

Heavy Neutral Leptons (HNL) at e^+e^- colliders — theory perspective



HELMHOLTZ

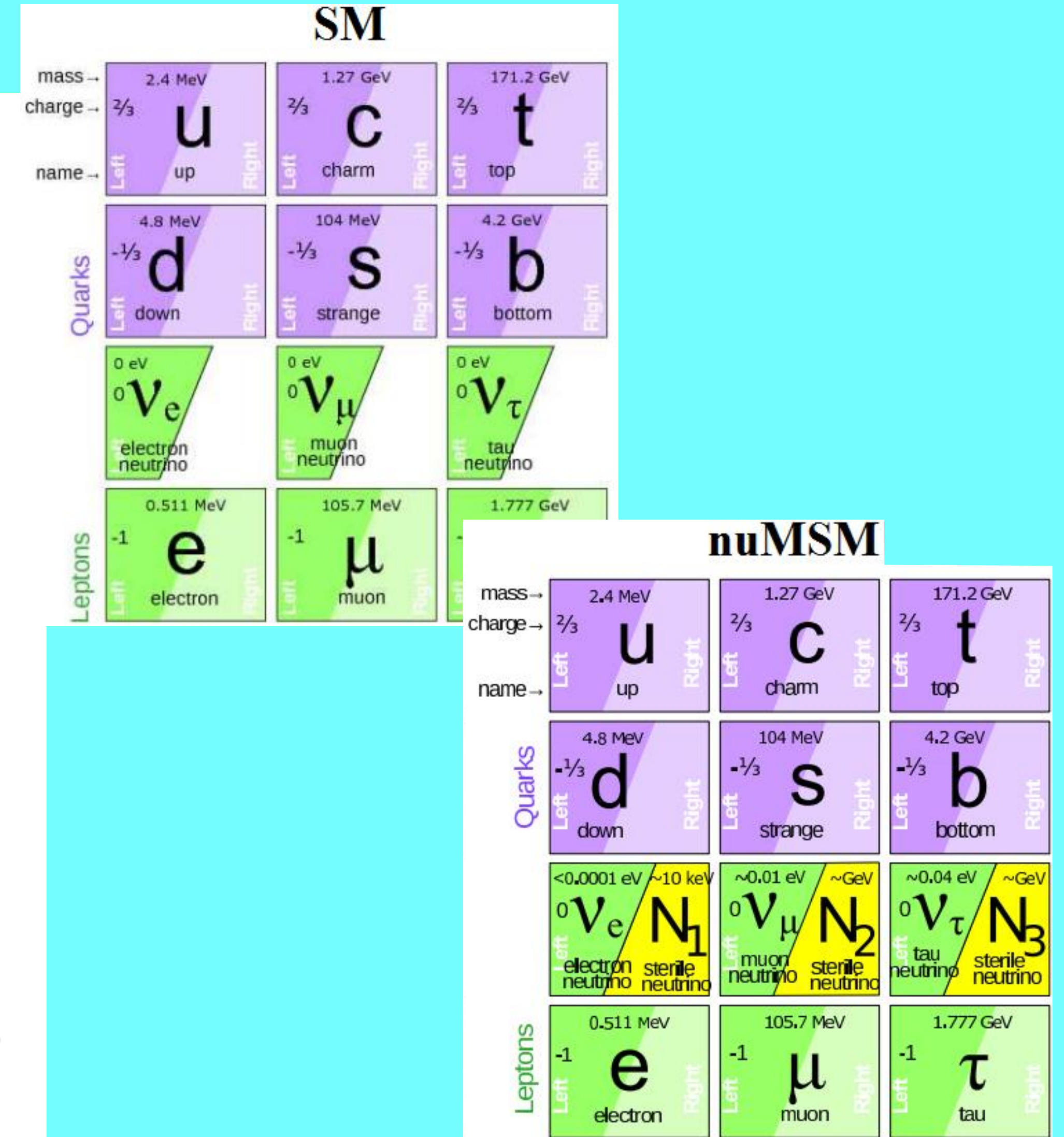
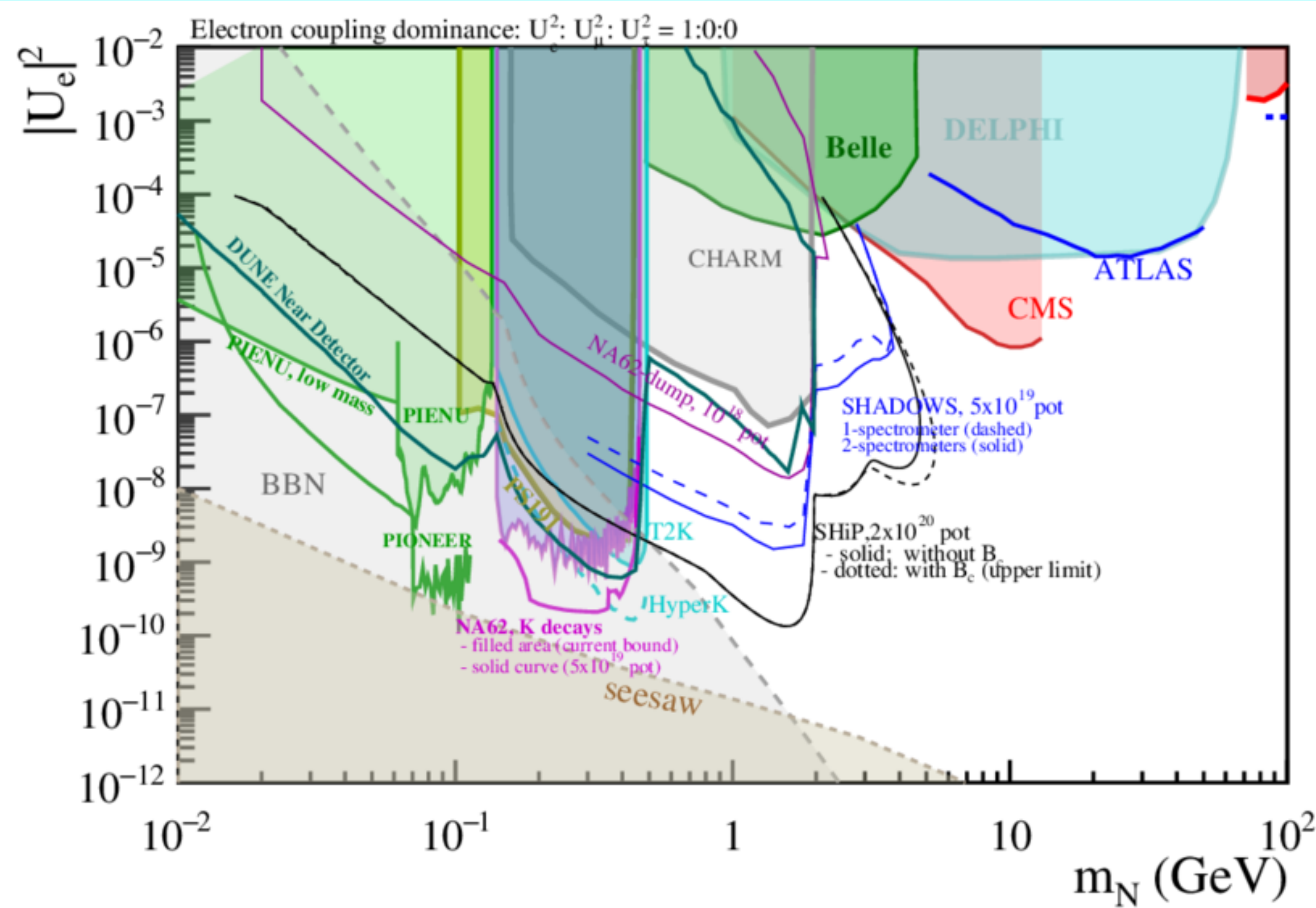


CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE
QUANTUM UNIVERSE



Jürgen R. Reuter

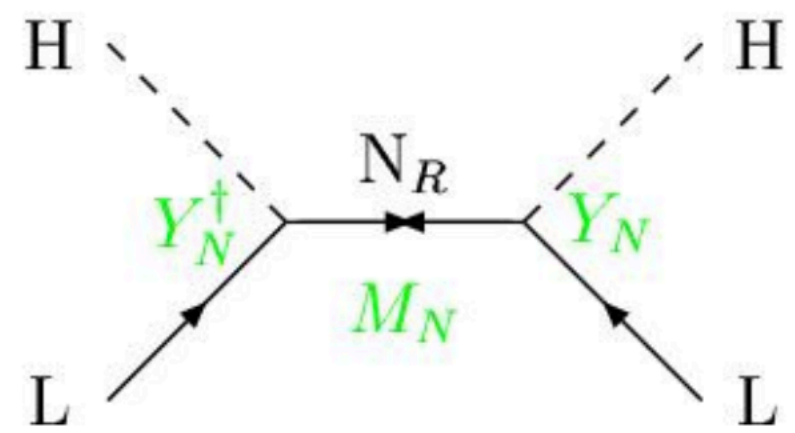
The quest for Heavy Neutral Leptons (HNL)



The neutrino mystery

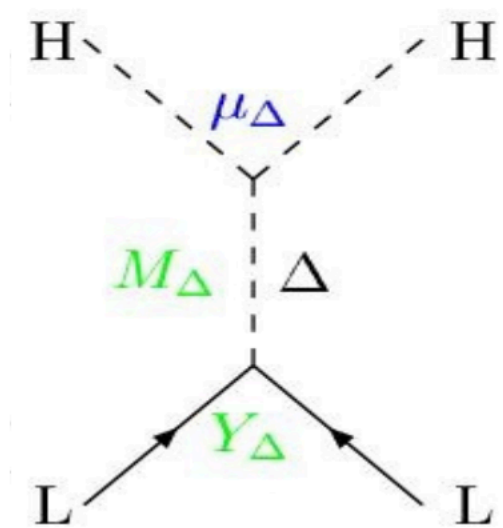
- Neutrinos masses is already physics beyond the standard model
- Simple extension of SM: just add ν_R and Yukawa couplings $\nu_R = (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}, 1) - m_\nu(\bar{\nu}_L\nu_R + h.c.) \left(1 + \frac{h}{v}\right)$
- Singlet allows for a Majorana mass term: $-M_\nu \bar{\nu}^c \nu$ [Minkowski, 1977; Mohapatra/Senjanovic, 1980; Yanagida, 1981]
- Dedicated “seesaw” models for neutrino physics: type I (singlet fermion), type II (triplet scalar), type III (triplet fermion)

Right-handed singlet:
(type-I seesaw)



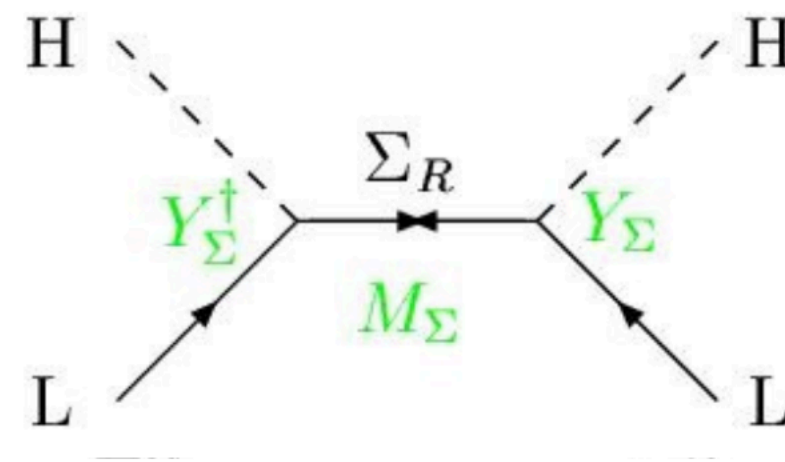
$$m_\nu = Y_N^T \frac{1}{M_N} Y_N v^2$$

Scalar triplet:
(type-II seesaw)



$$m_\nu = Y_\Delta \frac{\mu_\Delta}{M_\Delta^2} v^2$$

Fermion triplet:
(type-III seesaw)

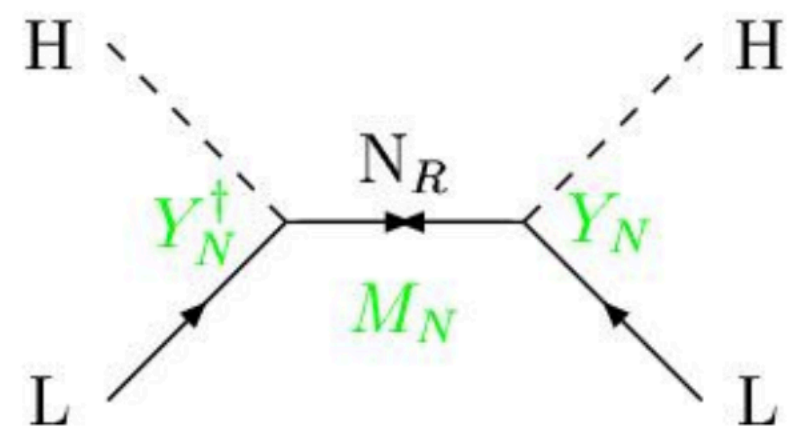


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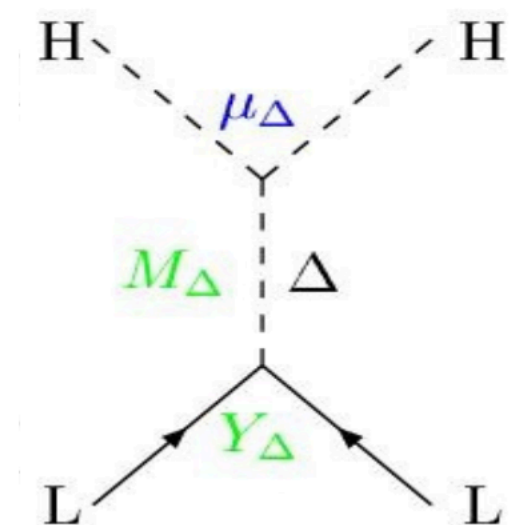
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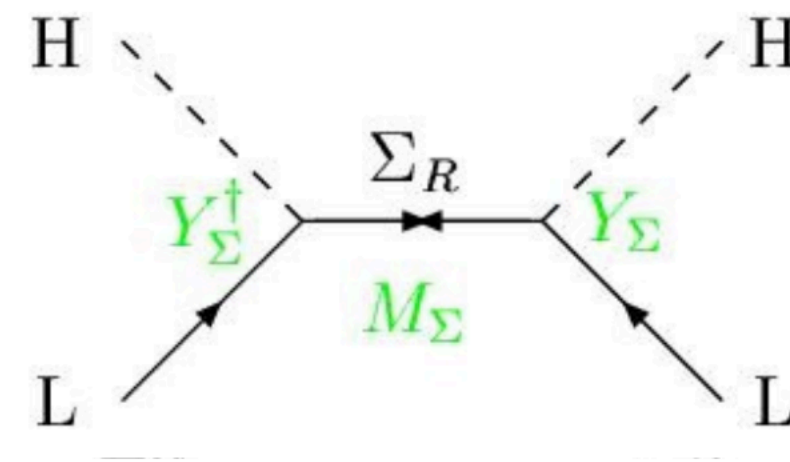
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$$m_\nu = Y_\Sigma^T \frac{1}{M_\Sigma} Y_\Sigma v^2$$

- Pheno of neutrino oscillations, flavor etc.
- Connections to Dark Matter (DM) (?)
- Lepton sector CP violation (?)
- Leptogenesis / Baryogenesis / Baryon Asymmetry of Universe (BAU)
- Lepton Flavor/Number Violation
- Fundamental Majorana Particles (?)

Explanations for tiny masses

- **Suppression by large scale** (“classic seesaw”)
- **Accidentally small numbers** (neutrino Yukawas, “tuned”)
- **Symmetry protection:** e.g. B–L, flavor/discrete symmetries, Froggatt-Nielsen type, e.g. [Hagedorn et al., 1408.7118](#)

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

Neutrino-Yukawa couplings

Heavy Neutrino mass matrix

Model realisations:

- Inverse seesaw type $\epsilon, \epsilon' \ll \mu \ll 1$ [Mohapatra 1986; Mohapatra/Valle 1986](#)
- Linear seesaw type c $\mu \ll \epsilon, \epsilon' \ll 1$ [Akhmedov/Lindner/Schnapka/Valle 1995](#)
- ν MSM type $\epsilon, \epsilon', \mu \ll 1$ [Asaka/Shaposhnikov 2005/06; Kersten/Smirnov, 2007](#)
- “Mass communist” type $\mu \ll 1, M' \rightarrow M$



Constraints on “complete” neutrino models

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.8 \cdot 10^{26} \text{ yr.}$$

Mixing of light (“flavored”) and heavy (“sterile”) neutrinos

$$\nu_{L\ell} = \sum_{k=1}^3 U_{\ell k} \nu_k + \sum_{k'=4}^{n_R+3} V_{\ell k'} N_{k'}$$

$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = -\frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^+ \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{\ell}^{\tau} [\bar{\nu}_k U_{\ell k}^* \gamma^\mu P_L \ell] - \frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^+ \sum_{k'=4}^{n_R+3} \sum_{\ell}^{\tau} [\bar{N}_{k'} V_{\ell k'}^* \gamma^\mu P_L \ell] + \text{H.c.}$$

Search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay (GERDA, 127 kg · yr)

$$\left| \sum_{k'=4}^{n_R+3} \frac{V_{ek'}^2}{m_{k'}} \right| < (2.33 - 4.12) \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ TeV}^{-1}$$

2009.06079

Direct searches at LHC, e.g. $pp \rightarrow \ell_i \ell_j \ell_k + E_T^{\text{miss}}$

1905.09798; 1911.04968;
2008.07949; 2305.14931;
2312.07484

$$|V_{\ell N}|^2 \lesssim 10^{-5} - 10^{-2} \text{ for } 1 \text{ GeV} < m_N < m_W,$$

$$|V_{\ell N}|^2 \lesssim 10^{-2} - 1 \text{ for } m_W < m_N < 1.2 \text{ TeV.}$$

Indirect constraints from EWPO/global fits, e.g.

$$|V_{\mu N}|^2 < 4.41 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ at 95\% CL}$$

Perturbativity bound on HNL total width

$$\Gamma_N^{\text{tot}} \lesssim 0.x \cdot M_N$$

Direct constraints: absolute mass scale (KATRIN, β -decay kinematics)

$$m_{\nu_e} \lesssim 0.8 \text{ eV, at 90\% C.L.}$$

2105.08533

Constraints from cosmology (large scale structure, CMB)

$$\sum_m m_{\nu_m} \lesssim 0.12 \text{ eV, at 95\% C.L.}$$

1807.06209

Neutrino oscillation measurements of $U_{\ell k}$:

fits to unitarity assumption of $U_{\ell k}$; when relaxed, more freedom e.g. 2004.13719

Searches for charged lepton number violation:

$$\mu \rightarrow e\gamma, \tau \rightarrow e\gamma, \tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma, \mu \rightarrow eee, \tau \rightarrow \{e, \mu\}^3$$

1605.05081, 0908.2381, 1001.3221



Simplified neutrino model (HNL model)

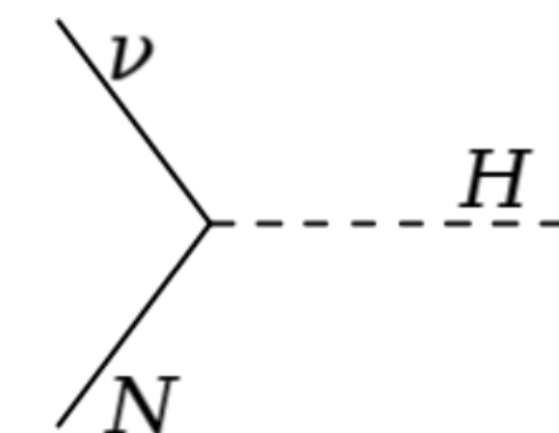
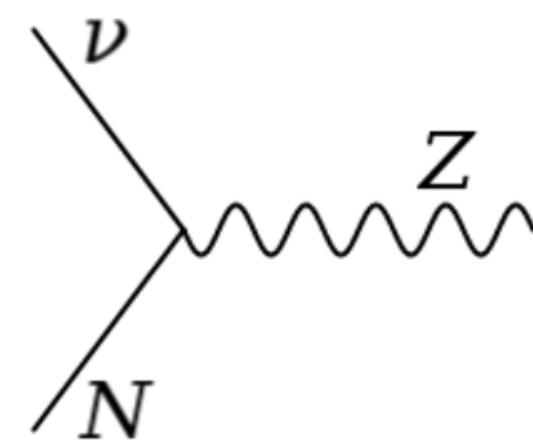
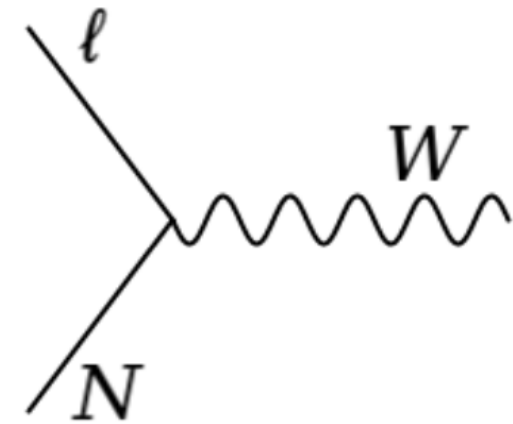
- Simplified model with right-handed (ν SM) and sterile neutrinos
- After EWSB heavy (sterile) neutrinos do mix with ν SM neutrinos
- Lagrangian: $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \mathcal{L}_N + \mathcal{L}_{WN\ell} + \mathcal{L}_{ZN\nu} + \mathcal{L}_{HN\nu}$

$$\mathcal{L}_N = \xi_\nu \cdot (\bar{N}_k i \not{\partial} N_k - m_{N_k} \bar{N}_k N_k) \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, 3$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{WN\ell} = -\frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^+ \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=e}^{\tau} \bar{N}_k V_{lk}^* \gamma^\mu P_L \ell^- + \text{h.c.},$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{ZN\nu} = -\frac{g}{2 \cos \theta_W} Z_\mu \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=e}^{\tau} \bar{N}_k V_{lk}^* \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_l + \text{h.c.}$$

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Incomplete literature:

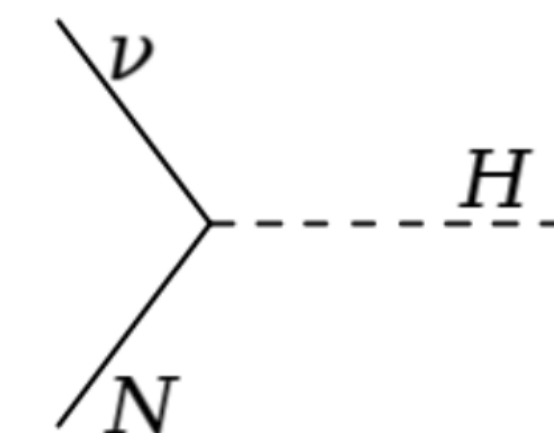
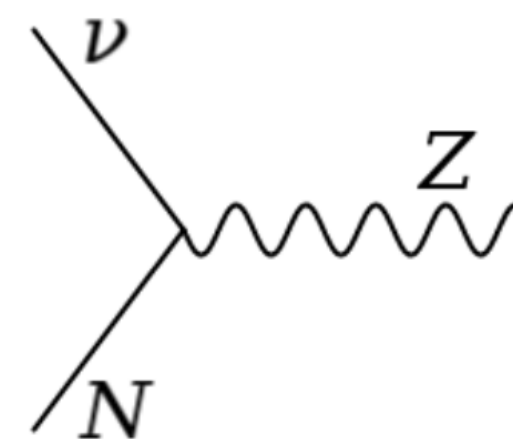
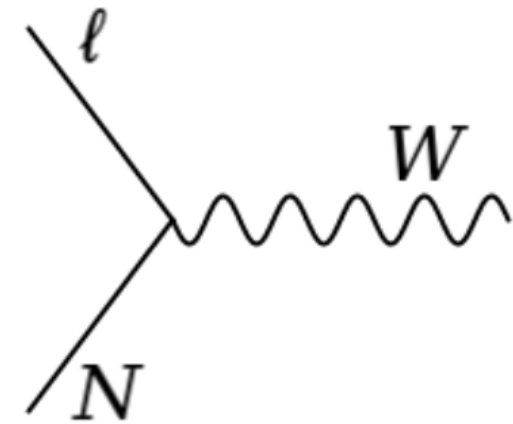
[Aguilar-Saavedra ea., hep-ph/0502189; hep-ph/0503026; Shaposhnikov, 0804.4542; Das/Okada, 1207.3734; Banerjee ea., 1503.05491; Antusch, Cazzato, Fischer, 1612.0272; Cai, Han, Li, Ruiz, 1711.02180; Pascoli, Ruiz, Weiland, 1812.08750](#)

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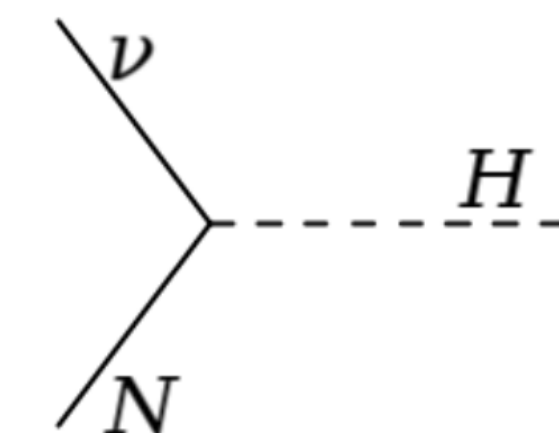
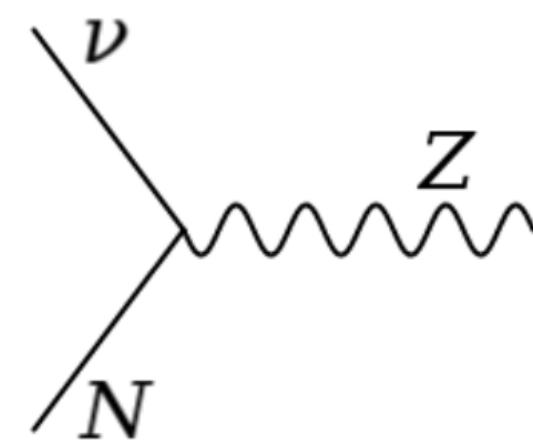
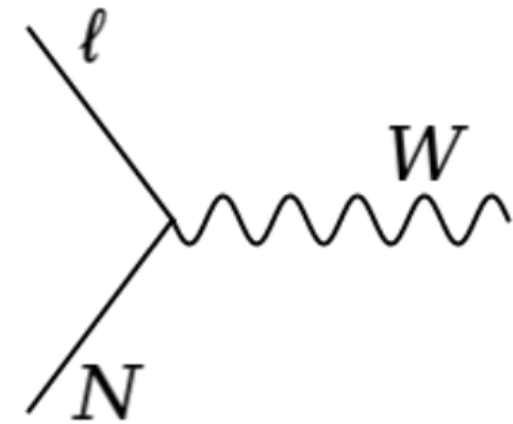
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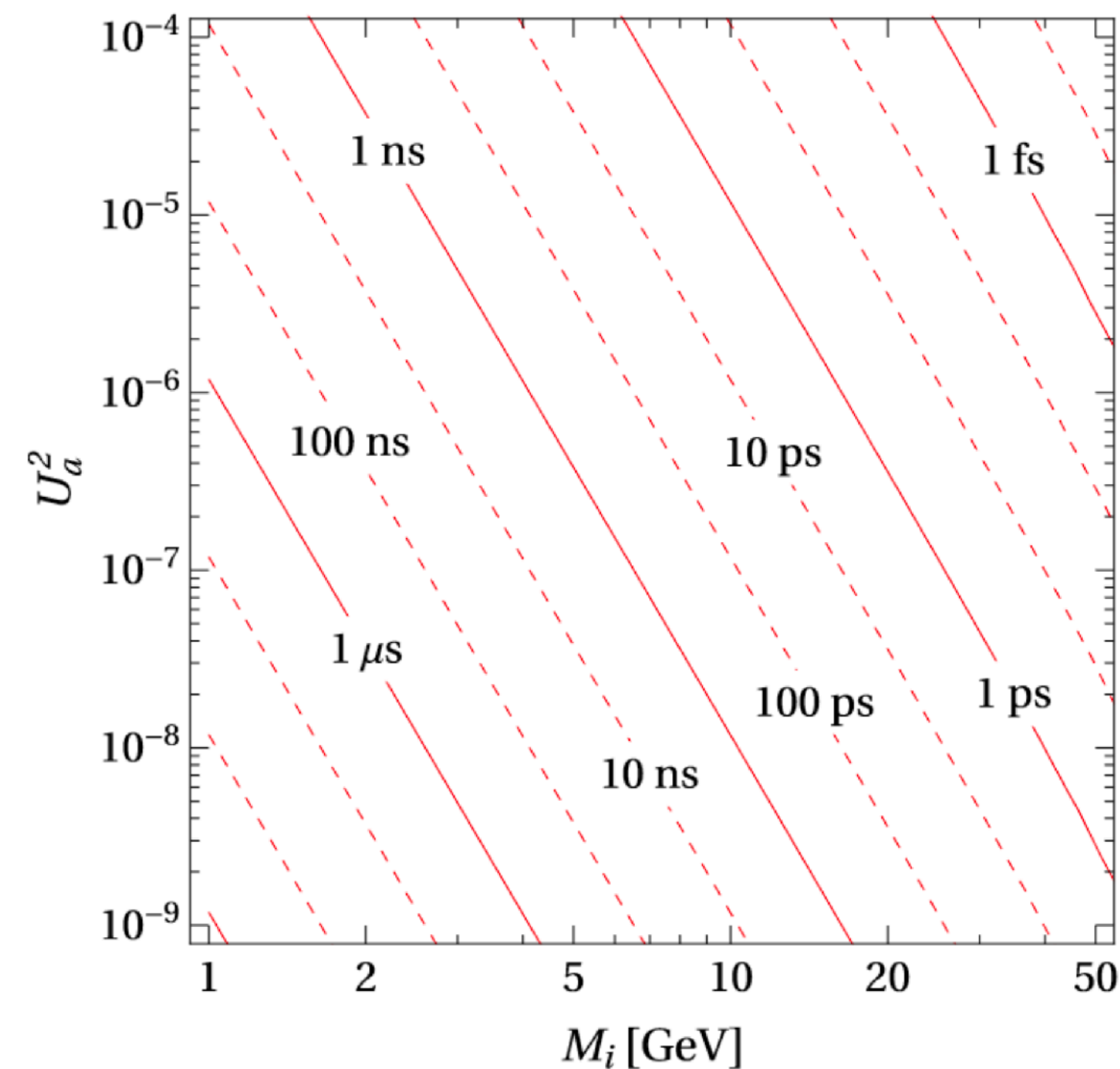
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- ✓ Single Heavy-N model:
5 parameters ($V_{N,e/\mu/\tau}, M_N, R_{LNV}/R_{LNV}$)
- ✓ General Heavy-N model:
3 neutrino masses: $M_{N_1}, M_{N_2}, M_{N_3}$
- ✓ Nine real mixing parameters:
 $V_{\ell k}, \ell = e, \mu, \tau, k = N_1, N_2, N_3$
- ✓ Possibly independent, 3 neutrino widths: $\Gamma_{N_1}, \Gamma_{N_2}, \Gamma_{N_3}$
- ✓ Majorana vs. Dirac particle: $\xi_\nu = \frac{1}{2}$ vs. $\xi_\nu = 1$
- ✓ UFO model HeavyN



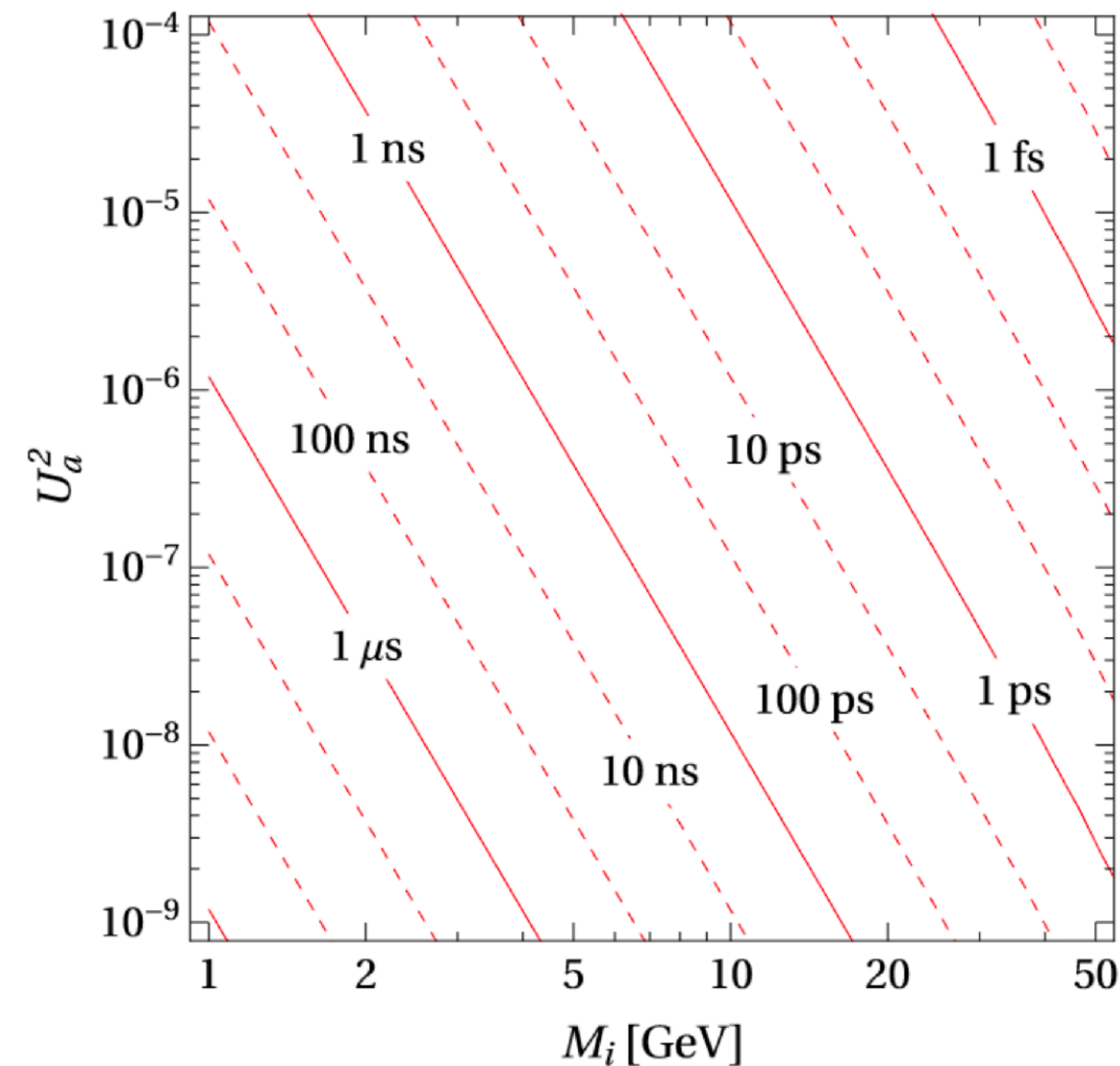
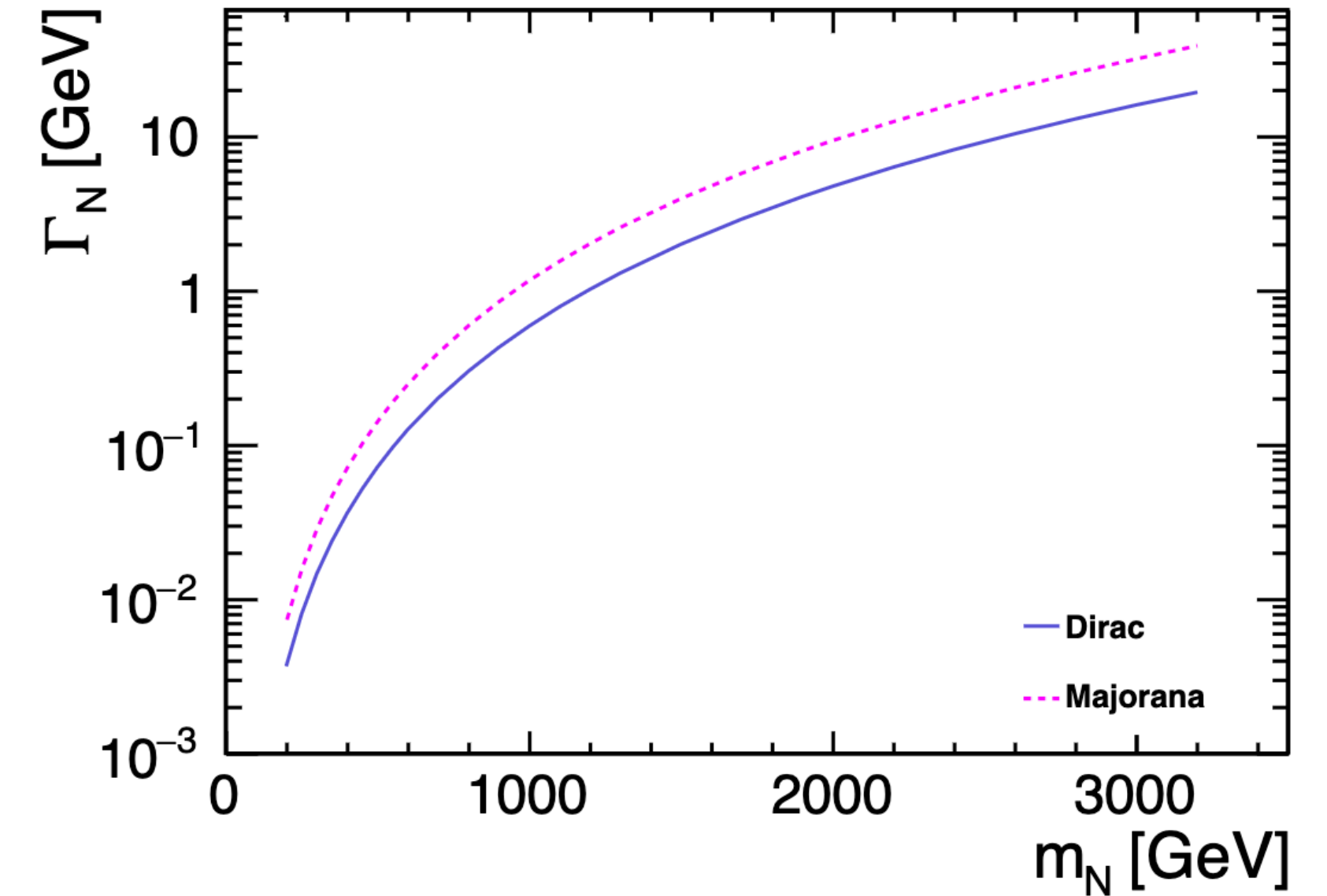
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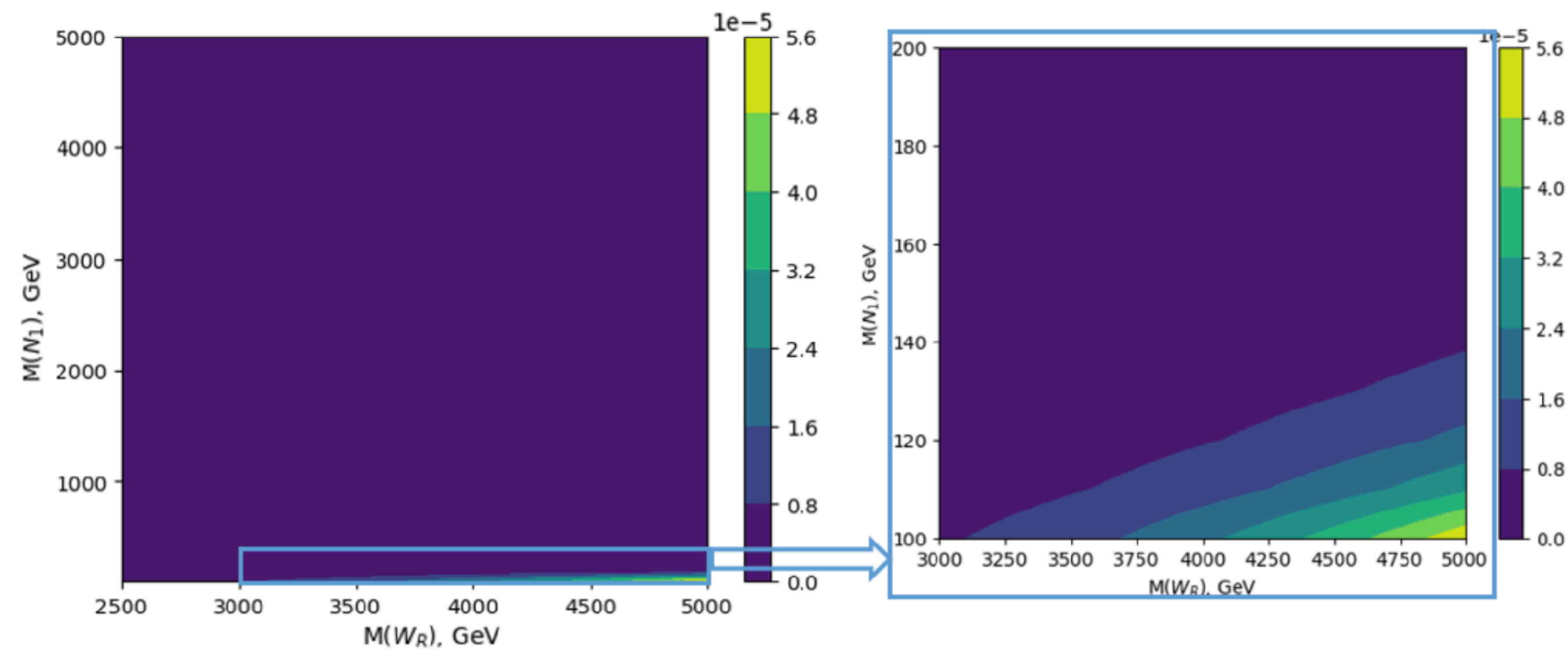
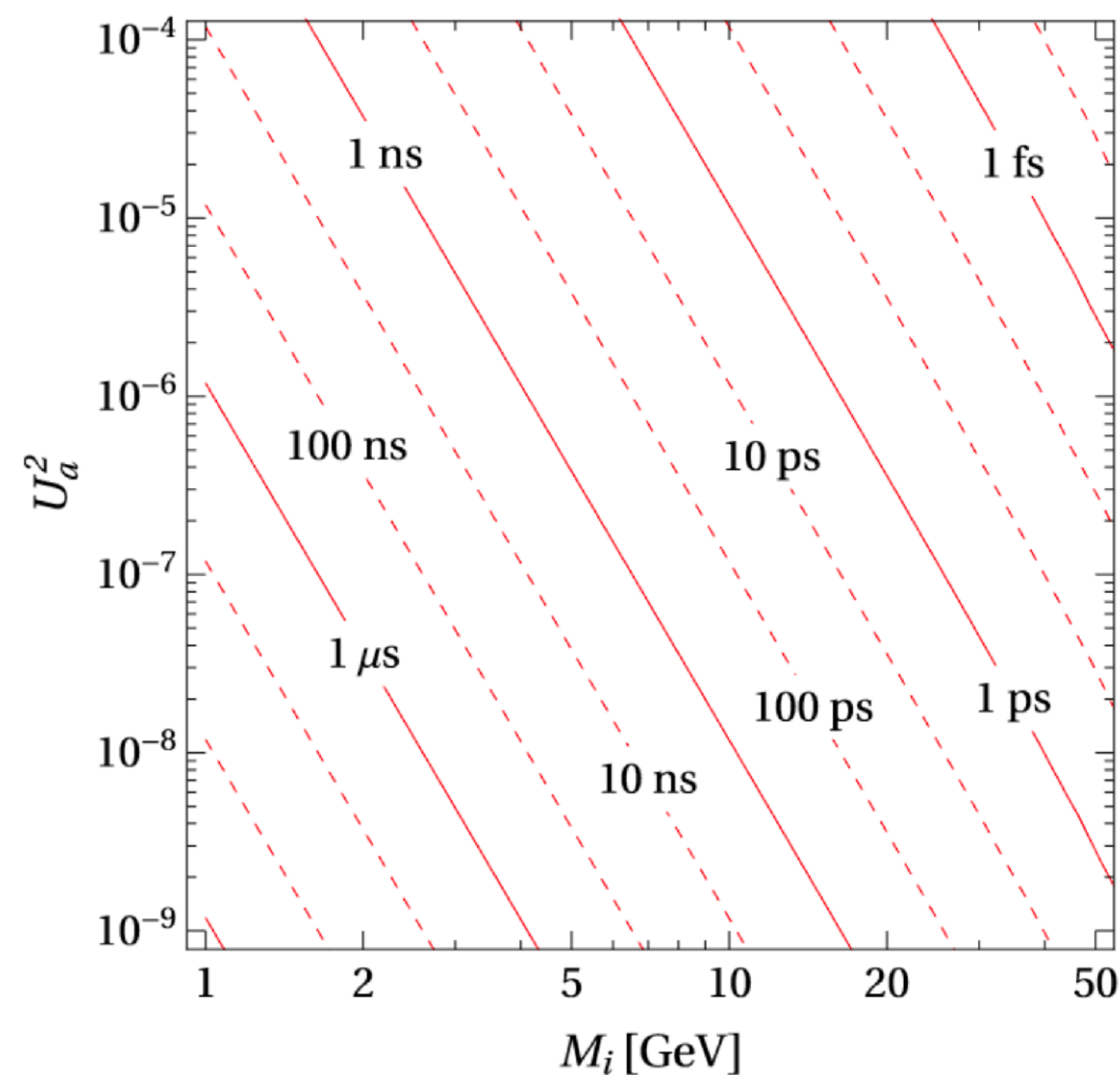
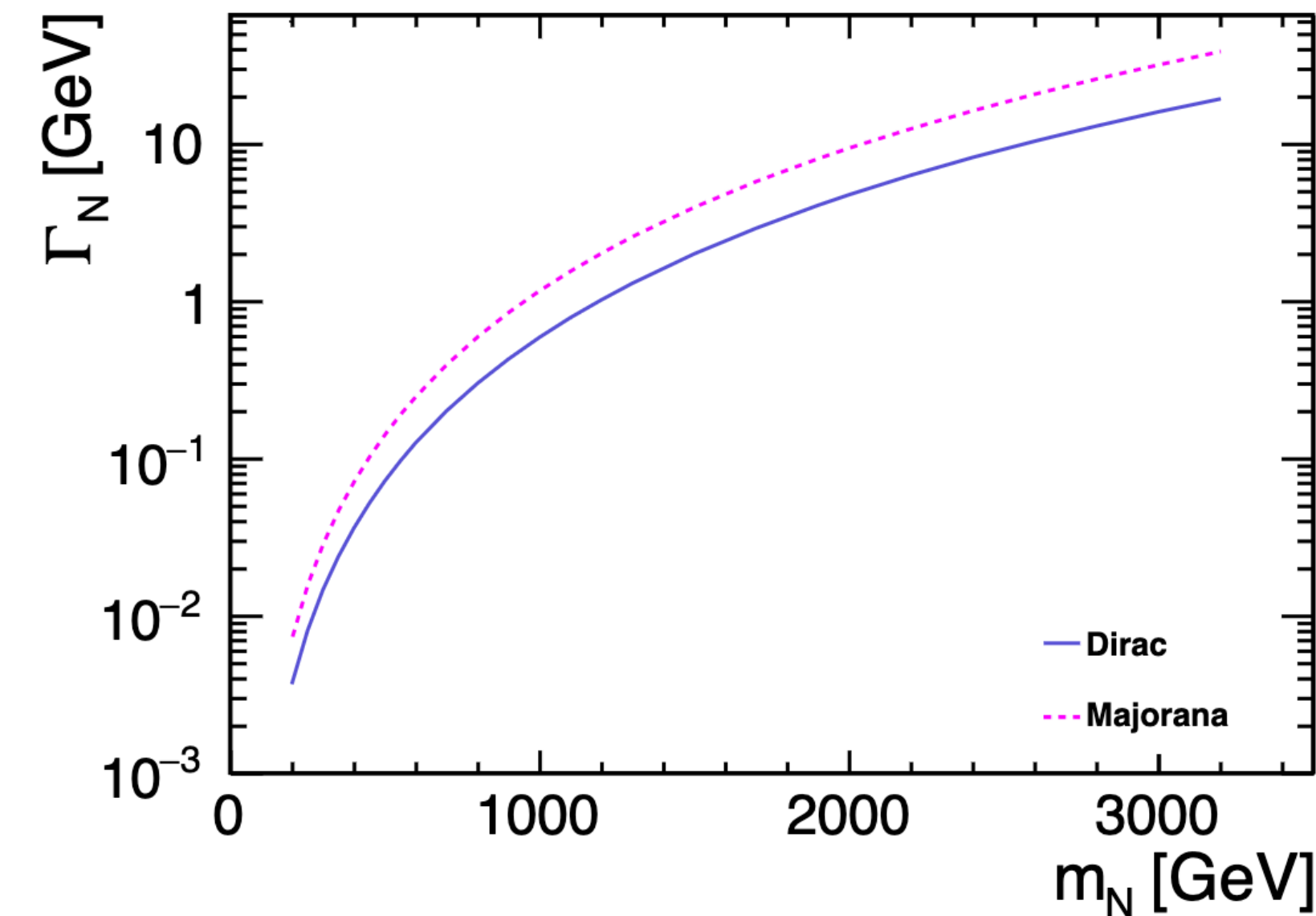
Bestiary of Heavy Neutrino lifetimes

