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New limits on dark sectors in neutrino upscattering

Matheus Hostert — Perimeter Institute and University of Minnesota

Neutrino Theory Workshop
IFT, Madrid
June 1st 2022

The Outline

Motivation for heavy neutrinos w/ additional forces :

1. Portal interactions and N lifetime
2. MiniBooNE low-energy excess

New forces:

1. Transition Magnetic Moments
2. Dark Neutrino Sectors

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The seesaw mechanism

Type-I seesaw:

$$\mathscr{L} \supset -y^{\nu}\left(\overline{L}\tilde{H}\right)N - \frac{M_N}{2}\overline{N^c}N + \text{h.c.}$$

This is a matrix problem:

$$\mathscr{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M_D \\ M_D^T & M_N \end{pmatrix}$$ where $M_D = \frac{Y v_{EW}}{\sqrt{2}}$

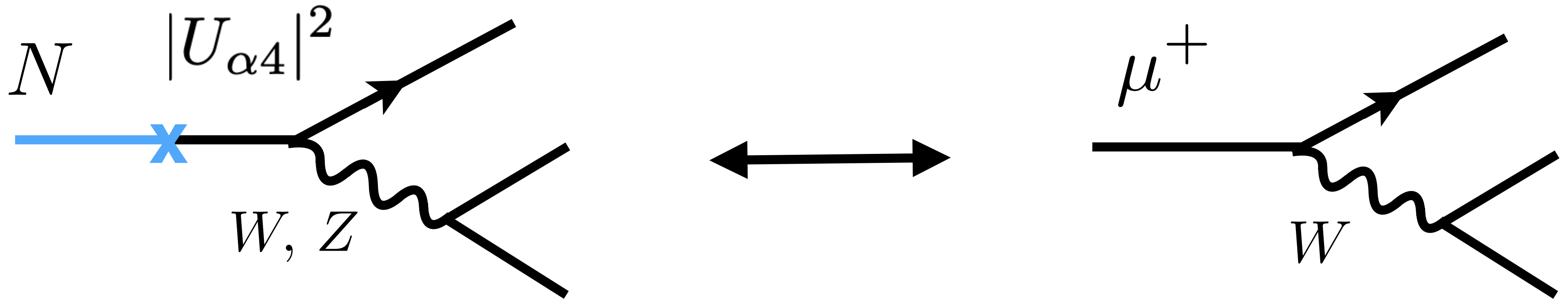
$$\boxed{\begin{array}{cccc} M_\nu \sim & M_D & M_N^{-1} & M_D^T \\ (3\text{x}3) & (3\text{x}?) & (?\text{x}?) & (?\text{x}3) \end{array}}$$

We know nothing about M_N.

How many states? Does it carry new symmetries? New dynamics?

Laboratory searches

Typically, long-lived particles. $\frac{c\tau_\mu}{c\tau_N} \sim |U_{\alpha 4}|^2 \left(\frac{m_N}{m_\mu}\right)^5$



Production and decay proceed via **“weaker-than-weak”** interactions.

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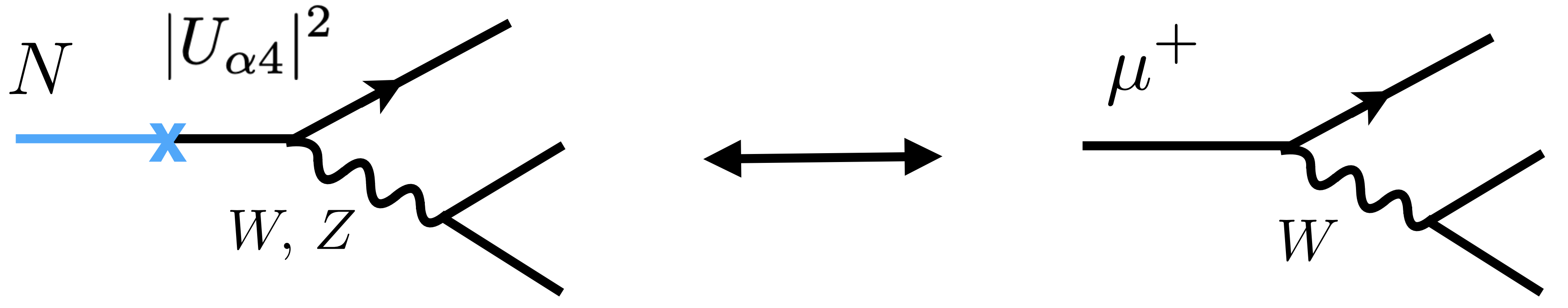
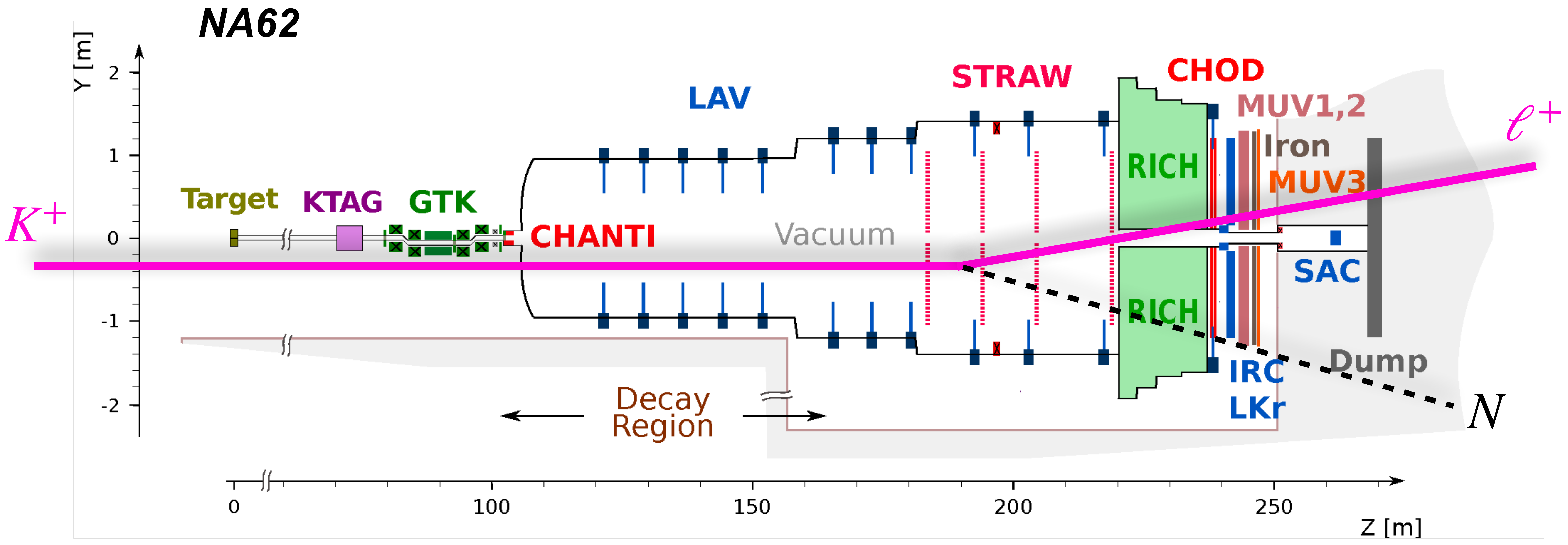


Missing mass in pion or kaon decays

$$\pi/K \to \ell N \longrightarrow (p_{\pi,K} - p_\ell)^2 \overset{?}{=} M_N^2$$

Production and decay proceed via **“weaker-than-weak”** interactions.



Laboratory searches

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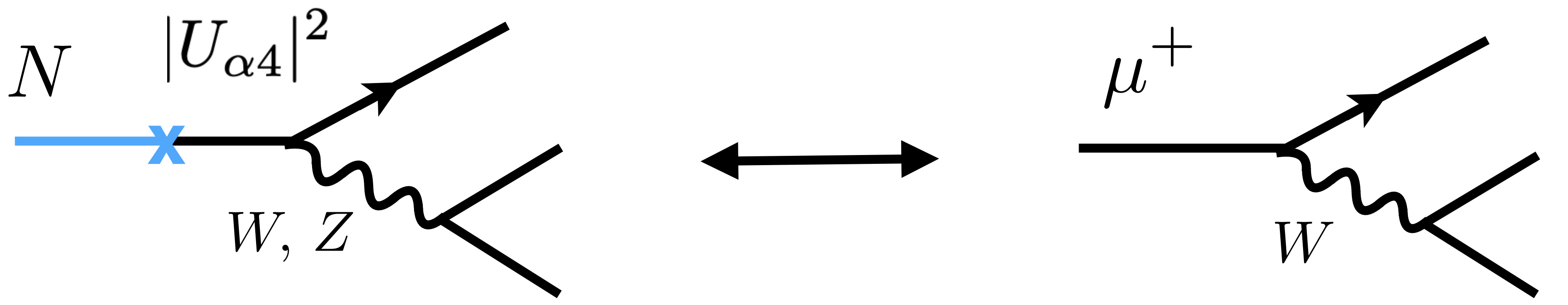
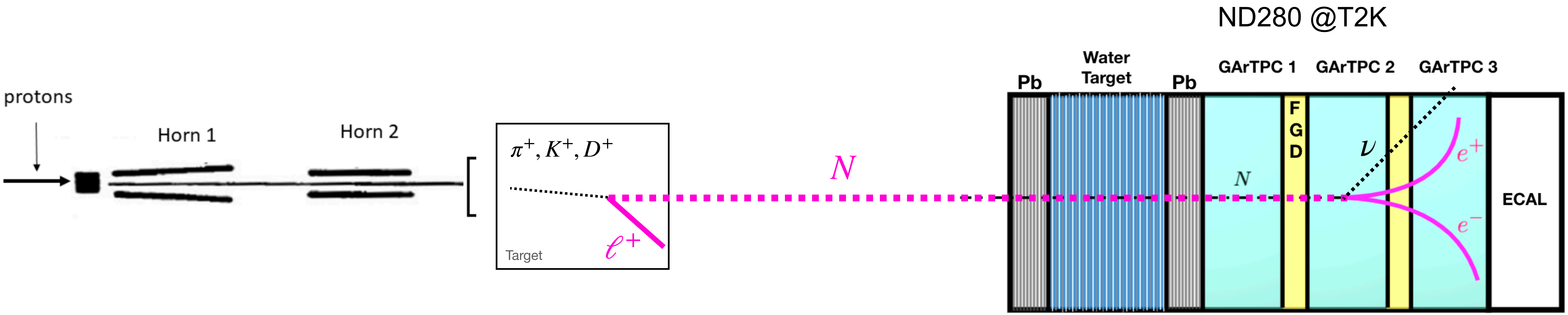


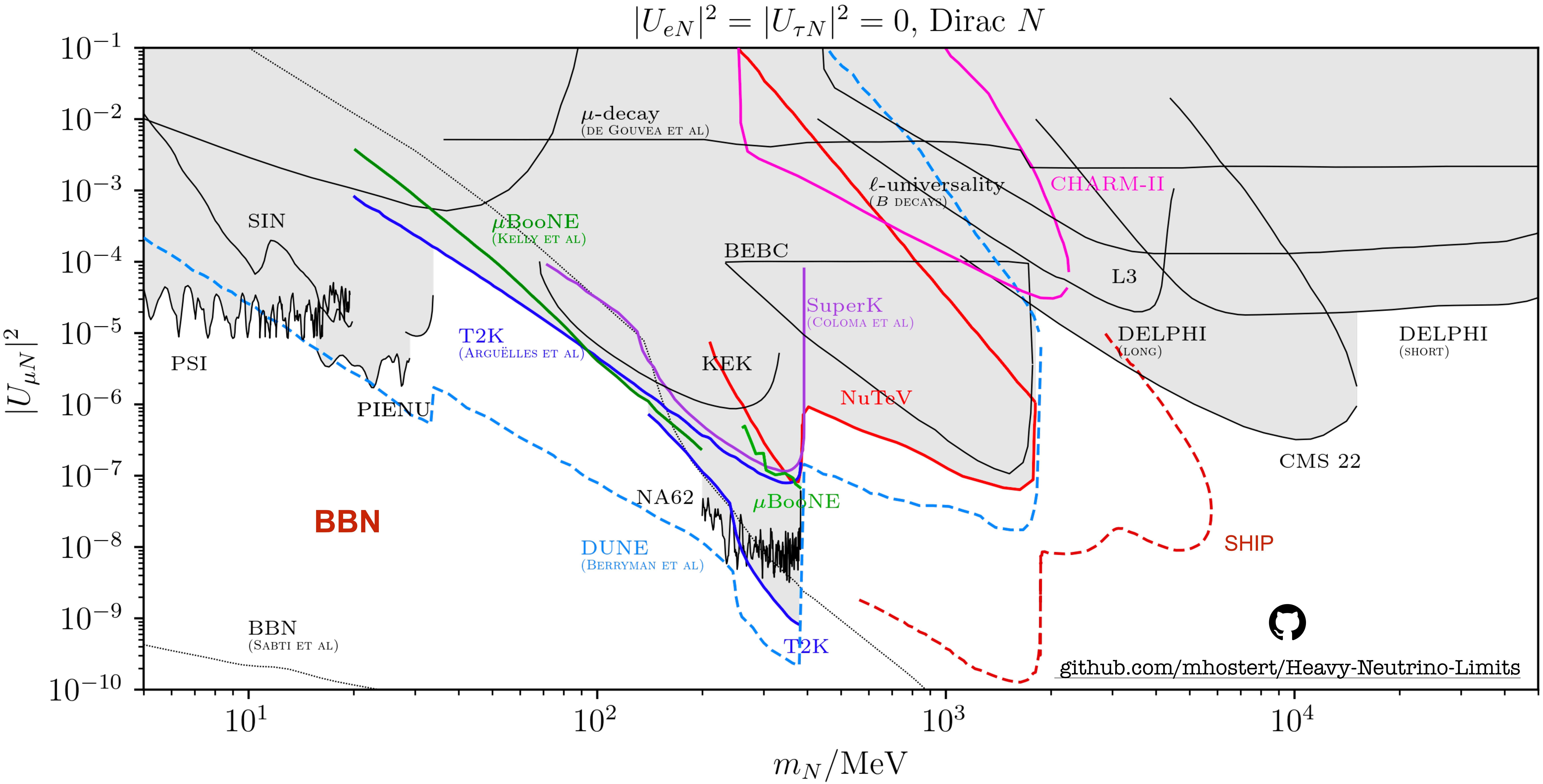
Decay-in-flight signatures in neutrino experiments

$\pi/K \to \ell N$ ⟶ N propagates ⟶ N decays visibly

Production and decay proceed via **“weaker-than-weak”** interactions.

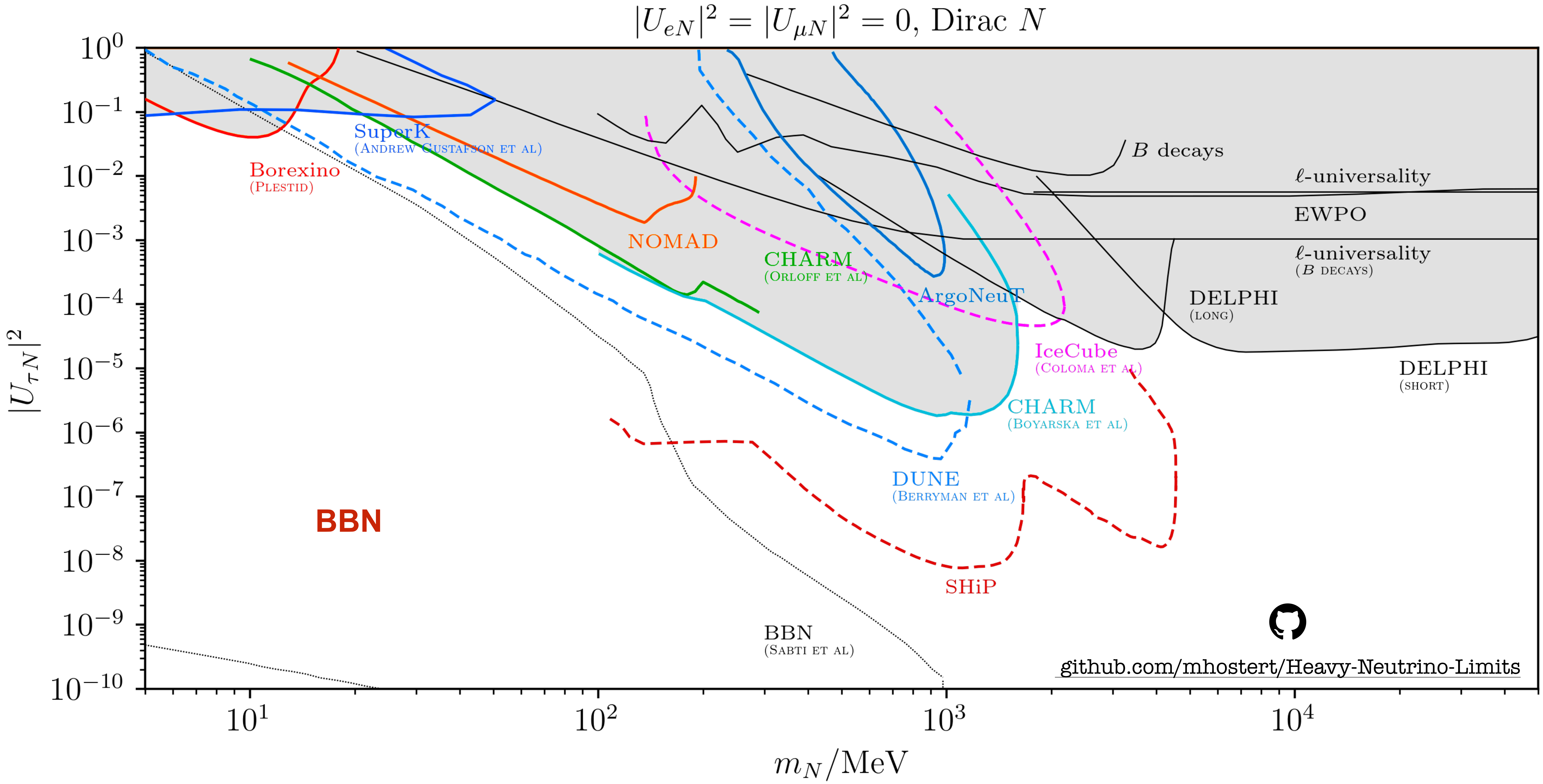


Limits on heavy neutrinos



github.com/mhostert/Heavy-Neutrino-Limits

Limits on heavy neutrinos



$\mathscr{L}_{\rm SM}$

$\overline{L}\widetilde{H}N$

Neutrino portal

$B_{\mu\nu}X^{\mu\nu}$

$S^\dagger S\,(H^\dagger H)$

$\vdots$

DARK SECTOR (DS)

$$\overline{N^c}NS + \overline{N}\not{X}N$$

May feel new secret forces…

These can “leak” back to the SM.

Lifetimes would be much shorter.

Interactions can be comparable to Weak rates.

