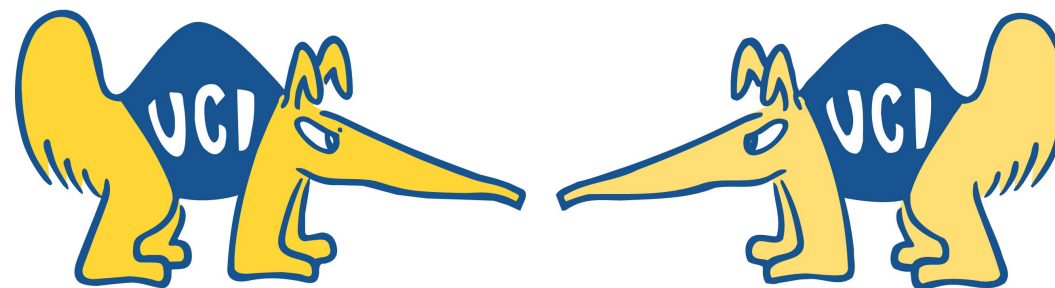


# Neutrino Flavor Puzzle

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Mu-Chun Chen, University of California at Irvine



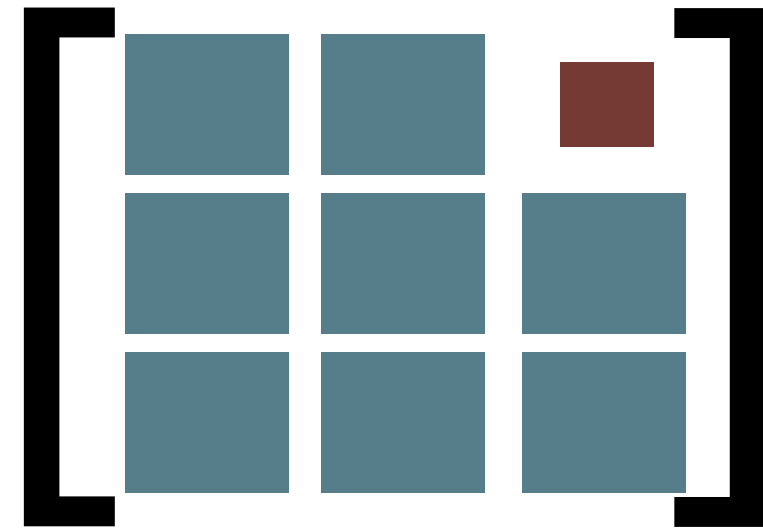
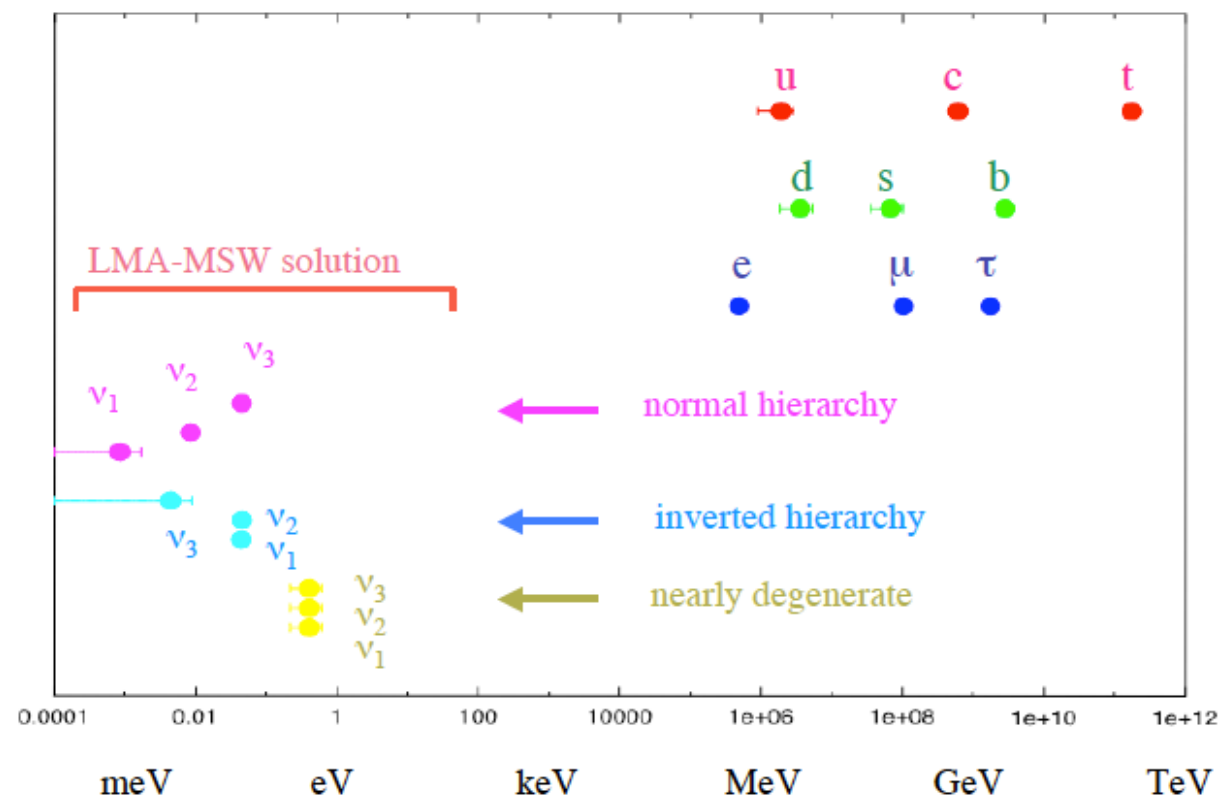
# Open Questions - Theoretical