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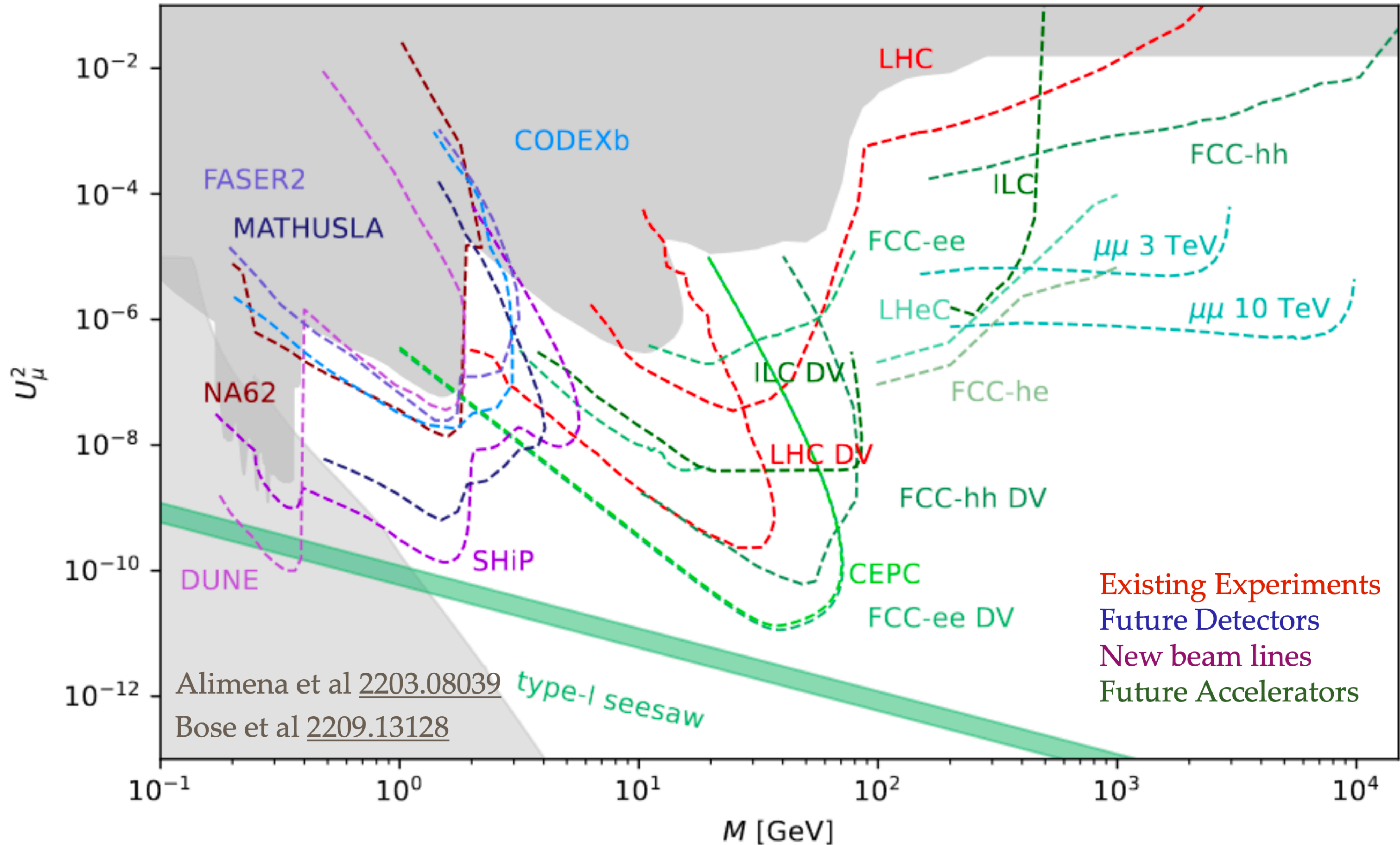


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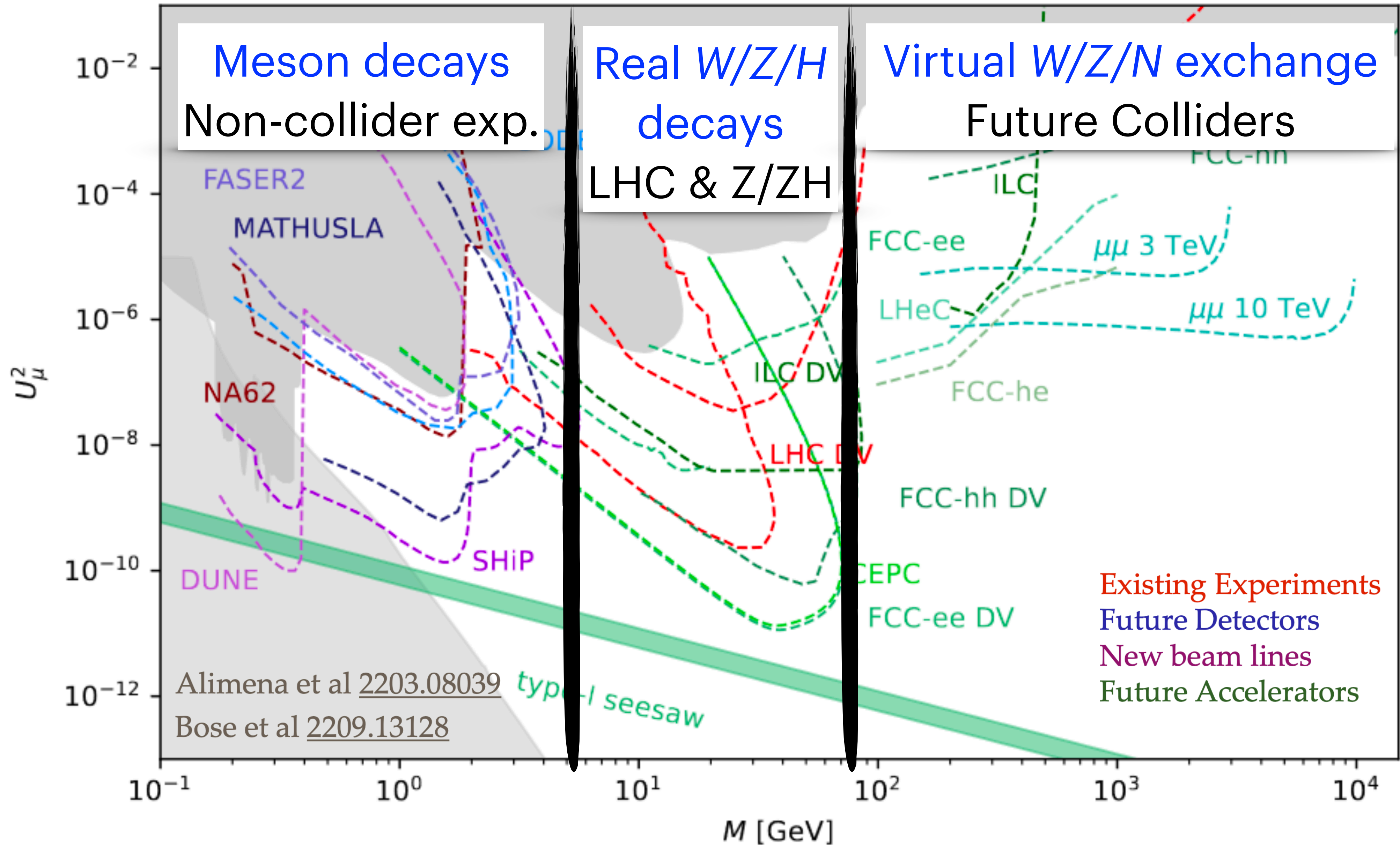
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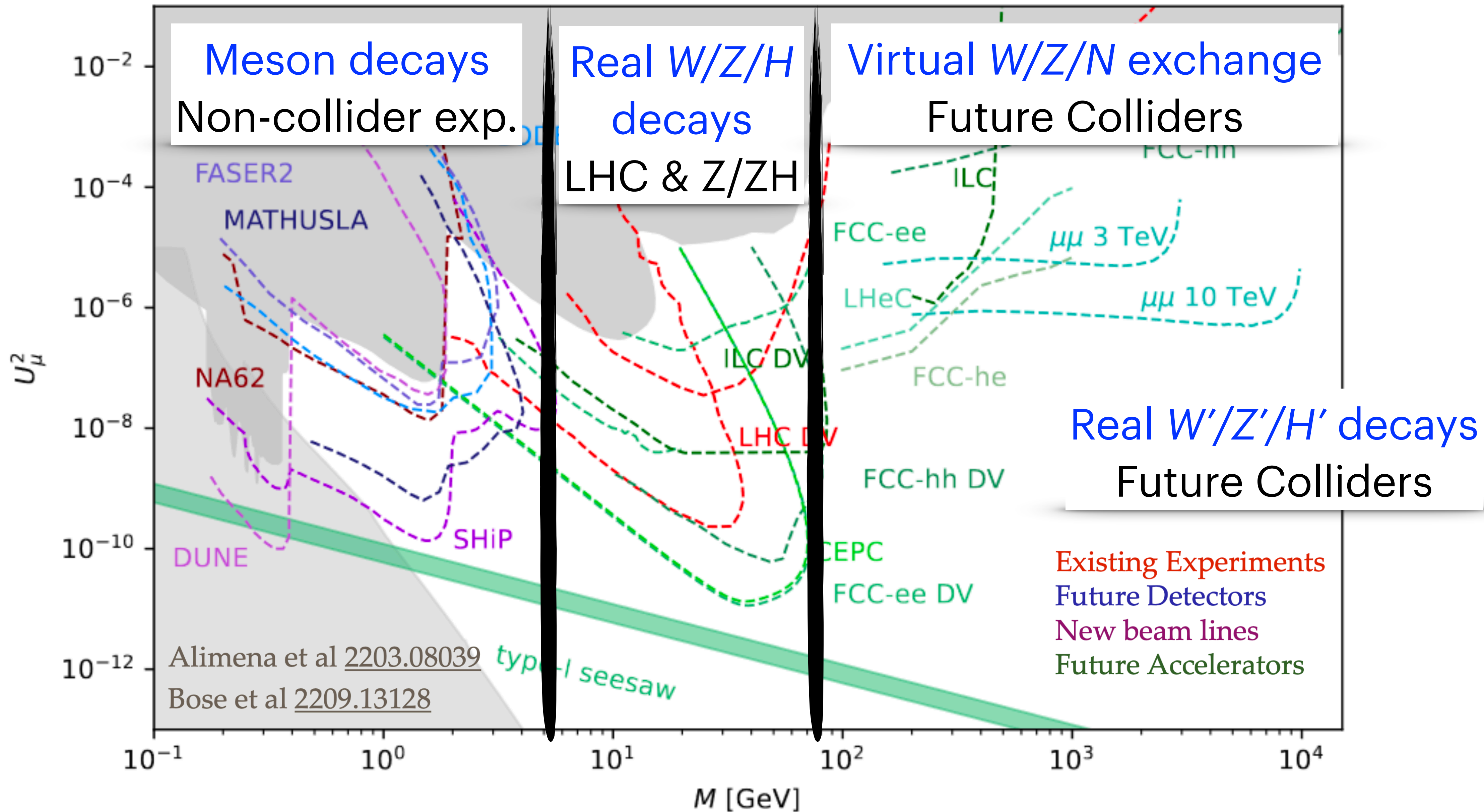
Searches for Heavy Neutral Leptons



