## Searches for Heavy Neutral Leptons at Intensity Frontier Experiments

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7th International Conference on New Frontiers in Physics,

Crete, Greece, 2018

July 9, 2018

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#### Structure of the Standard Model

In the past the structure of the Standard Model was predicting where to expect new physics

We searched for new particles required for the consistency of our explanation of all the previous experiments

- We knew that something should— be found at energies below  $E < G_{\text{Fermi}}^{-1/2}$
- Without the top quark the Standard Model would be non-unitary
- Without the Higgs boson the Standard Model would be non-unitary

Higgs boson was the last predicted but unseen particle

- Did century long quest come to its end?
- Where do we need to look for something else?

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#### Standard Model is consistent up to very high scales Possibly all the way to the Planck scale



the formal pole mass of the top guark is up to the order of 1 GeV" (from First combination of Tevatron and LHC measurements of the top-quark mass [1403.4427] Bezrukov et al. "Higgs boson mass and new physics" [1205.2893] Degrassi et al. [1205.6497], Buttazzo et al. [1307.3536]



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## Should we believe that new particles exist?

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## Physics Beyond the Standard Model

#### Neutrino masses and oscillations

What makes neutrinos disappear and then re-appear in a different form? Why do they have mass?

- Neutrino oscillations do not tell us what is the scale of new physics
- It can be anywhere between sub-eV and 10<sup>15</sup> GeV

#### Dark matter

What is the most prevalent kind of matter in our Universe?

• Physics at high scales (10<sup>12</sup> GeV for axions), at intermediate scales (TeVs for WIMPs) or at low scales (keV-ish sterile neutrino, physics below electroweak scale) can be responsible for this

#### Baryon asymmetry of the Universe

what had created tiny matter-antimatter disbalance in the early Universe?

• Physics on the very different scales can be responsible for it

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## Question about the evolution of the Universe as a whole

#### Cosmological inflation:

What sets the initial conditions for all the structure that we see in the Universe? (possibly Higgs field)

#### Dark Energy:

What drives the accelerated expansion of the universe now (possibly this is just  $\Lambda$ -term)

#### Deep theoretical questions

- Strong CP problem
- Why Planck scale 10<sup>19</sup> GeV is much higher than the electroweak scale (100 GeV)?
- How to describe gravity quantum mechanically?

(Fundamental questions, but it is possible to be agnostic about them for quantitative description of what was observed so far)

## Unsolved problems mean that new particles probably exist

#### We did not detect them because

they are heavy

## OR

#### they are light but very weakly interacting

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#### Heavy particles: active LHC searches

