

Neutrino physics (theory) II

Sergio Pastor
(IFIC Valencia)



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Lecture 1

**Introduction: neutrinos
and their history**

**Neutrinos in the
Standard Model**

Neutrino oscillations

Lecture 2

Values of neutrino masses

**Introduction to
neutrino cosmology**

**Cosmological bounds on
some neutrino properties**

Values of neutrino masses

3-neutrino oscillations: the global picture

neutrino mixing

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta_{23} & \sin \theta_{23} \\ 0 & -\sin \theta_{23} & \cos \theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_{13} & 0 & \sin \theta_{13} e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_{13} e^{i\delta} & 0 & \cos \theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\cos \theta_{12} & \sin \theta_{12} & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_{12} & \cos \theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\alpha} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\beta} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

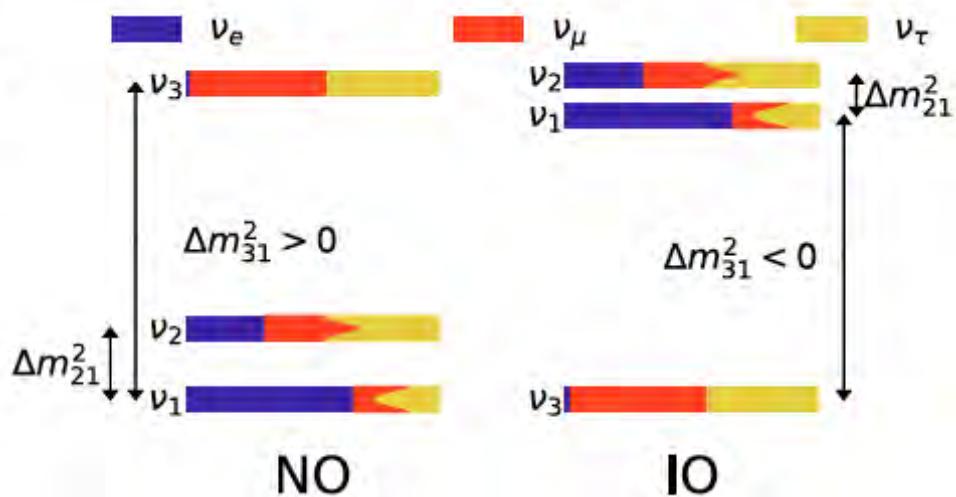
neutrino mass spectrum

- ✓ 3 mixing angles: $\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}$
- ✓ 3 CP phases: 1 Dirac + 2 Majorana
- ✓ 3 masses: m_1, m_2, m_3

⇒ absolute neutrino mass: m_0

⇒ two mass splittings:

$$\Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{31}^2$$



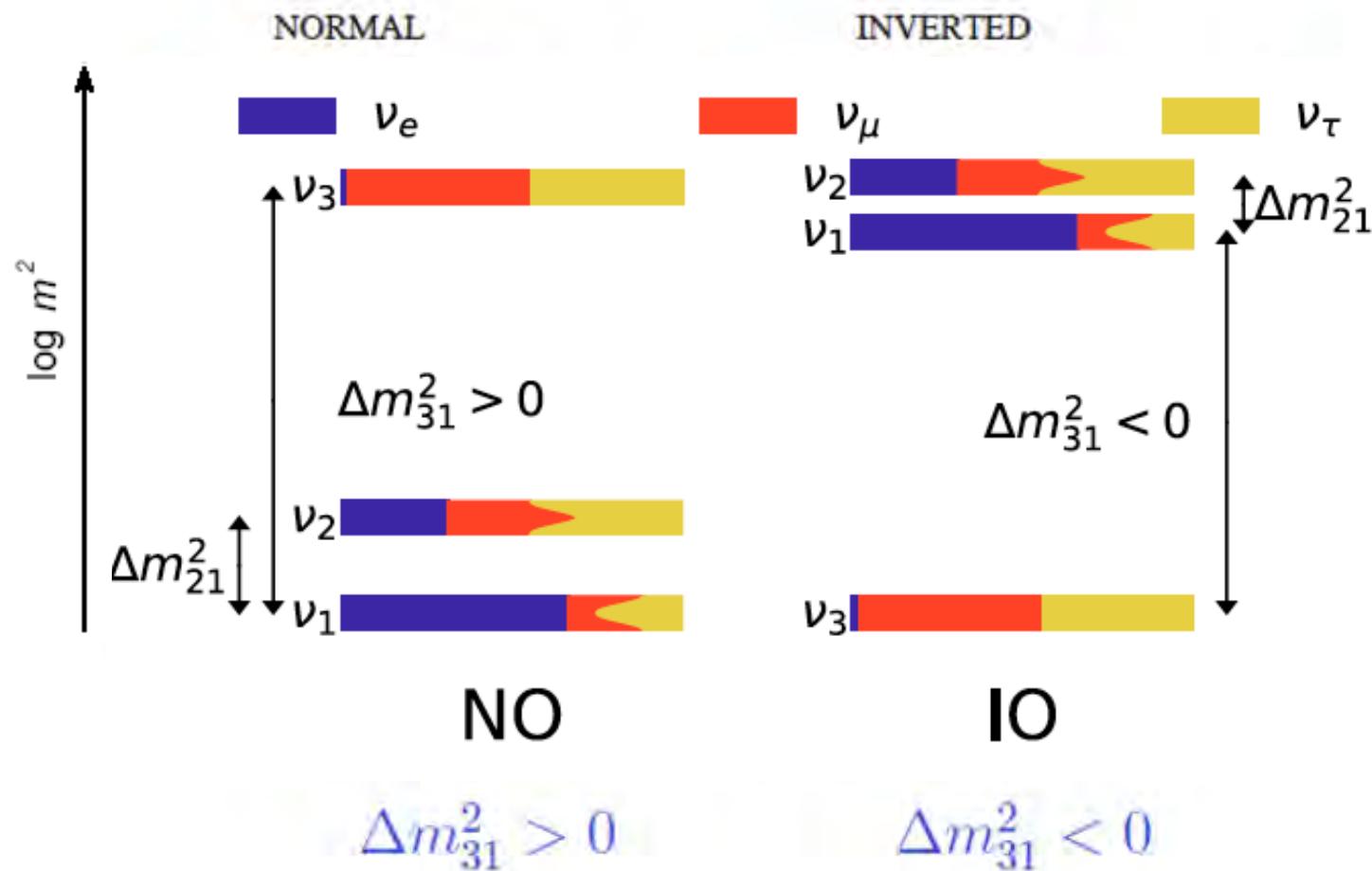
Global fit to neutrino oscillation parameters

parameter	best fit $\pm 1\sigma$	3σ range	relative 1σ uncert
Δm_{21}^2 [10 $^{-5}$ eV 2]	7.55 $^{+0.22}_{-0.20}$	6.98–8.19	2.7 %
$ \Delta m_{31}^2 $ [10 $^{-3}$ eV 2] (NO)	2.51 $^{+0.02}_{-0.03}$	2.43–2.58	
$ \Delta m_{31}^2 $ [10 $^{-3}$ eV 2] (IO)	2.41 $^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$	2.34–2.49	1.0 %
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}/10^{-1}$	3.04 ± 0.16	2.57–3.55	5.4%
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}/10^{-1}$ (NO)	5.64 $^{+0.15}_{-0.21}$	4.23–6.04	
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}/10^{-1}$ (IO)	5.64 $^{+0.15}_{-0.18}$	4.27–6.03	3-4%
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}/10^{-2}$ (NO)	2.20 $^{+0.05}_{-0.06}$	2.03–2.38	
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}/10^{-2}$ (IO)	2.20 $^{+0.07}_{-0.04}$	2.04–2.38	2.6%
δ/π (NO)	1.12 $^{+0.16}_{-0.12}$	0.76–2.00	10-15%
δ/π (IO)	1.50 $^{+0.13}_{-0.14}$	1.11–1.87	maximal CP violation??

Valencia global fit (<https://globalfit.astroparticles.es>)

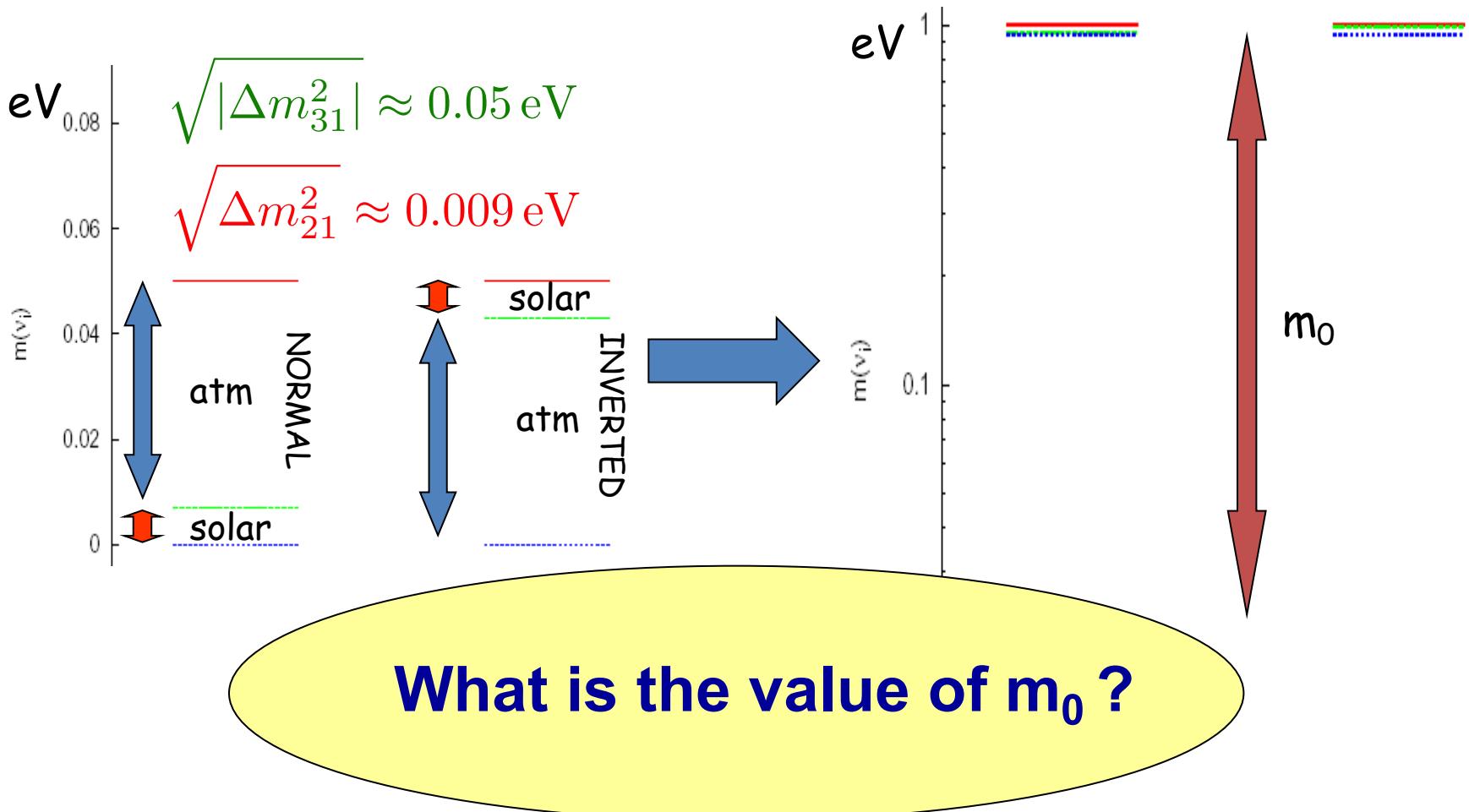
Two possible neutrino mass orderings

absolute neutrino mass scale?



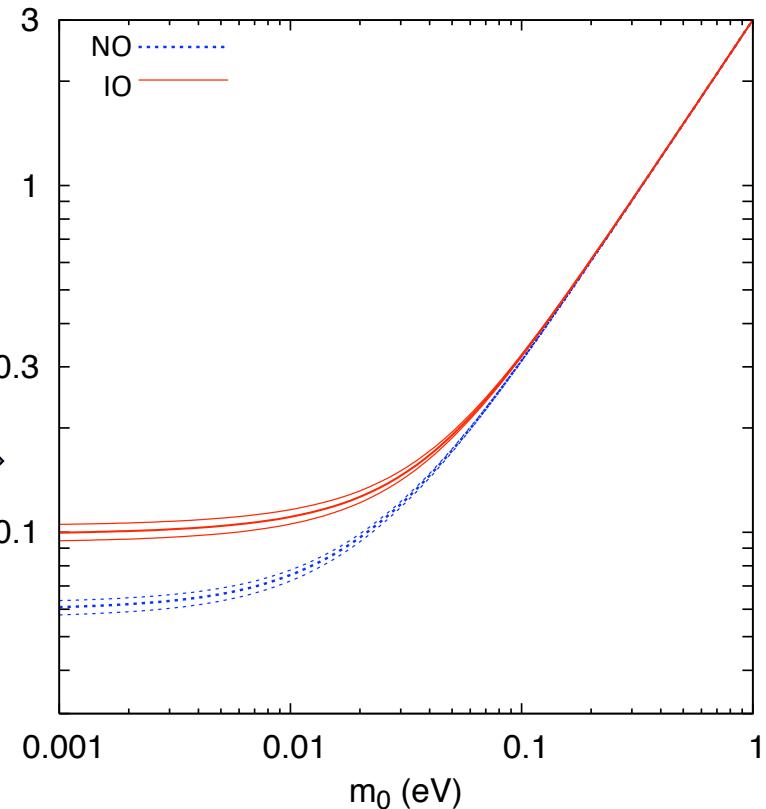
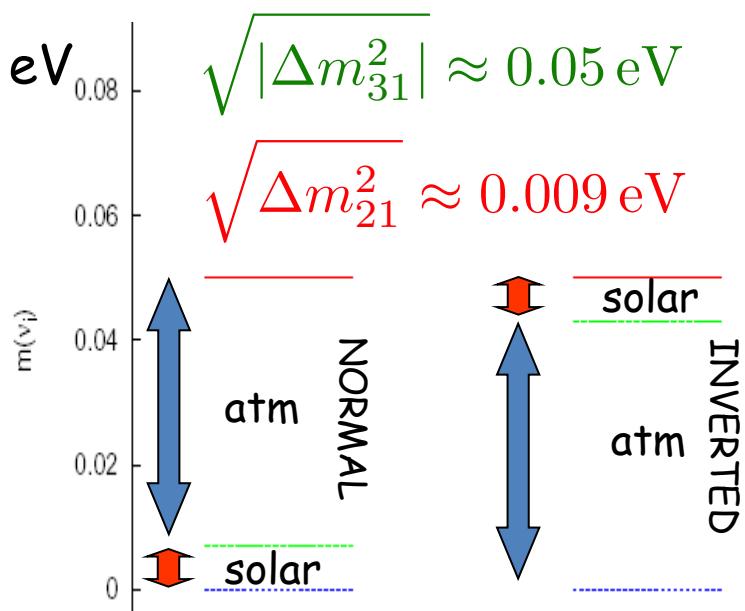
Neutrino masses

Data on flavour oscillations do not fix the absolute scale of neutrino masses



Neutrino masses

Data on flavour oscillations do not fix the absolute scale of neutrino masses



$$0.05(0.09) \text{ eV} \lesssim \sum_i m_i = m_1 + m_2 + m_3$$

oscillations

Probing the absolute neutrino mass scale

neutrino oscillations

$$\Delta m_{ij}^2 = m_i^2 - m_j^2$$

$$m_0 \geq 0.05 \text{ eV}$$

cosmology

$$\sum_i m_i$$

β decay kinematics

$$m_\beta = \left(\sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2 \right)^{1/2}$$



$$[c_{13}^2 c_{12}^2 m_1^2 + c_{13}^2 s_{12}^2 m_2^2 + s_{13}^2 m_3^2]^{1/2}$$

neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay

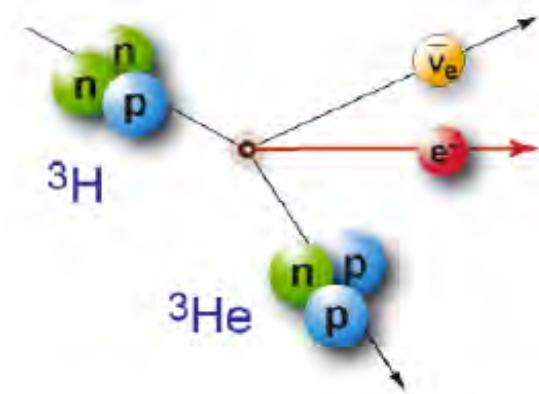
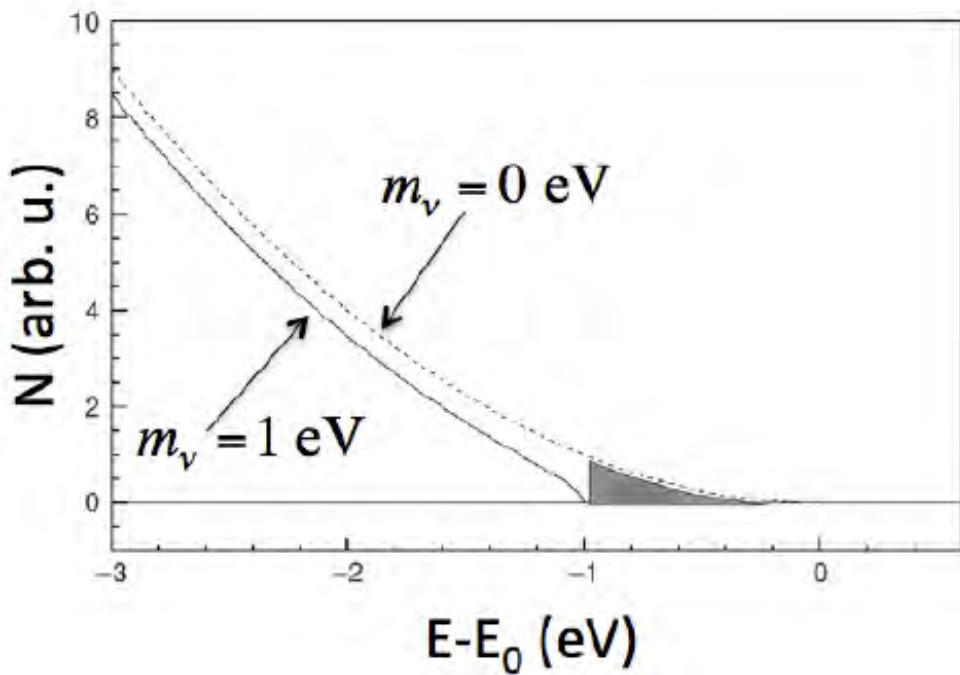
$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|$$



$$|c_{13}^2 c_{12}^2 m_1 + c_{13}^2 s_{12}^2 m_2 e^{i\phi_2} + s_{13}^2 m_3 e^{i\phi_3}|$$

