

Sterile Neutrino Searches



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NuFact
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Cagliari, Italy

Outline

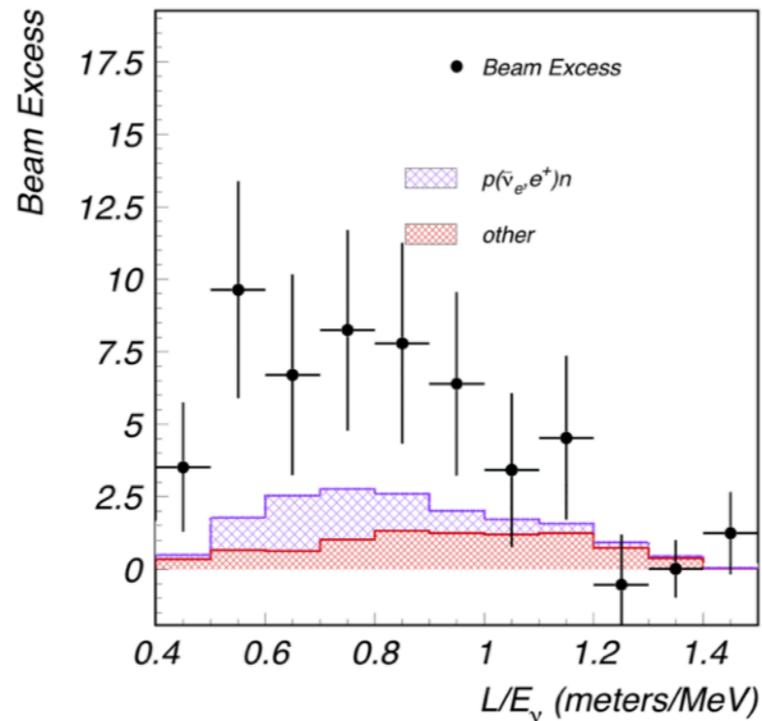
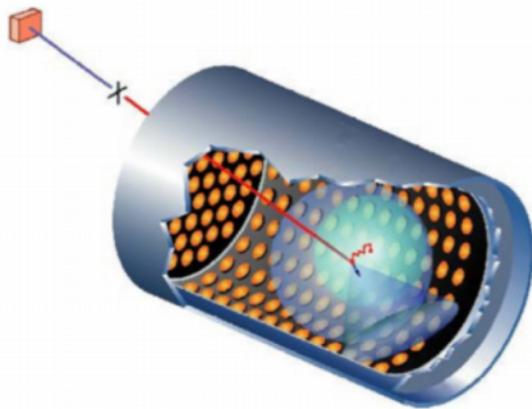
- The need for more than three neutrinos and *more*
- The garden of forking paths
- Outlook

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- The garden of forking paths
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The short-baseline anomalies

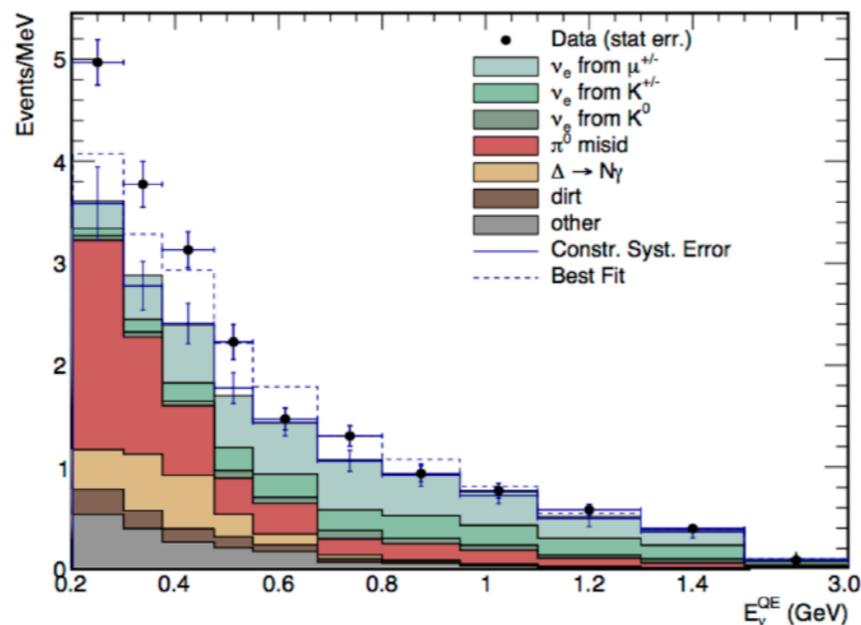
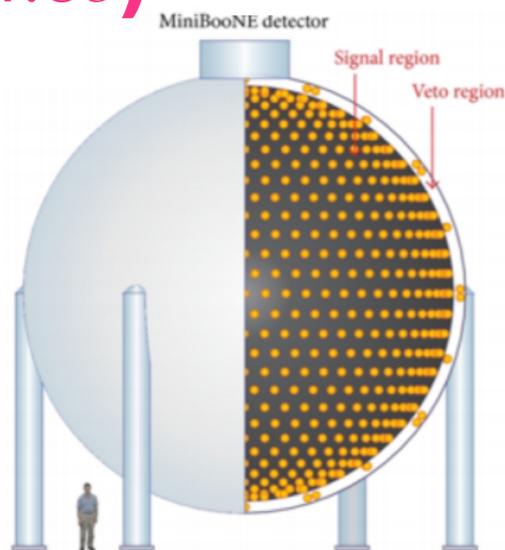
LSND (3.8σ)



These experiments observe ν_e appearance at $L/E \sim 1 \text{ km/GeV}$!

This points to $\Delta m^2 \sim 1 \text{ eV}^2$

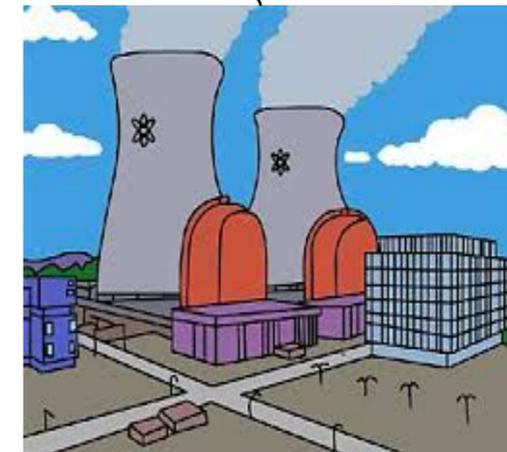
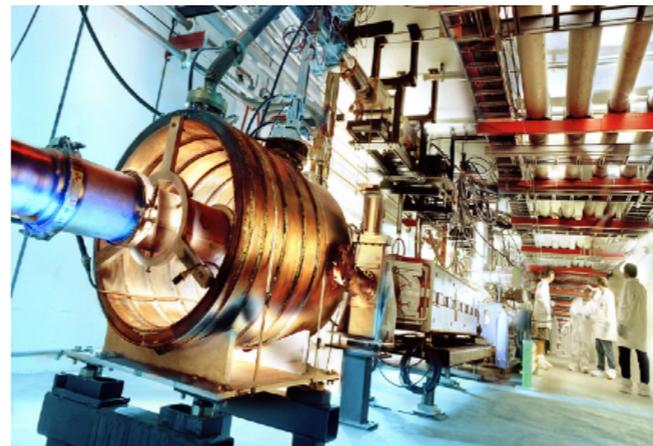
MiniBooNE (4.8σ)



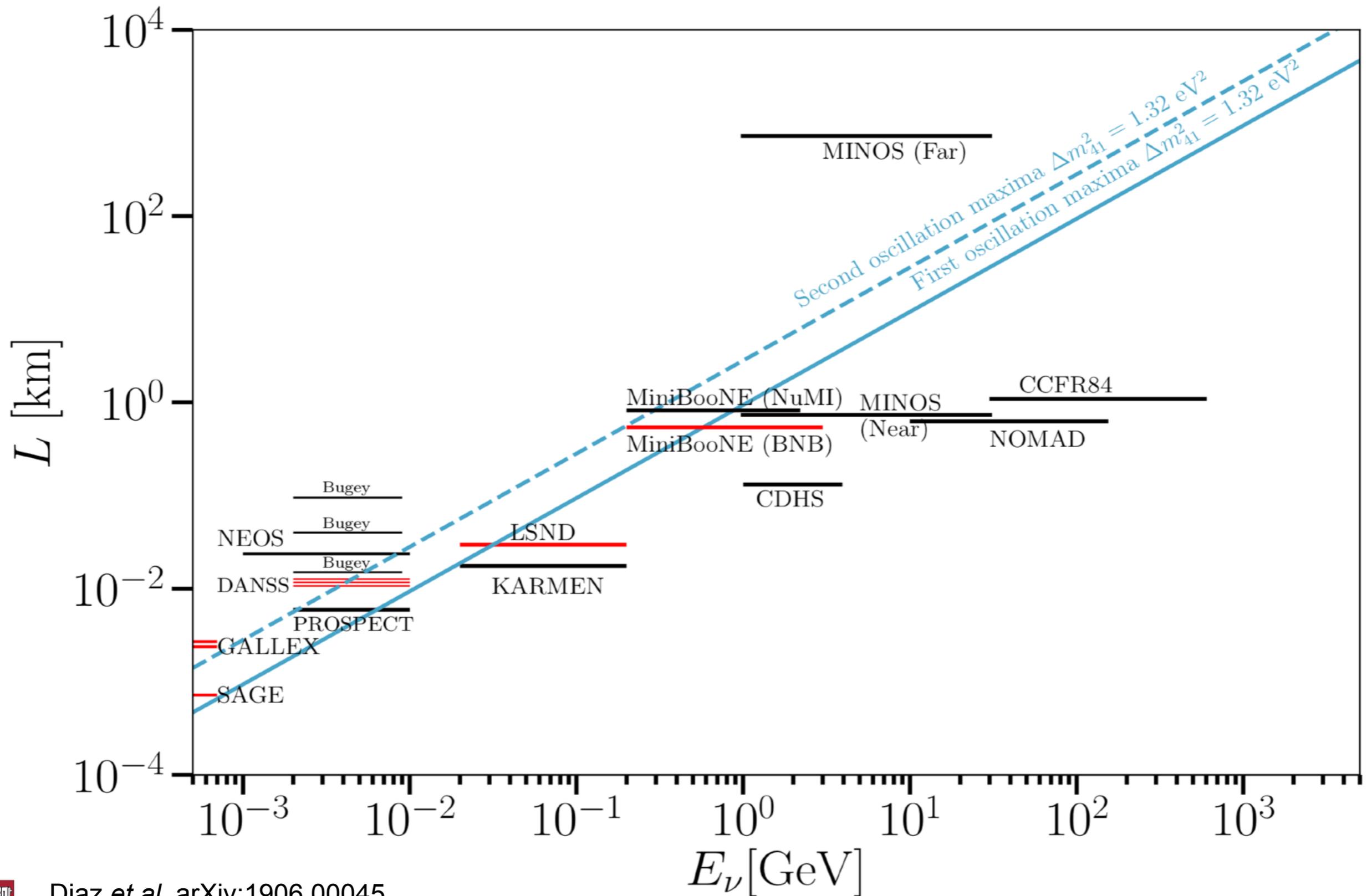
These are not alone, other interesting observations

	$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$	$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$	$\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e$
Neutrino	MiniBooNE (BNB) *	SciBooNE/MiniBooNE	KARMEN/LSND Cross Section
	MiniBooNE(NuMI) NOMAD	CCFR CDHS MINOS IceCube	Gallium *
Antineutrino	LSND *	SciBooNE/MiniBooNE	Bugey Daya Bay NEOS PROSPECT DANSS STEREO
	KARMEN	CCFR	Neutrino-4 *
	MiniBooNE (BNB) *	MINOS IceCube	

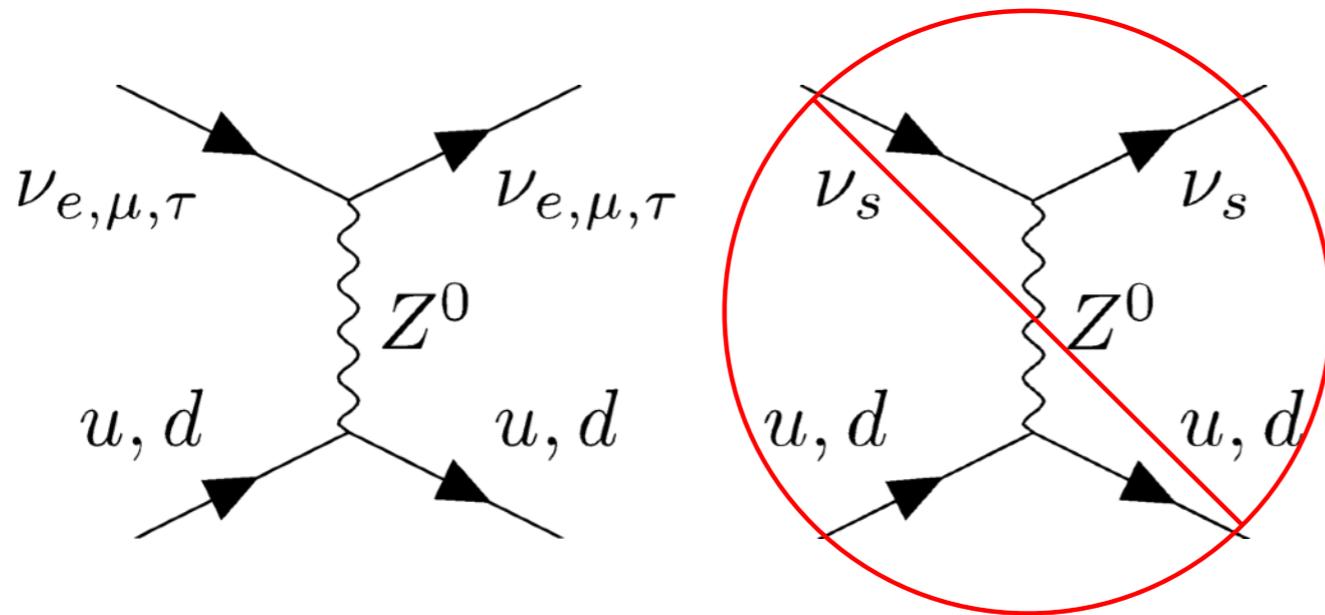
* \Rightarrow $>2\sigma$ "signal"



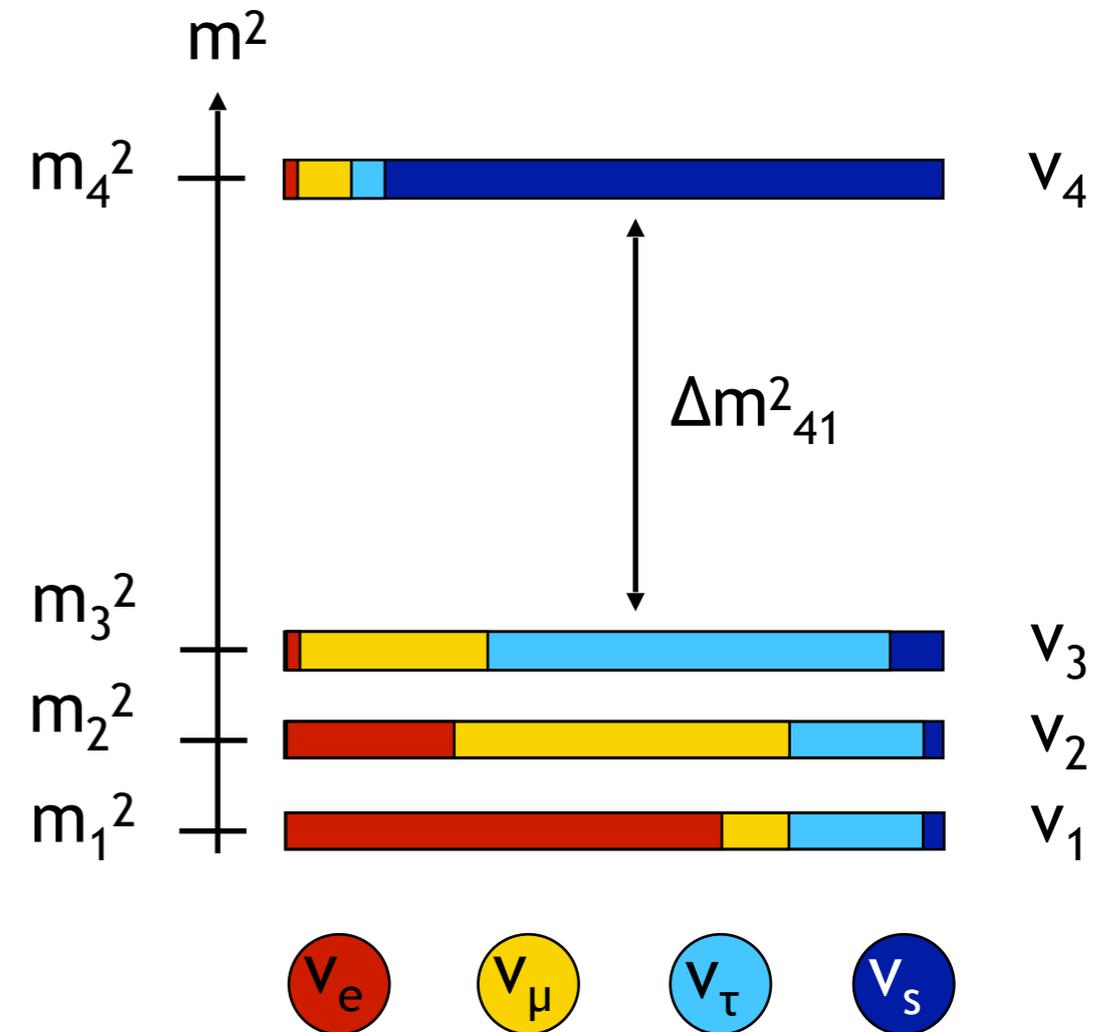
The anomalies lie ~ in a line



Vanilla solution: light sterile neutrino



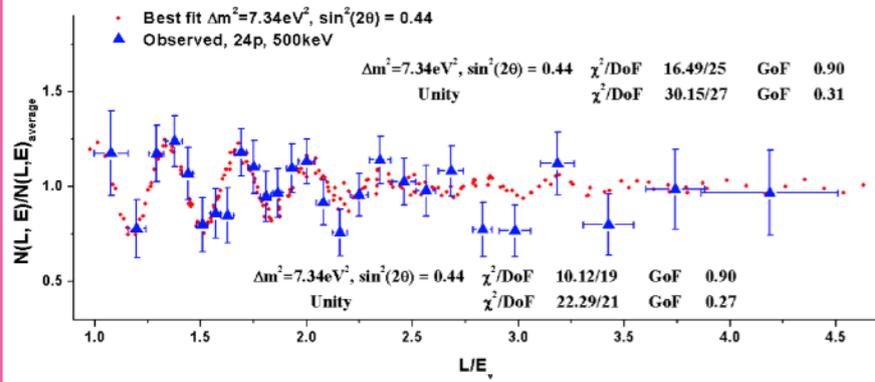
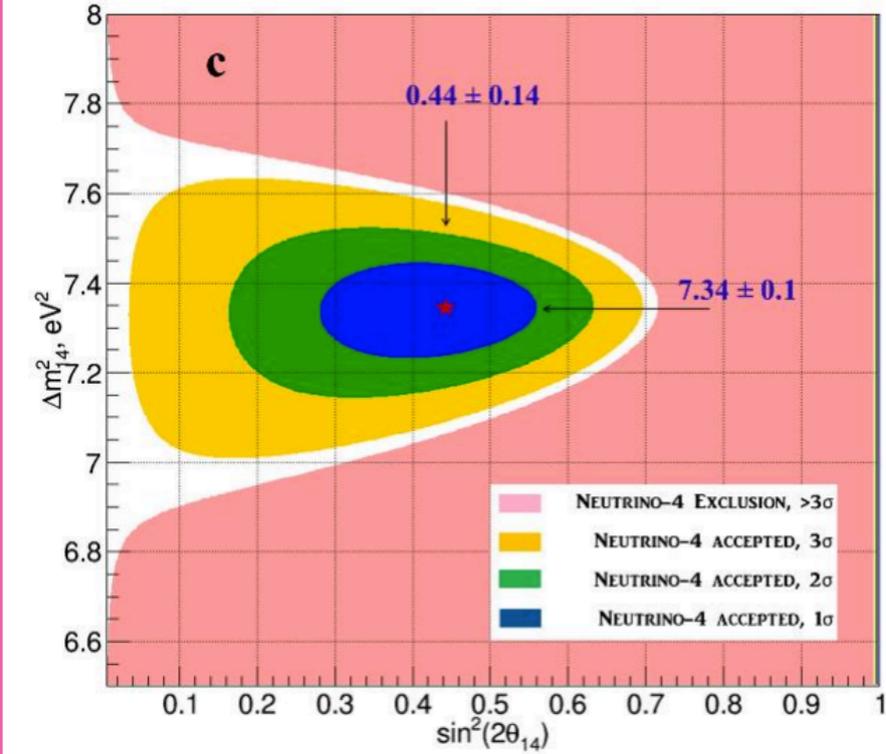
$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \\ \nu_s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} & U_{e4} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} & U_{\mu4} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} & U_{\tau4} \\ U_{s1} & U_{s2} & U_{s3} & U_{s4} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \\ \nu_4 \end{pmatrix}$$



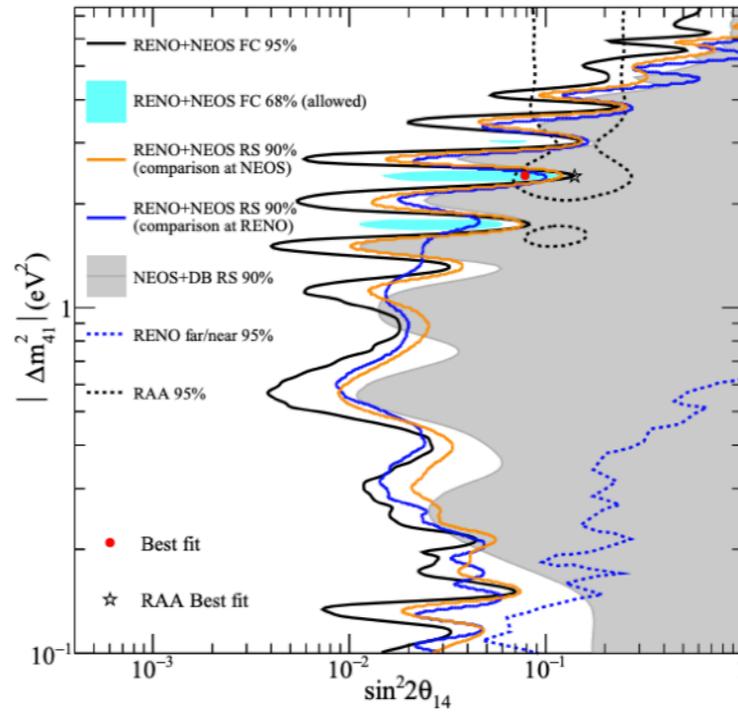
Assuming Normal Ordering

Results from electron-neutrino disappearance

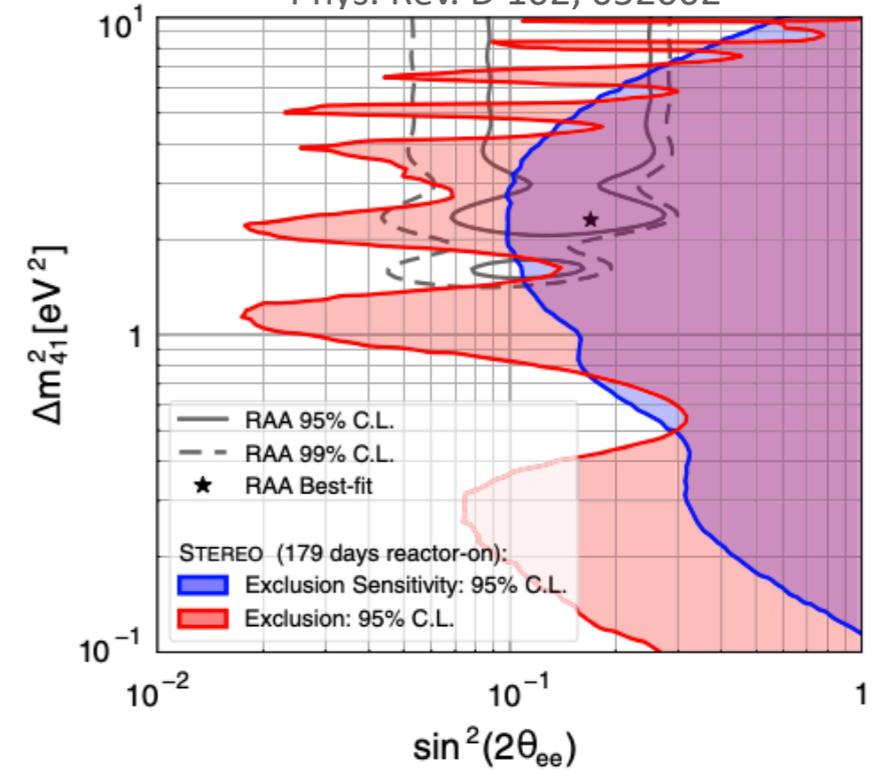
Neutrino-4 arXiv:1809.10561



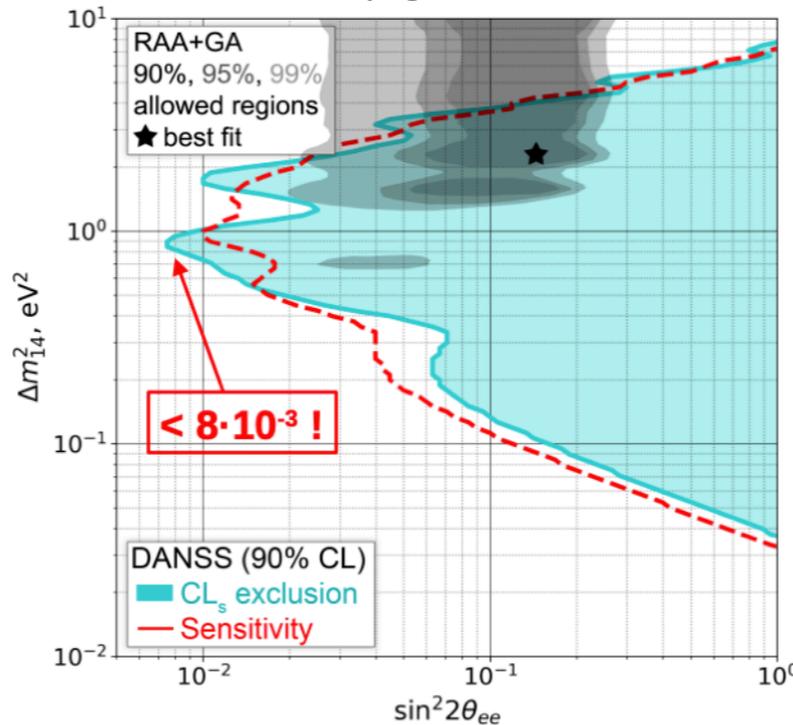
NEOS+RENO
arXiv:2011.00896



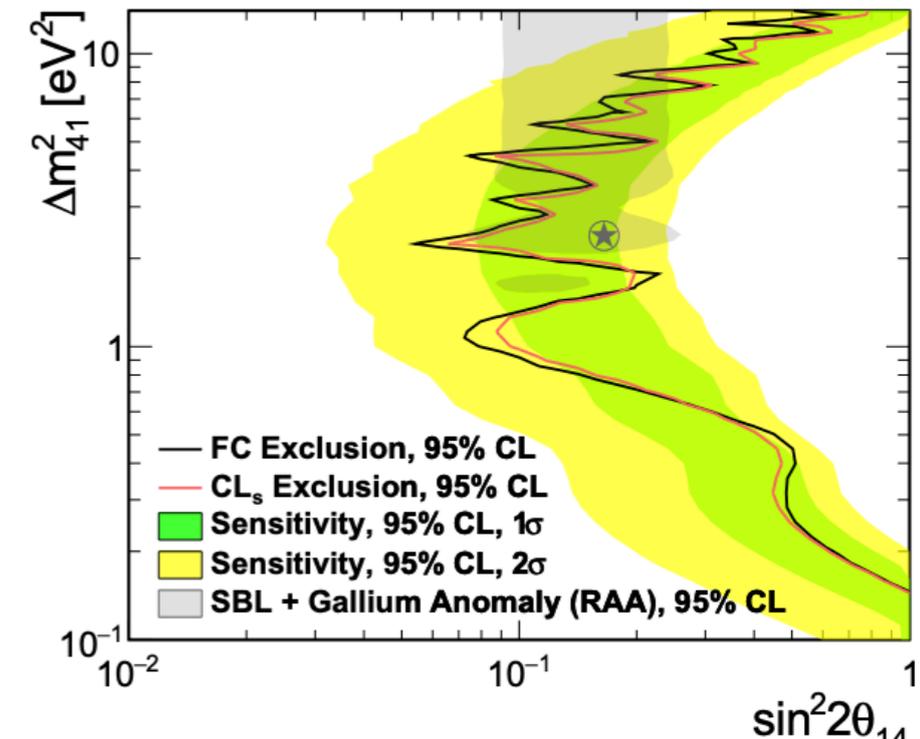
STEREO Collaboration
Phys. Rev. D 102, 052002



DANSS
See talk by Igor Alekseev



PROSPECT
Phys. Rev. D 103, 032001 (2021)



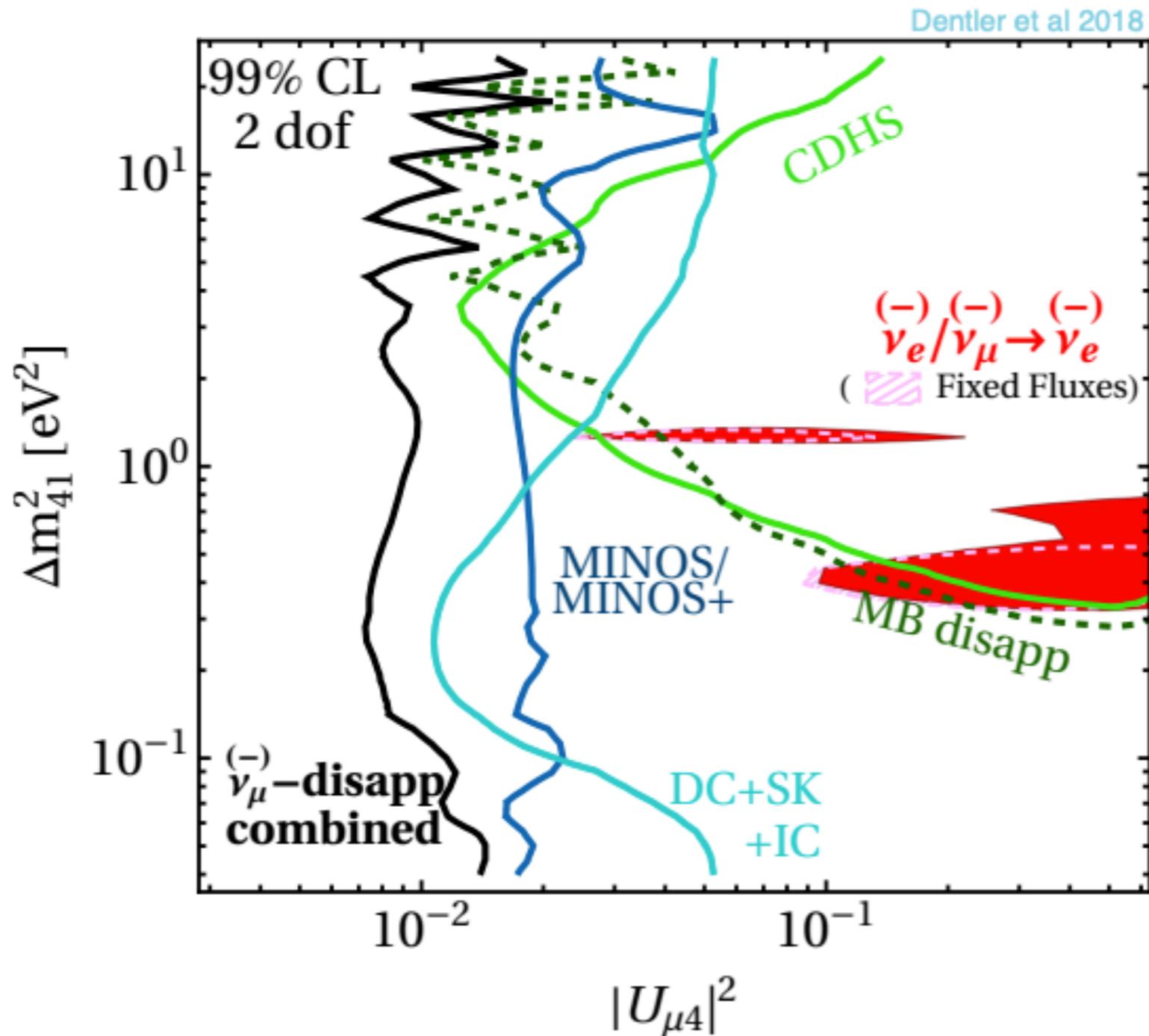
Wiggles or fluctuations?

