

(Biased) Overview of Heavy Neutral Leptons

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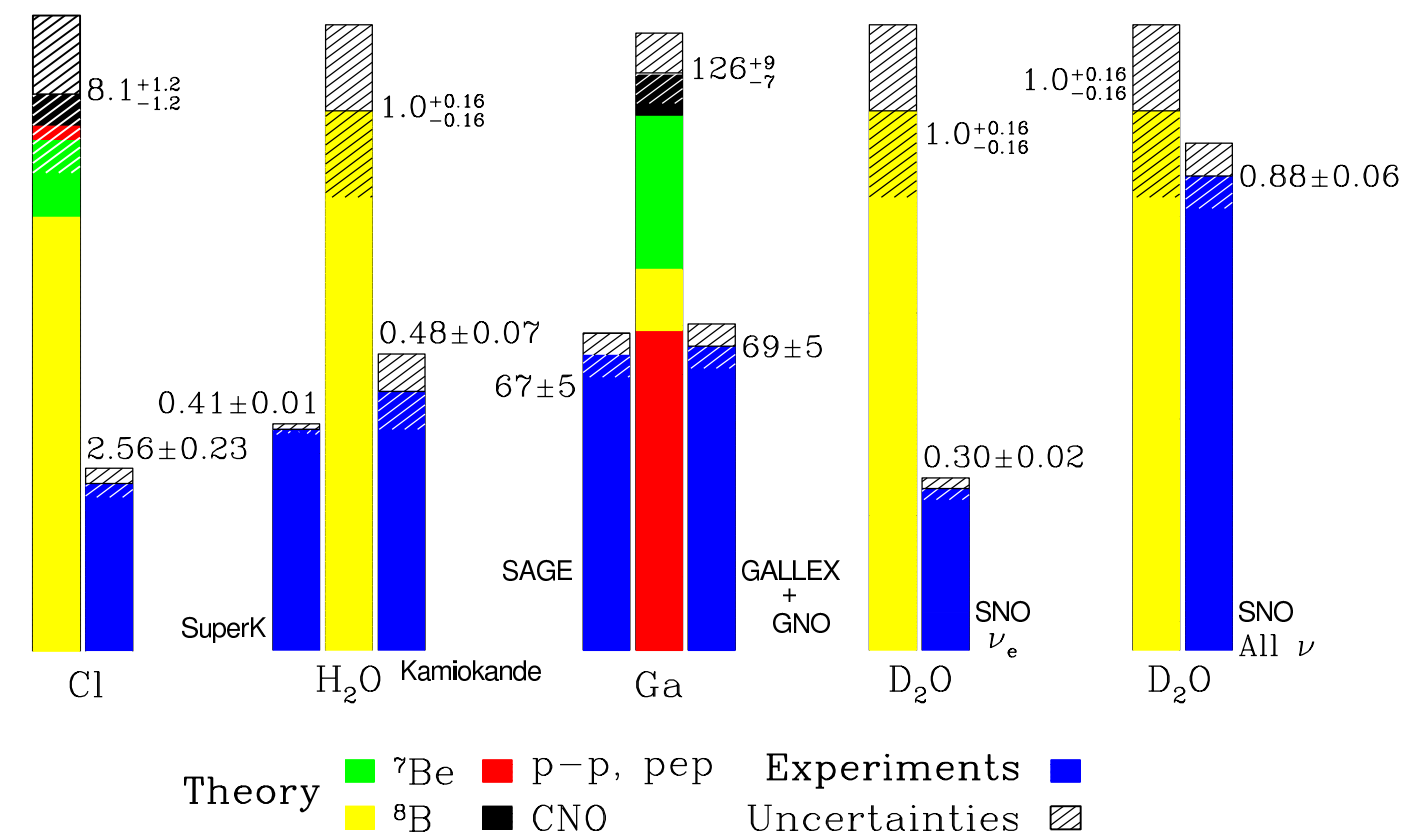
Dark Interactions 2024

Oct. 17, 2024

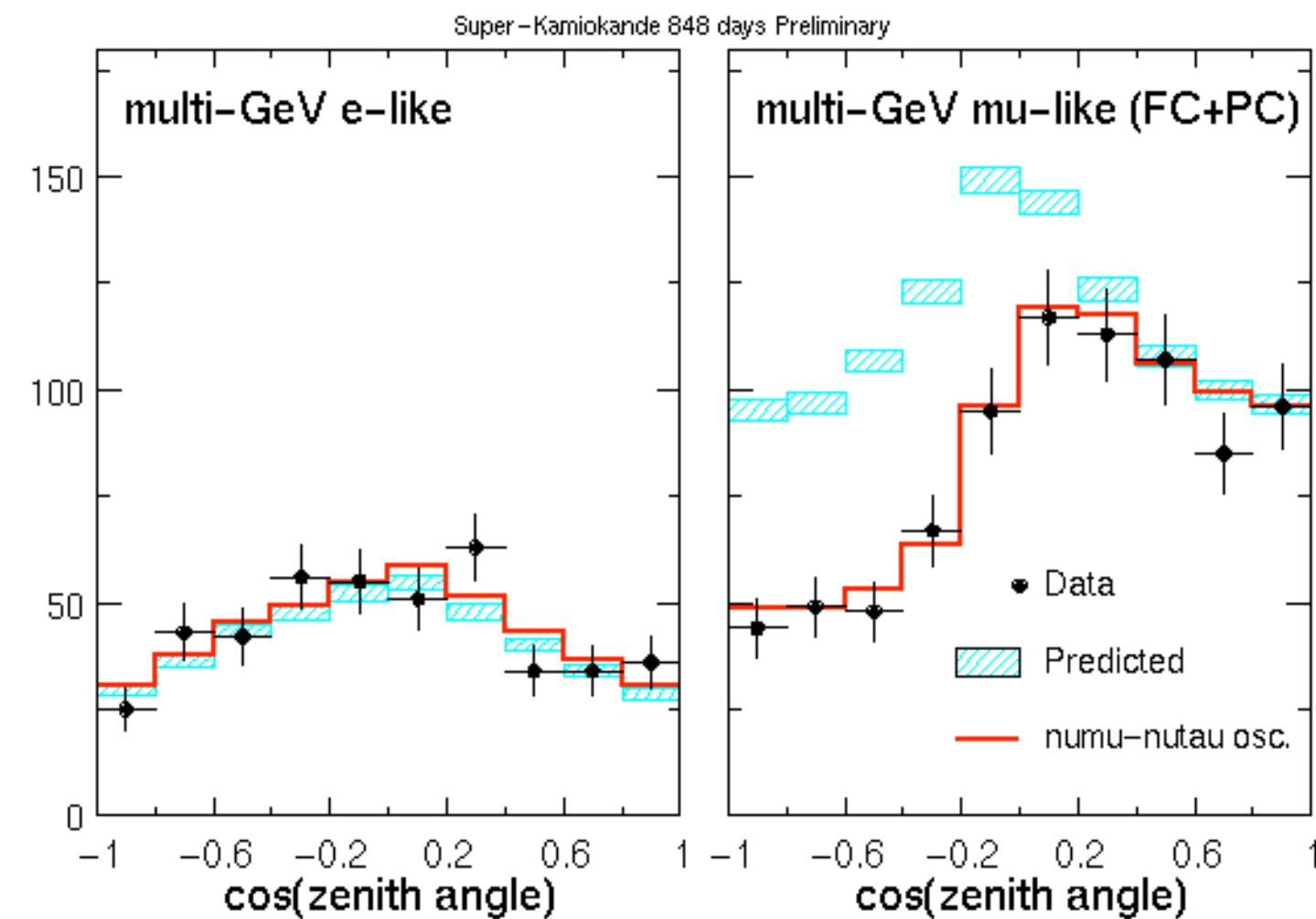
Neutrino Oscillations

Solar Neutrinos

Total Rates: Standard Model vs. Experiment
Bahcall-Serenelli 2005 [BS05(OP)]



Atmospheric Neutrinos



Neutrino oscillations only possible if
neutrinos have mass!

$$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) \simeq |U_\alpha|^2 |U_\beta|^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E}\right)$$

[NuFit-6.0 arXiv:2410.05380](#)

	Normal Ordering (best fit)		Inverted Ordering ($\Delta\chi^2 = 6.1$)	
	bfp $\pm 1\sigma$	3σ range	bfp $\pm 1\sigma$	3σ range
$\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2}$	$7.49^{+0.19}_{-0.19}$	6.92 → 8.05	$7.49^{+0.19}_{-0.19}$	6.92 → 8.05
$\frac{\Delta m_{3\ell}^2}{10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2}$	$+2.513^{+0.021}_{-0.019}$	+2.451 → +2.578	$-2.484^{+0.020}_{-0.020}$	-2.547 → -2.421

Neutrino Mass Generation

Seesaw Mechanism

$$\mathcal{L} \supset Y \bar{L} \tilde{H} N_R + \frac{1}{2} M_N \bar{N}_R N_R$$
$$\xrightarrow{\text{EWSB}} m_D \bar{\nu}_L N_R + M_N \bar{N}_R N_R$$

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_D \\ m_D & M_N \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow m_\nu \simeq \frac{Y^2 v^2}{M_N}$$

Neutrino masses *inversely*
proportional to Majorana mass



“Here is an impressionist version of the seesaw mechanism with an abstract seesaw. The contrast between the heavy and light sides is represented through expressive brushstrokes and vibrant colors, capturing the essence of the mechanism in a serene, dreamlike setting.”

Neutrino Mass Generation

Seesaw Mechanism

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Neutrino masses *inversely proportional to Majorana mass*

Inverse Seesaw Mechanism

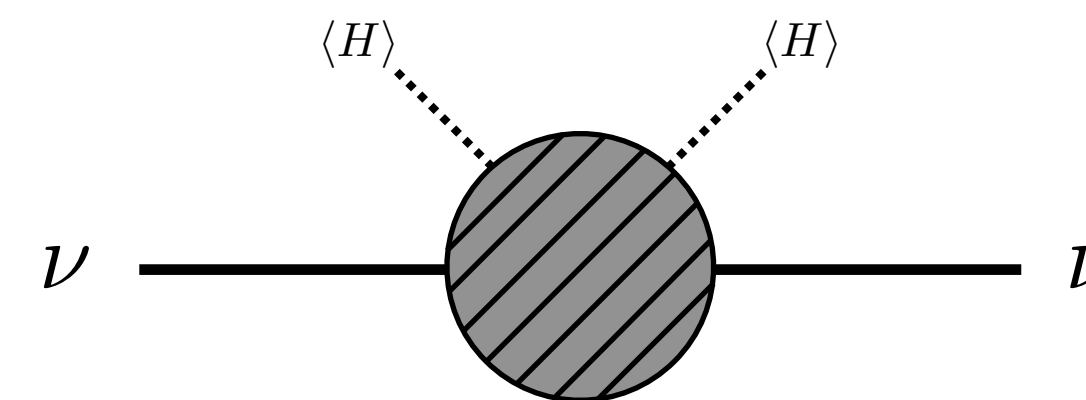
$$\mathcal{L} \supset Y \bar{L} \tilde{D} N + M_D \bar{N} N'^c + \mu \bar{N} N^c$$

$$m_\nu \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{Y^2 \mu v^2}{M_D^2}\right)$$

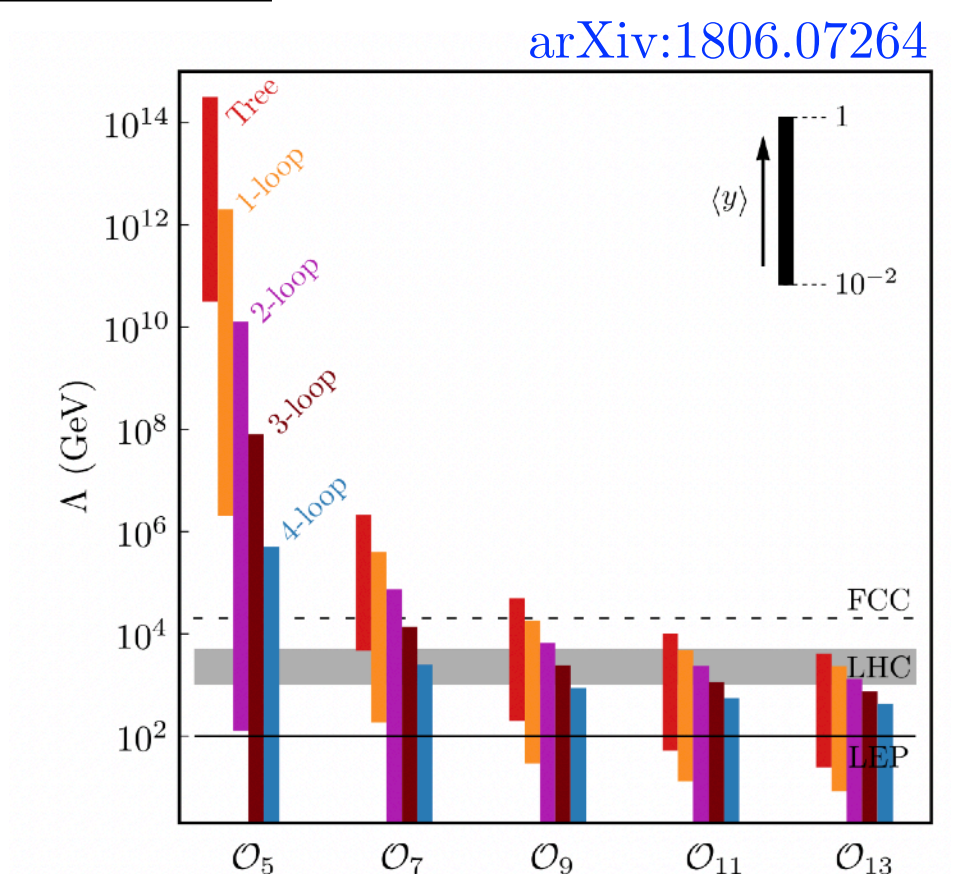
Neutrino masses *proportional to Majorana mass*

Detectable, weak scale RH neutrinos $\rightarrow Y \sim 1, M_D \sim \text{GeV} - \text{TeV}$

Loop Mechanism



$(1/16\pi^2)^n$ suppression



Neutrino Mass Generation

Seesaw Mechanism

$$\mathcal{L} \supset Y \bar{L} \tilde{H} N_R + \frac{1}{2} M_N \bar{N}_R N_R$$

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Neutrino masses *inversely proportional to Majorana mass*

Weak interactions induced by mixing with active neutrinos

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_2}{\sqrt{2}} U_\alpha W_\mu^- \ell_\alpha^\dagger \bar{\sigma}^\mu N \quad \text{Charged Current}$$

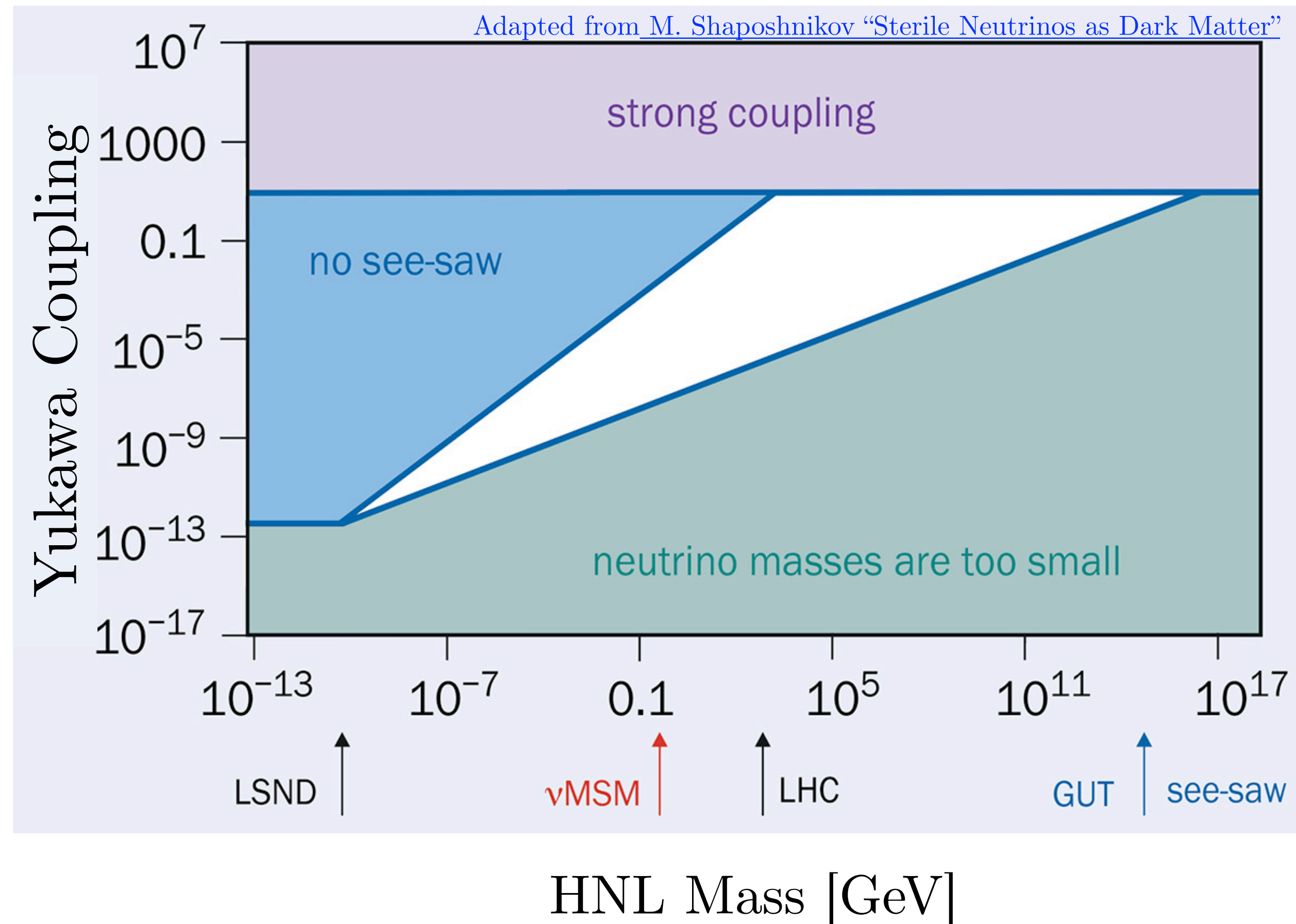
$$+ \frac{g_2}{2 \cos \theta_W} U_\alpha Z_\mu \nu_\alpha^\dagger \bar{\sigma}^\mu N \quad \text{Neutral Current}$$

N_R is produced in any process where a SM neutrino is produced

Heavy Neutral Lepton Landscape

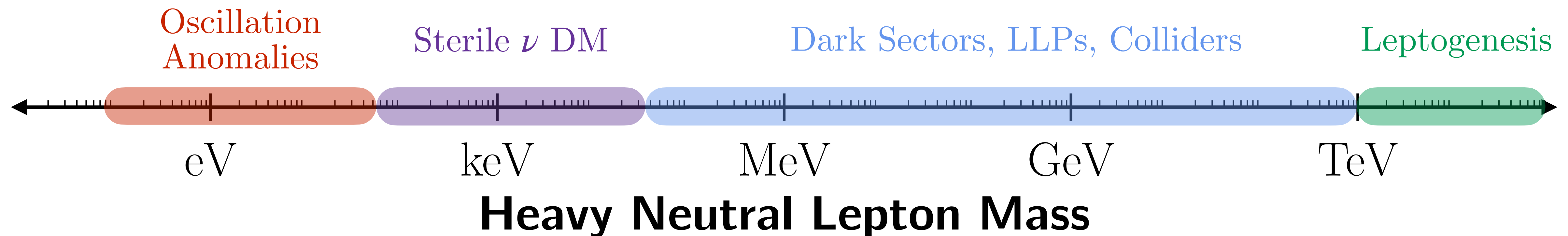
- We don't know the scale of neutrino mass mechanism

$$m_\nu \simeq \frac{Y^2 v^2}{M_N}$$



Heavy Neutral Lepton Landscape

- We don't know the scale of neutrino mass mechanism
- But we know the testable range of HNL masses



Focus of this talk: keV - TeV range

keV-scale Heavy Neutral Leptons

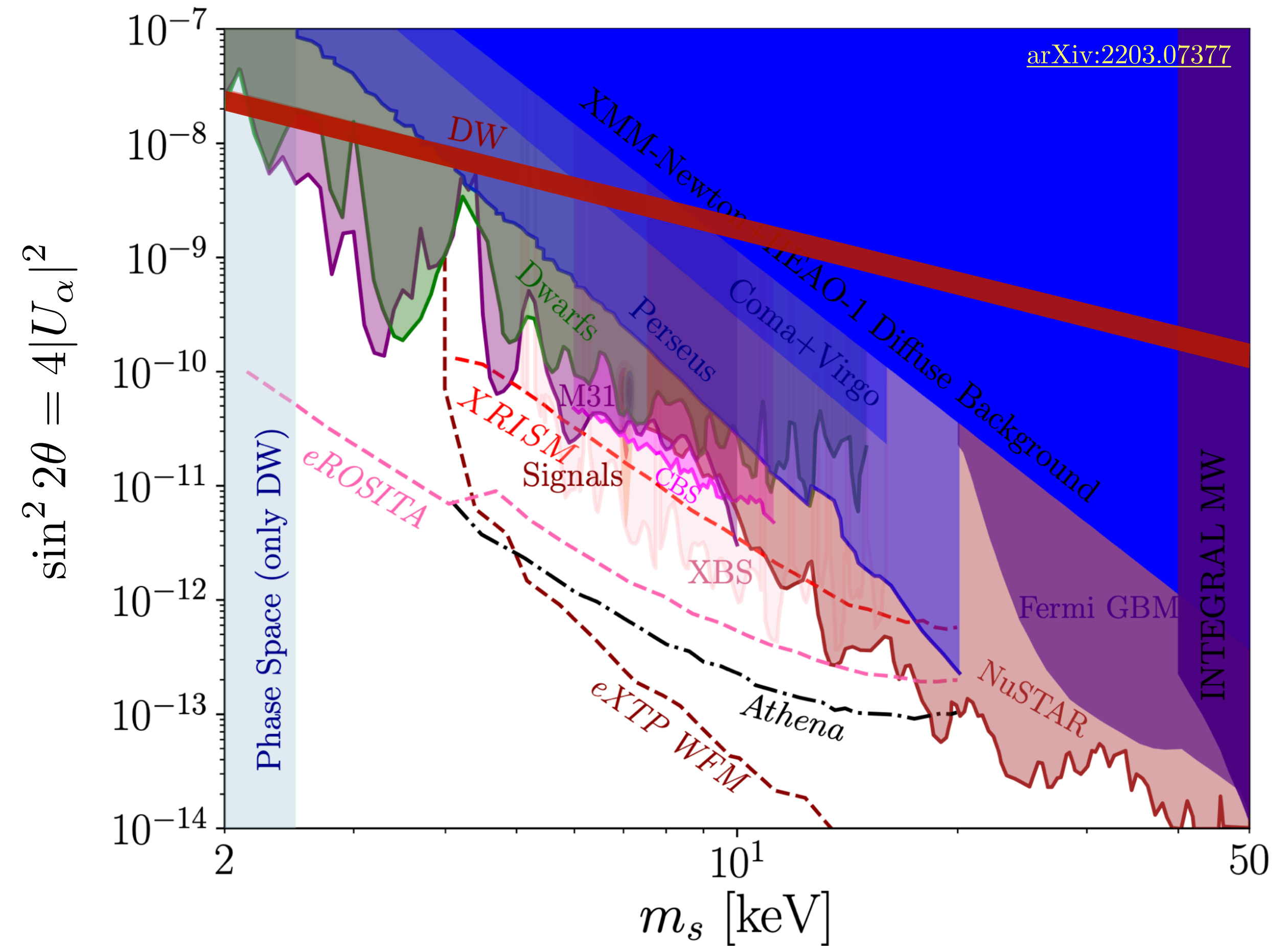
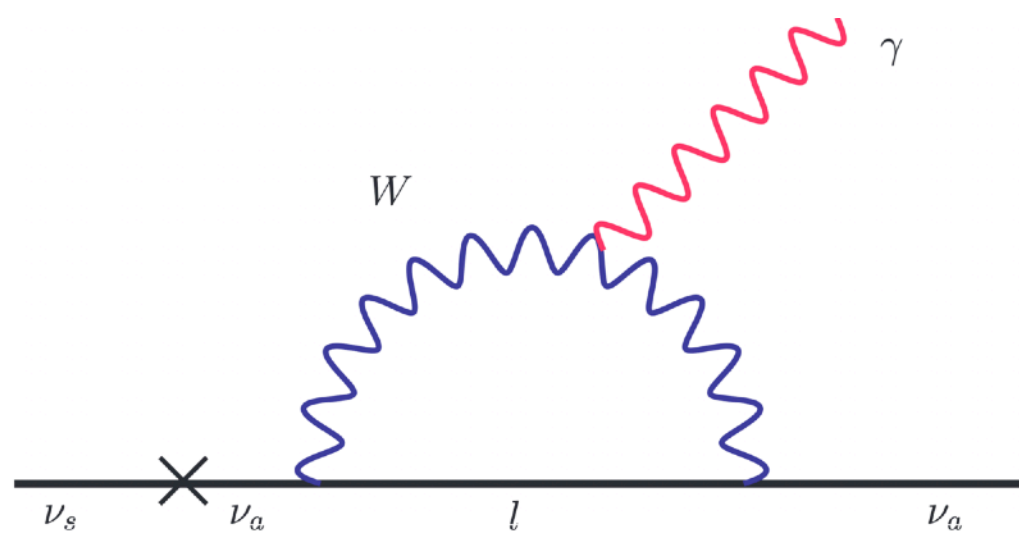
- Also called sterile neutrinos. Can potentially make up all of the *dark matter*

- 4th neutrino eigenstate

$$\nu_4 = \nu_a \sin \theta + \nu_s \cos \theta$$

- Relic abundance via Dodelson-Widrow Mechanism

- Decay to monochromatic X-ray photons



keV-scale Heavy Neutral Leptons

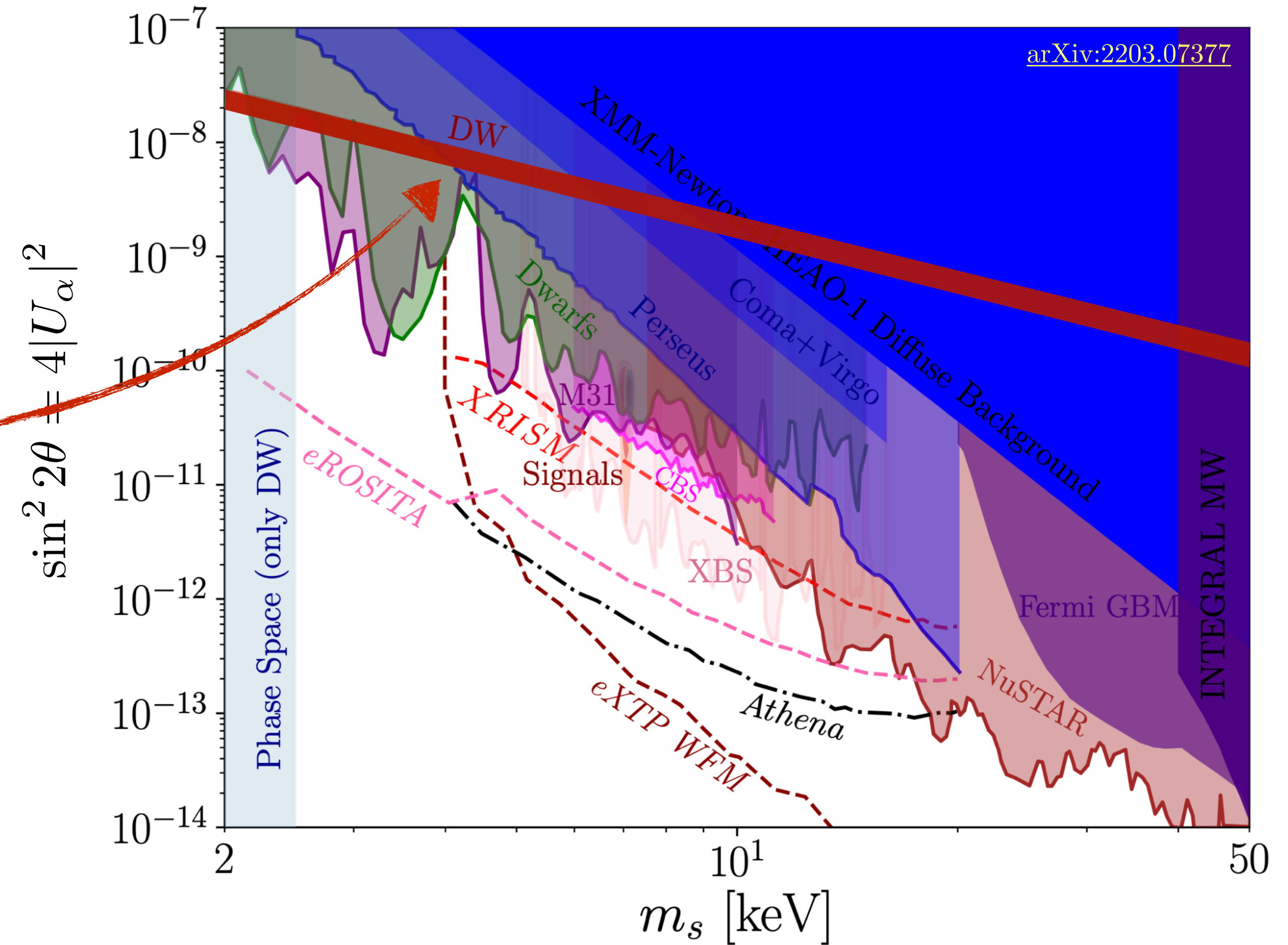
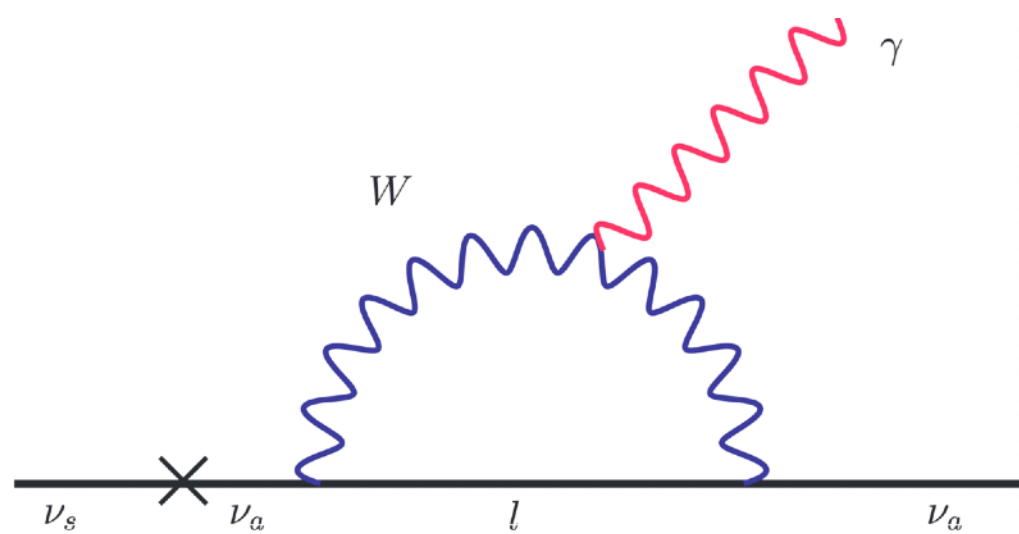
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keV-scale Heavy Neutral Leptons

