

# Spectral Photon Sorting for Neutrino Detectors

- Hybrid Cherenkov/Scintillation Neutrino Detection
- Spectral sorting with dichroicons
- Benchtop performance
- Deployment in Eos Demonstrator

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(for Sam Naugle)  
University of Pennsylvania

# Breadth and Detectors

100 keV--10 GeV

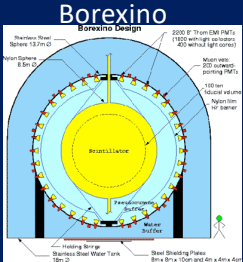
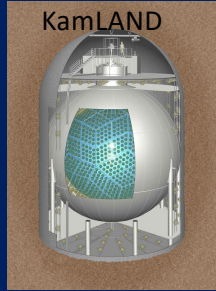
Typically scintillator

Typically Cherenkov

keV

MeV

GeV



Solar  $\nu$ s

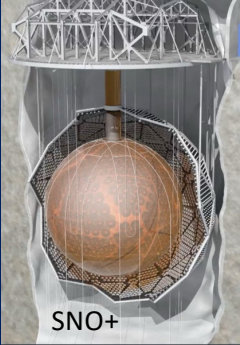
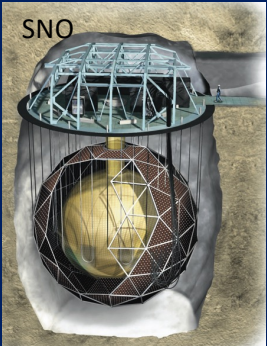
Reactor  $\bar{\nu}$

SN burst  $\nu$ s

$0\nu\beta\beta$

CP Violation

Atmospheric  $\nu$  oscillations

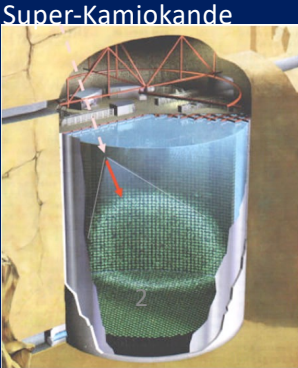


## Requirements:

- Low radio backgrounds
- Excellent energy resolution
- Directional information

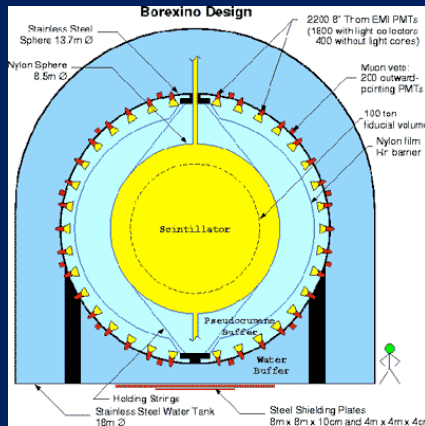
## Requirements:

- Excellent particle ID
- Directional information
- Very big detector

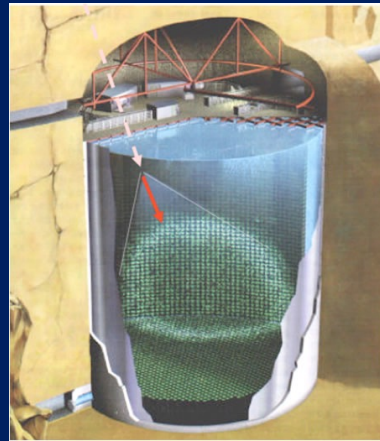


# Hybrid Detection

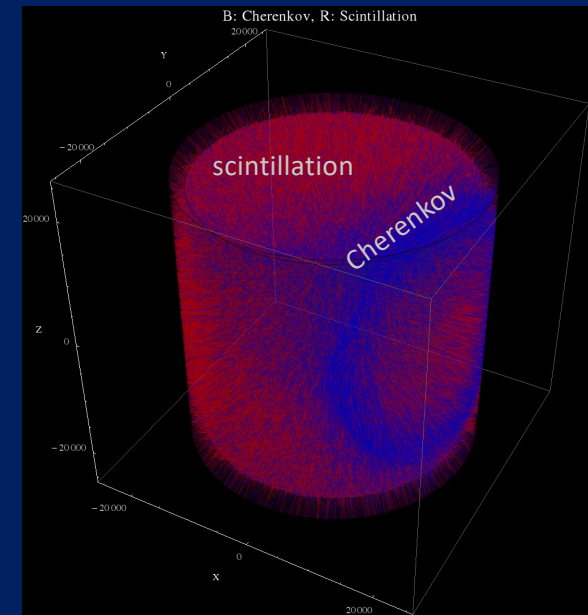
Why Not do Both?



+



=



But:

- 100x more scintillation light in scintillator than Cherenkov light
- `Chertons' are buried by `scintons'
- And need detector to be very big...



### THEIA: an advanced optical neutrino detector

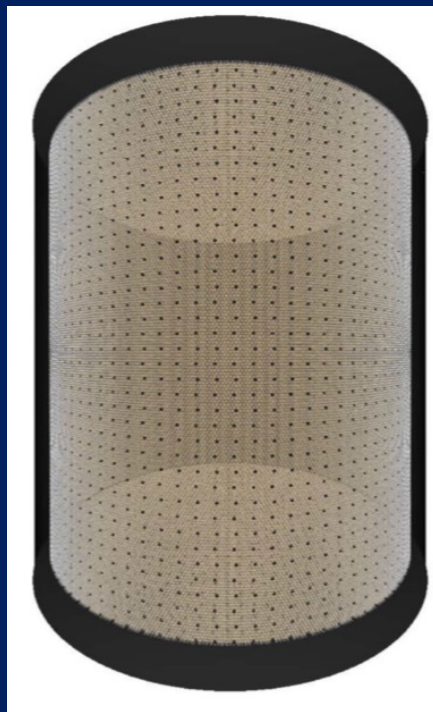
M. Askins<sup>1,2</sup>, Z. Bagdasarian<sup>3</sup>, N. Barros<sup>4,5,6</sup>, E. W. Beier<sup>4</sup>, E. Blucher<sup>7</sup>, R. Bonventre<sup>2</sup>, E. Bourret<sup>2</sup>, E. J. Callaghan<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Caravaca<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Diwan<sup>8</sup>, S. T. Dye<sup>9</sup>, J. Eisch<sup>10</sup>, A. Elagin<sup>7</sup>, T. Enqvist<sup>11</sup>, V. Fischer<sup>12</sup>, K. Frankiewicz<sup>13</sup>, C. Grant<sup>13</sup>, D. Guffanti<sup>14</sup>, C. Hagner<sup>15</sup>, A. Hallin<sup>16</sup>, C. M. Jackson<sup>17</sup>, R. Jiang<sup>7</sup>, T. Kaptanoglu<sup>4</sup>, J. R. Klein<sup>4</sup>, Yu. G. Kolomensky<sup>12</sup>, C. Kraus<sup>18</sup>, F. Krennrich<sup>10</sup>, T. Kutter<sup>19</sup>, T. Lachenmaier<sup>20</sup>, B. Land<sup>2,4</sup>, K. Lande<sup>4</sup>, J. G. Learned<sup>4</sup>, V. Lozza<sup>5,6</sup>, L. Ludhova<sup>3</sup>, M. Malek<sup>21</sup>, S. Manecki<sup>18,22,23</sup>, J. Maneira<sup>5,6</sup>, J. Maricic<sup>9</sup>, J. Martyn<sup>14</sup>, A. Mastbaum<sup>24</sup>, C. Mauger<sup>4</sup>, F. Moretti<sup>12</sup>, J. Napolitano<sup>25</sup>, B. Naranjo<sup>26</sup>, M. Nieslony<sup>14</sup>, L. Oberauer<sup>27</sup>, G. D. Orebi Gann<sup>1,2,4</sup>, J. Ouellet<sup>28</sup>, T. Pershing<sup>12</sup>, S. T. Petcov<sup>29,30</sup>, L. Pickard<sup>12</sup>, R. Rosero<sup>8</sup>, M. C. Sanchez<sup>10</sup>, J. Sawatzki<sup>27</sup>, S. H. Seo<sup>31</sup>, M. Smiley<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Smy<sup>32</sup>, A. Stahl<sup>33</sup>, H. Steiger<sup>27</sup>, M. R. Stock<sup>27</sup>, H. Sunej<sup>8</sup>, R. Svoboda<sup>12</sup>, E. Tiras<sup>10</sup>, W. H. Trzaska<sup>11</sup>, M. Tzanov<sup>19</sup>, M. Vagins<sup>32</sup>, C. Vilela<sup>34</sup>, Z. Wang<sup>35</sup>, J. Wang<sup>12</sup>, M. Wetstein<sup>10</sup>, M. J. Wilking<sup>34</sup>, L. Winslow<sup>28</sup>, P. Wittich<sup>36</sup>, B. Wonsak<sup>15</sup>, E. Worcester<sup>38,34</sup>, M. Wurm<sup>14</sup>, G. Yang<sup>34</sup>, M. Yeh<sup>8</sup>, E. D. Zimmerman<sup>37</sup>, S. Zsoldos<sup>1,2</sup>, K. Zuber<sup>38</sup>

# THEIA

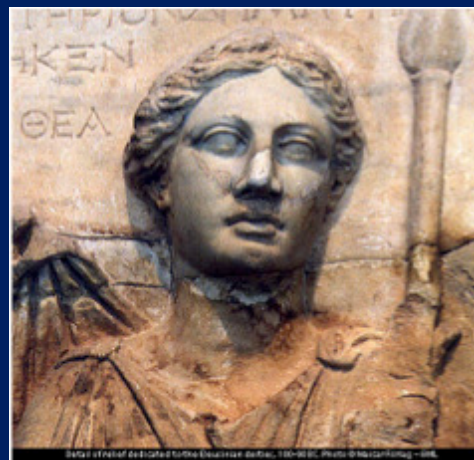
- Low-energy physics using scintons
- High-energy with chertons
- Exploit *both* to do otherwise very difficult physics

See also:  
“Advanced Scintillator  
Detector Concept,”  
arXiv 1409.5864

THEIA-100 (kt)



Named for Titaness of Light



Mother of Eos (Dawn), Helios (Sun), and Selene (Moon)

