

Neutrinos: A theory outlook from high to low energies

13 June 2022

FPCapri 2022

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Current status of neutrino parameters: the era of very precise neutrino physics

	Normal Ordering (best fit)		Inverted Ordering ($\Delta\chi^2 = 7.0$)	
	bfp $\pm 1\sigma$	3σ range	bfp $\pm 1\sigma$	3σ range
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	$0.304^{+0.012}_{-0.012}$	0.269 \rightarrow 0.343	$0.304^{+0.013}_{-0.012}$	0.269 \rightarrow 0.343
$\theta_{12}/^\circ$	$33.45^{+0.77}_{-0.75}$	31.27 \rightarrow 35.87	$33.45^{+0.78}_{-0.75}$	31.27 \rightarrow 35.87
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	$0.450^{+0.019}_{-0.016}$	0.408 \rightarrow 0.603	$0.570^{+0.016}_{-0.022}$	0.410 \rightarrow 0.613
$\theta_{23}/^\circ$	$42.1^{+1.1}_{-0.9}$	39.7 \rightarrow 50.9	$49.0^{+0.9}_{-1.3}$	39.8 \rightarrow 51.6
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	$0.02246^{+0.00062}_{-0.00062}$	0.02060 \rightarrow 0.02435	$0.02241^{+0.00074}_{-0.00062}$	0.02055 \rightarrow 0.02457
$\theta_{13}/^\circ$	$8.62^{+0.12}_{-0.12}$	8.25 \rightarrow 8.98	$8.61^{+0.14}_{-0.12}$	8.24 \rightarrow 9.02
$\delta_{CP}/^\circ$	230^{+36}_{-25}	144 \rightarrow 350	278^{+22}_{-30}	194 \rightarrow 345
$\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2}$	$7.42^{+0.21}_{-0.20}$	6.82 \rightarrow 8.04	$7.42^{+0.21}_{-0.20}$	6.82 \rightarrow 8.04
$\frac{\Delta m_{3l}^2}{10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2}$	$+2.510^{+0.027}_{-0.027}$	+2.430 \rightarrow +2.593	$-2.490^{+0.026}_{-0.028}$	-2.574 \rightarrow -2.410

Esteban et al.,
2007.14792,
See also
Capozzi et al.,
de Salas et al.

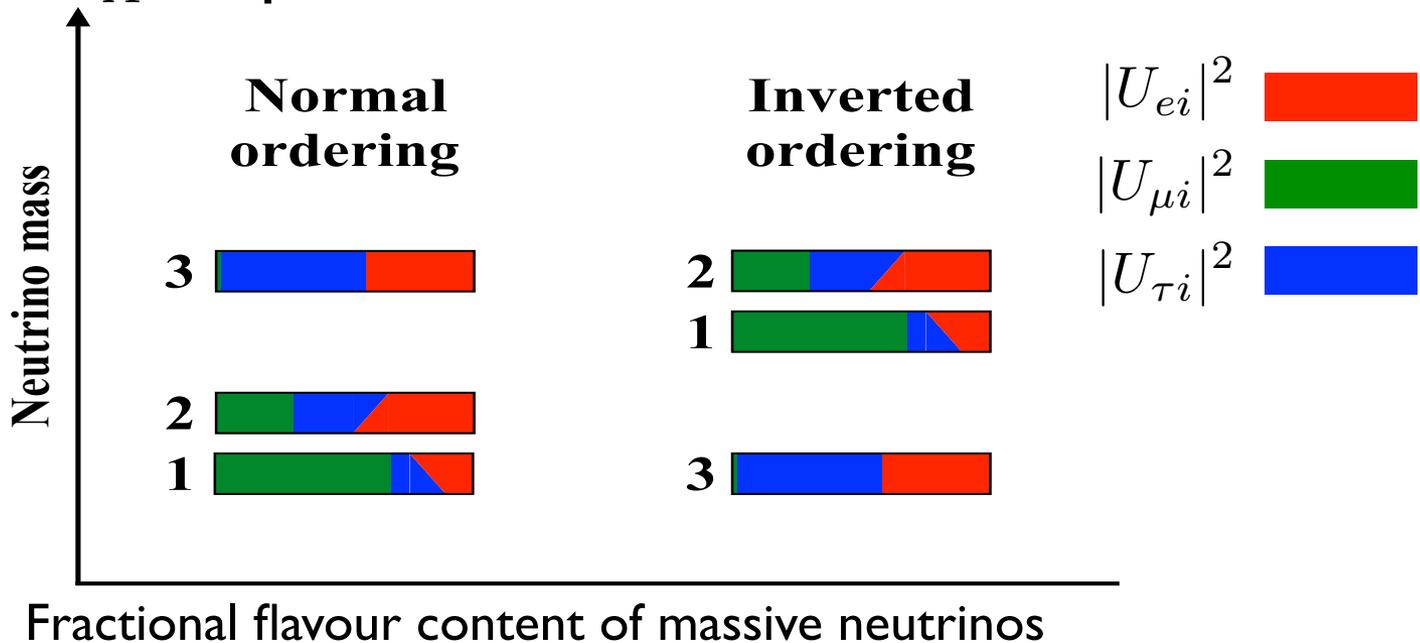
See I.
Martinez-
Soler's talk

<http://www.nu-fit.org/>

- 2 mass squared differences
- 3 sizable mixing angles (one not too well known)
- mild hints of CPV (not robust)
- mild indications in favour of NO (?)

Neutrino masses

$\Delta m_s^2 \ll \Delta m_A^2$ implies at least 3 massive neutrinos.



$$m_1 = m_{\min}$$

$$m_2 = \sqrt{m_{\min}^2 + \Delta m_{\text{sol}}^2}$$

$$m_3 = \sqrt{m_{\min}^2 + \Delta m_A^2}$$

$$m_3 = m_{\min}$$

$$m_1 = \sqrt{m_{\min}^2 + \Delta m_A^2 - \Delta m_{\text{sol}}^2}$$

$$m_2 = \sqrt{m_{\min}^2 + \Delta m_A^2}$$

Measuring the masses requires:

- the mass scale: m_{\min}
- the mass ordering.

Leptonic Mixing and CP-violation

The Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata matrix

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{-i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha_{21}/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\alpha_{31}/2} \end{pmatrix}$$

CPV?

- θ_{23} maximal or close to maximal
- θ_{12} large but significantly different from maximal
- θ_{13} quite large: challenge to flavour models
- Mixings very different from those in the quark sector
- Possibly, large leptonic CPV. This is a fundamental question, possibly related to the origin of the baryon asymmetry and to the origin of the flavour structure.

What do we still need to know?

1. **What is the nature of neutrinos?**
2. **What are the values of the masses? Absolute scale and the ordering.**
3. **Is there CP-violation?**
4. **What are the precise values of mixing angles?**
5. **Is the standard picture correct? Are there NSI? Sterile neutrinos? Non-unitarity? Other effects?**

Very exciting experimental programme now and for the future.

2020

2025

2030

2035

LBL osc.

T2K
NOvA

LBNF-DUNE
T2HK (T2HKK)

ESSnuSB?,
nufactory?

SBL osc.

SBL reactor,...
MicroBooNE

SBN

LBNF-DUNE ND
T2HK ND
???

Other osc.

SK, Borexino,
LBL detectors

JUNO

DUNE
HK

Theia???

