



# Beyond the Standard Model physics searches with double-beta decays

Elisabetta Bossio

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# Introduction

# Majorana neutrinos

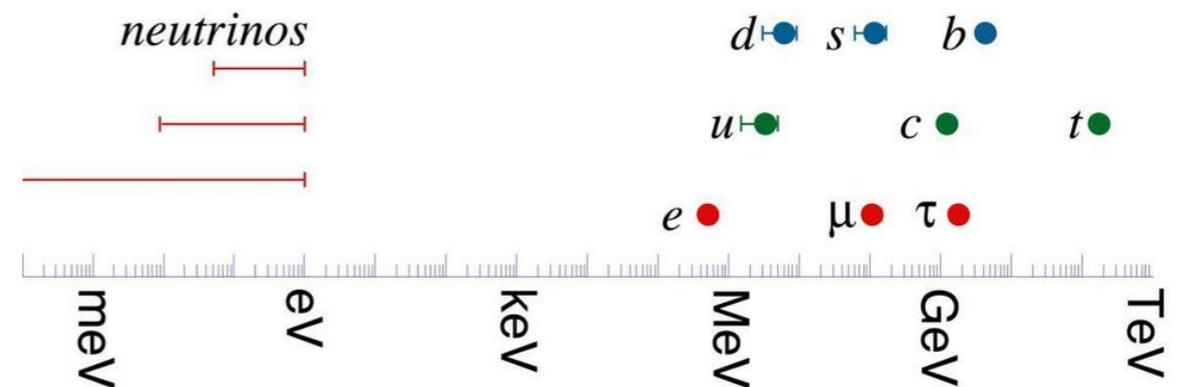
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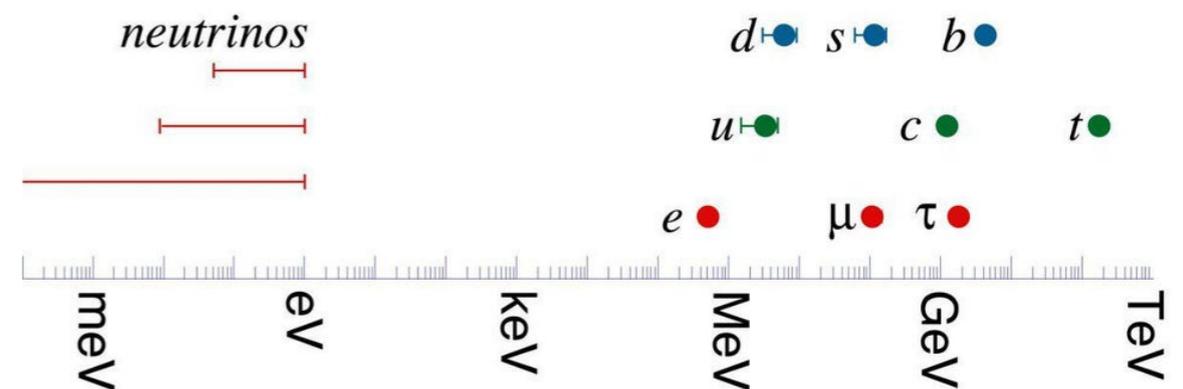
▶ BSM physics needed

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▶  $\nu$  could be a *Majorana particle*:

$$\nu = \bar{\nu}$$

▶ Lepton number non-conserved

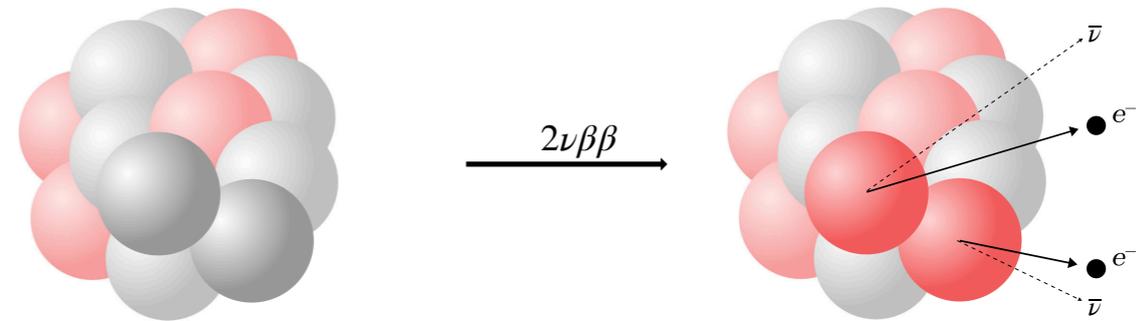


# Double-beta decays

## ► *Two-neutrino double-beta decay:*

$$2\nu\beta\beta : (A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}$$

- SM allowed, observed in 11 isotopes  
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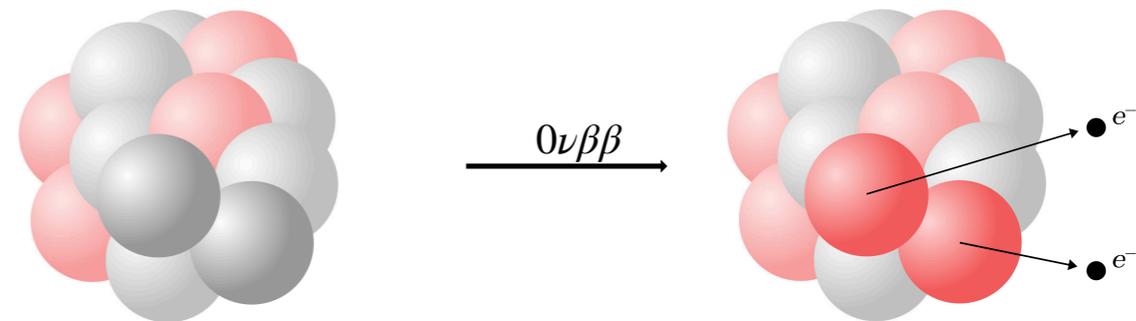
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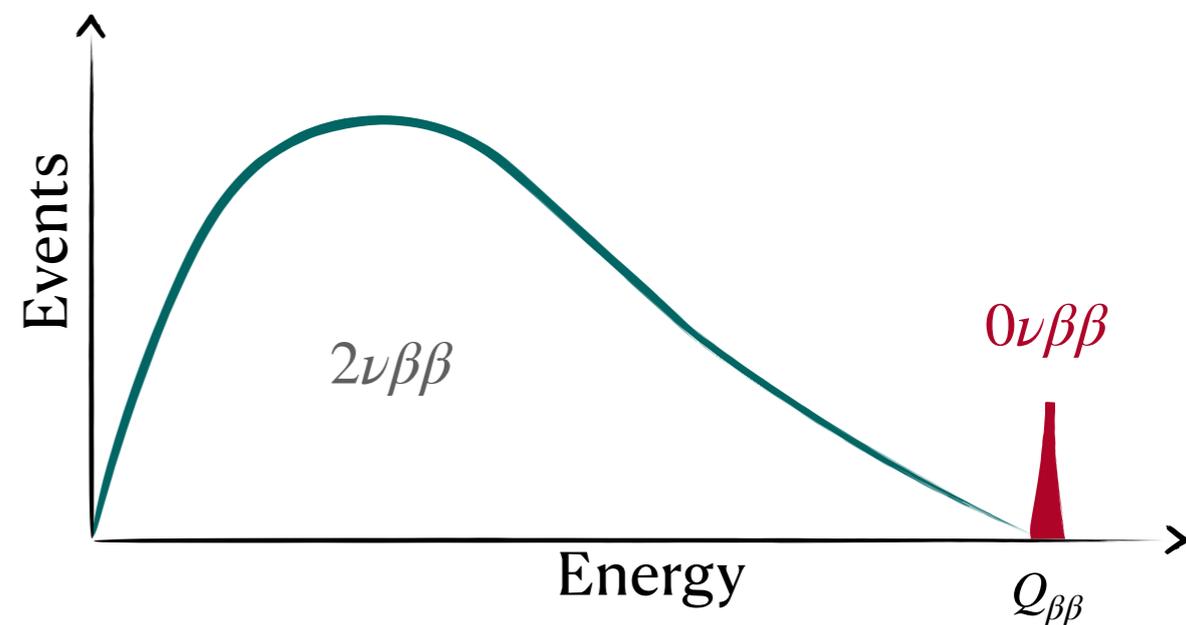


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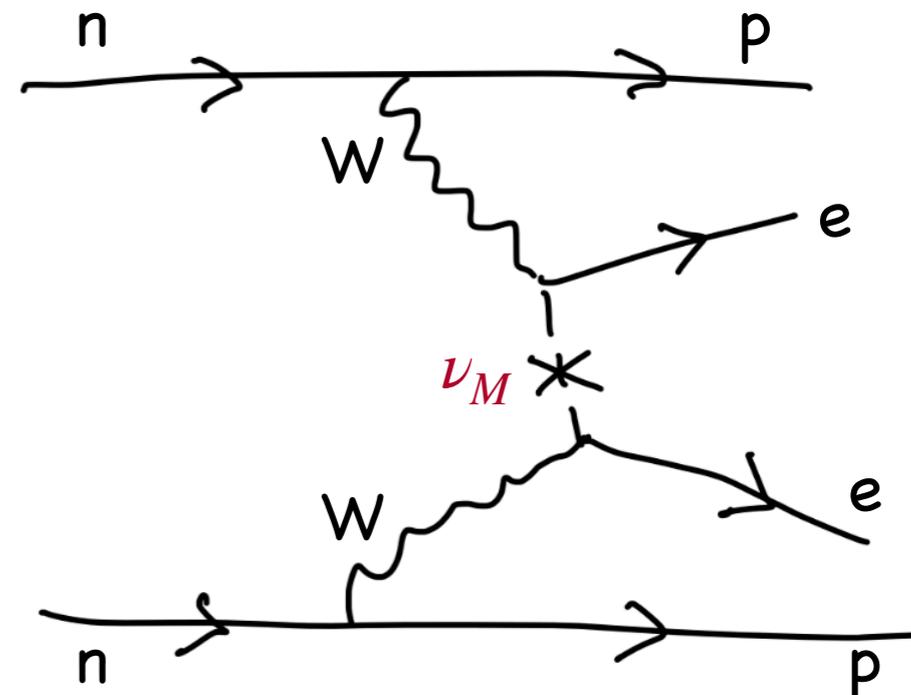
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- Simplest mechanism: exchange of light Majorana neutrinos

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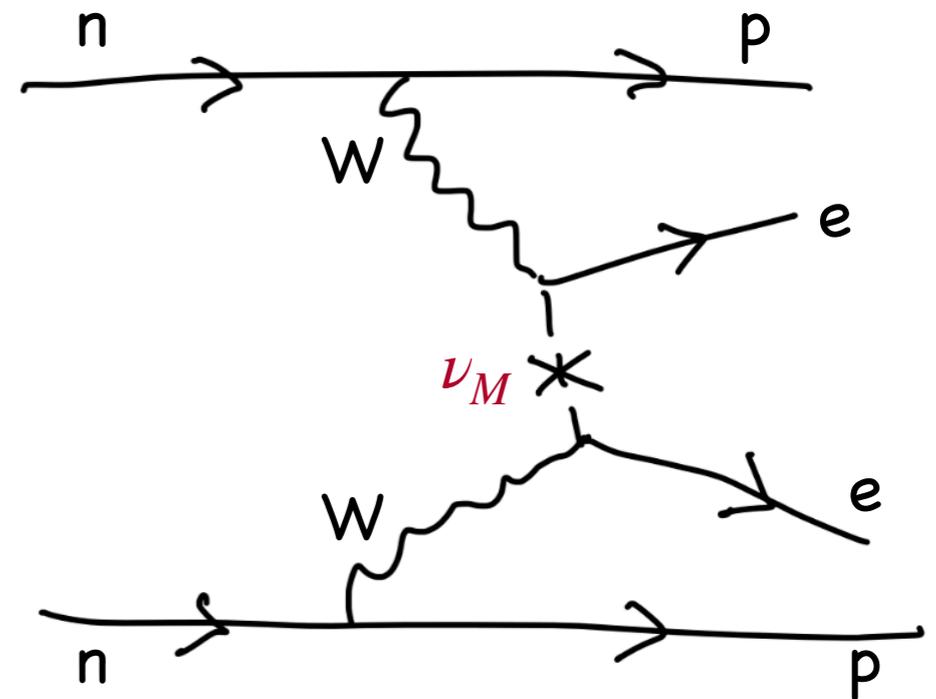


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Phase space  
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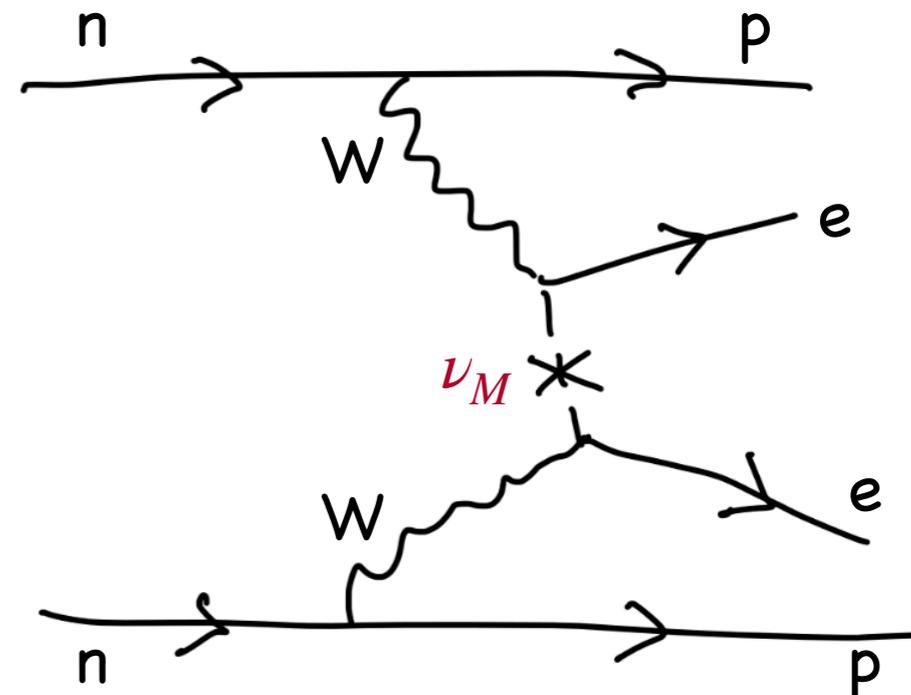


