

Light mesons from light heavy neutrinos at colliders

NuFact 23, Seoul National University

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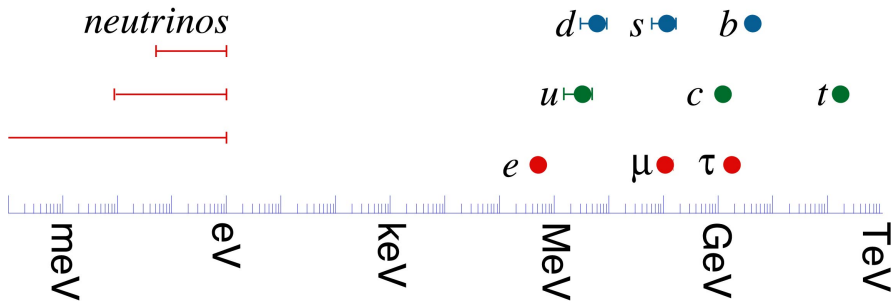
22 August 2023



¹[w/ Jeon[†], Fernandez-Martinez, et al (*in progress*)]

Thank you for the invitation!

Problem: according to the SM, $m_\nu = 0$. (Not enough ingredients but data obviously disagree!)

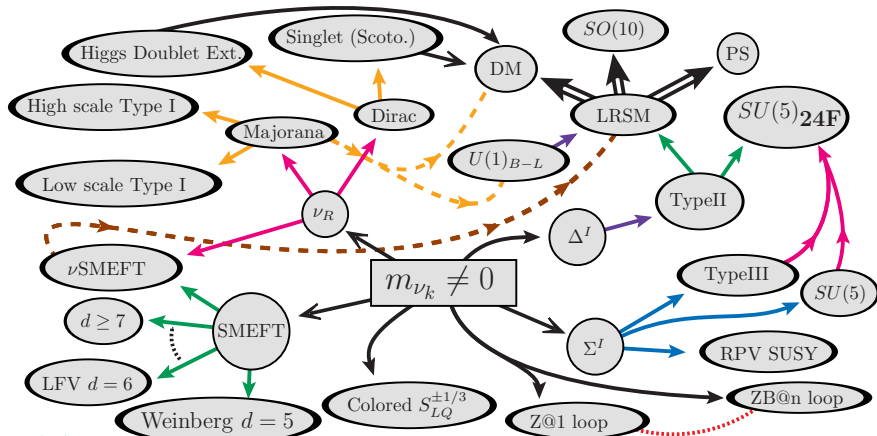


Discovery of neutrino masses \implies several open questions:

- ν have mass. **What is generating m_ν ?**
- ν masses are *tiny*. **What sets the scale of m_ν ?**
- m_ν are nearly degenerate. **What sets the pattern of m_ν ?**
- ν carry no QCD/QED charge. **Are $\nu, \bar{\nu}$ the same (Majorana)?**

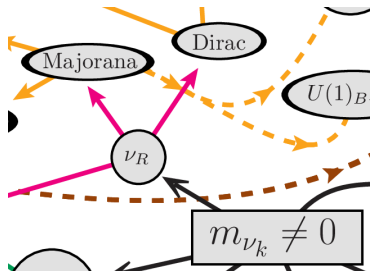
These core ideas can be realized in *many* ways!

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



rruiz('22)

right-handed neutrinos at the LHC²



²For reviews at colliders, see Cai, Han, Li, RR [1711.02180] and Pascoli, RR, Weiland [1812.08750]

adding ν_R to the SM

To generate Dirac masses for ν like other SM fermions, we need ν_R

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\nu \text{ Yuk.}} &= -y_\nu \bar{L} \tilde{\Phi} \nu_R + H.c. = -y_\nu \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\nu}_L & \bar{\ell}_L \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \langle \Phi \rangle + h \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \nu_R + H.c. \\ &= \underbrace{-y_\nu \langle \Phi \rangle}_{=m_D} \bar{\nu}_L \nu_R + H.c. + \dots\end{aligned}$$

