



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**



**FUTURE  
CIRCULAR  
COLLIDER**

# **Probing Heavy Neutral Leptons at the FCC-ee**

**Pantelis Kontaxakis**  
on behalf of the FCC BSM Physics group

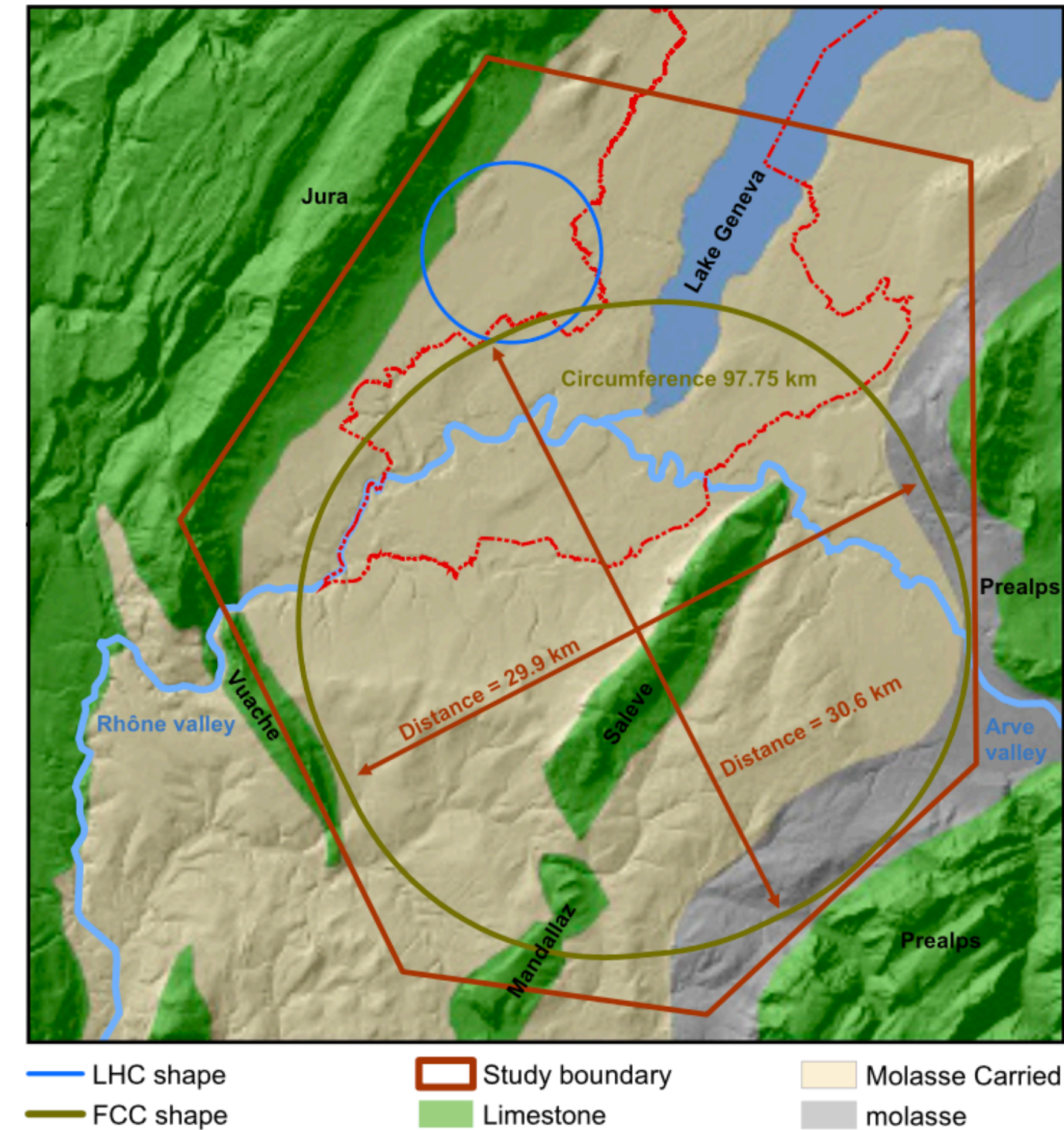
Brookhaven Forum 2023

October 4, 2023

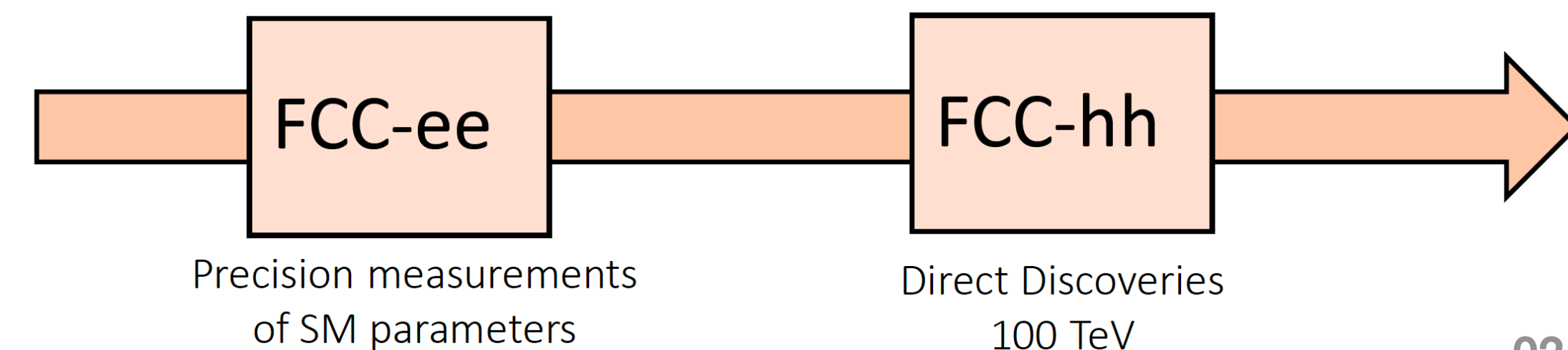


# Future Circular Collider

- Future colliders will offer exclusive insights into understanding the mechanisms of nature
- Pioneering advances in science and technology
- Future Circular Collider (FCC):
  - 91km circumference
  - Two stages:
    - Stage 1: FCC-ee (Z, W, H, tt) as a high luminosity factory for Higgs, EW and top
    - Stage 2: FCC-hh (~100 TeV) logical progression at energy frontier, with ion and e-h options



**The FCC is a leading-edge facility for direct discovery of new physics!**

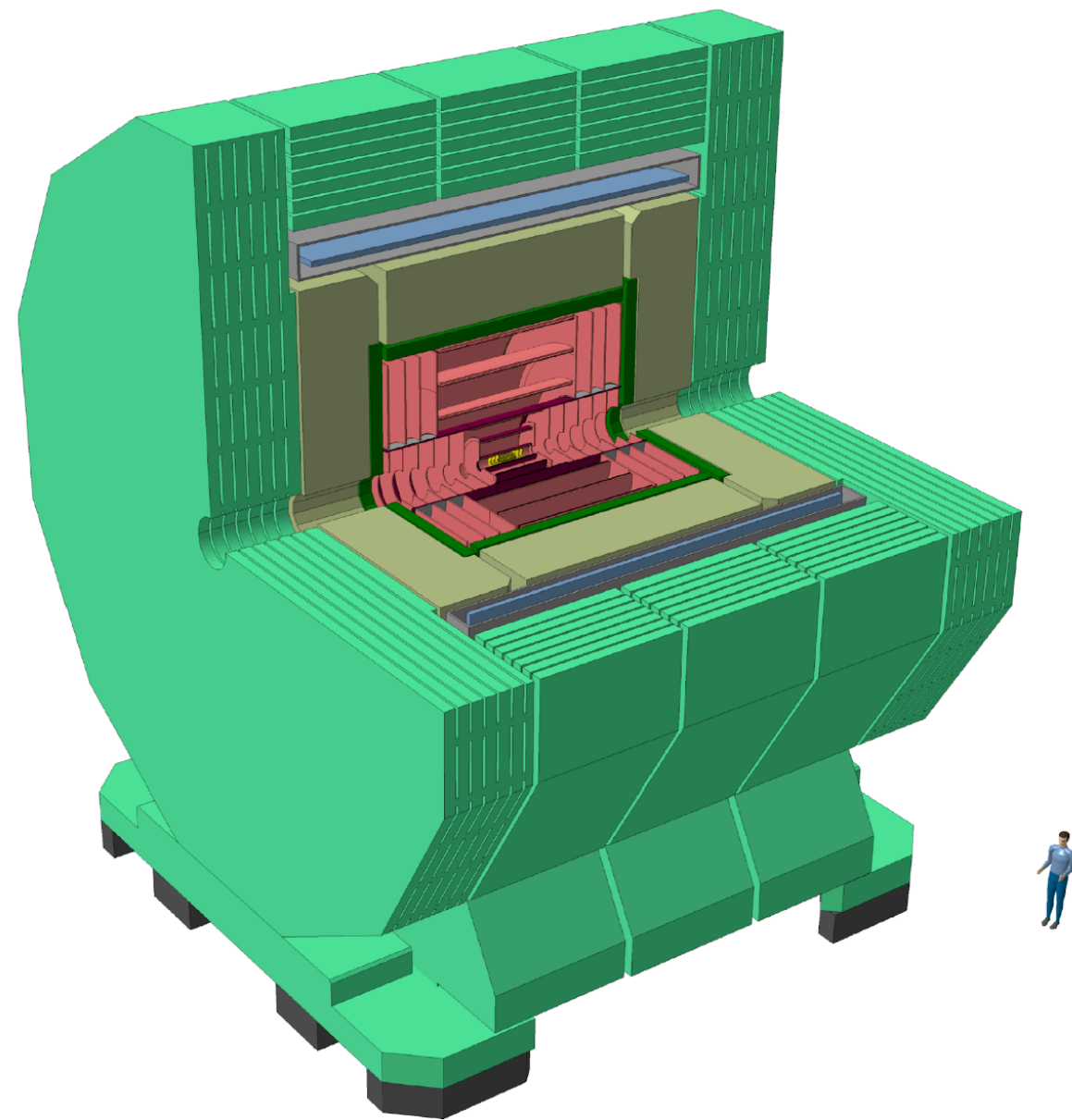




# Detector concepts at the FCC-ee

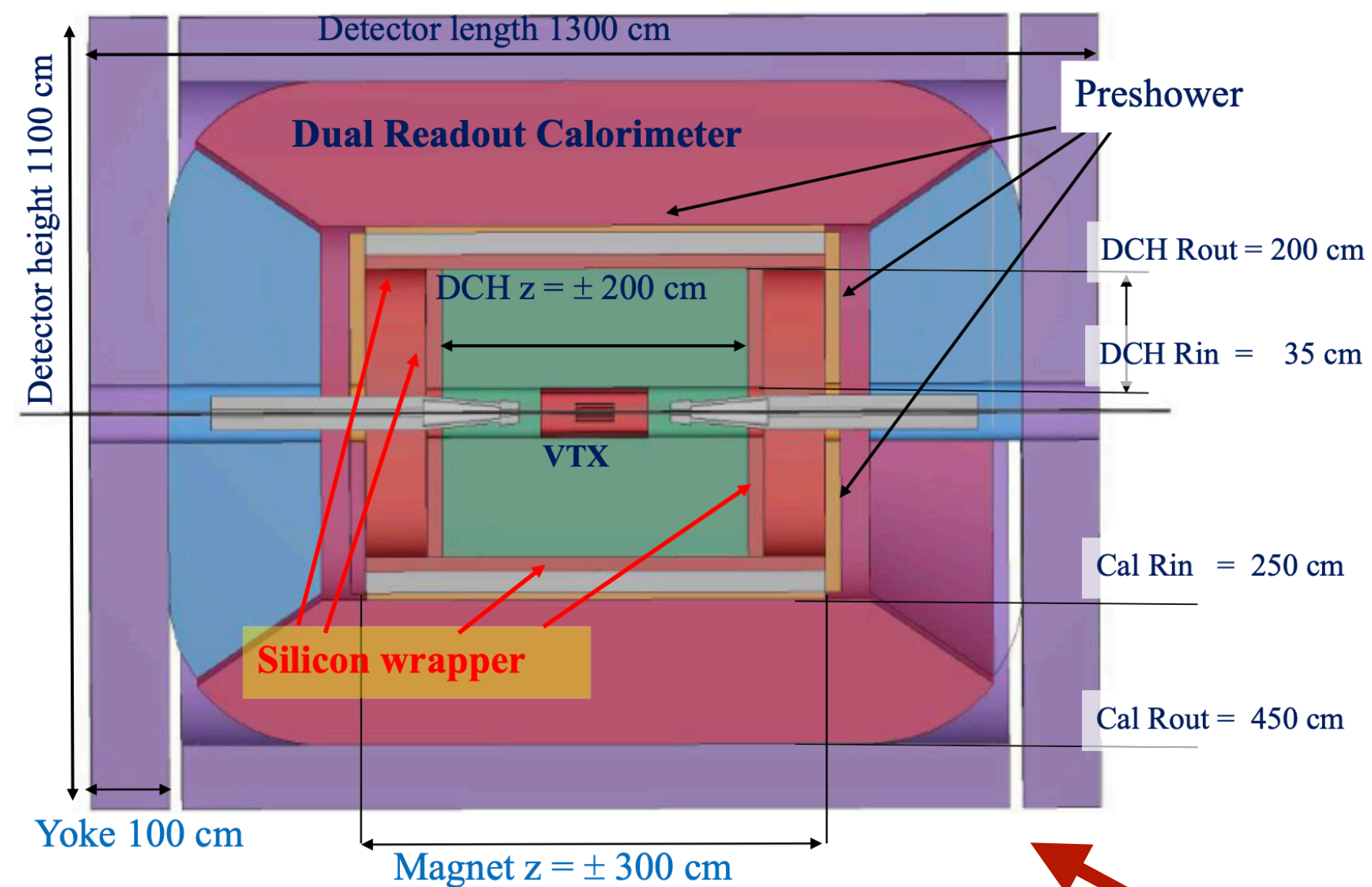
## CLIC-like Detector (CLD)

- Full silicon vertex-detector+ tracker
- 3D HG calorimeter
- Solenoid outside calorimeter



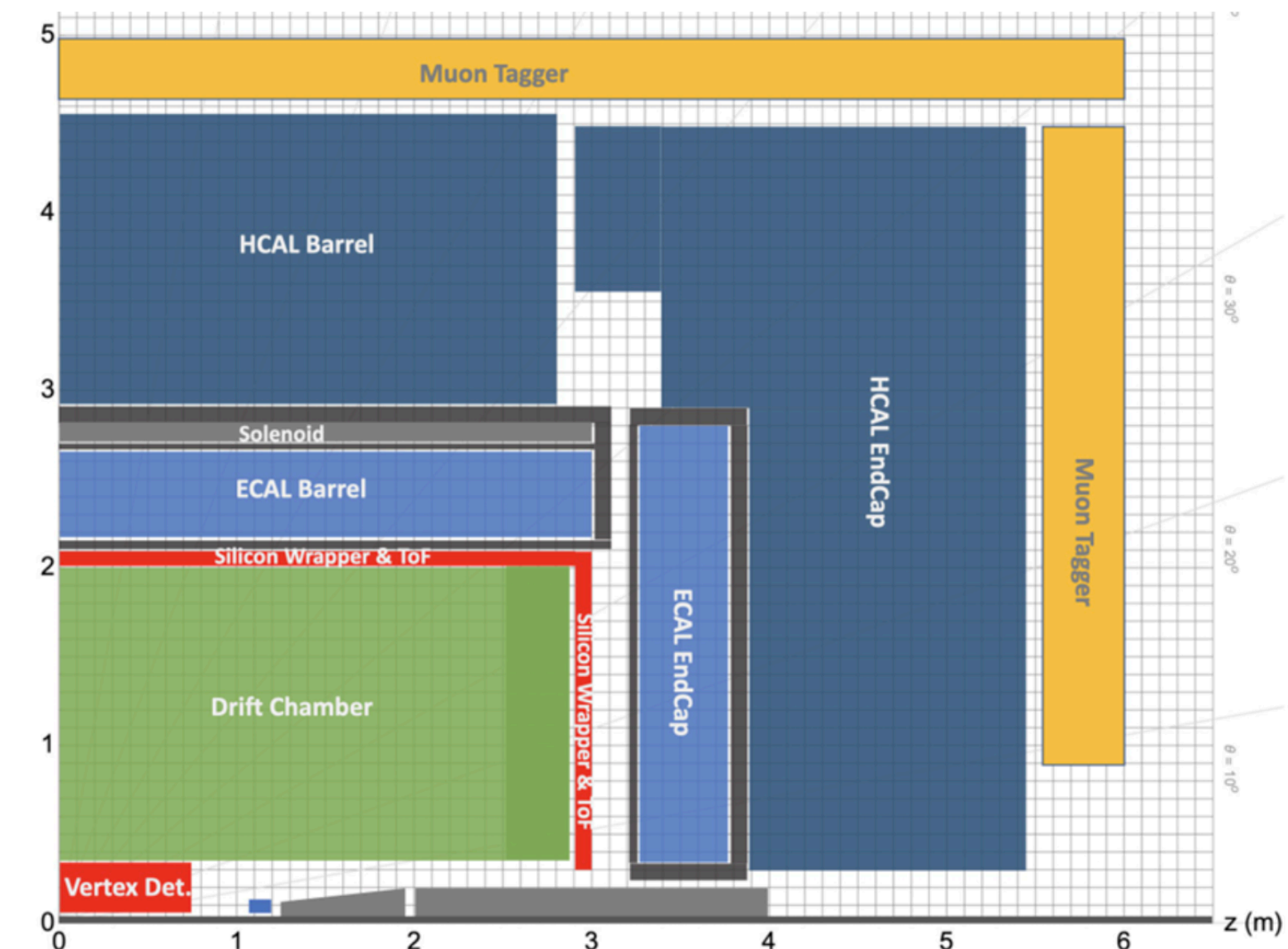
## Innovative Detector for an Electron-Positron Accelerator (IDEA)

- Silicon vertex detector
- Short-drift chamber tracker
- Dual-readout calorimeter



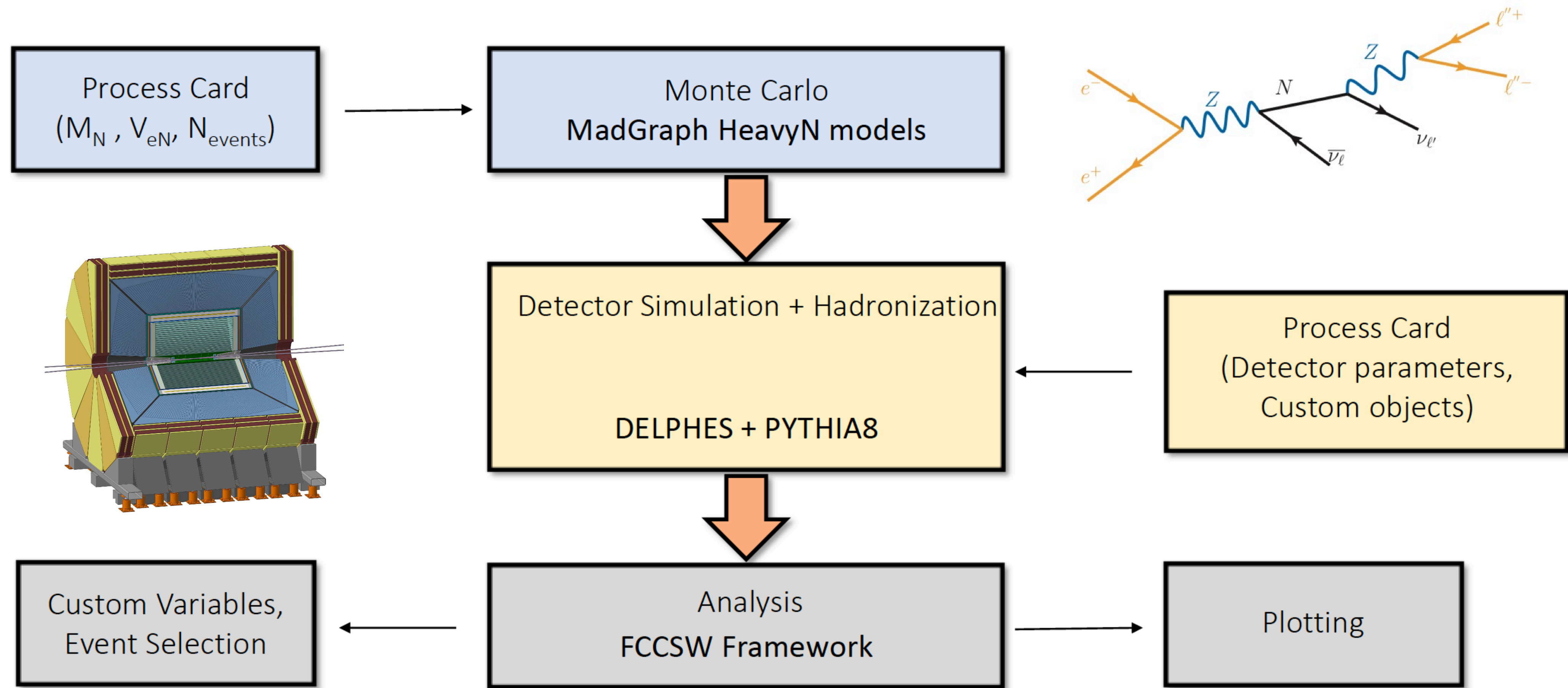
## Allegro

- HG noble liquid calorimeter
- LAr or Lar + Lead or Tungsten absorber
- Latest proposal



**Consider IDEA detector for the upcoming studies**

# Event Generation & Workflow



**Conduct FCC case studies utilising the “official” analysis tools and framework provided for the FCC**



# BSM at FCC-ee

## ◎ Diverse experimental requirements necessary for varying signatures

- Prompt
- Decay within the inner detector
- Decay within the calo/muon detector

## ◎ BSM Particles:

- **The FCCee's clean environment and high stats allow to a wide spectrum of couplings and masses**
  - Heavy Neutral Leptons (HNL) ← Studies to be showcased in this talk
  - Axion-Like Particles (ALP)
  - Exotic Higgs Decays
  - Z' & dark photons
  - Light SUSY, ...