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Phase space (lepton part)      Nuclear matrix elements (nucleon part)

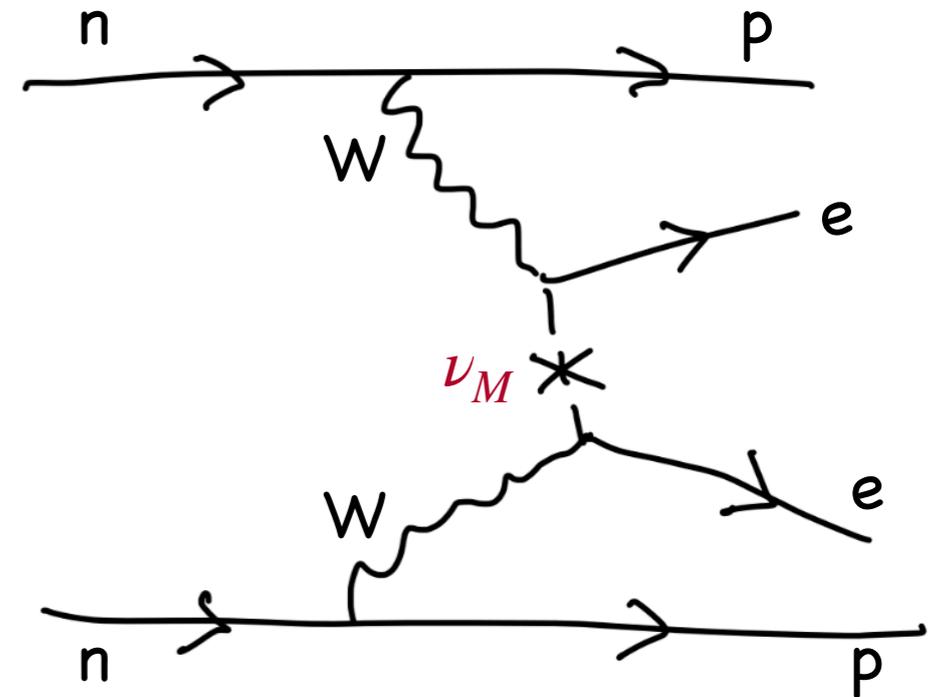


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- Effective Majorana neutrino mass*: related to neutrino parameters

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \sum_i m_i U_{ei}^2$$

# Complementarity with other mass measurements

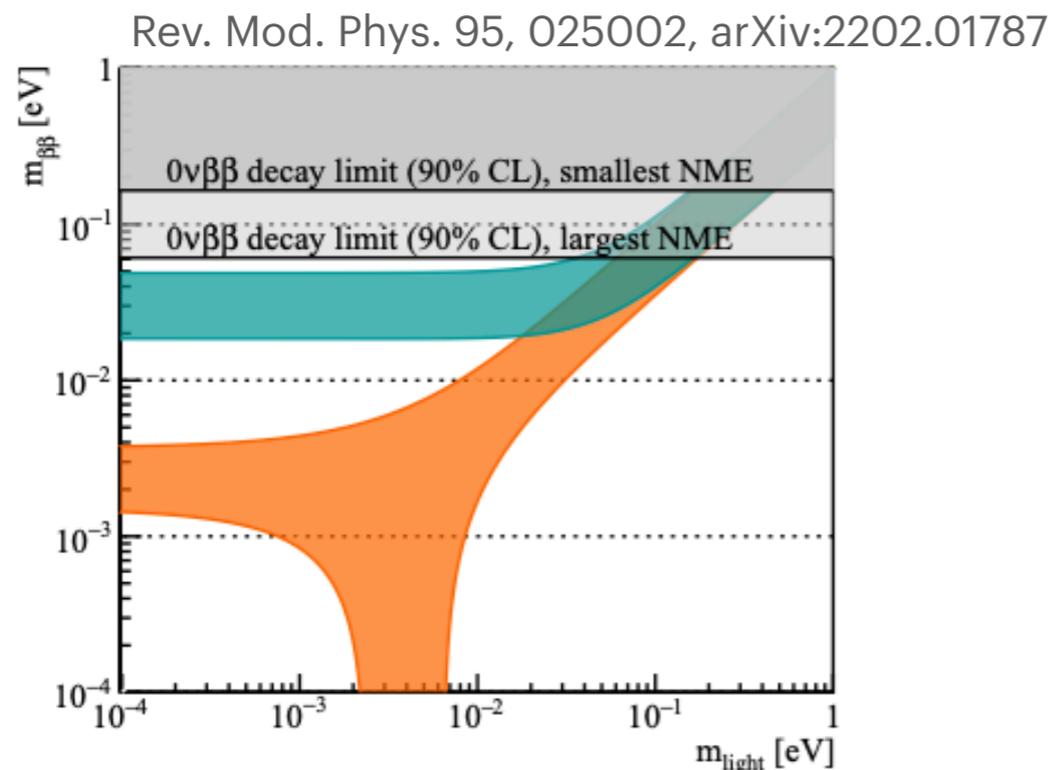
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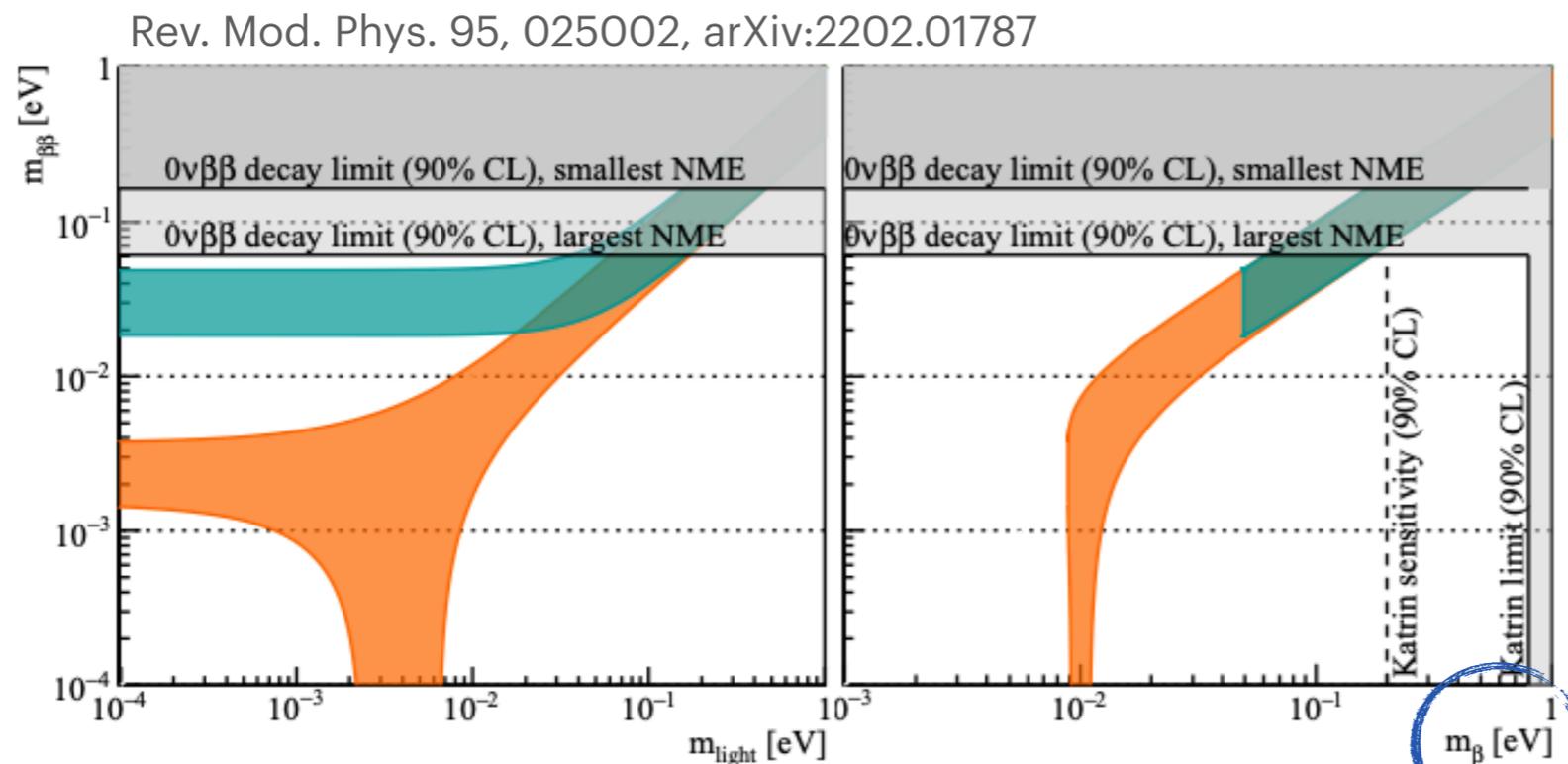


Unknown parameters: absolute mass scale ( $m_{\text{light}}$ ), mass hierarchy (**NO** vs **IO**), Majorana phases

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Tritium beta decay

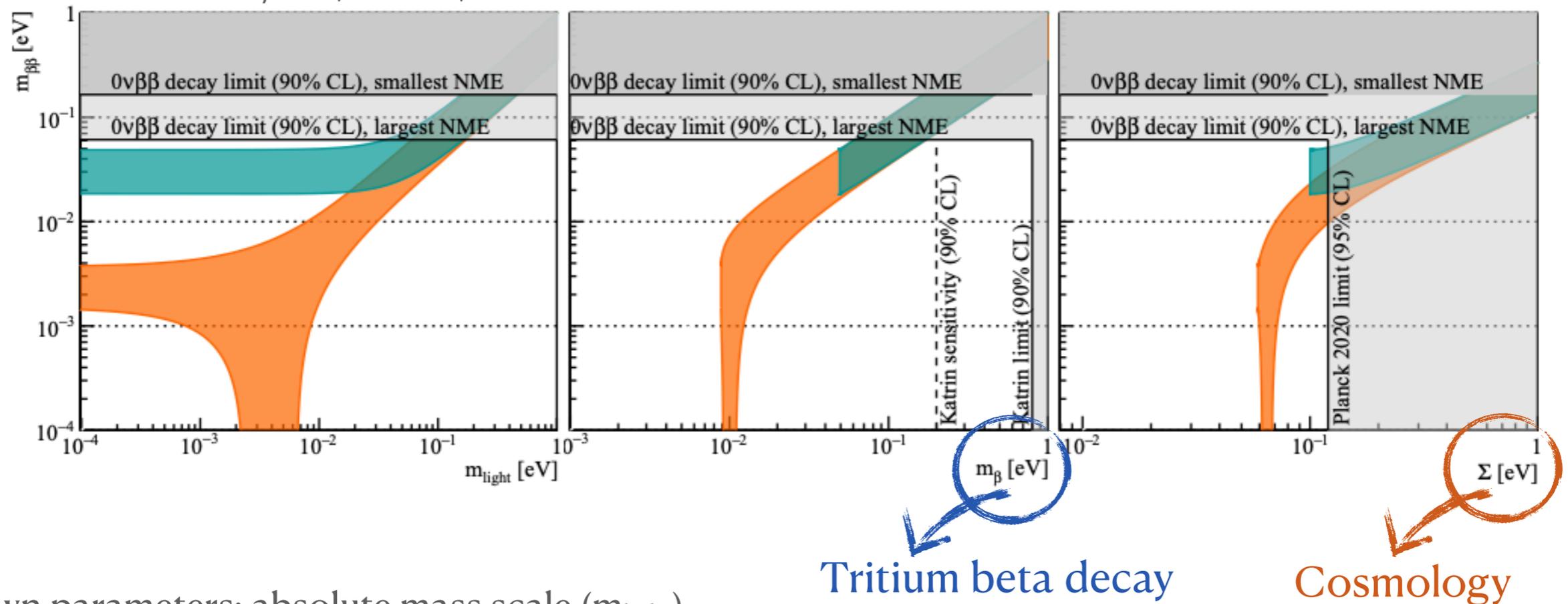
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Rev. Mod. Phys. 95, 025002, arXiv:2202.01787



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- ▶ *New physics in double-beta decay?* E.g. New particles, RH currents, Neutrino self-interaction, Lorentz violation...

