

# Why (light) new $\nu$ s?

New- $\nu$  Physics: From Colliders to Cosmology, Durham, UK, 9-11 April 202514 Feb. 2025

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# Outline

- Introduction why new  $\nu$ s?
- Phenomenological motivations for new  $\nu$ s:
  - new  $\nu$ s dark matter?
  - new  $\nu$ s for short-baseline anomalies?
  - new  $\nu$ s and missing neutrino mass in cosmology?



# The neutrino challenge

- neutrino masses are tiny
- mixing of leptons is very different than for quarks











# In the Standard model neutrinos are massless

- absence of right-handed neutrinos no Dirac mass for neutrinos
- Iepton-number is an accidental symmetry at the renormalizable level no Majorana mass can be generated

# $\rightarrow$ neutrino mass requires physics beyond the SM

# given SM fields and gauge symmetry, lepton number cannot be violated at dim. 4 $\rightarrow$



# **Standard Model EFT**

• Weinberg 1979: unique dim-5 operator consistent with gauge-symmetry of SM

 $\frac{Y_{ab}^2}{\Lambda} \overline{L_a^c} \tilde{\phi}^* \phi^{\dagger} L_b \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \overline{\nu_{aL}^c} m_{ab} \nu_{bL}$ `scale of new physics`



 $m_{ab} \sim Y_{ab}^2 \frac{\langle \phi \rangle^2}{\Lambda}$ 

EWSB: Majorana neutrino mass



### **Standard Model EFT**

$$\frac{Y_{ab}^2}{\Lambda} \overline{L_a^c} \tilde{\phi}^* \phi^{\dagger} L_b \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \overline{\nu_{aL}^c} m_{ab} \nu_{bL}$$
scale of new physics

No indication of scale of new physics!

$$m_{\nu} \approx 0.06 \,\mathrm{eV} \,\left(\frac{Y}{1}\right)^2 \left(\frac{10^{15} \,\mathrm{C}}{\Lambda}\right)^2$$



### • Weinberg 1979: unique dim-5 operator consistent with gauge-symmetry of SM

$$m_{ab} \sim Y_{ab}^2 \frac{\langle \phi \rangle^2}{\Lambda}$$

#### EWSB: Majorana neutrino mass

# $\frac{\text{GeV}}{\Lambda} \right) \approx 0.06 \,\text{eV} \left(\frac{Y}{10^{-6}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1 \,\text{TeV}}{\Lambda}\right)$





## **Beyond the Weinberg operator**

What is the new physics responsible for neutrino mass?

- What is its energy scale?
- UV completion of the Weinberg operator?

  - many realisations at loop level (radiative neutrino mass models)





tree-level: seesaw type I (singlet fermion), II (triplet scalar), III (triplet fermion)







## **Beyond the Weinberg operator**

What is the new physics responsible for neutrino mass?

- What is its energy scale?
- UV completion of the Weinberg operator?
  - tree-level: seesaw type I (singlet fermion), II (triplet scalar), III (triplet fermion) many realisations at loop level (radiative neutrino mass models)
- Most (but not all!) UV completions involve fermionic SM gauge singlets:





sterile neutrinos, right-handed neutrinos, heavy neutral leptons for this talk: **new-\nus** ("nu-nus")





### We have no proof for the existence of new- $\nu$ s

without new fermionic degrees-of-freedom, e.g. Higgs-triplet (type-II seesaw), radiative models (Zee, Zee-Babu)

### ... but for the existence of new- $\nu$ physics!

well-known examples of neutrino mass generation



### Where to look for new- $\nu$ s?





### Where to look for new- $\nu$ s?

### • unfortunately little guidance from theory

### follow "Galileo's principle"?





https://www.azquotes.com/quote/905195



### Heavy new-*v*s: ~10<sup>6</sup>–10<sup>16</sup> GeV

### motivation:

- high-scale seesaw
- high-scale leptogenesis
- GUTs





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### possible signatures:

- proton decay (DUNE, HyperK)
- stochastic gravitational waves from cosmic strings due to breaking of symmetry possibly related to Majorana mass (e.g., B-L, GUT)

Buchmüller, Domcke, Kamada, Schmitz '13; Dror, Hiramatsu, Kohri, Murayama, White '19; King, Pascoli, Turner, Zhou '20;...









