

# *Dark Sector Spectroscopy with Quantum-Gravitational Decoherence*

HEINRICH PÄS  
**tu** dortmund



# Neutrinos, Flavors and Beyond?

How many Flavors  
are there  
?

# Neutrinos, Flavors and Beyond?

How Many  
Dark Matter  
Particles  
?

How many Flavors  
are there  
?

Totally  
Decoupled  
Dark Sectors  
?

Phenomenology of  $10^{32}$  Dark Sectors

Gia Dvali<sup>a,b,c\*</sup> and Michele Redi<sup>d†</sup>

<sup>a</sup> CERN, Theory Division, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

<sup>b</sup> CCPP, Department of Physics, New York University

4 Washington Place, New York, NY 10003

<sup>c</sup> Max-Planck-Institute for Physics

# Neutrinos, Flavors and Beyond?

How many Flavors  
are there  
?

How many  
Dark Matter  
Particles  
?

# Gravity

Phenomenology of  $10^{32}$  Dark Sectors

Gia Dvali<sup>a,b,c\*</sup> and Michele Redi<sup>d†</sup>

<sup>a</sup> CERN, Theory Division, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

<sup>b</sup> CCPP, Department of Physics, New York University

4 Washington Place, New York, NY 10003

<sup>c</sup> Max-Planck-Institute for Physics

Totally  
Decoupled  
Dark Sectors  
?

# Neutrinos as Probes for Quantum Gravity

Quantum  
Gravity

Neutrinos

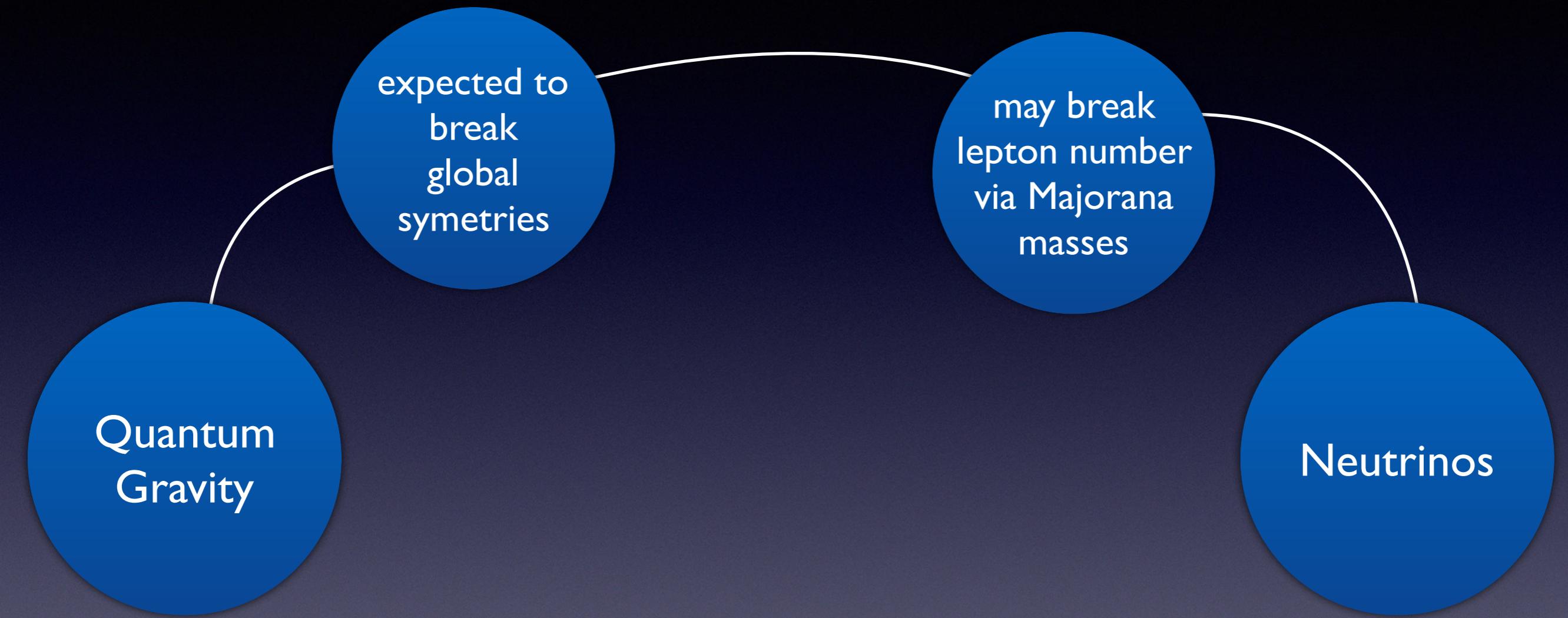
# Neutrinos as Probes for Quantum Gravity

Quantum  
Gravity

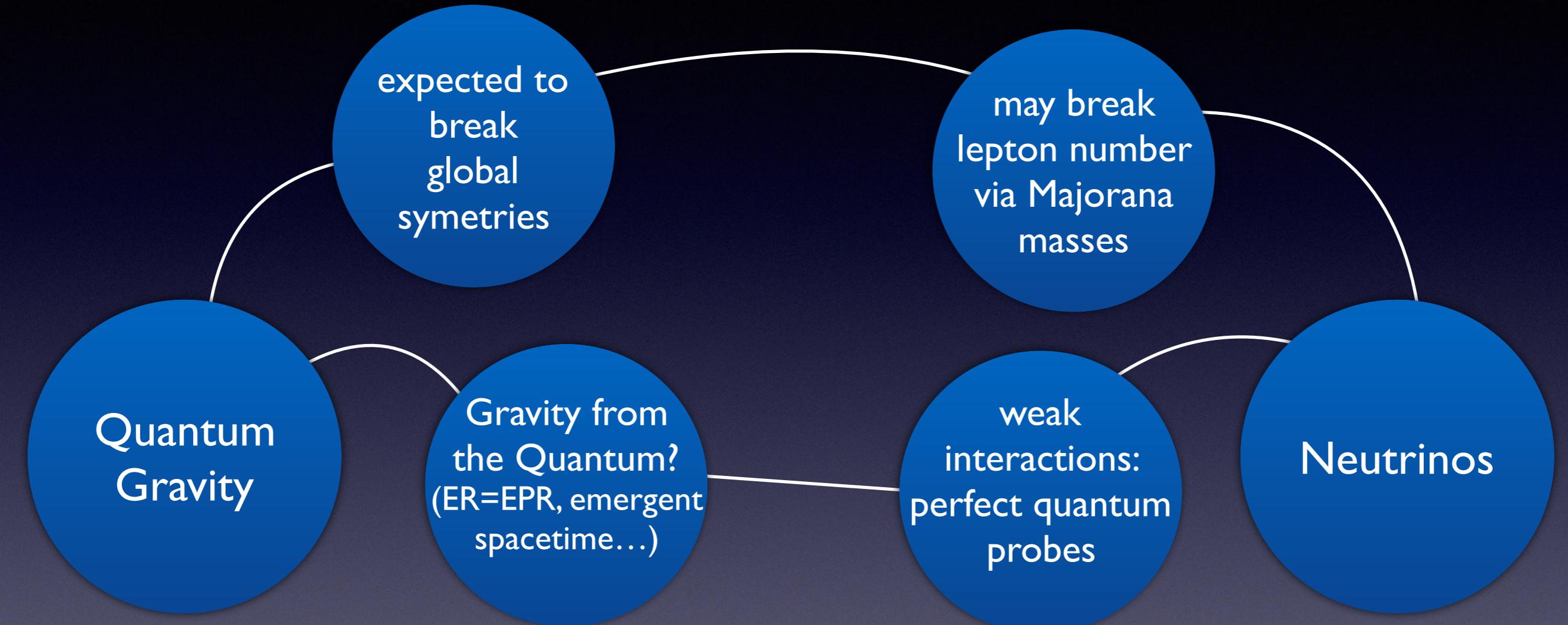
expected to  
break  
global  
symmetries

