



Status of Neutrino Properties and Future Prospects – Cosmological and Astrophysical Constraints

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Cosmological observations are a powerful probe of neutrino properties, and in particular of their mass. In this review, we first discuss the role of neutrinos in shaping the cosmological evolution at both the background and perturbation level, and describe their effects on cosmological observables such as the cosmic microwave background and the distribution of matter at large scale. We then present the state of the art concerning the constraints on neutrino masses from those observables, and also review the prospects for future experiments. We also briefly discuss the prospects for determining the neutrino hierarchy from cosmology, the complementarity with laboratory experiments, and the constraints on neutrino properties beyond their mass.

Keywords: neutrinos, cosmic microwave background, large scale structure, cosmology, neutrino mass

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1. INTRODUCTION

Flavor oscillation experiments have by now firmly established that neutrinos have a mass. Current experiments measure with great accuracy the three mixing angles, as well as the two mass-squared splittings between the three active neutrinos. In the framework of the standard model (SM) of particle physics neutrinos are massless, and consequently do not mix, since it is not possible to build a mass term for them using the particle content of the SM. Therefore, flavor oscillations represent the only laboratory evidence for physics beyond the SM. Several unknowns in the neutrino sector still remain, confirming these particles as being the most elusive within the SM. In particular, the absolute scale of neutrino masses has yet to be determined. Moreover, the sign of the largest mass squared splitting, the one governing atmospheric transitions, is still unknown. This leaves open two possibilities for the neutrino mass ordering, corresponding to the two signs of the atmospheric splitting: the normal hierarchy, in which the atmospheric splitting is positive, and the inverted hierarchy, in which it is negative. Other unknowns are the value of a possible CP-violating phase in the neutrino mixing matrix, and the Dirac or Majorana nature of neutrinos.

There are different ways of measuring the absolute neutrino mass scale. One is to use kinematic effects, for example by measuring the energy spectrum of electrons produced in the β -decay of nuclei, looking for the distortions due to the finite neutrino mass. This approach has the advantage of being very robust and providing model-independent results, as it basically relies only on energy conservation. Present constraints on the effective mass of the electron neutrino m_β (an incoherent sum of the mass eigenvalues, weighted with the elements of the mixing matrix) are $m_\beta < 2.05$ eV from the Troitsk [1] experiment, and $m_\beta < 2.3$ eV from the Mainz [2] experiment, at the 95% CL. The KATRIN spectrometer [3], that will start its science run in 2018, is expected to improve the sensitivity by an order of magnitude. Another way to measure neutrino masses in the laboratory is to look for neutrinoless double β decay ($0\nu 2\beta$ in short) of

nuclei, a rare process that is allowed only if neutrinos are Majorana particles [4]. The prospects for detection of neutrino mass with $0\nu 2\beta$ searches are very promising: current constraints for the effective Majorana mass of the electron neutrino $m_{\beta\beta}$, a *coherent* sum of the mass eigenvalues, weighted with the elements of the mixing matrix, are in the $m_{\beta\beta} < 0.1 \div 0.4$ eV ballpark (see section 9 for more details). There are a few shortcomings, however. First of all, there is some amount of model dependence: one has to assume that neutrinos are Majorana particles to start, and even if this is, in some sense, a natural and very appealing scenario from the theoretical point of view—as it could explain the smallness of neutrino masses [5–9]—we have at the moment no indication that this is really the case. Moreover, inferring the neutrino mass from a (non-)observation of $0\nu 2\beta$ requires the implicit assumption that the mass mechanism is the only contribution to the amplitude of the process, i.e., that no other physics beyond the SM that violates lepton number is at play. Another issue is that the amplitude of the process also depends on nuclear matrix elements, that are known only with limited accuracy, introducing an additional layer of uncertainty in the interpretation of experimental results. Finally, given that $m_{\beta\beta}$ is a coherent superposition of the mass eigenvalues, it could be that the values of the Majorana phases arrange to make $m_{\beta\beta}$ vanishingly small.

The third avenue to measure neutrino masses, and in fact the topic of this review, is to use cosmological observations. As we shall discuss in more detail in the following, the presence of a cosmic background of relic neutrinos (CνB) is a robust prediction of the standard cosmological model [10]. Even though a direct detection is extremely difficult and still lacking, (but experiments aiming at this are currently under development, like the PTOLEMY experiment [11]), nevertheless cosmological observations are in agreement with this prediction. The relic neutrinos affect the cosmological evolution, both at the background and perturbation level, so that cosmological observables can be used to constrain the neutrino properties, and in particular their mass (see e.g., [10, 12, 13] for excellent reviews on this topic). In fact, cosmology currently represents the most sensitive probe of neutrino masses. The observations of cosmic microwave background (CMB) anisotropies from the Planck satellite, without the addition of any external data, constrain the sum of neutrino masses already at the 0.6 eV level [14], which is basically the same as the KATRIN sensitivity. Combinations of different datasets yield even stronger limits, at the same level or better than the ones from $0\nu 2\beta$ searches, although a direct comparison is not immediate, due to the fact that different quantities are probed, and also due to the theoretical assumptions involved in the interpretation of both kinds of data. Future-generation experiments will likely have the capability to detect neutrino masses, and to disentangle the hierarchy, provided that systematics effects can be kept under control—and that our theoretical understanding of the Universe is correct, of course! Concerning this last point, the drawback of cosmological measurements of neutrino mass and other properties, is that they are somehow model dependent. Inferences from cosmological observations are made in the framework of a model—the so-called Λ CDM model—, and of its

simple extensions, that currently represents our best and simple description of the Universe that is compatible with observations. This model is based on General Relativity (with the assumption of a homogeneous and isotropic Universe at large scales) and on the SM of particle physics, with the addition of massive neutrinos, complemented with a mechanism for the generation of primordial perturbations, i.e., the inflationary paradigm. When cosmological data are interpreted in this framework, they point to the following picture: our Universe is spatially flat and is presently composed by baryons ($\sim 5\%$ of the total density), dark matter ($\sim 25\%$), and an even more elusive component called dark energy ($\sim 70\%$), that behaves like a cosmological constant, and is responsible for the present accelerated expansion, plus photons (a few parts in 10^5) and light neutrinos. The constraints from Planck cited above imply that, in the framework of the Λ CDM model, neutrinos can contribute 1% to the present energy density at most. The structures that we observe today have evolved from adiabatic, nearly scale-invariant initial conditions. Even though this model is very successful, barring some intriguing but for the moment still mild (at the $\sim 2\sigma$ level) discrepancies between observational probes, this dependence should be borne in mind. On the other hand, such a healthy approach should not, in our opinion, be substituted with its contrary, i.e., a complete distrust toward cosmological constraints. A pragmatic approach to this problem is to test the robustness of our inferences concerning neutrino properties against different assumptions, by exploring extensions of the Λ CDM model. This has been in fact done quite extensively in the literature, and we will take care, toward the end of the review, to report results obtained in extended models.

Another advantage of cosmological observations is that they are able to probe neutrino properties beyond their mass. A well-known example is the effective number of neutrinos, basically a measure of the energy density in relativistic species in the early Universe, that is a powerful probe of a wide range of beyond the SM model physics (in fact, not necessarily related to neutrinos). For example, it could probe the existence of an additional, light sterile mass eigenstate, as well as the physics of neutrino decoupling, or the presence of lepton asymmetries generated in the early Universe. Cosmology can also be used to constrain the existence of non-standard neutrino interactions, possibly related to the mechanism of mass generation. Even though they are not the focus of this review, we will briefly touch some of these aspects in the final sections of the review.

Cosmological data have reached a very good level of maturity over the last decades. Measurements of the CMB anisotropies from the Planck satellite have put the tightest constraints ever on cosmological parameters from a single experiment [14], dramatically improving the constraints from the predecessor satellite WMAP [15]. From the ground, the Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) polarization-sensitive receiver and the South Pole Telescope (SPT) have been measuring with incredible accuracy CMB anisotropies at the smallest scales in temperature and polarization [16, 17]. At degree and sub-degree scales, the BICEP/Keck collaboration [18, 19] and the POLARBEAR telescope [20] are looking at the faint CMB “B-mode” signal, containing information about both the early stages of the Universe (*primordial* B-modes) and the late time

evolution (*lensing* B-modes). The Cosmology Large Angular Scale Surveyor (CLASS) [21] is working at mapping the CMB polarization field over 70% of the sky. The SPIDER balloon [22] successfully completed its first flight and is in preparation for the second launch likely at the end of 2018. In addition to CMB data, complementary information can be obtained by looking at the large-scale structure of the Universe. The SDSS III-BOSS galaxy survey has recently released its last season of data [23]. Extended catalogs of galaxy clusters have been completed from several surveys (see e.g., [24] and references therein). In addition, weak lensing surveys (Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Lensing Survey [25], Kilo-Degree Survey [26], Dark Energy Survey [27]) are mature enough to provide constraints on cosmological parameters that are competitive with those from other observables. They also allow to test the validity of the standard cosmological paradigm by comparing results obtained from high-redshift observables to those coming from measurements of the low-redshift universe.

The current scenario is just a taste of the constraining power of cosmological observables that will be available with the next generation of experiments, that will be taking measurements in the next decade. Future CMB missions—including Advanced ACTPol [28], SPT-3G [29], CMB Stage-IV [30], Simons Observatory¹, Simons Array [31], CORE [32], LiteBIRD [33], PIXIE [34]—will test the Universe over a wide range of scales with unprecedented accuracy. The same accuracy will enable the reconstruction of the weak lensing signal from the CMB maps down to the smallest scales and with high sensitivity, providing an additional probe of the distribution and evolution of structures in the universe. On the other hand, the new generation of large-scale-structure surveys—including the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument [35], the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope [36], Euclid [37], and the Wide Frequency InfraRed Spectroscopic Telescope [38]—will also probe the late-time universe with the ultimate goal of shedding light on the biggest unknown of our times, namely the nature of dark energy and dark matter.

The aim of this review is to provide the state of the art of the current knowledge of neutrino masses from cosmological probes and give an overview of future prospects. The review is organized as follows: in section 2, we outline the framework of this review, introducing some useful notation and briefly reviewing the basics of neutrino cosmology. Section 3 is devoted to discussing, from a broad perspective, cosmological effects induced by massive neutrinos. In section 4, we will describe in detail how the effects introduced in section 3 affect cosmological observables, such as the CMB anisotropies, large-scale structures and cosmological distances. Sections 5 and 6 present a detailed collection of the current and future limits on Σm_ν from the measurements of the cosmological observables discussed in section 4, mostly derived in the context of the Λ CDM cosmological model. Constraints derived in more extended scenarios are summarized in section 7. Section 8 briefly deals with the issue of whether cosmological probes are able to provide information not only on Σm_ν , but also on its distribution among the mass eigenstates, i.e., about

the neutrino hierarchy. In section 9, we will briefly go through the complementarity between cosmology and laboratory searches in the quest for constraining neutrino properties. Finally, section 10 offers a summary of the additional information about neutrino properties beyond their mass scale that we can extract from cosmological observables. We derive our conclusions in section 11. The impatient reader can access the summary of current and future limits from **Tables 1–4**.

2. NOTATION AND PRELIMINARIES

2.1. Basic Equations

Inferences from cosmological observations are made under the assumption that the Universe is homogeneous and isotropic, and as such it is well-described, in the context of general relativity, by a Friedmann-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker (FLRW) metric. Small deviations from homogeneity and isotropy are modeled as perturbations over of a FLRW background.

In a FLRW Universe, expansion is described by the Friedmann equation² for the Hubble parameter H :

$$H(a)^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \rho(a) - \frac{K}{a^2}, \quad (1)$$

where G is the gravitational constant, K parameterizes the spatial curvature³, a is the cosmic scale factor and the ρ is the total energy density. This is given by the sum of the energy densities of the various components of the cosmic fluid.

Considering cold dark matter (c), baryons (b), photons (γ), dark energy (DE), and massive neutrinos (ν), and introducing the redshift $1+z = a^{-1}$, the Friedmann equation can be recast as:

$$H(z)^2 = H_0^2 \left[(\Omega_c + \Omega_b) (1+z)^3 + \Omega_\gamma (1+z)^4 + \Omega_{DE} (1+z)^{3(1+w)} + \Omega_k (1+z)^2 + \frac{\rho_{\nu, \text{tot}}(z)}{\rho_{\text{crit},0}} \right], \quad (2)$$

where we have introduced the present value of the critical density required for flat spatial geometry $\rho_{\text{crit},0} \equiv 3H_0^2/8\pi G$ (in general, we use a subscript 0 to denote quantities evaluated today), and the present-day density parameters $\Omega_i = \rho_{i,0}/\rho_{\text{crit},0}$ (since we will be always referring to the density parameters today, we omit the subscript 0 in this case). The scalings with $(1+z)$ come from the fact that the energy densities of non-relativistic matter and radiation scale with a^{-3} and a^{-4} , respectively. For DE, in writing Equation (2) we have left open the possibility for an arbitrary (albeit constant) equation-of-state parameter w . In the case of neutrinos, since the parameter of their equation of state is not constant, we could not write a simple scaling with redshift, although this is possible in limiting regimes (see section 2.5). We use $\rho_{\nu, \text{tot}}$ to denote the total neutrino density, i.e., summed over all mass eigenstates. Finally, we have defined a “curvature density

²All throughout this review, we take $c = \hbar = k_B = 1$.

³We choose not to rescale K to make it equal to ± 1 for an open or closed Universe, so that we are left with the freedom to rescale the scale factor today a_0 to unity.

¹<https://simonsobservatory.org>

parameter” $\Omega_k = -K/H_0^2$. From Equation (2) evaluated at $z = 0$ it is clear that the density parameters, including curvature, satisfy the constrain $\sum_i \Omega_i = 1$.

Let us also introduce some extra notation and jargon that will be useful in the following. We will use Ω_m to refer to the total density of non-relativistic matter today. Thus, this in general includes dark matter, baryons, and those neutrinos species that are heavy enough to be non-relativistic today. In such a way we have that $\Omega_m + \Omega_{DE} = 1$ in a flat Universe (or $\Omega_m + \Omega_{DE} = 1 - \Omega_k$ in general), since the present density of photons and other relativistic species is negligible. Since many times we will have to consider the density of matter that is non-relativistic at all the redshifts that are probed by cosmological observables, i.e., dark matter and baryons but not neutrinos, we also introduce Ω_{c+b} , with obvious meaning. When we consider dark energy in the form of a cosmological constant ($w = -1$) we use Ω_Λ in place of Ω_{DE} to make this fact clear. Finally, we also use the physical density parameters $\omega_i \equiv \Omega_i h^2$, with h being the present value of the Hubble parameter in units of $100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

As we shall discuss in more detail in the following, cosmological observables often carry the imprint of particular length scales, related to specific physical effects. For this reason we recall some definitions that will be useful in the following. The *causal horizon* r_h at time t is defined as the distance traveled by a photon from the Big Bang ($t = 0$) until time t . This is given by:

$$r_h(t) = \int_0^t \frac{dt'}{a(t')} = \int_{z(t)}^\infty \frac{dz'}{H(z')}. \quad (3)$$

Note that this is actually the *comoving* causal horizon; in the following, unless otherwise noted, we will always use comoving distances. We also note that the comoving horizon is equal to the conformal time $\eta(t)$ (defined through $dt = a d\eta$ and $\eta(t = 0) = 0$). In a Friedmann Universe (i.e., one composed only by matter and radiation), the physical causal horizon is proportional, by a factor of order unity, to the Hubble length $d_H(t) \equiv H(t)^{-1}$. For this reason, we shall sometimes indulge in the habit of calling the latter the Hubble horizon, even though this is, technically, a misnomer.

A related quantity is the sound horizon $r_s(t)$, i.e., the distance traveled in a certain time by an acoustic wave in the baryon-photon plasma. The expression for r_s is very similar to the one for the causal horizon, just with the speed of light (equal to 1 in our units) replaced by the speed of sound c_s in the plasma:

$$r_s(t) = \int_0^t \frac{c_s(t')}{a(t')} dt' = \int_{z(t)}^\infty \frac{c_s(z')}{H(z')} dz'. \quad (4)$$

The speed of sound is given by $c_s = 1/\sqrt{3(1+R)}$, with $R = (p_b + \rho_b)/(p_\gamma + \rho_\gamma)$ being the baryon-to-photon momentum density ratio. When the baryon density is negligible relative to the photons, $c_s \simeq 1/\sqrt{3}$ and $r_s \simeq r_h/\sqrt{3} = \eta/\sqrt{3}$.

Imprints on the cosmological observables of several physical processes usually depend on the value of those scales at some particular time. For example, the spacing of acoustic peaks in the CMB spectrum is reminiscent of the sound horizon at the time of hydrogen recombination; the suppression of small-scale

matter fluctuations due to neutrino free-streaming is set by the causal horizon at the time neutrinos become non-relativistic; and so on. Moreover, since today we see those scales through their projection on the sky, what we observe is actually a combination of the scale itself and the distance to the object that we are observing. We find then useful also to recall some notions related to cosmological distances. The comoving distance χ between us and an object at redshift z is

$$\chi(z) = \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{H(z')}, \quad (5)$$

and this is also equal to $\eta_0 - \eta(z)$. The comoving angular diameter distance $d_A(z)$ is given by

$$d_A(z) = \frac{\sin(\sqrt{K}\chi)}{\sqrt{K}}, \quad (6)$$

so that

$$d_A(z) = \chi(z) = \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{H(z')} \quad \text{for } \Omega_k = 0. \quad (7)$$

The angular size θ of an object is related to its comoving linear size λ through $\theta = \lambda/d_A(z)$. This justifies the definition of an object of known linear size as a *standard ruler* for cosmology. In fact, knowing λ , we can use a measure of θ to get d_A and make inferences on the cosmological parameters that determine its value through the integral in Equation (6).

Another measure of distance is given by the luminosity distance $d_L(z)$, that relates the observed flux F to the intrinsic luminosity L of an object at redshift z :

$$d_L(z) \equiv \sqrt{\frac{L}{4\pi F}} = (1+z)d_A(z). \quad (8)$$

Similarly to what happened for the angular diameter distance, this allows to use *standard candles*—objects of known intrinsic luminosity—as a mean to infer the values of cosmological parameters, after their flux has been measured.

2.2. Neutrino Mass Parameters

According to the standard theory of neutrino oscillations, the observed neutrino flavors ν_α ($\alpha = e, \mu, \tau$) are quantum superpositions of three mass eigenstates ν_i ($i = 1, 2, 3$):

$$|\nu_\alpha\rangle = \sum_i U_{\alpha i}^* |\nu_i\rangle, \quad (9)$$

where U is the Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sasaka (PMNS) mixing matrix. The PMNS matrix is parameterized by three mixing angles $\theta_{12}, \theta_{13}, \theta_{23}$, and three CP-violating phases: one Dirac, δ , and two Majorana phases, α_{21} and α_{31} . The Majorana phases are non-zero only if neutrinos are Majorana particles. They do not affect oscillation phenomena, but enter lepton

number-violating processes like $0\nu 2\beta$ decay. The actual form of the PMNS matrix is:

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{bmatrix} \times \text{diag}(1, e^{i\alpha_{21}/2}, e^{i\alpha_{31}/2}), \quad (10)$$

where $c_{ij} \equiv \cos \theta_{ij}$ and $s_{ij} \equiv \sin \theta_{ij}$.

In addition to the elements of the mixing matrix, the other parameters of the neutrino sector are the mass eigenvalues m_i ($i = 1, 2, 3$). Oscillation experiments have measured with unprecedented accuracy the three mixing angles and the two mass squared differences relevant for the solar and atmospheric transitions, namely the solar splitting $\Delta m_{\text{sol}}^2 = \Delta m_{21}^2 \equiv m_2^2 - m_1^2 \simeq 7.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$, and the atmospheric splitting $\Delta m_{\text{atm}}^2 = |\Delta m_{31}^2| \equiv |m_3^2 - m_1^2| \simeq 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ (see e.g., [39–41] for a global fit of the neutrino mixing parameters and mass splittings). We know, because of matter effects in the Sun, that, of the two eigenstates involved, the one with the smaller mass has the largest electron fraction. By convention, we identify this with eigenstate “1,” so that the solar splitting is positive. On the other hand, we do not know the sign of the atmospheric mass splitting, so this leaves open two possibilities: the normal hierarchy (NH), where $\Delta m_{31}^2 > 0$ and $m_1 < m_2 < m_3$, or the inverted hierarchy, where $\Delta m_{31}^2 < 0$ and $m_3 < m_1 < m_2$.

Oscillation experiments are unfortunately insensitive to the absolute scale of neutrino masses. In this review, we will mainly focus on cosmological observations as a probe of the absolute neutrino mass scale. To a very good approximation, cosmological observables are mainly sensitive to the sum of neutrino masses Σm_ν , defined simply as

$$\Sigma m_\nu \equiv \sum_i m_i. \quad (11)$$

Absolute neutrino masses can also be probed by laboratory experiments. These will be reviewed in more detail in section 9, where their complementarity with cosmology will be also discussed. For the moment, we just recall the definition of the mass parameters probed by laboratory experiments. The effective (electron) neutrino mass m_β

$$m_\beta = \left(\sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2 \right)^{1/2}, \quad (12)$$

can be constrained by kinematic measurements like those exploiting the β decay of nuclei. The effective Majorana mass of the electron neutrino $m_{\beta\beta}$:

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|, \quad (13)$$

can instead be probed by searching for $0\nu 2\beta$ decay.