# Heavy Neutral Leptons

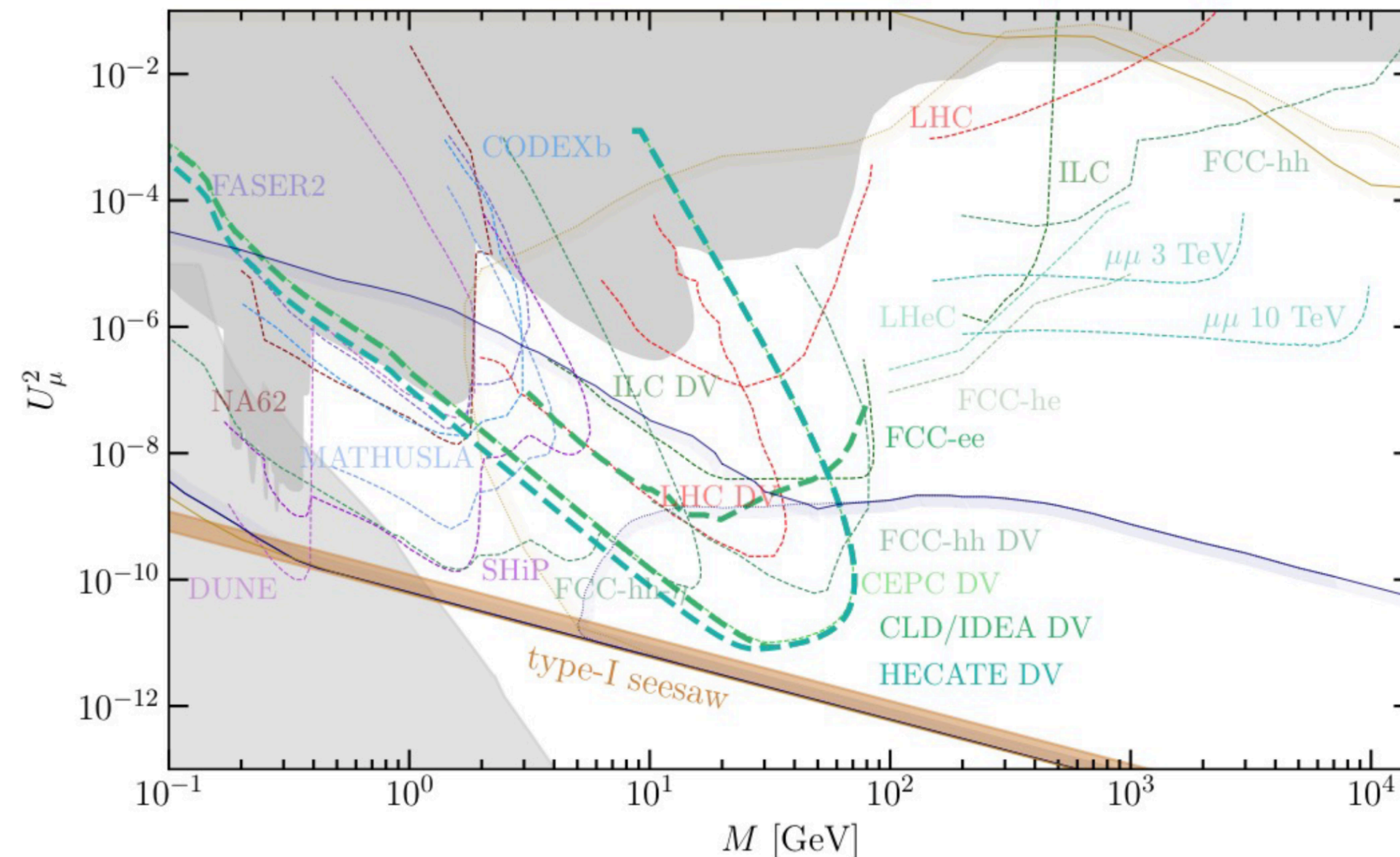
- One of the **most promising BSM channels for FCC-ee at the Z-pole**
  - Could provide answers to several unresolved questions of the SM:
    - Neutrino masses, Dark Matter, Baryon Asymmetry...
- **Sterile neutrinos with small mixing angle with SM neutrinos**
  - Diverse final state signatures: both prompt and long lived

Three Generations of Matter (Fermions) spin 1/2

	I	II	III	
mass →	2.4 MeV	1.27 GeV	173.2 GeV	
charge →	2/3	2/3	2/3	
name →	Left <b>u</b> Right up	Left <b>c</b> Right charm	Left <b>t</b> Right top	
	Left <b>d</b> Right down	Left <b>s</b> Right strange	Left <b>b</b> Right bottom	
Quarks				
	Left $\nu_e$ Right $N_1$ electron neutrino	Left $\nu_\mu$ Right $N_2$ muon neutrino	Left $\nu_\tau$ Right $N_3$ tau neutrino	
Leptons				
	Left <b>e</b> Right electron	Left <b><math>\mu</math></b> Right muon	Left <b><math>\tau</math></b> Right tau	

0	0	<b>g</b> gluon
0	0	<b><math>\gamma</math></b> photon
91.2 GeV	0	<b>Z</b> weak force
80.4 GeV	$\pm 1$	<b>W</b> weak force
126 GeV	0	<b>H</b> Higgs boson
		spin 0



[arxiv:2203.05502](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.05502)



# Discovery analyses

## ◎ **HNL ( $N_e$ ) $\rightarrow$ $e_j j$ (Prompt)**

- *Dimitri Moulin, Pantelis Kontaxakis, Anna Sfyrla*

## ◎ **HNL ( $N_\mu$ ) $\rightarrow$ $\mu_j j$ (Prompt + Displaced)**

- *Nicolo Valle, Giacomo Polesello*

## ◎ **HNL ( $N_e$ ) $\rightarrow$ $e e \nu$ (Displaced)**

- *Lovisa Rygaard, Juliette Alimena, Rebeca Gonzalez Suarez, Suchita Kulkarni*

## ◎ **HNL ( $N_\mu$ ) $\rightarrow$ $\mu \mu \nu$ (Prompt + Displaced)**

- *Lorenzo Bellagamba*

# HNL $\rightarrow$ $ejj$ Analysis

● High branching fraction  $\sim 50\%$

● Significant background rejection mostly by applying selection on  $E_{\text{miss}}$  & distances between the decaying particles

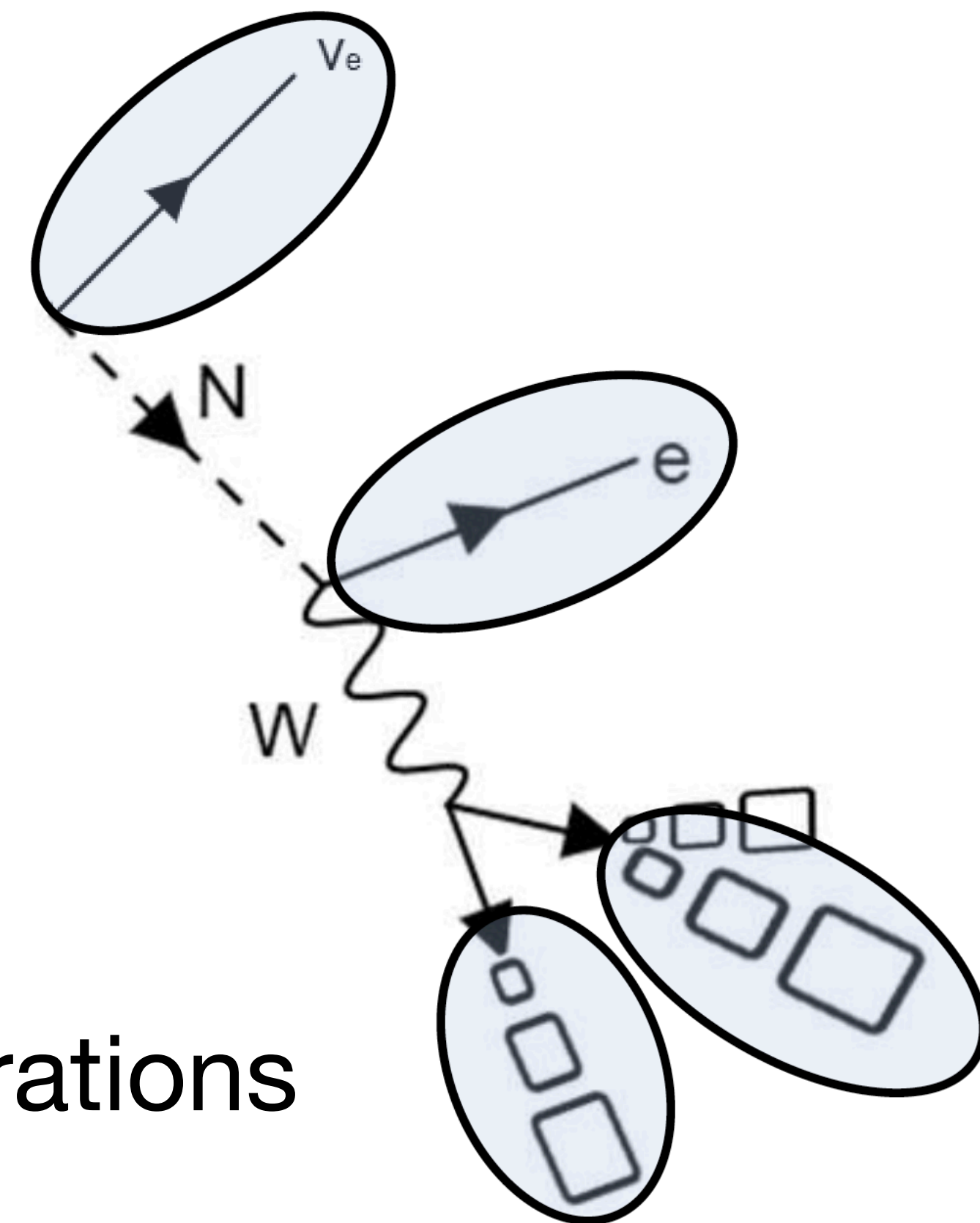
● Signal:

○  $M_N = 10 - 80$  GeV,  $V_{eN} = 10^{-5} - 10^{-2}$

● Backgrounds:

•  $Z \rightarrow bb$ ,  $Z \rightarrow cc$ ,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow evqq$

○ Official Winter2023 FCCee samples and configurations





# Methodology

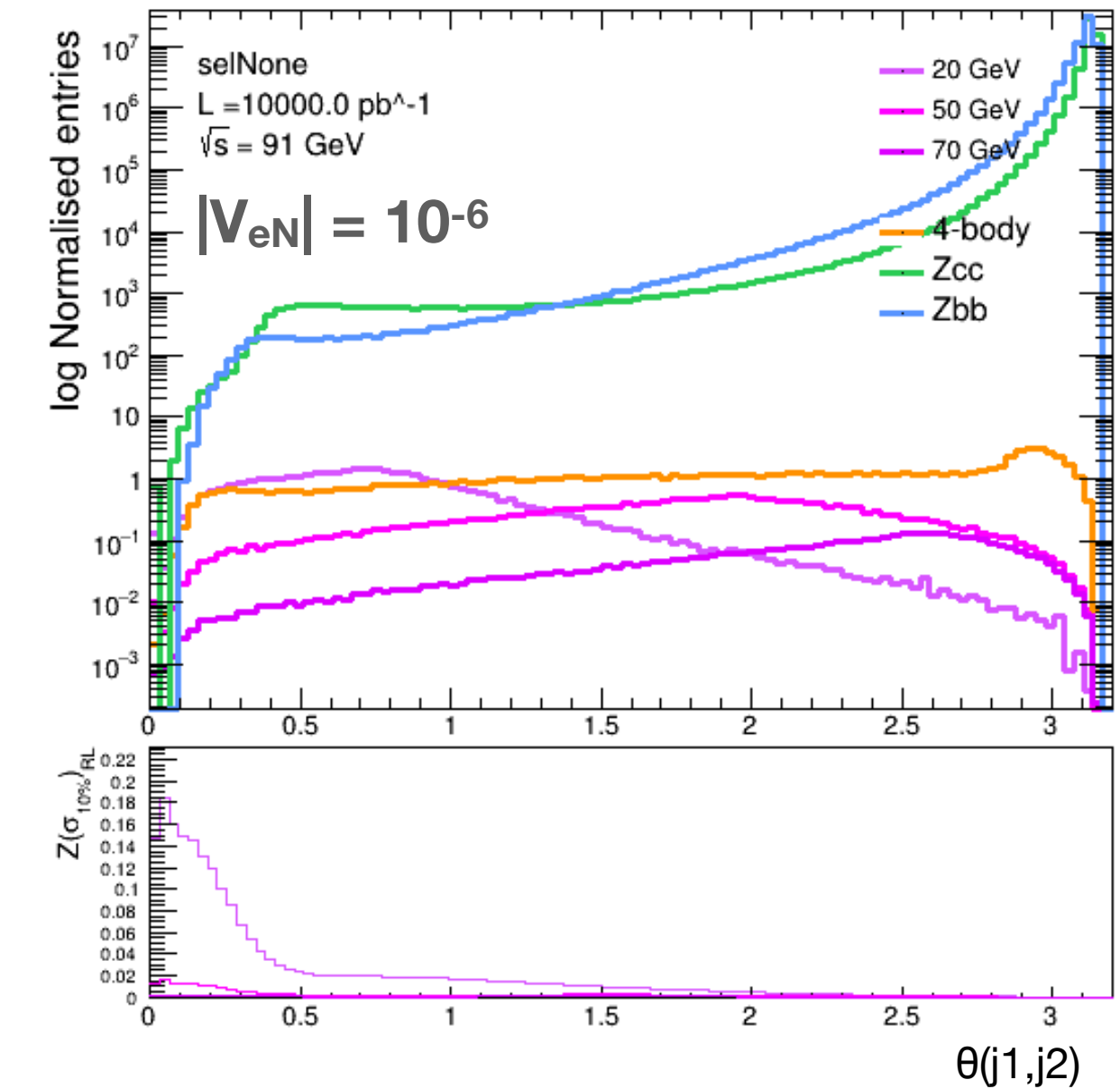
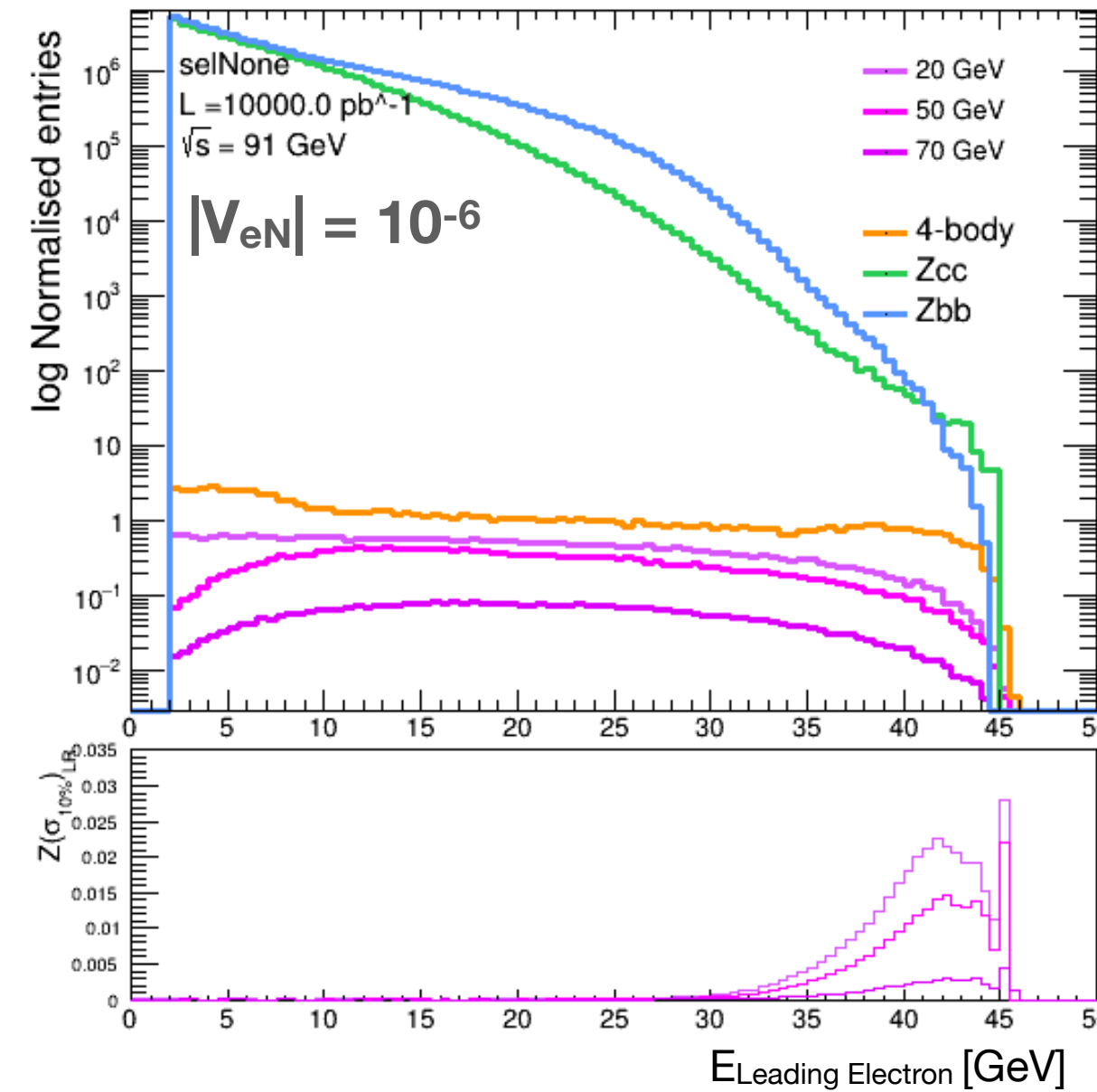
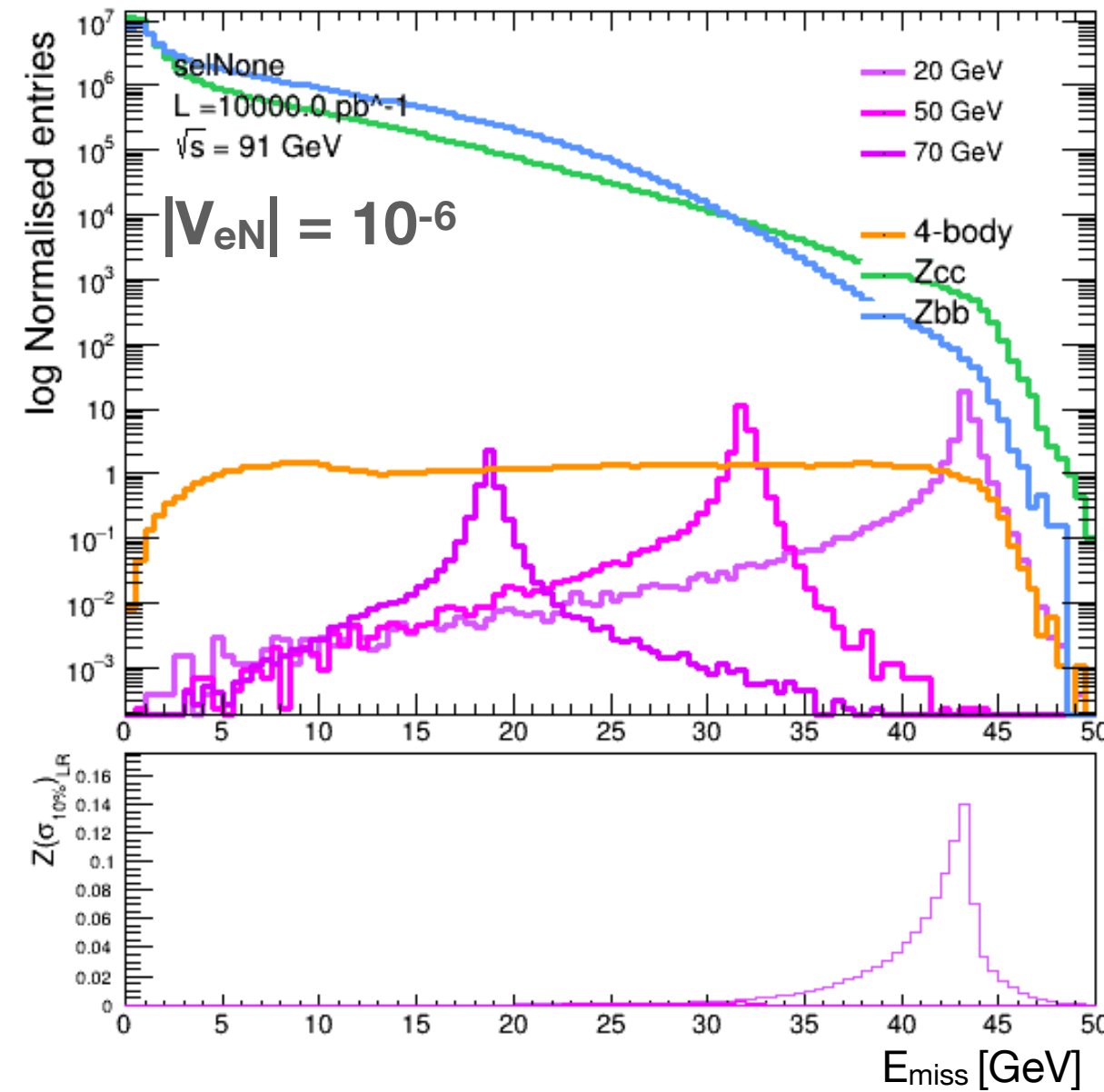
## Event Selection:

- Apply selections on discriminating variables (cut & count)

$$\underline{E_{\text{miss}} > 12 \text{ GeV}}$$

Leading e energy > 35 GeV  
Removes most of the electrons from jets

$$\underline{\theta(j_1, j_2) < 2.4 \text{ rad} \ \& \ \Delta R(e, jj) < 3}$$



- Selections based on significance, with 10% syst. uncertainty:

$$Z = \sqrt{2 \left( n \ln \left[ \frac{n(b + \sigma^2)}{b^2 + n\sigma^2} \right] - \frac{b^2}{\sigma^2} \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{\sigma^2(n - b)}{b(b + \sigma^2)} \right] \right)} = 2$$