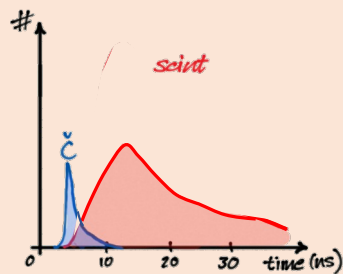
# Hybrid Cherenkov/Scintillation Detectors

## Many Ways of Doing This

### Ratio

Add just a little scintillation

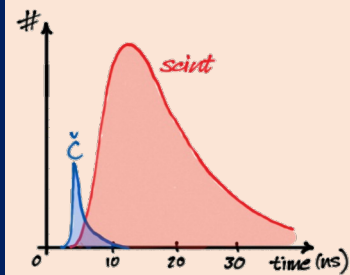
→ new materials/fluors



### Timing

“instantaneous chertons”  
vs. delayed “scintons”

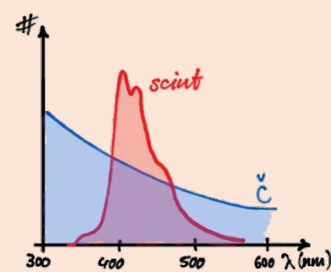
→ ns resolution or better



M. Wurm

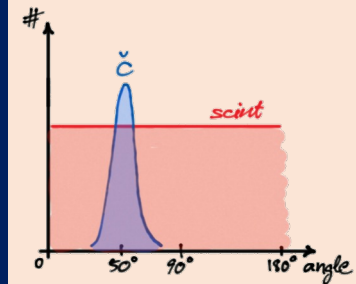
### Spectrum

UV/blue scintillation vs.  
blue/green Cherenkov  
→ wavelength-sensitivity



### Angular distribution

increased PMT hit density  
under Cherenkov angle  
→ sufficient granularity

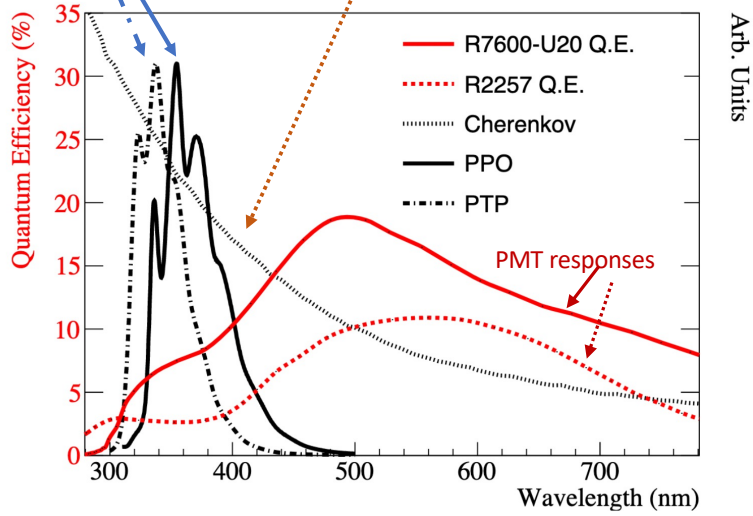


Past 5-10 years has seen rapid growth in exploring these approaches.

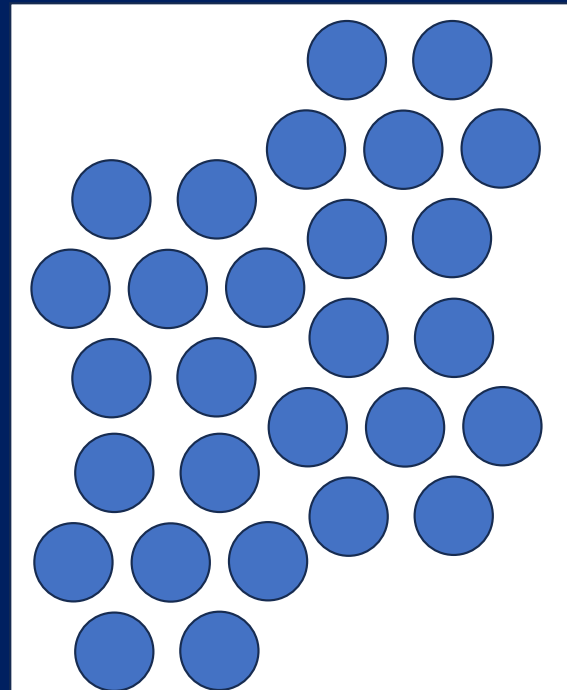
Scintillation emission

# Spectral Sorting for Cher/Scint

$$N_{\text{cer}}^{\gamma} \sim 1/\lambda^2$$

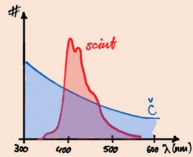


Spectral differences allow separation---  
could use filters or red-sensitive PMTs:



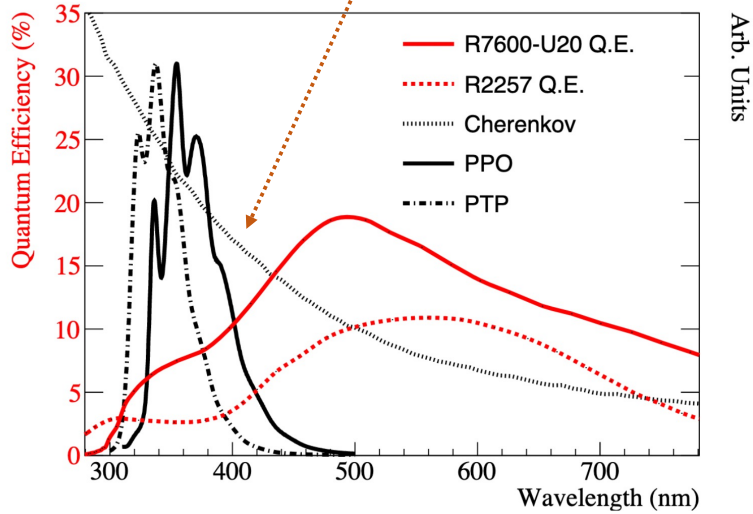
## Spectrum

UV/blue scintillation vs.  
blue/green Cherenkov  
→ wavelength-sensitivity

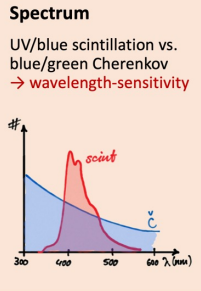


# Spectral Sorting for Cher/Scint

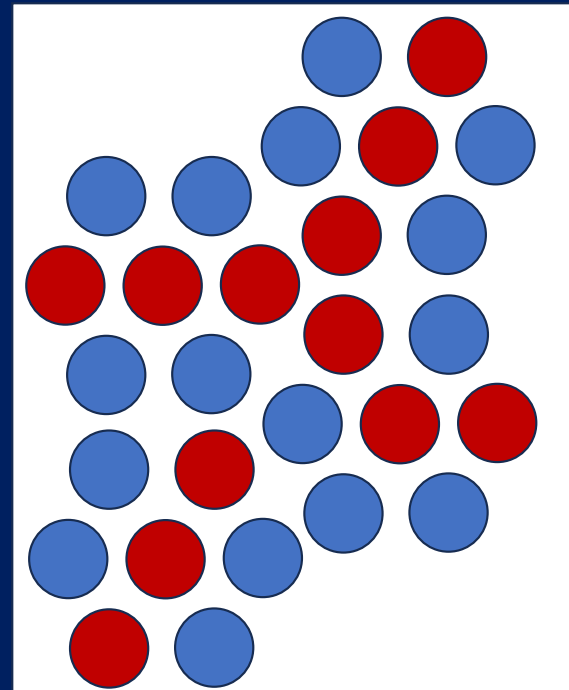
$$N_{\text{cer}}^{\gamma} \sim 1/\lambda^2$$



Spectral differences allow separation---  
could use filters and/or red-sensitive PMTs:



But now we have lost a lot of our scintillation photons---can we instead **sort** the photons so they go to the right sensors...?



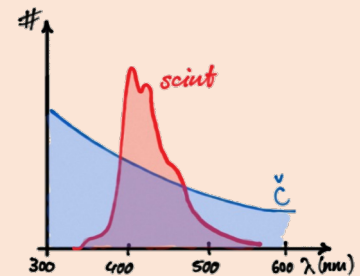
# Spectral Photon Sorting

If we sort photons efficiently:

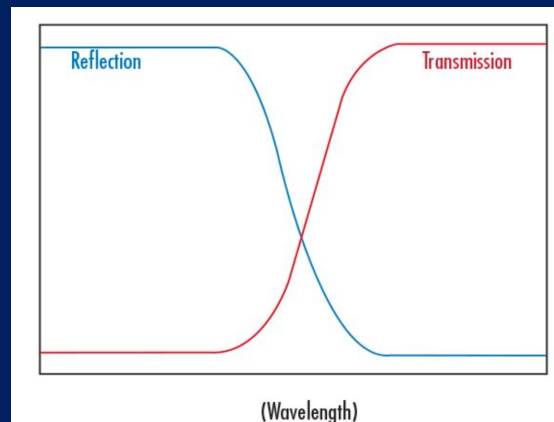
- Can preserve most of the different signals
- Possibly increase overall light yield by viewing a broad-band spectrum by relevant sensor

## Spectrum

UV/blue scintillation vs.  
blue/green Cherenkov  
→ wavelength-sensitivity



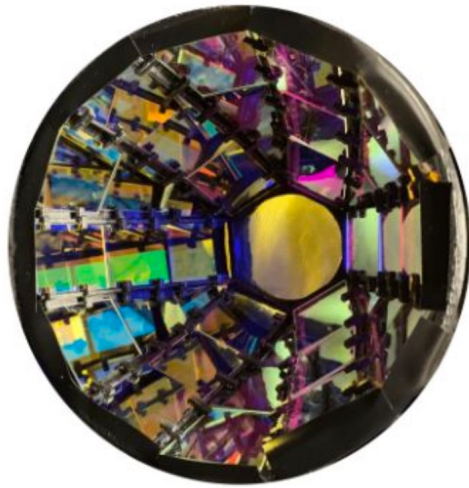
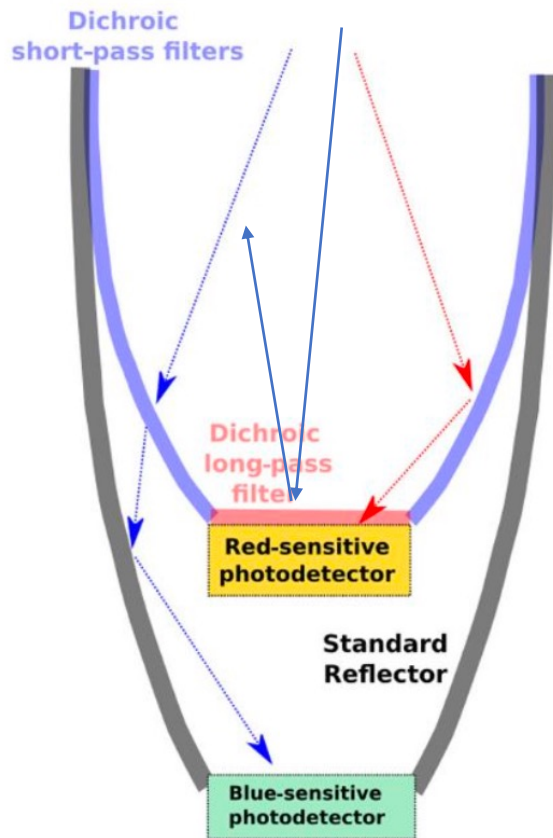
Dichroic filters provide a sorting mechanism---how do we use this in a large detector?