### "weak scale" new- $\nu$ s: 0.1 GeV–10 TeV

### motivation:

- Iow-scale seesaw (type-II, inverse seesaw,  $\nu$ MSM, ...)
- TeV-scale left-right symmetric models
- Ioop-induced neutrino masses
- Inks to dark matter candidates
- ARS leptogenesis via HNL oscillations



### rich "particle physics signatures":

- HNLs, W<sub>R</sub>, extended Higgs sector,... (collider, beam-dumps),
- charged lepton-flavour violation









### motivation:

- 2-parameter model for DM:  $\theta_s, m_s$
- very predictive in its minimal version

review: Boyarsky et al., arXiv:1807.07938





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DM production rate:  $\Gamma \sim G_F^2 T^5 \sin^2 2\theta_m$ 

$$\sin^2(2\theta_m) = \frac{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta)}{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta) + [\Delta(p)\cos(2\theta) - V_D - V_T]^2}$$

 $\Delta = \Delta m^2 / (2p_{\nu}), V_T \simeq G_F^2 T^4 p_{\nu}, V_D \simeq G_F T^3 L_{\nu}$ 





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 $\Delta = \Delta m^2 / (2p_\nu), V_T \simeq G_F^2 T^4 p_\nu, V_D \simeq G_F T^3 L_\nu$ 



**loop-induced decay (X-ray signature):**  $\Gamma \sim G_F^2 \theta^2 m_s^5$ 









Th. Schwetz - Why new  $\nu$ s, 9 April 2025

### minimal scenario ruled out





### "oscillation scale": < 10 eV

### motivation:

- phenomenological (effects in oscillations, short-baselines)
- not well motivated from "top-down" perspective
- (very) low-scale seesaw models exist





### **Short-baseline anomalies**

Anomaly	Channel	
Reactor rate and shape	$\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e$	fadi systei
Gallium / BEST	$ u_e  ightarrow  u_e$	very
LSND	$ u_{\mu}  ightarrow  u_{e}$	siq ~2
MiniBooNE	$ u_{\mu}  ightarrow  u_{e}$	very relies on

#### **Status**

#### **Explanation?**

ing away (  $< 2\sigma$ ) matics dominated

significant (~5o)

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significant (4.80) background estimate





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# The gallium anomaly and BEST results

	$\chi^2_{\rm null}/{ m dof}$	<i>p</i> -value
CS1, BEST	32.1/2	$1.1 \times 10^{-7} (5.3\sigma)$
CS1, all	36.3/6	$2.4 \times 10^{-6} (4.7\sigma)$
CS2, BEST	34.7/2	$2.9 \times 10^{-8} (5.5\sigma)$
CS2, all	38.4/6	$9.4 \times 10^{-7} (4.9\sigma)$

Farzan, TS, 2306.09422 cross sections CS1, CS2 from Haxton et al., 2303.13623

 Measurements of gallium solar neutrino experiments GALLEX and SAGE with radioactive <sup>51</sup>Cr or <sup>37</sup>Ar sources lead to rates lower than expected

> BEST coll., Barinov et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 (2022), no. 23 232501; Phys. Rev. C 105 (2022), no. 6 065502









see also Berryman, Coloma, Huber, TS, Zhou, 2111.12530; Goldhagen, Maltoni, Reichard, TS, 2109.14898;

#### severe tension of $4 - 5\sigma$







### **Short-baseline anomalies**

Anomaly	Channel	Status	<b>Explanation?</b>
Reactor rate and shape	$\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e$	fading away ( < 2 <del>0</del> ) systematics dominated	systematics/nuclear physics
Gallium / BEST	$\nu_e  ightarrow \nu_e$	very significant (~5ơ)	sterile oscillations in strong tensi w reactor, solar, cosmology difficult to explain exotic decoherence? [Farzan, TS,
LSND	$ u_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e} $	significant ( <mark>3.8</mark> 0) ~25 yr anomaly	
MiniBooNE	$ u_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e} $	very significant ( <mark>4.8</mark> 0) relies on background estimate	