See C. Giunti arXiv:2101.06785

See poster by A. Minotti for a recent summary

See talk by d Galbinski for sensitivity of the Solid experiment

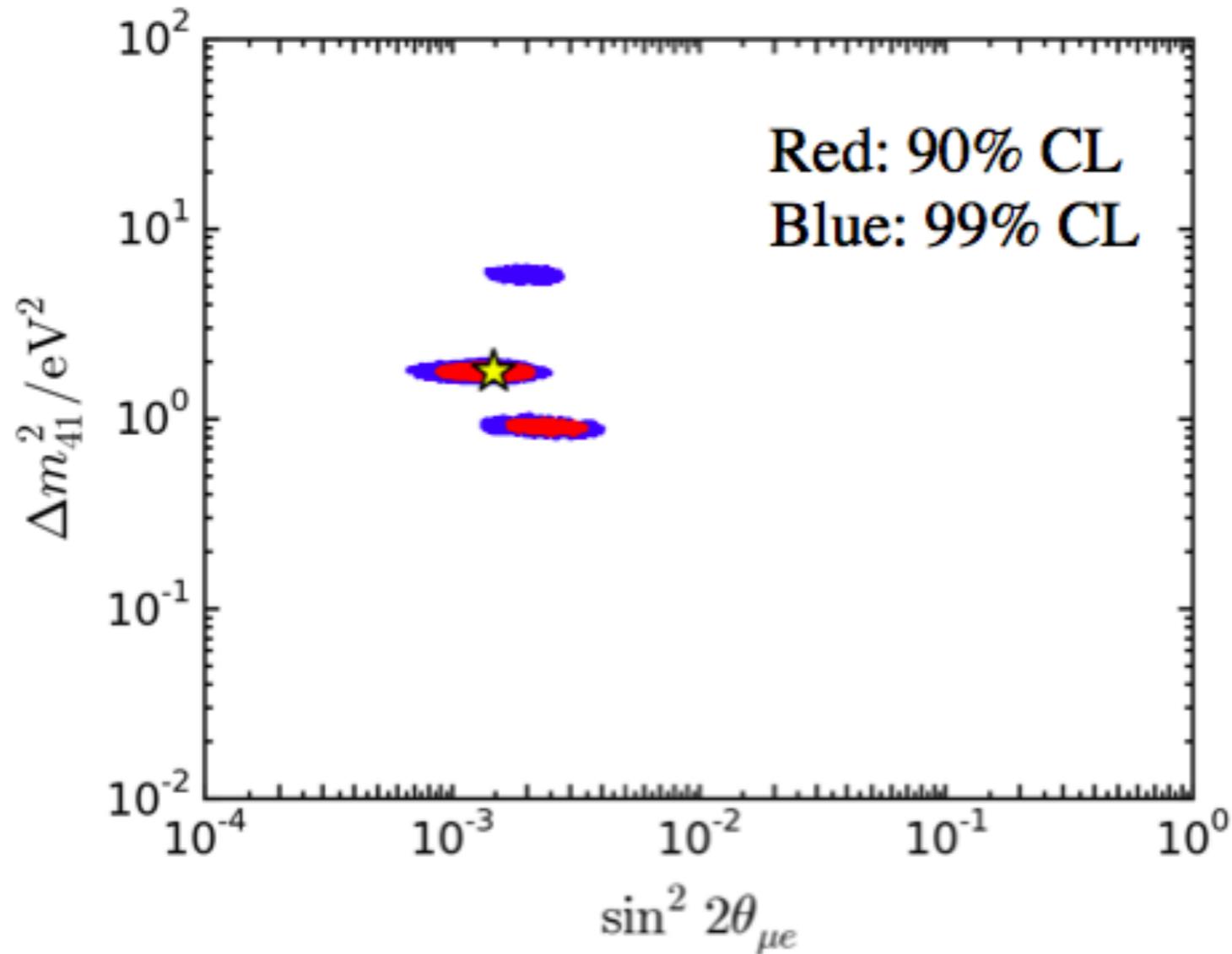
Results from muon-neutrino disappearance



- Accelerator neutrinos**
 CDHS, MiniBooNE, NOvA
 NC, MINOS/MINOS+
- Atmospheric neutrinos**
 IceCube, SK, DeepCore
- No anomaly there**
Very strong constraint
 Dominated by IceCube and
 MINOS/MINOS+, then CDHS and
 MiniBooNE

See talk by J. Hewes for recent results from Nova

Global-fit solution



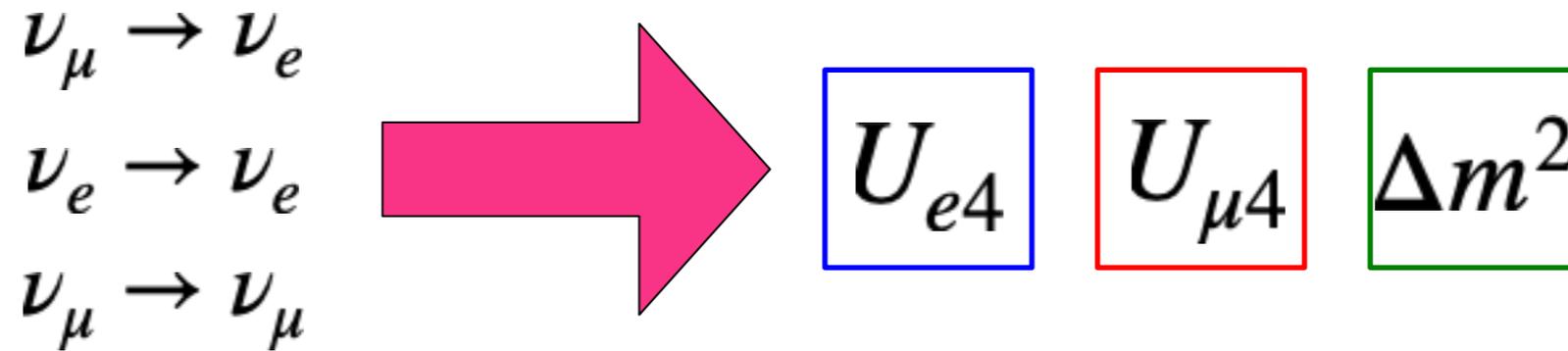
Best fit point:
 $\Delta m_{41}^2 : 1.75 \text{ eV}^2$
 $\sin^2 2\theta_{\mu e} : 1.45 \times 10^{-3}$
 $\chi^2 : 306.81 \quad (312 \text{ dof})$
 $\chi_{\text{null}}^2 : 359.15 \quad (315 \text{ dof})$
➔ $\Delta\chi^2 : 52.34 \quad (3 \text{ dof})$

Data strongly prefers
a model with
a sterile neutrino

Collin, CA, Conrad, and Shaevitz Nucl.Phys. B908 (2016) 354-365

arXiv:1602.00671; see also Diaz, CA, Collin, Conrad, Shaevitz arXiv:1906.00045.

Appearance and Disappearance signals should be related!



$$P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e} = 1 - 4(1 - |U_{e4}|^2)|U_{e4}|^2 \sin^2(1.27 \Delta m_{41}^2 L/E)$$

$$P_{\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e} = 4|U_{e4}|^2|U_{\mu 4}|^2 \sin^2(1.27 \Delta m_{41}^2 L/E)$$

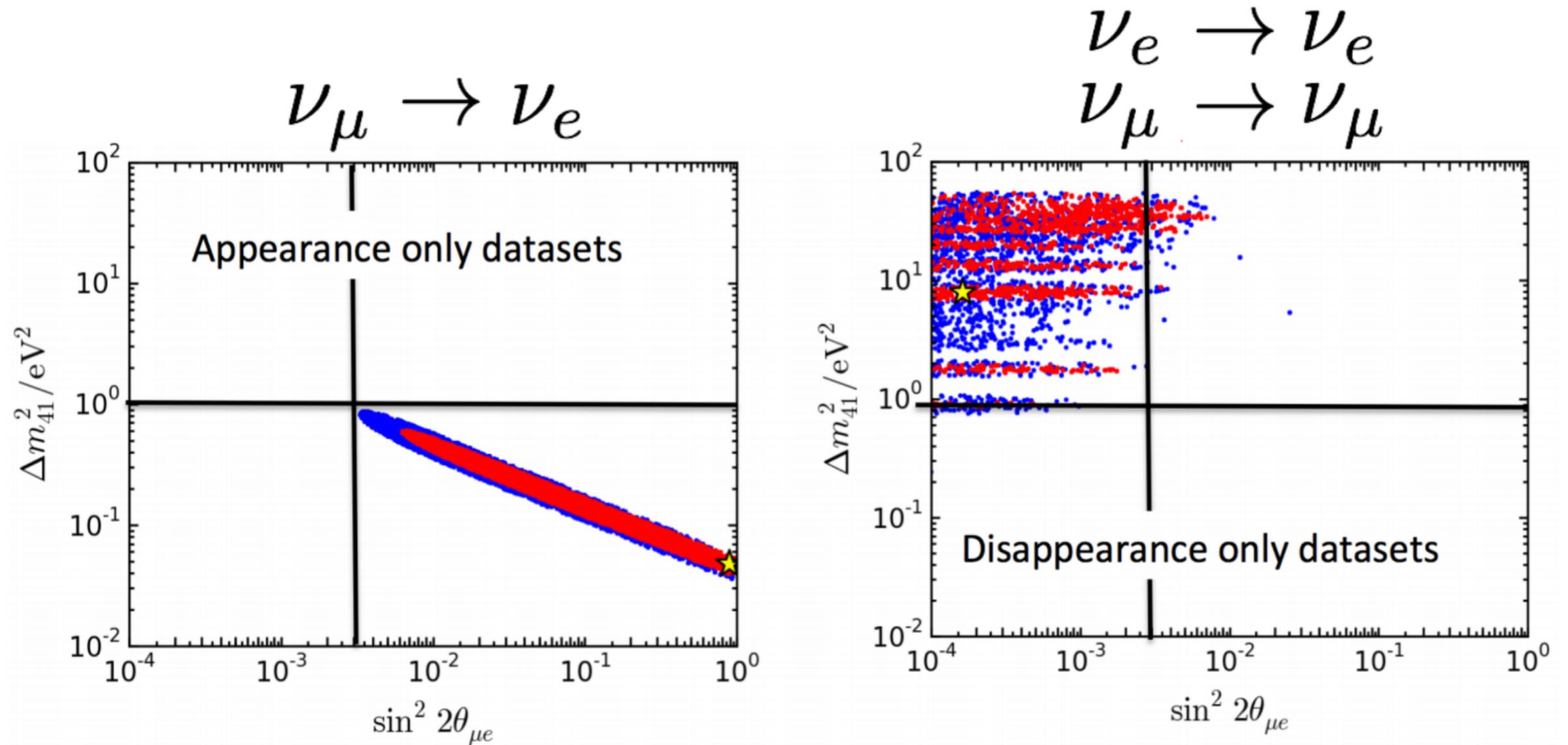
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$$\sin^2 2\theta_{ee} = 4(1 - |U_{e4}|^2)|U_{e4}|^2$$

$$\sin^2 2\theta_{\mu\mu} = 4(1 - |U_{\mu 4}|^2)|U_{\mu 4}|^2$$

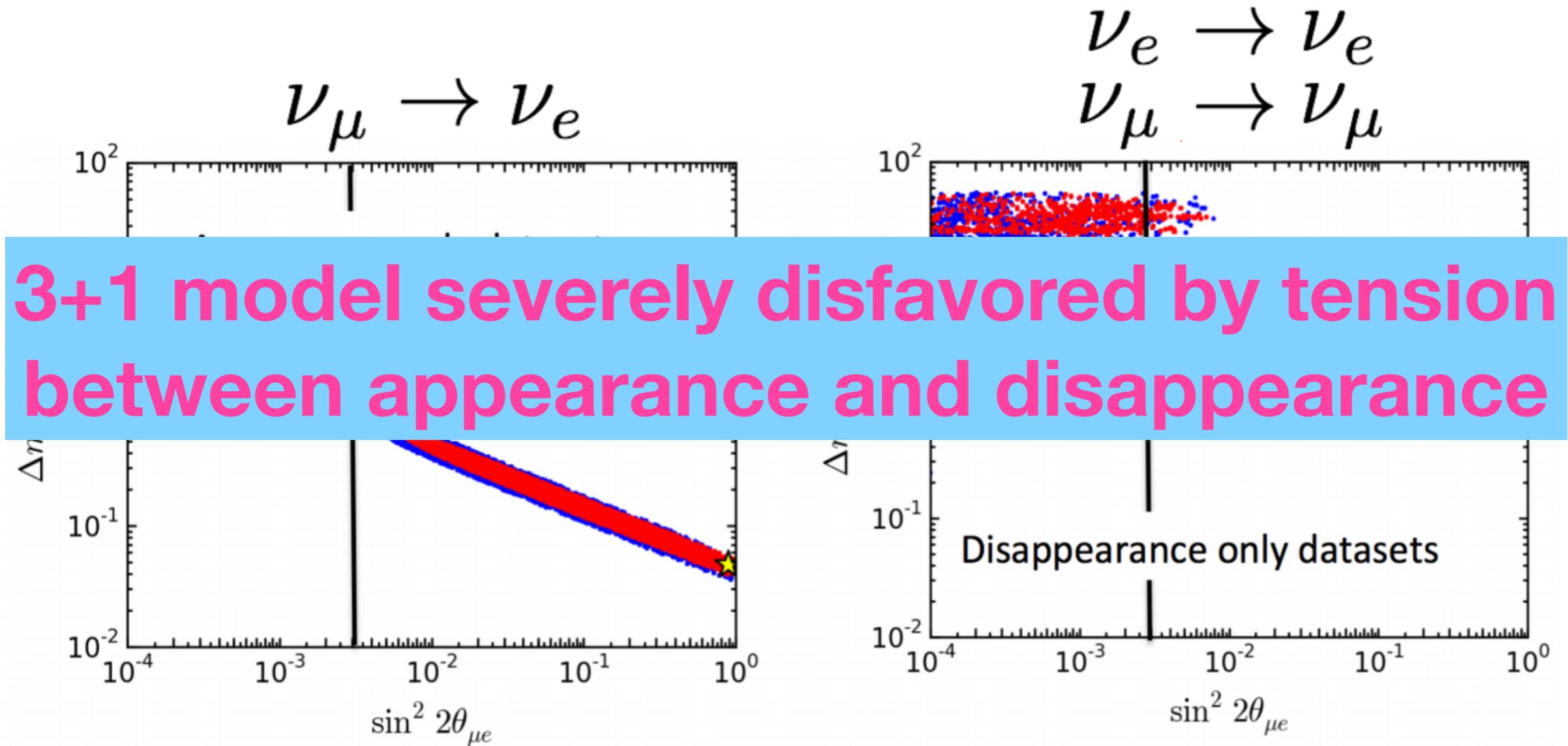
$$\sin^2 2\theta_{\mu e} = 4|U_{\mu 4}|^2|U_{e4}|^2$$

Appearance and disappearance “preference regions” don't overlap!



From Collin et al. 1602.00671, similar conclusions from other groups see Gariazzo et al. 1703.00860, and Dentler et al JHEP 1808 (2018). See Diaz et al. arXiv:1906.00045 for more discussion.

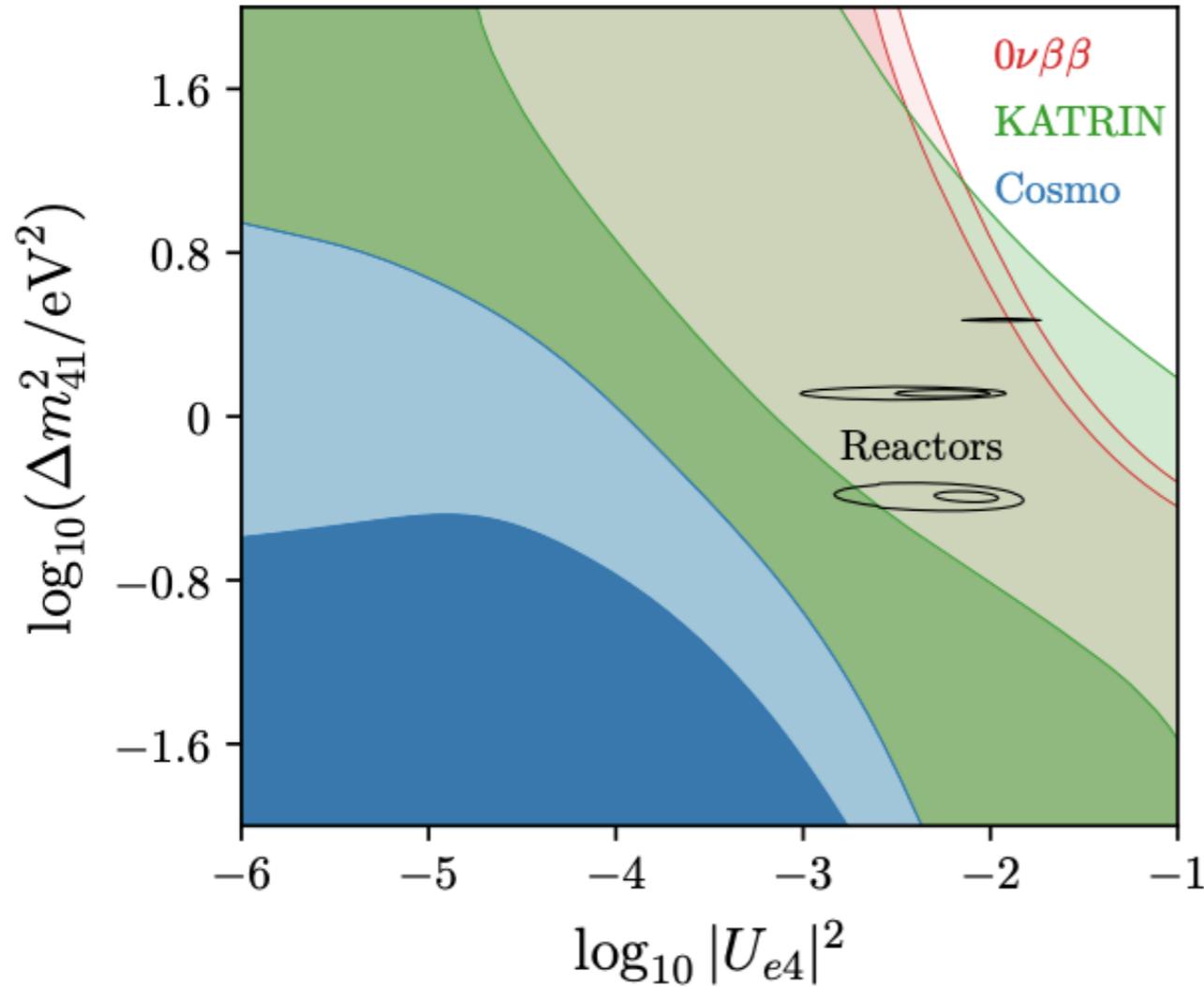
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Let's not forget cosmology!

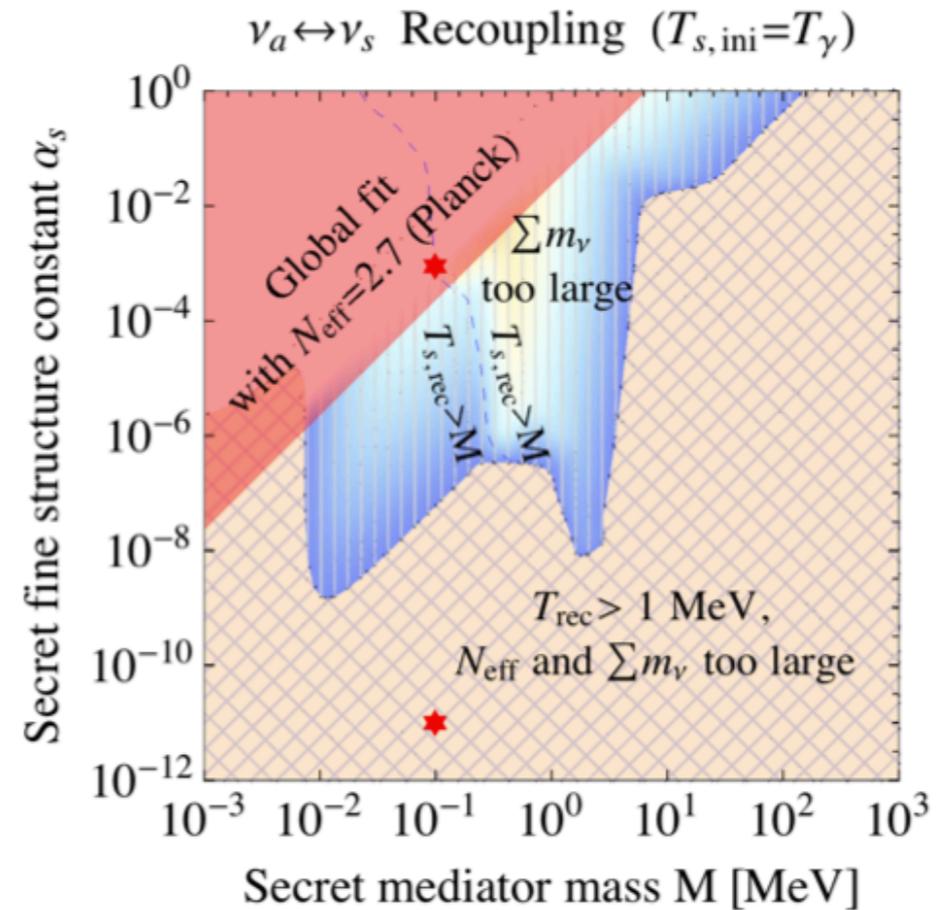
Hagztoz et al <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2003.02289.pdf>



Effective mixing $\rightarrow \sin^2 2\theta_m = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta_0 \text{ (Vacuum mixing)}}{\left(\cos^2 2\theta_0 + \frac{2E}{\Delta m^2} V_m\right) + \sin^2 2\theta_0} \rightarrow \text{Keeps } N_{\text{eff}} \text{ at 3}$

Large

Chu et al. <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1806.10629.pdf>



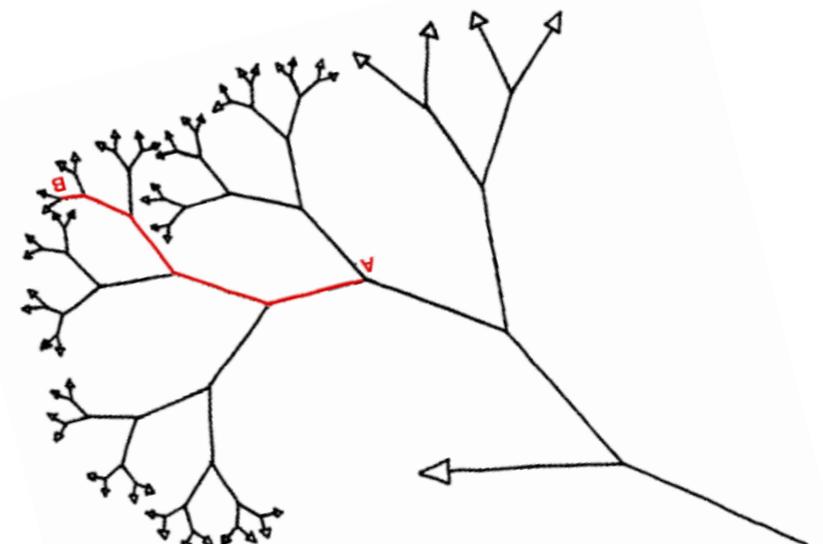
Dasgupta & Kopp 2014; Chu, Dasgupta & Kopp 2015 Saviano et al. 2014; Mirrizi et al. 2015;
 Cherry, Friedland & Shoemaker 2016; Chu et al. 2018
 See talk by Yvonne Y. Y. Wong at Neutrino 2020 for summary

Outline

- The need for more than three neutrinos and *more*
- The garden of forking paths
- Outlook

From here: The Garden of Forking Paths*

- Do we understand all SM background/process well enough?
- Are all the anomalies (MB, LSND, reactors) related? Or only some of them? E.g., are LSND and MiniBooNE observing the same physics?
- Since null results are not scrutinized as carefully as anomalous ones. Are all null results reliable?
- Is there a significant signal of electron-neutrino disappearance (e.g. reactors)?
- Is IceCube seeing hints of the missing muon-neutrino disappearance?
- If the anomalies are confirmed as new physics, in what theories are they embedded?



*Garden of Forking Paths is spy/mystery short story by Jorge Luis Borges



Stepping back: What do we know?

- LSND saw an excess of electron-antineutrino events.
- MiniBooNE saw an excess of electron-like events in neutrino and antineutrino modes.
- Reactor experiments using ratios see hints of oscillations at large mass-square-differences.
- Muon-neutrino disappearance has resulted in weak signals at large mass-square-differences.
- Anomalous observations are on a line on L/E.
- Standard cosmological scenarios disfavor an additional neutrino. Though tensions in the Hubble parameter indicate that something is missing.

Indications of
new neutrino
oscillations

Indications of
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Indications of additional new physics

Many elements suggest something like 3+1, but something else is hinted by observations and tensions in the data sets.

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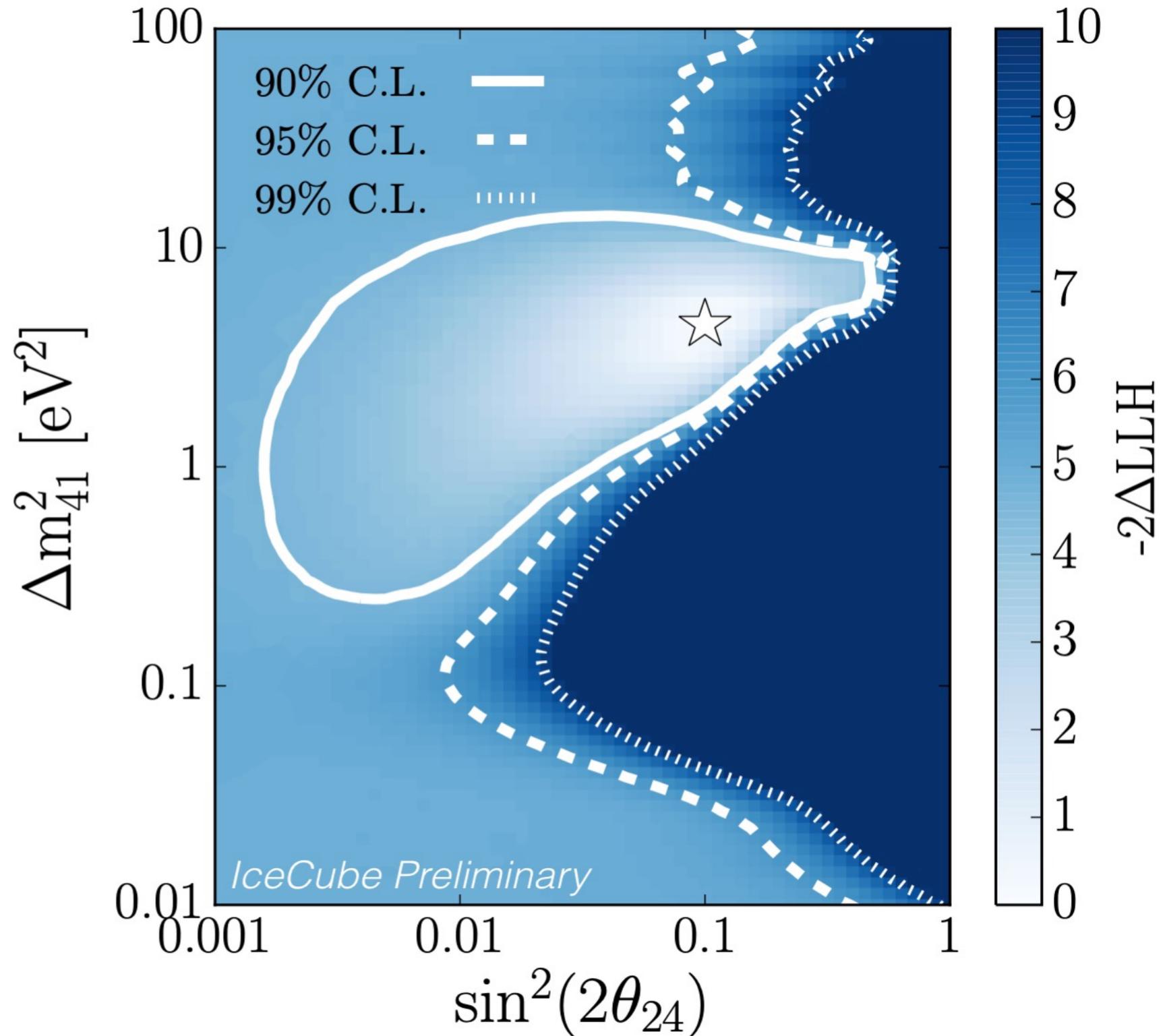
IceCube Hints

❖ Best fit:

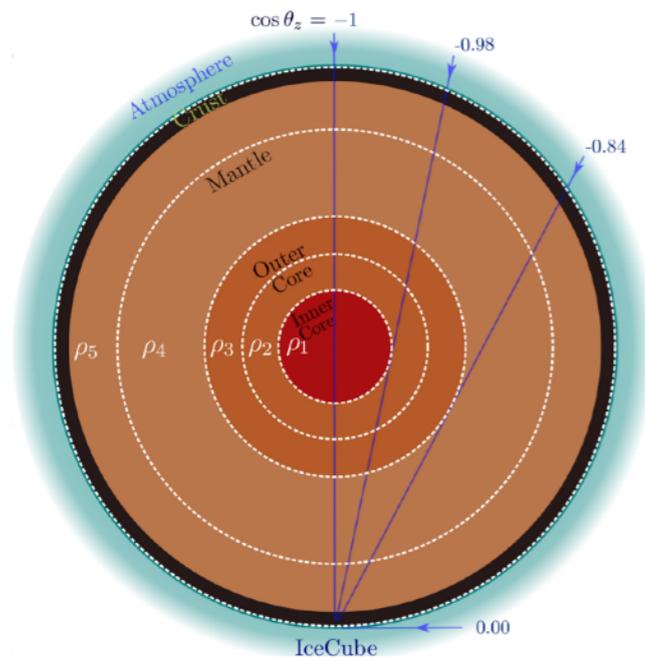
$$\Delta m_{41}^2 = 4.47^{+3.53}_{-2.08} \text{ eV}^2$$
$$\sin^2(2\theta_{24}) = 0.10^{+0.10}_{-0.07}$$

❖ Sterile neutrino hypothesis is preferred to null

❖ Null is rejected at 8% p-value



How does the IceCube analysis work?

