

# Hunting for Heavy Neutral Leptons at Future Lepton Colliders



SECOND • ECFA • WORKSHOP  
on  $e^+e^-$  Higgs / Electroweak / Top Factories

11-13 October 2023  
Paestum / Salerno / Italy

Topics:

- Physics potential of future Higgs and electroweak/top factories
- Required precision (experimental and theoretical)
- EFT (global) interpretation of Higgs factory measurements
- Reconstruction and simulation
- Software
- Detector R&D

The background of the workshop poster is a painting of a red, muscular figure diving into a body of water. The figure is in mid-air, with arms and legs extended, and a shadow is cast on the water below. The water is depicted with light blue and green washes.

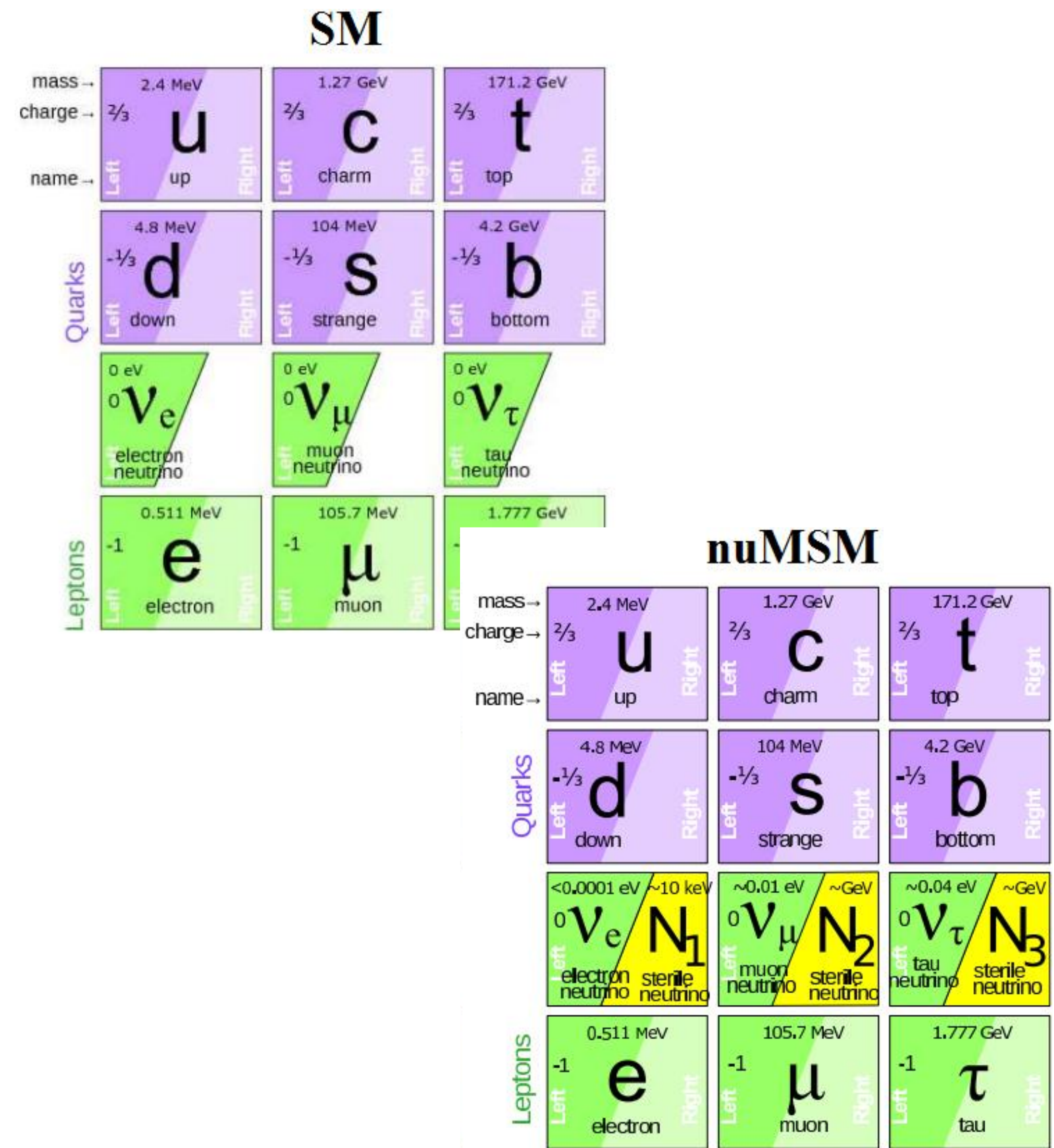
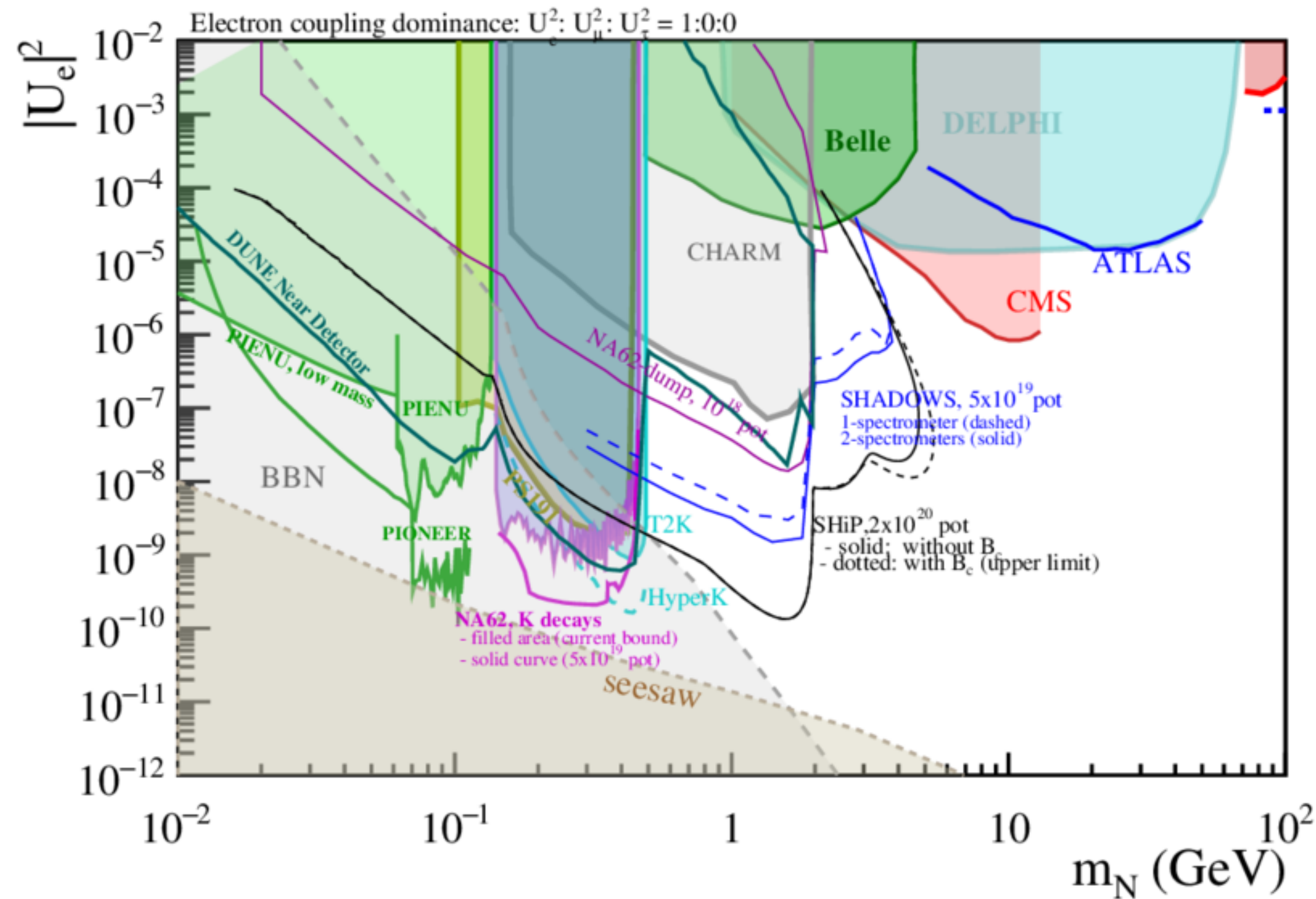
**CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
QUANTUM UNIVERSE

K. Mękała/JRR/A.F. Żarnecki, arXiv: 2202.06793 [JHEP] + 2301.02602 [PLB] + 2310.xxxxx

Jürgen R. Reuter



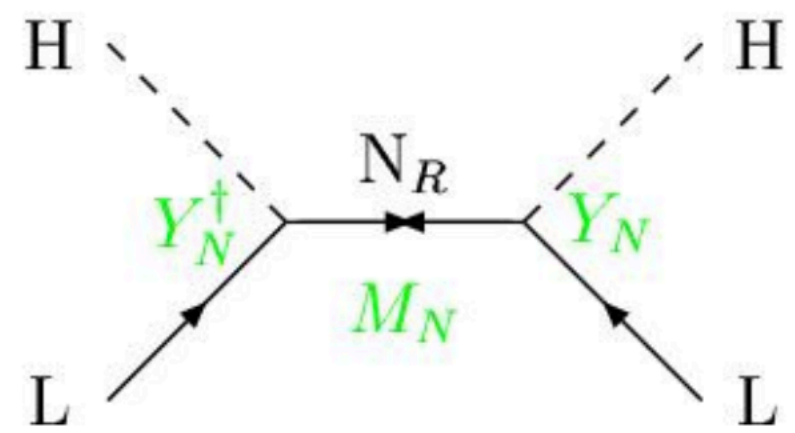
# Search for Heavy Neutral Leptons (HNL)



# The neutrino mystery

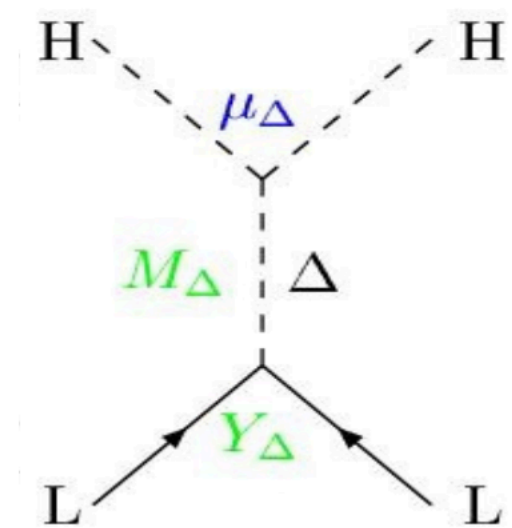
- Neutrinos masses is already physics beyond the standard model
- Simple extension of SM: just add  $\nu_R$  and Yukawa couplings  $\nu_R = (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}, 1) - m_\nu(\bar{\nu}_L\nu_R + h.c.)\left(1 + \frac{h}{v}\right)$
- Singlet allows for a Majorana mass term:  $-M_\nu \bar{\nu}^c \nu$  [Minkowski, 1977; Mohapatra/Senjanovic, 1980; Yanagida, 1981]
- Dedicated “seesaw” models for neutrino physics: type I (singlet fermion), type II (triplet scalar), type III (triplet fermion)

Right-handed singlet:  
(type-I seesaw)



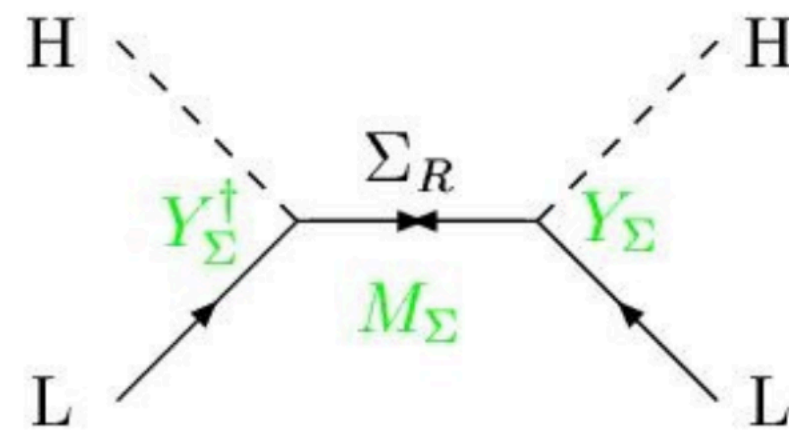
$$m_\nu = Y_N^T \frac{1}{M_N} Y_N v^2$$

Scalar triplet:  
(type-II seesaw)



$$m_\nu = Y_\Delta \frac{\mu_\Delta}{M_\Delta^2} v^2$$

Fermion triplet:  
(type-III seesaw)



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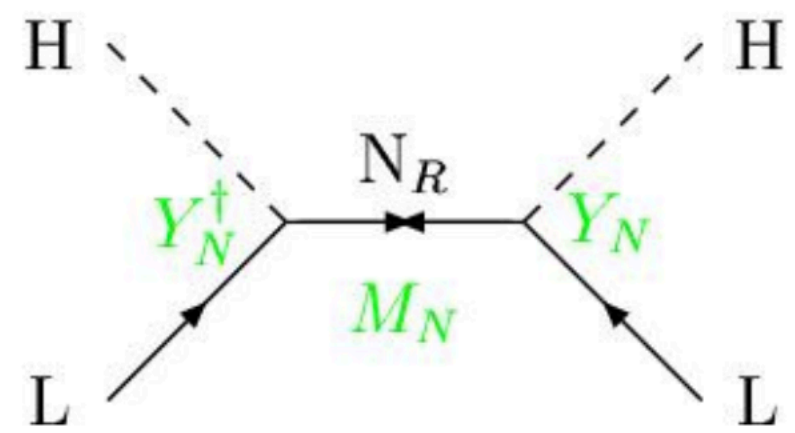
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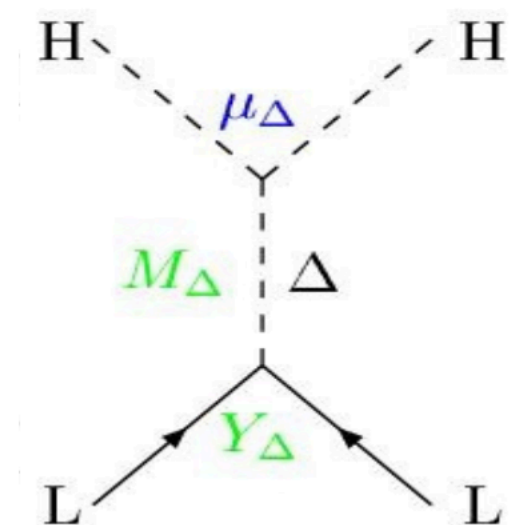
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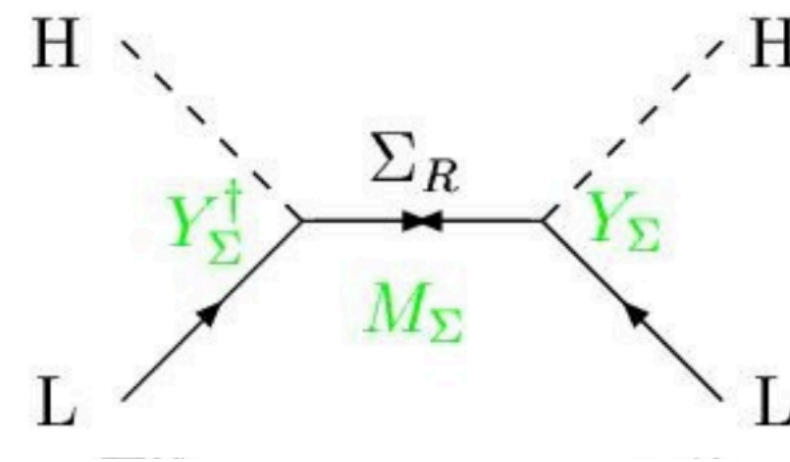
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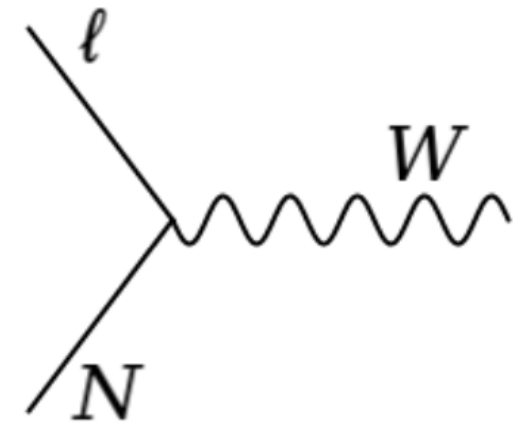
- Pheno of neutrino oscillations, flavor etc.
- Connections to Dark Matter (DM) (?)
- Lepton sector CP violation (?)
- Leptogenesis / Baryogenesis / Baryon Asymmetry of Universe (BAU)
- Lepton Flavor/Number Violation
- Fundamental Majorana Particles (?)

# Simplified neutrino model

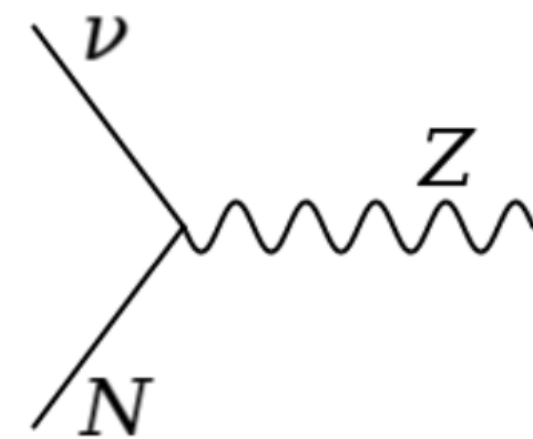
- Simplified model with right-handed ( $\nu$ SM) and sterile neutrinos
- After EWSB heavy (sterile) neutrinos do mix with  $\nu$ SM neutrinos
- Lagrangian:  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \mathcal{L}_N + \mathcal{L}_{WN\ell} + \mathcal{L}_{ZN\nu} + \mathcal{L}_{HN\nu}$

$$\mathcal{L}_N = \xi_\nu \cdot (\bar{N}_k i \not{\partial} N_k - m_{N_k} \bar{N}_k N_k) \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, 3 \quad \xi_\nu = \frac{1}{2}, 1 \quad [\text{Majorana/Dirac}]$$

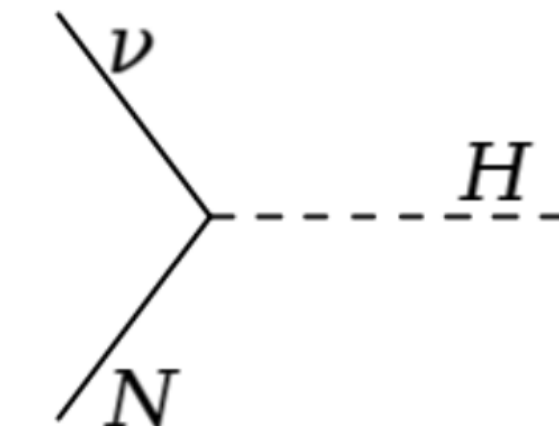
$$\mathcal{L}_{WN\ell} = -\frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^+ \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=e}^{\tau} \bar{N}_k V_{lk}^* \gamma^\mu P_L \ell^- + \text{h.c.},$$



$$\mathcal{L}_{ZN\nu} = -\frac{g}{2 \cos \theta_W} Z_\mu \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=e}^{\tau} \bar{N}_k V_{lk}^* \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_l + \text{h.c.}$$



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Vast (incomplete) literature:

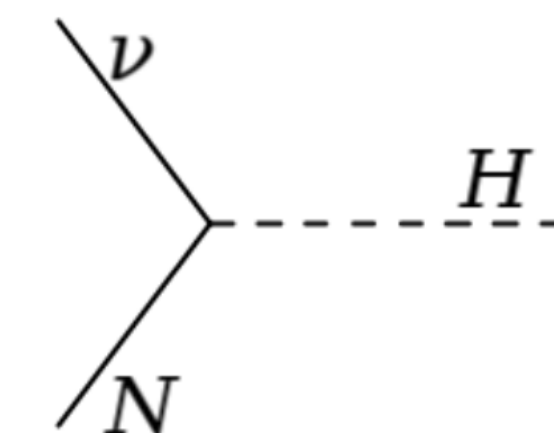
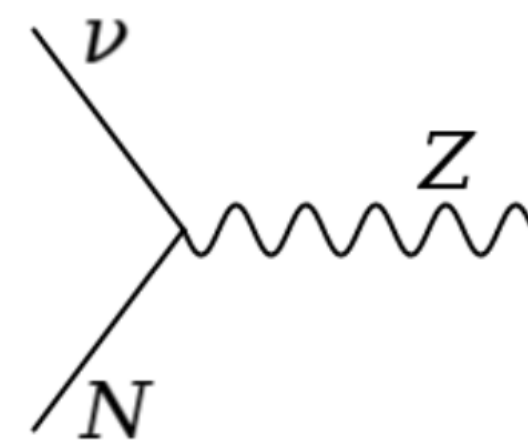
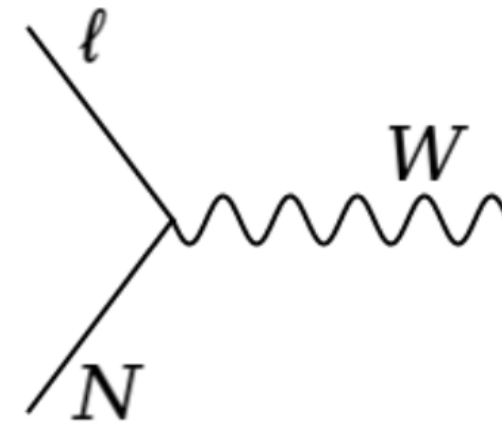
[Aguilar-Saavedra ea., hep-ph/0502189; hep-ph/0503026; Shaposhnikov, 0804.4542; Das/Okada, 1207.3734; Banerjee ea., 1503.05491; Antusch, Cazzato, Fischer, 1612.0272; Cai, Han, Li, Ruiz, 1711.02180; Pascoli, Ruiz, Weiland, 1812.08750](#)