Neutrinos

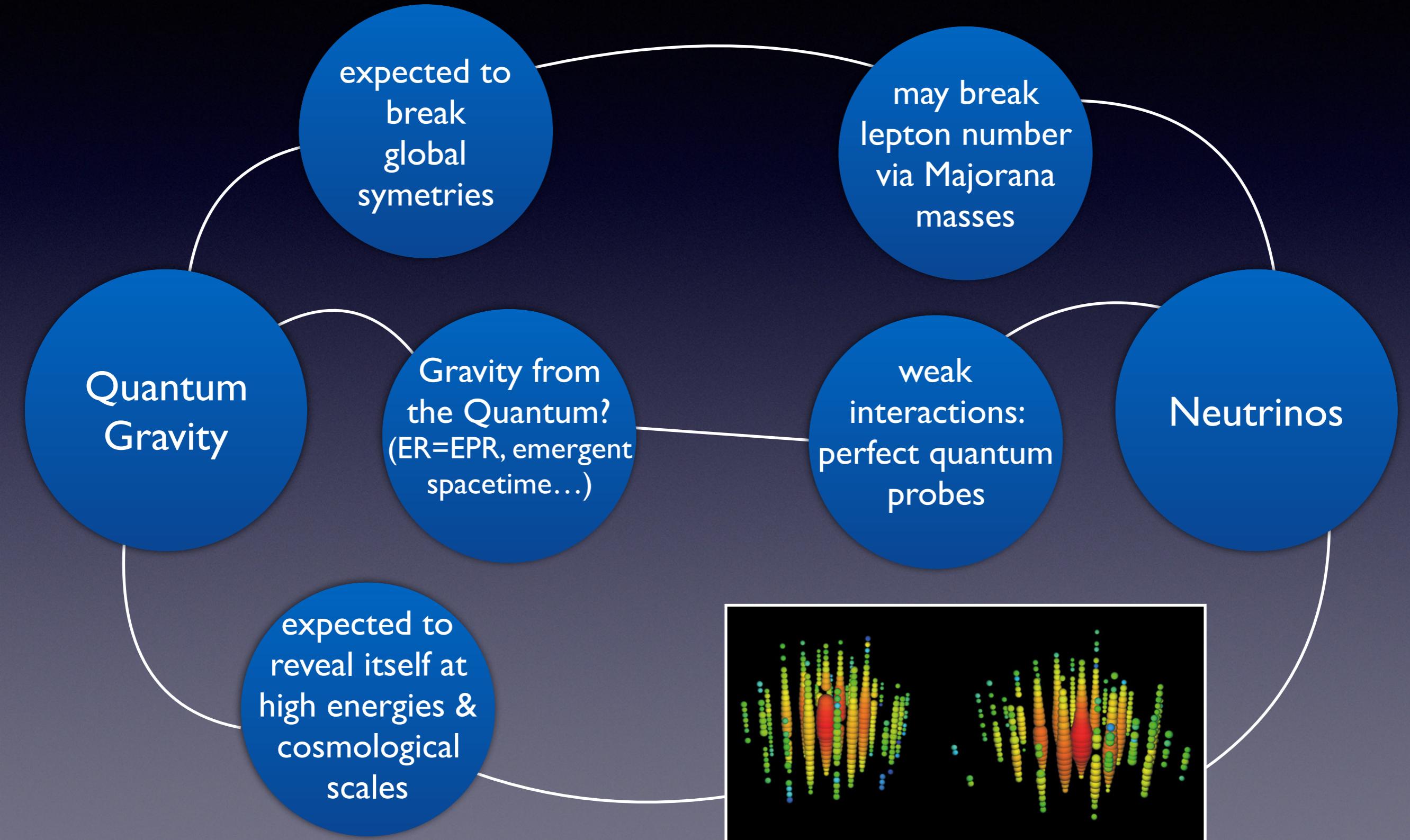
# Neutrinos as Probes for Quantum Gravity



# Neutrinos as Probes for Quantum Gravity



# Neutrinos as Probes for Quantum Gravity



# Neutrinos as Probes for Quantum Gravity

## Quantum Gravitational Decoherence

Quantum  
Gravity

expected to  
break  
global  
symmetries

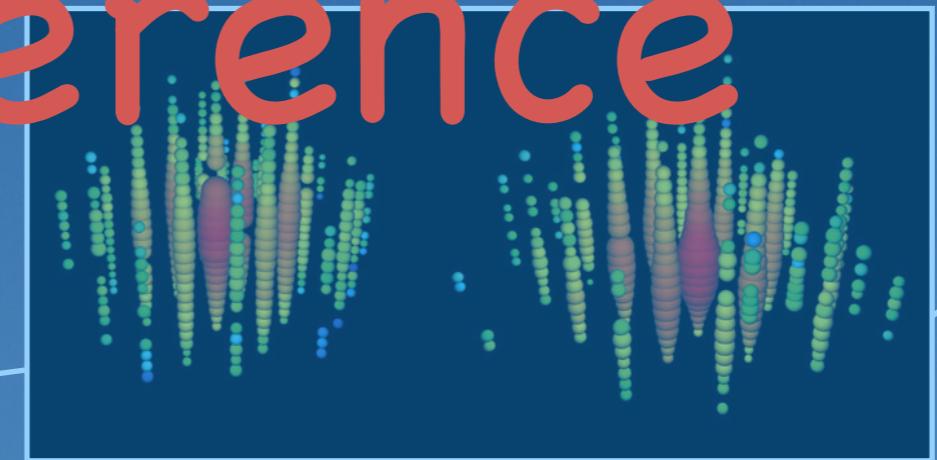
expected to  
reveal itself at  
high energies &  
cosmological  
scales

Gravity from  
the Quantum?  
( $E_1 = E_2 R$ , emergent  
spacetime...)