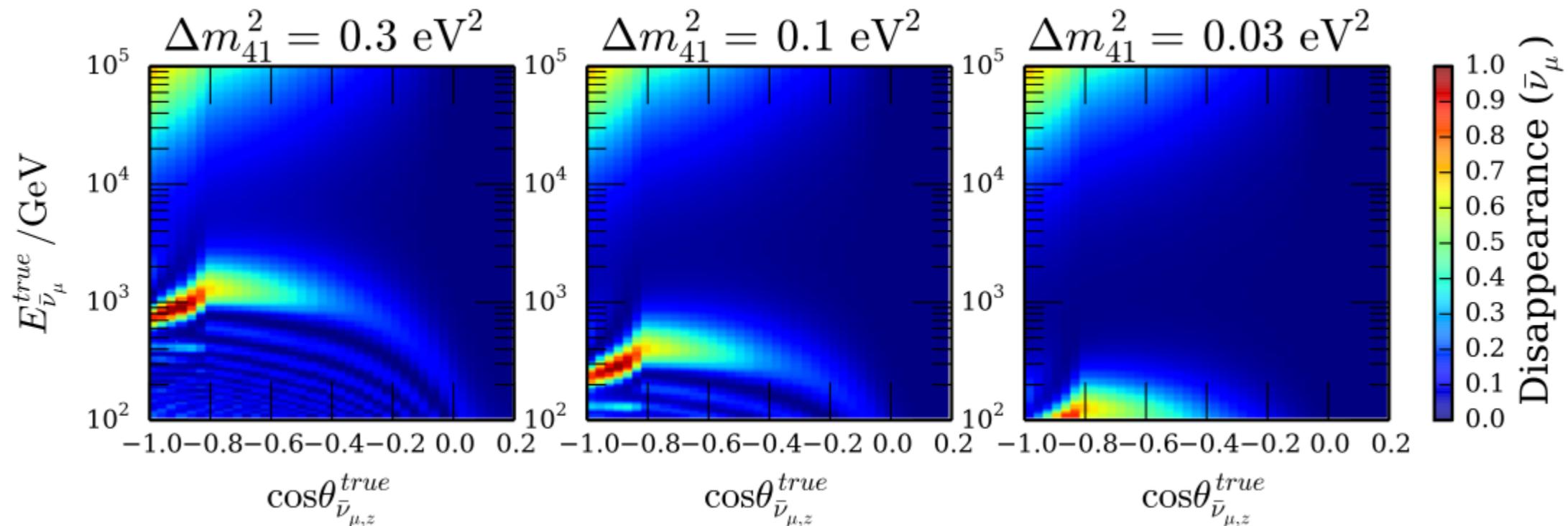
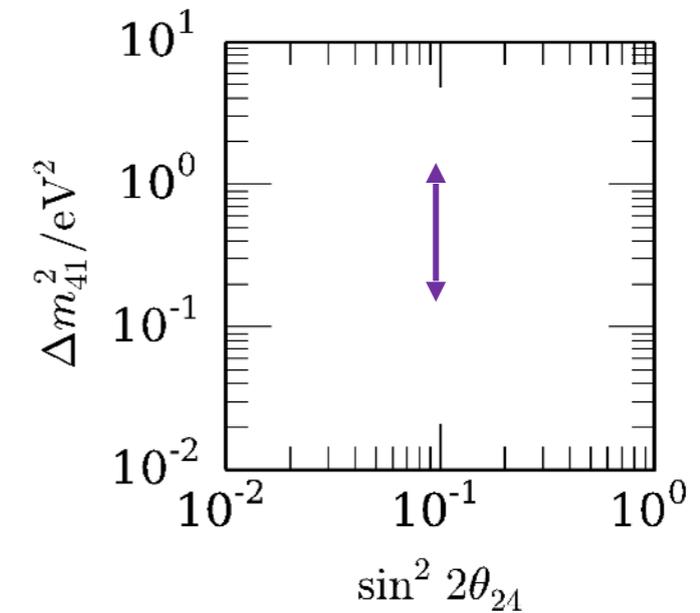


We measure two things:

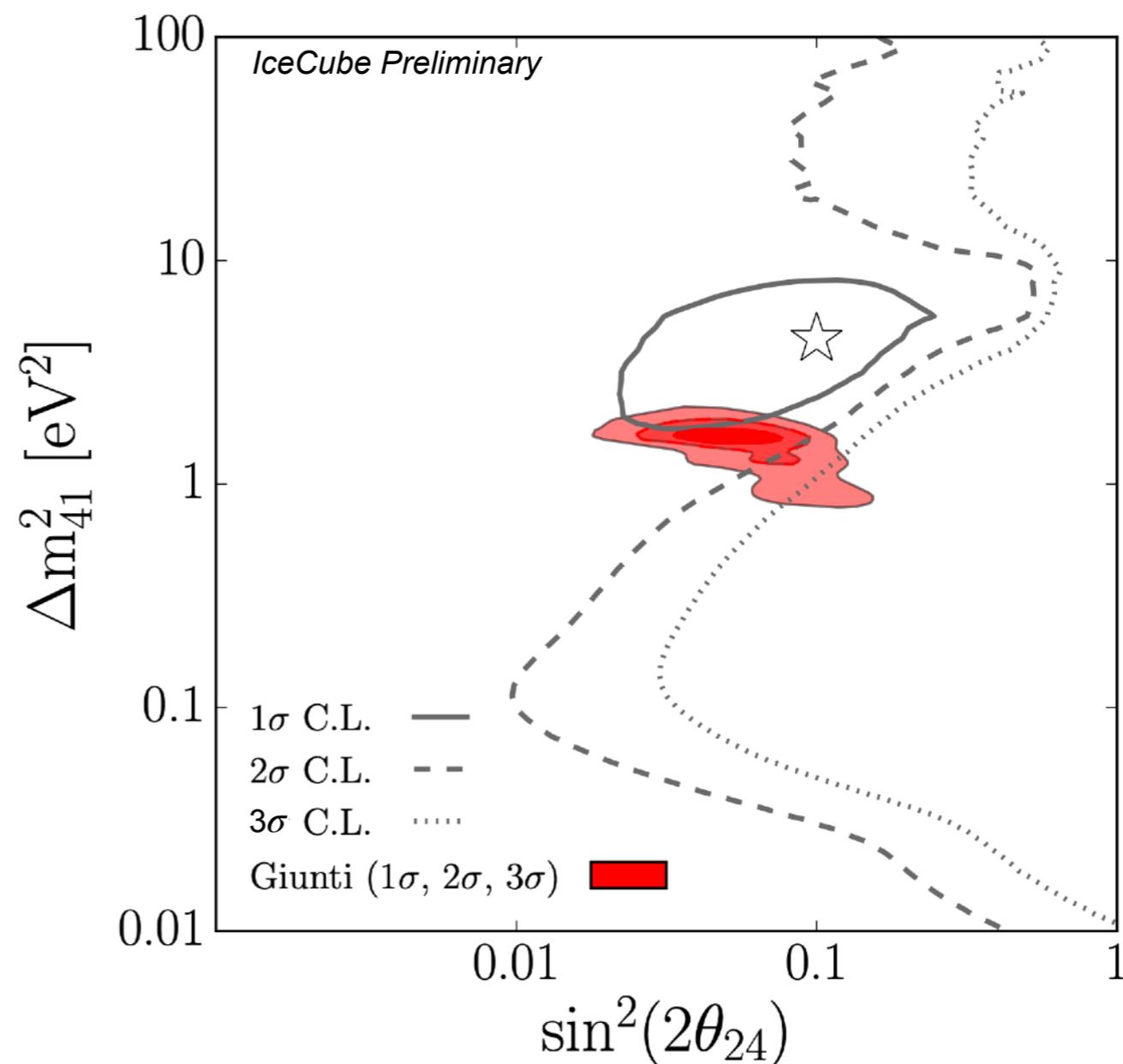
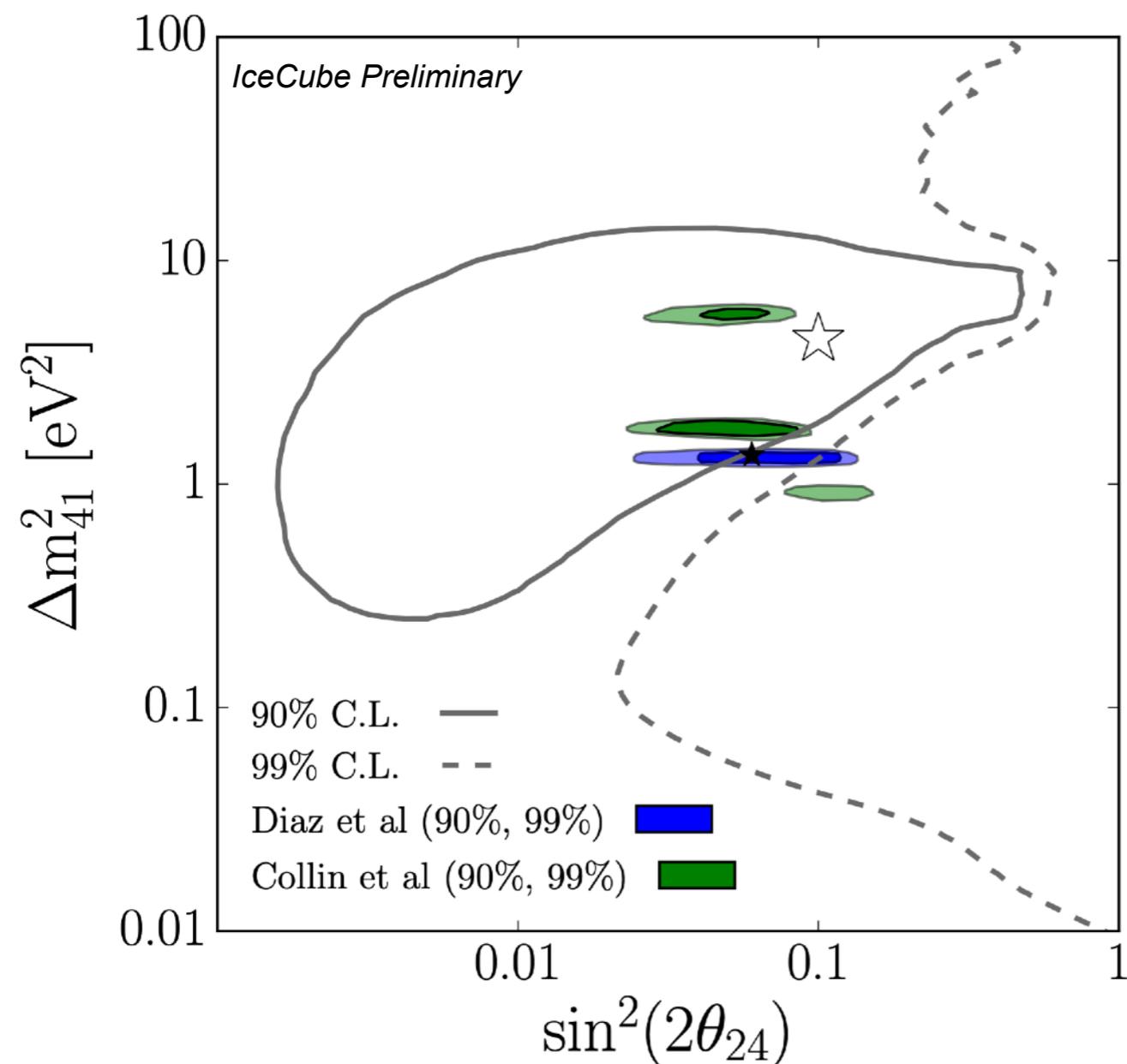
- length (direction)
- energy

We extract two parameters:

- squared mass difference
- mixing angle



Comparison to global-fit solutions



IceCube muon-neutrino disappearance result is in a very interesting part of parameter space, but has low significance

Reexamining IceCube



IceCube muon-neutrino disappearance result is in a very interesting part of parameter space, but has low significance.

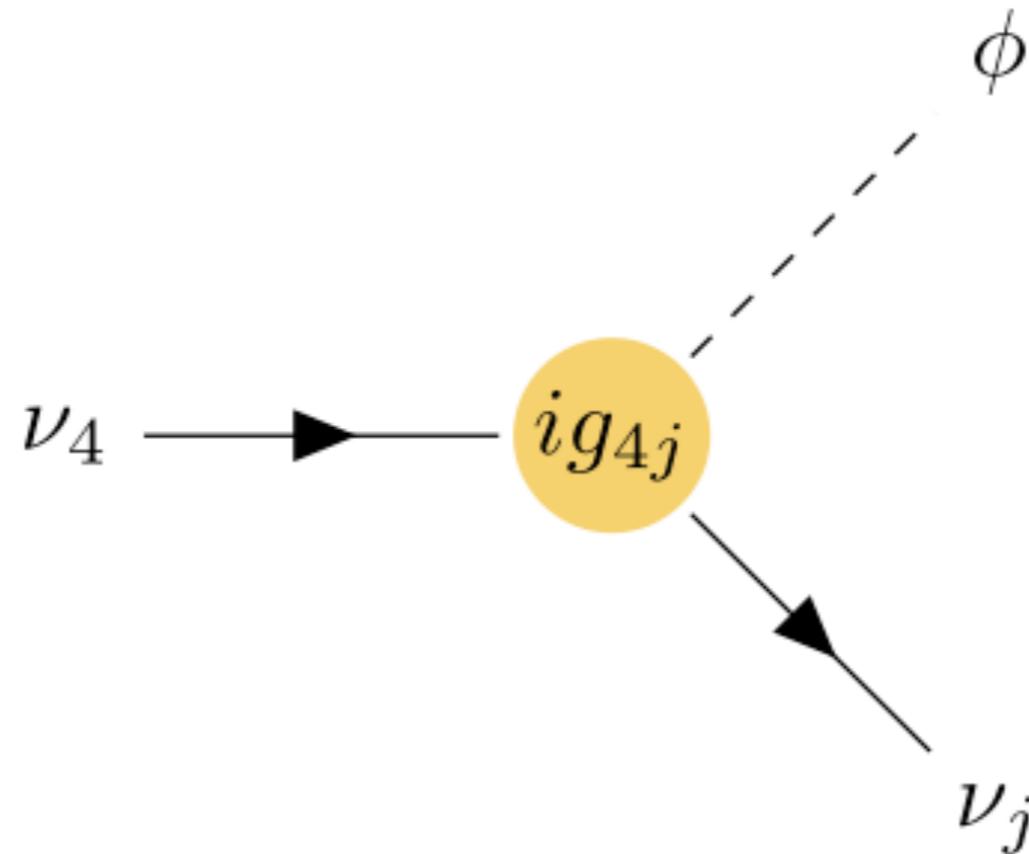
Is IceCube significance low because we are not looking for the right model?

“Sterile” Neutrino Decay

Moss et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.05921>

Dentler et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.01427>

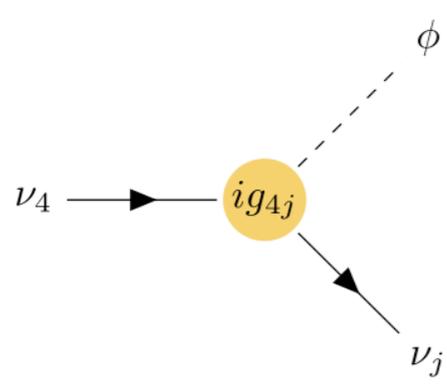
Gouvea et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.01447>



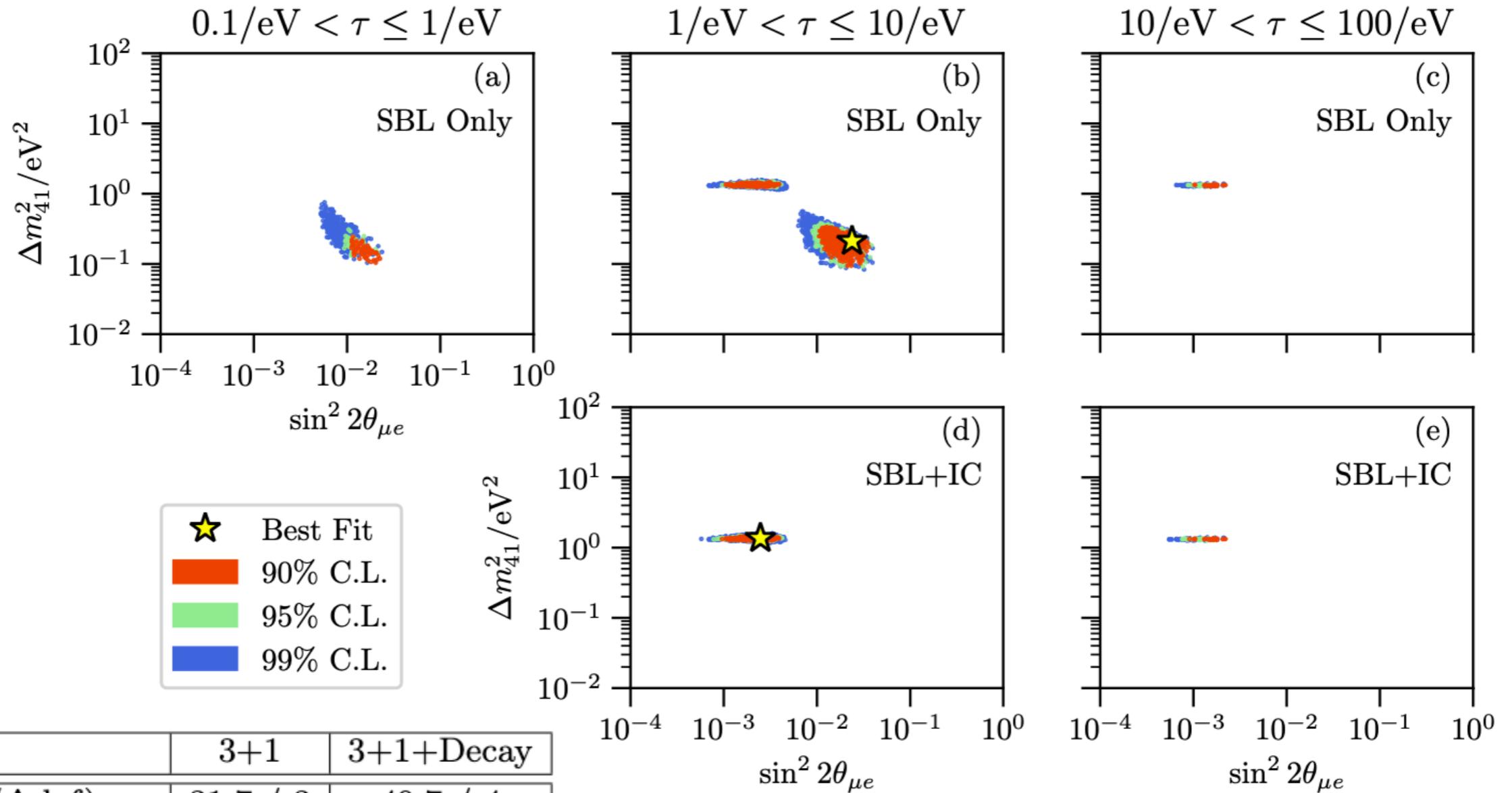
$$\tau = \frac{16\pi}{g^2 m_4}$$

Decay can be visible or invisible.

If neutrinos are Dirac -> invisible
If neutrinos are Majorana -> visible



Sterile Neutrino Decay (3+1+Invisible-Decay)

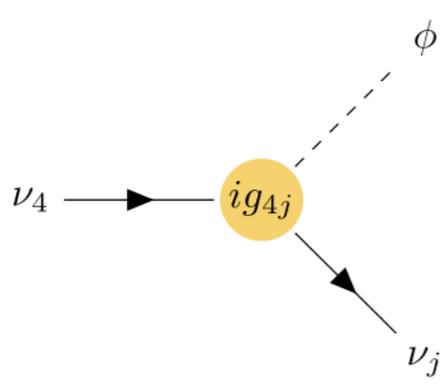


	3+1	3+1+Decay
$(\Delta\chi^2/\Delta\text{dof})_{\text{Null}}$	31.7 / 3	40.7 / 4
$(\Delta\chi^2/\Delta\text{dof})_{3+1}$	–	9.1 / 1

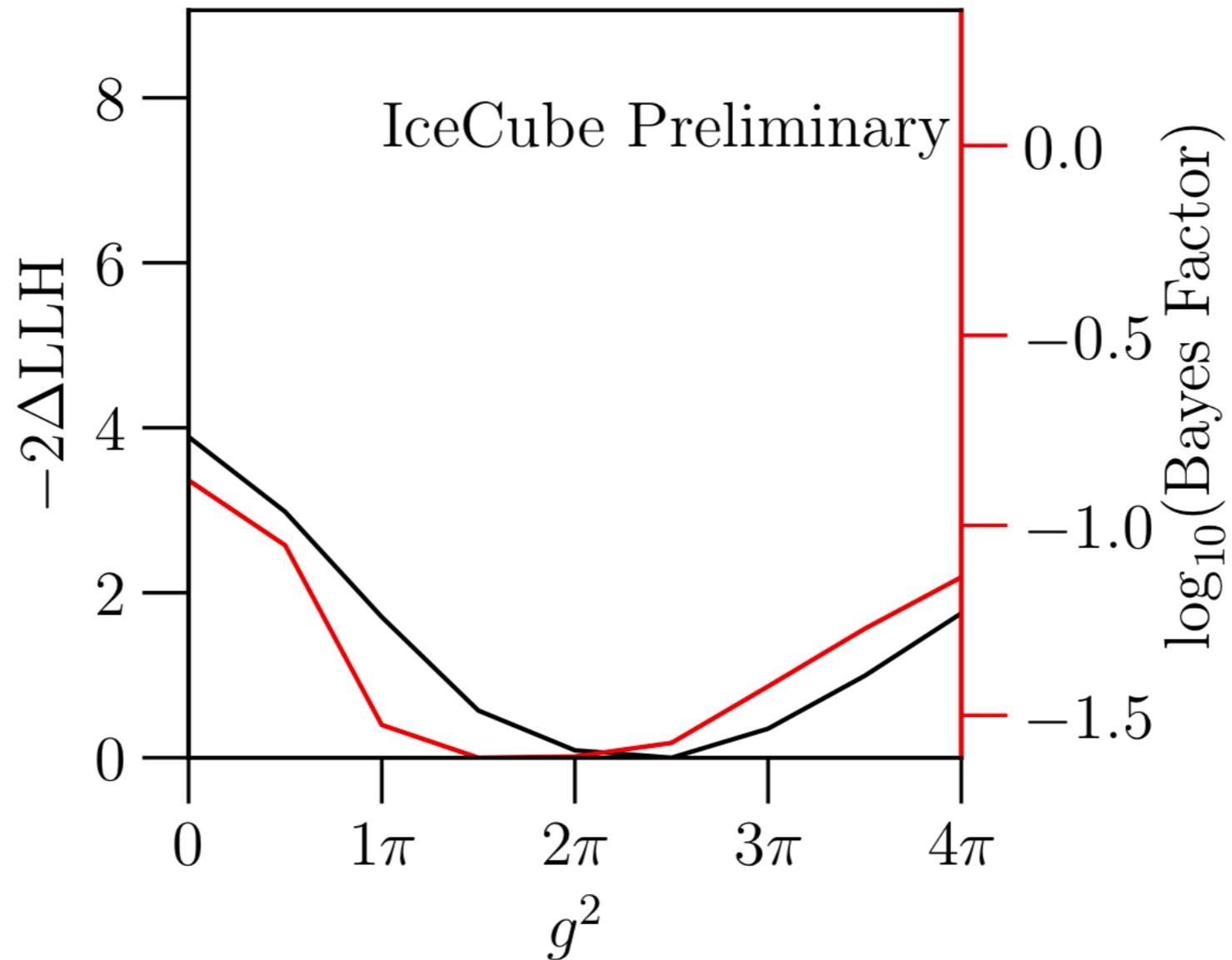
Moss et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.05921>
 Moulai et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.13456>

See also Berryman et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1407.6631>

Global data prefers 3+1+Decay! Does IceCube prefer it?



Results of 3+1+Decay in IceCube



No Decay : $g = 0$

Does IceCube prefer it? YES!

See talk by G. Parker for details

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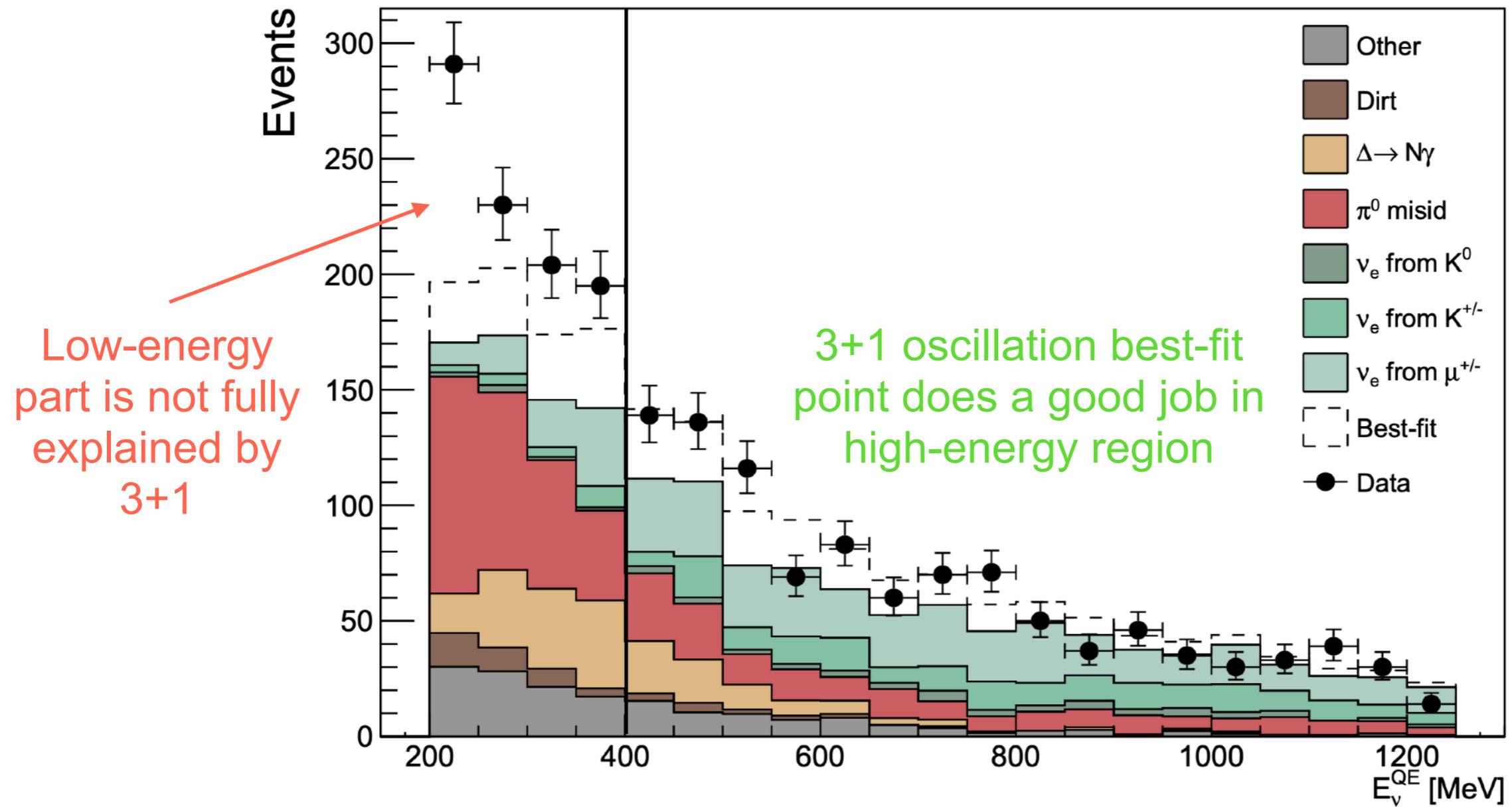
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- Standard cosmological scenarios disfavor an additional neutrino. Though tensions in the Hubble parameter indicate preference for additional radiation/secret interactions.

Indications of new neutrino oscillations

Indications of additional new physics

Many elements suggest something like 3+1, but something else is hinted by observations and tensions in the data sets.

Reexamining MiniBooNE



MiniBooNE Collaboration 2006.16883

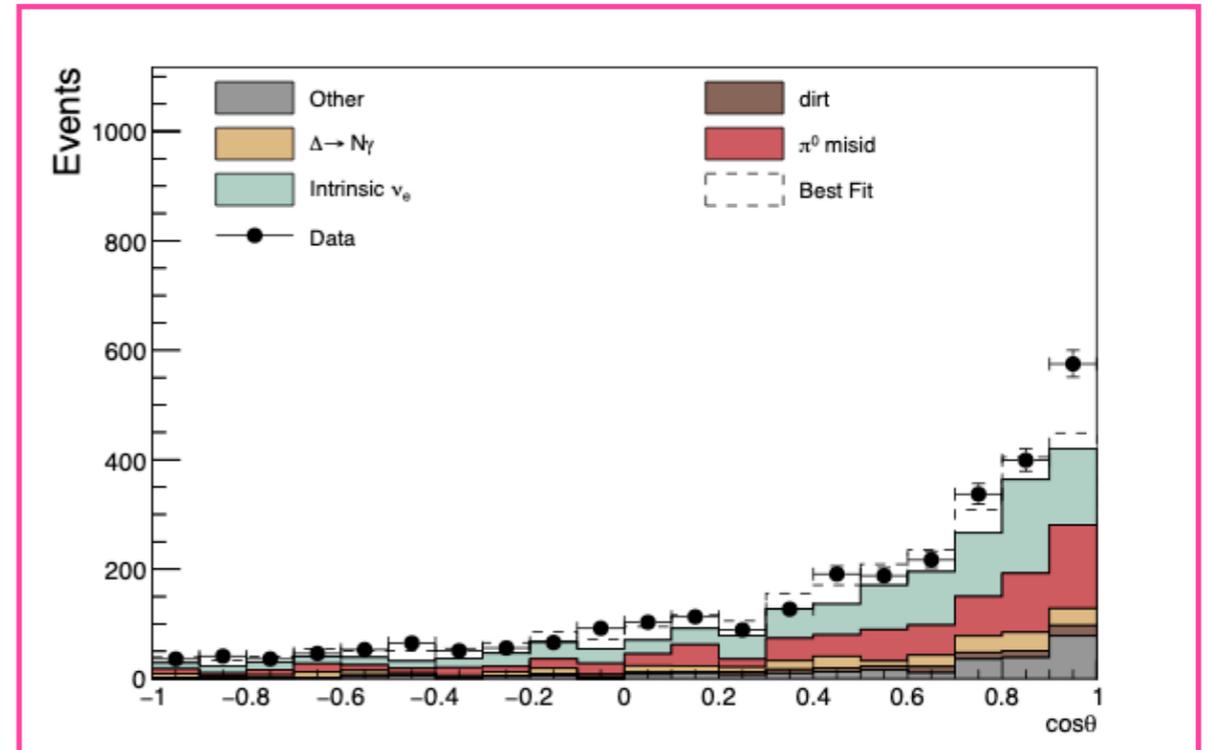
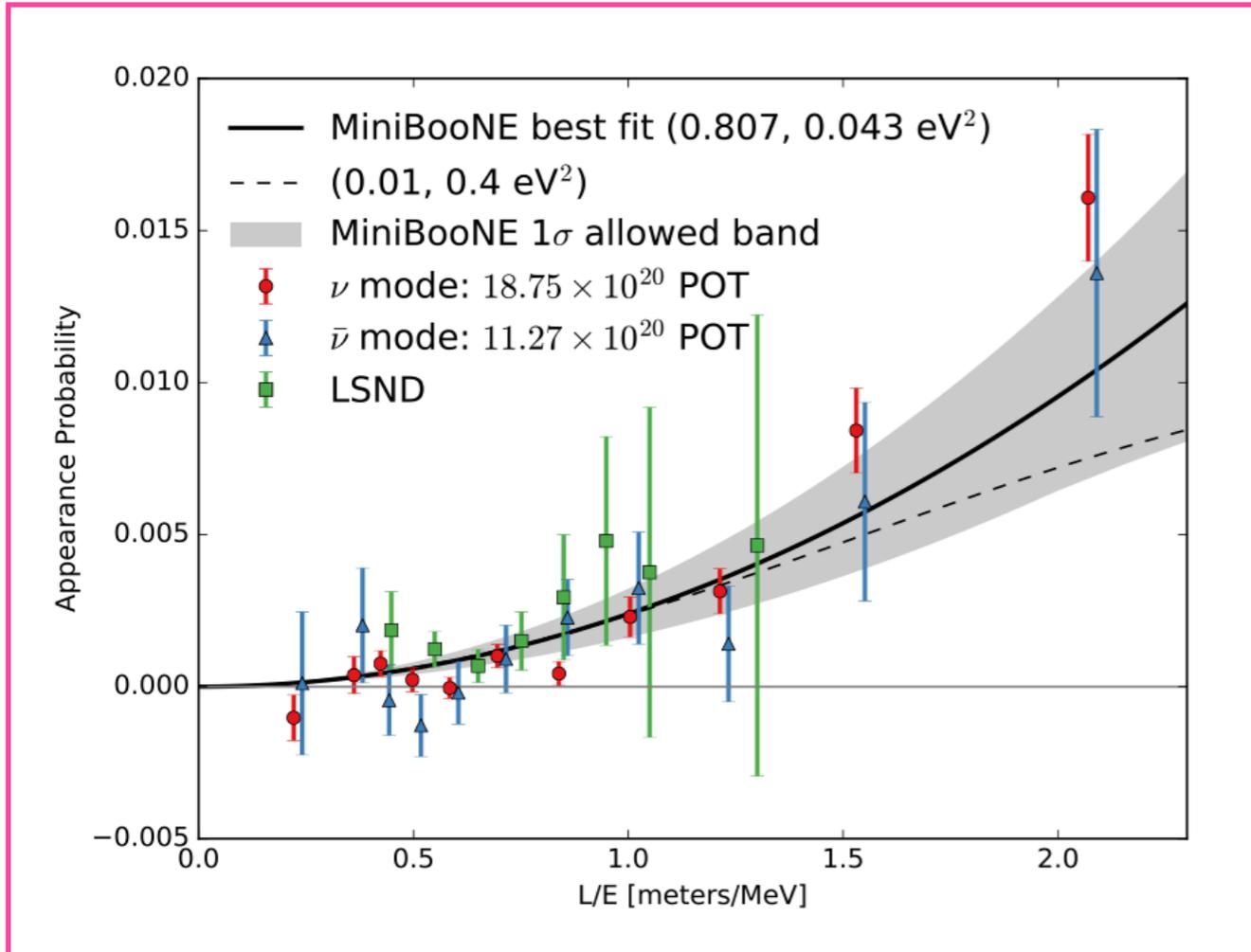
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Indications of new neutrino oscillations?