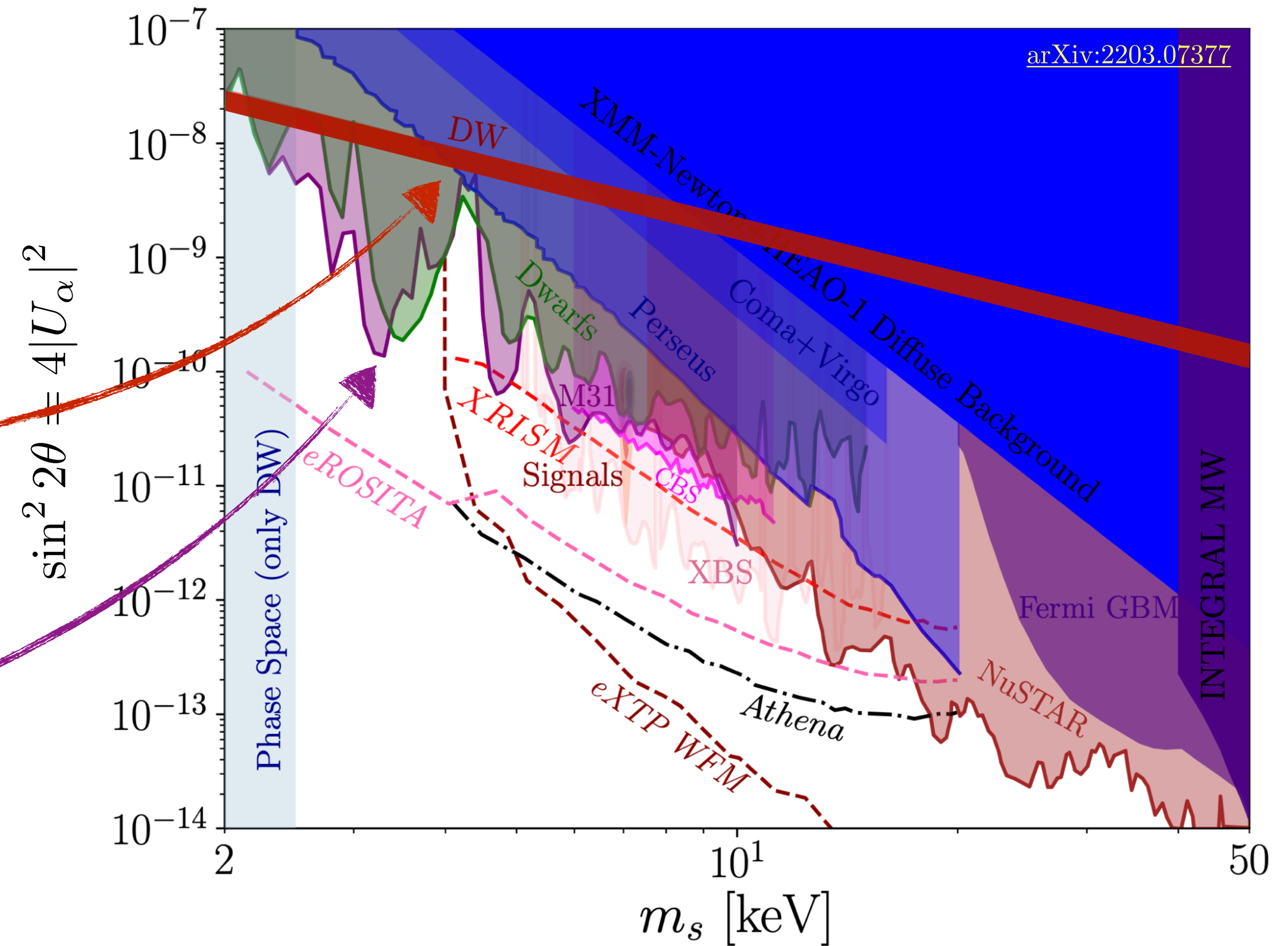
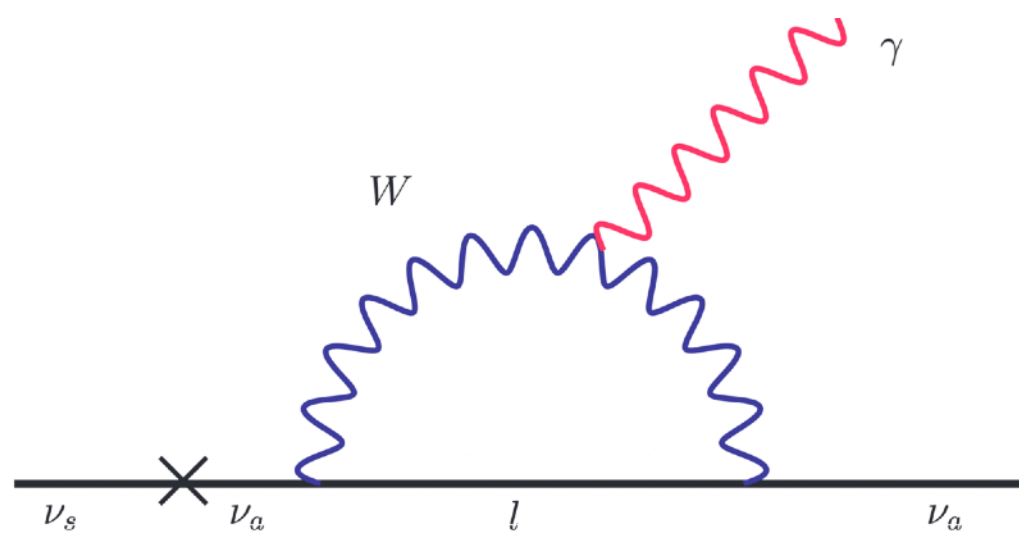
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Can we save Dodelson-Widrow?

arXiv:2203.07377

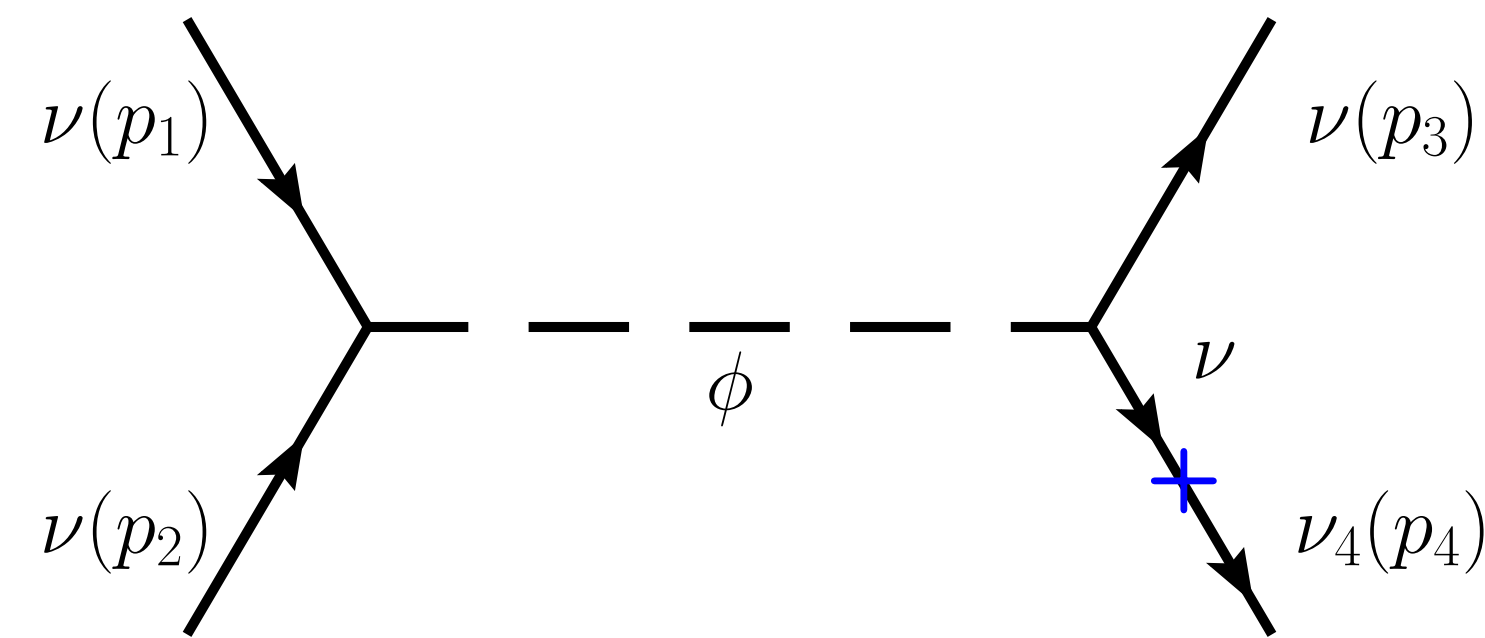
Neutrino Self Interactions

- Schematically, the sterile neutrino relic abundance is

$$\Omega \sim \Gamma \times \sin^2(2\theta)$$

- $\Gamma = \Gamma_W \rightarrow$ large angle is required \rightarrow X-ray constraints.
- Smaller mixing angle by increasing the interaction rate? Yes! Introduce a scalar field ϕ of mass m_ϕ that mediates *new self interactions among SM neutrinos*.

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{\alpha\beta} \nu_\alpha \nu_\beta \phi + \text{h.c.}$$

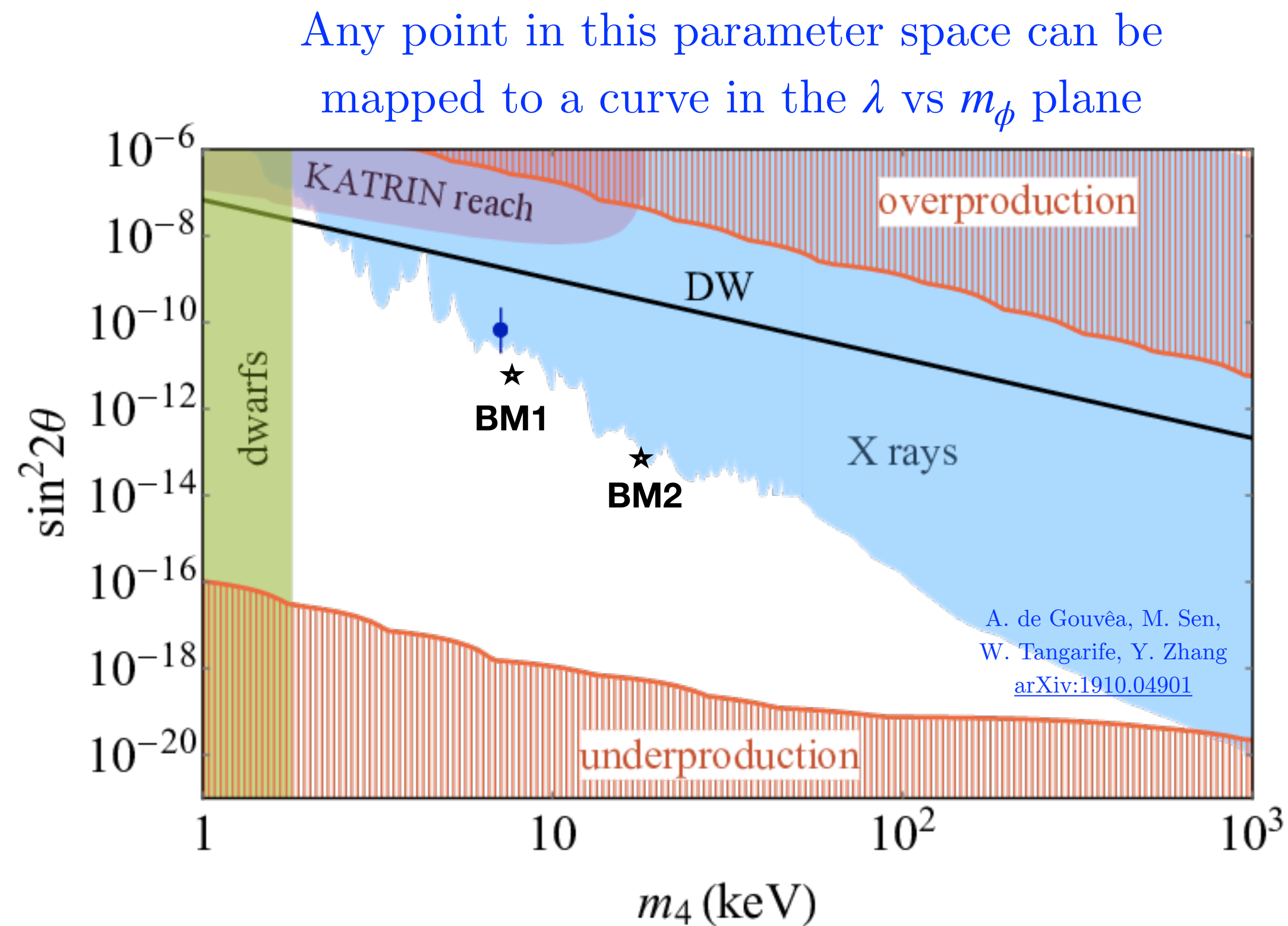


A. de Gouvêa, M. Sen,
W. Tangarife, Y. Zhang
[arXiv:1910.04901](https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.04901)

Larger rate than the weak interactions keeps SM neutrinos in contact
for a longer period of time to build up the DM abundance!

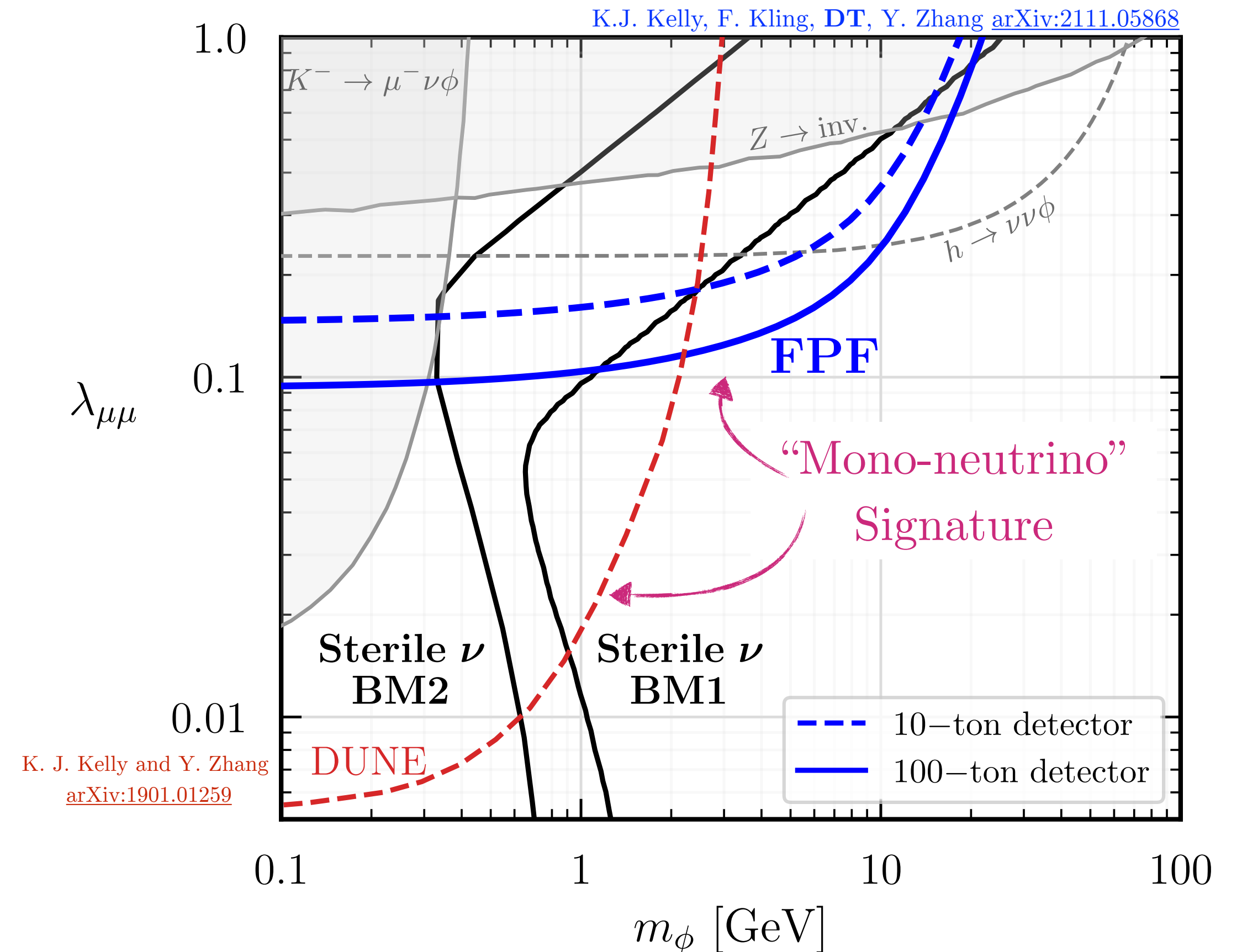
Neutrinophilic Scalar

- New production mode \rightarrow don't have to live on DW line!



BM1 : $m_4 = 7 \text{ keV}$, $\sin^2(2\theta) = 7 \times 10^{-11}$

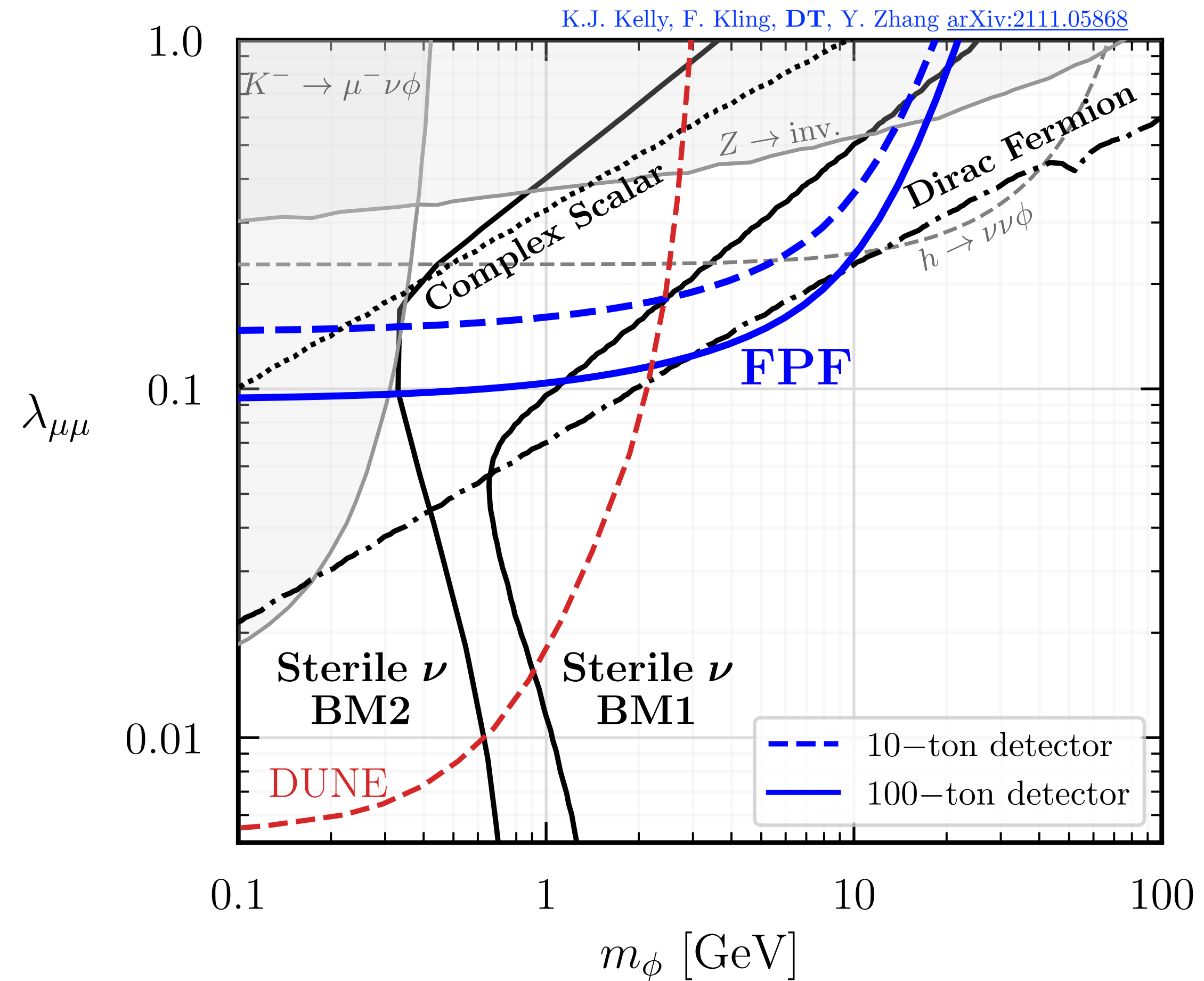
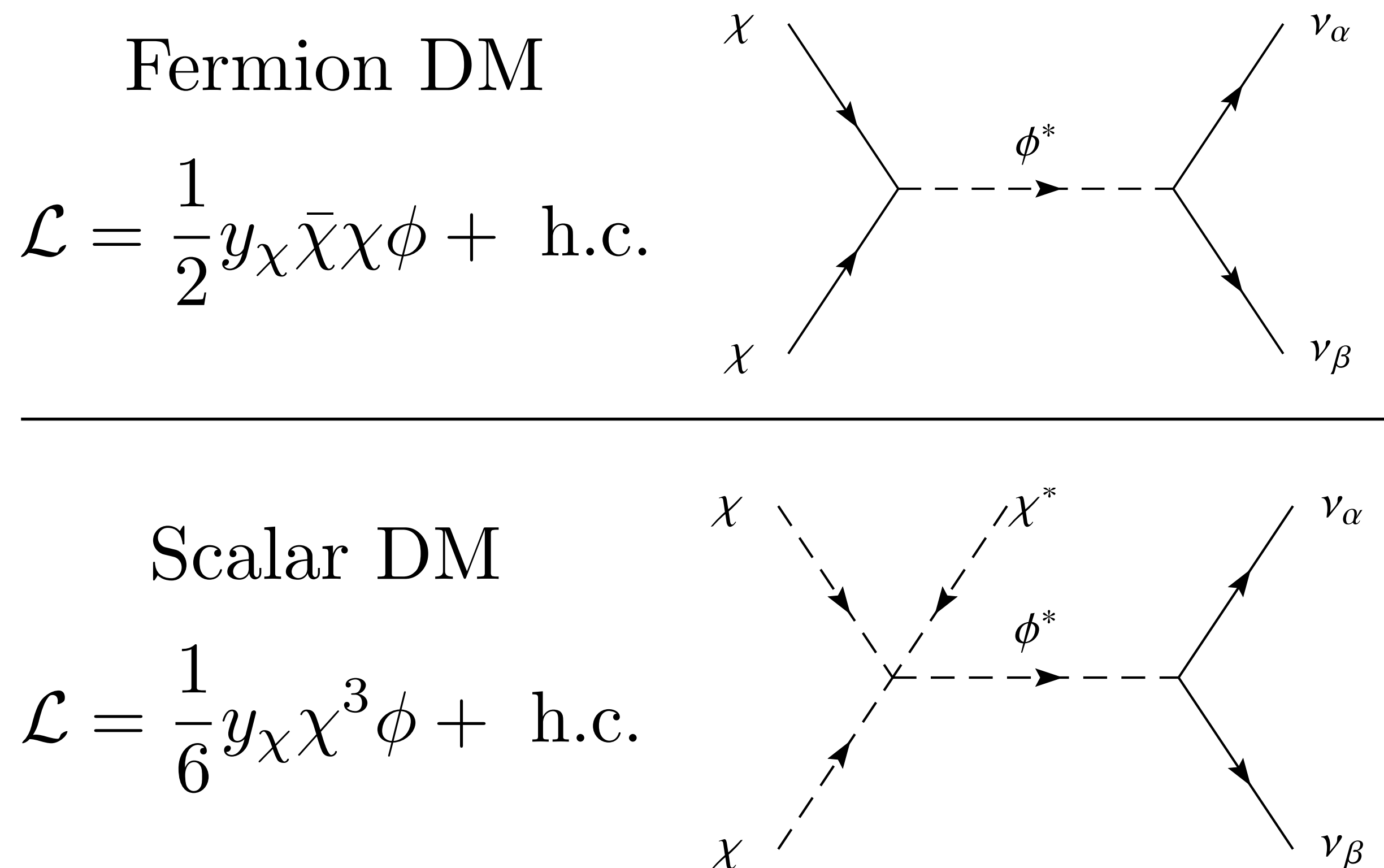
BM2 : $m_4 = 21 \text{ keV}$, $\sin^2(2\theta) = 1.4 \times 10^{-13}$



Sterile ν DM still alive! Testable at neutrino facilities
See Vera's talk however.