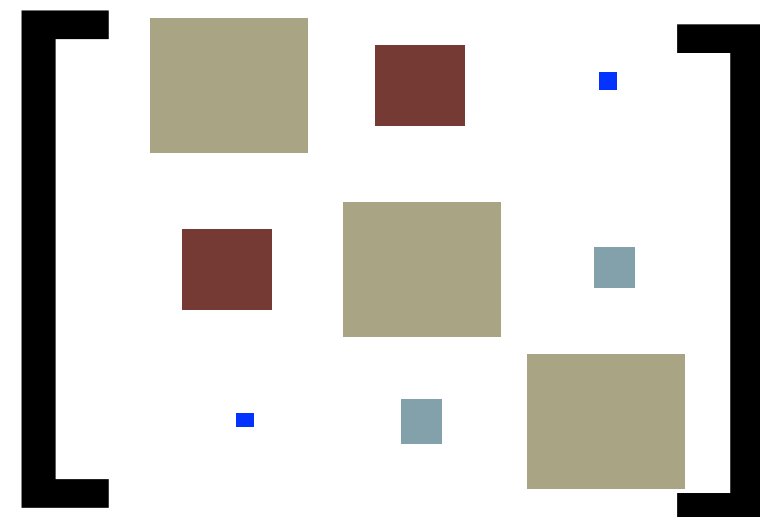
👉 **Smallness of neutrino mass:**

👉 **Flavor structure:**

$$m_\nu \ll m_{e, u, d}$$



leptonic mixing



quark mixing

# Why Should We Care?

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- Understanding a wealth of data [Talks by Michael Wagman, Pedro Machado]
- SM flavor sector: no understanding of significant fraction ( $\sim 20/25$ ) of SM parameters; (c.f. SM gauge sector)
- Neutrinos as window into BSM physics [Talk by Zahra Tabrizi ]
  - neutrino mass generation unknown (suppression mechanism, scale)
  - Uniqueness of neutrino masses  $\rightarrow$  connections w/ NP frameworks
- Neutrinos affords opportunities for new explorations
  - New Tools (examples of formal theories' pheno relevance)
  - May address other puzzles in particle physics
    - Window into early Universe [Talk by Alex Friedland ]
  - UV connection - String Theories

# Small Masses - Majorana Neutrinos

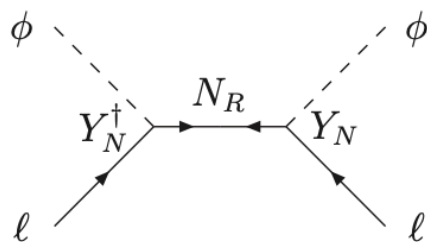
- SM: effective low energy theory  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \frac{\mathcal{O}_{5D}}{M} + \frac{\mathcal{O}_{6D}}{M^2} + \dots$

$$\frac{\lambda_{ij}}{M} H H L_i L_j \Rightarrow m_\nu = \lambda_{ij} \frac{v^2}{M}$$

Weinberg, 1979

- only one dim-5 operator: most sensitive to high scale physics

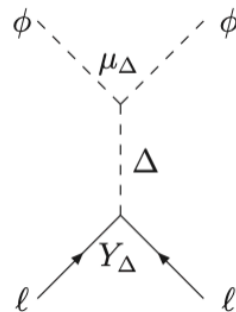
Type-I seesaw



$N_R$ :  $\text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{SU}(2)_w \times \text{U}(1)_Y \sim (1,1,0)$

Minkowski, 1977; Yanagida, 1979; Glashow, 1979;  
Gell-mann, Ramond, Slansky, 1979;  
Mohapatra, Senjanovic, 1979;

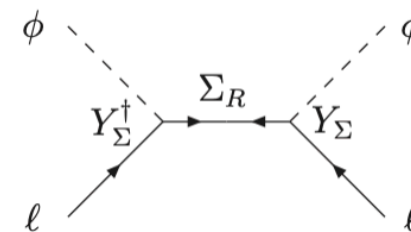
Type-II seesaw



$\Delta$ :  $\text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{SU}(2)_w \times \text{U}(1)_Y \sim (1,3,2)$

Lazarides, 1980; Mohapatra, Senjanovic, 1980

Type-III seesaw



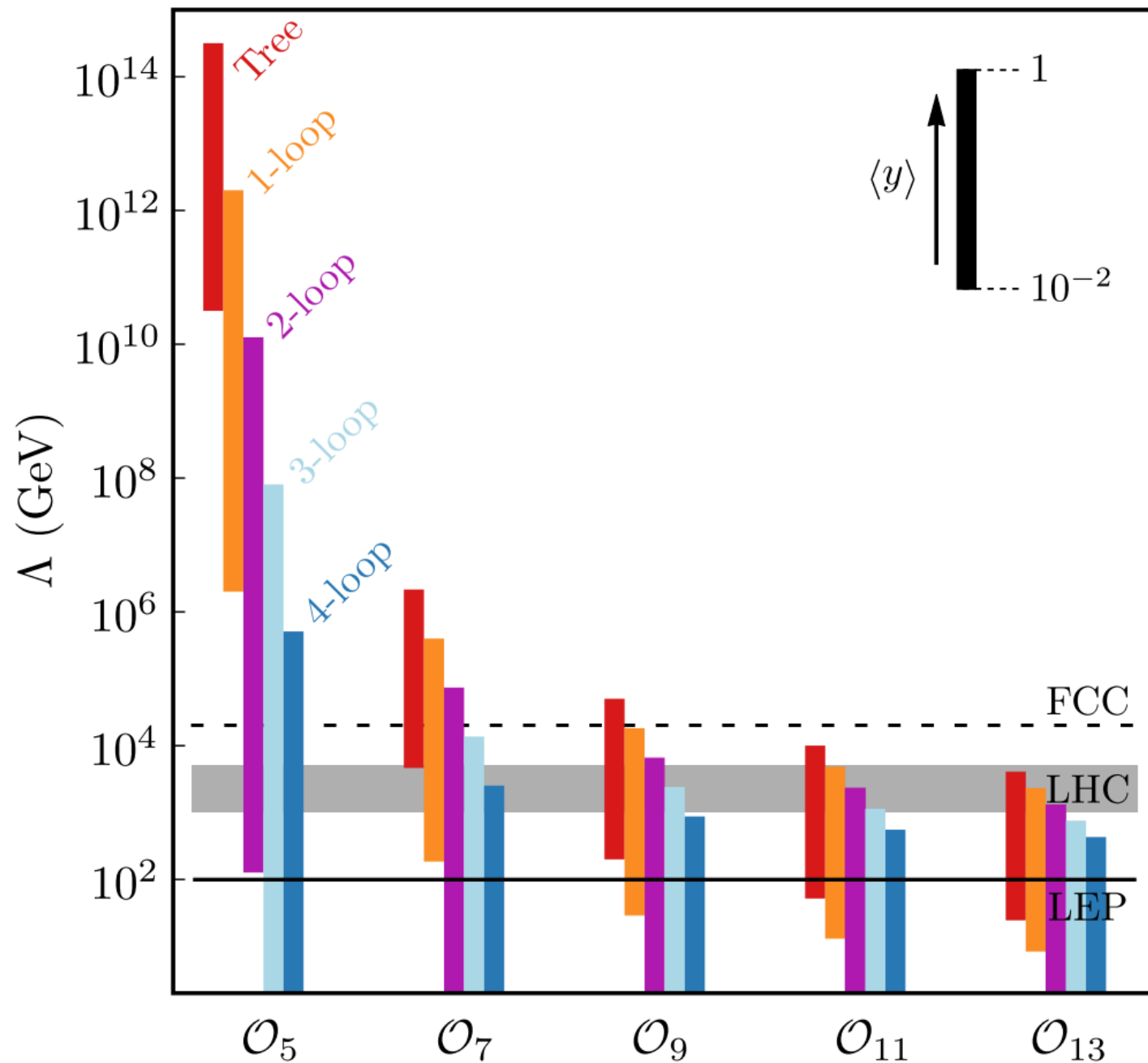
$\Sigma = (\Sigma^+, \Sigma^0, \Sigma^-)$