ν_R do not exist in the SM, so pretend that they do and $\nu_R = \nu_R^c$:

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = \frac{-1}{2} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \bar{\nu}_L & \bar{\nu}_R^c \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{chiral state}} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_D \\ m_D & \mu_\psi \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{mass matrix (chiral basis)}} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_L \\ \nu_R^c \end{pmatrix}$$

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After diagonalizing the mass matrix, identify ν_L (chiral eigenstate) in the SM as a linear combination of **mass eigenstates**:

$$\underbrace{|\nu_L\rangle}_{\text{chiral state}} = \cos\theta \underbrace{|\nu\rangle}_{\text{light mass state}} + \sin\theta \underbrace{|N\rangle}_{\text{heavy mass state (this is a prediction!)}}$$

For the experts (1 slide)

Generically parameterize active-sterile neutrino mixing via

Atre, et al [0901.3589]

$$\underbrace{\nu_{\ell L}}_{\text{flavor basis}} \approx \underbrace{\sum_{m=1}^3 U_{\ell m} \nu_m + V_{\ell m'=4} N_{m'=4}}_{\text{mass basis}} \quad (\text{neglect heavier } N_{m'})$$

The SM W coupling to **leptons** in the **flavor basis** is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Int.}} = -\frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}} W_{\mu}^{-} \sum_{\ell=e}^{\tau} [\bar{\ell} \gamma^{\mu} P_L \nu_{\ell}] + \text{H.c.}, \quad \text{where } P_L = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma^5)$$

\implies W coupling to N in the **mass basis** is

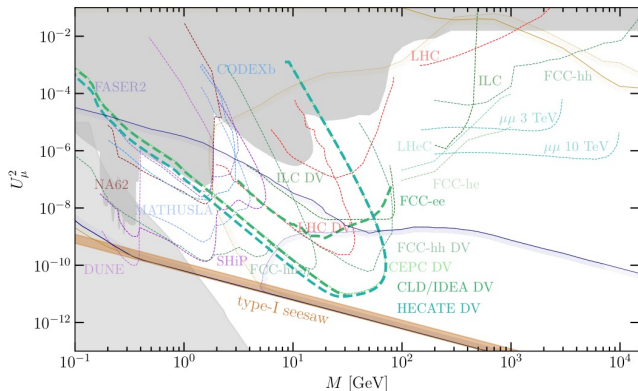
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Int.}} = -\frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}} W_{\mu}^{-} \sum_{\ell=e}^{\tau} \left[\bar{\ell} \gamma^{\mu} P_L \left(\sum_{m=1}^3 U_{\ell m} \nu_m + V_{\ell N} N \right) \right] + \text{H.c.}$$

\implies N is **accessible through** $W/Z/h$ bosons

Outlook for low-mass heavy neutrinos (N)

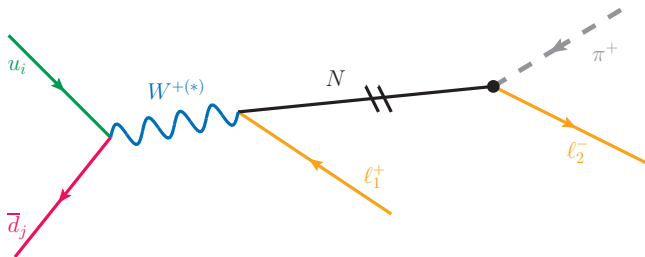
Community Message: Current + next-gen. facilities can probe *simplest*

($m_{\nu_1} = 0$) leptogenesis scenario w/ ν_R Abdullahi, et al [2203.08039]; w/ Alimena, et al [2203.05502]



