

# How Gravity Can Shape the Low-Energy Frontier of Particle Physics

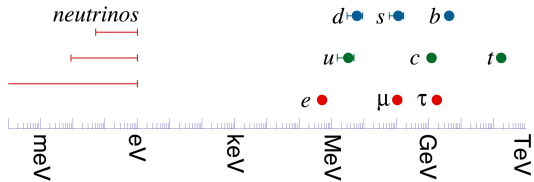
Lena Funcke



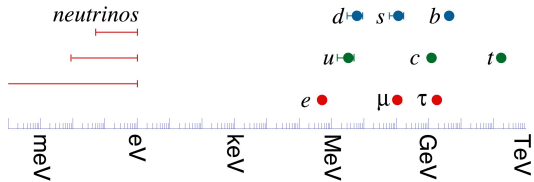
In collaboration with Gia Dvali, Georg Raffelt, Tanmay Vachaspati, and others  
(1602.03191, 1608.08969, 1811.01991, 1905.01264, 2102.13618, and ongoing work)

Leona Woods Colloquium, BNL, 25 March 2021

# Question: Origin of Small Neutrino Masses?



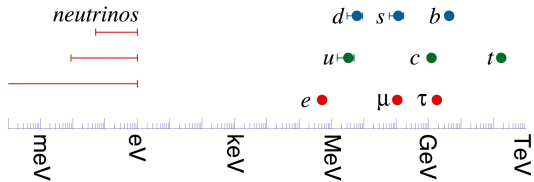
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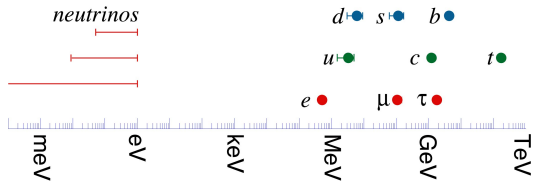
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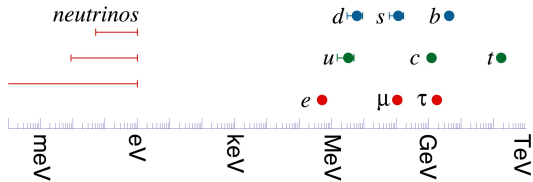
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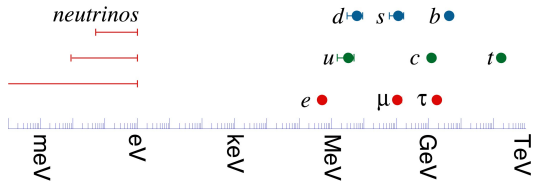
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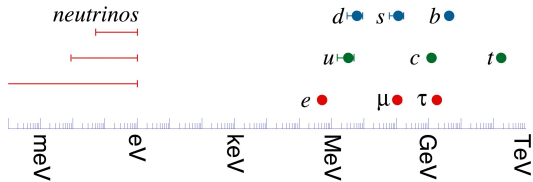
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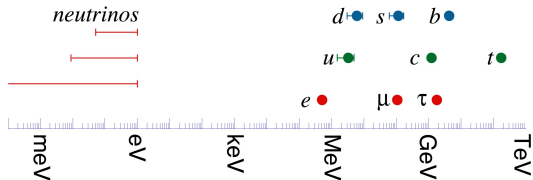


High-Energy Models

"Seesaw" mechanisms,  
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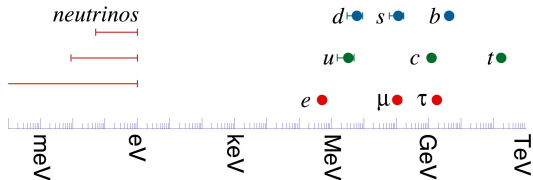


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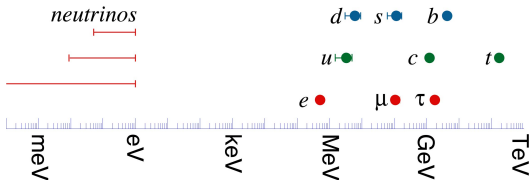
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# The Model: Neutrino Condensation

Non-perturbative topological effects in pure gravity.

