

# Seesaw Scalars at the LHC

## Institute for Theoretical Physics, Madrid

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16 June 2022



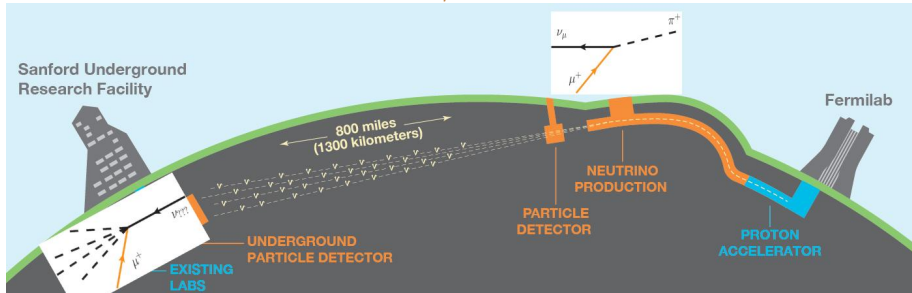
**good morning**  
**and thank you for the invitation!**

# the big picture<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>(none of the next few slides are new, just an organization of my motivation) 

In neutrino beamline experiments,  $\nu_\mu$  beams are made from collimated  $\pi^\pm$

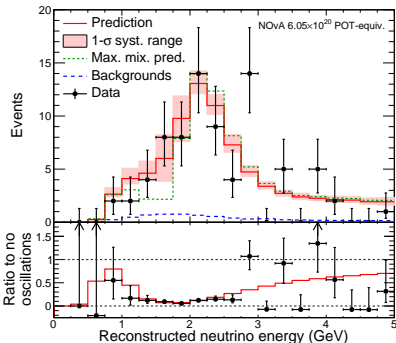


Count  $\nu_\mu$  at near detector (ND) and compare to  $\#$  at far detector (FD)

$\nu_\mu$  deficit +  $\nu_e/\nu_\tau$  appearance at FD best described by  $\nu_{l_1} \rightarrow \nu_{\text{mass}} \rightarrow \nu_{l_2}$  transitions/oscillations

← NO $\nu A$   $\nu_\mu$  disappearance [1701.05891]

⇒ **evidence for  $\nu$  masses!**



**So, neutrinos have masses, with  $m_\nu \lesssim \mathcal{O}(1)$  eV**

**Is this a problem?**

**Yes.**

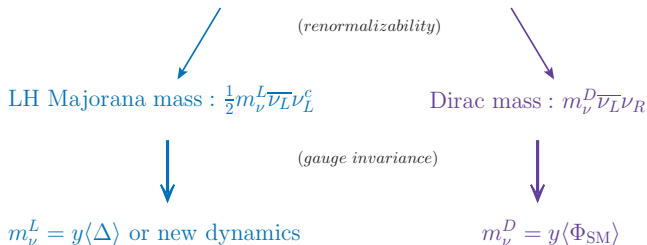
# SM's guidance on $m_\nu$

**Problem:** according to the SM,  $m_\nu = 0$  (not enough ingredients!)

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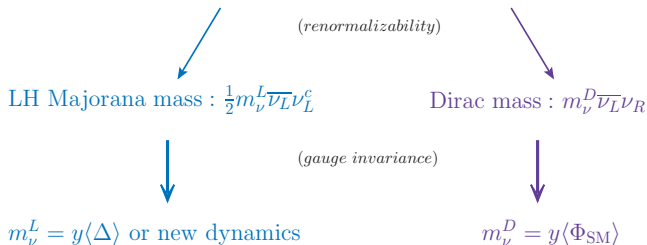
$m_\nu \neq 0$  + renormalizability + gauge inv.  $\implies$  new particles!

Ma('98) + others

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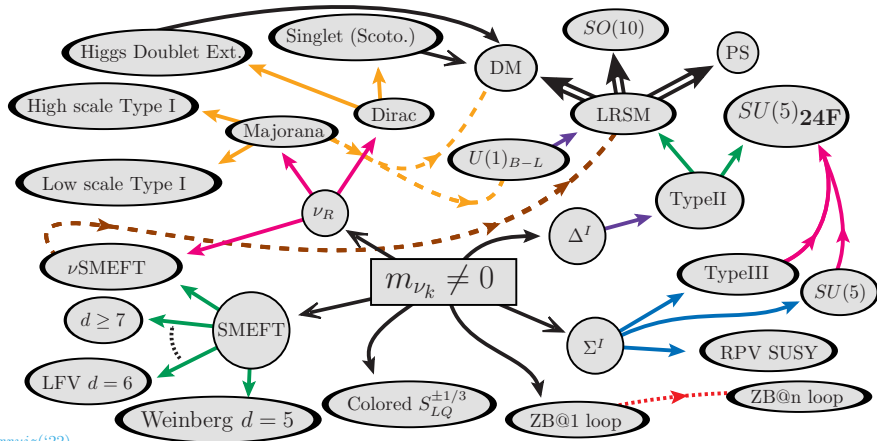
Ma('98) + others

**New particles** couple to  $\nu_\ell$  and  $\ell^\pm$ , usually  $H$ , and often mediate processes that violate **lepton number** and/or **lepton flavor** symmetries



# These core ideas can be realized in *many* ways! <sup>2</sup>

Minkowski ('77); Yanagida ('79); Glashow & Levy ('80); Gell-Mann et al., ('80); Mohapatra & Senjanović ('82); + *many* others



rruiz('22)

<sup>2</sup>For reviews, see Cai, et al [[1706.08524](#)]; Cai, Han, Li, RR [[1711.02180](#)]; Coy, Frigerio [[2110.09126](#)]

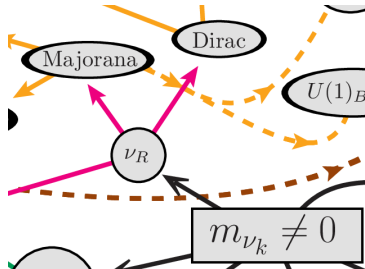
$m_\nu \neq 0$  + renormalizability + SM gauge inv.  $\implies$  new particles!