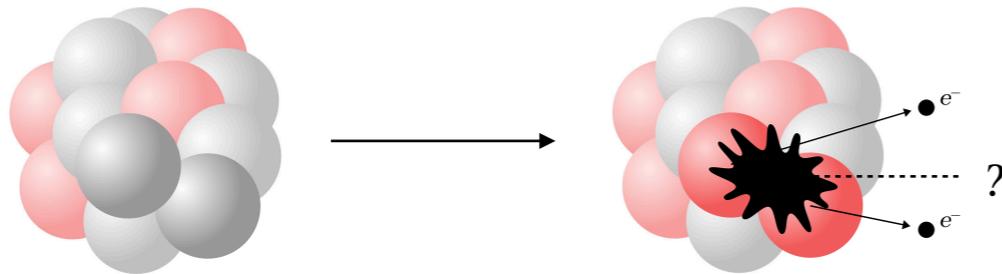
Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 171801, [arXiv:2003.11836](#)  
Phys. Rev. D 103, 055019 (2021), [arXiv:2011.13387](#)  
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M.Agostini, EB, A. Ibarra, X. Marciano, Phys. Lett. B 815 (2021) 136127  
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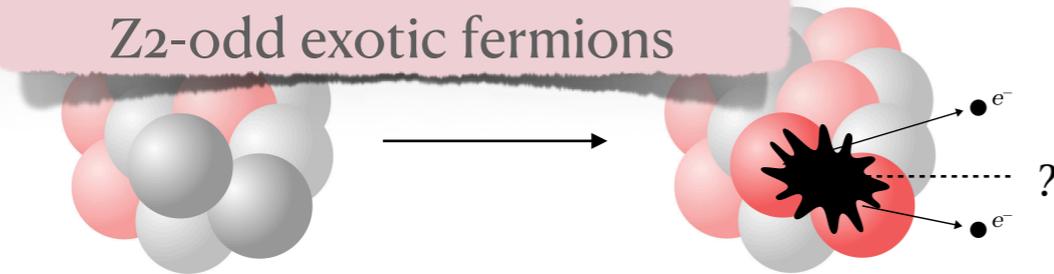
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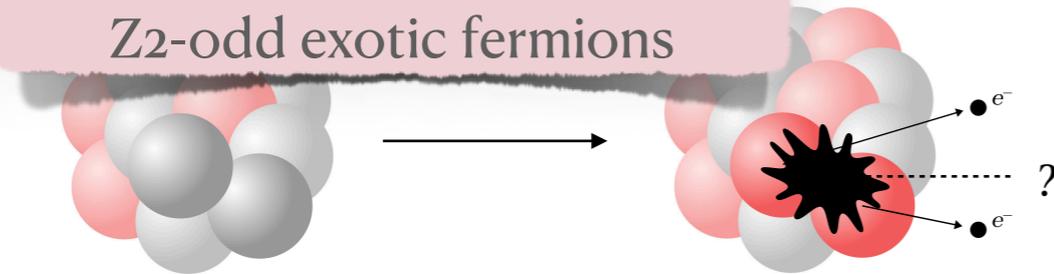
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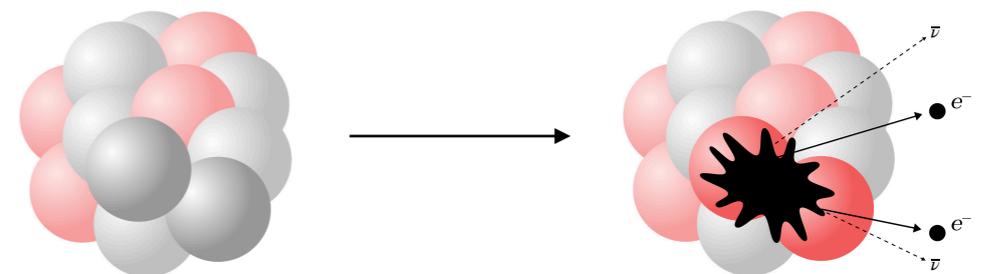
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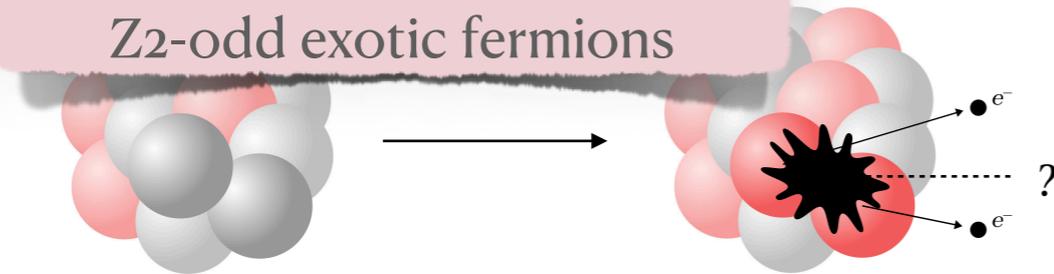
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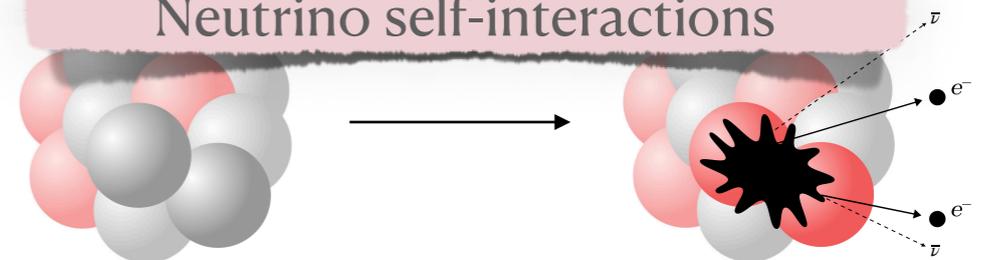
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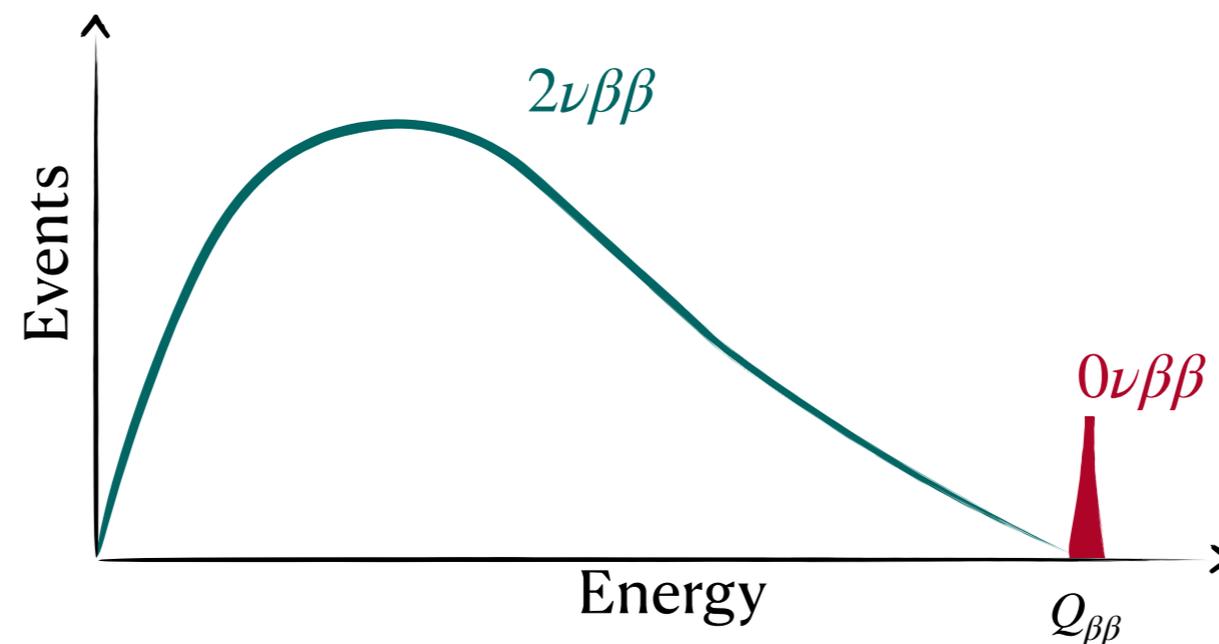
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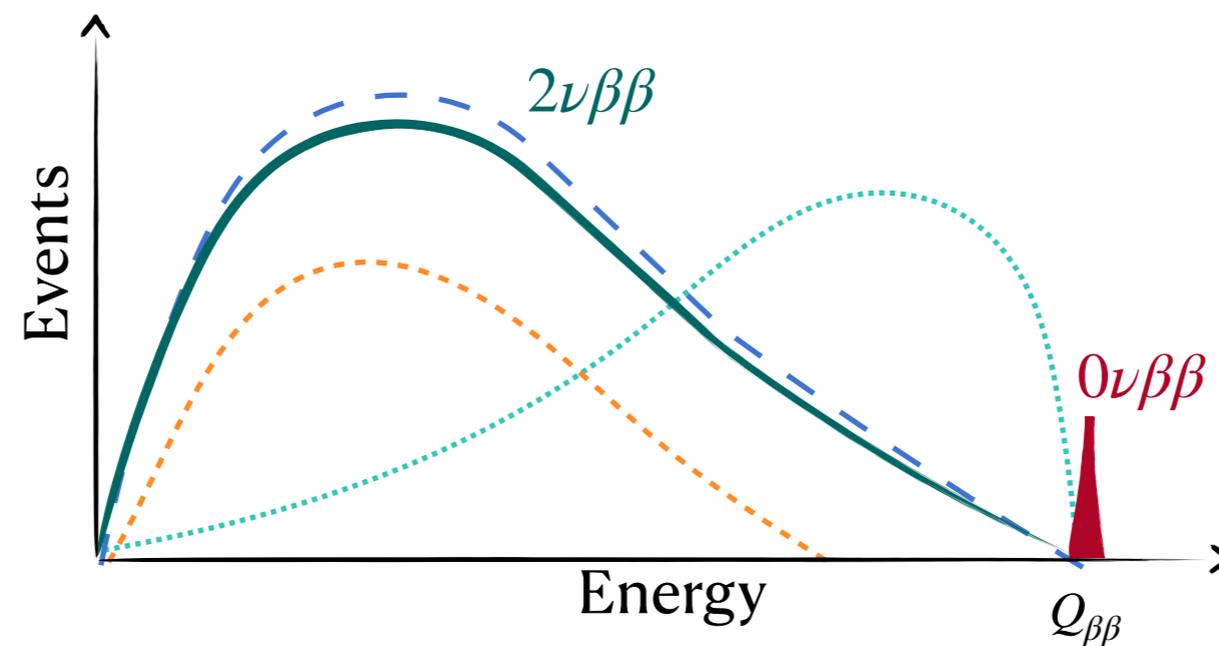
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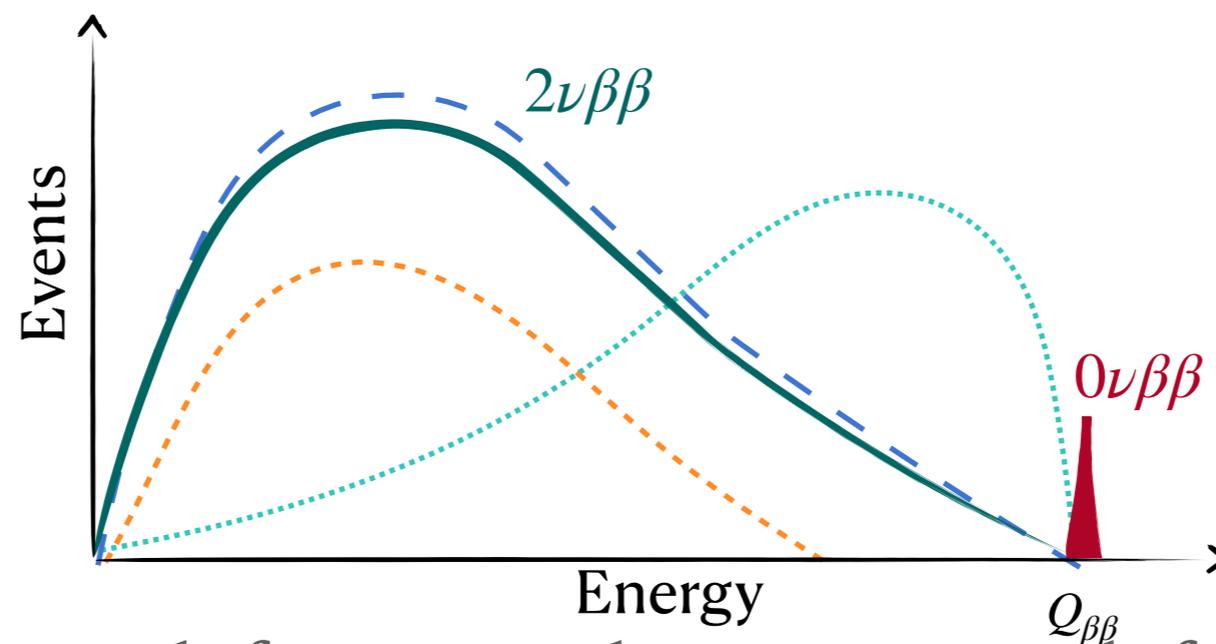
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► Search for BSM physics = search for distortion of the continuous electron energy spectrum

# Light exotic fermions in double-beta decay

M. Agostini, EB, A. Ibarra, X. Marciano, Phys. Lett. B 815 (2021)

See also Phys. Rev. D 103, 055019 (2021)