Direct mass

KATRIN

Project 8,
ECHO, Holmes

DBD0n u

KamLAND-Zen
GERDA
CUORE

LEGEND-200
NEXT-100

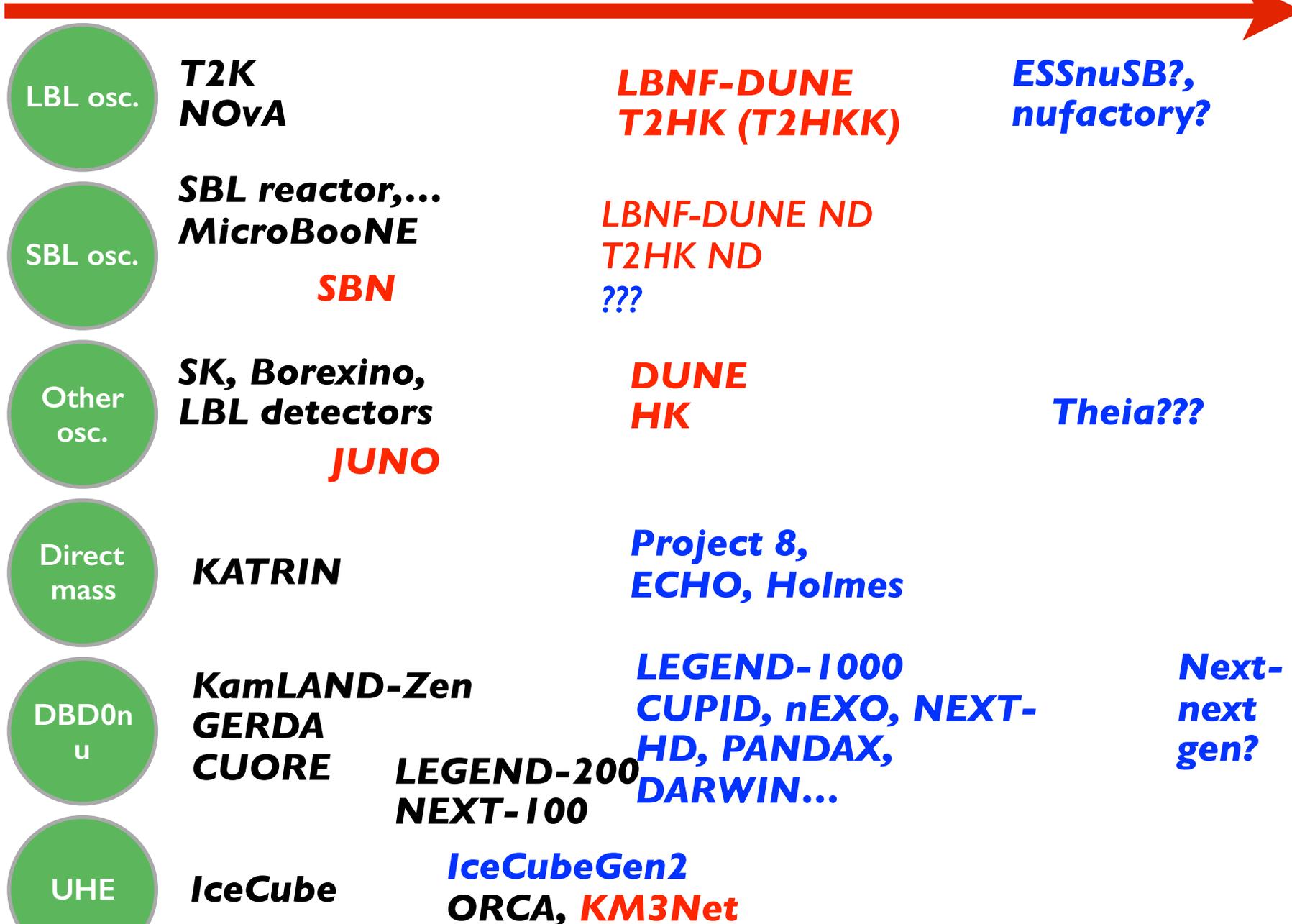
LEGEND-1000
CUPID, nEXO, NEXT-
HD, PANDAX,
DARWIN...

Next-
next
gen?

UHE

IceCube

IceCubeGen2
ORCA, KM3Net



Evidence beyond the SM

There is evidence that the Standard Model is incomplete: **neutrinos play a key role.**

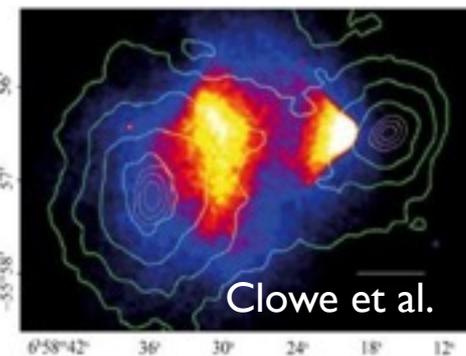
Neutrino masses



Dark Matter



Baryon asymmetry



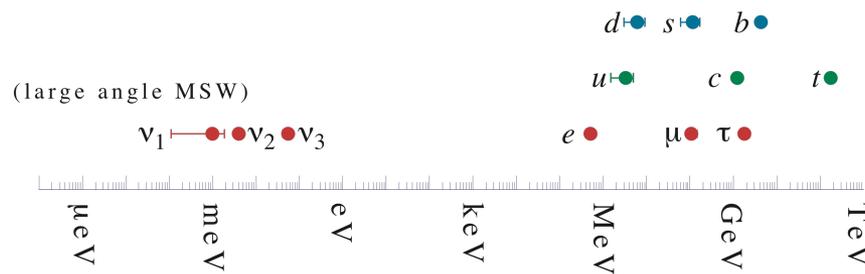
- The ultimate goal is to understand
- where do neutrino masses come from?
 - what is the origin of leptonic mixing?

Neutrinos: Open window on Physics BSM

Neutrinos give a new perspective on physics BSM.

1. Origin of masses

2. Problem of flavour



$$\begin{pmatrix} \sim 1 & \lambda & \lambda^3 \\ \lambda & \sim 1 & \lambda^2 \\ \lambda^3 & \lambda^2 & \sim 1 \end{pmatrix} \lambda \sim 0.2$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.5 & 0.16 \\ -0.4 & 0.5 & -0.7 \\ -0.4 & 0.5 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}$$

Why neutrinos have mass?
and why are they so much lighter than the other fermions?
and why their hierarchy is at most mild?

Why leptonic mixing is so different from quark mixing?

Neutrino masses Beyond SM

In the SM, neutrinos do not acquire mass and mix.

Dirac Masses

If we introduce a right-handed neutrino, then an interaction with the Higgs boson emerges.

$$\mathcal{L} = -y_\nu \bar{L} \cdot \tilde{H} \nu_R + \text{h.c.} \quad \longrightarrow \quad m_D = y_\nu v = V m_{\text{diag}} U^\dagger$$

This term is SU(2) invariant and respects lepton number.

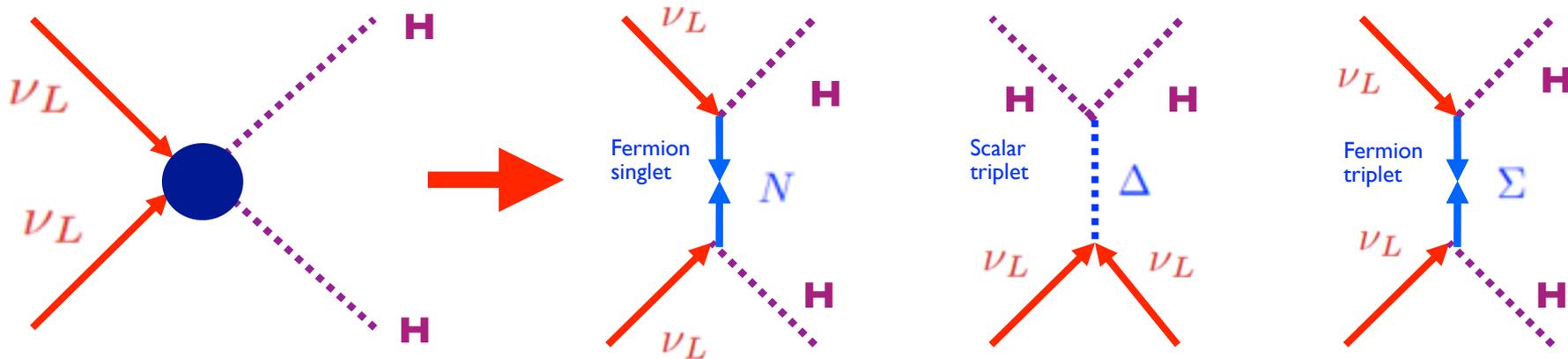
- why the coupling is so small???
 - why the leptonic mixing angles are large?
 - why neutrino masses have at most a mild hierarchy?
 - why no Majorana mass term for RH neutrinos? **We need to impose L as a fundamental symmetry.**
- $y_\nu \sim \frac{\sqrt{2}m_\nu}{v_H} \sim \frac{0.2 \text{ eV}}{200 \text{ GeV}} \sim 10^{-12}$

