

# Let There be Light

*Next-generation  
neutrino  
detection at  
THEIA*



Gabriel D. Orebi Gann  
UC Berkeley & LBNL  
BNP NPP colloquium  
28th Mar, 2023

MyGodPictures.com

# THEIA

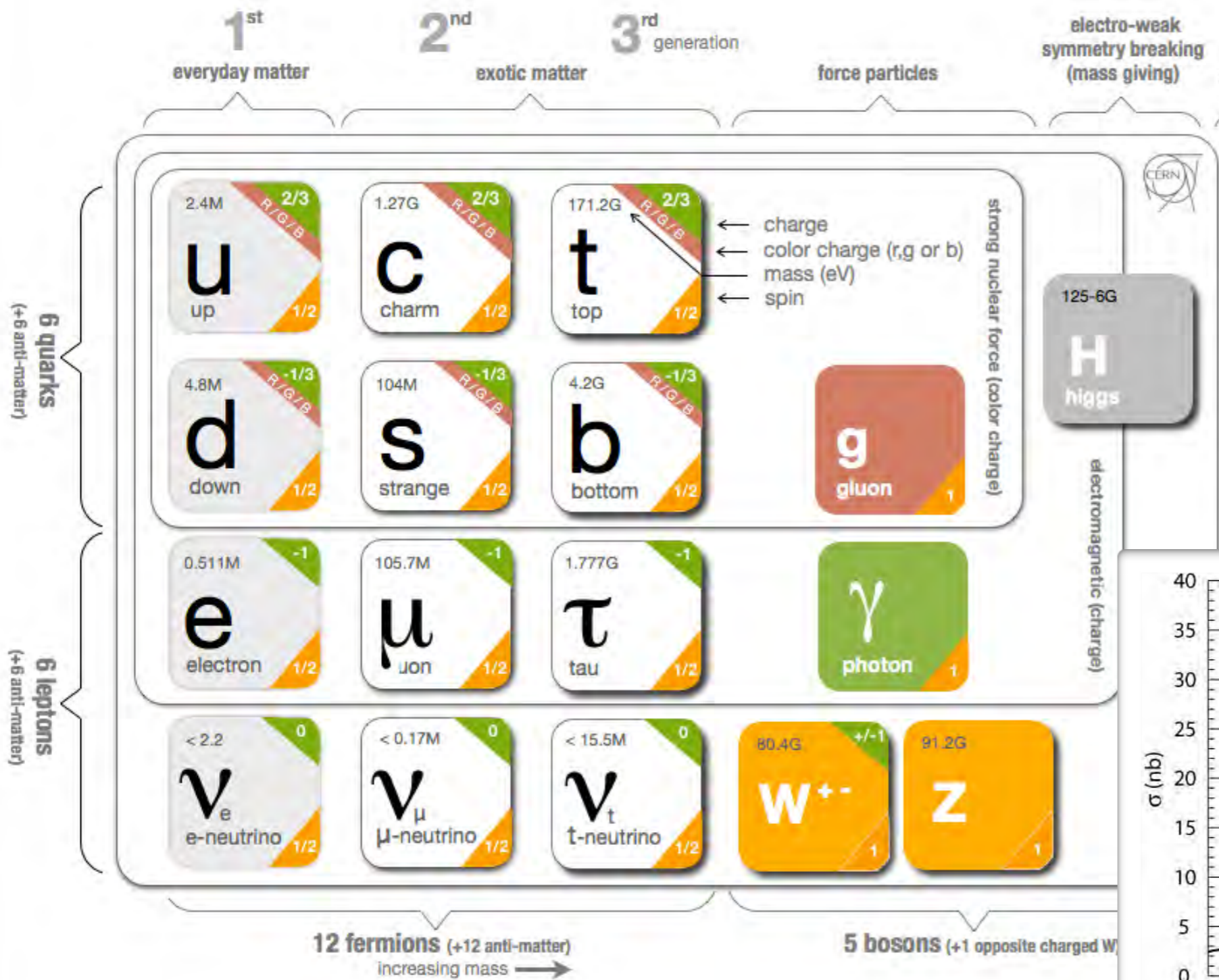


- **Hybrid Cherenkov/ scintillation detector**
- **Multi-messenger astrophysics**
- **Probe the fundamental nature of matter: CPV and Majorana  $\nu$**
- **Unique opportunity to engage a broad community in world-leading “big science”**

# Overview

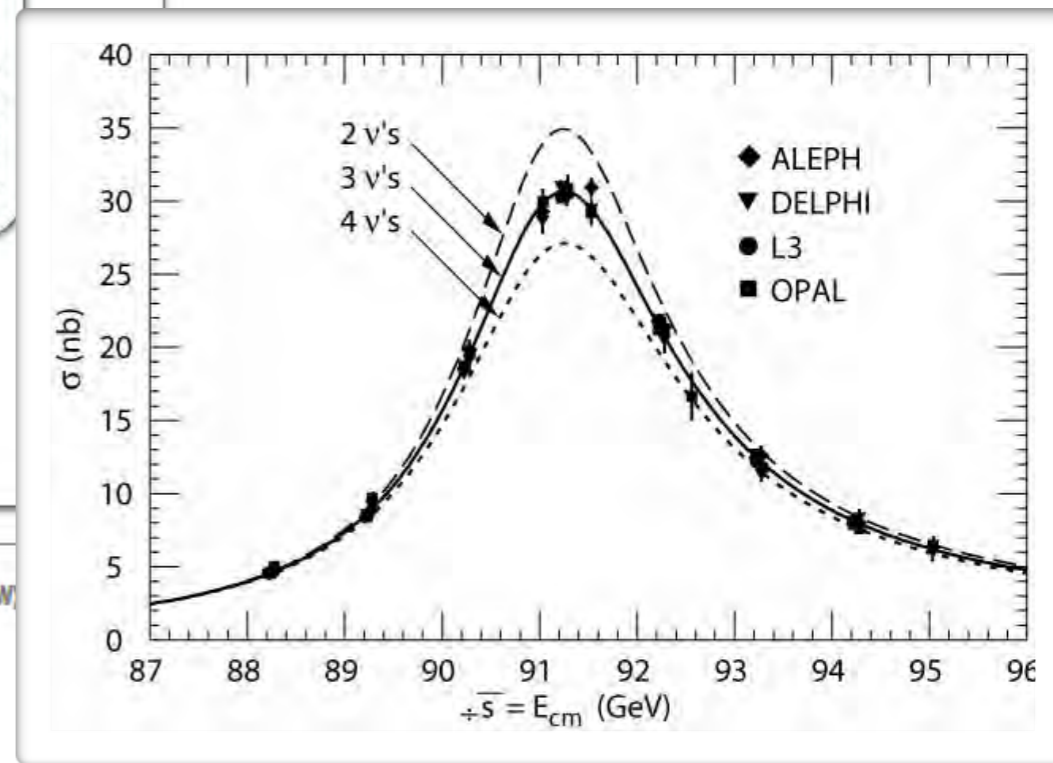
- Introduction to neutrinos
- Neutrino oscillation: *water Cherenkov detectors*
- Open questions: *liquid scintillator detectors*
- Next-generation sensitivity: *hybrid detectors*
  - *Physics reach*
  - *Technology development*

# Standard Model Neutrinos

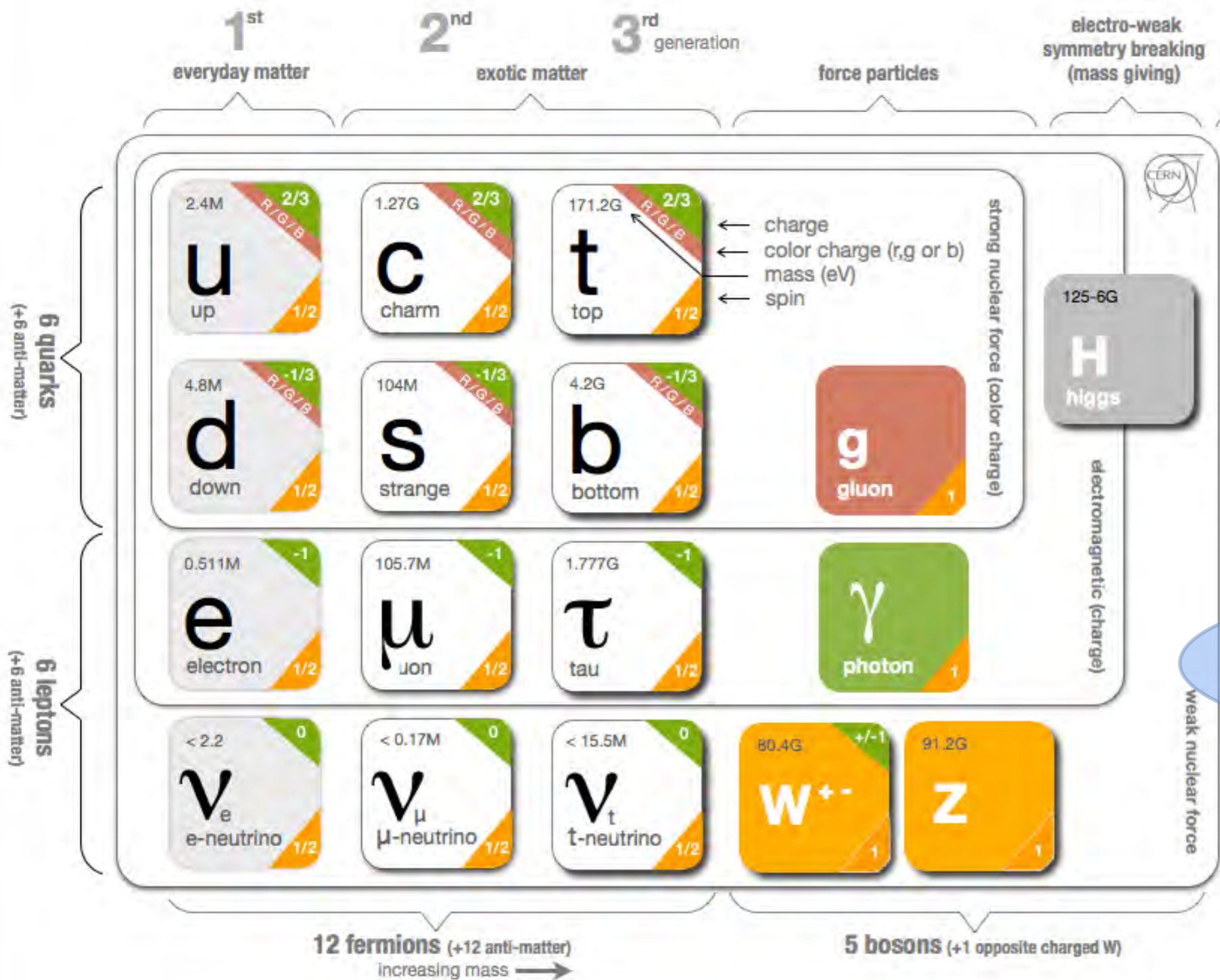


## Neutrino properties:

1. Interact weakly
2. Very tiny masses
3. Three flavours



# Standard Model Neutrinos



## Neutrino properties:

1. Interact weakly
2. Very tiny masses
3. Three flavours

$\nu_e$  - The Sun, nuclear reactors

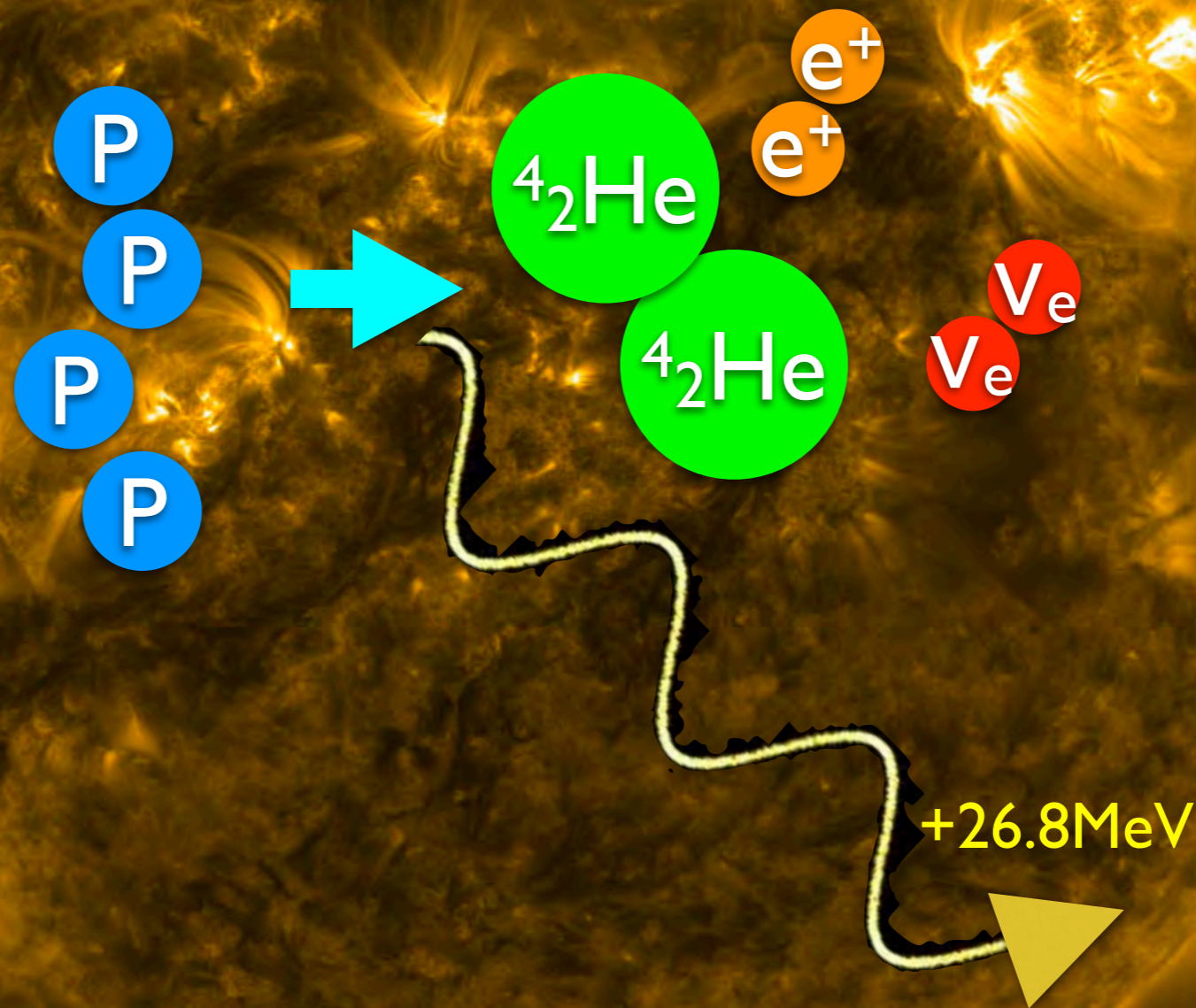
$\nu_\mu$  - Cosmic rays, man-made

$\nu_\tau$  - Man-made beams  
First observation in 2000

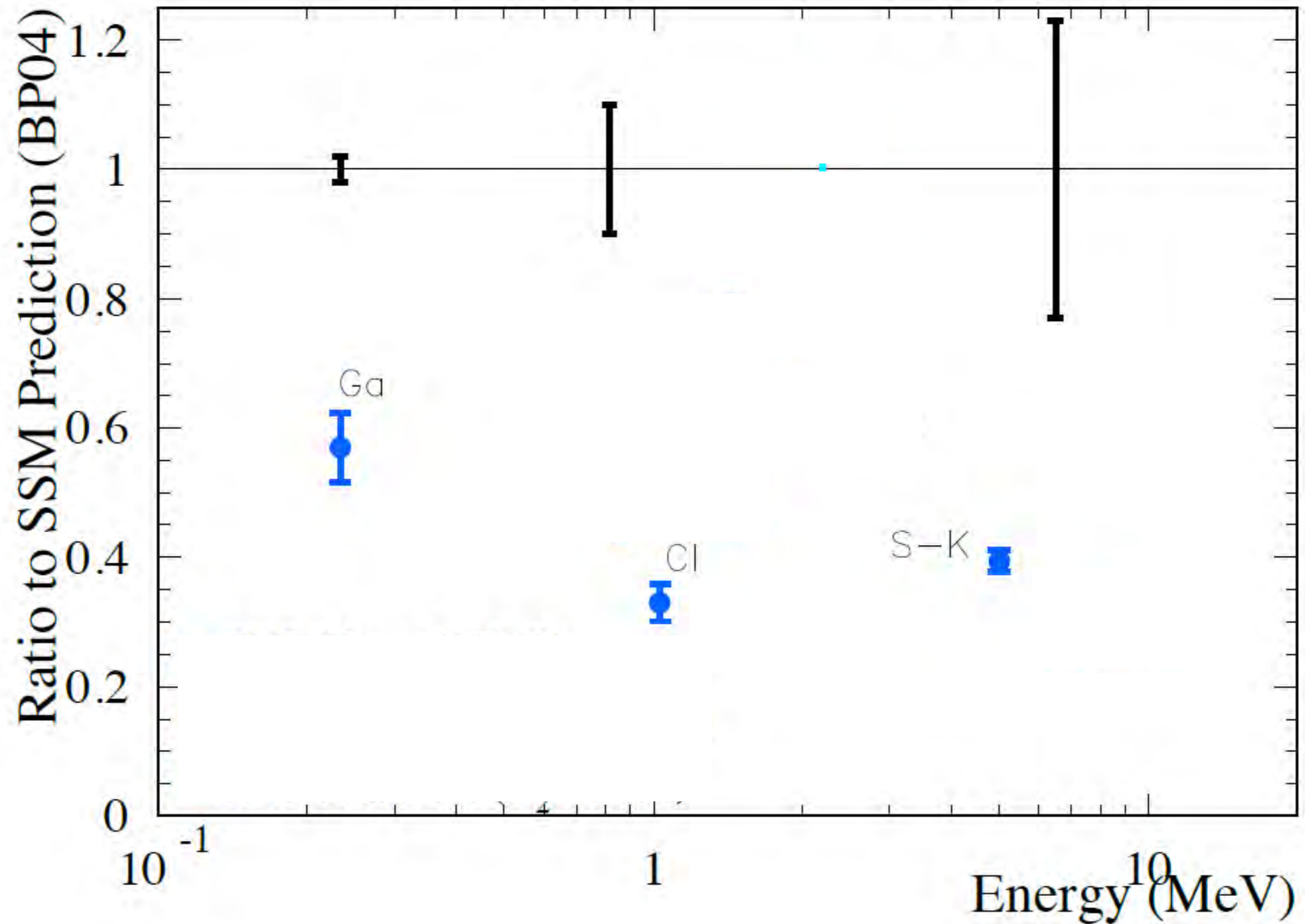
# How Does the Sun Shine?

Nuclear fusion reactions in the core produce:

- Helium
- Energy (heat, light)
- Neutrinos



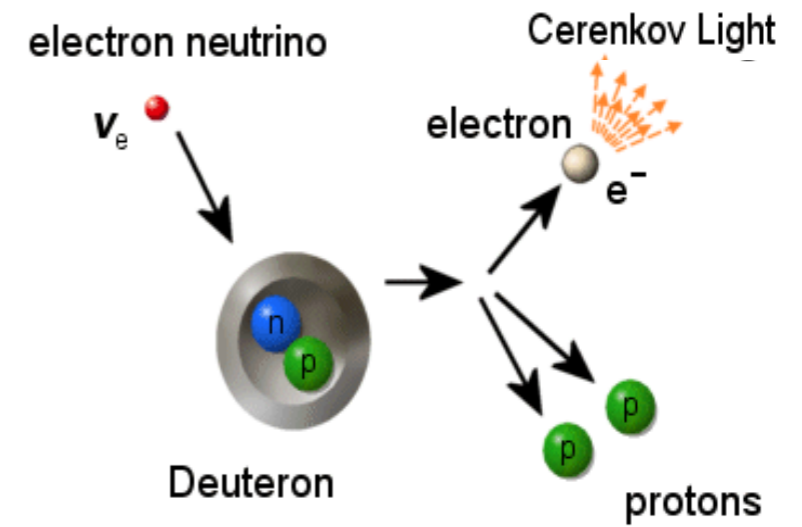
# Solar Neutrino Problem



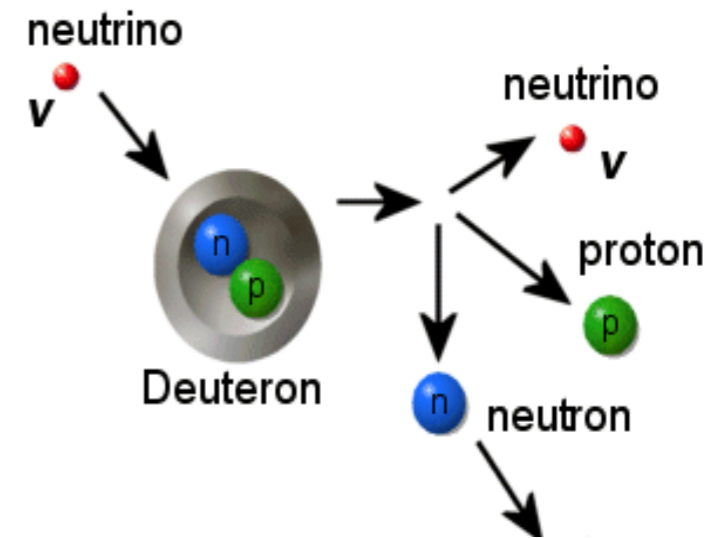
# Sudbury Neutrino Observatory

12m

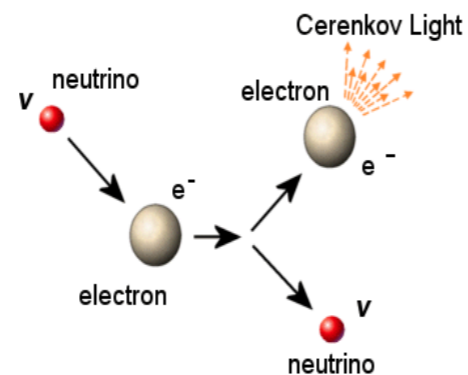
## Charged Current (CC)



## Neutral Current (NC)

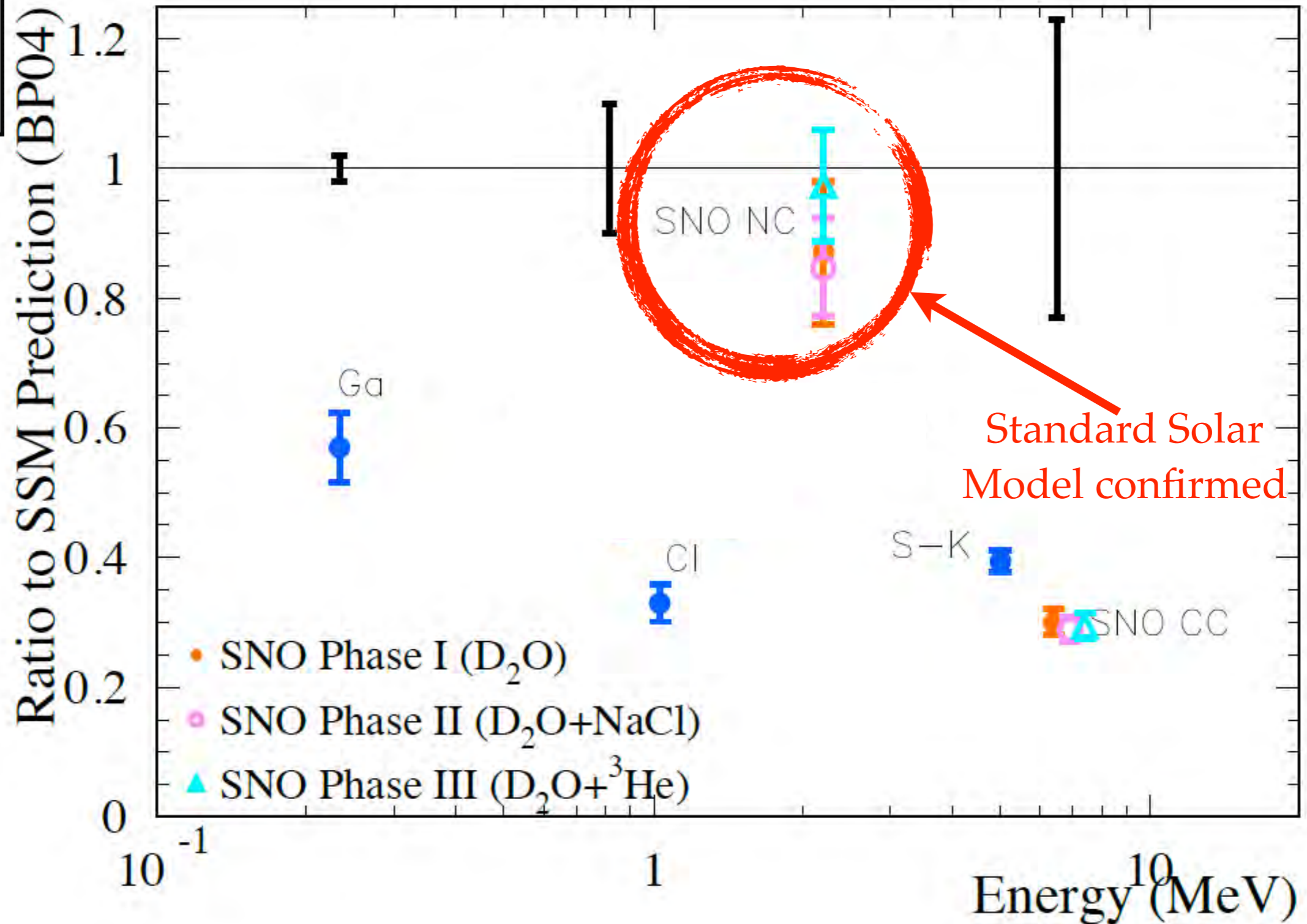


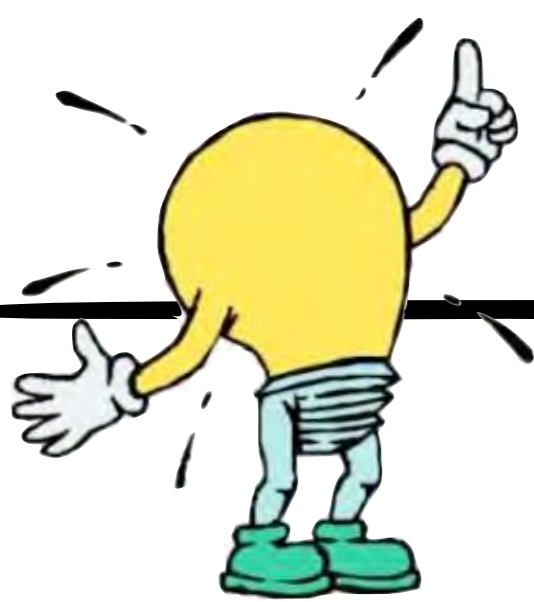
## Elastic Scattering (ES)





# Solar Neutrino Problem Resolved

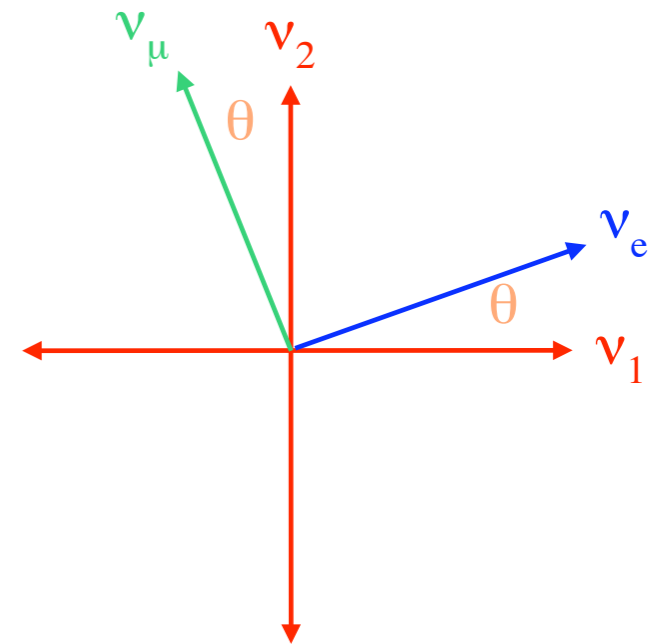
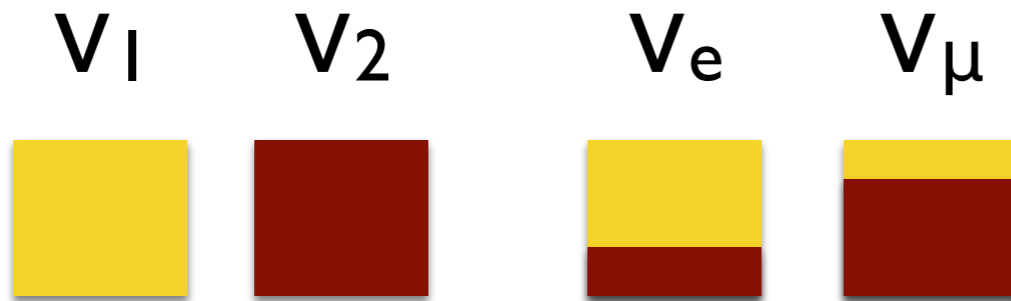




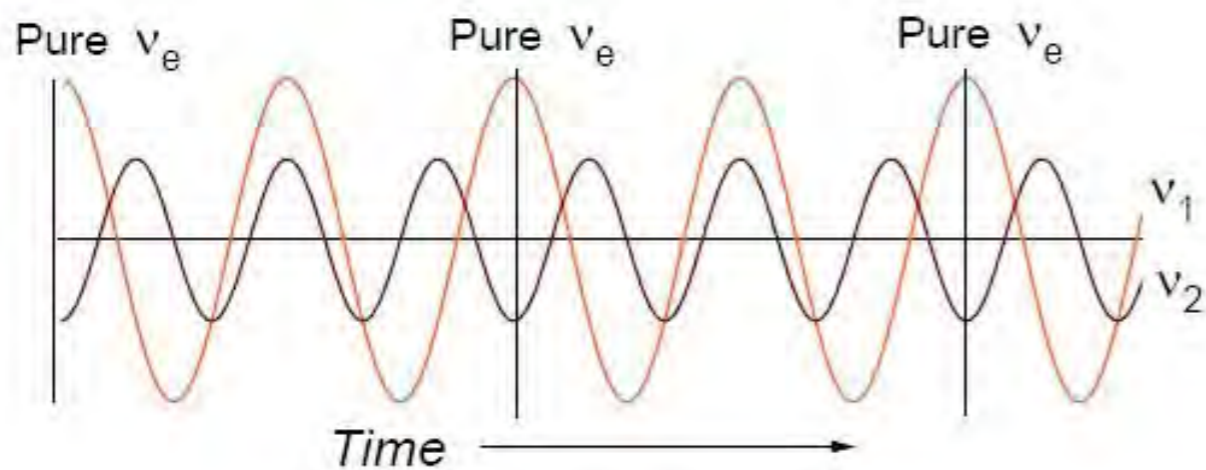
# Neutrino Oscillation

Produced as weak (flavour) eigenstates ( $\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$ )  
 Propagate as physical (mass) eigenstates ( $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$ )

*Simplified  
2-neutrino  
scenario:*



$$P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_x} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{1.27 \Delta m^2 L}{E_\nu} \right)$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

**$\Delta m^2 = m_2^2 - m_1^2$  : requires  
non-zero neutrino mass!**

# 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics

SuperK



Takaaki Kajita

SNO

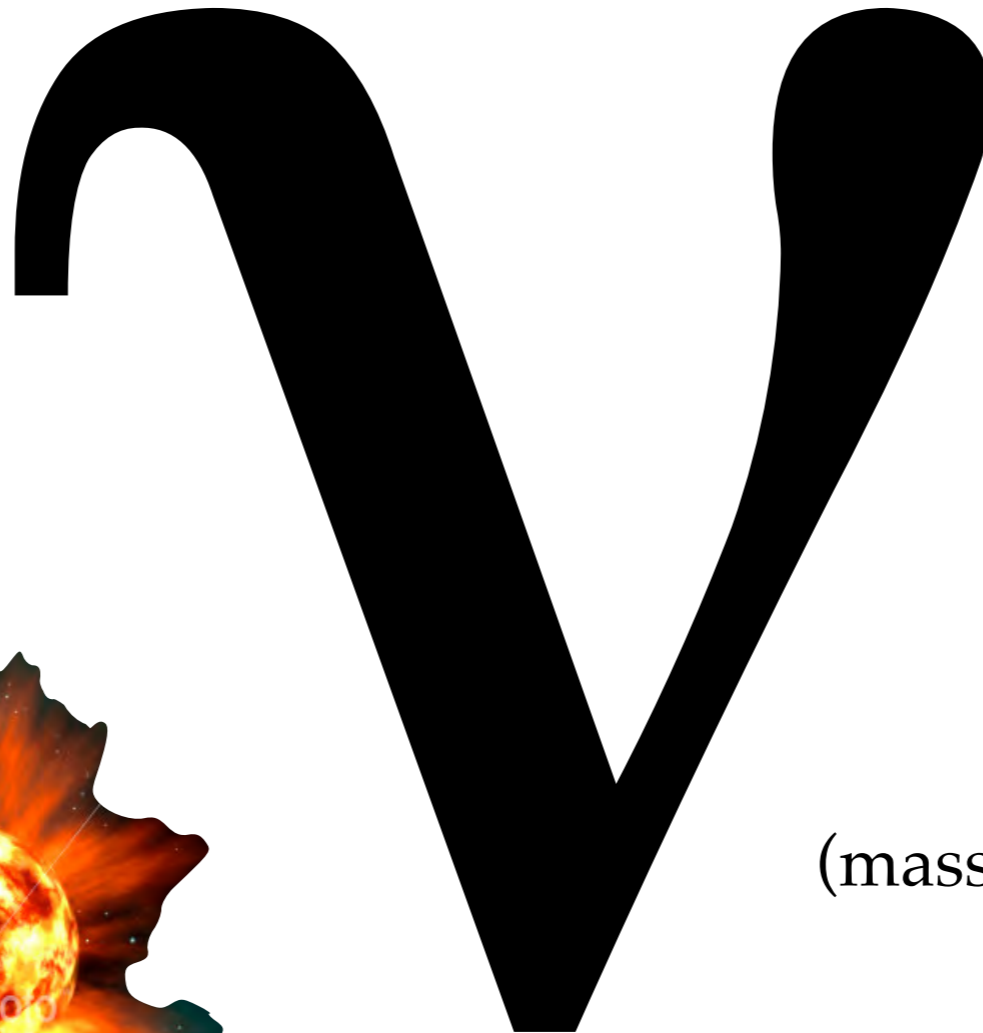
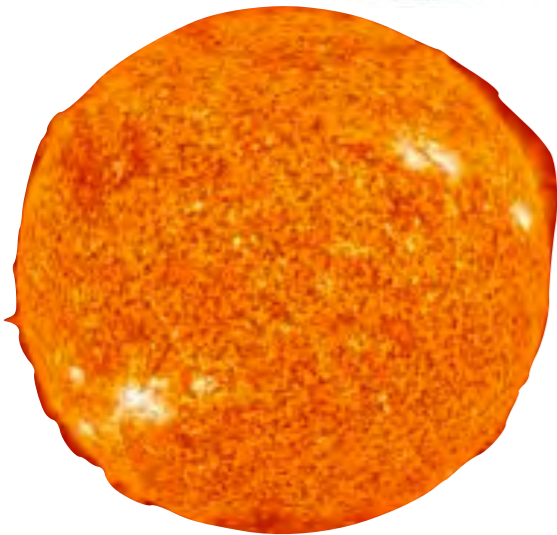
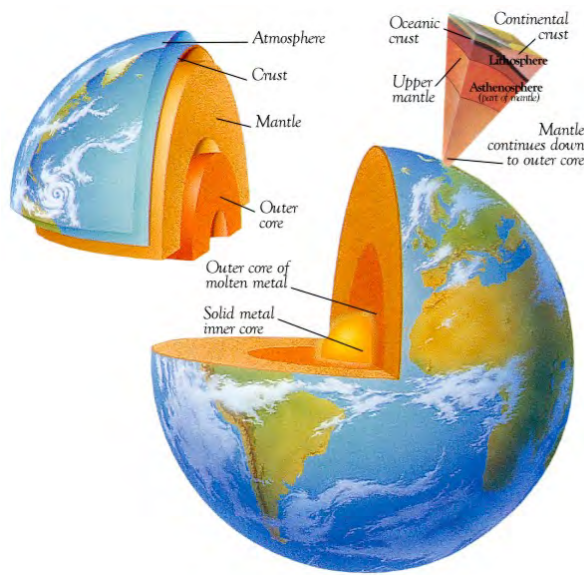


