

Lepton Number Violation: Inter-frontier Implications

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- *UMass Amherst*
- *Caltech*

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About MJRM:



Science



Family



Friends

My pronouns: he/him/his
MeToo

vNN 2025 Lanzhou
July 22, 2025

Key Themes for This Talk

- ***The discovery of beyond Standard Model lepton number violation could hold the key to explaining the origin of neutrino mass***
- ***The BSM LNV mass scale is unknown and could lie anywhere from the sub-eV scale to the conventional seesaw scale***
- ***While the search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay provides the most comprehensive probe of BSM LNV, identifying the mass scale and underlying dynamics requires input from a wide array of observations → the mystery of m_ν has exciting implications for research at the intensity, high energy, and cosmological/astrophysical frontiers***

Disclaimer

There is a vast array of important and interesting work on this topic → due to available time I'll focus on the work I'm most familiar with and apologize in advance to colleagues whose work I won't be able to discuss today

I. Context

Why Search for LNV ?

- ***The conventional question:***
- ***What is the nature of the neutrino ?***



Why Search for LNV ?

- ***The conventional question:***



- ***What is the nature of the neutrino ?***

- ***The deeper questions:***



- ***Is there BSM lepton number violation ?***

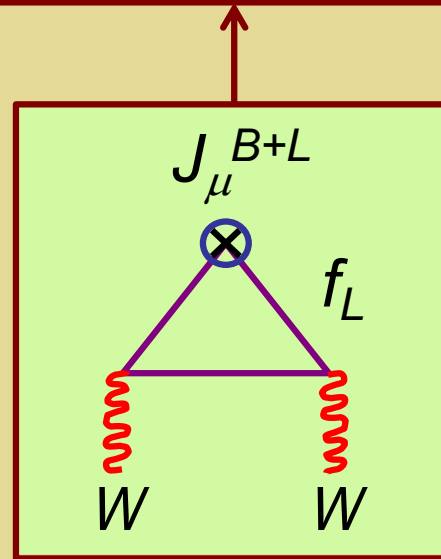
- ***If so, what is the LNV mass scale ?***

- ***Does LNV undergird the generation of m_ν and the matter-antimatter asymmetry?***

SM: $B+L$ Not Conserved

$B+L$ Anomaly

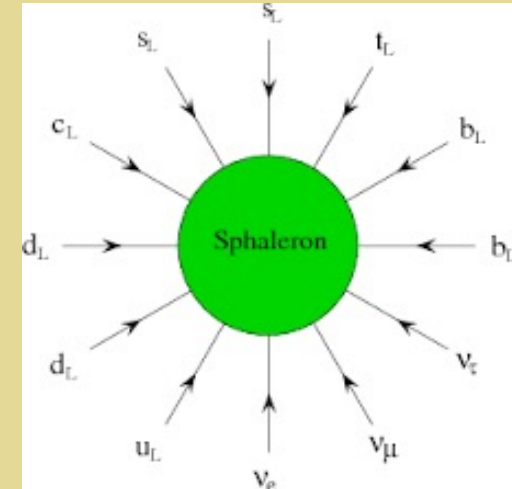
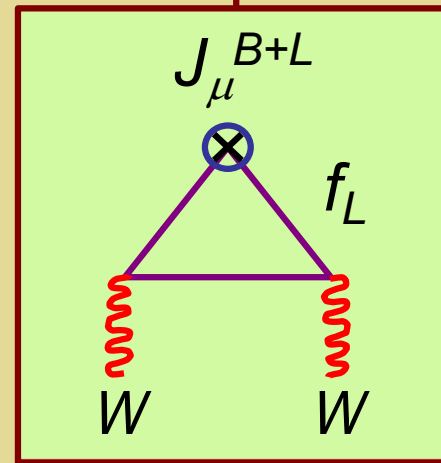
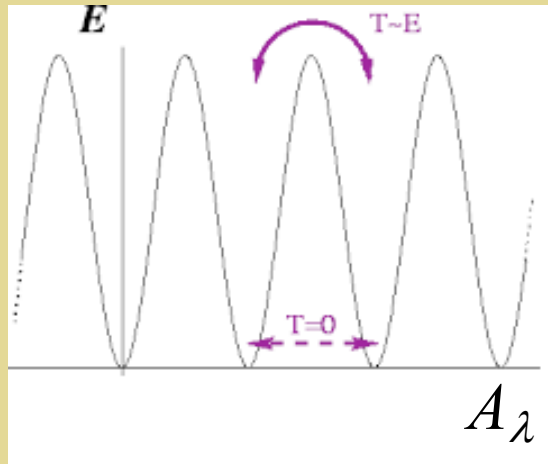
$$\partial^\mu J_\mu^{B+L} = \frac{2N_F}{32\pi^2} \times \left\{ g^2 W_{\mu\nu}^a \widetilde{W}^{\mu\nu a} - g'^2 B_{\mu\nu} \widetilde{B}^{\mu\nu} \right\}$$



SM B+L Violation & Sphalerons

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Sphaleron Configuration

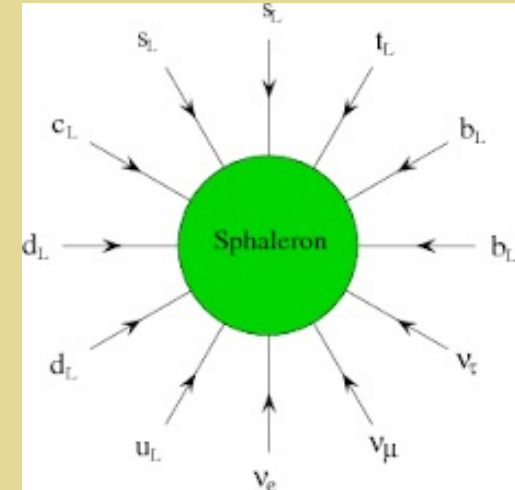
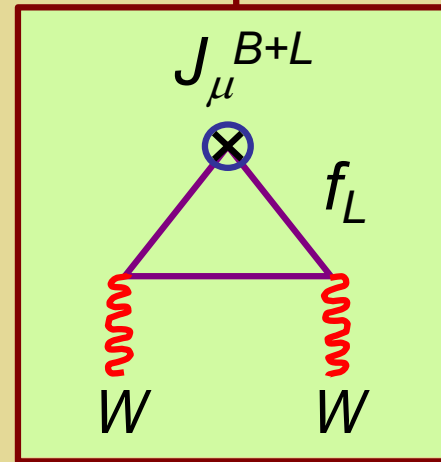
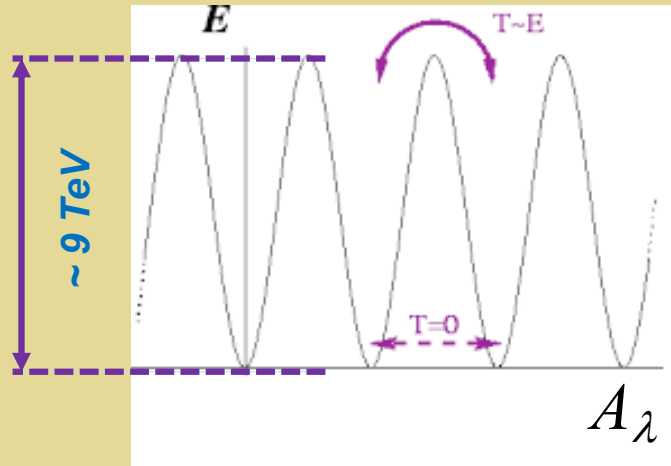
Anomaly

$\Delta(B+L) \propto N_F$

SM B+L Violation & Sphalerons

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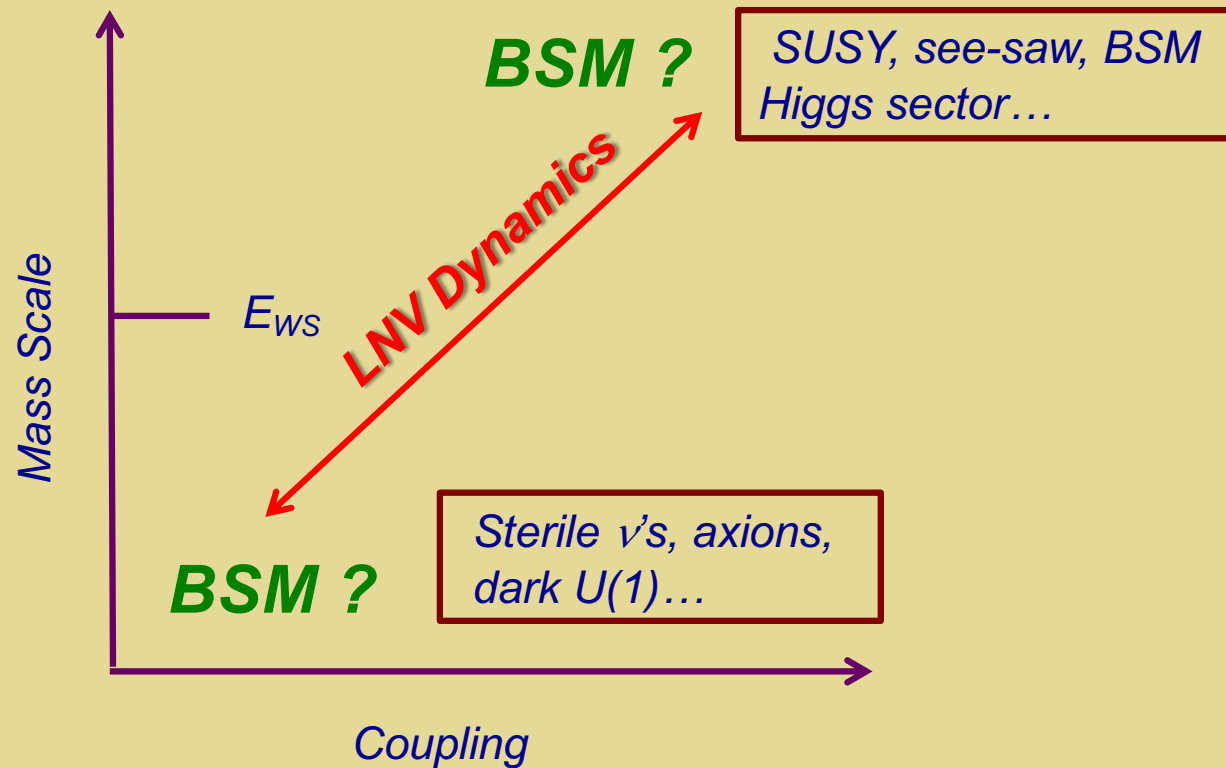
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Lepton Number Violation

- ***The “known” Standard Model LNV mass scale is ~ 10 TeV***
- ***Are there additional LNV dynamics ? If so what is the associated mass scale ?***

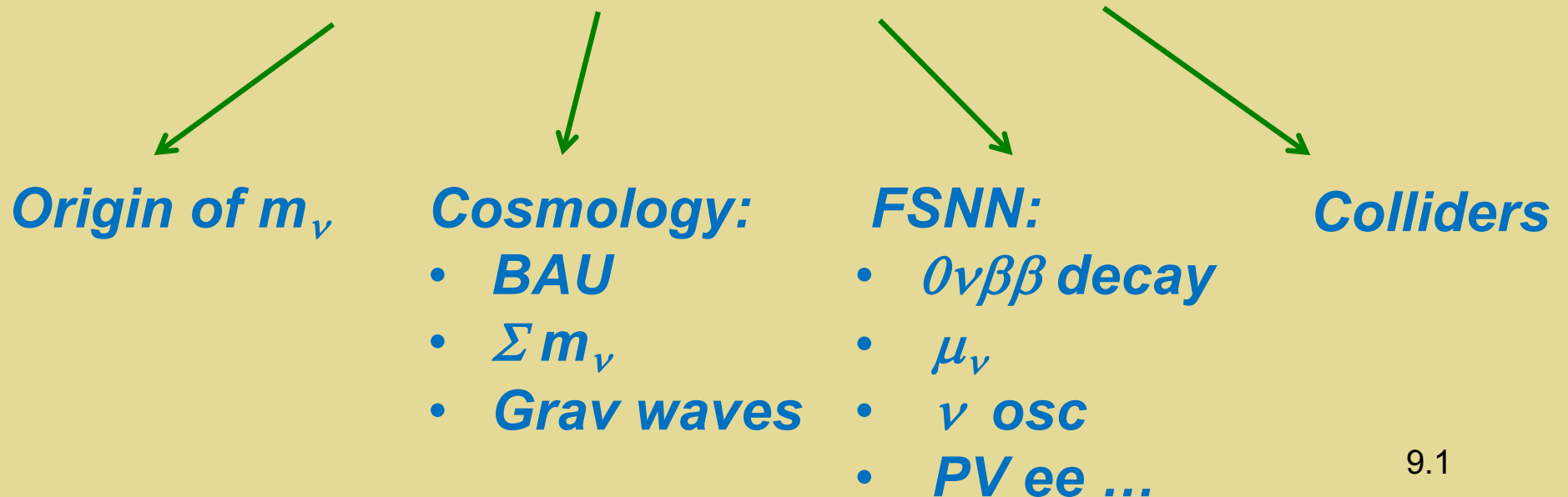
LVN Physics: Where Does it Live ?



Is the BSM LVN scale (associated with m_ν) far above E_{ws} ? Near E_{ws} ? Well below E_{ws} ?

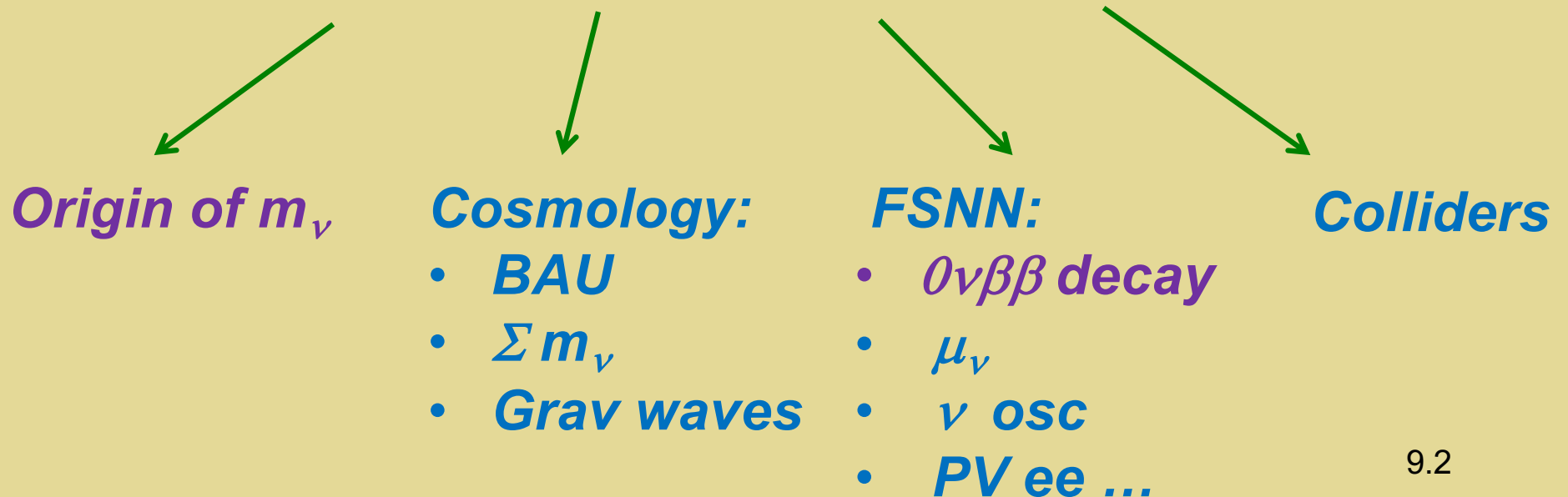
BSM LNV: Questions

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- *What is the sensitivity of ton-scale $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay searches under various LNV scenarios ?*
- *What are the inter-frontier implications?*



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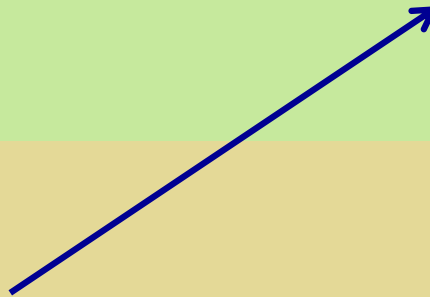
Lepton Number: ν Mass Term?

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = y \bar{L} \tilde{H} \nu_R + \text{h.c.}$$

Dirac

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = \frac{y}{\Lambda} \bar{L}^c H H^T L + \text{h.c.}$$

Majorana



Mass scale for LNV dynamics

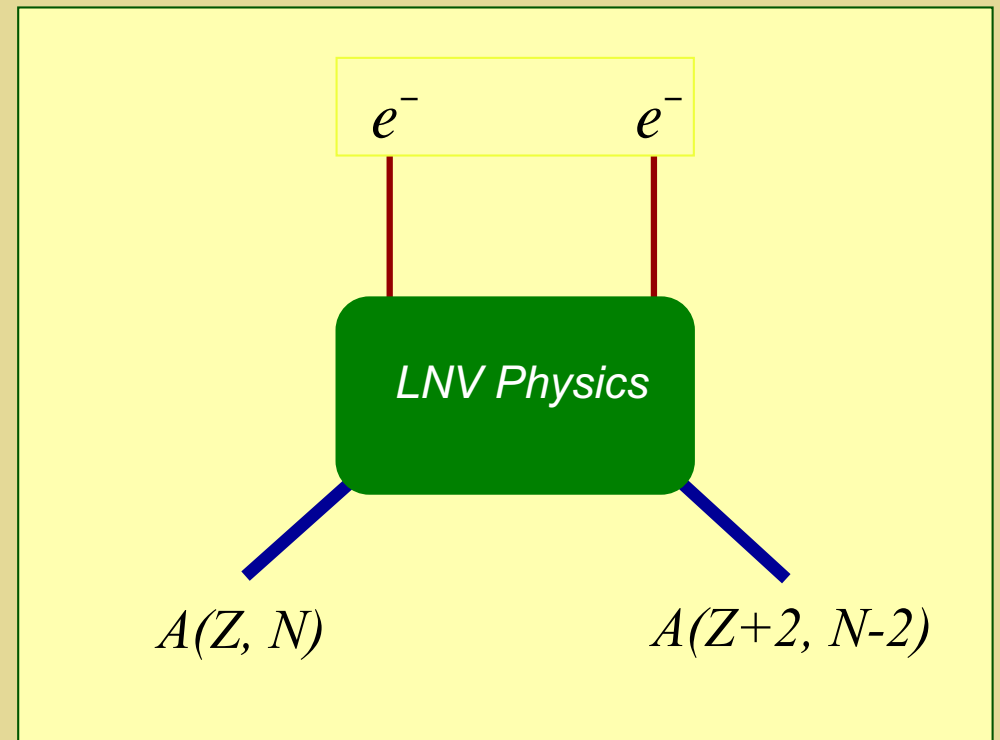
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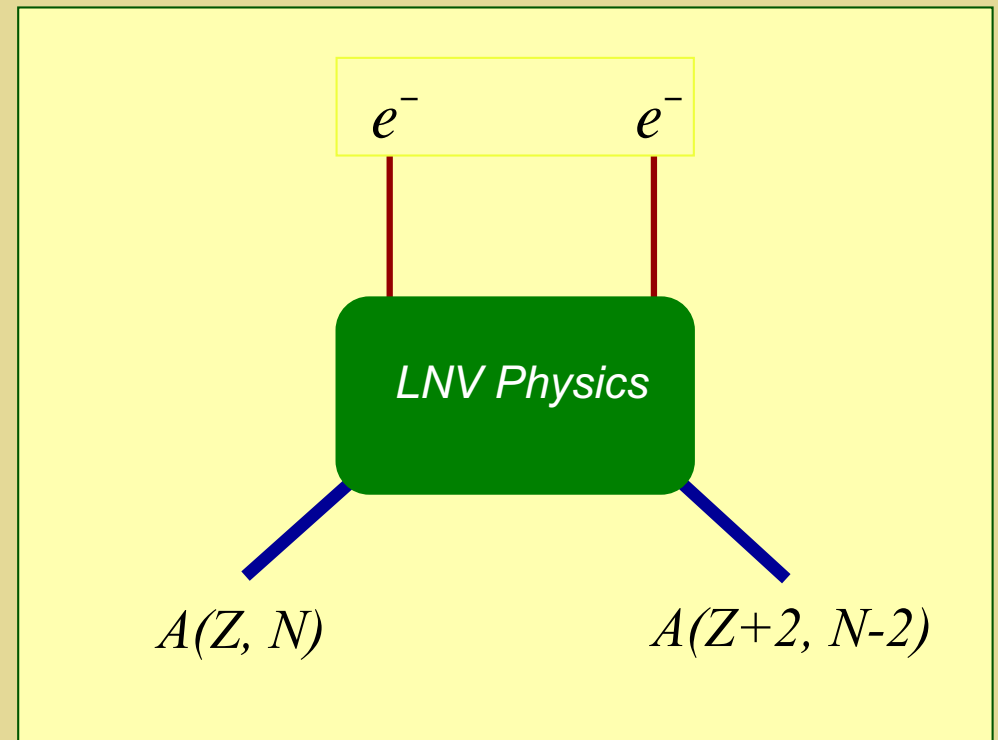
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Impact of observation

- Total lepton number not conserved at classical level*
- New mass scale in nature, Λ*
- Key ingredient for standard baryogenesis via leptogenesis*