$\Sigma_R$ :  $\text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{SU}(2)_w \times \text{U}(1)_Y \sim (1,3,0)$

Foot, Lew, He, Joshi, 1989; Ma, 1998

- Naturally embedded in **Grand Unified Theories** (Type I)
- Low Seesaw scale possible**: Type II, Type III, inverse seesaw, radiative mass generation, LR symmetric model, RPV, gauged  $\text{U}(1)'$ , .....

# Higher Dimensional Neutrino Masses

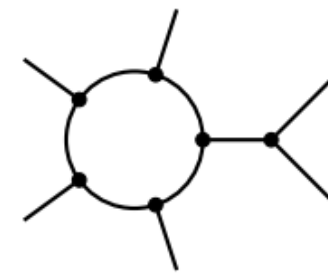


$$m_\nu \propto \epsilon \cdot \left( \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \right)^n \cdot \left( \frac{v}{\Lambda} \right)^{d-5} \cdot \frac{v^2}{\Lambda}$$

Babu, Leung (2001); de Gouvea, Jenkins (2007); .....

e.g. at dim-7, 1-loop

$$\mathcal{O}'_1 = LLHH(H^\dagger H)$$

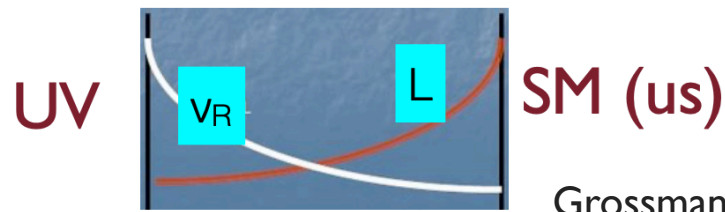


For an excellent review on Radiative Neutrino Mass Generation: Cai, Herrero-García, Schmidt, Vicente, Volkas, 1706.08524

# Small Masses - Dirac Neutrinos

**Randall-Sundrum  
warped extra dimensions**

$$\psi(0) \sim e^{(1/2-c)ky}$$



Grossman, Neubert (2000); Huber, Shafi (2001)

**Clockwork Seesaw Mechanism**

S.C. Park, C.S. Shin (2017); Hong, Kurup, Perelstein (2019); Babu, Saad (2020) ...

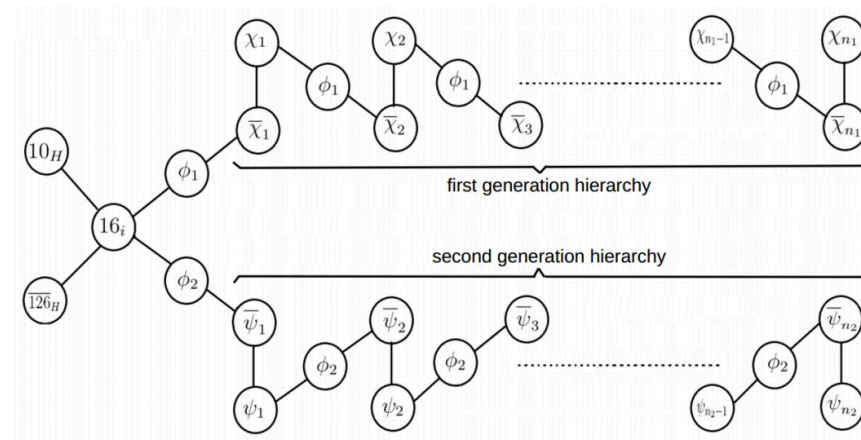
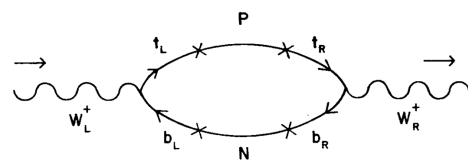


Figure from Babu, Saad (2020)

**Radiative Mass  
Generation**



Cheng, Li (1978); .....

**SUSY Breaking**

Arkani-Hamed, Hall, Murayama, Tucker-Smith, Weiner (2001)

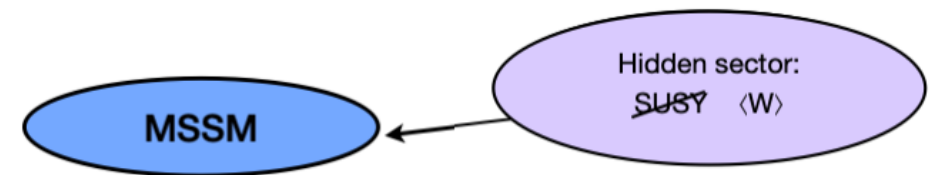


Figure from Babu, He (1988);