Majorana Masses

In order to have an SU(2) invariant Majorana mass term for neutrinos, it is necessary to introduce a Dimension 5 operator (or to allow new scalar fields, e.g. a triplet):

$$-\mathcal{L} = \lambda \frac{L \cdot H L \cdot H}{M} = \frac{\lambda v_H^2}{M} \nu_L^T C^\dagger \nu_L$$

Weinberg operator, PRL 43



Minkowski, Yanagida, Glashow, Gell-Mann, Ramond, Slansky, Ma, Mohapatra, Senjanovic, Magg, Wetterich, Lazarides, Shafi, Schechter, Valle, Hambye...

This term breaks lepton number and induces Majorana masses and Majorana neutrinos. It can be induced by a high energy theory (see-saw mechanism).

Neutrino masses BSM: “vanilla” see saw mechanism type I



Symmetry magazine

- Introduce a right handed neutrino **N**
- It couples to the Higgs and has a Majorana mass

$$\mathcal{L} = -Y_\nu \bar{N} L \cdot H - 1/2 \bar{N}^c M_R N$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_D \\ m_D^T & M_N \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow m_\nu = \frac{Y_\nu^2 v_H^2}{M_N} \sim \frac{1 \text{ GeV}^2}{10^{10} \text{ GeV}} \sim 0.1 \text{ eV}$$

Minkowski; Yanagida; Glashow; Gell-Mann, Ramond, Slansky;
Mohapatra, Senjanovic

As a result, neutrinos can have naturally small masses and are **Majorana particles**.

For leptogenesis, see J. Turner's talk.

*What is the new physics
scale?*

*Are there new:
symmetries?
particles?
interactions?*

New physics scale? Going to high energy

eV

keV

MeV

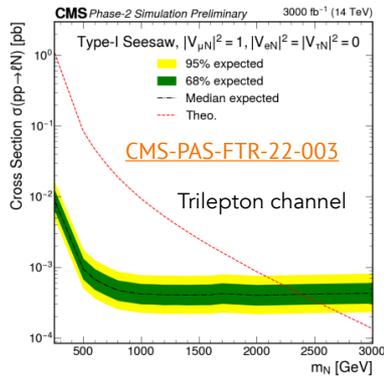
GeV

TeV

Intermediate scale

GUT scale

TeV see-saw I, see-saw II, see-saw III, extended-type seesaws, radiative models, extra-D, R-parity V SUSY...

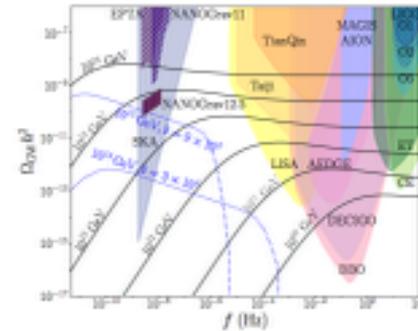


LHC searches
J. Xiao's talk at
Neutrino2022

See J.
Turner's
talk

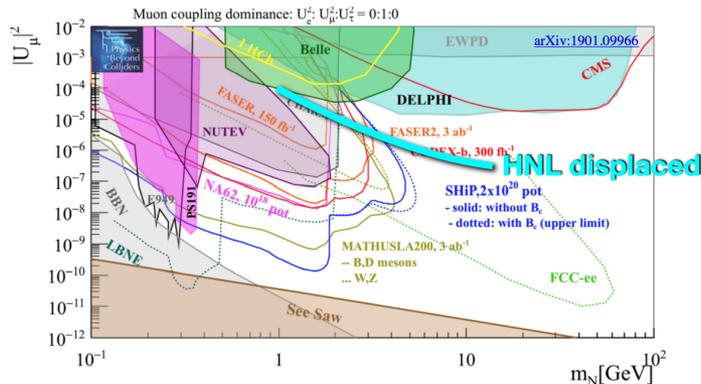
Leptogenesis

CLFV



GW

S. King et al., PRL 126 (2021)



Proton decay

T. Ohlsson's talk at
Neutrino2022

JUNO (Jiangmen, China; under construction, data taking in 2023)

Hyper-Kamiokande (in 2027)

DUNE (Illinois & South Dakota, USA)

- 68 kton liquid Argon detector
- Possibility to search for proton decay

ESSnUSB (Sweden)

- 0.5 Mton water-Cherenkov detector ($\sim 20 \times$ SK)
- Excellent opportunity to search for proton decay

Going low in energy: Dark sectors

eV keV MeV GeV TeV Intermediate scale GUT scale

Low E See-saw models, NuMSM, extended see-saw...

Sterile nu
oscillations

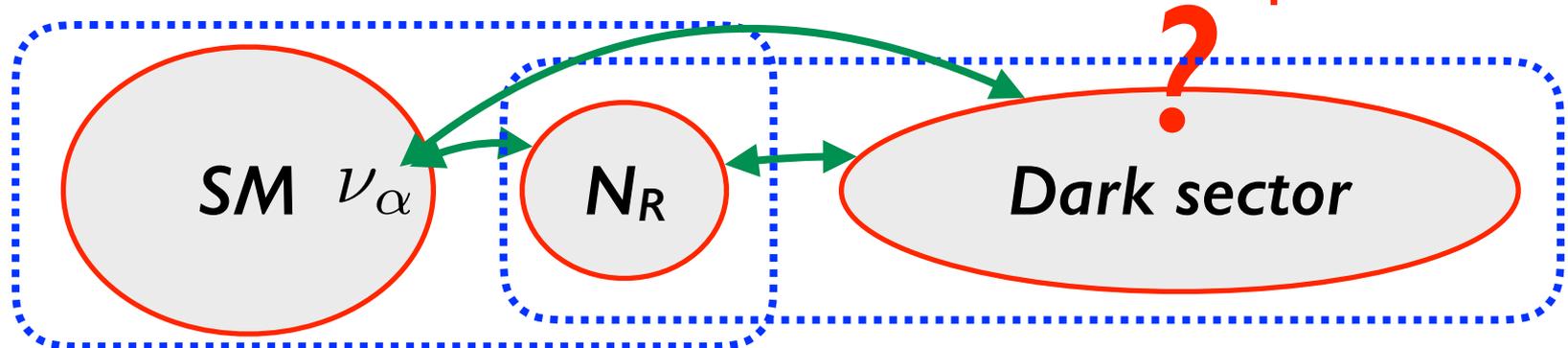
DM

Leptogenesis

HNL searches: peak, kinks, decays,

Neutrino play a unique role in searching for Dark Sectors.

