

**Marco Drewes, Université catholique de Louvain**

---

**Long-Lived HNLs:  
Guidelines from Theory  
and Cosmology**

**Bethe Forum LLP**

**November 14 2023**

**Bonn, Germany**

---

# The Seesaw Mechanism (type I)

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + i\bar{\nu}_R \not{\partial} \nu_R - \bar{L}_L F \nu_R \tilde{H} - \tilde{H}^\dagger \bar{\nu}_R F^\dagger L - \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\nu}_R^c M_M \nu_R + \bar{\nu}_R M_M^\dagger \nu_R^c)$$

Three Generations of Matter (Fermions) spin 1/2

|          | I   | II                                    | III                                  |                         |
|----------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| mass →   | 2.4 MeV                                   | 1.27 GeV                              | 171.2 GeV                            | 0                       |
| charge → | 2/3                                       | 2/3                                   | 2/3                                  | 0                       |
| name →   | <b>u</b><br>up                            | <b>c</b><br>charm                     | <b>t</b><br>top                      | <b>g</b><br>gluon       |
|          | Left Right                                | Left Right                            | Left Right                           | 0                       |
| Quarks   | <b>d</b><br>down                          | <b>s</b><br>strange                   | <b>b</b><br>bottom                   | <b>γ</b><br>photon      |
|          | Left Right                                | Left Right                            | Left Right                           | 0                       |
|          | 0 eV                                      | 0 eV                                  | 0 eV                                 | 91.2 GeV                |
|          | <b>ν<sub>e</sub></b><br>electron neutrino | <b>ν<sub>μ</sub></b><br>muon neutrino | <b>ν<sub>τ</sub></b><br>tau neutrino | <b>Z</b><br>weak force  |
|          | Left Right                                | Left Right                            | Left Right                           | 0                       |
|          | 0.511 MeV                                 | 105.7 MeV                             | 1.777 GeV                            | 80.4 GeV                |
| Leptons  | <b>e</b><br>electron                      | <b>μ</b><br>muon                      | <b>τ</b><br>tau                      | <b>W</b><br>weak force  |
|          | Left Right                                | Left Right                            | Left Right                           | ±1                      |
|          |   |                                       |                                      | spin 0                  |
|          |   |                                       |                                      | 125 GeV                 |
|          |   |                                       |                                      | <b>H</b><br>Higgs boson |
|          |   |                                       |                                      | spin 0                  |

three light neutrinos mostly "active" SU(2) doublet  
 $\nu \simeq U_\nu (\nu_L + \theta \nu_R^c)$   
 with masses  $m_\nu \simeq \theta M_M \theta^T = v^2 F M_M^{-1} F^T$

three heavy mostly singlet neutrinos  
 $N \simeq \nu_R + \theta^T \nu_L^c$   
 with masses  $M_N \simeq M_M$

Minkowski 79, Gell-Mann/Ramond/Slansky 79, Mohapatra/Senjanovic 79, Yanagida 80, Schechter/Valle 80



- Can simultaneously explain light neutrino masses ("seesaw mechanism") and matter-antimatter asymmetry of the universe ("leptogenesis")
- Heavy mass eigenstate N are type of heavy neutral lepton (HNL) that can be searched for at colliders

---

# Name Game (my definitions)

---

A **Heavy Neutral Lepton (HNL)** is a fermion that is massive (“heavy”), has no colour charge (“lepton”) and is electrically neutral (“neutral”). In principle it need not have any connection to neutrino masses or even mix with neutrinos (though such mixing generally occurs unless it is forbidden by some new symmetry).

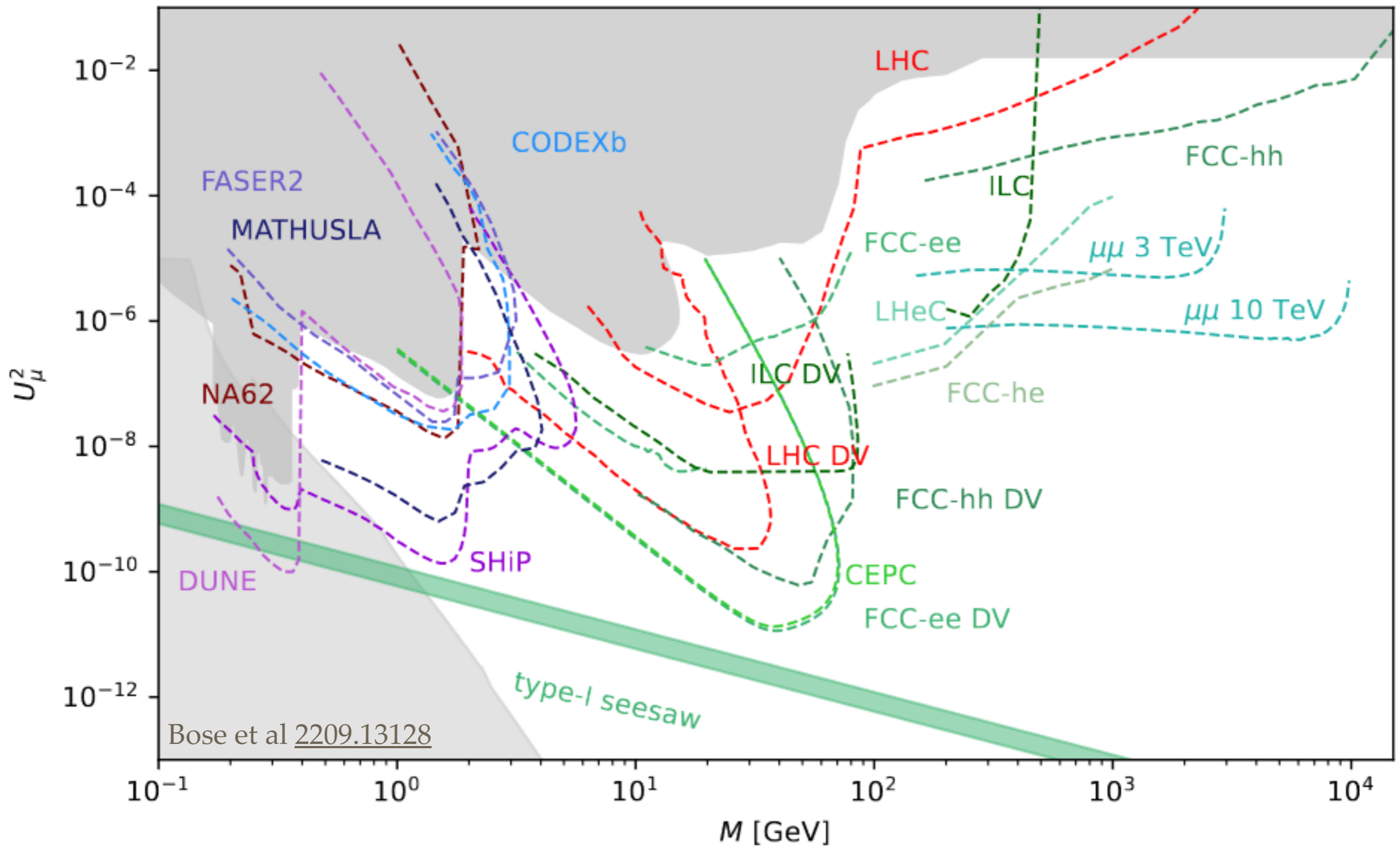
A **heavy neutrino** is a type of HNL that mixes with SM neutrinos. Typically “heavy” here either simply means “much heavier than SM neutrinos” or “heavy enough that the mass matters kinematically in accelerator-based experiments”. It typically contributes to the light neutrino masses by this mixing, though this contribution may be negligible if the mixing is small, a symmetry suppresses it, or a different mass mechanism dominates (e.g. type II in left-right symmetric model).

The term **right-handed neutrino** is often used to refer to the Weyl or Majorana spinors  $\nu_R$  that couple to left-handed neutrinos and Higgs bosons. Since chirality is not conserved for massive particles, the term seems appropriate for the field, but not for a physical particle.

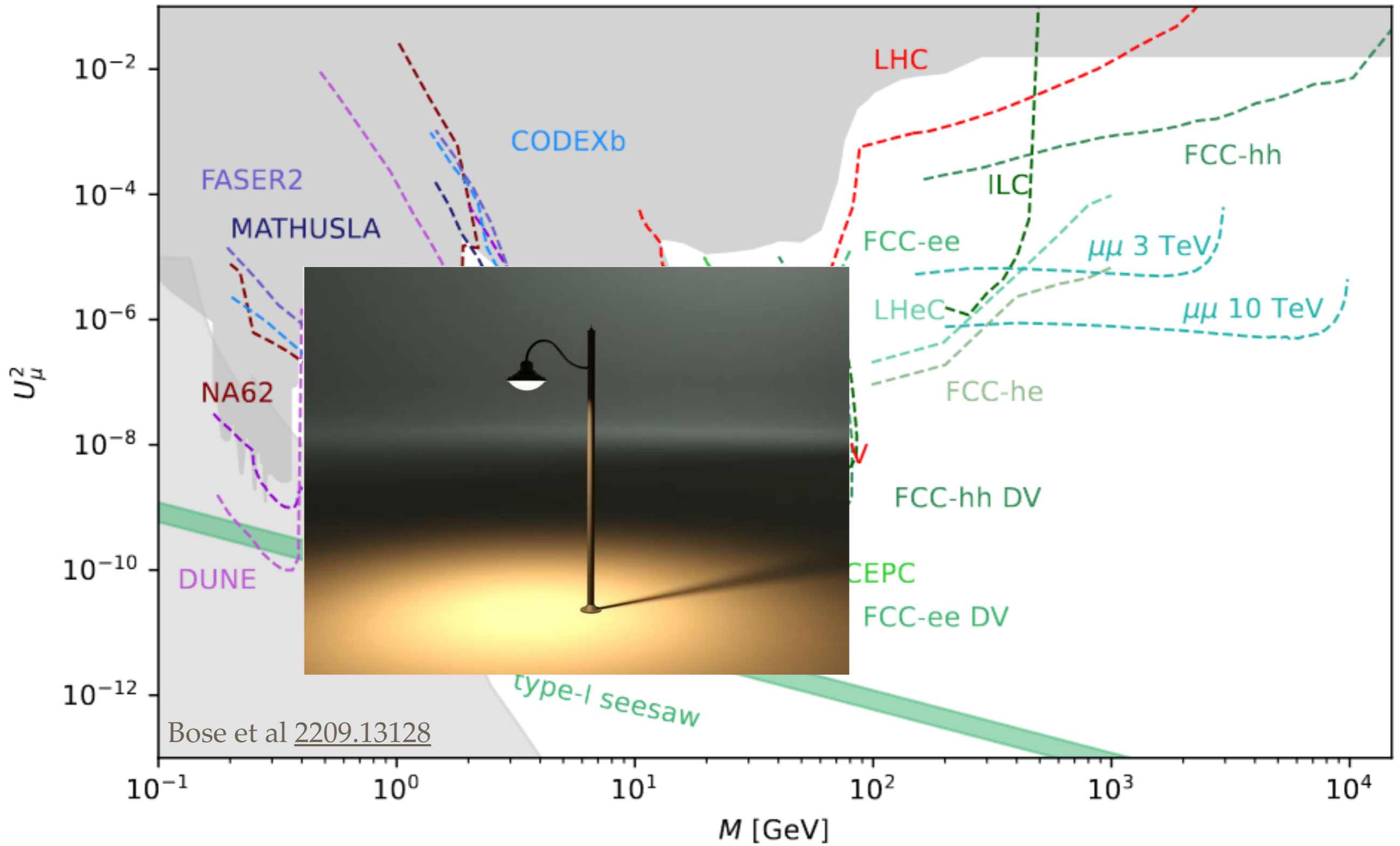
A **sterile neutrino** is a singlet fermion that mixes with SM neutrinos, which can be either light or heavy (some people use this term for any singlet fermion)

Why a Low Scale Seesaw?

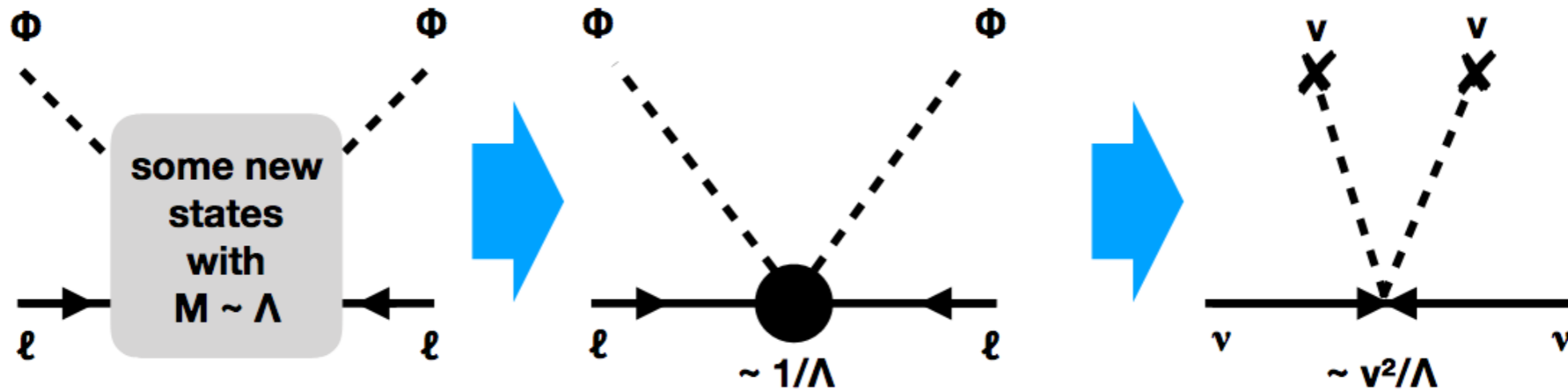
# Lamppost Approach?



# Lamppost Approach?



# Why are the Neutrino masses small?



High Scale Seesaw:  $\Lambda \gg v$

$$\frac{1}{2} \overline{\ell_L} \tilde{\Phi}_C^{[5]} \Lambda^{-1} \tilde{\Phi}^T \ell_L^c \quad \boxed{\Phi \rightarrow (0, v)^T} \quad \frac{1}{2} \overline{\nu_L} m_\nu \nu_L^c$$

with

$$m_\nu = -v^2 c^{[5]} \Lambda^{-1}$$

---

# Why are the Neutrino masses small?

---

$$\frac{1}{2} \overline{\ell_L} \tilde{\Phi} c^{[5]} \Lambda^{-1} \tilde{\Phi}^T \ell_L^c + h.c.$$

$$m_\nu = -v^2 c^{[5]} \Lambda^{-1}$$

## a) Suppression by heavy scale (classic high scale seesaw mechanism)

- Smallness is result of  $v/\Lambda \ll 1$
- Wilson coefficients  $c_{[n]}$  can be  $O[1]$
- Need no small numbers...
- ...but contribute to hierarchy problem (unless SUSY or so added)
- ...can destabilises Higgs potential

## b) Small numbers

- Smallness is result of small Wilson coefficients  $c_{[n]}$
- Generally considered “tuned” unless smallness has a reason (breaking of symmetry by flavons, radiative breaking, gravitational origin...)

## c) Protecting symmetry

- Ratio  $v/\Lambda$  and Wilson coefficients  $c_{[n]}$  can both be  $O[1]$  if a flavour symmetry in  $m_\nu$  keeps the eigenvalues small
- Prime example: Approximate global  $U(1)_{B-L}$ , as in SM
- Low  $\Lambda$  and large couplings  $c_{[n]}$  ideal for experimental searches! section 5.1 in [2102.12143](#)



# Tree Level Seesaw Mechanisms

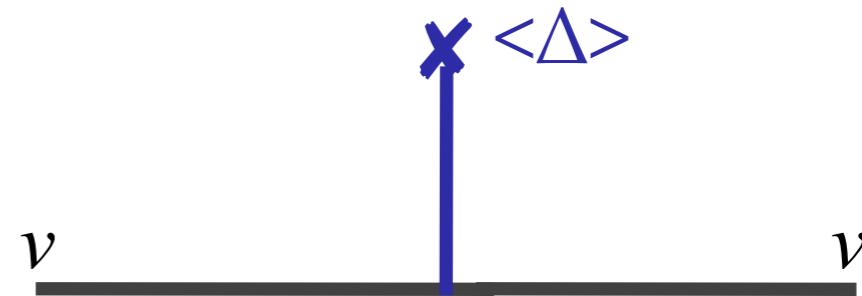
- **Type I: right handed neutrino**

$$\bar{\ell}_L Y_I \nu_R \tilde{\Phi}$$



- **Type II: scalar triplet  $\Delta$**

$$\bar{\ell}_L^c Y_{II} i\sigma_2 \Delta \ell_L$$



- **Type III: fermionic triplet  $\Sigma$**

$$\bar{\ell}_L Y_{III} \Sigma_L^c \tilde{\Phi}$$



$$m_\nu^I = -v^2 Y_I M_M^{-1} Y_I^T$$

$$m_\nu^{II} = -\sqrt{2} Y_{II} v_\Delta$$

$$m_\nu^{III} = -\frac{1}{2} v^2 Y_{III} M_\Sigma^{-1} Y_{III}^T$$

$$\Lambda \sim (M_M)_{11}$$

$$\Lambda \sim M_\Delta$$

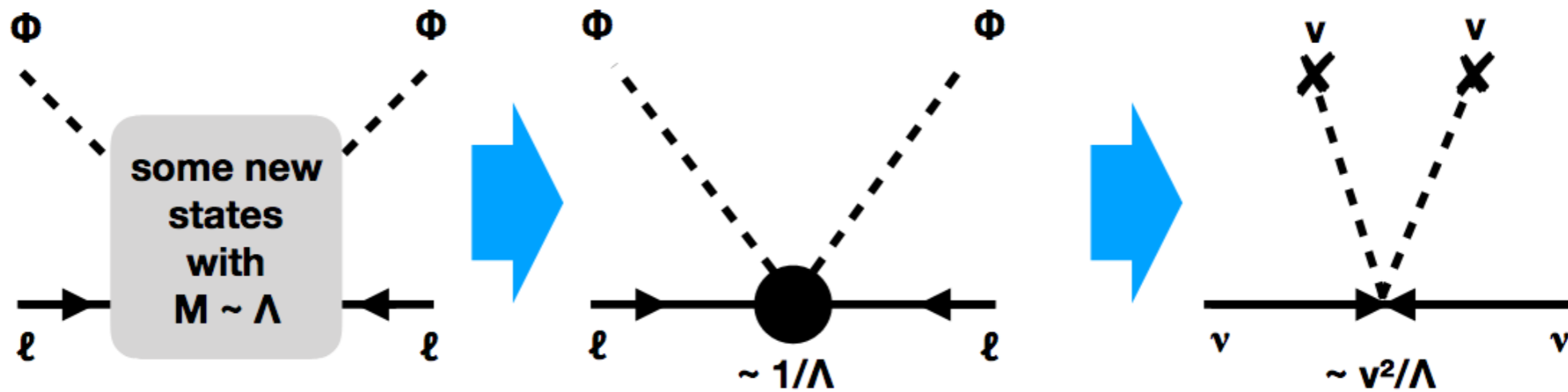
$$\Lambda \sim (M_\Sigma)_{11}$$

$$c_{ab}^{[5]} = (Y_I)_{a1} (Y_I)_{b1}$$

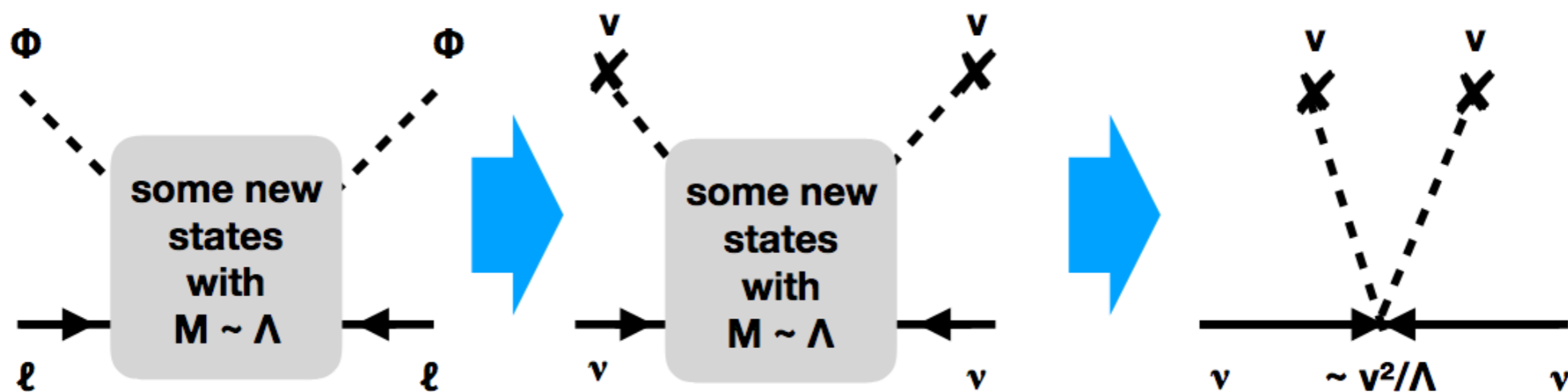
$$c_{ab}^{[5]} = (Y_{II})_{ab} \kappa / M_\Delta$$

$$2c_{ab}^{[5]} = (Y_{III})_{a1} (Y_{III})_{b1}$$

# Low Scale and High Scale Seesaw Models

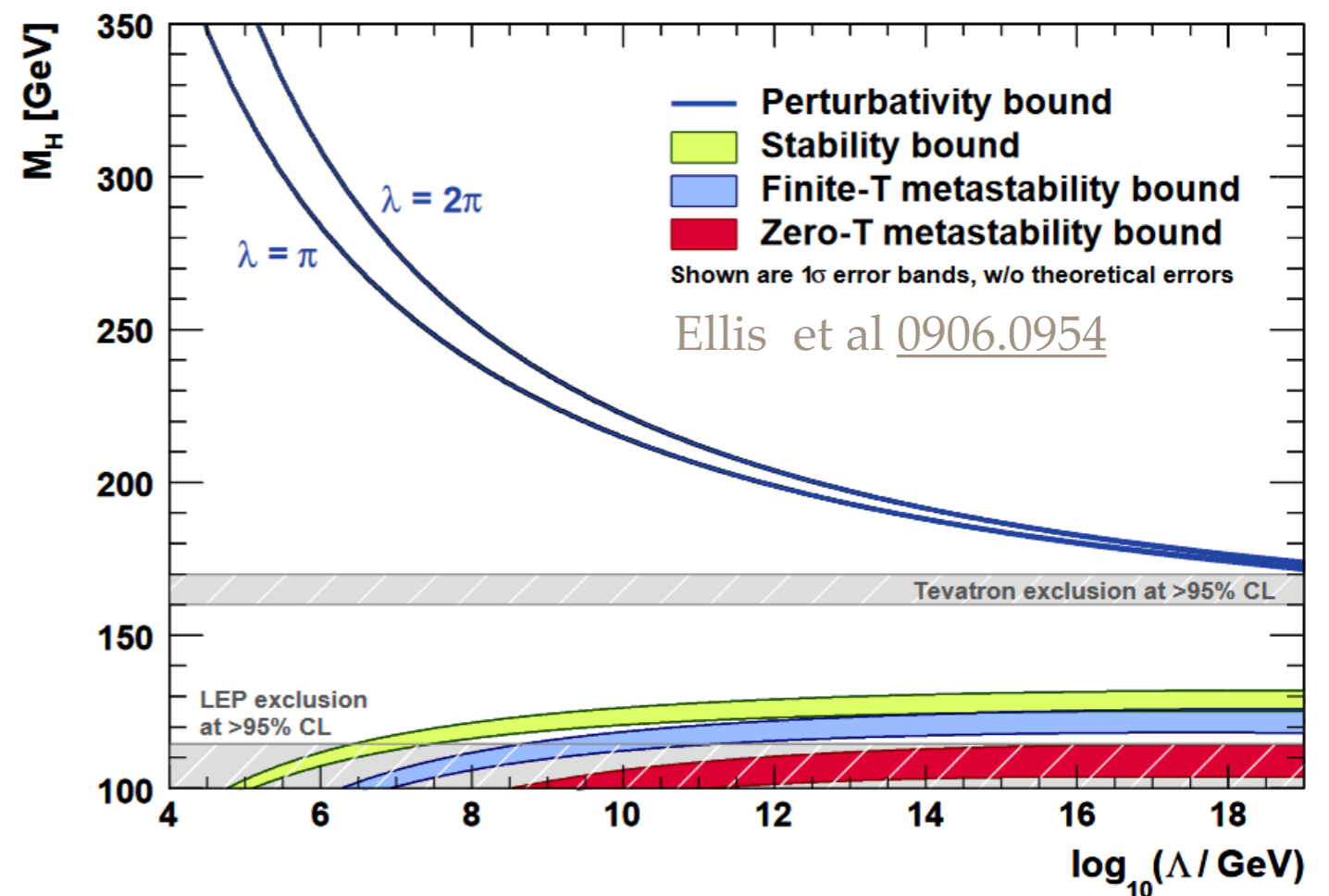
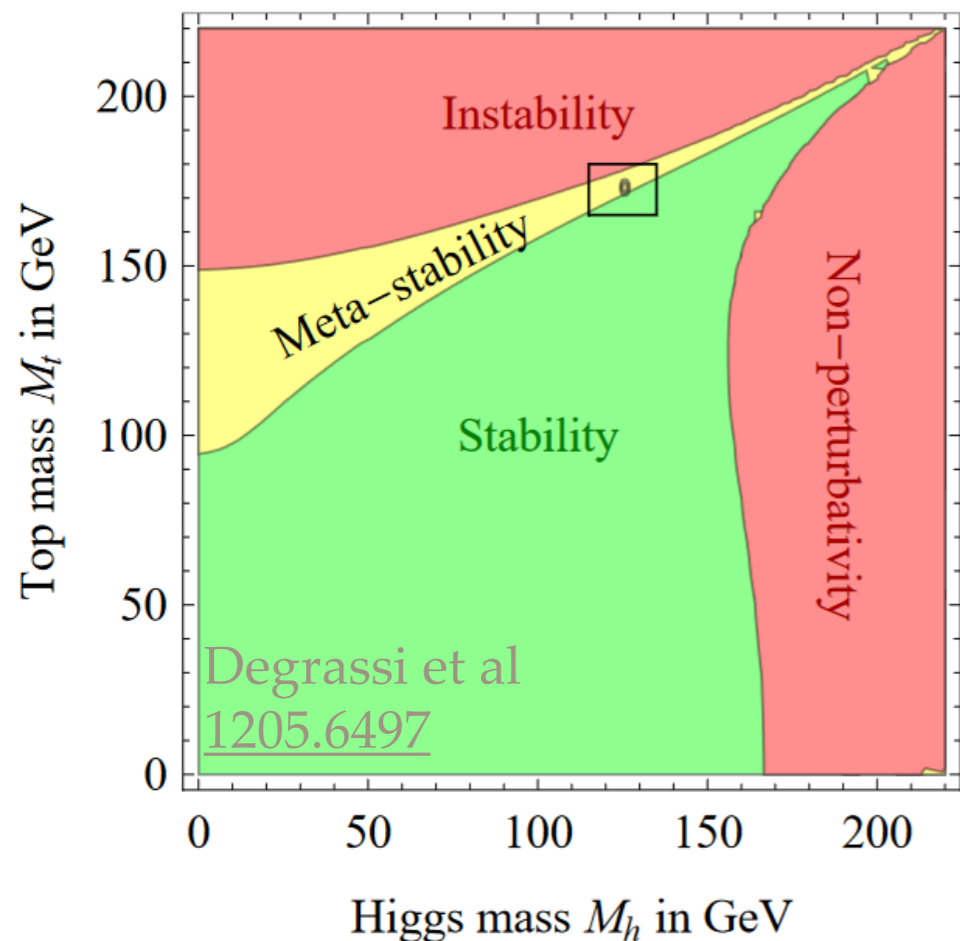


High Scale Seesaw:  $\Lambda \gg v$



Low Scale Seesaw:  $\Lambda \lesssim v$

# Why should the seesaw scale be low?



- Apart from explaining data extremely well, the SM is also a fully consistent effective field theory up to the Planck scale
- Existence of new scales in between would spoil this and e.g. de-stabilise the vacuum (though this can of course in principle be fixed, as in SUSY)
- Together with current experimental bounds (e.g. flavour physics etc) this may be interpreted as indirect evidence for absence of a new scale!?!

e.g. Bezrukov et al [1205.2893](#)

# Symmetries in the Type I Model

# Why are the Neutrino masses small?

$$\frac{1}{2} \overline{\ell}_L \tilde{\Phi} c^{[5]} \Lambda^{-1} \tilde{\Phi}^T \ell_L^c + h.c.$$

$$m_\nu = -v^2 c^{[5]} \Lambda^{-1}$$

## a) Suppression by heavy scale (classic high scale seesaw mechanism)

- Smallness is result of  $v/\Lambda \ll 1$
- Wilson coefficients  $c_{[n]}$  can be  $O[1]$
- Need no small numbers...
- ...but contribute to hierarchy problem (unless SUSY or so added)
- ...can destabilises Higgs potential

## b) Small numbers

- Smallness is result of small Wilson coefficients  $c_{[n]}$
- Generally considered “tuned” unless smallness has a reason (breaking of symmetry by flavons, radiative breaking, gravitational origin...)

