

# Uncovering secret neutrino interactions at $\nu_\tau$ experiments

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# New symmetry in the neutrino sector

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Neutrino oscillation: clear evidence of BSM

→  $\nu$  physics can provide guidelines for BSM

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Neutrino oscillation: clear evidence of BSM

→  $\nu$  physics can provide guidelines for BSM

New symmetries? New particles?

- These can be identified by probing new interactions of  $\nu$  inducing
  - Unexpected appearance of (charged) SM particles
  - Missing energy in accelerators
  - Appearance/disappearance of SM  $\nu$  in neutrino experiments

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⇒ secret neutrino interaction (SNI)

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Asadi et al., PRD 2018      Smirnov, Valera, JHEP 2021

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- Dark matter interacting with active  $\nu$ : Majoron DM, sterile  $\nu$  DM
  - Rothstein, Babu, Seckel, NPB 1993
  - De Gouvea, Sen, Tangarife, Zhang, PRL 2020

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- Cosmological issues: small scale problems (strongly constrained)
  - Aarssen, Bringman, Pfrommer, PRL 2012      Ahlgren, Ohlsson, Zhou, PRL 2013
  - $H_0$  tension
  - Escudero et al., JHEP 2019      Brinckmann, Chang, LoVerde, PRD 2021      Lyu, Stamou, Wang, PRD 2021

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See also SNOWMASS WP  
2022,  
Berryman et al., PDU 2023

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# New symmetry in the neutrino sector

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- Flavor-universal SNIs are strongly constrained by cosmological/ astrophysical observations: CMB, BAO, BBN, ..

Brinckmann, Chang, LoVerde, PRD 2021

Das, Ghosh, JCAP 2021

Huang, Ohlsson, Zhou, PRD 2018

Kolb, Turner, PRD 1987

- Laboratory experiments provide strong constraints on SNI with  $\nu_e$ ,  $\nu_\mu$

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Berryman et al., PDU 2023

Probe flavor non-universal & general SNI with  $\nu_\tau$ ,  $g_{\tau\alpha}$  ?



Tau neutrino experiments

# Neutrino experiments

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- Observations of  $\nu_\tau$  challenging due to prompt and semi-visible decays of  $\tau$  (identification and reconstruction) as well as high  $E_{\text{th}} > 3 \text{ GeV}$  beyond the oscillation maxima & small CC- $\sigma$ .
- $\nu$  oscillations so far: either  $\nu_\mu / \nu_e$  disappearance or  $\nu_e$  appearance

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- $\nu$  oscillations so far: either  $\nu_\mu / \nu_e$  disappearance or  $\nu_e$  appearance
- DONuT (9 events), OPERA (10 events), IceCube (7 high E events)  
Statistically from  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ : SK (291), IceCube (1804 CC + 556 NC)

# Neutrino experiments

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Now we are ready to directly detect enormous  $\nu_\tau$  events!!!

- Accelerator based experiments: SND@LHC & FASER $\nu$  (current)  
FLArE100, FASER $\nu$ 2, AdvSND, SHiP, DUNE ND (future)
- Atmospheric experiments: IceCube, DUNE FD, ...
  - Upward-going  $\nu_\tau$  events: Directly confirm atmospheric  $\nu$  oscillation,  
& probe New Physics involved there

# Neutrino experiments

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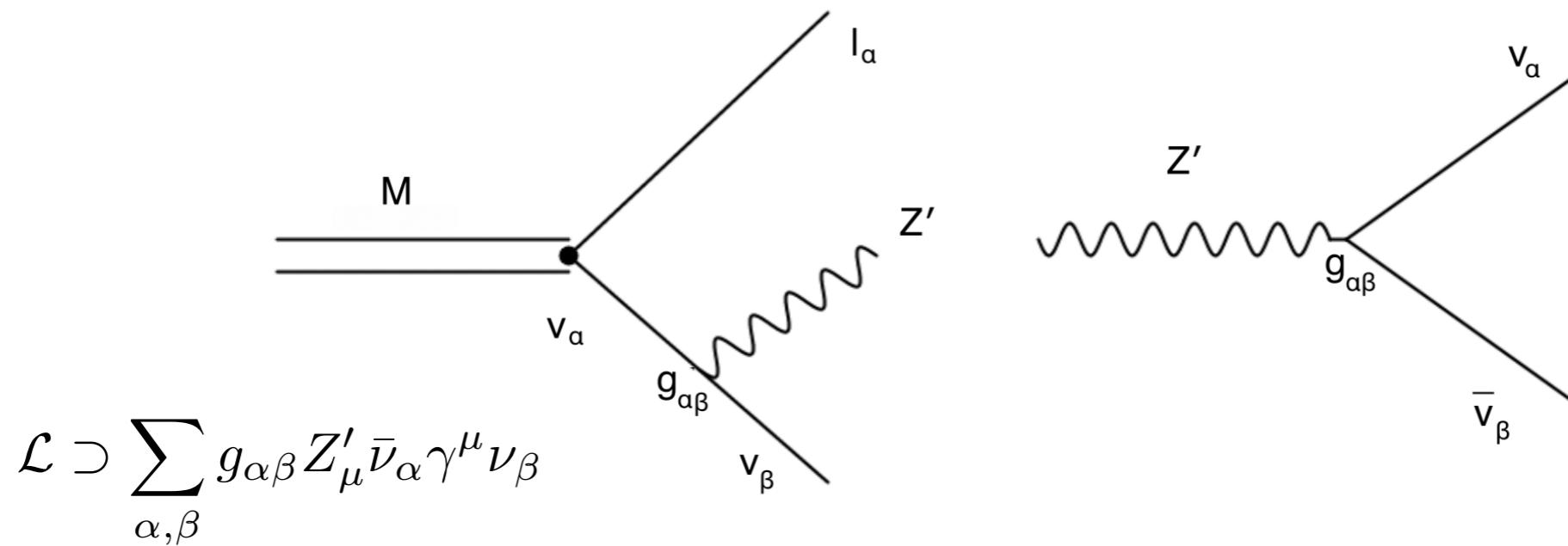
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- Atmospheric experiments: IceCube, DUNE FD, ...
  - Upward-going  $\nu_\tau$  events: Directly confirm atmospheric  $\nu$  oscillation,  
& probe New Physics involved there
  - Downward-going  $\nu_\tau$  events: Not from oscillation,  
 $\Rightarrow$  Anomalous  $\nu_\tau$  appearance

Extremely  
sensitive to  
New Physics

# Theoretical set-up

Kinematic process: 3-body meson decay



- Conventional 2-body decay of a pseudoscalar meson such as  $\pi^\pm \rightarrow \mu^\pm \nu$ : chiral suppression.  $m_\ell^2/m_M^2$
- 3-body decay: enhanced by the longitudinal mode of  $Z'$   $m_M^2/m_{Z'}^2$

