



Neutrino scattering (WG 2):

Christophe Bronner, Yokohama National University

Vishvas Pandey, Fermilab

Elena Gramellini, University of Manchester

NuFact 2025, Sept 1st, Liverpool

Neutrinos are difficult

Neutrinos are the most abundant massive particle in the universe, and one of the least understood. They are neutral: we can't directly detect them. We can study them only if they interact, but...

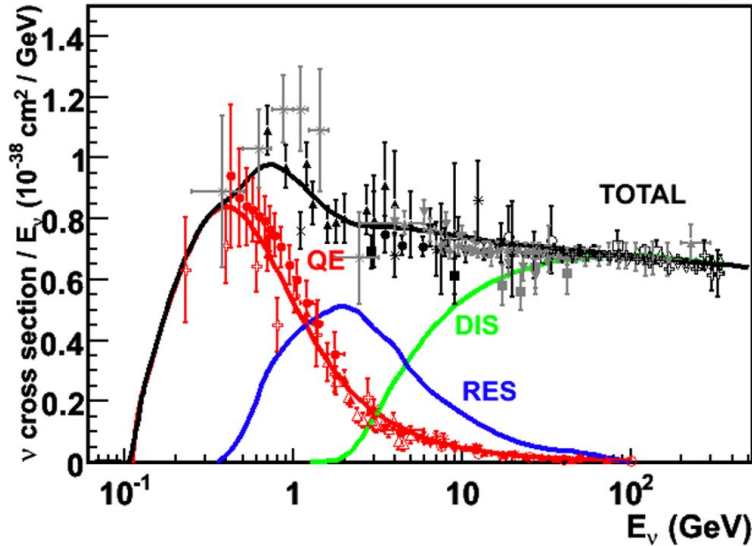
Neutrinos are difficult

Neutrinos are the most abundant massive particle in the universe, and one of the least understood. They are neutral: we can't directly detect them. We can study them only if they interact, but...