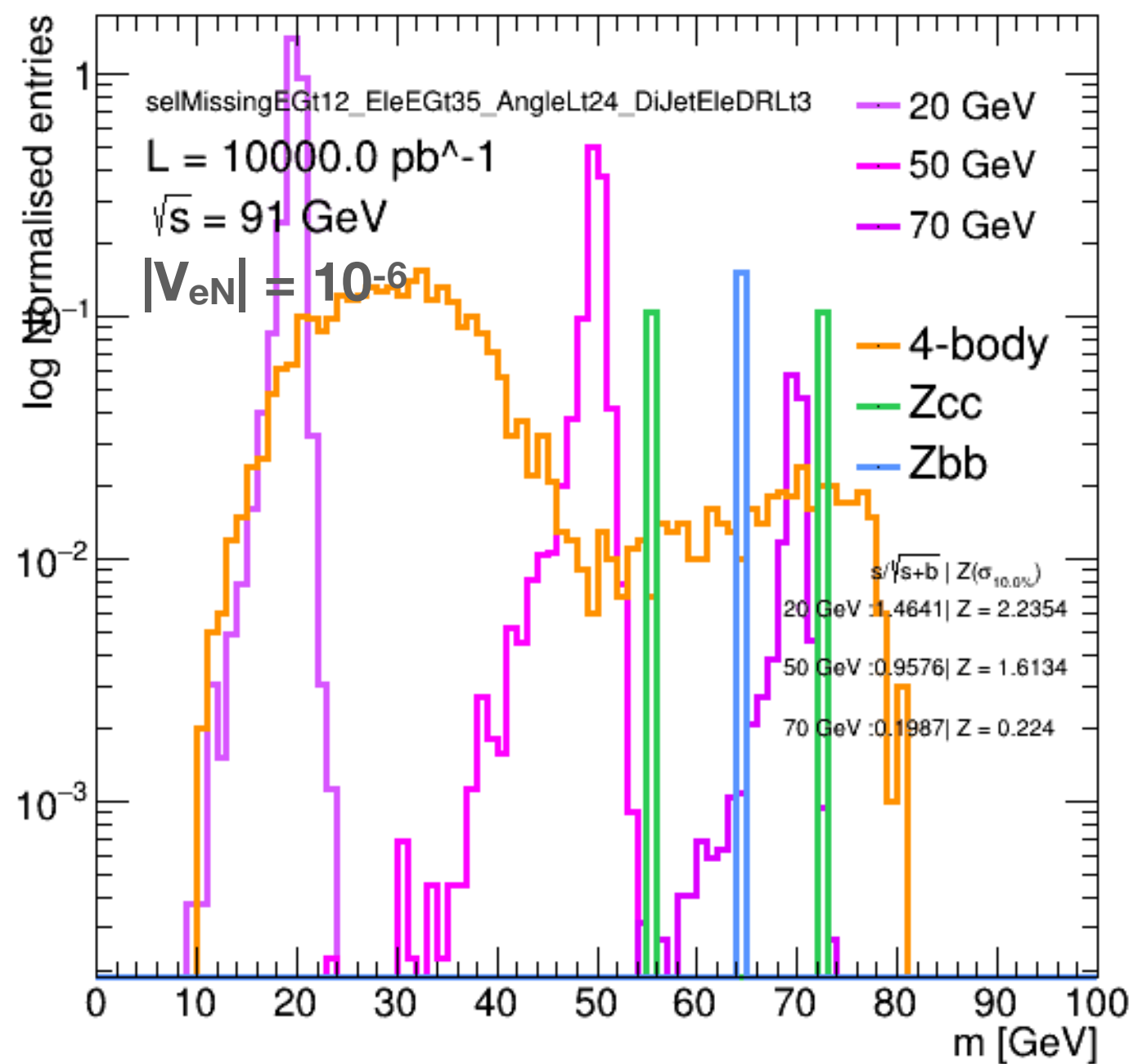
# Results

Raw number of events

Selection	20 GeV	50 GeV	70 GeV	4-body	$Z \rightarrow cc$	$Z \rightarrow bb$
No selection	$10^5$	$10^5$	$10^5$	$10^5$	$4.9 \times 10^8$	$4.4 \times 10^8$
$\cancel{E} > 12$	$9.9 \times 10^4$	$9.9 \times 10^4$	$9.9 \times 10^4$	$7.8 \times 10^4$	$3.3 \times 10^7$	$5.6 \times 10^7$
$\cancel{E} > 12 \ \& \ E_{e^-} > 35$	8079	8090	8541	5206	101	817
$\cancel{E} > 12 \ \& \ E_{e^-} > 35$ & $\Psi < 2.4$	7780	7290	8333	4853	60	46
$\cancel{E} > 12 \ \& \ E_{e^-} > 35$ & $\Psi < 2.4 \ \& \ \Delta R < 3$	7478	5035	3017	3184	2	1

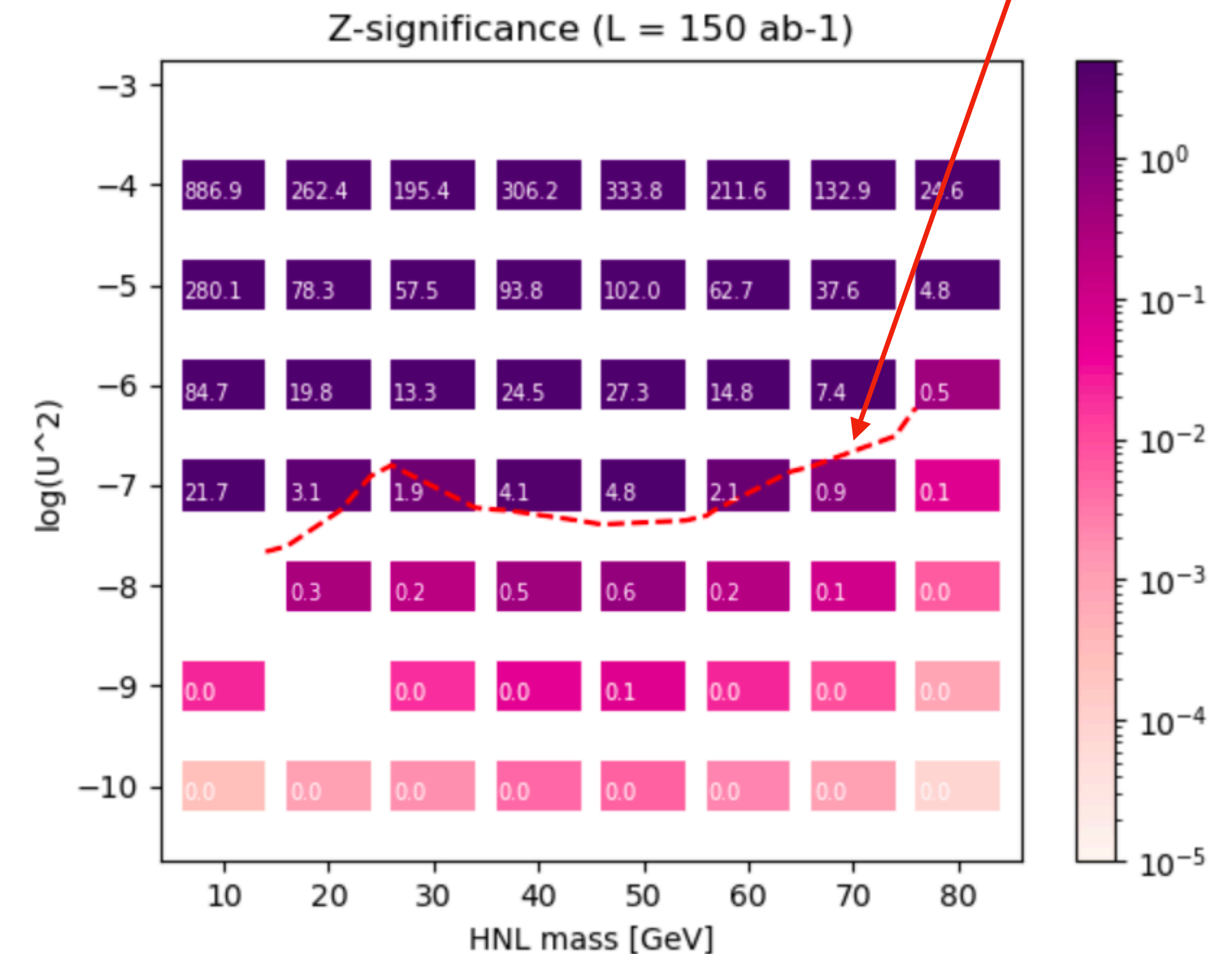
**Cutflow:**

Contour:  
 $Z = 2$



Focus on the HNL invariant mass as an observed quantity

Selection extended for entire mass - coupling plane





# HNL $\rightarrow$ $\mu jj$ Analysis

◎ Same high BR as previous analysis

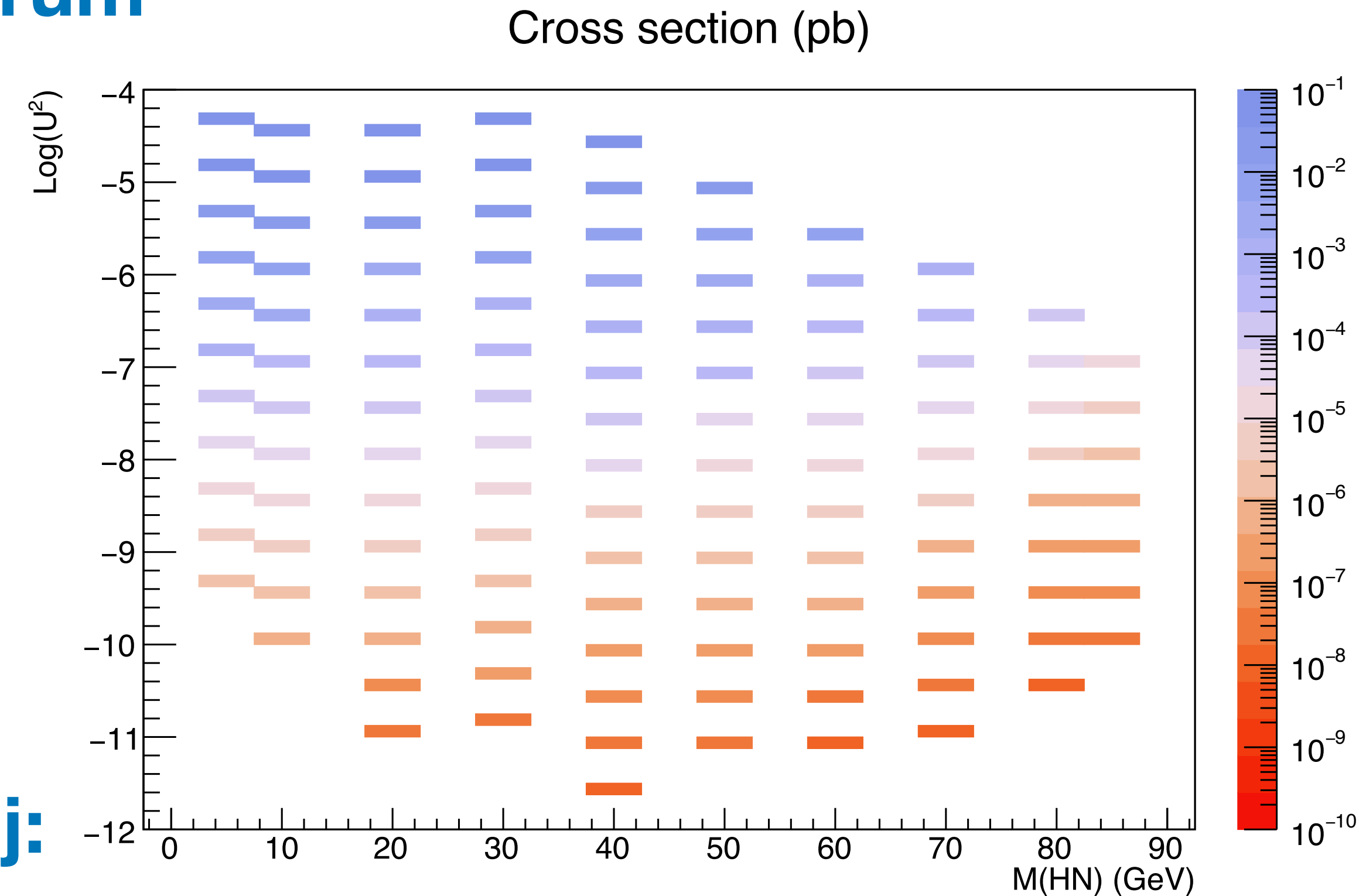
◎ Discovery feasible across a broad spectrum of the parameters space of interest

- High mass  $\rightarrow$  Prompt signals
- Low mass  $\rightarrow$  Delayed signals

◎ Large signal grid generated in mass - coupling plane

◎ Z Decay backgrounds and 4-fermion  $\mu\nu jj$ :

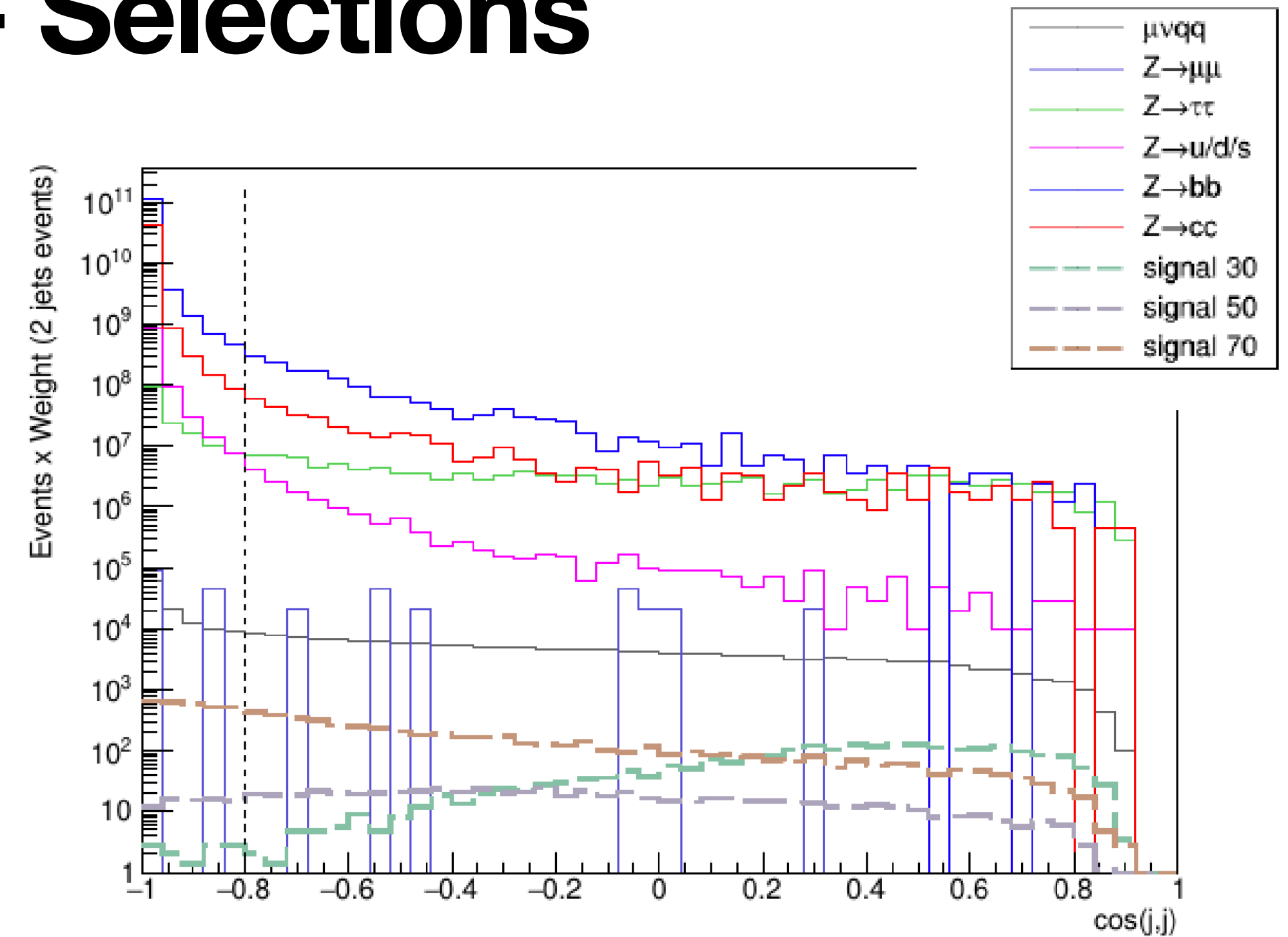
- Official Winter23 production & configurations



# Analysis Flow - Selections

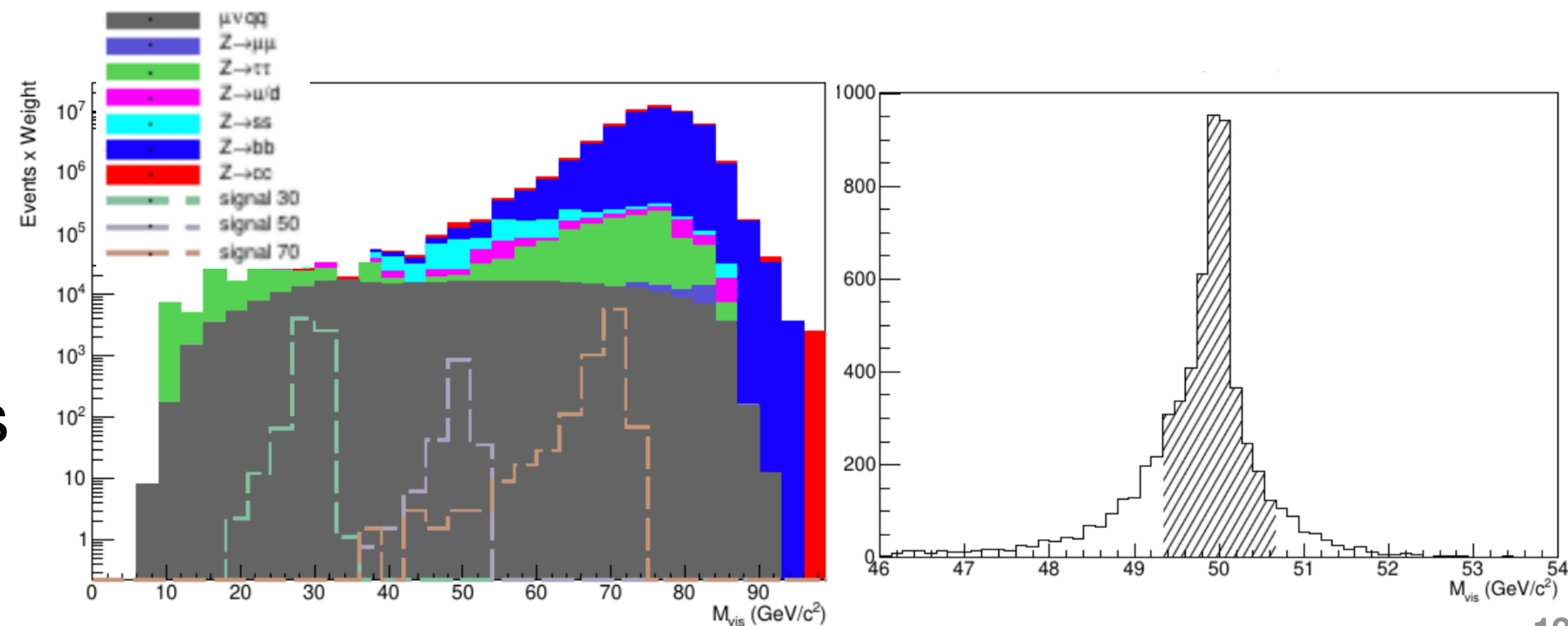
## ● Kinematic selection

- Two different SRs depending on  $n_{\text{jets}}$ 
  - 2jets: Dominant at  $m > 50$  GeV
  - 1jet: Dominant at lower masses
- For each region: Investigation variables providing discrimination. E.g.  $\longrightarrow$



## ● Mass-dependent selection

- Require visible HNL mass and  $E_{\text{miss}}$  to be within 2 - 10% of the resolution in distributions





# Analysis Flow - Selections

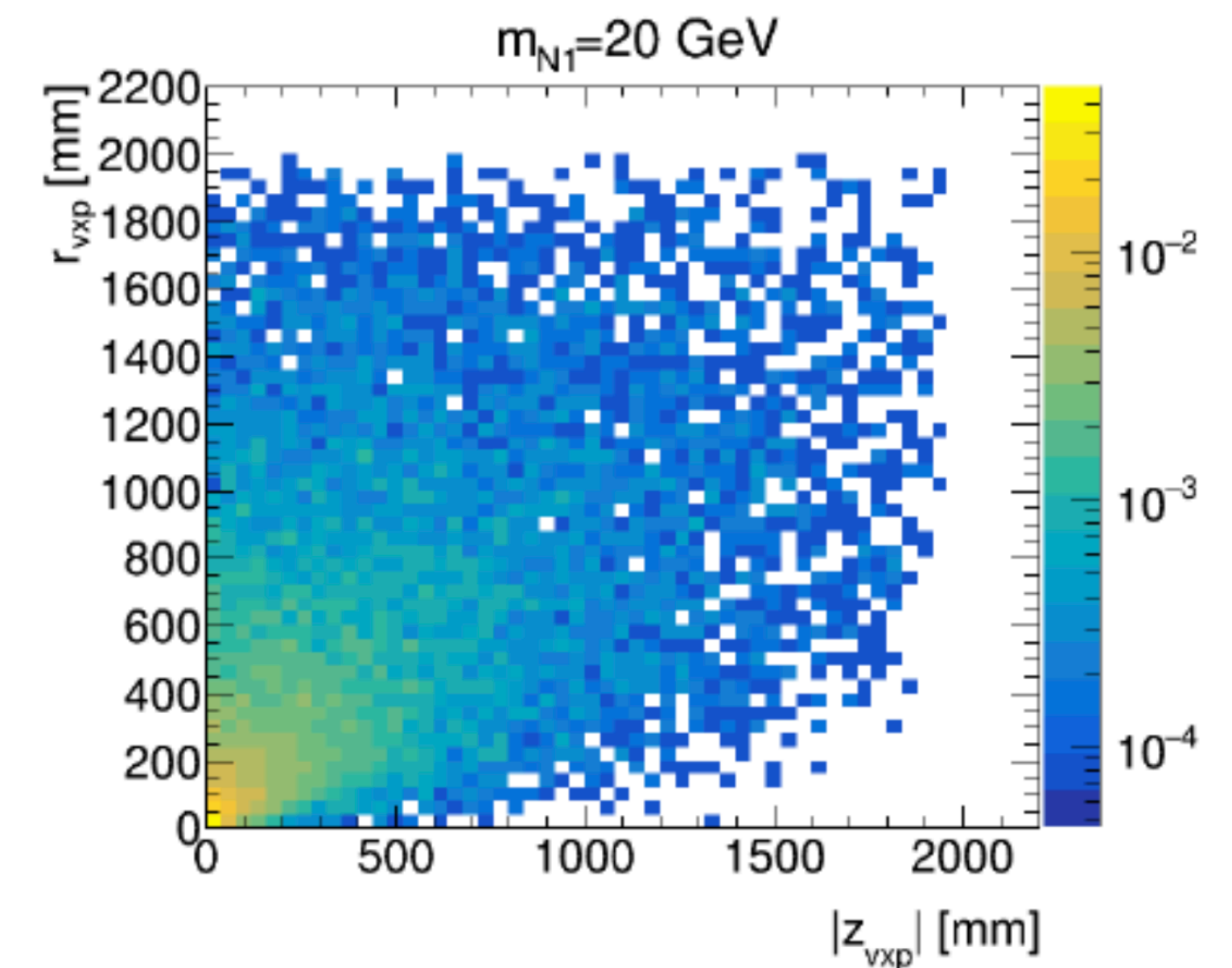
## Vertex-based selection

- Require well-reconstructed primary vertex and most of the Tracks used for primary vertex

$$N_{tracks} - N_{tracks}^{primary} < 5$$
$$\chi_{vtx,primary}^2 < 10$$

## Prompt vs Long Lived selection

- For separation between prompt and LL
  - Choose transverse position of PV so as bkg become zero:  $r_{vp\chi} = 0.5\text{mm}$