### Strong tension btw appearance and disappearance

$$\sin^2 2\theta_{\mu e} \approx \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 2\theta_{ee} \sin^2 2\theta_{\mu\mu}$$



#### sterile oscillation explanation of LSND/MiniB robustly disfavoured

non-observation of oscillations in  $\nu_{\mu}$ disappearance (CDHS, MiniB, MINOS+, SK, IceCube)



# MiniBooNE and a decaying sterile neutrino

Palomares, Pascoli, TS, hep-ph/0505216; Gninenko, 0902.3802, 1009.5536; Bertuzzo, Jana, Machado, Zukanovich, 1807.09877; Ballett, Pascoli, Ross-Lonergan, 1808.2915; Arguelles, Hostert, Tsai, 1812.08768; Fischer, Hernandez, TS, 1909.09561; Dentler, Esteban, Kopp, Machado, 1911.01427; deGouvea, Peres, Prakash, Stenico, 1911.01447; Brdar, Fischer, Smirnov, 2007.14411; Abdallah, Gandhi, Roy, 2010.06159; Abdullahi, Hostert, Pascoli, 2007.11813; Abdullahi et al., 2308.02543; Hoster, Kelly, Zhou, 2406.04401; ...

- sterile neutrino N with  $m_N \sim \text{keV}$  to ~500 MeV
- produce N either by mixing or by up-scattering
- decay:
  - $N \rightarrow \phi \, \nu_{
    ho}$  with standard neutrino interaction in detector
  - electromagn. decay inside MB detector  $N \rightarrow \nu \gamma / \nu e^{\pm} / \nu \pi^0 / \dots$  (no LSND)
- exciting new physics / rich phenomenology / predict signatures in existing (near detectors) and/or upcoming experiments (e.g., Fermilab SBN, DUNE, HK, IceC)





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 $\Lambda/\text{with } m \sim k \alpha / t \alpha - 500 \Lambda/\alpha /$ sterile neutrino

- produce *N* eithe
- decay:
  - $N \rightarrow \phi \nu_e$  with
  - electromagn. d



radiation exciting new p





### Short-baseline anomalies — summary

Anomaly	Channel	Status	<b>Explanation?</b>
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MiniBooNE	$ u_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e} $	very significant ( <mark>4.8</mark> 0) relies on background estimate	difficult to explain HNL decay







### The cosmo anomaly:

### Why is neutrino mass not seen in cosmology?



### Neutrino mass from cosmology

$$\Sigma \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{3} m_i = \begin{cases} m_0 + \sqrt{\Delta m_{21}^2 + m_0^2} + \sqrt{\Delta m_{31}^2 + m_0^2} \\ m_0 + \sqrt{|\Delta m_{32}^2| + m_0^2} + \sqrt{|\Delta m_{32}^2| - \Delta m_{21}^2 + m_0^2} \end{cases}$$

• minimal values predicted from oscillation data for  $m_0 = 0$ :

$$\Sigma_{\min} = \begin{cases} 98.6 \pm 0.85 \,\mathrm{meV} & (\mathrm{IO}) \\ 58.5 \pm 0.48 \,\mathrm{meV} & (\mathrm{NO}) \end{cases}$$

#### • Upper bounds from current data:

- $\Sigma m_{\nu} < 0.12 \,\mathrm{eV} \,(95 \,\% \,\mathrm{CL})$  Planck CMB+BAO 2018
- $\Sigma m_{\nu} < 0.064 \,\mathrm{eV} \,(95\,\%\,\mathrm{CL})$  DESI 2025 + CMB





### **Tension between cosmology and oscillation results?**

updated from Gariazzo, Mena, TS, 2302.14159





### Hint for the existence of new- $\nu$ s?





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### Cosmology bounds can be relaxed in non-standard scenarios