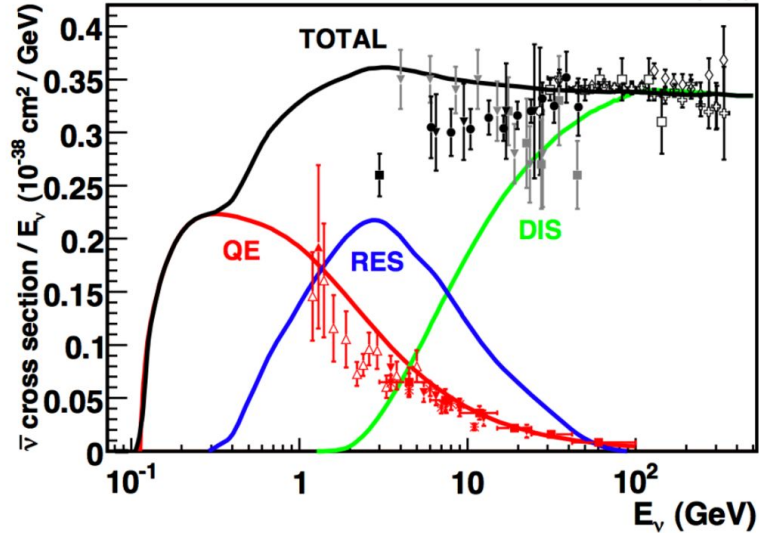
Neutrino Cross Section

Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1307

G. Zeller



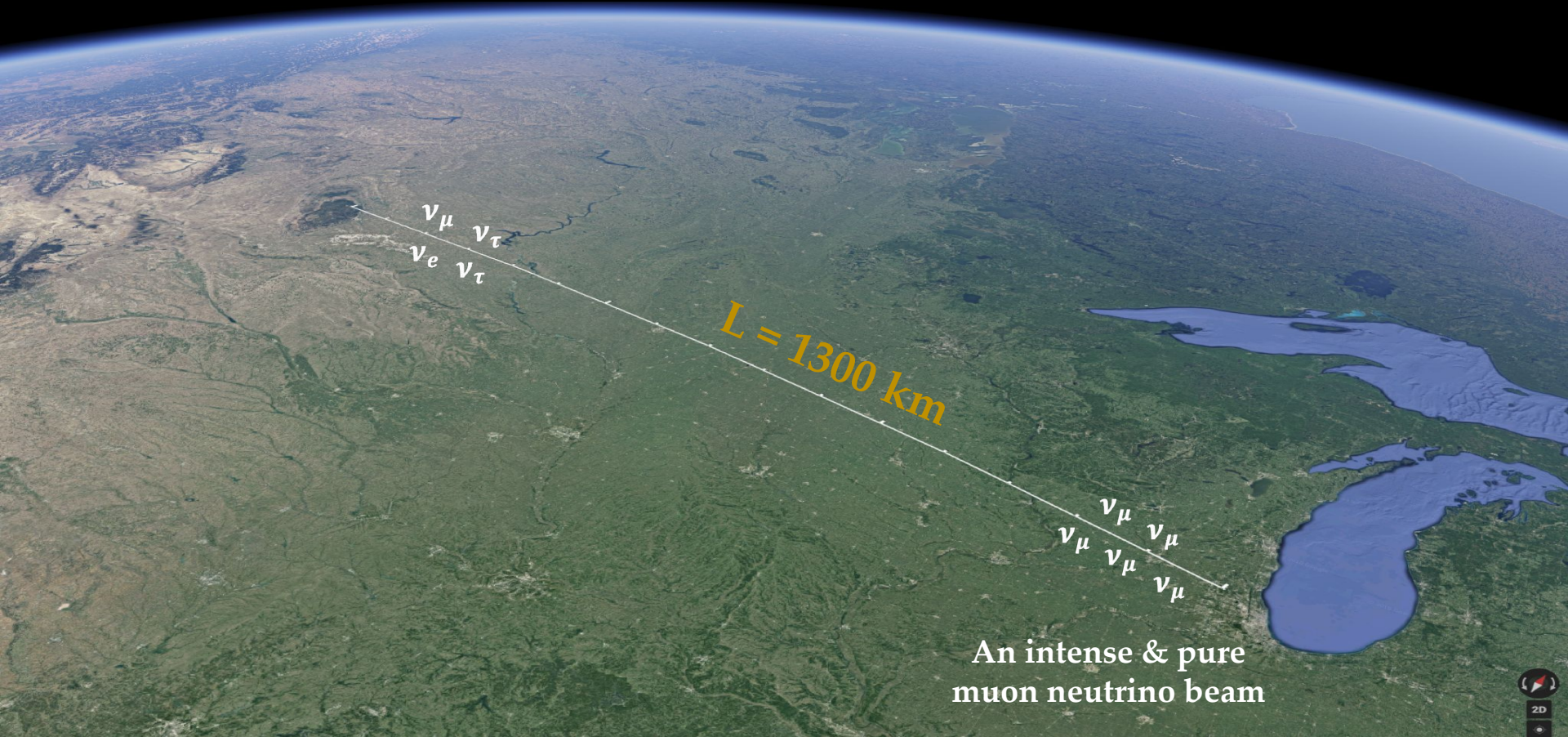
Antineutrino Cross Section



Neutrinos **don't really like to interact!**

ν -oscillations experiment 101

STEP 1: Making a beam



ν_μ ν_τ
 ν_e ν_τ

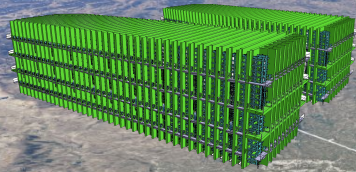
$L = 1300 \text{ km}$

ν_μ ν_μ ν_μ
 ν_μ ν_μ ν_μ

An intense & pure
muon neutrino beam

ν -oscillations experiment 101

STEP 1: Making a beam
STEP 2: Checking twice

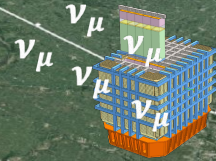


$N^{\mu \rightarrow e}_{FD}(E_r)$:
Number of ν_e
in reco energy

ν_μ ν_τ
 ν_e ν_τ

$L = 1300 \text{ km}$

$N^{\mu}_{ND}(E_r)$:
Number of ν_μ
in reco energy

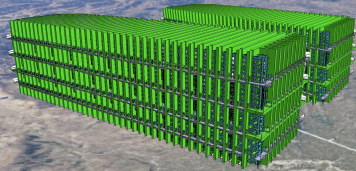


ν_μ ν_μ
 ν_μ ν_μ

An intense & pure
muon neutrino beam

ν -oscillations experiment 101

STEP 1: Making a beam
STEP 2: Checking twice
STEP 3: Gonna find out
if you've more of one type

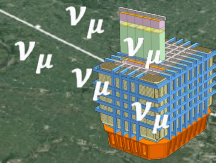


$N^{\mu \rightarrow e}_{FD}(E_r)$:
Number of ν_e
in reco energy

ν_μ ν_τ
 ν_e ν_τ

$L = 1300 \text{ km}$

$N^{\mu}_{ND}(E_r)$:
Number of ν_μ
in reco energy

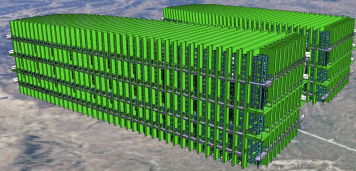


ν_μ ν_μ
 ν_μ ν_μ

An intense & pure
muon neutrino beam

ν -oscillations experiment 101

STEP 1: Making a beam
STEP 2: Checking twice
STEP 3: Gonna find out
if you've more of one type



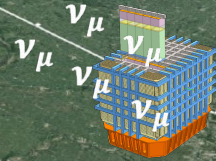
$N^{\mu \rightarrow e}_{FD}(E_r)$:
Number of ν_e
in reco energy

ν_μ ν_τ
 ν_e ν_τ

$L = 1300 \text{ km}$

$N^{\mu}_{ND}(E_r)$:
Number of ν_μ
in reco energy

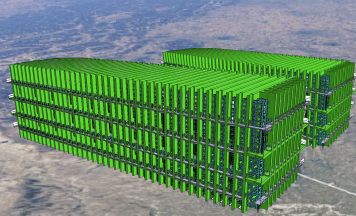
Your detectors (near and far) count number of neutrino interactions of as a function of reconstructed energy...



An intense & pure
muon neutrino beam

ν -oscillations experiment 101

STEP 1: Making a beam
STEP 2: Checking twice
STEP 3: Gonna find out if you've more of one type



ν_μ
 ν_e
 ν_τ

$$N_{\text{FD}}^{\mu \rightarrow e}(E_r) = \int \phi_{\text{FD}}^\mu(E_t) P_{\mu \rightarrow e}(E_t) \sigma_e(E_t) \varepsilon_e(E_t) U_{\text{FD}}(E_t, E_r) dE_t$$

Neutrino Flux

Oscillation Probability

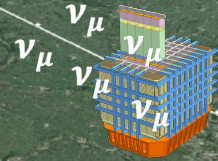
ν_e Cross Section

Signal efficiency

Detector Response

Your detectors (near and far) count number of neutrino interactions of as a function of reconstructed energy...

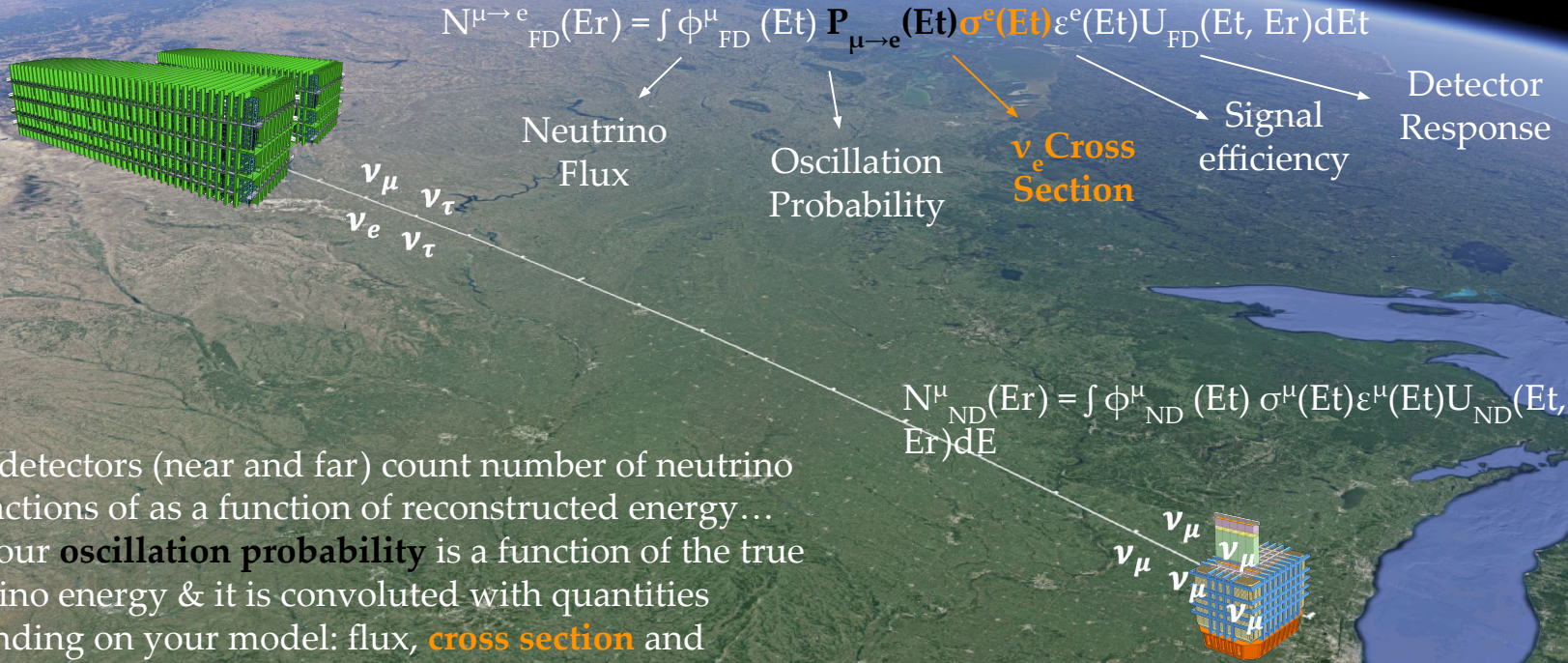
$$N_{\text{ND}}^\mu(E_r) = \int \phi_{\text{ND}}^\mu(E_t) \sigma^\mu(E_t) \varepsilon^\mu(E_t) U_{\text{ND}}(E_t, E_r) dE_t$$