[Ma ('98)]

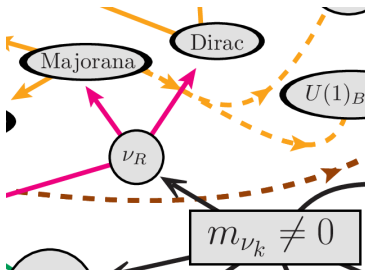
Incredibly powerful but also incredibly vague since new particles:

- ... can be light 😊 or heavy 😞
- ... can be short-lived 😊 or long-lived 😊
- ... can have SM gauge interactions, e.g.,  $H^{\pm\pm}$  in Type II, Zee-Babu  
( $\nu_R$  not always needed!)
- ... can have new gauge interactions, e.g.  $\nu_R$  and  $Z_{B-L}$  in  $U(1)_{B-L}$
- ... must couple to  $\Phi_{SM}$  and  $L$ , often inducing collider processes that do not conserve lepton number (LNV) and/or lepton flavor (LFV)

what if right-handed neutrinos do not exist?



what if right-handed neutrinos do exist?

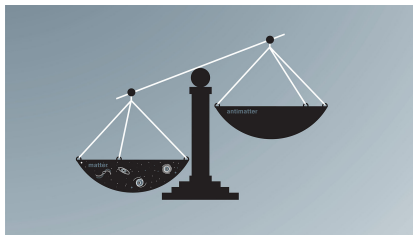
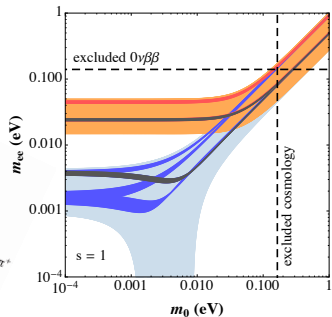
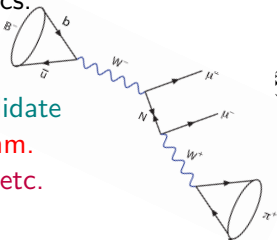


# Consequences of $\nu_R$

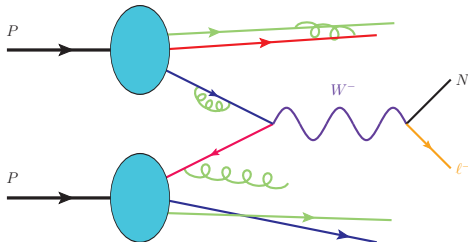
Obviously lots of rich physics:

- $m_\nu$  and  $\nu$  oscillations
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay (probably)
- particle dark matter candidate
- trigger matter-anti. asymm.
- stepping stone to GUTs, etc.

(see previous talks or papers by nearly everyone here)



Hagedorn, et al [1602.04206]



**broad implications for the universe 😊**

life with  $\nu_R$  is probably more complicated 😊

# Motivation for non-minimal scenarios

**Little-known fact:**  $W_0^\pm W_0^\pm \rightarrow \ell_i^\pm \ell_i^\pm$  in Type I violates s-wave unitarity

Dicus & He ('04, '05); Fuks, RR, et al [2011.02547]

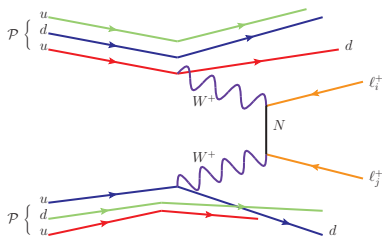
Working out the matrix element for  $W_0^\pm W_0^\pm \rightarrow \ell_i^\pm \ell_i^\pm$ , you get:

$$-i\mathcal{M} \sim g_W^2 \frac{V_{eN} V_{eN}}{m_N} \frac{M_{WW}^3}{m_W^2}$$

(in limit that  $M_W, M_{WW} \ll m_N$ )

Extracting the s-wave amplitude

$$a_{J=0} = \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_{-1}^1 d \cos \theta \mathcal{M}$$





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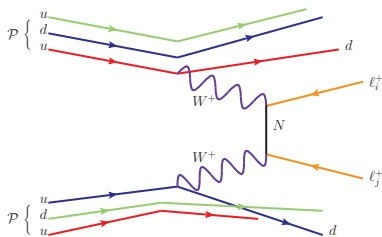
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Extracting the s-wave amplitude

$$a_{J=0} = \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_{-1}^1 d \cos \theta \mathcal{M}$$

and requiring  $|a_{J=0}| < 1$  gives scale ( $M_{WW}$ ) at which unitarity is violated:

$$(\text{scattering energy})^3 > \frac{32\pi M_W^2}{(2 - \delta_{\ell_i \ell_j}) g_W^2} \frac{1}{|\sum_k \frac{V_{ik} V_{jk}}{m_{N_k}}|}$$



**does this tell us anything?** (unsure)

# Unitarity violation in the Standard Model

1. In Fermi Theory, unitarity violation in  $\nu\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \ell\mathcal{N}'$  suggests missing particle

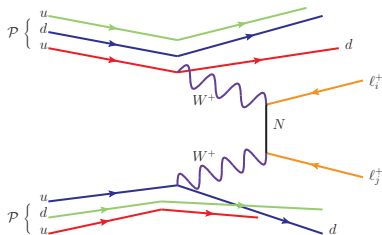
$W$  boson!