Tritium β decay experiments

- ◆ β -decay spectrum close to the endpoint is very sensitive to the neutrino mass:



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

KATRIN (2024): $m_\beta < 0.45$ eV (90% CL)

Neutrinoless double decay experiments

$2\nu\beta\beta$: rare process in the SM with $t_{1/2} \sim 10^{21}$ years

$0\nu\beta\beta$: possible for massive Majorana neutrinos.

$$(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z+2) + e^- + e^-$$

test v nature

→ not observed yet

→ $t_{1/2} > 10^{26}-10^{27}$ years

→ violates Lepton Number

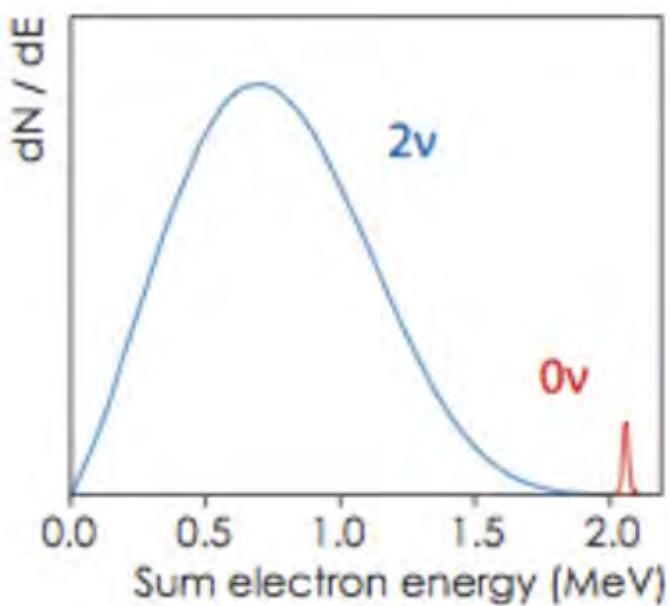
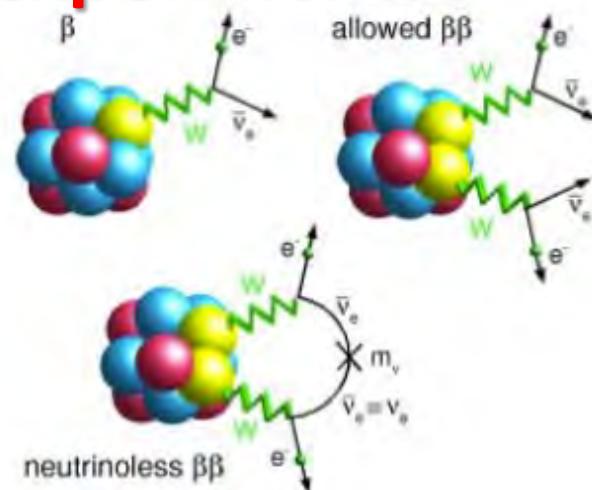
$$\Gamma_{0\nu\beta\beta} = G^{0\nu} |M^{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2$$

phase space Nuclear matrix elements

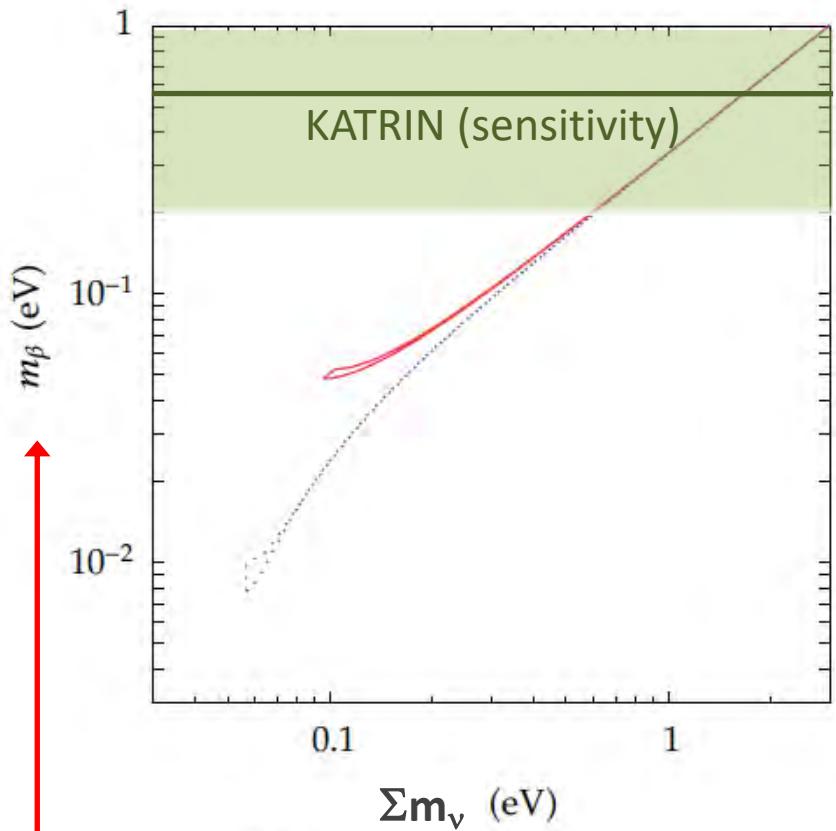
$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|$$

Effective Majorana neutrino mass

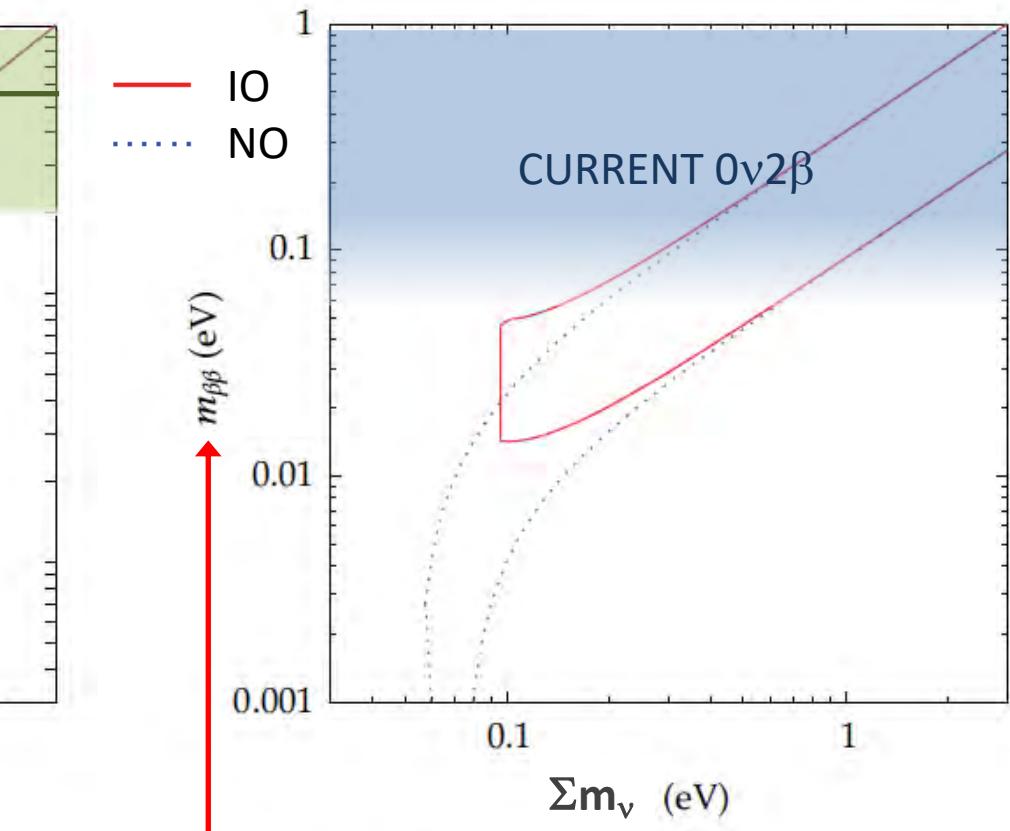
$$m_{\beta\beta} < 36 - 156 \text{ meV}$$



Tritium β decay, $0\nu2\beta$ and Cosmology



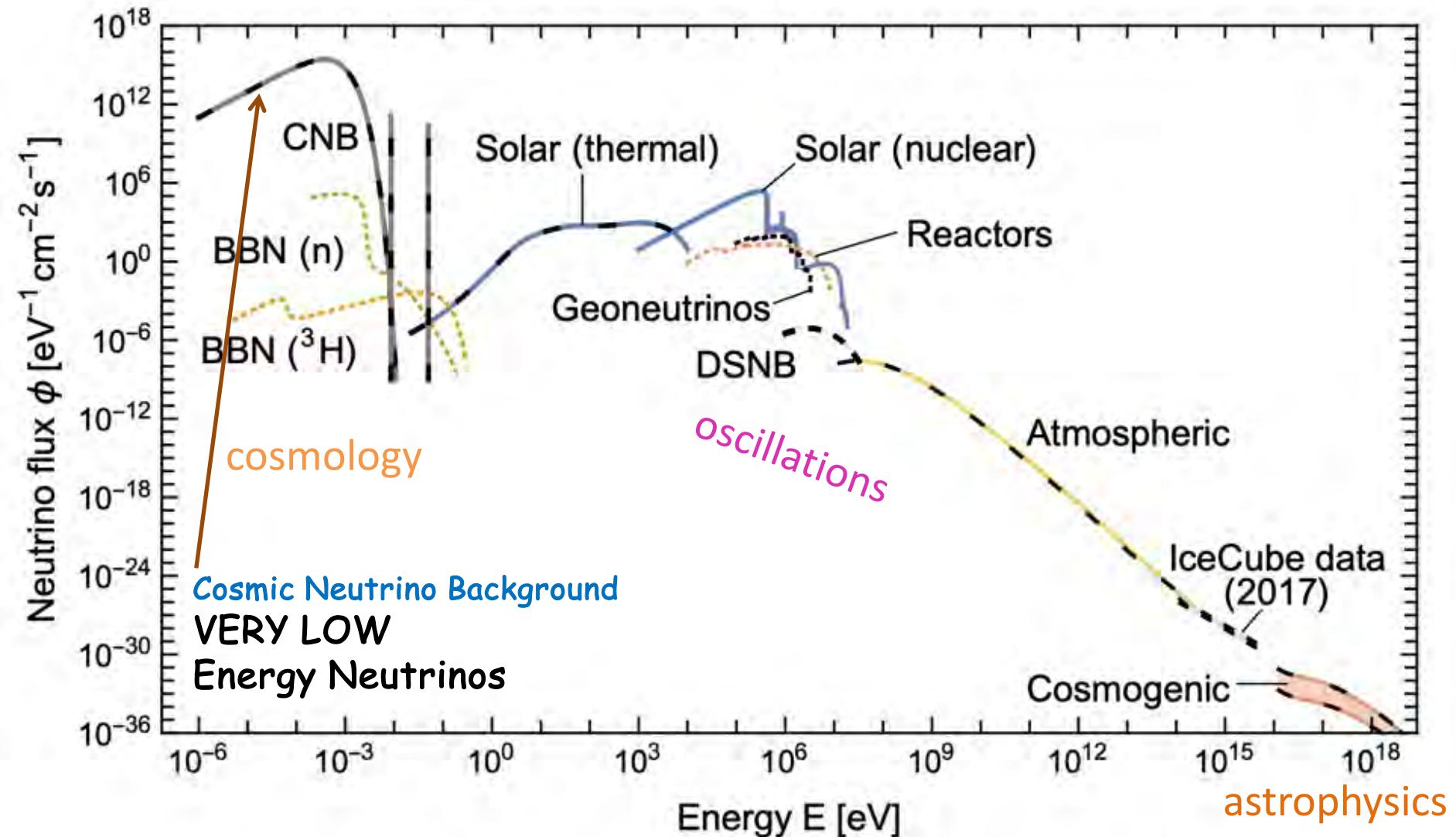
$$[c_{13}^2 c_{12}^2 m_1^2 + c_{13}^2 s_{12}^2 m_2^2 + s_{13}^2 m_3^2]^{1/2}$$



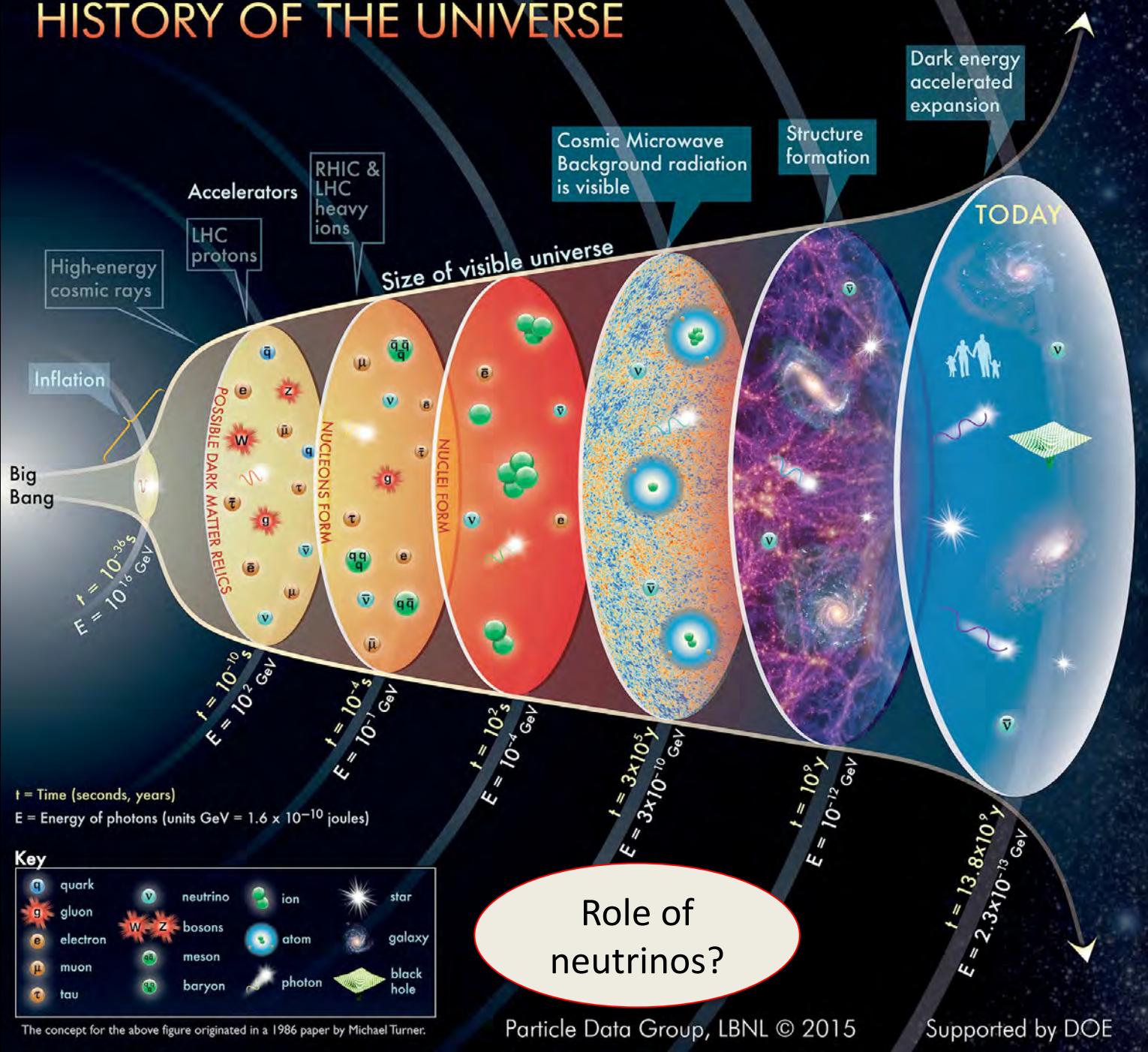
$$|c_{13}^2 c_{12}^2 m_1 + c_{13}^2 s_{12}^2 m_2 e^{i\phi_2} + s_{13}^2 m_3 e^{i\phi_3}|$$