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New forces:

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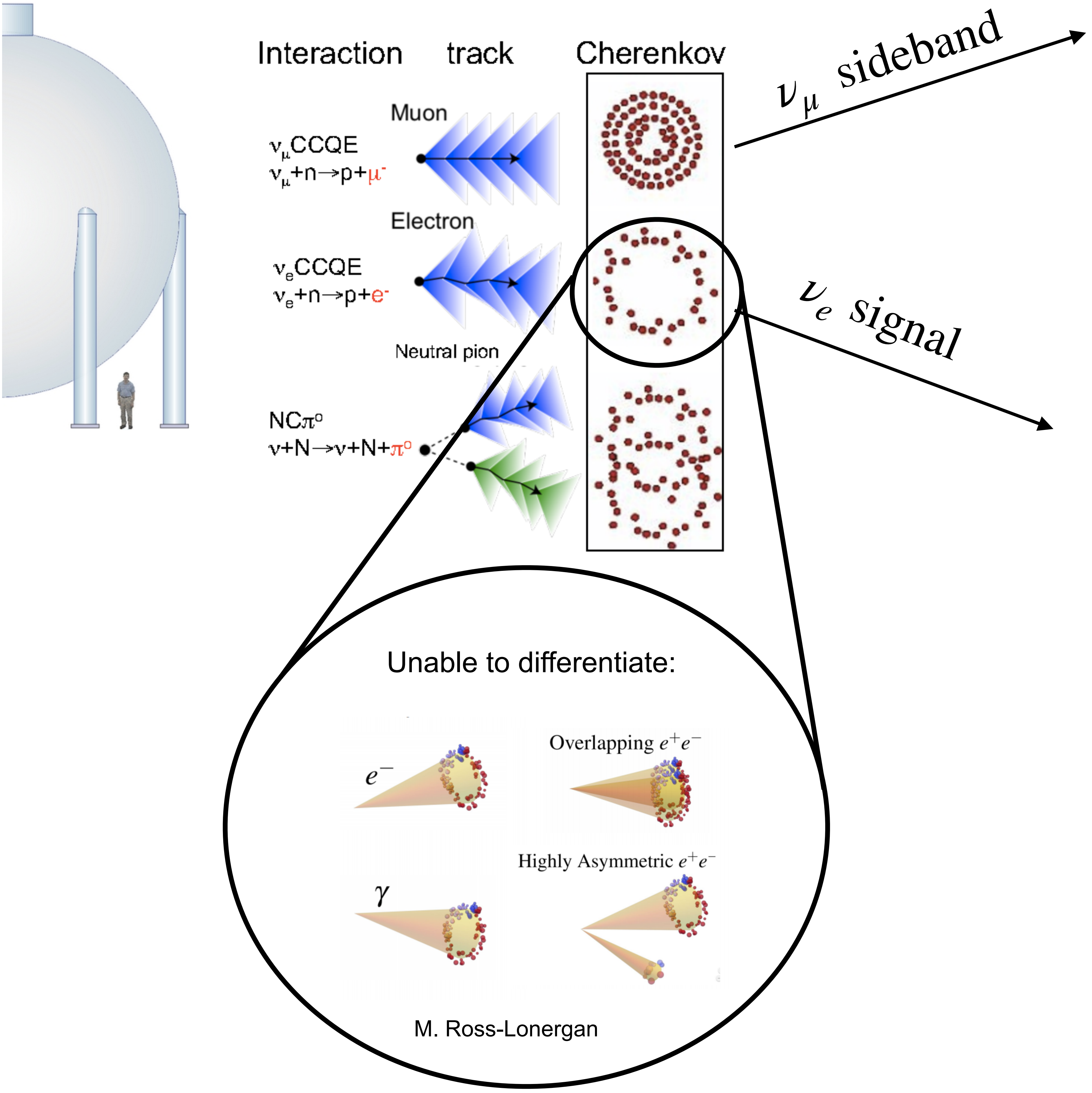
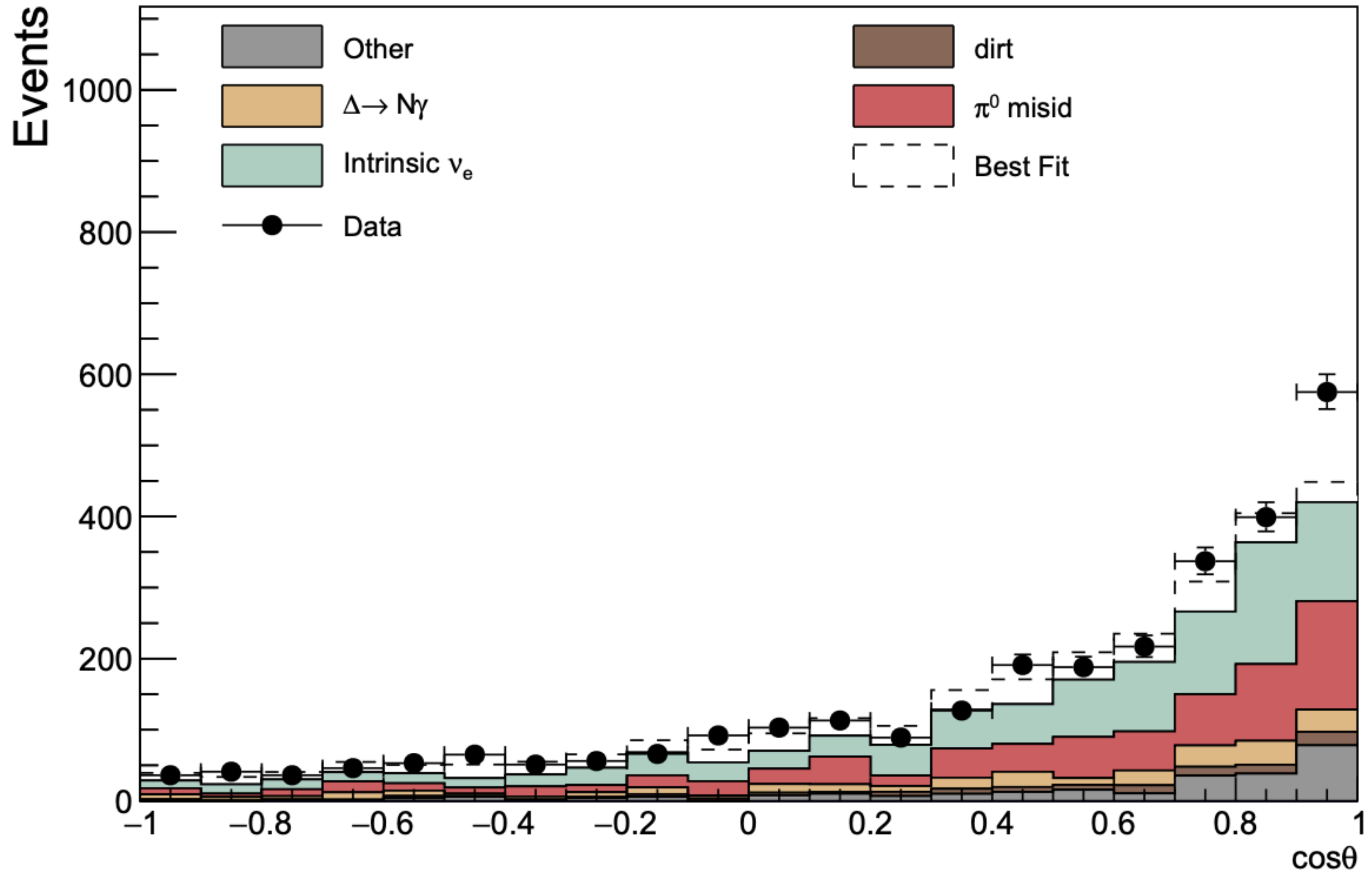
The MiniBooNE excess

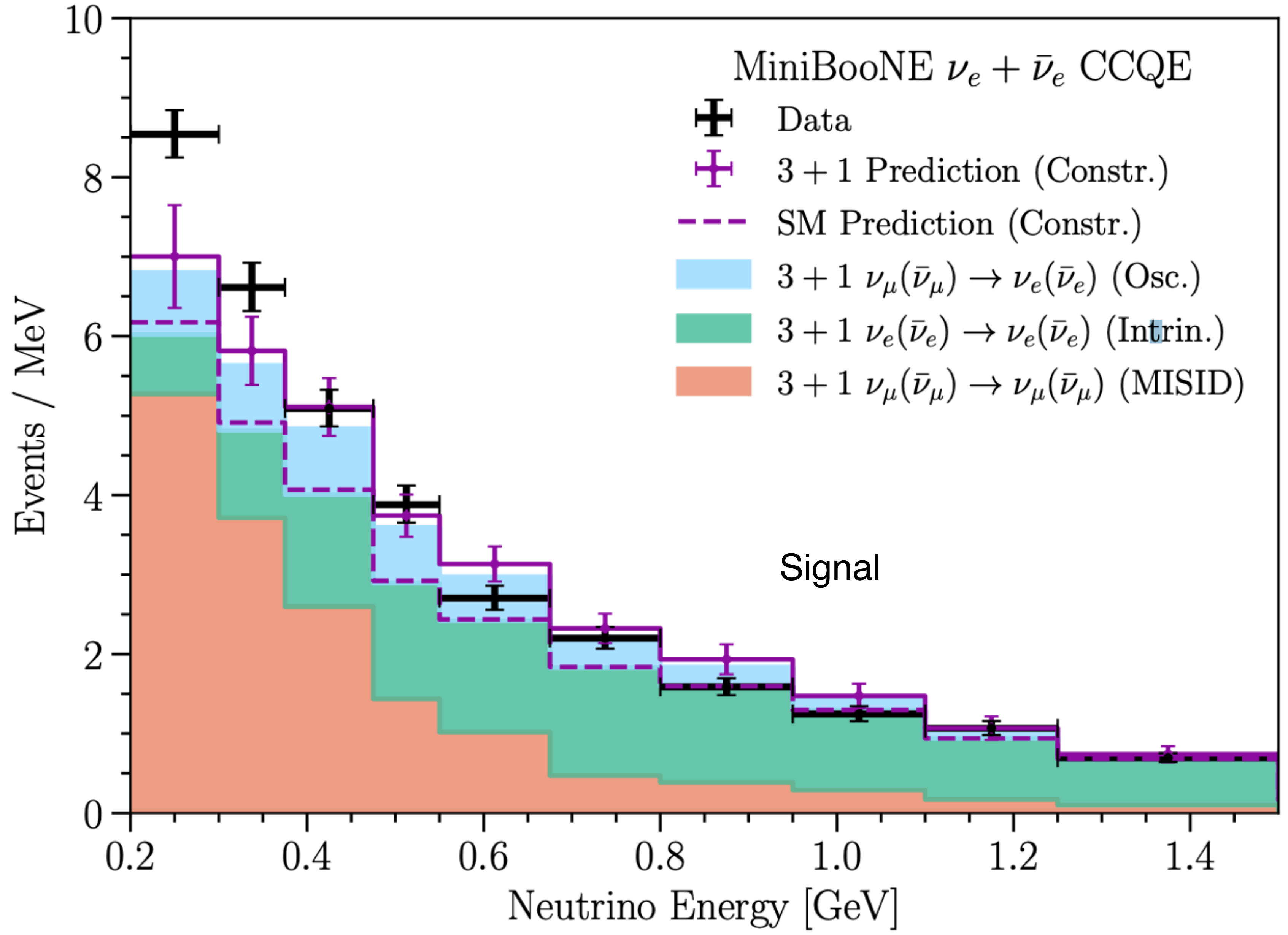
Latest MiniBooNE results:

MiniBooNE coll., Phys. Rev. D 103, 052002 (2021)





MiniBooNE coll., arXiv:2201.01724



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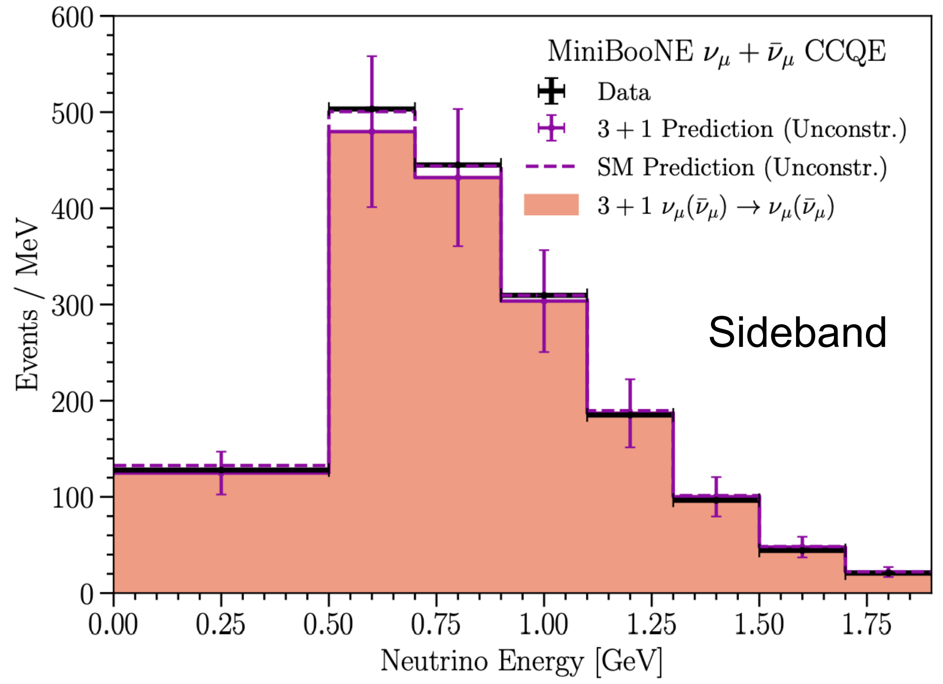


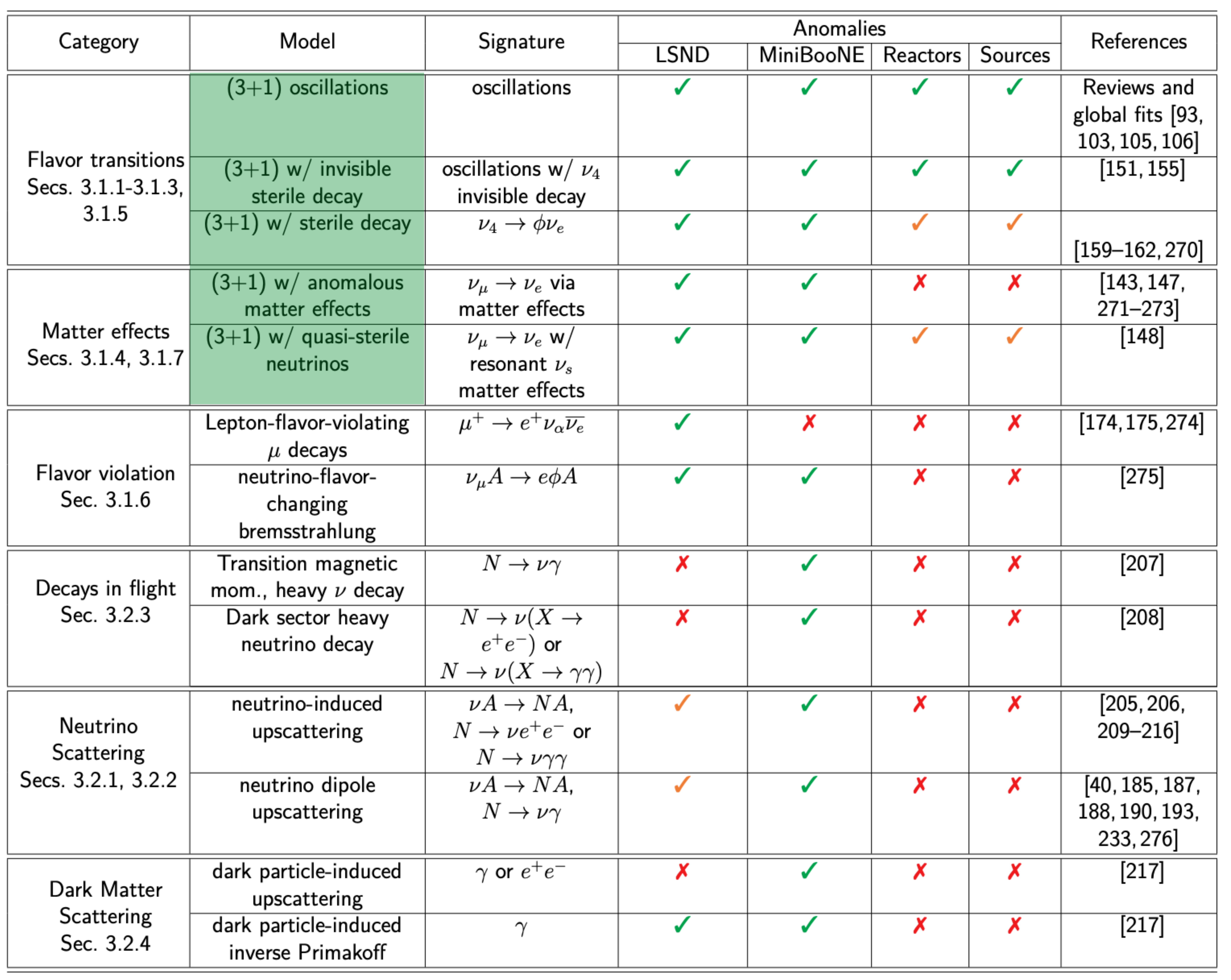
638 ± 52(stat.) ± 122.2(sys.)