may break  
lepton number  
via Majorana  
masses

weak  
interactions:  
perfect quantum  
probes

Neutrinos



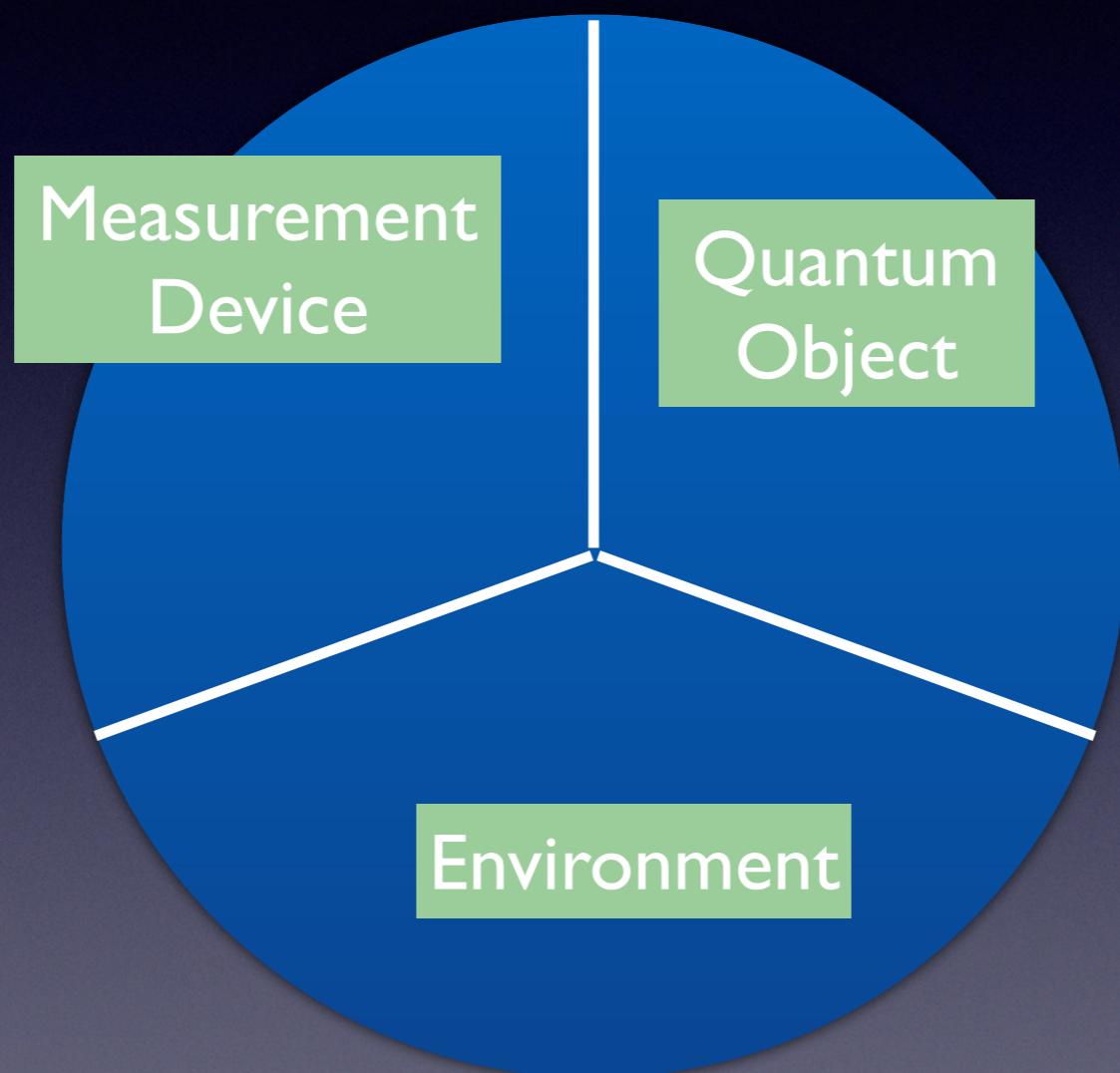
# A Very Brief Outline

- ▶ What is Quantum-Gravitational Decoherence?
- ▶ How does it help to study Hidden Dark Sectors?

# Decoherence

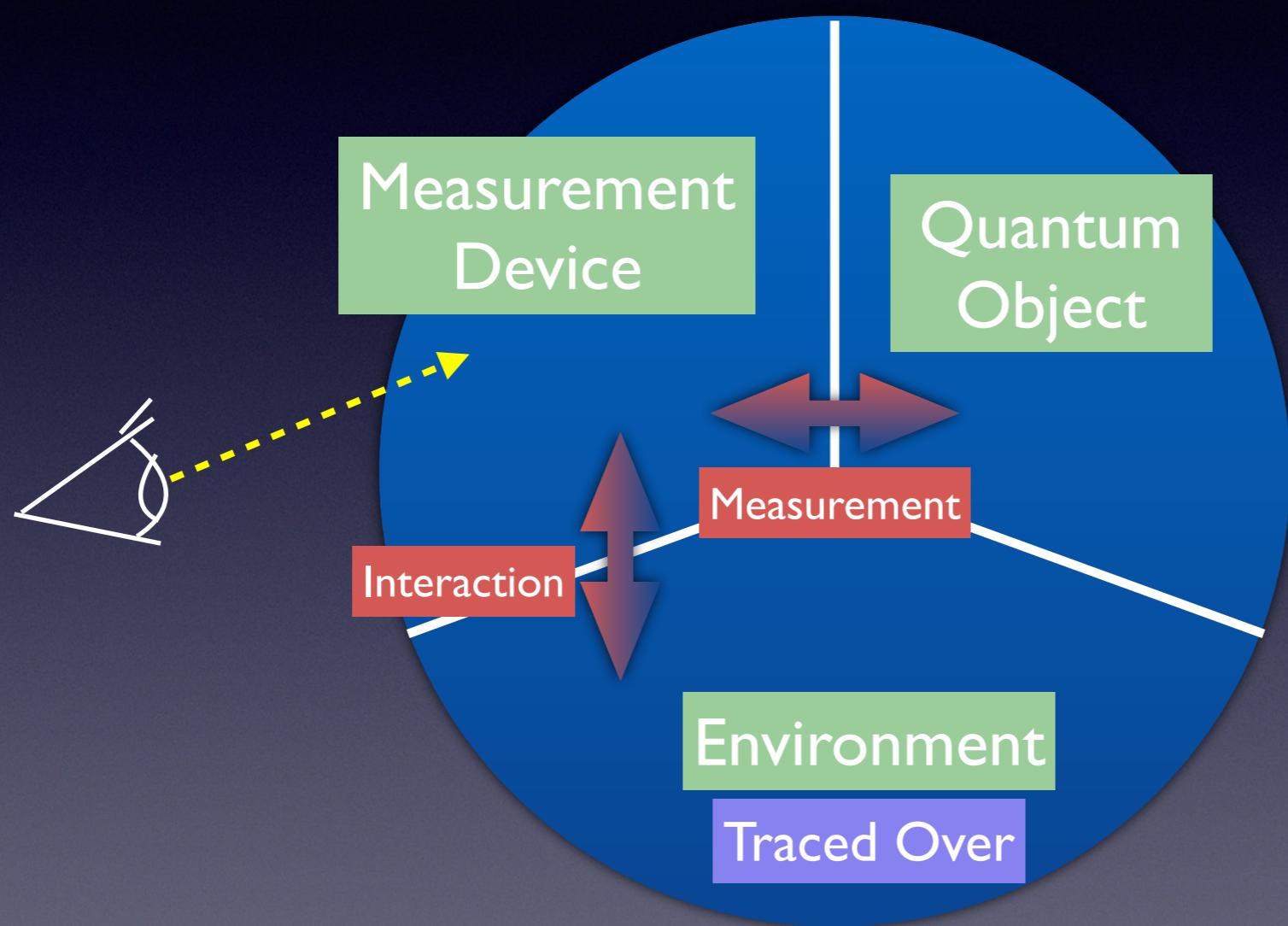
The  
Universe

# Decoherence



H.D. Zeh, Z. Phys. A 1970

# Decoherence



H.D. Zeh, Z. Phys. A 1970

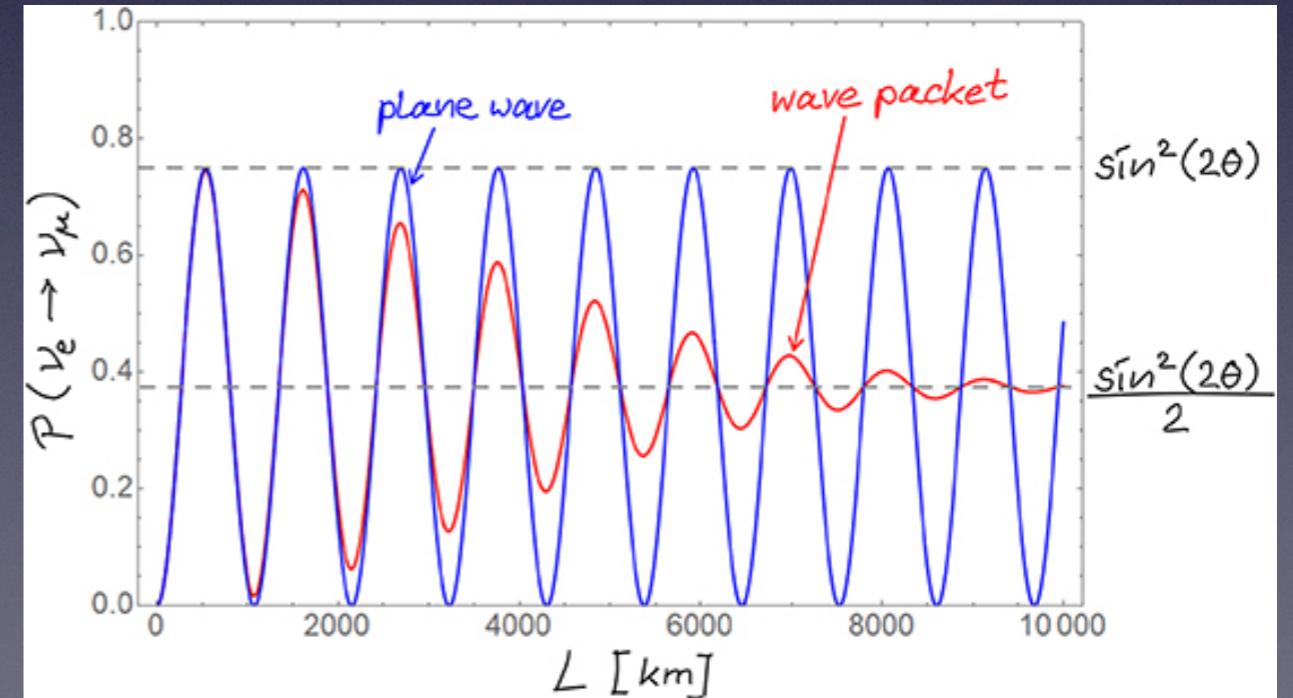
# Decoherence

- ▶ Suppression of interference terms
- ▶ Looks like a quantum “collapse” for the observer
- ▶ One if not “the” defining process in the quantum-to-classical transition