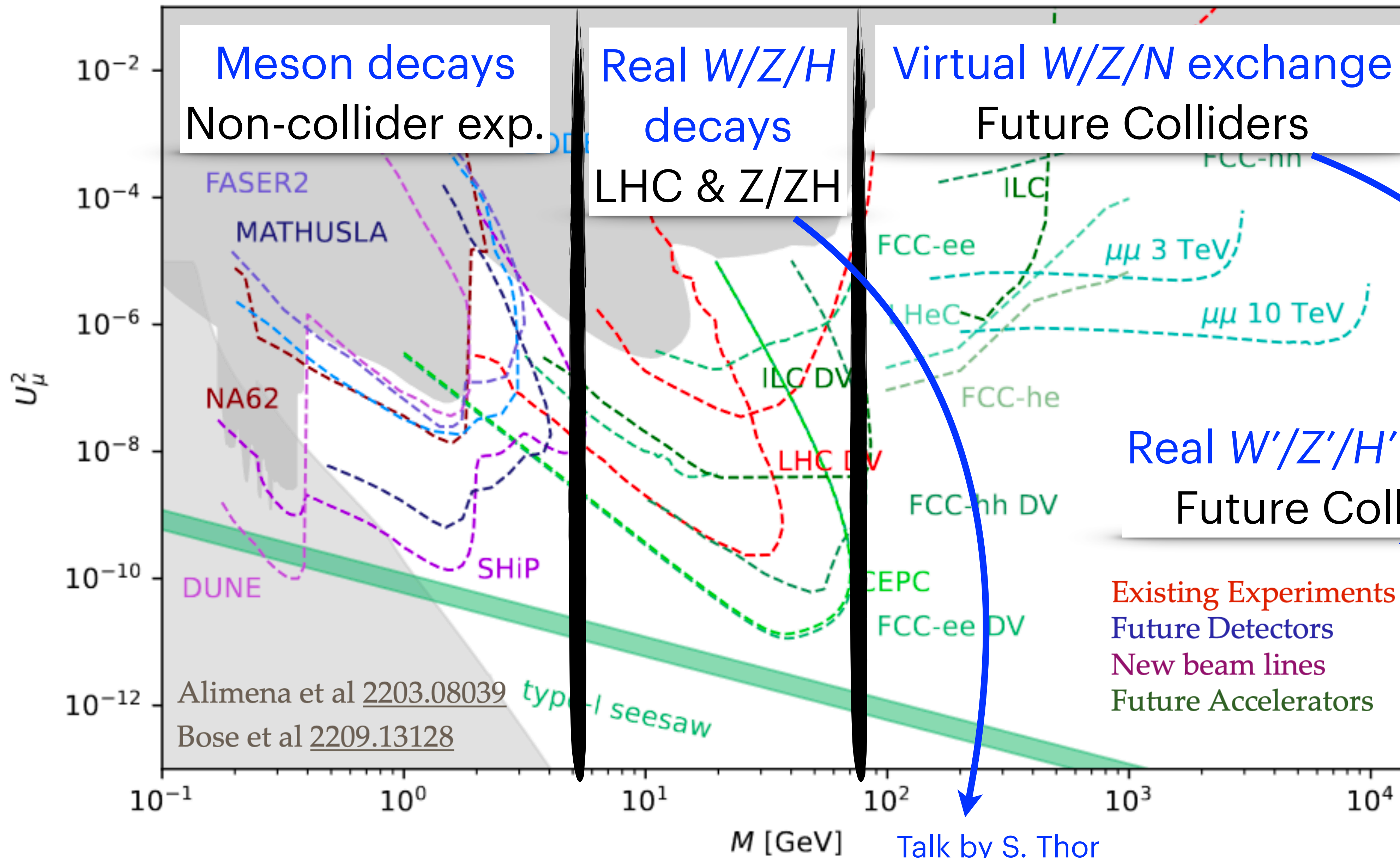
Searches for Heavy Neutral Leptons



Searches for Heavy Neutral Leptons



Searches for Heavy Neutral Leptons



Talk by K. Mękała

Real $W'/Z'/H'$ decays
Future Colliders

Existing Experiments
Future Detectors
New beam lines
Future Accelerators

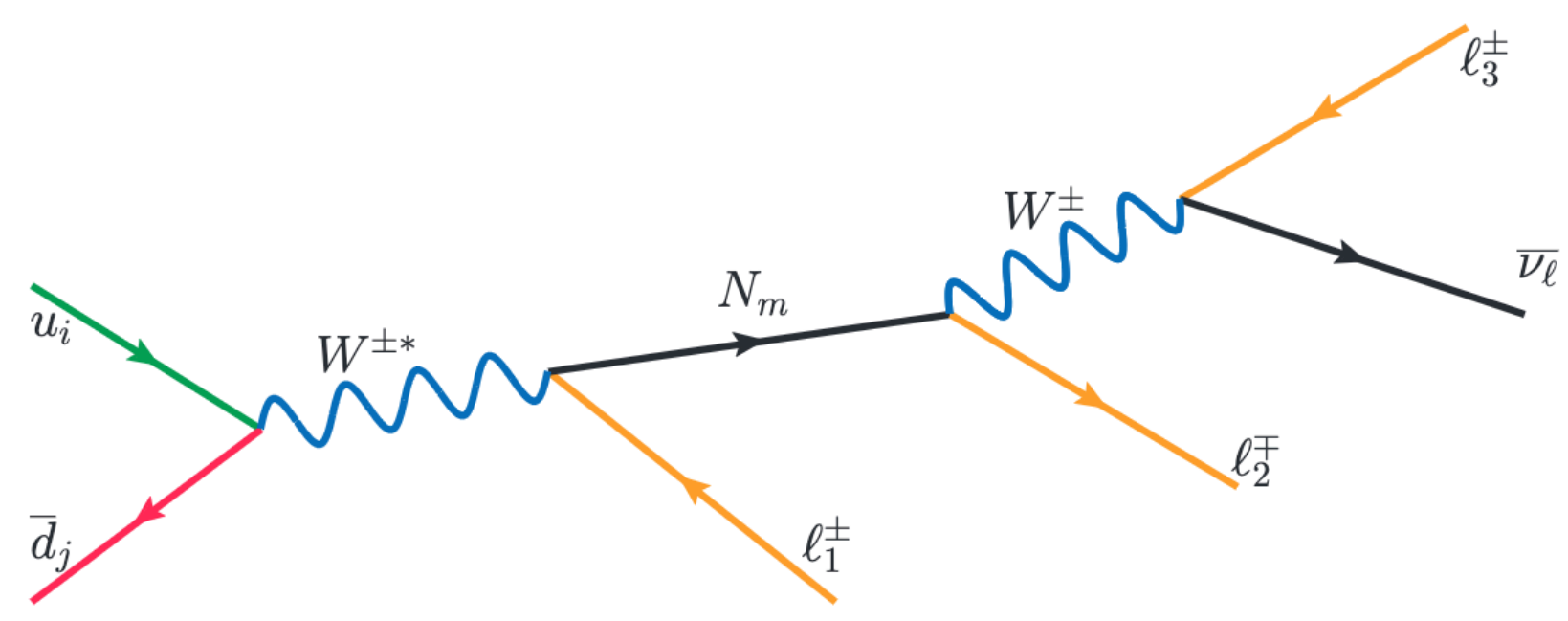
Talks by K. Enomoto, A. Das

Talk by S. Thor



Same-sign LNV searches at LHC

from arXiv:2011.02547

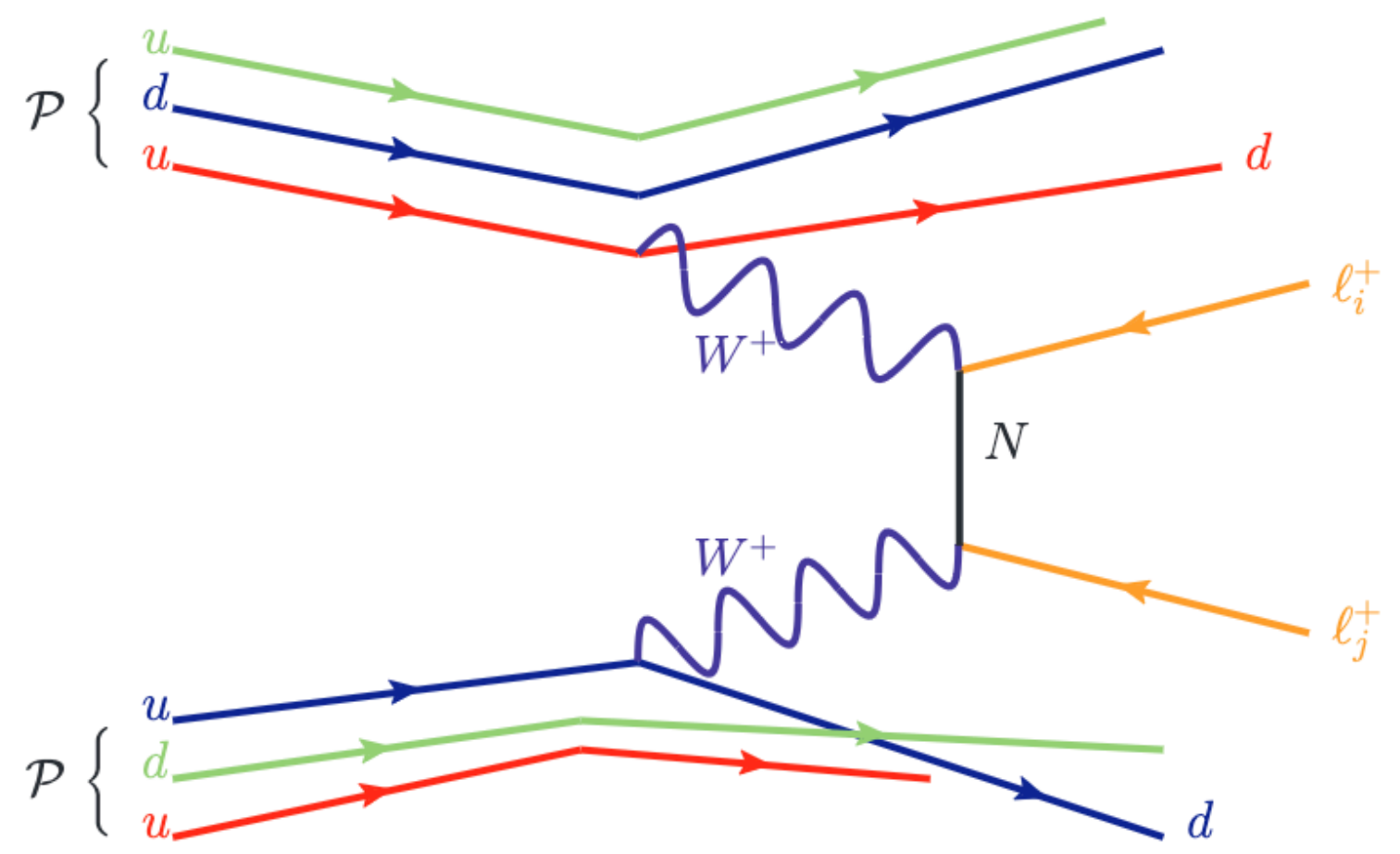


- Single production quadratic in mixing angle:

$$\sigma(pp \rightarrow N\ell^{\pm} + X) \equiv |V_{\ell N}|^2 \times \sigma_0(pp \rightarrow N\ell^{\pm} + X).$$

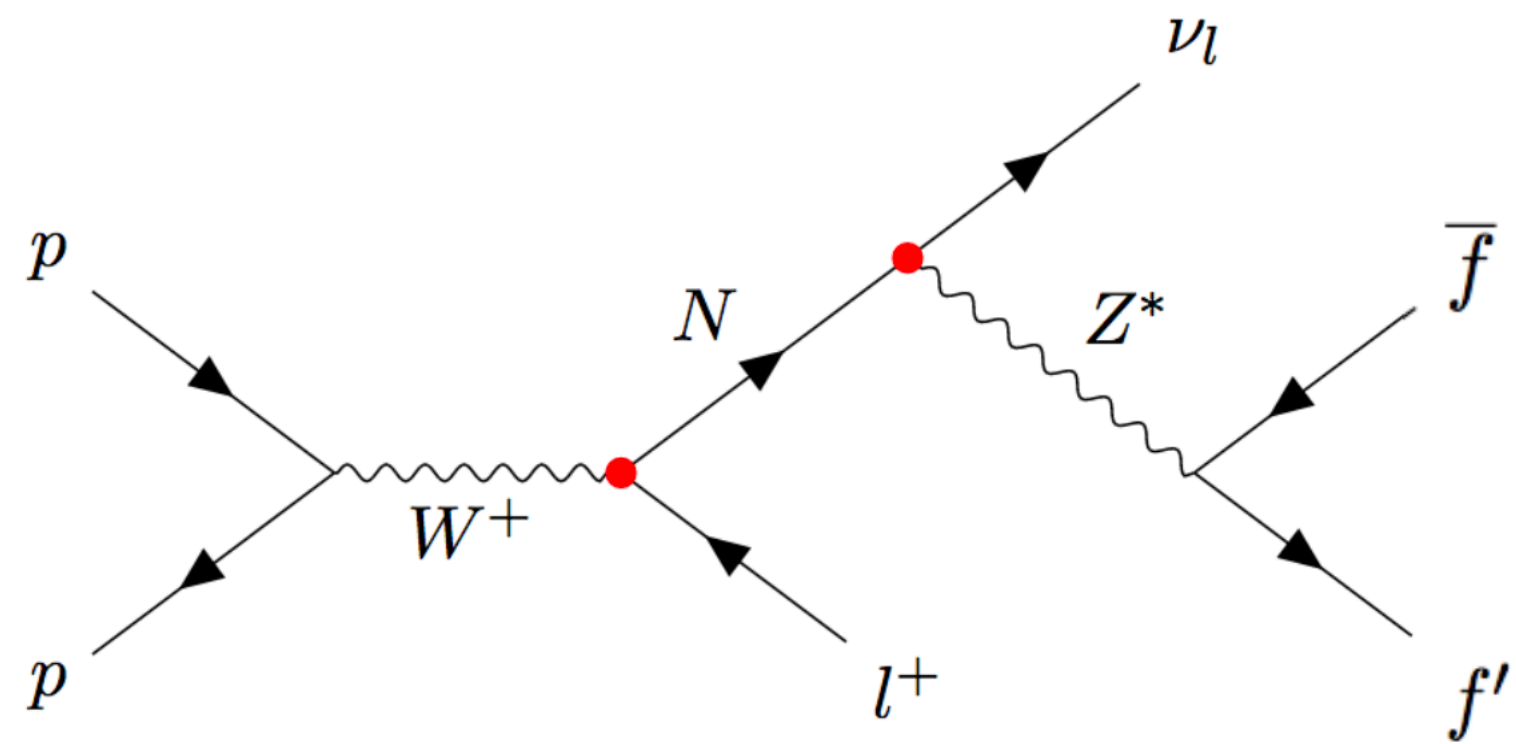
- Pair production/*t*-channel exchange quartic in mixing angle:

$$\sigma(pp \rightarrow \ell_i^{\pm} \ell_j^{\pm} + X) \equiv |V_{\ell_i N} V_{\ell_j N}|^2 \times \sigma_0(pp \rightarrow \ell_i^{\pm} \ell_j^{\pm} + X).$$

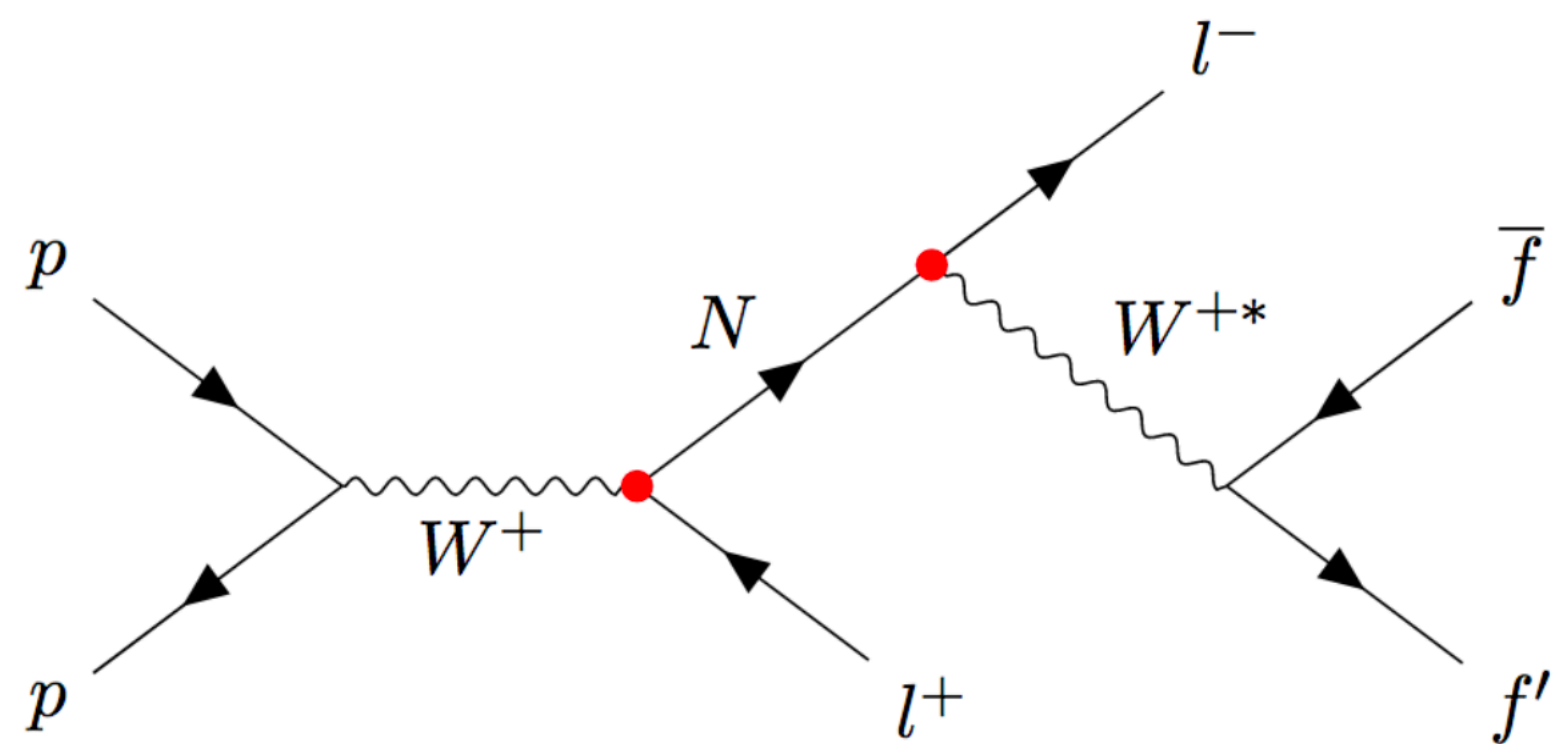


- Gigantically smaller background for LNV pair production process
- Two cases of hadron collider superiority: rate at W,Z decays, same-sign processes
- Might be motivation for e^-e^- running (or μ TRISTAN, $\mu^+e^+, \mu^+\mu^+$)