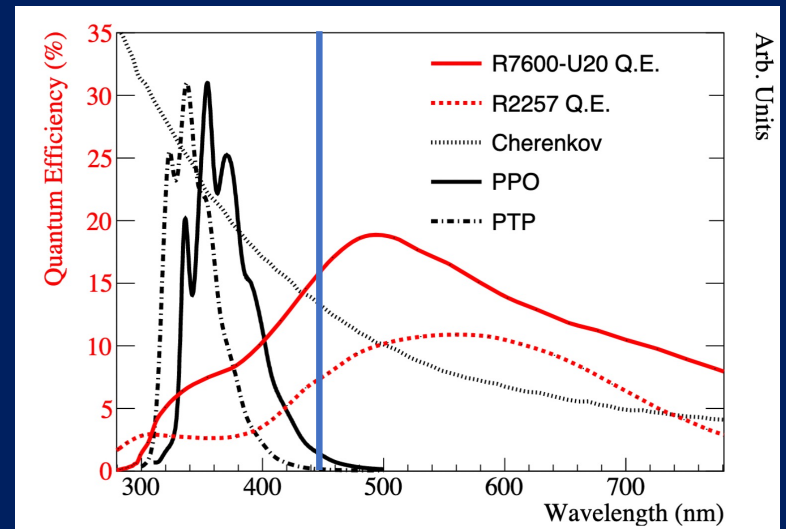


# Dichroicons

Winston-style light concentrator made out of dichroic mirrors can concentrate long-wavelength and pass short wavelength light (a “dichroicon”)

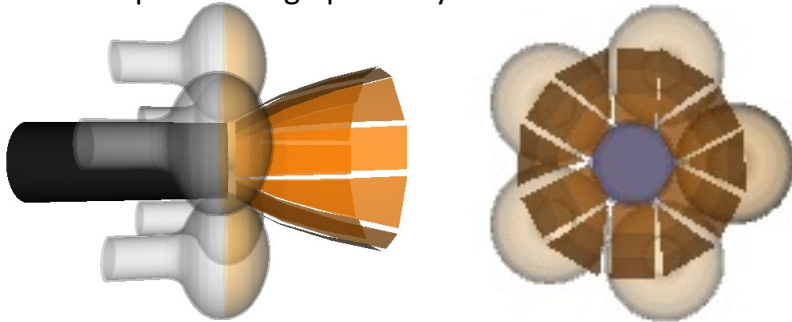


Cut-on wavelength depends on QE curve of sensors and emission of scintillation light and physics

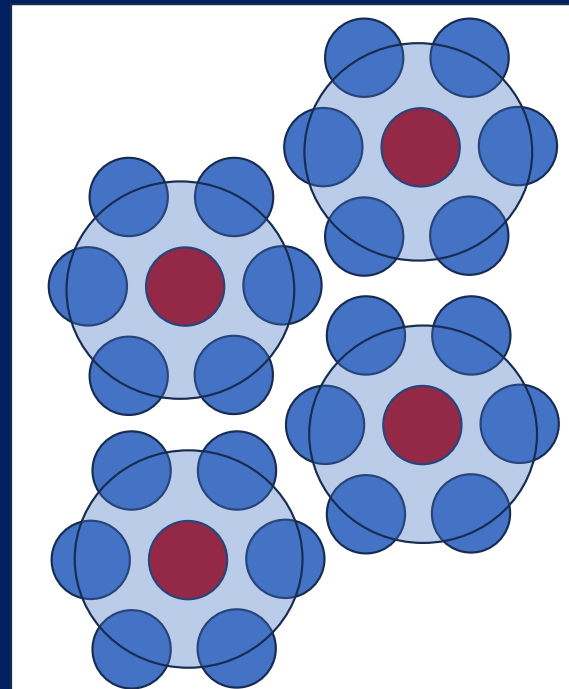


# Spectrum

“Flower-petal” design probably makes more sense for Theia

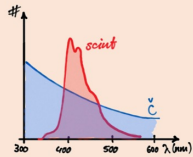


Dichroic filters at aperture also allow scintillation light to be reflected back into detector for improved calorimetry



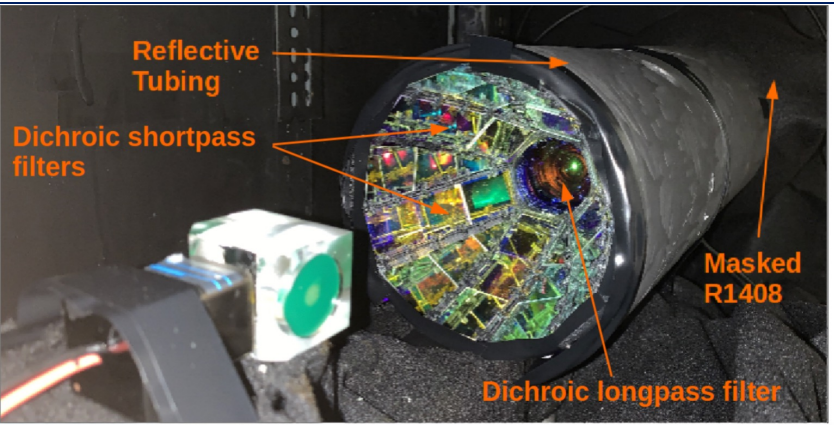
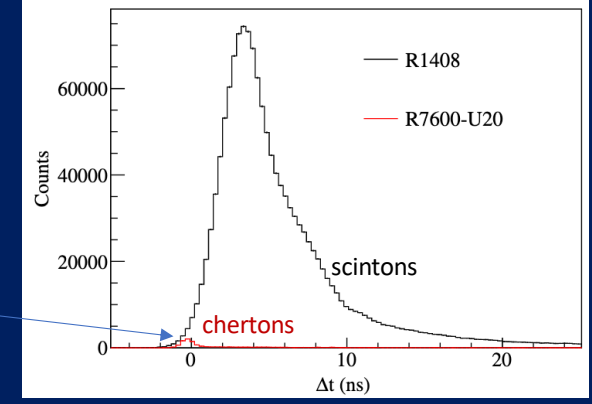
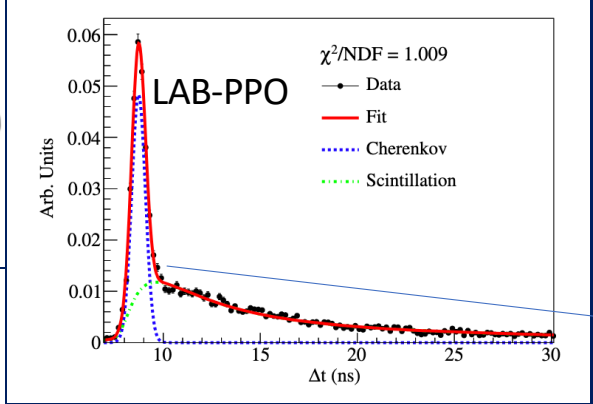
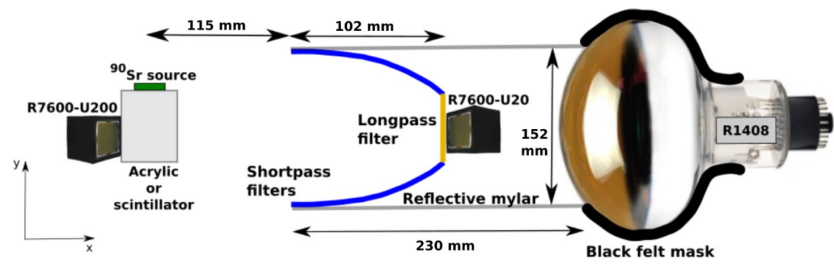
## Spectrum

UV/blue scintillation vs.  
blue/green Cherenkov  
→ wavelength-sensitivity

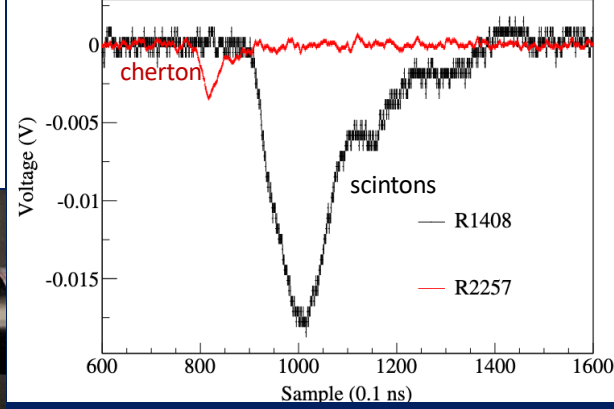


# Dichroicons

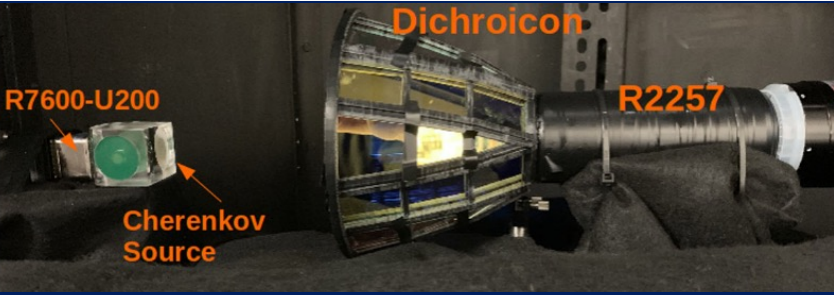
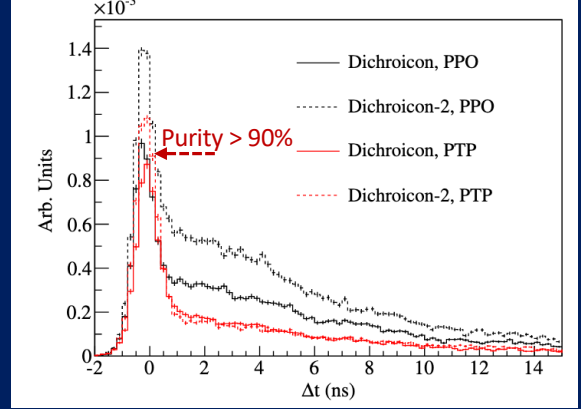
$^{90}\text{Sr}/^{90}\text{Y}$  source ( $\sim 2.3 \text{ MeV } \beta$ )