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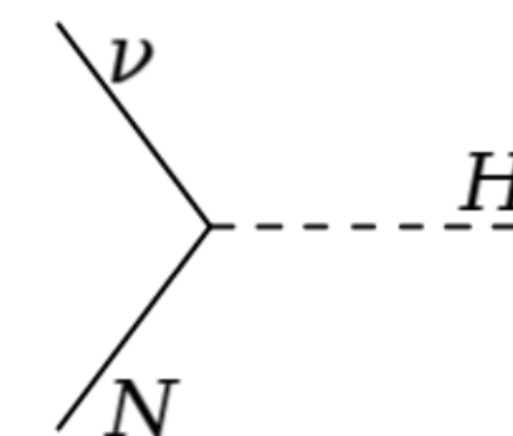
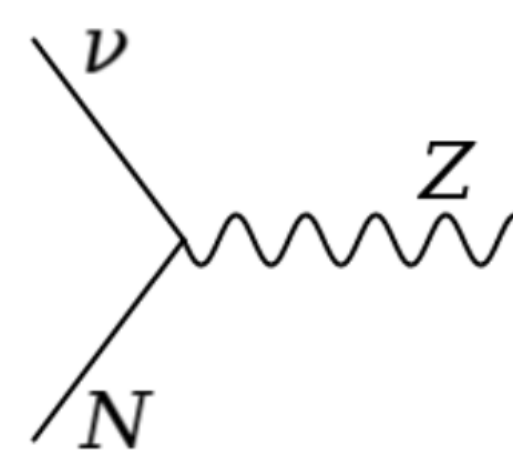
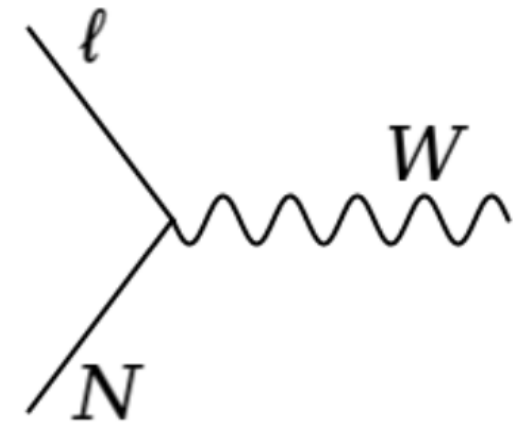
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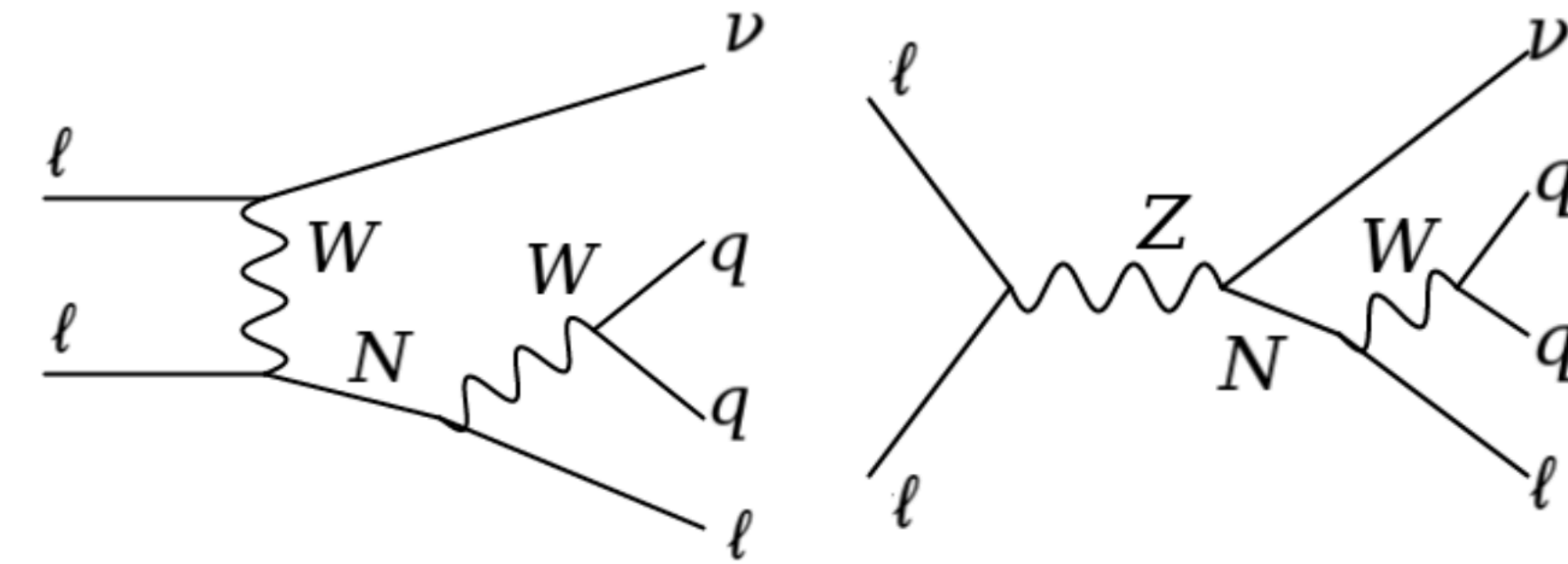


- ✓ At lepton colliders, single production possible
- ✓ Associated production:  $\ell^+ \ell^- \rightarrow \nu N$
- ✓ Vector boson fusion:  $\ell^+ \ell^- \rightarrow \bar{\nu} \nu N + \ell^+ \ell^- N$
- ✓ Three neutrino masses:  $M_{N_1}, M_{N_2}, M_{N_3}$
- ✓ Nine real mixing parameters:  $V_{\ell k}, \ell = e, \mu, \tau, k = N_1, N_2, N_3$
- ✓ Three neutrino widths:  $\Gamma_{N_1}, \Gamma_{N_2}, \Gamma_{N_3}$
- ✓ Studied parameter space: neutrino decays prompt
- ✓ No long-lived particles or displaced vertices



# Signal, simulation, selection

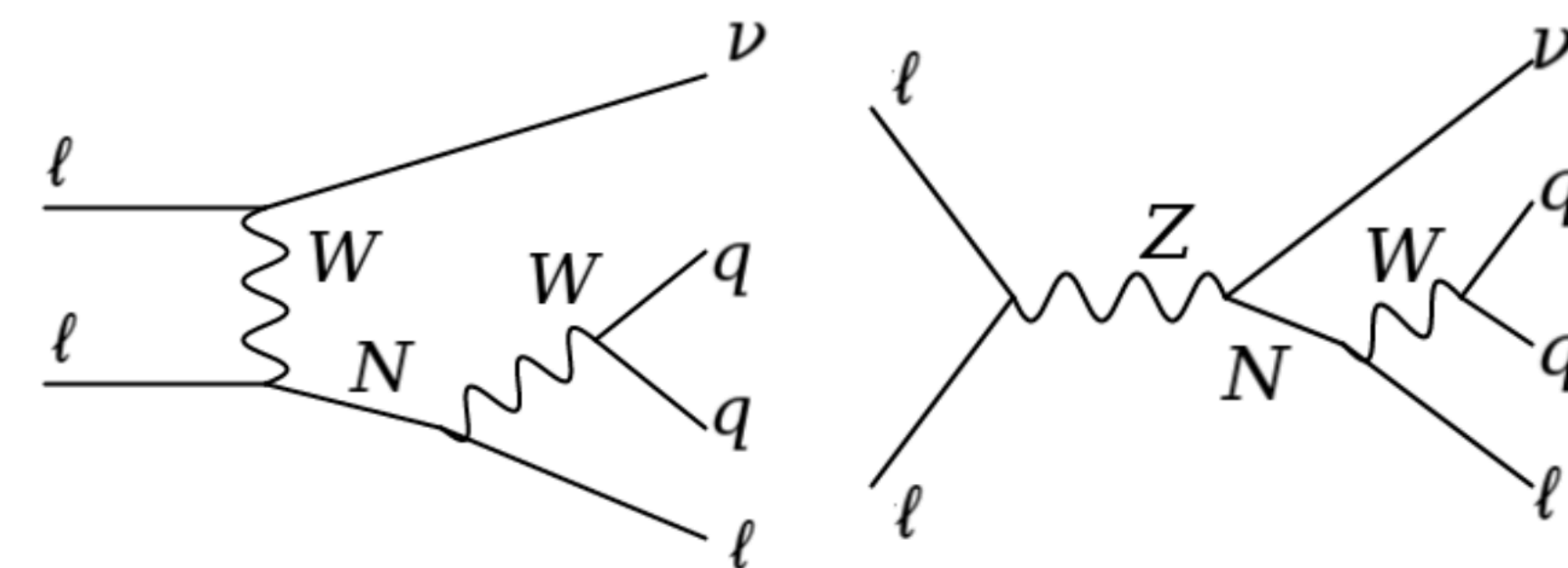
- At lepton colliders: optimal channel single production with decay to  $N \rightarrow jj\ell$
- In that case: full reconstruction of  $N$  (incl. mass peak) possible
- Study for ILC250, ILC500, ILC1000, CLIC 3 TeV, MuC 3+10 TeV
- Simulation with Whizard 3.0 (first paper!) + Pythia6 + Delphes
- Using UFO model HeavyN



[K. Mękała/JRR/A.F. Żarnecki, 2202.06703; 2301.02602](#)

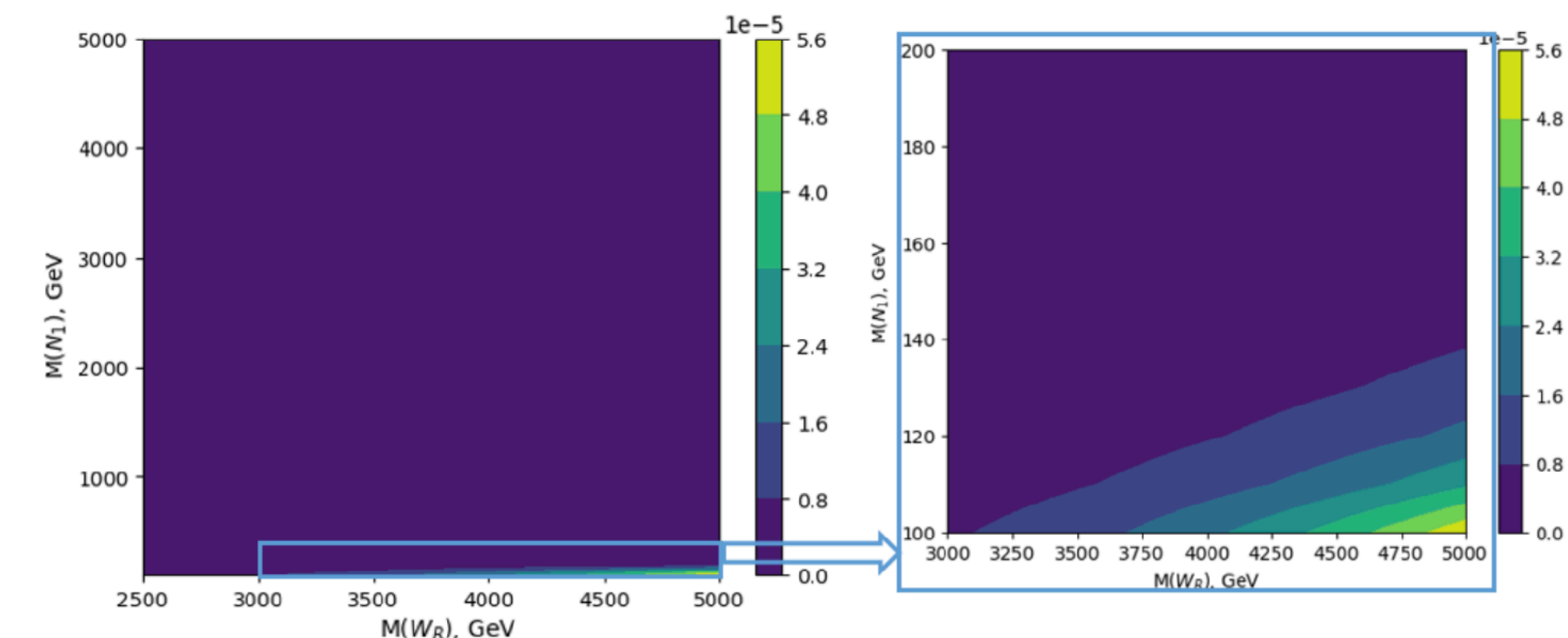


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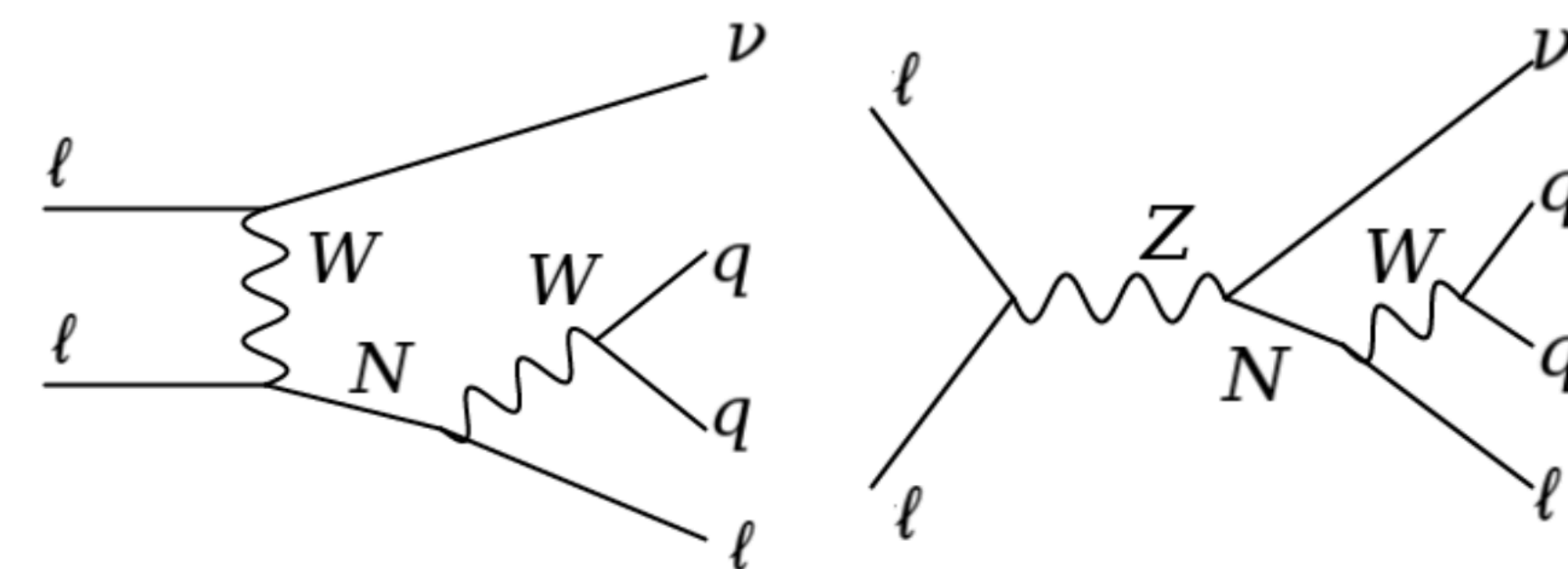
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- Reference signal sample with  $|V_{\ell N_1}| = 0.0003$ ,  $N_2, N_3$  couplings set to zero
- Neutrinos masses:  $100 \text{ GeV} \leq M_{M_1} \leq 10.5 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $M_{N_{2,3}} = 10^{10} \text{ GeV}$
- Neutrino widths:  $\Gamma_N \gtrsim \mathcal{O}(1 \text{ keV})$  prompt decays only, no LLP signature  
displaced vertices possible for  $M_N \lesssim 10 \text{ GeV}$