ν_μ
 ν_μ
 ν_μ

ν -oscillations experiment 101

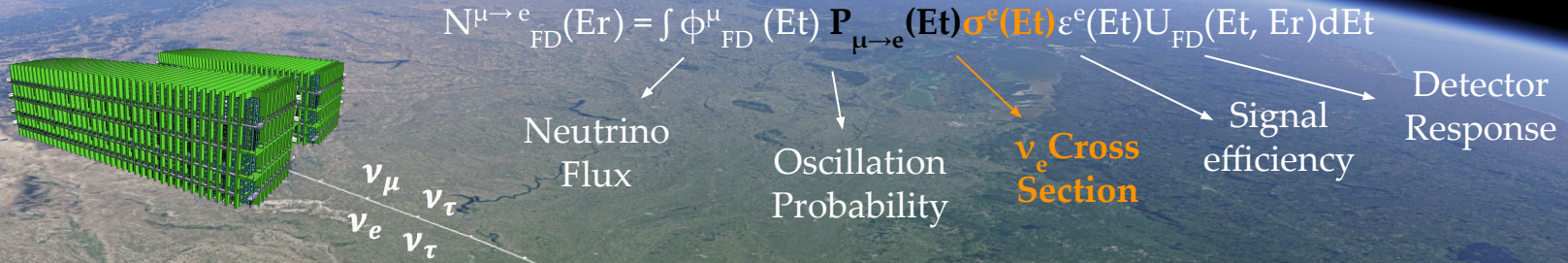
STEP 1: Making a beam
STEP 2: Checking twice
STEP 3: Gonna find out
if you've more of one type



Your detectors (near and far) count number of neutrino interactions of as a function of reconstructed energy... but your **oscillation probability** is a function of the true neutrino energy & it is convoluted with quantities depending on your model: flux, **cross section** and detector response.

ν -oscillations experiment 101

STEP 1: Making a beam
STEP 2: Checking twice
STEP 3: Gonna find out
if you've more of one type



Your detectors (near and far) count number of neutrino interactions of as a function of reconstructed energy... but your **oscillation probability** is a function of the true neutrino energy & it is convoluted with quantities depending on your model: flux, **cross section** and detector response.

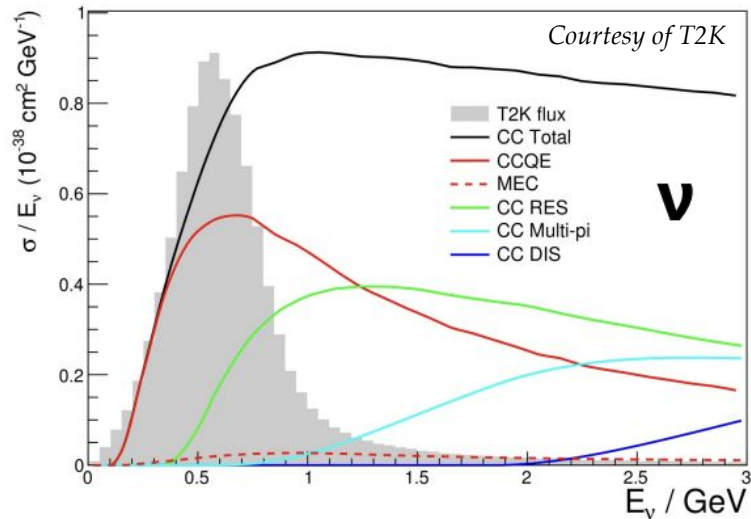
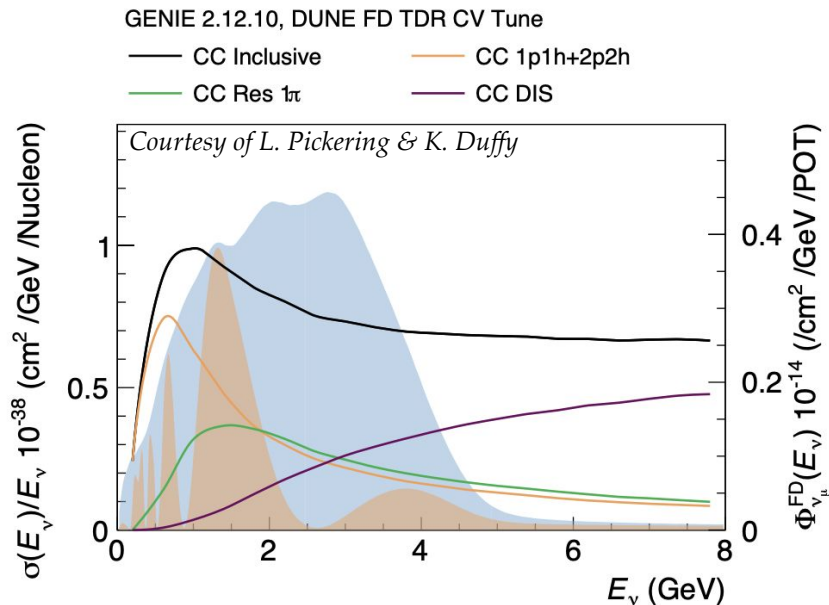
[Joint WG1+WG2 session!](#)

Tue afternoon
e4v, MicroBooNE, T2K, theory

Why Step 2 is hard

Both in broad energy beams and narrow energy beams with feed down events multiple interaction channels are accessible

→ different signatures at same energy

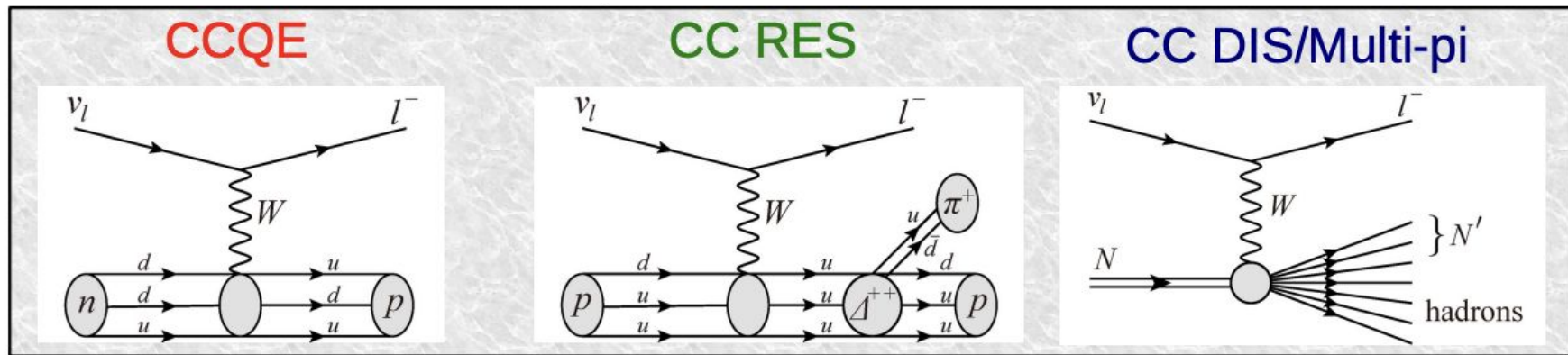


Why Step 2 is hard

Both in broad energy beams and narrow energy beams with feed down events multiple interaction channels are accessible