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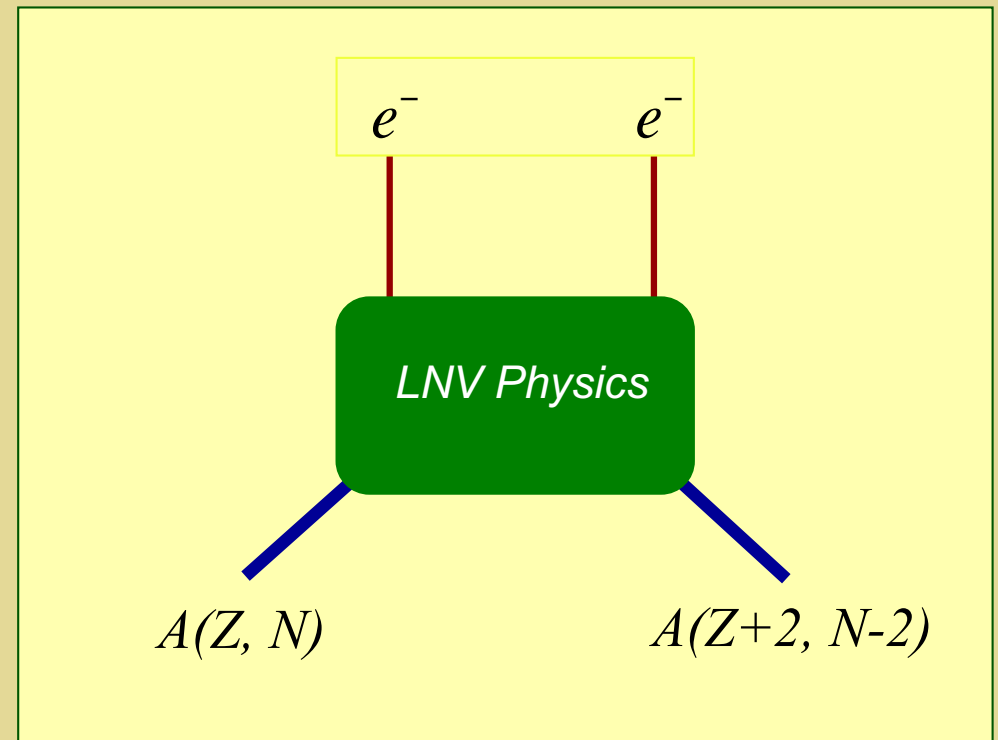
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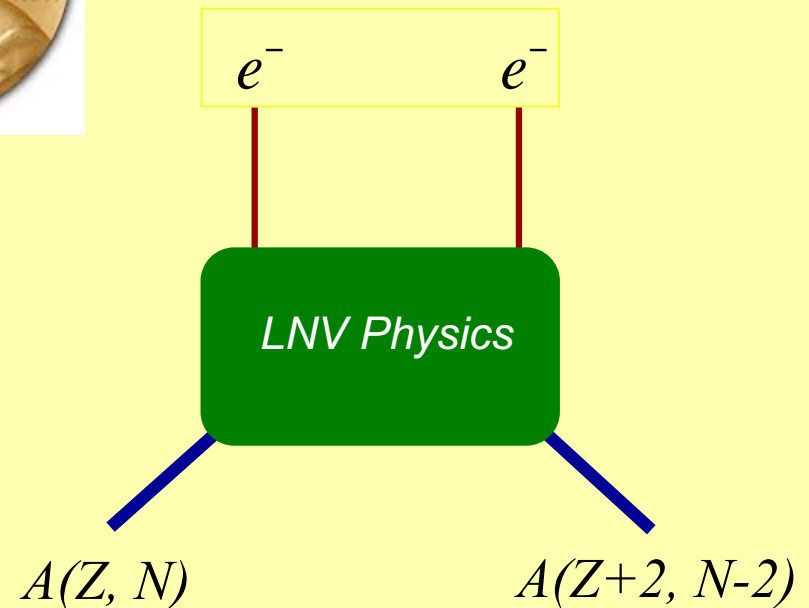
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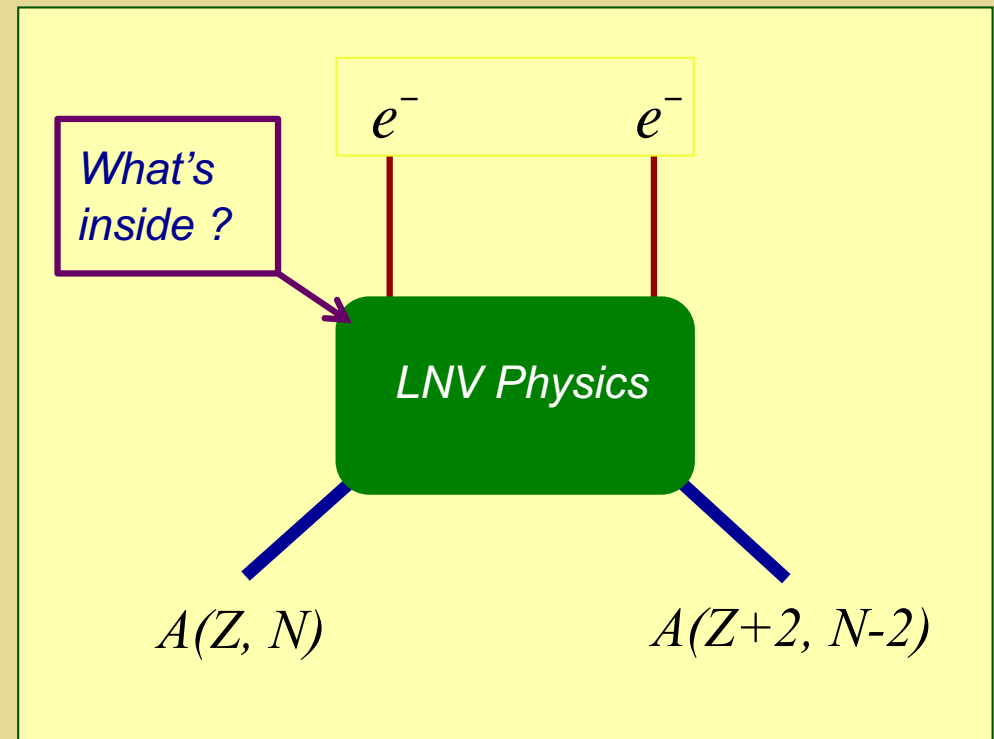
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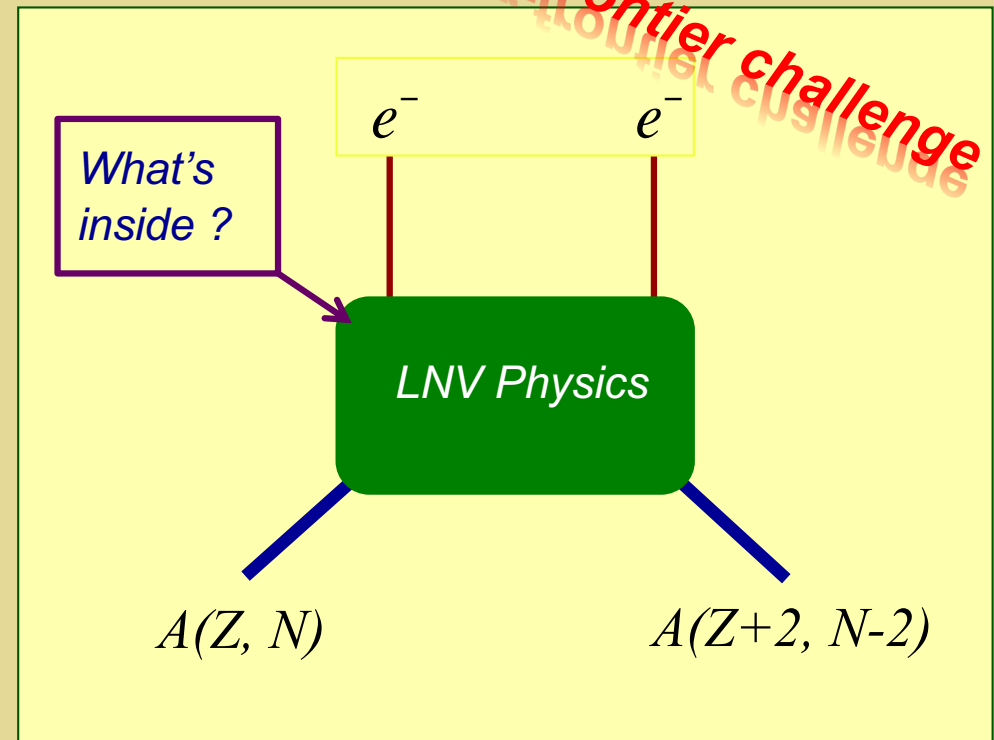
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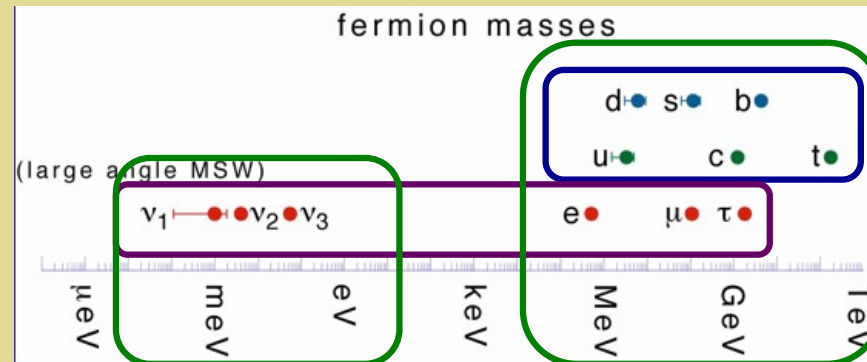
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Fermion Masses & Baryon Asymmetry



Partners

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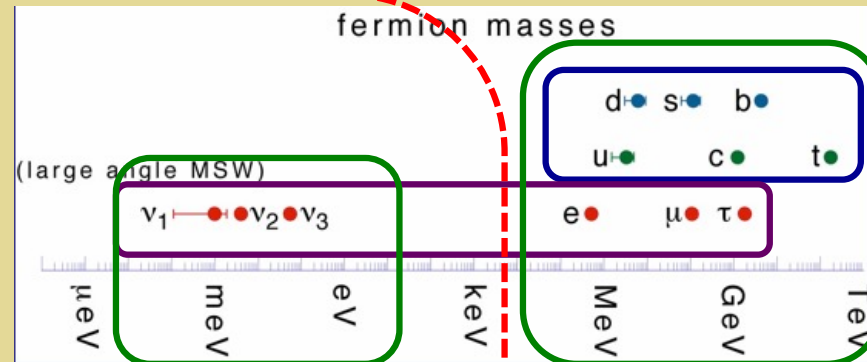
Something else ?

Higgs Mechanism

*Leptogenesis: Baryon
asymmetry & m_ν from
lepton number violation*

*Electroweak baryogenesis:
Baryon asymmetry & m_f from
EW symmetry breaking*

Fermion Masses & Baryon Asymmetry



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Leptogenesis: Baryon asymmetry & m_ν from lepton number violation

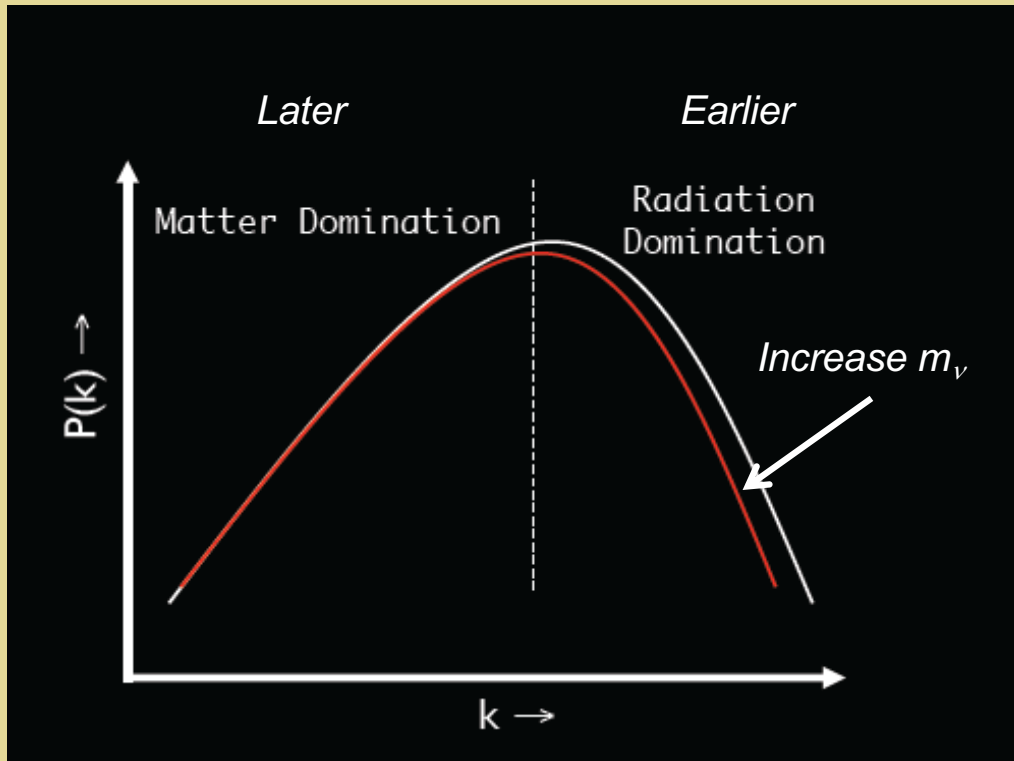
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Electroweak baryogenesis: Baryon asymmetry & m_f from EW symmetry breaking

$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

Neutrino Mass & Cosmology

Matter Power Spectrum



$$\Sigma m_\nu < 0.12 \text{ eV}$$

Palanque-Dalabrouille '15

$\delta\rho_\nu$ (power) suppressed
for $L < L_{\text{fs}}$

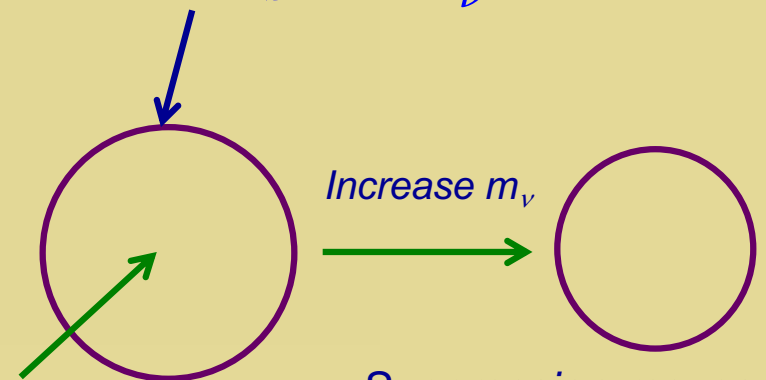
Neutrino Free Streaming

$$\Omega_M = \Omega_\nu + \Omega_{\text{DM}} + \Omega_B$$

$$\delta\rho_\nu \longleftrightarrow \delta\rho_{\text{DM}}$$

Free Streaming Scale

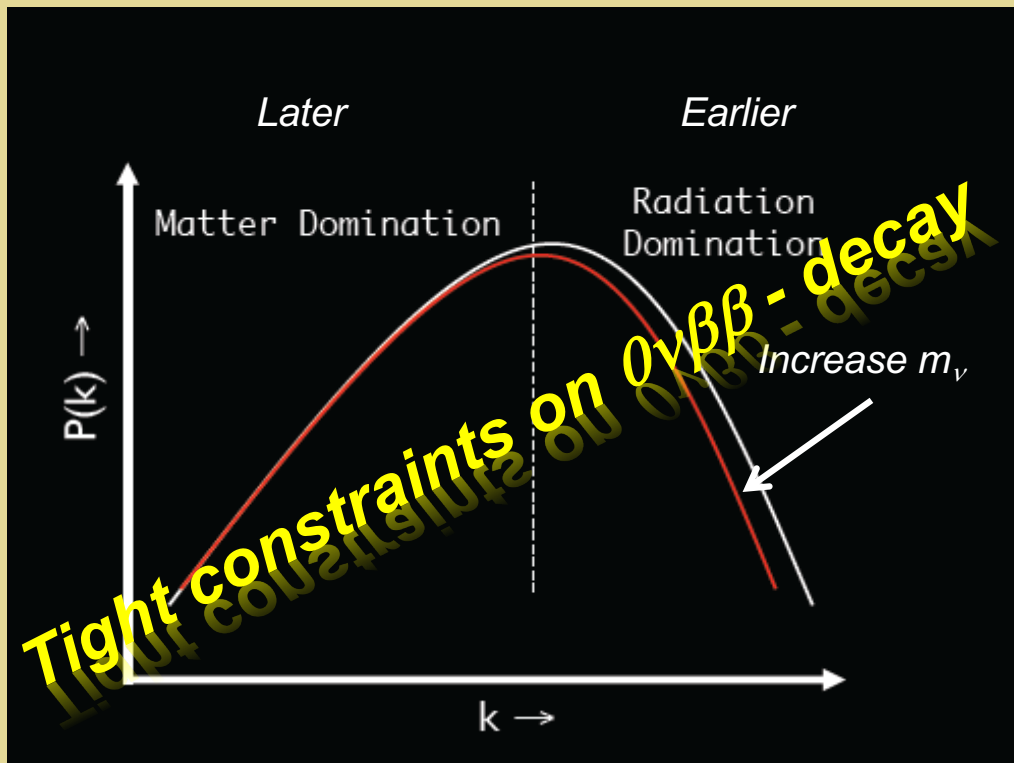
$$L_{\text{fs}} \propto m_\nu^{-1/2}$$



Suppression moves
to smaller scales $\rightarrow$
Larger k

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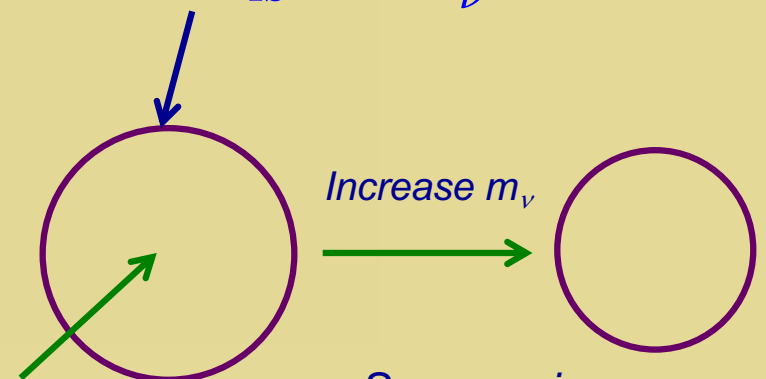
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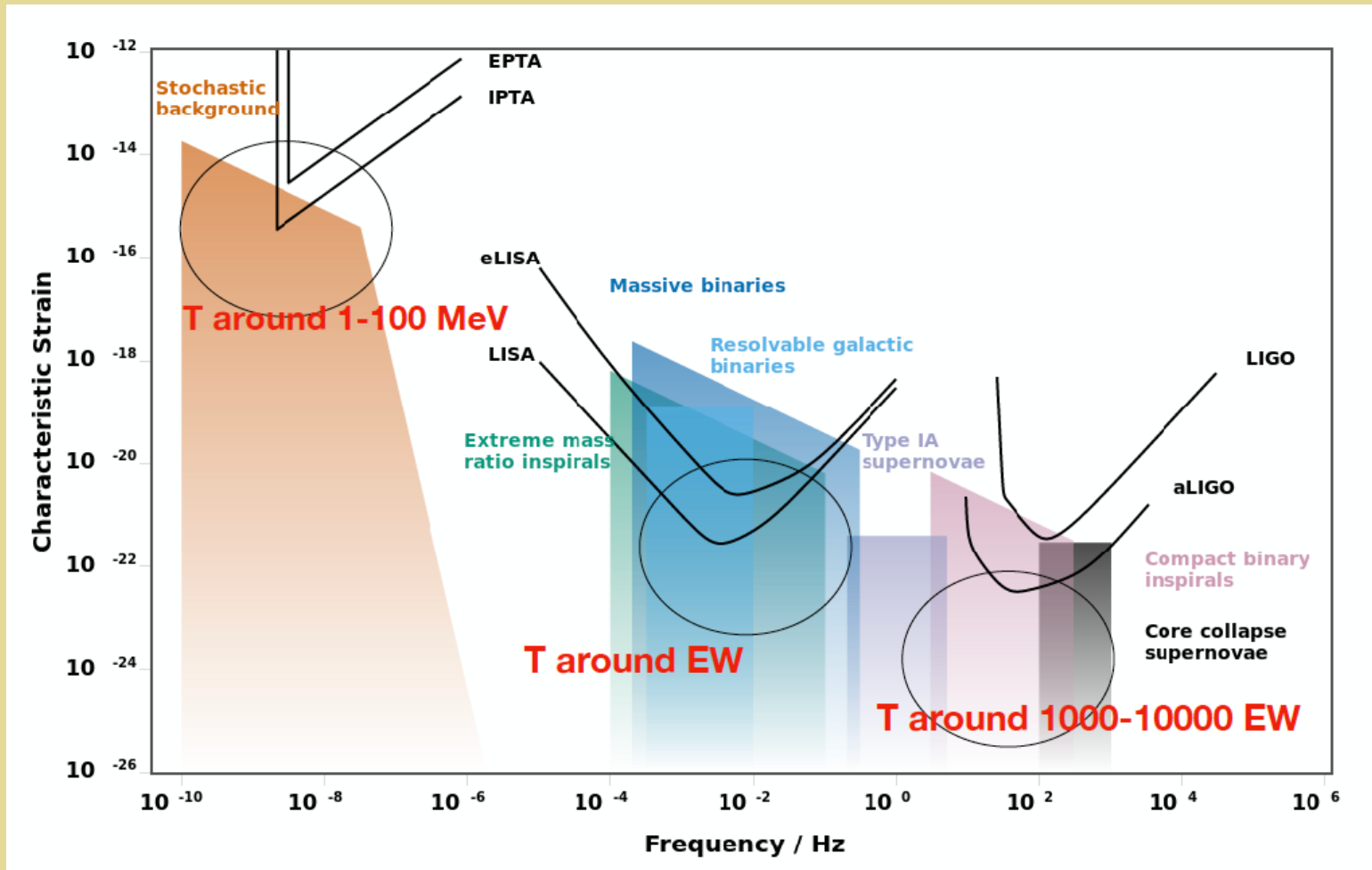
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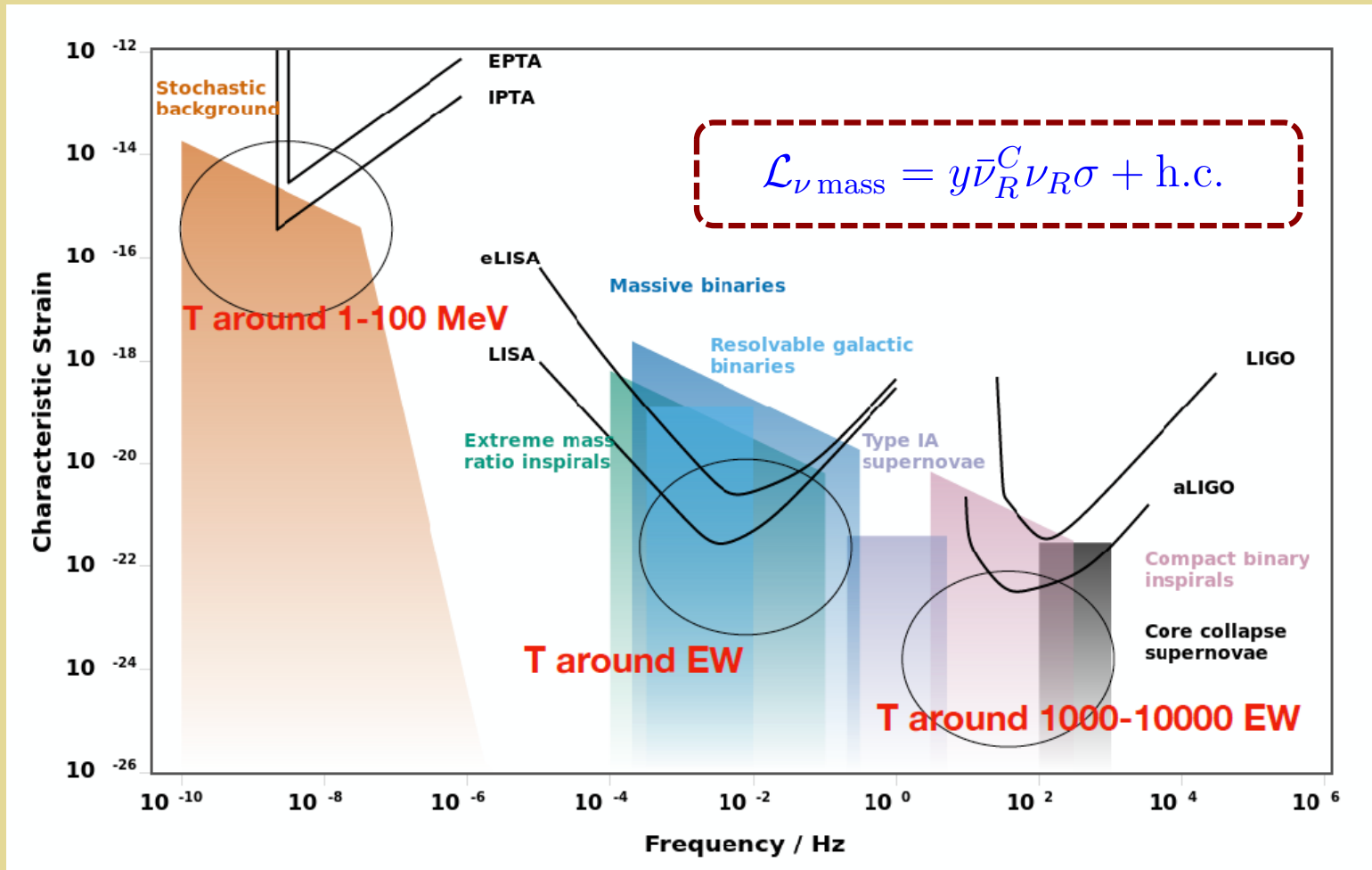
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LNV Scalar Field & GW



