

Title: Looking for The Origin of Neutrinos Masses: from neV to YeV

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Abstract: After quickly reviewing what we have learned about neutrinos during the past decade, I present an overview of different mechanisms responsible for non-zero neutrino masses, also discussing the possibility of experimentally deciding which one, if any, is correct.

# Looking for The Origin of Neutrino Masses: from neV to YeV

*André de Gouvêa*

*Northwestern University*

*Particle Physics Seminar – Perimeter Institute*



## Outline

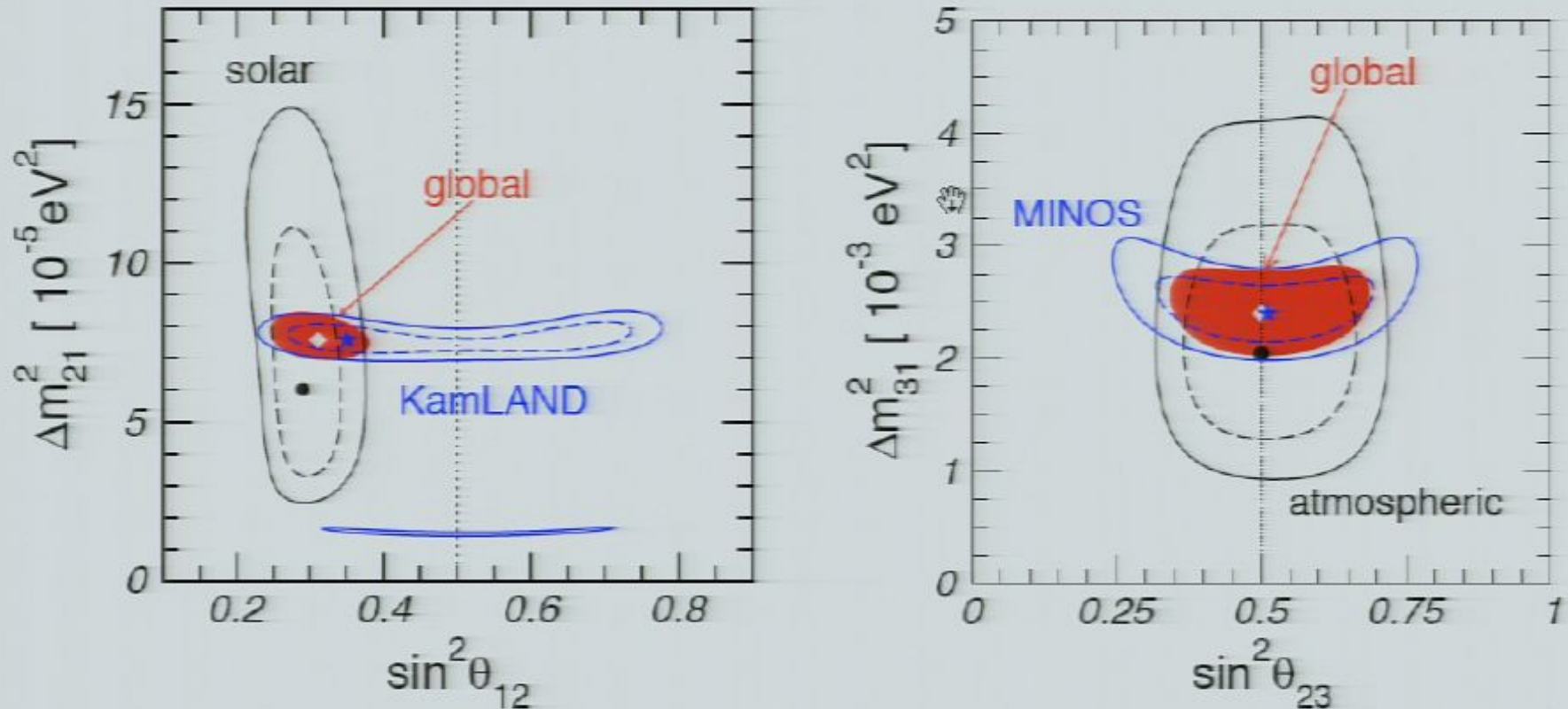
1. Quick Reminder: Evidence for Neutrino Masses;
2. What We Are Trying to Understand;
3. Why Are Neutrino Masses Small?;
4. Example – the Seesaw Mechanism: Three Avenues Toward Tiny Neutrino Masses, with Consequences;
5. A Fourth Avenue: Neutrino Masses from “Indirect”  $\Delta L = 2$  New Physics (Loops);
6. How Do We Learn More, and Concluding Remarks.

For those of who were curious (but not curious enough to Google it):

$$1 \text{ YeV (yotta electron-Volt)} = 10^{24} \text{ eV} = 10^{15} \text{ GeV.}$$



[Maltoni and Schwetz, arXiv: 0812.3161]



**Figure 1:** Determination of the leading “solar” and “atmospheric” oscillation parameters [1]. We show allowed regions at 90% and 99.73% CL (2 dof) for solar and KamLAND (left), and atmospheric and MINOS (right), as well as the 99.73% CL regions for the respective combined analyses.

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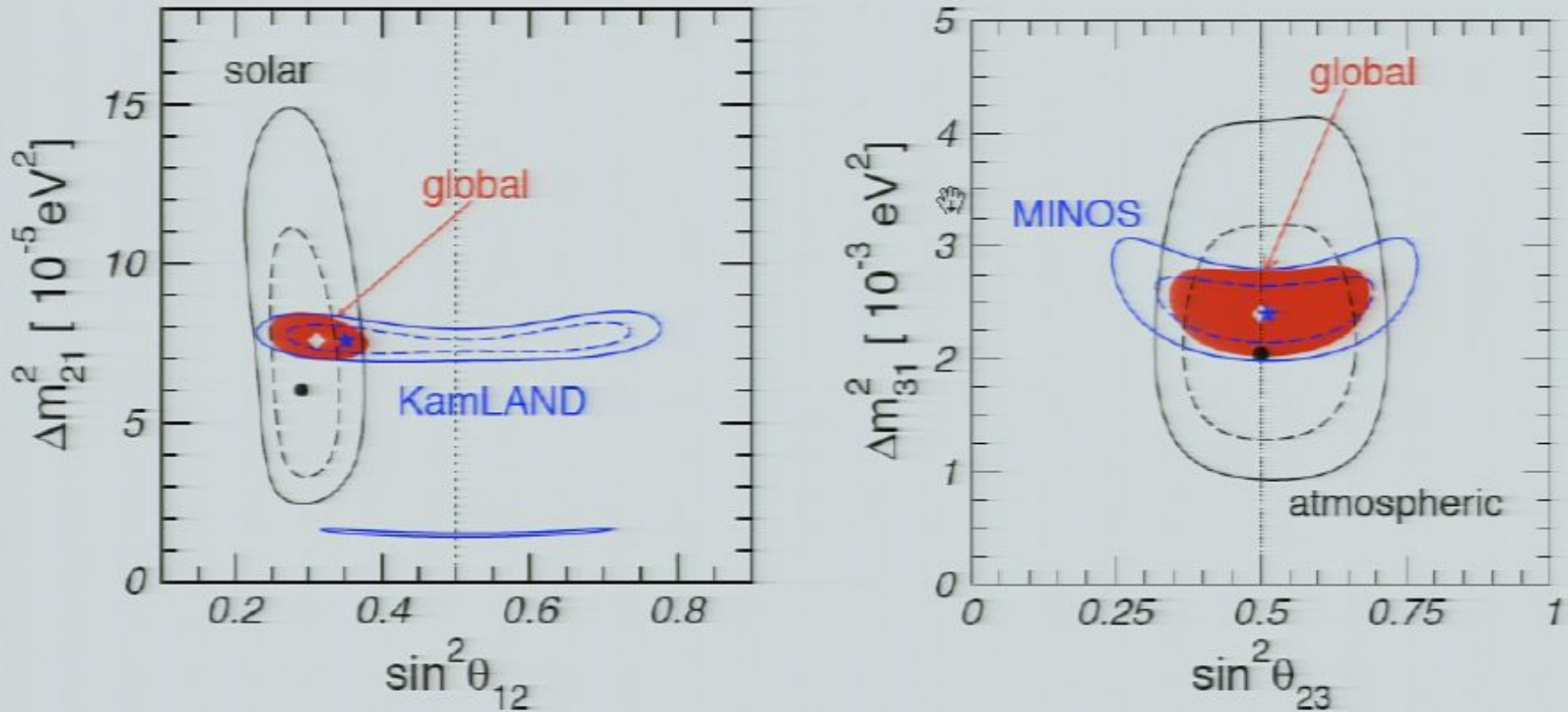
## Very Quick Reminder: $\nu$ Flavor Oscillations

Neutrino oscillation experiments have revealed that **neutrinos change flavor** after propagating a finite distance. The rate of change depends on the neutrino energy  $E_\nu$  and the baseline  $L$ .

- $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  and  $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\tau$  — atmospheric experiments [“indisputable”];
- $\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_{\mu,\tau}$  — solar experiments [“indisputable”];
- $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\text{other}}$  — reactor neutrinos [“indisputable”];
- $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_{\text{other}}$  from accelerator experiments [“indisputable”].

The simplest and **only satisfactory** explanation of **all** this data is that neutrinos have distinct masses, and mix.

[Maltoni and Schwetz, arXiv: 0812.3161]



**Figure 1:** Determination of the leading “solar” and “atmospheric” oscillation parameters [1]. We show allowed regions at 90% and 99.73% CL (2 dof) for solar and KamLAND (left), and atmospheric and MINOS (right), as well as the 99.73% CL regions for the respective combined analyses.



We often assume two-flavor mixing. Of course, there are three neutrinos...

## Phenomenological Understanding of Neutrino Masses & Mixing

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Definition of neutrino mass eigenstates (who are  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$ ):

- $m_1^2 < m_2^2$   $\Delta m_{31}^2 < 0$  – Inverted Mass Hierarchy
- $m_2^2 - m_1^2 \ll |m_3^2 - m_{1,2}^2|$   $\Delta m_{31}^2 > 0$  – Normal Mass Hierarchy

$$\tan^2 \theta_{12} \equiv \frac{|U_{e2}|^2}{|U_{e1}|^2}; \quad \tan^2 \theta_{23} \equiv \frac{|U_{\mu3}|^2}{|U_{\tau3}|^2}; \quad U_{e3} \equiv \sin \theta_{13} e^{-i\delta}$$

[for a detailed discussion see AdG, Jenkins, arXiv:0804.3627]

## Three Flavor Mixing Hypothesis Fits All Data Really Well.

⇒ Good Measurements of Oscillation Observables

parameter	best fit $\pm 1\sigma$	$2\sigma$	$3\sigma$
$\Delta m_{21}^2 [10^{-5} \text{eV}^2]$	$7.59^{+0.20}_{-0.18}$	7.24–7.99	7.09–8.19
$\Delta m_{31}^2 [10^{-3} \text{eV}^2]$	$2.45 \pm 0.09$ $-(2.34^{+0.10}_{-0.09})$	2.28 – 2.64 $-(2.17 – 2.54)$	2.18 – 2.73 $-(2.08 – 2.64)$
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	$0.312^{+0.017}_{-0.015}$	0.28–0.35	0.27–0.36
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	$0.51 \pm 0.06$ $0.52 \pm 0.06$	0.41–0.61 0.42–0.61	0.39–0.64
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	$0.010^{+0.009}_{-0.006}$ $0.013^{+0.009}_{-0.007}$	$\leq 0.027$ $\leq 0.031$	$\leq 0.035$ $\leq 0.039$

**Table 2.** Neutrino oscillation parameters summary. For  $\Delta m_{31}^2$ ,  $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ , and  $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$  the upper (lower) row corresponds to normal (inverted) neutrino mass hierarchy. We assume the new reactor anti-neutrino fluxes [5] and include short-baseline reactor neutrino experiments in the fit.

[Schwetz *et al.*, 1103.0734]



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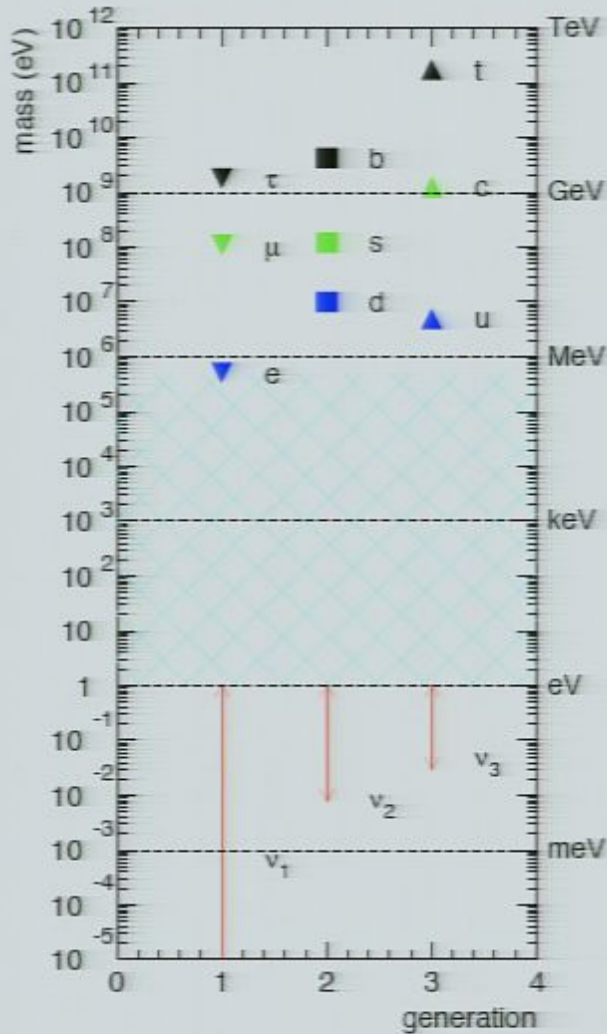
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What We Are Trying To Understand

⇐ NEUTRINOS HAVE TINY MASSES

↓ LEPTON MIXING IS STRONG

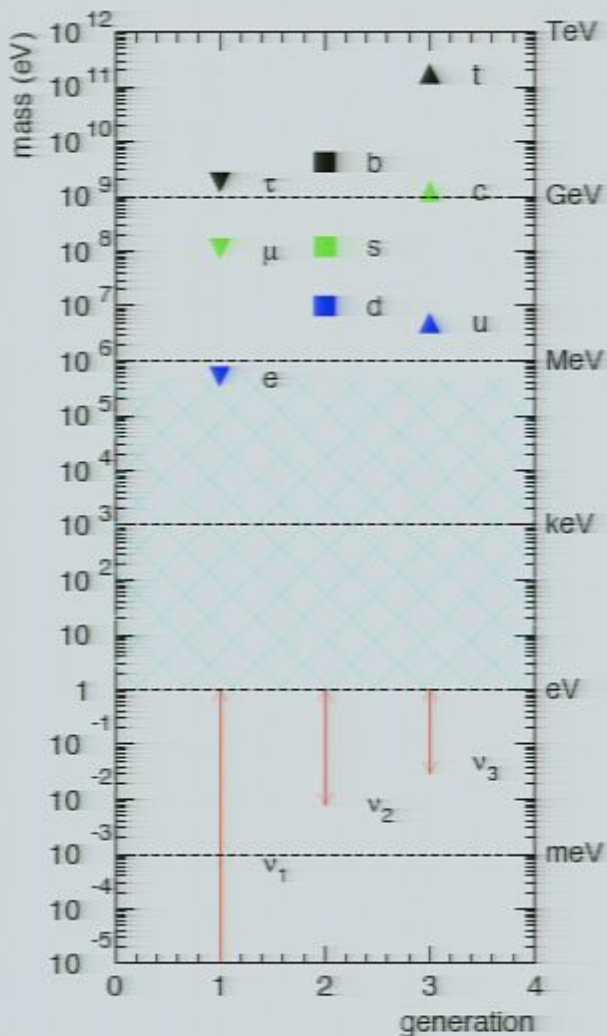
$$V_{MNS} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.5 & 0.2 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0.7 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$V_{CKM}$

What Does This Mean?