ATLAS Exotics Searches* - 95% CL Exclusion ATLAS Prelimina					AS Preliminary		
Model	ί,γ	Jets†	E <sup>miss</sup> T	∫£ dt[ft	'] Limit	J2, dt = (3.2 - 20.3) ID	Reference
$\begin{array}{c} \text{ADD } \mathcal{L}_{OX} + g/q \\ \text{ADD } \text{draw meaning } (\ell) \\ $	- 2 e, µ 1 e, µ - 2 e, µ 2 y 1 e, µ 1 e, µ 1 e, µ 1 e, µ	$ \begin{array}{c} \geq 1  j \\ -  1  j \\ 2  j \\ \geq 2  j \\ \geq 3  j \\ -  \\ 1  J \\ 4  b \\ 1  b \geq 1  J  2 \\ \geq 2  b \geq 4  j \end{array} $	Yes   Yes Yes	3.2 20.3 15.7 3.2 20.3 3.6 20.3 3.2 13.2 13.3 20.3 3.2	No	$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	1604.07773 1407.2410 1311.3065 1471.45.COM=2016-069 1400.4123 1406.0323 1406.4123 1406.0323 1406.0323 1405.4123 1405.000-0614.012 ATLAS.COM=2016-049 ATLAS.COM=2016-049 ATLAS.COM=2016-043
$\begin{array}{cccc} & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & $	2 e,μ 2 τ 1 e,μ 0 e,μ - di-channe 1 e,μ 0 e,μ	- 2b - 1J 2J 2b,0-1j ≥1b,1J	Yes Yes Yes	133 195 32 133 132 155 32 203 203 203	2 mm 407 2 mm 2 0 15 M 407 2 mm 2 15 M 407 W mm 2 2 15 M 407 W mm 2 2 5 M 407 W mm 2 2 5 M 407 W mm 1 25 M 407 W m 1 25 M 4	<b>Tay:</b> $p_{Y} = 1$ $p_{Y} = 3$ $p_{Y} = 3$ <b>199.76</b> $p_{Y} = n$	ATLAS CONF-2016-045 1502.07177 1602.02797 ATLAS CONF-2016-051 ATLAS CONF-2016-052 ATLAS CONF-2016-052 1607.05021 1410.4103 1410.4103 1410.4003 471 AS_CONF-2016-059 471 AS_CONF-2016-059
C Cl l/(og Cl uutt 2(5 Axial-vector mediator (Dirac DM)	2 e,μ 3S)/≥3 e,μ 0 e,μ	21 b, 21 j 2 1 j	Nes Nes	3.2 20.3 3.2	A A Ma 1.0 TeV Ma TEO CAM	25.2 TeV         q <sub>11</sub> = −1            C <sub>ent</sub>   = 1                     g <sub>10</sub> =0.25, g <sub>10</sub> =1.0, m(y) < 250 GeV	1607.03669 1504.04605 1604.07773
22 <sub>22</sub> EFT (Dirac DM) Soalar LO 1 <sup>st</sup> gen Soalar LO 2 <sup>st</sup> gen	0 e,μ 2 e 2 μ 1 e,μ	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \hspace{0.5mm} J, \hspace{0.5mm} \leq \hspace{0.5mm} 1 \hspace{0.5mm} j \\ \hspace{0.5mm} \geq \hspace{0.5mm} 2 \hspace{0.5mm} j \\ \hspace{0.5mm} \geq \hspace{0.5mm} 2 \hspace{0.5mm} j \\ \hspace{0.5mm} \geq \hspace{0.5mm} 1 \hspace{0.5mm} b, \hspace{0.5mm} \geq \hspace{0.5mm} 3 \hspace{0.5mm} j \end{array}$	Yes - Yes	3.2 3.2 3.2 20.3	M, 550 GeV LD mass 1.1 TeV LD mass 1.25 TeV LD mass 640 GeV	$m(\chi) < 150 \text{ GeV}$ $\beta = 1$ $\beta = 0$	ATLAS CONF-2015-080 1605-06025 1605-06025 1508-04725
$\begin{array}{c} \text{VLO }TT \rightarrow \text{th} + X\\ \text{VLO }YY \rightarrow \text{Wb} + X\\ \text{VLO }BB \rightarrow \text{Hb} + X\\ \text{Hb} = 2b + X\\ H$	1 e, μ 1 e, μ 1 e, μ 2/≥3 e, μ 1 e, μ 38)/≥3 e, μ	$\begin{array}{c} \geq 2 \ b, \geq 3 \ j \\ \geq 1 \ b, \geq 3 \ j \\ \geq 2 \ b, \geq 3 \ j \\ \geq 2 \ b, \geq 3 \ j \\ \geq 2 \ \geq 1 \ b \\ \geq 4 \ j \\ \geq 4 \ j \\ \geq 1 \ b, \geq 1 \ j \end{array}$	Yes Yes Yes Yes	20.3 20.3 20.3 20.3 20.3 20.3 20.3 3.2	T mass 855 GeV Y max 770 GeV B mas 755 GeV B mas 755 GeV Q mass 655 GeV Y Tsy mass 920 GeV	T in (T,B) doublet Y in (B,Y) doublet langer singlet B in (B,Y) doublet	1505.04006 1505.04006 1505.04006 1409.5500 1509.04601 ATLAS-CONF-2016-022
Excited quark $q^* \rightarrow q\gamma$ Excited quark $q^* \rightarrow q\gamma$ Excited quark $q^* \rightarrow q\gamma$ Excited quark $b^* \rightarrow b\gamma$ Excited quark $b^* \rightarrow Wr$ Excited lepton $\ell^*$	1 γ - or 2 e, μ 3 e, μ 3 e, μ, τ	1j 2j 1b,1j 1b,20j -	- Nes -	3.2 15.7 8.8 20.3 20.3 20.3	42 mass         42           47 mass         2.3 TeV           37 mass         2.3 TeV           10 mass         1.3 TeV           7 mass         3.0 TeV           4 mass         1.6 TeV	4 TeV         only a <sup>+</sup> , and a <sup>+</sup> , A = m(q <sup>+</sup> )           5.6 TeV         only a <sup>+</sup> , and a <sup>+</sup> , A = m(q <sup>+</sup> )           6 = fb = 1         A = 3.0 TeV           A = 1.0 TeV         A = 1.0 TeV	1512.05910 ATLAS-CONF-2016-089 ATLAS-CONF-2016-080 1510.00564 1411.2921 1411.2921
LSTC $a_T \rightarrow W\gamma$ 1 LRSM Majorana $\gamma$ 1 Higgs triplet $H^{**} \rightarrow ee$ 2 Higgs triplet $H^{**} \rightarrow tr$ 2 Monopo (non-res prod) Multi-charged particles Magnetic monopoles	e, μ, 1 γ 2 e, μ 2 e (SS) 3 e, μ, τ 1 e, μ - -	2j  1b 	Nes - Nes TeV	20.3 20.3 13.9 20.3 20.3 20.3 7.0	Jay mass         BHO GeV           Net mass         570 GeV           Net mass         570 GeV           Net mass         620 GeV           Net mass         620 GeV           Net mass         620 GeV           moust dependences         627 GeV           moust dependences         627 GeV           moust dependences         627 GeV           moust dependences         627 GeV	$\begin{split} m(W_{d2}) &= 2.4 \ \text{TeV}, \text{no mixing} \\ D^* \text{production, } BR(P_1^{**} - s \cdot s) + 1 \\ D^* \text{production, } BR(P_1^{**} - s') + 1 \\ \lambda_{merrow} &= 0.2 \\ D^* \text{production, }  s  &= 5 \\ D^* \text{production, }  s  &= 3 \\ d_{20}, \text{spin } 1/2 \end{split}$	1407.8150 1506.00220 ATLAS-CDNF-3016-051 1411.0281 14110.5494 1508.04188 1508.08059

