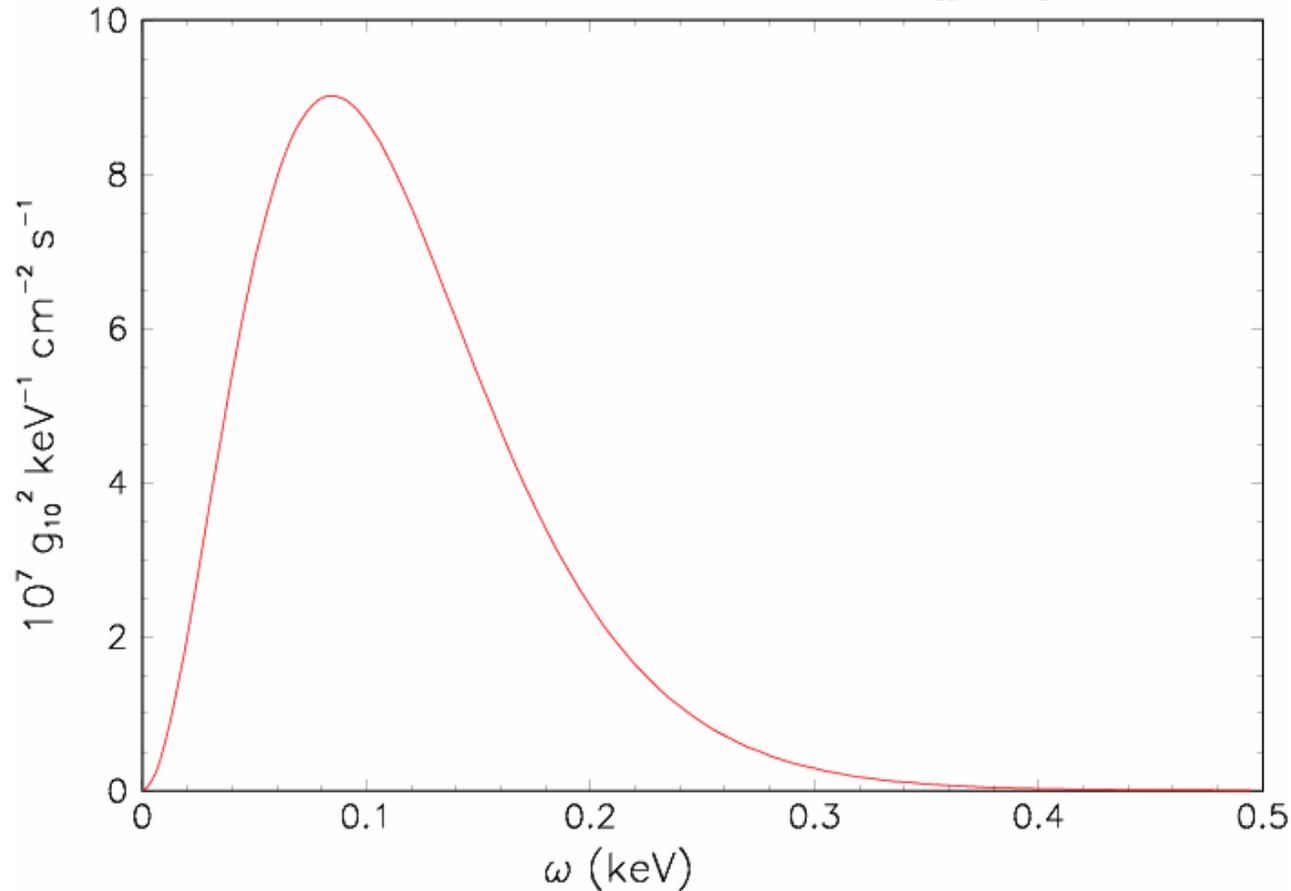
$$L_B \approx 6 \times 10^{-5} g_{10}^2 L_{\odot}$$

$$\phi_a \approx 8 \times 10^{10} g_{10}^2 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\phi_{\gamma} \approx 1.3 \times 10^{-6} g_{10}^4 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

