

Neutrino theory overview

Julia Gehrlein

Physics Department
Colorado State University

CoSSURF 2024
Rapid City, SD

May 14 2024

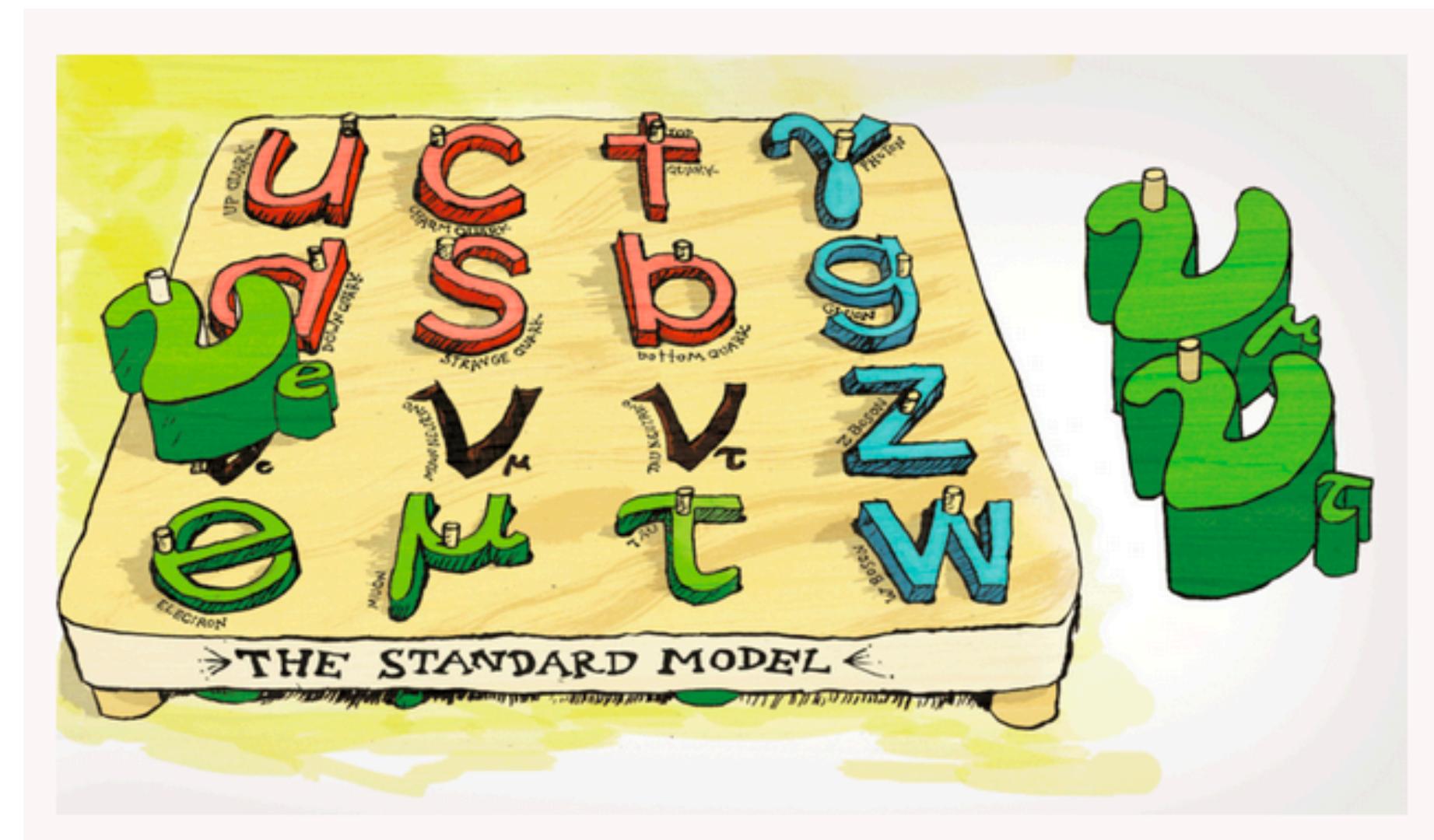


COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Neutrino oscillations

Observation of neutrino oscillations:

- Strong evidence of physics beyond the SM
- introduce more parameters to the model
(3 angles, at least one phase, 3 masses)
- need to introduce neutrino mass mechanism



Neutrino oscillations

flavor eigenstates (of weak interaction) and mass eigenstates (of free particle Hamiltonian)
not aligned for neutrinos

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

U_{PMNS} : relates flavor and mass states

Parametrized by four parameters (3 angles and at least one phase)

$$U_{\text{PMNS}} = U_{23}(\theta_{23}) U_{13}(\theta_{13}, \delta) U_{12}(\theta_{12}) \text{diag}(e^{i\alpha_1/2}, e^{i\alpha_2/2}, 1)$$

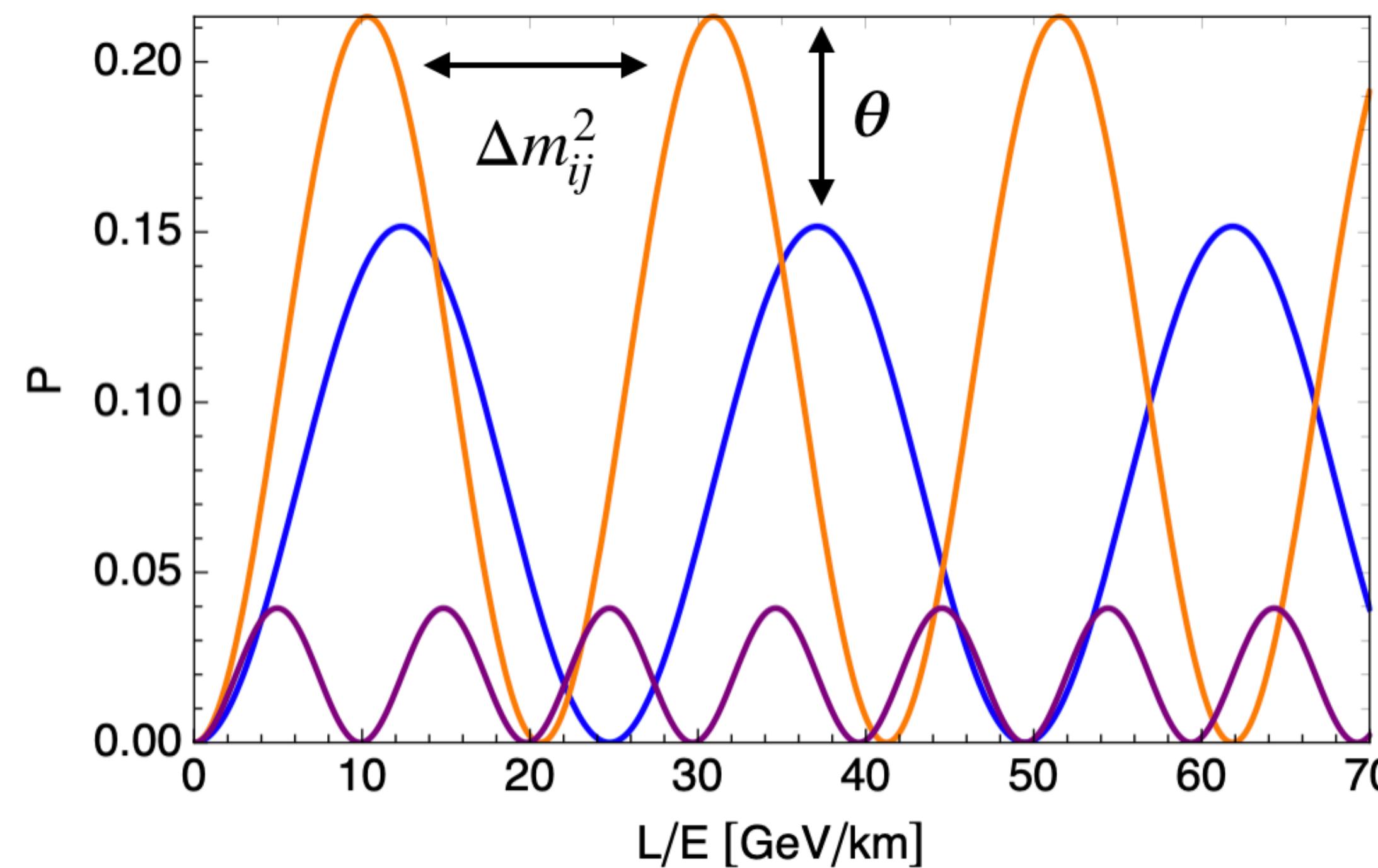
Majorana phases: only physical for Majorana neutrinos,
oscillation experiments not sensitive to them but
experiments sensitive to lepton number violation are

Neutrino oscillation parameters

produce neutrino of flavor α with energy E , probability to detect neutrino with flavor β at distance L is

$$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2(\Delta m_{ij}^2 L / 4E), \Delta m_{ij}^2 = m_i^2 - m_j^2$$

In a 2-flavor approximation



Neutrino oscillation parameters

produce neutrino of flavor α with energy E , probability to detect neutrino with flavor β at distance L is

$$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2(\Delta m_{ij}^2 L / 4E), \Delta m_{ij}^2 = m_i^2 - m_j^2$$

In a 2-flavor approximation

Compare number of events
at near detector to
number of events at
far detector to
extract probability

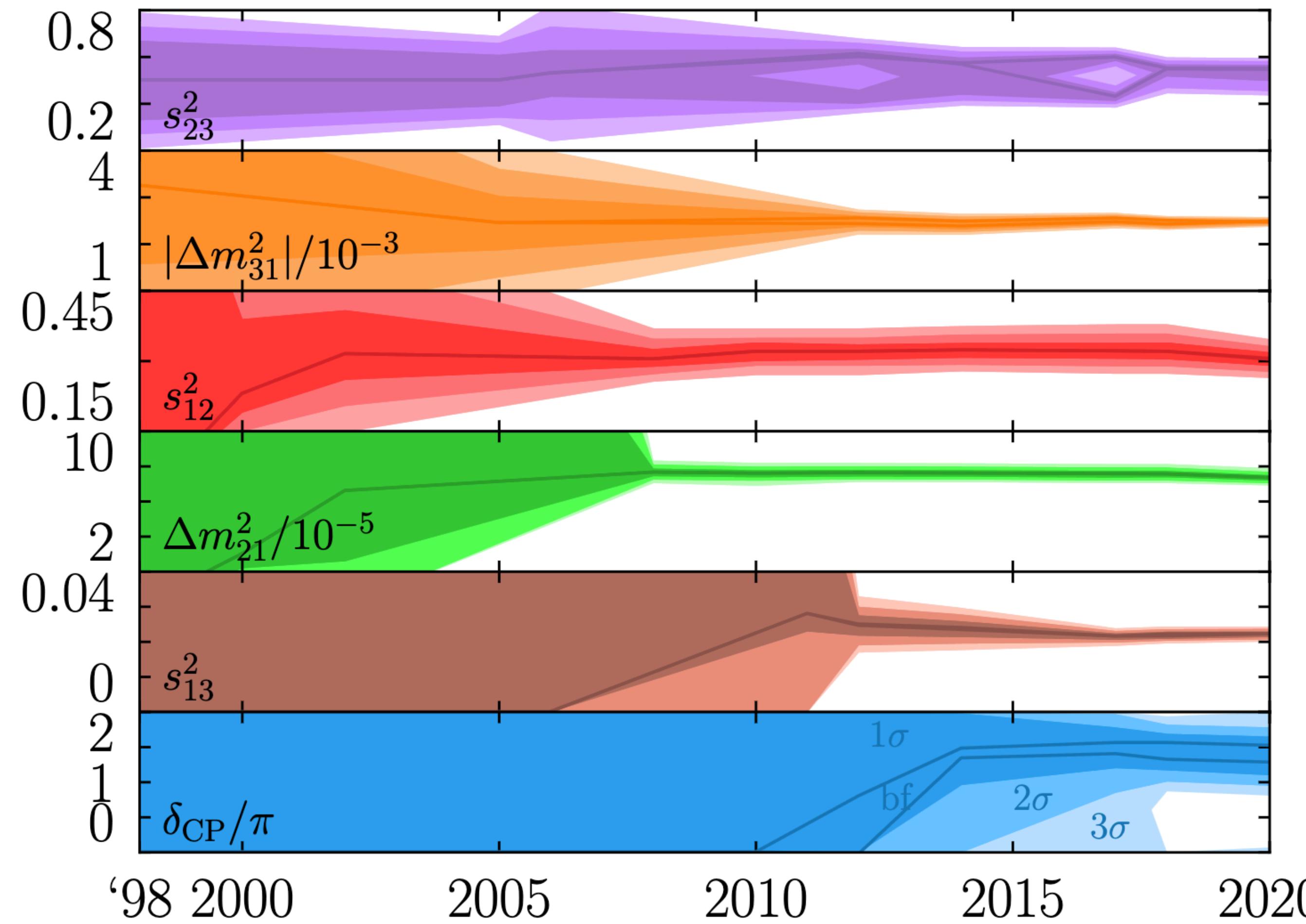
$$N^{\text{ND}}(E_{\text{obs}}) = \int dE_\nu \cdot \phi_{\text{ND}}(E_\nu) \cdot \sigma(E_\nu) \cdot D_{\text{ND}}$$

$$N^{\text{FD}}(E_{\text{obs}}) = \int dE_\nu \cdot \phi_{\text{FD}}(E_\nu) \cdot P(E_\nu) \cdot \sigma(E_\nu) \cdot D_{\text{FD}}$$

→ Good knowledge of
fluxes, cross sections,
detector effects required
to extract probability

Neutrino oscillation parameters

Global fits to oscillation data:
Information on mixing angles, mass splittings



[Denton et al, 22]

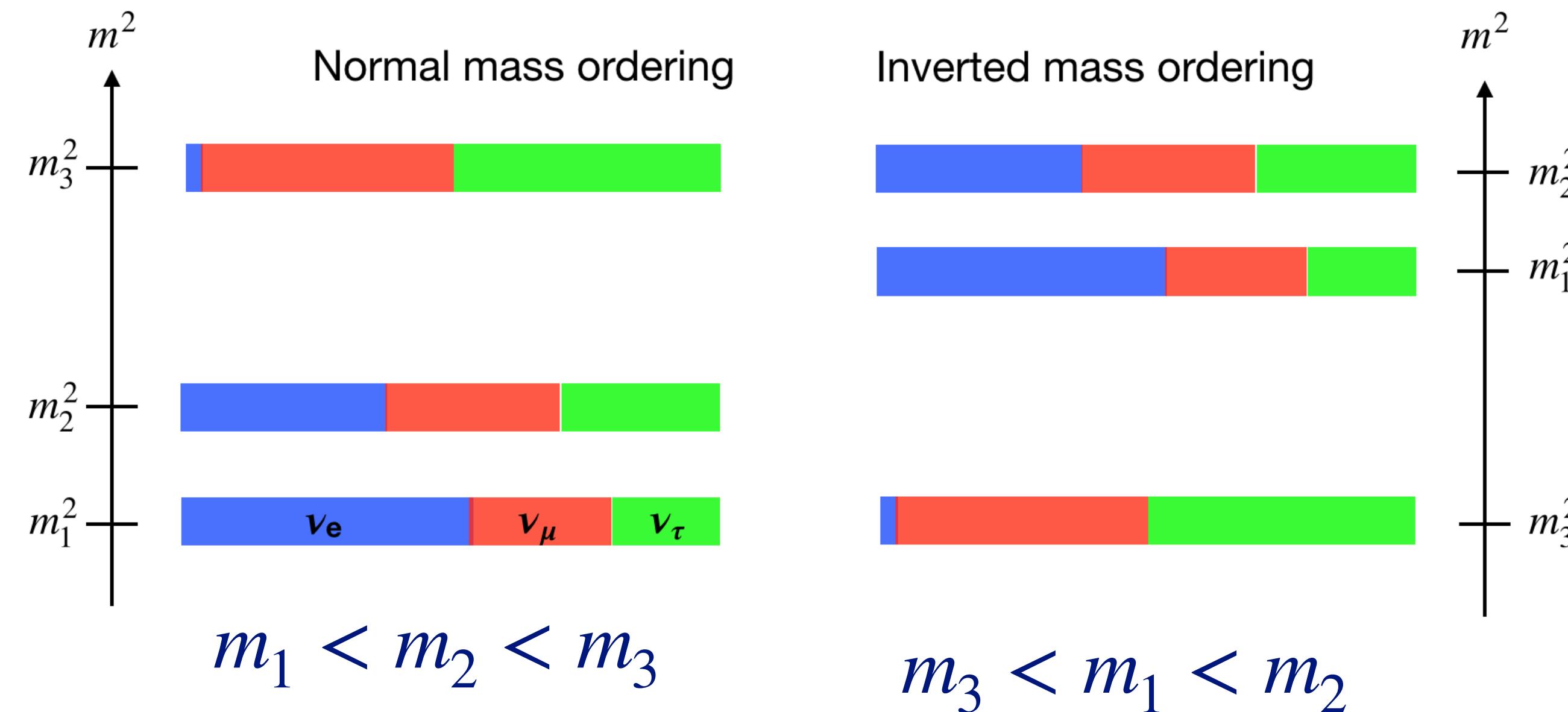
Neutrino oscillation parameters

Global fits to oscillation data:
Information on mixing angles, mass splittings

mass splittings: $|\Delta m_{32}^2| = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$, $\Delta m_{21}^2 = 7.4 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$

[nufit v5.1]

mass ordering **unknown**



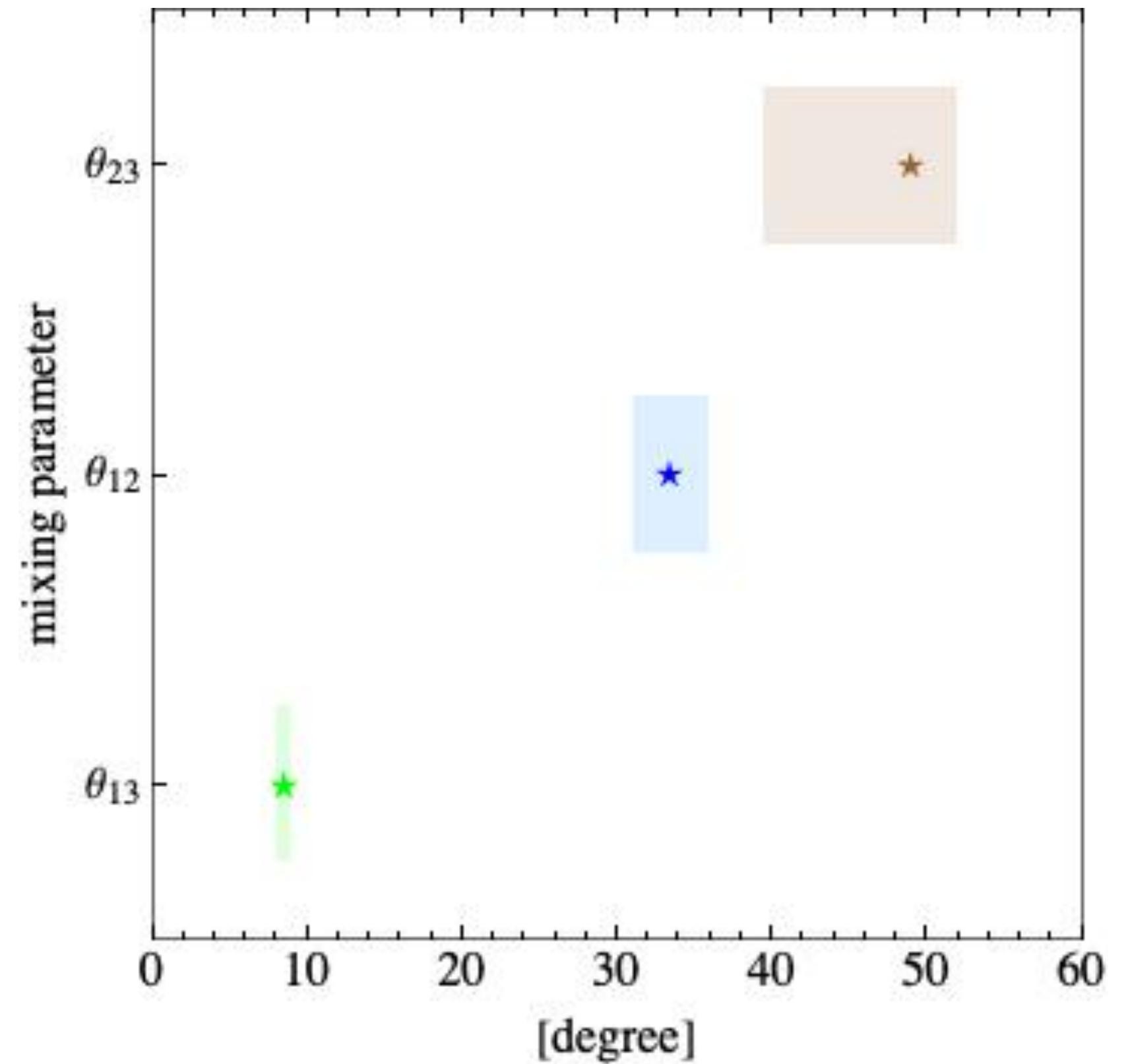
Neutrino oscillation parameters

Global fits to oscillation data:
Information on mixing angles, mass splittings

[nufit v5.1]

all three angles **non-zero**
mixing angles are **large!**

$$\theta_{12} \approx 33.6^\circ, \theta_{23} \approx 49^\circ, \theta_{13} \approx 8.5^\circ$$