Arthur B. McDonald

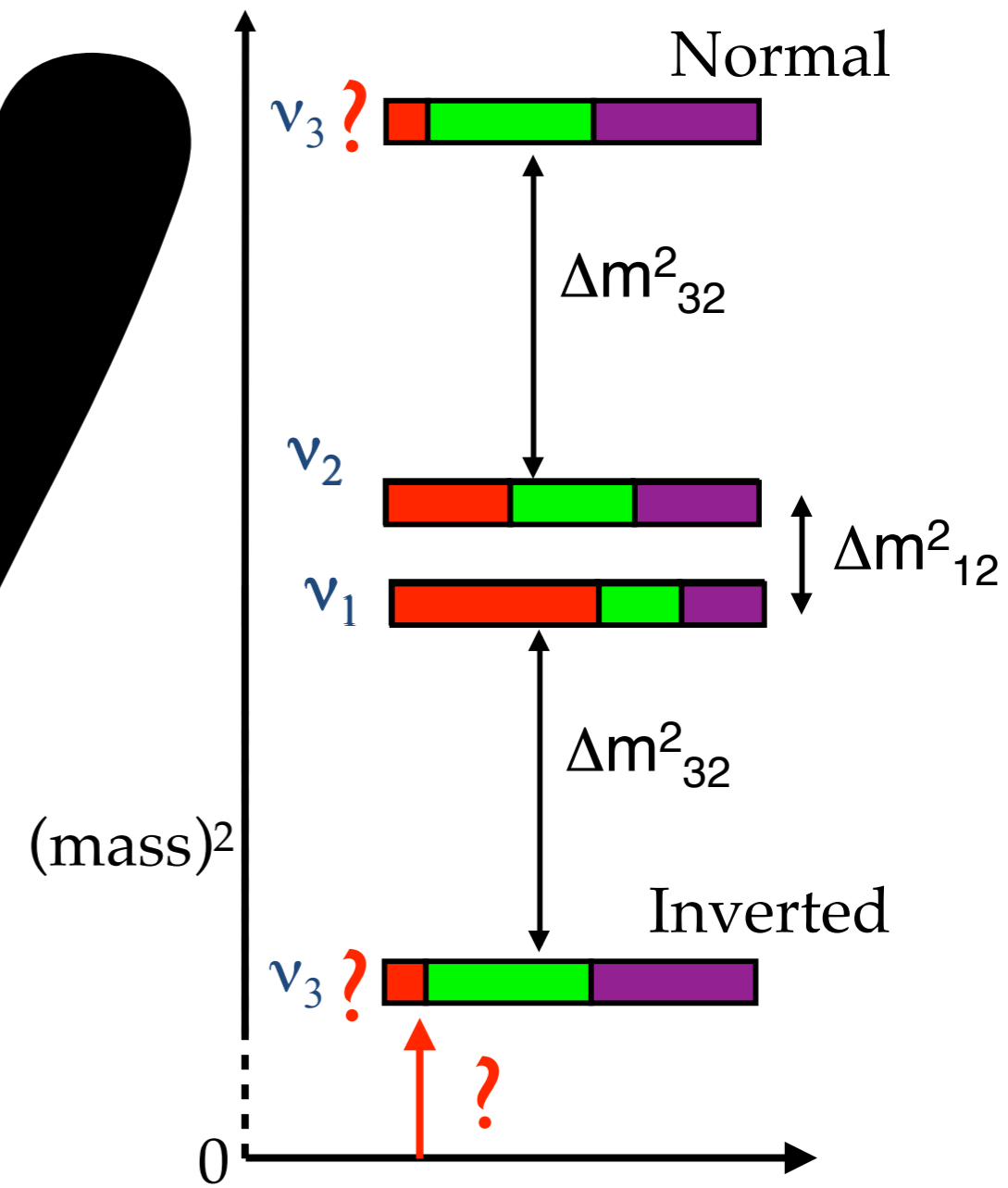
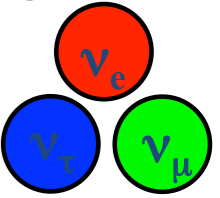
The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015 was awarded jointly to Takaaki Kajita and Arthur B. McDonald "for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass"

# Neutrinos 101: Why do we (still) study them?

Unique probe of otherwise unreachable regions



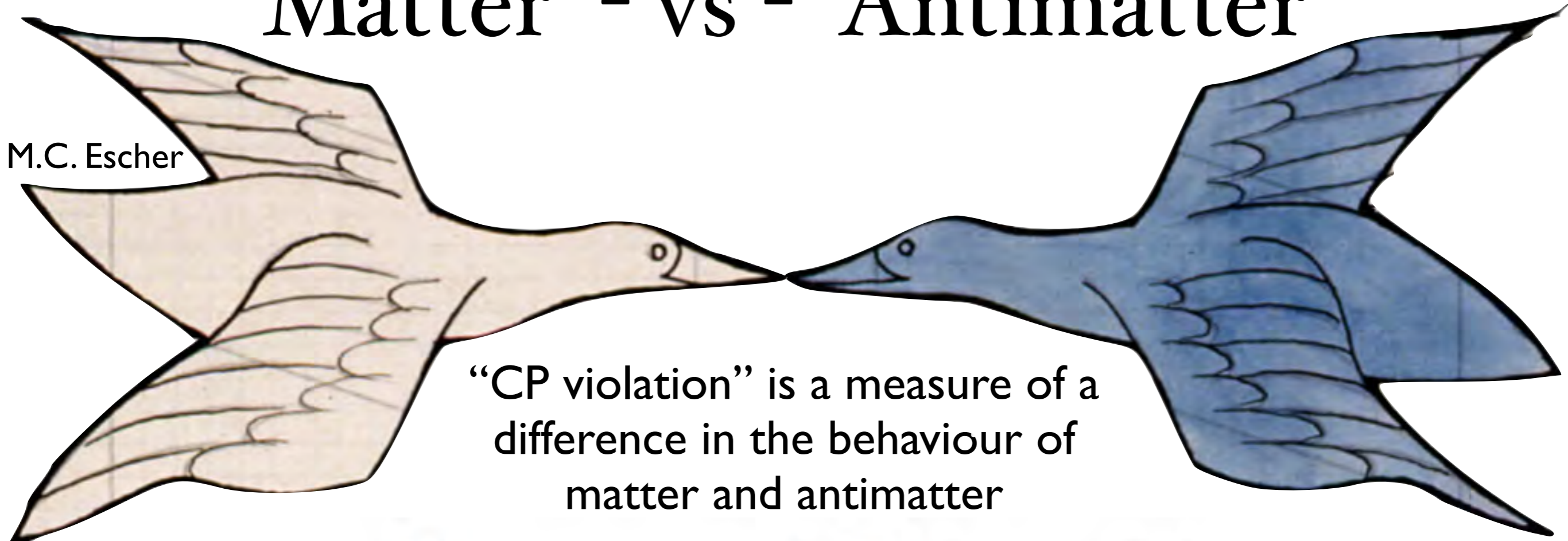
Fascinating particle in its own right





# Matter - vs - Antimatter

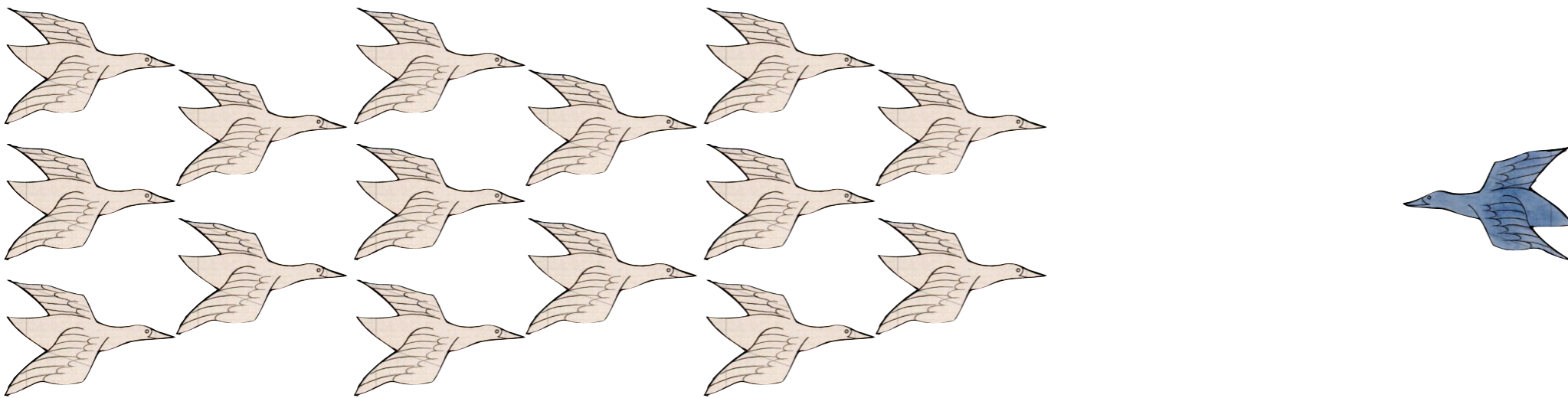
M.C. Escher



“CP violation” is a measure of a difference in the behaviour of matter and antimatter

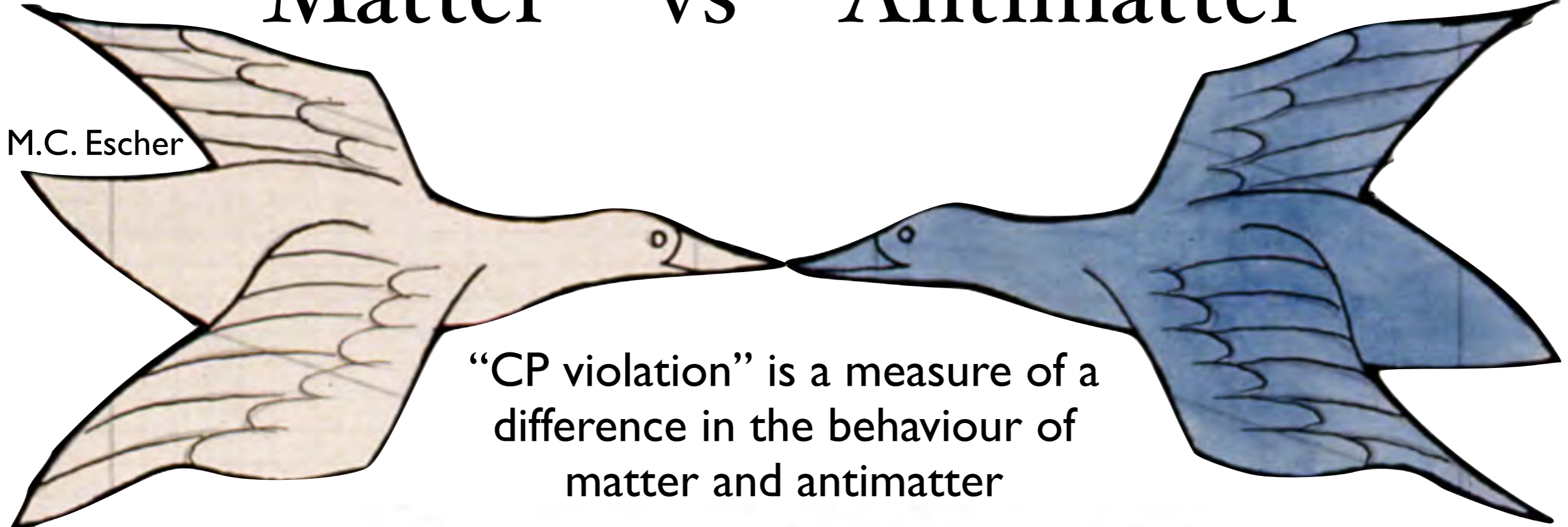
$$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e) \neq P(\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e)$$

The Universe is out of balance: matter far outweighs antimatter



# Matter - vs - Antimatter

M.C. Escher

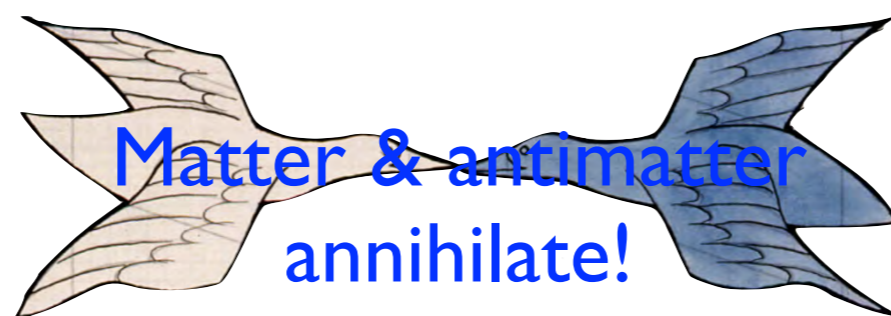


“CP violation” is a measure of a difference in the behaviour of matter and antimatter

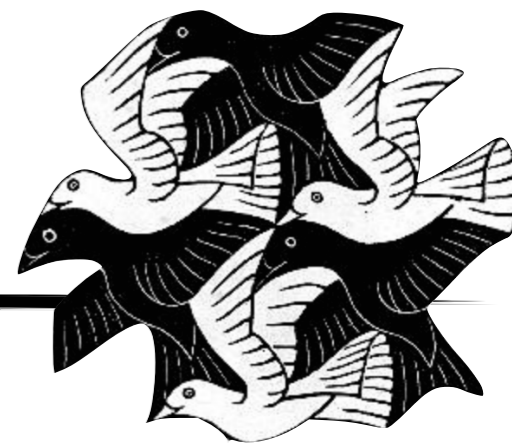
$$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e) \neq P(\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e)$$

The Universe is out of balance: matter far outweighs antimatter

fortunately for us!



# Majorana Neutrinos



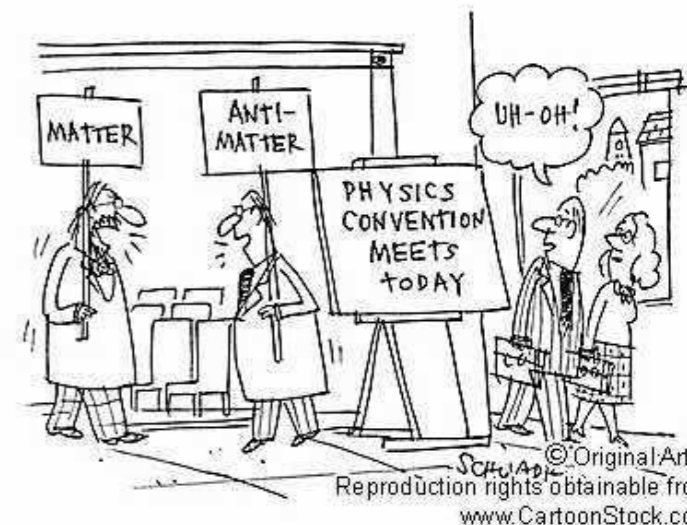
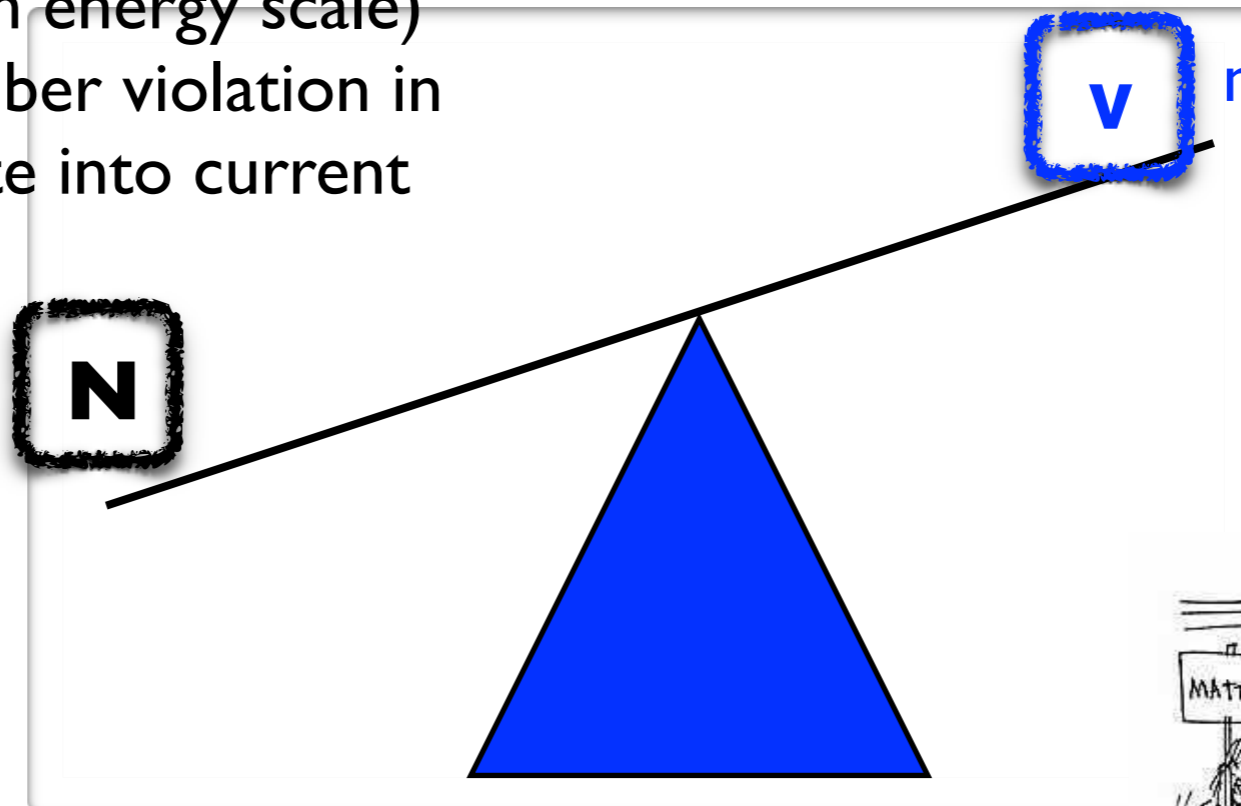
M.C. Escher

Can undergo the “See-Saw” mechanism

A big Majorana mass splits the Dirac neutrino into two neutrinos: the light neutrino  $\nu$  and a heavy neutrino  $\mathbf{N}$

Made in the Big Bang (high energy scale)  
CP violation + lepton number violation in  
their decay could translate into current  
asymmetry

Our familiar light  $\nu$ ,  
made and detected in  
terrestrial  
experiments

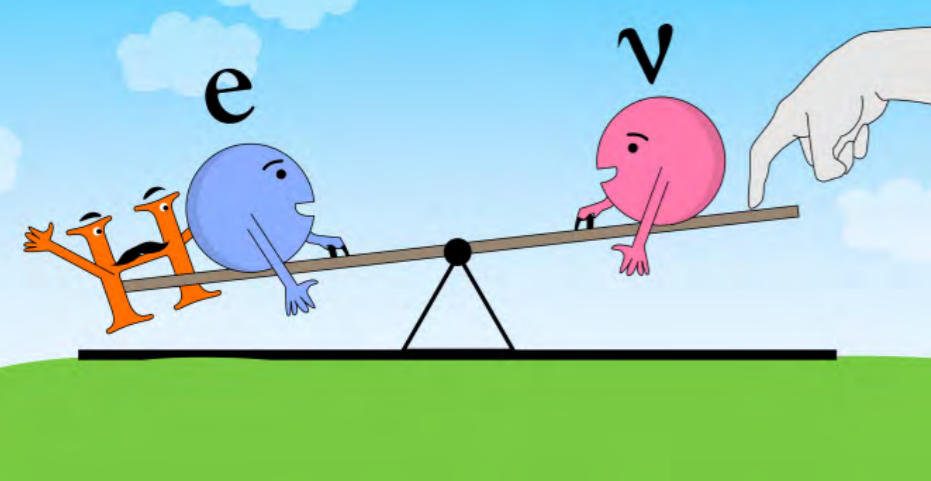


search ID: hsc1817

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www.CartoonStock.com

<http://www.research.vt.edu/resmag/sciencecol/2002asymmetry.html>



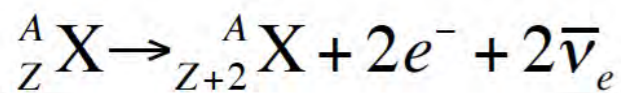
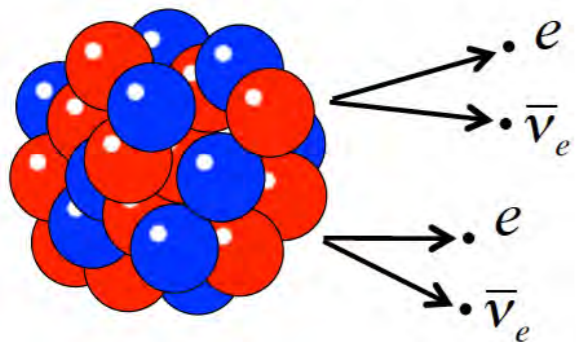


# $0\nu$ double beta decay

M.C. Escher

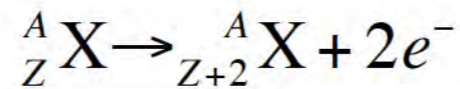
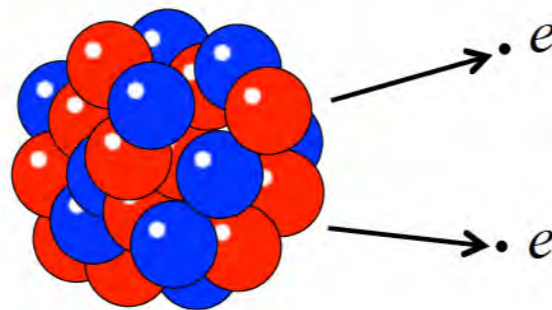


$2\nu\beta\beta$



$$\tau \geq 10^{19} \text{ y}$$

$0\nu\beta\beta$



$$\tau \geq 10^{26} \text{ y}$$

**Fortunately,  
 $N_A$  is very large!**

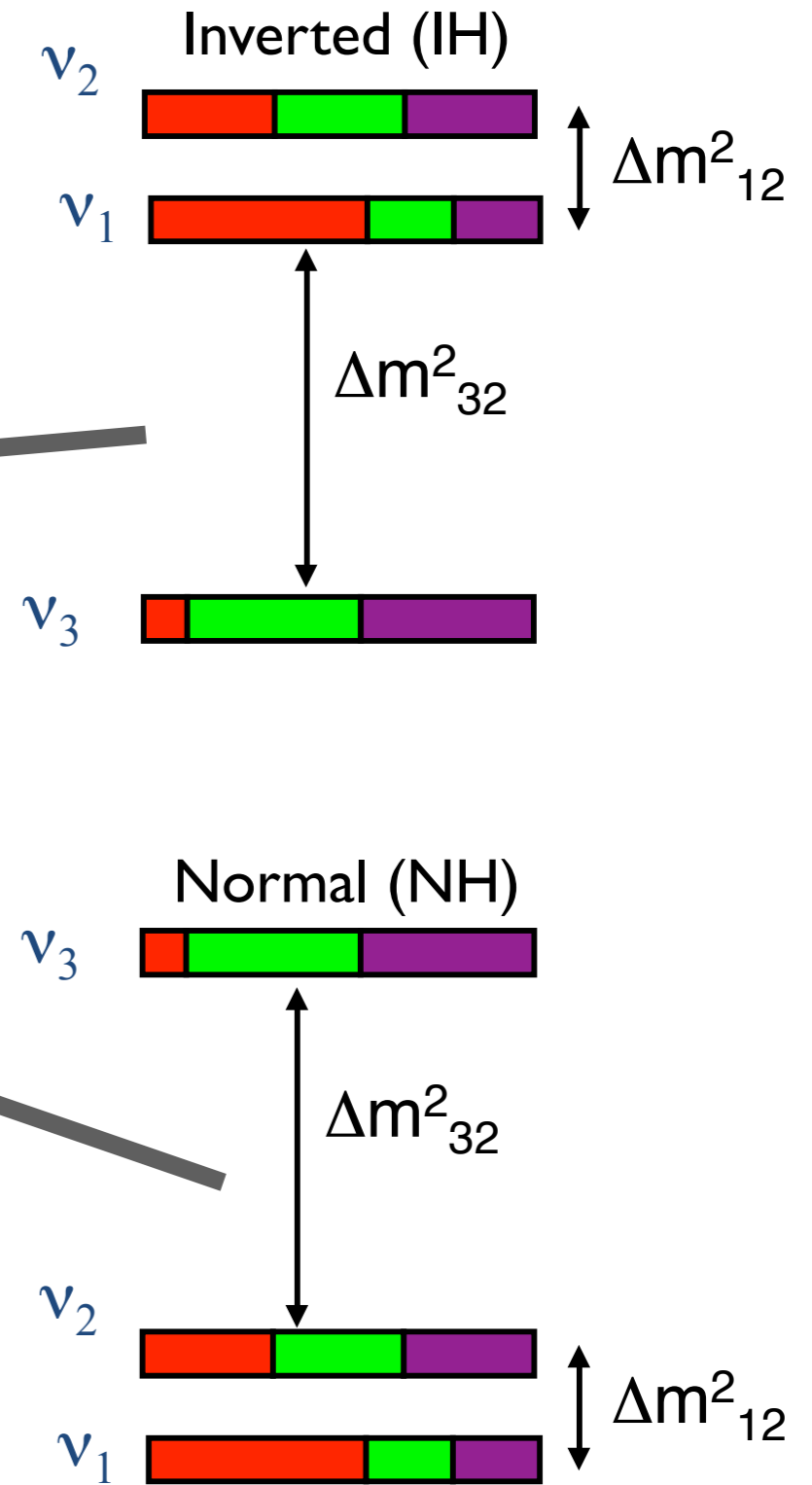
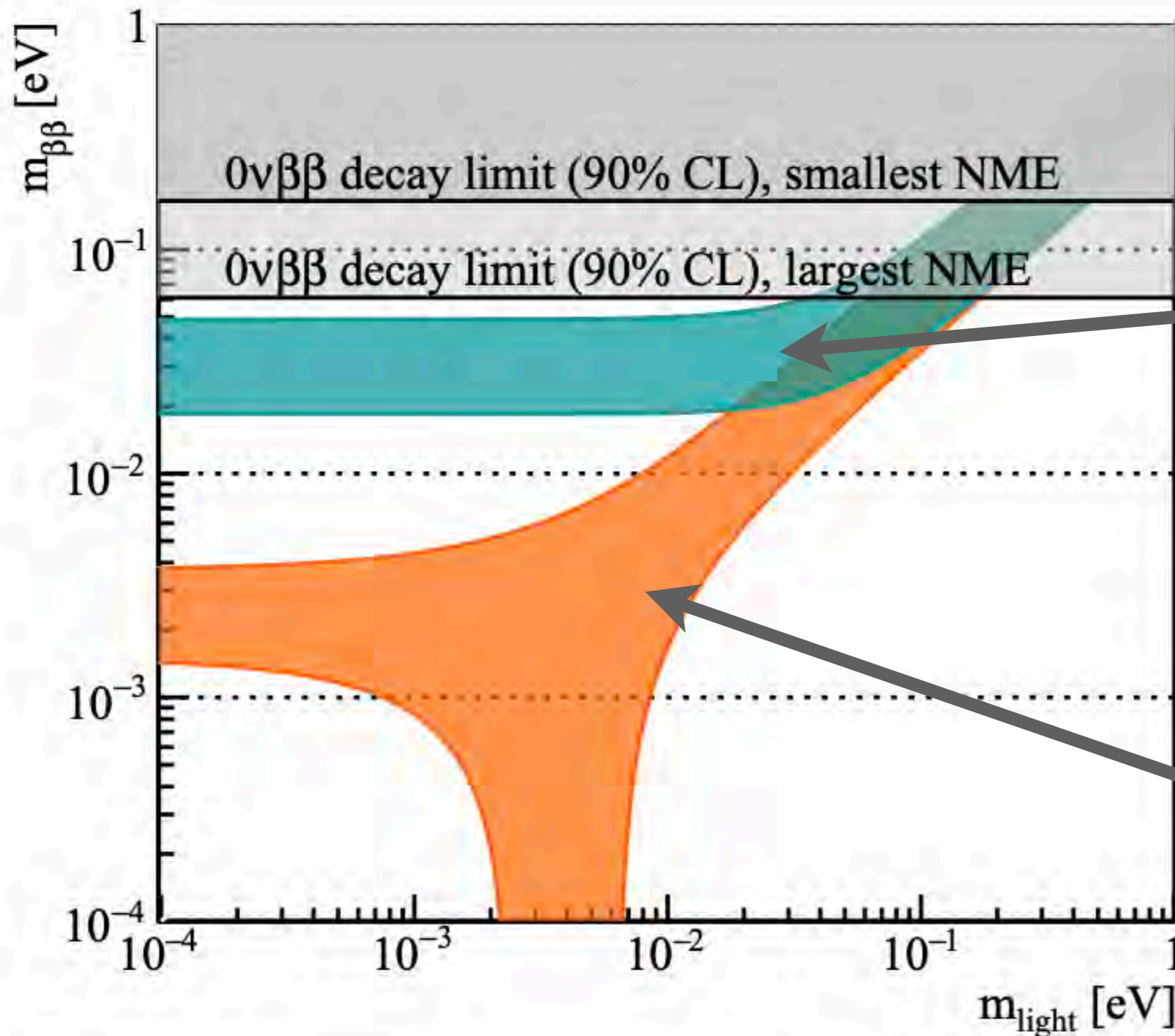
1. *Lepton number violation*
2. *Majorana nature of neutrinos*
3. *Rate measures (effective)  $m_{\nu e}$*



The 2015  
**LONG RANGE PLAN**  
for **NUCLEAR SCIENCE**

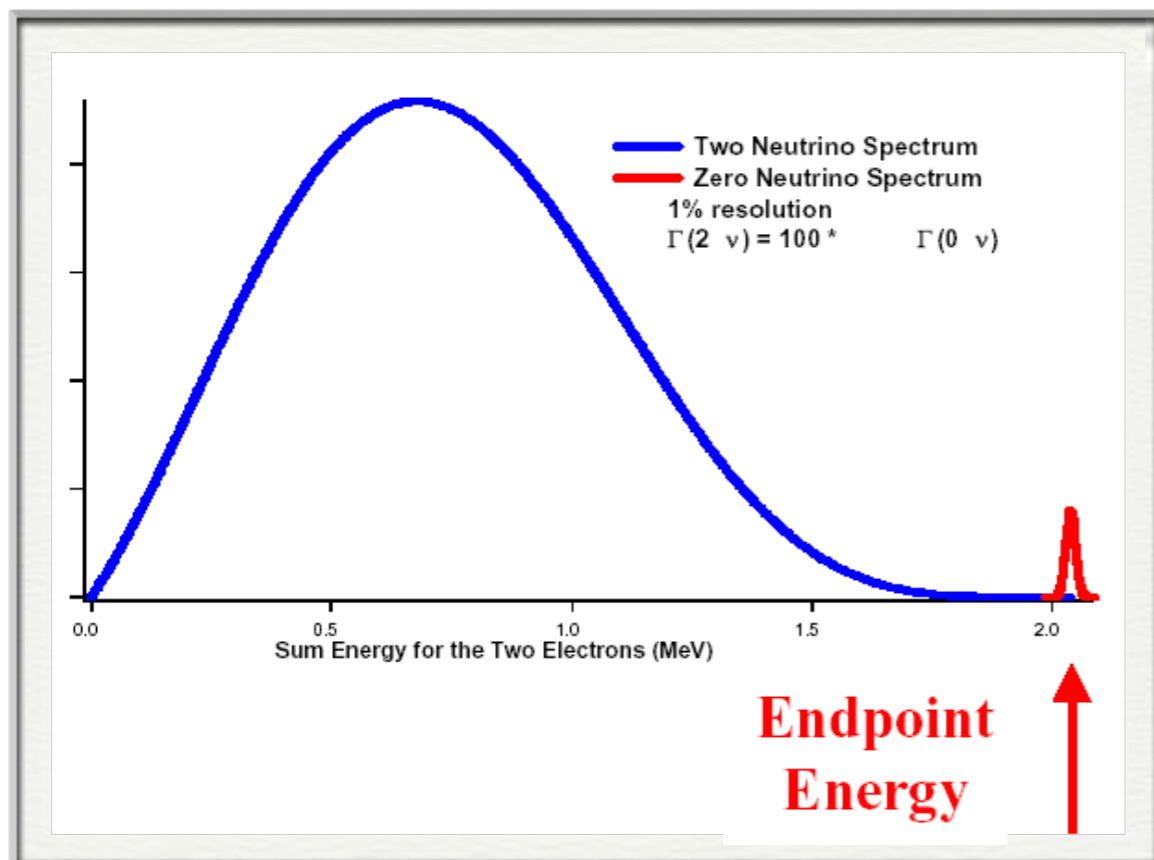
We recommend the timely development and deployment of a U.S.-led ton-scale neutrinoless double beta decay experiment.