## c) Protecting symmetry

- Ratio  $v/\Lambda$  and Wilson coefficients  $c_{[n]}$  can both be  $O[1]$  if a flavour symmetry in  $m_\nu$  keeps the eigenvalues small
- Prime example: Approximate global  $U(1)_{B-L}$ , as in SM
- Low  $\Lambda$  and large couplings  $c_{[n]}$  ideal for experimental searches! section 5.1 in [2102.12143](#)

# Minimal vs Non-minimal Scenarios

To classify models we distinguish

- Seesaw scale  $\Lambda = M$
- Scale of all other new particles  $\tilde{\Lambda} > M$

**minimal = literally only add RH neutrinos**

- generic EFT description of models with  $M < \text{TeV} \ll \tilde{\Lambda}$
- can even be UV complete in the sense  $\tilde{\Lambda} = M_P$
- ... or at least up to the scale of inflation e.g. Bezrukov et al [1205.2893](#)

**non-minimal = anything else** (gauge extensions, extended scalar sector, RHN as “portal” to dark sector...) **See talk by Martin Hirsch**

- can use generic EFT description for models with  $M < \text{TeV} < \tilde{\Lambda}$
- need full dark sector description if  $M, \tilde{\Lambda} < \text{TeV}$
- Common gauge-extensions: Left-right symmetric model, gauged  $U(1)_{B-L}$

I will assume  $M < \text{TeV} \ll \tilde{\Lambda}$  throughout this talk

# B-L Symmetric Limit

- $\nu$ -masses naively scale  $m_\nu \sim \theta^2 M$ , implying tiny  $U^2 = |\theta|^2 \sim m_\nu/M$
- production cross section at colliders scales as  $\sigma_N \sim \theta^2 \sigma_\nu$
- Small  $\nu$ -masses reconciled with sizeable couplings if protected by generalised B-L symmetry, broken by small parameters  $\epsilon, \epsilon', \mu$

Shaposhnikov 06, Kersten/Smirnov 07

B-L violating parameters  $\mu, \epsilon, \epsilon'$

$$M_M = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{M}(1 - \mu) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{M}(1 + \mu) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & M' \end{pmatrix}$$



Explains mass  
degeneracy  
favourable for  
leptogenesis

**B-L symmetry dictates structure in sterile flavours**



$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_e(1 + \epsilon_e) & iF_e(1 - \epsilon_e) & F_e\epsilon'_e \\ F_\mu(1 + \epsilon_\mu) & iF_\mu(1 - \epsilon_\mu) & F_\mu\epsilon'_\mu \\ F_\tau(1 + \epsilon_\tau) & iF_\tau(1 - \epsilon_\tau) & F_\tau\epsilon'_\tau \end{pmatrix},$$



$\nu$  oscillation data  
constrains  
structure in SM  
flavours

# B-L Symmetry protected Scenarios

- $\nu$ -masses naively scale  $m_\nu \sim \theta^2 M$ , implying tiny  $U^2 = |\theta|^2 \sim m_\nu/M$
- production cross section at colliders scales as  $\sigma_N \sim \theta^2 \sigma_\nu$
- Small  $\nu$ -masses reconciled with sizeable couplings if protected by generalised B-L symmetry, broken by small parameters  $\epsilon, \epsilon', \mu$

Shaposhnikov 06, Kersten/Smirnov 07

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_e(1 + \epsilon_e) & iF_e(1 - \epsilon_e) & F_e\epsilon'_e \\ F_\mu(1 + \epsilon_\mu) & iF_\mu(1 - \epsilon_\mu) & F_\mu\epsilon'_\mu \\ F_\tau(1 + \epsilon_\tau) & iF_\tau(1 - \epsilon_\tau) & F_\tau\epsilon'_\tau \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_M = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{M}(1 - \mu) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{M}(1 + \mu) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & M' \end{pmatrix}$$

- Technically natural seesaw with O[1] Yukawas and  $M < \text{TeV}$
- Resonant enhancement in leptogenesis comes for free due to  $\mu \ll 1$
- Possible realisations:
  - **Inverse-seesaw-like**  $\epsilon, \epsilon' \ll \mu \ll 1$  Mohapatra 86, Mohapatra /Valle 86, ...
  - **Linear-seesaw-like**  $\mu \ll \epsilon, \epsilon' \ll 1$  Akhmedov/Lindner/Schnapka/Valle 95
  - **$\nu$ MSM-like** :  $\epsilon, \epsilon', \mu \ll 1$  Asaka/Shaposhnikov 05
  - **“mass communism”**:  $\mu \ll 1$  and  $M' \rightarrow M$



---

# Global Symmetries

---

## Agnostic approach:

- Treat Yukawa matrices  $F$  and Majorana mass  $M$  as free parameters, allowing all values that are not excluded experimentally
- Sizeable couplings require approximate B-L symmetry to protect neutrino masses, but other than that no assumptions about flavour structure/texture

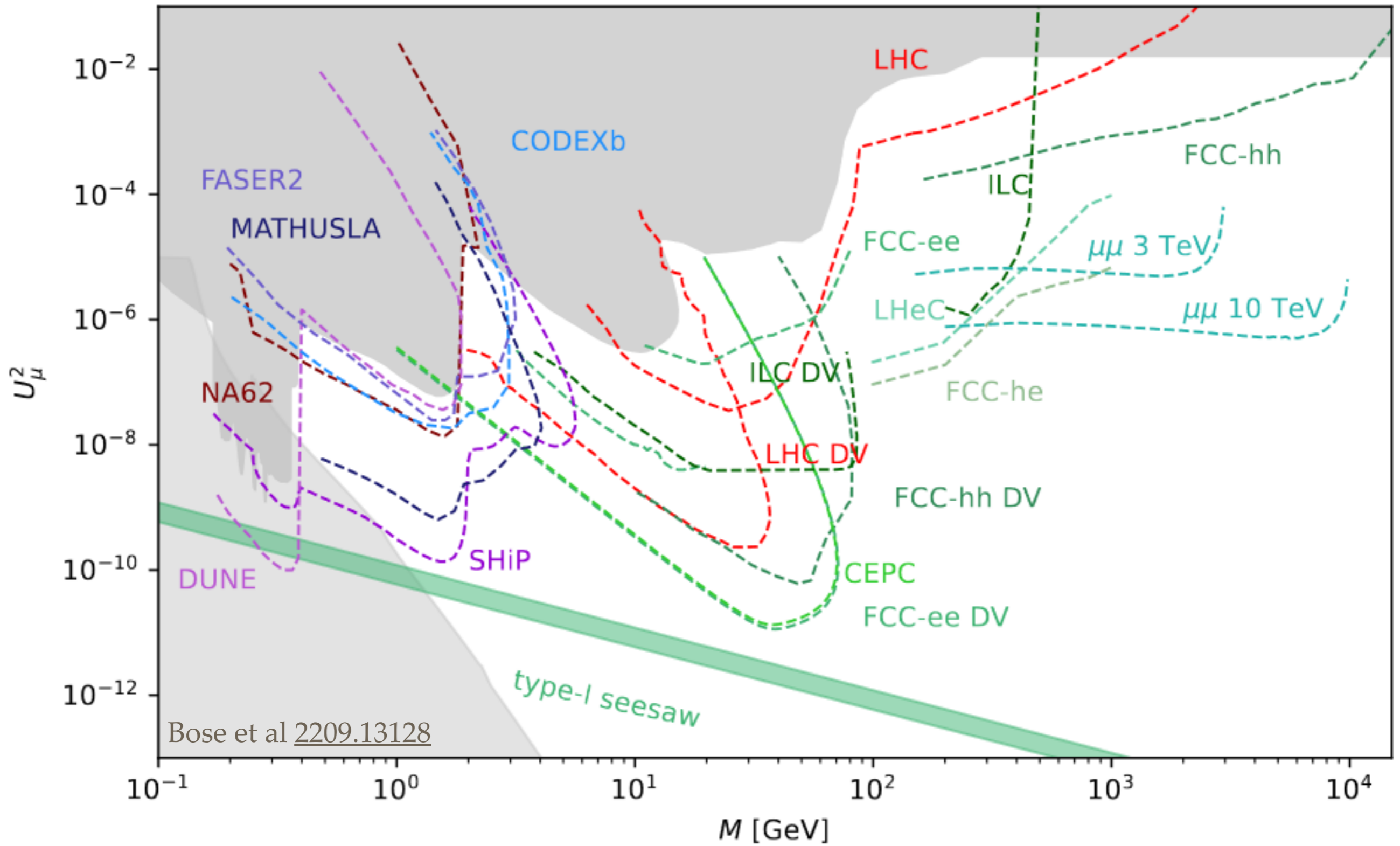
## Symmetry-based approach:

- UV-completions can motivate specific structures in  $F$  and  $M$   
See e.g. King [1701.04413](#), Xing [1909.09610](#),
- We consider groups  $\Delta(3n^2)$  and  $\Delta(6n^2)$  with CP symmetry Hagedorn et al [1408.7118](#)
  - Model with three degenerate HNLs and six parameters  $M, y_1, y_2, y_3, \theta_R, \theta_L$
  - Two parameters  $\kappa, \lambda$  break mass degeneracy
  - Discrete parameters describe implementation of symmetry group in three cases, namely  $(n,s), (n,s,t), (n,m,s)$
- Symmetries reduce parameter space, make the model more testable

MaD/Georis/Hagedorn/Klaric [2203.08538](#), 2xxx.xxxxx

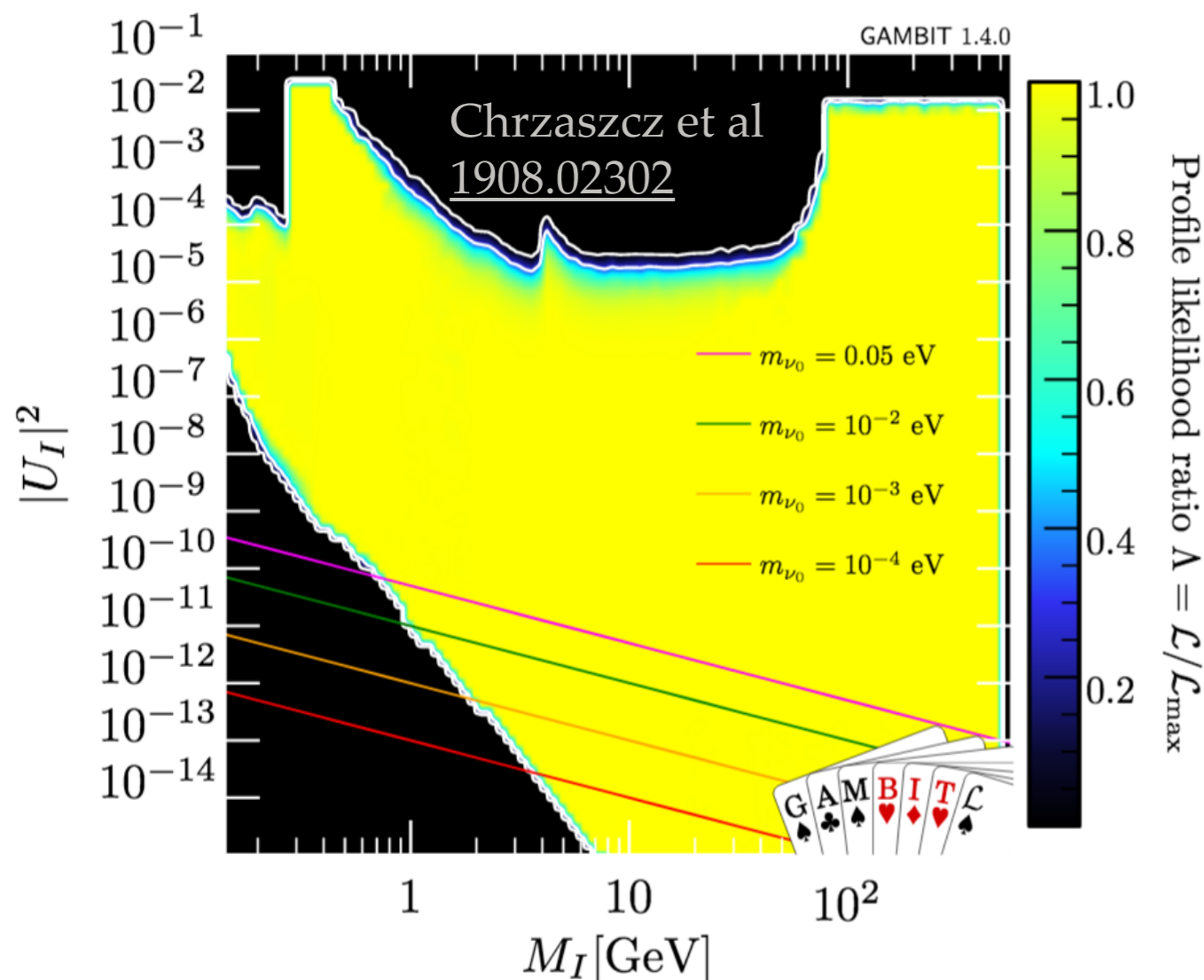
# HNL Properties

# Range of Mixings



# Lower Limits on the Mixings

- The **Seesaw line** indicates the lower bound on the mixing from the requirement to explain the light neutrino masses
- In general there is no lower bound on the mixing between individual flavours of light and heavy neutrinos



- For three HNLs is a lower bound on

$$U_i^2 = \sum_a U_{ai}^2 > \frac{m_{\text{lightest}}}{M_i}$$

MaD [1904.11959](#)

- For 2 HNLs there are also lower bounds on

$$U_\alpha^2 = \sum_i U_{\alpha i}^2$$

MaD/Garbrecht/Gueter/Klaric [1609.09069](#)

- For mass-degenerate HNLs

$$U^2 = \sum_i U_i^2 > \frac{\sum_i m_i}{M}$$

Varying lightest neutrino mass gives  
“seesaw band” used in [Snowmass plots](#)

# Constraints from $\nu$ -Oscillation Data in Model with 2 Heavy Neutrinos

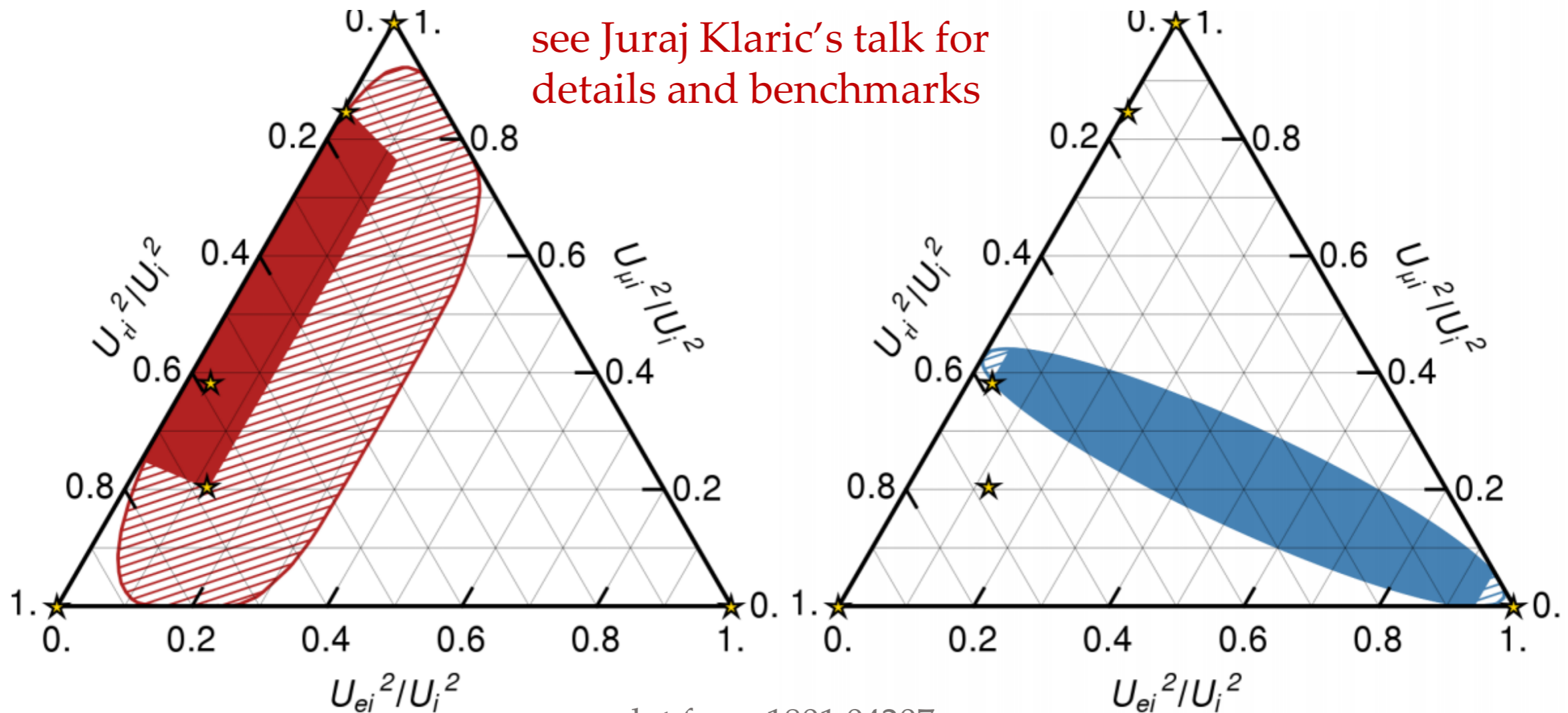
- $\nu$ MSSM-like scenario: flavour mixing pattern is strongly constrained: important for experimental sensitivity  
1606.06719, 1609.09069, 1704.08721, 1801.04207

$$U_{\alpha i}^2 = |\theta_{\alpha i}|^2$$

$$U_{\alpha}^2 = \sum_i U_{\alpha i}^2$$

$$U_i^2 = \sum_{\alpha} U_{\alpha i}^2$$

see Juraj Klarić's talk for details and benchmarks



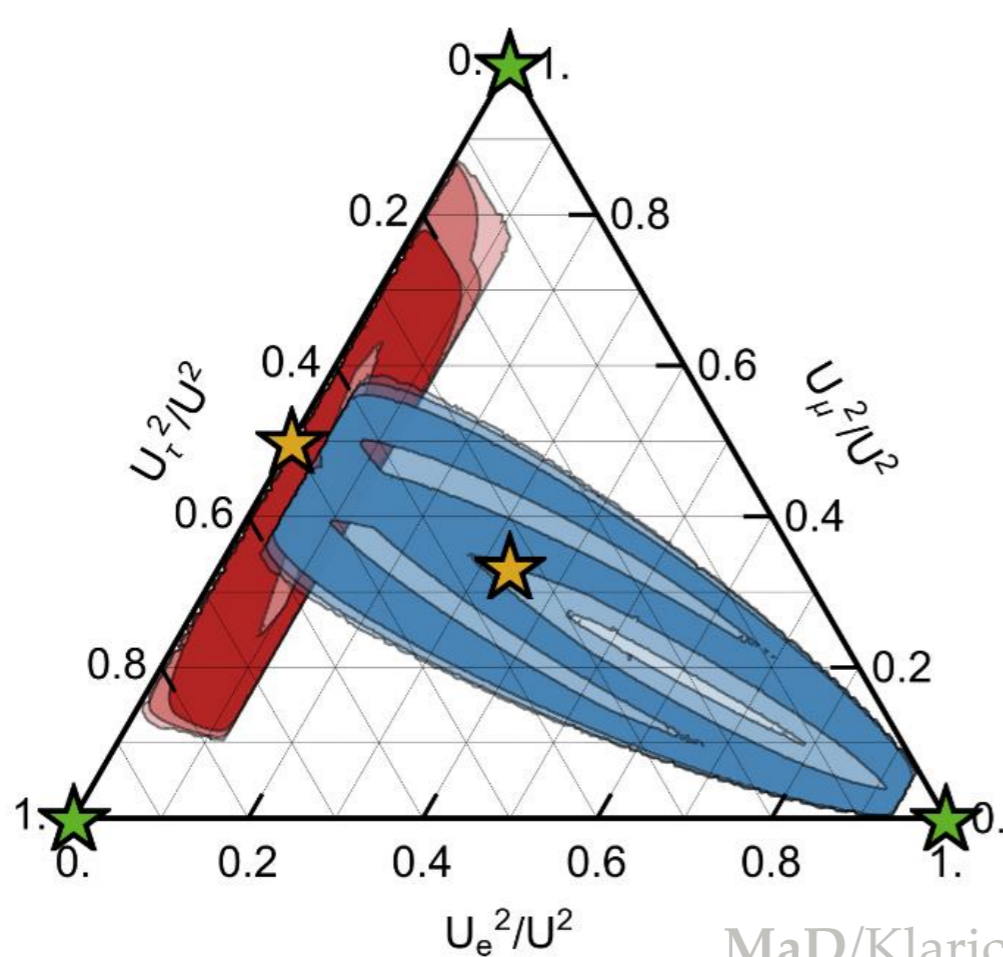
plot from 1801.04207

(a) Normal ordering.

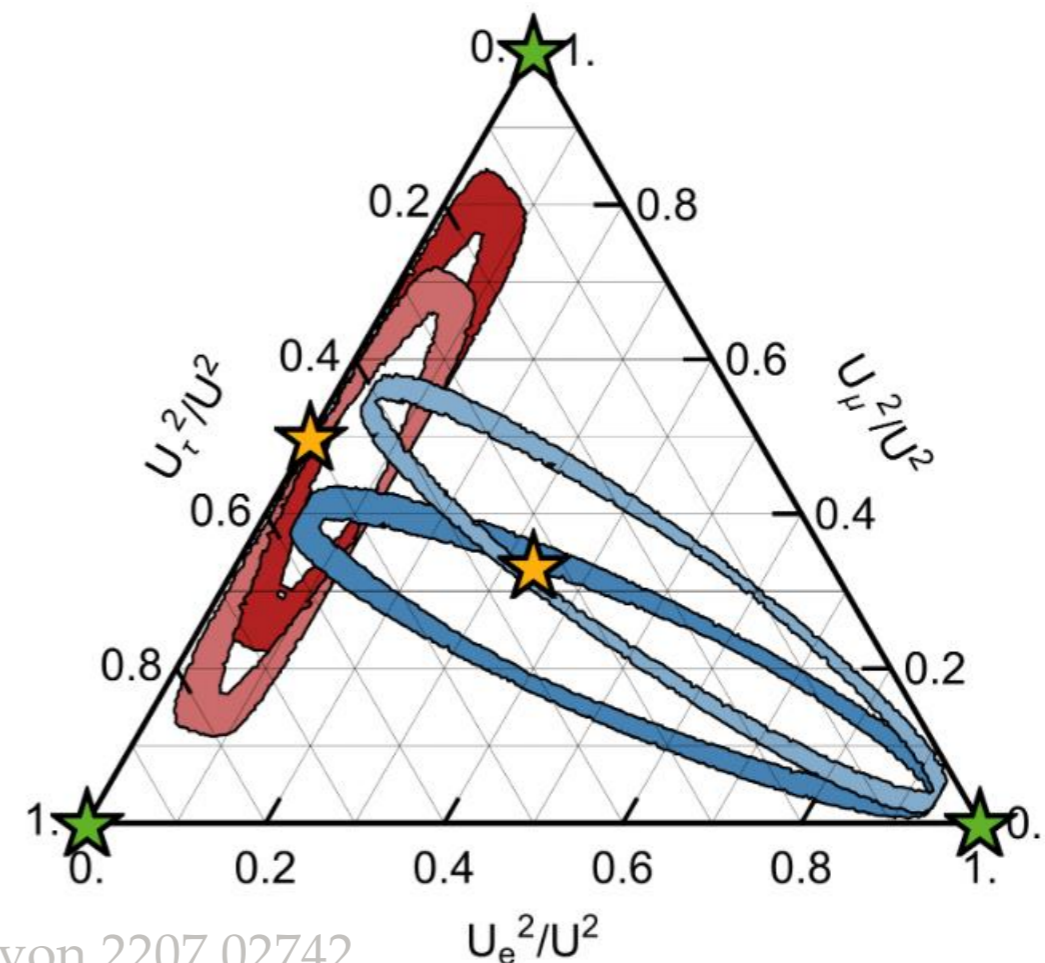
(b) Inverted ordering.

# Majorana Phases

- Position in the triangle is basically given by parameters in PMNS  
Hernandez et al [1606.06719](#) MaD et al [1609.09069](#)
- After measuring Dirac phase at DUNE or HyperK, Majorana phase is only unknown
- Hence: branching ratios provide indirect probe of Majorana phase  
MaD et al [1609.09069](#) Caputo et al [1611.05000](#)



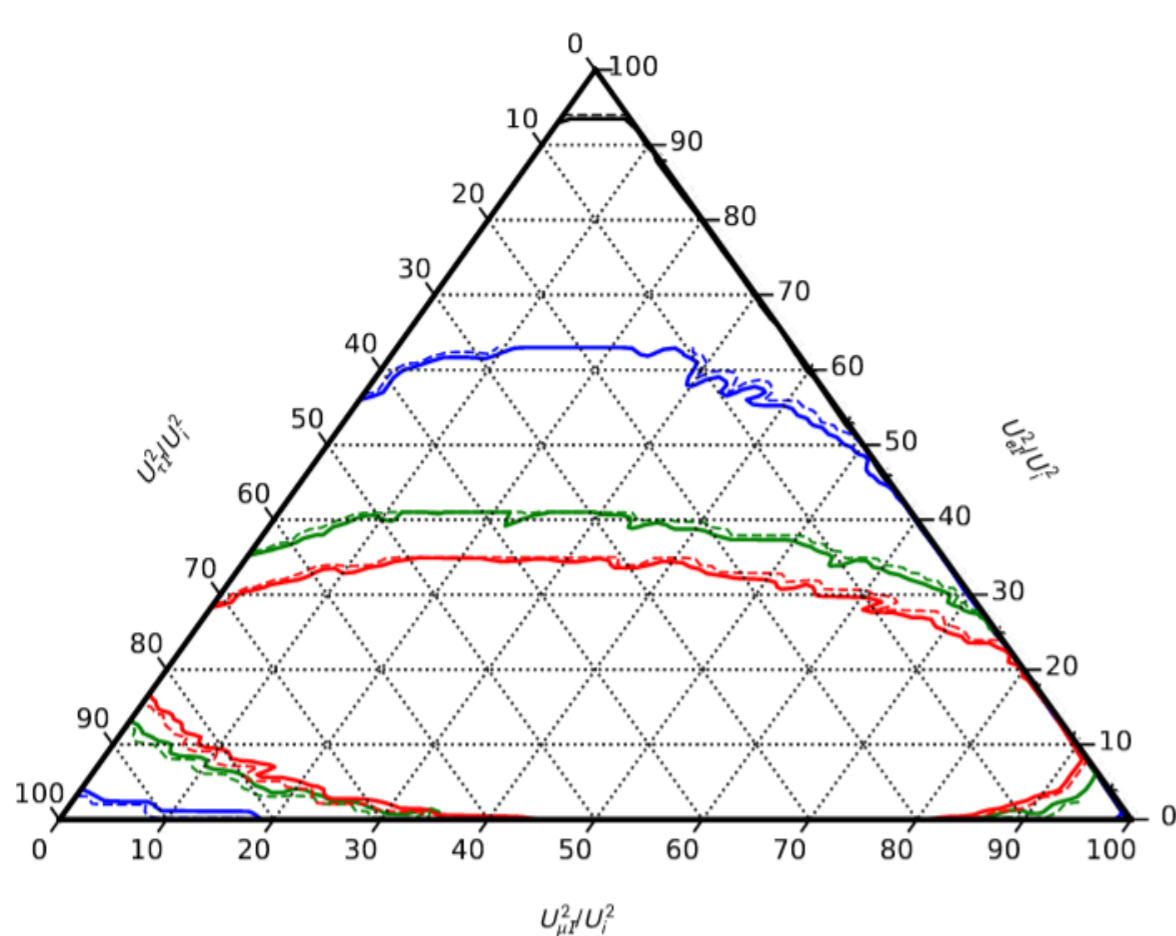
Current constraints



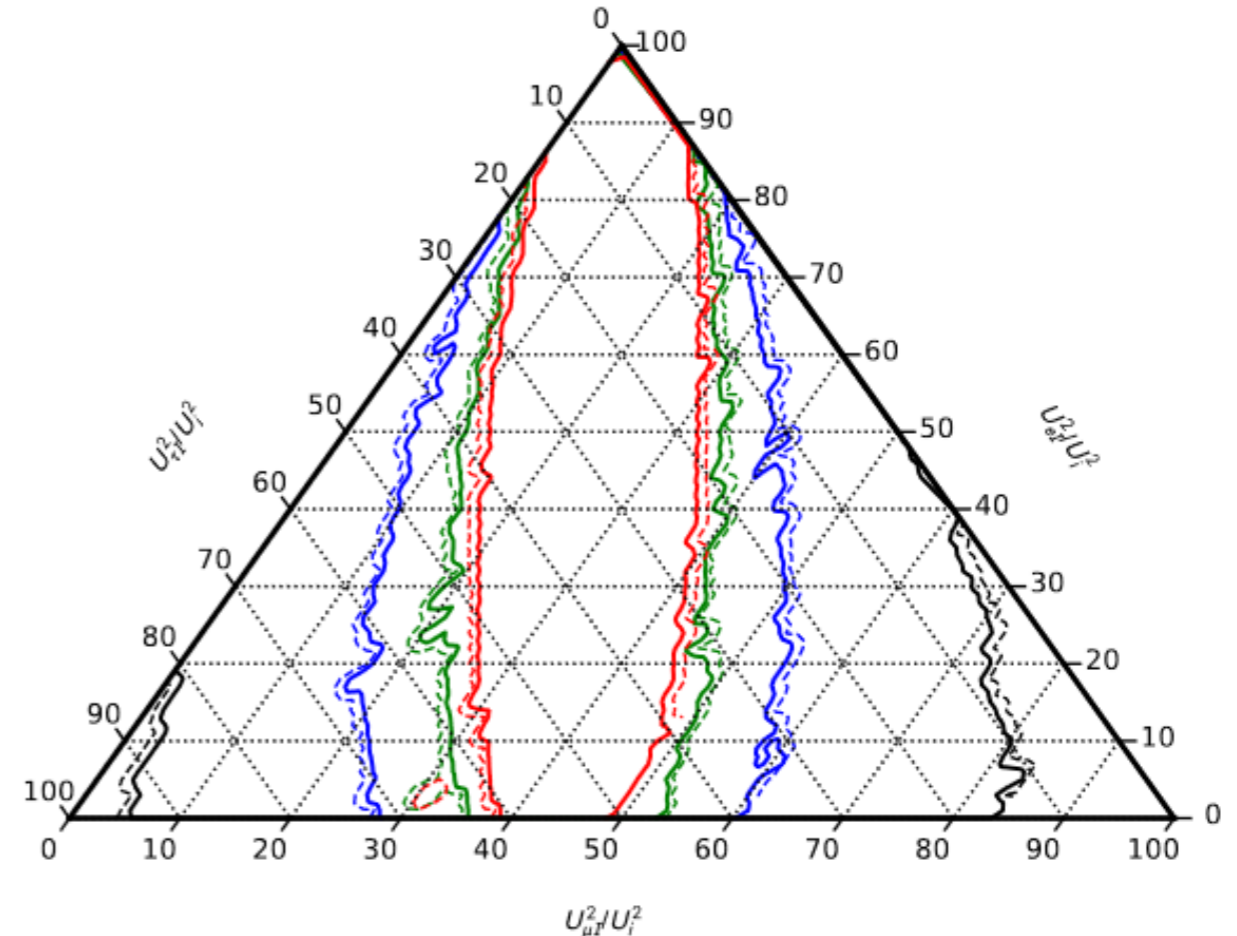
DUNE projection

MaD/Klaric/Lopez-Pavon [2207.02742](#)