- dynamical dark energy Green, Meyers, 2407.07878;...; DESI DR2 2503.14743:  $\sum m_{\nu} \lesssim 0.16 \,\mathrm{eV}$
- neutrino decay into dark radiation Chacko et al. 1909.05275; 2002.08401; Escudero et al., 2007.04994; Barenboim et al.,2011.01502; Chacko et al. 2112.13862:  $\sum m_{\nu} < 0.42 \,\mathrm{eV}$
- time dependent neutrino mass Lorenz et al. 1811.01991; 2102.13618; Esteban, Salvado, 2101.05804; Sen, Smirnov, 2407.02462, 2306.15718;
- modified momentum distribution Cuoco et al., astro-ph/0502465; Barenboim et al., 1901.04352; Alvey, Sabti, Escudero, 2111.14870
- reduced neutrino density + dark radiation Beacom, Bell, Dodelson, 04; Farzan, Hannestad, 1510.02201; Renk, Stöcker et al., 2009.03286; Escudero, TS, Terol-Calvo, 2211.01729





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- introduce a set of  $N_{\gamma}$  massless new- $\nu$ s
- a mediator X coupled to neutrinos
- ~10 keV new- $\nu$  dark matter freeze-out in the dark sector



Farzan, Hannestad, 1510.02201; Escudero, TS, Terol-Calvo, 2211.01729; Benso, TS, Vatsyayan, 2410.23926

# • convert active neutrinos into massless new- $\nu$ s after BBN but before CMB decoupling







- 3 heavy new- $\nu$ s (seesaw)
- new abelian gauge symmetry  $U(1)_X$
- a scalar  $\Phi$  charged under  $U(1)_X$
- a set of  $N_{\gamma}$  massless new- $\nu$ s charged under  $U(1)_X$







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Yukawa sector

# $-\mathcal{L} = \overline{N_R} Y_{\nu} \ell_L \widetilde{H}^{\dagger} + \frac{1}{2} \overline{N_R} M_R N_R^c + \overline{N_R} Y_{\Phi} \chi_L \Phi + \text{h.c.}$





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**Scalar potential** 

 $-\mathcal{L} = \overline{N_R} Y_{\nu} \ell_L \widetilde{H}^{\dagger} + \frac{1}{2} \overline{N_R} M_R N_R^c + \overline{N_R} Y_{\Phi} \chi_L \Phi + \text{h.c.}$  $V = \mu_H^2 H^{\dagger} H + \lambda_H \left( H^{\dagger} H \right)^2 + \mu_{\Phi}^2 |\Phi|^2 + \lambda_{\Phi} |\Phi|^4 + \lambda_{H\Phi} |\Phi|^2 H^{\dagger} H$ 







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 $-\mathcal{L} = \overline{N_R} Y_{\nu} \ell_L \widetilde{H}^{\dagger} + \frac{1}{2} \overline{N_R} M_R N_R^c + \overline{N_R} Y_{\Phi} \chi_L \Phi + \text{h.c.}$  $V = \mu_H^2 H^{\dagger} H + \lambda_H \left( H^{\dagger} H \right)^2 + \mu_{\Phi}^2 |\Phi|^2 + \lambda_{\Phi} |\Phi|^4 + \lambda_{H\Phi} |\Phi|^2 H^{\dagger} H$ 







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$$-\mathcal{L} = \overline{N_R} Y_{\nu} \ell_L \widetilde{H}^{\dagger} + \frac{1}{2} \overline{N_R} M_R N_R^c + \overline{N_R} Y_{\nu}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_D & 0 \\ m_D^T & M_R & \Lambda \\ 0 & \Lambda^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$m_D = \frac{v_{\rm EW}}{\sqrt{2}} Y_\nu, \quad \Lambda = \frac{v_{\Phi}}{\sqrt{2}} Y_\nu$$

 $\Lambda \ll m_D \ll M_R$ 

 $\int_{\Phi} \chi_L \Phi + \text{h.c.}$ 

 $m_{\rm heavy} \approx M_R$  $m_{\rm active} \approx m_D^2 / M_R$  $m_{\chi} = 0, \quad \theta_{\nu\chi} \approx \Lambda/m_D$ 







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$$-\mathcal{L} = \overline{N_R} Y_{\nu} \ell_L \widetilde{H}^{\dagger} + \frac{1}{2} \overline{N_R} M_R N_R^c + \overline{N_R} Y_{\nu}$$
$$\mathscr{L}_{\text{int}} = g_X Z'_{\mu} \overline{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \chi \qquad g_X = -$$

couplings to neutrinos induced by mixing:  $Z' \leftrightarrow \nu \nu l \nu \chi l \chi \chi$ 