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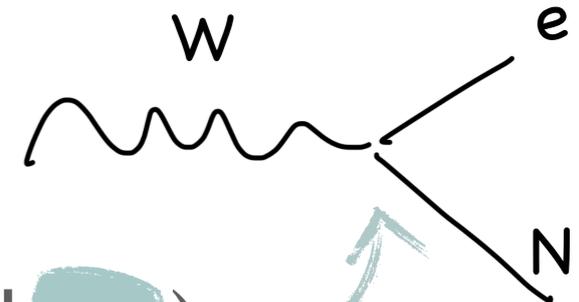
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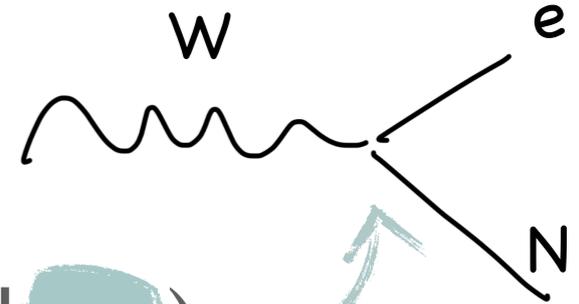
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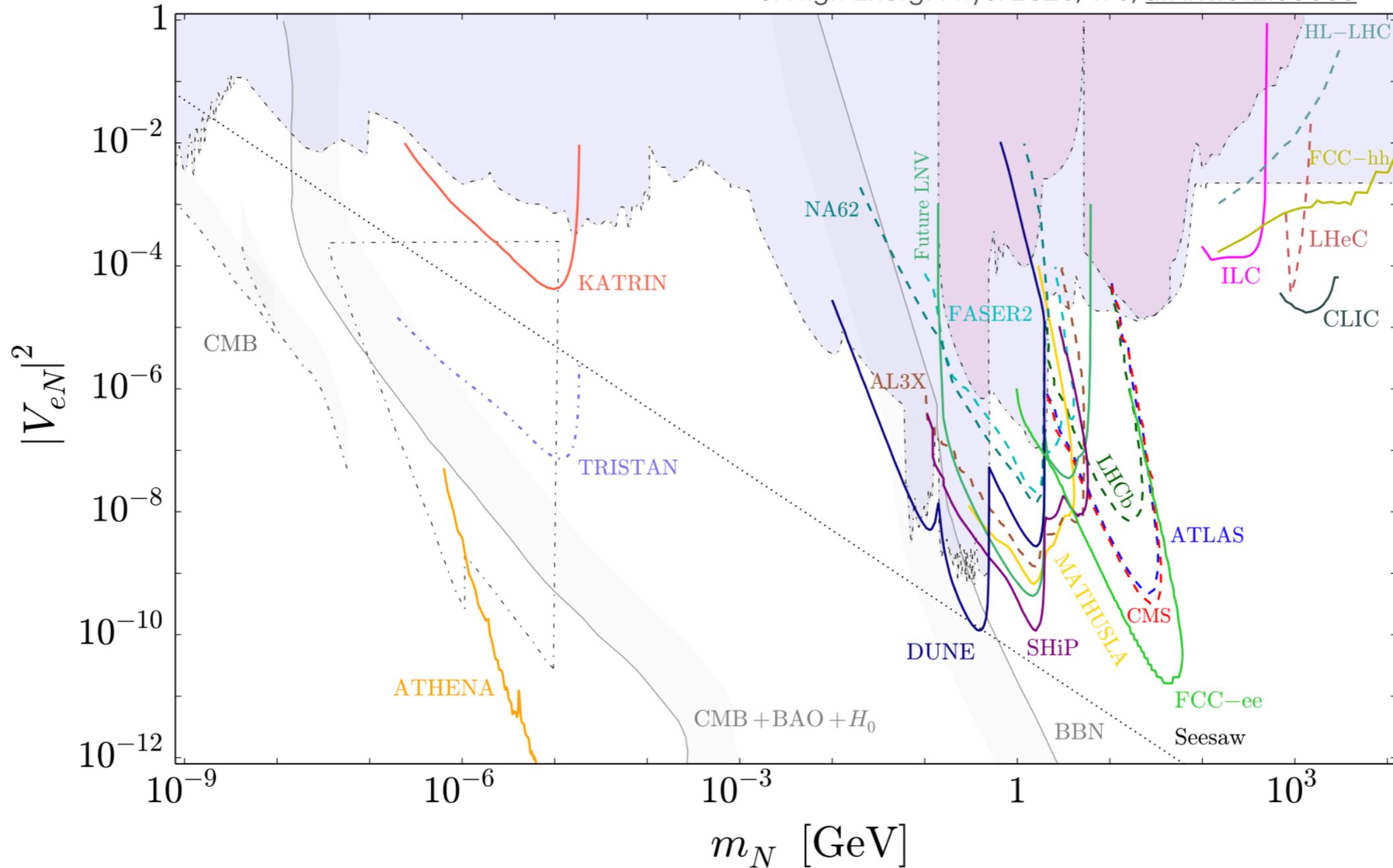
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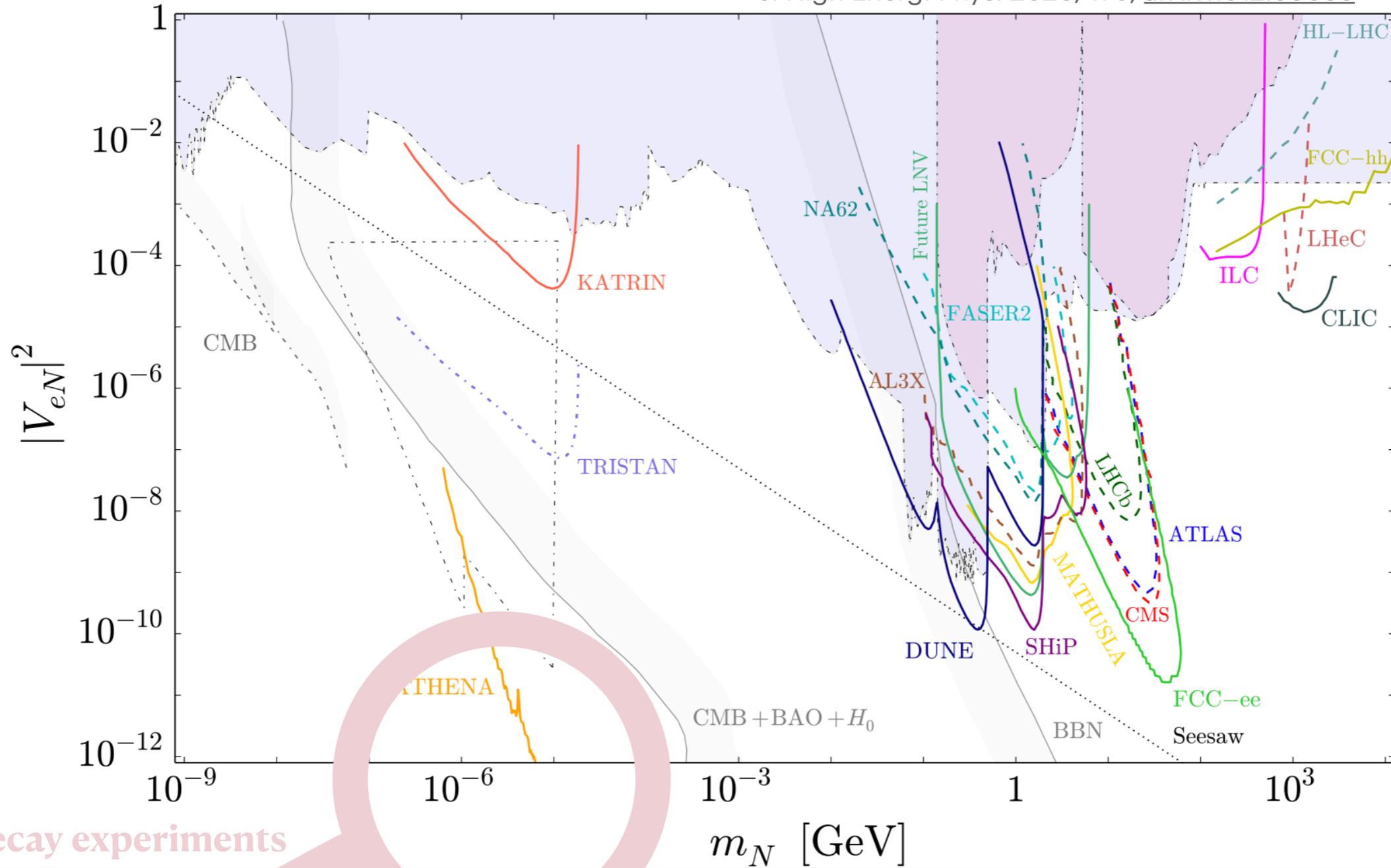
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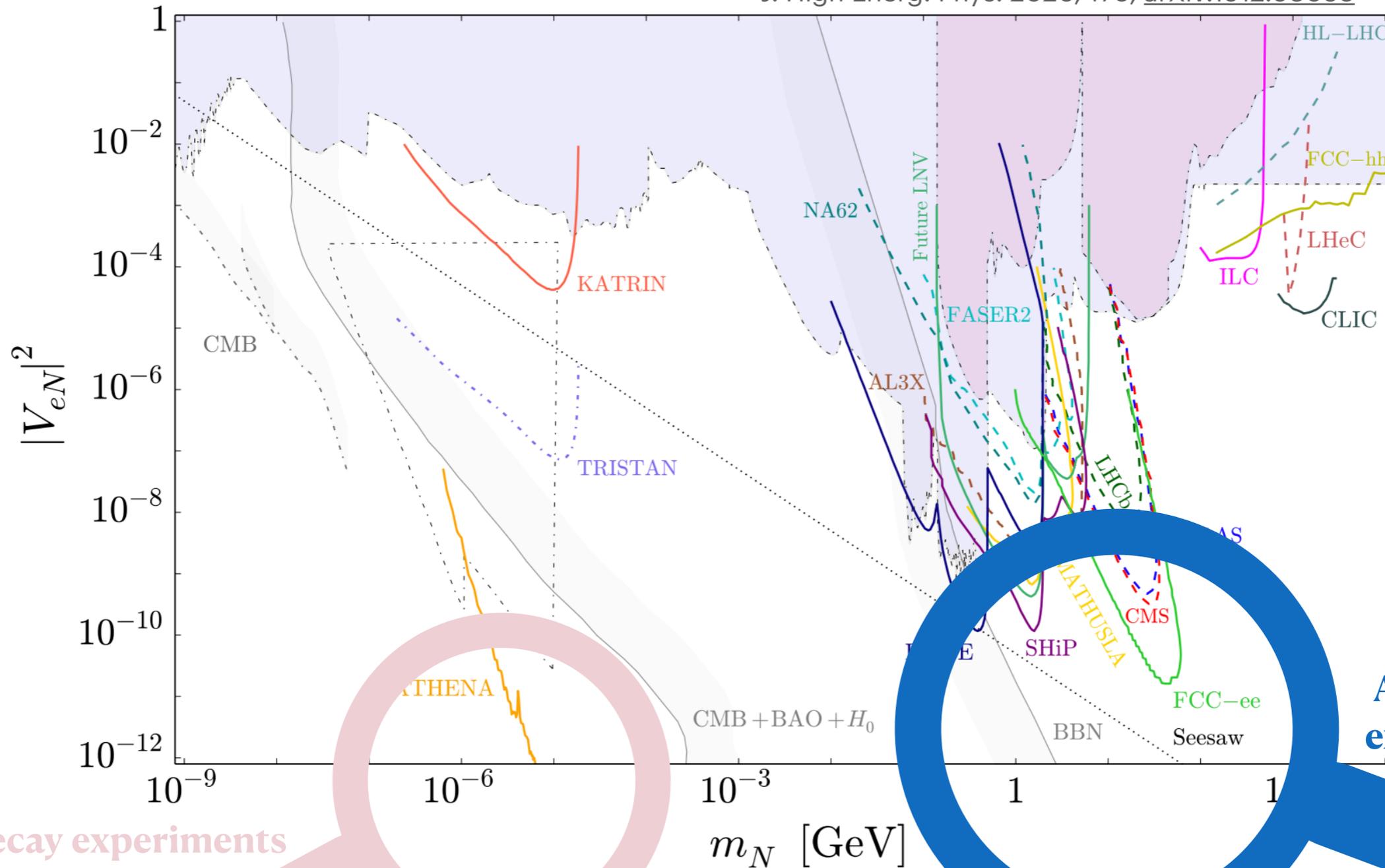
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Beta decay experiments

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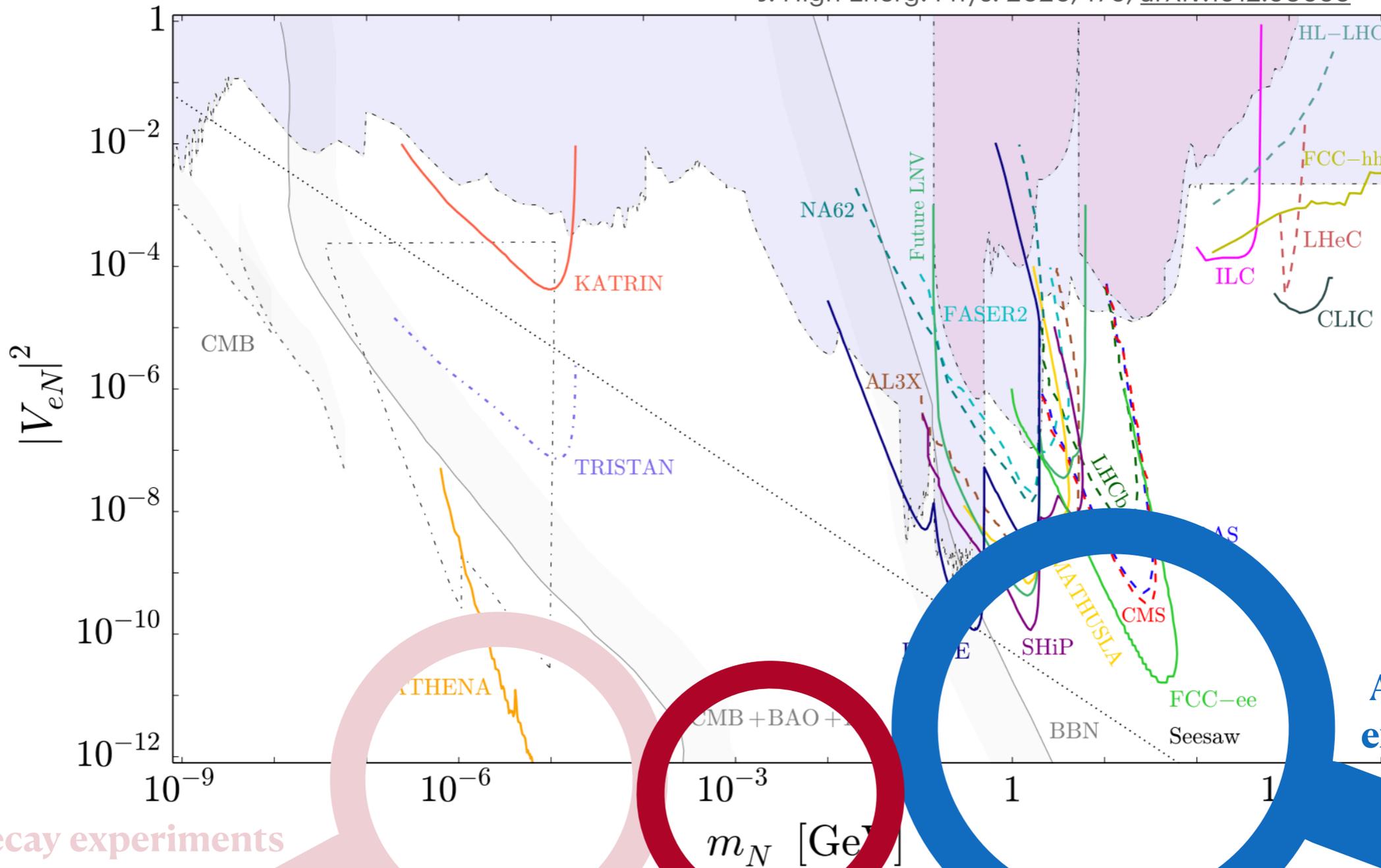