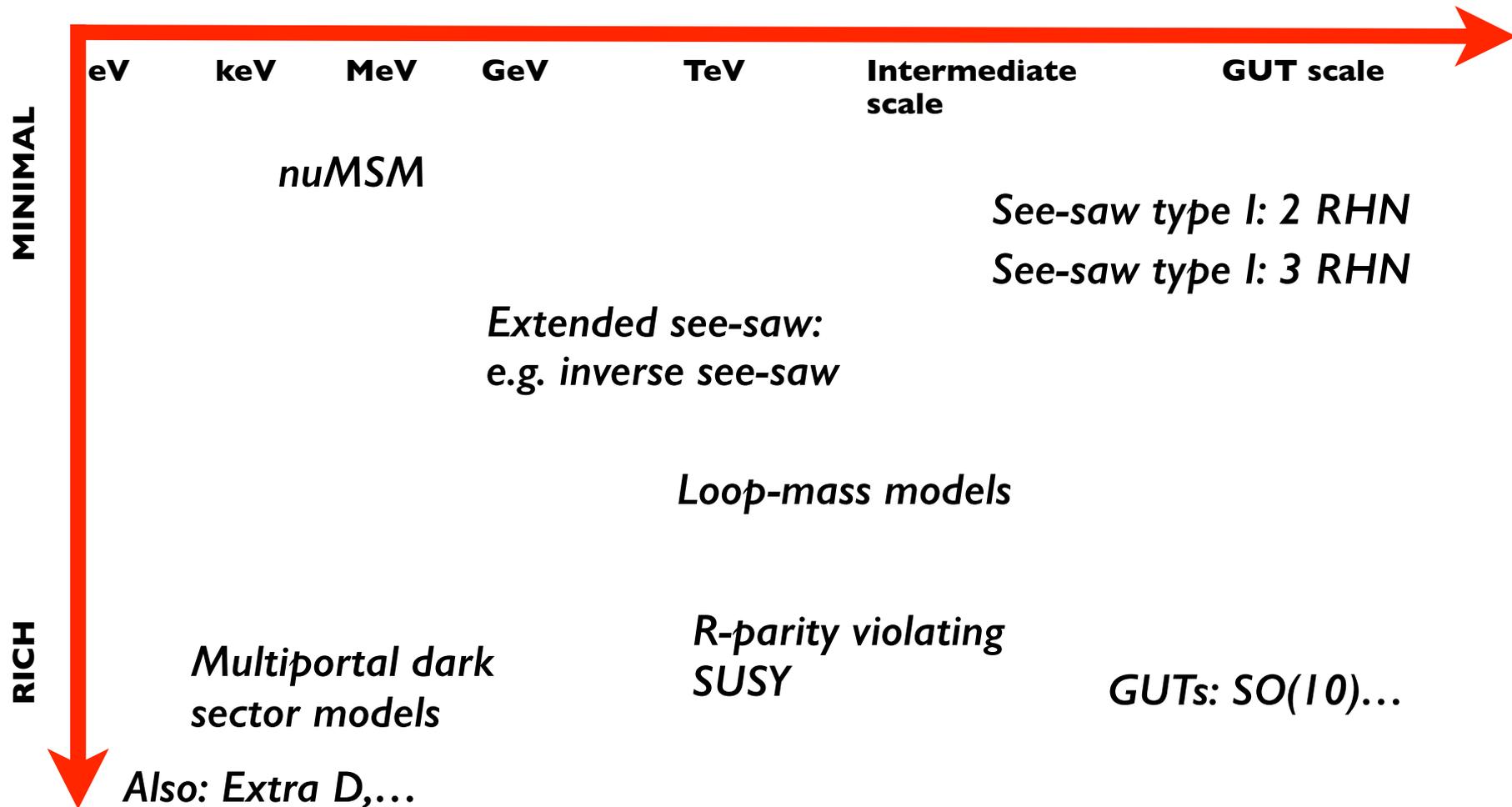
$$\bar{L} \cdot H N_R \quad (+ \dots \bar{N}_R N_S) \quad \text{Neutrino portal}$$



Have we seen already some glimpses??? If a signal in future, this would lead to a major change in the BSM paradigm.

See J Klaric's, A. Titov's talk

From minimality to richness



Two contrasting approaches can be taken:

Minimality: the fewest ingredients -> predictivity

Richness (theory-motivated): connections, new signatures

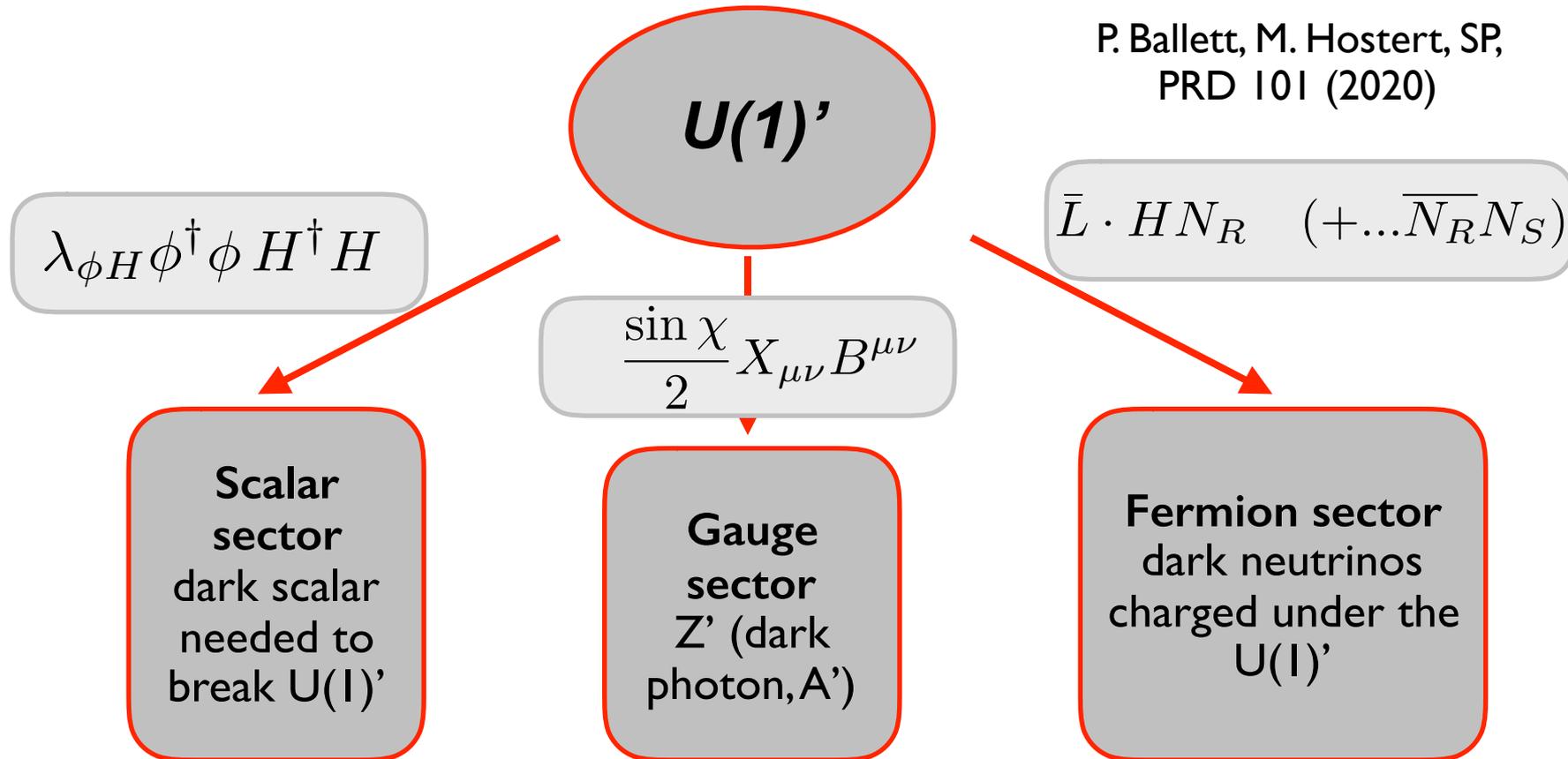
*What is the new physics
scale? Is it low???*

*An application of
rich dark sectors*

A dark sector scenario

We extend the gauge sector via **new $U(1)'$** .

