

# FROM DARK MATTER TO NEUTRINO MASSES

via a recent phase transition

Maya Hager

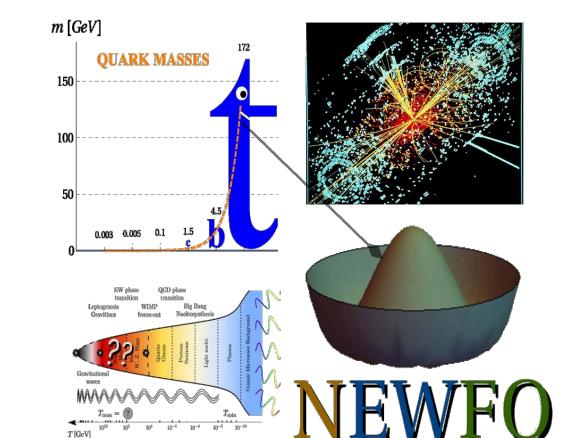
Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, Heidelberg, Germany

maya.hager@mpi-hd.mpg.de

In collaboration with Florian Goertz, Giorgio Laverda & Javier Rubio  
Based on 2306.XXXX



June 4, 2024  
Planck Conference, Lisboa

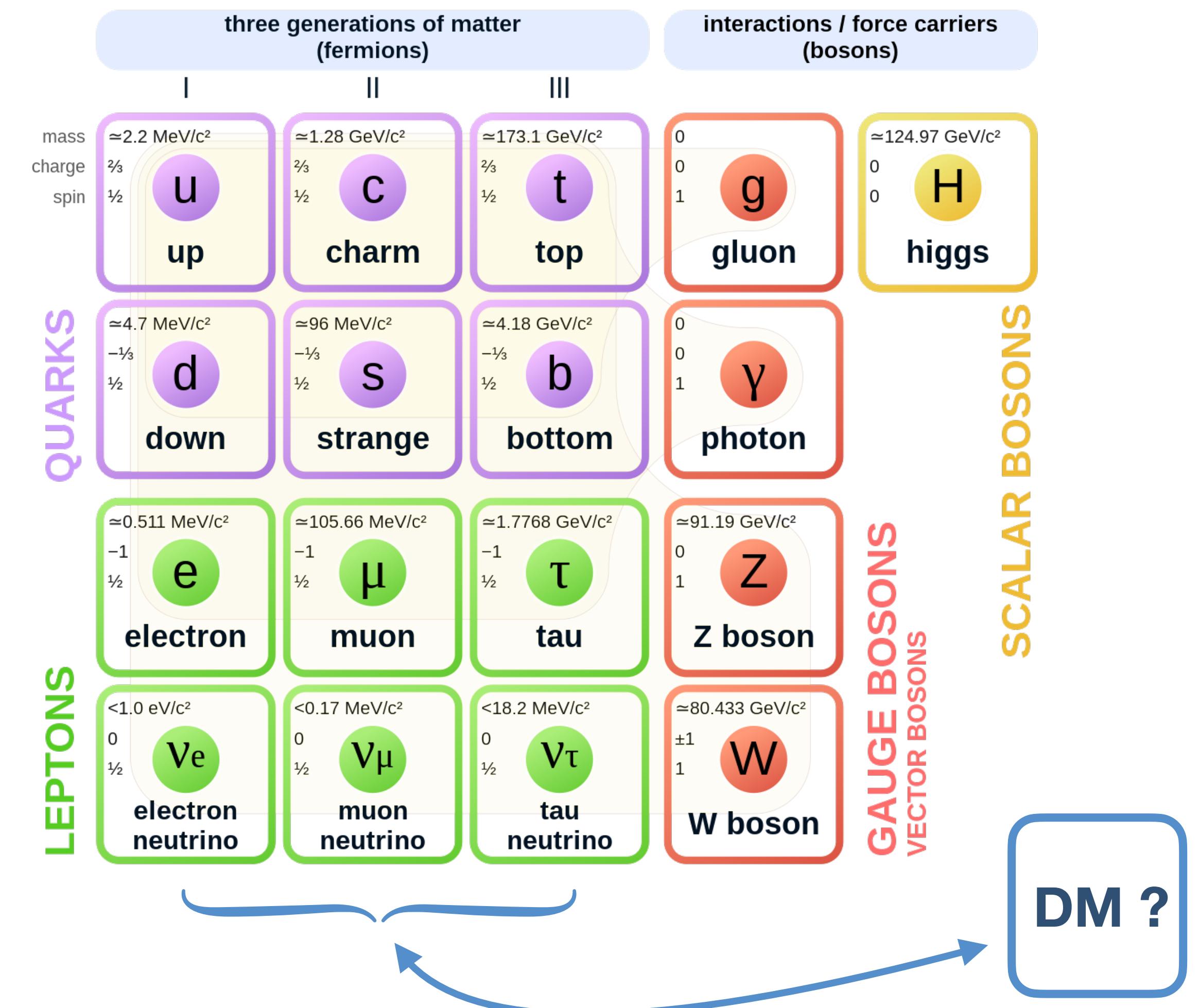


# Content....

# ...of the talk:

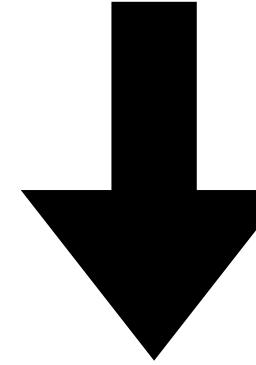
- Motivation
  - Model
  - Neutrino Spectrum
  - Revised Parameter Space
  - Phase Transition
  - Conclusion & Outlook

# ...of the Standard Model:



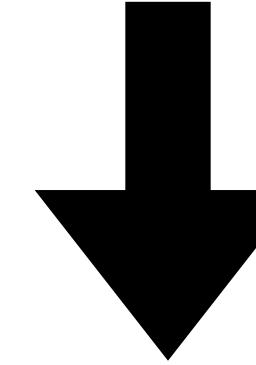
# Open Questions of SM

**Why are neutrinos massive?**



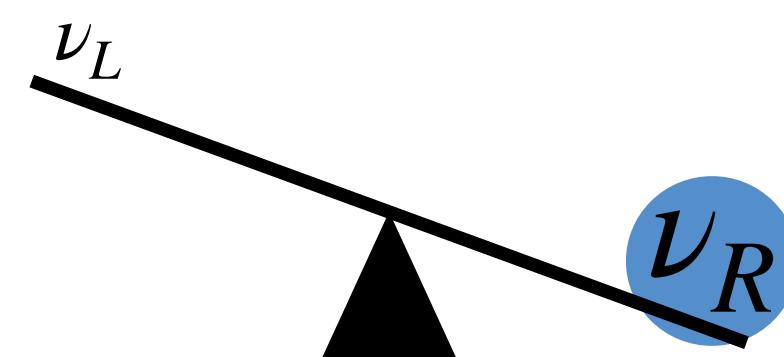
Seesaw Mechanism  
(via heavy  $\nu_R$ )

**What is the nature of dark matter?**



Sterile Neutrinos  
(keV masses)

+ many more ideas...

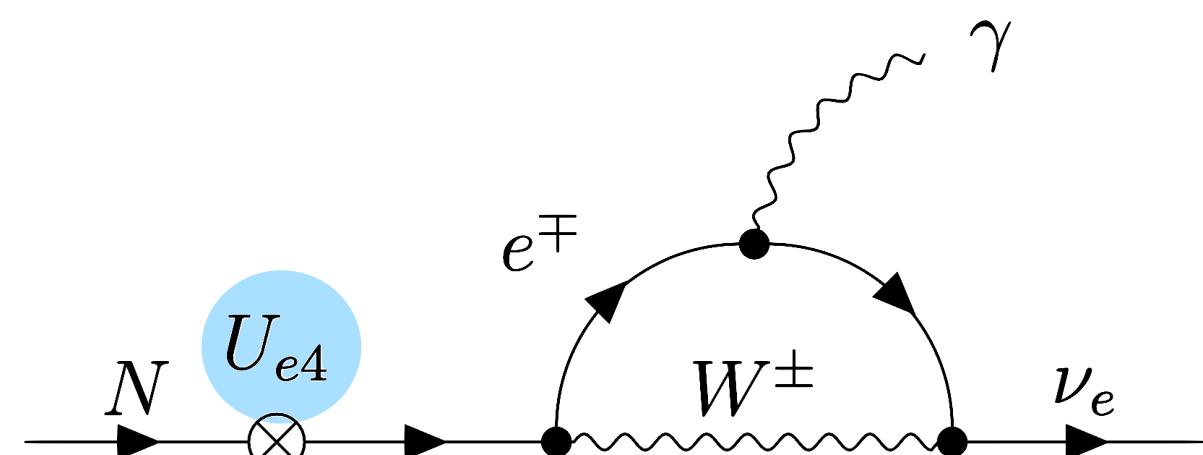
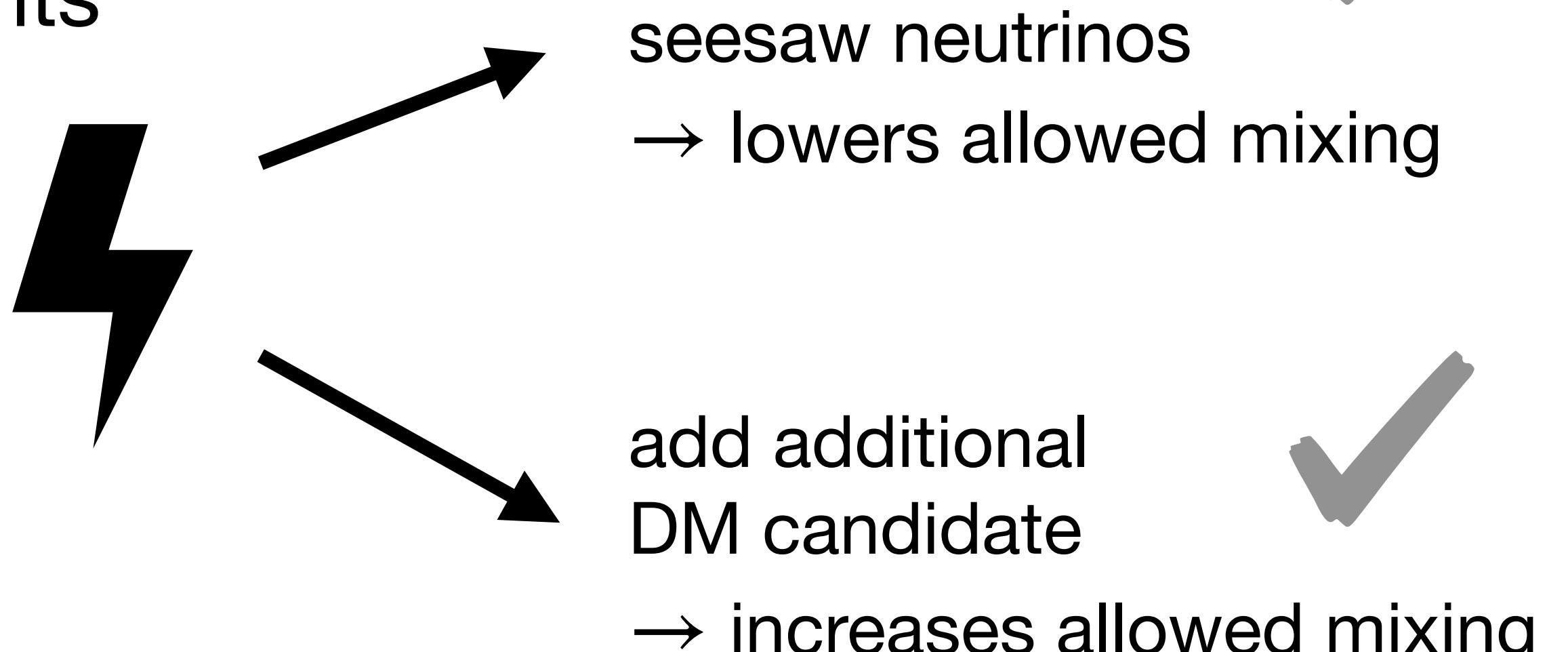