## Cherton-scinton coincidence



## PPO vs. PTP



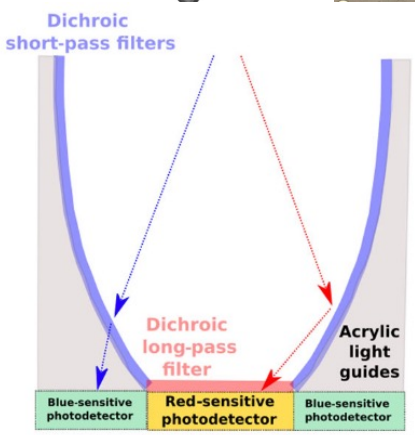
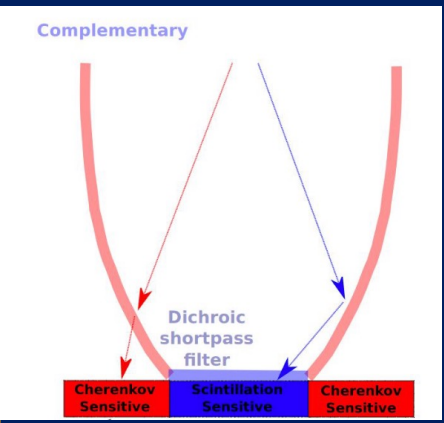
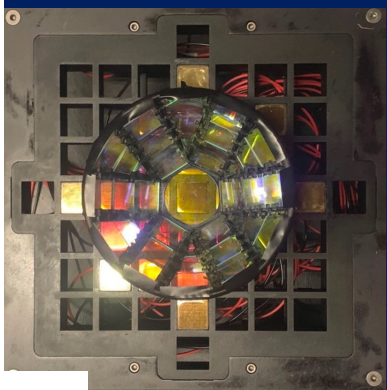
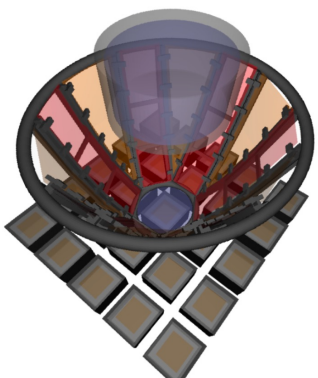
Phys. Rev. D 101, 072002

T. Kaptanoglu

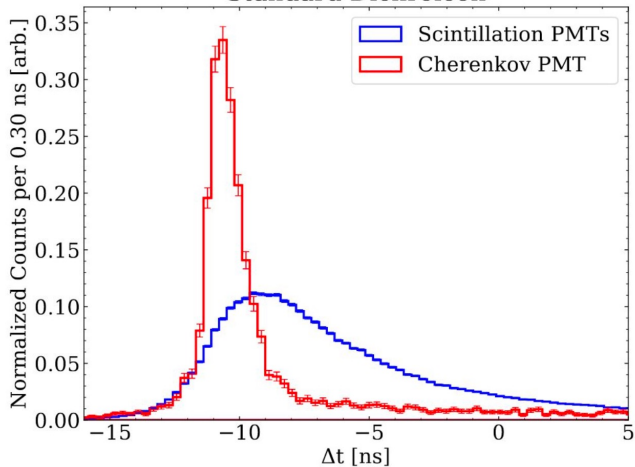
# Dichroicons

Dichroicon at CHESS (LBNL)

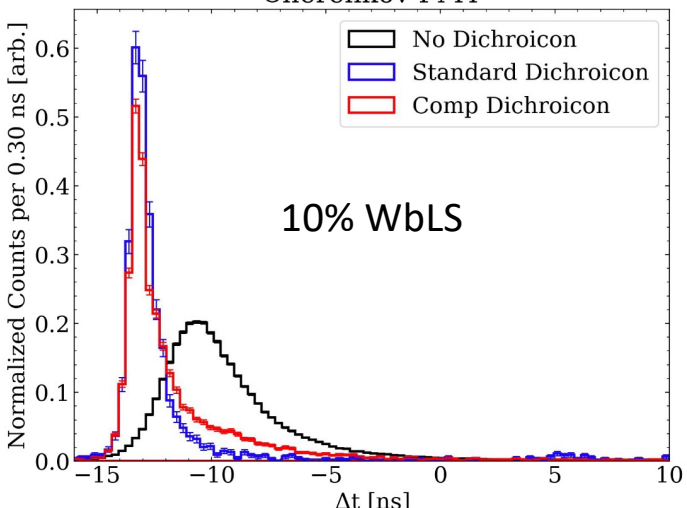
Pixellated sensors and high-energy source



Atmospheric Muons Incident on LABPPO Target  
Standard Dichroicon



Atmospheric Muons Incident on WbLS Target  
Cherenkov PMT

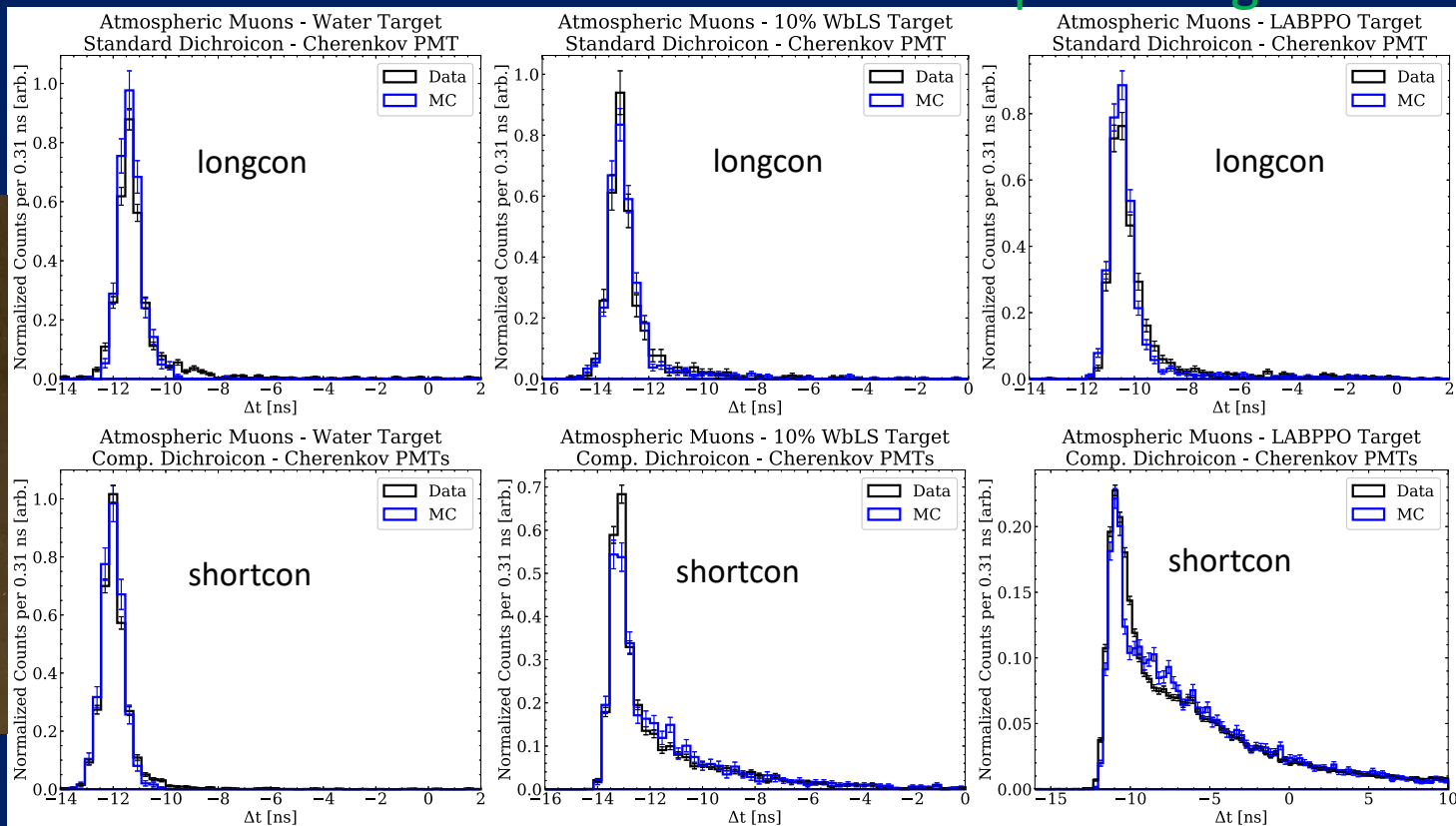
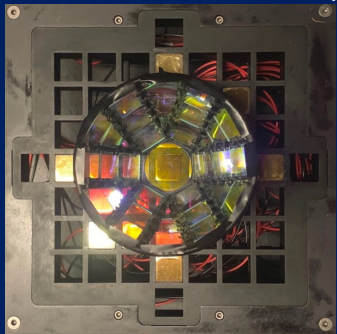


# Dichroicons

## Pixellated sensors and high-energy source

Chroma model does well reproducing data

Dichroicon at CHES (LBNL)