Introduction to neutrino cosmology

Grand Unified Neutrino Spectrum at Earth



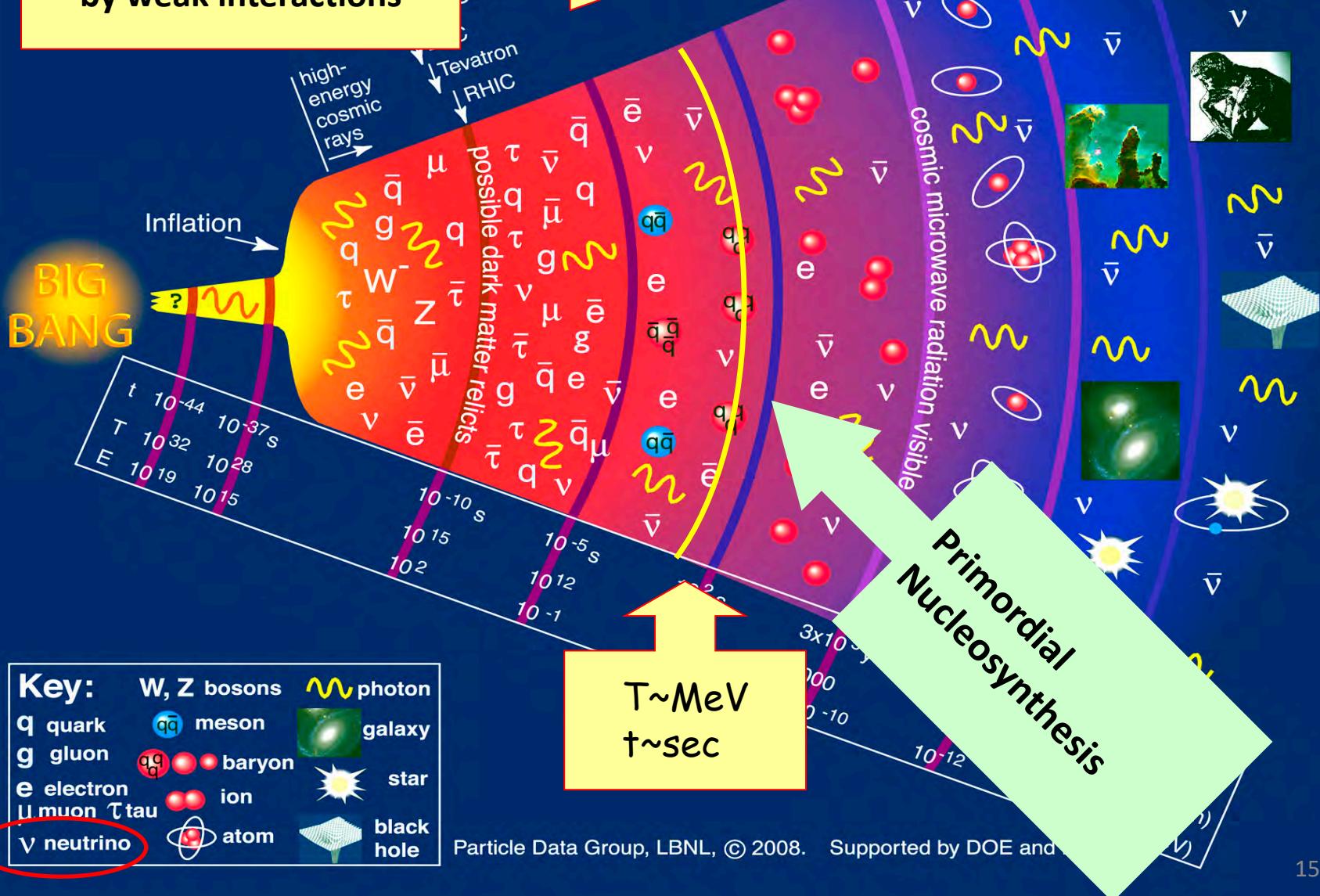
HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE



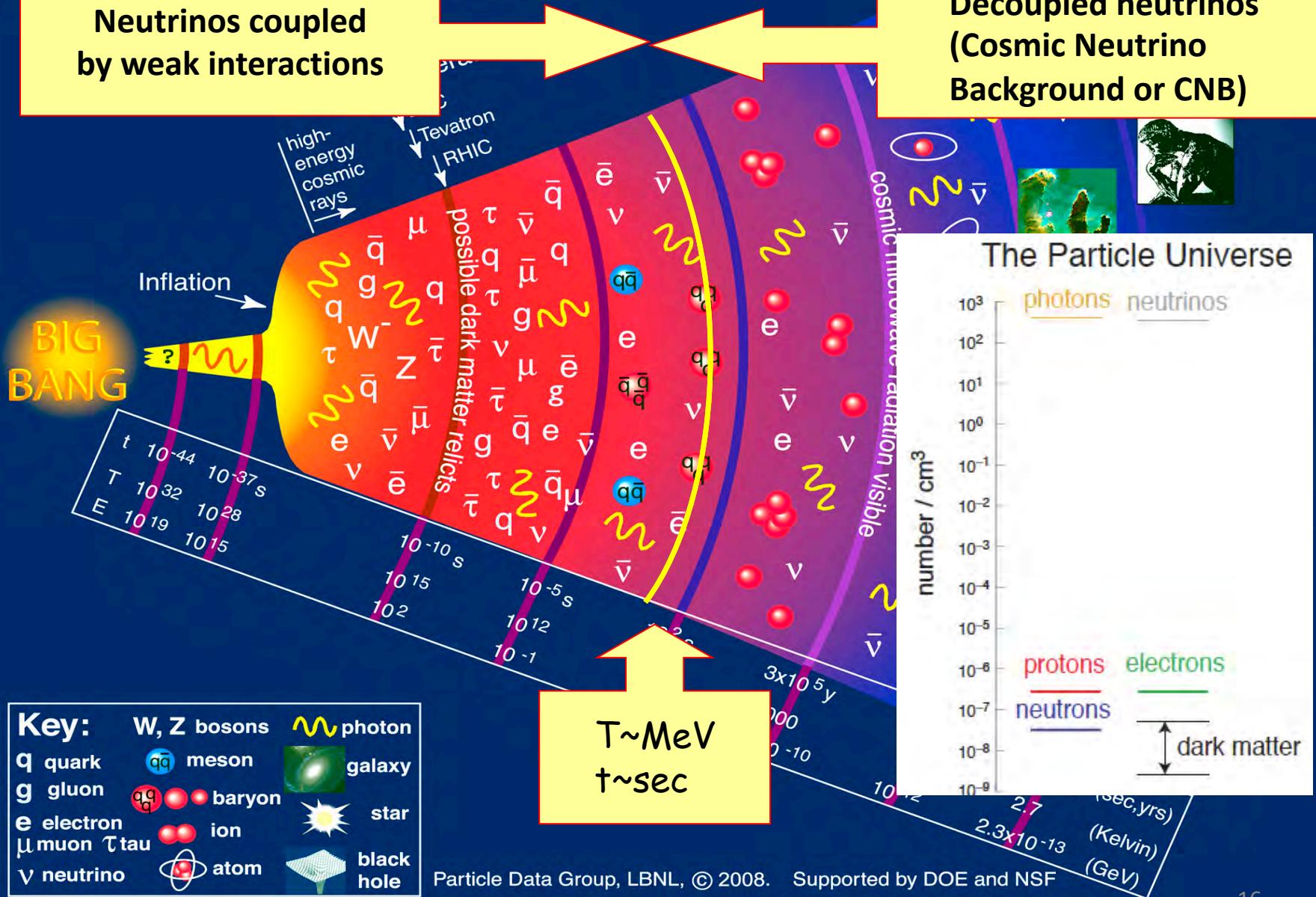
The concept for the above figure originated in a 1986 paper by Michael Turner.

History of the Universe

Neutrinos coupled by weak interactions

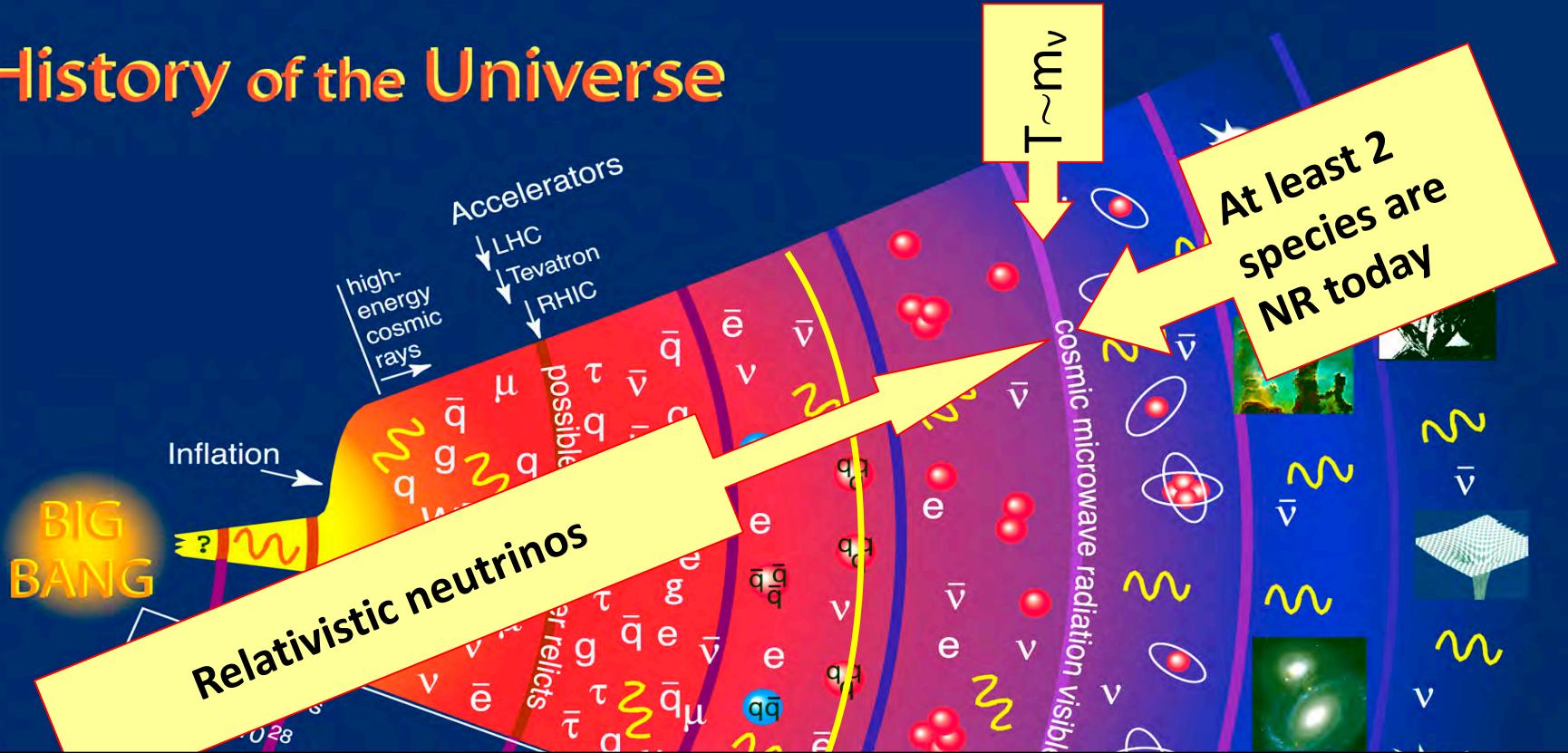


History of the Universe



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History of the Universe



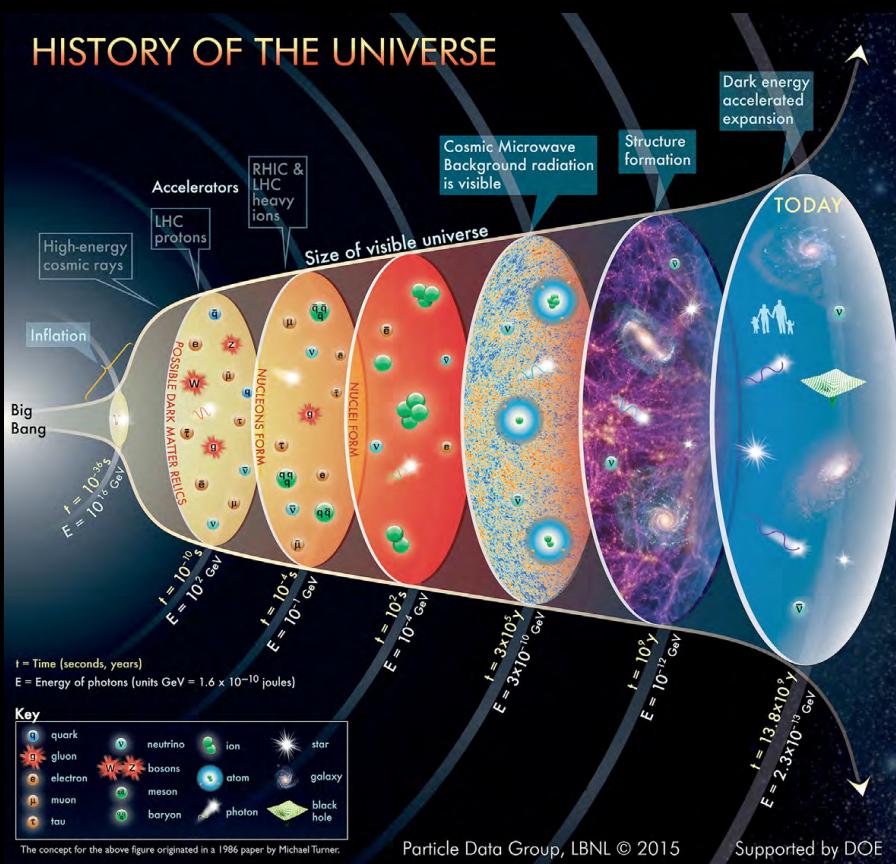
Neutrino cosmology is interesting because Relic neutrinos are very abundant:

- The CNB contributes to **radiation at early times** and to **matter at late times** (info on the number of neutrinos and their masses)
- Cosmological observables can be used to test standard or non-standard **neutrino properties**



J. Asorey

Lectures on cosmology



scale
factor
 a/a_0

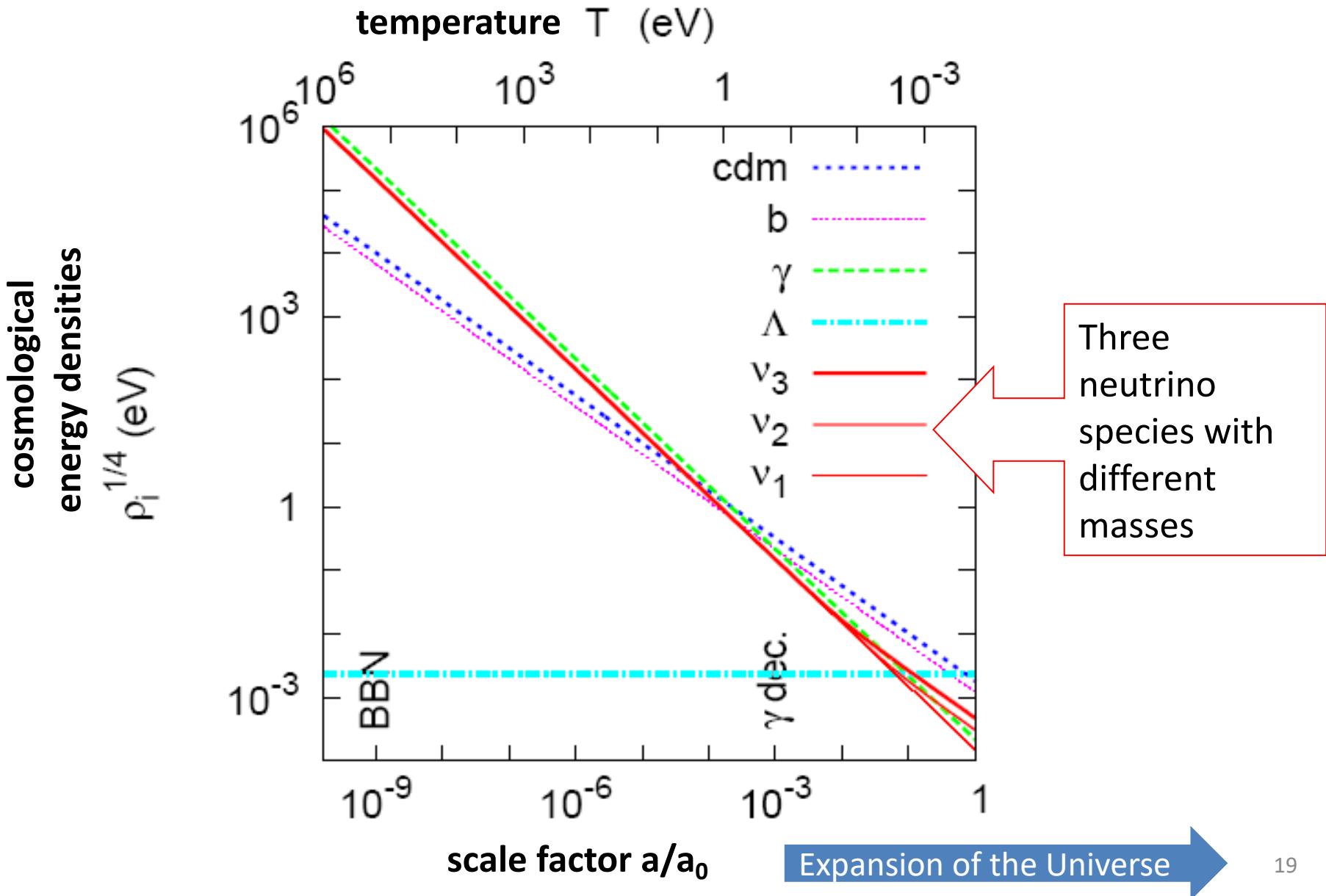
$$\text{energy density: } \rho(a) = a^{-3(1+w)}$$