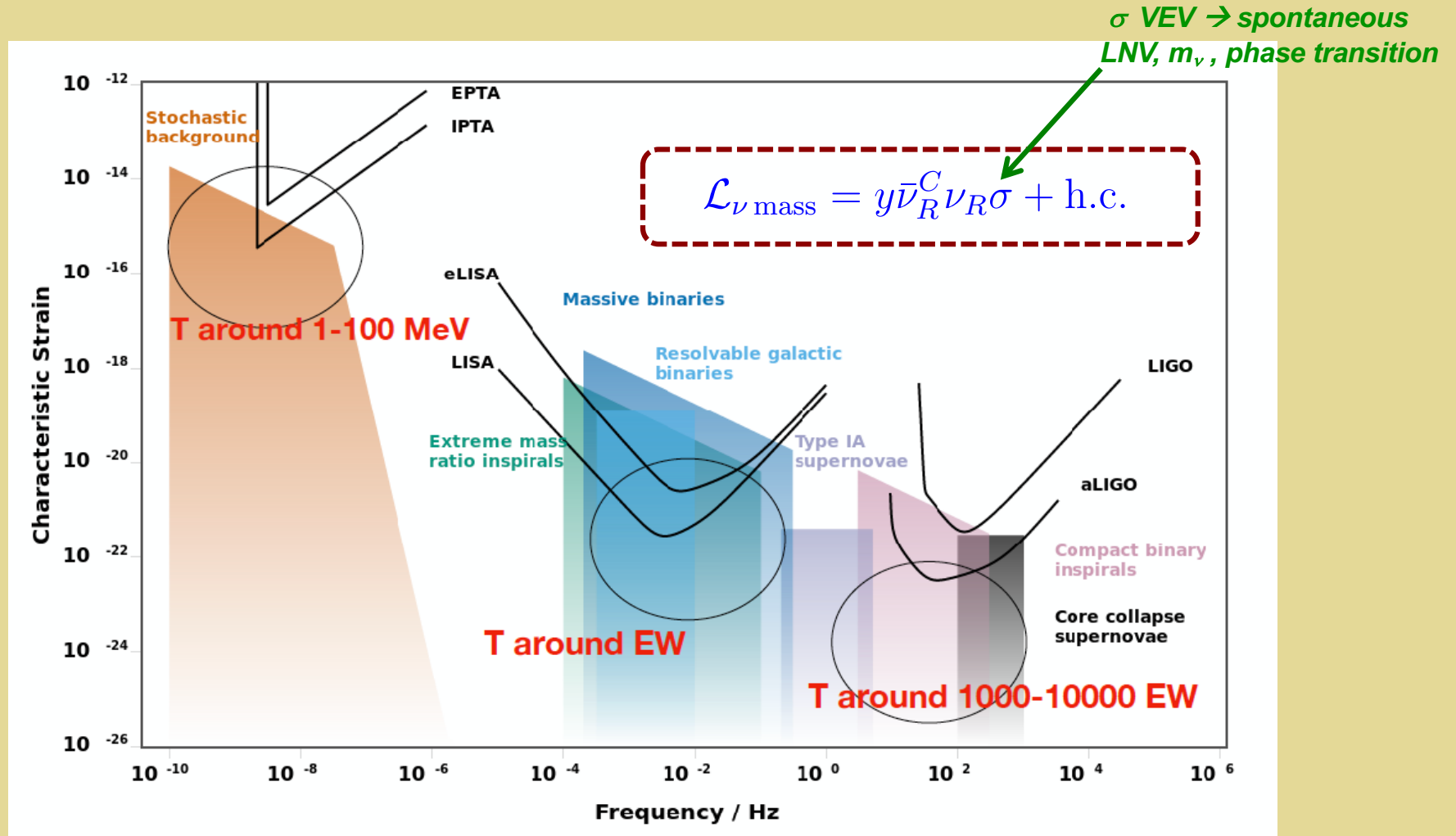
*Phase transition associated with spontaneous
LNV $\rightarrow$ non-astrophysical GW source*

LNV Scalar Field & GW



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LNV Scalar Field & GW



Phase transition associated with spontaneous LNV $\rightarrow$ non-astrophysical GW source

BSM LNV: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & Colliders

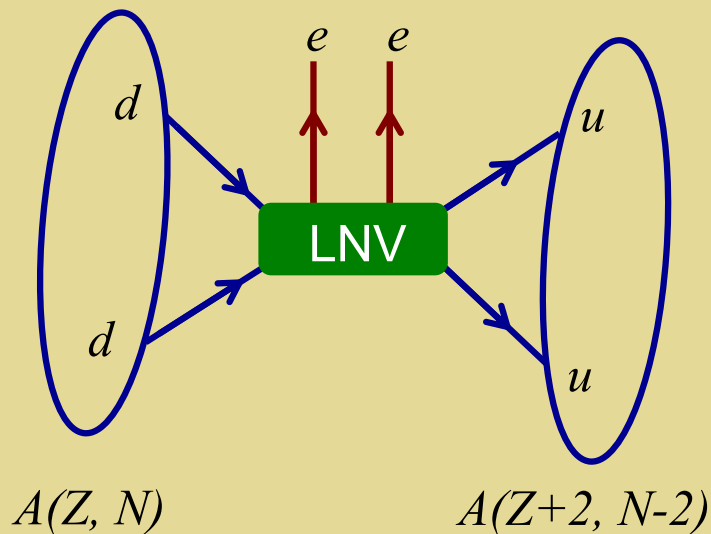
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Dirac

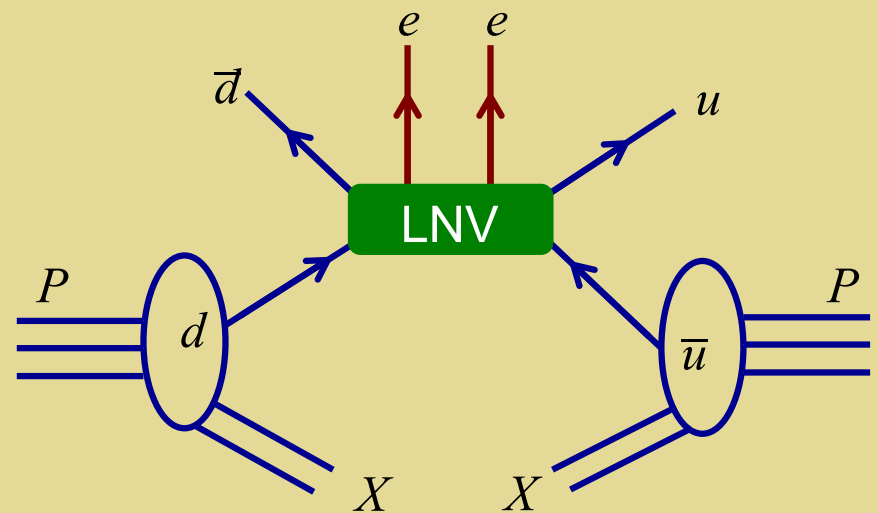
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Majorana

$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay



pp Collisions



BSM LNV: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & Colliders

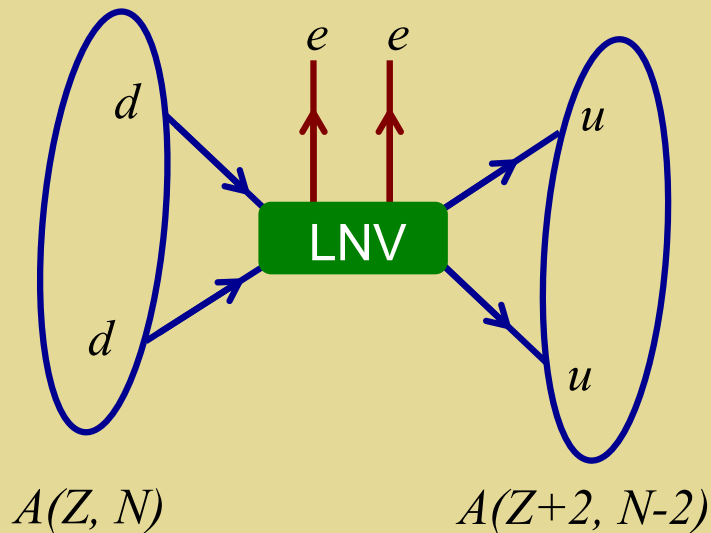
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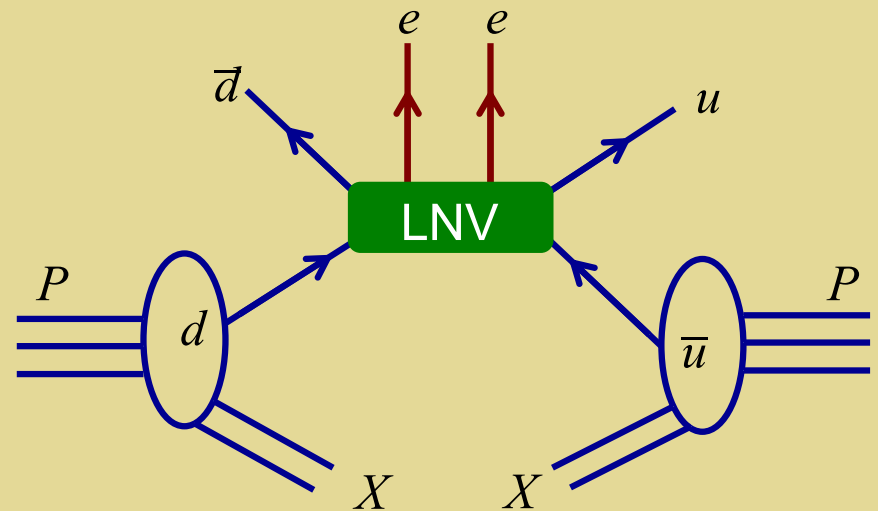
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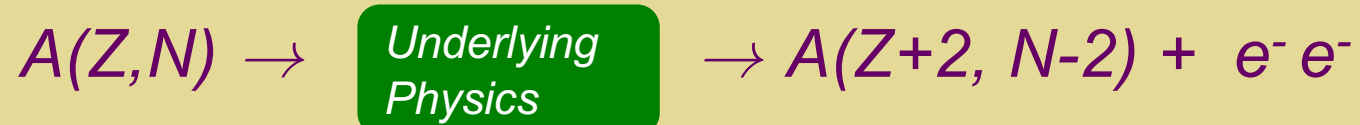
$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay



pp Collisions



LVN Mass Scale & $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay



- *3 light neutrinos only : source of neutrino mass at the very high see-saw scale*
- *3 light neutrinos with TeV scale LVN*
- *> 3 light neutrinos*

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How can we determine the underlying LVN physics?

II. Scenarios

LVN Mass Scale & $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay



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The “Standard Mechanism”

$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay: LNV? Mass Term?

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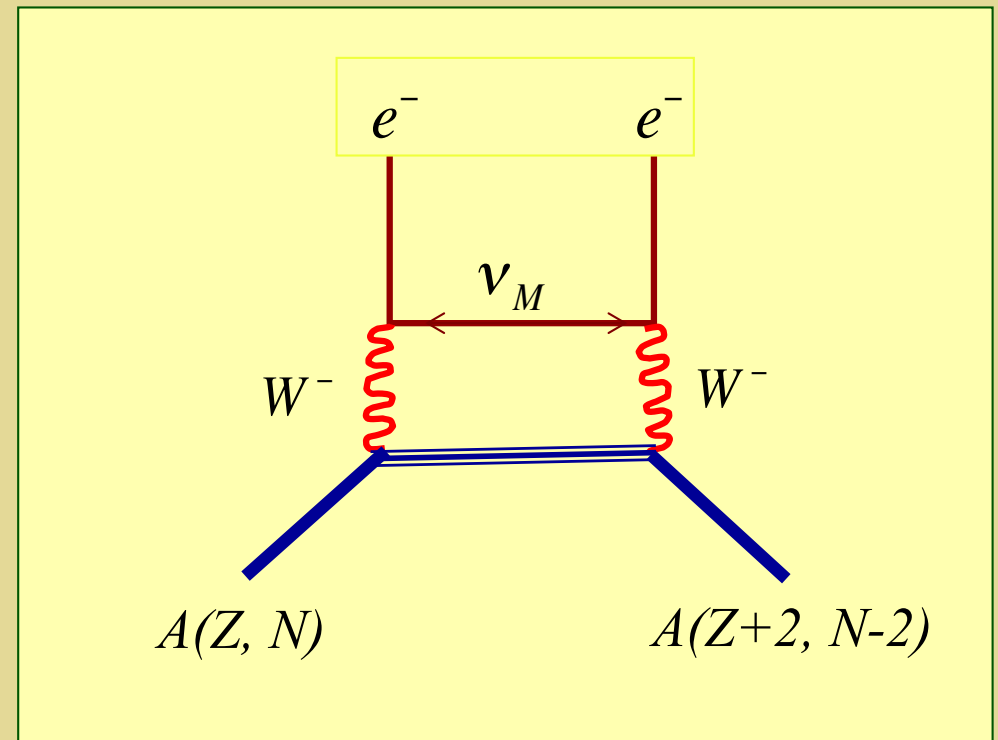
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Majorana

“Standard” Mechanism

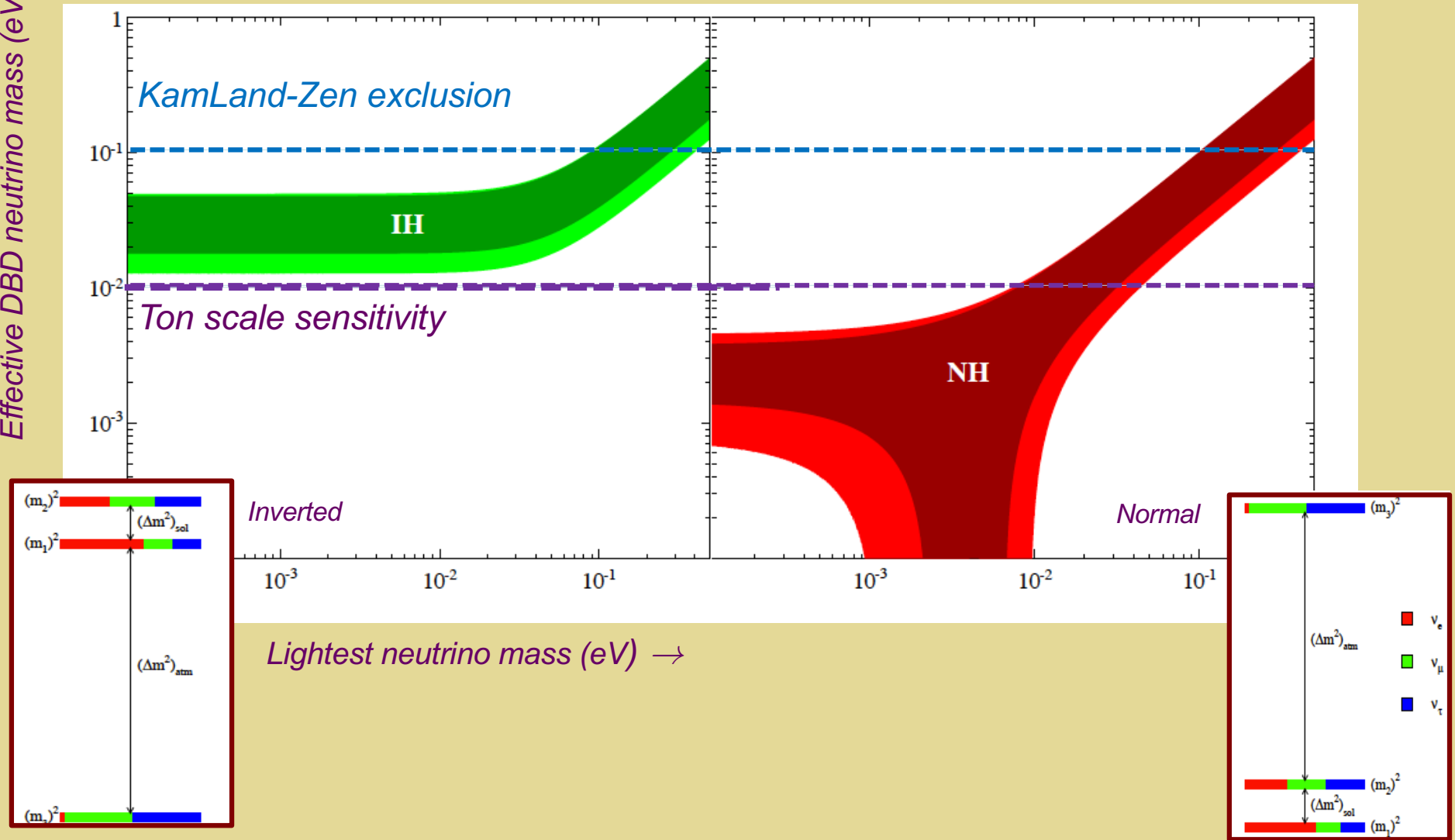
- *Light Majorana mass generated at the conventional see-saw scale: $\Lambda \sim 10^{12} - 10^{15} \text{ GeV}$*
- *3 light Majorana neutrinos mediate decay process*



$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay: “Standard” Mechanism

Three active light neutrinos

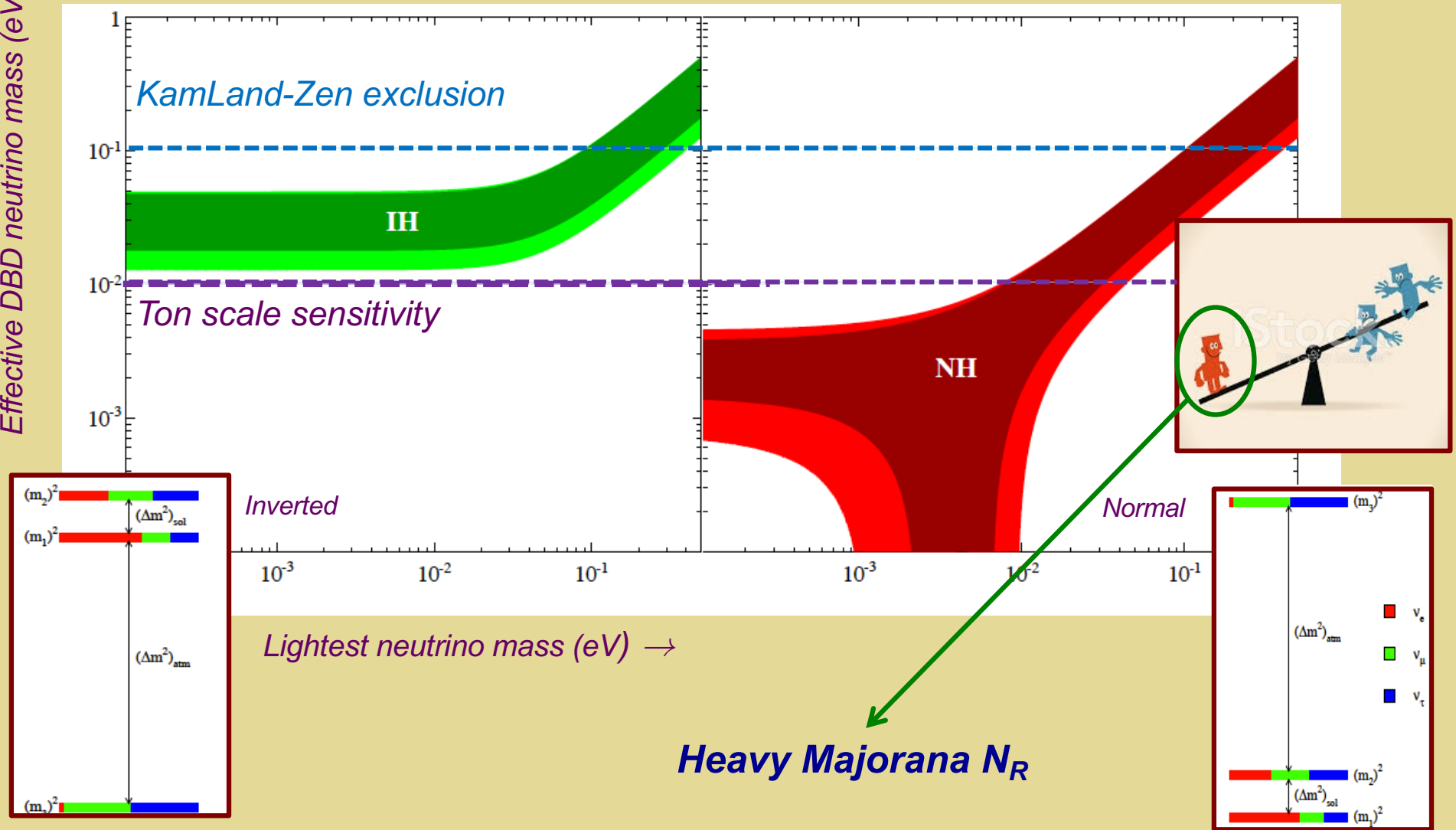
Effective DBD neutrino mass (eV)



$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay: “Standard” Mechanism

Three active light neutrinos

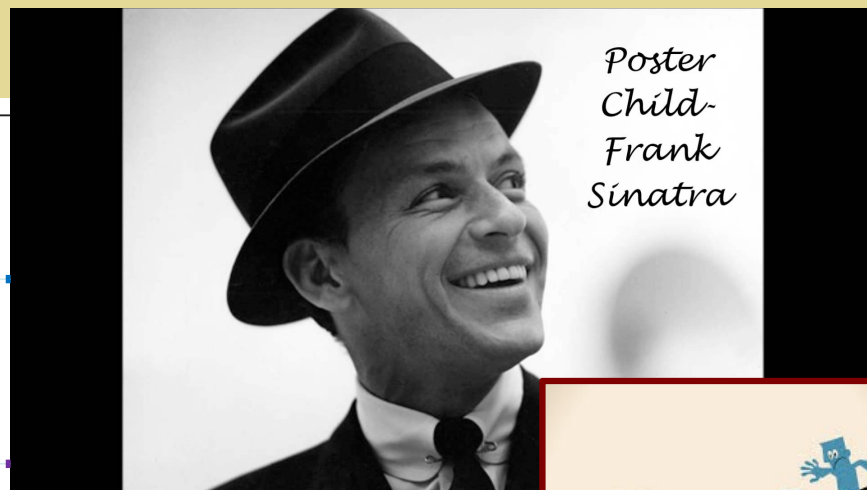
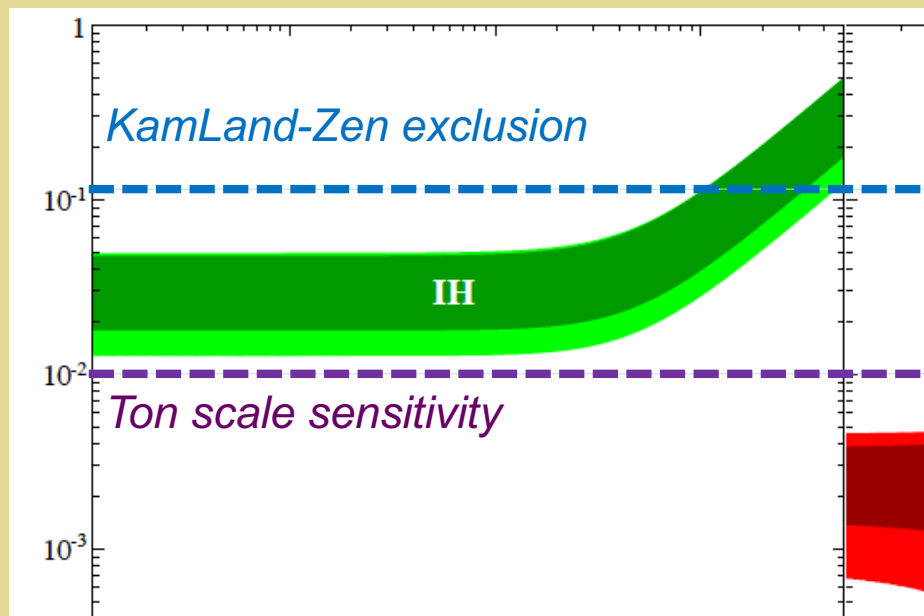
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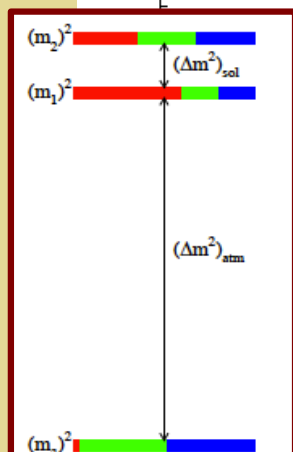
$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay: “Poster Child” Mechanism