4.8σ significance

MiniBooNE is a very "inclusive" experiment:

NF02 White Paper: arXiv:2203.07323. Questions (and complaints) → *mhostert@pitp.com*

Table of explanations of the short-baseline anomalies



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/ ν_4 invisible decay	✓	✓	✓	✓	[151, 155]
	(3+1) w/ sterile decay	$\nu_4 \to \phi\nu_e$	✓	✓	✓	✓	[159–162, 270]
Matter effects Secs. 3.1.4, 3.1.7	(3+1) w/ anomalous matter effects	$\nu_\mu \to \nu_e$ via matter effects	✓	✓	✗	✗	[143, 147, 271–273]
	(3+1) w/ quasi-sterile neutrinos	$\nu_\mu \to \nu_e$ w/ resonant ν_s matter effects	✓	✓	✓	✓	[148]
Flavor violation Sec. 3.1.6	Lepton-flavor-violating μ decays	$\mu^+ \to e^+\nu_\alpha\overline{\nu_e}$	✓	✗	✗	✗	[174, 175, 274]
	neutrino-flavor-changing bremsstrahlung	$\nu_\mu A \to e\phi A$	✓	✓	✗	✗	[275]
Decays in flight Sec. 3.2.3	Transition magnetic mom., heavy ν decay	$N \to \nu\gamma$	✗	✓	✗	✗	[207]
	Dark sector heavy neutrino decay	$N \to \nu(X \to e^+e^-)$ or $N \to \nu(X \to \gamma\gamma)$	✗	✓	✗	✗	[208]
Neutrino Scattering Secs. 3.2.1, 3.2.2	neutrino-induced upscattering	$\nu A \to NA$, $N \to \nu e^+e^-$ or $N \to \nu\gamma\gamma$	✓	✓	✗	✗	[205, 206, 209–216]
	neutrino dipole upscattering	$\nu A \to NA$, $N \to \nu\gamma$	✓	✓	✗	✗	[40, 185, 187, 188, 190, 193, 233, 276]
Dark Matter Scattering Sec. 3.2.4	dark particle-induced upscattering	γ or e^+e^-	✗	✓	✗	✗	[217]
	dark particle-induced inverse Primakoff	γ	✓	✓	✗	✗	[217]

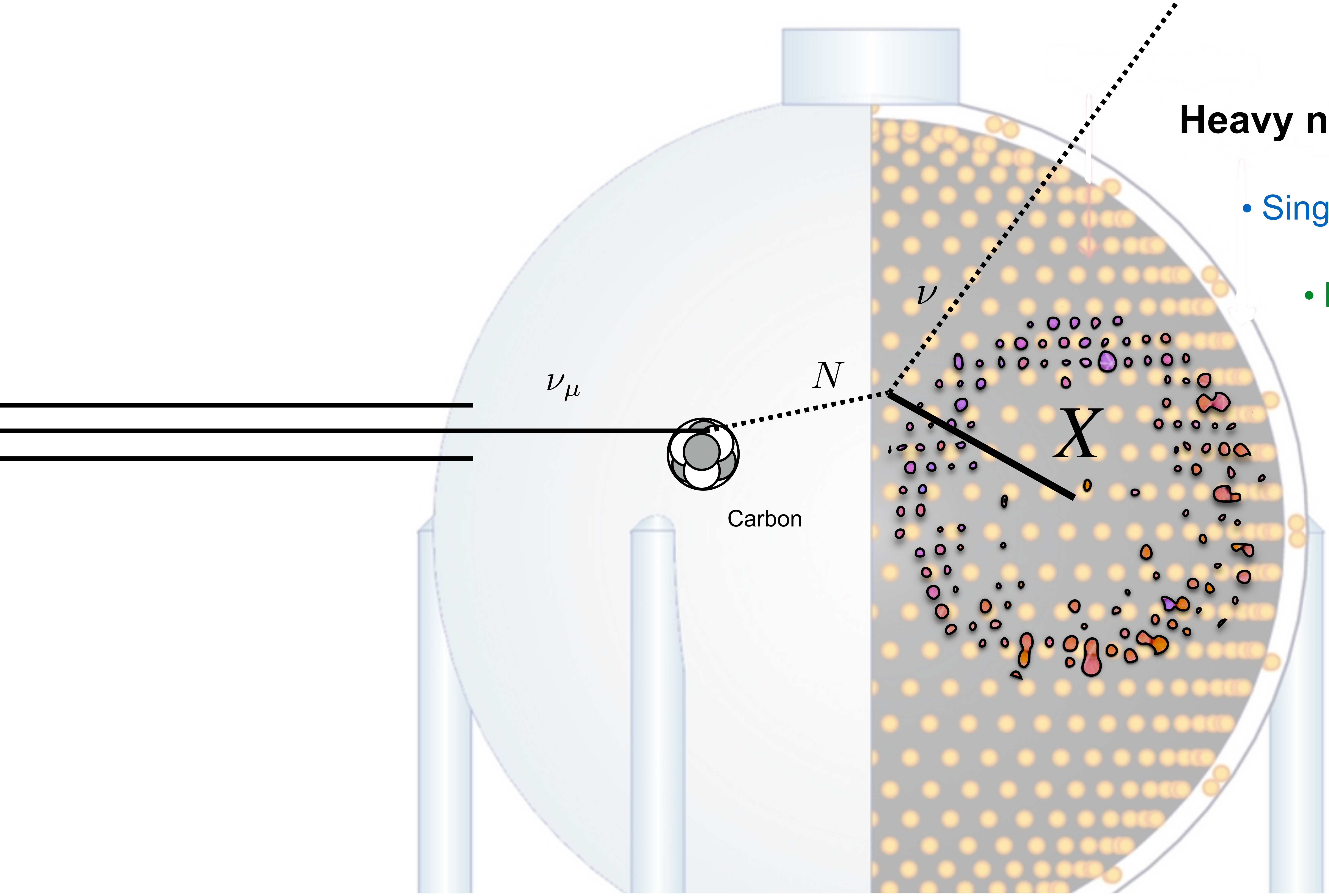
See K. Kelly's talk tomorrow

To be tested

These mostly involve production of new particles in the detector.

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 ($X = \gamma\gamma$)

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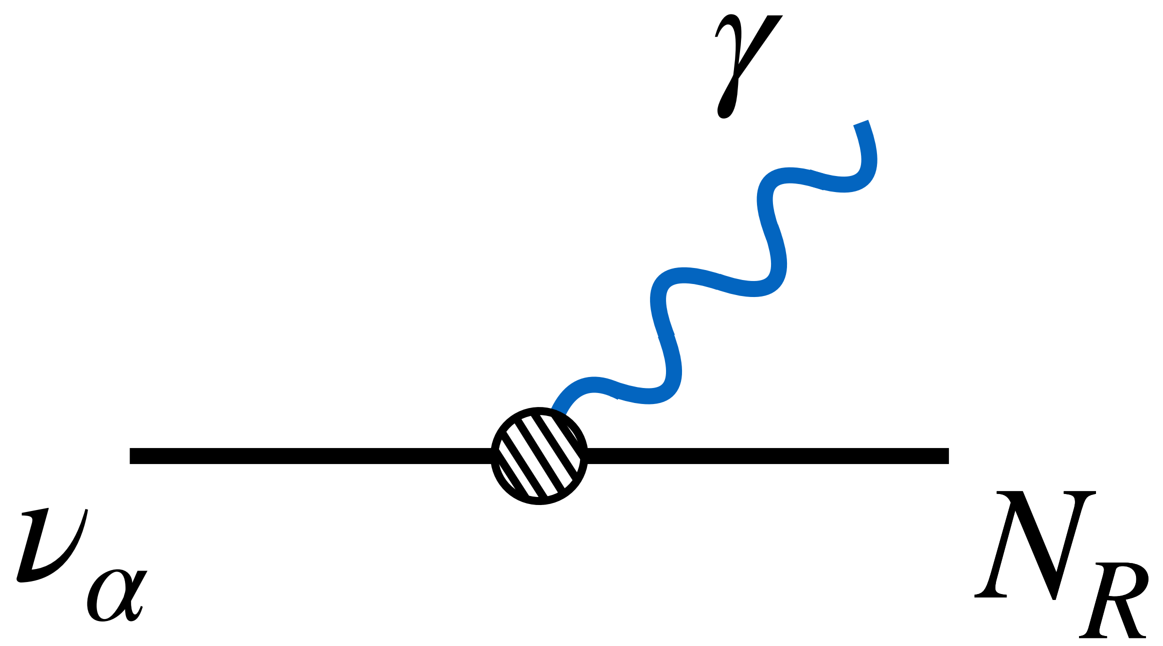
2. Dark Neutrino Sectors

Transition magnetic moment

The model

Dimension-5 operator

$$\mathscr{L} \supset \frac{1}{\Lambda^2}\overline{L}\tilde{H}\sigma^{\mu\nu}N_R\left(C_B^\alpha B_{\mu\nu} + C_W^\alpha W_{\mu\nu}^a\sigma_a\right) \xrightarrow{\text{EWSB}} \mathscr{L} \supset d_{\alpha N}\,\overline{\nu_\alpha}\sigma_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}N_R$$



Transition magnetic moment == Dipole portal

Transition magnetic moment

The model

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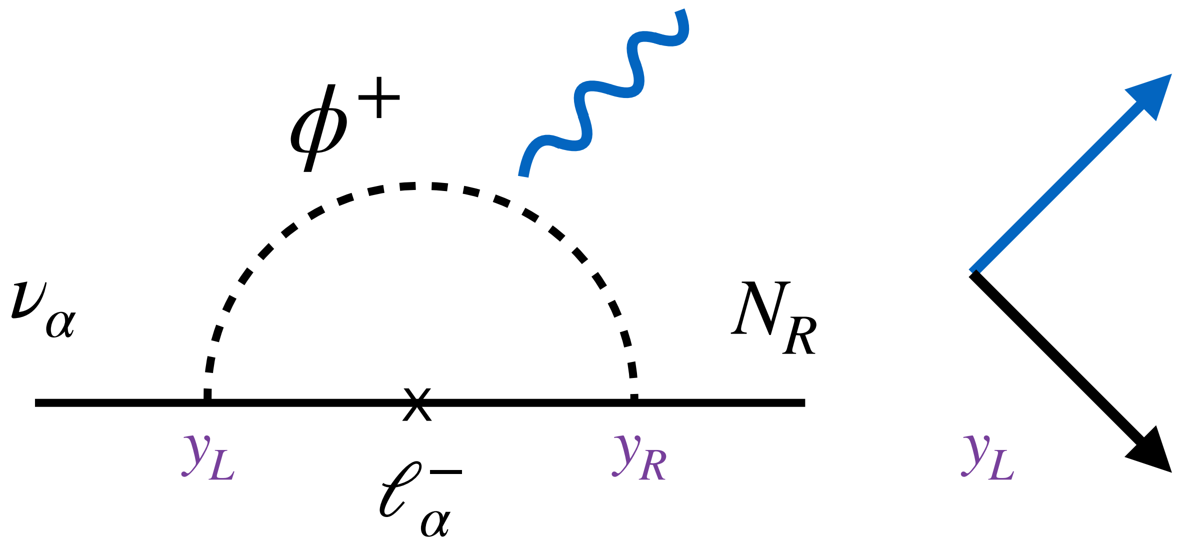
Points to keep in mind:



$$d_{\alpha N} \sim \frac{e\, y_L y_R}{16\pi^2}\frac{m_{\ell_\beta}}{m_\phi^2}$$

$$m_D \sim \frac{y_L y_R}{16\pi^2}m_{\ell_\beta} \longrightarrow U_{\alpha N} \sim \frac{m_D}{M_N}$$

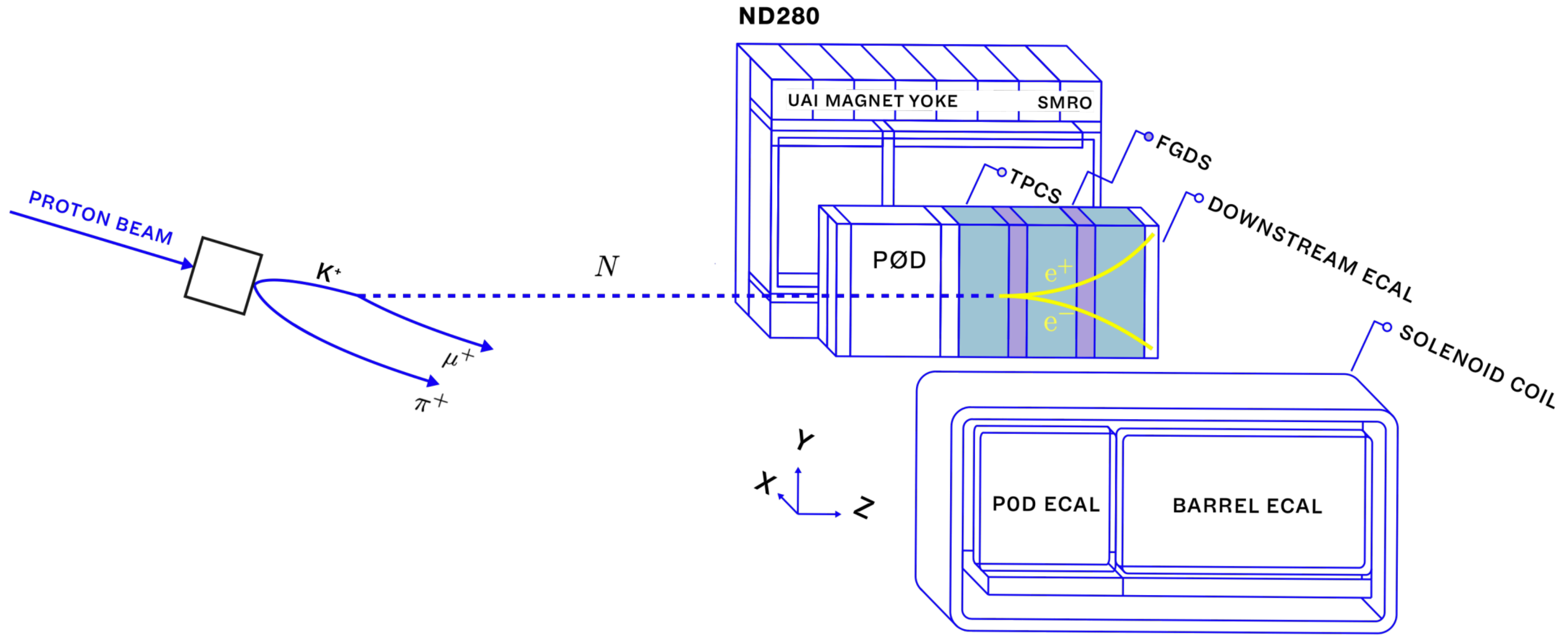
1) large transition magnetic moments generically lead to large Dirac masses.

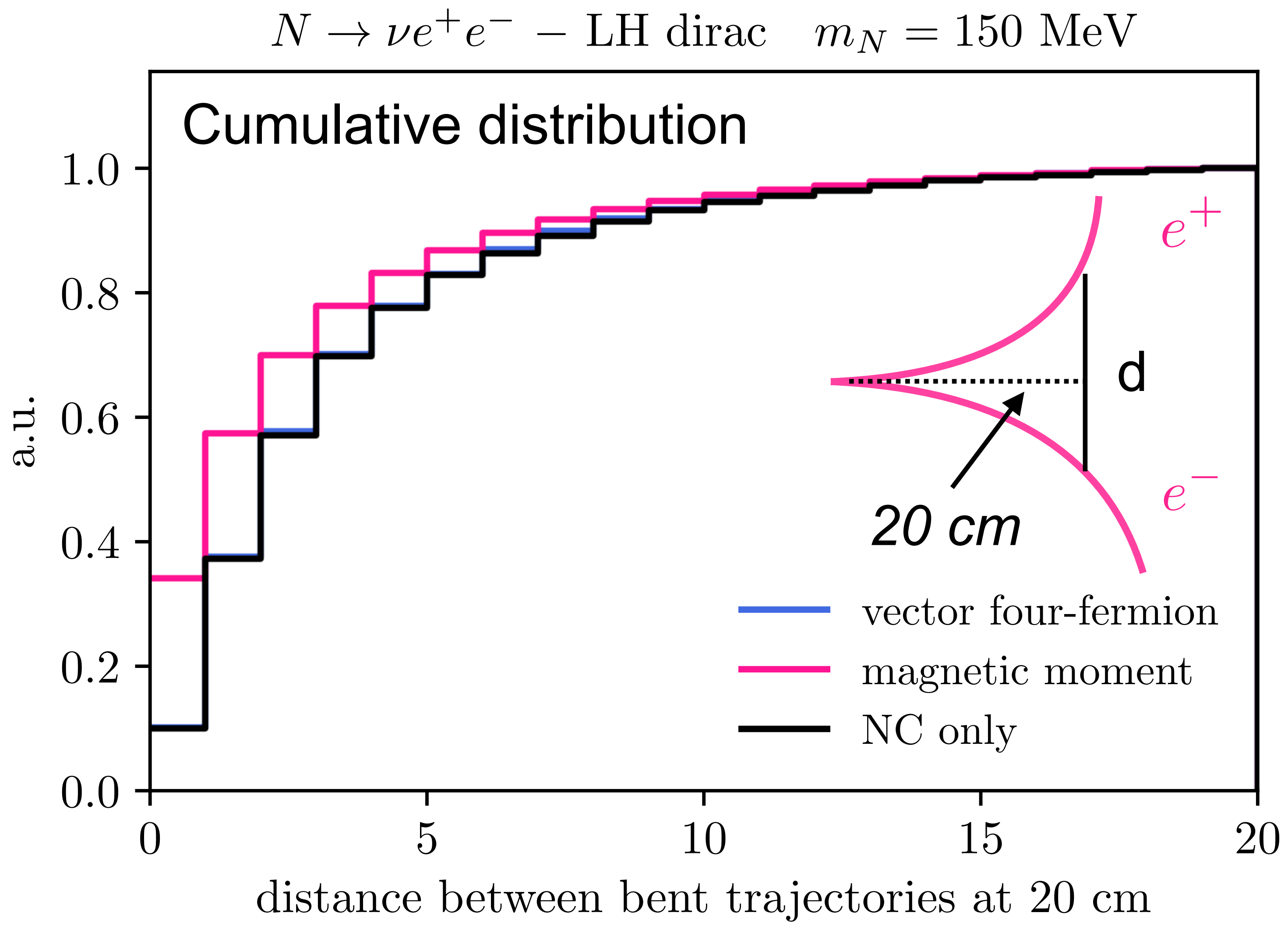
One has to do extra work to avoid mixing between ν_α and HNLs.

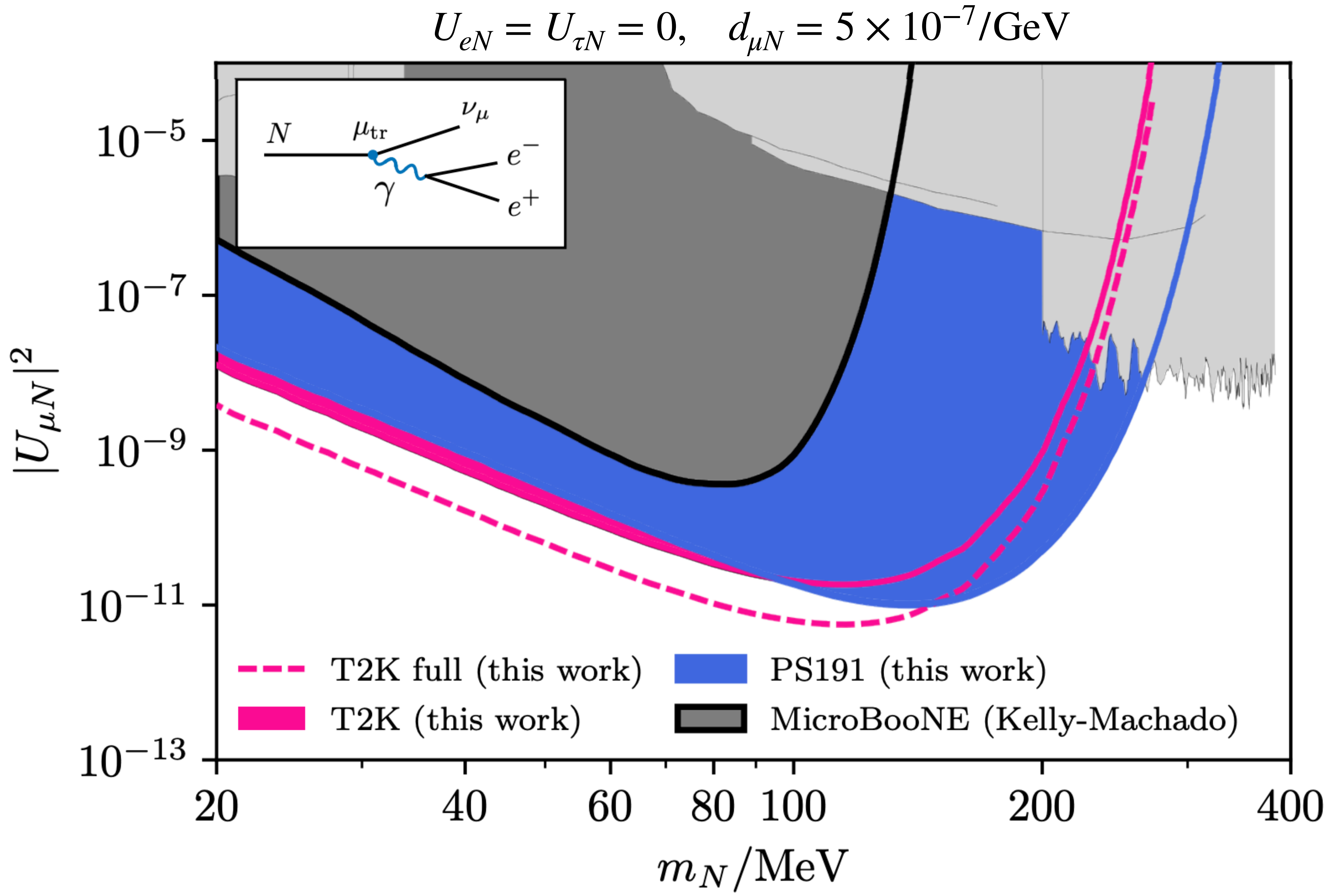
Can decouple the two with Horizontal symmetries, Voloshin, M. B., Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 48, 512 (1988).