$$\rho_R \sim a^{-4} \quad , \quad w = 1/3 \quad (\text{Radiation})$$

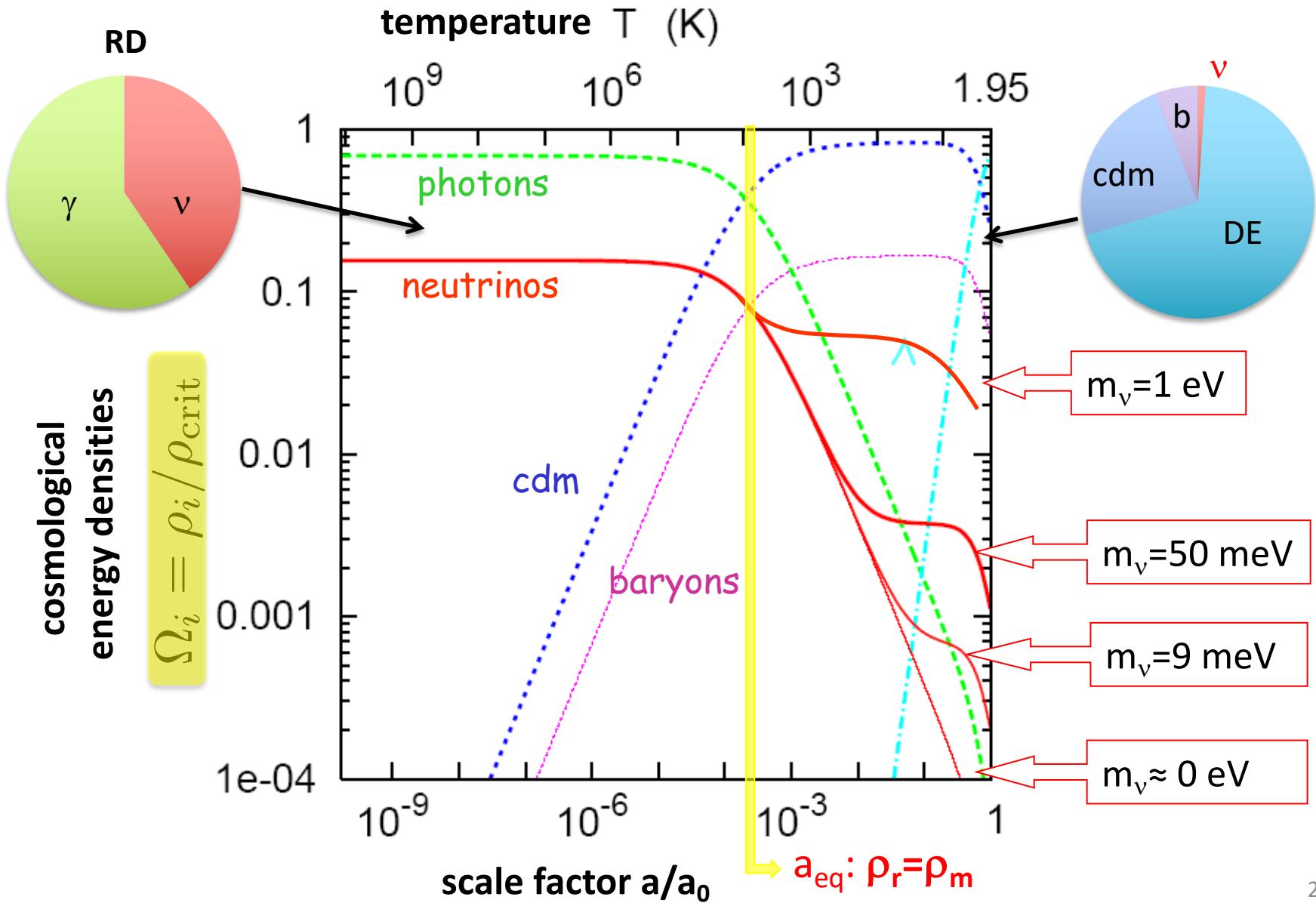
$$\rho_M \sim a^{-3} \quad , \quad w = 0 \quad (\text{Matter})$$

$$\rho_\Lambda \sim \text{const.} \quad , \quad w = -1 \quad (\text{Cosmological constant})$$

Evolution of the background densities: 1 MeV → now



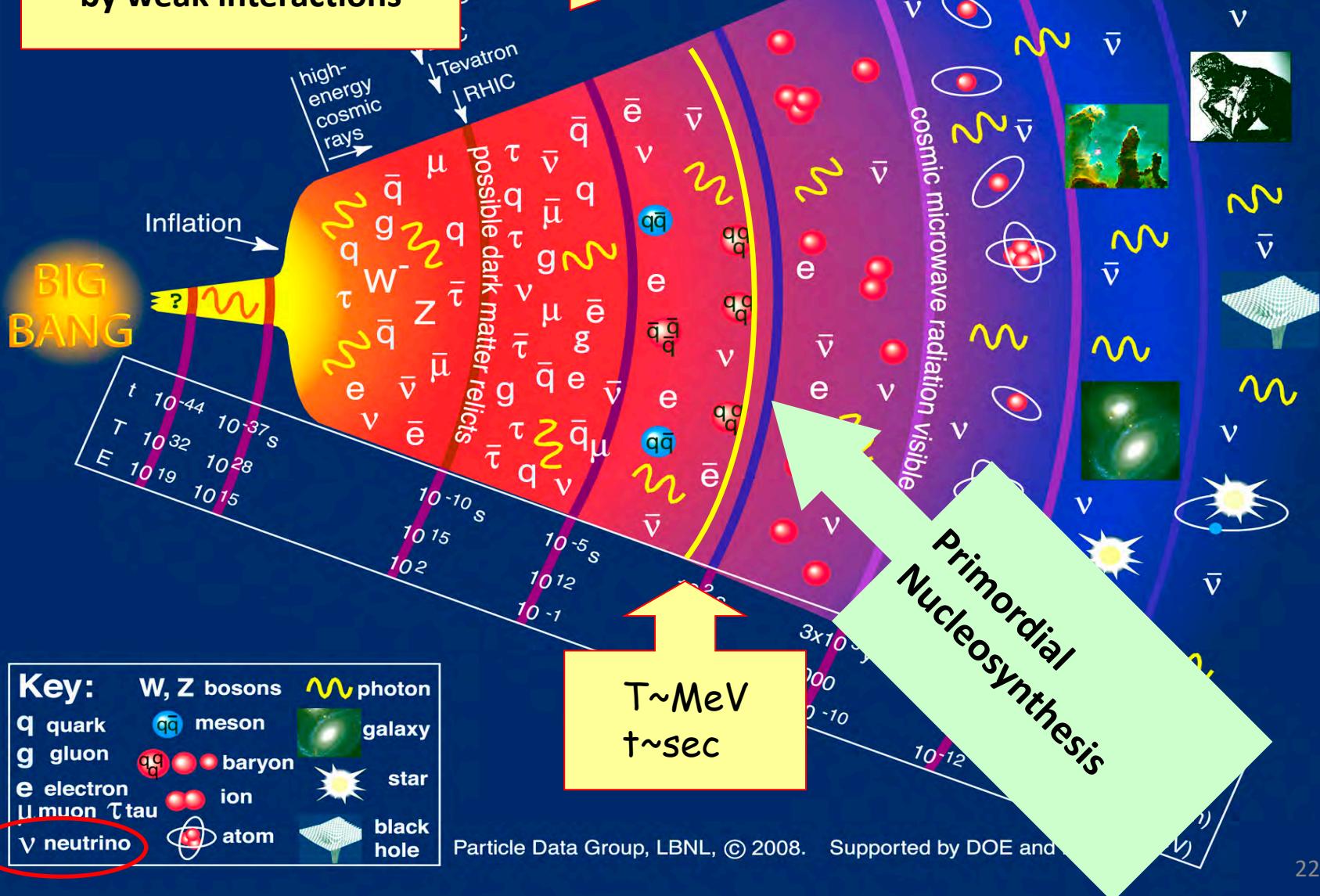
Evolution of the background densities: 1 MeV → now



Production and decoupling of relic neutrinos

History of the Universe

Neutrinos coupled by weak interactions



Neutrinos in Equilibrium

$$1 \text{ MeV} \lesssim T \lesssim m_\mu$$

$$T_\nu = T_{e^\pm} = T_\gamma$$

$$\nu_\alpha \nu_\beta \leftrightarrow \nu_\alpha \nu_\beta$$

$$\nu_\alpha \bar{\nu}_\beta \leftrightarrow \nu_\alpha \bar{\nu}_\beta$$

$$\nu_\alpha e^\pm \leftrightarrow \nu_\alpha e^\pm$$

$$\nu_\alpha \bar{\nu}_\alpha \leftrightarrow e^+ e^-$$

Equilibrium thermodynamics

Distribution function of particle momenta in equilibrium

$$f_i^{eq}(p, T) = \left[\exp\left(\frac{E_i - \mu_i}{T}\right) \mp 1 \right]^{-1}$$

Thermodynamical variables

VARIABLE	RELATIVISTIC		NON REL.
	BOSE	FERMI	
n	$\frac{\zeta(3)}{\pi^2} g T^3$	$\frac{3 \zeta(3)}{4 \pi^2} g T^3$	$g \left(\frac{m T}{2\pi} \right)^{3/2} e^{-m/T}$
ρ	$\frac{\pi^2}{30} g T^4$	$\frac{7 \pi^2}{8 \cdot 30} g T^4$	$m n$
p		$\frac{\rho}{3}$	$n T \ll \rho$
$\langle E \rangle$	$2,701 T$	$3,151 T$	$m + \frac{3}{2} T$

$$T \sim 1/a(t)$$

$$n = g_i \int \frac{d^2 \vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} f_i(p, T) \quad \rho = g_i \int \frac{d^2 \vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} E_i f_i(p, T)$$

$$v = g_i \int \frac{d^2 \vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{p^2}{3E_i} f_i(p, T) \quad \langle E \rangle = \rho/n$$

Cosmological energy densities: radiation

Energy density of **relativistic particles** with $f_i(p)$

$$\rho_i = g \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{p}{e^{p/T_i} \pm 1}$$

$$\rho_i = 3P_i = \begin{cases} \frac{\pi^2}{30} g T_i^4 , & \text{boson} \\ \frac{7}{8} \frac{\pi^2}{30} g T_i^4 , & \text{fermion} \end{cases} \quad \rho_\gamma = \frac{\pi^2}{15} T_\gamma^4 \quad \rho_\nu = 3 \times \frac{7}{8} \times \frac{\pi^2}{15} T_\nu^4$$

Neutrino decoupling

As the Universe expands, particle densities are diluted and temperatures fall. Weak interactions become **ineffective** to keep neutrinos in good thermal contact with the e.m. plasma

Rough, but quite accurate estimate of the decoupling temperature

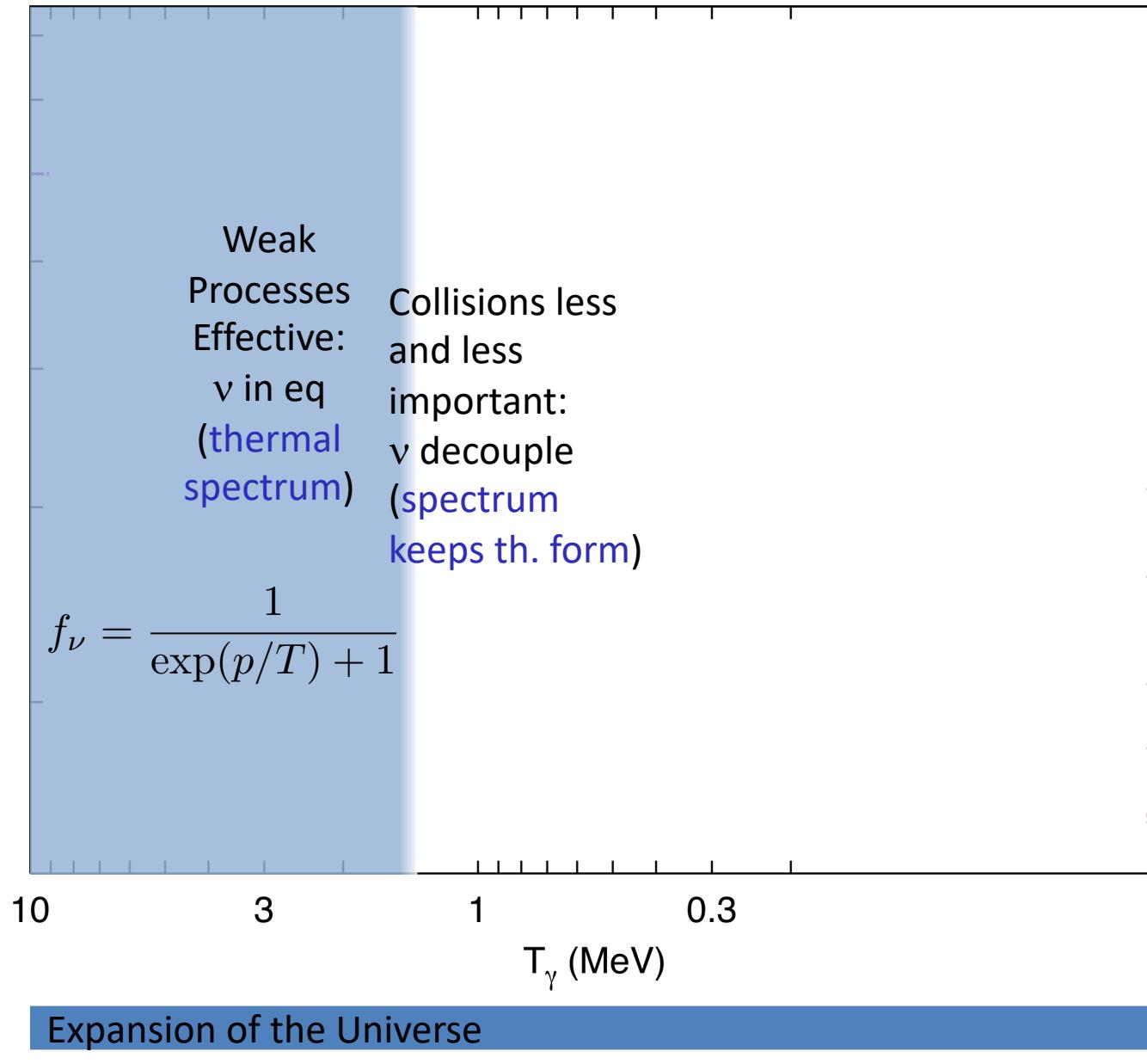
Rate of weak processes \sim Hubble expansion rate

$$\Gamma_W \approx \sigma_W |v| n, \quad H^2 = \frac{8\pi\rho_{\text{rad}}}{3M_P^2} \rightarrow G_F^2 T^5 \approx \sqrt{\frac{8\pi\rho_{\text{rad}}}{3M_P^2}} \rightarrow T_{\text{dec}}(\nu) \approx 1 \text{ MeV}$$

Since ν_e have both CC and NC interactions with e^\pm

$$T_{\text{dec}}(\nu_e) \simeq 2 \text{ MeV} \quad T_{\text{dec}}(\nu_{\mu,\tau}) \simeq 3 \text{ MeV}$$