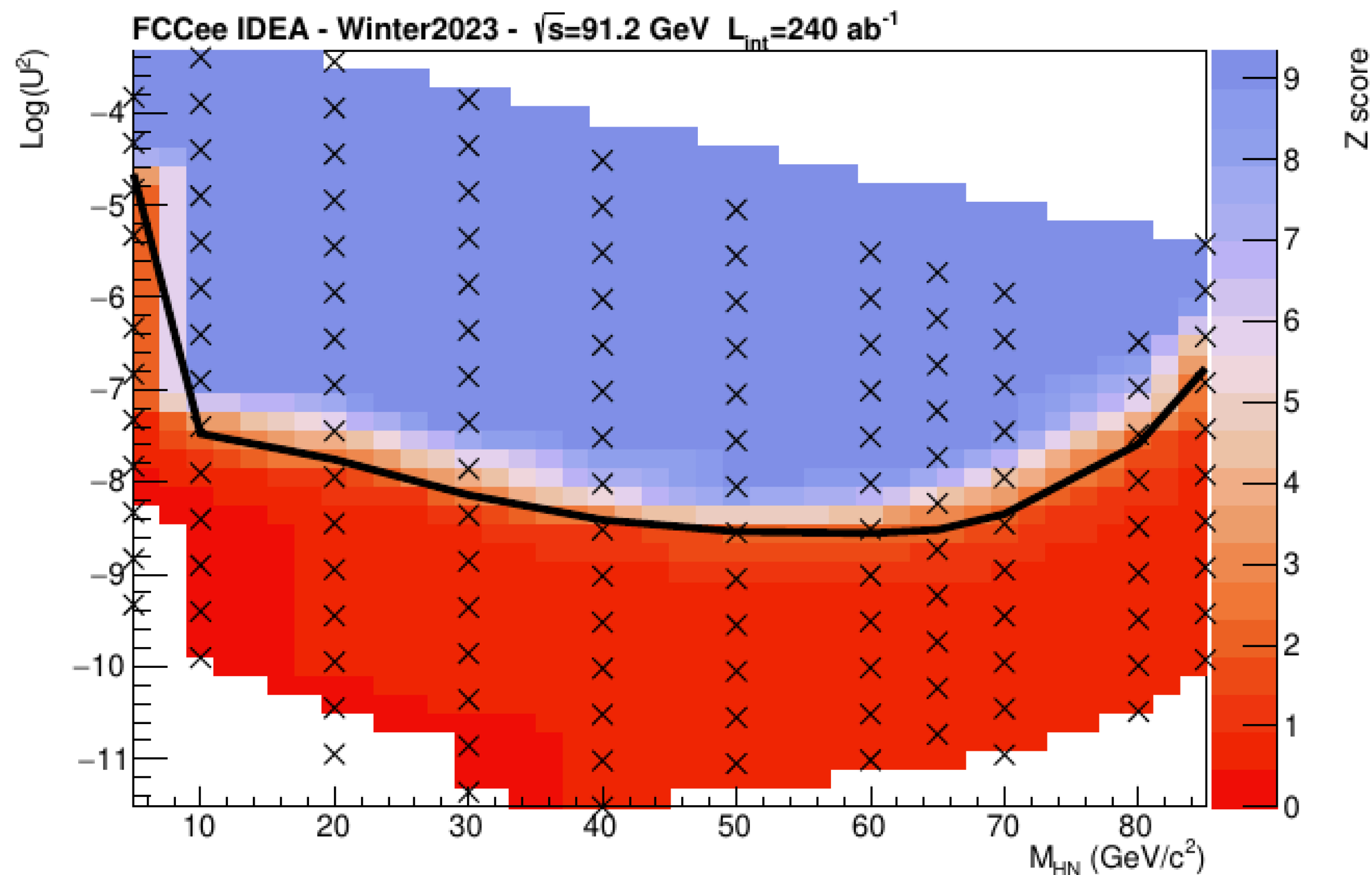


# Results

● Looking for  $U^2$  producing 95% CL excess of events

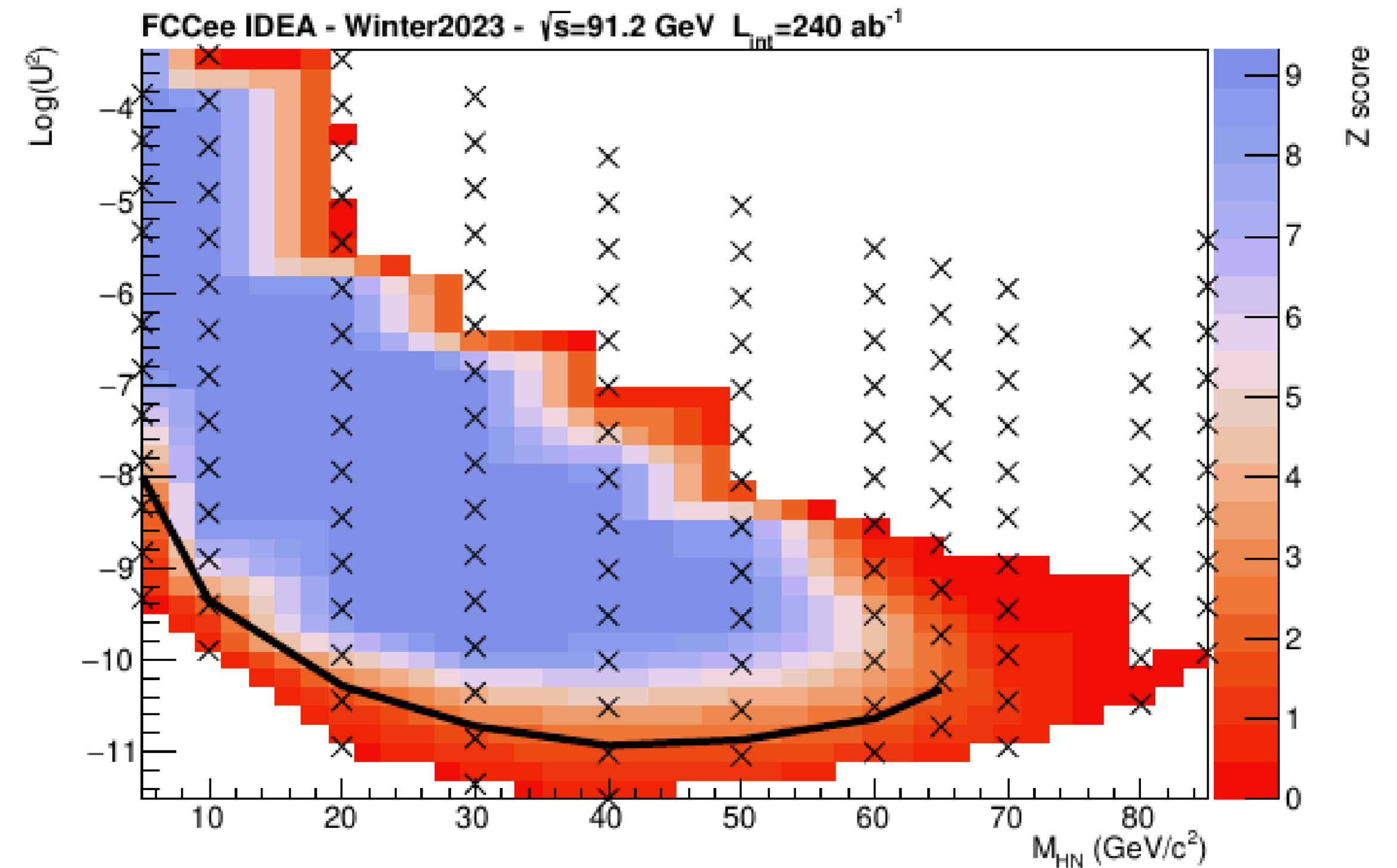
● Integrated Luminosity =  $240 \text{ ab}^{-1}$

## Prompt



## LLP

- Sensitivity curve: Points in plane where 3 events are expected after cuts
- Background events = 0





# HNL $\rightarrow$ $e\bar{e}\nu$ Analysis

## ● Snowmass Results

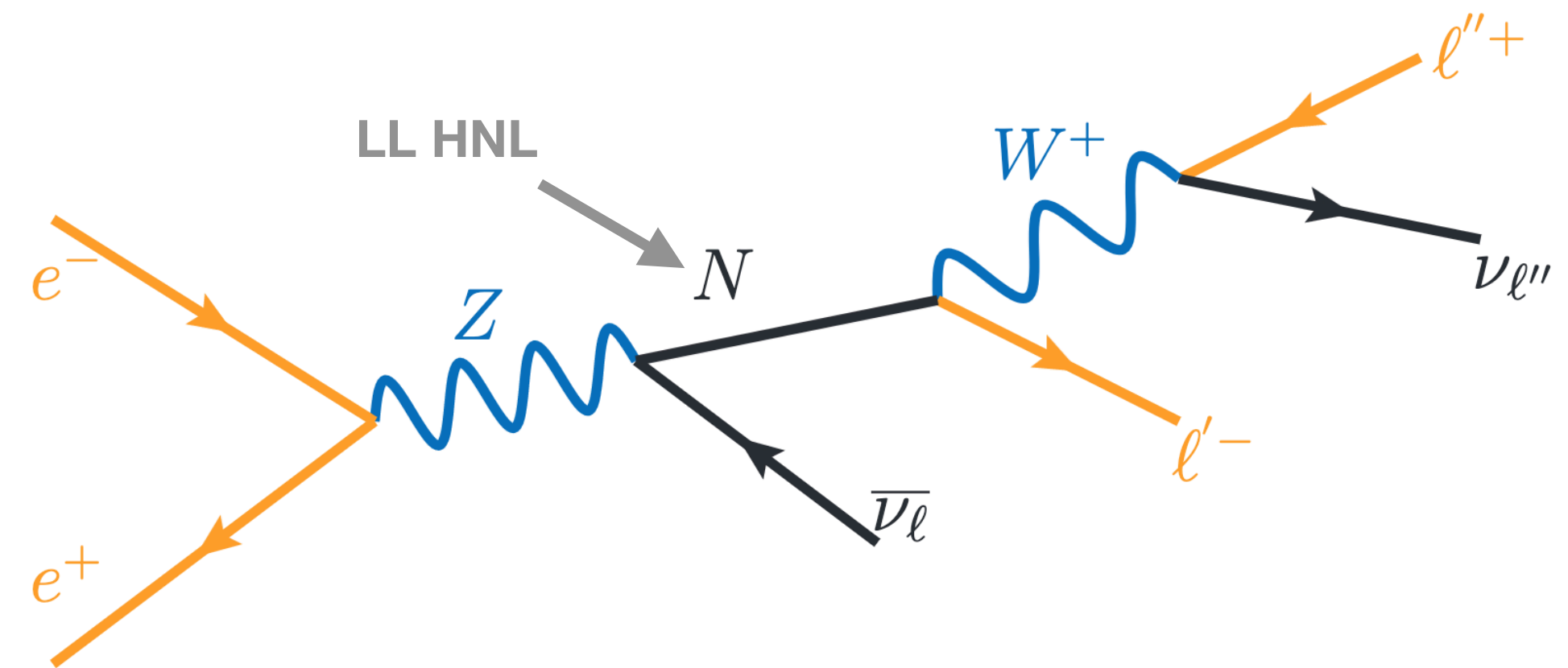
## ● Sensitivity analysis of long-lived HNLs

## ● Signal simulation using Type I Seesaw mechanism

- Focused on one benchmark HNL mixing with electron flavours
- Leptonic final states featuring  $e$  and  $\nu_e$

## ● Background simulation using [Spring2021](#) campaign

- Five different decay modes of  $Z$  considered as background

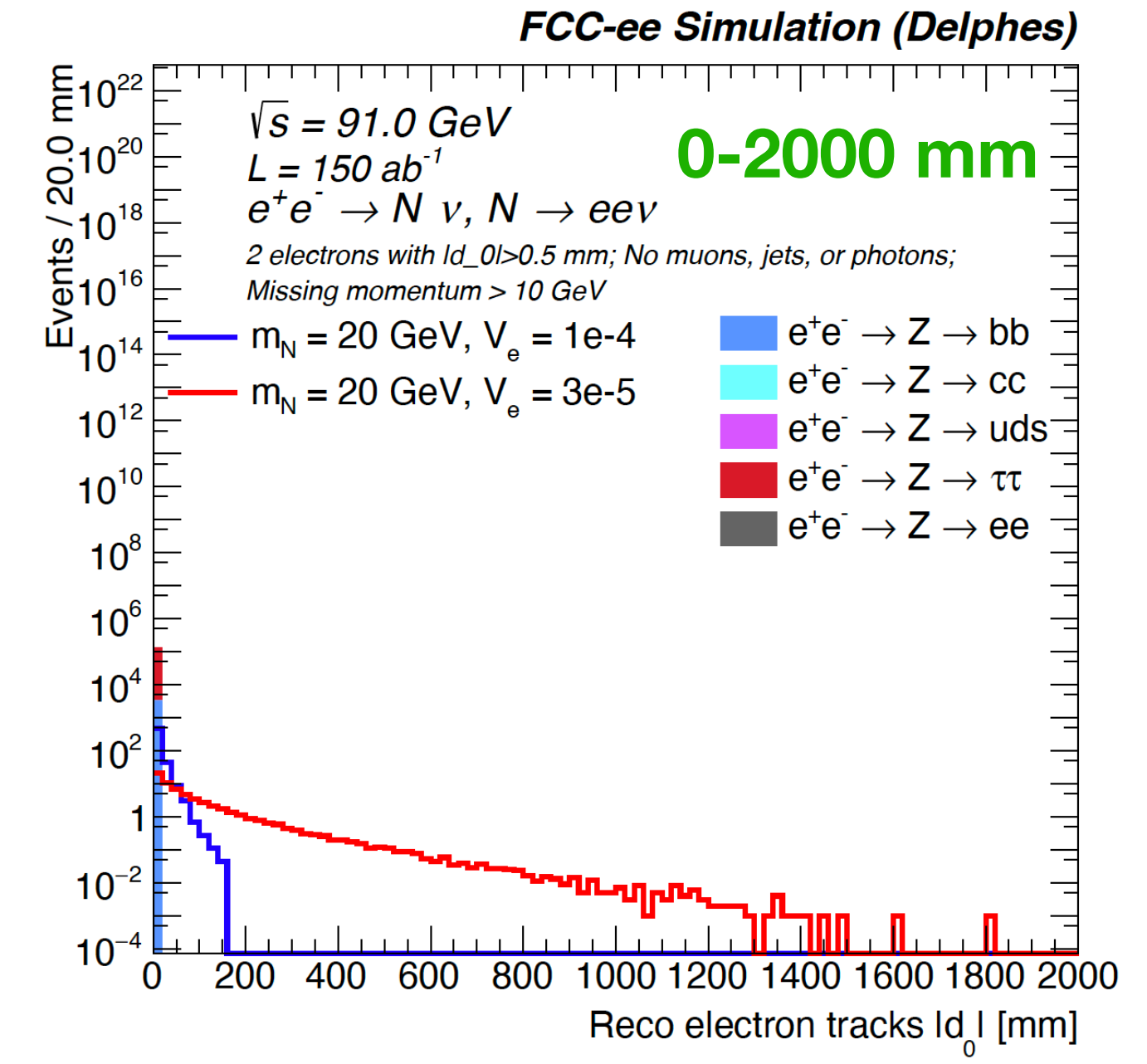
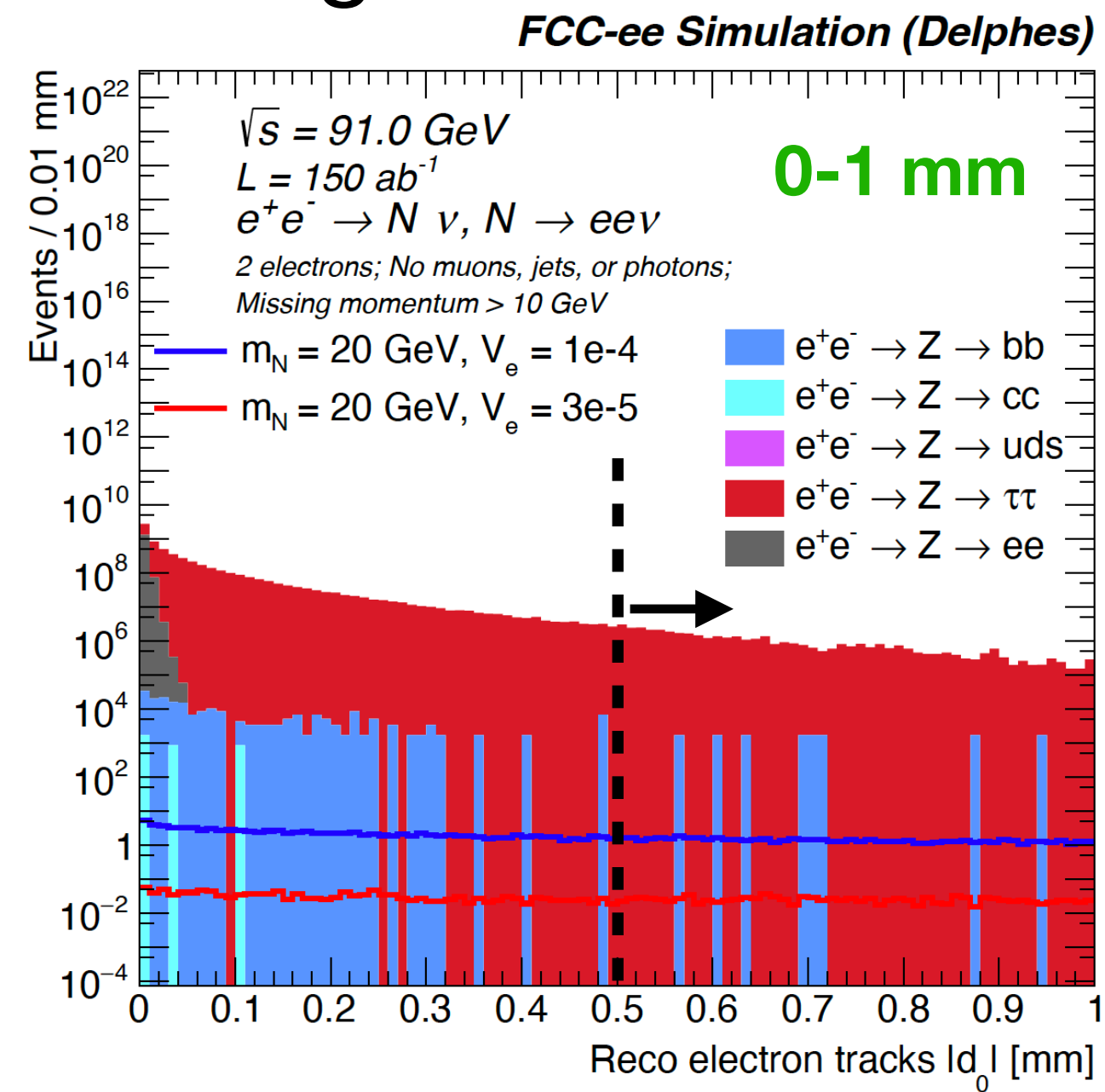
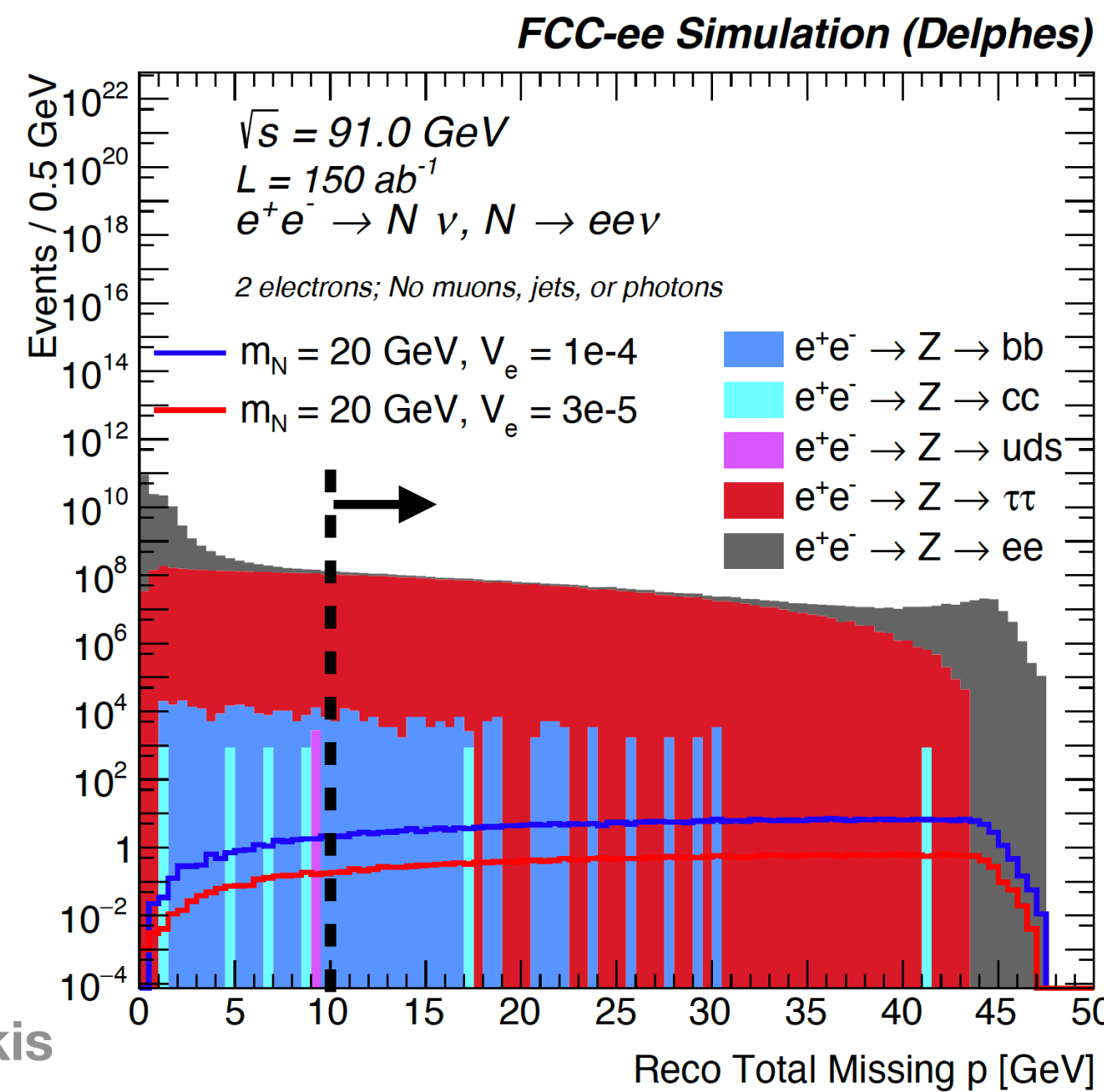