Transition magnetic moment — Parenthesis.
Decay-in-flight signatures due to mass mixing (@ T2K)

C. Argüelles, N. Foppiani, MH arxiv:2109.03831







The limits on the mixing are very strong.

If m_D is non-zero, it better be as small as $\mathcal{O}(10\,\text{eV})$ scale.

Transition magnetic moment

The model

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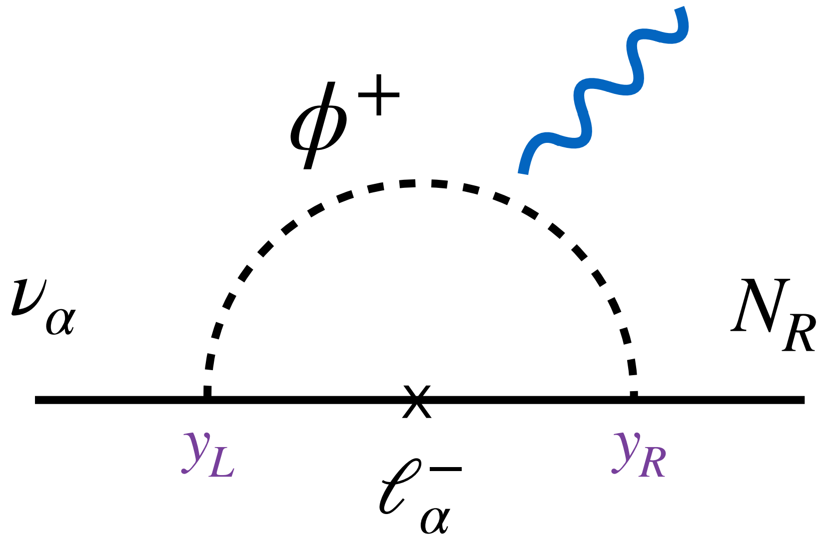

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Transition magnetic moment
The model

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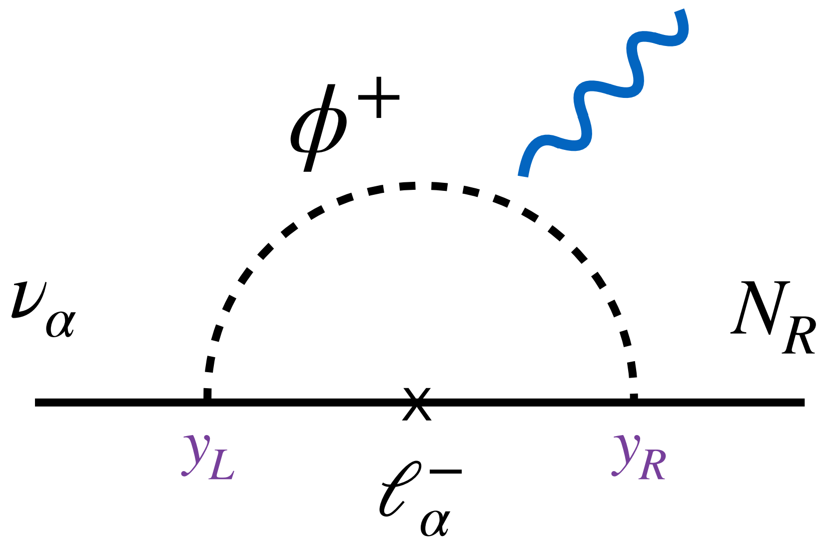


$$d_{\alpha N} \sim \frac{e\, y_L y_R}{16\pi^2}\frac{m_{\ell_\beta}}{m_\phi^2} \longrightarrow d_{\mu N} \sim 1\,\mathrm{PeV}^{-1} \longrightarrow m_\phi \sim \mathcal{O}(100\,\mathrm{GeV})$$

For, e.g., $\ell_\beta = \tau$

$$m_D \sim \frac{y_L y_R}{16\pi^2} m_{\ell_\beta} \longrightarrow U_{\alpha N} \sim \frac{m_D}{M_N} \longrightarrow 0$$

2) For values of interest, probably need some heavy particle inside the loop. May be τ or something else completely.

See also *Brdar et al 2007.15563* for an interesting leptoquark model with a b-quarks in the loop.

Transition magnetic moment
The model

Dimension-5 operator

$$\mathscr{L} \supset \frac{1}{\Lambda^2}\overline{L}\tilde{H}\sigma^{\mu\nu}N_R\left(C_B^\alpha\, B_{\mu\nu} + C_W^\alpha\, W^a_{\mu\nu}\sigma_a\right) \xrightarrow{\text{EWSB}} \mathscr{L} \supset d_{\alpha N}\,\overline{\nu_\alpha}\sigma_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}N_R$$

Points to keep in mind:

For flavor-blind and flavor-conserving ($\alpha = \beta$) new physics, we expect:

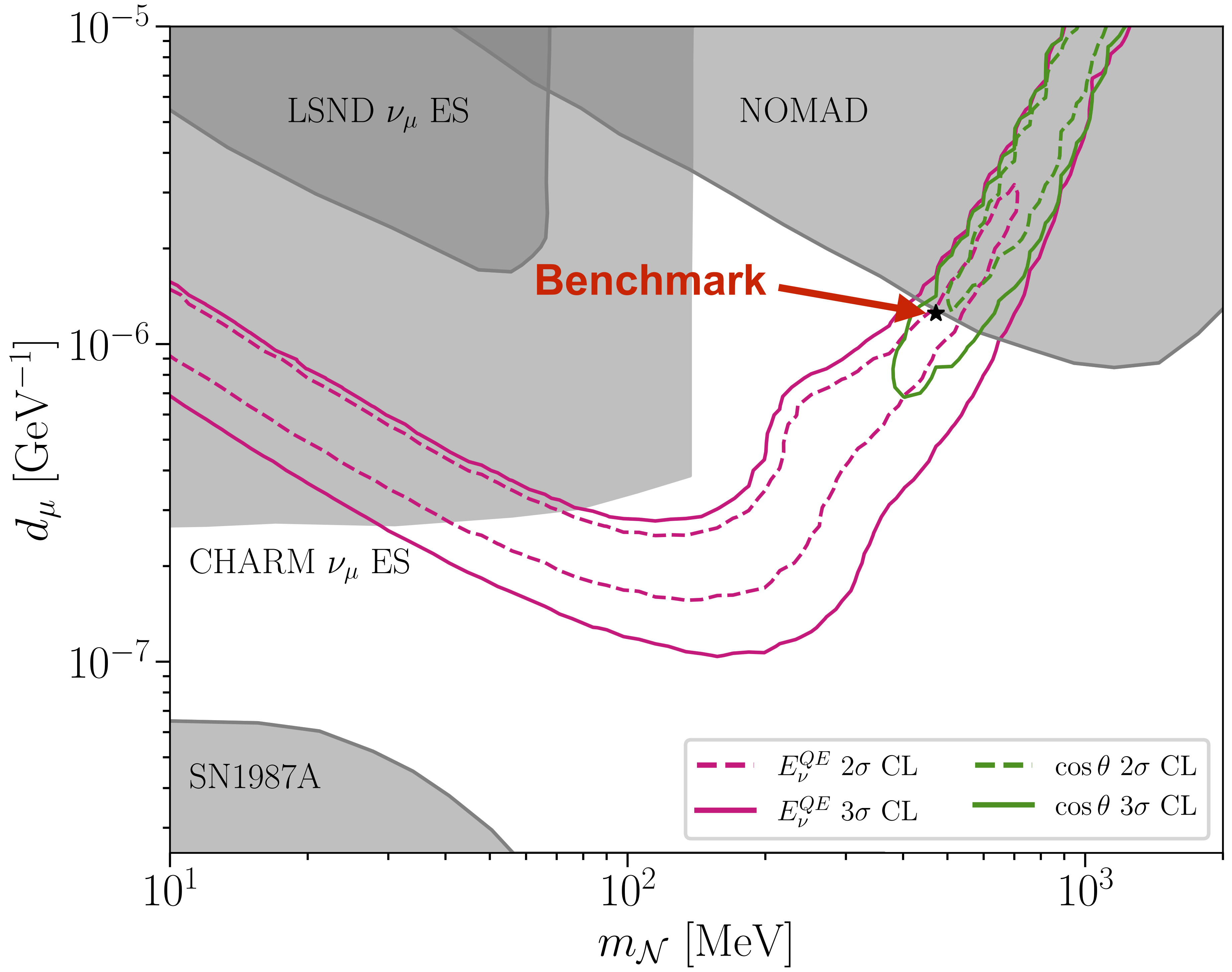
$$\frac{d_{eN}}{m_e} \simeq \frac{d_{\mu N}}{m_\mu} \simeq \frac{d_{\tau N}}{m_\tau}$$

3) τ flavor seems like an interesting possibility to consider.

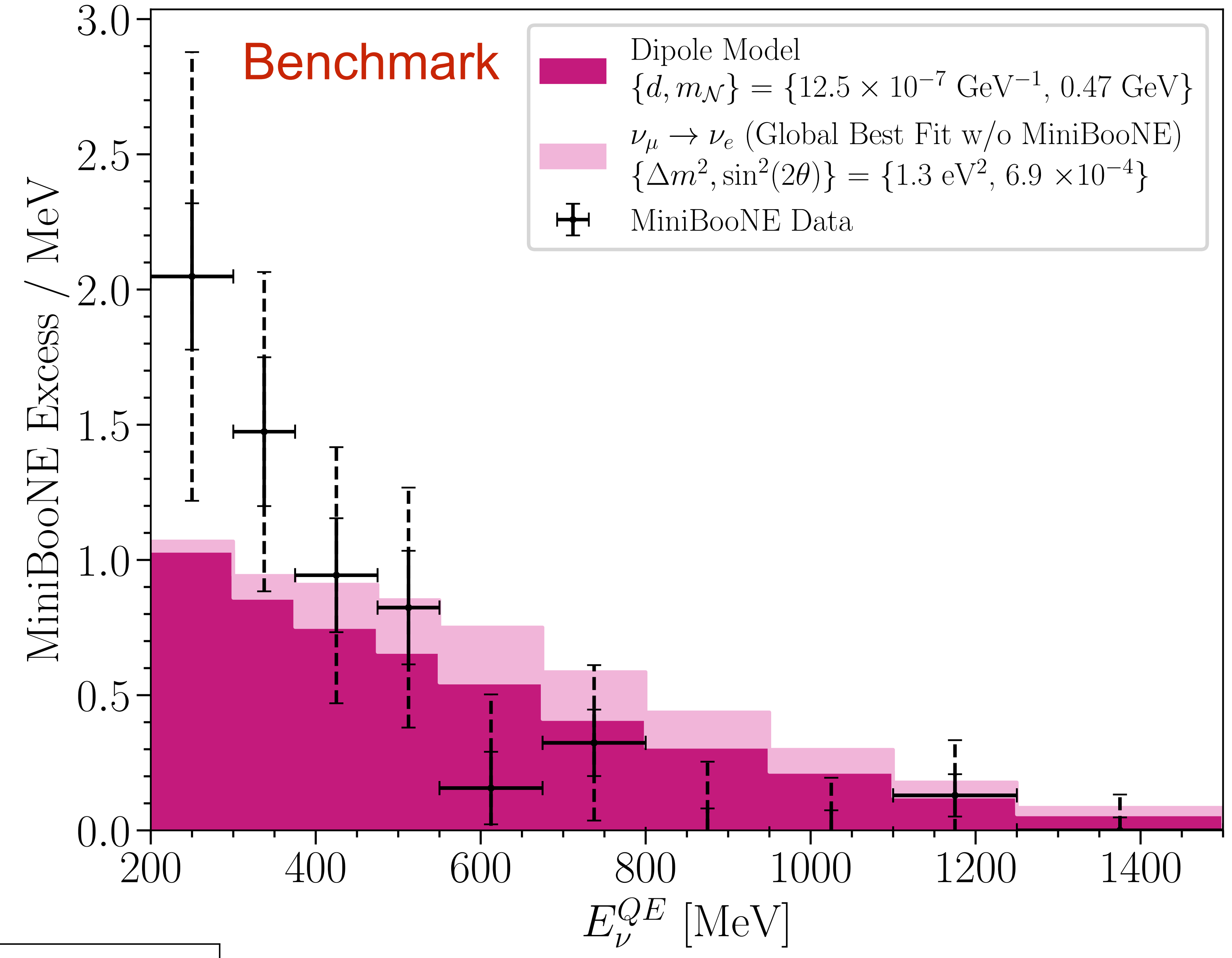
Transition magnetic moment

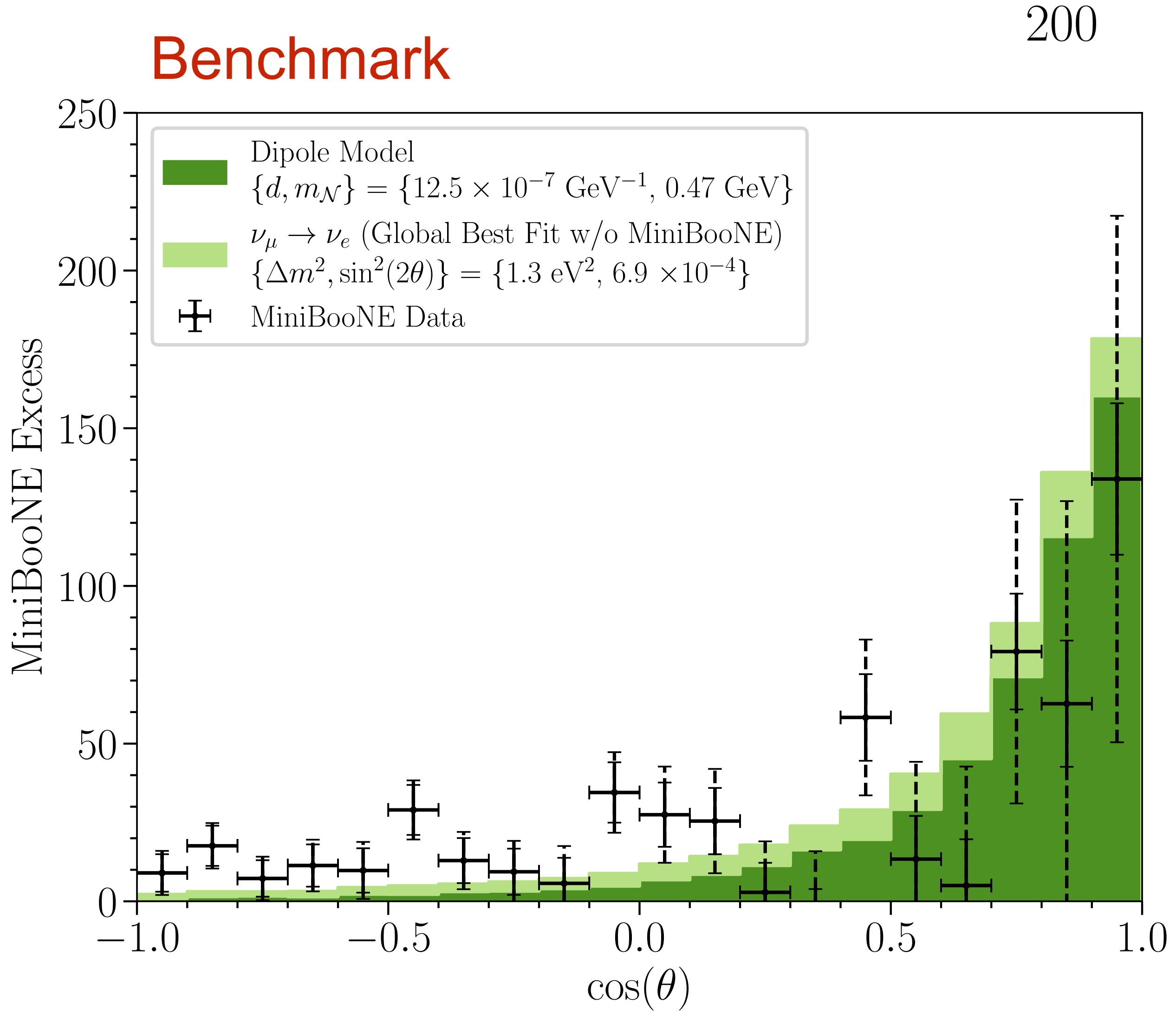
MiniBooNE region of interest

N. Kamp, M. Hostert, A. Schneider, S. Vergani, C. A. Argüelles,
J. M. Conrad, M. H. Shaevitz, and M. Uchida, arXiv:2206.xxxxx



We also added eV-sterile oscillations on top of the dipole using the global best-fit point from Vergani et al.





Performed a fit to the MiniBooNE low-energy excess.

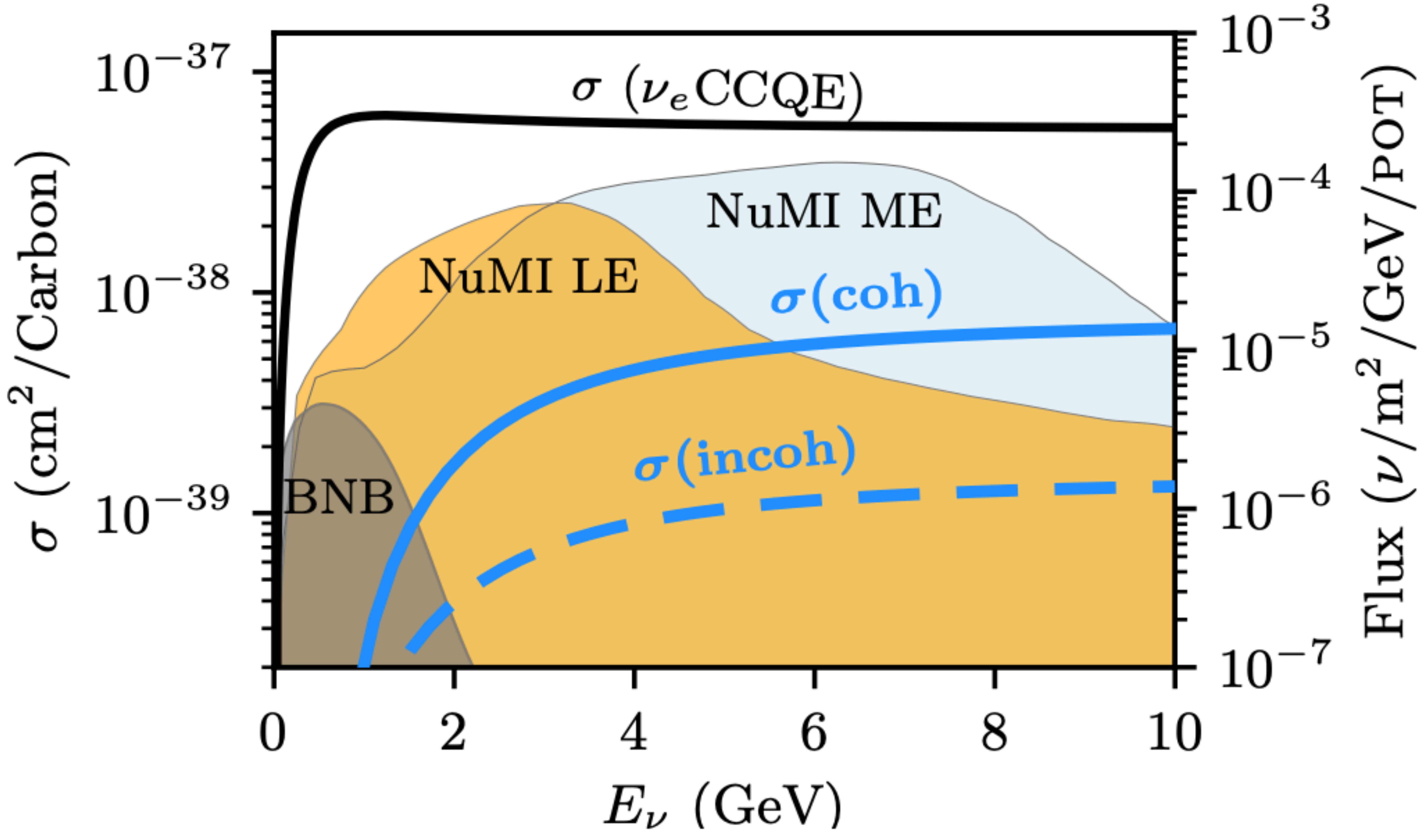
Updates previous fit in Vergani et al arXiv:2105.06470 with a detector simulation in **LeptonInjector** and coherent upscattering cross-sections from **DarkNews** with improved nuclear form factors (see later).