Note: LHC picture evolving with new strategies and channels

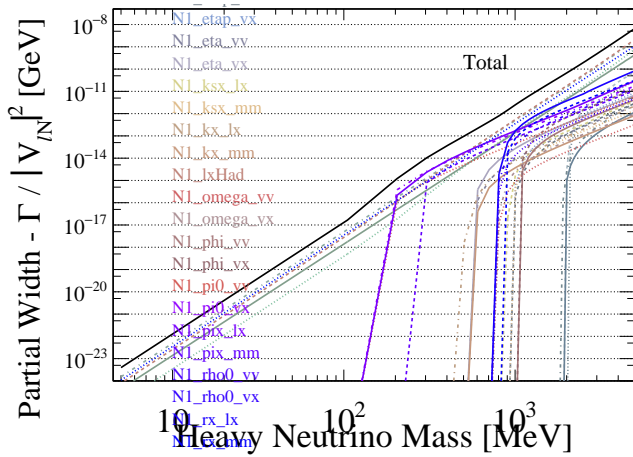
what about low, low-mass N ?



Decays of sub-GeV N

For $m_N \lesssim 2$ GeV, $N \rightarrow \ell^\pm + n\text{Had.}$ decays disappear (no phase space)

– however, single-meson modes remain: $N \rightarrow \ell^\pm M^\mp$ or νM^0

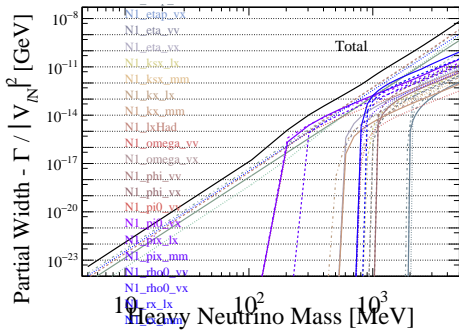


This plot is interesting →

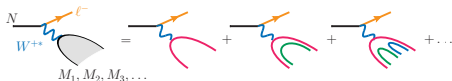
$N \rightarrow \ell^\pm M^\mp$ and $N \rightarrow \nu M^0$ decay rates were computed with `HeavyN_Meson+MadGraph5_aMC@NLO`

`mg5amc` is a flagship event generator for collider experiments:

- up to NLO in QCD for (B)SM
- up to NLO in EW for SM
- BSM possible if Feynman rules are known (FeynRules “UFO” plugin)



[w/ Jeon[†], Fernandez-Martinez, Kulkarni, et al (*in progress*)]



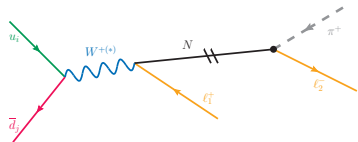
New: `HeavyN_Meson` UFO combines two things:

- HeavyN UFO: Feynman rules for Type I Seesaw
- Low-energy EFT for N - M - ℓ/ν

Degradand, RR, et al 1602.06957

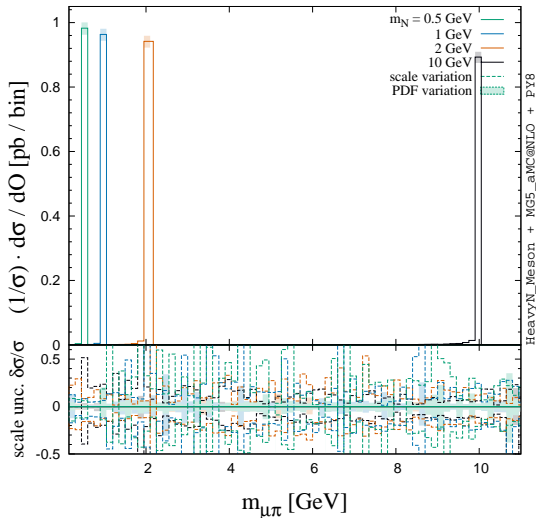
Coloma, Fernandez-Martinez, et al 2007.03701