# Event Selection

● Discrimination variables:  $E_{\text{miss}}$  and transverse impact parameter of the electron track  $|d_0|$

● Main selection:

- Exactly two electrons, veto on additional photons muons and jets
  - Reduce backgrounds with hadronic decays
- $E_{\text{miss}} > 10 \text{ GeV}$ 
  - Reduce  $Z \rightarrow ee$  bkg with fake missing momentum
- $|d_0| > 0.5 \text{ mm}$ 
  - Remove most of the rest of SM background



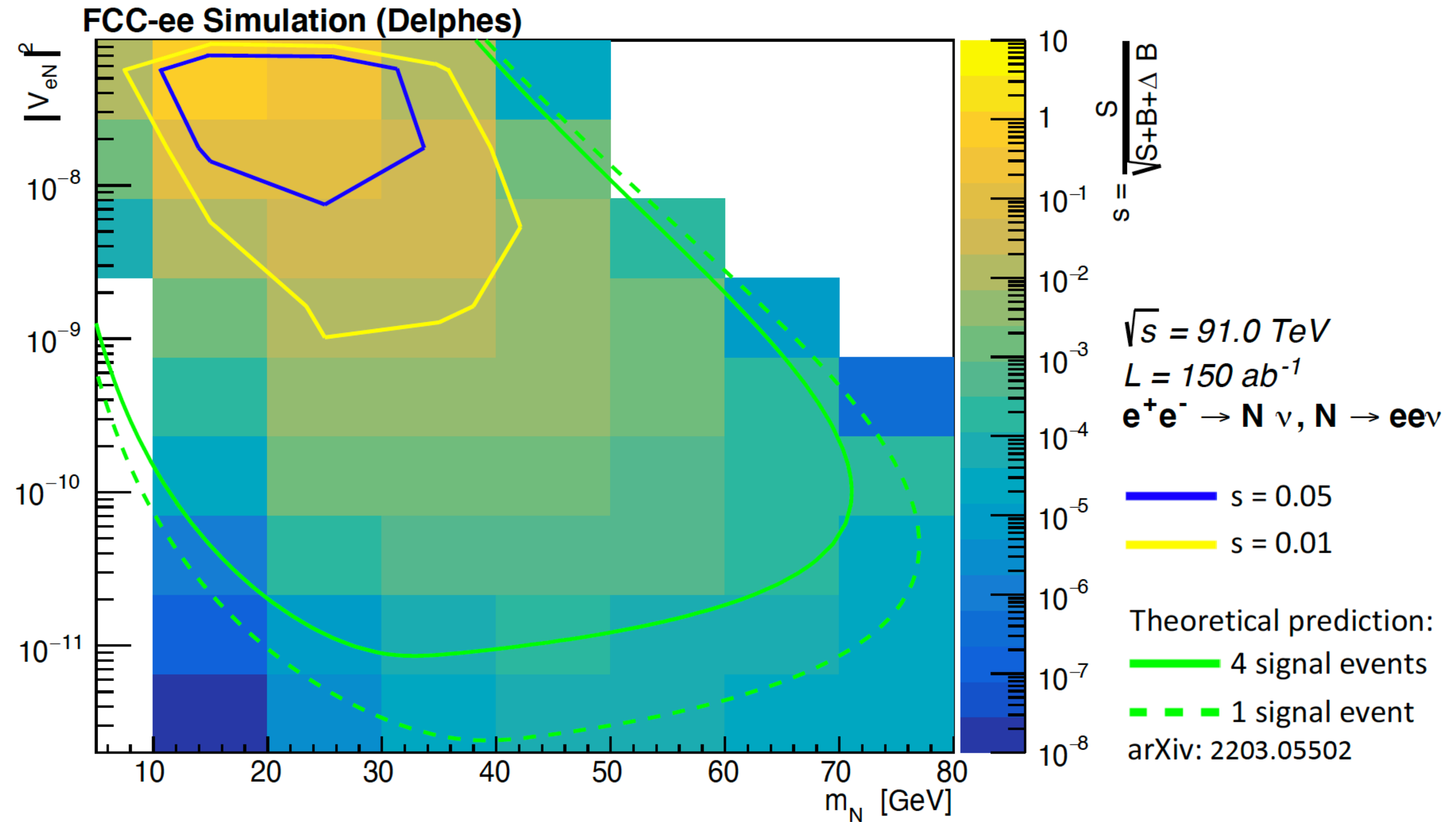


# Sensitivity

Figure of merit used for sensitivity:  $s = \frac{S}{\sqrt{S + B + \Delta B}}$

Contours for  $s = 0.01$  and  $0.05$

Theory predictions for 4 and 1 signal events ([arXiv:2203.05502](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.05502))



# HNL $\rightarrow$ $\mu\mu\nu$ Analysis

## Assume that Majorana HNL have mixing coupling different from zero only with the $\nu_\mu$

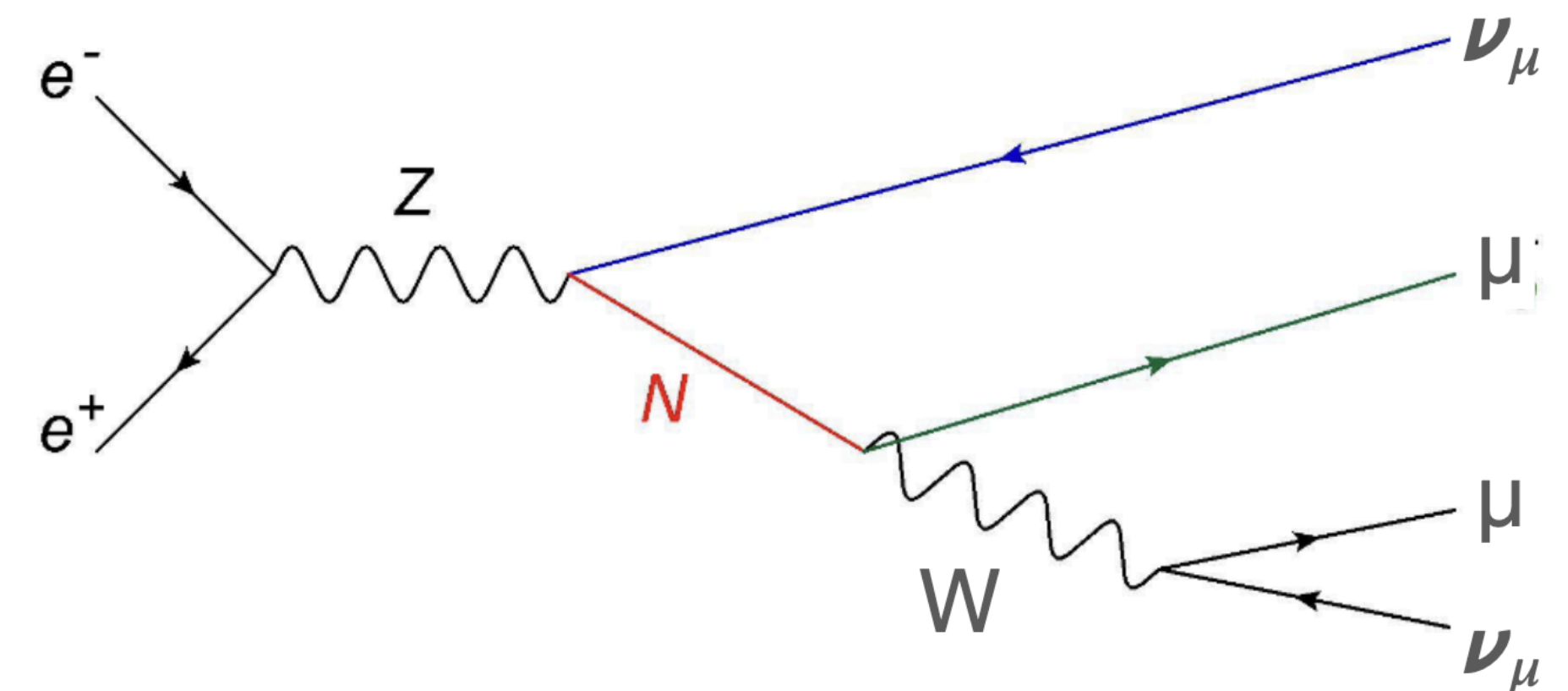
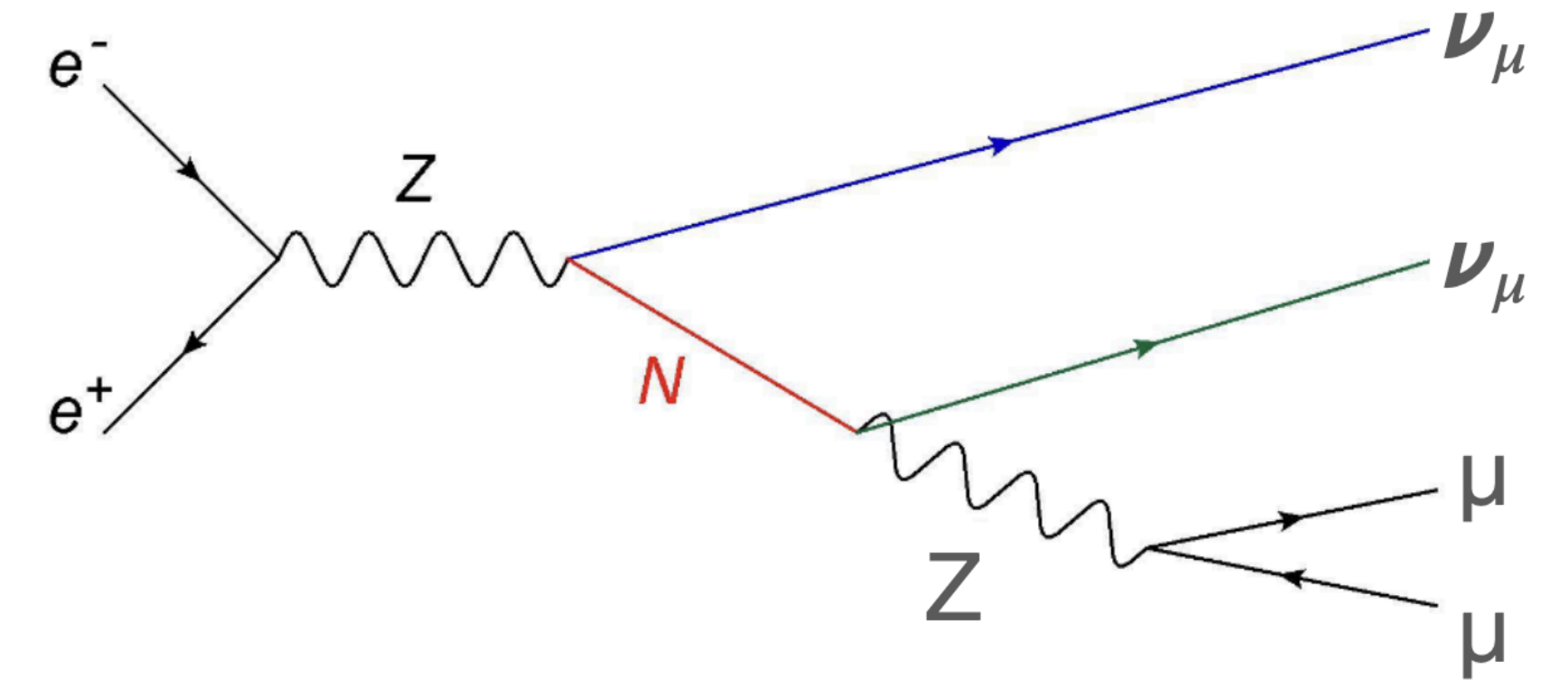
- Focus on final states with two  $\mu$  and  $E_{\text{miss}}$

## Signal samples:

- Wide range of masses and couplings
- Standard tools used

## Background samples:

- Official Winter2023 samples
- $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu, \tau\tau, bb, cc$





# Event Selection - Efficiencies

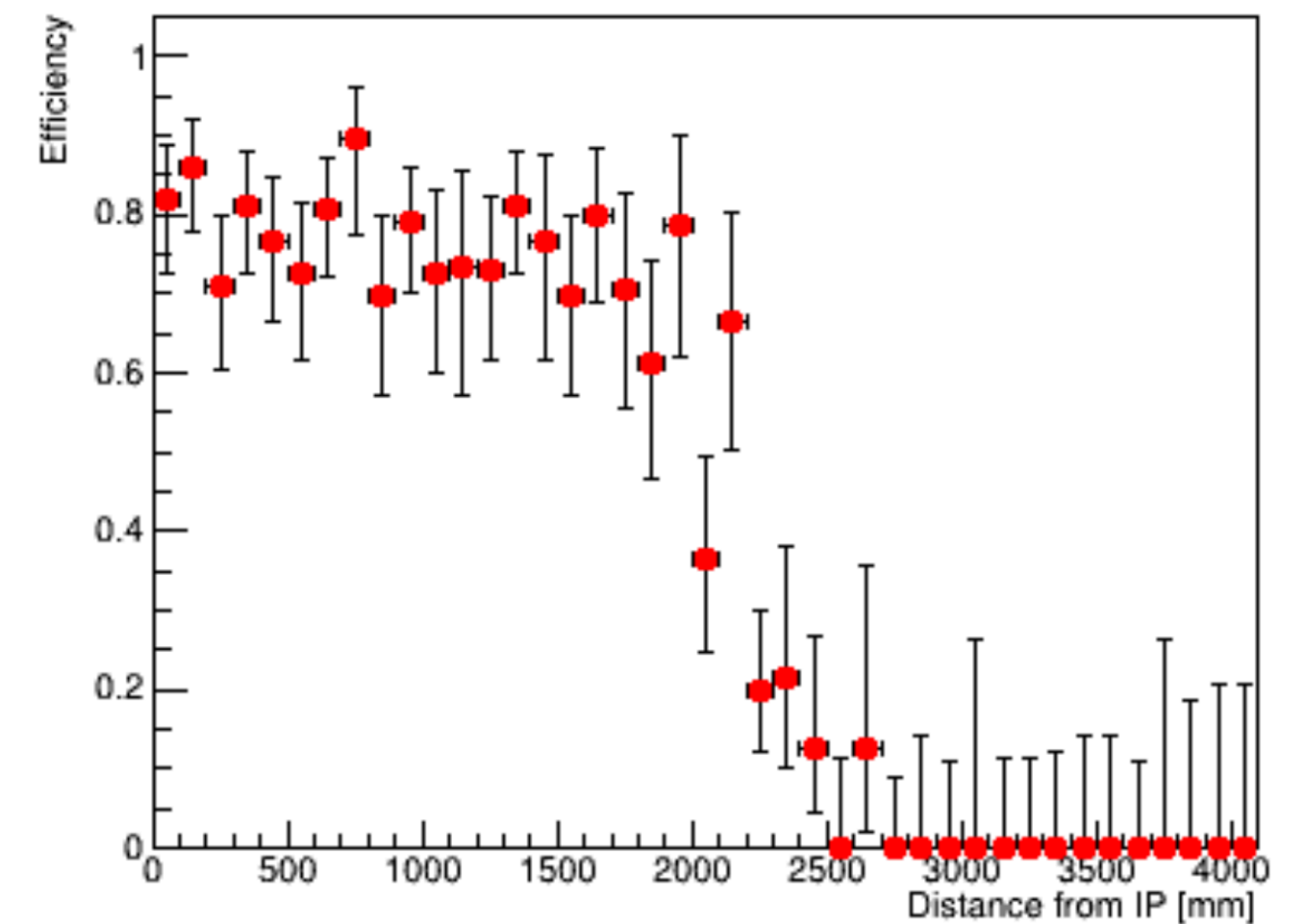
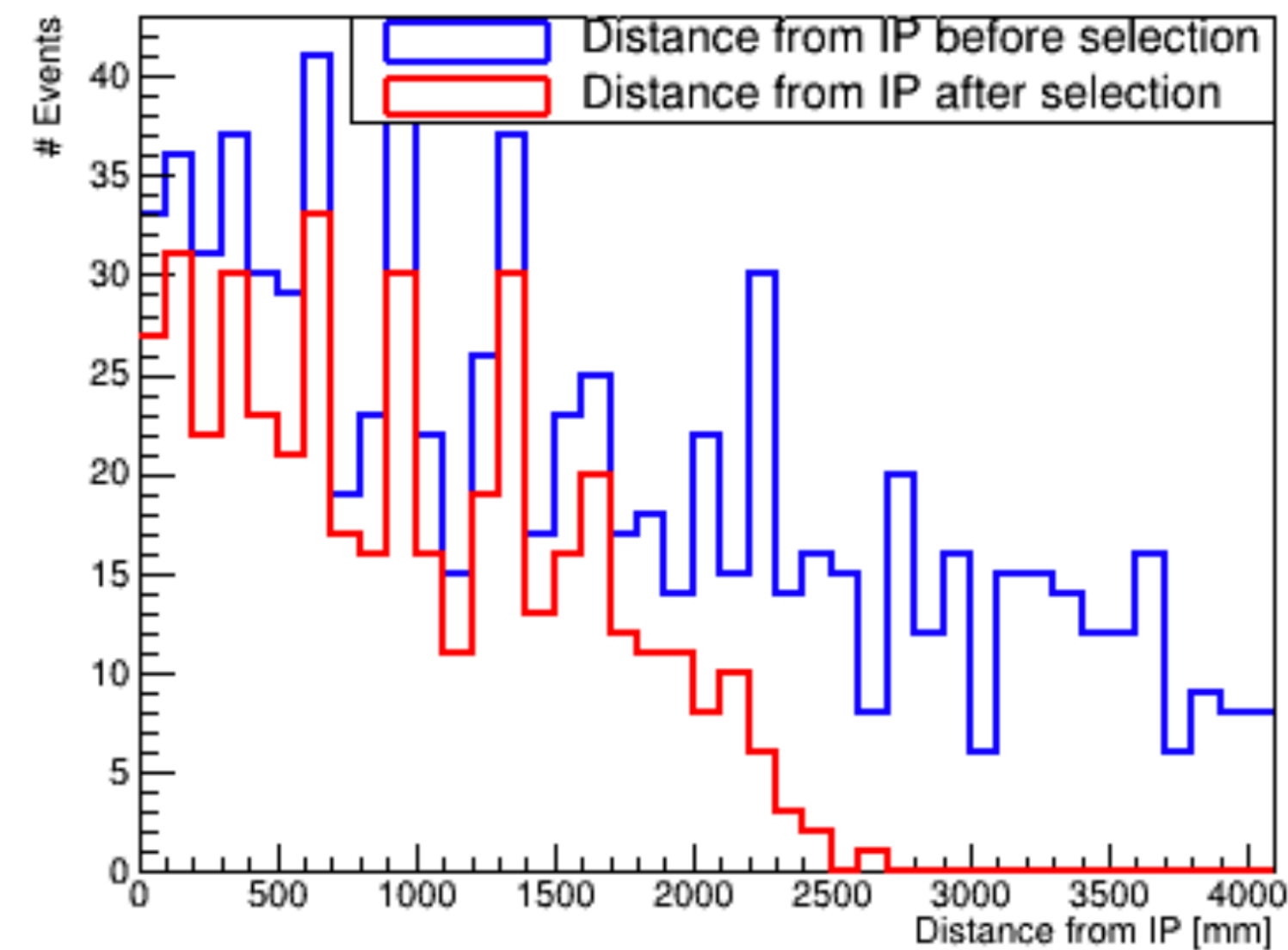
## Minimal requests for the preselection:

- **Exactly two tracks** in the central detector reconstructed as **muons** with  **$p > 3 \text{ GeV}$**