# Constraints from $\nu$ -Oscillation Data in Model with 3 Heavy Neutrinos



normal ordering



inverted ordering

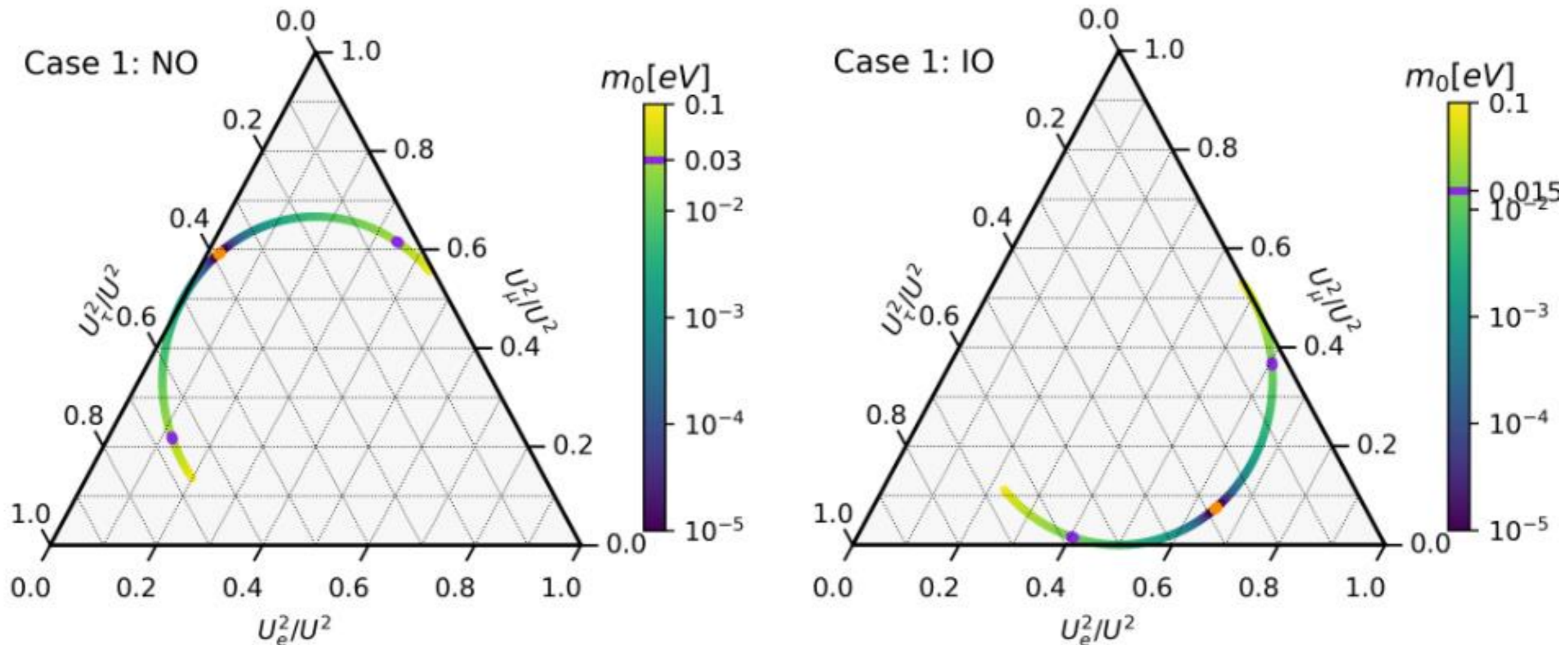
$$m_{\text{lightest}} < 10 \text{ meV}$$

$$m_{\text{lightest}} < 1 \text{ meV}$$

$$m_{\text{lightest}} < 0.1 \text{ meV}$$

$$m_{\text{lightest}} < 0.01 \text{ meV}$$

# Flavour Mixing Pattern with Discrete Symmetries

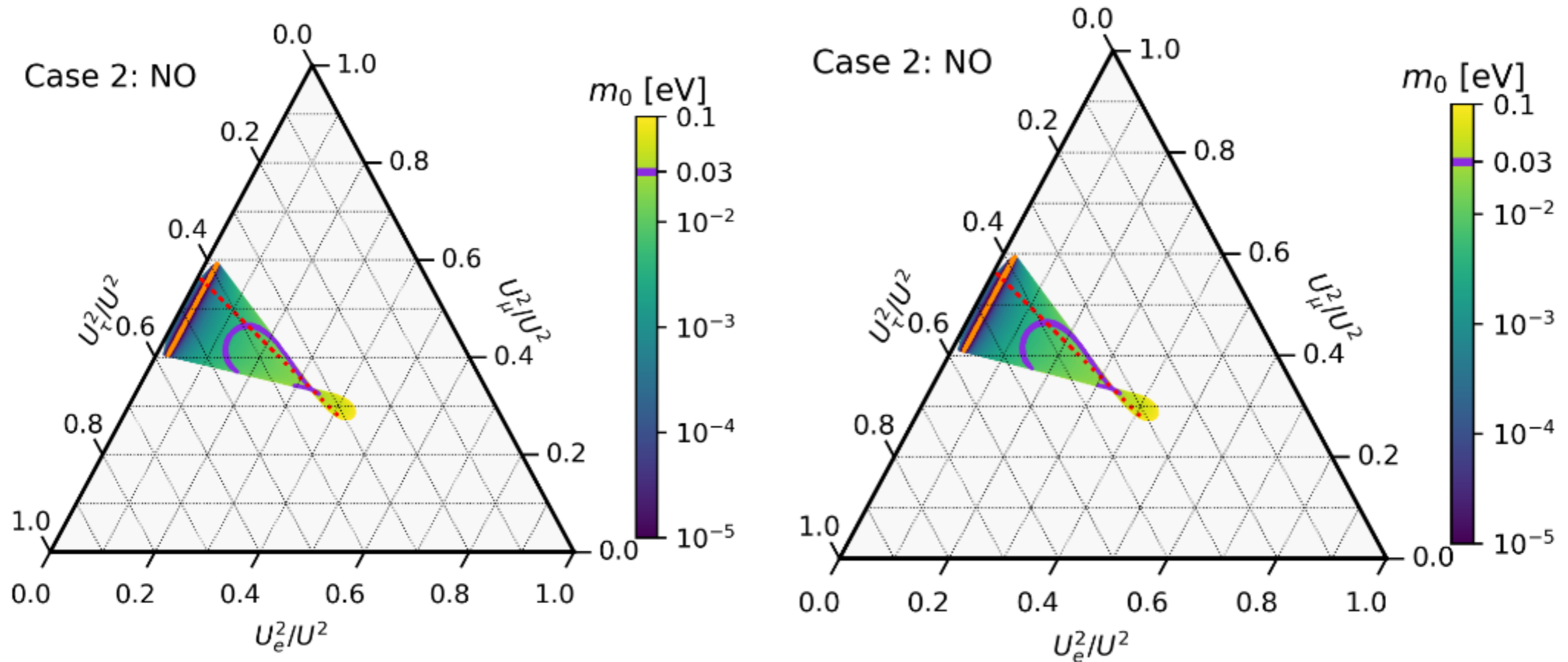


MaD/Georis/Hagedorn/Klarix [2203.08538](#), 23xx.xxxxx

- With discrete flavour and CP symmetries: Mixing pattern very predictive



# Flavour Mixing Pattern with Discrete Symmetries

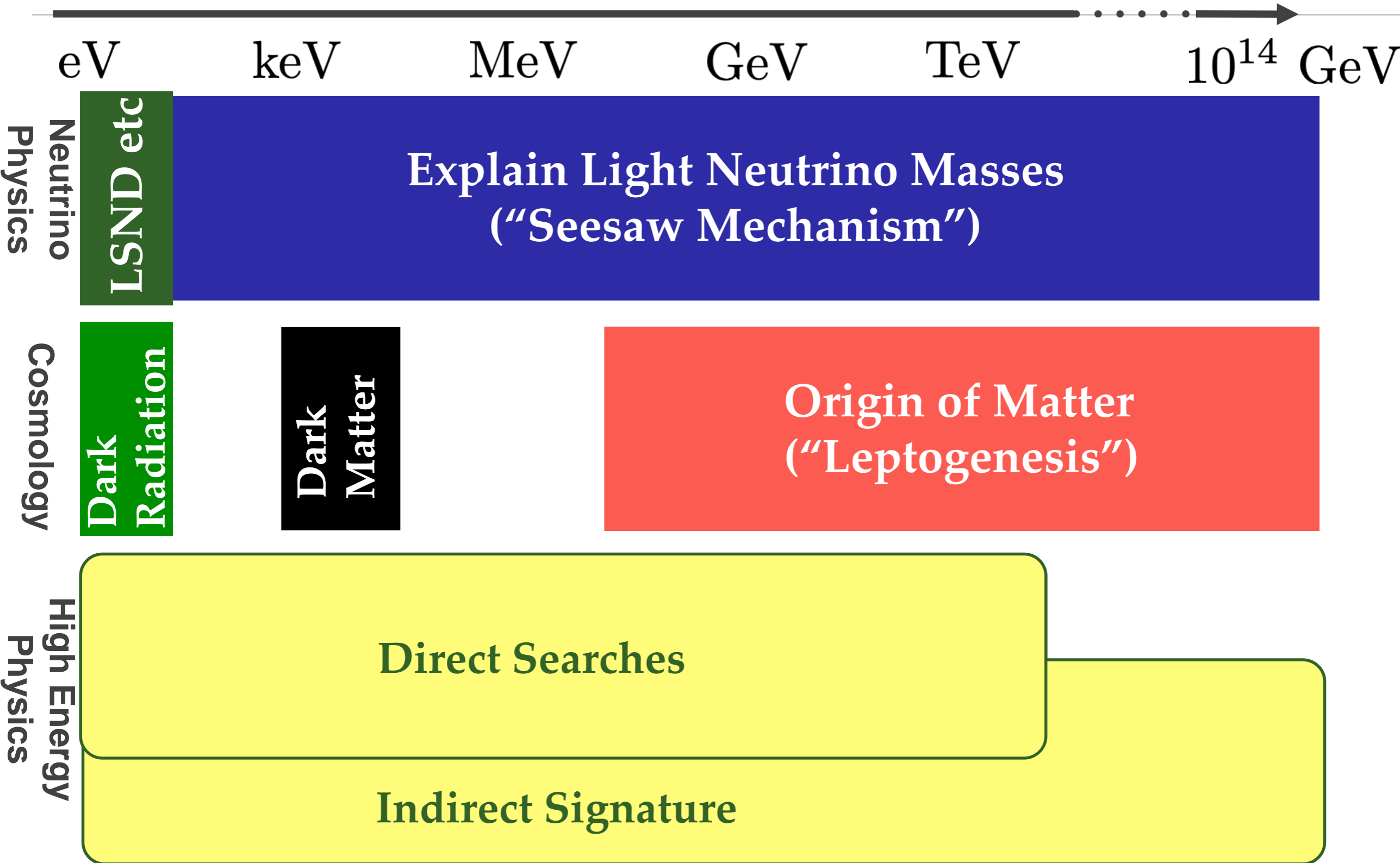


MaD/Georis/Hagedorn/Klarix [2203.08538](#), 23xx.xxxxx

- With discrete flavour and CP symmetries: Mixing pattern very predictive

# Low Scale Leptogenesis

# Heavy Neutrino Mass Scale

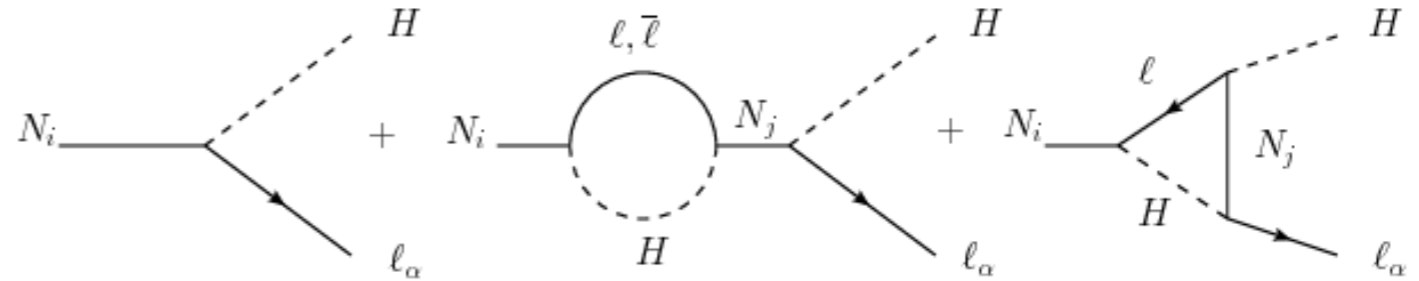


# Leptogenesis as the Origin of Matter

## Basic idea

Fukugita/Yanagida 86

- $N$  are around in the early universe
- $N$  interactions are CP violating
- $N$  may preferably decay into matter

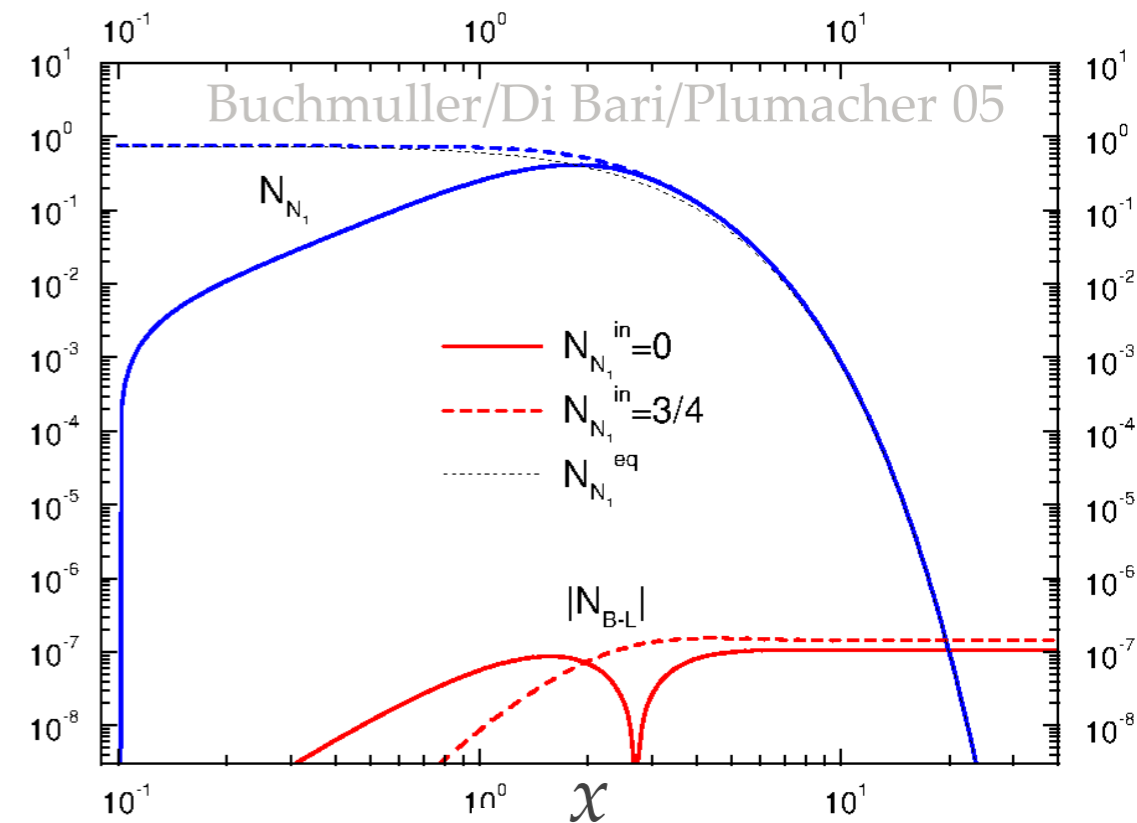


## Quantitative description

- Conventionally described by semi-classical Boltzmann equations

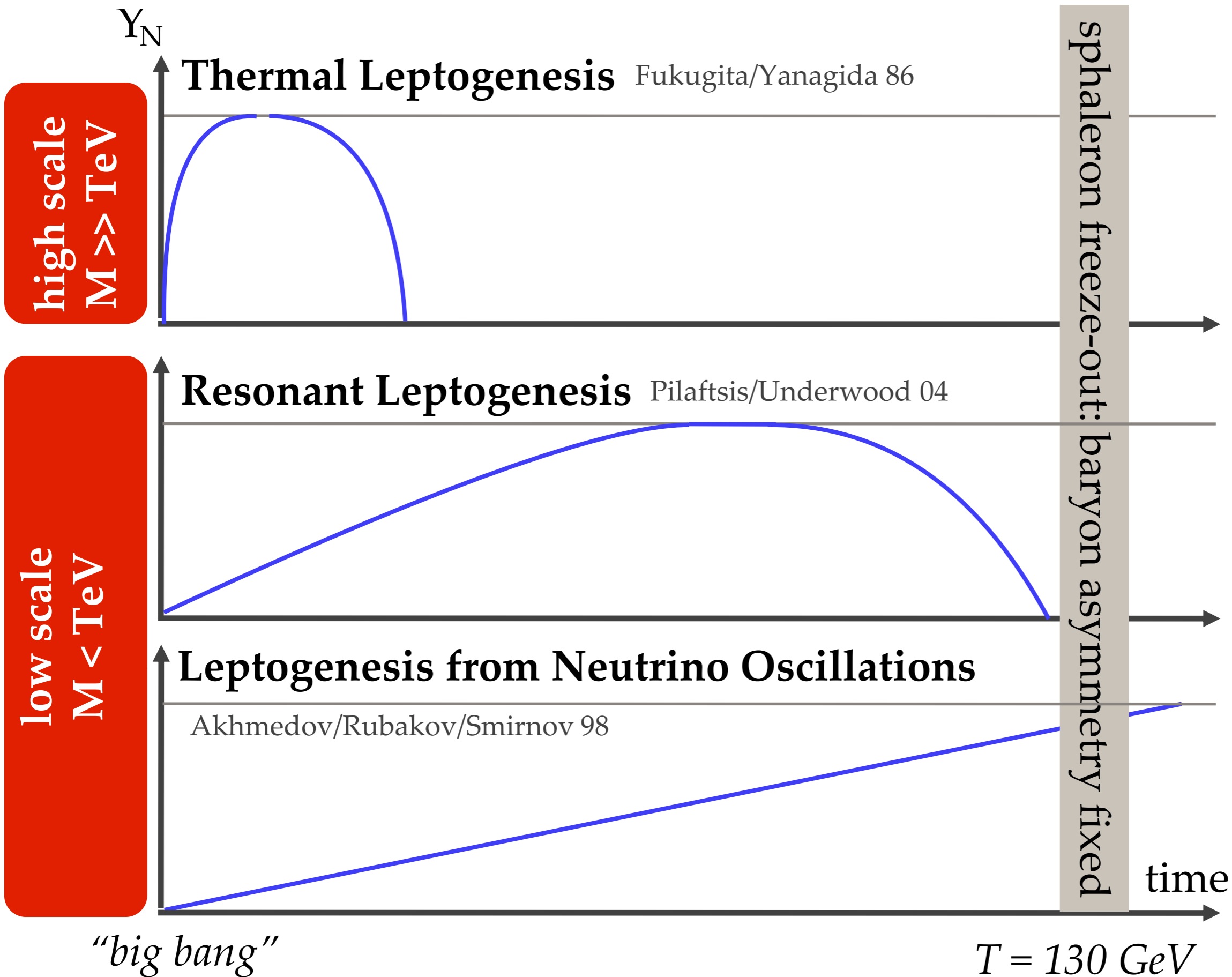
$$xH \frac{dY_N}{dx} = -\Gamma_N (Y_N - Y_N^{\text{eq}}) \quad x = M/T$$

$$xH \frac{dY_{B-L}}{dx} = \epsilon \Gamma_N (Y_N - Y_N^{\text{eq}}) - c_W \Gamma_N Y_{B-L}$$



- But: asymmetry arises from quantum interference in the plasma
- Low scale leptogenesis: asymmetry generated at  $M < T$ , flavour effects are crucial, thermal and quantum corrections can be large  
 $\Rightarrow$  derive quantum kinetic equations from first principles

recall  $m_\nu = -v^2 F M_M^{-1} F^T = -m_D M_M^{-1} m_D^T = -\theta M_M \theta^T$



high scale  
M >> TeV

low scale  
M < TeV

asymmetry generated in  
freeze-out and decay

asymmetry  
generated in  
freeze-in

# Quantitative Description

- Need to track three SM chemical potentials
- Track coherences for heavy neutrinos (“density matrix equations”)

$$\begin{aligned}
 i \frac{dn_{\Delta_\alpha}}{dt} &= -2i \frac{\mu_\alpha}{T} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \text{Tr}[\Gamma_\alpha] f_N (1 - f_N) + i \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \text{Tr}[\tilde{\Gamma}_\alpha (\delta\bar{\rho}_N - \delta\rho_N)], \\
 i \frac{d\delta\rho_N}{dt} &= -i \frac{d\rho_N^{eq}}{dt} + [H_N, \rho_N] - \frac{i}{2} \{\Gamma, \delta\rho_N\} - \frac{i}{2} \sum_\alpha \tilde{\Gamma}_\alpha \left[ 2 \frac{\mu_\alpha}{T} f_N (1 - f_N) \right], \\
 i \frac{d\delta\bar{\rho}_N}{dt} &= -i \frac{d\rho_N^{eq}}{dt} - [H_N, \bar{\rho}_N] - \frac{i}{2} \{\Gamma, \delta\bar{\rho}_N\} + \frac{i}{2} \sum_\alpha \tilde{\Gamma}_\alpha \left[ 2 \frac{\mu_\alpha}{T} f_N (1 - f_N) \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

↑ Heavy neutrino density matrix  
↑ SM chemical potentials  
↑ Heavy neutrino effective Hamiltonian  
↑ LNC rate  $\sim F^2 T$   
↑ LNV rate  $\sim (M/T)^2 F^2 T$

# Lepton Number Assignment

Symmetry in Lagrangian (protecting  $m_\nu$ )

Approx. conserved for  $M \ll T$

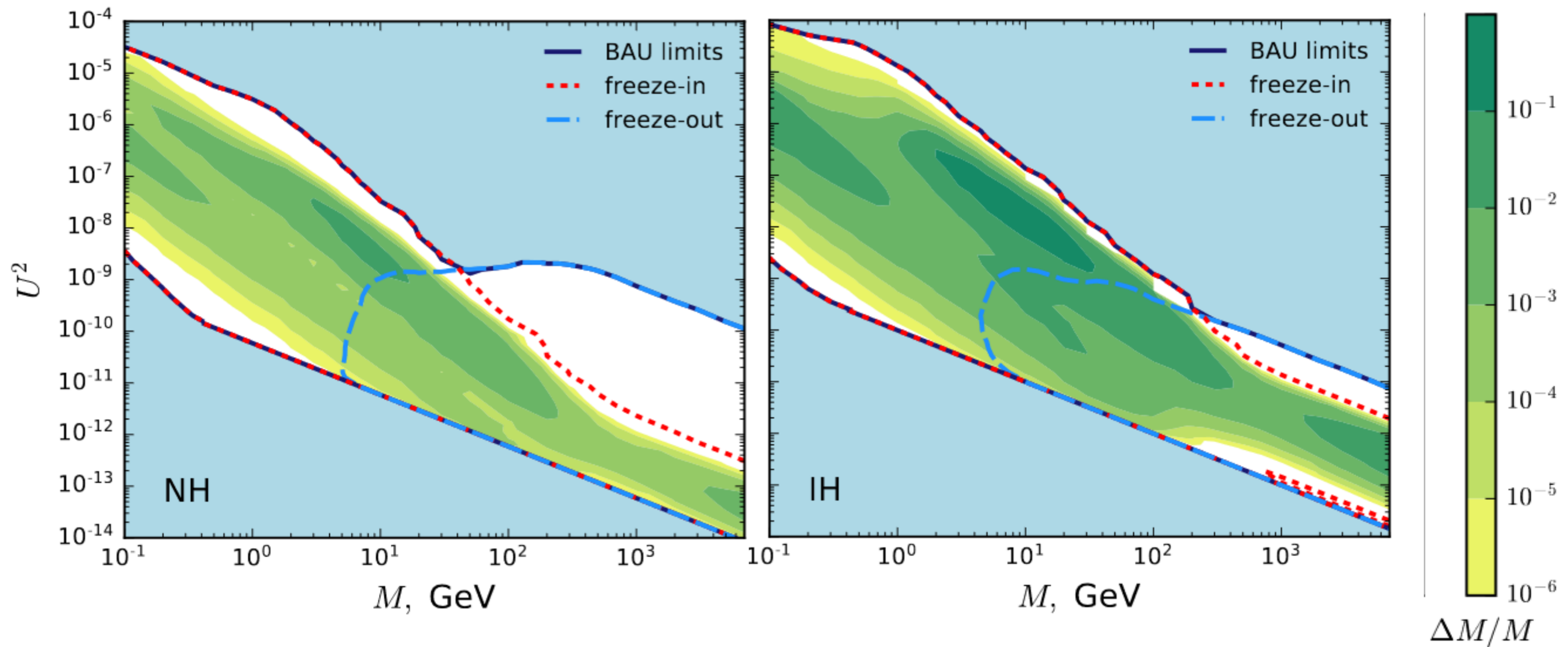
| Symmetry in Lagrangian (protecting $m_\nu$ )               |                   |  | Approx. conserved for $M \ll T$ |                     |  |
|--|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| spinor   | $\bar{L}$ -charge |  | spinors                         | $\tilde{L}$ -charge |  |
| $\nu_{Rs} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\nu_{R1} + i\nu_{R2})$ | +1                |  | $P_+ N_i, \bar{N}_i P_+$        | +1                  |  |
| $\nu_{Rw} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\nu_{R1} - i\nu_{R2})$ | -1                |  | $P_- N_i, \bar{N}_i P_-$        | -1                  |  |
| $\nu_{R3}$   | 0                 |  |                                 |                     |  |

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_e(1 + \epsilon_e) & iF_e(1 - \epsilon_e) & F_e \epsilon'_e \\ F_\mu(1 + \epsilon_\mu) & iF_\mu(1 - \epsilon_\mu) & F_\mu \epsilon'_\mu \\ F_\tau(1 + \epsilon_\tau) & iF_\tau(1 - \epsilon_\tau) & F_\tau \epsilon'_\tau \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_M = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{M}(1 - \mu) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{M}(1 + \mu) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & M' \end{pmatrix}$$

- The approximate lepton number that protects the light neutrino masses is strongly violated by HNL oscillations in the early universe
- HNL oscillations can also induce LNV in the detector, [see Juraj Klarić's talk](#)
- But another generalised lepton number (related to HNL helicities) is conserved for high temperatures ( $T \gg M$ )

# Leptogenesis with 2 HNLs

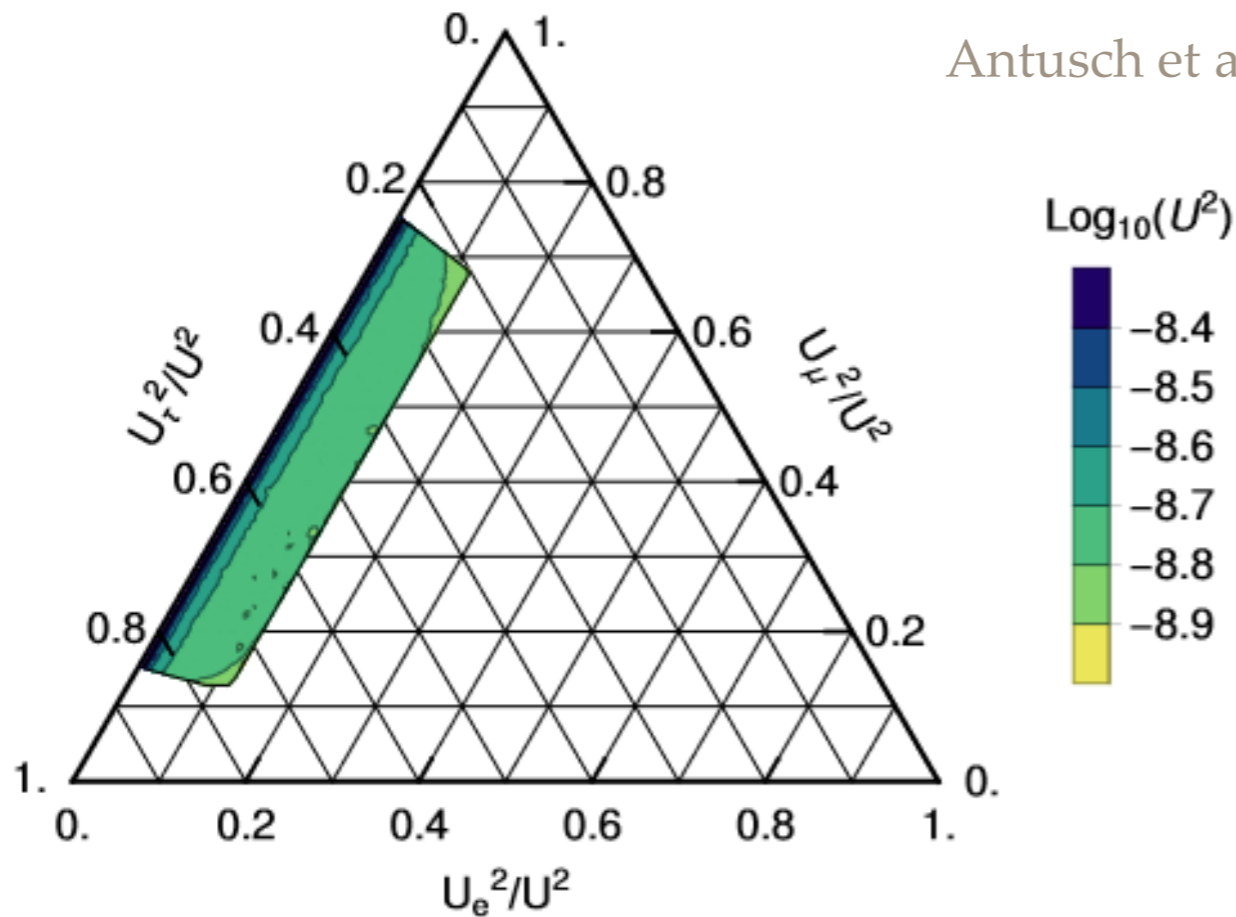


- Minimal # of HNL flavours consistent with  $\nu$ -oscillations and leptogenesis is two
- This also effectively describes the seesaw mechanism and leptogenesis in the  $\nu$ MSSM
- Leptogenesis requires mass degeneracy
- Leptogenesis region only accessible with LLP searches!



