

# Beyond Sterile Neutrinos at Short Baselines

2nd Short-Baseline Experiment-Theory Workshop  
April 3rd 2024



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# Short Baseline Neutrino Physics

The LSND, MiniBooNE, Gallium, and reactors puzzles pushed theory and experiment to **new directions**

SBL community and program have become major **players in BSM physics at neutrino experiments**  
(beyond oscillations)

**We are a data-driven and resourceful community**

# Sterile neutrinos

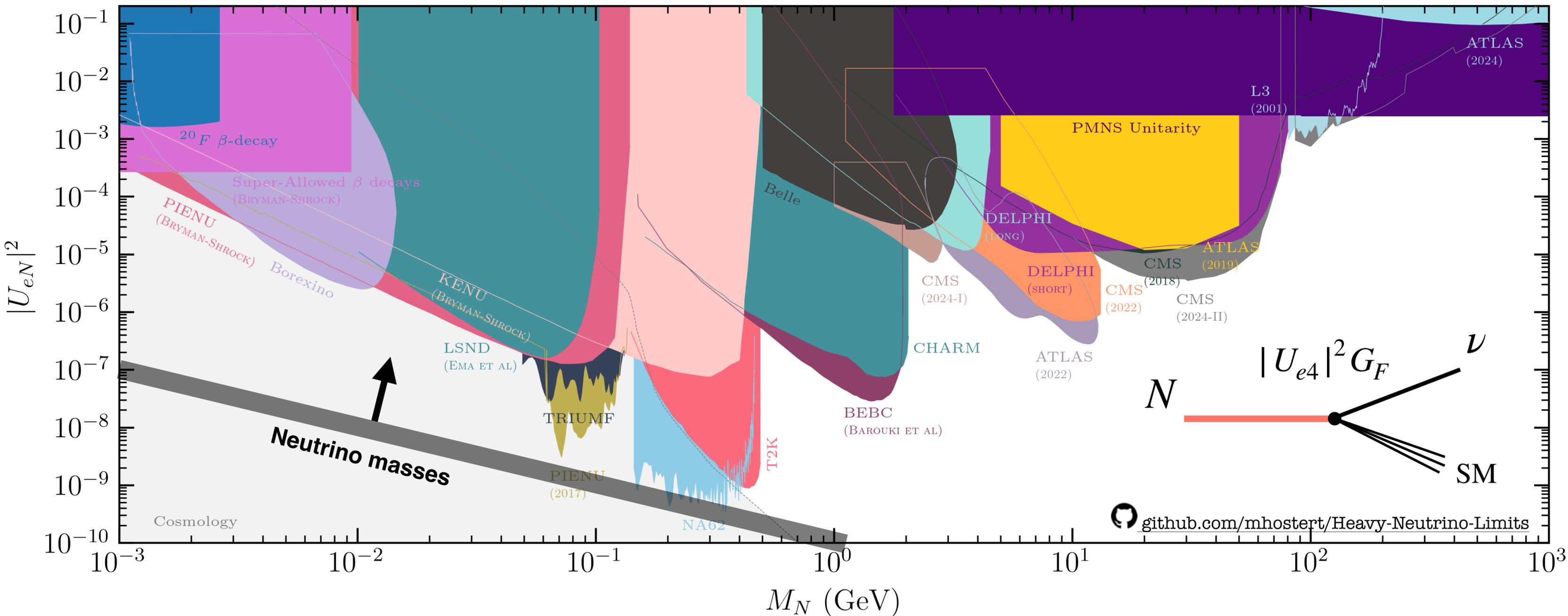
Theoretically, an extremely **compelling hypothesis**.

Much has been said about **eV-scale** sterile oscillations.  
Still relevant (30+ years later!), but not my focus here.

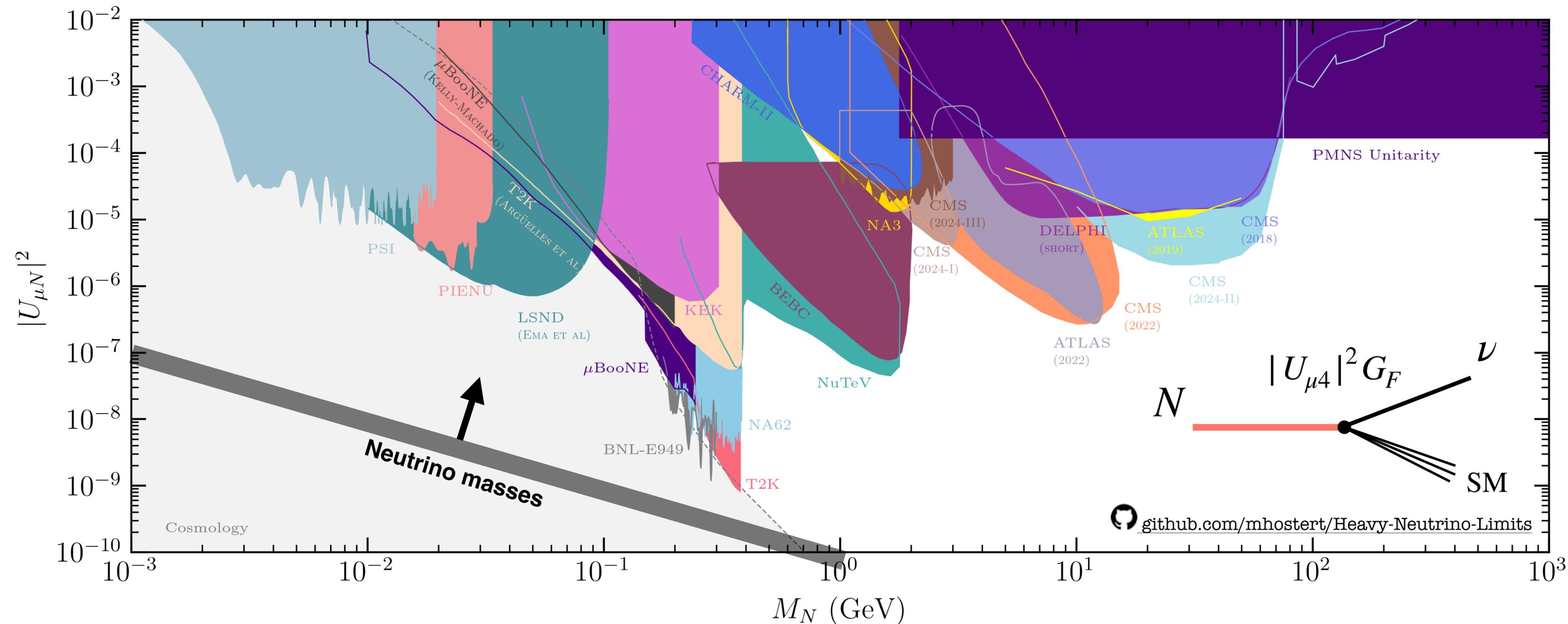
This talk is about what happens when we go **beyond the minimal scenario**

**Additional new physics** can completely modify  
the phenomenology of sterile neutrinos.

# Heavy Neutral Leptons



# Heavy Neutral Leptons



# Sterile neutrinos beyond oscillations at SBL

*A MiniBooNE focused list...*

- 1) Decays to electromagnetic final states  $\gamma$  and  $e^{+/-}$ :
  - a) beam production
  - b) neutrino upscattering
- 2) Decays to neutrinos:  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  conversion from decay
- 3) Sterile-induced matter potential: resonant  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  conversion

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b) neutrino upscattering

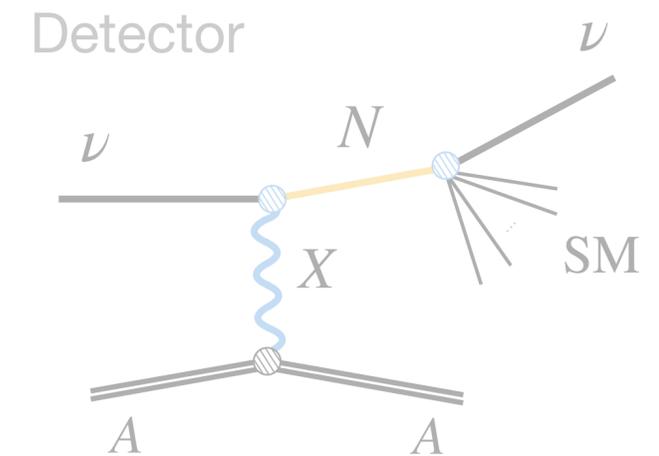
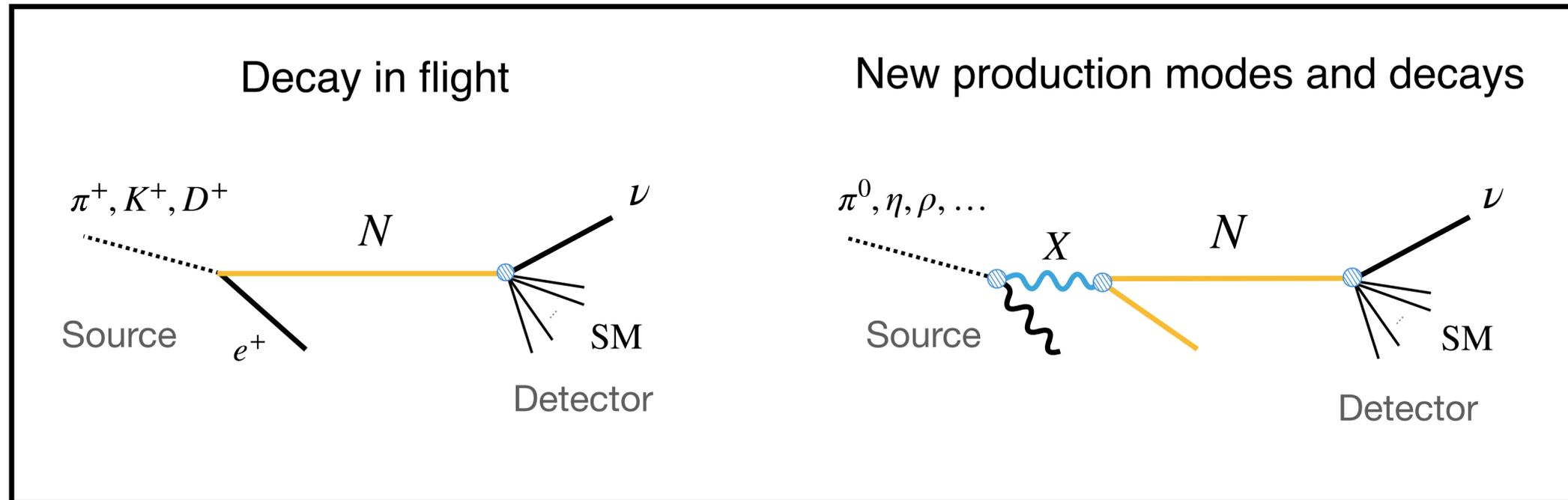
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# Influence of dark forces on heavy neutrinos

← Longer lifetime

Shorter lifetime →



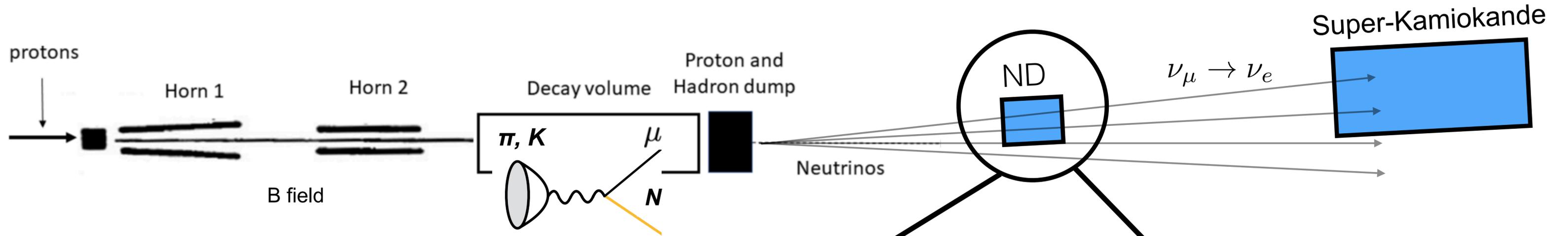
No dark forces

Stronger dark forces →

# Long-lived Heavy Neutrinos

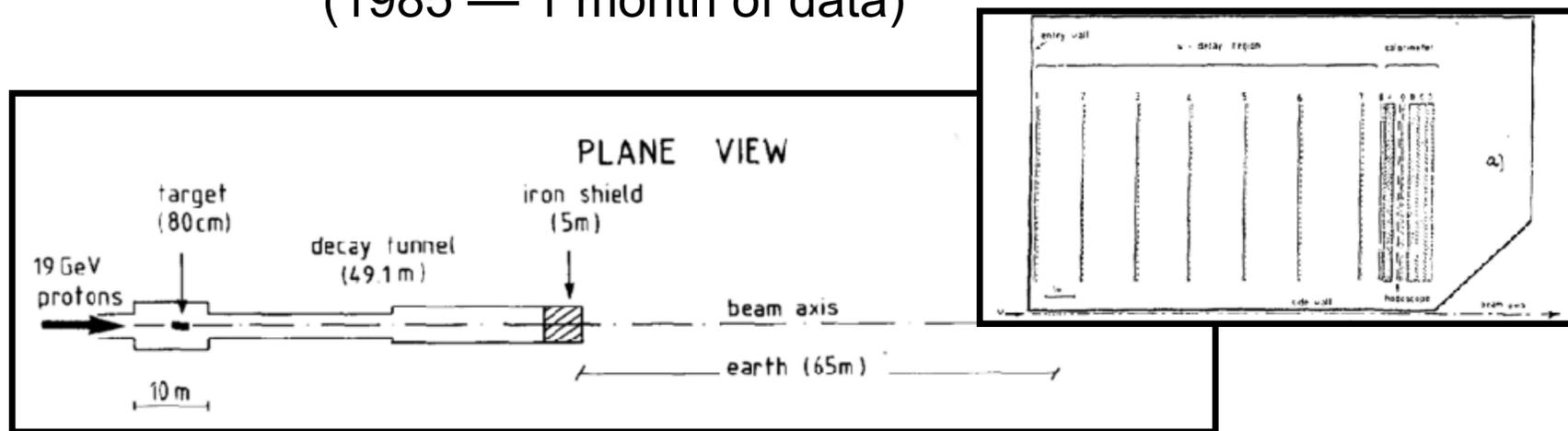
## Hodoscopic detectors

C. Argüelles, N. Foppiani, MH [arxiv:2109.03831](https://arxiv.org/abs/2109.03831)



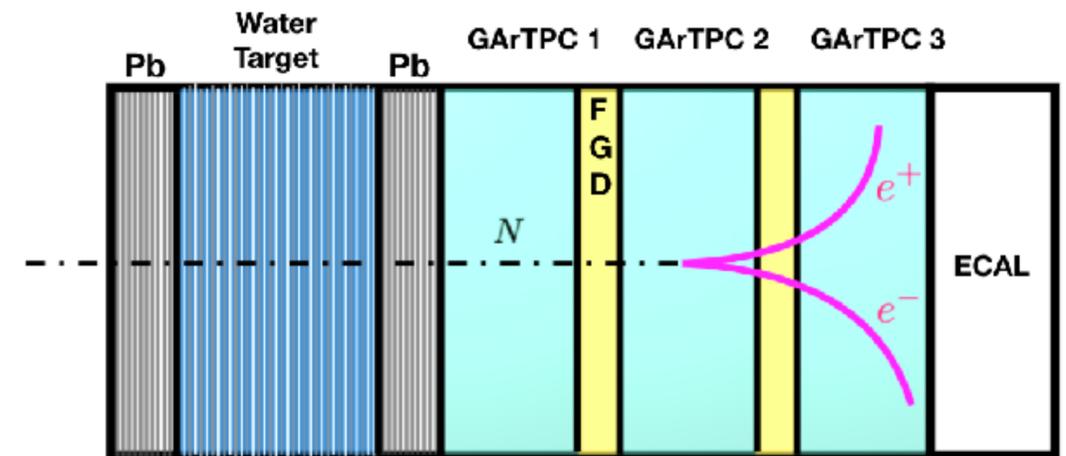
Most sensitive searches below the kaon mass:

PS191 (low-density Helium bags)  
(1985 — 1 month of data)



G. Bernardi et al, Phys. Lett. 166B (1986) 479–483

ND280 @ T2K (low-density GAr TPCs)



T2K collaboration, PRD 100 (2019) 5, 052006



# Long-lived Heavy Neutrinos at MiniBooNE

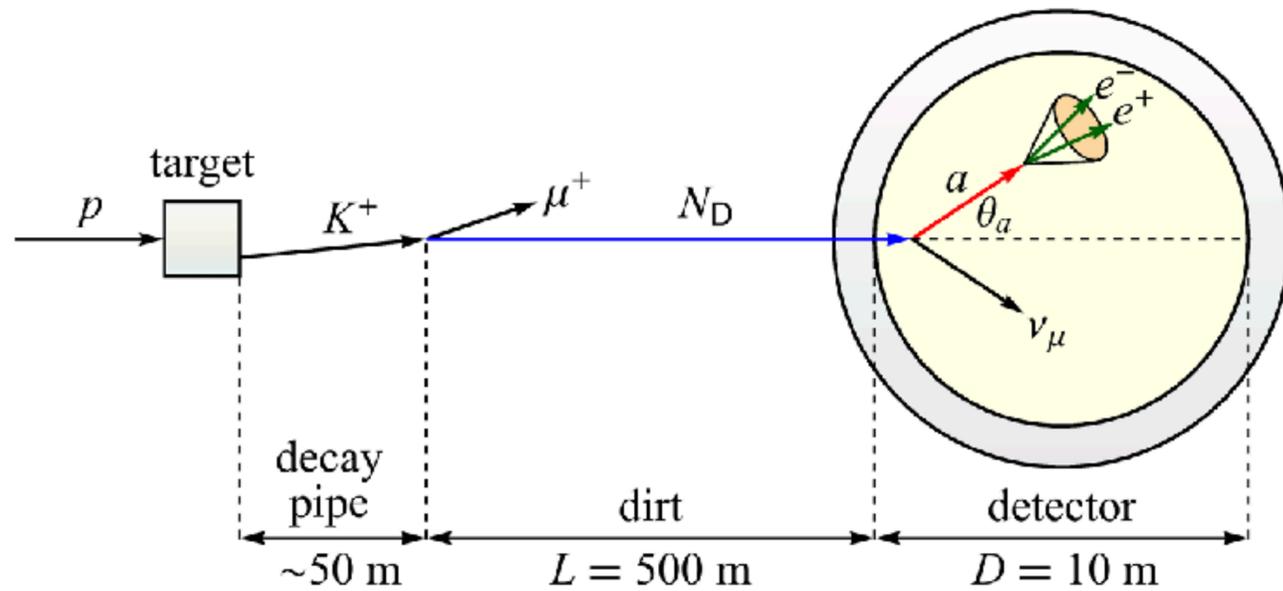
## Constraints from other neutrino experiments

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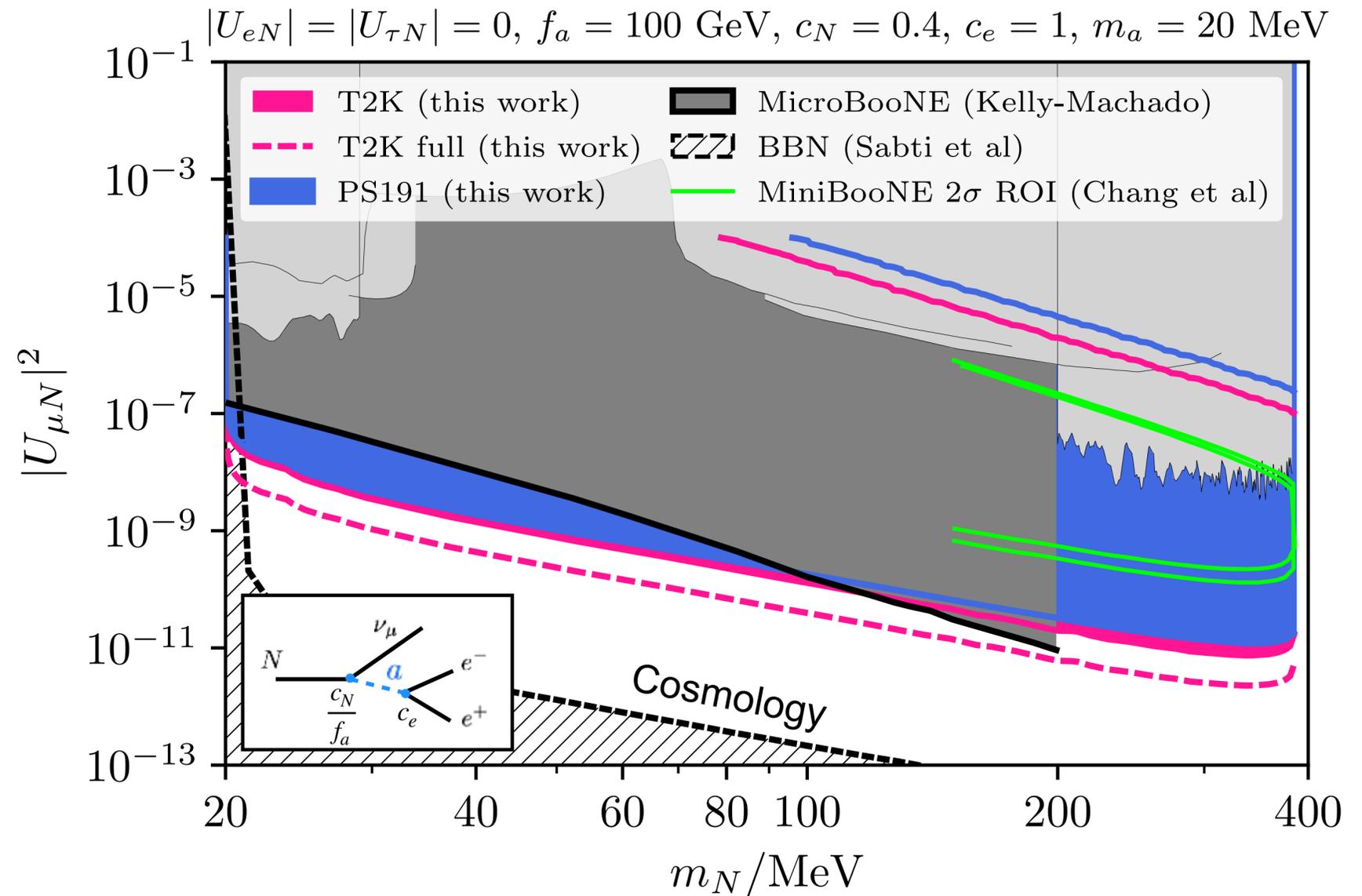
Axion-like-particle in  $N \rightarrow \nu(a \rightarrow e + e^-)$  decays:

C. V. Chang, C. Chen, S. Ho, S. Tseng, [PhysRevD.104.015030](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.01503)

$$-\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{\partial_\mu a}{2f_a} (c_N \bar{N} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 N + c_e \bar{e} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 e)$$



Timing is also an important issue!



T2K and PS191 already placed strong limits on long-lived particle scenarios with  $e^+e^-$  decays

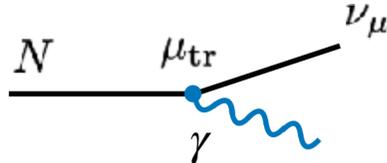
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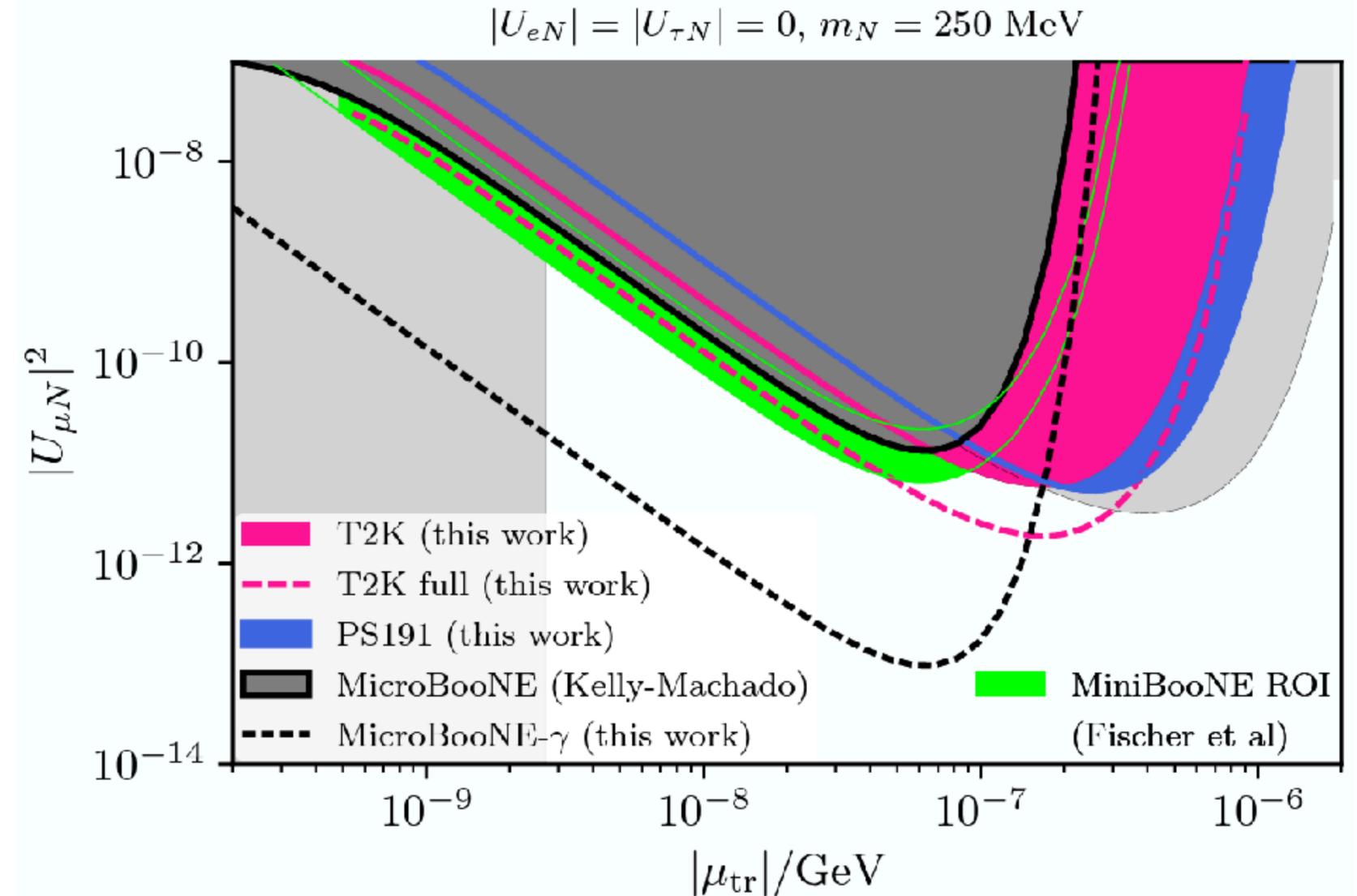
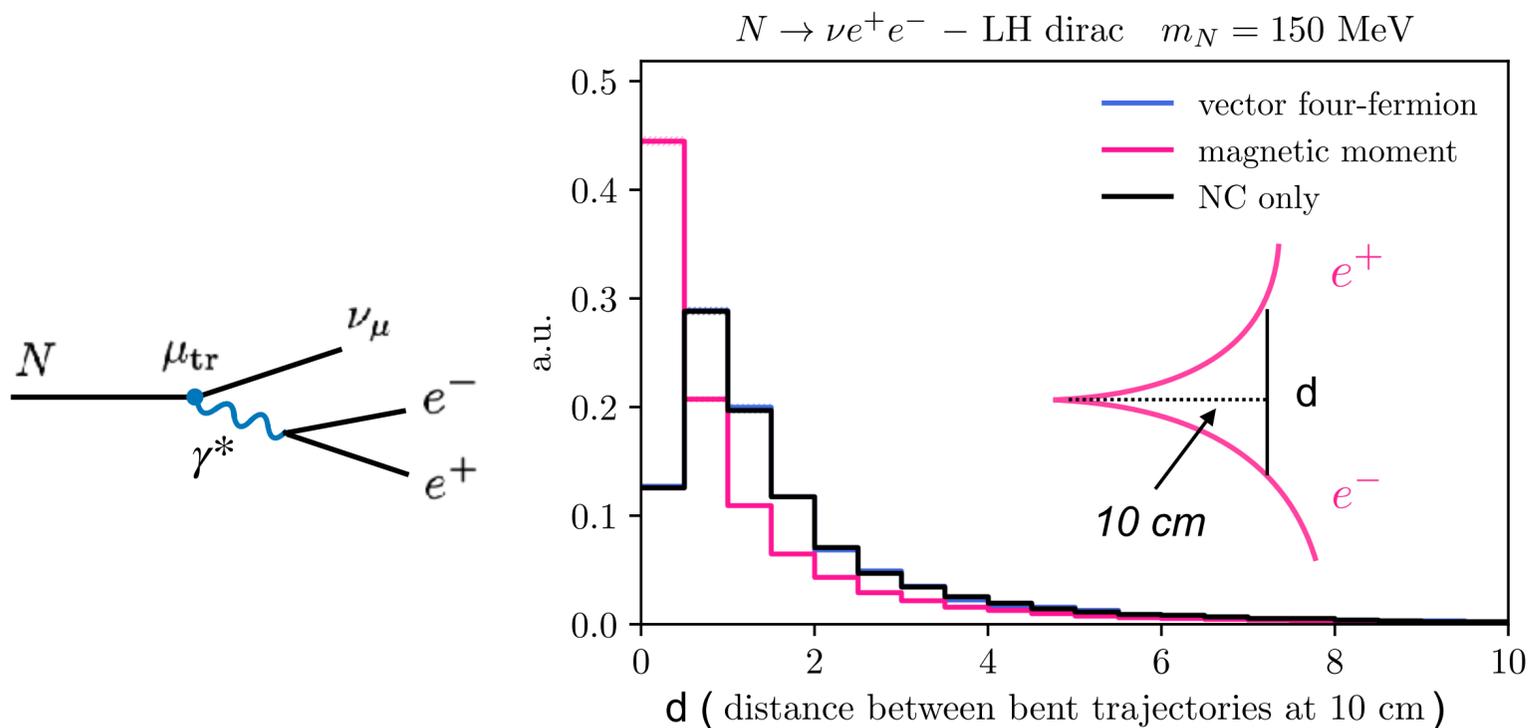
## Constraints from other neutrino experiments

C. Argüelles, N. Foppiani, MH [arxiv:2109.03831](https://arxiv.org/abs/2109.03831)

Mixing + dipole portals to heavy neutrinos ( $N \rightarrow \nu\gamma$  decays):

O. Fischer, A. Hernández-Cabezudo, and T. Schwetz,  
Phys. Rev. D 101, 075045 (2020),

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{\mu_{tr}}{2} \bar{\nu}_\alpha \sigma^{\mu\nu} N F_{\mu\nu}$$




