
Primordial black hole probes of heavy neutral leptons

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Based on arXiv:2405.00124,
in collaboration with Yuber F. Perez-Gonzalez and Valentina De Romeri

TeV Particle Astrophysics 2024, Chicago

August 27th, 2024



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ASTROPARTICLES
Astroparticles and High Energy Physics Group

In arXiv:2405.00124, we estimated the **sensitivity of IceCube** to **Heavy Neutral Leptons (HNLs)** decays from a 100s **Primordial Black Hole (PBH) burst**

Theoretical framework

- **Primordial Black Holes (PBHs)** might have formed in the Early Universe from the collapse of **primordial fluctuations**

Hawking, *Nature* 248 (1974) 30-31

Carr et al., *Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci.* 70 (2020)

Carr et al., *Rept. Prog. Phys.* 84 (2021) 11, 116902

Identikit of a Primordial Black Hole

- **Primordial Black Holes (PBHs)** might have formed in the Early Universe from the collapse of **primordial fluctuations**
- They can be uniquely described by **mass M_{PBH} , angular momentum J and charge Q**

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- ❑ Initial masses from $M_{\text{P}} \sim 10^{-5} \text{g}$ to $10^5 M_{\odot}$ depending on the formation time

$$M_{\text{PBH}}^{\text{in}} \sim 2 \cdot 10^5 \gamma \left(\frac{t}{1\text{s}} \right) M_{\odot}$$

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(See Jessica Turner's plenary talk on Thursday!)

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PBH evaporation and particle emission

- Hawking predicted that PBHs may lose mass, i.e. **evaporate**, with temperature

$$T_{\text{PBH}} = \frac{1}{8\pi GM_{\text{PBH}}} \sim 1 \text{ TeV} \left(\frac{10^{10} \text{ g}}{M_{\text{PBH}}} \right)$$

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- PBHs lose mass throughout time, with a rate $\sim M_{\text{PBH}}^{-2}$
- The radiated particles will hence have a **semi-thermal spectrum**:

$$\left. \frac{dN^i}{dEdt} \right|_{\text{prim}} = \frac{g_i \Gamma(M_{\text{PBH}}, E_i)}{2\pi \left(\exp \left\{ \frac{E_i}{T_{\text{PBH}}} \right\} - (-1)^{2s_i} \right)}$$

where g_i are the particle's dofs, s_i its spin, E_i its energy, Γ the reabsorption coefficient

Hawking, Nature 248 (1974) 30-31

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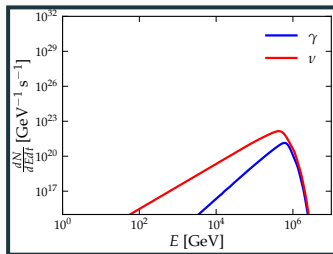


Figure 1: Primary spectrum of γ and ν from a 10^8 g PBH ($T_{\text{PBH}} \sim 10^5$ GeV) with BlackHawk v2.3 (Arbey&al.2019)

Hawking, Nature 248 (1974) 30-31

Carr et al., Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 70 (2020)

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- In the final stage of evaporation, the PBH quickly becomes **hotter** and hence emits a **burst of particles**
- Very massive particles i can be emitted, up to $m_i \sim T_{\text{PBH}}$:

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→ also BSM particles, as **Heavy Neutral Leptons (HNLs)**!

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- **1 PBH** with $M_{\text{PBH}}^{\text{in}} \sim 10^{15}\text{g}$, exploding now in a 100s burst ($M_{\text{PBH}}^{\text{now}} \sim 6.2 \times 10^9\text{g}$)

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The heavy neutral leptons (HNLs)

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- $1 |U_{\alpha4}|^2 \neq 0$ at time: 1:0:0, 0:1:0, 0:0:1

- **Photons** are a smoking gun of PBH burst

H.E.S.S. Collaboration, ICRC2013, p. 0930. 7 (2013)

Milagro et al., *Astropart. Phys.* 64 (2015) 4-12

HAWC Collaboration, *JCAP*, 04 (2020) 026

Fermi-LAT Collaboration, *Astrophys. J.*, 857, no. 1, (2018) 49

VERITAS Collaboration, *PoS ICRC2017*, (2018) 691

Carr et al., *Rep., Prog. Phys.* 84, 116902 (2021)