Neutrino decoupling

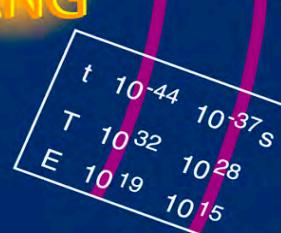


History of the Universe

Neutrinos coupled by weak interactions

$$f_\nu(p, T) = \frac{1}{\exp(p/T) + 1}$$

BIG BANG

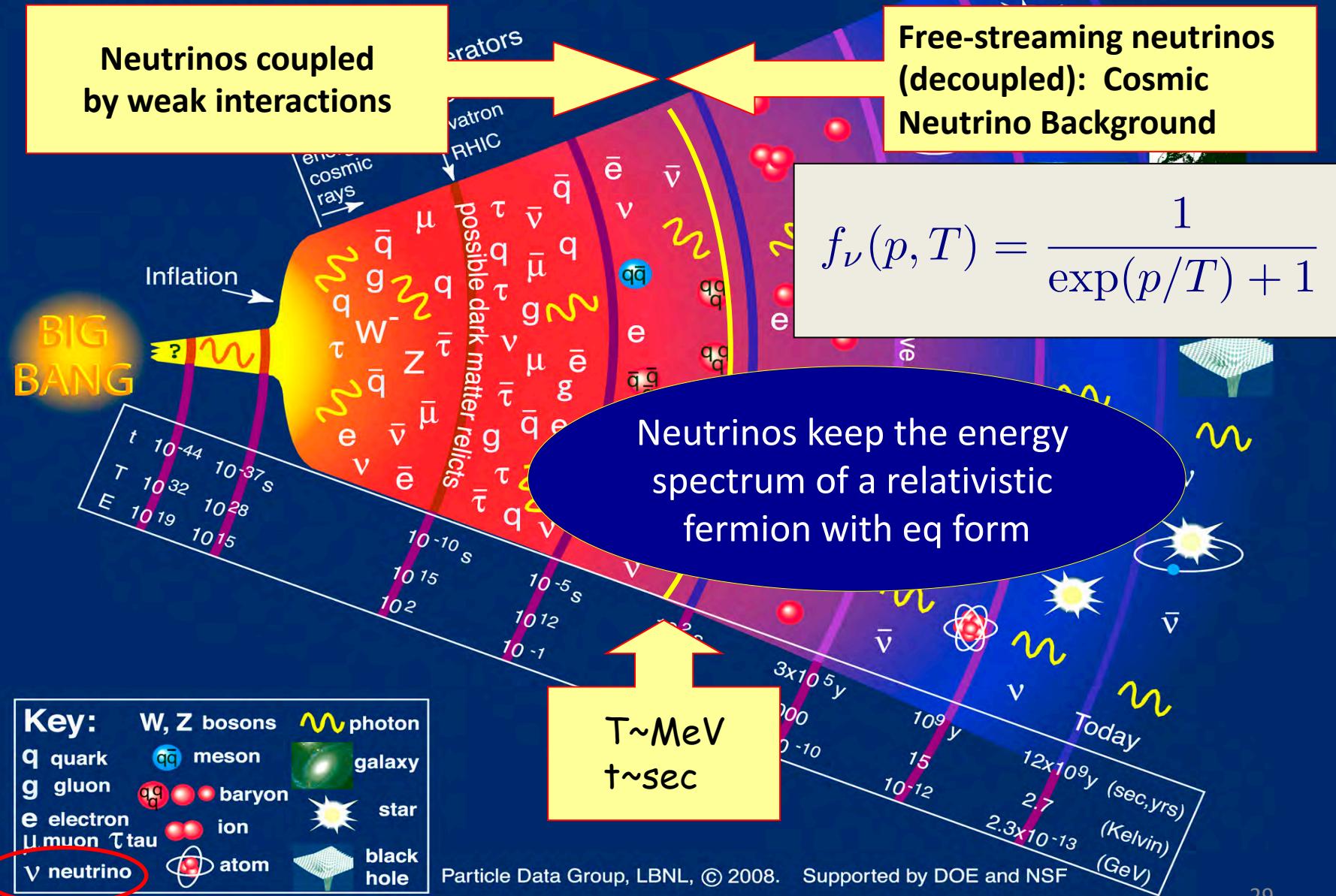


$T \sim \text{MeV}$
 $t \sim \text{sec}$

Key:	W, Z bosons	photon
q quark		meson
g gluon		baryon
e electron		ion
μ muon		atom
ν neutrino		galaxy
		star
		black hole

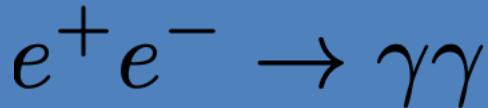
Particle Data Group, LBNL, © 2008. Supported by DOE and NSF

History of the Universe



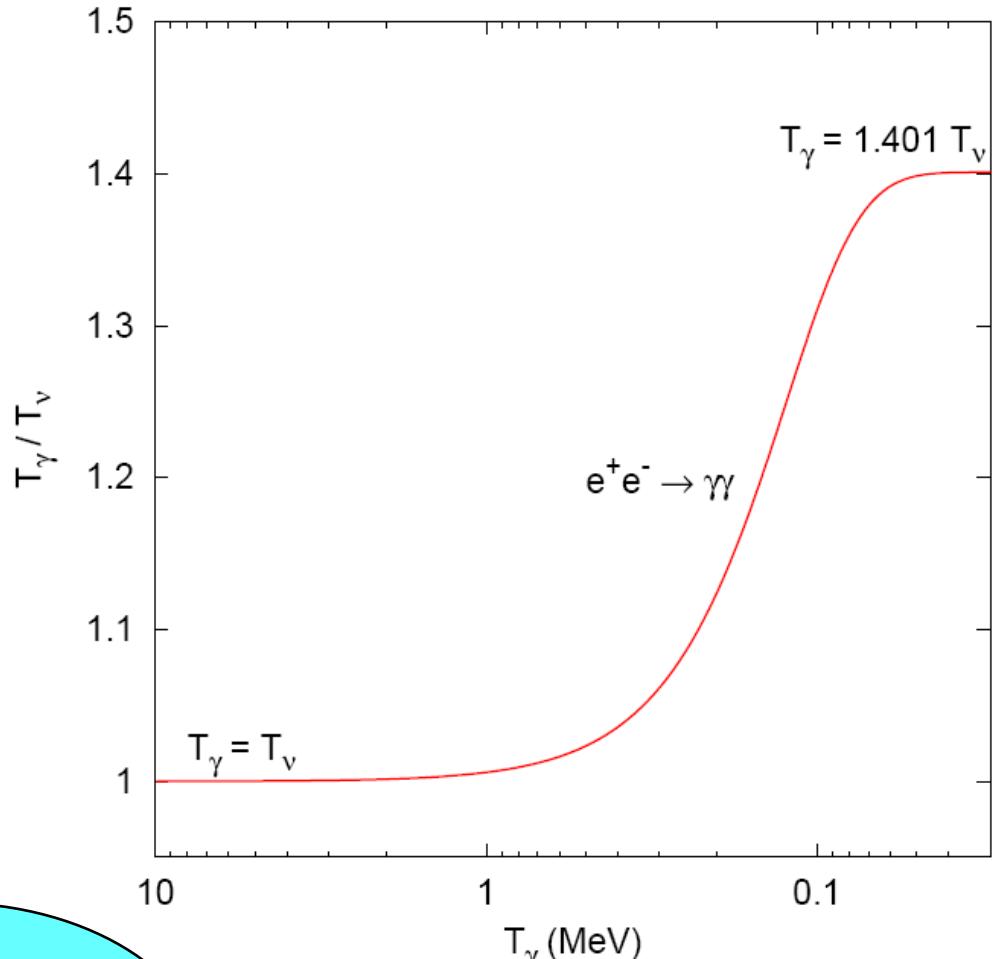
Neutrino and photon (CMB) temperatures

At $T \sim m_e$,
electron-
positron pairs
annihilate



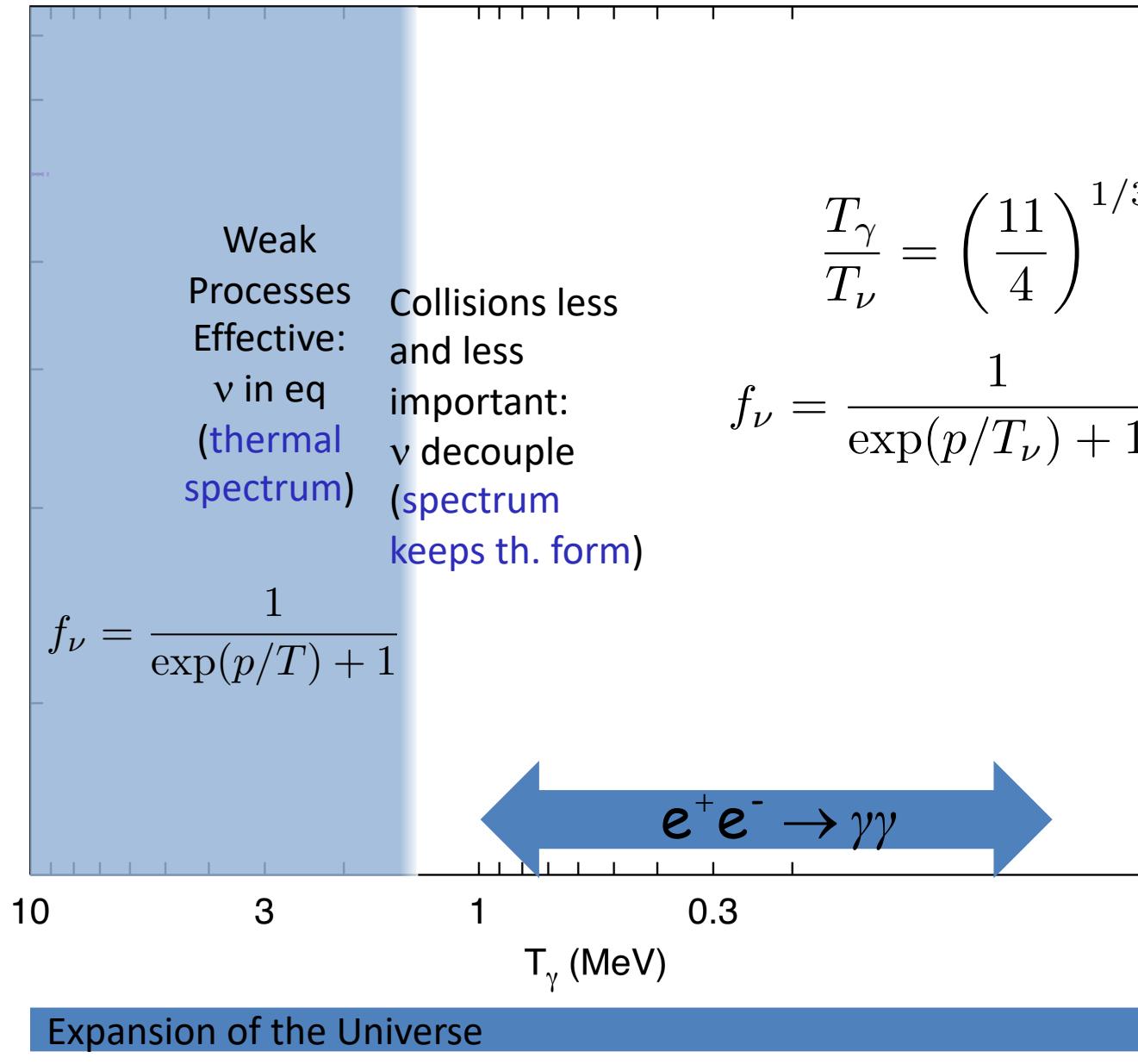
heating photons
but not the
decoupled
neutrinos

$$\frac{T_\gamma}{T_\nu} = \left(\frac{11}{4} \right)^{1/3}$$



$$f_\nu(p, T) = \frac{1}{\exp(p/T_\nu) + 1}$$

Neutrino decoupling and e^\pm annihilations



The Cosmic Neutrino Background

Neutrinos decoupled at $T \sim \text{MeV}$, keeping a spectrum as that of a relativistic species

$$f_\nu(p, T) = \frac{1}{\exp(p/T_\nu) + 1}$$

- Number density

$$n_\nu = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} f_\nu(p, T_\nu) = \frac{3}{11} n_\gamma = \frac{6\zeta(3)}{11\pi^2} T_{\text{CMB}}^3$$

- Energy density

$$\rho_{\nu_i} = \int \sqrt{p^2 + m_{\nu_i}^2} \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} f_\nu(p, T_\nu) \rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{7\pi^2}{120} \left(\frac{4}{11}\right)^{4/3} T_{\text{CMB}}^4 & \text{Massless} \\ m_{\nu_i} n_\nu & \text{Massive } m_\nu \gg T \end{cases}$$

The Cosmic Neutrino Background

Neutrinos decoupled at $T \sim \text{MeV}$, keeping a spectrum as that of a relativistic species

$$f_\nu(p, T) = \frac{1}{\exp(p/T_\nu) + 1}$$

- Number density

At present $112 (\nu + \bar{\nu}) \text{ cm}^{-3}$ per flavour

- Energy density

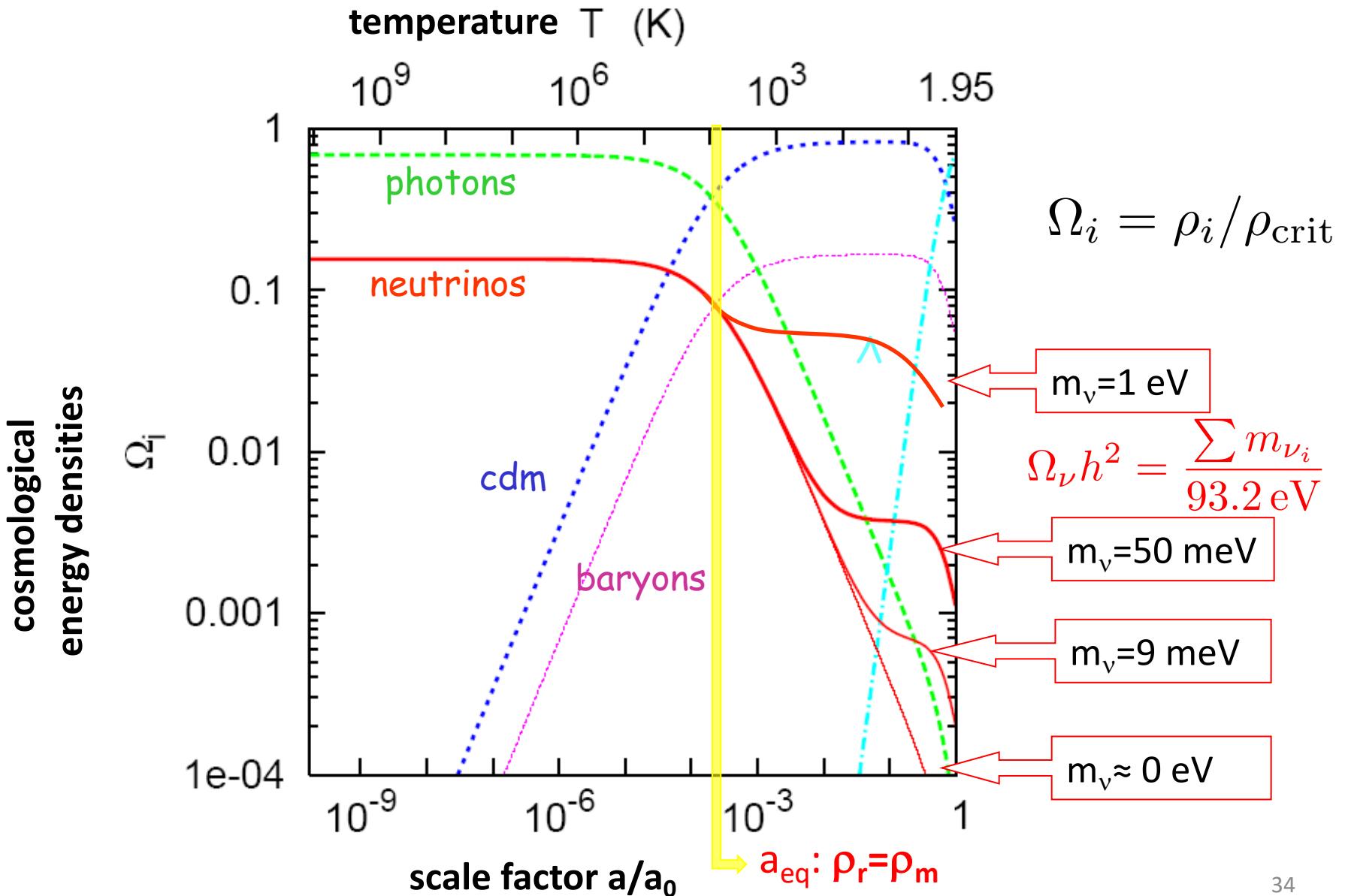
$$\Omega_\nu h^2 \simeq 1.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Massless}$$

Contribution to the energy density of the Universe

$$\Omega_\nu h^2 = \frac{\sum_i m_i}{93.2 \text{ eV}}$$

Massive
 $m_\nu \gg T$

Evolution of the background densities: 1 MeV → now



The radiation content of the Universe (N_{eff})

Relativistic particles in the universe

At $T < m_e$, the radiation content of the Universe is

$$\rho_{\text{rad}} = \rho_\gamma + \rho_\nu = \rho_\gamma \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} \times 3 \right]$$

Valid for standard neutrinos in the
instantaneous decoupling approximation

Relativistic particles in the universe

At $T < m_e$, the radiation content of the Universe is

$$\rho_{\text{rad}} = \rho_\gamma + \rho_\nu + \rho_x = \rho_\gamma \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} N_{\text{eff}} \right]$$

effective number of relativistic neutrino species
(effective number of neutrinos)

N_{eff} is a way to measure the ratio $\frac{\rho_\nu + \rho_x}{\rho_\gamma}$

1960s-1970s : $N_{\text{eff}} = N_\nu$, extra neutrinos would enhance the cosmological expansion

>1980s: $N_{\text{eff}} = \text{additional relativistic particles}$

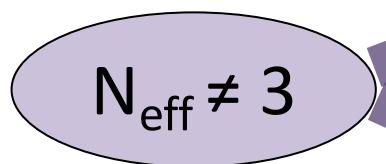
Number of light neutrino types (LEP data) $N_\nu = 2.984 \pm 0.008$