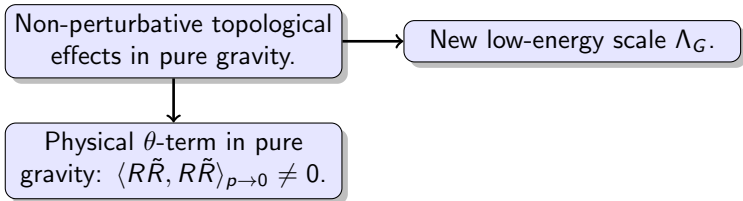
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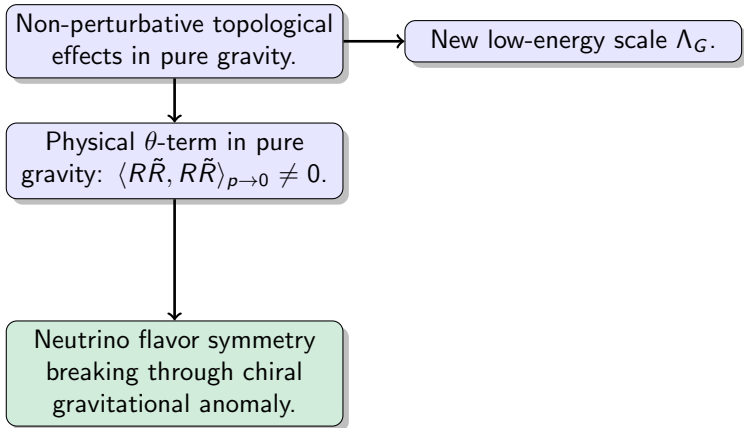


Physical  $\theta$ -term in pure gravity:  $\langle R\tilde{R}, R\tilde{R} \rangle_{p \rightarrow 0} \neq 0$ .

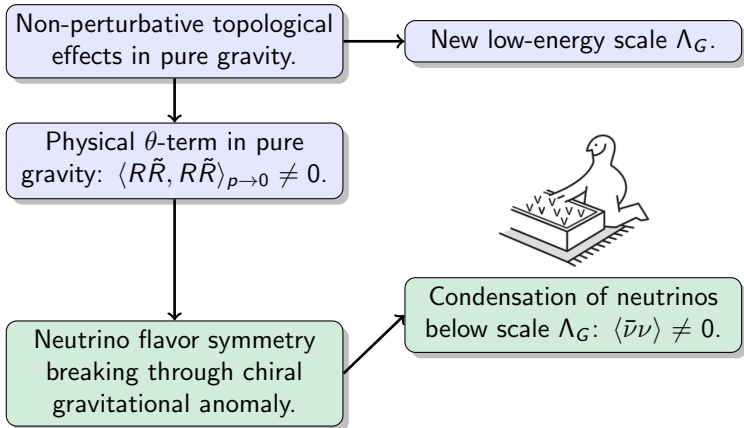
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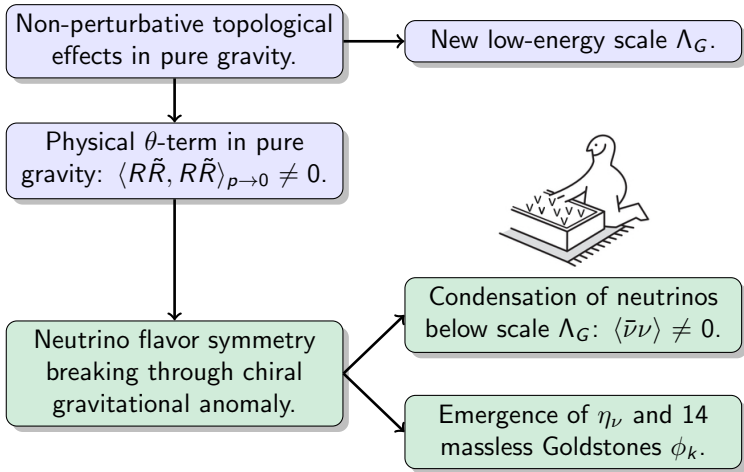
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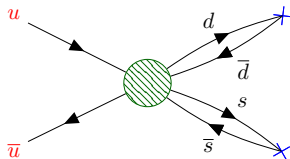
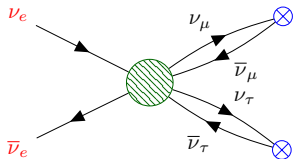