Barger, Chiang, Keung, Marfatia, PRL 2012

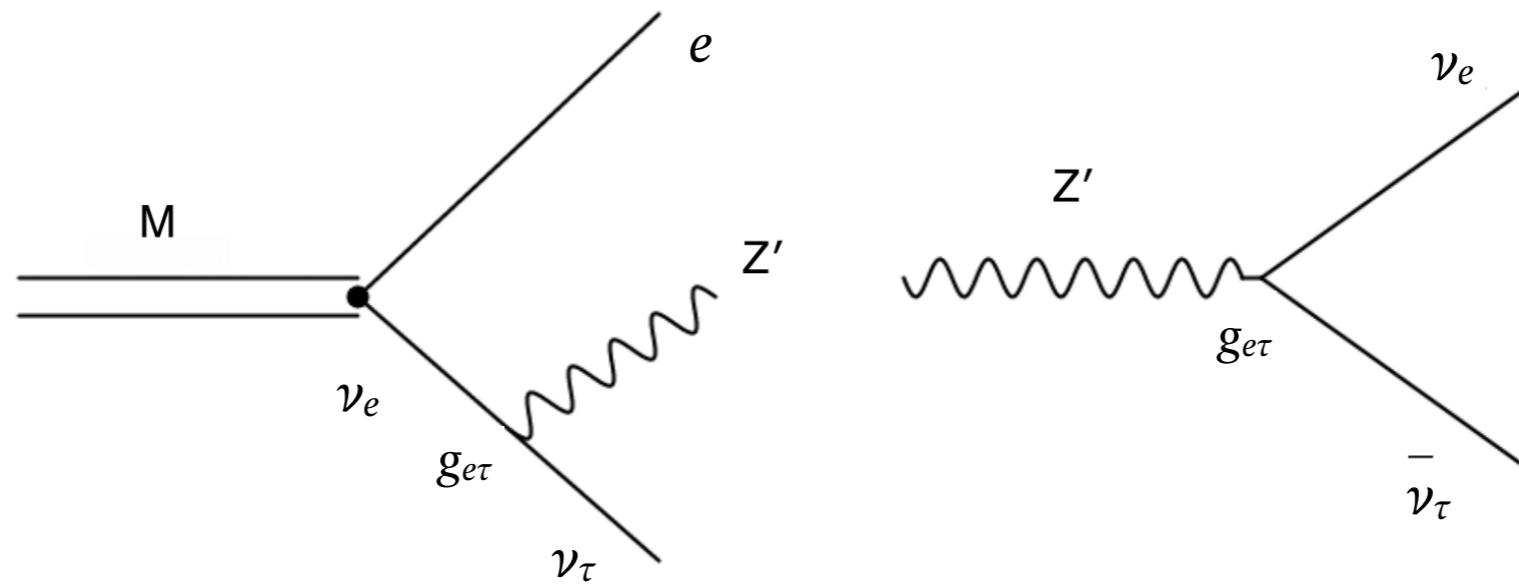
Laha, Dasgupta, Beacom, PRD 2014

Carson, Rislow, PRD 2012

Bakhti, Farzan, PRD 2017

# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI

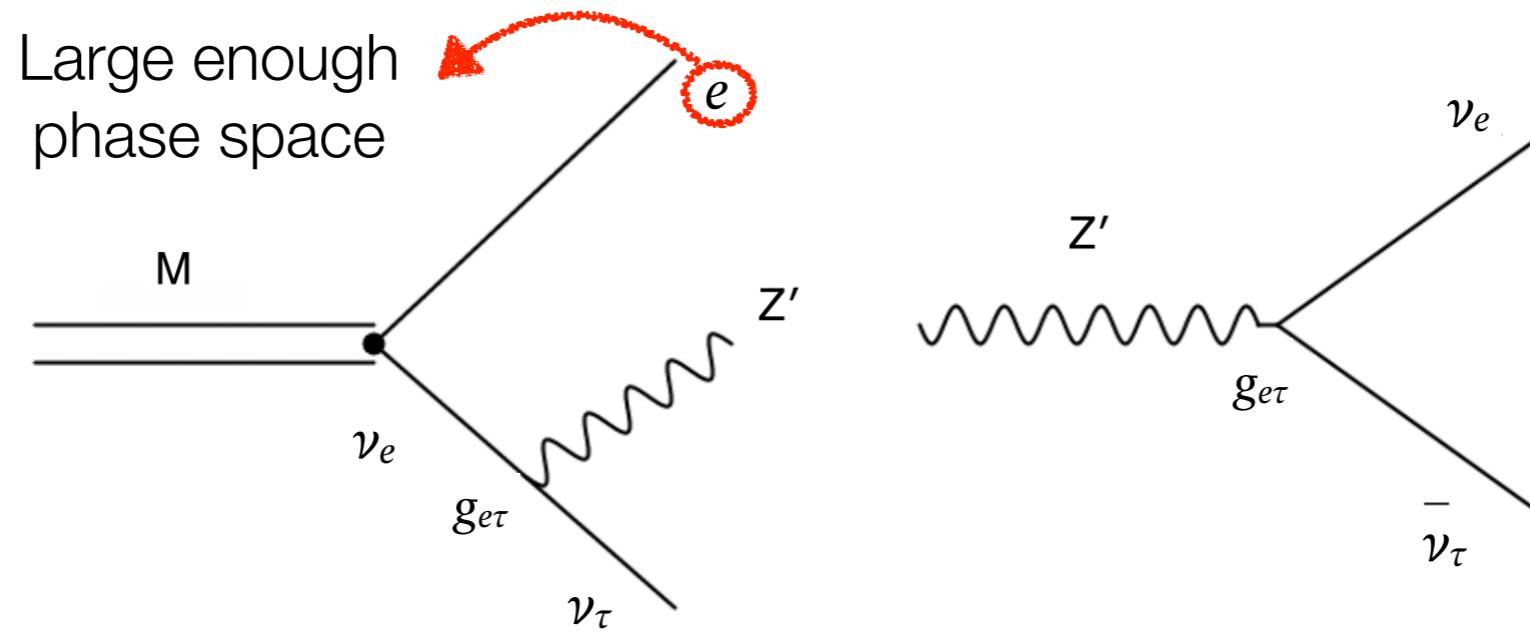
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- $g_{e\tau}$  only: no other couplings to  $\nu$ ,  $\ell^\pm$ ,  $B$

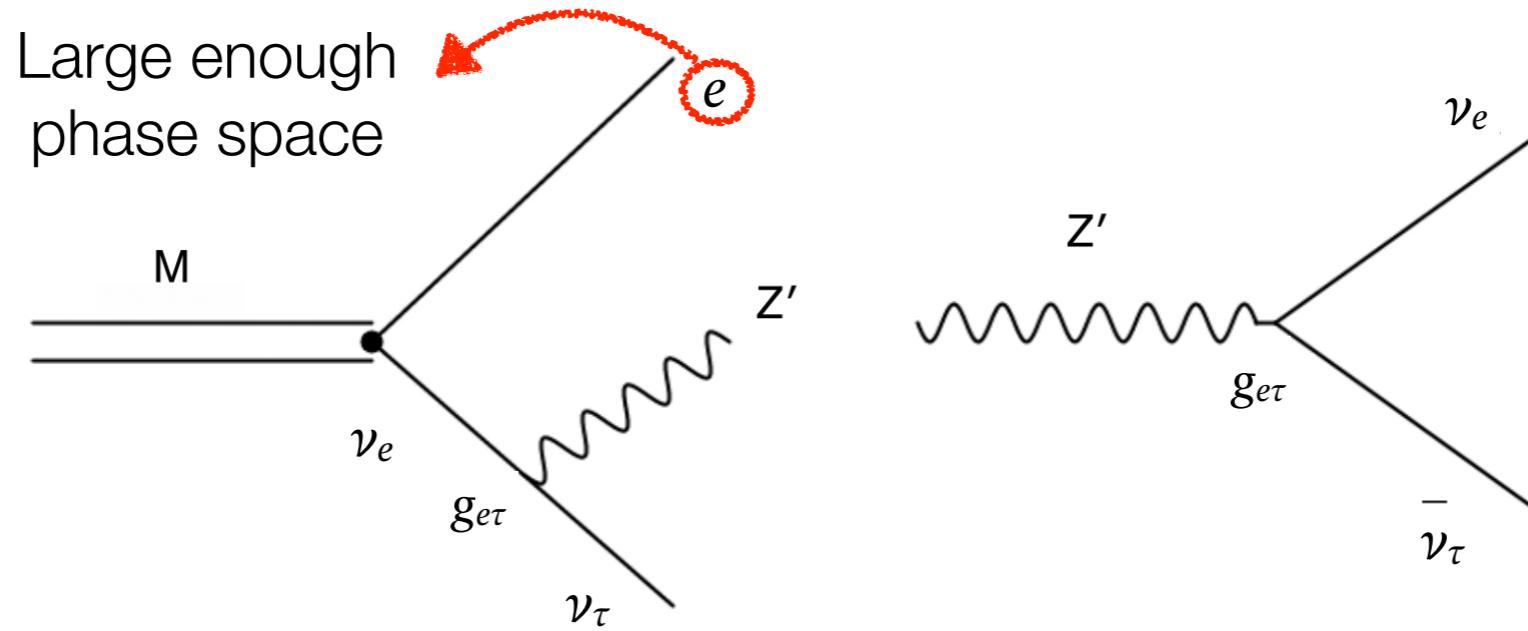
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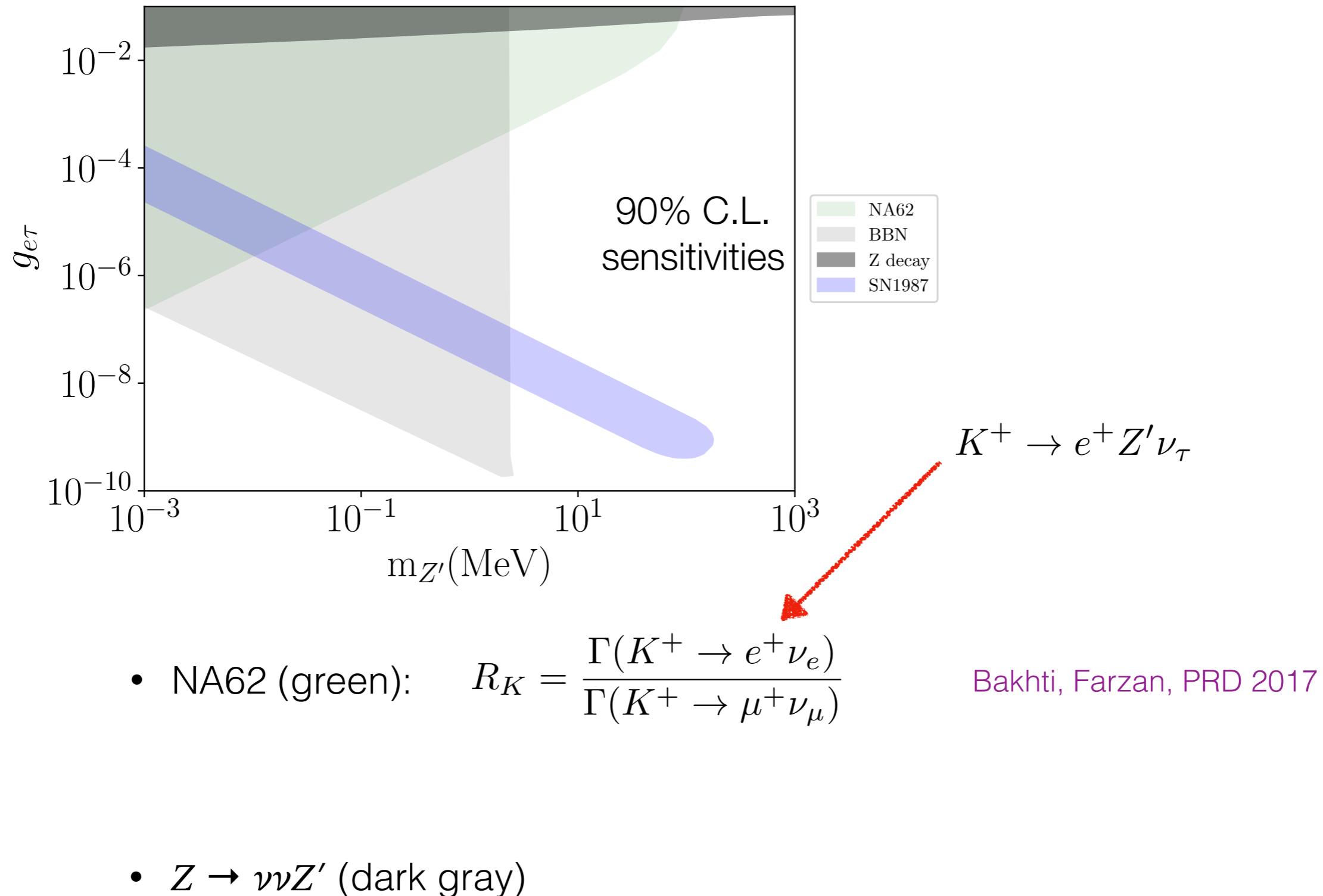
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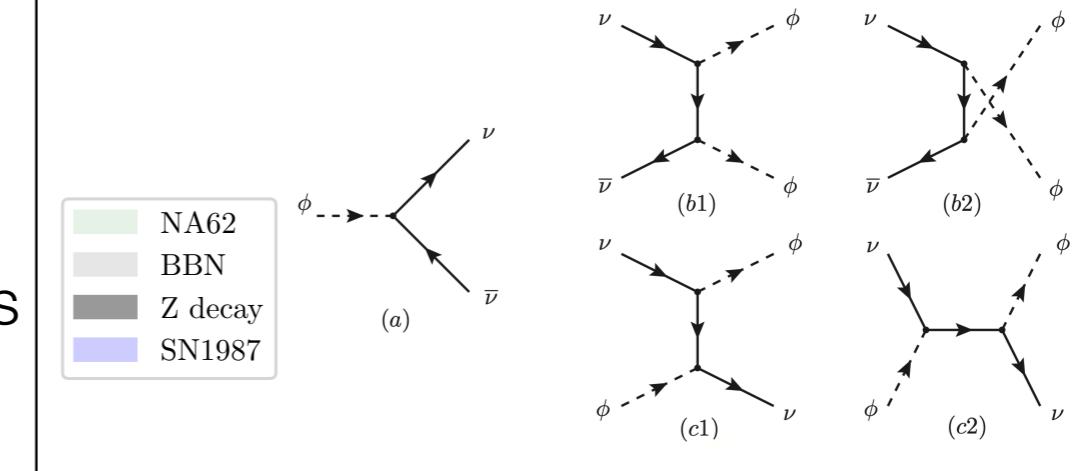
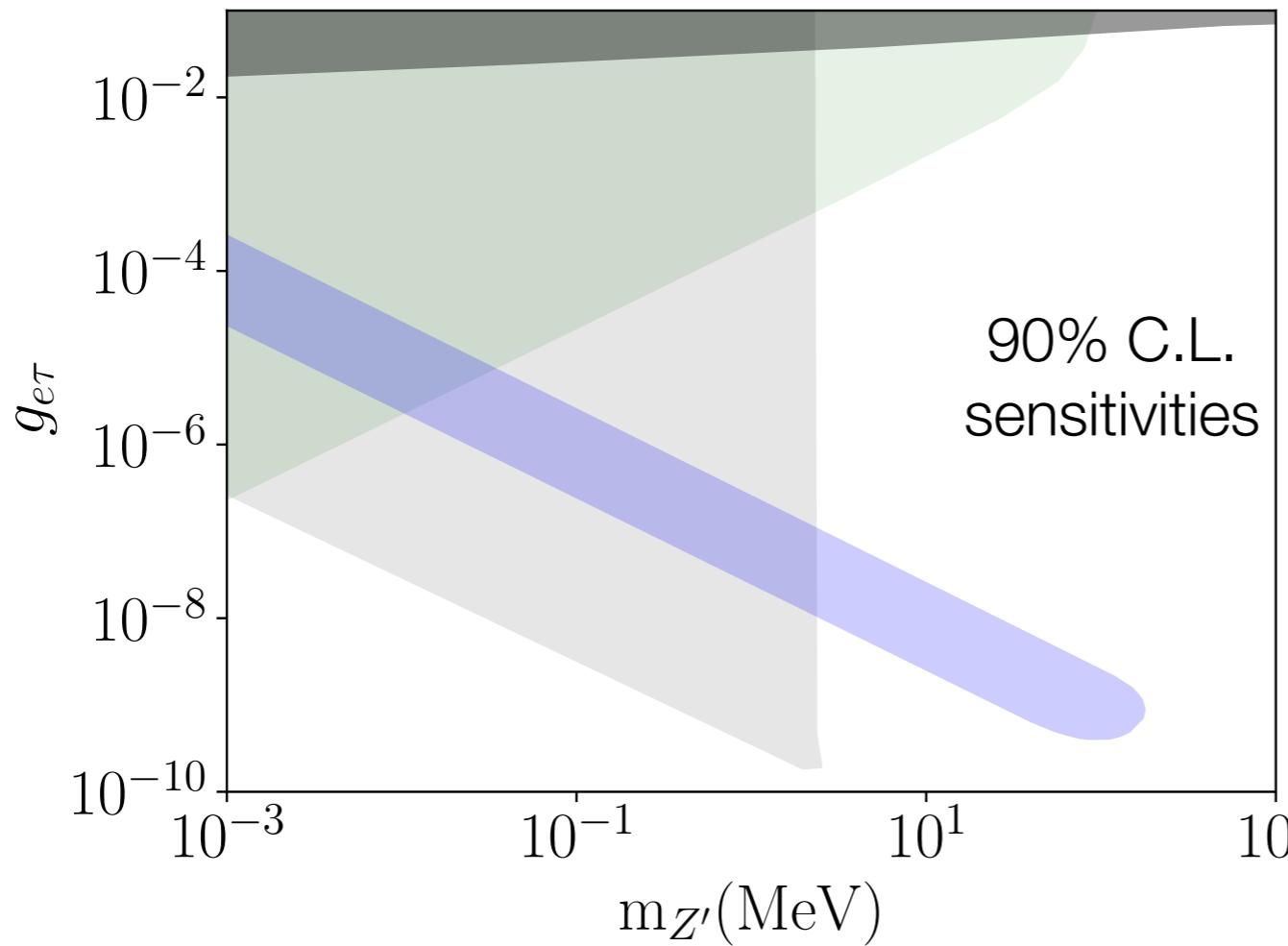