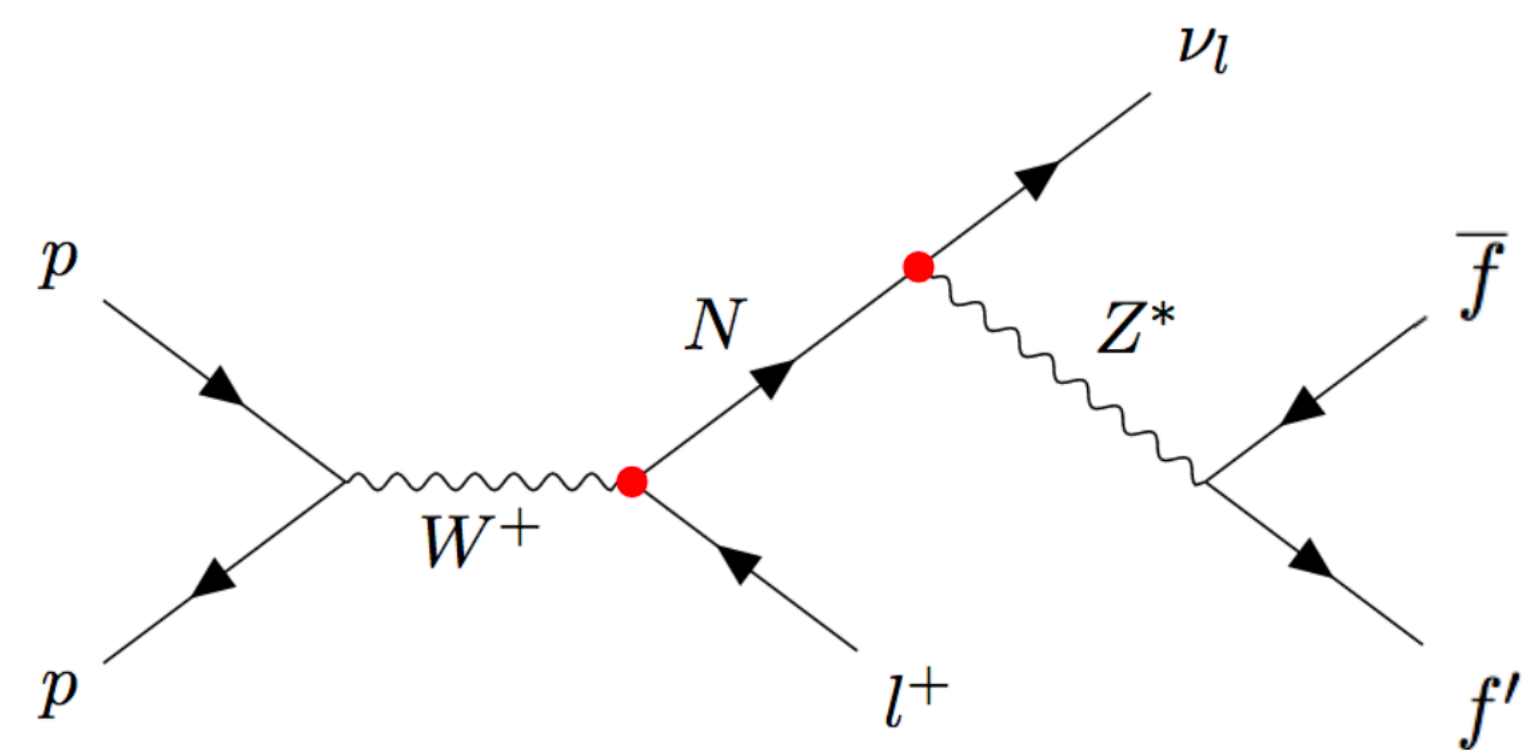


Neutral current decay

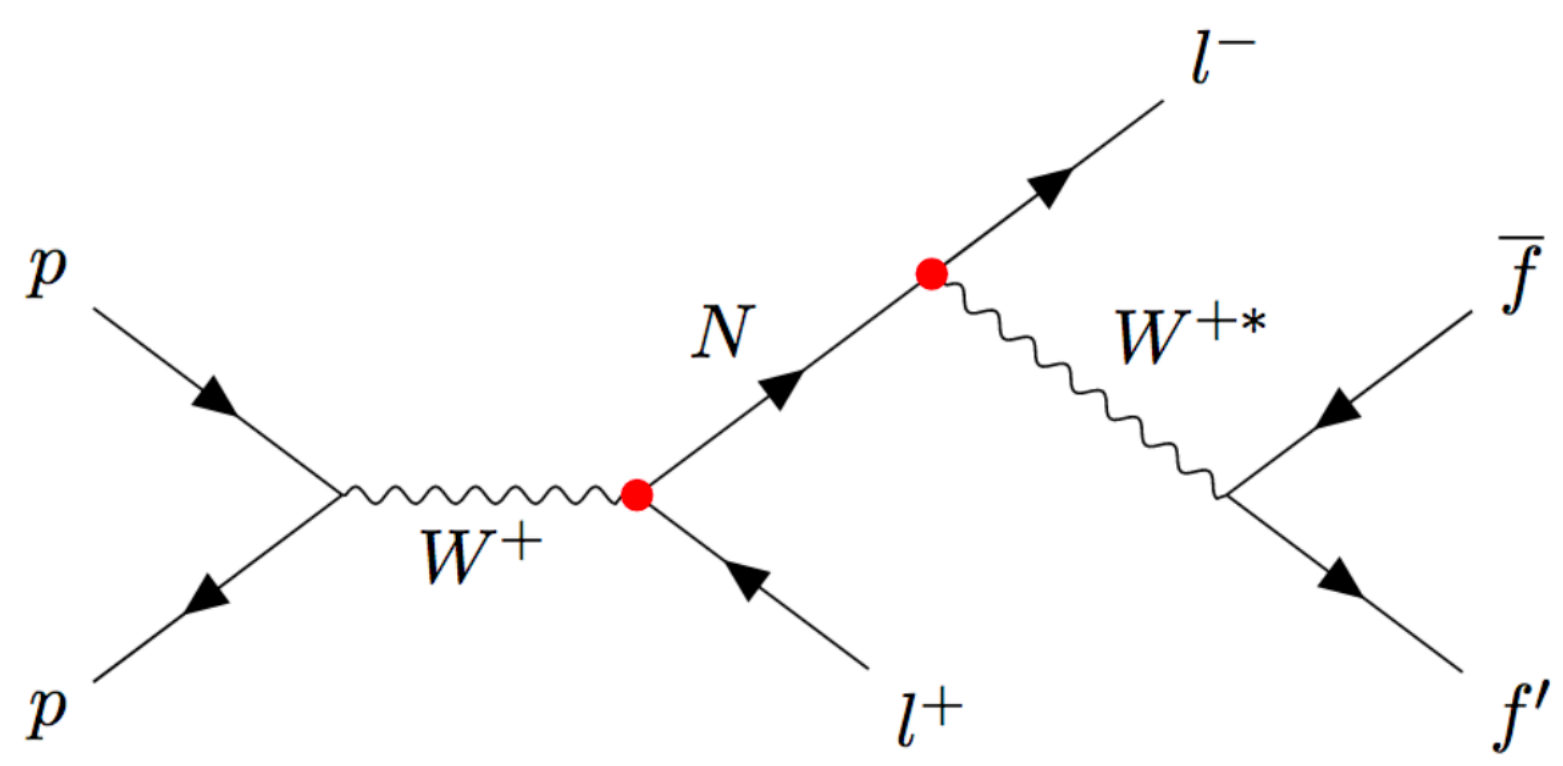


Charged current decay

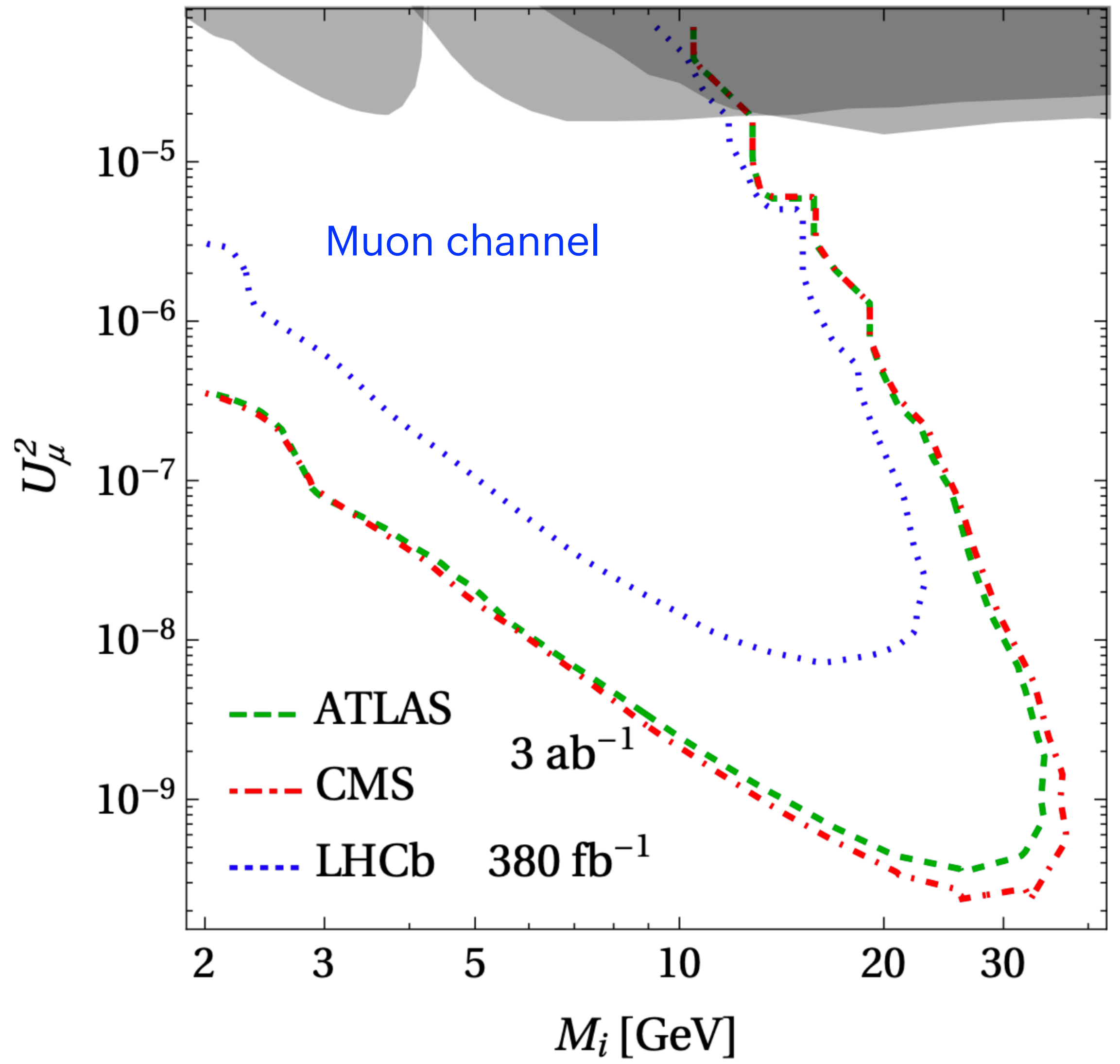
Displaced vertex searches at (HL-)LHC



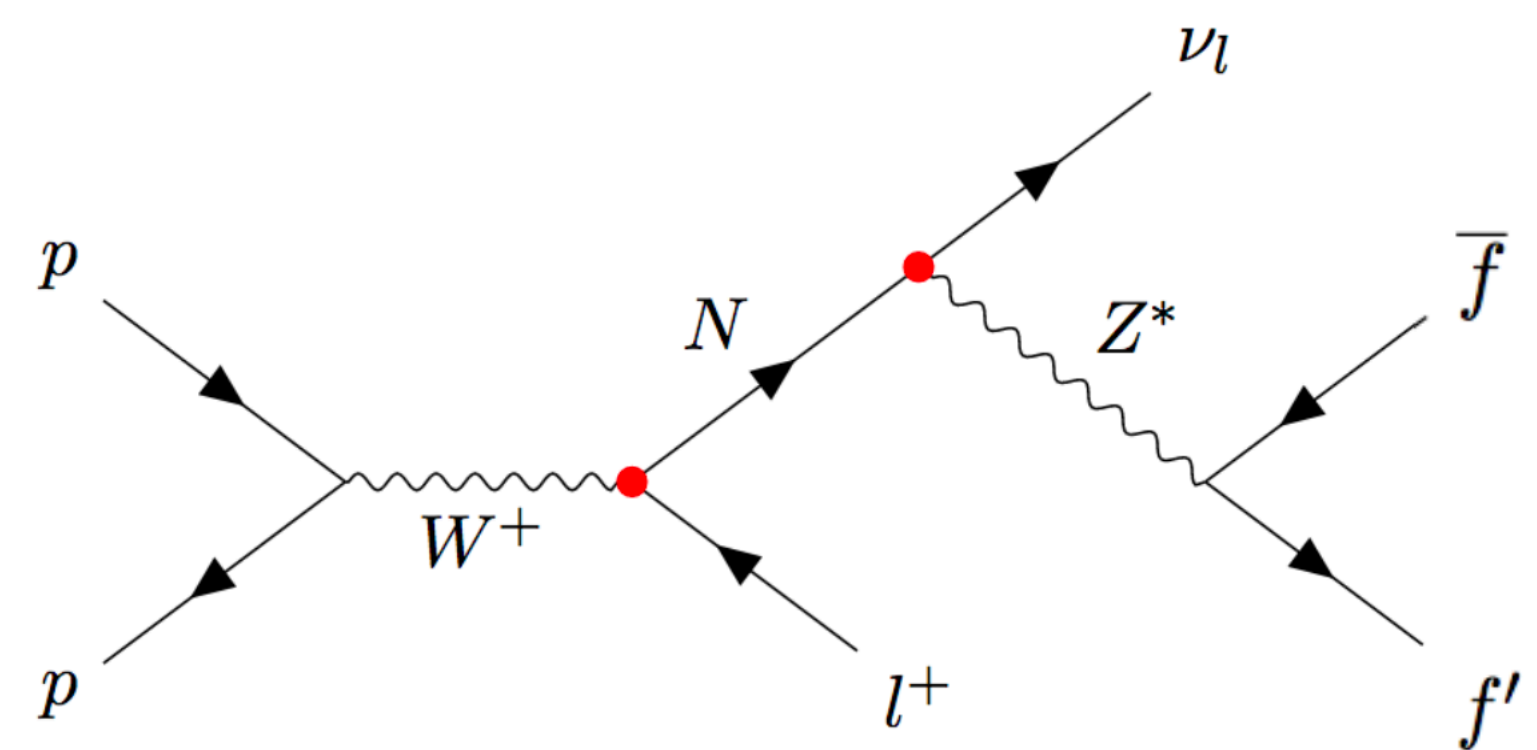
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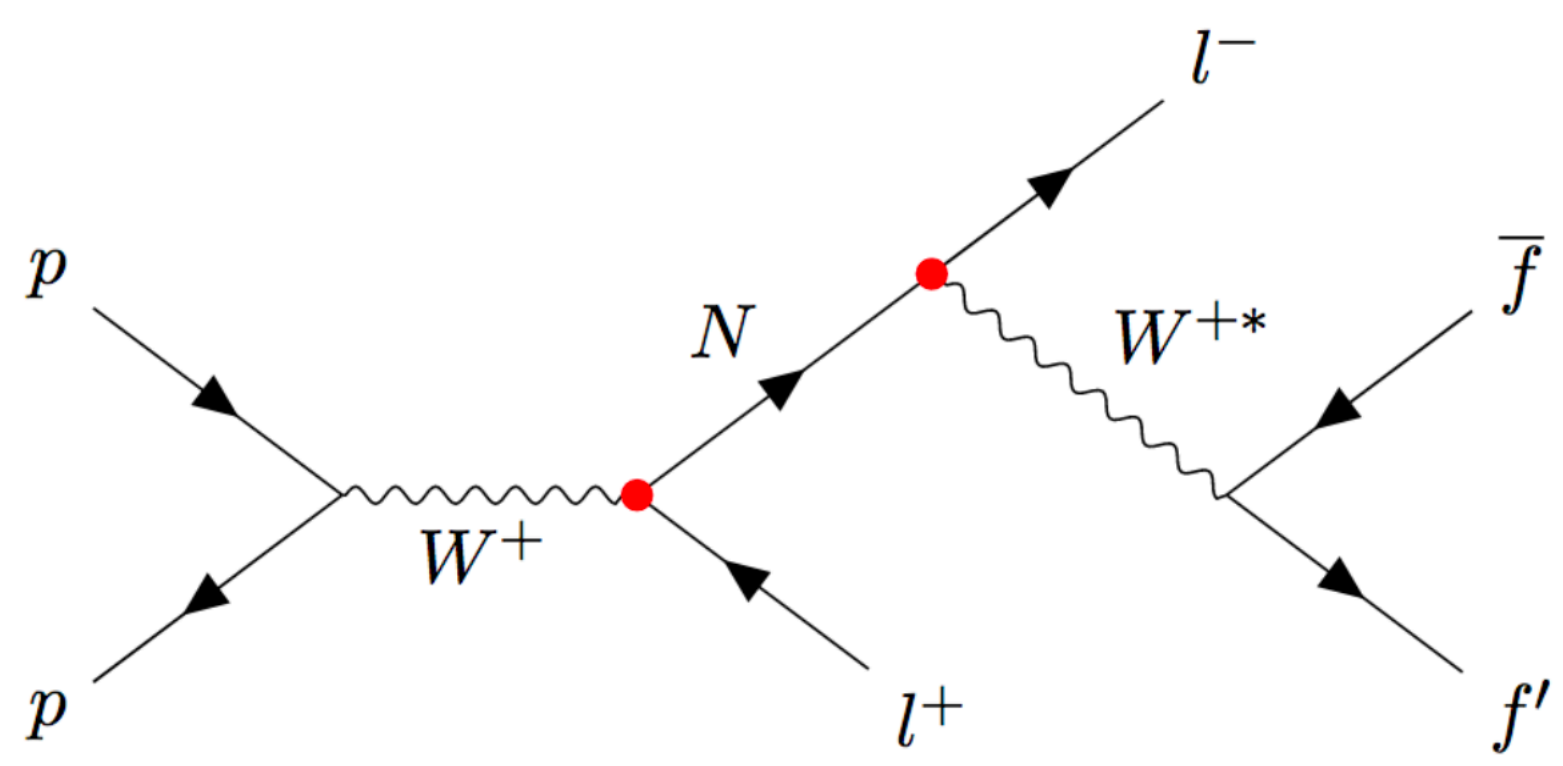
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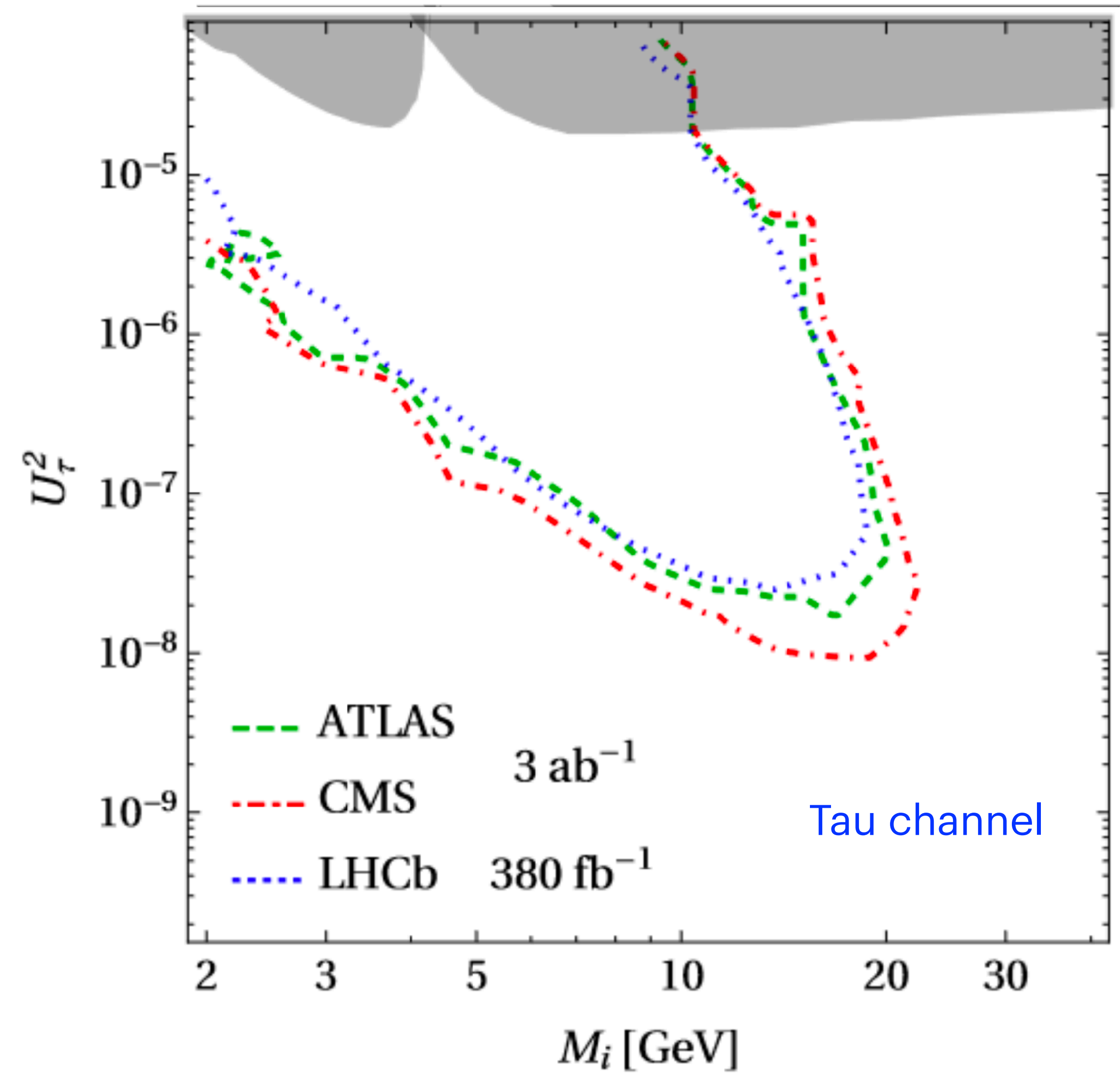
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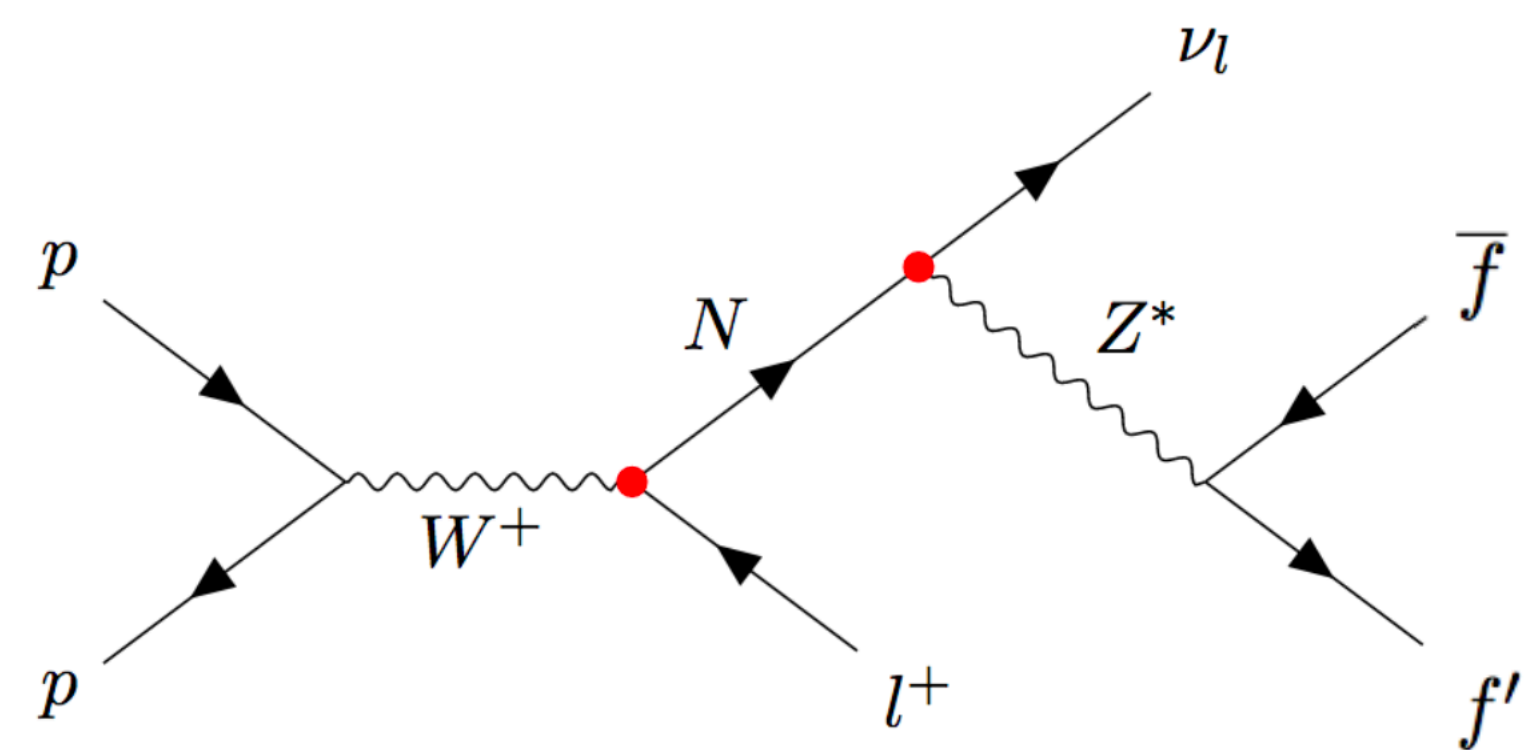
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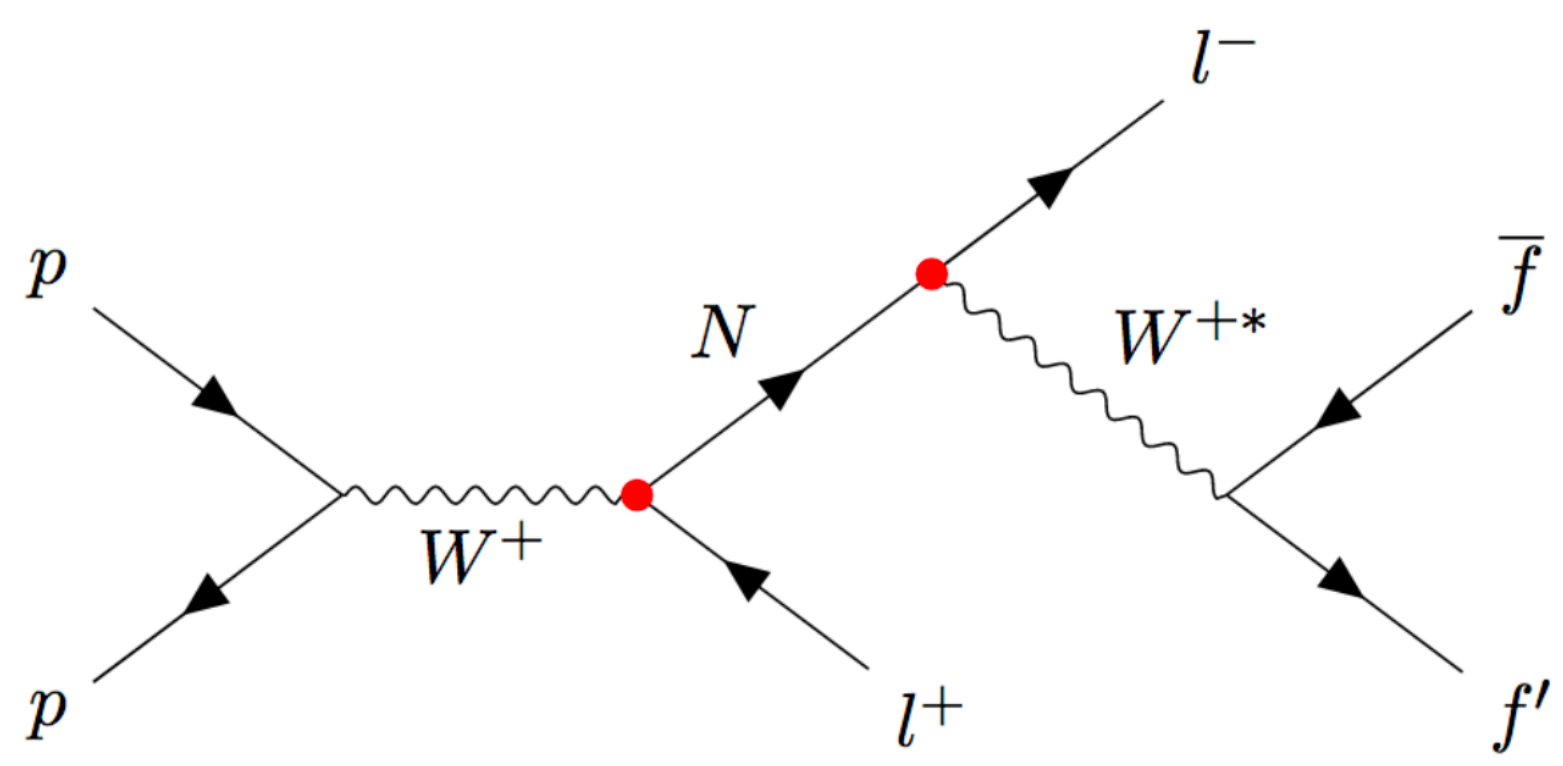
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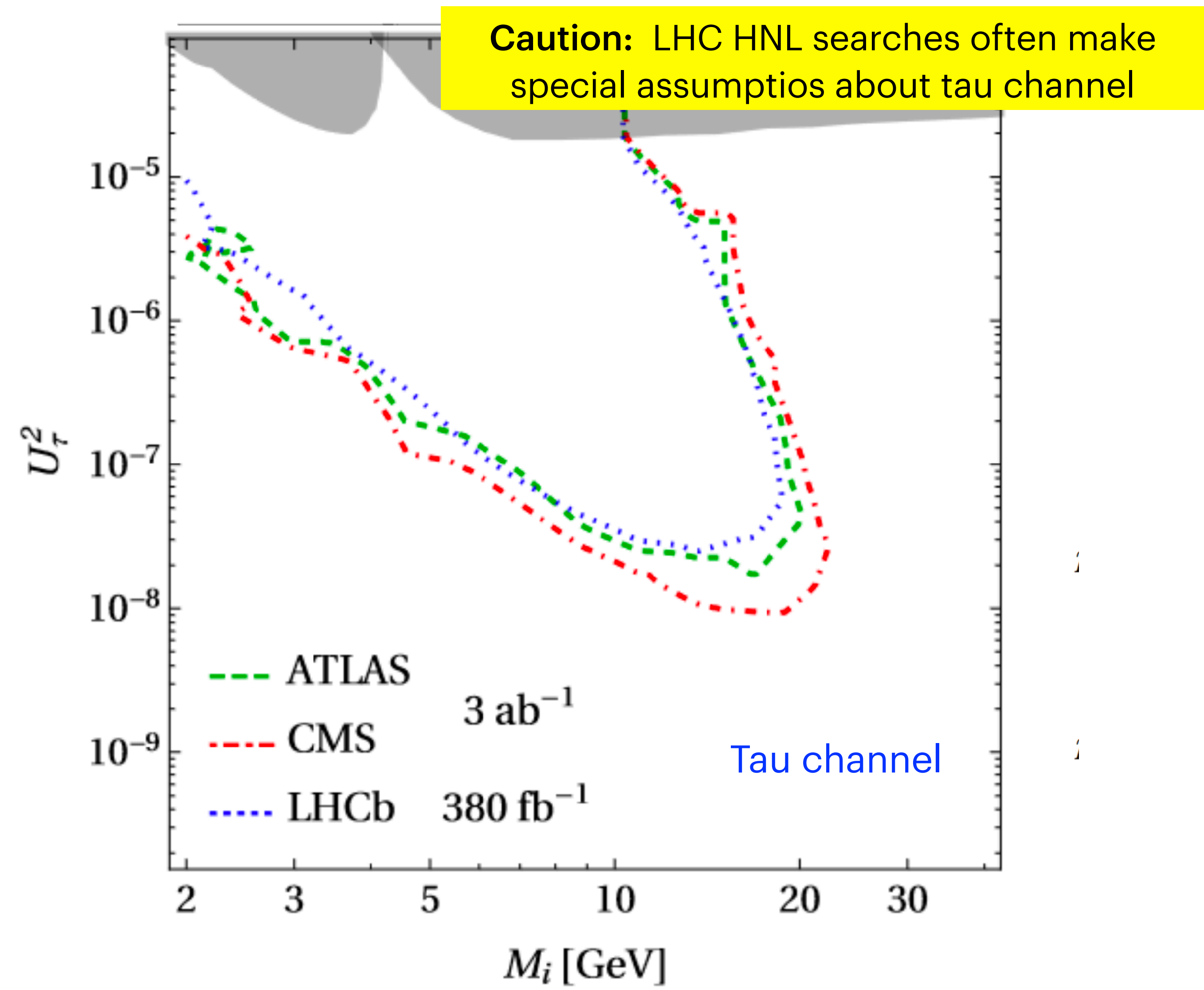
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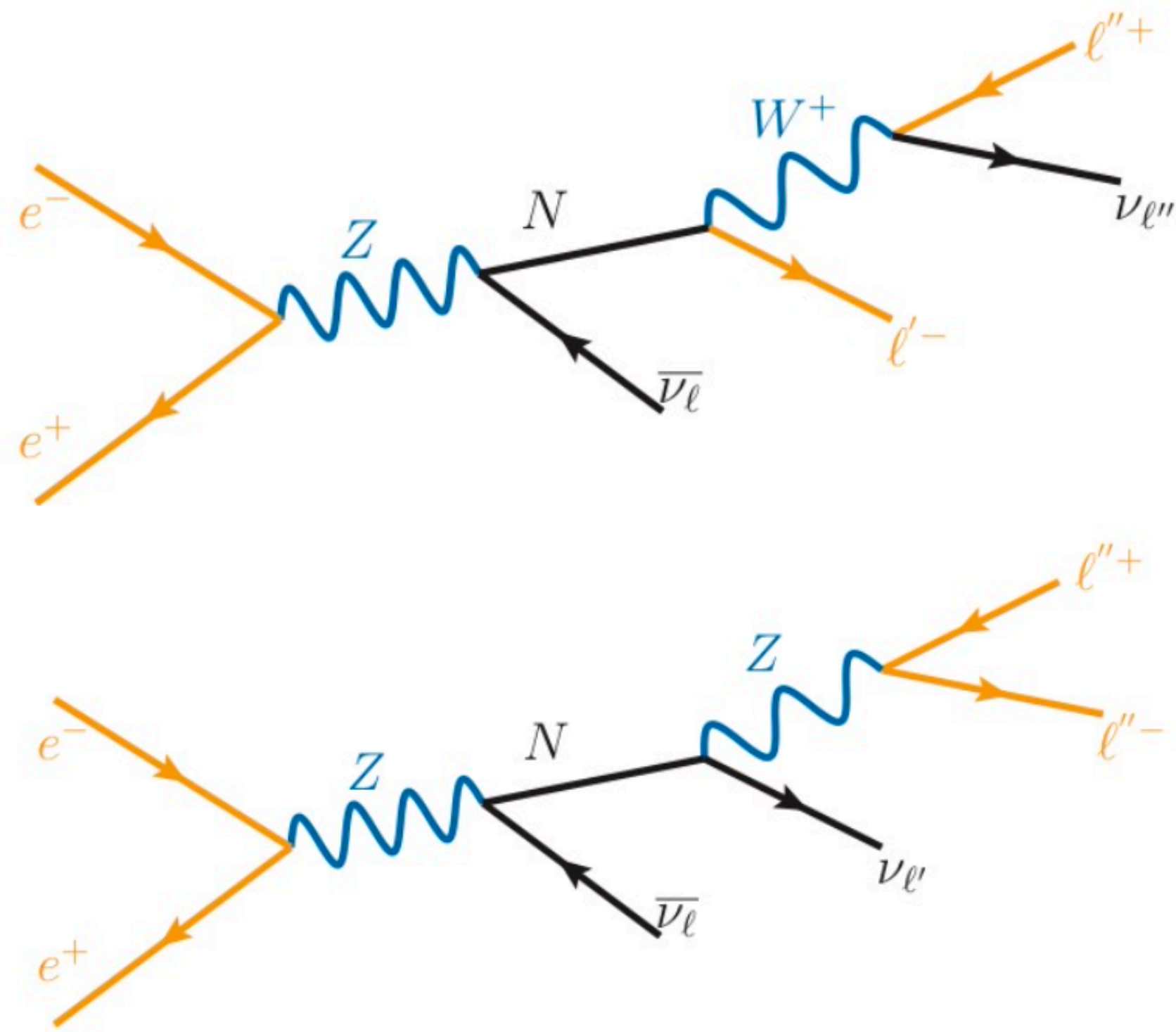
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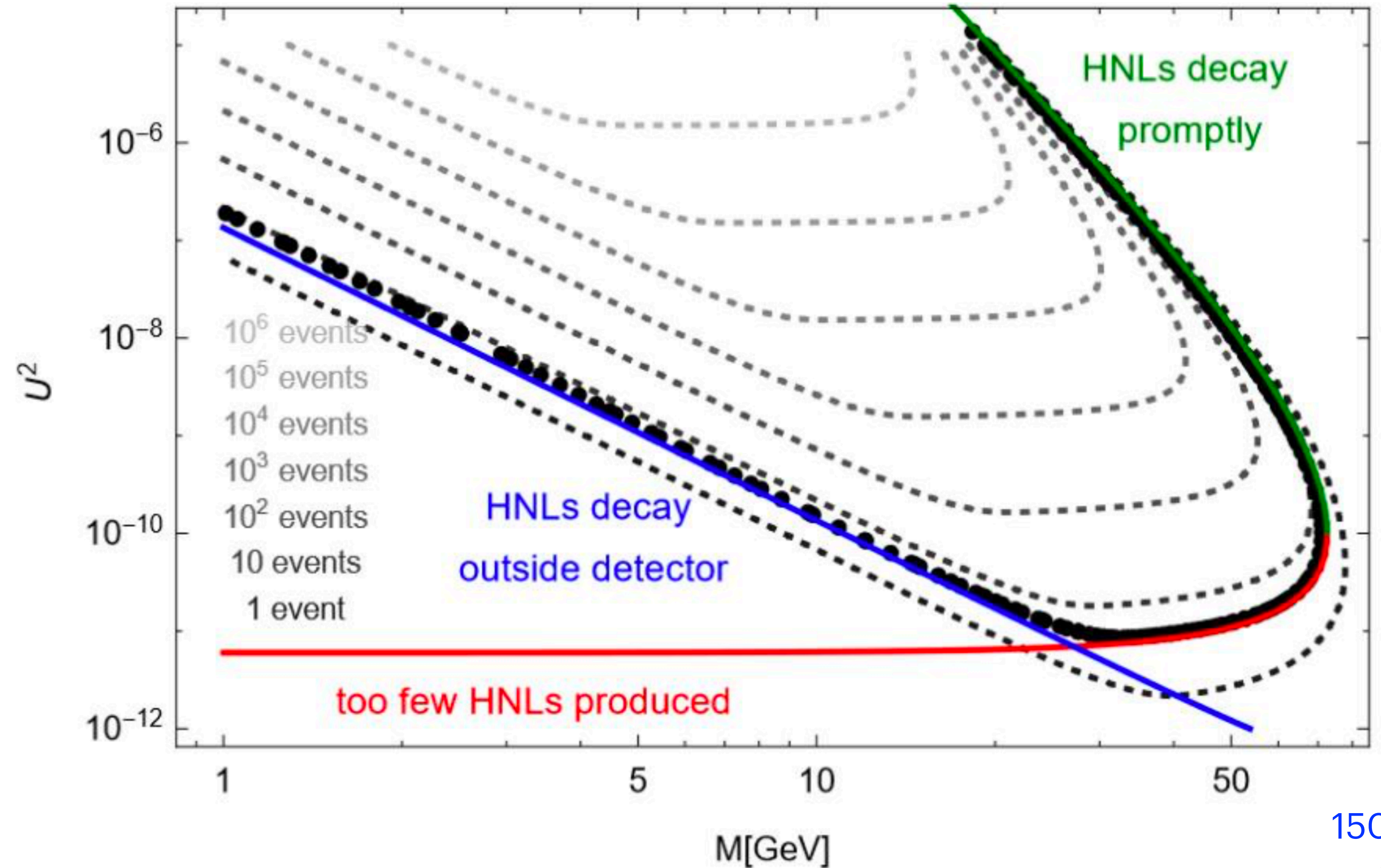
Charged current decay