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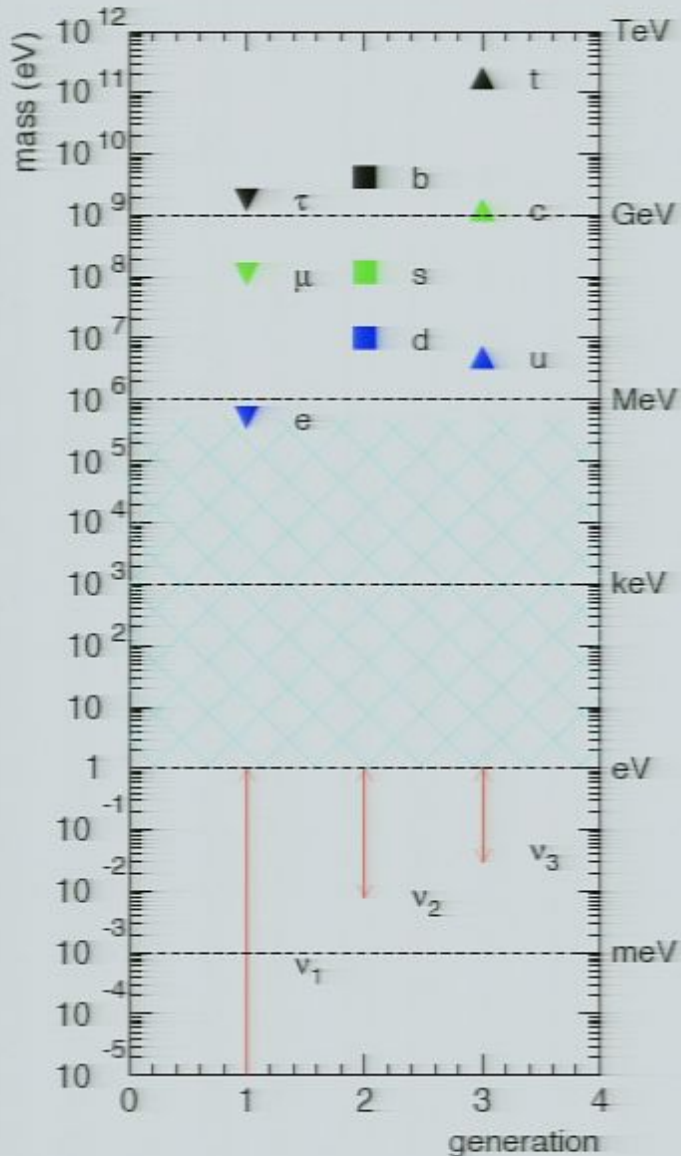
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## What We Are Trying To Understand:

⇐ NEUTRINOS HAVE TINY MASSES



⇓ LEPTON MIXING IS “WEIRD” ⇓

$$V_{MNS} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.5 & 0.2 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0.7 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V_{CKM} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.2 & 0.001 \\ 0.2 & 1 & 0.01 \\ 0.001 & 0.01 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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**Three Flavor Mixing Hypothesis Fits All Data Really**

**⇒ Good Measurements of Oscillation Observable**

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### Three Flavors

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Preview:

Looking for The Origin of Neutrino Masses  
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Preview



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VGA Display

Show All

Display Arrangement Color

Resolutions:

- 800 x 600, 72 Hz
- 800 x 600, 75 Hz
- 800 x 600, 85 Hz
- 800 x 600, 90 Hz
- 800 x 600, 96 Hz
- 800 x 600, 100 Hz
- 800 x 600, 120 Hz
- 832 x 624, 120 Hz
- 1024 x 768, 60 Hz
- 1024 x 768, 70 Hz

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Detect Displays

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Show displays in menu bar

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Color LCD

VGA Display

Show All

Display Arrangement Color

To rearrange the displays, drag them to the desired position.  
To relocate the menu bar, drag it to a different display.



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Display Arrangement Color

Display Profile:

- VGA Display
- Adobe RGB (1998)
- Color LCD
- Generic RGB Profile
- sRGB IEC61966-2.1

Show profiles for this display only

Open Profile

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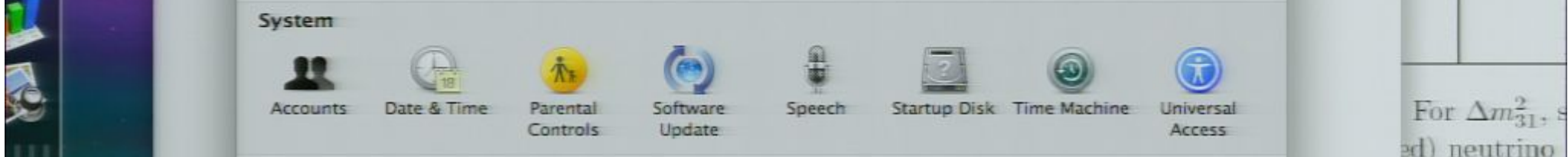
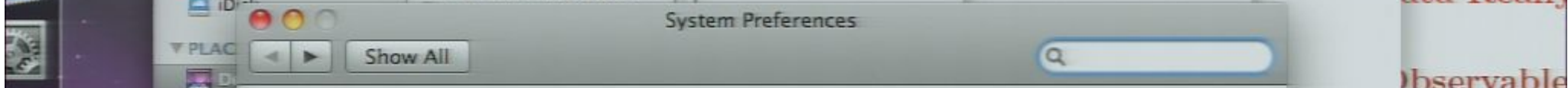
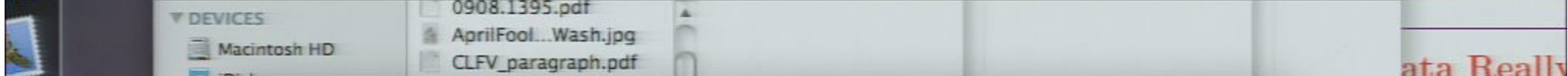
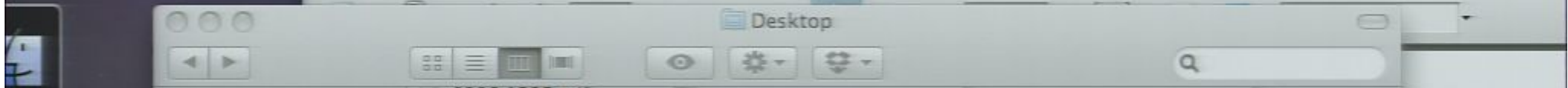
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### Desktop & Screen Saver

Show All

Desktop | Screen Saver

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- Apple Images
- Nature
- Plants
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- Abstract
- Solid Colors
- Pictures Folder
- iPhoto Albums
- Aperture Projects
- Folders
  - Pictures

Change picture: every hour

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Translucent Menu Bar

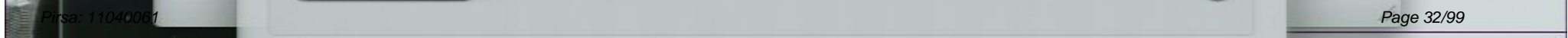
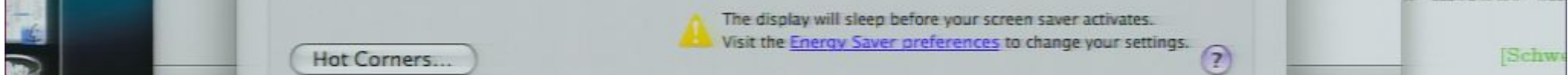
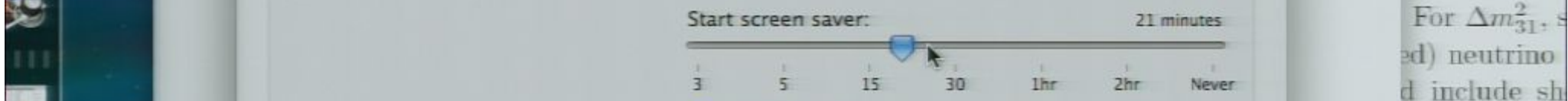
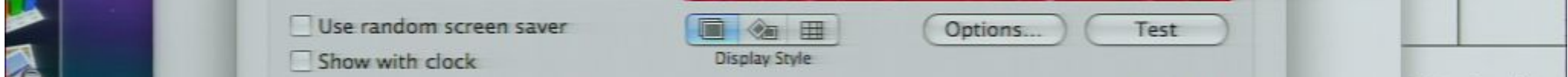
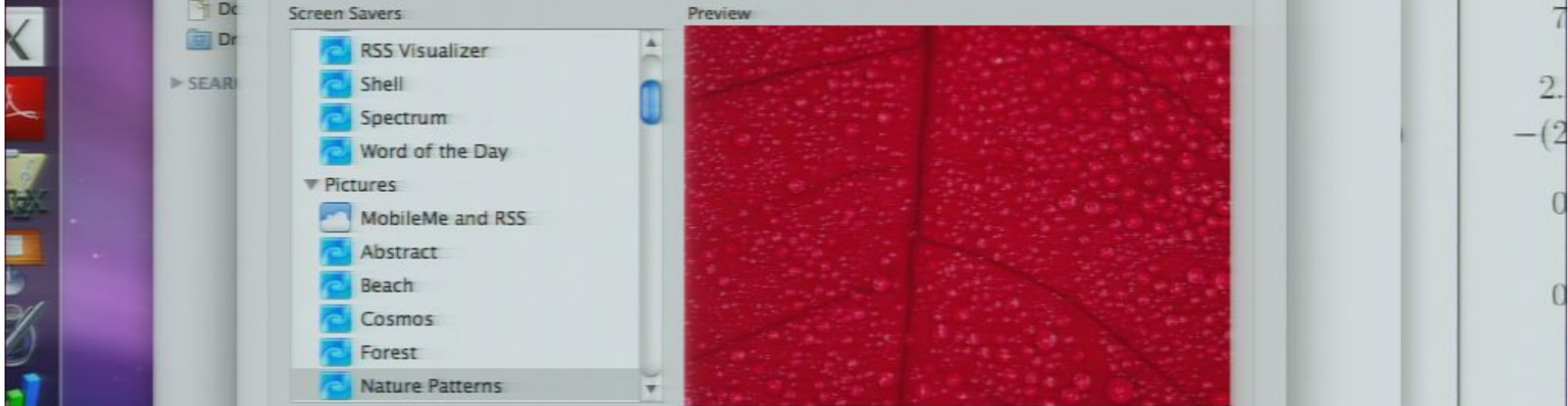
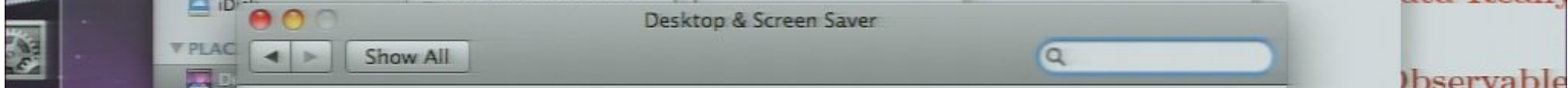
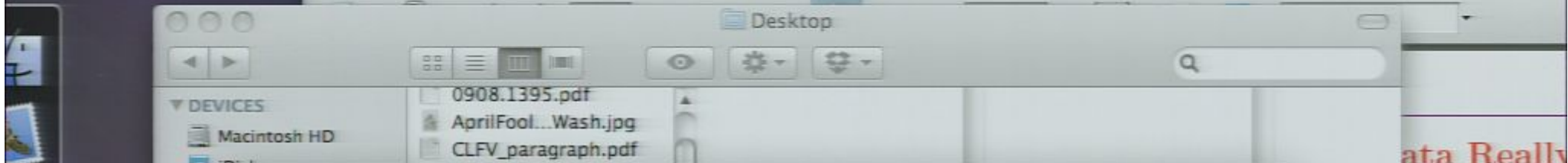
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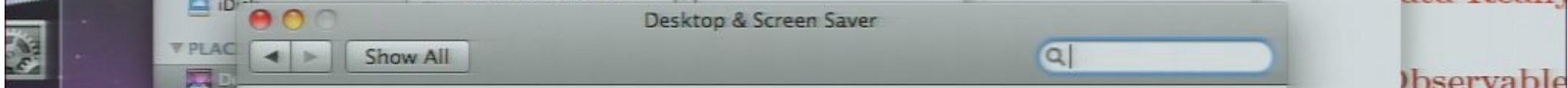
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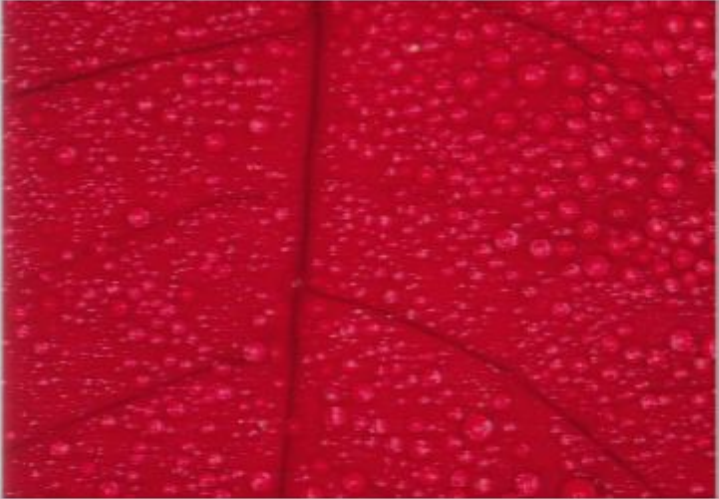
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- Word of the Day
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Show with clock

Preview



Options... Test

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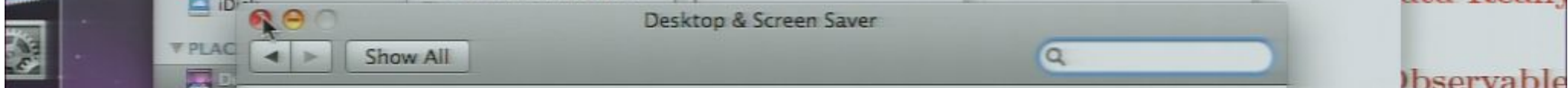
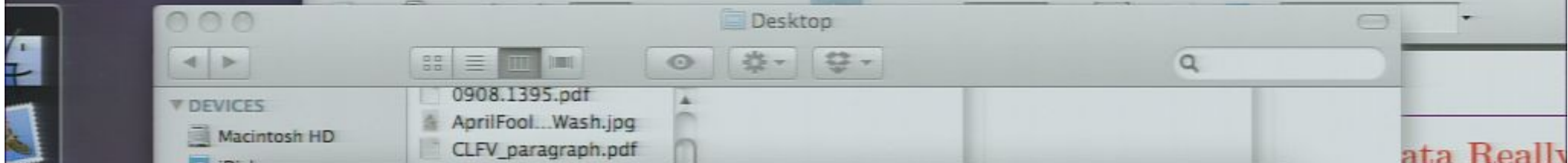
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André de Gouvêa

## Three Flavor Mixing Hypothesis Fits All Data Really

⇒ Good Measurements of Oscillation Observable

parameter	best fit $\pm 1\sigma$	$2\sigma$	
$\Delta m_{21}^2 [10^{-5} \text{eV}^2]$	$7.59^{+0.20}_{-0.18}$	7.24–7.99	7
$\Delta m_{31}^2 [10^{-3} \text{eV}^2]$	$2.45 \pm 0.09$	2.28 – 2.64	2.
	$-(2.34^{+0.10}_{-0.09})$	$-(2.17 - 2.54)$	-(2
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	$0.312^{+0.017}_{-0.015}$	0.28–0.35	0
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	$0.51 \pm 0.06$	0.41–0.61	0
	$0.52 \pm 0.06$	0.42–0.61	
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	$0.010^{+0.009}_{-0.006}$	$\leq 0.027$	
	$0.013^{+0.009}_{-0.007}$	$\leq 0.031$	

**Table 2.** Neutrino oscillation parameters summary. For  $\Delta m_{31}^2$ , the upper (lower) row corresponds to normal (inverted) neutrino mass ordering. We assume the new reactor anti-neutrino fluxes [5] and include short-baseline neutrino experiments in the fit.