- $g_{e\tau}$  only: no other couplings to  $\nu$ ,  $\ell^\pm$ ,  $B$
- For  $g_{\tau\tau}$ , sensitivities are much weaker (BR:  $10^{-4}$  smaller for 1 MeV) due to phase space suppression.

# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI



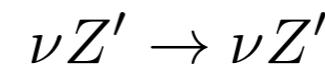
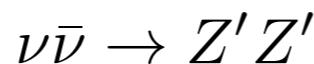
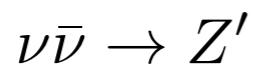
# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI



$$N_{\text{eff}} = \frac{8}{7} \left( \frac{11}{4} \right)^{4/3} \left( \frac{\rho_{\text{rad}} - \rho_\gamma}{\rho_\gamma} \right)$$

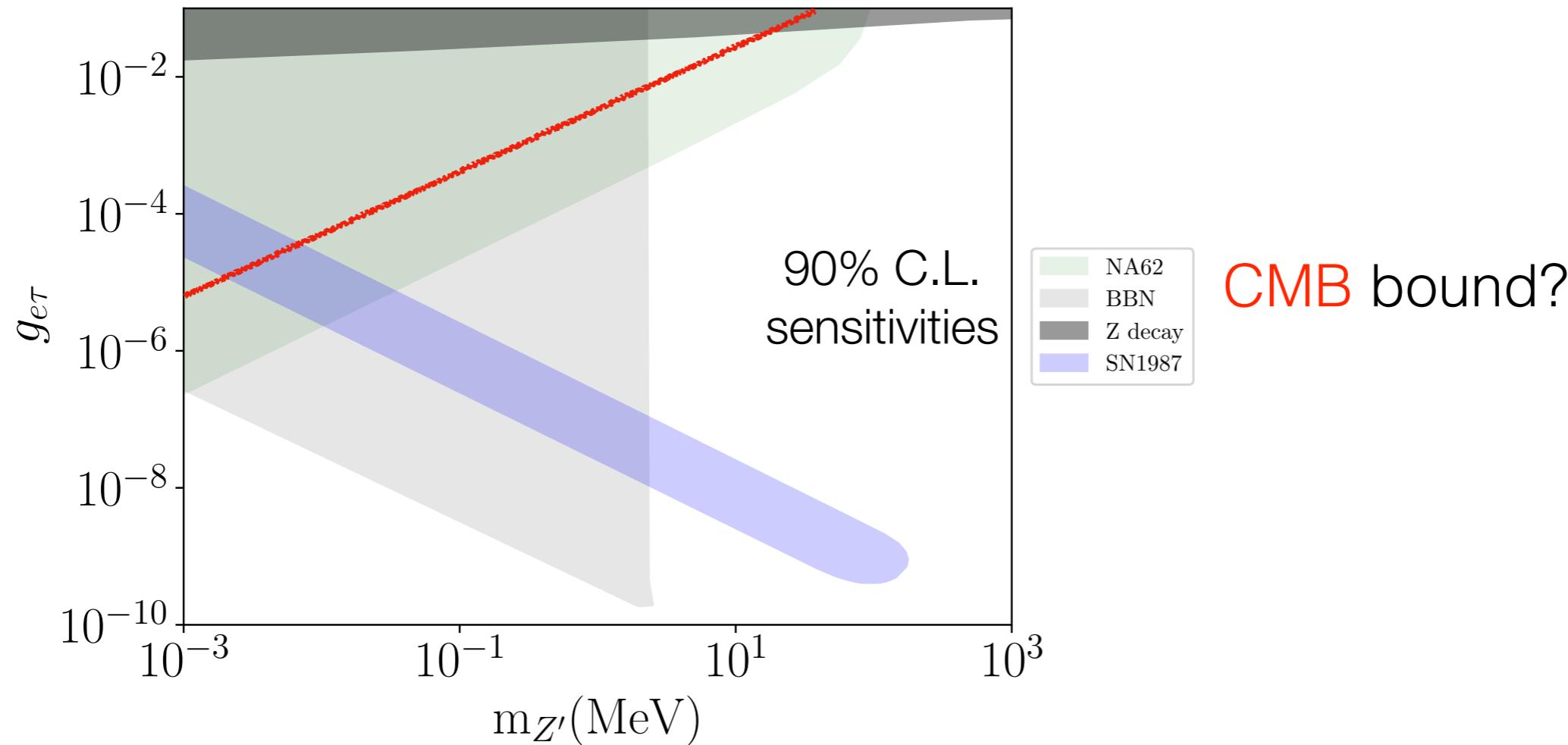
- BBN bound:  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 1$  when in thermal equilibrium at  $T \sim 1$  MeV,  
primordial abundances of light elements for  $\nu_e$  (similar)

Huang, Ohlsson,  
Zhou, PRD 2018



- Cosmological bounds are stronger than the scalar mediator due to d.o.f.

# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI

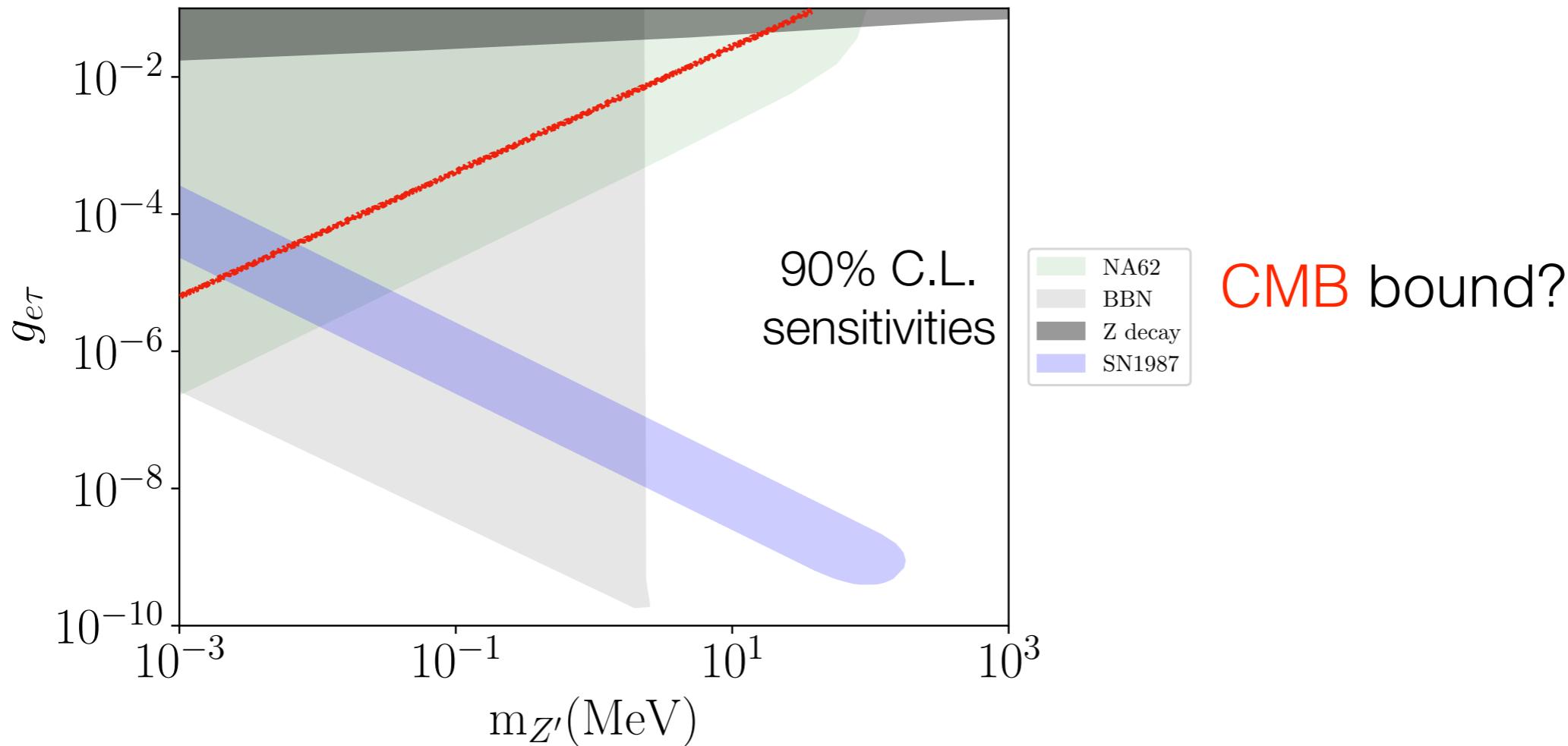


- Phase shift of the power spectrum by late  $\nu$  free streaming
  - much weaker than NA62 for the flavor-universal scenario  $g_{ee}=g_{\mu\mu}=g_{\tau\tau}$
- $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 0.3$  applies when  $Z' \rightarrow \nu_e \nu_\tau$  in prior to the recombination epoch.

Das, Gosh, JCAP 2021

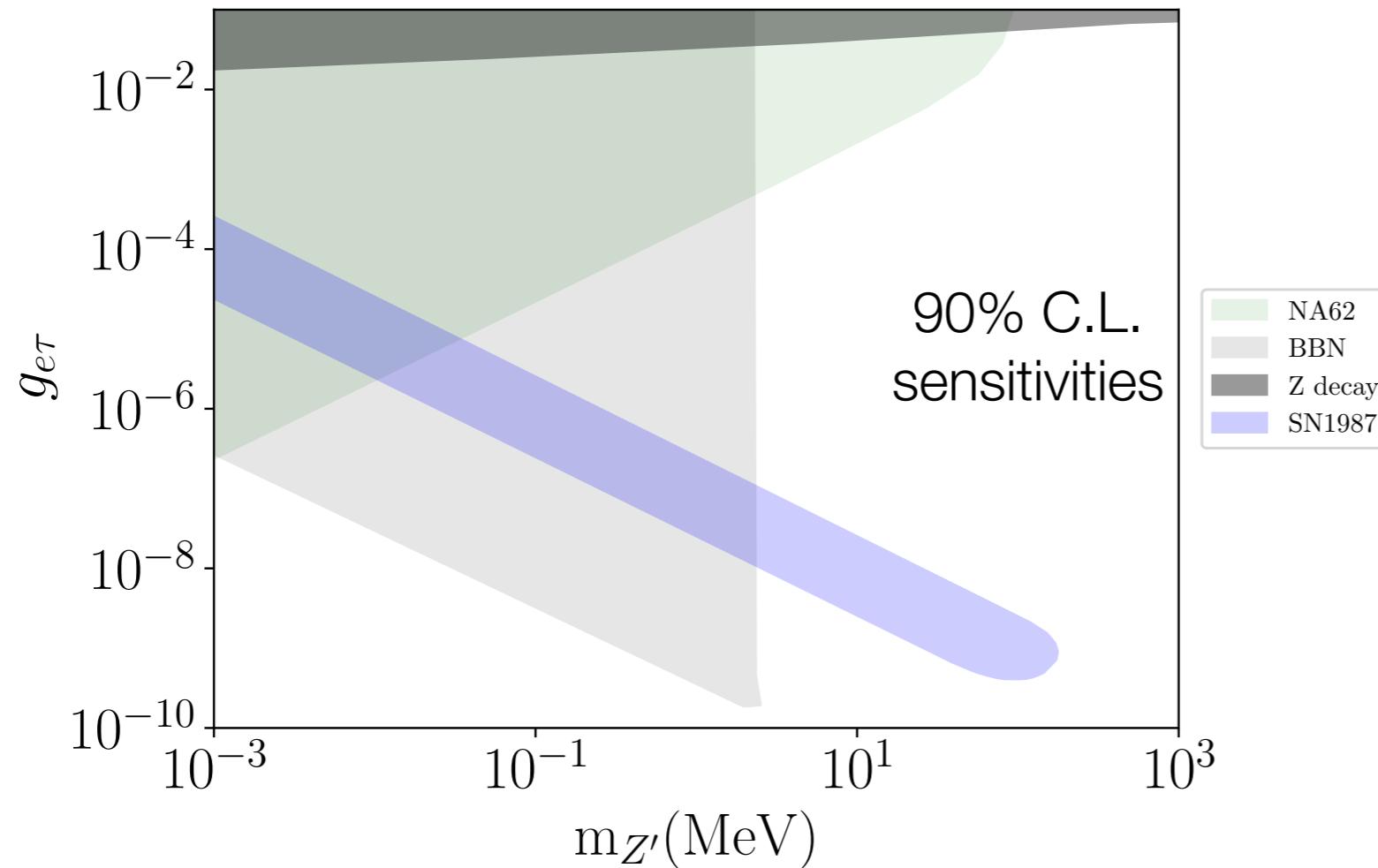
Archidiacono, Hannestad, JCAP 2014

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- $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 0.3$  applies when  $Z' \rightarrow \nu_e \nu_\tau$  in prior to the recombination epoch.
    - Dedicated study with flavor non-universal and off-diagonal SNI needed.

# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI



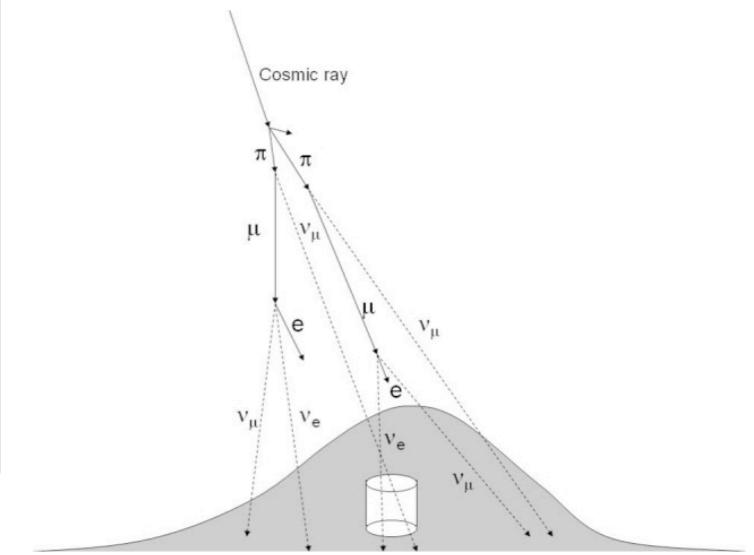
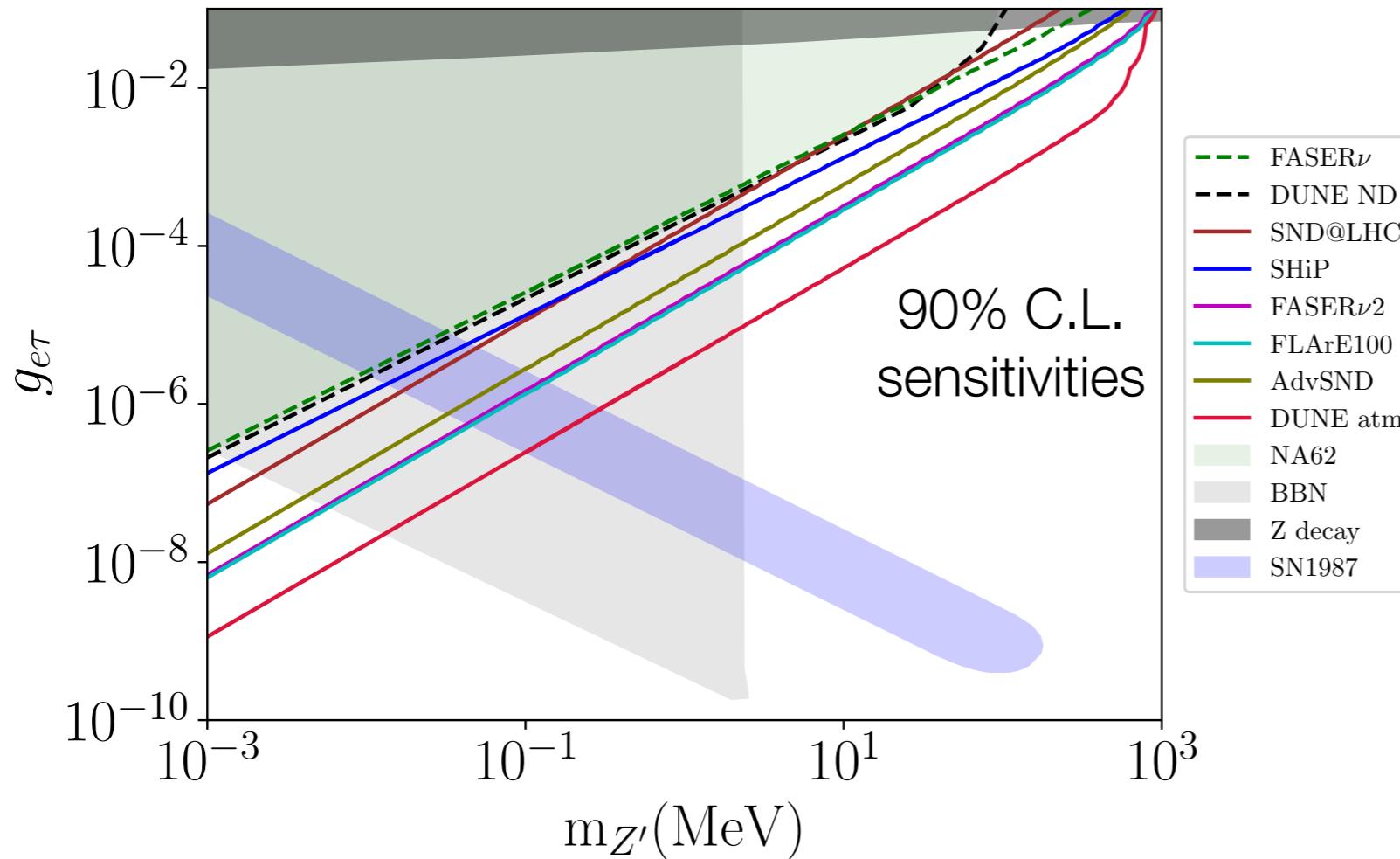
- Core-collapse supernova: SN1987A energy loss rate in blue shaded region  
(flavor universal & diagonal case)