2.3. The Standard Cosmological Model

Our best description of the Universe is currently provided by the spatially flat Λ CDM model with adiabatic, nearly scale-invariant initial conditions for scalar perturbations. With the exception of some mild (at the $\sim 2\sigma$ level) discrepancies that will be discussed in the part devoted to observational limits, all the available data can be fit in this model, that in its simplest (“base”) version is described by just six parameters. In the base Λ CDM model, the Universe is spatially flat ($\Omega_k = 0$), and the matter and radiation content is provided by cold dark matter, baryons, photons, and neutrinos, while dark energy is in the form of a cosmological constant ($w = -1$). The energy density of photons is fixed by measurements of the CMB temperature, while neutrinos are assumed to be very light, usually fixing the sum of the masses to $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06 \text{ eV}$, the minimum value allowed by oscillation experiments. In this way, the energy density of neutrinos is also fixed at all stages of the cosmological evolution (see section 2.5). From Equation (2), and taking into account the flatness constraint, it is clear then that the background evolution in such a model is described by three parameters, for example⁴ h , ω_c , and ω_b , with Ω_Λ given by $1 - \Omega_m$. The initial scalar fluctuations are adiabatic and have a power-law, nearly scale invariant, spectrum, that is thus parameterized by two parameters, an amplitude A_s and a logarithmic slope $n_s - 1$ (with $n_s = 1$ thus corresponding to scale invariance). Finally, the optical depth to reionization τ parameterizes the ionization history of the Universe.

This simple, yet very successful, model can be extended in several ways. The extension that we will be most interested in, given the topic of this review, is a one-parameter extension in which the sum of neutrino masses is considered as a free parameter. We call this seven-parameter model Λ CDM+ Σm_ν . This is also in some sense the best-motivated extension of Λ CDM, as we actually know from oscillation experiments that neutrinos have a mass, and from β -decay experiments that this can be as large as 2 eV. In addition to this minimal extension, we will also discuss how relaxing some of the assumptions of the Λ CDM model affects estimates of the neutrino mass. Among the possibilities that we will consider, there are those of varying the curvature (Ω_k), the equation-of-state parameter of dark energy (w), or the density of radiation in the early Universe (N_{eff} , defined in section 2.5).

There are many relevant extensions to the Λ CDM model that however we will not consider here (or just mention briefly). The most important one concerns the possibility of non-vanishing tensor perturbations, i.e., primordial gravitational waves, that, if detected, would provide a smoking gun for inflation. This scenario is parameterized through an additional parameter, the tensor-to-scalar ratio r . In the following, we will always assume $r = 0$. In any case, this assumption will not affect the estimates reported here, as the effect of finite neutrino mass and of tensor modes on the cosmological observables are quite distinct. Similarly, we will not consider the possibility of non-adiabatic

⁴In the analysis of CMB data, the angle subtended by the sound horizon at recombination is normally used in place of h , as it is measured directly by CMB observations, see section 4.1.

initial perturbations, nor of more complicated initial spectra for the scalar perturbations, including those with a possible running of the scalar spectral index, although we report a compilation of relevant references in section 7 for the reader's convenience.

2.4. Short Thermal History

Given that cosmological observables carry the imprint of different epochs in the history of the Universe, we find it useful to shortly recall some relevant events taking place during the expansion history, and their relation to the cosmological parameters. For our purposes, it is enough to start when the temperature of the Universe was $T \sim 1$ MeV, i.e., around the time of Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN) and neutrino decoupling. At these early times ($z \sim 10^{10}$), since matter and radiation densities scale as $(1+z)^3$ and $(1+z)^4$, respectively, the Universe is radiation-dominated.

- At $T \sim 1$ MeV ($z \sim 10^{10}$), the active neutrinos decouple from the rest of the cosmological plasma. Before this time, neutrinos were kept in equilibrium by weak interactions with electrons and positrons, that were in turn coupled electromagnetically to the photon bath. After this time, the neutrino mean free path becomes much larger than the Hubble length, so they essentially move along geodesics, i.e., they free-stream. Shortly after neutrino decouple, electrons and positrons in the Universe annihilate, heating the photon-electron-baryon plasma, and, to a much lesser extent, the neutrino themselves (in section 2.5 we shall discuss in more detail the neutrino thermal history). After this time, the Universe can essentially be thought as composed of photons, electrons, protons and neutrons (either free, or, after BBN, bound together into the light nuclei), neutrinos, dark matter, and dark energy.
- Soon after, at $T \sim 0.1$ MeV, primordial nucleosynthesis starts, and nuclear reactions bind nucleons into light nuclei. After this time, nearly all of the baryons in the Universe are in the form of ^1H and ^4He nuclei, with small traces of ^2H and ^7Li . The yields of light elements strongly depend on the density of baryons, on the density and energy spectrum of electron neutrinos and antineutrinos (as those set the equilibrium of the nuclear reactions) and on the total radiation density (as this sets the expansion rate at the time of nucleosynthesis).
- As said above, at early times (high z) the Universe is radiation-dominated, given that the radiation-to-matter density ratio like $(1+z)$. However, the radiation density decreases faster than that of matter, and, at some redshift z_{eq} , the matter and radiation contents of the Universe will be equal: $\rho_m(z_{\text{eq}}) = \rho_r(z_{\text{eq}})$. This is called the epoch of matter-radiation equality, that marks the beginning of the matter-dominated era in the history of the Universe. From the scaling of the two densities, it is easy to see that $1+z_{\text{eq}} = \Omega_m/(\Omega_\gamma + \Omega_\nu)$ in a Universe with massless neutrinos (so that their density always scale as $(1+z)^4$; see section 2.5 for further discussion on this point). Given the current estimates of cosmological parameters, $z_{\text{eq}} \simeq 3,400$ [14].
- At $T \simeq 0.3$ eV, electrons and nuclei combine to form neutral hydrogen and helium, that are transparent to radiation. This recombination epoch thus roughly corresponds to the time of

decoupling of radiation from matter. This is the time at which the CMB radiation is emitted. After decoupling, the CMB photons undergo last interactions with residual free electrons. Finally, the CMB photons emerge from this last scattering surface and free-stream until the present time (with some caveats, see below). Most of the features that we observe in the CMB anisotropy pattern are created at this time. Given the current estimates of cosmological parameters, $z_{\text{rec}} \simeq 1,090$ [14]. Note that in fact the temperature at recombination is basically fixed by thermodynamics, so once the present CMB temperature is determined through observations, $z_{\text{rec}} = T(z = z_{\text{rec}})/T(z = 0)$ depends very weakly on the other cosmological parameters.

- Even if photons decoupled from matter shortly after recombination, the large photon-to-baryon ratio keeps baryons coupled to the photon bath for some time after that. The drag epoch z_{drag} is the time at which baryons stop feeling the photon drag. A good fit to numerical results in a Λ CDM cosmology is given by Eisenstein and Hu [42]

$$z_{\text{drag}} = 1,291 \frac{(\omega_c + \omega_b)^{0.251}}{1 + 0.659(\omega_c + \omega_b)^{0.828}} [1 + b_1(\omega_c + \omega_b)^{b_2}],$$

$$b_1 = 0.313(\omega_c + \omega_b)^{-0.419} [1 + 0.607(\omega_c + \omega_b)^{0.674}],$$

$$b_2 = 0.238(\omega_c + \omega_b)^{0.223} \quad (14)$$

Given the current estimates of cosmological parameters, $z_{\text{drag}} \simeq 1,060$ [14].

- For a long time after recombination, the Universe stays transparent to radiation. These are the so-called “dark ages.” However, in the late history of the Universe, the neutral hydrogen gets ionized again due to UV emission of the first stars, that puts an end to the dark ages. This is called the reionization epoch. After reionization, the CMB photons are scattered again by the free electrons. Given the current estimates of cosmological parameters, $z_{\text{re}} \simeq 8$ [43].
- At some point during the recent history of the Universe, that we denote with z_Λ , the energy content of the Universe starts to be dominated by the dark energy component. The end of matter domination, and the beginning of this DE domination is set by $\rho_{DE}(z_\Lambda) = \rho_m(z_\Lambda)$. For a cosmological constant ($w = -1$), $1 + z_\Lambda = (\Omega_\Lambda/\Omega_m)^{1/3}$. Given the current estimates of cosmological parameters, $z_\Lambda \simeq 0.3$ [14]. Around this time, the cosmological expansion becomes accelerated.

2.5. Evolution of Cosmic Neutrinos

In this section, we discuss the thermal history of cosmic neutrinos.

As anticipated above, in the early Universe neutrinos are kept in equilibrium with the cosmological plasma by weak interactions. The two competing factors that determine if equilibrium holds are the expansion rate, given by the Hubble parameter $H(z)$, and the interaction rate $\Gamma(z) = n\langle\sigma v\rangle$, where n is the number density of particles, σ is the interaction cross section, and v is the velocity of particles (brackets indicate a thermal average). In fact, neutrino interactions become too weak to keep them in equilibrium once $\Gamma < H$. The left-hand

side of this inequality is set by the standard model of particle physics, as the interaction rate at a given temperature only depends on the cross-section for weak interactions, and thus, ultimately, on the value of the Fermi constant ($\sigma_w \sim G_F^2 T^2$). The right-hand side is instead set through Equation (2) by the total radiation density (the only relevant component at such early times): $H^2 = (8\pi G/3)(\rho_\gamma + \rho_\nu)$. In the framework of the minimal Λ CDM model, once the present CMB temperature is measured, the radiation density at any given temperature is fixed. Thus the temperature of neutrino decoupling, defined through $\Gamma(T_{\nu,\text{dec}}) = H(T_{\nu,\text{dec}})$ does not depend on any free parameter in the theory. A quite straightforward calculation shows that $T_{\nu,\text{dec}} \simeq 1 \text{ MeV}$ [44].

While they are in equilibrium, the phase-space distribution $f(p)$ of neutrinos is a Fermi-Dirac distribution⁵:

$$f(p, t) = \frac{1}{e^{p/T_\nu(t)} + 1}, \tag{15}$$

where it has been taken into account that at $T \gtrsim 1 \text{ MeV}$, the active neutrinos are certainly ultrarelativistic (i.e., $T_\nu \gg m_\nu$) and thus $E(p) \simeq p$. The distribution does not depend on the spatial coordinate \vec{x} , nor on the direction of momentum \hat{p} , due to the homogeneity and isotropy of the Universe. Before decoupling, the neutrino temperature T_ν is the common temperature of all the species in the cosmological plasma, that we denote generically with T , so that $T_\nu = T$. We recall that the temperature of the plasma evolves according to $g_{*s}^{1/3} aT = \text{const.}$, where g_{*s} counts the effective number of relativistic degrees of freedom that are relevant for entropy [44].

Since decoupling happens while neutrinos are ultrarelativistic, it can be shown that, as a consequence of the Liouville theorem, the shape of the distribution function is preserved by the expansion. In other words, the distribution function still has the form Equation (15), with an effective temperature $T_\nu(z)$ (that for the sake of simplicity we will continue to refer to as the neutrino temperature) that scales like a^{-1} (i.e., $aT = \text{const.}$). We stress that this means that, when computing integrals over the distribution function, one still neglects the mass term in the exponential of the Fermi-Dirac function, even at times when neutrinos are actually non-relativistic.

Shortly after neutrino decouple, electrons and positrons annihilate and transfer their entropy to the rest of the plasma, but not to neutrinos. In other words, while the neutrino temperature scales like a^{-1} , the photon temperature scales like $a^{-1} g_{*s}^{-1/3}$, and thus decreases slightly more slowly during e^+e^- annihilation, when g_{*s} is decreasing. In fact, applying entropy conservation one finds that the ratio between the neutrino and photon temperatures after electron-positron annihilation is $T_\nu/T = (4/11)^{1/3}$. The photon temperature has been precisely determined by measuring the frequency spectrum of the CMB radiation: $T_0 = (2.725 \pm 0.002) \text{ K}$ [45, 46], so that the present temperature of relic neutrinos should be $T_{\nu,0} \simeq 1.95 \text{ K} \simeq 1.68 \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV}$.

⁵We are assuming a vanishing chemical potential for neutrinos and antineutrinos, i.e., a vanishing lepton asymmetry.

The number density n_ν of a single neutrino species (including both neutrinos and their antiparticles) is thus given by:

$$n_\nu(T_\nu) = \frac{g}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{d^3p}{e^{p/T_\nu} + 1} = \frac{3\zeta(3)}{4\pi^2} T_\nu^3, \tag{16}$$

where $\zeta(3)$ is the Riemann zeta function of 3, and in the last equality we have taken into account that $g = 2$ for neutrinos. This corresponds to a present-day density of roughly $113 \text{ particles/cm}^3$.

The energy density of a single neutrino species is instead

$$\rho_\nu(T_\nu) = \frac{g}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}}{e^{p/T_\nu} + 1} d^3p. \tag{17}$$

This is the quantity that appears, among other things, in the right-hand side of the Friedmann equation (summed over all mass eigenstates). In the ultrarelativistic ($T_\nu \gg m$) and non-relativistic ($T_\nu \ll m$) limits, the energy density takes simple analytic forms:

$$\rho_\nu(T_\nu) = \begin{cases} \frac{7\pi^2}{120} T_\nu^4 & \text{(UR)} \\ m_\nu n_\nu & \text{(NR)} \end{cases} \tag{18}$$

These scalings are consistent with the fact that one expects neutrinos to behave as pressureless matter, $\rho_\nu \propto (1+z)^3$, in the non-relativistic regime, and as radiation, $\rho_\nu \propto (1+z)^4$, in the ultrarelativistic regime.

Given that the present-day neutrino temperature is fixed by measurements of the CMB temperature and by considerations of entropy conservation, it is clear from the above formulas how the present energy density of neutrinos depends only on one free parameter, namely the sum of neutrino masses Σm_ν defined in Equation (11). Introducing the total density parameter of massive neutrinos $\Omega_\nu \equiv \sum_i \rho_{\nu_i,0}/\rho_{\text{crit},0}$, one easily finds from Equation (16):

$$\Omega_\nu h^2 = \frac{\Sigma m_\nu}{93.14 \text{ eV}}. \tag{19}$$

where we have already included the effects of non-instantaneous neutrino decoupling, see below. In the instantaneous decoupling approximation, the quantity at denominator would be 94.2 eV .

On the other hand, the neutrino energy density in the early Universe only depends on the neutrino temperature, and thus it is completely fixed in the framework of the Λ CDM model. Using the fact that for photons $\rho_\gamma = (\pi^2/15)T^4$, together with the relationship between the photon and neutrino temperatures, one can write for the total density in relativistic species in the early Universe, after e^+e^- annihilation:

$$\rho_{\gamma+\nu} = \rho_\gamma \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} N_\nu \right], \tag{20}$$

where N_ν is the number of neutrino families. In the framework of the standard model of particle physics, considering the active neutrinos, one has $N_\nu = 3$. However, the above formula slightly

underestimates the total density at early times; the main reason is that neutrinos are still weakly coupled to the plasma when e^+e^- annihilation occurs, so that they share a small part of the entropy transfer. Moreover, finite temperature QED radiative corrections and flavor oscillations also play a role. This introduces non-thermal distortions at the subpercent level in the neutrino energy spectrum; the integrated effect is that at early times the combined energy densities of the three neutrino species are not exactly equal to $3\rho_\nu$, with ρ_ν given by the upper row of Equation (18), but instead are given by $(3.046\rho_\nu)$ [12, 47]. A recent improved calculation, including the full collision integrals for both the diagonal and off-diagonal elements of the neutrino density matrix, has refined this value to $(3.045\rho_\nu)$ [48]. It is then customary to introduce an effective number of neutrino families N_{eff} and rewrite the energy density at early times as:

$$\rho_{\gamma+\nu} = \rho_\gamma \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} N_{\text{eff}} \right]. \tag{21}$$

In this review, we will consider $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046$ as the “standard” value of this parameter in the Λ CDM model, and not the more precise value found in de Salas and Pastor [48], since most of the literature still makes use of the former value. This does not make any difference, however, from the practical point of view, given the sensitivity of present and next-generation instruments.

It is also customary to consider extensions of the minimal Λ CDM model in which one allows for the presence of additional light species in the early Universe (“dark radiation”). In this kind of extension, the total radiation density of the Universe is still given by the right-hand side of Equation (21), where now however N_{eff} has become a free parameter. In other words, Equation (21) becomes a *definition* for N_{eff} , that is, just a way to express the total energy density in radiation. The effect on the expansion history of this additional radiation component can be taken into account by the substitution

$$\Omega_\gamma \rightarrow \Omega_\gamma \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} \Delta N_{\text{eff}} \right] \tag{22}$$

in the rhs of the Hubble equation (2), with $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \equiv N_{\text{eff}} - 3.046$. Note that this substitution fully captures the effect of the additional species only if this is exactly massless, and not just very light (as in the case of a light massive sterile neutrino, for example—see section 10).

It is often useful, to understand some of the effects that we will discuss in the following, to have a feeling for the time at which neutrinos of a given mass become non-relativistic, or, thinking the other way around, for the mass of a neutrino that becomes non-relativistic at a given redshift. The average momentum of neutrinos at a temperature T_ν is $\langle p \rangle = 3.15T_\nu$. We take as the moment of transition from the relativistic to the non-relativistic regime the time when $\langle p \rangle = m_\nu$. Then, using the fact that $T_\nu(z) = (4/11)^{1/3} T_0(1+z) = 1.68 \times 10^{-4}(1+z)$ eV, one has

$$1 + z_{\text{nr}} \simeq 1,900 \left(\frac{m_\nu}{\text{eV}} \right). \tag{23}$$

This relation can be used to show e.g., that neutrinos with mass $m_\nu \lesssim 0.6$ eV turn non-relativistic around or after recombination. In the following, when discussing the effect of neutrino masses on the CMB anisotropies, we will assume that this is the case. Note however that the actual statistical analyses from which bounds on neutrino masses are derived do not make such an assumption. We also note that, given the current measurements of the neutrino mass differences, only the lightest mass eigenstate can still be relativistic today. Thus at least two out of the three active neutrinos become non-relativistic before the present time.

We conclude this section with a clarification on the role of neutrinos in determining the redshift of matter-radiation equality. Given the present bounds on neutrino masses, we know that equality likely takes place when neutrino are relativistic. In fact, observations of the CMB anisotropies constrain $z_{\text{eq}} \simeq 3,400$, so that neutrinos with mass $m_\nu \simeq 1.8$ eV, just below the current bound from tritium beta-decay, turn non-relativistic at equality. Thus, for masses sufficiently below the tritium bound, the total density of matter at those times is proportional to Ω_{c+b} . The radiation density is instead provided by photons and by the relativistic neutrinos (and as such does not depend on the neutrino mass), plus any other light species present in the early Universe. So the redshift of equivalence is given by

$$1 + z_{\text{eq}} = \frac{\Omega_c + \Omega_b}{\Omega_\gamma \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} N_{\text{eff}} \right]} = \frac{\omega_c + \omega_b}{\omega_\gamma \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{4/3} N_{\text{eff}} \right]}, \tag{24}$$

where the last equality makes it clear that, in the framework of the minimal Λ CDM model, the redshift of equivalence only depends on the quantity $\omega_c + \omega_b$, since N_{eff} is fixed and ω_γ is determined through observations (it is basically the CMB energy density).

3. COSMOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF NEUTRINO MASSES

The impact of neutrino masses—and in general of neutrino properties—on the cosmological evolution can be divided in two broad categories: *background* effects, and *perturbation* effects. The former class refers to modifications in the expansion history, i.e., in changes to the evolution of the FLRW background. The latter class refers instead to modifications in the evolution of perturbations in the gravitational potentials and in the different components of the cosmological fluid. We shall now briefly review both classes; we refer the reader who is interested in a more detailed analysis to the excellent review by Lesgourgues and Pastor [13].

To start, we shall consider a spatially flat Universe, i.e., $\Omega_k = 0$, in which dark energy is in the form of a cosmological constant ($w = -1$) and there are no extra radiation components ($N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046$). Let us also consider a particular realization of this scenario, that we refer to as our reference model, in which the sum of neutrino masses is very small; for definiteness, we can think that Σm_ν is equal to the minimum value allowed by oscillation measurements, $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06$ eV (see section 8 for further details). When needed, we will take the other parameters

as fixed to their Λ CDM best-fit values from Planck 2015 [14]. Our aim is to understand what happens when we change the value of Σm_ν . Increasing the sum of neutrino masses Σm_ν will increase $\omega_\nu = \Omega_\nu h^2$ according to Equation (19). Remember that the sum of the density parameters $\sum_i \Omega_i = 1$; this constraint can be recast in the form:

$$\omega_c + \omega_b + \omega_\Lambda + \omega_\gamma + \omega_\nu + \omega_k = h^2. \quad (25)$$

Since ω_γ is constrained by observations, and ω_k is zero by assumption, we have four degrees of freedom that we can use to compensate for the change in ω_ν , namely: increase h , or decrease any of ω_c , ω_b , or ω_Λ . For the moment, for simplicity, we will not distinguish between baryons and cold dark matter, pretending that as non-relativistic components they have the same effect on cosmological observables. This is of course not the case, but we will come back to this later. Then we are left with three independent degrees of freedom that we can use to compensate for the change in ω_ν : h , ω_{b+c} , and ω_Λ . We prefer to use Ω_Λ in place of ω_Λ , so that in the end our parameter basis for this discussion will be $\{h, \omega_{b+c}, \Omega_\Lambda\}$.

The first option, increasing the present value of the Hubble constant while keeping Ω_Λ and ω_{b+c} constant has the effect of making the Hubble parameter at any given redshift after neutrinos become non-relativistic larger with respect to the reference model. This can be understood by looking at Equation (2), that we rewrite here in this particular case

$$H(z)^2 = H_0^2 \left[(\Omega_c + \Omega_b) (1+z)^3 + \Omega_\gamma (1+z)^4 + \Omega_\Lambda + \frac{\rho_{\nu, \text{tot}}(z)}{\rho_{\text{crit}, 0}} \right]. \quad (26)$$

With respect to the reference model, the first two terms in the RHS are unchanged, while the third increases because Ω_Λ is fixed but h is larger. The last term does not depend on h (because the factor H_0^2 in front of the square brackets cancel the one in the critical density) but yet increases because $\rho_\nu = \Sigma m_\nu n_\nu$ is larger as long as neutrinos are in the non-relativistic regime. On the other hand, before neutrino become non-relativistic, ρ_ν is the same in the two models, and the change in the $\Omega_\Lambda h^2$ term is irrelevant, because the DE density is only important at very low redshifts. So we can conclude that at $z \gg z_{\text{nr}}$, the two models share the same expansion history, while for $z \lesssim z_{\text{nr}}$ the model with “large” neutrino mass is always expanding faster (larger H), or equivalently, is always younger, at those redshifts. In terms of the length scales and of the distance measures introduced in section 2.1, it is easily seen that the causal and sound horizons at both equality and recombination (as well as at the drag epoch) are unchanged, because the expansion history between $z = \infty$ and $z \simeq z_{\text{nr}}$ is unchanged. On the other hand, distances between us and objects at any redshift—for example, the angular diameter distance to recombination—are always smaller than in the reference model, because H is always larger between $z \simeq z_{\text{nr}}$ and $z = 0$. H increases with the extra neutrino density, so this effect increases with larger neutrino masses (and moreover, z_{nr} also gets larger for larger masses). Given this, we

expect for example the angle subtended by the sound horizon at recombination, $\theta_s = r_s(z_{\text{rec}})/d_A(z_{\text{rec}})$ to become larger when we increase Σm_ν . We conclude this part of the discussion that in this case the redshift of equality z_{eq} does not change, since ω_{b+c} is being kept constant, and neutrinos contribute to the radiation density at early times (see discussion at the end of the previous section).