Light mesons from light N at the LHC



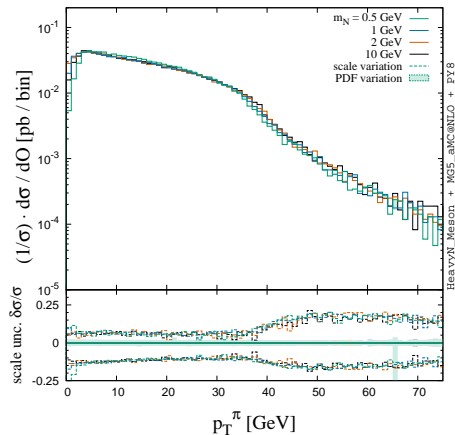
Proof-of-concept:

1. $pp \rightarrow W^{(*)} \rightarrow Ne^{\pm}$ at NLO in QCD at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV LHC
2. $N \rightarrow \mu^{\pm} \pi^{\mp}$ decay with full spin correlation
3. full parton shower (PY8)
4. basic reconstruction

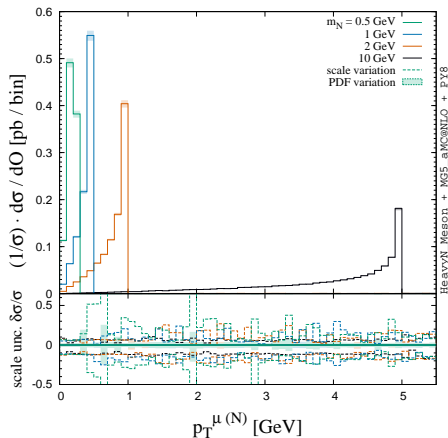


Light mesons from light N at the LHC

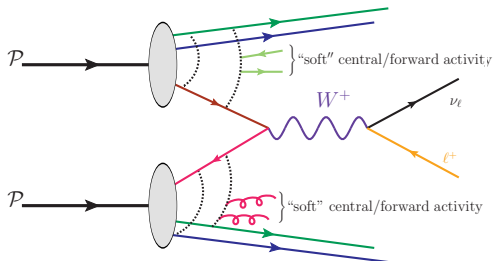
lab frame



N 's frame



challenges of a low-mass analysis



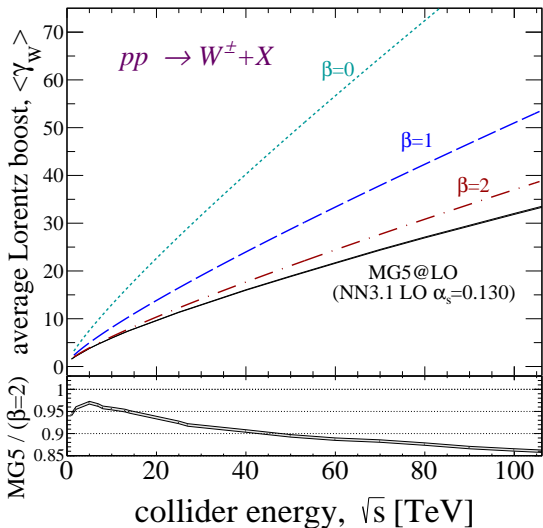
Challenge: at $\sqrt{s} = 13/14$ TeV, lots of GeV-scale mesons

interesting resolution can be realized by approximating PDF: $f_{i/p}(\xi) \approx \frac{\text{const.} \times (1-\xi)^\beta}{x^{1+\delta}}$

for $\beta = 2$, $\langle \gamma_W^{(\text{lab})} \rangle = \frac{-1-9\tau_0+9\tau_0^2+\tau_0^3-6\tau_0(1+\tau_0)\log(\tau_0)}{3\sqrt{\tau_0}[3-3\tau_0^2+(1+4\tau_0+\tau_0^2)\log(\tau_0)]}$,
 where $\tau_0 = M_W^2/s$

first take away: varying β shows importance of $\xi = 1$ and large y (rapidity) regions

Plotted: avg. Lorentz boost of W
 $\langle \gamma_W^{(\text{lab})} \rangle = \langle E_W^{(\text{lab})} \rangle / M_W$