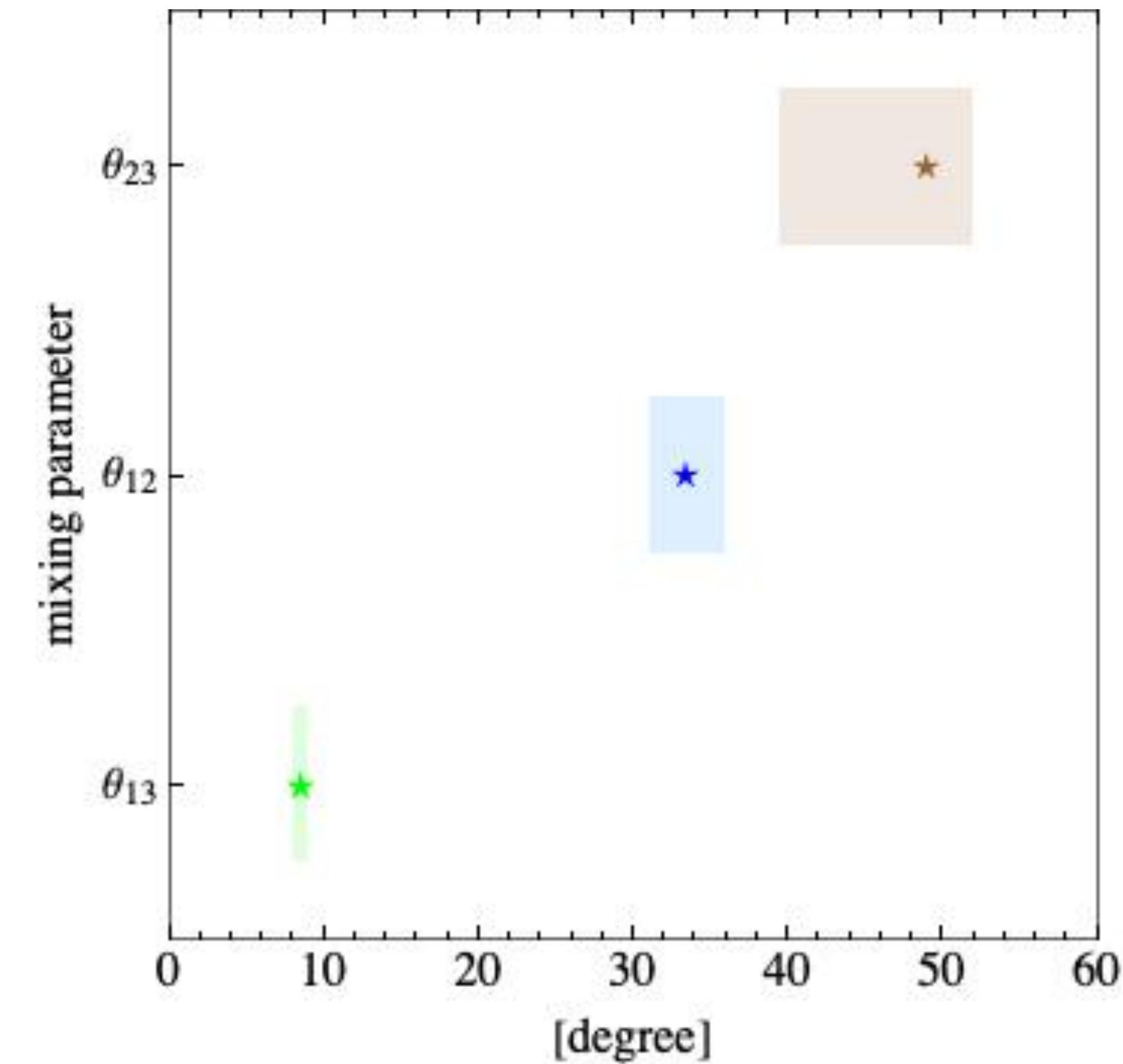
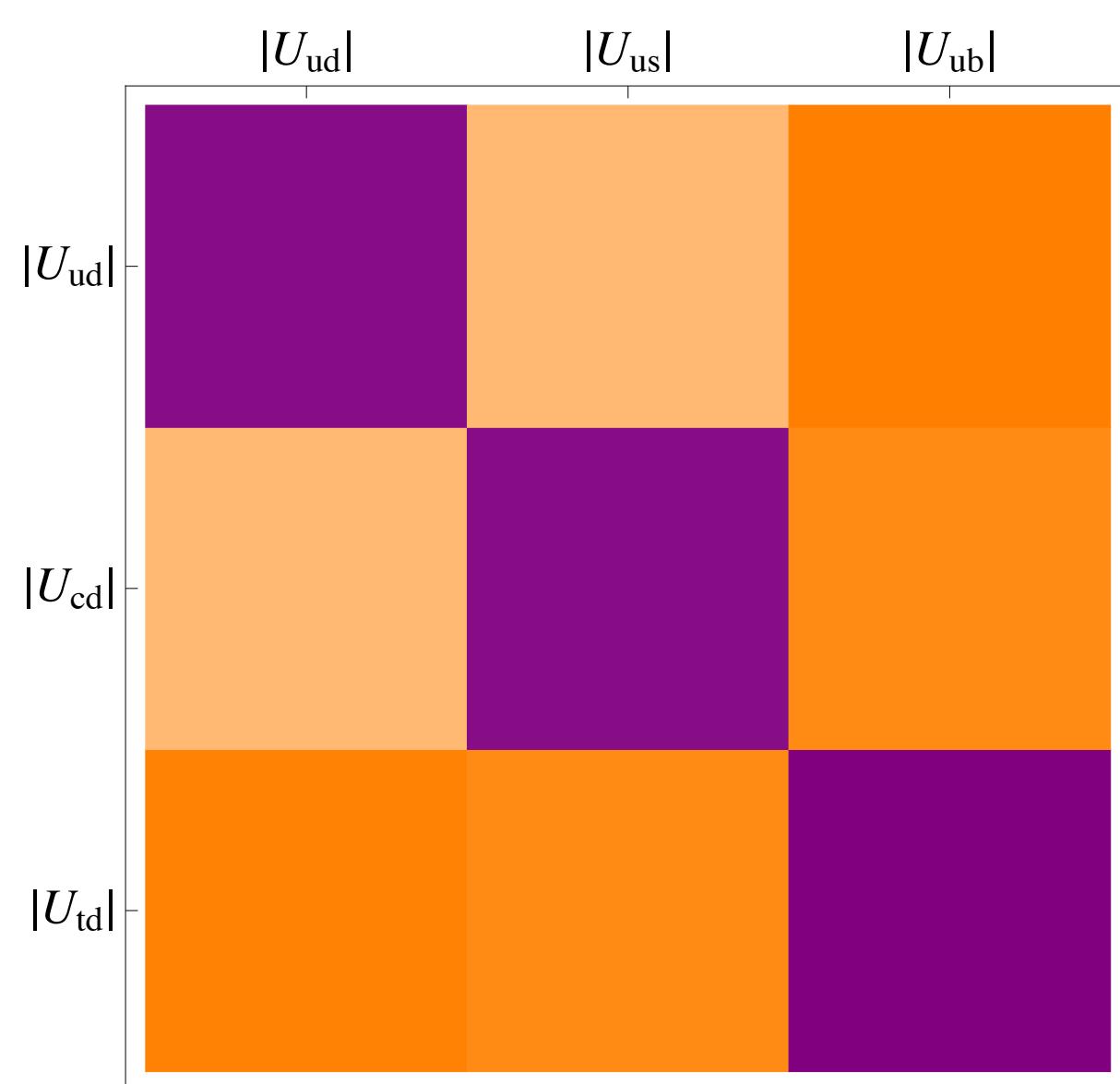
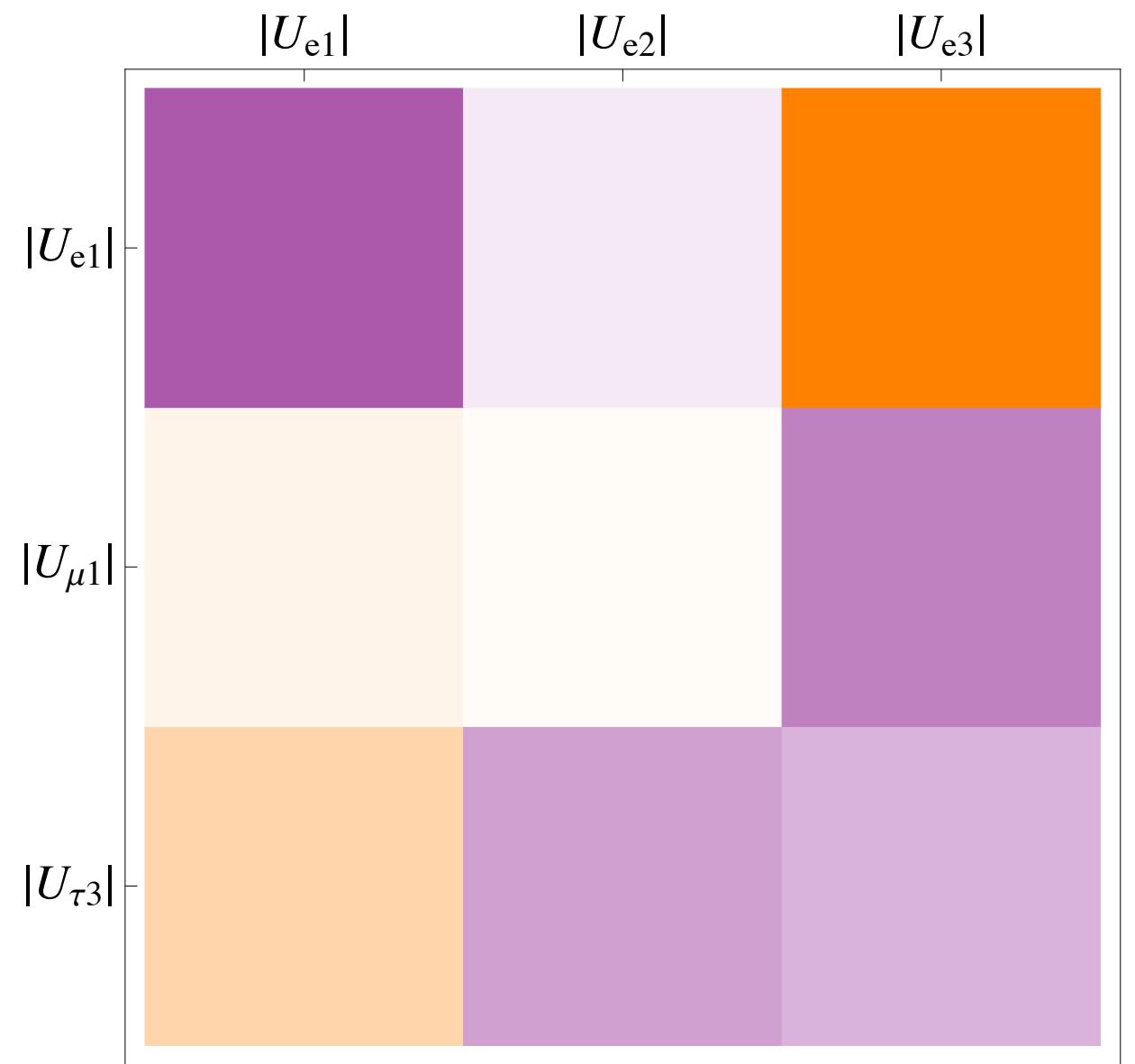
Neutrino oscillation parameters

Global fits to oscillation data:
Information on mixing angles, mass splittings

[nufit v5.1]

all three angles **non-zero**
mixing angles are **large!**

surprising if compared to small quark mixing



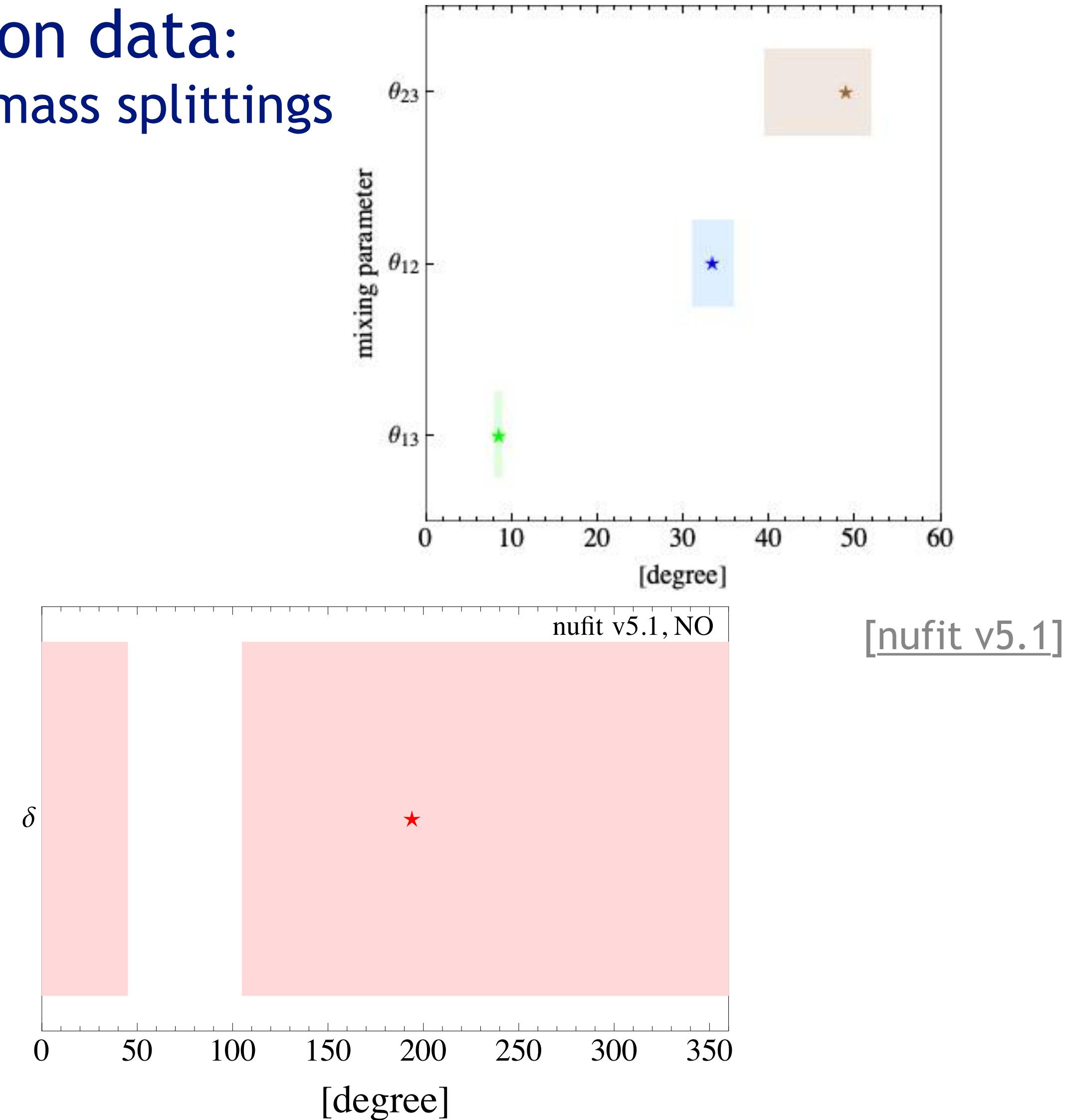
Neutrino oscillation parameters

Global fits to oscillation data:
Information on mixing angles, mass splittings

all three mixing angles are **non-zero**
→ possibility for CPV in lepton sector

currently **least known** parameter is δ which
governs CPV in lepton sector

⇒ Want to measure δ !



Neutrino oscillation parameters

CPV in mass matrices quantified via **basis invariant**

$$J_{CP} = \sin \theta_{13} \cos^2 \theta_{13} \sin \theta_{12} \cos \theta_{12} \sin \theta_{23} \cos \theta_{23} \sin \delta \quad [\text{Jarlskog '85}]$$

All mixing angles play a role!

$$J_{CP}^{\max} = 1/(6\sqrt{3}) \approx 0.096$$

quark mixing matrix: non-zero δ_{CKM} but CPV is small $|J_{\text{CKM}}|/J_{CP}^{\max} = 3 \cdot 10^{-4}$ [PDG]

Is CP violated in the lepton sector? $|J_{\text{PMNS}}|/J_{CP}^{\max} < 0.34$

Future experiments will find the answer

Future of oscillation physics

Goals: Measurement of CP phase, octant of θ_{23} , mass ordering

Long baseline (300 km, 1300 km) accelerator neutrino experiments:
Hyper-Kamiokande, DUNE

→ CP phase, octant of θ_{23} , mass ordering

See talks by K. Wood, S. Gollapinni
+talks in parallel sessions

Medium baseline (~50 km) reactor neutrino experiment:
JUNO

→ θ_{12} , Δm_{21}^2 , mass ordering

See talk by R. Mandujano

Atmospheric neutrino experiments:
IceCube, KM3NeT

→ θ_{23} , mass ordering

Future of oscillation physics

What will we learn?

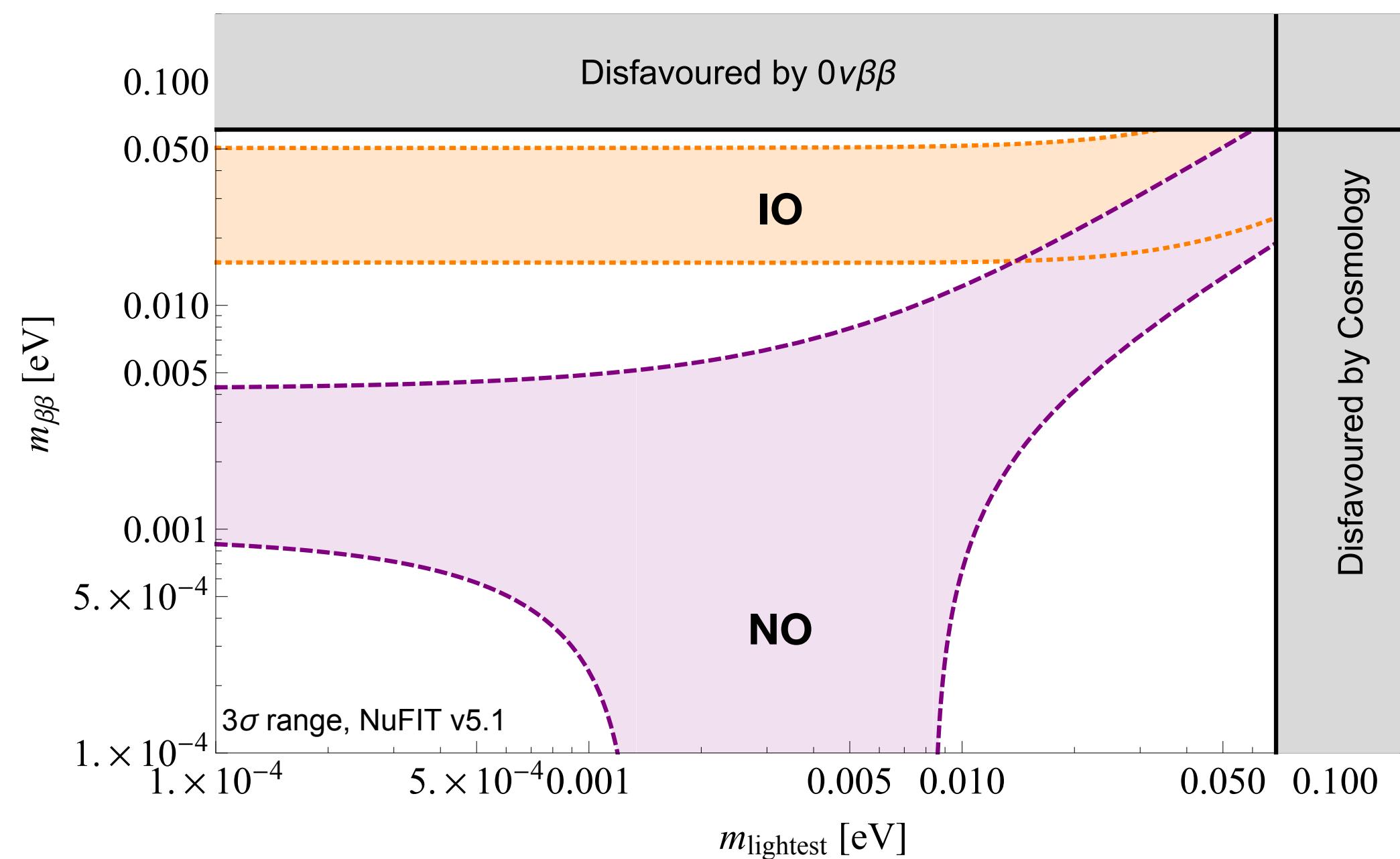
- Neutrino mass ordering has **important implications** for observables
- Distinguish different **flavor models** with precision oscillation measurements
 - **New physics** in oscillations