"Light HNL:" Displaced vertex searches at the Z pole



$$\Delta\lambda_N = \frac{\beta\gamma}{\Gamma_N} \sim \frac{3.2\xi_\nu}{V_{\ell N}^2} \left(\frac{M_N}{\text{GeV}}\right)^6 \cdot \left[1 - \frac{M_N^2}{M_Z^2}\right] \text{ [cm]}$$



Blondel et al., 1411.5230, 2203.05502

Drewes et al., 2210.17110

150 ab⁻¹

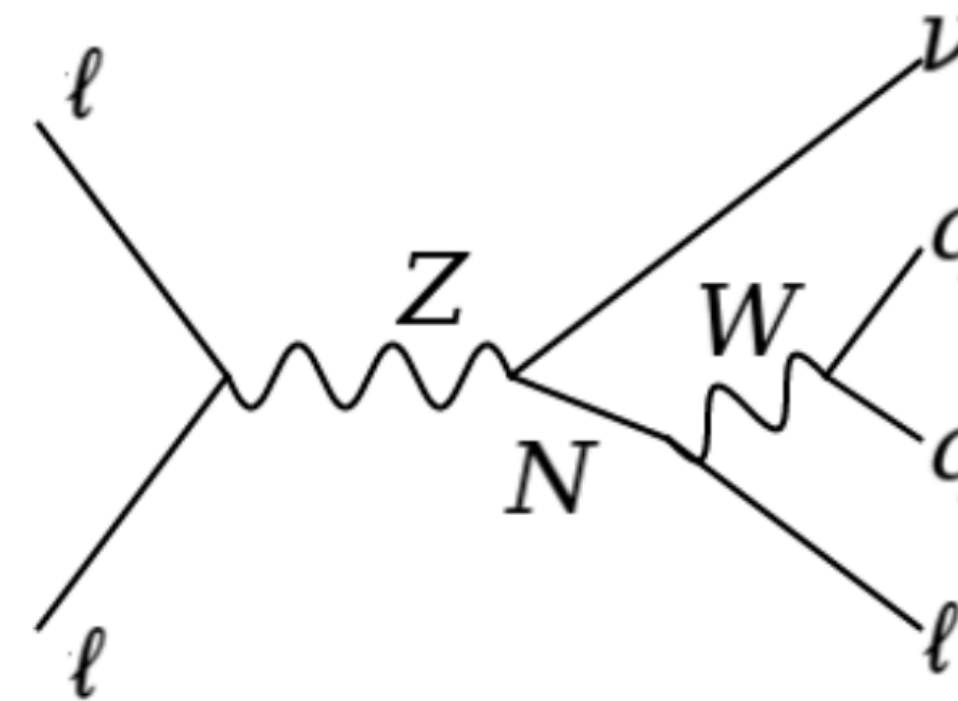


Signatures at lepton colliders

- ✓ At lepton colliders, single production work much better than at LHC:
- ✓ Associated production: $\ell^+\ell^- \rightarrow \nu N$

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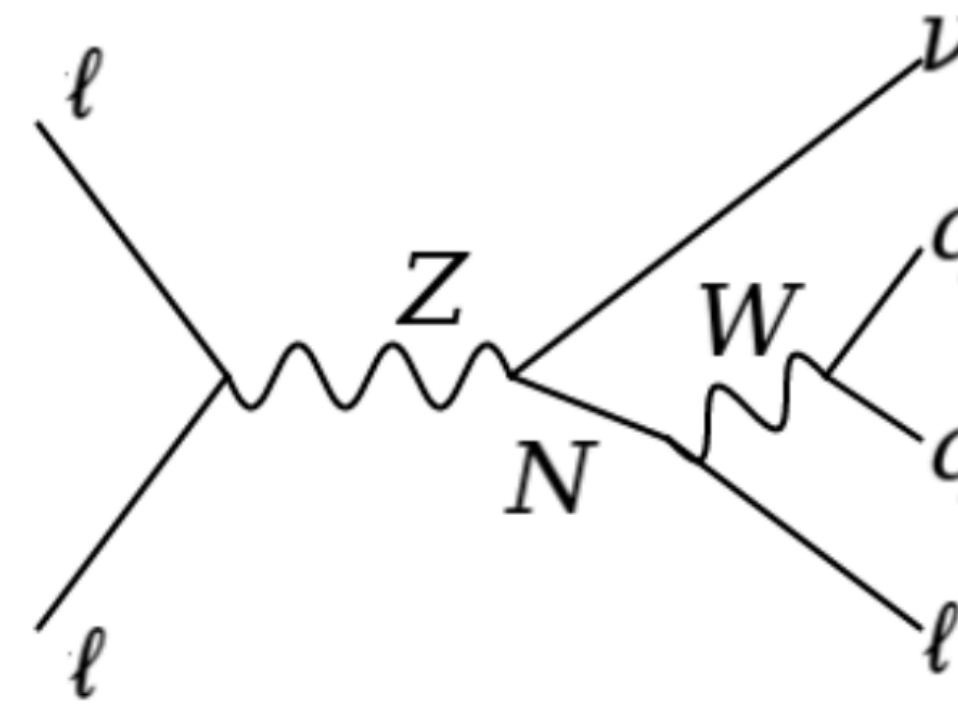
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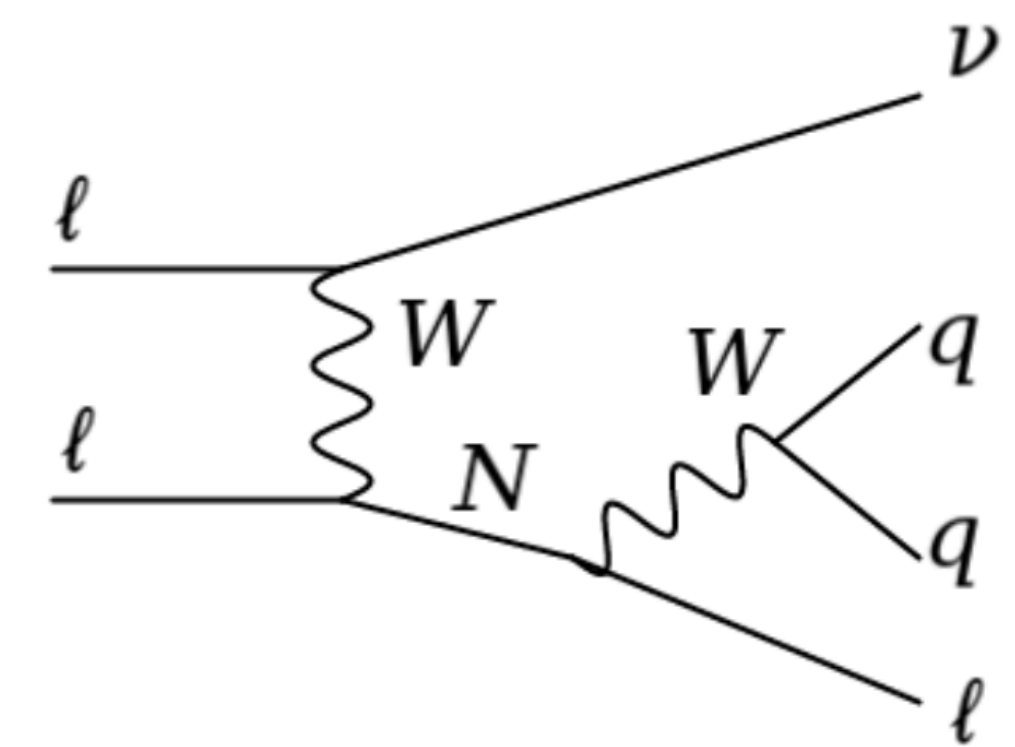
Equivalent to LHC (NC/CC)
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By far dominant process for heavy HNL!