can they be one and the same?

# Active Sterile Mixing

$$(\nu_L)_\alpha = U_{\alpha i} \nu_i + U_{\alpha I} N_I^c \text{ where active-sterile mixing } U_{\alpha I} \approx \frac{m_D}{m_I}$$

- neutrino masses constrained by oscillation measurements  
→ lower bound on mixing



# Active Sterile Mixing

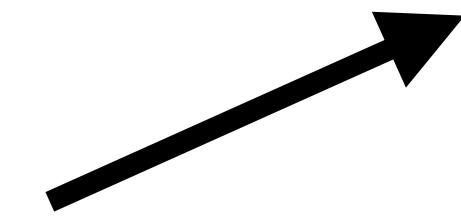
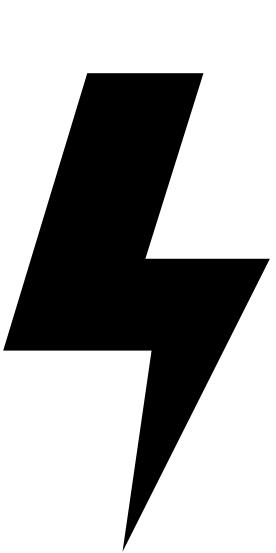
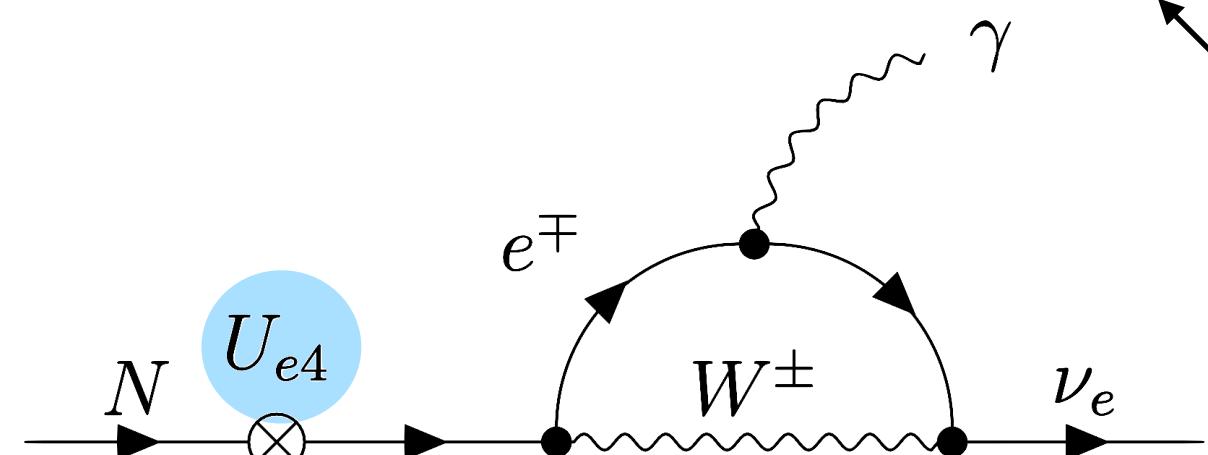
$$(\nu_L)_\alpha = U_{\alpha i} \nu_i + U_{\alpha I} N_I^c \text{ where active-sterile mixing } U_{\alpha I} \approx \frac{\nu \epsilon Y_{\alpha I}}{m_I}$$

- neutrino masses constrained by oscillation measurements  
→ **lower bound** on mixing

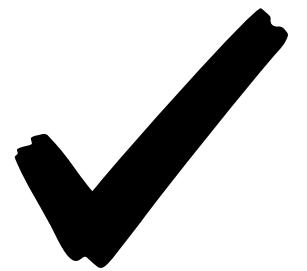
today

- radiative decay  $N \rightarrow \nu \gamma$  constrained by X-ray observations  
→ **upper bound** on mixing

from DM dense objects  
( $10^4$  to  $10^{10}$  ly away)



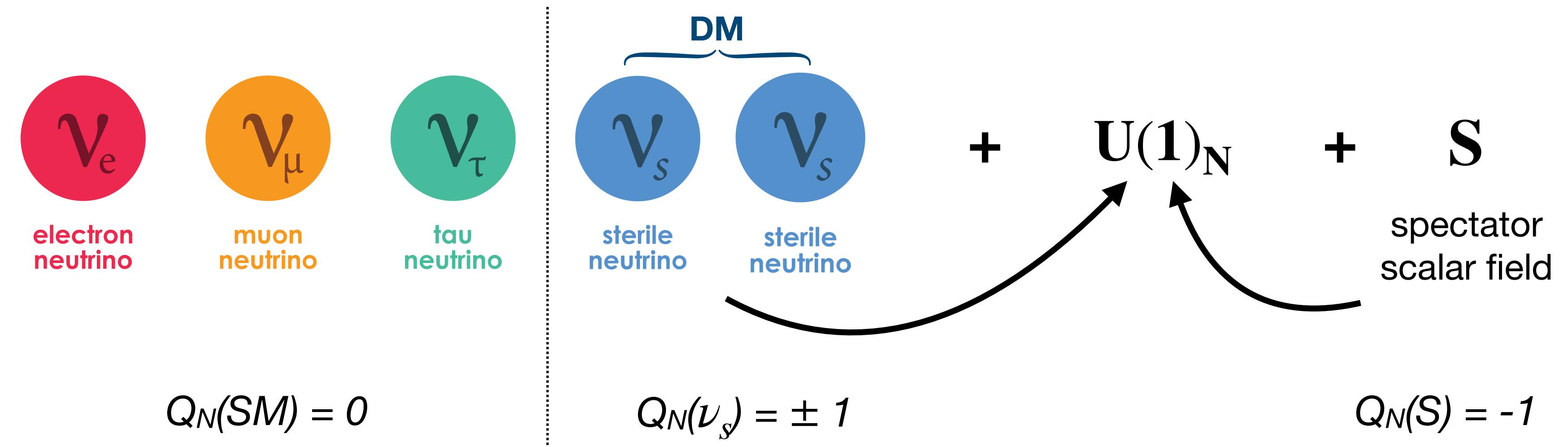
add time dependence!



**keep keV sterile neutrinos  
as DM candidate  
& as seesaw neutrinos**

mass varying neutrinos e.g. in  
 Fardon, Nelson, Weiner (2004)  
 Brookfield et al. (2006)  
 Dvali, Funcke (2016)  
 Huang et al. (2022)  
 + more...