Brune, Pas, PRD 2019

Heurtier, Zhang, JCAP 2017

- More general case: dedicated study needed.

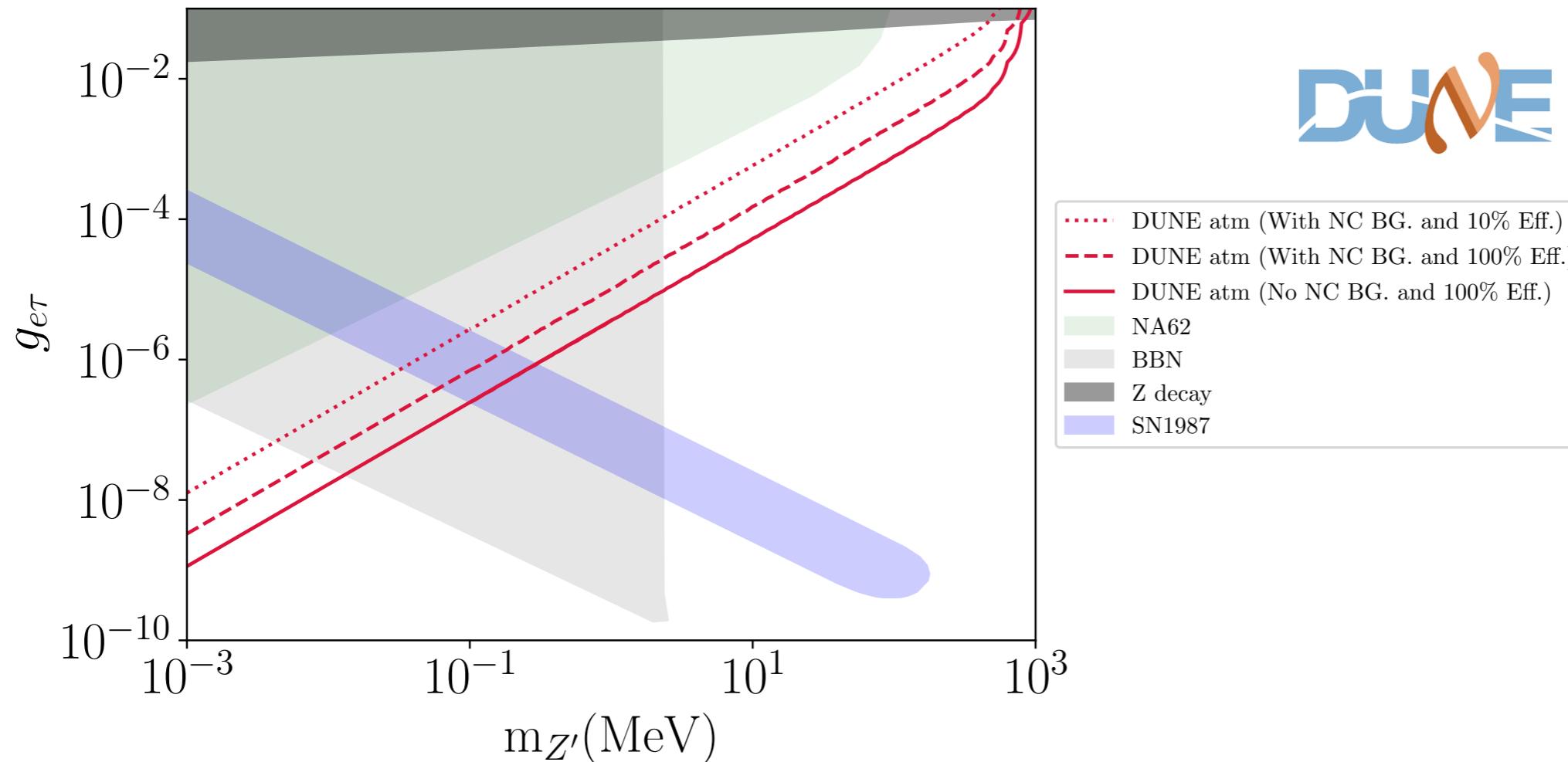
# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI



Robust w.r.t. the shape of  
flux uncertainty.

- DUNE far detector (400  $\text{kt}\cdot\text{yr}$ ) is most sensitive for  $m_{Z'} \gtrsim 1 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $m_{Z'} \lesssim 60 \text{ keV}$  by observing the **downward-going  $\nu_\tau$  appearance**. (better than cosmo)
- Red solid: no background hypothesis
- Assume 100% efficiency for the  $\nu_\tau$  reconstruction: **dedicated study needed**.

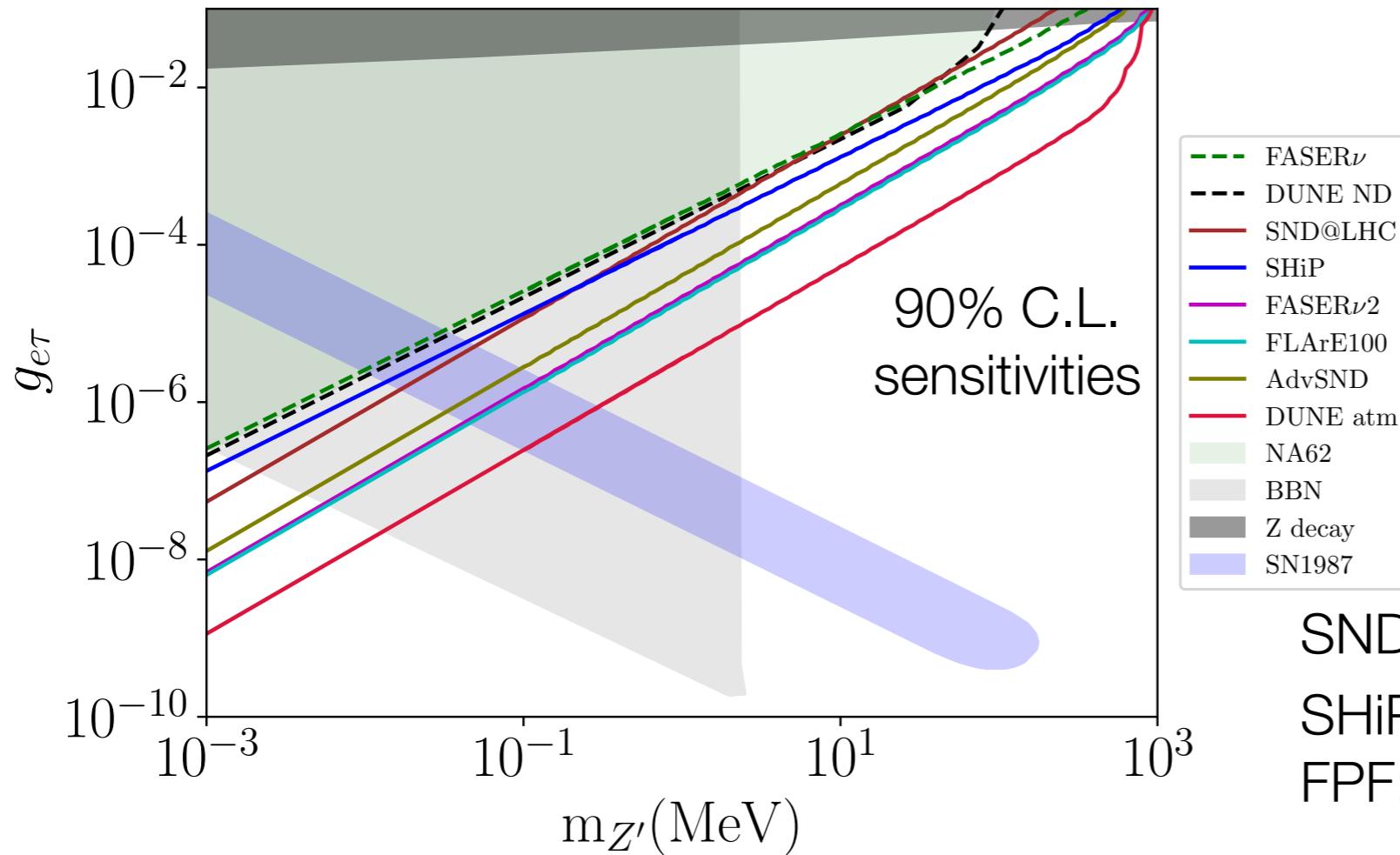
# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI



- Increasing detection efficiencies and subtracting background is important.
- Solid: No background with 100% efficiency
- Dashed: Neutral Current background (70 for 10 years)
- Dotted: Neutral Current background & 10% efficiency

Aurisano,  
NuTau2021 talk

# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI

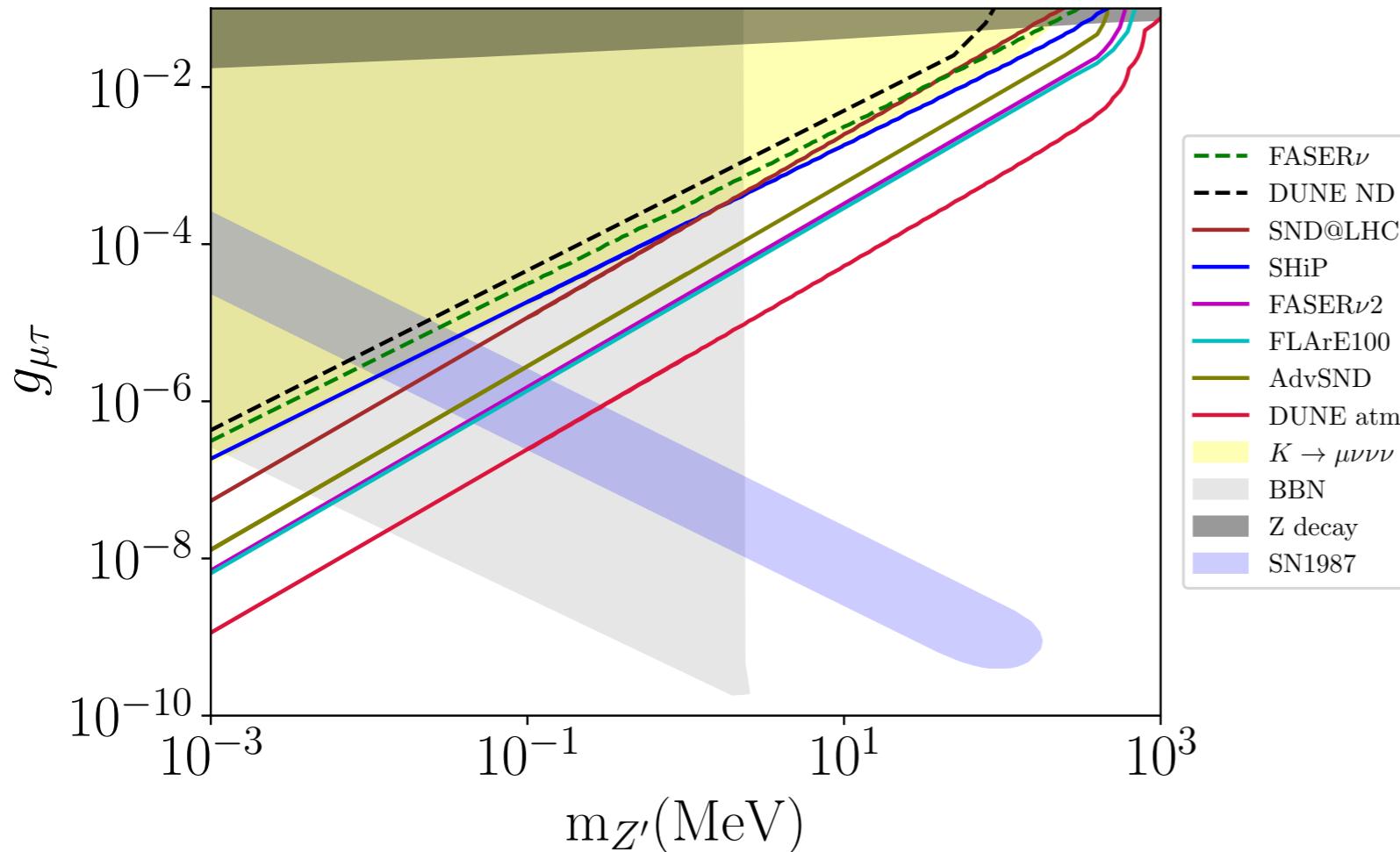


100% efficiency for  
 $\nu_\tau$  event reconstruction  
(ambitious)

SND@LHC/FASER $\nu$ :  $150 \text{ fb}^{-1}$   
SHiP:  $2 \times 10^{20} \text{ POT (5 yrs)}$   
FPF:  $3 \text{ ab}^{-1}$

- FLArE100 (cyan, 100 ton) and FASER $\nu$ 2 (purple, 20 ton) can be most sensitive among the accelerator based experiments. Our results depend on the flux uncertainties.
- SHiP becomes better as  $Z'$  gets heavier since its hadron absorber increases the relative flux of  $D_s$  meson providing large phase space.

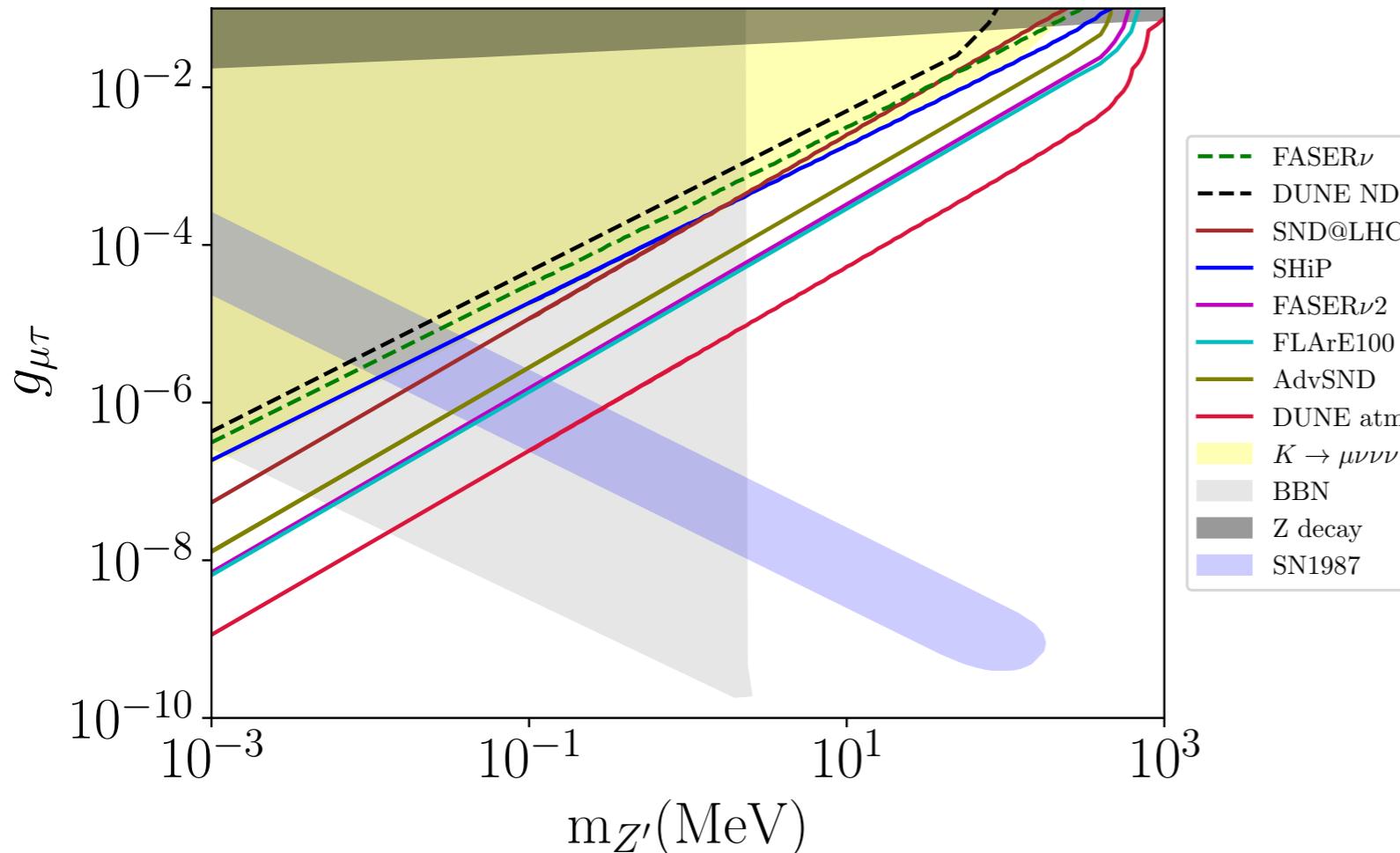
# Sensitivities for $\nu_\tau$ SNI



Bakhti, Rajaee, **SS**,  
arXiv:2311.14945

- DUNE far detector ( $400 \text{ kt}\cdot\text{yr}$ ) is still most sensitive for  $m_{Z'} \gtrsim 1 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $m_{Z'} \lesssim 60 \text{ keV}$ .
- We now apply the rare Kaon decay constraint at E949 (yellow).  
$$\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu\nu\nu) < 2.4 \times 10^{-6}$$