Relativistic particles in the universe

At $T < m_e$, the radiation content of the Universe is

$$\rho_{\text{rad}} = \rho_\gamma + \rho_\nu + \rho_x = \rho_\gamma \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} N_{\text{eff}} \right]$$

effective number of neutrinos

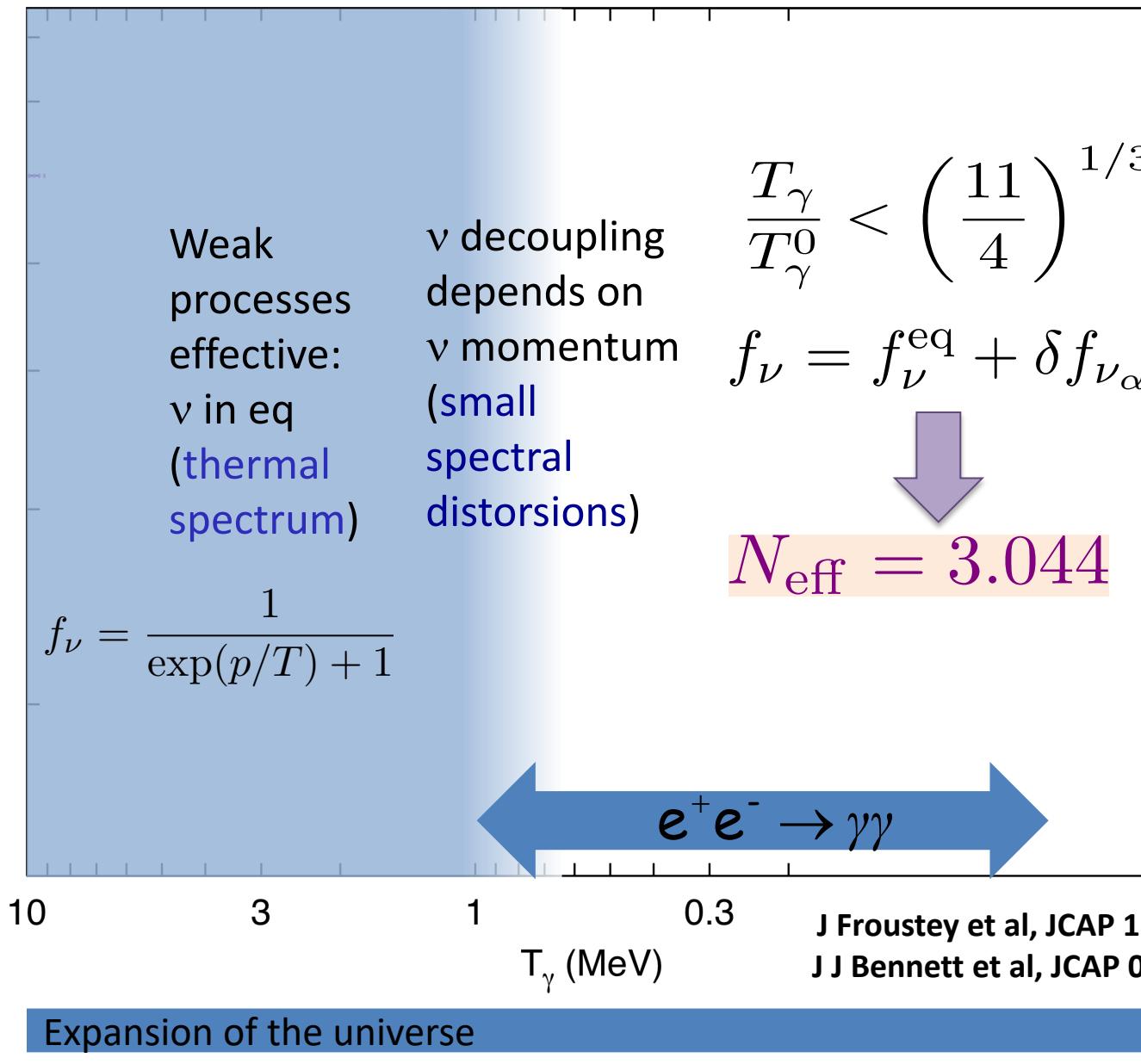


additional relativistic particles (scalars, pseudoscalars, decay products of heavy particles,...)

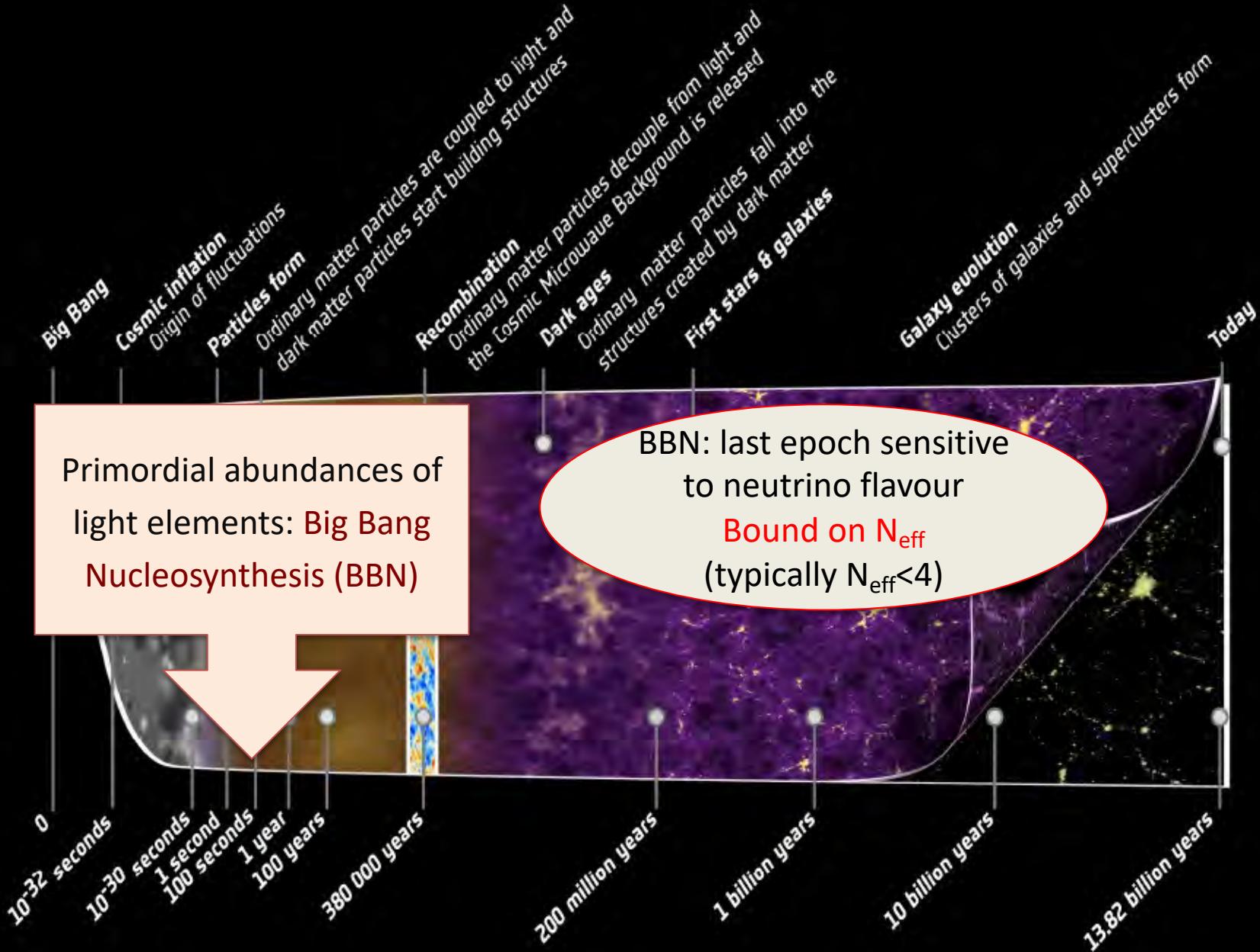
non-standard neutrino physics (primordial neutrino asymmetries, totally or partially thermalized light sterile neutrinos, non-standard interactions with electrons,...)

N_{eff} ≠ 3 in the standard case

$N_{\text{eff}} > 3$: small neutrino heating

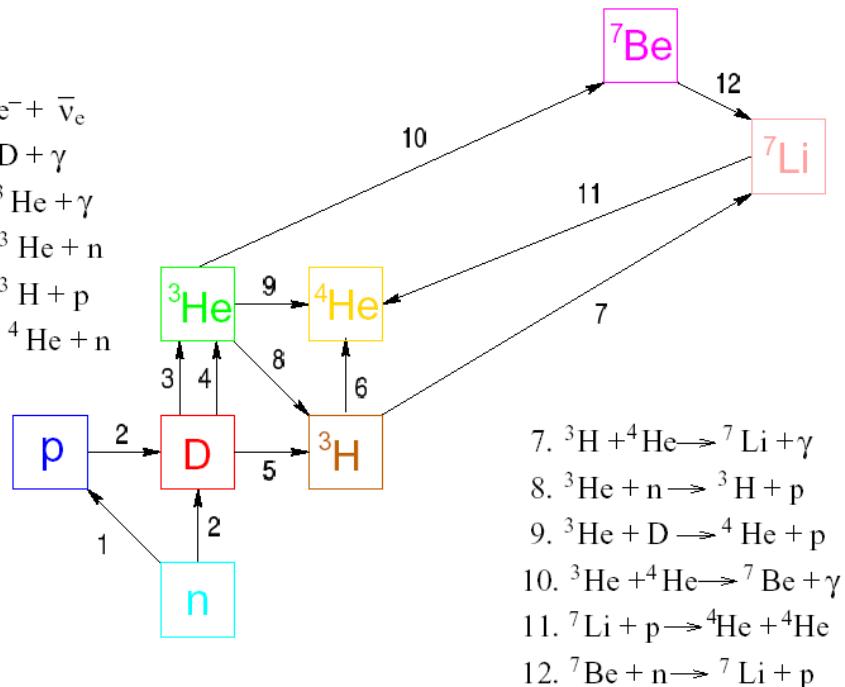


Neutrinos and Primordial Nucleosynthesis



BBN: Creation of light elements

1. $n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$
2. $p + n \rightarrow D + \gamma$
3. $D + p \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + \gamma$
4. $D + D \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + n$
5. $D + D \rightarrow {}^3\text{H} + p$
6. ${}^3\text{H} + D \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + n$



Theoretical inputs:

- τ_n , the neutron lifetime;
- G_N , the Newton gravitational constant;
- η , the baryon to photon number density ratio;
- the nuclear rates.

$$\eta_{10} = \frac{n_B/n_\gamma}{10^{-10}} \simeq 274 \Omega_B h^2$$

BBN: Creation of light elements

Range of temperatures: from 0.8 to 0.01 MeV

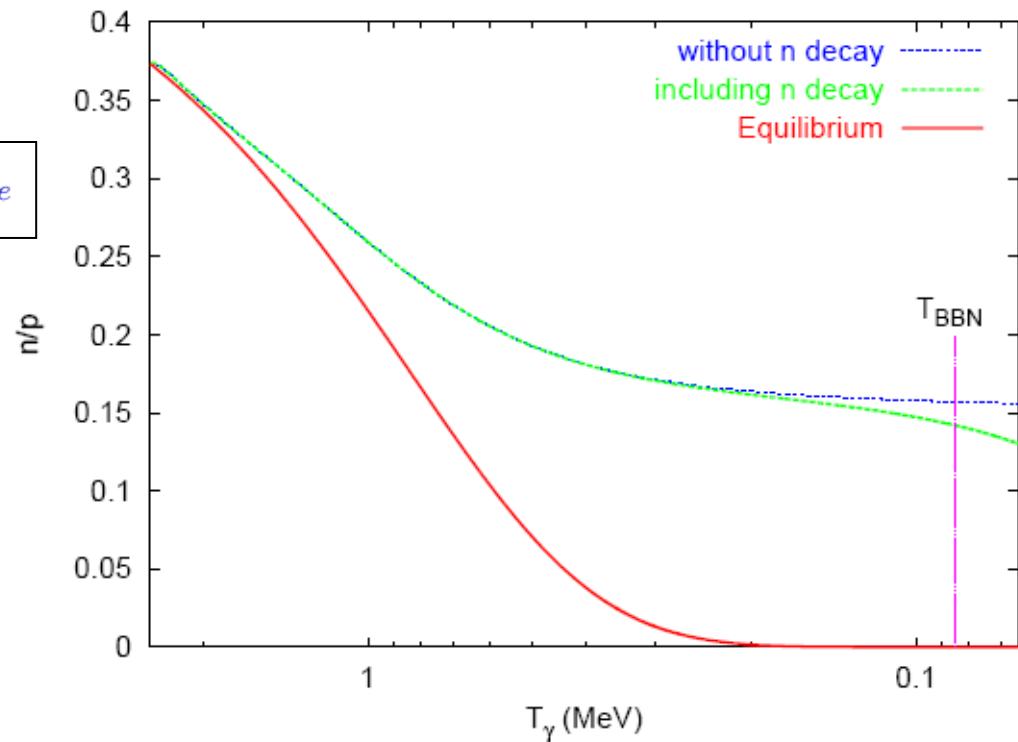
$$t \simeq 0,74 \left(\frac{\text{MeV}}{T} \right)^2 \text{ sec}$$

Phase I: 0.8-0.1 MeV

n-p reactions



n/p freezing and neutron decay

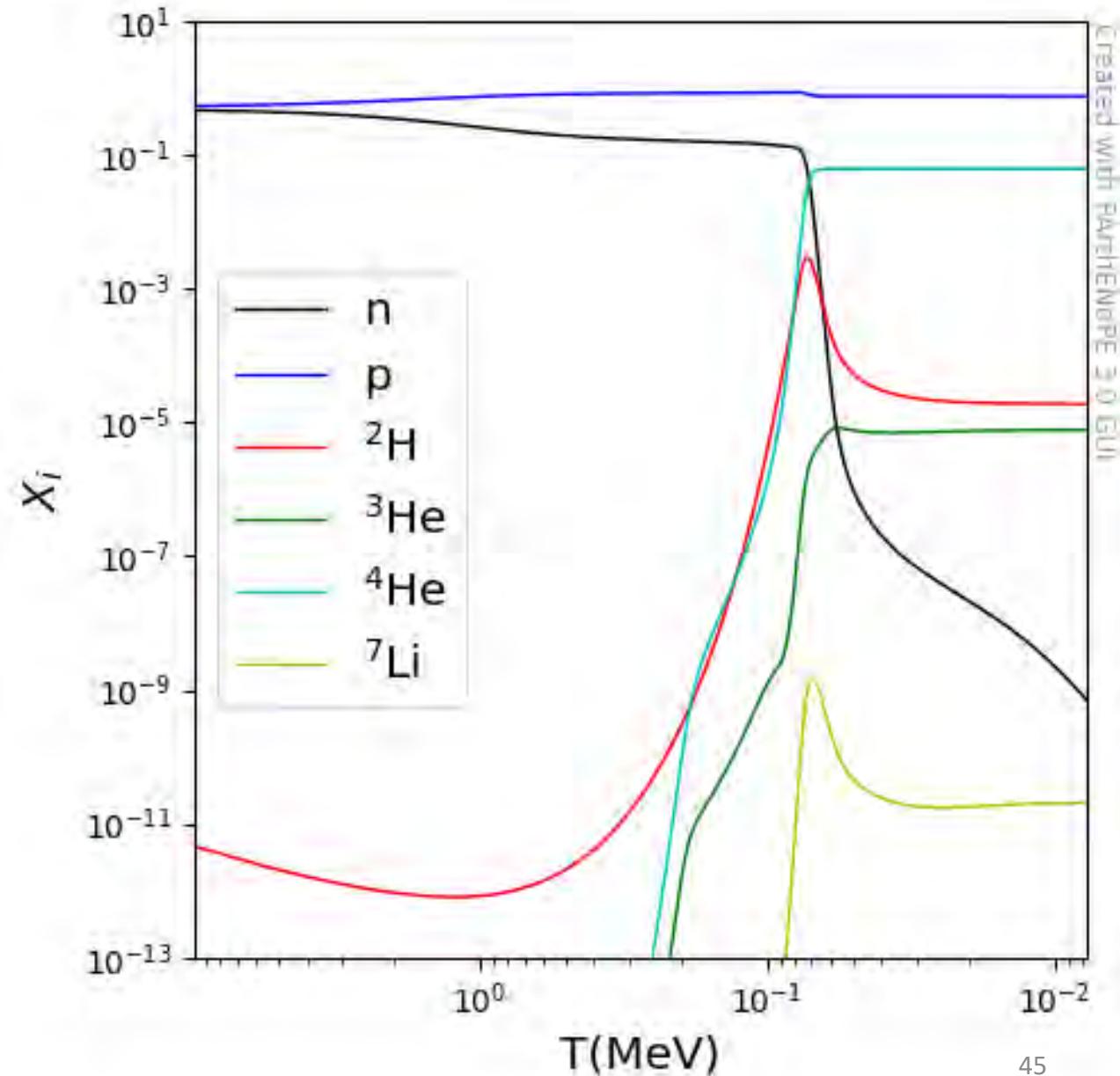


$$\left(\frac{n}{p} \right)_{eq} \simeq \exp \left(- \frac{m_n - m_p}{T_\gamma} \right) = \exp \left(- \frac{1,293 \text{ MeV}}{T_\gamma} \right)$$

BBN: Creation of light elements

Phase II: 0.1-0.01 MeV
Formation of light nuclei
starting from D

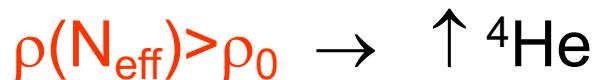
Photodesintegration
prevents earlier formation
for temperatures closer
to nuclear binding energies