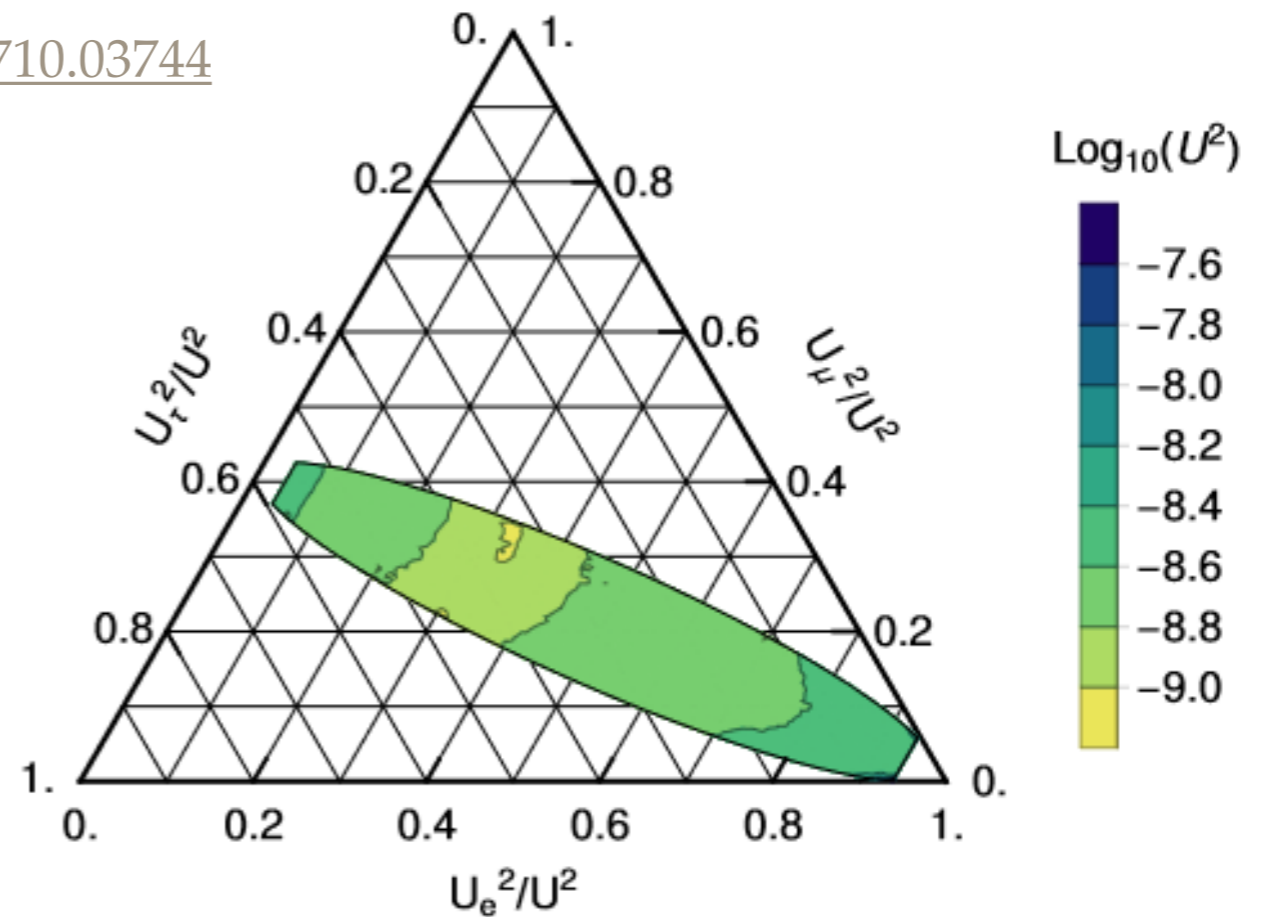
# Leptogenesis with 2 HNLs

Normal ordering



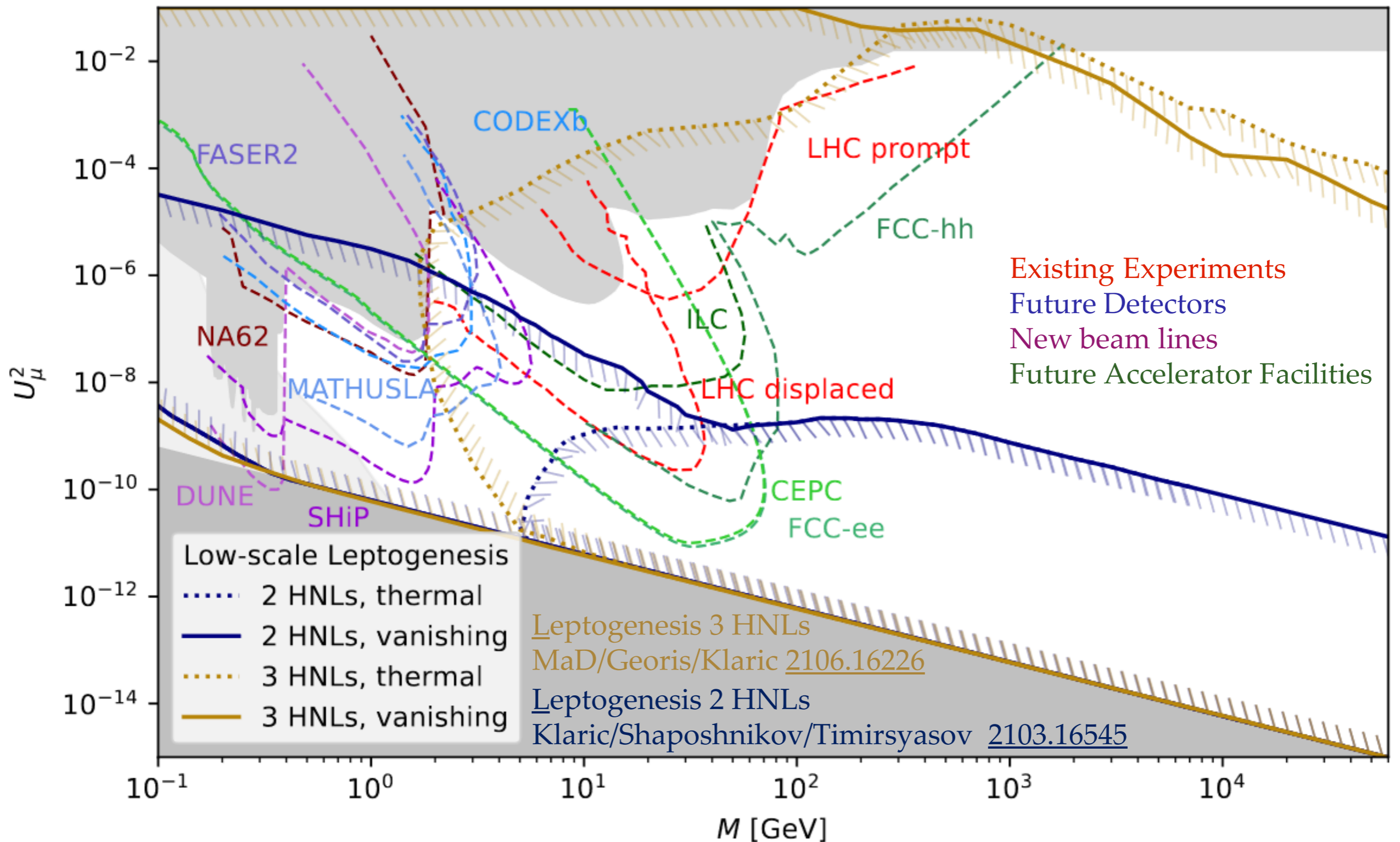
Antusch et al [1710.03744](#)

Inverted ordering



- Requirement for leptogenesis imposes additional constraints on branching ratios  
Antusch et al [1710.03744](#)
- Recently confirmed and refined in Hernandez et al [2207.01651](#)

# Leptogenesis Parameter Space



# Leptogenesis: 2 vs 3 HNL Flavours

## Two HNL flavours

- Mass basis at  $T=0$  is the one where  $M$  is diagonal
- B-L limit:  $\nu_R$ s and  $\nu_{Rw}$  define “interaction basis”
- $T \gg M$ : thermal masses dominate, interaction basis is mass basis

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_e(1 + \epsilon_e) & iF_e(1 - \epsilon_e) \\ F_\mu(1 + \epsilon_\mu) & iF_\mu(1 - \epsilon_\mu) \\ F_\tau(1 + \epsilon_\tau) & iF_\tau(1 - \epsilon_\tau) \end{pmatrix}$$

“mass basis”

Approx. conserved for  $M \ll T$

| spinors                  |  | $\tilde{L}$ -charge |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------|
| $P_+ N_i, \bar{N}_i P_+$ |  | +1                  |
| $P_- N_i, \bar{N}_i P_-$ |  | -1                  |

$$F \sim \begin{pmatrix} F_e & F_e \epsilon_e \\ F_\mu & F_\mu \epsilon_\mu \\ F_\tau & F_\tau \epsilon_\tau \end{pmatrix}$$

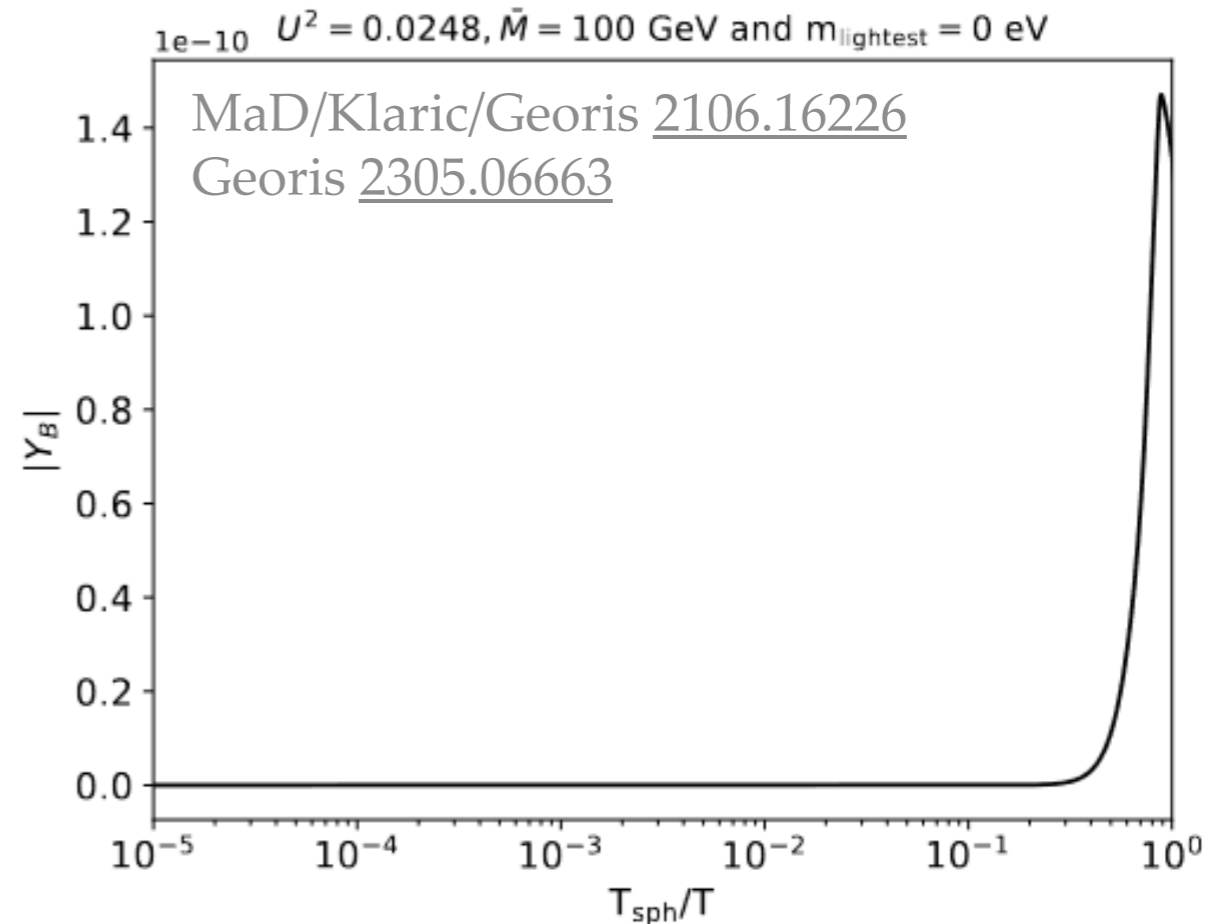
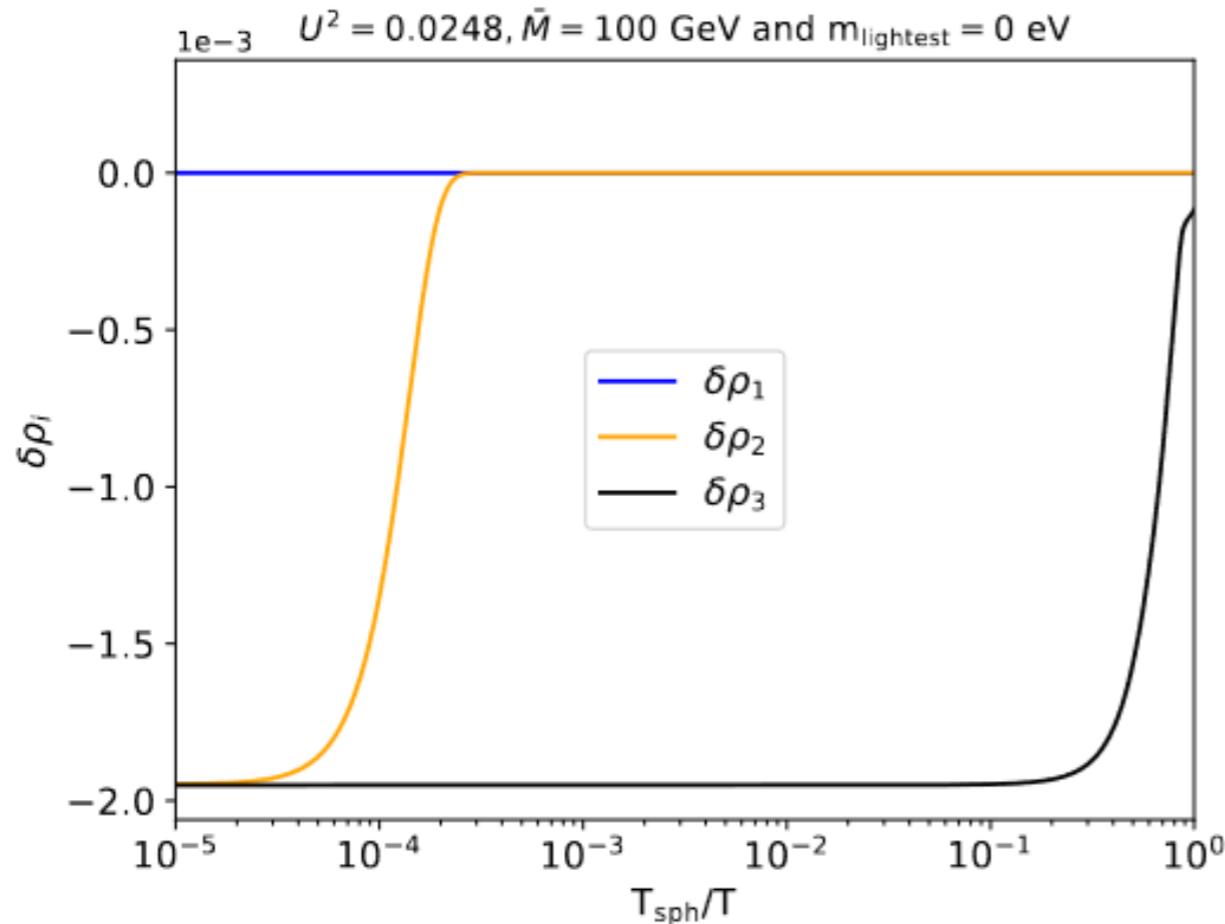
“interaction basis”

## Three HNL flavours

- Third state  $\nu_{R3}$  is free of constraints that relates  $\nu_R$ s and  $\nu_{Rw}$
- It can maintain deviation from equilibrium even when LNV rates come into equilibrium
- void washout even for large couplings of pseudo-Dirac pair
- No need for hierarchy in SM flavour couplings to prevent washout!

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_e(1 + \epsilon_e) & iF_e(1 - \epsilon_e) & F_e \epsilon'_e \\ F_\mu(1 + \epsilon_\mu) & iF_\mu(1 - \epsilon_\mu) & F_\mu \epsilon'_\mu \\ F_\tau(1 + \epsilon_\tau) & iF_\tau(1 - \epsilon_\tau) & F_\tau \epsilon'_\tau \end{pmatrix},$$

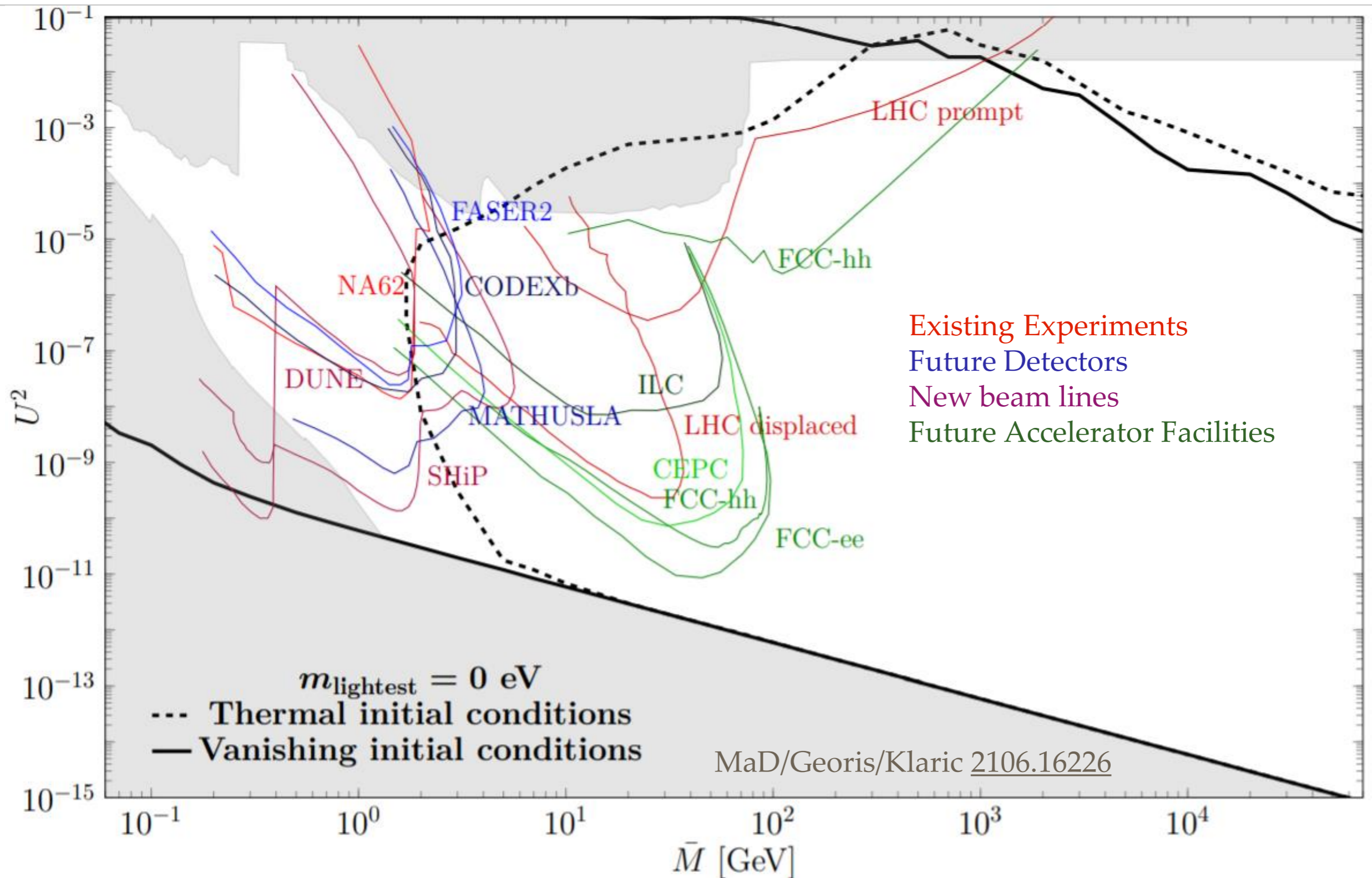
# Maverick Heavy Neutrino



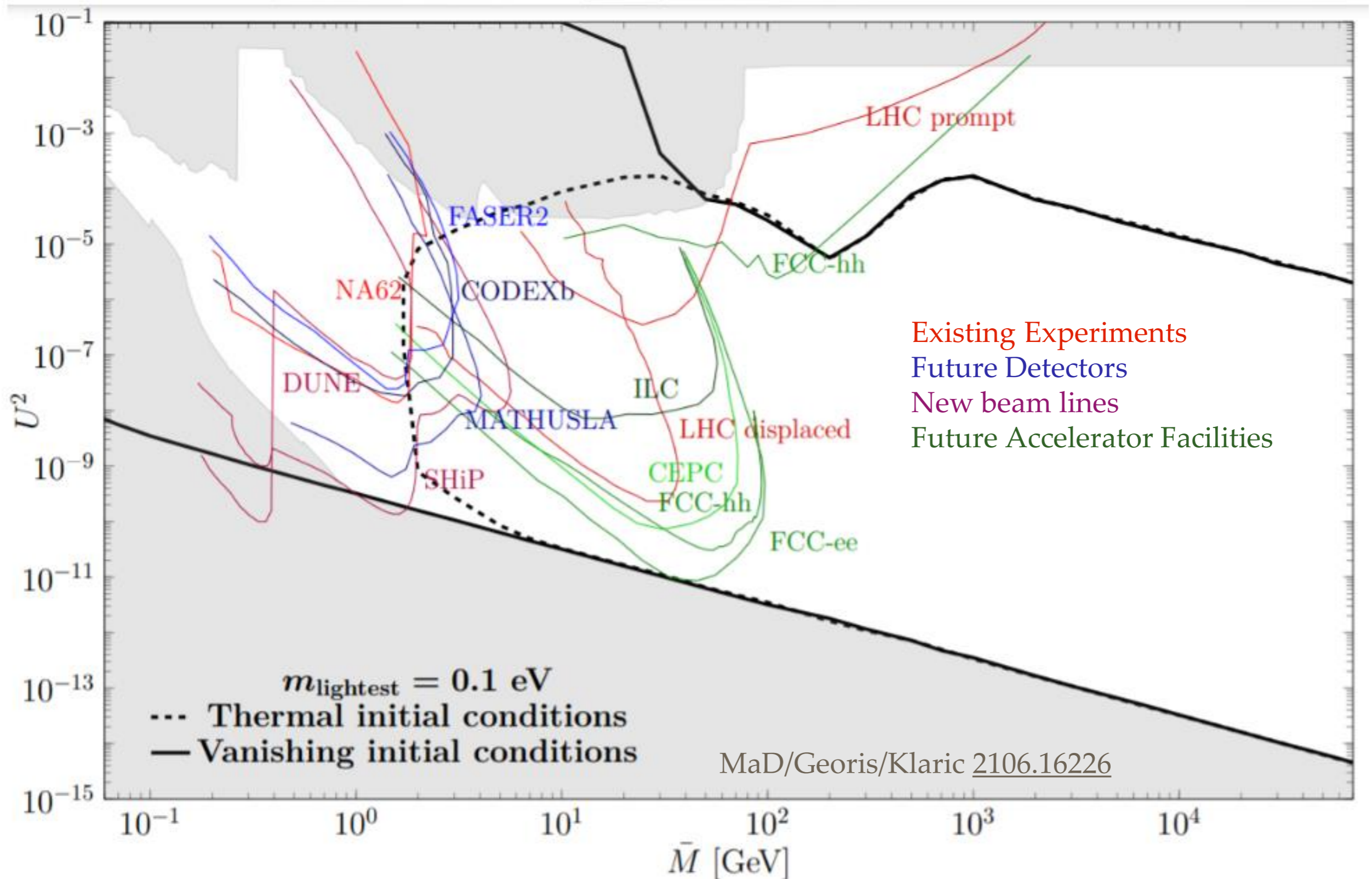
- Third state  $\nu R3$  is free of constraints that relates  $\nu R_s$  and  $\nu R_w$
- It can maintain deviation from equilibrium even when LNV rates come into equilibrium
- void washout even for large couplings of pseudo-Dirac pair
- No need for hierarchy in SM flavour couplings to prevent washout!