→ different signatures at same energy

Higher in Neutrino Energy



[Spectral function approach in NuWro: modelling of multinucleon final states in quasielastic scattering](#)

[Understanding neutrino \$\pi\$ production with the GiBUU model](#)
[Optimizing the description of the delta region in the Ghent Hybrid model for pion production](#)

Courtesy of T2K

Why Step 2 is hard

Both in broad energy beams and narrow energy beams with feed down events multiple interaction channels are accessible

→ different signatures at same energy

Higher in Neutrino Energy

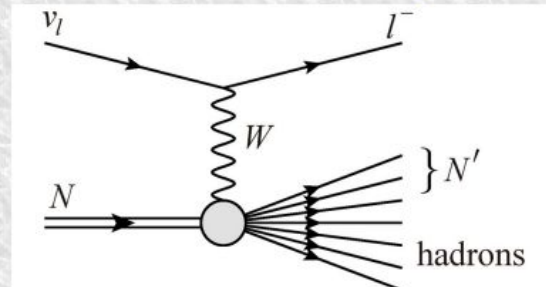
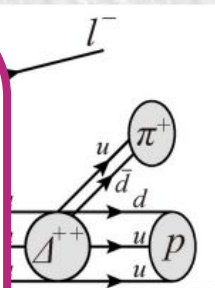
CCQE

CC RES

CC DIS/Multi-pi

The flux and cross section models are convoluted.

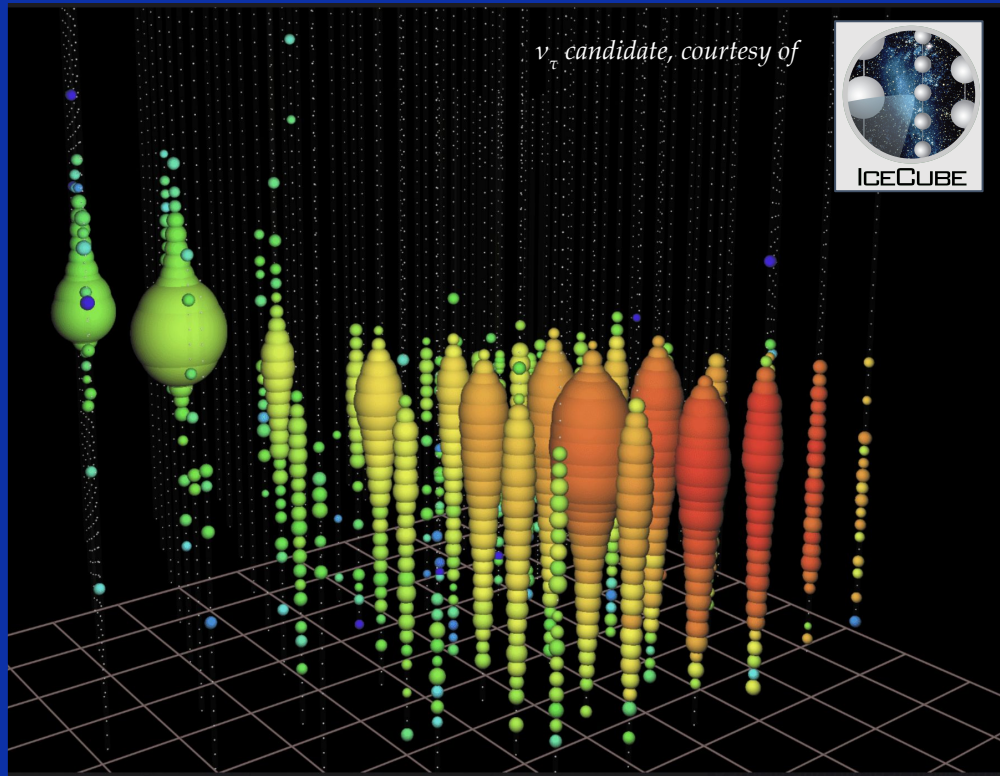
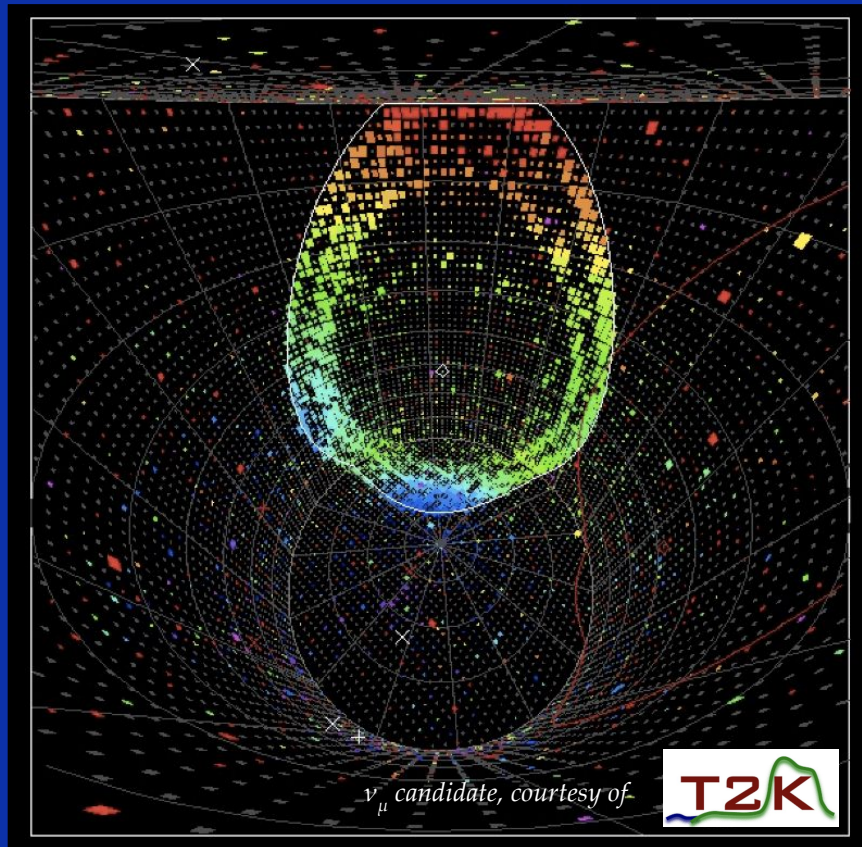
The cross section will not cancel out and is crucial for extraction of the oscillation parameters.