# Model

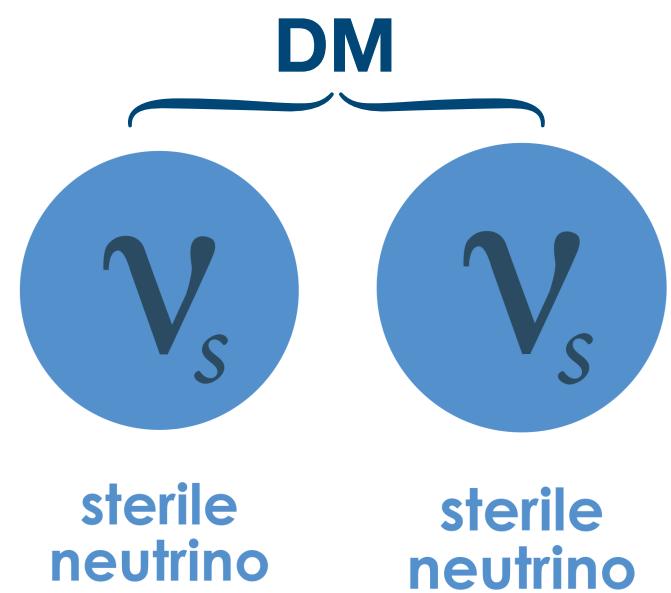


- In the recent universe, the potential of the spectator scalar field becomes tachyonic  $\Rightarrow$  field starts rolling  $\Rightarrow$  expectation value  $\langle S \rangle(t > t_{SB}) \neq 0$
- Active neutrino masses are induced via dim5-operator + seesaw type I

$$\hat{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_D \\ m_D^T & M_R \end{pmatrix}$$

$$y_{\alpha 1} \frac{S^c}{\Lambda_S} \bar{L}_\alpha \tilde{H} \nu_{R1}$$

$$y_{\alpha 2} \frac{S}{\Lambda_S} \bar{L}_\alpha \tilde{H} \nu_{R2}$$



# Dark Matter

- Majorana mass matrix:

$$M_R = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^2 M_{11} & M_{12} \\ M_{12} & \epsilon^2 M_{22} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \epsilon = \frac{\langle S \rangle}{\Lambda_S} \ll 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{aligned} Q_N(\nu_{R1}) &= -1 \\ Q_N(\nu_{R2}) &= +1 \end{aligned}$$

- $m_{DM} = M_{12} = \mathcal{O}(\text{keV})$  mass effectively unchanged once  $\langle S \rangle \neq 0$

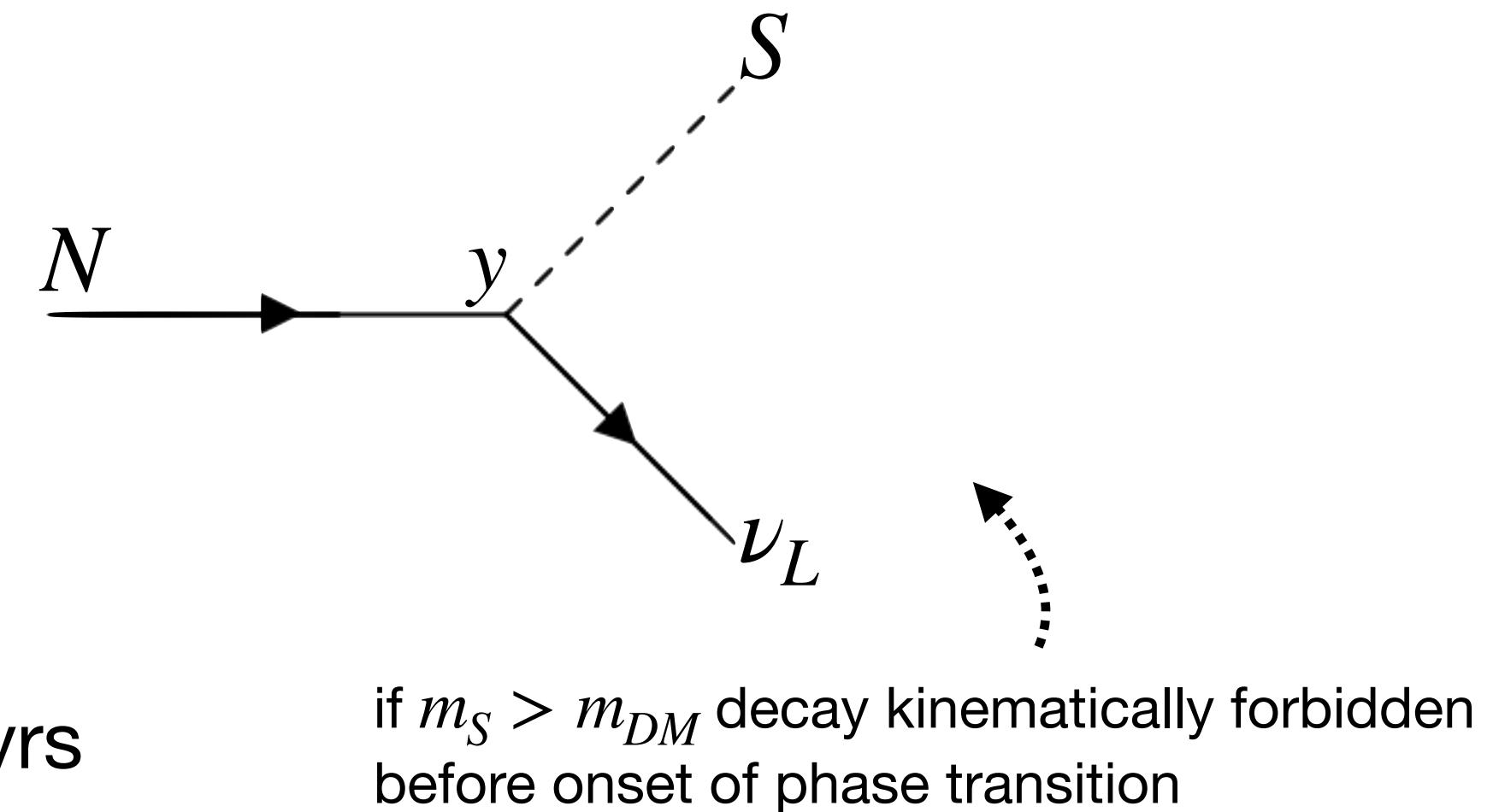
- production mechanism: not specified

- lifetime requires  $\Lambda_S \gtrsim \text{a few } \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}$

$$y \sim \frac{\nu_{EW}}{\Lambda_S} \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma \sim \frac{1}{16\pi} \frac{1}{m_{DM}} \left( \frac{\nu_{EW}}{\Lambda_S} \right)^2$$

$\tau = \Gamma^{-1}$

$\tau_{\text{universe}} \sim 10^{10} \text{ yrs}$

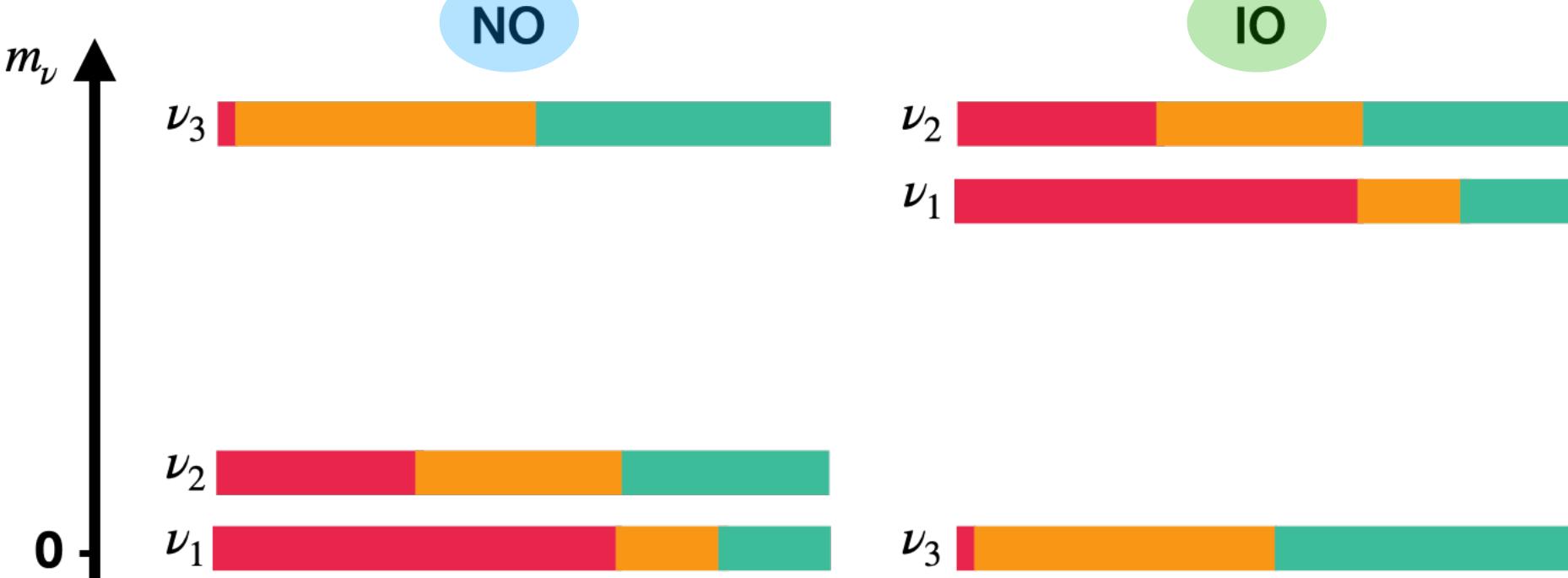




# Neutrino Spectrum

- Casas-Ibarra parametrisation with best-fit values &  $m_s \in [0.4, 50]$  keV  
[hep-ph/0103065](#), [hep-ph/0511136](#)