# Phase space



# Experimental Challenges

Ultra small signal  $\Rightarrow$



- Large mass (signal stats)
- Low bkg
  - Deep underground
  - Purification
  - Bkg ID methods
- Good E resolution
- Interchangeable isotopes
- Tracking

# New physics: a light in dark places



**Scintillation  
light**

High intensity signal



SNO  $\Rightarrow$  SNO+



Liquid scintillator  
+  $^{130}\text{Te}$

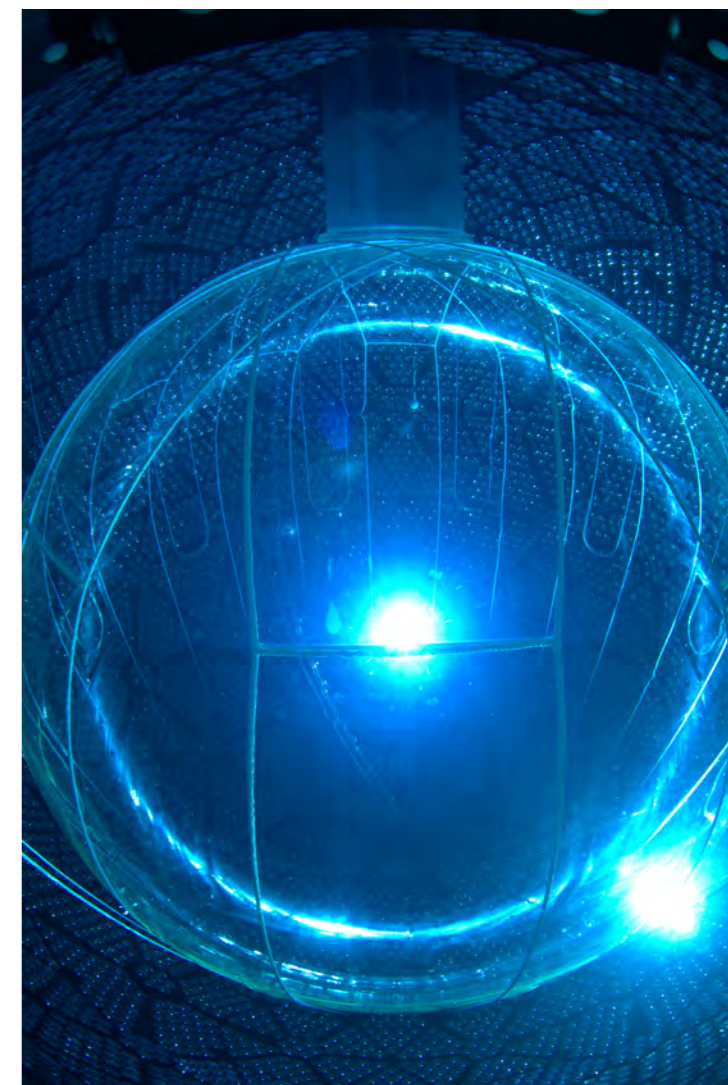
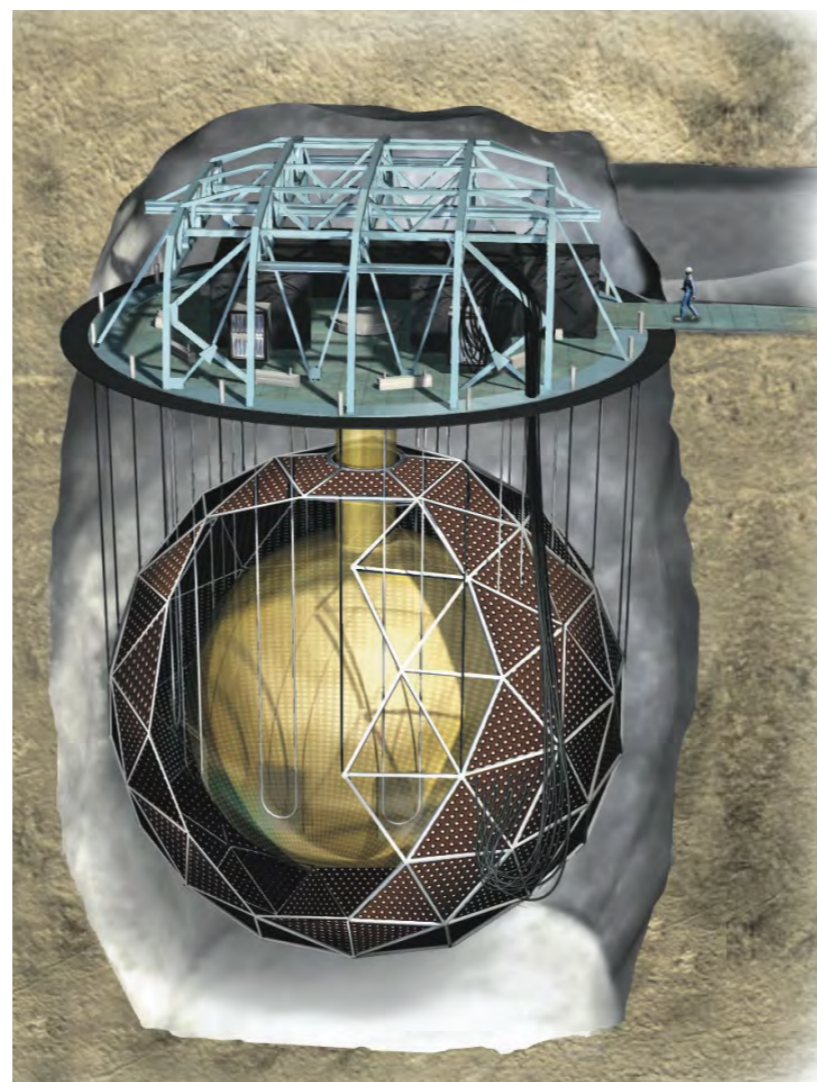
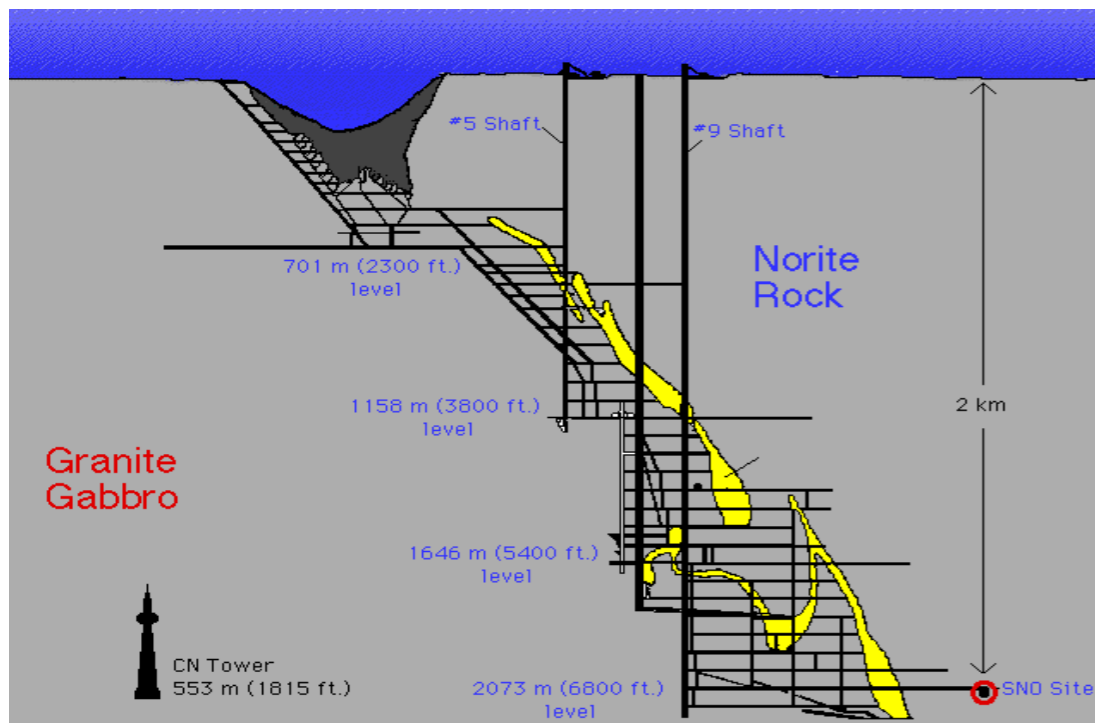




Image from [www.northernmontariobusiness.com](http://www.northernmontariobusiness.com)

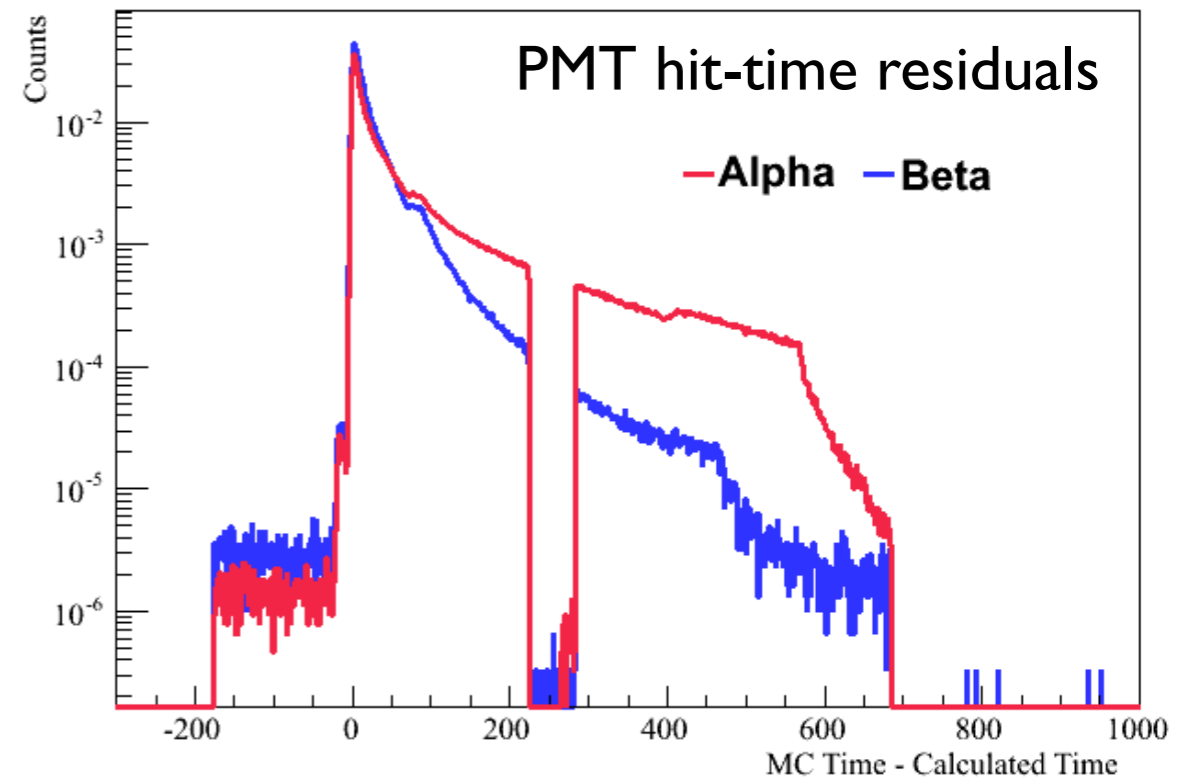


ess.com



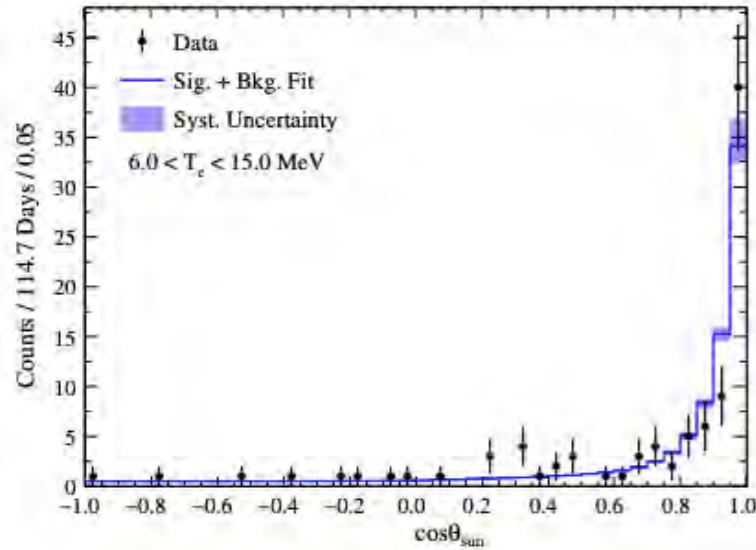
# Advantages of LS approach

- Low backgrounds (dominated by  $^8\text{B}$  solar neutrinos)
  - ▶ Fiducialisation  $\Rightarrow$  self-shielding
  - ▶ Background rejection via particle ID and coincident timing
  - ▶ Deep location (6000 m.w.e.)
- High detection efficiency
- Source in / out calibration
- Large target mass, easy scaling
- *Bonus: broad program includes solar, geo, reactor, supernova  $\nu$  & nucleon decay*





# SNO+ physics results

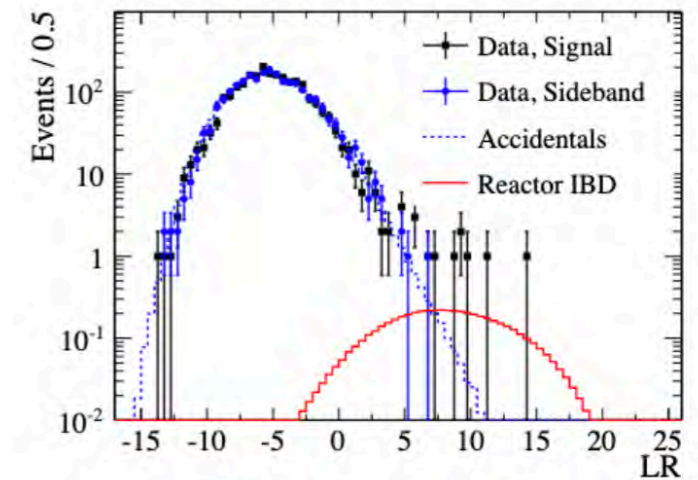


Measurement of  $^8\text{B}$  solar  $\nu$  flux with very low backgrounds:  
 $0.25^{+0.09/-0.07}$  ev/kt-day

$$\Phi_{^8\text{B}} = 5.95^{+0.75}_{-0.71}(\text{stat})^{+0.28}_{-0.30}(\text{syst}) \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

*Phys. Rev. D* **99** 012012 (2019)

Evidence of antineutrinos from distant reactors using pure water at SNO+

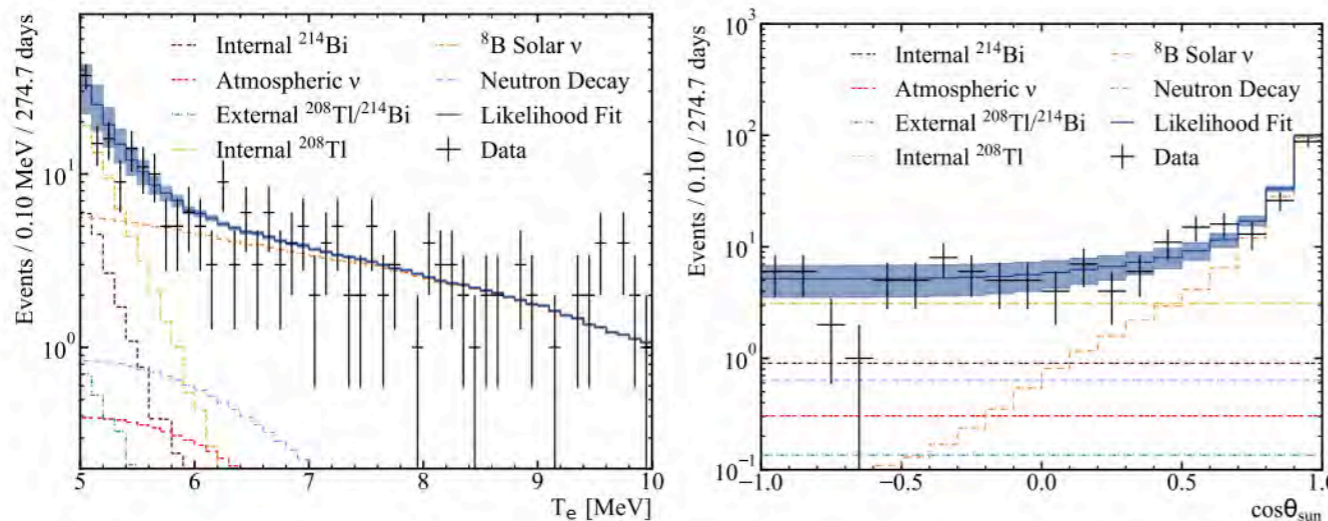


Collaboration, SNO+, et al. "Observation of Antineutrinos from Distant Reactors using Pure Water at SNO+." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2210.14154* (2022).

**PRL** **130** 091801 (2023)

Searches for invisible modes of nucleon decay via observable de-excitation  $\gamma$ s

*Phys. Rev. D* **105** 112012 (2022)



Decay Mode	Partial Lifetime Limit	Existing Limits
$n$	$9.0 \times 10^{29}$ y	$5.8 \times 10^{29}$ y [5]
$p$	$9.6 \times 10^{29}$ y	$3.6 \times 10^{29}$ y [6]
$pp$	$1.1 \times 10^{29}$ y	$4.7 \times 10^{28}$ y [6]
$np$	$6.0 \times 10^{28}$ y	$2.6 \times 10^{28}$ y [6]
$nn$	$1.5 \times 10^{28}$ y	$1.4 \times 10^{30}$ y [5]

# SNO+ sensitivity

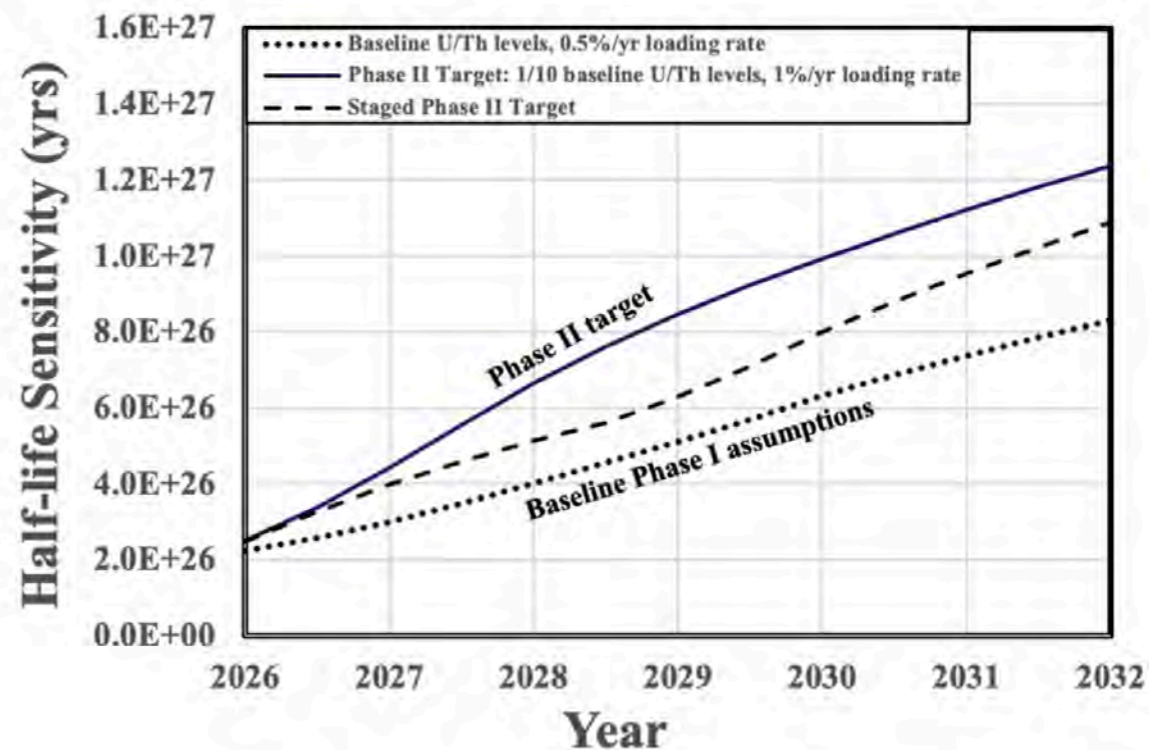
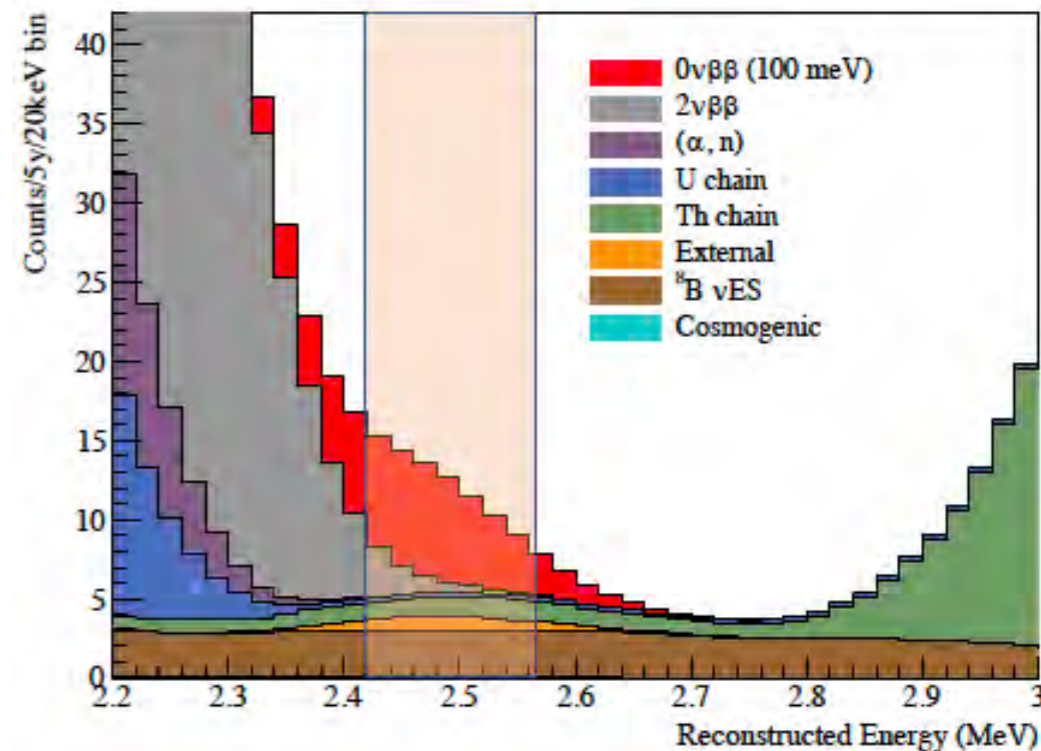
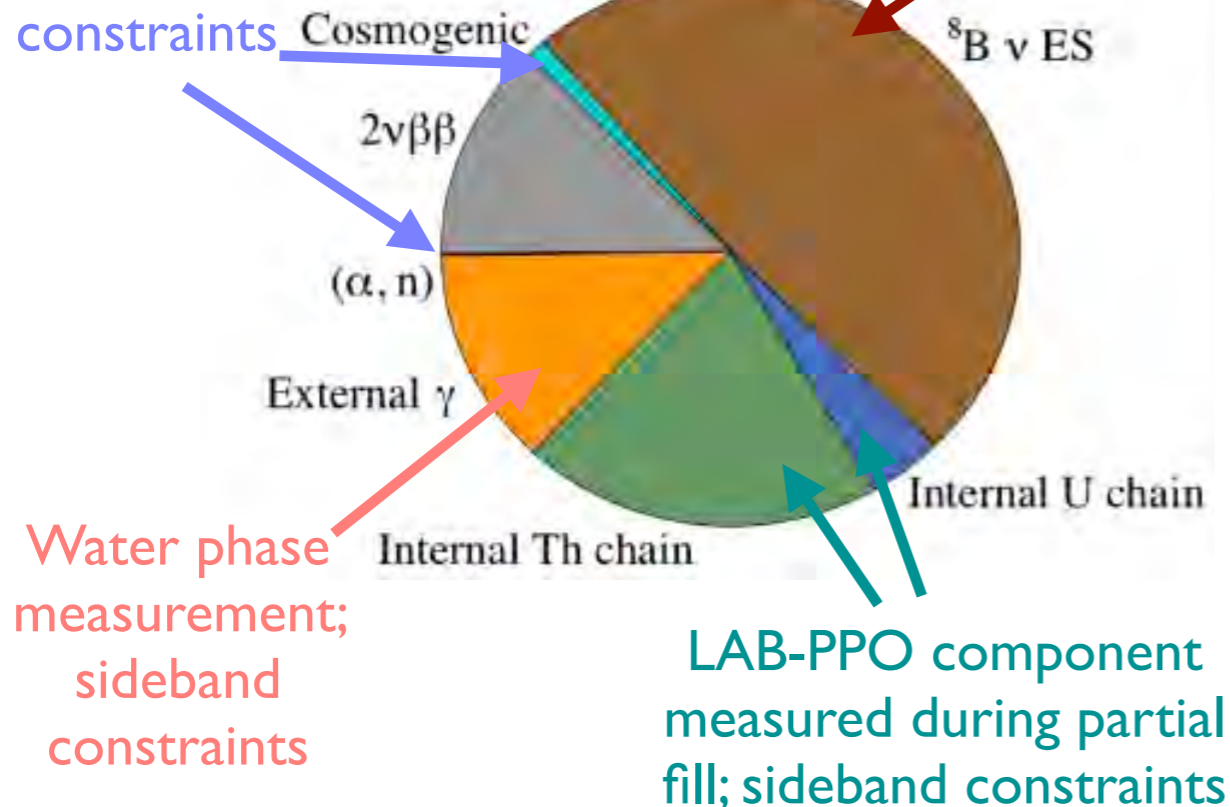
## Detector configuration:

- 0.5% natural Te
- 5 years live time
- Ex-situ optics (Penn/BNL)
- 3.3m fiducial volume (20%)

ROI: 2.42 - 2.56 MeV  $[-0.5\sigma - 1.5\sigma]$   
 Counts/Year: 9.47

Multi-site PID;  
 sideband  
 constraints


Solar  $\nu$  data



# SNO+ status

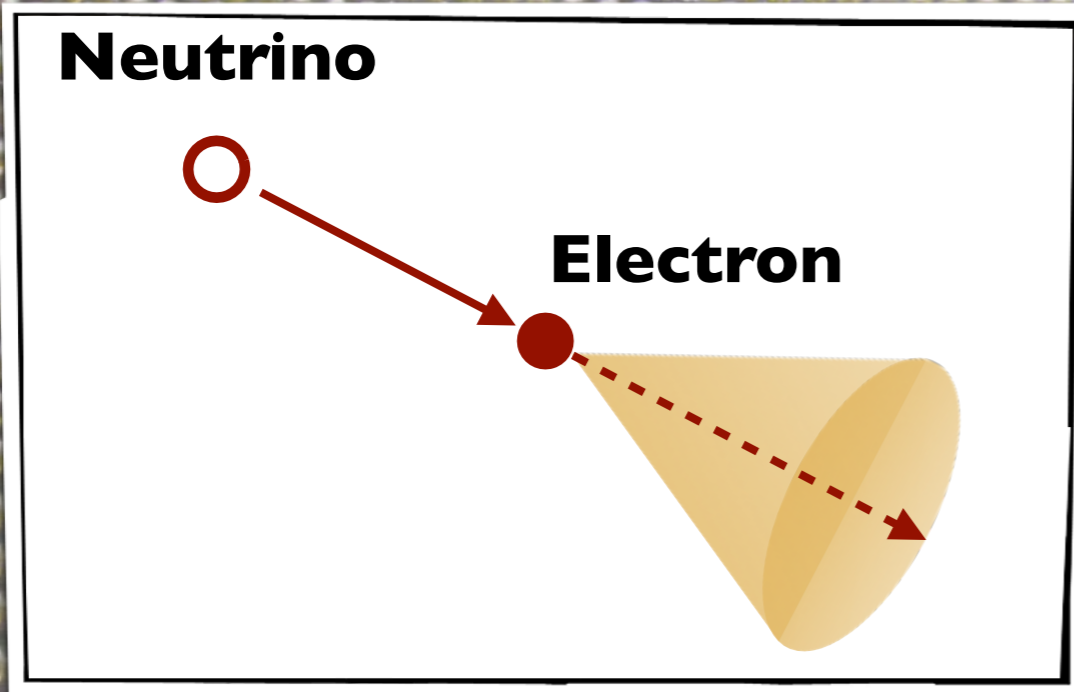
- LS fill complete, end of March, 2021 (780kg LAB+PPO)
- Largest, deepest operating LS detector
- Ultra-low background
- Neutrinoless double beta decay target backgrounds achieved!
- Broad ongoing physics program

*Related work:*  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **130** 091801 (2023)  
*Phys. Rev. D* **105** 112012 (2022)  
*JINST* **16** P10021 (2021)  
*JINST* **16** P08059 (2021)  
*JINST* **16** P05009 (2021)  
*Phys. Rev. C* **102**, 014002 (2020)  
*Phys. Rev. D* **99**, 032008 (2019)  
*Phys. Rev. D* **99**, 012012 (2019)



Let there be light:  
the path forwards

# Water Cherenkov detectors



Cherenkov light

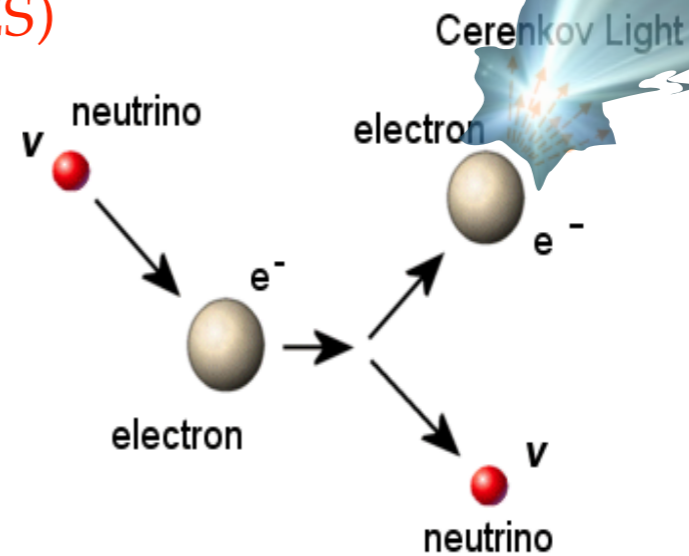
Steeply falling spectrum

Emitted with cone-like topology

*Directional* information

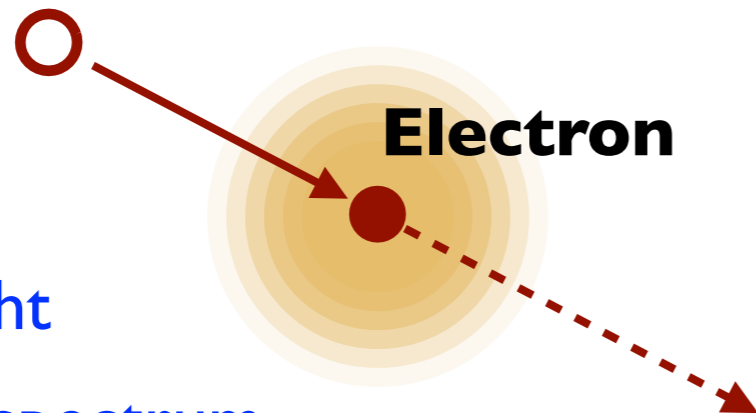
⇒ identify event source

**Neutrino-Electron Scattering (ES)**



# Scintillation detectors

**Neutrino**



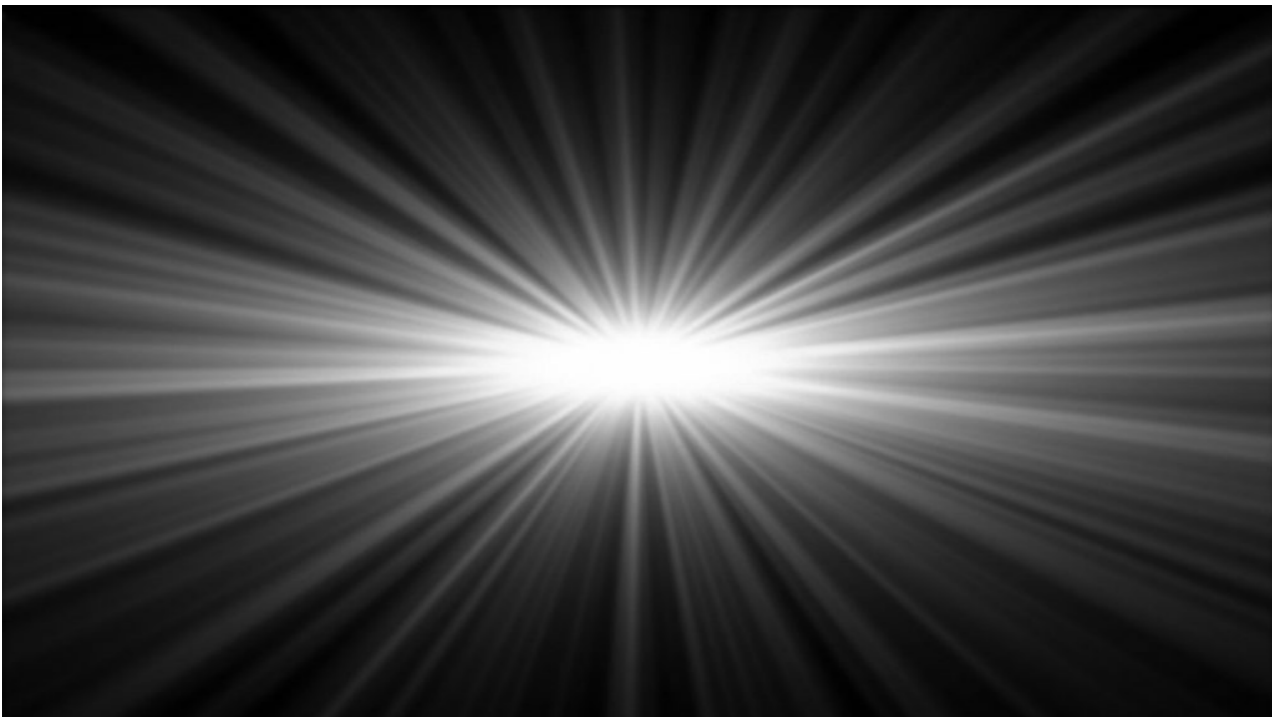
Scintillation light

Narrow-band spectrum

Emitted isotropically

*Significantly* higher light yield

⇒ improved detector resolution



# New technology: Hybrid Detectors

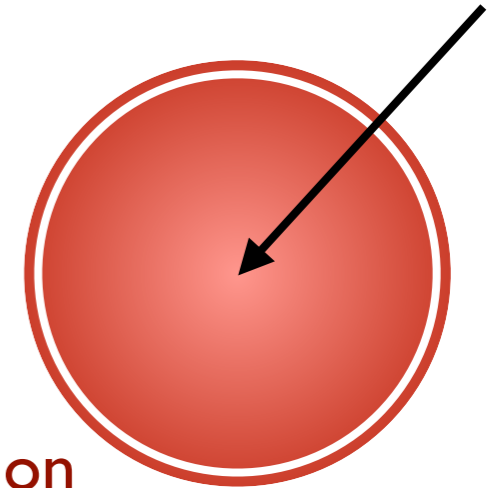


## Cherenkov

- Cherenkov topology: directional sensitivity, particle ID
- Optical transparency: scaling

## Scintillation

- High light yield: threshold, resolution
- Pulse shape discrimination: Particle ID
- Radiopure