Three active light neutrinos

Effective DBD neutrino mass (eV)



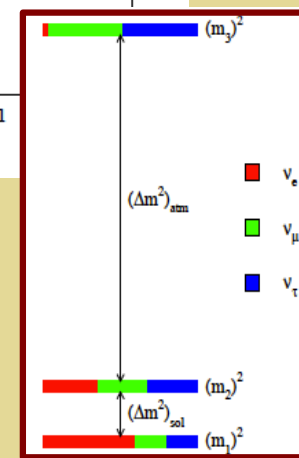
Poster
Child-
Frank
Sinatra



Inverted

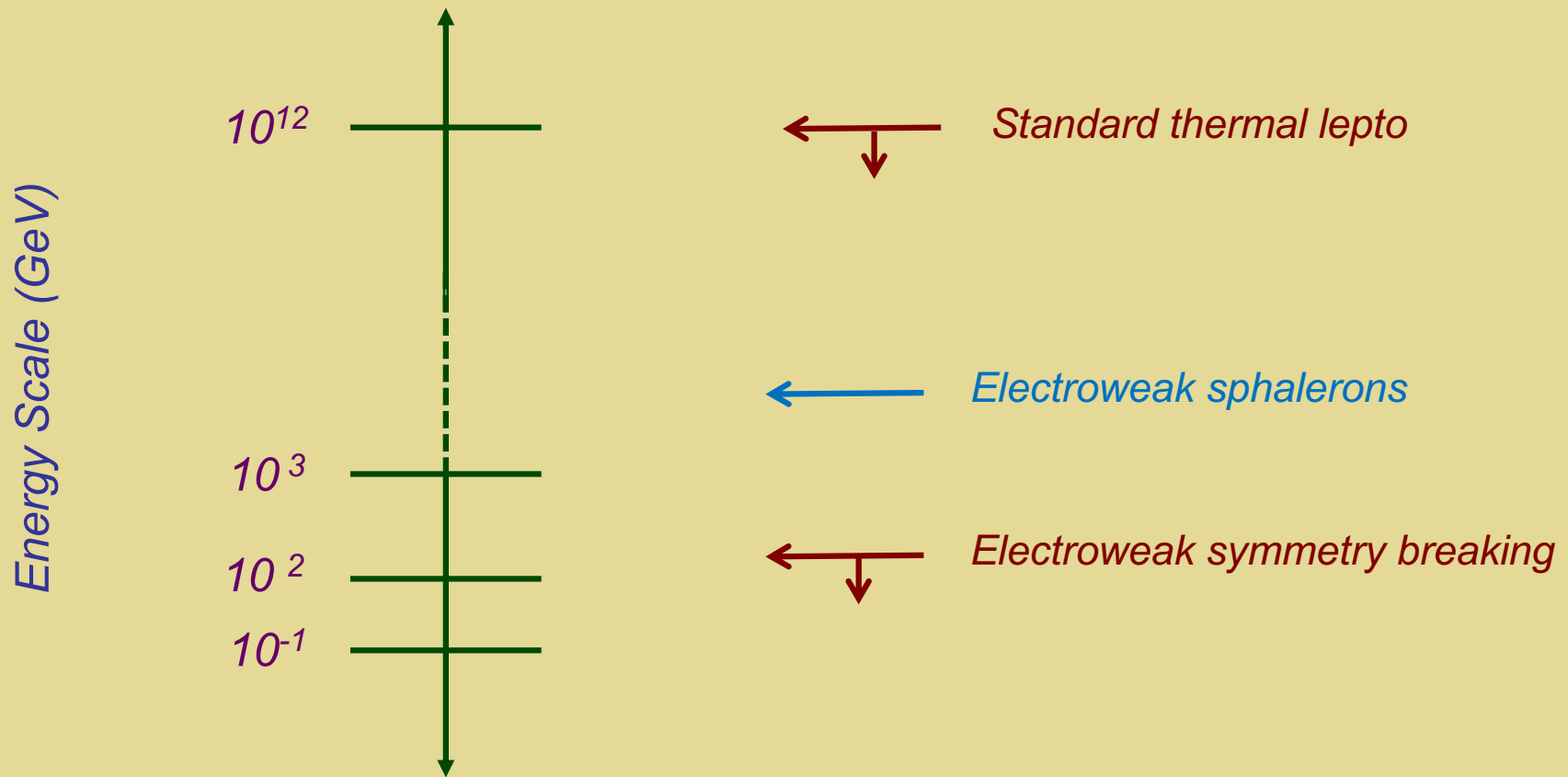
Lightest neutrino mass (eV) →

Heavy Majorana N_R

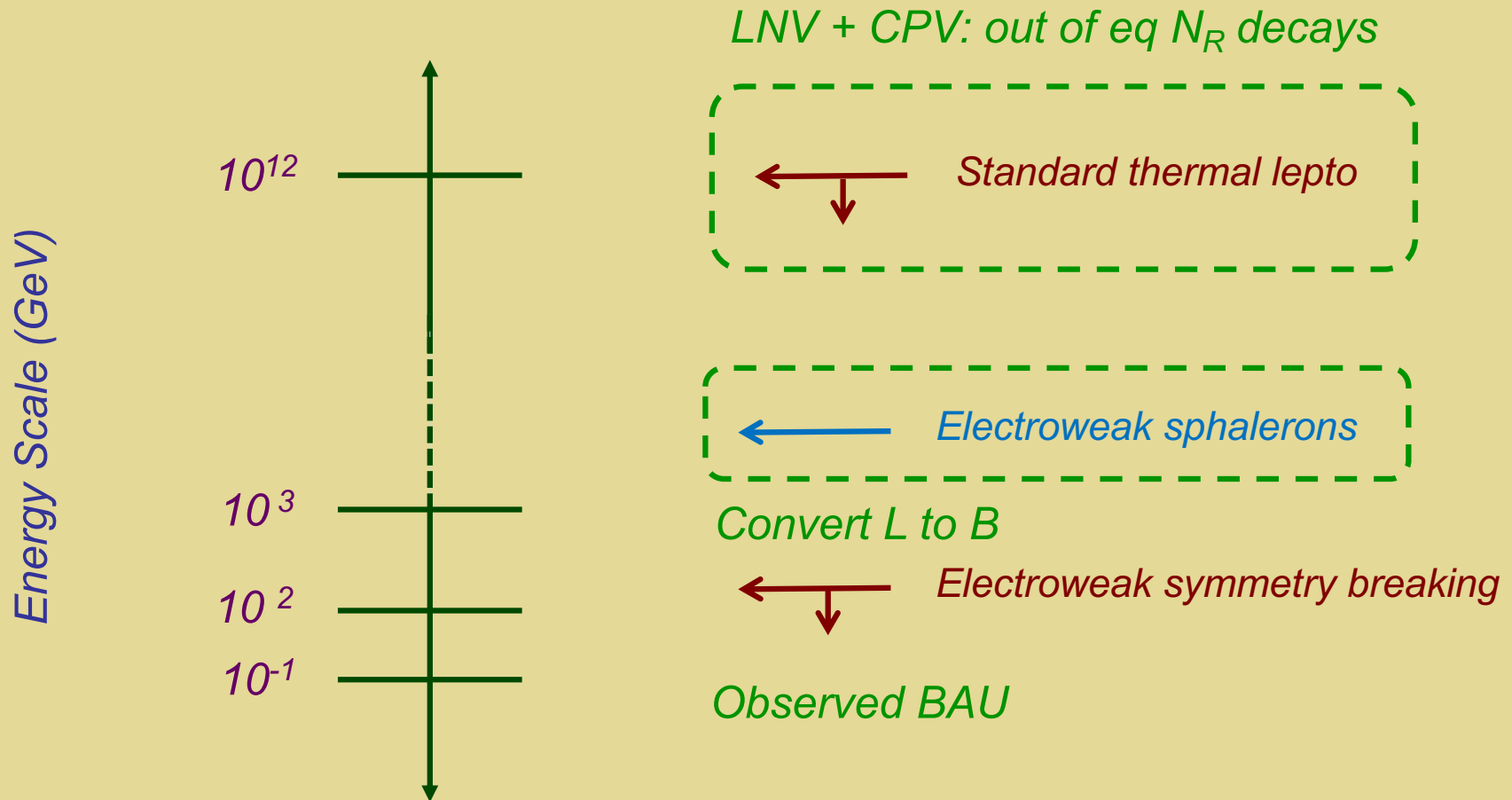


Normal

High Scale LNV & Leptogenesis

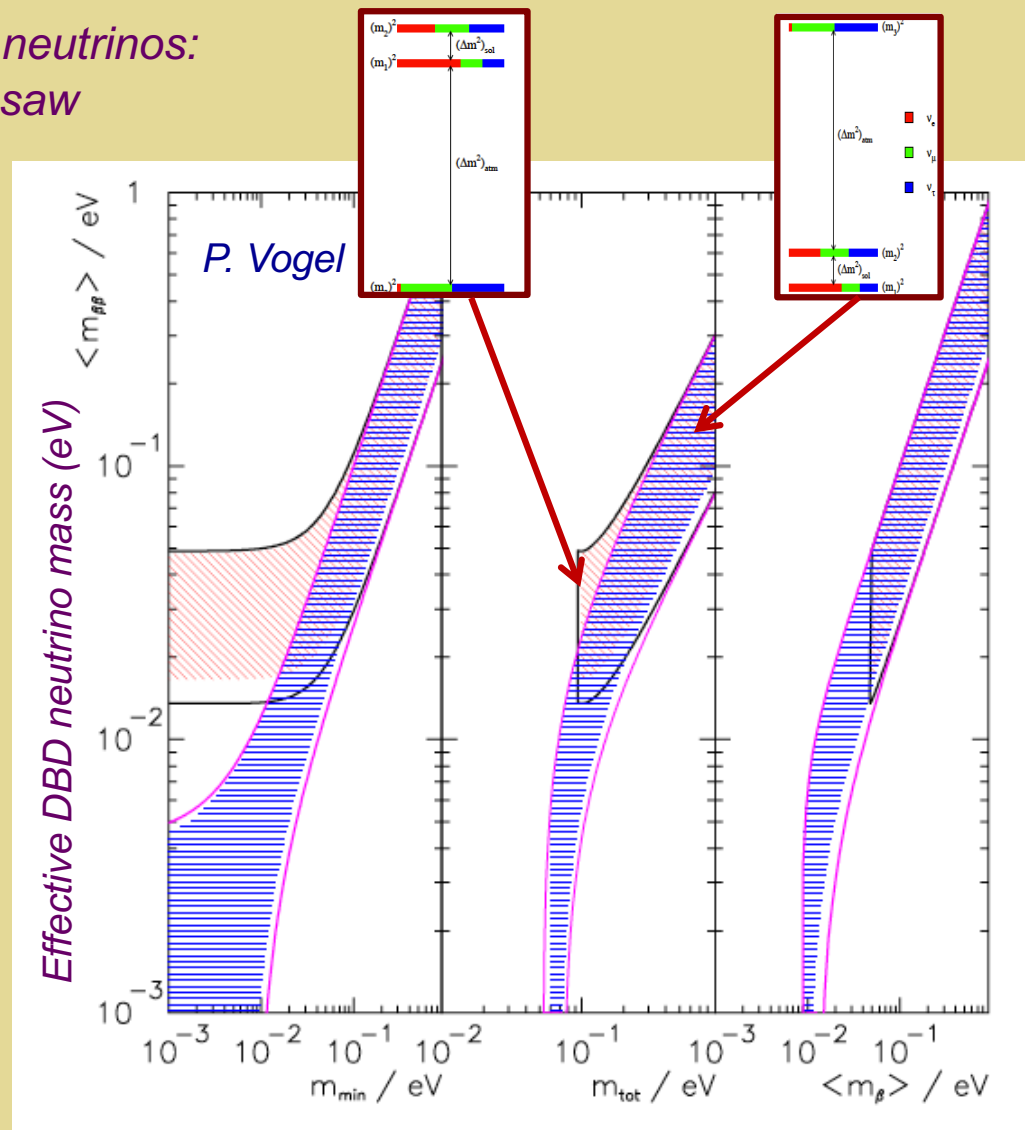


High Scale LNV & Leptogenesis



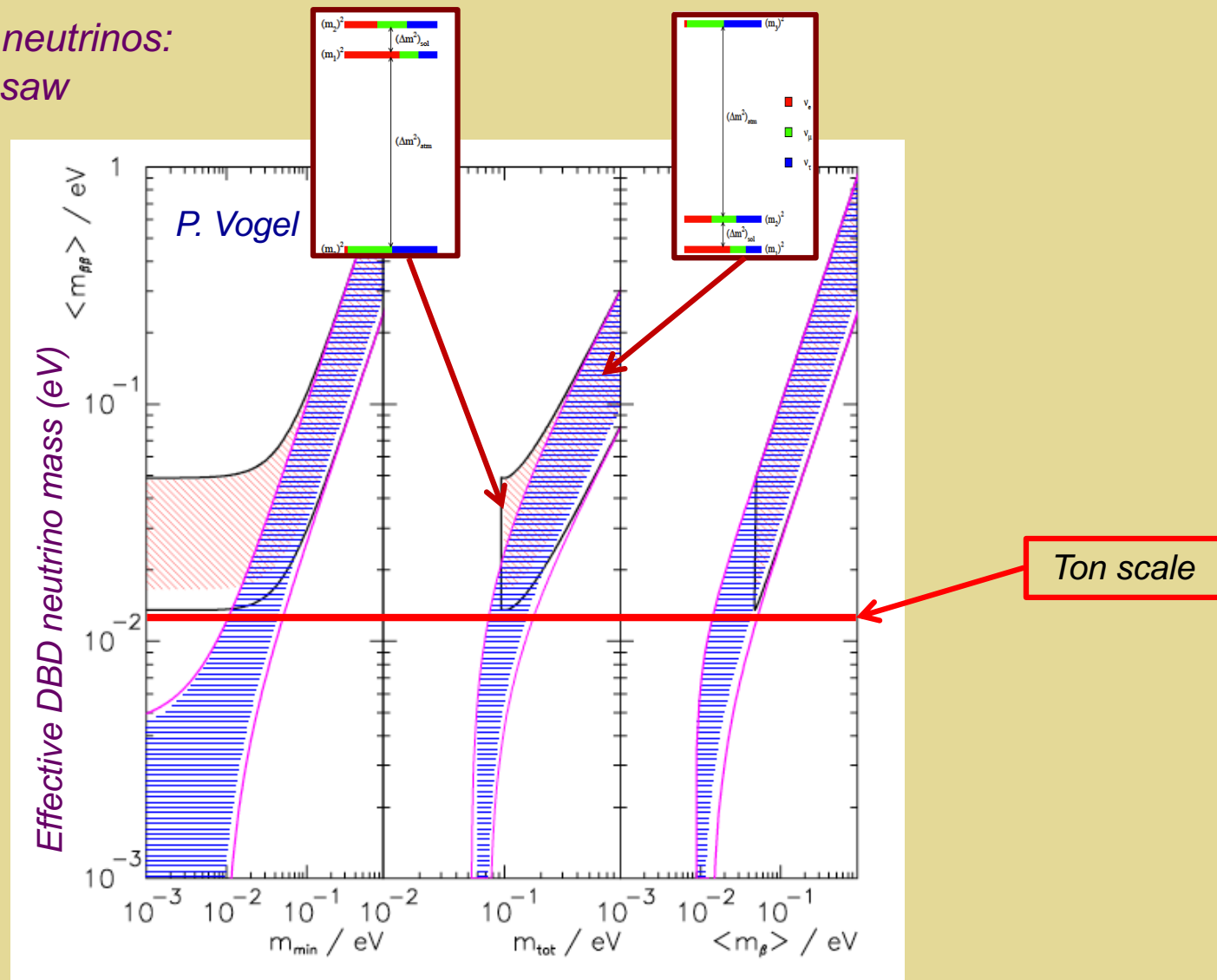
Σm_ν from Cosmo: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Implications

Three active light neutrinos:
conventional see-saw



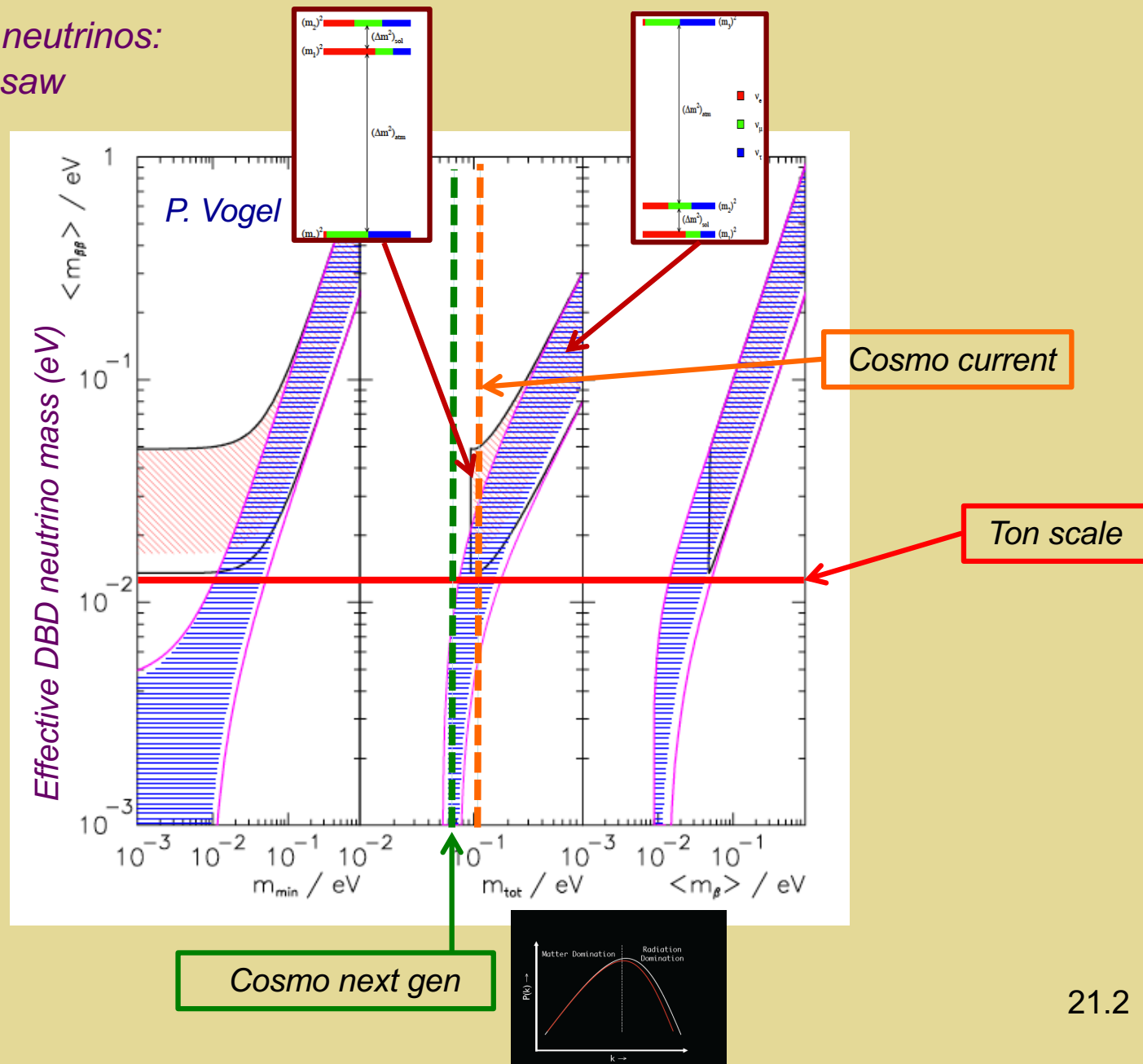
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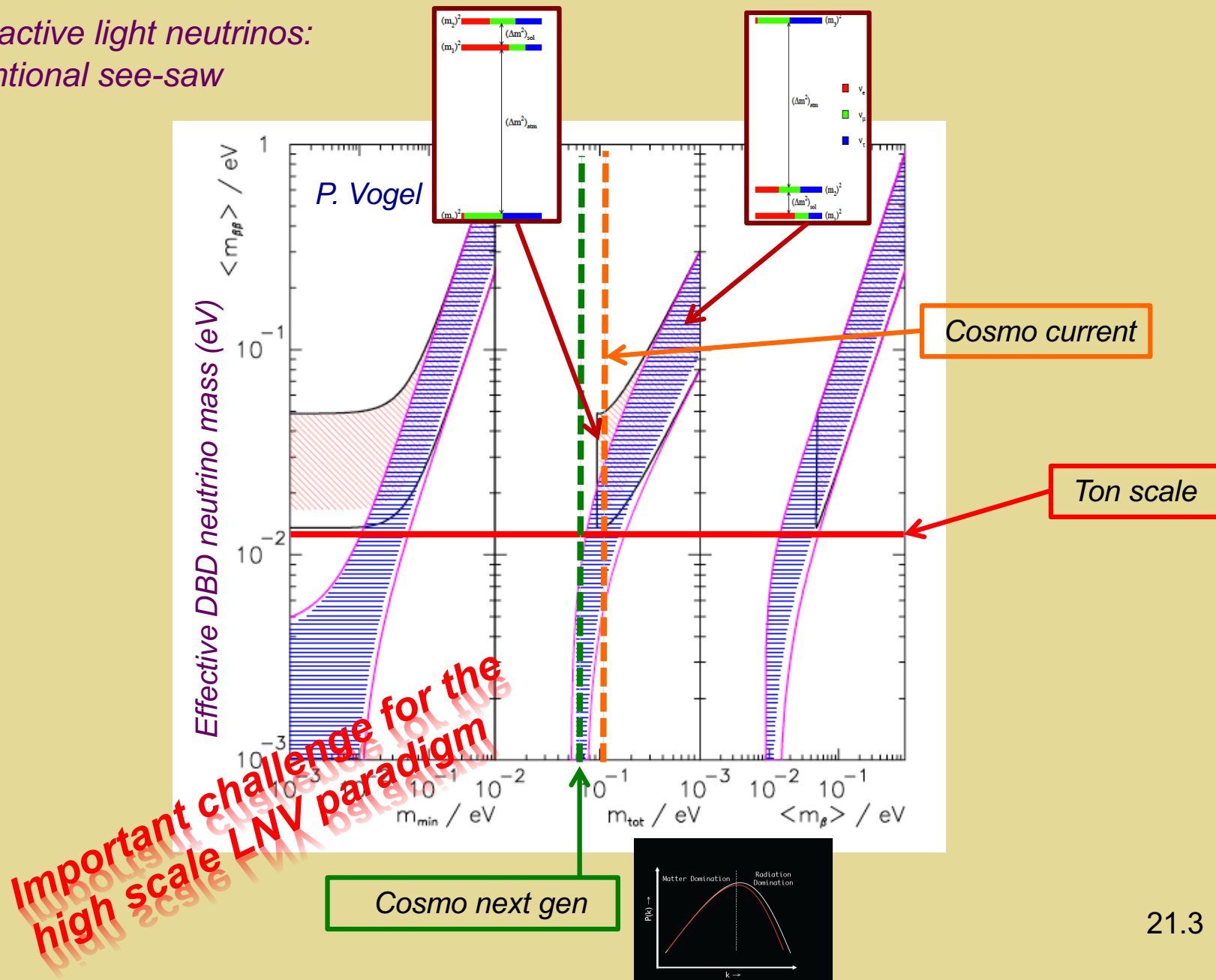
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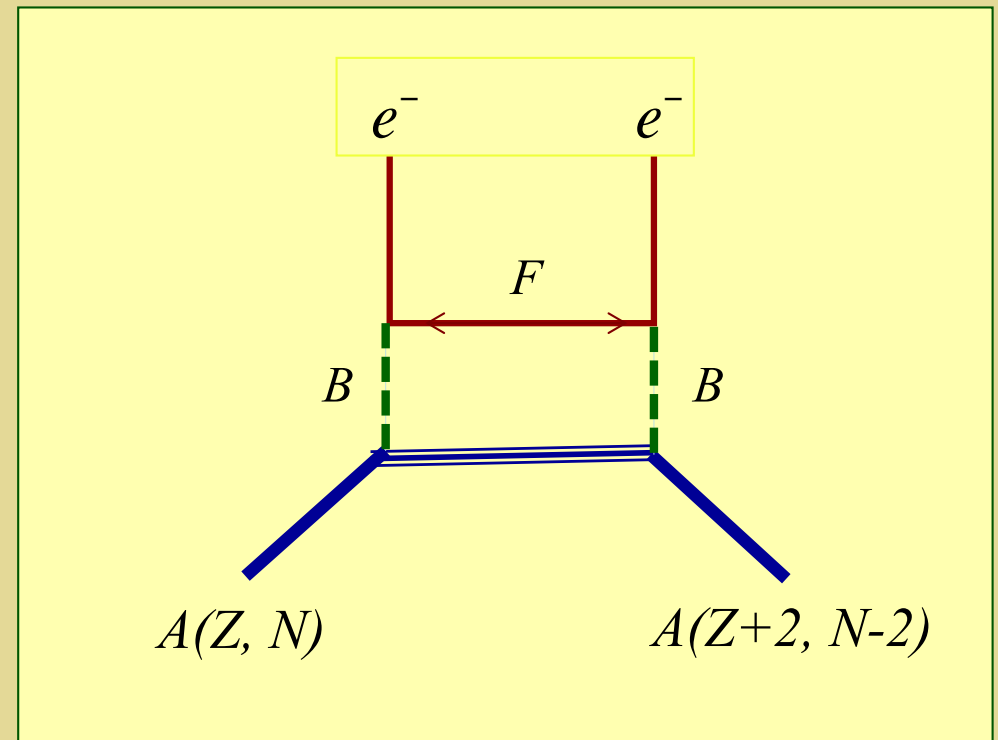
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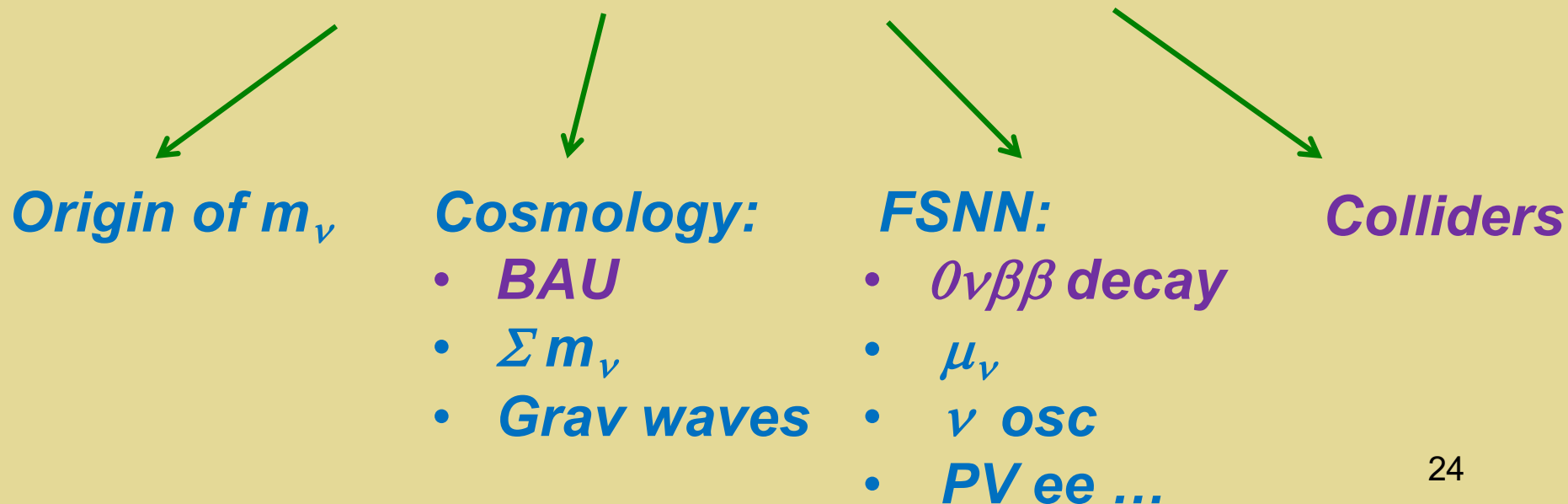
TeV LNV Mechanism