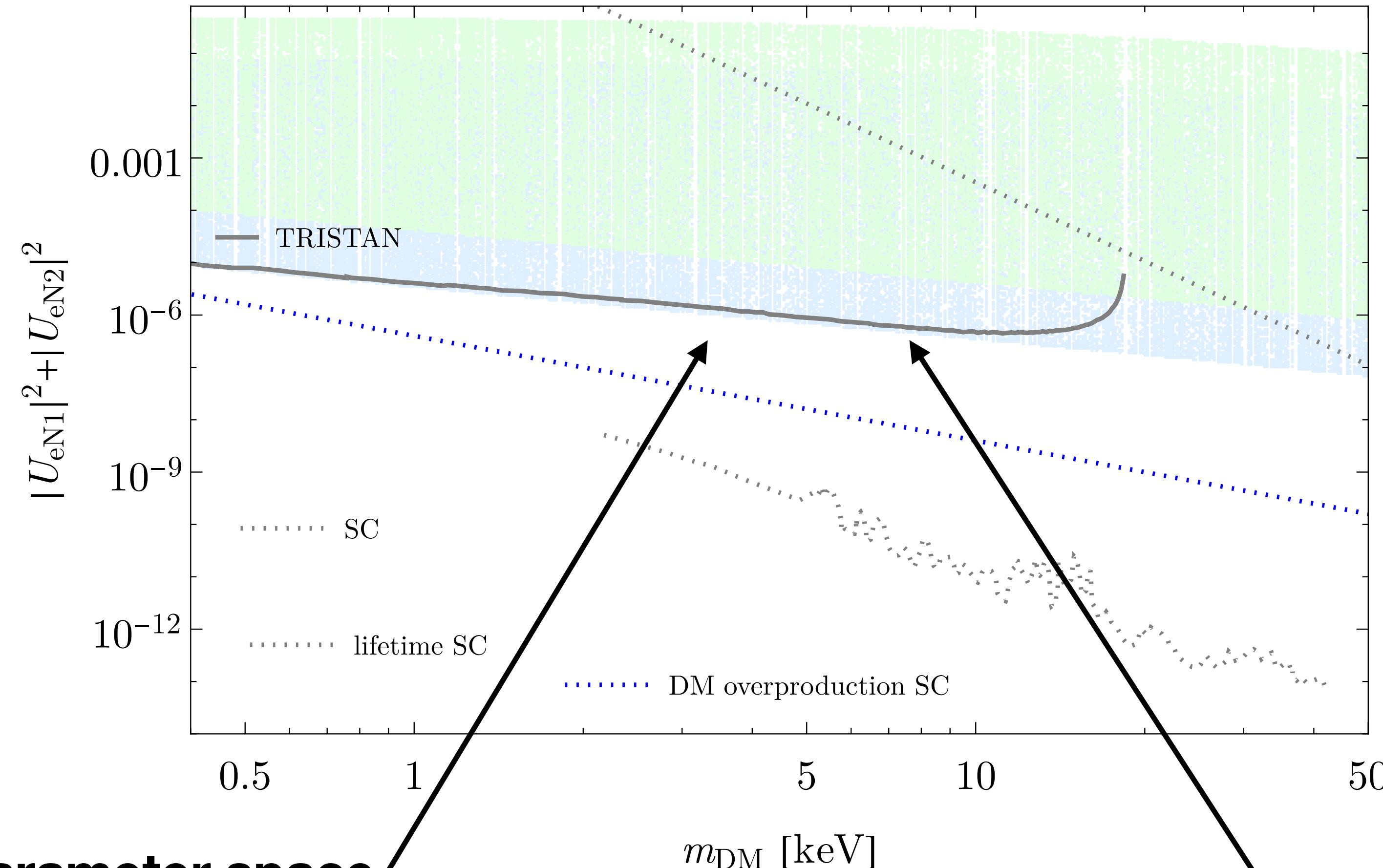
- Yukawa couplings  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-2} - 10) \Rightarrow$  correct spectrum for  $\epsilon \sim 10^{-10}$   $\leftarrow \frac{\langle S \rangle}{\Lambda_S}$
- $y_{eff} = y \epsilon$



	Normal Ordering (best fit)		Inverted Ordering ( $\Delta\chi^2 = 2.3$ )	
	bfp $\pm 1\sigma$	$3\sigma$ range	bfp $\pm 1\sigma$	$3\sigma$ range
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	$0.307^{+0.012}_{-0.011}$	$0.275 \rightarrow 0.344$	$0.307^{+0.012}_{-0.011}$	$0.275 \rightarrow 0.344$
$\theta_{12}/^\circ$	$33.66^{+0.73}_{-0.70}$	$31.60 \rightarrow 35.94$	$33.67^{+0.73}_{-0.71}$	$31.61 \rightarrow 35.94$
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	$0.572^{+0.018}_{-0.023}$	$0.407 \rightarrow 0.620$	$0.578^{+0.016}_{-0.021}$	$0.412 \rightarrow 0.623$
$\theta_{23}/^\circ$	$49.1^{+1.0}_{-1.3}$	$39.6 \rightarrow 51.9$	$49.5^{+0.9}_{-1.2}$	$39.9 \rightarrow 52.1$
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	$0.02203^{+0.00056}_{-0.00058}$	$0.02029 \rightarrow 0.02391$	$0.02219^{+0.00059}_{-0.00057}$	$0.02047 \rightarrow 0.02396$
$\theta_{13}/^\circ$	$8.54^{+0.11}_{-0.11}$	$8.19 \rightarrow 8.89$	$8.57^{+0.11}_{-0.11}$	$8.23 \rightarrow 8.90$
$\delta_{CP}/^\circ$	$197^{+41}_{-25}$	$108 \rightarrow 404$	$286^{+27}_{-32}$	$192 \rightarrow 360$
$\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2}$	$7.41^{+0.21}_{-0.20}$	$6.81 \rightarrow 8.03$	$7.41^{+0.21}_{-0.20}$	$6.81 \rightarrow 8.03$
$\frac{\Delta m_{3\ell}^2}{10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2}$	$+2.511^{+0.027}_{-0.027}$	$+2.428 \rightarrow +2.597$	$-2.498^{+0.032}_{-0.024}$	$-2.581 \rightarrow -2.409$

without SK atmospheric data

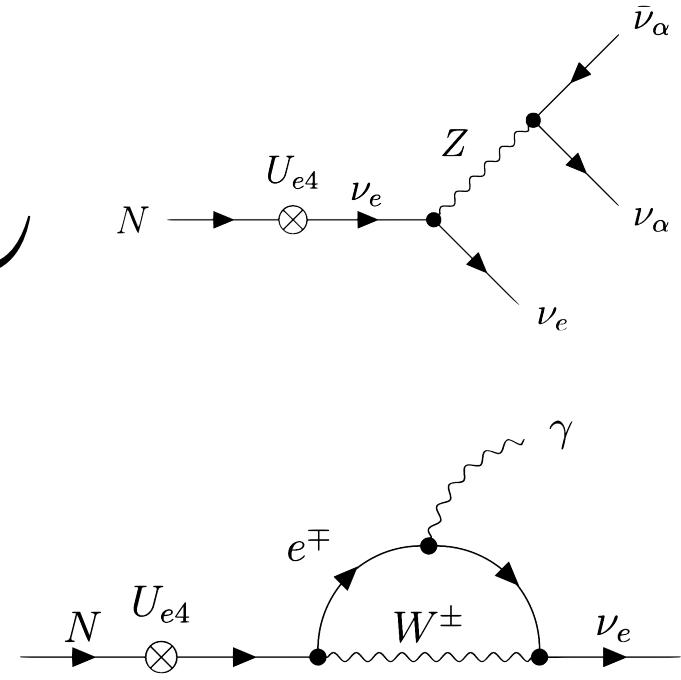
# Parameter Space



- NO: blue
- IO: green
- **SC: standard case**
- lifetime:  $N \rightarrow 3\nu$
- X-ray:  $N \rightarrow \gamma\nu$
- TRISTAN: KATRIN upgrade

arXiv:1810.06711

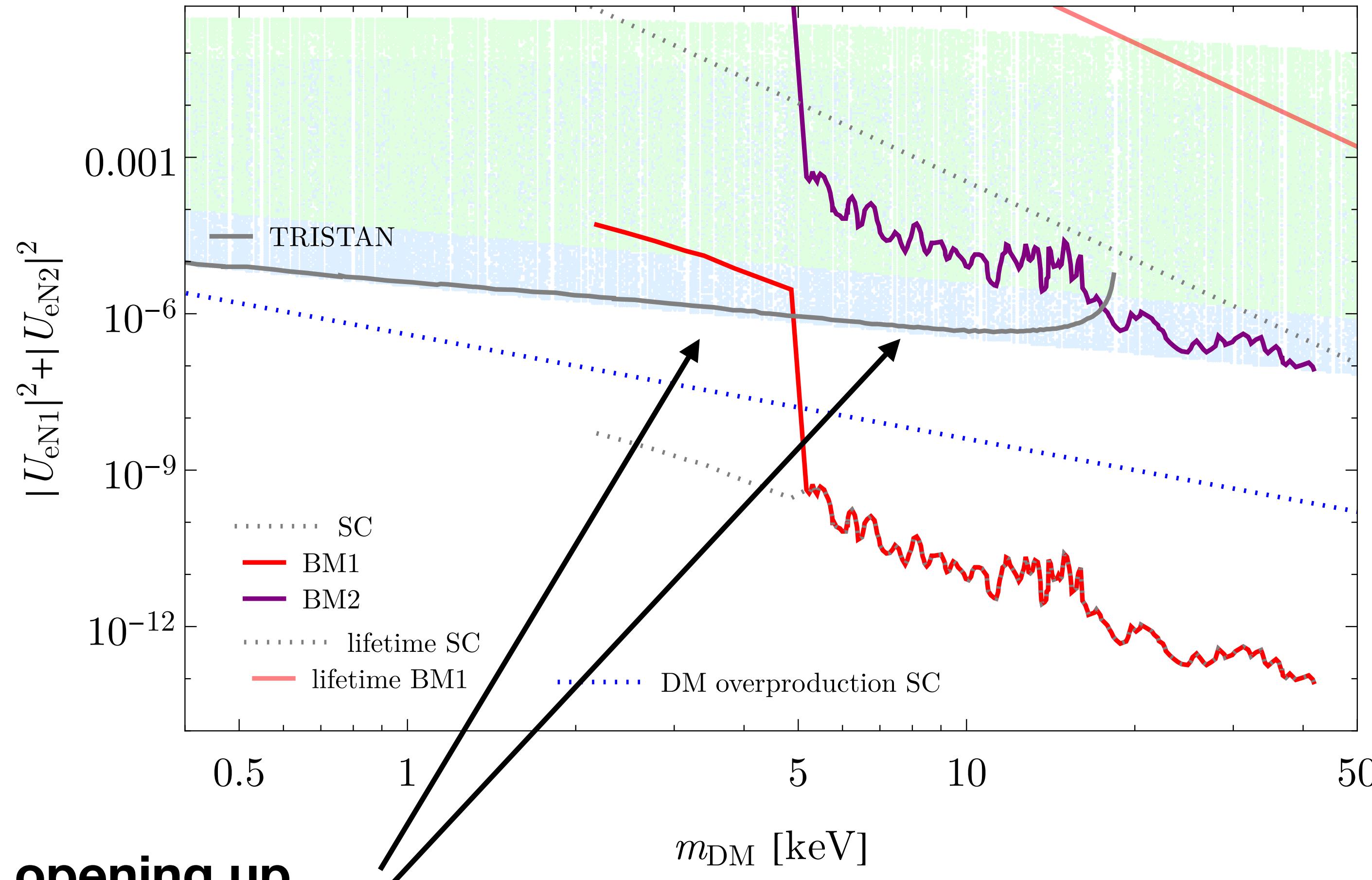
TRISTAN regime excluded!