Future of oscillation physics

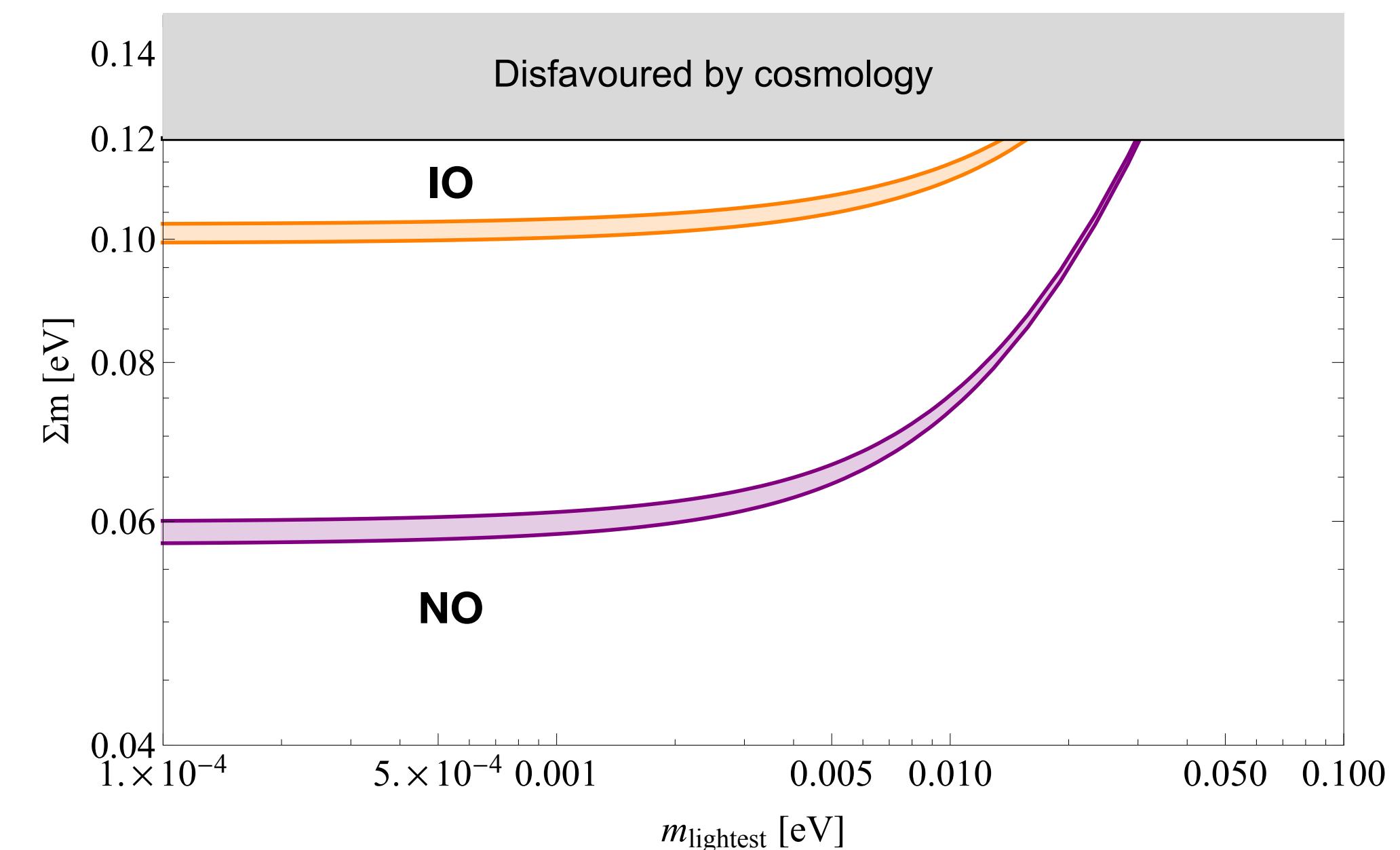
What will we learn?

- Neutrino mass ordering has **important implications** for observables

Neutrinoless double beta decay



Sum of neutrino masses,
beta decay endpoint spectrum



See talks by K. Mistry, A. Piepke + talks in parallel sessions

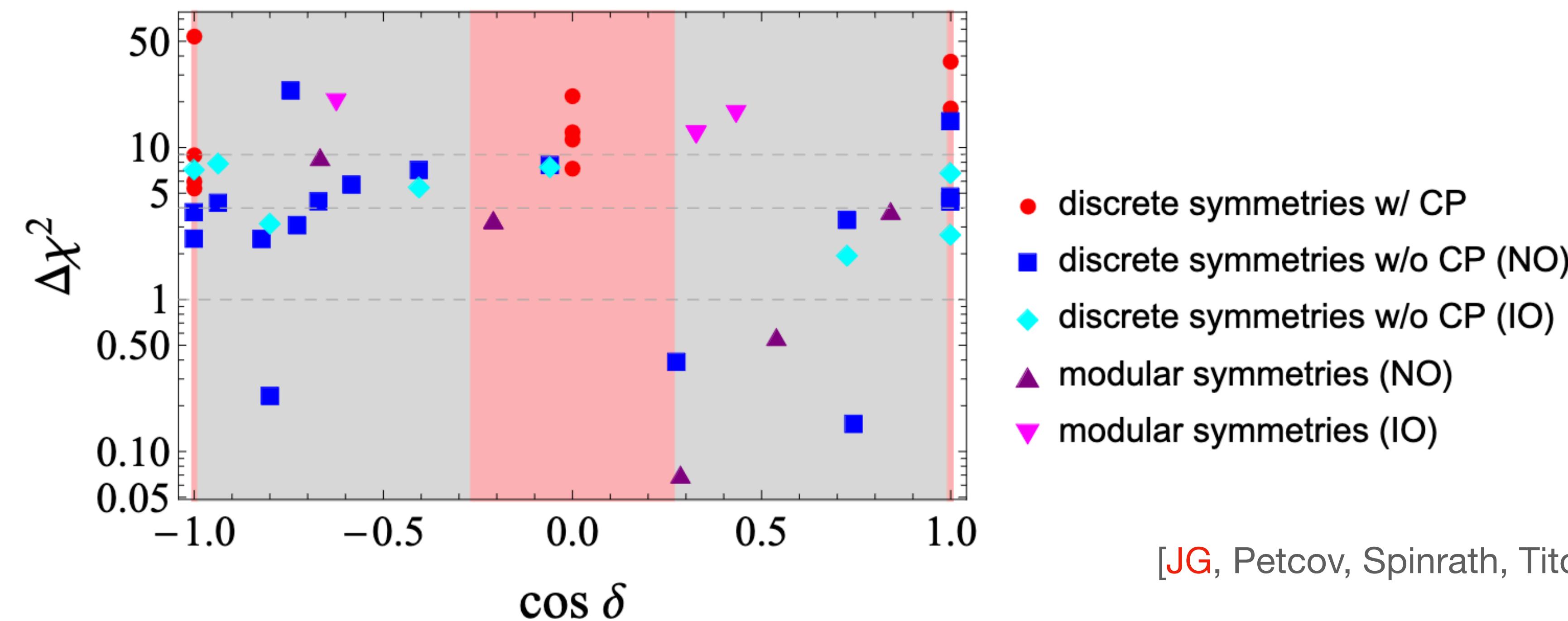
Future of oscillation physics

- Distinguish different flavor models with precision oscillation measurements

Most predictive flavor models predict relations between mixing parameter like

$$\theta_{12}^{\text{PMNS}} - \theta_{12}^\nu \approx \theta_{13}^{\text{PMNS}} \cos \delta$$

Can be used to distinguish different mixing pattern

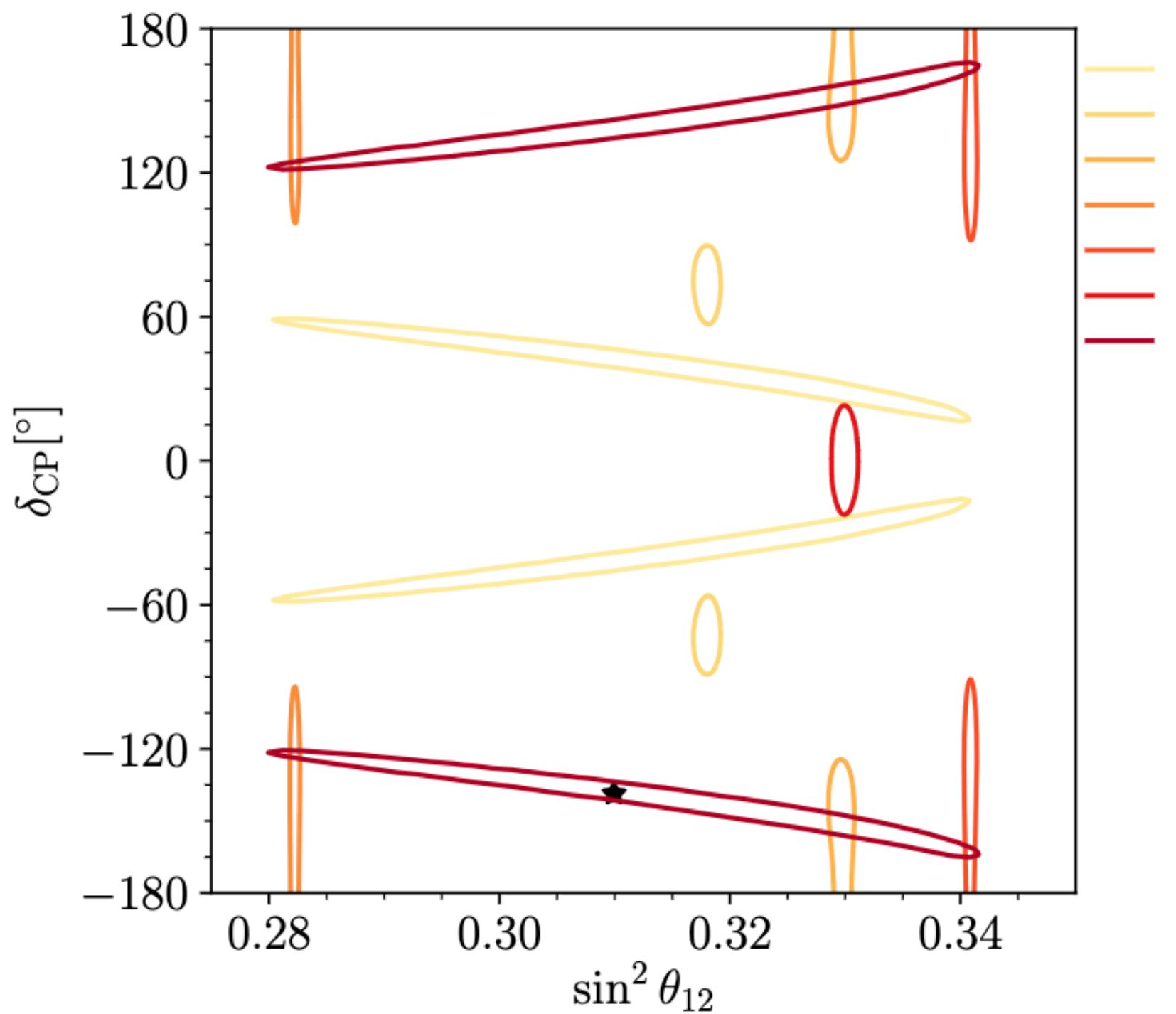


Future of oscillation physics

- Distinguish different flavor models with precision oscillation measurements

Sum rules can be used to distinguish different mixing pattern

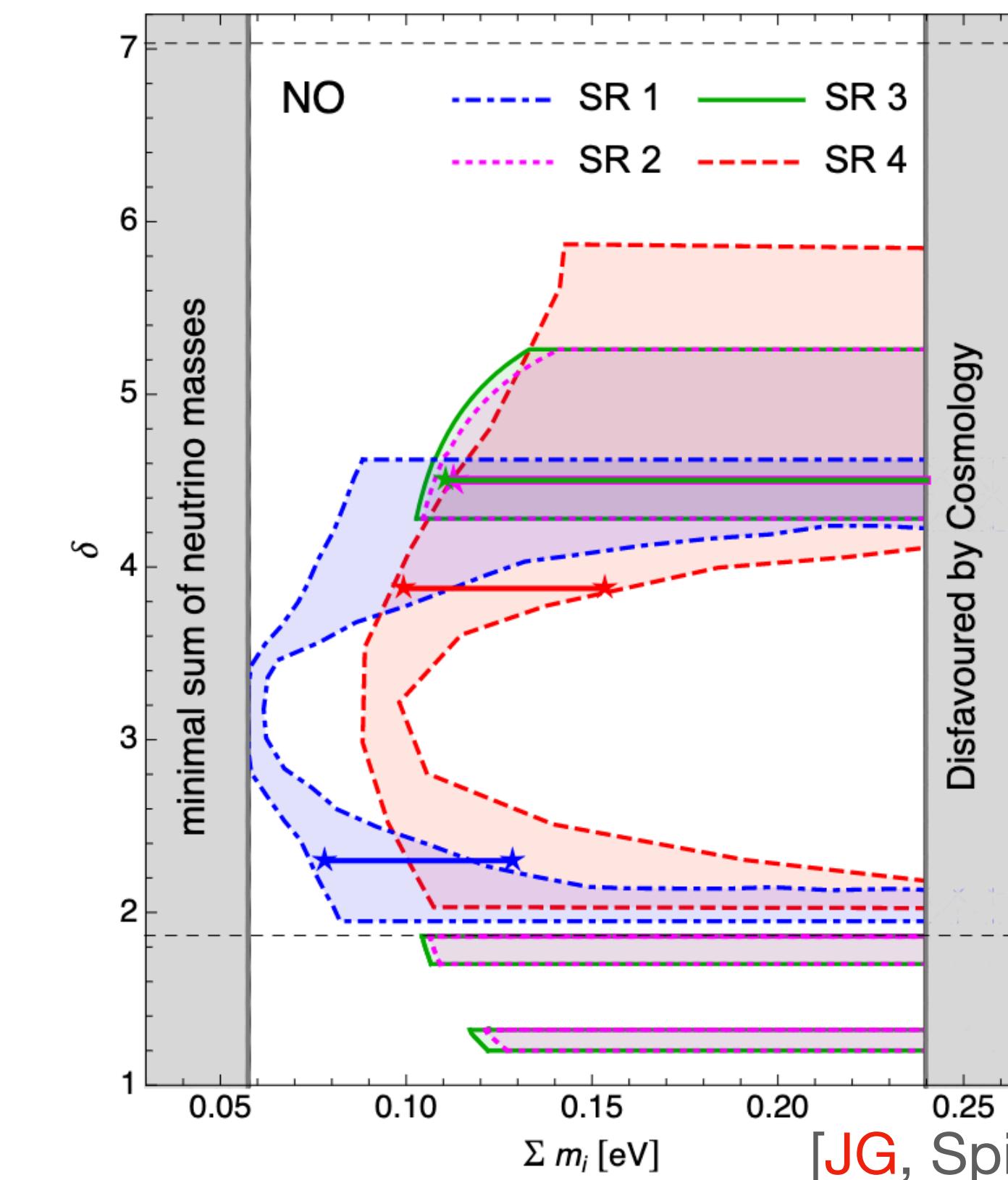
Future experiments can disentangle different models



[Blennow, Ghosh, Ohlsson, Titov 2004.00017]

at $>5\sigma$!

Correlations can
be probed!

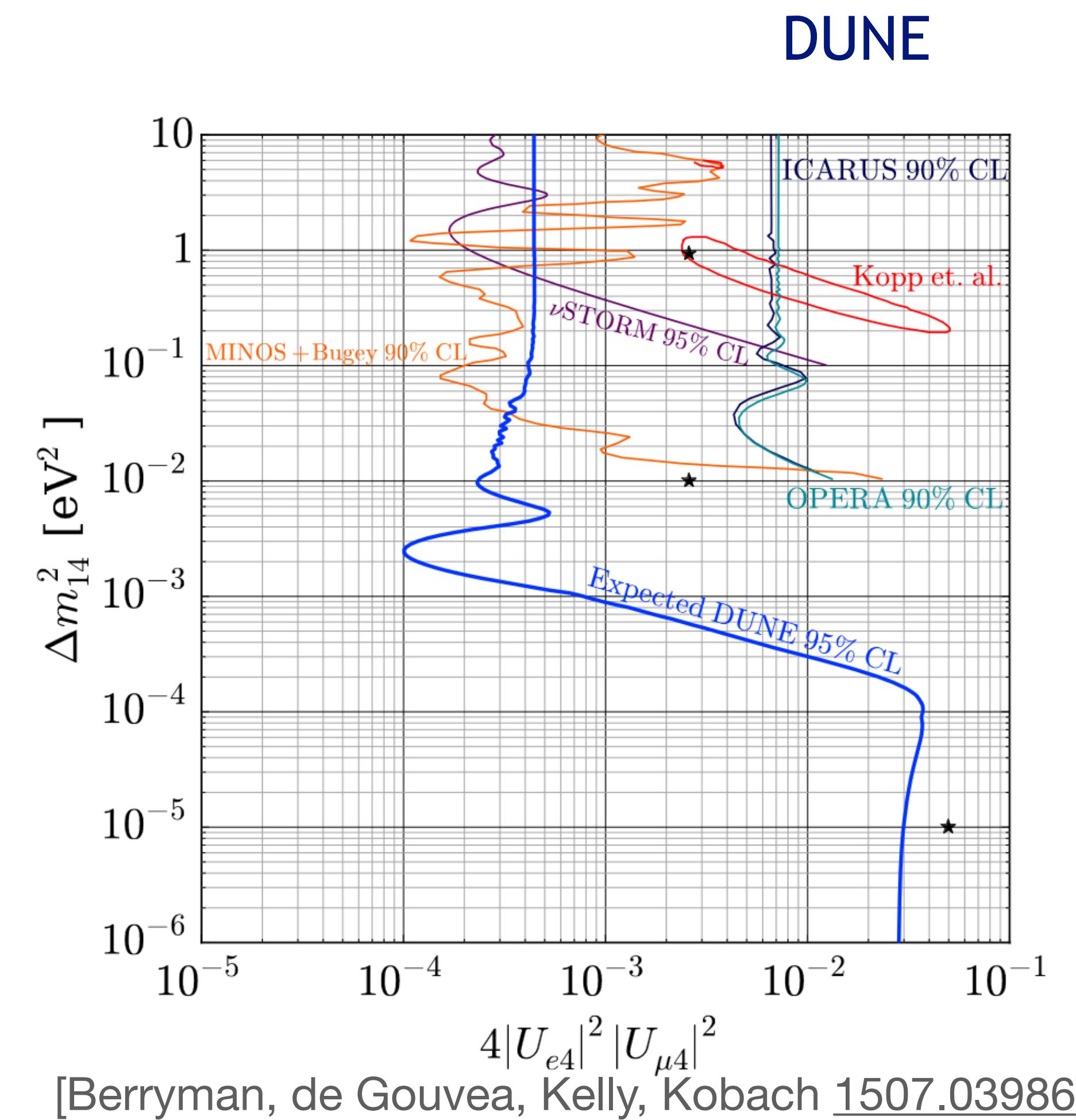


[JG, Spinrath 2012.04131]

Future of oscillation physics

Sterile neutrinos

- **Light sterile neutrino (~eV mass):** direct imprint in oscillations
- **Medium heavy (~MeV-GeV mass):** impact of meson decay spectrum, observable at ND
- **Heavy (>GeV mass):** non-unitarity of PMNS matrix



Future of oscillation physics

Neutrino non-standard interactions (NSI)