## Optimizing search based on the distance from the 2- $\mu$ decay vertex to the IP ( $D_{xy}$ )

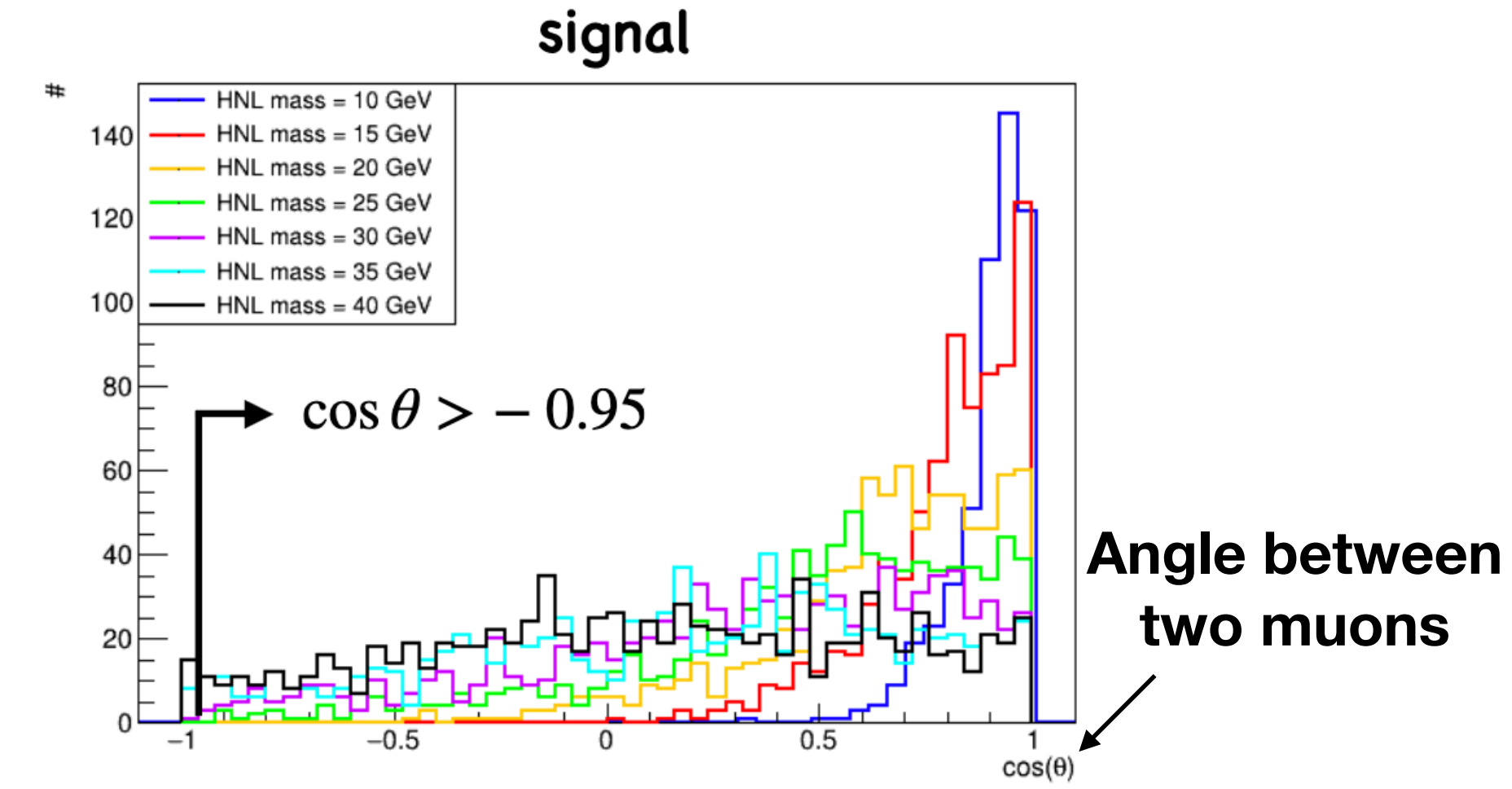
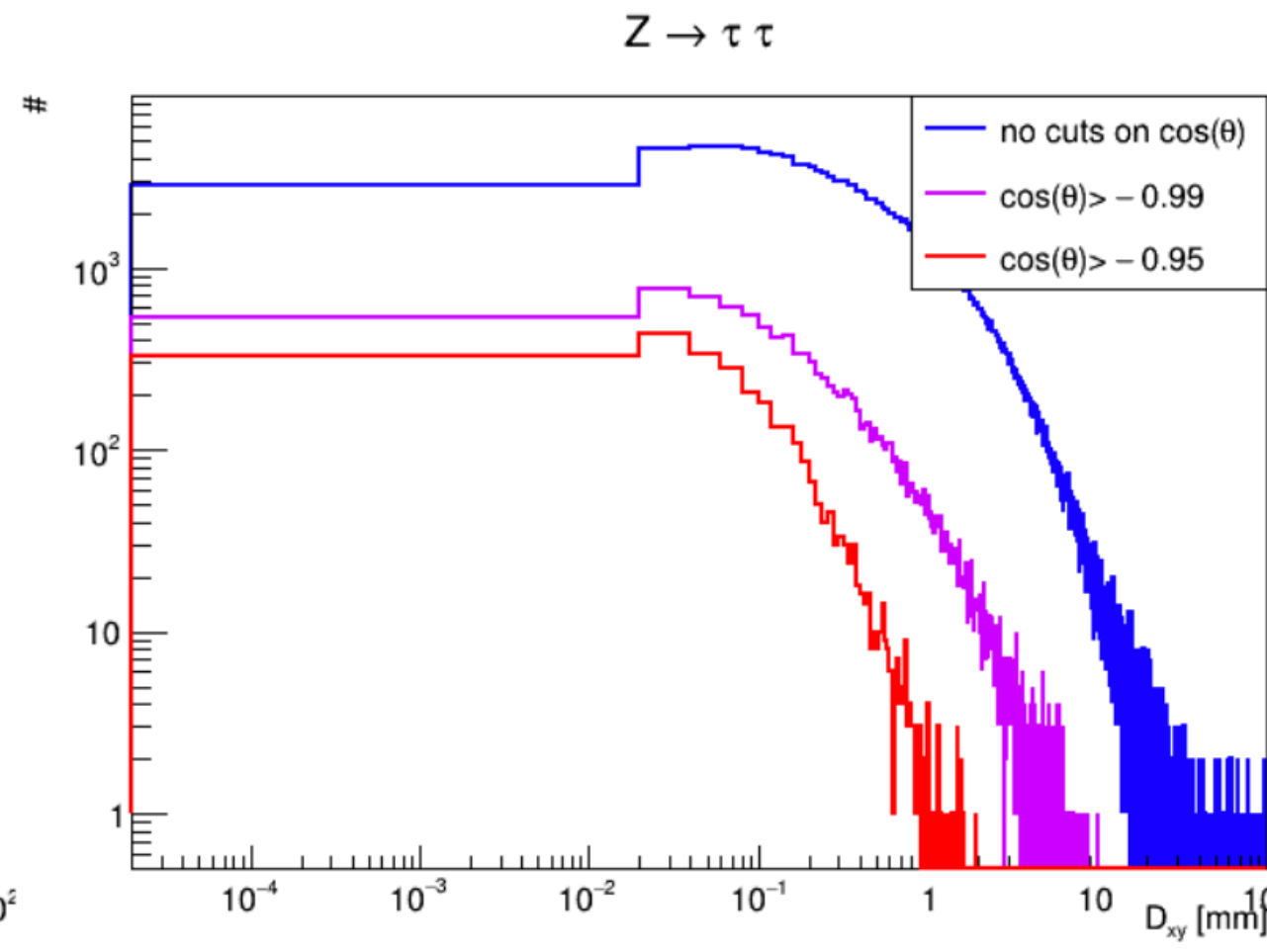
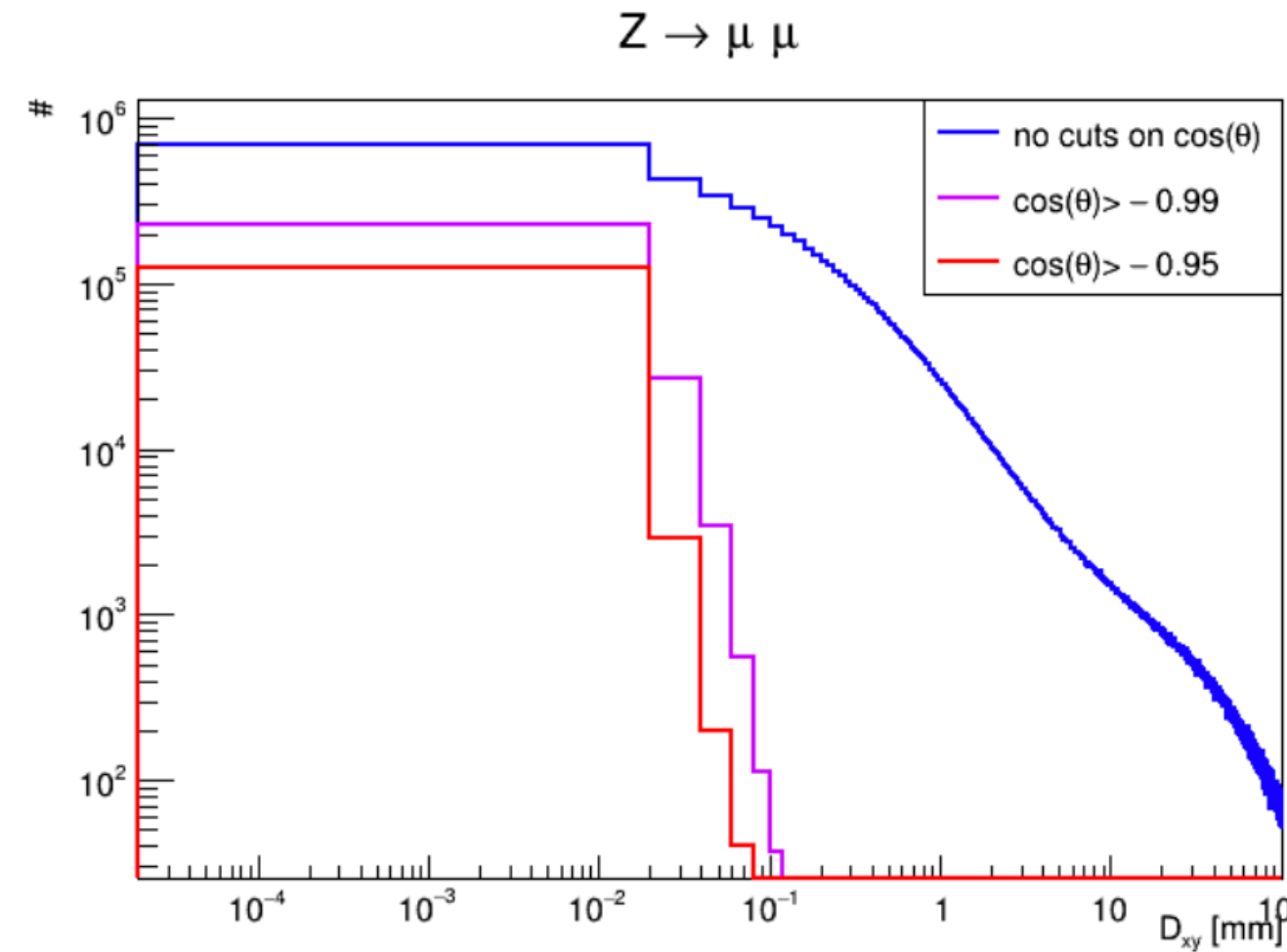
- **Displaced vertex**  
**main selection cut**  
**for signal/bkg**  
**separation**

HNL mass = 20 GeV,  $V_{\text{mix}} = 10^{-5}$



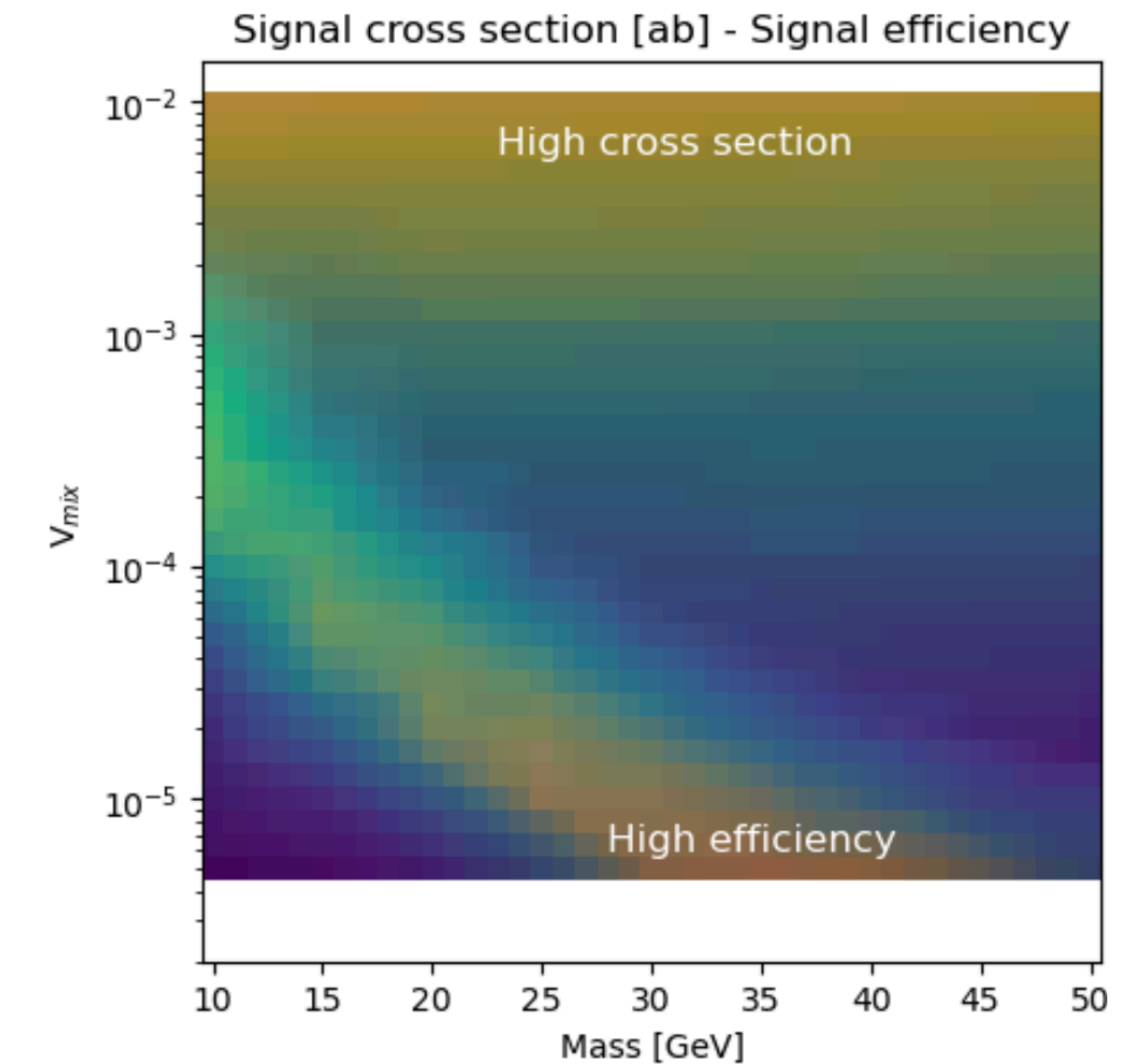
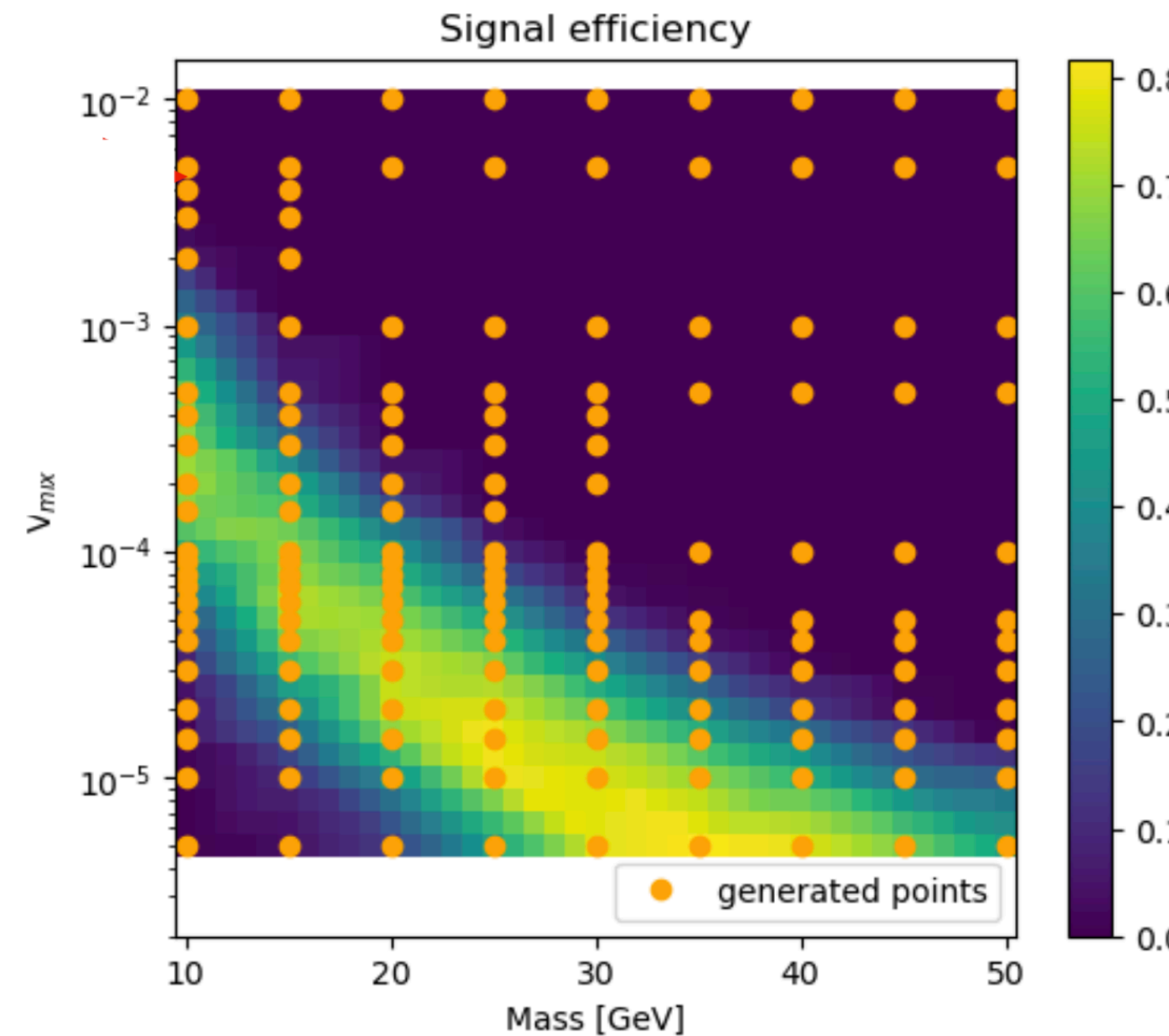
# Event Selection - Efficiencies

## Apply cuts on $\cos\theta$ :



**Signal efficiency after requiring:**

- preselection
- $\cos\theta > -0.95$
- $D_{xy} > 1$  cm



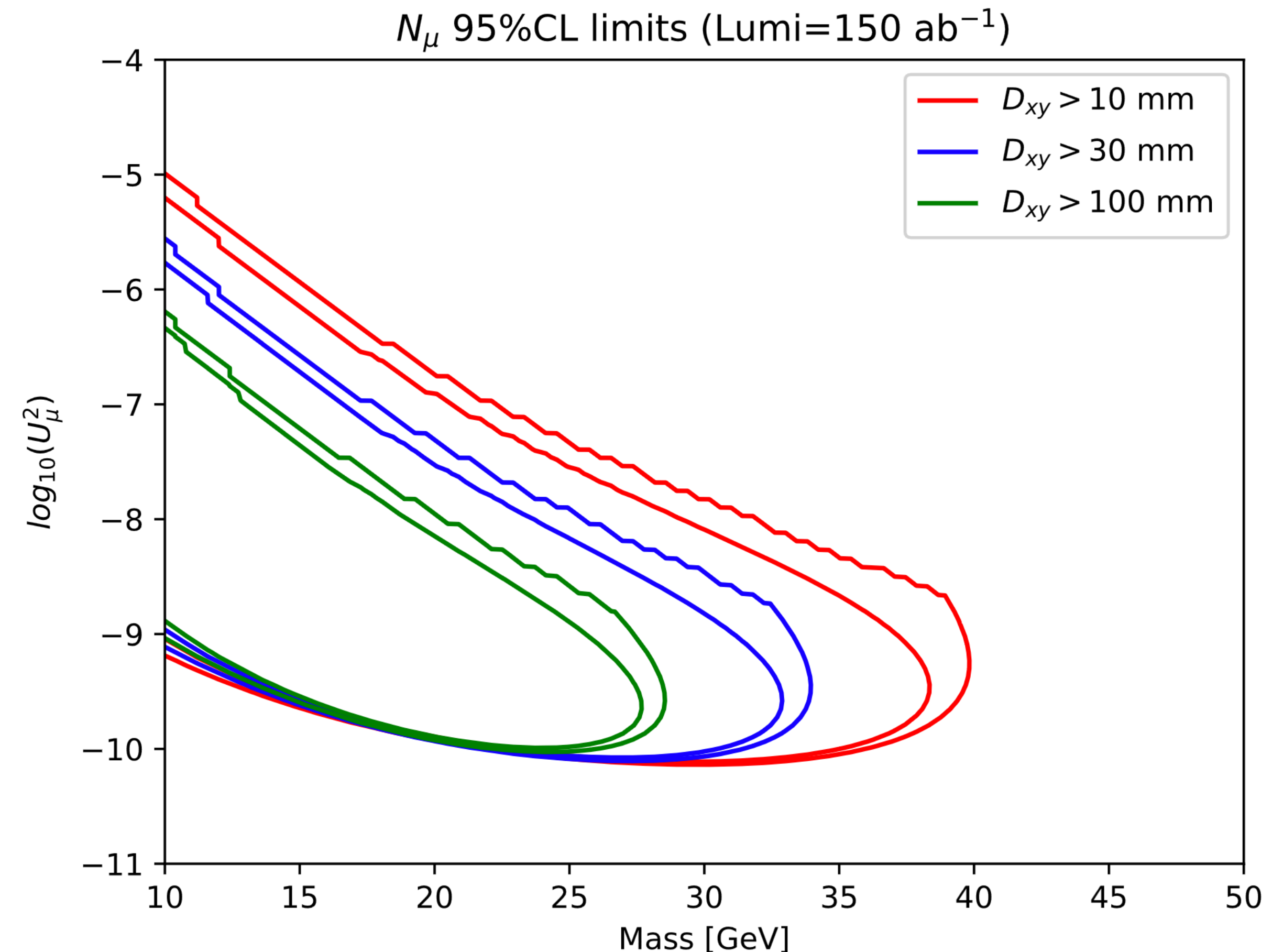
# Sensitivity

● Interpolation of the sensitivity contours using parametric fit to parameterize the efficiency vs decay length

## Expected limits



- Results obtained assuming negligible background for the three hypotheses of the  $D_{xy}$
- $D_{xy}$  cut should be tuned once a more reliable estimation of the bkg is obtained