Preliminary

# Parameter Space

no problem with DM overproduction:  
 $U_{eN} = 0$  in early universe

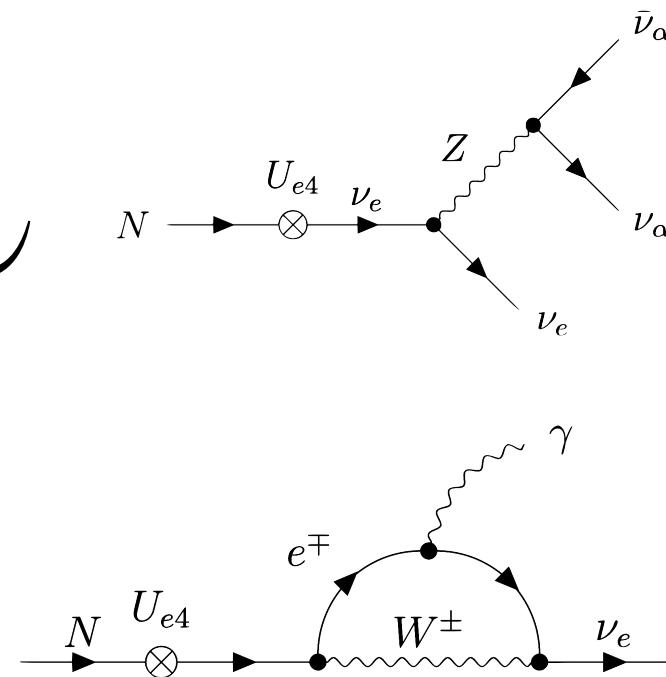


opening up  
**of parameter space!**

BM1:  $10^{-4}H_0$  ago :  $V(S) \propto -\mu^2 S^2$  with  $\mu = 5 \times 10^5 H_0$   
BM2:  $10^{-5}H_0$  ago :  $V(S) \propto -\mu^2 S^2$  with  $\mu = 10^7 H_0$

- NO: blue
- IO: green
- SC: standard case
- lifetime:  $N \rightarrow 3\nu$
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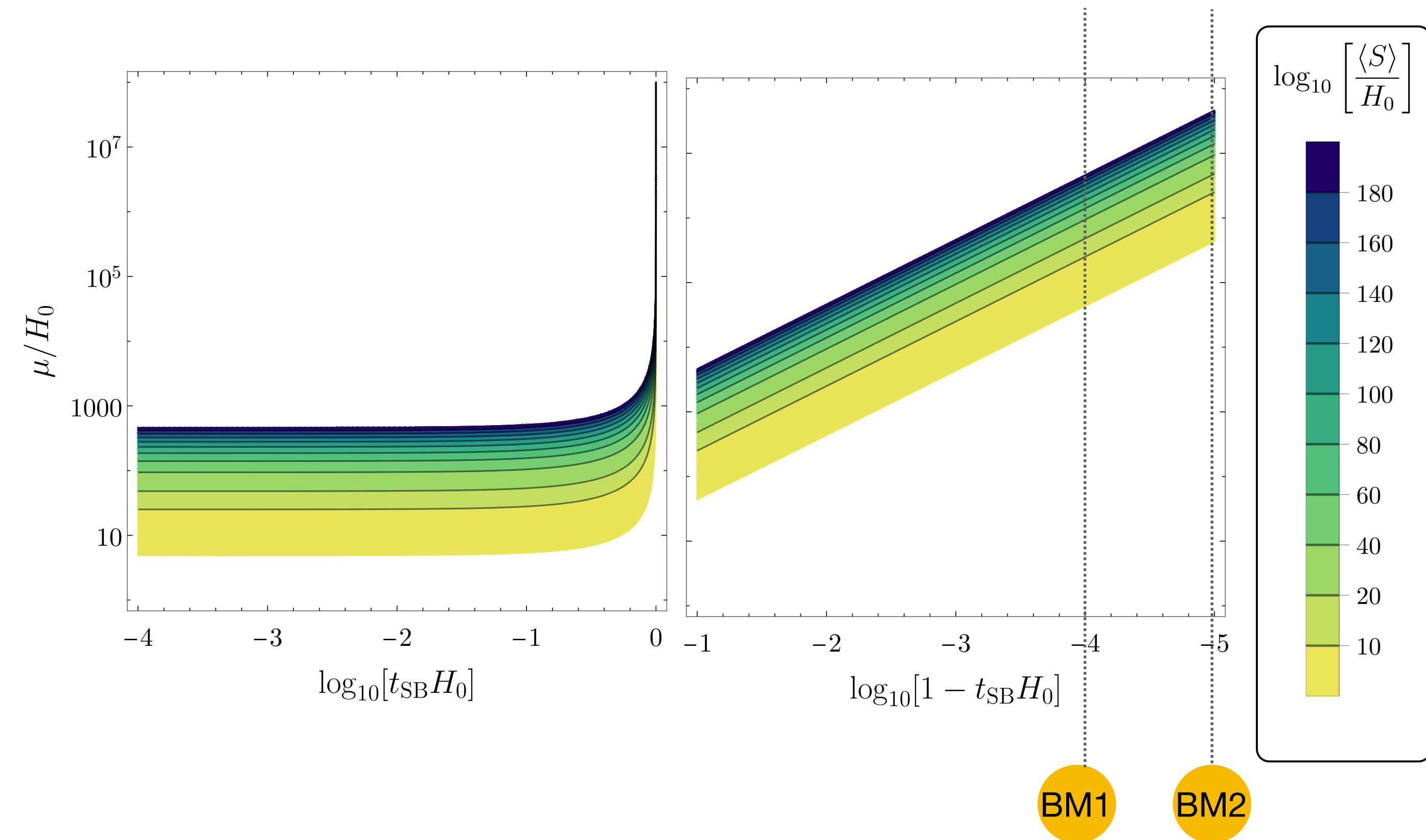
$H_0 \sim 10^{-33}$  eV  
 BM1:  $\sim 10^6$  years ago  
 BM2:  $\sim 10^5$  years ago