Probed scale  $\ll 10^{19} \text{ GeV}$ 

\*Only a selection of the available mass limits on new states or phenomena is shown. Lower bounds are specified only when explicitly not excluded. †Small-radius (large-radius) jets are denoted by the letter j (J).

## Intensity frontier searches for feebly interacting particles



#### Portal operators — the gate to new physics

#### Light messengers couple Standard Model to "hidden sectors" via portals

- Scalar portal (new particles are neutral singlet scalars,  $S_i$  that couple the Higgs field:  $(\lambda_i S_i^2 + g_i S_i)(H^{\dagger}H)$ )
- Vector portal (new particles are Abelian fields,  $A'_{\mu}$  with the field strength  $F'_{\mu\nu}$ , that couple to the hypercharge field  $F^{\mu\nu}_{Y}$  via  $F'_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}_{Y}$ )
- **Neutrino** portal (the singlet operators  $(\bar{L} \cdot \tilde{H})$  couple to new neutral singlet fermions  $N_l$  $F_{\alpha l}(\bar{L}_{\alpha} \cdot \tilde{\Phi})N_l$ )
- **Chern-Simons\*** portal (coupling of SM vectors to new vector X through the interaction of form  $\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\sigma\rho}X_{\mu}V_{\nu}\partial_{\sigma}V'_{\rho}$ )
- Axion-like<sup>\*</sup> portal (couplings of pseudo Nambu-Goldstone bosons *a*, associated with the breaking of approximate global symmetries:  $aF_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$ ,  $\partial_{\mu}a\bar{\psi}\gamma^{\mu}\gamma^{5}\psi$ )