K. Korshynska/M. Löschner/M. Marinichenko/  
JRR/K. Mękała, Febr. 2023

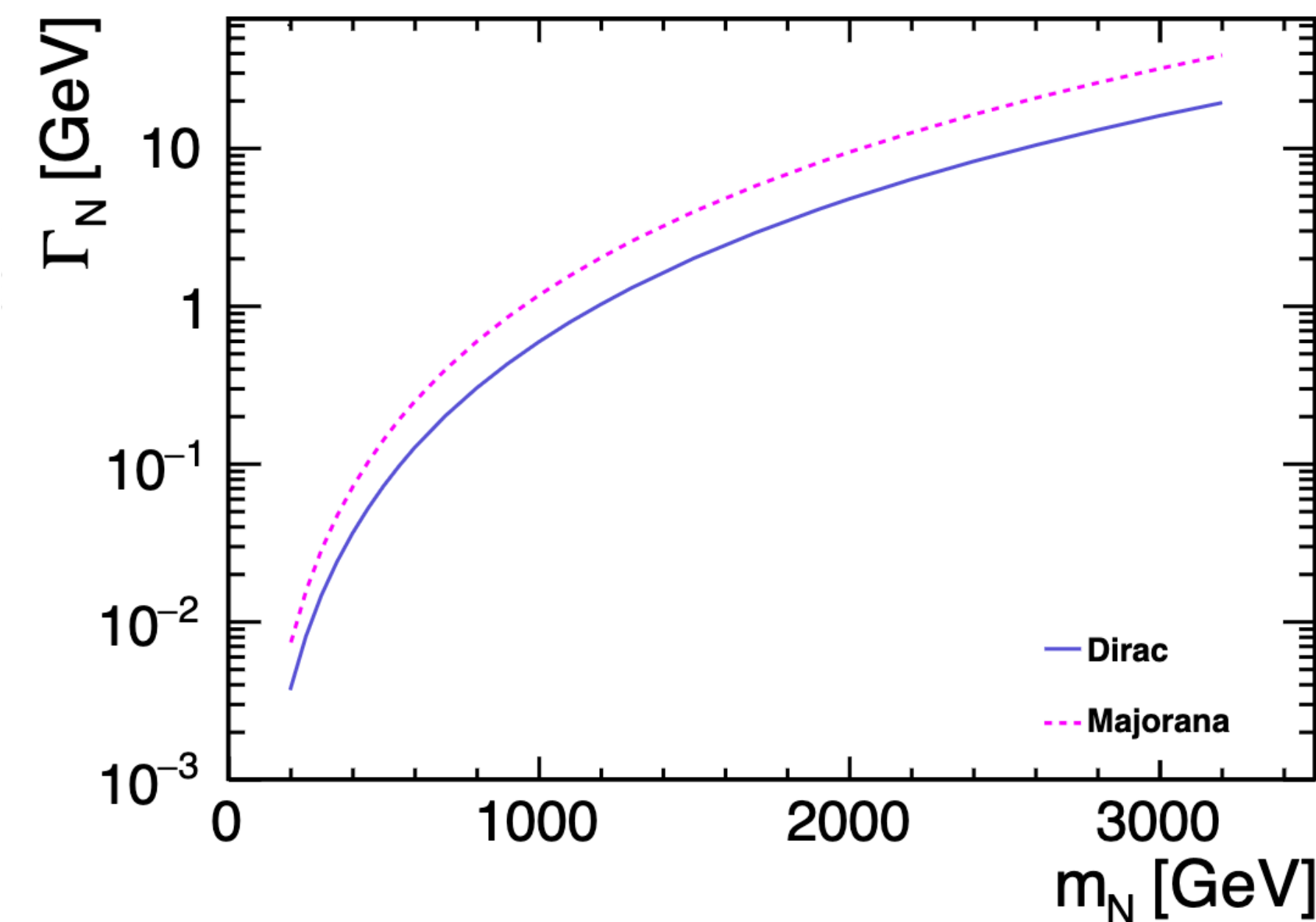
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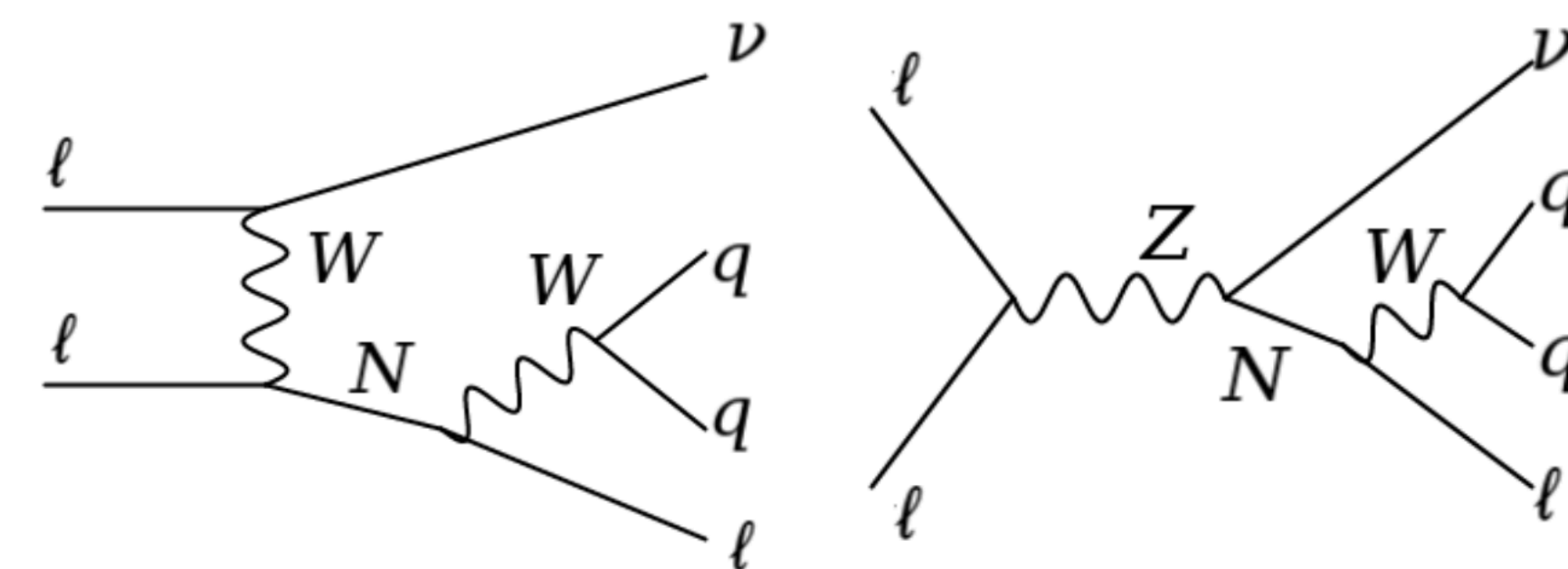
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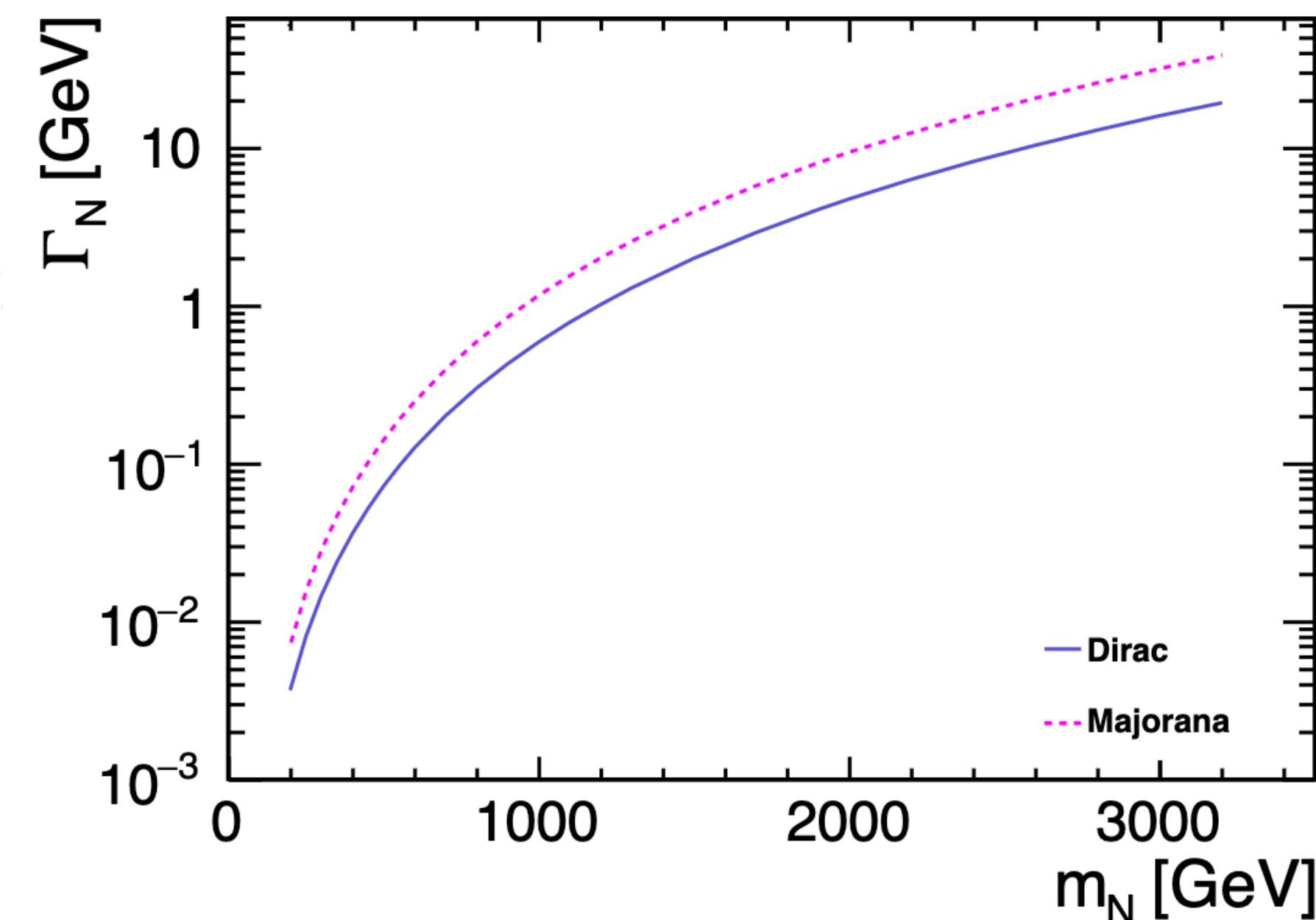
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- Background simulation: without  $N$  propagators ("background")
- Signal simulation:  $\ell\ell \rightarrow N\nu \rightarrow \ell jj\nu$  ("signal")
- $S/B \sim 10^{-3}$  e.g. ILC500:  $jj\ell\nu$  bkgd.  $\sim 10 \text{ pb}$ , signal  $\sim 10 \text{ fb}$
- Preselection on signal topology: exactly 1 lepton and 2 jets
- BDT training; CLs method to get final results



Bkgd processes with at least one lepton

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow qq\ell\nu$ ,
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow qq\ell\ell$ ,
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow llll$ ,
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow qq\ell\nu\ell\nu$ ,
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow qqqq\ell\nu$ ,
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow qqqq\ell\ell$ .

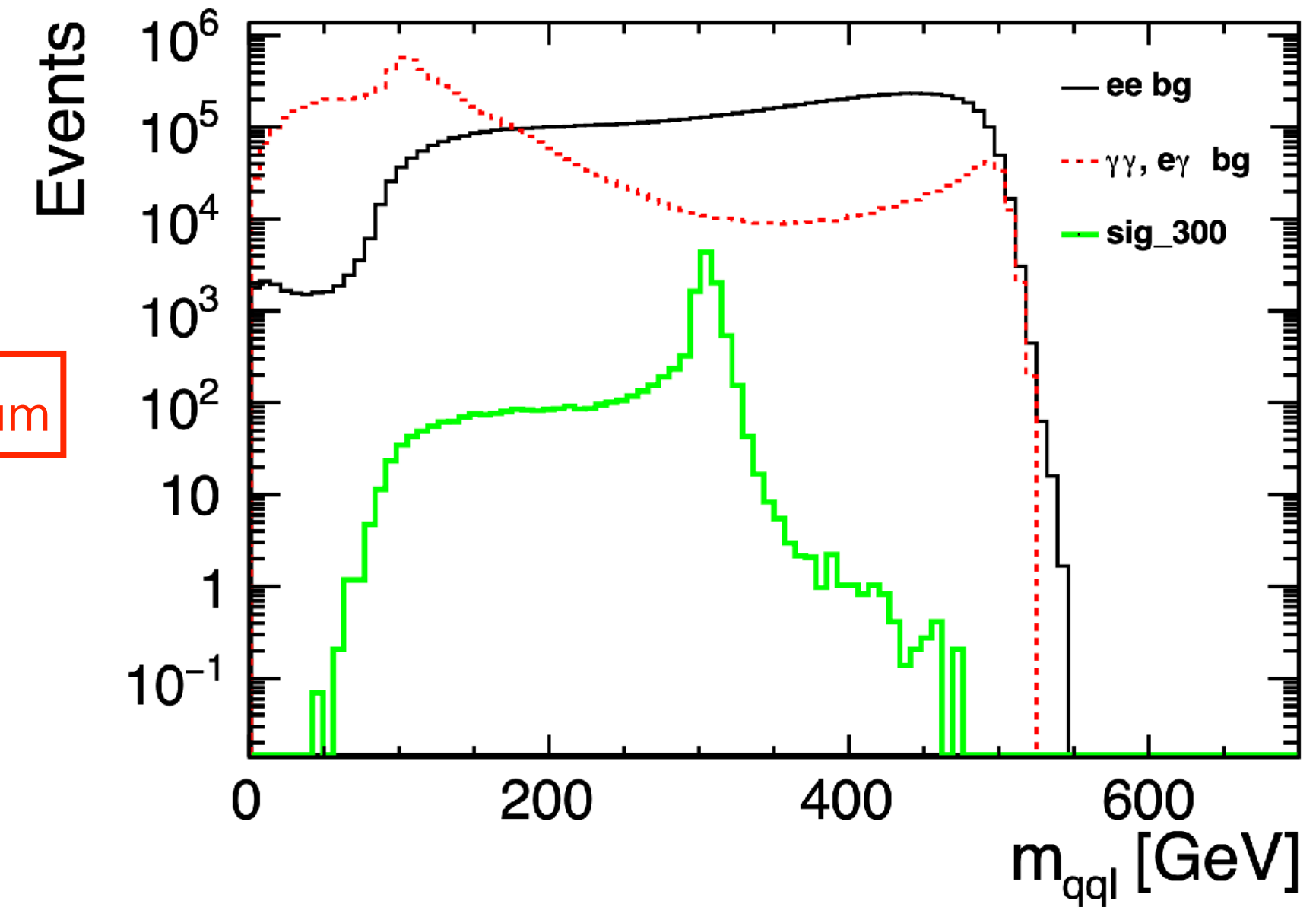
Initial-state  $e^\pm \rightarrow \gamma e^\pm$  splitting (EPA)

- $e^+\gamma/\gamma e^- \rightarrow qq\ell$  (denoted as  $\gamma e^\pm \rightarrow qq\ell$ ),
- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow qq\ell\nu$ ,
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Caveat on ILC1000  $\gamma$  spectrum

Bkgd. from beamstrahlung

- ILC500:  $\gamma^B(e^\pm/\gamma^E) - 57\%$ ,  $\gamma^B\gamma^B - 44\%$ ;
- ILC1000:  $\gamma^B(e^\pm/\gamma^E) - 65\%$ ,  $\gamma^B\gamma^B - 54\%$ ;
- CLIC3000:  $\gamma^B(e^\pm/\gamma^E) - 79\%$ ,  $\gamma^B\gamma^B - 69\%$ .



ILC 500 GeV, (-80%, +30%),  $m_N = 300$  GeV

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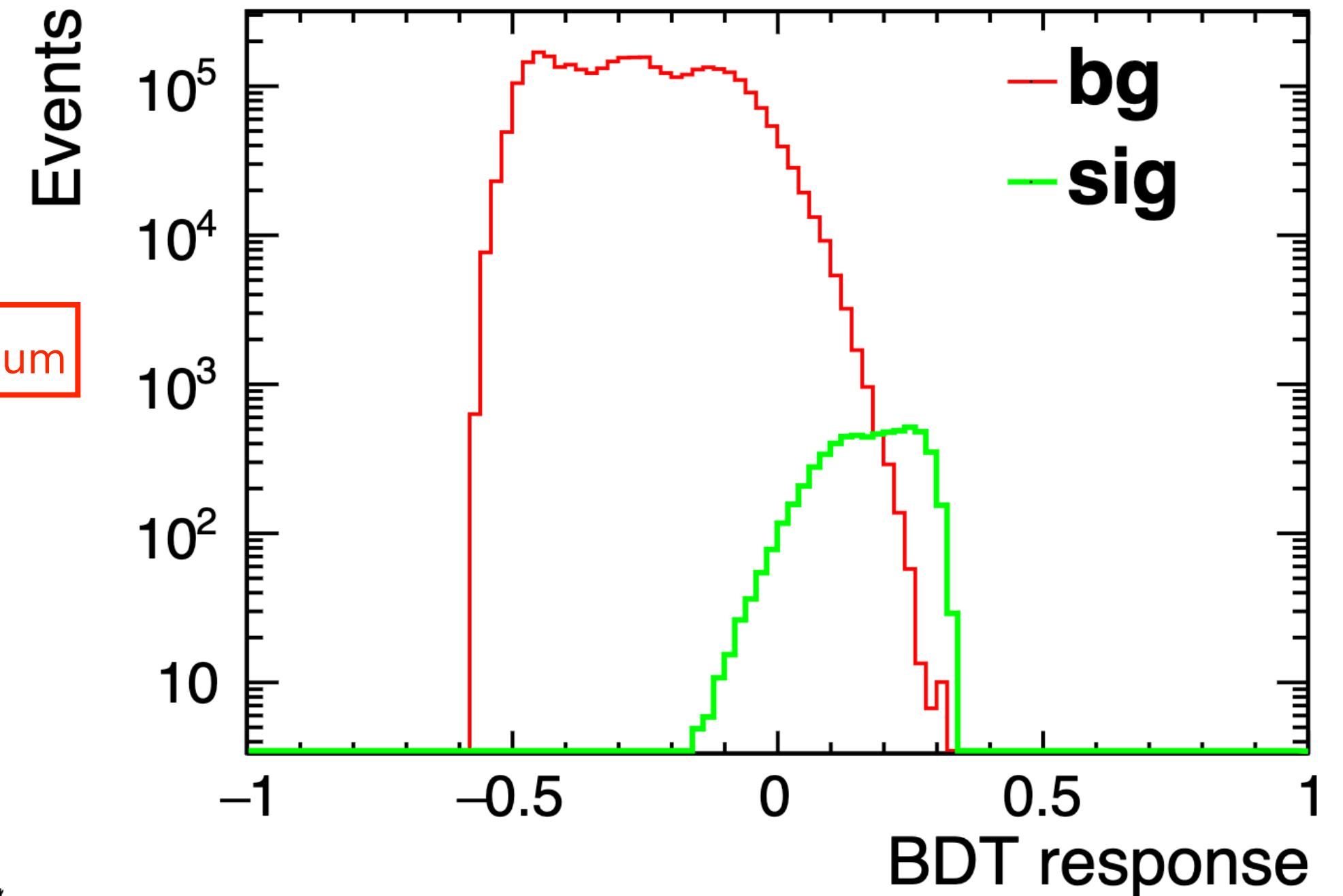
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8 variables considered in BDT

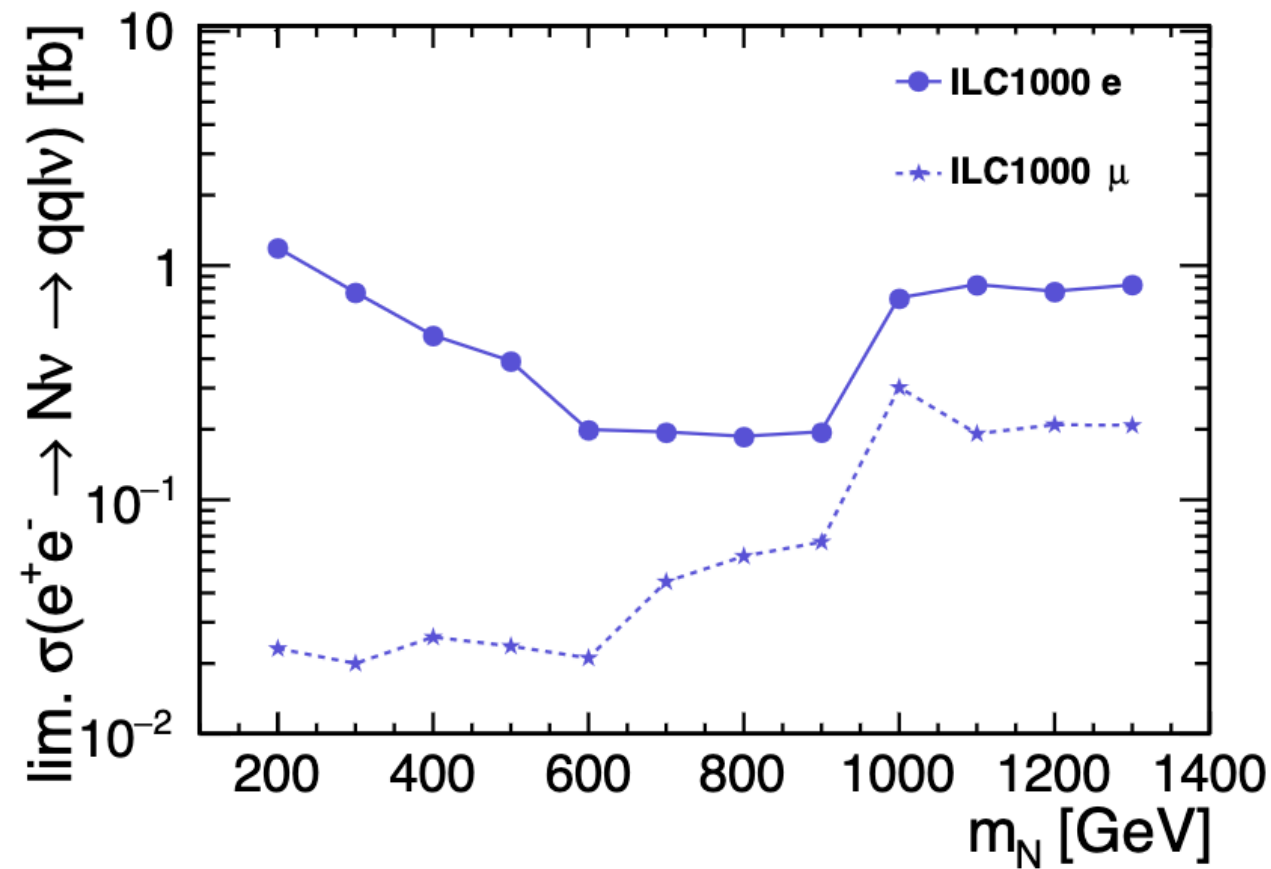
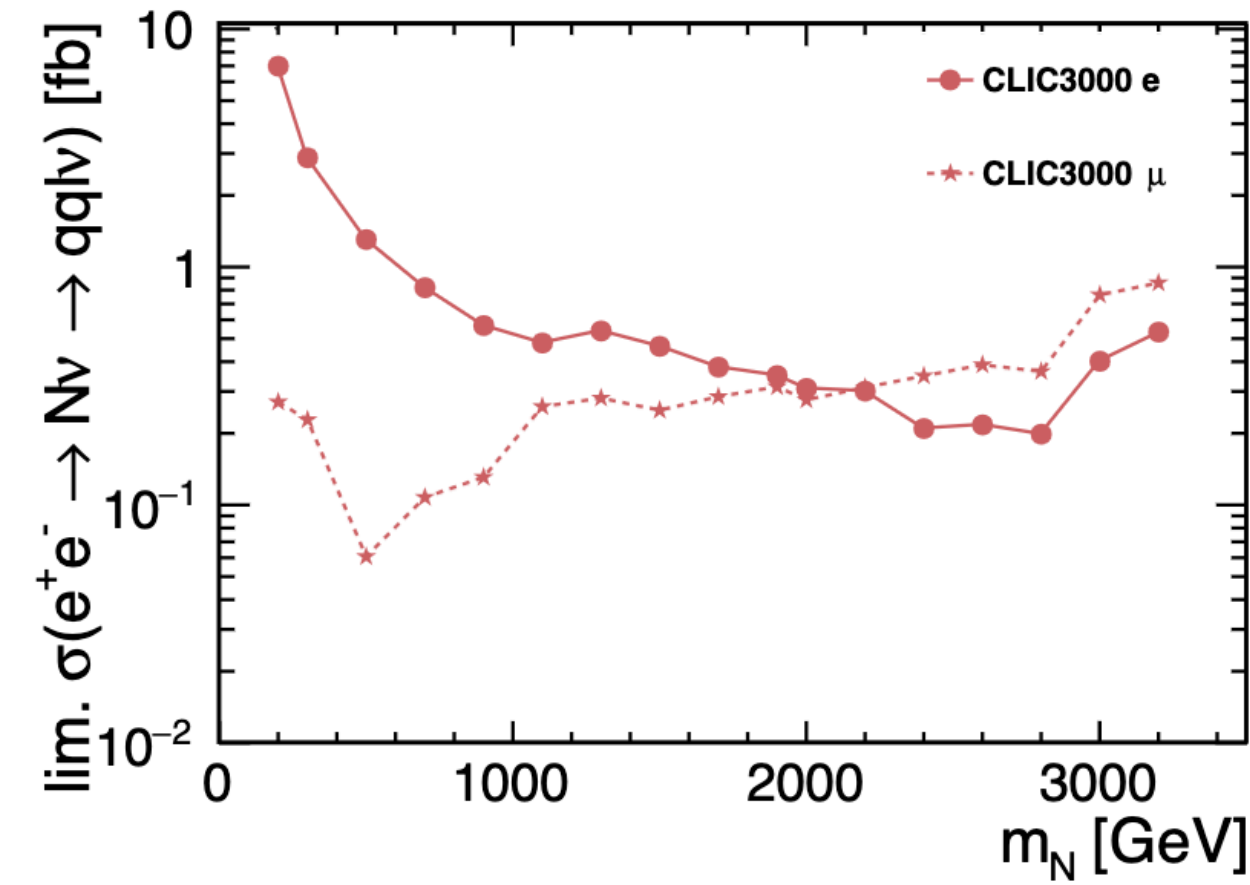
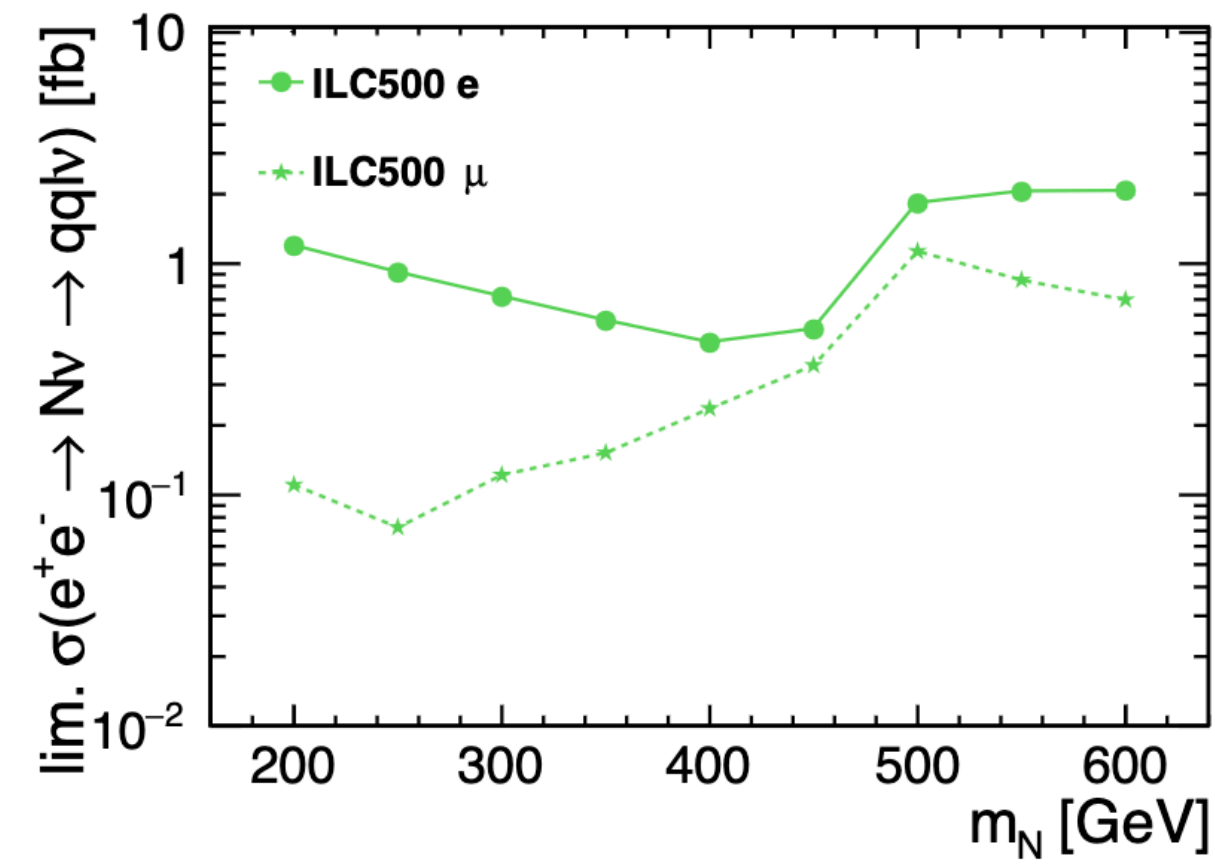
- $m_{qq\ell}$  – invariant mass of the dijet-lepton system
- $\alpha$  – angle between the dijet-system and the lepton,
- $\alpha_{qq}$  – angle between the two jets,
- $E_\ell$  – lepton energy,
- $E_{qq\ell}$  – energy of the dijet-lepton system,
- $p_\ell^T$  – lepton transverse momentum,
- $p_{qq}^T$  – dijet transverse momentum,
- $p_{qq\ell}^T$  – transverse momentum of the dijet-lepton system.