If we instead choose to pursue the second option, i.e., we keep h and Ω_Λ constant while lowering ω_{c+b} , we are again changing the expansion history, but this time on a different range of redshifts. In fact, when neutrinos are non-relativistic, the RHS of Equation (26) is unchanged, because the changes in the present-day densities of neutrinos and non-relativistic matter perfectly compensate; this continues to hold as long as both densities scale as $(1+z)^3$, i.e., roughly for $z < z_{\text{nr}}$. On the other hand, at $z > z_{\text{nr}}$ the neutrino density is the same as in the reference model, while the matter density is smaller, so $H(z)$ is smaller as well. Finally, when the Universe is radiation dominated, the two models share again the same expansion history. Then in this scenario we change the expansion history, decreasing H , for $z_{\text{nr}} \lesssim z \lesssim z_{\text{eq}}$. The sound horizon at recombination increases, and so does the angular diameter distance, so one cannot immediately guess how their ratio varies. However, a direct numerical calculation shows that, starting from the Planck best-fit model, the net effect is to increase θ_s , meaning that the sound horizon will subtend a larger angular scale on the sky when Σm_ν increases. For what concerns instead the redshift of matter-radiation equality, it is immediate to see that it decreases proportionally to ω_{c+b} , i.e., equality happens later in the model with larger Σm_ν .

Finally, when Ω_Λ is decreased, the main effect is to delay the onset of acceleration and make the matter-dominated era last longer. This has some effect on the evolution of perturbations, as we shall see in the following. For what concerns the expansion history, since the model under consideration and the reference model only differ in the neutrino mass and in the DE density, they are identical when neutrinos are relativistic and DE is negligible, i.e., at $z > z_{\text{nr}}$. For $z < z_{\text{nr}}$, instead, starting as usual from Equation (26) one finds, with some little algebra, that $H(z)$ is always larger in the model with smaller Ω_Λ and larger Σm_ν . As in the previous case, both r_s and d_A at recombination vary in the same direction (decreasing in this case); the net effect is again that θ_s becomes larger with Σm_ν . Also, since the matter density at early times is not changing in this case, the redshift of equivalence is the same in the two models.

We now comment briefly about ω_b . One could choose to modify ω_b in place of ω_c in order to compensate for the change in ω_ν . From the point of view of the background expansion, both choices are equivalent, since the baryon and cold dark matter density only enter through their sum ω_{b+c} in the RHS of Equation (26). However, changing the baryon density also produces some peculiar effects, mainly related to the fact that (i) it determines the BBN yields, and (ii) it affects the evolution of photon perturbations prior to recombination. Thus, the density of baryons is quite well constrained by the observed abundances of light elements and by the relative ratio between the heights of odd and even peaks in the CMB, (see section 4.1) and there is

little room for changing it without spoiling the agreement with observations.

Let us now turn to discuss the effects on the evolution of perturbations. Given that we have observational access to the fluctuations in the radiation and matter fields, it is useful to discuss separately these two components. The photon perturbations are sensitive to time variations in the gravitational potentials along the line of sight from us up to the last-scattering surface; this is the so-called *integrated Sachs-Wolfe* (ISW) effect. The gravitational potentials are constant in a purely matter-dominated Universe, so that the observed ISW gets an early contribution right after recombination, when the radiation component is not yet negligible, and a late contribution, when the dark energy density begins to be important. Coming back to our previous discussion, it is clear to see how delaying the time of equality will increase the amount of early ISW, while anticipating dark energy domination will increase the late ISW, and viceversa. For what concerns matter inhomogeneities, a first effect is again related to the time of matter-radiation equality. Changing z_{eq} affects the growth of perturbations, since most of the growth happens during the matter dominated era. Apart from that, a very peculiar effect is related to the clustering properties of neutrinos. In fact, while neutrinos are relativistic, they tend to *free stream* out of overdense regions, damping out all perturbations below the horizon scale. The net effect is that neutrino clustering is suppressed below a certain critical scale, the free-streaming scale, that corresponds to the size of the horizon at the time of the nonrelativistic transition. If the transition happens during matter domination, this is given by:

$$k_{\text{fs}} \simeq 0.018 \Omega_m^{1/2} \left(\frac{m_\nu}{\text{eV}} \right)^{1/2} \text{hMpc}^{-1}. \quad (27)$$

On the contrary, above the free-streaming scale neutrinos cluster as dark matter and baryons do. Thus, increasing the neutrino mass and consequently the neutrino energy density will suppress small-scale matter fluctuations relative to the large scales. It will also make small-scale perturbations in the other components grow slower, since neutrino do not source the gravitational potentials at those scales. It should also be noted that the free-streaming scale depends itself on the neutrino mass—specifically, heavier neutrinos will become non-relativistic earlier and the free-streaming scale will be correspondingly smaller. Moreover, there is actually a free-streaming scale for each neutrino species, each depending on the individual neutrino mass. In principle one could think to go beyond observing just the small-scale suppression and try to access instead the scales around the non-relativistic transition(s), in order to get more leverage on the mass and perhaps also on the mass splitting. We shall see however in the following that this is not the case.

The suppression of matter fluctuations due to neutrino free-streaming also affects the path of photons coming from distant sources, since those photons will be deflected by the gravitational potentials along the line of sight, resulting in a gravitational lensing effect. This is relevant for the CMB, as it modifies the anisotropy pattern by mixing photons that come from different directions. Another application of this effect, of

particular importance for estimates of neutrino masses, is to use the distortions of the shape of distant galaxies due to lensing, to reconstruct the intervening matter distribution.

4. COSMOLOGICAL OBSERVABLES

In this section we review the various cosmological observables, and explain how the effects described in the previous section propagate to the observables.

4.1. CMB Anisotropies

The CMB consists of polarized photons that, for the most part, have been free-streaming from the time of recombination to the present time. The pattern of anisotropies in both temperature (i.e., intensity) and polarization thus encodes a wealth of information about the early Universe, down to $z = z_{\text{rec}} \simeq 1,100$. Moreover, given that the propagation of photons from decoupling to the present time is also affected by the cosmic environment, the CMB also has some sensitivity to physics at $z < z_{\text{rec}}$. Two relevant examples for the topic under consideration are the CMB sensitivity to the redshift of reionization (because the CMB photons are re-scattered by the new population of free electrons) and to the integrated matter distribution along the line of sight (because clustering at low redshifts modifies the geodesics with respect to an unperturbed FLRW Universe, resulting in a gravitational lensing of the CMB, see next section). However, the CMB sensitivity to these processes is limited due to the fact that these are integrated effects.

The information in the CMB anisotropies is encoded in the power spectrum coefficients C_ℓ^{TT} , i.e., the coefficients of the expansion in Legendre polynomials of the two-point correlation function. In the case of the temperature angular fluctuations $\Delta T(\hat{n})/\bar{T}$:

$$\left\langle \frac{\Delta T(\hat{n})}{\bar{T}} \frac{\Delta T(\hat{n}')}{\bar{T}} \right\rangle = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi} C_\ell^{TT} P_\ell(\hat{n} \cdot \hat{n}'). \quad (28)$$

For Gaussian fluctuations, all the information contained in the anisotropies can be compressed without loss in the two-point function, or equivalently in its harmonic counterpart, the power spectrum. A similar expression holds for the polarization field and for its cross-correlation with temperature. In detail, the polarization field can be decomposed into two independent components, known as E - (parity-even and curl-free) and B - (parity-odd and divergence-free) modes. Given that, it is clear that we can build a total of six spectra C_ℓ^{XY} with $X, Y = T, E, B$; however, if parity is not violated in the early Universe, the TB and EB correlations are bound to vanish. Let us also recall that, in linear perturbation theory, B modes are not sourced by scalar fluctuations. Thus, in the framework of the standard inflationary paradigm, primordial B modes can only be sourced in the presence of tensor modes, i.e., gravitational waves.

The shape of the observed power spectra is the result of the processes taking place in the primordial plasma around the time of recombination. In brief, in the early Universe, standing, temporally coherent acoustic waves set in the coupled baryon-photon fluid, as a result of the opposite action of gravity

and radiation pressure [49]. Once the photons decouple after hydrogen recombination, the waves are “frozen” and thus we observe a series of peaks and troughs in the temperature power spectrum, corresponding to oscillation modes that were caught at an extreme of compression or rarefaction (the peaks), or exactly in phase with the background (the troughs). The typical scale of the oscillations is set by the sound horizon at recombination $r_s(z_{\text{rec}})$, i.e., the distance traveled by an acoustic wave from some very early time until recombination, see Equation (4). The position of the first peak in the CMB spectrum is set by the value of this quantity and corresponds to a perturbation wavenumber that had exactly the time to fully compress once. The second peak corresponds to the mode with half the wavelength, that had exactly the time to go through one full cycle of compression and rarefaction, and so on. Thus, smaller scales (larger multipoles) than the first peak correspond to scales that could go beyond one full compression, while larger scales (smaller multipoles) did not have the time to do so. In fact, scales much above the sound horizon are effectively frozen to their initial conditions, provided by inflation. This picture is complicated a little bit by the presence of baryons, that shift the zero of the oscillations, introducing an asymmetry between even and odd peaks. Finally, the peak structure is further modulated by an exponential suppression, due to the Silk damping of photon perturbations (further related to the fact that the tight coupling approximation breaks down at very small scales). This description also holds for polarization perturbations, with some differences, like the fact that the polarization perturbations have opposite phase with respect to temperature perturbations.

As noted above, the large-scale temperature fluctuations, that have entered the horizon very late and did not have time to evolve, trace the power spectrum of primordial fluctuations, supposedly generated during inflation. On the contrary, since there are no primordial polarization fluctuations, but those are instead generated at the time of recombination and then again at the time of reionization, the polarization spectra at large scales are expected to vanish, with the exception of the so-called reionization peak.

We can now understand how the CMB power spectra are shaped by the cosmological parameters, in a minimal model with fixed neutrino mass. The overall amplitude and slope of the spectra are determined by A_s and n_s , since these set the initial conditions for the evolution of perturbations. The height of the first peak strongly depends on the redshift of equivalence z_{eq} (that sets the enhancement in power due to the early ISW), while its position is determined by the angle θ_s subtended by the sound horizon at recombination. As we have discussed before, z_{eq} and θ_s are in turn set by the values of the background densities and of the Hubble constant. The baryon density further affects the relative heights of odd and even peaks, and also the amount of damping at small scales, through its effect on the Silk scale. The ratio of the densities of matter and dark energy fixes the redshift of dark energy domination and the amount of enhancement of large-scale power due to the late ISW. Finally, the optical depth at reionization τ induces an overall power suppression, proportional to $e^{-2\tau}$, in all spectra, at all but the largest scales. This can be easily understood as the effect of

the new scatterings effectively destroying the information about the fluctuation pattern at recombination, at the scales that are inside the horizon at reionization. Reionization also generates the large-scale peak in the polarization spectra, described above. Measuring the power spectra gives a precise determination of all these parameters: simplifying a little bit, the overall amplitude and slope give $A_s e^{-2\tau}$ and n_s (the latter especially if we can measure a large range of scales), the ratio of the peak heights and the amount of small-scale damping fix ω_b , while the position and height of the first peak fix θ_s and z_{eq} , and thus h and ω_{b+c} . The polarization spectra further help in that they are sensitive to τ directly, allowing to break the $A_s - \tau$ degeneracy, and that the peaks in polarization are sharper and thus allow, in principle, for a better determination of their position [50]. It is clear that adding one more degree of freedom to this picture, for example considering curvature, the equation of state parameter of dark energy, or the neutrino mass as a free parameter, will introduce parameter degeneracies and degrade the constraints.

Coming to massive neutrinos, as we have discussed in section 3, there is a combination of the following effects when Σm_ν , and consequently ω_ν , is increased, depending on how we are changing the other parameters to keep $\sum_i \Omega_i = 1$: (i) an increase in θ_s ; (ii) a smaller z_{eq} and thus a longer radiation-dominated era; (iii) a delay of the time of dark energy domination. These changes will in turn result in: (i) a shift towards the left of the position of the peaks; (ii) an increased height of the first peak, that is set by the amount of early ISW; (iii) less power at the largest scales, due to the smaller amount of late ISW. A more quantitative assessment of these effects can be obtained using a Boltzmann code, like CAMB [51] or CLASS [52], to get a theoretical prediction for the CMB power spectra in presence of massive neutrinos. These are shown in **Figure 1**. In the left panel we plot the unlensed CMB temperature power spectra for a reference model with $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06 \text{ eV}$ ($\omega_\nu \simeq 6.4 \times 10^{-4}$) (the other parameters are fixed to their best-fit values from Planck 2015) and for three models with $\Sigma m_\nu = 1.8 \text{ eV}$ ($\omega_\nu \simeq 1.9 \times 10^{-2}$), where either h , ω_c , or Ω_Λ are changed to keep $\sum_i \Omega_i = 1$. We consider three degenerate neutrinos with $m_\nu = 0.6 \text{ eV}$ each, so that they become non-relativistic around recombination. We also show the ratio between these spectra and the reference spectrum in the right panel of the same figure.

These imprints are in principle detectable in the CMB, especially the first two, since the position and height of the first peak are very well measured; much less so the redshift of DE domination, due to the large cosmic variance at small ℓ 's. However, following the above discussion, it is quite easy to convince oneself that these effects can be pretty much canceled due to parameter degeneracies. In fact, simplifying again a little bit, in standard Λ CDM we use the very precise determinations of the height and position of the first peak to determine θ_s and z_{eq} , and from them ω_{c+b} and h . In an extension with massive neutrinos, we still have the same determination of θ_s and z_{eq} , but we have to use them to fix three parameters, namely ω_{c+b} , h , and ω_ν , so that the system is underdetermined. One could argue that the amount of late ISW, as measured by the large-scale power, could be used to break this degeneracy, as it would provide a further constraint on the matter density (given that

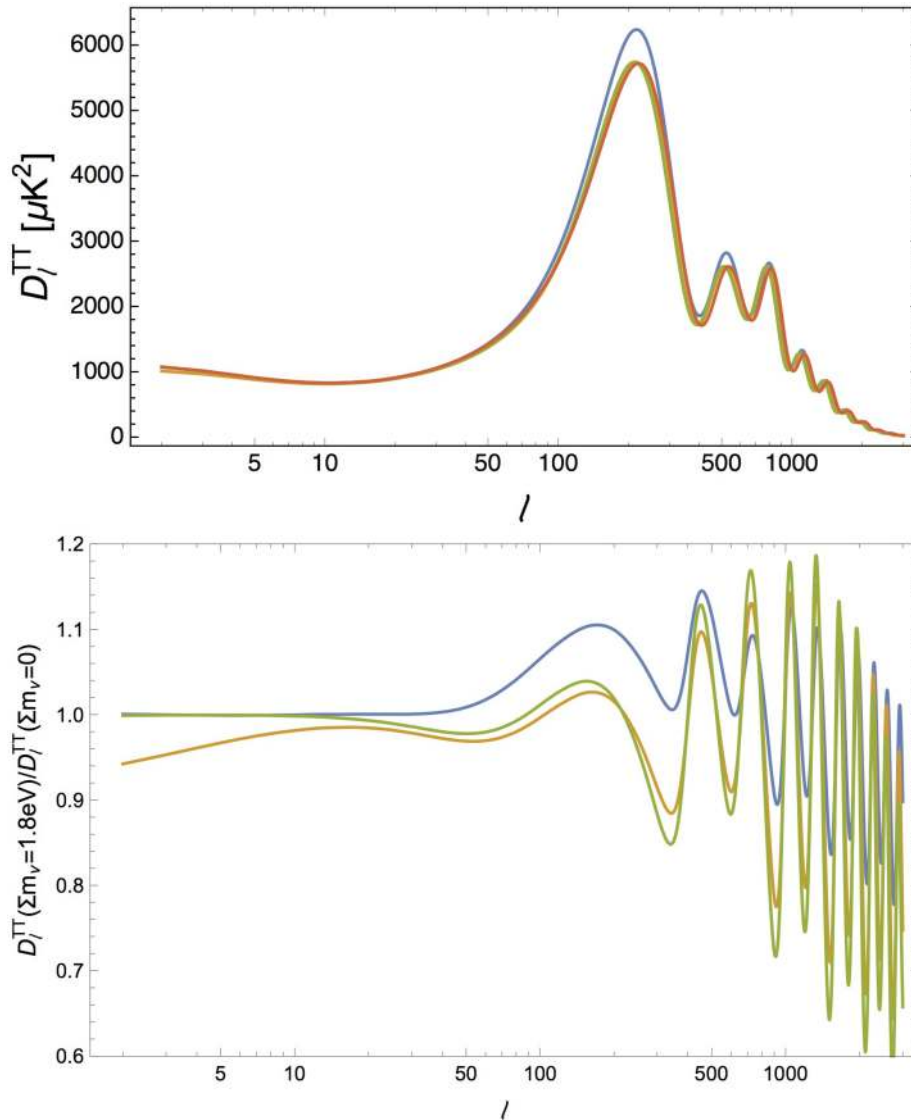


FIGURE 1 | (Top) CMB TT power spectra for different values of Σm_ν . The quantity on the vertical axis is $D_\ell^{TT} \equiv \ell(\ell + 1)C_\ell^{TT}/2\pi$. The red curve is a cosmological model with $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06$ eV and all other parameters fixed to the Planck best-fit. The other curves are for models with $\Sigma m_\nu = 1.8$ eV, in which the curvature is kept vanishing by changing h (green), Ω_Λ (yellow, always below the green apart from the lowest ℓ 's), or ω_c (blue). The model in blue has a smaller z_{eq} with respect to the reference; the models in yellow and green have a larger θ_s ; in addition, the yellow model also has a smaller z_Λ . **(Bottom)** Ratio between the models with $\Sigma m_\nu = 1.8$ eV and the reference model.

the DE density is fixed by the flatness condition). Unfortunately, measurements of the large-scale CMB power are plagued by large uncertainties, due to cosmic variance, so they are of little help in solving this degeneracy. Given the experimental uncertainties, then, it is clear that, when trying to fit a theory to the data, there will be a strong degeneracy direction corresponding to models having the same θ_s and z_{eq} , and thus with identical predictions for the first peak, and slightly different values of z_Λ , with very low statistical weight due to the large uncertainties in the corresponding region of the spectrum. In other words, the effects of neutrino masses will be effectively “buried” in the small- ℓ plateau, where experimental uncertainties are large. The situation is even worse in extended models, for example if

we allow the spatial curvature or the equation of state of dark energy to vary [13]. In any case, the degeneracy between h and ω_{c+b} is not completely exact, so that the unlensed CMB still has some degree of sensitivity to neutrinos that were relativistic at recombination. For example, the Planck 2013 temperature data, in combination with high-resolution observations from ACT and SPT, were able to constrain $\Sigma m_\nu < 1.1$ eV after marginalizing over the effects of lensing [53].

4.1.1. Secondary Anisotropies and the CMB Lensing

As observed above, in addition to the features that are generated at recombination, the so-called *primary anisotropies*, the CMB spectra also carry the imprint of effects that are generated along

the line of sight. We have already given an example of one of these *secondary anisotropies* when we have mentioned the re-scattering of photons over free electrons at low redshift, that creates the distinctive “reionization bump” in the low- ℓ region of the polarization spectra. Another important secondary anisotropy is the gravitational lensing of the CMB (see [54, 55]): photon paths are distorted by the presence of matter inhomogeneities along the line of sight. In the context of General Relativity, the deflection angle α for a CMB photon is

$$\alpha = -2 \int_0^{\chi_*} d\chi \frac{f_K(\chi_* - \chi)}{f_K(\chi_*)f_K(\chi)} \nabla \Psi(\chi \mathbf{n}, \eta_0 - \chi) \quad (29)$$

where χ_* is the comoving distance to the last scattering surface, $f_K(\chi)$ is the angular-diameter distance (Equation 6) thought as a function of the comoving distance, Ψ is the gravitational potential, $\eta_0 - \chi$ is the conformal time at which the photon was along the direction \mathbf{n} . If we then define the lensing potential as

$$\phi(\hat{\mathbf{n}}) \equiv -2 \int_0^{\chi_*} d\chi \frac{f_K(\chi_* - \chi)}{f_K(\chi_*)f_K(\chi)} \Psi(\chi \mathbf{n}, \eta_0 - \chi), \quad (30)$$

it is straightforward to see that the deflection angle is the gradient of the lensing potential, $\alpha = \nabla \phi$. From the harmonic expansion of the lensing potential, we can build an angular power spectrum⁶ as $\langle \phi_{\ell m} \phi_{\ell' m'}^* \rangle \equiv \delta_{\ell\ell'} \delta_{mm'} C_\ell^{\phi\phi}$. The lensing power spectrum $C_\ell^{\phi\phi}$ is therefore proportional to the integral along the line of sight of the power spectrum of the gravitational potential P_Ψ , which in turn can be expressed in terms of the power spectrum of matter fluctuations P_m (see the next section for its definition).