Courtesy of C. Bronne

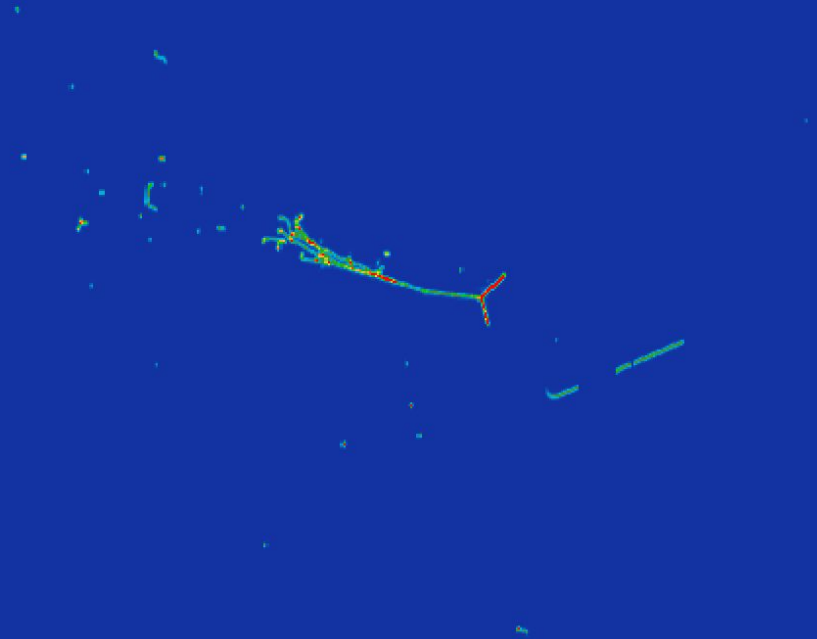
Why Step 2 is hard

This is all you see in your detector:
we never see the neutrino directly!



Why **Step 2** is hard

This is all you see in your detector:
we never see the neutrino directly!



This is all you see in your detector:
we never see the neutrino directly!

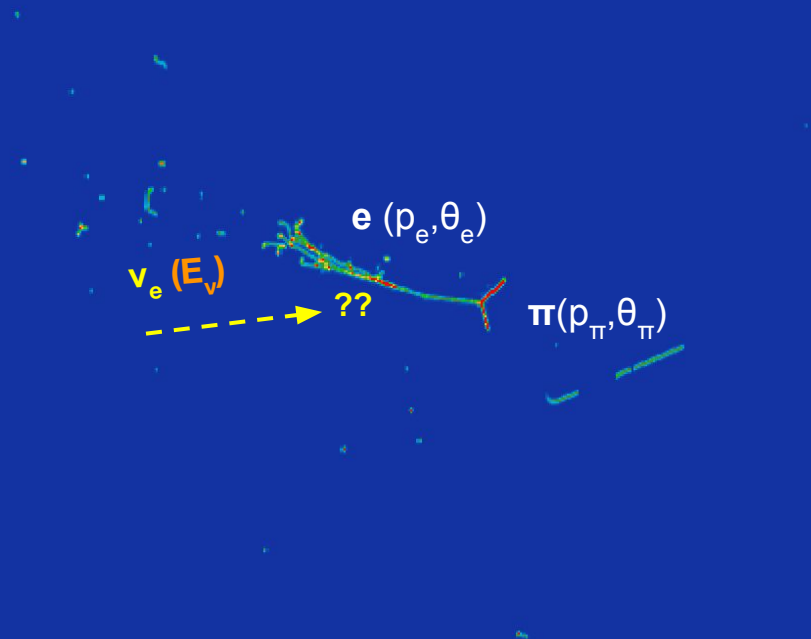


Why **Step 2** is hard

You identify the final state particles to
infer neutrino flavor:
count how many ν_e and ν_μ

Tue Morning:
new XS measurements from
SBND, MicroBooNE,
ICARUS, DUNE

This is all you see in your detector:
we never see the neutrino directly!



Why Step 2 is hard

You identify the final state particles to
infer neutrino flavor:
count how many ν_e and ν_μ

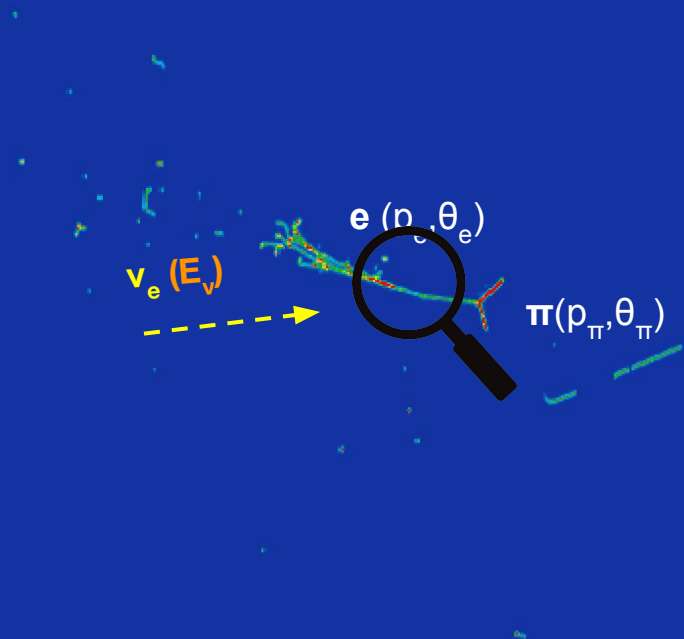
From the reconstructed particles'
momenta
you **infer neutrino energy:**
 $P(\text{osc}) \sim \sin^2(L / E_\nu)$

Why Step 2 is hard

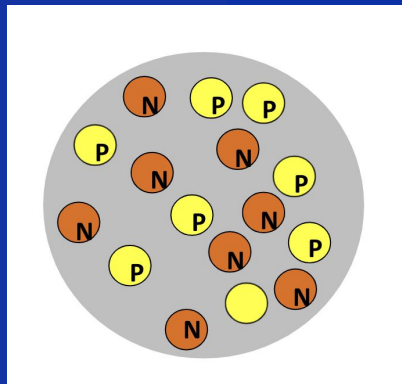
This is all you see in your detector:
we never see the neutrino directly!

You identify the final state particles to
infer neutrino flavor:
count how many ν_e and ν_μ

From the reconstructed particles'
momenta
you **infer neutrino energy:**
 $P(\text{osc}) \sim \sin^2(L / E_\nu)$



What gets in between

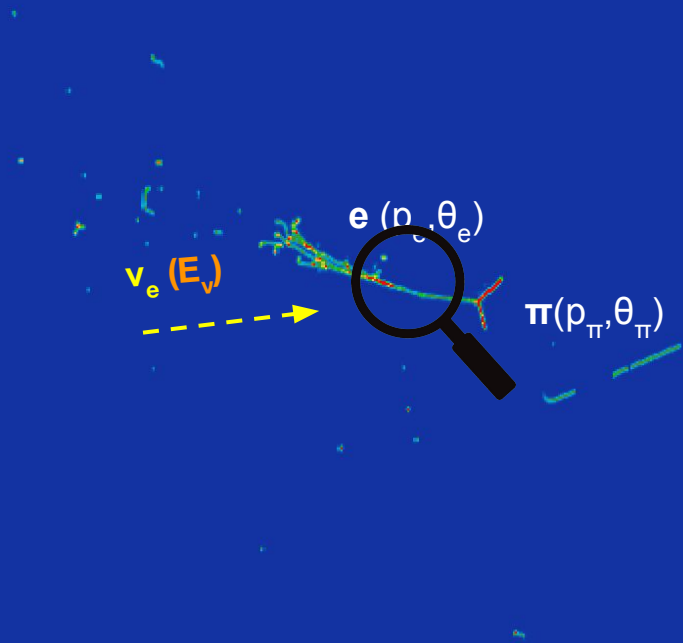


Why Step 2 is hard

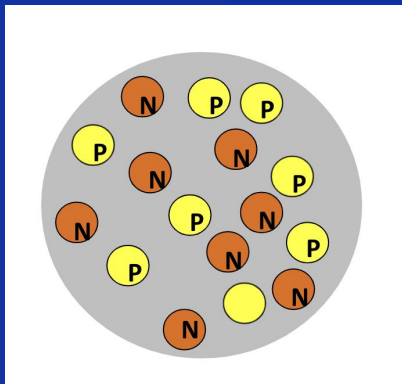
This is all you see in your detector:
we never see the neutrino directly!