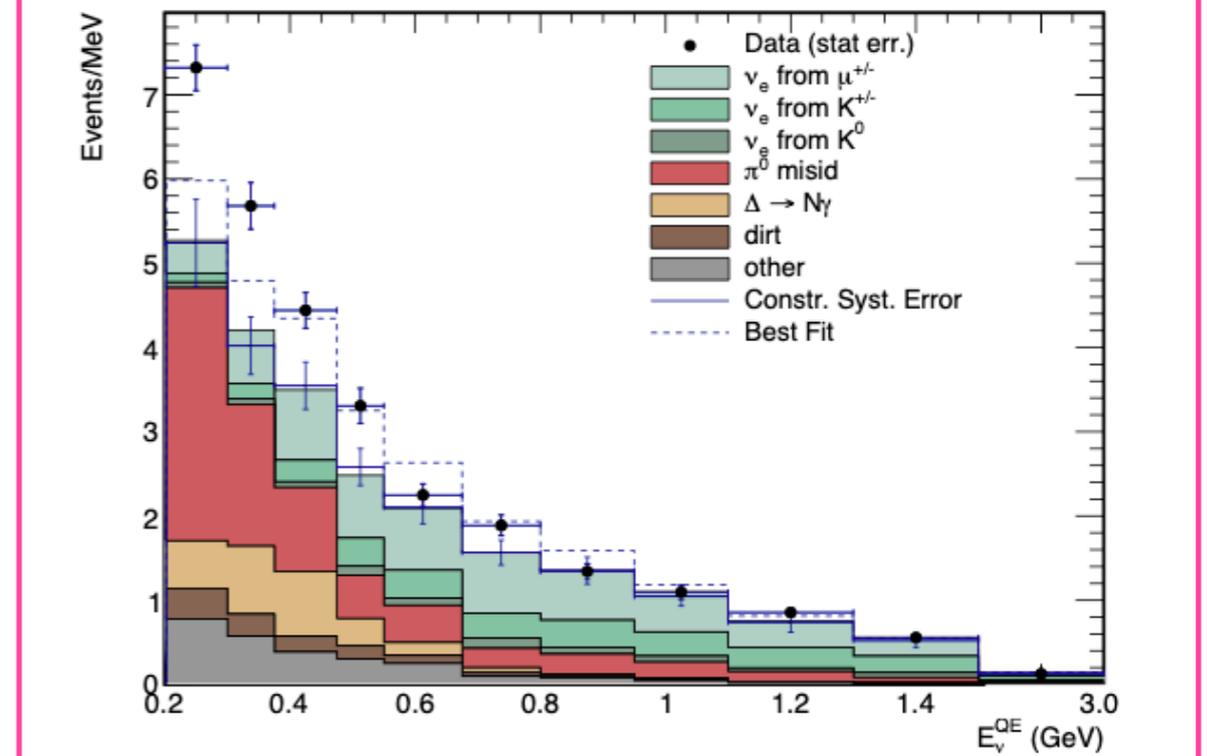


Switching gears: Changing how we look at things

This is useful if we are after an oscillation explanation



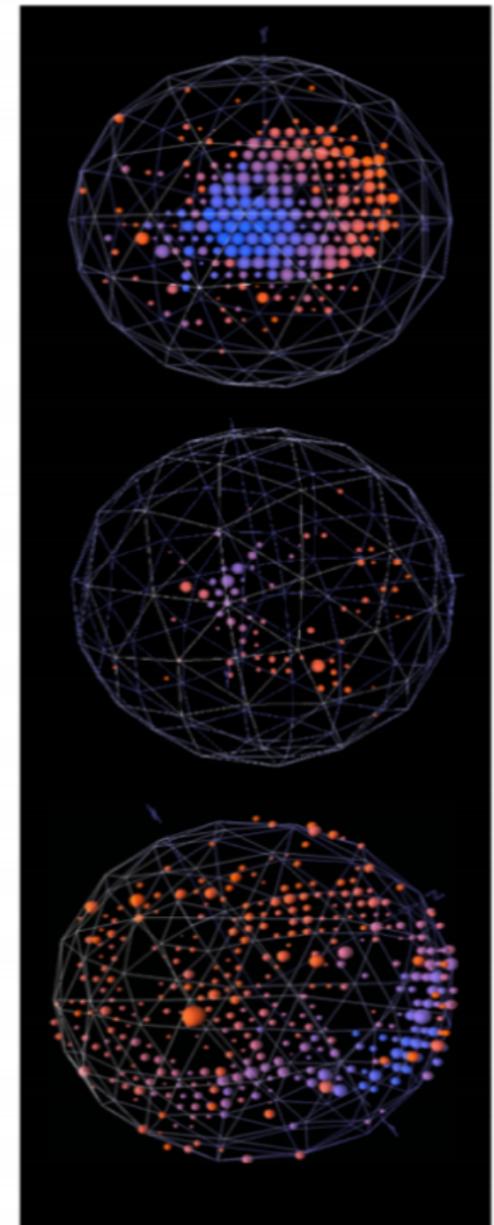
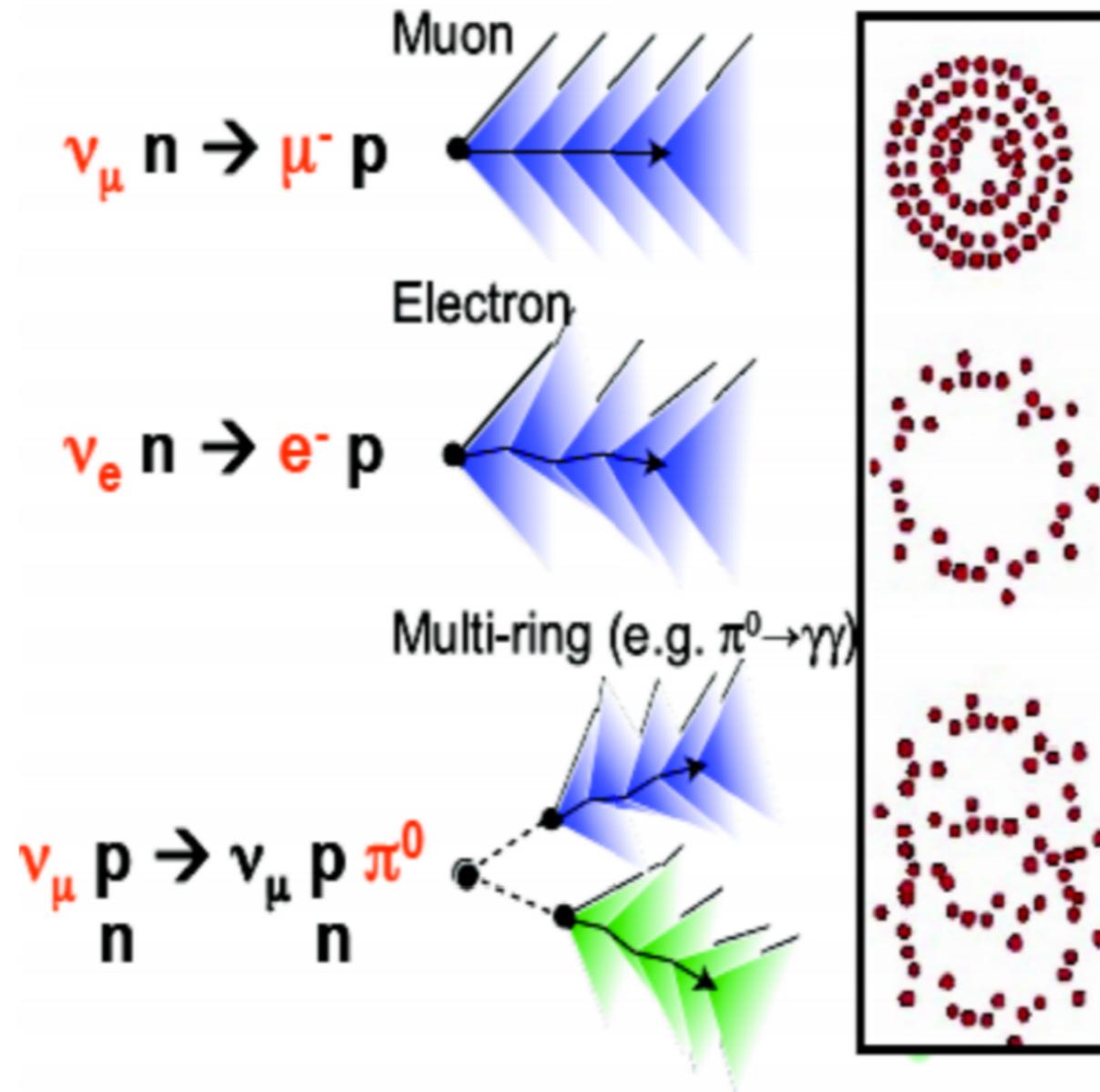
In other cases we need to fit these two!



MiniBooNE event identification

Three typical event signatures:

- Muon-neutrino CCQE produces sharp photon ring on PMTS,
- Electron-neutrino CCQE events produces fuzzy ring,
- Muon-neutrino NC can produce pi0: two gammas -> two fuzzy rings.



Cannot distinguish between electrons and photons!

Menu of other explanations

New signatures

Gninenko 1107.0279

Magill et al 1803.03262

Heavy neutrino $O(\text{MeV})$, magnetic moment, decay

Bertuzzo et al 1807.09877, Ballett et al 1808.02916,
CA, Hostert, Tsai et al 1812.08768

Heavy neutrino $O(1-100\text{MeV})$, light Z' , decay

Heavy Neutrino Decay

Bai et al 1512.05357

Dentler et al 1911.01427,
de Gouvea et al 1911.01447,
Hostert & Pospelov 2008.11851

Heavy $O(100\text{MeV})$ decay to ν_e

Fisher et al 1909.0956,
CA, Foppiani, Hostert 2109.03831

Heavy $O(100\text{MeV})$ decay to photon

Oscillations+X

Assadi et al 1712.08019

Resonant matter effect

Moss et al 1711.05921, Moulai et al 1910.13456

Steriles +decay

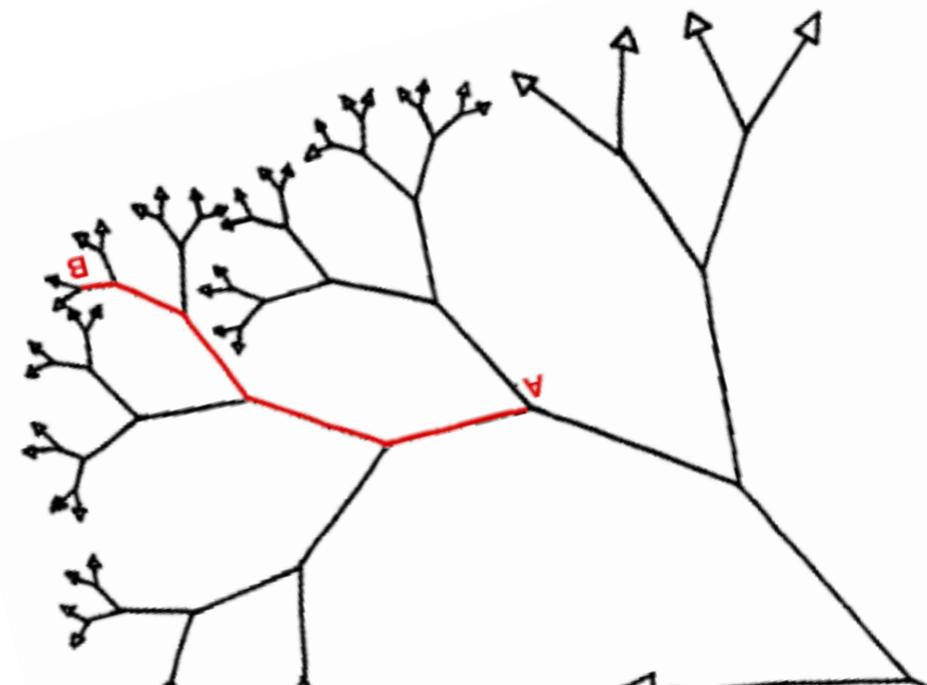
Liao et al 1810.01000

Steriles + NCNSI + CCNSI

More than one at a time

S. Vergani et al arXiv:2105.06470

Light Sterile + Heavy neutrino $O(100\text{MeV})$,
magnetic moment



Menu of other explanations

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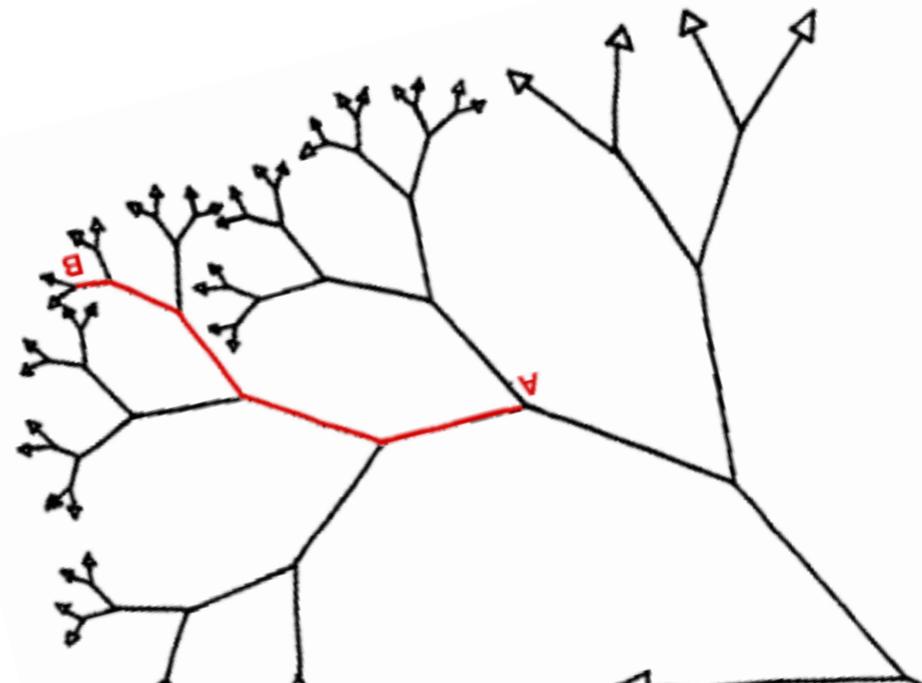
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S. Vergani et al arXiv:2105.06470
Light Sterile + Heavy neutrino O(100MeV),
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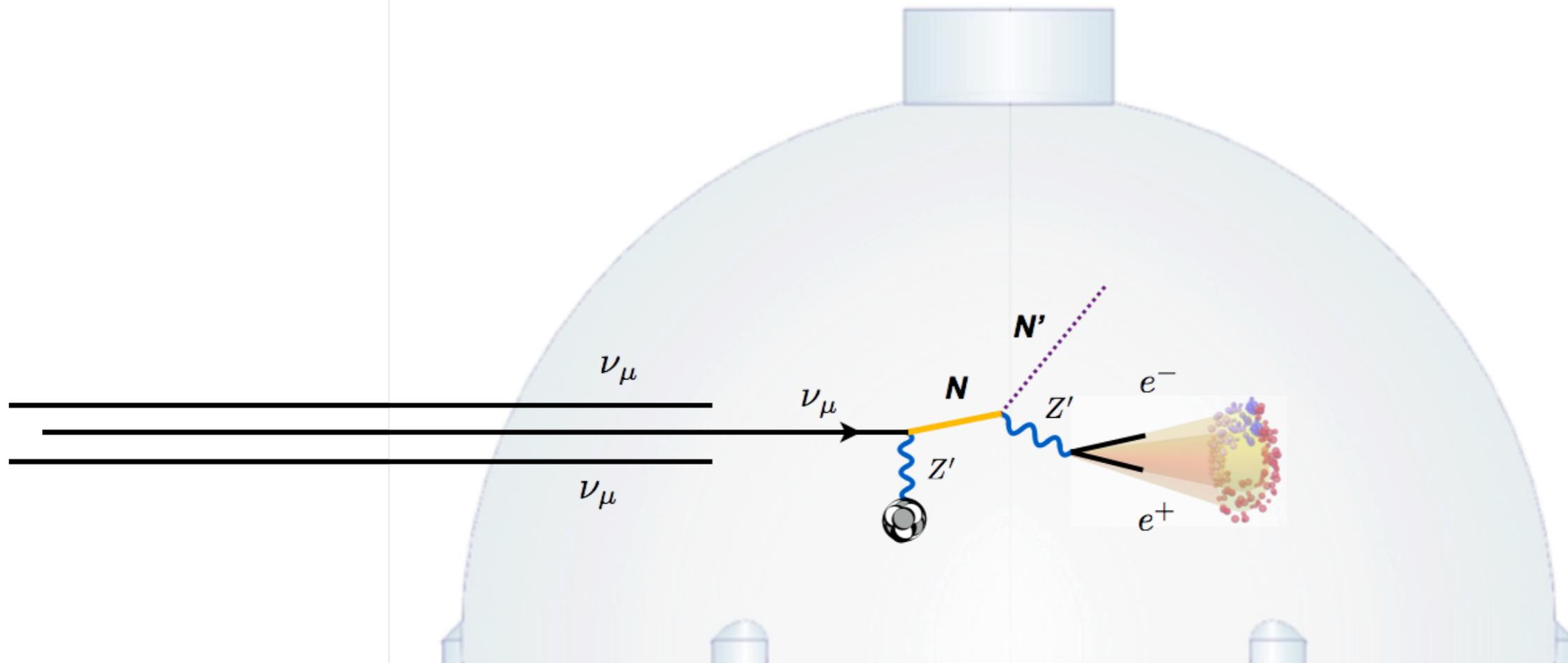


Non-Minimal HNL: di-electron scenario

E. Bertuzzo et al., PhysRevLett.121.241801

P. Ballett, M. Ross-Lonergan, S. Pascoli,
PhysRevD.99.071701

A. Abdullahi, M. Hostert, S. Pascoli,
arXiv:2007.11813

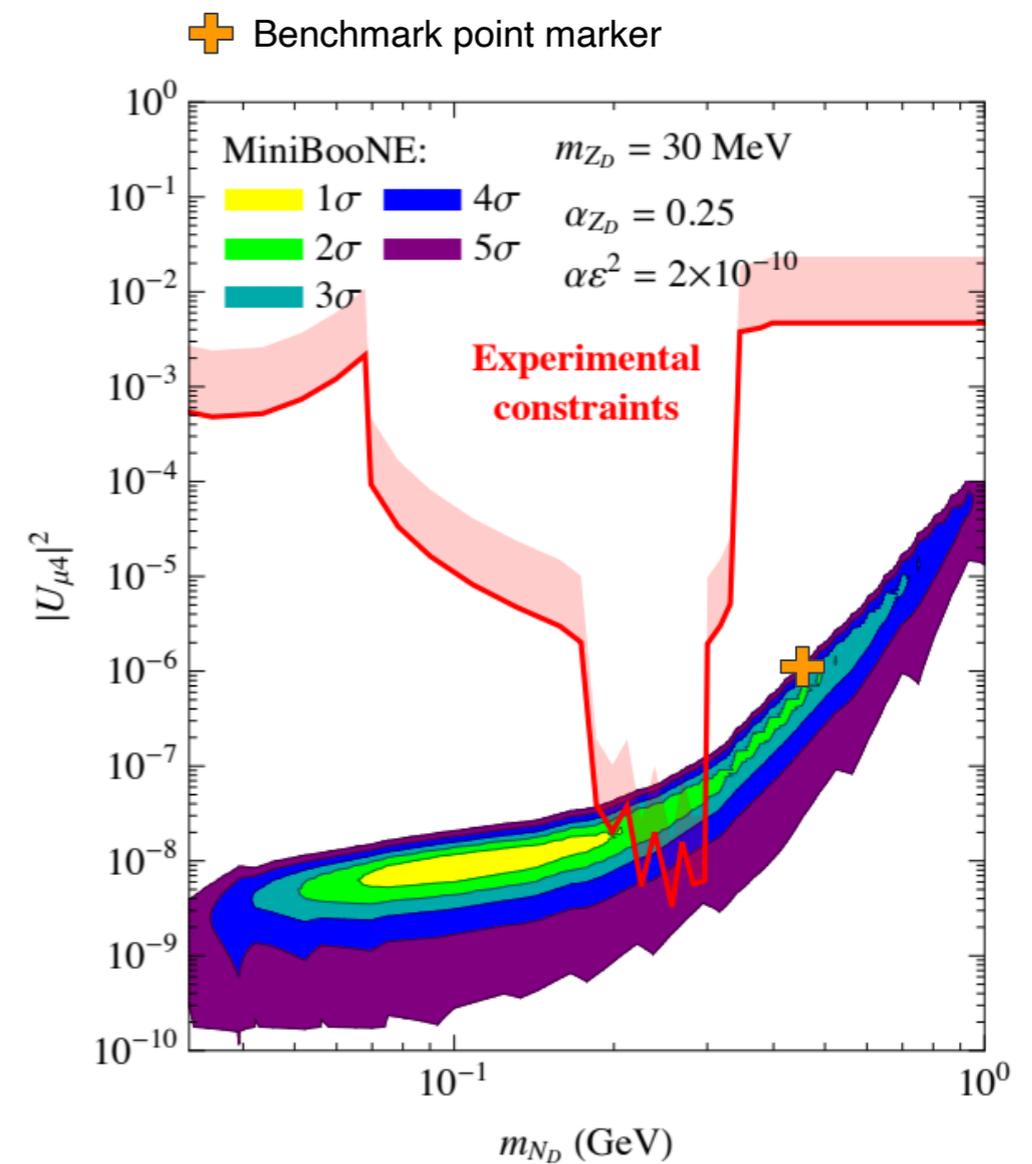
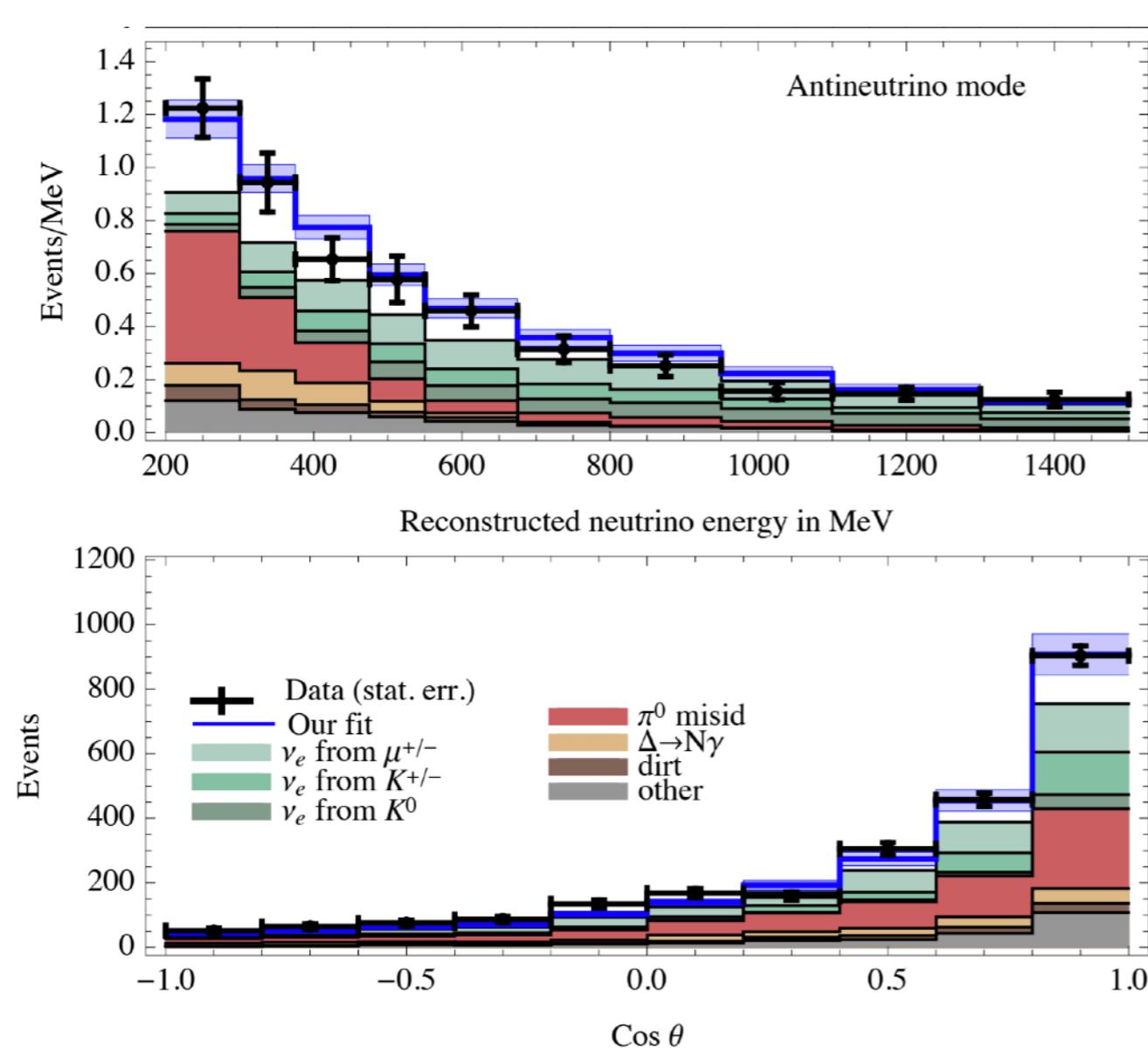


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E. Bertuzzo et al., PhysRevLett.121.241801

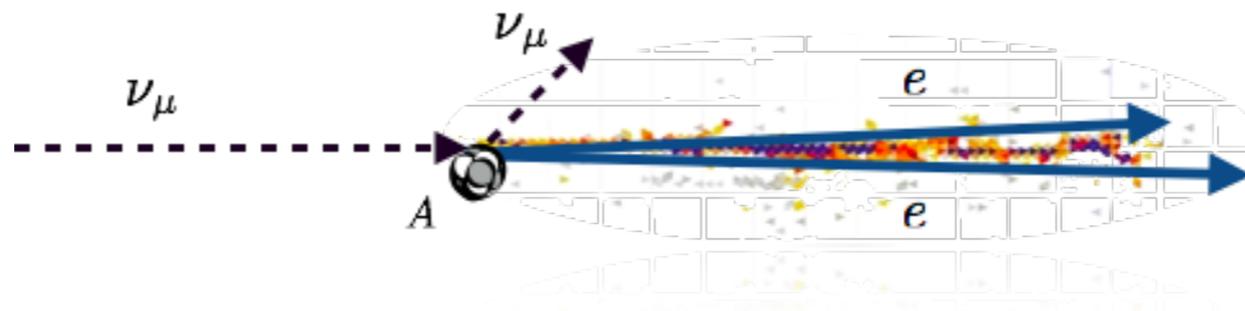
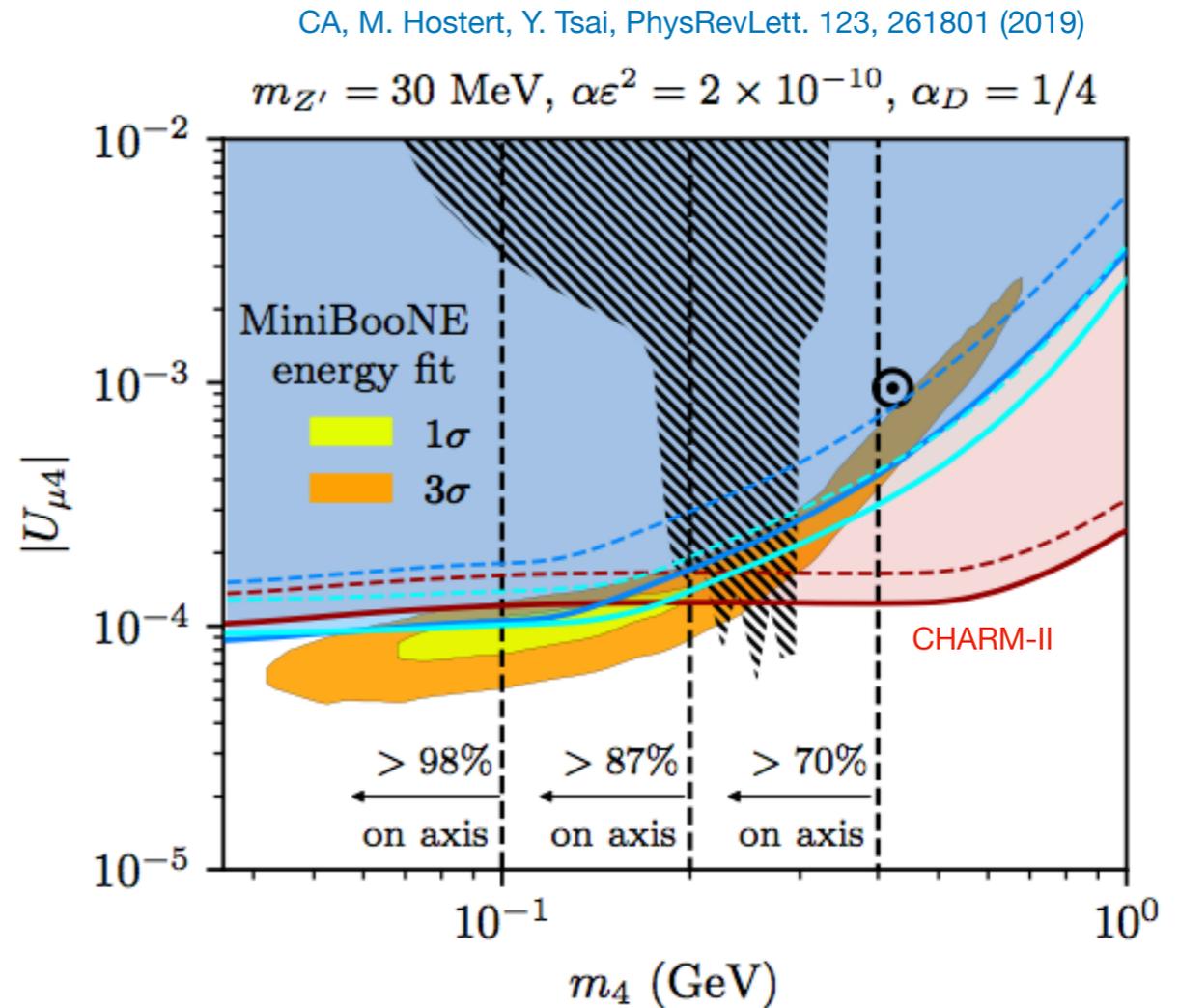
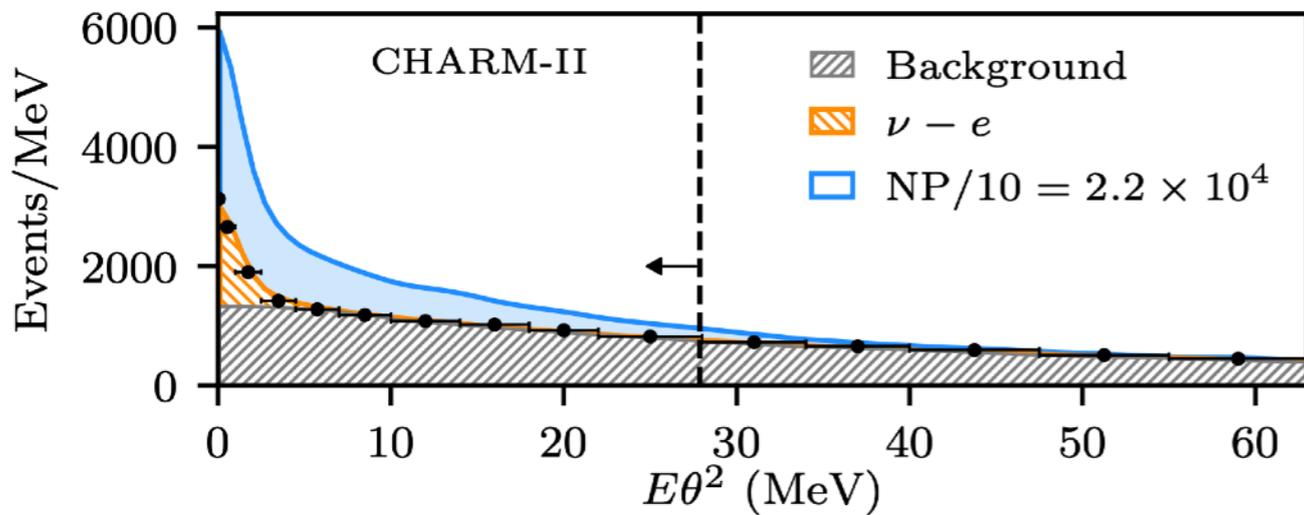
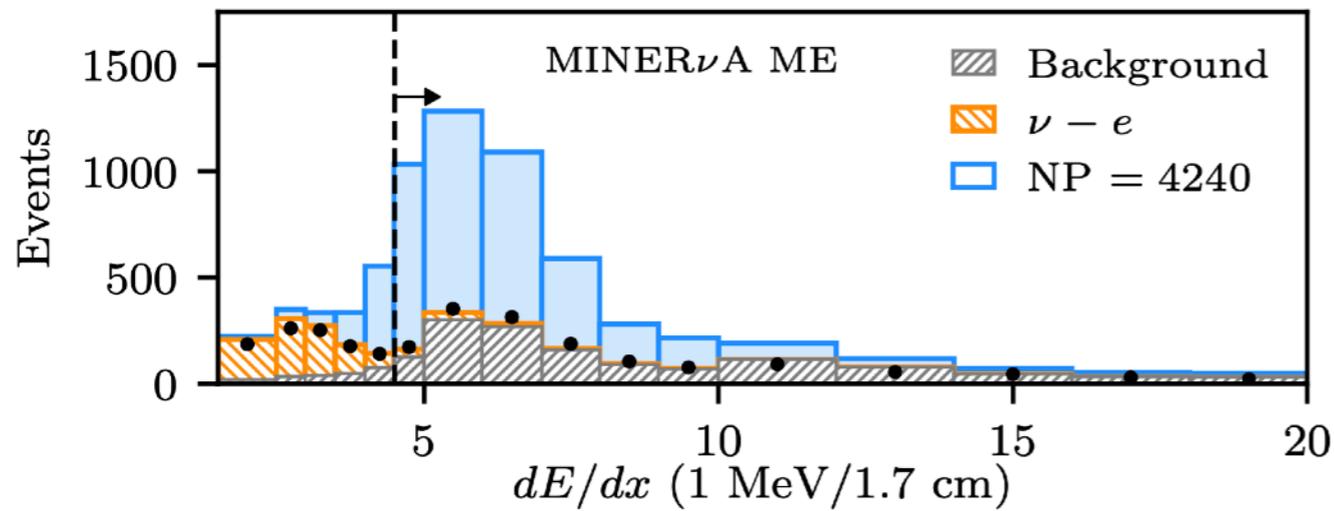
A. Abdullahi, M. Hostert, S. Pascoli,
arXiv:2007.11813

P. Ballett, M. Ross-Lonegan, S. Pascoli,
PhysRevD.99.071701



Good fit to the energy and angular distribution.