The net effect of lensing on the CMB is that photons coming from different directions are mixed, somehow “blurring” the anisotropy pattern. This effect is mainly sourced by inhomogeneities at $z < 5$ and has a typical angular scale of $2.5'$. In the power spectra, this translates in a several percent level smoothing of the primary peak structure ($\ell \gtrsim 1,000$), while the lensing effect becomes dominant at $\ell \gtrsim 3,000$. We stress that lensing only alters the spatial distribution of CMB fluctuations, while leaving the total variance unchanged. Lensing, being a non-linear effect, creates some amount of non-gaussianity in the anisotropy pattern. Thus, other than through its indirect effect on the temperature and polarization power spectra (i.e., on the two-point correlation functions), lensing can be detected and measured by looking at higher-order correlations, in particular at the four-point correlation function. In fact, in such a way it has been possible to directly measure the power spectrum $C_\ell^{\phi\phi}$ of the lensing potential ϕ . Another consequence of the non-linear nature of lensing is that it is able to source “spurious” B modes by converting some of the power in E polarization, thus effectively creating B polarization also in the absence of a primordial component of this kind. The latter effect represents an additional tool to enable the reconstruction of the lensing potential, especially for future CMB surveys. An alternative reconstruction technique is based on the possibility to cross-correlate the CMB signal with tracers of large-scale structures,

⁶We are assuming that the lensing field is isotropic.

such as Cosmic Infrared Background (CIB) maps, therefore leading to an “external” reconstruction [56] (opposite to the “internal” reconstruction performed with the use of CMB-based only estimators [57, 58]).

The lensing power spectrum basically carries information about the integrated distribution of matter along the line of sight. Given the peculiar effect of neutrino free-streaming on the evolution of matter fluctuations, CMB lensing offers an important handle for estimates of neutrino masses. Since a larger neutrino mass implies a larger neutrino density and less clustering on small scales, because of neutrino free-streaming, the overall effect of larger neutrino masses is to decrease lensing. In the temperature and polarization power spectra, the result is that the peaks and troughs at high ℓ 's are sharper. Concerning the shape of the lensing power spectrum, for light massive neutrinos the net effect is a rescaling of power at intermediate and small scales (see e.g., [59]). Thus, the lensing power spectrum is a powerful tool for constraining Σm_ν and will probably drive even better constraints on Σm_ν in the future. In fact, it is almost free from systematics coming from poorly understood astrophysical effects, it directly probes the (integral over the line of sight of the) distribution of the total matter fluctuations (as opposed to what galaxy surveys do, as we will see in the next section) at scales that are still in the linear regime.

Given a cosmological model, it is quite straightforward, using again CAMB or CLASS, to get a theoretical prediction for the lensing power spectrum, as well as for the lensing BB power spectrum. Note that non-linear corrections (see next section for further details) to the lensing potential are important in this case to get accurate large-scale BB spectrum coefficients [54]. Additional corrections that take into account modifications to the CMB photon emission angle due to lensing can further modify the large-scale lensing BB spectrum [60].

4.2. Large Scale Structures

4.2.1. Clustering

The clustering of matter at large scales is another powerful probe of cosmology. The clustering can be described in terms of the two-point correlation function, or, equivalently, of the power spectrum of matter density fluctuations:

$$\langle \delta_m(\vec{k}, z) \delta_m(\vec{k}', z) \rangle = P_m(k, z) \delta^{(3)}(\vec{k} - \vec{k}'), \quad (31)$$

where $\delta_m(\vec{k}, z)$ is the Fourier transform of the matter density perturbation at redshift z . Note that, contrarily to the CMB, that we are bound to observe at a single redshift (that of recombination), the matter power spectrum can, in principle, be measured at different times in the cosmic history, thus allowing for a tomographic analysis.

As for the CMB, the large-scale (small k 's) part of the power spectrum traces the primordial fluctuations generated during inflation, while smaller scales reflect the processing taking place after a given perturbation wavenumber enters the horizon. A relevant distinction in this regard is whether a given mode enters the horizon before or after matter-radiation equality. Since subhorizon perturbations grow faster during

matter domination, the matter power spectrum shows a turning point at a characteristic scale, corresponding to the horizon at z_{eq} . Given that perturbations grow less efficiently also during DE domination, increasing z_{Λ} produces a suppression in the power spectrum. Also, increasing h will make the horizon at a given redshift smaller; so the mode k that is entering the horizon at that redshift will be larger.

Varying the sum of neutrino masses has some indirect effects on the shape of matter power spectrum, related to induced changes in background quantities, similarly to what happens for the CMB. As explained in section 3, increasing Σm_{ν} while keeping the Universe flat has to be compensated by changing (a combination of) ω_m , Ω_{Λ} , or h . This will in turn result in a shift of the turning point and/or in a change in the global normalization of the spectrum. This can be seen in **Figure 2**, where we show the matter power spectra for the same models considered when discussing the background effects of neutrino masses on the CMB.

As it is for the CMB, these effects can be partly canceled due to parameter degeneracies. Neutrinos, however, have also a peculiar effect on the evolution of matter perturbations. This is due to the fact that neutrinos possess large thermal velocities for a considerable part of the cosmic history, so they can free-stream out of overdense regions, effectively canceling perturbations on small scales. In particular, one can define the free-streaming length at time t as the distance that neutrinos can travel from decoupling until t . The comoving free-streaming length reaches a maximum at the time of the non-relativistic transition. This corresponds to a critical wavenumber k_{fs} , given in equation (27) for transitions happening during matter-domination, above which perturbations in the neutrino component are erased.

A first consequence of neutrino free-streaming is that, below the free-streaming scale, there is a smaller amount of matter that

can cluster. This results in an overall suppression of the power spectrum at small scales, with respect to the neutrinoless case. Secondly, subhorizon perturbations in the non-relativistic (i.e., cold dark matter and baryons) components grow more slowly. In fact, while in a perfectly matter-dominated Universe, the gravitational potential is constant and the matter perturbation grows linearly with the scale factor, $\delta_m \propto a$, in a mixed matter-radiation Universe the gravitational potential decays slowly inside the horizon. Below the free-streaming scale, neutrinos effectively behave as radiation; then in the limit in which the neutrino fraction $f_{\nu} = \Omega_{\nu} / \Omega_m$ is small, one has for $k \gg k_{\text{fs}}$

$$\delta_m(k \gg k_{\text{fs}}) \propto a^{1-(3/5)f_{\nu}}, \tag{32}$$

while $\delta_m \propto a$ for $k \ll k_{\text{fs}}$. These two effects can be qualitatively understood as follows: if one considers a volume with linear size well below the free-streaming scale, this region will resemble a Universe with a smaller Ω_m and a larger radiation-to-matter fraction than the “actual” (i.e., averaged over a very large volume) values. This yields a smaller overall normalization of the spectrum, as well as a larger radiation damping; the two effects combine to damp the matter perturbations inside the region. So, looking again at the full power spectrum, the net effect is that, in the presence of free-streaming neutrinos, power at small-scales is suppressed with respect to the case of no neutrinos. At $z = 0$, the effect saturates at $k \simeq 1 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, where a useful approximation is $P_m(k, f_{\nu}) / P_m(k, f_{\nu} = 0) \simeq 1 - 8f_{\nu}$ [61].

It is useful to stress that since f_{ν} is linear in Σm_{ν} , we have the somehow counterintuitive result that the effects of free-streaming are more evident for *heavier*, and thus *colder*, neutrinos. The reason is simply that the asymptotic suppression of the spectrum depends only on the total energy density of neutrinos, as

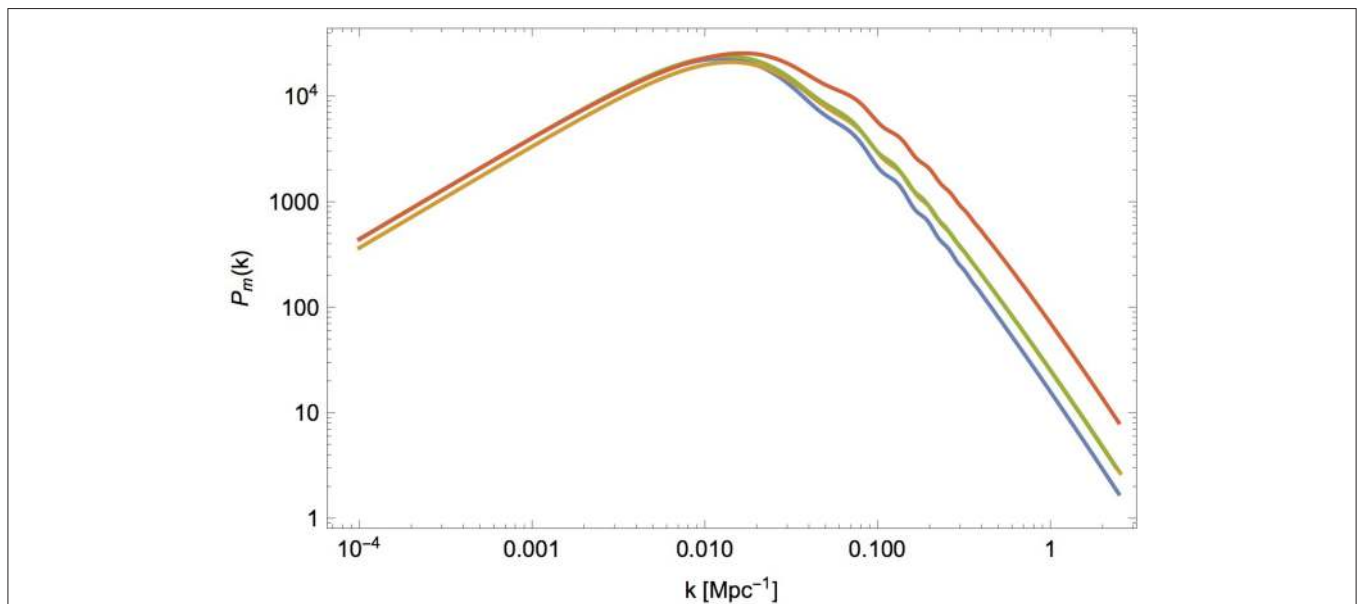


FIGURE 2 | Total matter power spectrum P_m for the same models shown in **Figure 1**.

this determines the different amount of non-relativistic matter between small and large scales.

Until now, we have somehow ignored the role of baryons in shaping the matter power spectrum. In fact, on scales that enter the horizon after z_{drag} , the baryons are effectively collisionless and behave exactly like cold dark matter. On the other hand, baryon perturbations at smaller scales, entering the horizon before z_{drag} exhibit acoustic oscillations due to the coupling with photons. This causes the appearance of an oscillatory structure in the matter power spectrum. These wiggles in $P_m(k)$, that go under the name of *baryon acoustic oscillations* (BAO), have a characteristic frequency, related to the value of the sound horizon at z_{drag} . Thus they can serve as a standard ruler and can be used very effectively in order to constrain the expansion history.

In more detail, the acoustic oscillations that set up in the primordial Universe produce a sharp feature in the two-point correlation function of luminous matter at the scale of the sound horizon evaluated at the drag epoch, $r_s(z_d) \equiv r_d$; this sharp feature translates in (damped) oscillations in the Fourier transform of the two-point correlation function, i.e., the power spectrum. Measuring the BAO feature at redshift z allows in principle to separately constrain the combination $d_A(z)/r_d$, for measurements in the transverse direction with respect to the line of sight, or $r_d H(z)$ for measurements along the line of sight. An isotropic analysis instead measures, approximately, the ratio between the combination

$$d_V(z) = \left[\frac{z d_A^2(z)}{H(z)} \right]^{1/3}, \quad (33)$$

called the volume-averaged distance, and the sound horizon r_d . Given that the value of the sound horizon is well constrained by CMB observations, measuring the BAO features, possibly at different redshifts, allows to directly constrain the expansion history, as probed by the evolution of the angular diameter distance $d_A(z)$ and of the Hubble function $H(z)$, or of their average $d_V(z)$. In particular, it is straightforward to see that BAO measurements put tight constraints on the $\Omega_m - H_0 r_d$ plane, along a different degeneracy direction that it is instead probed by CMB [62, 63]. Therefore, when estimating neutrino masses, the addition of BAO constraints to CMB data helps breaking the parameter degeneracies discussed in the previous section, yielding in general tighter constraints on this quantity.

The linear matter power spectrum for a given cosmological model can be computed using a Boltzmann solver. However, comparison with observations is complicated by the non-linear evolution of cosmic structures. Note that both CAMB and CLASS are able to handle non-linearities in the evolution of cosmological perturbations with the inclusion of non-linear corrections from the Halofit model [64] calibrated over numerical simulations. In particular, for cosmological models with massive neutrinos, the preferred prescription is detailed in Bird et al. [65].

From the observational point of view, $P_m(k, z)$ can be probed in different ways. In galaxy surveys, the 3-D spatial distribution

of galaxies is measured, allowing to measure the two-point correlation function and to obtain an estimate of the power spectrum of galaxies $P_g(k, z)$. Since in this case one is measuring the distribution of luminous matter only, and not of all matter (including dark matter), this does not necessarily coincide with the quantity for which we have a theoretical prediction, i.e., P_m ; in other words, galaxies are a biased tracer of the matter distribution. To take this into account, one relates the two quantities through a bias $b(k, z)$:

$$P_g(k, z) = b^2(k, z) P_m(k, z). \quad (34)$$

The bias is in general a function of both redshift and scale. If it is approximated as a scale-independent factor, then the presence of the bias only amounts to an overall rescaling of the matter power spectrum (at a given redshift). In this case, one marginalizes over the amplitude of the matter spectrum, effectively only using the information contained in its shape. A scale-independent bias is considered to be a safe approximation for the largest scales: as an example, for Luminous Red Galaxies sampled at an efficient redshift of 0.5 (roughly corresponding to the CMASS sample of the SDSS III-BOSS survey), a scale-independent bias is a good approximation up to $k \lesssim 0.2 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ [66]. On the other hand, scale-dependent features are expected to appear on smaller scales. In this case, the bias can still be described using a few “nuisance” parameters, that are then marginalized over. In any case the exact functional form of the bias function, the range of scales considered, as well as prior assumptions on the bias parameters, are delicate issues that should be treated carefully. An additional complication arises from the fact that massive neutrinos themselves induce a scale-dependent feature in the bias parameter, due to the scale-dependent growth of structures in cosmologies with massive neutrinos [67, 68].

It has to be mentioned that, at any given redshift, there exists a certain scale k_{NL} below which the density contrast approaches the limit $\delta \sim 1$. In this regime, the evolution of cosmic structures cannot be completely captured by a linear theory of perturbations. The modeling of structures in the non-linear regime relies on numerical N-body simulations that must take into account the astrophysical and hydrodynamical processes at play at those scales. The level of complexity of N-body simulations has been increasing over the years, so that the physical processes included in the simulations and the final results are much closer to the observations than they used to be at the beginning. Recent examples are given by the MassiveNuS [69] suite, based on the Gadget-2 code [70] modified to include the effects of massive neutrinos, the DEMNUni suite [71–73], the TianNu simulation [74–76], the BAHAMAS project [77], the gevolution simulations [78], and the nuCONCEPT simulations [79] (see also [80] for a method combining the particle and fluid descriptions)⁷. Nevertheless, the uncertainties related to the non-linear evolution of cosmological structures are still higher

⁷Prescriptions for the matter power spectrum in the non-linear regime are also provided by the Halofit model [65], the Coyote Universe emulator [81], the semi-analytical approach of PINOCCHIO [82], and additional methods referenced in Rizzo et al. [82].

than those affecting the linear theory, therefore reducing the constraining power coming from the inclusion of those scales in cosmological analysis. In fact, the conservative choice of not including measurements at $k > k_{\text{NL}}$ is usually made when performing cosmological analyses. It is easy to understand that at higher redshifts, a wider range of scales is still in the linear regime.

Additional probes of P_m are measurements of Lyman- α ($\text{Ly}\alpha$) forests and 21-cm fluctuations (see e.g., [83, 84] for reviews). Although they are promising avenues since they can probe the matter distribution at higher redshifts and smaller scales than those usually accessible with typical galaxy samples, they still have to reach the level of maturity required to take full advantage of their constraining power. The observation of high-redshift ($z \sim 2$) quasars and in particular the measurement of their flux provides a powerful tool for cosmological studies. Indeed, the absorption of the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ emission from quasars by the intervening intergalactic medium—an observational feature known as “ $\text{Ly}\alpha$ forest”—constitutes a tracer of the total matter density field at higher redshifts and smaller scales than those usually probed by galaxy surveys. Similarly to what is done for galaxy samples, one can compute a correlation function of the measured flux variation, or equivalently its power spectrum $P_{\text{Ly}\alpha}$. The latter is again proportional to the total P_m via a bias parameter $b_{\text{Ly}\alpha}$. The $\text{Ly}\alpha$ bias factor is in general different from the galaxy bias, as each tracer of the underlying total matter distribution exhibits its own characteristics. The $\text{Ly}\alpha$ forest is ideally a powerful cosmological tool, being able to access high redshifts. Therefore, at fixed scale k , the physics governing the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ spectrum is much closer to the linear regime than that related to the galaxy power spectrum. Furthermore, the redshift window probed by $\text{Ly}\alpha$ is complementary to that probed by traditional galaxy surveys, in a sense that at higher redshift the relative impact of dark energy on the cosmic inventory is much smaller. However, a reliable description of the astrophysics at play in the intergalactic medium is essential for deriving the theoretical model for the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ absorption features along the line of sight. This description heavily depends on hydrodynamical simulations that reproduce the behavior of baryonic gas and on poorly known details of the reionization history. In addition, uncertainties in the theory of non-linear physics of the intergalactic medium at small scales can play a non-negligible role.

Finally, another tracer of the total matter fluctuations is represented by fluctuations in the 21-cm signal. The 21-cm line is due to the forbidden transition of neutral hydrogen (HI) between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state (spin flip) of the hydrogen atom. The observational technique resides in the possibility to measure the brightness temperature relative to the CMB temperature. Fluctuations in the 21-cm brightness are related to fluctuations in HI (or equivalently to the fraction of free electrons x_e), which in turn trace the matter fluctuations. Therefore, one can infer P_m observationally by measuring the power spectrum of 21-cm fluctuations $P_{21\text{-cm}}$. Apart from the technological challenges associated with the detection of the 21-cm signal, the main source of systematics come from the difficulties to separate the faint 21-cm signal from the much brighter foreground contamination, mostly due to synchrotron emission from our own galaxy.

4.2.2. Cluster Abundances

The variation of the number of galaxy clusters of a certain mass M with redshift $dN(z, M)/dz$ is also a valid source of information about the evolution of the late time Universe (see e.g., [85] for a review). The expected number of clusters to be observed in a given redshift window is an integral over the redshift bin of the quantity

$$\frac{dN}{dz} = \int d\Omega \int dM \hat{\chi} \frac{dN}{dM dz d\Omega} \quad (35)$$

where Ω is the solid angle, $\hat{\chi}$ is the so-called completeness of the survey (a measure of the probability that the survey will detect a cluster of a given mass M at a given redshift z) and $\frac{dN}{dM}(z, M)$ is the mass function giving the number of clusters per unit volume. The latter can be predicted once a cosmological model has been specified. The quantity in Equation (35) is thus directly sensitive to the matter density Ω_m and to the current amplitude of matter overdensities, usually parametrized in terms of σ_8 , the variance of matter fluctuations within a sphere of $8 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. As a result, this probe can be highly beneficial for putting bounds on Σm_ν .

Extended catalogs of galaxy clusters have been published in the last decade by the Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) [86, 87], the South Pole Telescope (SPT) [88], and the Planck [24] collaborations. CMB experiments are in fact able to perform searches for galaxy clusters by looking for the thermal Sunyaev-Zeldovich (SZ) effect, the characteristic upward shift in frequency of the CMB signal induced by the inverse-Compton scattering of CMB photons off the hot gas in clusters. The redshift of cluster candidates is identified with follow-up observations, whereas their mass is usually inferred with X-ray observations or, more recently, calibrated through weak lensing. Regardless of how it is calibrated, the determination of the cluster mass is the largest source of uncertainty for the cluster count analysis, due to possibly imprecise assumptions about the dynamical state of the cluster and/or survey systematics. A common way to factorize the uncertainties related to the mass calibration is to introduce a mass bias parameter that relates the true cluster mass to the mass inferred with observations.

4.2.3. Weak Lensing

The weak gravitational lensing effect is the deflection of the light emitted by a source galaxy caused by the foreground large-scale mass distribution (lens). The shape of the source galaxy therefore appears as distorted, i.e., it acquires an apparent ellipticity. The cosmic shear is the weak lensing effect of all the galaxies along the line of sight (see e.g., [89] for a review). Weak lensing surveys offer the possibility to directly test the distribution of intervening matter at low redshifts, thus providing a powerful tool to investigate the late-time evolution of the Universe. By correlating the apparent shapes of source galaxies at different redshifts, one can compute the shear field $\gamma(\hat{n}, z)$ as a function of the angular position \hat{n} and redshift z . The shear field is usually decomposed in two components: the curl-free E -modes and the divergence-free B -modes. It can be shown that, in absence of systematics, the B -modes are expected to vanish, whereas the power spectrum of the E -modes is equivalent to the lensing power spectrum $C_\ell^{\phi\phi}$. The integrated lensing potential has been defined in Equation

(30) for a source located at recombination. The corresponding expression for a source at a generic redshift z can be obtained simply by substituting χ_* with the comoving distance of the source.

Thus, the power spectrum of the lensing potential—which is due to intervening matter along the line of sight—is recovered from the measurements of the lensing-induced ellipticity of background galaxies; in a similar way, the lensing power spectrum is recovered from the redistribution of CMB photons due to the forming structures along the line of sight. As we have seen in section 4.1.1, the spectrum of the lensing potential is a function of the matter power spectrum integrated along the line of sight. Therefore, it carries information about the distribution and growth of structures, representing a powerful tool for constraining Σm_ν . It should be mentioned that the observed shear signal γ_{obs} is a biased tracer of the true shear γ_{true} . This effect, mostly due to noise in the pixels when galaxy ellipticity is measured, is usually taken into account by introducing a multiplicative bias m that relates γ_{true} and γ_{obs} : $\gamma_{\text{obs}} = (1 + m)\gamma_{\text{true}} + c$, where c is the additional noise bias [90].