You identify the final state particles to
infer neutrino flavor:
count how many ν_e and ν_μ

From the reconstructed particles'
momenta
you **infer neutrino energy:**
 $P(\text{osc}) \sim \sin^2(L / E_\nu)$



What gets in between



Cross-section models relate measured particles to (un-measurable) neutrinos,
need to correctly predict the ν -N interaction make-up as a function of energy

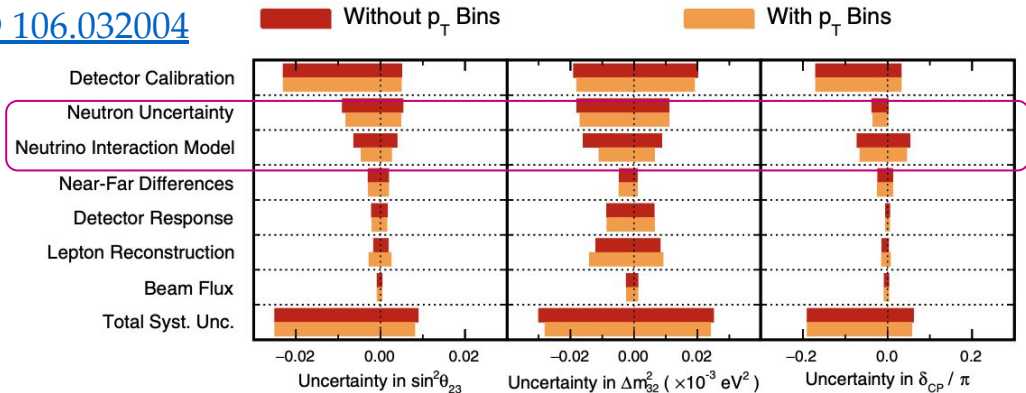
How does this feeds back into neutrino “new” physics? CP Violation @ long baseline

Type of Uncertainty	$\nu_e/\bar{\nu}_e$ Candidate Relative Uncertainty (%)
Super-K Detector Model	1.5
Pion Final State Interaction and Rescattering Model	1.6
Neutrino Production and Interaction Model Constrained by ND280 Data	2.7
Electron Neutrino and Antineutrino Interaction Model	3.0
Nucleon Removal Energy in Interaction Model	3.7
Modeling of Neutral Current Interactions with Single γ Production	1.5
Modeling of Other Neutral Current Interactions	0.2
Total Systematic Uncertainty	6.0

T2K, [Nature 2020](#)

“uncertainty on the ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_e$ cross-sections... [is] the 2nd largest single source of systematic uncertainty in the CP asymmetry measurement.”

NOvA [PRD 106.032004](#)



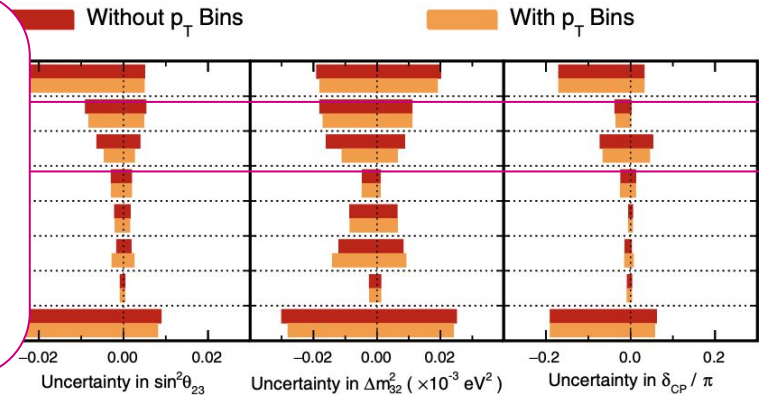
How does this feeds back into neutrino “new” physics? CP Violation @ long baseline

Type of Uncertainty	$\nu_e/\bar{\nu}_e$ Candidate Relative Uncertainty (%)
Super-K Detector Model	1.5
Pion Final State Interaction and Rescattering Model	1.6
Neutrino Production and Interaction Model Constrained by ND280 Data	2.7
Electron Neutrino and Antineutrino Interaction Model	3.0
Nucleon Removal Energy in Interaction Model	3.7
Modeling of Neutral Current Interactions with Single γ Production	1.5
Modeling of Other Neutral Current Interactions	0.2
Total Systematic Uncertainty	6.0

T2K, [Nature 2020](#)

“uncertainty on the ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_e$ cross-sections... [is] the 2nd largest single source of systematic uncertainty in the CP asymmetry measurement.”

DUNE/HyperK/JUNO
CP violation uncertainty budget
is extremely stringent.
We need to do better than this!



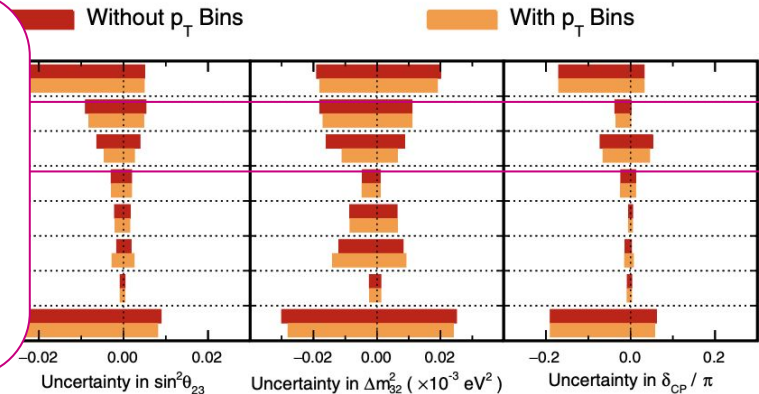
How does this feeds back into neutrino “new” physics? CP Violation @ long baseline

Type of Uncertainty	$\nu_e/\bar{\nu}_e$ Candidate Relative Uncertainty (%)
Super-K Detector Model	1.5
Pion Final State Interaction and Rescattering Model	1.6
Neutrino Production and Interaction Model Constrained by ND280 Data	2.7
Electron Neutrino and Antineutrino Interaction Model	3.0
Nucleon Removal Energy in Interaction Model	3.7
Modeling of Neutral Current Interactions with Single γ Production	1.5
Modeling of Other Neutral Current Interactions	0.2
Total Systematic Uncertainty	6.0

T2K, [Nature 2020](#)