Angular and energy spectrum fits overlap only at the largest m_N values.

Transition magnetic moment

MINERvA limits from $\nu - e$ scattering measurement

C. Arguelles, MH, Y. Tsai, PRL123.261801

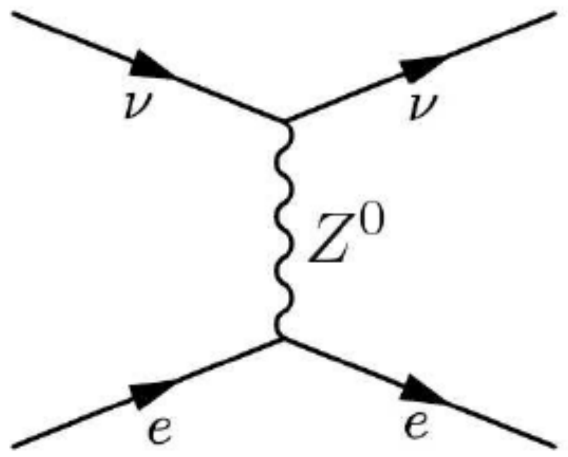


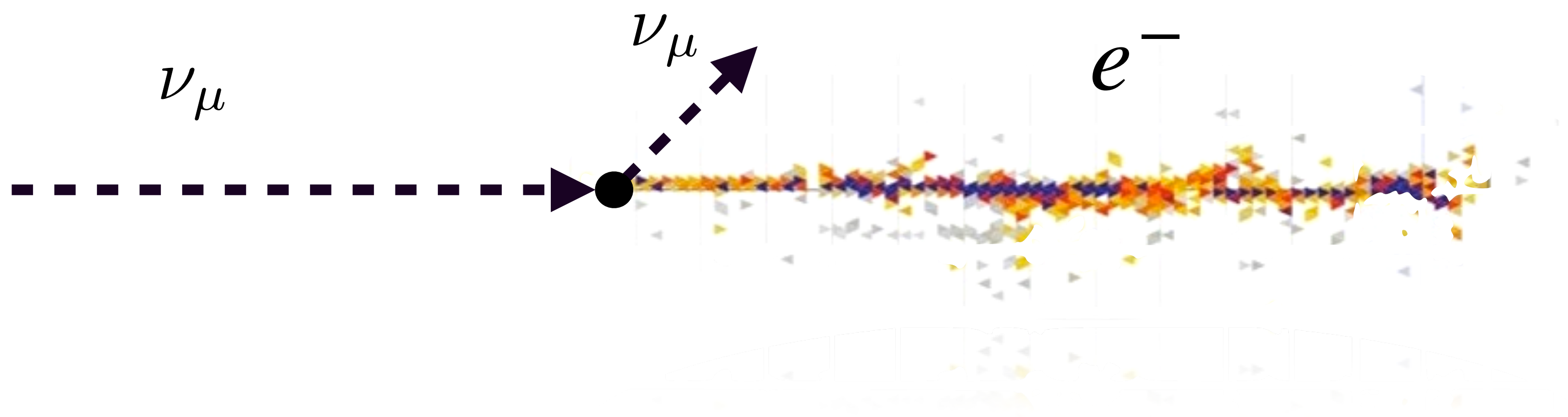
MINERvA was located in the NuMI beam — larger energy and more neutrinos, but no dedicated search.

Transition magnetic moment

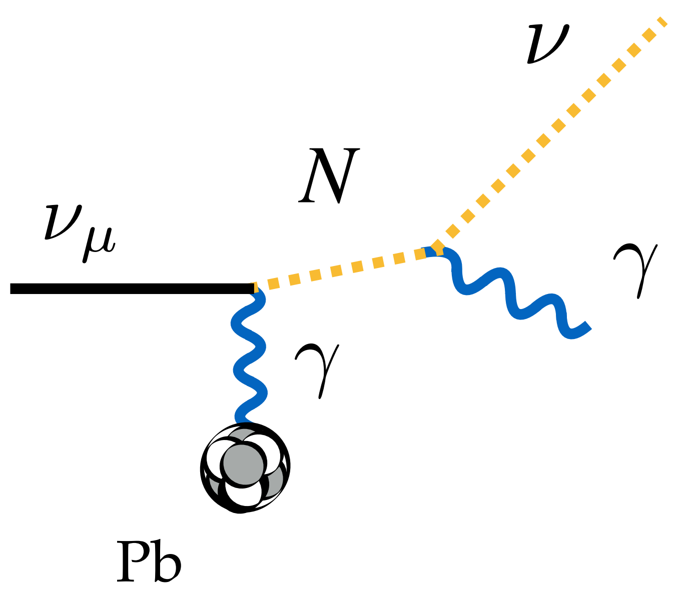
MINERvA limits from $\nu - e$ scattering measurement

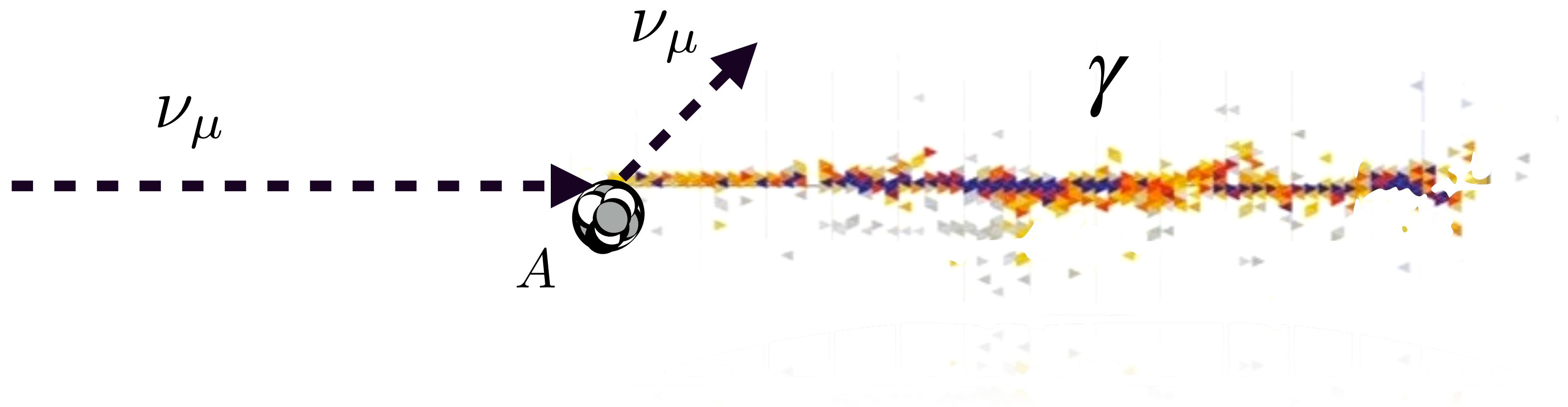
Neutrino-electron scattering



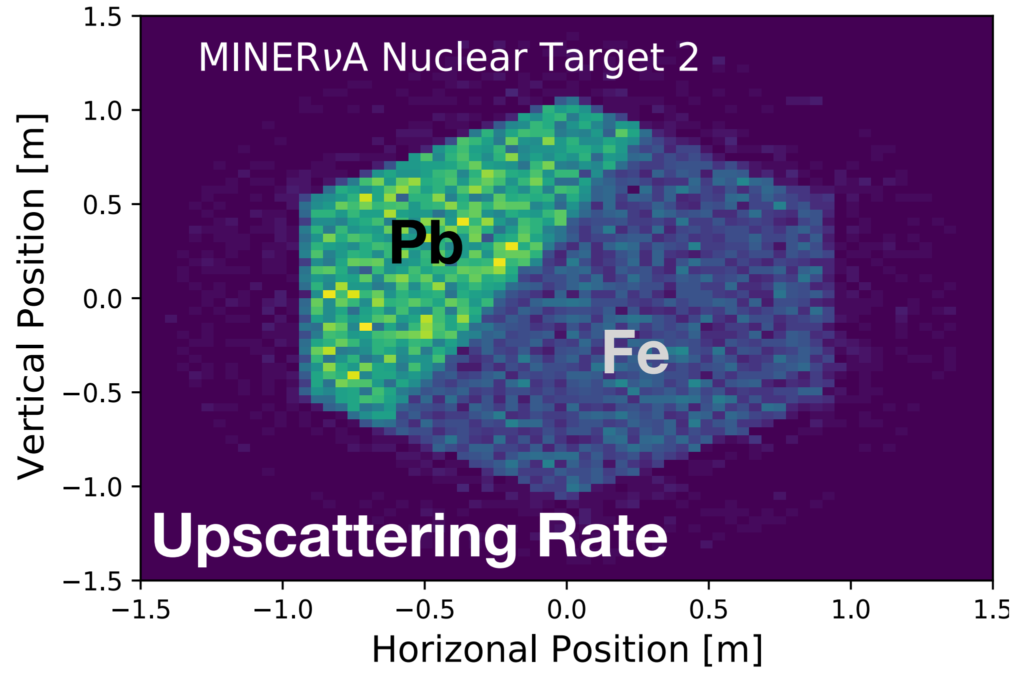


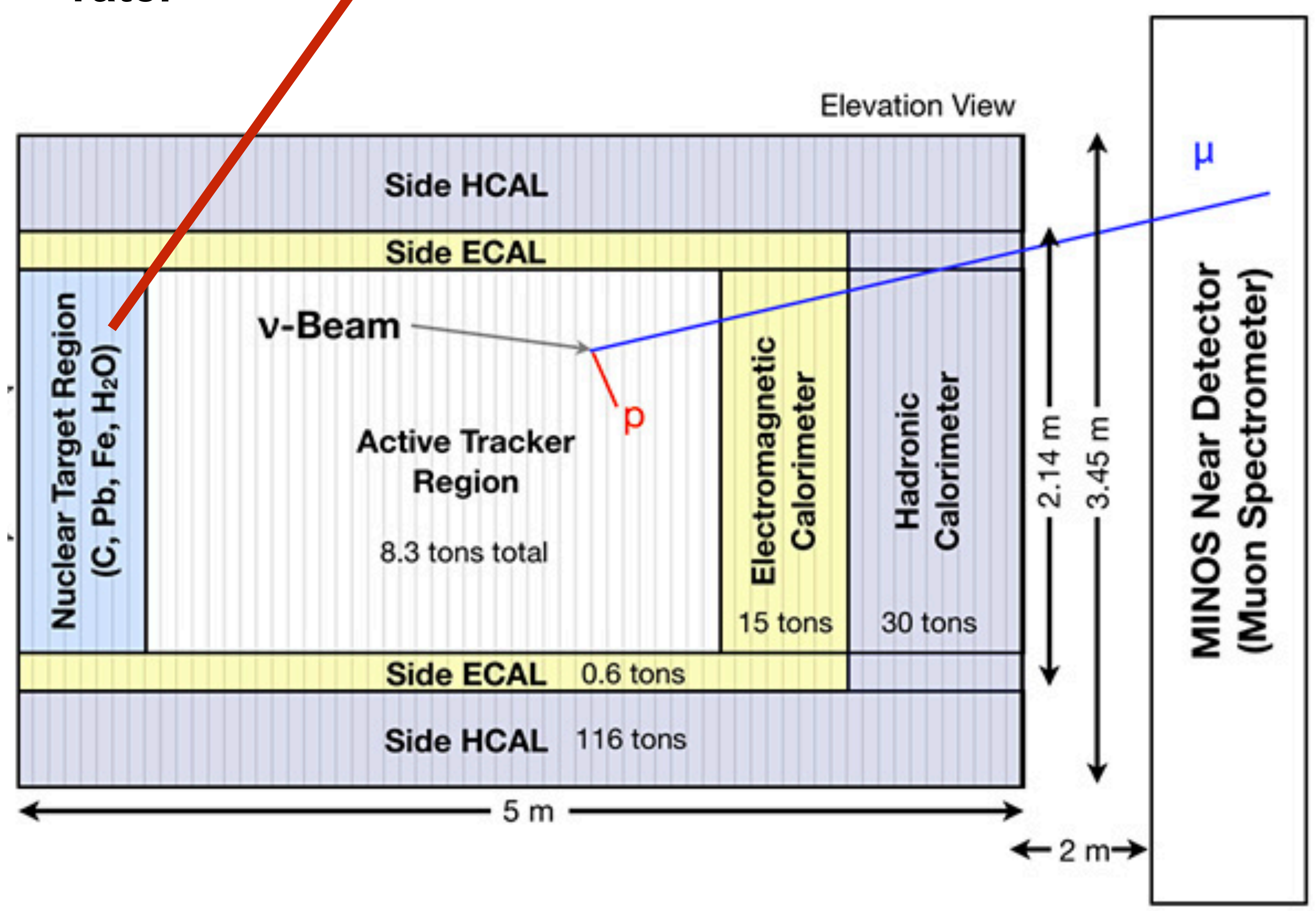
Neutrino-nucleus coherent scattering and HNL decay





Large Z materials that enhance coherent rate.