2. In Fermi Theory w/  $W$  (no  $Z$ ), unitarity violation in  $e^-e^+ \rightarrow W^-W^+$  suggests missing particle

$Z$  boson!

3. In the SM without Higgs, unitarity violation in  $V_0V_0' \rightarrow V_0V_0$  suggests missing particle

$H^0$  boson!



$\mu_R$  in  $\Delta\mathcal{L} = (1/2)\mu_R\overline{\nu_R^c}\nu_R$  probably needs to be generated dynamically by **scalar carrying lepton number**... but maybe  $\nu_R$  do not exist

(yes, this is a jump / "baby with the bath water" argument)



The **Type II Seesaw** is special: generates  $m_\nu$  **without** hypothesizing  $\nu_R$

- shows  $m_\nu \neq 0 \not\Rightarrow$  that  $\nu_R$  exist

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Hypothesize a **scalar**  $SU(2)_L$  triplet with **lepton number**  $L = -2$

$$\hat{\Delta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta^+ & \sqrt{2}\Delta^{++} \\ \sqrt{2}\Delta^0 & -\Delta^+ \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{L}_{\Delta\Phi} \ni \mu_{h\Delta} \left( \Phi^\dagger \hat{\Delta} \cdot \Phi^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \right)$$

The mass scale  $\mu_{h\Delta}$  **breaks lepton number**, and induces  $\langle \hat{\Delta} \rangle \neq 0$ :

$$\sqrt{s} \langle \hat{\Delta} \rangle = v_\Delta \approx \frac{\mu_{h\Delta} v_{EW}^2}{\sqrt{2} m_\Delta^2}$$

which leads to **left-handed Majorana masses** for neutrinos

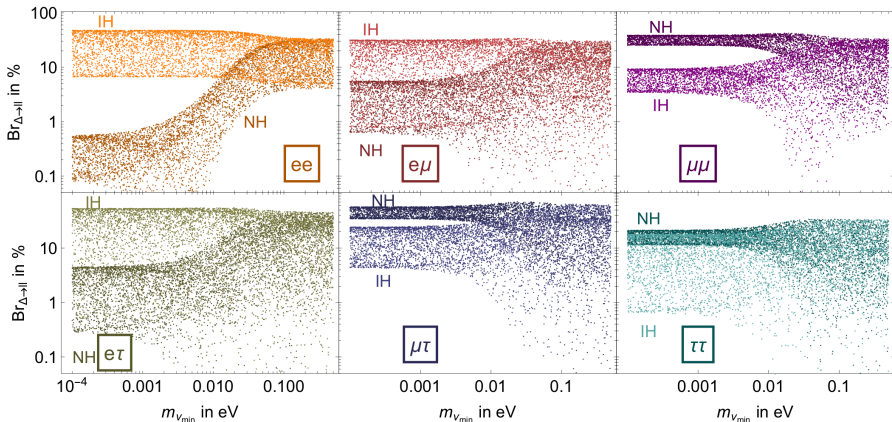
$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \mathcal{L} &= -\frac{y_\Delta^{ij}}{\sqrt{2}} \overline{L^c} \hat{\Delta} L = -\frac{y_\Delta^{ij}}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\nu^{jc}} & \overline{\ell^{jc}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ v_\Delta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu^i \\ \ell^i \end{pmatrix} \\ &\ni -\frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\left( \sqrt{2} y_\Delta^{ij} v_\Delta \right)}_{=m_\nu^{ij}} \overline{\nu^{jc}} \nu^i \end{aligned}$$

# Fewer free parameters $\implies$ richer experimental predictions

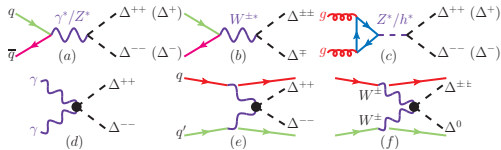
Fileviez Perez, Han, Li, et al, [0805.3536], Crivellin, et al [1807.10224], Fuks, Nemevšek, RR [1912.08975] + others

- **Example:**  $\Delta$  decay rates encode **inverse (IH)** vs **normal (NH)** ordering of light neutrino masses

$$\Gamma(\Delta^{\pm\pm} \rightarrow \ell_i^{\pm} \ell_j^{\pm}) \sim y_{\Delta}^{ij} \sim (U_{\text{PMNS}}^* \tilde{m}_{\nu}^{\text{diag}} U_{\text{PMNS}}^{\dagger})_{ij}$$



The **leptonic scalars** of the model  $\Delta^{\pm\pm}$ ,  $\Delta^{\pm}$ ,  $\Delta^0$ ,  $\xi^0$  all couple directly to  $W, Z, \gamma$  via gauge couplings ( $\Rightarrow$  unambiguous xsec prediction!)