# BDT CLs cross section limits

BDT response used to build model in RooStats to use CLs method to set limits on cross sections:

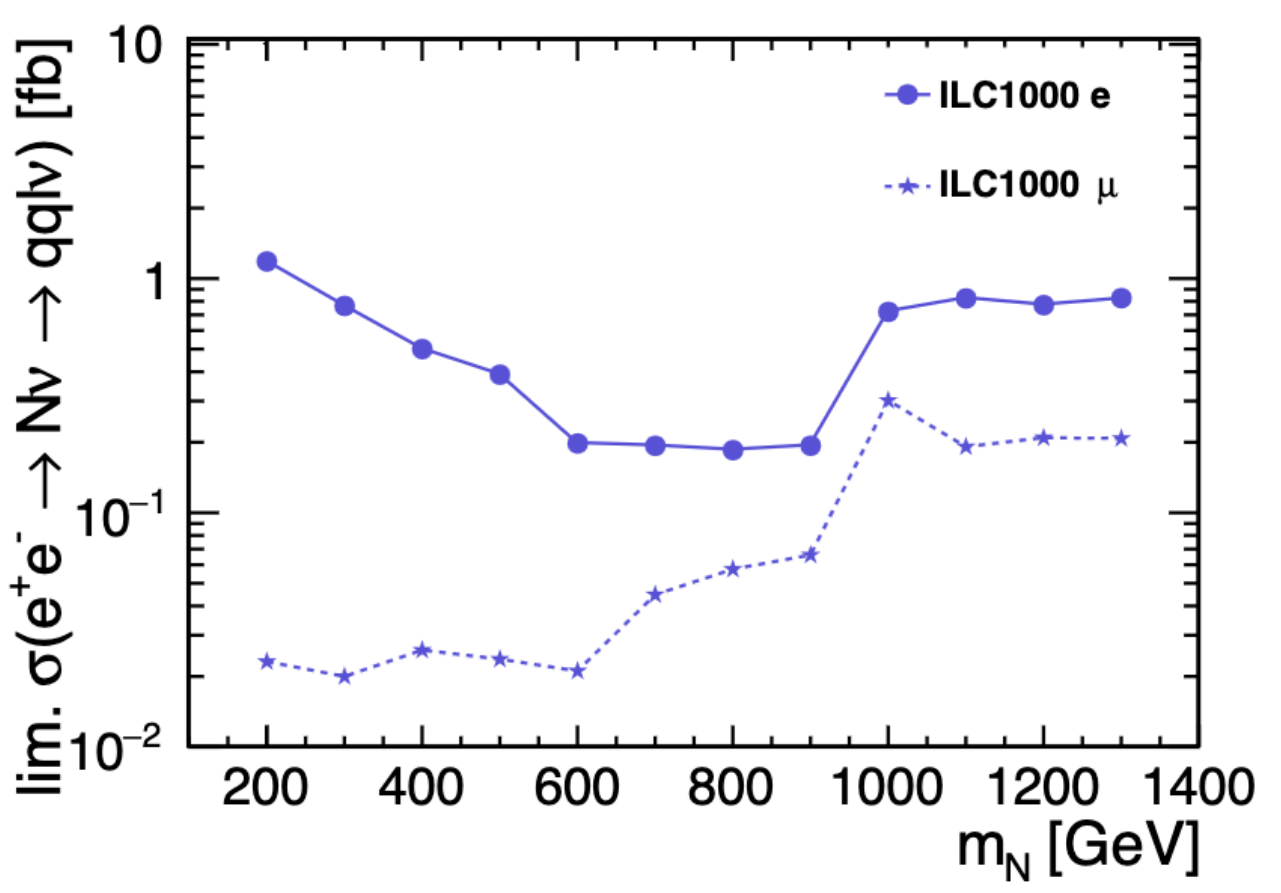
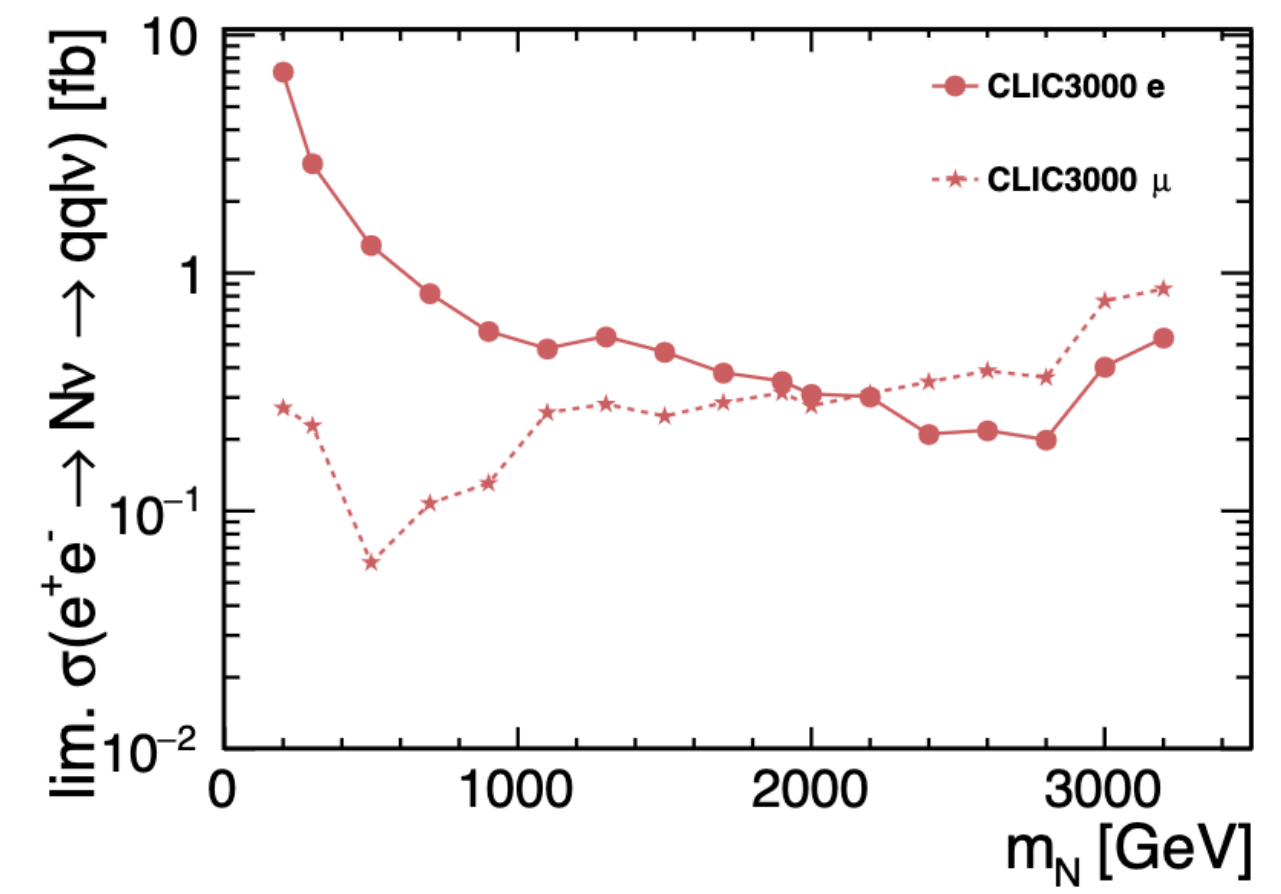
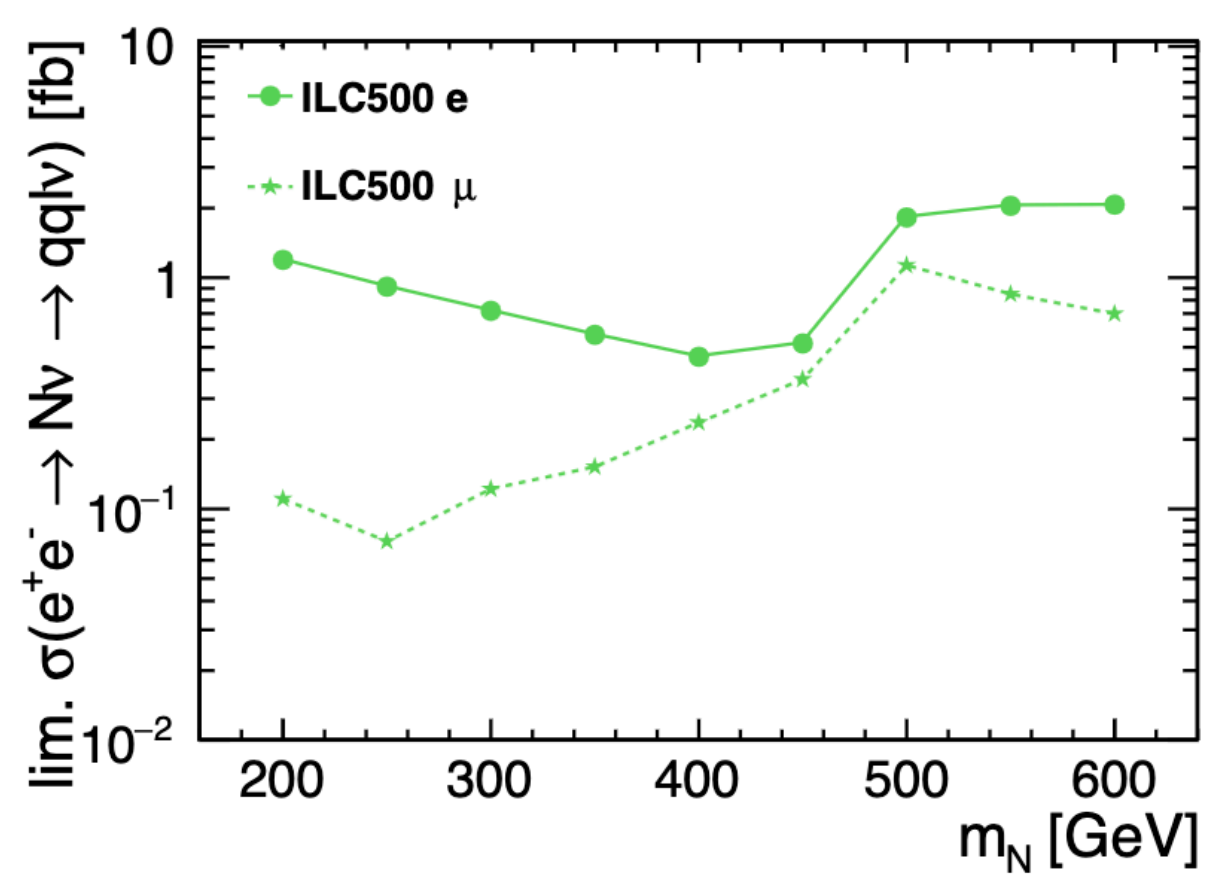
Combination of  $e^\pm$  and  $\mu^\pm$  channels



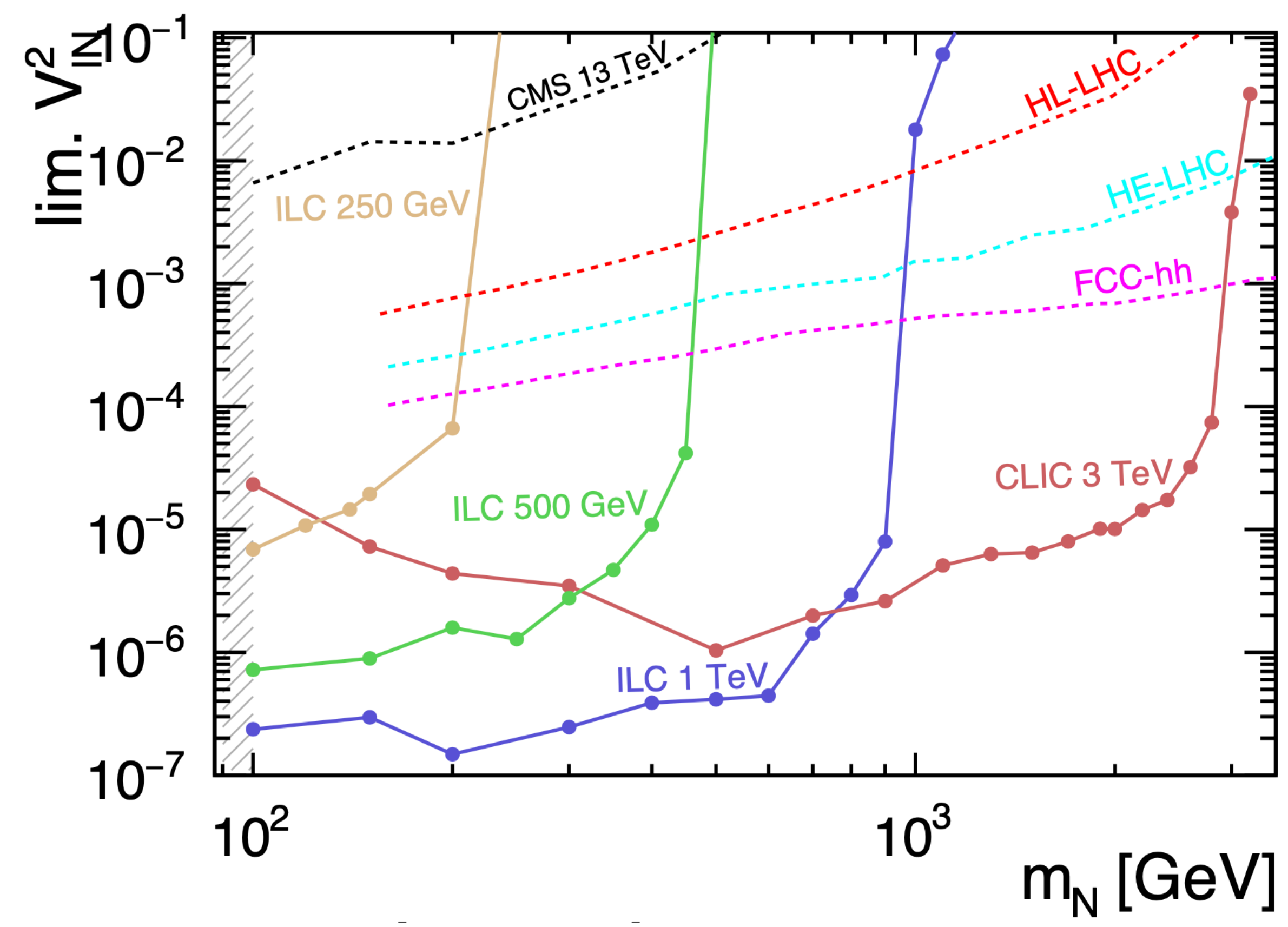
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Typical hadron/lepton duality: masses vs. coupling reach!