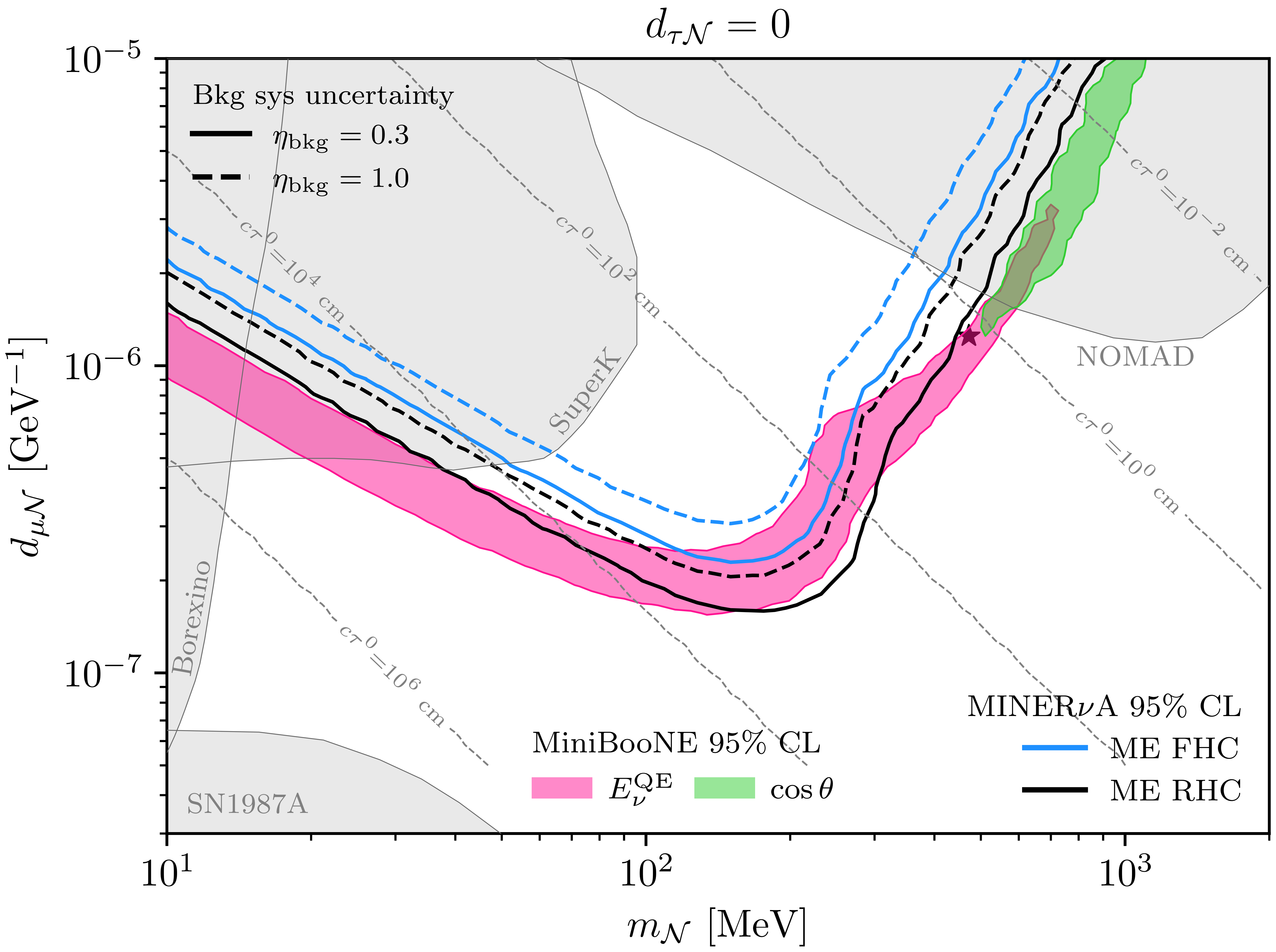




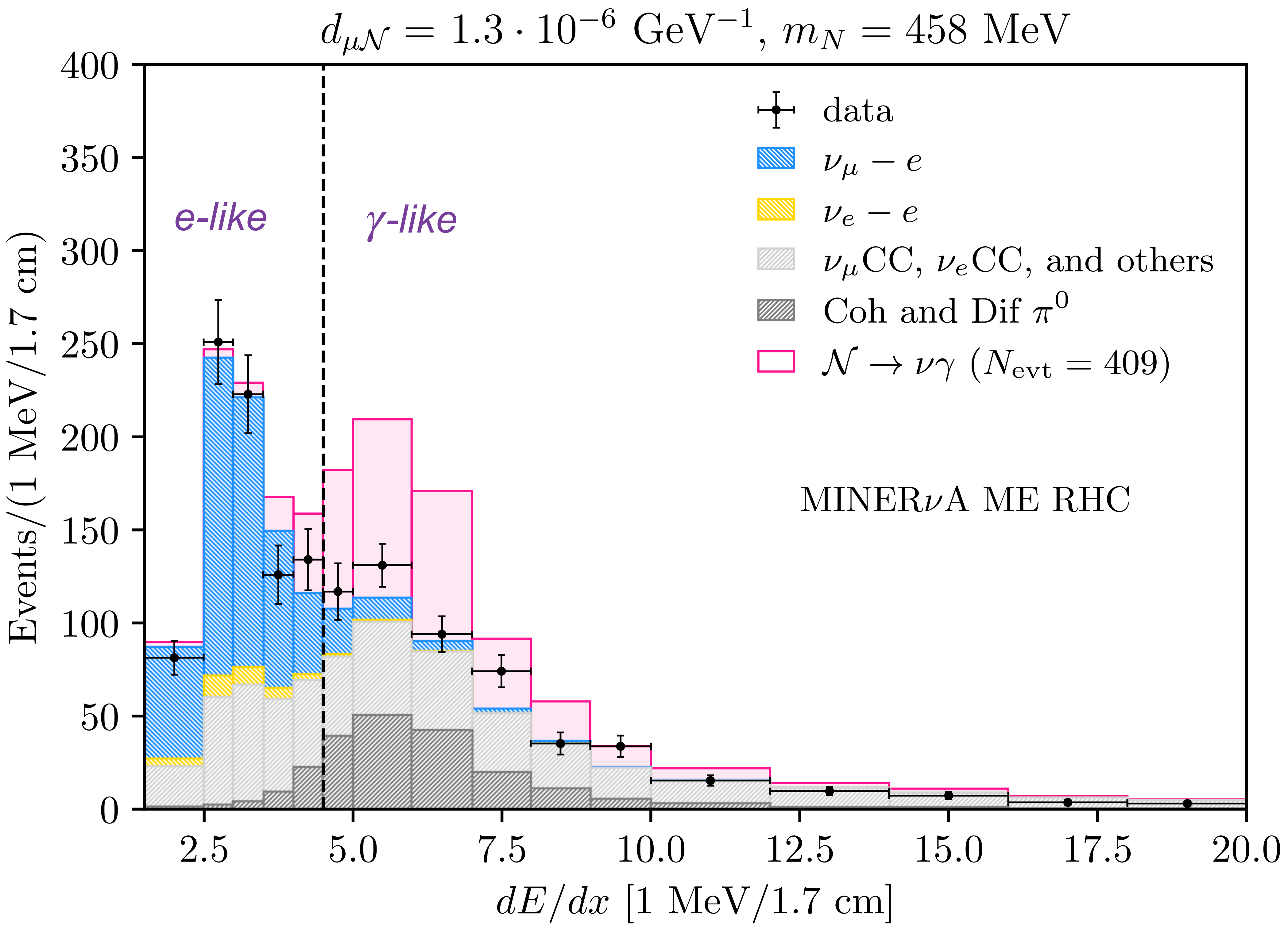
Transition magnetic moment

MINERvA limits from $\nu - e$ scattering measurement

N. Kamp, M. Hostert, A. Schneider, S. Vergani, C. A. Argüelles,
J. M. Conrad, M. H. Shaevitz, and M. Uchida, arXiv:2206.xxxxx



Using photon-like sample of the **MINERvA** antineutrino-electron scattering analysis.



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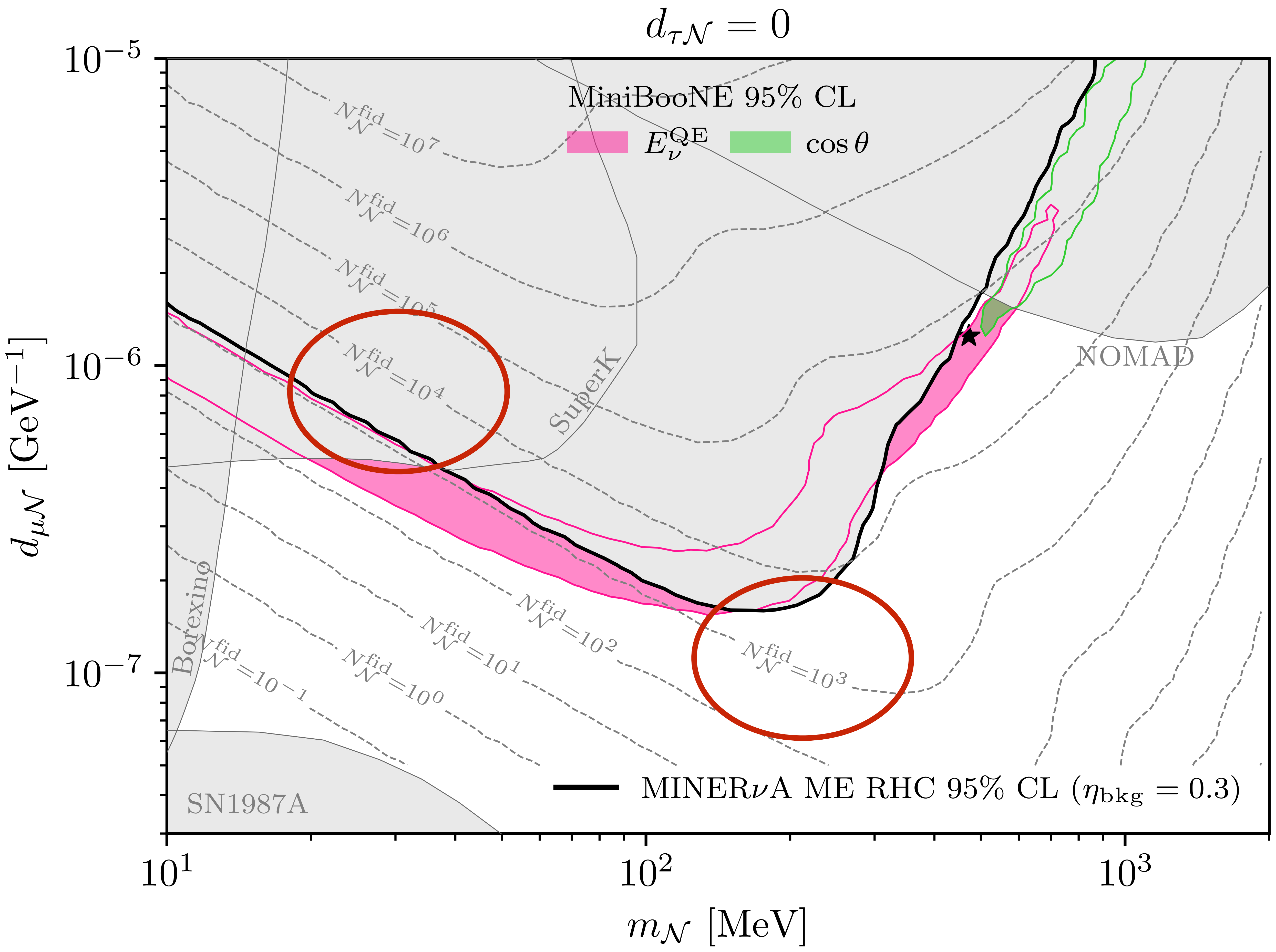
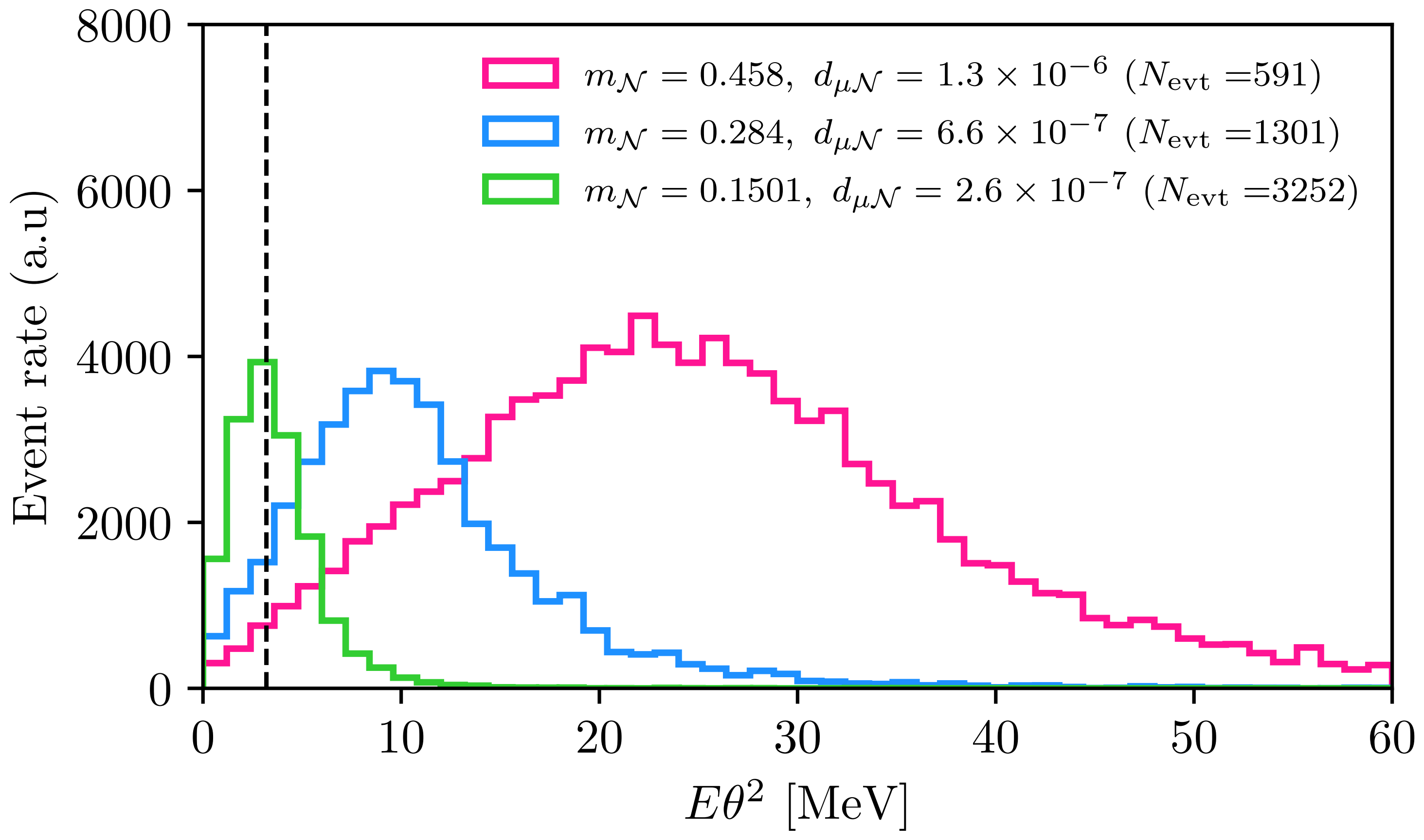
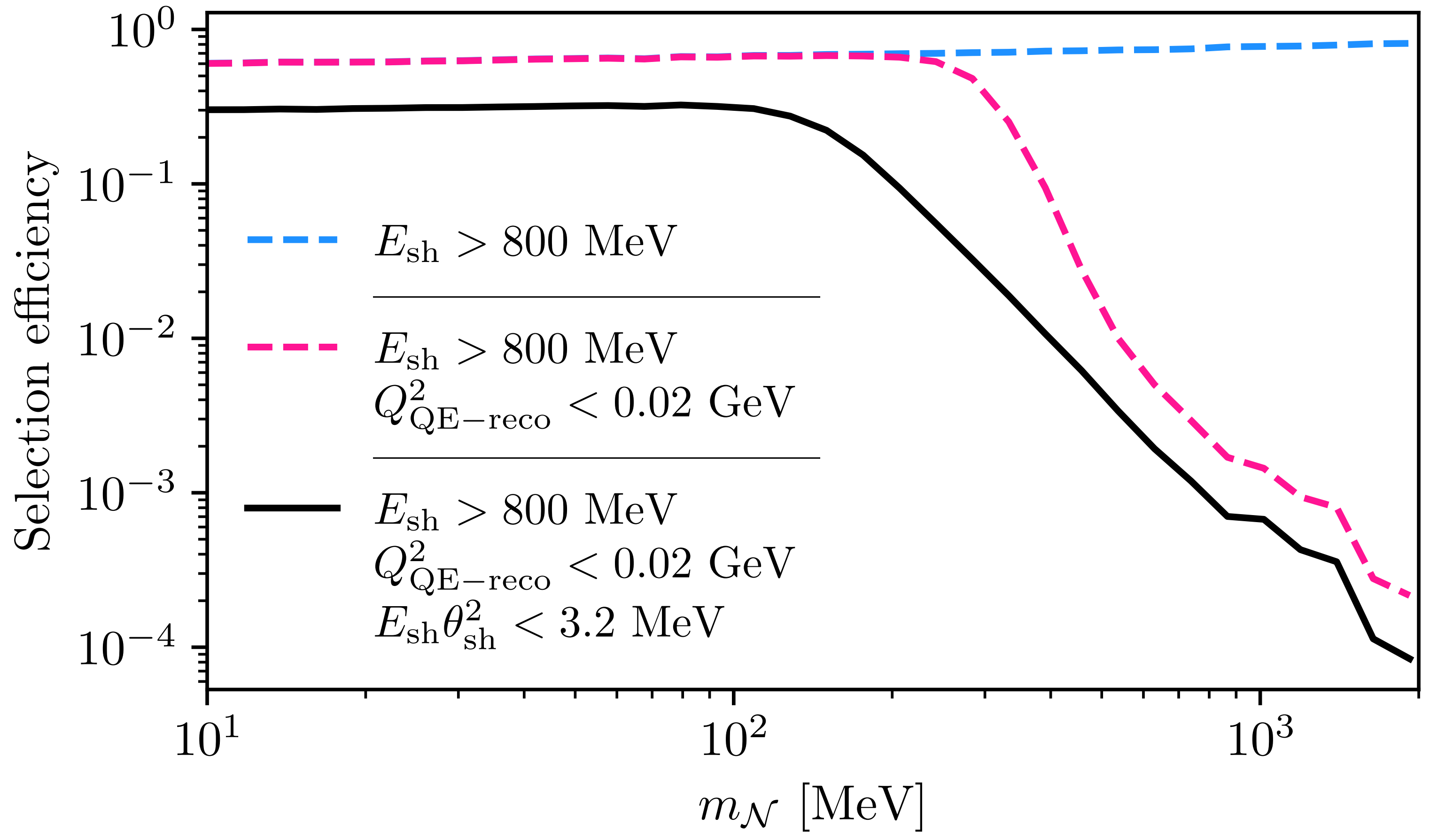




MINERvA uses the fact that $E\theta^2 < 2m_e$ for $\nu - e$ scattering.

This hurts us badly,

but there are a huge number of N that decay inside the volume of the analysis.



Transition magnetic moment

MINERvA limits from $\nu - e$ scattering measurement

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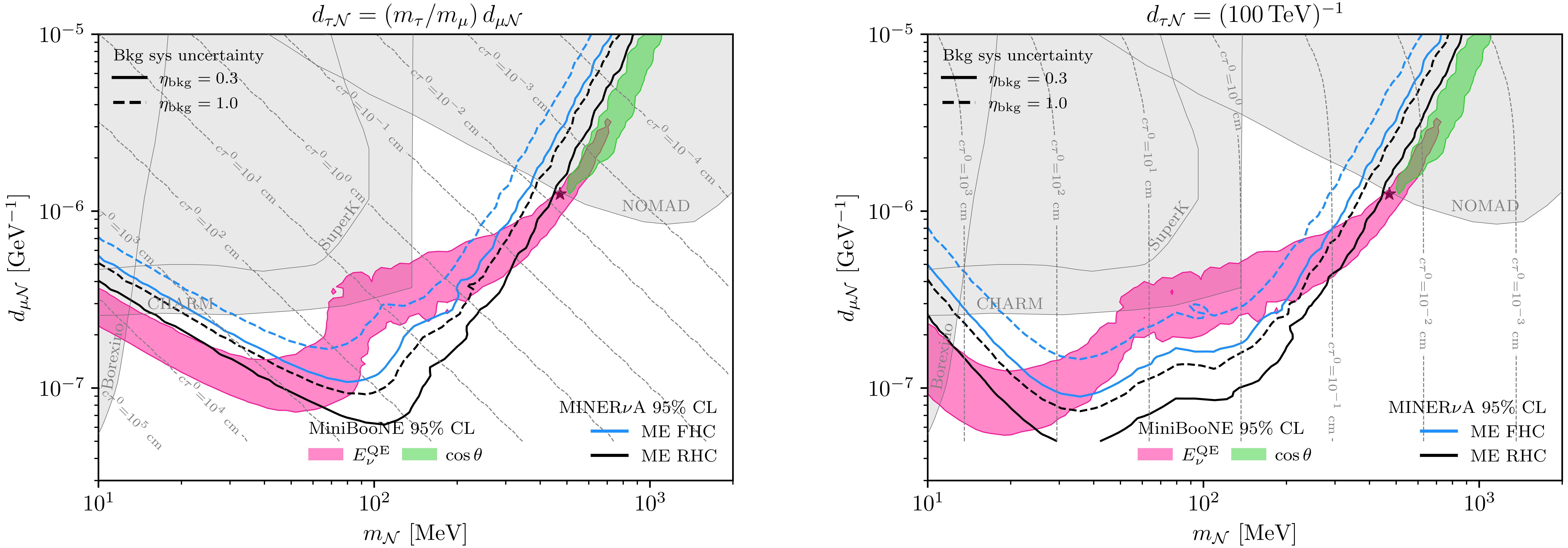
Similar story for cases with tau-dipoles

$$d_\tau \neq 0$$



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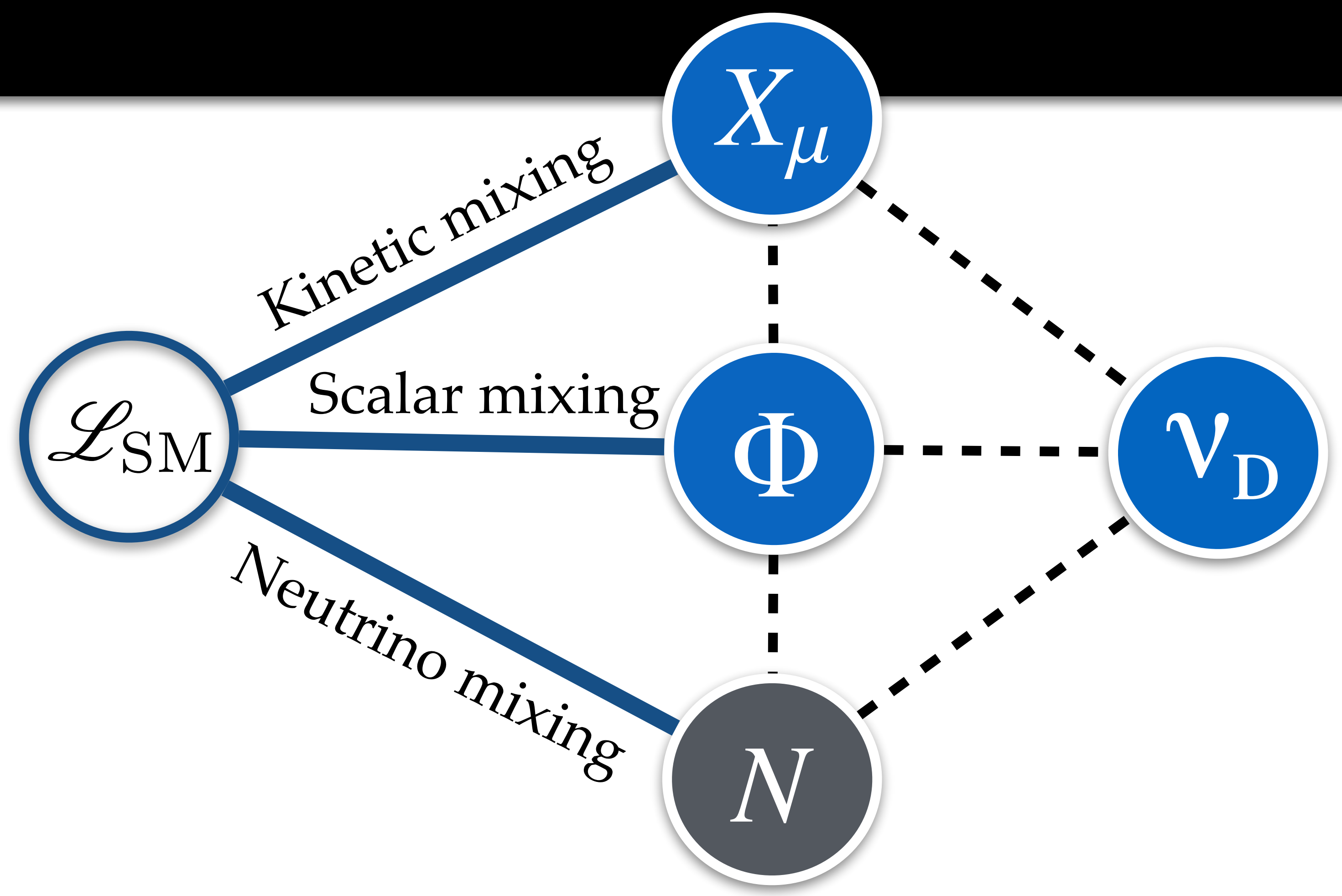
Dark Neutrino Sectors
A model