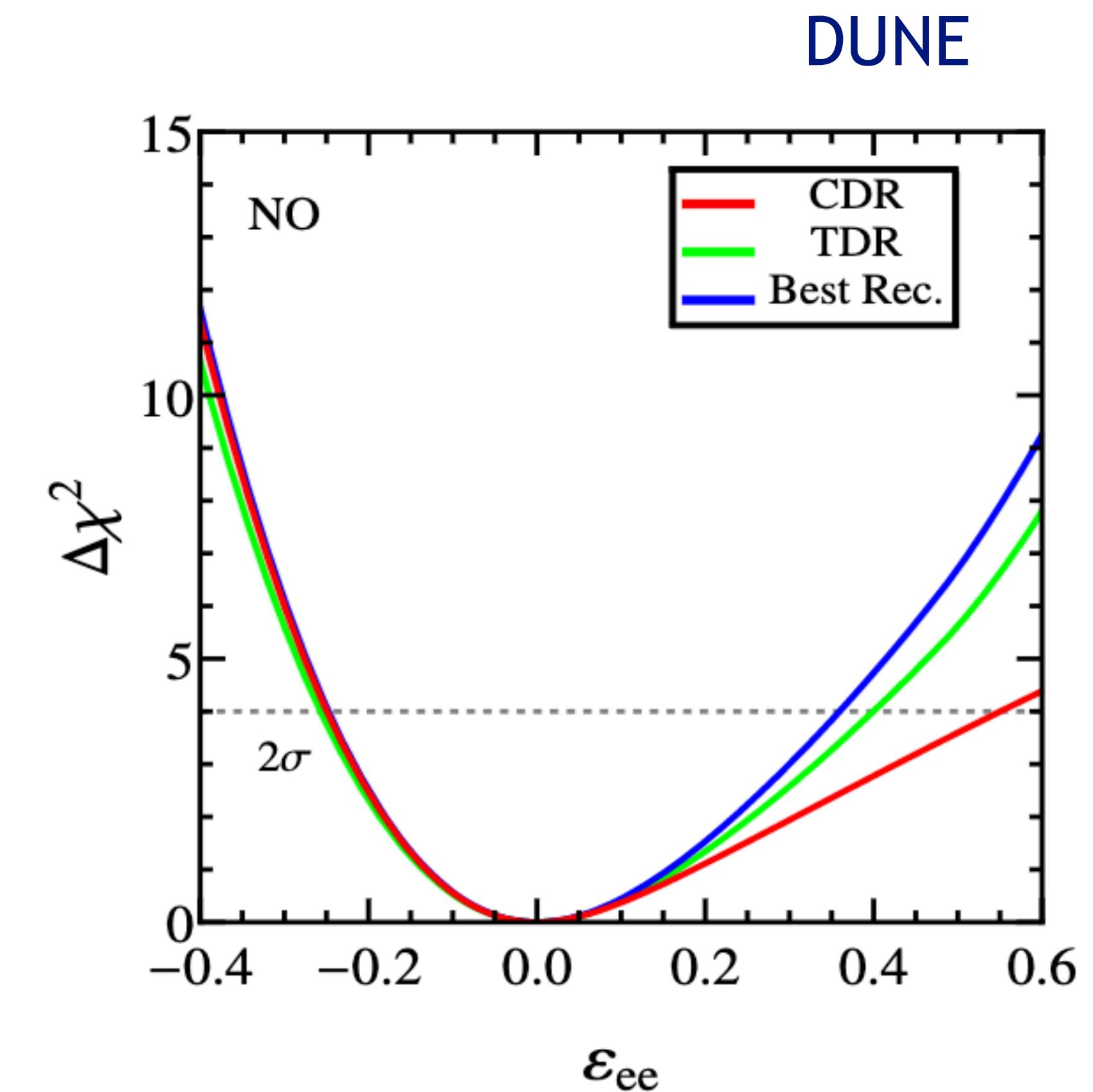
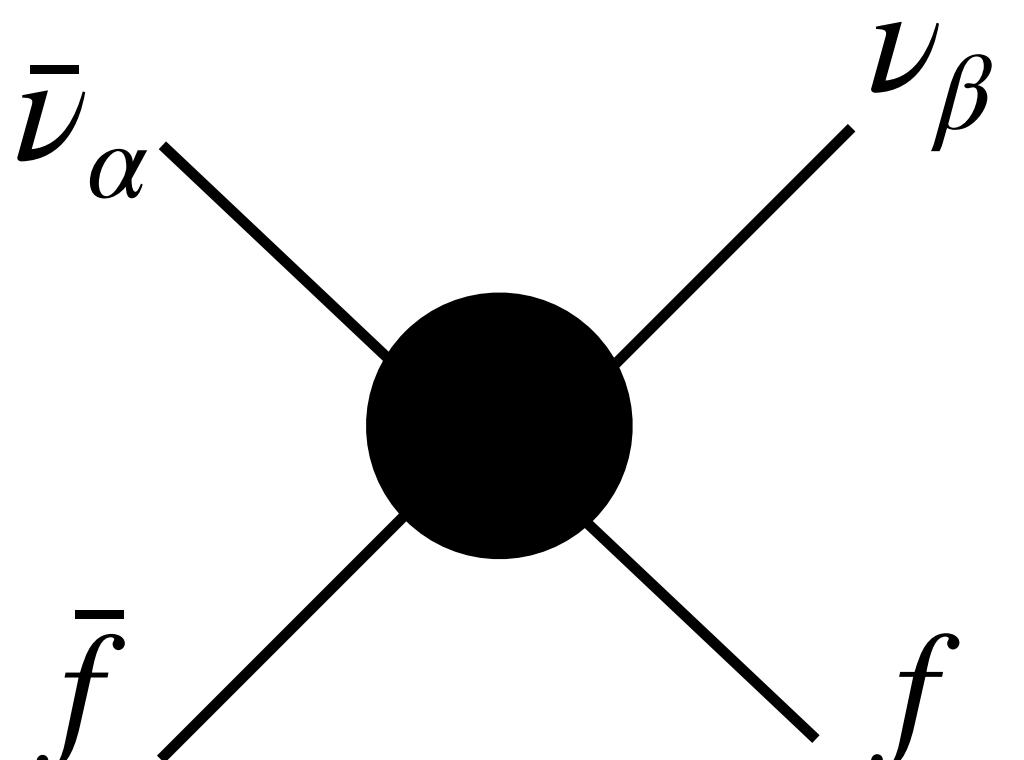
EFT framework:

$$\mathcal{L}_{eff} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \frac{1}{\Lambda} \delta \mathcal{L}^{d=5} + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \delta \mathcal{L}^{d=6} + \dots$$

NC NSI: $\mathcal{L}_{NSI} = -2\sqrt{2}G_F \sum_{\alpha,\beta,f,P} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta}^f (\bar{\nu}_\alpha P \nu_\beta)(\bar{f} Pf)$

Affect neutrino oscillations as a new **matter effect**

$$\epsilon \sim \mathcal{O}(G_X/G_F)$$



[Chatterjee, Dev, Machado [2106.04597](#)]

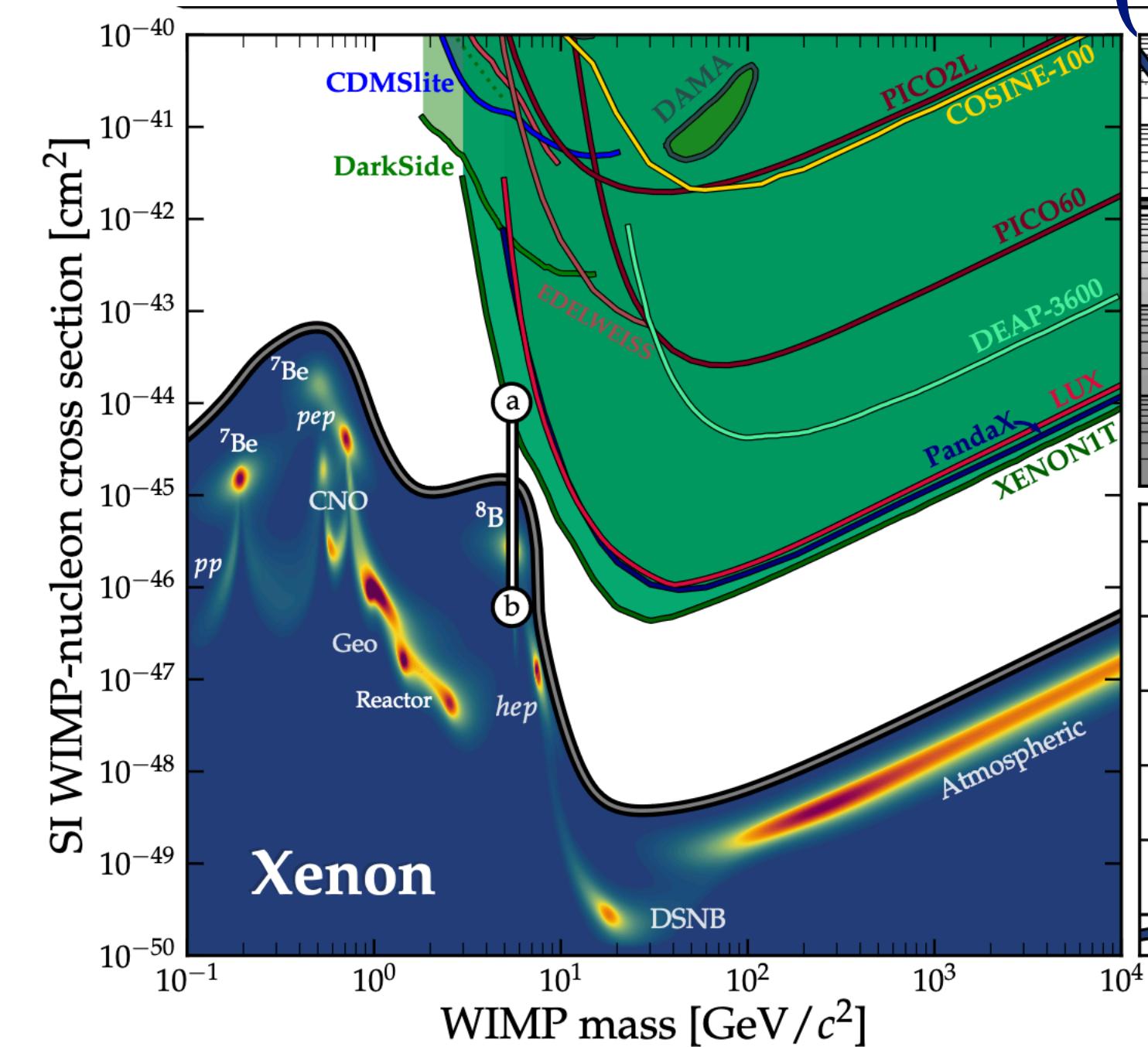
New physics in scattering

Neutrino non-standard interactions (NSI)

NSI also affect neutrino scattering experiments

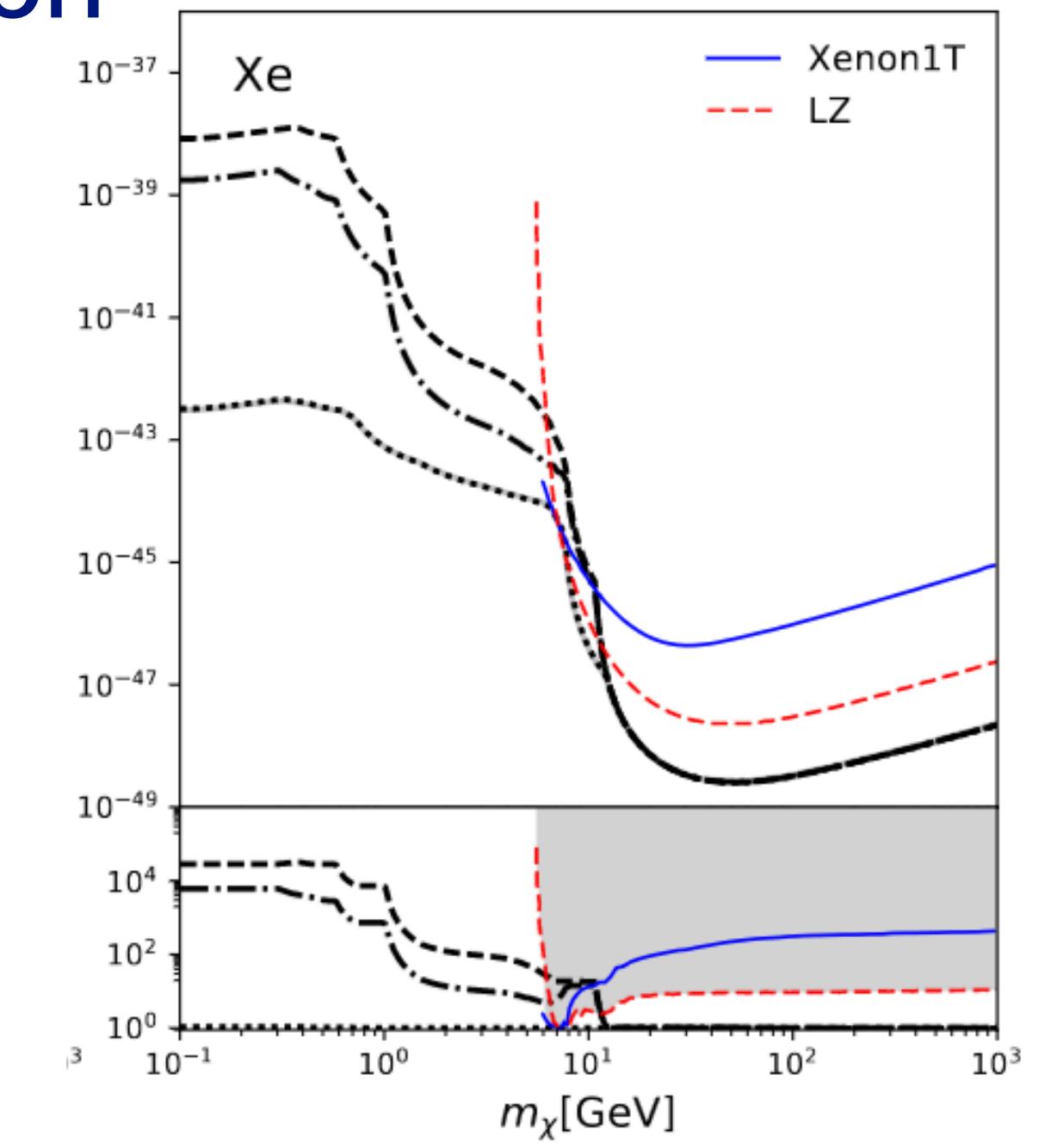
→ resolves **degeneracy** present in oscillation experiments

DM direct detection experiments will be sensitive to neutrino fog
(neutrino-nucleus scattering events) soon



See DM talks tomorrow!

Depending on type of interaction:
→ large NSI effects

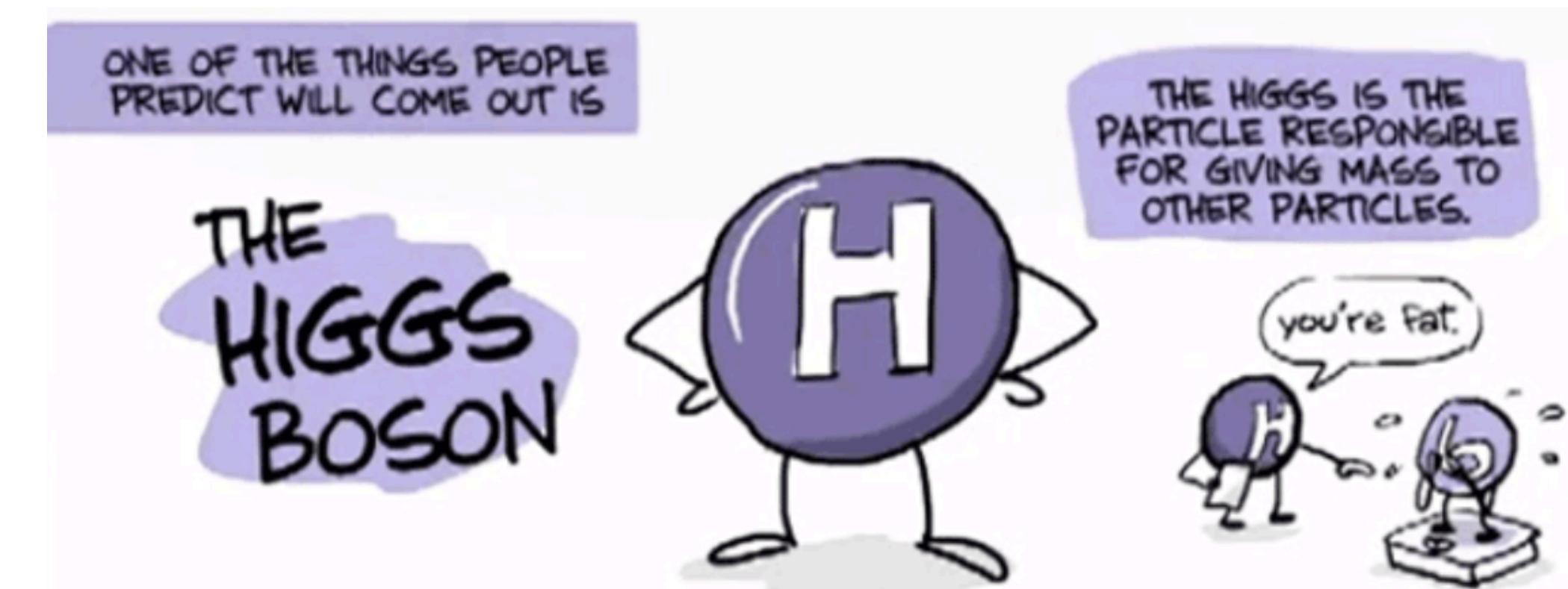


Neutrino mass

What is neutrino mass generation mechanism?

Dirac neutrinos

$m_D = y_\nu \bar{\nu}_L \tilde{H} N_R$
like other SM fermions



Neutrino mass

What is neutrino mass generation mechanism?

Dirac neutrinos

$$m_D = y_\nu \bar{\nu}_L \tilde{H} N_R$$

like other SM fermions

Majorana neutrinos

$$m_M = M_N \bar{\nu}_L \nu_L^c$$

Neutrinos are the **only** SM particles
that could have such a mass term

Term **not** gauge invariant!

Neutrino mass

What is neutrino mass generation mechanism?

Dirac neutrinos

$$m_D = y_\nu \bar{\nu}_L \tilde{H} N_R$$

like other SM fermions

Majorana neutrinos

$$m_M = M_N \bar{\nu}_L \nu_L^c$$

Neutrinos are the **only** SM particles
that could have such a mass term

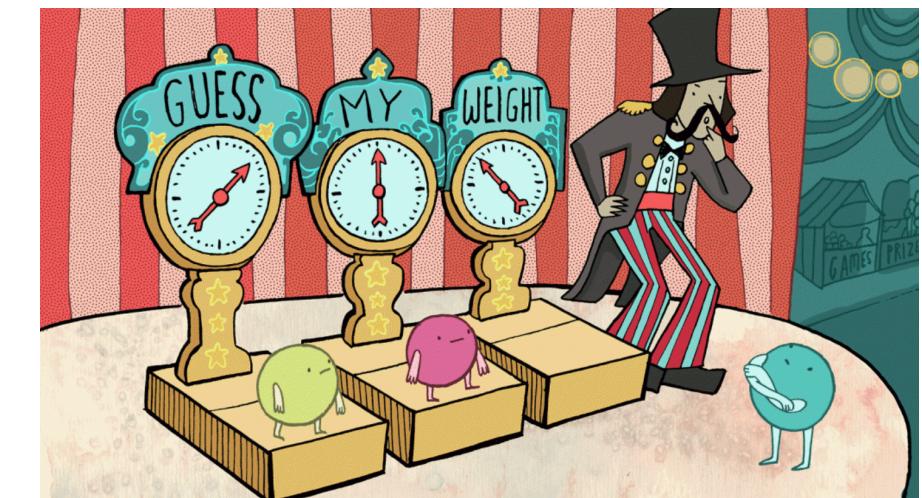
Term **not** gauge invariant!

In any case need **new particles!**

→ observation of neutrino oscillations **predicts new particles!**

Neutrino mass

What is the neutrino mass scale?



Only **upper limit** on neutrino mass scale so far!

Cosmological sum of neutrino masses:

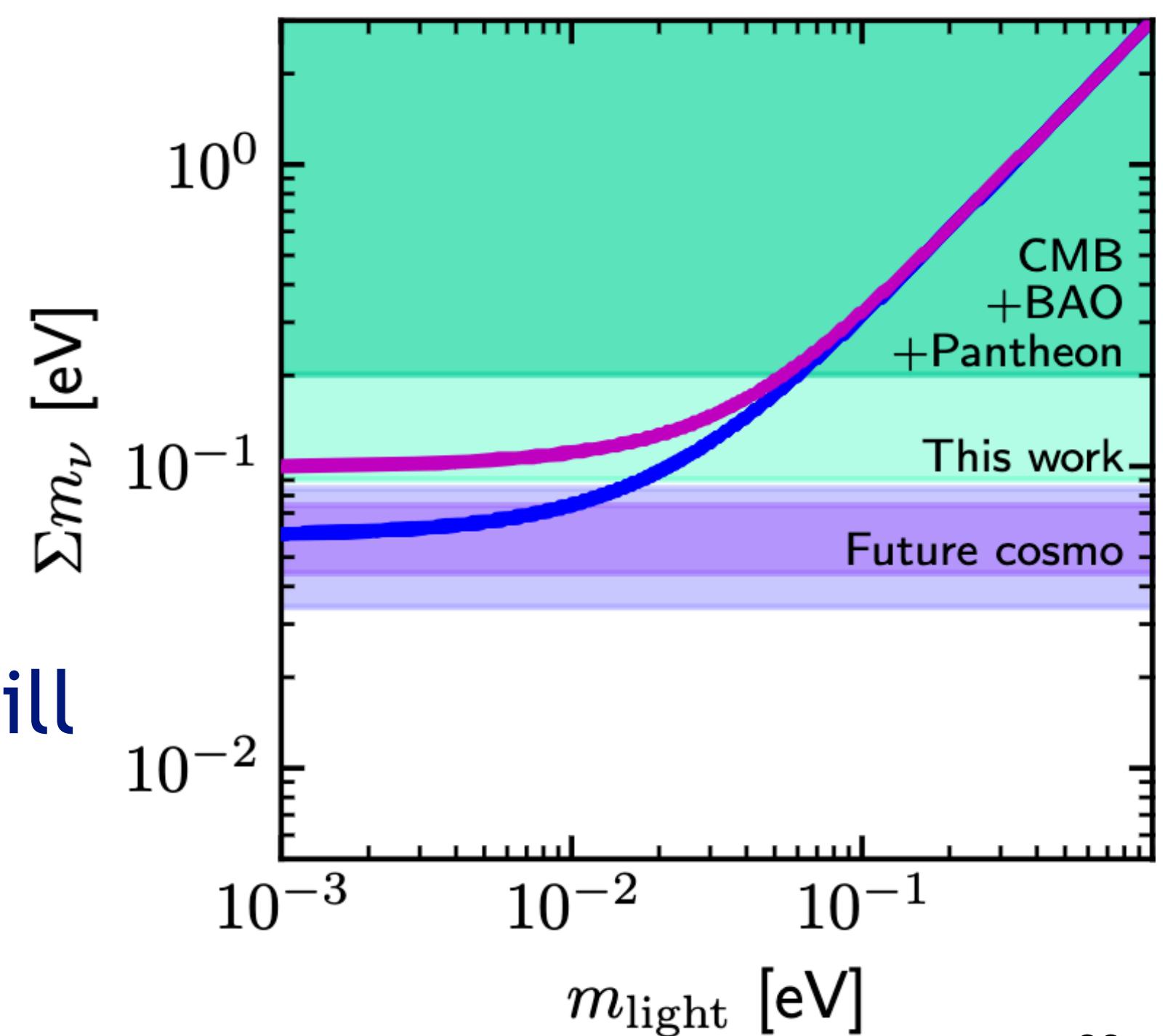
$$\sum m_\nu \lesssim 0.1 \text{ eV}$$

[Di Valentino, Gariazzo,
Mena, [2207.05167](#)]

Depending on data sets combined

Future cosmological observatories will
measure sum of neutrino masses

[Di Valentino, Gariazzo,
Mena, [2106.15267](#)]



Neutrino mass

What is neutrino mass scale?