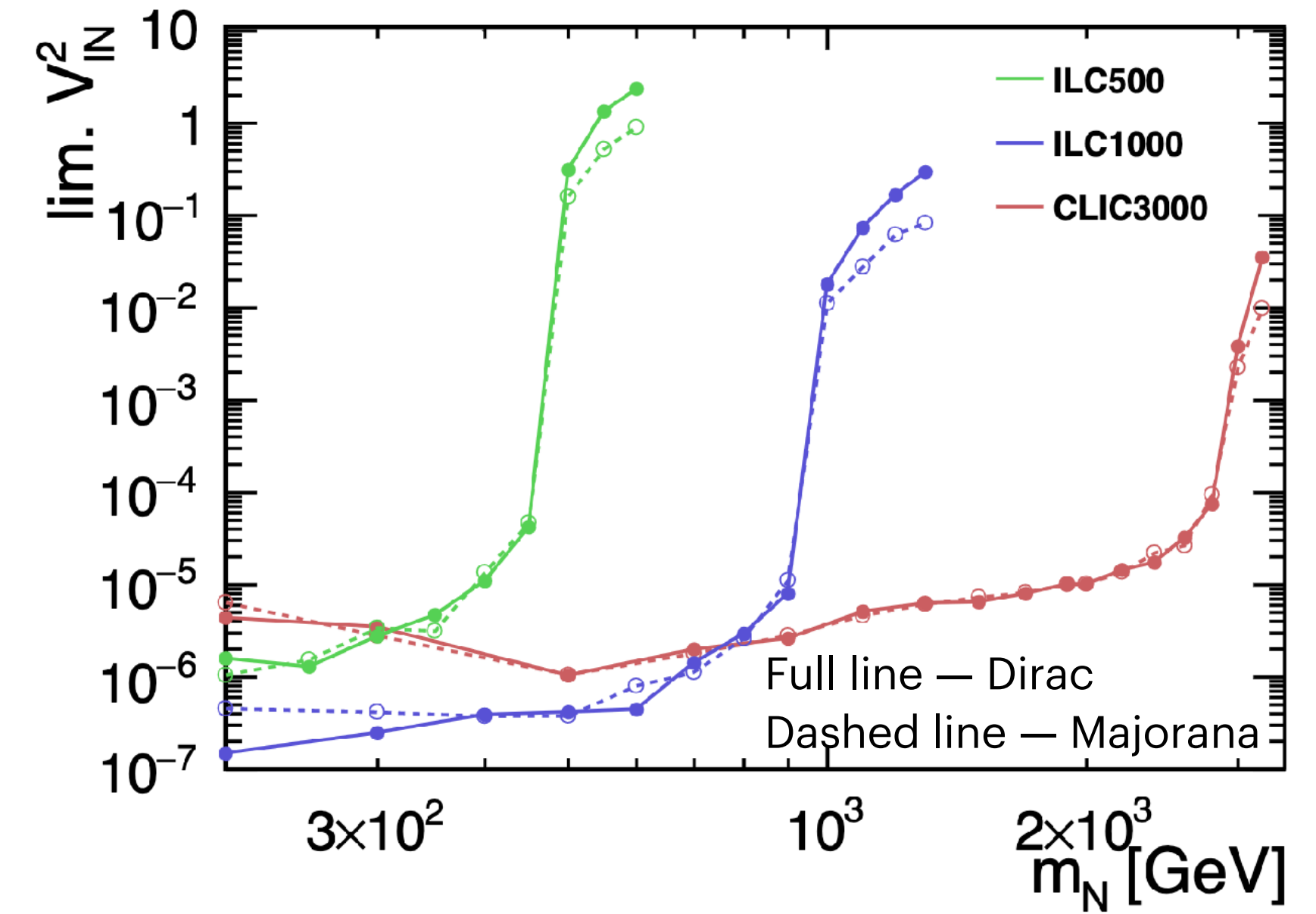


LHC analysis: [1812.08750], diff. assumption:  $V_{eN} = V_{\mu N} \neq V_{\tau N} = 0$



# Discrimination of Dirac vs. Majorana

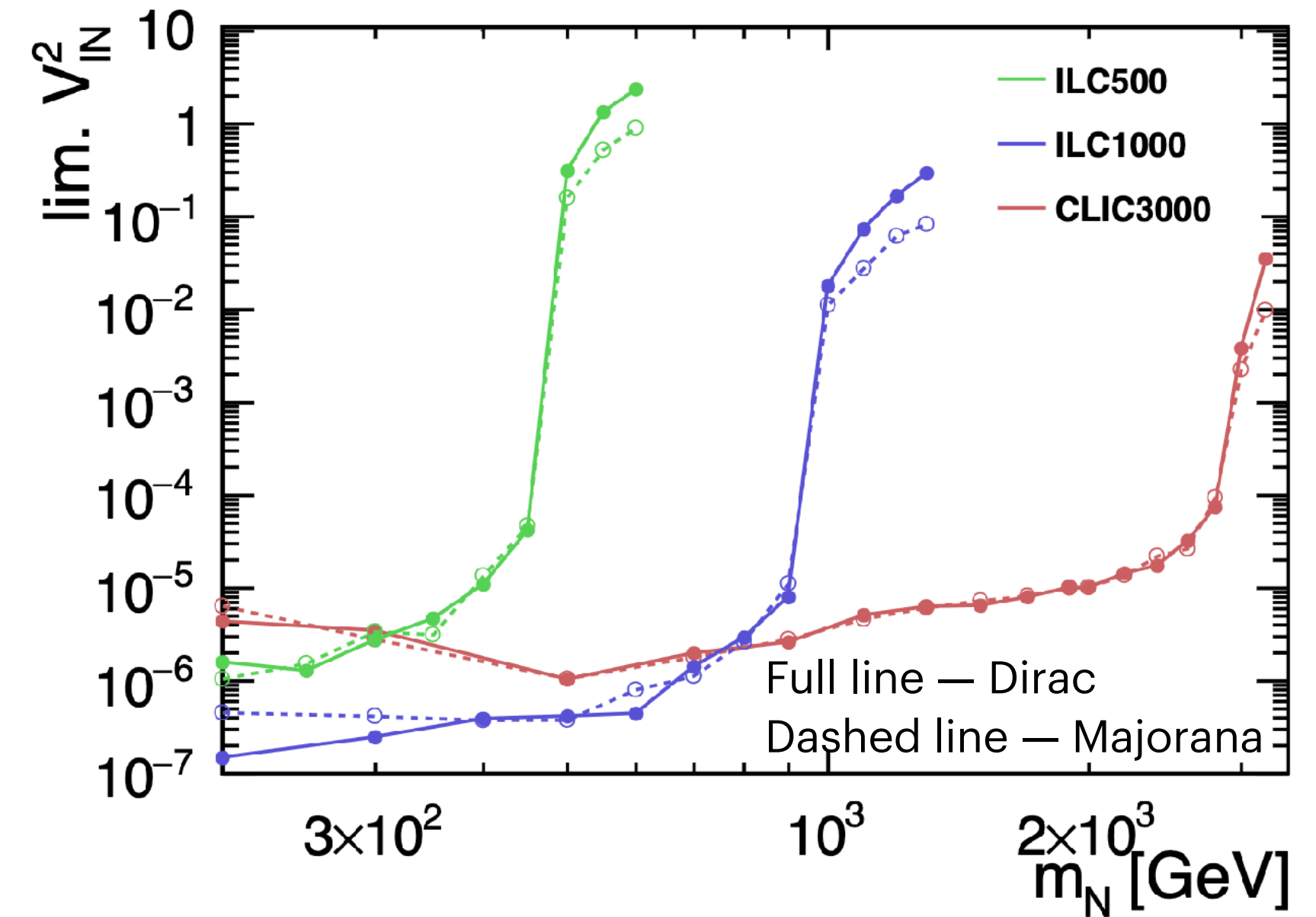
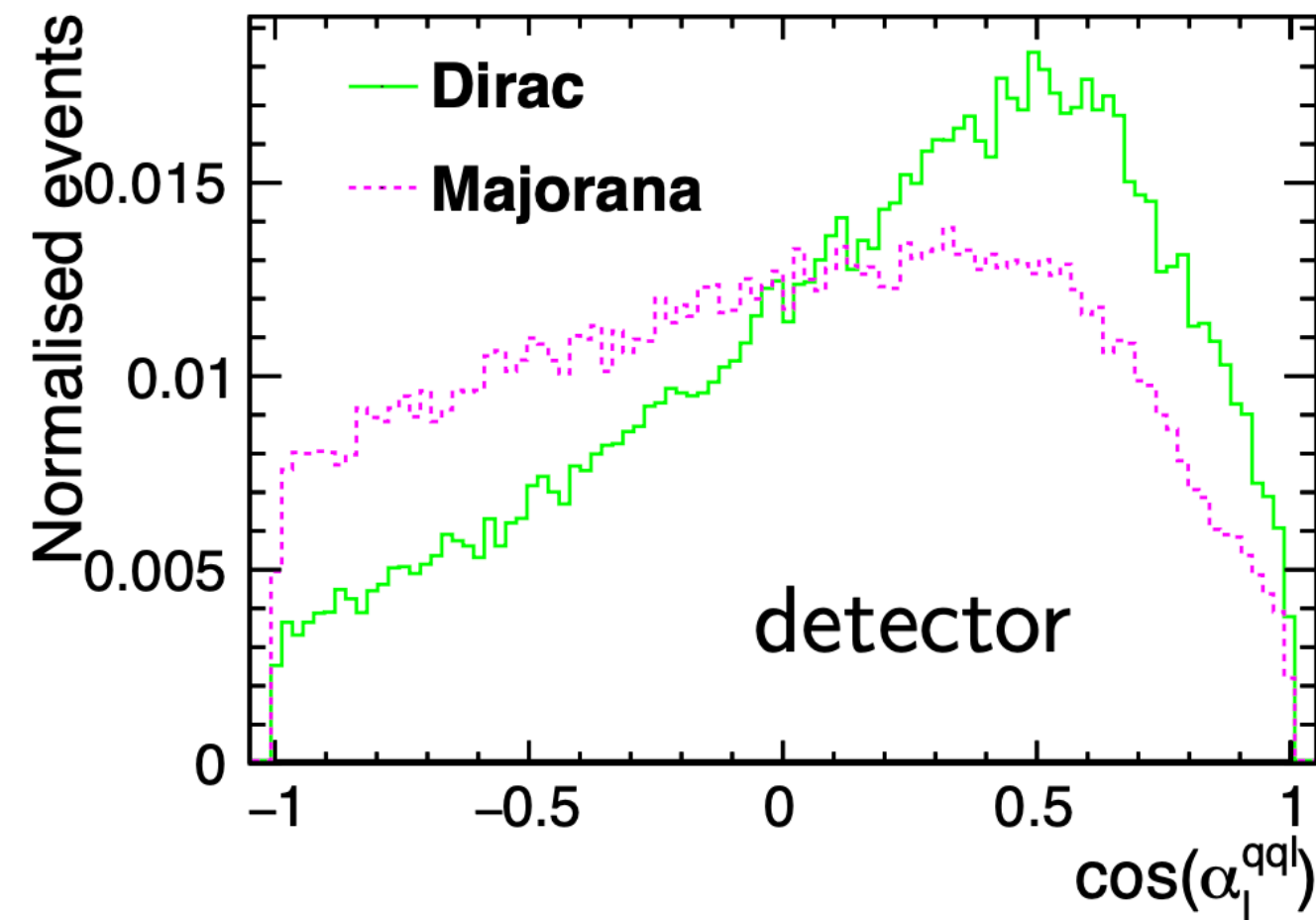
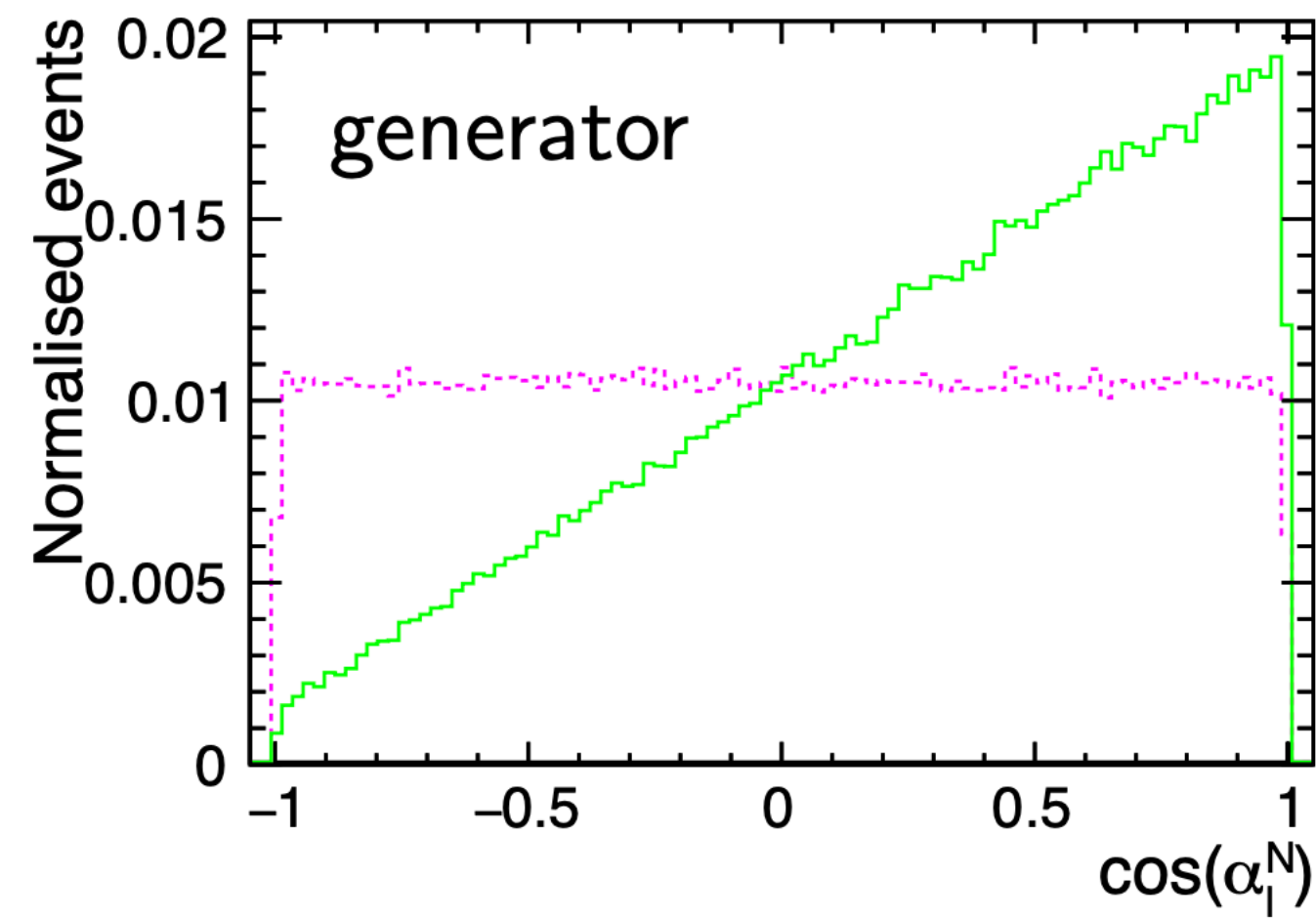
- Exclusion limit very similar for Dirac & Majorana neutrino (except: off-shell production)
- Possible discriminant: lepton emission angle in  $N$  rest frame





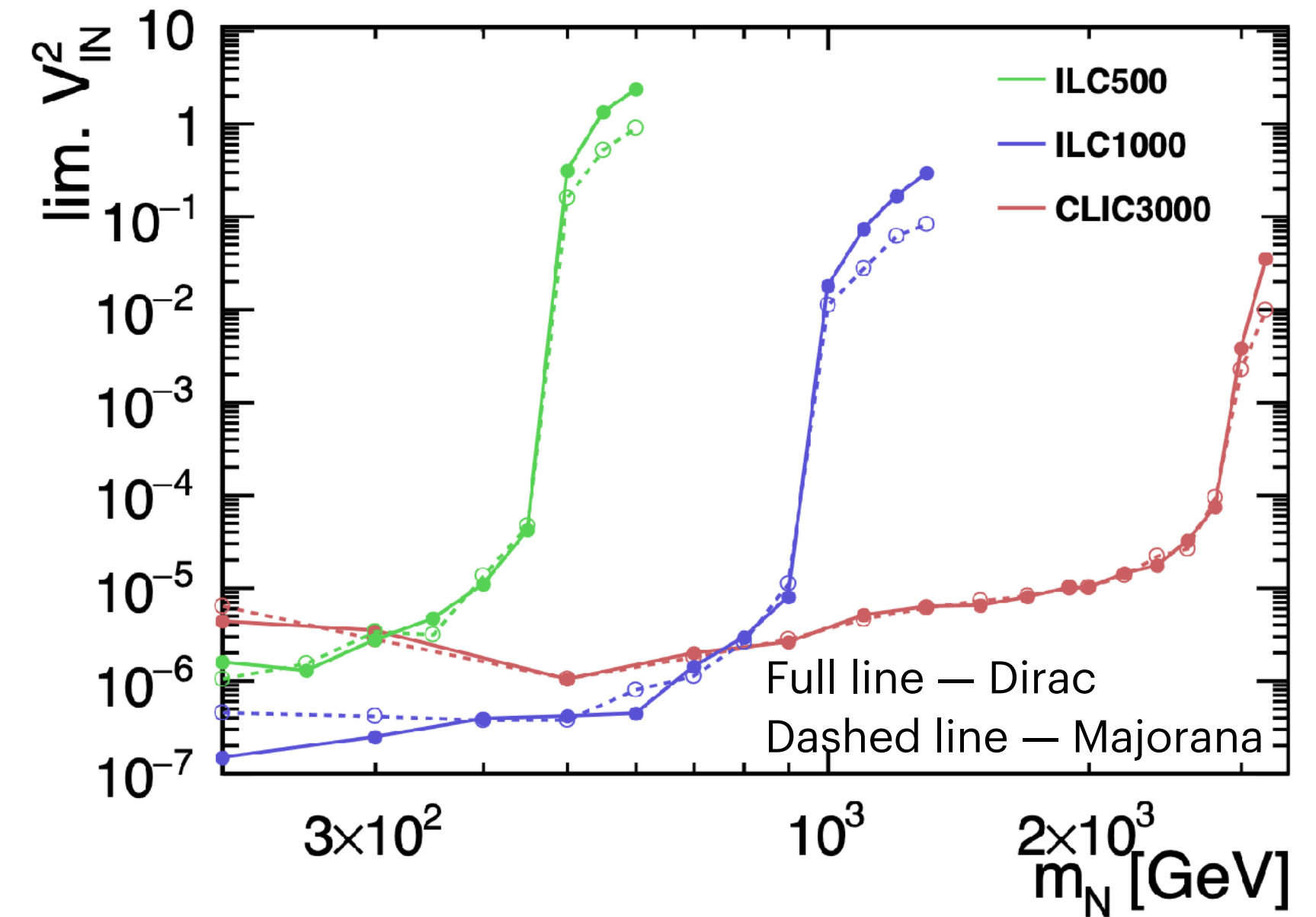
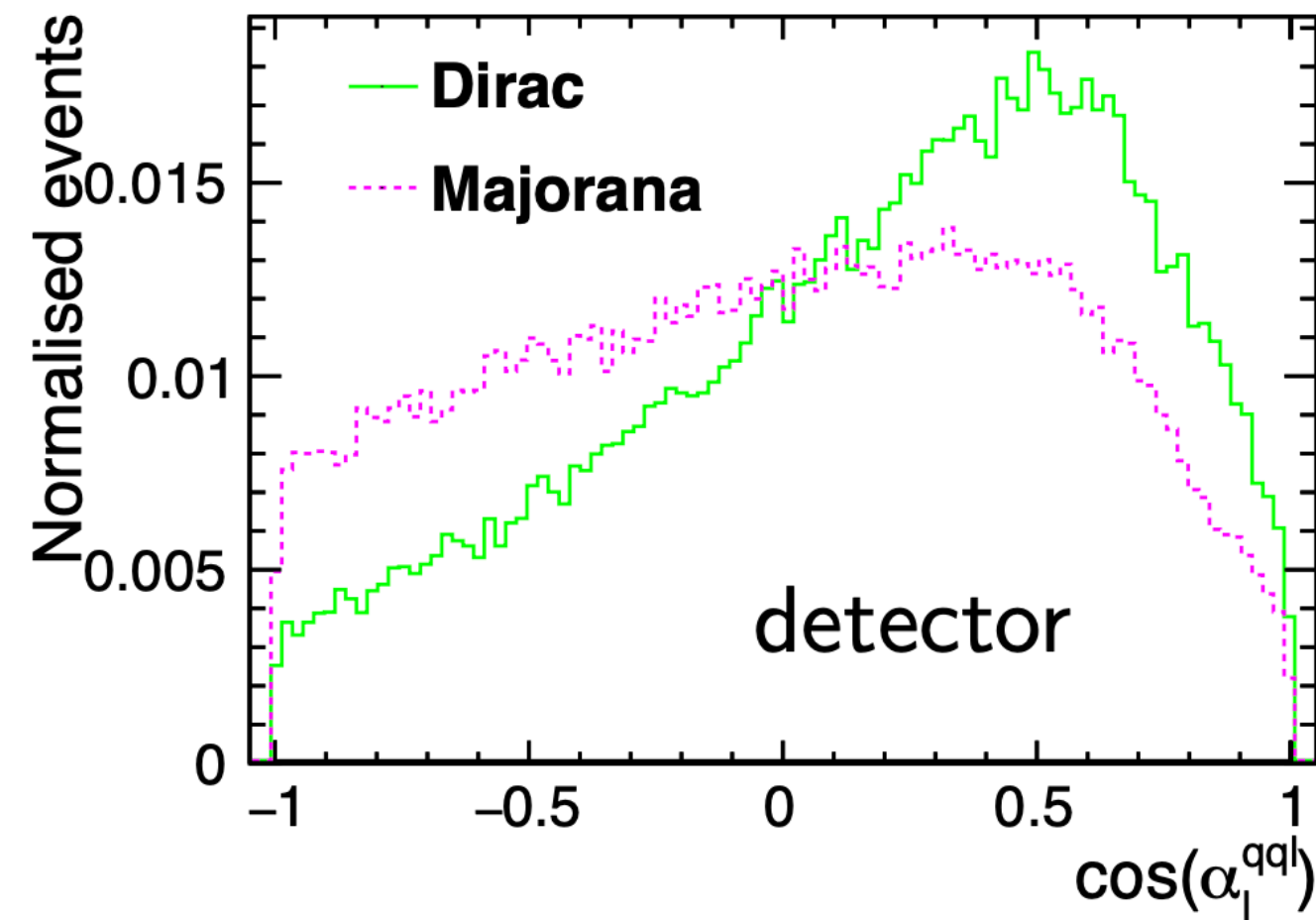
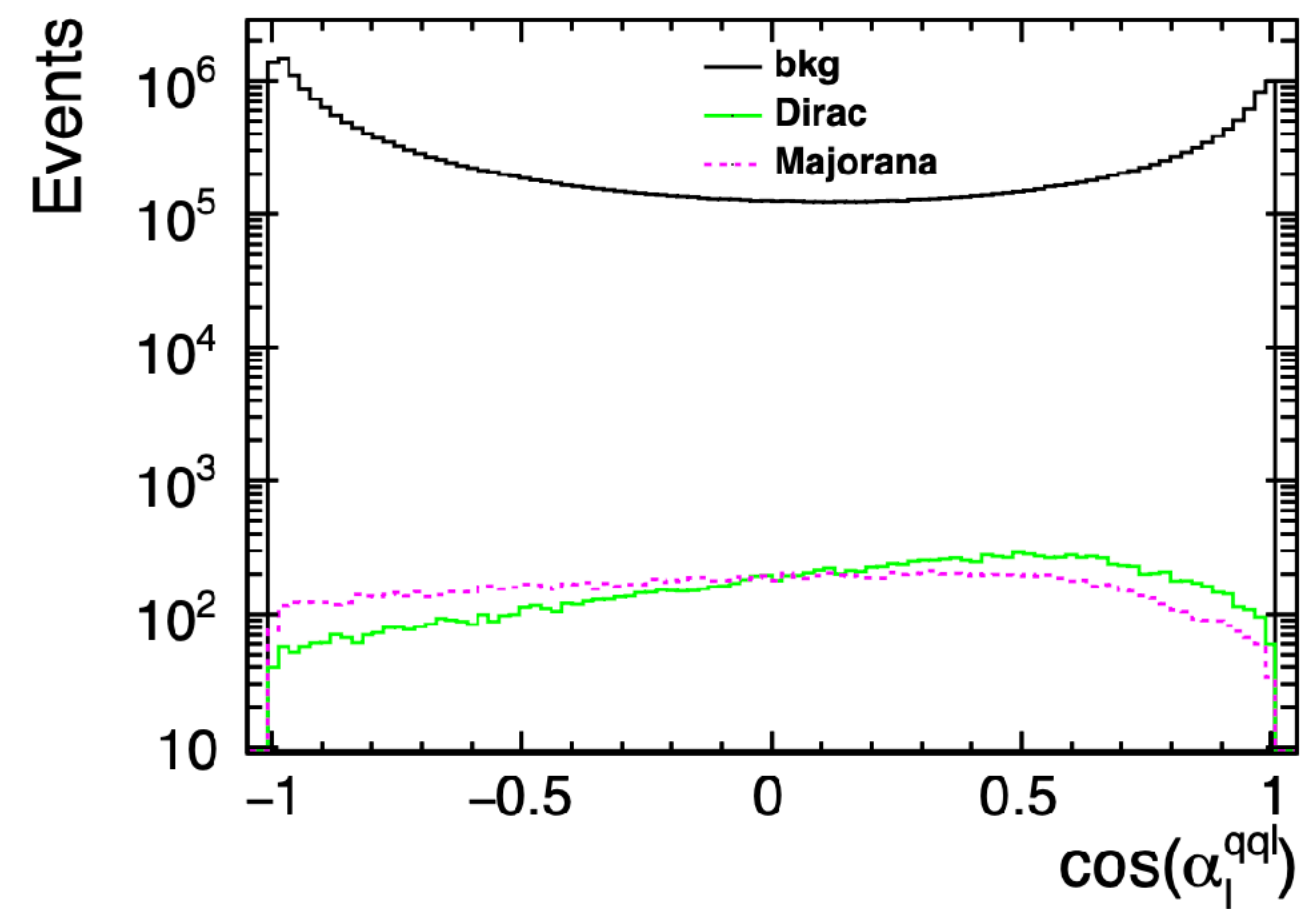
# Discrimination of Dirac vs. Majorana