For clarifications of radiative Dirac neutrino mass generation: see e.g. Farzan, Pascoli, Schmidt (2012)

$$Y_\nu \sim \frac{m_{3/2}}{M_P} \sim \frac{\mu}{M_P}$$

# Flavor Structure - Anarchy



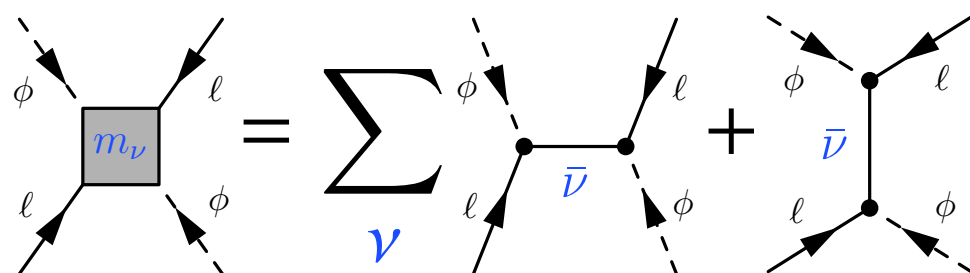
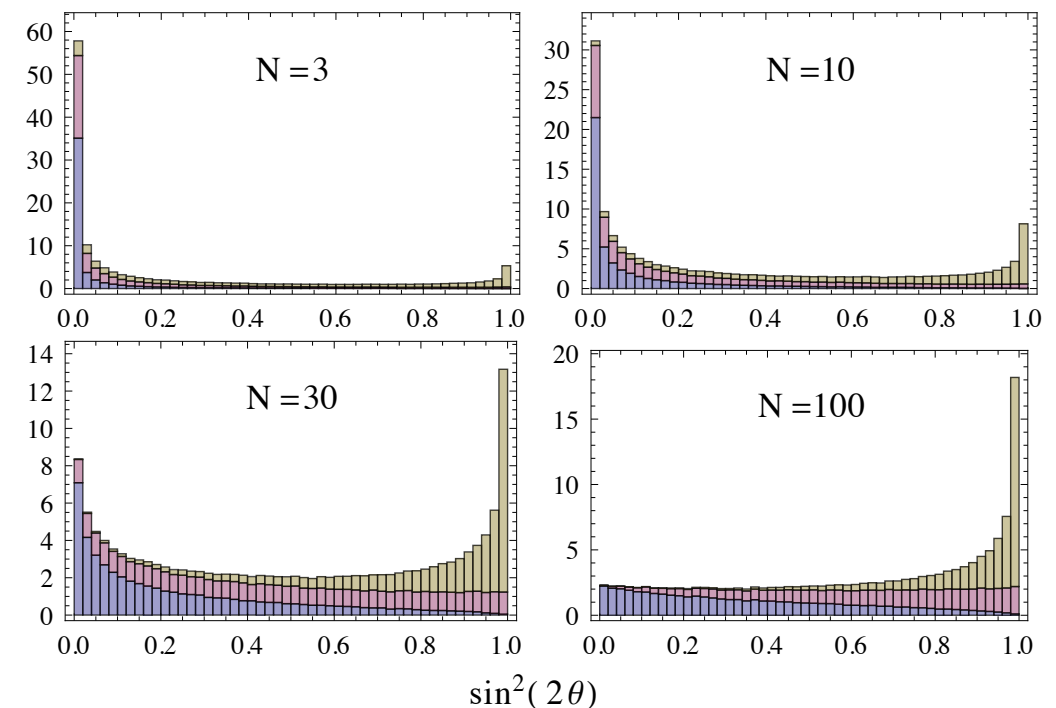
- there are no parametrically small numbers  
Hall, Murayama, Weiner (2000);  
de Gouvea, Murayama (2003);
- large mixing angle, near mass degeneracy statistically preferred

- statistical expectations with large N (= # of RH neutrinos)

Feldstein, Klemm (2012)

- UV theory prediction can resemble anarchy
  - warped extra dimensions
  - heterotic string models: O(100) RH neutrinos

Buchmüller, Hamaguchi, Lebedev, Ramos-Sánchez, Ratz (2007)



$$m_\nu \sim \frac{v^2}{M_*}$$

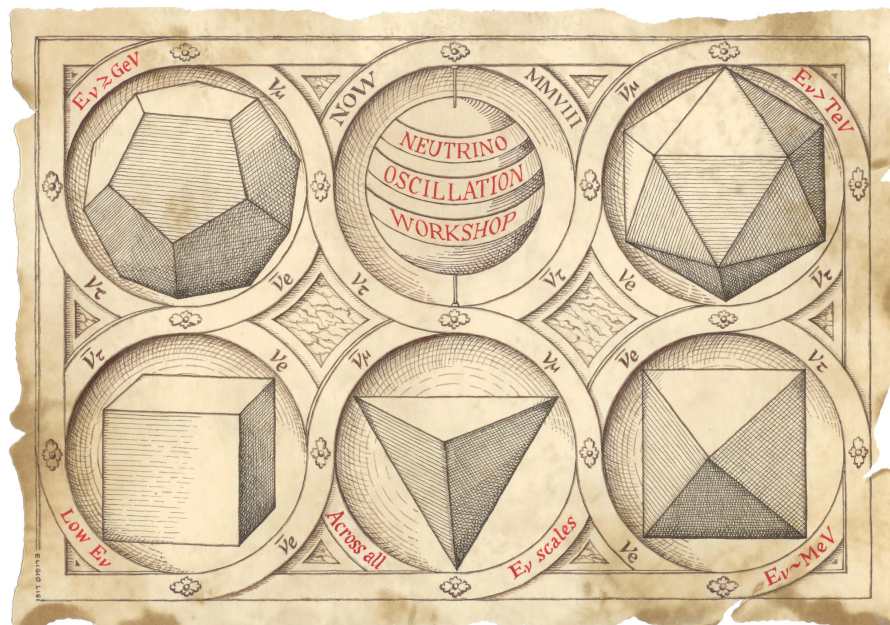
$M_* \sim \frac{M_{\text{GUT}}}{10 \dots 100}$