***The whole is greater than the sum of the parts!***

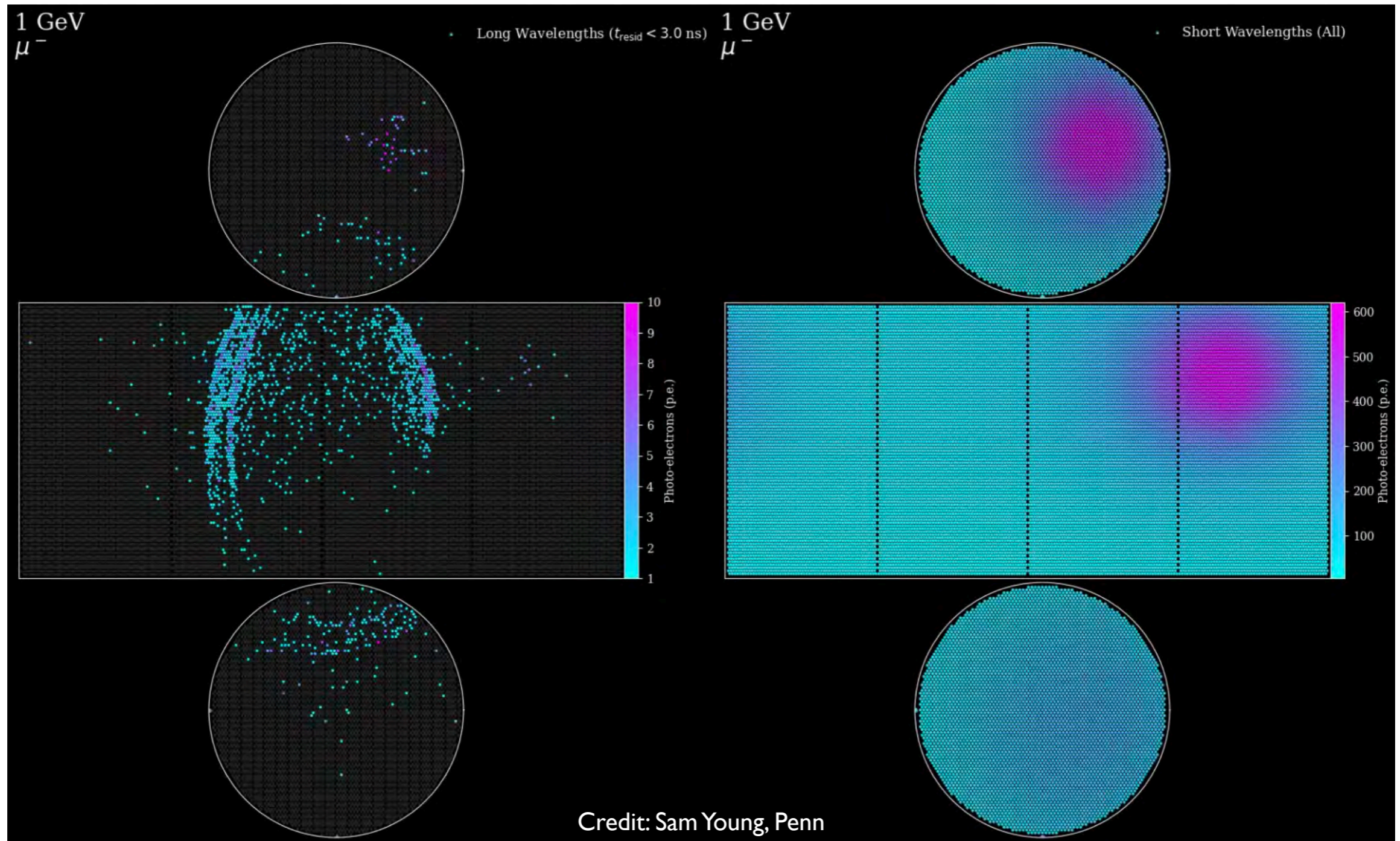
*The ratio of the two signals gives us additional information on the type of particle interacting*

*Improved background rejection for precision  $\nu$  measurements*

***Facilitates broad program!***

*Neutrinoless double beta decay, Particle astrophysics (solar, supernova)  
Long baseline physics (CPV, NMH), Nucleon decay, Geo neutrinos*

# Goal: 2-in-1



**Cherenkov**

**Scintillation**

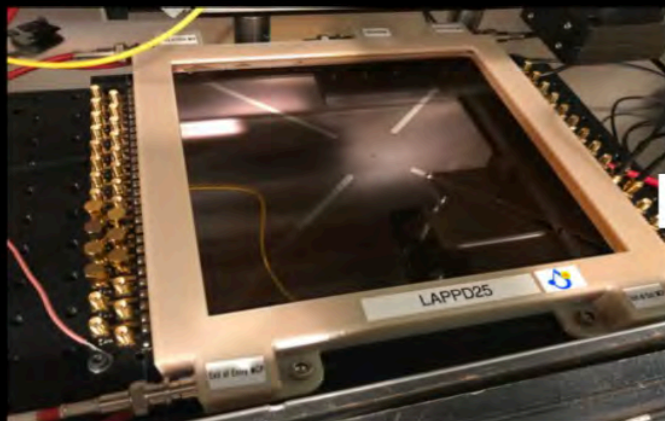


# Hybrid neutrino detection

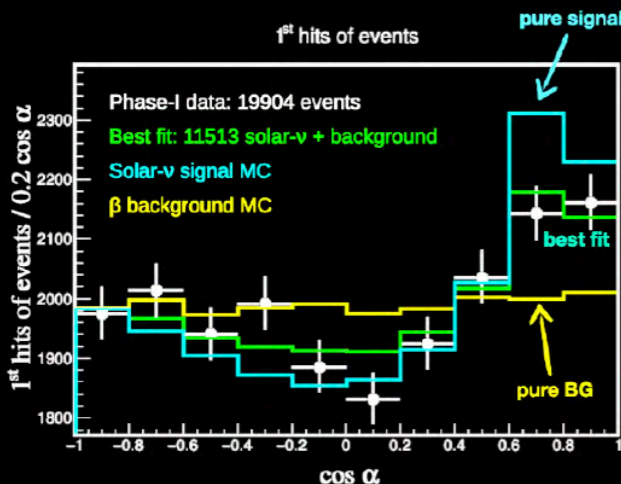
→ Enhanced sensitivity to broad physics program



Novel target media:  
Water-based/Slow Scintillator

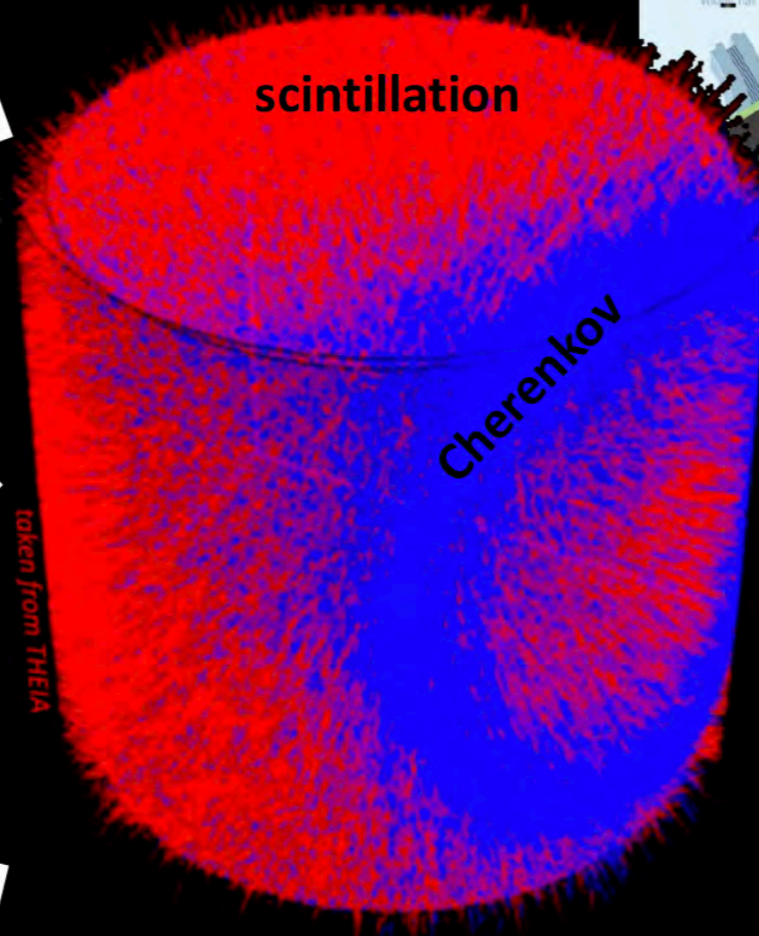


Novel light sensors:  
fast PMTs, LAPPDs, dichroicons

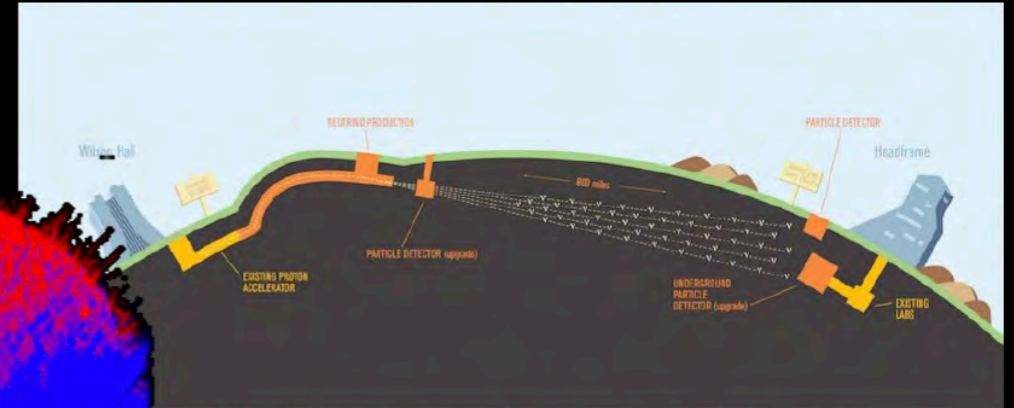


Novel reconstruction techniques

Michael Wurm (Mainz)



Large volume detector  
able to exploit both  
Cherenkov+Scintillation  
signals



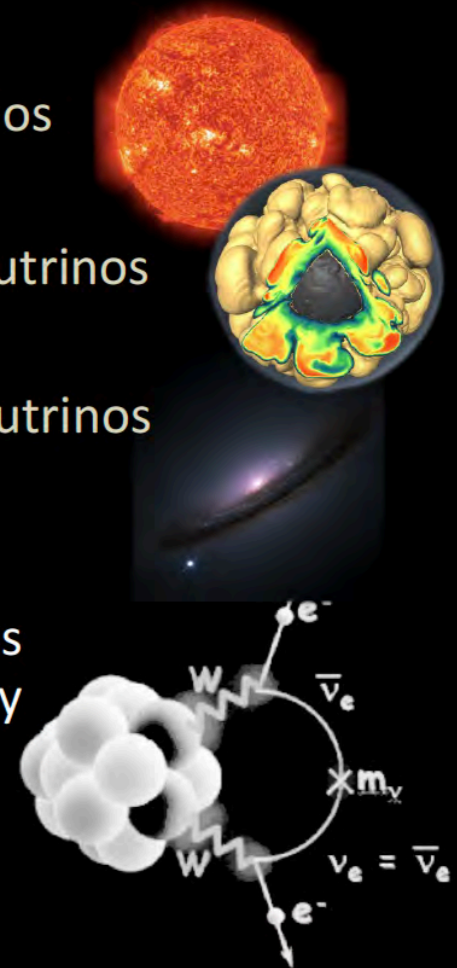
→ Long-Baseline Oscillations

→ Solar neutrinos

→ Supernova neutrinos

→ Diffuse SN neutrinos

Neutrinoless  
Double-Beta Decay



White paper - Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 416 & arXiv:2202.12839 [hep-ex]

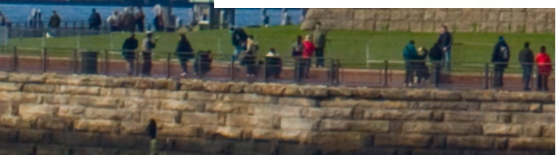
Hybrid Detectors



**THEIA**

THEIA The Goddess THEIA

The THEIA collection was created to bring out a women's inner goddess

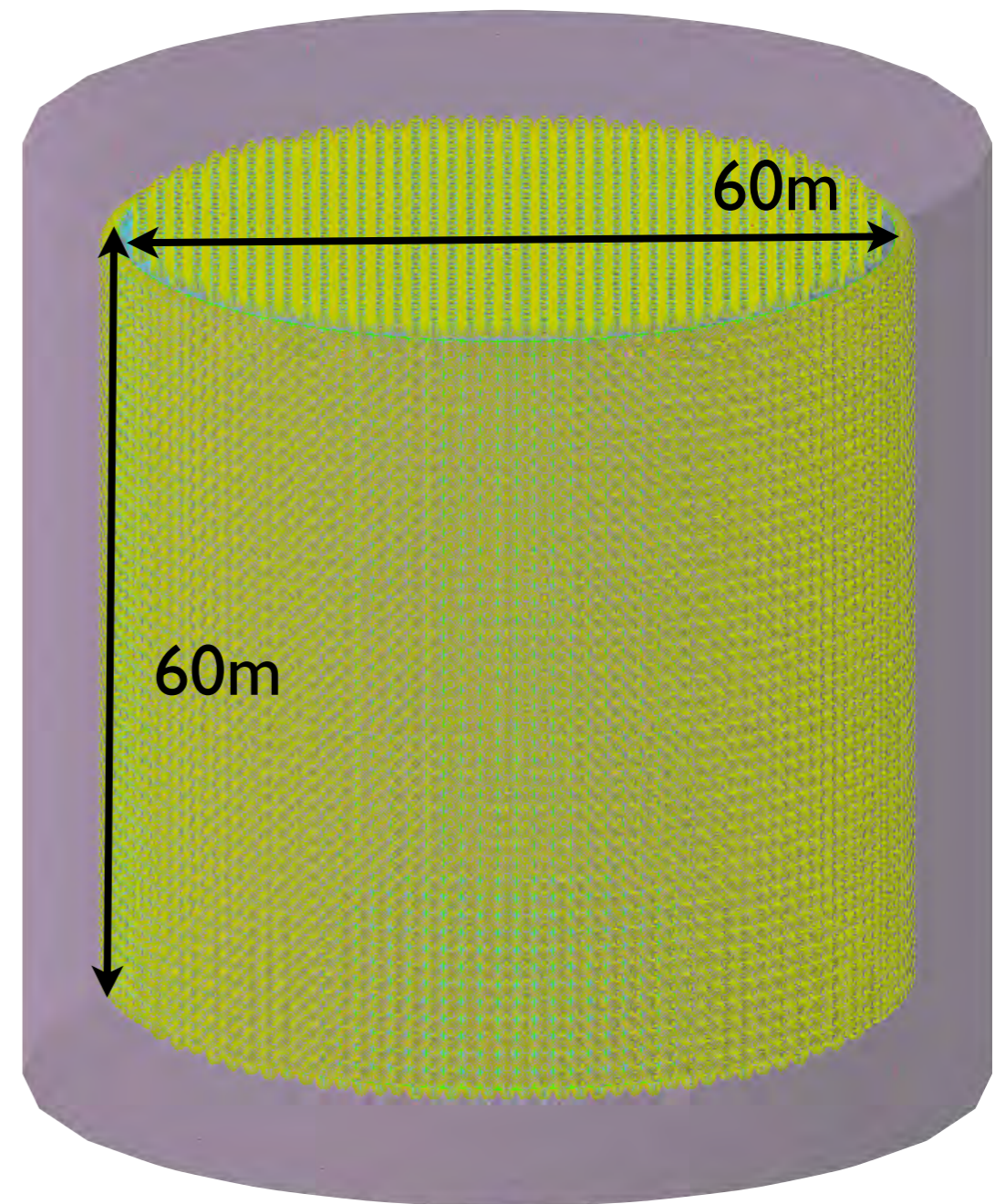


# THEIA Detector Concept



# THEIA

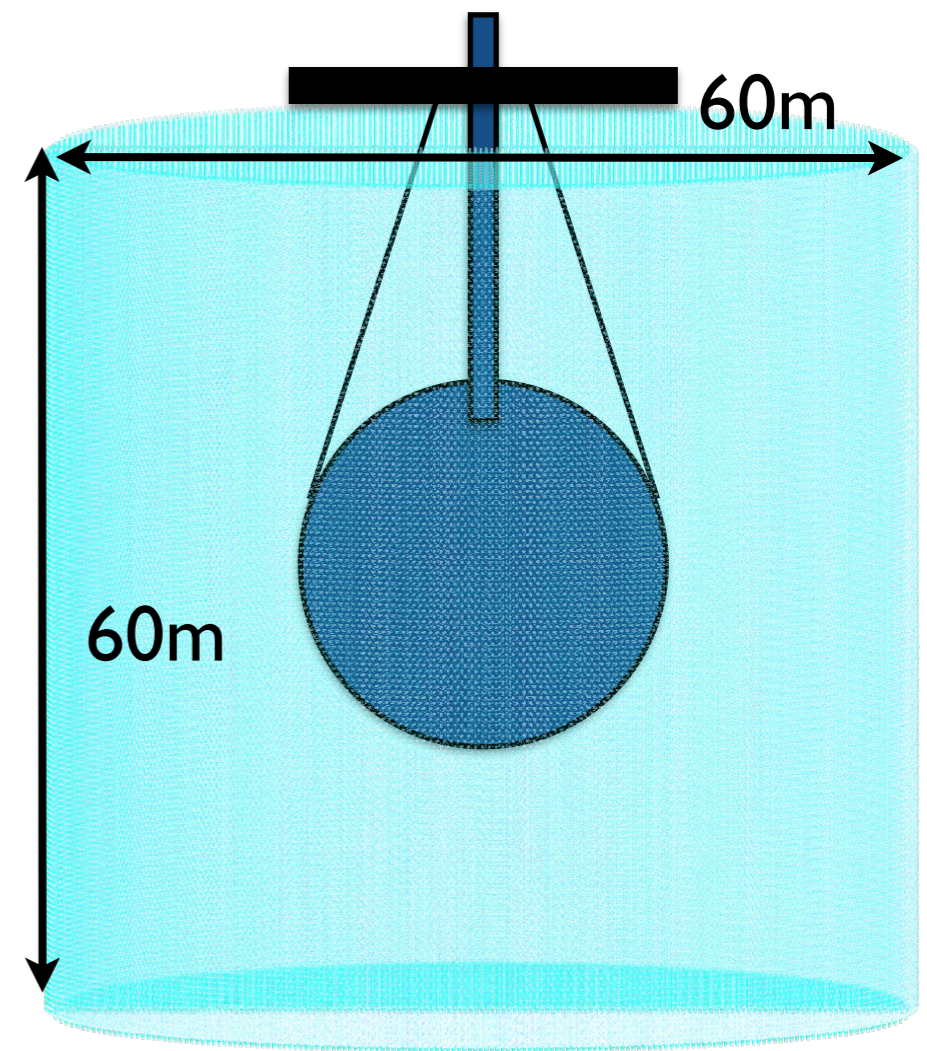
- Large-scale detector (25-100 kton)
- Novel LS target e.g. WbLS
- Fast, high-efficiency spectrally sensitive photon detection with high coverage
- Deep underground (Homestake)
- Isotope loading (Gd, Te, Li...)
- *Flexible!* Target, loading, configuration
  - ➔ Broad physics program!



White paper - [Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 416 \(2020\)](#)

# THEIA

- Large-scale detector (25-100 kton)
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- Deep underground (Homestake)
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- *Flexible!* Target, loading, configuration
  - ➡ Broad physics program!



# Hybrid detectors at Snowmass

## Neutrino Frontier report (also BSM, terrestrial & astrophysical sections)

- *NF: Detectors: one of 5 priorities for development*

- **Pursuit of hybrid Cherenkov/scintillation Detectors:** Many different technologies are being developed for these, including water-based liquid scintillator, slow fluors, fast timing with LAPPDs and other devices, and spectral photon sorting with dichroicons. At very large scales like the proposed **Theia** detector, these could have very broad physics programs.

- *NF: Long-term outlook*

ordering region. These next-generation LAr detector ideas go by different names, such as “SLoMo”, “SoLAr”, and “LArXe.” Another idea is the proposed **Theia** detector, which is a hybrid Cherenkov/scintillation detector that could do precision measurements of very low-energy solar neutrinos, diffuse supernova neutrino detection, perform searches for sterile neutrinos, and also push well beyond DUNE in precision tests of the three-flavor mixing model (including, for example, studies of the second oscillation maximum). On the low-threshold side, much will depend on what the

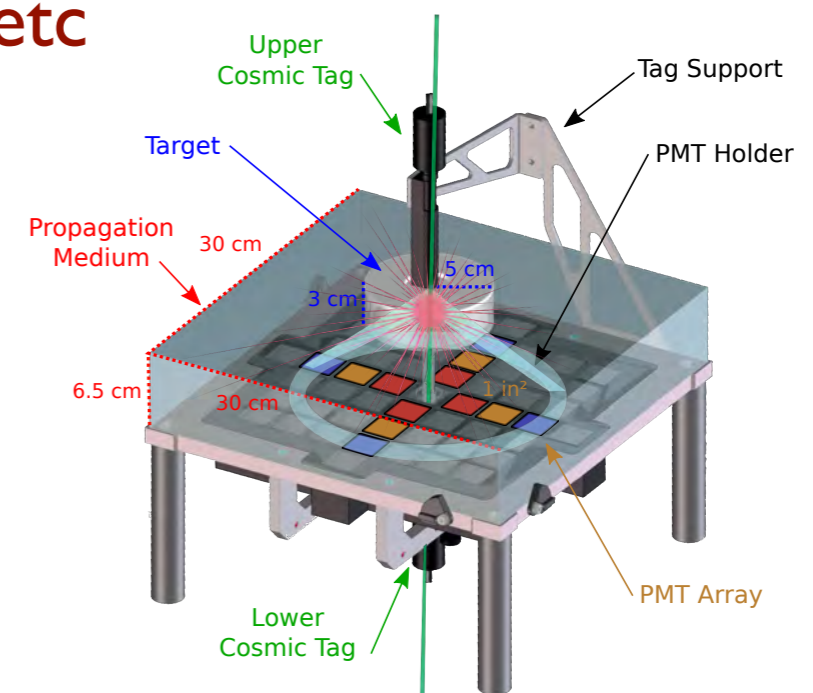
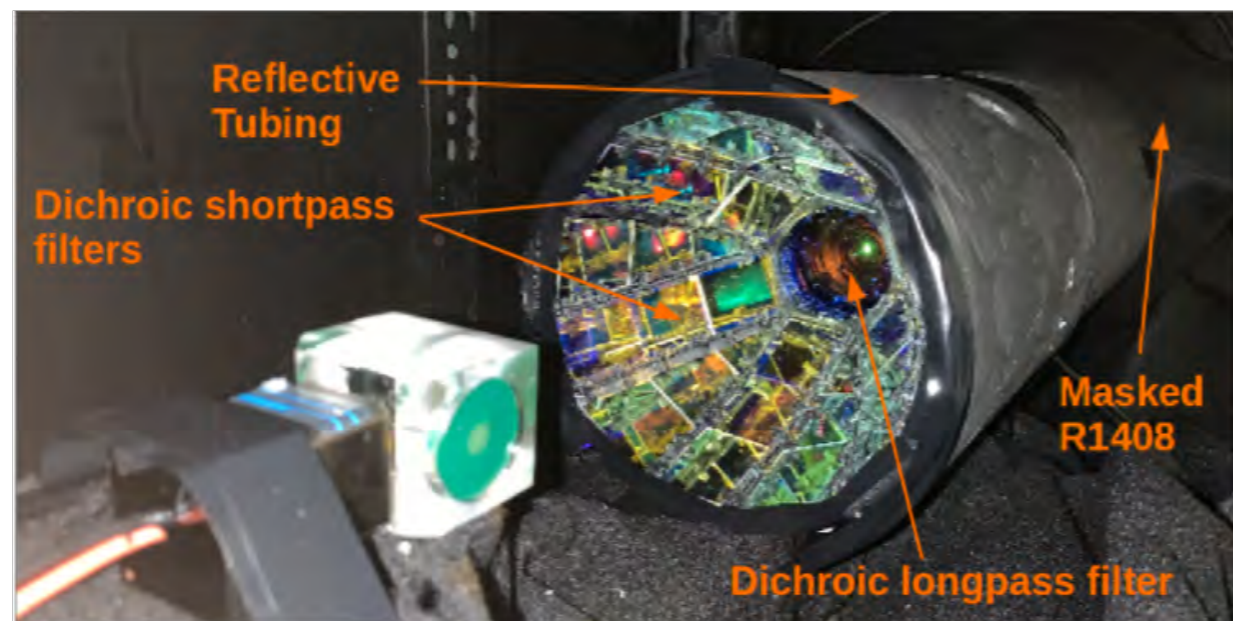
## Instrumentation Frontier report (also photon detectors & spectral sorting)

- *IF: Going beyond DUNE*

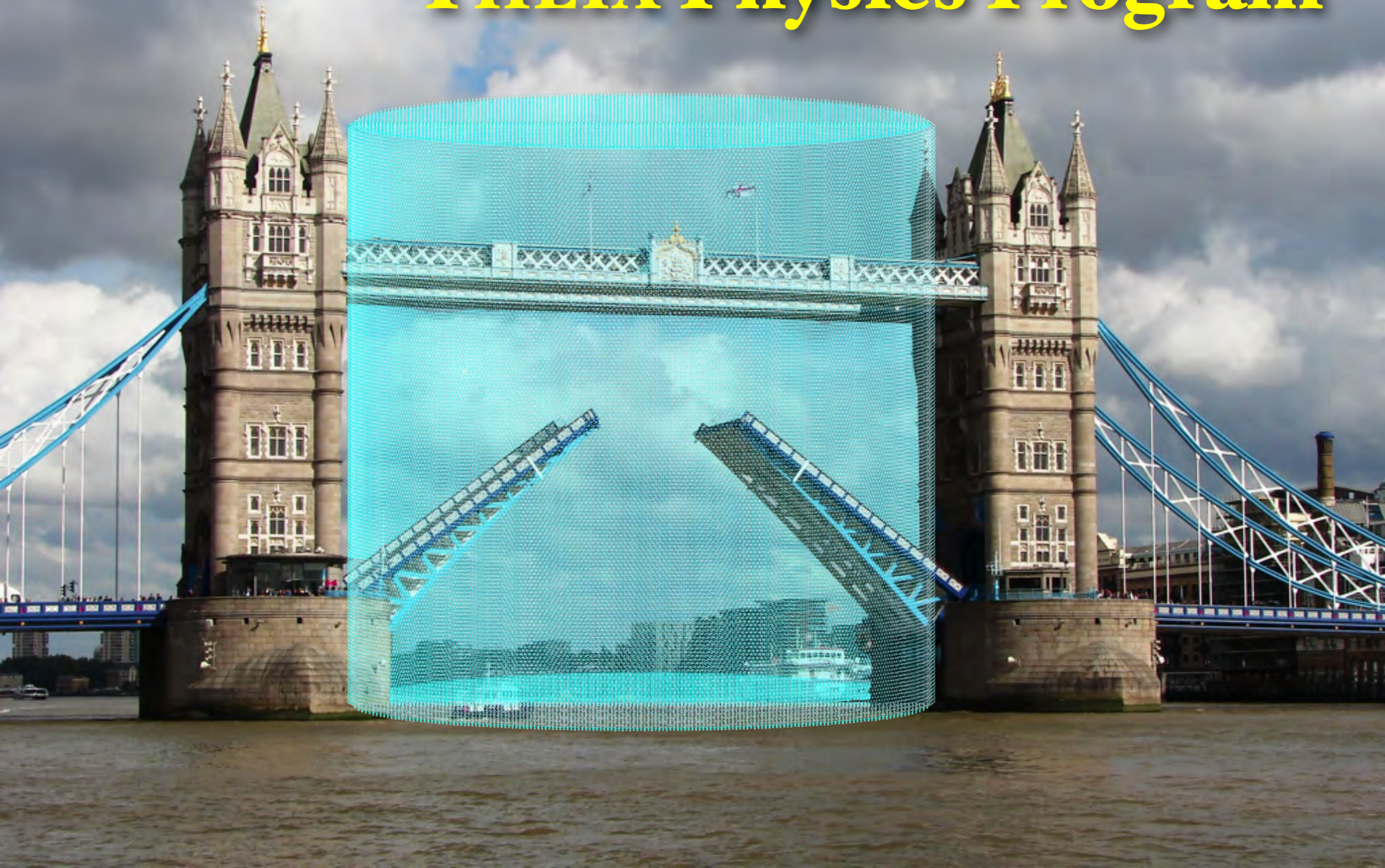
Of particular community interest is the development of hybrid Cherenkov-scintillation detectors, which can simultaneously exploit the advantages of Cherenkov light’s reconstruction of direction and related high-energy particle identification (PID) and the advantages of scintillation light, high light-yield, low-threshold detection with low-energy PID. Hybrid Cherenkov-scintillation detectors could have an exceptionally broad dynamic range in a single experiment, allowing them to have both high-energy, accelerator-based sensitivity while also achieving a broad low-energy neutrino physics and astrophysics program. Recently the Borexino

# THEIA as a tool for increasing diversity in STEM

- Central tenet of this project from day zero, active ongoing effort
- The science of THEIA is inspirational & motivational
- Opportunity for under-represented groups to make meaningful contributions to “big science”, in an EPSCOR state
- Readily accessible to smaller institutions with more limited resources
  - BENCHTOP measurements are critical component in design efforts
  - No need for cryogenics, purification etc



# THEIA Physics Program





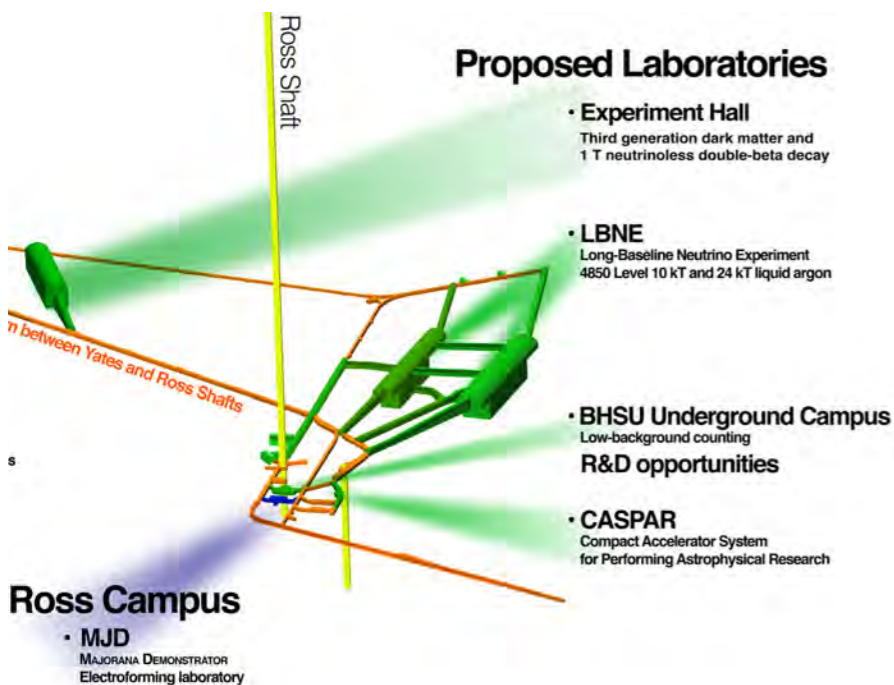
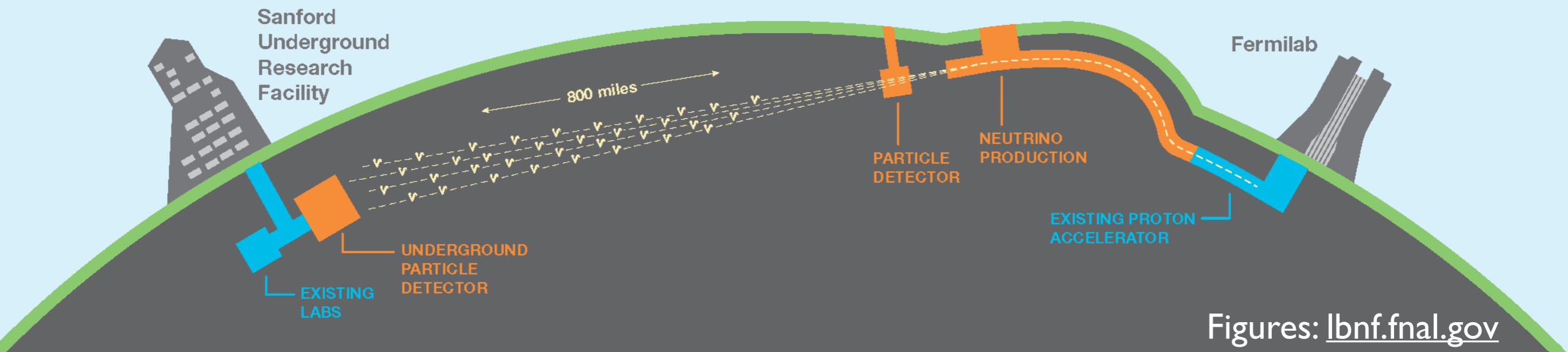
# (Phased) Physics program

Primary physics goal	Reach	Exposure/assumptions
<b>Long-baseline oscillations</b>	$>5\sigma$ for 30% of $\delta_{CP}$	524kt-MW-year
<b>Nucleon decay</b> $p \rightarrow \bar{\nu} K^+$	$T > 3.8 \times 10^{34}$ year	800 kt-year
<b>Supernova burst</b>	$< 1(2)^\circ$ pointing 20K(5K) events	100(25)kt, 10kpc SN
<b>Diffuse Supernova Neutrino</b>	$5\sigma$	125kt-year
<b>CNO neutrinos</b>	$< 5(10)\%$	300(62.5)kt-year
<b>Geoneutrinos</b>	$< 7\%$	25 kt-year
$0\nu\nu\beta$	$T_{1/2} > 1.1 \times 10^{28}$ year (90%C.L.)	800 kt-year (Multi-tonne loaded LS in suspended vessel search )

# The Missing Ingredient: CP Violation

## Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE)

“Sending neutrinos on an 800-mile journey”



## Full DUNE scope:

1. 1.2 MW beam, upgradeable to 2.4MW
2. Four Far Detector (FD) modules, 40kt+ fiducial
3. Near Detector suite (ND)

# DUNE phasing

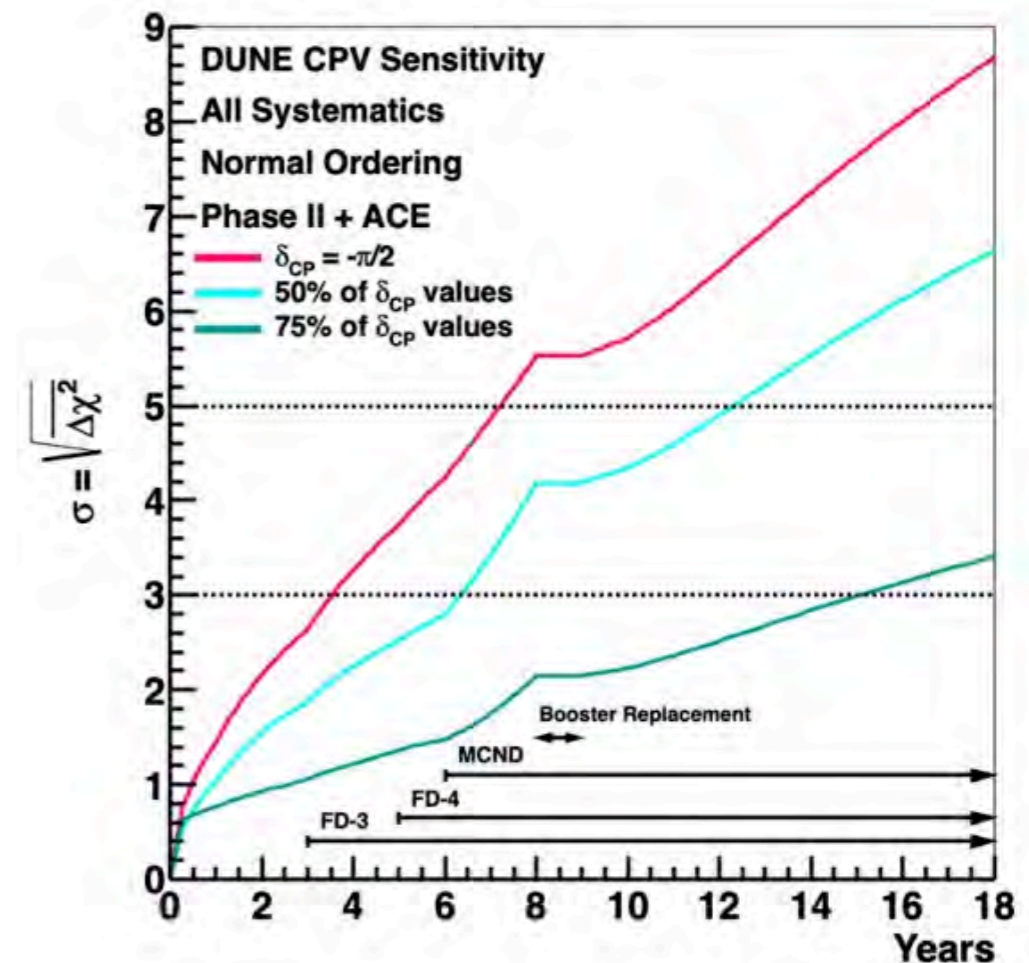
## DUNE Phase I:

1. 1.2 MW beam
2. Two Far Detector (FD) modules, 2x10 kt liquid argon TPC
3. Reduced Near Detector suite (ND)



## DUNE Phase II:

1. Upgraded beam
2. Two additional Far Detector (FD) modules, technology TBD
3. More Capable Near Detector (MCND)



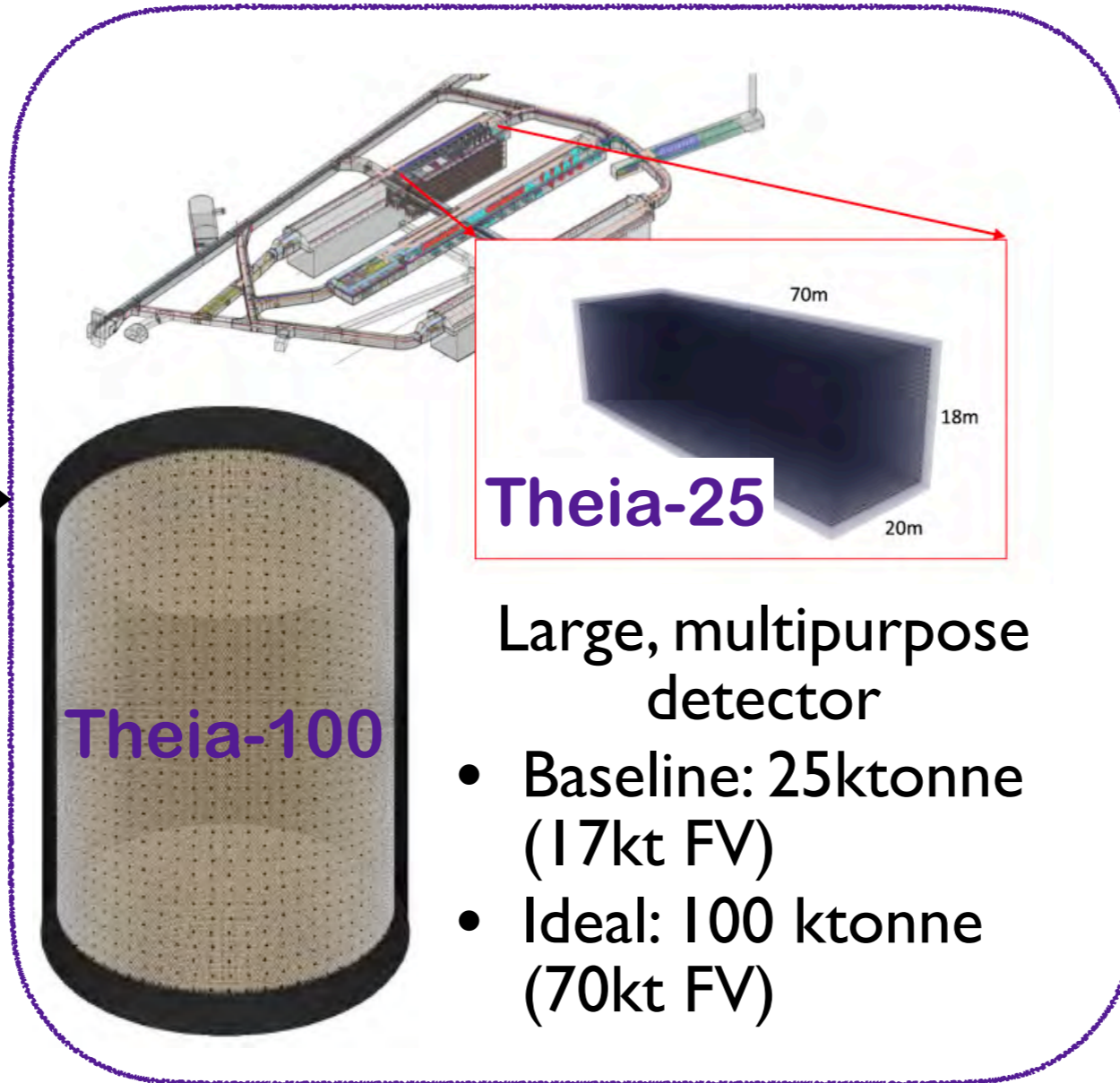
# Theia as a DUNE module in Phase II

*Long-baseline sensitivity comparable to a LAr DUNE module*

*Complementary supernova sensitivity (primarily anti- $\nu$ , fast response: can act as trigger)*

*+ broad (new!) additional physics program*

Cutting-edge developments in target material and photon detection

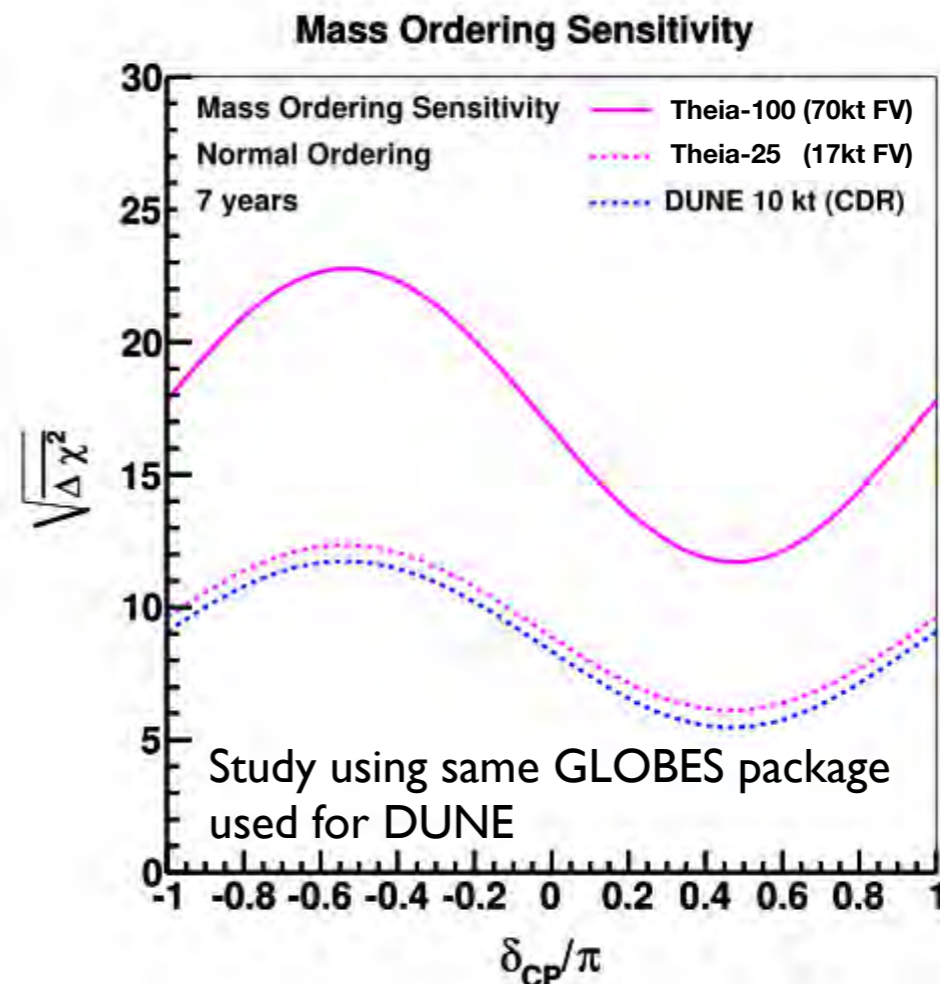
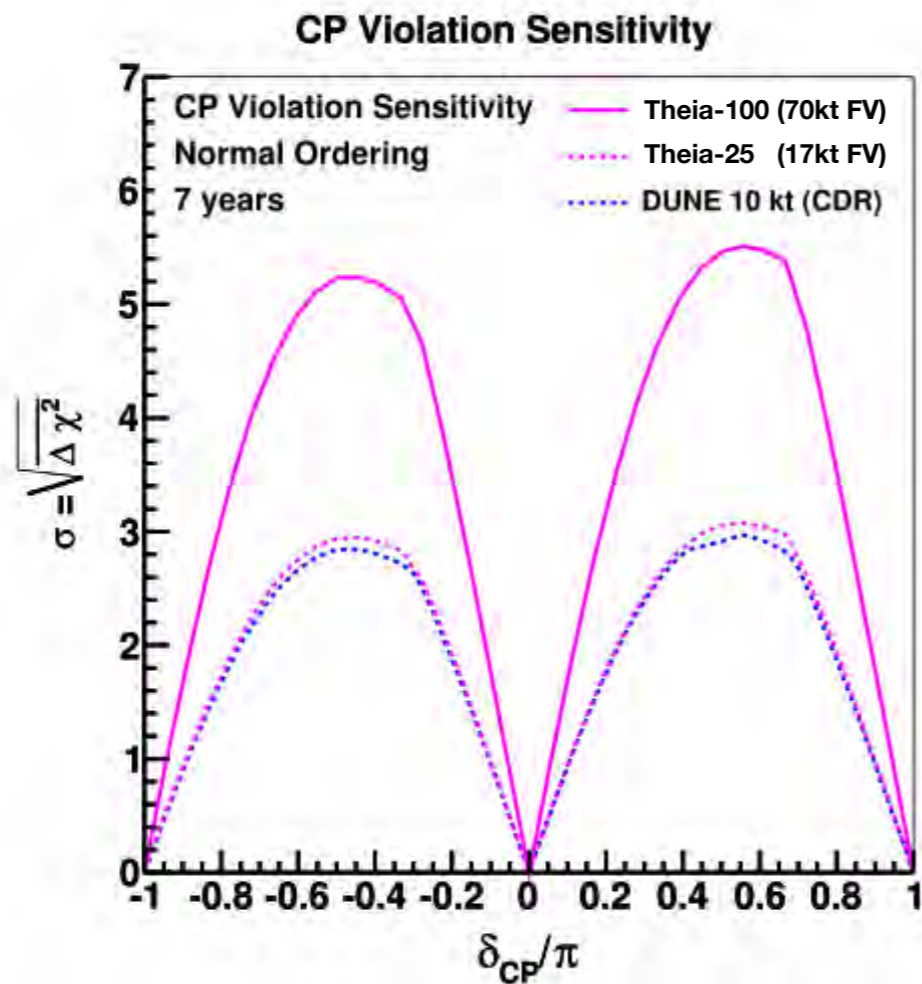


Broad physics program:  
Studying neutrino fundamental properties and astrophysical objects

- Large, multipurpose detector
- Baseline: 25ktonne (17kt FV)
  - Ideal: 100 ktonne (70kt FV)

THEIA: An advanced optical neutrino detector  
Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 416 (2020)

# Long-Baseline Sensitivity

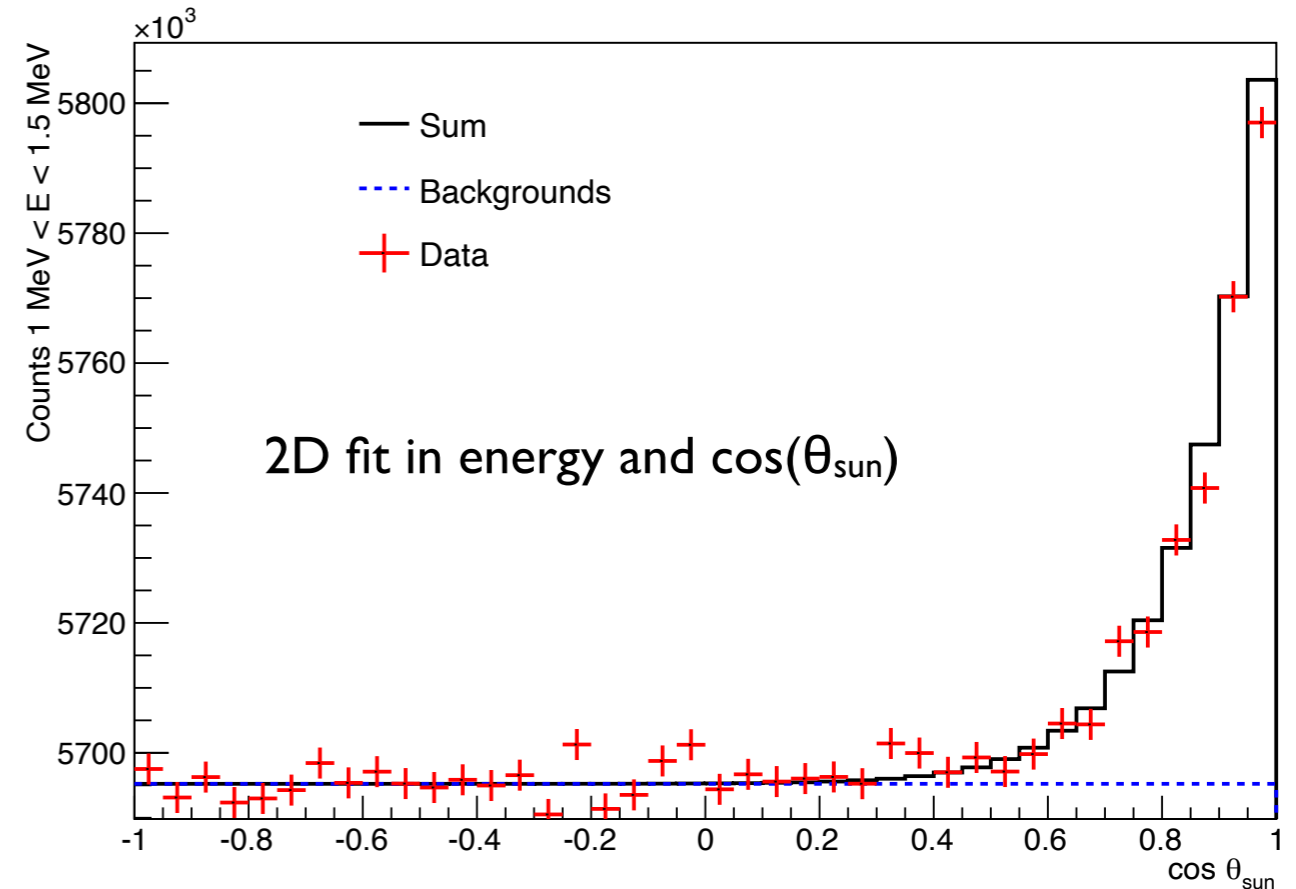
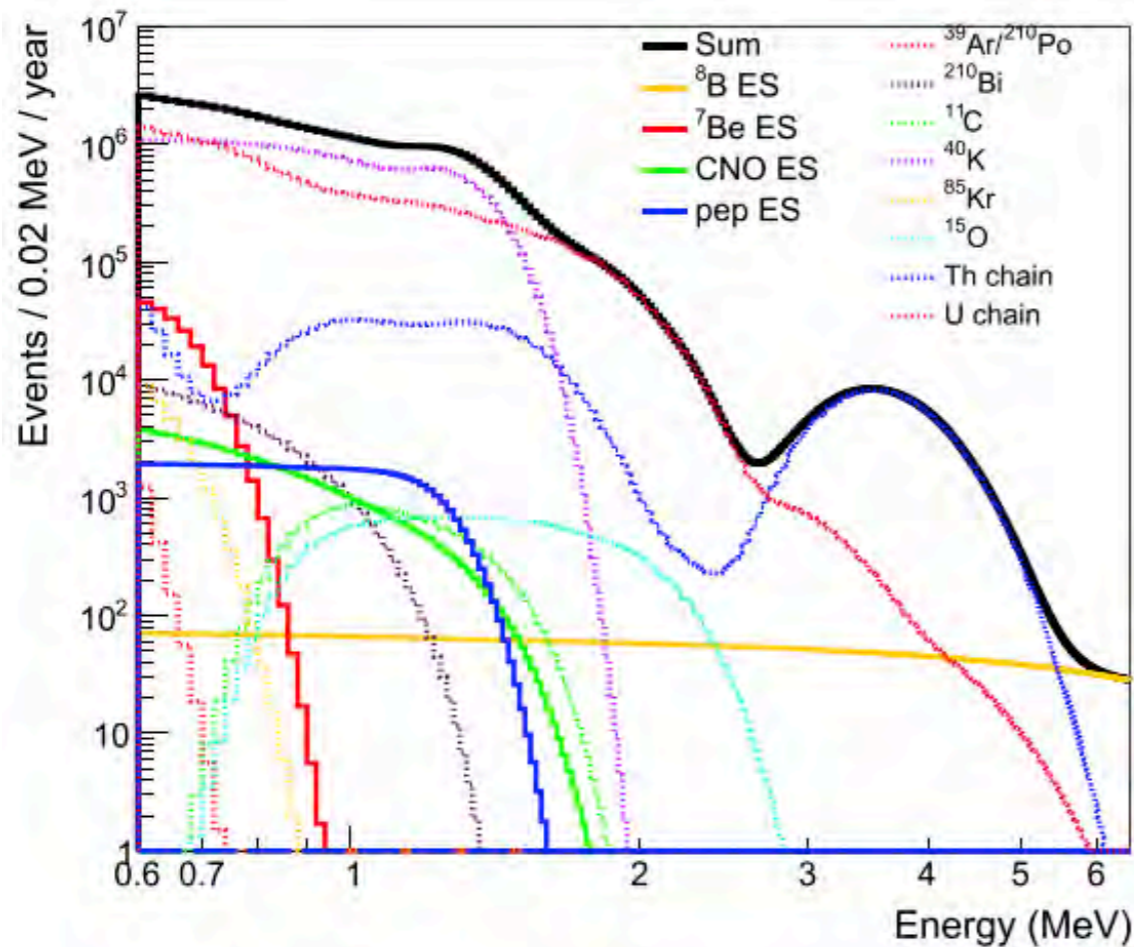


Performance of small (25kt)  
Theia module competitive  
with 10kt LAr TPC

Synergy with LAr TPC  
Independent systematics

**Unique cross check of HK/DUNE comparison!**

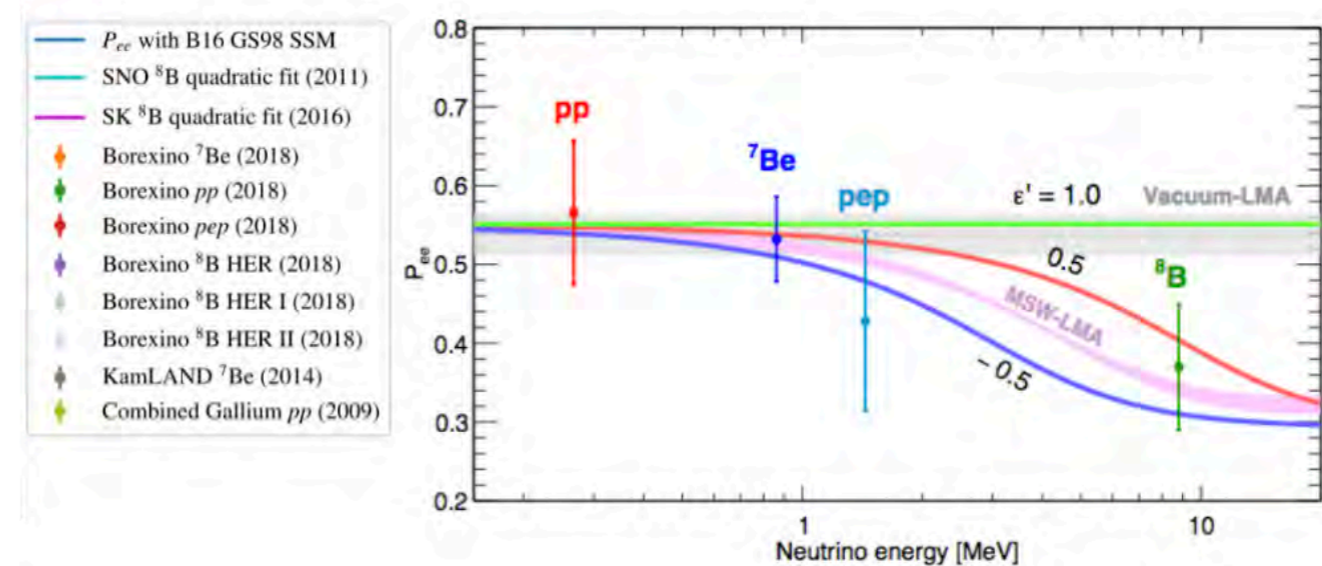
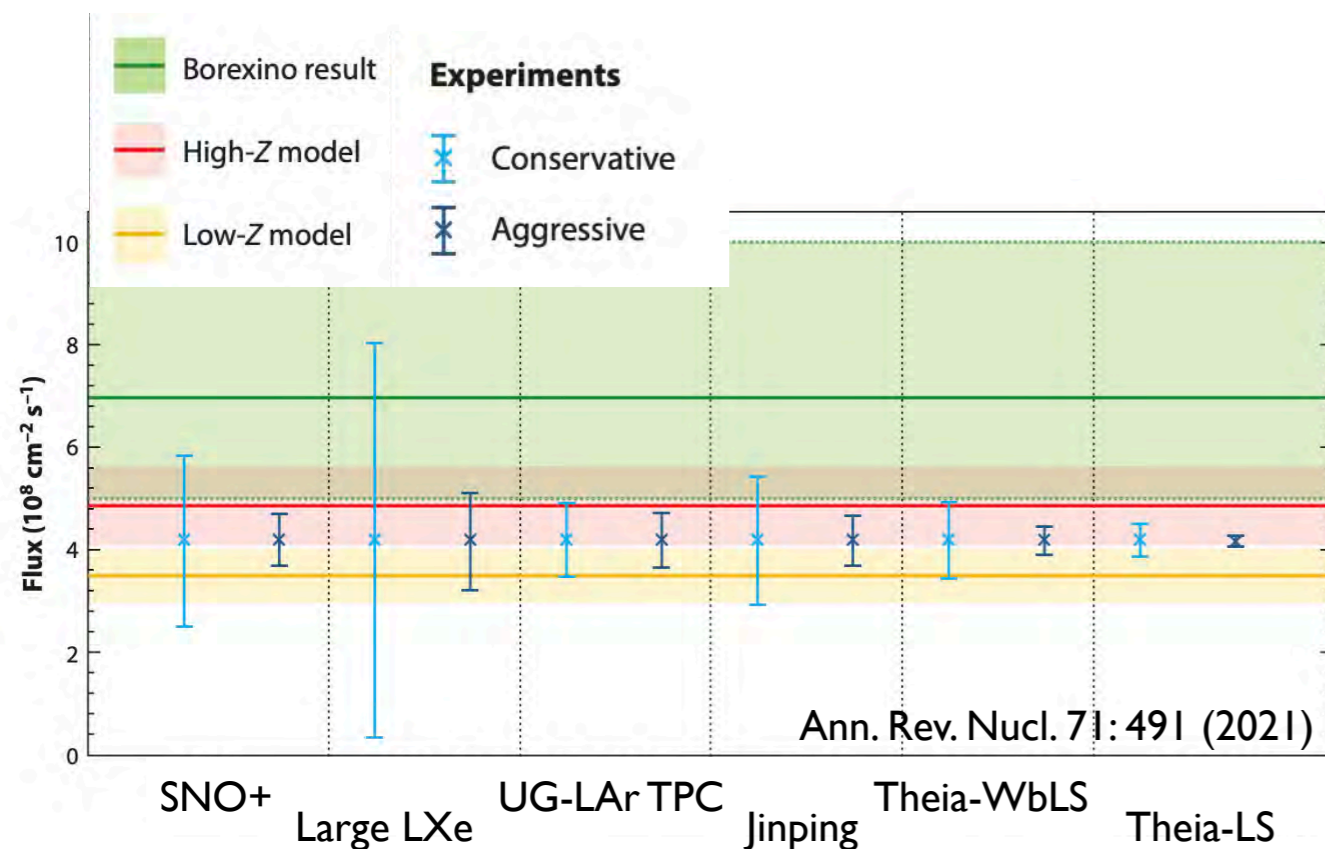
# The challenge of backgrounds



# Solar Neutrinos with THEIA

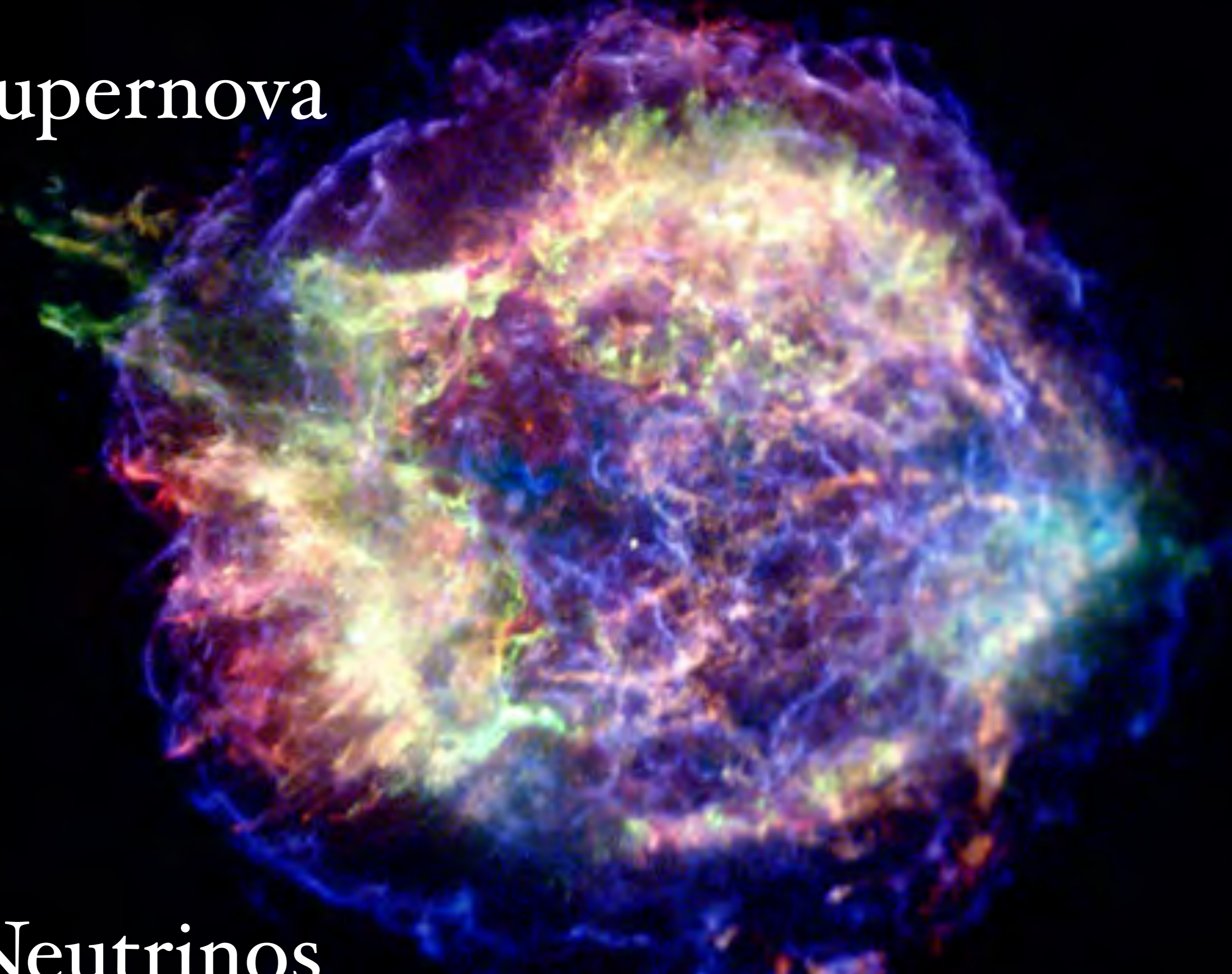
- Dominant background: natural radioactivity e.g.  $^{210}\text{Bi}$
- Theia offers unique low-threshold, directional detection
- Particle and event ID from LS time profile, quenching, Ch/S ratio

- Unique few-% level sensitivity to CNO  $\nu$
- Precision pp: luminosity, understand solar energy production
- Unique probe of matter effect / matter-vacuum transition
- Potential Li loading for CC (Haxton)



Supernova

Neutrinos





# Supernova Detection

- ~90% events are IBD

*Highly complementary to  $\nu_e$  LAr signal*

*Fast, can act as trigger for DUNE*

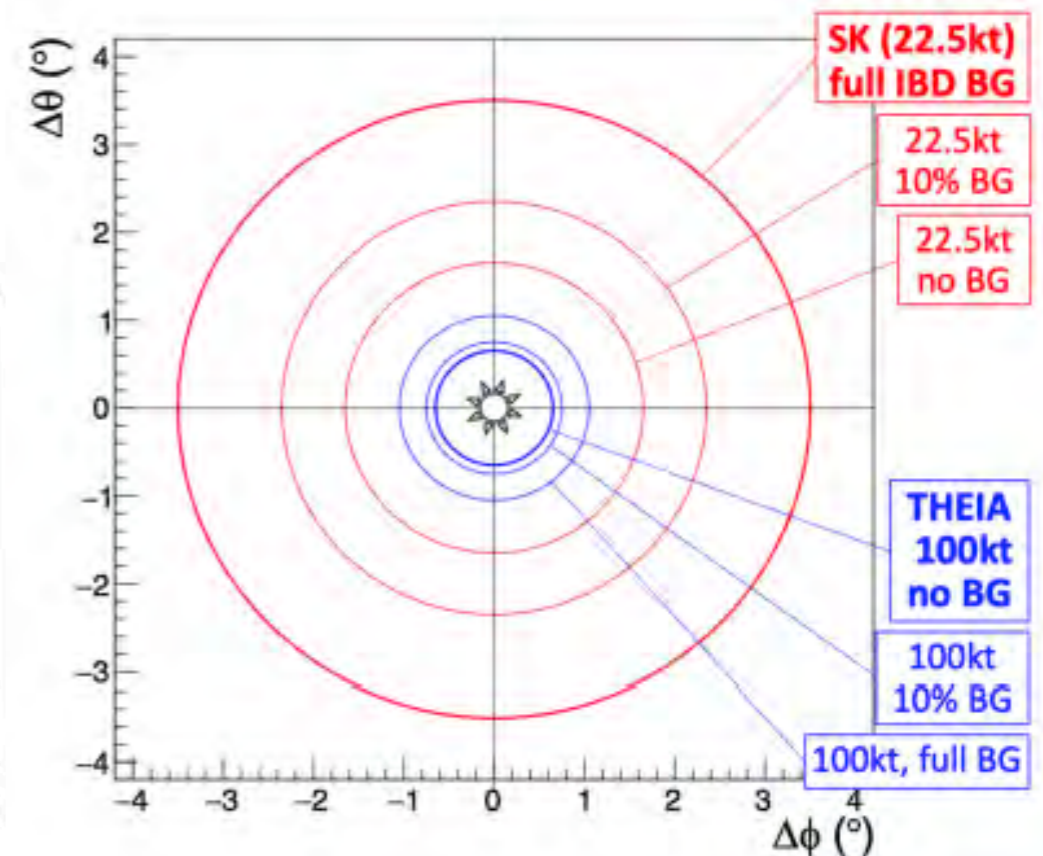
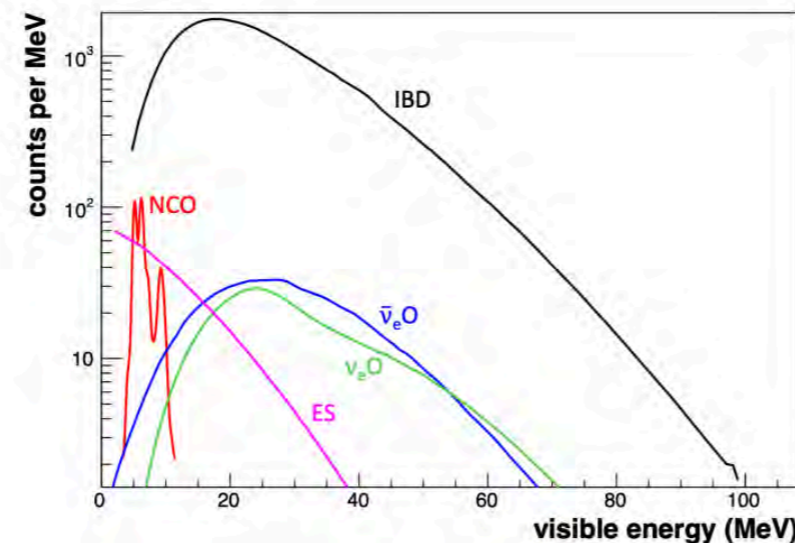
- ES  $\Rightarrow$  pointing accuracy  $< 1^\circ$

- CC & monoE  $\gamma$  from NC  $\Rightarrow$  burst T & subsequent mixing

- Flavour-resolved neutrino spectra
- High-stats, low-threshold signal with good resolution
- Pre-supernova  $\nu$  sensitivity
- Enhanced CC sensitivity with Li doping