# Phase Transition

effective description

$$V(S) = V_0 + \frac{1}{2}\mu^2(t)S^2 + V_{\text{HO}}(S)$$

*higher order operators*



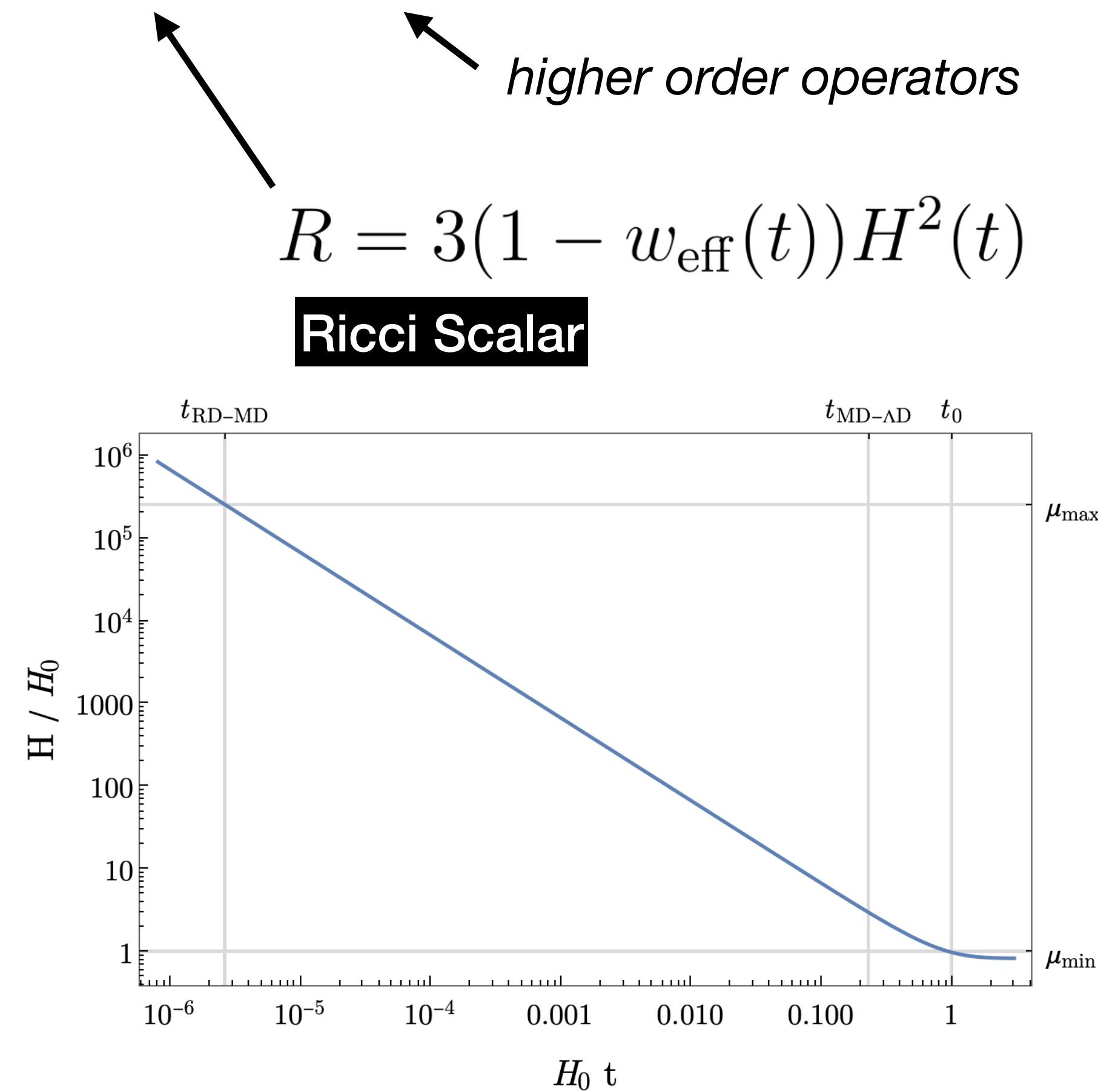
- from  $t \geq t_{\text{SB}}$ :  $V(S) \propto -\mu_{\text{SB}}^2 S^2$   
 $\Rightarrow$  field evolves as  $S(t) \propto \exp(t)$
- $\log_{10} \frac{\langle S \rangle}{H_0} \in [36, 50] \Rightarrow$  correct neutrino spectrum possible ✓

# Non-Minimal Coupling

possible incarnation

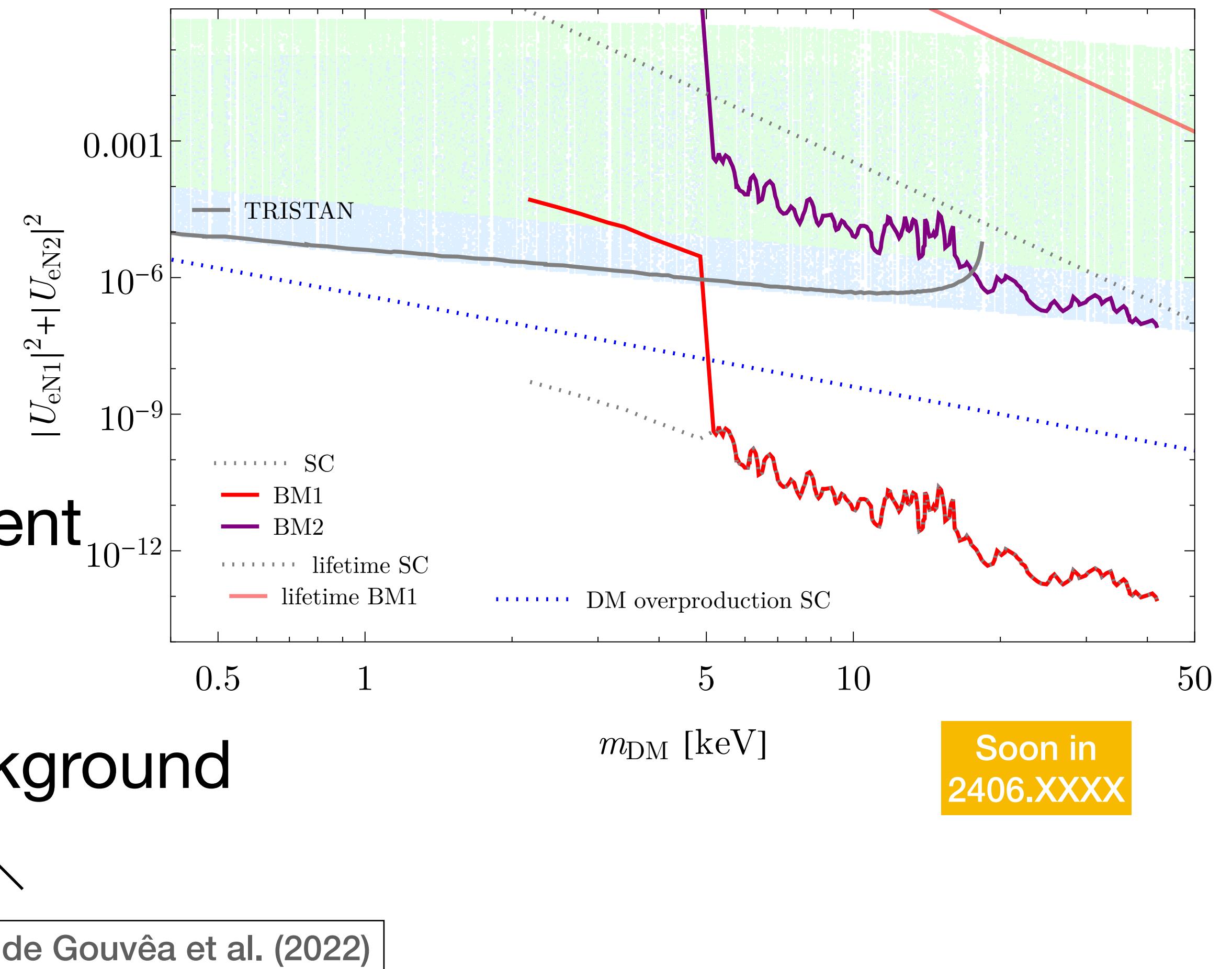
$$V(S) = V_0 - \frac{1}{2}\mu_{SB}^2 S^2 + \frac{1}{2}\xi S^2 R + V_{HO}(S)$$

- prototypical cosmological phase transition  
→ see talk by Javier Rubio on Thursday
- $R$  tracks Hubble parameter and acts as „cosmological clock“
- maximal value for  $\mu_{SB}^2$  to remain stable during radiation domination → BM1
- open question: small scale effects?



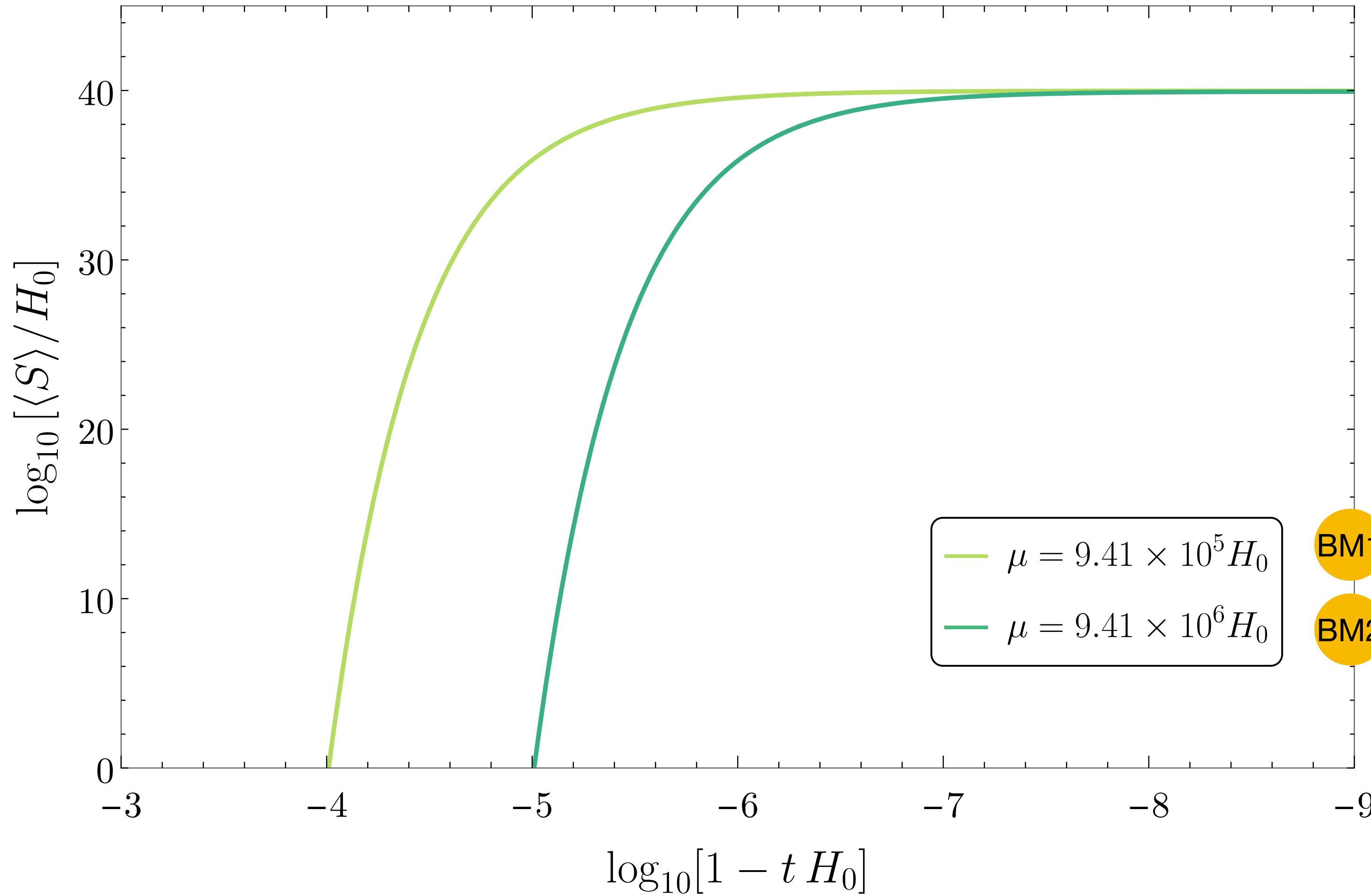
# Conclusion & Outlook

- SM + 2 RH neutrinos + spectator scalar field to explain
  - ⇒ keV sterile neutrino DM ✓
  - ⇒ origin of neutrino masses ✓
- cosmologically massless neutrinos, gain time-dependent mass recently
- probable @ KATRIN/TRISTAN experiment & **not in conflict** with X-ray bounds
- future: diffuse supernova neutrino background  
(far) future: will observe DM decay