P. Ballett, M. Hostert, SP,
PRD 101 (2020)



The phenomenology of this type of models can be very different from the standard case.

A specific 3-portal model

The Lagrangian is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L} \supset & \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} - \frac{1}{4} X_{\mu\nu} X^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\sin \chi}{2} X_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} \\
 & + (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D^\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi) - \lambda_{\Phi H} |H|^2 |\Phi|^2 \\
 & + \overline{\widehat{\nu}}_N i \not{D} \widehat{\nu}_N + \overline{\widehat{\nu}}_D i \not{D}_X \widehat{\nu}_D - \left[(\overline{L\tilde{H}}) Y \widehat{\nu}_N^c + \overline{\widehat{\nu}}_N Y_L \widehat{\nu}_{D_L}^c \Phi \right. \\
 & \left. + \overline{\widehat{\nu}}_N Y_R \widehat{\nu}_{D_R} \Phi^* + \frac{1}{2} \overline{\widehat{\nu}}_N M_N \widehat{\nu}_N^c + \overline{\widehat{\nu}}_{D_L} M_X \widehat{\nu}_{D_R} + \text{h.c.} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

A. Abdullahi, M. Hostert, SP, 2007.11813

The model is **anomaly free** thanks to the inclusion of two dark neutrinos with opposite charges. Other possibilities can also be considered (DM).

We focus on a scale of GeV: $v_\phi, m_{Z'} \sim \text{GeV}.$

New particles

Z'/A'

: mass $m_{Z'} = 1.25$ GeV.

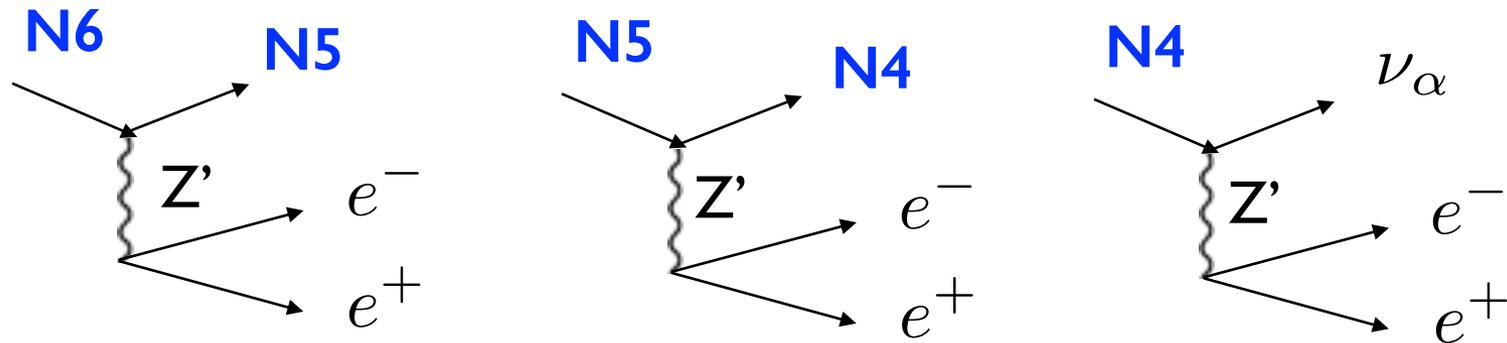
Z' decays predominantly into heavy neutrinos.

$\mathcal{B}(Z' \rightarrow N_i N_j)/\%$					
44	45	46	55	56	66
0.15	11	0.48	1.6	86	0.59

N6, N5, N4

: with 100s MeV masses.

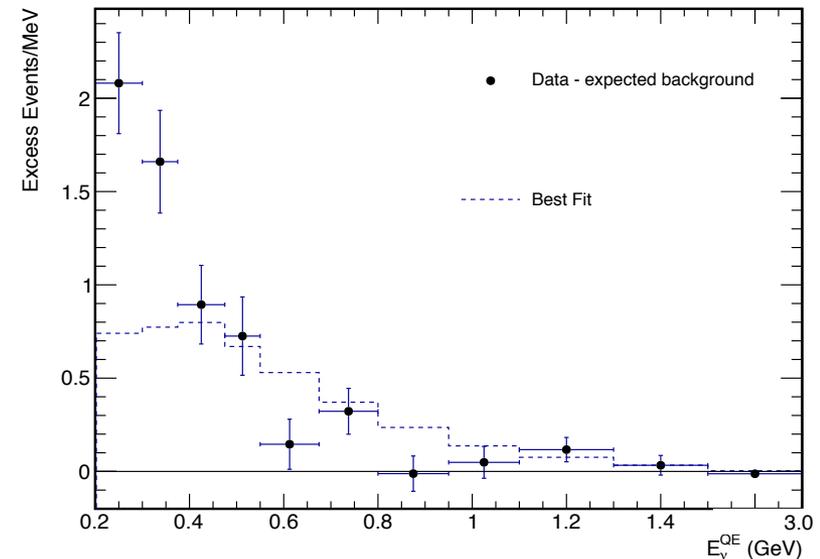
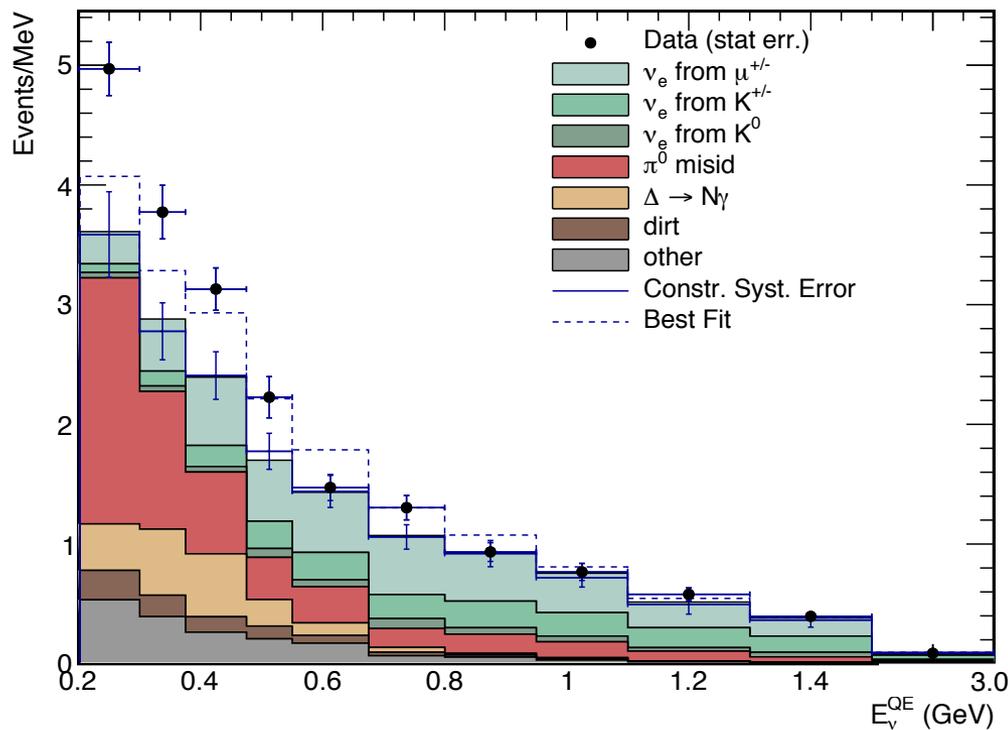
They decay via the new Z' into ee and neutrinos.