H.D. Zeh, Z. Phys. A 1970

## Neutrinos

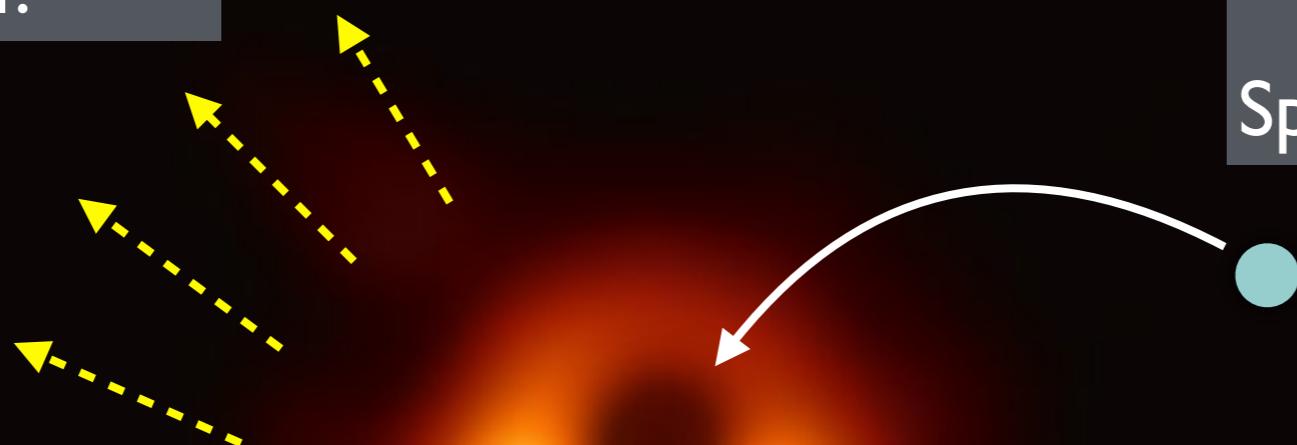
- ▶ Imperfect momentum measurement at production
- ▶ Wave packages getting separated & oscillations damped during propagation



# Decoherence at the Black Hole Horizon

Hawking Radiation:  
Thermal?

Particle:  
Specified by Flavor



No Hair Theorem:  
Fully specified by mass, charge & spin  
No Flavor numbers

# Quantum Gravity: “Spacetime gets Quantum”

## Einstein Equations

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}R g_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu}$$

Matter: Described by  
Quantum mechanics

Spacetime Geometry:  
Classical???

# Quantum Gravity: “Spacetime gets Quantum”

*“quantum foam, made up not merely of particles popping into and out of existence without limit, but of space-time itself churned into a lather of distorted geometry”*

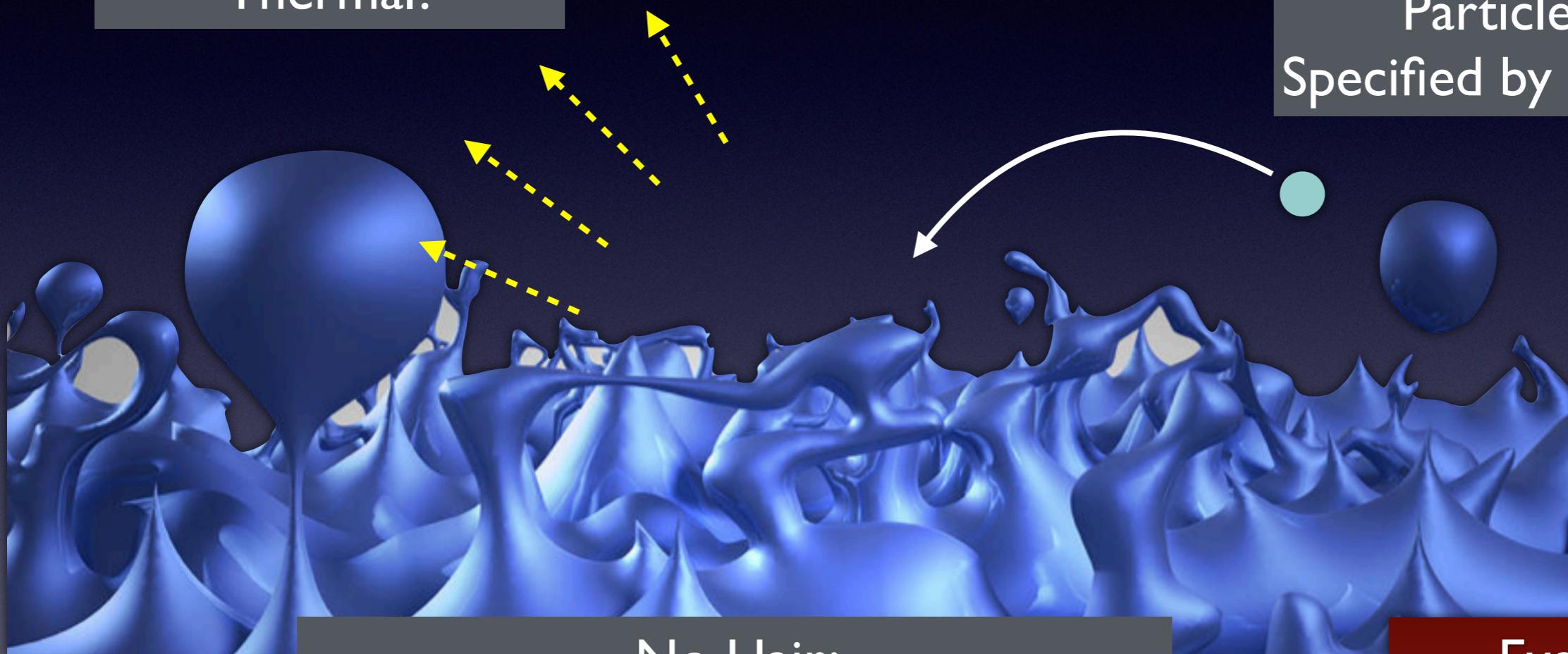
(John Archibald Wheeler)



# Quantum Gravity: “Spacetime gets Quantum”

Hawking Radiation:  
Thermal?

Particle:  
Specified by Flavor



No Hair:  
Fully specified by mass, charge & spin  
No Flavor numbers

Even for  
otherwise  
isolated systems!

# Quantum Gravitational Decoherence

- ▶ Can be modeled as a **sink term** in the evolution equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} \varrho(t) = -i[H, \varrho(t)] - \frac{1}{L_{coh}} (1 - \hat{D}) \varrho(t) - \mathcal{G} \varrho(t)$$

J. Ellis, J. Hagelin, M. Srednicki, D. Nanopoulos, 1984

- ▶ Violates all global quantum numbers!

Confirmed in AdS/CFT context!