- *Majorana mass generated at the TeV scale*
- *Low-scale see-saw*
- *Radiative m_ν*
- *$m_{\text{MIN}} \ll 0.01$ eV but $0\nu\beta\beta$ -signal accessible with tonne-scale exp'ts due to heavy Majorana particle exchange*

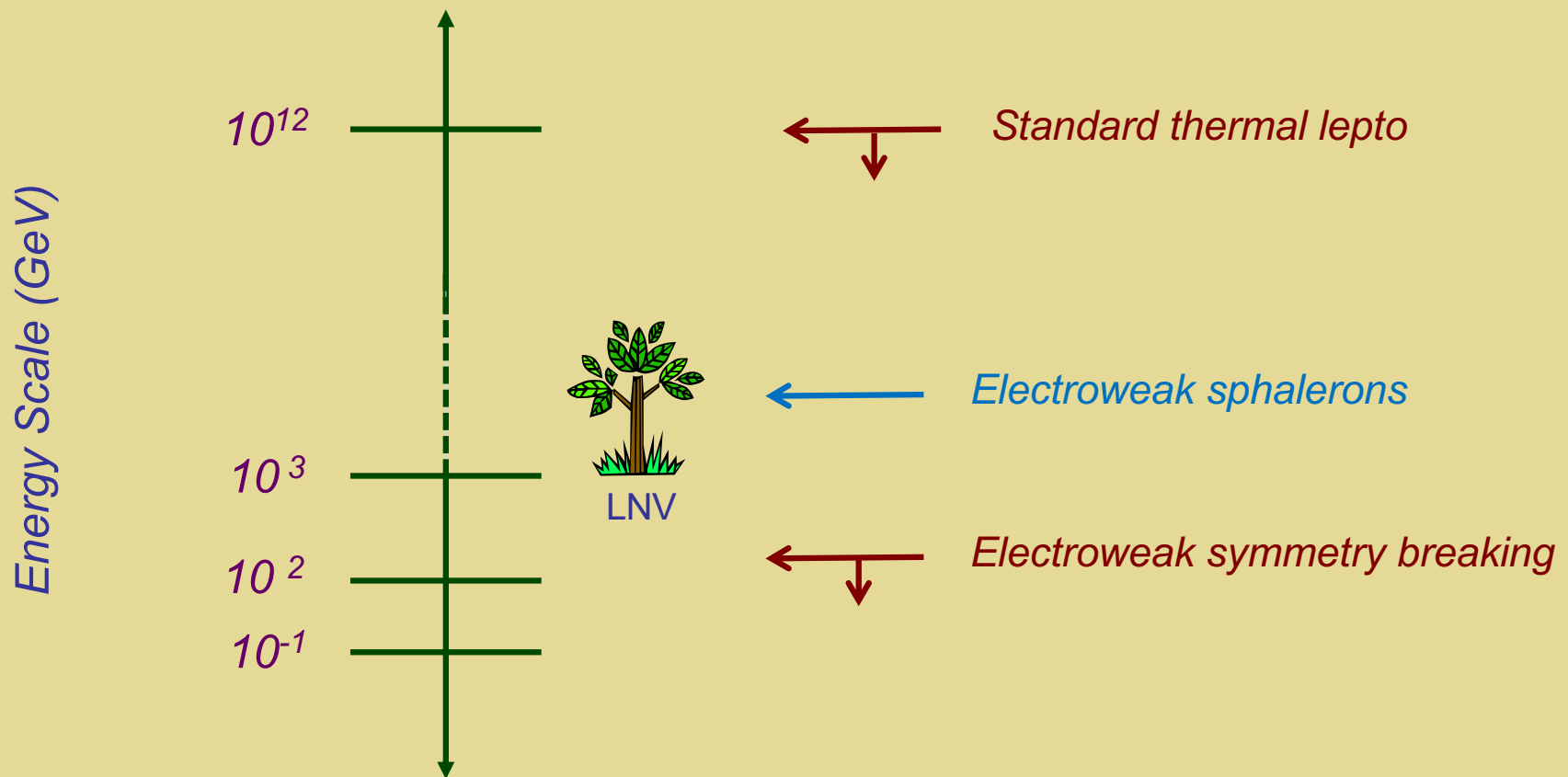


BSM LNV: Questions

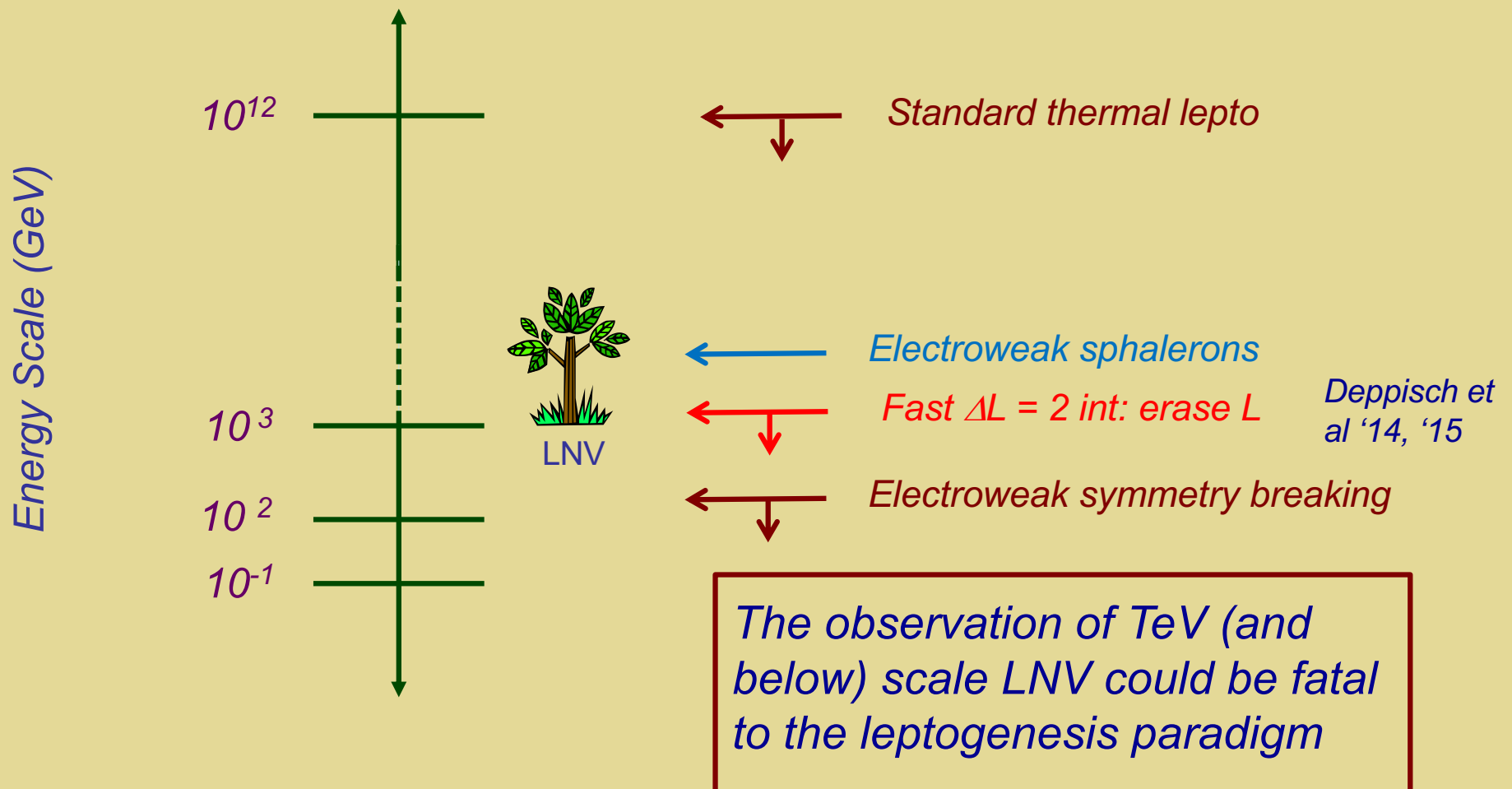
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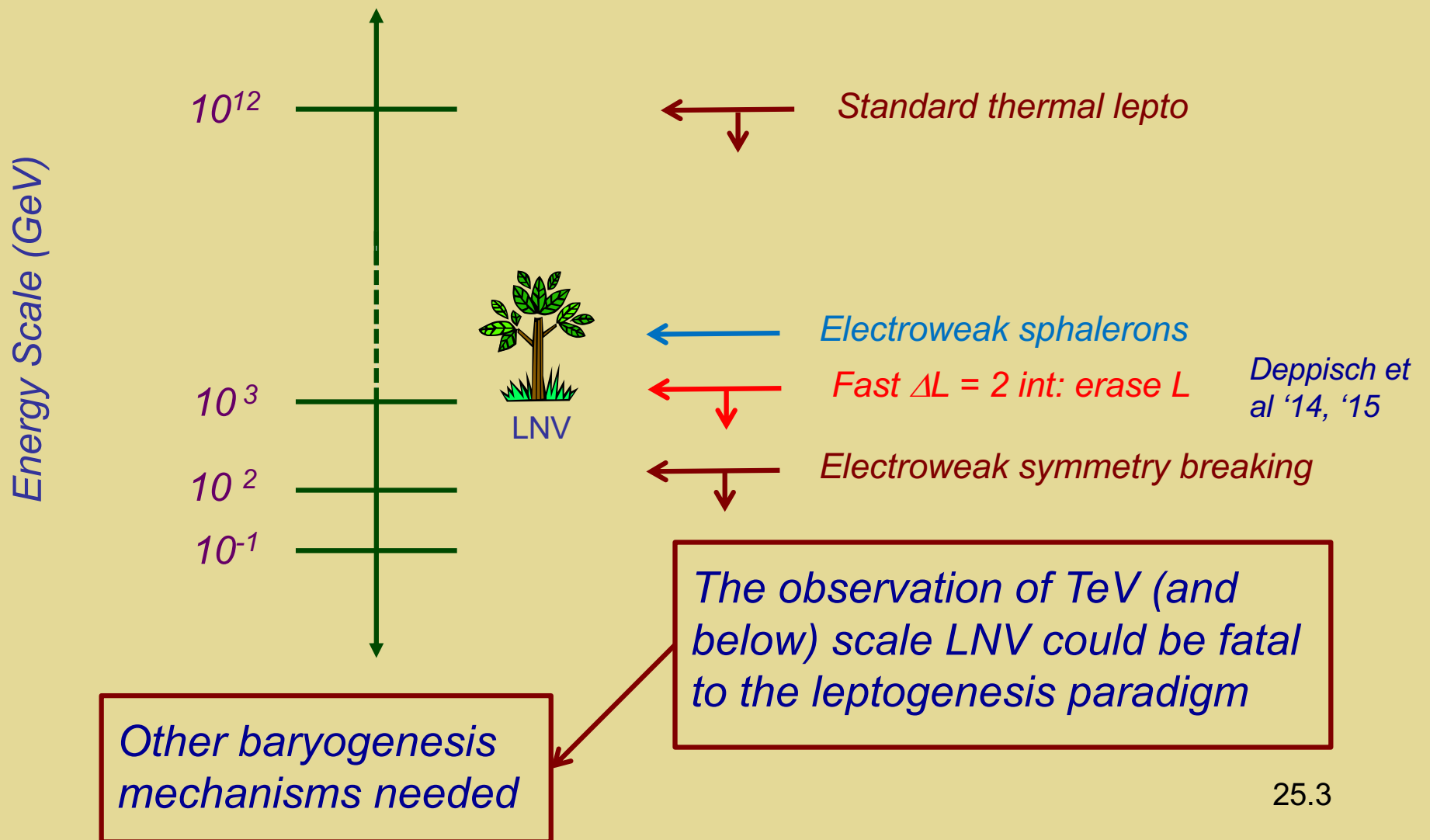
High Scale LNV & Leptogenesis



Low Scale LNV & Leptogenesis



Low Scale LNV & Leptogenesis



Leptogenesis & TeV Scale LNV: Example

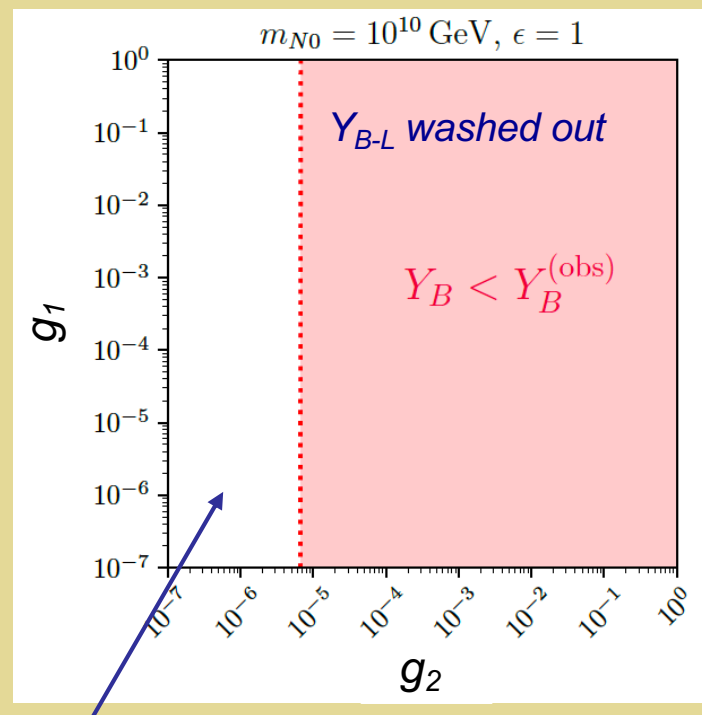
The “O2 Model”: similar ingredients as in scotogenic neutrino mass models (but no Z_2 symmetry)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{INT}} = g_1 \bar{Q}_i^a d^a S_i + g_2 \epsilon^{ij} \bar{L}_i F S_j^* + \text{H.c.}$$

$$S: \quad (1, 2, \tfrac{1}{2})$$

$$F: \quad (1, 0, 0)$$

Majorana



Y_{B-L} survives

J. Harz, MJRM, T. Shen, S. Urrutia-Quiroga '21

BSM LNV: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & pp Colliders

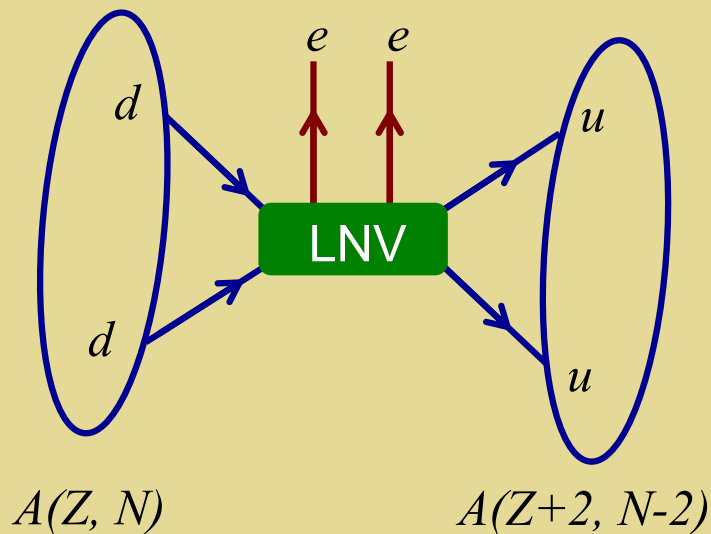
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Dirac

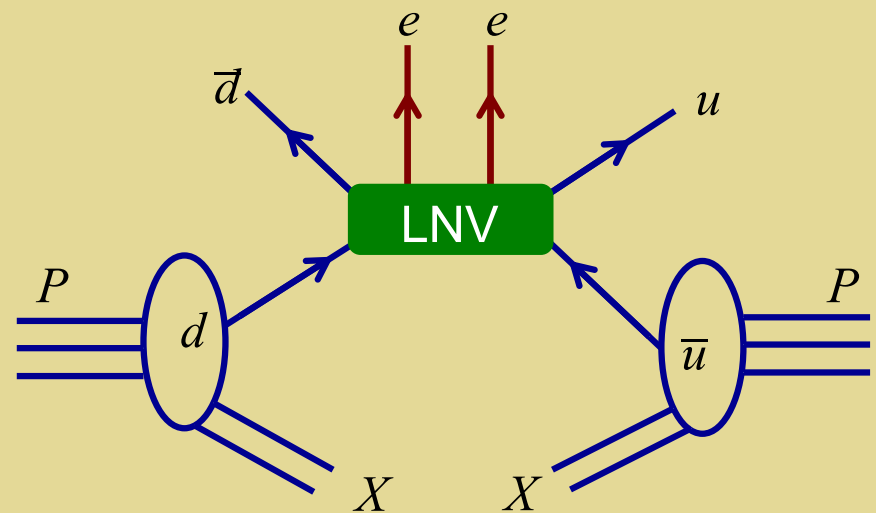
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = \frac{y}{\Lambda} \bar{L} H H^T L + \text{h.c.}$$

Majorana

$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay



pp Collisions



Numerous studies: another talk...