[Schw]

## Three Flavor Mixing Hypothesis Fits All Data Really Well.

⇒ Good Measurements of Oscillation Observables

parameter	best fit $\pm 1\sigma$	$2\sigma$	$3\sigma$
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[Schwetz et al, 1103.0734]

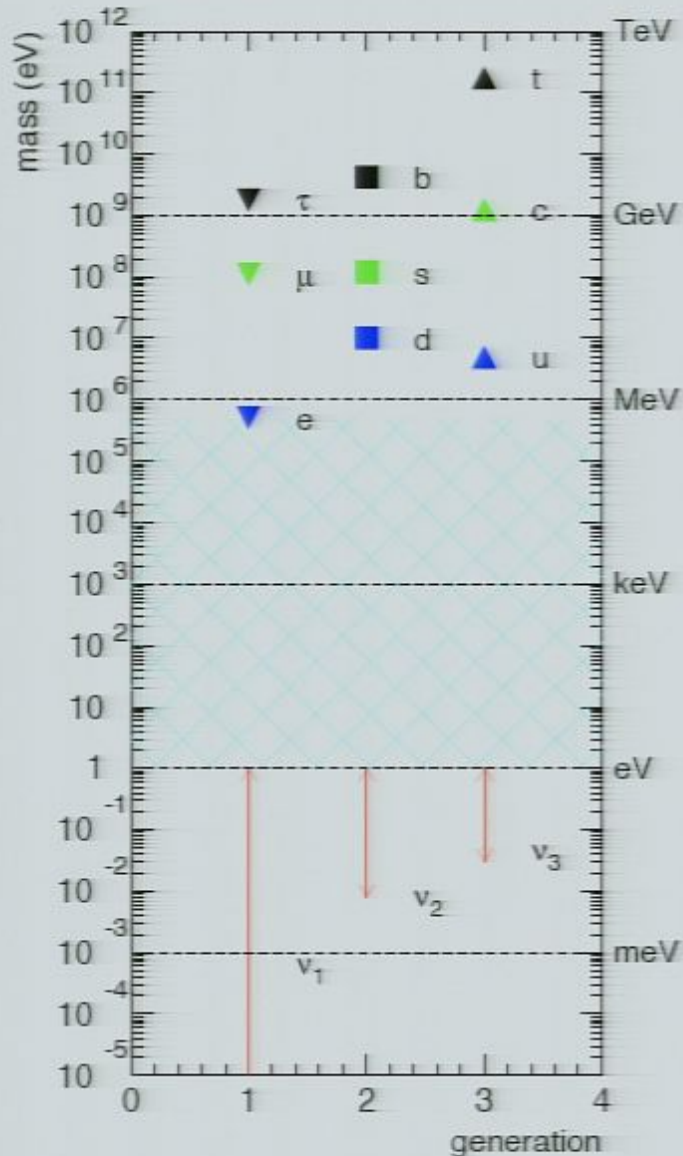
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## What We Are Trying To Understand:



⇐ NEUTRINOS HAVE TINY MASSES

⇓ LEPTON MIXING IS “WEIRD” ⇓

$$V_{MNS} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.5 & 0.2 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0.7 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V_{CKM} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.2 & 0.001 \\ 0.2 & 1 & 0.01 \\ 0.001 & 0.01 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

What Does It Mean?



## Who Cares About Neutrino Masses: Only\* “Palpable” Evidence of Physics Beyond the Standard Model

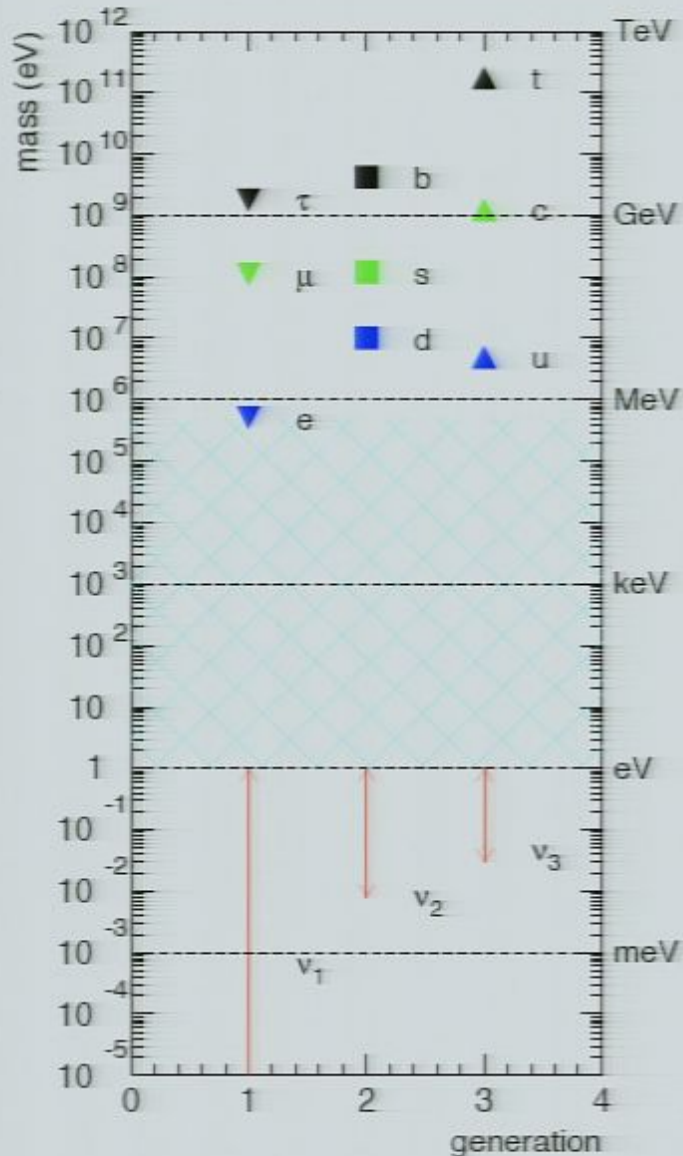
The SM we all learned in school predicts that neutrinos are strictly massless. Massive neutrinos imply that the SM is incomplete and needs to be replaced/modified.

Furthermore, the SM has to be replaced by something qualitatively different.

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\* There is only a handful of questions our model for fundamental physics cannot explain properly. These are, in order of “palpability” (my opinion):

- What is the physics behind electroweak symmetry breaking? (Higgs *or* not in SM).
- What is the dark matter? (not in SM).
- Why does the Universe appear to be accelerating? Why does it appear that the Universe underwent rapid acceleration in the past? (not in SM – is this “particle physics?”).



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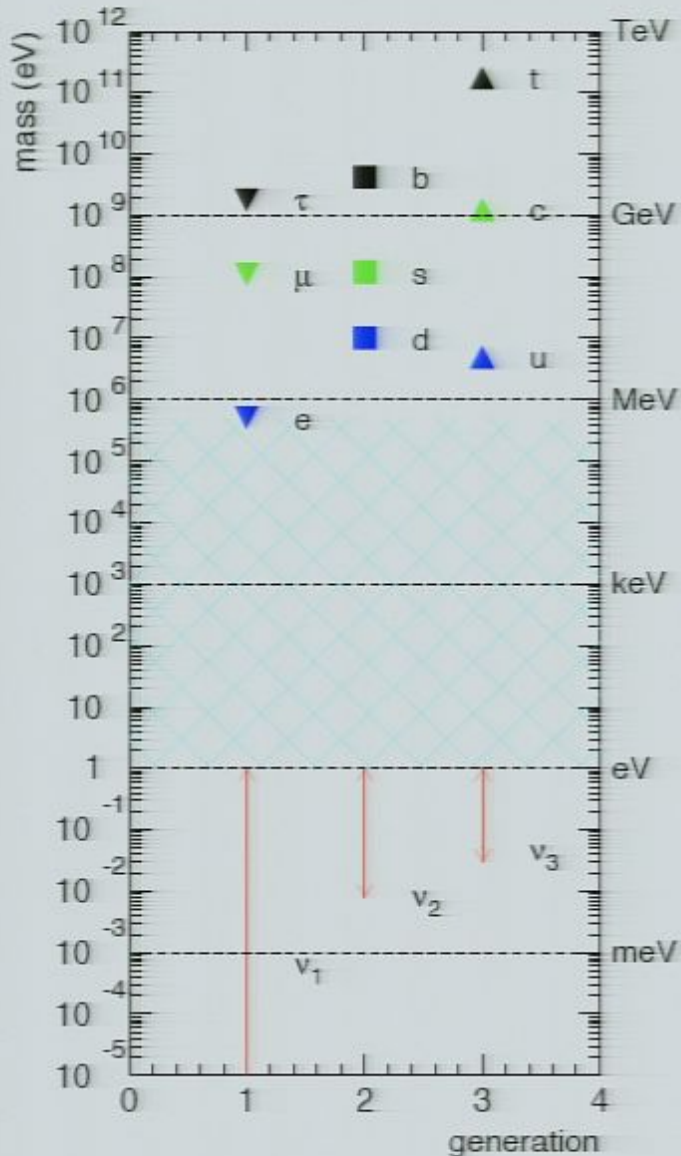
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## What is the New Standard Model? [ $\nu$ SM]

The short answer is – WE DON'T KNOW. Not enough available info!



Equivalently, there are several completely different ways of addressing neutrino masses. The key issue is to understand what else the  $\nu$ SM candidates can do. [are they falsifiable?, are they “simple”?, do they address other outstanding problems in physics?, etc]

We need more experimental input.

## Candidate $\nu$ SM: The One I'll Concentrate On

SM as an effective field theory – non-renormalizable operators

$$\mathcal{L}_{\nu\text{SM}} \supset -y_{ij} \frac{L^i H L^j H}{2\Lambda} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\Lambda^2}\right) + H.c.$$



There is only one dimension five operator [Weinberg, 1979]. If  $\Lambda \gg 1$  TeV, it leads to only one observable consequence...

$$\text{after EWSB: } \mathcal{L}_{\nu\text{SM}} \supset \frac{m_{ij}}{2} \nu^i \nu^j; \quad m_{ij} = y_{ij} \frac{v^2}{\Lambda}.$$

- Neutrino masses are small:  $\Lambda \gg v \rightarrow m_\nu \ll m_f$  ( $f = e, \mu, u, d$ , etc)
- Neutrinos are Majorana fermions – Lepton number is violated!
- $\nu$ SM effective theory – not valid for energies above *at most*  $\Lambda/y$ .
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## The Seesaw Lagrangian

A simple<sup>a</sup>, renormalizable Lagrangian that allows for neutrino masses is

$$\mathcal{L}_\nu = \mathcal{L}_{\text{old}} - \lambda_{\alpha i} L^\alpha H N^i - \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{M_i}{2} N^i N^i + H.c.,$$



where  $N_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ , for concreteness) are SM gauge singlet fermions.

$\mathcal{L}_\nu$  is the most general, renormalizable Lagrangian consistent with the SM gauge group and particle content, plus the addition of the  $N_i$  fields.

After electroweak symmetry breaking,  $\mathcal{L}_\nu$  describes, besides all other SM degrees of freedom, six Majorana fermions: **six neutrinos**.

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This provides very little information concerning the magnitude of  $M_i$  (assume  $M_1 \sim M_2 \sim M_3$ ).


Theoretically, there is prejudice in favor of very large  $M$ :  $M \gg v$ . Popular examples include  $M \sim M_{\text{GUT}}$  (GUT scale), or  $M \sim 1$  TeV (EWSB scale).

Furthermore,  $\lambda \sim 1$  translates into  $M \sim 10^{14}$  GeV, while thermal leptogenesis requires the lightest  $M_i$  to be around  $10^{10}$  GeV.

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- $M \gg \mu$ : the six neutrinos split up into three mostly active, light ones, and three, mostly sterile, heavy ones. The light neutrino mass matrix is given by  $m_{\alpha\beta} = \sum_i \mu_{\alpha i} M_i^{-1} \mu_{\beta i}$   $[m \propto 1/\Lambda \Rightarrow \Lambda = M/\mu^2]$ .

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- $M \sim \mu$ : six states have similar masses. Active–sterile mixing is very large. This scenario is (generically) ruled out by active neutrino data (atmospheric, solar, KamLAND, K2K, etc).

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## Why are Neutrino Masses Small in the $M \neq 0$ Case?

If  $\mu \ll M$ , below the mass scale  $M$ ,

$$\mathcal{L}_5 = \frac{LHLH}{\Lambda}.$$

Neutrino masses are small if  $\Lambda \gg \langle H \rangle$ . Data require  $\Lambda \sim 10^{14}$  GeV.

In the case of the seesaw,


$$\Lambda \sim \frac{M}{\lambda^2},$$

so neutrino masses are small if either

- they are generated by physics at a very high energy scale  $M \gg v$  (high-energy seesaw); **or**
- they arise out of a very weak coupling between the SM and a new, hidden sector (low-energy seesaw); **or**
- cancellations among different contributions render neutrino masses accidentally small (“fine-tuning”).



## High-Energy Seesaw: Brief Comments

- This is everyone's favorite scenario.
- Upper bound for  $M$  (e.g. Maltoni, Niczyporuk, Willenbrock, hep-ph/0006358): 

$$M < 7.6 \times 10^{15} \text{ GeV} \times \left( \frac{0.1 \text{ eV}}{m_\nu} \right).$$

- Hierarchy problem hint (e.g., Casas, Espinosa, Hidalgo, hep-ph/0410298):

$$M < 10^7 \text{ GeV}.$$

- Physics “too” heavy! No observable consequence other than leptogenesis. From thermal leptogenesis  $M > 10^9 \text{ GeV}$ . Will we ever convince ourselves that this is correct? (e.g., Buckley, Murayama, hep-ph/0606088)

## Low-Energy Seesaw [AdG PRD72,033005]

The other end of the  $M$  spectrum ( $M < 100$  GeV). What do we get?

- Neutrino masses are small because the Yukawa couplings are very small  
 $\lambda \in [10^{-6}, 10^{-11}]$ ;
- No standard thermal leptogenesis – right-handed neutrinos way too light?  
[For a possible alternative see Canetti, Shaposhnikov, arXiv: 1006.0133 and reference therein.]
- No obvious connection with other energy scales (EWSB, GUTs, etc);
- Right-handed neutrinos are propagating degrees of freedom. They look like sterile neutrinos  $\Rightarrow$  sterile neutrinos associated with the fact that the active neutrinos have mass;
- sterile–active mixing can be predicted – hypothesis is falsifiable!
- Small values of  $M$  are natural (in the ‘tHooft sense). In fact, theoretically, no value of  $M$  should be discriminated against!

More Details, assuming three right-handed neutrinos  $N$ :

$$m_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda v \\ (\lambda v)^t & M \end{pmatrix},$$



$M$  is diagonal, and all its eigenvalues are real and positive. The charged lepton mass matrix also diagonal, real, and positive.

To leading order in  $(\lambda v)M^{-1}$ , the three lightest neutrino mass eigenvalues are given by the eigenvalues of

$$m_a = \lambda v M^{-1} (\lambda v)^t,$$

where  $m_a$  is the mostly active neutrino mass matrix, while the heavy sterile neutrino masses coincide with the eigenvalues of  $M$ .

$6 \times 6$  mixing matrix  $U$  [ $U^t m_\nu U = \text{diag}(m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4, m_5, m_6)$ ] is

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} V & \Theta \\ -\Theta^\dagger V & 1_{n \times n} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $V$  is the active neutrino mixing matrix (MNS matrix)

$$V^t m_a V = \text{diag}(m_1, m_2, m_3),$$

and the matrix that governs active-sterile mixing is

$$\Theta = (\lambda v)^* M^{-1}.$$

One can solve for the Yukawa couplings and re-express

$$\Theta = V \sqrt{\text{diag}(m_1, m_2, m_3)} R^\dagger M^{-1/2},$$

where  $R$  is a complex orthogonal matrix  $RR^t = 1$ .

More Details, assuming three right-handed neutrinos  $N$ :

$$m_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda v \\ (\lambda v)^t & M \end{pmatrix},$$



$M$  is diagonal, and all its eigenvalues are real and positive. The charged lepton mass matrix also diagonal, real, and positive.

To leading order in  $(\lambda v)M^{-1}$ , the three lightest neutrino mass eigenvalues are given by the eigenvalues of

$$m_a = \lambda v M^{-1} (\lambda v)^t,$$

where  $m_a$  is the mostly active neutrino mass matrix, while the heavy sterile neutrino masses coincide with the eigenvalues of  $M$ .