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 $g_X = \frac{m_{Z'}}{v_{\Phi}}$  $\mathscr{L}_{int} = g_X \mathcal{L}'_{\mu} \overline{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \chi$ 

#### indep. params for pheno:

 $\int_{\Phi} \chi_L \Phi + \text{h.c.}$ 

# $m_{\nu}, M_R, \theta_{\nu\chi}$ $v_{\Phi}, m_{Z'}$













### Extending the model to include keV sterile neutrino dark matter

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- a set of  $N_{\gamma}$  massless new- $\nu$ s charged under  $U(1)_X$

• add one more heavy new-v neutrino N'  $\Rightarrow$ one of the  $\chi$  will also pick up a seesaw induced mass  $\rightarrow \psi$ 

Benso, TS, Vatsyayan, 2410.23926



### Extending the model to include keV sterile neutrino dark matter

neutral fermion mass matrix in the basis  $(\chi^c_L, \nu^c_L, \psi^c_L, N', N)$ 



assume hierarchies:

$$\begin{split} M \gg M' \gg m_D \gg \kappa' \gg \Lambda \gg m'_D, \kappa, \Lambda' \, . \\ M' m_D^2 \ll M {\kappa'}^2 \end{split}$$

$$m_{\chi} = 0$$
  

$$m_{\nu} \approx m_D M^{-1} m_D^T$$
  

$$m_{\psi} \approx \kappa' M'^{-1} \kappa'^T .$$
  

$$m_{N'} \approx M'$$
  

$$m_N \approx M .$$



### Extending the model to include keV sterile neutrino dark matter

neutral fermion mass matrix in the basis  $(\chi_L^c, \nu_L^c, \psi_L^c, N', N)$ 



#### keV DM candidate

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$$m_{\psi} \approx \kappa' M'^{-1} \kappa'^T.$$
  

$$m_{N'} \approx M'$$
  

$$m_N \approx M.$$

mixing and interactions:

$$\theta_{\nu\psi} = \frac{m'_D}{\kappa'}, \quad \theta_{\chi\psi} = 0$$

$$\mathscr{L}_{\rm int} = g_X Z'_\mu \overline{\psi} \gamma'$$



#### **DM production via dark freeze-out** similar to Berlin, Blinov, 1706.07046, 1807.04282



• assume  $m_{\psi} < m_{Z'}$ 

•  $\psi$  thermalizes with the dark fluid via  $\psi\psi\leftrightarrow Z'$ 

• DM freeze-out for  $T_{DS} \lesssim m_{\psi}$ 

$$\Omega_{\psi} h^2 \simeq x_f \frac{10^{-10} \,\mathrm{GeV}^{-2}}{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\psi\psi \to \chi\chi}}$$

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\psi\psi \to \chi\chi} = N_{\chi} \frac{g^4}{4\pi} \frac{m_{\psi}^2}{(m_{Z'}^2 - 4m_{\psi}^2)^2}$$





### **Right DM abundance in the relevant parameter region**

• DM mass  $15 \,\mathrm{keV} \lesssim m_{\psi} \lesssim 100 \,\mathrm{keV}$ 

• DM stability and X-ray constraints:  $\psi \rightarrow \nu \chi \chi, \psi \rightarrow \nu \gamma$ suppressed by  $\theta_{\nu\psi}^2$ require  $\theta_{\nu\psi} \lesssim 10^{-8}$ 







### Signatures of the model



massless dofs:  $4N_{\gamma} + 2$ 

#### Benso, TS, Vatsyayan, 2410.23926



### Signatures of the model

#### warm DM candidate:

potentially observable cut-off in matter power spectrum

determined by kinetic decoupling of DM from dark radiation

Berlin, Blinov, 1807.04282; Bringmann, Ihle, Kersten, Walia, 1603.04884

#### Benso, TS, Vatsyayan, 2410.23926





# Summary — why new $\nu$ s?

- theory suggests (but does not proof) the existence of new- $\nu$ s,
- but theory gives us very little guidance on where they are
- Iook for them everywhere we can



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"Science is a bit like the joke about the drunk who is looking under a lamppost for a key that he has lost at the other side of the street, because that's where the light is. It has no other choice." Noam Chomsky



### backup



# Hint for dynamical dark energy?

 $cosm.const.: w_0 = -1, w_a = 0$ 

DE equation of state:  $p = w\rho$ 

$$w(z) = w_0 + w_a \frac{z}{1+z}$$

 $2.8\sigma - 4.2\sigma$  indication for deviation from cosmolog. const.