D. Harlow, H. Ooguri, PRL 2019

- ▶ Entails a **democratic flavor distribution**!
- ▶ Depends **exponentially** on propagation distance

$$P_{ee}(L) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos^2(2\theta) e^{-2\gamma L} \quad (\text{2v-approximation})$$

H.V. Klapdor-Kleingrothaus, H. Päs, U. Sarkar, EPJ 2000

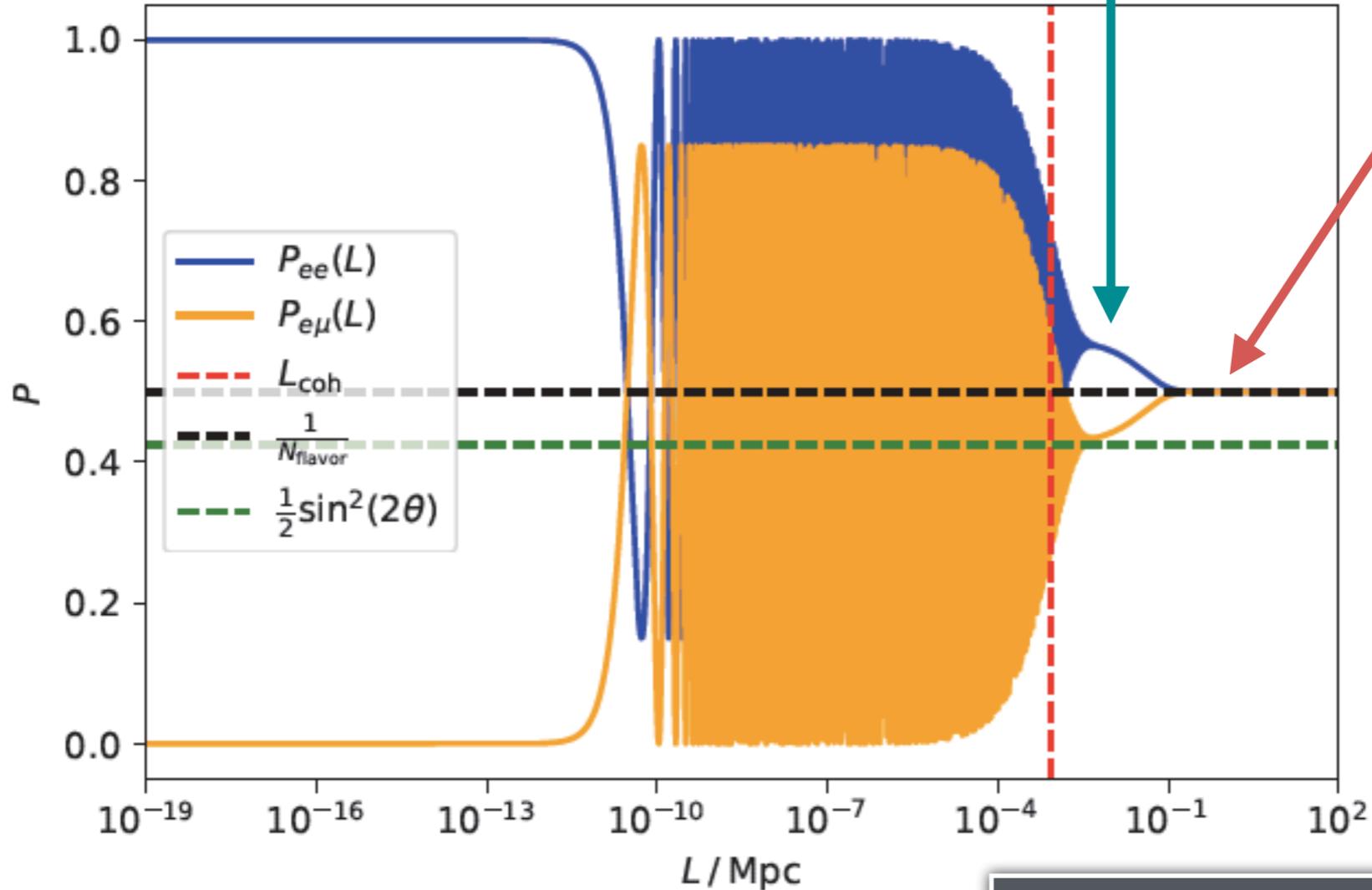
Great sensitivity  
at neutrino  
telescopes!

# Quantum Gravitational Decoherence

$$\frac{d}{dt} \varrho(t) = -i[H, \varrho(t)] - \frac{1}{L_{coh}} (1 - \hat{D}) \varrho(t) - \mathcal{G} \varrho(t)$$

Quantum-  
Gravitational  
Decoherence

Wave Package Separation  
Decoherence

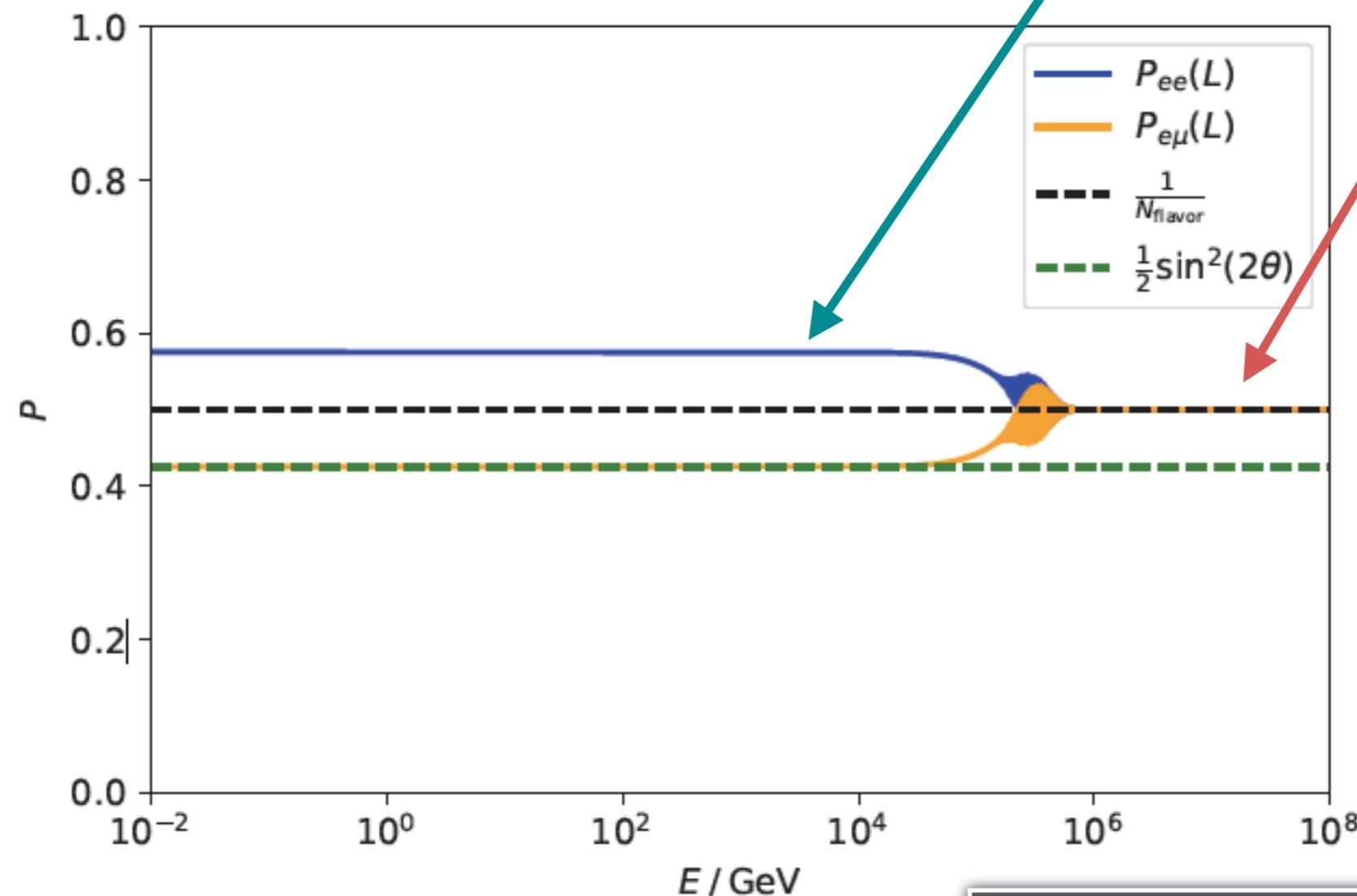


# Quantum Gravitational Decoherence

$$\frac{d}{dt}\varrho(t) = -i[H, \varrho(t)] - \frac{1}{L_{coh}} (1 - \hat{D}) \varrho(t) - \mathcal{G} \varrho(t)$$

Wave Package Separation  
Decoherence

Quantum-  
Gravitational  
Decoherence



# Why is it interesting now?

HV. Klapdor-Kleingrothaus, H. Päs, U. Sarkar, EPJ 2000

VS

D. Hellmann, H. Päs, E. Rani, arXiv:2103.11984

- ▶ Recent results about Black Hole Information (emergent spacetime, firewalls, replica wormholes, ER=EPR...) that lacks concrete possibilities of experimental testing
- ▶ Discovery of PeV scale extragalactic neutrinos in the IceCube neutrino telescope
- ▶ Mounting cosmological evidence for dark matter without new particles found at the LHC!