- Exclusion limit very similar for Dirac & Majorana neutrino (except: off-shell production)
- Possible discriminant: lepton emission angle in  $N$  rest frame



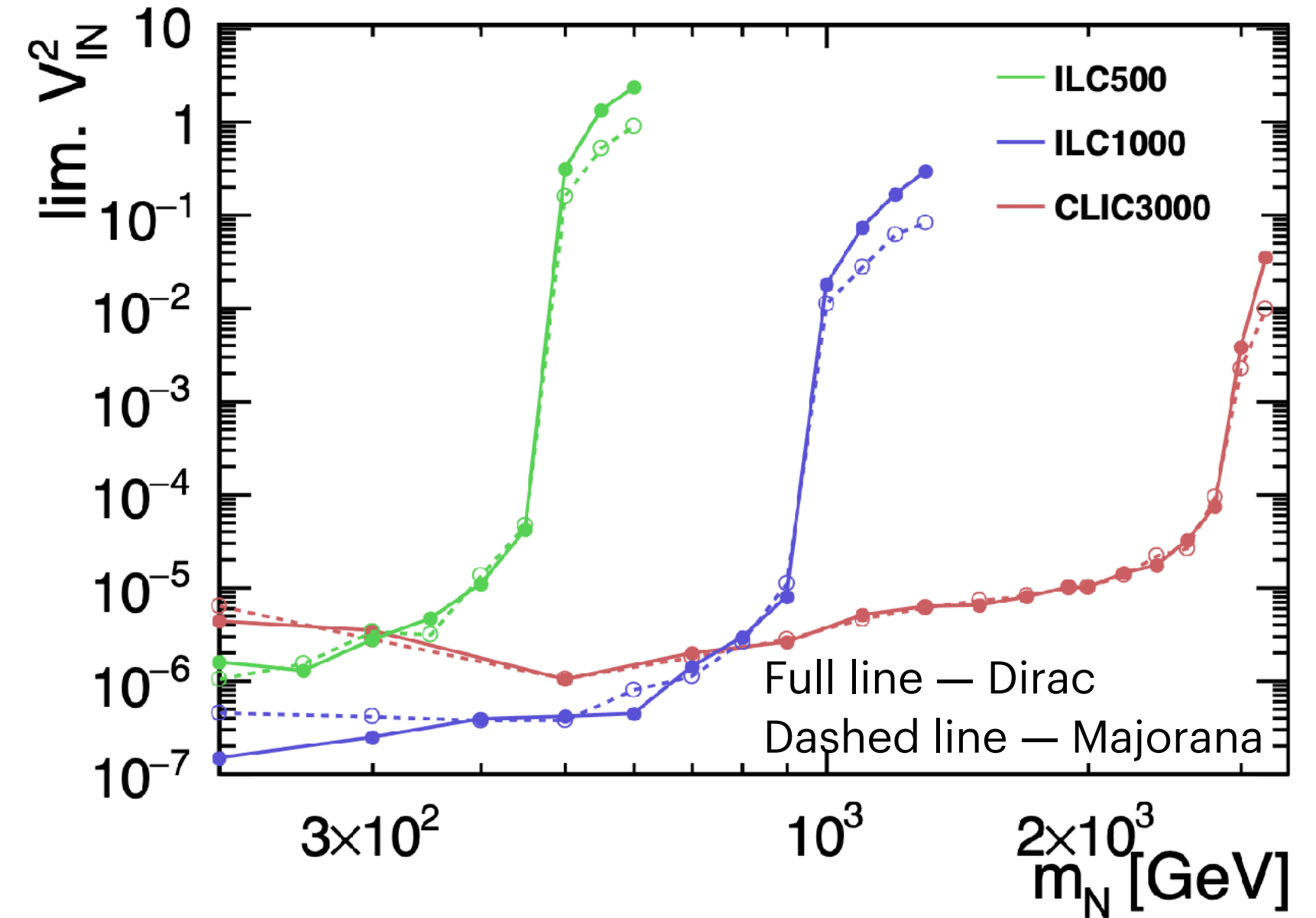
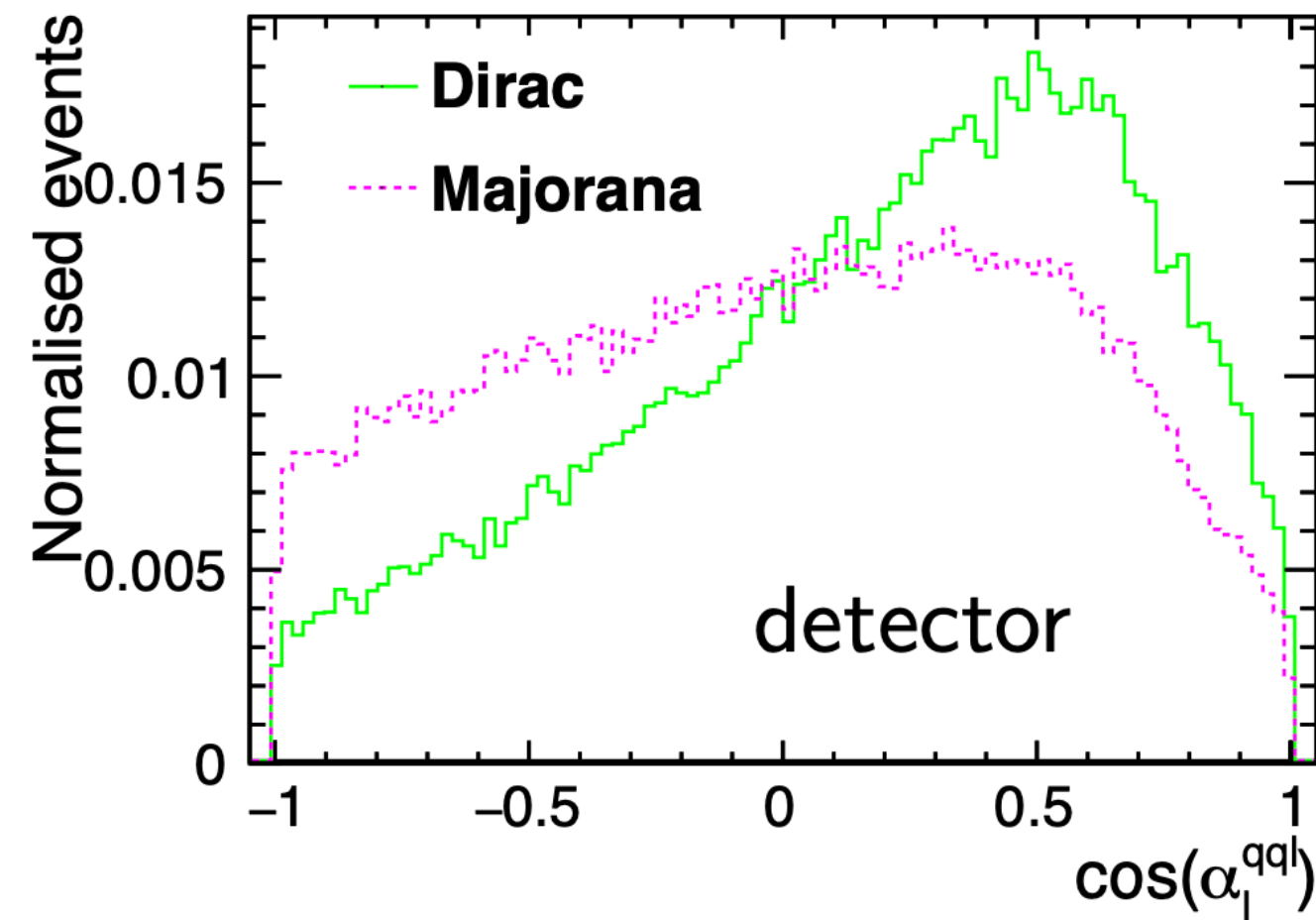
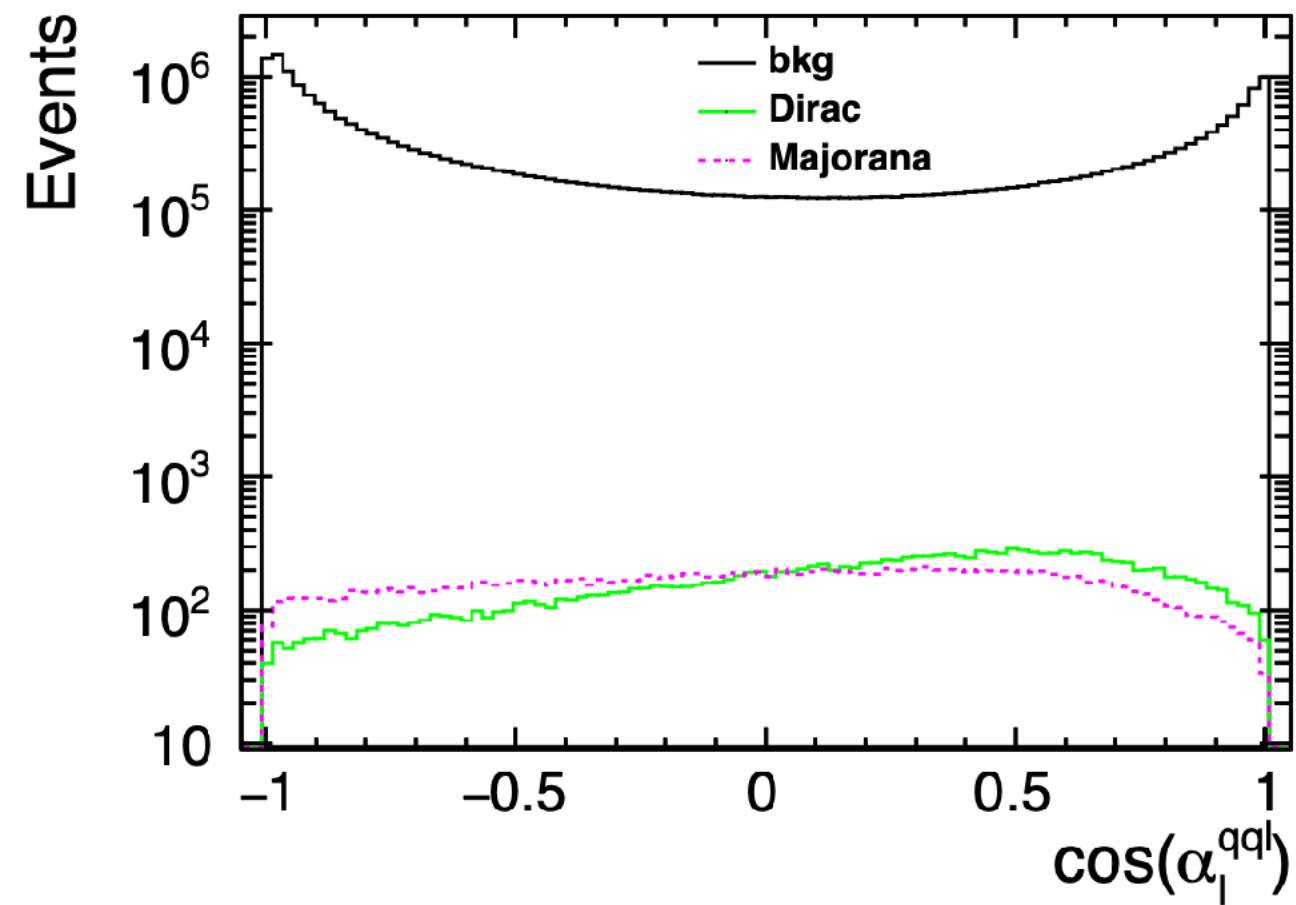
# Discrimination of Dirac vs. Majorana

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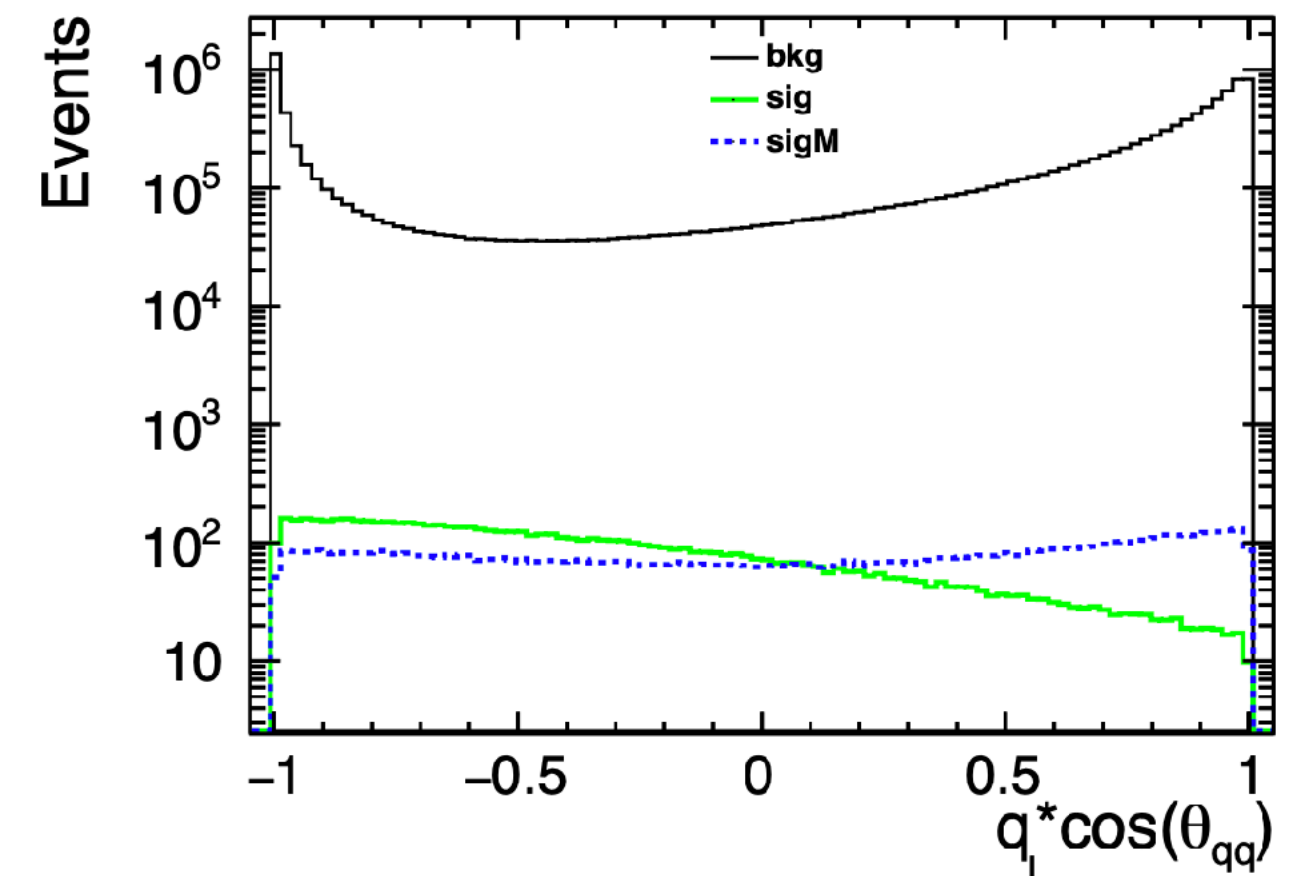
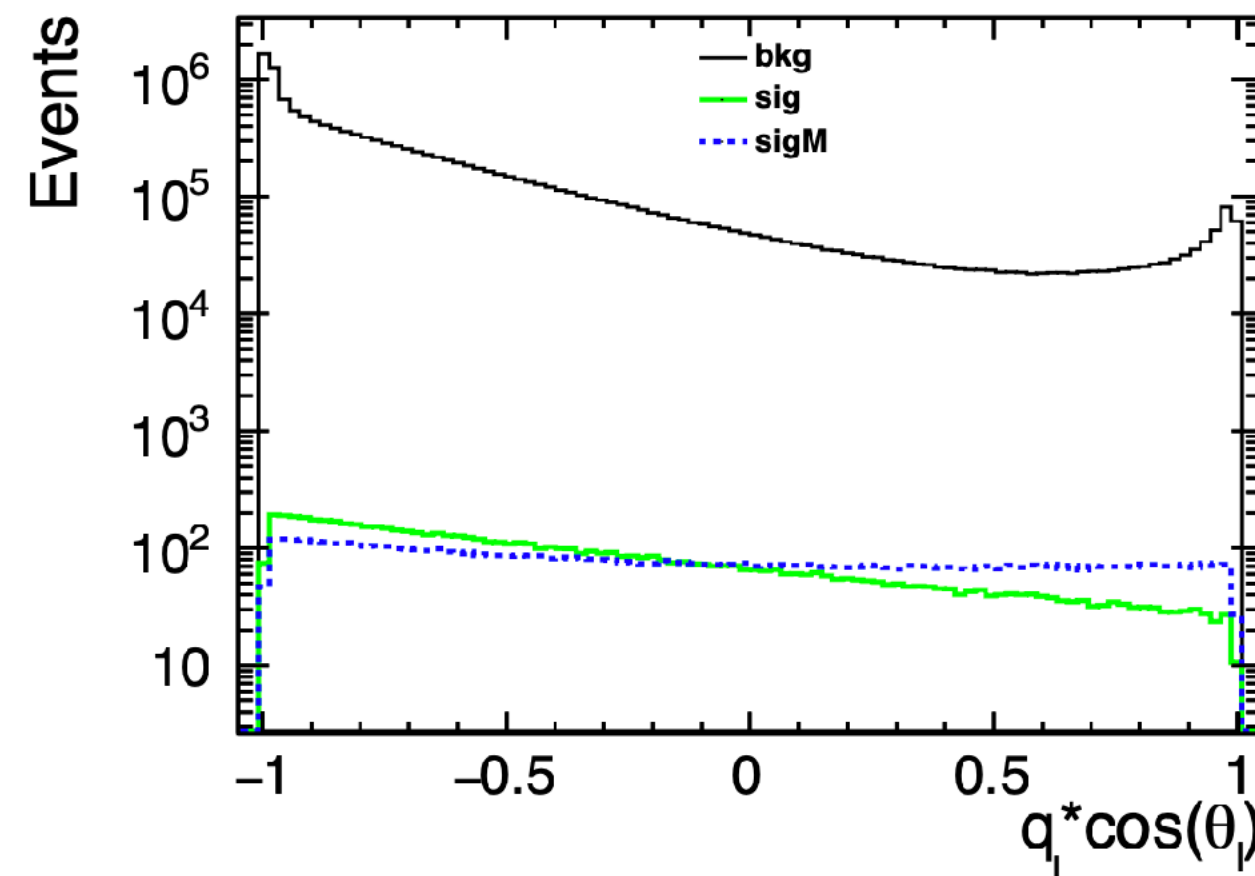
# Discrimination of Dirac vs. Majorana

- Exclusion limit very similar for Dirac & Majorana neutrino (except: off-shell production)
- Possible discriminant: lepton emission angle in  $N$  rest frame



- More sophisticated variable: lepton and dijet angles relative to beam weighted by the lepton charge  $q_\ell$

ILC 250 GeV,  $m_N = 150$  GeV



2 independent BDT trainings: Dirac vs. ( $\alpha_{BDT} \cdot$  Majorana + Bkgd.) & Majorana vs. ( $\alpha_{BDT} \cdot$  Dirac + Bkgd.)