A. Abdullahi, MH, S. Pascoli
arXiv:2007.11813



1) A minimal renormalizable model:

	$\mathrm{SU}(2)_L$	$\mathrm{U}(1)_Y$	$\mathrm{U}(1)_X$
ν_N	$\mathbf{1}$	0	0
ν_{D_L}	$\mathbf{1}$	0	Q
ν_{D_R}	$\mathbf{1}$	0	Q
Φ	$\mathbf{1}$	0	Q

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & M_D & 0 \\ M_D^T & M_N & \Lambda \\ 0 & \Lambda^T & \mathcal{M}_X \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\alpha^c \\ \nu_N^c \\ \nu_D^c \end{pmatrix}$$

Heavy neutrinos charged under a dark U(1)' symmetry, broken at the GeV

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

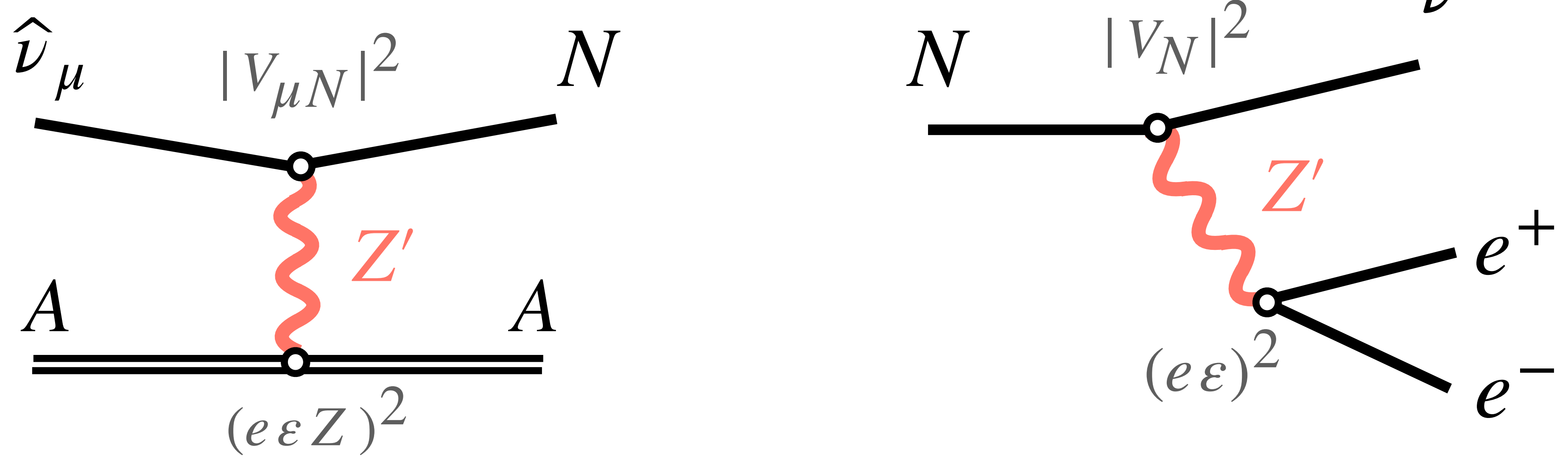
See also B. Batell et al, JHEP 1608 (2016) 052, Bertuzzo et al, PLB 791 (2019) 210-214 + others

Dark Neutrino Sectors

Parametrizing several models — now phenomenologically friendly

Dark photon coupled to heavy neutral leptons and neutrinos via mixing.

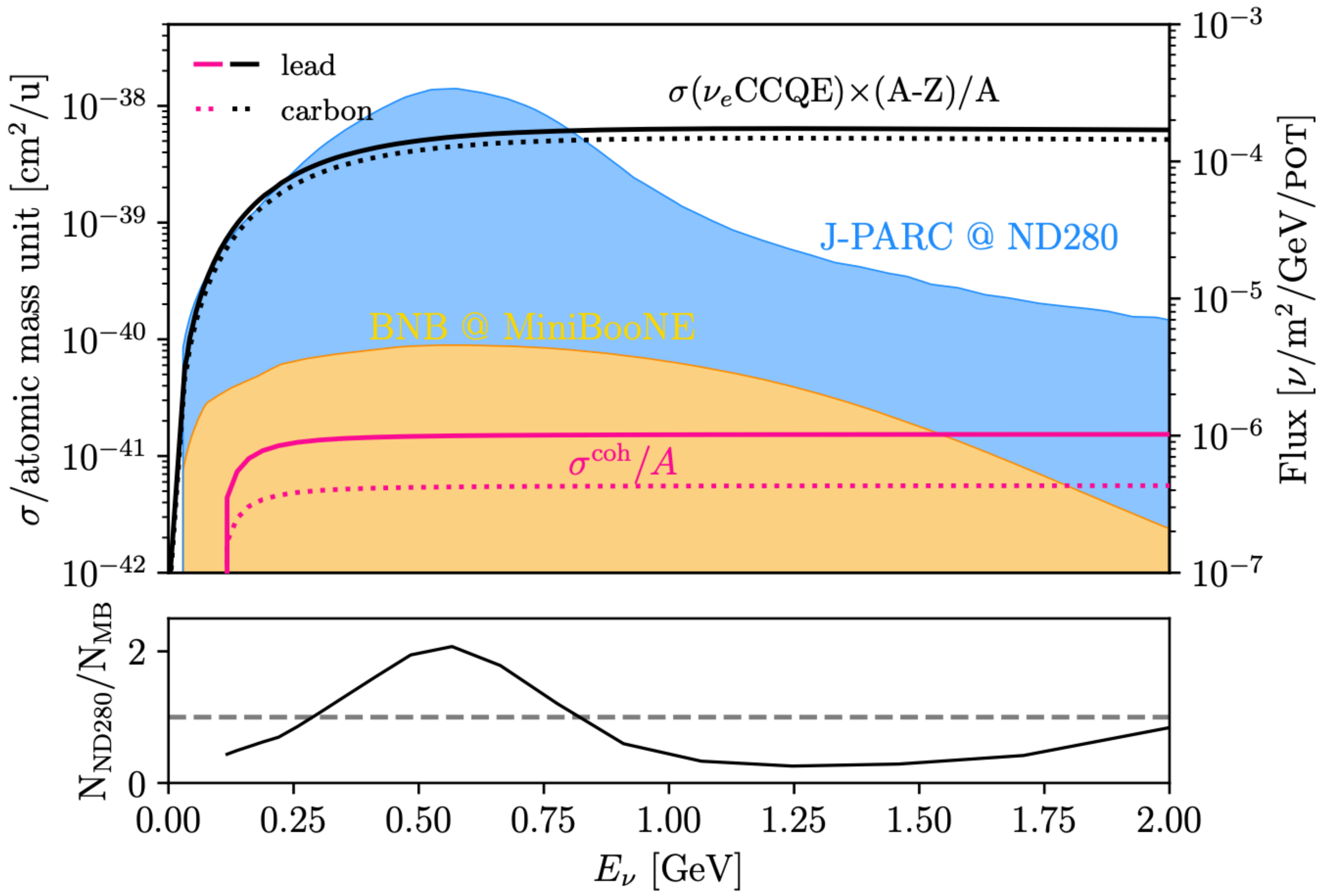
$$\mathscr{L} \supset \mathscr{L}_{\nu\text{-mass}} + \frac{m_{Z'}^2}{2} Z'^{\mu} Z'_{\mu} + Z'_{\mu}\left(e\epsilon J^{\mu}_{\rm EM} + g_D J^{\mu}_{D}\right), \qquad J^{\mu}_{D} = \sum_{i,j}^{n+3} V_{ij}\overline{\nu}_i \gamma^{\mu} \nu_j,$$



$$V_{\alpha N} \equiv \frac{\sum_{i\leq 3} U^{*}_{\alpha i} V_{iN}}{\left(\sum_{k\leq 3} |U_{ki}|^2\right)^{1/2}}. \qquad |V_N|^2 = \sum_{i<N} |V_{iN}|^2$$

Dark Neutrino Sectors

Upscattering at the T2K near detector



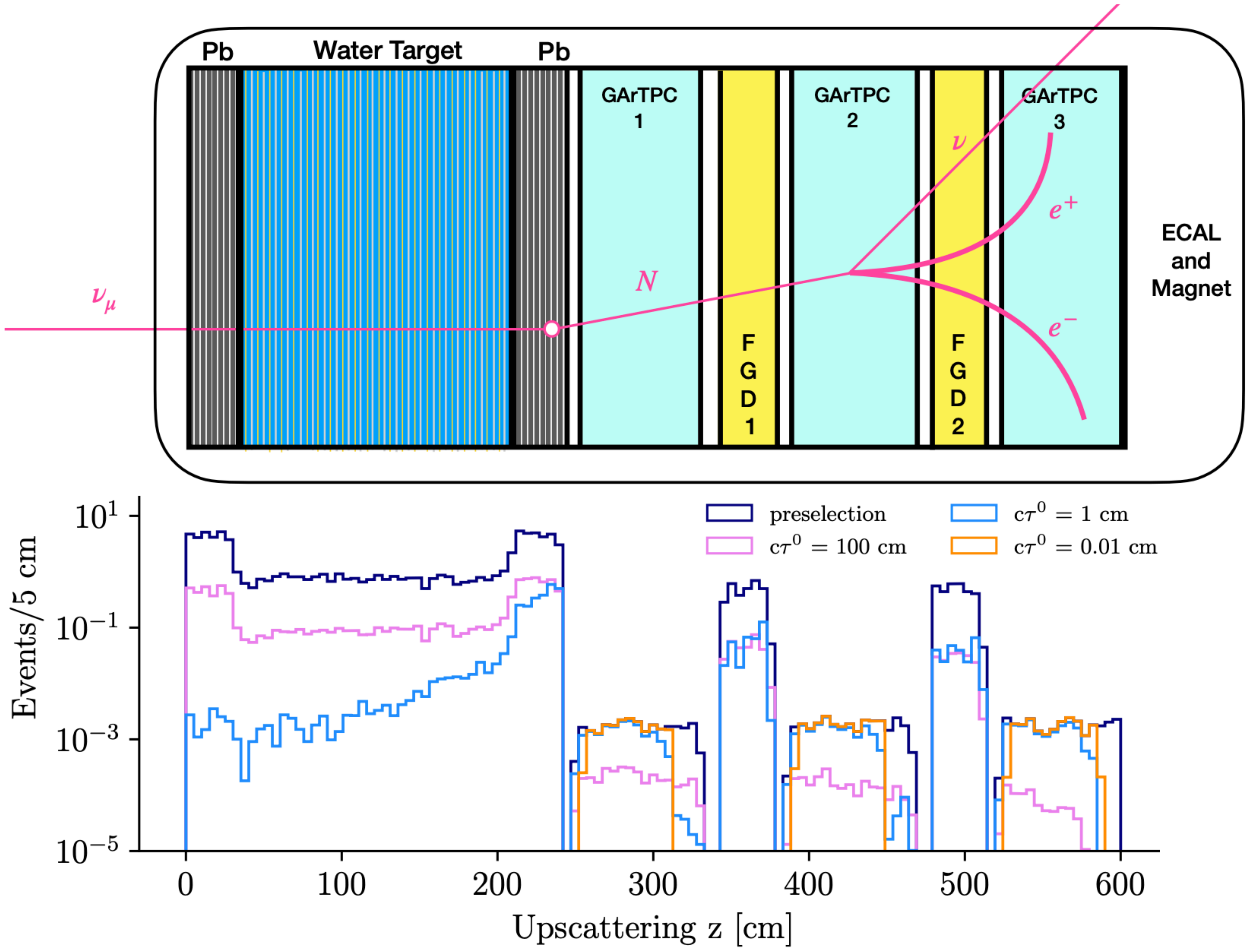
J-PARC beam is more intense and peaks in a similar energy range to the Booster Beam.

Ratio of upscattering events in T2K similar to that in MiniBooNE. Should see hundreds of HNLs or more.

Dark Neutrino Sectors

Upscattering at the T2K near detector

C. Arguelles, MH, N. Foppiani, arXiv:2205.12273



Benefit of this detector:

Heavy **lead** plates

+ Gaseous Argon modules

+ Magnetic field to separate e^+e^-

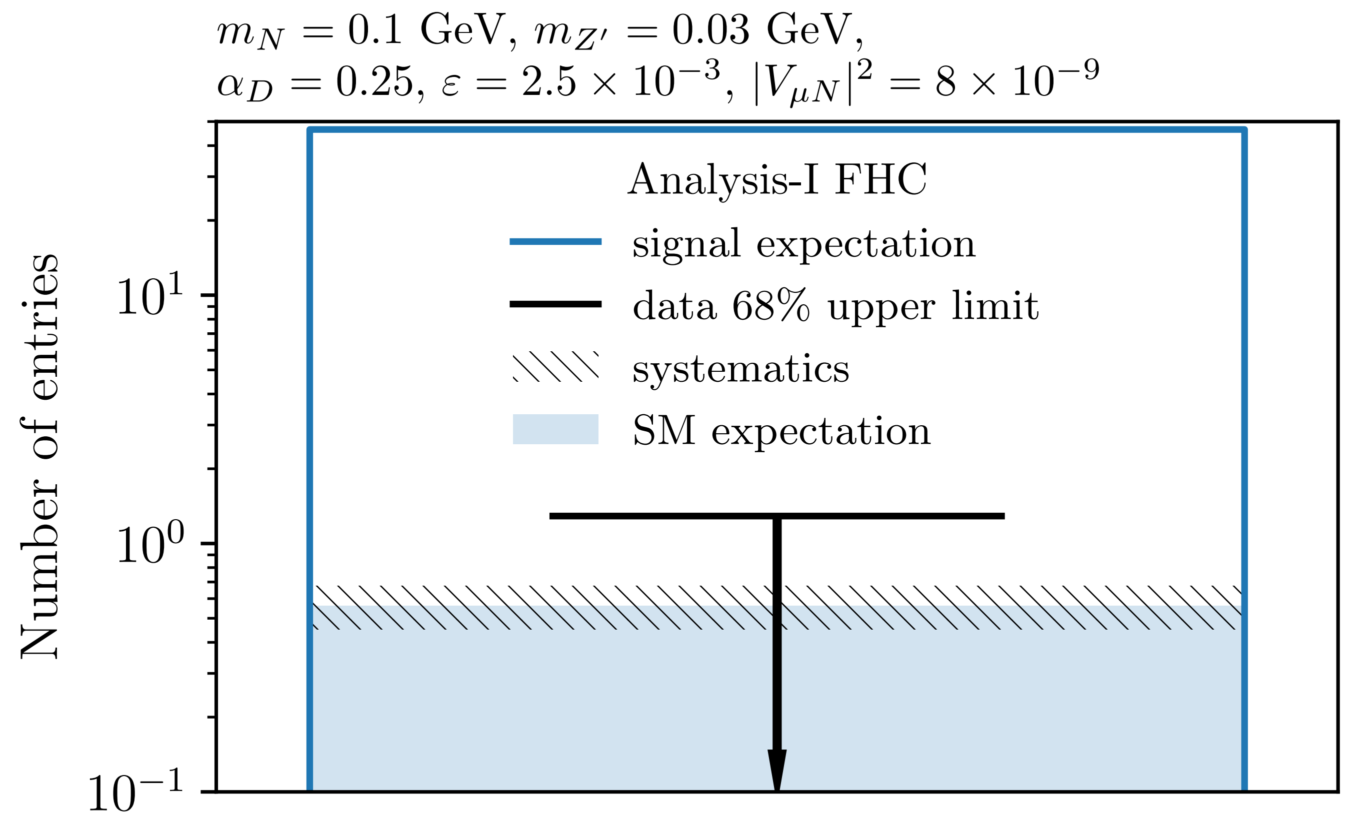
Dark Neutrino Sectors
Upscattering at the T2K near detector

T2K Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 100, 052006 (2019)