**2 ev/day vs. 8 ev/day Primakoff in  
CAST**

B-conversion,  $B=2\text{ T}$ ,  $r=0.96 R_{\text{sun}}$ ,  $m_a=1\text{ eV}$



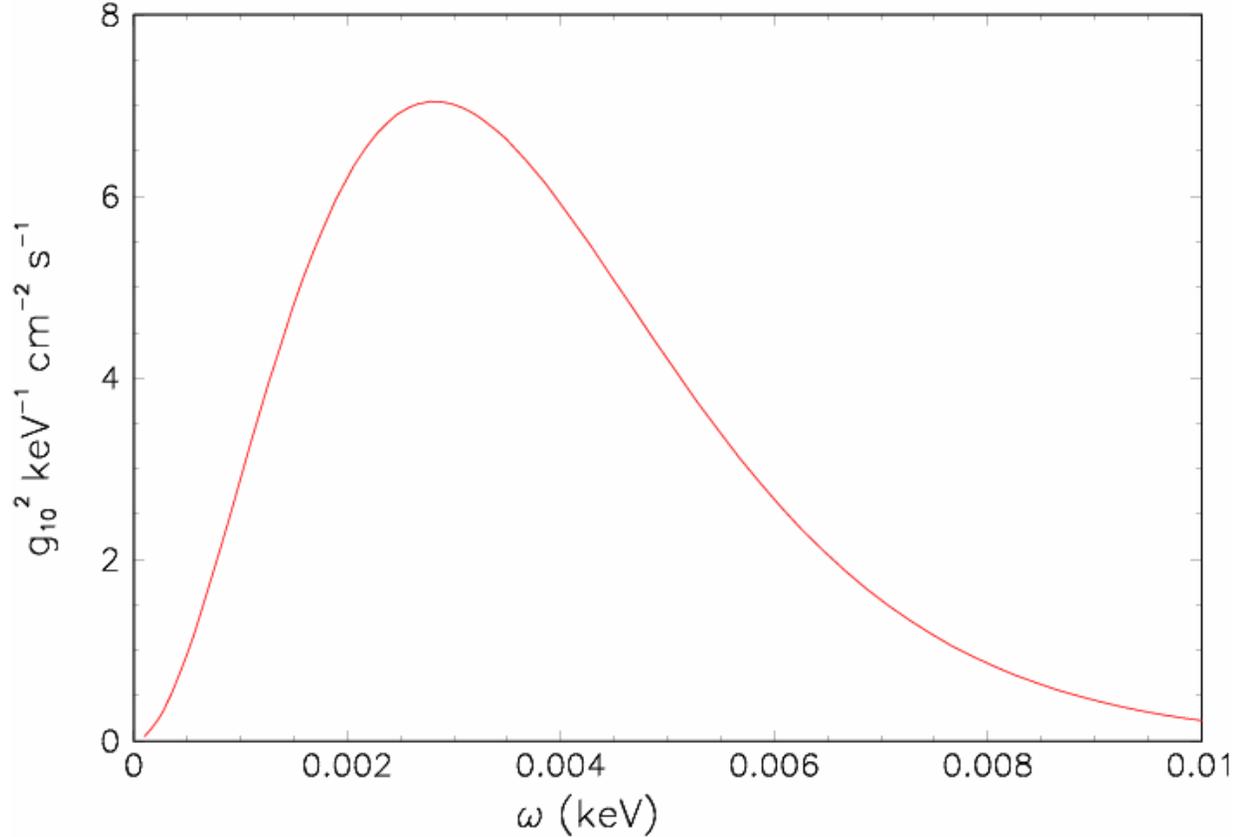
$$L_B \approx 1.6 \times 10^{-9} g_{10}^2 L_{\odot}$$

$$\phi_a \approx 1.2 \times 10^7 g_{10}^2 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\phi_{\gamma} = 2 \times 10^{-10} g_{10}^4 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