Perez-Gonzalez, *PRD* 108 no. 8, (2023) 083014

H.E.S.S. Collaboration, *JCAP* 04 (2023) 040

IceCube Collaboration, *PRD*, 99 no. 3, (2019) 032004

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□ Photons are a smoking gun of PBH burst

- **1 PBH at $d_{\text{PBH}} \leq 1 \text{ pc}$ compatible with constraints** from gamma-ray bursts searches (H.E.S.S., Milagro, VERITAS...) and overdensities (Carr&al.2021 and Perez-Gonzalez2023)

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 - Right energy range: 100 - 10^8 GeV

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Looking for HNLs signatures at IceCube

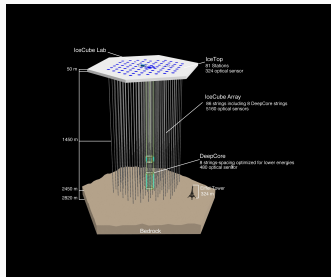
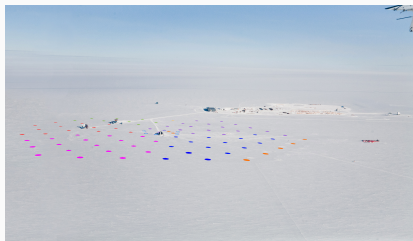


Figure 2: IceCube Neutrino Observatory. Credits: the IceCube collaboration

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- Another signature of the burst: very energetic **neutrinos**
- **IceCube** could detect **muonic neutrinos ν_μ** from the burst
 - Right energy range: 100 - 10^8 GeV
- **HNLs decay** into muonic neutrino might produce a **visible excess** at IceCube

H.E.S.S. Collaboration, ICRC2013, p. 0930. 7 (2013)
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Analysis and Results

The expected spectrum from HNL decay

The **expected spectrum** at IceCube from a 100s PBH burst will receive contributions from SM processes and HNL decays:

Atre et al., JHEP 05 (2009) 030

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$$\left. \frac{dN_{\nu\mu}}{dE} \right|_{\text{HNL}} = \begin{cases} \left. \frac{dN_{\nu\mu}}{dE} \right|_{\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu\nu\nu} + \left. \frac{dN_{\nu\mu}}{dE} \right|_{\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu\pi}, & \text{if } m_4 \in [0.1, 1] \text{ GeV} \\ \left. \frac{dN_{\nu\mu}}{dE} \right|_{\nu_4 \rightarrow H/Z\nu} + \left. \frac{dN_{\nu\mu}}{dE} \right|_{\nu_4 \rightarrow W\mu}, & \text{if } m_4 \in [0.5, 2] \text{ TeV} \end{cases}$$

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The expected spectrum from HNL decay

Quick **example** of expected signal $\left. \frac{dN_{\nu\mu}}{dE} \right|_{\text{HNL}}$:

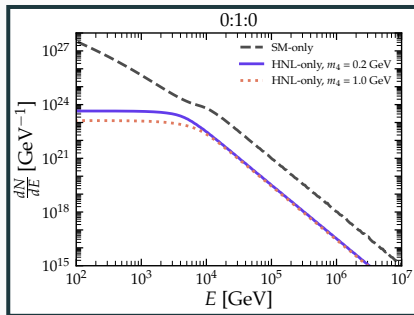


Figure 2: SM-only and HNL-only time-integrated spectrum of ν_μ at Earth for $\tau = 100\text{s}$ for two test-masses and 0:1:0

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Sensitivities at IceCube - the analysis

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- ❑ We focused on ν_μ arriving to the **northern hemisphere** to minimize atmospheric background
- ❑ We estimated the **IceCube sensitivities** to HNL decays from a 100s PBH burst with a simple χ^2 analysis

Sensitivities at IceCube - Results - I

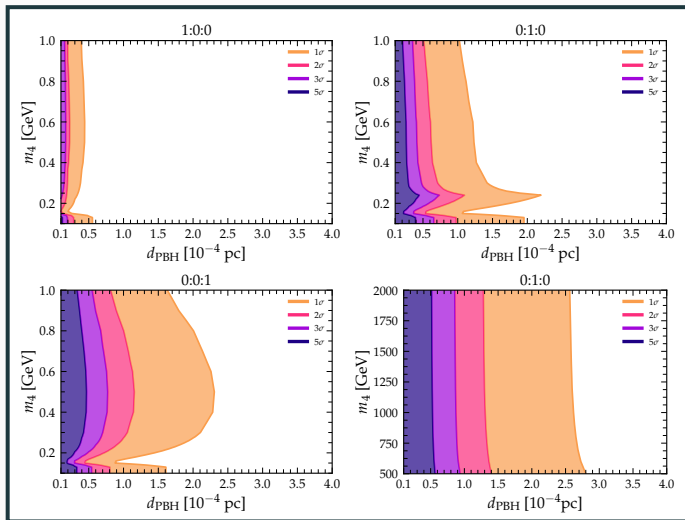


Figure 3: IceCube sensitivity to HNLs from a PBH burst lasting 100s; correction to arXiv:2405.00124