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_e(1 + \epsilon_e) & iF_e(1 - \epsilon_e) & F_e\epsilon'_e \\ F_\mu(1 + \epsilon_\mu) & iF_\mu(1 - \epsilon_\mu) & F_\mu\epsilon'_\mu \\ F_\tau(1 + \epsilon_\tau) & iF_\tau(1 - \epsilon_\tau) & F_\tau\epsilon'_\tau \end{pmatrix},$$

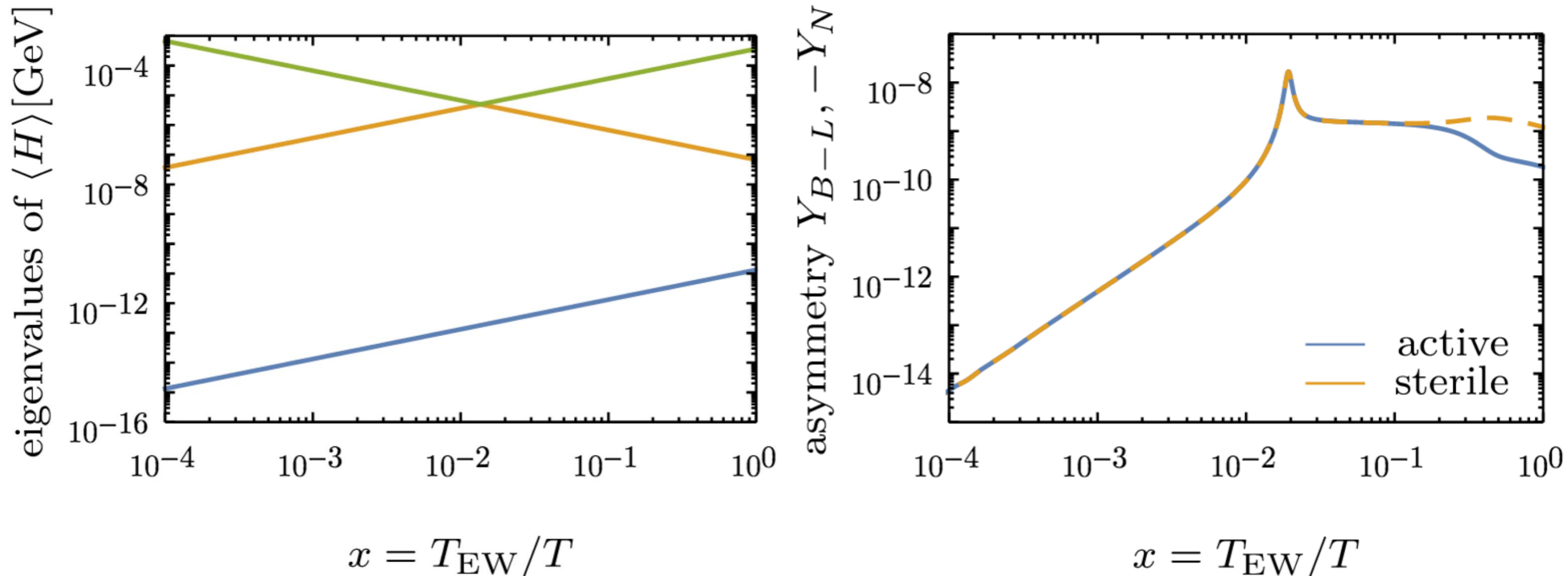
# Leptogenesis with 3 RH Neutrinos



# Leptogenesis with 3 RH Neutrinos



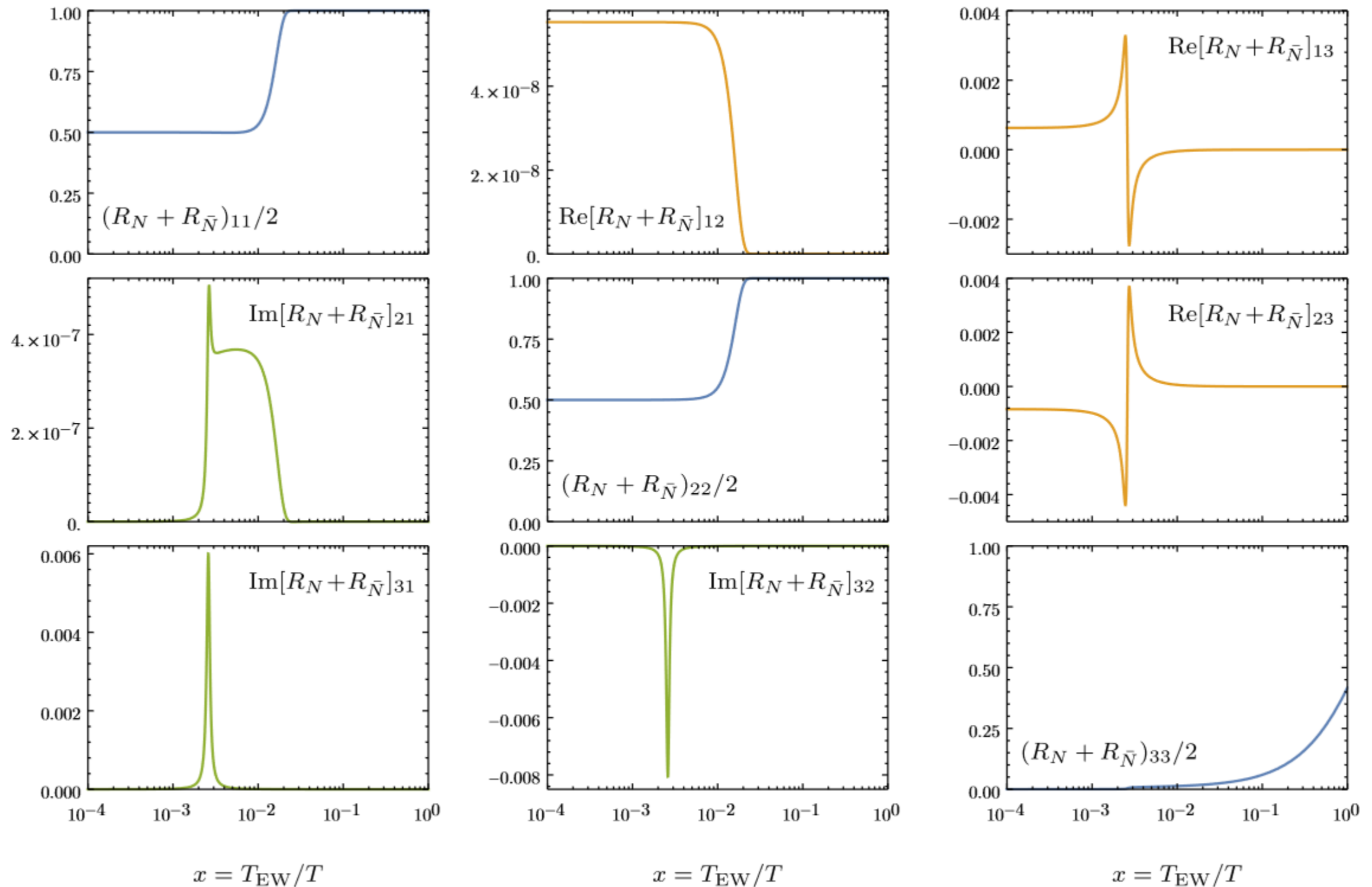
# Dynamical Generation of Resonance



Abada et al [1810.12463](#)

- level crossing between the quasiparticle dispersion relations in the plasma (“thermal masses”) can dynamically generate a resonance
- Strong enhancement of the asymmetry with only moderate degeneracy in the vacuum masses

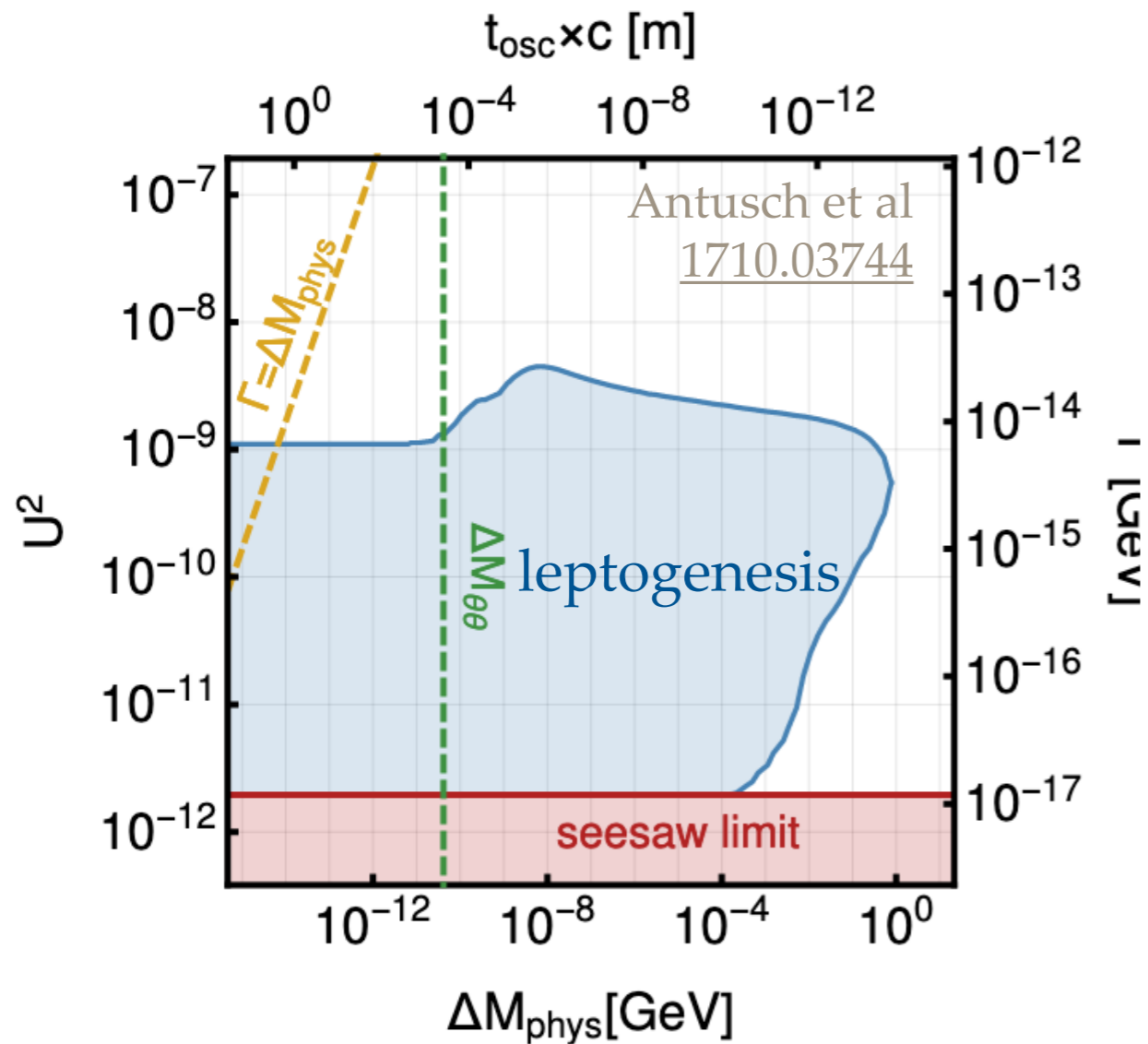
# Full Density Matrix Evolution





# Leptogenesis with Exactly Degenerate Majorana Masses: 2HNLs

- Leptogenesis is feasible even if Majorana mass in Lagrangian is a unit matrix



- Different contributions to thermal masses lead to misalignment between “mass basis” and “interaction basis”

$$H_N^{\text{vac}} = \frac{\pi^2}{18\zeta(3)} \frac{a_R}{T_{\text{ref}}^3} \left( \text{Re}[M^\dagger M] + ih \text{Im}[M^\dagger M] \right),$$

$$H_N^{\text{th}} = \frac{a_R}{T_{\text{ref}}} \left( \mathfrak{h}_+^{\text{th}} \Upsilon_{+h} + \mathfrak{h}_-^{\text{th}} \Upsilon_{-h} \right) + \mathfrak{h}^{\text{EV}} \frac{a_R}{T_{\text{ref}}} \text{Re}[Y^* Y^t],$$

$$\Gamma_N = \frac{a_R}{T_{\text{ref}}} (\gamma_+ \Upsilon_{+h} + \gamma_- \Upsilon_{-h}),$$

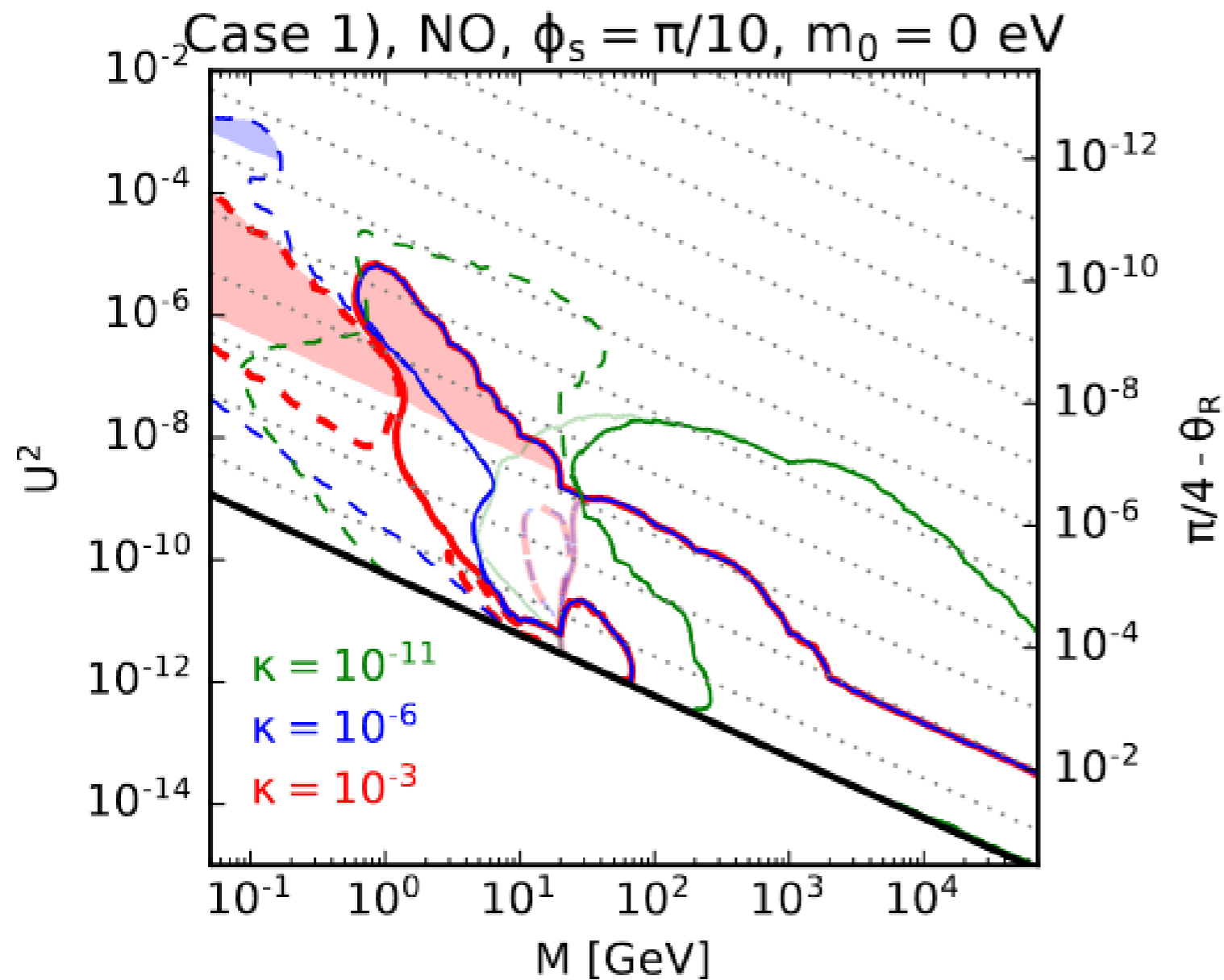
$$\tilde{\Gamma}_N^a = h \frac{a_R}{T_{\text{ref}}} (\tilde{\gamma}_+ \Upsilon_{+h}^a - \tilde{\gamma}_- \Upsilon_{-h}^a),$$

- Effect is only seen when using density matrix and including thermal corrections!

- Similar mechanism enables HNL oscillations in detector and observable LNV, **see Juraj Klaric talk**

$$M_N = M_M + \frac{1}{2} (\theta^\dagger \theta M_M + M_M^T \theta^T \theta^*)$$

# Leptogenesis with Discrete Symmetries



- Generically mixing is near the “seesaw line”  $U^2 \sim m_\nu/M$
- Can be enhanced in presence of enhanced residual symmetry
- $\kappa$  indicates splitting of Majorana mass eigenvalues
- Solid (dashed) curves give baryon asymmetry of correct magnitude and correct (wrong) sign
- Plot is for illustration, regions change for different residual symmetries

Plot from MaD/Georis/Hagedorn/Klaric [2203.08538](#)

# Flavour Invariants

- Density matrix equation

$$i \frac{dn_{\Delta\alpha}}{dt} = -2i \frac{\mu_\alpha}{T} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \text{Tr} [\Gamma_\alpha] f_N (1 - f_N) + i \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \text{Tr} \left[ \tilde{\Gamma}_\alpha (\bar{\rho}_N - \rho_N) \right],$$

$$i \frac{d\rho_N}{dt} = [H_N, \rho_N] - \frac{i}{2} \{ \Gamma, \rho_N - \rho_N^{eq} \} - \frac{i}{2} \sum_\alpha \tilde{\Gamma}_\alpha \left[ 2 \frac{\mu_\alpha}{T} f_N (1 - f_N) \right],$$

$$i \frac{d\bar{\rho}_N}{dt} = -[H_N, \bar{\rho}_N] - \frac{i}{2} \{ \Gamma, \bar{\rho}_N - \rho_N^{eq} \} + \frac{i}{2} \sum_\alpha \tilde{\Gamma}_\alpha \left[ 2 \frac{\mu_\alpha}{T} f_N (1 - f_N) \right].$$

- Small Yukawas: solve perturbatively

$$\text{Tr} \left[ \tilde{\Gamma}_\alpha (\bar{\rho}_N - \rho_N) \right] \propto \text{Tr} \left( \tilde{\Gamma}_\alpha [H_N, \Gamma] \right)$$

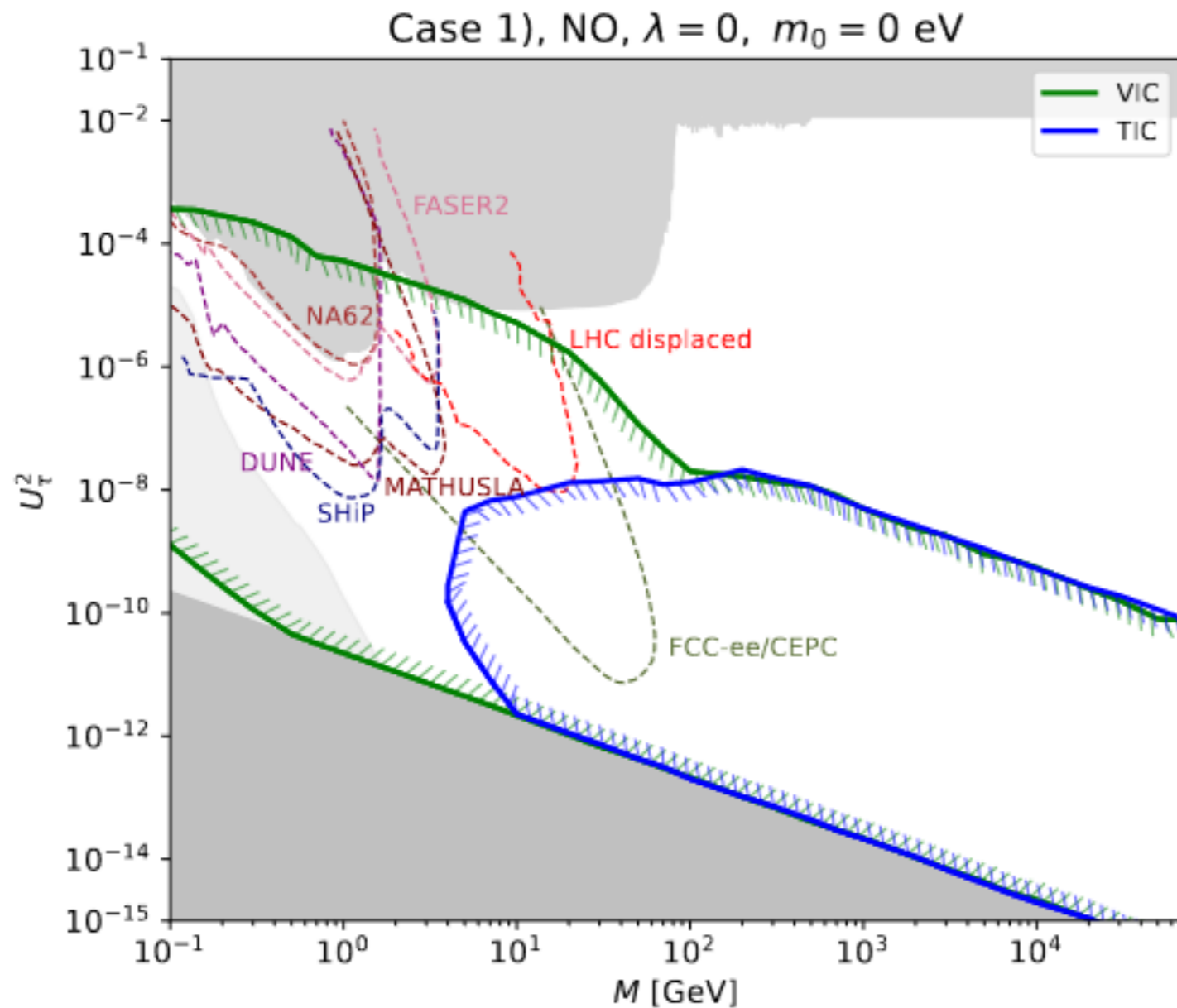
- Find CPV combinations

$$C_{\text{LFV},\alpha} = i \text{Tr} \left( \left[ \hat{M}_R^2, \hat{Y}_D^\dagger \hat{Y}_D \right] \hat{Y}_D^\dagger P_\alpha \hat{Y}_D \right), \quad \text{LFV source}$$

$$C_{\text{LNV},\alpha} = i \text{Tr} \left( \left[ \hat{M}_R^2, \hat{Y}_D^\dagger \hat{Y}_D \right] \hat{Y}_D^T P_\alpha \hat{Y}_D^* \right), \quad \text{LNV source}$$

$$C_{\text{DEG},\alpha} = i \text{Tr} \left( \left[ \hat{Y}_D^T \hat{Y}_D^*, \hat{Y}_D^\dagger \hat{Y}_D \right] \hat{Y}_D^T P_\alpha \hat{Y}_D^* \right), \quad \text{mass-degenerate source}$$

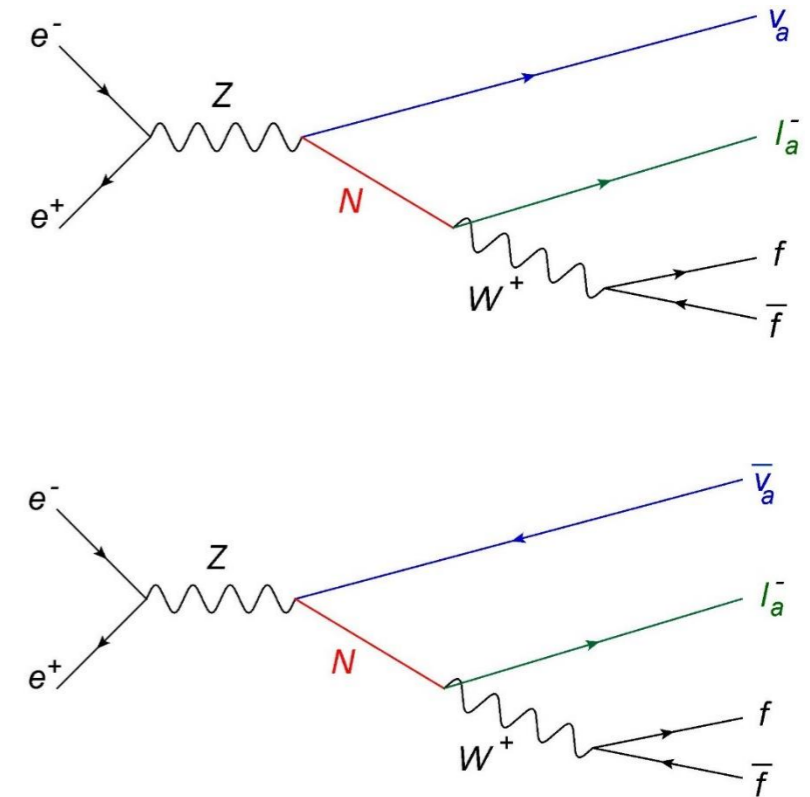
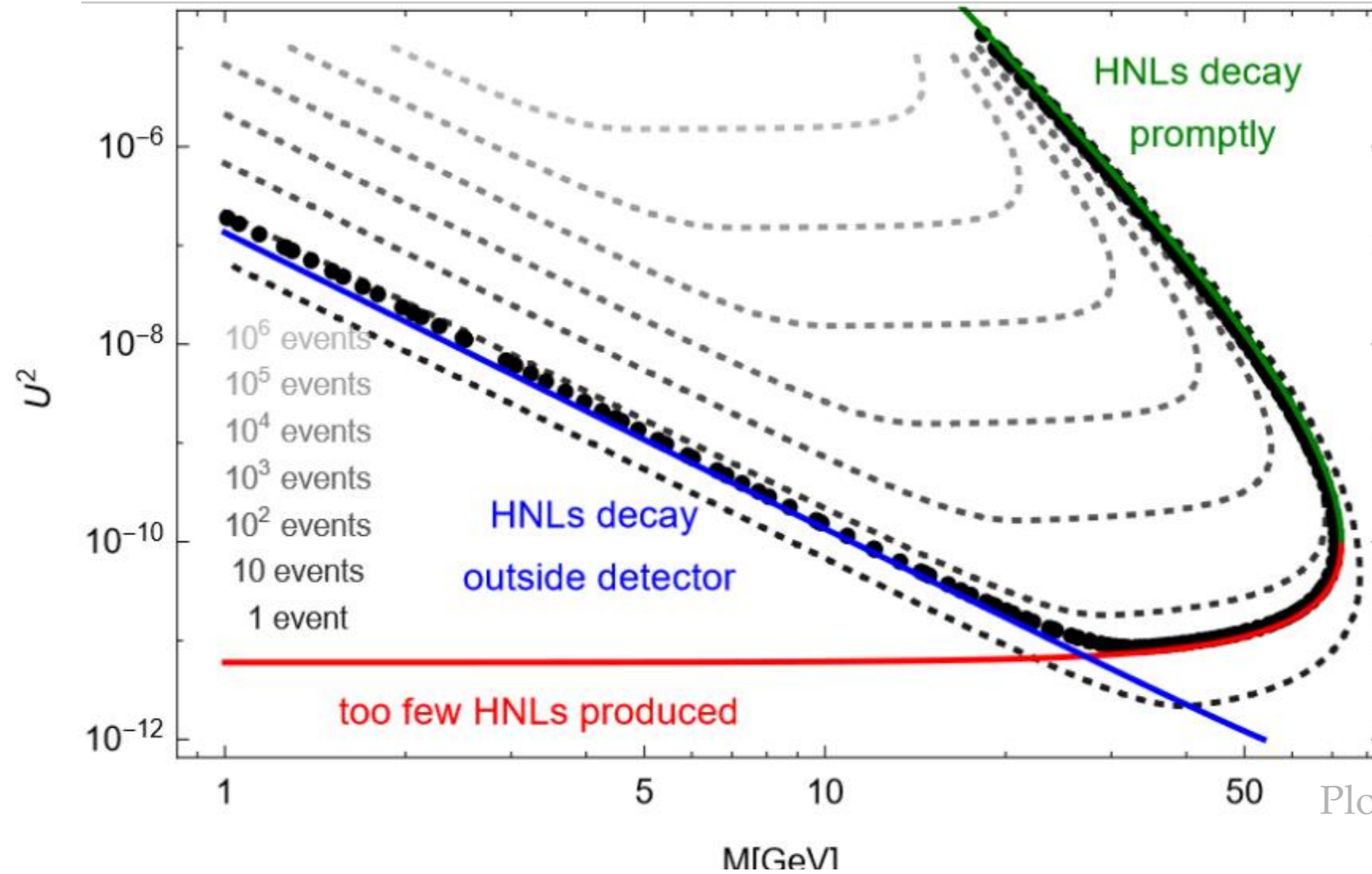
# Leptogenesis Discrete Symmetries



- Generically mixing is near the “seesaw line”  $U^2 \sim m_\nu / M$
- Can be enhanced in presence of enhanced residual symmetry
- Here unknown parameters have been marginalised
- Leptogenesis region in presence of these discrete symmetries can only be probed with LLP searches (even with three HNL flavours)
- Plot is for illustration, regions change for different residual symmetries