# **Back-Up Slides**

# Expectation Value of S



$$\langle S \rangle = \mathcal{O}(10) \text{ MeV}$$
$$\implies \Lambda_S \sim \mathcal{O}(10^8) \text{ GeV}$$

exemplary values,  
can change as long as  
 $\epsilon \sim 10^{-10}$

# Variation of Constants + 5<sup>th</sup> Forces

singlet:  $\frac{S}{\Lambda_S} \frac{S^c}{\Lambda_S}$  can be added to any operator today:  $\epsilon^2 \sim 10^{-20}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} m_f \rightarrow m_f (1 \pm \epsilon(t)^2) \\ m_V^2 \rightarrow m_V^2 (1 \pm \epsilon(t)^2) \\ \alpha \rightarrow \frac{\alpha}{1 \mp \epsilon(t)^2} \end{cases}$$
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4e^2} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} (1 \pm \epsilon(t)^2)$$

natural nuclear reactor Oklo constrains

$$\frac{d \ln \alpha}{d \ln a} \leq (2.5 \pm 3.5) \times 10^{-9}$$



5<sup>th</sup> force searches more sensitive to terms linear in  $S \Rightarrow$  here no problem



Higgs portal assumed to be negligible



# Casas-Ibarra Parametrisation



here: slightly different conventions than original Casas-Ibarra.

We can define

$$d_m^{-1} = \text{diag}(0, 1/m_2, 1/m_3) \text{ (NO)} / d_m^{-1} = \text{diag}(1/m_1, 1/m_2, 0) \text{ (IO)}$$

and use that

$$(\sqrt{d_m} \sqrt{d_m^{-1}})^T (\sqrt{d_m} \sqrt{d_m^{-1}}) = \text{diag}(0, 1, 1) \equiv R_{NO}^T R_{NO} \quad \text{for NO,}$$

$$(\sqrt{d_m} \sqrt{d_m^{-1}})^T (\sqrt{d_m} \sqrt{d_m^{-1}}) = \text{diag}(1, 1, 0) \equiv R_{IO}^T R_{IO} \quad \text{for IO,}$$

to find the Yukawa matrix  $Y$ <sup>4</sup>

$$Y = \frac{1}{\epsilon v} \left( U_R^* \sqrt{d_M} R \sqrt{d_m} U^\dagger \right)^T \quad (2.12)$$

in terms of known parameters, where we use the best fit values for masses, mixings, and CP violation from [27]. The matrices  $R$  have the form

$$R_{NO} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \cos z & \xi \sin z \\ 0 & -\sin z & \xi \cos z \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } R_{IO} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos z & \xi \sin z & 0 \\ -\sin z & \xi \cos z & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.13)$$

where  $z$  is complex, and  $\xi = \pm 1$ .

$M_R$  can be diagonalised as

$$d_M = U_R^T M_R U_R,$$

which can be inverted to find

$$M_R^{-1} = U_R d_M^{-1} U_R^T = \left( \sqrt{d_M^{-1}} U_R^T \right)^T \left( \sqrt{d_M^{-1}} U_R^T \right).$$

with

$$U_R = \begin{pmatrix} i \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -i \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

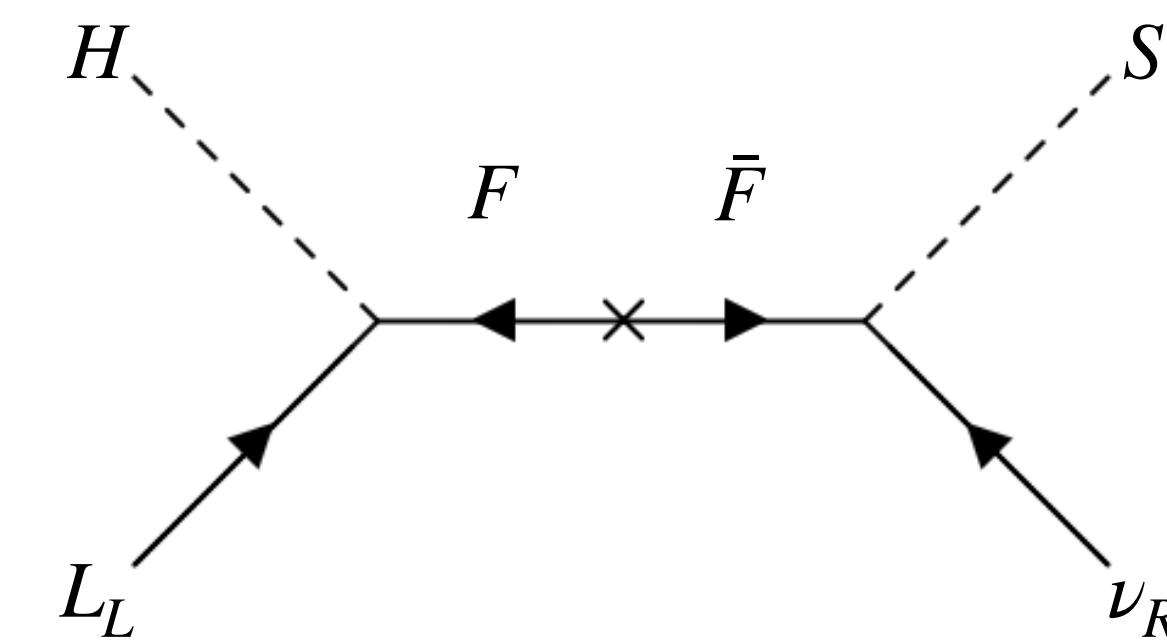
in the case of two RH neutrinos, where  $\theta = \pi/4 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \approx \pi/4$ .

# Possible UV-Completion

- like Froggatt-Nielsen mechanism  
(only for neutrinos)
- heavy vector-like messenger fermions  $F$
- scale of new physics set by mass of  $F$  and coupling  $Y$ :

$$\Lambda_S = \frac{M_F}{Y}$$

*Feynman diagram before integrating out VL fermions:*



C.D. Froggatt and H.B. Nielsen,  
*Hierarchy of Quark Masses, Cabibbo Angles and CP Violation,*  
[\*Nucl. Phys. B 147 \(1979\) 277.\*](#)

# X-Ray Bounds

Search	Object	Reason
[53]	Milky Way	$40 \text{ keV} \leq m_s$
[54]	Milky Way	$40 \text{ keV} \leq m_s$
[55]	dwarf Ursa Minor	$d \sim 2.3 \times 10^5 \text{ lyrs}$
[56]	dwarf Draco	$d \sim 2.6 \times 10^5 \text{ lyrs}$
[57]	dwarf satellite galaxies + M31	$d \gtrsim \text{a few} \times 10^5 \text{ lyrs}$
[58]	dwarf spheroidal galaxies	$d \gtrsim \text{a few} \times 10^5 \text{ lyrs}$
[59]	galaxy clusters	$d \gtrsim 5 \times 10^5 \text{ lyrs}$
[60]	M31	$d \sim 2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ lyrs}$
[61]	M31	$d \sim 2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ lyrs}$
[62]	Coma & Virgo cluster	$d \gtrsim \text{a few} \times 10^7 \text{ lyrs}$
[63, 64]	Perseus cluster	$d \sim 2.4 \times 10^8 \text{ lyrs}$
[65]	Bullet cluster	$d \sim 3.7 \times 10^9 \text{ lyrs}$
[66]	XRB	see text
[67]	XRB	see text
[68]	XRB	see text
[69]	XRB	see text
[70]	XRB	see text
[71]	CXB	see text
[72]	CXB	see text
[73]	galactic center	model-dependent

**Table 1:** X-Ray limits that can be softened by BM1 and BM2.

Search	Object	Where
[74]	galactic center	$m_s = 5 - 16 \text{ keV}$
[75]	Milky Way	$m_s = 6 - 40 \text{ keV}$
[76]	galactic bulge	$m_s = 6 - 40 \text{ keV}$
[77]	galactic bulge	$m_s = 10 - 40 \text{ keV}$
[78]	galactic center & MW halo	$m_s = 20 - 50 \text{ keV}$