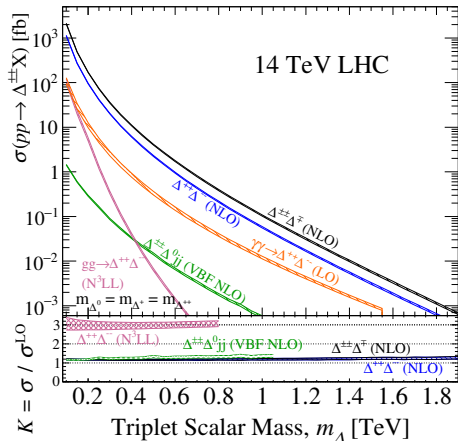
Many production channels but most studies focus on  $pp \rightarrow \Delta^{++}\Delta^{--}$

(unsure if studies on  $\xi^0$  even exist ☺)

If  $\Delta^{\pm\pm}$  is the lightest state, then decay rates set by oscillation parameters

(I find this really, really cool ☺)

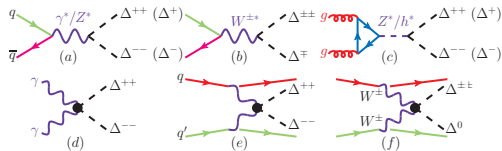
If  $\Delta^{\pm\pm}$  is not the lightest state, or  $v_{\Delta}$  is large, then things get “interesting”



Fuks, Nemevšek, RR [1912.08975]

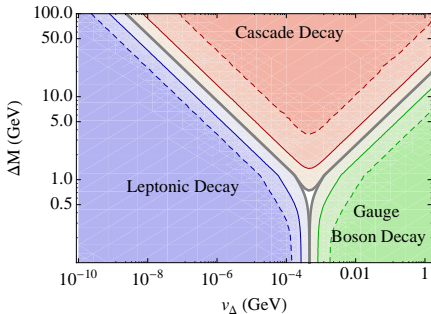


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Preferred decay modes of  $\Delta^{\pm\pm}$

( $\Delta M = m_{++} - m_{+}$ )



Melfo, Nemevšek, Nesti, Senjanovic, Zhang [1108.4416]

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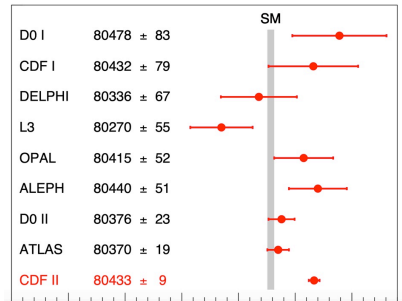
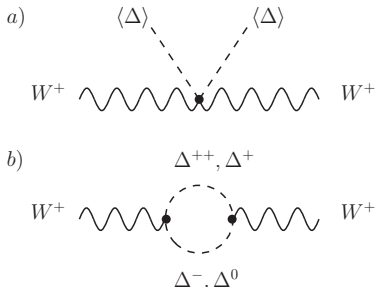
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the “large”  $v_\Delta$  limit

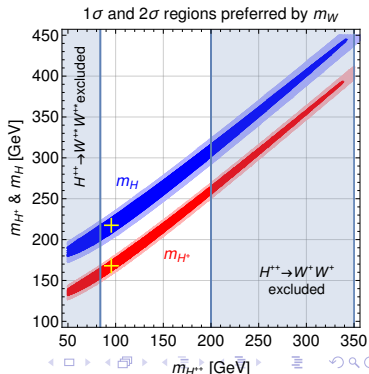


CDF's legacy measurement of the  $M_W$  is larger than EWPD suggests [Science('22)]

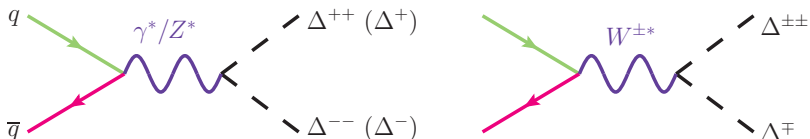
(not sure the experimental result should be discounted so quickly)

Interesting that Type II's correction to  $\rho$  param. accommodates measurement – favors  $\Delta^{\pm\pm}, \Delta^{\pm}$  with lighter masses

Heeck [1108.4416]



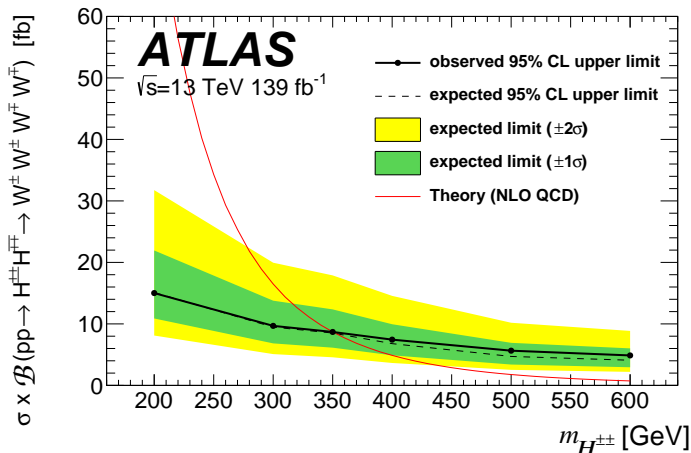
## strong(er) motivation for LHC searches



# LHC limits on pair production

$$pp \rightarrow \Delta^{++}\Delta^{--} \rightarrow 4W^{\pm} \rightarrow 2 - 4\ell^{\pm} + \cancel{E}_T + X$$

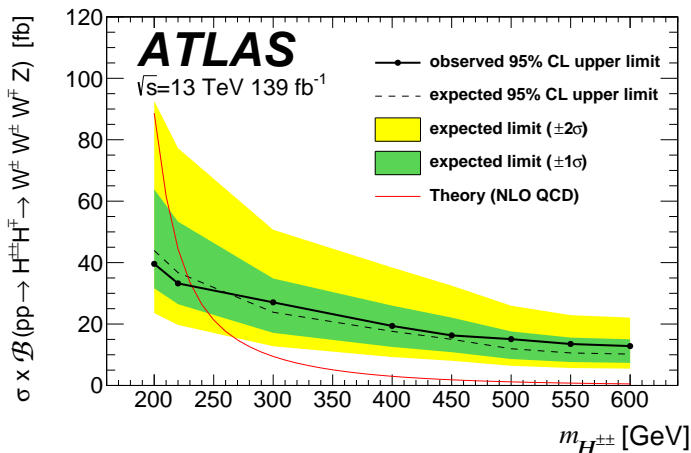
( $\ell = e, \mu$ ) [2101.11961]