TeV-Scale LNV: lepto, $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & Colliders

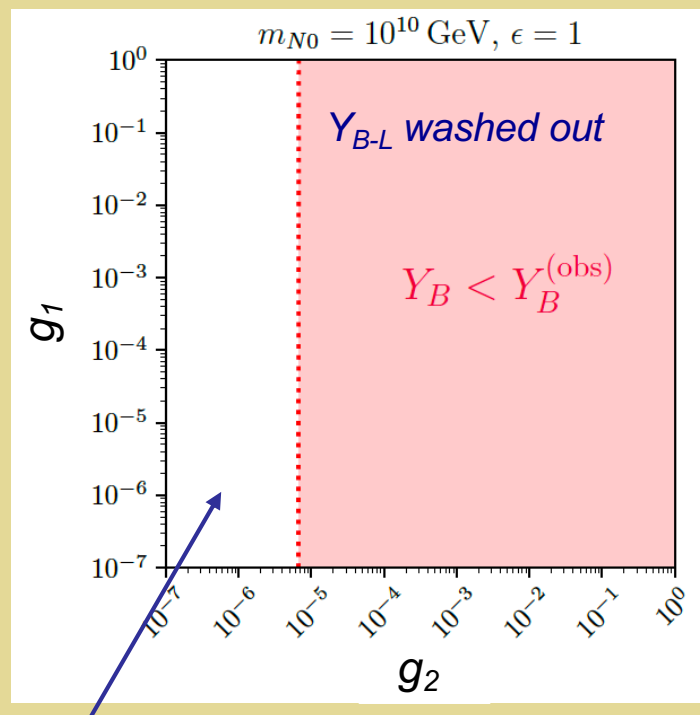
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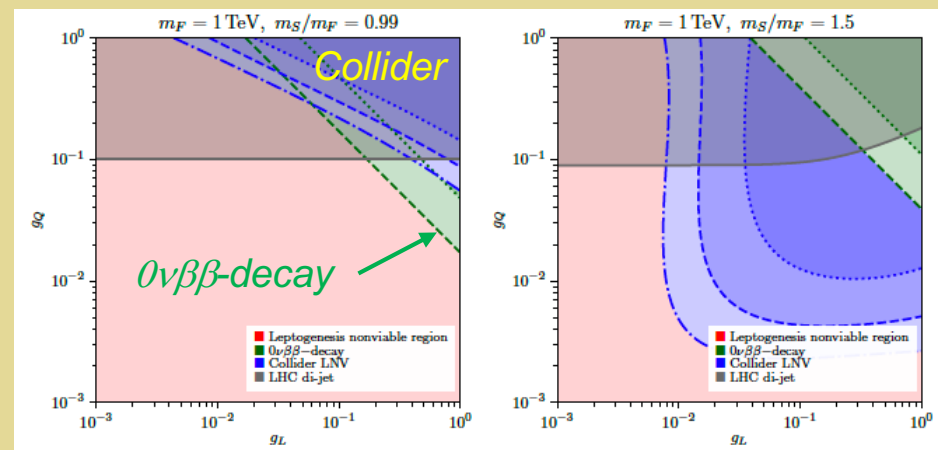
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Majorana



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Comparing $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay, collider, & cosmo

J. Harz, MJRM, T. Shen, S. Urrutia-Quiroga '21

TeV-Scale LNV: lepto, $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & Colliders

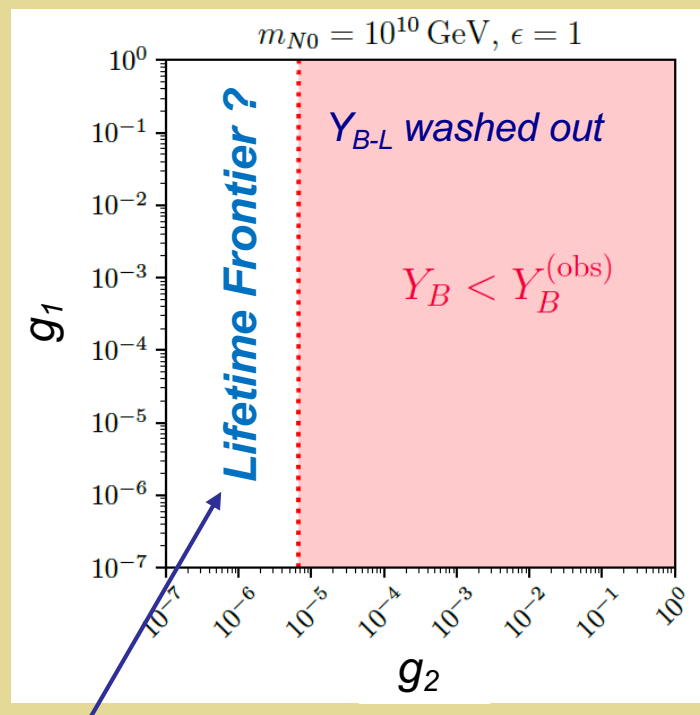
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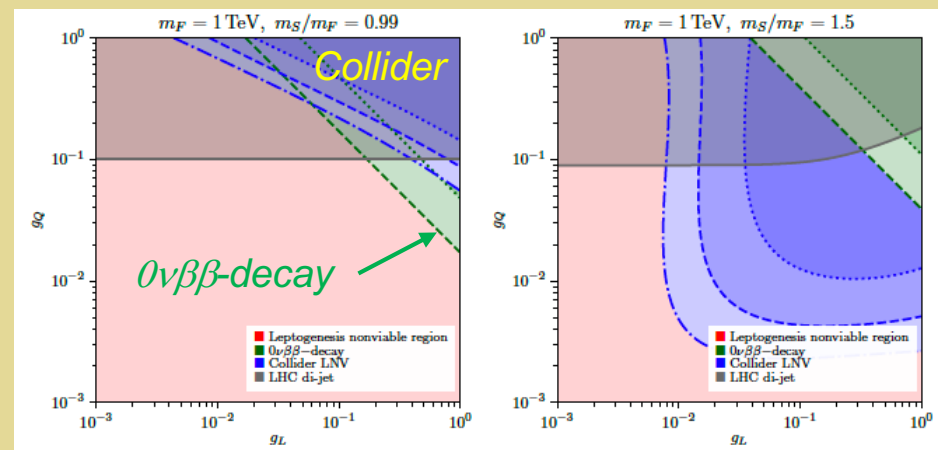
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Majorana



Y_{B-L} survives

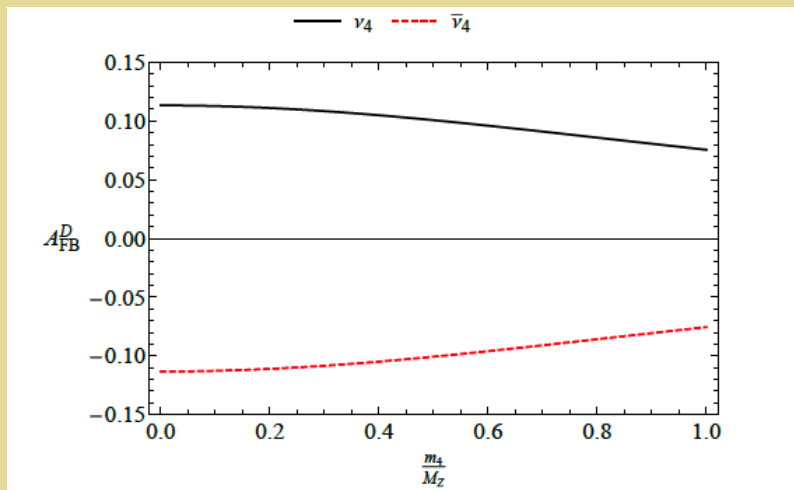


Comparing $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay, collider, & cosmo

Lepton Collider Probes

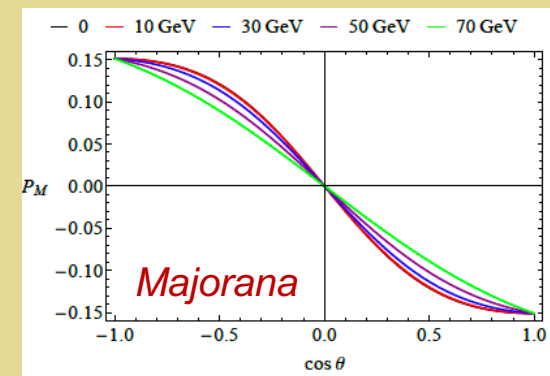
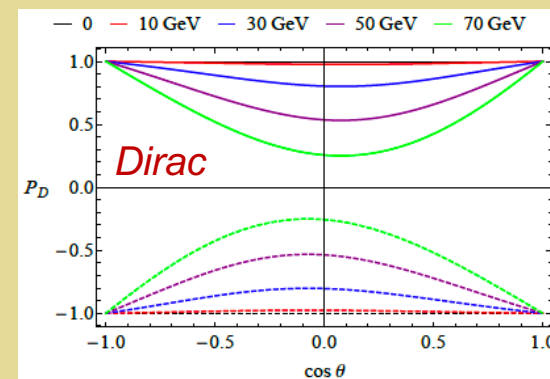
$$e^+ e^- \rightarrow Z^0 \rightarrow N N \quad \text{vs} \quad e^+ e^- \rightarrow Z^0 \rightarrow N \bar{N}$$

Lepton FB Asymmetry



A_{FB} : vanish for Majorana N

N Polarization



Lepton Collider Probes

$$e^+ e^- \rightarrow Z^0 \rightarrow N N \quad \text{vs} \quad e^+ e^- \rightarrow Z^0 \rightarrow N N$$

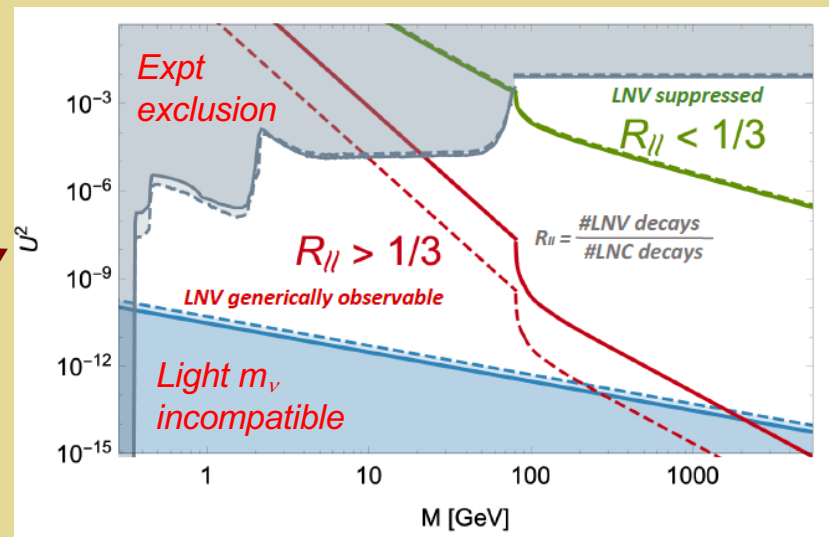
Displaced decays (LLPs)

$$N_{\text{obs}} \simeq u_{\beta}^2 N_{\text{HNL}\alpha} \left[\exp(-l_0/\lambda_N) - \exp(-l_1/\lambda_N) \right] \epsilon_{\alpha\beta},$$

$$\lambda_N^{\text{Majorana}} = 2 \times \lambda_N^{\text{Dirac}}$$

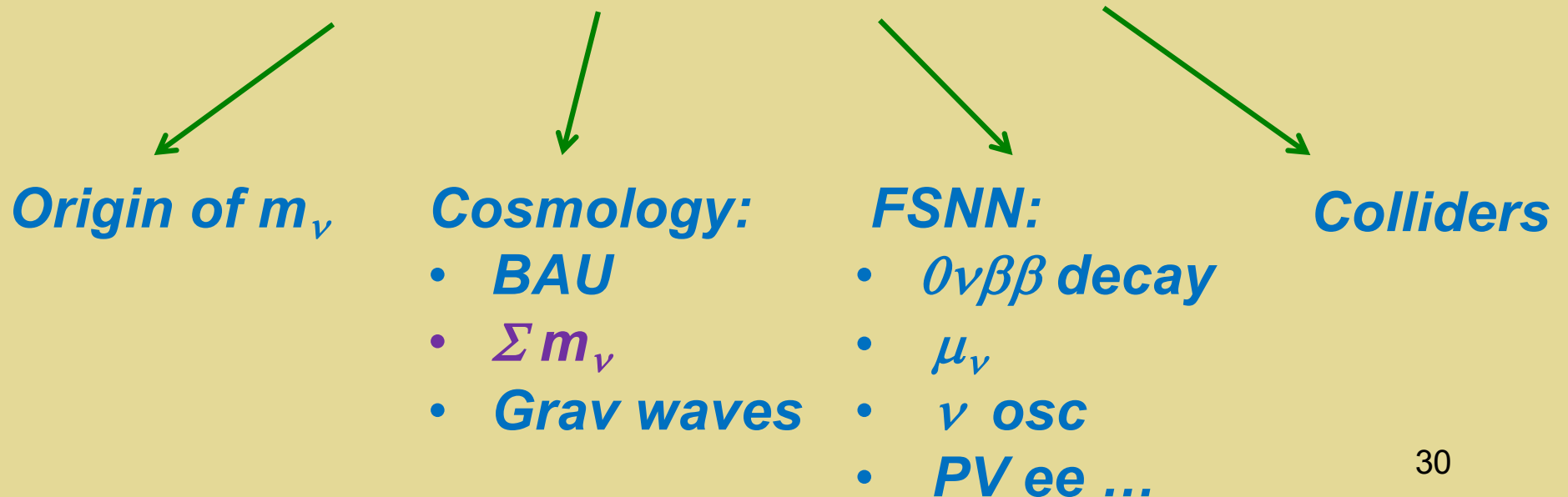
Active-HNL Mixing

LLP LNV Observability



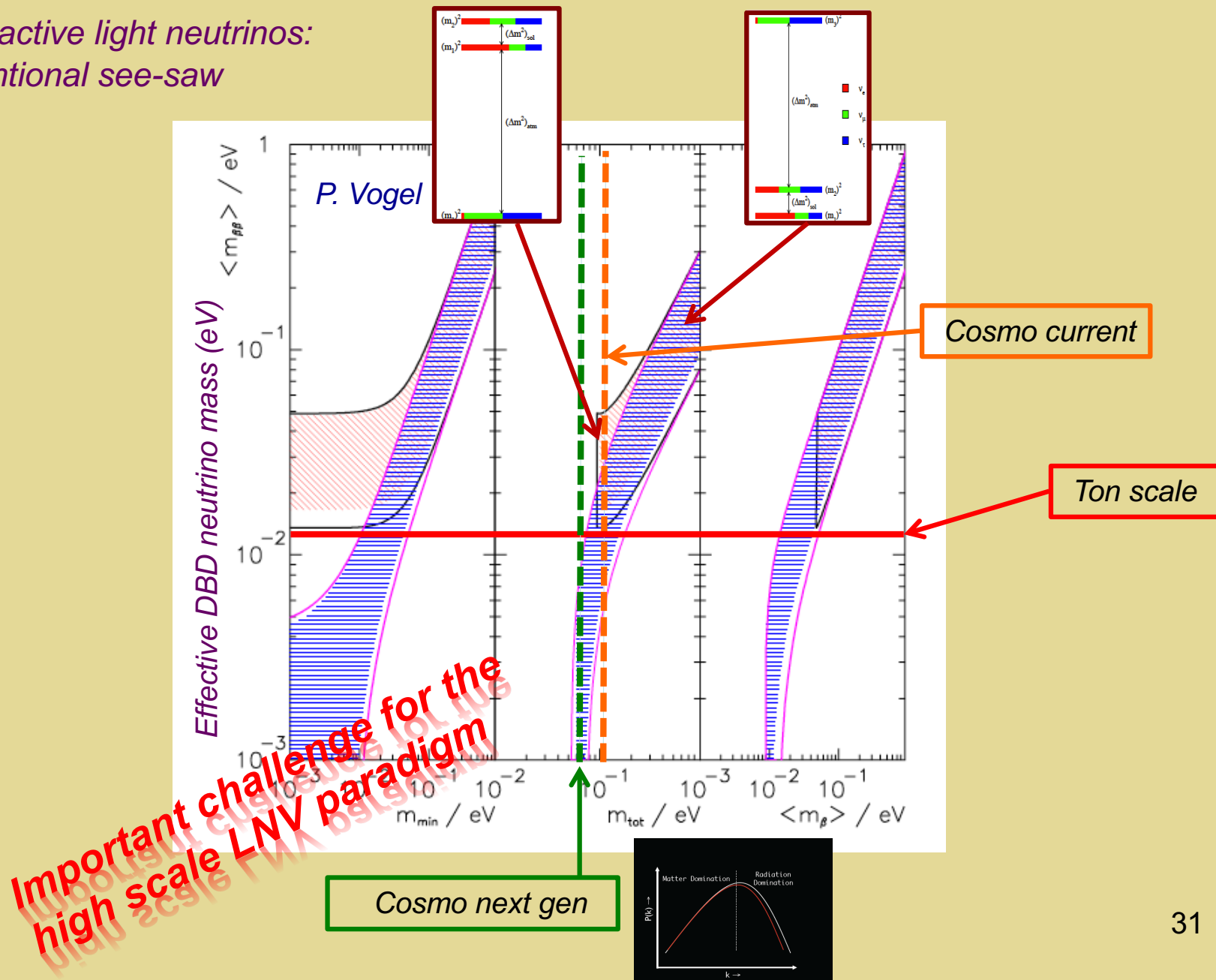
BSM LNV: Questions

- *Are there additional sources of LNV at the classical (Lagrangian) level?*
- *If so, what is the associated LNV mass scale ?*
- *What is the sensitivity of ton-scale $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay searches under various LNV scenarios ?*
- *What are the inter-frontier implications?*



Σm_ν from Cosmo: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Implications

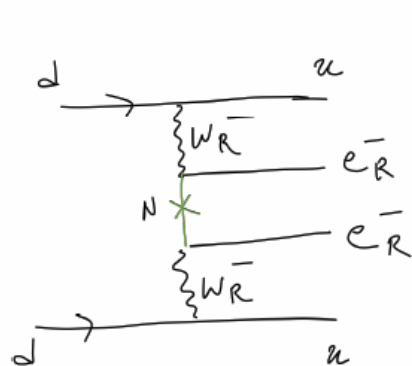
Three active light neutrinos:
conventional see-saw



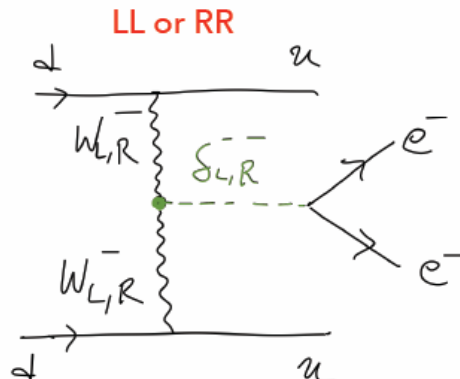
Minimal LR Symmetric Model: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay

Long range chiral enhancement

- There are the following contributions (on top of the usual light neutrino contribution)



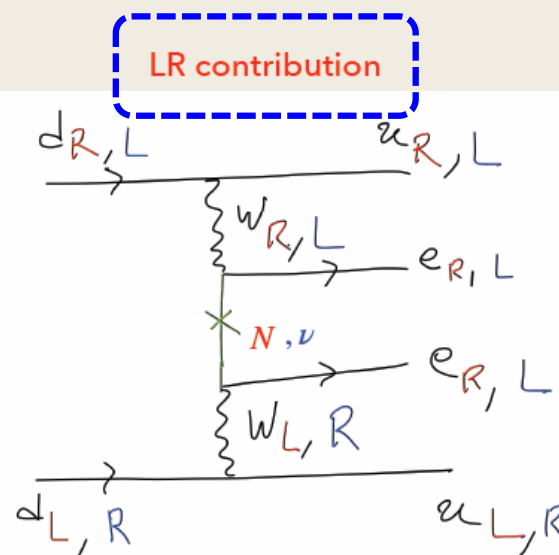
RR contribution



Suppressed by heavy

δ^{++} masses and LFV constraints (Tello and Senjanovic. ArXiv: 1011.3522)

ATLAS limit ~ 800 GeV (arXiv: 1710.09748)



The Blue contributions are

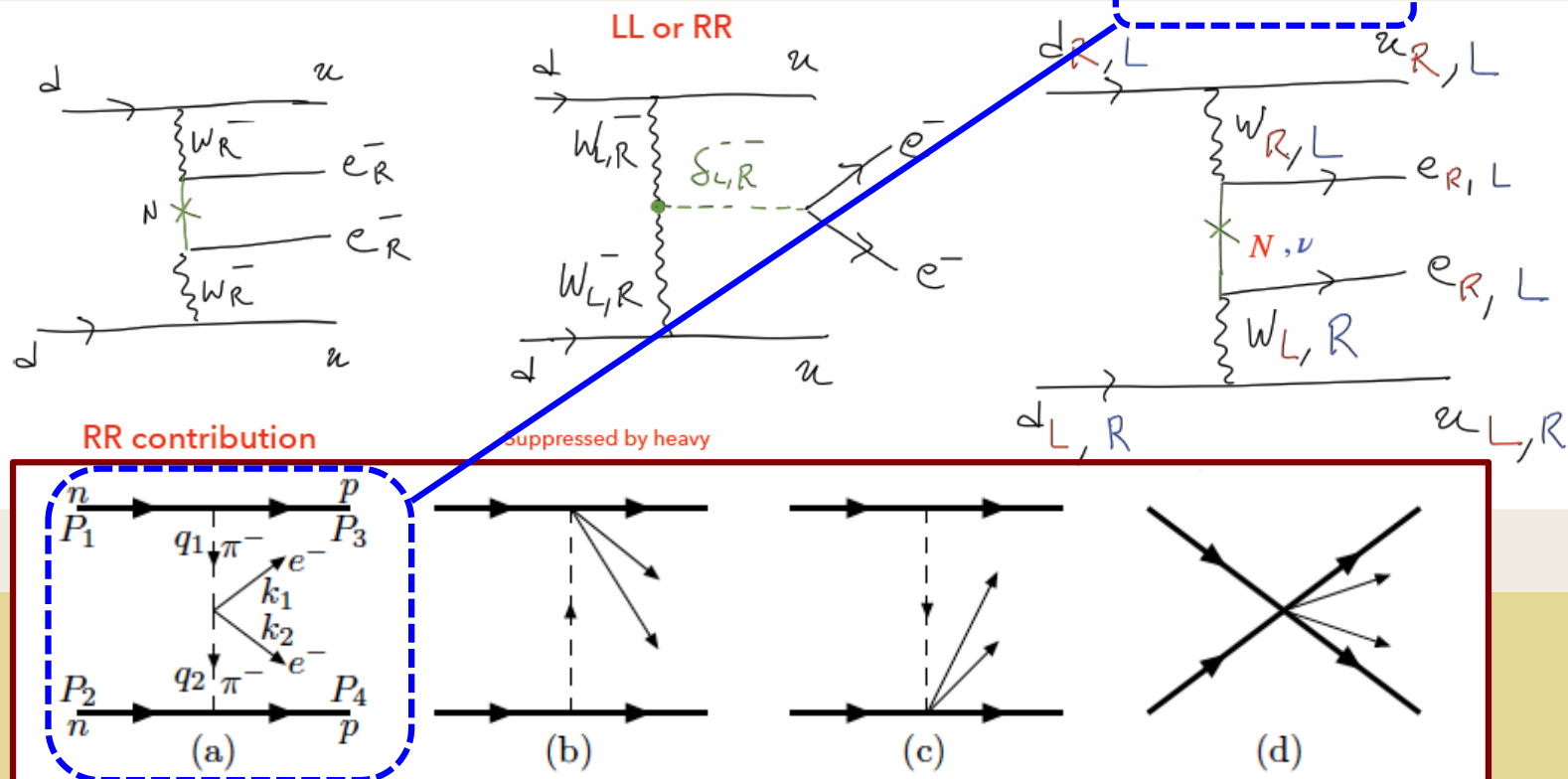
Suppressed by small heavy-light

Neutrino mixing

Minimal LR Symmetric Model: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay

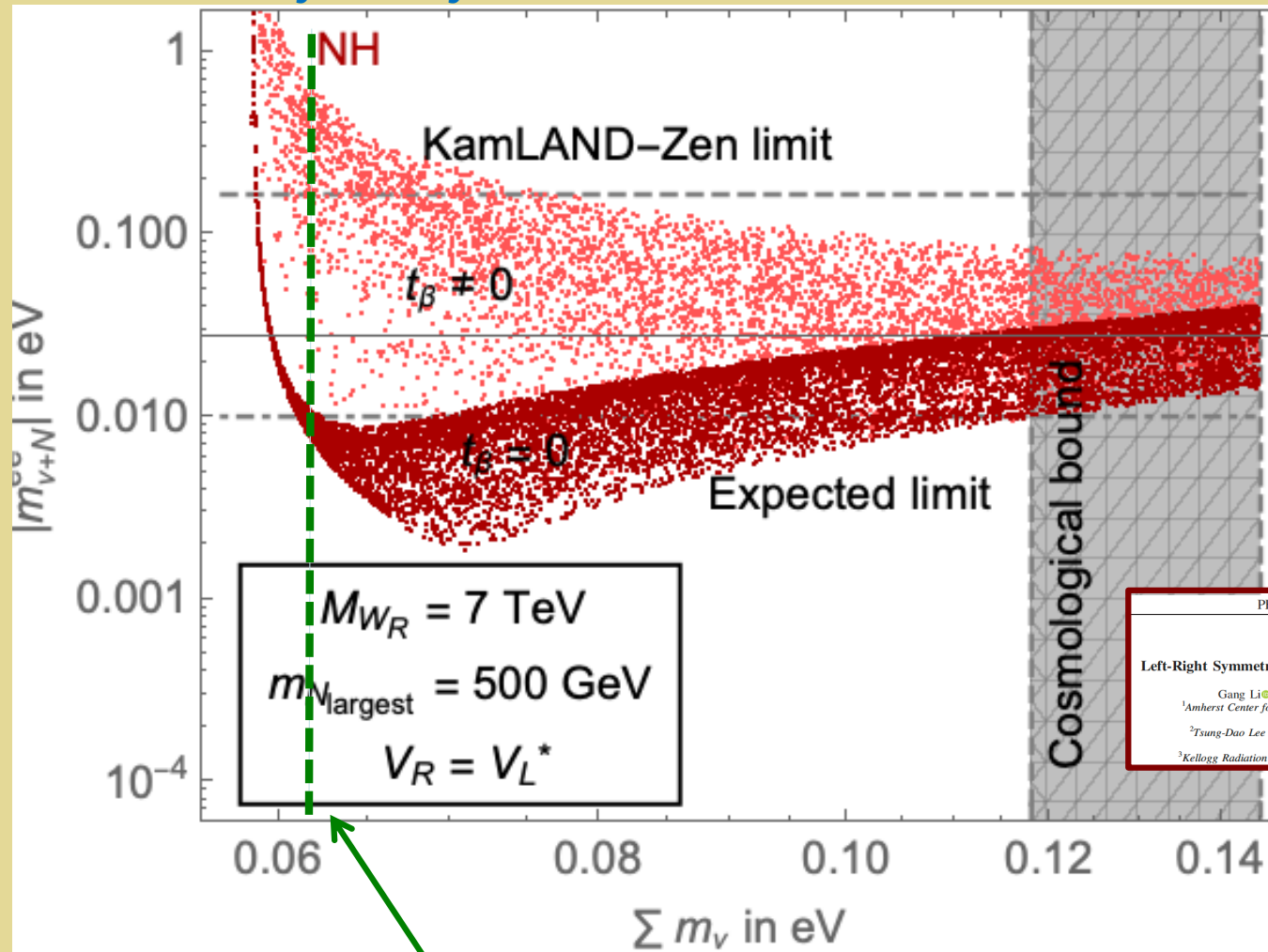
Long range chiral enhancement

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TeV-Scale LNV: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & Σm_ν

Minimal LR Symmetry



PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 126, 151801 (2021)

Left-Right Symmetry and Leading Contributions to Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

Gang Li^{1,2}, Michael J. Ramsey-Musolf^{2,3,†} and Juan Carlos Vasquez^{1,‡}

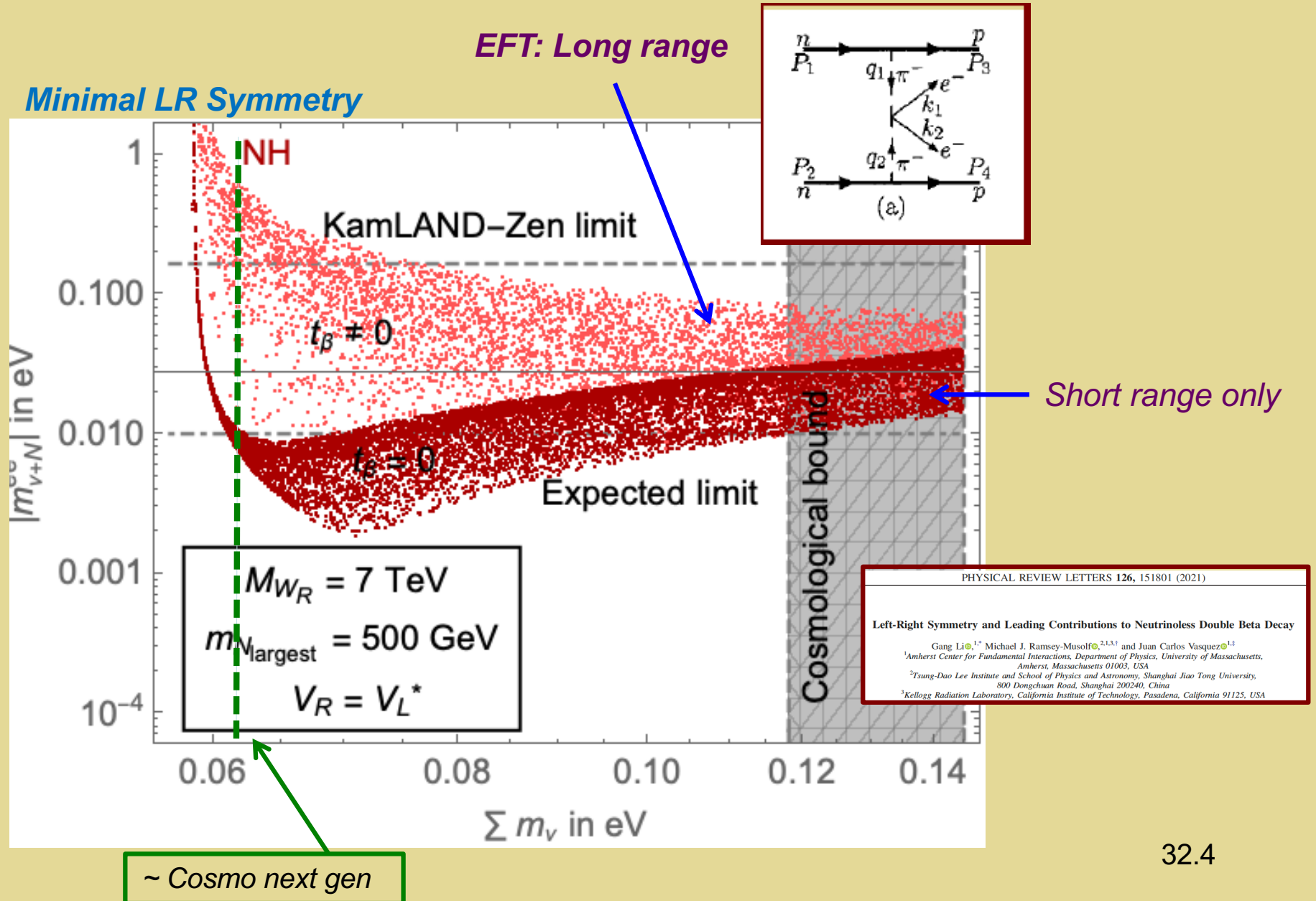
¹Amherst Center for Fundamental Interactions, Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003, USA

²Tsung-Dao Lee Institute and School of Physics and Astronomy, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 800 Dongchuan Road, Shanghai 200240, China

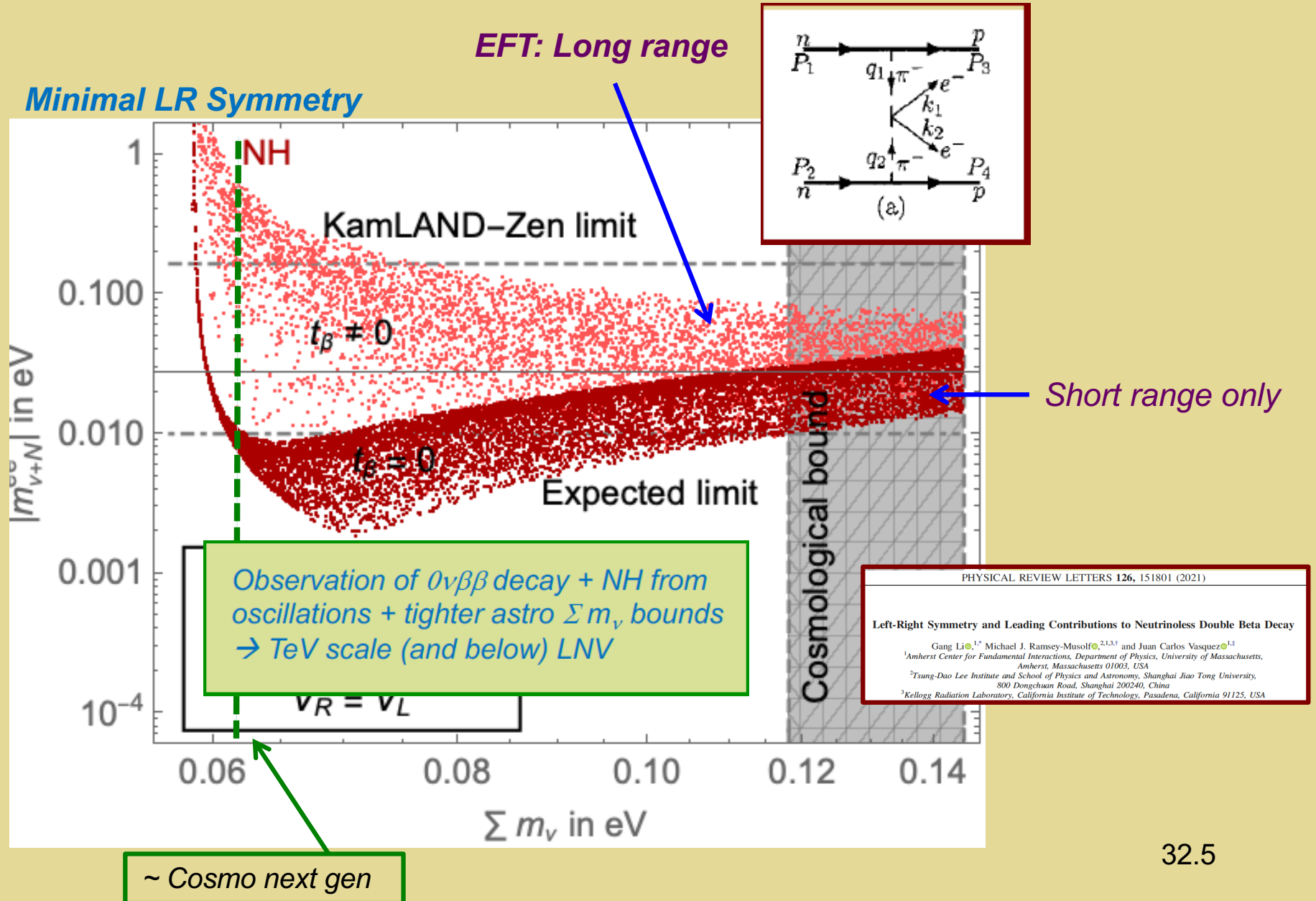
³Kellogg Radiation Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125, USA

~ Cosmo next gen

TeV-Scale LNV: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & Σm_ν

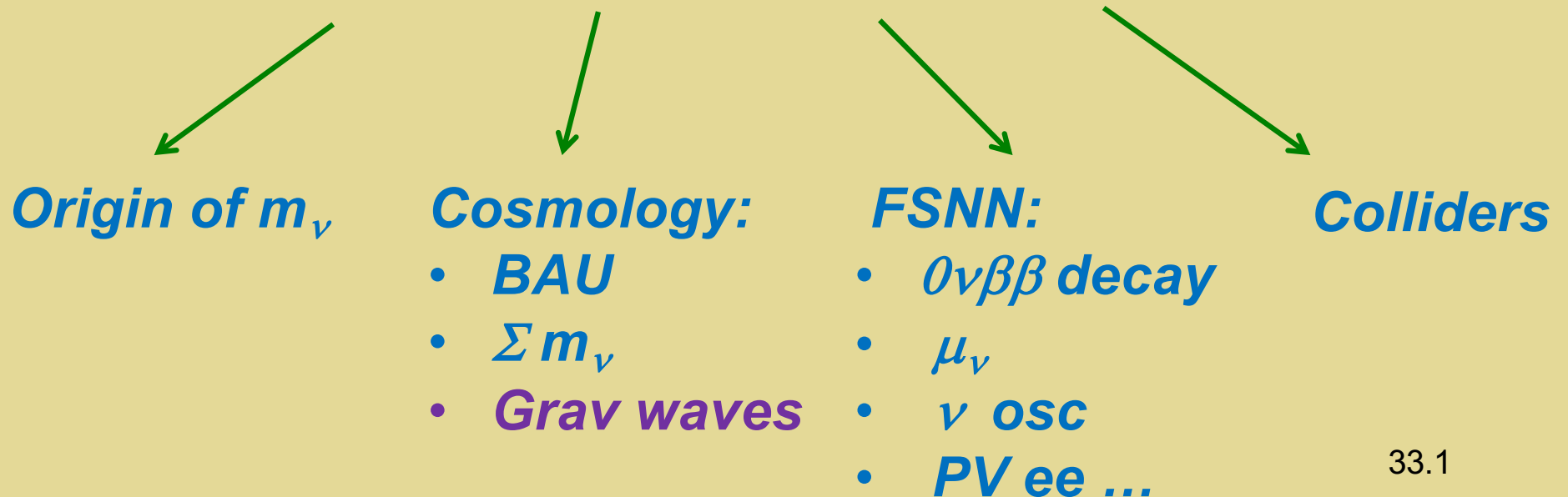


TeV-Scale LNV: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & Σm_ν

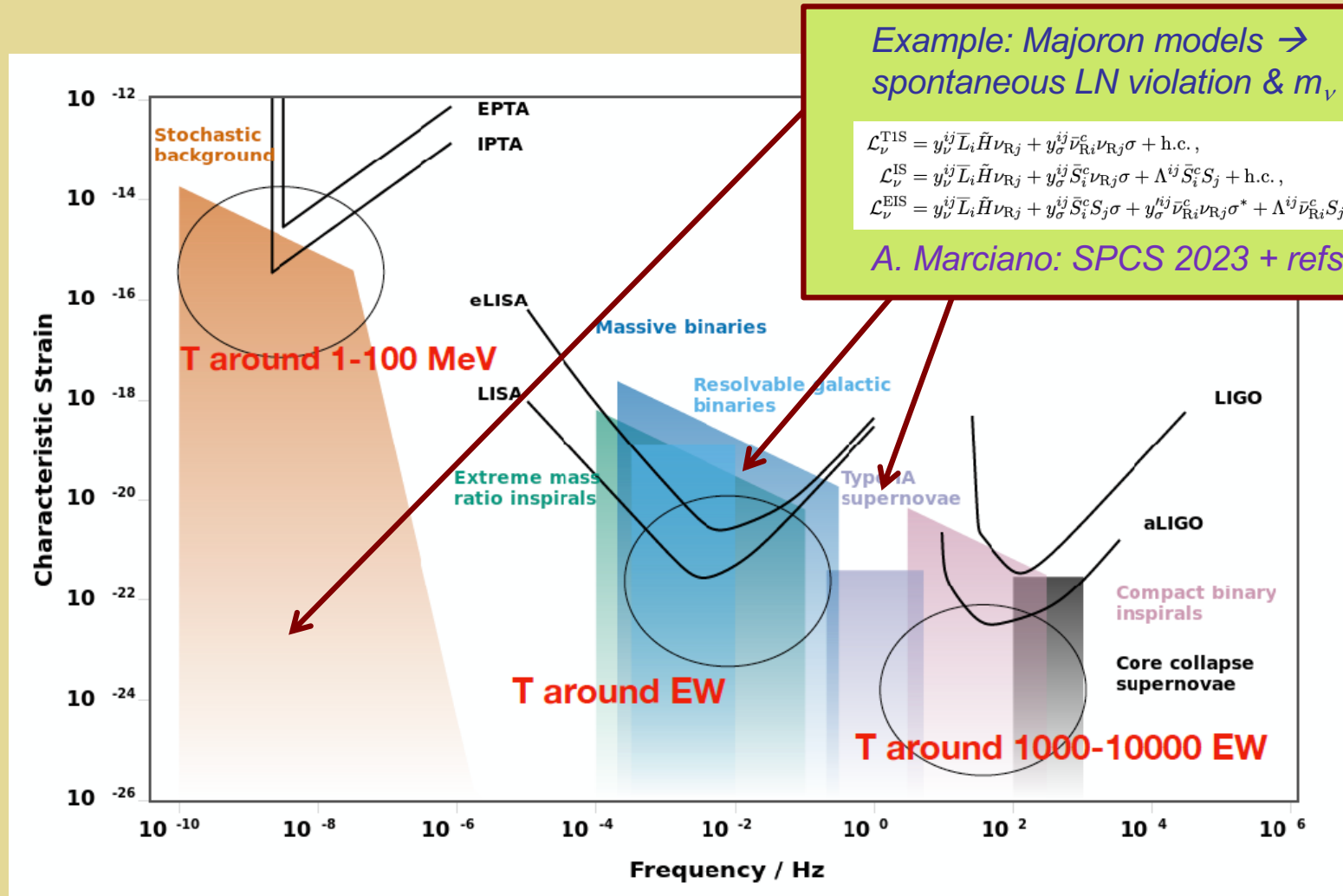


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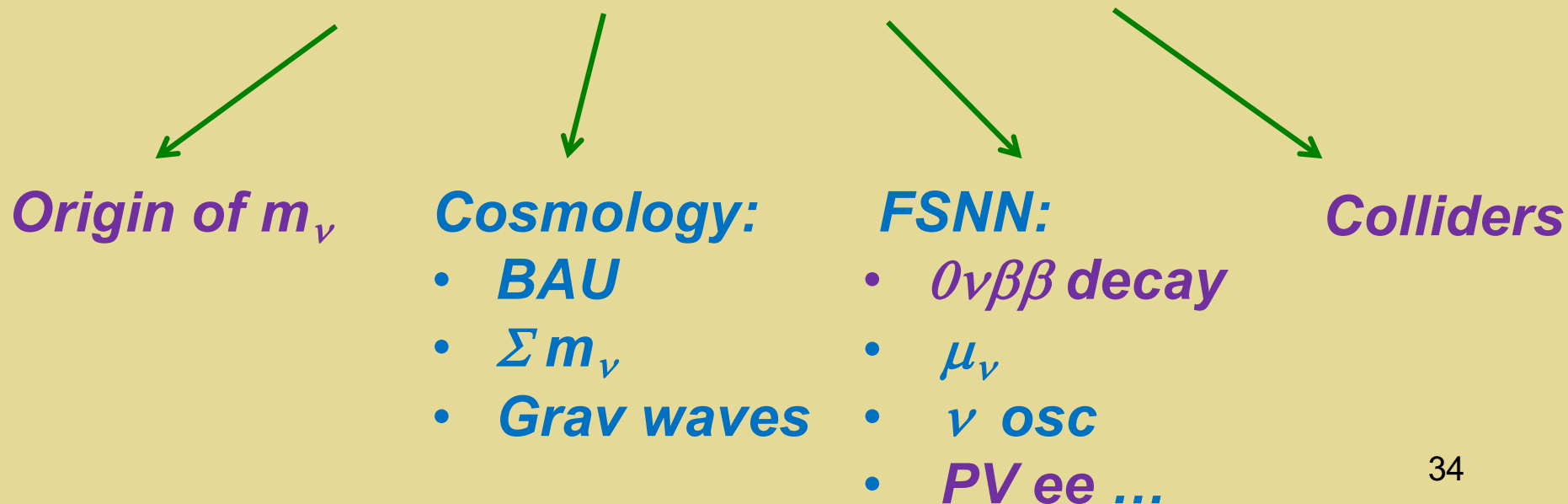
LVN Scalar Field & GW



Phase transition associated with spontaneous LVN $\rightarrow$ non-astrophysical GW source

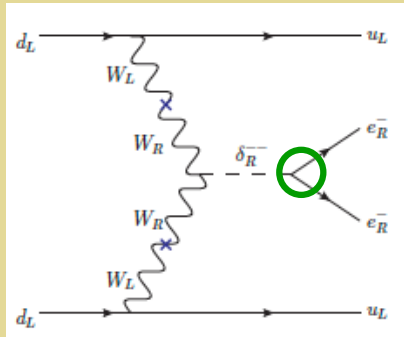
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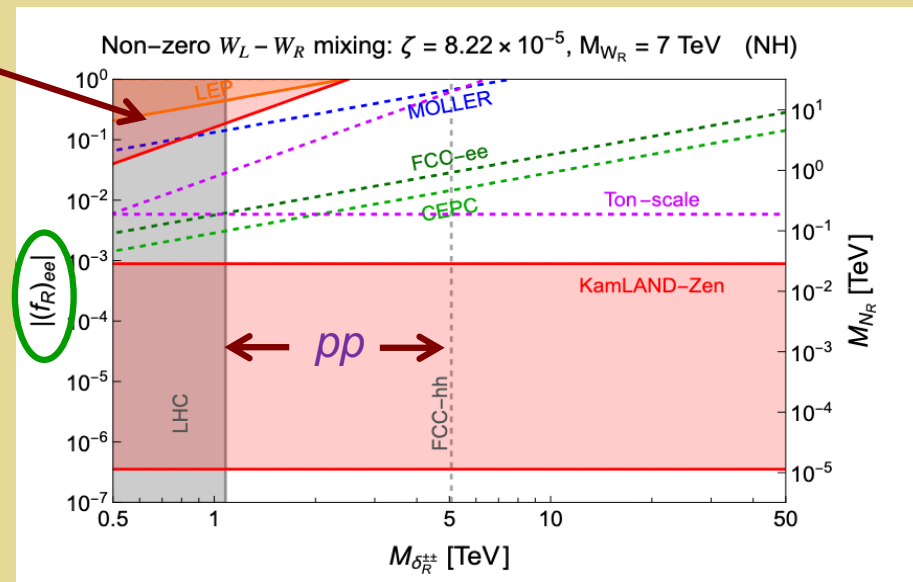


LNV: Scalar Fields & m_ν

$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay, PV $e^-e^- \rightarrow e^-e^-$, $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$ & pp collisions