Single photons decay less constrained,  
as ND280 relies on off-shell photon:

$$N \rightarrow \nu(\gamma^* \rightarrow e^+e^-)$$

# Long-lived Heavy Neutrinos at MiniBooNE

## Constraints from other neutrino experiments

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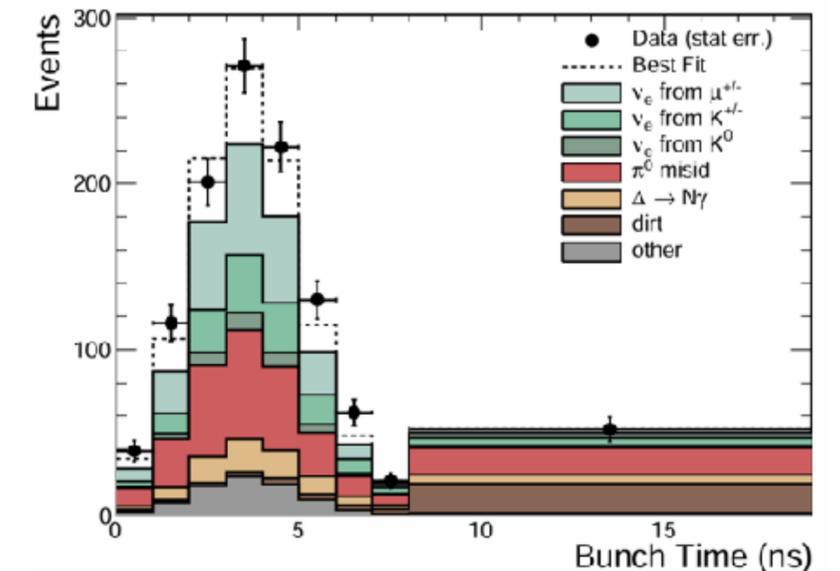
Mixing + dipole portals to heavy neutrinos ( $N \rightarrow \nu\nu$  decays):

O. Fis  
Phys

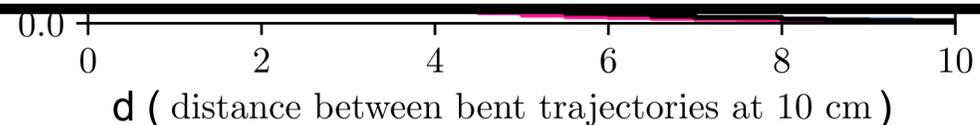
$$|U_{eN}| = |U_{\tau N}| = 0, m_N = 250 \text{ MeV}$$

### Decays of long-lived particles as explanations of MiniBooNE:

- Timing at MiniBooNE is measured, consistent with a 10 ns spread, so  $M_X \lesssim 30 \text{ MeV}$
- Either production mechanism is very different at BNB compared to J-PARC
- Or new particle decays to photons only (photons do not convert in T2K ND280)



Scattering of light particles still okay (see Doojin's and Adrien's talks)



as ND280 relies on off-shell photon:

$$N \rightarrow \nu(\gamma^* \rightarrow e^+e^-)$$



# Sterile neutrinos beyond oscillations at SBL

**1) Decays to electromagnetic final states  $\gamma$  and  $e^{+/-}$ :**

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**b) neutrino upscattering**

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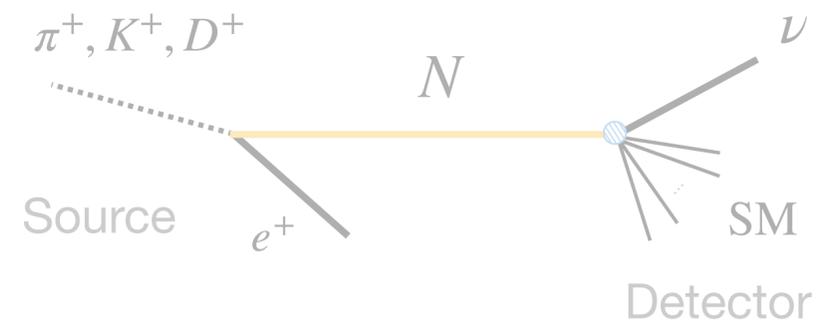
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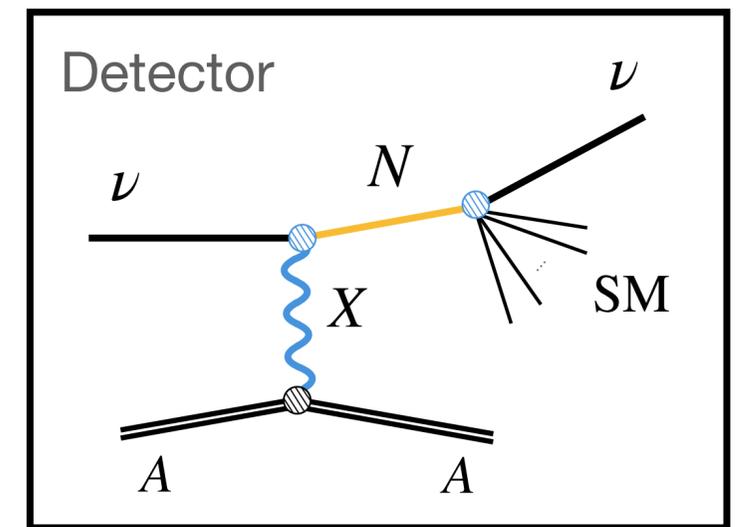
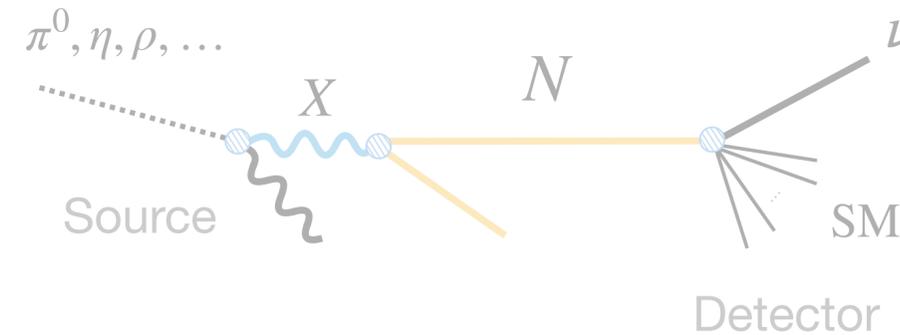
Shorter lifetime →



Decay in flight



New production modes and decays

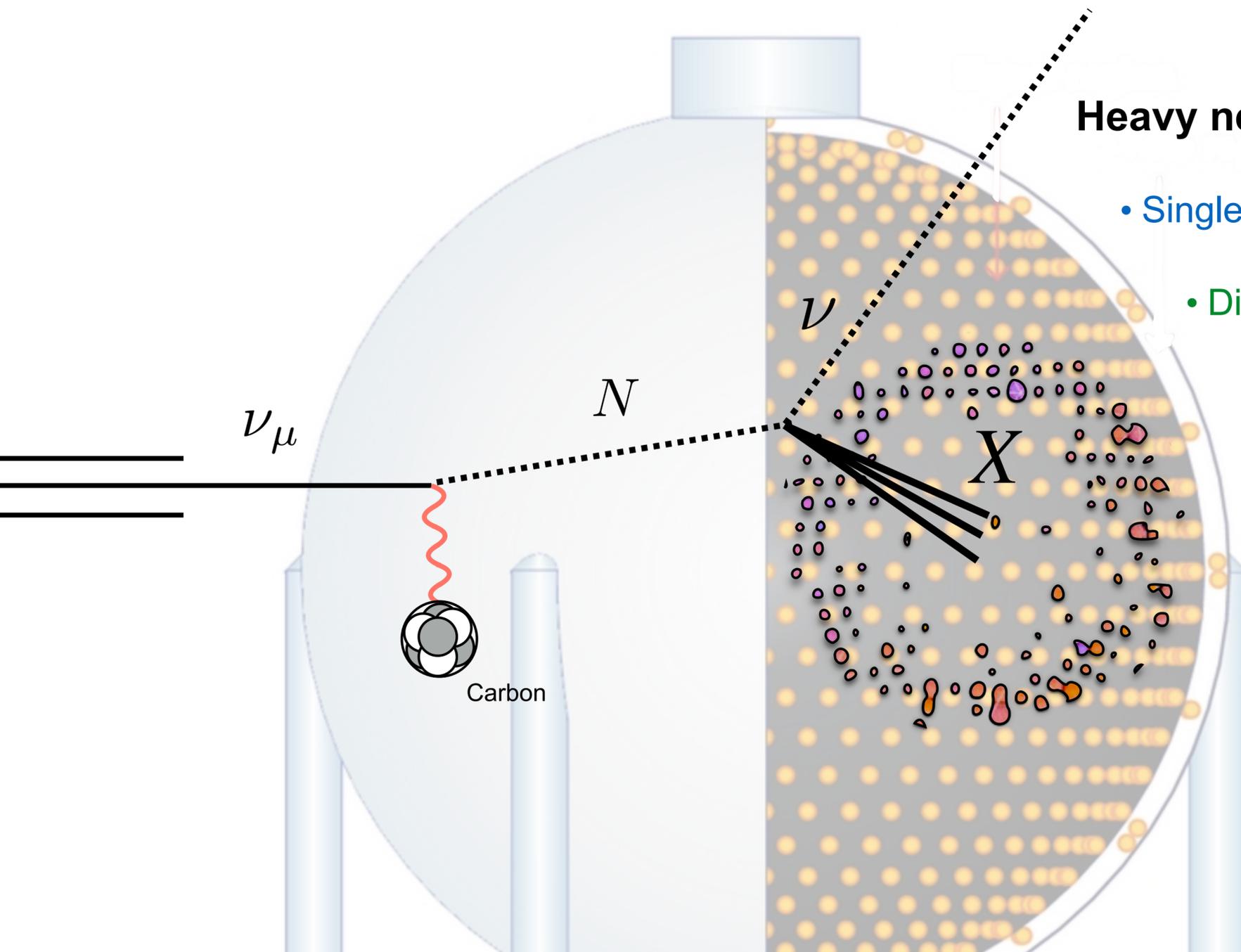


No dark forces

Stronger dark forces →

# Dark Sectors in the MiniBooNE Low-Energy Excess

## Particle production inside the detector



### Heavy neutrino decays:

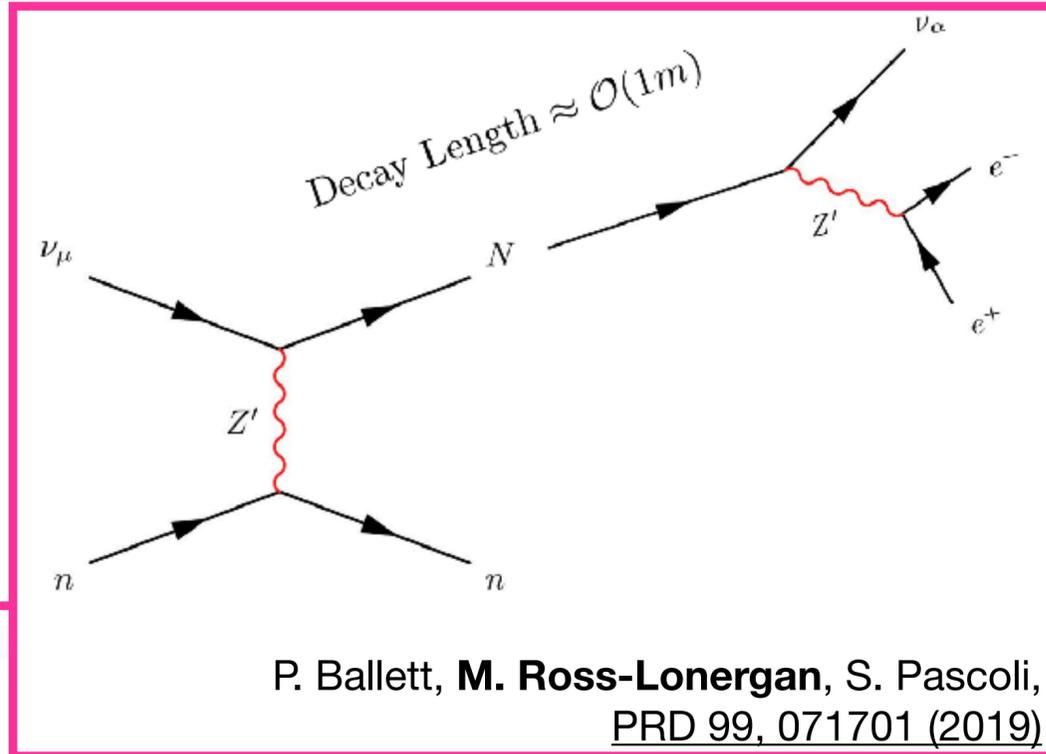
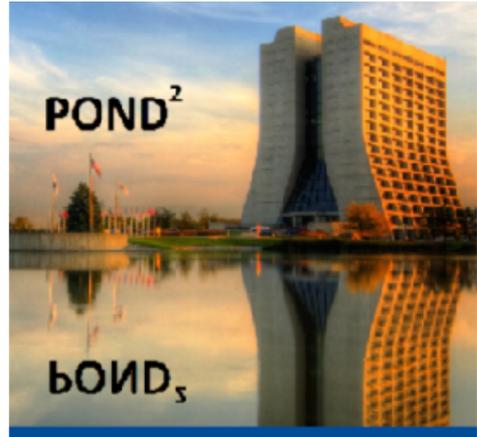
- Single photons via transition magnetic moment ( $X = \gamma$ )
- Di-leptons from dark photons or scalars ( $X = e^+e^-$ )
- Di-photons from dark scalars ( $X = \gamma\gamma$ )

### Non-exhaustive list:

- E. Bertuzzo et al, [[arXiv:1807.09877](#)]
- P. Ballett et al, [[arxiv:1808.02915](#)]
- C. Argüelles, **MH**, Y. Tsai, [[arXiv:1812.08768](#)]
- P. Ballett, **MH**, S. Pascoli, [[arxiv:1903.07589](#)]
- A. Abdullahi, **MH**, S. Pascoli, [[arXiv:2007.11813](#)]
- J. Liu et al, [[arXiv:2001.06522](#)]
- W. Abdallah et al, [[arXiv:2202.09373](#)]
- B. Dutta et al, [[arxiv:2006.01319](#)]
- A. Datta et al, [[arXiv:2005.08920](#)]
- B. Dutta et al, [[arxiv:2006.01319](#)]
- S. Bansal et al, [[arXiv:2210.05706](#)]
- W. Abdallah, et al, [[arxiv:2202.09373](#)]



# The year was 2018... and we were excited

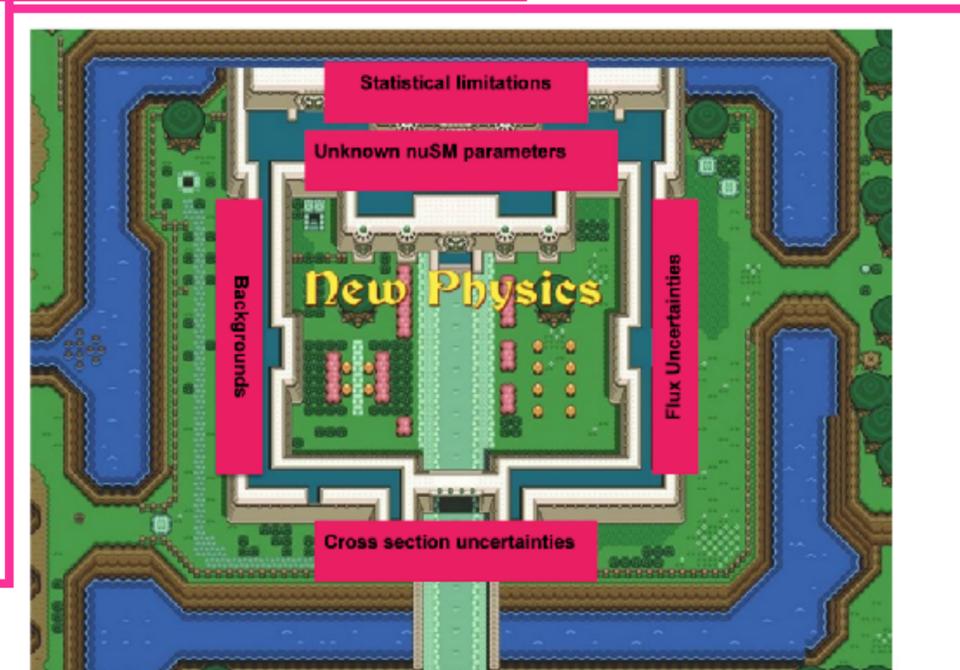
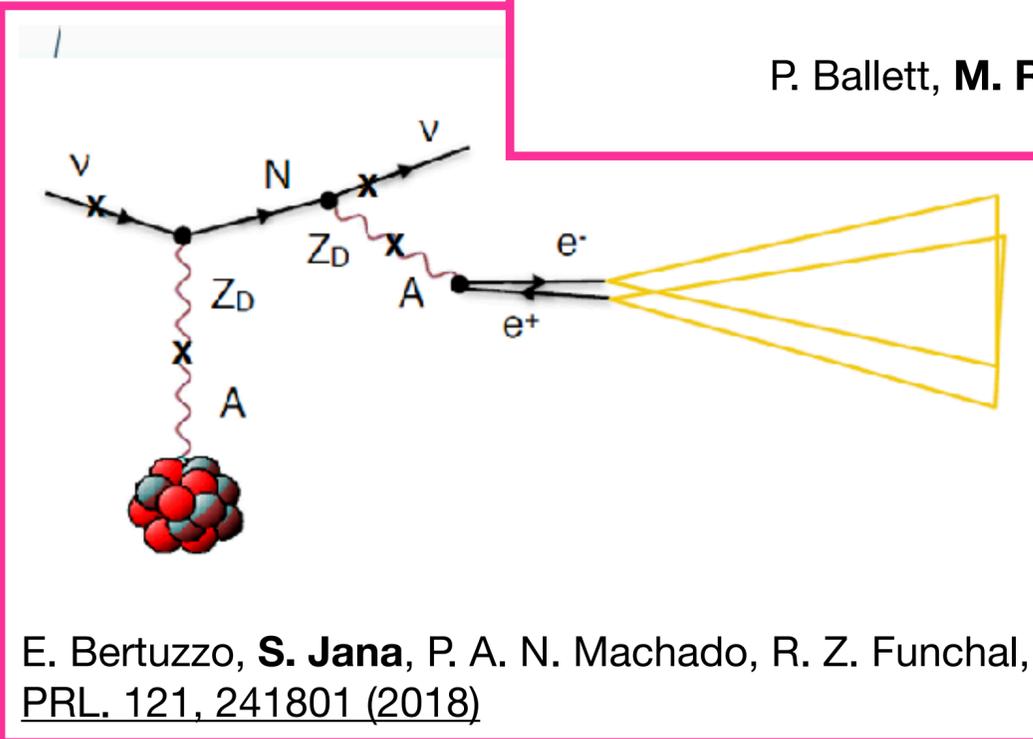


Neutrino upscattering explanations of MiniBooNE within new light of dark sectors:

Strong synergy with light dark sector program

Connection to neutrino mass models at low-scales

Lots of attention due to new MiniBooNE 2018 results



C. Argüelles, MH, Y. Tsai, PRL 123, 261801 (2019)



# Then 2021 came... and were still excited. Perhaps too excited?

## Mini SBN-Theory workshop

15:30 → 16:30 **Alternative models for the MiniBooNE LEE**

🕒 1h

**Speakers:** Asli Abdullahi (Durham U.), Carlos Argüelles (Harvard), Doojin Kim (Texas A&M), Ivan Martinez-Soler (Harvard), Matheus Hostert (Perimeter)

 SBN workshop slide...

Model	U. Signature	LSND	MB	Reactors	Cosmology	Issues	Score
3+1	Oscillations	🟢	🟢	🟢	🔴	Appearance-disappearance lens on.	6
(3+1) + inv- $\nu$ decay	Damped oscillations	🟢	🟡	🟡	🟡	Large couplings. UV model?	4
(3+1) + NSI	Modified matter effects	🟢	🟢	🟢	🔴	Large NSI couplings. DeepCore tension.	11
Anomalous matter	Resonant appearance	🔴	🟢	🔴	unknown	Tension with T2K if resonance in E.	9
Large extra dim	Osc with related freqs.	🟢	🟢	🟢	unknown	Same issues as 3+1 or worse.	12
LV in $\mu$ decays	$\mu^+ \rightarrow \text{anti-}\nu_e$	🟢	🟢	🔴	🔴	Michel params in tension w/ TRIUMF.	8
Lorentz violation	Sidereal time variation	🟢	🟢	🔴	unknown	HE IceCube tension.	10
Dark neutrinos	Up-scattering to $N \rightarrow \nu e^+ e^-$	🔴	🟢	🔴	🟢	MINERvA/CHARM-II/IND280 tension?	2
Dipole portal	Up-scattering to $N \rightarrow \nu \gamma$	🔴	🟢	🔴	🟢	MINERvA/CHARM-II/IND280 tension?	3
(3+1) + vis- $\nu$ decay	DIF of $\nu_\tau \rightarrow \nu_e$	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟡	Tension with solar antineutrinos.	5
(3+1) + vis decay	DIF of $N \rightarrow \nu \gamma$	🔴	🟢	🔴	🟢	Timing at MB.	7
Dark sectors: dark matter	Up-scattering to $\chi' \rightarrow \chi e^+ e^-$	🔴	🟢	🔴	🟢	MINERvA/CHARM-II/IND280 tension?	5
Dark sectors: (pseudo)-scalar	Forward scattering to $\gamma$	🟢	🟢	🔴	🟢	MINERvA/CHARM-II/IND280 tension?	1

In a moment of poor judgement, we made a **ranking of models** for the talk.

**Let me right this wrong we caused.**

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 SBN workshop slide...



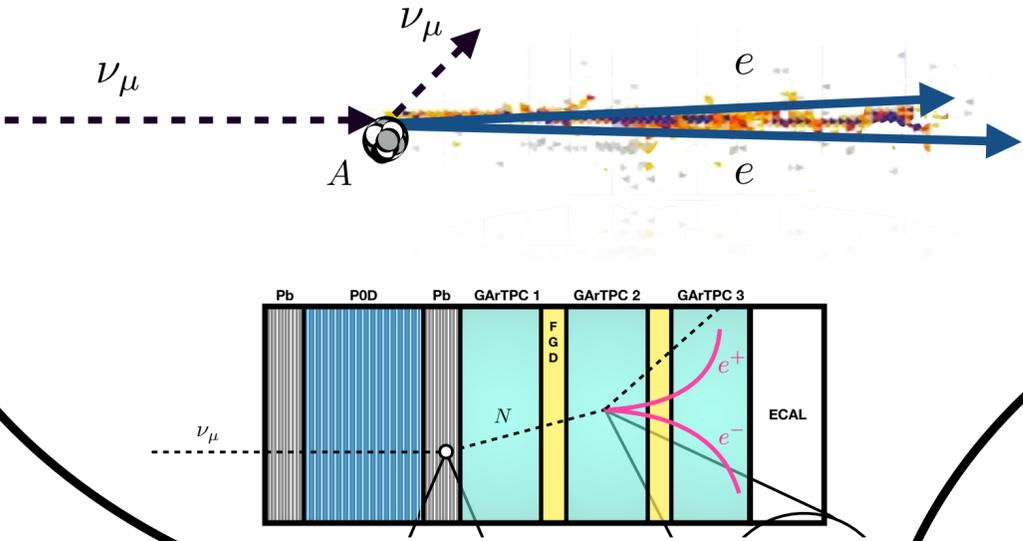
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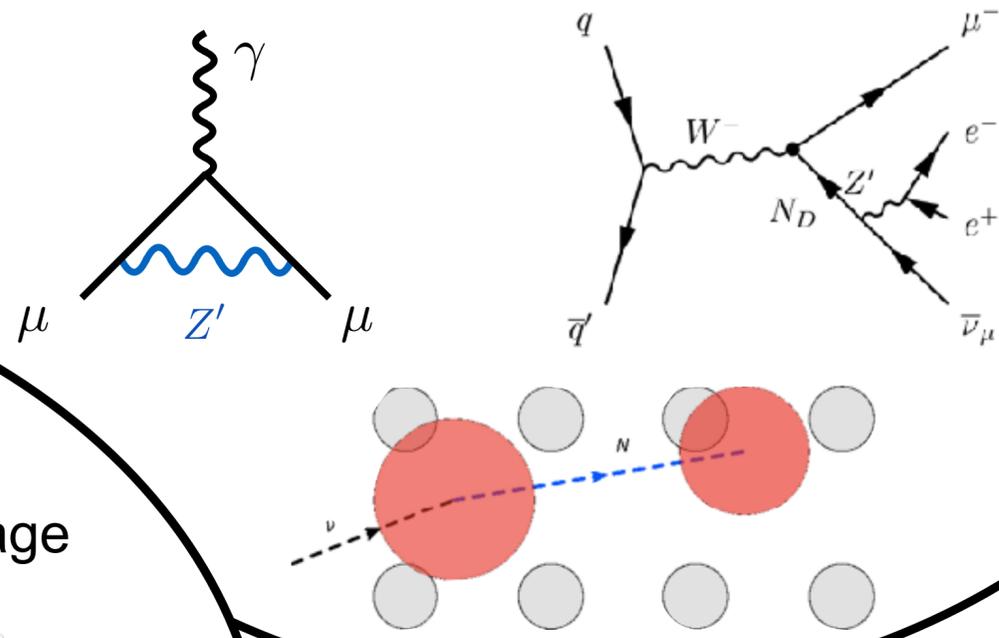
The short-baseline olympics are cancelled. We are all winners.

# Jokes aside, we are now in 2024: what have we learned?

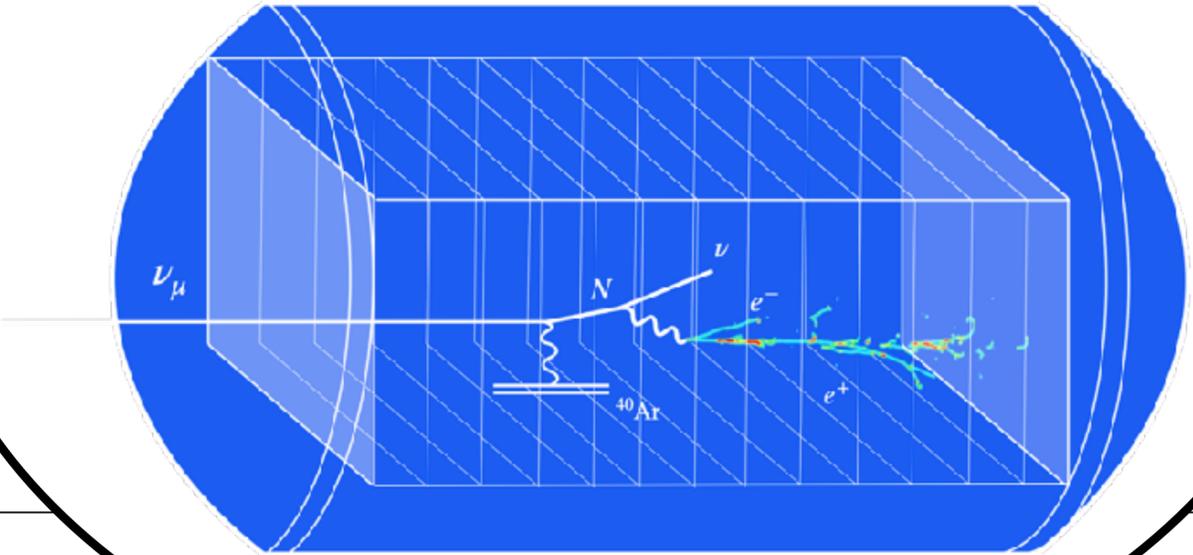
Novel uses of existing neutrino data by pheno community



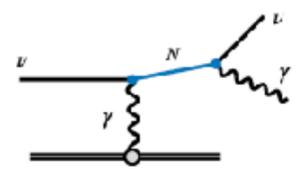
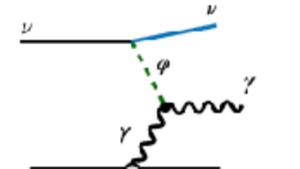
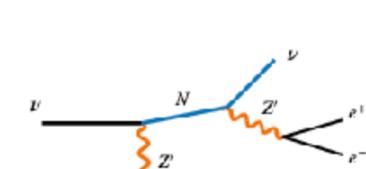
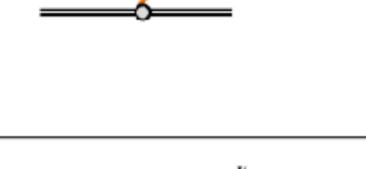
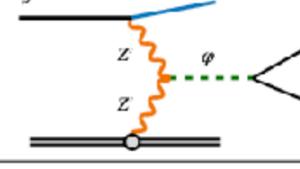
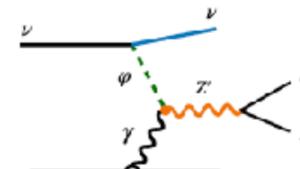
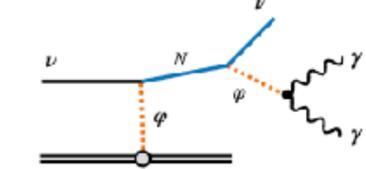
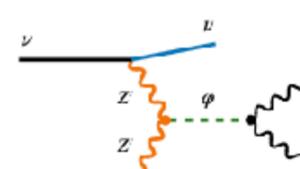
Numerous connections to other experimental programs



MicroBooNE  $e^+e^-$  and  $\gamma$  searches  
Experimental analysis in advanced stage



# Variations on upscattering

New physics in scattering				
Topology	Model	Diagram	Signal	References
single $\gamma$	neutrino upscattering		$N \rightarrow \nu\gamma$	[74–84]
	neutrino-induced inverse-Primakoff scattering		$\varphi^* A \rightarrow \gamma A$	[84]
$e^+e^-$	neutrino upscattering		$N \rightarrow \nu e^+ e^-$ on-shell $N$	[36–41, 71–73] Section IV
	neutrino-induced bremsstrahlung		$Z' \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ off-shell $N$	not studied
	neutrino-induced Primakoff scattering		$\varphi \rightarrow e^+ e^-$	[40]
	neutrino-induced inverse-Primakoff scattering		$Z' \rightarrow e^+ e^-$	not studied
$\gamma\gamma$	neutrino upscattering		$N \rightarrow \nu\gamma\gamma$	[39]
	neutrino-induced Primakoff scattering		$\varphi \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	not studied

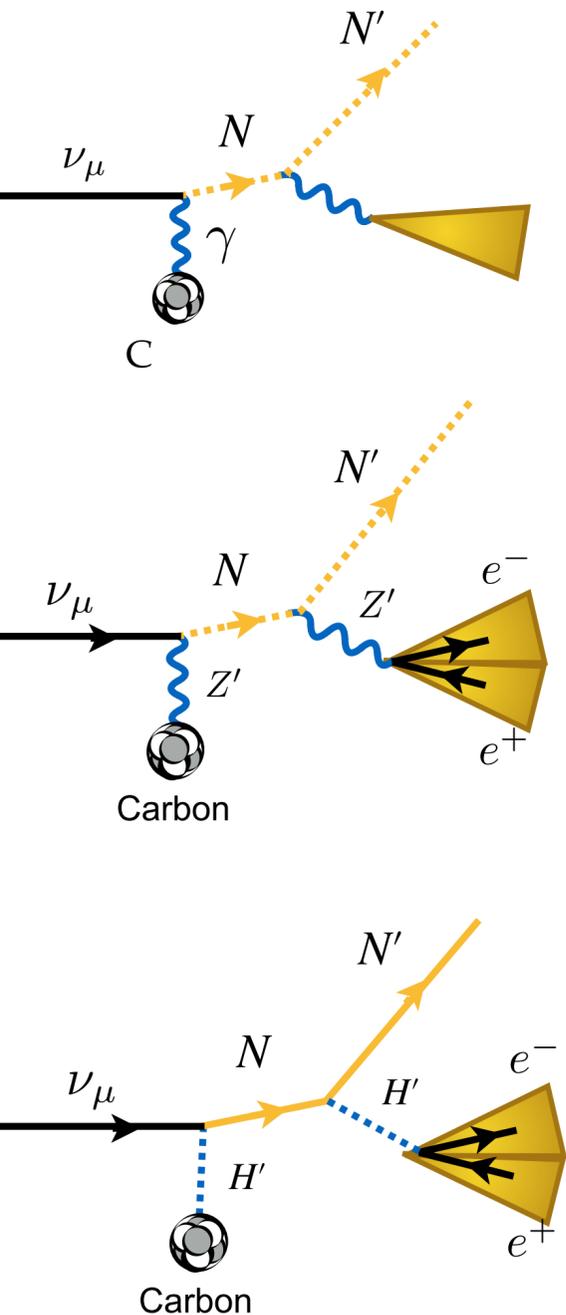
For a review see:

A. M. Abdullahi, J. Hoefken Zink, M. Hostert,  
D. Massaro, S. Pascoli  
[arXiv:2308.02543](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.02543)

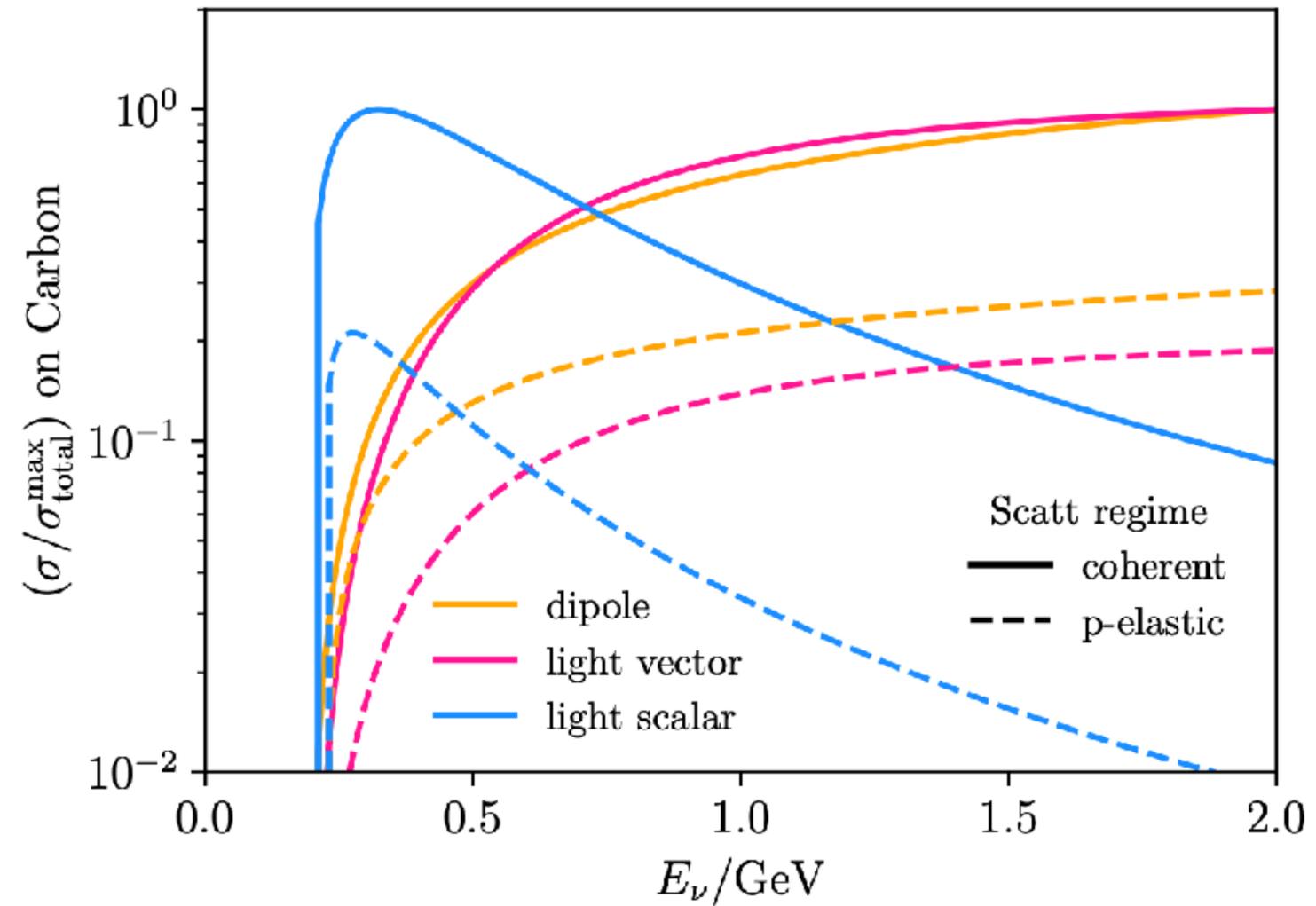


# Dark neutrino sectors at MiniBooNE

## The nature of the mediator matters



Normalized upscattering cross sections in different models:

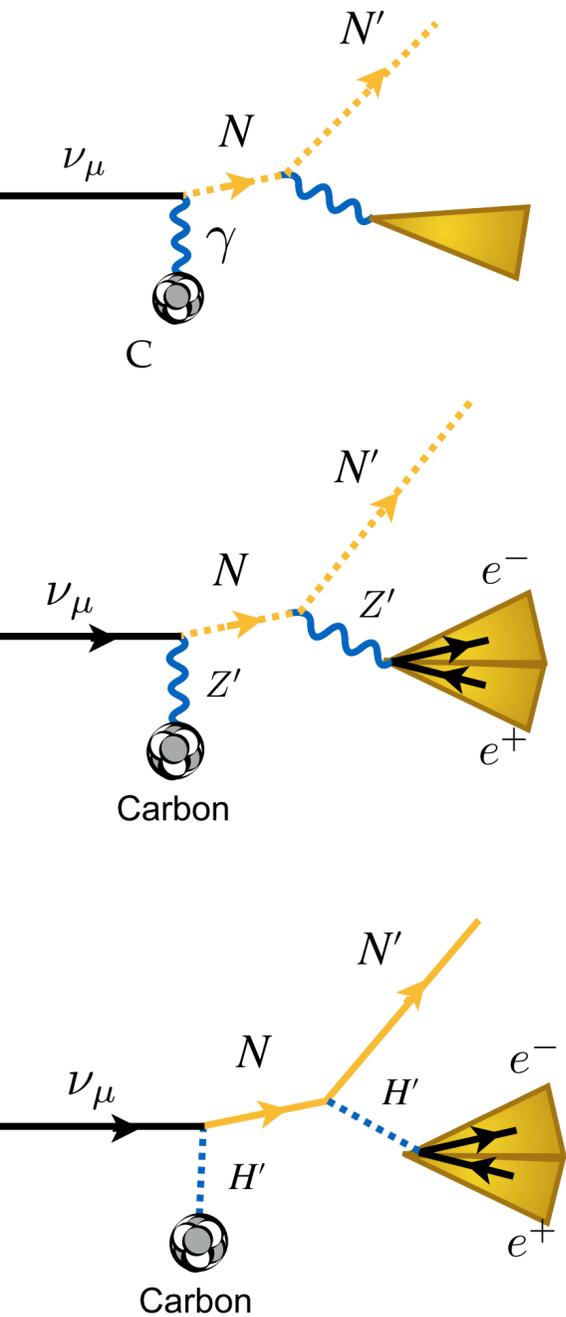


Not all neutrino experiments would see the same physics.  
Importance of complementarity.

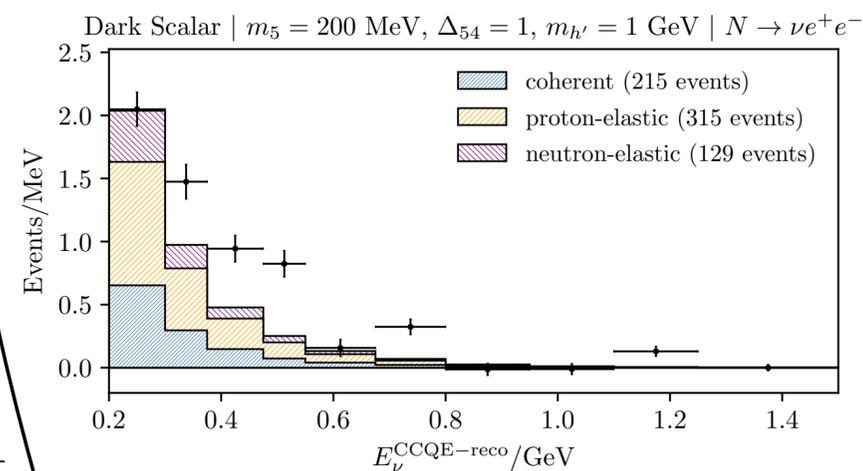
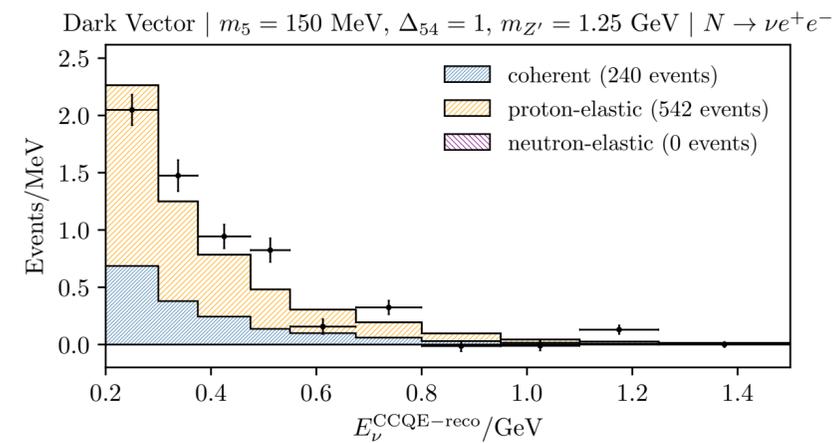
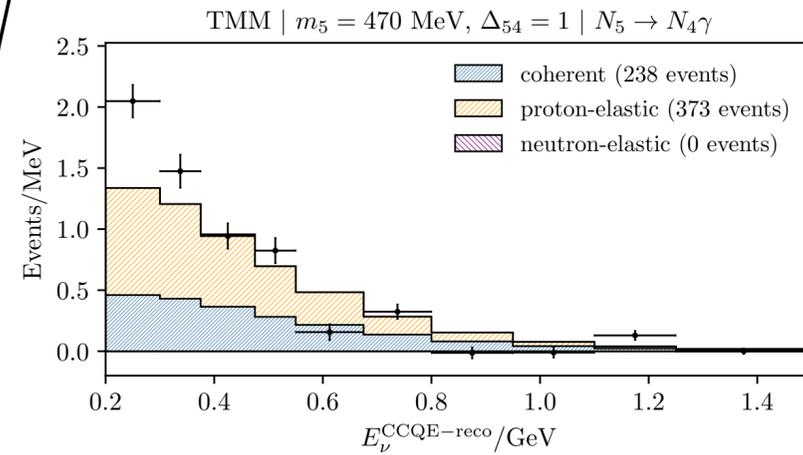
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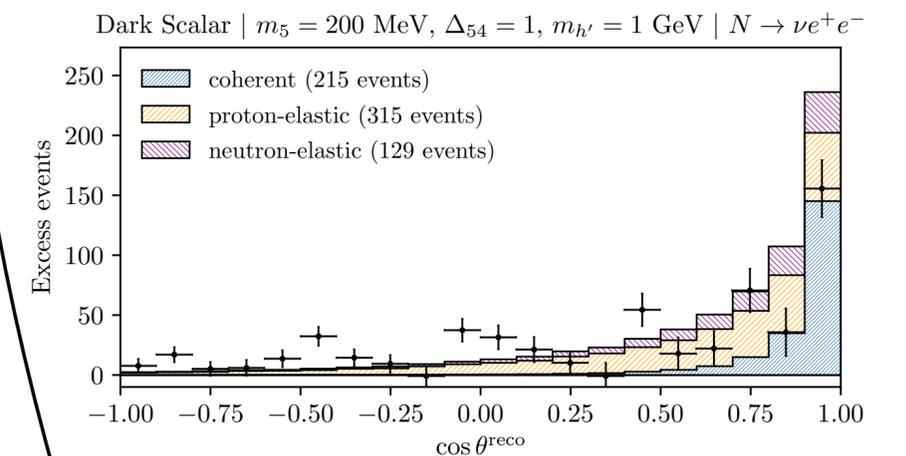
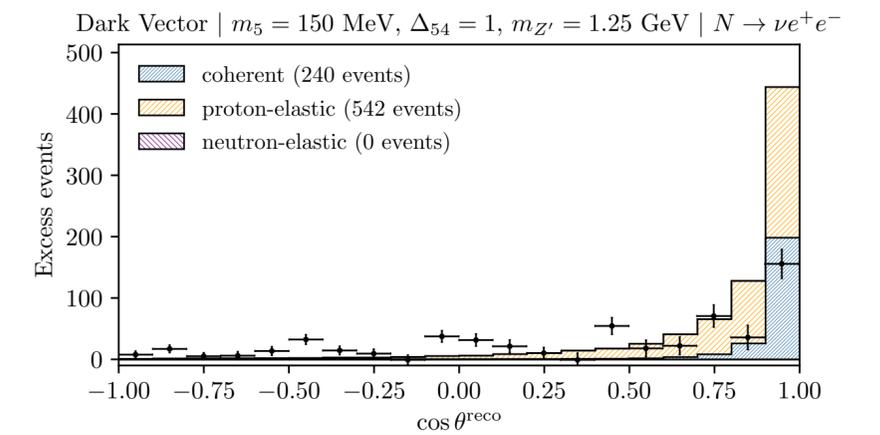
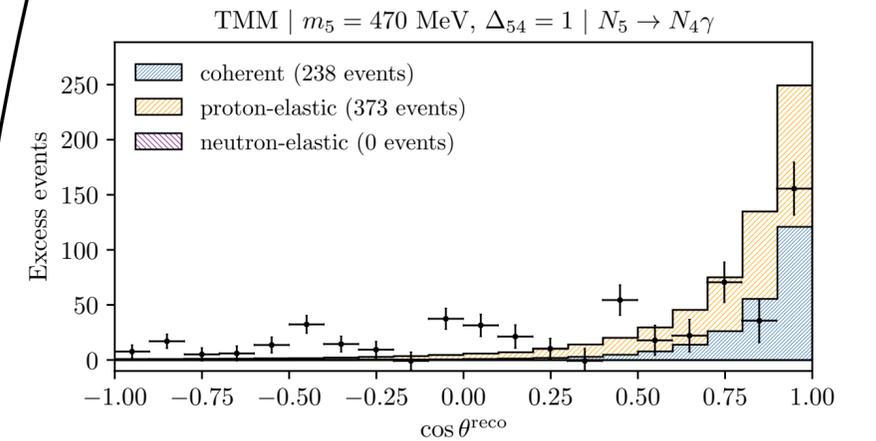
A. M. Abdullahi, J. Hoefken Zink, M. Hostert, D. Massaro, S. Pascoli [arXiv:2308.02543](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.02543)



$E_\nu^{\text{CCQE}}$



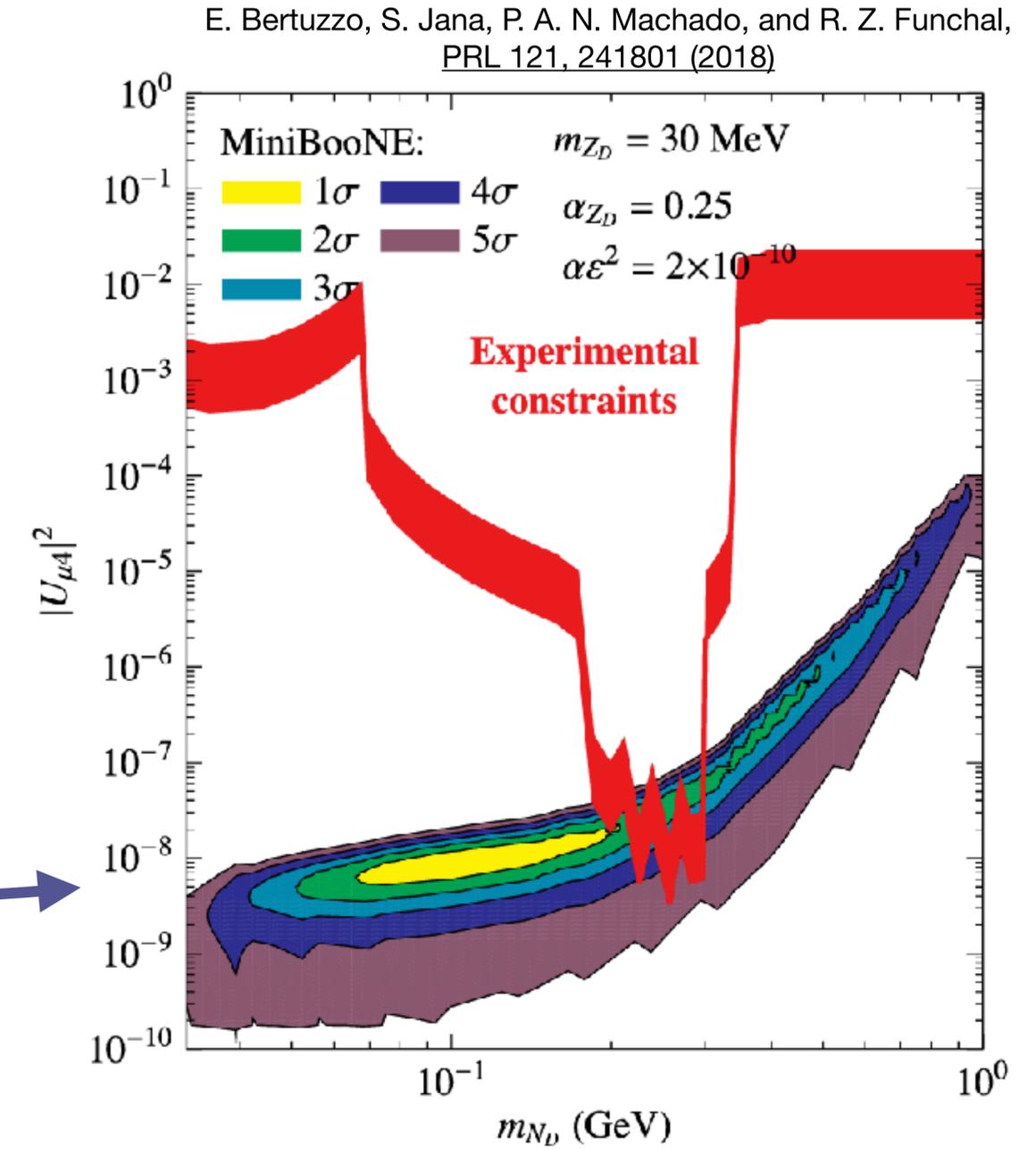
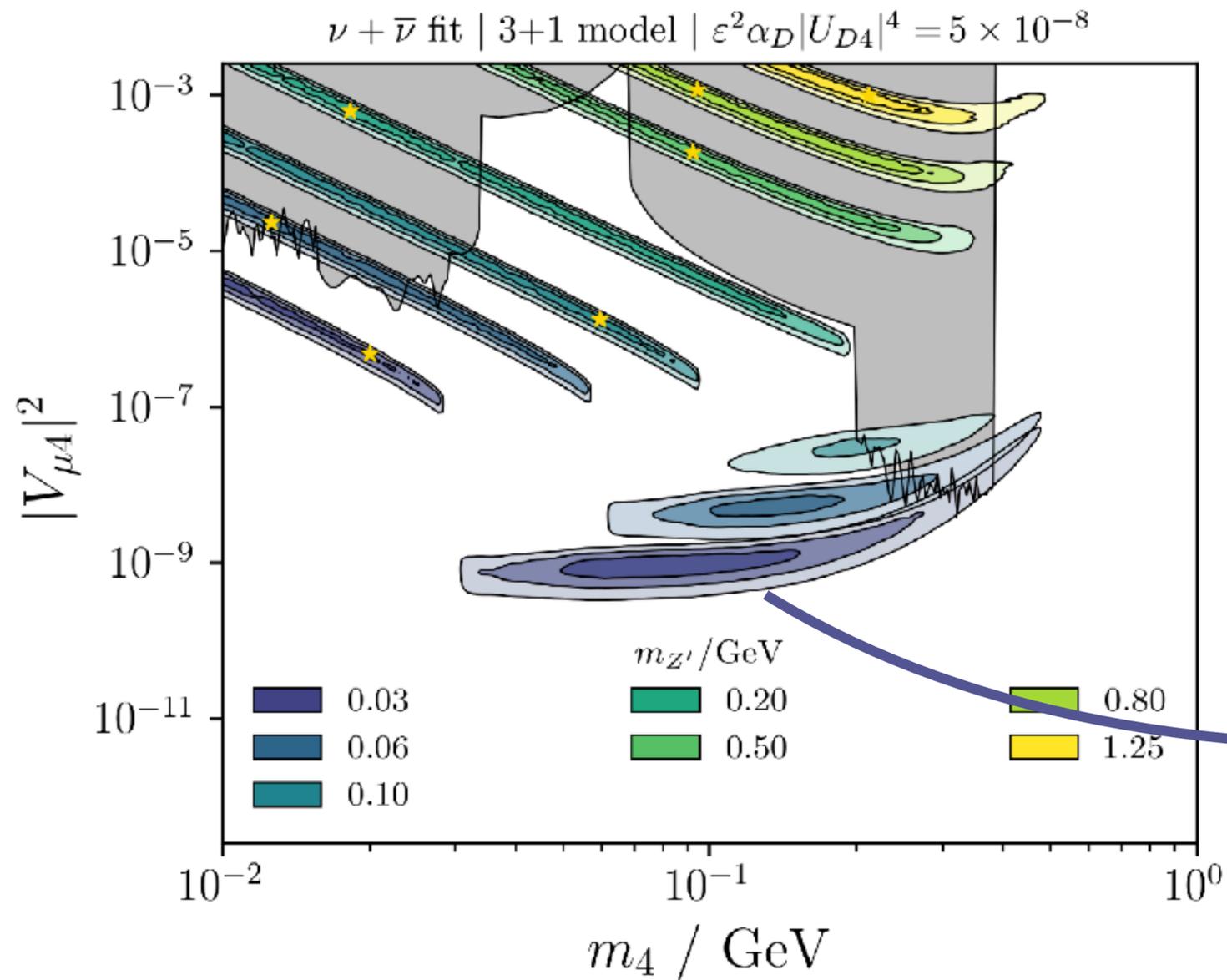
$\cos \theta$



# Dark neutrino sectors at MiniBooNE

## A comprehensive fit to dark photon models

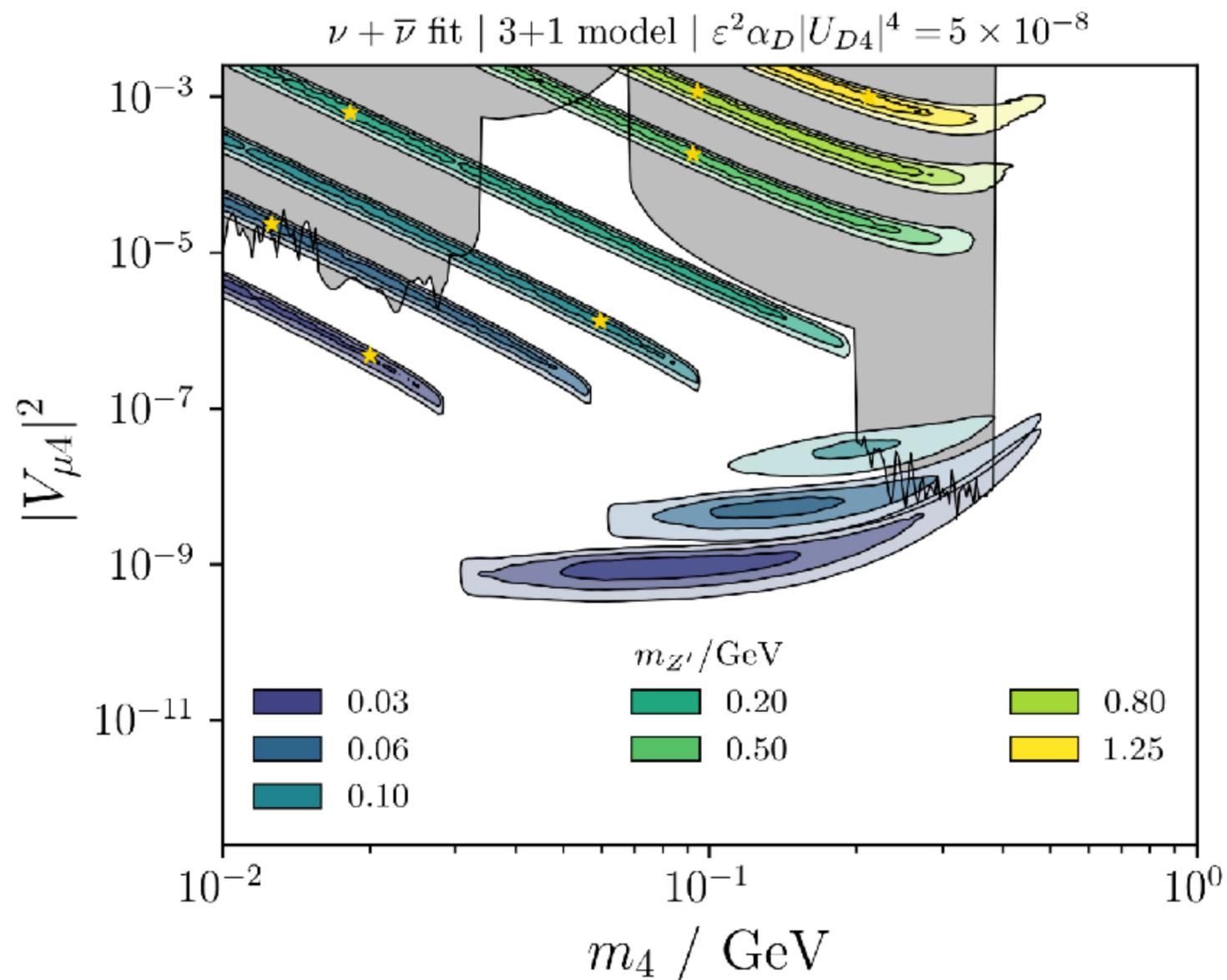
A. M. Abdullahi, J. Hoefken Zink, M. Hostert, D. Massaro, S. Pascoli  
[arXiv:2308.02543](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.02543)



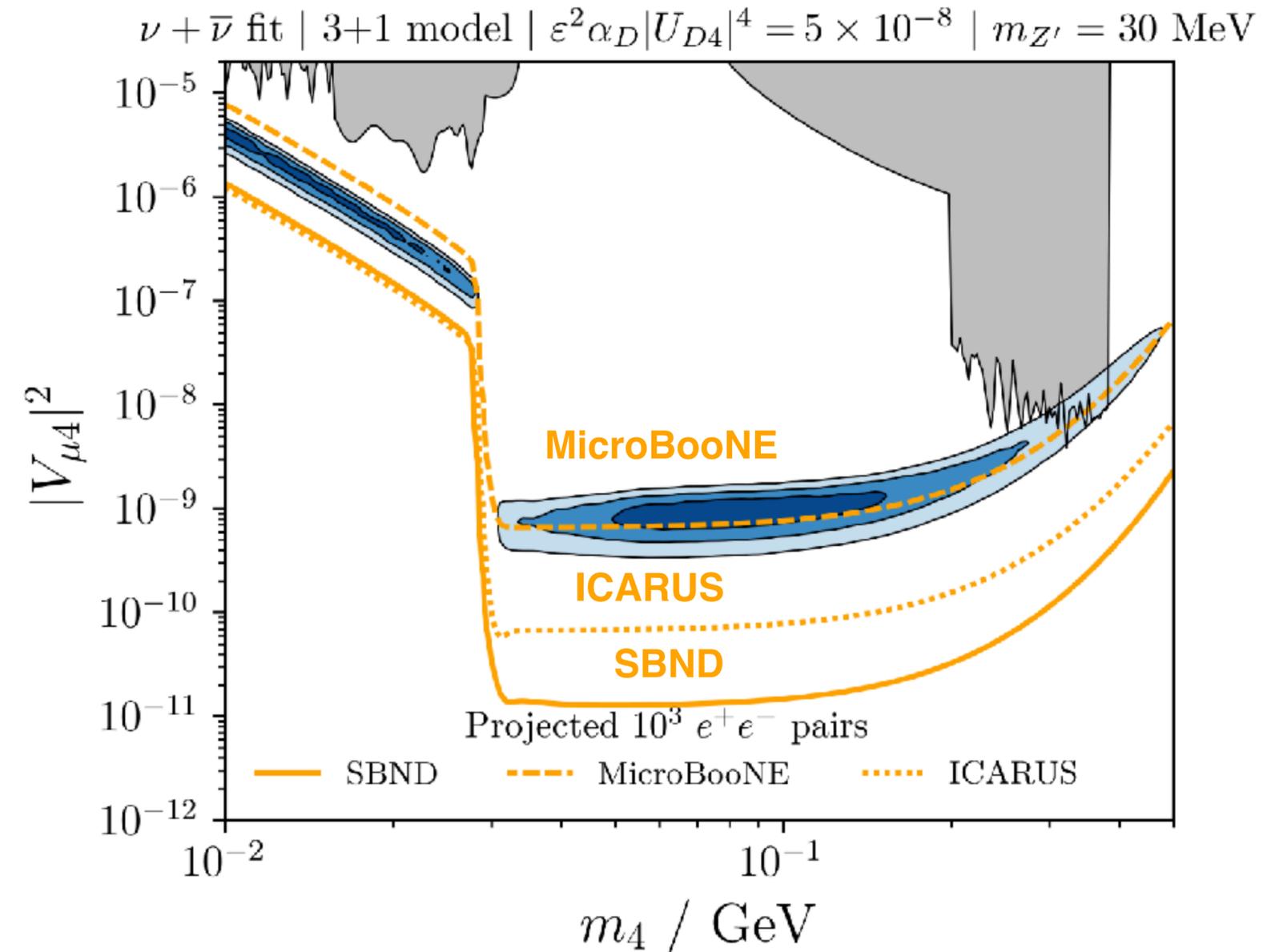
# Dark neutrino sectors at MiniBooNE

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A. M. Abdullahi, J. Hoefken Zink, M. Hostert, D. Massaro, S. Pascoli  
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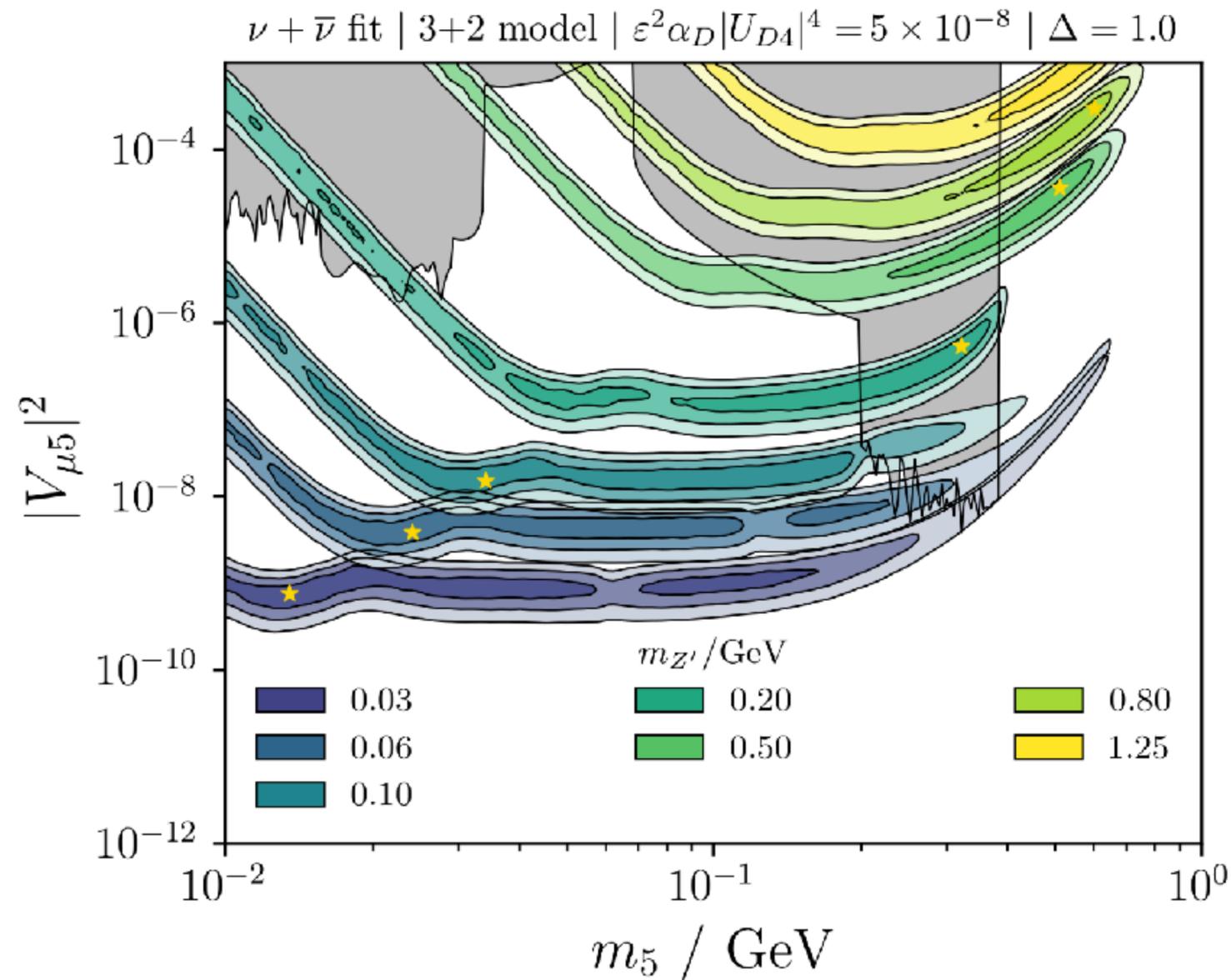
**Not a sensitivity plot! Just benchmarking the rate.**