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Beta decay experiments

11 Double-beta decay experiments

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# Double-beta decay rate

$$\sin \theta \sim U_{e4}$$

► Incoherent superposition of three terms

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dT} = \cos^4 \theta \frac{d\Gamma_{\nu\nu}}{dT} \theta(T_0 - T) + 2 \cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \theta \frac{d\Gamma_{\nu N}}{dT} \theta(T_0 - T - x_N) + \sin^4 \theta \frac{d\Gamma_{NN}}{dT} \theta(T_0 - T - 2x_N)$$

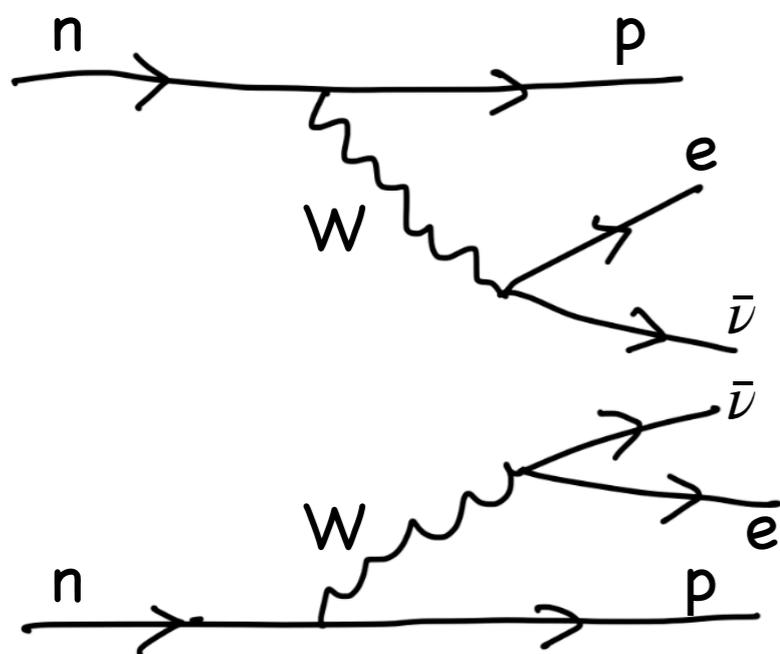
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SM  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay



► Reduced by a factor  $\cos^4 \theta$

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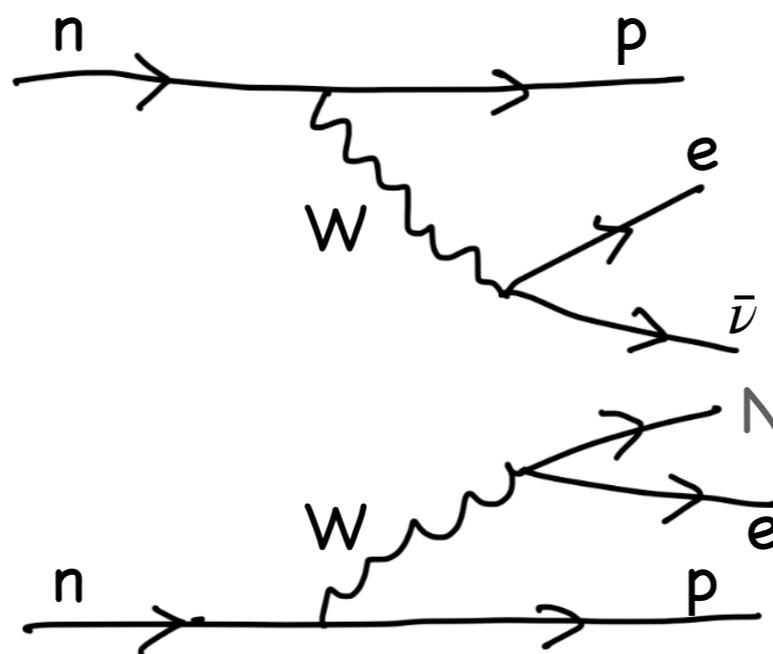
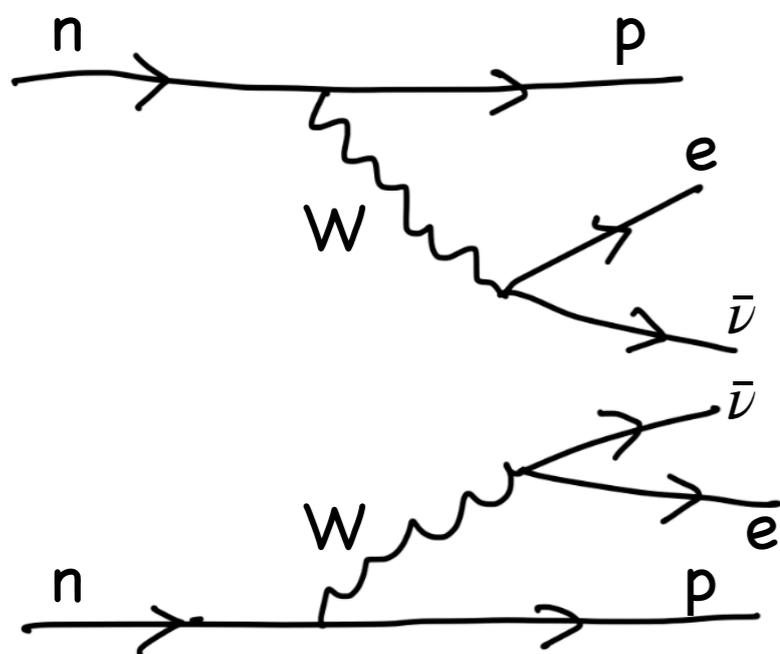
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One sterile neutrino:  
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► Reduced by a factor  $\cos^4 \theta$

# Double-beta decay rate

$$\sin \theta \sim U_{e4}$$

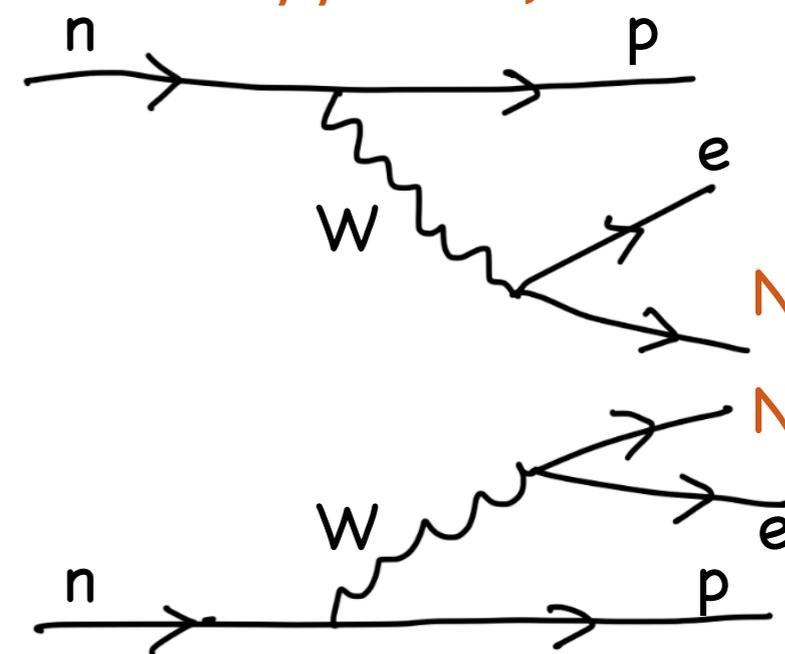
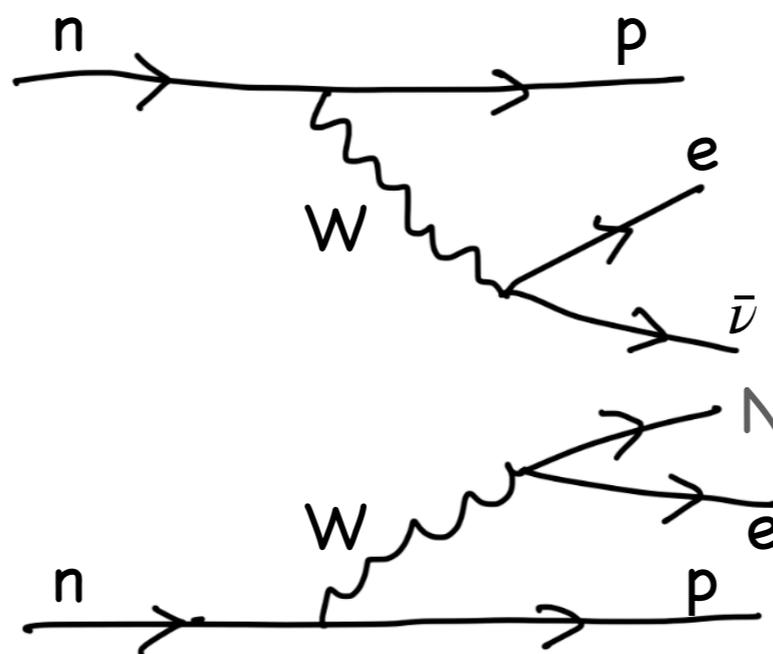
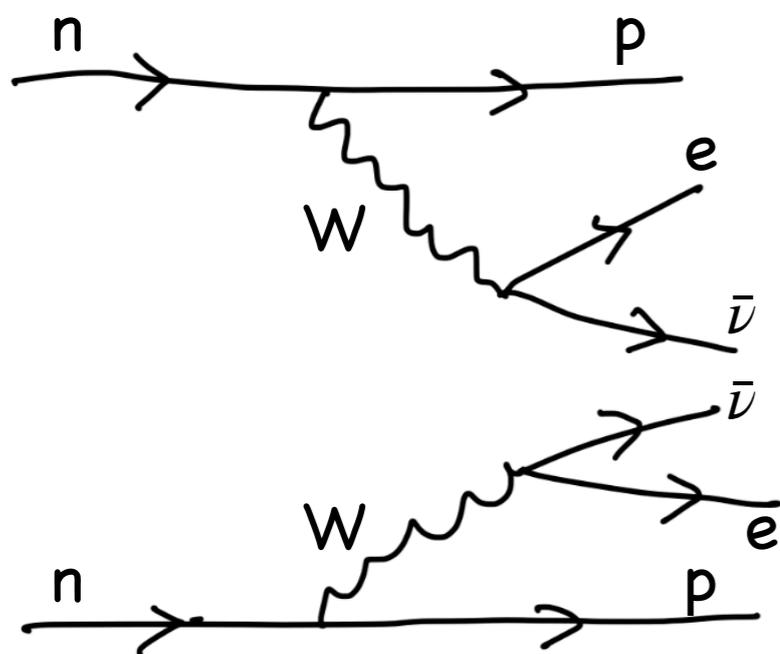
► Incoherent superposition of three terms

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dT} = \cos^4 \theta \frac{d\Gamma_{\nu\nu}}{dT} \theta(T_0 - T) + 2 \cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \theta \frac{d\Gamma_{\nu N}}{dT} \theta(T_0 - T - x_N) + \sin^4 \theta \frac{d\Gamma_{NN}}{dT} \theta(T_0 - T - 2x_N)$$

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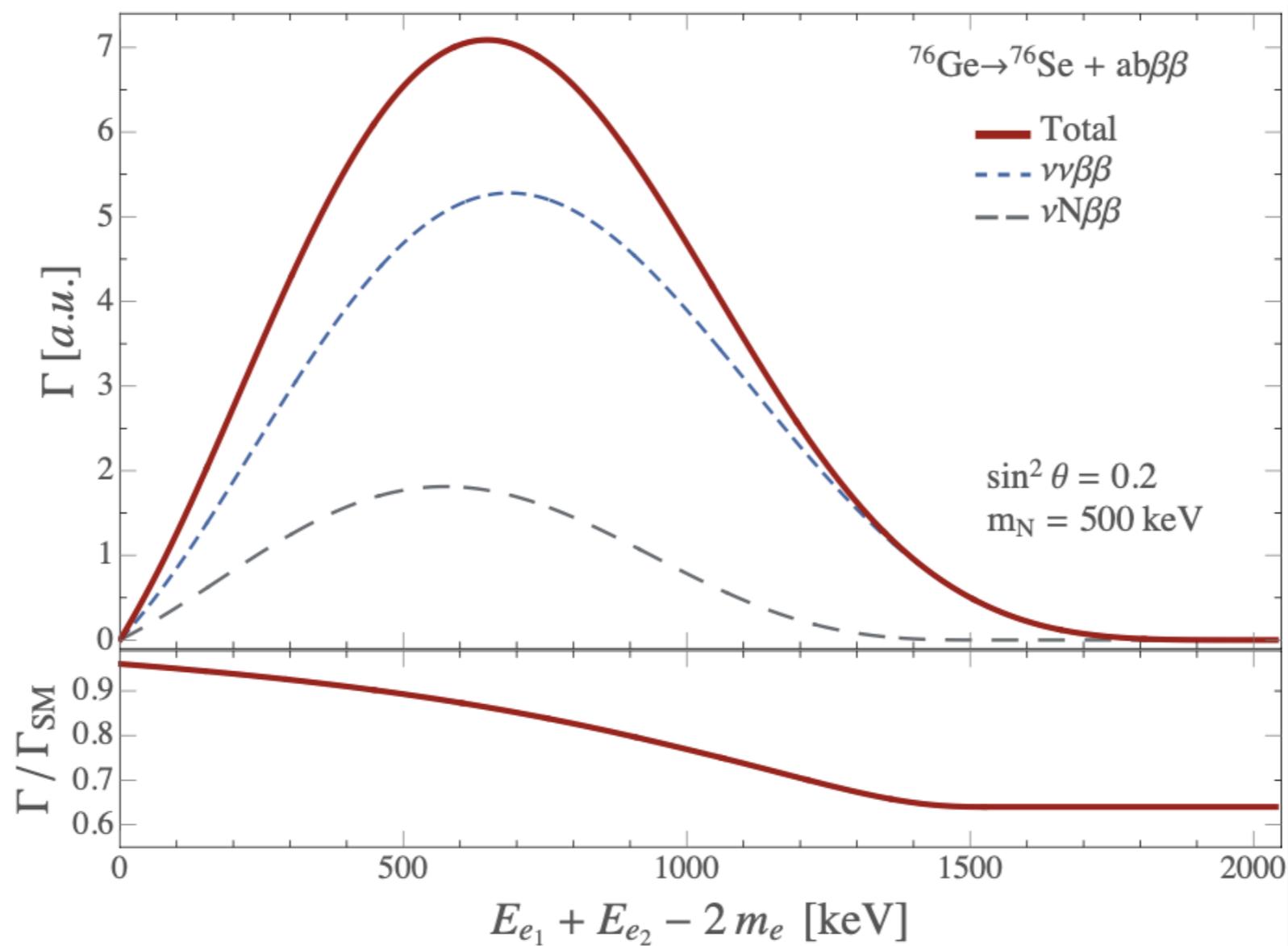
► Negligible experimentally  
 $\propto \sin^4 \theta$