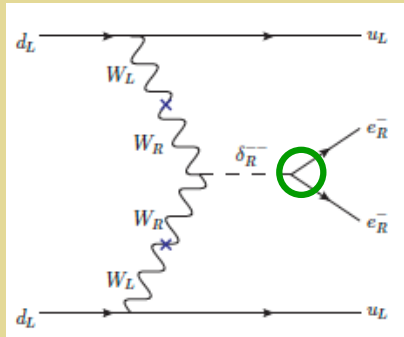
LRSM type II Seesaw: δ^{--}



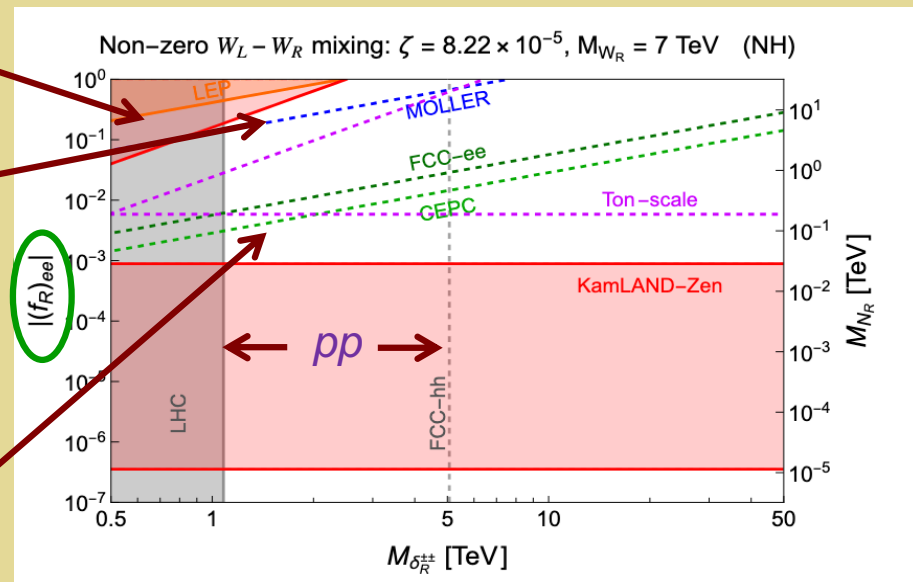
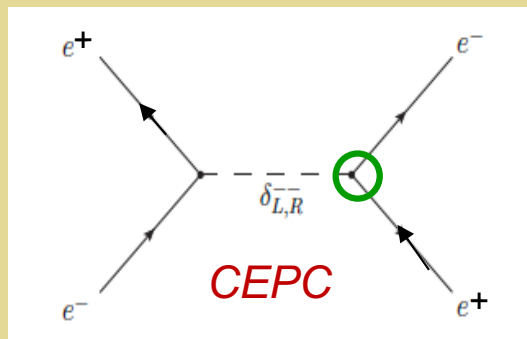
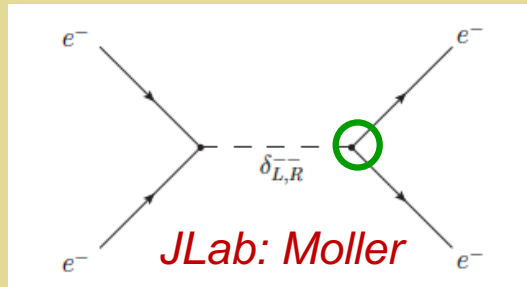
***G. Li, MJRM, S. Urrutia-Quiroga, J.C. Vasquez
2408.06306***

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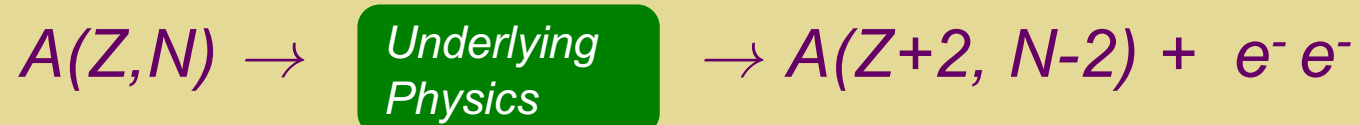
G. Li, MJRM, S. Urrutia-Quiroga, J.C. Vasquez
2408.06306

Outlook

- *The discovery of beyond Standard Model lepton number violation could hold the key to explaining the origin of neutrino mass*
- *The BSM LNV mass scale is unknown and could lie anywhere from the sub-eV scale to the conventional seesaw scale*
- *While the search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay provides the most comprehensive probe of BSM LNV, identifying the mass scale and underlying dynamics requires input from a wide array of observations → the mystery of m_ν has exciting implications for research at the intensity, high energy, and cosmological/astrophysical frontiers*

Back Up Slides

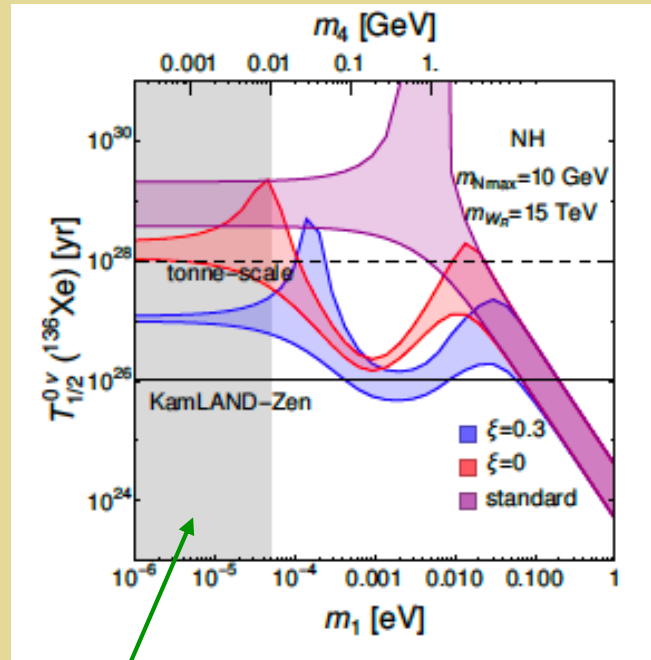
LVN Mass Scale & $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay



- *3 light neutrinos only: source of neutrino mass at the very high see-saw*
- *3 light neutrinos with TeV scale LVN*
- *> 3 light neutrinos*

More Than 3 Light Neutrinos: MeV-GeV

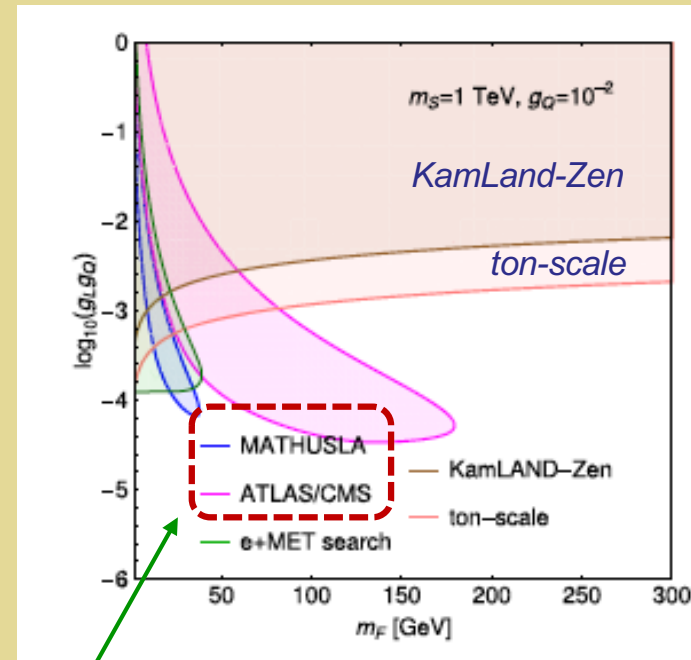
mLRSM



Current Σm_ν
exclusion

*J. De Vries, G. Li, MJRM,
J. C. Vasquez '22*

Simplified Model



LHC long-lived
particle searches

*G. Li, MJRM, S. Su,
J.C. Vasquez '22*

TeV Scale LNV: EFT

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = y \bar{L} \tilde{H} \nu_R + \text{h.c.}$$

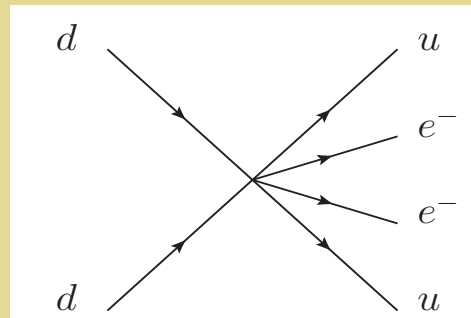
Dirac

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Majorana

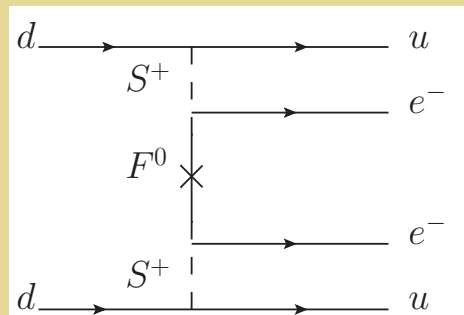
TeV Scale LNV

$0\nu\beta\beta$ - decay



Low-energy process → effective field theory with hadrons & leptons

LHC: $pp \rightarrow jj e^- e^-$



High-energy process → “full theory” (simplified): keep TeV scale d.o.f. explicit

TeV Scale LNV: EFT

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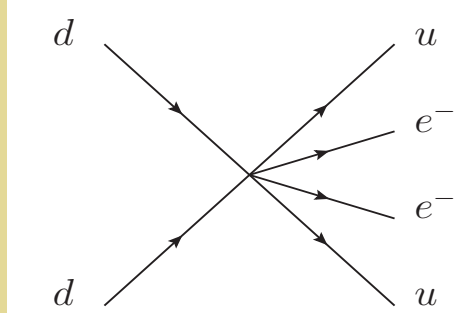
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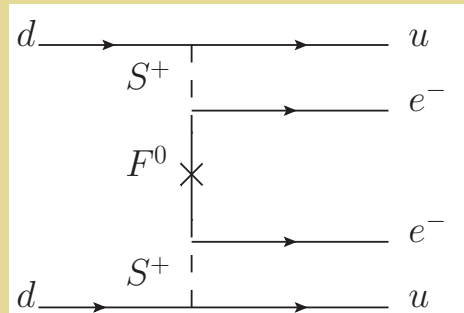
Majorana

EFT “Bridge”

$0\nu\beta\beta$ - decay



LHC: $pp \rightarrow jj e^- e^-$



TeV Scale LNV

*Low-energy process $\rightarrow$
effective field theory
with hadrons & leptons*

*High-energy process $\rightarrow$
“full theory” (simplified):
keep TeV scale d.o.f.
explicit*

Low Energy: $0\nu \beta\beta$ - decay in EFT

d=9 effective operators

$$\mu = M_{\text{WEAK}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(q, e) = \frac{G_F^2}{\Lambda_{\beta\beta}} \sum_{j=1}^{14} C_j(\mu) \hat{O}_j^{++} \bar{e} \Gamma_j e^c + h.c.$$

e.g.

$$\hat{O}_{1+}^{ab} = \bar{q}_L \gamma^\mu \tau^a q_L \bar{q}_R \gamma_\mu \tau^b q_R$$

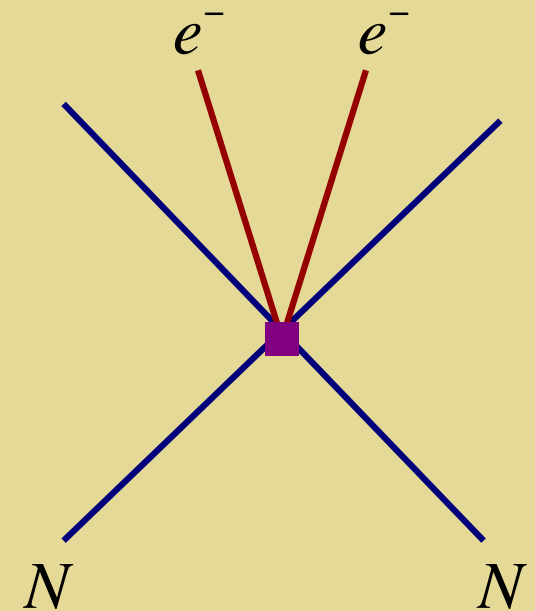
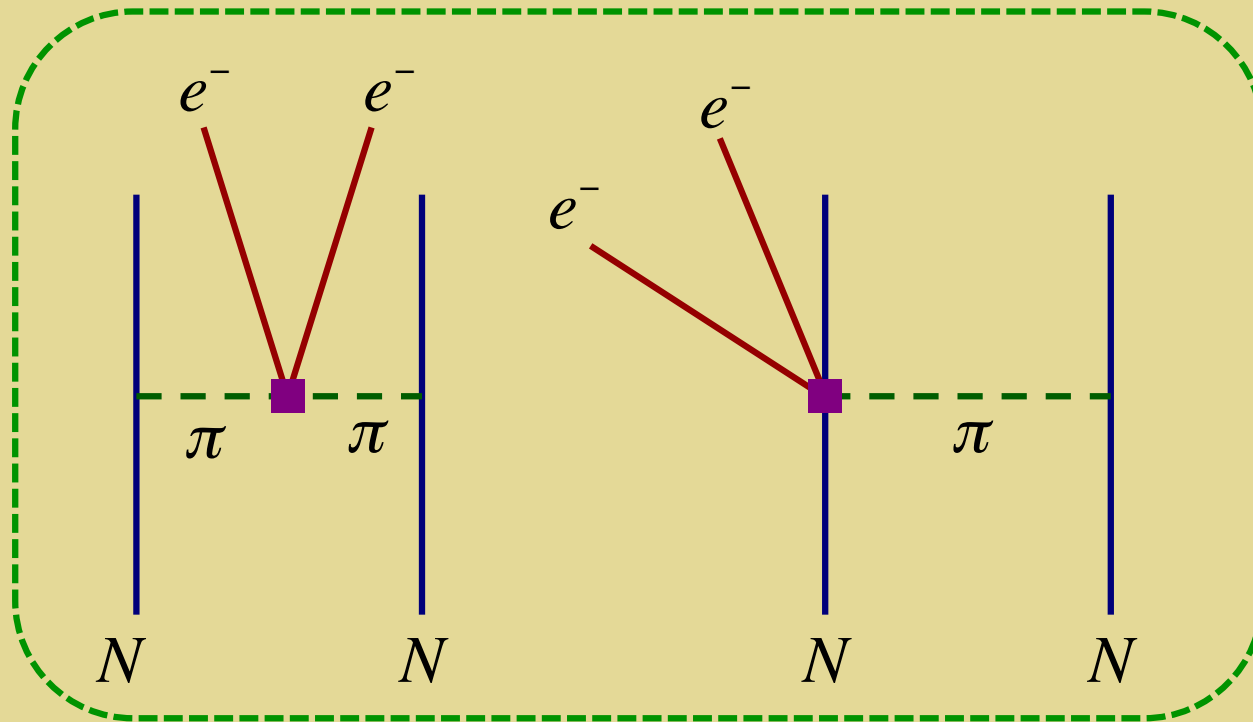
$0\nu \beta\beta$ - decay: $a = b = +$

Prezeau, MJRM, Vogel
PRD 68 (2003) 034016

Chiral sym: map O_j onto $\mathcal{L}(\pi, N)$

Low Energy: $0\nu \beta\beta$ - decay in EFT

Long range



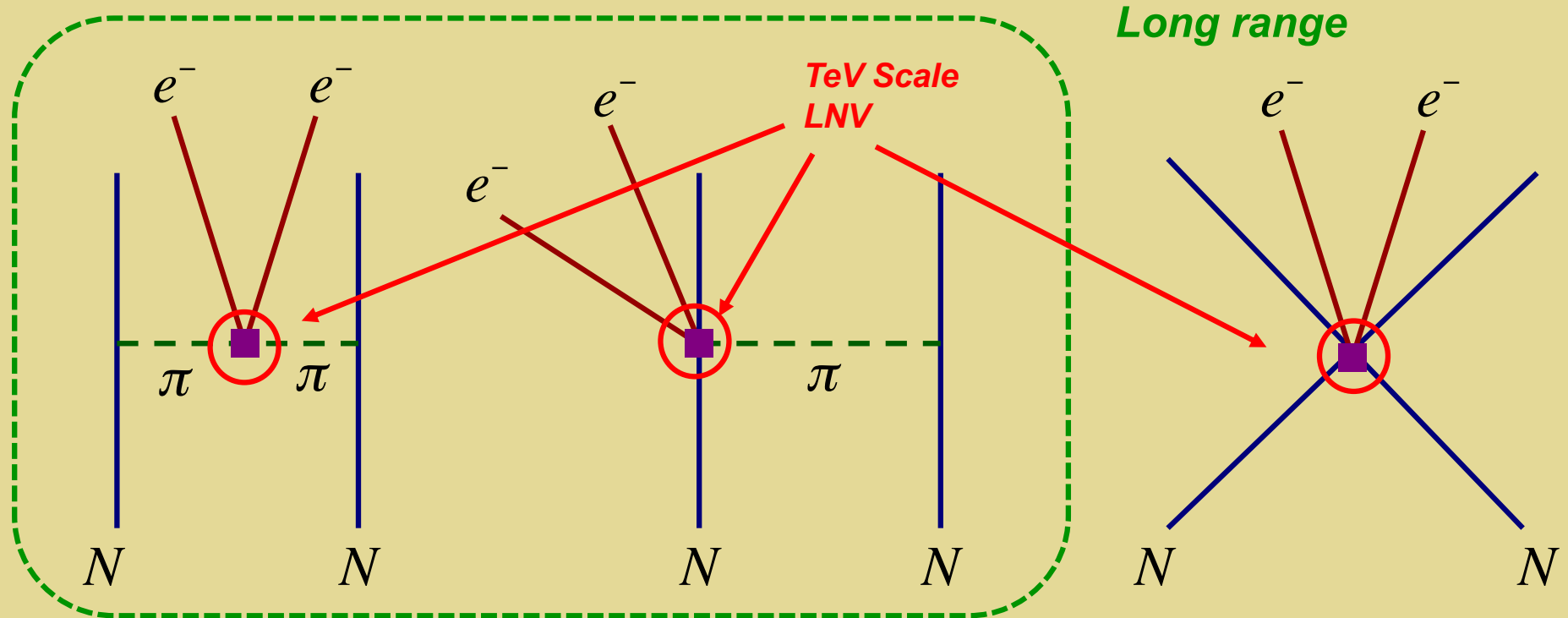
$$K_{\pi\pi} p^{-2}$$

$$K_{\pi NN} p^{-1}$$

$$K_{NNNN} p^0$$

$$\mathcal{O}(p^{-2}) \text{ for } \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{1+}^{++} \quad \mathcal{O}(p^0) \text{ for } \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{3+}^{++}$$

Low Energy: $0\nu \beta\beta$ - decay in EFT



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Low Energy: $0\nu\beta\beta$ - decay in EFT

Operator classification

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- Prezeau, MJRM, Vogel PRD 68 (2003) 034016 [hep-ph/0303205]
- M.J. Graesser, 1606.04549
- Cirigliano et al, 1806.02780

- A. Nicholson et al, 1805.02634
- ...

LQCD $\rightarrow$ LEC's

EFT

$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay: TeV Scale LNV

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = y \bar{L} \tilde{H} \nu_R + \text{h.c.}$$

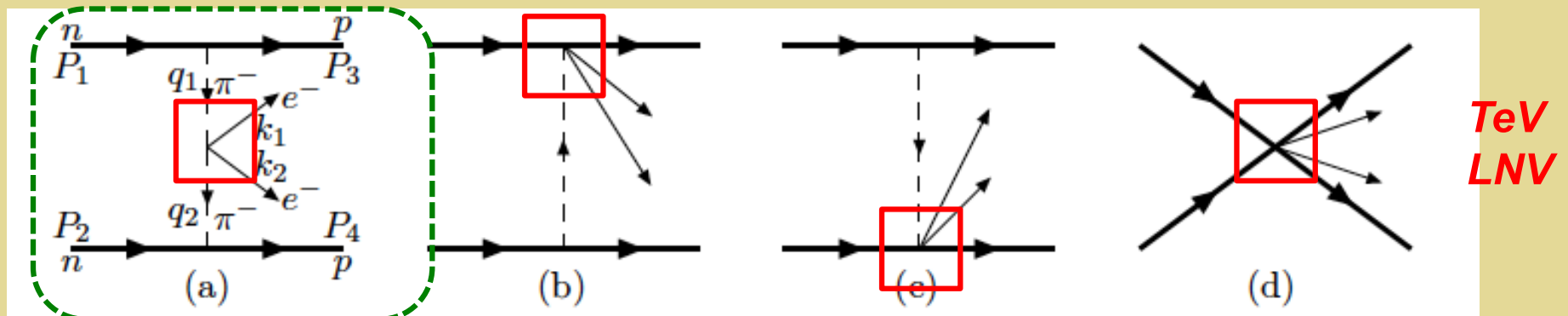
Dirac

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = \frac{y}{\Lambda} \bar{L}^c H H^T L + \text{h.c.}$$

Majorana

Low energy: Nuclear Matrix Elements: Long Range Effects

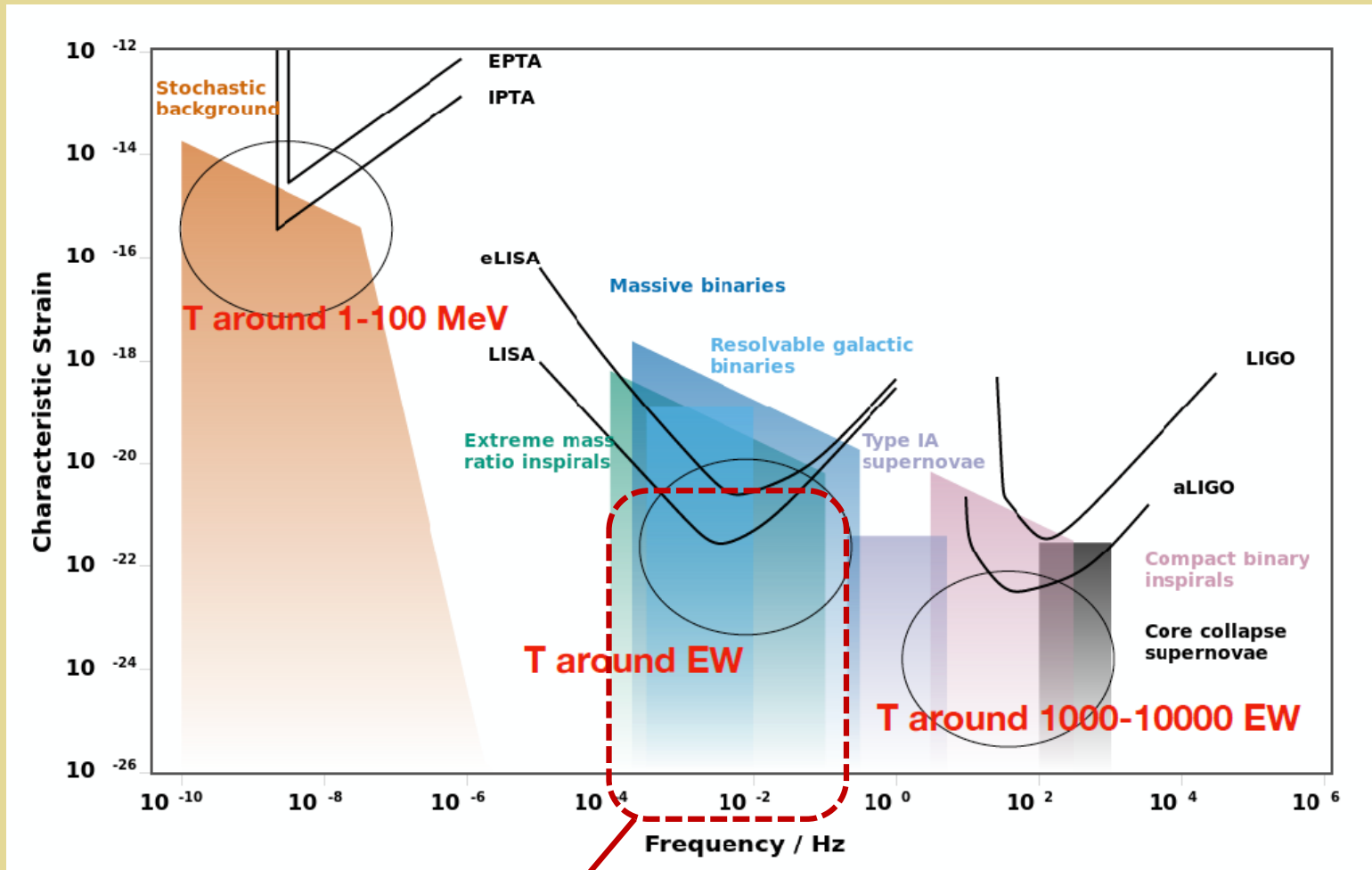
Prezeau, R-M, Vogel '03 *



Exploit Chiral Symmetry & EFT ideas

Following example:
LO + counterterm

Gravitational Waves



EWPT laboratory for GW micro-physics: colliders can probe particle physics responsible for non-astro GW sources → test our framework for GW microphysics at other scales