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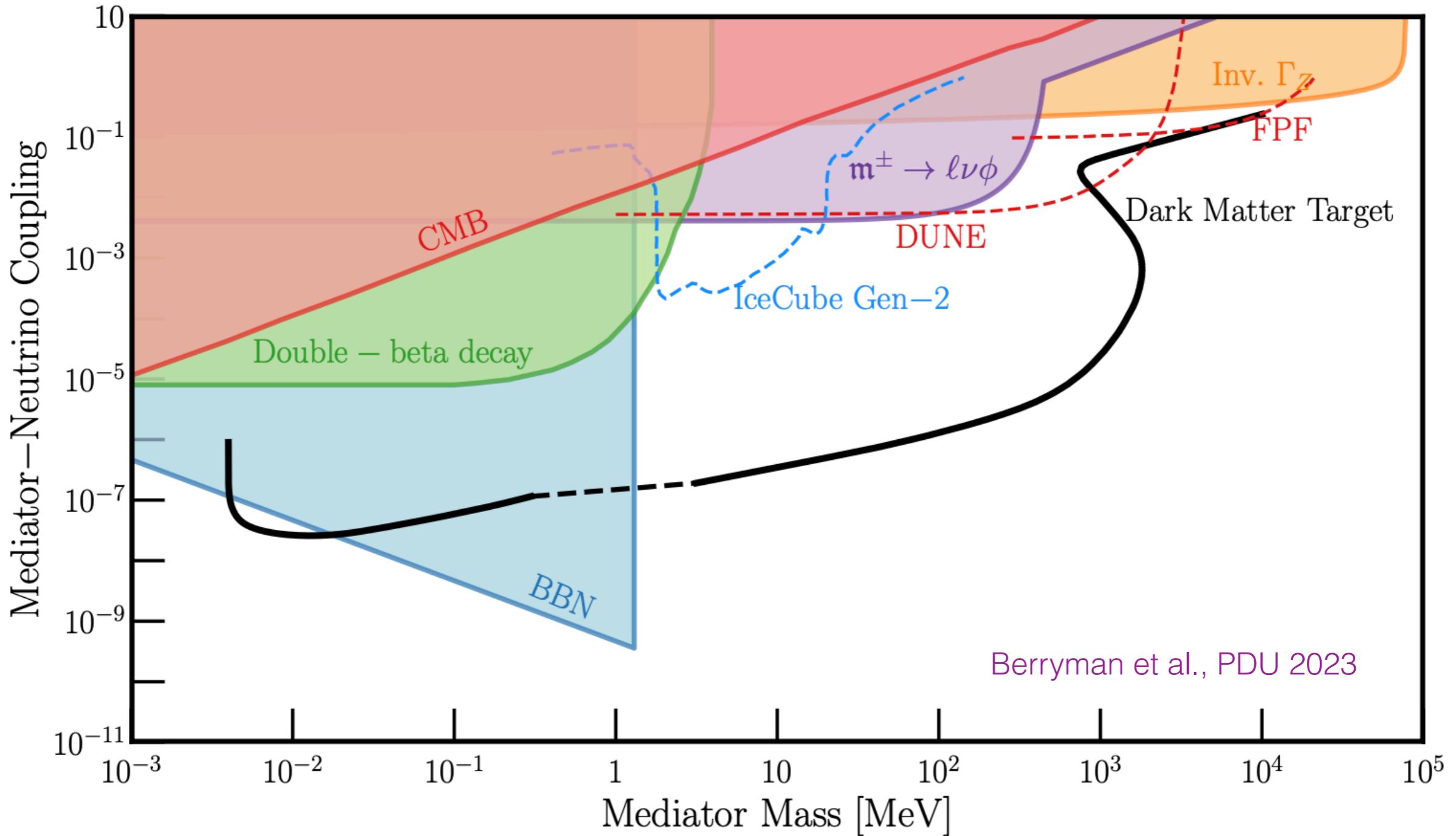
Bakhti, Rajaee, **SS**,  
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- Sensitivities are comparable or slightly weaker (SHiP) due to the phase space.

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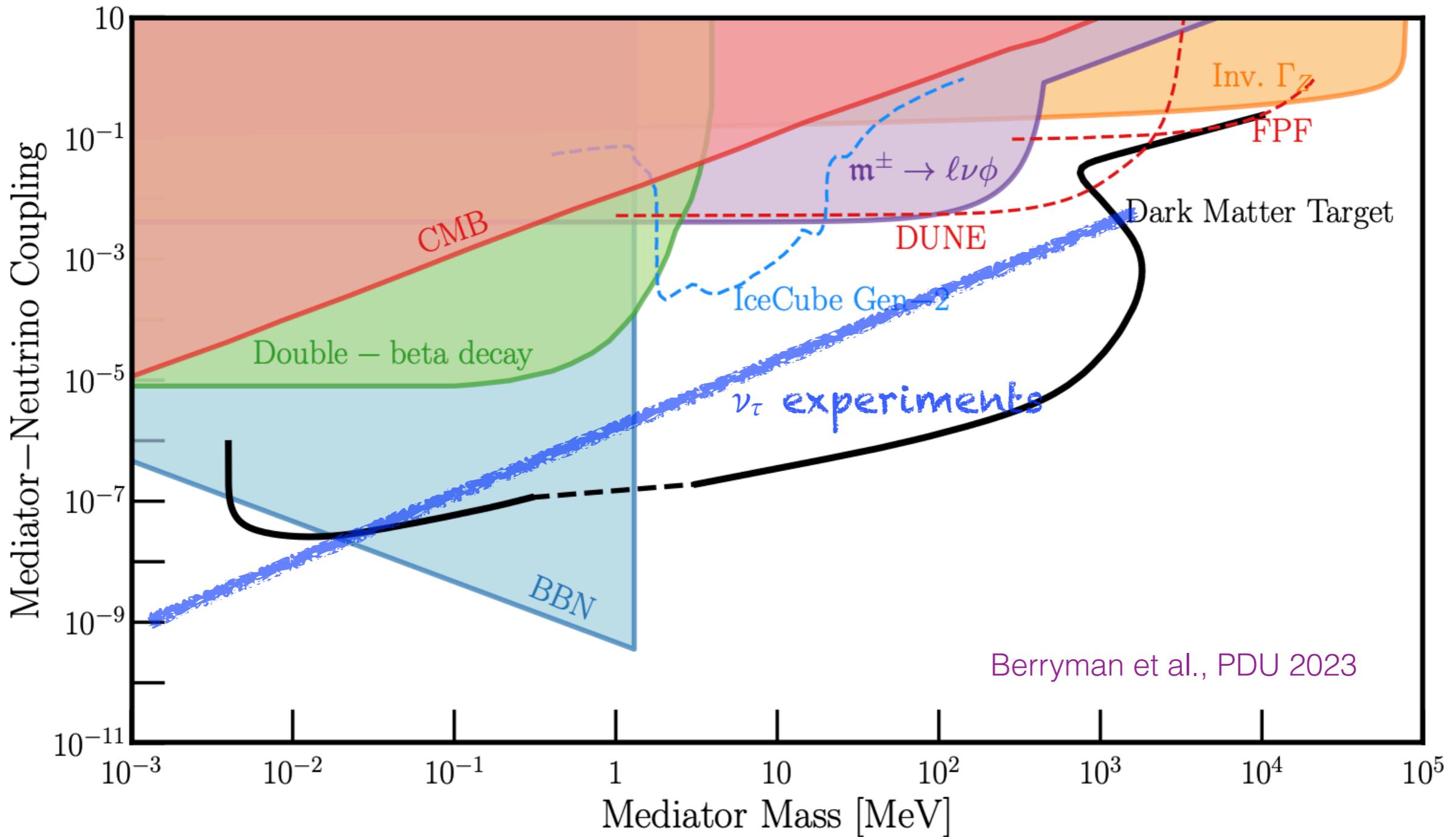
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Universal coupling case

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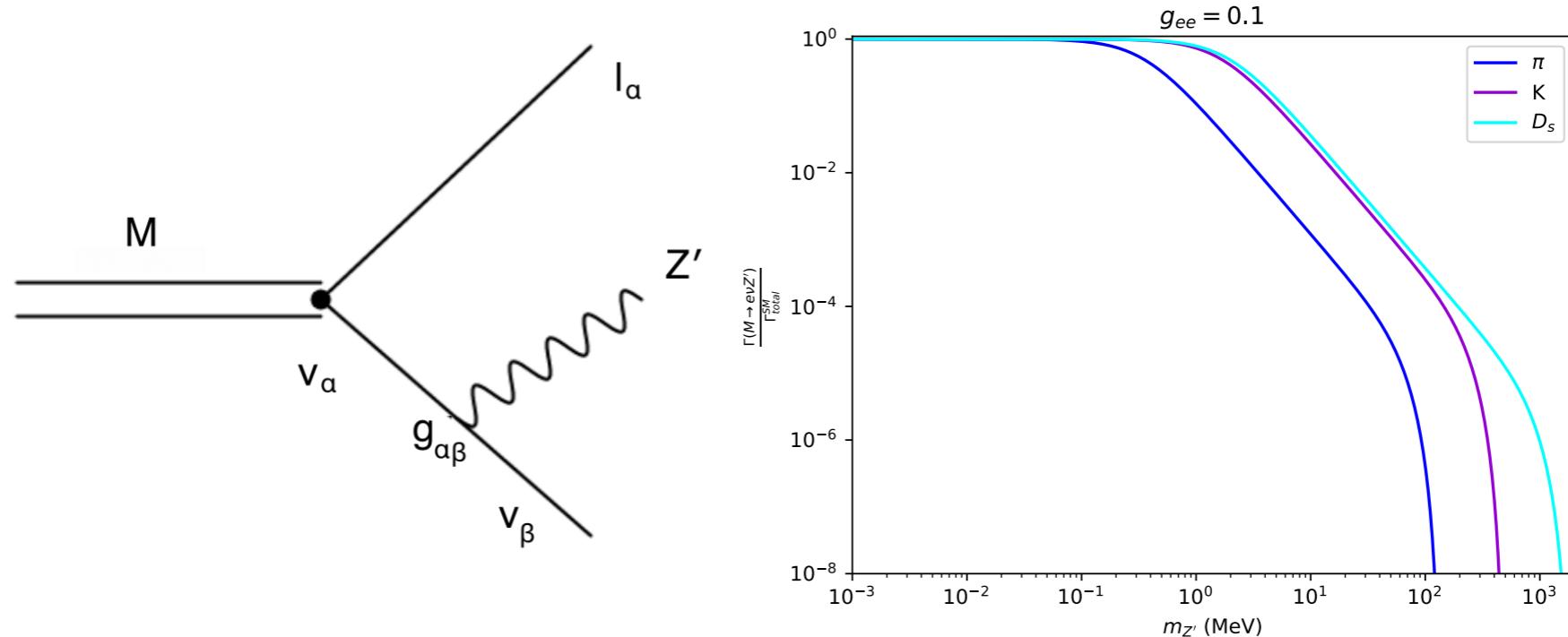
# Conclusions

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- Upcoming (& ongoing) tau neutrino experiments can shed light on our steps toward New Physics BSM.
- For example, we can probe flavor non-universal ( $\nu_\tau$ -philic) SNI preferred by cosmo/astro/lab.: we use SND@LHC, FASER $\nu$ , AdvSND, SHiP, FLArE100, FASER $\nu$ 2, and DUNE
- Atmospheric data at DUNE far detector shows the best sensitivities due to the unexpected downward-going  $\nu_\tau$  appearance with small backgrounds: stronger than cosmo for  $m_{Z'} \gtrsim 1$  MeV,  $m_{Z'} \lesssim 60$  keV.
- Tau identification and reconstruction efficiency are important.