Neutrinos **much lighter** than other fermions

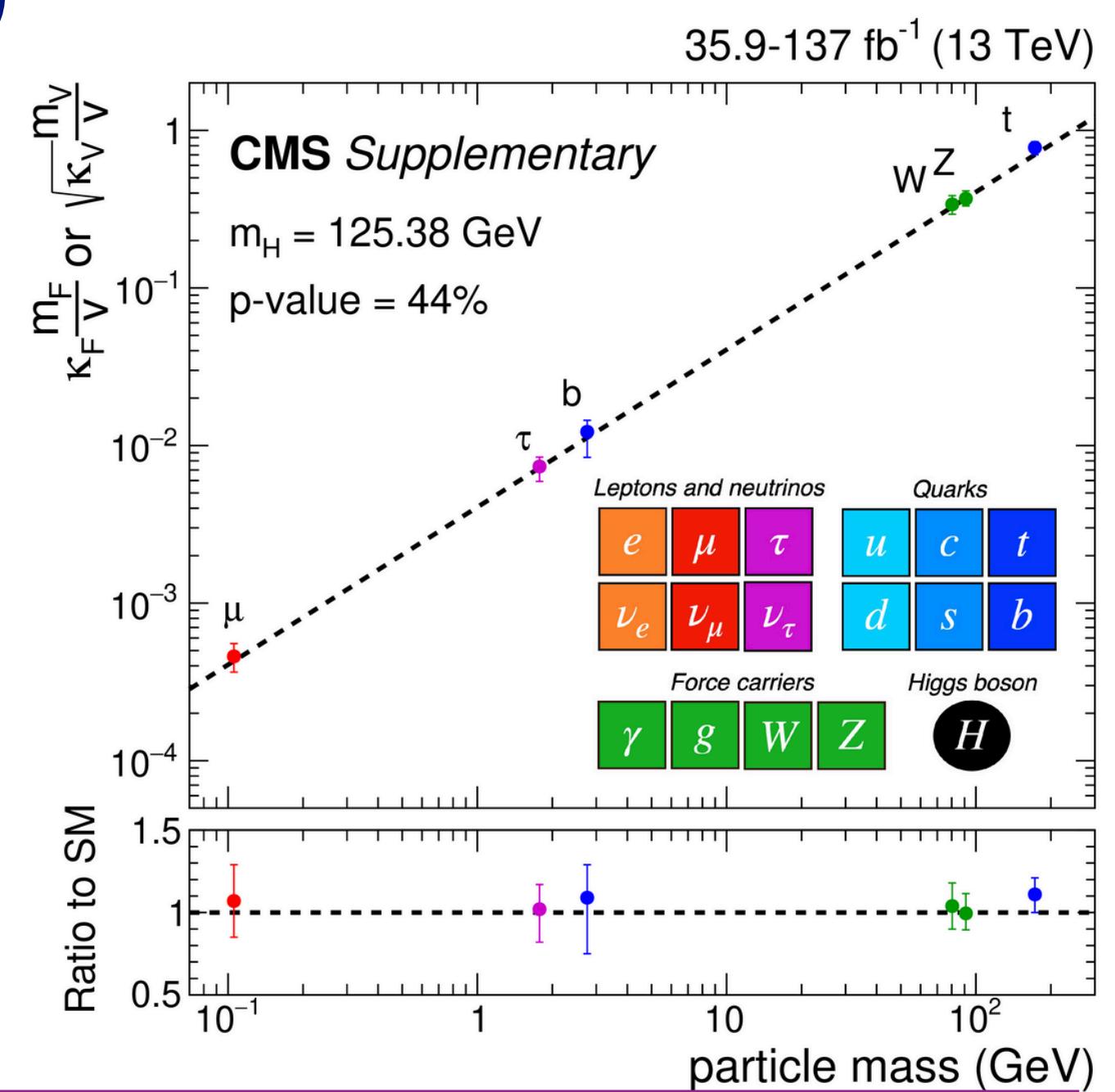
Dirac neutrinos: Yukawa coupling $y_\nu \lesssim 10^{-13}$

Dirac neutrinos would have a **much smaller** Yukawa coupling than other fermions

Direct probe of $H \rightarrow \bar{\nu}\nu$ colliders not possible

Reason for smallness of neutrino mass?

[CMS 2009.04363]



Neutrino mass

Majorana mass term arises from **higher dimension operators!**

→ explains **smallness** of neutrino mass due to suppression by high scale

Majorana neutrino mass operators occur at **odd dimension**

[Kobach [1604.05726](#)]

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{O} &\propto (LLHH)(H^\dagger H)^n \\ \rightarrow m_\nu &\propto c \frac{v^2}{\Lambda} \left(\frac{v}{\Lambda} \right)^{d-5}\end{aligned}$$

Neutrino mass

Majorana mass term arises from **higher dimension operators!**

→ explains **smallness** of neutrino mass due to suppression by high scale

Dimension 5 operator

$$\mathcal{L}_5 = c_5 \frac{(\bar{L}^c \tilde{H}^*)(\tilde{H}^\dagger L_L)}{\Lambda}$$

Only dim-5 operator that can
be build with SM fields alone

Expect first signs of
new physics from lowest SMEFT operator

→ neutrino mass

Dimension 7

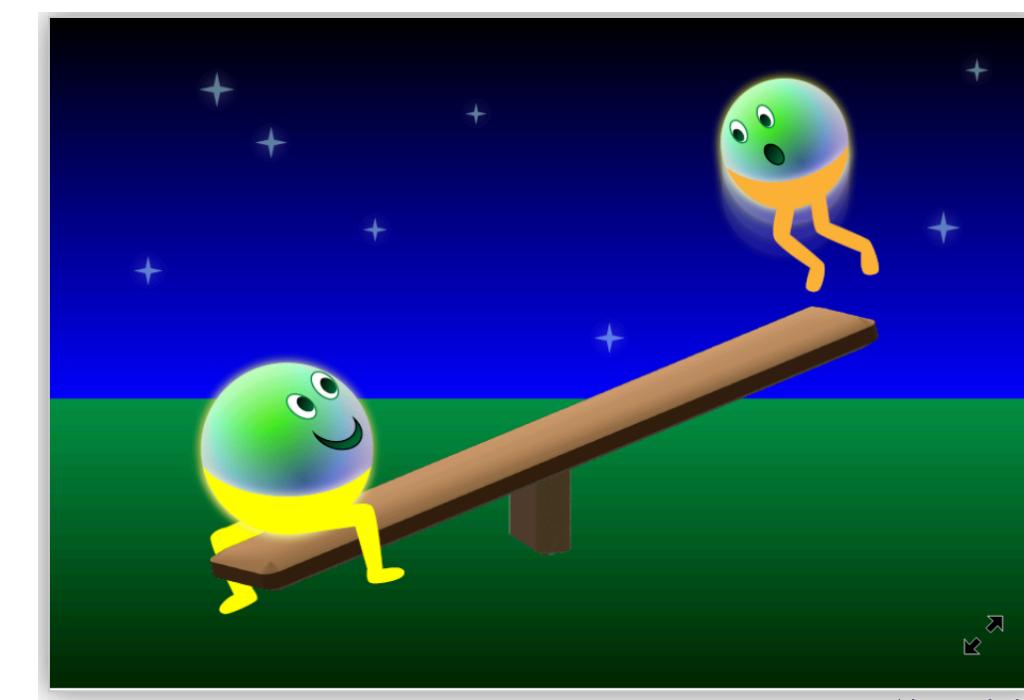
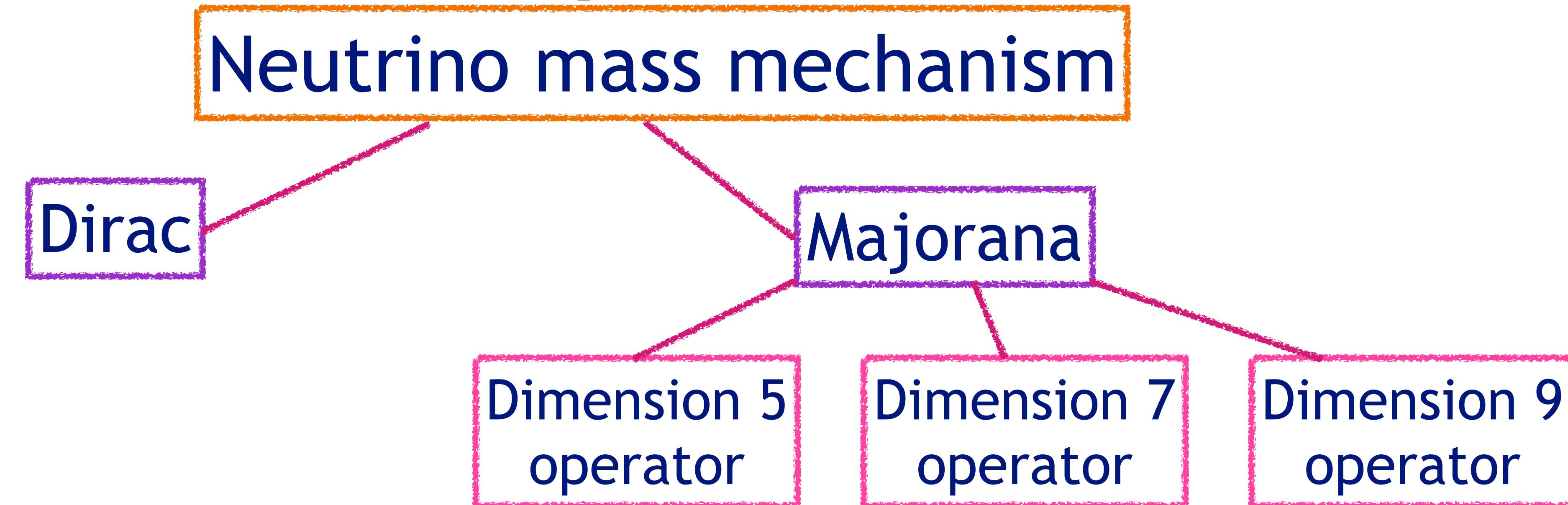
$$\mathcal{L}_7 \propto c_7 \frac{(LLHH)(H^\dagger H)}{\Lambda^3}$$

Dimension 9

$$\mathcal{L}_9 \propto c_9 \frac{(LLHH)(H^\dagger H)(H^\dagger H)}{\Lambda^5}$$

...

Maze of possibilities



Testing neutrino mass mechanisms

Dirac vs Majorana neutrinos

Dirac

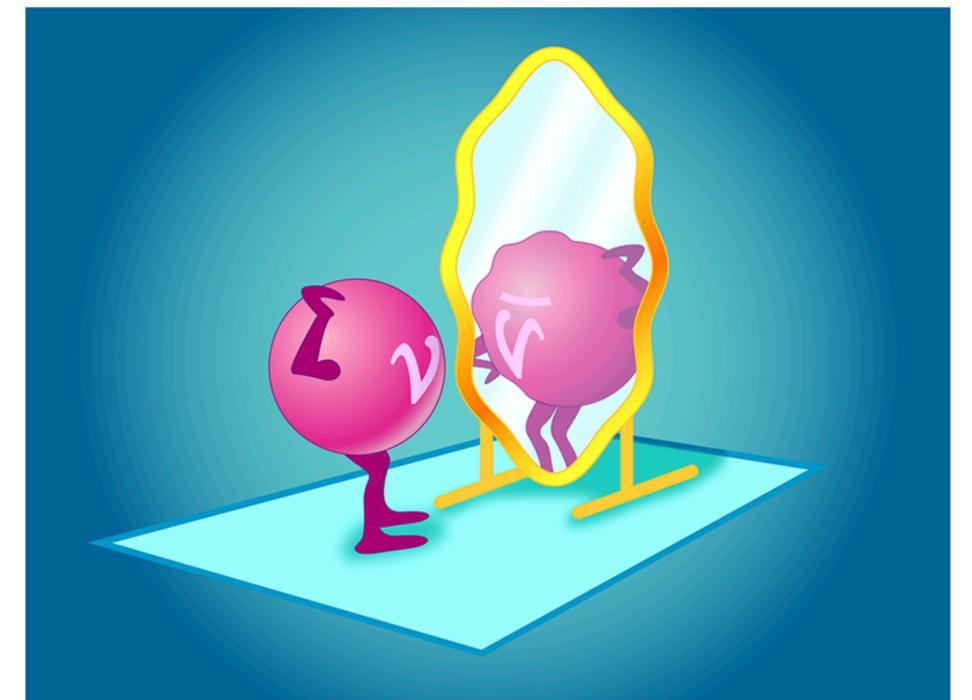
Majorana

Majorana mass term **violates** lepton number

Dirac mass term **conserves** lepton number

⇒ search for lepton number violating processes

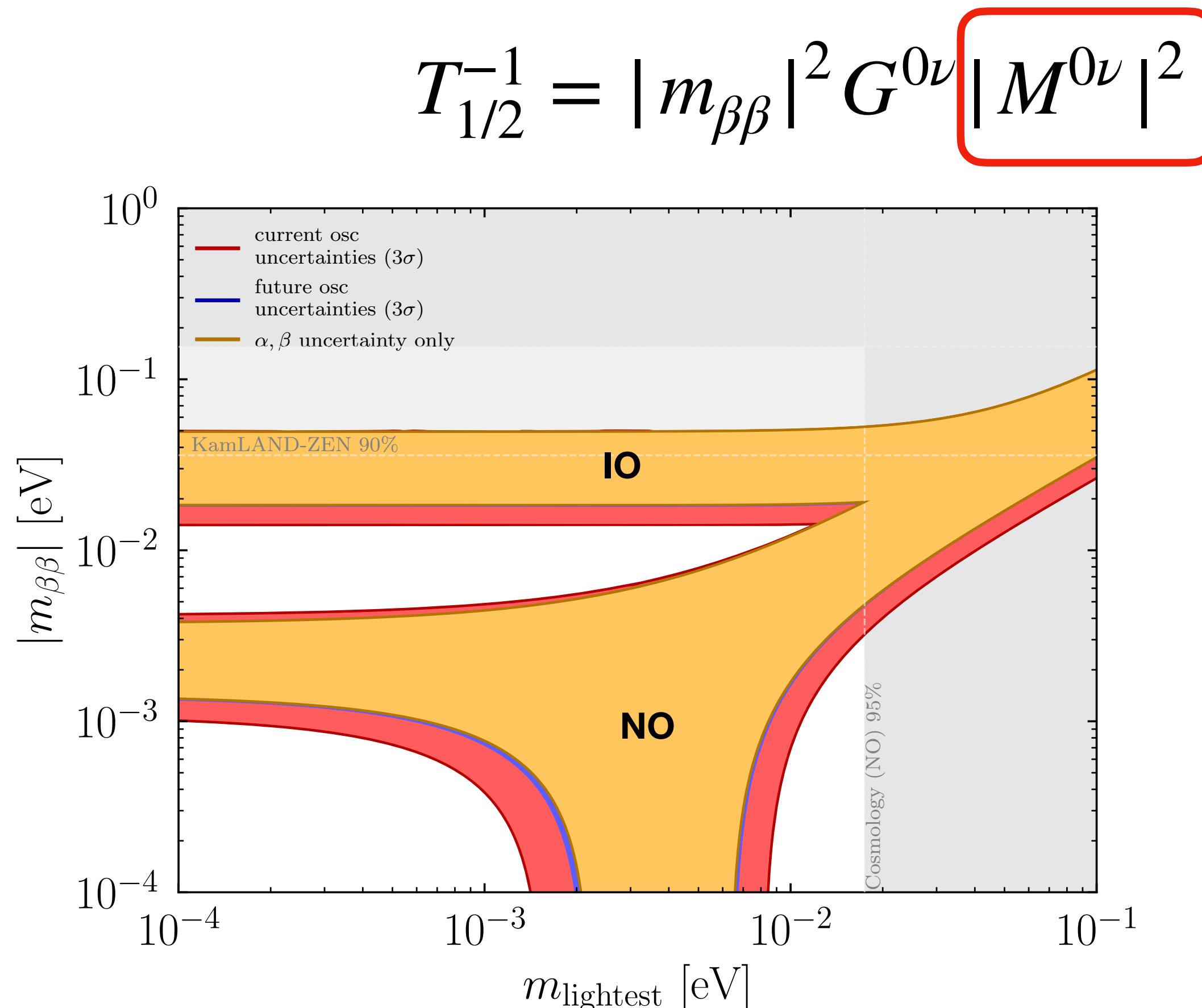
Effect \propto neutrino mass!



Testing neutrino mass mechanisms

Dirac vs Majorana neutrinos

Neutrinoless double beta decay experiments aim to provide an answer



Nuclear matrix element:
large uncertainty

See talks by K. Mistry, A.
Piepke + talks in parallel
sessions

Currently just upper limit,
no observation

Large parameter space, depending
on absolute mass scale and mass ordering

Width of allowed bands depends on
Majorana phases

Testing neutrino mass mechanisms

New particles associated to mass generation

New particles are introduced in neutrino mass generation mechanisms
→ search for them!

Identify UV complete models for higher dimensional operators

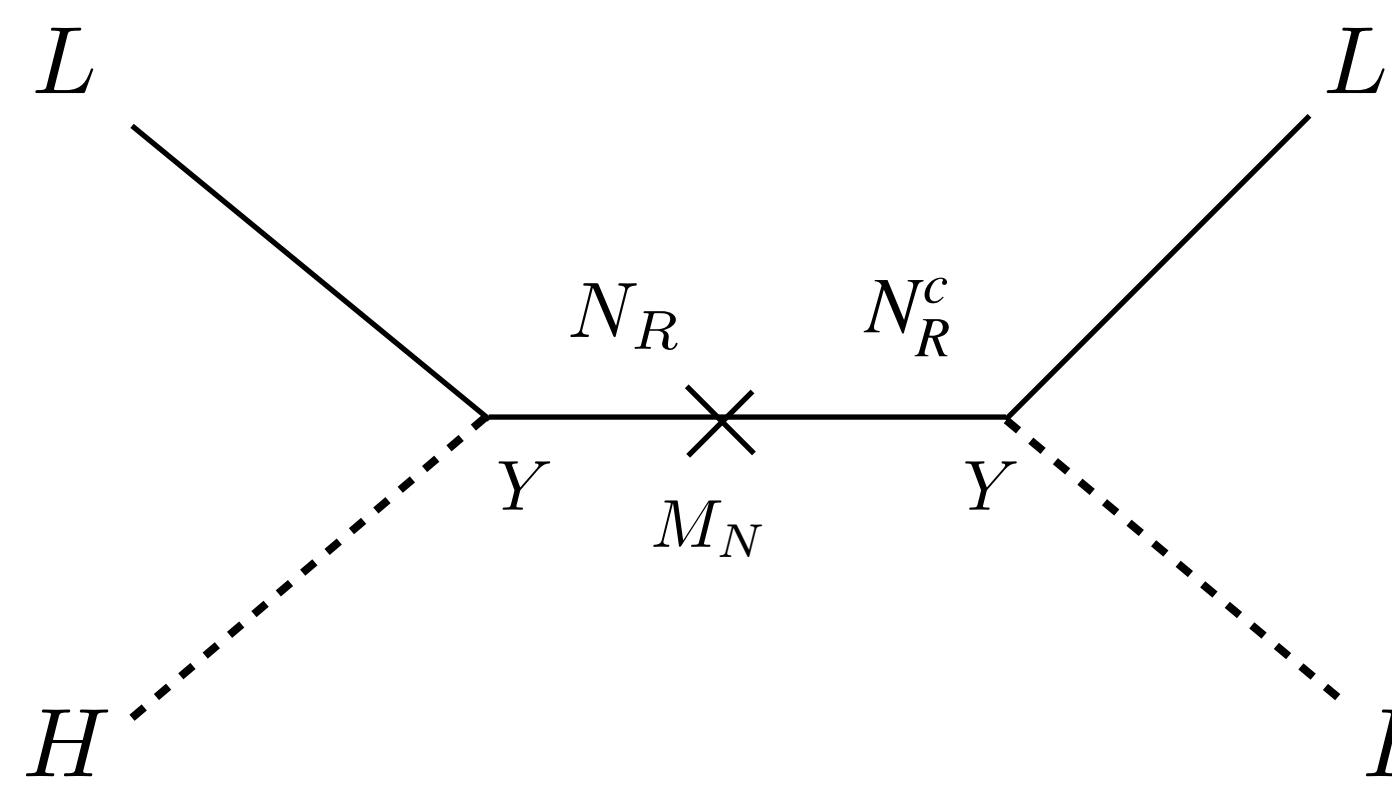
Testing neutrino mass mechanisms

New particles associated to mass generation

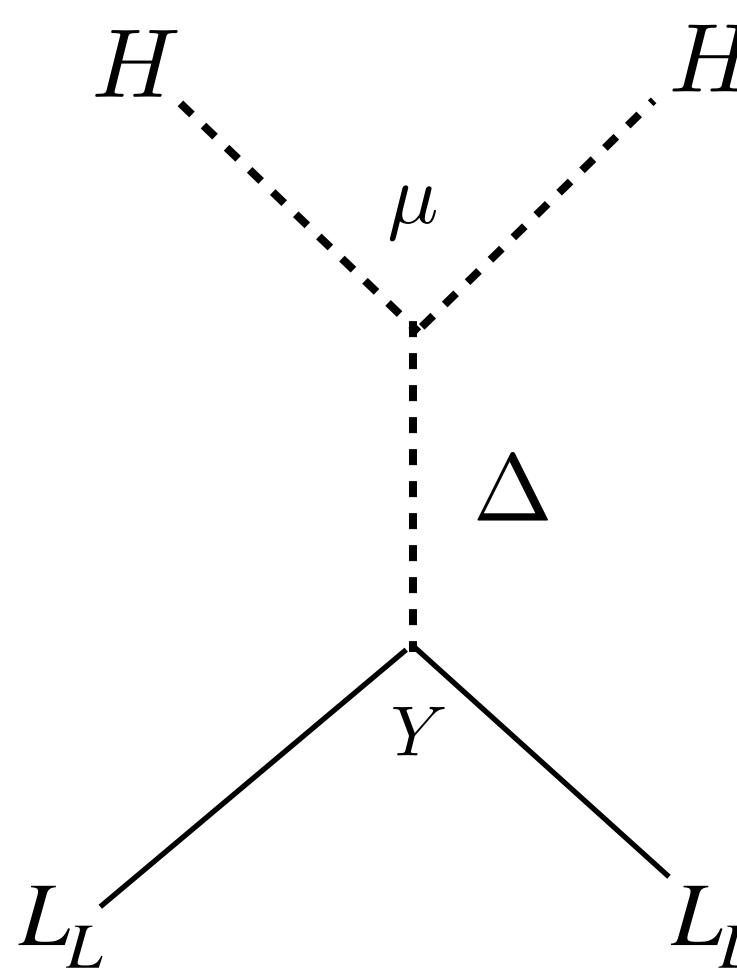
Identify **UV complete models** for higher dimensional operators