See also, Vedran Brdar et al, arXiv:2007.14411

C. Arguelles, MH, N. Foppiani, arXiv:2205.12273

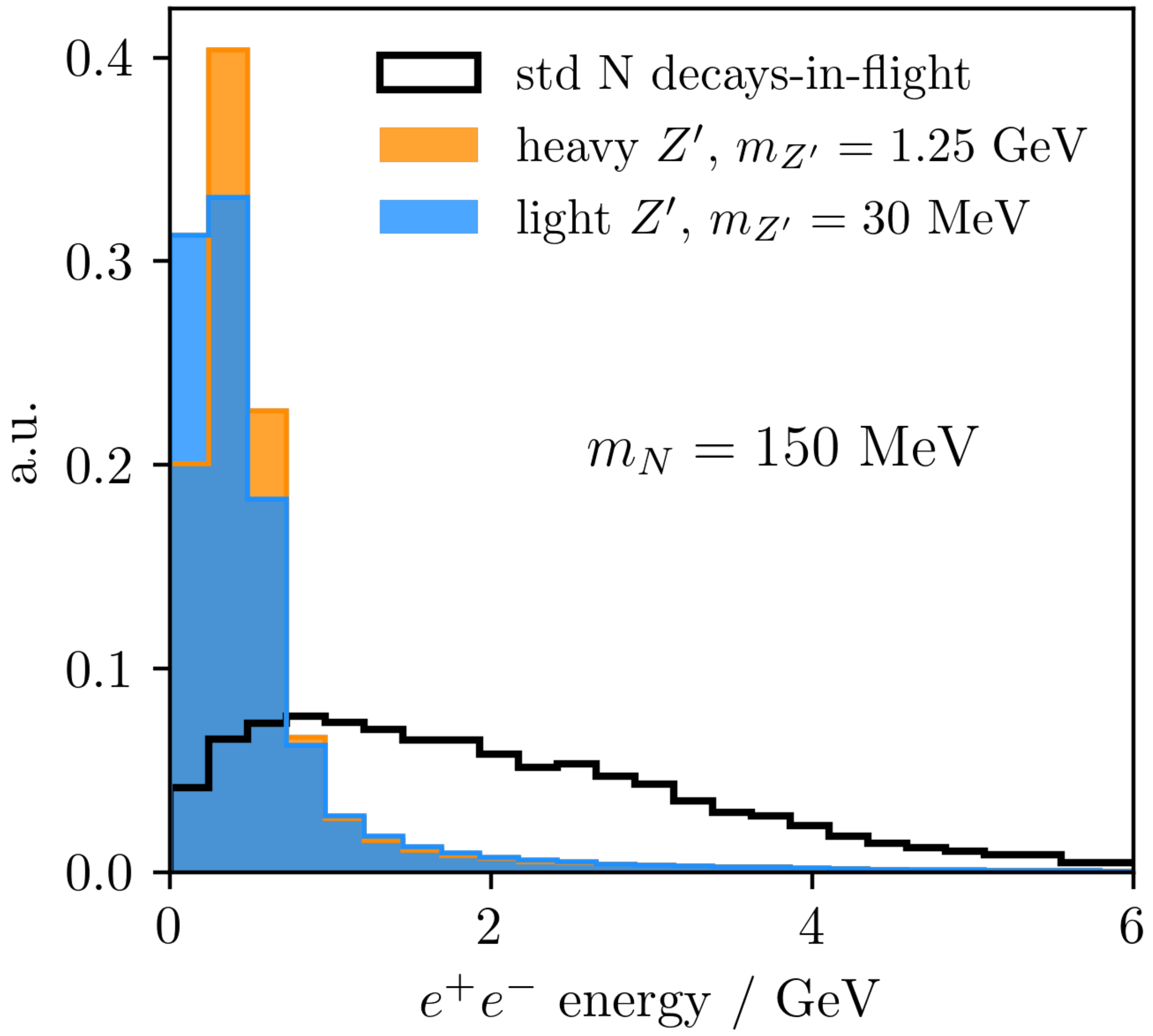
Dataset I — The T2K search for the decay in flight of HNLs



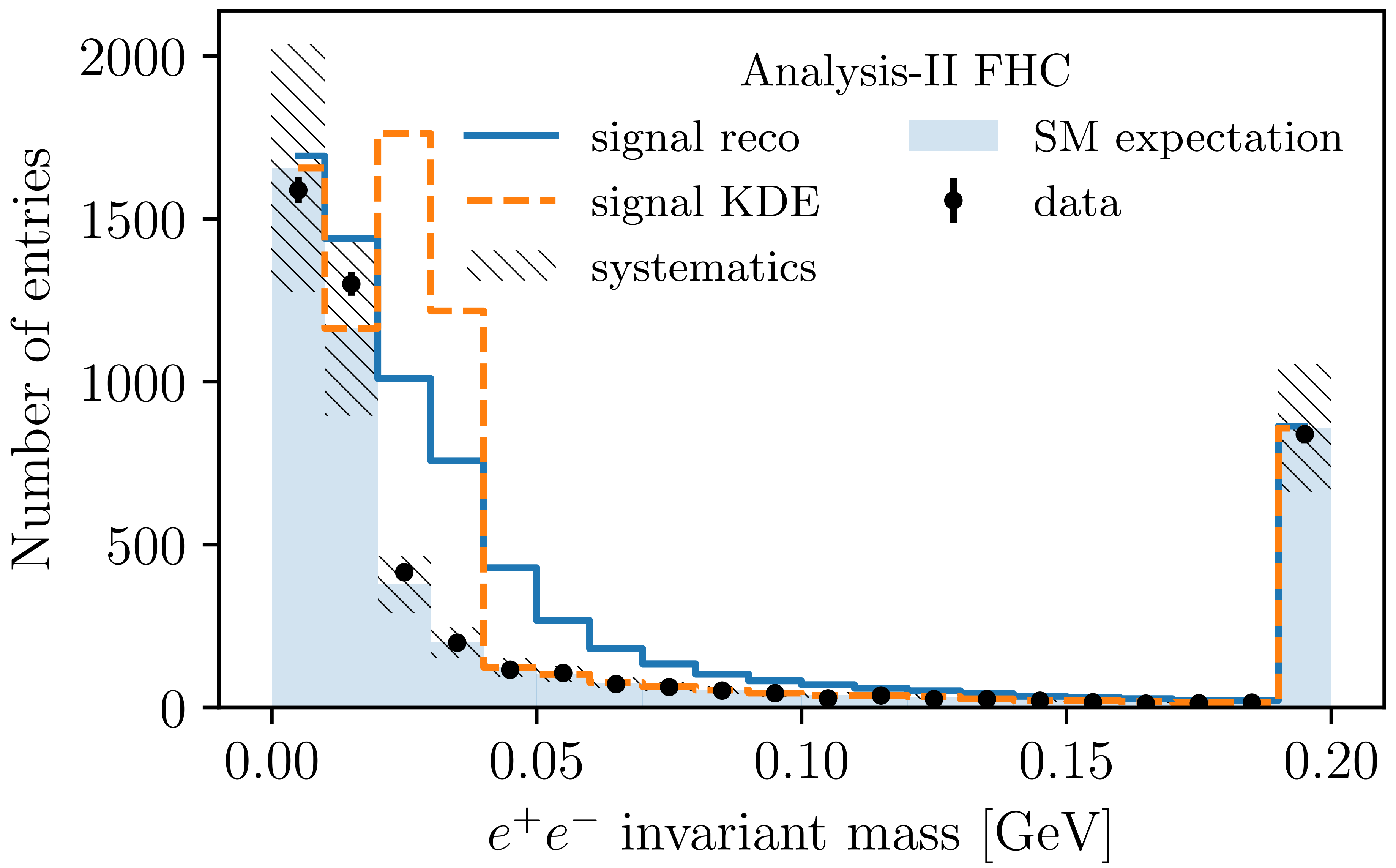
Single bin. No events in the data.
Background-free search.

The search focused on the decay
in flight of HNLs (solid black)

Our signal is a little different,
mostly in energy.



Dataset II — The T2K search for single photons



New physics gets smeared out on e+e- invariant mass.

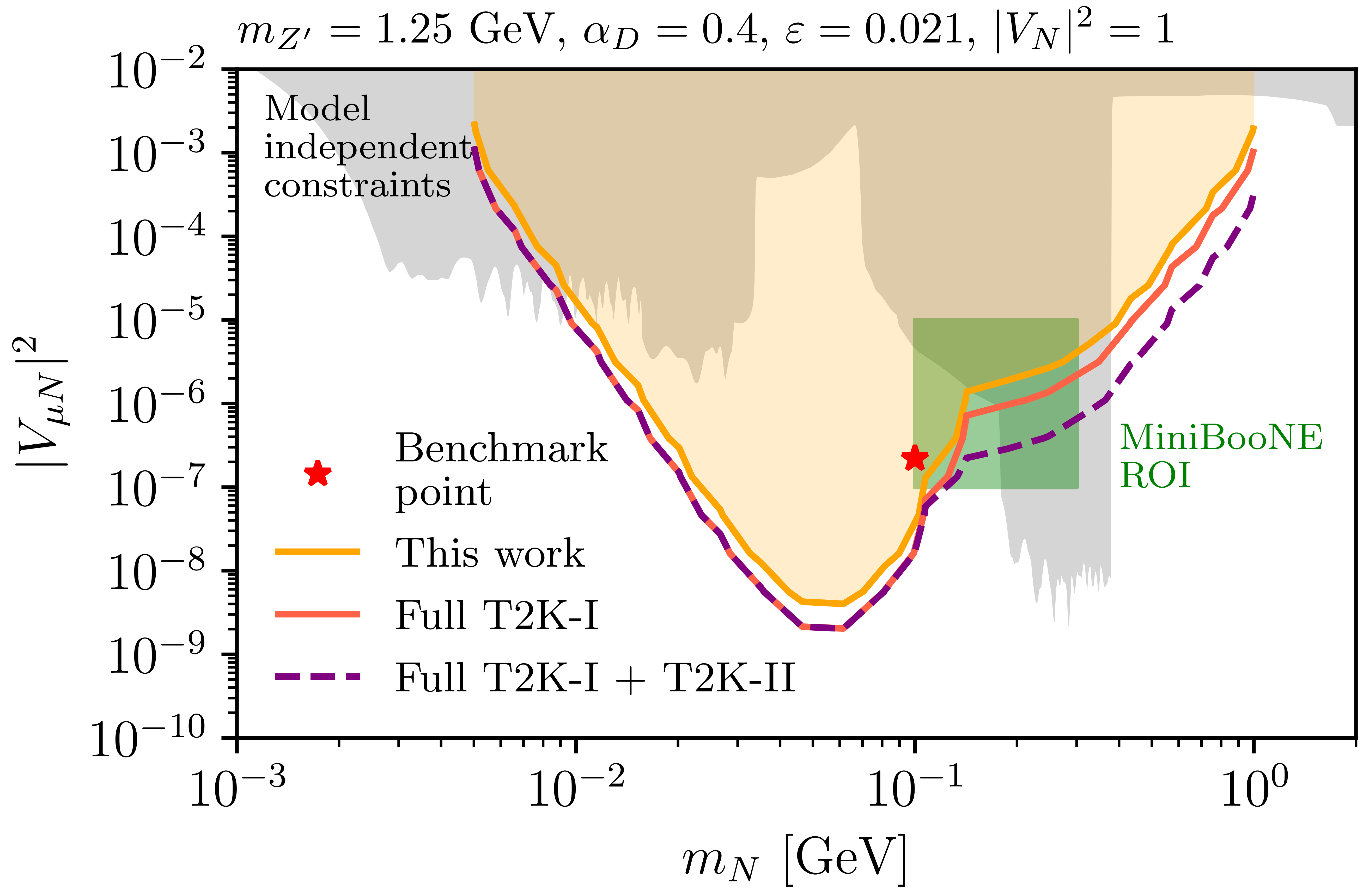
Backgrounds and smaller target mass means this
dataset is less sensitive the Dataset I.

Upscattering at the T2K near detector

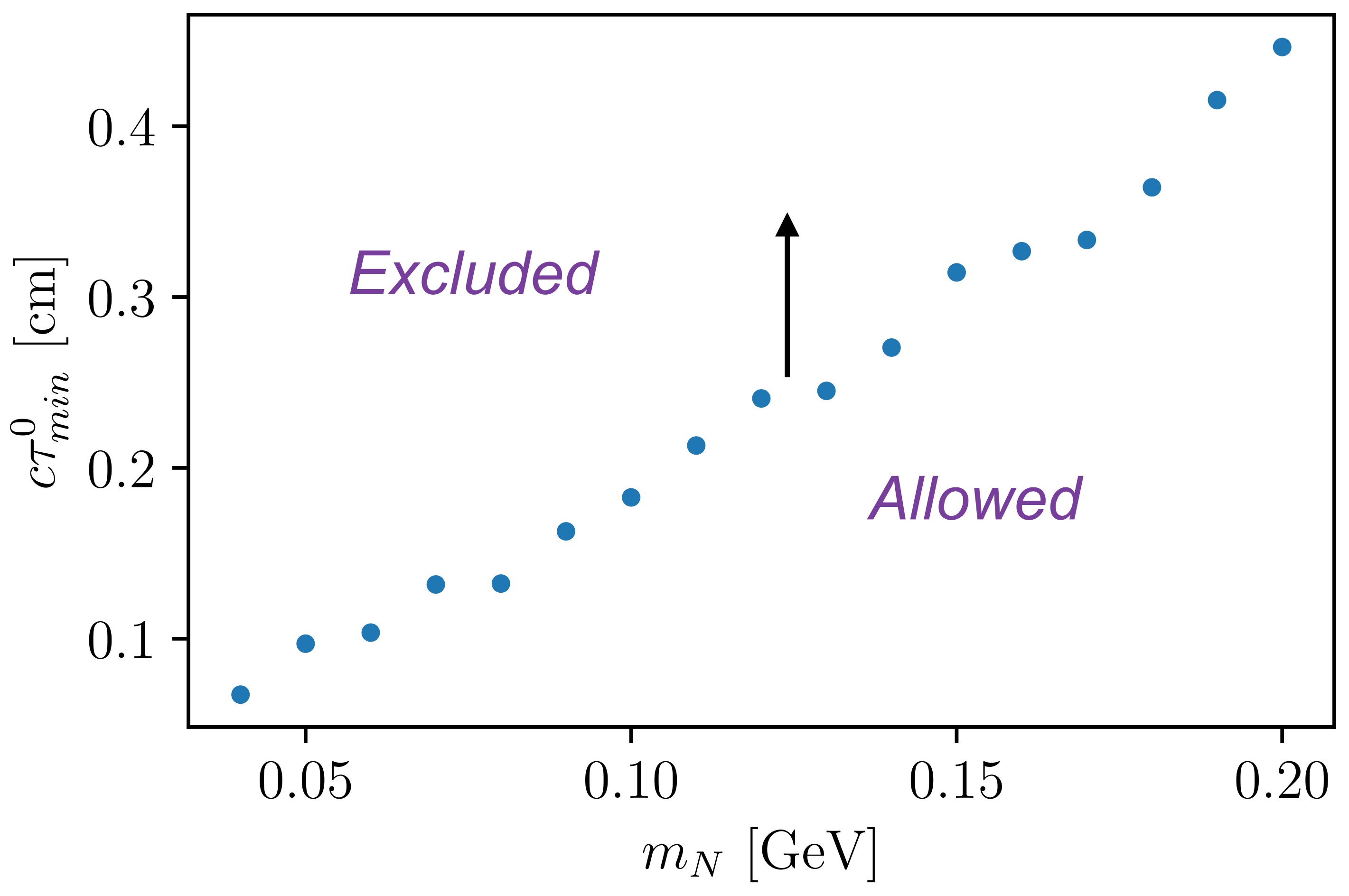
T2K Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 100, 052006 (2019)

See also, Vedran Brdar et al, arXiv:2007.14411

C. Arguelles, MH, N. Foppiani, arXiv:2205.12273



Unfortunately, no MiniBooNE fit available (but coming soon!)
See Asli's talk next week.



Set leading limits in parameter space.

Conclusions:

e+e- MiniBooNE explanations with

$$c\tau^0_N / m_N > 1\,\mathrm{cm/GeV}$$

are in tension with T2K data.

DarkNews-Generator

A. Abdullahi, J. Hoefken, MH, D. Massaro, S. Pascoli, *in progress*

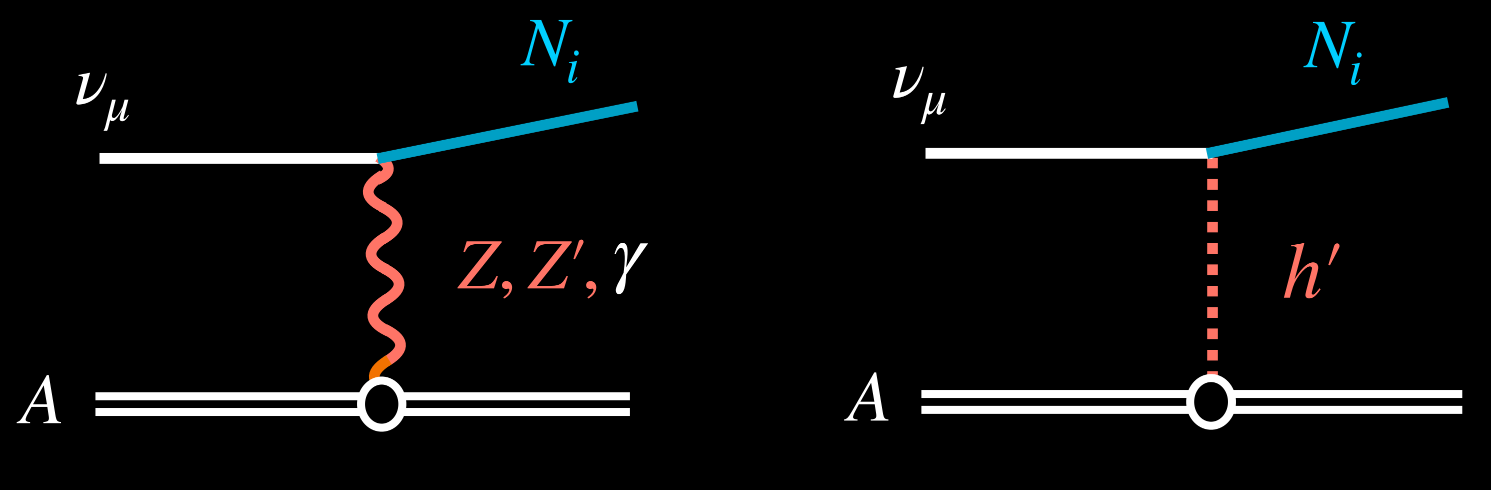
`DarkNews` is a fast MC generator for new physics in neutrino-nucleus scattering.
Including vector, scalar, and dipole mediators. Models with up to 3 HNLs.

```
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
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:

Scattering:

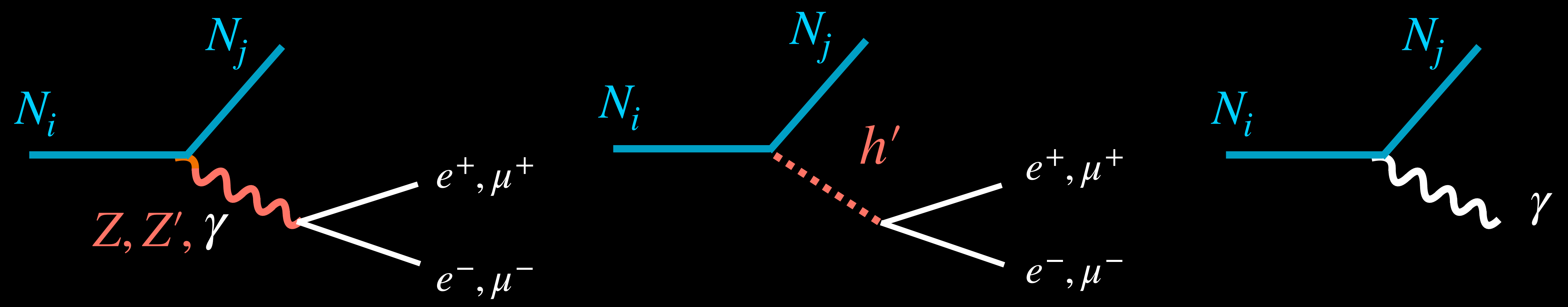
$\nu A \to N A$
(Coherent & QE peak)



Helicity conserving or flipping $\nu \to N$

HNL decay:

$N \to \nu \ell^+ \ell^-$
or
$N \to \nu\gamma$



N may be Majorana or Dirac, with either helicity states.

Conclusions:

The existence of heavy neutral leptons could open a door into dark sectors.

Neutrino experiments are probing new forces that are much weaker-than-Weak

The MiniBooNE puzzle remains unsolved.

New-physics ideas with light particles are on the market. **They are all testable.**

Transition magnetic moment:

Not dead yet. MINERvA could show more slices of their data which will probe all parameter space.

Dark Neutrino Sectors:

New limits from T2K were studied in detail. Not MiniBooNE fit to compare to, but naively, all explanations without prompt decays are likely excluded.