Sensitivities at IceCube - Results - II

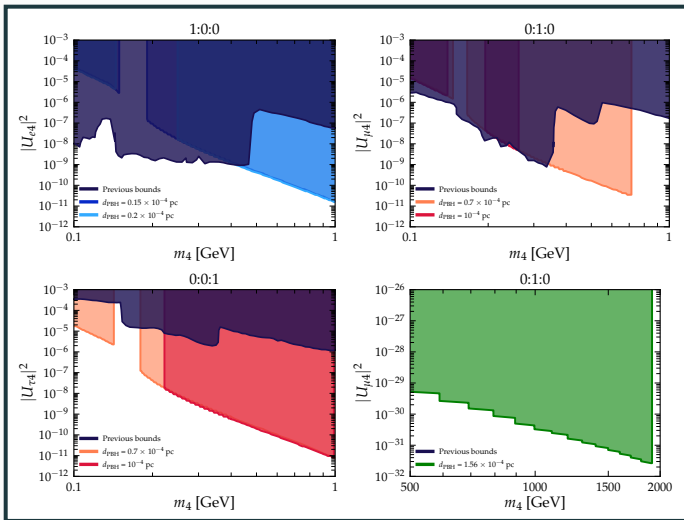


Figure 4: Expected IceCube sensitivity at 90% CL for a 100s PBH burst; correction to arXiv:2405.00124

Conclusions

- We evaluated the ν_μ signal at IceCube from the decay of HNLs emitted in a 100s PBH burst
 - Two HNL mass ranges: [0.1-1] GeV and [0.5-2] TeV
 - Three mixing scenarios: ν_e , ν_μ or ν_τ mixing with ν_4 , i.e. 1:0:0, 0:1:0, 0:0:1
- We found that in [0.1-1] GeV, 0:1:0 and 0:0:1 would give visible signals if the PBH burst occurs at 10^{-4} pc
- The [0.5-2] TeV range, 0:1:0, accessible at 2.5×10^{-4} pc
- IceCube would be able to set stringent constraints on m_4 and $|U_{\alpha 4}|^2$

Thanks for your attention!



Questions?

Backup slides

Bounds on exploding PBHs - I

- ☐ **Photons** are a smoking gun of exploding PBHs

→ constraints on searches for gamma-ray bursts from H.E.S.S., Milagro, VERITAS, Fermi-LAT, HAWK

- ☐ Strongest constraint on the **PBH burst rate** from H.E.S.S. collaboration

$$\dot{n}_{\text{PBH}} \sim 2000 \text{pc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$$

- ☐ Bounds on **overdensities** (Carr&al.2021 + Perez-Gonzalez2023):

$$n_{\text{PBH}} \lesssim 0.35 \left(\frac{\beta'}{10^{-29}} \right) \left(\frac{10^{15} \text{ g}}{M_{\text{PBH}}^{\text{in}}} \right) \text{pc}^{-3},$$

In 1pc^3 for $\beta' \leq 10^{-29}$ we expect ~ 1.5 exploding PBH

- ☐ Hence, expecting **1 PBH** at $d_{\text{PBH}} \leq 1 \text{ pc}$ from Earth is compatible with bounds

H.E.S.S. Collaboration, ICRC2013, p. 0930. 7 (2013)

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H.E.S.S. Collaboration, JCAP 04 (2023) 040

Bounds on exploding PBHs - II

$$\beta' \sim 10^{-9} \frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \left(\frac{M_{\text{PBH}}^{\text{in}}}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{1/2}$$