# LHC limits on associated production

$$pp \rightarrow \Delta^{\pm\pm} \Delta^{\mp} \rightarrow 3W^{\pm}Z \rightarrow 2-4\ell^{\pm} + \cancel{E}_T + X$$

( $\ell = e, \mu$ ) [2101.11961]



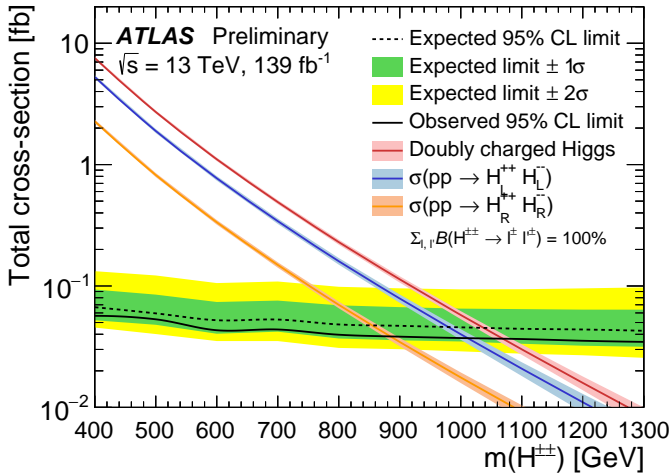
## Details on event selection ( $\ell = e, \mu$ ) [2101.11961]

Charged Higgs boson mass	$m_{H^{\pm\pm}} = 200$ GeV	$m_{H^{\pm\pm}} = 300$ GeV	$m_{H^{\pm\pm}} = 400$ GeV	$m_{H^{\pm\pm}} = 500$ GeV
Selection criteria	$2\ell^{\text{SC}}$ channel			
$m_{\text{jets}}$ [GeV]	[100, 450]	[100, 500]	[300, 700]	[400, 1000]
$S$	<0.3	<0.6	<0.6	<0.9
$\Delta R_{\ell^\pm \ell^\pm}$	<1.9	<2.1	<2.2	<2.4
$\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell, E_T^{\text{miss}}}$	<0.7	<0.9	<1.0	<1.0
$m_{x\ell}$ [GeV]	[40, 150]	[90, 240]	[130, 340]	[130, 400]
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$ [GeV]	>100	>130	>170	>200
Selection criteria	$3\ell$ channel			
$\Delta R_{\ell^\pm \ell^\pm}$	[0.2, 1.7]	[0.0, 2.1]	[0.2, 2.5]	[0.3, 2.8]
$m_{x\ell}$ [GeV]	>160	>190	>240	>310
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$ [GeV]	>30	>55	>80	>90
$\Delta R_{\ell^{\text{jet}}}$	[0.1, 1.5]	[0.1, 2.0]	[0.1, 2.3]	[0.5, 2.3]
$p_{T, \text{leading jet}}$ [GeV]	>40	>70	>100	>95
Selection criteria	$4\ell$ channel			
$m_{x\ell}$ [GeV]	>230	>270	>360	>440
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$ [GeV]	>60	>60	>60	>60
$p_{T, \ell_1}$ [GeV]	>65	>80	>110	>130
$\Delta R_{\ell^\pm \ell^\pm}^{\text{min}}$	[0.2, 1.2]	[0.2, 2.0]	[0.5, 2.4]	[0.6, 2.4]
$\Delta R_{\ell^\pm \ell^\pm}^{\text{max}}$	[0.3, 2.0]	[0.5, 2.6]	[0.4, 3.1]	[0.6, 3.1]

# LHC limits on pair production (new!)

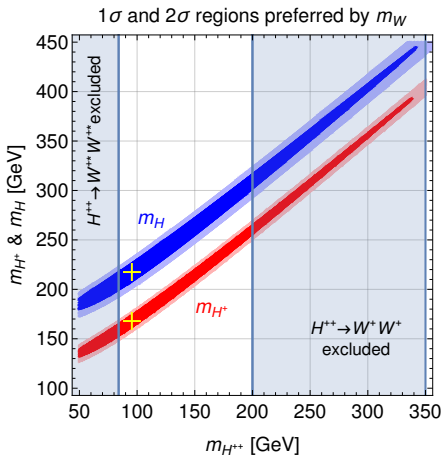
$$pp \rightarrow \Delta^{++}\Delta^{--} \rightarrow 4\ell^{\pm} + X$$

( $\ell = e, \mu$ ) [ATLAS-CONF-2022-010]





## What if $\Delta^{\pm\pm}$ , $\Delta^{\pm}$ are discovered?



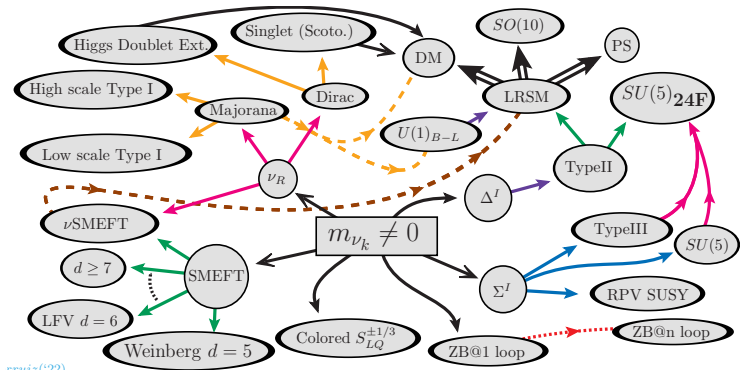
celebrate! 😊

$\Delta^{\pm\pm}$ ,  $\Delta^{\pm}$  are not unique in BSM models

**context: the remainder of this talk is to show that  
falsifying competing models will be difficult**

(some guidance exists but personal hope is to inspire interest and new work)