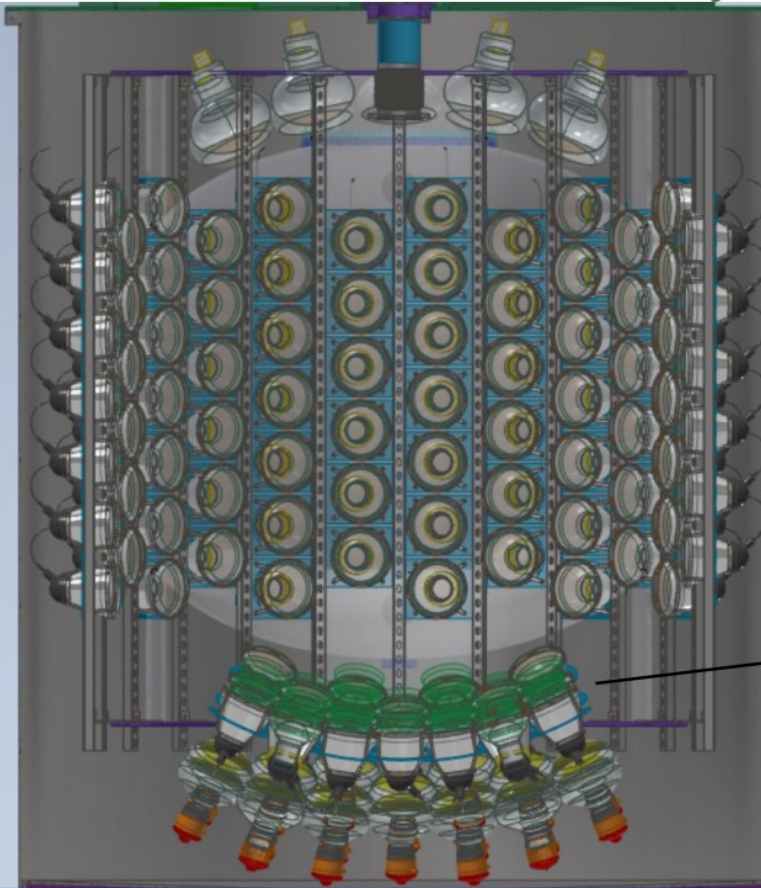
# Dichroicons

## General Use Cases

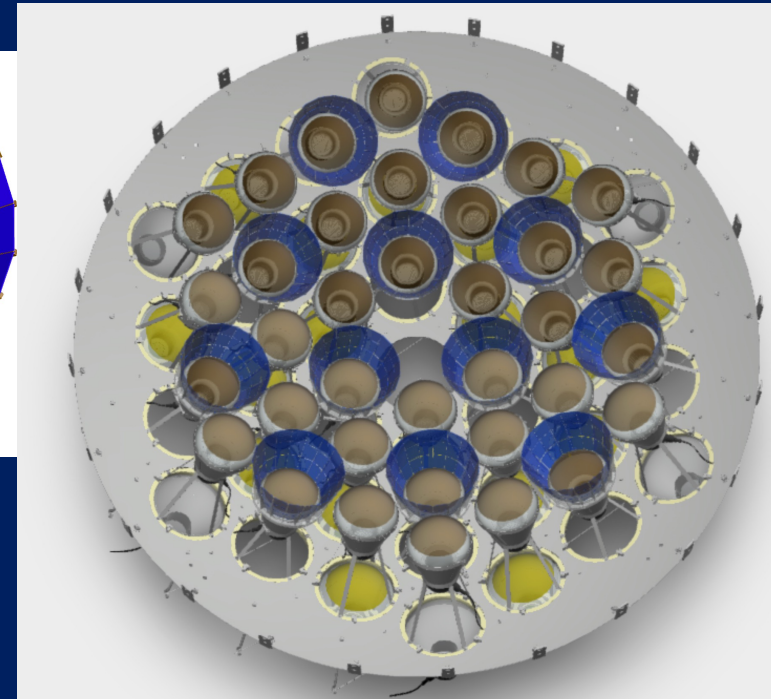
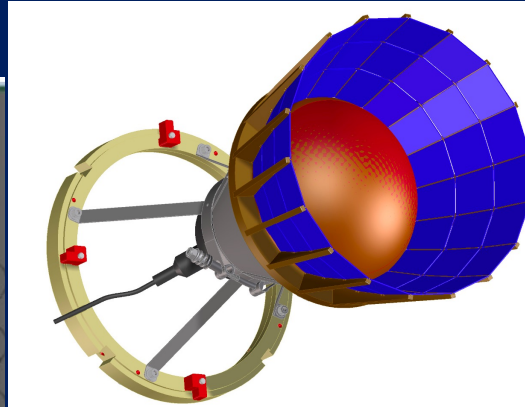
- Makes sense for high light-yield scintillator
- Make sense for fast scintillator
- Make sense when available area is constrained
  - More Cherenkov light than just filtered PMTs
  - With “small” loss of short-wavelength light
- Makes sense when scintillation light is narrow-band and short
  - Or has a giant Stokes shift and is very long---does this exist?
- In combination with fast timing, can use shorter cut-on wavelength
  - Tolerate more scintillation leakage, get more Cherenkov light
- Best when PMT does not shadow other PMTs (“flower petal” configuration)
- Or with planar/pixelated photon sensors

## Eos at LBNL

12 dichroicons at bottom



## Dichroicons

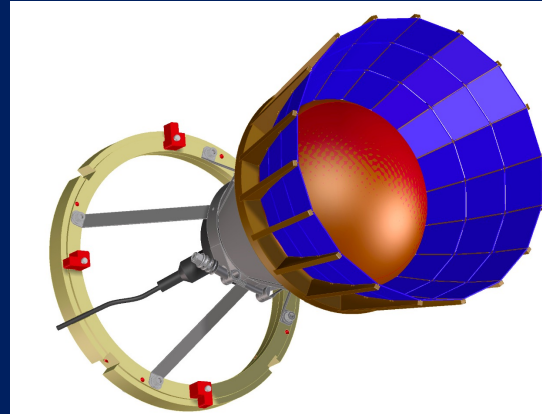
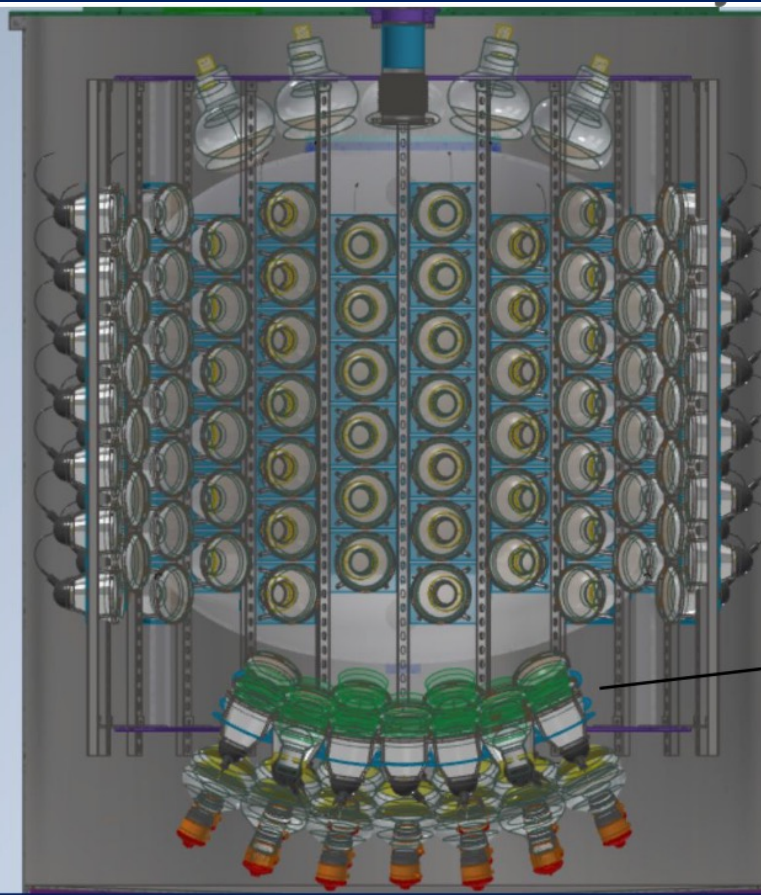


- Demonstrate Cherenkov/scintillation separation for variety of sources in tonne-scale detector
- Develop reconstruction methods leveraging scintons+chertons
- Test model of response

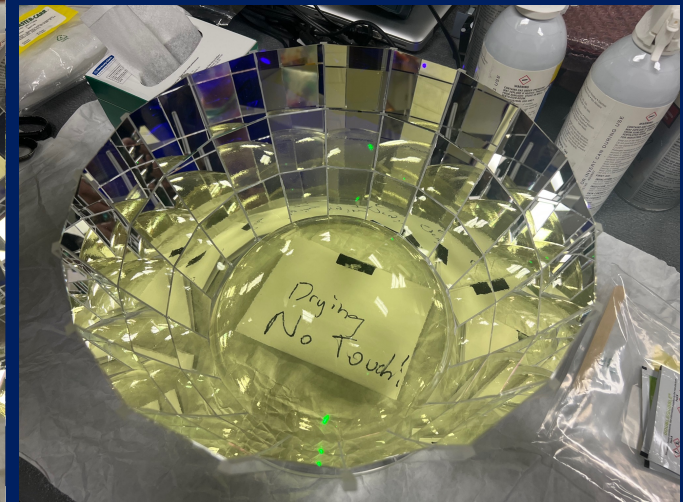
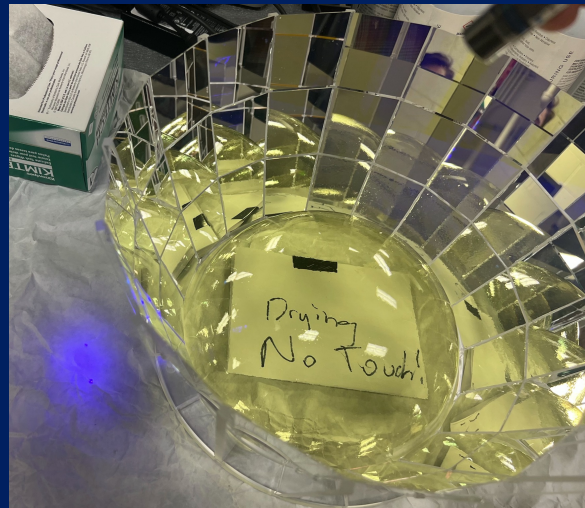
# Eos at LBNL