$6 \times 6$  mixing matrix  $U$  [ $U^t m_\nu U = \text{diag}(m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4, m_5, m_6)$ ] is

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} V & \Theta \\ -\Theta^\dagger V & 1_{n \times n} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $V$  is the active neutrino mixing matrix (MNS matrix)

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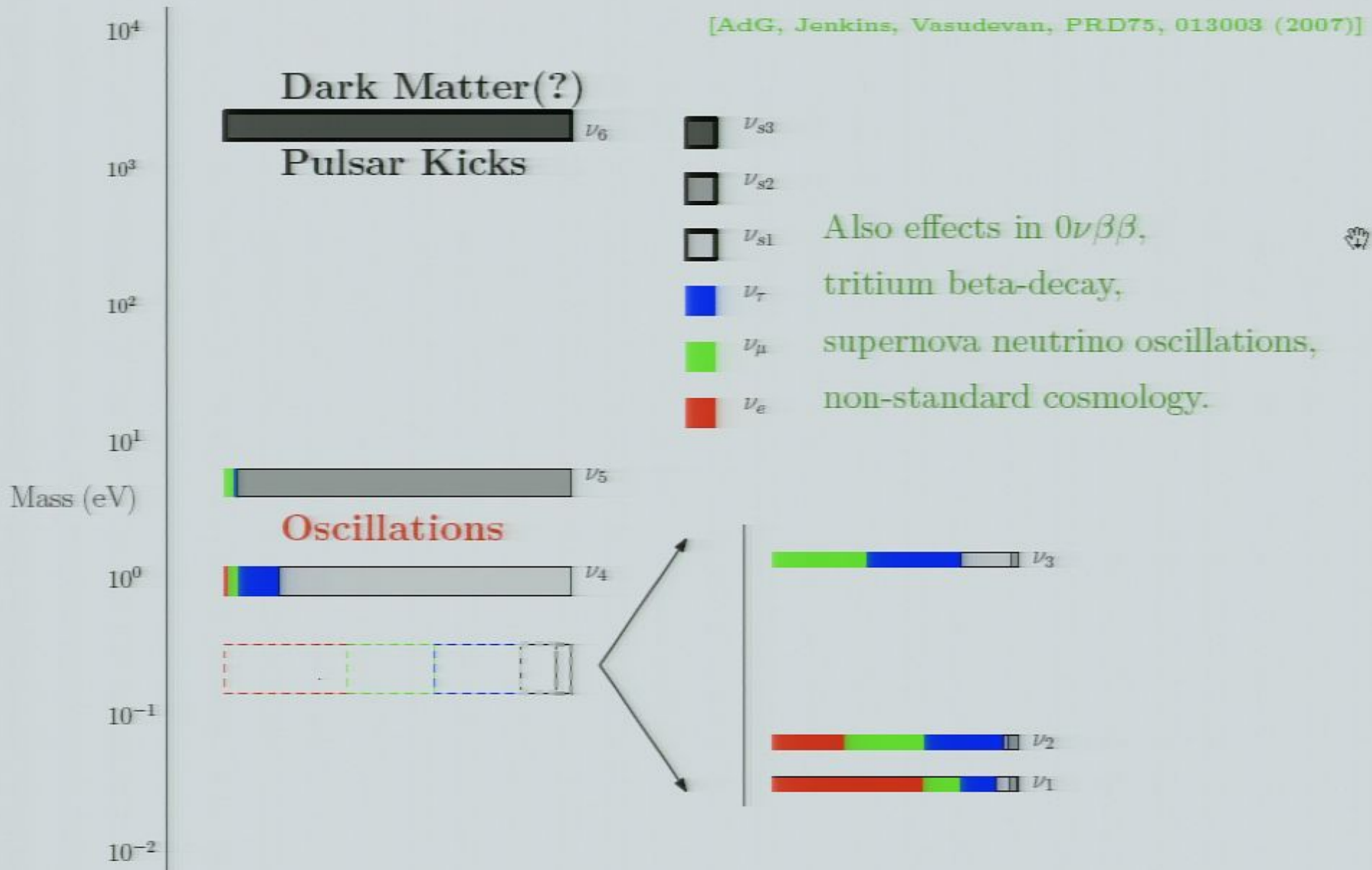
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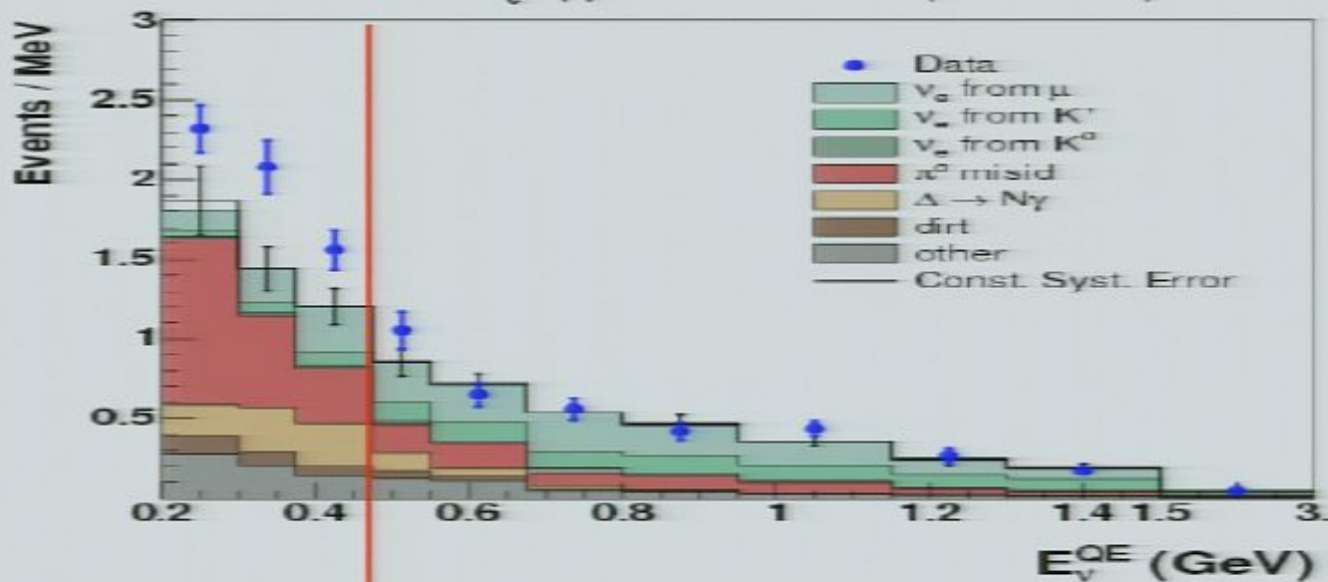
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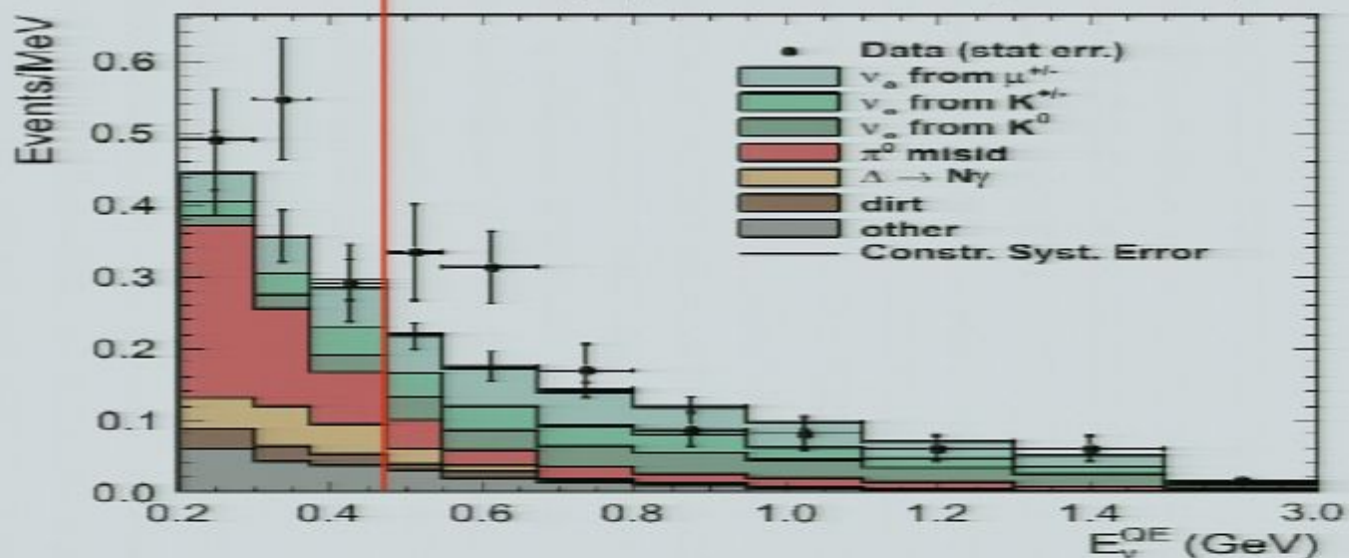
[AdG, Jenkins, Vasudevan, PRD75, 013003 (2007)]

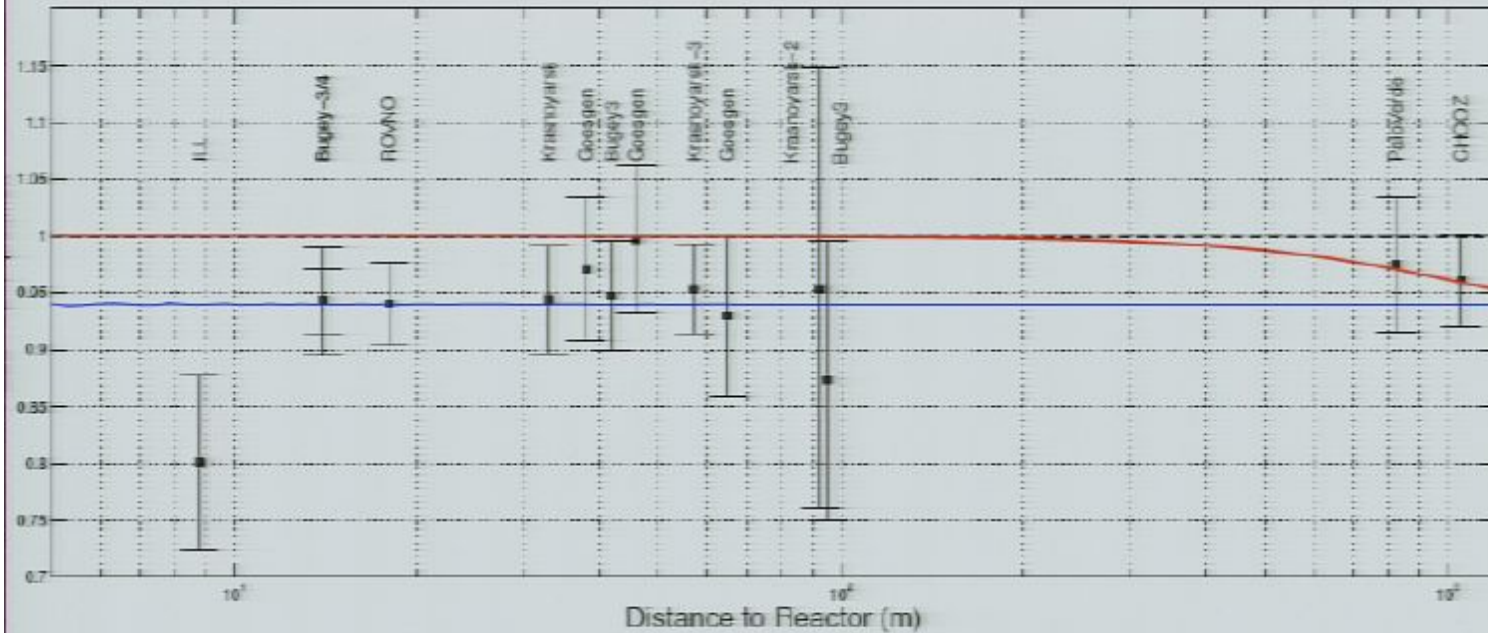


### Neutrino $\bar{\nu}_e$ Appearance Results (6.5E20POT)



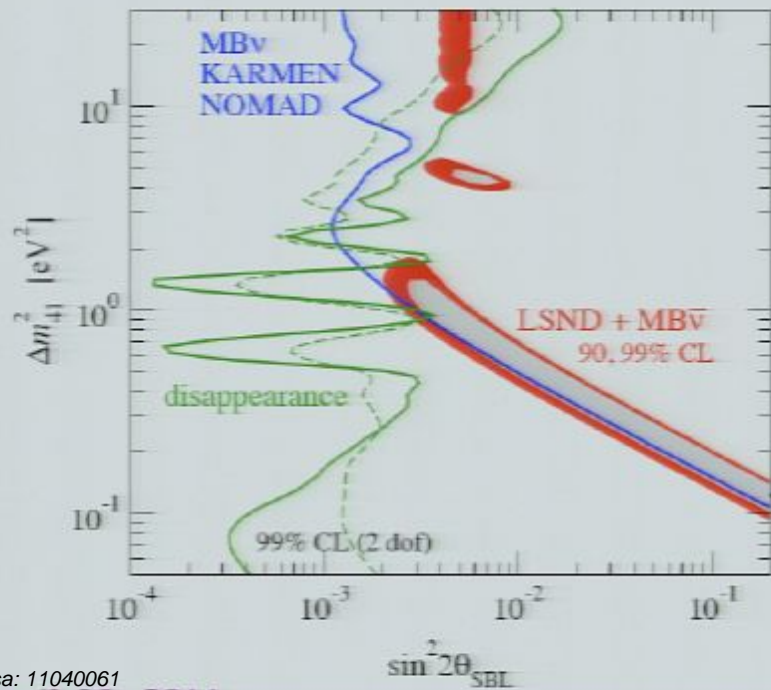
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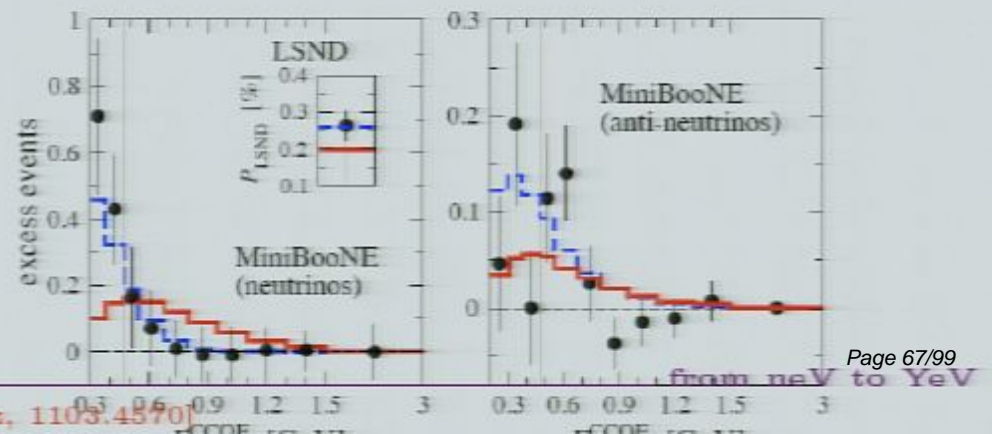
Northwestern

More Room For  
New Neutrinos?



	$\Delta m_{41}^2$	$ U_{e4} $	$ U_{\mu 4} $	$\Delta m_{51}^2$	$ U_{e5} $	$ U_{\mu 5} $	$\delta/\pi$	$\chi^2/\text{dof}$
3+2	0.47	0.128	0.165	0.87	0.138	0.148	1.64	110.1/130
1+3+1	0.47	0.129	0.154	0.87	0.142	0.163	0.35	106.1/130

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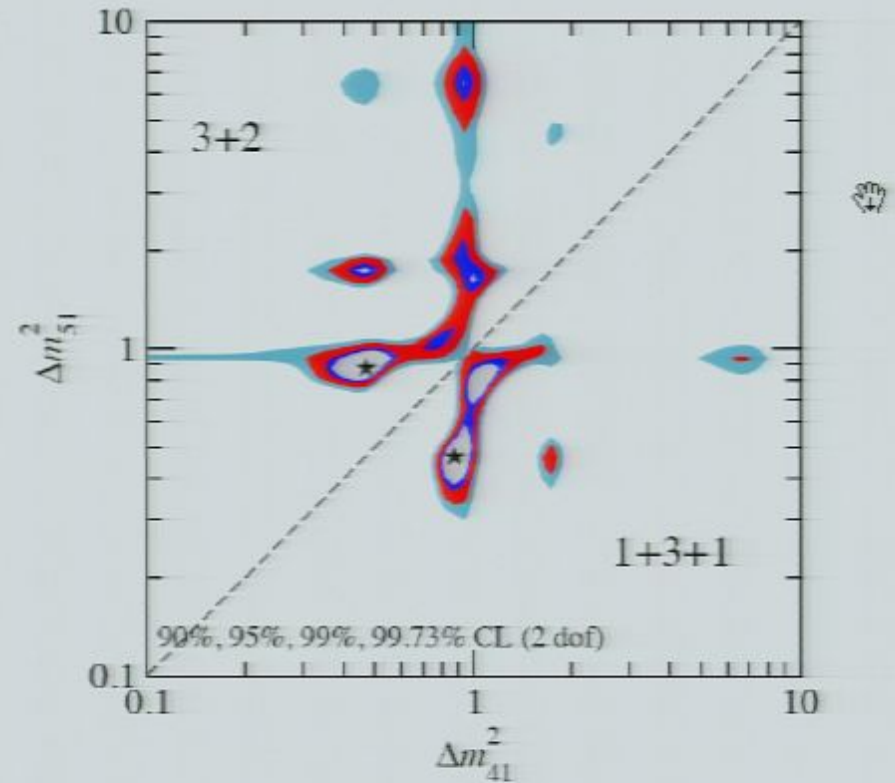


[Kopp, Maltoni, Schwetz, 1103.4570]