# Zee-Babu Model<sup>4</sup>



rruiz('22)

<sup>4</sup>Zee ('85×2), Babu ('88)

Zee-Babu model generates  $m_\nu$  radiatively **without** hypothesizing  $\nu_R$

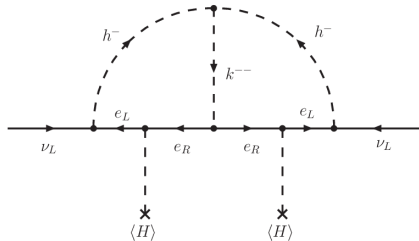
again shows  $m_\nu \neq 0 \nRightarrow$  that  $\nu_R$  exist

**Zee-Babu model** generates  $m_\nu$  radiatively **without** hypothesizing  $\nu_R$

again shows  $m_\nu \neq 0 \nRightarrow$  that  $\nu_R$  exist

Hypothesize two **scalar**  $SU(2)_L$  singlets  $k, h$  with weak hypercharge  $Y = -2, -1$  ( $\implies Q_k = -2, Q_h = -1$ ) with **lepton number**  $L = -2$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ZB}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + (D_\mu k)^\dagger (D^\mu k) + (D_\mu h)^\dagger (D^\mu h) + (\mu_\psi h h k^\dagger + \text{H.c.}) \\ \left[ f_{ij} \tilde{L}^i L^j h^\dagger + g_{ij} (\overline{e_R^c})^i e_R^j k^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \right] + \dots$$



[1402.4491]

The mass scale  $\mu_\psi$  breaks lepton number, and induces  $m_\nu \neq 0$ :

$$(\mathcal{M}_\nu^{\text{flavor}})_{ij} = 16 \mu_\psi f_{ia} m_a g_{ab}^* \mathcal{I}_{ab}(r) m_b f_{jb}.$$

## Fewer free parameters $\implies$ richer experimental predictions

Nebot, et al [0711.0483]; Ohlsson, Schwetz, Zhang [0909.0455]; Herrero-Garcia, Nebot, Rius, et al [1402.4491]; + others

- E.g.,  $k^{\pm\pm}$ ,  $h^\pm$  couplings encode oscillation physics

Normal ordering:

$$\frac{f_{e\tau}}{f_{\mu\tau}} = \tan \theta_{12} \frac{\cos \theta_{23}}{\cos \theta_{13}} + \tan \theta_{13} \sin \theta_{23} e^{-i\delta}$$
$$\frac{f_{e\mu}}{f_{\mu\tau}} = \tan \theta_{12} \frac{\cos \theta_{23}}{\cos \theta_{13}} - \tan \theta_{13} \sin \theta_{23} e^{-i\delta}$$

Inverse ordering:

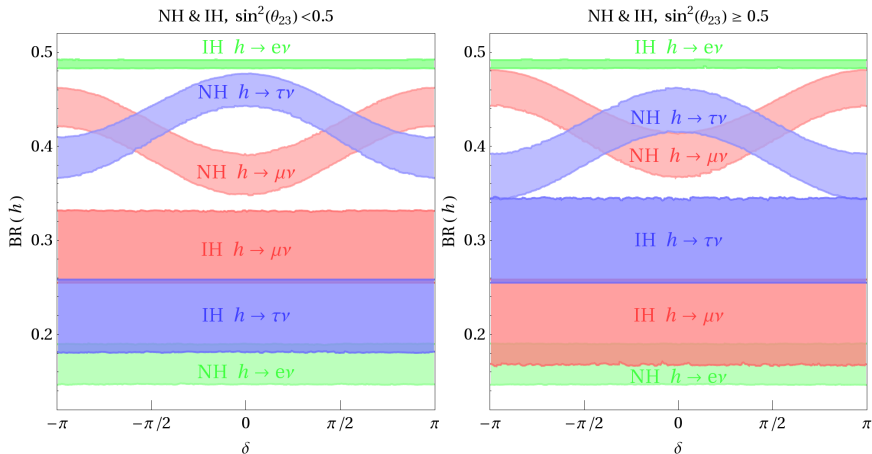
$$\frac{f_{e\tau}}{f_{\mu\tau}} = -\frac{\sin \theta_{23}}{\tan \theta_{13}} e^{-i\delta},$$
$$\frac{f_{e\mu}}{f_{\mu\tau}} = \frac{\cos \theta_{23}}{\tan \theta_{13}} e^{-i\delta},$$
$$\frac{f_{e\tau}}{f_{e\mu}} = -\tan \theta_{23}.$$



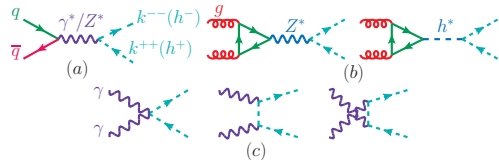
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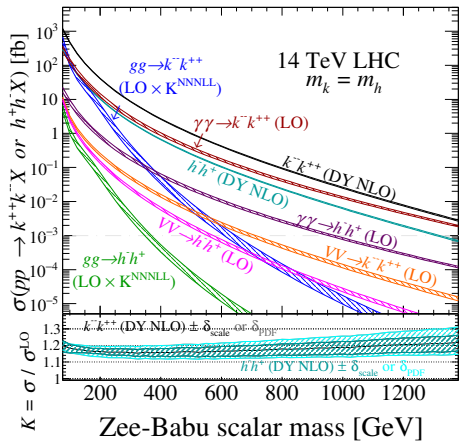