In addition, the shear signal can be cross-correlated with the angular distribution of foreground (lens) galaxies (the so-called *galaxy-shear* or *galaxy-galaxy lensing* cross-correlation). This cross-correlation is a powerful way to overcome the limitations induced in the galaxy-galaxy auto-correlation by the unknown galaxy bias. Indeed, the galaxy-galaxy lensing is basically a cross-correlation between the galaxy field and the total matter fluctuation field. Measurements of the galaxy-galaxy lensing cross spectrum can therefore help determine the form of the bias.

Cosmological constraints from weak lensing surveys are often summarized in terms of bounds on Ω_m and σ_8 . As an additional probe of the large-scale structure in the Universe, weak lensing can be profitably used to constrain Σm_ν .

4.3. Supernovae Ia and Direct Measurements of the Hubble Constant

Measurements of the distance-redshift relation of Supernovae Ia (SNIa) have provided the compelling evidence of the accelerated Universe [91, 92]. SNIa are produced in binary stellar systems in which one of the stars is a white dwarf. Accreting matter from its companion, the white dwarf explodes once it reaches the Chandrasekhar mass limit. Therefore, SNIa are standard candles, because their absolute magnitude can be theoretically inferred from models of stellar evolution. A comparison between the absolute magnitude and the apparent luminosity yields an estimate of their luminosity distance $d_L(z)$. The expected value of d_L in turn depends on the underlying cosmological model. The constraints coming from SNIa in the $\Omega_m - \Omega_\Lambda$ plane are orthogonal to those obtained from CMB. As a result, the combination of the two probes is extremely efficient in breaking the degeneracy between the two parameters. For this reason, SNIa are very useful for constraining models of dark energy and/or arbitrary curvature. Nonetheless, constraints on Σm_ν can benefit from the use of SNIa data, thanks to the improved bounds on Ω_m .

As already discussed, the effect of light massive neutrinos on the background evolution of the Universe can be also

compensated by a change in the value of the Hubble constant H_0 . Therefore, it is clear that any direct measurement of H_0 can be highly beneficial for putting bounds on Σm_ν . Direct measurements only rely on local distance indicators (i.e., redshift $z \ll 1$), therefore they are little or not-at-all sensitive to changes in the underlying cosmological model. In contrast, indirect estimates from high-redshift probes, such as primary CMB, can suffer from model dependency.

Direct measurements of H_0 are based on the geometric distance calibration of nearby Cepheids luminosity-period relation and the subsequent calibration of SNIa over Cepheids observed in the same SNIa galaxy hosts (see e.g., [93] and references therein). The goal is to connect the precise geometric distances measured in the nearby Universe (usually referred to as “anchors”) with the distant SNIa magnitude-redshift relation in order to extract the estimate of H_0 . The main systematics are of course related to the calibration procedure. Further improvements on the precision of direct measurements of H_0 are expected to come once the precise parallaxes measurements from the Gaia satellite will be available [94].

Local measurements of H_0 are not directly sensitive to Σm_ν . Besides, their results, in combination with cosmological probes, can break the degeneracy between cosmological parameters and improve constraints on Σm_ν . The main example is in fact the possibility to break the strong (inverse) degeneracy between H_0 and Σm_ν that affects CMB constraints.

Indirect estimates of H_0 can be obtained from CMB and BAO measurements. We have already seen in section 4 that the position and amplitude of the first acoustic peak in the CMB spectrum depends on H_0 in combination with other parameters. In addition, we shall mention that, once the BAO are calibrated with the precise determination of r_d from CMB, measurements of d_A/r_d and Hr_d (or d_V/r_d) yields bounds on H_0 that are competitive with CMB estimates and direct measurements.

We finally mention an additional independent measurement of H_0 . The gravitational wave (GW) signal emitted by merging compact objects in combination with the observation of an electromagnetic counterpart has been proposed as a standard siren [95, 96]. The GW waveform reconstruction allows for a determination of the luminosity distance to the source. Precise determinations of the source localization can lead to percent accuracy in the luminosity distance estimation. The observation of the electromagnetic counterpart of the GW event is then essential to determine the redshift to the source. The full combination of distance-redshift pair can finally be employed to constrain H_0 . In the absence of the detection of an electromagnetic counterpart, methods to infer the redshift of the source of the GW signal have been proposed (see e.g., [97]).

4.4. Summary of the Effects of Neutrino Masses

Before moving to report the current observational constraints, we find it useful to summarize the constraining power of different cosmological observables with respect to the neutrino mass. The discussion is somehow qualitative, also given the high-level

complexity of the cosmological models. The purpose is also to underline the importance of combining different cosmological probes.

We start from the CMB. For the present discussion, it is useful to consider separately the information coming from the unlensed CMB (i.e., the primary CMB plus all the secondary effects with the exclusion of lensing) and that coming from the weak lensing of CMB photons. For what concerns the former, the sensitivity of the unlensed CMB to neutrino masses is somehow limited. This is mainly due to a geometrical degeneracy between h and ω_ν , thanks to which one can simultaneously change the two parameters (decreasing h and increasing ω_ν) to keep θ_s constant, thus preserving the position of the first peak, with only limited changes to other parts of the spectrum (especially changes in the low- ℓ region, where the sensitivity is limited by cosmic variance, induced by variations in Ω_Λ). The height of the first peak is preserved by keeping ω_c fixed. Having access to the information contained in the CMB lensing, either through its effect on the temperature and polarization power spectra, or through a direct estimation of the lensing power spectrum, helps because Σm_ν also affects the matter distribution and then the amplitude of the lensing potential at small scales. This helps breaking the degeneracy described above.

To illustrate this point, in the upper panel of **Figure 3** we show the parameter correlations derived by an analysis of the Planck observations of the temperature, over a wide range of scale, and large-scale polarization anisotropies. We remember that this dataset contains some information about lensing through the high- ℓ part of the temperature power spectrum. The negative degeneracy between Σm_ν and H_0 is particularly evident. Given that ω_c and ω_b are both measured quite well from the CMB, this also translates into a strong degeneracy with $\Omega_m = (\omega_c + \omega_b)/h^2$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 1 - \Omega_m$. Among the other parameters, one can notice mild correlations with A_s and τ . These are due to the small-scale effects related to the increased lensing in models with larger Σm_ν . The overall amplitude of the spectrum $A_s e^{-2\tau}$ is very precisely determined by CMB observations. On the other hand, the lensing amplitude depends on A_s but not on τ . So, the lensing amplitude can be kept constant by increasing both A_s and ω_ν . At this point τ has to be increased as well to preserve the scalar amplitude $A_s e^{-2\tau}$.

Geometric measurements, like those coming from BAO, SNIa, or direct measurements of H_0 , greatly help solving the geometrical degeneracy between H_0 and Σm_ν . This is evident in the lower panel of **Figure 3**, where we show parameter correlations from an analysis of the same dataset as above with the addition of BAO data, if one compares the $(H_0, \Sigma m_\nu)$ square with the corresponding square in the upper panel. Measurements of large scale structures, and especially those that are directly sensitive to the total matter distribution at small scales, are very helpful, in that on the one hand they allow to further constrain Ω_m , A_s , and n_s and thus reduce degeneracies with these parameters; on the other hand, they allow to probe the regime in which neutrino free-streaming is important. Finally, it is also clear that a precise measurement of τ from a CMB experiment that is sensitive to the large-scale polarization (meaning that it can access a large fraction of the sky) will be highly beneficial.

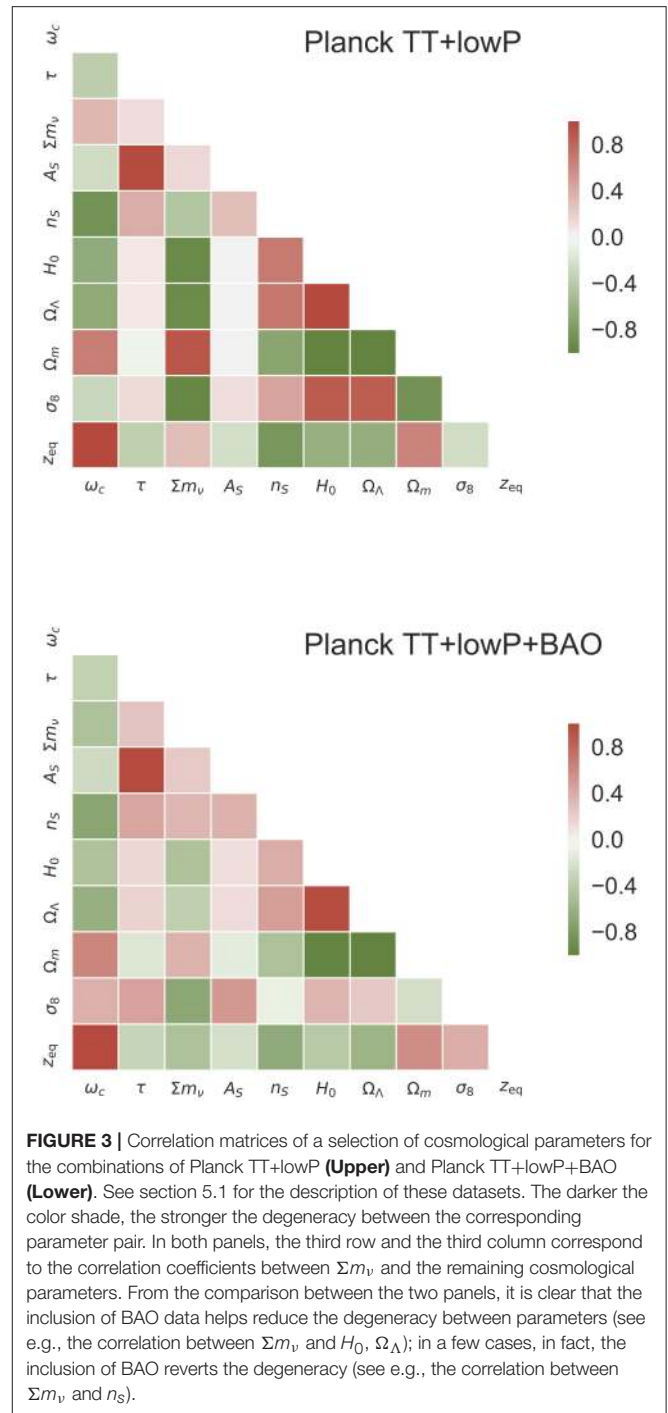


FIGURE 3 | Correlation matrices of a selection of cosmological parameters for the combinations of Planck TT+lowP (Upper) and Planck TT+lowP+BAO (Lower). See section 5.1 for the description of these datasets. The darker the color shade, the stronger the degeneracy between the corresponding parameter pair. In both panels, the third row and the third column correspond to the correlation coefficients between Σm_ν and the remaining cosmological parameters. From the comparison between the two panels, it is clear that the inclusion of BAO data helps reduce the degeneracy between parameters (see e.g., the correlation between Σm_ν and H_0, Ω_Λ); in a few cases, in fact, the inclusion of BAO reverts the degeneracy (see e.g., the correlation between Σm_ν and n_s).

We have focused our attention to the Λ CDM+ Σm_ν model. In extended dark energy models (as well as modified gravity models), for example for arbitrary equations of state of the dark energy fluid, the degeneracy between Σm_ν and Ω_Λ is amplified. Both massive neutrinos and dark energy-modified gravity affect the late time evolution of the Universe, so that the individual effects on cosmological observables (mostly structures) can be reciprocally canceled.

5. CURRENT OBSERVATIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON Σm_ν

In this section we report current constraints on Σm_ν from cosmological and astrophysical observations. These constraints are also summarized in **Table 1** for the reader's convenience. Unless otherwise stated, the results are obtained in the framework of a minimal one-parameter extension of the Λ CDM model with varying neutrino mass, dubbed Λ CDM+ Σm_ν , in which the three mass eigenstates are degenerate ($m_i = \Sigma m_\nu/3$). Given the sensitivity of current experiments, the degenerate approximation is appropriate. See section 8 for a more detailed discussion on this point.

5.1. CMB

CMB observations are probably the most mature cosmological measurements. The frequency spectrum is known with great accuracy [46]. Measurements of the power spectrum of CMB anisotropies in temperature are cosmic-variance limited down to very small scales ($\ell \sim 1,500$) and the quality of current CMB data in polarization is already good enough to tighten constraints on cosmological parameters [14, 16, 17, 19, 20]. The next generation of CMB experiments will further improve our knowledge of CMB polarization anisotropies [21, 30–33]. The main systematics involved in CMB measurements are due to foreground contamination (atmospheric, galactic, extragalactic), calibration uncertainties and spurious effects induced by an

imprecise knowledge of the instrument (see e.g., [108–112] for a sample list of references).

The tightest constraints on Σm_ν from a single experiment come from the measurements of the Planck satellite [14]. In the context of a one-parameter extension of the Λ CDM cosmological model, the state of the art after the 2015 data release was as follows. The combination of the measurements of the CMB temperature anisotropies up to the multipole $\ell \simeq 2,500$ (hereafter, “Planck TT”) and the large scale ($\ell < 30$) polarization anisotropies (hereafter “lowP”) leads to an upper bound of $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.72$ eV at 95% CL. The inclusion of the small scale ($\ell \geq 30$) polarization measurements (which we globally label as “Planck TE,EE”) provides a tighter upper bound of $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.49$ eV at 95% CL. This latter bound should be regarded as less conservative, as a small level of residual systematics could still affect the small scale polarization data.

The Planck collaboration also provides the most significant measurements of the CMB lensing potential power spectrum for the multipole range $40 < L < 400$ (labeled as “lensing”) [113]. When this dataset is included in the analysis, the 95% CL constraints on Σm_ν become: $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.68$ eV for Planck TT+lowP+lensing and $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.59$ eV for Planck TT,TE,EE+lowP+lensing [14]. When combining the lensing reconstruction data from Planck with the measurements of the CMB power spectra, it should be kept in mind that CMB power spectra as measured by Planck prefer a slightly higher lensing amplitude than that estimated with the lensing reconstruction. As a result, the bounds on Σm_ν obtained by their combination have less weight for smaller values of Σm_ν than the corresponding bounds obtained from CMB power spectra only. Nevertheless, higher values of Σm_ν are still disfavored.

In 2016, new estimates of the reionization optical depth τ have been published by the Planck collaboration [43], obtained from the analysis of the high-frequency CMB maps, in 2015 still affected by unexplained systematics effects at large scales. The estimated 68% credible interval for τ coming from the EE—only low- ℓ data is $\tau = 0.055 \pm 0.009$. This estimate is lower than the corresponding interval obtained in 2015 from the analysis of the low-frequency maps ($\tau = 0.067 \pm 0.023$), though the two estimates are well in agreement with each other. The lower value of τ has an impact on the constraints on Σm_ν , due to the degeneracy between the optical depth and the amplitude of primordial perturbations A_s , as they together fix the normalization amplitude $A_s e^{-2\tau}$. A lower τ implies a lower A_s and thus a lower lensing amplitude, leaving less room for large values of Σm_ν (that would further reduce lensing). If the “lowP” dataset is replaced by the new estimate of τ (labeled as “SimLow”), the 95% CL bounds improve as follows: $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.59$ eV for Planck TT+SimLow and $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.34$ eV for Planck TT,TE,EE+SimLow [43].

5.2. Large-Scale Structure Data

Although the CMB is an extremely powerful dataset, multiple degeneracies between cosmological parameters limit the constraining power on Σm_ν from CMB only, as seen in section 4.4. Measurements of the large scale structures (LSS) can help solving these degeneracies. LSS surveys map the distribution

TABLE 1 | Constraints on Σm_ν from different combination of current cosmological data.

Dataset	Σm_ν [eV]	References
Planck TT+lowP	<0.72	[14]
Planck TT+lowP+lensing	<0.59	[14]
Planck TT,TE,EE+lowP	<0.49	[14]
Planck TT+SimLow	<0.59	[43]
Planck TT,TE,EE+lowP+BAO+FS	<0.25	[23]
Planck TT+lowP+BAO	<0.19	[98]
Planck TT,TE,EE+lowP+BAO	<0.15	[98]
Planck TT+lowP+FS	<0.30	[98]
Planck TT+lowP+BAO+JLA	<0.25	[27]
Planck TT+lowP+BAO+JLA+WL	<0.29	[27]
Planck TT,TE,EE+BAO+SZ	<0.20	[24]
Planck TT+lowP+Ly α -FS	<0.14	[99]

Bounds given in this table are 95% CL.

BAO+FS for row 5 are from SDSS BOSS DR12 [23]. BAO data for rows no. 6–7 are from 6dFGS [100], WiggleZ [101], SDSS BOSS DR11 LOWZ and SDSS BOSS DR11 CMASS [102] (see [98] for details). FS for row no. 8 is from SDSS BOSS DR12 CMASS [103] (see [98] for details). BAO for row no. 9–10 are from 6dFGS [100], SDSS MGS [104], BOSS DR12 [23] (see [27] for details). BAO data for row no. 11 are from 6dFGS [100], SDSS MGS [104], BOSS LOWZ DR11 and BOSS CMASS DR11 [102] (see [14] for details). JLA for row no. 9–10 is the catalog of luminosity distance measurements from the Joint Lightcurve Analysis [105, 106]. WL for row no. 10 is the combination of galaxy, shear and galaxy-galaxy lensing spectra from DES Year1 [27]. SZ in row no. 11 is the SZ cluster count dataset from Ade et al. [24]. Ly α -FS in the last row is the Ly α power spectrum measurement from BOSS [107].

and clustering properties of matter at later times (or equivalently at lower redshift) than those accessible with CMB data and are directly sensitive to cosmological parameters that CMB data can only constrain indirectly, such as the total matter abundance at late times (see e.g., [114] for a review). In this section, we gather constraints on Σm_ν from different LSS probes alone and in combination with CMB data.

5.2.1. Baryon Acoustic Oscillations and the Full Shape of the Matter Power Spectrum from the Clustering of Galaxies

BAO measurements, obtained by mapping the distribution of matter at relatively low redshifts ($z < 3$) if compared to the redshifts relevant for CMB, constrain the geometry of the expanding Universe, providing estimates of the comoving angular diameter distance $d_A(z)$ and the Hubble parameter $H(z)$ at different redshifts (or an angle-averaged combination of the two parameters, $d_V(z) = [zd_A^2(z)/H(z)]^{1/3}$). Therefore, BAO constrain cosmological parameters which are relevant for the late-time history of the Universe, helping break the degeneracy between those parameters and Σm_ν .

BAO extraction techniques rely on the ability to localize the peak of the two-point correlation function of some tracer of the baryon density, or equivalently the locations of the acoustic peaks in the matter power spectrum, thus neglecting the information coming from the broad-band shape of the matter power spectrum itself. In principle, the full shape (FS) of the matter power spectrum is a valuable source of information about clustering properties of the different constituents of the Universe and their reciprocal interactions. In particular, full shape measurements of the power spectrum also provide estimates of the growth of structures at low redshifts through the anisotropies induced by the redshift-space distortions (RSD), usually encoded in the parameter $f(z)\sigma_8(z)$, where $f(z)$ is the logarithmic growth rate and $\sigma_8(z)$ is the normalization amplitude of fluctuations at a given redshift in terms of rms fluctuations in a $8h^{-1}$ Mpc sphere.

In 2016, the final galaxy clustering data from the Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS) were released, as part of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) III⁸. Joint consensus constraints on $d_A(z)$, $H(z)$, and $f(z)\sigma_8(z)$ from BAO and FS measurements at three different effective redshifts ($z_{\text{eff}} = 0.38, 0.51, 0.61$) are employed to derive constraints on Σm_ν ⁹ in combination with Planck TT,TE,EE+ lowP [23]. The 95% upper bound is $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.16$ eV. When relaxing the constraining power coming from CMB weak lensing (through the rescaling of the lensing potential with the lensing amplitude A_L) and the RSD (through the rescaling of the $f\sigma_8$ parameter with the amplitude $A_{f\sigma_8}$), the bound degrades up to $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.25$ eV.

⁸Recently, the DES collaboration has reported a 4% measurement of the angular diameter distance from the distribution of galaxies to redshift $z = 1$ [115]. Cosmological constraints are derived in the Λ CDM framework, with Σm_ν fixed to the minimal value of 0.06 eV. Therefore, no bounds on Σm_ν have been extracted from the BAO measurements from DES yet.

⁹Note that the authors follow the assumption that all the mass is carried by only one of three neutrino species, i.e., $m_1 = \Sigma m_\nu$, $m_{2,3} = 0$ eV, instead of the more widely used fully-degenerate approximation of $m_i = \Sigma m_\nu/3$, $i = 1, 2, 3$ for each of the three neutrino species.

When using the FS measurements, it has to be noted that the constraining power of this dataset is highly reduced if one considers that (1) the majority of information encoded in the FS usually comes from the small-scale region of the power spectrum, where the still imprecisely known non-linearities play a non-negligible role; (2) the exact shape and scale-dependence of the bias b between the observed galaxy clustering and the underlying total matter distribution is still debated. Therefore, it is useful to disentangle BAO and FS measurements, to gauge the relative importance of the two in constraining Σm_ν . For a thorough comparison between the constraining power of the two datasets, we refer the reader to Vagnozzi et al. [98] (see also [116, 117] for analyses using older data), where the authors focus on recent BAO and FS measurements. Here, we summarize the conclusion of the paper: “*The analysis method commonly adopted [for FS measurements] results in their constraining power still being less powerful than that of the extracted BAO signal.*”

5.2.2. Weak Lensing

The most recent weak lensing datasets have been released by the Kilo-Degree Survey (KiDS [26, 118]) and the Dark Energy Survey (DES [27, 119]). It is interesting to note that all of the aforementioned datasets provide results in terms of cosmological parameters which are slightly in tension with the corresponding estimates coming from CMB data (which we remind is a high-redshift probe). In particular, the values of Ω_m and $S_8 = \sigma_8(\Omega_m/0.3)^{0.5}$ inferred from weak lensing data are lower than the best fit obtained with CMB data. The significance of this tension is at $\sim 2\sigma$ level for KiDS and more than 1σ level for the 1-D marginalized constraints on Ω_m and S_8 for DES (even though a more careful measure of the consistency between the two datasets in the full parameter space provides “substantial” evidence for consistency, see Abbott et al. [27] for details).