# Shape distortion of the energy spectrum

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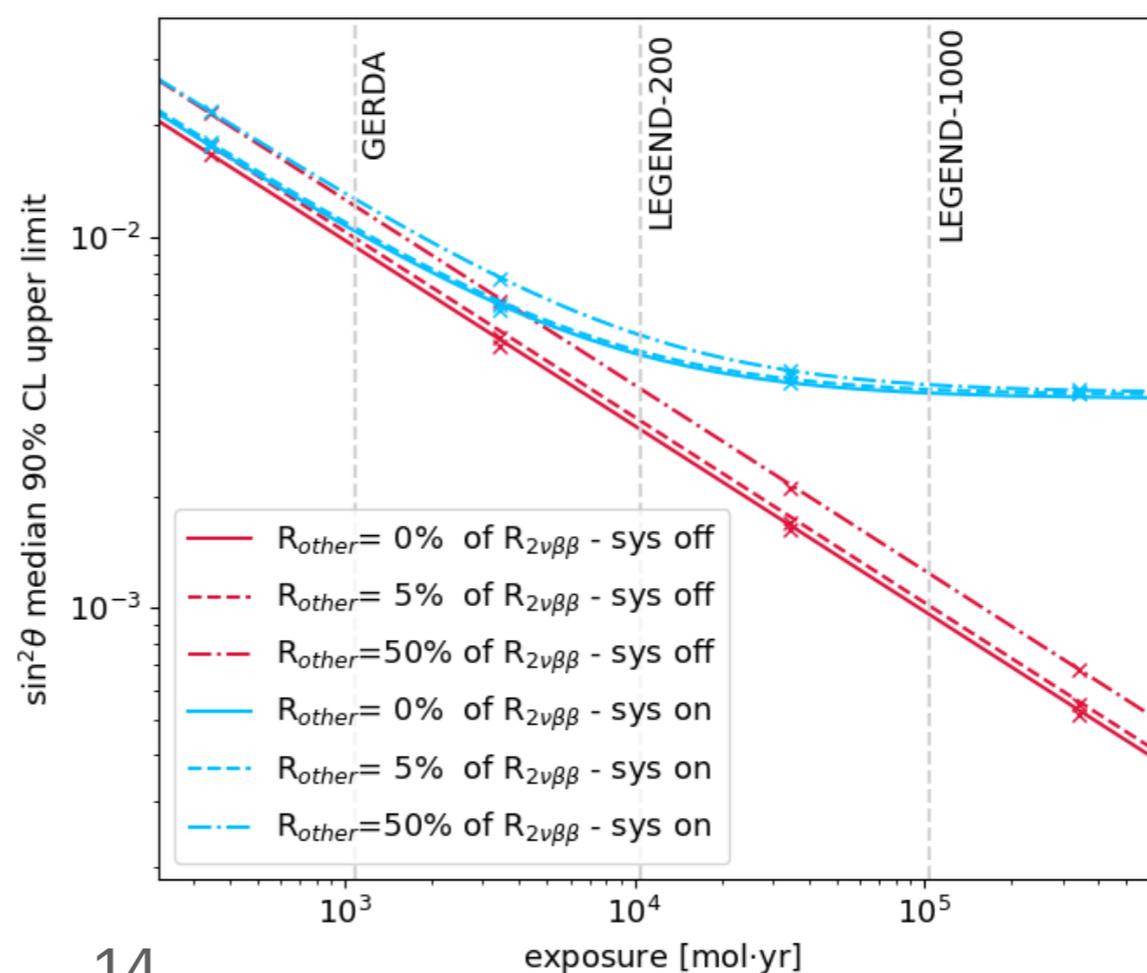
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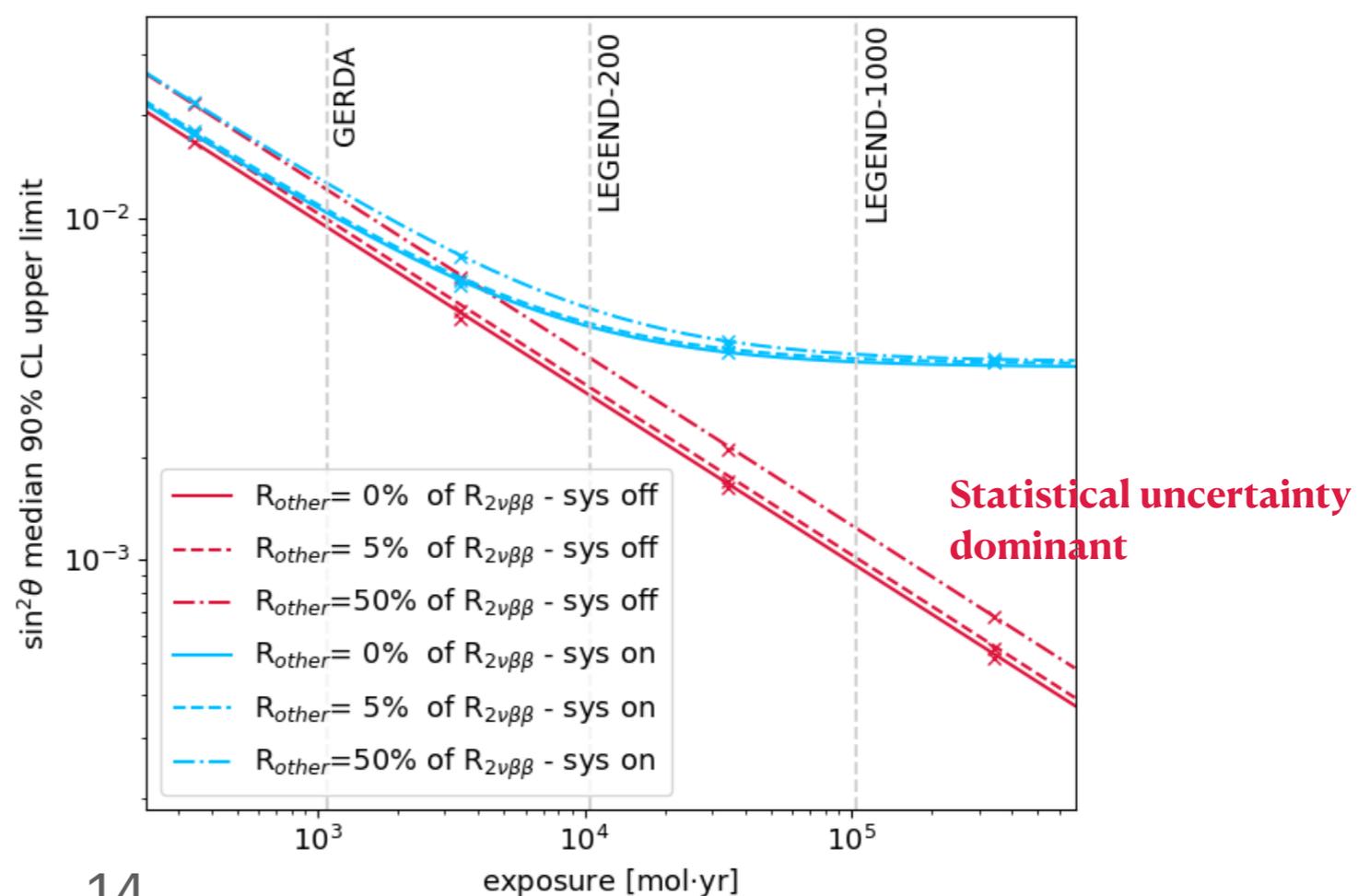
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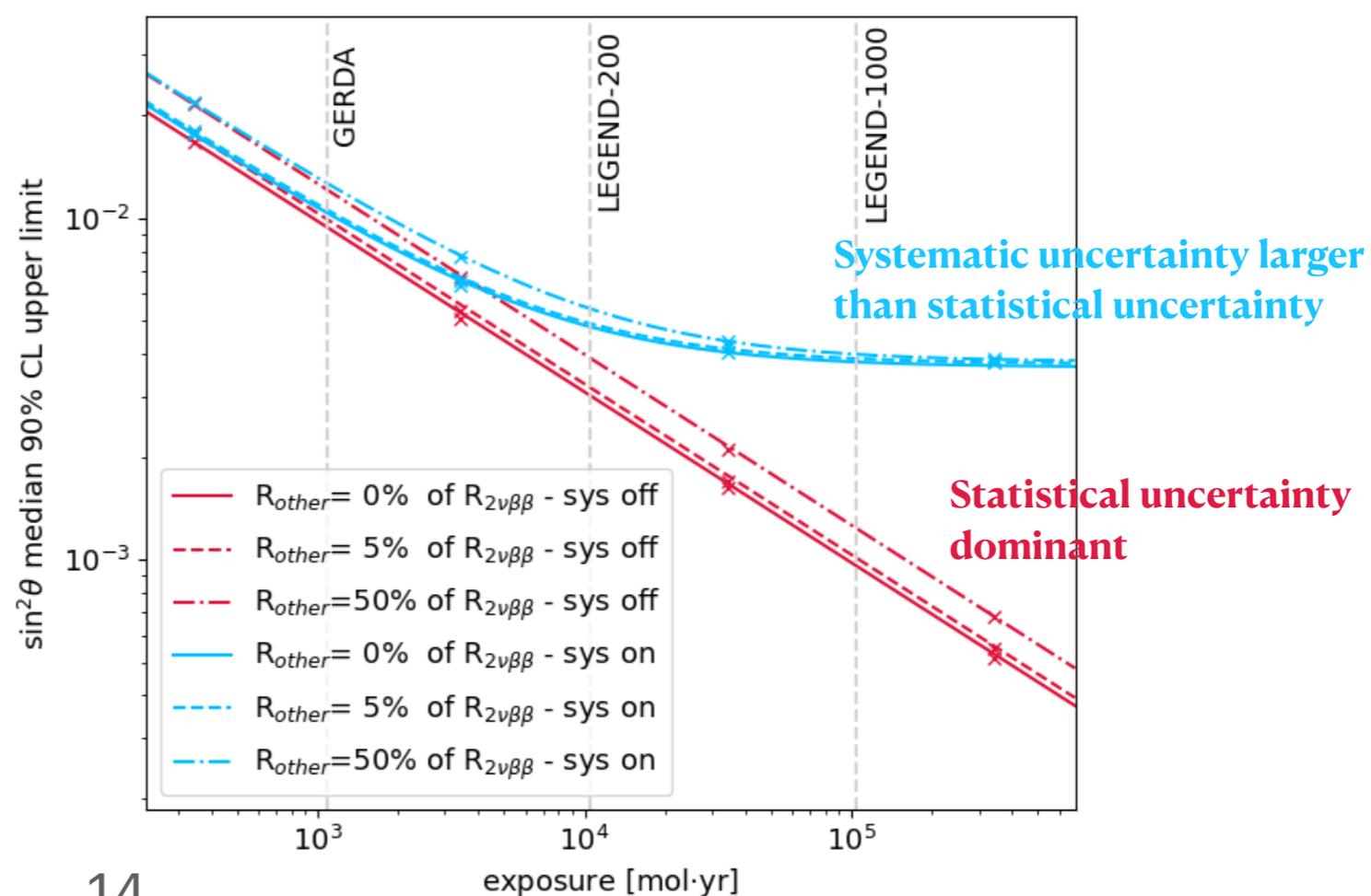
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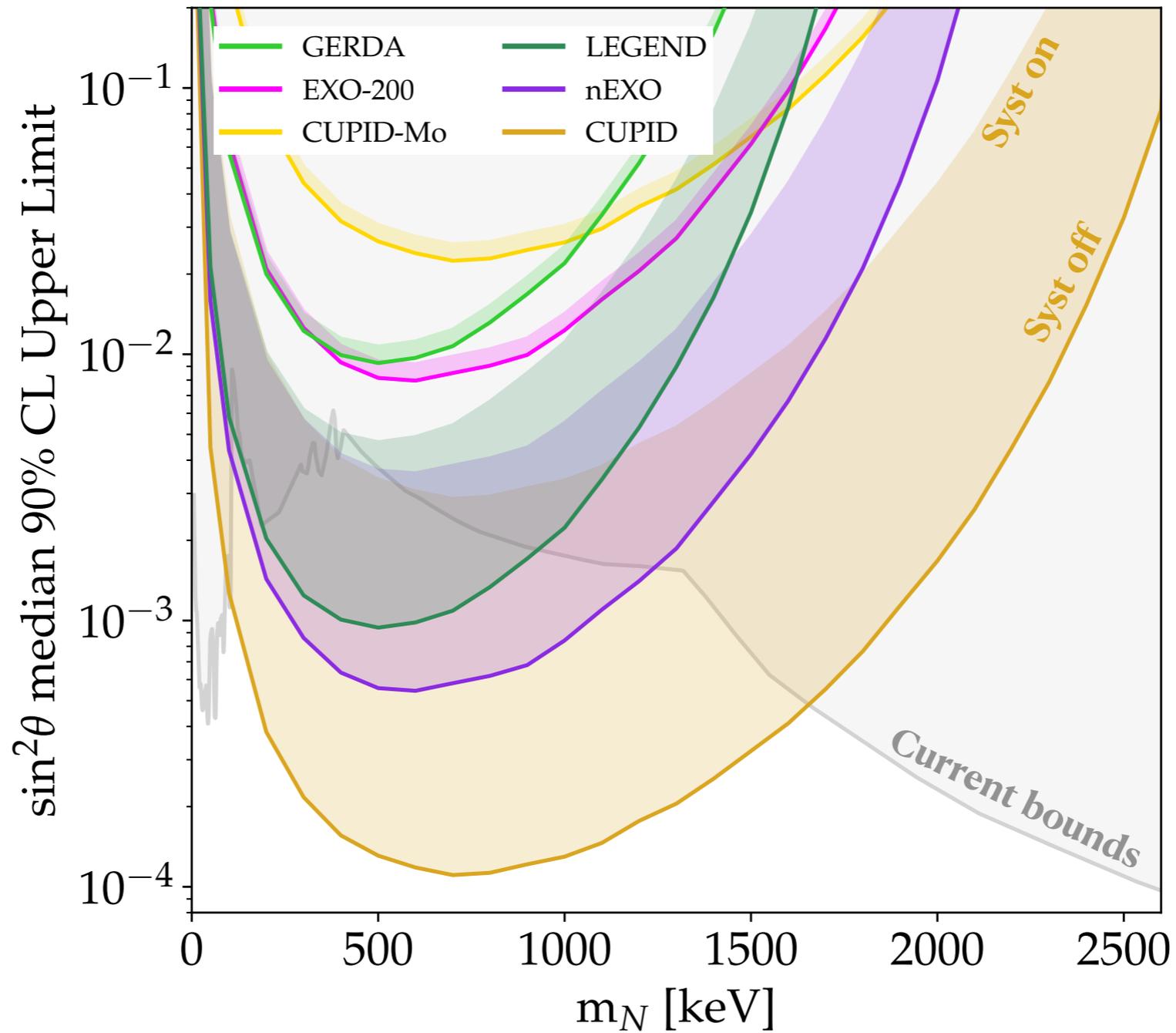
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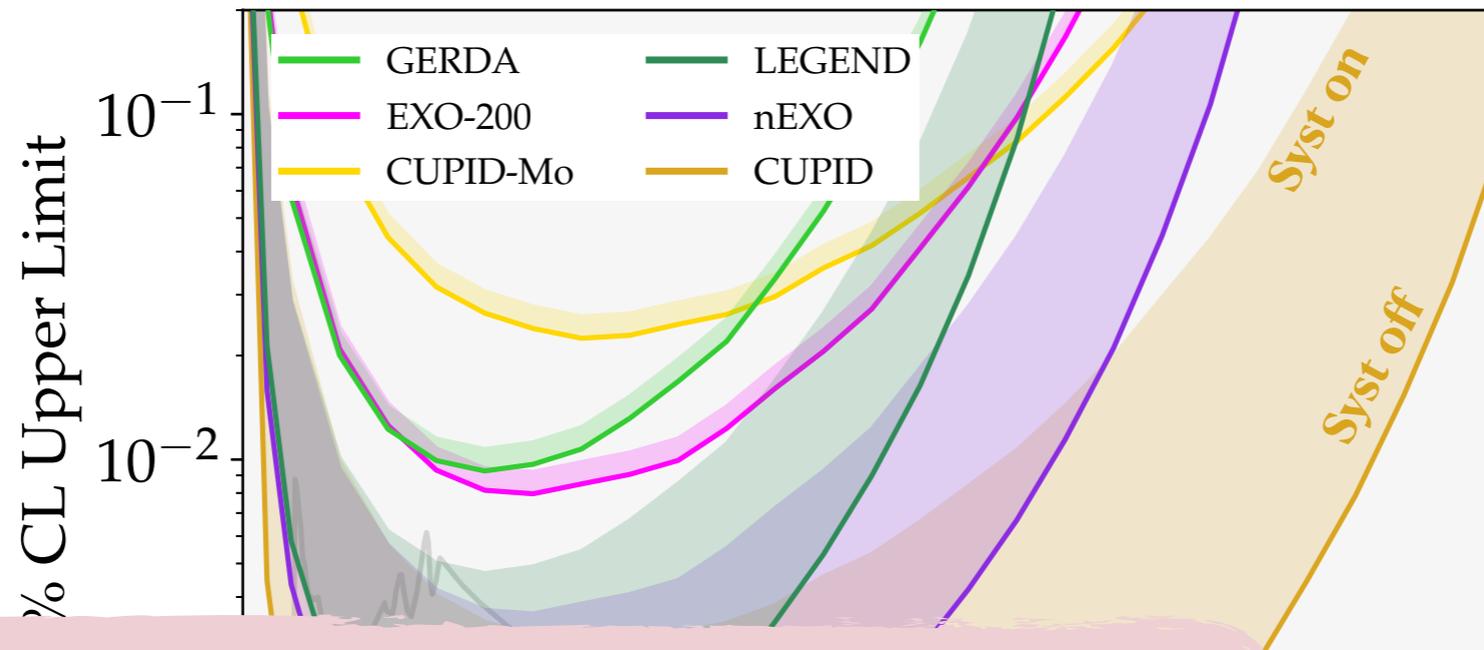
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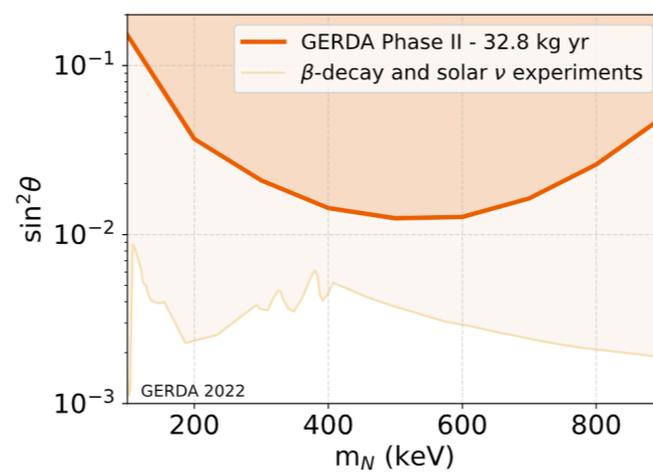
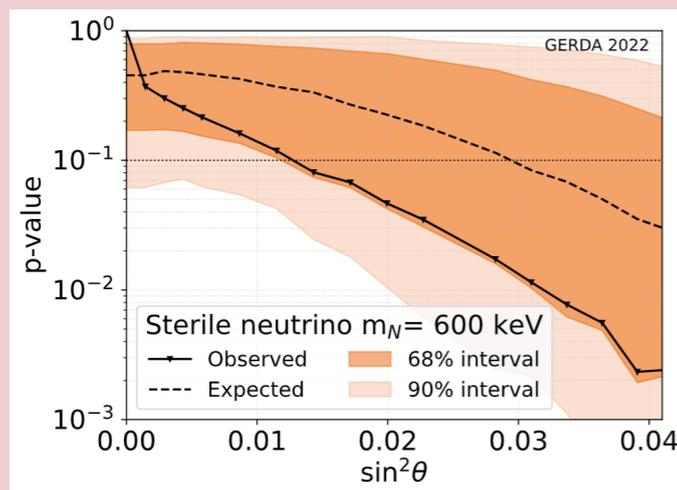
# Sensitivity projections