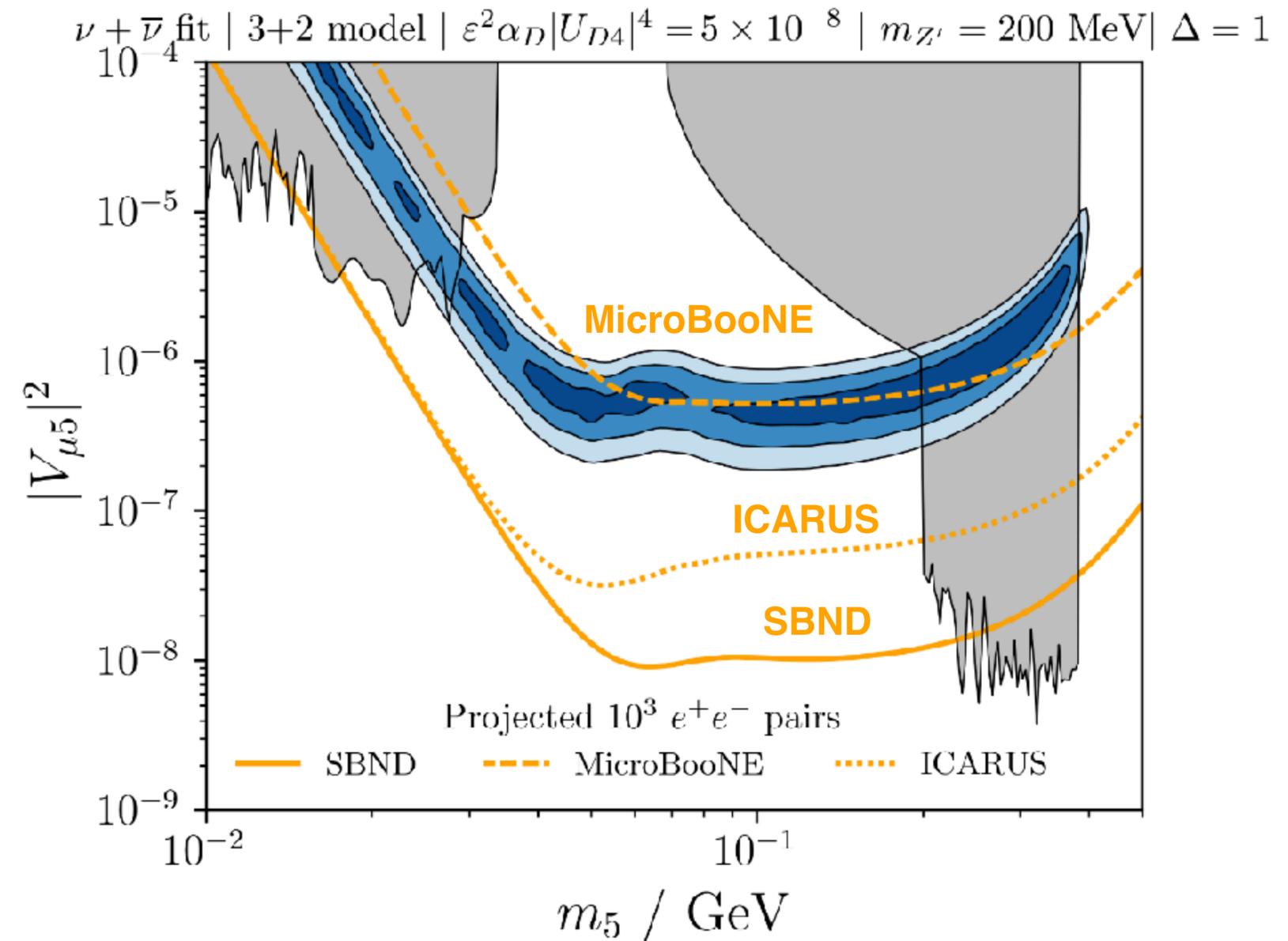
# Dark neutrino sectors at MiniBooNE

## A comprehensive fit to dark photon models

A. M. Abdullahi, J. Hoefken Zink, M. Hostert, D. Massaro, S. Pascoli  
[arXiv:2308.02543](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.02543)

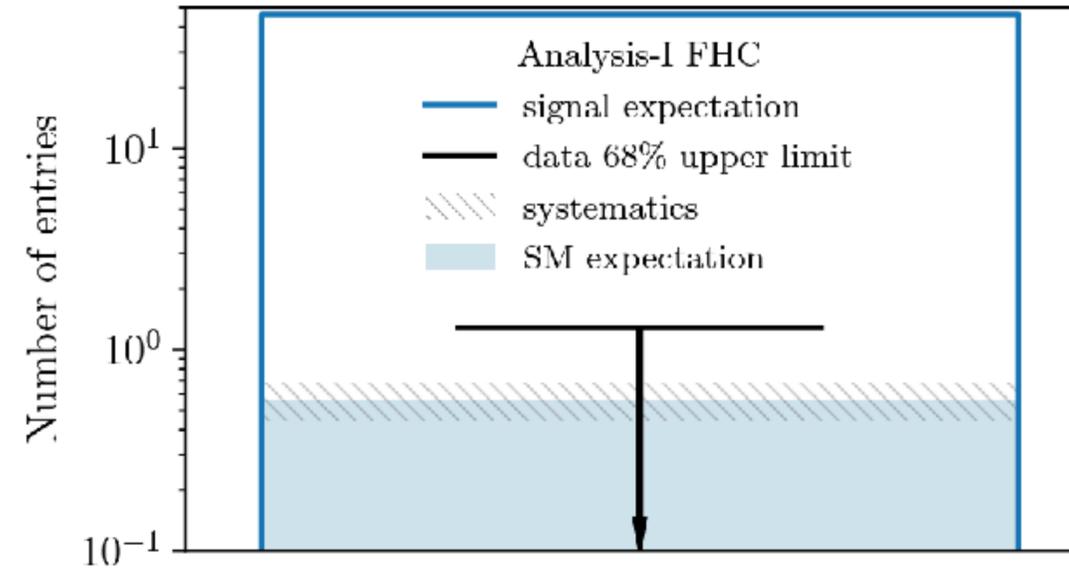
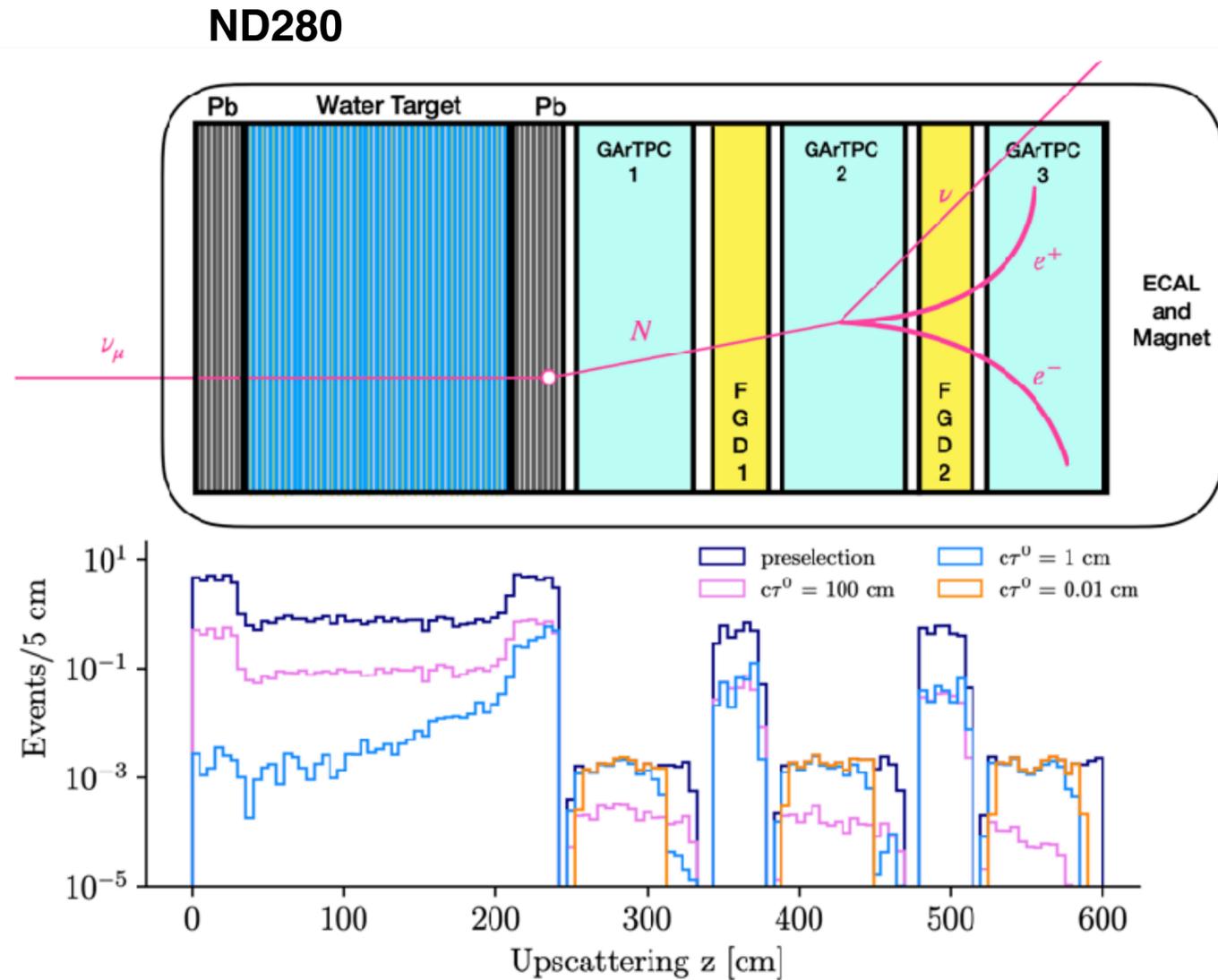


**Not a sensitivity plot! Just benchmarking the rate.**

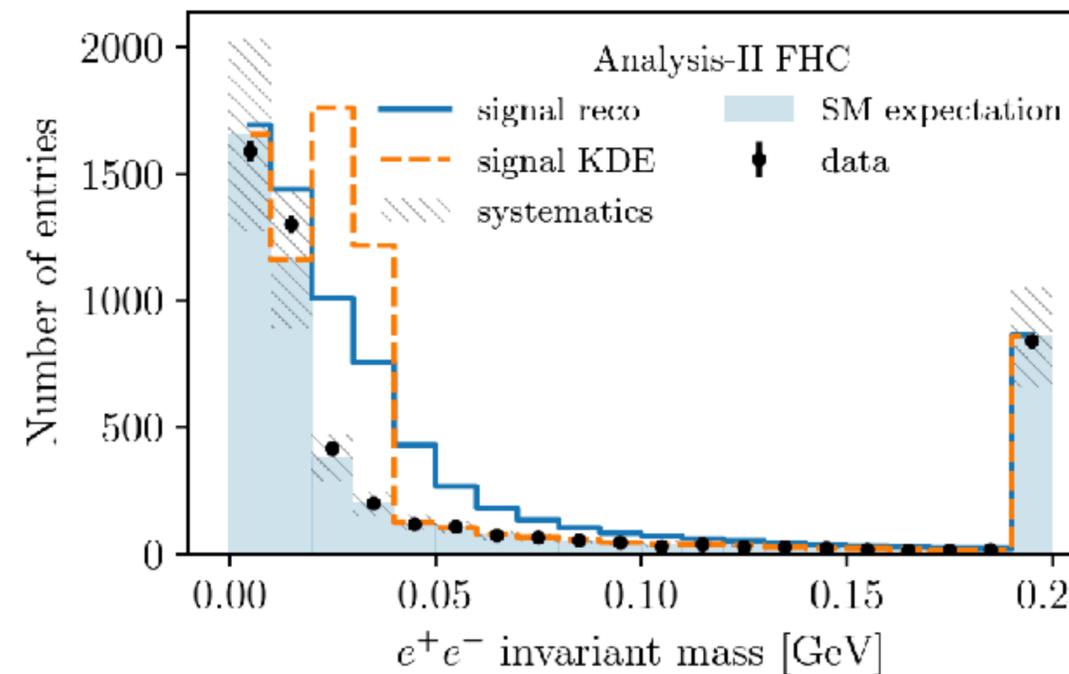


# Dark neutrino sectors at the T2K near detector

## Multi-purpose detector — advantageous for this signature



**Events in GARTPCs**  
 Just event counting,  
 none observed.



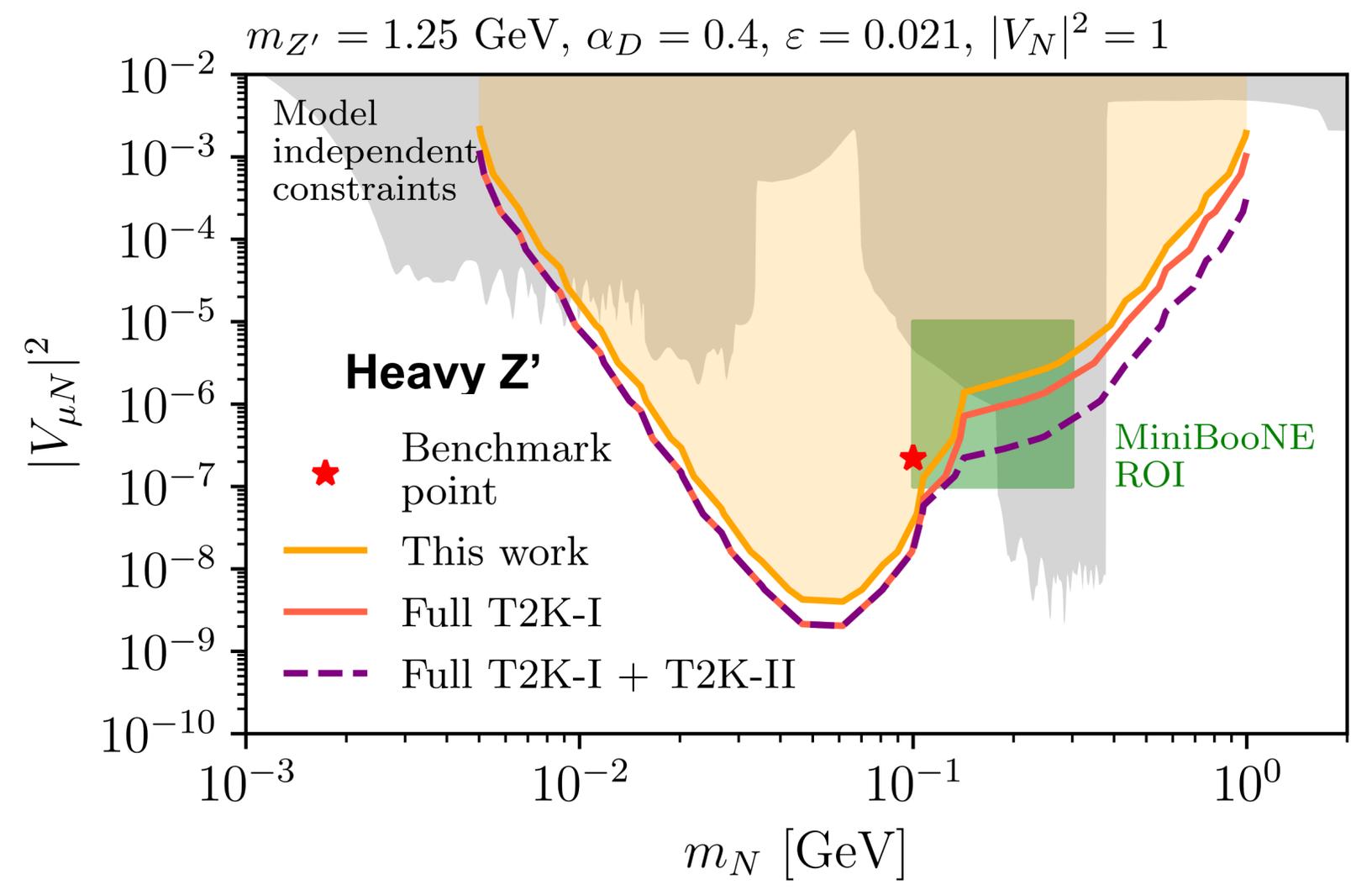
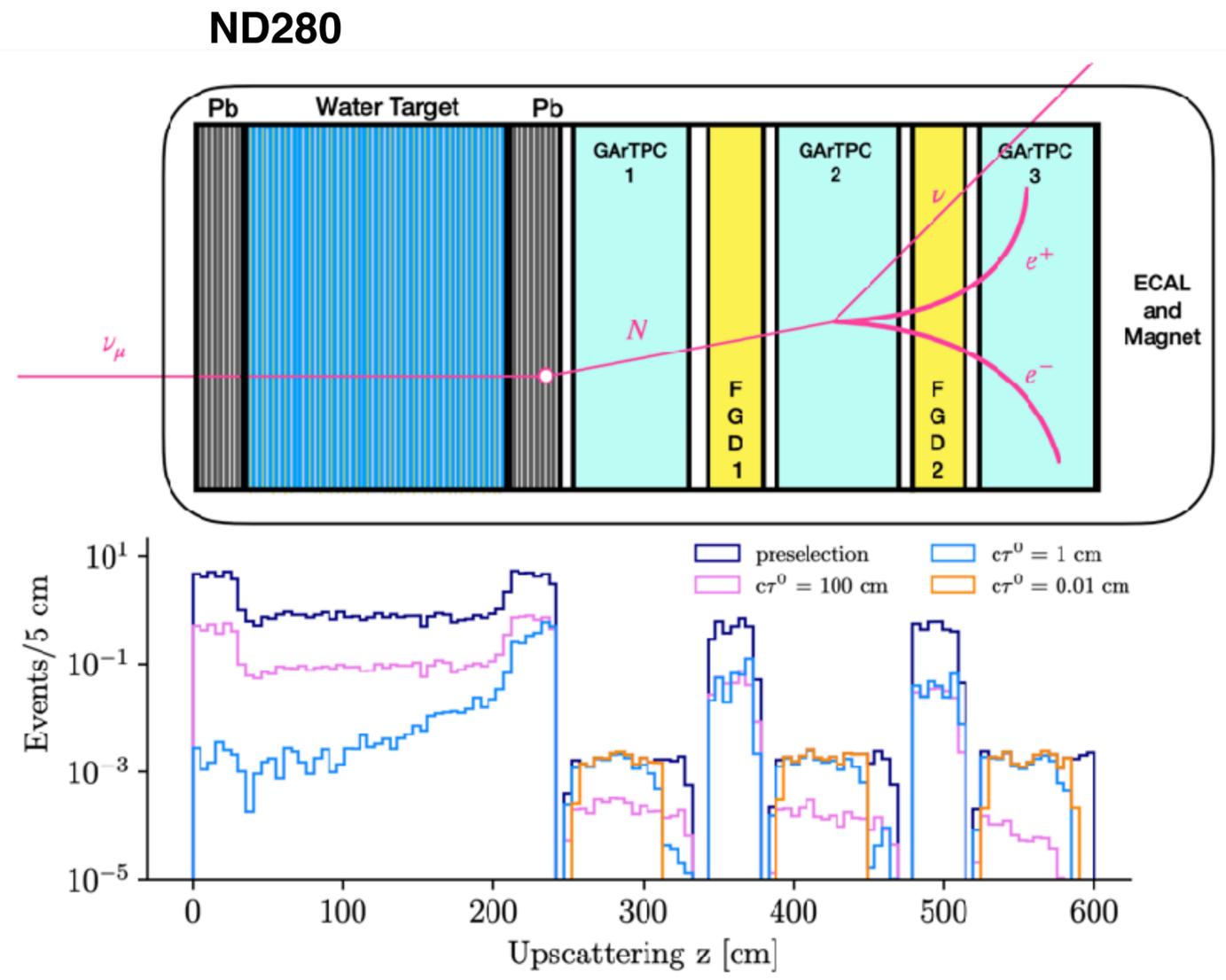
**Events in FGDs**  
 (Using  $Z'$   
 invariant mass)

Upstream lead plates and magnetized gaseous argon TPCs

# Dark neutrino sectors at the T2K near detector

## Multi-purpose detector — advantageous for this signature

C. Argüelles, MH, N. Foppiani, [10.1103/PhysRevD.107.035027](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1103/PhysRevD.107.035027)

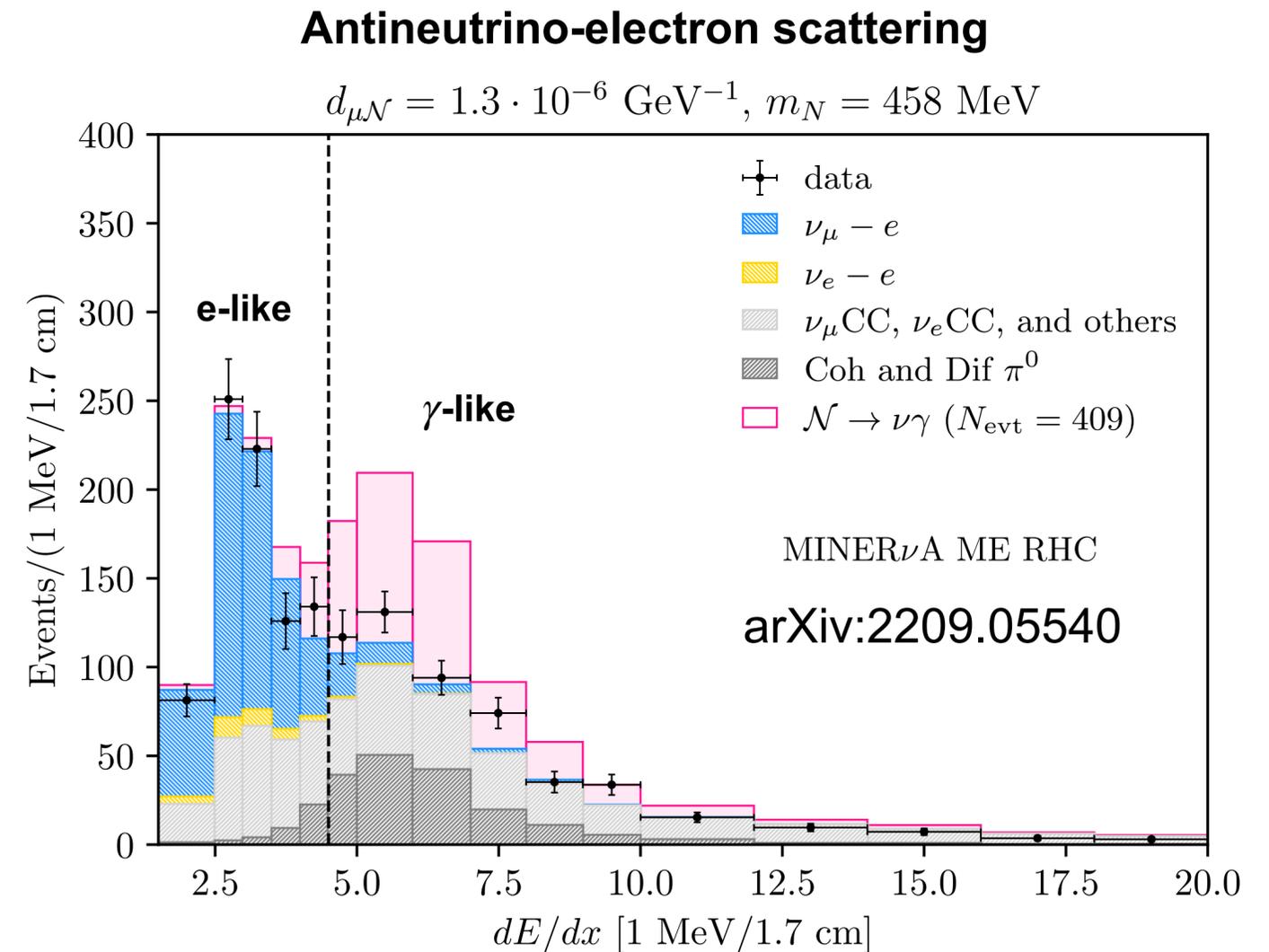
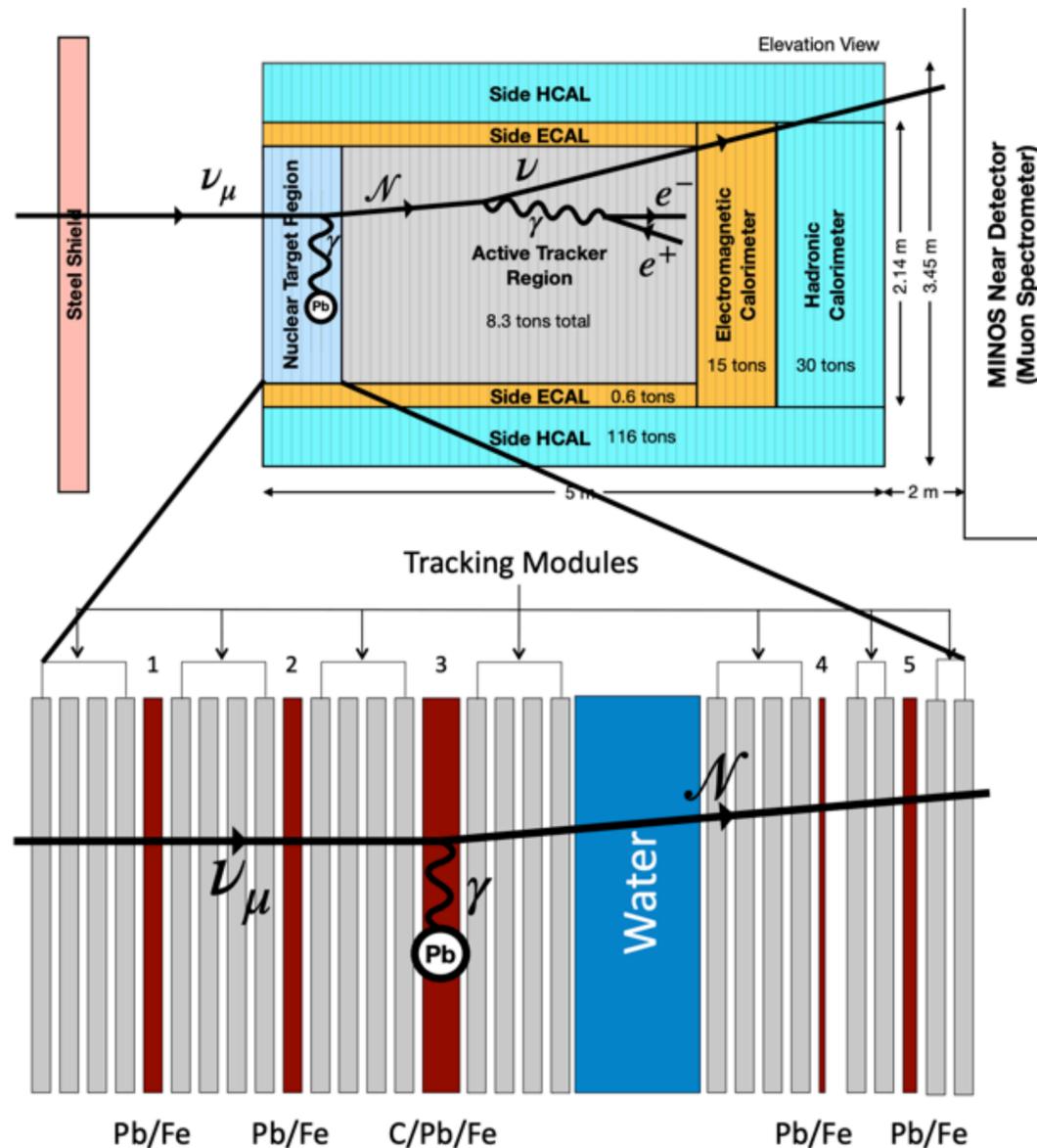


$e^+e^-$  models with  $c\tau_N^0/m_N \gtrsim 3$  cm/GeV are in tension with T2K data.