	LSND+MB( $\bar{\nu}$ ) vs rest appearance vs disapp.			
	old	new	old	new
$\chi_{PG,3+2}^2/\text{dof}$	25.1/5	19.9/5	19.9/4	14.7/4
PG <sub>3+2</sub>	$10^{-4}$	0.13%	$5 \times 10^{-4}$	0.53%
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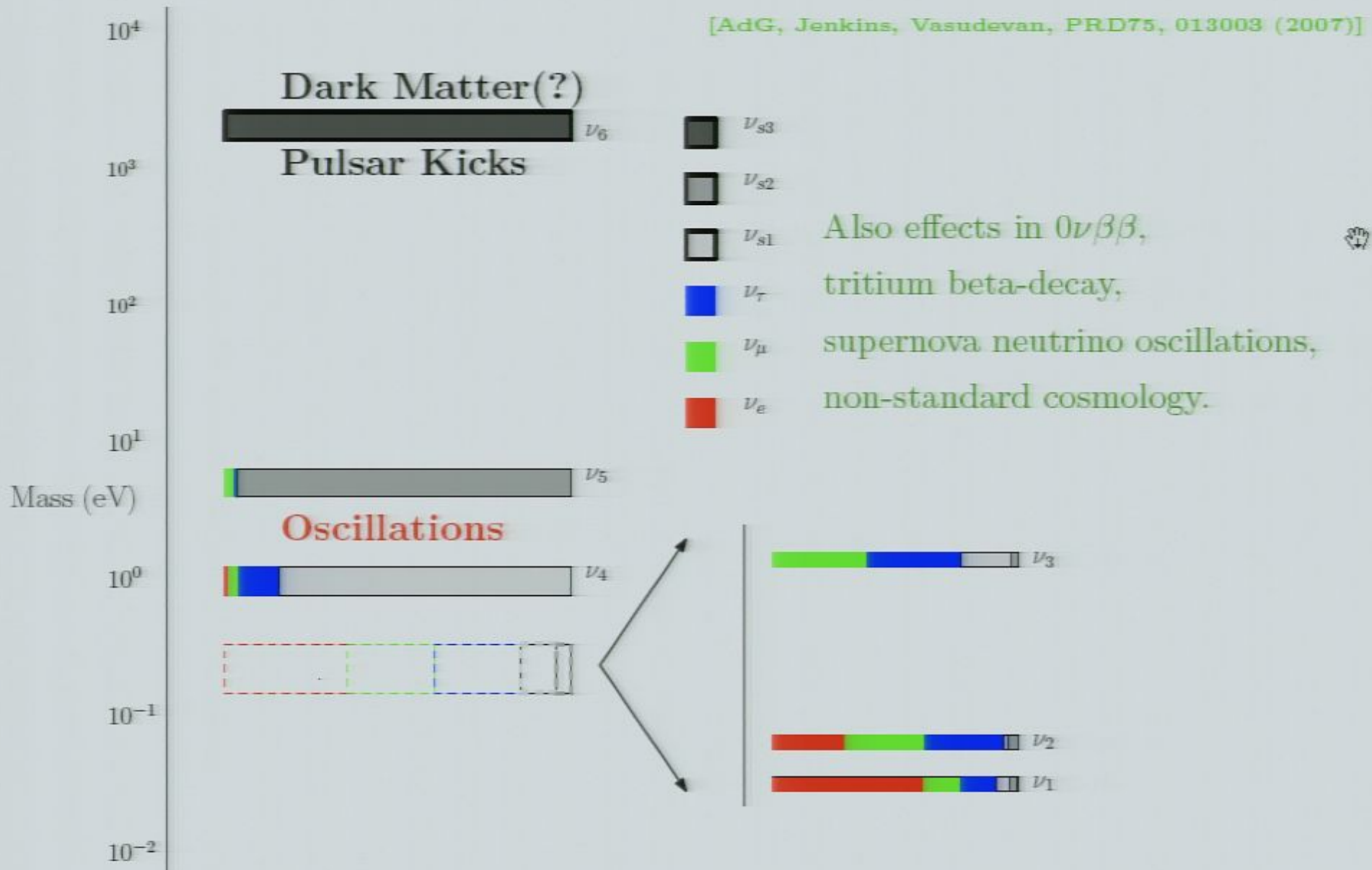
**Table III:** Compatibility of data sets [23] for 3+2 and 1+3+1 oscillations using old and new reactor fluxes.

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**Figure 5:** The globally preferred regions for the neutrino mass squared differences  $\Delta m_{41}^2$  and  $\Delta m_{51}^2$  in the 3+2 (upper left) and 1+3+1 (lower right) scenarios.

[AdG, Jenkins, Vasudevan, PRD75, 013003 (2007)]

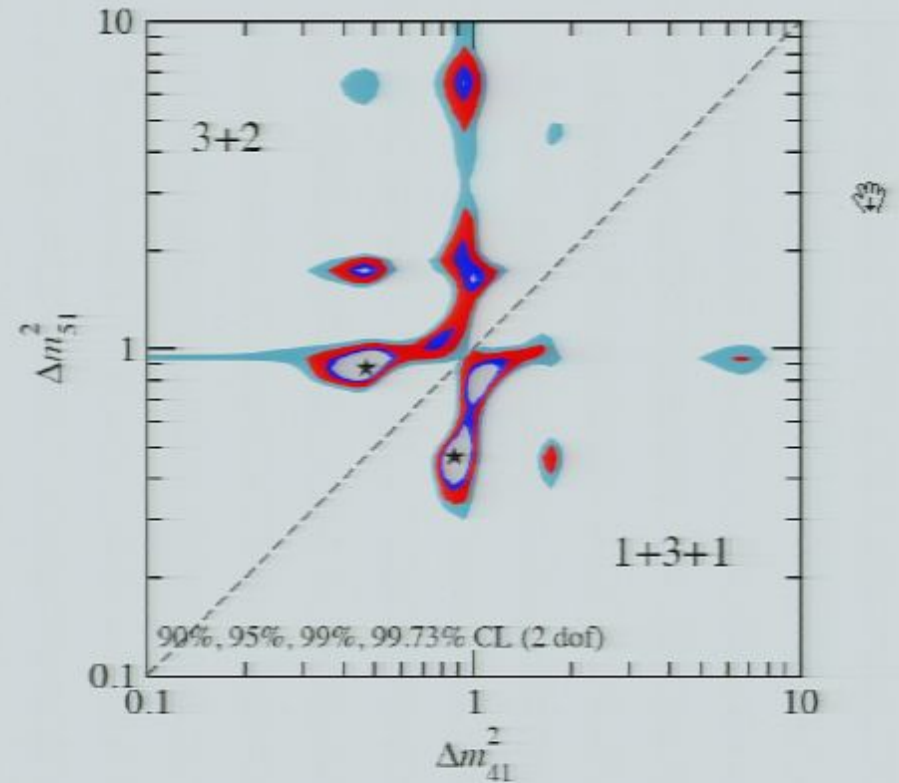


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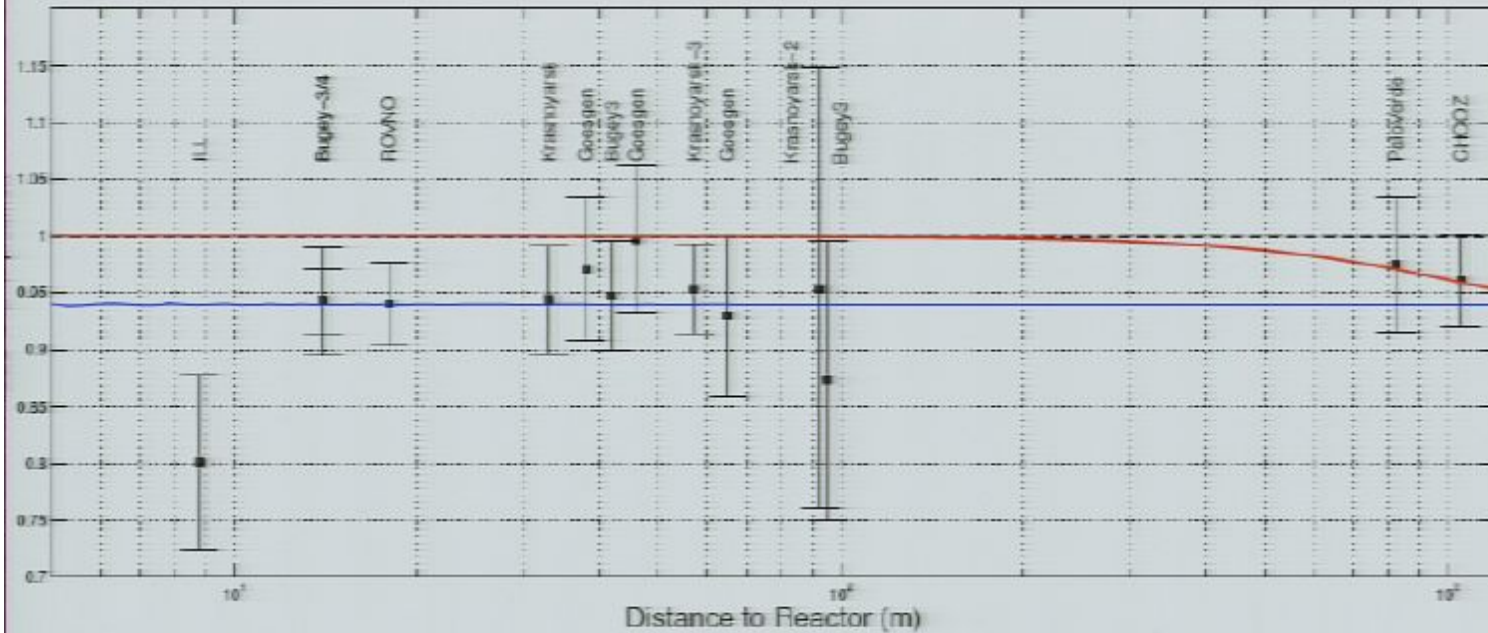
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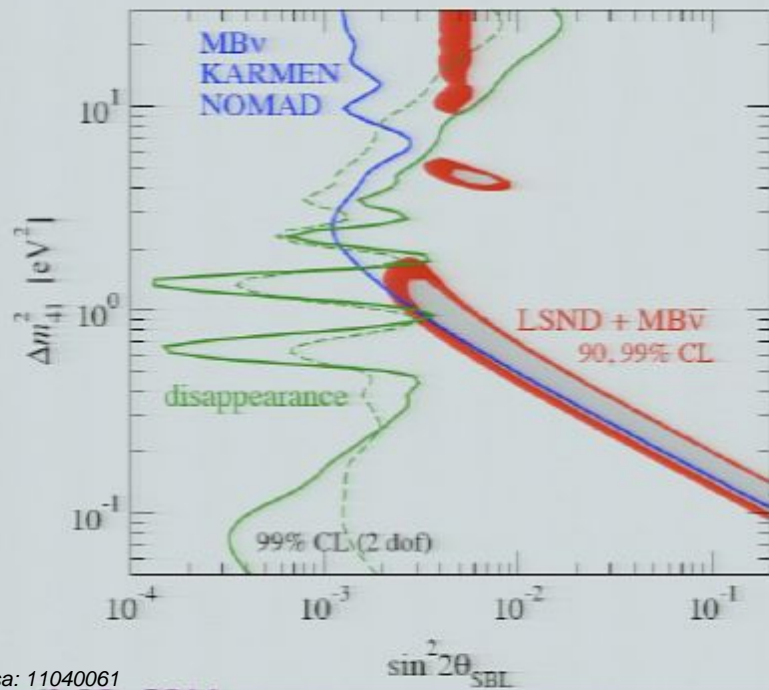


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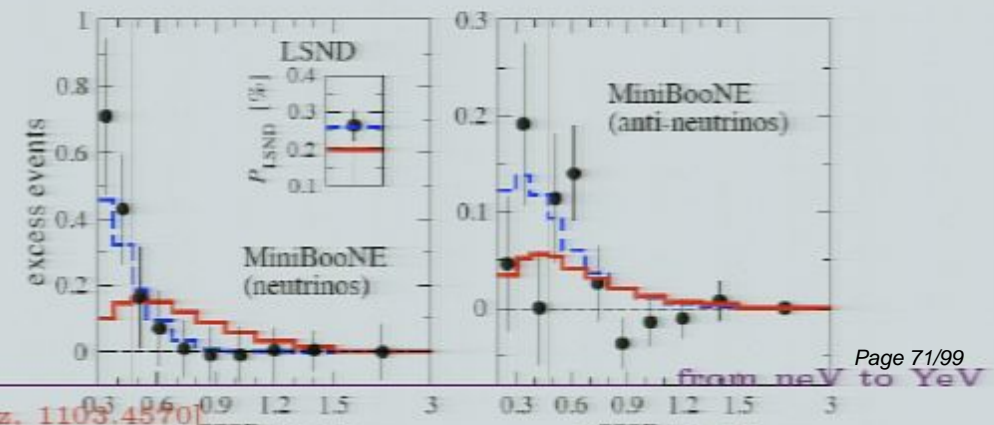
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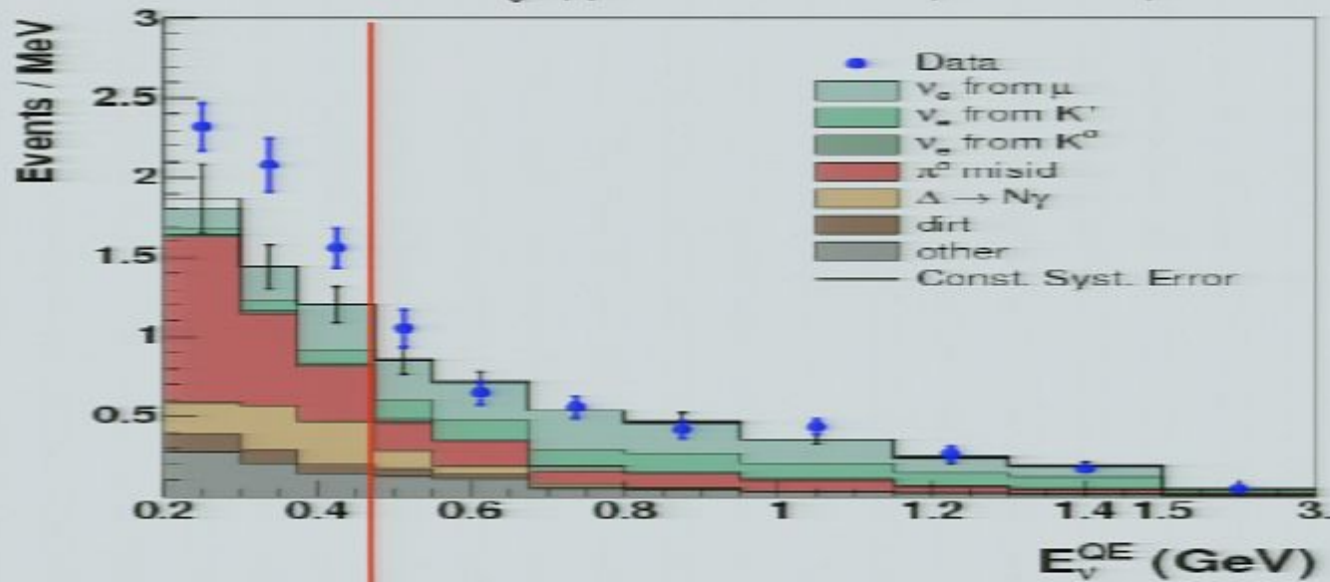


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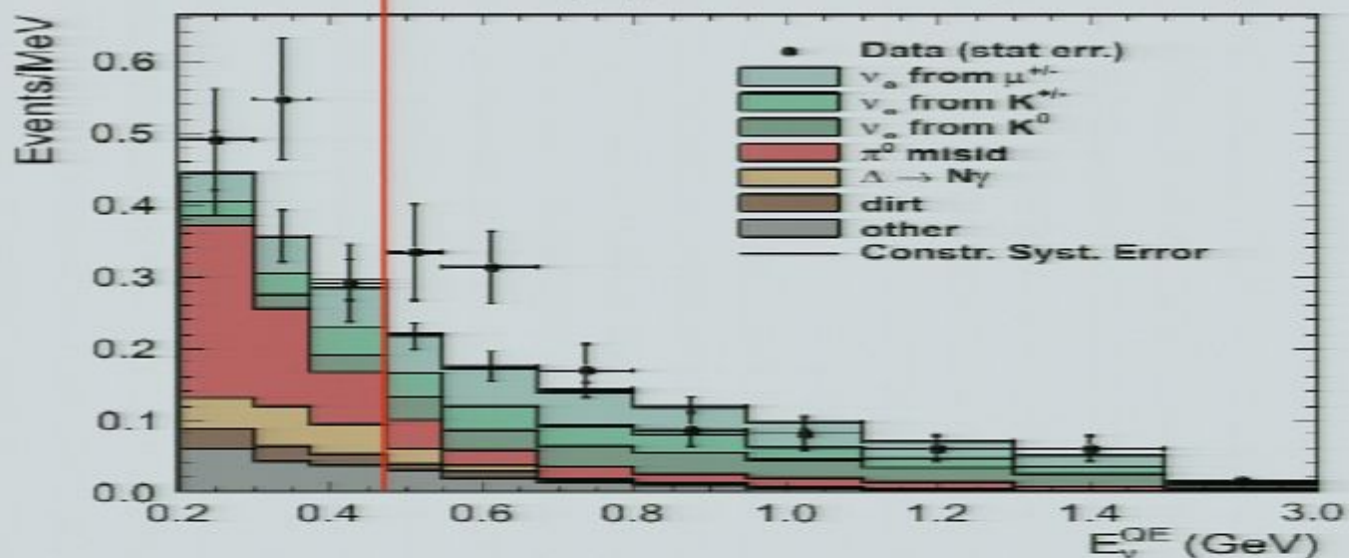
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### Neutrino $\nu_e$ Appearance Results (6.5E20POT)



### Antineutrino $\bar{\nu}_e$ Appearance Results (5.66E20POT)





## Predictions: Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay

The exchange of Majorana neutrinos mediates lepton-number violating neutrinoless double-beta decay,  $0\nu\beta\beta$ :  $Z \rightarrow (Z + 2)e^-e^-$ .