## Neutrino minimal Standard Model (vMSM)





- Neutrino oscillations: particles N<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>
- Baryon asymmetry: same particles N<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>
  - masses 𝒪(100) MeV − 𝒪(80) GeV
- Dark matter: particle N<sub>1</sub>
  - mass 1 50 keV
- Inflation: Higgs field coupled to gravity
  - Inflationary parameters for  $M_{\rm Higgs} \sim 126~{\rm GeV}$  in perfect agreement with observations
  - Neutrino Minimal Standard Model (vMSM)
  - Masses of right-handed neutrinos as of other order of masses of other leptons
  - Yukawas as those of electron or smaller
  - Review: Boyarsky, Ruchayskiy, Shaposhnikov Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. (2009), [0901.0011]

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## Heavy Neutral Leptons



- States that propagate (mass eigenstates) do not have a definite weak charges – oscillations
- Neutrinos are light because *M<sub>D</sub>* ≪ *M*:

$$m_{
u} \simeq rac{(M_D)^2}{M} = U^2 M$$

• active-sterile mixing angle

$$U = \frac{M_D}{M} \ll 1$$

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The new particle is called "Sterile neutrino" or "heavy neutral lepton" or HNL

## Properties of HNLs

#### Heavy neutral lepton inherits the interactions from neutrinos

Charged current-like: 
$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{CC} = \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{e} \gamma^{\mu} (1 - \gamma_5) \mathbf{N}^c W_{\mu}$$
  
Neutral current-like:  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{NC} = \frac{g}{\cos \theta_W} \bar{\nu} \gamma^{\mu} (1 - \gamma_5) \mathbf{N}^c Z_{\mu}$ 

#### Typical values of parameters

$$\left( \mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{F}} \longrightarrow \mathsf{U} \times \mathsf{G}_{\mathsf{F}} \right)$$

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Yukawa coupling 
$$\sim \left(\frac{M_N m_{\nu}}{\langle \Phi \rangle^2}\right)^{1/2} \approx 4 \times 10^{-8} \left(\frac{M_N}{1 \text{ GeV}}\right)^{1/2}$$
  
Mixing angles  $U^2 = \frac{m_{\nu}}{M_N} \approx 5 \times 10^{-11} \left(\frac{1 \text{ GeV}}{M_N}\right)$ 

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## How to search for HNLs

Shrock+'80s; Gronau+'84; Gorbunov & Shaposhnikov'07; Atre et al.'09 Review: SHiP Physics Case'15

- *M<sub>N</sub>* < *few* MeV only *U<sub>e</sub>* mixing can be probed (kink searches)
- $\mathcal{O}(10)$ MeV  $\leq M_N \leq M_K$  intensity frontier experiments (peak searches)
- O(100)MeV ≤ M<sub>N</sub> ≤ M<sub>B</sub> intensity frontier experiments (fixed target experiments)
- *M<sub>N</sub>* ≥ *few* GeV − LHC searches (displaced vertices; multilepton final states; same sign same flavour leptons, ...)

Helo+'15-'16; Izaguirre & Shuve'15; Ng+'15; Antush+'15-'16; Dib & Kim'15;

Gado+'15; Dev+'15; Cvetic+'15-'16

• Z-factories (FCC-ee)





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#### SHiP (Search for Hidden Particles) experiment Step by step overview



# SHiP (*Search for Hidden Particles*) experiment Step by step overview



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## HNL phenomenology I

- There is a great amount of production and decay channels
- HNL phenomenology was recently reviewed in [1805.08567]
- The main production channel is meson decays