The decays are much faster than in the SM.

The MiniBooNE low-E excess

MiniBooNE reports a low-E excess which has increased in significance in the past couple of years ($\sim 3\sigma \rightarrow 4.7\sigma \rightarrow 4.8\sigma$).

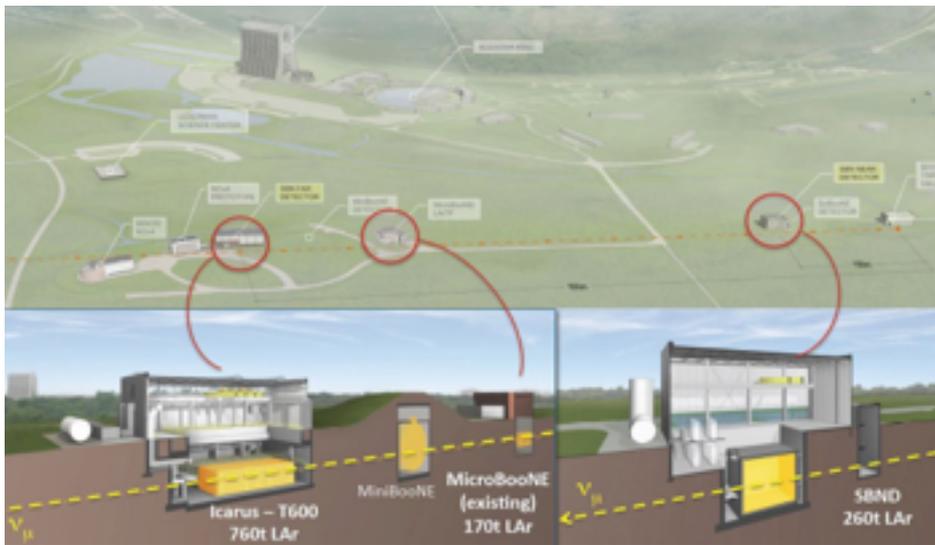


MiniBooNE Coll., PRL 121 (2018)

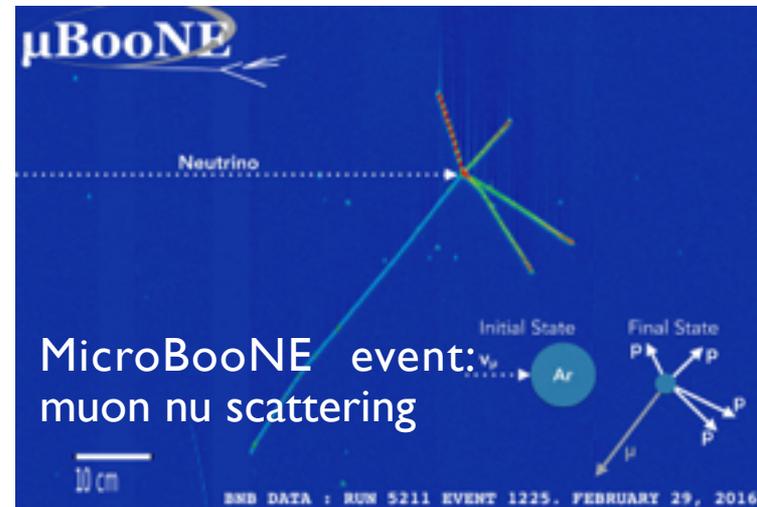
MicroBooNE and SBN at Fermilab

They use accelerator neutrinos with $L \sim 100-600\text{m}$ and $E \sim 700-800\text{ MeV}$.

<https://www.bo.infn.it/gruppo2/sbn-it/>



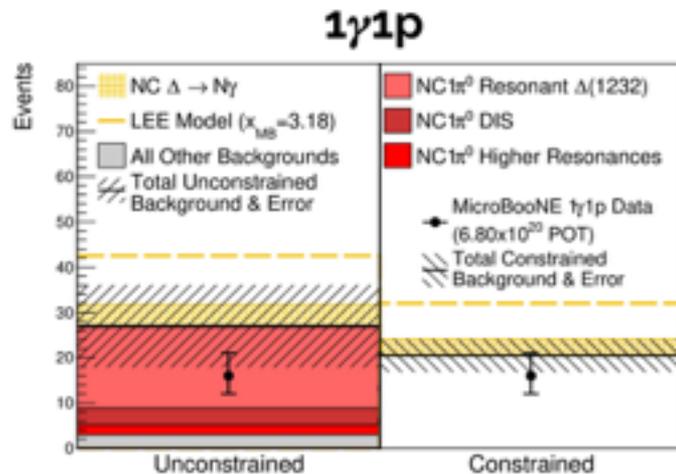
MicroBooNE detector



Accelerator neutrino experiments should provide the definitive answer and can check both the appearance and disappearance channels.

First results from MicroBooNE.

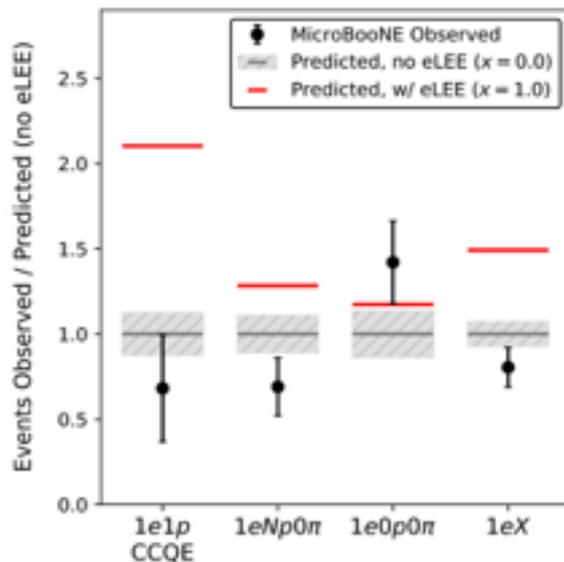
- Is the MiniBooNE LEE is due to SM photons?



*My take:
Most likely not.*

MicroBooNE Coll., 2110.00409

- Is the MiniBooNE LEE is due to electrons?



Electrons would come from ν_e scattering, and would signal neutrino oscillations.

My take: Most likely not.

BSM explanations for MB LEE

Due to the WC nature of MB, single electrons can be mimicked by photons and by electron-positron pairs (if overlapping or asymmetric).

Electrons? Or Photons?Or Neither?

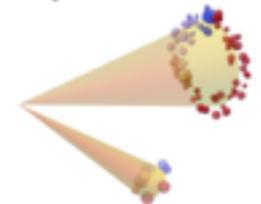
Rich phenomenology developing in recent years around the possibility of the MiniBooNE excess being due to e^+e^- pairs from decays of new exotic particles.