2D histograms:  $BDT_D + BDT_M$ ,  $BDT_D - BDT_M$

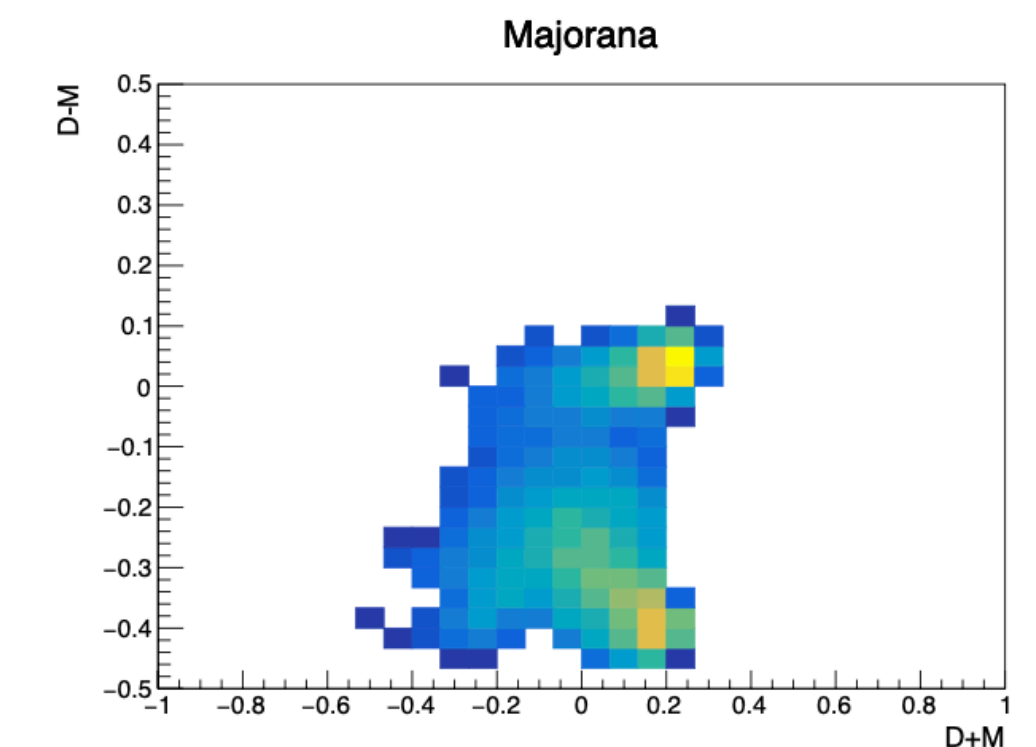
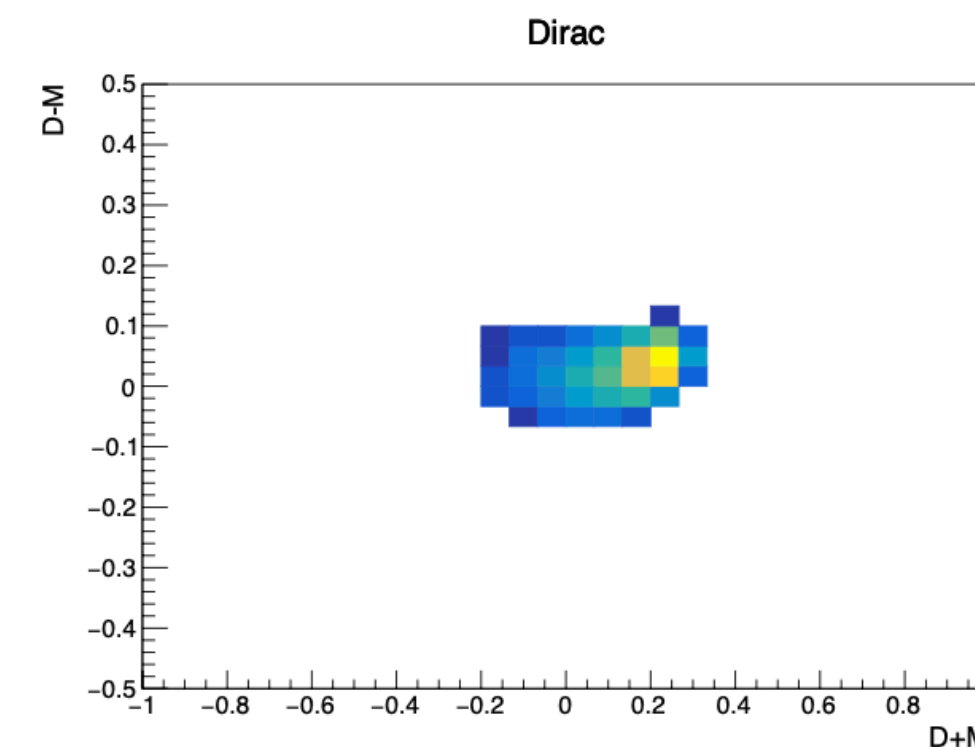
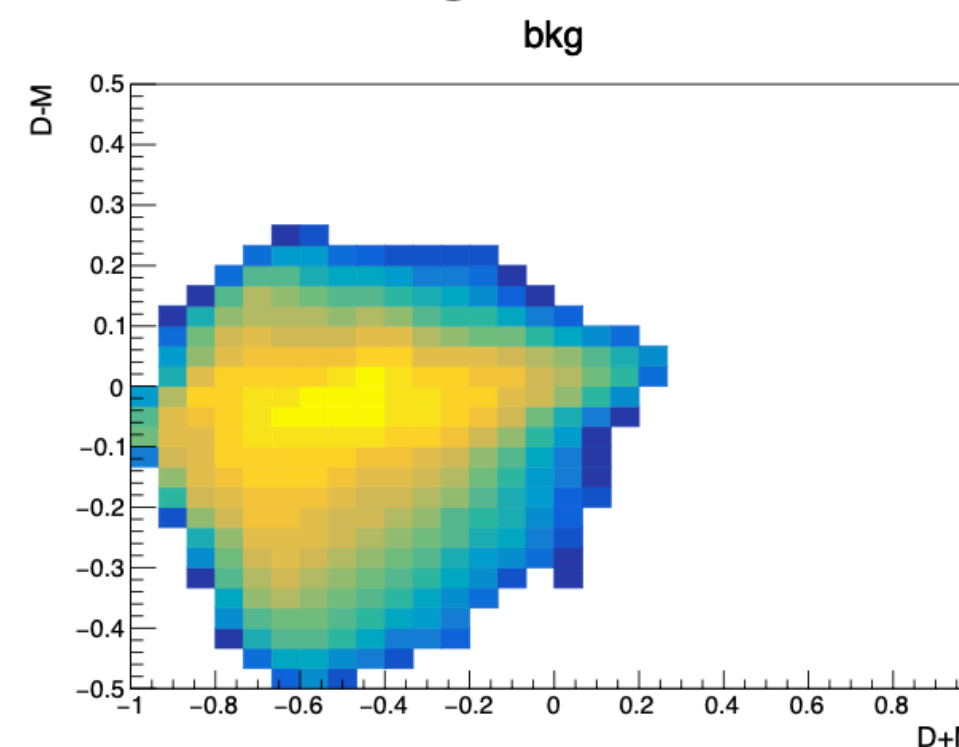
$\chi^2$ -like statistics:  $T' = \sum_{bins} \frac{[(B + D) - (B + M)]^2}{\frac{1}{2}[(B + D) + (B + M)]} = \sum_{bins} \frac{(D - M)^2}{B + \frac{D + M}{2}}$       $T' = T + \text{DOF}$       $T' \longrightarrow T'(\alpha_{lim}) = \sum_{bins} \frac{\alpha_{lim}^2 (D - M)^2}{B + \alpha_{lim} \cdot \frac{D + M}{2}}$

Limit setting procedure: search for  $\alpha_{lim}$  such that:  $T(\alpha_{lim}) \stackrel{!}{=} \chi_{crit}^2(\text{DOF})$

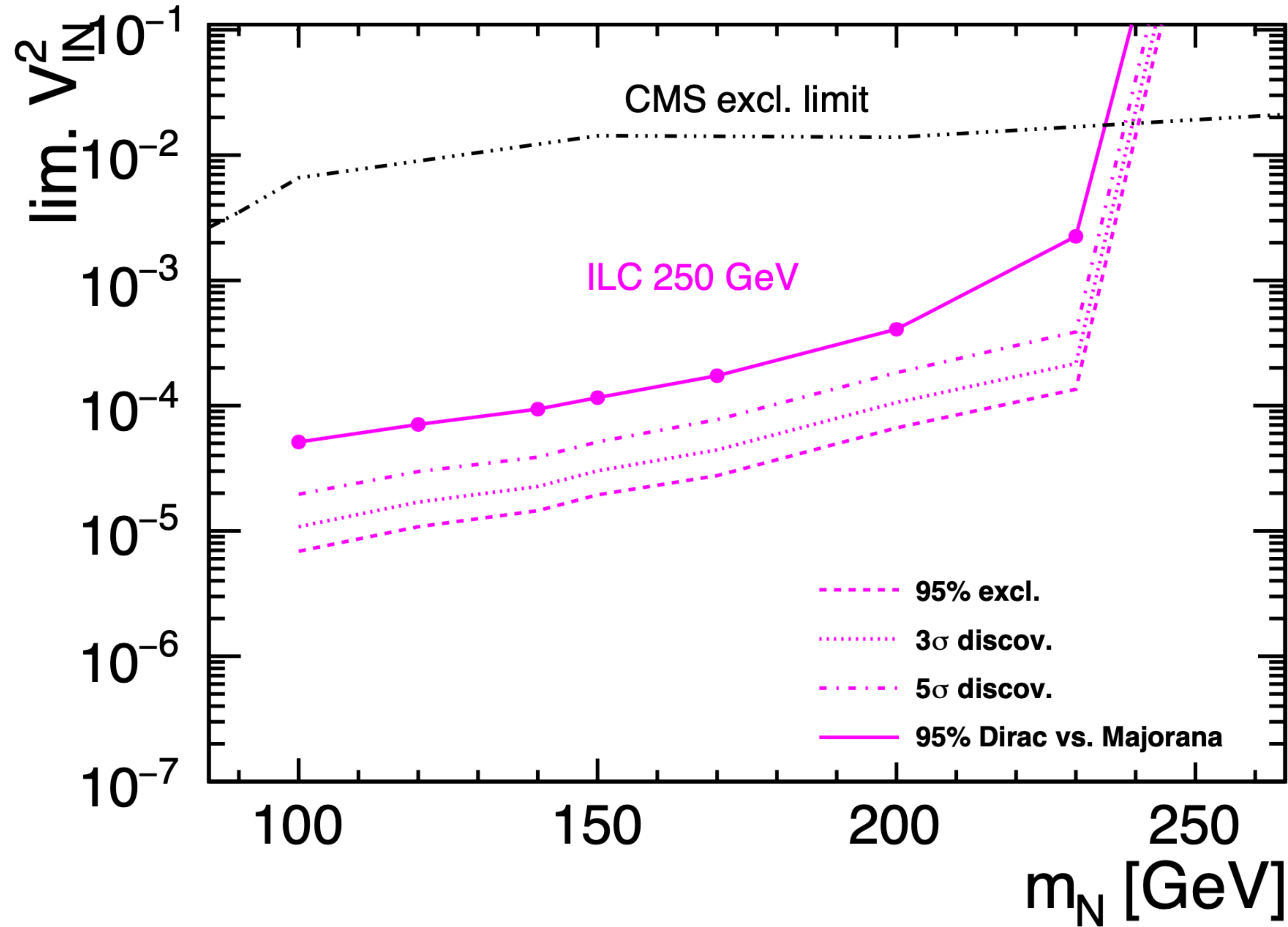
Statistical test:  $T \geq \chi_{crit}^2(\text{DOF}) \implies$  signal hypotheses distinguishable

Technical procedure:

1. Train BDT for different values  $\alpha_{BDT}$
2. For each  $\alpha_{BDT}$ : calculate 95% CL limit  $\alpha_{lim}$  such that  $T(\alpha_{lim}) = \chi_{crit}^2(\text{DOF})$
3. Select the best limit:  $\alpha_{min} = \min \{ \alpha_{lim} \}$
4. Set final limit as  $V_{\ell N}^{lim} = \alpha_{min} \cdot V_{\ell N}^{ref}$

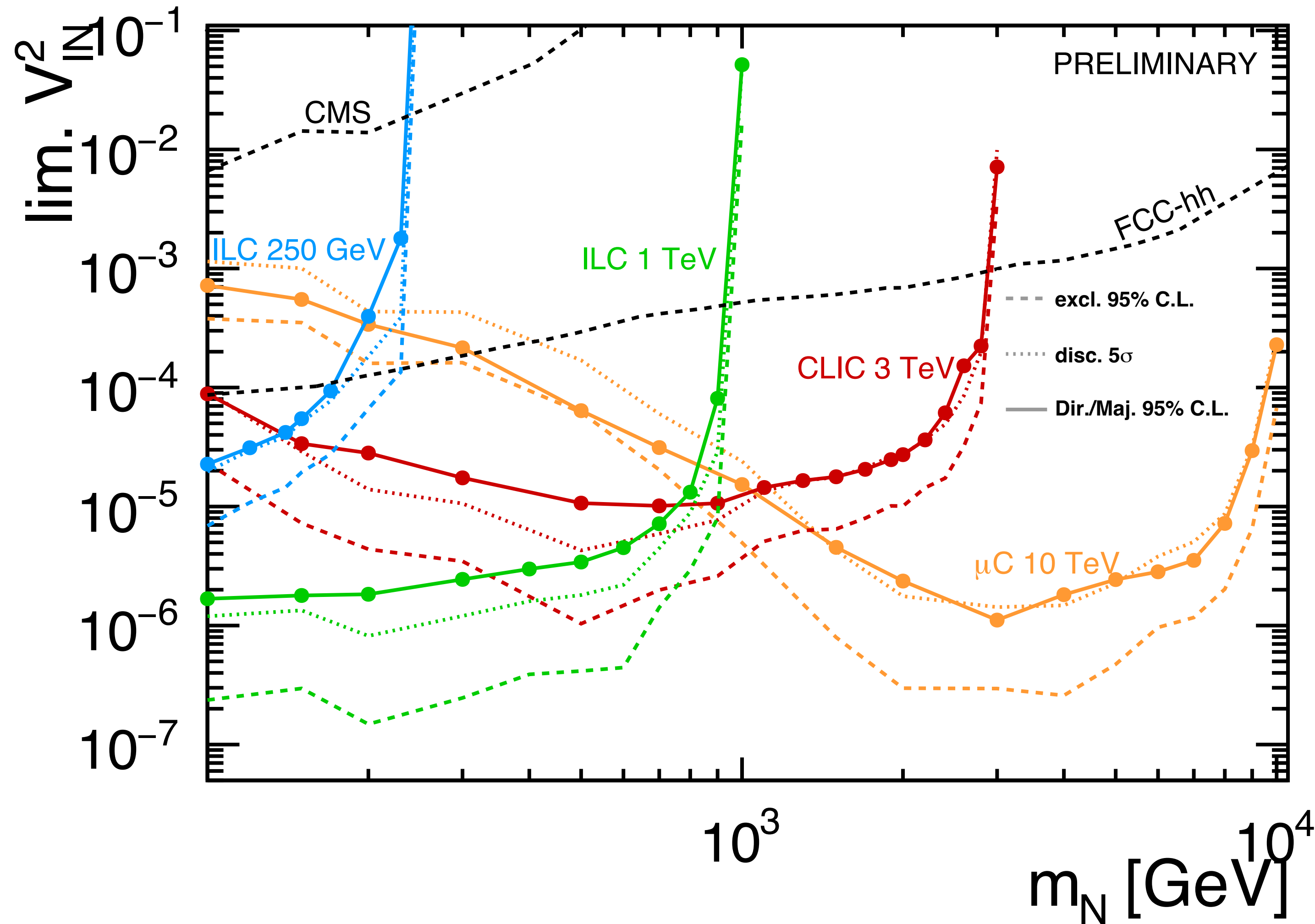


# Preliminary results



# Preliminary results

## Dirac vs Majorana 95% CL



Almost directly with a discovery a Majorana vs. Dirac discrimination possible!