Weak lensing data tend to favor higher values of Σm_ν than those constrained by CMB power spectrum data. In fact, lower values of Ω_m and S_8 imply a reduced clustering amplitude, an effect that can be obtained by increasing the sum of neutrino masses. In Abbott et al. [27], the combination of DES shear, galaxy and galaxy-shear spectra with Planck TT+lowP and other cosmological datasets in agreement with CMB results (i.e., BAO from 6dFGS [100], SDSS DR₇ MGS [104], and BOSS DR12 [23], and luminosity distances from the Joint Lightcurve Analysis (JLA) of distant SNIa [105, 106]) yields an upper bound at 95% CL on the sum of the neutrino masses of $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.29$ eV, almost 20% higher than the corresponding bound obtained dropping DES data ($\Sigma m_\nu < 0.245$ eV). Interestingly enough, the DES collaboration shows that a marginal improvement in the agreement between DES and Planck data is obtained when the sum of the neutrino masses is fixed to the minimal mass allowed by oscillation experiments $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06$ eV.

To conclude this section, we also report the upper bound on Σm_ν obtained by weak lensing only data from the tomographic weak lensing power spectrum as measured by the KiDS collaboration [26]. They found $\Sigma m_\nu < 3.3$ eV and $\Sigma m_\nu < 4.5$ eV at 95% CL depending on the number of redshift bins retained in the analysis. These bounds are significantly broader

than the constraints coming from CMB only data. Nevertheless, they come from independent cosmological measurements and are still tighter than the constraints coming from kinematic measurements of β decay.

5.2.3. Cluster Counts

An additional low-redshift observable is represented by measurements of the number of galaxy clusters as a function of their mass at different redshifts. Cluster number counts provide a tool to infer the present value of the matter density Ω_m and the clustering amplitude σ_8 , to be compared with the equivalent quantities probed at higher redshift by the primary CMB anisotropies.

Depending on the prior imposed on the mass bias, cluster counts tend to prefer lower values of Ω_m and σ_8 than the corresponding values obtained with primary CMB. The tension between the two datasets can be as high as 3.7σ for the lowest value of the mass bias as quantified by the Planck collaboration in 2015 [24]. Again, this preference for less power in the matter distribution favors higher values of the sum of the neutrino masses. Indeed, the Planck collaboration reports [24] an upper bound of $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.20$ eV at 95% CL when Planck TT,TE,EE+lowP+BAO is combined with the SZ cluster count dataset (with a prior on the mass bias $(1-b) = 0.780 \pm 0.092$ from the gravitational shear measurements of the Canadian Cluster Comparison Project, CCCP [120]), to be compared with the corresponding 95% upper bound $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.17$ eV without the SZ cluster count dataset [14].

Recently, Salvati et al. [121] updated constraints on cosmological parameters, including Σm_ν , from the SZ clusters in the Planck SZ catalog, considering cluster count alone and in combination with the angular power spectrum of SZ sources. A comparison with bounds coming from primary CMB anisotropies is also performed. The combination of the two SZ probes (complemented with BAO measurements from [102] to fix the underlying cosmology) confirms the discrepancy in Ω_m and σ_8 at the level of 2.1σ and provides an independent upper limit on the sum of the neutrino masses of $\Sigma m_\nu < 1.47$ eV at 95% CL. When combined with primary CMB, the bound reduces to $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.18$ eV. This bound is slightly higher than $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.12$ eV found by Vagnozzi et al. [98] in absence of SZ data, as we should expect due to the aforementioned tension between SZ and primary CMB estimates of matter density and power.

5.2.4. Lyman- α Forests

Like all the datasets that probe the clustering of matter over cosmological distances, the Ly α power spectrum is sensitive to Σm_ν primarily through the power suppression induced by massive neutrinos at small scales. The Ly α spectrum alone can constrain Σm_ν at the level of 1 eV (see e.g., [107]). The constraining power of the Ly α spectrum is evident when it is combined with CMB data. In this case, the Ly α data are used for setting the overall normalization of the spectrum through their sensitivity to Ω_m and σ_8 , whereas the CMB fixes the underlying cosmological parameters and helps break degeneracies between Ω_m , σ_8 , and Σm_ν . Recently, Yèche et al.

[122] reported constraints on Σm_ν from the combination of the one-dimensional (i.e., angle-averaged) Ly α power spectra from the SDSS III-BOSS collaboration and from the VLT/XSHOOTER legacy survey (XQ-100). When the power spectra are used alone [complemented with a Gaussian prior on $H_0 = (67.3 \pm 1.0) \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$], the authors obtain $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.8$ eV at 95% CL. The bounds dramatically improve to $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.14$ eV when CMB power spectrum data from Planck TT+lowP are added to the analysis. The tightest bound on Σm_ν from Ly α power spectrum comes from Palanque-Delabrouille et al. [107], with $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.12$ eV from Planck TT+lowP in combination with the Ly α flux power spectrum from BOSS-DR12. Interestingly enough, in both analyses, the limit set by Ly α +Planck TT+lowP does not further improve when the Ly α spectra are combined instead with the full set of CMB data from Planck, including small-scale CMB polarization (Planck TT,TE,EE+lowP), and with BAO data from 6dFGS, SDSS MGS, BOSS-DR11.

The BAO signal can be also extracted from the Ly α spectrum (see [123] for a pivotal study), providing estimates of the comoving angular diameter distance $d_A(z)$ and of the Hubble parameter $H(z)$ at redshift $z \simeq 2$. Recently, the SDSS III-BOSS DR12 collaboration reported measurements of the BAO signal at $z = 2.33$ from Ly α forest [99]. The estimated values of d_A and H are in agreement with a Λ CDM model (even though a slight tension with Planck primary CMB is present), although their precision is smaller than the precision obtained with galaxy-derived BAO measurements. Therefore, at present, the impact of Ly α -BAO data on simple extensions of the Λ CDM model is minimal.

We conclude that it is a conservative choice to take the constraints coming from Ly α with some caution (a similar comment applies to constraints coming from aggressive analyses of the broadband shape of the matter power spectrum from galaxy surveys), until this probe will reach the level of maturity comparable with other traditional cosmological probes.

5.3. Local Measurements of the Hubble Constant and Supernovae Ia

The most recent estimate of the Hubble constant has been reported in Riess et al. [93]. The authors improved over their previous measurement of H_0 from 3.3 to 2.4% thanks to an increased sample of reliable SNIa in nearby galaxies calibrated over Cepheids. Their final estimate, based on the combination of three different anchors, is $H_0 = (73.24 \pm 1.74) \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, 3.2σ higher than the indirect estimate of H_0 from Planck TT+SimLow (3.4σ higher than Planck TT,TE,EE+SimLow) in the context of a Λ CDM cosmology with $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06$ eV. Previous analyses from the same authors also pointed to a $\sim 2\sigma$ tension between direct measurements of H_0 and indirect estimate from primary CMB anisotropies from Planck (although see [124] for a re-analysis of the same dataset which slightly reduces the discrepancy to within 1σ agreement). A discussion about the possible reasons behind this discrepancy and ways to alleviate it invoking non-standard cosmological scenarios are beyond the scope of this work. We refer the reader to the dedicated works [62, 125, 126] for further reading.

Since the Hubble constant and the sum of neutrino masses are anti-correlated, given the tension between the two probes it is clear that the combination of direct measurements of H_0 with CMB data leads to a preference for smaller values of Σm_ν with respect to CMB-only constraints. Indeed, several authors have pointed out the tight constraints on Σm_ν for such a combination. As an example, Vagnozzi et al. [98] showed that constraints on Σm_ν can be as tight as $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.148$ eV at 95% CL when Planck TT+lowP+BAO are complemented with a Gaussian prior on H_0 equal to the estimate of the Hubble constant in Riess et al. [93], to be compared with $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.186$ eV from Planck TT+lowP+BAO only. When lowP is replaced by a Gaussian prior on τ compatible with the new estimates from SimLow, these numbers change to $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.115$ eV ($\Sigma m_\nu < 0.151$ eV) with (without) the H_0 prior.

For the sake of completeness, we shall also mention that independent estimates of H_0 from BAO measurements conducted by the SDSS III-BOSS DR12 collaboration [23] are in agreement with CMB estimates (see also [62] for a recent discussion). See also Abbott et al. [127] for an additional independent estimate of H_0 with a combination of clustering and weak lensing measurements from DES-Y1 with BAO and BBN data. A discussion about the combination of different measurements of H_0 from cosmological probes and local measurements is also reported in Abbott et al. [127], Vega-Ferrero et al. [128].

Finally, we report that a standard siren measurement of H_0 has been performed after the detection of the neutron star-neutron star merger GW170817 [129–131]. The Hubble constant has been constrained as $H_0 = 70.0_{-8.0}^{+12.0}$ km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹ at 68% CL. The accuracy of this determination is not comparable with the precise estimates of direct measurements and other cosmological constraints. However, the standard siren approach represents an additional independent estimate of H_0 and appears as a promising avenue as more GW events with electromagnetic counterparts are detected.

Concerning the inclusion of SNIa, the bounds from Planck TT+lowP improve from $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.72$ eV to $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.33$ eV at 95% CL when data from the Joint Lightcurve Analysis [105, 106] are included¹⁰. The most relevant systematics that affect SNIa measurements are related to the way in which SNIa light curves are standardized, with issues mostly arising from photometric calibrations and lightcurve fitting procedures.

6. CONSTRAINTS ON Σm_ν FROM FUTURE SURVEYS

In this section, we will discuss the expected improvements in the constraints on Σm_ν from the upcoming generation of CMB and LSS surveys. These constraints are also summarized in **Table 2** for the reader's convenience.

¹⁰Bounds from the Planck Legacy Archive: https://wiki.cosmos.esa.int/planckpla2015/index.php/Cosmological_Parameters

TABLE 2 | Expected sensitivity on Σm_ν from different combination of future cosmological data.

Dataset	$\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu)$ [meV]	References
CORE TT,TE,EE,PP	44	[132]
S4 TT,TE,EE,PP	73	[30]
CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+DESI	21	[132]
S4 TT,TE,EE,PP ^a +DESI	23	[30]
S4 TT,TE,EE,PP ^b +DESI	15	[30]
Planck CMB+LSST-shear ^c	30	[36]
Planck+Euclid-FS	40	[133]
Stage-III CMB (ACTPol)+WFIRST	30	[38]
BAO+FS		
Stage-III CMB+WFIRST+Euclid+LSST	8	[38]

^aThe combination assumes a Gaussian prior on $\tau = 0.06 \pm 0.01$ roughly corresponding to the new estimate from Aghanim et al. [43].

^bThe combination assumes $\sigma(\tau) = 0.002$ and noise level of $2.5 \mu K \cdot \text{arcmin}$.

^cFor a fiducial value $\Sigma m_\nu = 0$ eV and marginalizing over dynamical dark energy, arbitrary curvature and N_{eff} .

Unless otherwise stated, the sensitivity $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu)$ is forecasted assuming a standard cosmological model with $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06$ eV. DESI refers to the simulated DESI-BAO dataset based on expected experimental performances [35] (see [30, 132] for details). FS refers to the use of the (simulated) measurements of the full shape of the matter power spectrum. The last line implies the use of CMB lensing, Euclid and WFIRST to calibrate the multiplicative bias in the shear measurements from LSST [38].

6.1. CMB Surveys: CORE and CMB Stage-IV

The tightest bounds on Σm_ν from a single CMB experiment are those from the Planck satellite, reported in section 5.1. As already explained, this sensitivity mostly comes from the ability to (1) detect, at the level of CMB power spectrum, the smoothing effect of gravitational lensing of CMB photons, and, (2) directly reconstruct the lensing power spectrum itself. These effects arise at small angular scales (higher multipoles ℓ), therefore it is crucial to observe this region of the power spectrum with high accuracy in order to improve the sensitivity on Σm_ν . Improved measurements of the polarization power spectra at all scales are also important to break degeneracies between cosmological parameters. The main example is the effect that a better estimate of the reionization optical depth τ from the large scale polarization spectrum has on Σm_ν . Concerning the lensing power spectrum, this is internally reconstructed by the Planck collaboration with high statistical significance up to intermediate scales. However, the full power of this probe will be definitively unveiled when better measurements of polarization maps are available, enabling reconstruction from E-B estimators with lower variance and up to smaller scales [57].

A detailed summary of the expected sensitivity to cosmological parameters, including Σm_ν , of all pre-2020 and post-2020 CMB missions can be found in Errard et al. [134]. As relevant examples, in this section we focus on two classes of future (post 2020) CMB experiments: a space mission and a ground based telescope.

Recently, a proposal for a future CMB space mission has been submitted to the European Space Agency (ESA) in response to a call for medium-size mission proposals (M5). The mission, named Cosmic ORigin Explorer (CORE), is designed to have 19 frequency channels in the range 60 – 600 GHz for simultaneously solving for CMB and foreground signals, angular resolution in the range $2' - 18'$ depending on the frequency channel and aggregate sensitivity of $2 \mu\text{K} \cdot \text{arcmin}$ [32] (for comparison, the Planck satellite has 9 frequency channels in the range 30 – 900 GHz, angular resolution in the range $5' - 33'$ and the most sensitive channel shows a temperature noise of $0.55 \mu\text{K} \cdot \text{deg}$ at 143 GHz [135]). This experimental setup would enable to constrain $\Sigma m_\nu = (0.072_{-0.051}^{+0.037}) \text{ eV}$ at 68% CL assuming a ΛCDM model with a fiducial value of the sum of the neutrino masses $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06 \text{ eV}$, for the combination of CORE TT,TE,EE,PP (temperature and E-polarization auto and cross spectra and lensing power spectrum PP) [132]. This roughly corresponds to a sensitivity of $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) \sim 0.044 \text{ eV}$ (note that the target threshold for a 3σ detection in the minimal mass scenario is $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) = 0.020 \text{ eV}$; for comparison, a simulated Planck-like experiment could only put an upper limit of $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.315 \text{ eV}$ at 68% CL for the same model). Other than to the capability of measuring with high precision the small scale polarization (also in order to reconstruct the lensing potential), part of this high sensitivity also comes from the improved limits that a science mission like CORE can put on τ : compared to Planck, CORE would achieve an almost cosmic-variance-limited (CVL) detection of the reionization optical depth [$\sigma_{\text{CVL}}(\tau) \simeq 0.002$].

A roadmap towards a Stage-IV (S4) generation of CMB ground-based experiments¹¹ has been also developing [30]. The goal is to set a definitive CMB experiment with $\sim 250,000$ detectors surveying half of the sky, with angular resolution of $1' - 2'$ and a sensitivity of $1 \mu\text{K} \cdot \text{arcmin}$ at 150 GHz. The greatest contaminant for a ground-based experiment is the atmospheric noise, which highly reduces the accessible frequencies for CMB observations to a total of four windows, roughly 35, 90, 150, and 250 GHz. The main advantages with respect to a space-borne mission are a larger collecting area with an incredibly higher number of detectors (for a comparison, the CORE proposal accounts for a total of 2,100 detectors [32], the Planck satellite has 74 detectors [135]) and subsequent suppression of experimental noise. At large scales, the Stage-IV target is the recombination bump at $\ell > 20$. The reduced sky fraction accessible from ground, foreground contaminations and atmospheric noise are the main issues that limit the possibility to target also the range $\ell < 20$. Therefore, it is likely that S4 would be complemented by balloon-based and satellite-based measurements at the largest scales. As a result, forecasts for S4 relies on external measurements of τ . The sensitivity $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu)$ of S4 TT,TE,EE,PP complemented with a Gaussian prior on the optical depth of $\tau = 0.06 \pm 0.01$ (roughly corresponding to the latest estimate from Planck-HFI [43]) is in the range $[0.073 - 0.110] \text{ eV}$, depending on the angular resolution and noise level, for $f_{\text{sky}} = 40\%$ [30].

Neither of the two classes of future CMB mission proposals can achieve alone the necessary sensitivity to claim a detection of $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06 \text{ eV}$ at the $3\text{-}\sigma$ level. Nevertheless, we will see in the next section that the combination of future CMB missions with future galaxy surveys could possibly lead to the first detection of neutrino masses from cosmology.

6.2. Future LSS Surveys: DESI, Euclid, LSST, WFIRST

Improved performances from future galaxy surveys with respect to the current status can be achieved by mapping a larger volume of the sky, therefore increasing the number of samples observed and going deeper in redshift. In this section, we will briefly review the expected performances of the main Stage-IV LSS surveys.

The successor to SDSS III-BOSS survey will be the ground-based Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument¹² (DESI). It is designed to operate for 5 years and cover roughly a $14,000 \text{ deg}^2$ survey area. The extension in redshift is expected to be up to $z = 1$ for Luminous Red Galaxies (LRG), $z = 1.7$ for Emission Line Galaxies (ELG) and $z = 3.5$ for Ly α forests, for a total of over 20 million galaxy and quasar redshifts. With these numbers, DESI will improve over the BOSS survey by an order of magnitude in both volume covered and number of objects observed. It can achieve a 3.49% and 4.78% determination of the BAO signal across (d_A/r_d) and along (Hr_d) the line-of-sight, respectively, at $z = 1.85$, and 16% and 9% determination of the same quantities at the highest redshift achievable with Ly α forest $z = 3.55$ [35]. Even in the most conservative scenario when DESI BAO only (i.e., without including information from the broadband shape of the matter power spectrum and Ly α forests) are combined with future CMB experiments, the sensitivity on Σm_ν greatly improves. It goes down to $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) = 0.021 \text{ eV}$ for CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+DESI BAO, forecasting a $\sim 3\sigma$ detection of Σm_ν in the minimal mass scenario [132]. In the case of S4+DESI BAO [30], $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu)$ is in the range $[0.023 - 0.036] \text{ eV}$ (or $[0.020 - 0.032] \text{ eV}$) with a prior of $\tau = 0.06 \pm 0.01$ (or $\tau = 0.060 \pm 0.006$, the expected sensitivity from Planck-HFI [136]) and $f_{\text{sky}} = 0.40$, depending on the S4 angular resolution and noise level. For a $1'$ resolution and a noise level lower than $2.5 \mu\text{K} \cdot \text{arcmin}$, $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu)$ could be further improved with a better measurement of τ down to the level of $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) < 0.015 \text{ eV}$, that would guarantee a $> 4\sigma$ detection of Σm_ν in the minimal mass scenario.

The DESI mission will be complementary to the science goals of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope¹³ (LSST), a Stage-IV ground-based optical telescope. The main science fields in which LSST will mostly operate are [36]: “*Inventory of the Solar System, Mapping the Milky Way, Exploring the Transient Optical Sky, and Probing Dark Energy and Dark Matter*”. These goals will be achieved by surveying a $\sim 30,000 \text{ deg}^2$ area (2/3 of which in a “deep-wide-fast” survey mode) over 10 years, in six bands (*ugrizy*), with incredible angular resolution ($\sim 0.7''$), producing measurements of roughly 10 billion stars and galaxies. Thanks to its peculiar observational strategy, LSST will provide multiple probes of the late-time evolution of the Universe with

¹¹<https://cmb-s4.org>

¹²<http://desi.lbl.gov>

¹³<https://www.lsst.org>

a single experiment, namely, weak lensing cosmic shear, BAO in the galaxy power spectrum, evolution of the mass function of galaxy clusters, and a compilation of SNIa redshift-distances. The expected sensitivity on Σm_ν [36] is in the range $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) = [0.030 - 0.070]$ eV, depending on the fiducial value of Σm_ν assumed when performing forecasts ($\Sigma m_\nu^{\text{fid}} = [0 - 0.66]$ eV). Larger fiducial values for the mass yield better sensitivity. These numbers include a marginalization over the uncertainties coming from an extended cosmological scenario, where a number of relativistic species different than 3.046, a non-zero curvature and a dynamical dark energy component are allowed. They also take into account the combination of the three-dimensional cosmic shear field as measured by a LSST-like survey with Planck-like CMB data and can be improved by a factor of 2 if either BAO or SNIa measurements are also considered, whereas a factor of $\sqrt{2}$ degradation could come from systematic effects. Interestingly enough, the observational strategy of LSST (large and deep survey) could provide the necessary sensitivity to explore the faint effects that the distinct neutrino mass eigenstates have on cosmological probes. This is a highly debated topic and we refer the reader to section 8 for related discussion.

Synergy between these large ground-based observatories and future space missions is expected. We consider here the ESA Euclid satellite¹⁴ and the NASA Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope¹⁵ (WFIRST) as representative space-borne missions. Euclid will be a wide-field satellite that operates with imaging and spectroscopic instruments for 6 years and covers roughly 15,000 deg² in the optical and near-infrared bands, observing a billion galaxies and measuring ~ 100 million galaxy redshifts [37]. The redshift depth will be up to $z \sim 2$ for galaxy clustering and up to $z \sim 3$ for cosmic shear. The combination of the galaxy power spectrum measured with Euclid and primary CMB from Planck is expected to give $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) = 0.04$ eV; if instead the weak lensing dataset produced by Euclid is considered in combination with primary CMB, we expect $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) = 0.05$ eV [133]. Both combinations provide a $\sim 1\sigma$ evidence in the minimal mass scenario. Some authors have also pointed out that weak lensing data as measured by Euclid could discriminate between the two neutrino hierarchies if the true value of Σm_ν is small enough (i.e., far enough from the degenerate region of the neutrino mass spectrum), see [133] and references therein¹⁶.

WFIRST is an infrared telescope with a primary mirror as wide as the Hubble Space Telescope's primary (2.4 m) and will operate for 6 years [38]. The primary instrument on board, the Wide Field Instrument, will be able to operate both in imaging and spectroscopic mode, observing a billion galaxies. The instrumental characteristics of WFIRST will more than double the surface galaxy density measured by Euclid. With this setup, WFIRST will test the late expansion of the Universe with great accuracy employing supernovae, weak lensing, BAO, redshift space distortions (RSD), and clusters as probes. From the BAO

and broadband measurements of the matter power spectrum, WFIRST in combination with a Stage-III CMB experiment could provide $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) < 0.03$ eV [38].