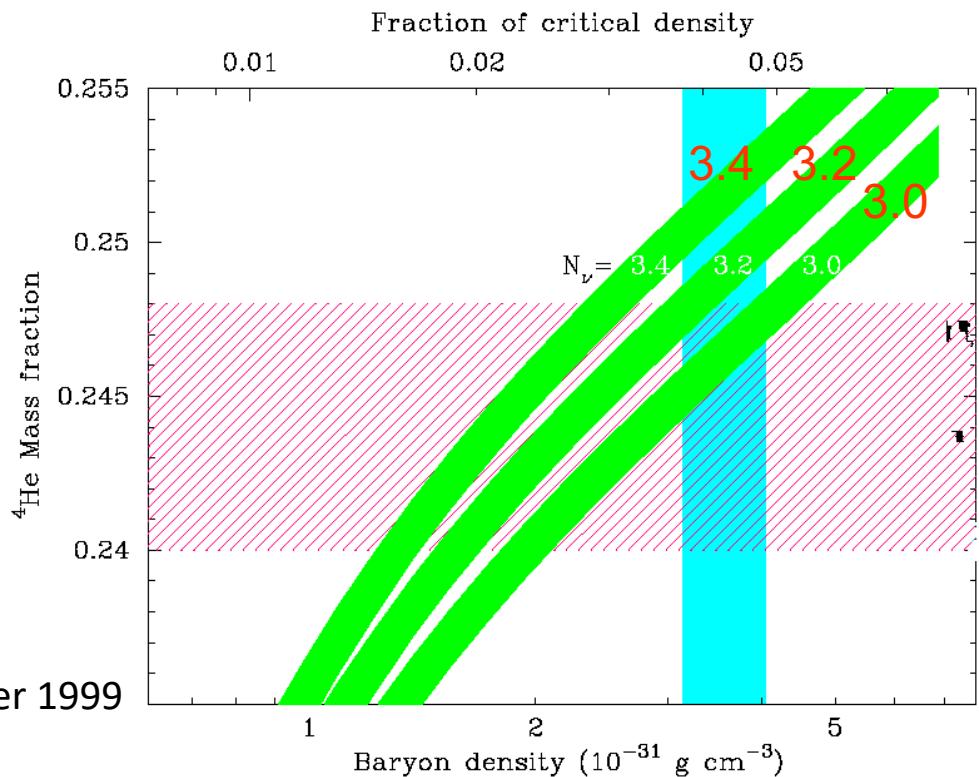
Effect of neutrinos on BBN

1. N_{eff} fixes the **expansion rate** during BBN

$$H = \sqrt{\frac{8\pi\rho}{3M_p^2}}$$



Burles, Nollett & Turner 1999

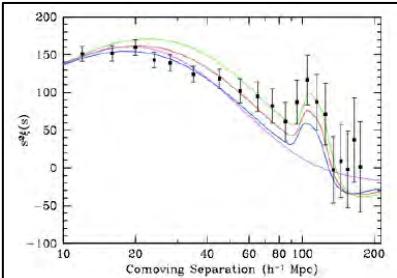


2. Direct effect of **electron** neutrinos and antineutrinos
on the **n-p reactions**

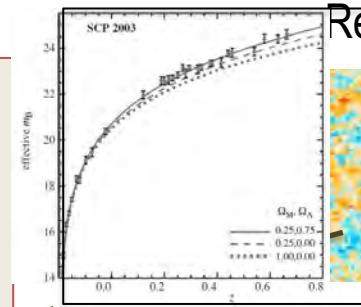


Bounds on N_{eff}

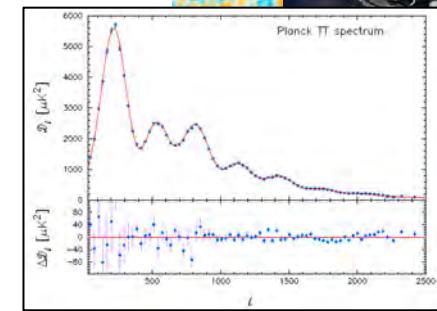
Cosmological Observables



Hubble constant H_0 & cosmic distances measurements: SN Ia and Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)

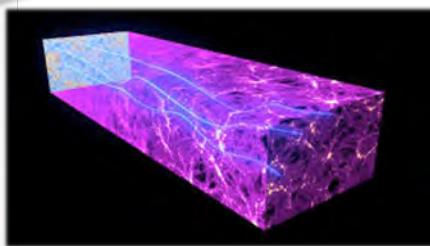
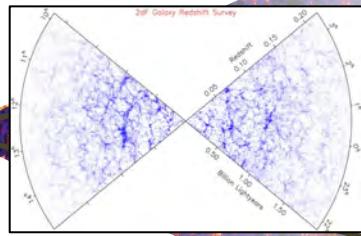


Recombination



BBN
Primordial
Abundances
(${}^4\text{He}$, D, ...)

Today

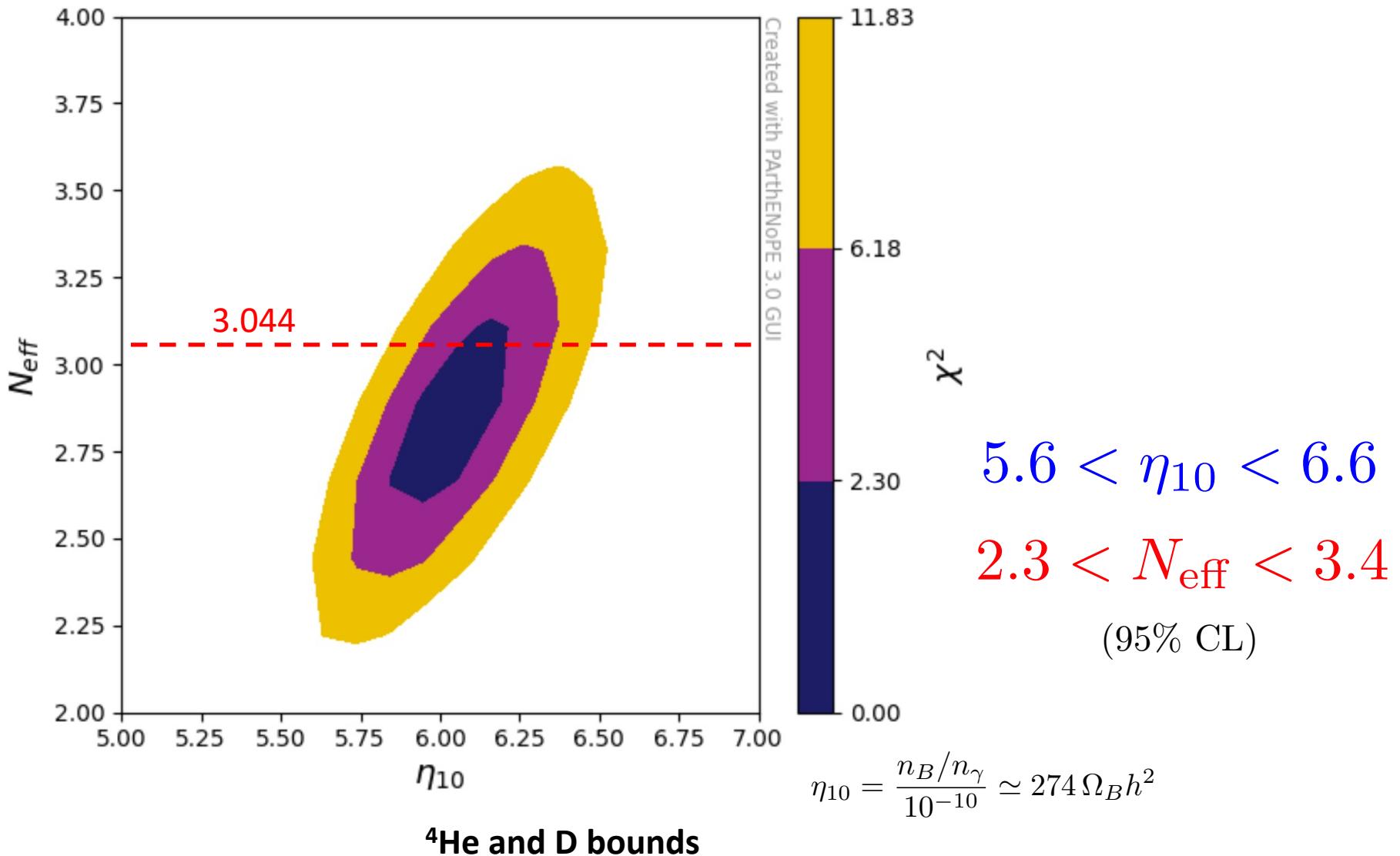


matter density fluctuations
Large-Scale Structures [galaxy / cosmic shear / Ly α] LSS spectrum

Photon momentum after decoupling
CMB secondary anisotropy spectrum

Photon density fluctuations before decoupling
CMB primary anisotropy spectrum (temp+pol)

BBN: allowed ranges for N_{eff}



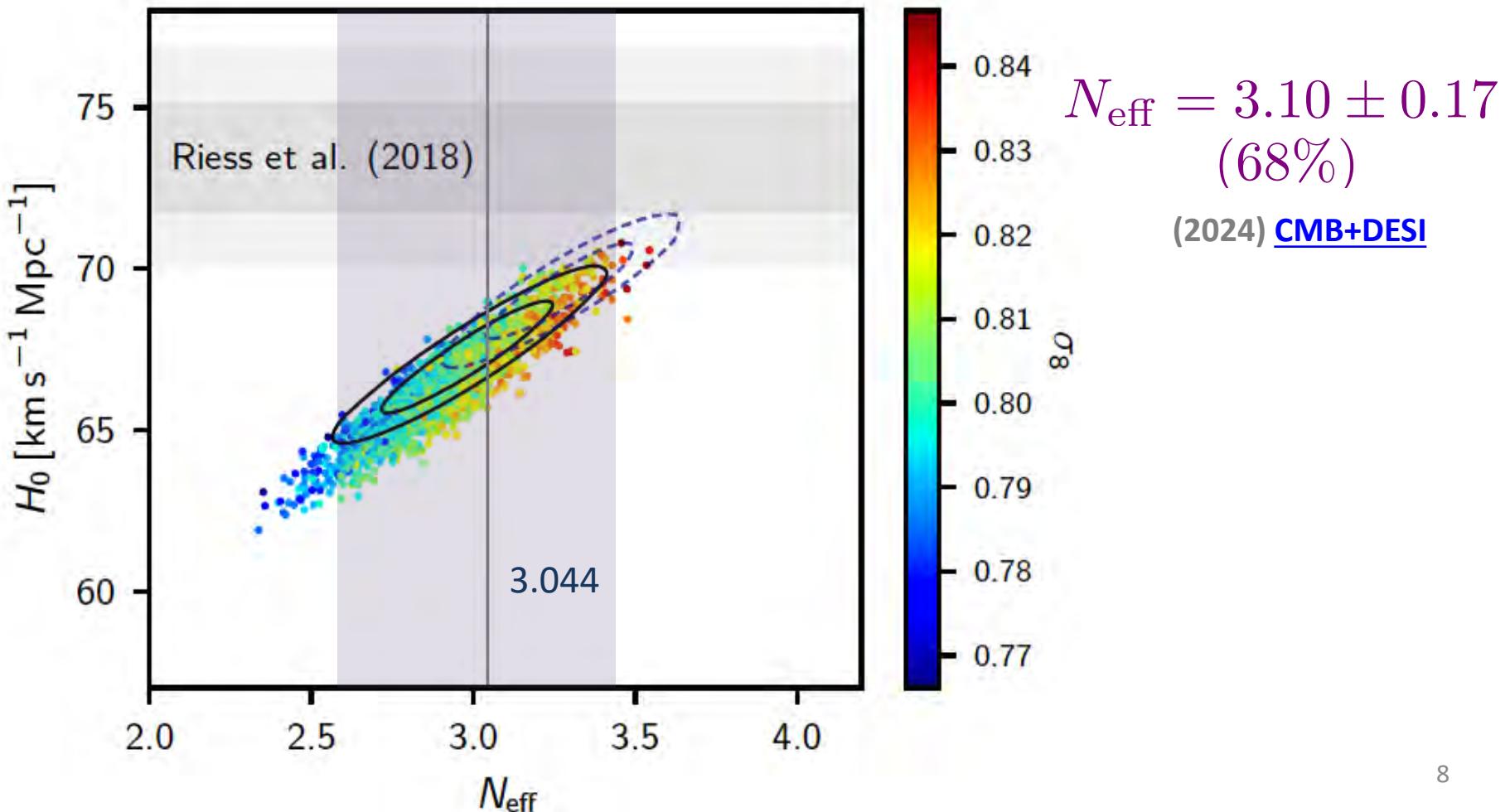
CMB anisotropies + other data

$N_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 17$ (2001) early CMB data

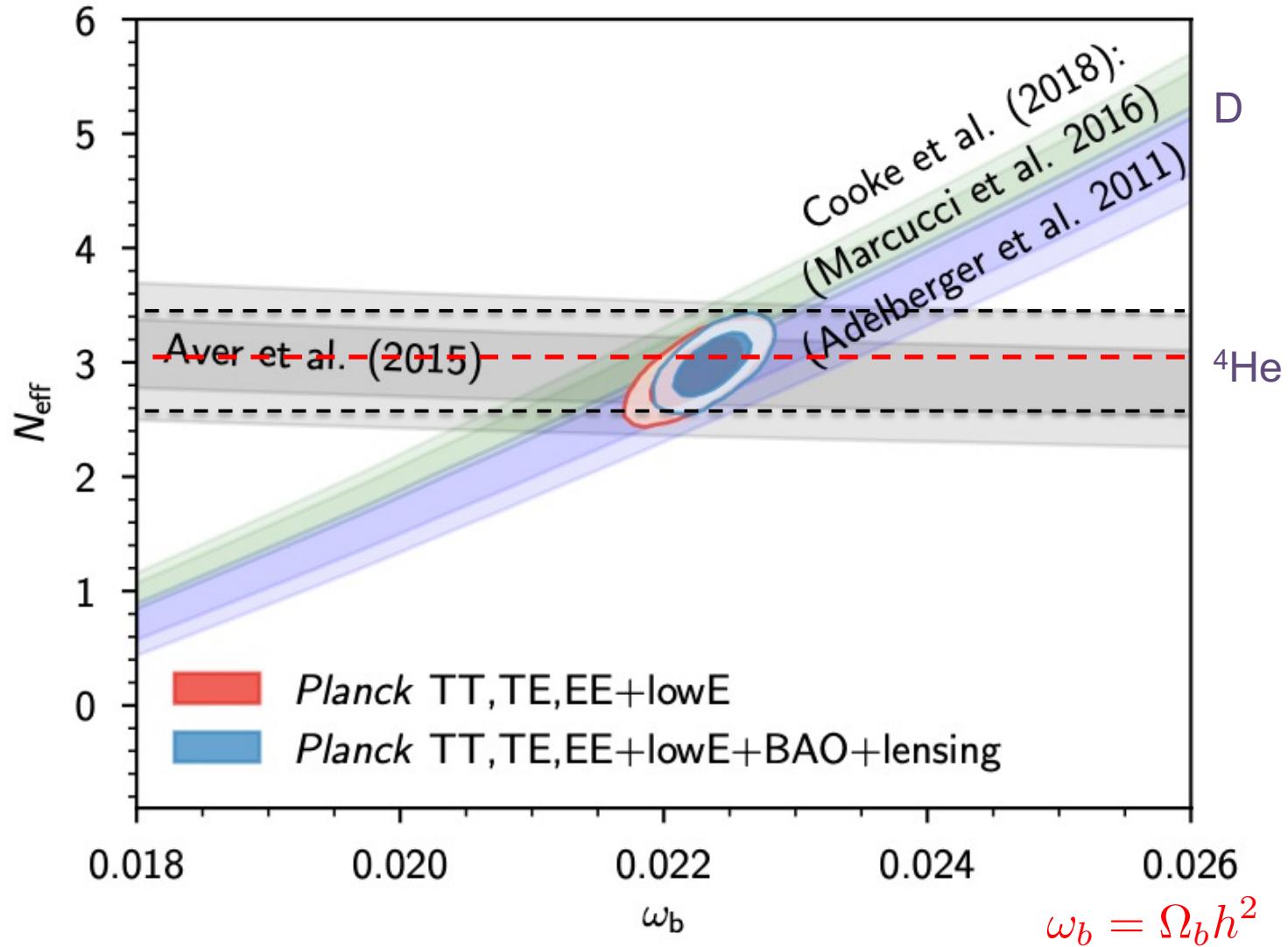
$N_{\text{eff}} = 4.2^{+1.2}_{-1.7}$ (2005) WMAP+...