- Neutrinos connected (?) to many BSM roads: CP violation, Dark Matter, Flavor, Structure of the Universe
- Lepton collider with weak production excellent tool for discovery and discrimination
- Studies performed in simplified model resembling type-I seesaw model
- BDT analysis based on WHIZARD+Pythia+Delphes simulation chain: CLs limits
- Discovery reach for ILC-250/500/1000, CLIC-3000 [and MuC-3/10]
- Hadron collider reaches higher masses, lepton collider (much) lower couplings [Muc supersedes FCC-hh]
- Combination of charge & angular information allows access on Dirac vs. Majorana nature
- Discrimination almost always possible after a discovery
- Work in progress: complimentarity of electron- and muon measurements on flavor structure of mixings

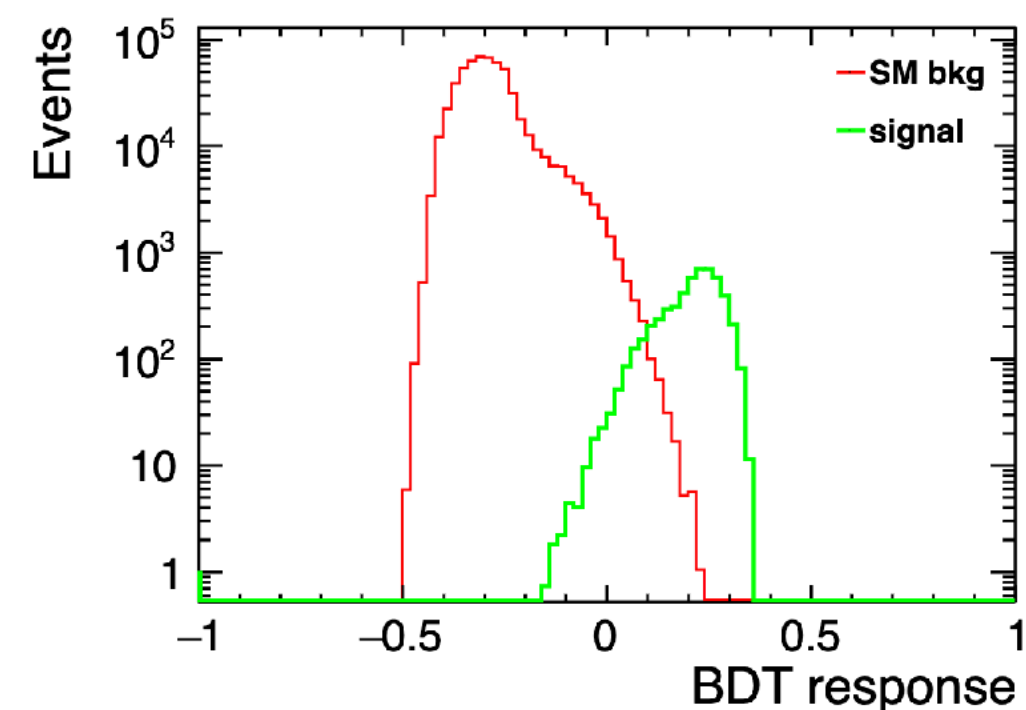
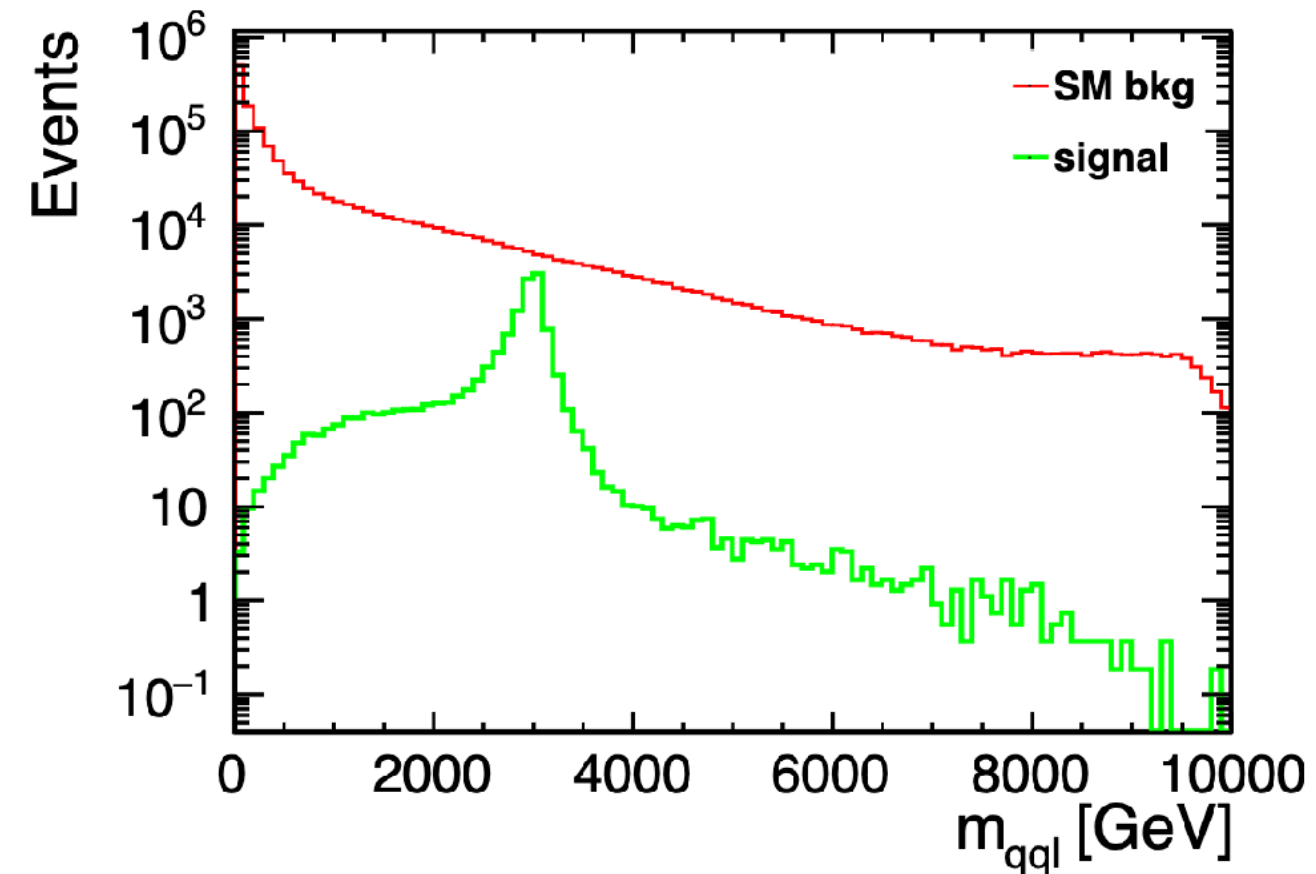
**B A C K U P**



Same analysis at muon collider much easier:

K. Mękała/JRR/A.F. Żarnecki, 2301.02602

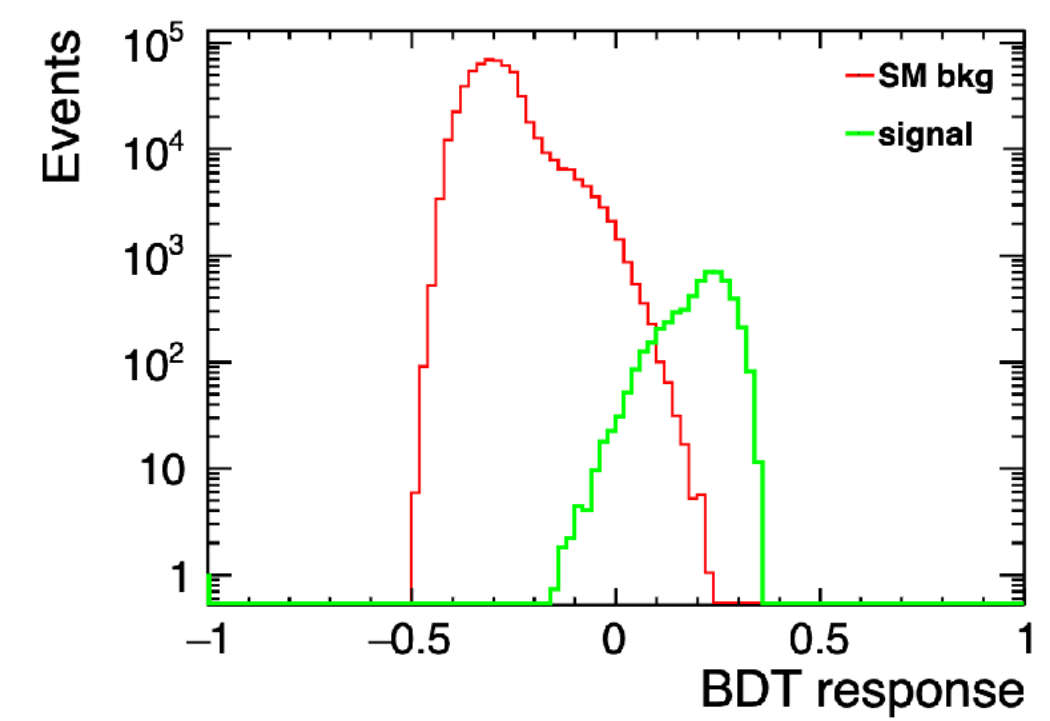
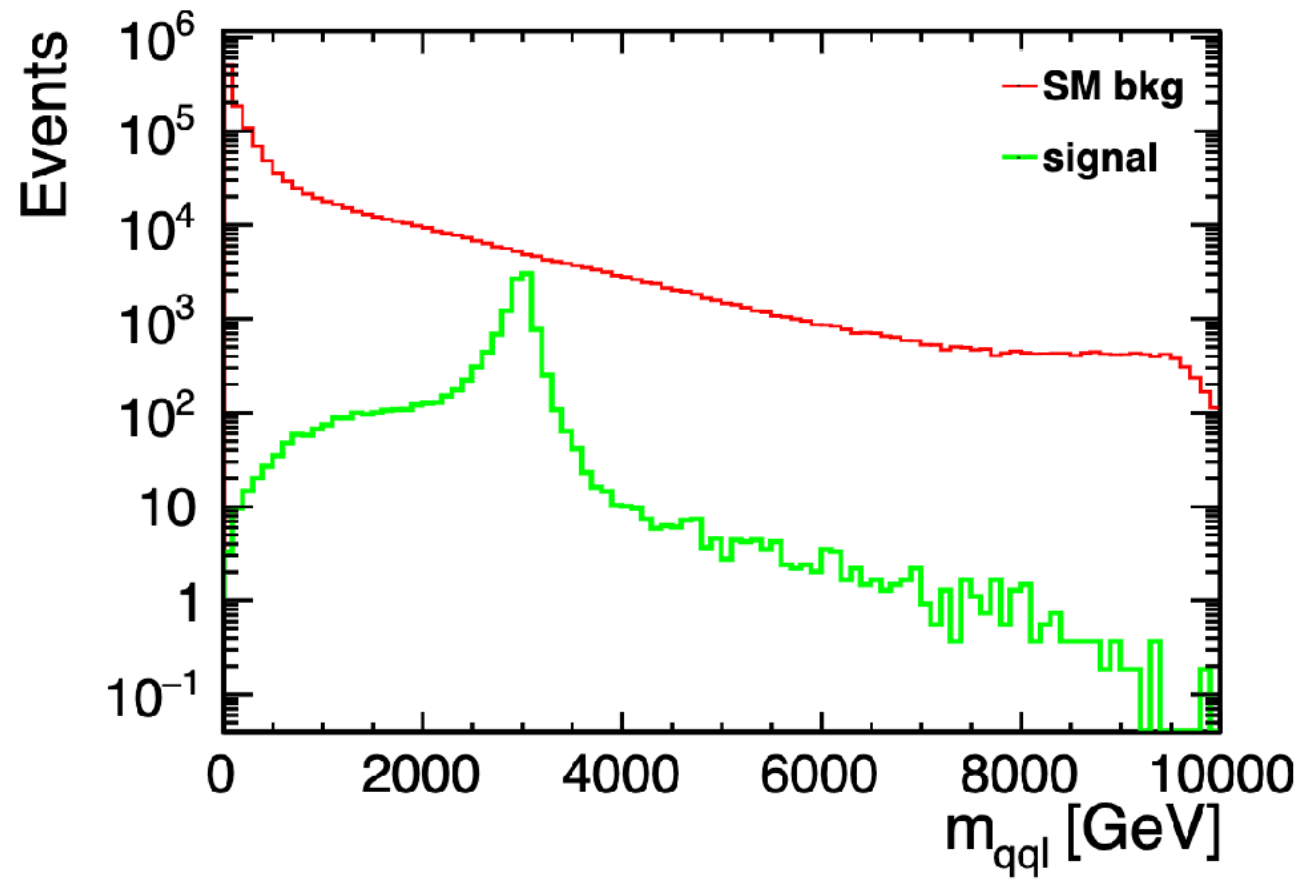
- ✓ No beamstrahlung, Gaussian beam spread irrelevant
- ✓ QED initial state radiation is almost negligible
- ✓ QED-ISR/beamstrahlung: CLIC-3 vs. MuC-3
- ✓ Off-shell processes extend sensitivity beyond collider energy!



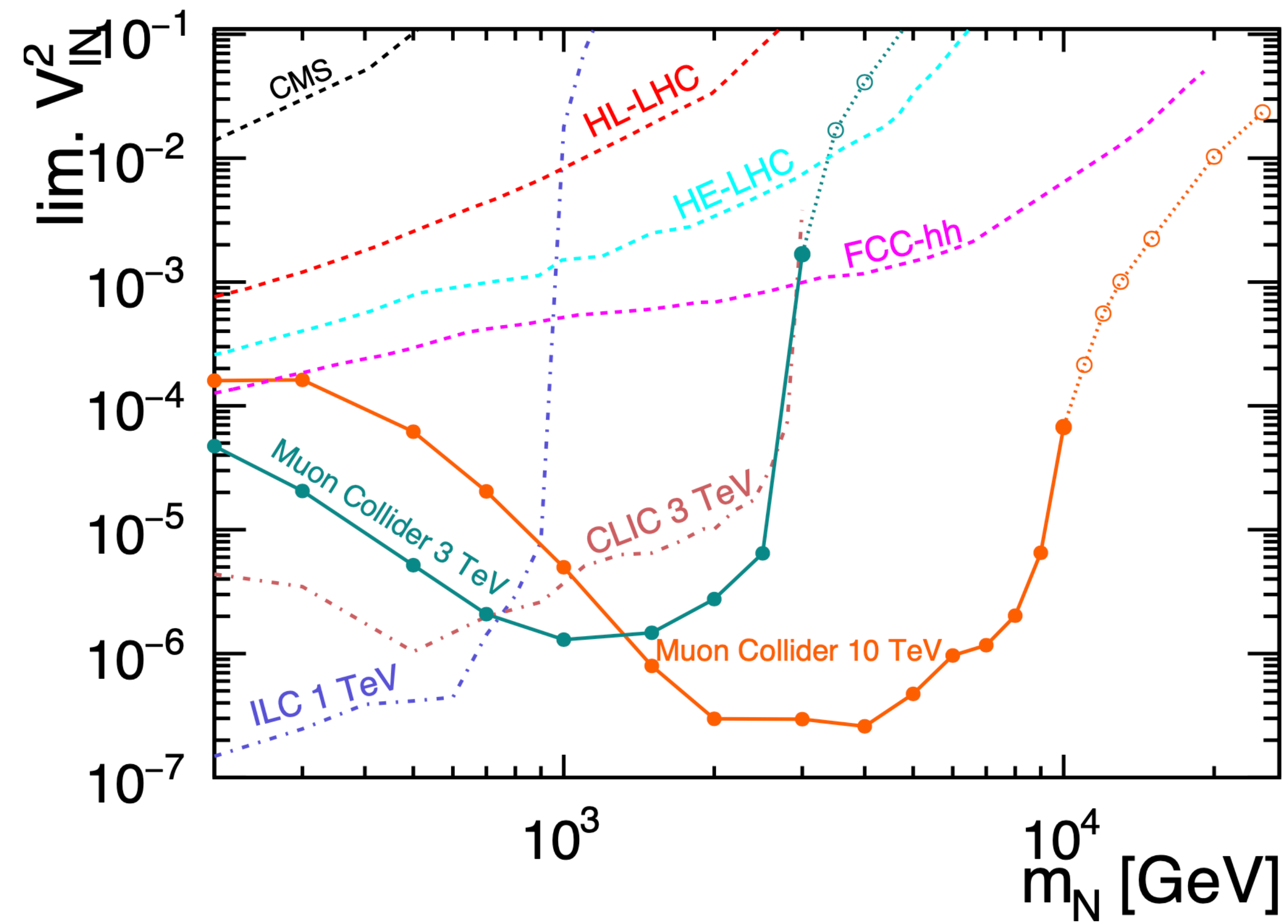
# Analysis at MuC

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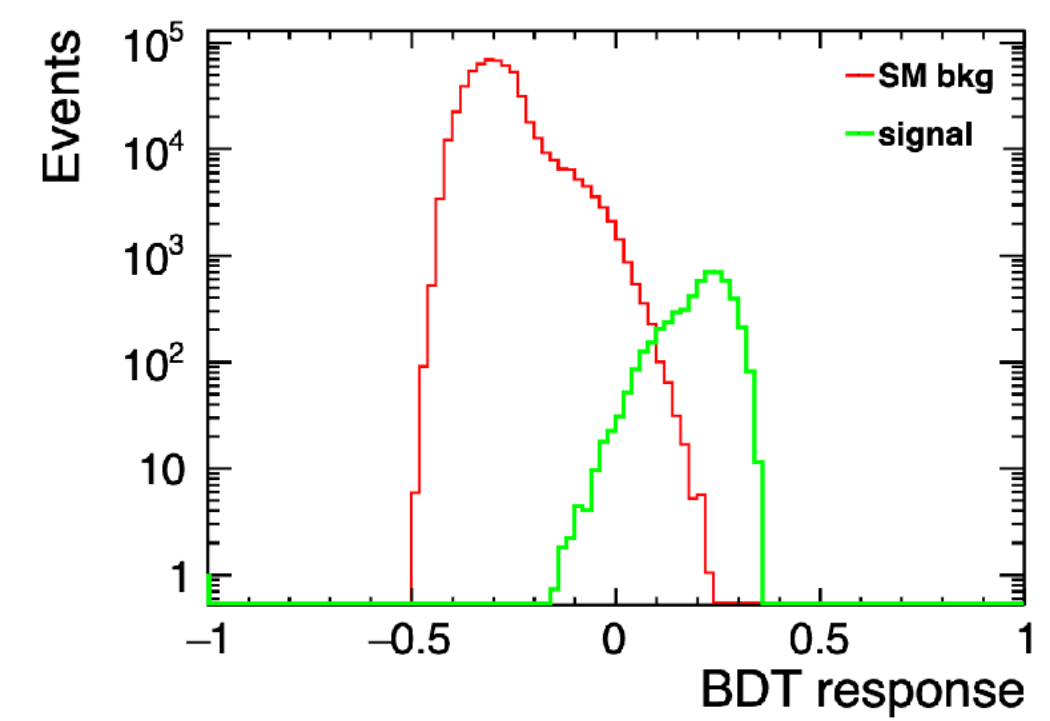
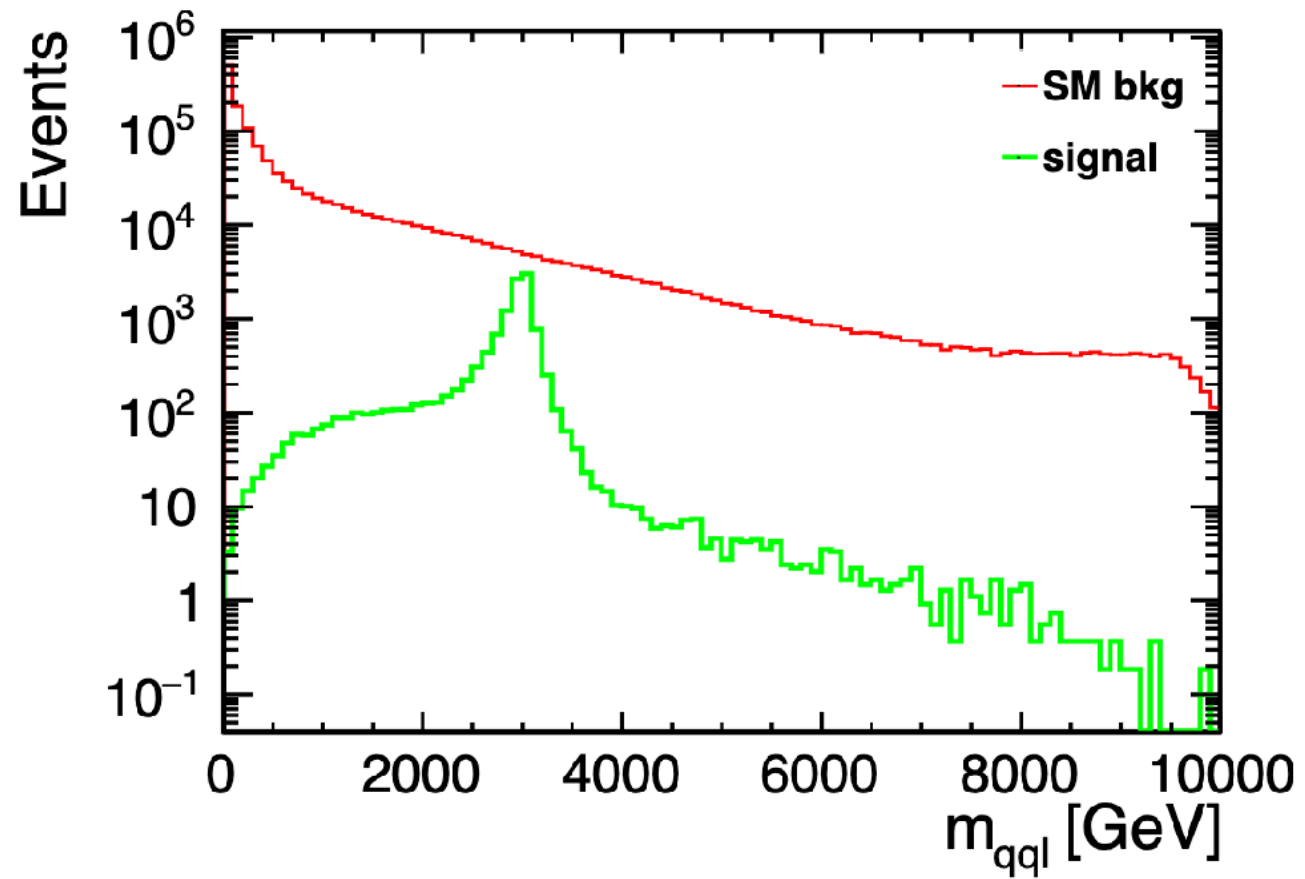
K. Mękała/JRR/A.F. Żarnecki, 2301.02602



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MuC-10 outperforms FCC-hh-100 over the whole mass range!

K. Mękała/JRR/A.F. Żarnecki, 2301.02602