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Table 5: $(co)$	$\operatorname{ntinued})$
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Channel	Open, MeV	Rel. from, MeV	Rel. to, MeV	Max BR, $\%$	Formula
$N  ightarrow  u_lpha e^+ e^-$	1.02	1.29		21.8	(3.4)
$N  o  u_{lpha} \pi^0$	135	136	3630	57.3	(3.7)
$N  ightarrow e^- \pi^+$	140	141	3000	33.5	(3.6)
$N  ightarrow \mu^- \pi^+$	245	246	3000	19.7	(3.6)
$N  ightarrow e^-  u_\mu \mu^+$	106	315		5.15	(3.1)
$N  ightarrow \mu^-  u_e e^+$	106	315		5.15	(3.1)
$N  ightarrow  u_lpha \mu^+ \mu^-$	211	441		4.21	(3.4)
$N  o  u_{lpha} \eta$	548	641	2330	3.50	(3.7)
$N \to e^- \pi^+ \pi^0$	275	666	4550	10.4	(B.42)
$N  ightarrow  u_{lpha} \pi^+ \pi^-$	279	750	3300	4.81	(B.43)
$N \rightarrow \nu_{\alpha} \omega$	783	997	1730	1.40	(3.9)
$N  o  u_{lpha} (3\pi)^0$	$\gtrsim 405$	$\gtrsim 1000$	?	?	No
$N  ightarrow e^- (3\pi)^+$	$\gtrsim 410$	$\gtrsim 1000$	?	?	No
$N  o  u_{lpha} \eta'$	958	1290	2400	1.86	(3.7)
$N  o  u_{lpha} \phi$	1019	1100	4270	5.90	(3.9)
$N \rightarrow \mu^{-}(3\pi)^{+}$	$\gtrsim 515$	$\gtrsim 1100$	?	?	No
$N  ightarrow  u_{lpha} K^+ K^-$	987	$\gtrsim 1100$	?	?	No
37 (4.)0	> 5.10	> 1000	0	0	

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## Sensitivity

• Number of detected events

$$N_{
m events} = N_{
m prod} imes P_{
m decay}$$
 (1)

• Number of produced HNLs

$$N_{\rm prod} \approx \sum_{q,{\rm meson}} \underbrace{2N_{q\bar{q}} \times f_{q \to {\rm meson}}}_{R_{\rm meson} \to N} BR_{{\rm meson} \to N} \times \epsilon_{\rm decay}$$
 (2)

Decay probability

$$P_{\text{decay}} = \left[ \exp\left(-\frac{l_{\text{target-det}}}{l_{\text{decay}}}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{l_{\text{target-det}} + l_{\text{det}}}{l_{\text{decay}}}\right) \right] \times \epsilon_{\text{det}} \times \text{BR}_{\text{vis}}, \quad (3)$$

where  $I_{\text{decay}} = c \gamma \tau_N$ 

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• If  $I_{\text{decay}} \gg I_{\text{target-det}} + I_{\text{det}}$  (small  $U^2$ ) then

$$P_{\rm decay} \approx \frac{I_{\rm det} \Gamma_N}{c\gamma} \times \epsilon_{\rm det} \times {\sf BR}_{
m vis}$$
 (4)

and  $N_{\text{events}} \propto U^4$  for the given  $M_N$ . This gives a lower bound of the sensitivity • If  $I_{\text{decay}} \lesssim I_{\text{target-det}}$  (large  $U^2$ ) then

$$P_{\text{decay}} \approx \exp\left(-\frac{l_{\text{target-det}}\Gamma_N}{c\gamma}\right) \times \epsilon_{\text{det}} \times \mathsf{BR}_{ ext{vis}}$$
 (5)

and  $N_{\text{events}} \propto U^2 \exp(-CU^2)$  for the given  $M_N$ . This gives an upper bound of the sensitivity

• Intersection of lower and upper bound determining the maximal probed mass

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## New sensitivity for HNLs

• Result for the pure electron and tau mixings from the SHiP collaboration paper [in preparation]



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## How does this compare with previous sensitivity curve