# Dark neutrino sectors at MINERvA

## The dipole portal to heavy neutral leptons

N. Kamp, MH, A. Schneider, S. Vergani, C. A. Argüelles, J. M. Conrad, M. H. Shaevitz, and M. Uchida *Phys.Rev.D* 107 (2023) 5, 055009

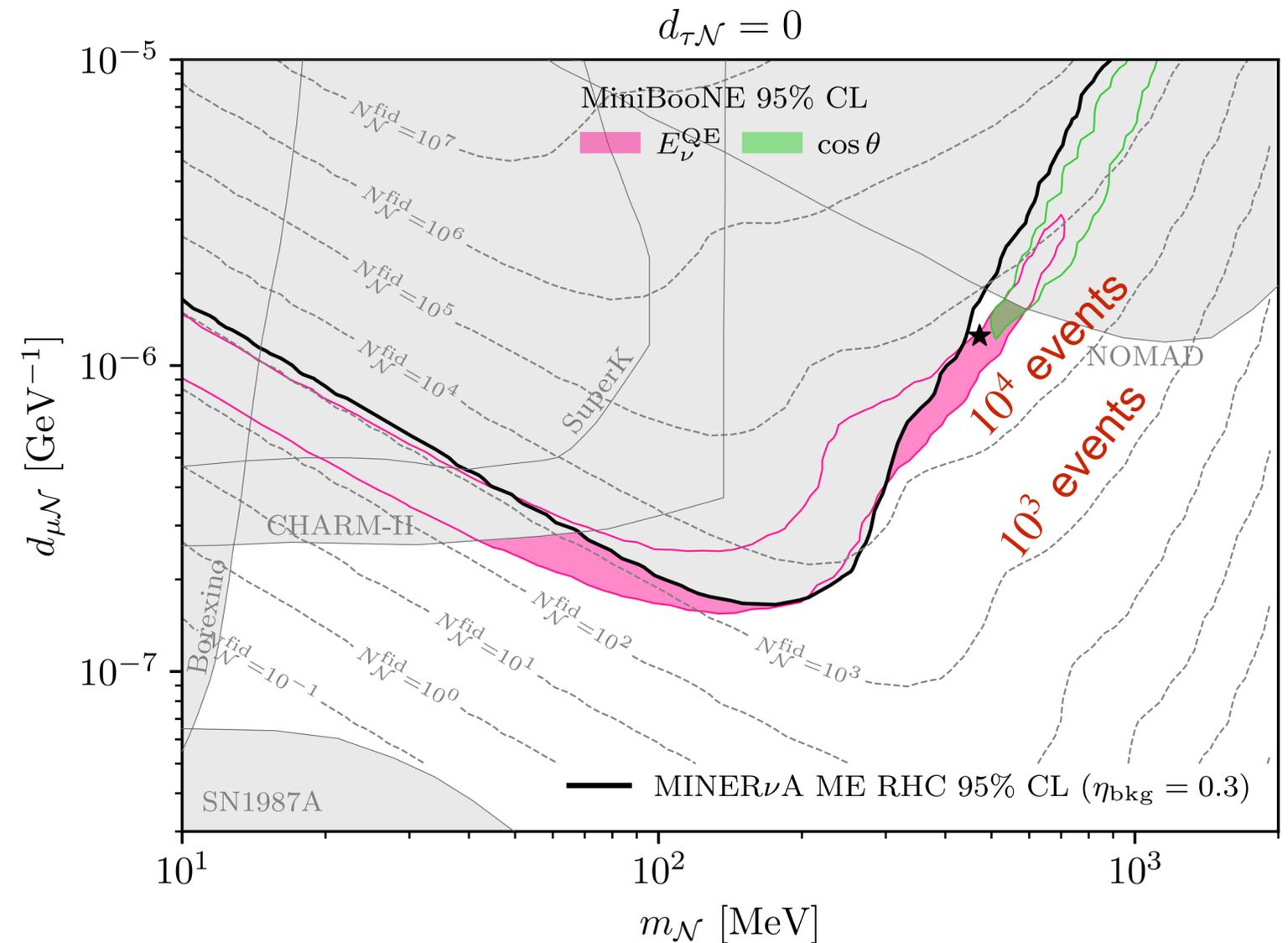
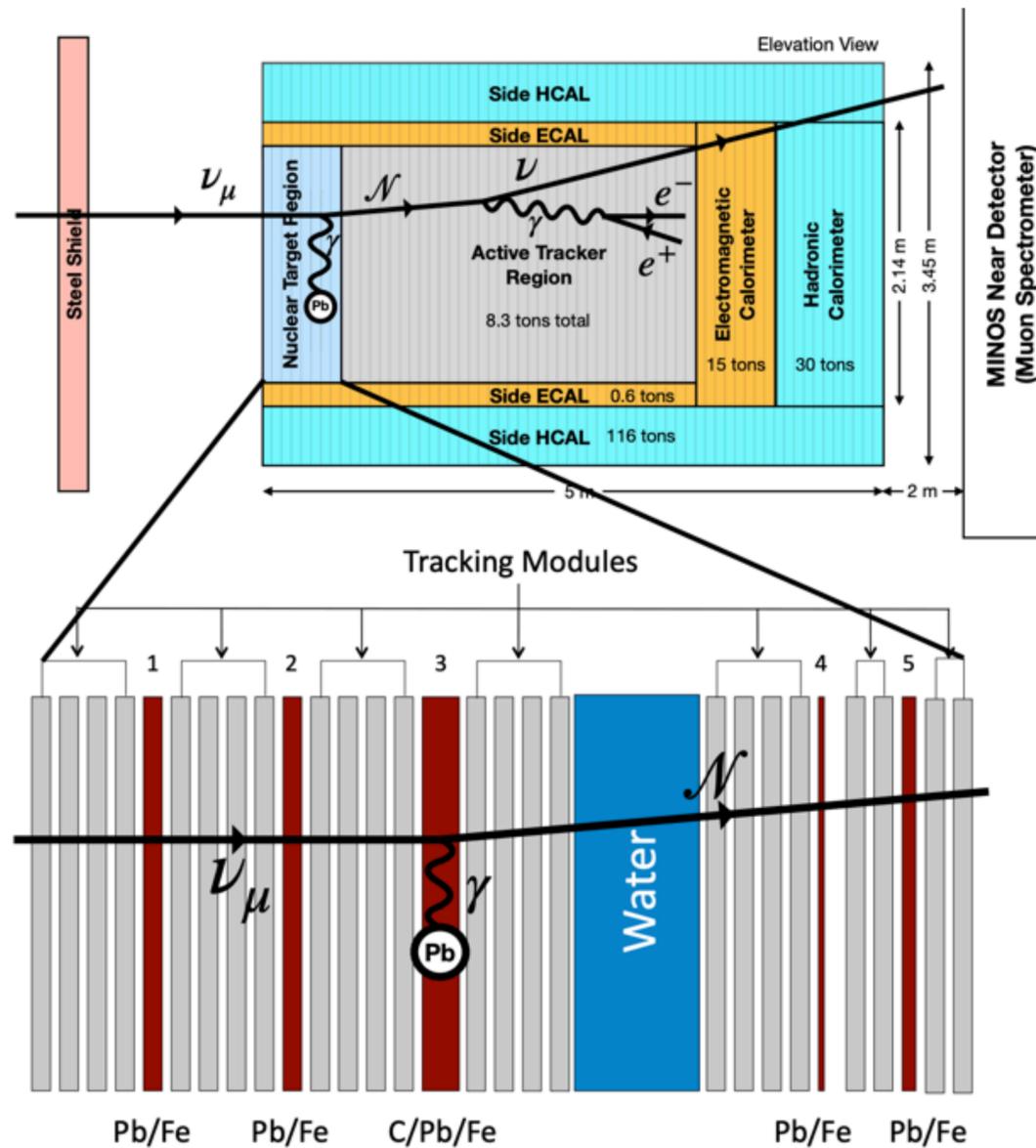


Post-tuning of backgrounds.  
Assign 30% and 100% uncertainty to cover it.

# Dark neutrino sectors at MINERvA

## The dipole portal to heavy neutral leptons

N. Kamp, MH, A. Schneider, S. Vergani, C. A. Argüelles, J. M. Conrad, M. H. Shaevitz, and M. Uchida *Phys.Rev.D* 107 (2023) 5, 055009



There are a huge number of  $N$  that decay inside the fiducial volume of the analysis.

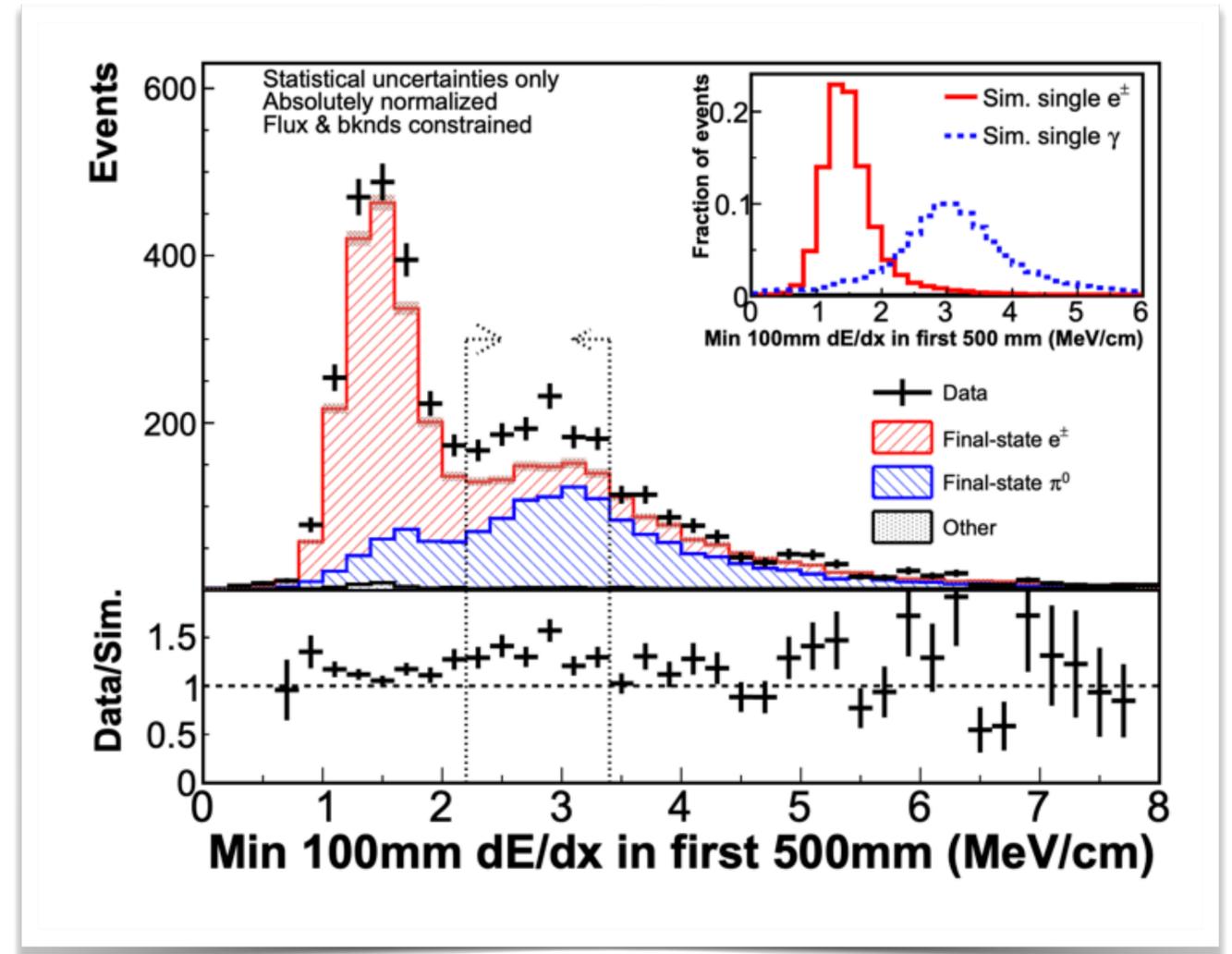
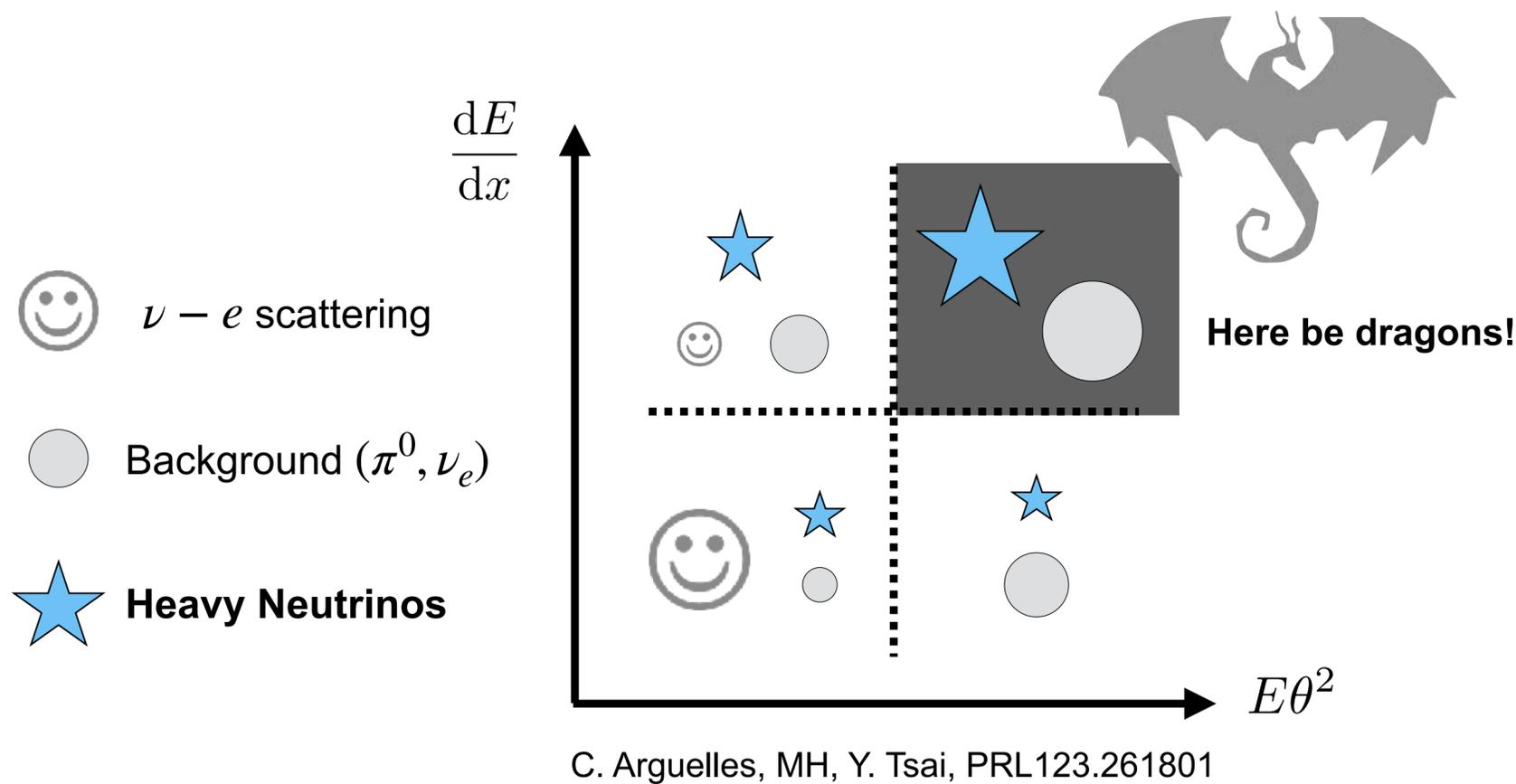
# Dark neutrino sectors at MINERvA

## Limits, dragons, and opportunity

N. Kamp, MH, A. Schneider, S. Vergani, C. A. Argüelles, J. M. Conrad, M. H. Shaevitz, and M. Uchida *Phys.Rev.D* 107 (2023) 5, 055009

MINERvA coll. PRL117, 111801 (2016) arXiv:1604.01728

\* **Excess of events attributed to diffractive  $\pi^0$  production**  
 $(\nu p^+ \rightarrow \nu p^+ \pi^0)$



# Dark neutrino sectors at MINERvA

## Limits, dragons, and opportunity

N. Kamp, MH, A. Schneider, S. Vergani, C. A. Argüelles, J. M. Conrad, M. H. Shaevitz, and M. Uchida *Phys.Rev.D* 107 (2023) 5, 055009

MINERvA coll., arXiv:2312.16631

Excess of events shows up again low- $|t|$   $\nu_e$  study.

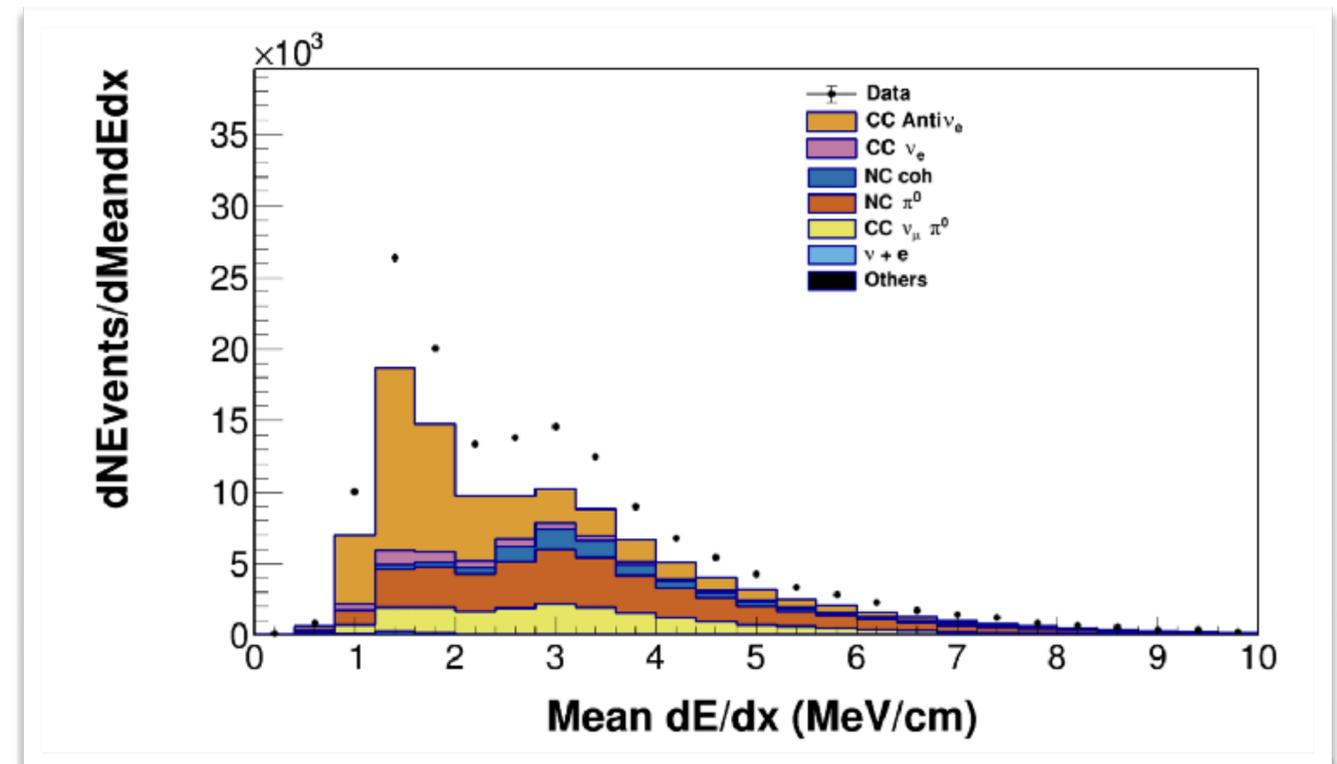
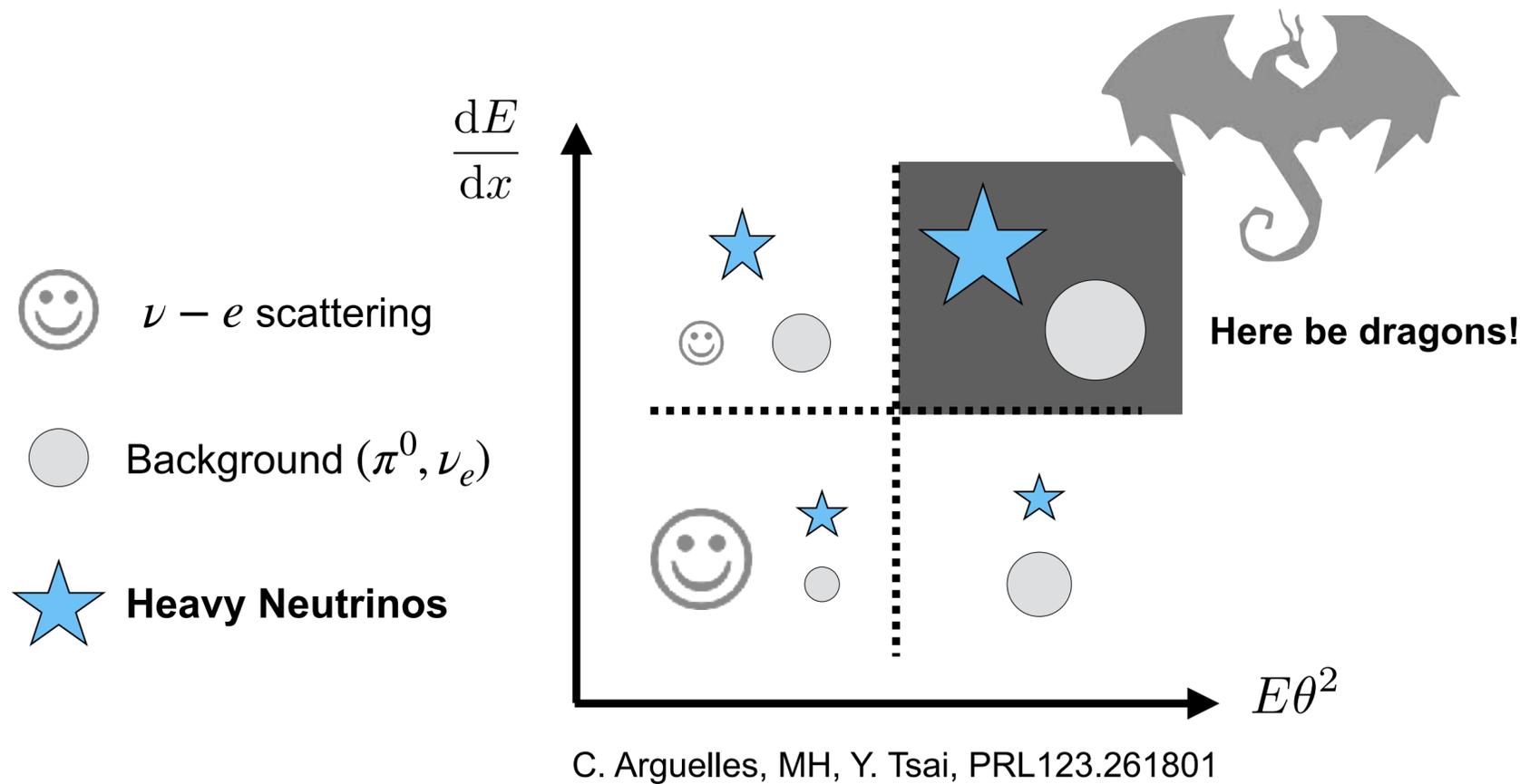


Figure 2 shows the distribution of the mean  $dE/dx$  quantity described above for both data and simulation. There is a large excess of data events in the background dominated region with mean  $dE/dx > 2.4$  MeV/cm.

This excess is similar to what was reported in MINERvA's LE data[23] and with the conclusion that it may be explained through diffractive pion production. NC

# DarkNews Generator

A. Abdullahi, J. Hoefken, MH, D. Massaro, S. Pascoli, [Comput.Phys.Commun. 297 \(2024\) 109075](#)



DarkNews is a lightweight MC generator for new physics in neutrino-nucleus scattering.

To bridge theory and experiment, we require simulation tools.

`pip install DarkNews`  
[github.com/mhostert/DarkNews-generator](https://github.com/mhostert/DarkNews-generator)

```
DarkNews-generator - zsh - mhostert

DarkNews

Model:
1 majorana heavy neutrino(s).
kinetically mixed Z'

Experiment:
MicroBooNE
fluxfile loaded: ../fluxes/MiniBooNE_FHC.dat
POT: 1.225e+21
nuclear targets: ['Ar40']
fiducial mass: [85.0] tonnes

Note that the directory tree for this run already exists.

Generating Events using the neutrino-nucleus upscattering

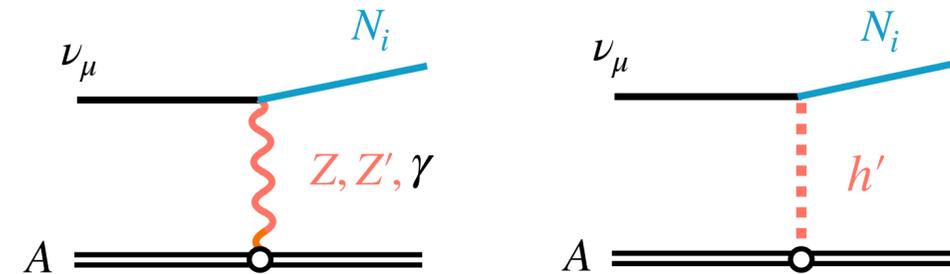
nu(mu) Ar40 -> N4 Ar40 -> nu_light e+ e- Ar40
Helicity conserving upscattering.
N4 decays via off-shell Z'.
Predicted (790 +/- 9.5) events.
```

Modeling several processes for GeV-scale accelerator experiments:

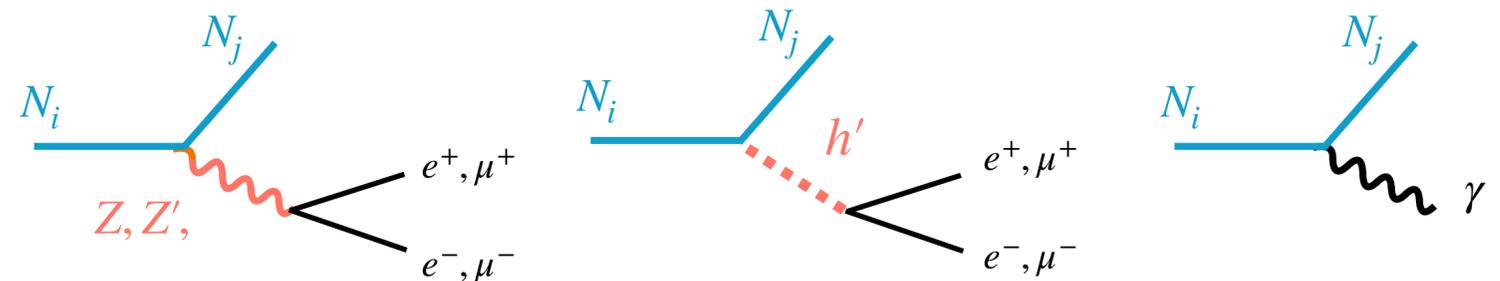
### Particle production:

$$\nu A \rightarrow NA$$

(Coherent & QE peak)



### Particle decay:



# SIREN

## Sampling Injected Rare Events in Experiments

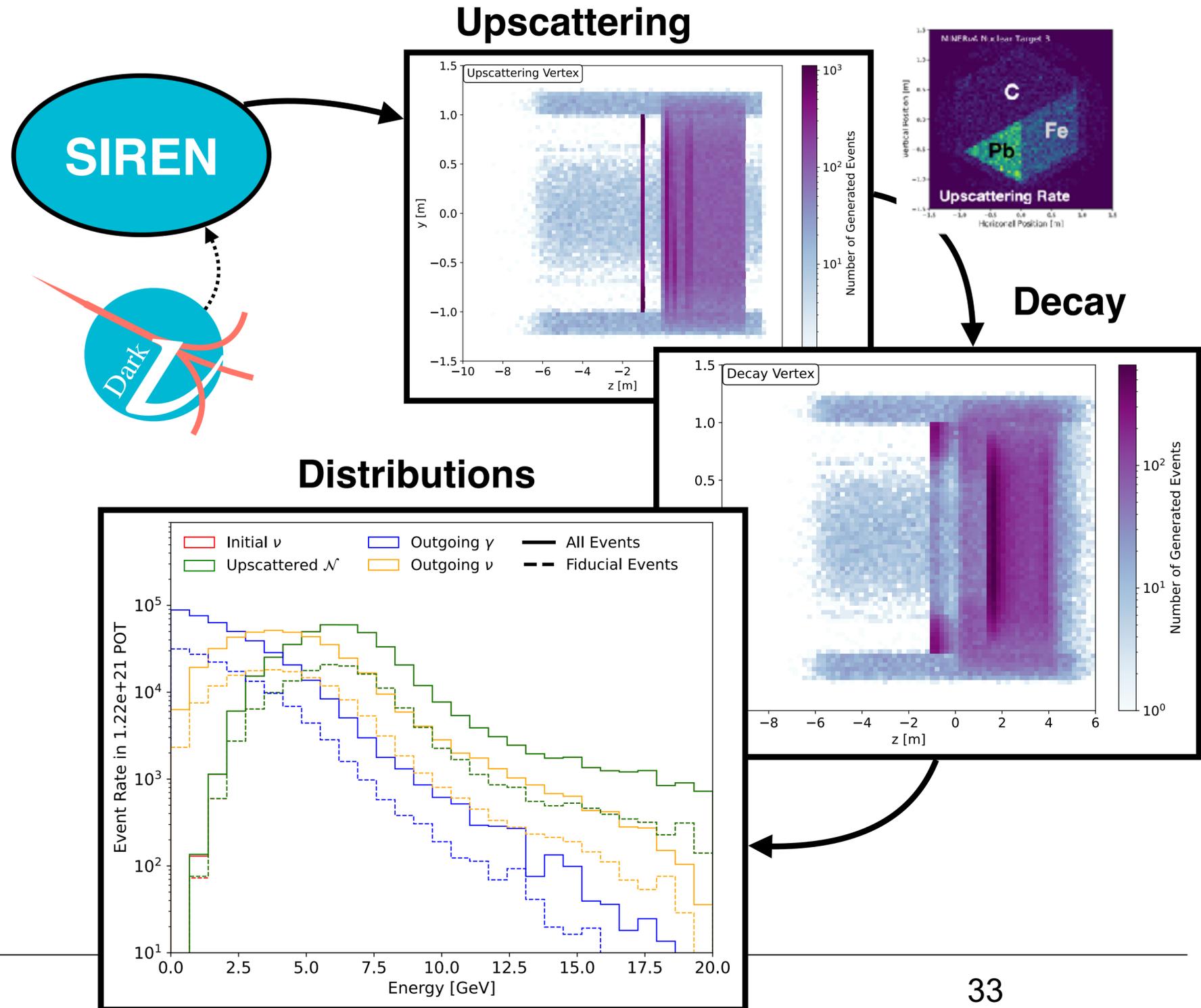
A. Schneider, N. Kamp, A. Wen, *in progress*

Reimagined *LeptonInjector* for BSM studies.

Efficient sampling of interactions and decay locations given a detector geometry.

Already used for MINERvA, CCM, and MiniBooNE studies.

Now integrated with DarkNews, so has access to cross section and decay rates in dark sector models.