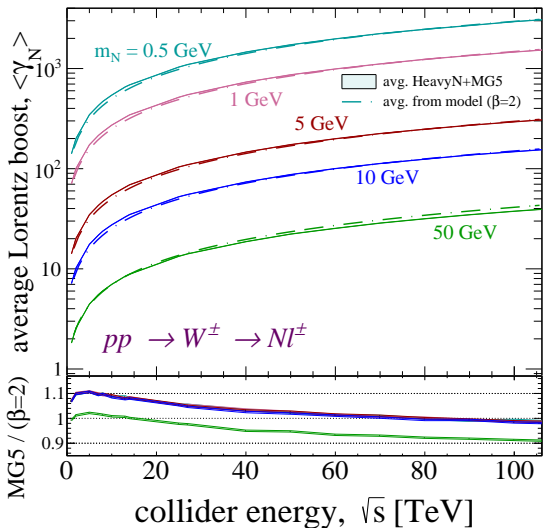


Challenge: at $\sqrt{s} = 13/14$ TeV, lots of GeV-scale mesons

interesting resolution can be realized by approximating $\langle \gamma_N^{(\text{lab})} \rangle = \langle \gamma_W^{(\text{lab})} \rangle|_{\beta=2} \times E_N^{(W)}$ where $E_N^{(W)} = \frac{M_W}{2} \left(1 + \frac{m_N^2}{M_W^2} - \frac{m_l^2}{M_W^2} \right)$

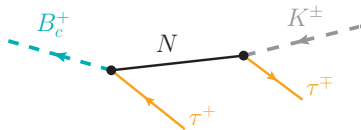
second take away: ultra light N (and decay products) are still very energetic!

Plotted: avg. Lorentz boost of N
 $(\langle \gamma_N^{(\text{lab})} \rangle = \langle E_N^{(\text{lab})} \rangle / m_N)$



B factories

For $m_N \ll M_W$, N can appear in $B_c^+ \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^\mp K^\pm$ decays (or similar)

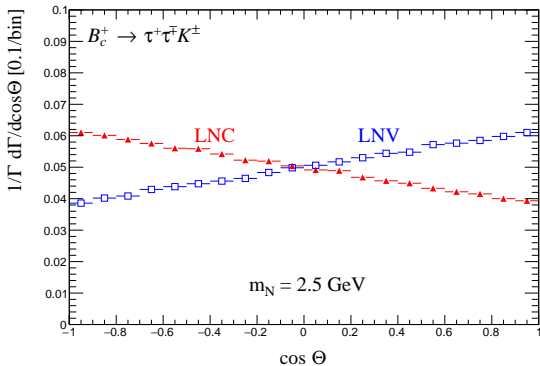


PRELIMINARY: polar angle of K^\pm w.r.t. N 's propagation direction

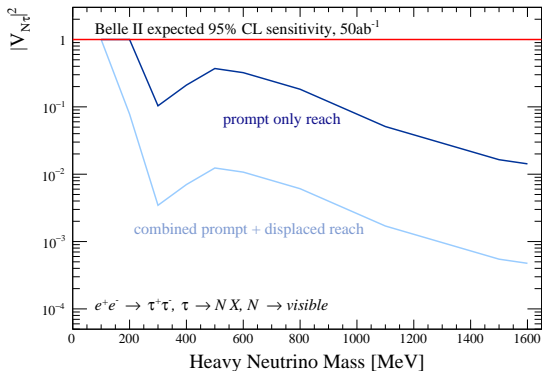
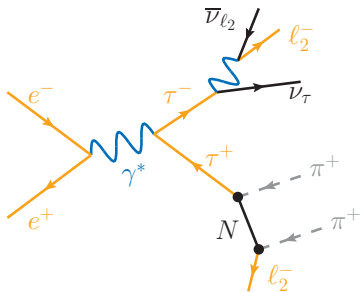
Take away: angular distributions encode differences between LNV ($\tau^+ \tau^+ K^-$) and LFC ($\tau^+ \tau^- K^+$)