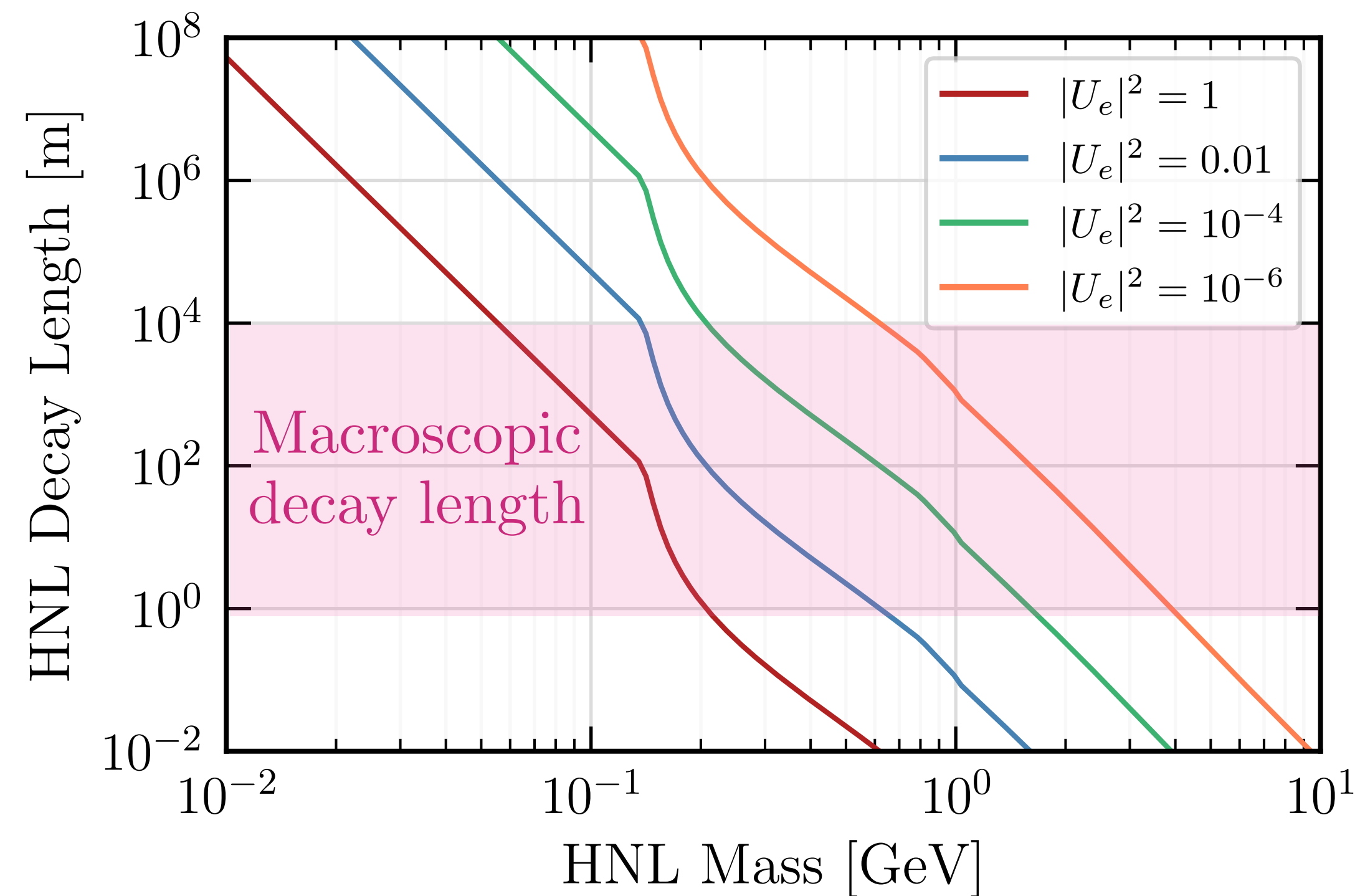
Thermal Dark Matter

- The neutrinophilic scalar can also be a mediator to thermal DM



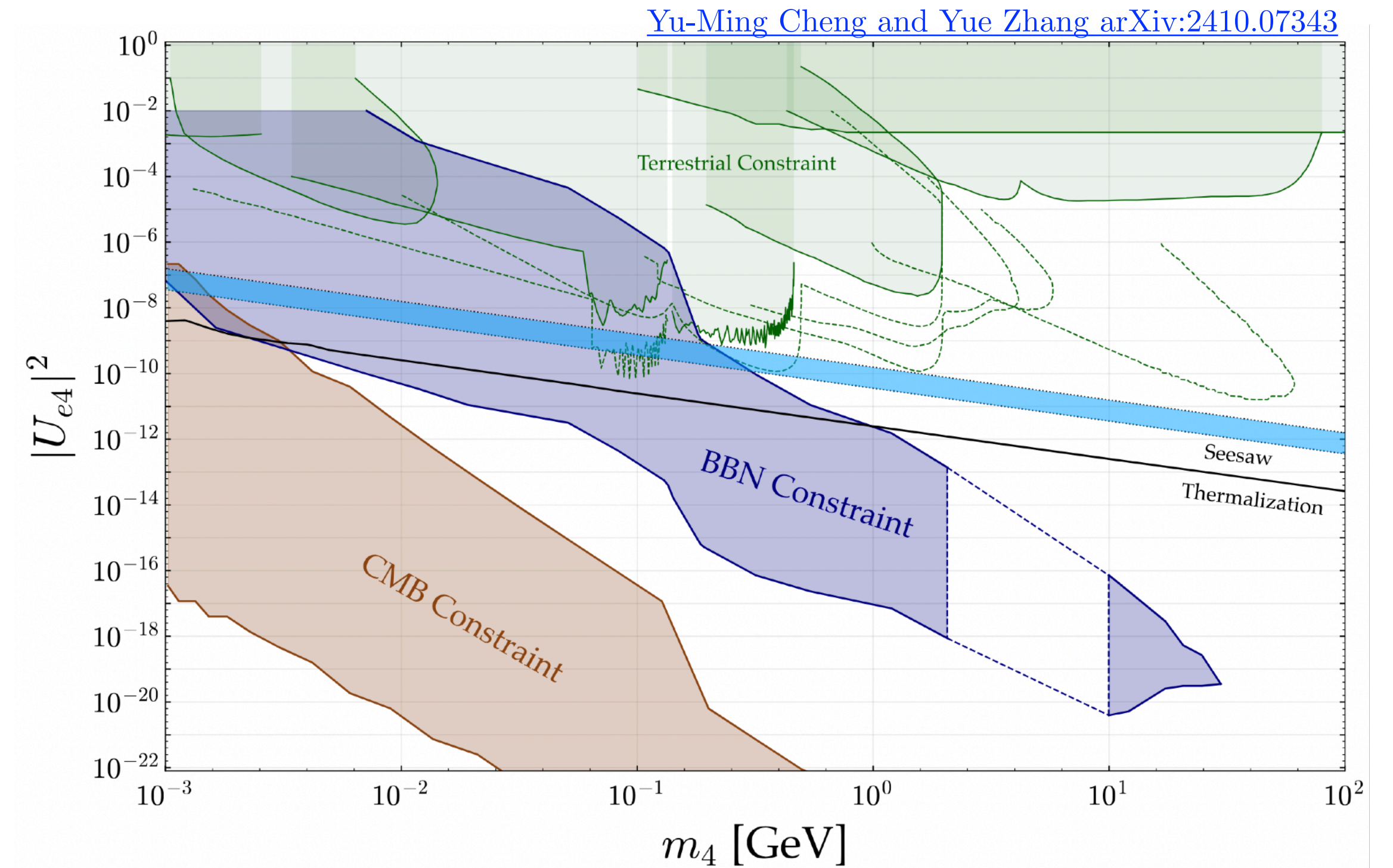
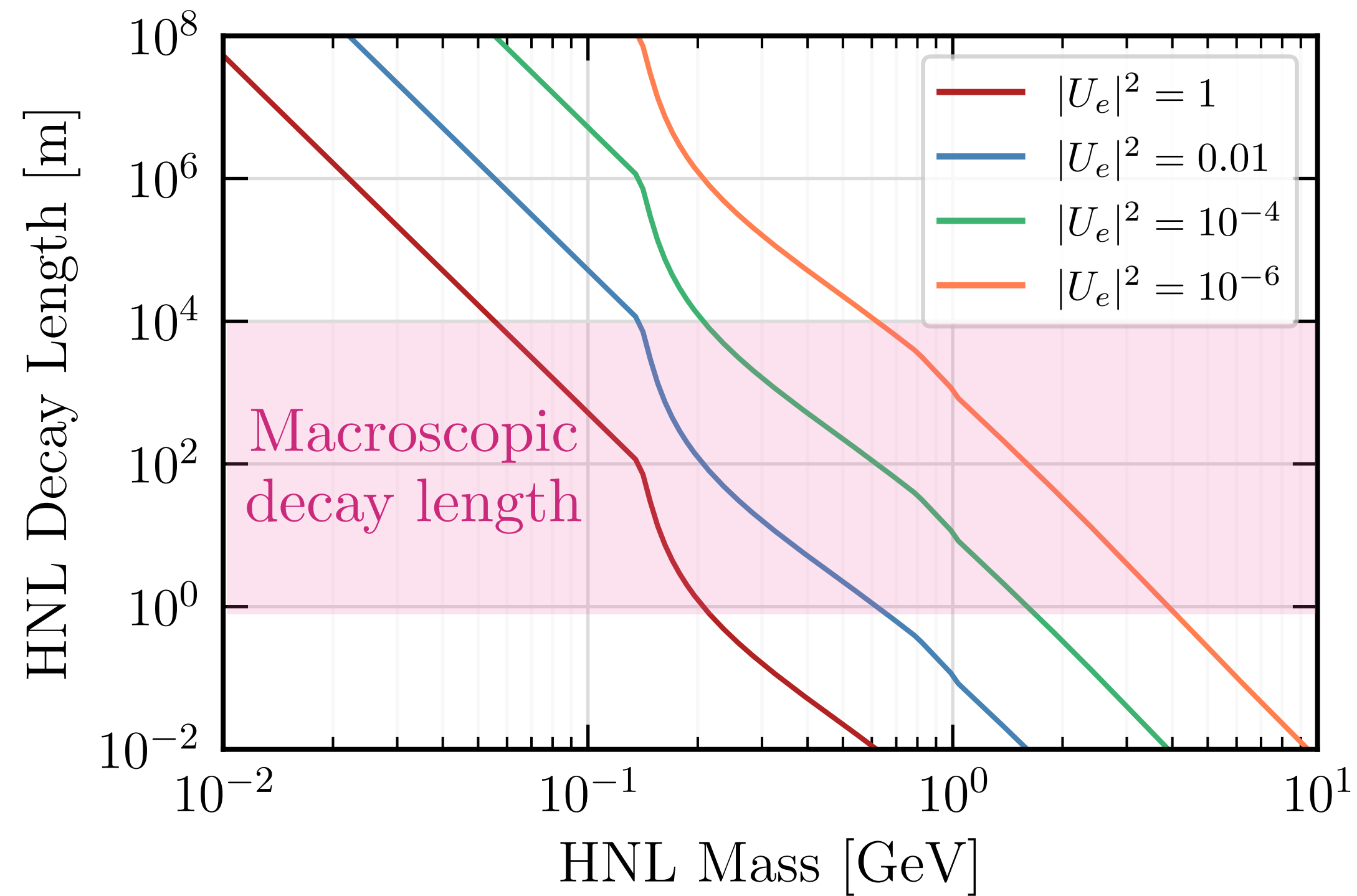
GeV-Scale Heavy Neutral Leptons

- MeV - GeV scale HNLs are *long-lived*.



GeV-Scale Heavy Neutral Leptons

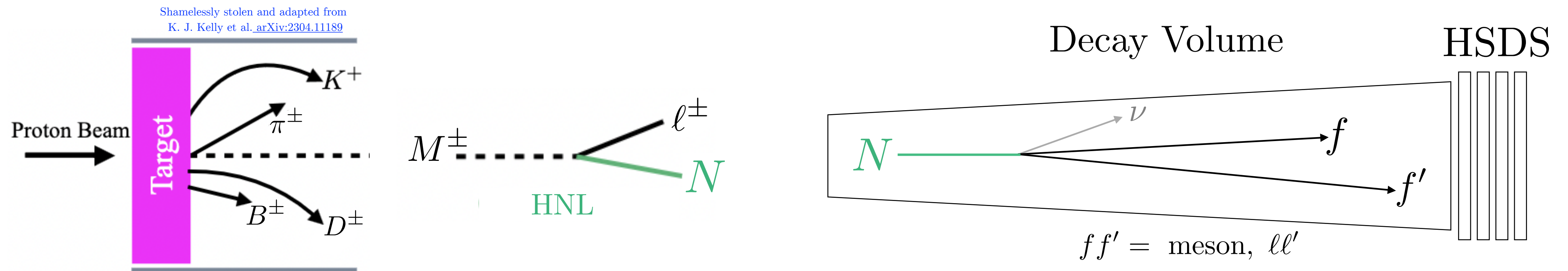
- MeV - GeV scale HNLs are *long-lived*.



Constraints from BBN force minimal GeV-scale HNLs to be above ~ 100 MeV if they thermalize in the early universe

HNLs @ Intensity Frontier

- Long-lived particles \rightarrow *high-intensity experiments*
- Beam dump experiments (e.g SHiP, DarkQuest); far forward or transverse detectors (e.g FASER, MATHUSLA)
- **Large number protons-on-target** \rightarrow high flux of BSM particles
- **Long decay volumes** \rightarrow small couplings

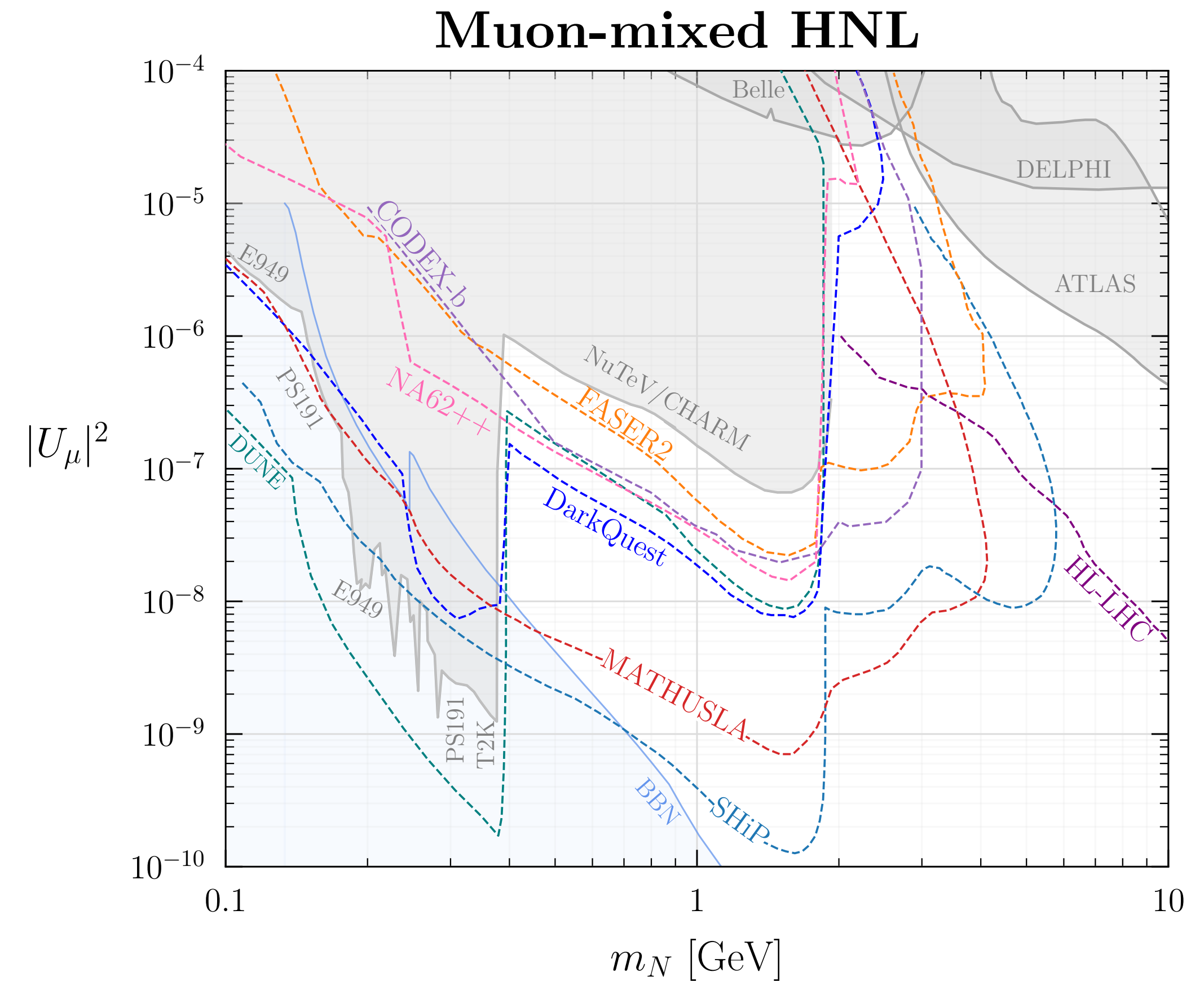
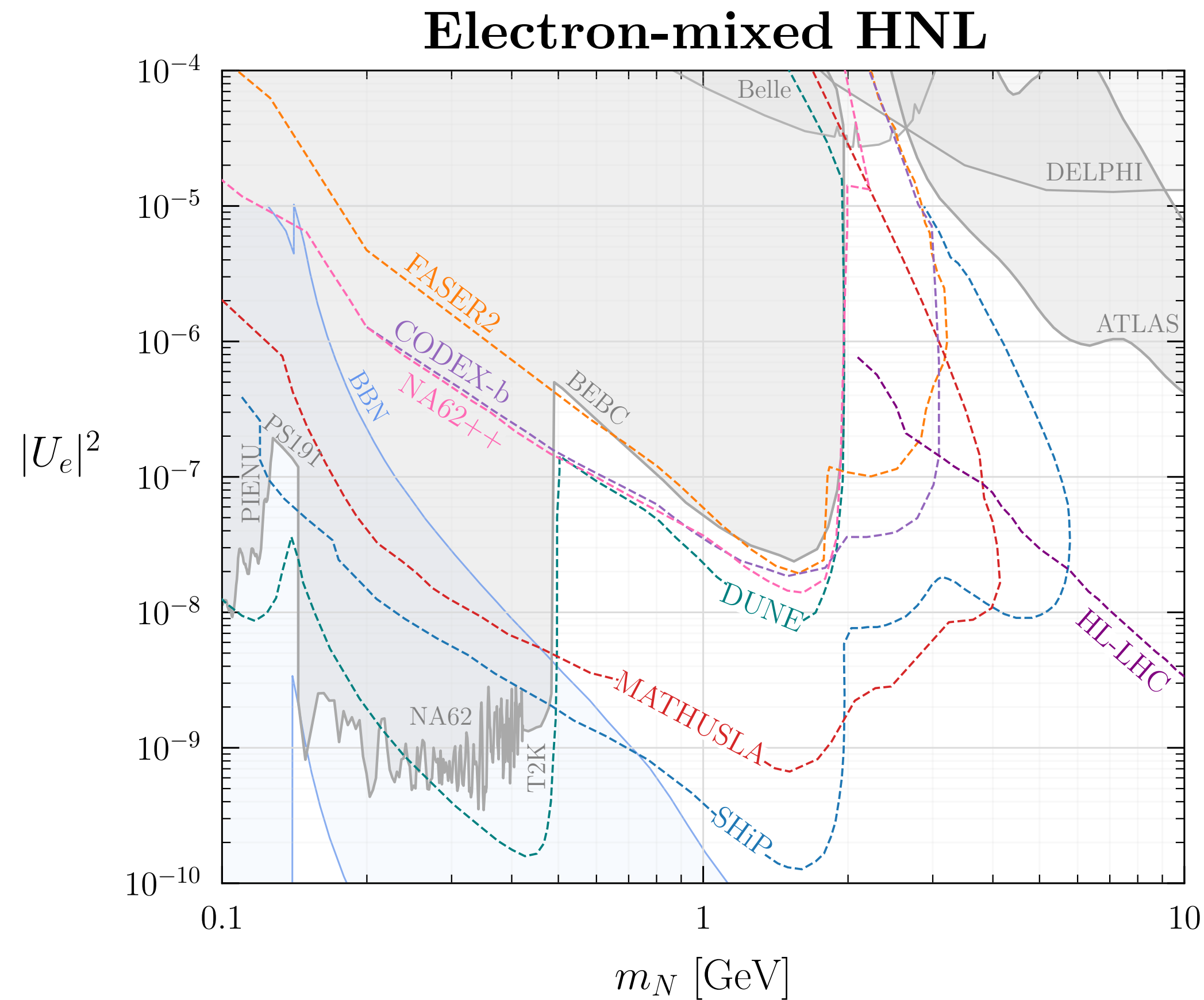


HNL production mainly from meson decays in proton beam experiments

HNLs @ Intensity Frontier

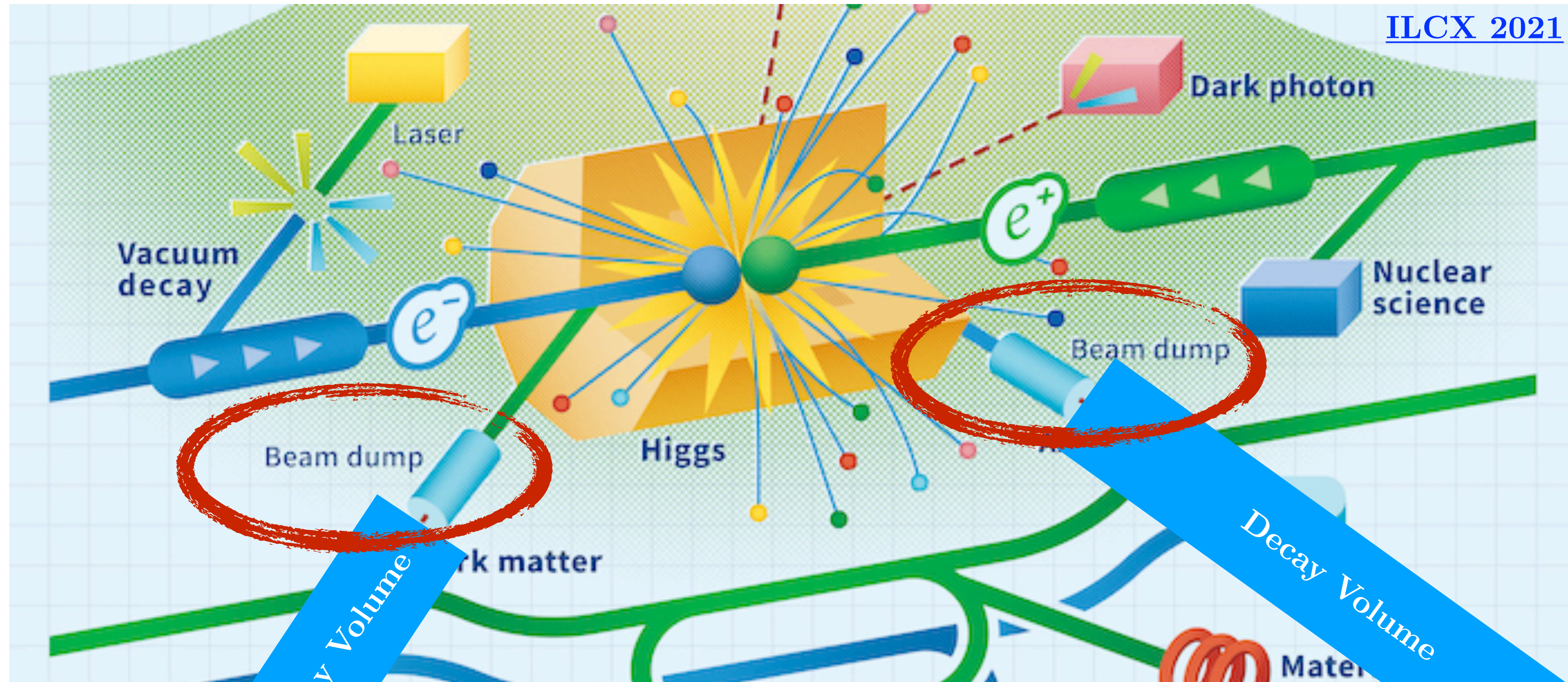
Existing bounds from: [M. Hostert - Heavy Neutrino Limits](#)

[P. Bolton - Sterile Neutrino Constraints](#)



Good coverage by SHiP, MATHUSLA, and LHC

Future Linear Colliders



Best of both worlds!

Advantages of Future Electron Colliders

- **Large beam energies** compared to past/current experiments
 - $E_e \sim 100 \text{ GeV} - \text{few TeV}$
 - *Staged energy approach*. No need to build a new facility for higher energy beams!
- **High intensity** - $\sim 10^{21}$ electrons-on-target/year
- **New production modes:**
 - e^- beam \rightarrow charged current scattering production of **heavy neutral leptons**
 - e^+ beam \rightarrow pair annihilation production of **dark photons/ALPs**

Collider- \sqrt{s} [GeV]	EOT/year
ILC-250/1000	4.1×10^{21}
C ³ -250	3.1×10^{21}
C ³ -3000	1.8×10^{21}
CLIC-3000	1.8×10^{21}

Recall: SHiP $\sim 10^{19}$ POT/year

High-Energy Lepton Beam Dumps

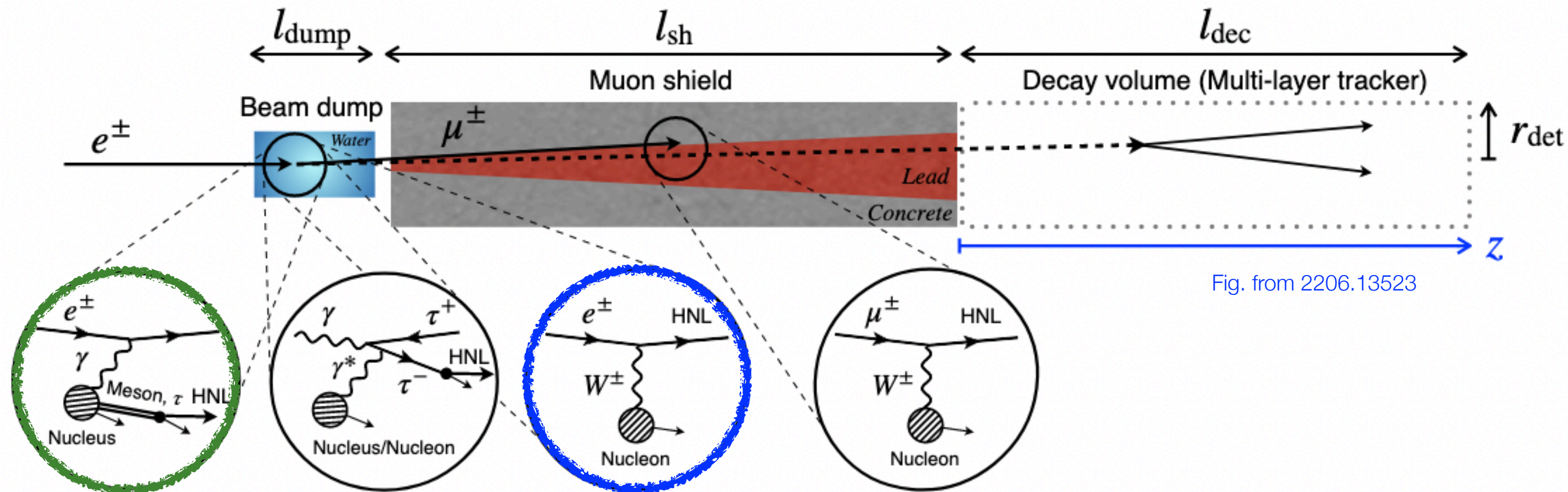
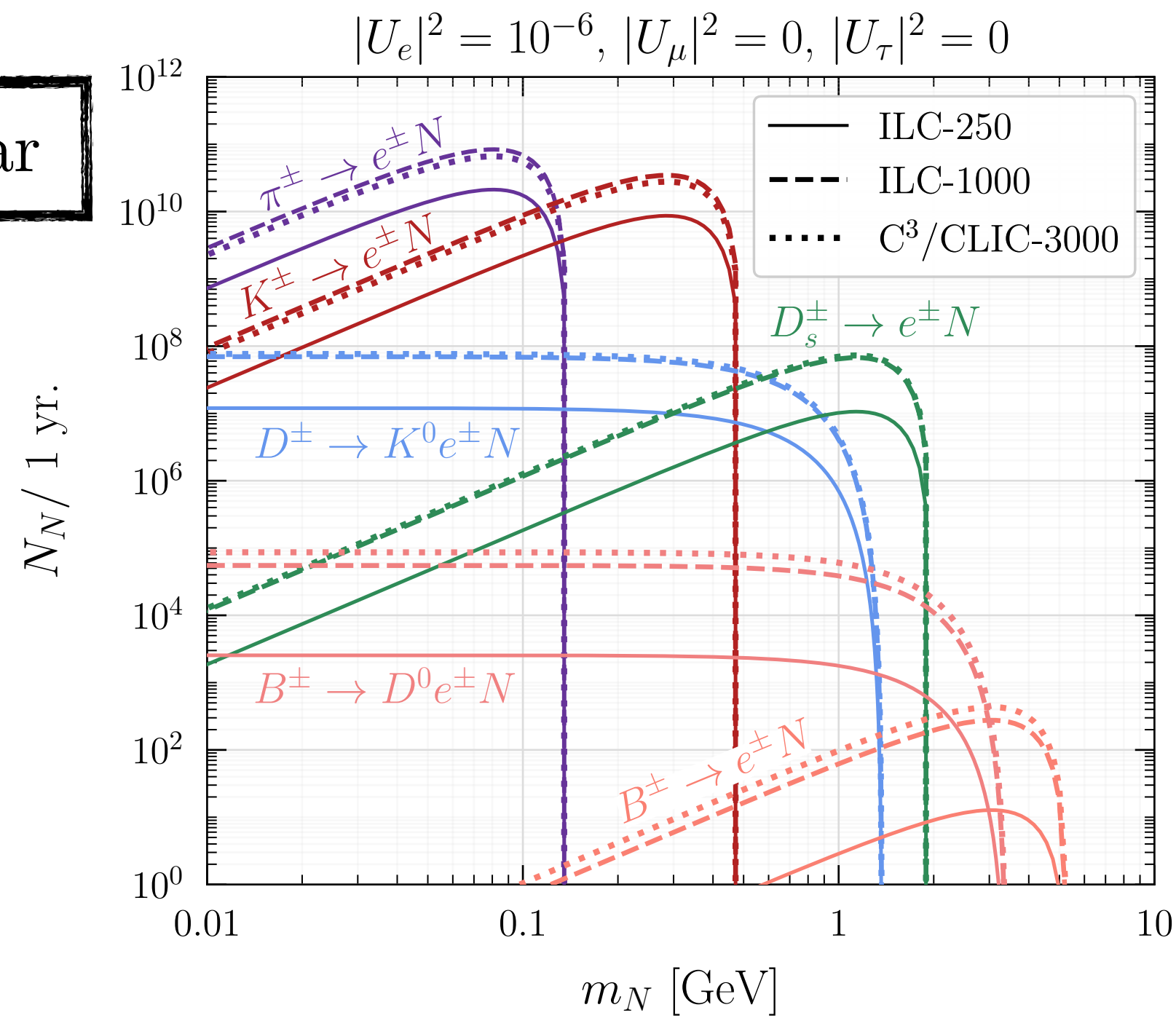