**For  $g_{a\gamma}=10^{-8} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$  : 0.3 ev/s in CAST**

B-conversion,  $B=0.1$  T,  $r=R_{\text{sun}}$ ,  $m_\sigma=10^{-3}$  eV



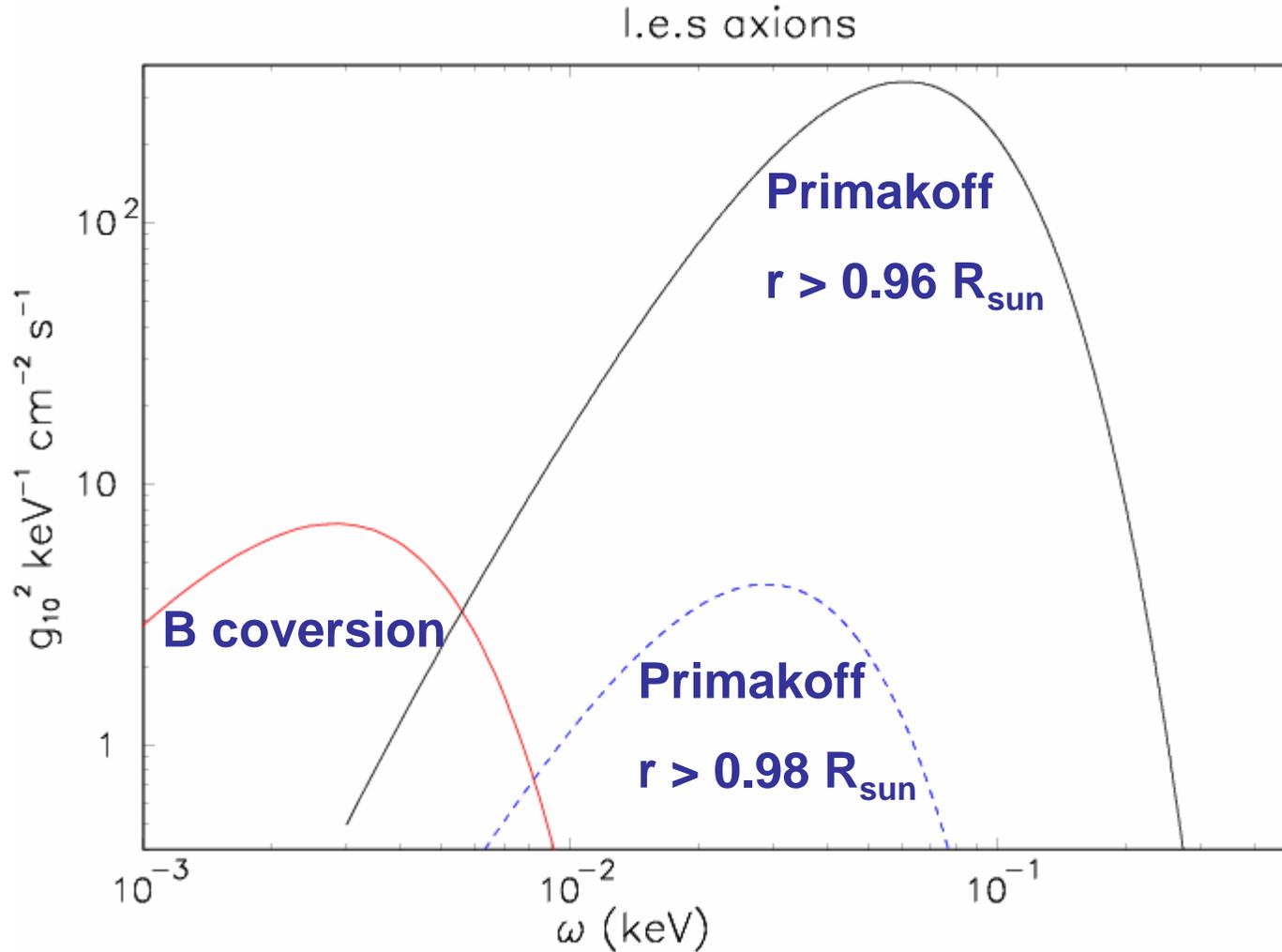
$$L_B = 1.4 \times 10^{-19} g_{10}^2 L_\odot$$

$$\phi_a = 3.2 \times 10^{-2} g_{10}^2 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\phi_\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-19} g_{10}^4 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

For  $g_{\text{ay}} = 2.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$  : 3 ev/s in  
CAST

# LOW ENERGY SOLAR AXIONS



# CONCLUSIONS

We presented a first estimation of low-energy solar axion flux, considering both Primakoff production and B-field photon-axion conversions.

An observable axion flux could be produced below 100 eV, if some running of the axion-photon constant would happen in outer regions of the Sun.

Looking at low energy axions could show signatures of some of the PVLAS-inspired models

***We wait diligently for I.e.s. axions!***