Han, Lewis, RR, et al [[1211.6447](#)]

☺ reconstructed from evts using HeavyNMeson+MG5 \rightarrow



For $m_N \ll M_W$, N can appear in decays of τ^\pm



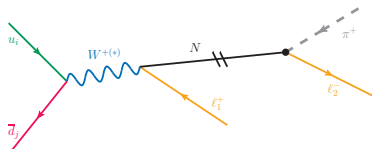
LHC is not the only collider looking for N

- **PRELIMINARY:** Belle 2's sensitivity to LNV and LFV from τ^\pm decays show promise, but numbers need finalizing

Summary and conclusion

ν have mass and discovering their origin motivates searches at colliders!

for reviews, see Cai, Han, Li, RR [1711.02180] and Pascoli, RR, Weiland [1812.08750]



- the existence of (sub-)GeV sterile N is a well-motivated solution
(but not only solution!)
- new software (HeavyN_Meson) developed to facilitate state-of-the-art simulations for $N \rightarrow M\ell/\nu$, $M \rightarrow N\ell/\nu$, and $\tau \rightarrow NM$ at colliders
- Preliminary results are encouraging; final results out soon!



Thank you!

backup

Approximating $\langle \gamma_W^{(\text{lab})} \rangle$

The starting point is the **Collinear Factorization Thm**

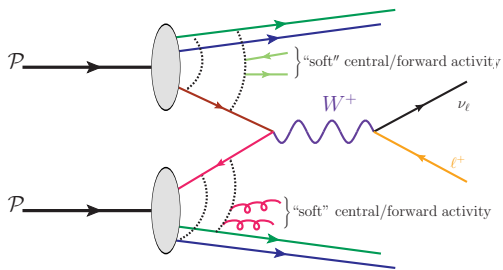
Collins, Soper, Sterman ('85,'88,'89); Collins, Foundations of pQCD (2011)

$$d\sigma^{\text{LO}}(pp \rightarrow W + X) = \sum_{a,b} f_a \otimes f_b \otimes d\hat{\sigma}^{\text{LO}}(ab \rightarrow W) + \underbrace{\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{NP}}^p}{Q^{p+2}}\right)}_{\text{part./nucl. boundary}}$$

The average of a kinematic observable \mathcal{O} can be obtained from the matrix element:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle &= \frac{1}{\sigma} \times \int d\sigma \times \mathcal{O} \\ \implies \langle E_W \rangle &= \frac{1}{\sigma} \times \int d\sigma \times E_W \\ \implies \langle E_W \rangle|_{\text{events}} &\approx \frac{1}{\sigma} \times \sum_i \text{wgt}_i \times E_W \end{aligned}$$

Assuming $f_{i/p}(\xi) \approx \frac{\text{const.} \times (1-\xi)^\beta}{x^{1+\delta}}$,
with $\beta = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, gives a closed form for $\sigma(pp \rightarrow W + X)$!



HeavyN : The Standard Model + Heavy Neutrinos at NLO in QCD

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In collaboration with:

D. Alva and T. Han [1]; C. Degrande, O. Mattelea, and J. Turner [2]; S. Pascoli and C. Welland [3, 4]; and V. Cirigliano, W. Dekens, J. de Vries, K. Fuyuto, E. Mer

Usage resources

- For detailed instructions and examples on using the HeavyN UFO libraries, see C. Degrande, et al, [⇒arXiv:1602.06957](https://arxiv.org/abs/1602.06957) and S. Pascoli, et al, [⇒arXiv:1812.08750](https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.08750).
- ***New*** For heavy neutrinos in vSMEFT, see V. Cirigliano, et al, [⇒arXiv:2105.11462](https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.11462).
- See **Validation** section below for additional information

Citation requests

- For studies of heavy Majorana neutrinos, please consider citing [6] for the Lagrangian and [1, 2] for the Majorana FR/UFO files.
- For studies of heavy Dirac neutrinos, please also consider citing [4].
- ***New*** For studies of heavy neutrinos in vSMEFT, please consider citing [5].