$N_{\text{eff}} = 2.99^{+0.34}_{-0.33}$ (2018) [Planck](#)

(95%, TT,TE,EE+lowE+lensing+BAO)



Comparison: allowed ranges for N_{eff} and BBN



[Planck Coll, A&A 641 \(2020\) A6](#)

Neutrinos as Dark Matter

The Cosmic Neutrino Background

Neutrinos decoupled at $T \sim \text{MeV}$, keeping a spectrum as that of a relativistic species

$$f_\nu(p, T) = \frac{1}{\exp(p/T_\nu) + 1}$$

- Number density

At present $112 (\nu + \bar{\nu}) \text{ cm}^{-3}$ per flavour

- Energy density

$$\Omega_\nu h^2 \simeq 1.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Massless}$$

Contribution to the energy density of the Universe

$$\Omega_\nu h^2 = \frac{\sum_i m_i}{93.2 \text{ eV}}$$

Massive
 $m_\nu \gg T$

Neutrinos as Dark Matter

- Neutrinos are natural DM candidates

$$\Omega_\nu h^2 = \frac{\sum_i m_i}{93.2 \text{ eV}} \quad \Omega_\nu < 1 \rightarrow \sum_i m_i \lesssim 46 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Omega_\nu < \Omega_m \simeq 0.3 \rightarrow \sum_i m_i \lesssim 15 \text{ eV}$$

- They stream freely until non-relativistic (collisionless phase mixing) 
- **Neutrinos are HOT Dark Matter** (large thermal motion)
- First structures to be formed when Universe became matter –dominated are very large
- Ruled out by structure formation  CDM

Massive Neutrinos can still be subdominant DM: **limits on m_ν from Structure Formation (combined with other cosmological data)**

Neutrinos as Hot Dark Matter

Massive Neutrinos can still be subdominant DM: limits on m_ν from Structure Formation (combined with other cosmological data)

Z=32.33

$$\sum_i m_i = 0 \text{ eV}$$



$$\sum_i m_i = 6.9 \text{ eV}$$



Cosmological bounds on neutrino mass(es)

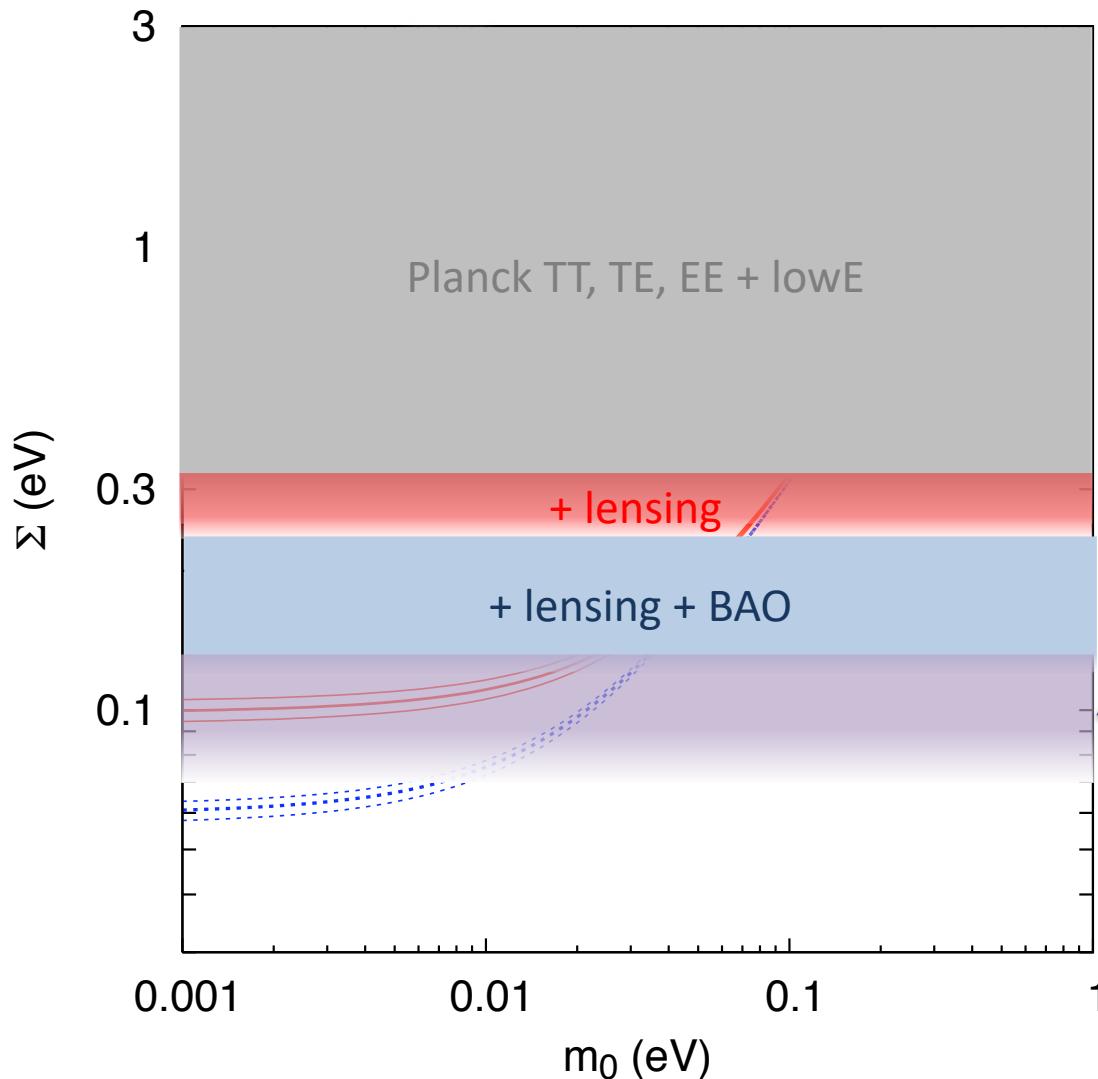
A unique cosmological bound on m_ν DOES NOT exist !

Different analyses have found upper bounds on neutrino masses, since they depend on

- The combination of cosmological data used
- The assumed cosmological model: number of parameters (problem of parameter degeneracies)
- The properties of relic neutrinos

Bounds on Σm_ν from Planck (+other cosmo data)

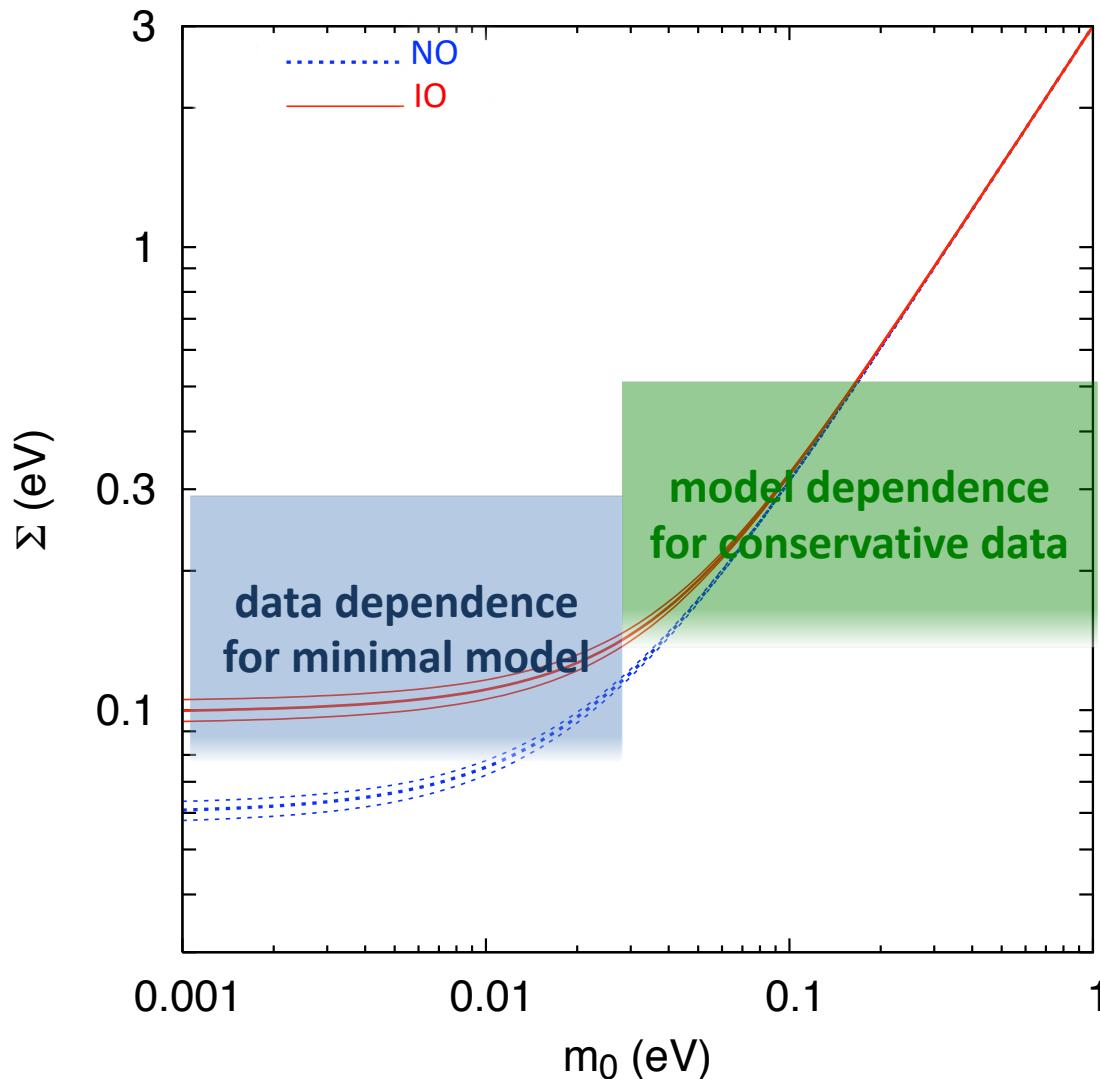
Cosmological upper limits on the sum of neutrino masses



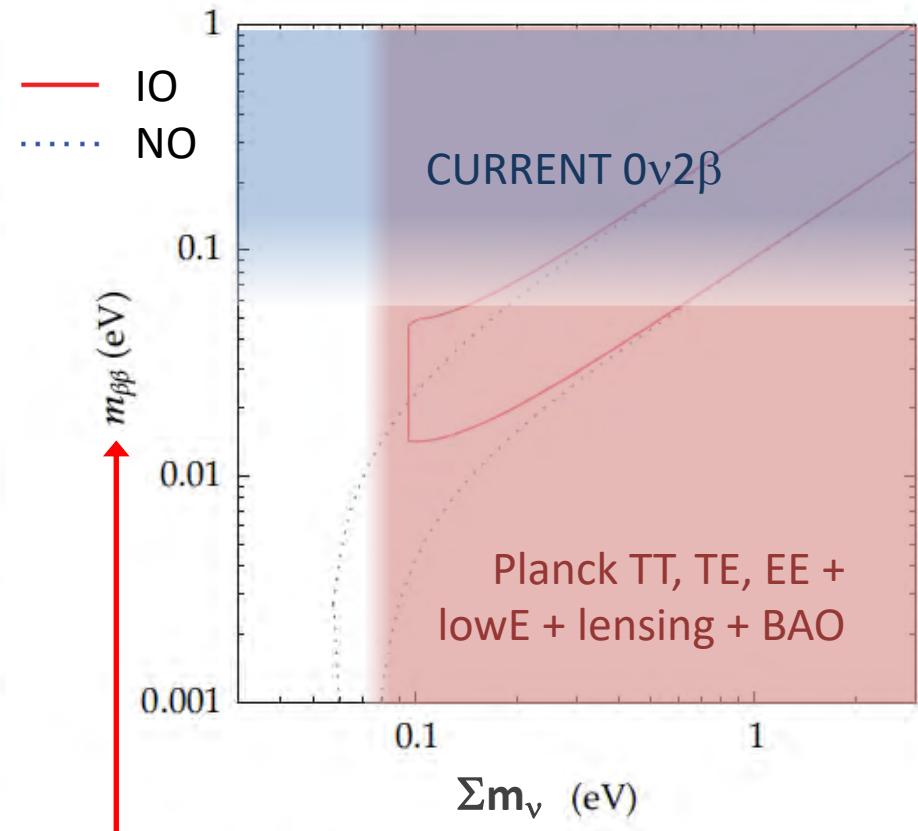
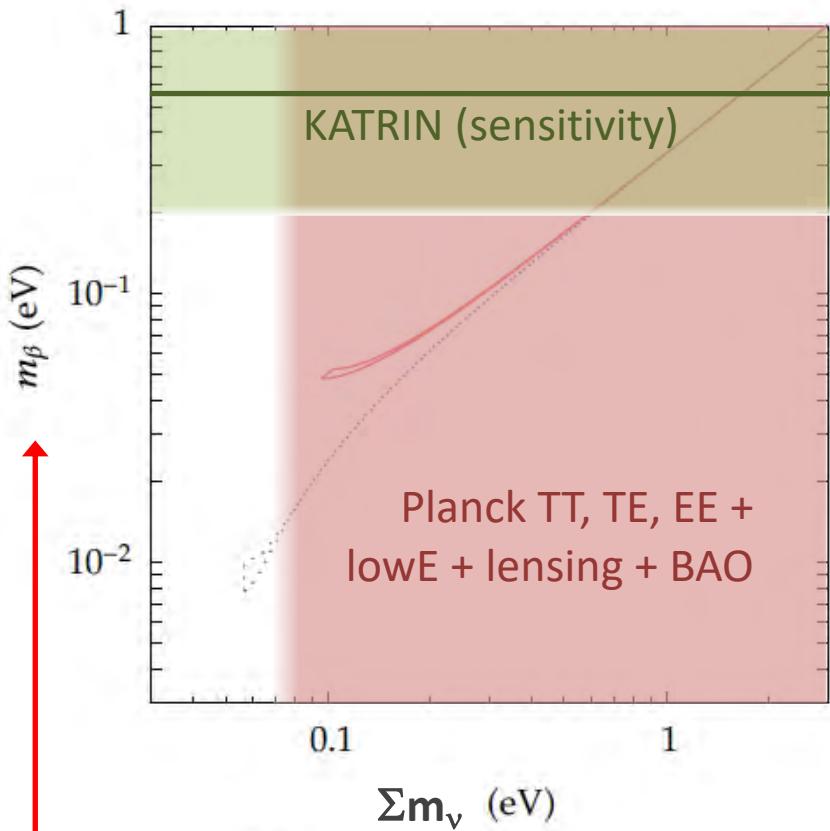
Latest analyses with
DESI BAO data
see e.g.
D. Wang et al
arXiv:2405.03368

Bounds on Σm_ν from Planck (+other cosmo data)

Cosmological upper limits on the sum of neutrino masses



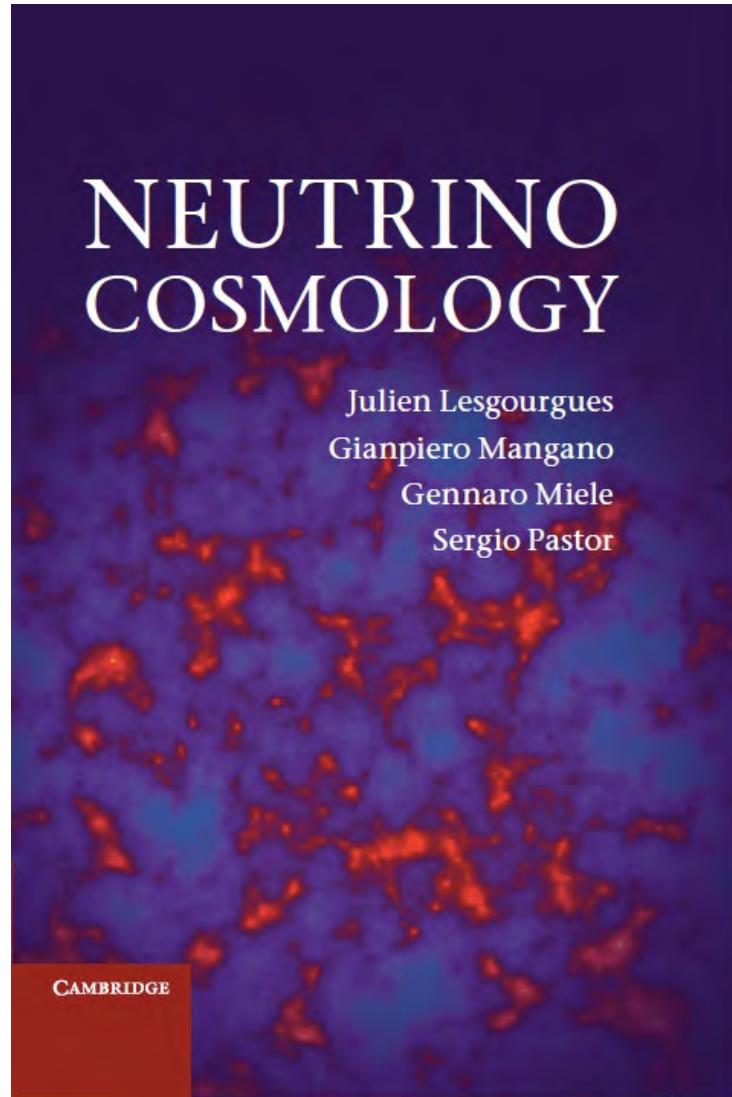
Tritium β decay, $0\nu2\beta$ and Cosmology



$$[c_{13}^2 c_{12}^2 m_1^2 + c_{13}^2 s_{12}^2 m_2^2 + s_{13}^2 m_3^2]^{1/2}$$

$$|c_{13}^2 c_{12}^2 m_1 + c_{13}^2 s_{12}^2 m_2 e^{i\phi_2} + s_{13}^2 m_3 e^{i\phi_3}|$$

For more details...



Ed. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2013

End of 2nd lecture