12 dichroicons at bottom

# Dichroicons



- Note: PMT hemisphere inside cone doubles Cherenkov yield
- But no curved dichroic filters exist yet, so we use a longpass absorbing filter
- (Means we lose scintons that hit PMT bulb)

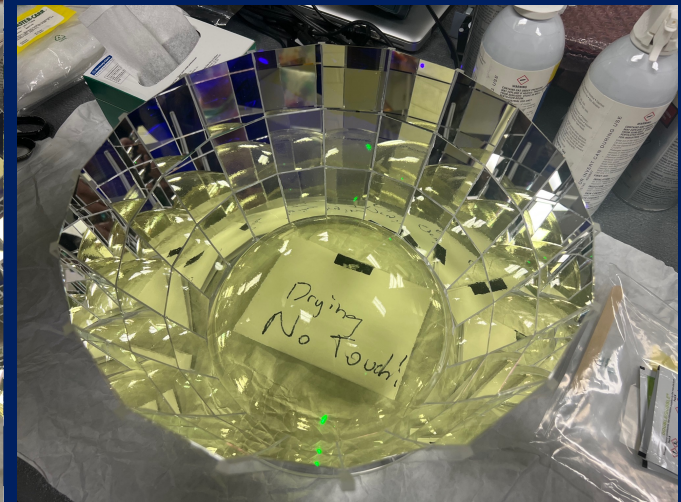
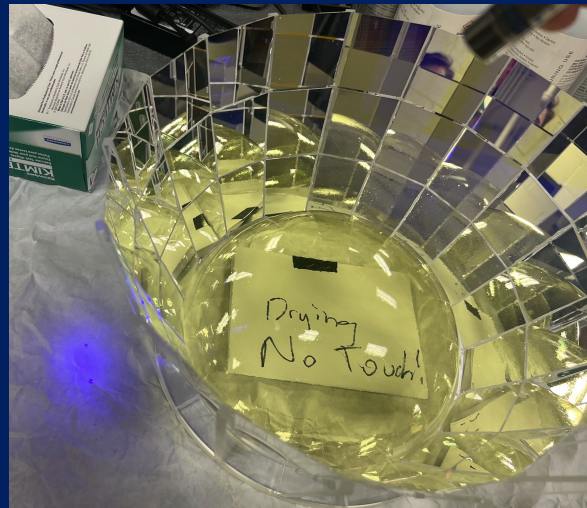
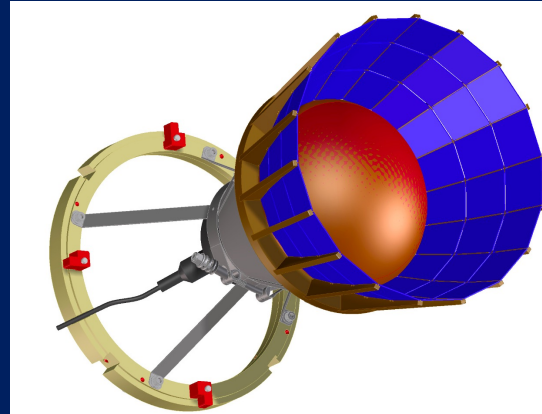
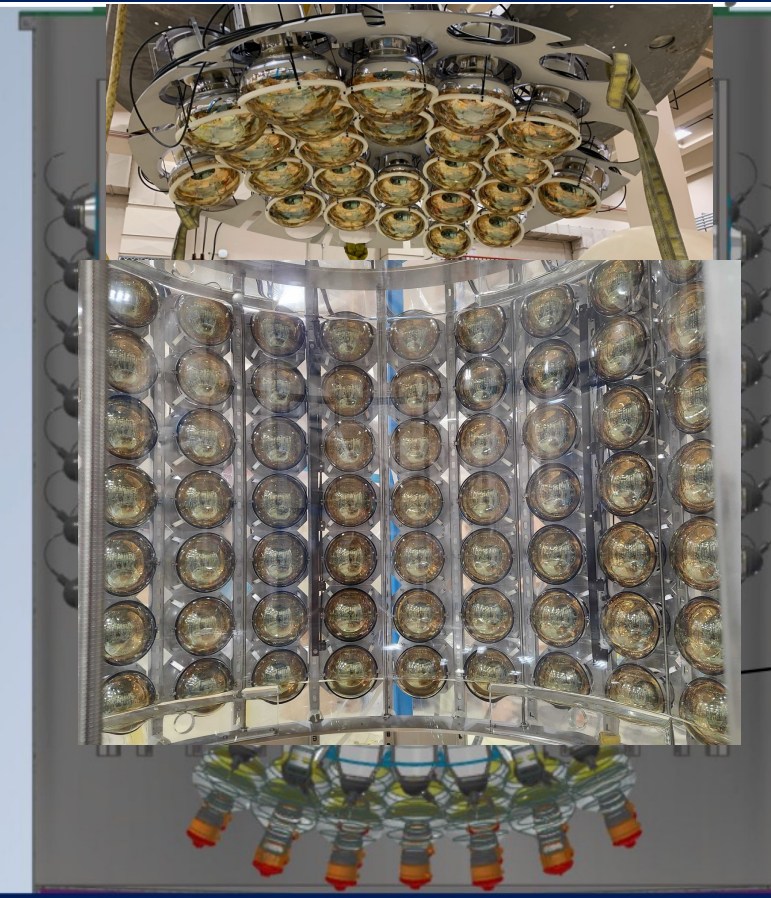




# Eos at LBNL

12 dichroicons at bottom

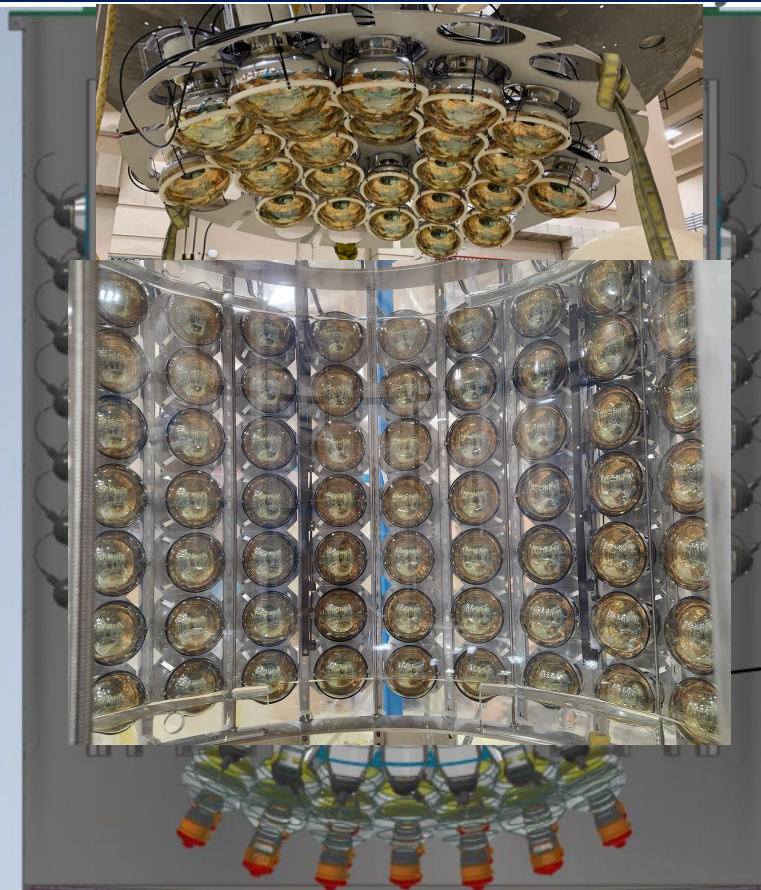
# Dichroicons



# Eos at LBNL

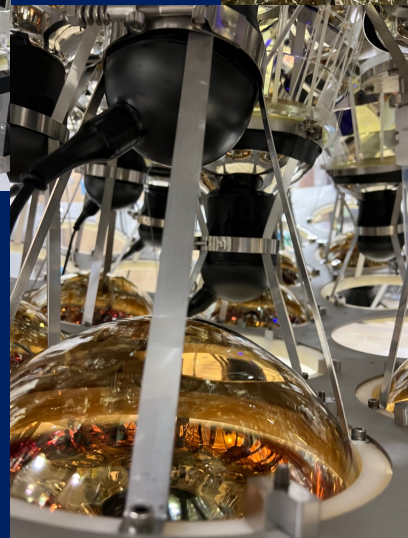
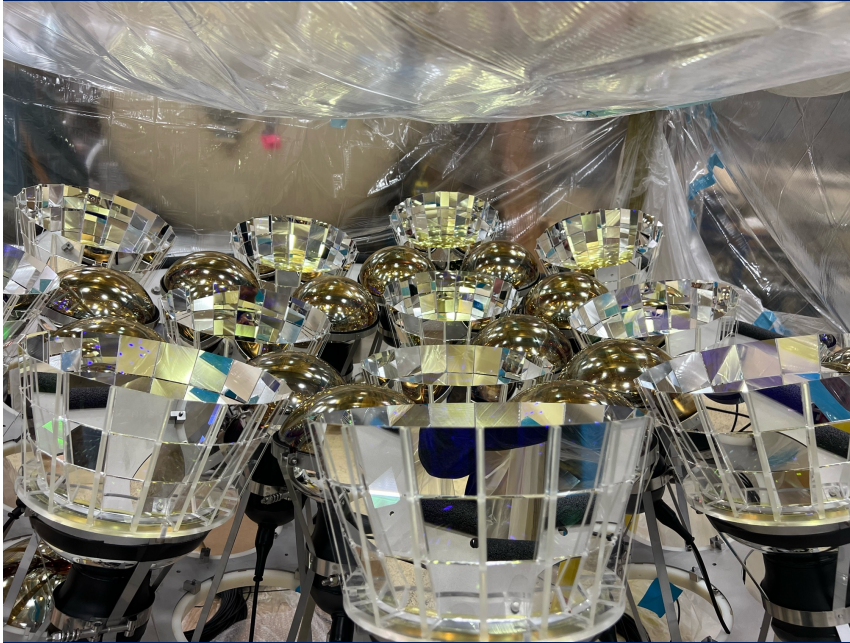
12 dichroicons at bottom