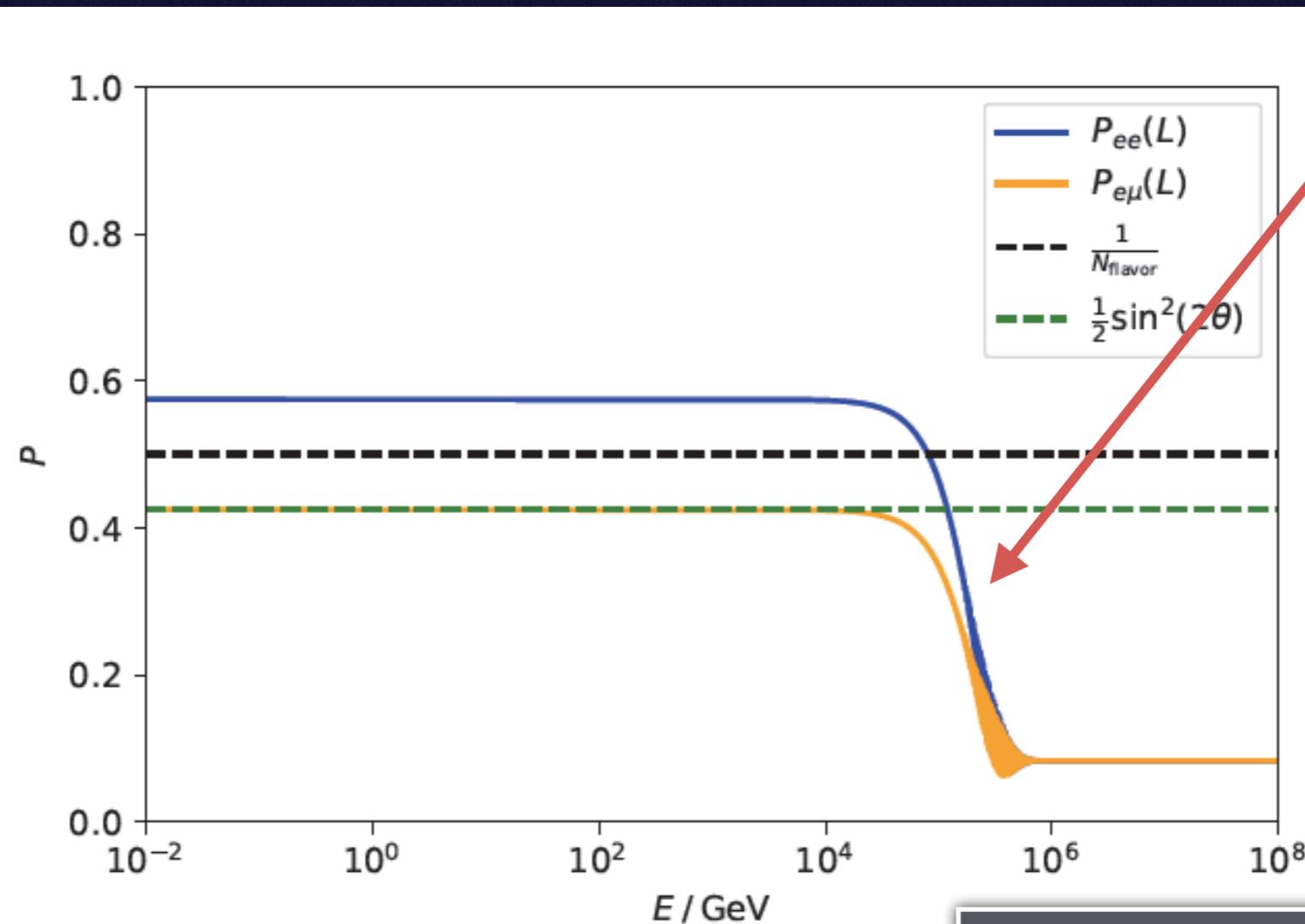
Quantum-gravitational decoherence  
NOT  
as an exotic phenomenon  
BUT  
as a tool to study hidden sectors!

# Search for Hidden Particles

Adding N-2 additional dark Fermions:

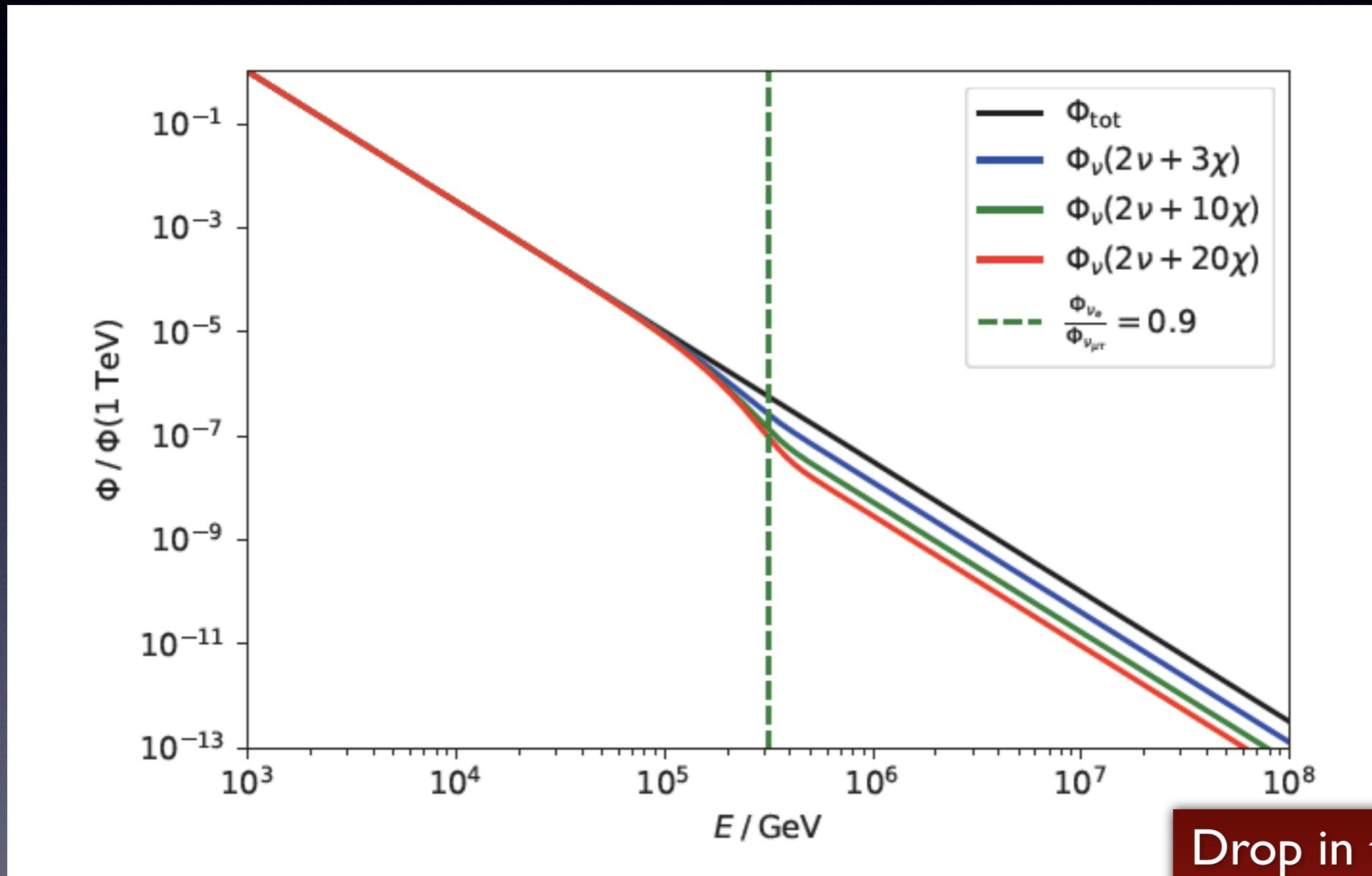
$$P_{ee}(L) = \frac{1}{N} + \frac{N-2}{2N} e^{-2\gamma L} + \frac{1}{2} \cos^2(2\theta) e^{-2\gamma L}$$
$$+ \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(2\theta) e^{-(\gamma + \frac{1}{L_{coh}})L} \left\{ \cos(\omega L) + \frac{\gamma}{\omega} \sin(\omega L) \right\}$$

Democratic Flavor Distribution over ALL neutral fermions!