# Sterile neutrinos beyond oscillations at SBL

1) Decays to electromagnetic final states  $\gamma$  and  $e^{+/-}$ :

a) beam production

b) neutrino upscattering

**2) Decays to neutrinos:  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  conversion from decay**

3) Sterile-induced matter potential: resonant  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  conversion

# Decaying sterile neutrinos

Effective  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  appearance with small  $\nu_\mu$  disappearance

S. Palomares-Ruiz *et al*, [JHEP09\(2005\)048](#)

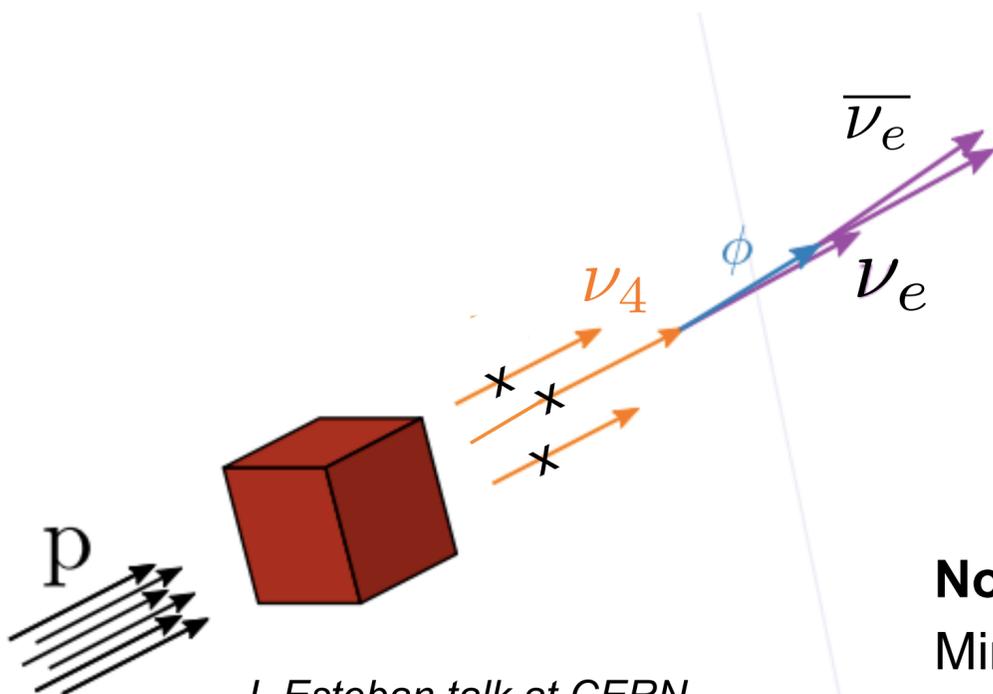
Z. Moss *et al*, [PRD 97, 055017 \(2018\)](#)

M. Dentler *et al*, [PRD101\(2020\) 115013](#).

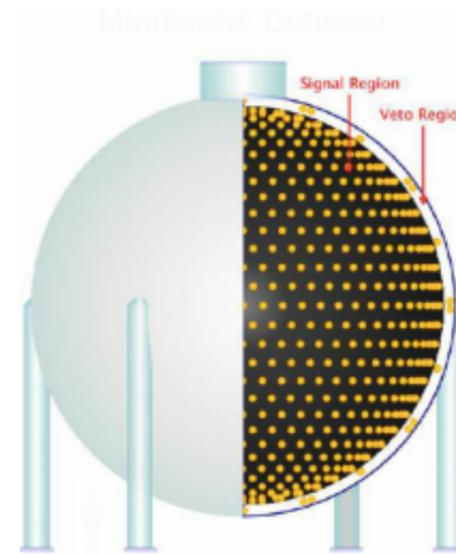
A. deGouvea *et al*, [JHEP07\(2020\)141](#)

Light sterile and a new scalar particle  $\varphi$ :

$$-\mathcal{L} \supset g_\varphi \bar{\nu}_s \nu_s \varphi + \sum_{\alpha, \beta} m_{\alpha\beta} \bar{\nu}_\alpha \nu_\beta,$$



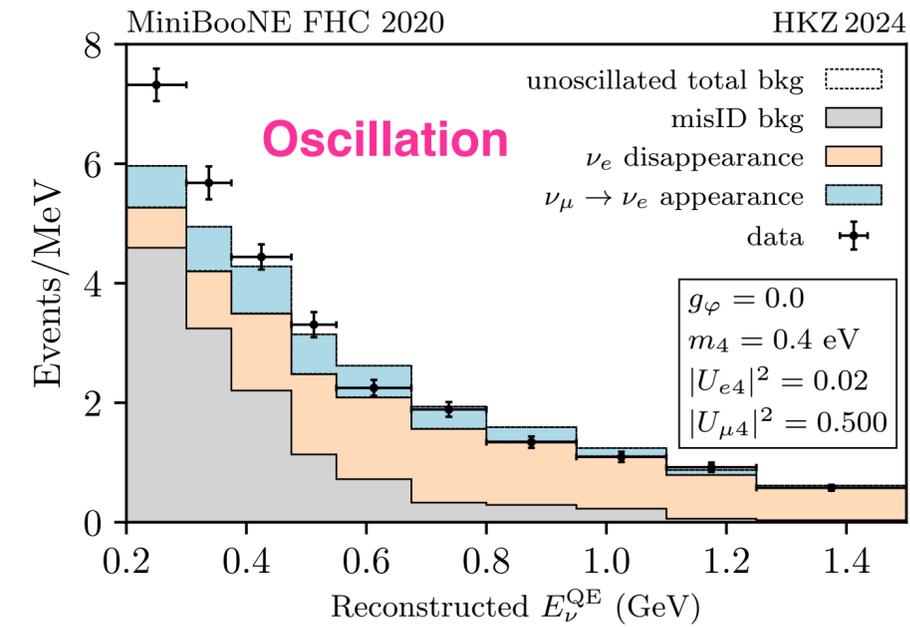
I. Esteban talk at CERN  
10.5281/zenodo.3509890.



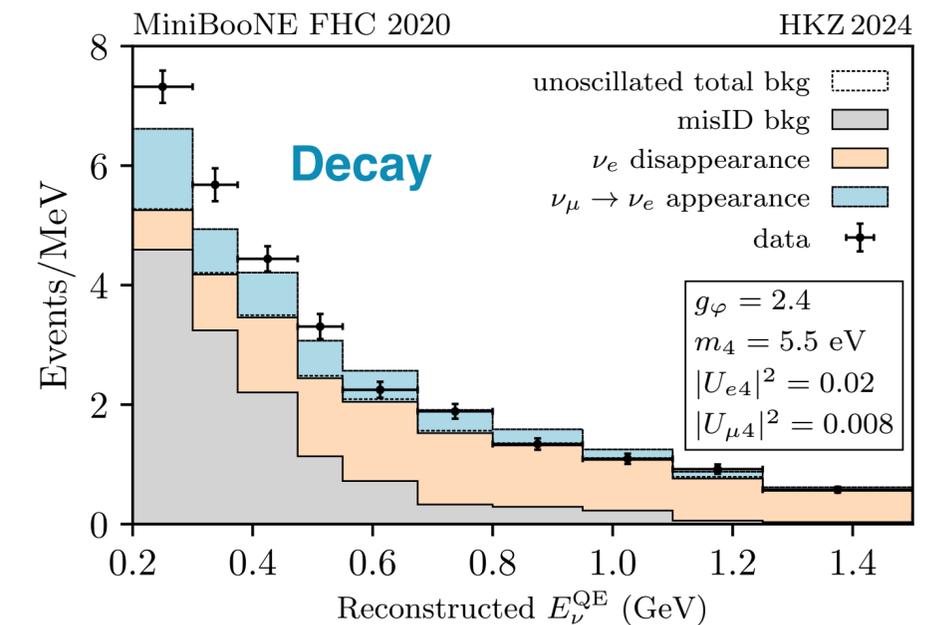
**No tension with disappearance:**

MiniBooNE signal:  $|U_{\mu 4}|^2$

$\nu_\mu$  disappearance:  $|U_{\mu 4}|^2$



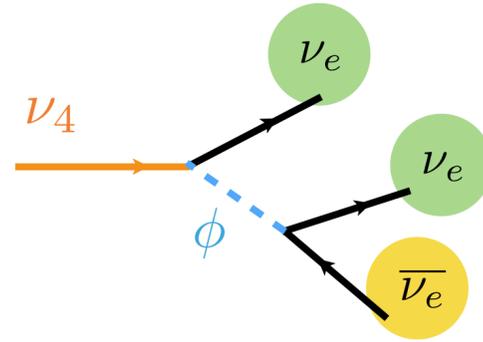
MH, K. Kelly, T. Zhou,  
in preparation



# "Visible" sterile neutrino decay

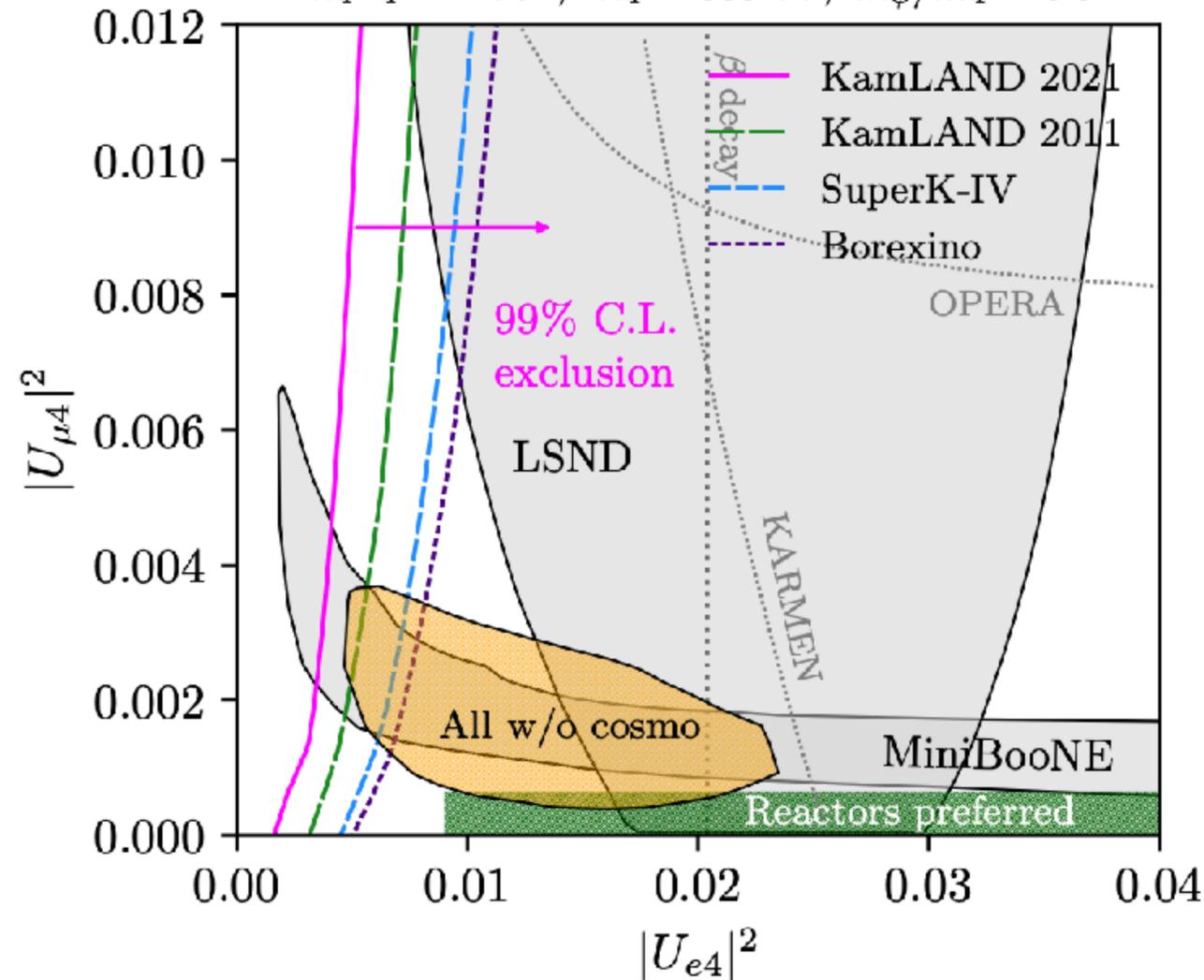
## 1) $\nu_4$ decays to $\nu_e \nu_e \bar{\nu}_e$ and $|U_{e4}| \neq 0$

M. Dentler *et al*, [PRD101\(2020\) 115013](#)



MH, M. Pospelov, [PhysRevD.104.055031](#)

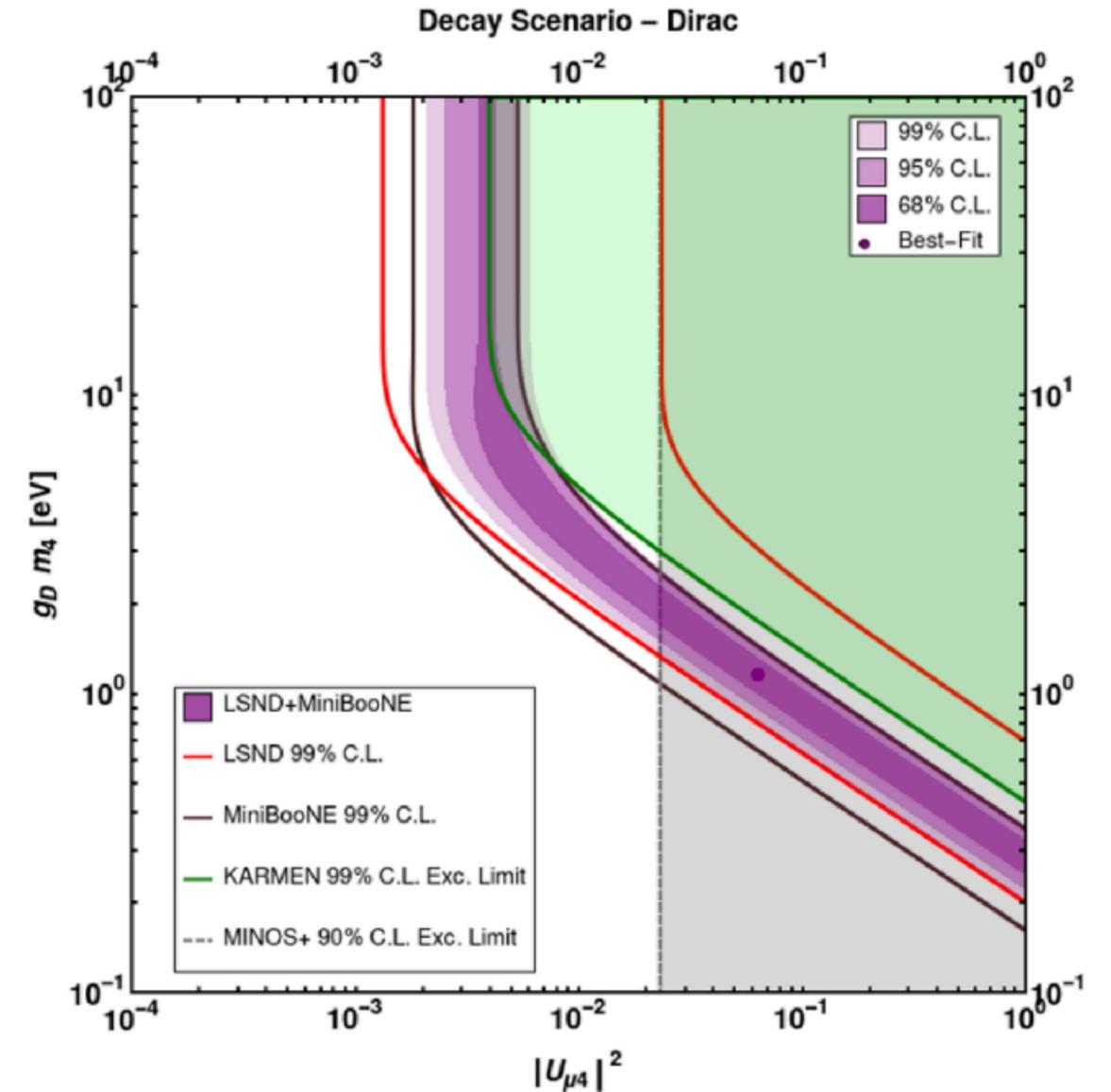
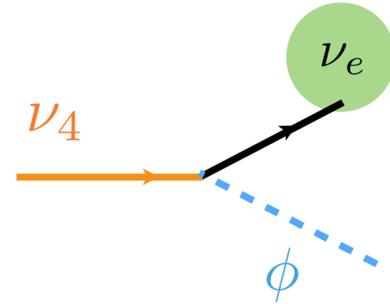
$m_4 \Gamma_4 = 1 \text{ eV}^2$ ,  $m_4 = 300 \text{ eV}$ ,  $m_\phi/m_4 = 0.9$



## 2) $\nu_4$ decays to $\nu_e$ only and $|U_{e4}| = 0$

S. Palomares-Ruiz *et al*, [JHEP09\(2005\)048](#)

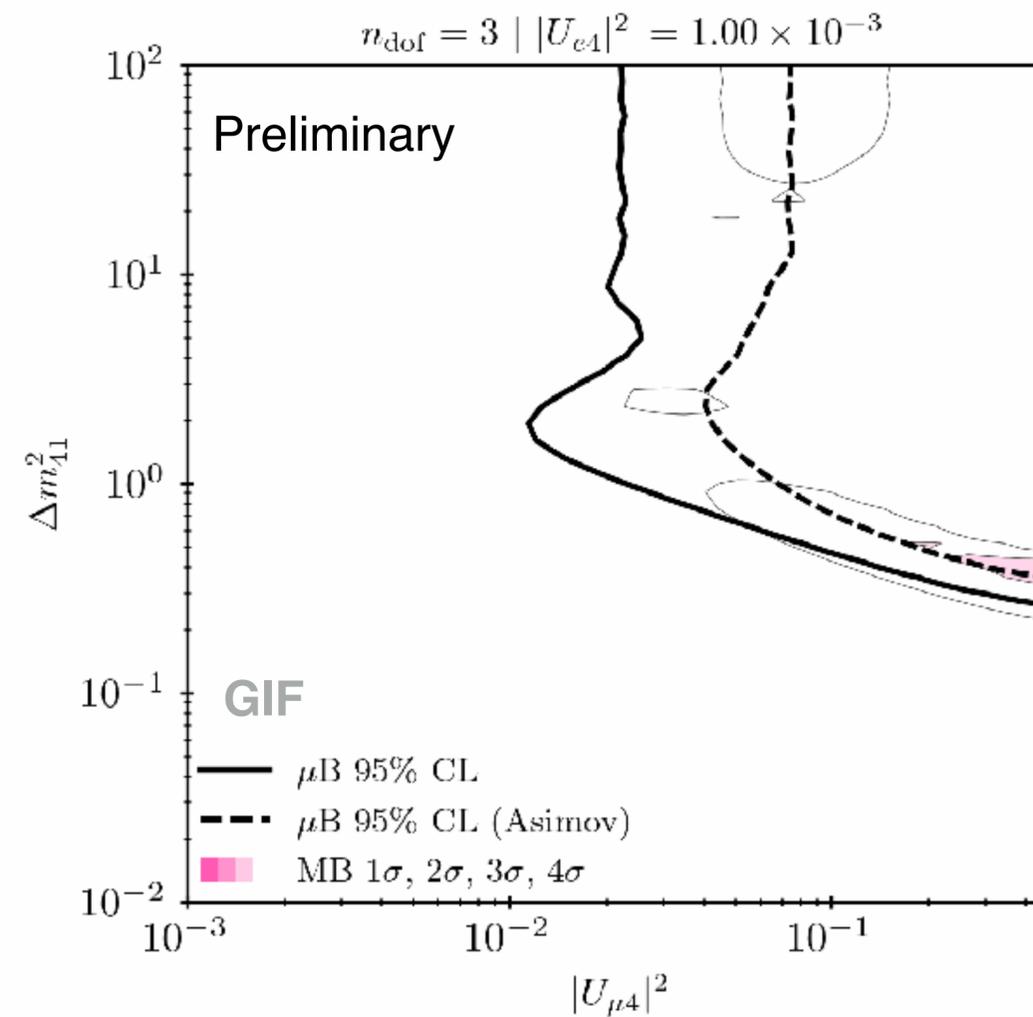
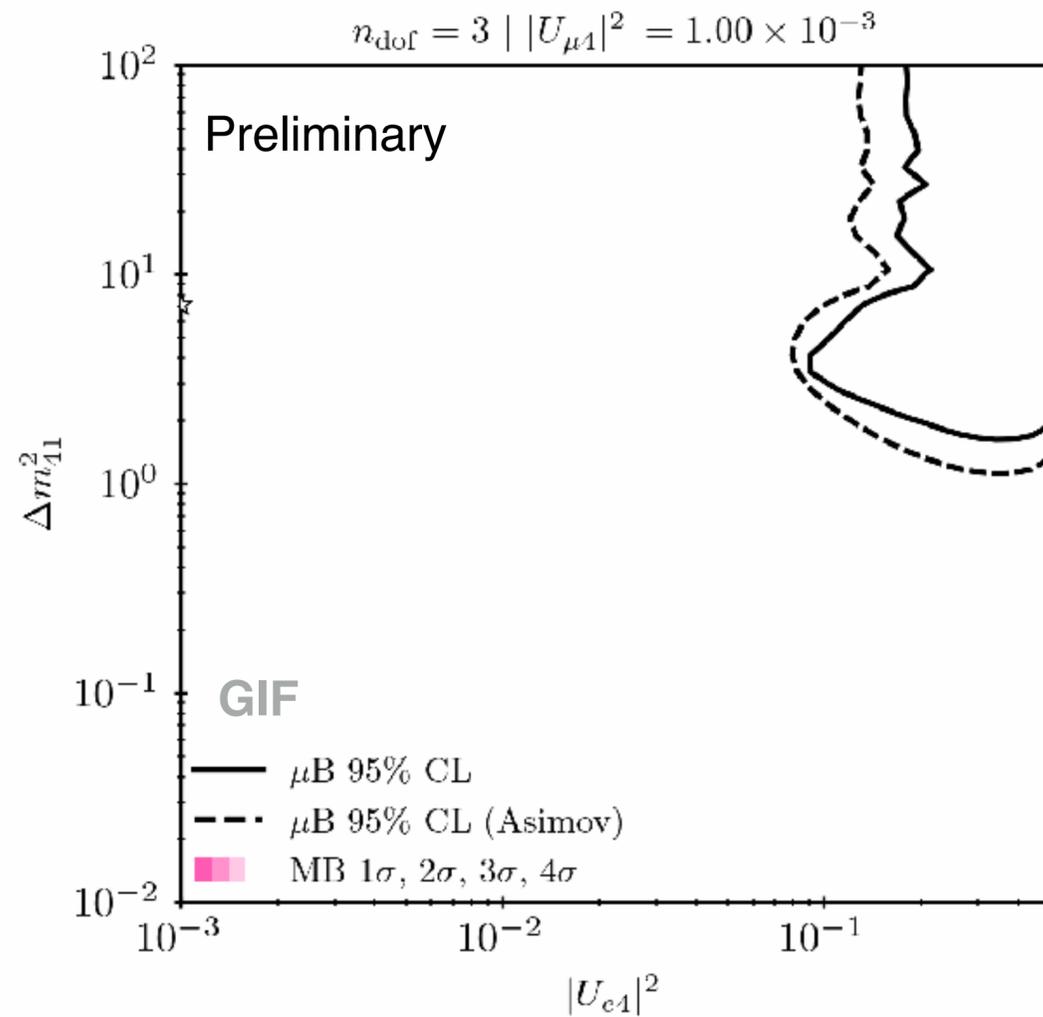
A. deGouvea *et al*, [JHEP07\(2020\)141](#)



# Full 3+1 oscillation **with no decay**

## MiniBooNE vs MicroBooNE in slices in parameter space

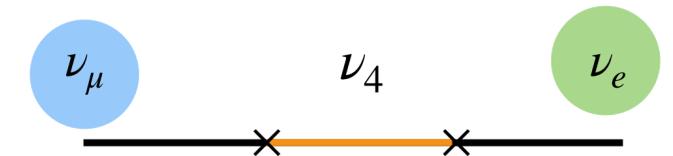
MH, K. Kelly, T.Zhou, in preparation



### Combined fit to $\nu + \bar{\nu}$ modes:

$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e$  appearance

$\nu_e$  and  $\nu_{\mu}$  disappearance



### Expanding on previous work:

C. A. Argüelles, I. Esteban, **MH**, K. J. Kelly, J. Kopp, P. A. N. Machado, I. Martinez-Soler, and Y. F. Perez-Gonzalez

**PRL 128, 241802.**

MiniBooNE coll.,  
**PRL 129 (2022) 20, 201801**

MicroBooNE coll.,  
**PRL 130 (2023) 1, 011801**

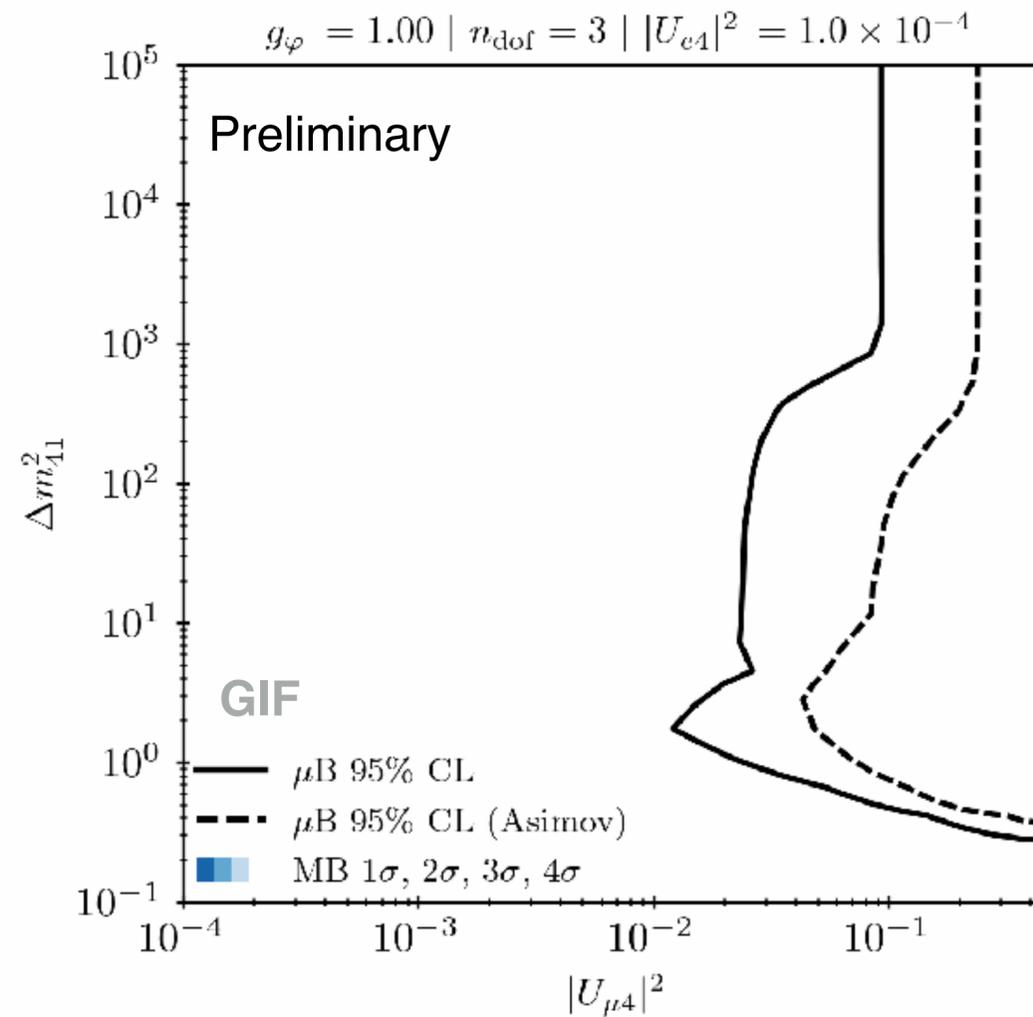
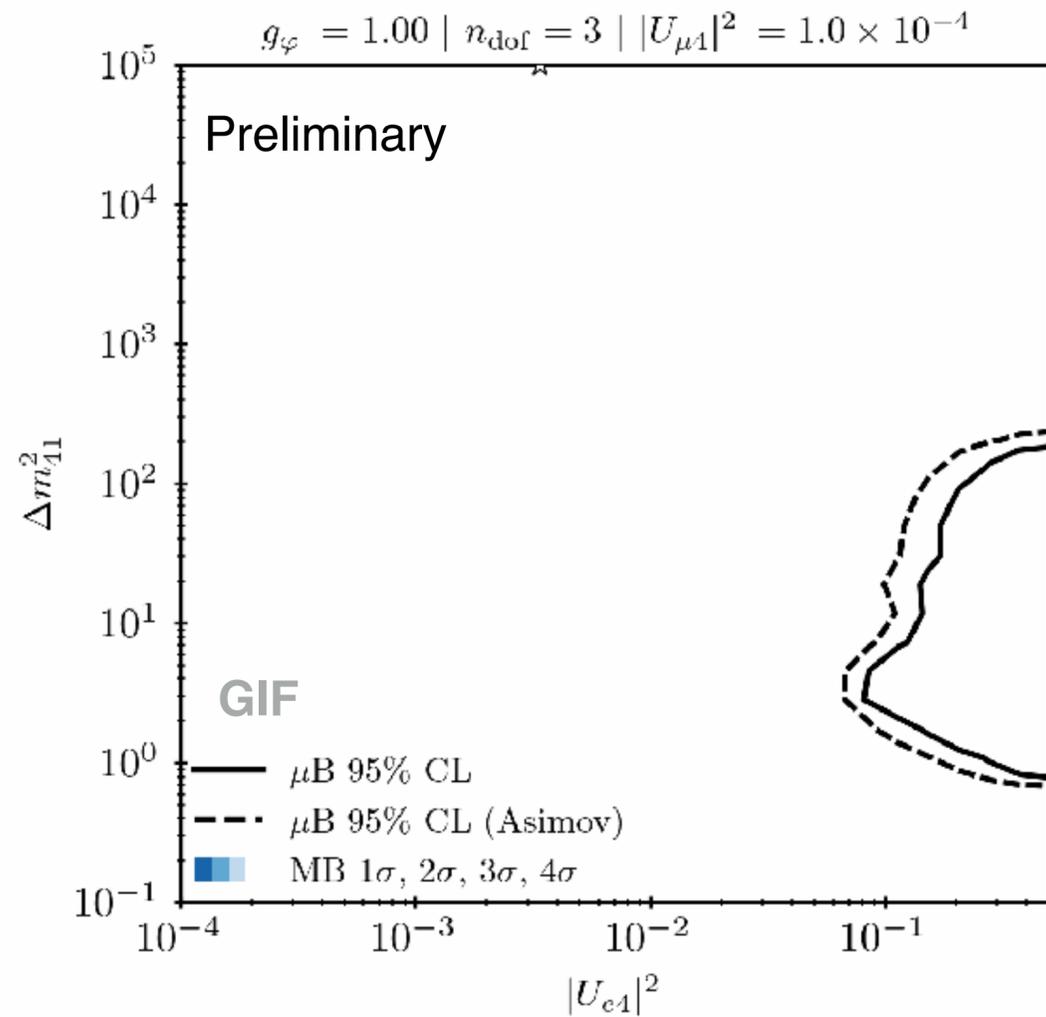
\* Other limits not show:  $\nu_e$  and  $\nu_{\mu}$  disappearance and cosmology.



# Full 3+1 oscillation with decay

## MiniBooNE vs MicroBooNE in slices in parameter space

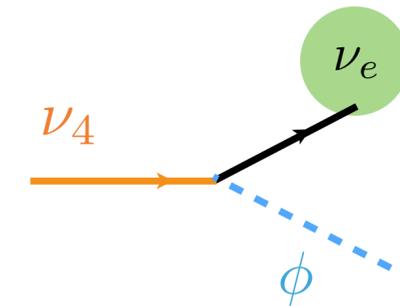
MH, K. Kelly, T.Zhou, in preparation



### Combined fit to $\nu + \bar{\nu}$ modes:

$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  appearance

$\nu_e$  and  $\nu_\mu$  disappearance



Overall conclusion is similar,  
Constraints somewhat stronger due to  
the energy degradation of signal  $\nu_e$

\* Other limits not show:  $\nu_e$  and  $\nu_\mu$  disappearance, cosmology, and supernovae neutrinos.