For light enough neutrinos, the amplitude for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  is proportional to the effective neutrino mass

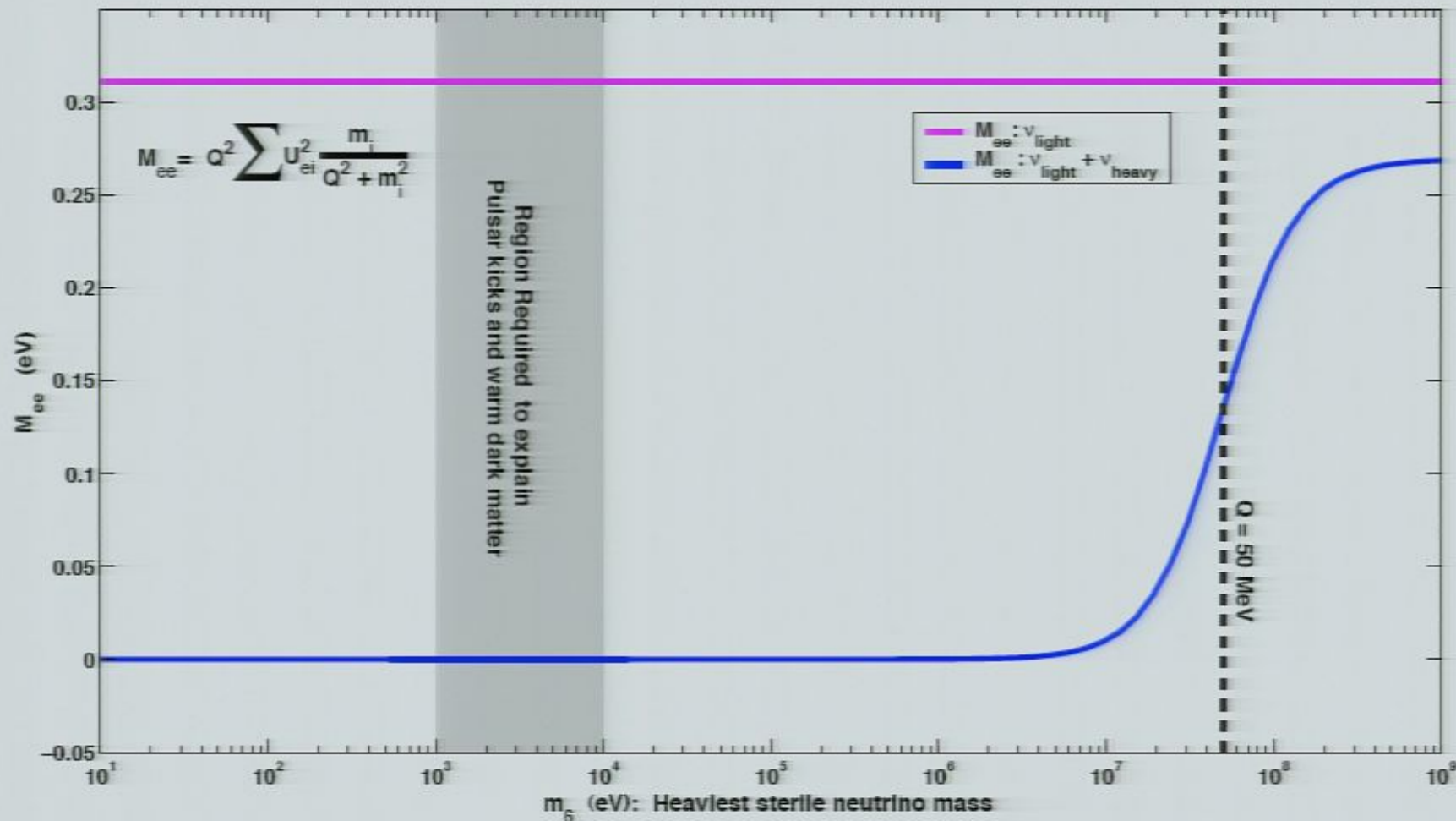
$$m_{ee} = \left| \sum_{i=1}^6 U_{ei}^2 m_i \right| \sim \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 U_{ei}^2 m_i + \sum_{i=1}^3 \vartheta_{ei}^2 M_i \right|.$$

However, upon further examination,  $m_{ee} = 0$  in the eV-seesaw. **The contribution of light and heavy neutrinos exactly cancels!** This seems to remain true to a good approximation as long as  $M_i \ll 1$  MeV.

$$\left[ \mathcal{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mu^T \\ \mu & M \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow m_{ee} \text{ is identically zero!} \right]$$

# (lack of) sensitivity in $0\nu\beta\beta$ due to seesaw sterile neutrinos

[AdG, Jenkins, Vasudevan, hep-ph/0608147]



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## Predictions: Tritium beta-decay

Heavy neutrinos participate in tritium  $\beta$ -decay. Their contribution can be parameterized by

$$m_{\beta}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^6 |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2 \simeq \sum_{i=1}^3 |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^3 |U_{ei}|^2 m_i M_i,$$

as long as  $M_i$  is not too heavy (above tens of eV). For example, in the case of a 3+2 solution to the LSND anomaly, the heaviest sterile state (with mass  $M_1$ ) contributes the most:  $m_{\beta}^2 \simeq 0.7 \text{ eV}^2 \left( \frac{|U_{e1}|^2}{0.7} \right) \left( \frac{m_1}{0.1 \text{ eV}} \right) \left( \frac{M_1}{10 \text{ eV}} \right)$ .

NOTE: next generation experiment (KATRIN) will be sensitive to  $O(10^{-1}) \text{ eV}^2$ .

## On Early Universe Cosmology / Astrophysics

A combination of the SM of particle physics plus the “concordance cosmological model” severely constrain light, sterile neutrinos with significant active-sterile mixing. Taken at face value, not only is the eV-seesaw ruled out, but so are all oscillation solutions to the LSND anomaly.

Hence, eV-seesaw  $\rightarrow$  nonstandard particle physics and cosmology.

On the other hand...

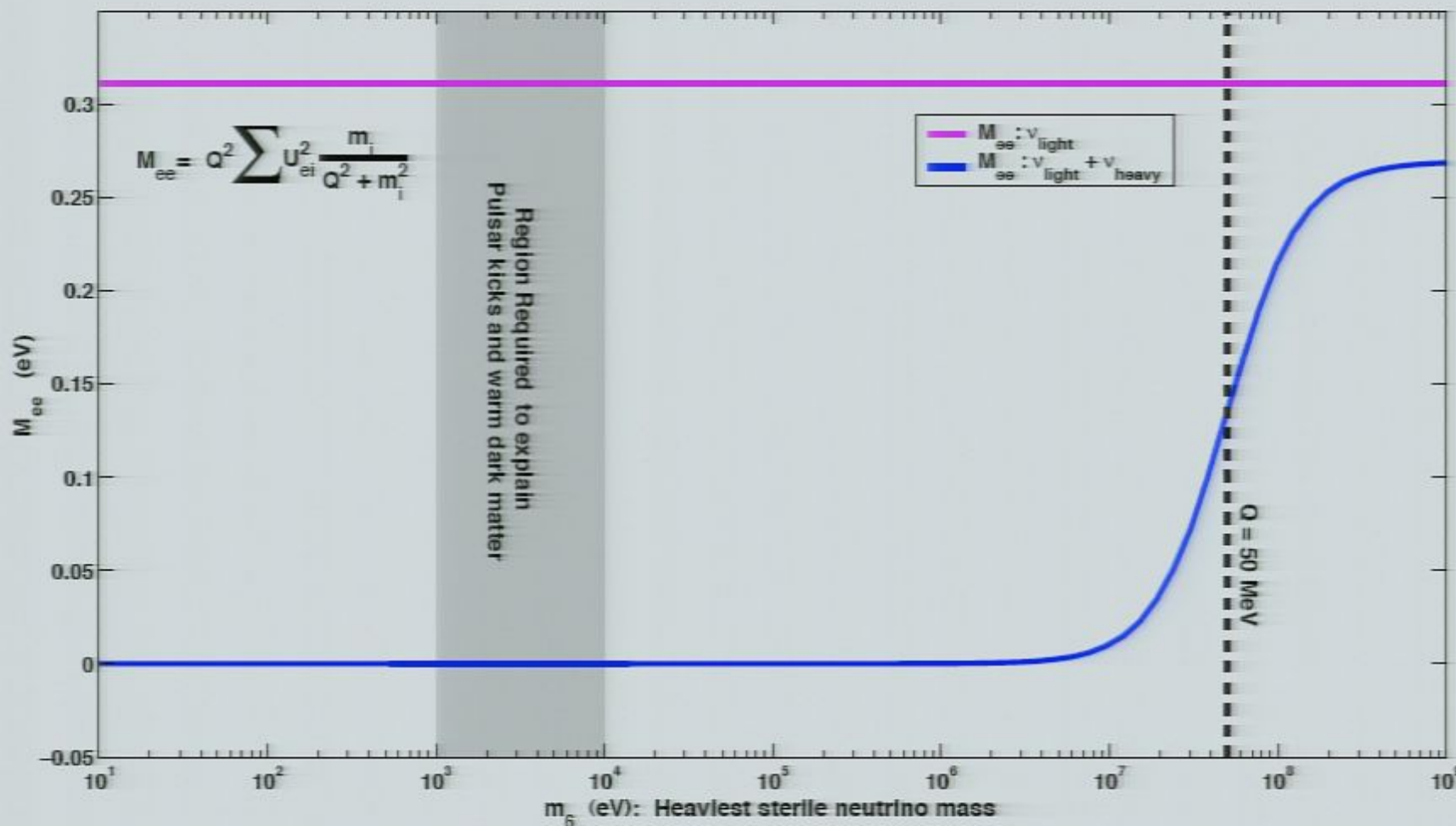
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Asaka, Blanchet, Shaposhnikov, hep-ph/0503065.

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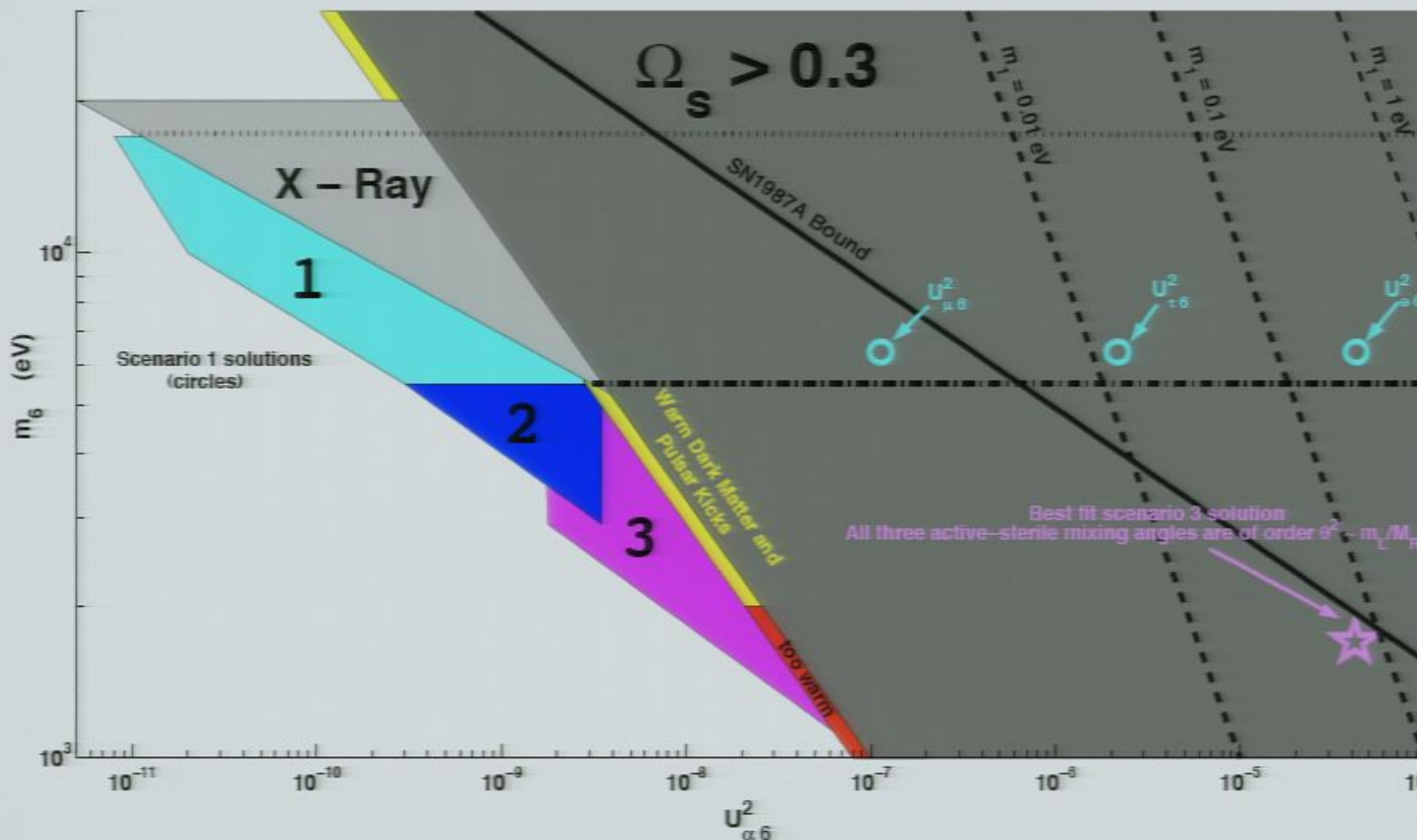
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# On Astrophysical / Cosmological Bounds

[AdG, Jenkins, Vasudevan, hep-ph/0608147]






## What if $1 \text{ GeV} < M < 1 \text{ TeV}$ ?

Naively, one expects

$$\Theta \sim \sqrt{\frac{m_a}{M}} < 10^{-5} \sqrt{\frac{1 \text{ GeV}}{M}},$$

such that, for  $M = 1 \text{ GeV}$  and above, sterile neutrino effects are mostly negligible. 

However,

$$\Theta = V \sqrt{\text{diag}(m_1, m_2, m_3)} R^\dagger M^{-1/2},$$

and the magnitude of the entries of  $R$  can be arbitrarily large  
[ $\cos(ix) = \cosh x \gg 1$  if  $x > 1$ ].

This is true as long as

- $\lambda v \ll M$  (seesaw approximation holds)
- $\lambda < 4\pi$  (theory is “well-defined”)

This implies that, in principle,  $\Theta$  is a quasi-free parameter – independent from light neutrino masses and mixing – as long as  $\Theta \ll 1$  and  $M < 1 \text{ TeV}$ .

What Does  $R \gg 1$  Mean?