Drop in the Survival Probability!

# Search for Hidden Particles



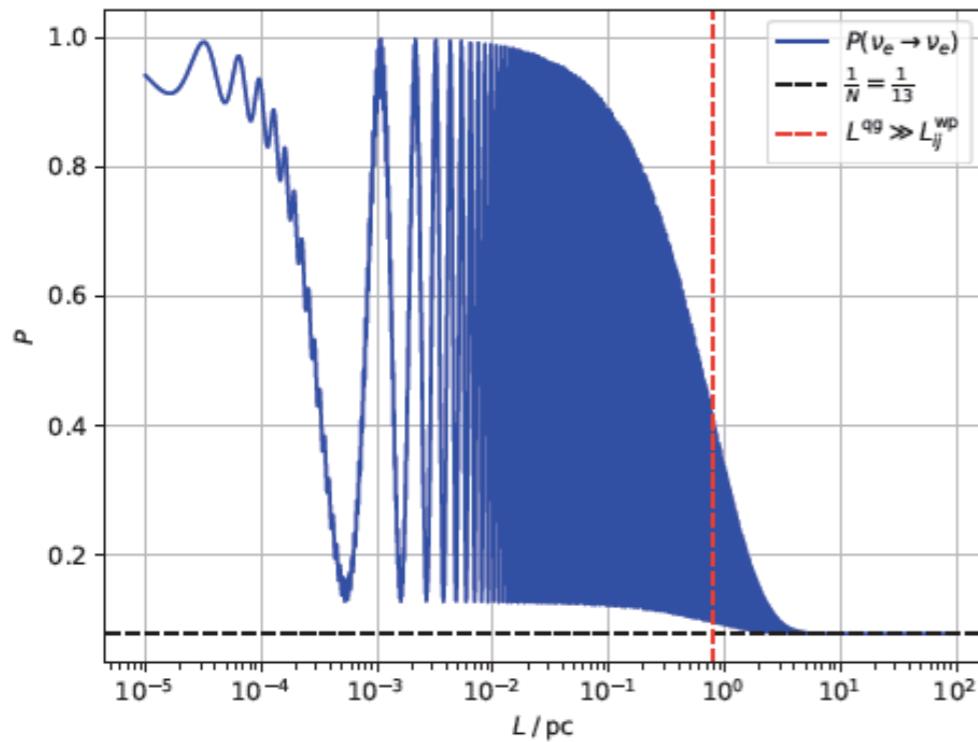
Drop in the Total  
Flux in the  
Energy Spectrum!

# The 3v Case

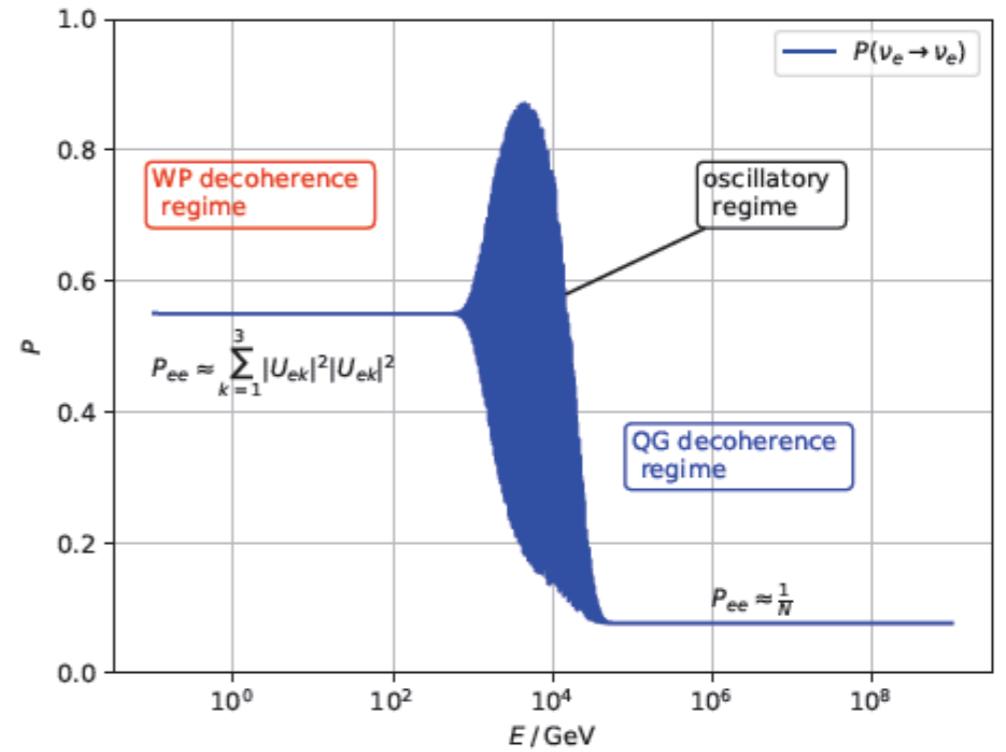
Analytic solution

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\alpha\beta}(L) = & \frac{1}{N} + \frac{1}{2}(|U_{\alpha 1}|^2 - |U_{\alpha 2}|^2)(|U_{\beta 1}|^2 - |U_{\beta 2}|^2)e^{-\Gamma_{N(N-1)+1}L} \\ & + \frac{1}{6}(|U_{\alpha 1}|^2 + |U_{\alpha 2}|^2 - 2|U_{\alpha 3}|^2)(|U_{\beta 1}|^2 + |U_{\beta 2}|^2 - 2|U_{\beta 3}|^2)e^{-\Gamma_{N(N-1)+2}L} \\ & + \sum_{k=3}^{N-1} \frac{e^{-\Gamma_{N(N-1)+k}L}}{k(k+1)} \\ & + 2 \sum_{j>i=1}^3 \operatorname{Re}(U_{\alpha j}^* U_{\alpha i} U_{\beta j} U_{\beta i}^*) e^{-\frac{L}{L_{ij}}} e^{-\bar{\Gamma}_{I+1} I L} \cos(\omega_{ij} L) \\ & + 2 \sum_{j>i=1}^3 \operatorname{Re}(U_{\alpha j}^* U_{\alpha i} U_{\beta j}^* U_{\beta i}) \frac{\Delta\Gamma_{I+1} I}{\omega_{ij}} e^{-\frac{L}{L_{ij}}} e^{-\bar{\Gamma}_{I+1} I L} \sin(\omega_{ij} L) \\ & - 2 \sum_{j>i=1}^3 \operatorname{Im}(U_{\alpha j}^* U_{\alpha i} U_{\beta j} U_{\beta i}^*) \frac{\Delta E_{ij}}{\omega_{ij}} e^{-\frac{L}{L_{ij}}} e^{-\bar{\Gamma}_{I+1} I L} \sin(\omega_{ij} L) \end{aligned}$$