# Backup

Kinematic process on our focus: 3-body meson decay



- Branching ratio of the 3-body decay can be **dominant for light  $Z'$**  despite the phase space suppression.
- Accordingly, very strong exp. bounds on  $g_{ee}$  : below  $\lesssim 10^{-4}$ .

# Backup

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Detector name	mass	Detector			number of events
		$\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$	$\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu$	$\nu_\tau + \bar{\nu}_\tau$	
FASER $\nu$	1.2 tonnes	1000	5000	20	
SND@LHC	800 kg	250	1000	11	
FASER $\nu$ 2	20 tonnes	$7.5 \times 10^4$	$4 \times 10^5$	$1.7 \times 10^3$	
FLArE100	100 tonnes	$2.5 \times 10^4$	$1.38 \times 10^5$	$1.3 \times 10^4$	
SHiP	10 tonnes	$3.4 \times 10^4$	$2.35 \times 10^5$	$1.2 \times 10^4$	
DUNE	40 kilo-tonnes	$1.6 \times 10^4$	$2.4 \times 10^4$	150	

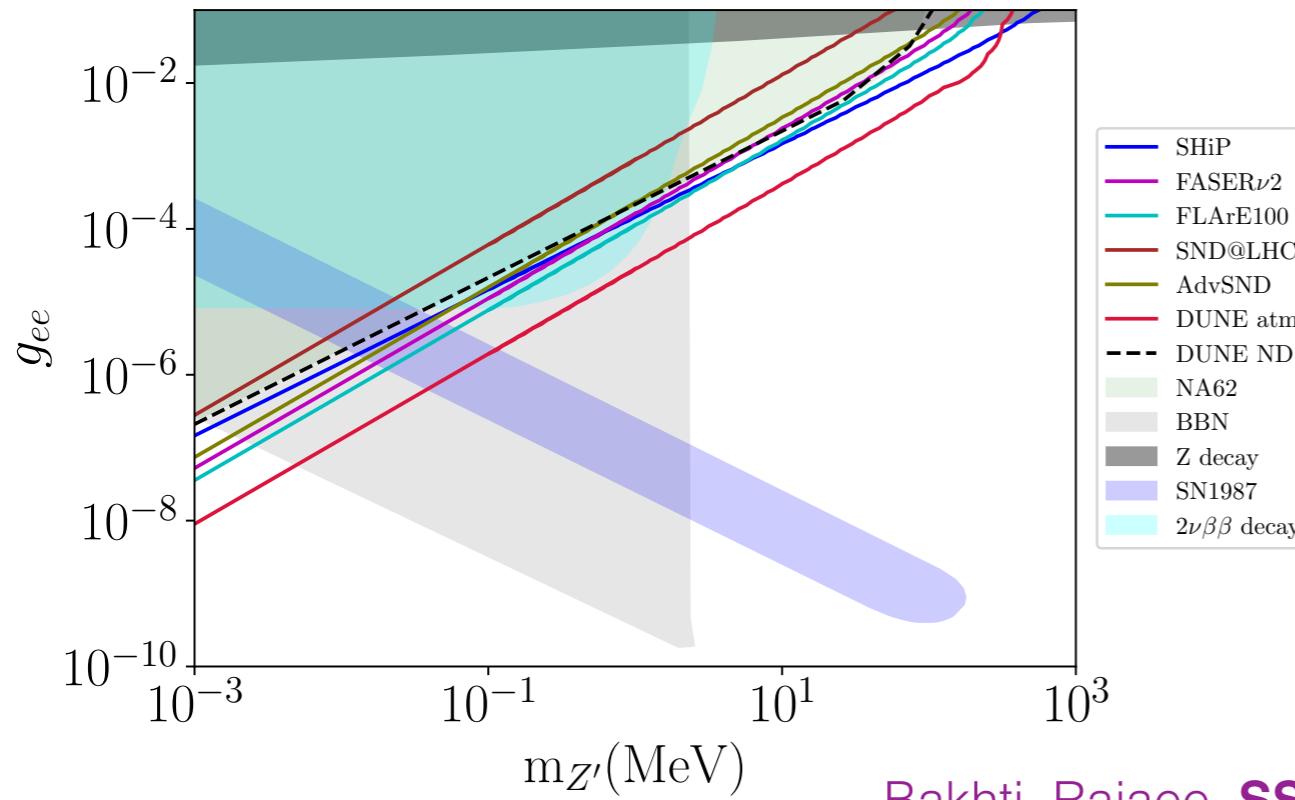
**TABLE I.** Estimated numbers of standard model neutrino events assuming a final integrated luminosity of  $150 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  for FASER $\nu$  and SND@LHC, while  $3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  for FASER $\nu$ 2 and FLArE100. For SHiP, we assume  $2 \times 10^{20}$  POT in five years. We assume a data-taking period of 10 years for DUNE atmospheric neutrinos.

Experimental details: Kling, Nevay, PRD 2021 & FPF SNOWMASS 2203.05090

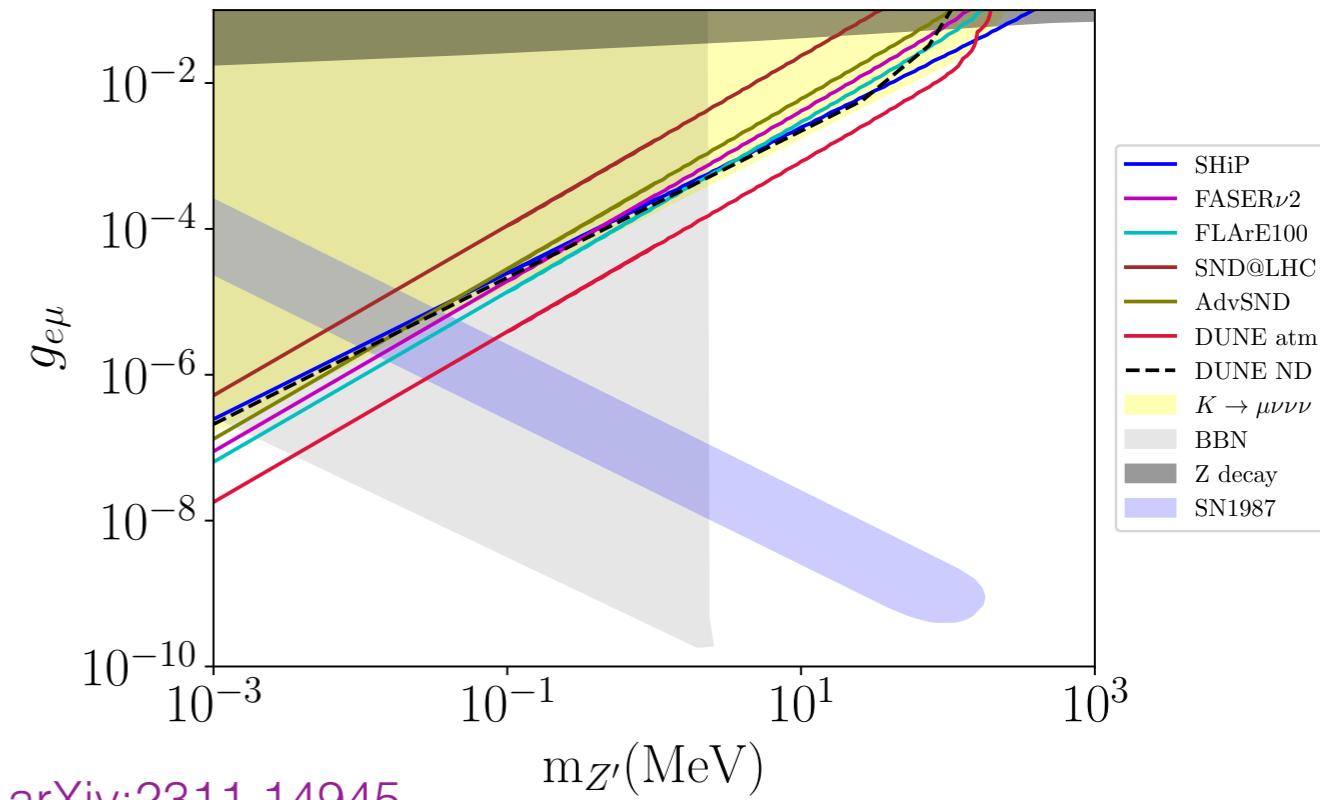
- FPF experiments: huge flux of  $\nu_\tau$  compared to SND@LHC, FASER $\nu$
- SHiP: larger ratio of  $\nu_\tau$  due to a hadron absorber (light mesons)
- DUNE: 150 upward-going  $\nu_\tau$  from the oscillation  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$

# Backup

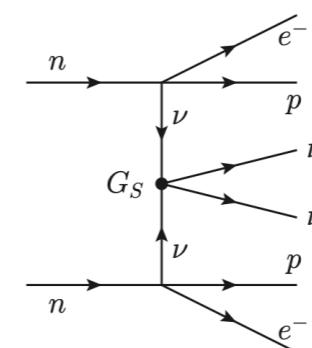
## Comparison with the other flavor couplings



Bakhti, Rajaee, **SS**, arXiv:2311.14945



- DUNE far detector ( $400 \text{ kt}\cdot\text{yr}$ ) is still most sensitive for  $m_{Z'} \gtrsim 1 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $m_{Z'} \lesssim 10 \text{ keV}$  but at least about an order of magnitude weaker than  $g_{e\tau}$ ,  $g_{\mu\tau}$ .
- $2\nu\beta\beta$  applies but weaker than the others.
- Shape of the (atmospheric) flux uncertainty can wash out the sensitivities.



Deppisch, Graf,  
Rodejohann, Xu, PRD 2020