It is illustrative to consider the case of one active neutrino of mass  $m_3$  and two sterile ones, and further assume that  $M_1 = M_2 = M$ . In this case,

$$\Theta = \sqrt{\frac{m_3}{M}} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \zeta & \sin \zeta \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\lambda v = \sqrt{m_3 M} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \zeta^* & \sin \zeta^* \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If  $\zeta$  has a large imaginary part  $\Rightarrow \Theta$  is (exponentially) larger than  $(m_3/M)^{1/2}$ ,  
 $\lambda_i$  neutrino Yukawa couplings are much larger than  $\sqrt{m_3 M}/v$

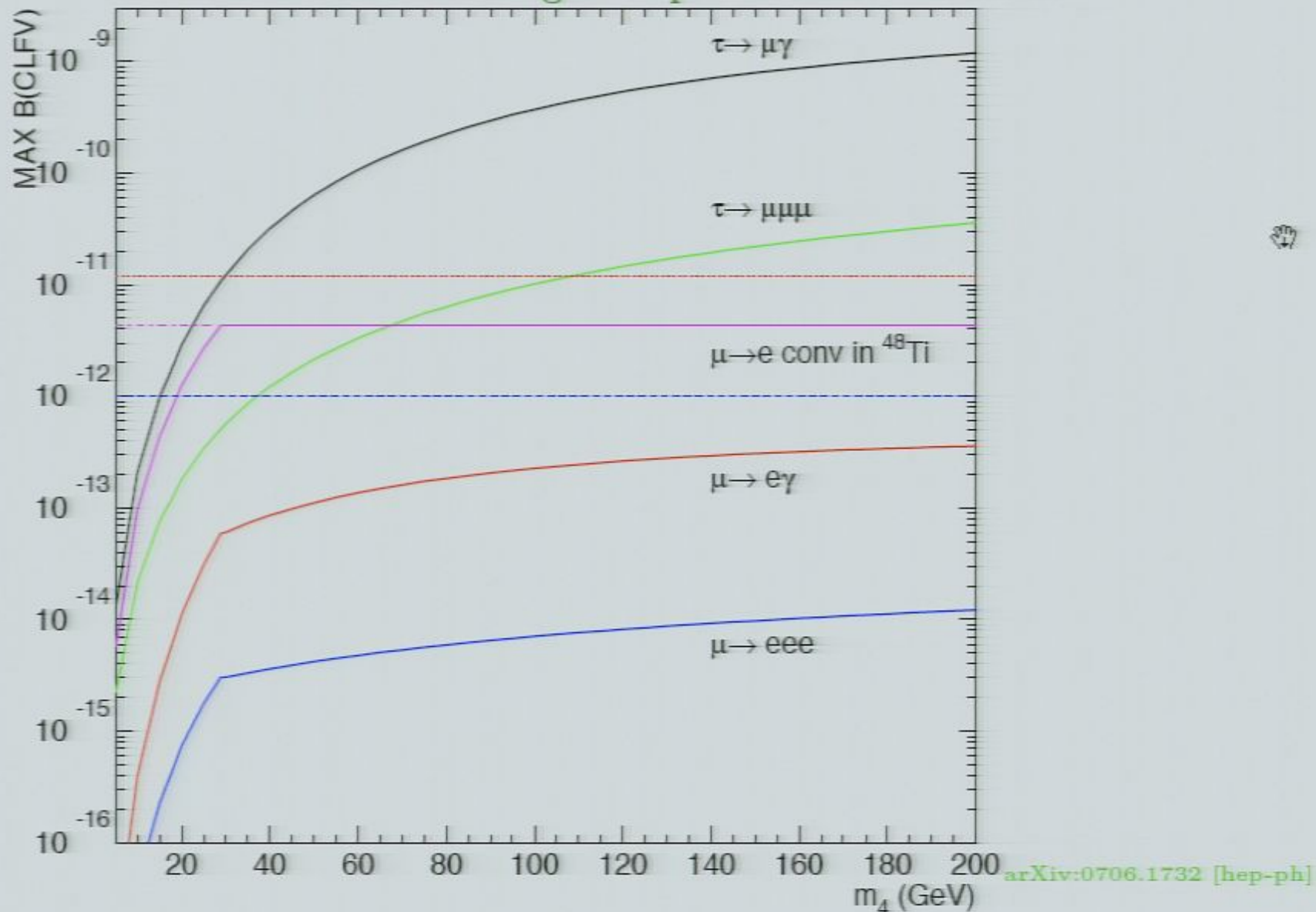
The reason for this is a strong cancellation between the contribution of the two different Yukawa couplings to the active neutrino mass

$$\Rightarrow m_3 = \lambda_1^2 v^2 / M + \lambda_2^2 v^2 / M.$$

For example:  $m_3 = 0.1$  eV,  $M = 100$  GeV,  $\zeta = 14i \Rightarrow \lambda_1 \sim 0.244, \lambda_2 \sim -0.244i$ ,  
 while  $|y_1| - |y_2| \sim 3.38 \times 10^{-13}$ .

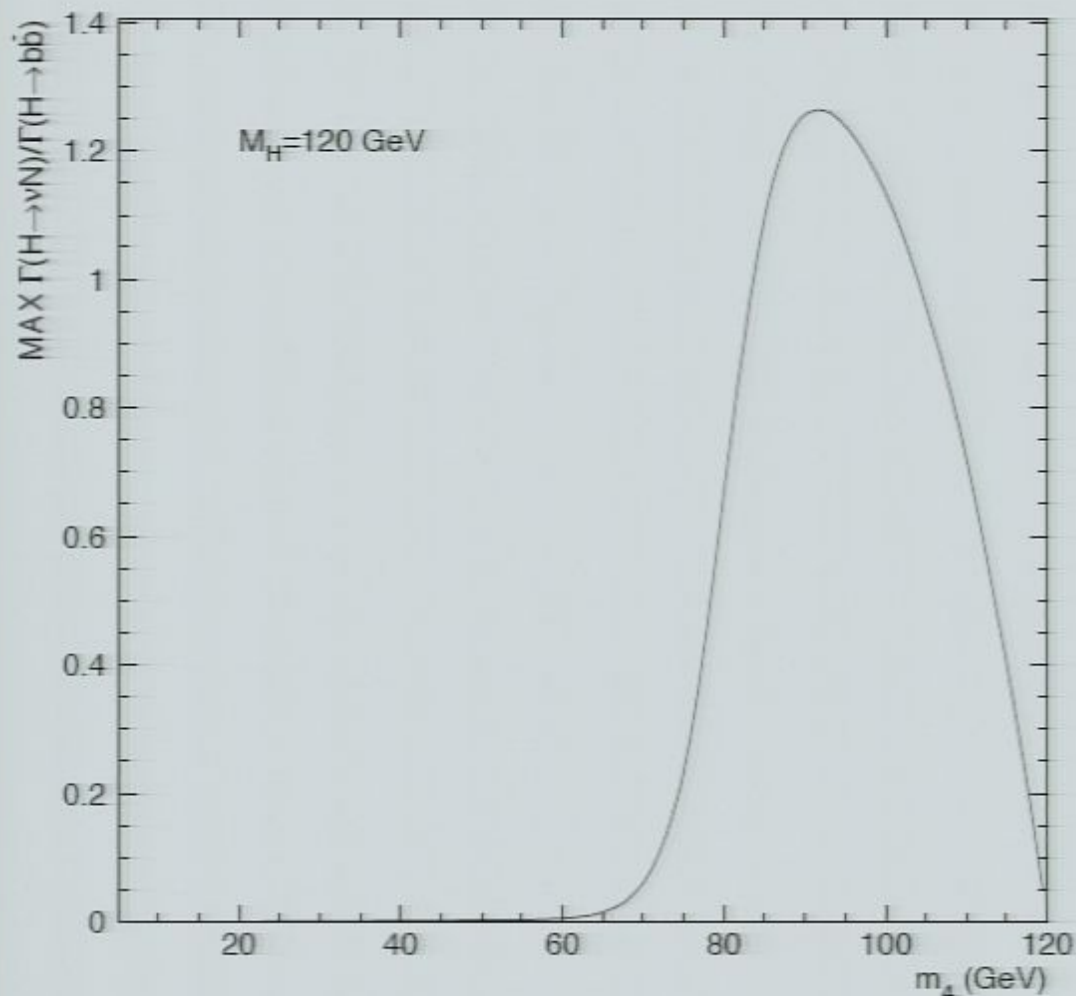
NOTE: cancellation may be consequence of a symmetry (say, lepton number).  
 See, for example, the “inverse seesaw” [Mohapatra and Valle, PRD34, 1642 \(1986\)](#).

## Constraints From Charged Lepton Flavor Violation



## Weak Scale Seesaw, and Accidentally Light Neutrino Masses

[AdG arXiv:0706.1732 [hep-ph]]



What does the seesaw Lagrangian predict for the LHC?

Nothing much, unless...

- $M_N \sim 1 - 100$  GeV,
- Yukawa couplings larger than naive expectations.

$\Leftarrow H \rightarrow \nu N$  as likely as  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ !

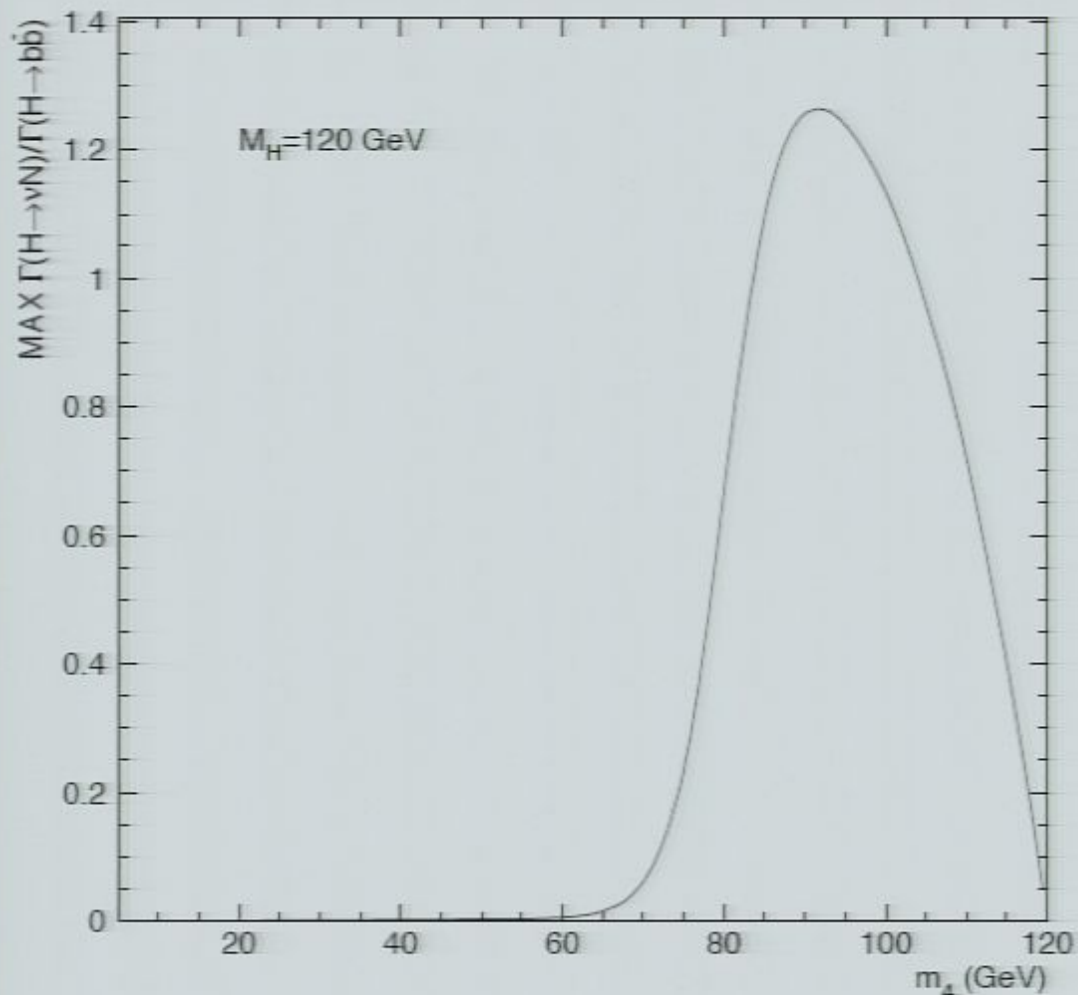
(NOTE:  $N \rightarrow \ell q' \bar{q}$  or  $\ell \ell' \nu$  (prompt)

“Weird” Higgs decay signature! )

[+ Lepton Number Violation at Colliders?]

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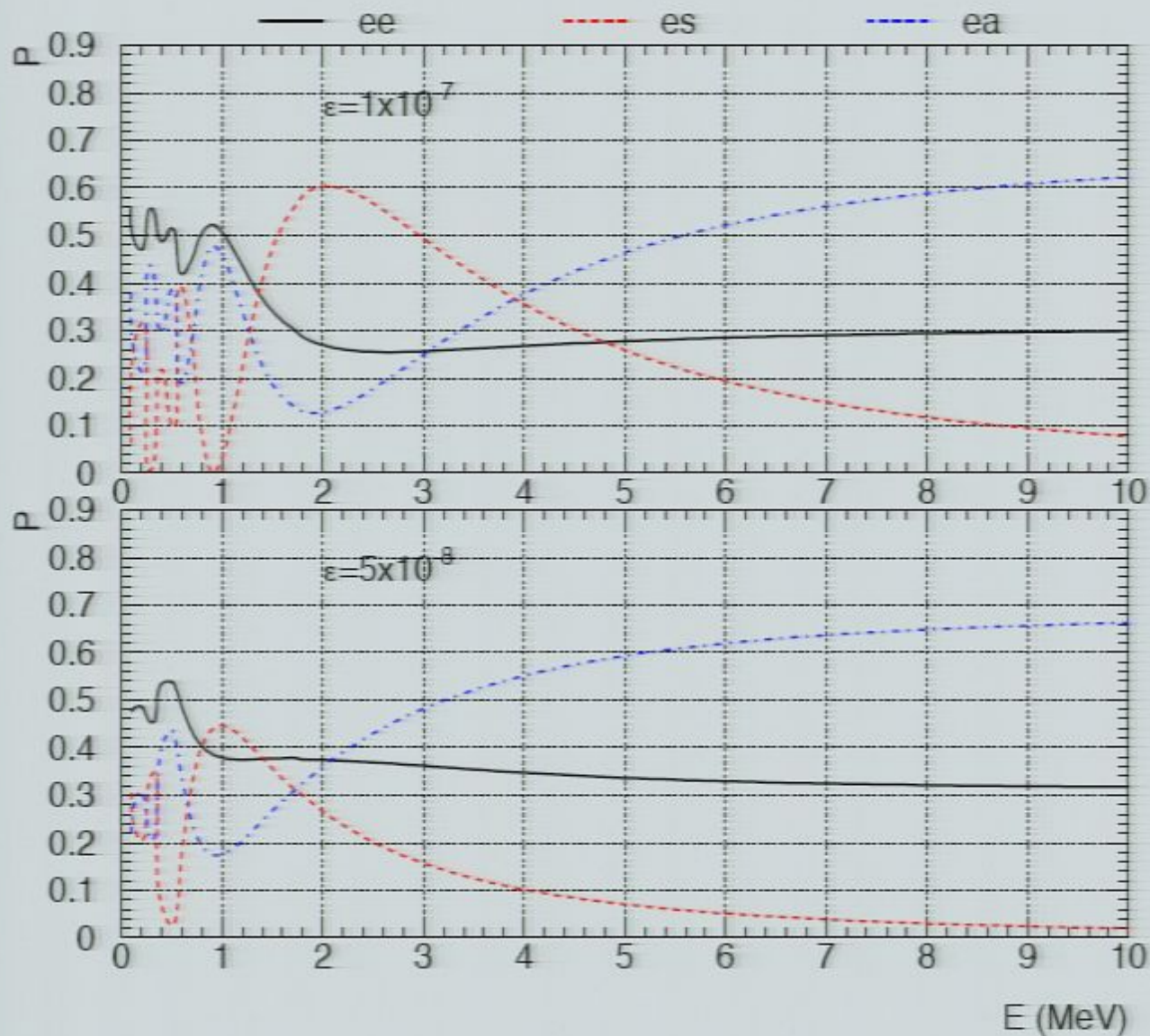
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### Going All the Way: What Happens When $M \ll \mu$ ?

In this case, the six Weyl fermions pair up into three quasi-degenerate states (“quasi-Dirac fermions”).