Fig. from 2206.13523

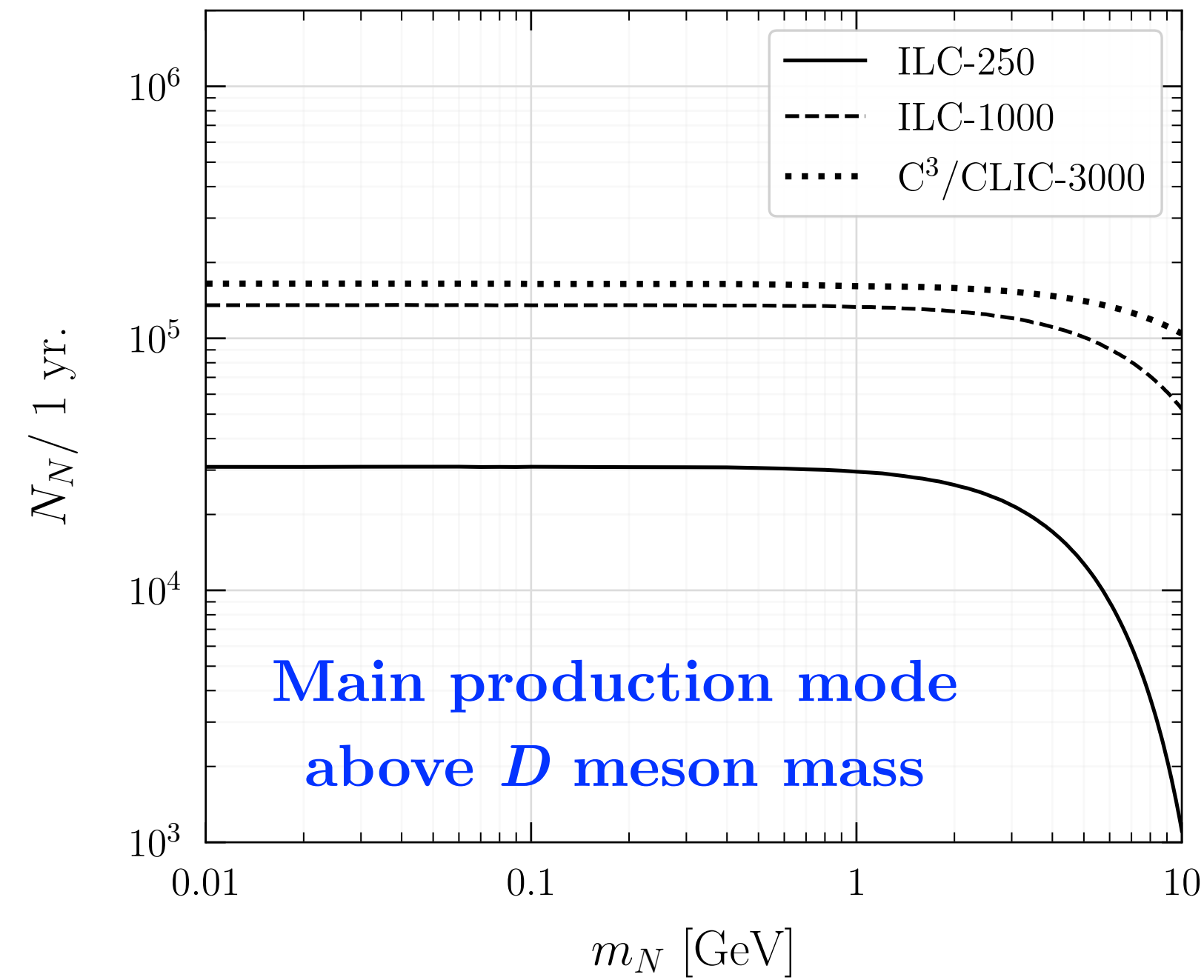
$N_{\text{EOT}} \simeq 10^{21}$ year

Meson
Decays



$|U_e|^2 = 10^{-6}, |U_\mu|^2 = 0, |U_\tau|^2 = 0$

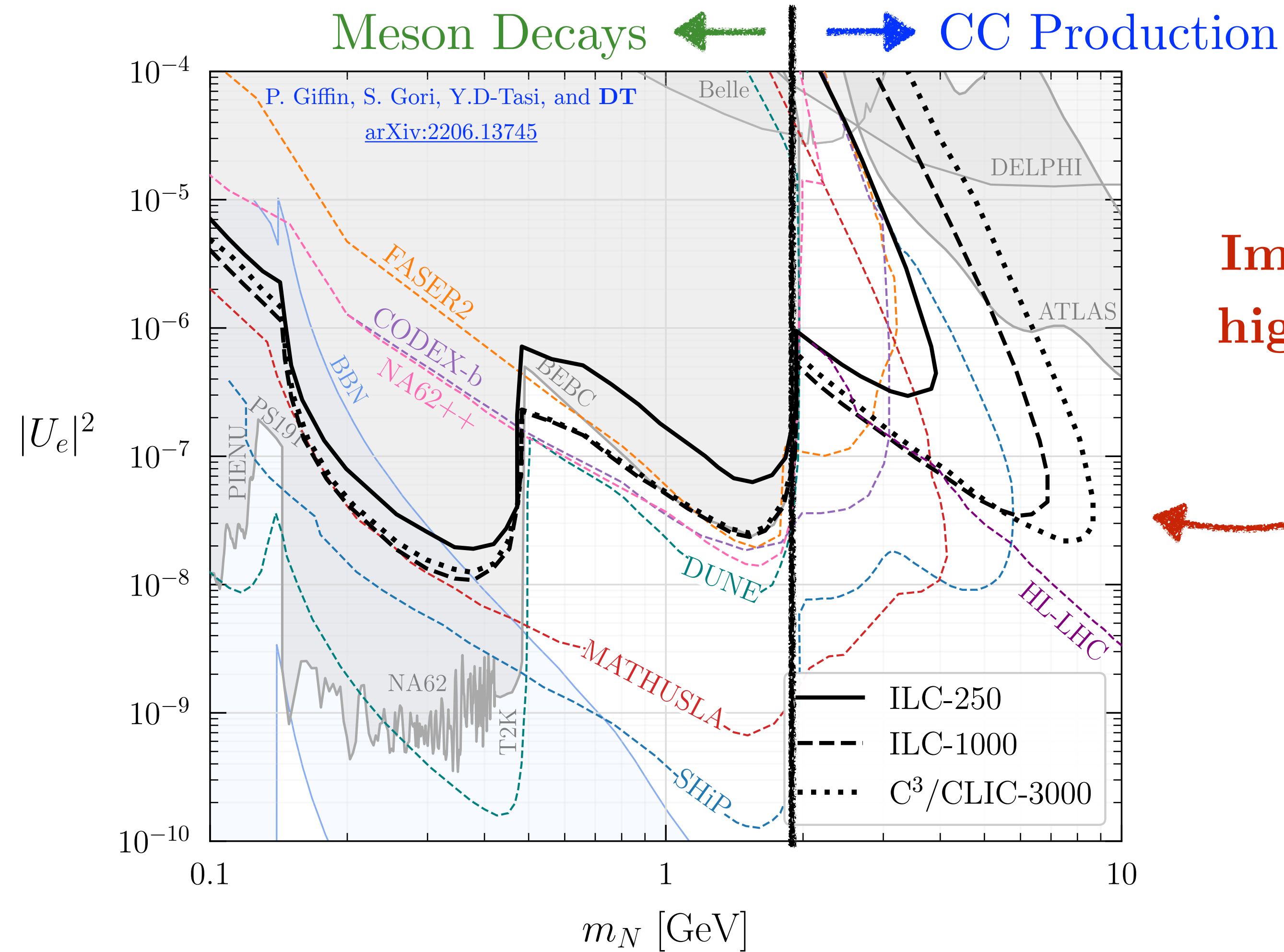
$ep \to Nn, |U_e|^2 = 10^{-6}$



Main production mode
above D meson mass

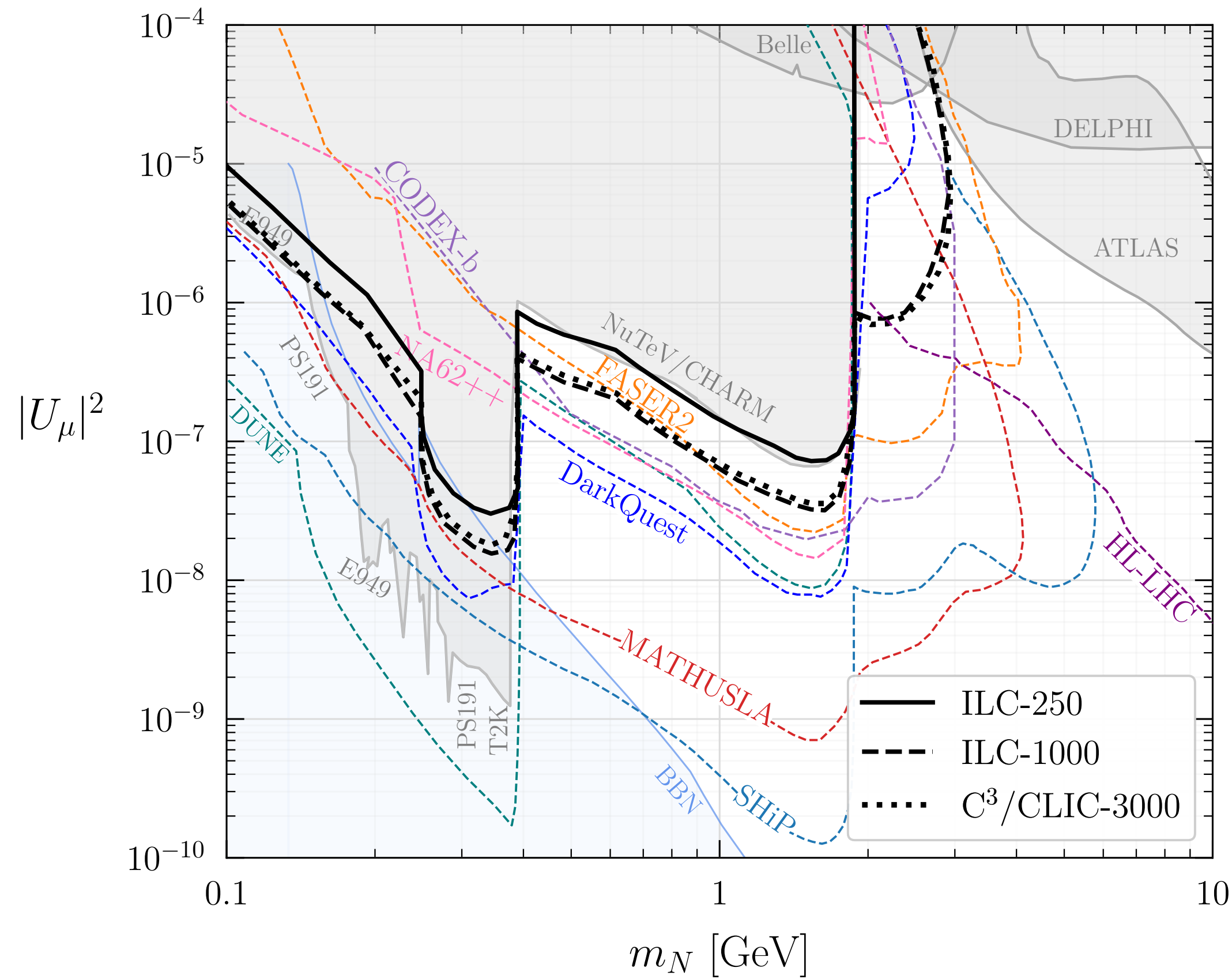
Direct CC
Production

Sensitivity: Electron-Mixed HNL

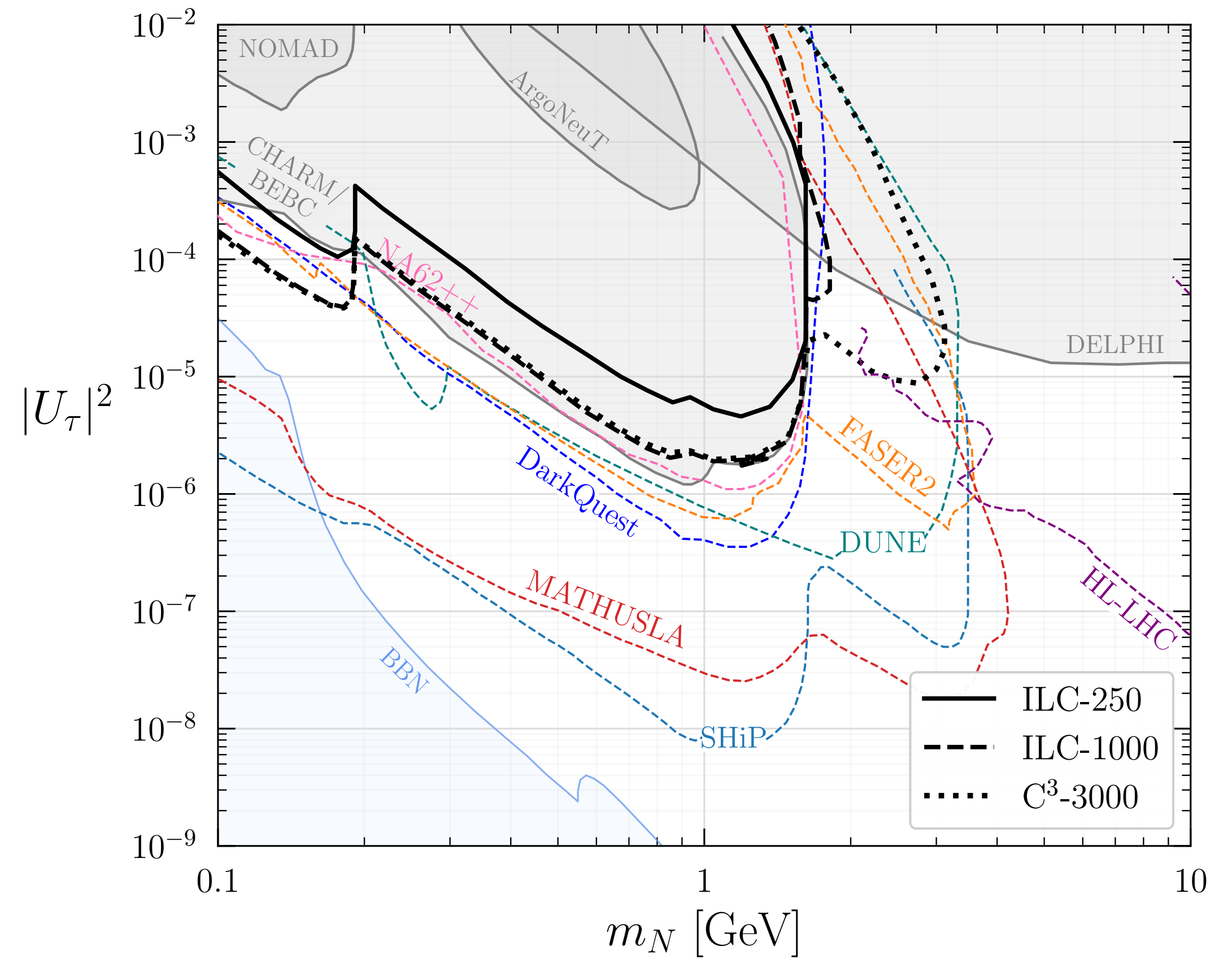


Sensitivity: Muon and Tau Mixed HNLs

Muon-mixed HNL

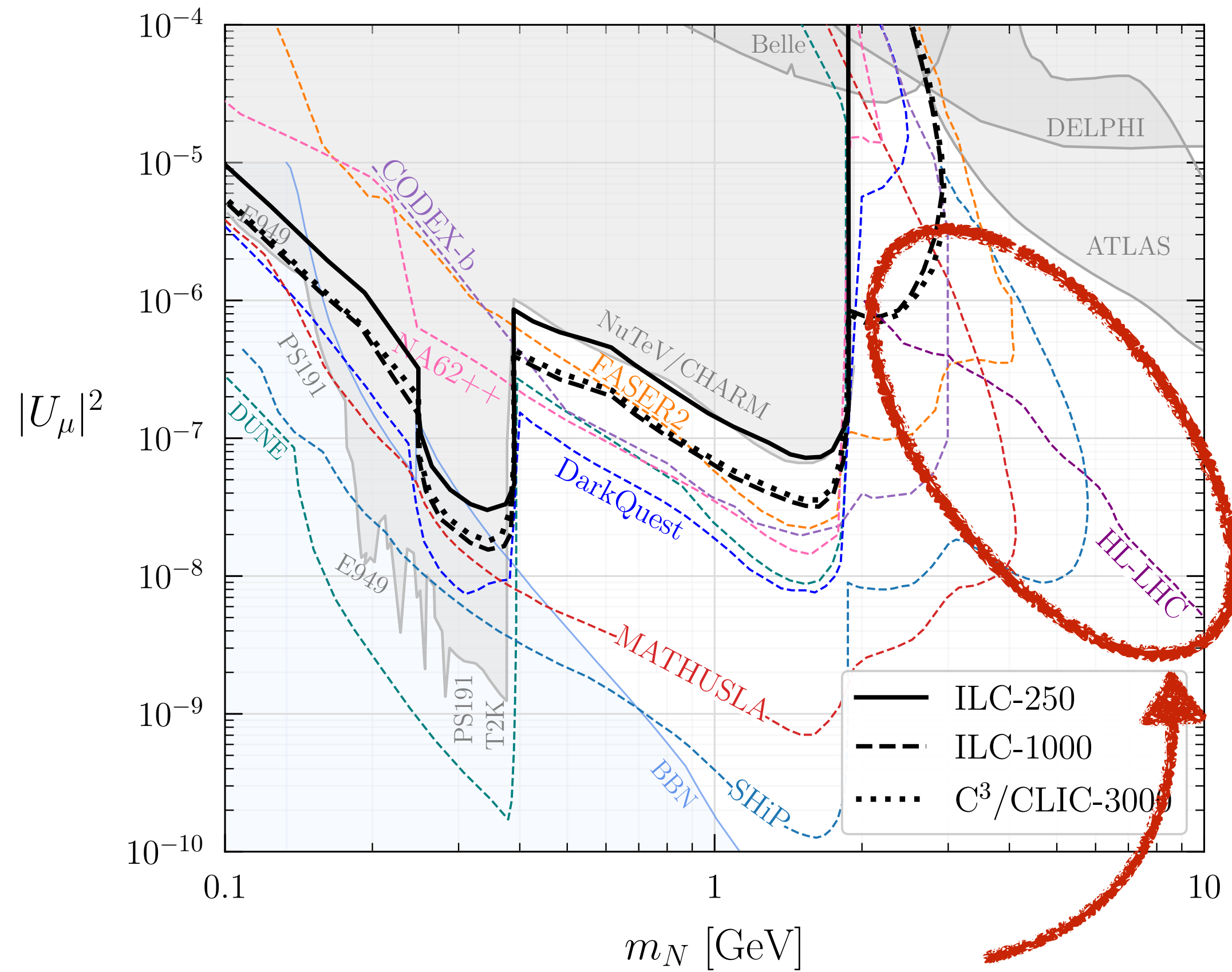


Tau-mixed HNL

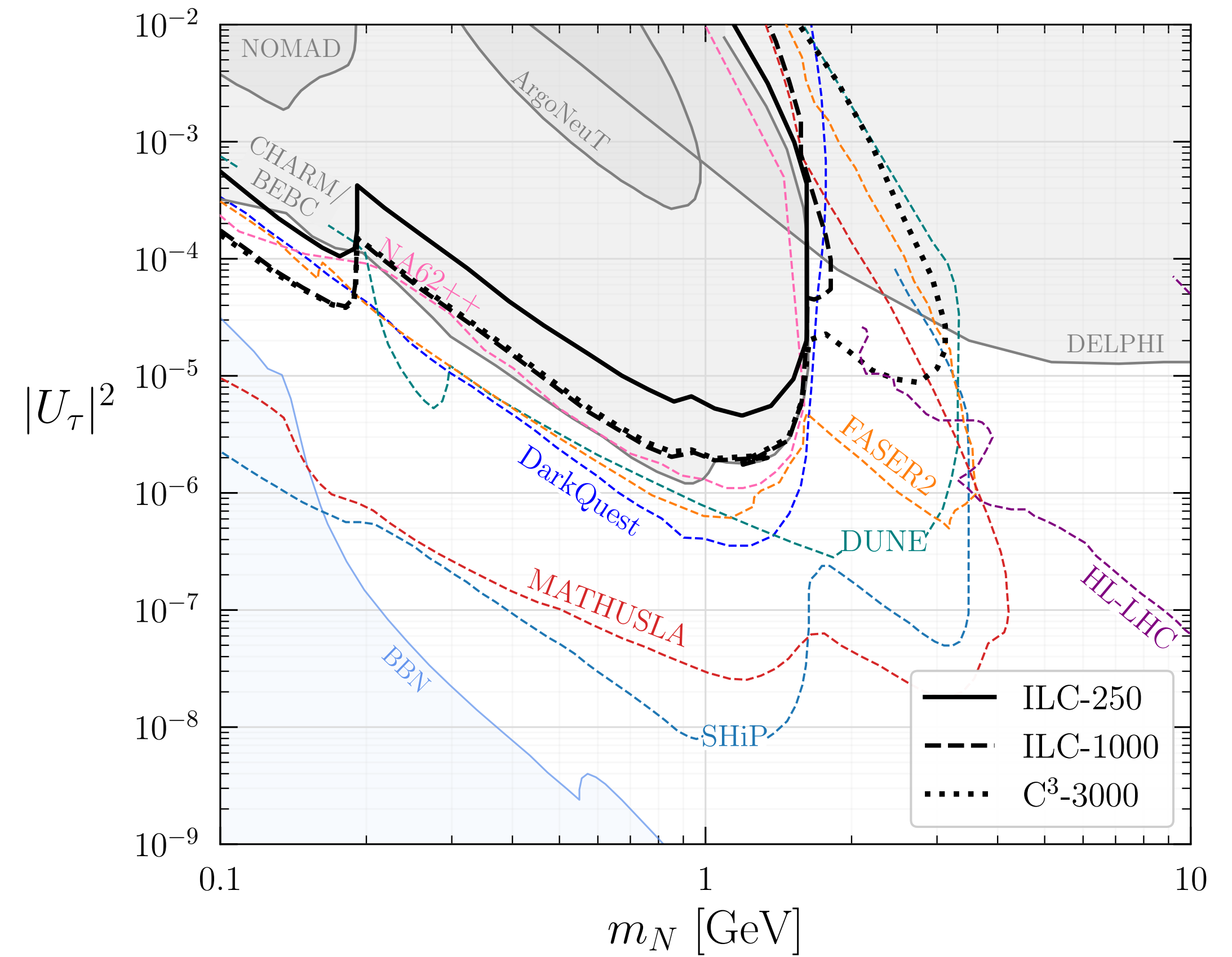


Sensitivity: Muon and Tau Mixed HNLs

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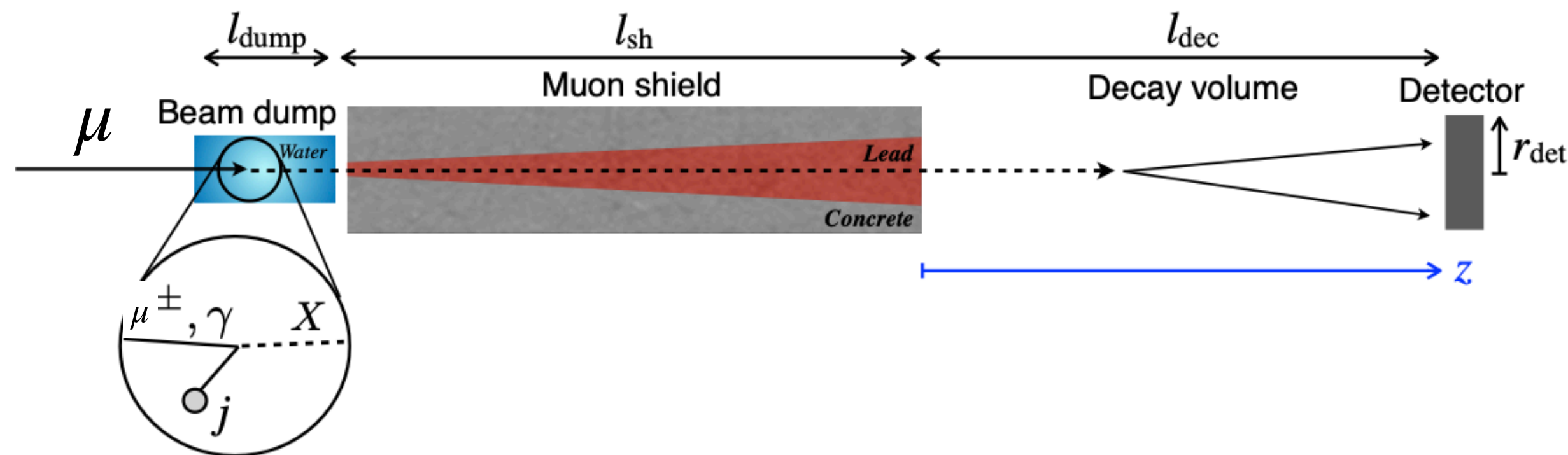
Tau-mixed HNL



Far, far future: CC production @ TeV muon beam dump exp??

HNLs @ Muon Beam Dump

- Direct production of muon-mixed HNL via **charged-current scattering** is now available!

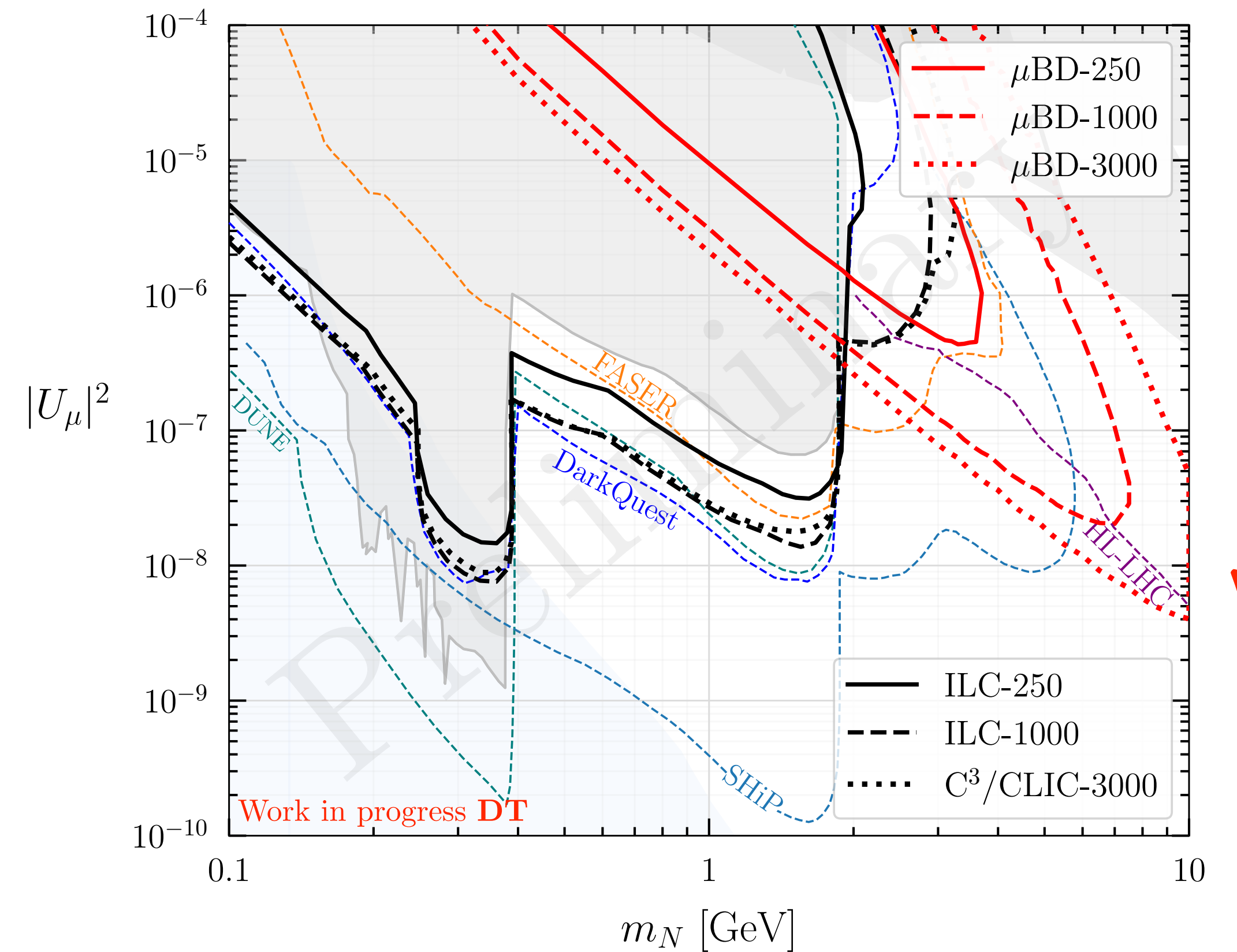


$$E_\mu = 125, 500, 1500 \text{ GeV}, N_\mu = 4.1 \times 10^{21}$$

$$l_{\text{dump}} = 10\text{m}, l_{\text{sh}} = 70\text{m}$$

$$l_{\text{dec}} = 50\text{m}, r_{\text{det}} = 2\text{m}$$

Might be too optimistic but we want a direct comparison with ILC beam dump



Reach beyond HL-LHC projections!

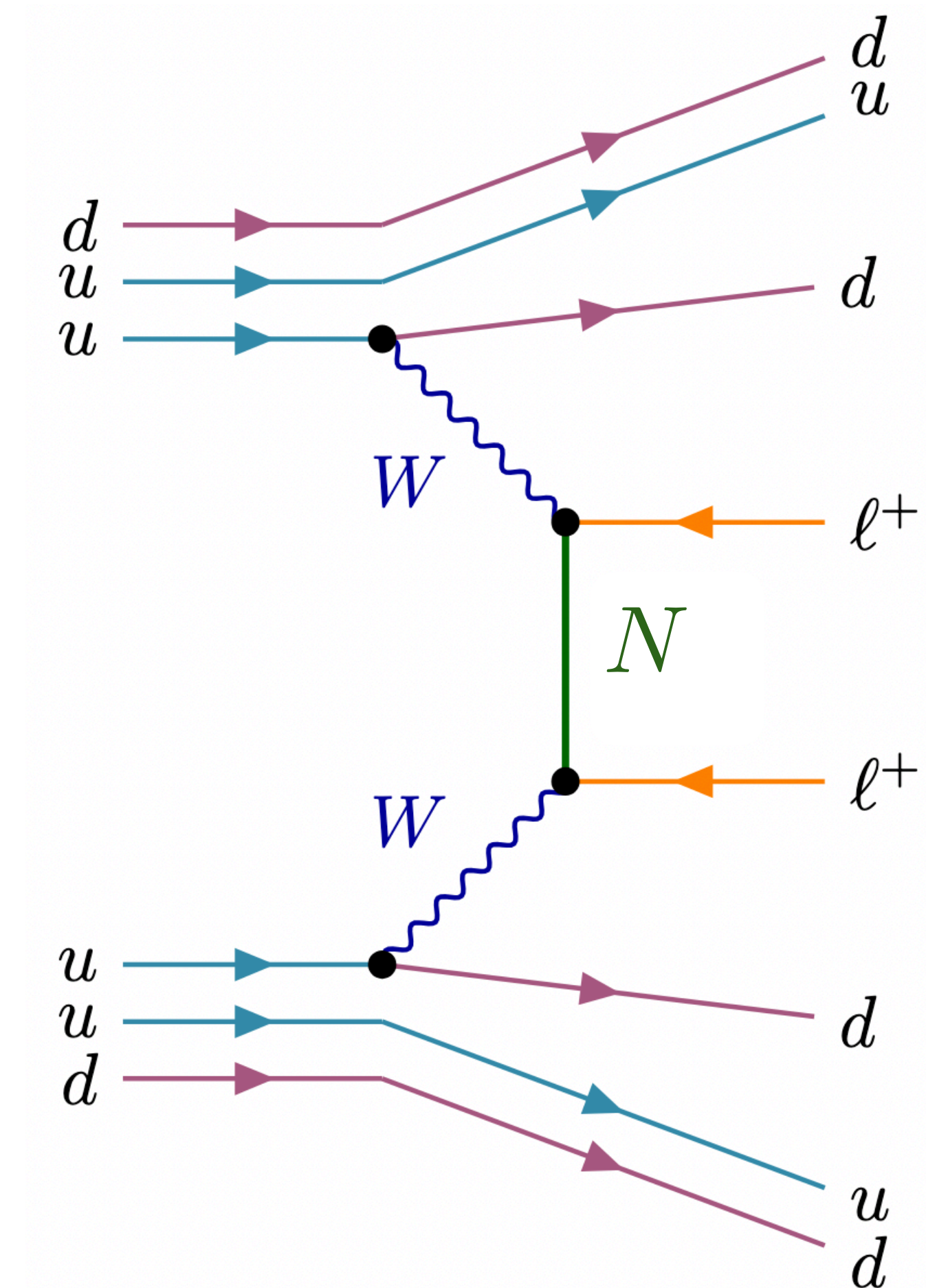
HNLs and Lepton Number Violation

Are neutrinos Dirac or Majorana? Lepton number is an approximate symmetry of the SM. Violated by Majorana mass terms.

$$\mathcal{L} \supset Y \bar{L} \tilde{H} N_R + \frac{1}{2} M_N \bar{N}_R N_R$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{EWSB}} m_D \bar{\nu}_L N_R + \boxed{M_N \bar{N}_R N_R}$$

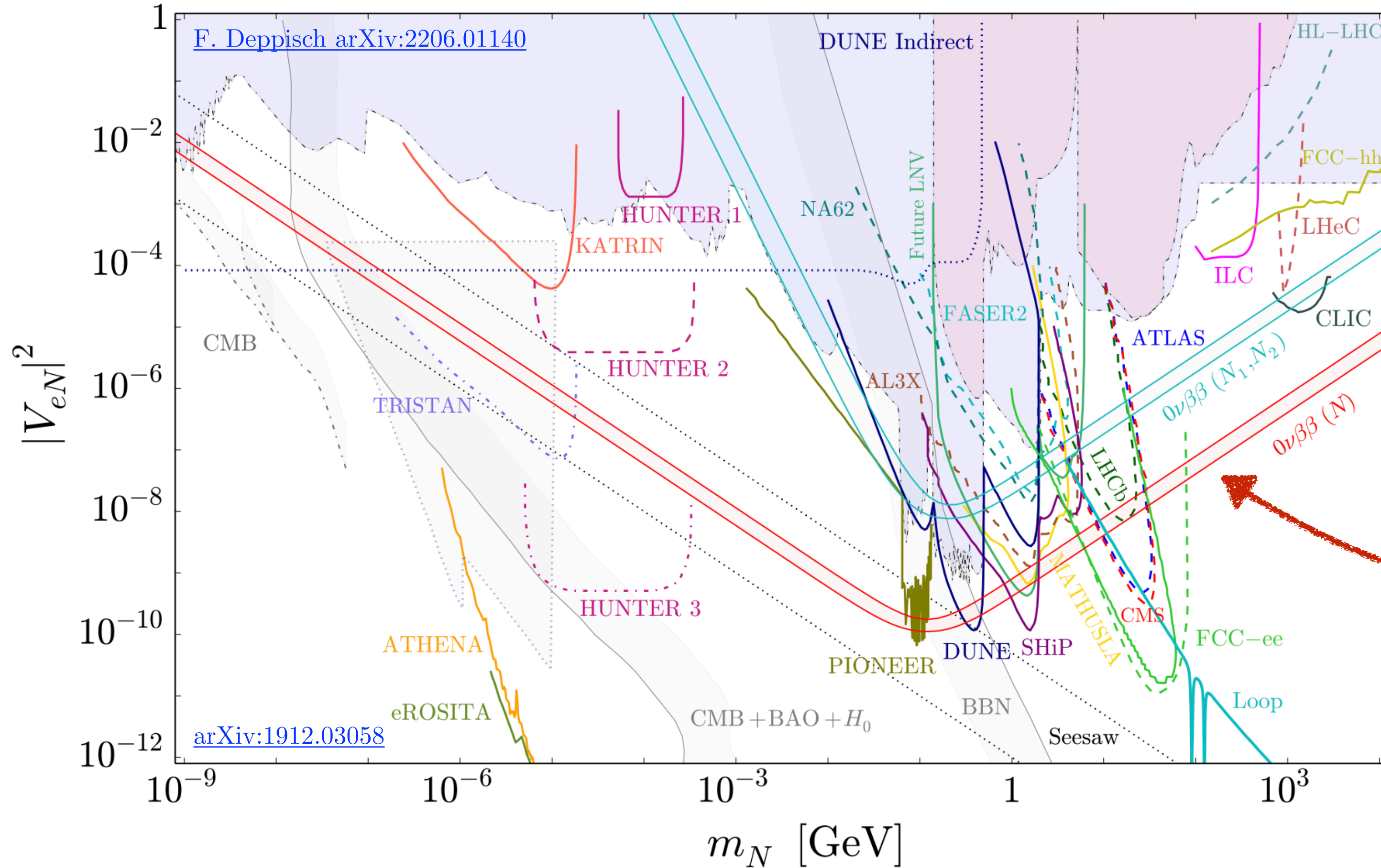
Violates Lepton Number!



Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay is a smoking gun signature of Majorana HNLs

Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

Electron-Mixed HNL

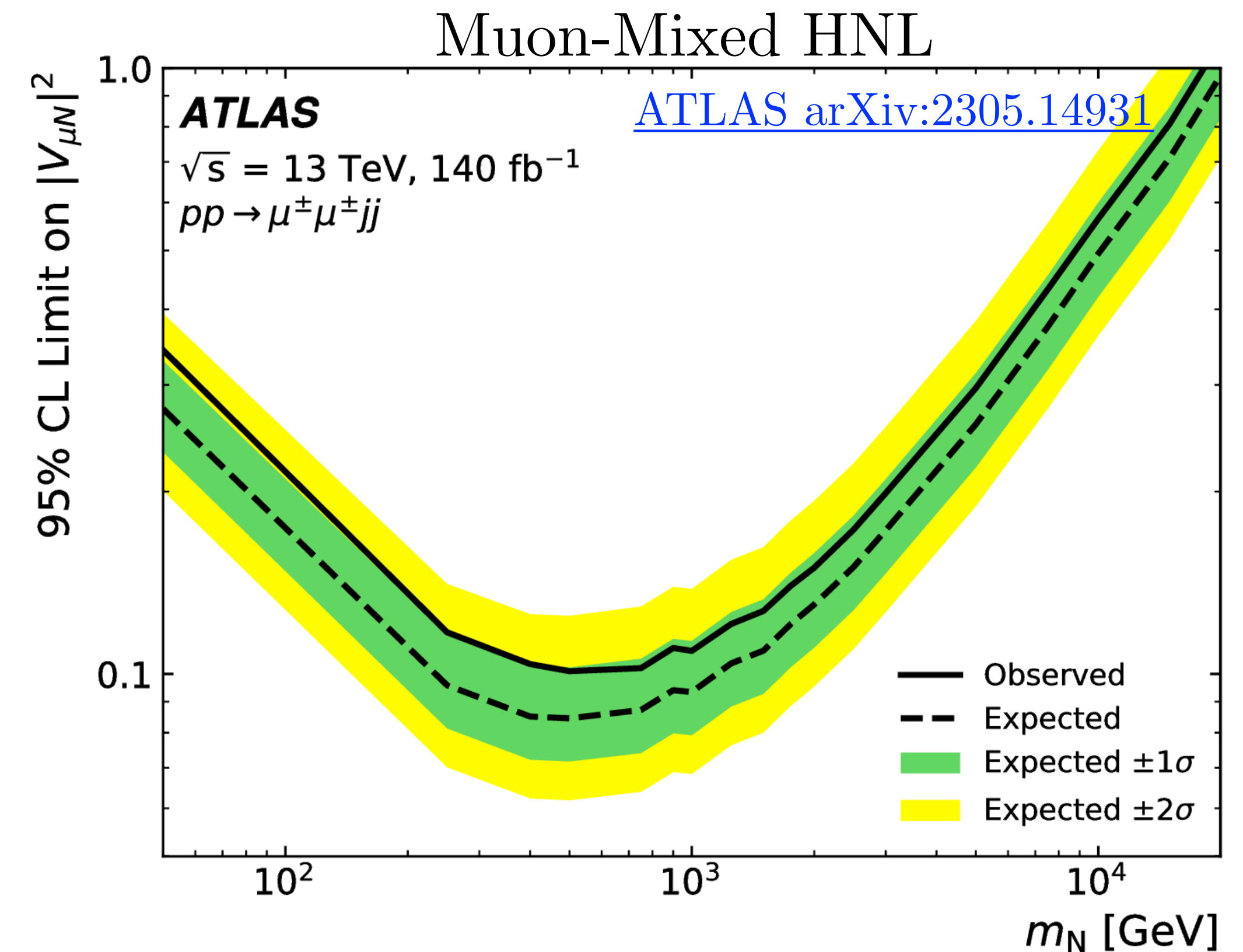
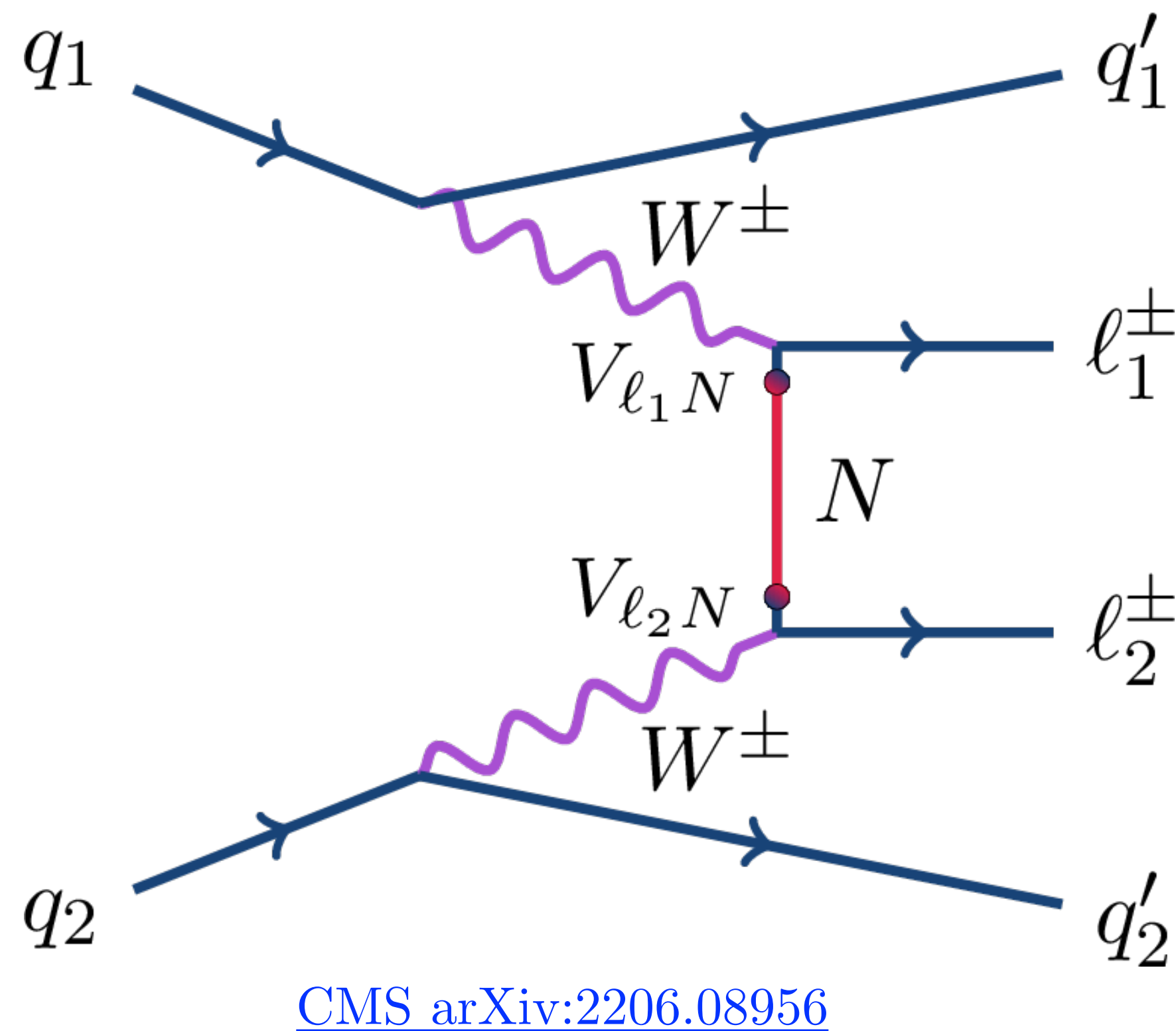


Probe of electron-mixed HNLs beyond the TeV-scale!

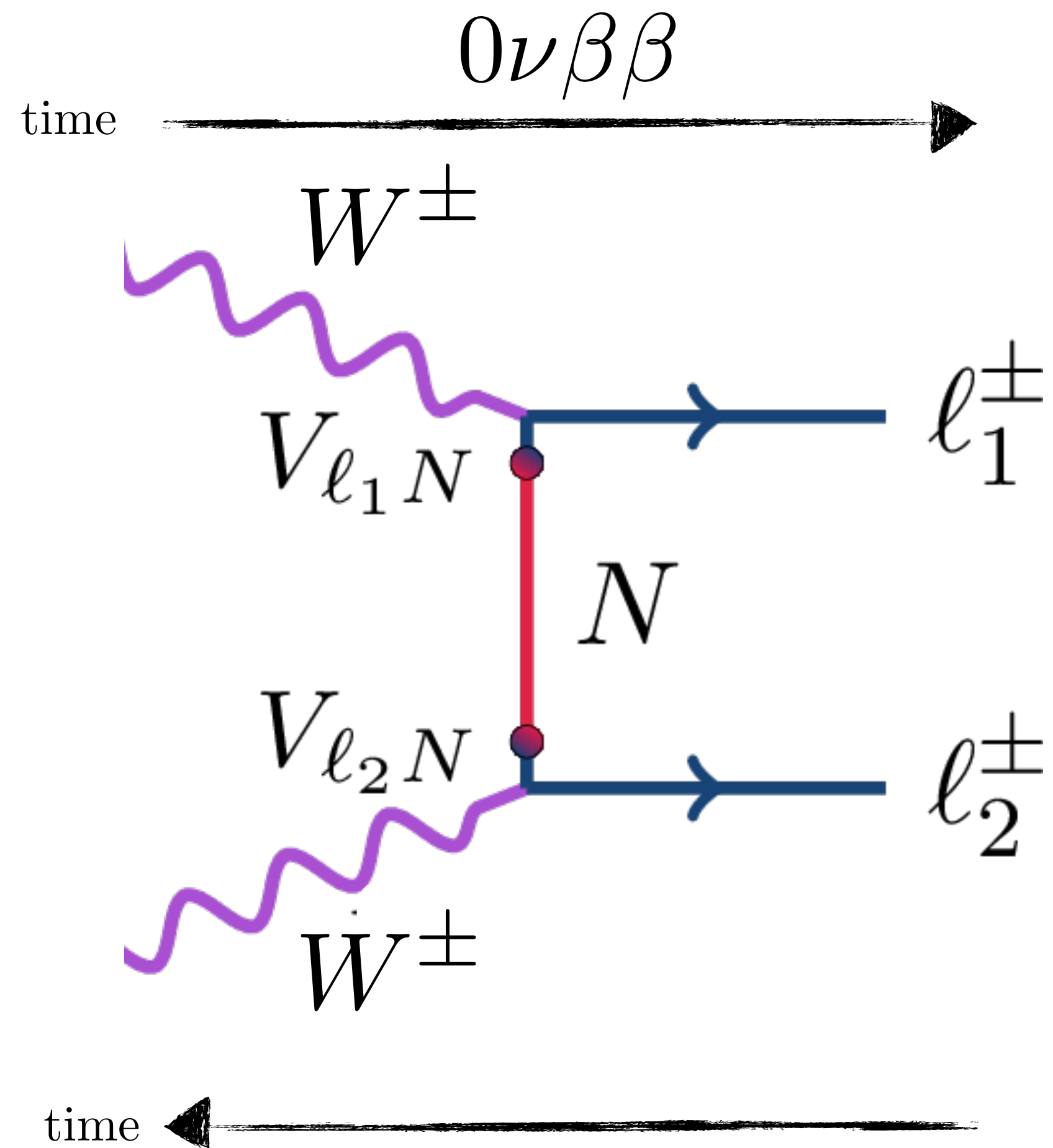
Only for electron-mixing. What about muon- or tau-mixed HNLs?

Same-Sign Leptons @ LHC

Same-sign final state leptons probe Majorana HNLs at the LHC

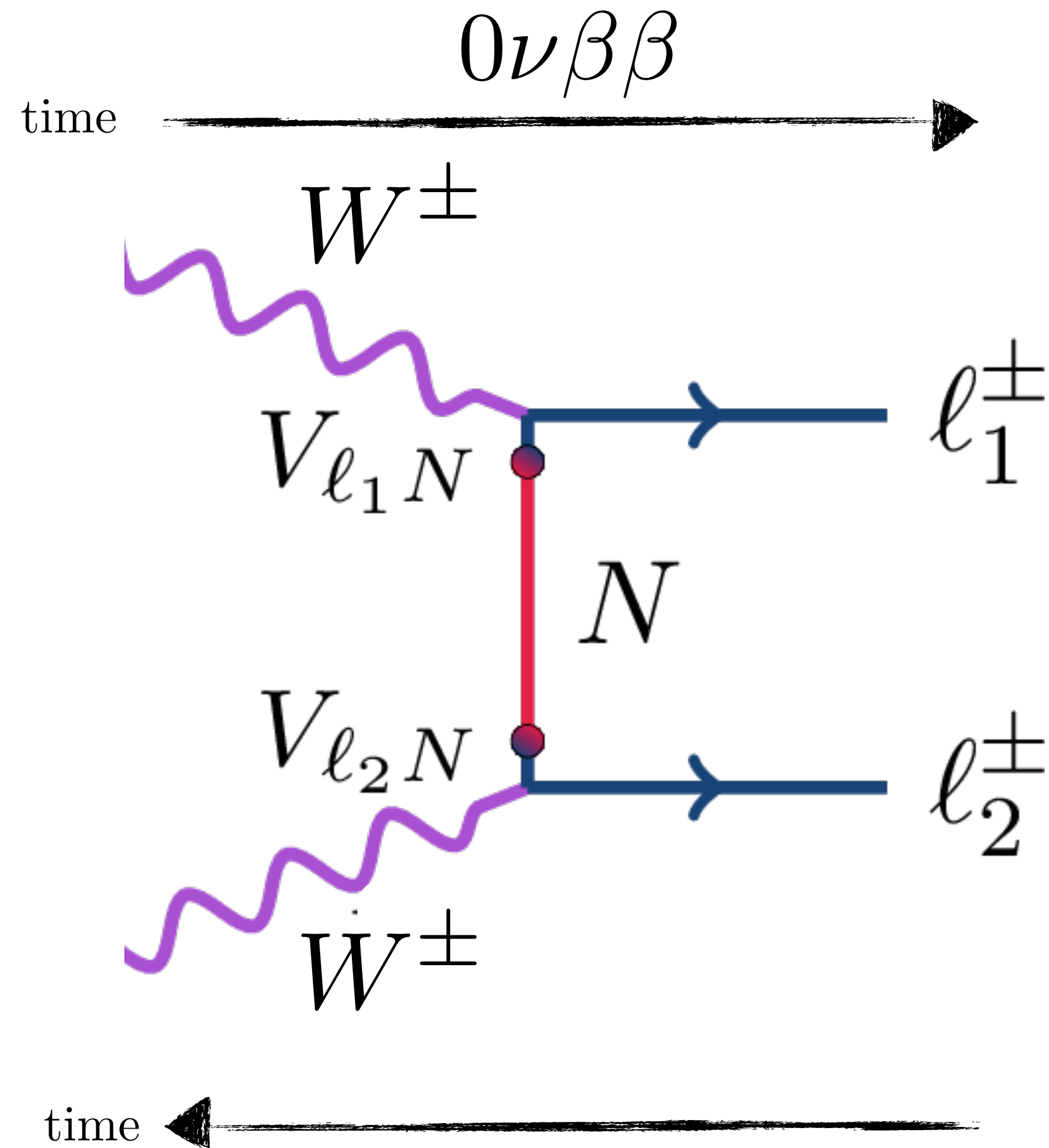


Same-Sign Lepton Colliders



Same-Sign Lepton Colliders

Same-Sign Lepton Colliders



Same-Sign Lepton Colliders

μ TRISTAN

arXiv > hep-ph > arXiv:2201.06664

[arXiv:2201.06664](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.06664)

High Energy Physics – Phenomenology

[Submitted on 17 Jan 2022 (v1), last revised 21 Apr 2022 (this version, v2)]

μ TRISTAN

Yu Hamada, Ryuichiro Kitano, Ryutaro Matsudo, Hiromasa Takaura, Mitsuhiro Yoshida

Compact Linear Collider

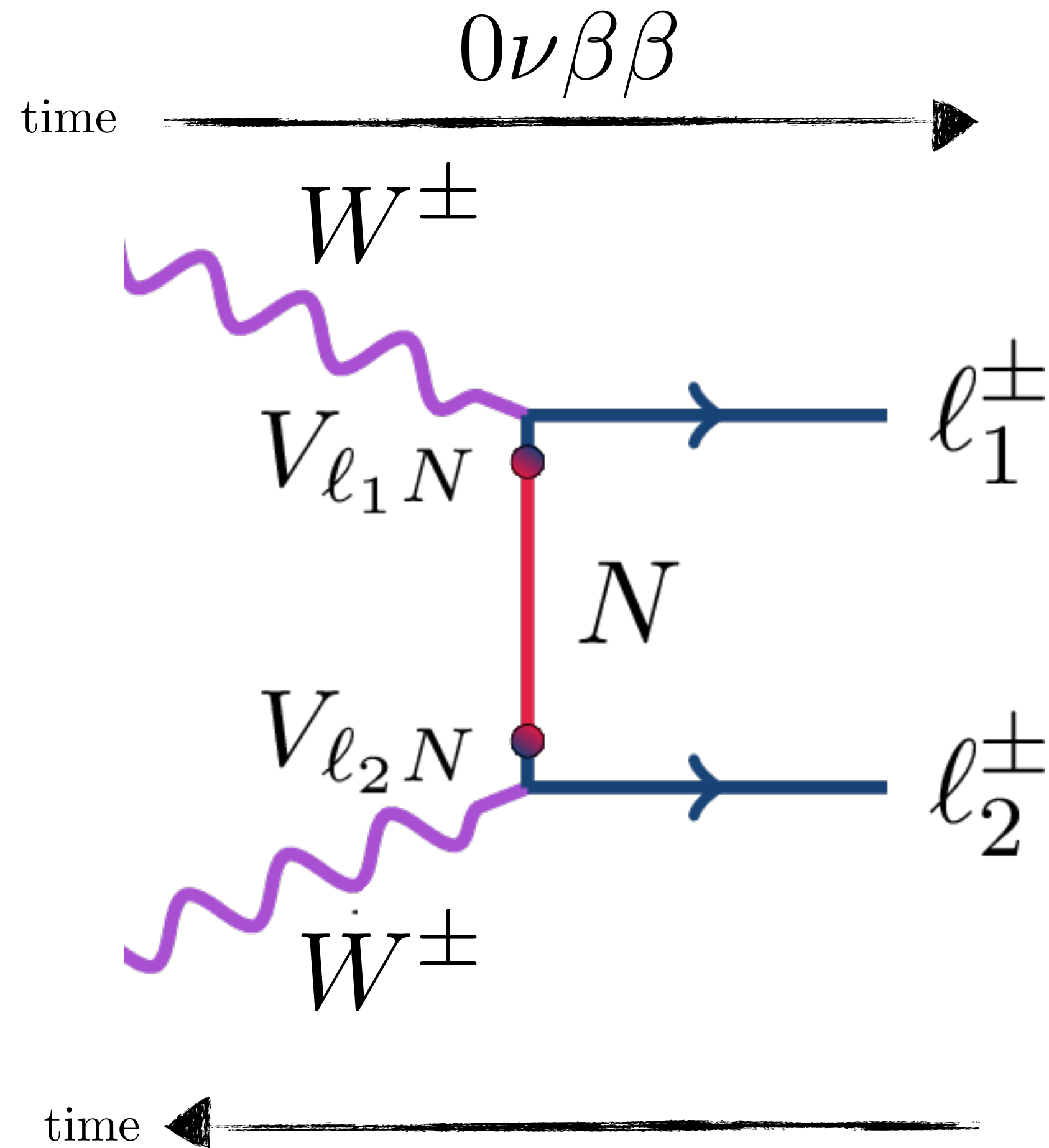
SOME THOUGHTS ON e^-e^- COLLISIONS IN CLIC

D. SCHULTE

CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

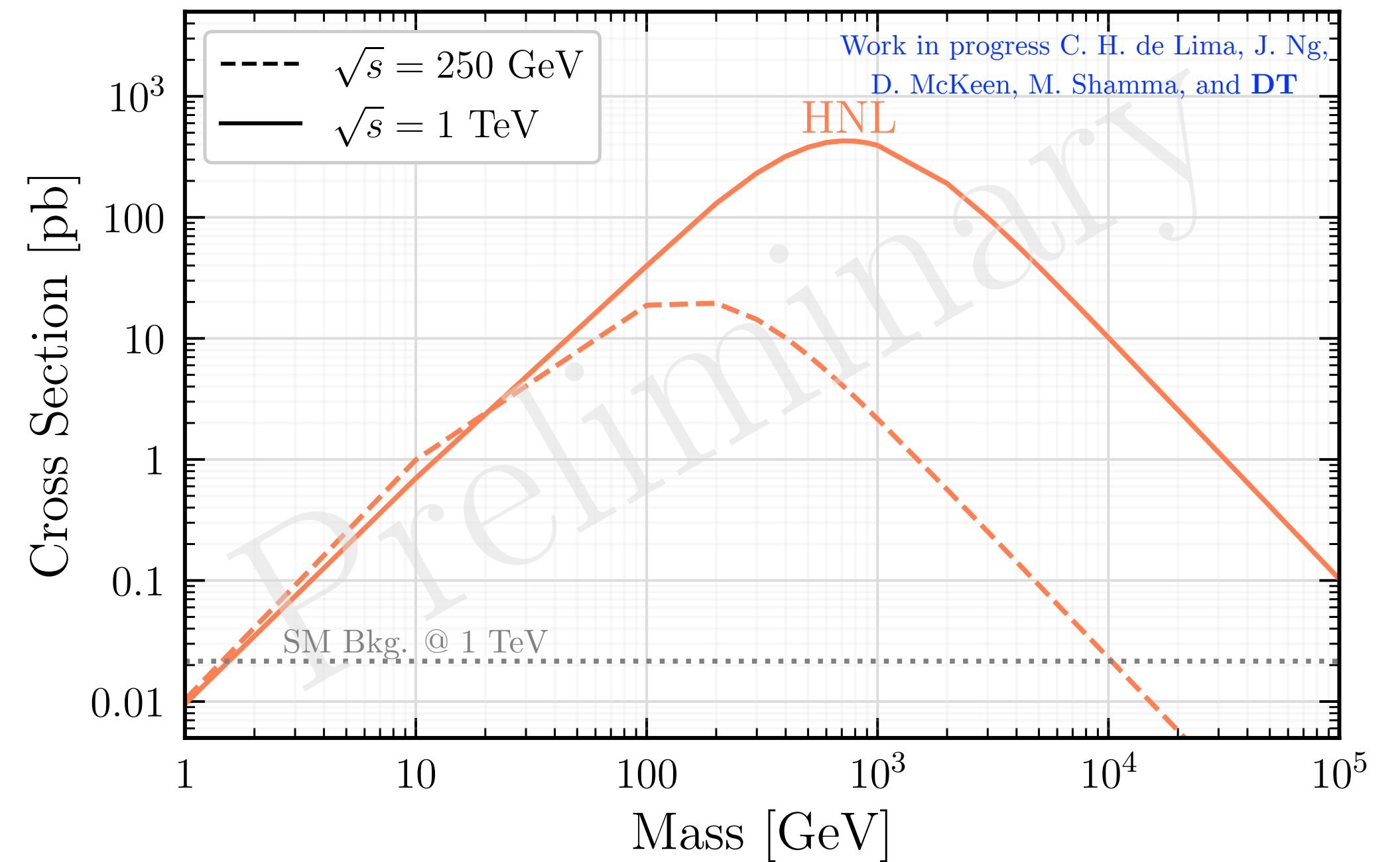
Linear e^+e^- colliders have the potential to also be used to realise e^-e^- collisions. Some preliminary thoughts about the realisation of this at CLIC are presented. Luminosity and some background estimates are also given. [CLIC Note 512 \(2002\)](#)

Same-Sign Lepton Colliders



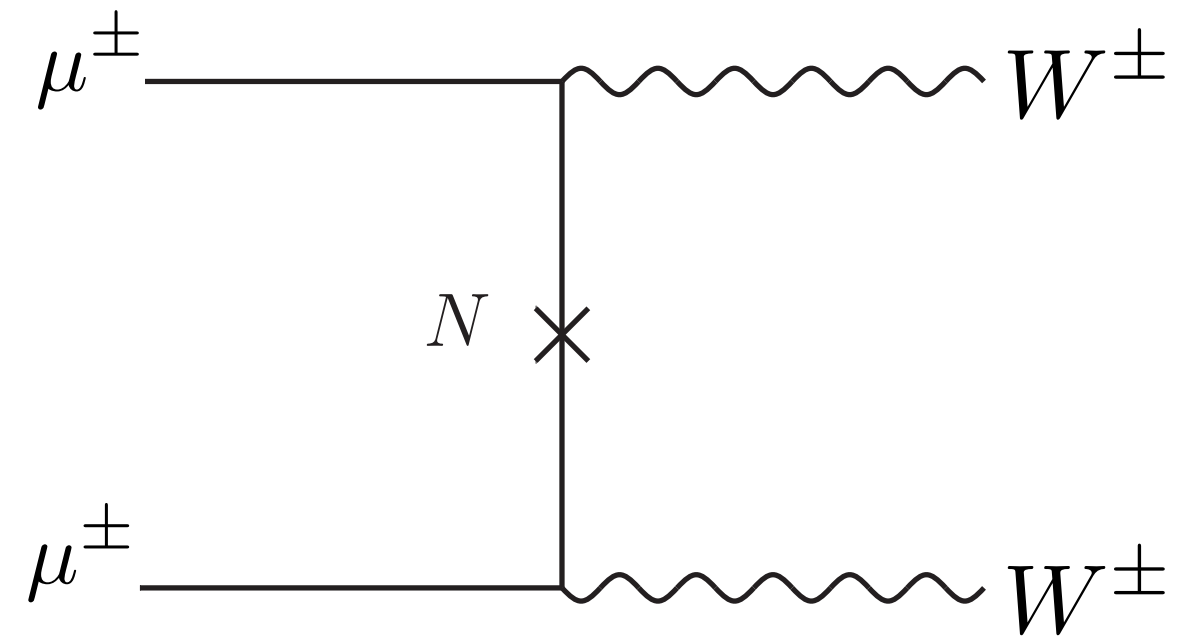
Same-Sign Lepton Colliders

$$\sigma \simeq \begin{cases} 42 \text{ pb } |U_\ell|^4 \left(\frac{m_N}{100 \text{ GeV}}\right)^2, & m_N \ll \sqrt{s} \\ 11 \text{ pb } |U_\ell|^4 \left(\frac{\sqrt{s}}{1 \text{ TeV}}\right)^4 \left(\frac{10 \text{ TeV}}{m_N}\right)^2, & m_N \gg \sqrt{s}. \end{cases}$$