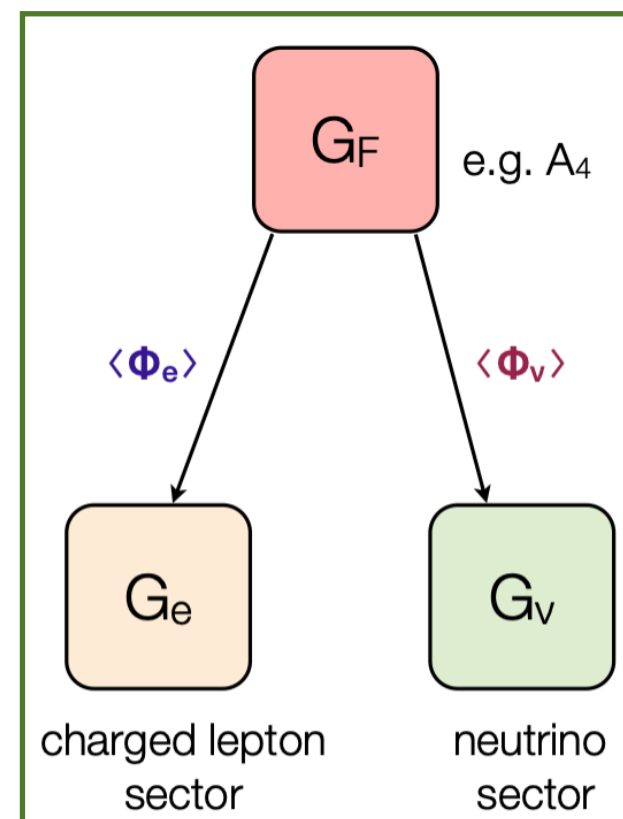
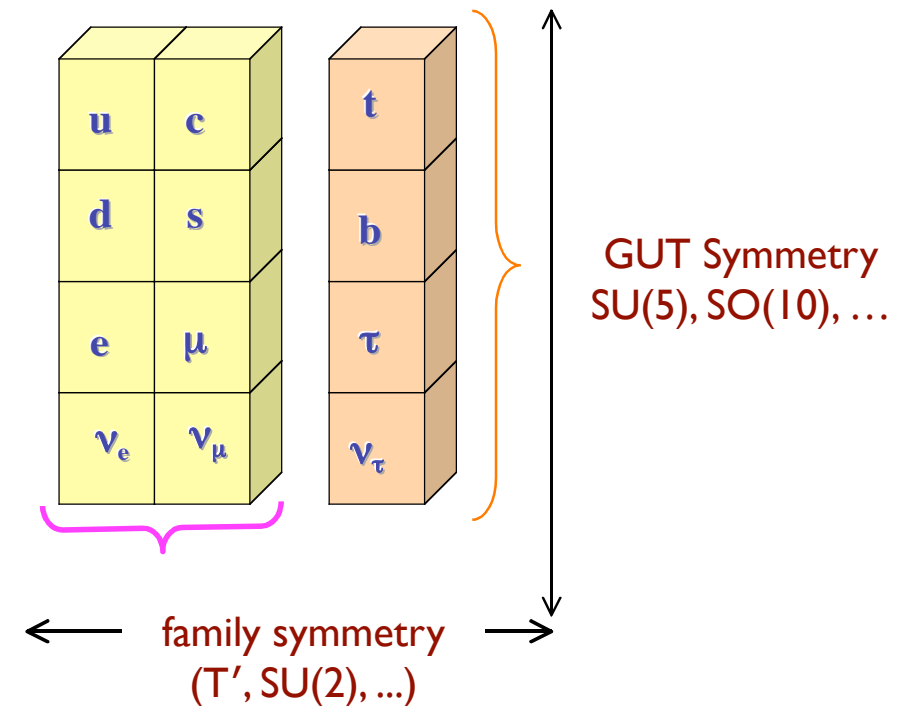
# Non-Abelian Discrete Flavor Symmetries

• models based on discrete family symmetry groups have been constructed

- $A_4$  (tetrahedron)
- $T'$  (double tetrahedron)
- $S_3$  (equilateral triangle)
- $S_4$  (octahedron, cube)
- $A_5$  (icosahedron, dodecahedron)
- $\Delta_{27}$
- $Q_6$

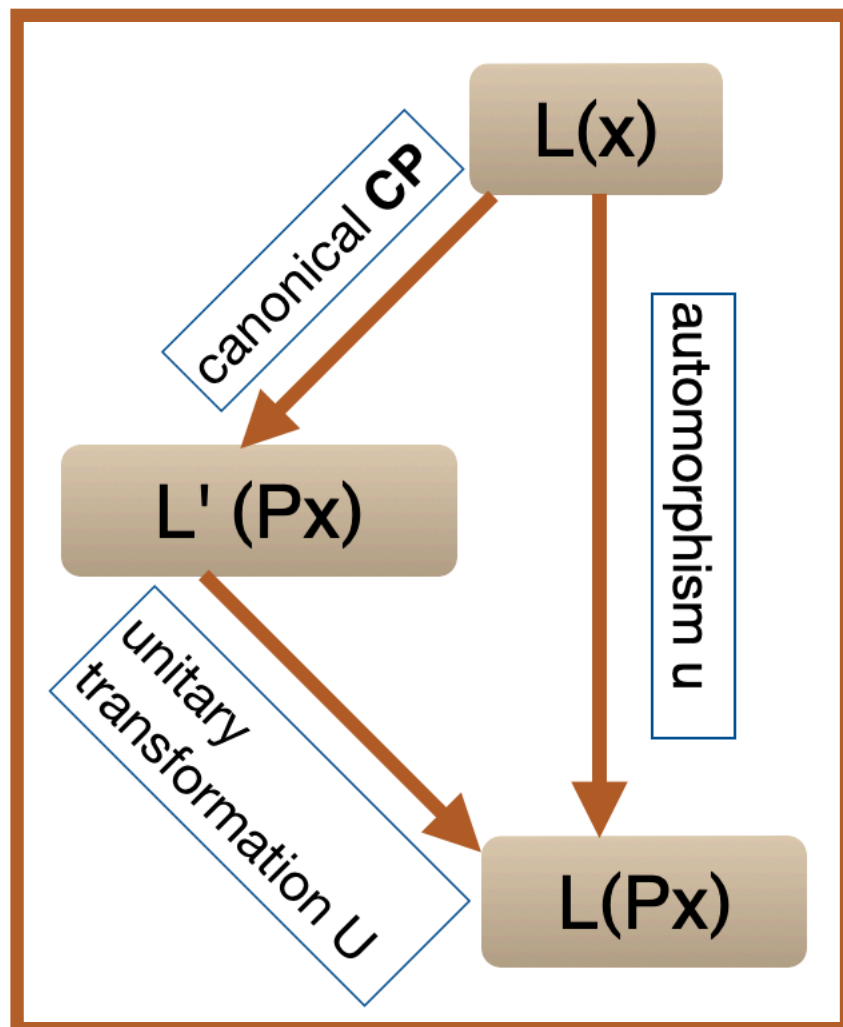


[Eligio Lisi for NOW2008 ]