Example: realizations of dim-5 operator

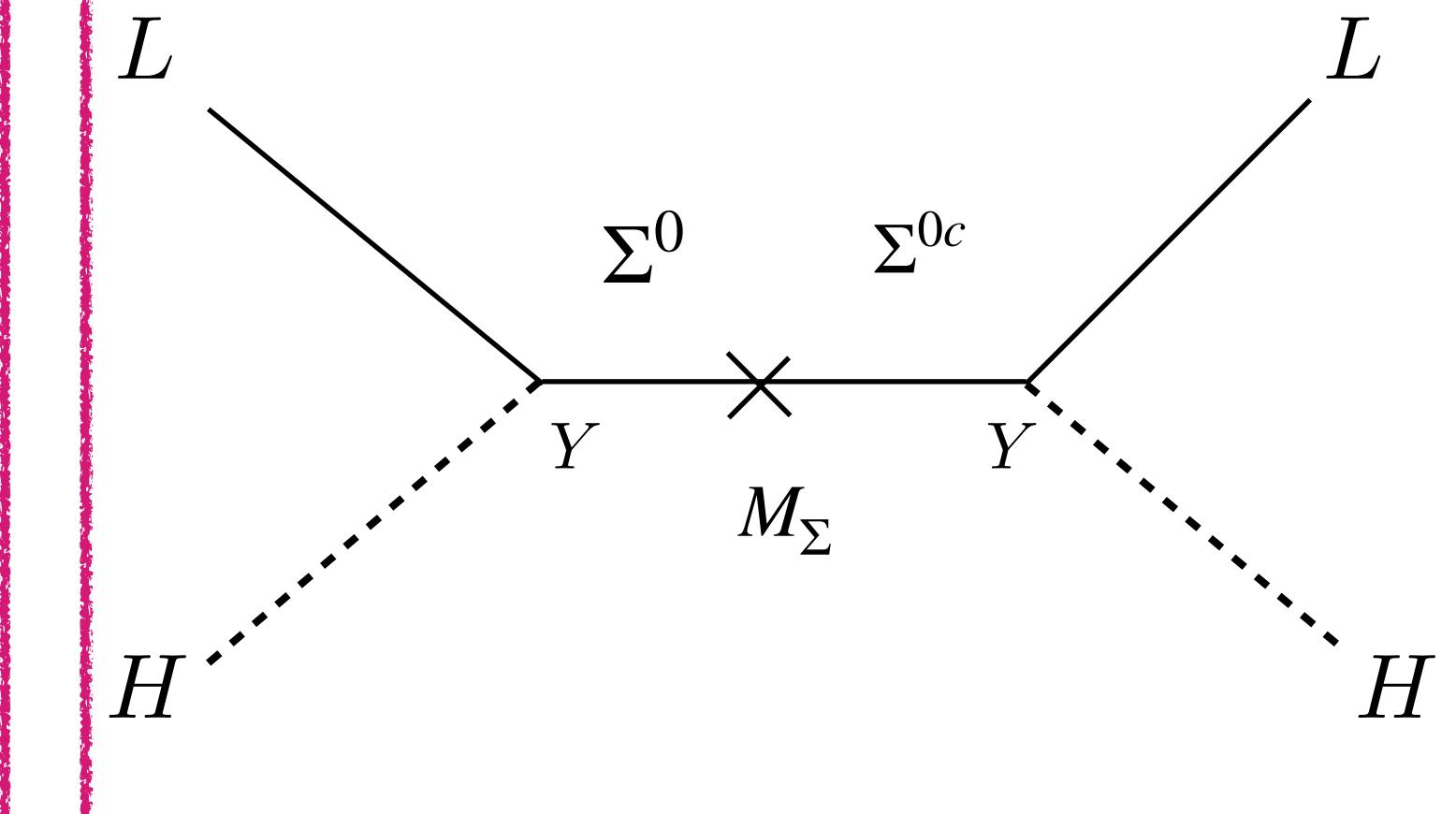
Type I seesaw



Type II seesaw



Type III seesaw



Summary & Conclusion

- Neutrino oscillations → Very strong evidence for physics beyond the SM
- Next generation experiments will lead to precision measurement of oscillation parameters
- We will learn more about neutrino sector and neutrino theory in the near future
- Many different possibilities for neutrino mass generation mechanism: need to test their predictions and build more testable models

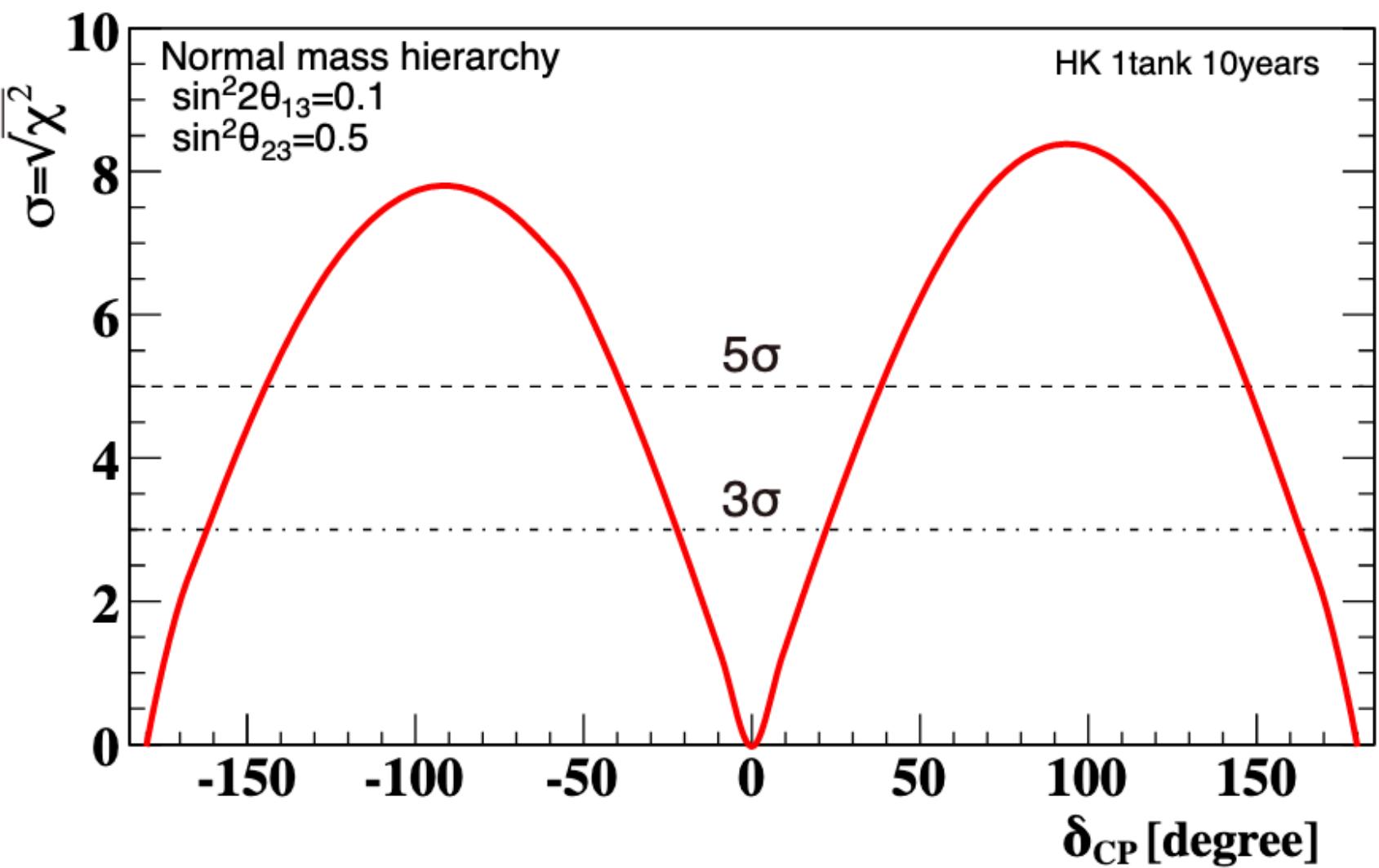
Thanks for your attention!



Appendix: CP violation searches

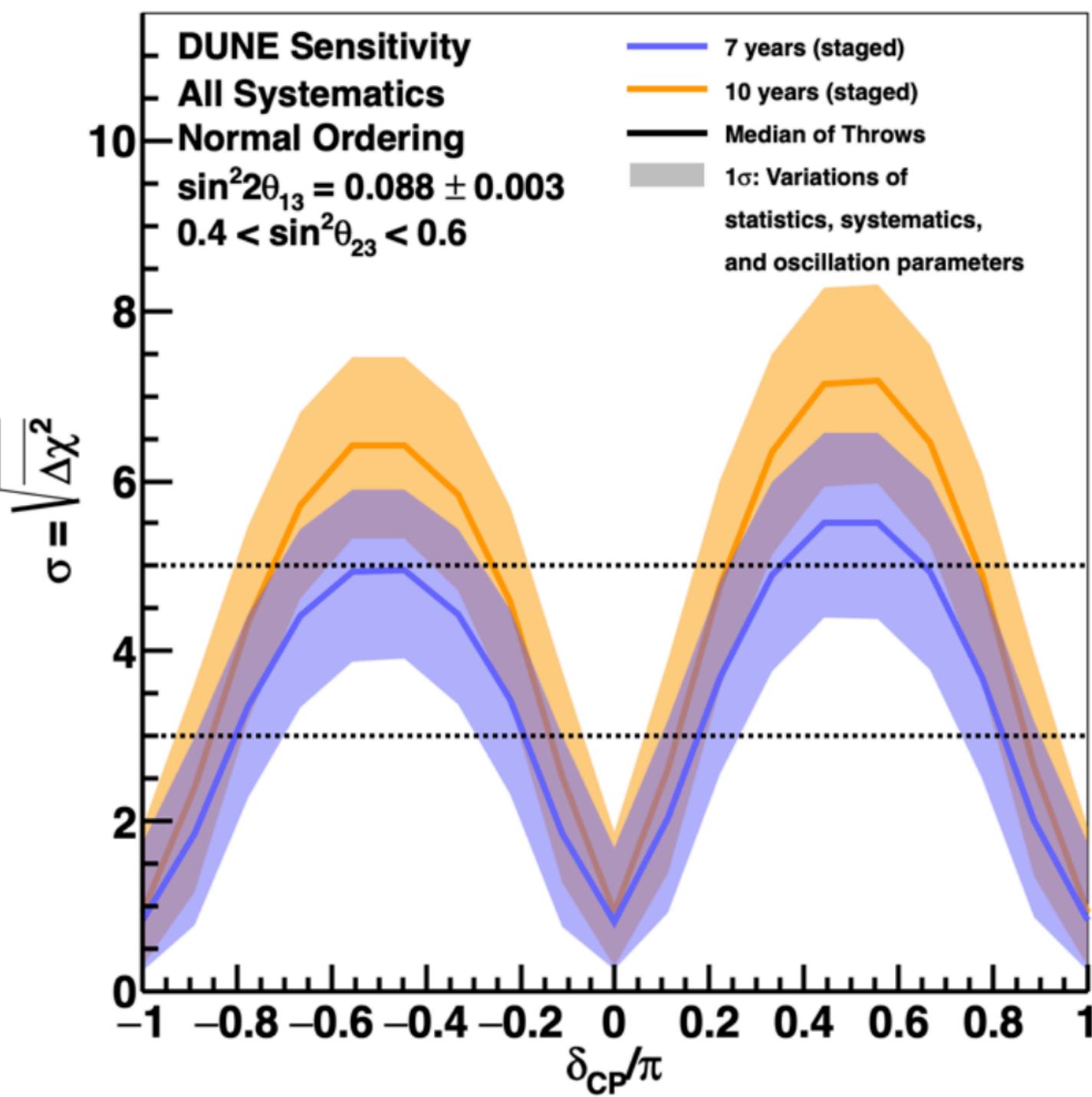
Hyper-Kamiokande sensitivity

[HK DR '18]



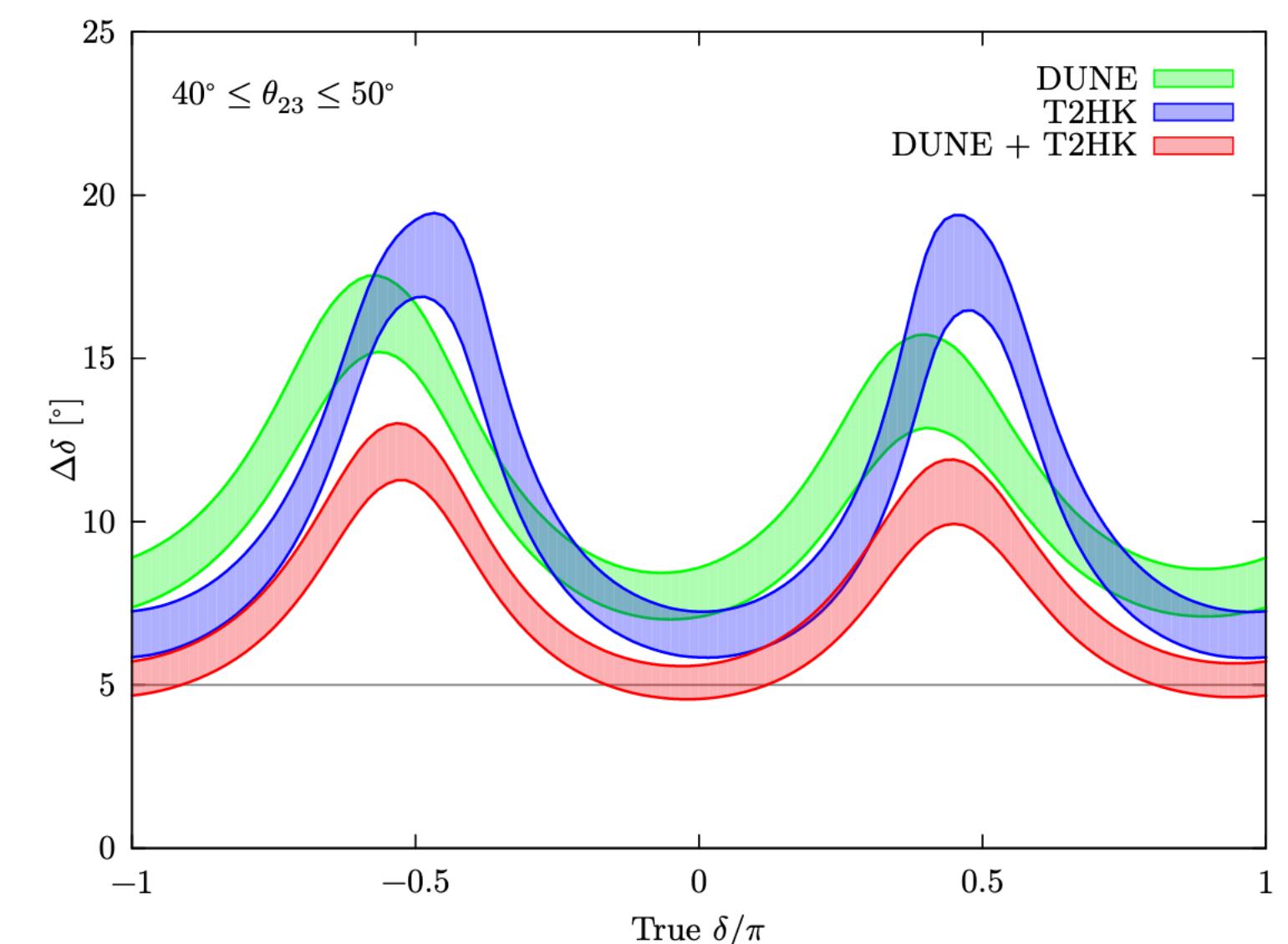
DUNE sensitivity

[DUNE TDR '20]



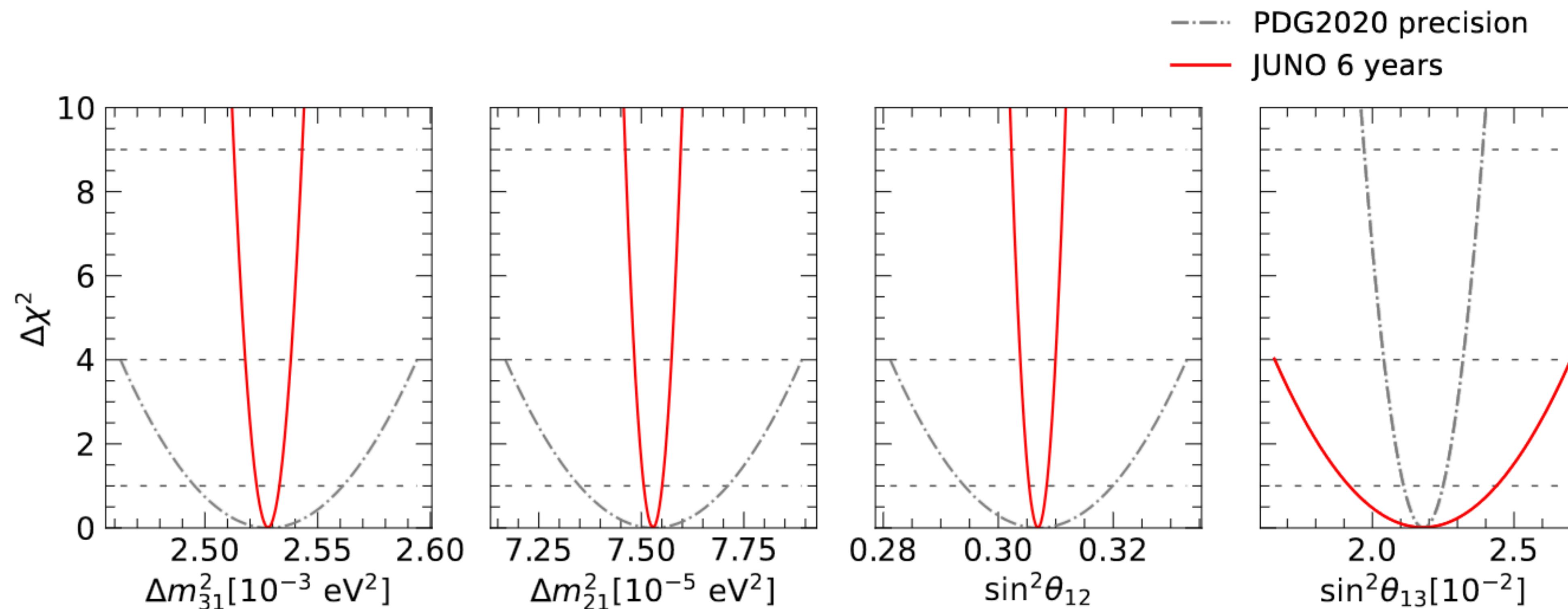
DUNE & HK combination

[Ballett et al,
1612.07275]