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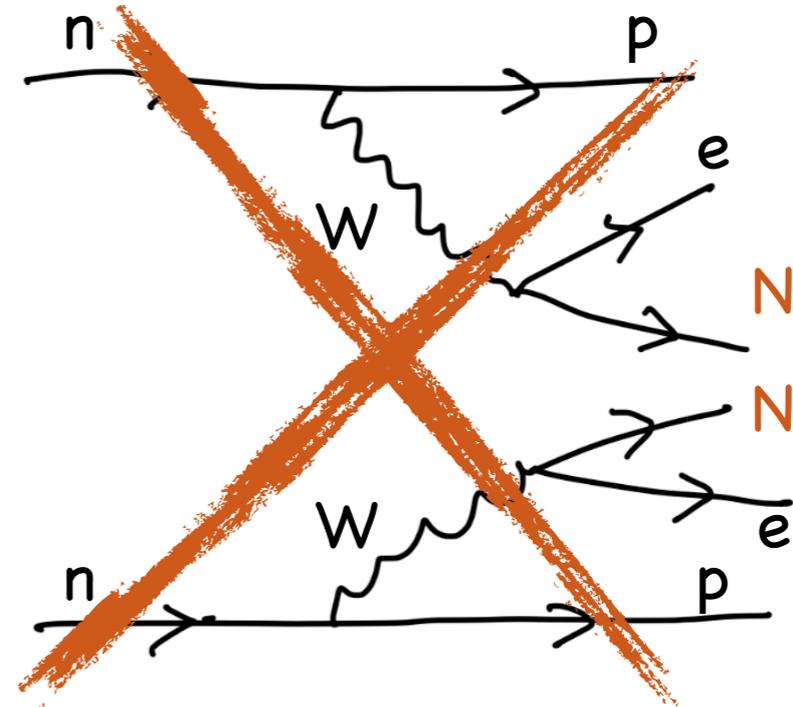
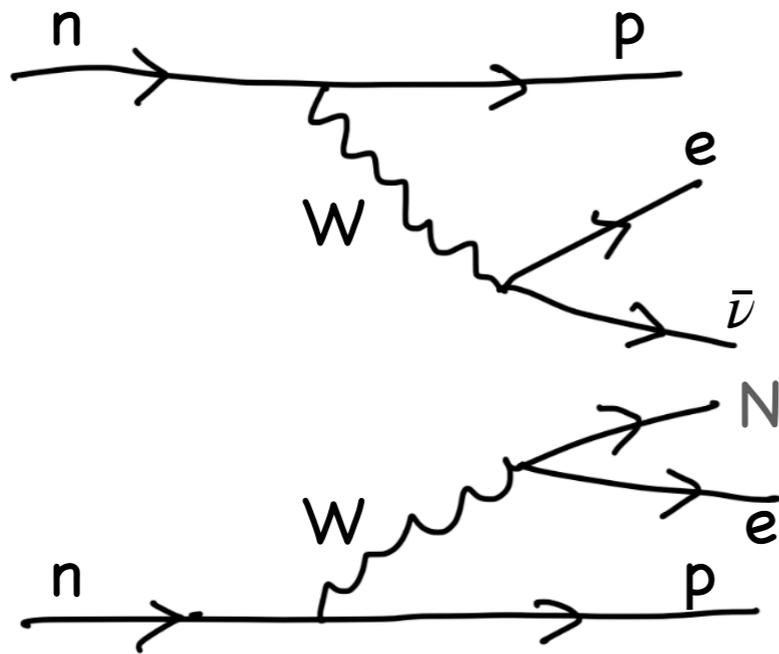
First experimental constraints with double-beta decay:  
 GERDA Collaboration, JCAP12(2022)012, arXiv:2209.01671