- Decays of **new dark gauge bosons** (Z')
 - E. Bertuzzo, S. Jana, P.A.N. Machado, R.Zukanovich Funchal [Phys.Rev.Lett. 121 24, 241801\(2018\)](#)
 - P. Ballett, S. Pascoli, M. RL [Phys. Rev. D 99, 071701 \(2019\)](#)
 - A. Abdollahi, M. Hostert, S.Pascoli [Phys.Lett.B 820 136531\(2021\)](#)
- General **Extended higgs sectors + Decay**
 - B. Dutta, S. Ghosh, T. Li Phys. [Rev. D 102, 055017 \(2020\)](#)
 - W. Abdallah, R. Gandhi, S. Roy [Phys. Rev. D 104, 055028 \(2021\)](#)
- Decays of **leptophilic axion-like** particles
 - C.V. Chang, C. Chen, S. Ho, S. Tseng [Phys. Rev. D 104, 015030 \(2021\)](#)

Overlapping e^+e^-

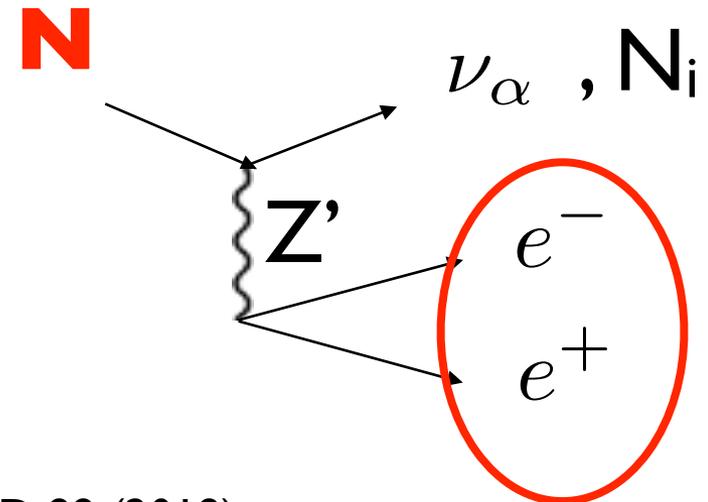
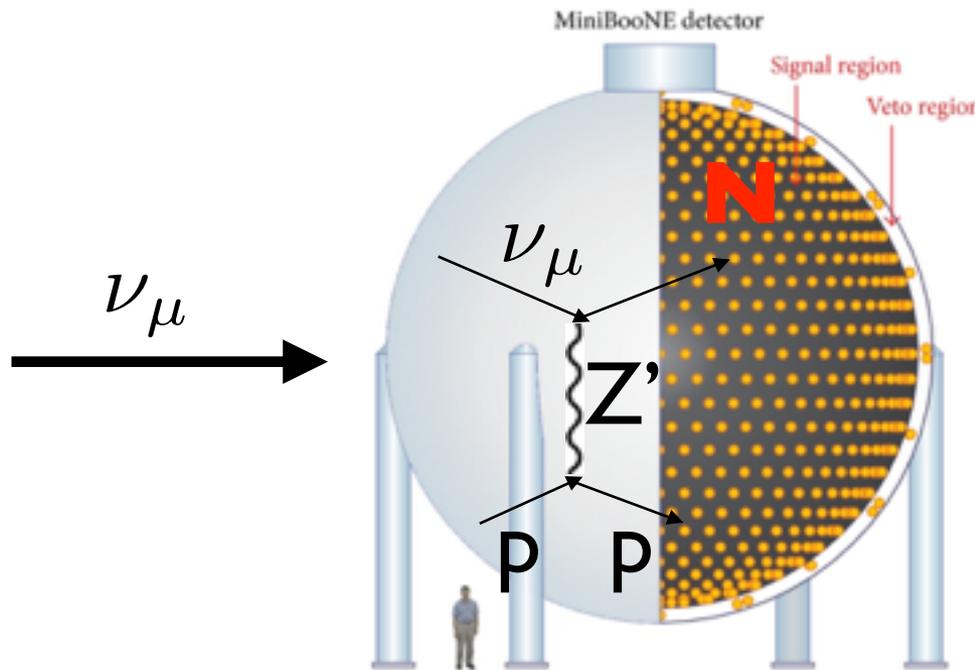


Highly Asymmetric e^+e^-



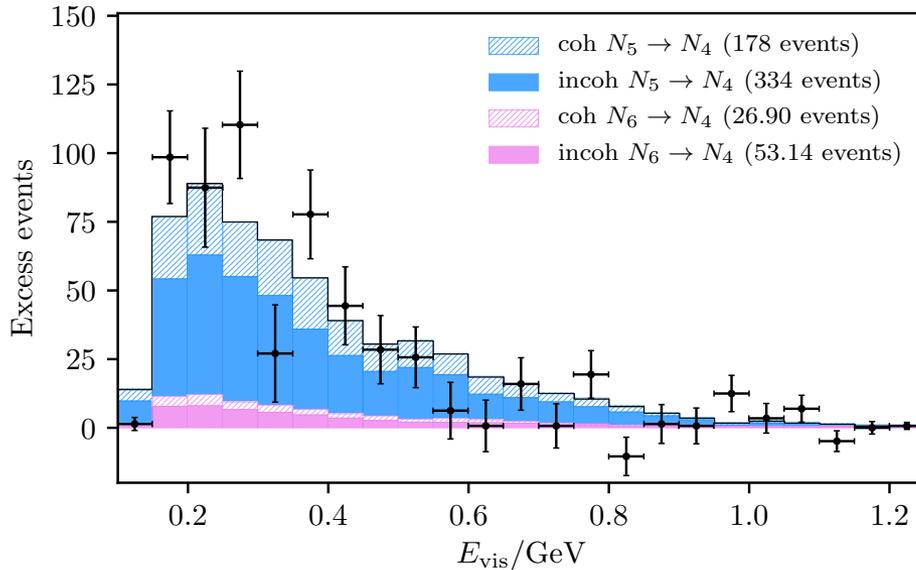
A viable explanation of the MiniBooNE low-E excess is provided by the **up-scattering of an HNL N** in the detector and **its decay into $ee \nu$** .

It builds on a decay explanation of MiniBooNE by S. Gninenko, PRL 103 (2009). A similar analysis appeared at the same time but with light Z' by E. Bertuzzo et al., PRL 121 (2018).

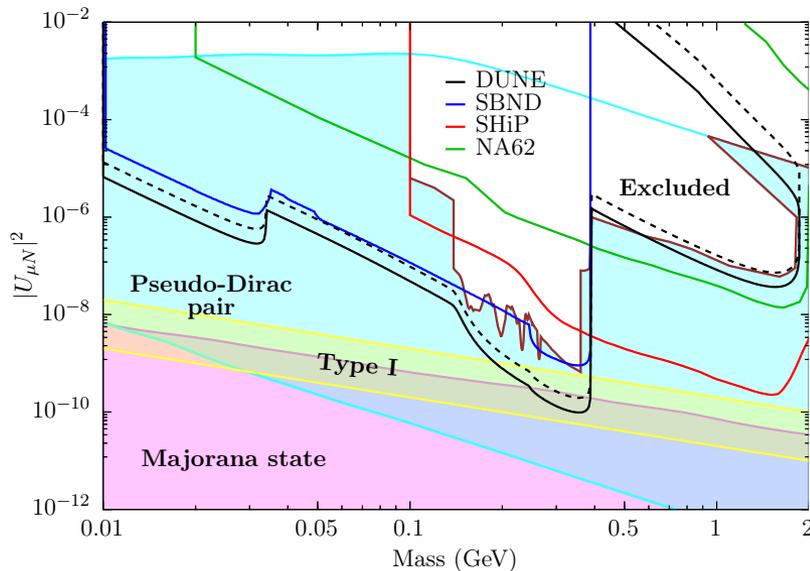


P. Ballett, S. Pascoli, M. Ross-Lonergan, PRD 99 (2019)

$m_4 = 74 \text{ MeV}, m_5 = 146 \text{ MeV}, m_6 = 220 \text{ MeV}$



A. Abdullahi, M. Hostert, SP, 2007.11813



Ballett, Boschi, SP, 1905.00284

The N_5, N_6 produced in up scatterings of beam neutrinos decay in ee and missing energy mimicking the signal.

Bounds change if additional interactions are allowed, (HNL can decay invisibly or semivisibly). Potentially, strong bounds from ND280 in T2K.