**Table 2:** X-Ray limits that can be softened by BM2, but not by BM1.

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- [54] H. Yuksel, J.F. Beacom and C.R. Watson, *Strong Upper Limits on Sterile Neutrino Warm Dark Matter*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **101** (2008) 121301 [[0706.4084](#)].
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- [62] A. Boyarsky, A. Neronov, O. Ruchayskiy and M. Shaposhnikov, *Restrictions on parameters of sterile neutrino dark matter from observations of galaxy clusters*, *Phys. Rev. D* **74** (2006) 103506 [[astro-ph/0603368](#)].
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- [64] T. Tamura et al., *An X-ray spectroscopic search for dark matter and unidentified line signatures in the Perseus cluster with Hitomi*, *Publ. Astron. Soc. Jap.* **71** (2019) Publications of the Astronomical Society of Japan, Volume 71, Issue 3, June 2019, 50, <https://doi.org/10.1093/pasj/psz023> [[1811.05767](#)].
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# TRISTAN Detector

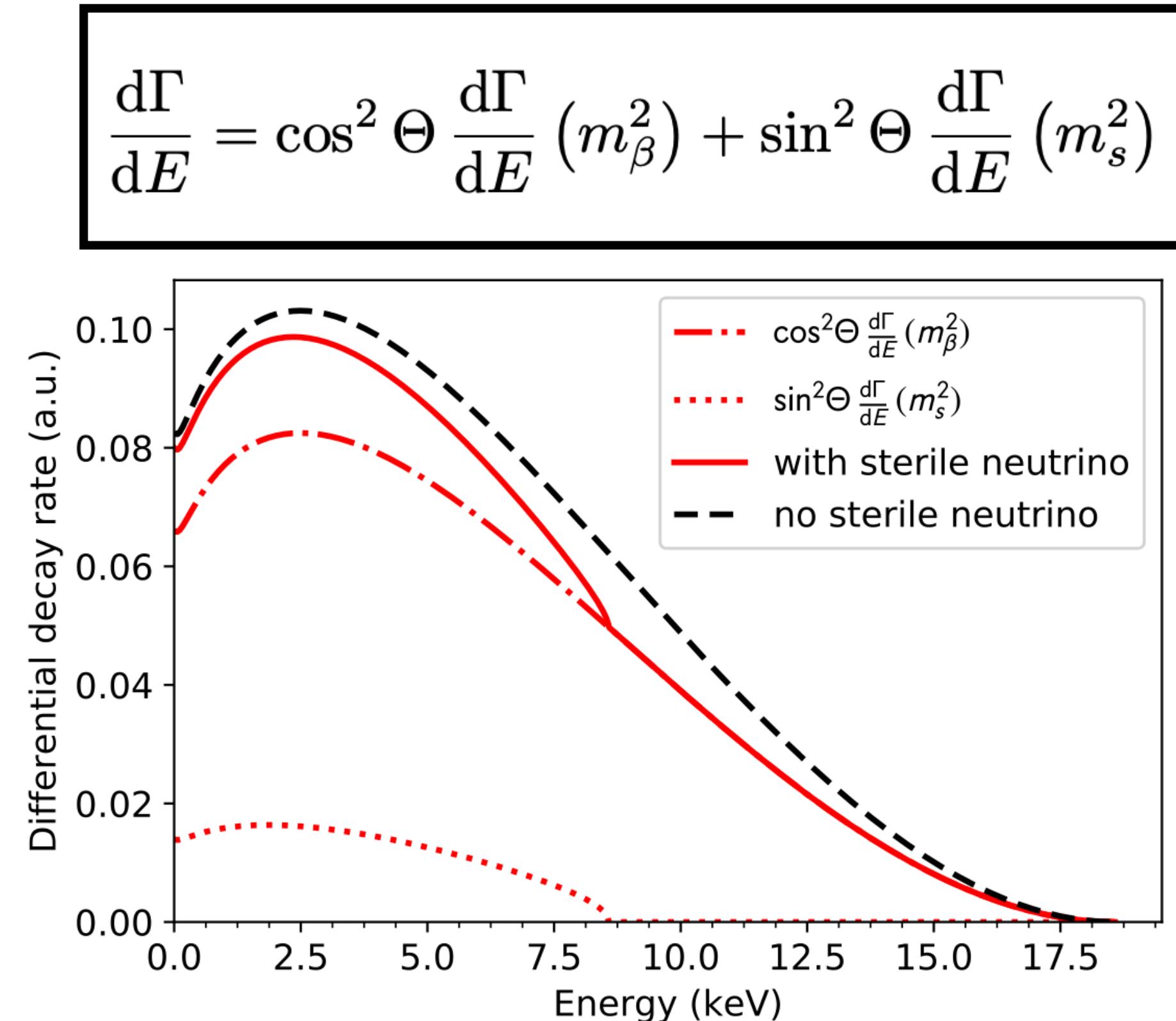
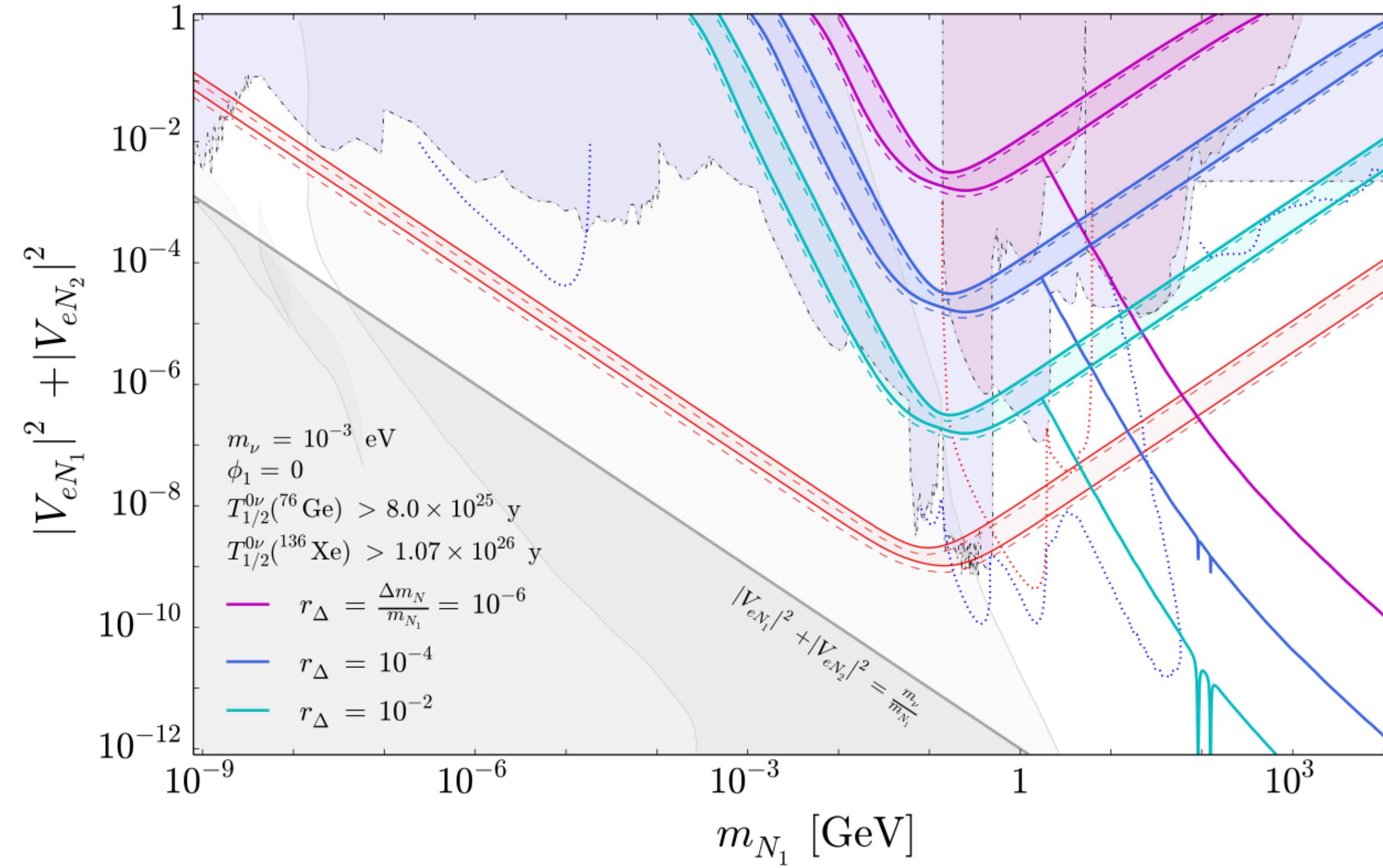


FIG. 1. Imprint of a heavy, mostly sterile, neutrino with a mass of  $m_s = 10$  keV and an unphysical large mixing angle of  $\sin^2 \Theta = 0.2$  on the tritium  $\beta$ -decay spectrum.

- KATRIN Collaboration  
Mertens et al. (2019)
- tritium-beta decay
- electron-flavor neutrino emitted along with electron
- spectrum related to superposition of mass eigenstates

# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay



**Figure 9:** Upper limits on the sum of squared active-sterile mixings for three values of the sterile neutrino mass splitting ratio  $r_{\Delta} = \frac{\Delta m_N}{m_{N_1}} \ll 1$ . We show the limits from  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  (solid) and  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  (dashed) experiments with the bands indicating the respective uncertainties. The red curves highlight the limit in which  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay is driven by a single sterile neutrino. The curves sloping down to the lower right indicate the upper bounds by enforcing  $|\delta m_\nu^{1-\text{loop}}| < 0.1 m_\nu$ . These constraints are compared with the current and future sensitivities of LNC (blue shaded/dotted) and LNV (red shaded/dotted) searches, cf. Figs. 6 and 7.

- Bolton, Deppisch, Bhupal Dev (2020)
- interference effects between two sterile neutrinos with small mass splitting
- $\Rightarrow$  constraints negligible for sterile neutrino masses in our model!