We want to conclude this section by pointing out that the aforementioned missions will be extremely powerful if combined together. Indeed, they are quite complementary [137]. A significant example concerning the improvement of constraints on massive neutrinos is the combination of all the previously discussed surveys with the lensing reconstruction from CMB. The cross correlation of weak lensing (optical), CMB lensing power spectrum and galaxy clustering (spectroscopic) can highly reduce the systematics affecting each single probe, in particular the multiplicative bias in cosmic shear [138]. For example, a combination of WFIRST, Euclid, LSST, and CMB Stage-III can achieve $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) < 0.01$ eV [38]. Another example is the calibration of the cluster mass for SZ cluster count analyses. This calibration can be performed through optical surveys such as LSST or through CMB lensing calibration, with comparable results. In Madhavacheril et al. [139], the authors show that lensing-calibrated SZ cluster counts can provide a detection of the minimal neutrino mass Σm_ν at $> 3\sigma$ level, also in extended cosmological scenarios.

6.3. 21-cm Surveys

In this section, we will briefly comment about the possibility to use 21-cm survey data to constrain Σm_ν . We refer the reader to the relevant papers for further readings. Measurements of the 21-cm signal such as those expected from the Square Kilometer Array¹⁷ (SKA) and the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment¹⁸ (CHIME) can shed light on the Epoch of Reionization, including a better determination of the reionization optical depth τ . In addition, they map the distribution of neutral hydrogen in the Universe, a tracer of the underlying matter distribution. Therefore, constraints on Σm_ν can benefit from 21-cm measurements in two ways: by breaking the degeneracy between Σm_ν and τ (see e.g., [140], where the authors report $\sigma(\Sigma m_\nu) = 0.012$ eV for a combination of CORE+Euclid lensing and FS+ a prior on τ compatible with expectations from future 21-cm surveys); by detecting the effect of Σm_ν on the evolution of matter perturbations (see e.g., [141–143]).

7. CONSTRAINTS ON Σm_ν IN EXTENDED COSMOLOGICAL SCENARIOS

The constraints reported so far apply to the simple one-parameter extension of the standard cosmological model, Λ CDM + Σm_ν . When derived in the context of more complicated scenarios, such as models that allow arbitrary curvature and/or non-standard dark energy models and/or modified gravity scenarios etc., constraints on Σm_ν are expected in general to degrade (although tighter constraints on Σm_ν can be also possible in particular extended scenarios) with respect to those obtained in a Λ CDM + Σm_ν cosmology. This effect is due to the multiple degeneracies arising between cosmological parameters

¹⁴<https://www.euclid-ec.org>

¹⁵<https://wfirst.gsfc.nasa.gov>

¹⁶Note that the specifics of the Euclid mission have changed since the time when [133] was published. The new specifics are not publicly available, however the Euclid collaboration is expected to release updated forecasts in the near future.

¹⁷<http://skatelescope.org>

¹⁸<https://chime-experiment.ca>

that describe the cosmological model under scrutiny. In other words, when more degrees of freedom are available—in terms of cosmological parameters that are not fixed by the model—, more variables can be tuned in order to adapt the theoretical model to the data. For example, CMB data measure with incredible accuracy the location (expressed by the angular size of the horizon at recombination θ_s) and amplitude (basically driven by the exact value of z_{eq}) of the first acoustic peak. Therefore, we want to preserve this feature in any cosmological model. As explained before, h , Ω_m , and Σm_ν can be varied together in order to do this. Adding other degrees of freedom, like curvature or evolving dark energy, allows for even more freedom, thus making the degeneracy worse. Of course, the addition of different cosmological data, which are usually sensitive to different combinations of the aforementioned parameters, is extremely helpful in tightening the constraints on Σm_ν (and, in general, on any other cosmological parameter) in complex scenarios.

In more detail, constraints on the sum of neutrino masses are particularly sensitive to the so-called “geometric degeneracy.” This term refers to the possibility of adjusting the parameters in order to keep constant the angle subtended by the sound horizon at last scattering, that controls the position of the first peak of the CMB anisotropy spectrum. The degeneracy is worsened in models with a varying curvature density Ω_k or parameter of the equation of state of dark energy w . Constraints on the expansion history, like those provided by BAO or by direct measurements of the Hubble constant, are particularly helpful in breaking the geometric degeneracy. In principle, one could also expect a degeneracy between the effective number of degrees of freedom N_{eff} and Σm_ν , but for a different reason: both parameters can be varied in order to keep constant the redshift of matter-radiation equality. However, this can be done only at the expense of changing the CMB damping scale (see section 10 for further details). High-resolution measurements of the CMB anisotropies are therefore a key to partially break the degeneracy. Finally, a non-standard relation between the matter density distribution and the lensing potential can be modeled by introducing a phenomenological parameter A_L , which modulates the amplitude of the lensing signal [144]. Most of the current constraining power of CMB experiments on Σm_ν comes from CMB lensing. Therefore, it is clear that in models with varying A_L the limits on neutrino masses are strongly degraded. However, it should also be noted that A_L is usually introduced as a proxy for instrumental systematics; if considered as an actual physical parameter, its value is fixed by general relativity to be $A_L = 1$.

To make the discussion more quantitative, we see how this applies to the constraints obtained with present data and future data. In **Table 3**, we report a comparison of the constraints on Σm_ν for some extensions of the Λ CDM model. In the upper part of the table, we report constraints obtained from the PlanckTT+lowP+lensing+BAO dataset combination, described in section 5.1. These are taken from the full grid of results made available by the Planck collaboration¹⁹ and have been

TABLE 3 | Constraints on Σm_ν from different extensions to the Λ CDM model for the indicated datasets.

Extension to Λ CDM	Σm_ν [meV]	Dataset
Λ CDM + Σm_ν	<254	Planck TT+lowP+lensing+BAO ^a
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + \Omega_K$	<368	Planck TT+lowP+lensing+BAO ^a
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + w$	<372	Planck TT+lowP+lensing+BAO ^a
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + N_{\text{eff}}$	<323	Planck TT+lowP+lensing+BAO ^a
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + A_L$	<413	Planck TT+lowP+lensing+BAO ^a
Λ CDM + Σm_ν	62 ± 16	CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+BAO [132]
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + \Omega_K$	63 ± 21	CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+BAO [132]
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + w$	48^{+22}_{-17}	CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+BAO [132]
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + N_{\text{eff}}$	68^{+15}_{-17}	CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+BAO [132]
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + Y_{\text{He}}$	62 ± 16	CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+BAO [132]
Λ CDM + $\Sigma m_\nu + r$	60^{+15}_{-17}	CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+BAO [132]

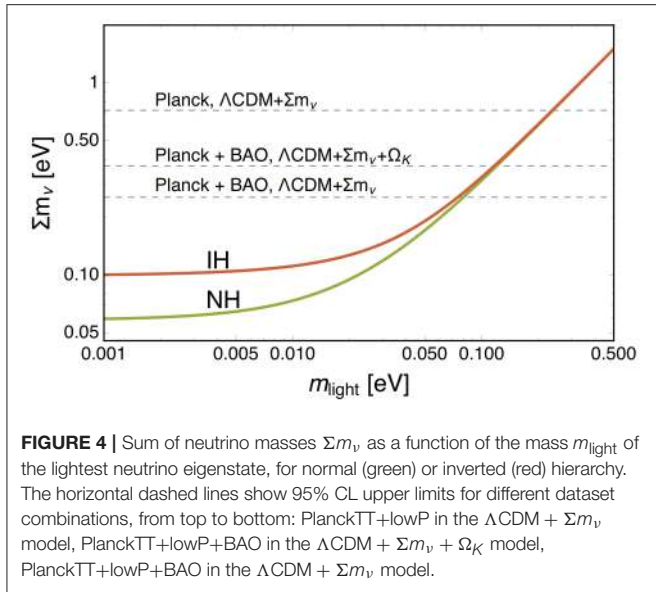
^aFrom the Planck 2015 Explanatory Supplement Wiki.

Ω_K is the curvature density parameter, w is the (constant) equation of state parameter for the dark energy, N_{eff} is the number of relativistic species at recombination, A_L is the phenomenological rescaling of the lensing power that smears the CMB power [144], Y_{He} is the primordial Helium abundance, r is the tensor to scalar ratio. Upper section: 95% CL constraints from the full grid of results from the Planck collaboration (see text for details). BAO data are from 6dFGS, SDSS MGS, BOSS LOWZ DR11, and BOSS CMASS DR11 (see [14] for details). Lower section: Forecasted 68% CL constraints from Di Valentino et al. [132]. BAO refers to simulated data for DESI and Euclid surveys. The fiducial model adopted for the analysis is the following: $\Sigma m_\nu = 0.06$ eV, $\Omega_K = 0$, $w = -1$, $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046$, $Y_{\text{He}} = 0.24$, $r = 0$.

obtained with the same statistical techniques used for the Λ CDM model. We see that the constraints are degraded by 30% in models with varying N_{eff} , by 50% in models with varying Ω_K or w , and by 65% in models with varying A_L . This information is also conveyed, for an easier visual comparison, in **Figure 4**, where we show the sum of neutrino masses as a function of the mass m_{light} of the lightest eigenstate. The green and red curves are for normal and inverted hierarchy, respectively. We show 95% constraints on Σm_ν for different models and dataset combinations as horizontal lines. In the lower section of **Table 3** we instead report a similar comparison, based on the expected sensitivities of future CMB and LSS probes [132]. The pattern is very similar to that observed for present data, although it should be noted that the increased precision of future experiments will allow to further reduce the degeneracies. In particular, it is found that the constraints on Σm_ν are degraded by $\sim 30\%$ in models with varying Ω_K or w , and not degraded at all in models with varying N_{eff} (models with varying A_L have not been considered in Di Valentino et al. [132]).

The cases reported in **Table 3** hardly exhaust all the possible, well-motivated extensions to the Λ CDM + Σm_ν model. To make a few examples of more complicated extensions, without the aim of being complete, the interplay between inflationary parameters and the neutrino sector has been investigated in Gerbino et al. [145] and Di Valentino et al. [146]. In Di Valentino et al. [147–149] “extended parameter spaces” are considered, in which 12 parameters, including Σm_ν , are varied simultaneously.

¹⁹The full grid can be downloaded from the Planck Legacy Archive.



Neutrino-dark matter interactions are discussed in Di Valentino et al. [150], while low-reheating scenarios are studied in de Salas et al. [151]. Finally, constraints on Σm_ν in the context of cosmological models with time-varying dark energy are derived for example in Lorenz et al. [152] and Yang et al. [153]. Neutrino masses in interacting dark energy-dark matter models and in extended neutrino models (including neutrino viscosity, anisotropic stress and lepton asymmetry) have instead been considered in Kumar and Nunes [154] and in Nunes and Bonilla [155].

8. COSMOLOGY AND THE NEUTRINO MASS HIERARCHY

Cosmology is mostly sensitive to the total energy density in neutrinos, directly proportional to the sum of the neutrino masses $\Sigma m_\nu \equiv m_1 + m_2 + m_3$. We can express Σm_ν in the two hierarchies as a function of the lightest eigenstate m_{light} (either m_1 or m_3) and of the squared mass differences Δm_{12}^2 and Δm_{13}^2 :

$$\Sigma m_\nu^{NH} = m_{\text{light}} + \sqrt{m_{\text{light}}^2 + \Delta m_{12}^2} + \sqrt{m_{\text{light}}^2 + |\Delta m_{13}^2|} \tag{36}$$

$$\Sigma m_\nu^{IH} = m_{\text{light}} + \sqrt{m_{\text{light}}^2 + |\Delta m_{13}^2|} + \sqrt{m_{\text{light}}^2 + |\Delta m_{13}^2| + \Delta m_{12}^2} \tag{37}$$

When stating that oscillation experiments are insensitive to the absolute mass scale, one refers to the fact that the value of m_{light} is not accessible with oscillation data. When $m_{\text{light}} = 0 \text{ eV}$, one obtains $\Sigma m_\nu^{NH} \simeq 0.06 \text{ eV}$ and $\Sigma m_\nu^{IH} \simeq 0.1 \text{ eV}$. Therefore, for each hierarchy, a minimum mass scenario exists in which $\Sigma m_\nu \neq 0$.

It has been a long-standing issue whether or not cosmological probes are sensitive to the neutrino mass hierarchy. In principle, we expect physical effects on cosmological observables due to the choice of the neutrino hierarchy. Individual neutrino species that carry a slightly different individual mass exhibit a slightly different free-streaming scale k_f : depending on their individual mass, neutrinos can finish suppressing the matter power at different epochs, leaving three distinct “kinks” in the matter power spectrum. As a consequence, the weak lensing effects on the CMB and on high redshift galaxies can be slightly affected by the choice of the hierarchy. In practice, all of these signatures are at the level of permille effects on the matter and CMB power spectra, well below the current sensitivity [156].

Given the current sensitivity (roughly $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.2 \text{ eV}$ at 95% CL), it is then a legitimate assumption to approximate the mass spectrum as perfectly degenerate ($m_i = \Sigma m_\nu/3$) when performing analysis of cosmological data. Very recently, several authors investigated the possibility that such an approximation could fail reproducing the physical behavior of massive neutrinos when observed with the high sensitivity of future cosmological surveys [132, 145, 157, 158]. In addition, the issue of whether future surveys could unravel the unknown hierarchy has been addressed by several groups [98, 158–162]. We refer the reader to the relevant papers for a thorough discussion of these issues. Here, we summarize the main results: (1) the sensitivity of future experiments will not be enough to clearly separate the effects of different choices of the neutrino hierarchy, *for a given value of Σm_ν* ; therefore the fully-degenerate approximation is still a viable way to model the neutrino mass spectrum in the context of cosmological analysis; (2) the possibility to clearly identify the neutrino hierarchy with future cosmological probes is related to the capability of measuring $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.1 \text{ eV}$ at high statistical significance, in order to exclude the IH scenario. It is clear that the possibility to do this strongly depends on the true value of Σm_ν : the closer it is to $\Sigma m_\nu^{NH} = 0.06 \text{ eV}$, the larger will be the statistical significance by which we can exclude IH. This is true independently of whether we approach the issue from a frequentist or Bayesian perspective. In the latter case, however, since a detection of the hierarchy would be driven by volume effects, this posits the question of what is the correct prior choice for Σm_ν . The issue is extensively discussed in Gerbino et al. [159], Simpson et al. [163], Schwetz et al. [164], Caldwell et al. [165], Long et al. [166], and Hannestad and Tram [167].

9. COMPLEMENTARITY WITH LABORATORY SEARCHES

Cosmological observables are ideal probes of the neutrino absolute mass scale, though they are not the only probes available. In fact, laboratory avenues such as kinematic measurements in β -decay experiments (see e.g., [168]) and neutrino-less double- β decay ($0\nu 2\beta$) searches (see e.g., [169, 170]) provide complementary pieces of information to those brought by cosmology.

Kinematic measurements are carried on with β -decay experiments mostly involving ${}^3\text{H}$. The shape of the decay spectrum close to the end point is sensitive to the (electron) neutrino mass and can be parametrized in terms of constraints on the electron neutrino effective mass²⁰ defined in Equation (12). The current best limits on m_β come from the Troitzk and Mainz experiments, with $m_\beta < 2.05$ eV [1] and $m_\beta < 2.3$ eV [2] at 95% CL. The new generation ${}^3\text{H}$ β -decay experiment KATRIN (Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino²¹) is expected either to reach a sensitivity of $m_\beta < 0.2$ eV at 90% CL, an order of magnitude improvement with respect to current sensitivities, or to detect the neutrino mass if it is higher than $m_\beta = 0.35$ eV. Note that a detection of non-zero neutrino mass in KATRIN would imply $\Sigma m_\nu \gtrsim 1$ eV, and would then be in tension with the cosmological constraints obtained in the framework of the Λ CDM model. This could point to the necessity of revising the standard cosmological model, although it should be noted that none of the simple one-parameter extensions reported in Table 3 could accommodate for such a value.

Future improvements in kinematic measurements involve technological challenges, since KATRIN reaches the experimental limitations imposed to an experiment with spectrometers. Future prospects are represented by the possibility of calorimetric measurements of ${}^{136}\text{Ho}$ (HOLMES experiment [171]) and measurements of the ${}^3\text{H}$ decay spectrum via relativistic shift in the cyclotron frequency of the electrons emitted in the decay (Project8 experiment²² [172]). Although the bounds coming from β -decay experiments are very loose compared to bounds from cosmology, nevertheless they are appealing for the reason that they represent model-independent constraints on the neutrino mass scale, only relying on kinematic measurements.

$0\nu 2\beta$ decay is a rare process that is allowed only if neutrinos are Majorana particles. A detection of $0\nu 2\beta$ events thus would solve the issue related to the nature of neutrinos, whether they are Dirac or Majorana particles. Searches for $0\nu 2\beta$ directly probe the number of $0\nu 2\beta$ events, which is related to the half life $T_{1/2}$ of the isotope involved in the decay. The half life can be translated in limits on the Majorana mass $m_{\beta\beta}$ (defined in Equation 13) once a nuclear model has been specified. In practice, a bound on $T_{1/2}$ is reflected in a range of bounds on $m_{\beta\beta}$, due to the large uncertainties associated with the exact modeling of the nuclear matrix elements. Additional complications are due to model dependencies: when translating bounds on $T_{1/2}$ to bounds on $m_{\beta\beta}$, a mechanism responsible for the $0\nu 2\beta$ decay has to be specified. This is usually the exchange of light Majorana neutrinos, though alternative mechanisms could be responsible for the lepton number violation that not necessarily allow a direct connection between $T_{1/2}$ and $m_{\beta\beta}$. Finally, it can be shown that in the case of NH, disruptive interference between mixing parameters could prevent a detection of $0\nu 2\beta$

events, regardless of the neutrino nature and the lepton-number violation mechanism.

We report here some of the more recent limits on $m_{\beta\beta}$ from $0\nu 2\beta$ searches. Constraints are reported as a range of 90% CL upper limits, due to the uncertainty on the nuclear matrix elements. We also specify the isotope used in each experiment. The current bounds are $m_{\beta\beta} < 0.120 - 0.270$ eV from Gerda Phase-II (${}^{76}\text{Ge}$) [173, 174], $m_{\beta\beta} < 0.061 - 0.165$ eV from KamLAND-Zen [175] (${}^{136}\text{Xe}$), $m_{\beta\beta} < 0.147 - 0.398$ eV from EXO-200 (${}^{136}\text{Xe}$) [176], $m_{\beta\beta} < 0.140 - 0.400$ eV from CUORE (${}^{130}\text{Te}$) [177]. The next generation $0\nu 2\beta$ experiments, such as LEGEND, SuperNEMO, CUPID, SNO+, KamLAND2-Zen, nEXO, NEXT, PANDAX-III, aims to cover the entire region of IH, reaching a 3σ discovery sensitivity for $m_{\beta\beta}$ of 20 meV or better, roughly an order of magnitude improvement with respect to the current limits (see [178] for a more detailed discussion and for a full list of references).

As outlined above, laboratory searches and cosmology are sensitive to different combinations of neutrino mixing parameters and individual masses. Therefore, it makes sense to compare their performances in terms of constraints on the neutrino mass scale. It is also beneficial to combine these different probes of the mass scale, in order to overcome the limitations of each single probe and increase the overall sensitivity to the neutrino masses [40, 165, 179]. This is possible because, once the elements of the mixing matrix are known, specifying one of three mass parameters among $(m_\beta, m_{\beta\beta}, \Sigma m_\nu)$, together with the solar and atmospheric mass splittings, uniquely determines the other two. Oscillation experiments measure precisely the values of the mixing angles and of the squared mass differences, with an ambiguity on the sign of Δm_{31}^2 , so that these parameters can be simply fixed to their best-fit values, given the larger uncertainties on the absolute mass parameters. The value of the Dirac phase, on the other hand, is known with lesser precision, and the Majorana phases, relevant for the interpretation of $0\nu 2\beta$ searches, are not probed at all by oscillation experiments. However this ignorance can be folded into the analysis using standard statistical techniques. Finally, the relation between the mass parameters also depends on the mass hierarchy. This can be taken into account either by performing different analyses for NH and IH, or by marginalizing over the hierarchy itself (see e.g., [159]).

Combining the different probes of the absolute mass scale, with the support of oscillation results, leads to some interesting considerations. First of all, basically all of the information on the absolute mass scale comes from cosmology and $0\nu 2\beta$ searches. This confirms the naive expectation that can be made by comparing the sensitivity of the different probes. However, we recall again that the robust limits on m_β from kinematic experiments represent an invaluable test for the consistency of the more model-dependent constraints coming from cosmology and $0\nu 2\beta$ decay experiments. At the moment, cosmology still provides most of the information on the neutrino masses, although the sensitivity of $0\nu 2\beta$ experiments is rapidly approaching that of cosmological observations. A summary of the current limits is reported in Figure 3 of Gerbino et al. [159]. To better illustrate the complementarity of cosmology

²⁰It has to be noticed that the observable which β -decay experiments are sensitive to is m_β^2 , rather than m_β . Nevertheless, it is useful to quote constraints in terms of m_β to facilitate the comparison with results from other probes.