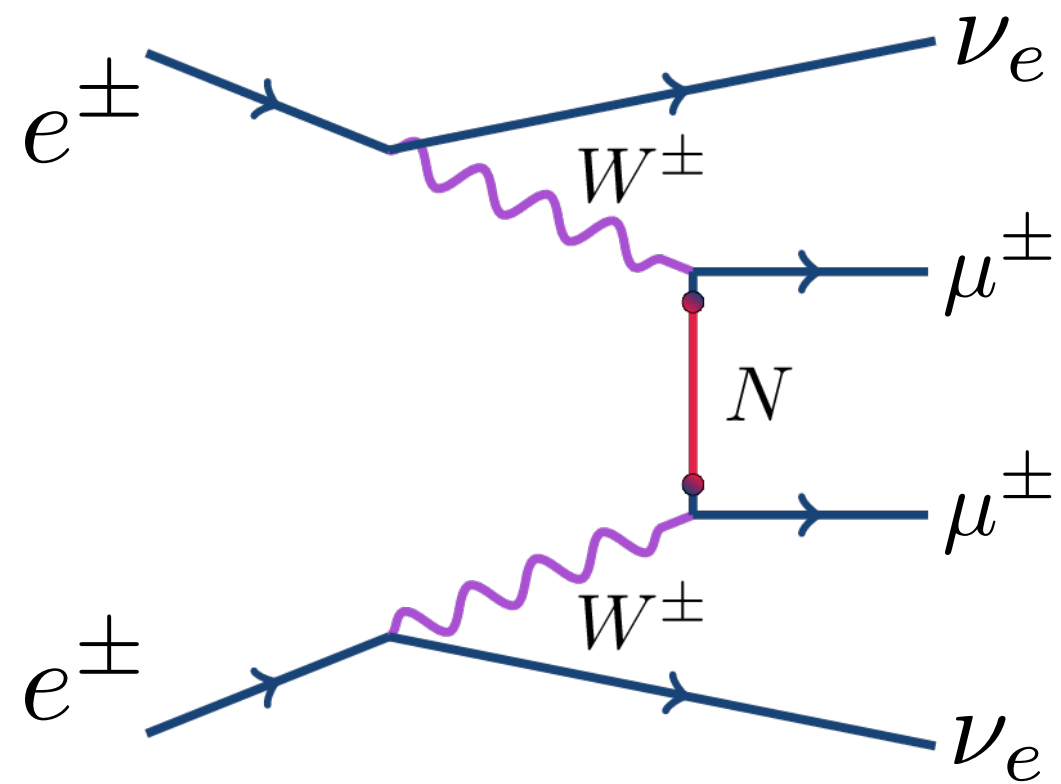


Same-Sign Lepton Colliders

W^\pm Direct Production

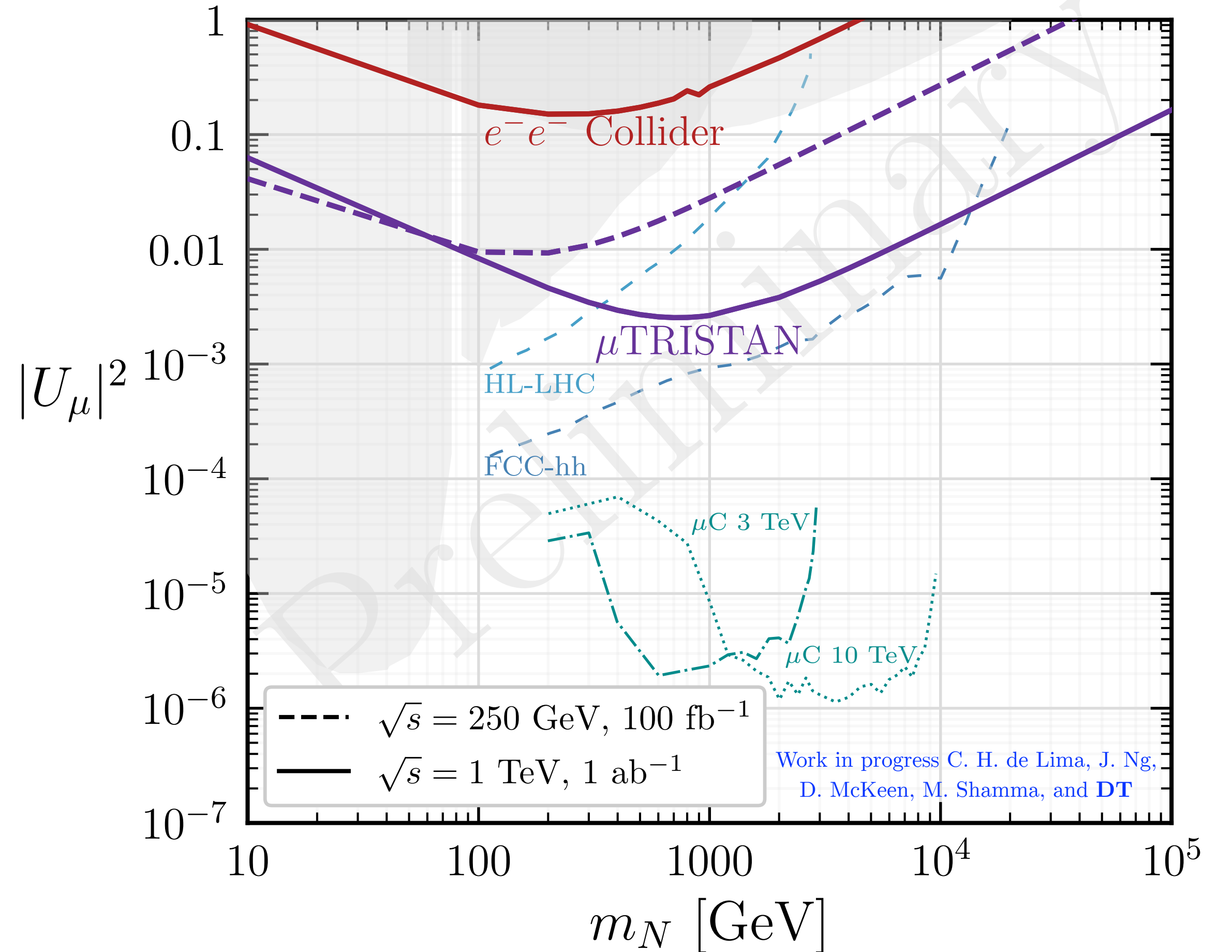


W^\pm Boson Scattering



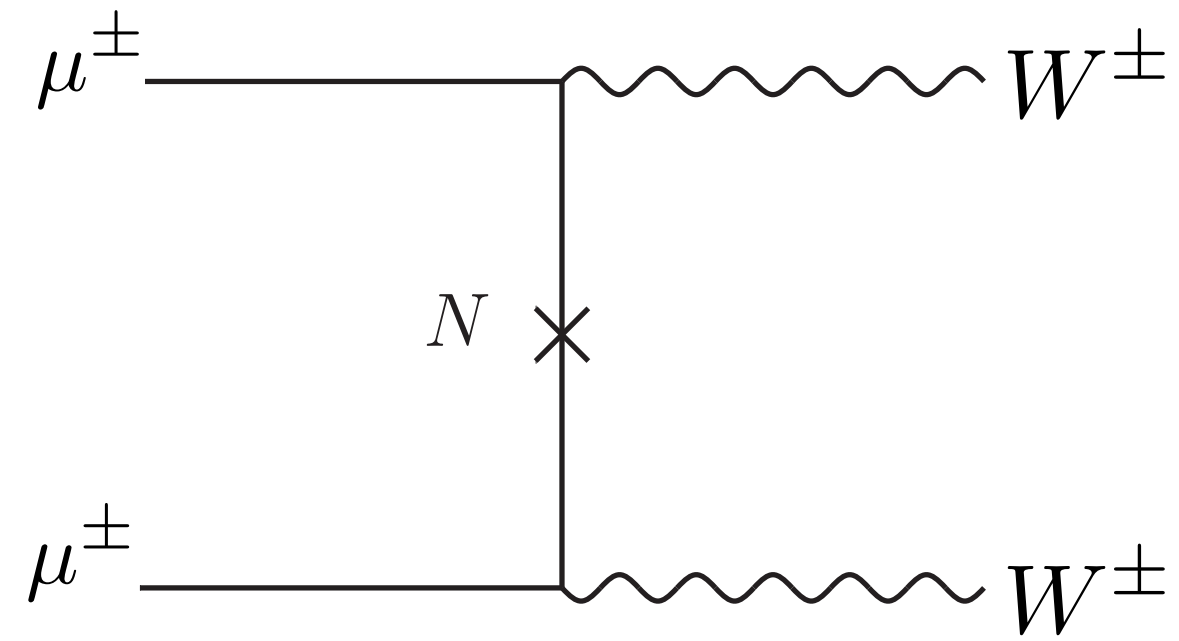
Probe HNLs with a different flavor initial state lepton!

Muon-Mixed HNL

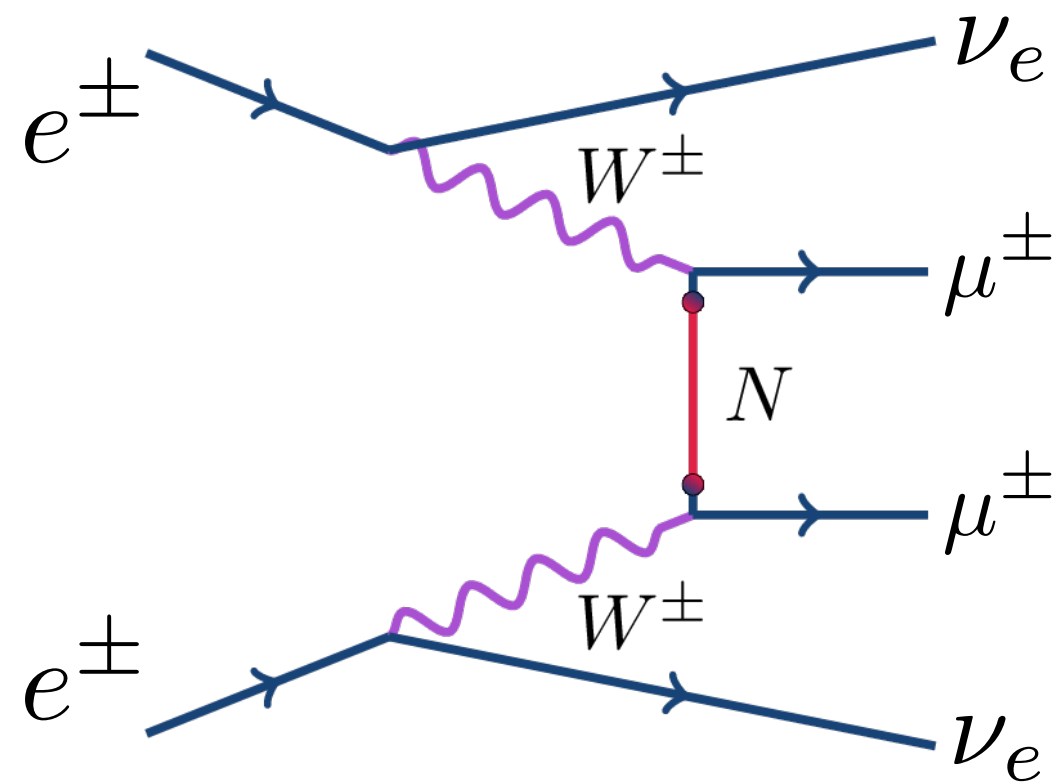


Same-Sign Lepton Colliders

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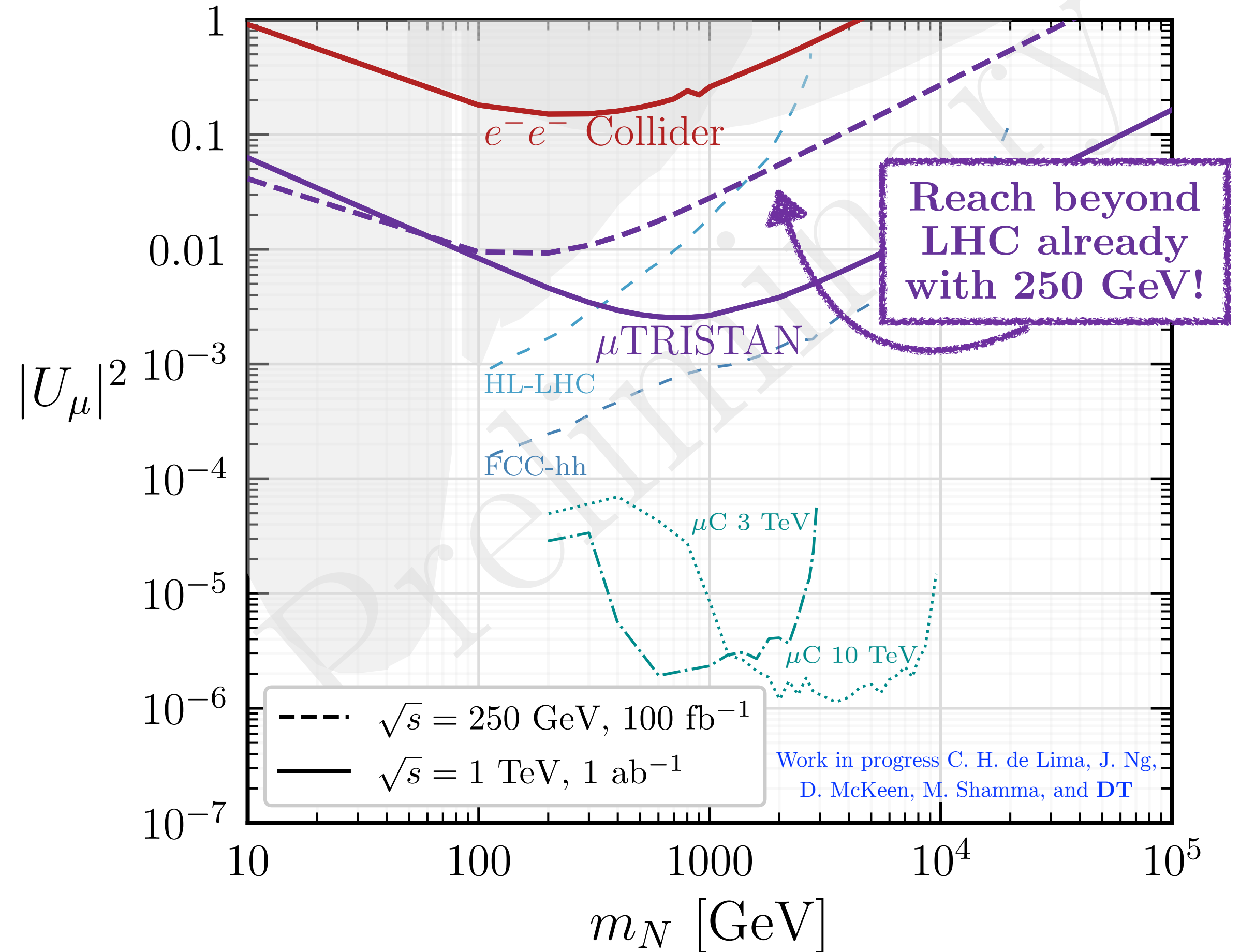


W^\pm Boson Scattering



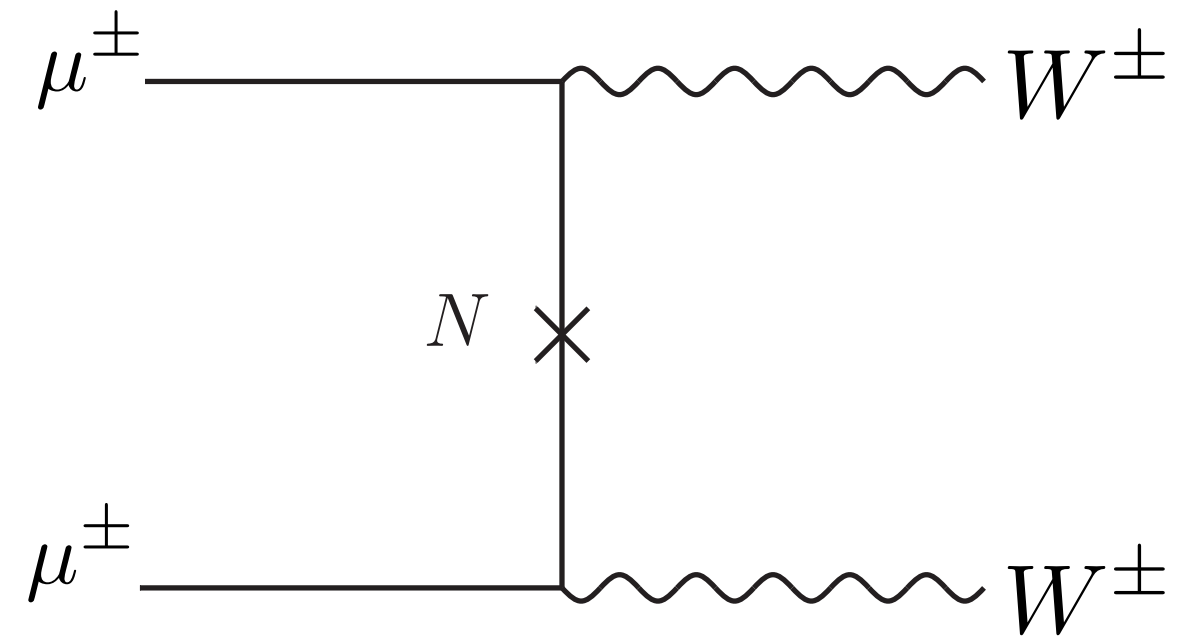
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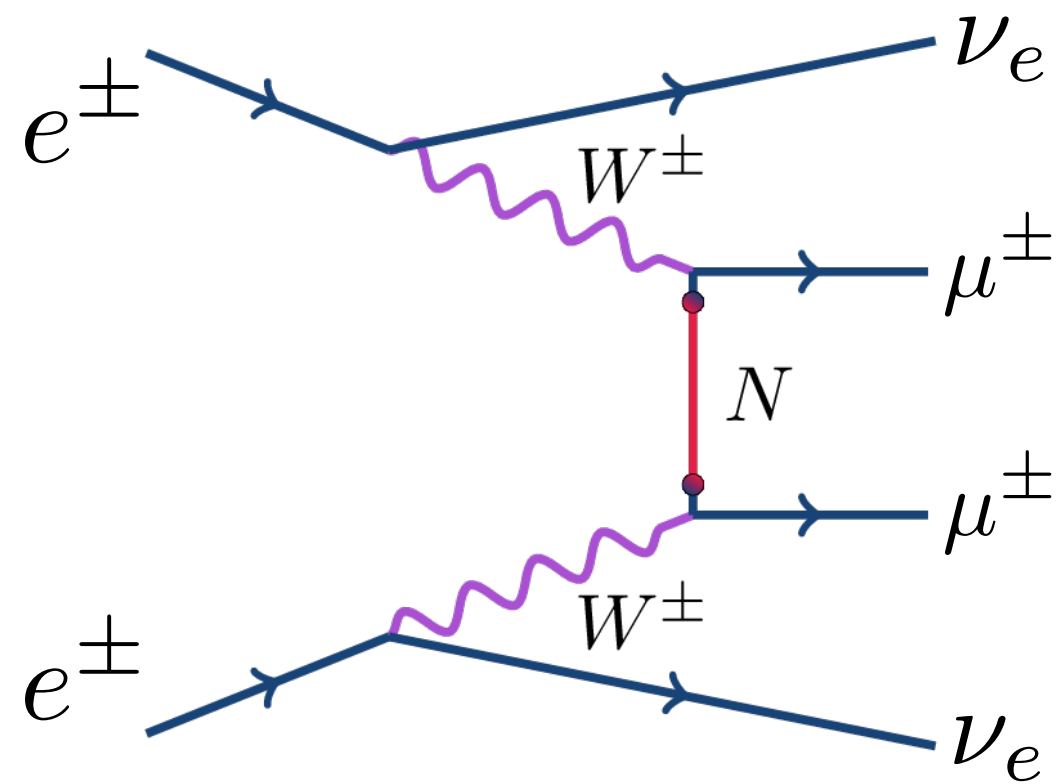


Same-Sign Lepton Colliders

W^\pm Direct Production

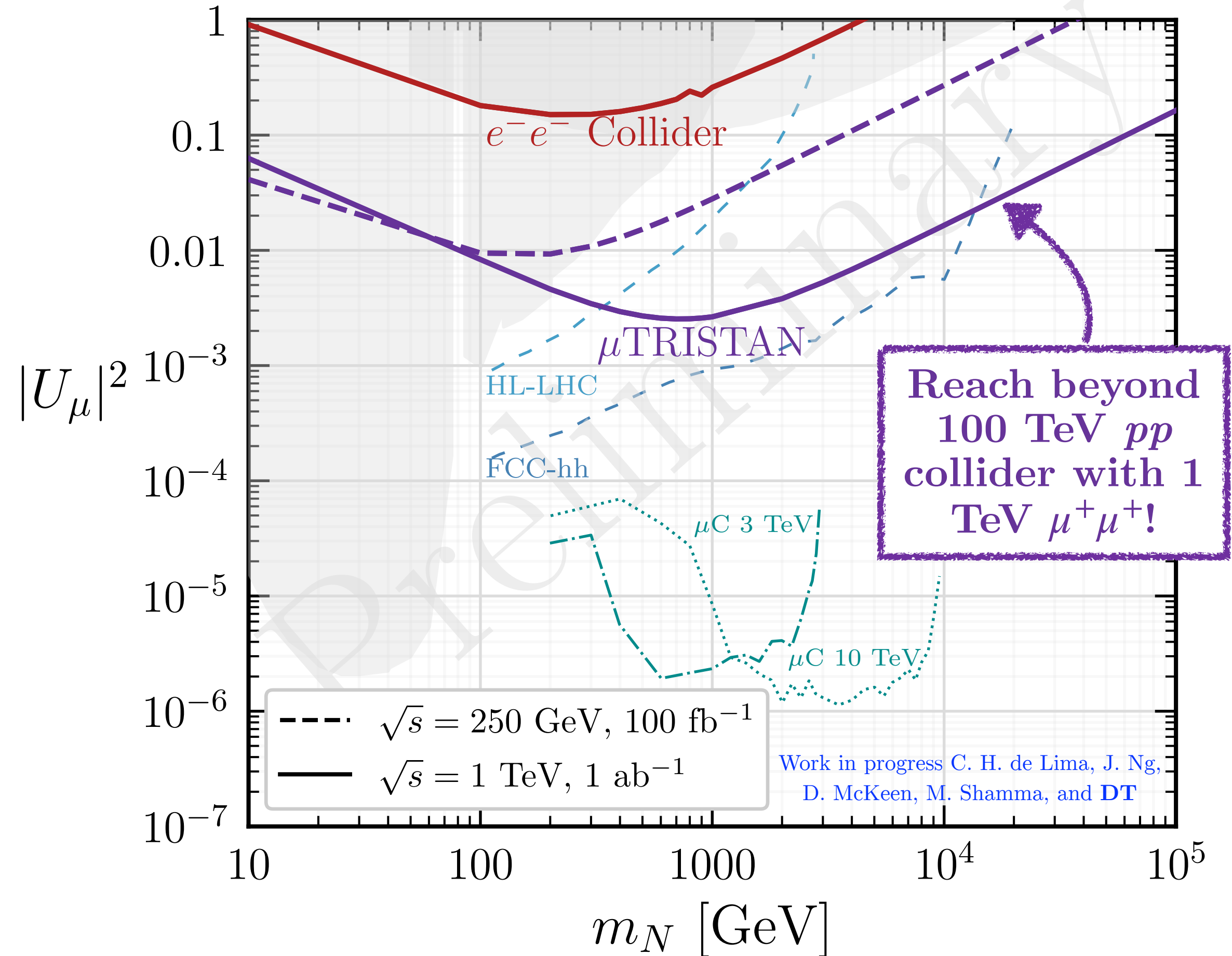


W^\pm Boson Scattering



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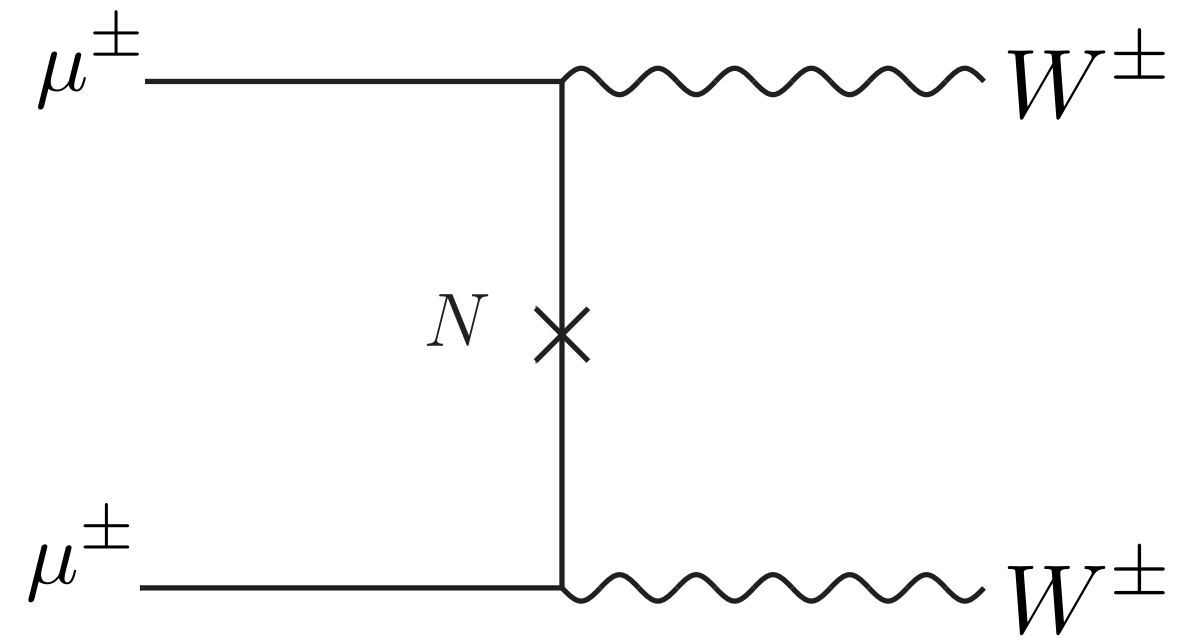
Muon-Mixed HNL



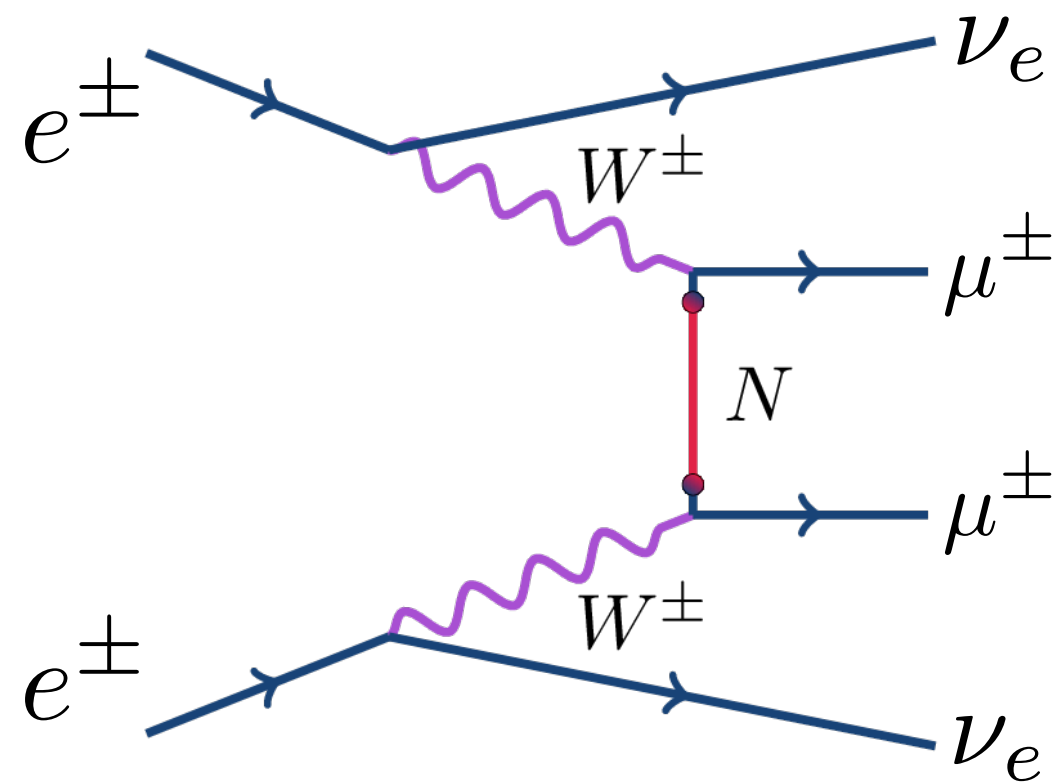
Reach beyond 100 TeV pp collider with 1 TeV $\mu^+\mu^+$!

Same-Sign Lepton Colliders

W^\pm Direct Production

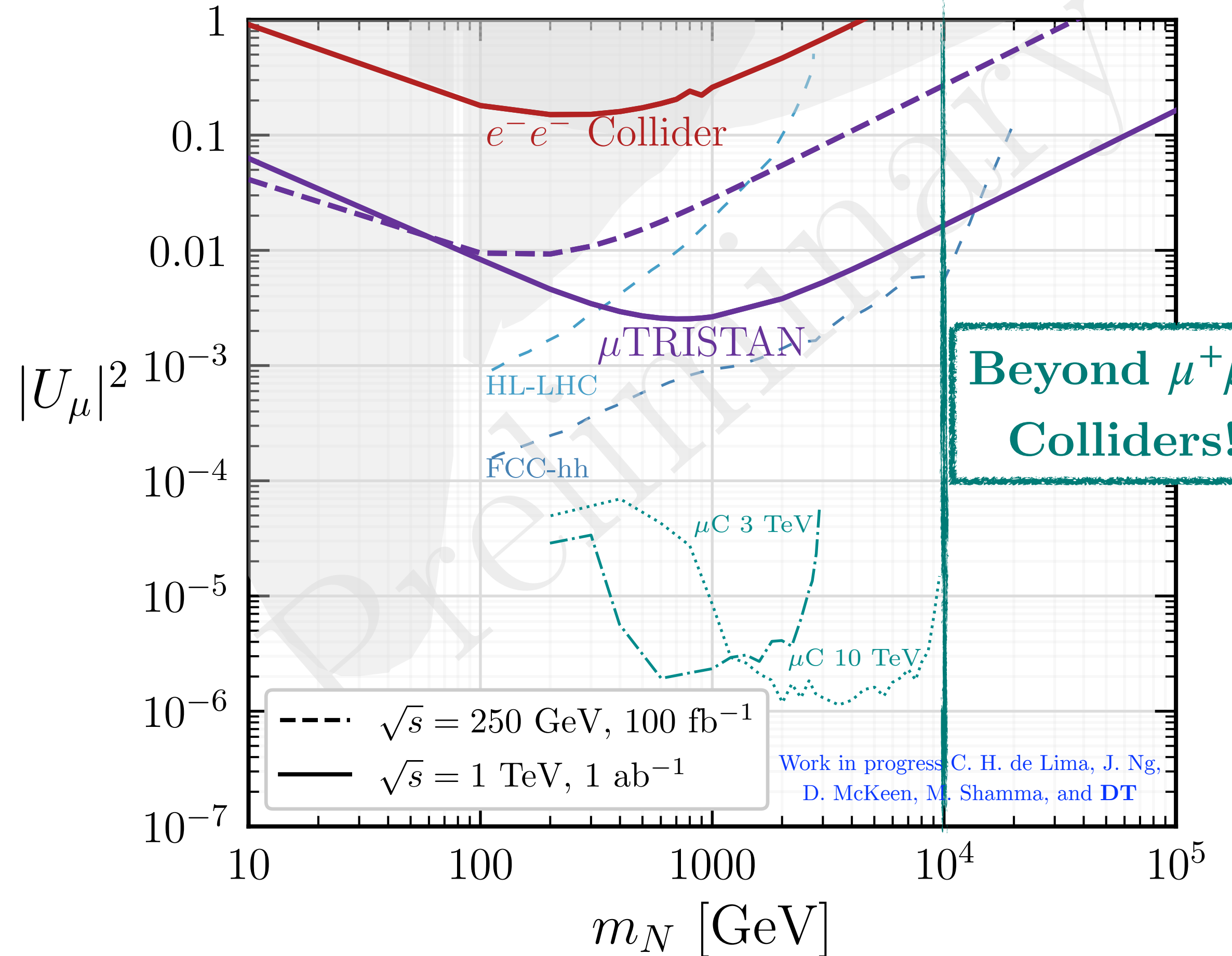


W^\pm Boson Scattering

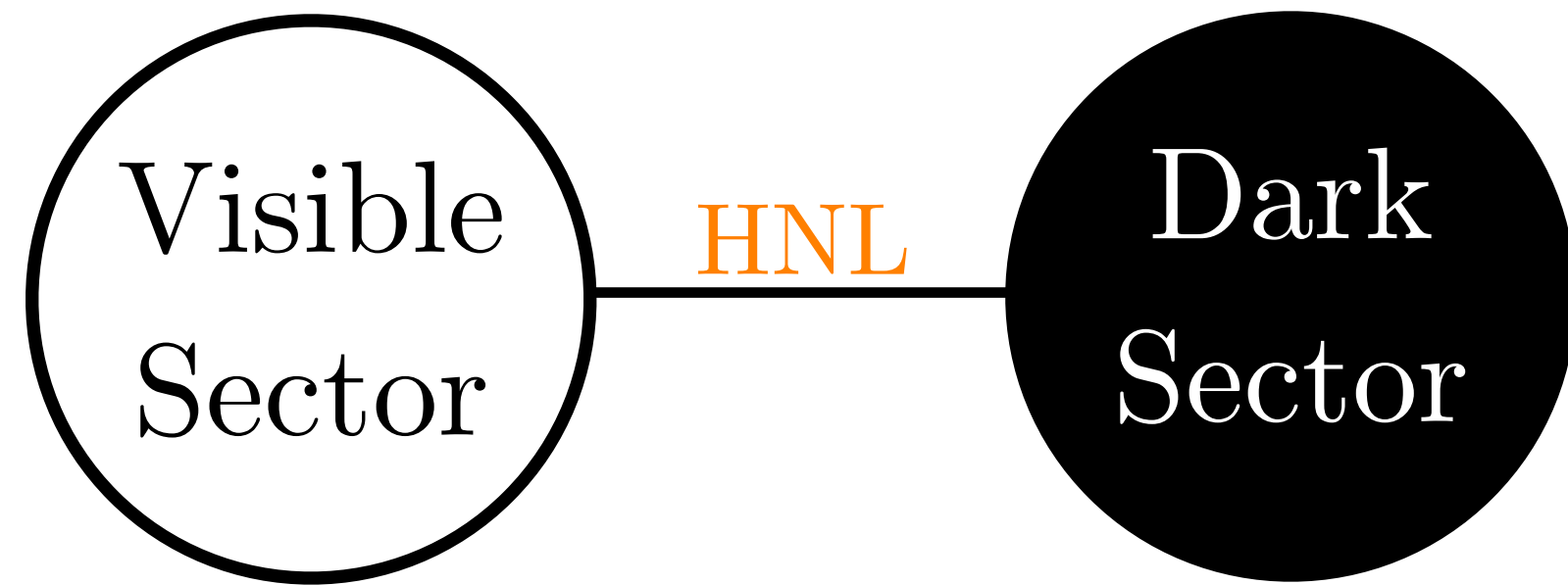


Probe HNLs with a different flavor initial state lepton!