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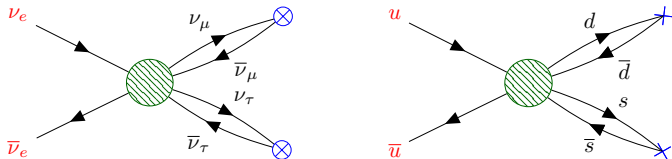
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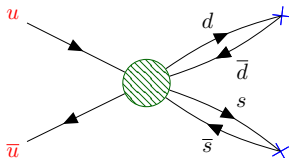
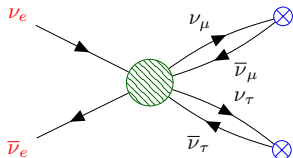
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$$\rightarrow \partial V / \partial x_i = 0 \text{ determines } \hat{X} = \text{diag}(x_1, x_2, x_3).$$

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 $\rightarrow \partial V / \partial x_i = 0$  determines  $\hat{X} = \text{diag}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ .
- ▶ Mechanism works for Dirac and Majorana masses.

## Constraints: Symmetry Breaking Scale $\Lambda_G$

Neutrino condensate  $|\langle \bar{\nu}\nu \rangle| \sim \text{scale } \Lambda_G^3 \sim \text{temperature } T_{\chi\text{SB}}^3$

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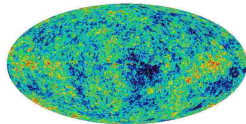
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Image credits: NASA / WMAP Science Team [<http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/>]

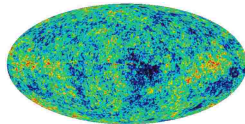
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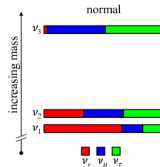
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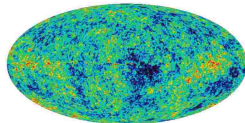
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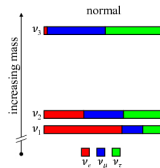
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→ Neutrino vacuum condensate  $\langle \bar{\nu}\nu \rangle$  on dark energy scale

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# Phenomenological Implications

Weakened cosmological neutrino mass bounds.

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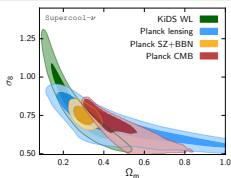
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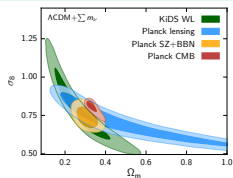
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## Impact on other cosmic parameters.



$\sigma_8(\Omega_m)$  for late  $m_\nu$



vs.  $\sigma_8(\Omega_m)$  for  $\Lambda$ CDM

[11] Aghanim *et al.* (Planck) (2018). [12] Aker *et al.* (KATRIN) (2019).

Image credit: KATRIN [<http://www.ikp.kit.edu/>]. Plots: Lorenz, LF, Calabrese, Hannestad (2018).