Non-Minimal HNL: di-electron scenario



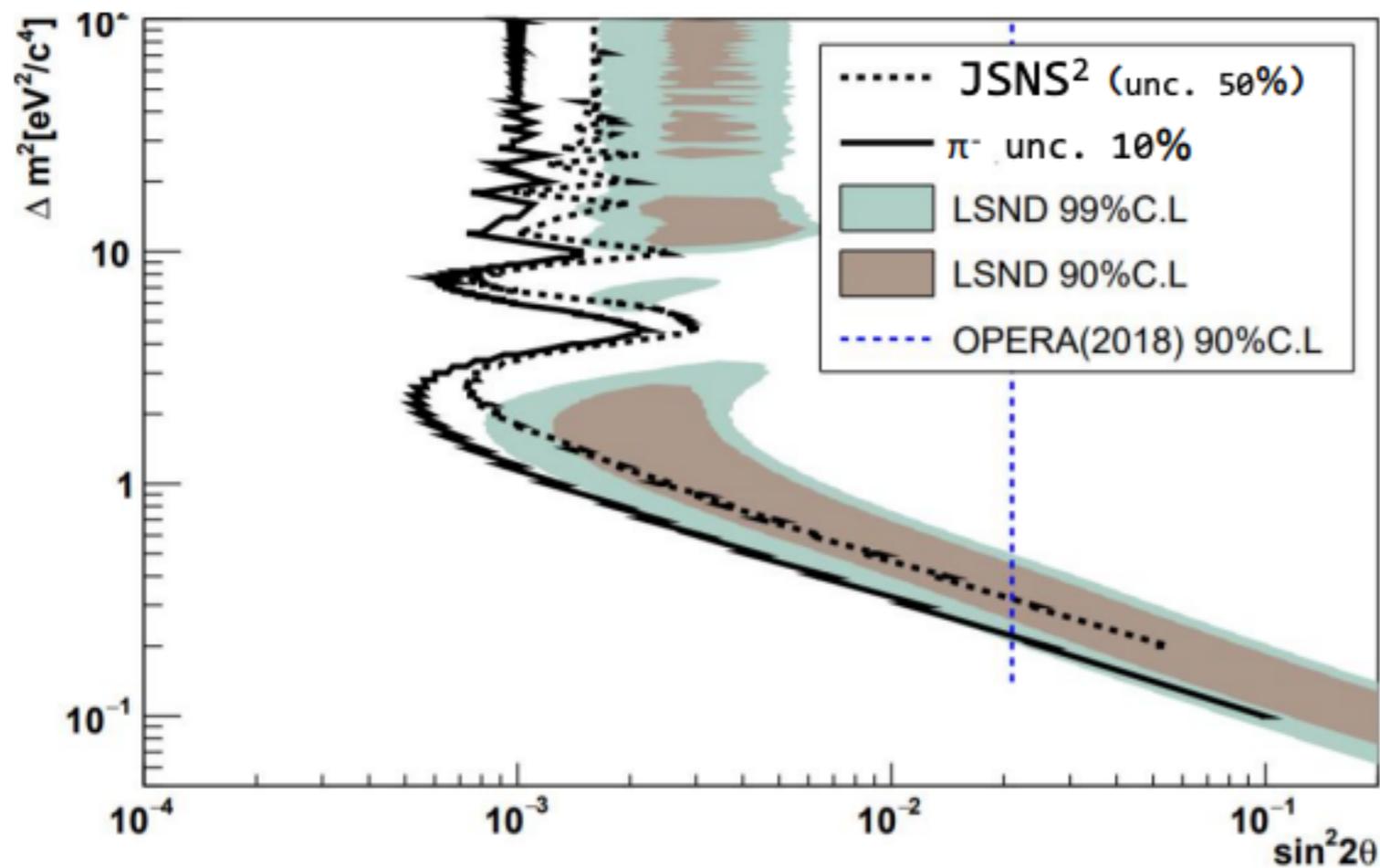
In tension with measurements of electron-neutrino scattering

Outline

- The need for more than three neutrinos and *more*
- The garden of forking paths
- Outlook

JSNS²@J-PARC

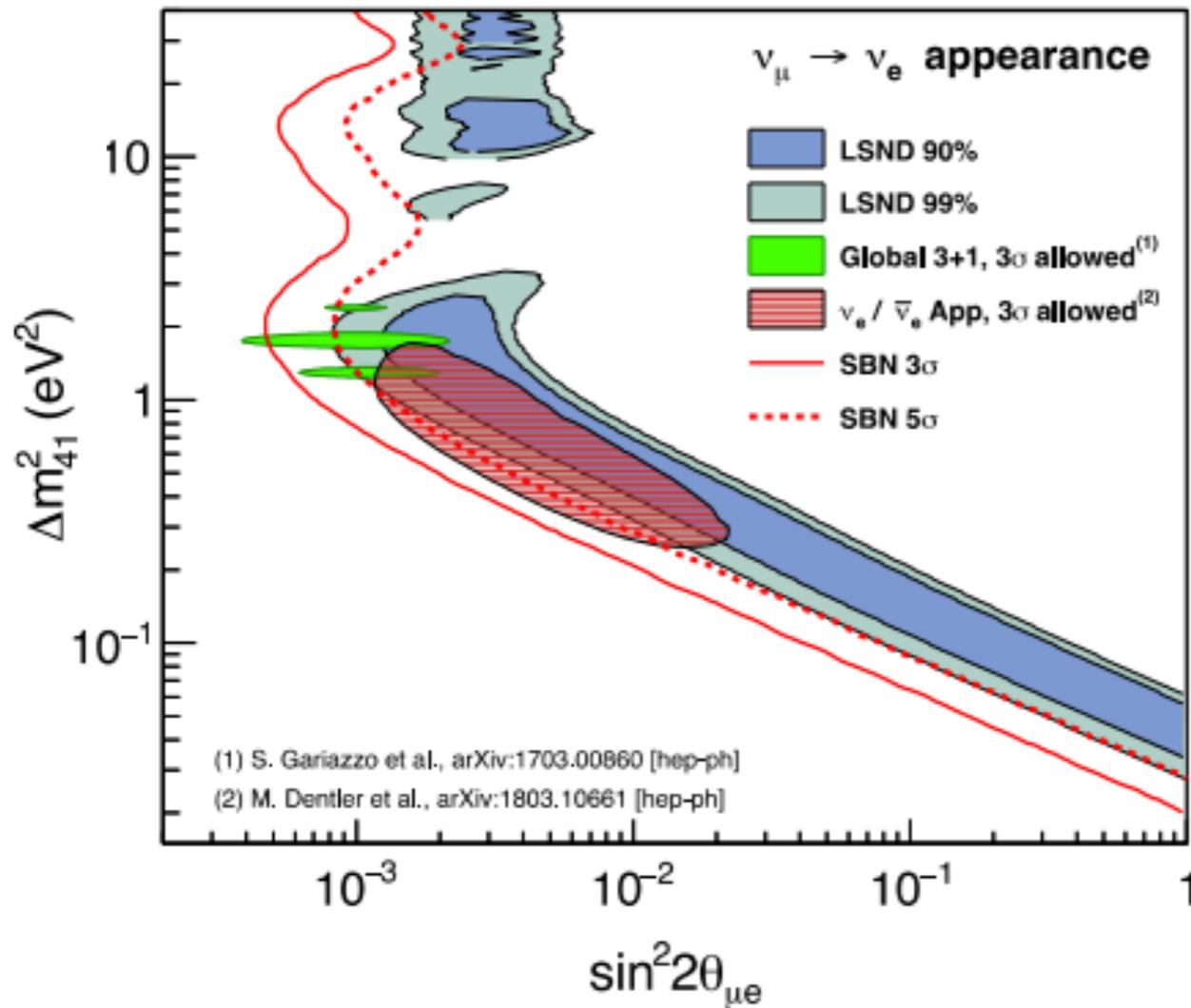
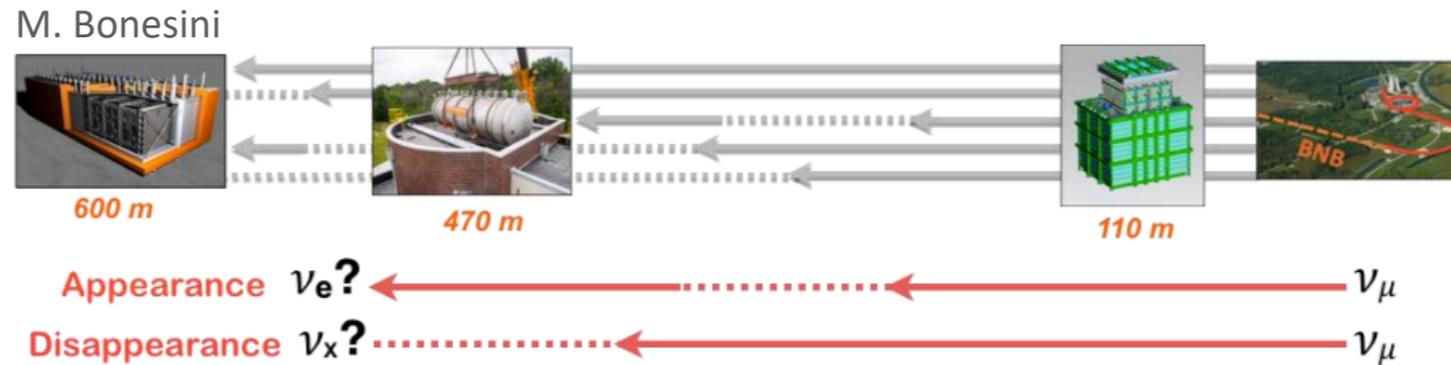
JSNS2 Collaboration arXiv:2012.10807
See talk by T. Maruyama



**JSNS²@J-PARC will directly
test LSND**

**Pion decay at rest beam
and
IBD detection**

Short Baseline Program@FNAL



SBND@FNAL Program

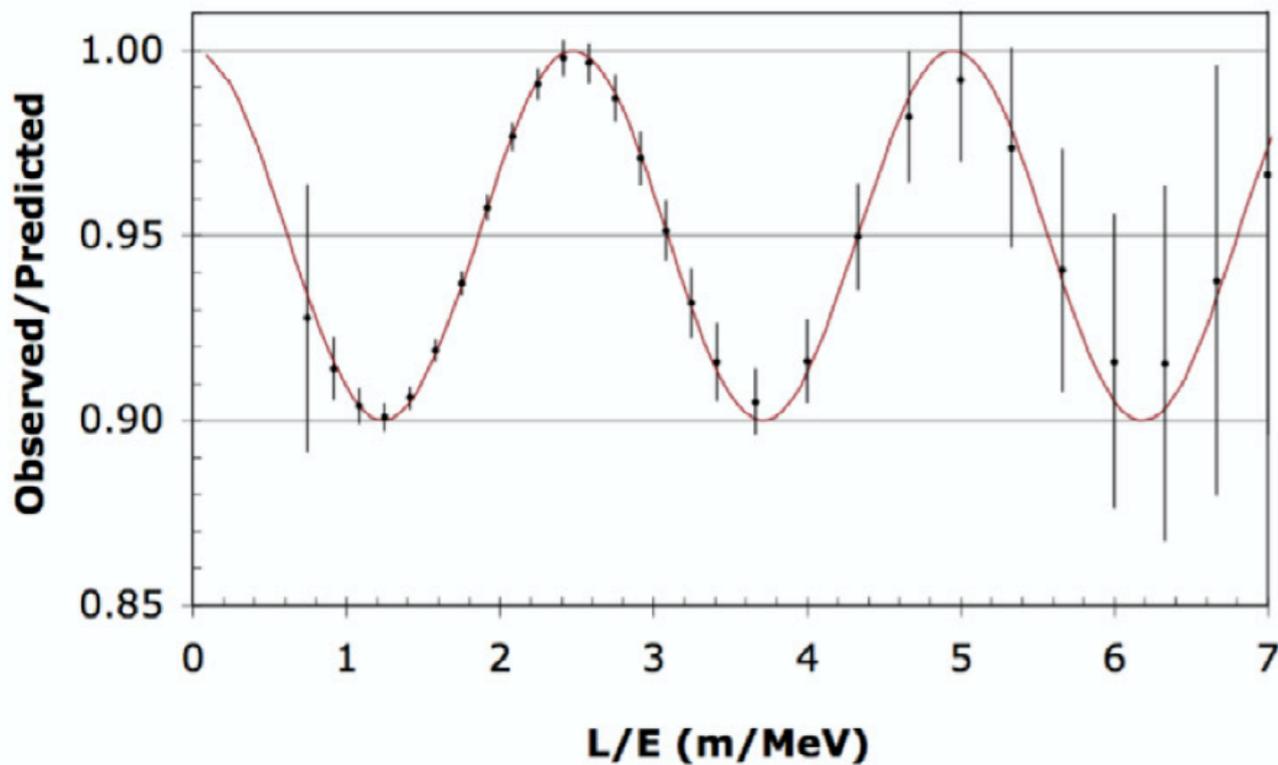
**Will test the MiniBooNE
 low-energy excess
 &
 Perform new searches
 for electron neutrino
 appearance**

See upcoming talk by V. Gustavo
 See talk by M. Bonesini for SBN Program Summary
 See talk by M Torti for plans for ICARUS
 See talk by Kathryn Sutton for uBooNE photon analysis

IsoDAR@Yemilab

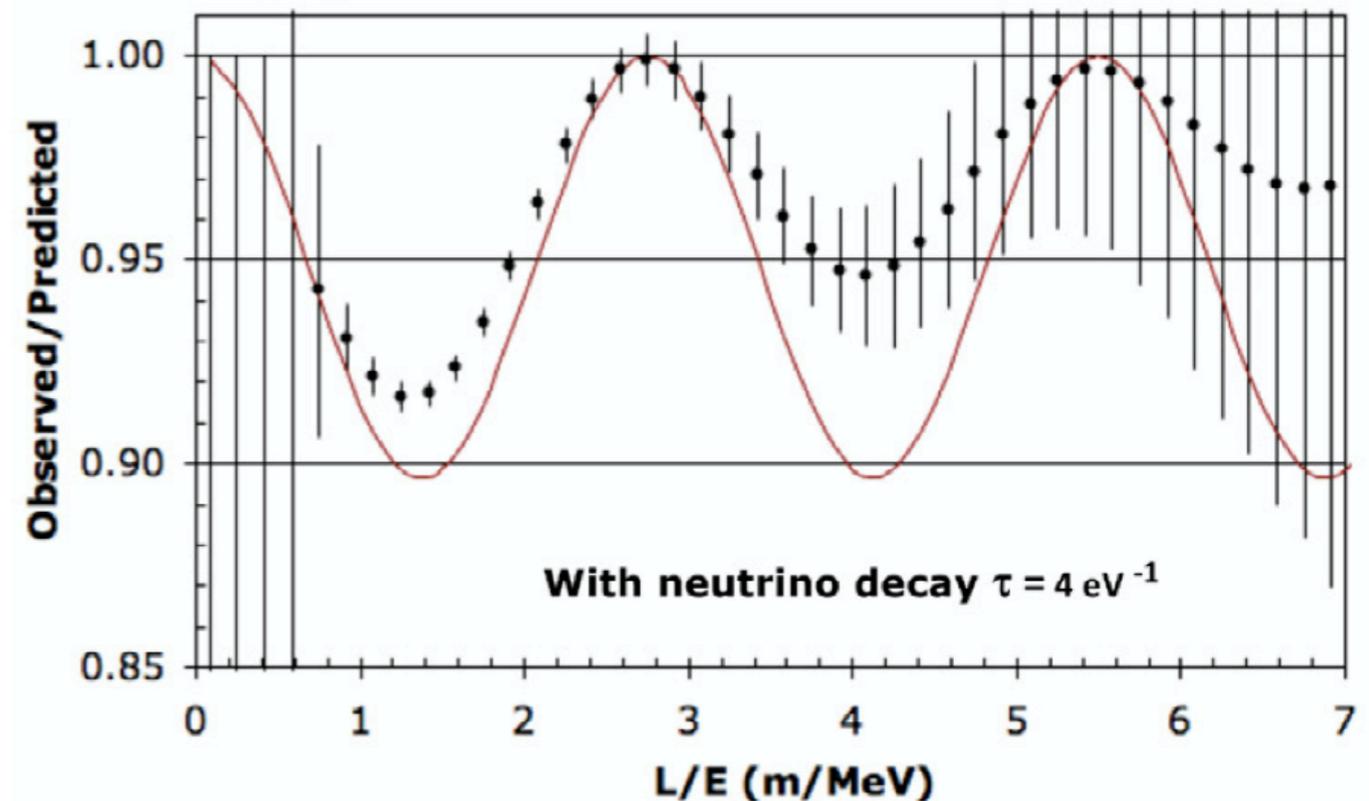
No decay

(3+1) Model with $\Delta m^2 = 1.0 \text{ eV}^2$ and $\sin^2 2\theta = 0.1$



With decay

(3+1) Model with $\Delta m^2 = 0.9 \text{ eV}^2$ and $\sin^2 2\theta = 0.1035$



IsoDAR with O(1M) events

IsoDAR@Yemilab will conclusively rule out the 3+1 model, but also due to its ability to trace the oscillation wave see variants on this model such as 3+1+Decay

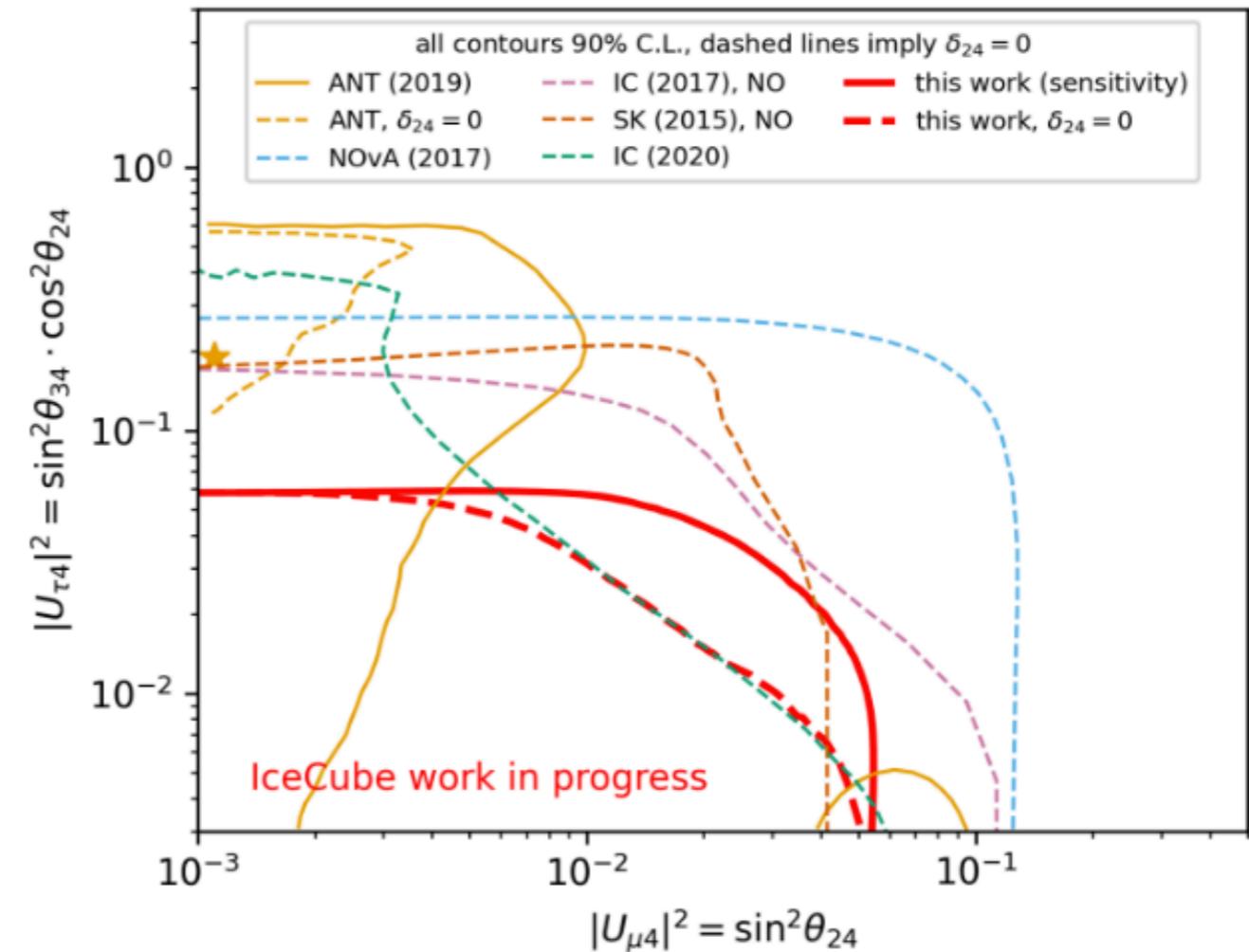
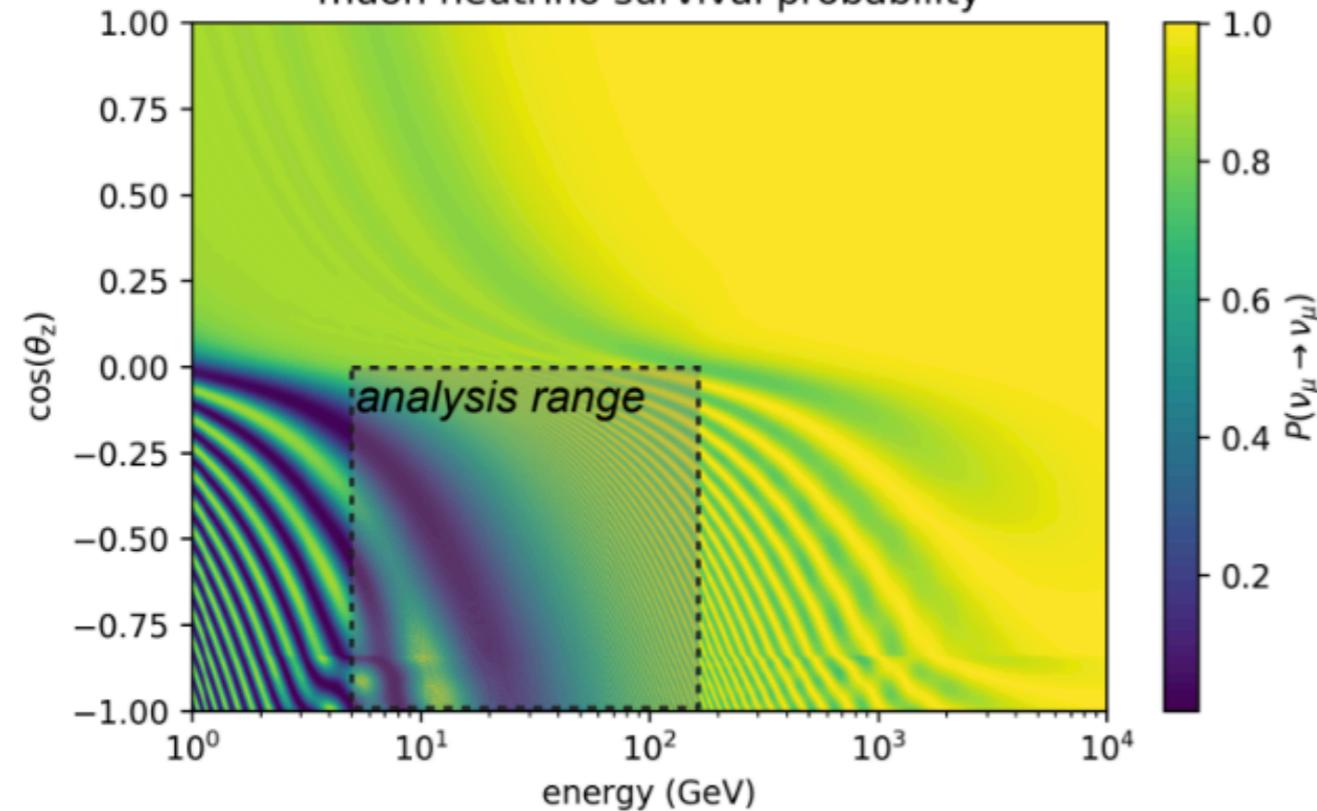


IceCube@Antartica

Talk by A. Trettin@PANIC2021

“Low” energies: 5 - 150 GeV

muon neutrino survival probability



- > very fast, unresolvable oscillations + distortion
- > IceCube: World-leading limits on $|U_{\tau 4}|^2$ and $|U_{\mu 4}|^2$!

Projected sensitivity of sterile search with 8 years of DeepCore data

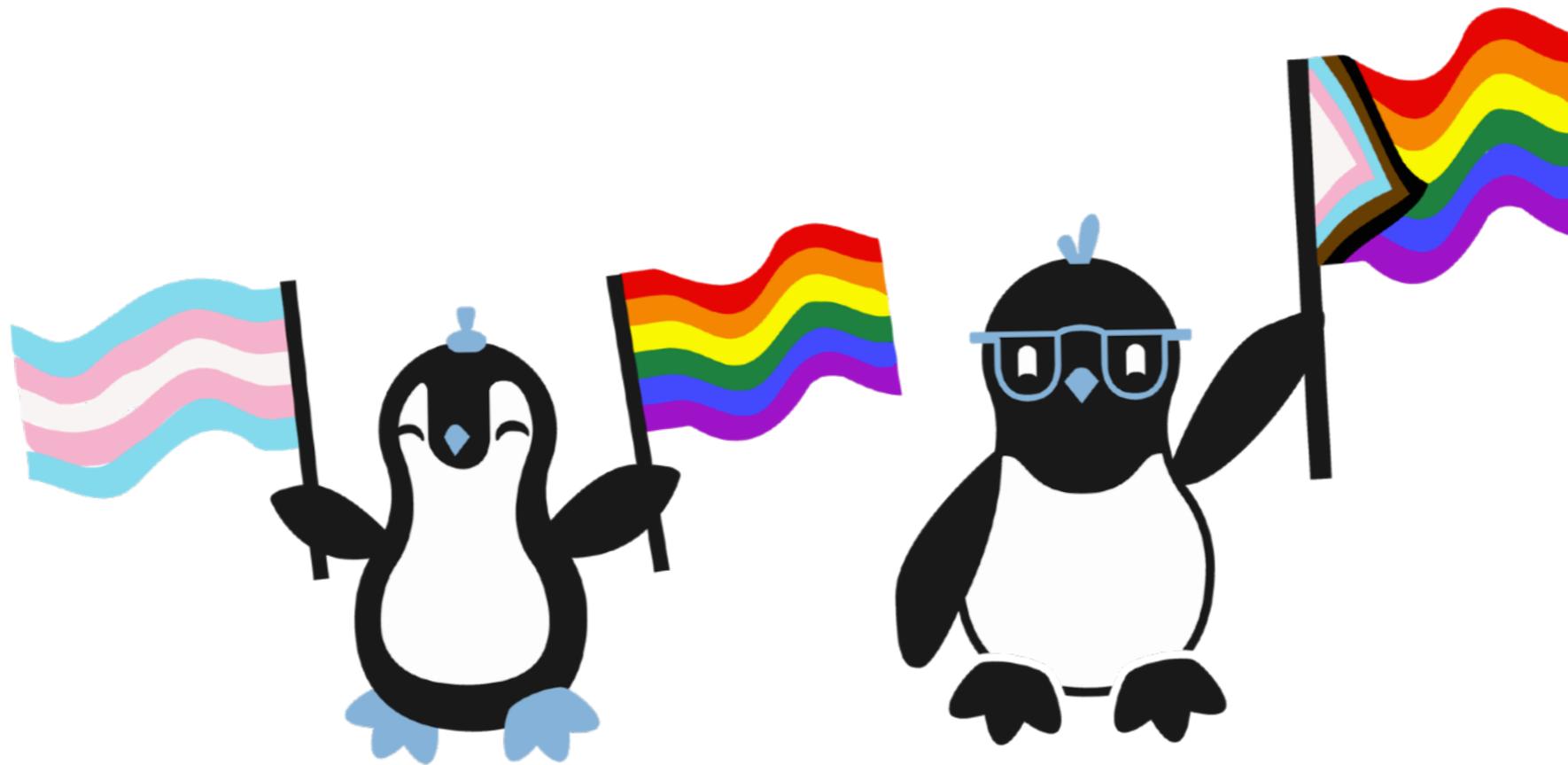
IceCube will continue improving muon neutrino disappearance searches. “Low energy” sample (<100 GeV) still not studied.

See talk by K. Leonard DeHolton for more details

Take home messages

- 3+1 model is disfavored as a global solution.
- Alternative explanations of the short baseline anomalies have been proposed: 3+1+Decay, 3+1+NSI, non-minimal heavy neutral leptons, etc.
- The low-energy part of the MiniBooNE hints points to a non-oscillation explanation.
- Lots of ideas out there. We need more data to solve the short-baseline puzzle.

Thanks!