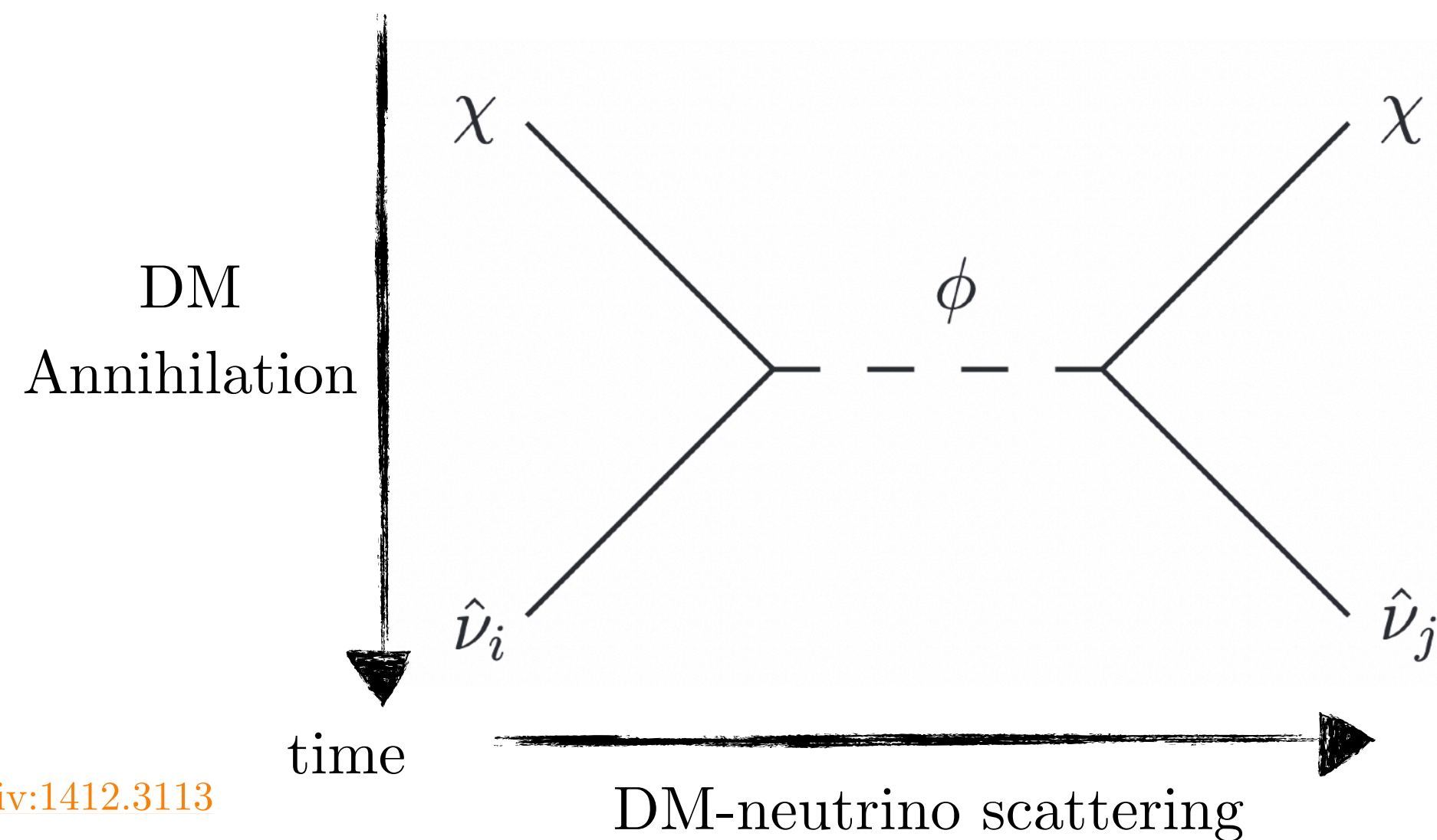
Muon-Mixed HNL



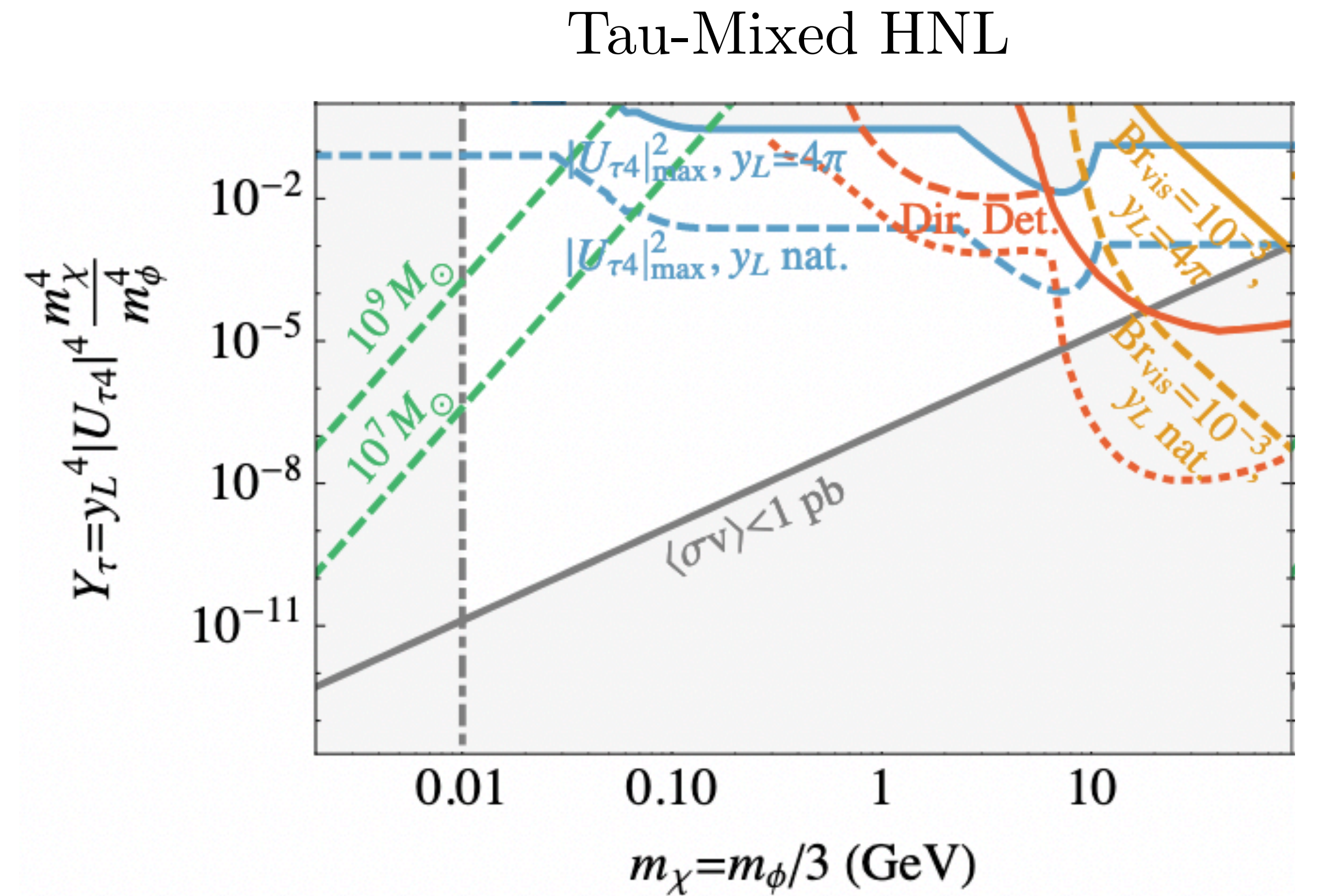
HNL Dark Sector Portal



$$\mathcal{L} \supset \underbrace{m_\chi \bar{\chi} \chi}_{\text{DM}} + \lambda_\ell \bar{L}_\ell \tilde{H} N_R + \underbrace{y_\chi \phi \bar{\chi} N_R}_{\text{Portal}}$$

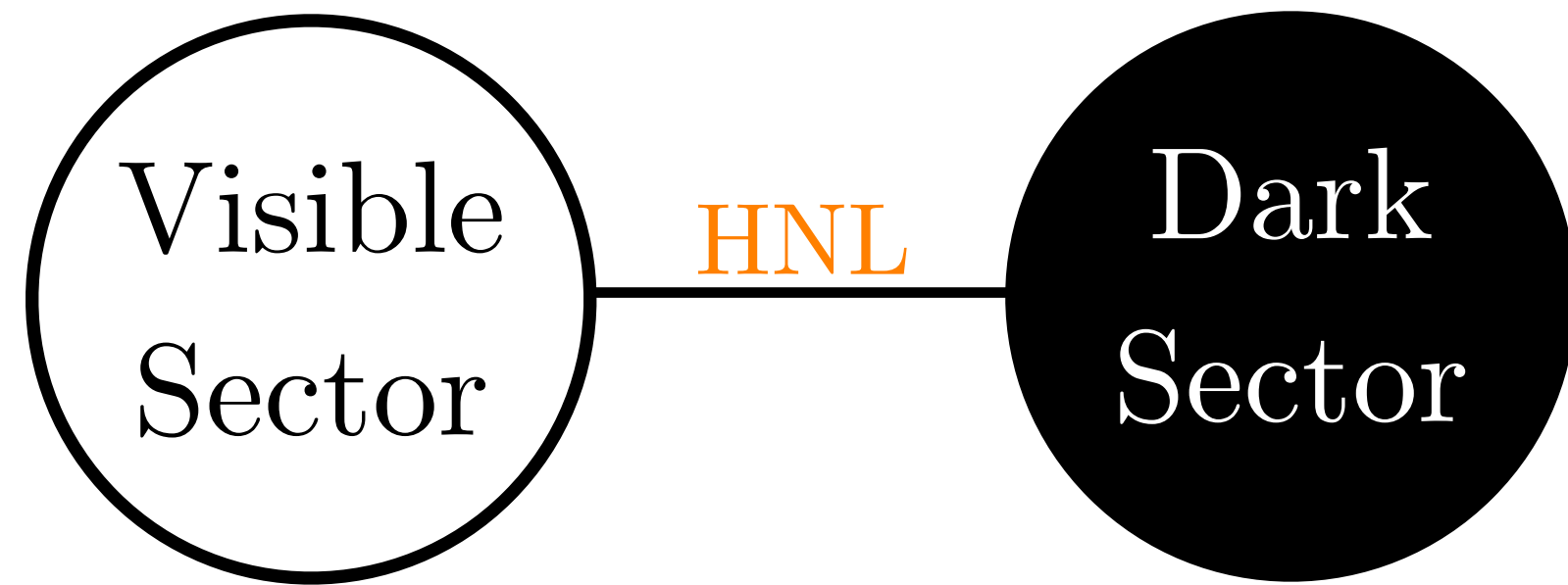


arXiv:1412.3113
arXiv:1709.07001

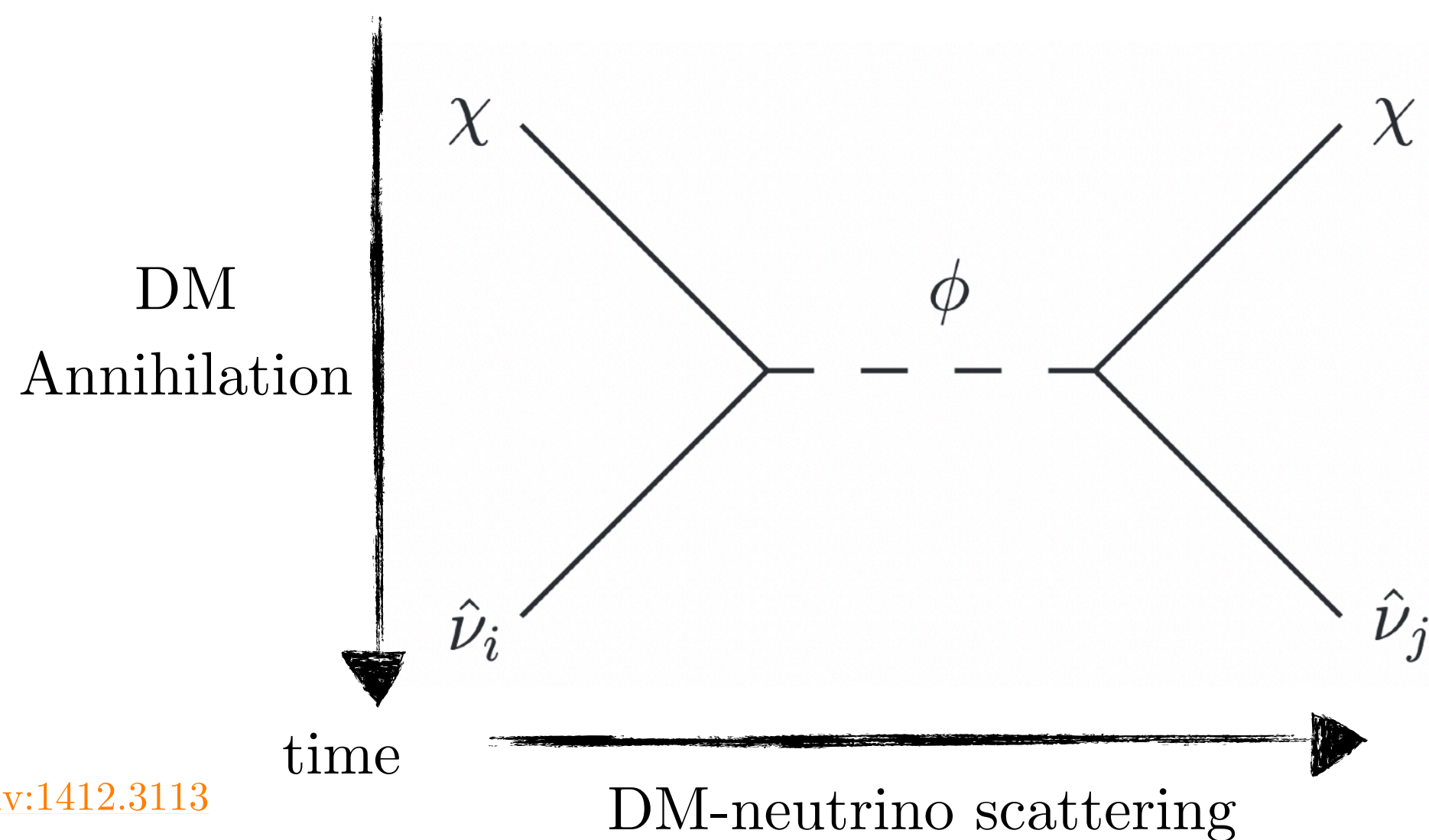


See B. Batell, T. Han, Dave McKeen, and B. S. Es Hagi [arXiv:1709.07001](https://arxiv.org/abs/1709.07001) for more details
(Or ask Dave...)

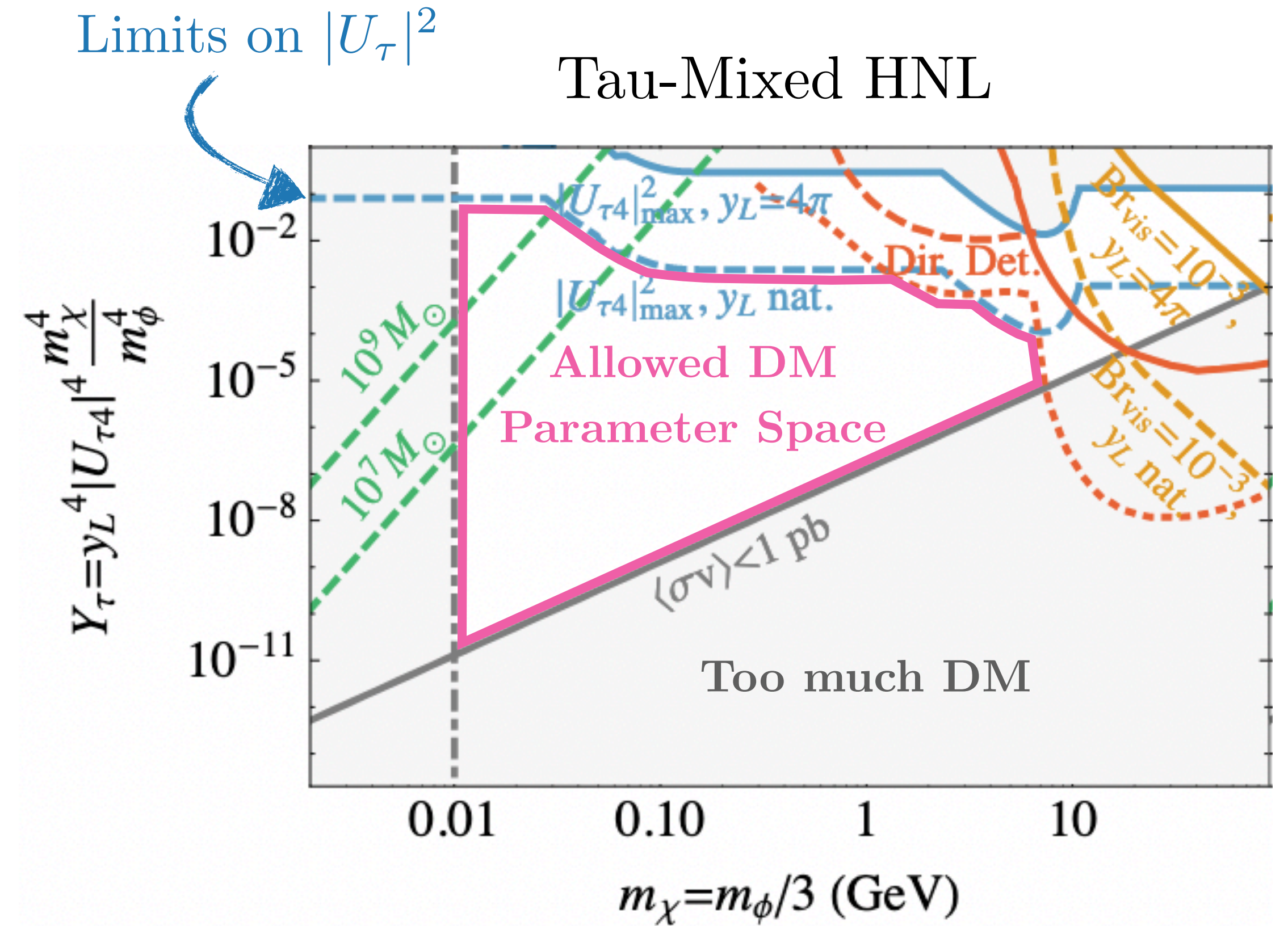
HNL Dark Sector Portal



$$\mathcal{L} \supset \underbrace{m_\chi \bar{\chi} \chi}_{\text{DM}} + \lambda_\ell \bar{L}_\ell \tilde{H} N_R + \underbrace{y_\chi \phi \bar{\chi} N_R}_{\text{Portal}}$$

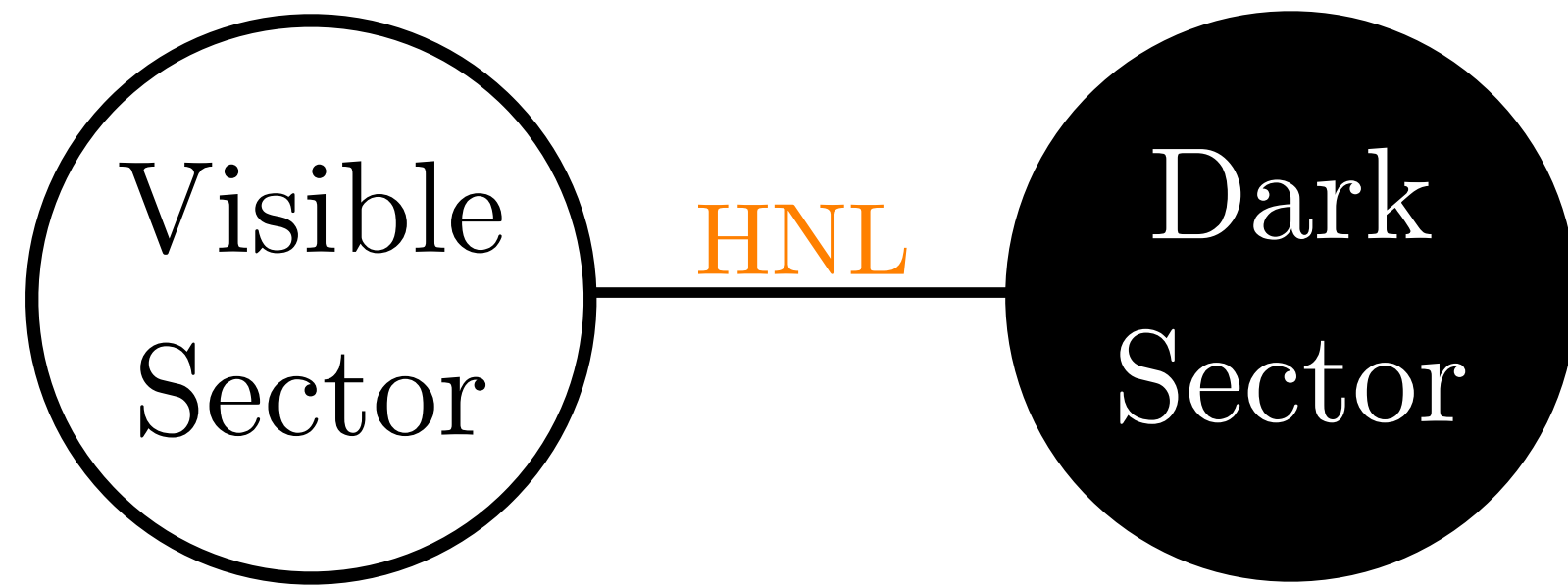


arXiv:1412.3113
arXiv:1709.07001

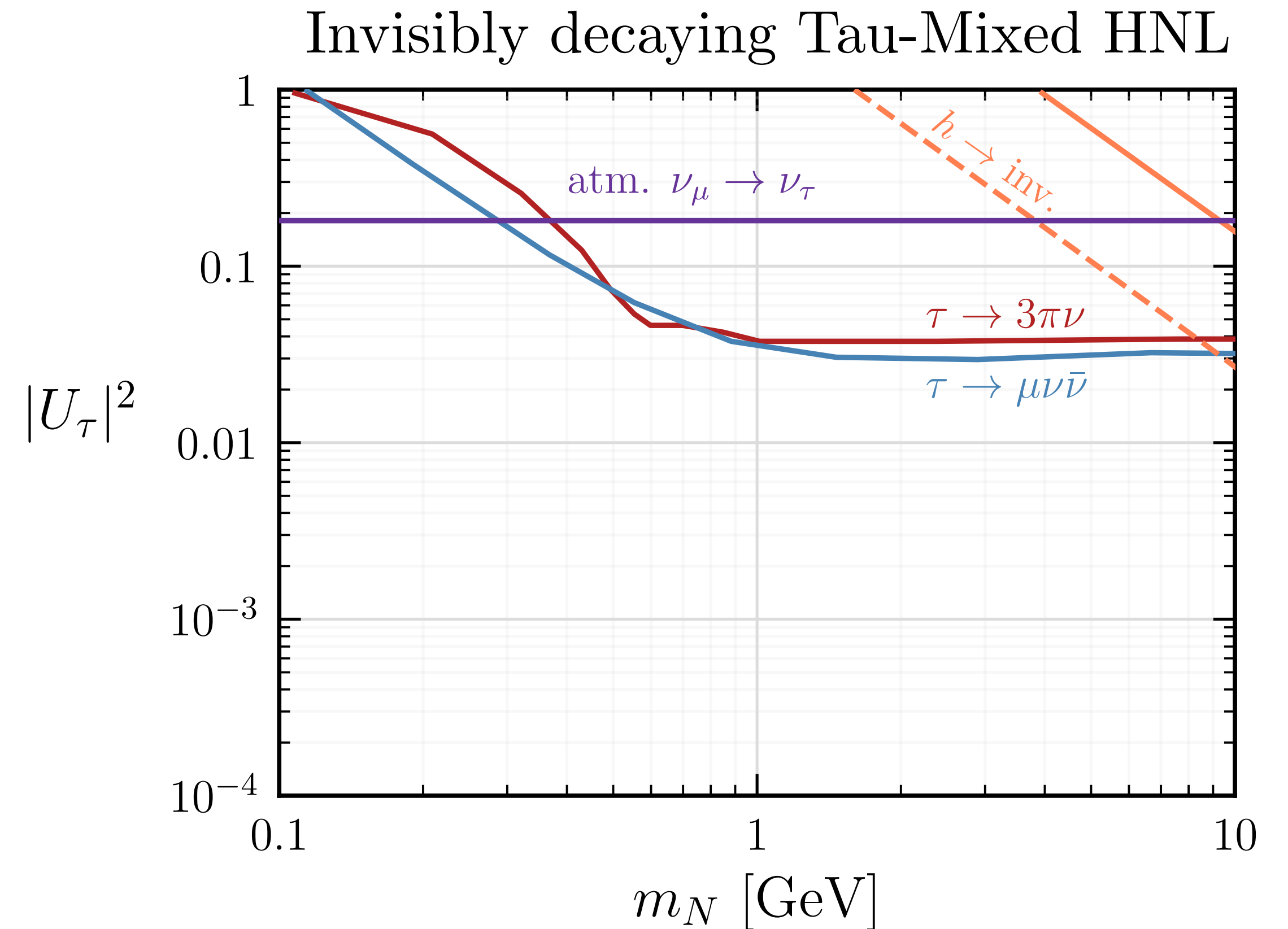
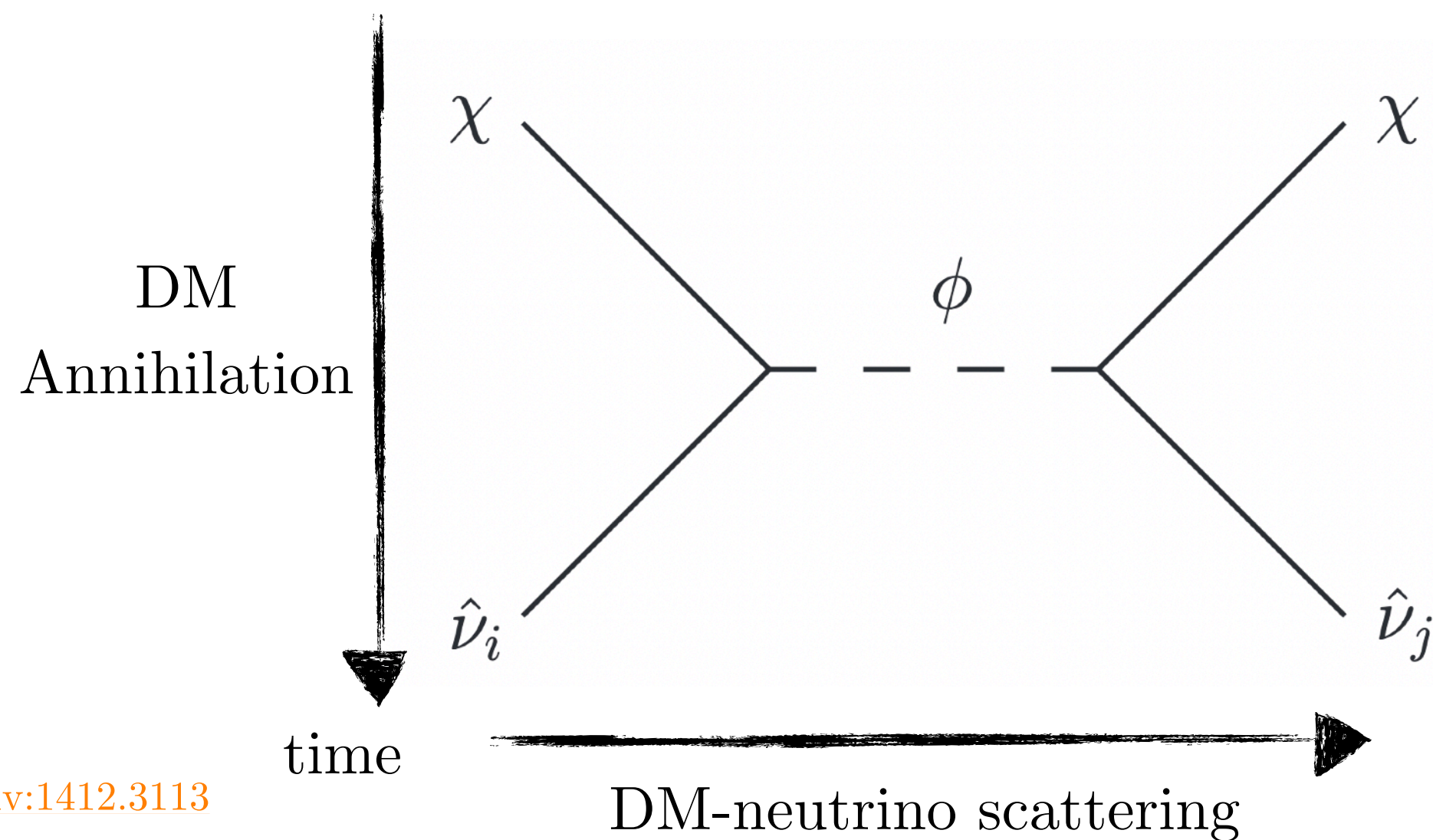


See B. Batell, T. Han, Dave McKeen, and B. S. Es Hagi [arXiv:1709.07001](https://arxiv.org/abs/1709.07001) for more details
(Or ask Dave...)