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Effect of  $B_c$ 



- Production from  $B_c$  mesons can be dominant for masses  $M_N > 3$  GeV if the production fraction  $b \rightarrow B_c \sim 10^{-3}$
- $B_c$  production fraction at SHiP is unknown, but it could as high as 2.6 × 10<sup>-3</sup> LHCb measurements

- Sensitivity of the experiment depends on the particular HNL model, with is usually fixed by choosing  $U_e^2$ :  $U_{\mu}^2$ :  $U_{\tau}^2$  ratio
- The lower bound of the sensitivity curve has a simple analytic dependence on the set of mixing angles,

$$N_{\text{events}} = \sum_{\alpha,\beta \in (e,\mu,\tau)} U_{\alpha}^2 \mathcal{M}_{\alpha\beta}(M_N) U_{\beta}^2$$
(6)

where the matrix  $\mathcal{M}_{\alpha\beta}(M_N)$  gives a number of HNL produced through  $\alpha$  flavour and decayed through  $\beta$ 

• Using this matrix one can give a prediction for sensitivity in a model-independent way



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- New feebly interacting particles lighter than  $W^{\pm}$  can exist
- Intensity frontier is an underexplored possibility to discover new particles, complimentary to LHC-like experiments
- Such experiments may turn out to be the future of particle physics for some time
- Experiments like SHiP are capable to discover new particles expected from various phenomenological and theoretical directions
- SHiP has capability not only to constrain many interesting models, but also directly experimentally resolve three major BSM phenomena: neutrino masses, dark matter, origin of matter-antimatter asymmetry



• MATHUSLA detectors is too big to generate magnetic fiels. Therefore one cannot restore momentum of particles

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Experiment	N <sub>D</sub>	$\langle \gamma \rangle_D$	N <sub>B</sub>	$\langle \gamma \rangle_B$	$\langle I_{det} \rangle$ , m
MATHUSLA	$3.6  imes 10^{14}$	2.6	$2.6 imes10^{13}$	2.3	38
SHiP	$7.8  imes 10^{17}$	19.2	$5.4 imes10^{13}$	16.6	50

• If  $I_{\rm decay} \gg I_{\rm det}$ 



Using these numbers

$$\frac{N_{\text{decay}}^{\text{SHiP}}}{N_{\text{decay}}^{\text{MATHUSLA}}}\bigg|_{M_N < M_D} \simeq 55, \qquad \frac{N_{\text{decay}}^{\text{SHiP}}}{N_{\text{decay}}^{\text{MATHUSLA}}}\bigg|_{M_N > M_D} \simeq 1/13$$
(8)

## Maximal probed mass

Maximal probed mass can be estimated at lower bound with additional condition

$$I_{target-det} \lesssim I_{decay}$$
 (9)

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• Decay length can be estimated as

$$I_{\rm decay} \simeq \frac{\langle E \rangle}{M_X} \times \begin{cases} 170 \, {\rm cm} \left(\frac{10^{-5}}{U^2}\right) \left(\frac{2 \, {\rm GeV}}{M_X}\right)^5, \, {\rm HNL.} \, {\rm Mixing with} \, \, U_{e/\mu} \, {\rm only} \\ 454 \, {\rm cm} \left(\frac{10^{-5}}{U_\tau^2}\right) \left(\frac{2 \, {\rm GeV}}{M_X}\right)^5, \, {\rm HNL.} \, {\rm Mixing with} \, \, U_\tau \, {\rm only} \end{cases}$$

$$(10)$$

• Which gives 
$$rac{M_{
m decay,max}^{
m SHiP}}{M_{
m decay,max}^{
m MATHUSLA}}\simeq 1.3$$

= 990

## Sensitivity curve



- SHiP and MATHUSLA have similar sensitivity. MATHUSLA is YES/NO experiment, while SHiP could reconstruct mass of decaying particle
- SHiP and MATHUSLA are supplementary experiments, it would be nice to have them both

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