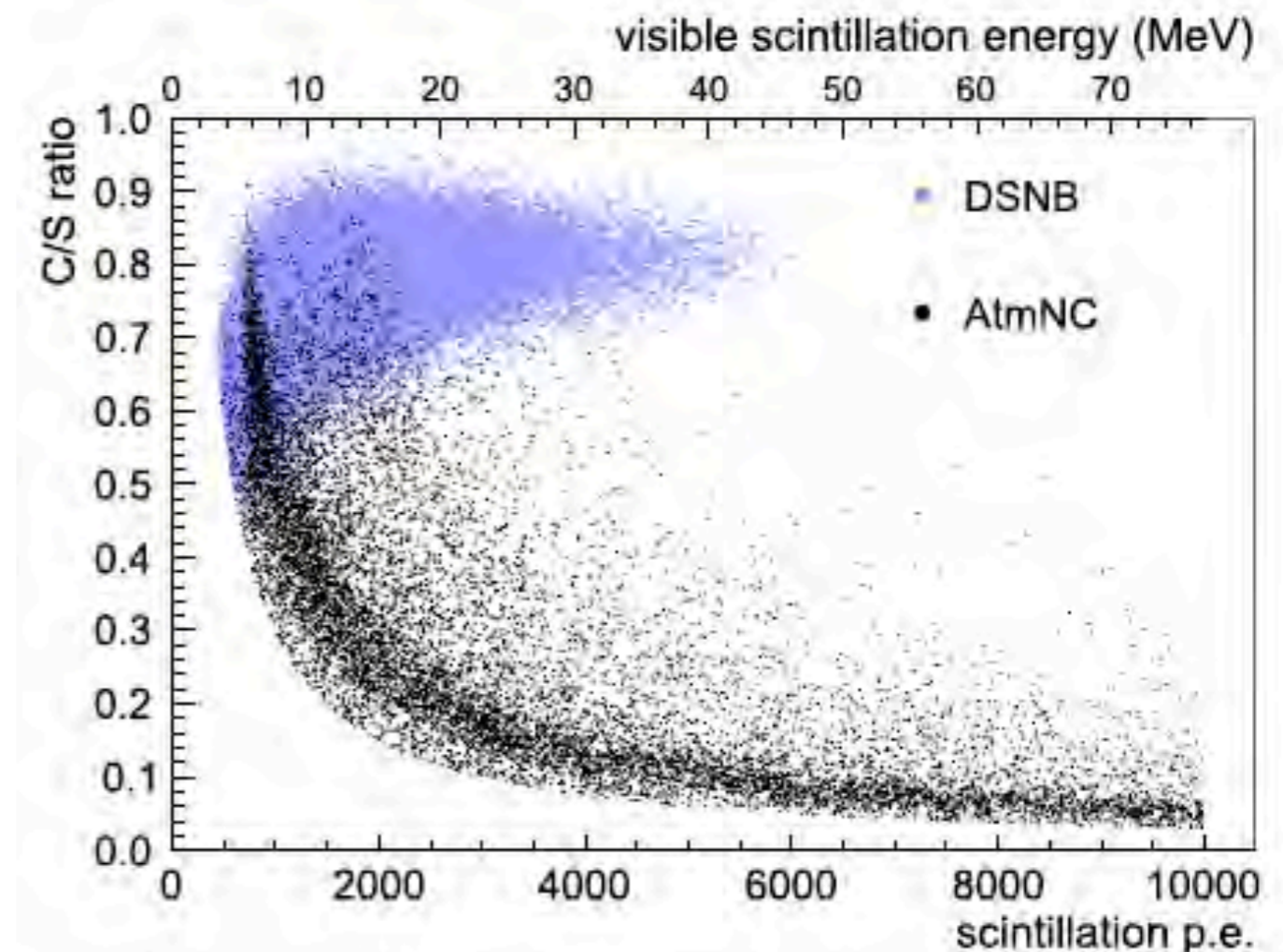
Event rate in 100-kt WbLS, SN at 10 kpc

Reaction	Rate
(IBD) $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$	19,800
(ES) $\nu + e \rightarrow e + \nu$	960
( $\nu_e$ O) $^{16}\text{O}(\nu_e, e^-)^{16}\text{F}$	340
( $\bar{\nu}_e$ O) $^{16}\text{O}(\bar{\nu}_e, e^+)^{16}\text{N}$	440
(NCO) $^{16}\text{O}(\nu, \nu)^{16}\text{O}^*$	1100



# Diffuse Supernova $\nu$ Background

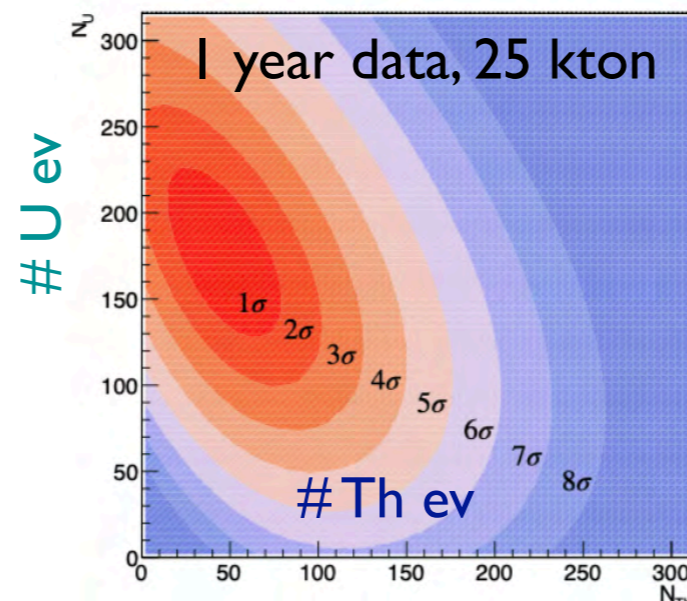
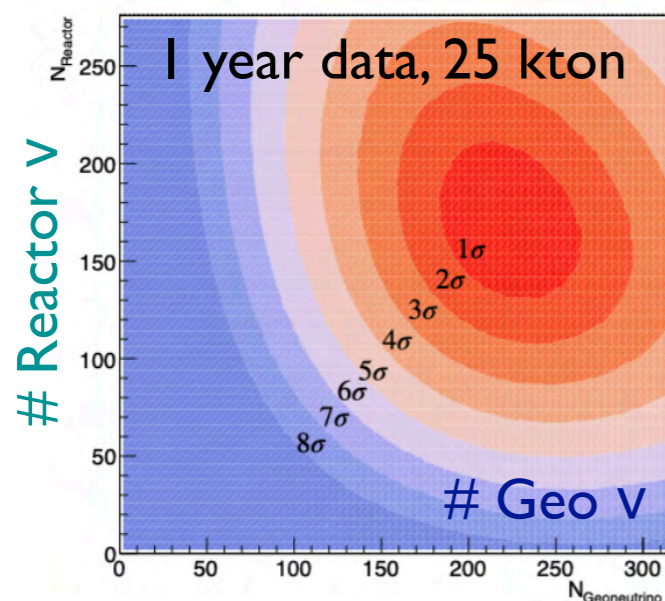
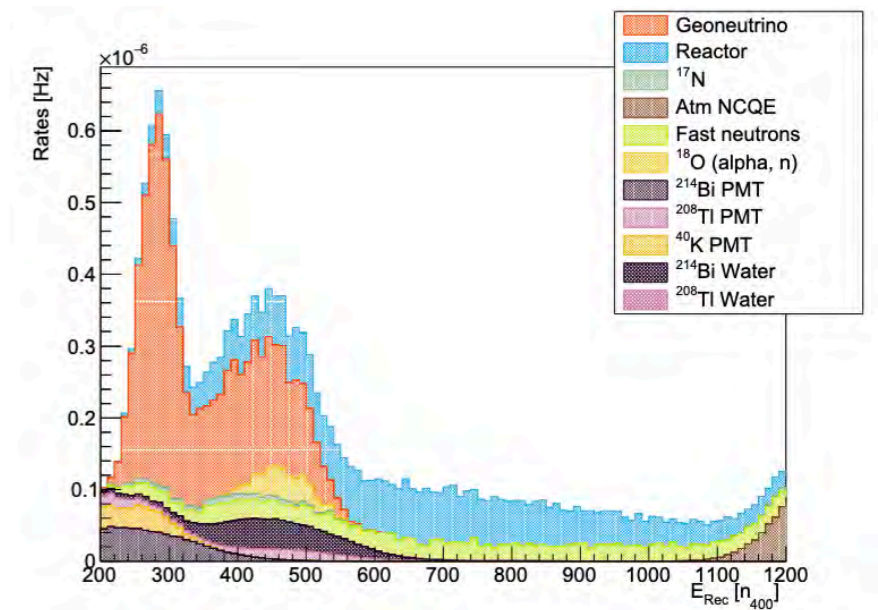
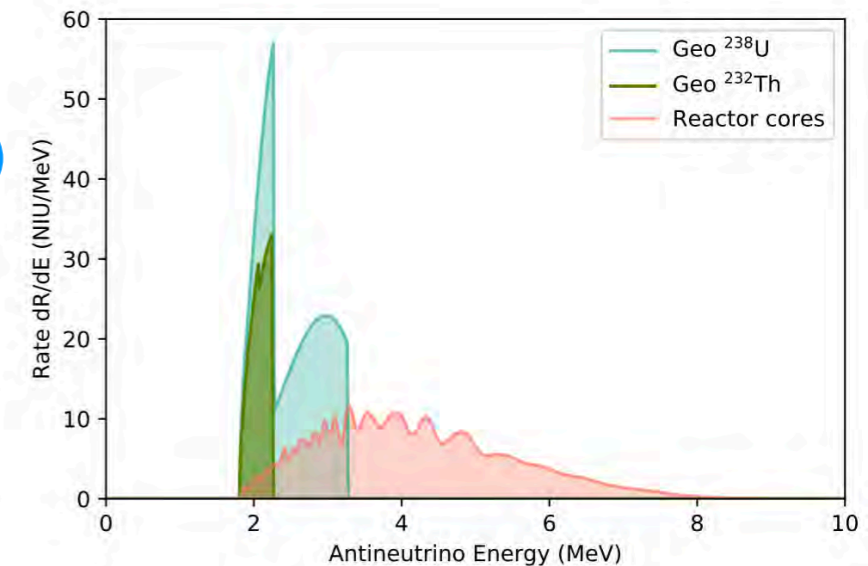
- Diffuse  $\nu$  “glow” from past core-collapse supernovae
- Astrophysics of SNe
- Signature: IBD detection of antineutrino signal
  - Prompt  $e^+$  and delayed n-capture signal
- Main background: NC interaction of atmospheric  $\nu$ 
  - $\nu$  hits C nucleus, causing recoil
  - n captures
  - Can mimic signal
- Cherenkov/scintillation ratio provides a powerful handle for background discrimination
- $5\sigma$  in 125 kton-yrs



# Anti- $\nu$ Detection

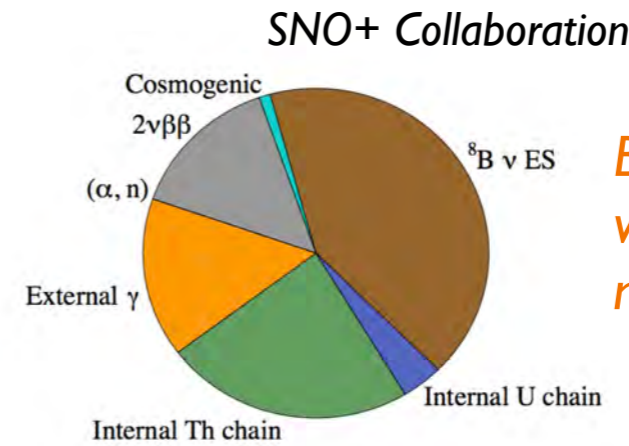
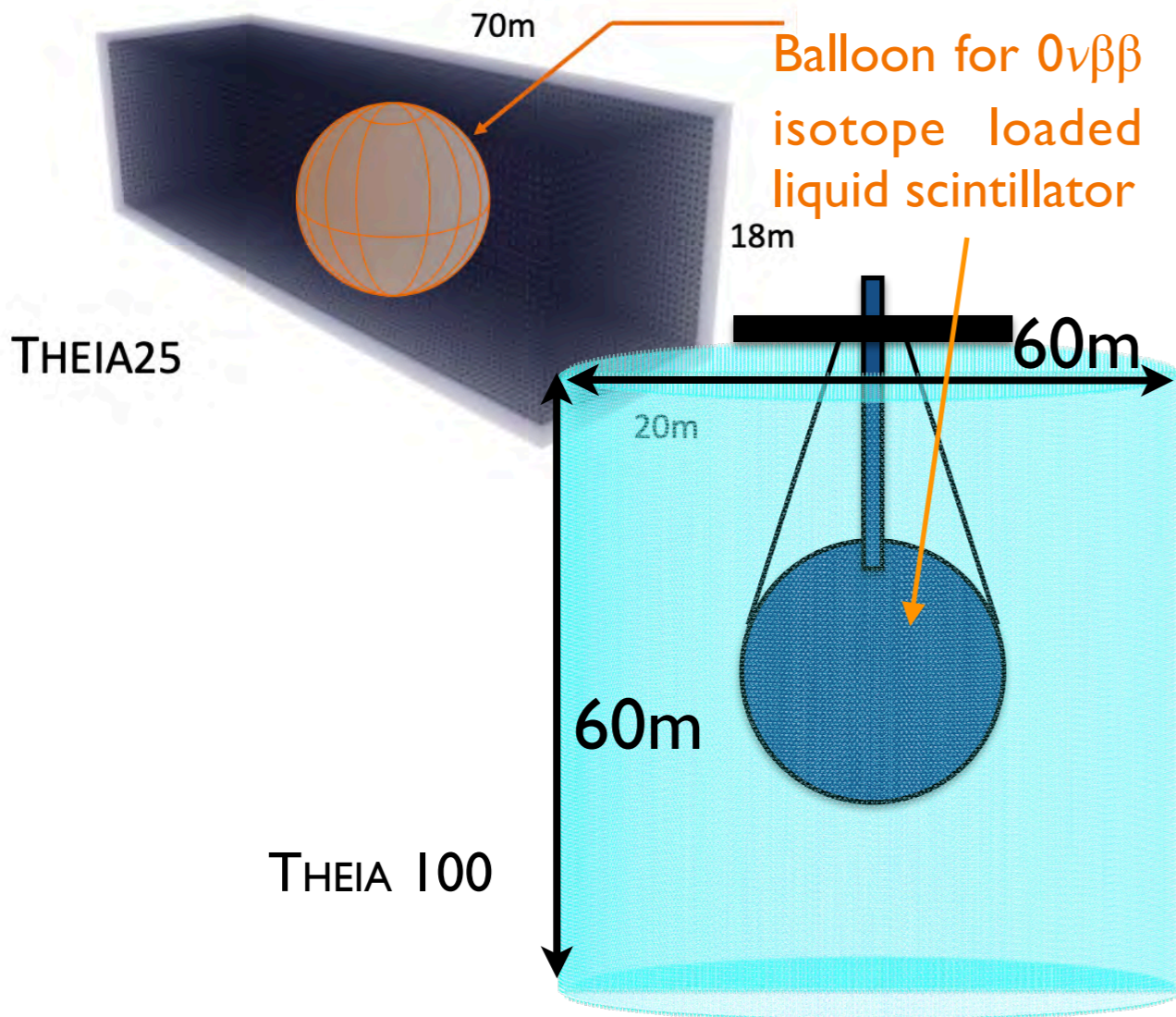


- **Geo- $\nu$**  observation by KL, Borexino ( $< 220$  ev)
- **THEIA**: large statistics, complementary site: 218 ev/yr (25 kt)
- Full spectral analysis with BDT for bkg rejection
- Future improvements: PID ( $p/e^+$ ,  $e^-/e^+$ )
- Could offer first evidence for surface variation
- U/Th ratio to 15% precision in 10 years
- **Reactor  $\nu$**  prospects:  $\sim 20$  reactor ev/kt-yr
- Demonstrate techniques for remote reactor monitoring
- Range & direction at  $> 1000$ km standoff

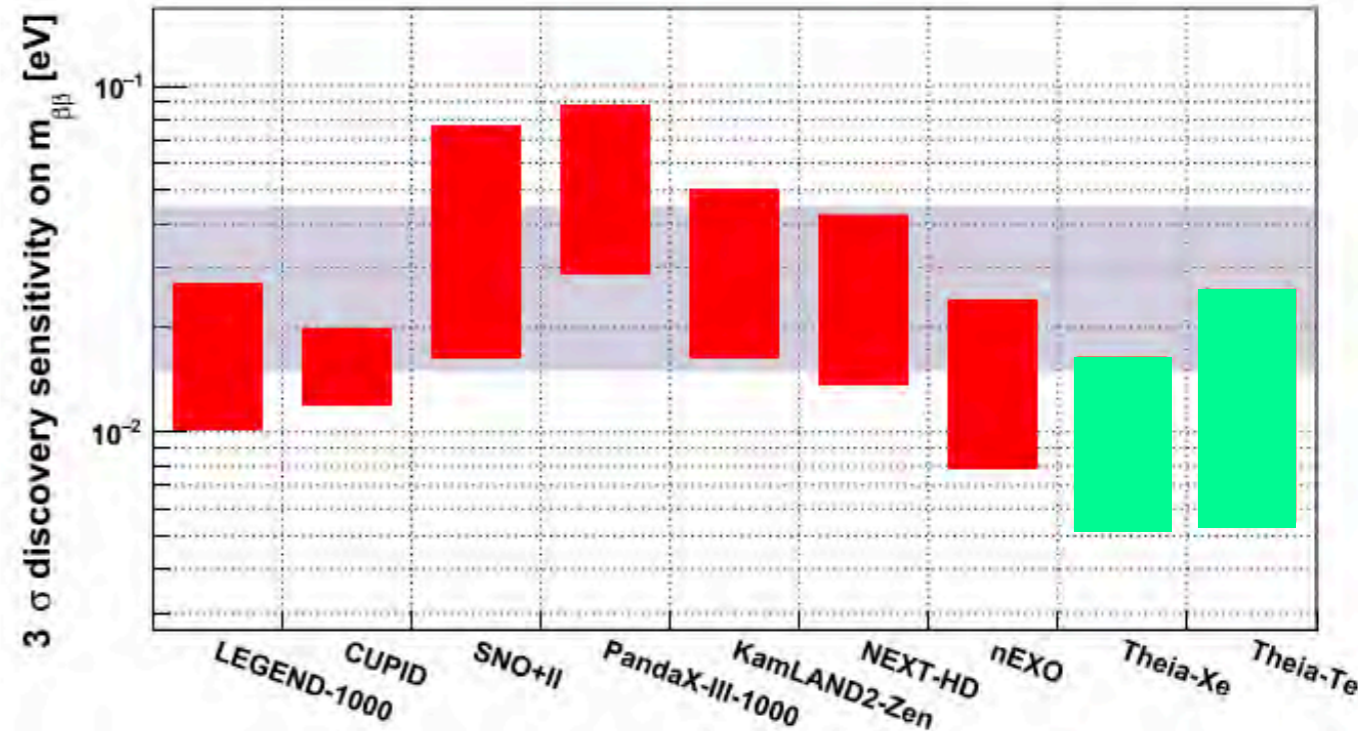


# $0\nu\beta\beta$ with THEIA

25-100 kton hybrid optical neutrino detector  
 8-m radius balloon with high-LY LS and isotope  
 7-m fiducial, 3%  $^{nat}\text{Te}$  (or  $^{enr}\text{Xe}$ ), 10 years



Background reduction via event imaging: PID, multi-site, directionality



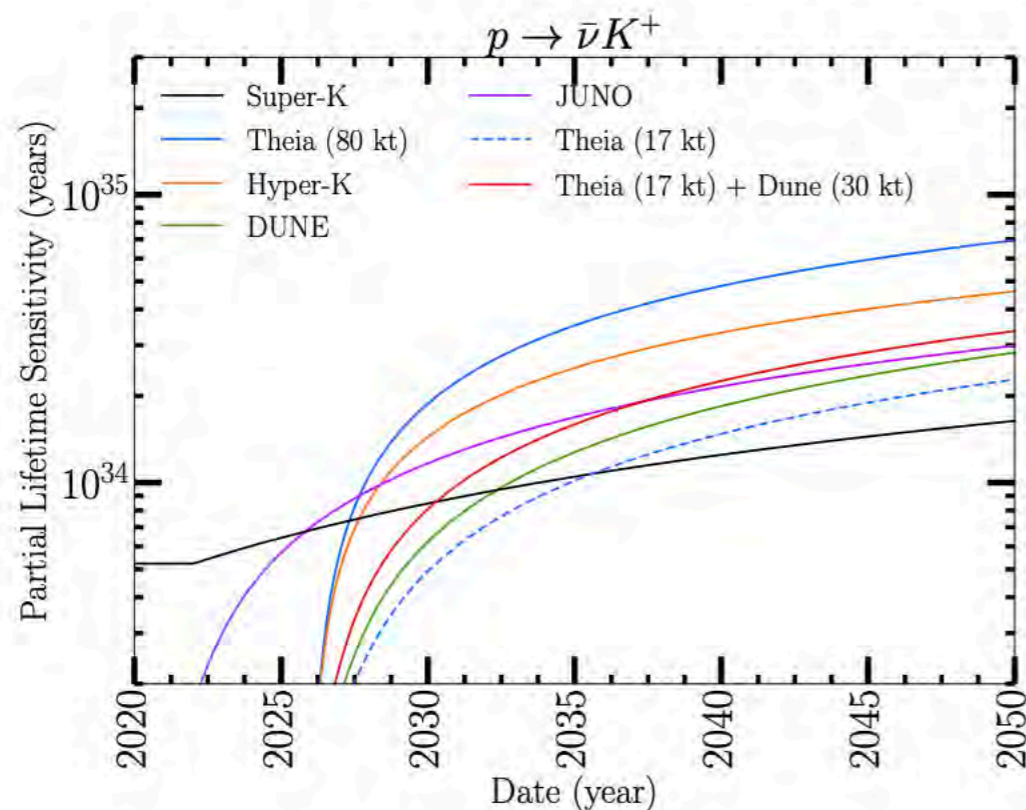
Builds on critical developments by KLZ & SNO+ collaborations

Phys.Rev.Lett. 110 : 062502 (2013); Adv.High Energy Phys. 2016 (2016) 6194250; Phys. Rev. D 87 no. 7 : 071301 (2013)

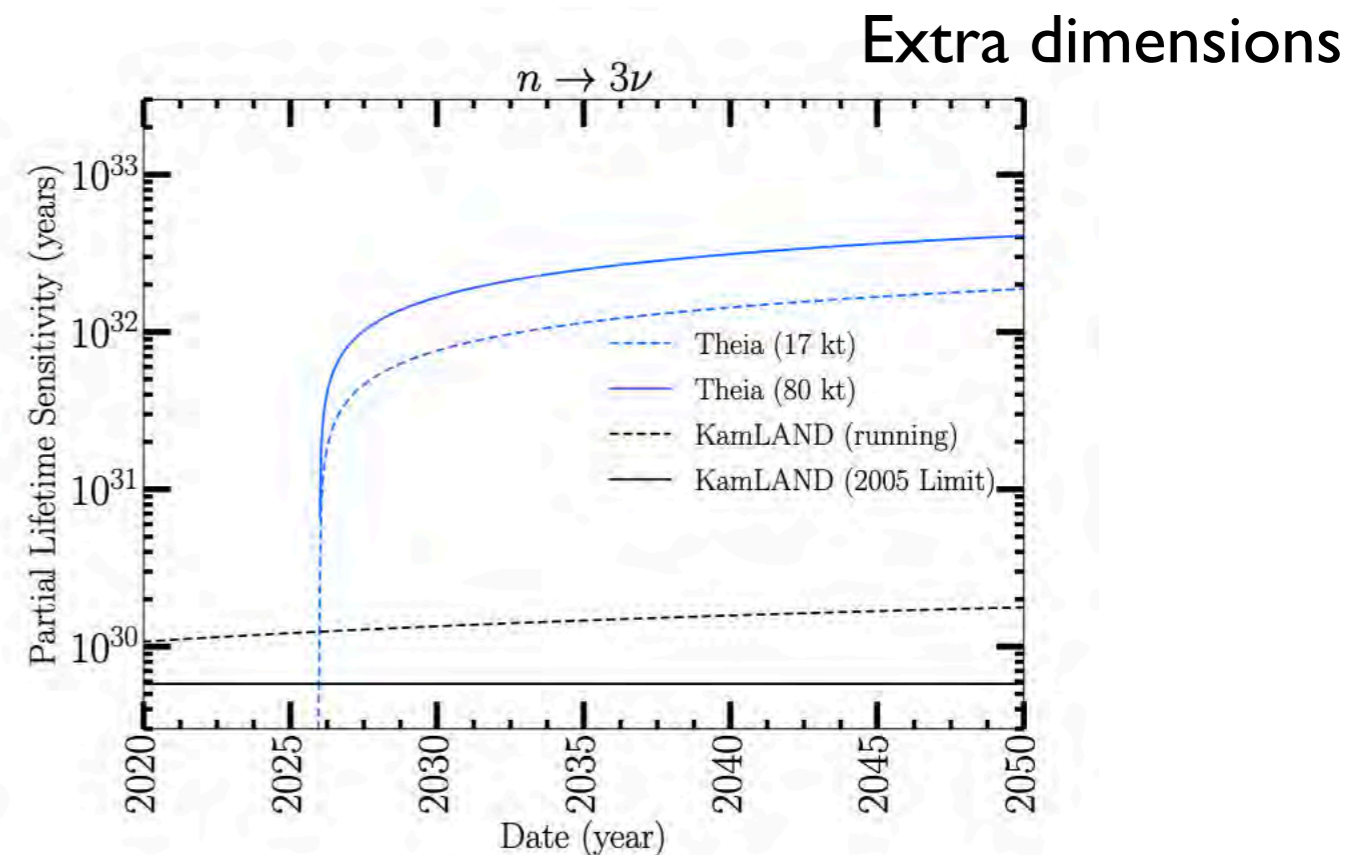
# Nucleon Decay

Testing the existence of GUTs with THEIA:

- Large size (statistics), deep location, very clean
- n tagging (low threshold plus potential isotope loading)
- Sub-Cherenkov threshold detection



Sub-Chr t/h detection  
 $\Rightarrow$  Directly visible  $K^+$



Deep, low threshold  
 Directionality + n tag

# Physics Program

Physics over  
5 orders of  
magnitude

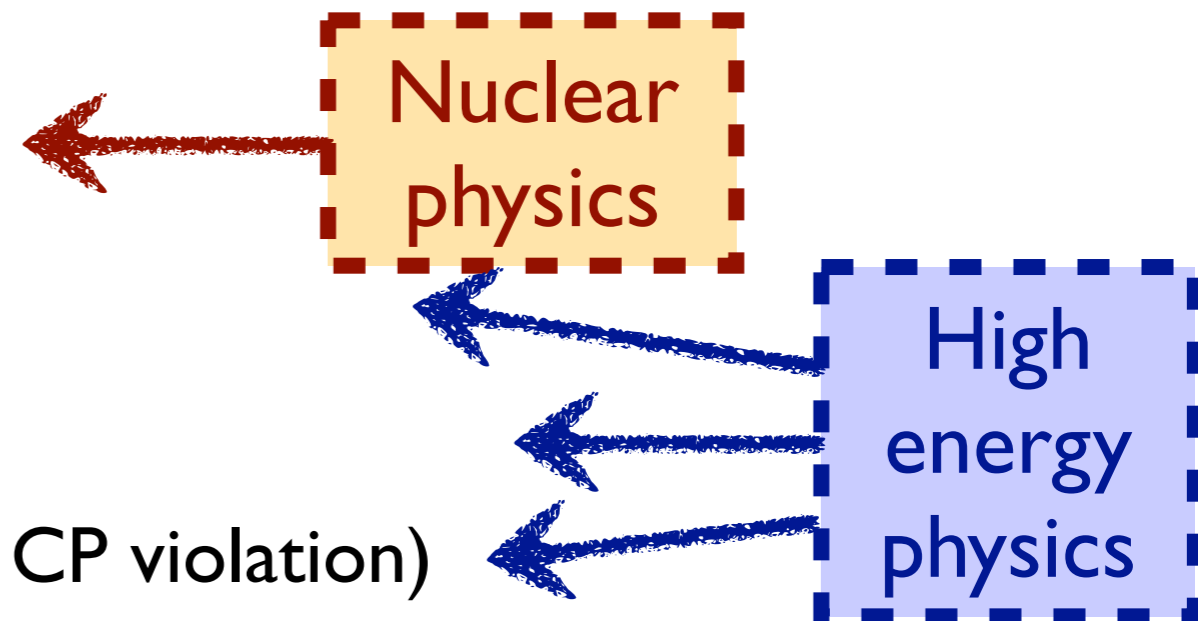
## Neutrinos as a probe of nature

1. Solar neutrinos (solar metallicity, luminosity)
2. Supernova burst neutrinos & DSNB
3. Geo-neutrinos (& reactor neutrinos)



## Studying the fundamental nature of matter

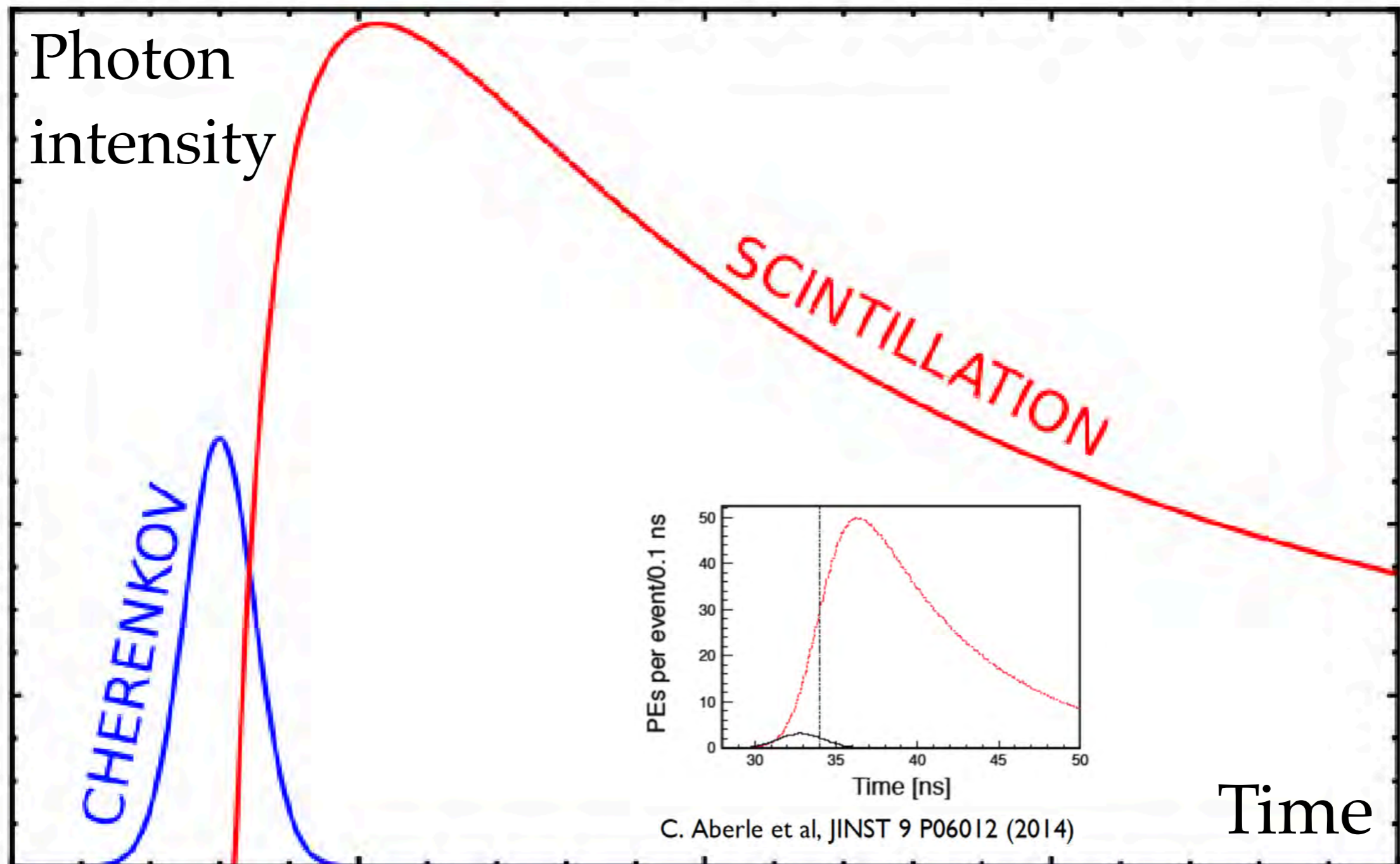
4. Neutrinoless double beta decay
5. Source-based sterile searches
6. Nucleon decay
7. Long-baseline physics (mass hierarchy, CP violation)



Remarkably, the same detector could show that neutrinos and antineutrinos are the same, **and** that “neutrinos” and “antineutrinos” oscillate differently

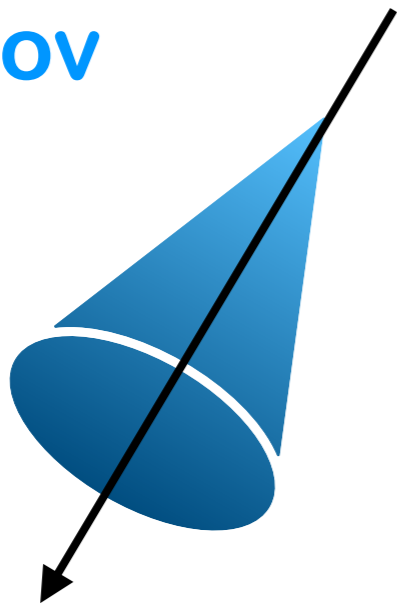
**Matter-dominated universe**

# Why is it Hard?

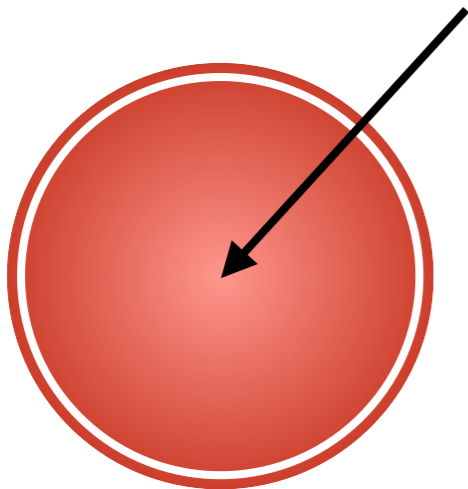


# How can it be done?

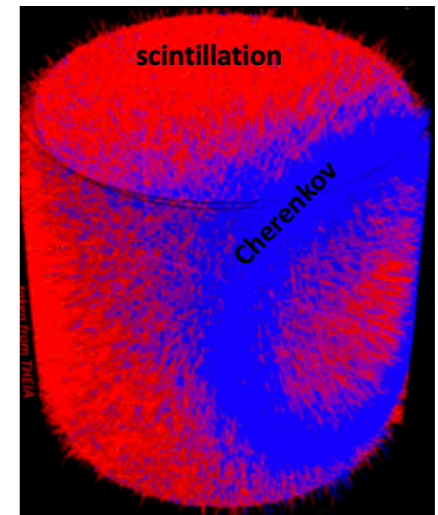
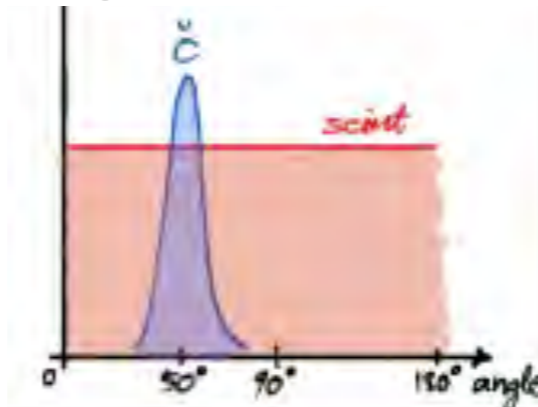
Cherenkov



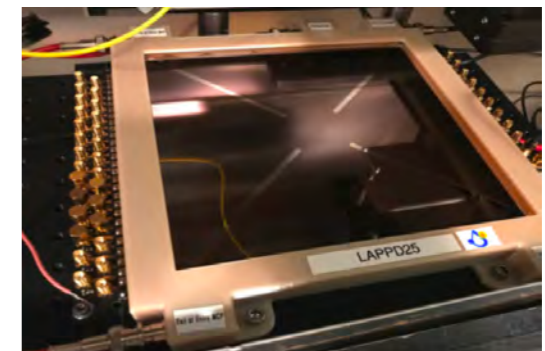
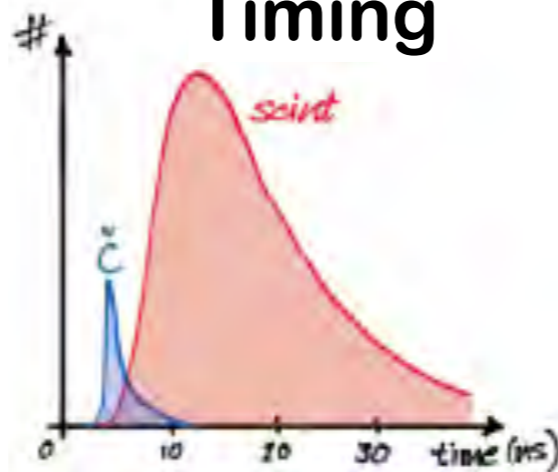
Scintillation