# Study of properties

## Lepton number violation

# Dirac vs Majorana HNLs

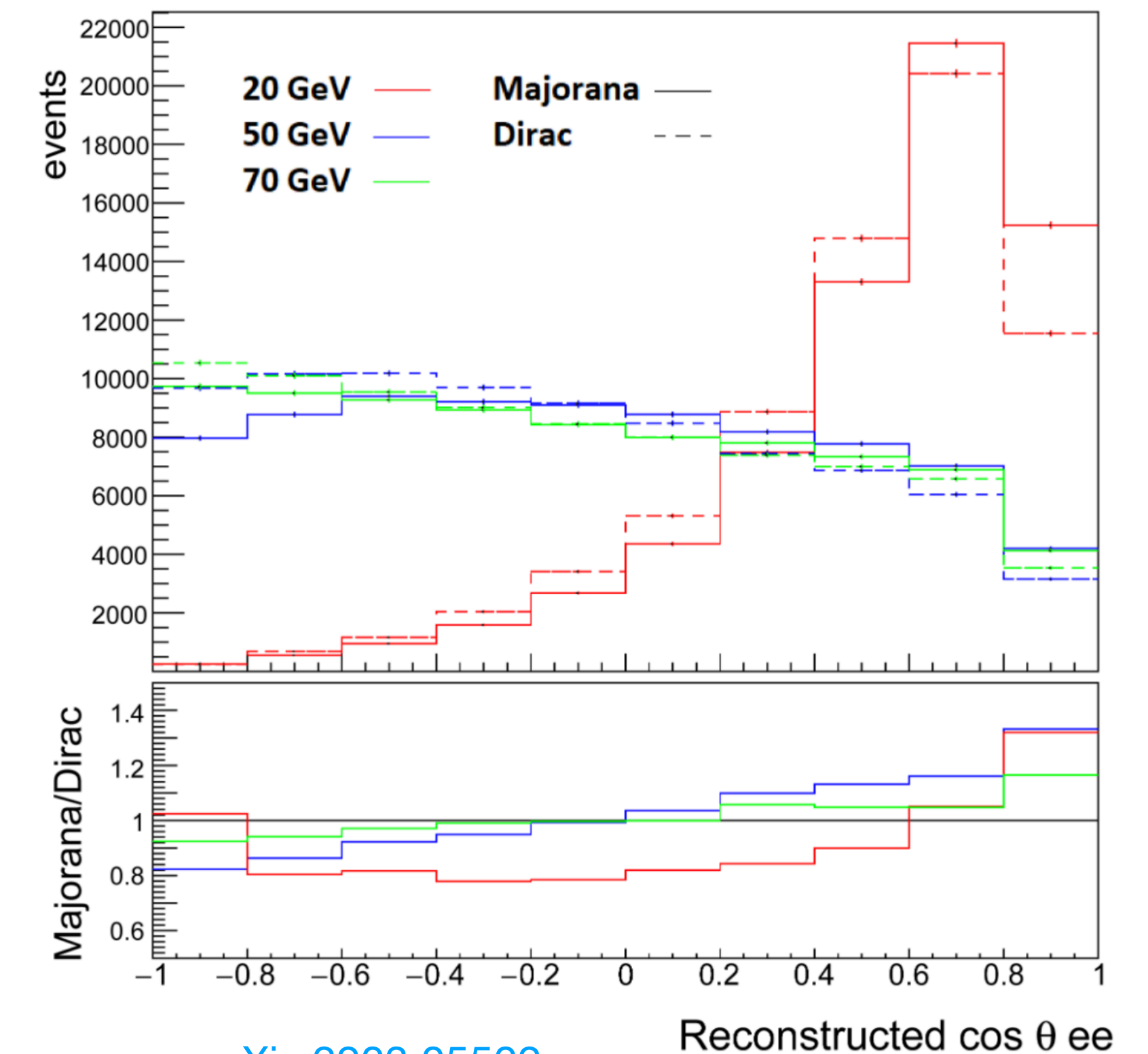
*D. Moulin, P. Kontaxakis, T. Sharma, A. Sfyrla*

## Dirac (LNC) and Majorana (LNC+LNV) HNLs produce distinct kinematic distributions

- Establishing the final state variables wherein the difference between Dirac & Majorana can be observed ([arXiv:2105.06576](https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.06576))

## Utilize metrics (asymmetries, angular distributions, ...) where the LNV nature of the processes can be identified

$H \rightarrow eev$   
Angle between  $e^-$  &  $e^+$



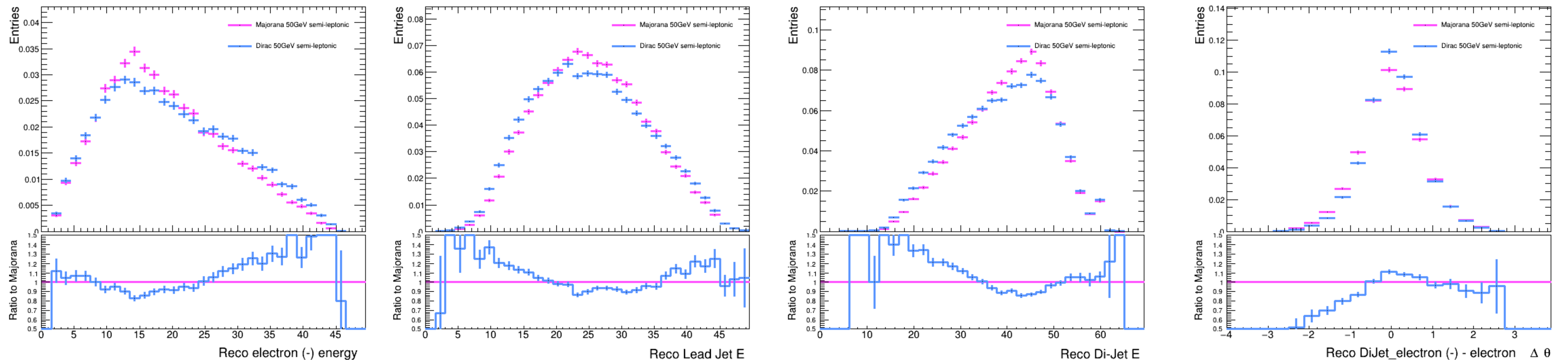
[arXiv:2203.05502](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.05502)

# Discrimination Variables (HNL $\rightarrow$ e $\bar{e}$ channel)

## ● Electron energy, HNL (dijet) energy, Electron - HNL angle and related variables

- Studied both at the generation and reconstruction level
- Effective discrimination achieved by separately analyzing the e $^+$ /e $^-$  distributions
- Various HNL masses investigated

### Illustrative plots:



**Very good discrimination power for several variables**

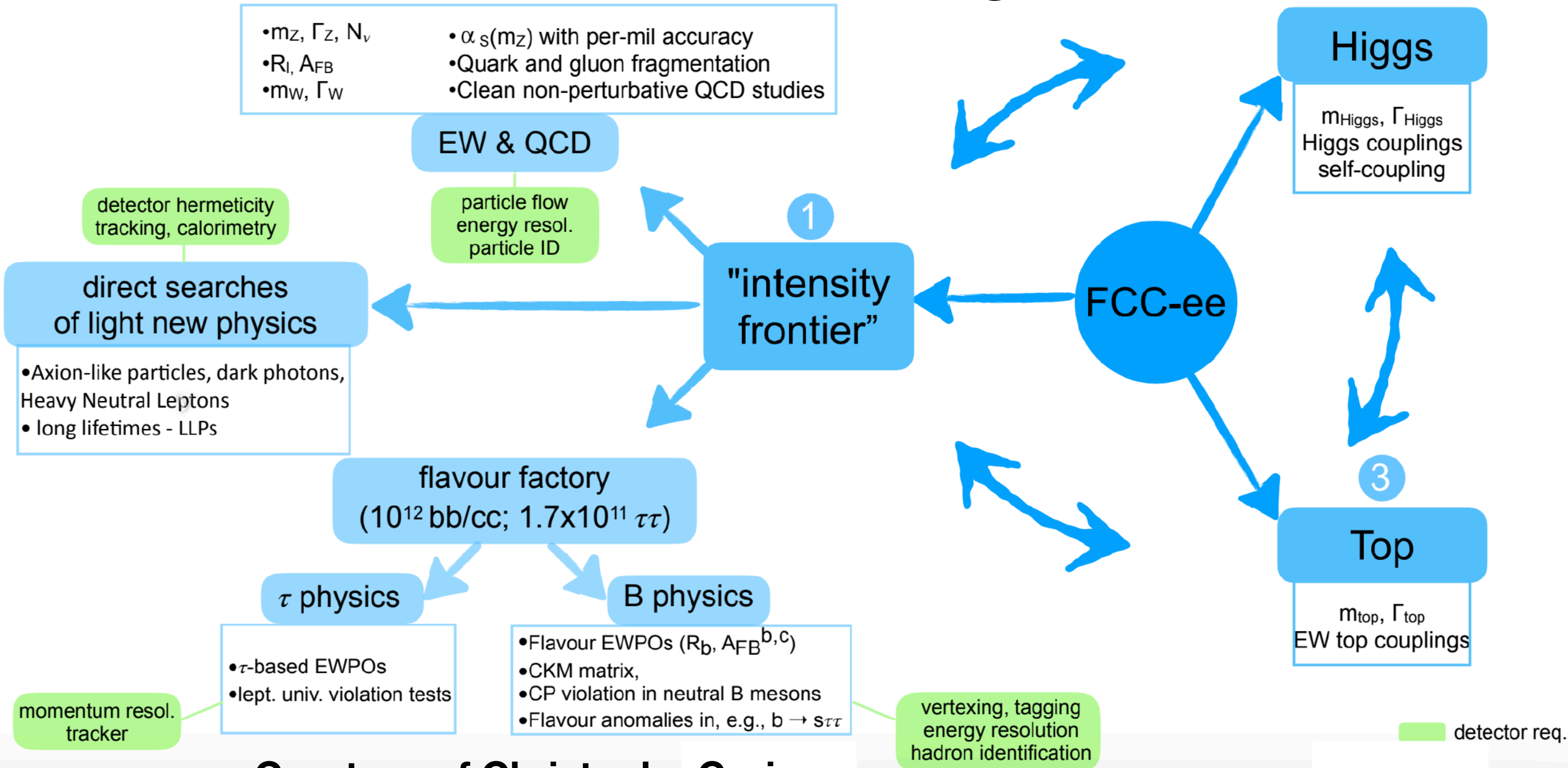


# Summary & Outlook

- ◎ Outstanding potential of FCC-ee for direct exploration of BSM signatures in both prompt and long-lived channels
- ◎ Diverse signals: HNLs, ALPs, unconventional Higgs decays and more
- ◎ HNL exciting channel for BSM searches in FCCee
  - Analyses demonstrating sensitivity to even very small mixing angles
  - Integration of prompt and LLP signatures complementary in covering the entire parameter space
  - Studies show promising results in effectively probing lepton number violation
- ◎ Intensive efforts are currently underway on optimizing the sensitivity for benchmark signals

# **Backup Slides**

# FCC-ee Physics Program



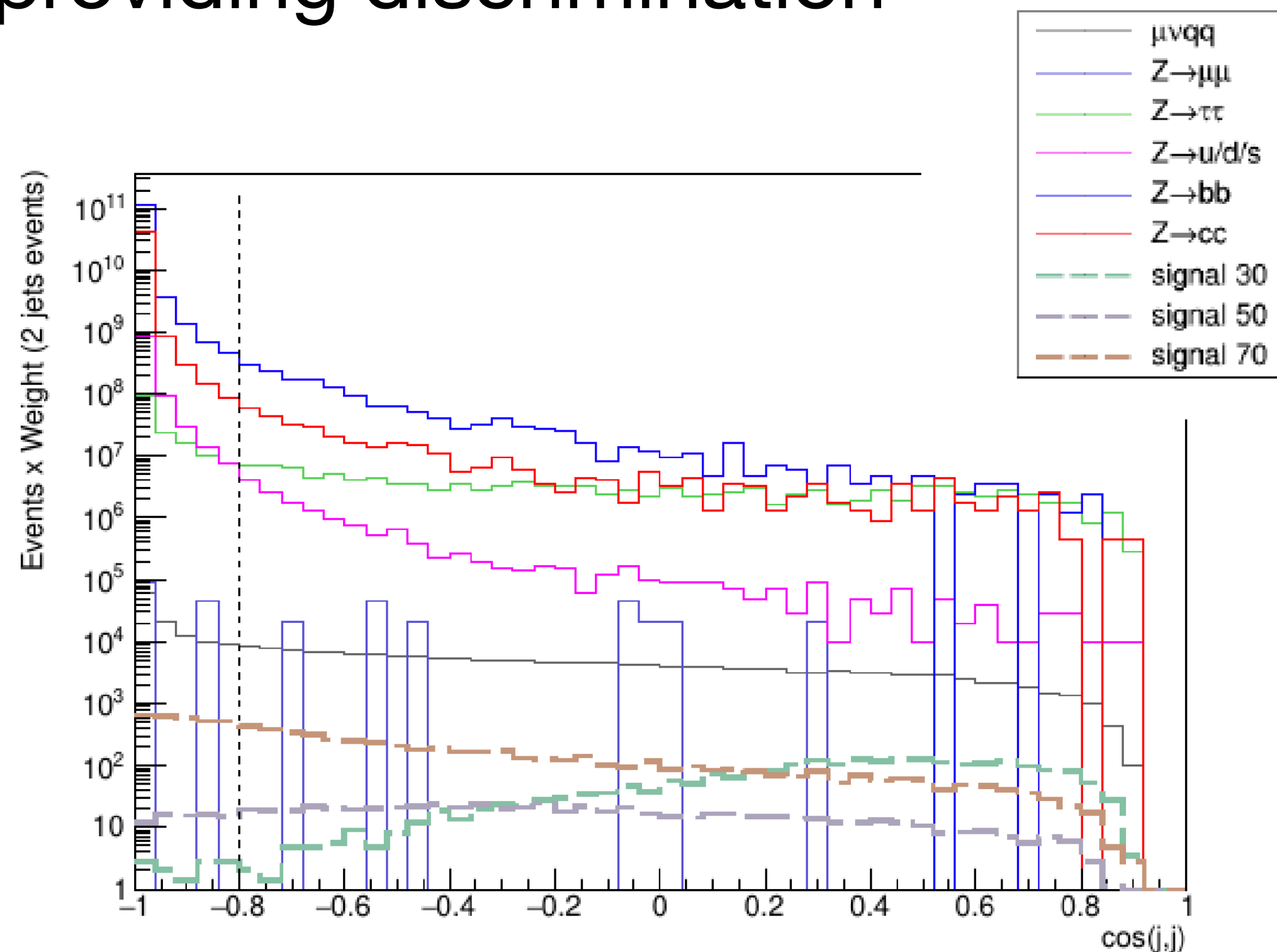
Courtesy of Christophe Grojean



# HNL $\rightarrow$ $\mu j$ Selections

## Kinematic selection

- Two different SRs depending on  $n_{\text{jets}}$ 
  - 2jets: Dominant at  $m > 50$  GeV
  - 1jet: Dominant at lower masses
- For each region: Investigation variables providing discrimination



## Mass-dependent selection

- Require:

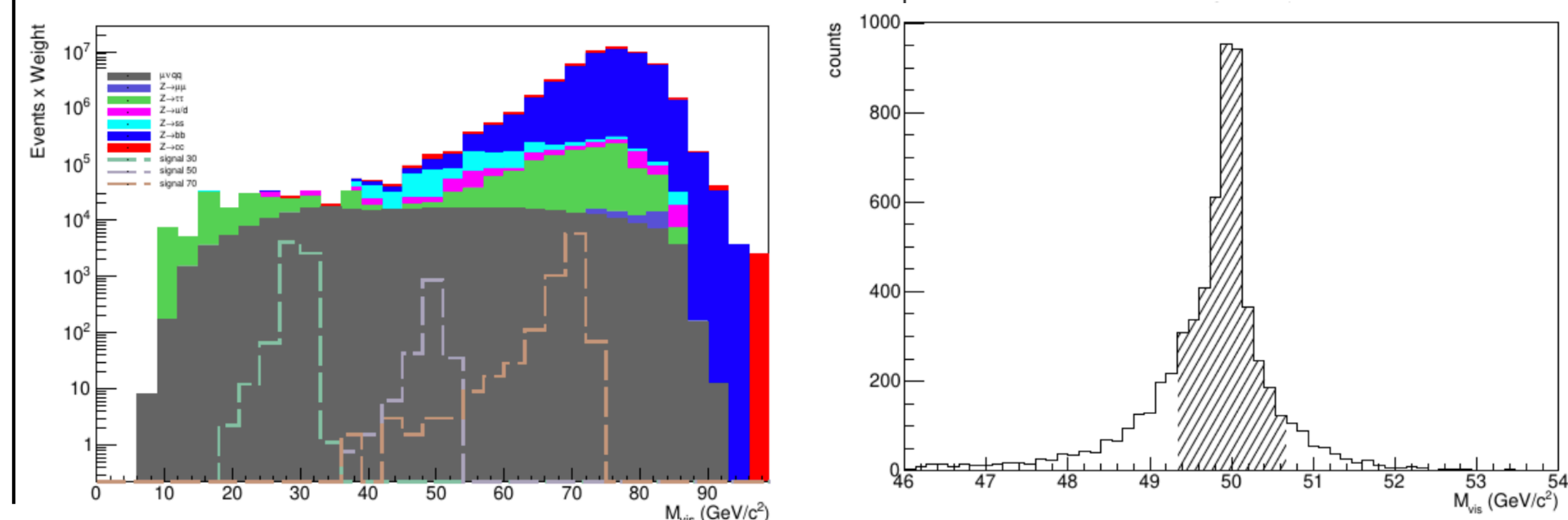
$$M_{\text{vis}} \in M_{N_1} \pm 2 \times 10\% \times \sqrt{M_{N_1} / \text{GeV}}$$

where  $M_{\text{vis}}$ : sum of **visible 4-momenta** to select HNL mass and  $\nu$  recoil energy

- Apply also cut on  $E_{\text{miss}}$ :

$$E_{\text{miss}} \in \hat{p}_\nu(M_{N_1}) \pm 2 \times 10\% \sqrt{\hat{p}_\nu / \text{GeV}/c}$$

where 
$$\hat{p}_\nu(M_{N_1}) = \frac{M_Z^2 - M_{N_1}^2}{2M_Z}$$



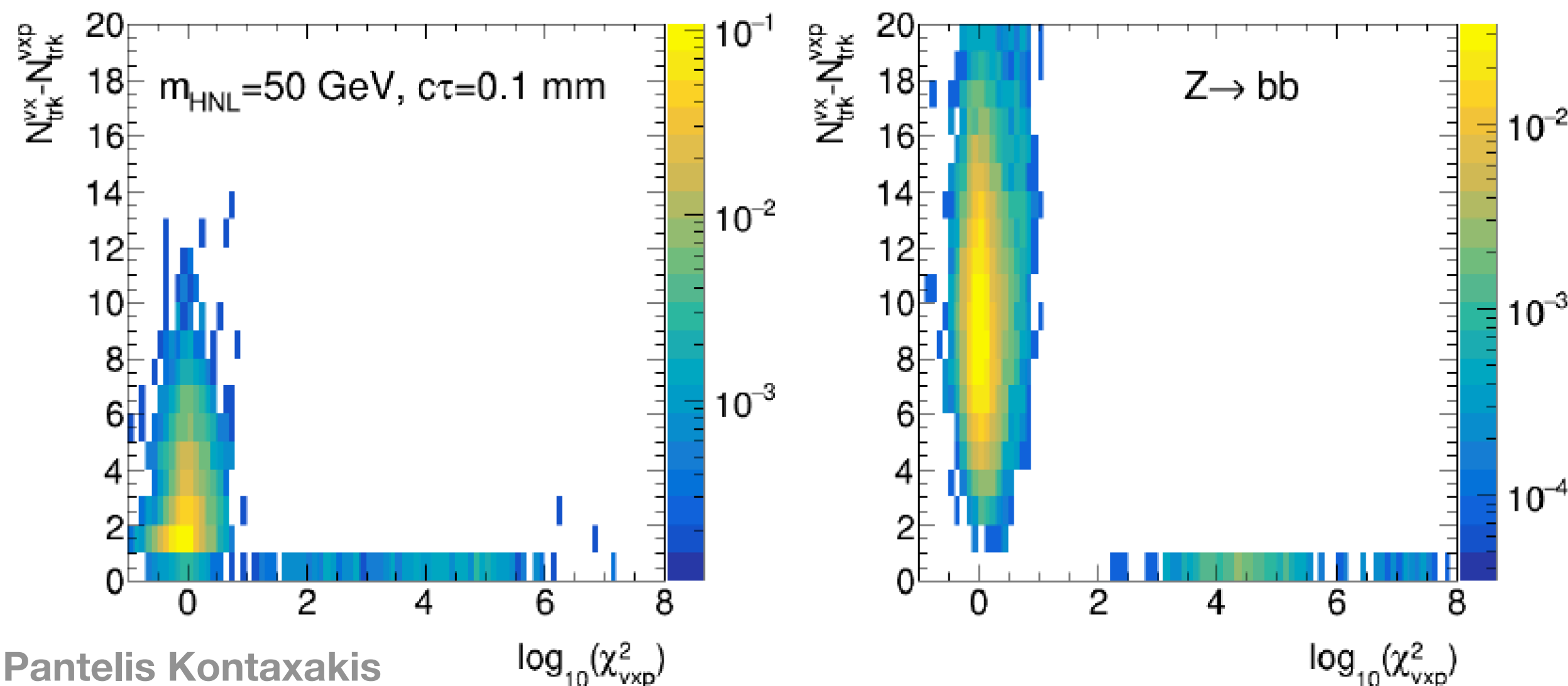
# HNL $\rightarrow$ $\mu j$ Selections

## Vertex-based selection

- Require well-reconstructed primary vertex and most of the Tracks used for primary vertex
- Substantial rejection for heavy flavours