See V. Brdar et al., 2007.14411, C. Argüelles et al., 2205.12273

A host of other signatures

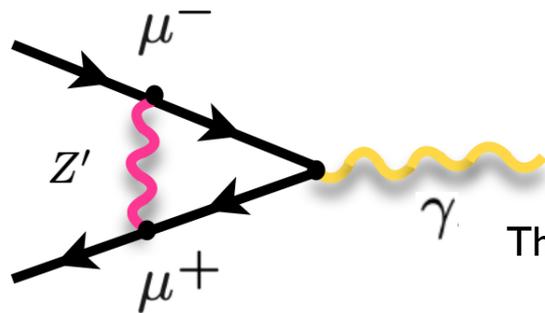
There is a longstanding discrepancy between the measured value of a_μ and the theoretical prediction, at 4.2 sigma.

See Keshavarzi, Marciano, Passera, Sirlin.

$$\Delta a_\mu \equiv a_\mu^{exp} - a_\mu^{th} = (274 \pm 73) \times 10^{-11}$$

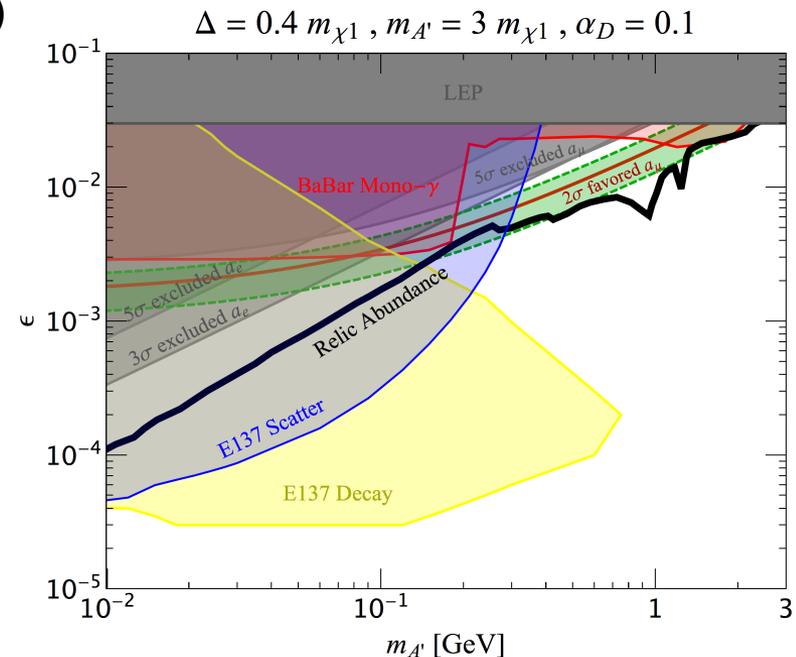
Kinetic mixing and light Z' can explain the anomaly,...

P. Fayet, PRD75 (2007), M. Pospelov, PRD80 (2009)



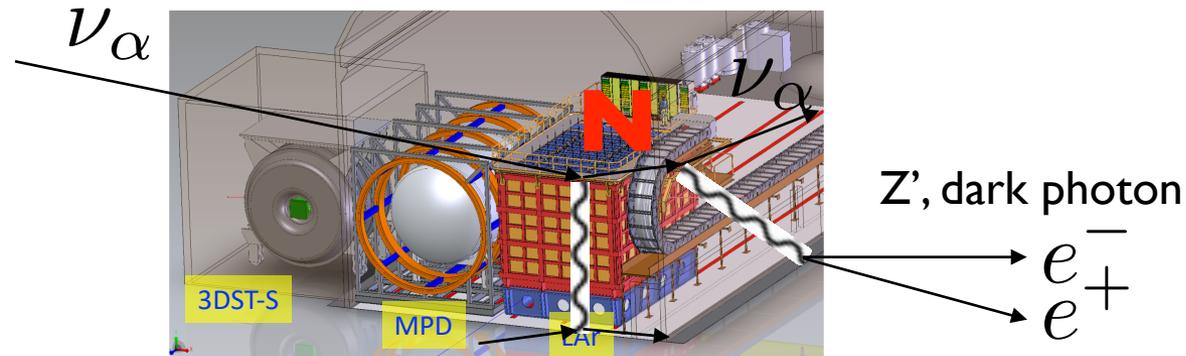
Thanks to A. Abdullahi

as far as Z' decays mainly semi-visibly ($Z' \rightarrow N N$ and N decay fast).



Unique signatures and future tests

The model has key signatures which can be tested.

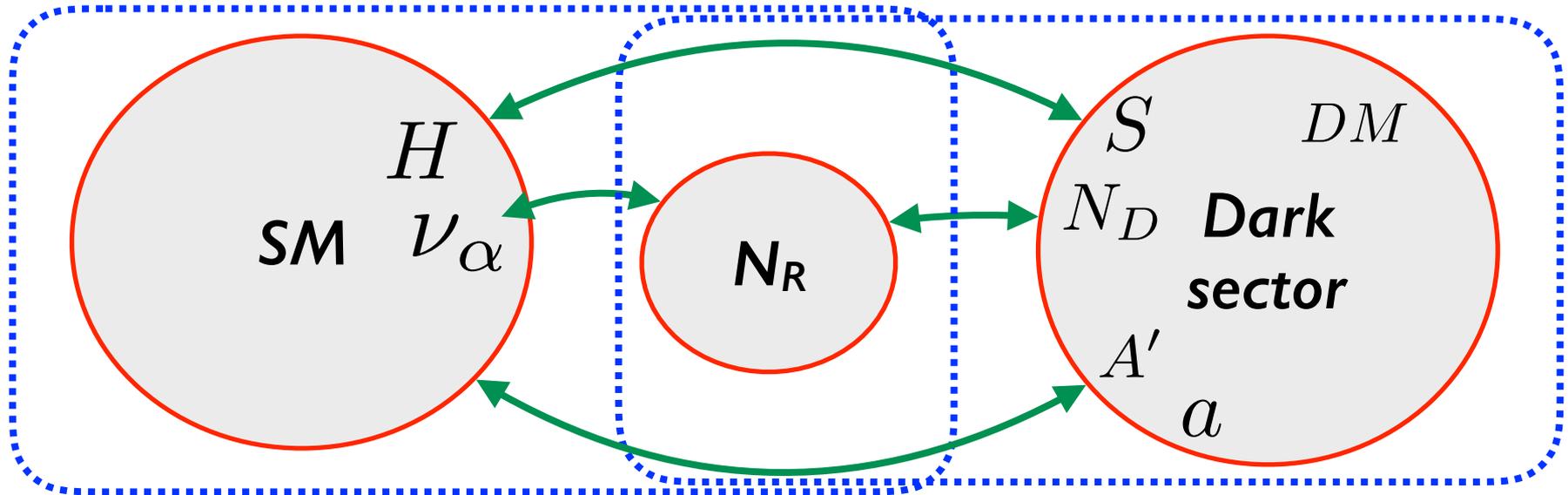


One can expect **displaced vertices**, decay chains and unique HNL and dark photon phenomenology (typically, semivisible decays):

- MicroBooNE, T2K ND, DUNE-ND;
- NA62&SHADOWS;
- Nu@LHC programme;
- NA64;
- BelleII and BESIII.

Neutrinos as a window to Dark sectors???

The dark or hidden sector indicate extensions of the SM that are **below the electroweak scale**.



Dark sectors can account for **neutrino masses, the baryon asymmetry, dark matter**.

This would be a major departure from “traditional” BSM thinking and open a very exciting experimental landscape.

Conclusions

Neutrinos are the most elusive and mysterious of the known particles. Neutrino masses only particle physics evidence BSM.

Current status: precise knowledge of most of neutrino properties. Key questions open (nature, CPV) due to be answered in the next decade. Thriving experimental programme.

Surprises in store? MiniBooNE LEE remains a puzzle. New MicroBooNE results point away from sterile neutrinos. Neutrino4 and BEST anomalies?

Are neutrinos pointing towards a new understanding of particles: **dark sector?**