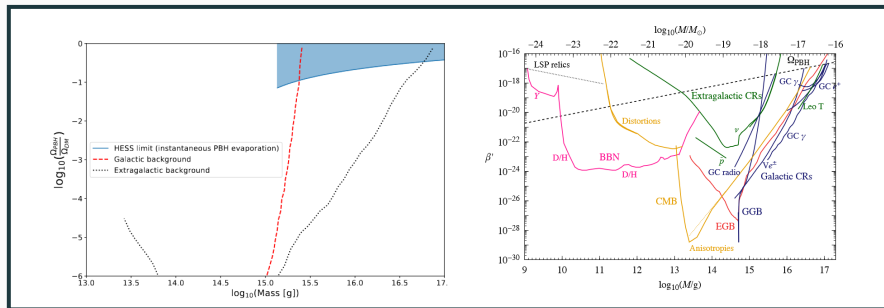


Figure 5: Bounds on β' and $\frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}}$. Left: from H.E.S.S. 2023, right from Carr 2021.

$$\Delta = \left. \frac{dN}{dE} \right|_{SM+HNL} / \left. \frac{dN}{dE} \right|_{SM}$$

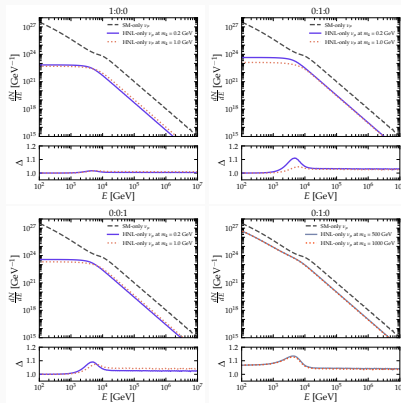


Figure 6: Total time-integrated spectrum of muon neutrinos expected at the Earth from the evaporation of a PBH for an observation time of $\tau = 100$ s. In each panel, we show the SM-only contribution (black, dashed) and the HNL-only contribution for different HNL benchmark masses (solid/dotted, color) and mixings. The smaller panels below each figure depict the relative difference in the spectral shapes between the total (SM + HNL) and SM-only contributions Δ .

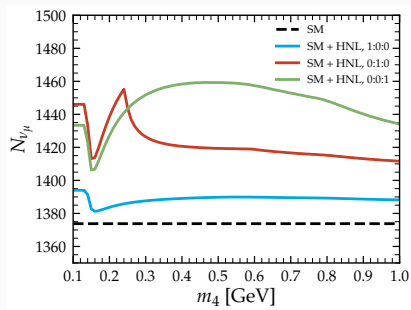


Figure 7: Expected number of muon-neutrino events at IceCube as a function of the HNL mass, from the last stages (100 s) of an evaporating PBH located at a distance $d_{\text{PBH}} = 10^{-4}$ pc from Earth and at a declination angle $[30^\circ < \delta < 90^\circ]$. The black dashed curve corresponds to the SM-only case.

List of bounds in the $m_4 |U_{\alpha 4}|^2$ plane

List of bounds of Fig.4:

- ❑ 1:0:0: NA62, T2K, PiENU, BEBC and PS191
- ❑ 0:1:0: T2K, MicroBooNE, NuTeV, E949
- ❑ 0:0:1: T2K, CHARM and constraints from IceCube looking for low-energy “double-bang” events

+ SN 1987A detection bounds, not shown for space limits, up to $O(100\text{MeV})$

NA62 Collaboration, Phys. Lett. B 807 (2020) 135599
T2K Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 100 no. 5, (2019) 052006
PiENU Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 97 no. 7, (2018) 072012
Barouki et al., SciPost Phys. 13 (2022) 118, arXiv:2208.00416
Bernardi et al. Phys. Lett. B 203 (1988) 332-334
MicroBooNE Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 101 no. 5, (2020) 052001
NuTeV, E815 Collaboration, Phys. Rev. Lett. 83 (1999) 4943-4946
E949 Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 91 no. 5, (2015) 052001
CHARM II Collaboration, Phys. Lett. B 343 (1995) 453-458
Coloma et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 119 no. 20, (2017) 201804
Carenza et al., Phys. Rev. D 109 no. 6, (2024) 063010

The neutrino mass matrix

- The most general mass term for neutrinos can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{RHN}}^m &= -Y_{\alpha i} \bar{L}_\alpha \tilde{H} N_i - \frac{1}{2} M_R^{ij} \overline{N}_i^c N_j + \text{h.c.} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \overline{\mathcal{N}}_L^c M_\nu \mathcal{N}_L + \text{h.c.}\end{aligned}$$