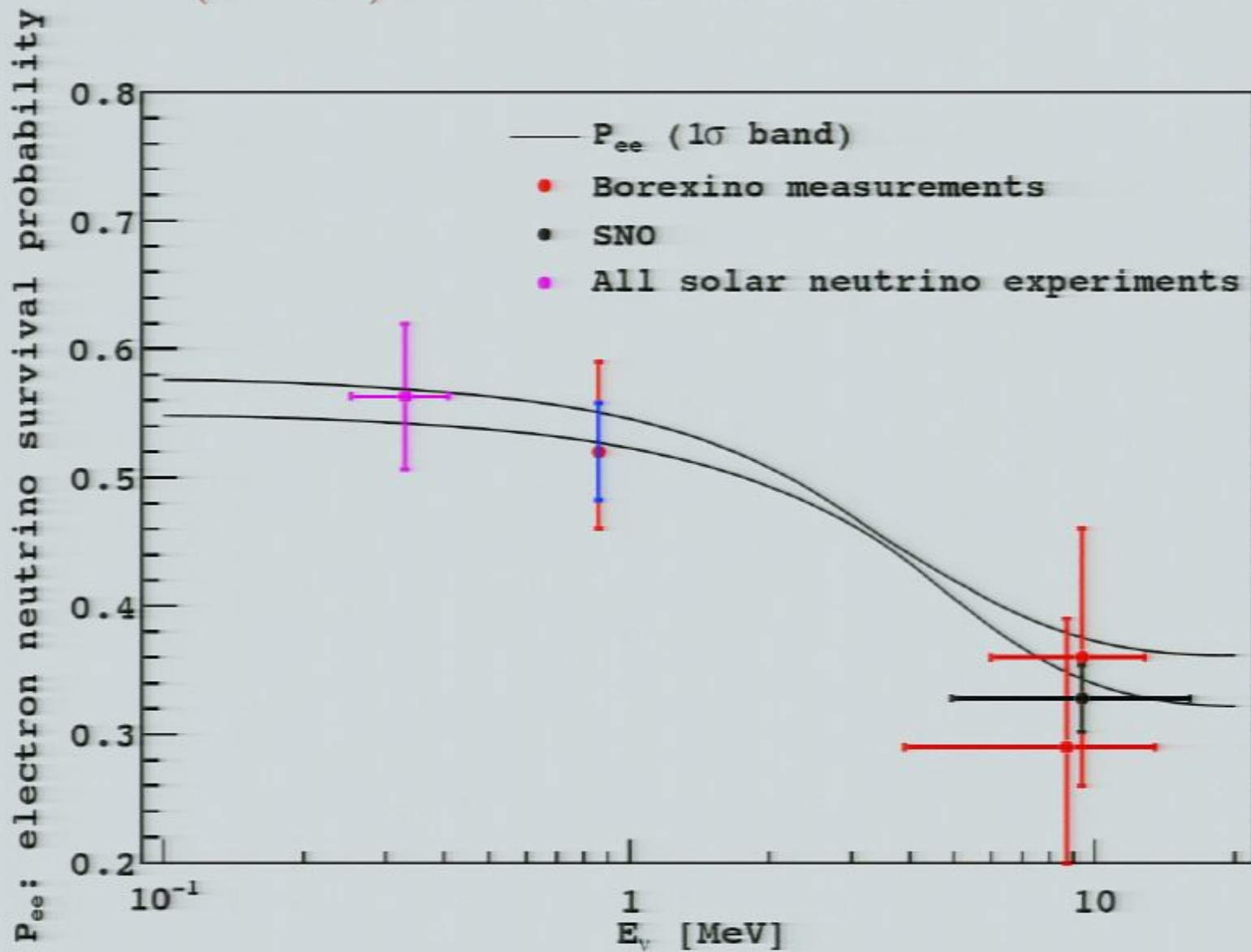
These states are fifty–fifty active–sterile mixtures. In the limit  $M \rightarrow 0$ , we end up with Dirac neutrinos, which are clearly allowed by all the data.



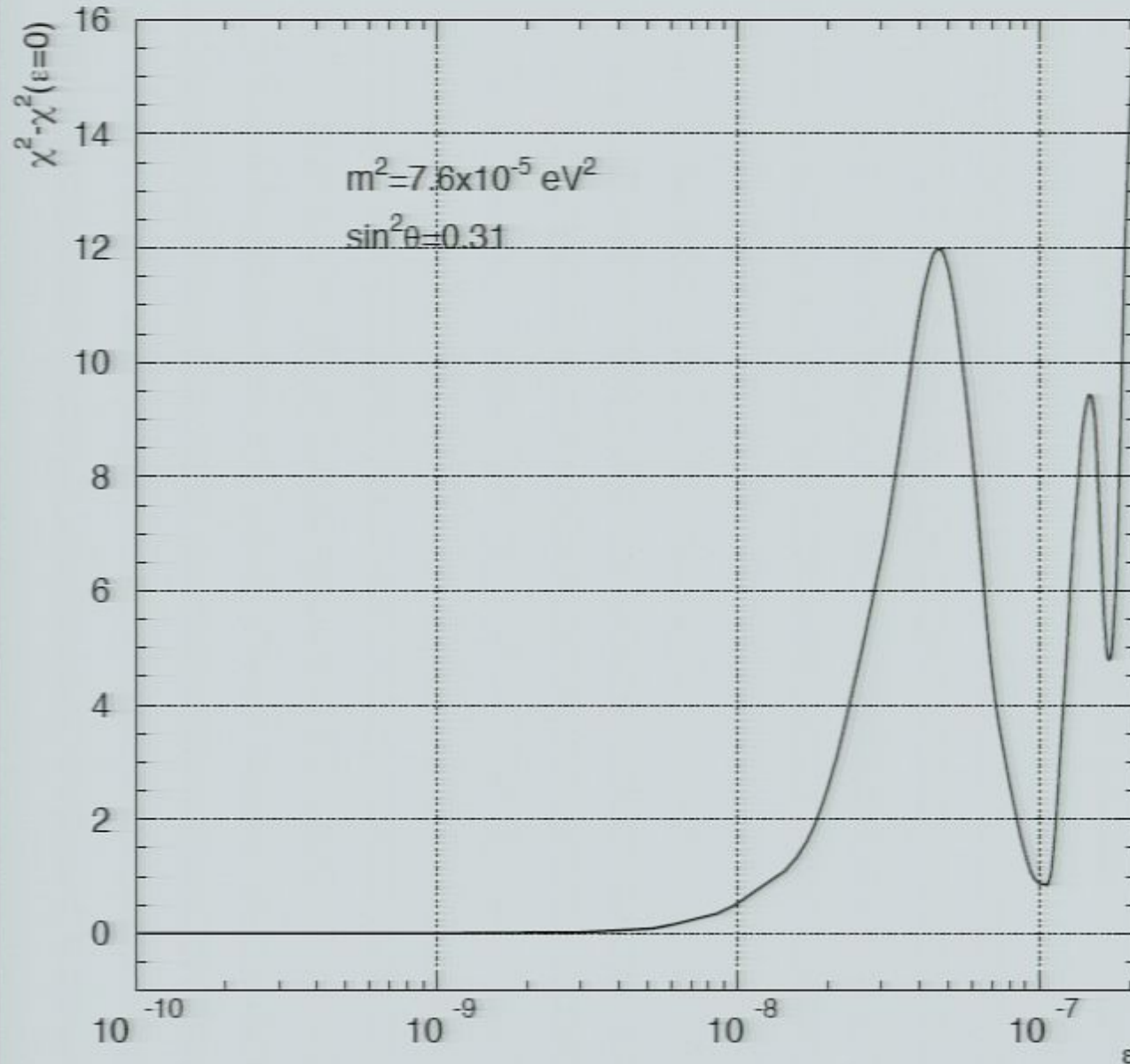
### Quasi-Sterile Neutrinos <sup>Ⓜ</sup>

- tiny new  $\Delta m^2 = \epsilon \Delta m_{12}^2$ ,
- maximal mixing!
- Effects in Solar  $\nu_s$

## (Almost) All We Know About Solar Neutrinos



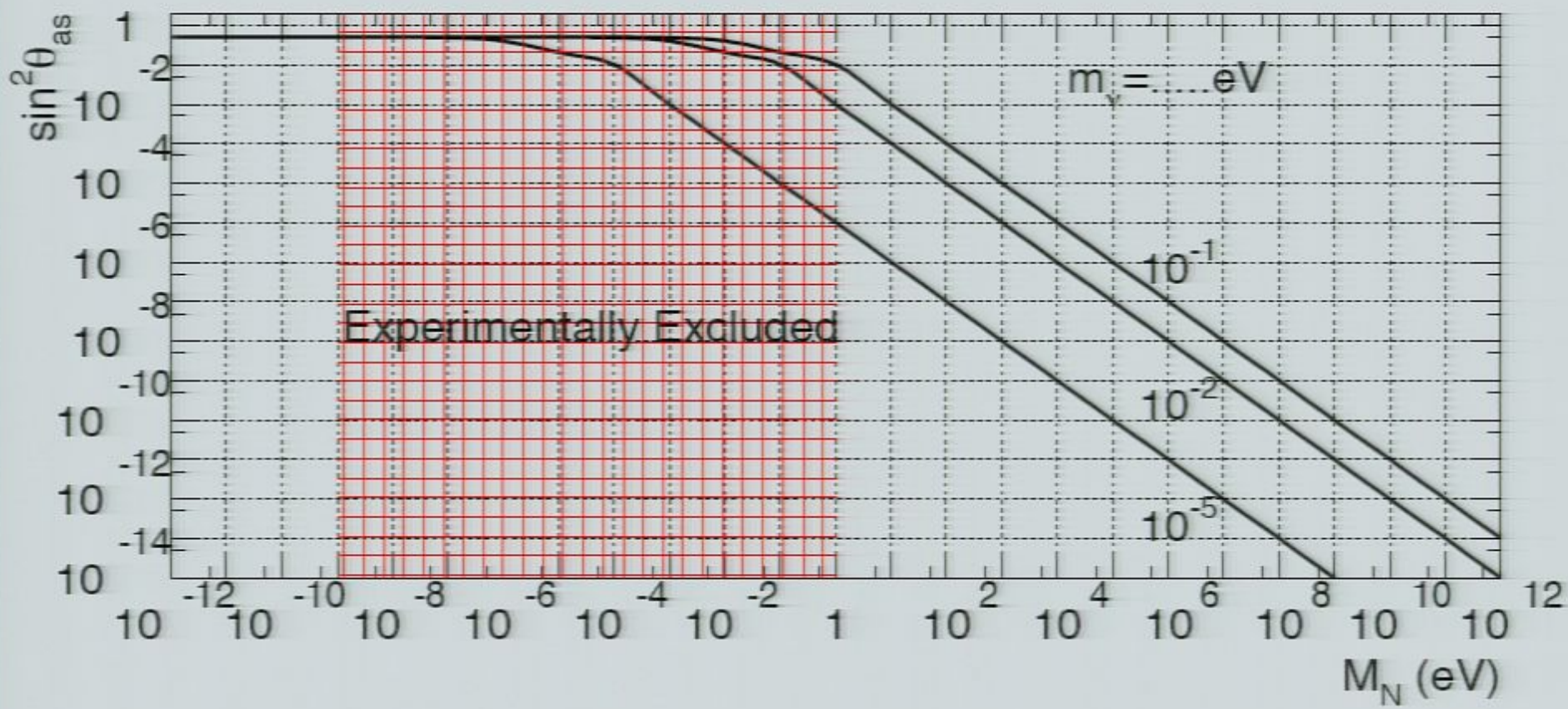




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## Constraining the Seesaw Lagrangian



[AdG, Huang, Jenkins, arXiv:0906.1611]

## Fourth Avenue: Higher Order Neutrino Masses from $\Delta L = 2$ Physics.

Imagine that there is **new physics that breaks lepton number by 2 units** at some energy scale  $\Lambda$ , but that it does not, in general, lead to neutrino masses **at the tree level**.

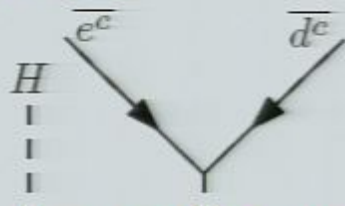


We know that neutrinos will get a mass at some order in perturbation theory – which order is model dependent!

For example:

- SUSY with trilinear R-parity violation – neutrino masses at one-loop;
- Zee model – neutrino masses at one-loop;
- Babu and Ma – neutrino masses at two loops;
- Chen, *et al.* 0706.1964 – neutrino masses at two loops;
- etc

[arXiv:0708.1344 [hep-ph]]



Order-One Coupled, Weak Scale Physics

Can Also Explain Naturally Small


Q\ In order to learn more, we need more information. Any new data and/or idea is welcome, including

- searches for charged lepton flavor violation;  
( $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$ ,  $\mu \rightarrow e$ -conversion in nuclei, etc)
- searches for lepton number violation;  
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- precision studies of neutrino – matter interactions;  
(Minerva, NuSOng, etc) 
- collider experiments:  
(LHC, etc)
  - *Can* we “see” the physics responsible for neutrino masses at the LHC?
    - YES!
    - Must* we see it? – NO, but we won’t find out until we try!
  - we need to understand the physics at the TeV scale before we can really understand the physics behind neutrino masses (is there low-energy SUSY?, etc).

## CONCLUSIONS

1. we have a very successful parametrization of the neutrino sector, but we still don't understand where neutrino masses (and lepton mixing) come from;
2. neutrino masses are very small – we don't know why, but we think it means something important;
3. we need a minimal  $\nu$ SM Lagrangian. In order to decide which one is “correct” we must uncover the fate of baryon number minus lepton number ( $0\nu\beta\beta$  is the best bet? Likely, but not guaranteed).

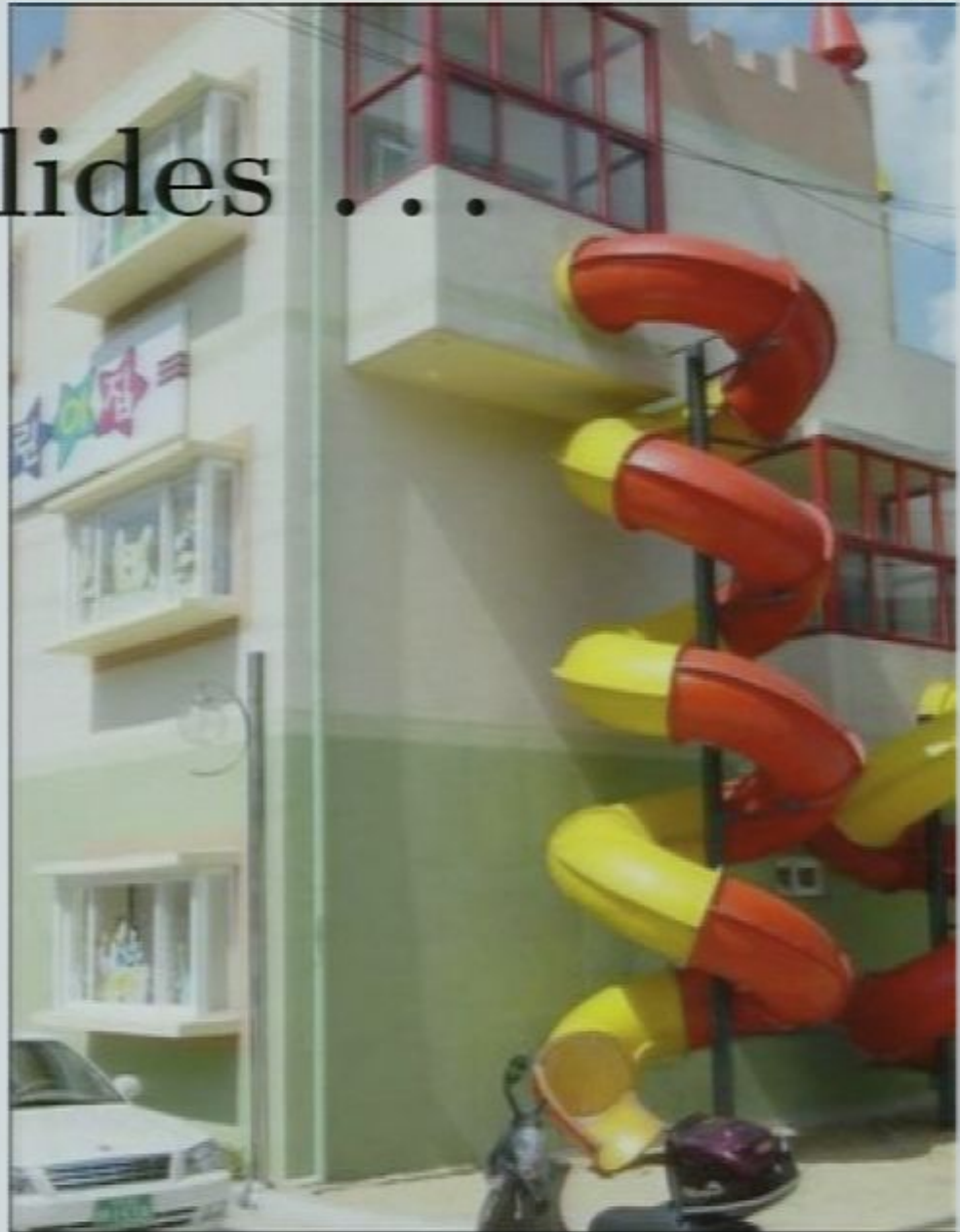
#### 4. We know very little about the new physics uncovered by neutrino oscillations.

- It could be renormalizable  $\rightarrow$  “boring” Dirac neutrinos
- It could be due to Physics at absurdly high energy scales  $M \gg 1 \text{ TeV}$   $\rightarrow$  high energy seesaw. How can we ever convince ourselves that this is correct?
- It could be due to very light new physics  $\rightarrow$  low energy seesaw. Prediction: new light propagating degrees of freedom – sterile neutrinos
- It could be due to new physics at the TeV scale  $\rightarrow$  either weakly coupled, or via a more subtle lepton number breaking sector. Predictions: charged lepton flavor violation, collider signatures!

#### 5. We need more experimental data in order to decide what is really going on!



# Backup Slides ...



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- It could be due to Physics at absurdly high energy scales  $M \gg 1 \text{ TeV}$   $\rightarrow$  high energy seesaw. How can we ever convince ourselves that this is correct?
- It could be due to very light new physics  $\rightarrow$  low energy seesaw. Prediction: new light propagating degrees of freedom – sterile neutrinos
- It could be due to new physics at the TeV scale  $\rightarrow$  either weakly coupled, or via a more subtle lepton number breaking sector. Predictions: charged lepton flavor violation, collider signatures!

5. We need more experimental data in order to decide what is really going on!