Bonus slides



Menu of other explanations

New signatures

Gninenko 1107.0279

Magill et al 1803.03262

Heavy neutrino $O(\text{MeV})$, magnetic moment, decay

Bertuzzo et al 1807.09877, Ballett et al 1808.02916,
CA, Hostert, Tsai et al 1812.08768

Heavy neutrino $O(1-100\text{MeV})$, light Z' , decay

Heavy Neutrino Decay

Bai et al 1512.05357

Dentler et al 1911.01427,
de Gouvea et al 1911.01447,
Hostert & Pospelov 2008.11851

Heavy $O(100\text{MeV})$ decay to ν_e

Fisher et al 1909.0956,
CA, Foppiani, Hostert 2021.XXXX

Heavy $O(100\text{MeV})$ decay to photon

Oscillations+X

Assadi et al 1712.08019

Resonant matter effect

Moss et al 1711.05921, Moulai et al 1910.13456

Steriles +decay

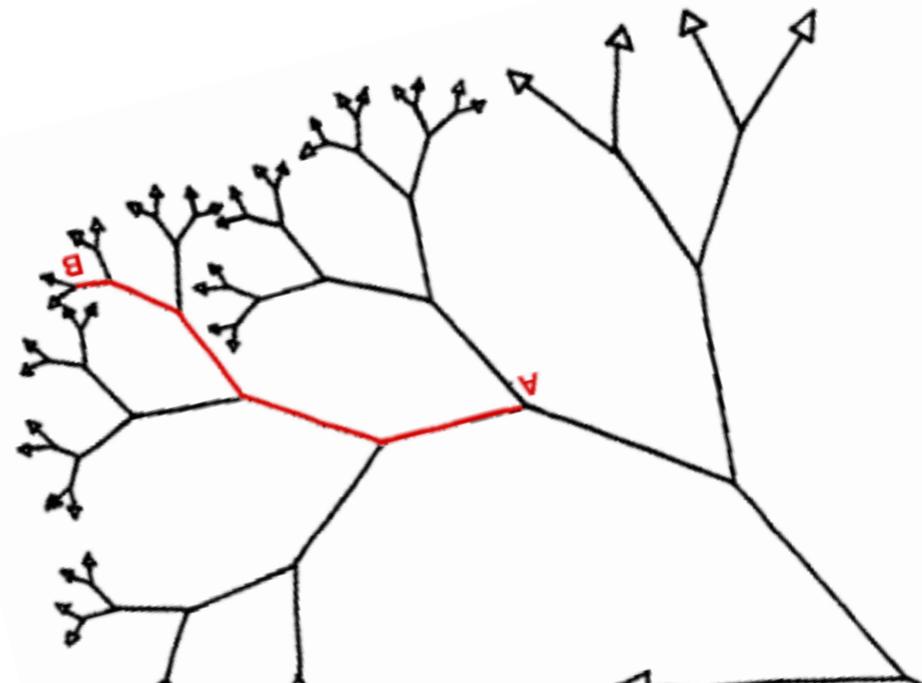
Liao et al 1810.01000

Steriles + NCNSI + CCNSI

More than one at a time

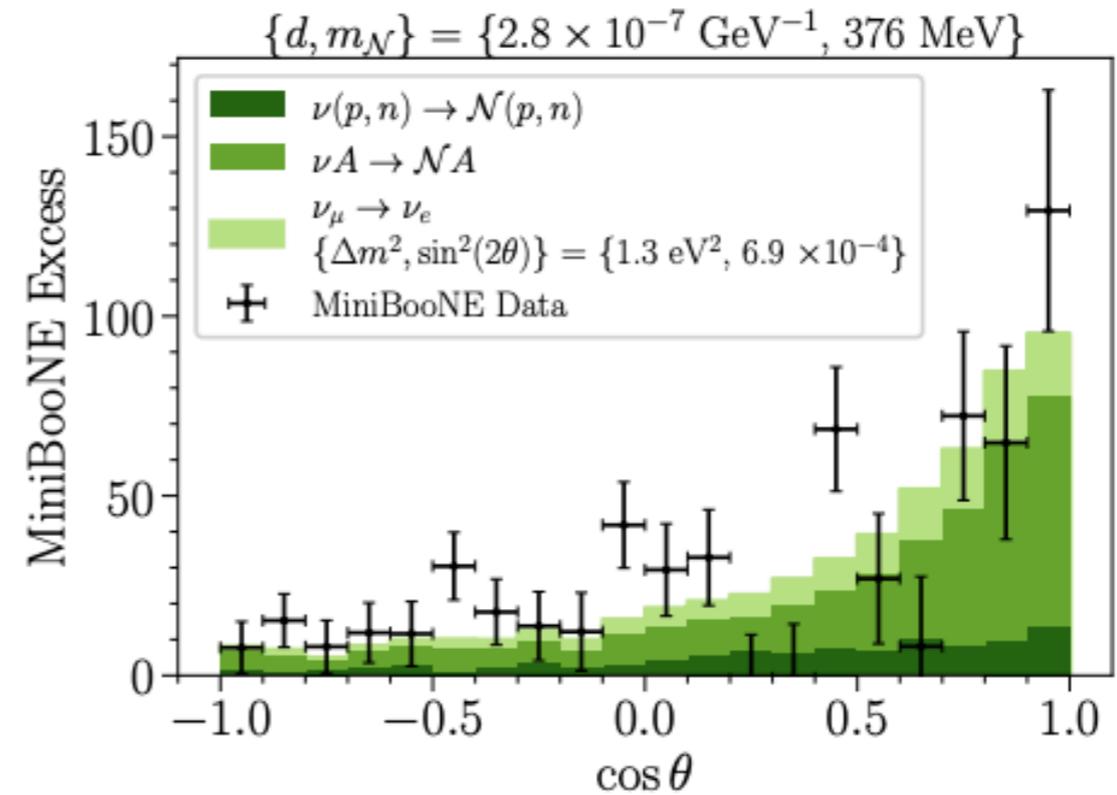
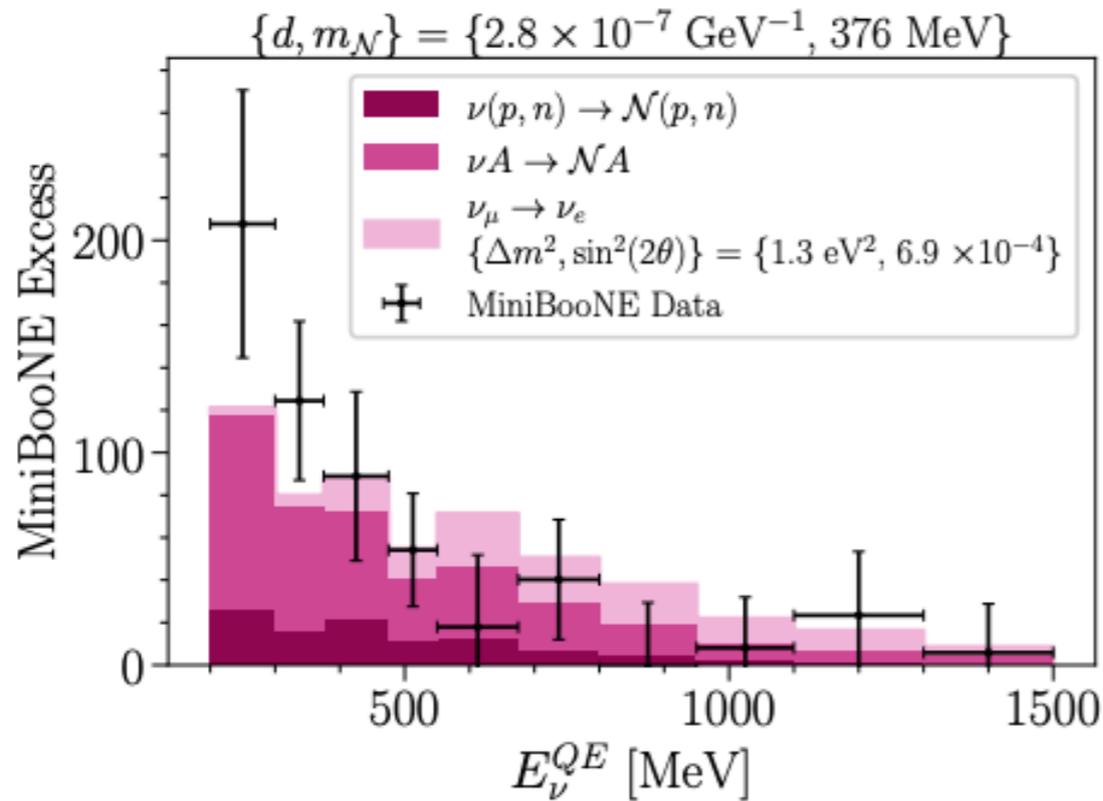
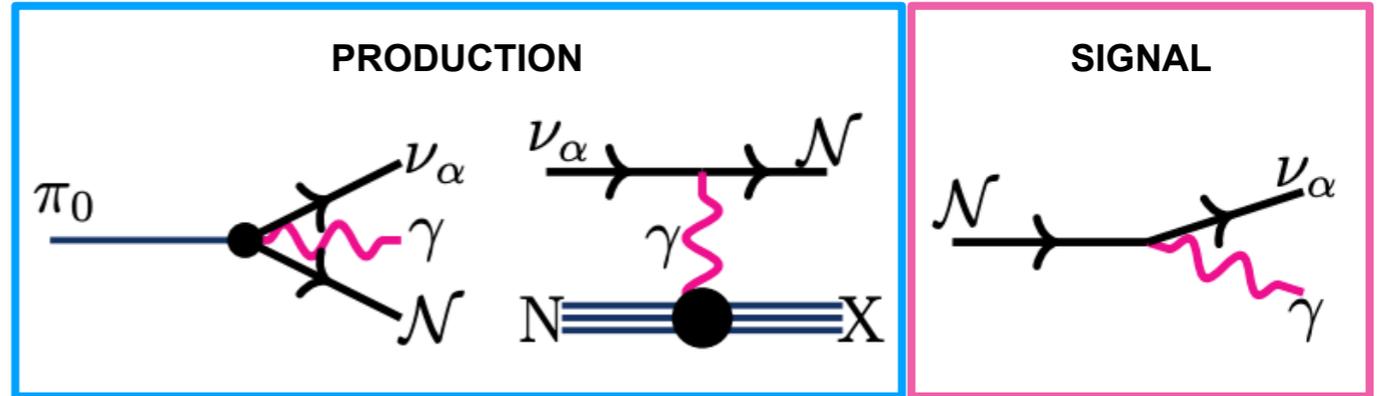
S. Vergani et al arXiv:2105.06470

Light Sterile + Heavy neutrino $O(100\text{MeV})$,
magnetic moment



Non-Minimal HNL: photon scenario

$$\sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{N}_j (i\not{\partial} - M_j) N_j + \sum_{i=1}^3 (d_{i,j} \bar{\nu}_i \sigma_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} N_j + h.c.)$$



A global solution: 3+1+HNL-photon

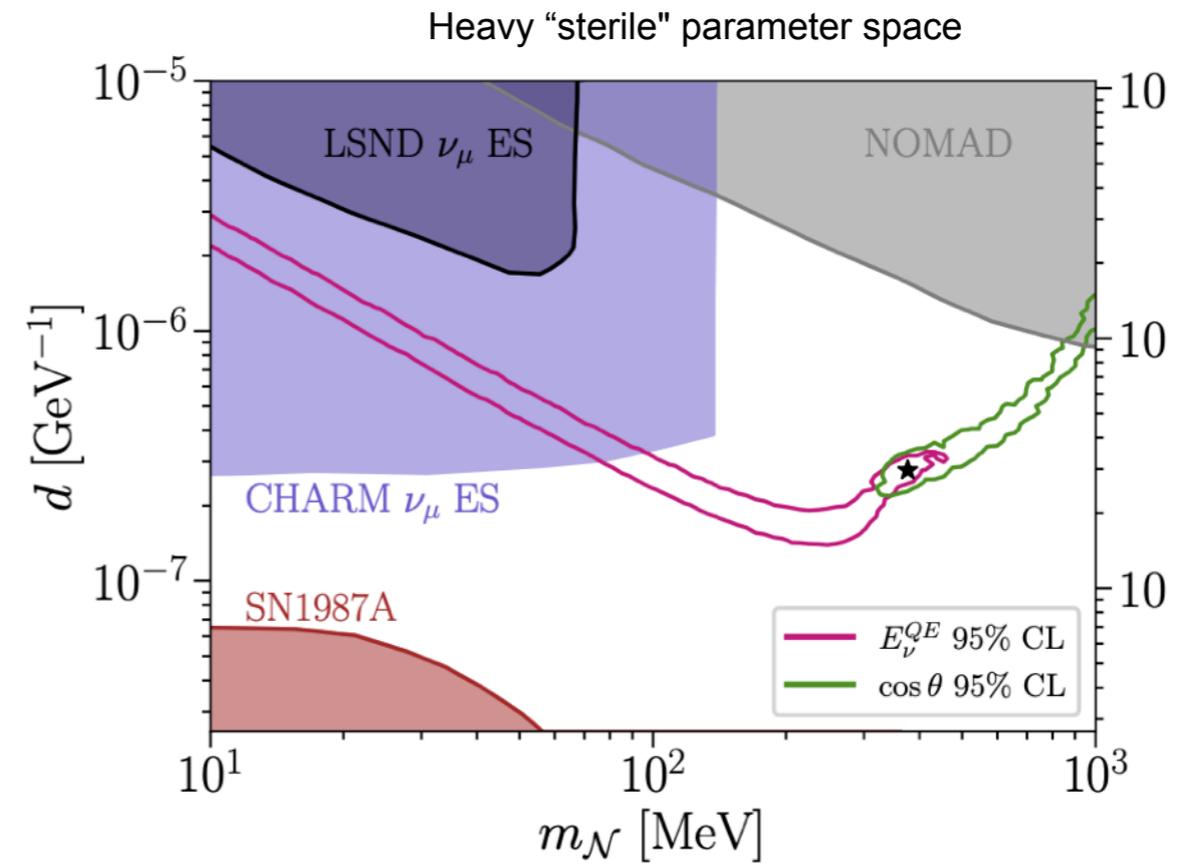
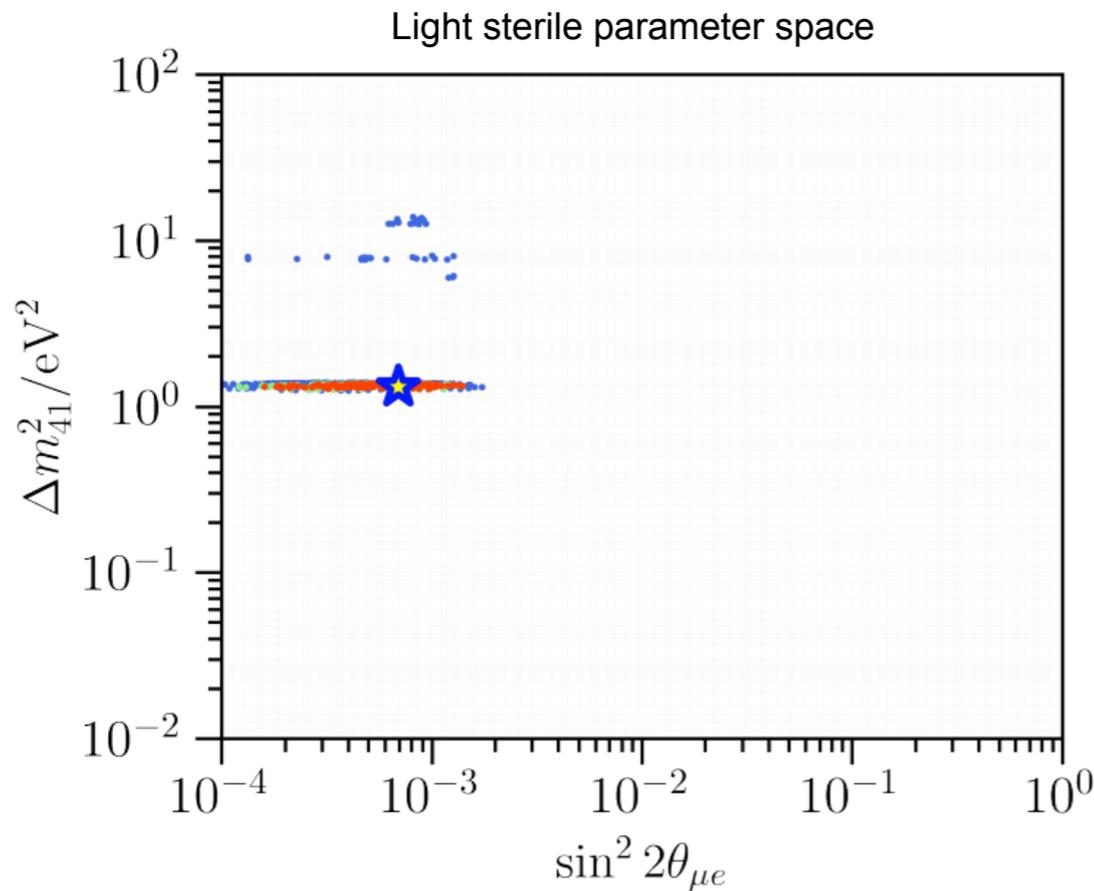
Used to Test	References (Flux Type)	Type of Fit
$\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance	[39–43] (Reactor)	3+1-only
ν_e disappearance	[44–46] (Source)	
$\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ appearance	[47, 48] (π/μ DAR)	
$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ appearance	[49] (π/μ DIF)	
$\bar{\nu}_\mu$ disappearance	[50–53] (π/μ DIF)	
ν_μ disappearance	[51, 54–56] (π/μ DIF)	
$3 + 1 + \mathcal{N}$	[8] (MiniBooNE BNB ν)	

Explained
by eV-
sterile

Explained
by MeV-
HNL

Fit type:	3+1-only	3+1-complete
χ_{app}^2	48	79
N_{app}	2	2
χ_{dis}^2	557	557
N_{dis}	3	3
χ_{glob}^2	615	664
N_{glob}	3	3
χ_{PG}^2	10	28
N_{PG}	2	2
<i>p</i> -value	7E-03	8E-07
$N\sigma$	2.7 σ	4.8 σ

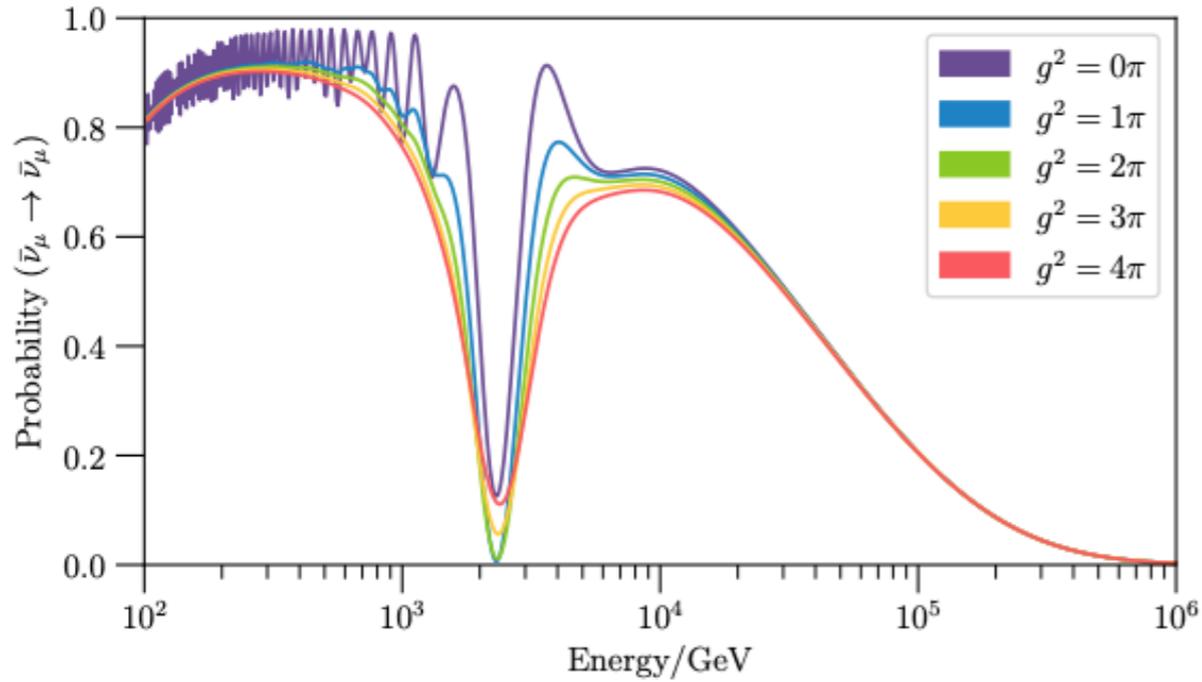
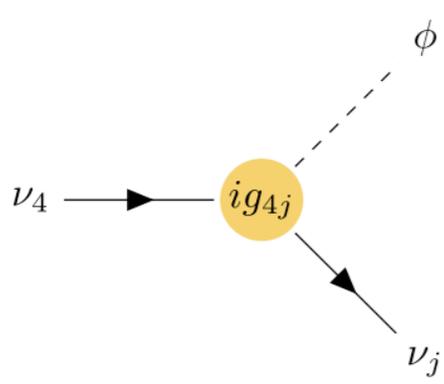
Tension



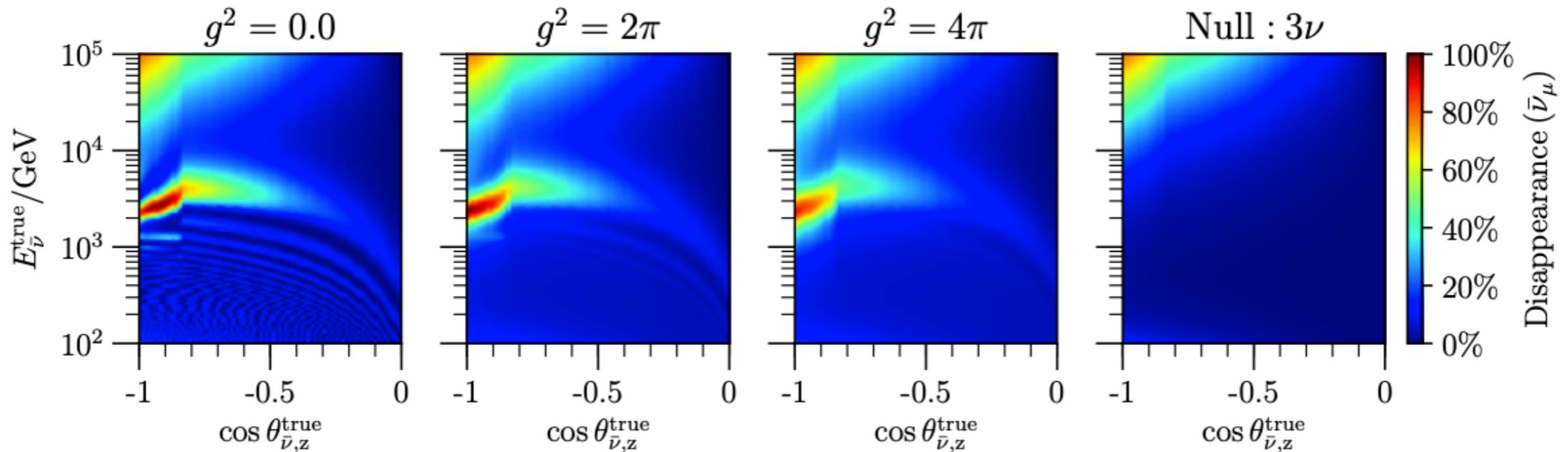
Magill et al Phys. Rev. D 98, 115015 (2018)

S. Vergani, N. Kamp, Diaz, CA, J. M. Conrad, M. H. Shaevitz, M. A. Uchida, arXiv:2105.06470

3+1+Decay In IceCube

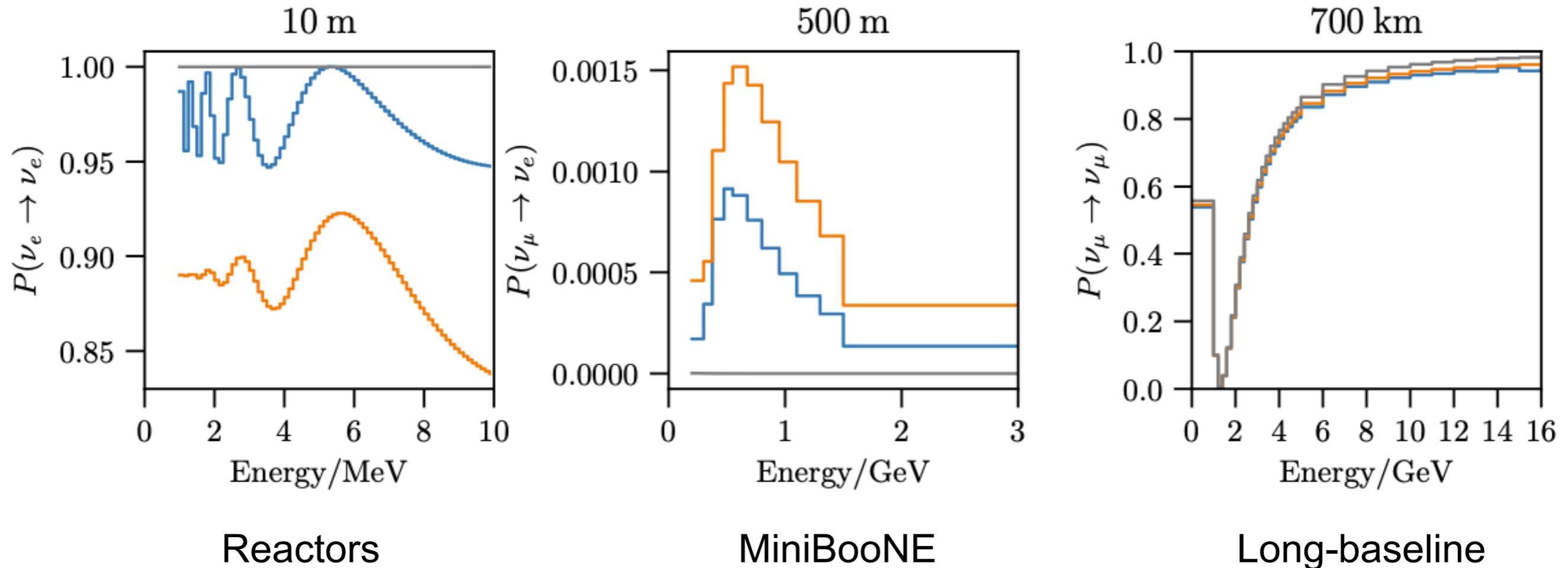
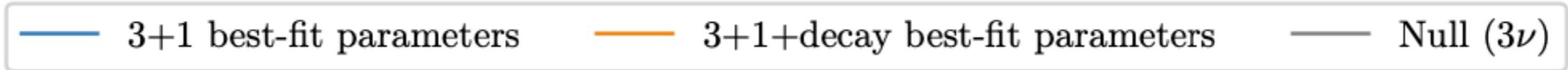


3+1+Decay model compared to 3+1 produces broader and smoother muon-neutrino disappearance.



Phenomenological implications of 3+1+Decay

Moulai et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.13456>



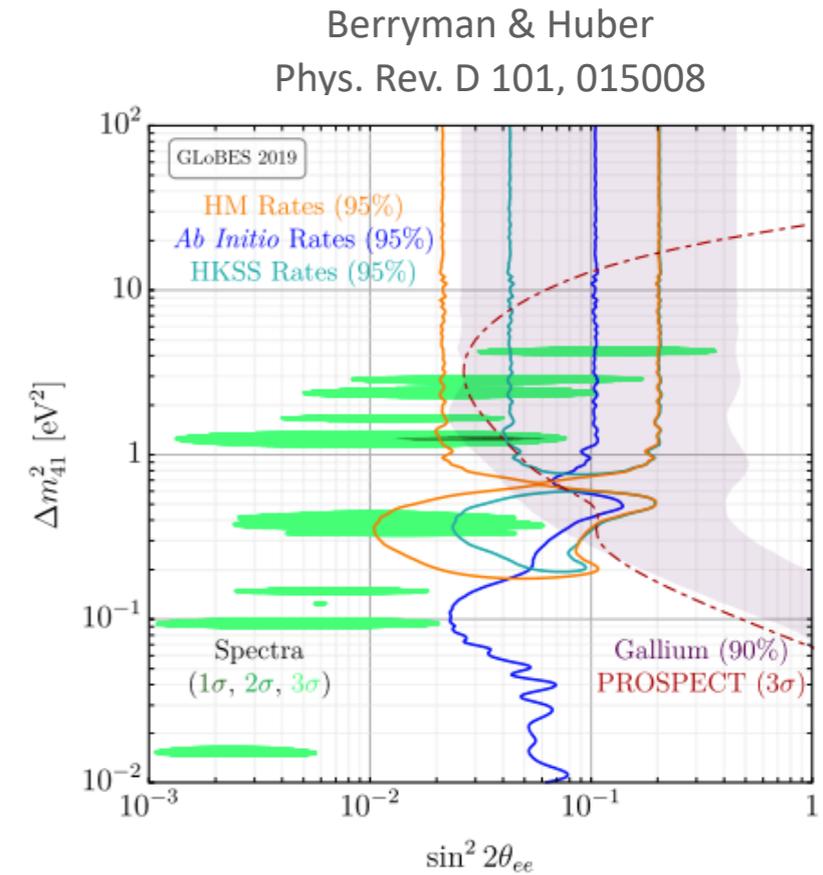
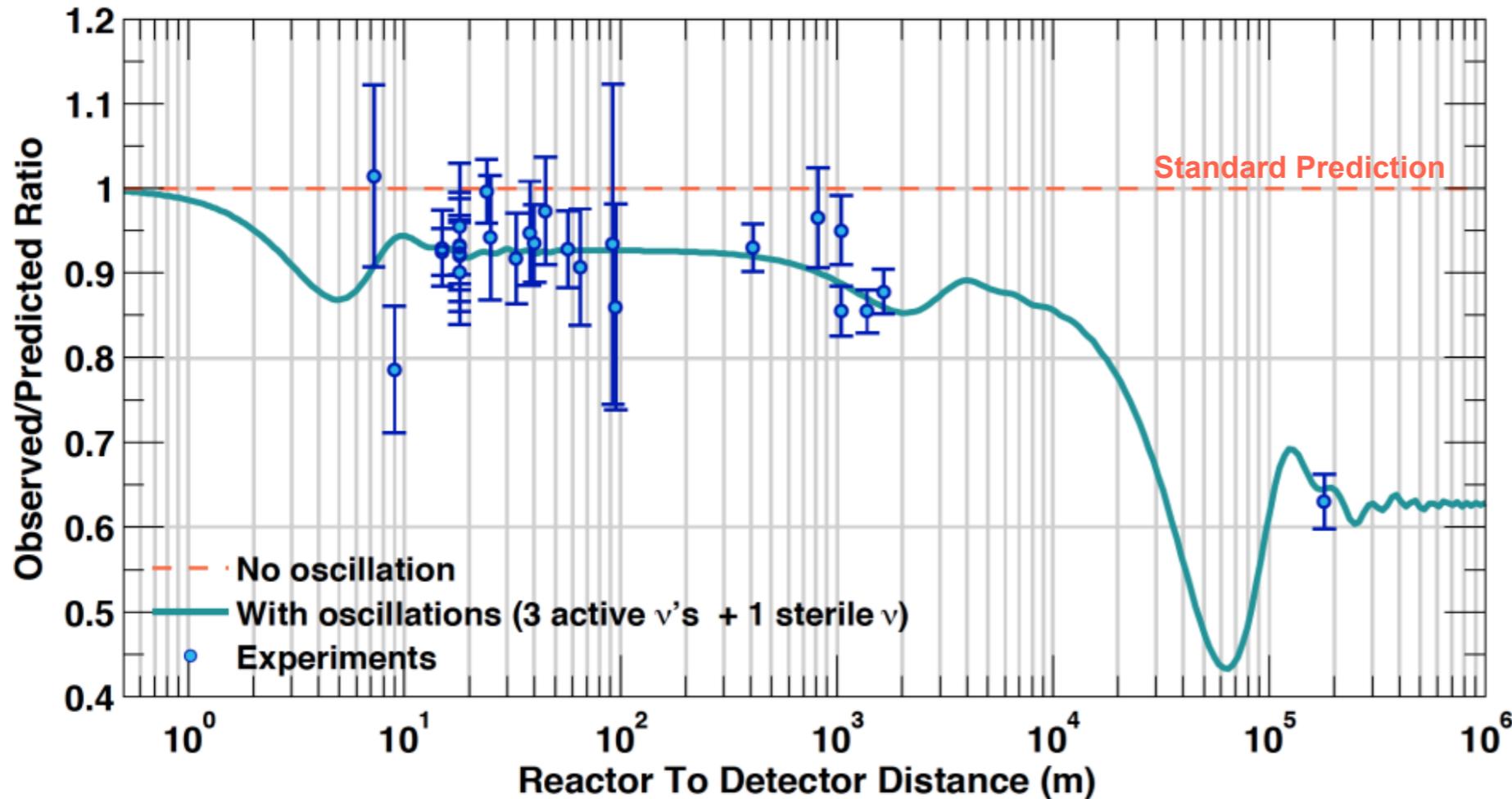
- Reactor experiments experience reduced oscillations features.
- Oscillation probability at MiniBooNE slightly shifted to higher energies.



Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly (RAA)

Nuclear reactors: electron spectra from ^{235}U , ^{238}U , ^{239}Pu , ^{241}Pu are translated to $\bar{\nu}_e$ flux Schreckenbach 82, 85

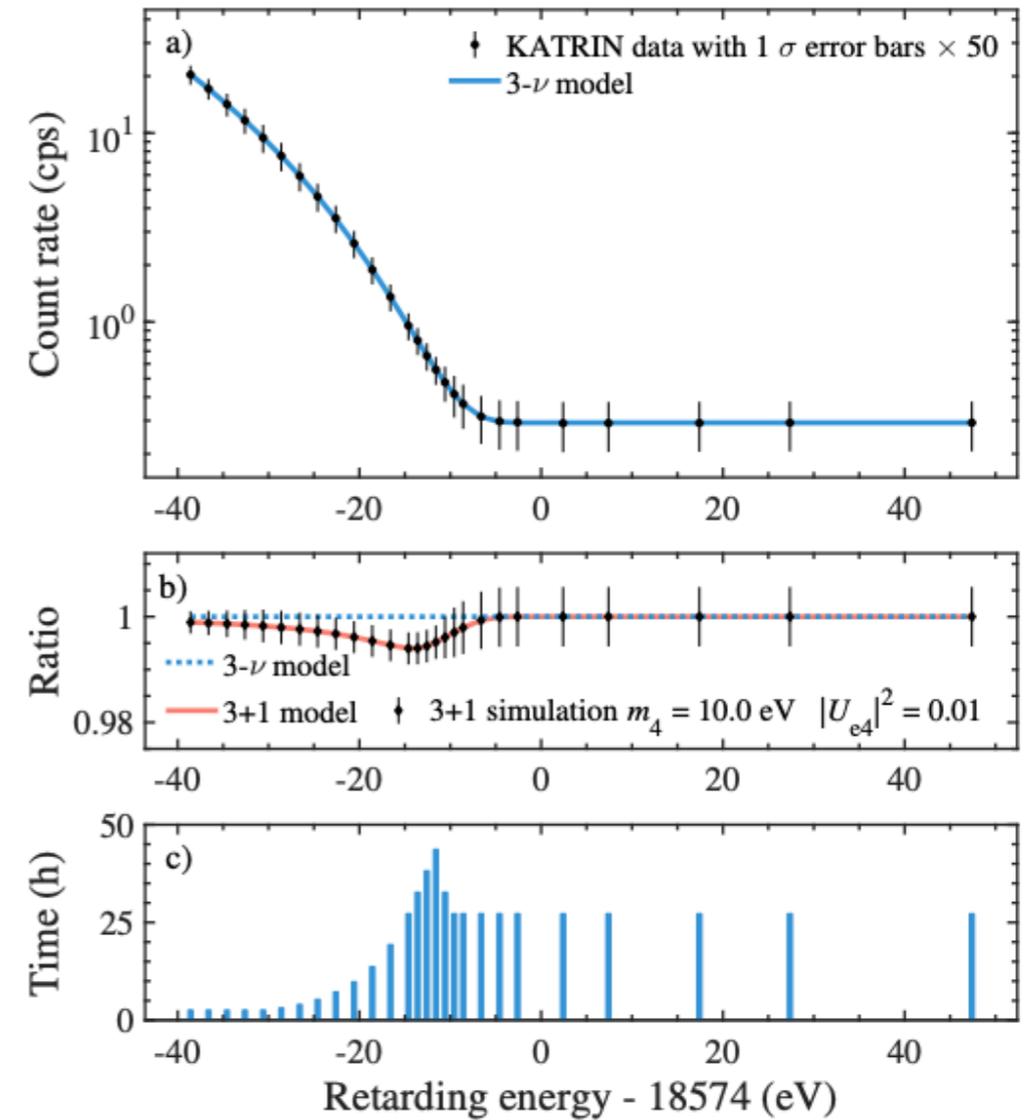
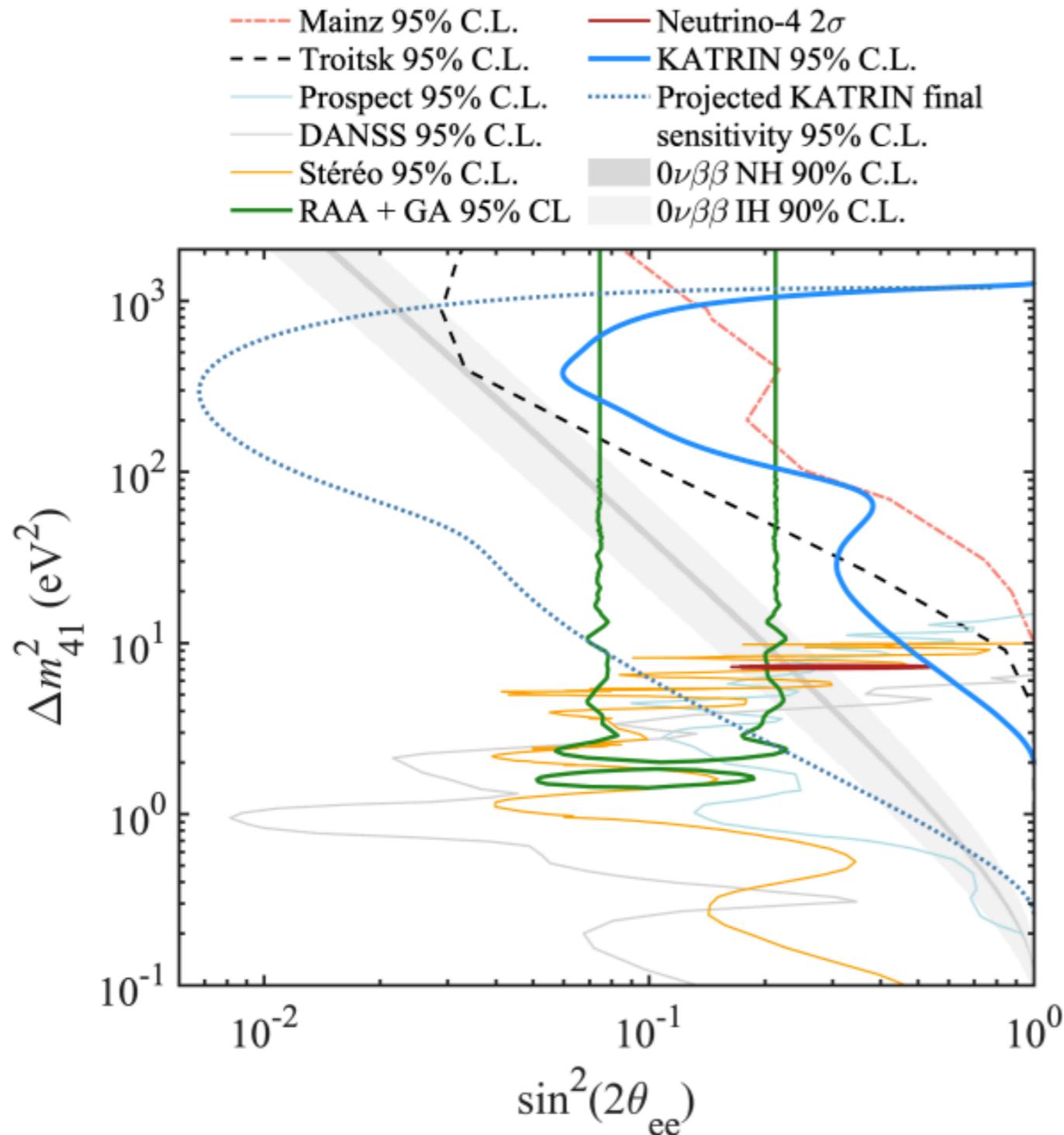
A recalculation of fluxes lead to $\sim 6\%$ discrepancy with 2% error bars Müller et al 2011, Huber 2011



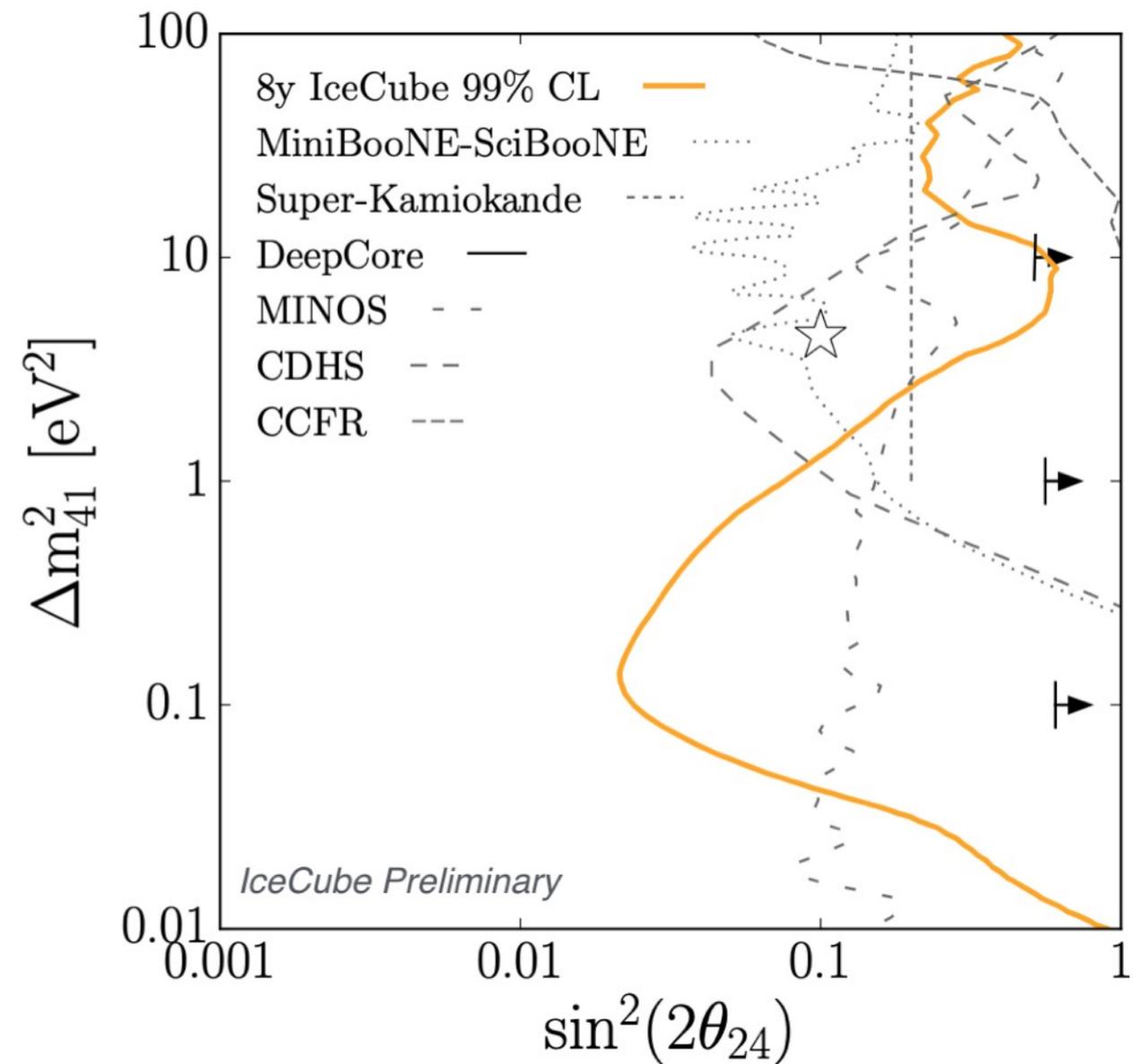
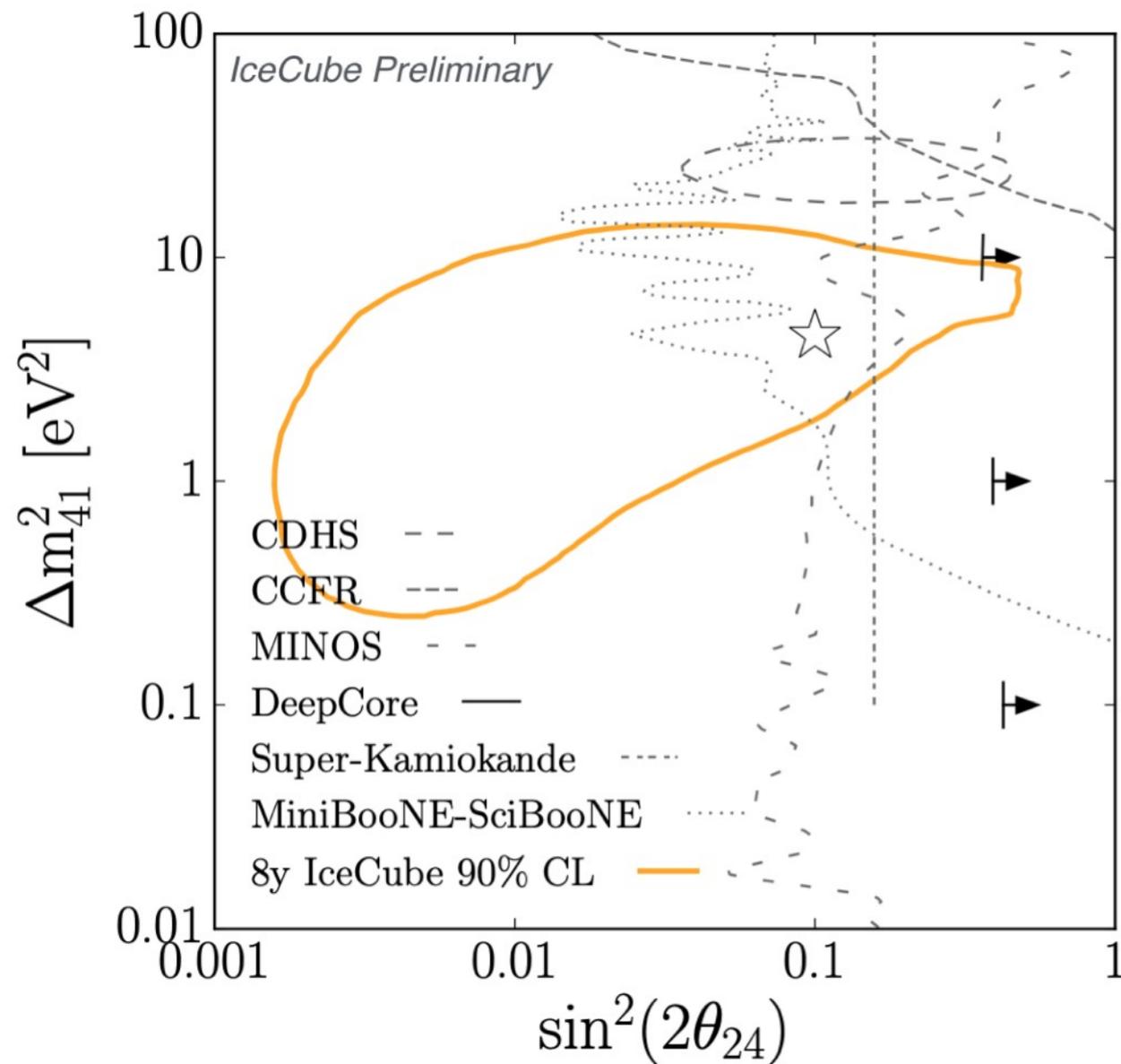
**3σ significance,
but fully driven
by theoretical
prediction.**



Constraints from Direct Mass Measurements



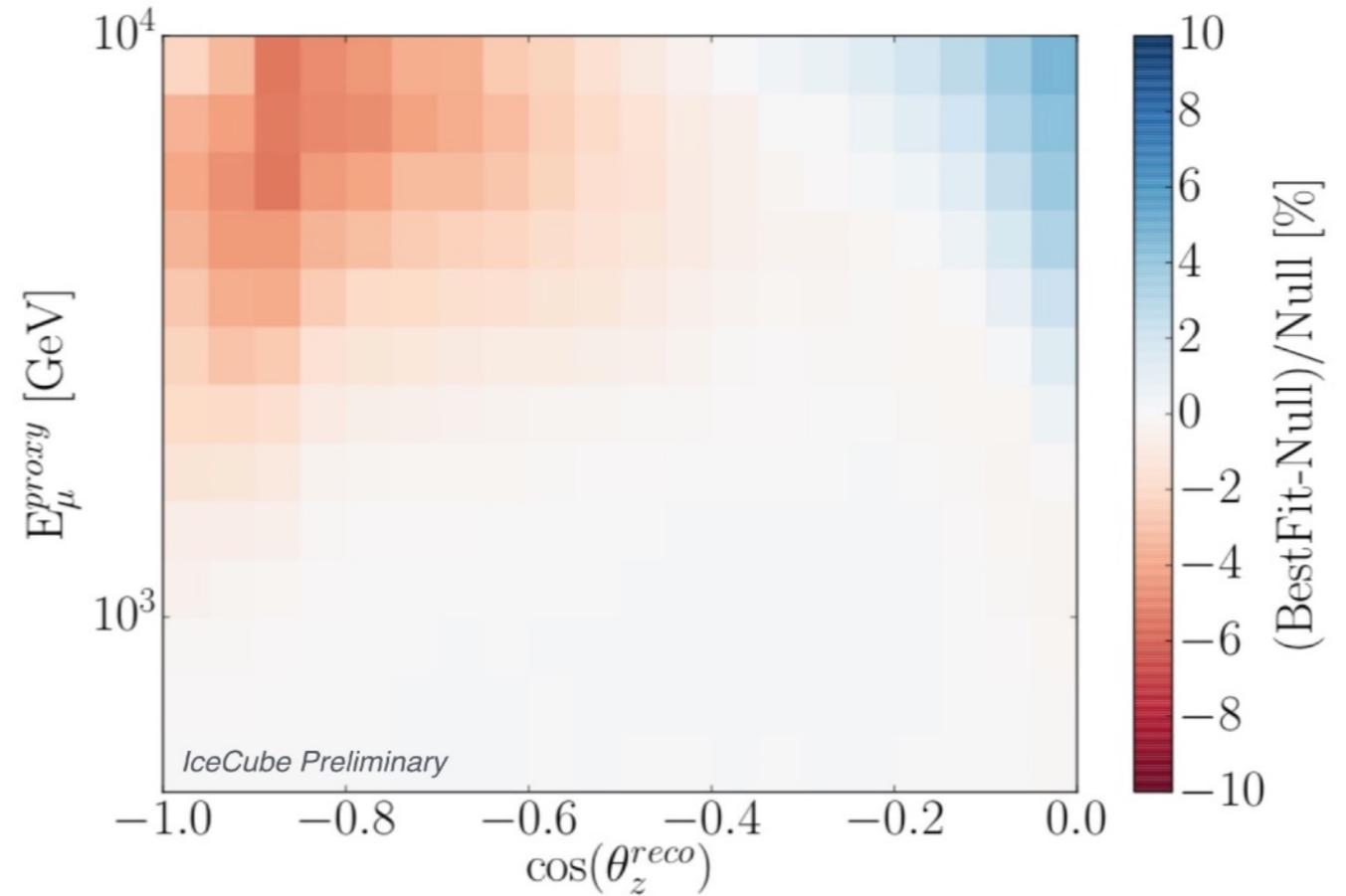
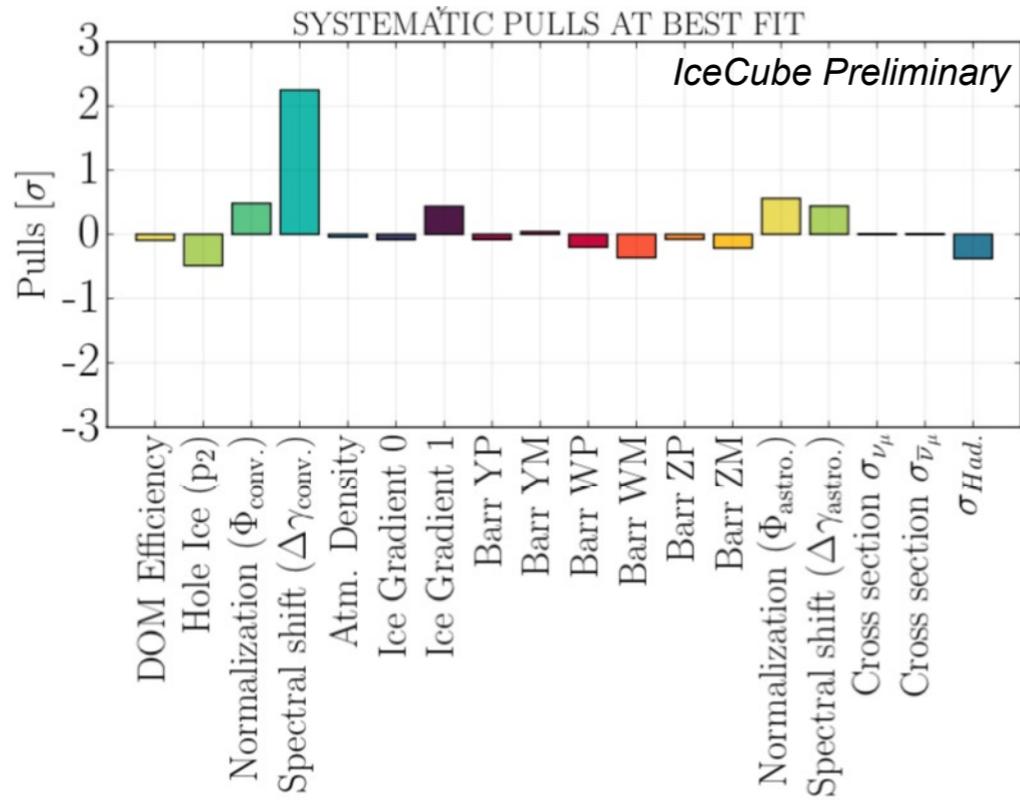
Compare to other muon-neutrino disappearance results



Best-fit point (data) and signal shape (Monte Carlo)

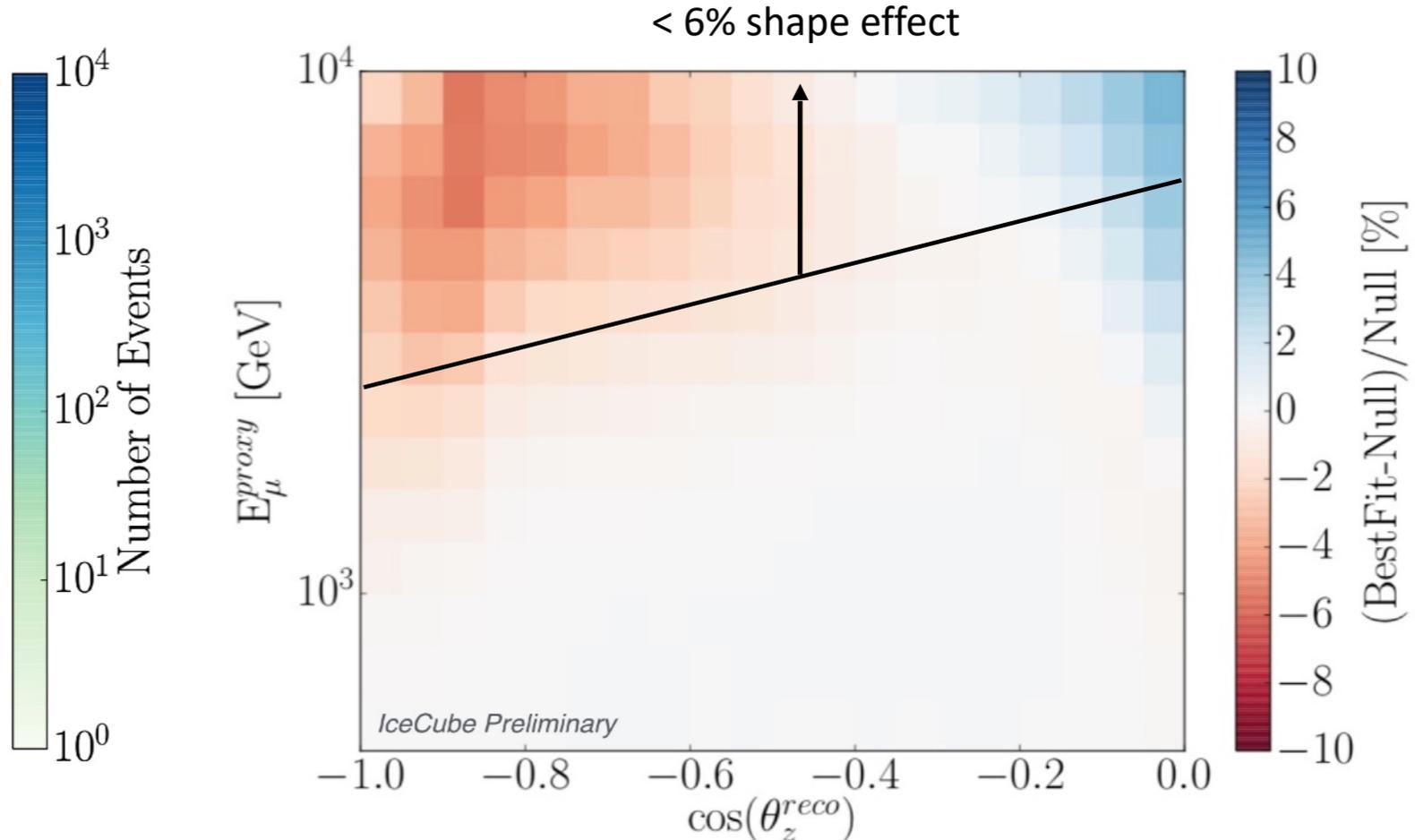
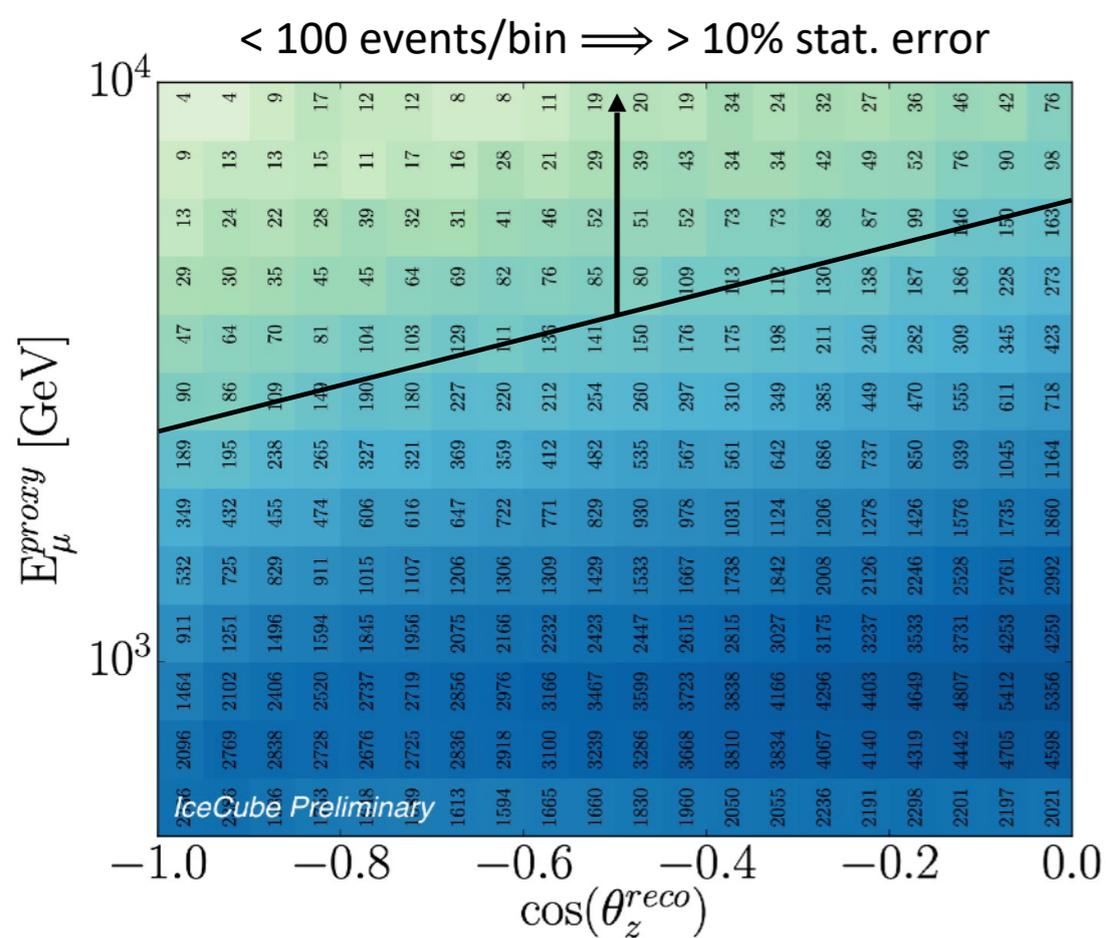
$$\Delta m_{41}^2 = 4.47_{-2.08}^{+3.53} \text{ eV}^2$$

$$\sin^2(2\theta_{24}) = 0.10_{-0.07}^{+0.10}$$

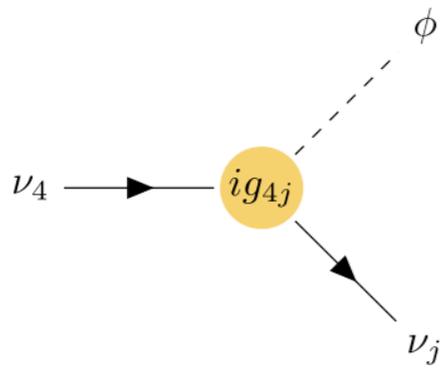


Event distribution (data) and best-fit shape (Monte Carlo)

- ❖ Best-fit shape effect is in a low-statistics regime
 - ❖ Hard to see by eye in the data
- ❖ But the result does not seem to be a statistical fluctuation
 - ❖ Consistent year-to-year