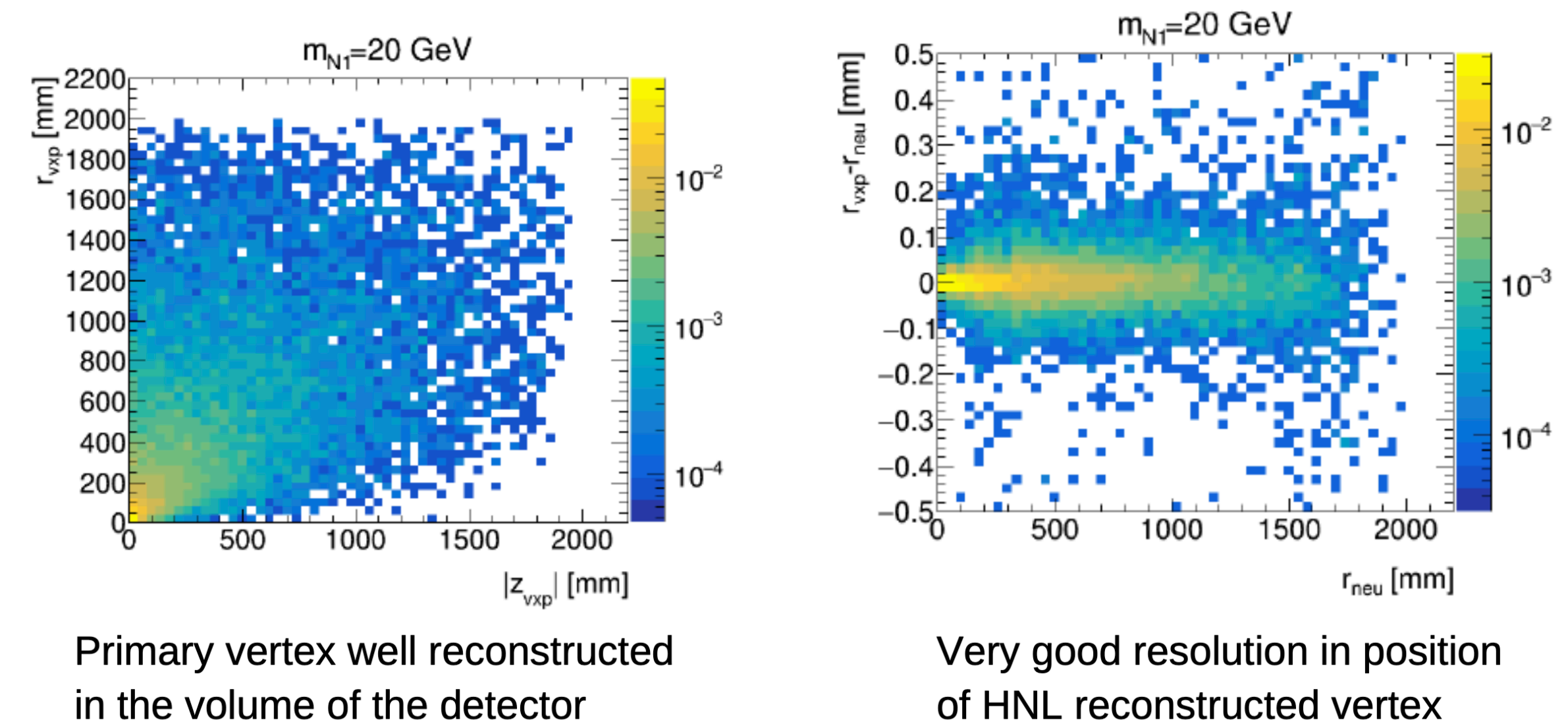
$$N_{tracks} - N_{tracks}^{primary} < 5$$

$$\chi^2_{vtx,primary} < 10$$



## Prompt vs Long Lived selection

- For separation between prompt and LL
  - Choose transverse position of PV so as bkg become zero:  $r_{vpx} = 0.5$  mm
- About five times values  $r_{vxp}$  for extreme tails of bkg

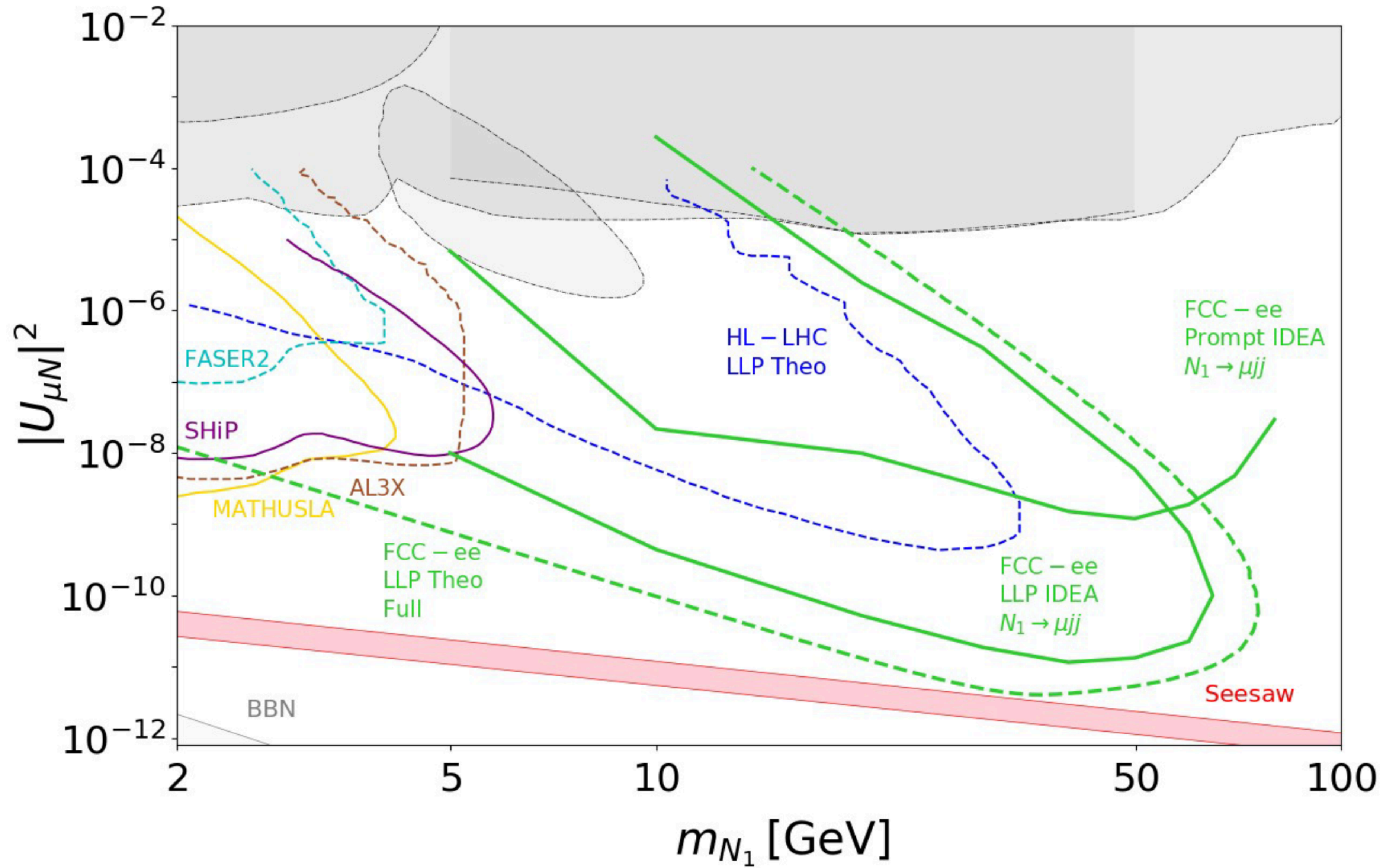


# HNL $\rightarrow$ $\mu jj$ | Analysis Flow

1. Event Filter	2. Event Selection	3. Vertex selection
1 muon $\geq 3$ tracks $E_\mu \geq 3$ GeV $E_{miss} \geq 5$ GeV	1 lepton (muon) Cuts on $p_{miss}$ , jets, $\mu$ and visible mass	$N_{tracks} - N_{tracks}^{primary} < 5$ $\chi_{vtx,primary}^2 < 10$
4. Mass-dependent kin. selection	5a. Displacement: prompt	5b. Displacement: LL
$M_{vis}$ within $2 \times 10\% \sqrt{M}$ $E_{miss}$ within $2 \times 10\% \sqrt{p_\nu}$	$r_{vert}^{primary} > 0.5$ mm $D_{0,\mu} < 8\sigma$ if $M_{N_1} > 70$	$r_{vert}^{primary} < 0.5$ mm



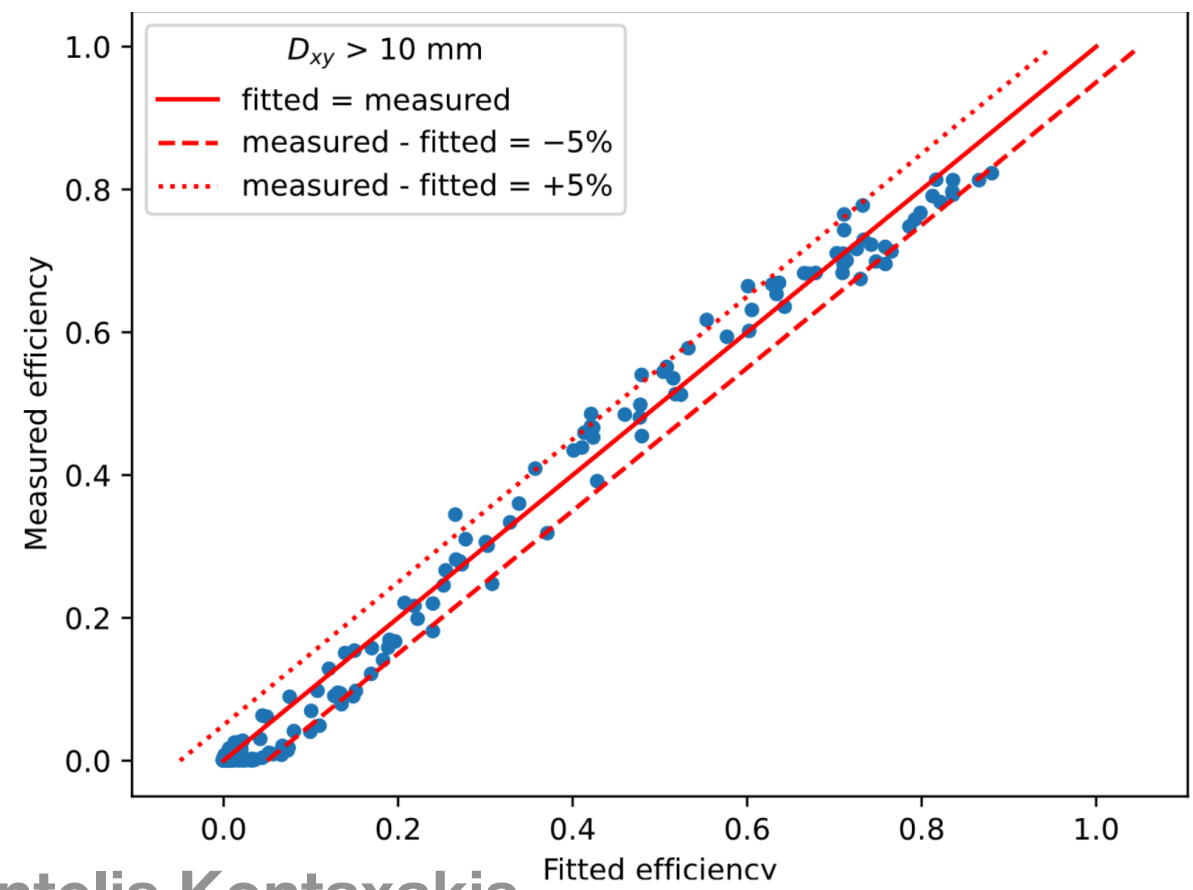
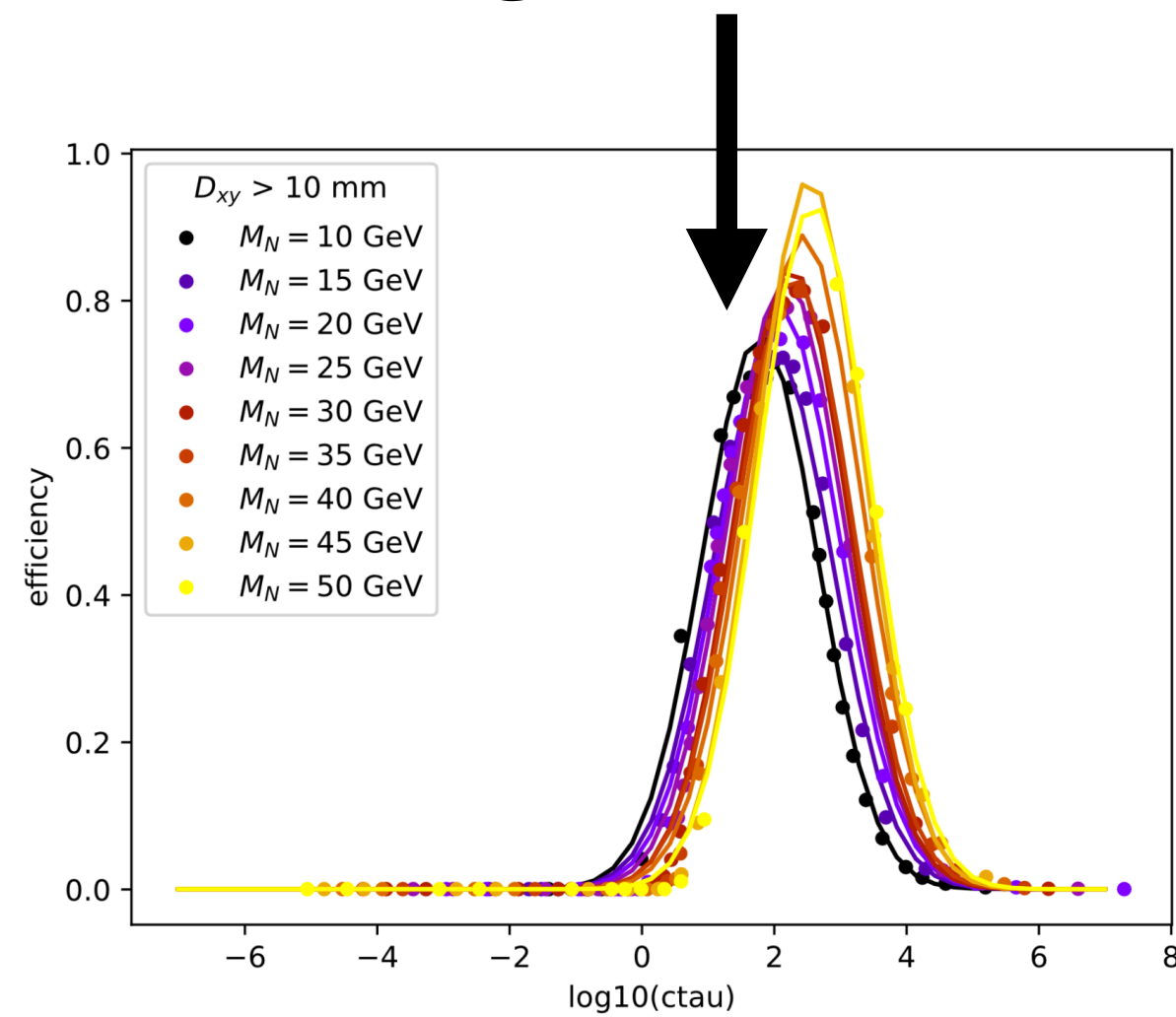
# HNL $\rightarrow \mu jj$ | Final Result



# HNL $\rightarrow \mu\mu\nu$ | Sensitivity

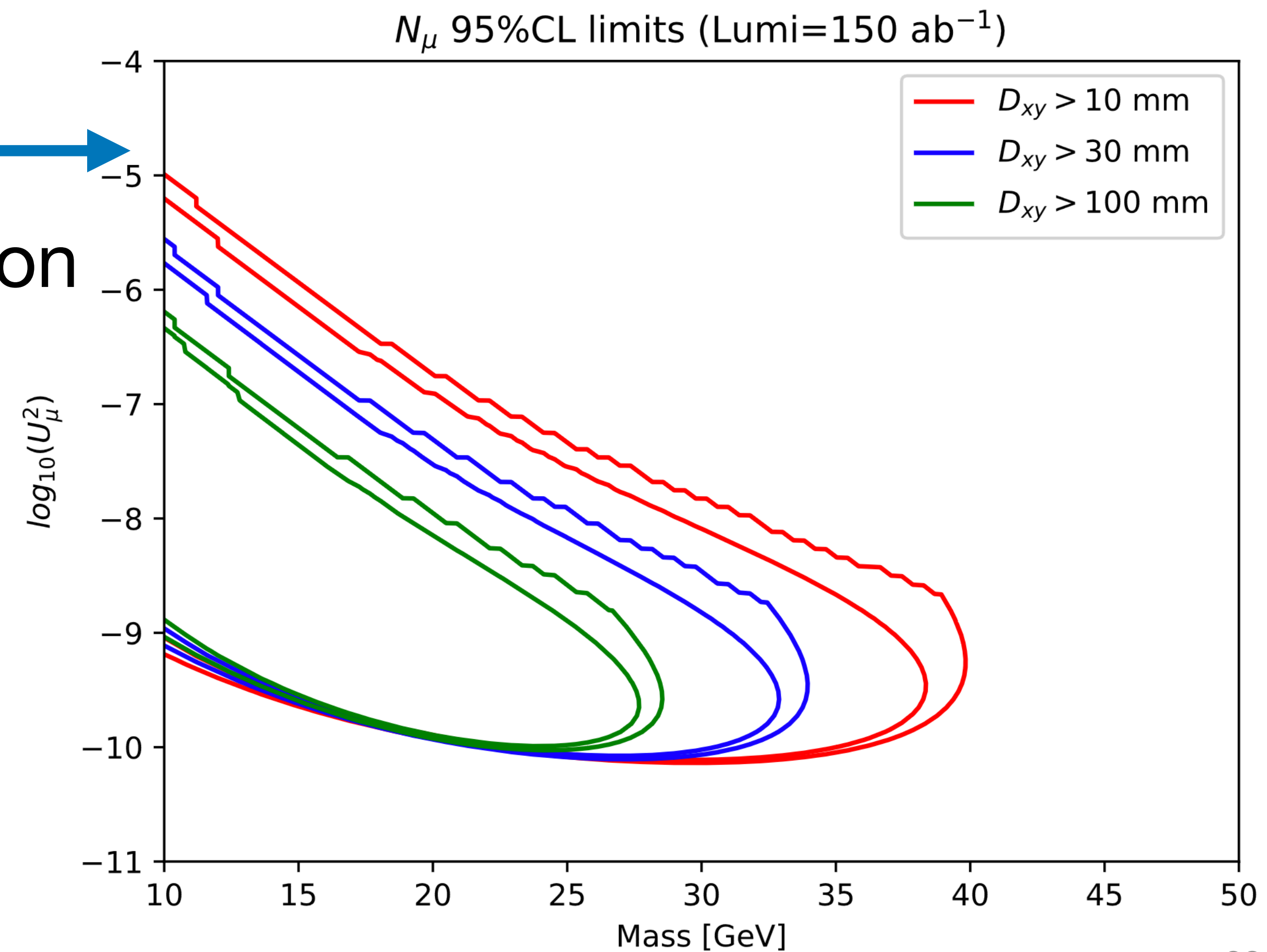
## ● Interpolation of the sensitivity contours tested in two ways:

- Using the python interpolation method “LinearNDInterpolator”
- Using parametric fit to parametrize the eff vs decay length

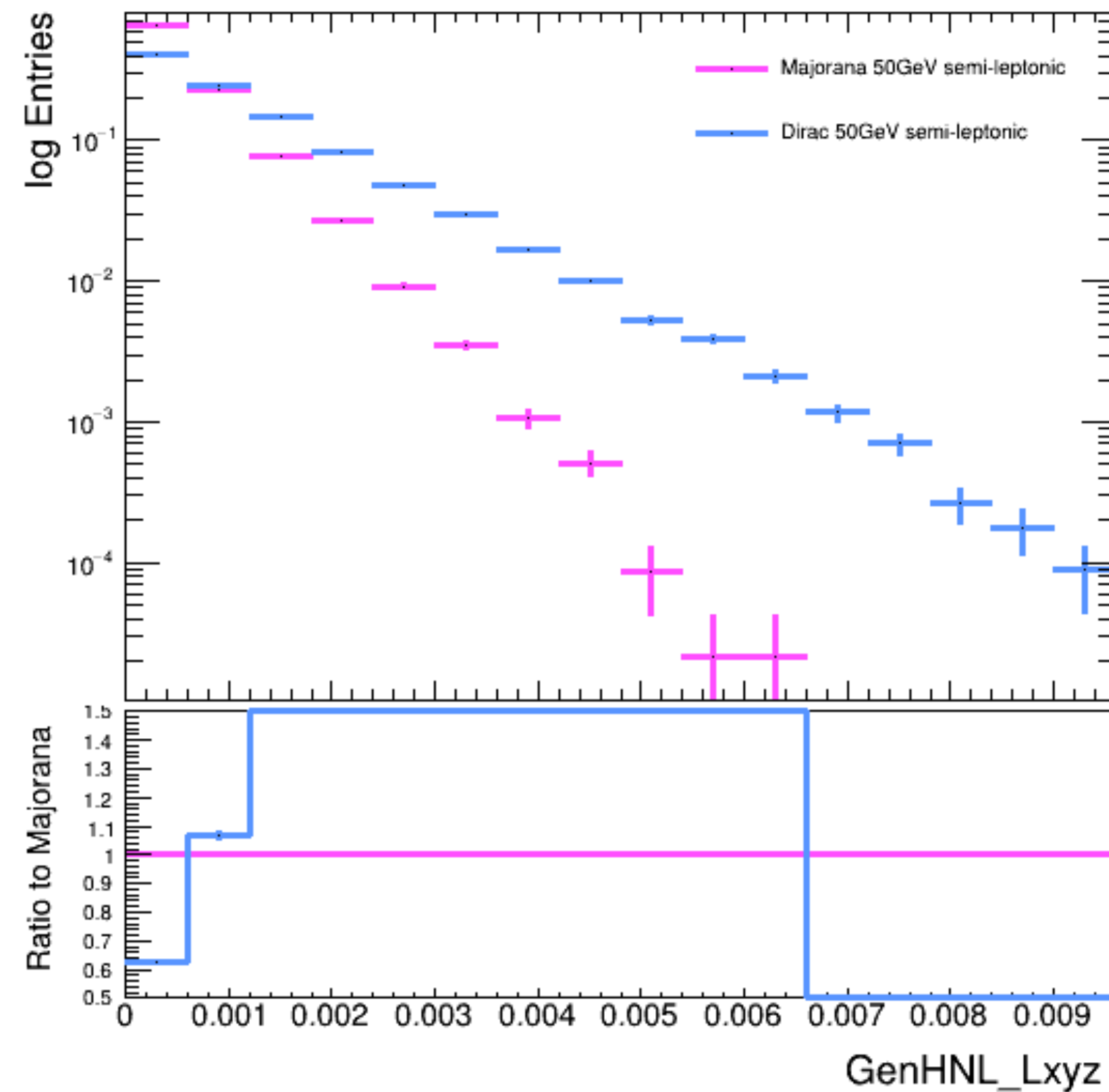


## Expected limits

- Reliable estimation of the bkg
- Parametric fit significantly improves the sensitivity



# Dirac vs Majorana HNLs



**Decay length for Dirac (blue) and Majorana (pink) HNLs of mass  $m_N = 50$  GeV and coupling  $|V_{eN}| = 10^{-3}$  at the generator level**