Plot from MaD/Georis/Hagedorn/Klaric 2xxx.xxxxx

# DV Vertex Searches during Z-pole Run



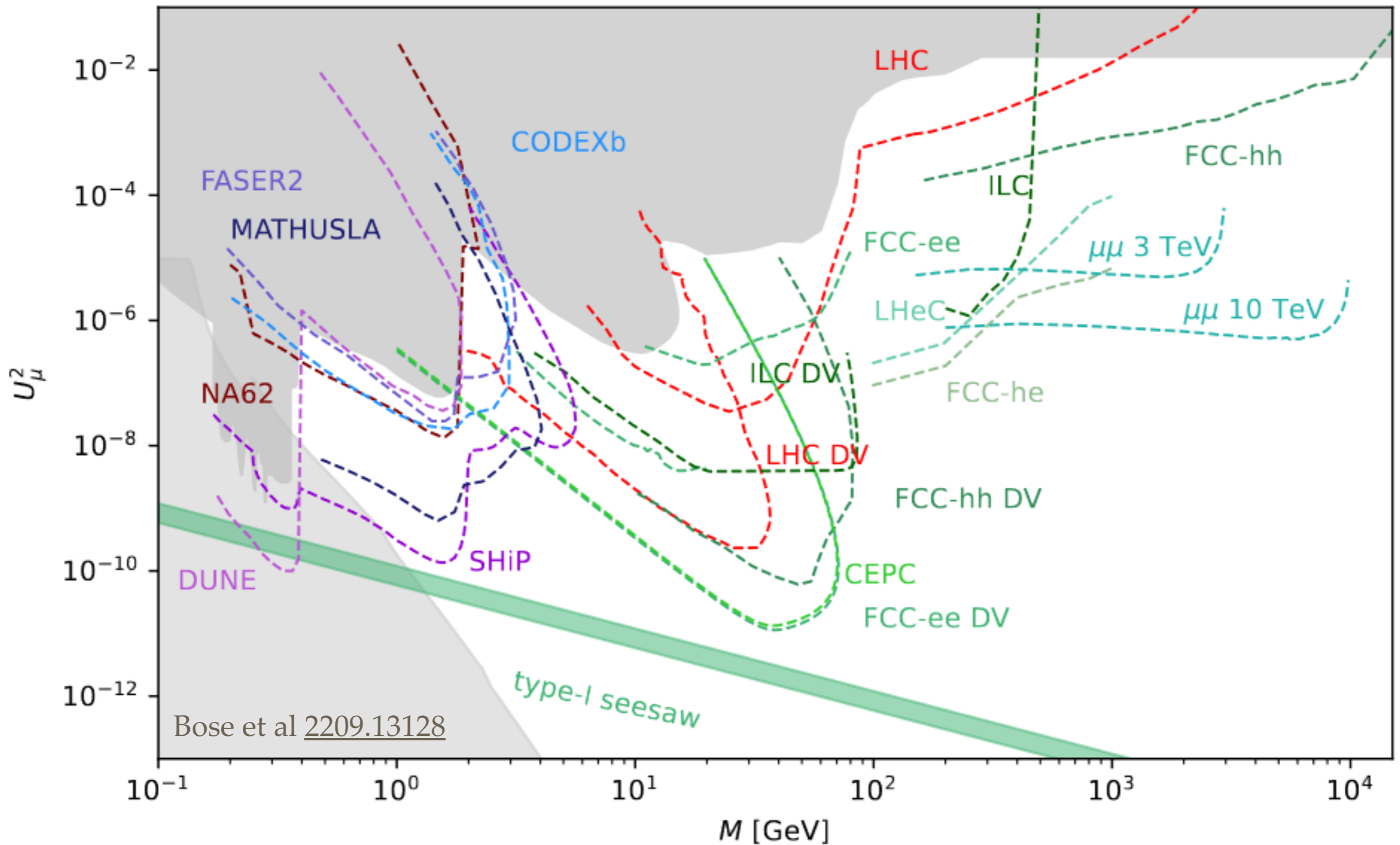
proposed in Blondel et al [1411.5230](#)

Plot and estimates from MaD [2210.17110](#)

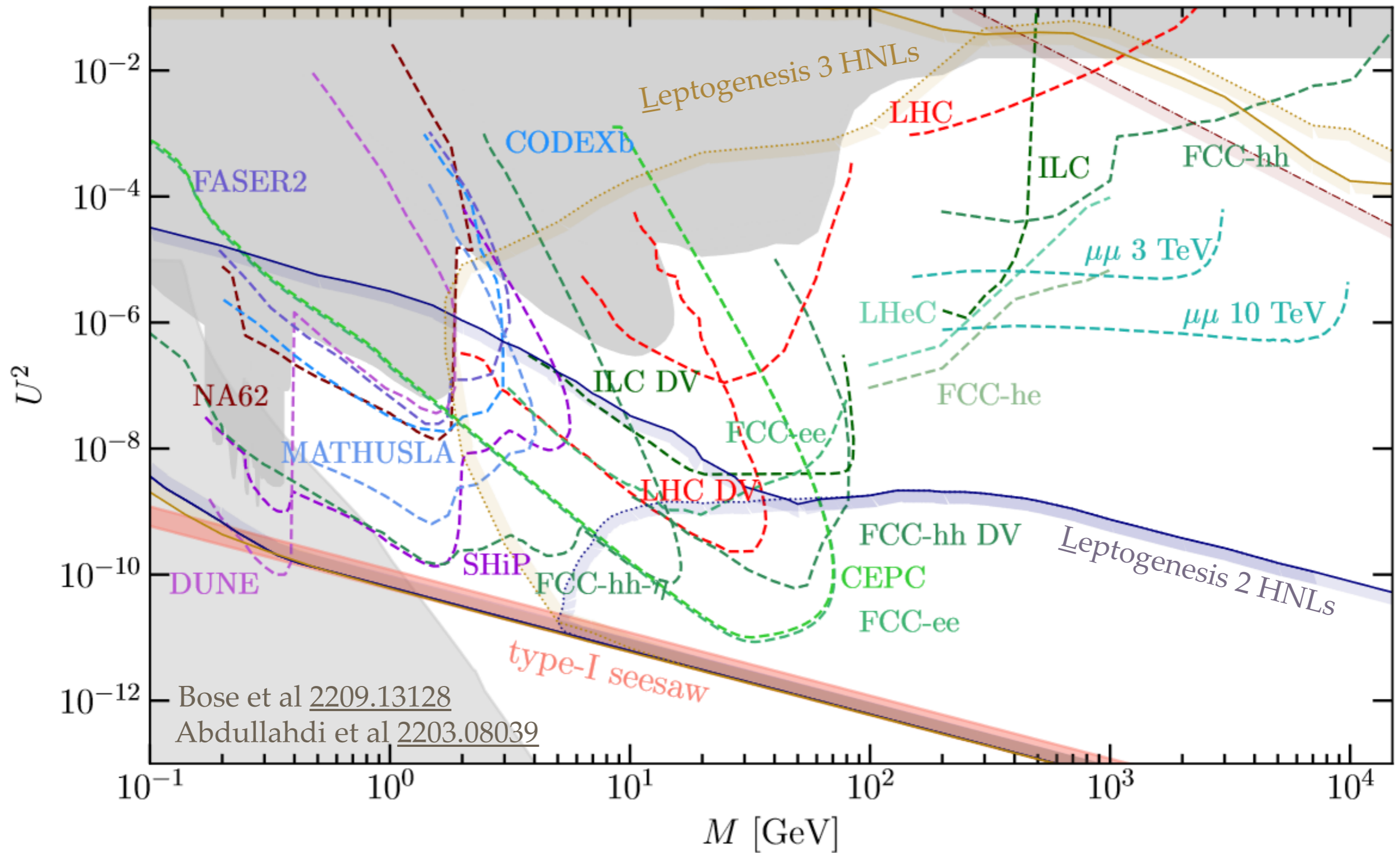
$$\lambda_N = \frac{\beta\gamma}{\Gamma_N} \simeq \frac{1.6}{U^2 c_{\text{dec}}} \left( \frac{M}{\text{GeV}} \right)^{-6} (1 - (M/m_Z)^2) \text{ cm.}$$

$$c_{\text{dec}} = 1 \quad (c_{\text{dec}} = 1/2) \quad \text{for Majorana (Dirac) HNL}$$

# Search Summary



# Search Summary



# A Multi Frontier Adventure!

Indirect probes at accelerators  
rare decays, EWPD,  
lepton universality

absolute neutrino mass  
searches (KATRIN ect.)

non-accelerator  
searches  
(TRISTAN...)

neutrinoless  
double  $\beta$  decay

fixed target experiments  
(SHiP, NA62, DUNE,  
T2K..)

neutrino oscillation  
experiments  
DUNE, Hyper-K

new detectors  
(FASER, Codex-b,  
MATHUSLA, A13X,  
ANUBIS, ...)

Collider searches for heavy neutrinos

X-ray searches: SRG/eROSITA,  
SRG/ART-XC, ATHNEA, XRISM, ...

CMB and LSS :  
absolute neutrino mass

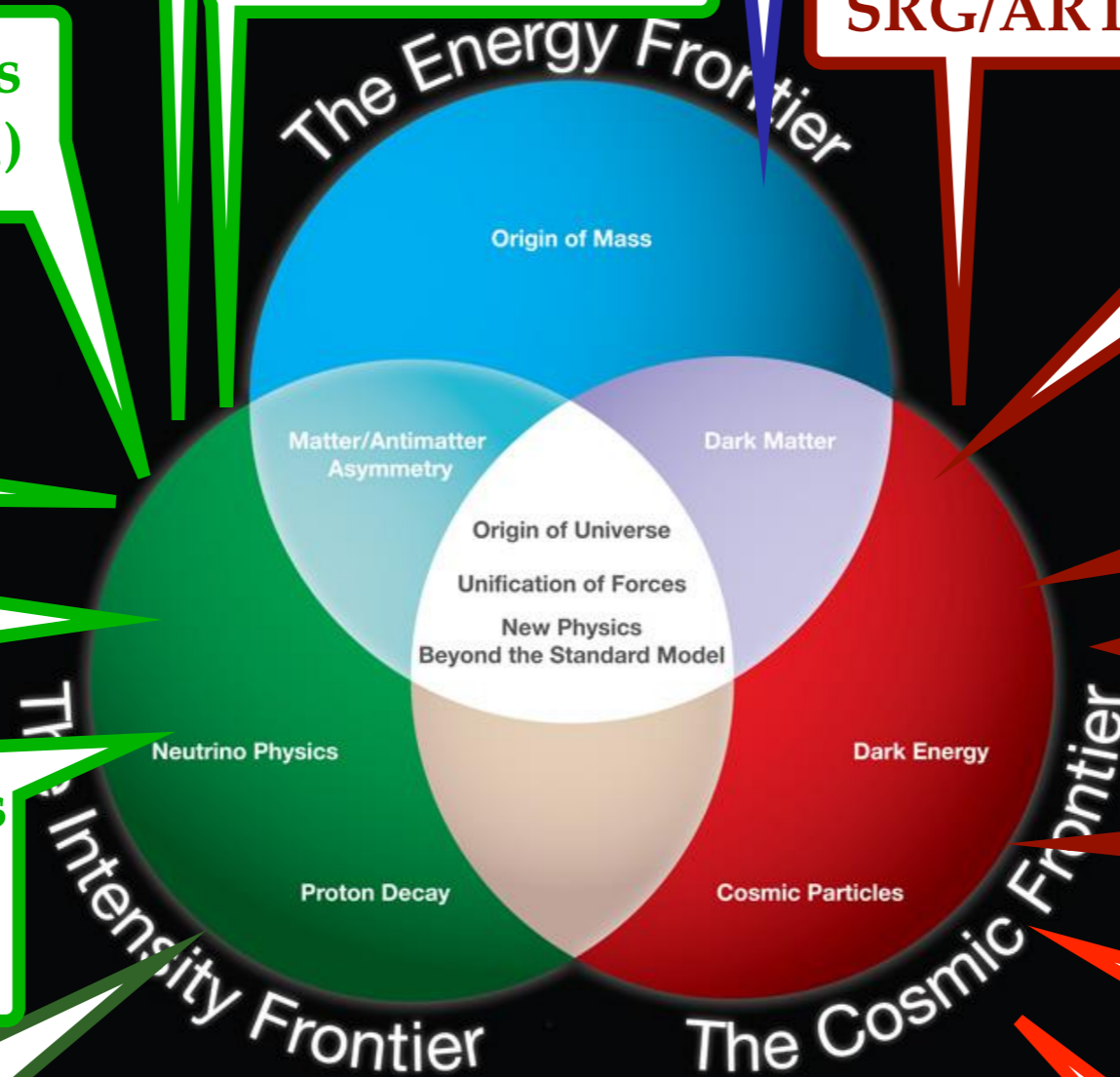
astrophysics:  
supernovae etc.

Structure formation:  
simulation, observation

IGM temperature:  
WDM vs CDM

Theory: leptogenesis  
parameter region

Theory: Sterile neutrino  
DM production



RF, NF, EF, CF, TF



---

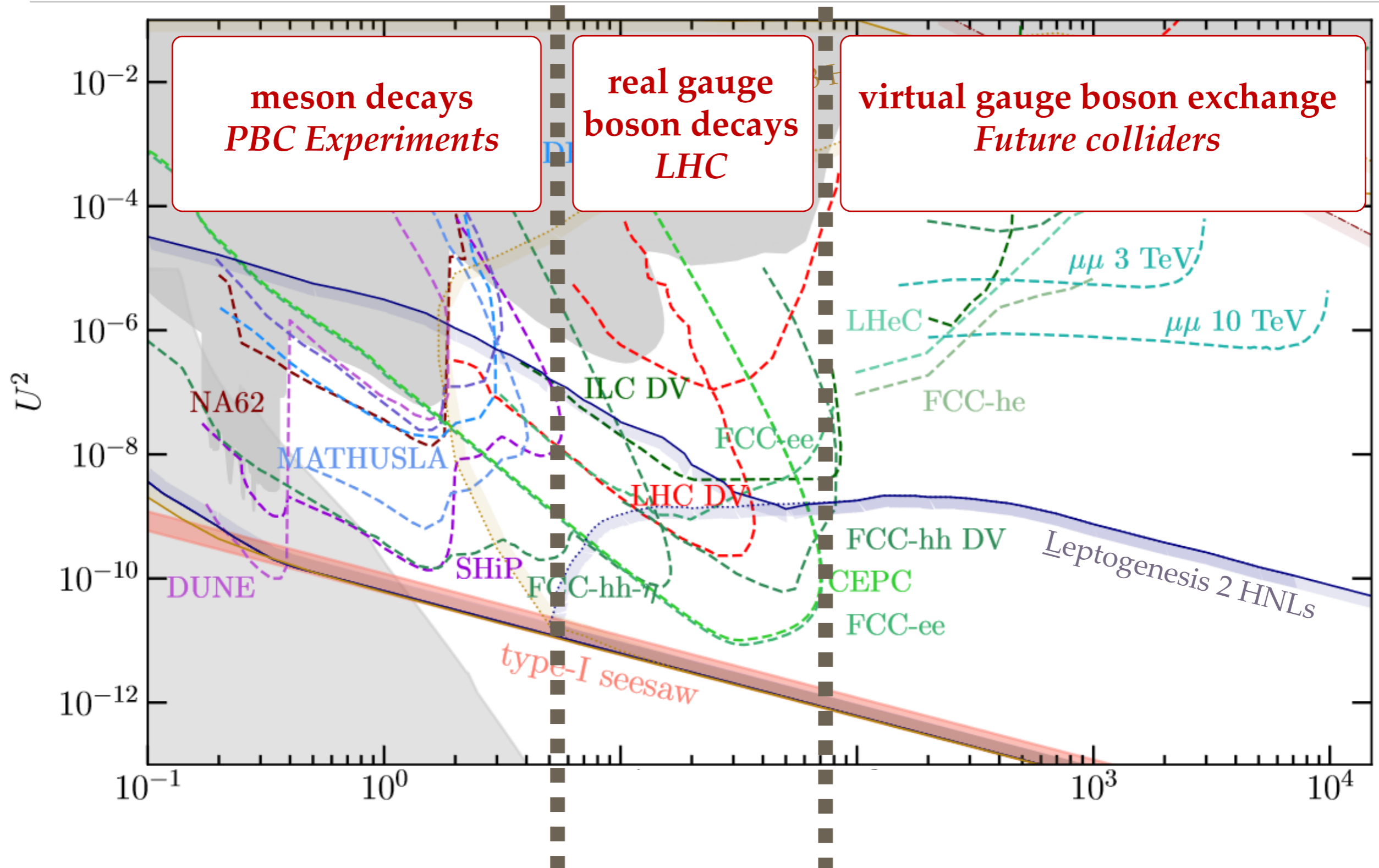
# Summary

---

- Heavy neutrinos with collider accessible masses and couplings can simultaneously explain the light neutrino masses and origin of matter
- Can be realised in natural and UV complete models at the Fermi scale
- LLP searches can still explore orders of magnitude of uncharted terrain!
- Some interesting models can only be probed with LLP searches (νMSM, testable models with discrete symmetries discussed here, ...)
- LLP searches can possibly see thousands of events at the LHC and millions at the FCC-ee, allowing to probe HNL properties in detail and test the origin of neutrino mass and matter in the universe!
- To be continued by Juraj Klarić...

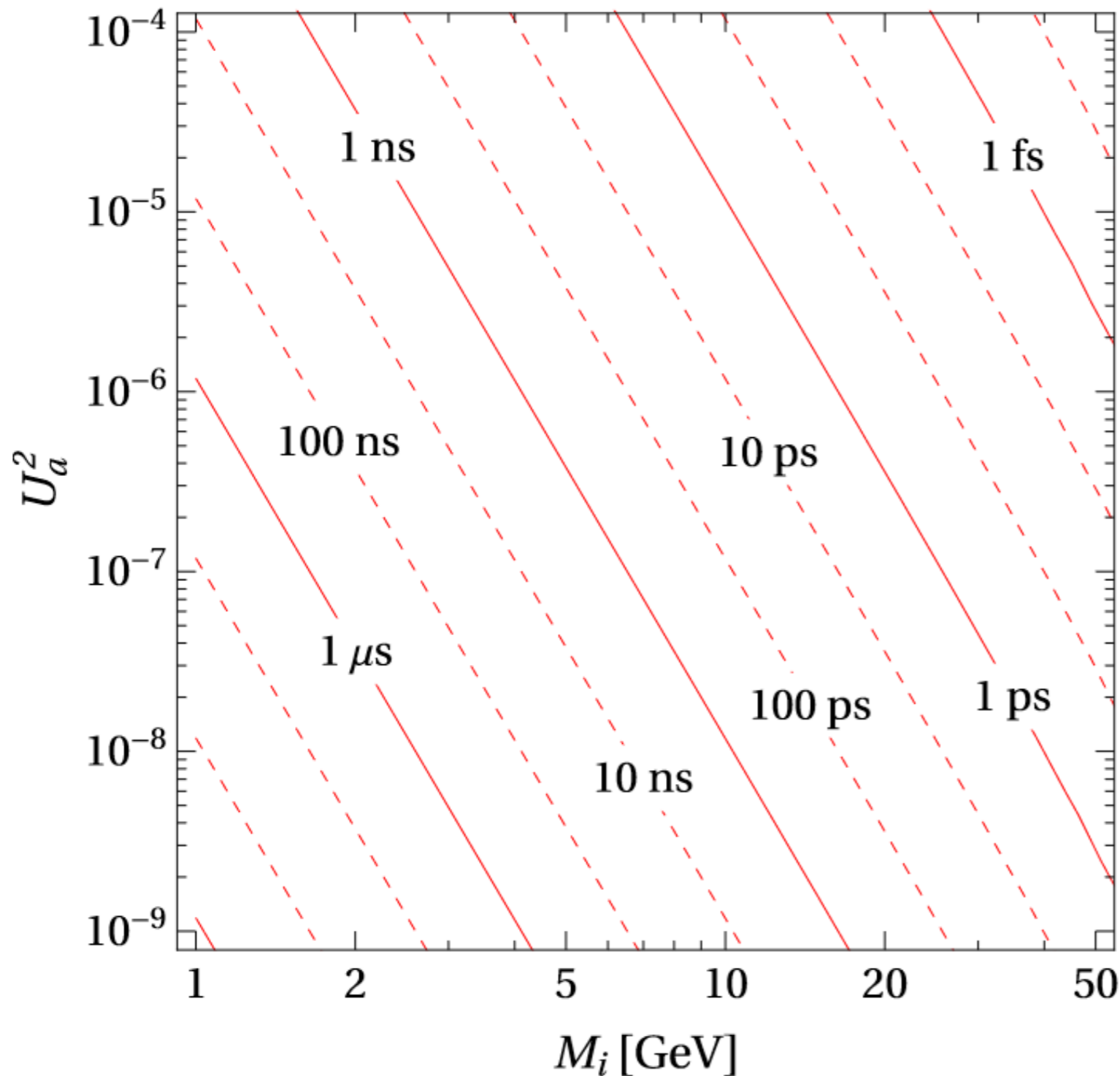
# Backup Slides

# HNL Production



# HNL Lifetime and LNV

# HNL Lifetime



- HNL decay width in rest frame scales as

$$\Gamma_N \sim U^2 M^5 G_F^2$$

- Decay length in lab frame

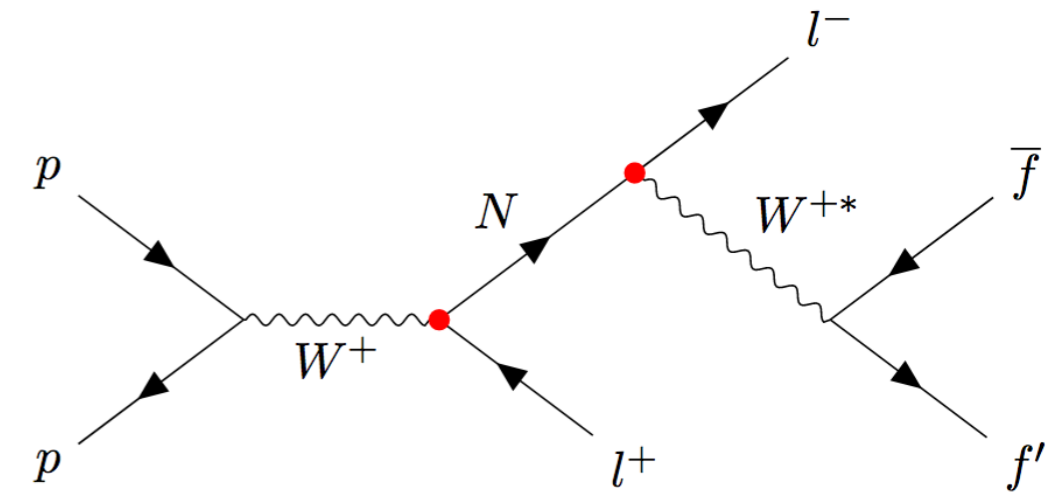
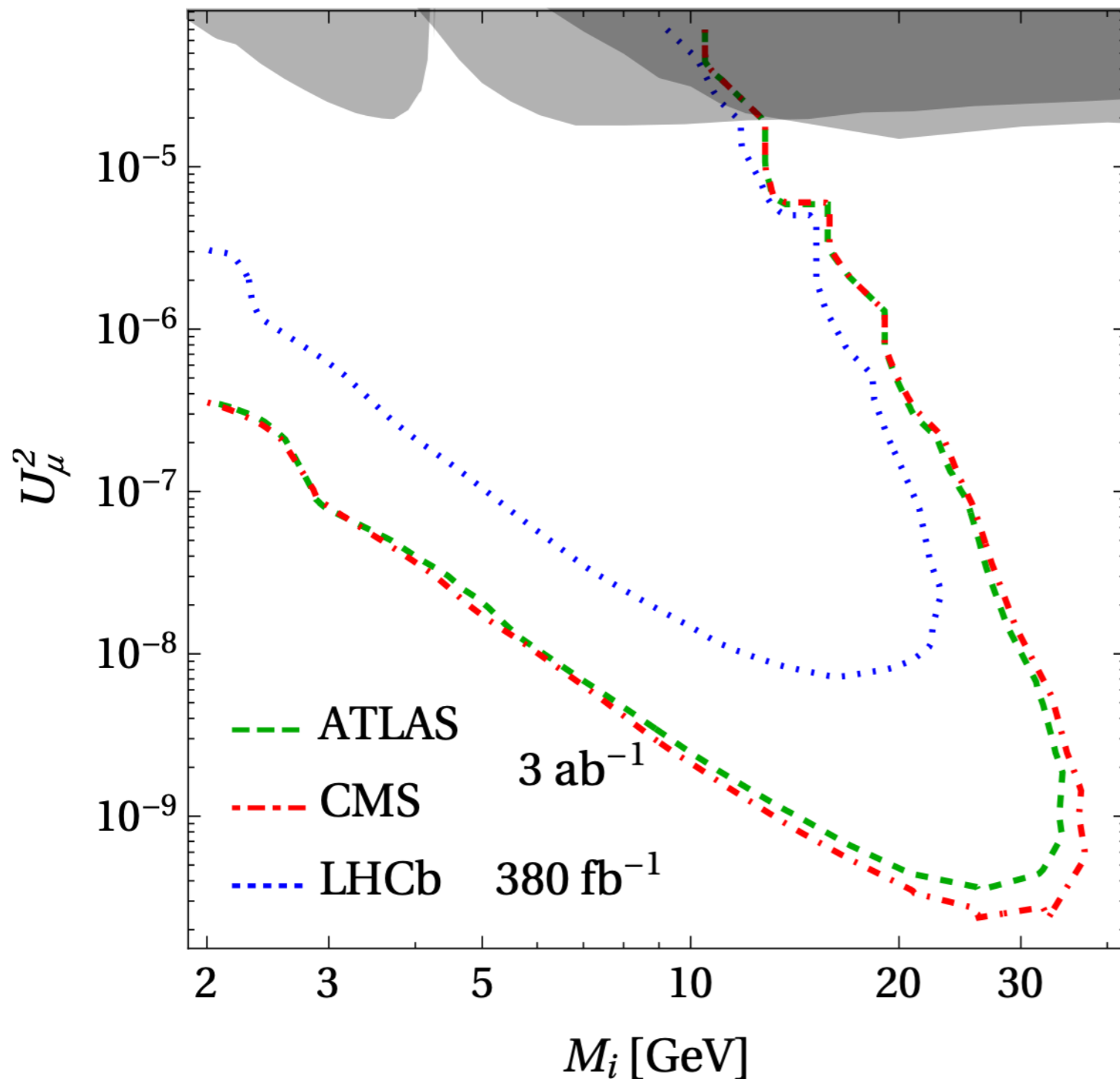
$$\lambda_N = \frac{\beta\gamma}{\Gamma_N} \sim \frac{p}{U^2 M^6 G_F^2}$$

- For  $M \ll m_W$

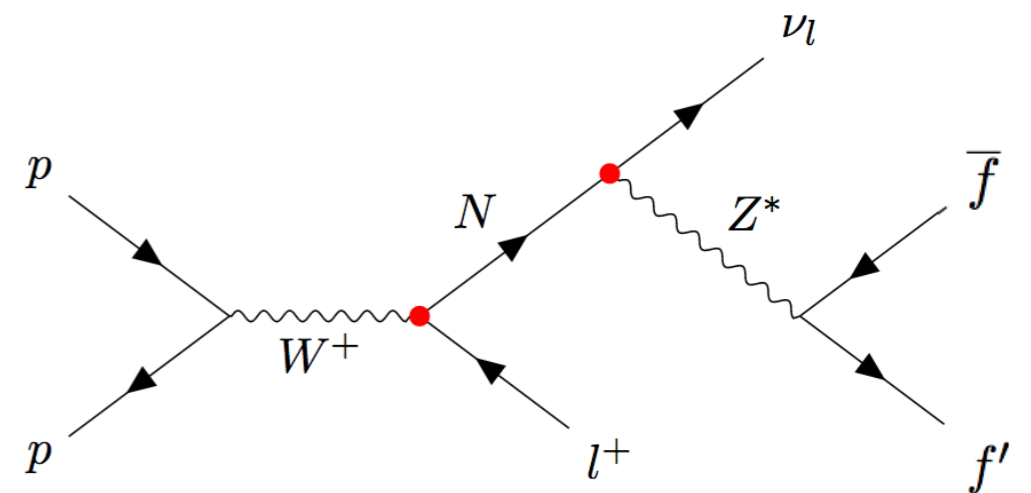
$$\lambda_N \simeq \frac{0.036}{U^2} \left( \frac{p}{\text{GeV}} \right) \left( \frac{M}{\text{GeV}} \right)^{-6} \text{ cm}$$