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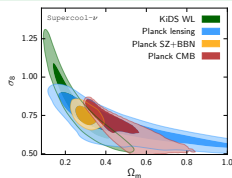
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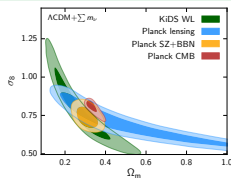
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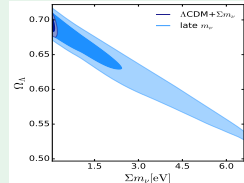
## Impact on other cosmic parameters. Decaying dark energy?



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$\Omega_\Lambda(m_\nu)$  for both models

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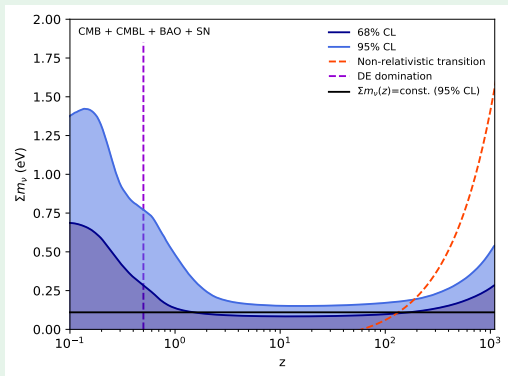
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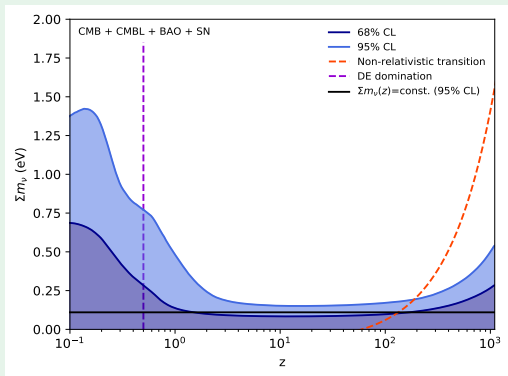
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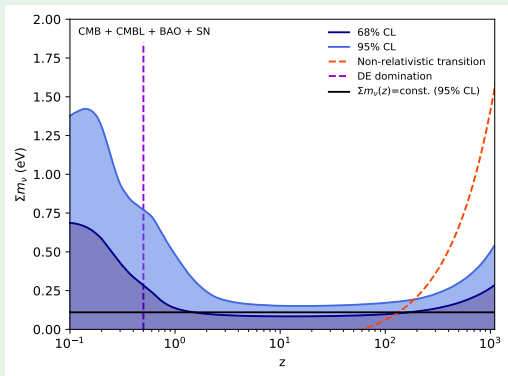




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⇒ Parameter degeneracy and/or new physics?



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## Astrophysical neutrinos:

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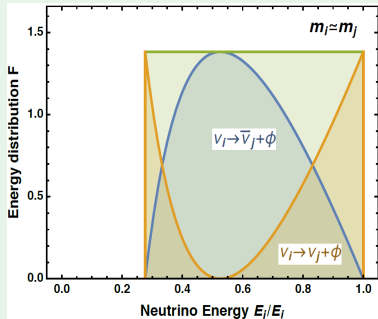
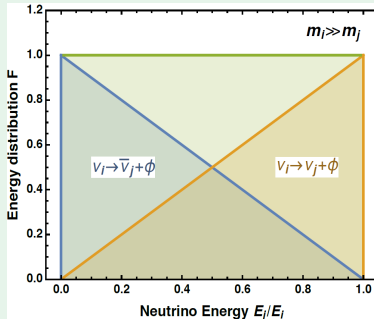
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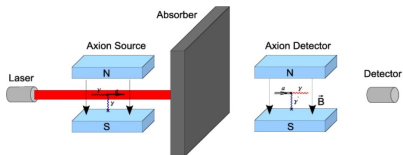
[16] Jackiw, Pi (2003).

Image credits: The SXS Project [<https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/>]

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## New particle detection:

- ▶ Searching for new  $\phi$  bosons in axion-like experiments [17].
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Do you have any questions?