²¹<https://www.katrin.kit.edu>

²²<http://www.project8.org/index.html>

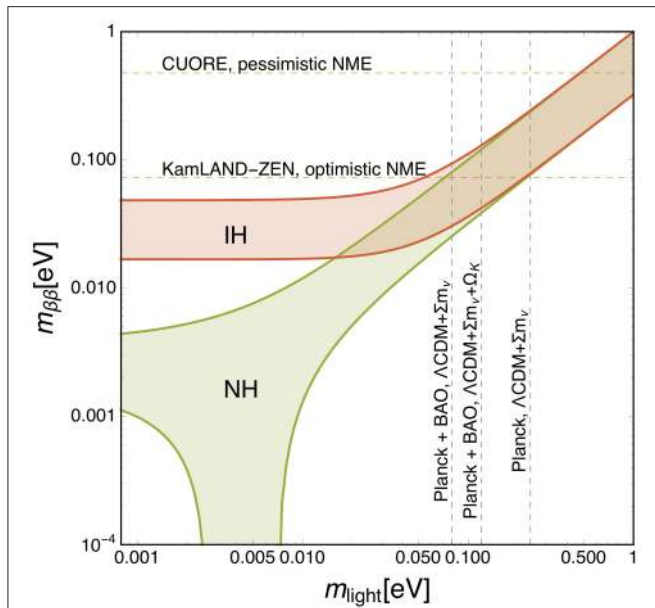


FIGURE 5 | Majorana mass $m_{\beta\beta}$ of the electron neutrino as a function of the mass m_{light} of the lightest neutrino eigenstate, for normal (green) or inverted (red) hierarchy. The filled regions correspond to the uncertainty related to the CP-violating phases. The horizontal dashed lines show 95% current upper limits from $0\nu 2\beta$ searches. In particular, we show the tightest and loosest limits among those reported in the text, namely the most stringent from KamLAND-Zen (labeled “KamLAND-Zen, optimistic NME”), and the less stringent from CUORE (labeled “CUORE, pessimistic NME”). NME refers to the uncertainty related to the nuclear matrix elements. We also show vertical dashed lines corresponding to 95% upper limits on Σm_ν , from cosmological observations, translated to upper limits on m_{light} using the information from oscillation experiments. In particular we show different model and dataset combinations, from right to left: PlanckTT+lowP in the $\Lambda\text{CDM} + \Sigma m_\nu$ model, PlanckTT+lowP+BAO in the $\Lambda\text{CDM} + \Sigma m_\nu + \Omega_K$ model, PlanckTT+lowP+BAO in the $\Lambda\text{CDM} + \Sigma m_\nu$ model. The vertical lines shown in the plot assume normal hierarchy, but the difference with the case of inverted hierarchy is very small on the scale of the plot.

and $0\nu 2\beta$ searches, we show in **Figure 5** how they constrain, together with oscillation experiments, the allowed space in the $(m_{\beta\beta}, m_{\text{light}})$ plane. In more detail, we show the region in that plane that is singled out by oscillation experiments, for normal and inverted hierarchy. The width of the allowed regions traces the uncertainties on the CP-violating phases. We show current upper 95% bounds on $m_{\beta\beta}$ from $0\nu 2\beta$ searches as horizontal lines, and current 95% bounds on m_{light} from cosmology as vertical lines. These are translated from the bounds on Σm_ν using information from oscillation experiments and assuming normal hierarchy. Assuming inverted hierarchy would however make a barely noticeable difference on the scale of the plot. It can be seen that in general cosmological observations are more constraining than $0\nu 2\beta$ searches.

In the future, however, one can expect that the constraining power of these two probes will be roughly equivalent. This can be seen in **Figure 6** where, similarly to **Figure 5**, we show the allowed space in the $(m_{\beta\beta}, m_{\text{light}})$ plane for future cosmological and $0\nu 2\beta$ probes. As shown in Gerbino et al. [159], the constraining power of $0\nu 2\beta$ searches for Σm_ν would also depend

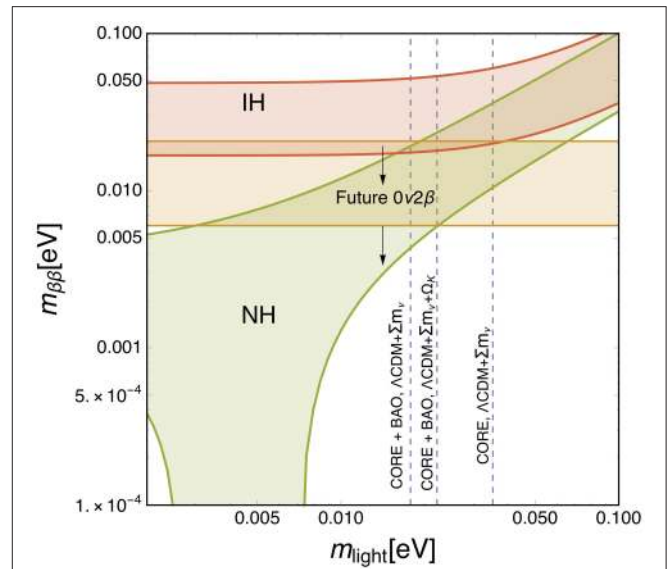


FIGURE 6 | The same as **Figure 5**, but for future cosmological observations and $0\nu 2\beta$ experiments. Note that in this figure we show 95% upper limits for both $m_{\beta\beta}$ and m_{light} , assuming that the true values of both quantities are much smaller than the corresponding experimental sensitivities. The horizontal yellow band labeled “Future $0\nu 2\beta$ ” is the union of the regions that contain the 95% upper limits for LEGEND 1K, CUPID, and nEXO, assuming 5 years of live time. The vertical dashed lines correspond to 95% upper limits on Σm_ν . From right to left: CORE TT, TE, EE, PP in the $\Lambda\text{CDM} + \Sigma m_\nu$ model, CORE TT, TE, EE, PP + the DESI and EUCLID BAO in the $\Lambda\text{CDM} + \Sigma m_\nu + \Omega_K$ model, CORE TT, TE, EE, PP + the DESI and EUCLID BAO in the $\Lambda\text{CDM} + \Sigma m_\nu$ model. The vertical lines shown in the plot assume normal hierarchy.

crucially on the possibility of reducing the uncertainty on the nuclear matrix elements for the $0\nu 2\beta$ isotopes. In fact, provided that neutrinos are Majorana particles and that the leading mechanism responsible for the decay is a mass mechanism, the combination of cosmological probes and $0\nu 2\beta$ measurements could not only lead to a detection of the mass scale, but could also solve the hierarchy dilemma and provide useful information about (at least one of) the Majorana phases [179–181].

10. CONSTRAINTS ON N_{eff}

Until now, we have focused on the capability of cosmological observations to constrain neutrino masses. However, as noted in the introduction, cosmology is also a powerful probe of other neutrino properties. The main example is without any doubt the *effective number of neutrino families* (also called effective number of relativistic degrees of freedom) N_{eff} , defined in Equation (21). As it is clear from its definition, N_{eff} is simply a measure of the total cosmological density during the radiation-dominated era. More precisely, it represents the density in relativistic species, other than photons, normalized to the energy density of a massless neutrino that decouples well before electron-positron annihilation (that, we remember, is not actually the case). As explained in section 2.5, the standard framework, in which photons and active neutrinos are the only relativistic degrees

of freedom present, and neutrino interactions follow the SM of particle physics, predicts $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046$ after electron-positron annihilation [12, 47, 48].

Given its meaning, it is clear that a deviation from the expected value of N_{eff} can hint to a broad class of effects—in fact, all those effects that change the density of light species in the early Universe. Those effects are not necessarily related to neutrino physics, as the definition of N_{eff} in terms of the number of relativistic degrees of freedom suggests. For example, the existence of a Goldstone boson that decouples well before the QCD phase transition would appear as an increased number of degrees of freedom, with $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \equiv N_{\text{eff}} - 3.046 = 0.027$ [182]. Speaking however about changes in N_{eff} that are somehow related to neutrino physics, the most notable example is probably the existence of one (or more) additional, sterile light eigenstate, produced through some mechanism in the early Universe. In such a situation, one would have $N_{\text{eff}} > 3.046$, as well as an additional contribution to Σm_ν . Note that a light sterile neutrino would not necessarily contribute with $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 1$, as it does not share the same temperature as the active neutrinos.

In this section we will focus on cosmological constraints on sterile neutrinos. However, for completeness, we mention a few other examples of scenarios in which ΔN_{eff} can possibly be different from zero. One is the presence of primordial lepton asymmetries, related to the presence of a non-vanishing chemical potential in the neutrino distribution function, Equation (15). Constraints on the allowed amount of lepton asymmetry, obtained taking into account the effect of neutrino oscillations, have been reported in Castorina et al. [183] using CMB and BBN data. Another possibility is the so-called low-reheating scenario [151, 184, 185], in which the latest reheating episode of the Universe happens just before BBN, at temperatures of the order of a few MeV, so that neutrinos do not have time to thermalize completely. In this case, one has $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \leq 0$. Finally, non-standard interactions between neutrino and electrons can modify the time of neutrino decoupling [186], so that the entropy transfer from e^+e^- annihilation and N_{eff} are different with respect to the standard picture. We note that the effects related to these new scenarios are often more complicated than just a change in N_{eff} : for example, both in the case of lepton asymmetries and low reheating, the neutrino distribution function is changed in a non-trivial way, affecting also the other moments of the distribution (like the number density, the average velocity, etc.). Finally, to mention a possibility that is not related to changes in N_{eff} , cosmology can also probe the free-streaming nature of neutrinos, for example by looking for the effects of non-standard interactions among neutrinos [187–190], or between neutrinos and dark matter [191–193].

Let us briefly recall how N_{eff} is constrained by cosmological observations [194]. Increasing N_{eff} will make the Universe expand faster (larger H) during the radiation-dominated era, and thus be younger at any given redshift. Then the comoving sound horizon at recombination will be smaller, going like $1/H$, while the angular diameter distance to recombination stays constant, because H is unchanged after equality, so that θ_s is smaller. Also, for fixed matter content, this will make the radiation-dominated era last longer. Recalling our discussion in section 4.1, the effect

on the CMB spectrum is that the first peak is enhanced due to the larger early ISW, and all the peaks are moved to the right. However, as we have already learned, these effects can be canceled by acting on other parameters. There is however a more subtle and peculiar effect of N_{eff} , that is related to the scale of Silk damping. The damping scale roughly scales as $1/\sqrt{H}$, i.e., as \sqrt{t} , as expected for a random walk process. Then the ratio between the angle subtended by the sound horizon and that subtended by the damping length scales like $H^{-1}/H^{-1/2} = H^{-1/2}$. Since θ_s is fixed by the position of the first peak, this means that, when increasing N_{eff} , the damping length is projected on larger angular scales, or, equivalently, that damping at a given scale is larger. In conclusion the net effect is to lower the damping tail of the CMB spectrum. This effect is difficult to mimic with other parameters, at least in the standard framework. The damping length also depends on the density of baryons, so in principle one could think of changing this to compensate for the effect of N_{eff} ; however, the baryon density is very well determined by the ratio of the heights of the first and second peak, so that it is in practice fixed. One possibility, in extended models, is to vary the fraction of primordial helium. Since the mean free path of photons depends on the number of free electrons, and helium recombines slightly before hydrogen, changing the helium-to-hydrogen ratio alters the Silk scale. However, this requires the assumption of non-standard BBN, since, in the framework of standard BBN, the helium fraction is fixed by ω_b and N_{eff} themselves, so it is not a free parameter.

We first review constraints on N_{eff} in a simple one-parameter extension of Λ CDM, in which N_{eff} is left free to vary, and the mass of active neutrinos is kept fixed to the minimum value allowed by oscillations. This case can be considered as the most agnostic, in some sense, in which one does not make any hypothesis on the new physics that is changing N_{eff} (and thus on any other effects this new physics might produce). Moreover, one can think of these as limits for a very light (massless) sterile neutrino. Finally, constraining N_{eff} is a robustness check for the standard Λ CDM model. In fact, measuring $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046$ within the experimental uncertainty can be seen as a great success of the standard cosmological model. It can be regarded as an indirect detection of the $\text{C}\nu\text{B}$, or, at least, of some component who has the same density, within errors, as we would expect for the three active neutrinos²³. From PlanckTT+lowP, one gets $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.13 \pm 0.32$; adding BAO gives $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.15 \pm 0.23$ [14]. Both measurements, with a precision of $\sim 10\%$, are in excellent agreement with the standard prediction. Moreover, according to these results, $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 1$ is excluded at least at the 3σ level. Using also information about the full shape of the matter power spectrum, the BOSS collaboration finds $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.03 \pm 0.18$ [23]. We note that adding information from direct measurements of the Hubble constant results in larger values of N_{eff} ($N_{\text{eff}} = 3.41 \pm 0.22$ from Planck TT,TE,EE+lowP+lensing+BAO+JLA+ H_0 , see [93]); this is due to the tension with the value of H_0 that is inferred from the CMB, that is alleviated in models with

²³The fact that, when probed, there is no hint for deviations from the free-streaming behavior should strengthen our belief that we are really observing the $\text{C}\nu\text{B}$.

larger N_{eff} . The next generation of cosmological experiments will improve these constraints by roughly one order of magnitude, getting close to the theoretical threshold of $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.027$ discussed at the beginning of this section, corresponding to a Goldstone boson decoupling before the QCD phase transition. Moreover, it will be possible to confirm the effects of non-instantaneous decoupling, since future sensitivities will allow to distinguish, at the $1\text{-}\sigma$ level, between $N_{\text{eff}} = 3$ and $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046$. The combination of CORE TT,TE,EE,PP will put an upper bound at 68% CL of $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} < 0.040$ on the presence of extra massless ($m \ll 0.01\text{ eV}$) species²⁴ [132] in addition to the three active neutrino families. The CORE collaboration puts limits also on the scenario in which the three active neutrinos have a fixed temperature, but their energy density is rescaled as $(N_{\text{eff}}/3.046)^{3/4}$. This scenario can account for an enhanced neutrino density (if $N_{\text{eff}} > 3.046$) and reduced neutrino density (if $N_{\text{eff}} < 3.046$ as for example in the case of low-reheating scenarios). In this case, CORE TT,TE,EE,PP yields $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.045 \pm 0.041$. Forecasts from S4 show that, in order to get closer to the threshold of $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.027$, a sensitivity of $1\mu\text{K} \cdot \text{arcmin}$ and $f_{\text{sky}} > 50\%$ are needed for a $1'$ beam size [30]. Efficient delensing will help improve the limits on N_{eff} : delensed spectra will have sharper acoustic peaks, allowing to constrain N_{eff} not only through the impact on the Silk scale, but also through the phase shift in the acoustic peaks [195]. Finally, having access to a larger sky fraction—and therefore to a larger number of modes observed—will be beneficial for constraints on N_{eff} [30]. We conclude this summary about future limits by noticing that the inclusion of LSS data, such as BAO measurements from DESI and Euclid, provides only little improvements with respect to CMB-only constraints (e.g., from CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+DESI BAO+Euclid BAO, $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} < 0.038$ at 68% CL for extra massless species and $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046 \pm 0.039$ for three neutrinos with rescaled energy density [132]). For a summary of current and future limits on N_{eff} , we refer to **Table 4**.

Let us now come to the case of a massive sterile neutrino. A sterile neutrino would contribute both to N_{eff} and to ω_ν . Its effect on the cosmological observables will thus be related to changes in these two quantities, as explained through this review. In fact, in principle, we should specify the full form of the distribution function of the sterile neutrino, and its effects could not be fully parameterized through N_{eff} and ω_ν . Fortunately, one has that, when the distribution function is proportional to a Fermi-Dirac distribution, all the effects on the perturbation evolution of a light fermion can be mapped into two parameters [196]: its energy density in the relativistic limit (and thus its contribution to N_{eff}) and its energy density in the non-relativistic limit (and thus its density parameter, let us denote it with ω_s to distinguish it from the active neutrinos). This covers several physically interesting cases, namely those of a sterile neutrino that either (i) has a thermal distribution with arbitrary temperature T_s , or (ii) is distributed proportionally to the active neutrinos, but with a suppression factor χ_s (this corresponds to the Dodelson-Widrow (DW) prediction for the non-resonant

TABLE 4 | Constraints on N_{eff} (at 68% CL) from different combinations of cosmological data.

Dataset	Bounds	References
Planck TT+lowP	$N_{\text{eff}} = 3.13 \pm 0.32$	[14]
Planck TT+lowP+BAO	$N_{\text{eff}} = 3.15 \pm 0.23$	[14]
Planck TT+lowP+BAO+FS	$N_{\text{eff}} = 3.03 \pm 0.18$	[23]
CORE TT,TE,EE,PP ^a	$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} < 0.040$	[132]
CORE TT,TE,EE,PP ^b	$N_{\text{eff}} = 3.045 \pm 0.041$	[132]
S4 TT,TE,EE,PP ^c	$\sigma(N_{\text{eff}}) = 0.027$	[30]
CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+DESI BAO+Euclid BAO ^a	$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} < 0.038$	[132]
CORE TT,TE,EE,PP+DESI BAO+Euclid BAO ^b	$N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046 \pm 0.039$	[132]

^aThe constrain applies to the scenario of extra light relics in addition to the three massive neutrino families, i.e., $N_{\text{eff}} \geq 3.046$.

^bThe constrain applies to the scenario of three massive neutrinos with energy density rescaled by N_{eff} , i.e., N_{eff} can be either lower or greater than 3.046.

^cThe combination includes delensed CMB spectra and a Gaussian prior on the optical depth $\tau = 0.06 \pm 0.01$.

Upper part: current 68% CL constraints on N_{eff} . BAO in row no. 2 are from 6dFGS [100], SDSS MGS [104], BOSS LOWZ DR11 and BOSS CMASS DR11 [102] (see [14] for details). BAO and FS (full shape measurements) in row no. 3 are from BOSS DR12 [23]. Lower part: forecasts for future cosmological surveys. Unless otherwise stated, the sensitivity on N_{eff} is forecasted assuming a standard cosmological model with $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046$ and also marginalizing over Σm_ν . DESI and Euclid BAO refer to the simulated BAO datasets based on expected experimental performances [35, 37] (see [132] for details).

production scenario [197]; see also Merle et al. [198]). Defining an effective mass m_s^{eff} by mimicking Equation 19, i.e.,

$$m_s^{\text{eff}} \equiv 93.14 \omega_s \text{ eV}, \tag{38}$$

the actual mass m_s of the sterile is related to the effective parameters by:

$$m_s = (T_s/T_\nu)^{-3} m_s^{\text{eff}} = \Delta N_{\text{eff}}^{-3/4} m_s^{\text{eff}} \quad (\text{thermal}) \tag{39}$$

$$m_s = \chi_s^{-1} m_s^{\text{eff}} = \Delta N_{\text{eff}}^{-1} m_s^{\text{eff}} \quad (\text{DW}). \tag{40}$$

Planck data are consistent with no sterile neutrinos: the 95% allowed region in parameter space is $N_{\text{eff}} < 3.7$, $m_s^{\text{eff}} < 0.52\text{ eV}$ from PlanckTT + lowP + lensing + BAO. However, it should be noted that they do not exclude a sterile neutrino, provided its contribution to the total energy density is small enough. A light sterile neutrino has been proposed as an explanation of the anomalies observed in short-baseline (SBL) experiments (see e.g., [199] and references therein). However, a sterile neutrino with the mass ($m_s \simeq 1\text{ eV}$) and coupling required to explain reactor anomalies would rapidly thermalize in the early Universe (see e.g., [200, 201]) and lead to $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 1$, strongly at variance with cosmological constraints (excluded at more than 99% confidence considering the above combination of Planck and BAO data). We conclude this section by quoting the forecasts for future cosmological probes. In the context of a $\Lambda\text{CDM} + \Sigma m_\nu$ model with $\Sigma m_\nu^{\text{fid}} = 0.06\text{ eV}$ and $m_s^{\text{fid}} = 0\text{ eV}$, the combination of CORE TT,TE,EE,PP with BAO measurements from DESI and Euclid will provide $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} < 0.054$ and $m_s < 0.035\text{ eV}$ [132].

²⁴This constraint has been obtained in the context of a $\Lambda\text{CDM} + \Sigma m_\nu$ cosmology, with $\Sigma m_\nu^{\text{fid}} = 0.06\text{ eV}$.

11. SUMMARY

The absolute scale of neutrino masses is one of the main open questions in physics to date. Measuring the neutrino mass could shed light on the mechanism of mass generation, possibly related to new physics at a high energy scale. From the experimental point of view, neutrino masses can be probed in the laboratory, with β - and double β -decay experiments, and with cosmological observations. In fact, cosmology is at the moment the most sensitive probe of neutrino masses. Upper limits from cosmology on the sum of neutrino masses are possibly based on combinations of different observables. Results from the CMB alone can be regarded as very robust: these are of the order of $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.7 \text{ eV}$ (95% CL). The addition of geometrical measurements, like those provided by BAO—also very robust—brings down this limit to $\Sigma m_\nu < 0.2 \text{ eV}$ (95% CL). More aggressive analyses can get the bound very close to the minimum value allowed by oscillation experiments in the case of inverted hierarchy, but are based on observations where control of systematics is more difficult and thus should be taken with caution. It should also be borne in mind that cosmological inferences of neutrino masses are somehow model dependent. In extended cosmological models, especially those involving non-vanishing spatial curvature or dark energy, the constraints on Σm_ν are degraded, even though they still remain very competitive with those obtained from laboratory experiments. Combination of future CMB and LSS experiments could reach, if systematics are kept under control, a sensitivity of 15 meV in the first half of the next decade, allowing a 4σ detection of neutrino masses if the hierarchy is normal and the lightest eigenstate is massless. In that case, it will also be possible to exclude the inverted hierarchy scenario with a high statistical significance.

Present data are also compatible with the standard description of the neutrino sector, based on the standard model of particle physics. CMB measurements constrain the number of relativistic

species at recombination to be $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.13 \pm 0.32$ at 68% CL. The inclusion of LSS data further tightens the constraints to $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.03 \pm 0.18$ at 68% CL. These results exclude the presence of an additional thermalized species at more than 3σ level. Cosmological data are also consistent with no sterile neutrinos. Thus no new physics in the neutrino sector is presently required to interpret cosmological data. The standard picture will be tested more thoroughly by future experiments, that will allow to probe to an unprecedented level the physics of neutrino decoupling. An example would be the possibility to constrain non-standard neutrino-electron interactions. Future cosmological probes will also possibly reach the sensitivity necessary to detect, at the $1-\sigma$ level, the increase in the number of degrees of freedom due to a Goldstone boson that decouples well before the QCD phase transition.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Both authors listed have made a substantial, direct and intellectual contribution to the work, and approved it for publication.

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The reviewer SP declared a past co-authorship with one of the authors ML to the handling Editor.

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