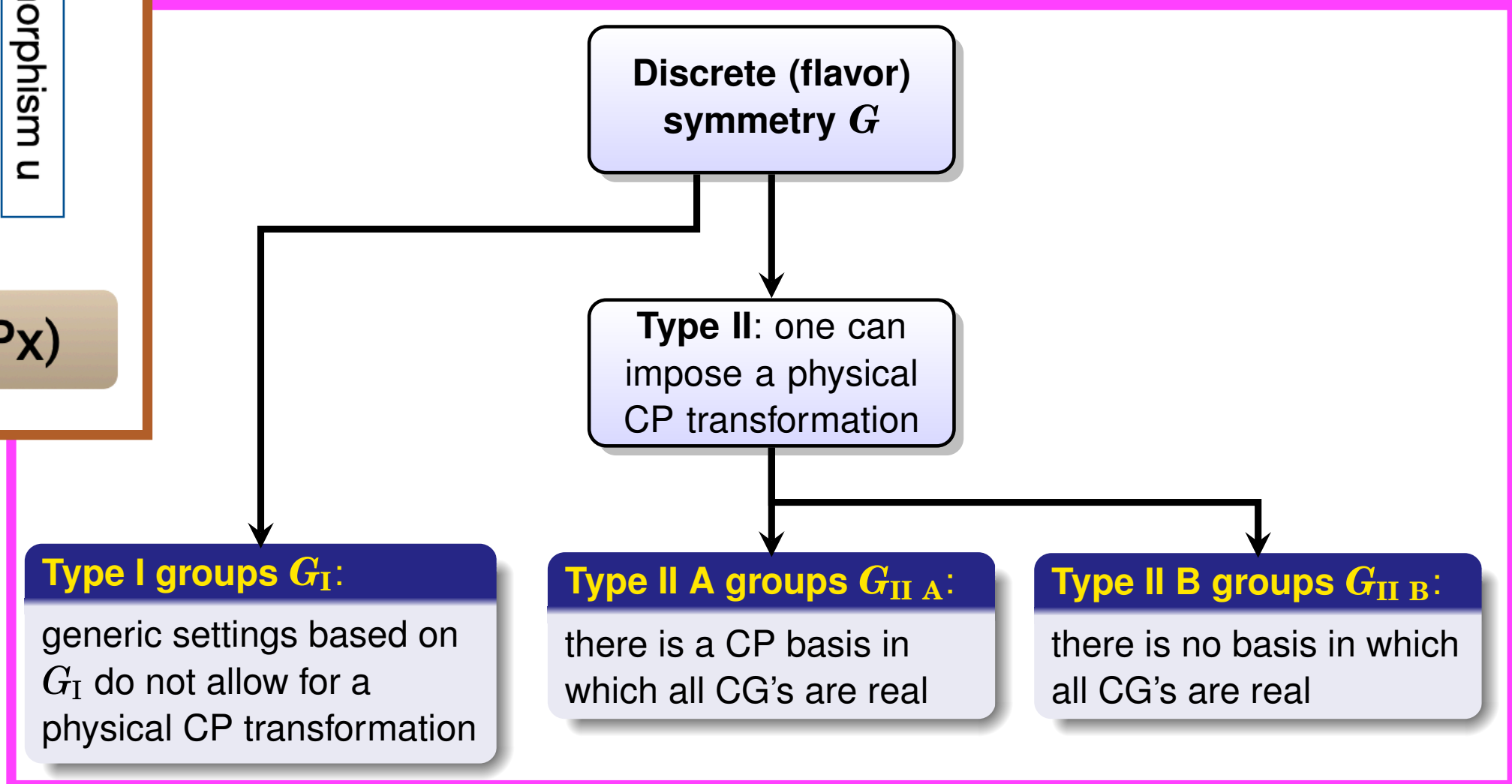


# Group Theoretical Origin of CP Violation



complex CGs  $\Rightarrow G$  and physical CP transformations do not commute

M-CC, Mahanthappa (2009); M.-C.C, M. Fallbacher, K.T. Mahanthappa, M. Ratz, A. Trautner, NPB (2014)



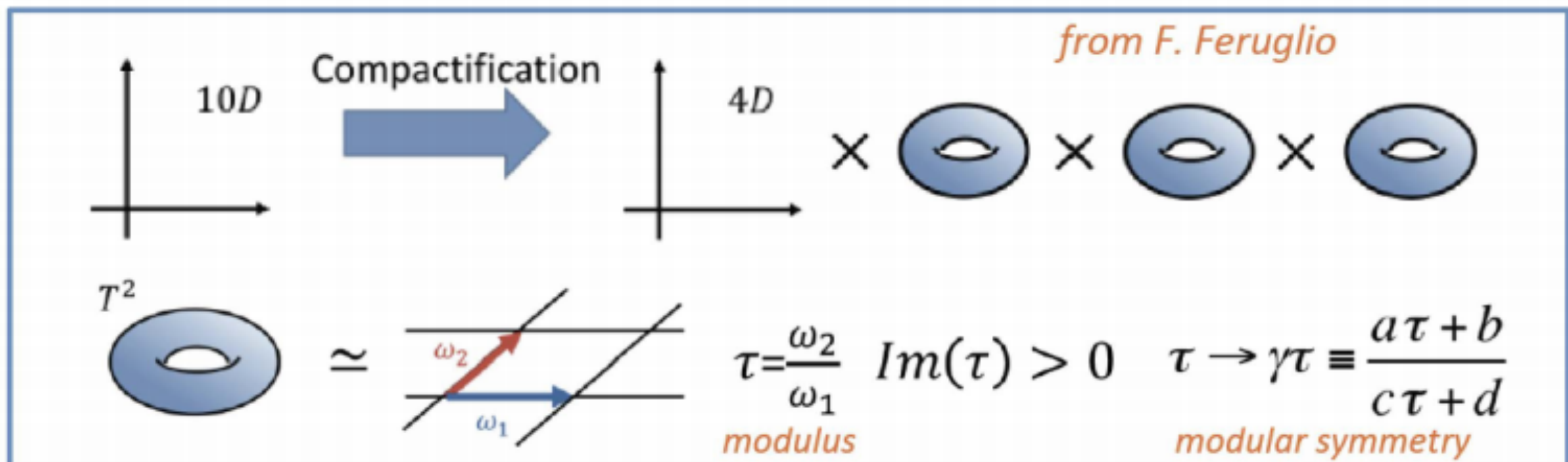
**Type I groups  $G_I$ :**  
 generic settings based on  $G_I$  do not allow for a physical CP transformation

**Type II A groups  $G_{II A}$ :**  
 there is a CP basis in which all CG's are real

**Type II B groups  $G_{II B}$ :**  
 there is no basis in which all CG's are real

# Modular Flavor Symmetries

- Extra dimensional origin of non-Abelian discrete symmetries
- Modular symmetry Altarelli, Feruglio (2005); Feruglio (2017), .....
  - Inspired by string theories
  - Imposing modular invariance  $Y = Y(\tau)$
  - Highly predictive models (relatively)



# A Toy Modular $A_4$ Model

Feruglio (2017)