- In regime where HNLs can be produced efficiently they are often long-lived

# HL-LHC Displaced Vertex Search

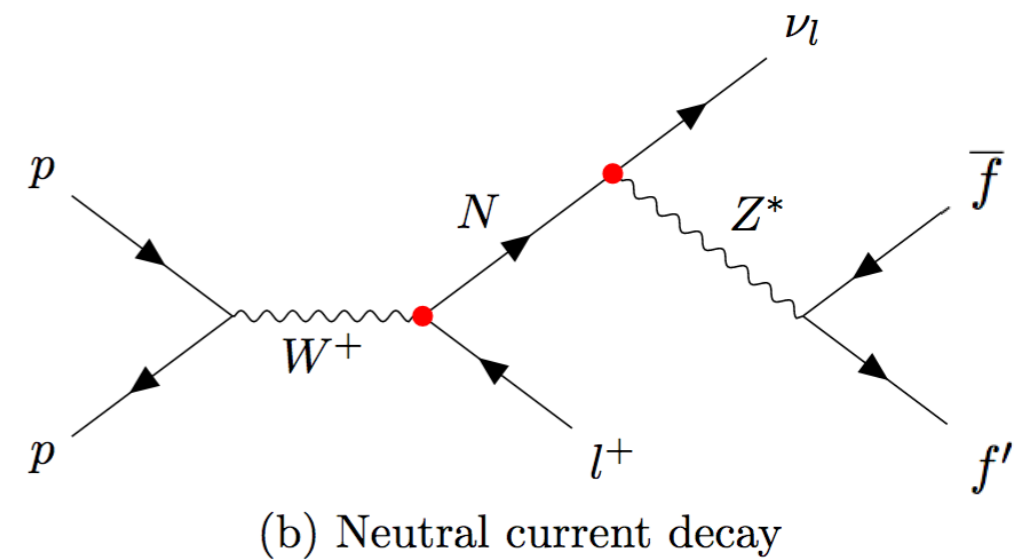
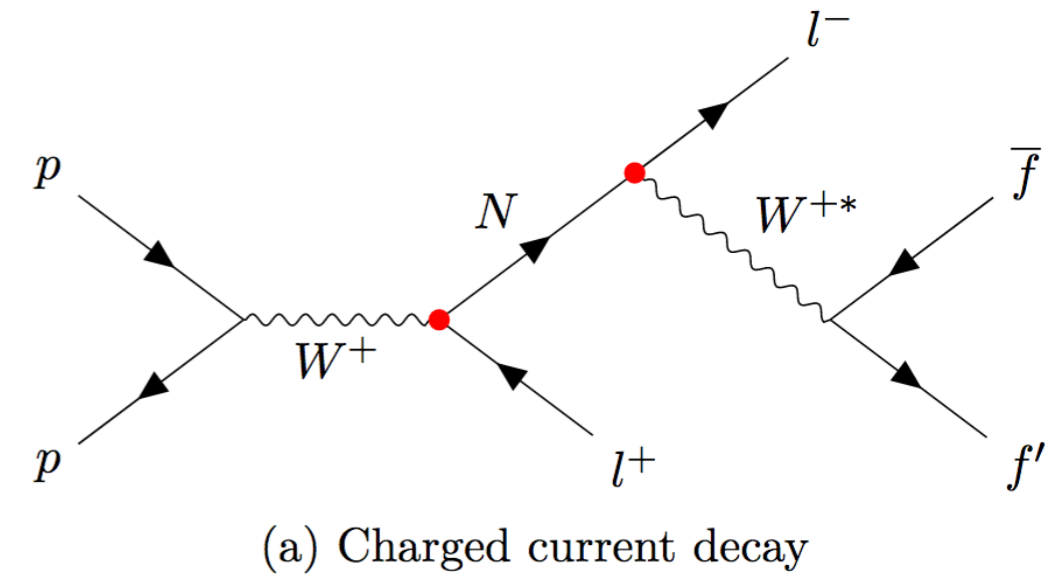
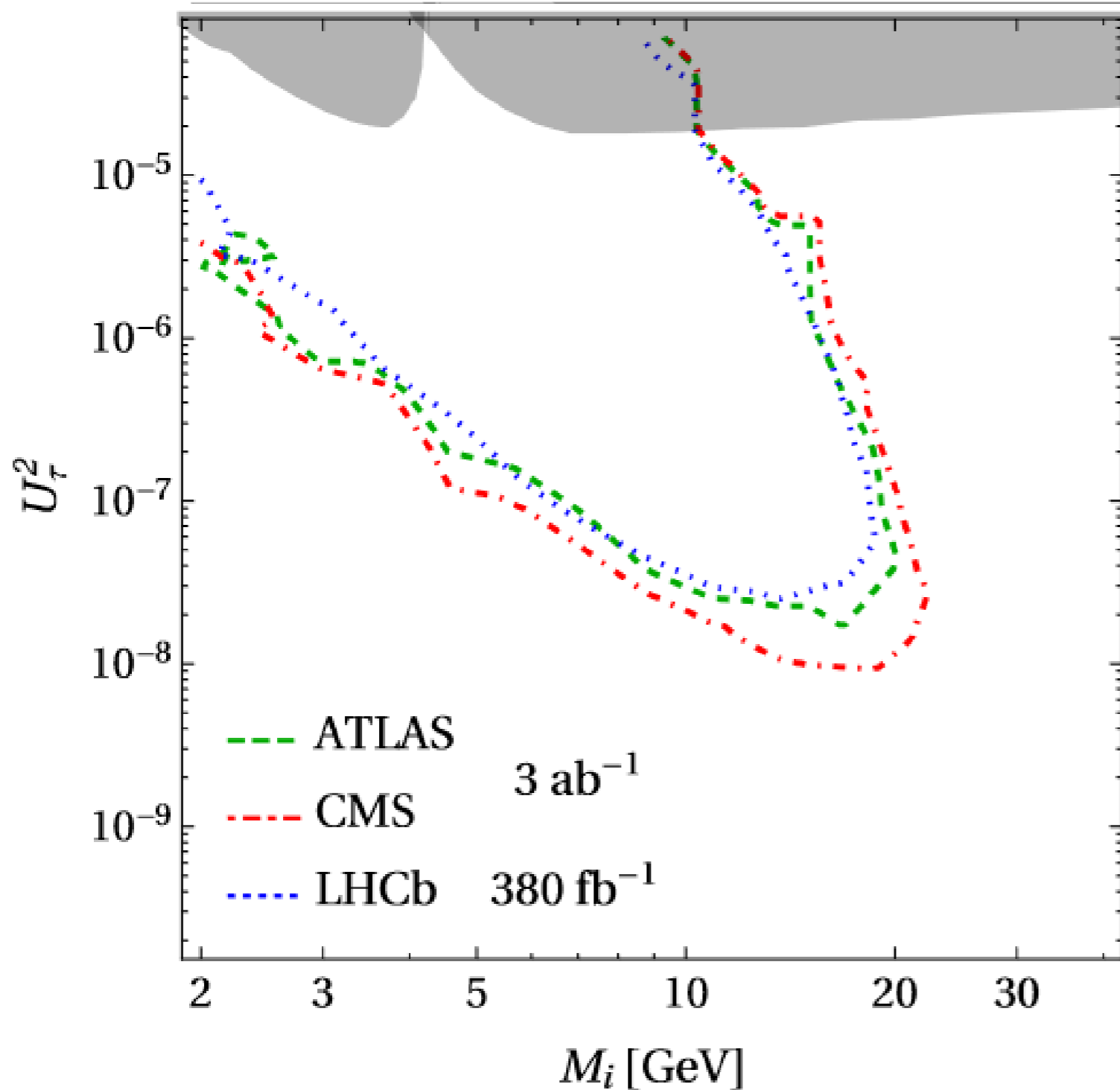


(a) Charged current decay



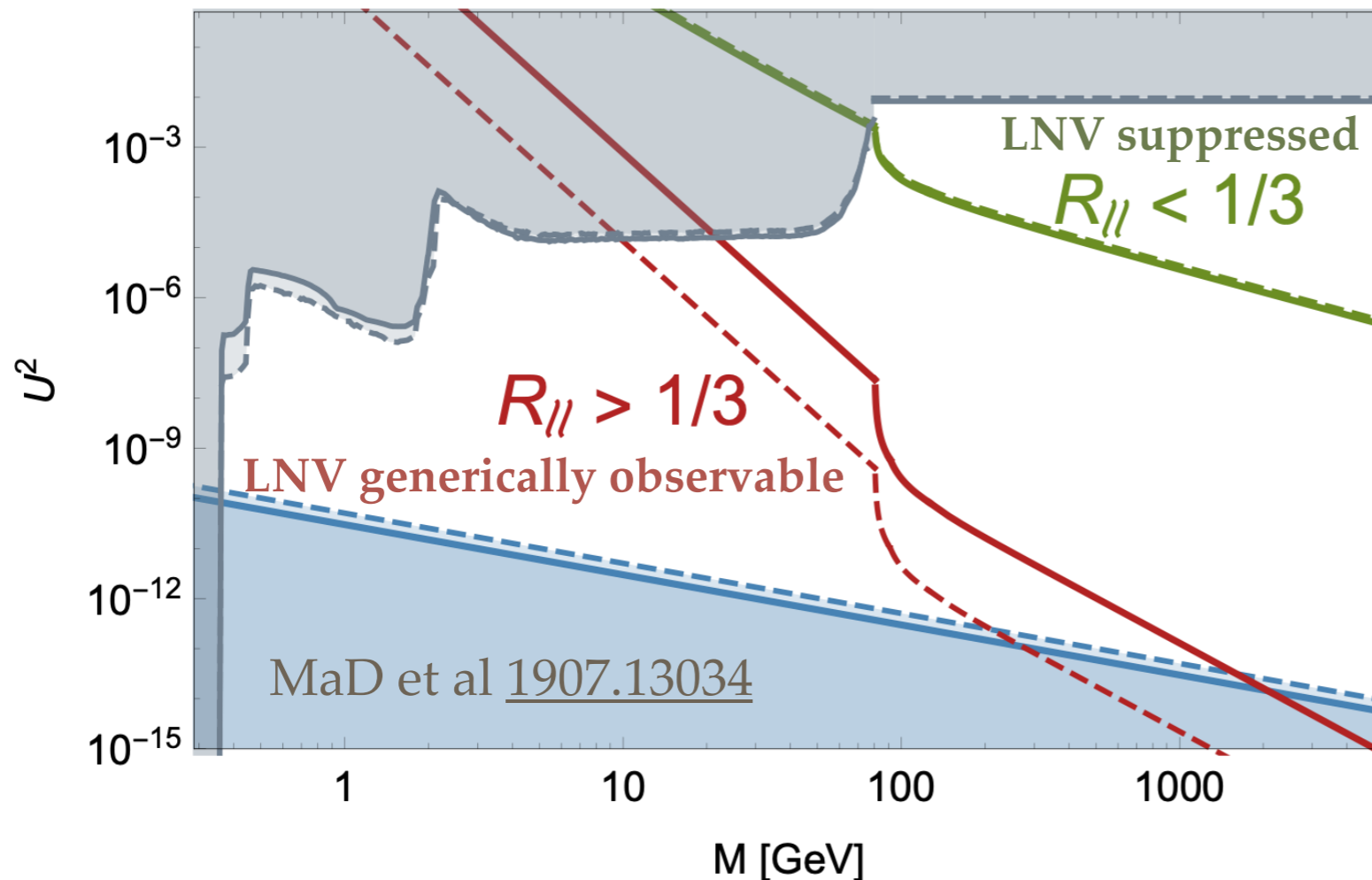
(b) Neutral current decay

# HL-LHC Displaced Vertex Search



# Majorana nature of HNLs: Can LNV decay be observed?

- Protecting symmetry parametrically suppresses LNV processes
- But symmetry must be broken to give masses to neutrinos
- Is this breaking enough?



- **Quasi-degenerate HNLs kinematically indistinguishable**
- **behave like one particle with non-integer  $R_{ll}$ !**

e.g. Anamiati et al [1607.05641](#)

$$\mathcal{R}_{ll} = \frac{\Delta M_{\text{phys}}^2}{2\Gamma_N^2 + \Delta M_{\text{phys}}^2}$$

- suppression happens by destructive interference between exchange of different HNLs
- interference can be avoided if quantum coherence is lost between production and decay
- This happens if HNLs oscillate many times during their lifetime
- Hence, the relevant quantity is the ratio between their lifetime and oscillation frequency



# Constraining $R_{ll}$ from HNL Lifetime

- HNL production cross section is same for Dirac and Majorana:

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow \nu N) = \frac{2}{3} |U_N|^2 \text{BR}(Z \rightarrow \text{invisible}) \left(1 + \frac{m_N^2}{2m_Z^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{m_N^2}{m_Z^2}\right)$$

- HNL decay length differs:  
Dirac:  $c_{dec} = 1/2$   
Majorana:  $c_{dec} = 1$   
$$\lambda_N = \frac{\beta\gamma}{\Gamma_N} \simeq \frac{1.6}{U^2 c_{dec}} \left(\frac{M}{\text{GeV}}\right)^{-6} \left(1 - (M/m_Z)^2\right) \text{ cm.}$$
- HNL mass extracted from full 4-momentum reconstruction or from time-of-flight  
➤ **Extract  $Ua^2$  from total # decays,  $c_{dec}$  from # decays between displacement  $l_0, l_1$**

- BUT: If you have two Majorana HNLs with similar masses that you cannot kinematically distinguish, you effectively see a twice larger  $U^2$
- This factor 2 does not appear in their decay rate, so you would mistake them for a Dirac particle (since the extracted from decay law is half of the one extracted from the total number of HNLs)
- We may introduce one more parameter  $\sigma_N \sim U^2 c_{\text{prod}} \sigma_\nu$
- To further complicate things: For sufficiently small mass splitting there can be interferences between the processes mediated by different HNLs

**dichotomy of Dirac vs Majorana HNLs generally not sufficient to capture realistic models**

# HNL SM Weak Interactions

Common phenomenological description: "Single HNL Model"

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{m_W}{v} \bar{N} \theta_\alpha^* \gamma^\mu e_{L\alpha} W_\mu^+ - \frac{m_Z}{\sqrt{2}v} \bar{N} \theta_\alpha^* \gamma^\mu \nu_{L\alpha} Z_\mu - \frac{M}{v} \theta_\alpha h \bar{\nu}_{L\alpha} N + \text{h.c.}$$

- One flavour of HNLs  $N$
- Couples to SM only through mixing  $\theta_a$  with SM neutrinos, where  $a = e, \mu, \tau$
- Model with five parameters :  $M, \theta_e, \theta_\mu, \theta_\tau,$  and  $R_{ll}$ .
- $R_{ll}$  is ratio of lepton number violating (LNV) to lepton number conserving (LNC)  $N$  decays;  $R_{ll} = 1$  for Majorana  $N$  and  $R_{ll} = 0$  for Dirac  $N$ .

- This is not a realistic model of neutrino mass, but can effectively describe some phenomenological aspects of realistic models with suitable choices of :  $M, \theta_e, \theta_\mu, \theta_\tau, R_{ll},$  with  $R_{ll}$  interpolating between 0 and 1.
- To be a bit more realistic one can introduce two more parameters  $c_{\text{prod}}$  and  $c_{\text{dec}}$ :

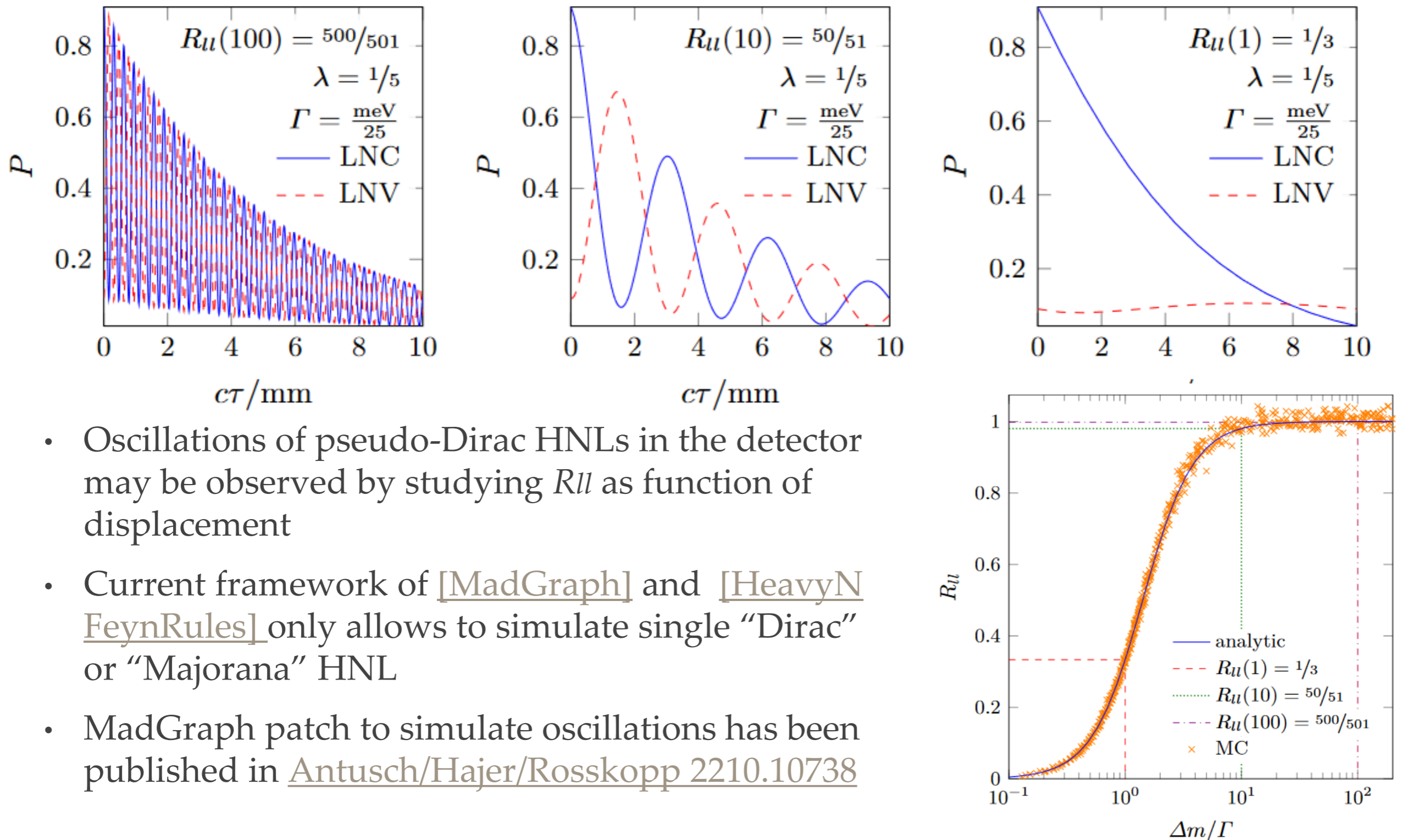
$$\sigma_N \sim U^2 c_{\text{prod}} \sigma_\nu$$

$$\Gamma_N \simeq c_{\text{dec}} \frac{a}{96\pi^3} U^2 M^5 G_F^2$$

- Allows to effectively describe certain limits of realistic models

| mass spectrum                                   | $c_{\text{prod}}$ | $c_{\text{dec}}$ | $R_{ll}$ | appearance   |
|---|-------------------|------------------|----------|--|
| $\Delta M > \delta M_{\text{exp}} \gg \Gamma_N$ | 1                 | 1                | 1        | two Majorana HNLs with mixing $U^2$ each                         |
| $\delta M_{\text{exp}} > \Delta M \gg \Gamma_N$ | 2                 | 1                | 1        | one HNL, mixing $2U^2$ , lifetime as Dirac, $R_{ll}$ as Majorana |
| $\delta M_{\text{exp}} > \Gamma_N \gg \Delta M$ | 2                 | 1                | 0        | one Dirac HNL with mixing $2U^2$                                 |

# Simulating Heavy Neutrino Oscillations

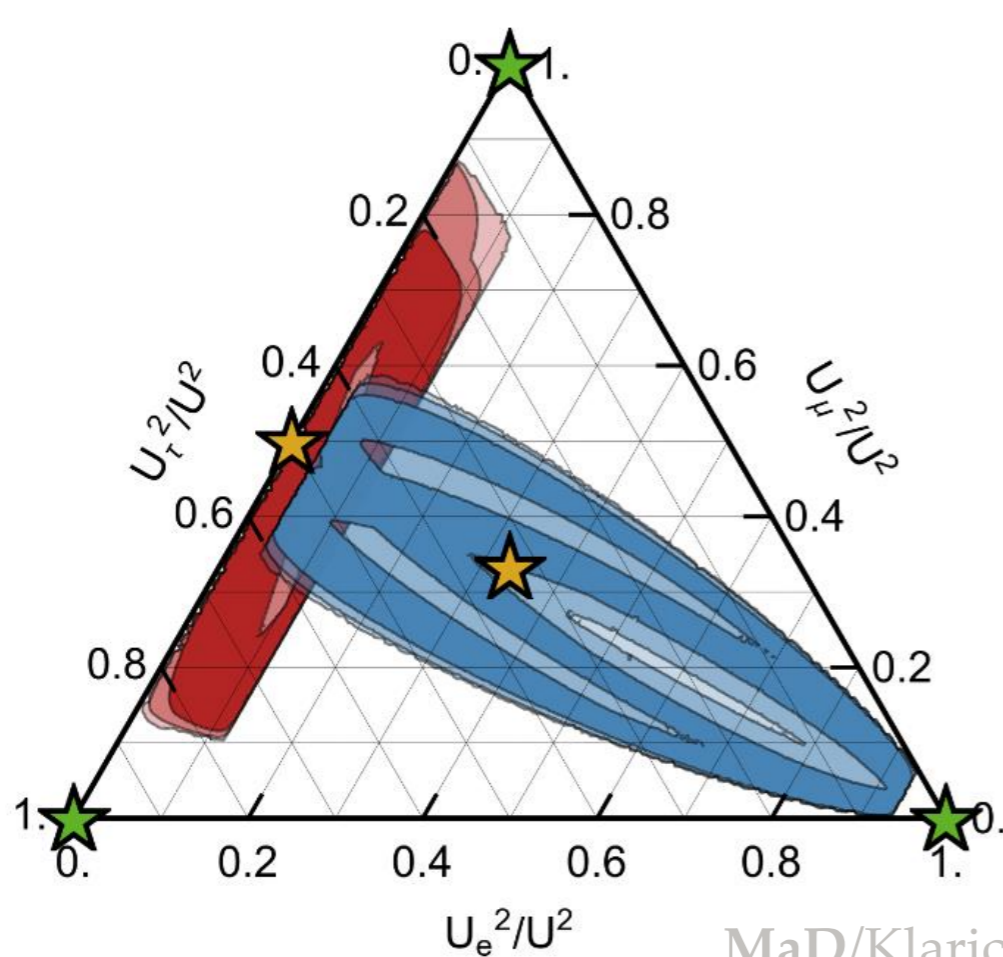


- Oscillations of pseudo-Dirac HNLs in the detector may be observed by studying  $R_{ll}$  as function of displacement
- Current framework of [\[MadGraph\]](#) and [\[HeavyN FeynRules\]](#) only allows to simulate single “Dirac” or “Majorana” HNL
- MadGraph patch to simulate oscillations has been published in [Antusch/Hajer/Roskopp 2210.10738](#)

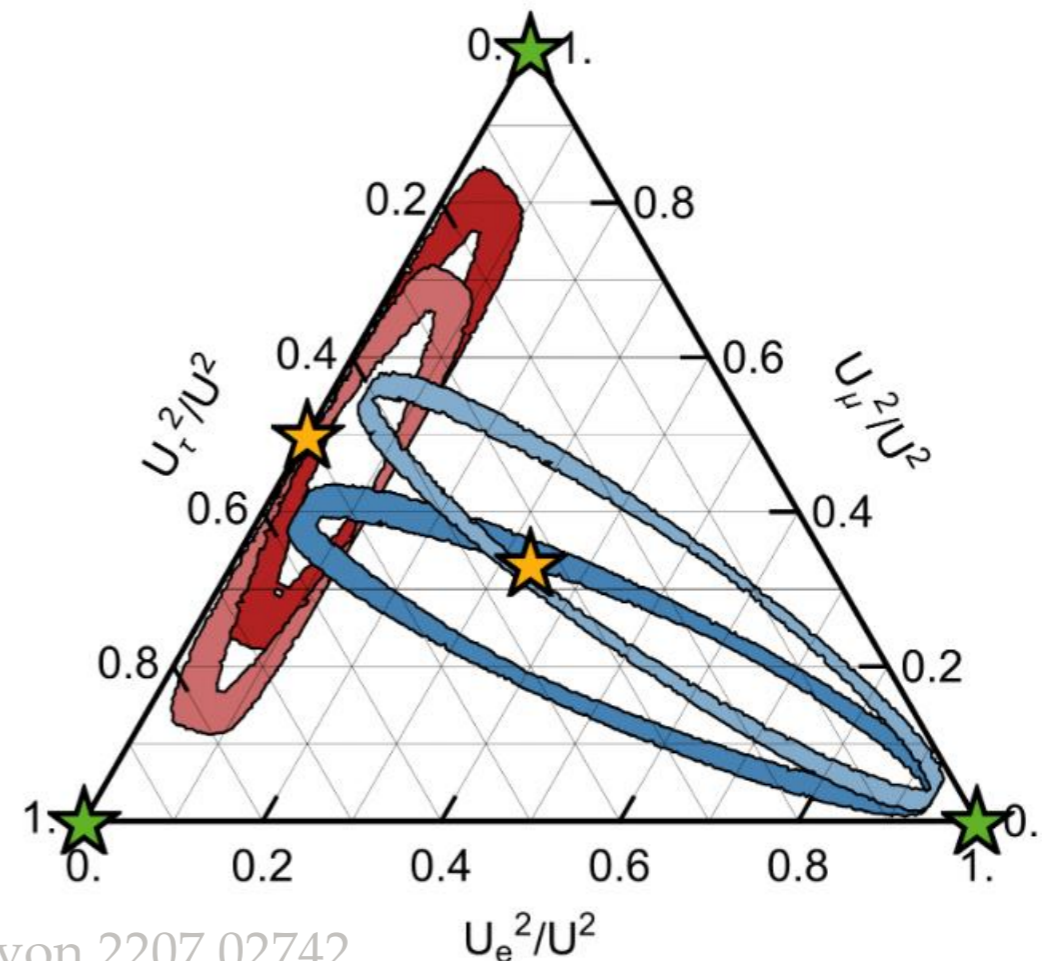
# Complementarity and Testability

# Majorana Phases

- Position in the triangle is basically given by parameters in PMNS  
Hernandez et al [1606.06719](#) MaD et al [1609.09069](#)
- After measuring Dirac phase at DUNE or HyperK, Majorana phase is only unknown
- Hence: branching ratios provide indirect probe of Majorana phase  
MaD et al [1609.09069](#) Caputo et al [1611.05000](#)