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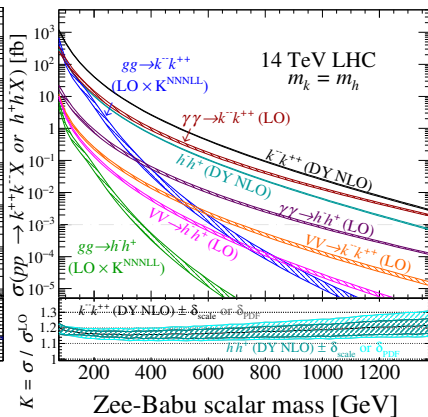
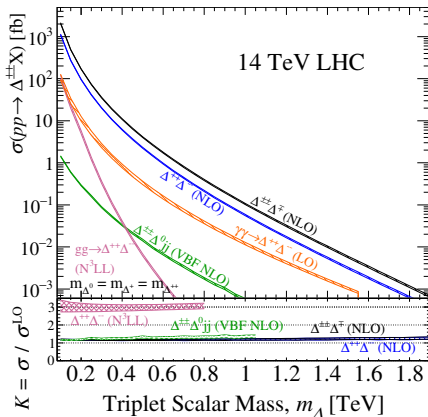
What about discerning from **Type II Seesaw**?



RR [O(1) week]

**Usual argument:** Different gauge quantum numbers  $\implies$  different  $\sigma$

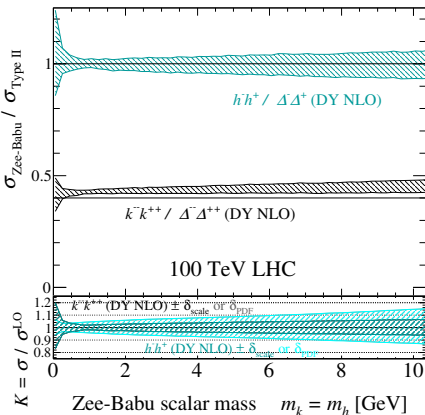
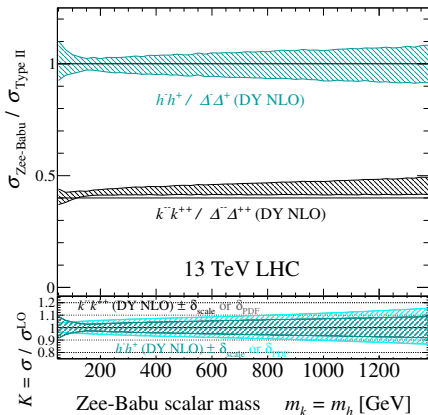
- In principle, this is a good argument



(note: axes do not cover same domain/range)

**Usual argument:** Different gauge quantum numbers  $\implies$  different  $\sigma$

- In principle, this is a good argument
- ... but difference ( $1\times$  or  $2\times$ ) can be absorbed by BR



**Usual argument:** Different gauge quantum numbers  $\implies$  different  $d\sigma$

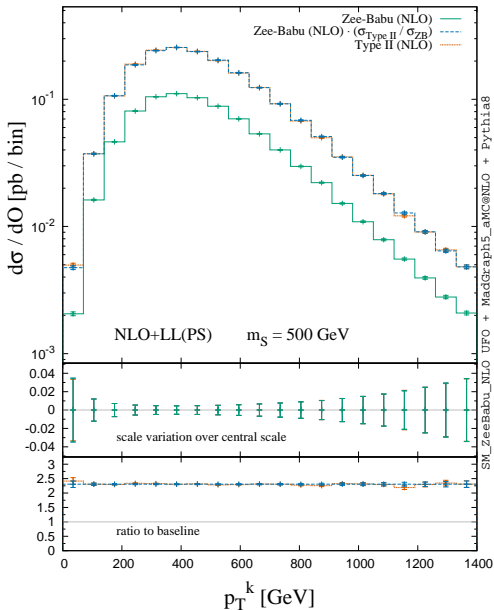
In principle, good argument...

**Plotted:**  $p_T^S$  in  $pp \rightarrow S^{++}S^{--}$   
for **Type II** and **ZB**

- **Zee-Babu** (solid, lower line)
- **Type II** (dotted, upper line)
- **Zee-Babu**  $\times \left( \frac{\sigma_{\text{Type II}}}{\sigma_{\text{ZB}}} \right)$  (dash)

... except same shape

(note: this also holds for other models)



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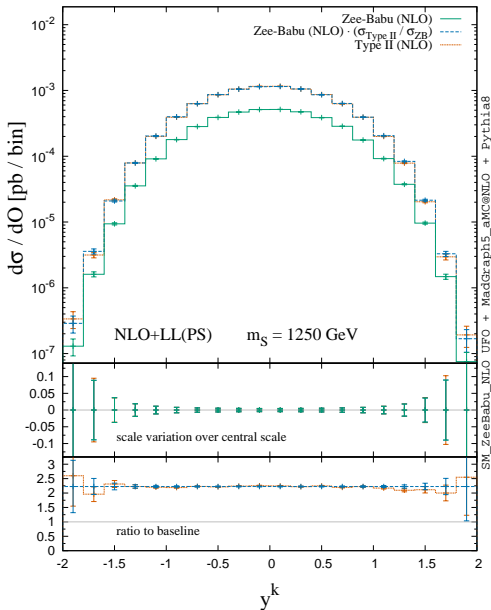
In principle, good argument...