Assuming no new physics and known other oscillation parameters

Appendix: Future of oscillation physics



[JUNO '23]

Appendix: Future of oscillation physics

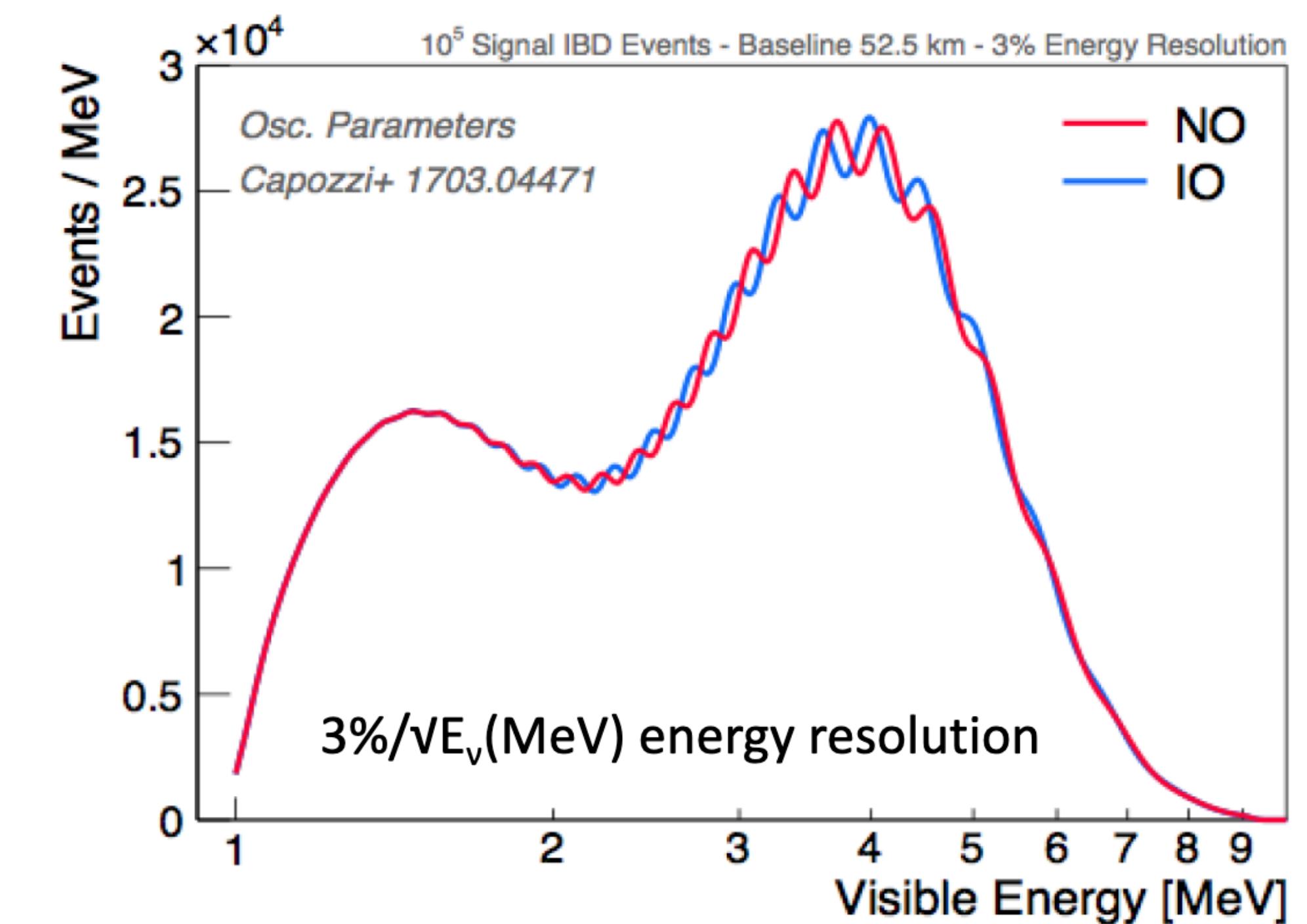
JUNO

$$P_{ee} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \Delta_{ee}$$

$$\Delta m_{ee}^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{12} |\Delta m_{31}^2| + \sin^2 \theta_{12} |\Delta m_{32}^2|$$

in NO $|\Delta m_{31}^2| > |\Delta m_{32}^2|$

in IO $|\Delta m_{31}^2| < |\Delta m_{32}^2|$



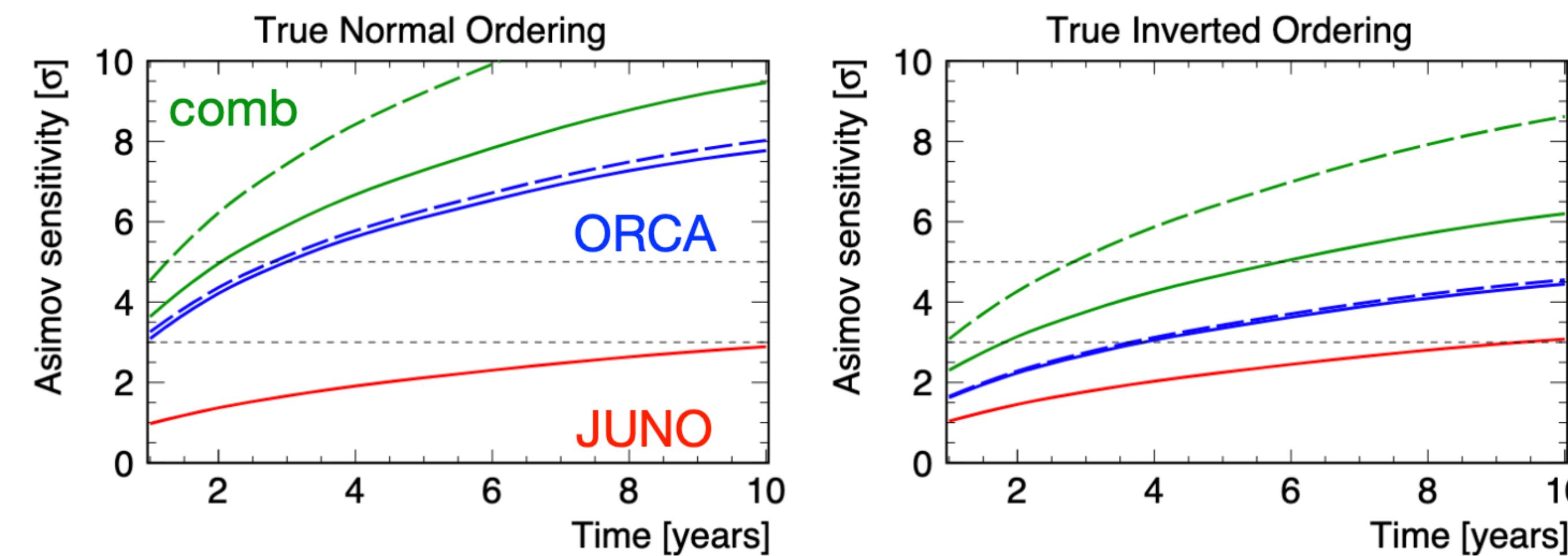
Appendix: Future of oscillation physics

Atmospheric neutrinos encounter **resonance** when traveling through Earth

NO ($\Delta m_{31}^2 > 0$) resonance for neutrinos

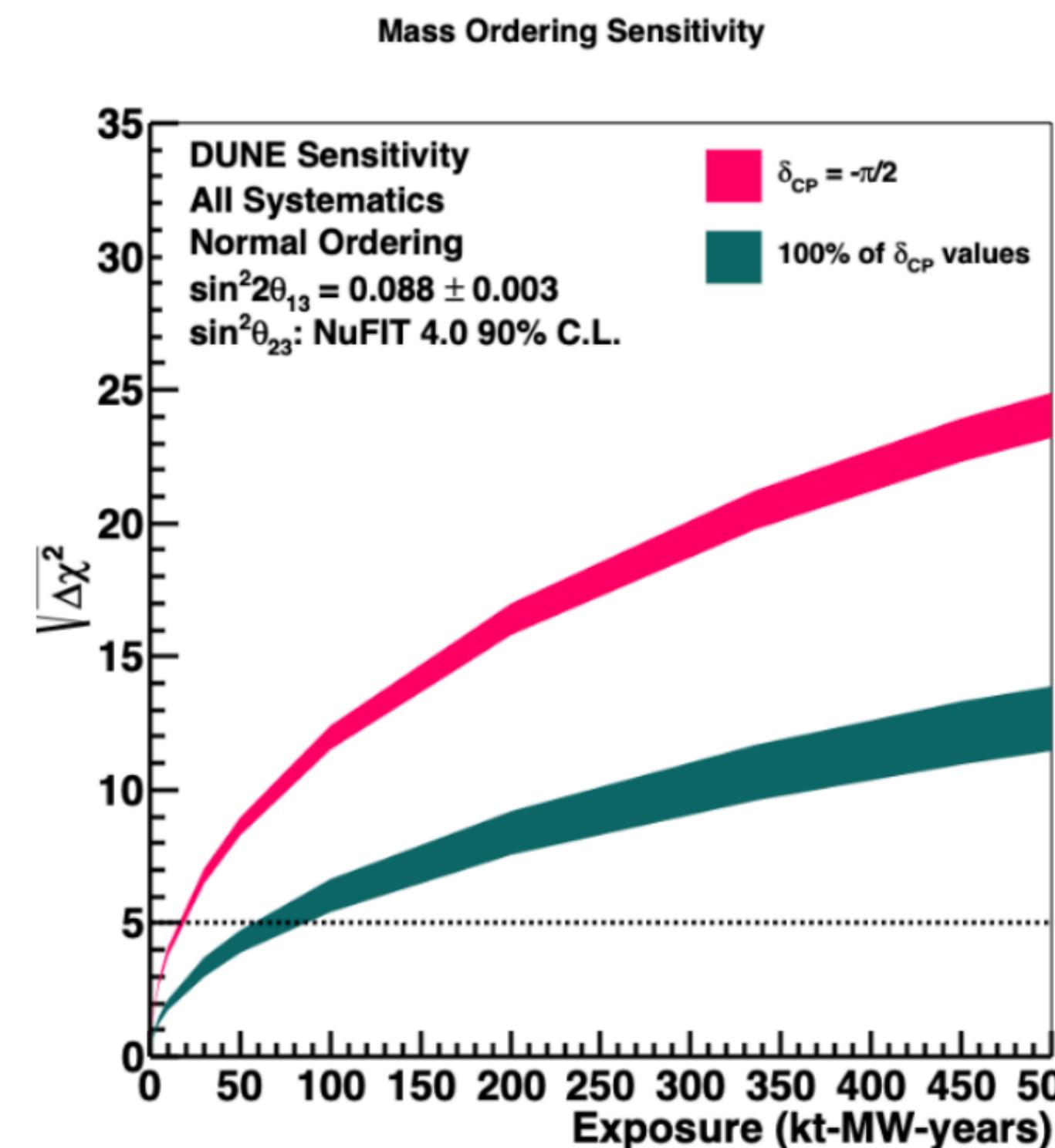
IO ($\Delta m_{31}^2 < 0$) resonance for antineutrinos

Combination of experiments using
different methods
(JUNO & KM3NeT/ORCA)
→ increase in sensitivity



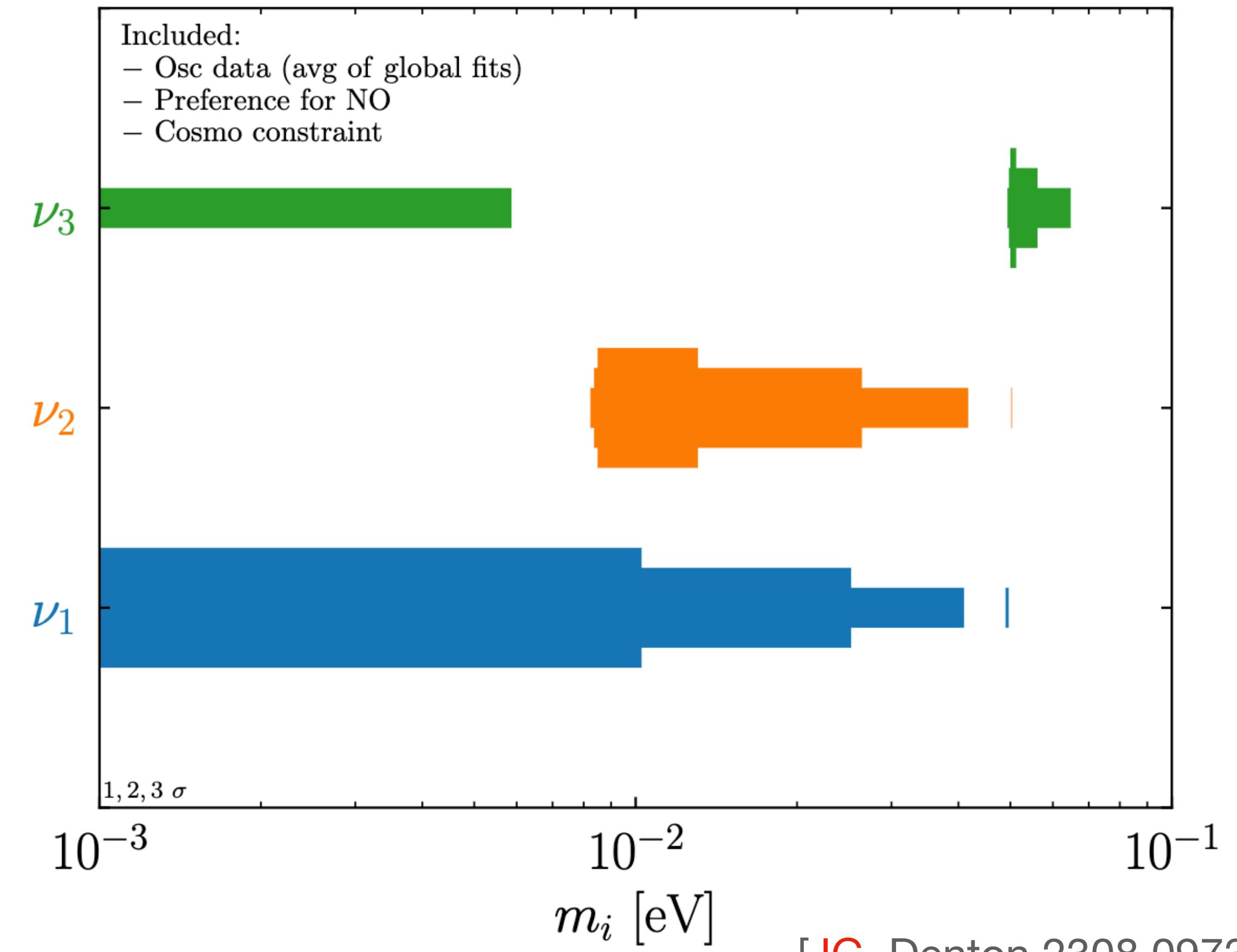
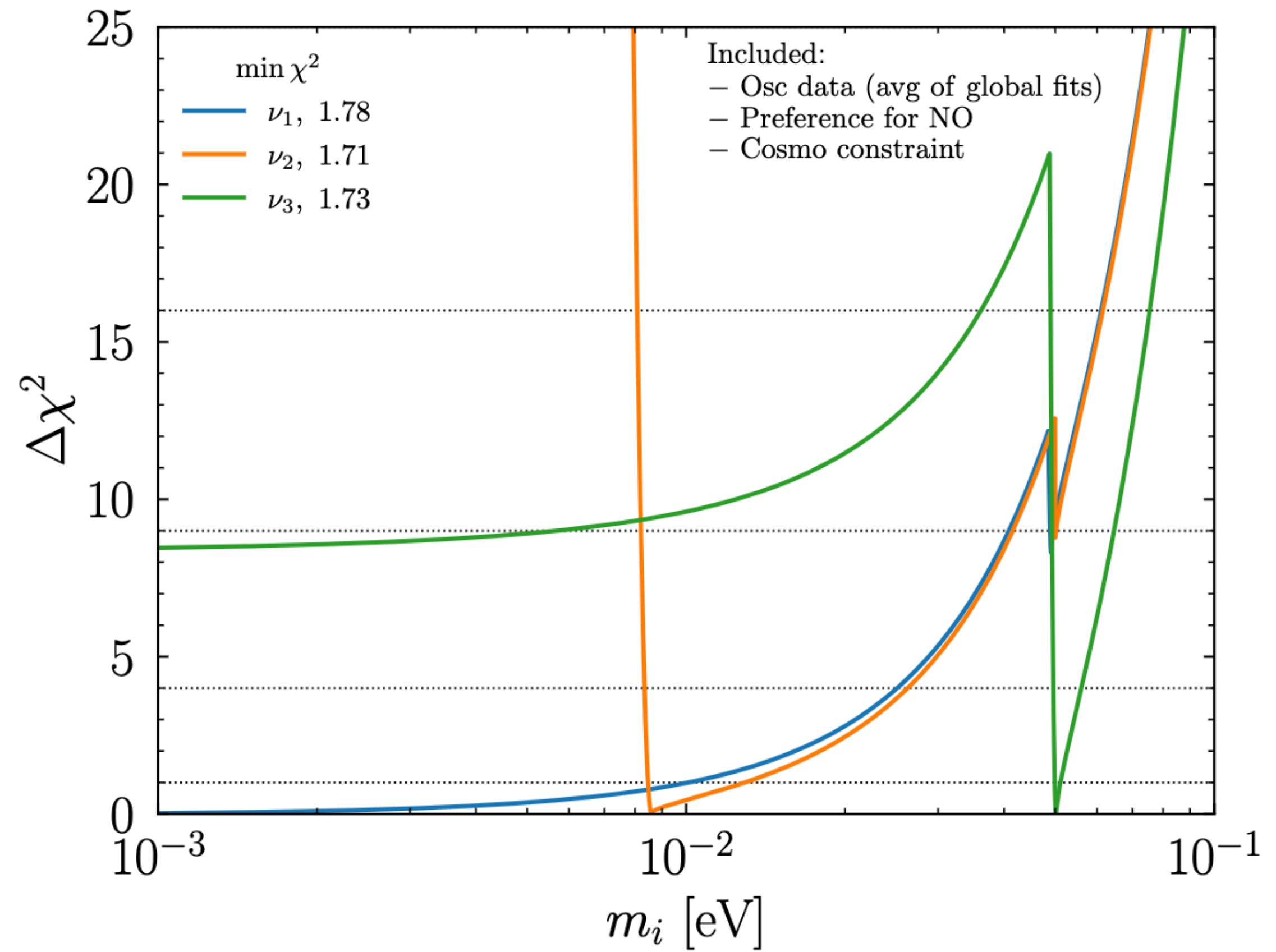
Appendix: Future of oscillation physics

positive $\Delta m_{31}^2 \Rightarrow$ larger $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ appearance probability & smaller $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$
appearance probability at the **first oscillation maximum in matter**



DUNE '20

Appendix: Neutrino mass

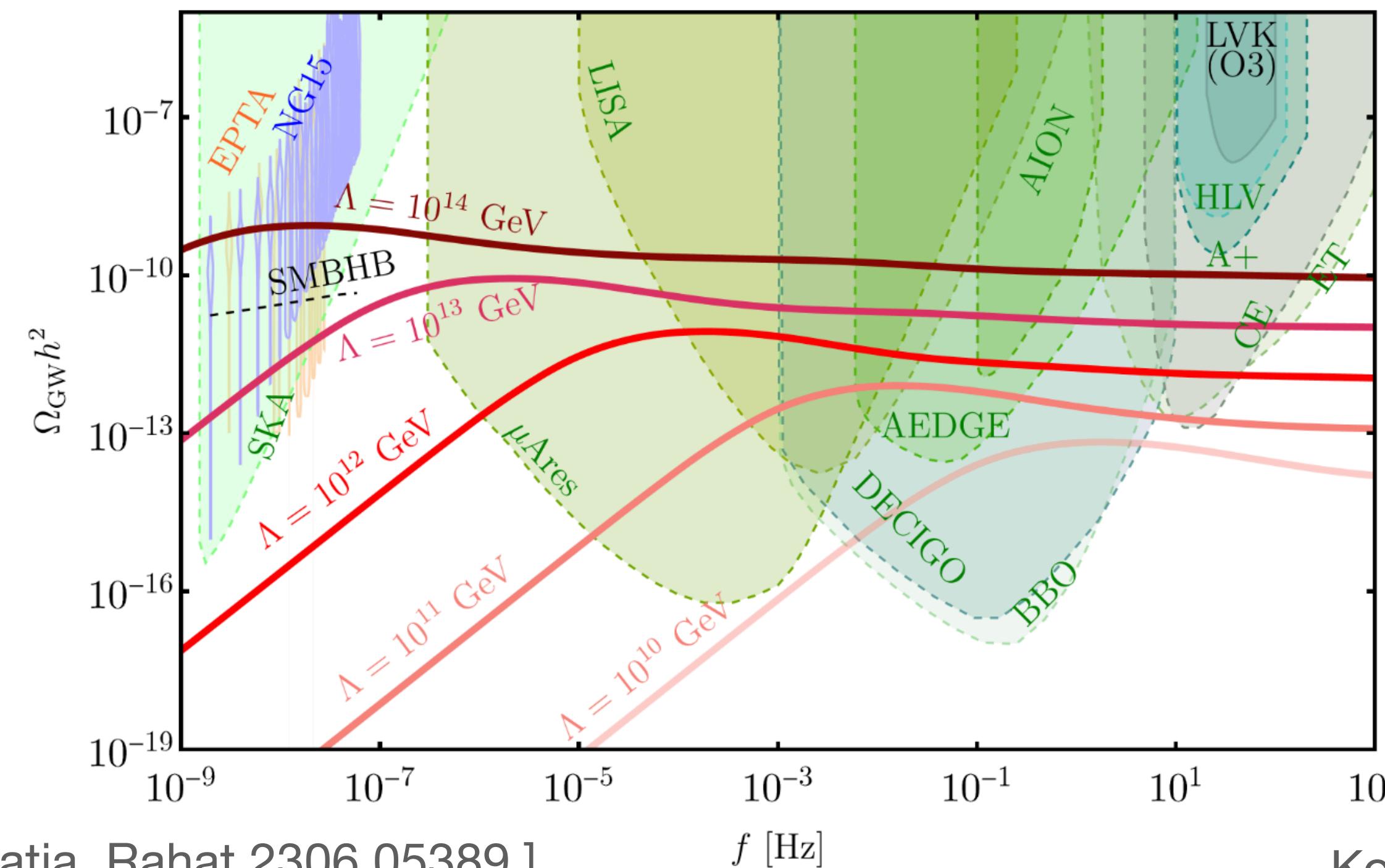


[JG, Denton 2308.09737]