HNL Dark Sector Portal



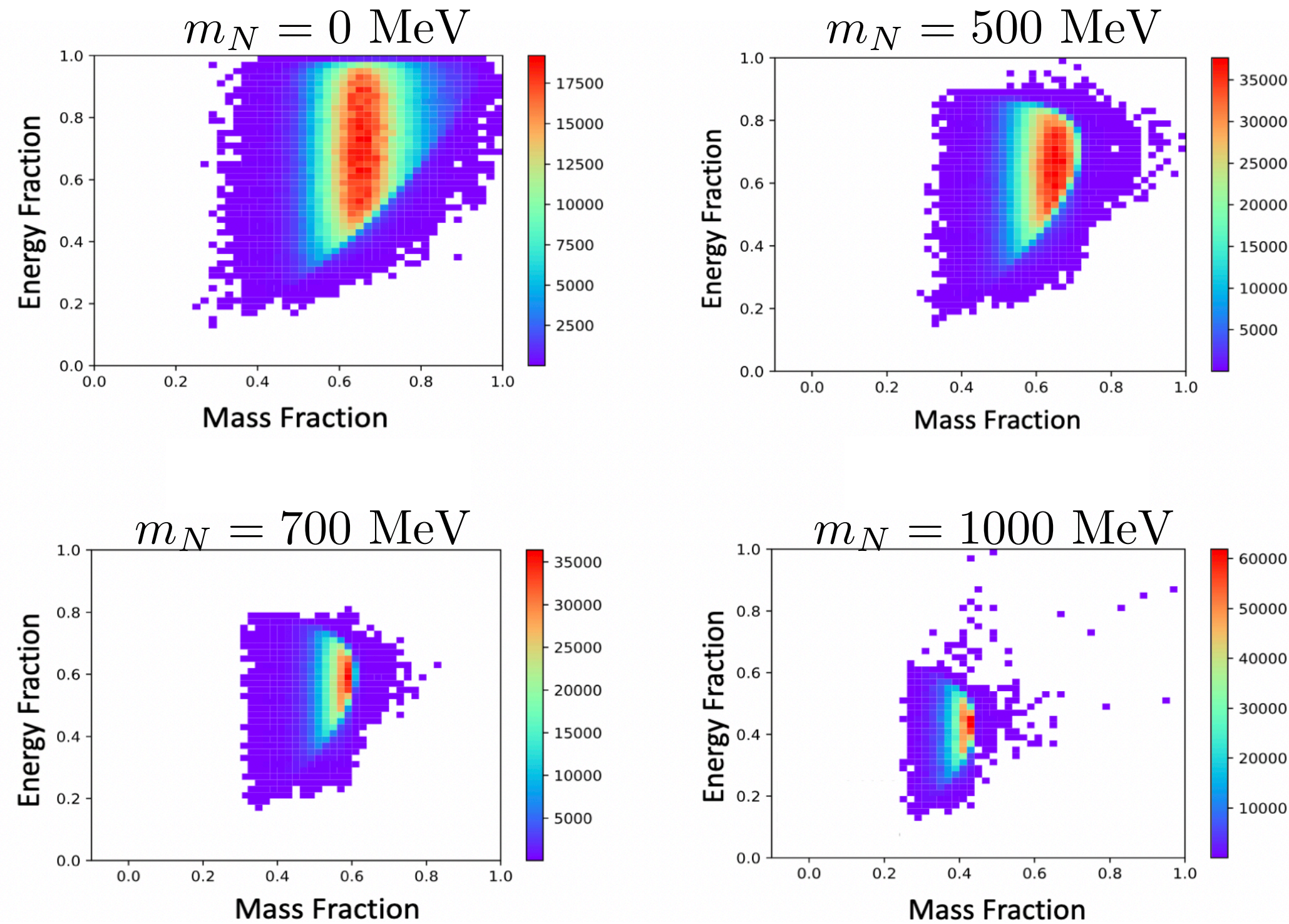
$$\mathcal{L} \supset \underbrace{m_\chi \bar{\chi} \chi}_{\text{DM}} + \lambda_\ell \bar{L}_\ell \tilde{H} N_R + \underbrace{y_\chi \phi \bar{\chi} N_R}_{\text{Portal}}$$



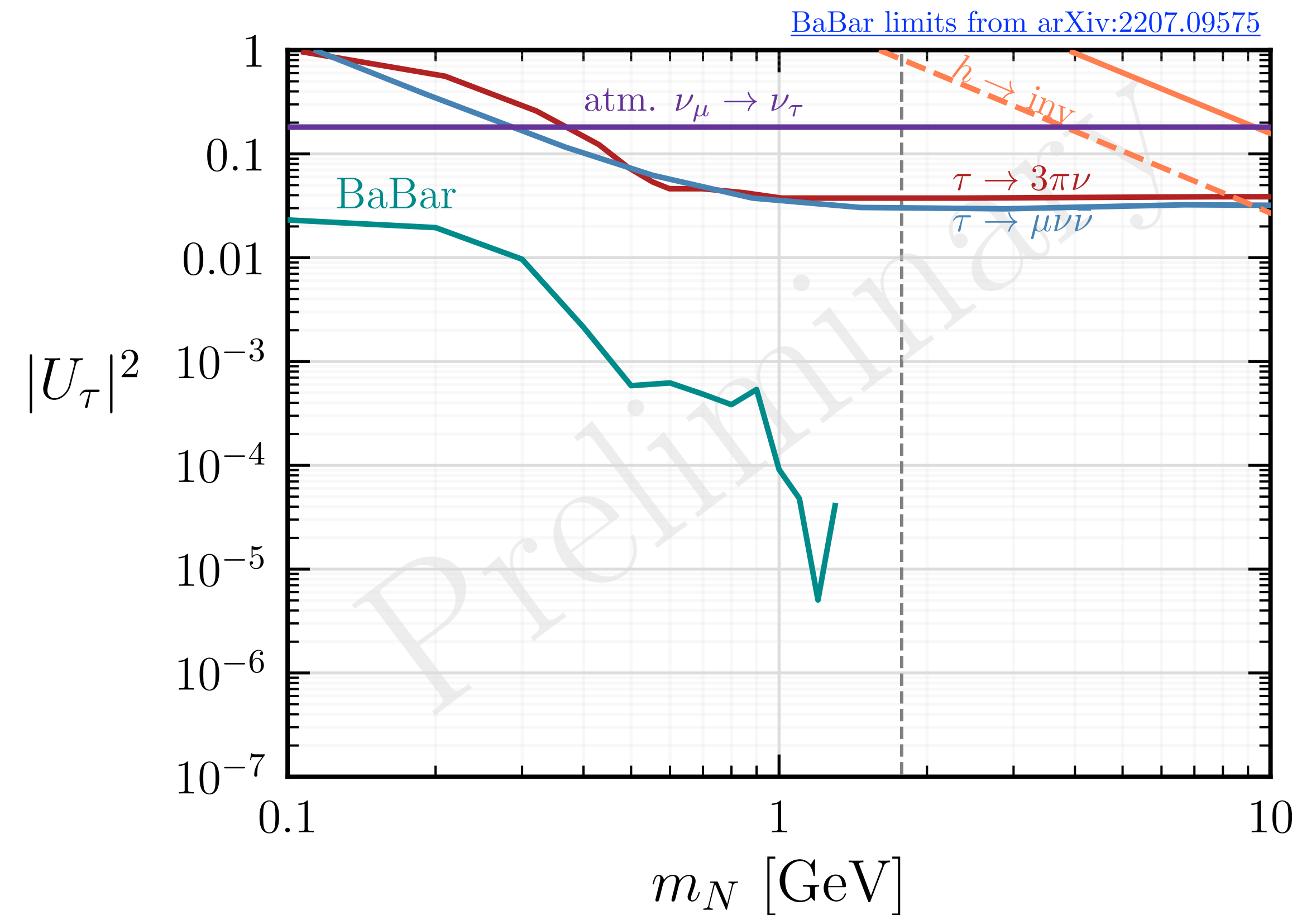
A lot of unexplored parameter space!

Invisible HNL@BaBar

BaBar search for invisible HNLs
using *phase space strategy*



[BaBar arXiv:2207.09575](https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.09575)

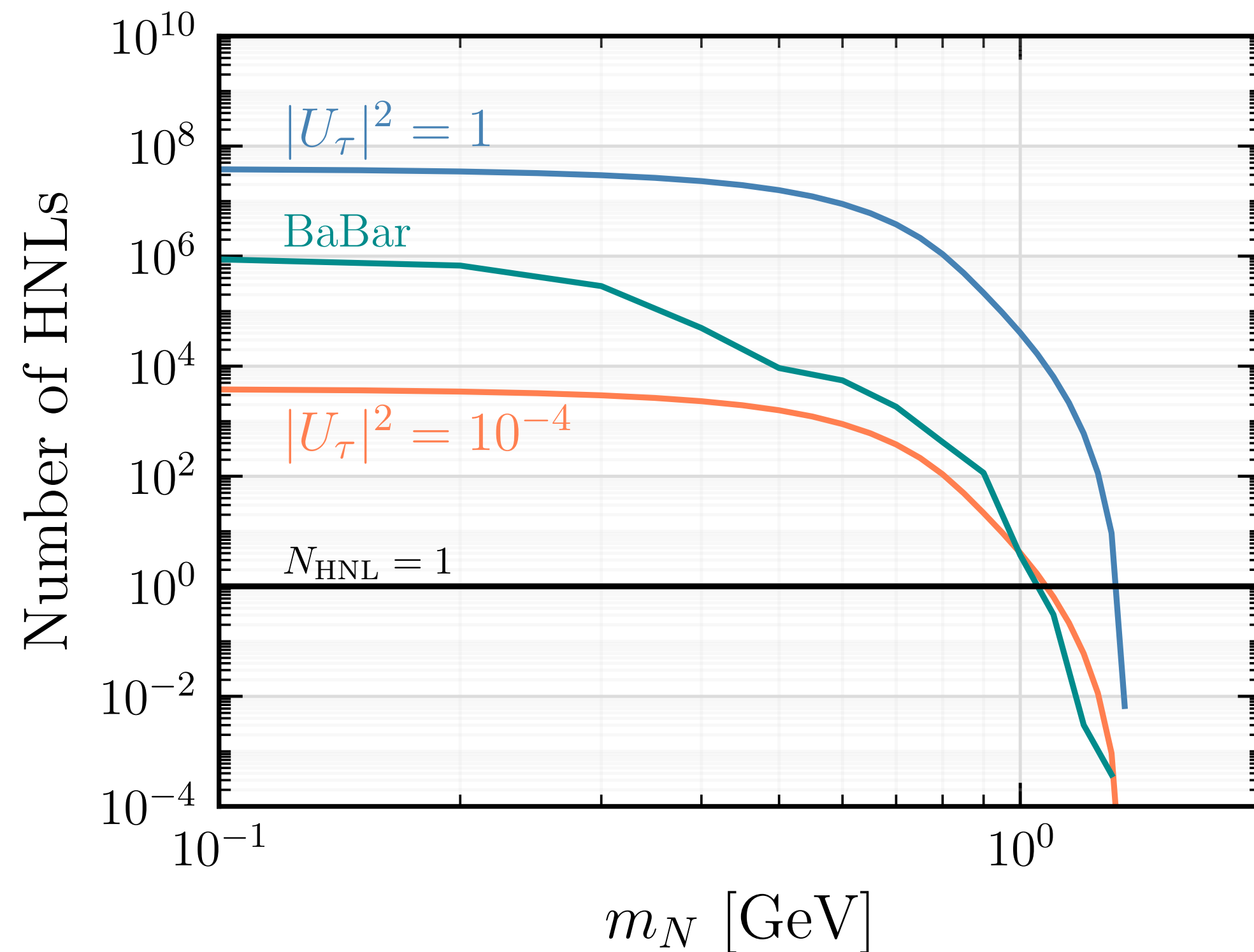


Really, really good bound....

Scrutinizing BaBar Bound

How many HNLs should you expect?

$$N_{\text{HNL}} = N_{\tau\tau} \times \text{BR}(\tau \rightarrow \ell\nu\bar{\nu}) \times \text{BR}(\tau \rightarrow 3\pi N)$$

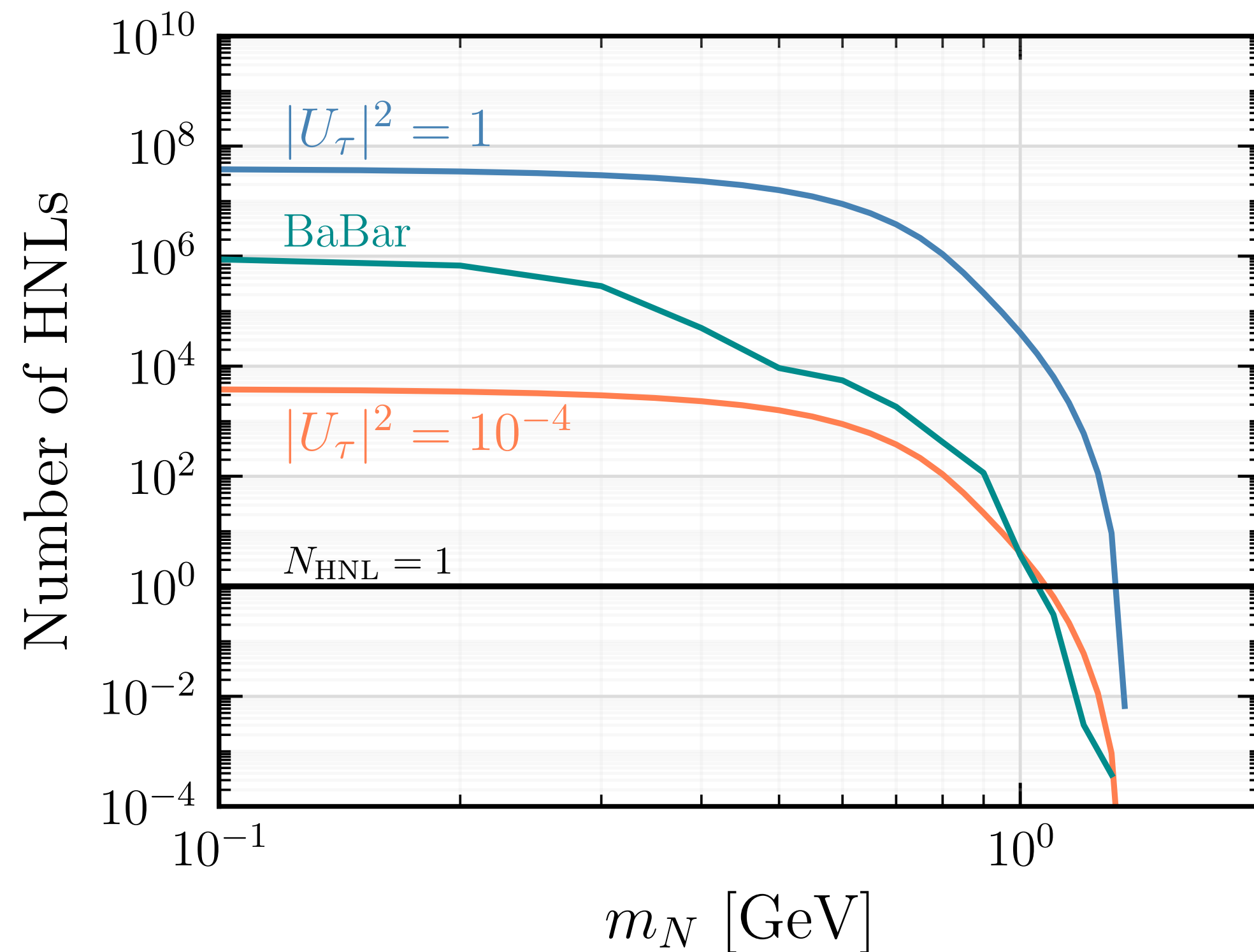


Less than 1 HNL above 1 GeV...?

Scrutinizing BaBar Bound

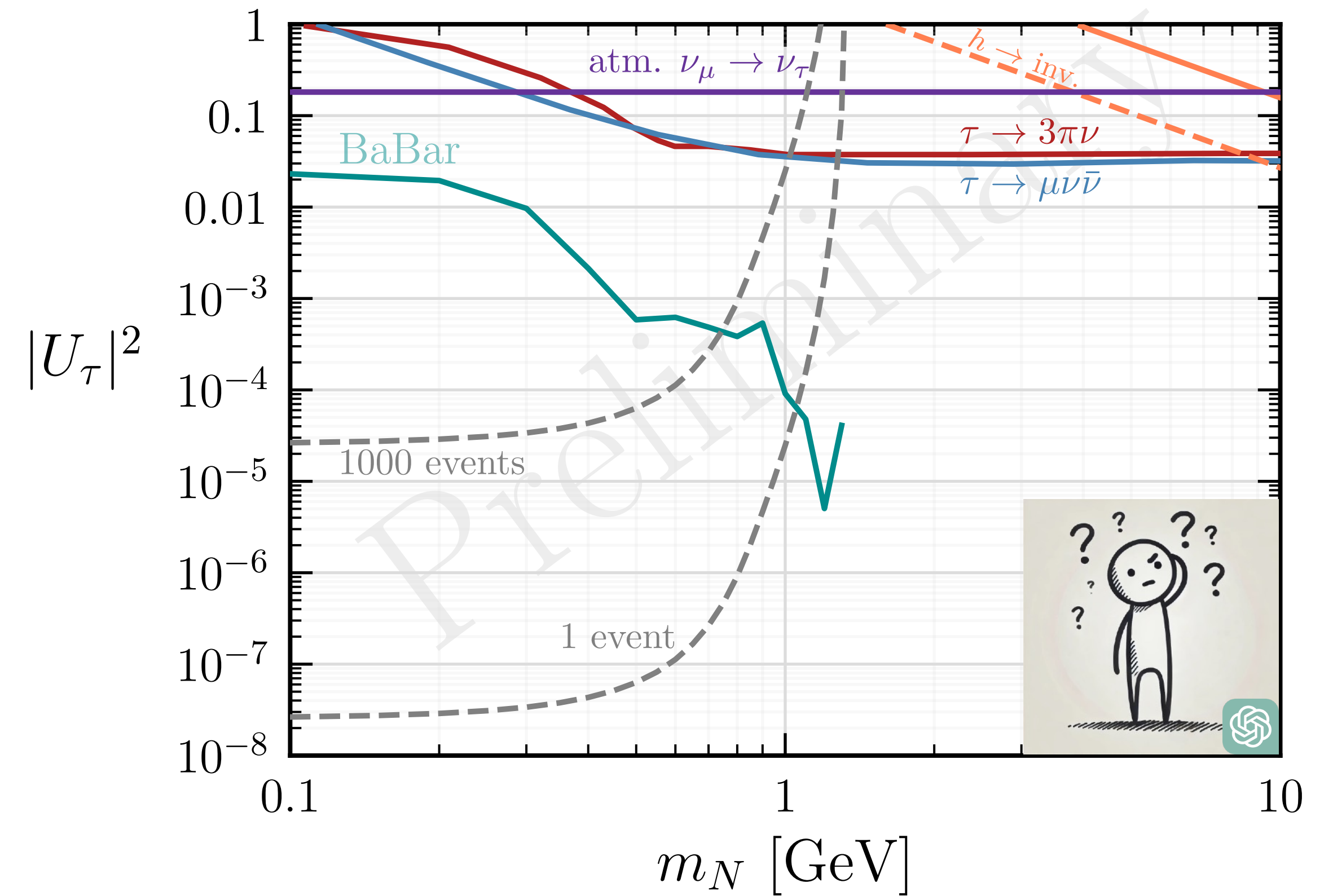
How many HNLs should you expect?

$$N_{\text{HNL}} = N_{\tau\tau} \times \text{BR}(\tau \rightarrow \ell\nu\bar{\nu}) \times \text{BR}(\tau \rightarrow 3\pi N)$$



Less than 1 HNL above 1 GeV...?

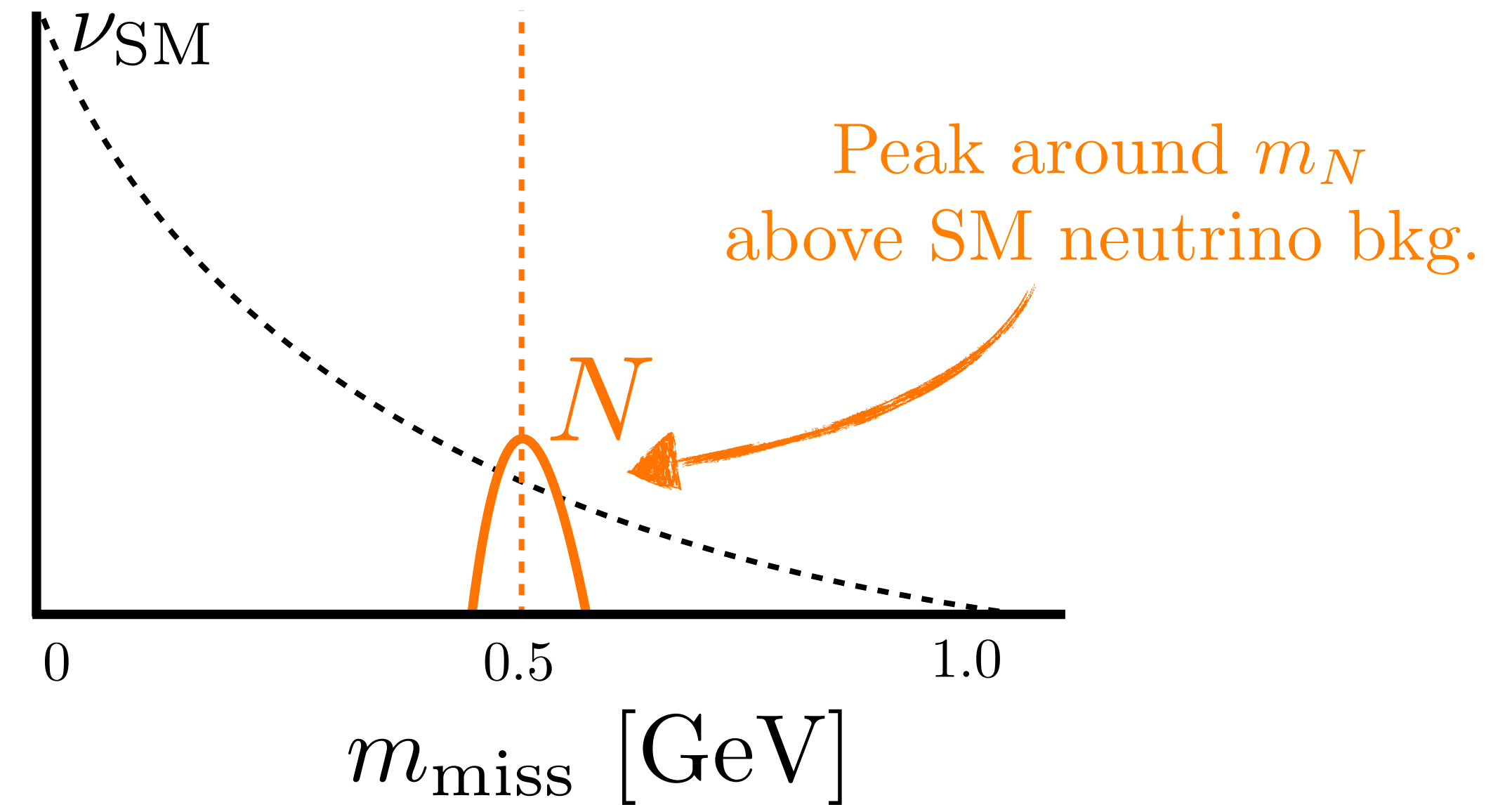
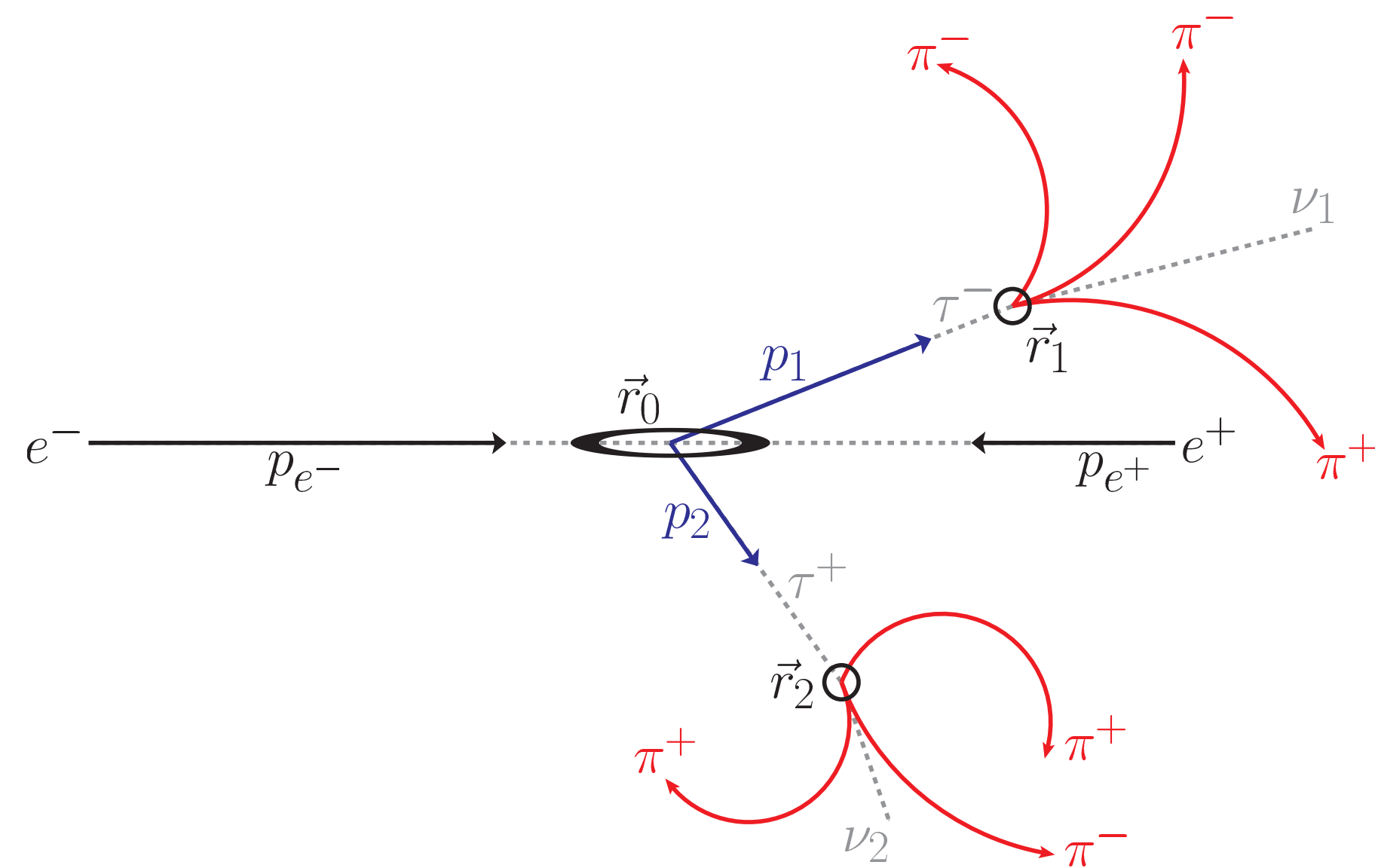
Contours of Number of Events



Can Belle II confirm the BaBar bound?

Belle II: Missing Mass Strategy

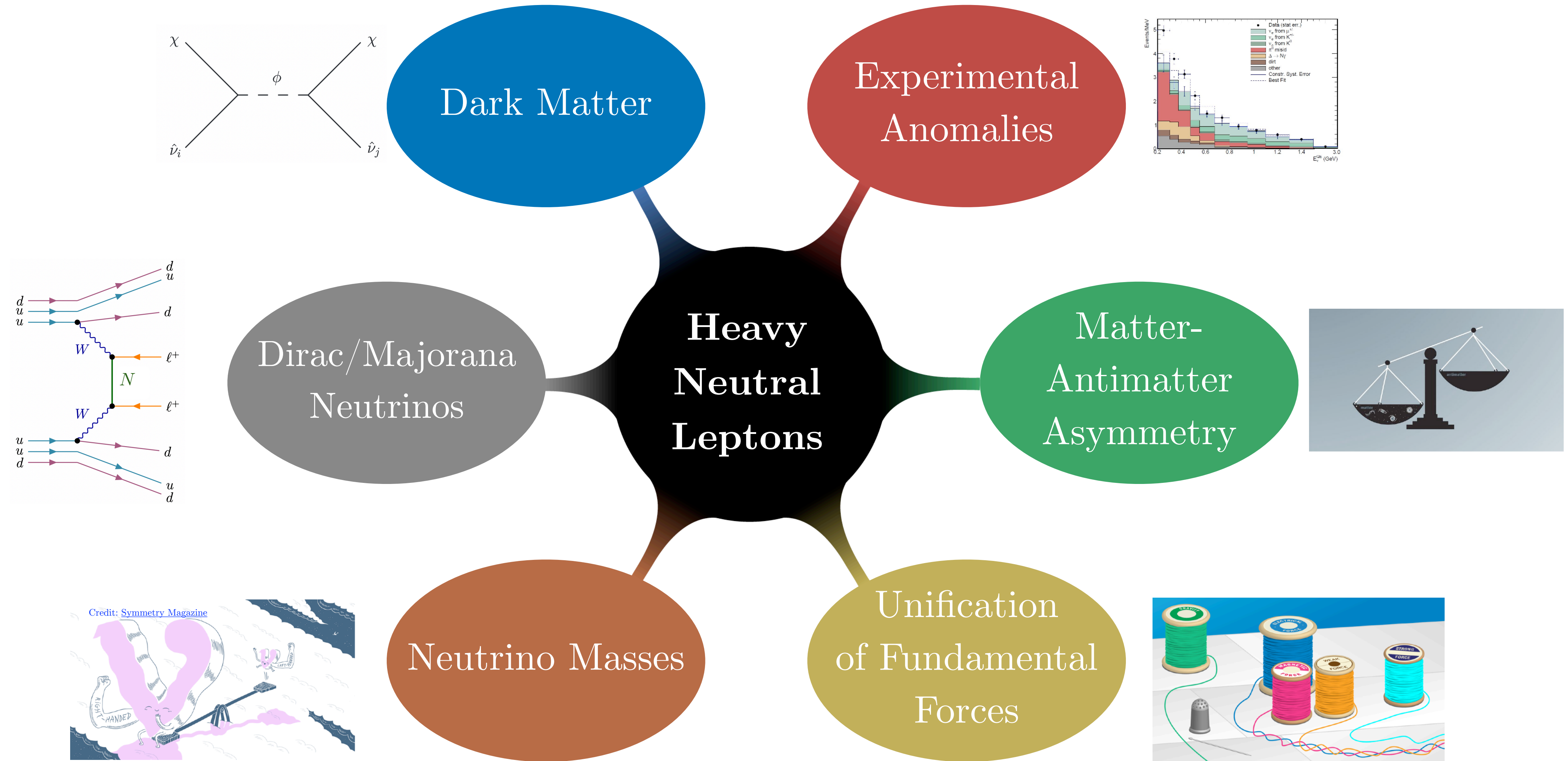
- N_R decays invisibly \rightarrow *missing mass search B factories?*



3-prong tau decays for
reconstructing tau momentum

Work in progress W. Altmannshofer, A. Ghalsasi, D. McKeen, and DT

HNL Connections



Thanks! Questions?