# Dichroicons



Eos at LBNL

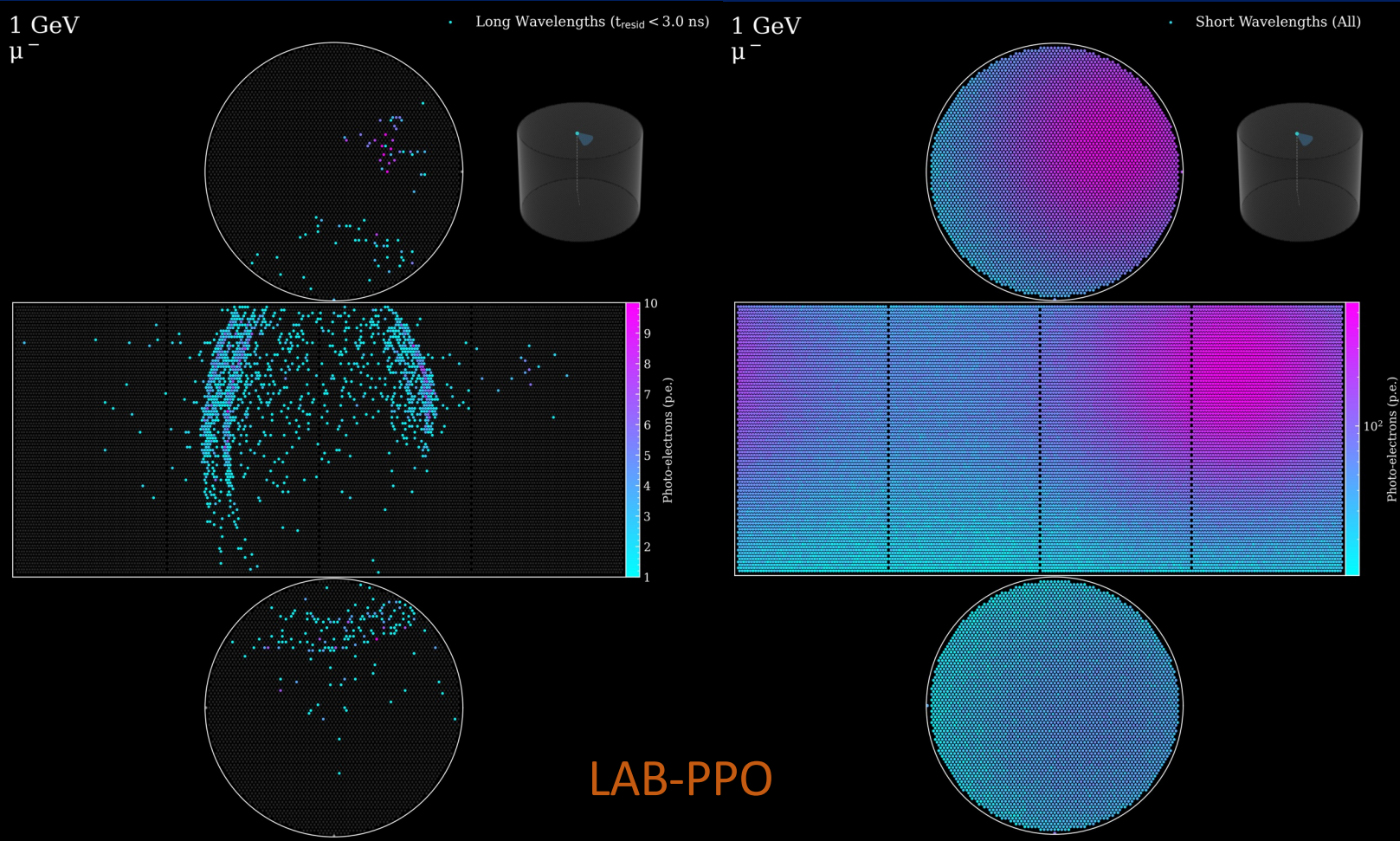
# Dichroicons



Theia---Chroma simulation

# Dichroicons

One Detector

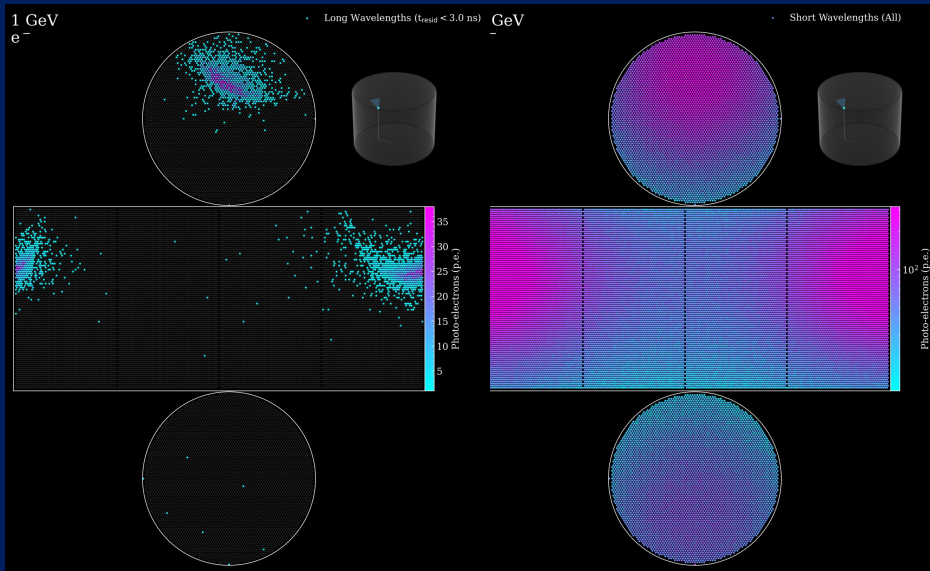


S. Young

LAB-PPO

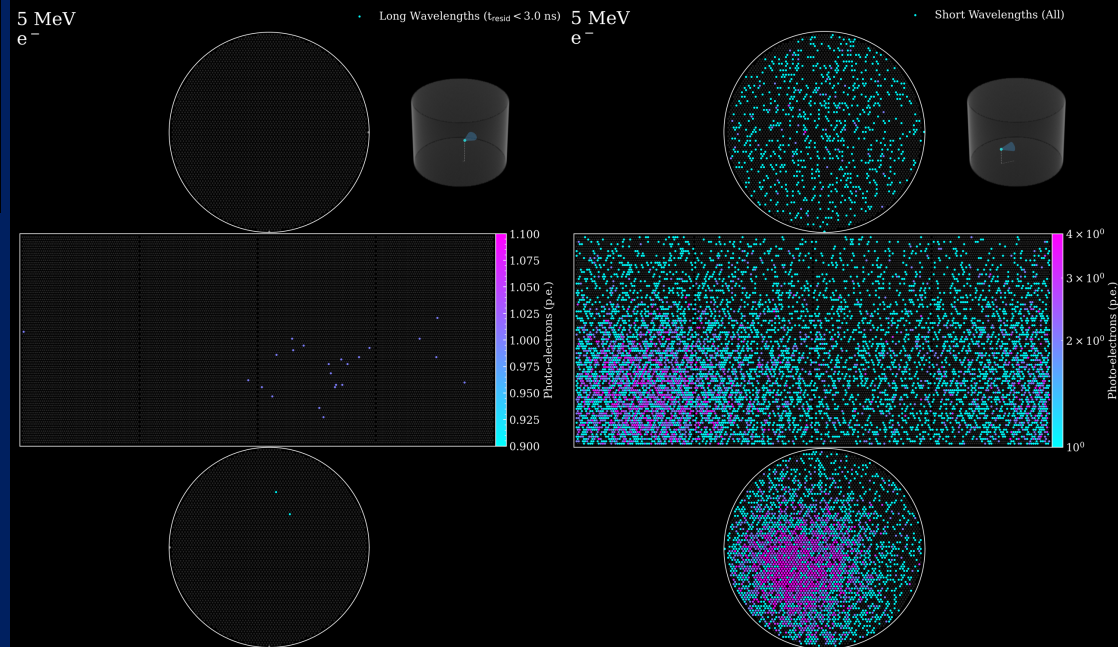
# Dichroicons

## Theia (100kt)



LAB-PPO, JUNO-level coverage

About 10,000 p.e.  $\cong$   
1% energy resolution  
At 5 MeV



$$\cos\theta_{ch} = 1/\beta n$$

$$\text{So } m = E \frac{\sqrt{n^2 \cos^2\theta - 1}}{n \cos\theta}$$

→ New PID handle if uncertainty on  $\cos\theta_{ch}$  is small enough ( $\sim 1$  degree can do  $e, \mu, K, p$  but not  $\mu/\pi$ )

# Summary

- Hybrid Cher/scint detectors are a new direction for neutrino physics
- Spectral sorting allows cherton/scinton discrimination even in bright scintillator
- Benchtop performance looks good!
- Performance tests at Eos coming very soon

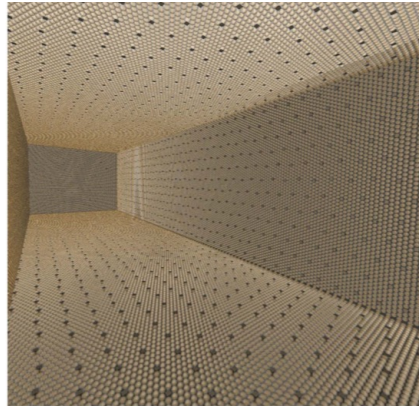
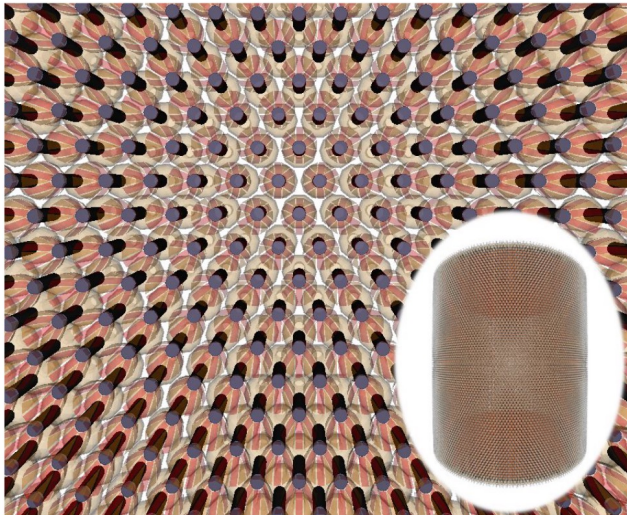
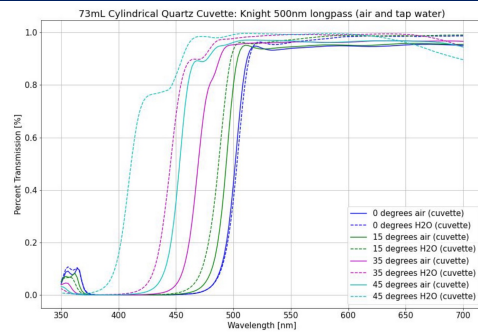
Backups