Model Description

Majorana N

This effective/simplified model extends the Standard Model (SM) field content by introducing three right-handed (RH) neutrinos, which are singlets under the SM gauge s Majorana mass. After electroweak symmetry breaking, the Lagrangian with three heavy Majorana neutrinos N_i (for $i=1,2,3$) is given by [6]

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{L}_N + \mathcal{L}_{N \text{ int.}} \quad (1)$$

The first term is the Standard Model Lagrangian. In the mass basis, i.e., after mixing with active neutrinos, the heavy Majorana neutrinos' kinetic and mass terms are

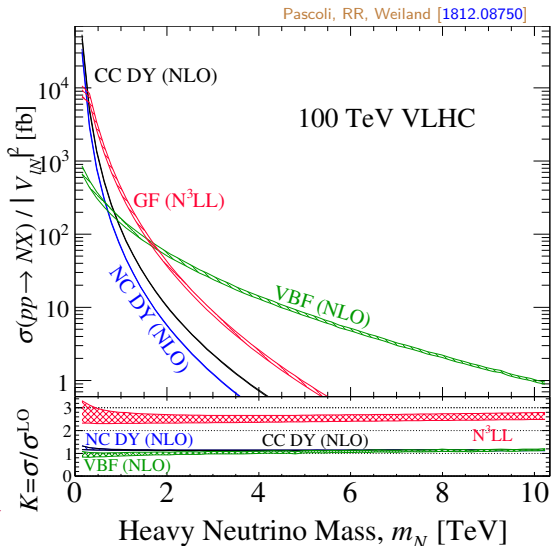
$$\mathcal{L}_N = \frac{1}{2} \overline{N_k^i} i \not{\partial} N_k - \frac{1}{2} m_{N_k} \overline{N_k} N_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, 3, \quad (1)$$

FeynRules to MadGraph5aMC@NLO

Given a *Universal FeynRules Object* (UFO) file, run mg5amc out of the box

```
$ ./bin/mg5_aMC
> import model SM_HeavyN_NLO
> define p = g u c d s b u~ c~
d~ s~ b~ a
> define ell = mu+ mu-
> generate p p > n2 ell [QCD]
> output PP_Nmu_NLO
> launch PP_Nmu_NLO
> order=NLO
> fixed_order=ON
> set LHC 100
> set vmun2 1.0
> set mn2 scan:range(5,1001,25)
> set wn2 auto
```

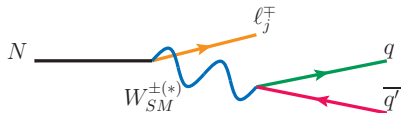
$\mathcal{O}(10)$ lines to get each curve \rightarrow



mg5amc+MadSpin+Parton Shower

If the **narrow width approximation** is justified ($\Gamma_N/m_N \ll 1$), efficient generation of $e^+e^- \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \nu N \rightarrow \nu \ell^\pm q \bar{q}'$ possible with MadSpin:

Spin-correlation fully treated, RR [2008.01092]



In madspin_card.dat, write:

```
set spinmode onshell
define q = u c d s u~ c~ d~ s~
define ee = e+ e-
decay n1 > ee q q
launch
```

Parton showering with PY8 or
HERWIG straightforward

Fun Fact: possible to steer entire
process with a script →

```
rruiz@mac-1R0-359:~/Scripts/MG5aMC$ more runEffLRSMnlo_pp_Ne_Update.txt
launch EffLRSMnlo_pp_wr_Ne_NLO
order=NLO
shower=PY8
madspin=ON
done
set mwr 4000
set mn1 100
compute_widths wr+
compute_widths n1
set no_parton_cut
set nevents 100k
set LHC 13
set shower_card nsplit_jobs 100
set shower_card ue_enabled true

launch EffLRSMnlo_pp_wr_Ne_NLO
order=LO
shower=ON
```