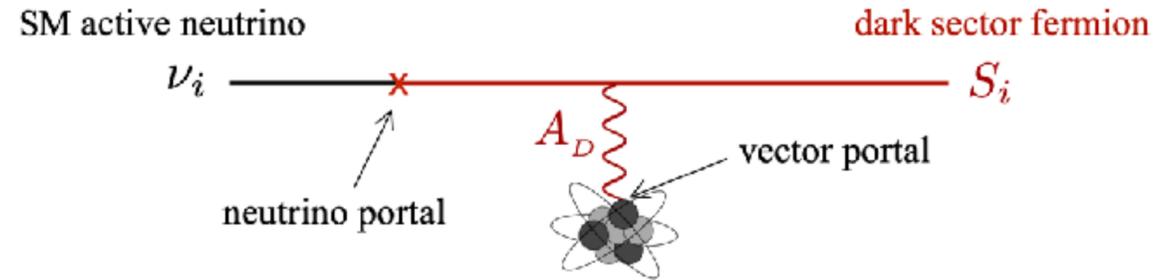
# Sterile neutrinos beyond oscillations at SBL

- 1) Decays to electromagnetic final states  $\gamma$  and  $e^{+/-}$ :
  - a) beam production
  - b) neutrino upscattering
- 2) Decays to neutrinos:  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  conversion from decay
- 3) **Sterile-induced matter potential: resonant  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  conversion**

# Resonant flavor transitions

## Quasi-sterile neutrinos

D. S. M. Alves, W. C. Louis, P. G. deNiverville, *JHEP* 08 (2022) 034



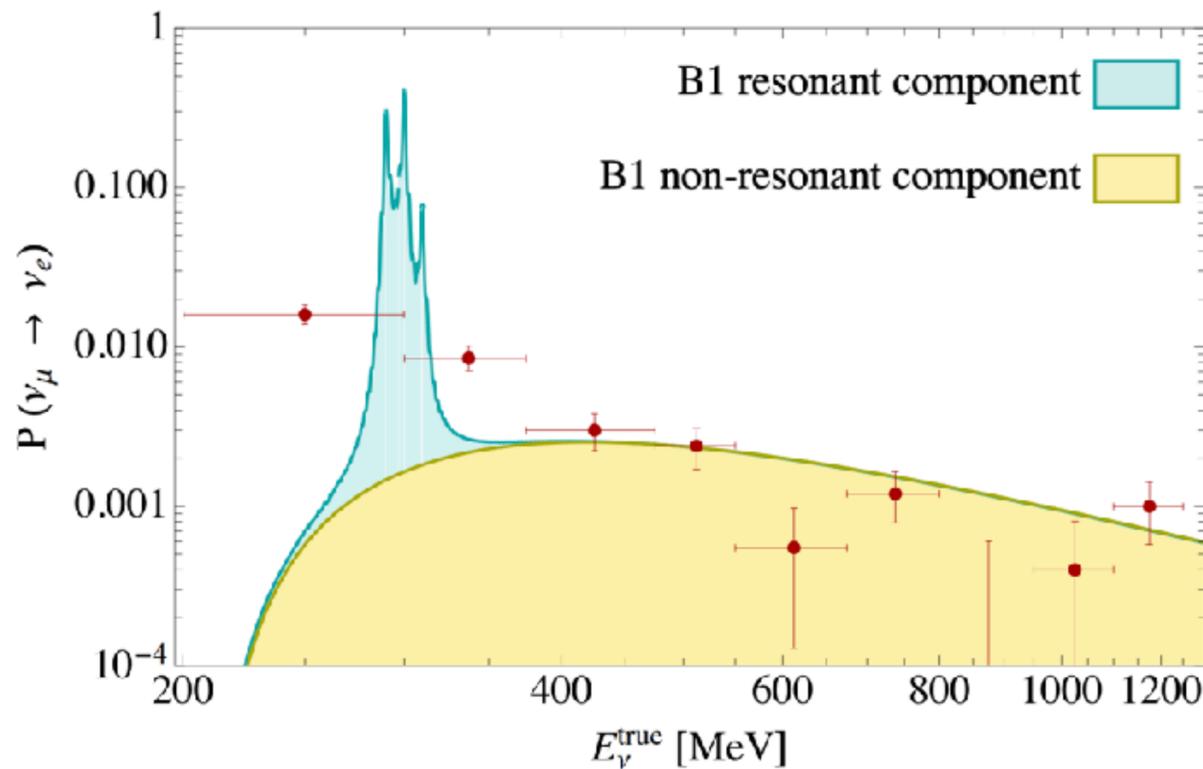
Quasi-sterile neutrinos with large interactions with matter:

$$\Delta V|_{\text{matter}} = (V_{S_3} - V_{\nu_i})|_{\text{matter}}$$

$$E_{\nu_3}^{\text{res}} = \frac{\delta M_3^2 \cos 2\theta_{S_3}}{2|\Delta V|}$$

Challenging to find a UV model with such large potentials, but the potential may come from:

- Ordinary matter ( $p^+$ ,  $e^-$ ,  $n$ )
- Ultra-light dark matter background
- Modified dispersion relations (e.g., large extra-dimensions)

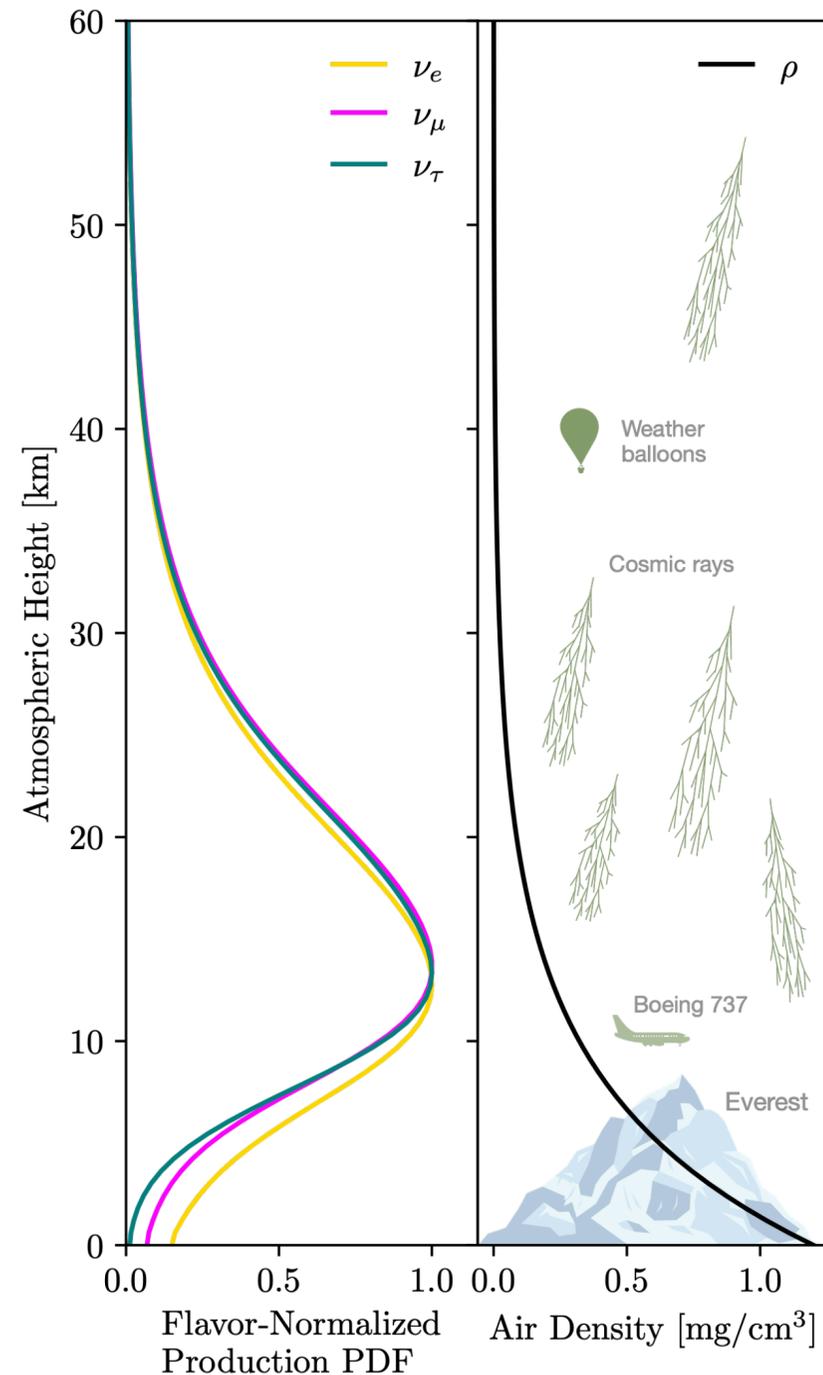


# Resonant flavor transitions

## Neutrino telescopes weigh in

C. Sponsler\*, MH, I. Martinez-Soler, C. Argüelles,  
in preparation

\* Harvard undergrad student



Neutrinos are produced throughout the atmosphere, transversing varying **air density**

**Resonance moves to higher energies:**

$$\frac{E_{\text{res}}}{200 \text{ MeV}} \sim |Q| \left( \frac{3 \text{ MeV}}{m_{A'}/g_X} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\rho}{1 \text{ g}/\text{cm}^3} \right) \left( \frac{\delta m^2}{10^4 \text{ eV}^2} \right),$$



$$E_{\text{res}} \sim \mathcal{O}(500) \text{ GeV in atmosphere}$$

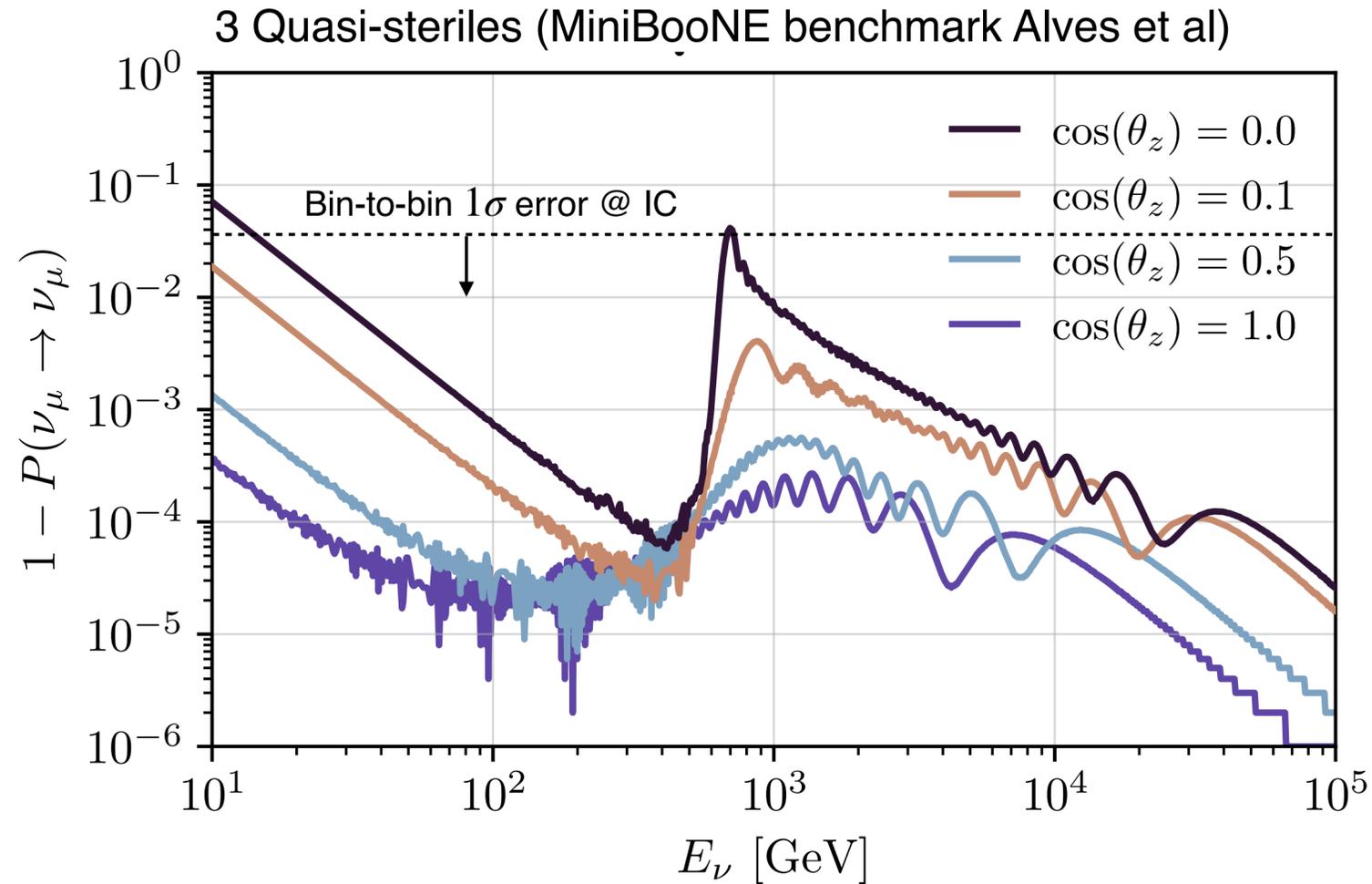
**If the quasi-sterile potential is sourced by SM matter ( $e^-$ ,  $p^+$ ,  $n$ ),  
this resonance must be there.**

# Resonant flavor transitions

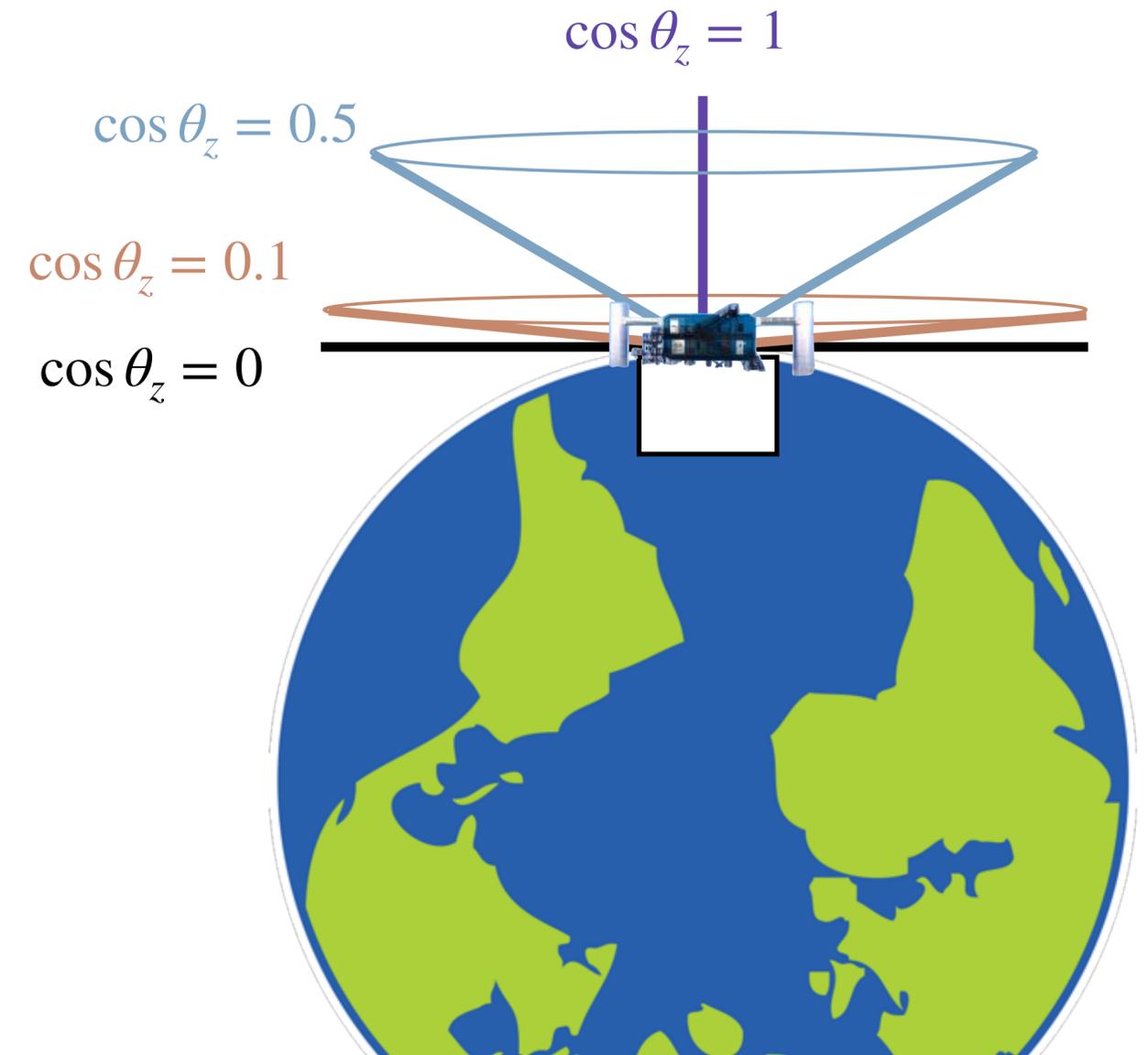
## Neutrino telescopes weigh in

C. Sponsler\*, MH, I. Martinez-Soler, C. Argüelles,  
in preparation

\* Harvard undergrad student



Same IceCube sample as eV sterile neutrino search, but in different direction!



# Sterile neutrinos beyond oscillations at SBL

1) Decays to electromagnetic final states  $\gamma$  and  $e^{+/-}$ :

a) beam production

b) neutrino upscattering

2) Decays to neutrinos:  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  conversion from decay

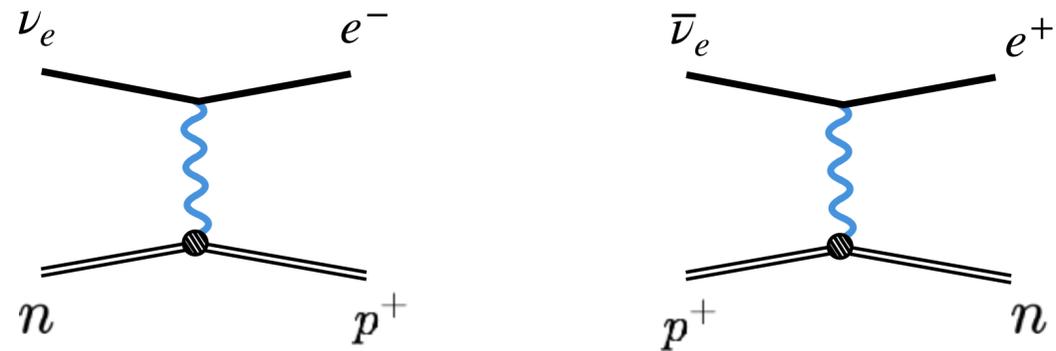
3) Sterile-induced matter potential: resonant  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  conversion

*Bonus thoughts...*

# Antineutrino hypothesis of MiniBooNE

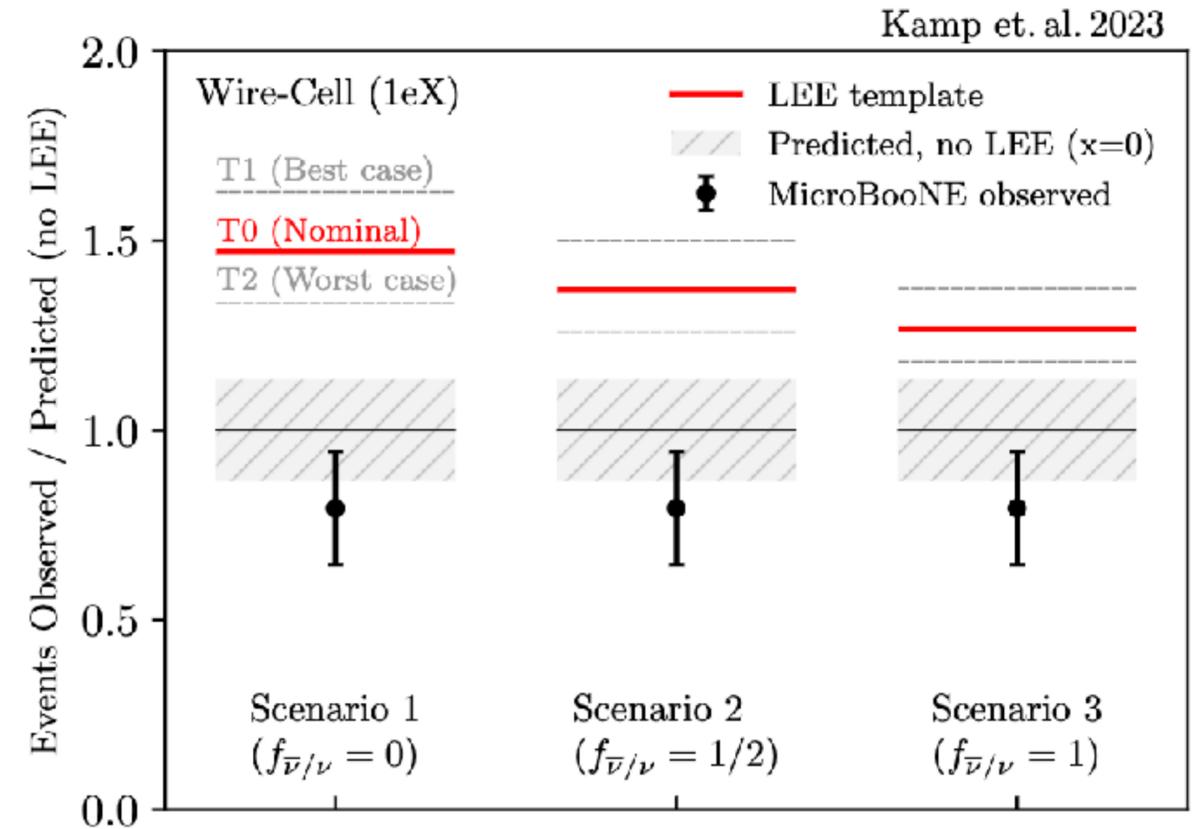
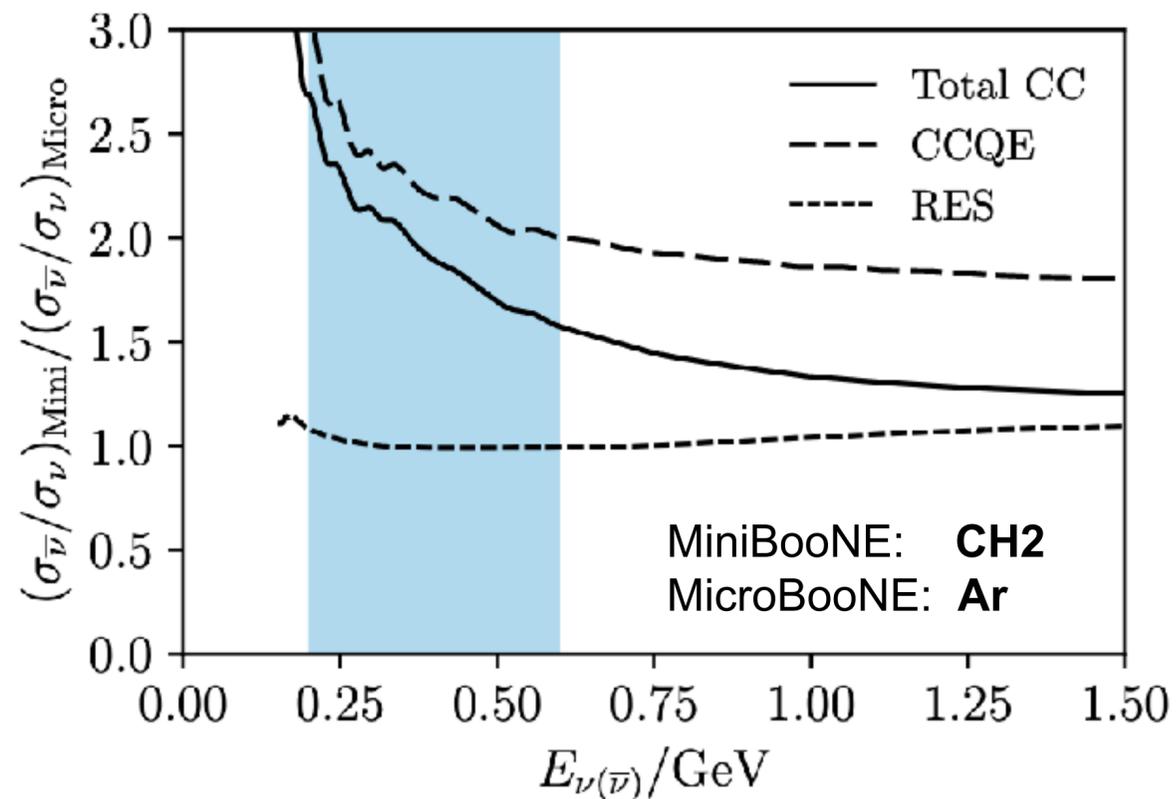
Are we looking at the wrong sign?

N. Kamp, **MH**, C. Argüelles, J. Conrad, M. Shaevitz  
[PRD107, 092002 \(2023\)](#)



Knocking out neutrons from Ar harder than on CH<sub>2</sub>:

- 1) Protons are more tightly bound in Ar.
- 2) More neutrons, so more Pauli blocking for  $p^+ \rightarrow n$  transitions.
- 3) Antineutrinos lead to **higher-energy leptons**.



# Complementarity beyond GeV-neutrino beams

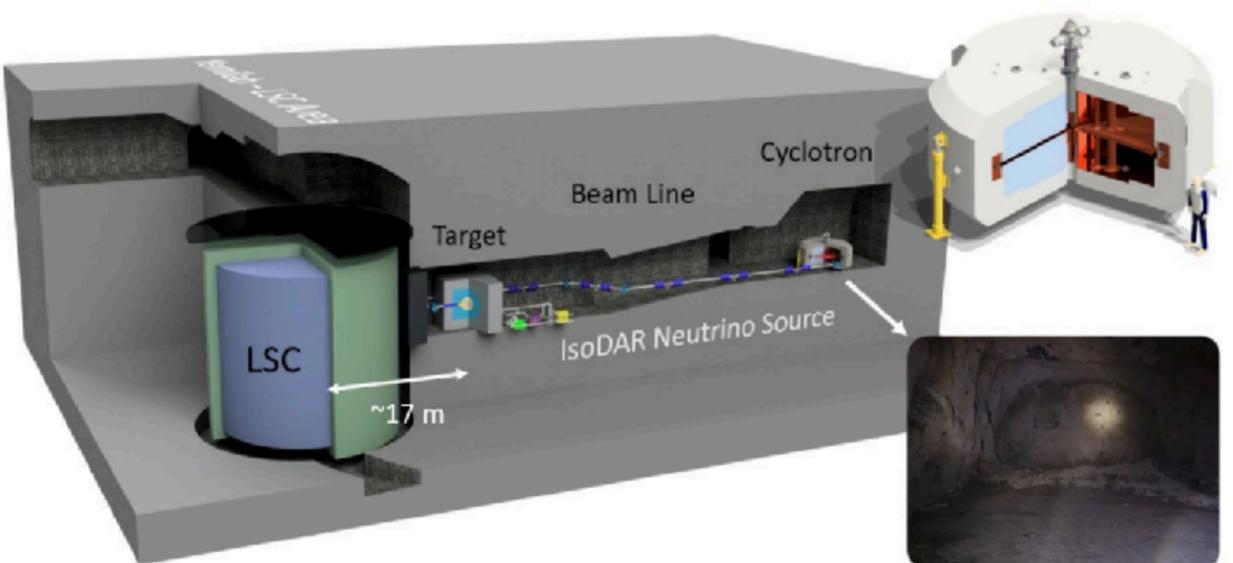
## Higher intensities

### IsoDAR:

Definitive  $\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e$  disappearance test.

Most intense neutrino source deep underground?

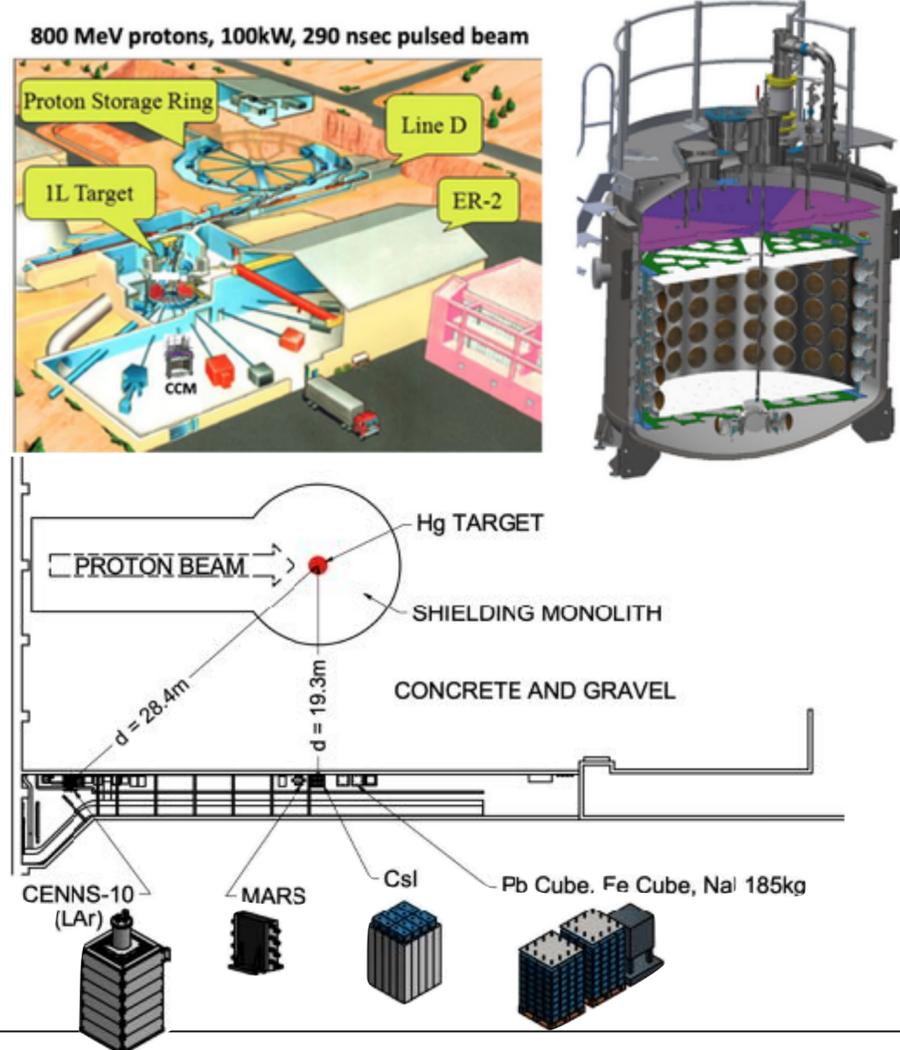
Dark sector searches (ALPs and dark bosons, ideal for  $n \rightarrow n'$  searches, ...)