# The 3v Case

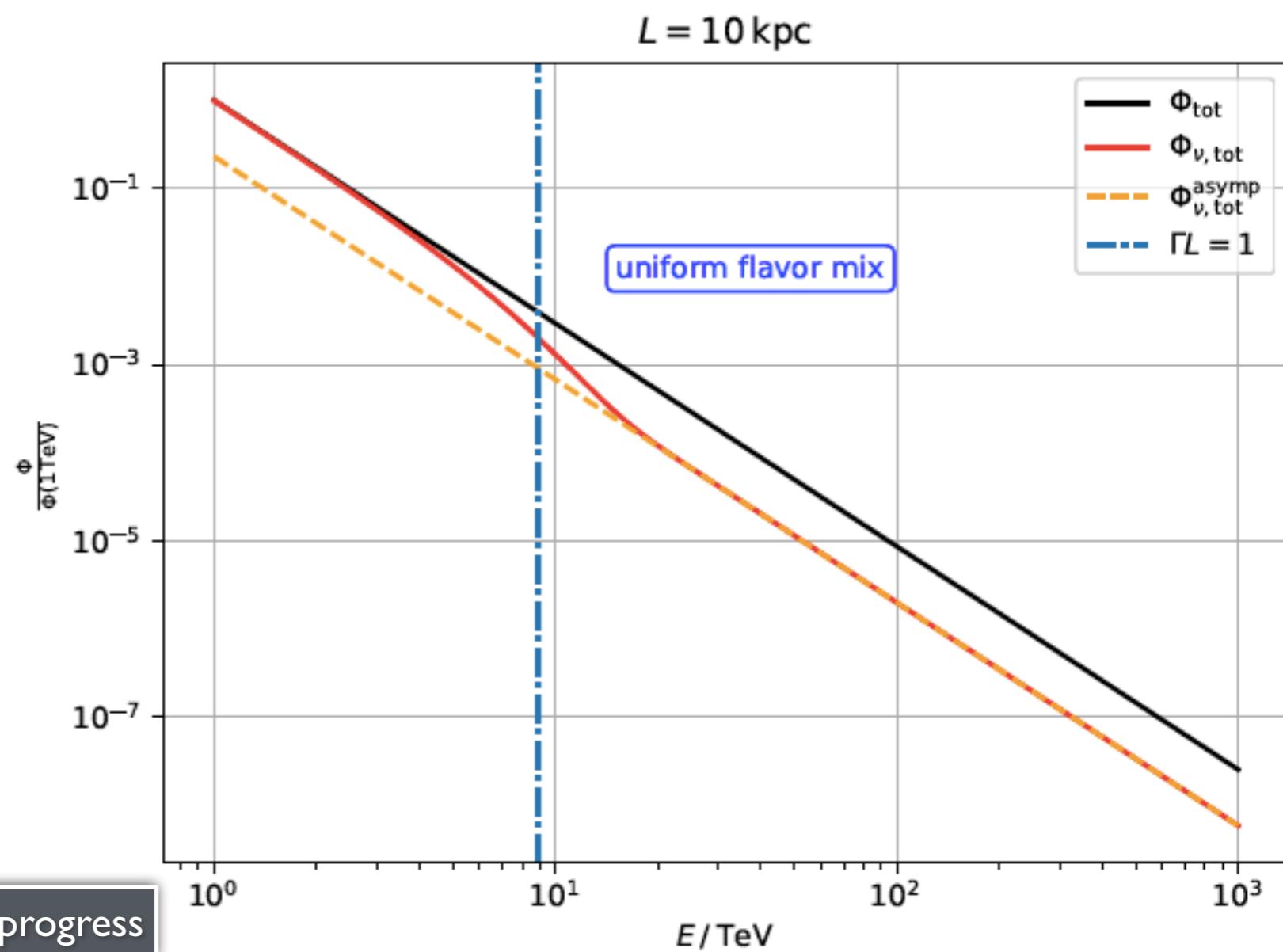
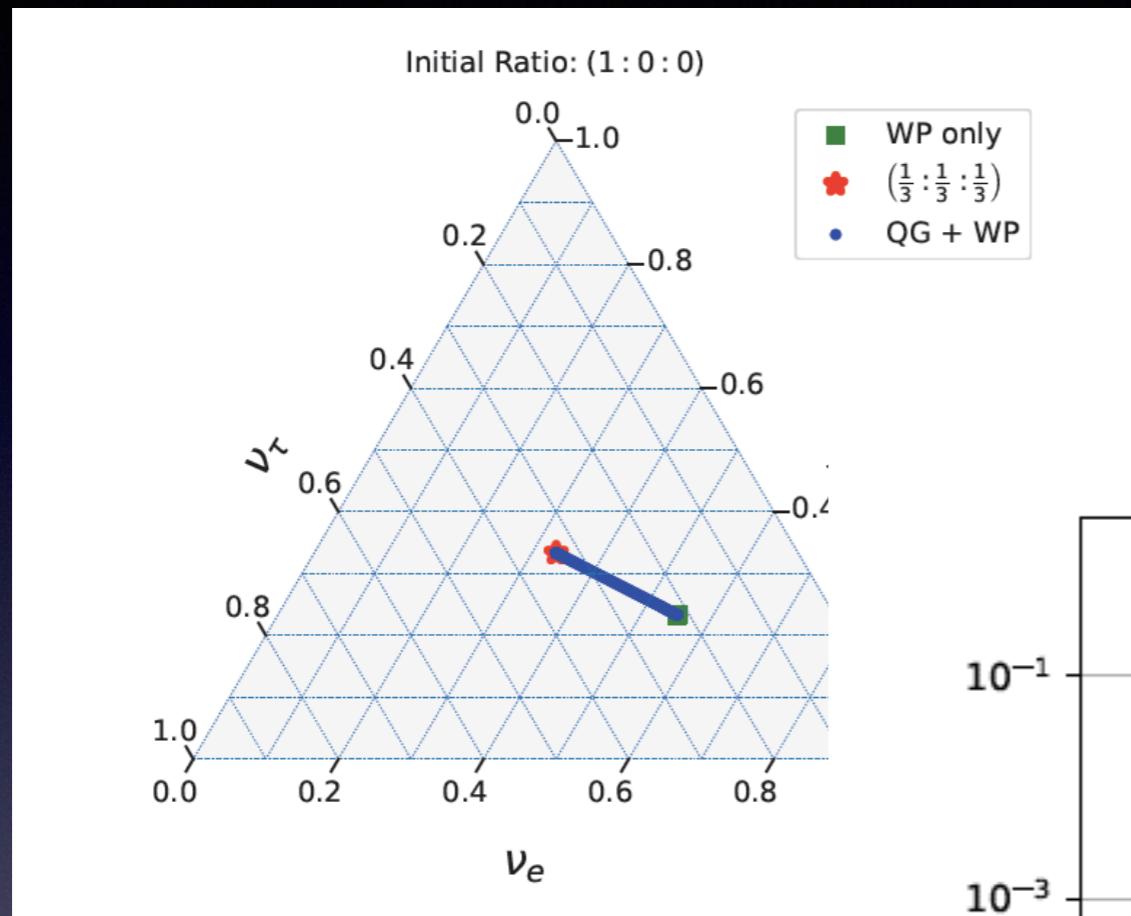


(a) The blue curve represents  $P_{ee}$  for variable base length and fixed energy  $E = 1 \text{ PeV}$ .



(b) The blue curve represents  $P_{ee}$  for variable energy and fixed base length  $L = 2 \text{ kpc}$ .

# The 3v Case



# Summary

- ▶ Quantum-Gravitational Decoherence and breaking of global symmetries: rather generic prediction of quantum gravity
- ▶ If not: New insights into black hole information processing
- ▶ If yes: Powerful tool to search for dark sectors virtually impossible to find with any other method
- ▶ Future work: Dark sector spectroscopy, baryogenesis, CPT violation...
- ▶ Promising source: cosmic v's from the CYGNUS spiral arm

D. Hellmann, H. Päs, E. Rani, arXiv:2103.11984

Picture Credits: IceCube/NSF (IceCube), NASA (Spacetime Foam), EHT/ESO (Black Hole), IOP (Neutrino Decoherence),  
ESO/B.Tafreshi (Milky Way)