Angular distribution

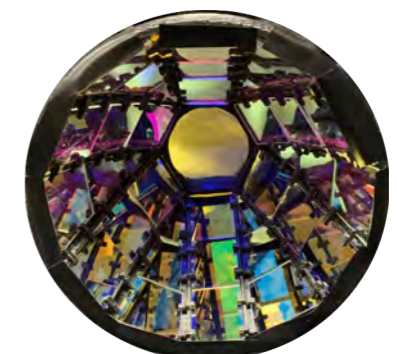
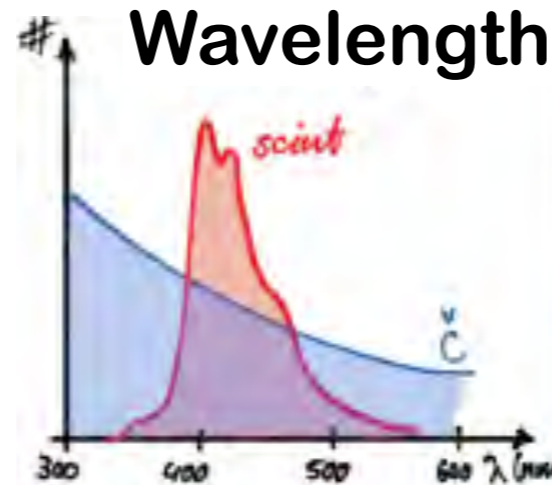


Timing



B.W.Adams et al. NIM A Volume 795, 1 (2015)

Wavelength



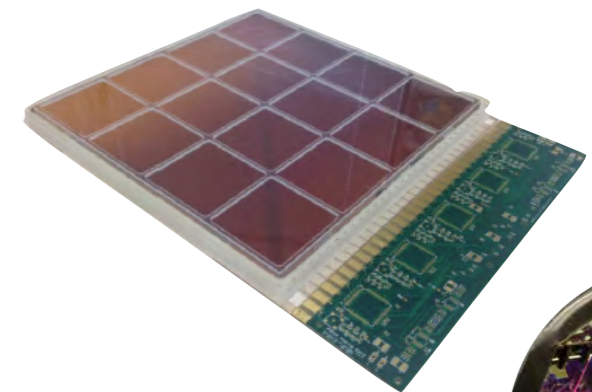
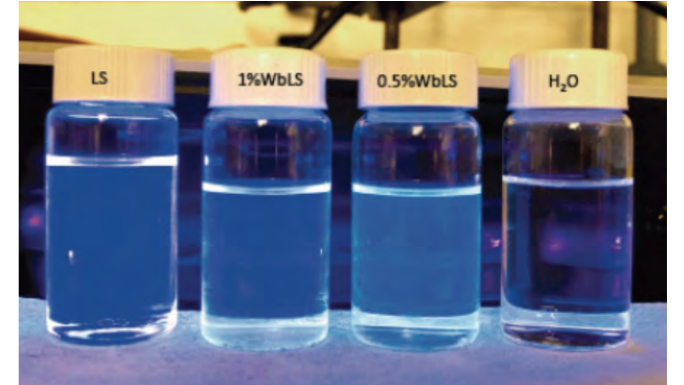
T. Kaptanoglu et al. Phys. Rev. D 101, 072002 (2020)



# Enabling technology

We focus our studies on three technologies that optimize hybrid Cherenkov/scintillation detection:

1. Novel targets, such as water-based liquid scintillator (WbLS). Enhances Cherenkov detection by “dialling down” or otherwise modifying the scintillation signal
2. Large-Area Picosecond Photon Detectors (LAPPDs). Fast-timing discrimination for vertex resolution and Cherenkov/scintillation separation
3. Dichroicons (“chromatic quantum sensing”). Cherenkov/scintillation separation via spectral sorting

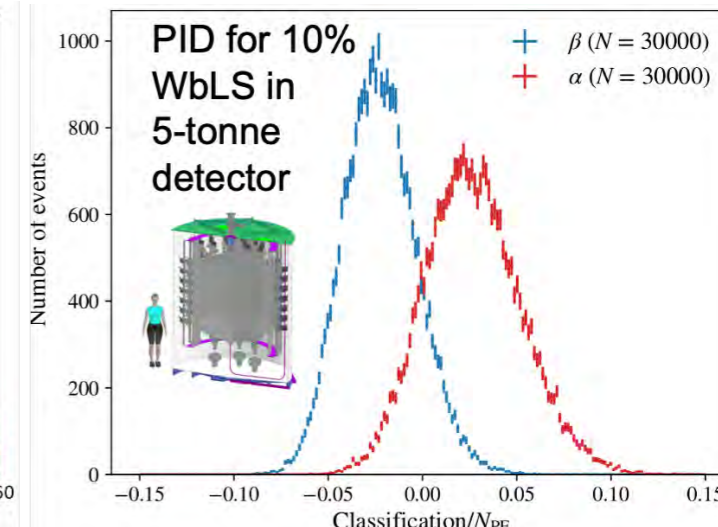
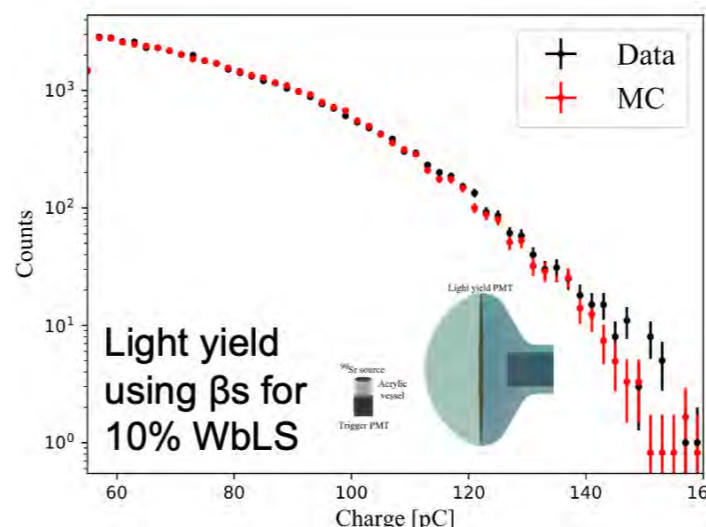
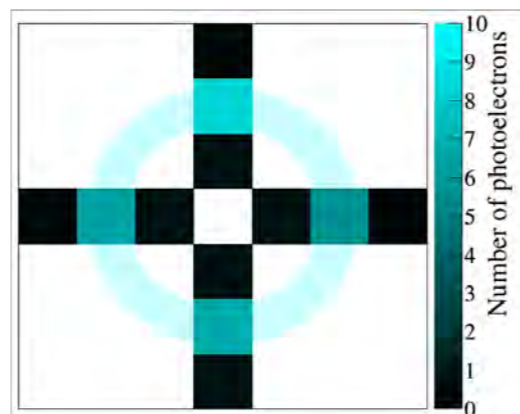
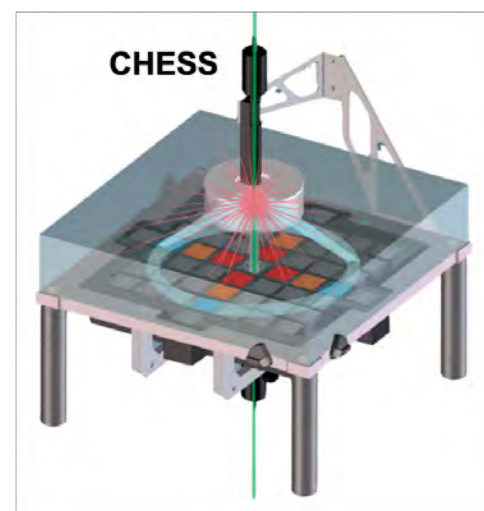


*We seek to characterize behavior, understand and model performance at a microphysical level, and use results to extrapolate performance to kton scales.*

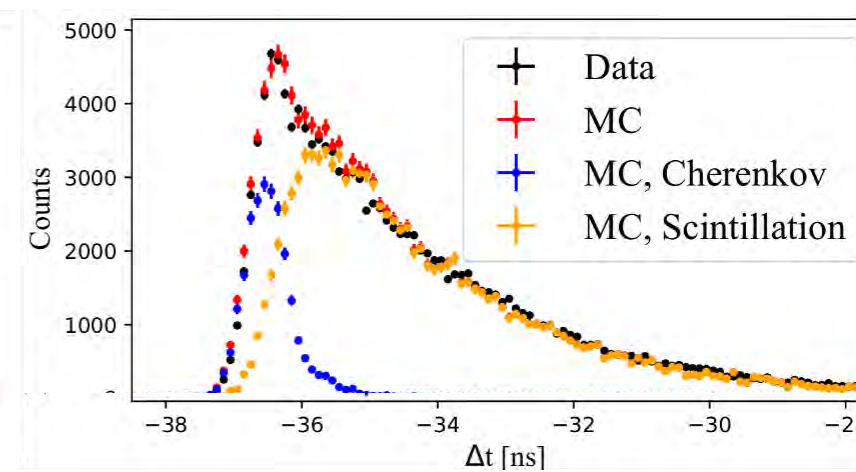
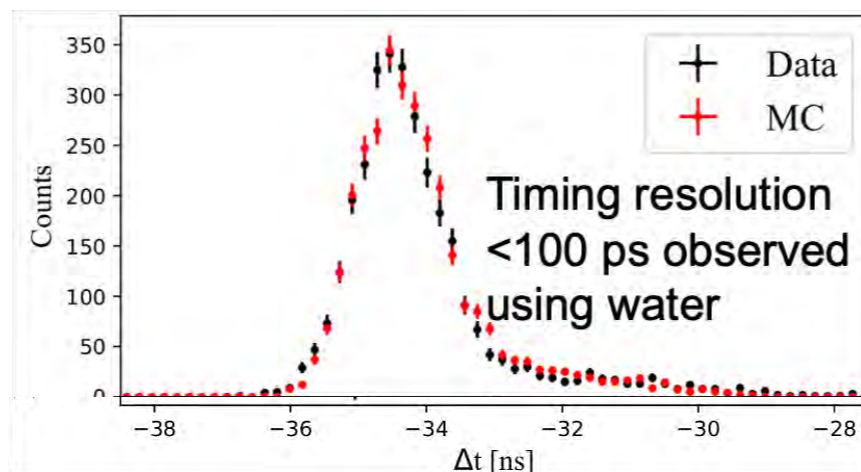
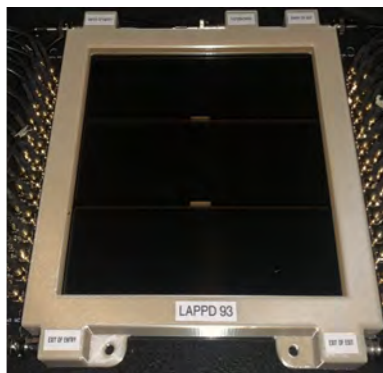
# Technical accomplishments

Builds on core (Wb)LS development at BNL (Yeh et al.)

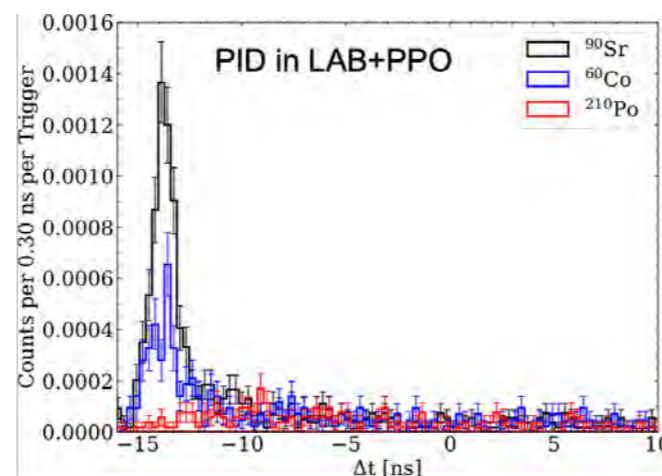
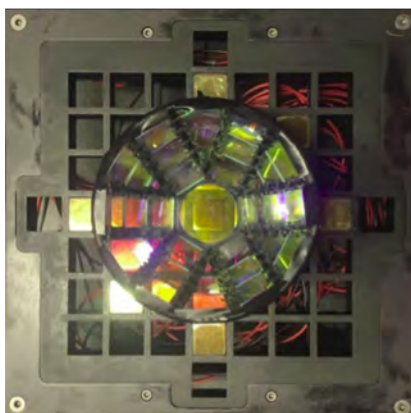
## WbLS characterization



## Fast timing photon detection



## Quantum chromatic sorting



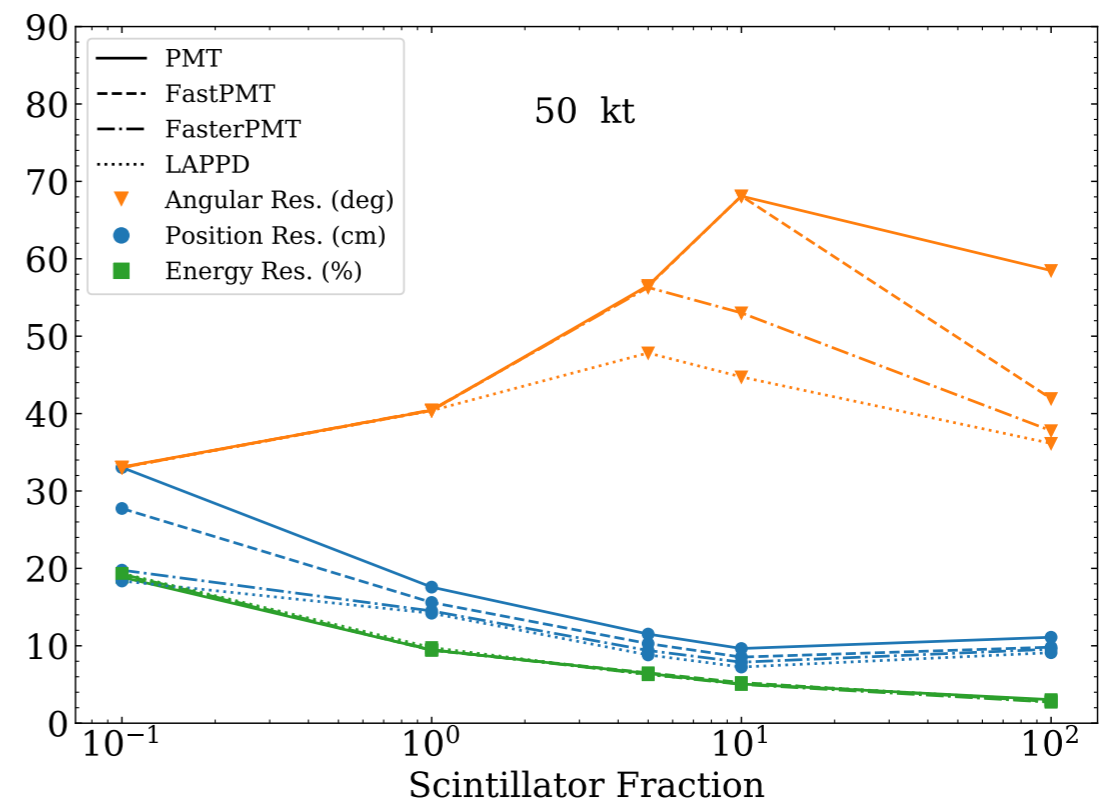
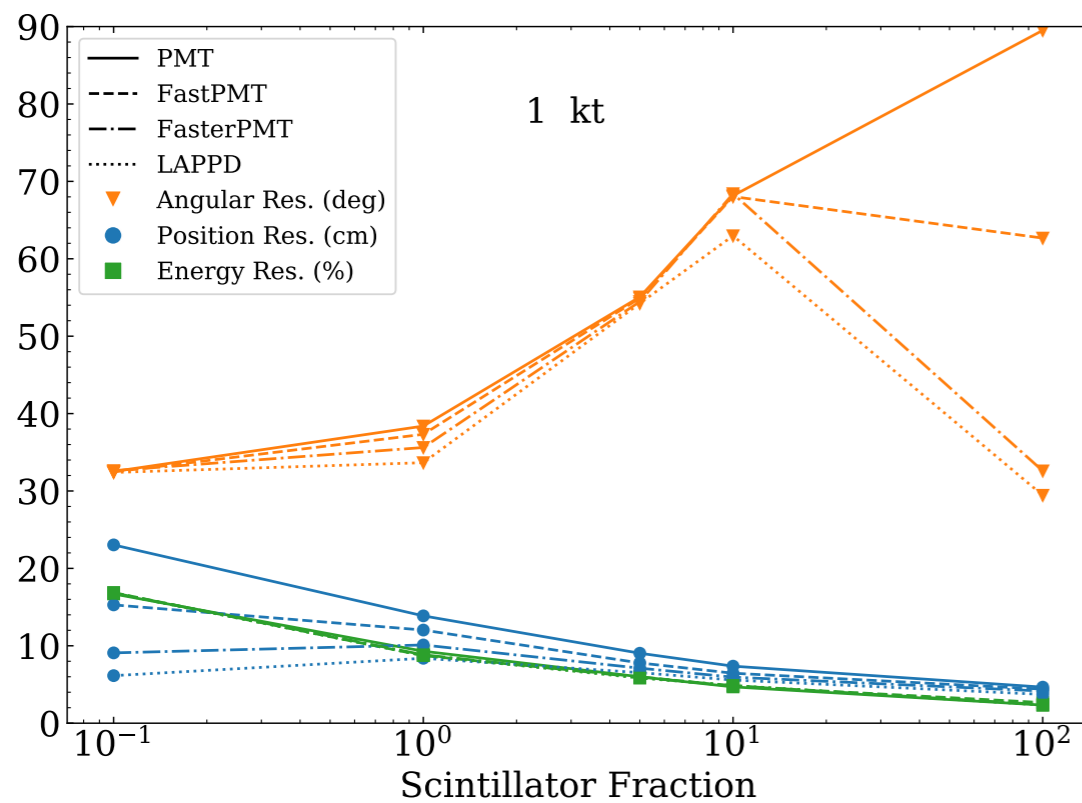
*D. Onken et al., Mater. Adv. 1, 71-76 (2020); J. Caravaca et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 867 (2020); E. Callaghan et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 83, 134 (2023); E. Callaghan, T. Kaptanoglu, M. Smiley et al., paper in prep.; J. Caravaca et al., Phys. Rev. C 95, 055801 (2017); J. Caravaca et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 77, 811 (2017); T. Kaptanoglu, E. Callaghan et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 82-2 (2022) 169; T. Kaptanoglu et al., Phys. Rev. D 101, 072002 (2020); S. Naugle et al., paper in prep.*

# Model validation

A number of metrics are considered for detector performance:

1. Energy resolution *Reduce flux uncertainty, increase background rejection*
2. Vertex resolution *Reduce flux uncertainty, increase background rejection*
3. Angular resolution *Elastic scattering event ID, physics scope*
4. Cherenkov (C) / scintillation (S) separation *Particle & event ID*

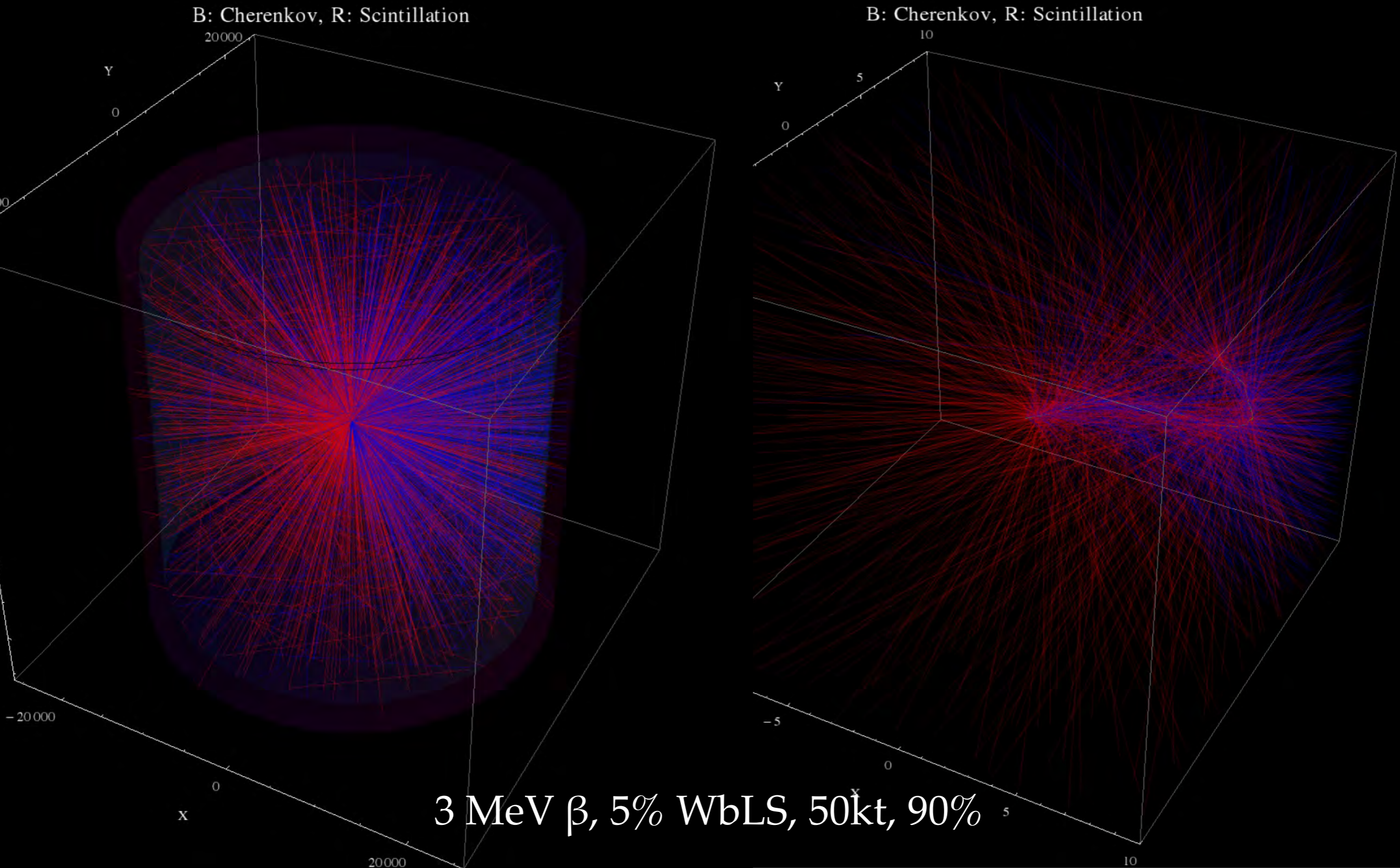
These tools can be used to define “desired” properties for WbLS



*Impact of target properties and photon detector response on detector performance for (left) 1-kton and (right) 50-kton detectors*

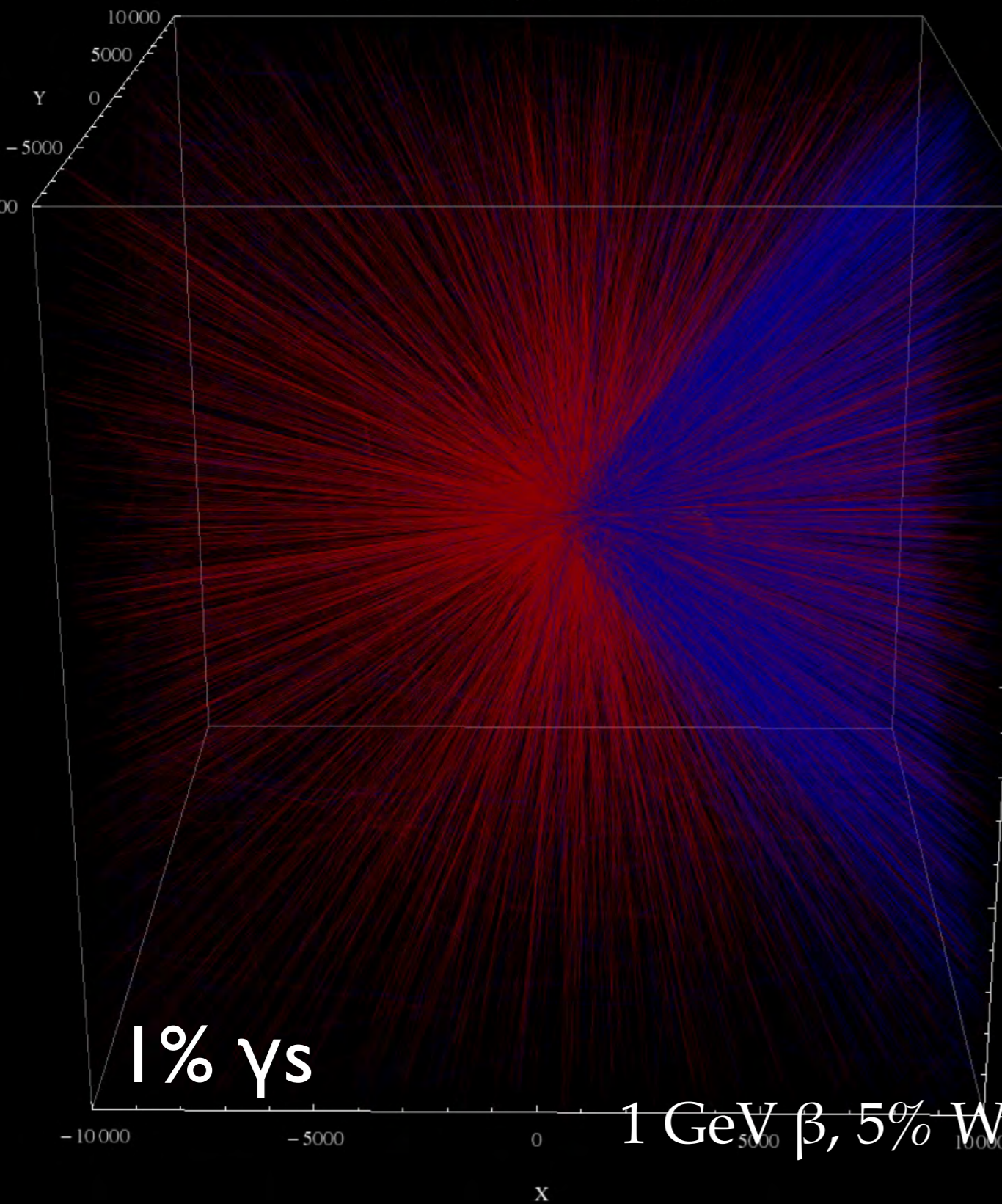
*Phys. Rev. D **103** 052004 (2021)*

# Signal Separation in Theia

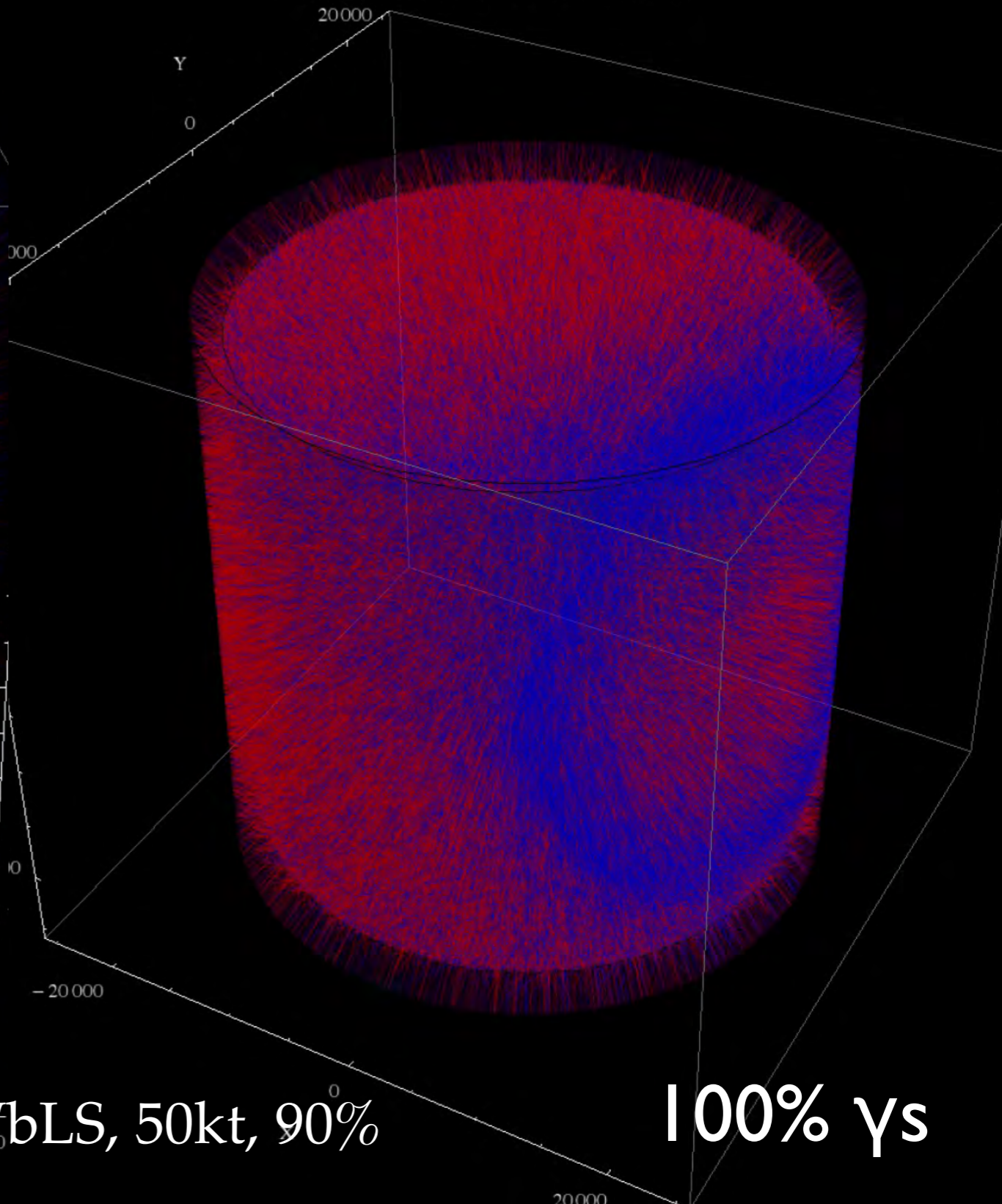


# Ring Imaging

B: Cherenkov, R: Scintillation



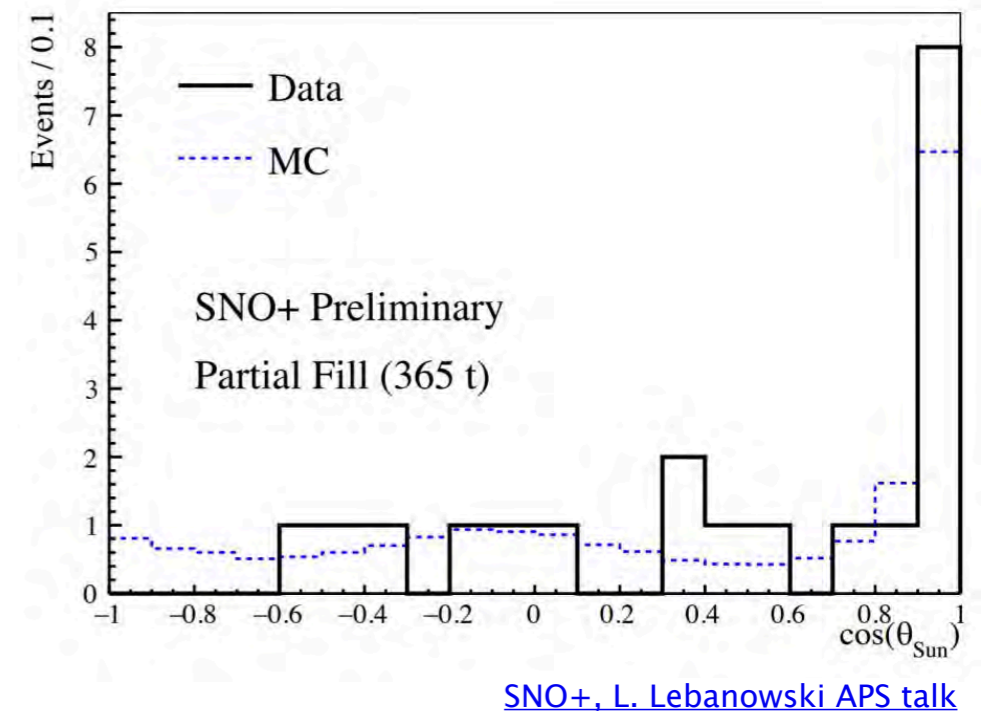
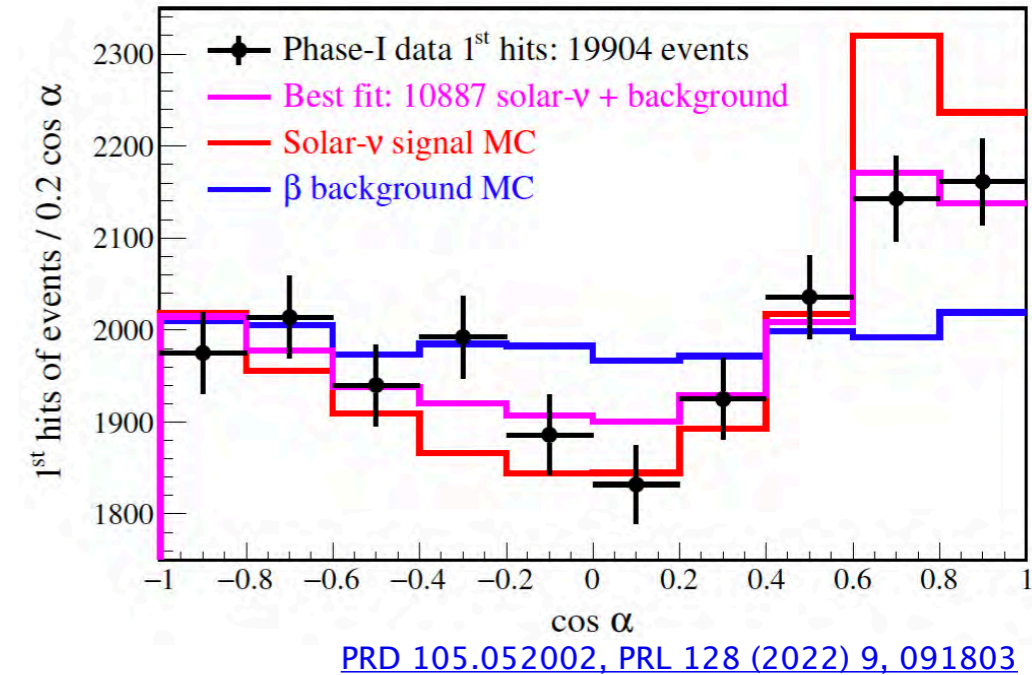
B: Cherenkov, R: Scintillation