### Modern spallation sources:

Great complementarity between LANL, SNS, and JSNS projects:

- Coherent-Captain Mills
- COHERENT
- JSNS<sup>2</sup> (+ ND280)



# Discussion session

PHENO

PHENO



# SBL anomaly interpretations

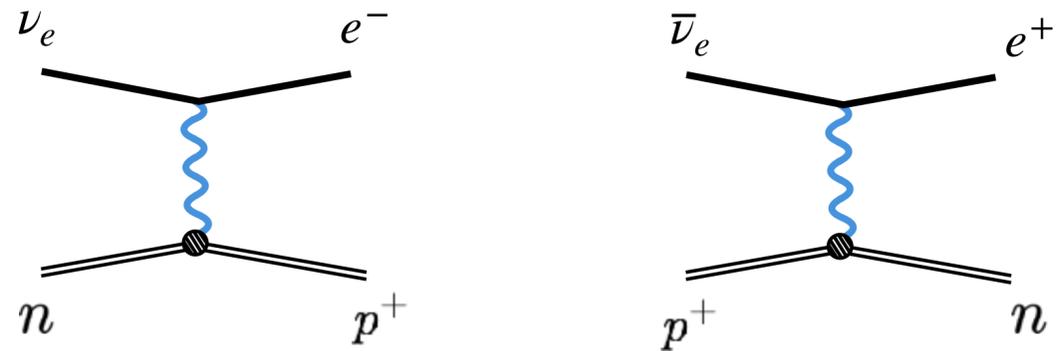
Category	Model	Signature	Anomalies				References
			LSND	MiniBooNE	Reactors	Sources	
Flavor transitions Secs. 3.1.1-3.1.3, 3.1.5	(3+1) oscillations	oscillations	✓	✓	✓	✓	Reviews and global fits [93, 103, 105, 106]
	(3+1) w/ invisible sterile decay	oscillations w/ $\nu_4$ invisible decay	✓	✓	✓	✓	[151, 155]
	(3+1) w/ sterile decay	$\nu_4 \rightarrow \phi \nu_e$	✓	✓	✓	✓	[159–162, 270]
Matter effects Secs. 3.1.4, 3.1.7	(3+1) w/ anomalous matter effects	$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ via matter effects	✓	✓	✗	✗	[143, 147, 271–273]
	(3+1) w/ quasi-sterile neutrinos	$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ w/ resonant $\nu_s$ matter effects	✓	✓	✓	✓	[148]
Flavor violation Sec. 3.1.6	Lepton-flavor-violating $\mu$ decays	$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_\alpha \bar{\nu}_e$	✓	✗	✗	✗	[174, 175, 274]
	neutrino-flavor-changing bremsstrahlung	$\nu_\mu A \rightarrow e \phi A$	✓	✓	✗	✗	[275]
Decays in flight Sec. 3.2.3	Transition magnetic mom., heavy $\nu$ decay	$N \rightarrow \nu \gamma$	✗	✓	✗	✗	[207]
	Dark sector heavy neutrino decay	$N \rightarrow \nu (X \rightarrow e^+ e^-)$ or $N \rightarrow \nu (X \rightarrow \gamma \gamma)$	✗	✓	✗	✗	[208]
Neutrino Scattering Secs. 3.2.1, 3.2.2	neutrino-induced upscattering	$\nu A \rightarrow N A$ , $N \rightarrow \nu e^+ e^-$ or $N \rightarrow \nu \gamma \gamma$	✓	✓	✗	✗	[205, 206, 209–216]
	neutrino dipole upscattering	$\nu A \rightarrow N A$ , $N \rightarrow \nu \gamma$	✓	✓	✗	✗	[40, 185, 187, 188, 190, 193, 233, 276]
Dark Matter Scattering Sec. 3.2.4	dark particle-induced upscattering	$\gamma$ or $e^+ e^-$	✗	✓	✗	✗	[217]
	dark particle-induced inverse Primakoff	$\gamma$	✓	✓	✗	✗	[217]

Model landscape evolved significantly over the years.

# Antineutrino hypothesis of MiniBooNE

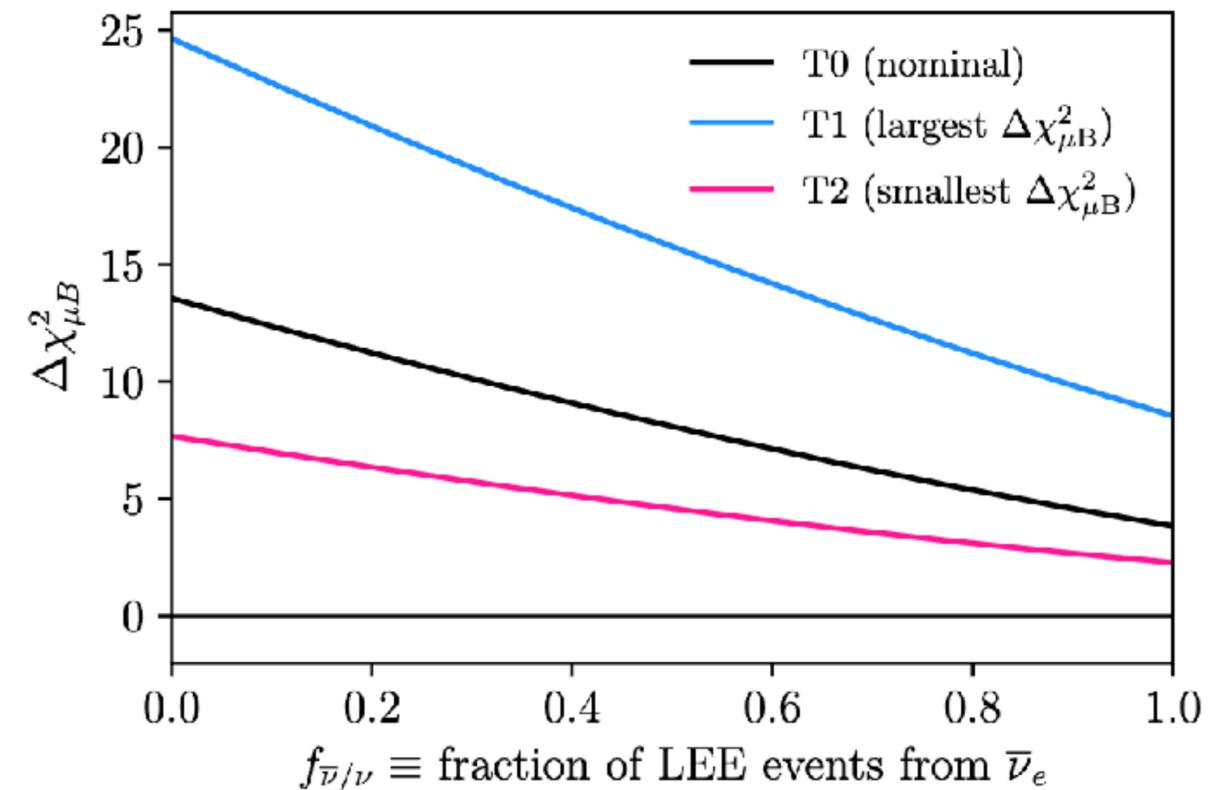
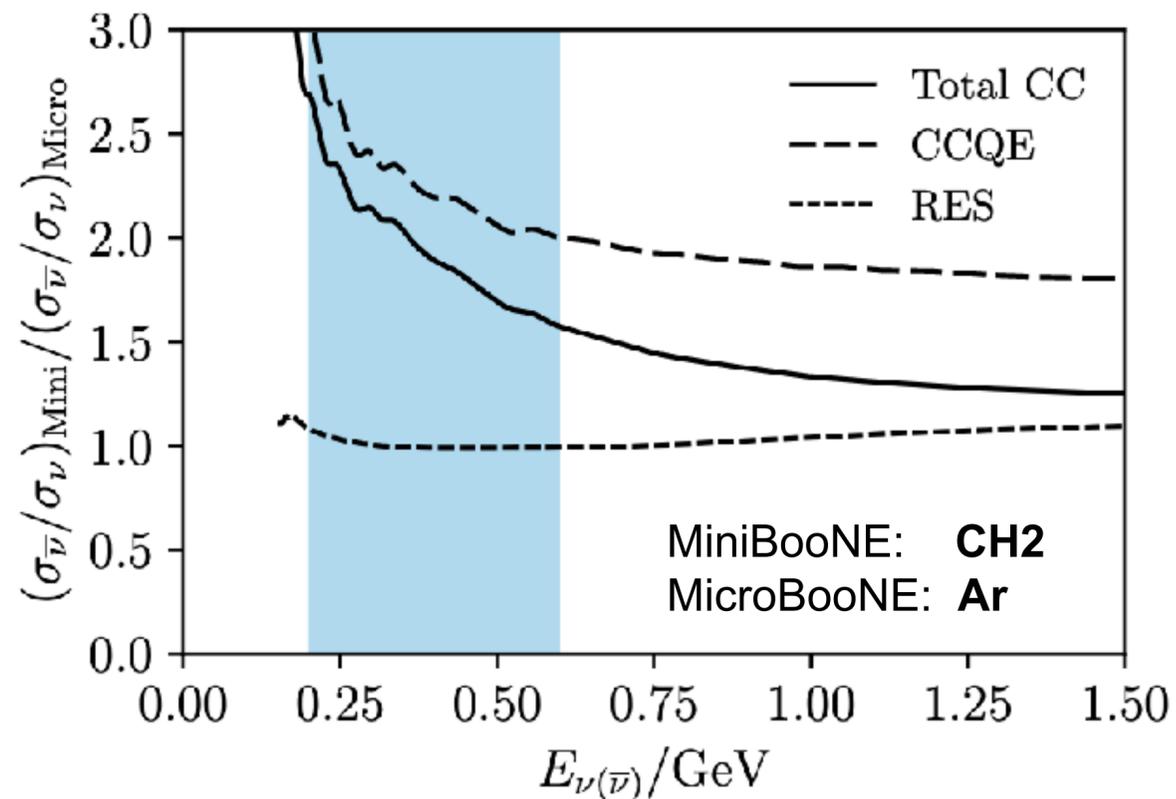
Are we looking at the wrong sign?

N. Kamp, **MH**, C. Argüelles, J. Conrad, M. Shaevitz  
[PRD107, 092002 \(2023\)](#)



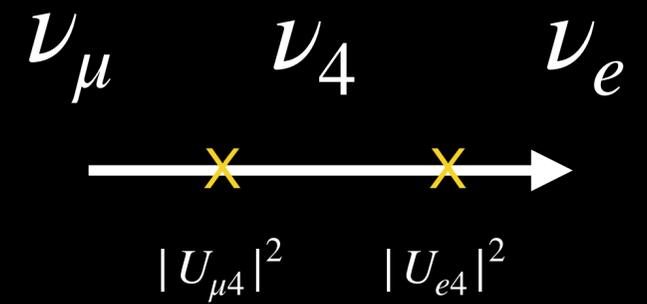
Knocking out neutrons from Ar harder than on CH<sub>2</sub>:

- 1) Protons are more tightly bound in Ar.
- 2) More neutrons, so more Pauli blocking for  $p^+ \rightarrow n$  transitions.
- 3) Antineutrinos lead to **higher-energy leptons**.

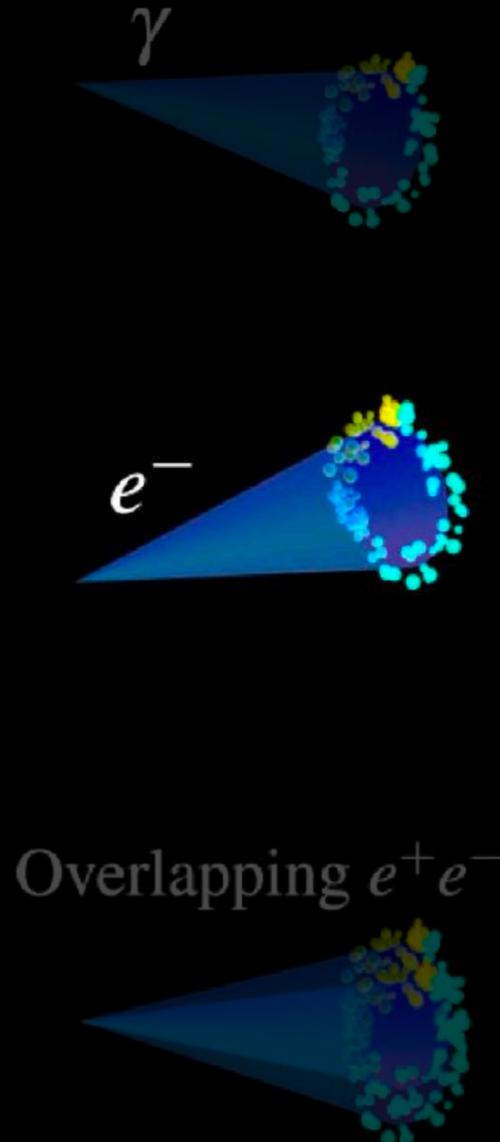
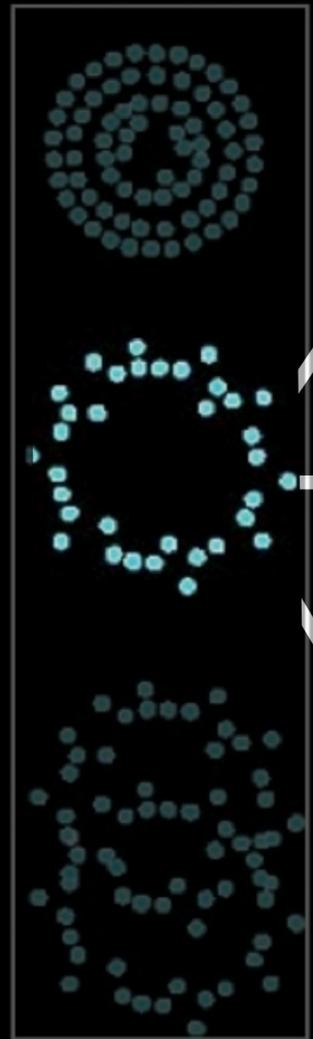


# Zooming in on the low-energy excess with MicroBooNE

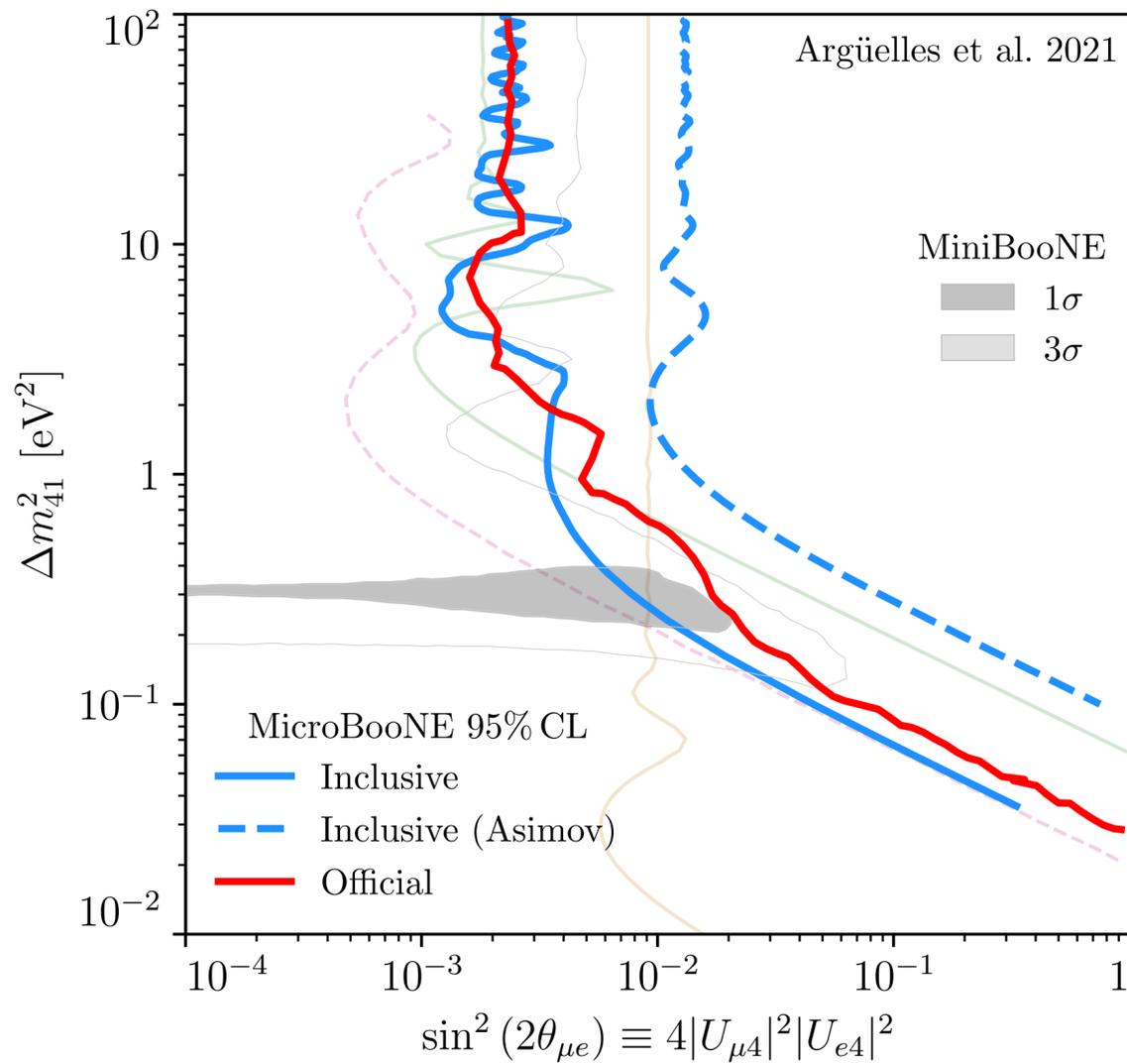
The  $\nu_e$  hypothesis (sterile neutrino oscillations)



Cherenkov



Fit to full sterile neutrino oscillations



C. A. Argüelles, I. Esteban, **MH**, K. J. Kelly, J. Kopp, P. A. N. Machado, I. Martinez-Soler, and Y. F. Perez-Gonzalez

**PRL 128, 241802.**

MicroBooNE coll.,  
**PRL. 130 (2023) 1, 011801**

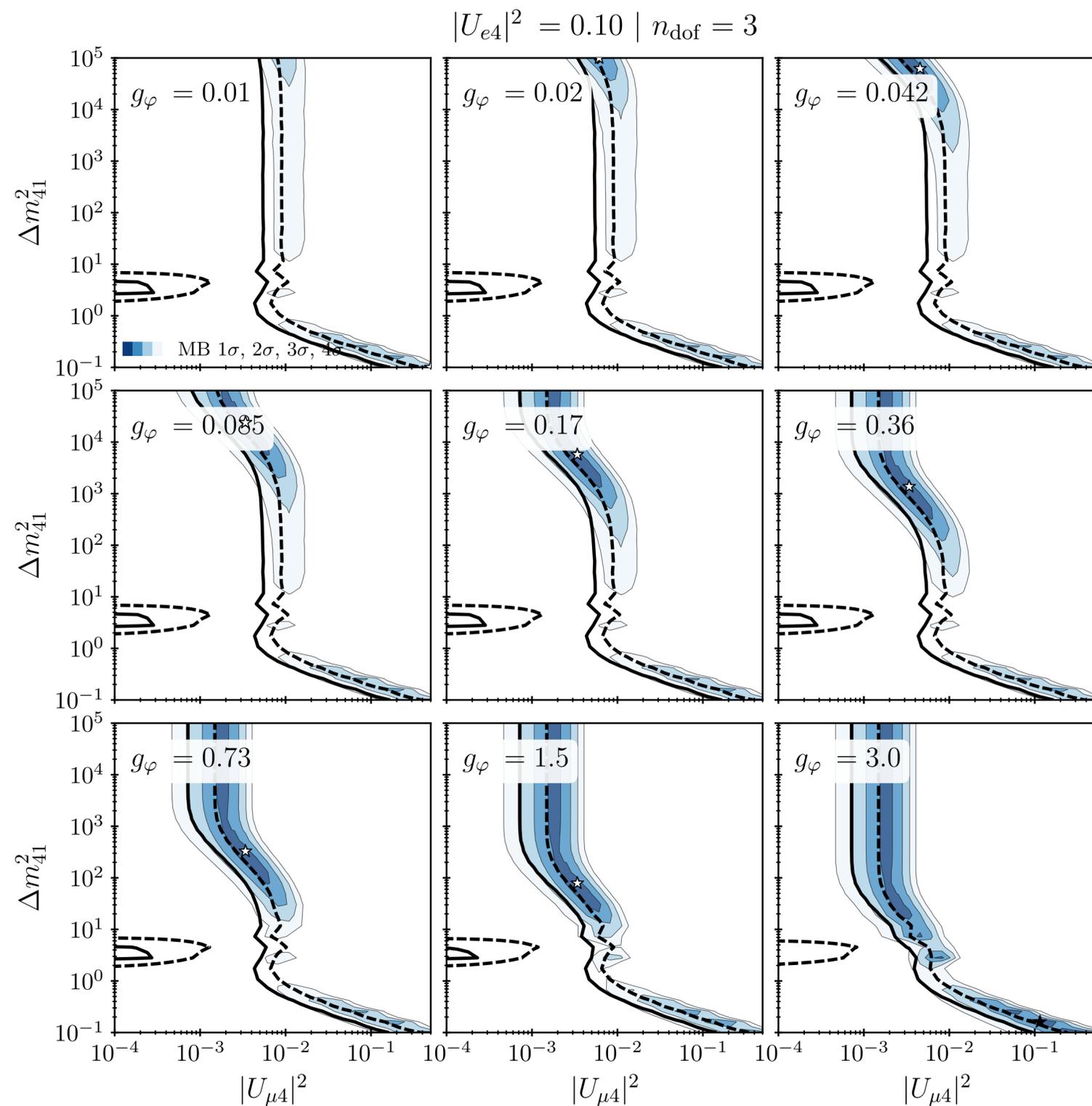
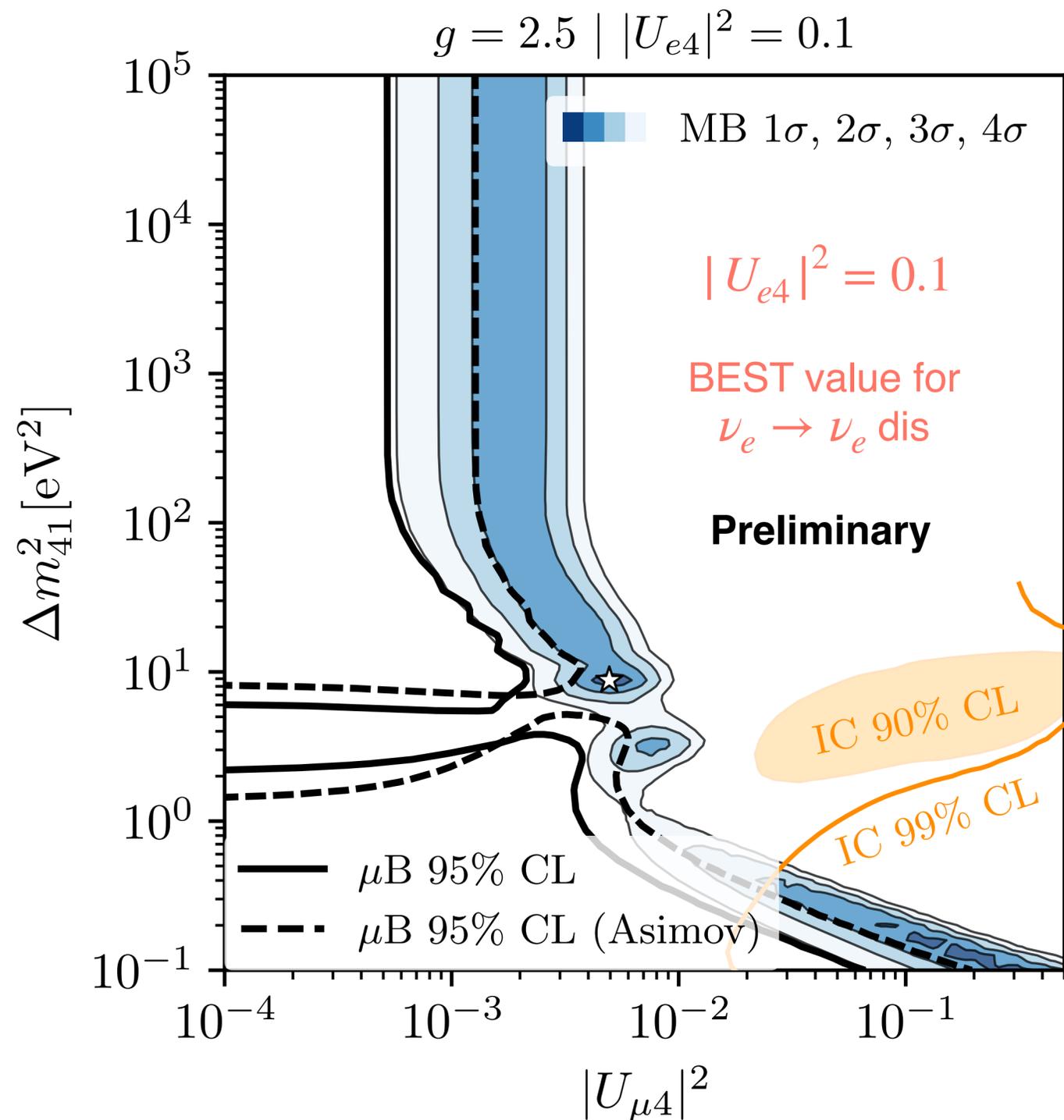
Physics

APS Viewpoint:

Neutrino Mystery Endures

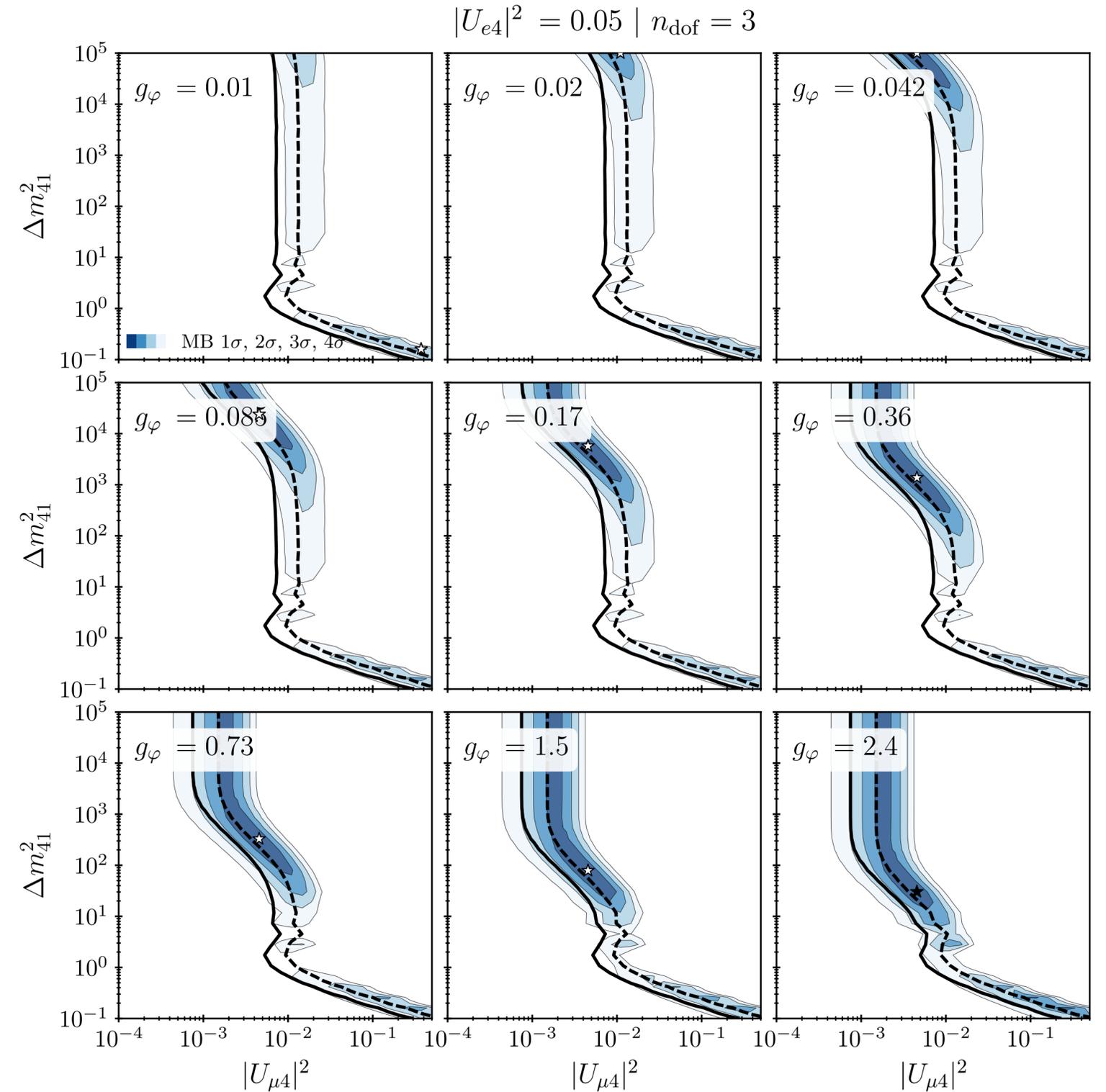
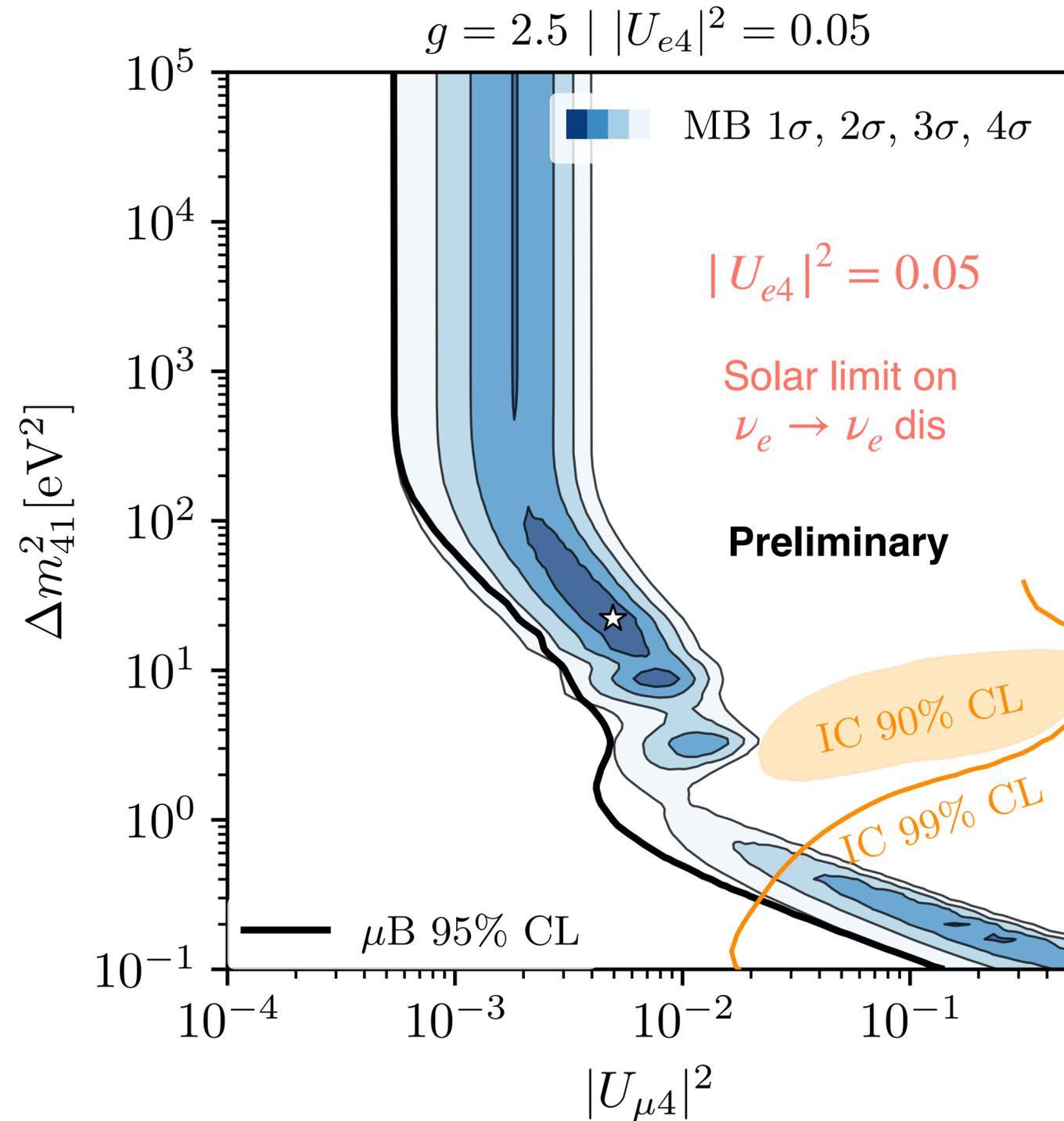
# Decaying sterile prediction

K. Kelly, MH, T. Zhou, *in preparation.*



# Decaying sterile prediction

K. Kelly, MH, T. Zhou, *in preparation.*



# Solar antineutrinos

IBD searches for  $\bar{\nu}_e$  from  $^8\text{B}$  decay and matter suppressed oscillations