- Weinberg Operator  $\mathcal{W}_\nu = \frac{1}{\Lambda} [(H_u \cdot L) Y (H_u \cdot L)]_1$

- Traditional  $A_4$  Flavor Symmetry

- Yukawa Coupling  $Y \rightarrow$  **Flavon VEVs** ( $A_4$  triplet, 6 real parameters)

$$Y \rightarrow \langle \phi \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow m_\nu = \frac{v_u^2}{\Lambda} \begin{pmatrix} 2a & -c & -b \\ -c & 2b & -a \\ -b & -a & 2c \end{pmatrix}$$

- Modular  $A_4$  Flavor Symmetry

- Yukawa Coupling  $Y \rightarrow$  **Modular Forms** ( $A_4$  triplet, 2 real parameters)

$$Y \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} Y_1(\tau) \\ Y_2(\tau) \\ Y_3(\tau) \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow m_\nu = \frac{v_u^2}{\Lambda} \begin{pmatrix} 2Y_1(\tau) & -Y_3(\tau) & -Y_2(\tau) \\ -Y_3(\tau) & 2Y_2(\tau) & -Y_1(\tau) \\ -Y_2(\tau) & -Y_1(\tau) & 2Y_3(\tau) \end{pmatrix}$$

# Modular Symmetry: Bottom-Up Meet Top-Down

- **Bottom-Up:**

- reducing the number of parameters: in extreme case, entire neutrino mass matrix controlled by  $\tau$

Feruglio (2017)

- Traditional flavor symmetries: corrections to kinetic terms generally sizable

Leurer, Nir, Seiberg ('93); Dudas, Pokorski, Savoy ('95);  
M.-C.C, M. Fallbacher, M. Ratz, C. Staudt (2012)

- corrections to kinetic terms can be under control

MCC, Knapp-Pérez, Ramos-Hamud, Ramos-Sánchez, Ratz, Shukla (2021)

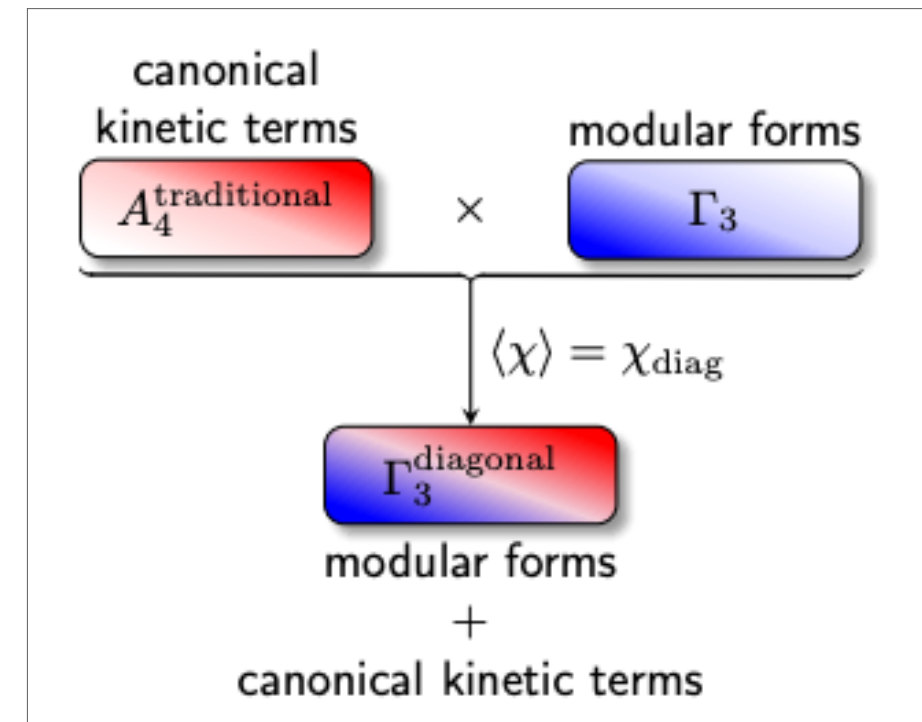
- **Top-Down:**

- Modular flavor symmetries from strings

e.g. Baur, Nilles, Trautner, Vaudrevange

- Modular Symmetries from magnetized tori

e.g. Almumin, MCC, Knapp-Pérez, Ramos-Sánchez, Ratz, Shukla (2021)