- After EW symmetry breaking $\mathcal{L}_{\text{RHN}}^m$ becomes

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{RHN}}^m = -\frac{1}{2} \overline{\mathcal{N}}_L^c M_\nu \mathcal{N}_L + \text{h.c.},$$

with

$$\mathcal{N}_L = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_L \\ (N_R)^c \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0}_{3 \times 3} & Y_V / \sqrt{2} \\ Y^T V / \sqrt{2} & M_R \end{pmatrix}$$

Mixing in the lepton sector

- By diagonalizing the mass matrix $M_\nu = \mathcal{U}_\nu M_\nu^{\text{diag}} \mathcal{U}_\nu^T$ ($\mathcal{U}_\nu^T \mathcal{U}_\nu = 1$), $\mathcal{L}_{\text{RHN}}^m$ is written in terms of the neutrino mass states:

$$\mathcal{N}_L^m = \mathcal{U}_\nu^T \mathcal{N}_L$$

where \mathcal{U}_ν is the unitary $(3+n) \times (3+n)$ diagonalizing mass matrix

- The CC lepton mixing matrix is the top $(3+n) \times 3$ submatrix of \mathcal{U}_ν ($\mathcal{U}_l \sim \mathbb{K}_{3 \times 3}$):

$$\begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} & U_{e4} & \dots & U_{en} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} & U_{\mu4} & \dots & U_{\mu n} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} & U_{\tau4} & \dots & U_{\tau n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Details of the spectrum computation - I

Below 1 GeV, the following two channels dominate

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_4 &\rightarrow \nu_\alpha \pi^0, \\ \nu_4 &\rightarrow \nu_\alpha \nu_\ell \bar{\nu}_\ell \quad (\ell = e, \mu, \tau),\end{aligned}$$

where α indicates the neutrino flavor that mixes with ν_4

The partial decay widths are

$$\Gamma_\alpha(\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\alpha \pi^0) = 2 \frac{G_F^2 m_4^3}{32\pi} f_\pi^2 |U_{\alpha 4}|^2 \left[1 - \left(\frac{m_{\pi^0}}{m_4} \right)^2 \right]^2,$$

$$\Gamma_\alpha \left(\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\alpha \sum_\ell \nu_\ell \bar{\nu}_\ell \right) = \sum_\ell [\Gamma(\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\alpha \nu_\ell \bar{\nu}_\ell) + (\nu_4 \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\alpha \nu_\ell \bar{\nu}_\ell)] = 2 \frac{G_F^2 m_4^5}{64\pi^3} |U_{\alpha 4}|^2.$$

where ν_α is the neutrino flavour that mixes with ν_4

Details of the spectrum computation - II

The neutrino spectrum from HNL decay can be computed as

$$\frac{dN_\alpha}{dE} = \mathcal{B}_a \int d \cos \theta \int_{E_{s,\min}}^{E_{s,\max}} dE_s \frac{1}{\gamma_s (1 + \beta_s \cos \theta)} \frac{dN_s}{dE_s} \mathcal{F}_\alpha \left[\frac{E}{\gamma_s (1 + \beta_s \cos \theta)}, \cos \theta \right]$$

- E , E_s are the energies of ν_α and the HNL in the laboratory frame;
- θ is the angle formed between ν_α in the HNL rest frame and its velocity in the laboratory frame;
- $\mathcal{B}_\alpha = \Gamma_\alpha / \Gamma_{\text{tot}}$ indicates the branching ratio of the decay process;
- $\frac{dN_s}{dE_s}$ is the total primary spectrum of HNLs;
- \mathcal{F}_a is the angular and energetic distribution of the resulting ν_a in the HNL frame

The primary HNL spectra have been evaluated with BlackHawk, as the SM neutrino spectra

Mastroianni et al., Phys. Rev. D 104 no. 1, (2021) 016026

Arbey et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 910

Details of the spectrum computation - III

Light-mass regime [0.1-1] GeV

□ 2-body

$$\left. \frac{dN_\alpha}{dE} \right|^{2b} = \frac{B_\alpha m_4^2}{m_4^2 - m_{\pi^0}^2} \int_{E_s, \min}^{E_s, \max} dE_s \frac{1}{p_s} \frac{dN_s}{dE_s}.$$

as \mathcal{F}_a is a Dirac delta

□ 3-body

$$\mathcal{F}_{I, \alpha}^{3b}(E') = \left. \frac{dN_\alpha}{dE' d\cos\theta} \right|_I^{3b} = \frac{1}{2} 16 \frac{E'^2}{m_4^3} \left(3 - 4 \frac{E'}{m_4} \right),$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{II, \alpha}^{3b}(E') = \left. \frac{dN_\alpha}{dE' d\cos\theta} \right|_{II}^{3b} = \frac{1}{2} 96 \frac{E'^2}{m_4^3} \left(1 - 2 \frac{E'}{m_4} \right).$$