1 GeV  $\beta$ , 5% WbLS, 50kt, 90%

# Full-scale demonstrations

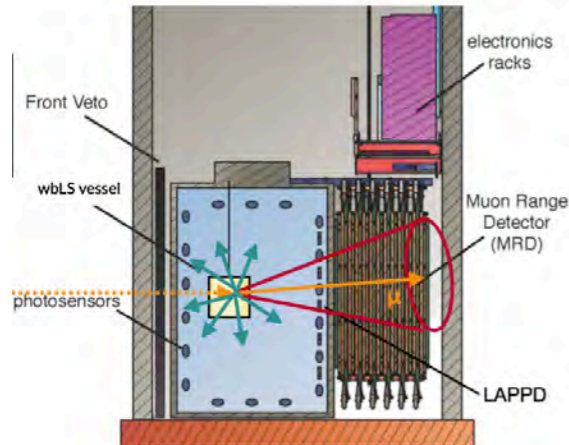
- Integrated directionality at Borexino:
  - consider earliest photons in the event
  - take angle between early photons and solar direction
  - $6\sigma$  angular excess caused by Cherenkov photons
  - Measurement of primarily  ${}^7\text{Be}$   $\nu$  demonstrates **first directional detection of sub-MeV neutrinos**
- Event-level directionality at SNO+:
  - Partial-filled detector (365 t LAB + 0.6 g/L PPO)
  - ToF and angular reconstruction
  - Demonstration with  $> 5\text{MeV}$   ${}^8\text{B}$   $\nu$
  - **First event-by-event demonstration of directional reconstruction for  ${}^8\text{B}$  solar  $\nu$  in slow LS**



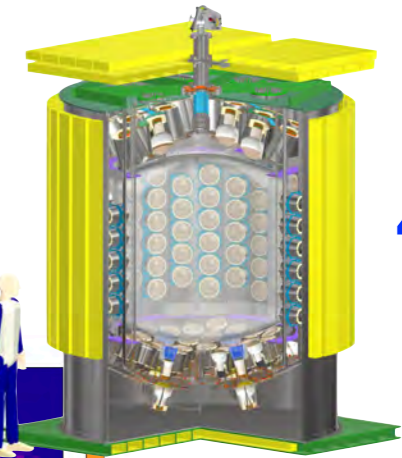
# The path to THEIA

High-energy event reconstruction,  
neutrino detection

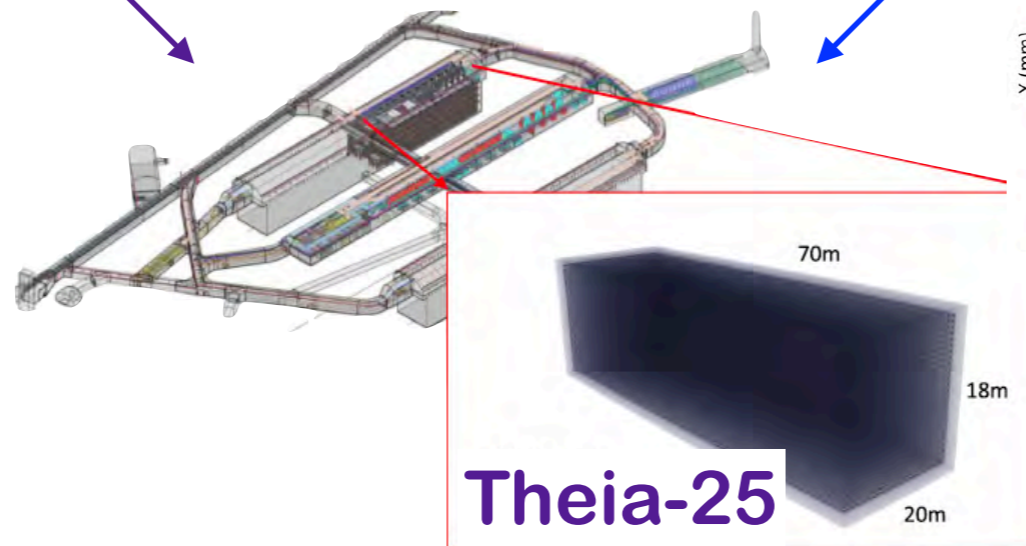
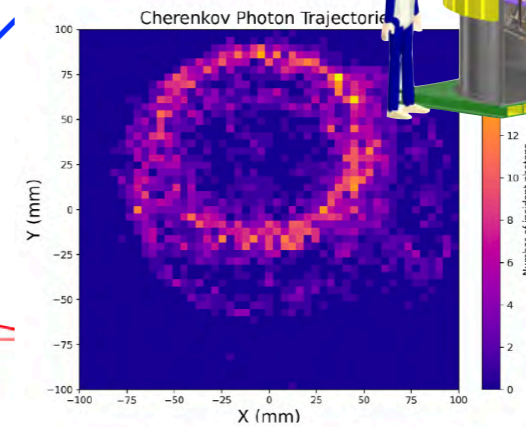
**ANNIE: 365 kg**



Low-energy event reconstruction,  
model validation



**Eos:  
4 ton**



**Theia-25**

**NuDot: 1 ton**



Isotope loading,  
NLDBD topology

**BNL: 1- and 30-ton**



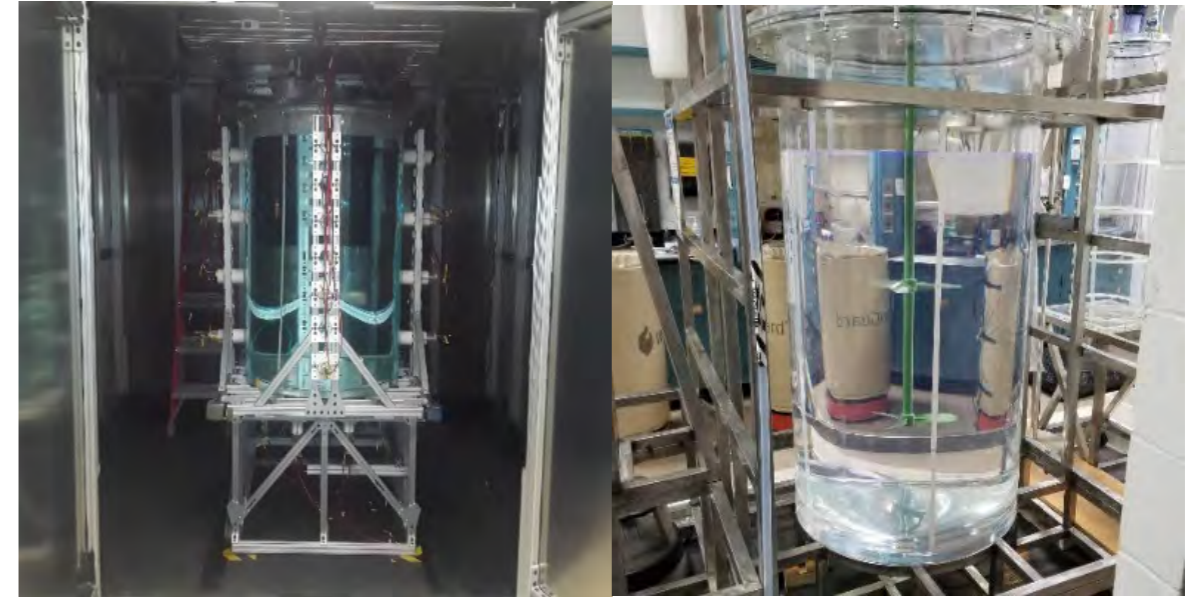
Deployment, purification,  
recirculation, transparency

# BNL 1- & 30-ton demonstrators

## FY 22-24



- First ton-scale deployment of WbLS
- First demonstration of:
  - Ton-scale production
  - Optical transparency in an operating detector
  - Optical stability over time
  - Recirculation of WbLS (nanofiltration)



Together these prototypes will demonstrate the feasibility and capabilities of hybrid detectors for fundamental physics



# *Eos (Dawn)*

*Funded by NNSA,  
DNN R&D  
FY22-24*

*Let There be Light*



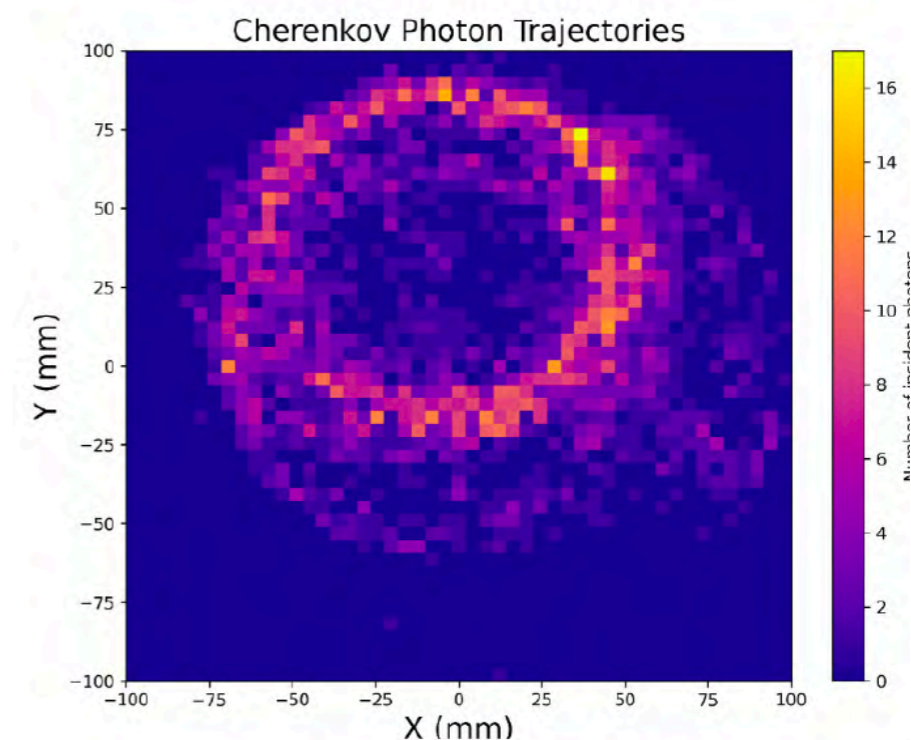
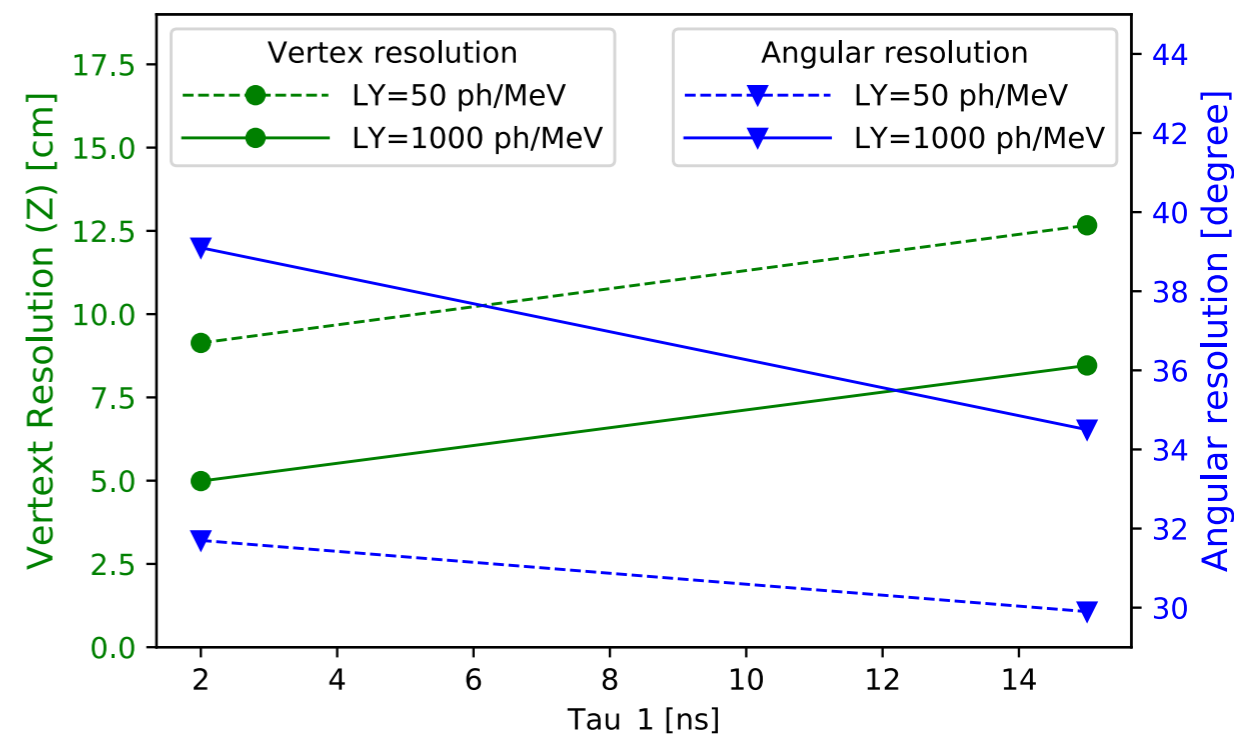
# EOS: performance demonstrator

## Project goals:

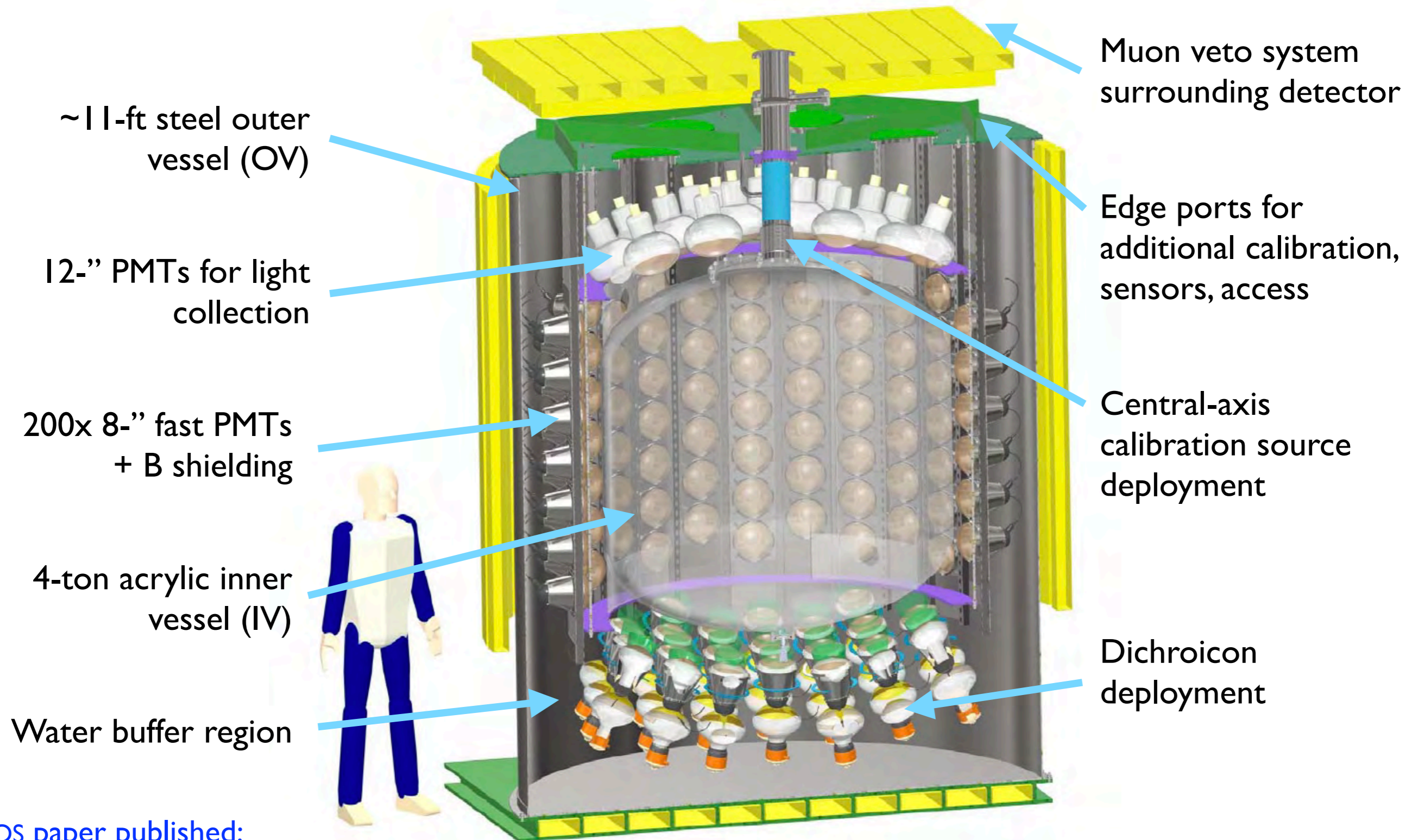
- Demonstrate event reconstruction using hybrid Cherenkov + scintillation signatures
- Validate models to support large-scale detector performance predictions
- Provide a flexible testbed to demonstrate impact of novel technology

**Approach:** *design, construct and operate an integrated testbed to demonstrate the performance of novel technology*

- 4-ton target mass: water, WbLS, organic LS
- 200 8-” PMTs: R14688-100, 900ps FWHM
- CAENVI730 readout
- Dichroicon deployment for spectral sorting
- Deployable sources for studies of vertex, energy, direction reconstruction & PID



# EOS Detector design



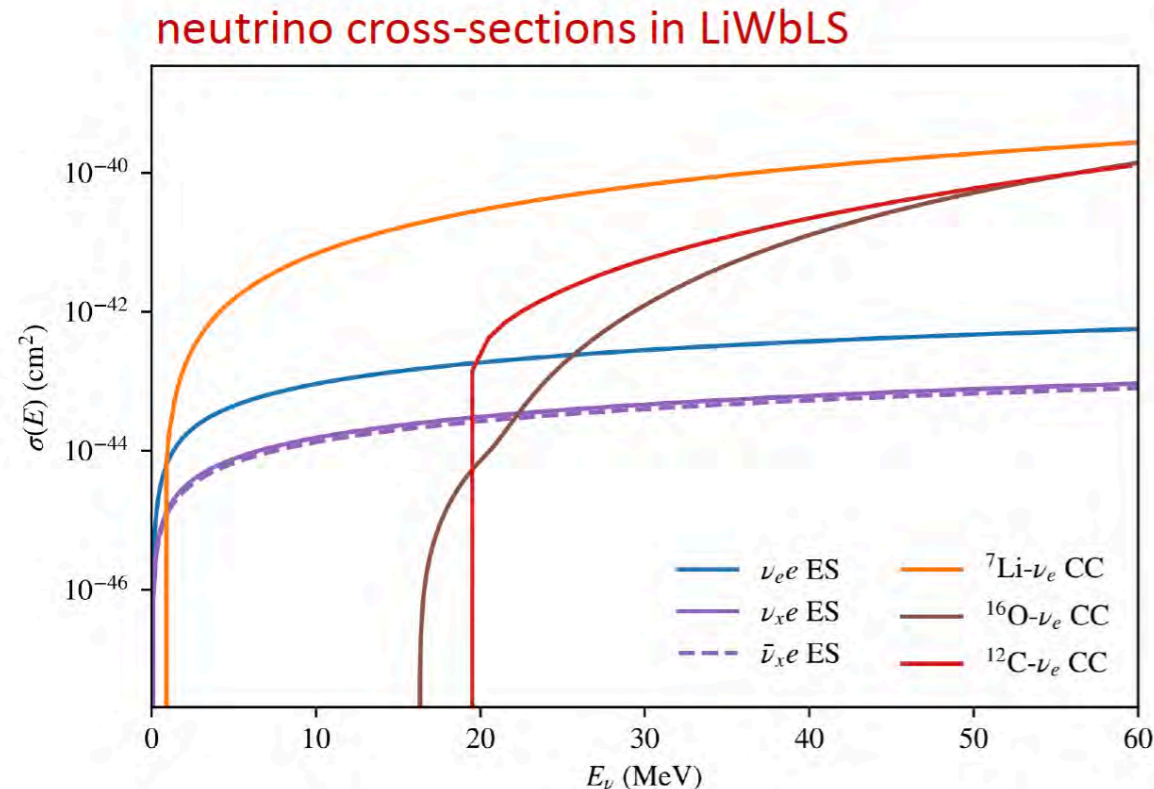
EOS paper published:  
*JINST* 18 P02009 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-0221/18/02/P02009>

# EOS @ SNS (ORNL)

- Detection of IBD and ES events: directionality
- Neutron studies: background rejection
- Too large for neutrino alley: alternative location
- Later stage: Li-loaded WbLS (5% organic, 10% Li)
  - ▶ Enhanced  $\nu_e$  detection : CC on  ${}^7\text{Li}$



possible site for EOS deployment

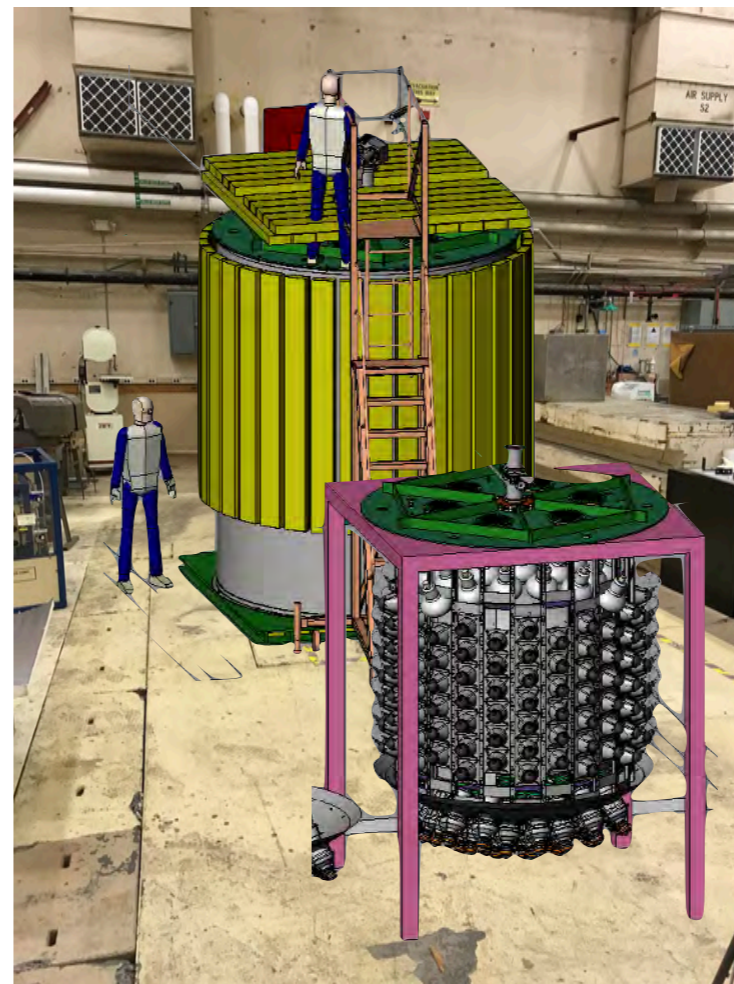


Channel	Rate at 20m Standoff (ev/yr)
$\nu_e e$ ES	136.89
$\nu_\mu e$ ES	20.89
$\bar{\nu}_\mu e$ ES	22.48
$\nu_e$ - ${}^7\text{Li}$ CC	533.30
$\nu_e$ - ${}^{16}\text{O}$ CC	459.34
$\nu_e$ - ${}^{12}\text{C}$ CC	37.08

event rates expected for 4 tons of LiWbLS

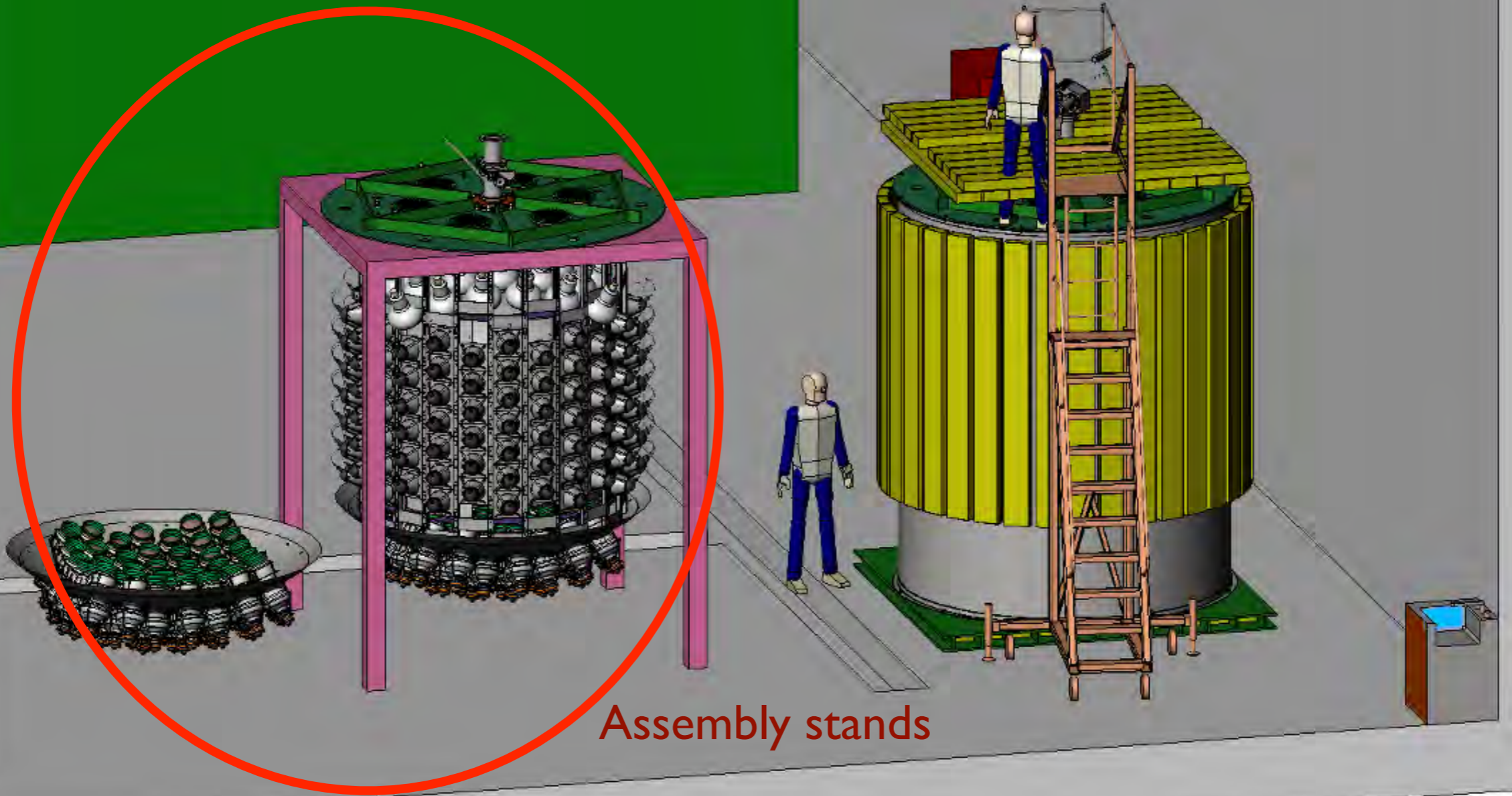
# Status

- IV under contract, delivery due May '23 (Reynolds Polymer)
- OV: seismic engineering complete, under contract, delivery due May '23 (C&C Industrial)
- PSUP design complete, moving to prototype and purchase
- Hamamatsu PMTs (200x fast 8"), batch delivery Nov '22 — Jul '23 (80 received), testing ongoing
- Digitisers & HV boards (CAEN), first batch received
- PMT support and calibration deployment systems designed
- Space available as of April 1



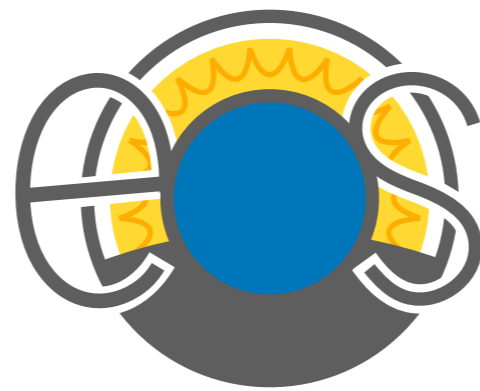
# Deployment

**Assembly due to start: June 1**  
2023: complete installation  
2024: commissioning and data taking



# Thanks to the EOS team!

## USA



## Germany



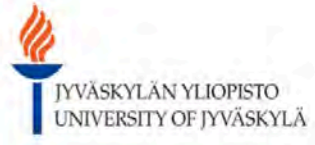
## Portugal



## Turkey



## Finland



## Canada



Rutgers, 2022

# THEIA (proto-)Collaboration



White paper - Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 416 & arXiv:2202.12839 [hep-ex]



## Canada

Alberta  
Laurentian  
Queens  
SNOLAB  
Toronto

## China

Tsinghua

## Finland

Jyvaskyla

## Germany

Aachen  
Dresden  
Hamburg  
Jülich  
Mainz

## TU Munich

Tübingen

## Italy

SISSA/INFN

## Korea

CUP

## Portugal

LIP

Lisbon

## Turkey

Erciyes

## UK

King's College  
Sheffield

## US

BNL

Boston

Chicago

Colorado

Cornell

FNAL

U. Hawaii

Iowa

## Iowa State

LBNL

LLNL

LSU

MIT

U. Penn

PNNL

Rutgers

SD SMT

## Stony Brook

SURF

Temple

UC Berkeley

UC Davis

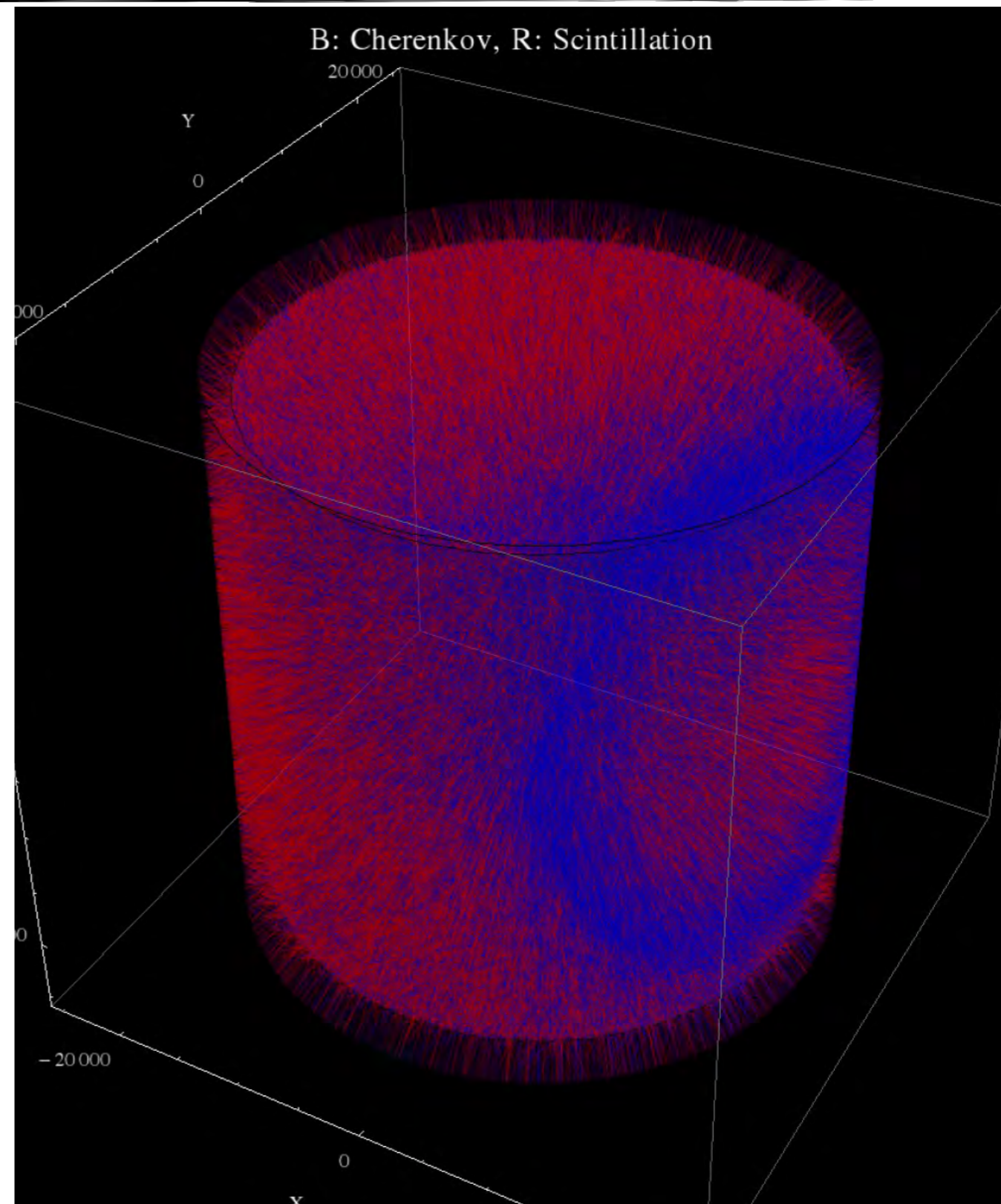
UC Irvine

UCLA



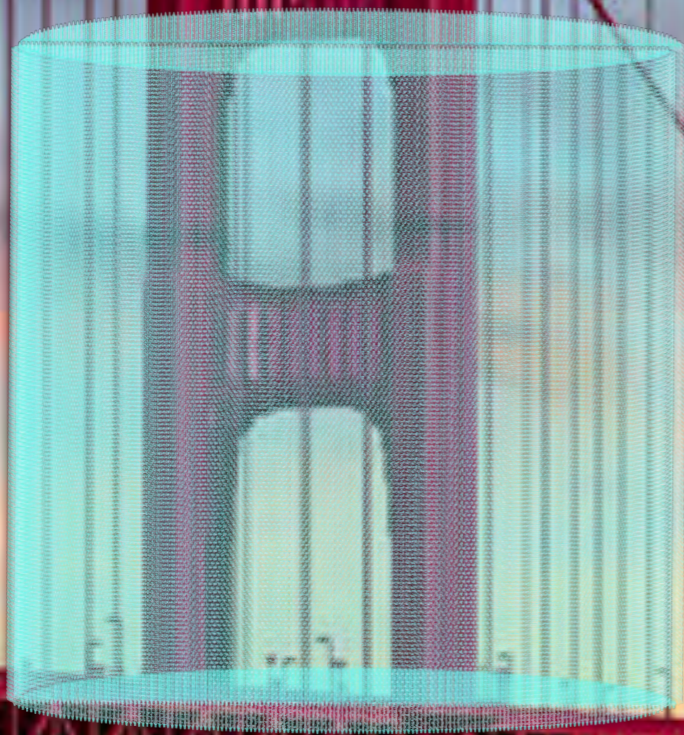
# Summary

- THEIA can interrogate a broad program of compelling science
- Conventional neutrino physics & rare-event searches in a single, large detector
- A hybrid detector module would add to the LBL program at DUNE and bring a broad program of additional physics
- THEIA offers inspirational physics to motivate a new, broad community of scientists
- Major technological developments have been achieved
- Results from existing large detectors demonstrate the conceptual feasibility
- Prototypes underway will demonstrate the full range of capabilities



# Thank you

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of High Energy Physics, under Award Number DESC0018974. Work conducted at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory was performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract DEAC02-05CH11231. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development (DNN R&D).



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