# Modular Invariance Beyond Neutrino Flavor

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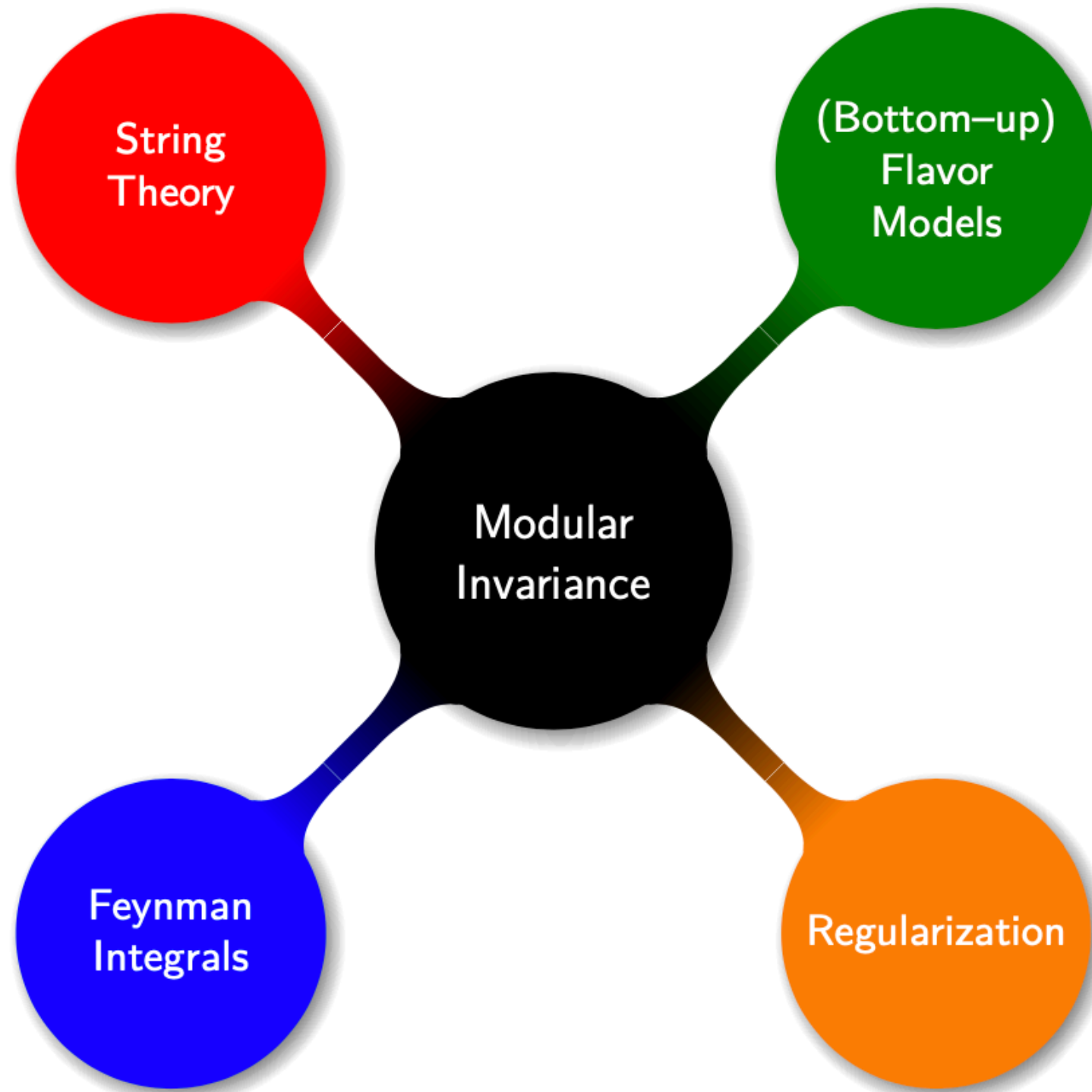
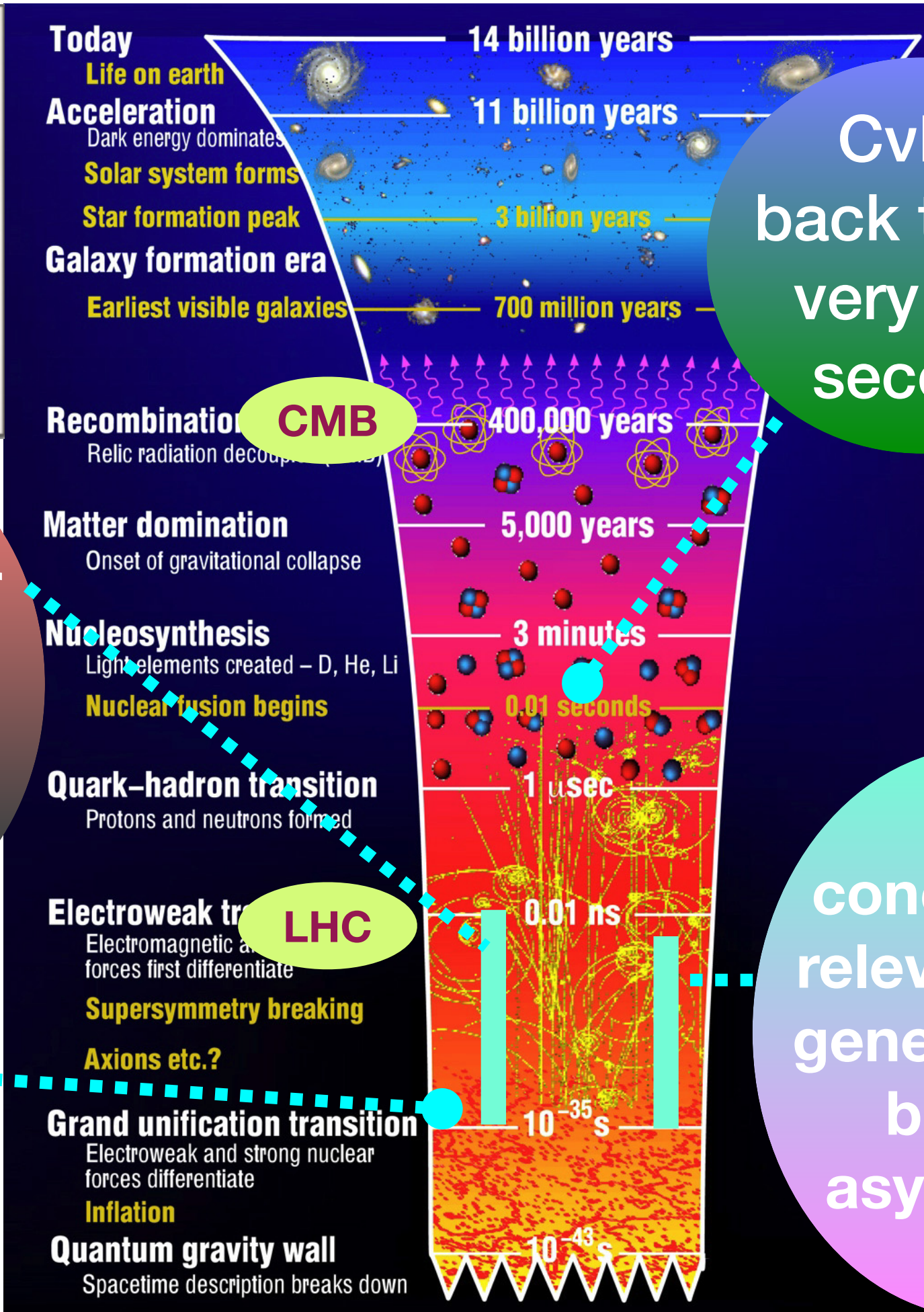


Figure credit: Michael Ratz





CvB -  
back to the  
very first  
second

operator for  
 $\nu$  mass  
generation  
unknown

unique  
window into  
GUT scale  
physics

conceivable  
relevance for  
generation of  
baryon  
asymmetry



# Outlook

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- Fundamental origin of fermion mass & mixing patterns still unknown
  - It took decades to understand the gauge sector of SM
- Uniqueness of Neutrino masses offers exciting opportunities to explore BSM Physics
  - Many NP frameworks; addressing other puzzles
  - Early Universe (leptogenesis, non-thermal relic neutrinos)
- New Tools/insights: examples of pheno relevance of formal theories
  - Non-Abelian Discrete Flavor Symmetries
    - Deep connection between outer automorphisms and CP
  - Modular Flavor Symmetries
    - Enhanced productivity of flavor models
    - Possible connection to string theories
- Diverse perspectives/approaches drive intellectual excellence