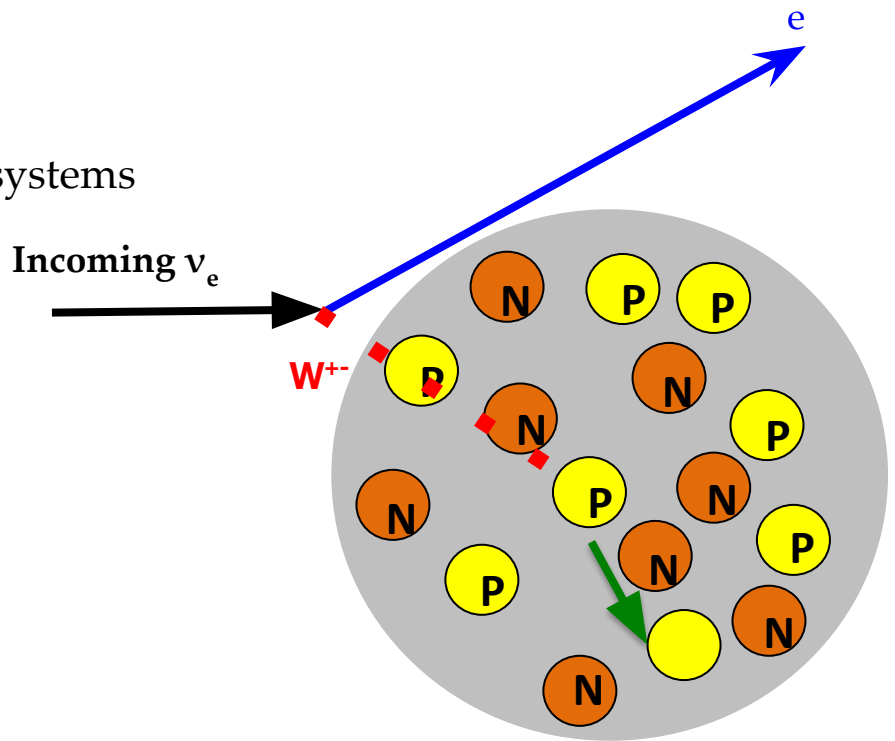
“uncertainty on the ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_e$ cross-sections... [is] the 2nd largest single source of systematic uncertainty in the CP asymmetry measurement.”

New XS measurements from
[T2K](#), [Wagasci-BABYMind](#), [NINJA](#),
[MINERvA](#) (Thu afternoon)
New Ideas: [nuSCOPE](#) (Thu morning)



The Nucleus is a Complex System

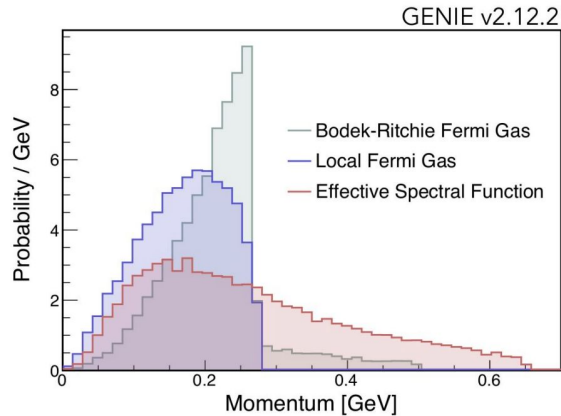
Neutrinos do not interact in a vacuum:
they scattering off complex nuclear and atomic systems



The Nucleus is a Complex System

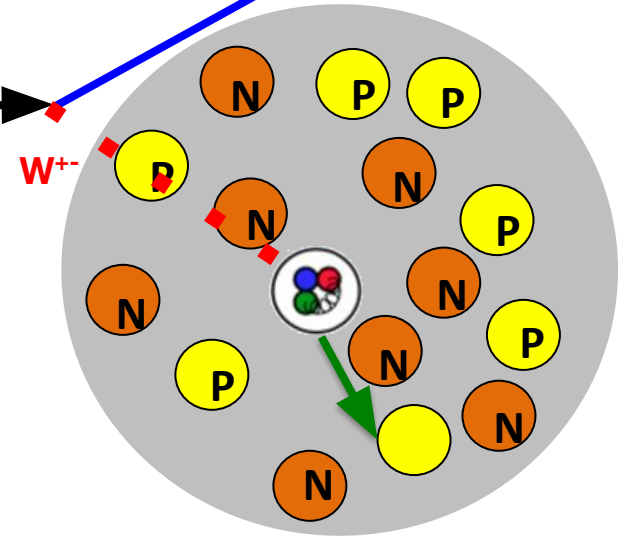
Neutrinos do not interact in a vacuum:
they scattering off complex nuclear and atomic systems

The nucleon is not at rest!
Fermi Motion must be modeled



Credit: M. Del Tutto

Incoming ν_e



The Nucleus is a Complex System

Neutrinos do not interact in a vacuum:
they scattering off complex nuclear and atomic systems

Strongly interacting nucleons

→ alteration of electroweak couplings modeled w/ RPA or more complex models.

[Implementation of the Martini–Ericson–Chanfray–Marteau RPA-based \(anti\)neutrino cross section model in the GENIE neutrino event generator](#)

→ rich physics effects for forward-going charged lepton

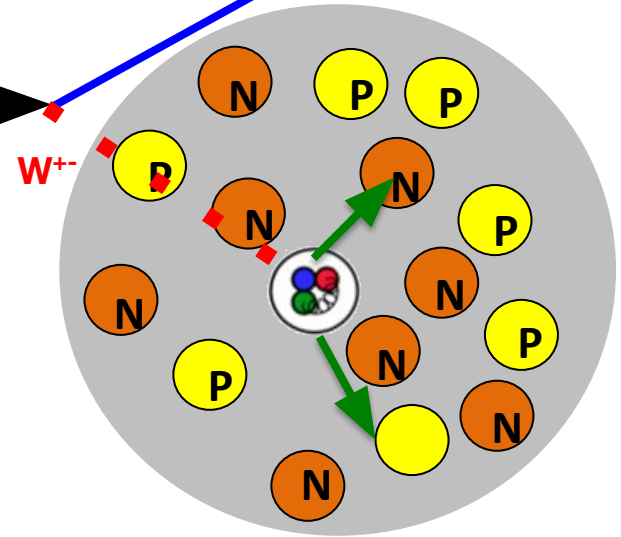
Interactions with correlated pair of nucleons:

→ Meson Exchange Current

→ Short Range Correlations

[Short-Range Correlations and Meson-Exchange Currents in neutrino and electron scattering](#)