Appendix: Neutrino mass mechanism

Dirac vs Majorana neutrinos

Signs of lepton number breaking in the early Universe
Gravitational waves from decay of cosmic strings from breaking of
lepton number symmetry



Signature depends on
Lepton number
breaking scale

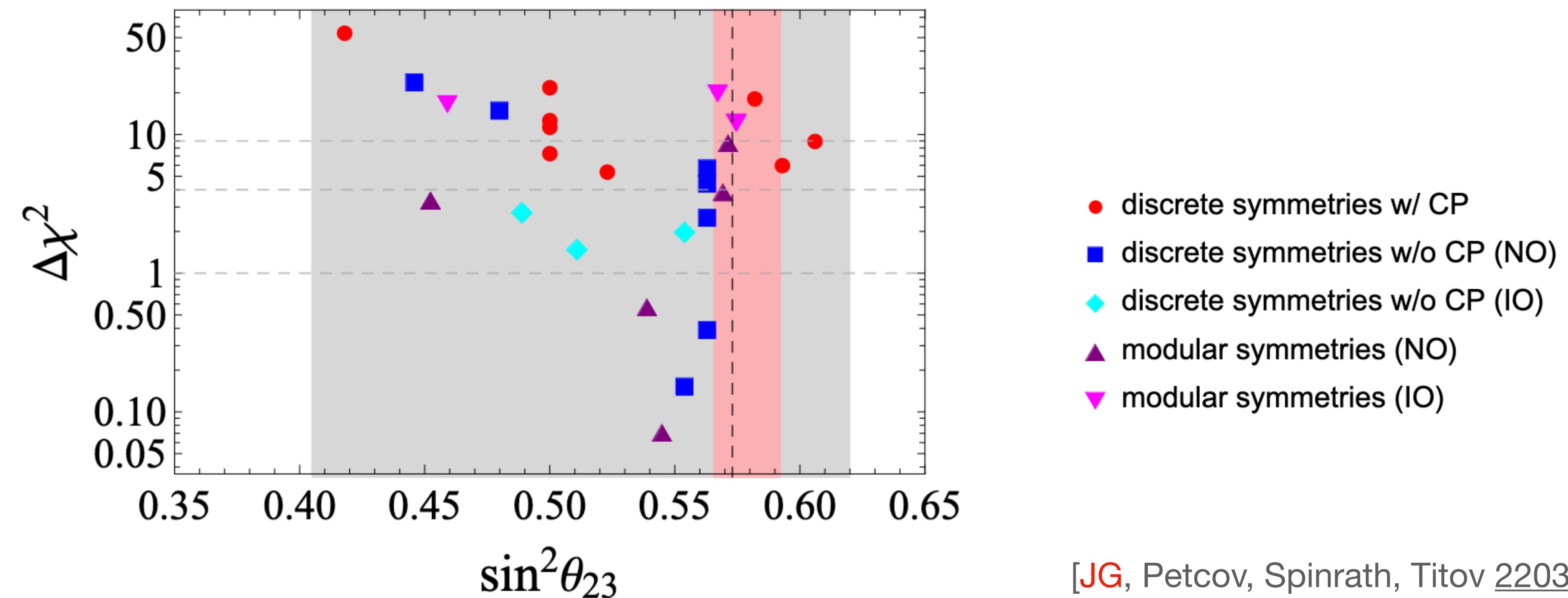
[King, Marfatia, Rahat [2306.05389](#)]

[see also Dror, Hiramatsu,
Kohri, Murayama, White [2306.05389](#)]

Appendix: Mixing sum rules

Sum rules can be used to distinguish different mixing pattern

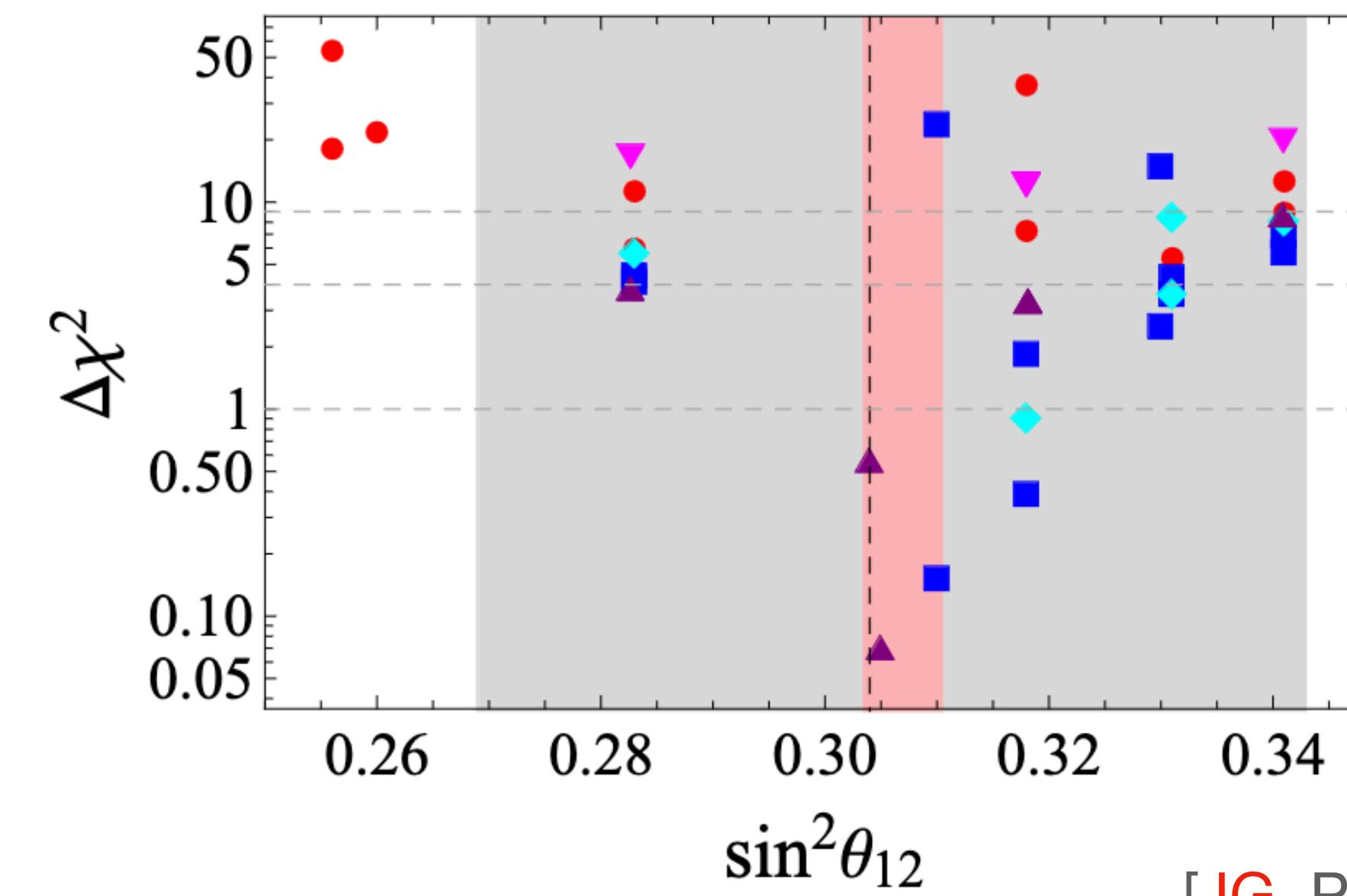
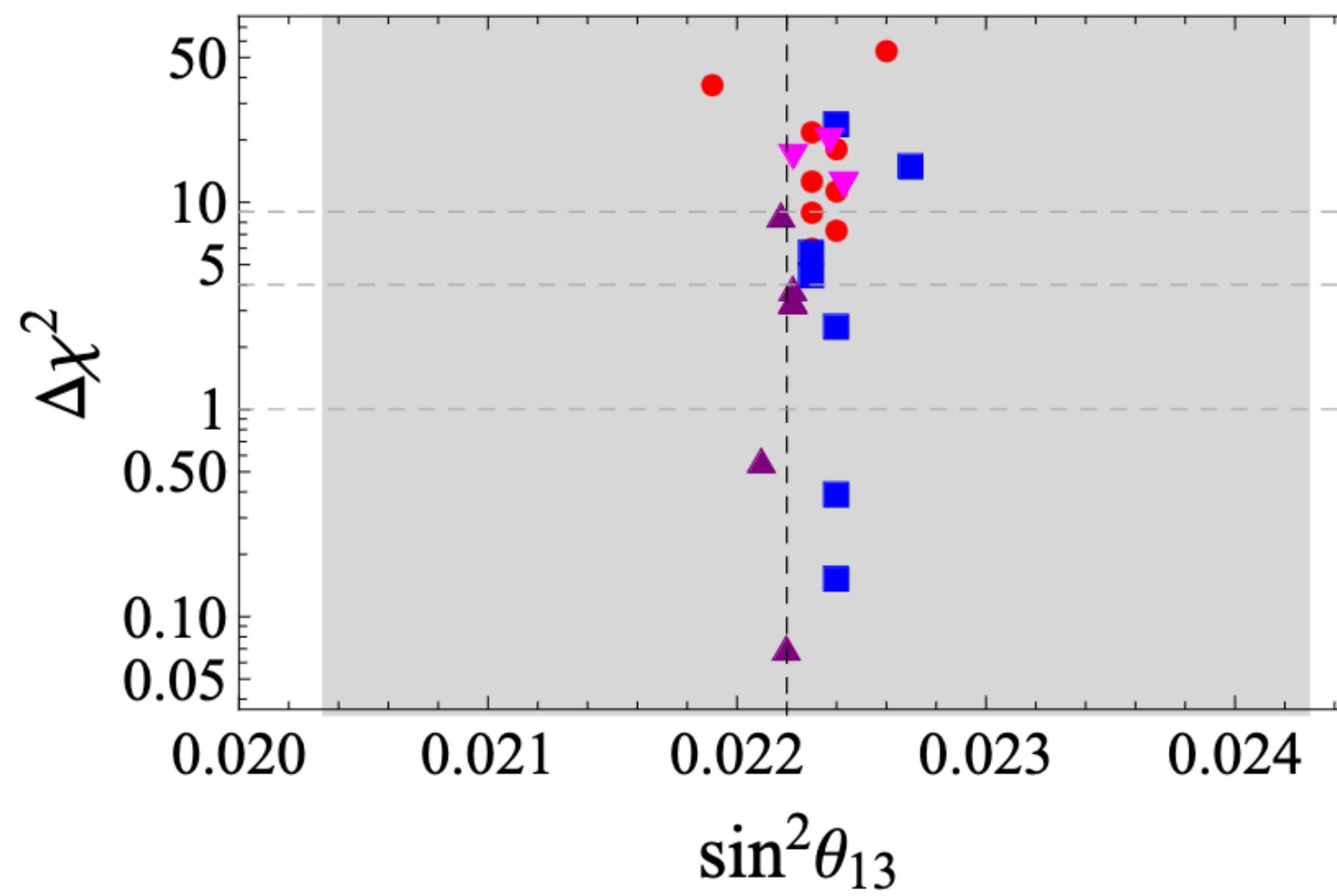
Future experiments can disentangle different models



Appendix: Mixing sum rules

Sum rules can be used to distinguish different mixing pattern

Future experiments can disentangle different models

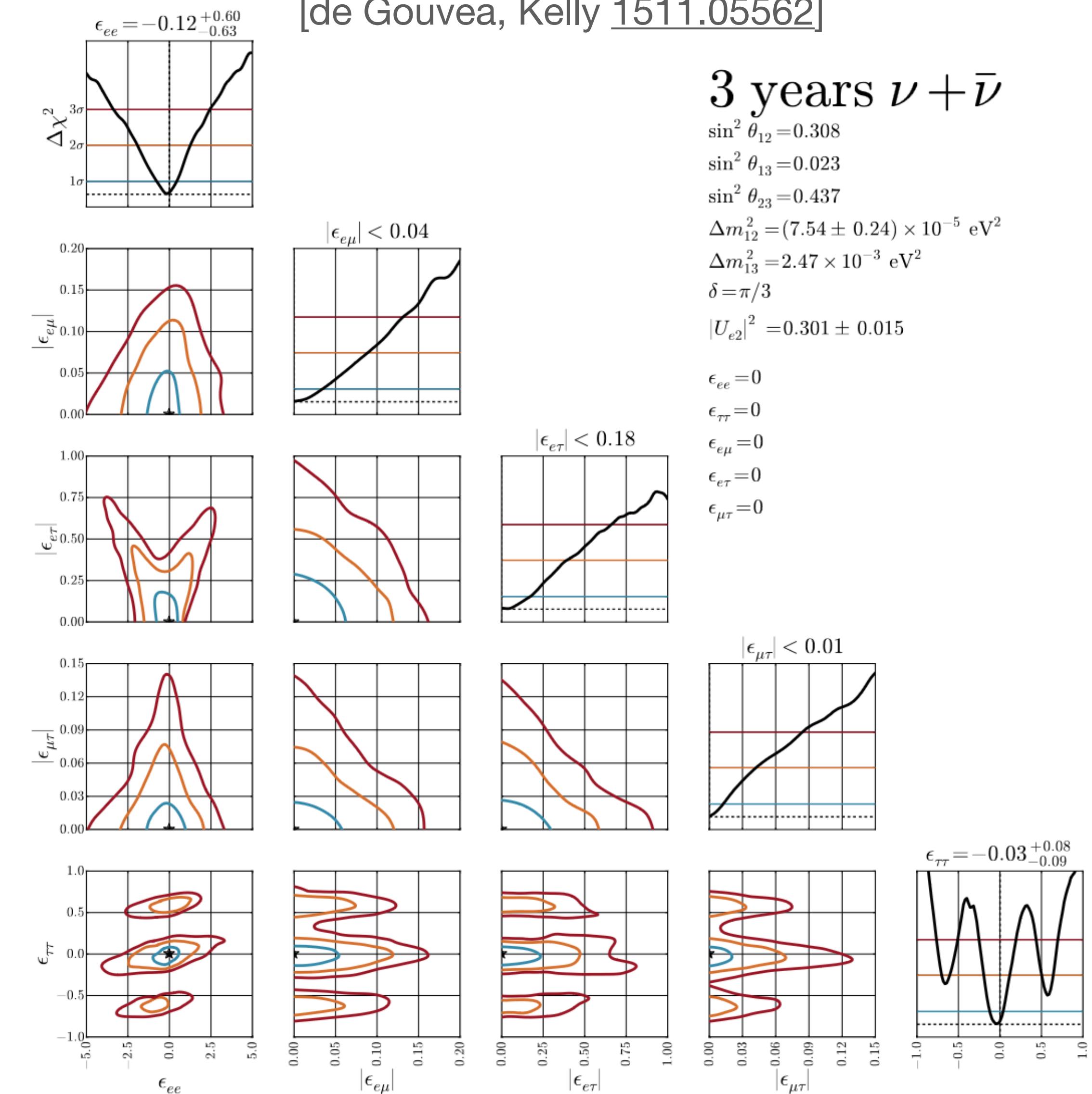
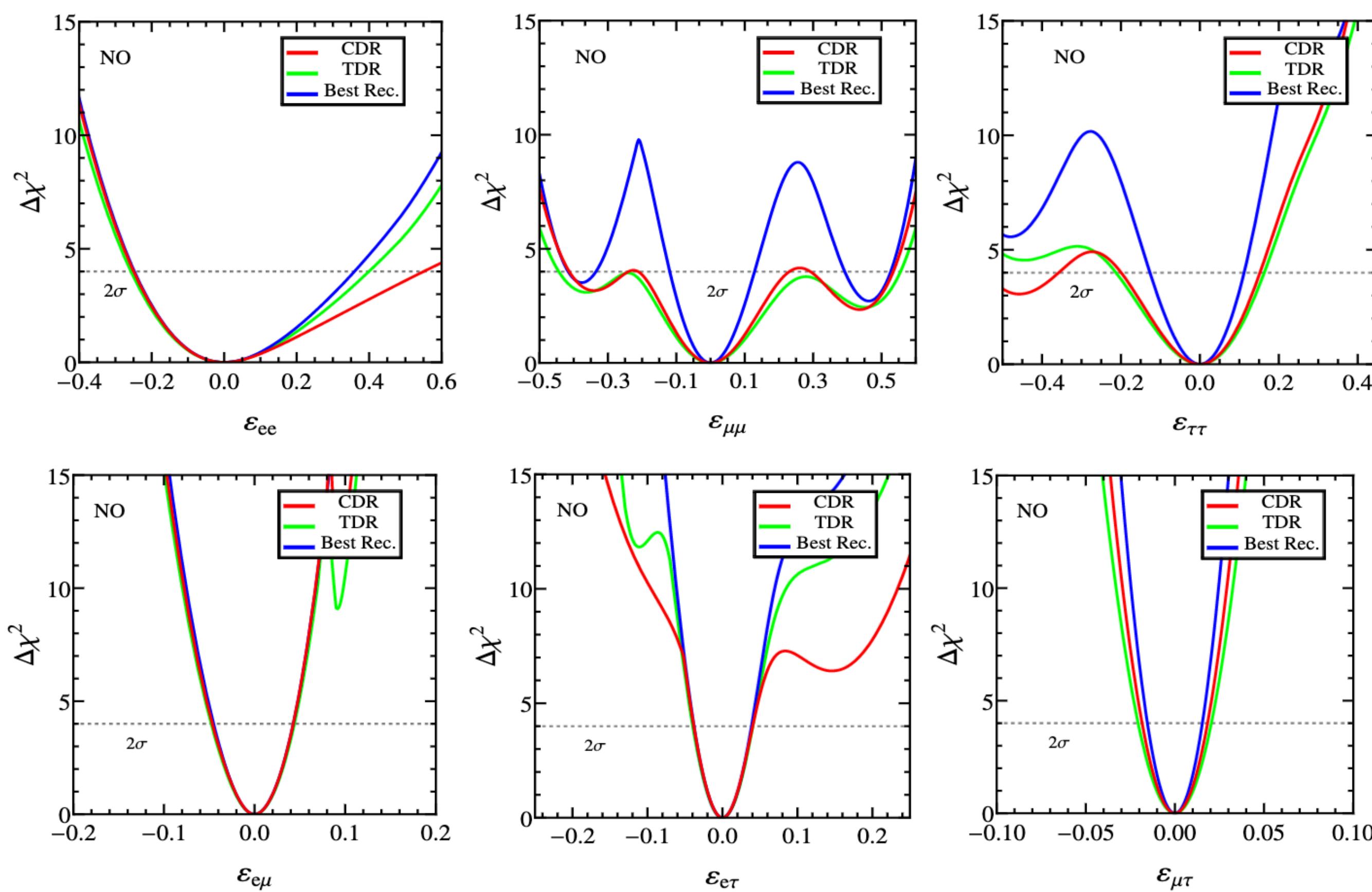


[**JG**, Petcov, Spinrath, Titov [2203.06219](#)]

Appendix: New physics

[de Gouvea, Kelly [1511.05562](#)]

[Chatterjee, Dev, Machado [2106.04597](#)]



3 years $\nu + \bar{\nu}$

$$\sin^2 \theta_{12} = 0.308$$

$$\sin^2 \theta_{13} = 0.023$$

$$\sin^2 \theta_{23} = 0.437$$

$$\Delta m_{12}^2 = (7.54 \pm 0.24) \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$$

$$\Delta m_{13}^2 = 2.47 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

$$\delta = \pi/3$$

$$|U_{e2}|^2 = 0.301 \pm 0.015$$

$$\epsilon_{ee} = 0$$

$$\epsilon_{\tau\tau} = 0$$

$$\epsilon_{e\mu} = 0$$

$$\epsilon_{e\tau} = 0$$

$$\epsilon_{\mu\tau} = 0$$

$$\epsilon_{\tau\tau} = -0.03^{+0.08}_{-0.09}$$