t bounds  
 2500

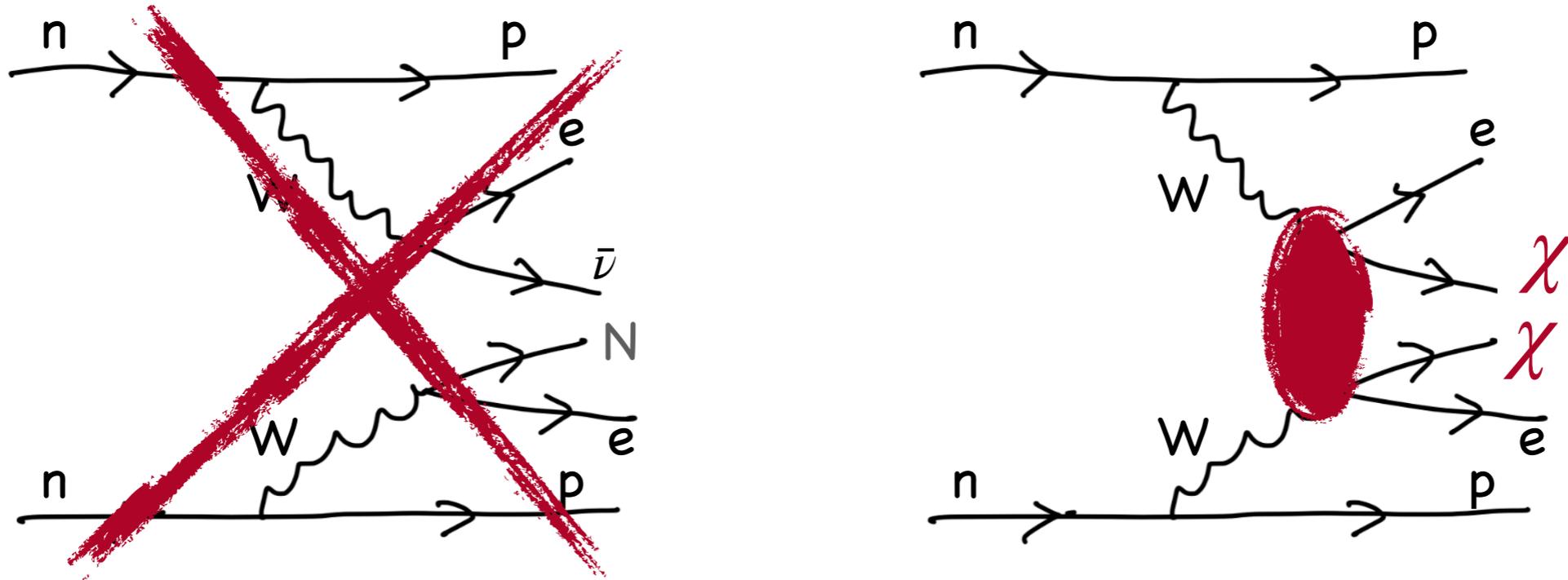
# Exotic pair production

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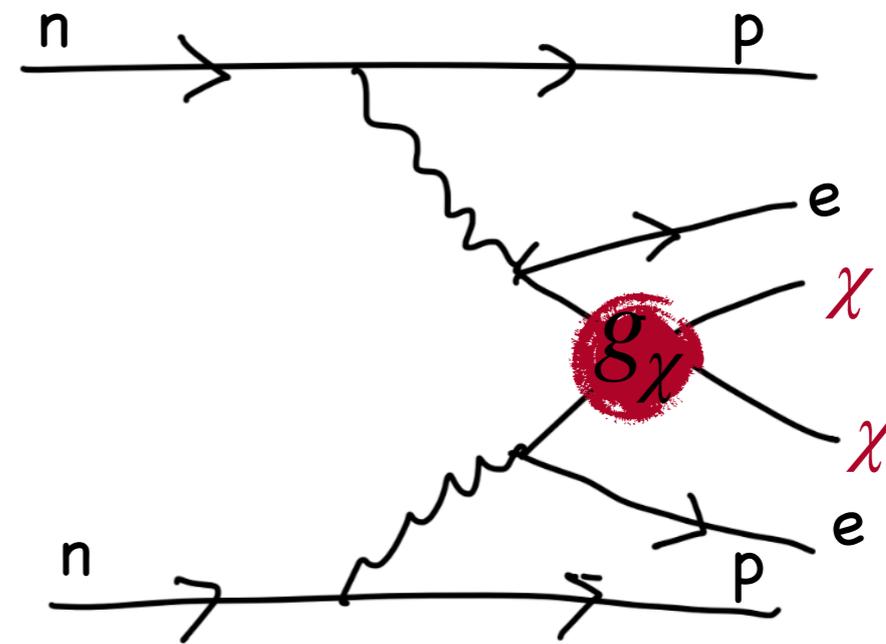
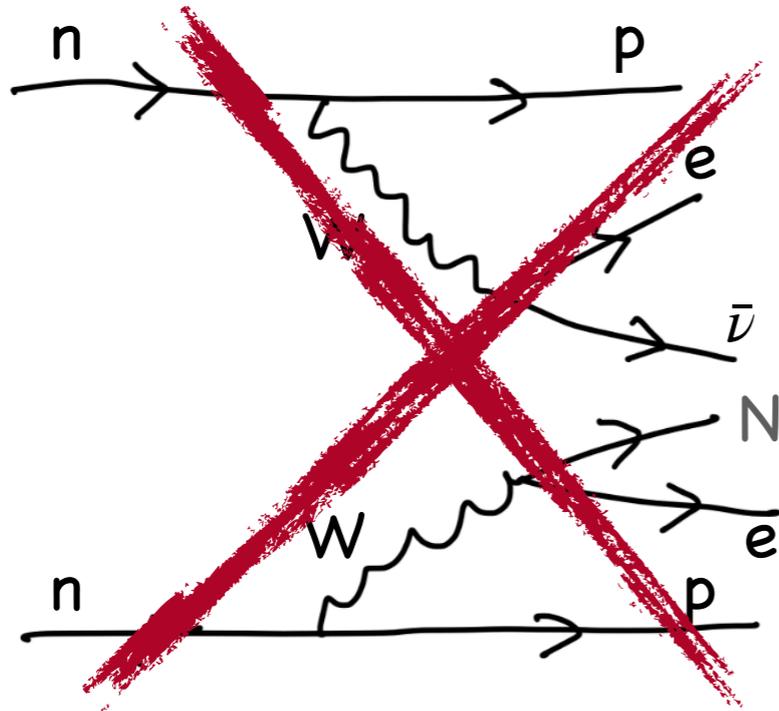
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► Effective interaction:

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# Double-beta decay rate

► Sum of two terms:

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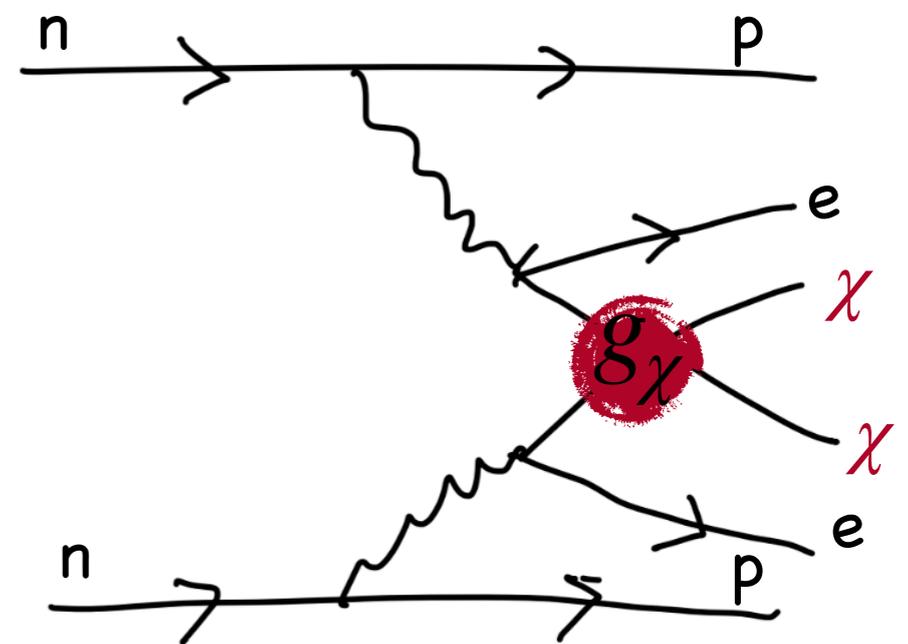
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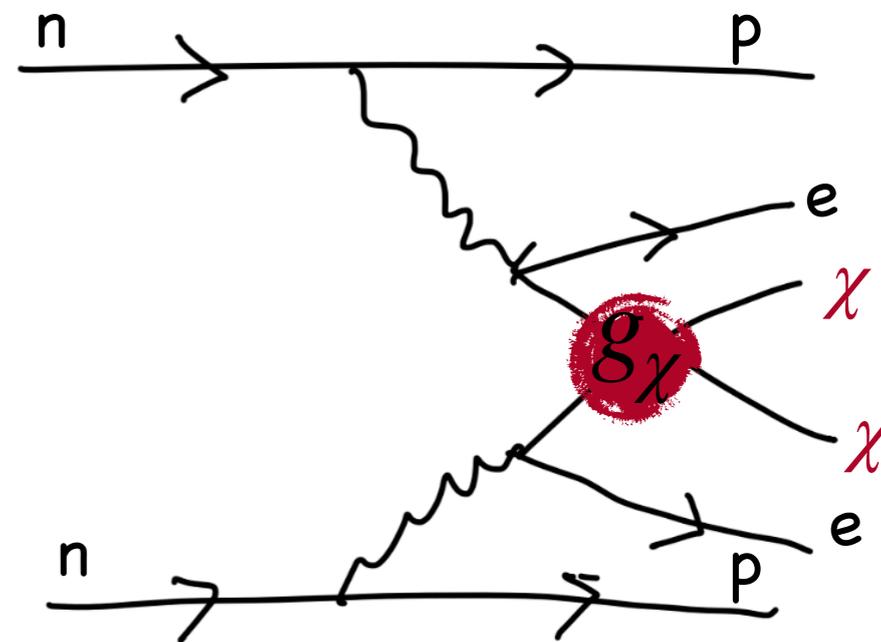
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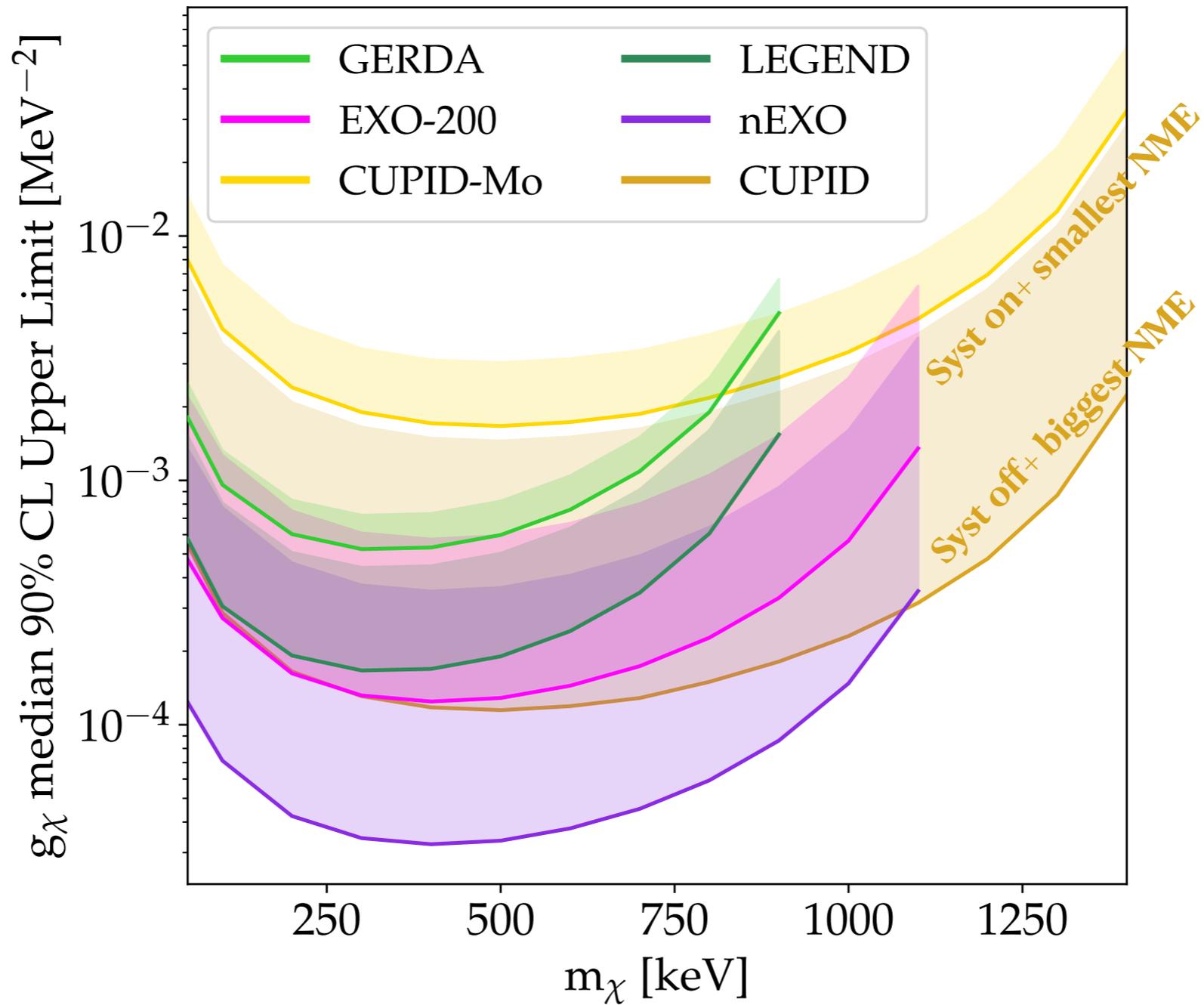
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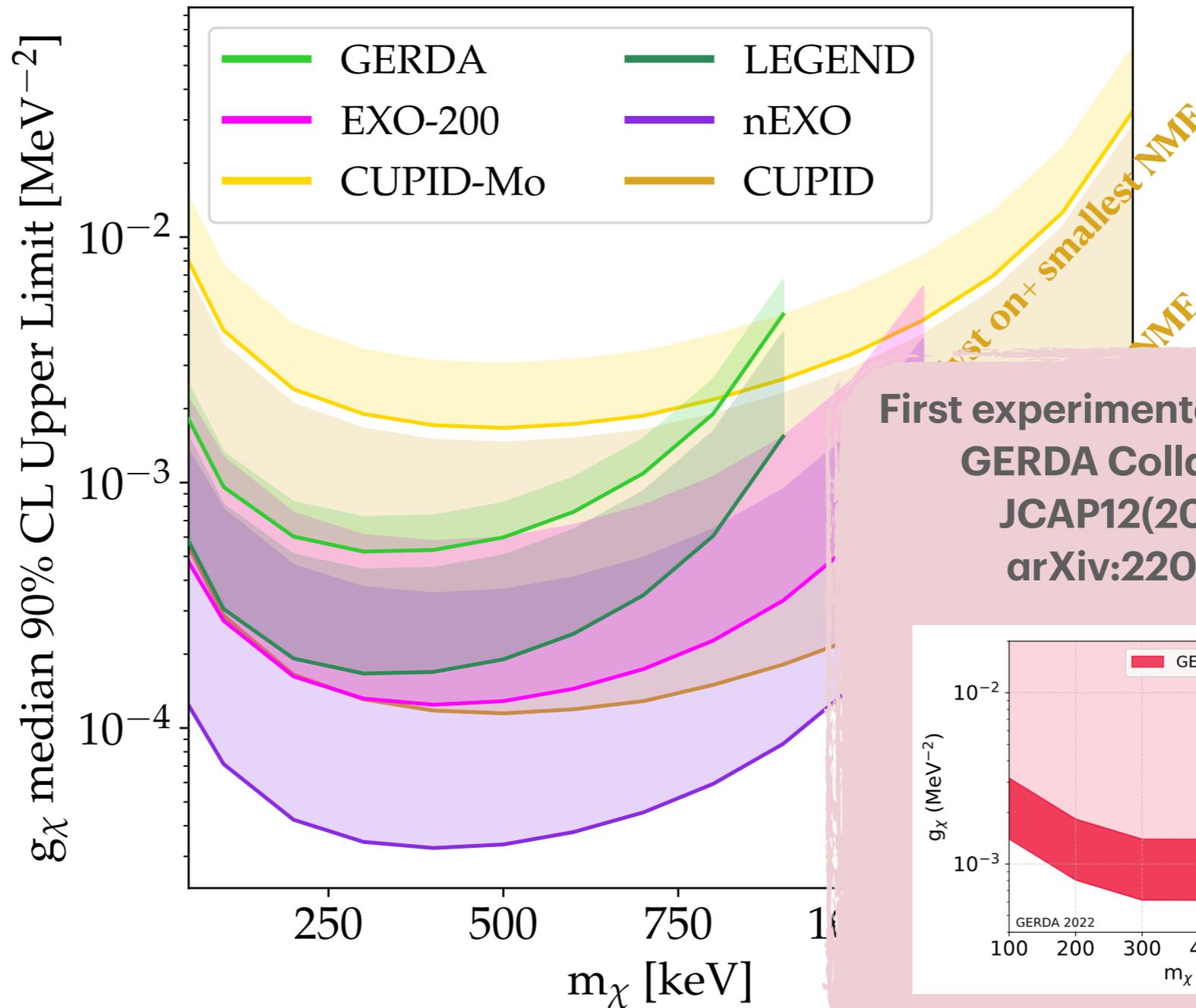
Additional uncertainty



# Sensitivity projections



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# Conclusions

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*Thank you for your attention!*