**Plotted:**  $y^S$  in  $pp \rightarrow S^{++}S^{--}$   
for **Type II** and **ZB**

- **Zee-Babu** (solid, lower line)
- **Type II** (dotted, upper line)
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... except same shape

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## silver lining (pt 1)

# Guidance from oscillation data

The ratios of  $h^\pm \rightarrow \ell\nu$  couplings are fixed by oscillation data

- $\nu$  cannot be tagged at the LHC
- LHC only sensitive to sum over  $\nu \implies$  inclusive w.r.t.  $\nu$ !

From **flavor-exclusive** decay rates:

$$\Gamma(h^\pm \rightarrow \ell\nu'_\ell) = \frac{|f_{\ell\ell'}|^2}{4\pi} m_h \left(1 - \frac{m_\ell^2}{m_h^2}\right)$$

define **flavor-inclusive** decay rates:

$$\Gamma(h^\pm \rightarrow e^\pm\nu_X) = \sum_{\ell=e}^{\tau} \Gamma(h^\pm \rightarrow e^\pm\nu_\ell)$$

$$\Gamma(h^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm\nu_X) = \sum_{\ell=e}^{\tau} \Gamma(h^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm\nu_\ell)$$



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$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{R}_{e\mu}^h &= \frac{\text{BR}(h^\pm \rightarrow e^\pm\nu_X)}{\text{BR}(h^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm\nu_X)} \\ &= \frac{|f_{e\mu}|^2 + |f_{e\tau}|^2}{|f_{e\mu}|^2 + |f_{\mu\tau}|^2} = \frac{|\frac{f_{e\mu}}{f_{\mu\tau}}|^2 + |\frac{f_{e\tau}}{f_{\mu\tau}}|^2}{|\frac{f_{e\mu}}{f_{\mu\tau}}|^2 + 1}\end{aligned}$$

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(equivalent to measuring cross section ratio!)

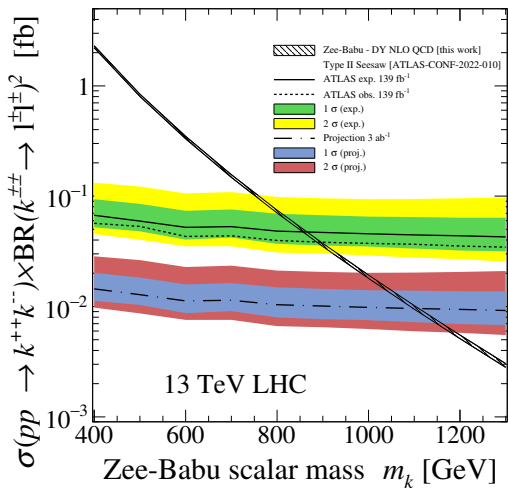
Using NuFit(v5.1)

$$\mathcal{R}_{e\mu}^h \Big|_{\text{NO}} \approx 0.313 \text{ (+smallish unc.)}$$

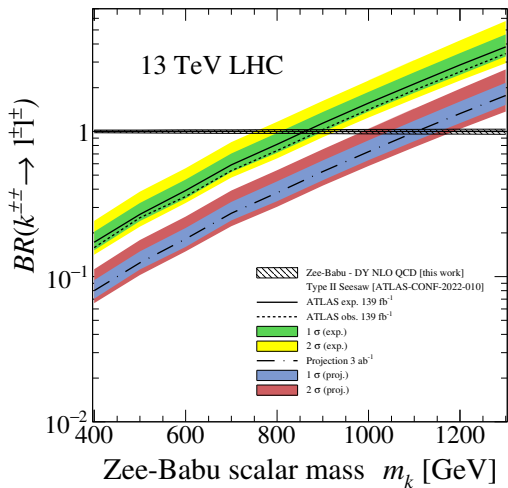
$$\mathcal{R}_{e\mu}^h \Big|_{\text{IO}} \approx 0.715 \text{ (+smallish unc.)}$$

## silver lining (pt 2)

Identical kinematics  $\implies$  automatically obtain LHC limits (new!)



Identical kinematics  $\implies$  automatically obtain LHC limits (new!)



# Summary and Conclusions

The origin and nature of  $m_\nu \neq 0$  remain major puzzles for hep-ex/ph/th

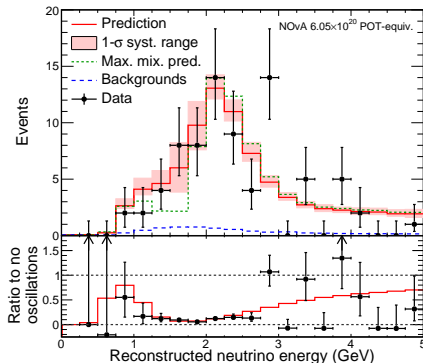
– SM provides some (but limited) guidance on solution 😊

– While popular, models beyond “minimal” Type I Seesaw or w/o  $\nu_R$  motivated by hep-ex and th 😊

– **Seesaw scalar models** turn oscillation data into collider predictions 😊

these models are testable at the LHC and dedicated flavor experiments! for reviews, see:

Cai, et al [[1706.08524](#)];  
Cai, Han, Li, RR [[1711.02180](#)];  
Coy, Frigerio [[2110.09126](#)]



Upon discovery, hypothesis- testing will be difficult 😊; further studies are encouraged

(oscillation data will provide strong guidance 😊)



**Thank you.**