#### DESI DR2 2025 [2503.14738]





Th. Schwetz - DPG, Göttingen 3. April 2025

# Dynamical dark energy and neutrino mass limit





	$\sum m_{\nu}  [eV]$
$w_0 w_a { m CDM} {+} {\sum m_ u}$	
DESI BAO+CMB	< 0.163
DESI BAO+CMB+Pantheon+	< 0.117
DESI BAO+CMB+Union3	< 0.139
DESI BAO+CMB+DESY5	< 0.129











• thermalization of the dark sector:

 $\Rightarrow \langle \Gamma(\nu\nu \to Z') \rangle \gtrsim H(T = m_{Z'}/3)$ 









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• avoid thermalization of the dark sector before BBN:  $\langle \Gamma(\nu\nu \to Z') \rangle < H(T = 0.7 \,\text{MeV})$ 





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$$\Rightarrow \langle \Gamma(\nu\nu \to Z') \rangle \gtrsim H(T = m_{Z'}/3)$$

- avoid thermalization of the dark sector before BBN:  $\langle \Gamma(\nu\nu \to Z') \rangle < H(T = 0.7 \,\text{MeV})$
- free-streaming of neutrinos & dark radiation before/around recombination  $\langle \Gamma \rangle < H$  for  $z < 10^5$ Taule, Escudero, Garny, 2207.04062





## Neutrino mixing with massless states $\theta_{\nu\gamma}$

- avoid thermalization of  $\chi$  prior neutrino decoupling due to oscillations
- take into account effective potential due to self-interactions







# Neutrino mixing with massless states $\theta_{ u\gamma}$



 $10^{-4} \lesssim \theta_{\nu\chi} \lesssim 10^{-1}$ T. Ota, 2411.16356

![](_page_62_Picture_5.jpeg)

# upper range potentially testable in oscillation experiments

![](_page_62_Picture_7.jpeg)

### **Constraints on heavy RH neutrinos**

 $M_R \lesssim 10^{10} - 10^{14} \,\mathrm{GeV}$ 

- perturbativity of Yukawa  $Y_{\Phi} \overline{N}_R \chi_L \Phi$
- loop-induced Higgs portal  $\lambda_{\Phi H} |\Phi|^2 H^{\dagger} H$  remains small to avoid thermalization of  $\Phi$  prior BBN

![](_page_63_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Picture_8.jpeg)

### **Constraints on heavy RH neutrinos**

 $M_R \lesssim 10^{10} - 10^{14} \,\mathrm{GeV}$ 

- perturbativity of Yukawa  $Y_{\Phi} \overline{N}_R \chi_I \Phi$
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#### **Comment on leptogenesis:**

- standard thermal LG works if  $N \rightarrow HL$  dominates over  $N \to \phi \chi$
- otherwise  $\chi$  would thermalize and conflict with  $N_{\rm eff}$  $\Rightarrow$  require  $T_{RH} < M_R$  (allows still for  $T_{RH} \gg T_{EW}$ )

![](_page_64_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Picture_10.jpeg)

### Signatures in a super nova

SN cooling arguments for SN1987A exclude

weaker than BBN constraint  $\lambda_{Z'}^{\nu\nu} \lesssim 10^{-7} (\text{keV}/m_{Z'})$ 

• Future galactic SN at 10 kpc: neutrino signal in HyperK from  $Z' \rightarrow \nu \nu$ : sensitivity down to

 $\lambda_{Z'}^{\nu\nu} \sim 10^{-9} (\text{keV}/m_{Z'})$  Akita, Im, Masud, 2206.06852

![](_page_65_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Picture_9.jpeg)