# Theia

# Dichroicons

- Using full dichroicon model, implemented in Chroma GPU ray-tracer
- Developed simple timing and angular reconstruction for vertex and direction

A. Bacon



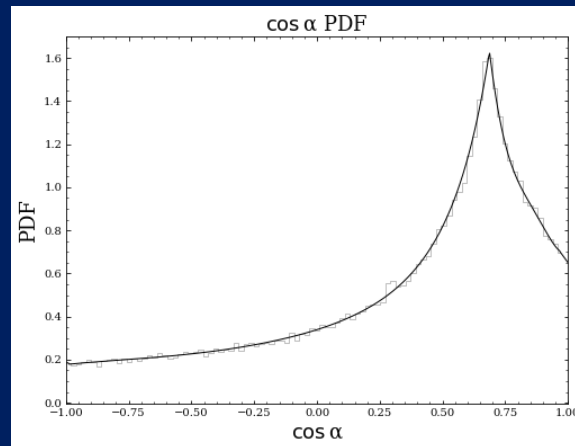
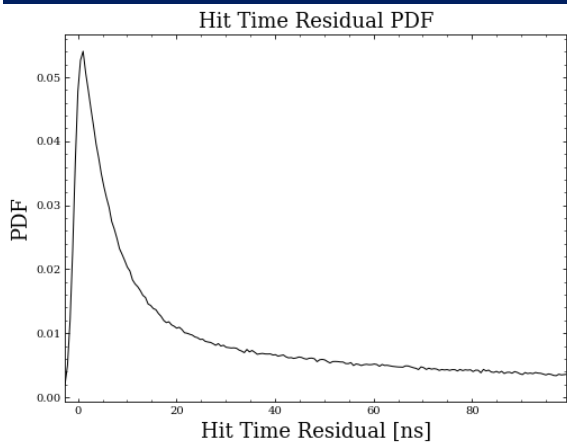
- *Implemented measured dichroic filter transmission and reflection curves in Chroma model*
- *Have full PMT QE curves*
- *Complete PMT timing response*
- *Optical isolation of long-wavelength PMT*



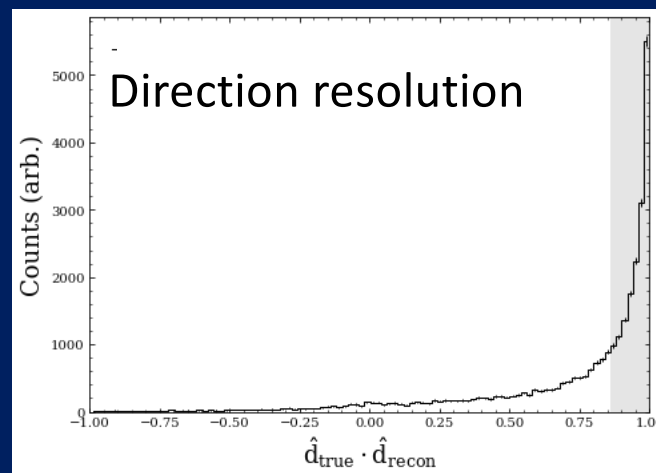
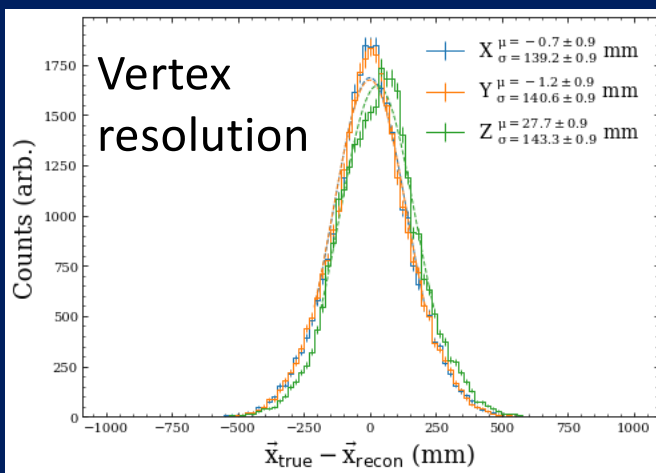
# Reconstruction at 5 MeV

# Dichroicons

Simple likelihood-based reconstruction so far



- 2D PDFs for both chertons and scintons will do better
- Energy should be included, too
- Bayesian approach may help with scintillation leakage
- Machine learning?



Only the surface has been scratched here--- many other interesting problems

S. Young

# Community Interest

8

## Instrumentation Frontier

P. Barbeau, P. Merkel, J. Zhang

8.2 Key Technology Needs and R&D

9

**Dichroicons** : Dichroicons, which are Winston-style light concentrators made from dichroic mirrors, allow photons to be sorted by wavelength thus directing the long-wavelength end of broad-band Cherenkov light to photon sensors that have good sensitivity to those wavelengths, while directing narrow-band short-wavelength scintillation light to other sensors. Dichroicons are particularly useful in high-coverage hybrid Cherenkov/scintillation detectors.

## SNOWMASS NEUTRINO FRONTIER: NF10 TOPICAL GROUP REPORT NEUTRINO DETECTORS

### 3.1.4 Spectral Sorting and Dichroicons

One approach to separating Cherenkov and scintillation light is by discriminating photons by wavelength, as scintillation is typically within a narrow emission band, while Cherenkov is a broad spectrum of light, falling as roughly  $1/\lambda^2$ .

2

## Photon Detectors

C. O. Escobar, J. Estrada, C. Rogan

2.2 Photon Detectors For Neutrino Experiments

5

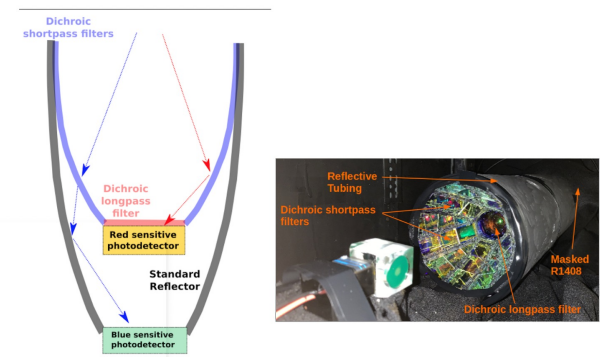
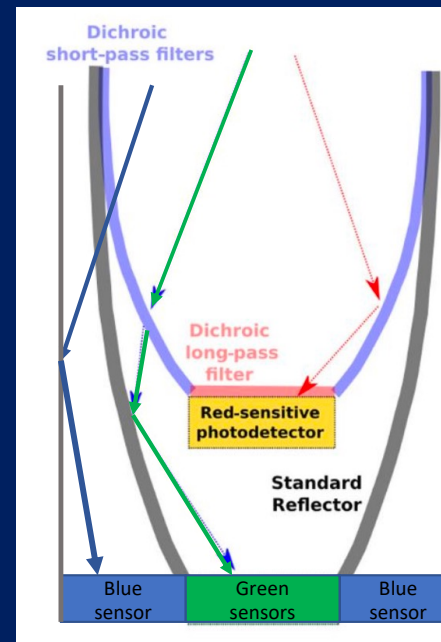
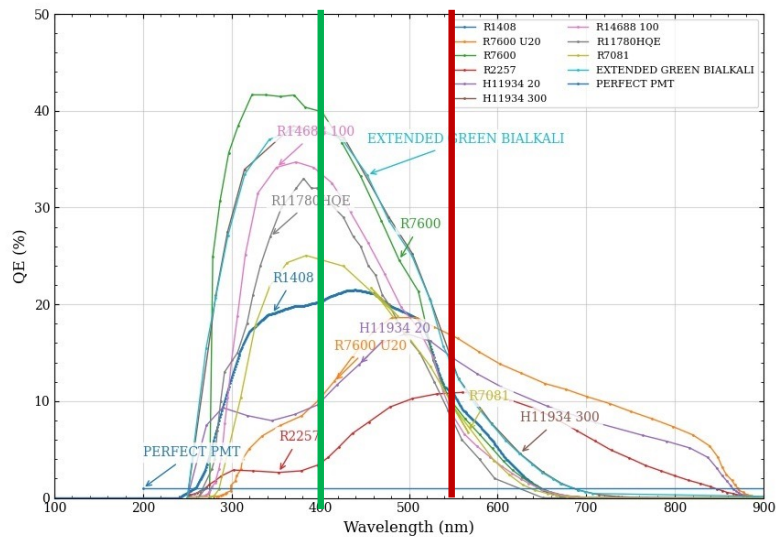


Figure 2-2. Example of photon detector development for neutrinos: the dichroicon, from arXiv:2203.07479

# Trichroicons...?

Three distinct QE regimes---blue, green, red  
Can stack dichroicons to direct photons to best collector



Increases light yield in a broadband, very photon-starved detector  
(e.g, low-energy Cherenkov)

# Other Physics Use Cases

- **Photon Dispersion**

- Time-of-flight difference between 400 nm and 600 nm over 60 m is
  - 0.5 ns for LAr
  - 1.5 ns for H<sub>2</sub>O
  - 5 ns for LAB-PPO
  - **Could LAPPDs let us see dispersion even in ANNIE??**
- Measuring difference allows new handle on position reconstruction
- And more precise timing

- **Photon Collection**

- Trapping (e.g. ARAPUCAs)
- Detecting broader spectrum than single device can see

- **Particle ID**

- LAr triplet state re-emitted by Xe
- Wavelength dependence of LS tail...?

## Spectrum

UV/blue scintillation vs.  
blue/green Cherenkov  
→ wavelength-sensitivity