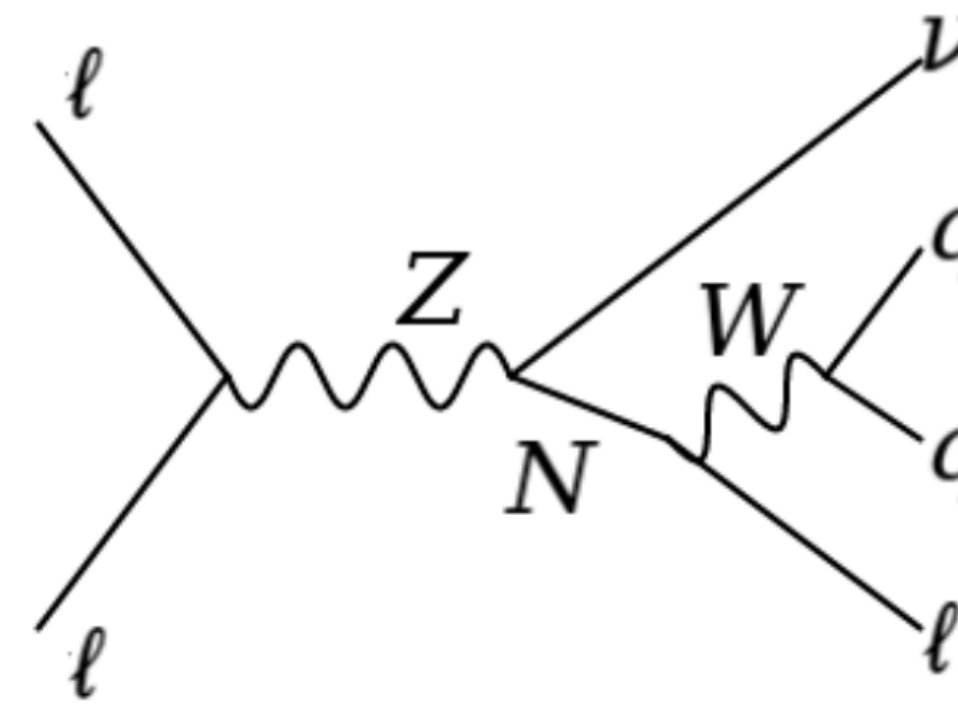
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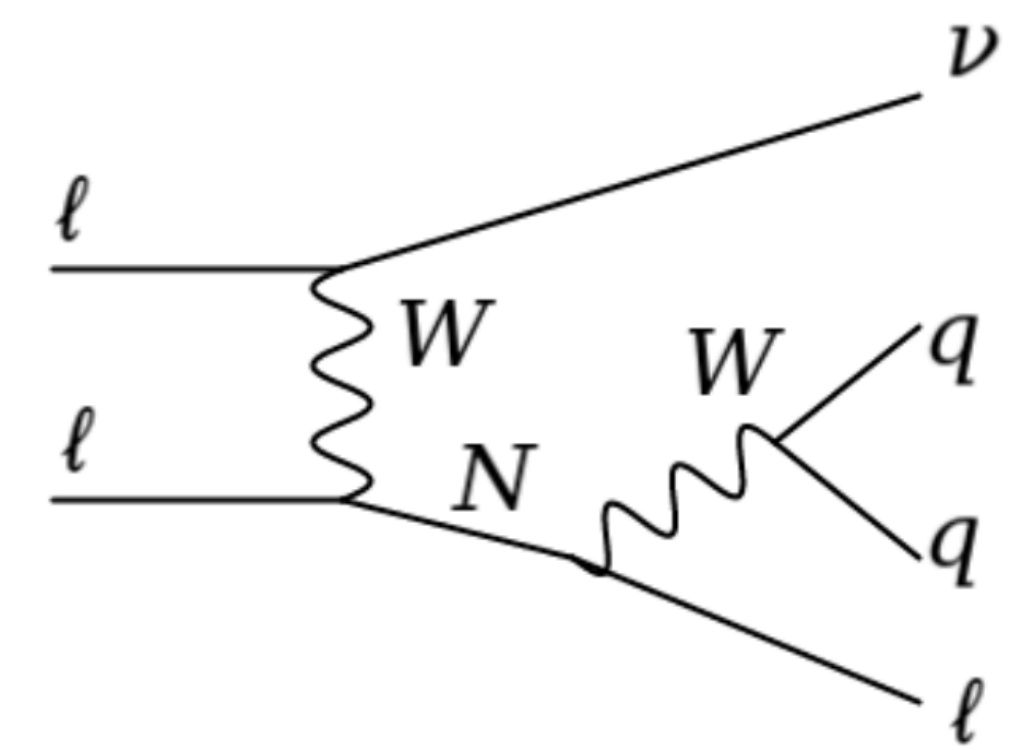
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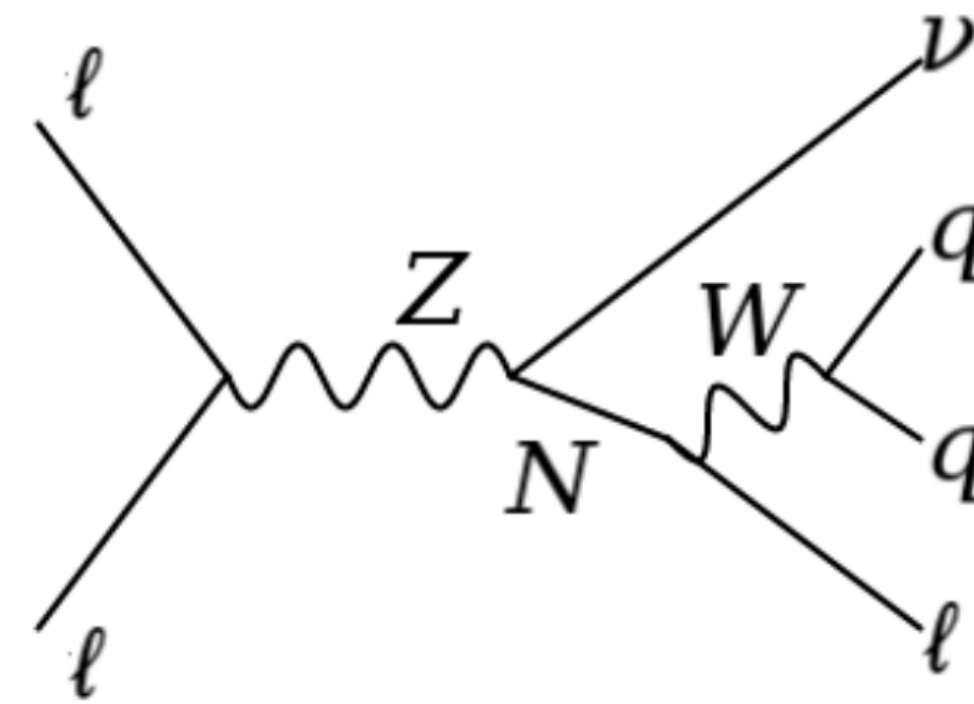
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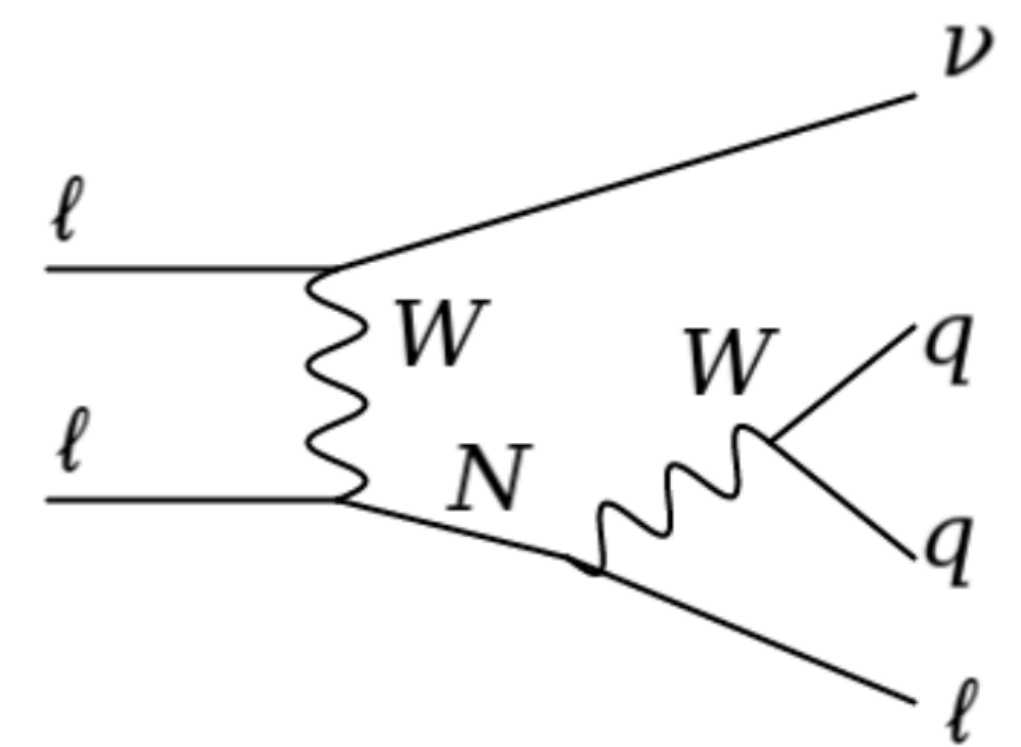
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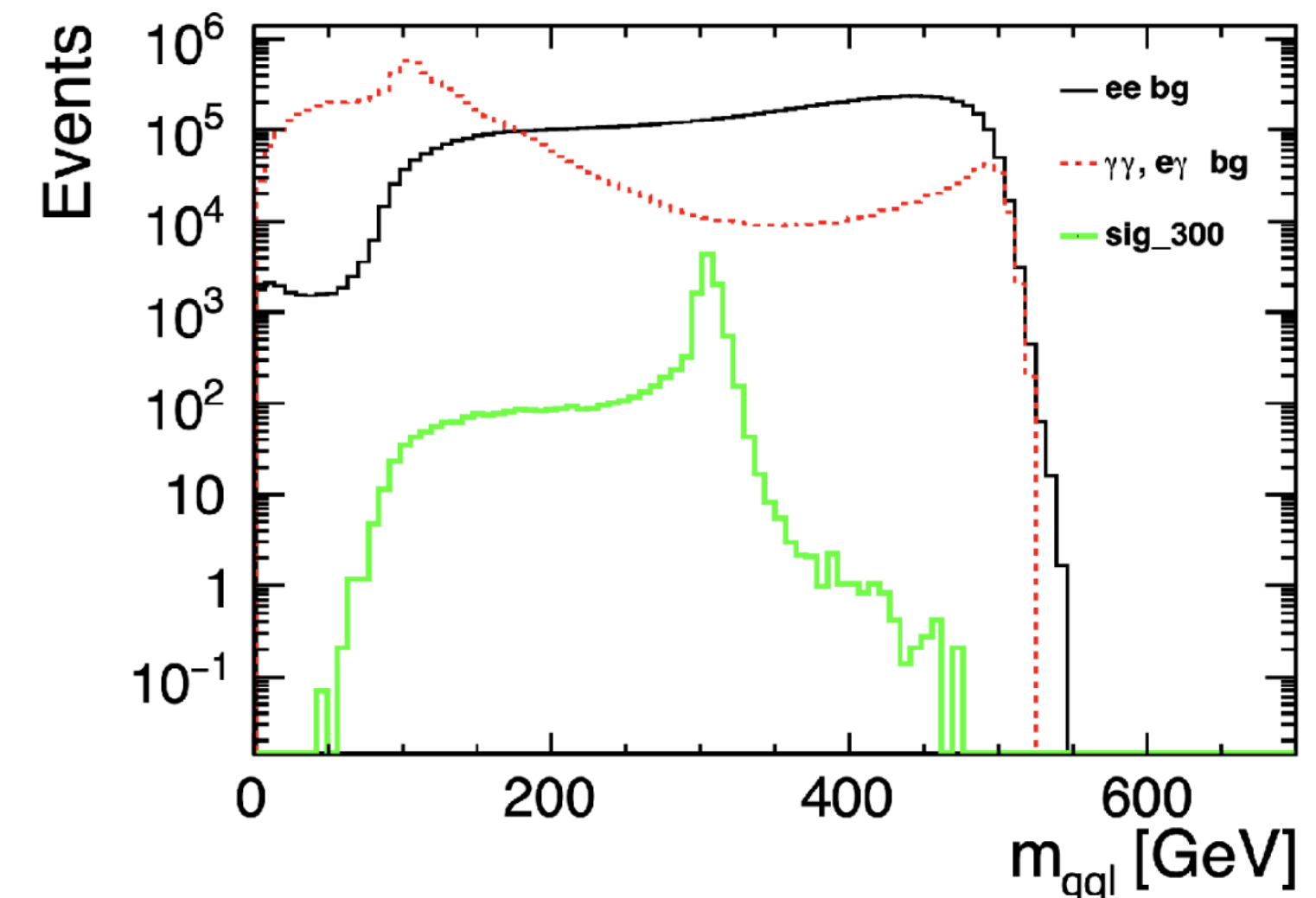
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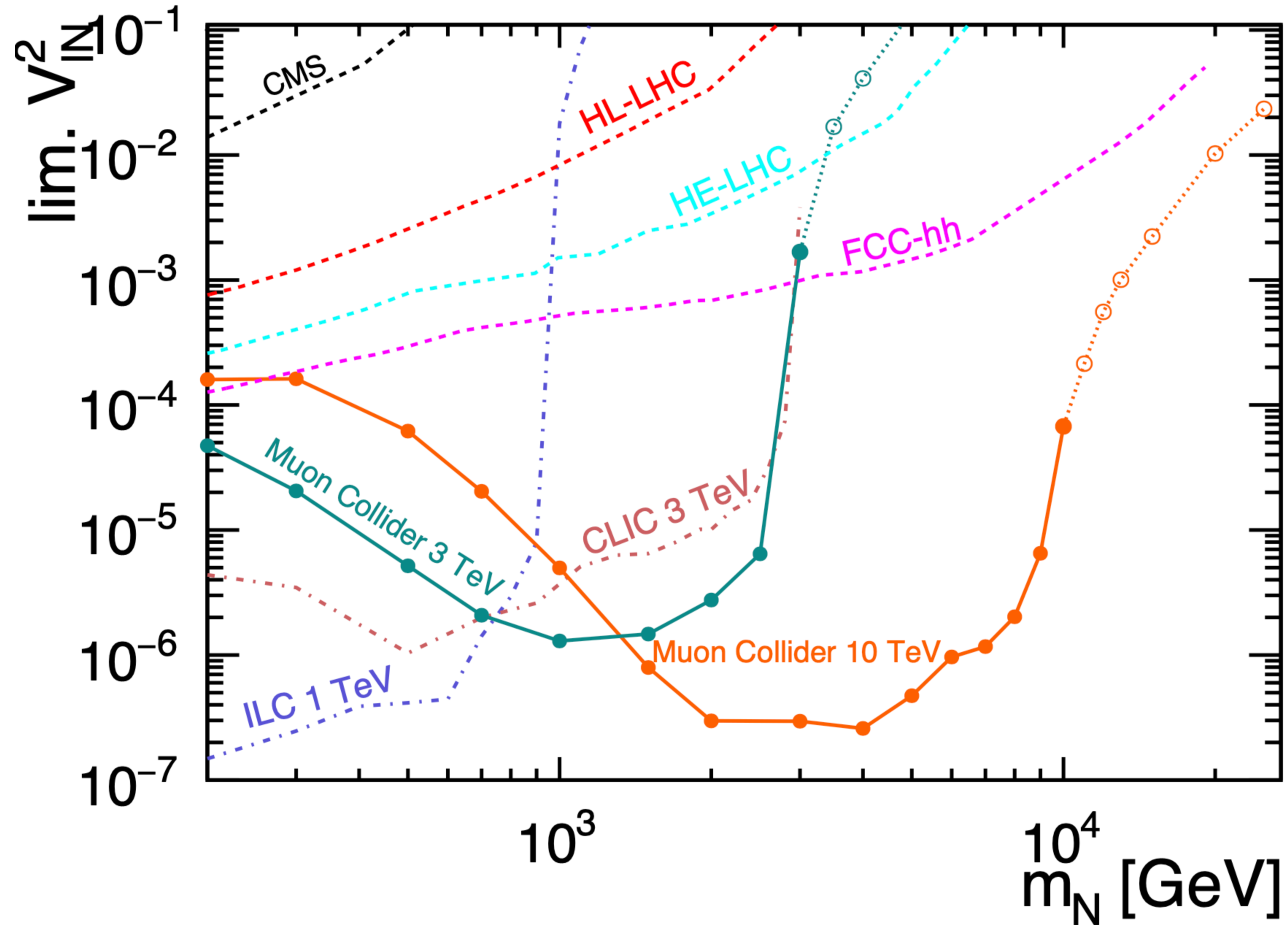
- 🌀 At lepton colliders: optimal single channel is $\ell^+\ell^- \rightarrow N\nu \rightarrow \ell^\pm jj\nu$
- 🌀 HNL mass reconstructable as resonance peak
- 🌀 Major backgrounds: $\ell^+\ell^- \rightarrow jj\ell^\pm\nu, \ell\ell\ell'\ell', \{jj, jjjj\}\ell\ell, jj\ell^+\nu\ell^-\bar{\nu}$
- 🌀 QED-ISR/beamstrahlung: CLIC-3 vs. MuC-3
- 🌀 Off-shell processes extend sensitivity beyond collider energy!



ILC 500 GeV, (-80%, +30%), $m_N = 300$ GeV



Reach for HNLs



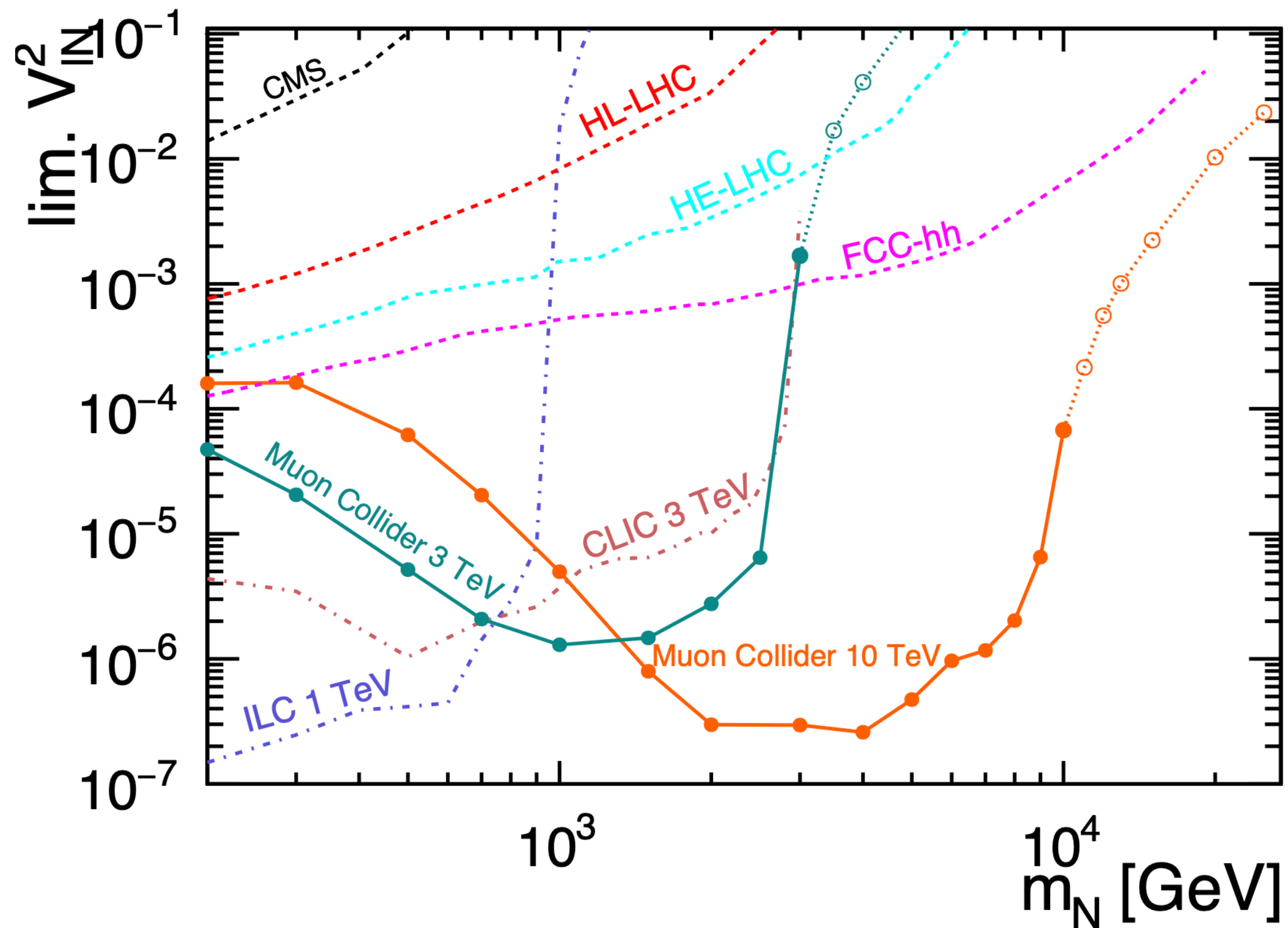
K. Mękała/JRR/A.F. Żarnecki, 2301.02602

cf. next talk by K. Mękała

LHC analysis [1812.08750],
diff. assumption:
 $V_{eN} = V_{\mu N} \neq V_{\tau N} = 0$



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High-energy lepton colliders outperform
high-energy hadron colliders
over the whole mass range!



Dirac vs. Majorana vs. pseudo-Dirac

- Heavy neutrinos can be Dirac, Majorana or a mixture of both (“pseudo-Dirac”)
- HHNL: Lepton collider discriminant: combine CP information (charge + lepton decay angle)
- LHNL: LHC separation of LNC and LNV dilepton events by ratio of SS / OS: $R_{\ell\ell} = \#(\ell^\pm\ell^\pm)/\#(\ell^+\ell^-)$

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$$N_\ell = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(N_+ - iN_-)$$
$$N_{\bar{\ell}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(N_+ + iN_-)$$

Interaction
eigenstates

Mass
eigenstates

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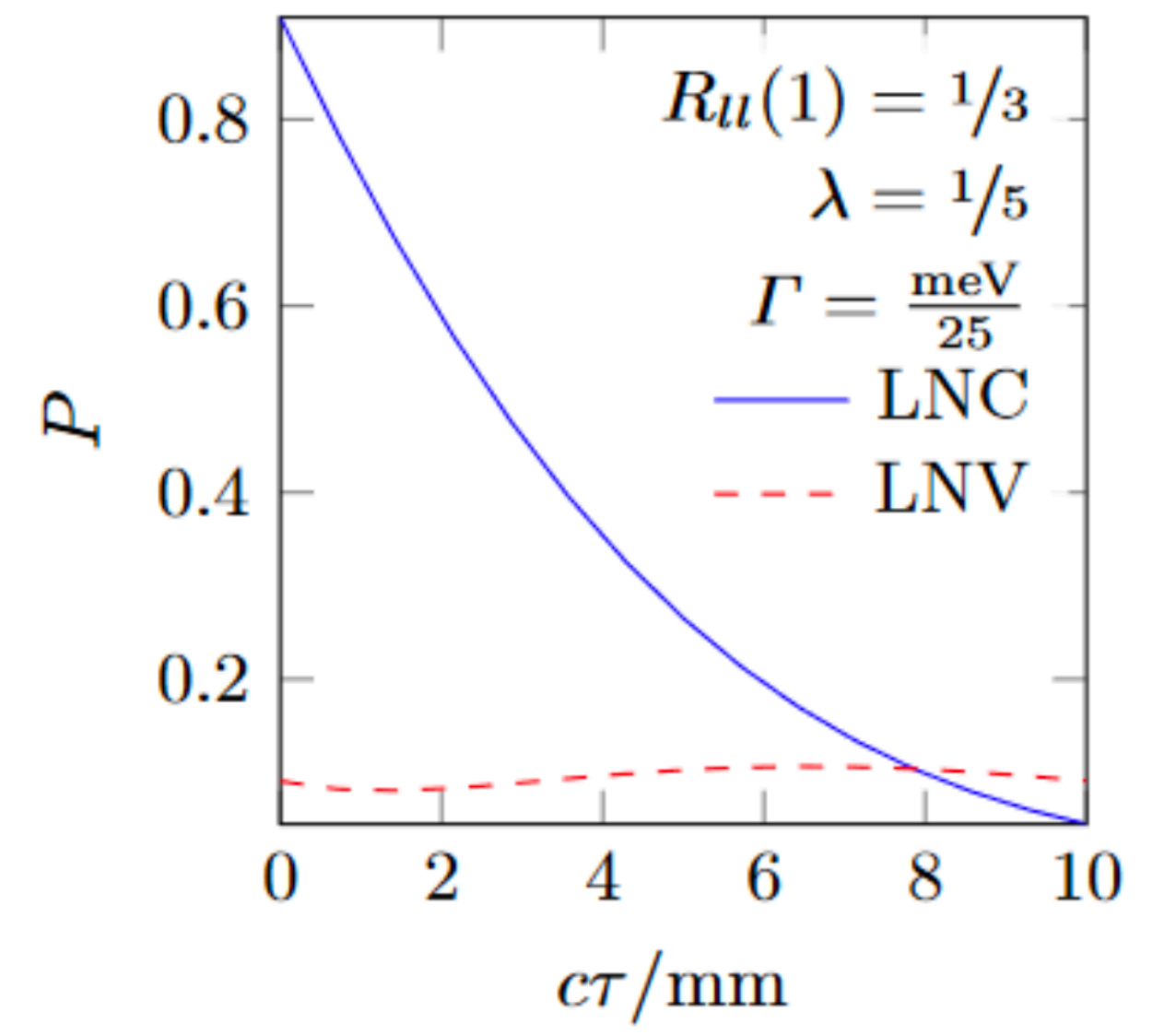
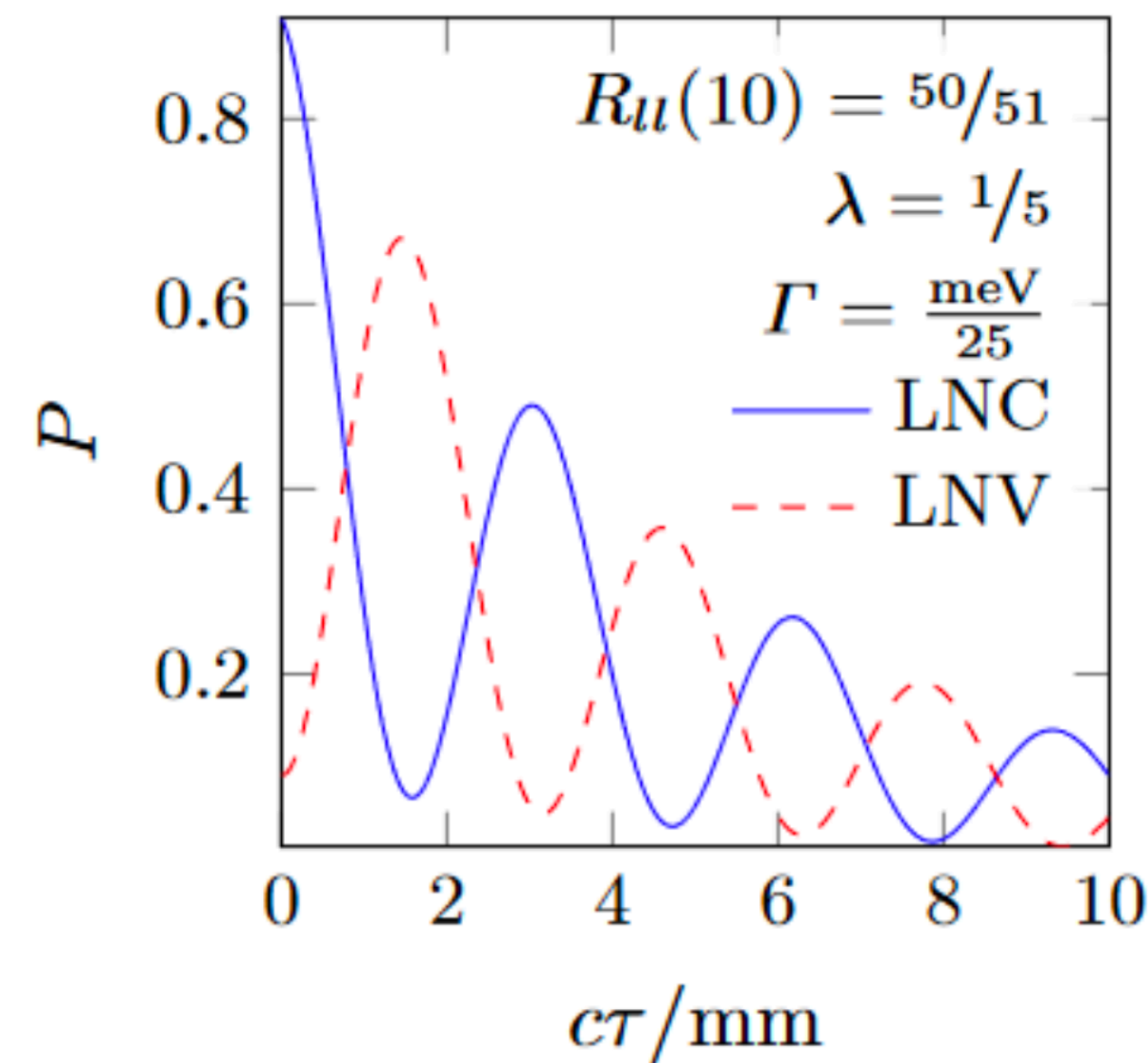
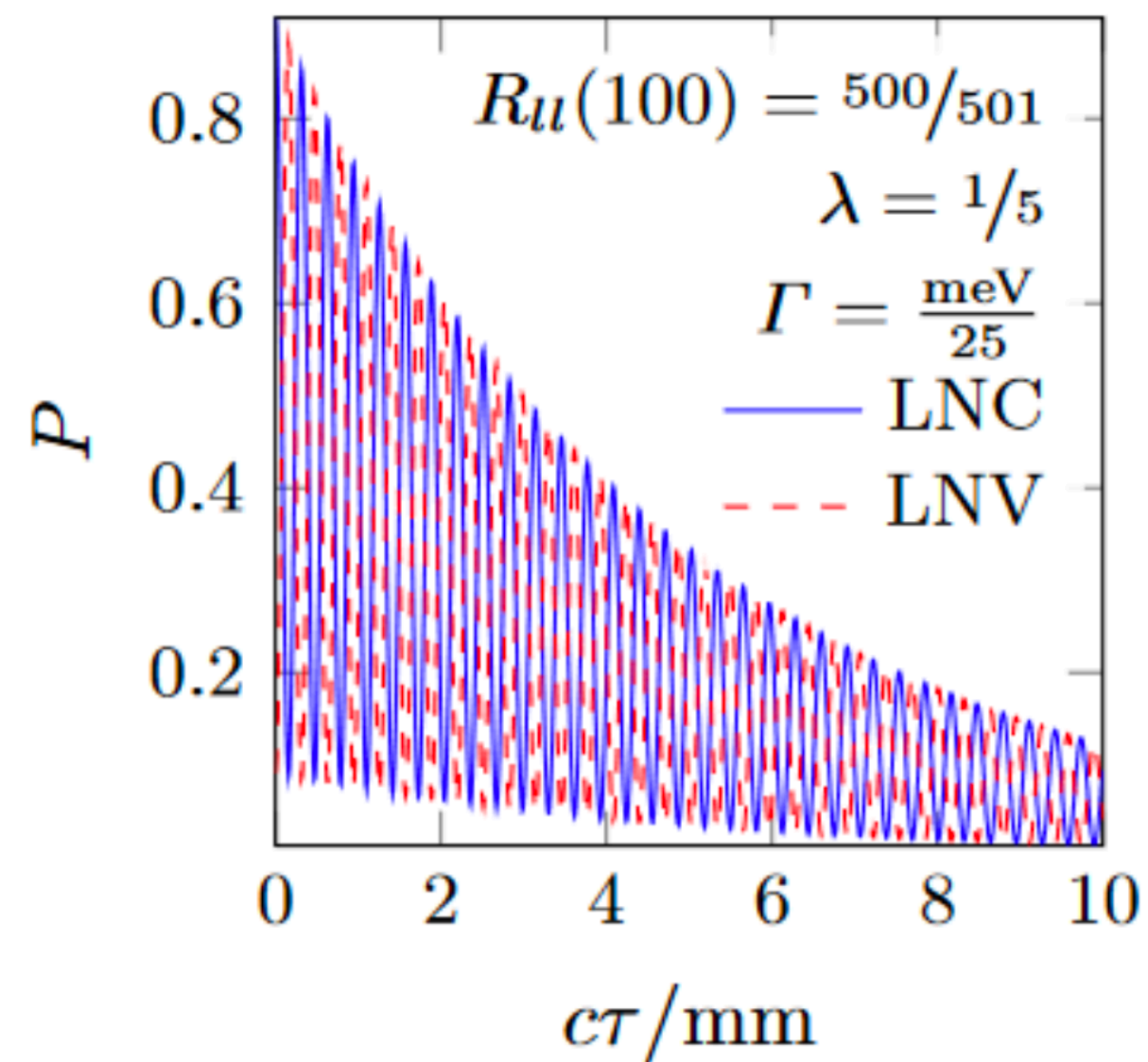
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Flavor complementarity of ee vs. $\mu\mu$ colliders