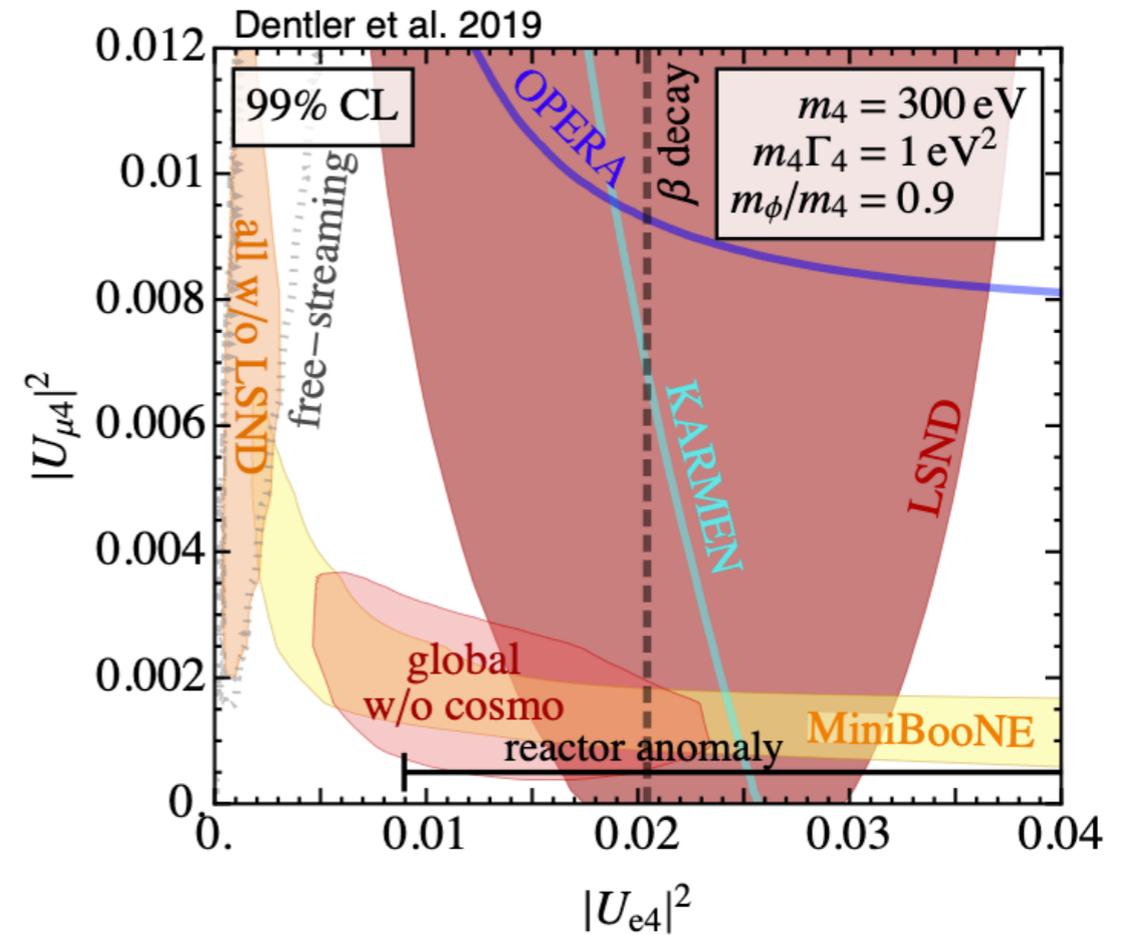
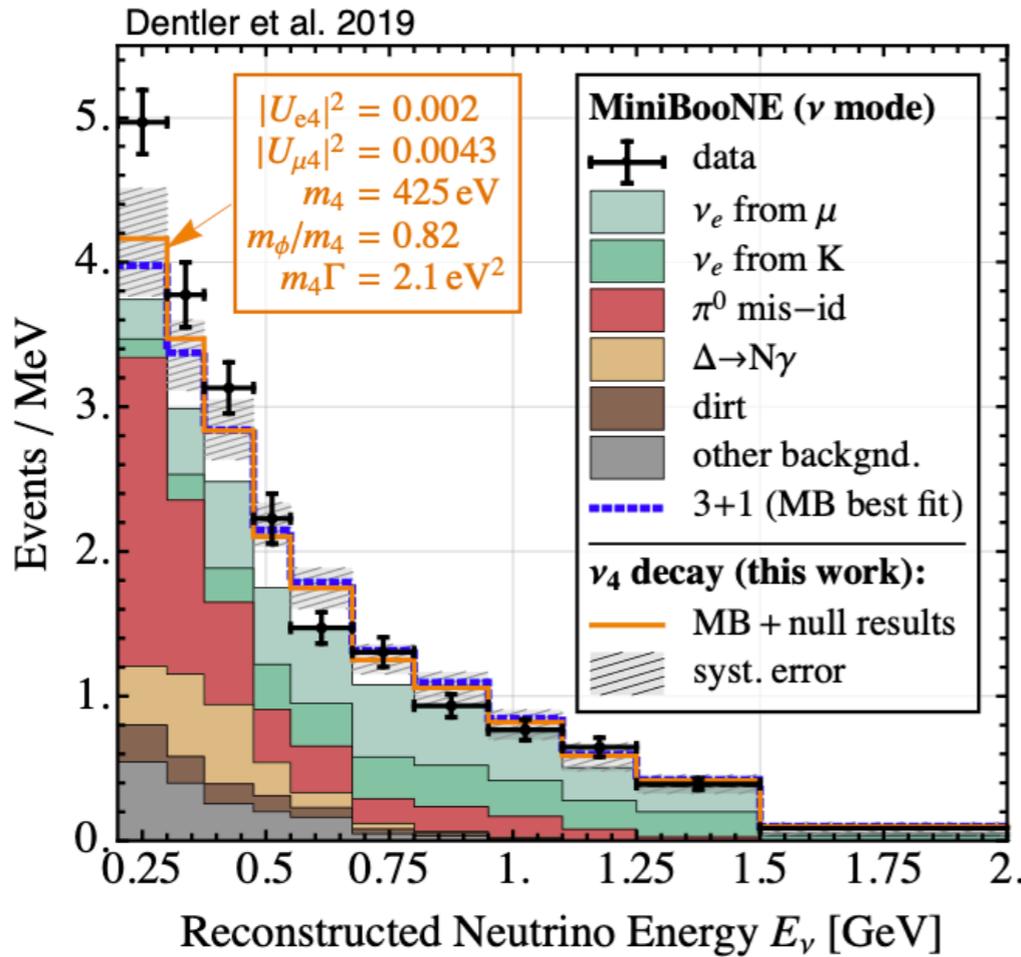
Sterile Neutrino Decay (3+1+Visible-Decay)



Dentler et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.01427>

Gouvea et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.01447>

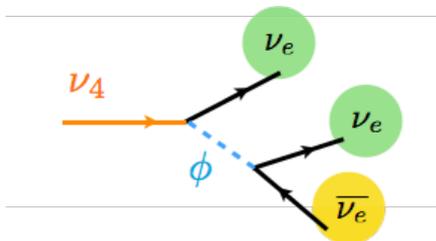
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -g \bar{\nu}_s \nu_s \phi - \sum_{a=e,\mu,\tau,s} m_{\alpha\beta} \bar{\nu}_\alpha \nu_\beta$$



See also Palomares-Ruiz et al <http://xxx.lanl.gov/abs/hep-ph/0505216>,
Gninenkov <https://arxiv.org/abs/0902.3802>, Fisher et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.09561>

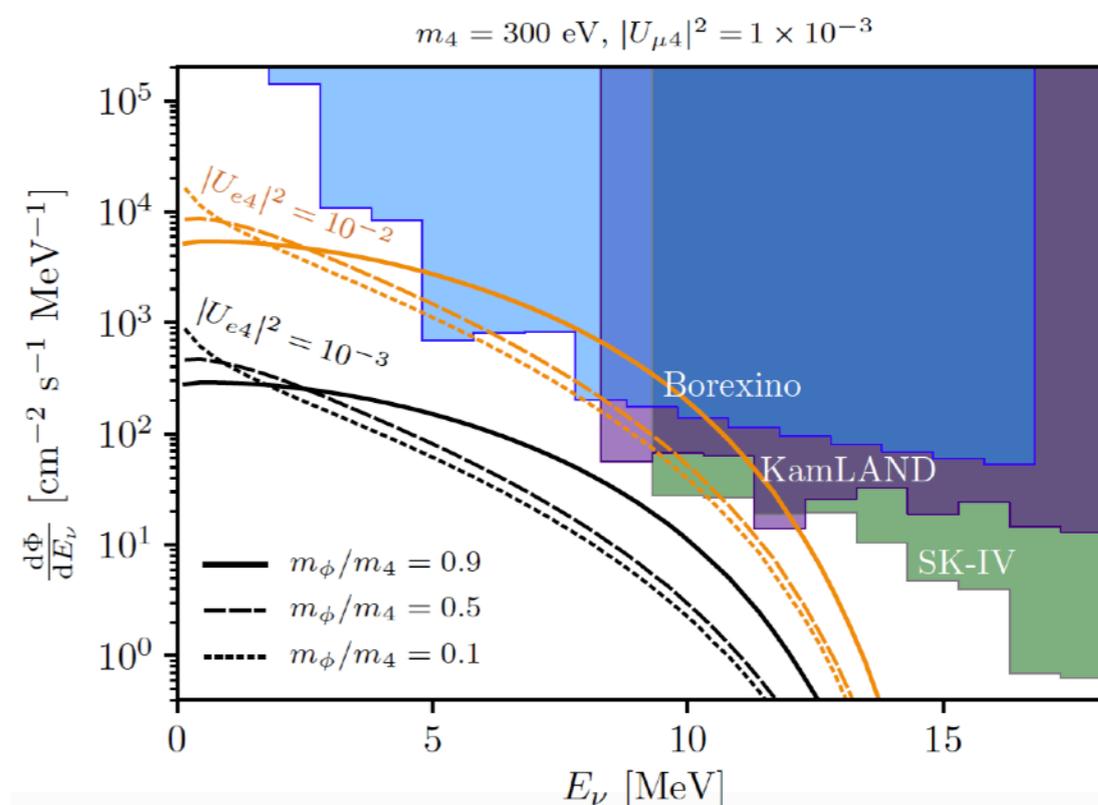
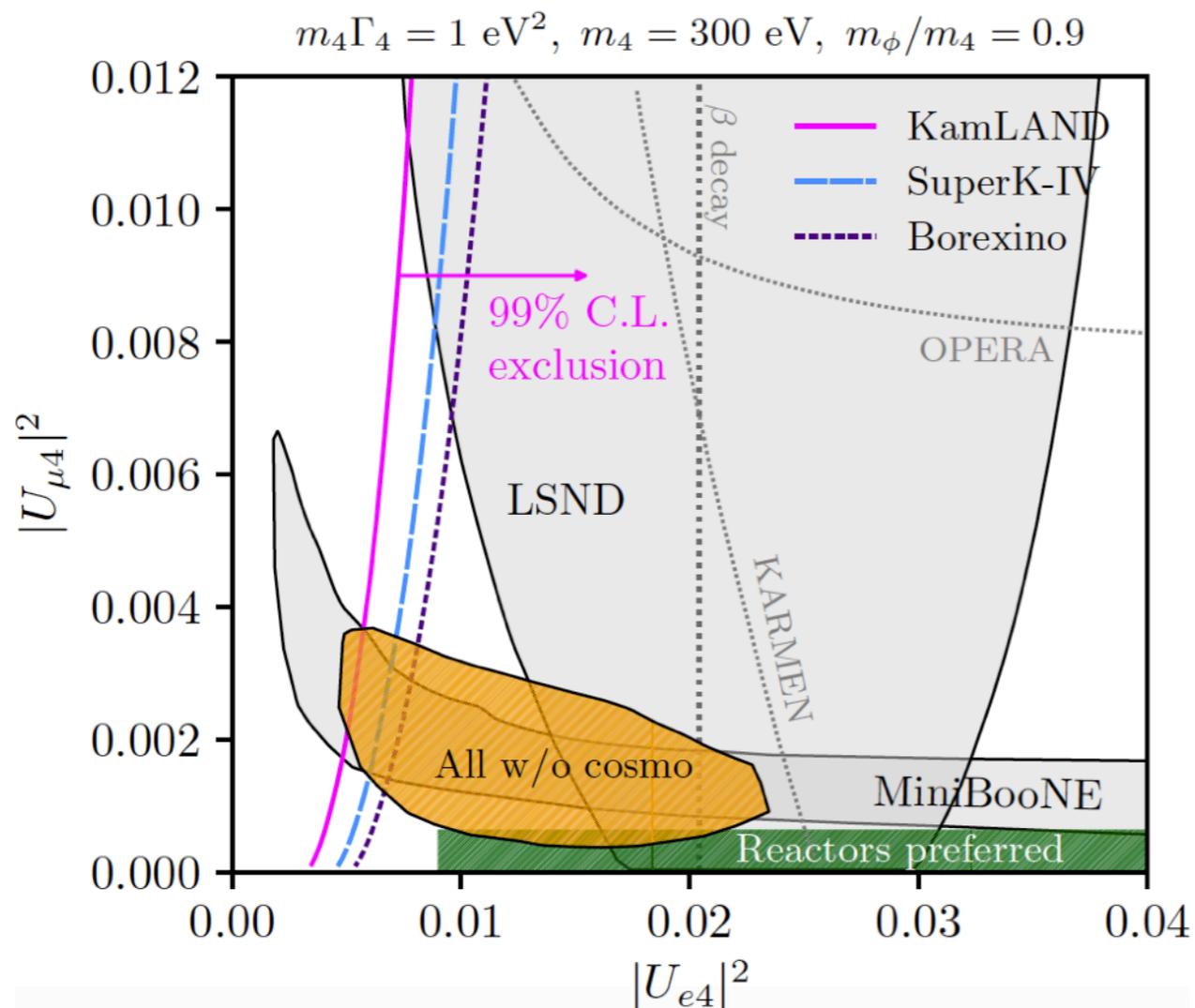
Neutrino Decay as a Solution to the Short-Baseline Anomalies

(https://www.snowmass21.org/docs/files/summaries/NF/SNOWMASS21-NF2_NF3_G_V_Stenico-131.pdf)



Sterile Neutrino Decay (3+1+Visible-Decay)

M. Hostert & M. Pospelov <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2008.11851.pdf>



Visible decay predicts emission of antineutrinos from the Sun!

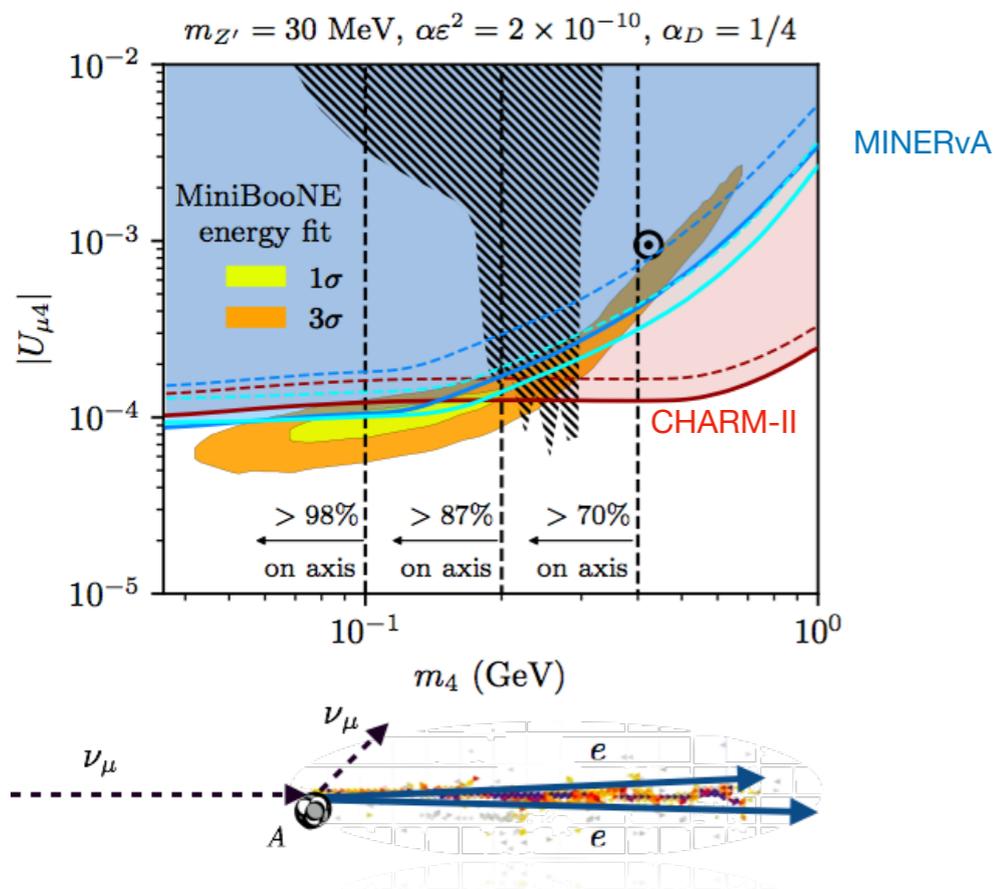
Neutrino Decay as a Solution to the Short-Baseline Anomalies

(https://www.snowmass21.org/docs/files/summaries/NF/SNOWMASS21-NF2_NF3_G_V_Stenico-131.pdf)

Non-Minimal HNLs - Testability

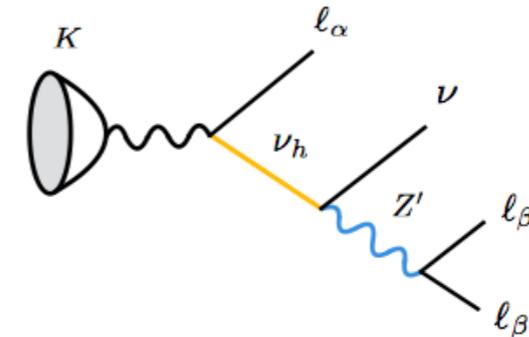
Photon-like signatures neutrino-electron scattering (MINERvA, CHARM-II)

CA, M. Hostert, Y. Tsai, PhysRevLett. 123, 261801 (2019)



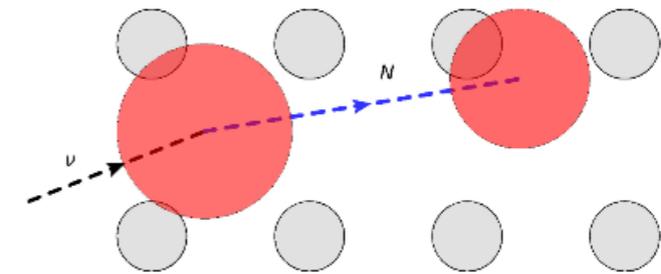
Rare kaon decays

P. Ballet, M. Hostert, S. Pascoli, Phys. Rev. D 101, 115025 (2020)



Double cascades in IceCube

P. Coloma et al, arxiv:1707.08573,
P. Coloma arxiv:1906.02106



KOTO & muon (g-2) anomalies

B. Dutta, S. Ghosh, T. Li, PhysRevD.102.055017
W. Abdallah et al, arXiv:2006.01948
A. Datta et al, Phys.Lett.B 807 (2020) 135579
A. Abdullahi, M. Hostert, S. Pascoli, arXiv:2007.11813

More data from: MINERvA, NOvA, and SBN program to come soon!

BSM Physics at the Electron Ion Collider: Searching for Heavy Neutral Leptons
(https://www.snowmass21.org/docs/files/summaries/EF/SNOWMASS21-EF7_EF0-NF2_NF3-RF4_RF0_Brian_Batell-114.pdf)

Dark Sector With Neutrino Beams

(https://www.snowmass21.org/docs/files/summaries/NF/SNOWMASS21-NF3_NF0-RF6_RF0-CF1_CF3-TF9_TF11-148.pdf)

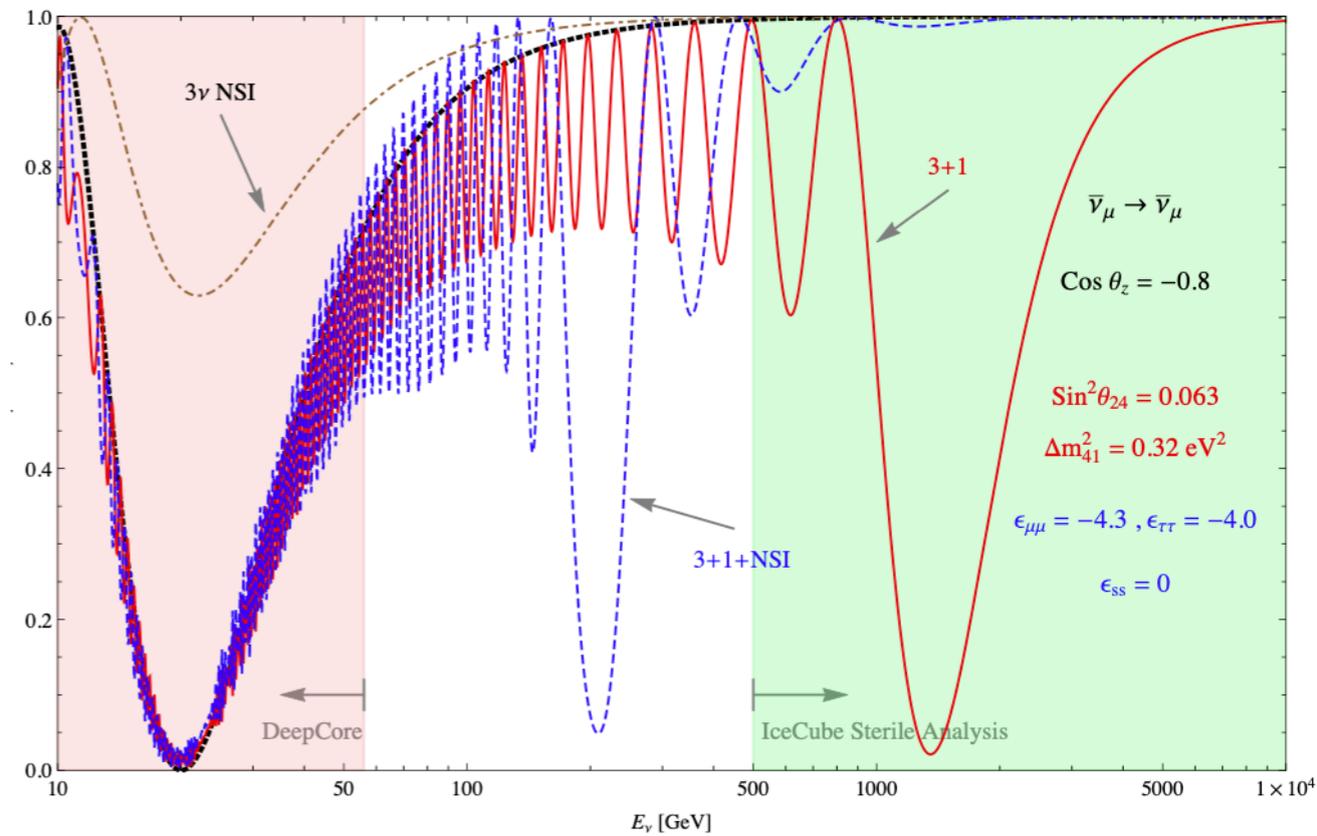
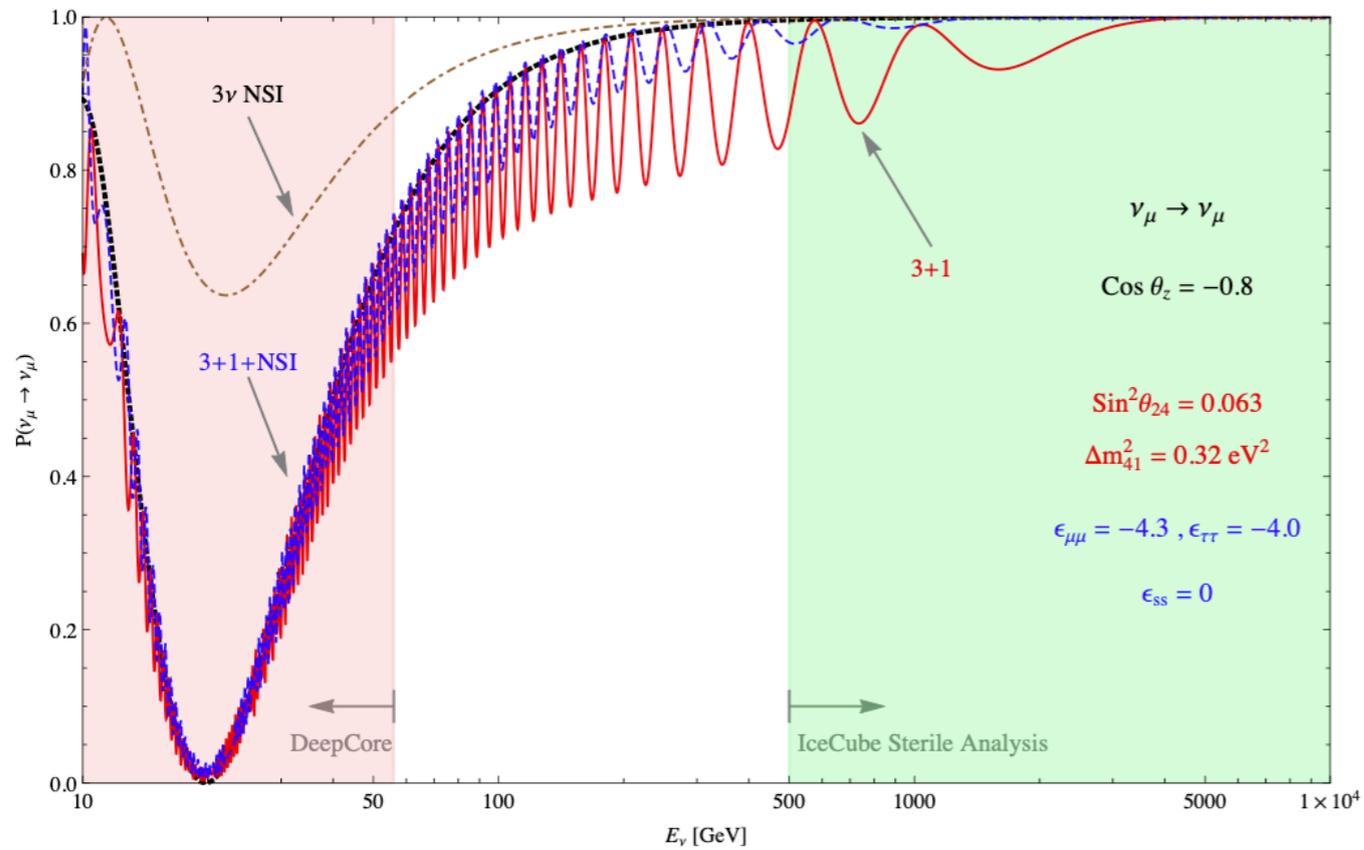
Opportunities and signatures of non-minimal Heavy Neutral Leptons

(https://www.snowmass21.org/docs/files/summaries/NF/SNOWMASS21-NF2_NF3-EF9_EF0-RF4_RF6-CF1_CF0-TF8_TF11_Matheus_Hostert-041.pdf)

Non-Standard Matter Effects (3+1+NSI)

J. Liao et al

A. Esmaili et al <https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.11940>



See also Denton et al
Bhupal Dev et al

Direct Probes of Matter Effects In Neutrino Oscillations

(https://www.snowmass21.org/docs/files/summaries/NF/SNOWMASS21-NF1_NF3-TF0_TF0_Peter_Denton-010.pdf)

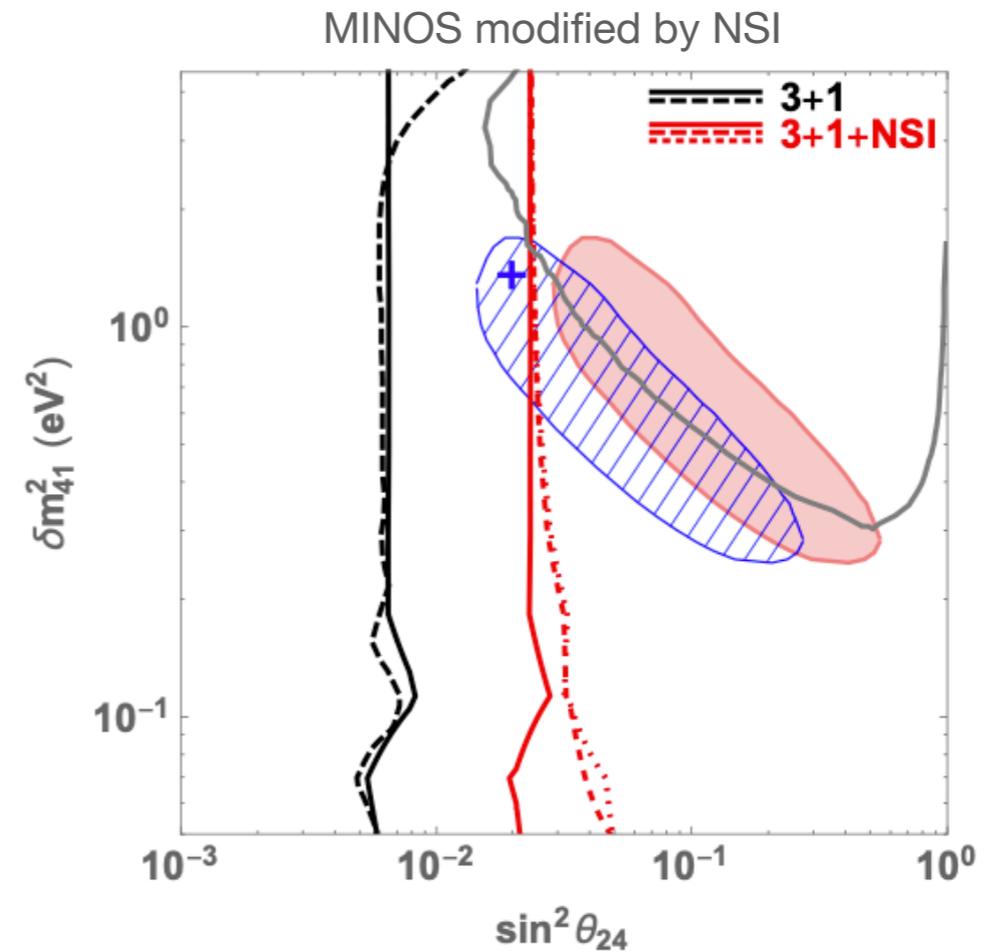
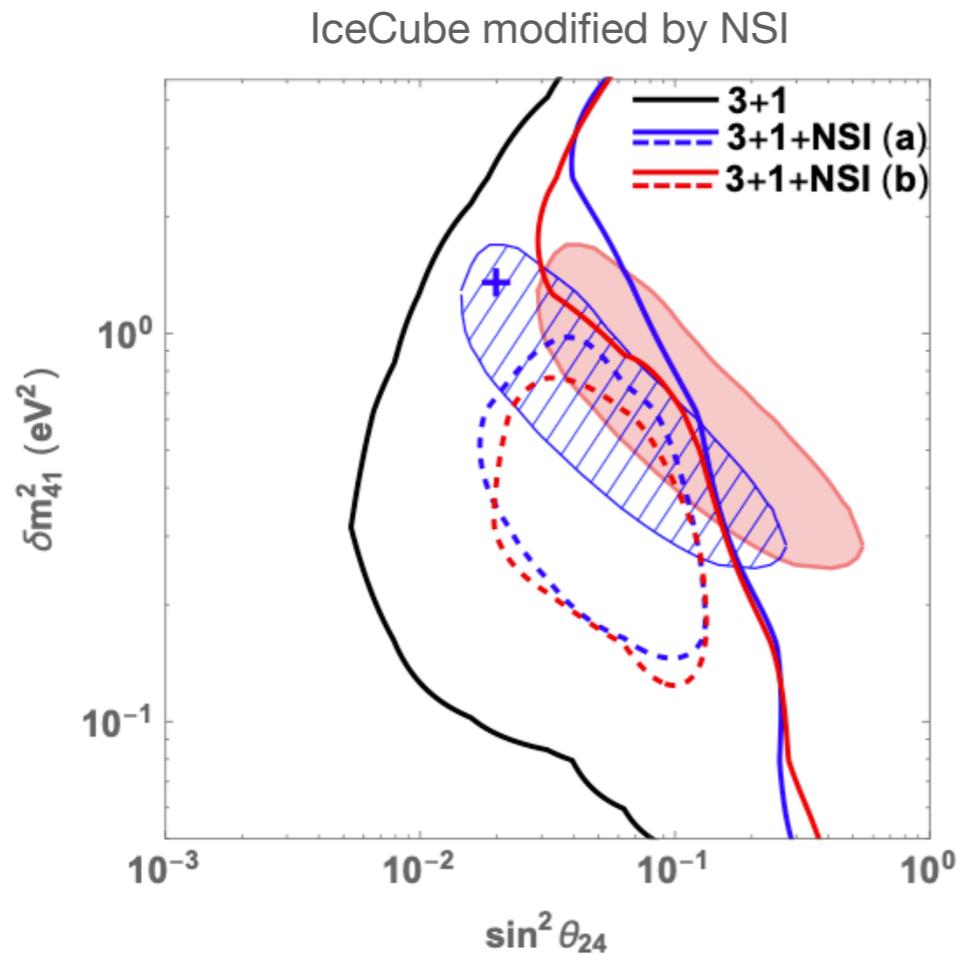
Neutrino NonStandard Interactions



Non-Standard Matter Effects (3+1+NSI)

J. Liao et al

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See also Denton et al
Bhupal Dev et al

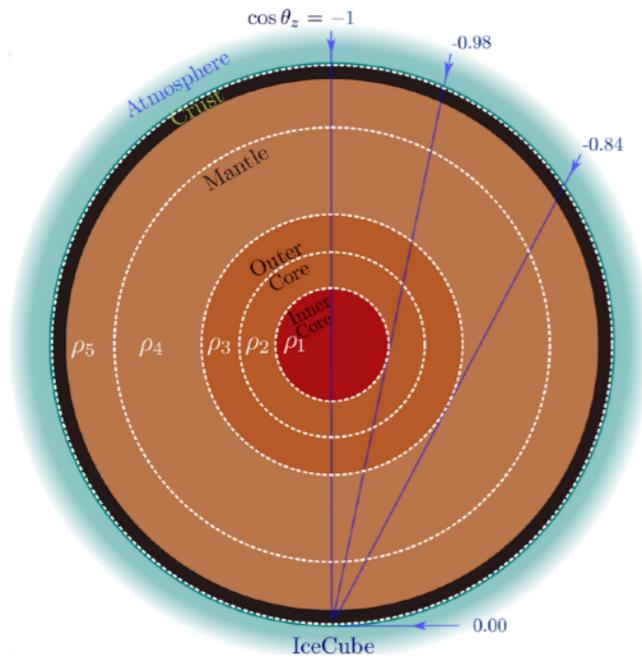
Direct Probes of Matter Effects In Neutrino Oscillations

(https://www.snowmass21.org/docs/files/summaries/NF/SNOWMASS21-NF1_NF3-TF0_TF0_Peter_Denton-010.pdf)

Neutrino NonStandard Interactions



Position of resonance maps onto sterile parameter space



We measure two things:

- length (direction)
- energy

We extract two parameters:

- squared mass difference
- mixing angle