Current constraints

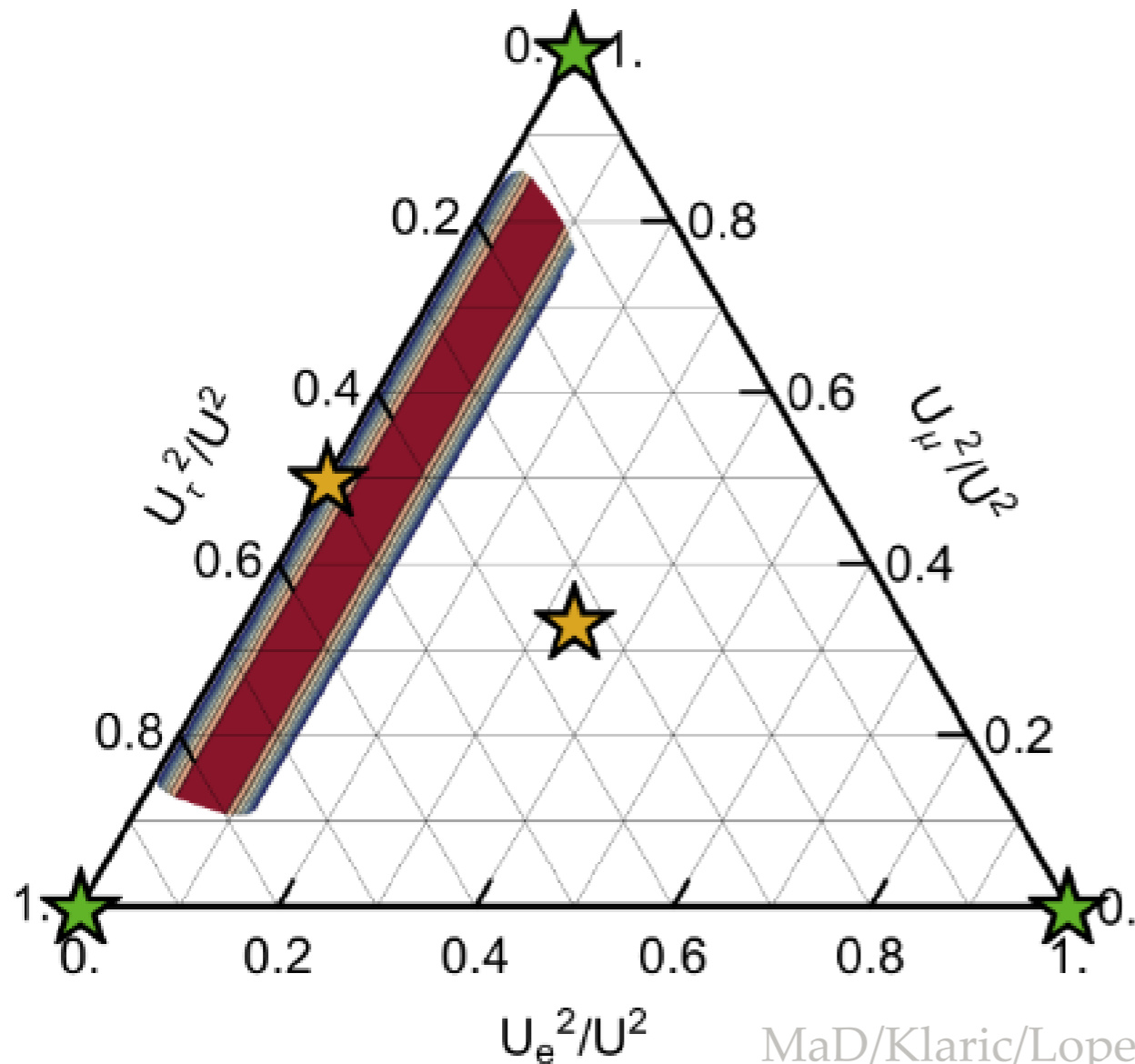


DUNE projection

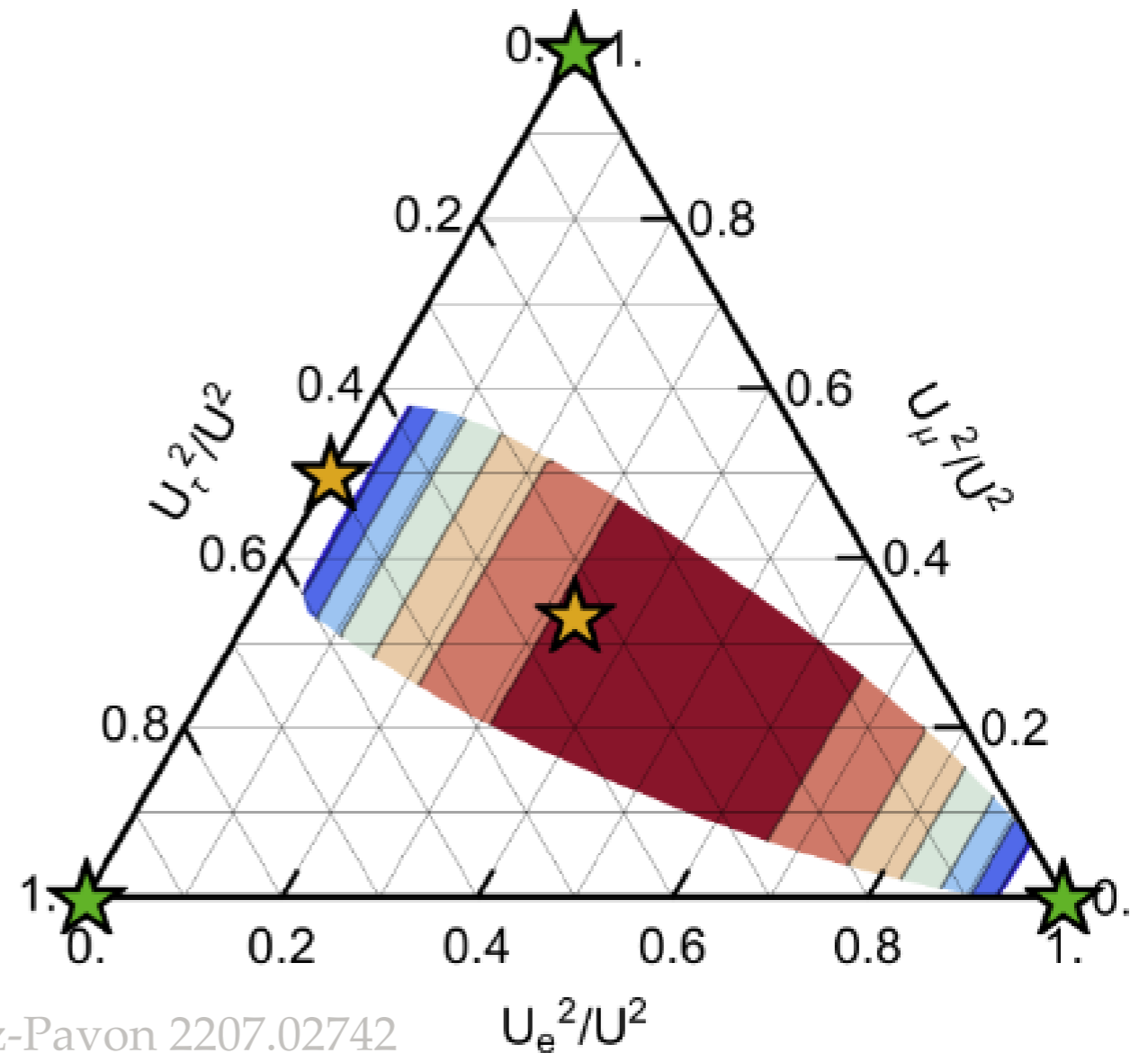
MaD/Klaric/Lopez-Pavon [2207.02742](#)

# Predictions for $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

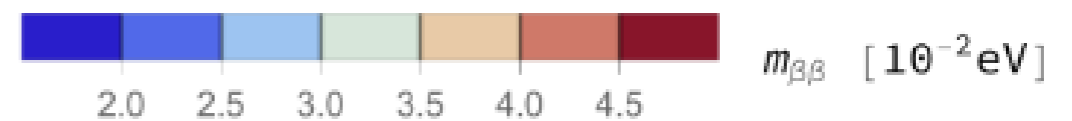
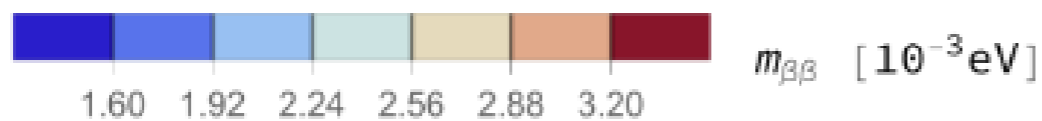
normal ordering



inverted ordering



MaD/Klaric/Lopez-Pavon [2207.02742](#)



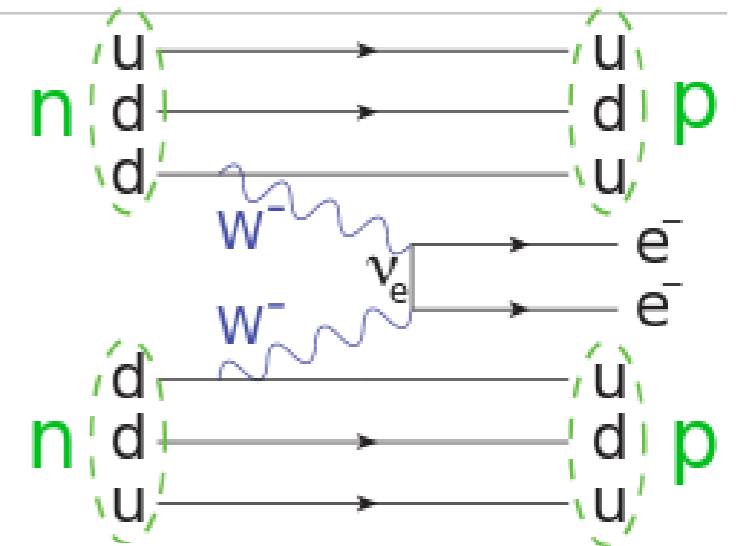
# Heavy neutrinos in $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

- Heavy mass states also contribute to  $m_{\beta\beta}$

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i (U_{\nu})_{ei}^2 m_i + \sum_I \Theta_{eI}^2 M_I f_A(M_I) \right|$$

$$= \left| [1 - f_A(\bar{M})] m_{\beta\beta}^{\nu} + \sum_I M_I \Theta_{eI}^2 [f_A(M_I) - f_A(\bar{M})] \right|$$

suppression of standard contribution
new contribution from RH neutrinos



# Parameter Spaces

$$F = \frac{1}{v} U_\nu \sqrt{m_\nu^{\text{diag}}} \mathcal{R} \sqrt{M^{\text{diag}}}$$

Casas/Ibarra 01

## 2 Heavy Neutrinos ( $\nu$ MSM)

- + 2 RHN masses
- + 1 *complex* ( $\times 2$ ) angle
- + 2 light neutrino masses
- + 3 PMNS angles
- + 1 *CP* phase  $\delta$
- + 1 Majorana phase  $\alpha$

11 (6 free) parameters

## 3 Heavy Neutrinos

- + 3 RHN masses
- + 3 *complex* ( $\times 2$ ) angles
- + 2 + 1 light neutrino masses
- + 3 PMNS angles
- + 1 *CP* phase  $\delta$
- + 2 Majorana phases  $\alpha_{1,2}$

18 (13 free) parameters



# Full Testability?

Higgs vev  $v$

light neutrino  
mixing angles

light neutrino  
mass splittings

$$F = \frac{1}{v} U_\nu \sqrt{m_\nu^{\text{diag}}} \mathcal{R} \sqrt{M^{\text{diag}}}$$

Casas/Ibarra 01

Dirac phase  $\delta$   
Majorana phase  $\alpha$

lightest  $\nu$  mass

complex  
angle(s)  $\omega$

*HNL*-masses

## 2 Heavy Neutrinos ( $\nu$ MSM)

- + 2 RHN masses
- + 1 *complex* ( $\times 2$ ) angle
- + 2 light neutrino masses
- + 3 PMNS angles
- + 1 *CP* phase  $\delta$
- + 1 Majorana phase  $\alpha$

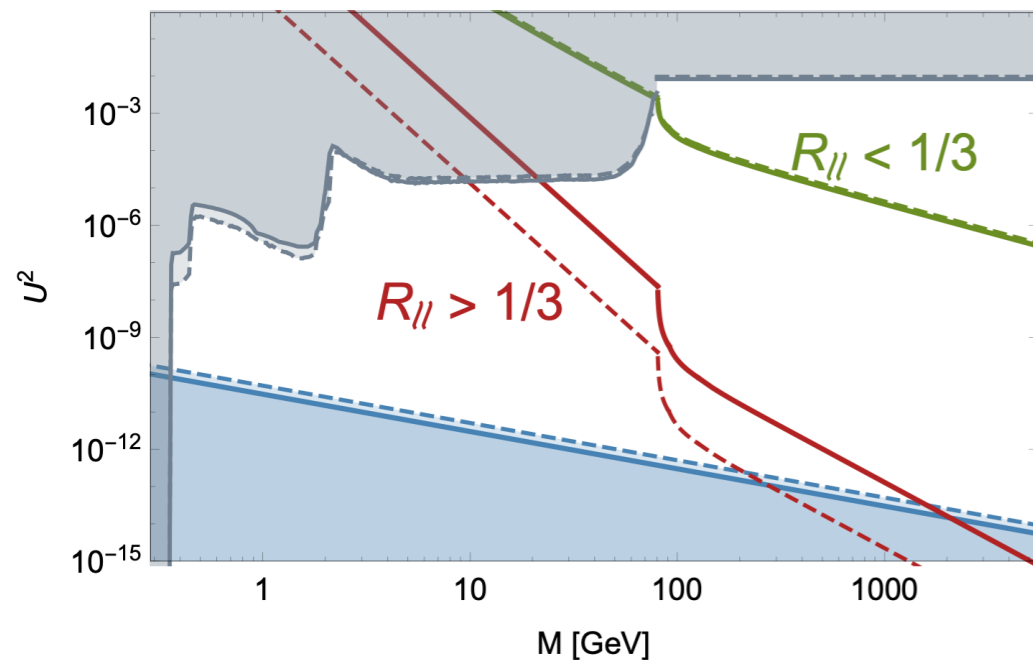
11 (6 free) parameters

# How to measure $\Delta M$ ?

ratio of LNV to LNC decays is sensitive to  $\Delta M$

$$\mathcal{R}_{ll} = \frac{\Delta M_{\text{phys}}^2}{2\Gamma_N^2 + \Delta M_{\text{phys}}^2}$$

Anamiati et al [1607.05641](#)



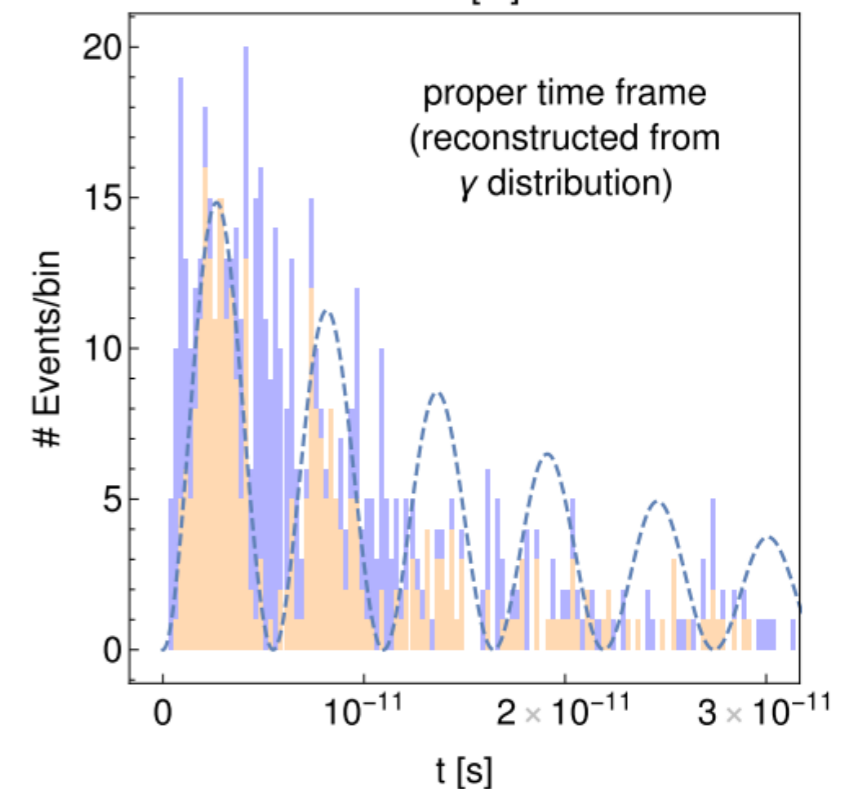
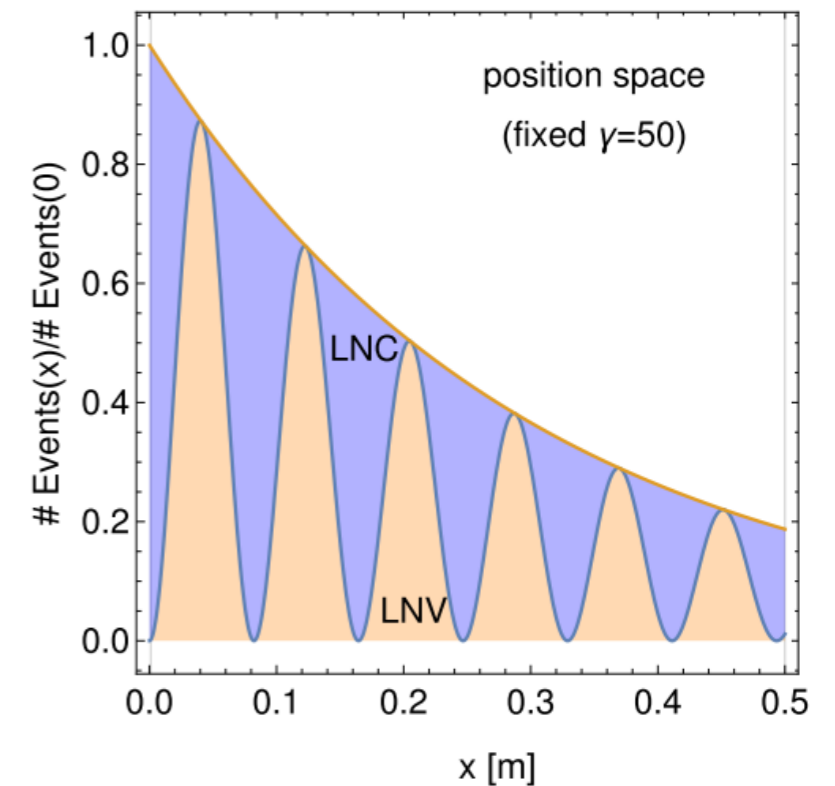
MaD/Klaric/Klose [1907.13034](#)

HNL oscillations may be resolved in LHC detectors

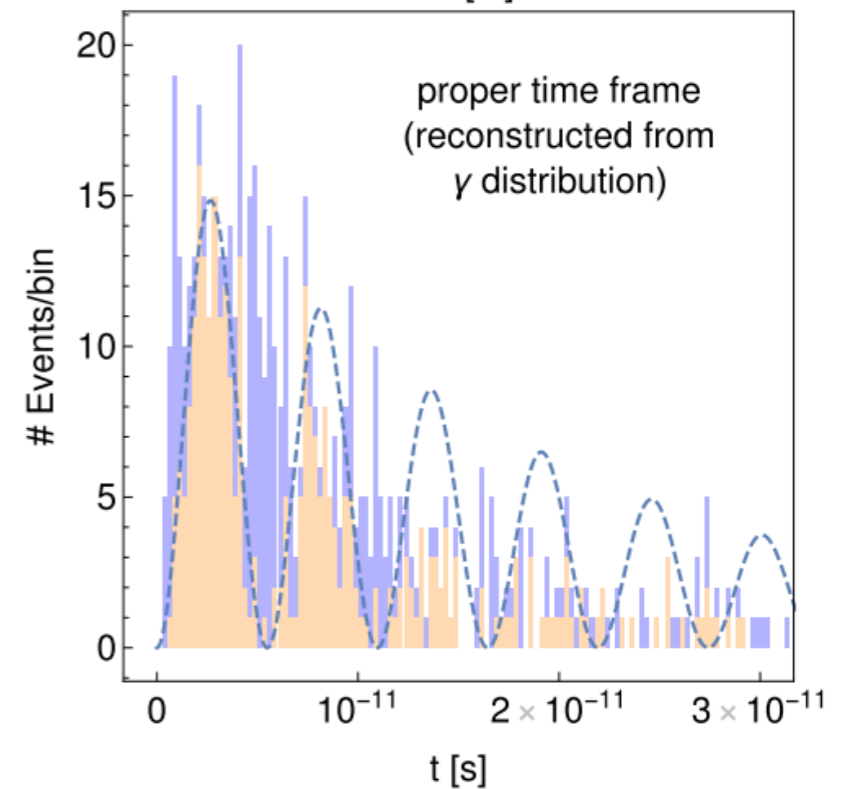
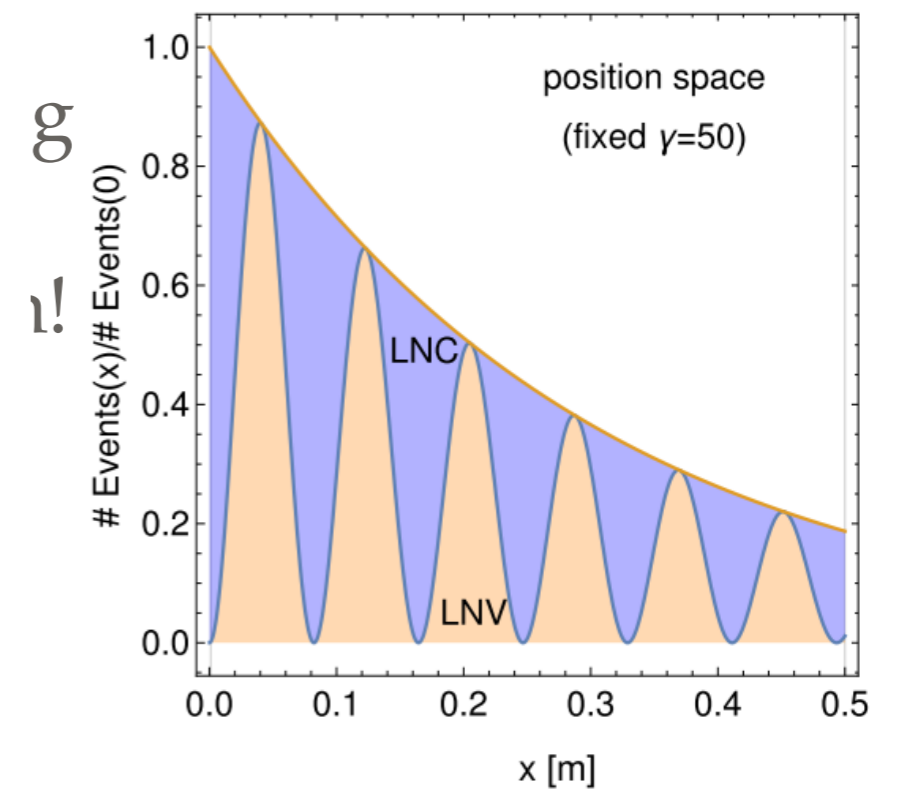
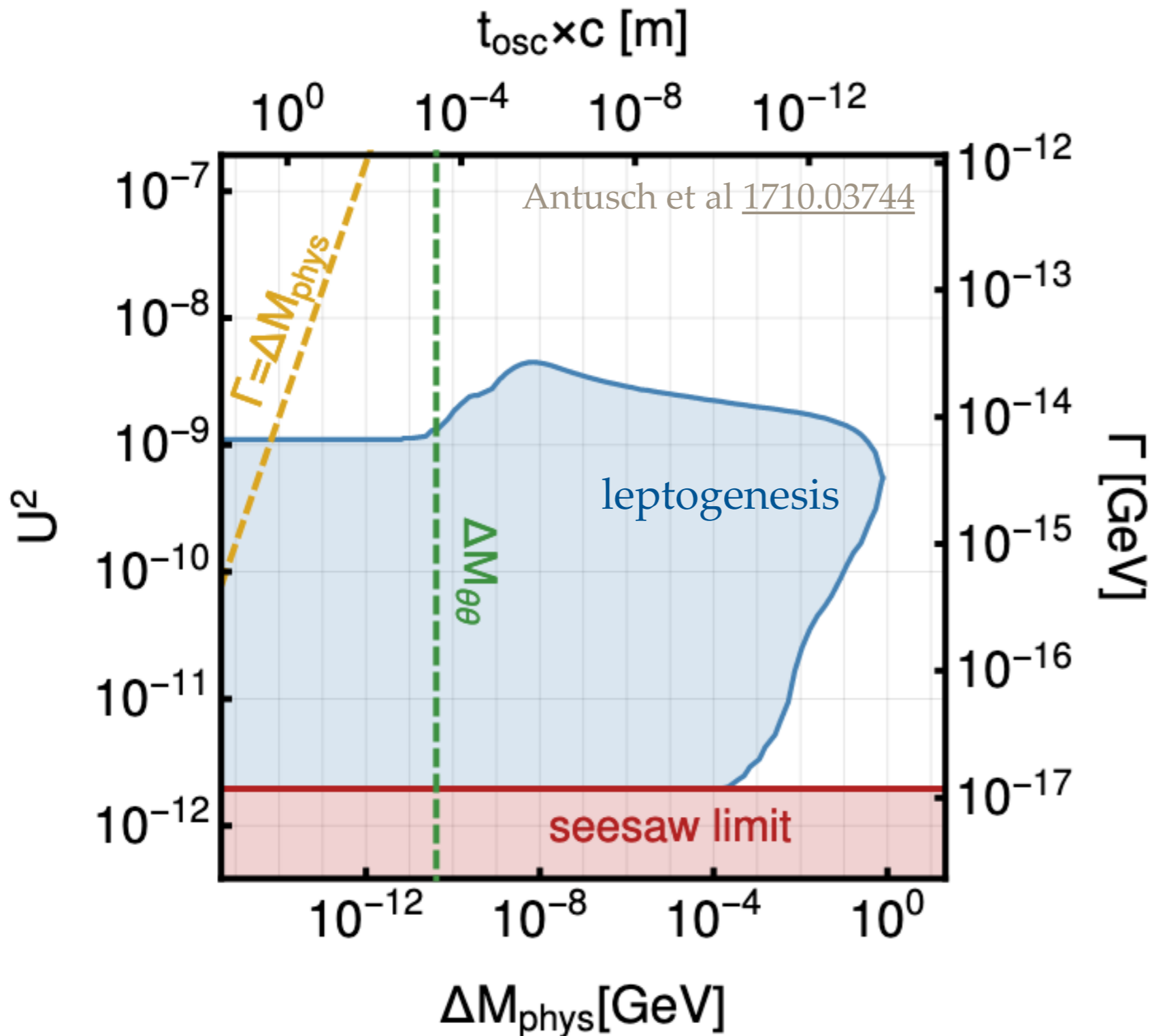
Antusch et al [1709.03797](#)

Measuring  $R_{ll}$  as a function of displacement helps testing leptogenesis!

Antusch et al [1710.03744](#)



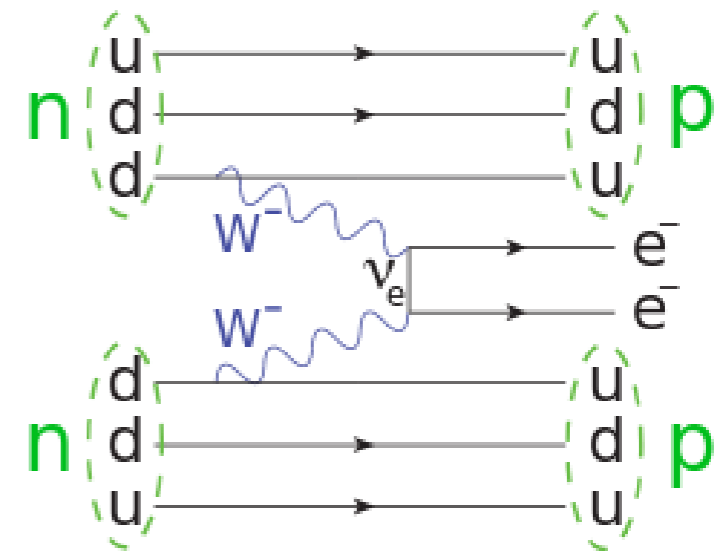
# Testing Leptogenesis



# Heavy neutrinos in $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

- Heavy mass states also contribute to  $m_{\beta\beta}$

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i (U_{\nu})_{ei}^2 m_i + \sum_I \Theta_{eI}^2 M_I f_A(M_I) \right|$$



- Example: Minimal model with 2 RH neutrinos

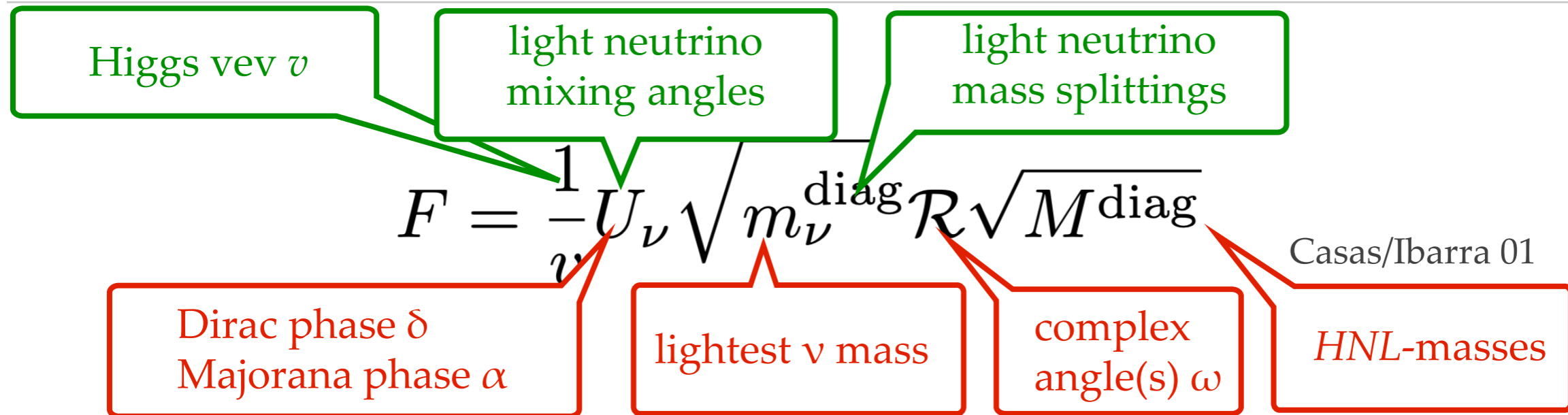
$$m_{\beta\beta} \simeq \left| [1 - f_A(\bar{M})] m_{\beta\beta}^\nu \right|$$

new contribution from RH neutrinos is sensitive to  $\text{Re}\omega$

$$+ \left| f_A^2(\bar{M}) \frac{\bar{M}^2}{\langle p^2 \rangle} \frac{\Delta M}{\bar{M}} |\Delta m_{\text{atm}}| \sin^2 \theta_{13} e^{2\text{Im}\omega} e^{-2i(\text{Re}\omega + \delta)} \right|$$

suppression of standard contribution

# Full Testability!



## 2 Heavy Neutrinos ( $\nu$ MSM)

- + 2 RHN masses
- + 1 *complex* ( $\times 2$ ) angle
- + 2 light neutrino masses
- + 3 PMNS angles
- + 1 *CP* phase  $\delta$
- + 1 Majorana phase  $\alpha$

11 (6 free) parameters

- In the minimal model ( $\nu$ MSM-like) all parameters can in principle be constrained by experiment  
 Hernandez et al [1606.06719](#) MaD et al [1609.09069](#)
- This makes it a UV complete and testable model of neutrino masses and baryogenesis (and possibly a third HNL is DM)
- It is also a poster child example of cross frontier research