- ✓ Dominant t -channel production (W exchange):
- ✓ On-shell production
- ✓ Off-shell more difficult: need to scan each parameter point

$$\sigma \propto \frac{|V_{\ell_{in}N}|^2 \cdot |V_{\ell_{out}N}|^2}{|V_{eN}|^2 + |V_{\mu N}|^2}$$

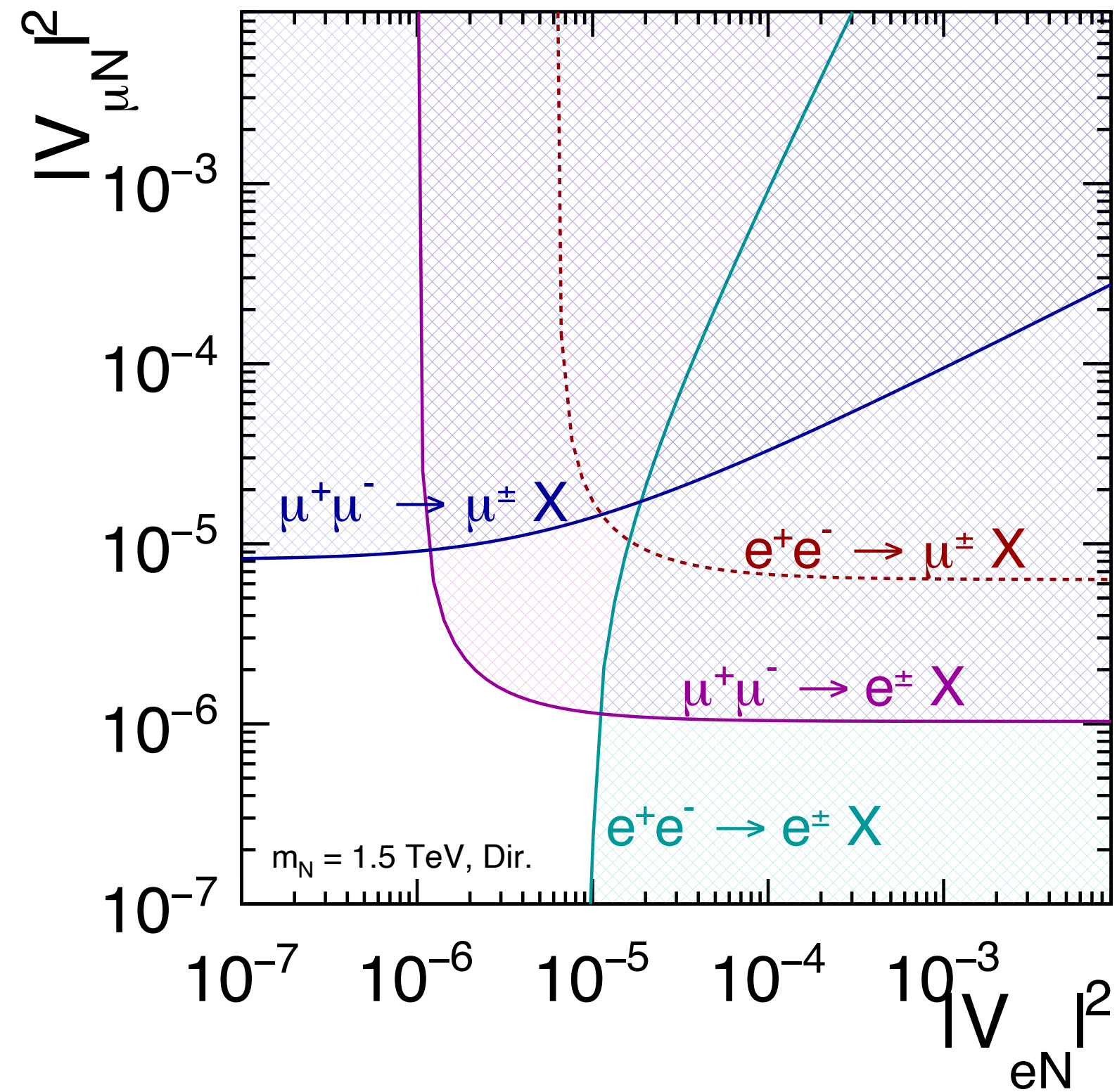
cf. also talk by
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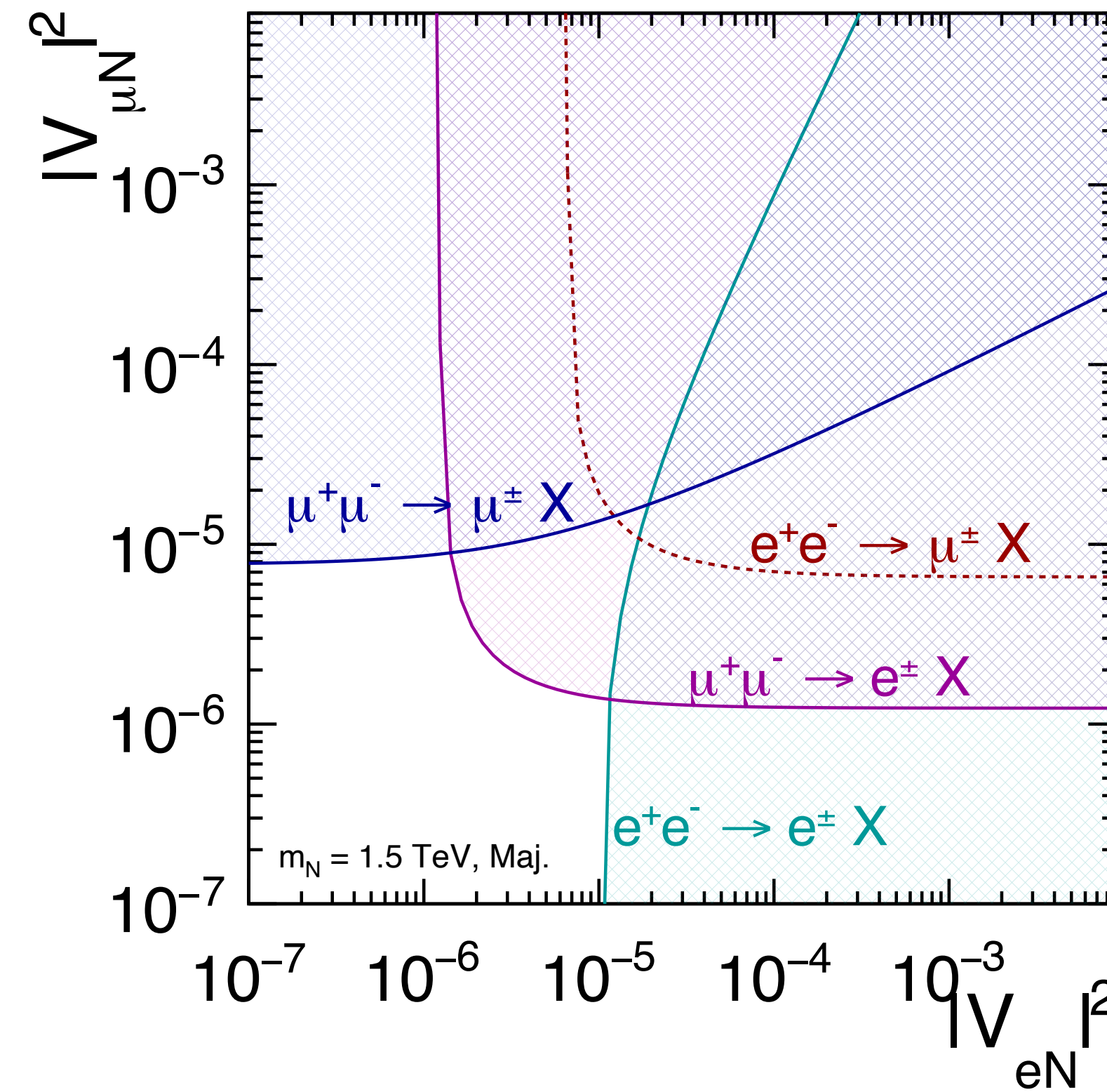
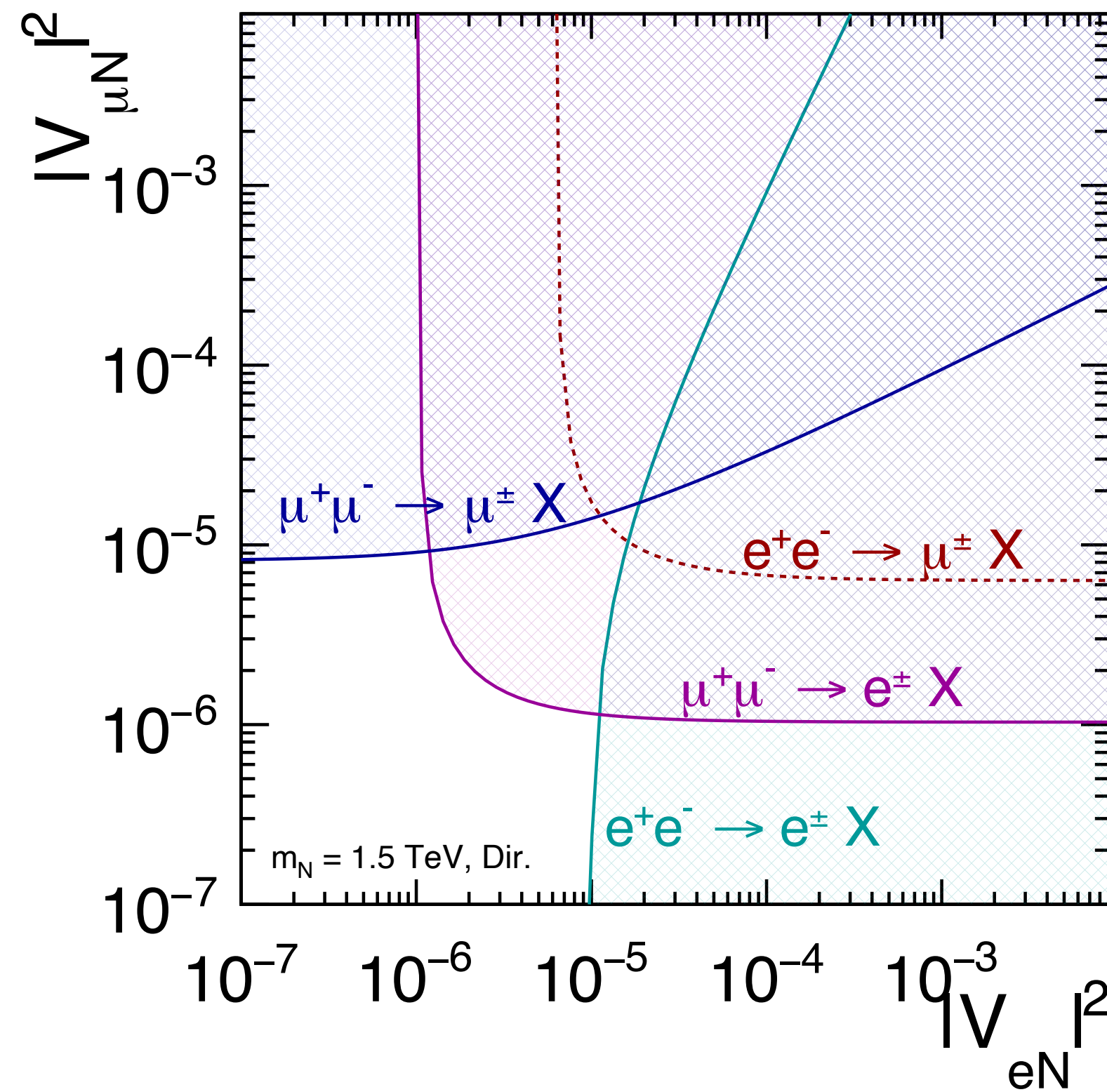


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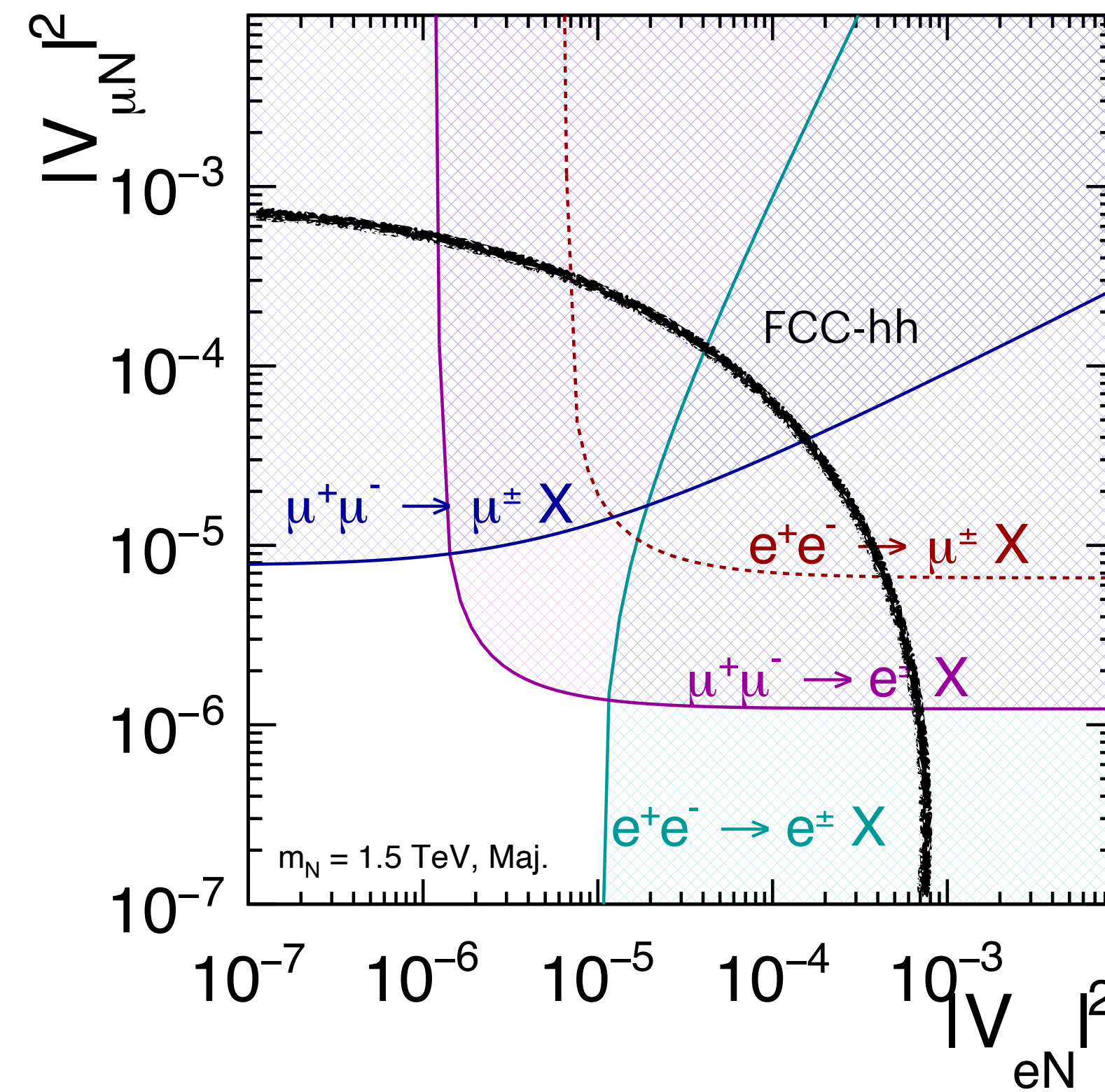
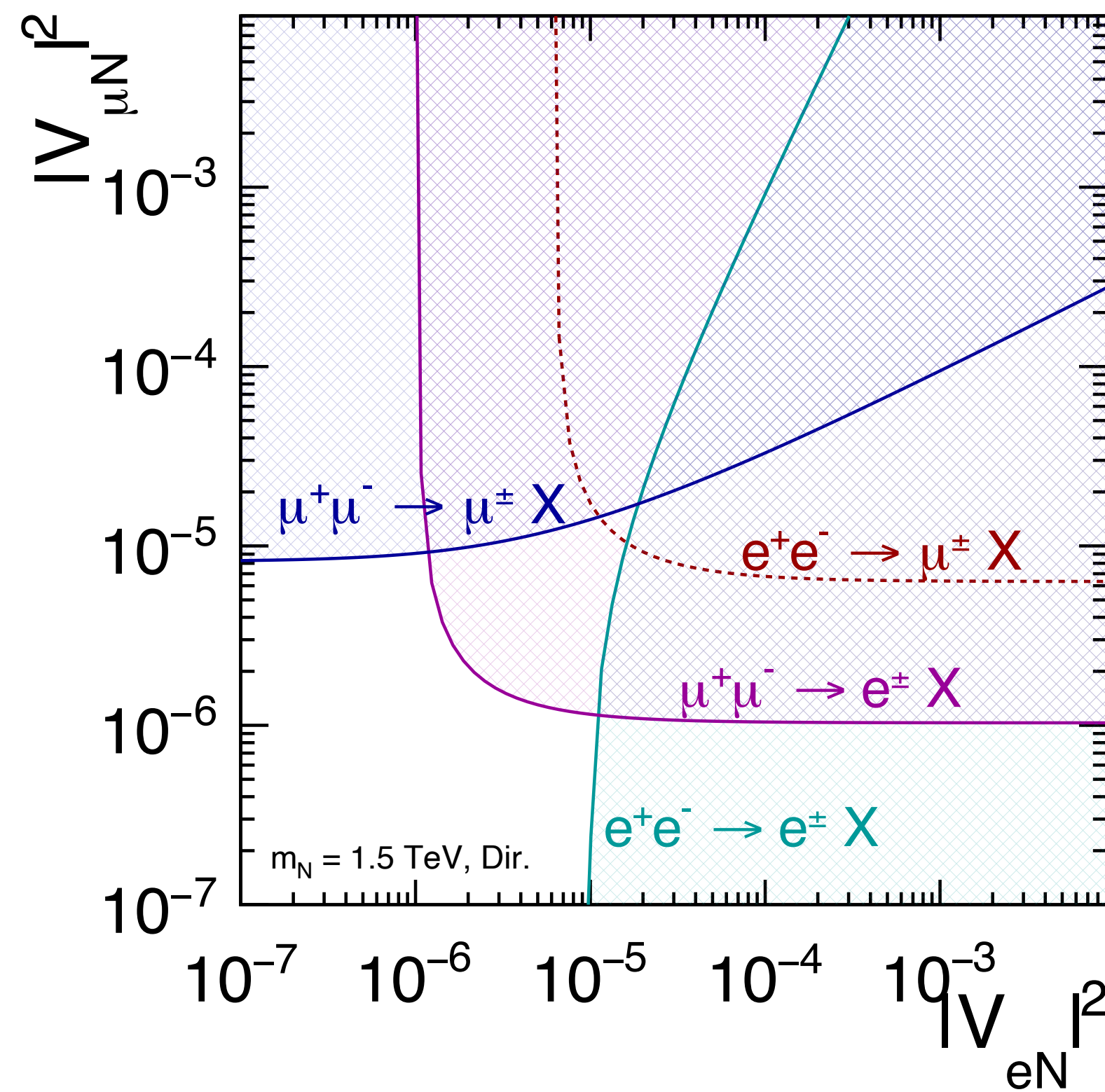


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Conclusions & Outlook



- ✓ Heavy Neutrinos Leptons: connections to BAU (?), dark matter (?), flavor symmetries (?)
- ✓ Tiny neutrino masses: (1) scale suppression, (2) small parameters (“tuned”), (3) symmetry
- ✓ Without more experimental guidance (e.g. DUNE): beware of model prejudices
- ✓ Hadron colliders do cover same-sign LNV-/ ν -less double beta decay signatures
- ✓ Lepton collider LHNL: long-lived particles / displaced vertices (luminosity rules)
- ✓ Lepton collider HHNL: superior due to t -channel enhancement (W -lepton fusion)
- ✓ Mass peak of HHNL reconstructable in hadronic final states at lepton colliders
- ✓ Lepton collider clean environments allow Majorana/Dirac discrimination
- ✓ Interesting flavor complementarities between hadron, ee and $\mu\mu$ colliders



Heavy Duty Neutrino



Neutrino Trash Bags (100 Count) 8-12 Gallon Liner - Heavy Duty Drawstring Plastic Garbage Bags - Compatible with Simple Human Code J Trash Cans

SUPER STRONG