If the neutrino mixes with ν_4

$$\mathcal{F}_\alpha^{3b}(E') = \frac{1}{4} \left(3\mathcal{F}_I^{3b} + \mathcal{F}_{II}^{3b} \right).$$

$$\left. \frac{dN_{\alpha(\ell)}}{dE} \right|^{3b} = B_\alpha m_4 \int_{E_s, \min}^{E_s, \max} dE_s \frac{1}{p_s} \frac{dN_s}{dE_s} \int_{E'_{\min}}^{E'_{\max}} dE' \frac{1}{E'} \mathcal{F}_{\alpha(\ell)}^{3b}(E'),$$

Details of the spectrum computation - IV

If only ν_μ mixes with ν_4 , three HNL decay channels are relevant in the [0.5-2] TeV mass range

$$\nu_4 \rightarrow W^\pm \mu^\mp,$$

$$\nu_4 \rightarrow Z^0 \nu_\mu,$$

$$\nu_4 \rightarrow H^0 \nu_\mu.$$

with partial decay widths

$$\Gamma(\nu_4 \rightarrow \mu W_L) = 2 \frac{g^2}{64\pi M_W^2} |U_{\mu 4}|^2 m_4^3 \left[1 - \left(\frac{M_W}{m_4} \right)^2 \right]^2,$$

$$\Gamma(\nu_4 \rightarrow \mu W_T) = 2 \frac{g^2}{32\pi} |U_{\mu 4}|^2 m_4 \left[1 - \left(\frac{M_W}{m_4} \right)^2 \right]^2,$$

$$\Gamma(\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\mu Z_L^0) = \frac{g^2}{64\pi M_Z^2} |U_{\mu 4}|^2 m_4^3 \left[1 - \left(\frac{M_Z}{m_4} \right)^2 \right]^2,$$

$$\Gamma(\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\mu Z_T^0) = \frac{g^2}{32\pi \cos^2 \theta_W} |U_{\mu 4}|^2 m_4 \left[1 - \left(\frac{M_Z}{m_4} \right)^2 \right]^2,$$

$$\Gamma(\nu_4 \rightarrow \nu_\mu H^0) = \frac{g^2}{64\pi M_H^2} |U_{\mu 4}|^2 m_4^3 \left[1 - \left(\frac{M_H}{m_4} \right)^2 \right]^2$$

The resulting spectrum will be

$$\frac{dN_{\nu_\mu}}{dE} = \sum_{i.s.} \mathcal{B}(\nu_4 \rightarrow i.s.) m_4 \int_{E_s, \min}^{E_s, \max} dE_s \frac{1}{p_s} \frac{dN_s}{dE_s} \int_{E'_{\min}}^{E'_{\max}} dE' \frac{1}{E'} \frac{dN}{dE'} (\nu_4 \rightarrow i.s. \rightarrow \nu_\mu),$$

where PPPC4DM has been employed to evaluate $\frac{dN}{dE'}$

Mastrototaro et al., Phys. Rev. D 104 no. 1, (2021) 016026

A. Atre et al., JHEP 05 (2009) 030

Cirelli et al., JCAP 03 (2011) 051

Details of the χ^2 analysis

- The expected N_{ν_μ} at IceCube depends on the **declination angle** δ and the **effective area** \mathcal{A}_{eff} :

$$N_{\nu_\mu}(\delta) = \frac{1}{4\pi d_{\text{PBH}}^2} \int dE \left. \frac{dN_{\nu_\mu}}{dE} \right|_{\text{HNL+SM}} \mathcal{A}_{\text{eff}}(E, \delta)$$

- Little atmospheric background for ν_μ from the northern hemisphere (if $\tau_{\text{obs}} \sim 100\text{s}$)

→ set $\delta \in [30 \text{ deg}, 90 \text{ deg}]$

- Sensitivity at IceCube estimated with χ^2 test statistics :

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\left(N_{\nu_\mu}^{\text{HNL+SM}} - N_{\nu_\mu}^{\text{SM}} \right)^2}{N_{\nu_\mu}^{\text{SM}}}$$

(negligible background and d_{PBH} nuisance)