Incoming ν_e



The Nucleus is a Complex System

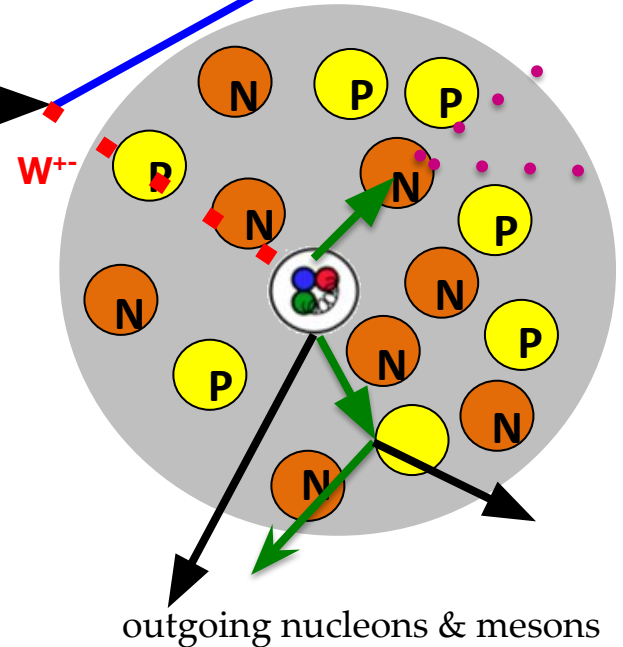
Neutrinos do not interact in a vacuum:
they scattering off complex nuclear and atomic systems

Final State Interactions

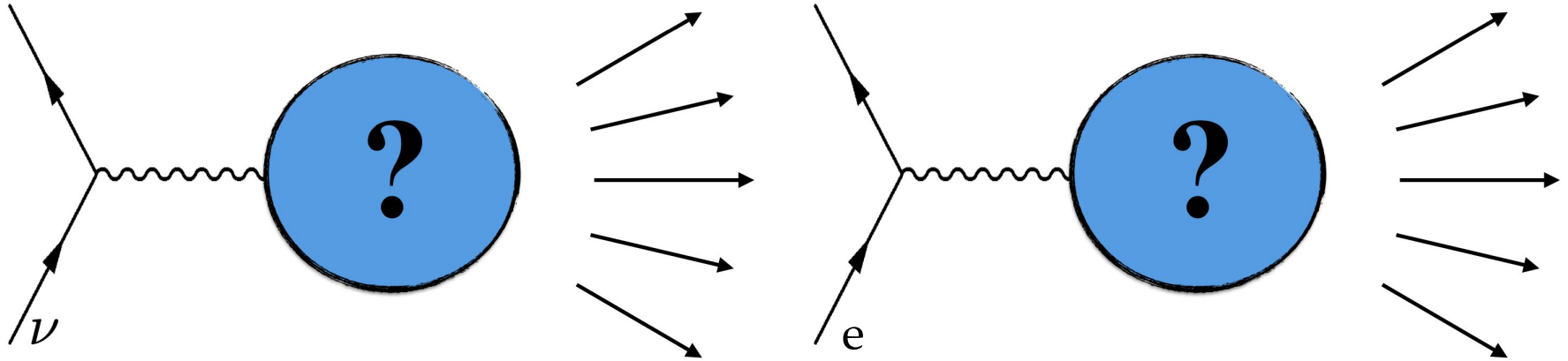
→ charged and neutral mesons & nucleons

2+ outgoing protons possible even for “true”
CCQE events

Incoming ν_e

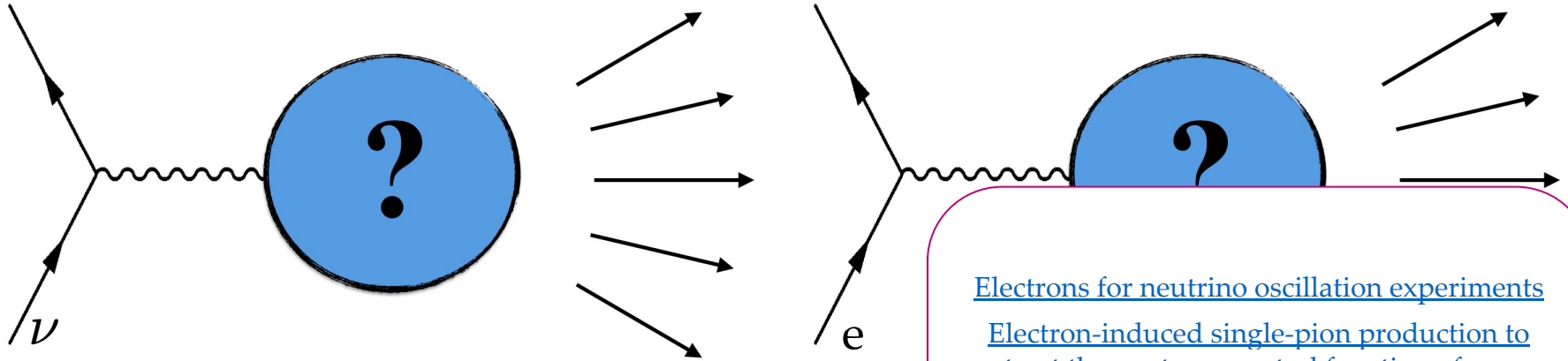


A word on charge lepton scattering



Electron scattering experiments enormous advantage: the energy of the incoming lepton is KNOWN. Data from these experiments helps us constrain “the vector” portion of the V-A interaction common to neutrinos! Many contributions from both theory and experiment

A word on charge lepton scattering

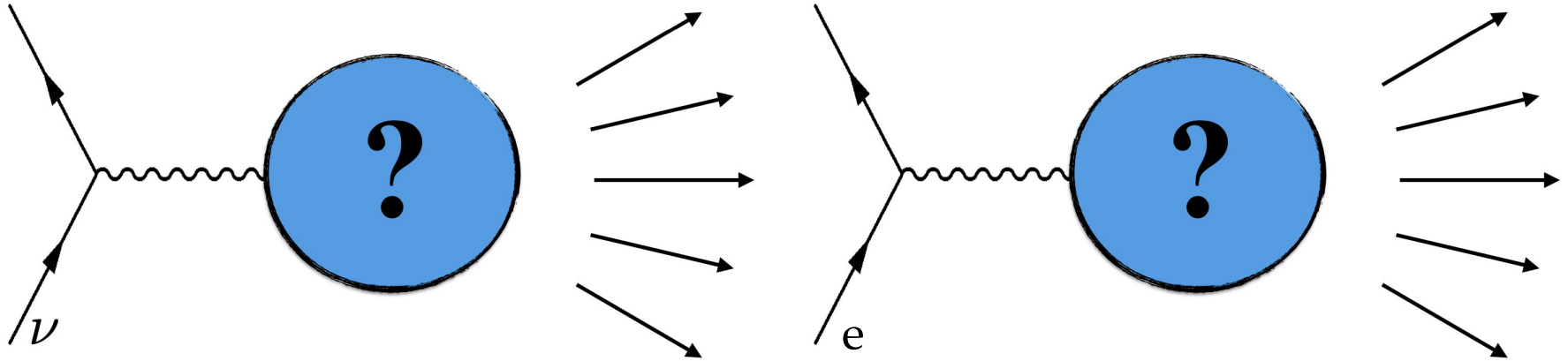


Electron scattering experiments enormous advantage: the energy is known. Data from these experiments helps us constrain “the vector” part of the neutrino! Many contributions from both theory and experiment

[Electrons for neutrino oscillation experiments](#)
[Electron-induced single-pion production to extract the neutron spectral function of argon 40.](#)

[Global Extraction of the C-12, Ca-40, and Fe-56 Nuclear Electromagnetic Response Functions and Comparisons to Nuclear Theory and Neutrino/Electron Monte Carlo Generators](#)

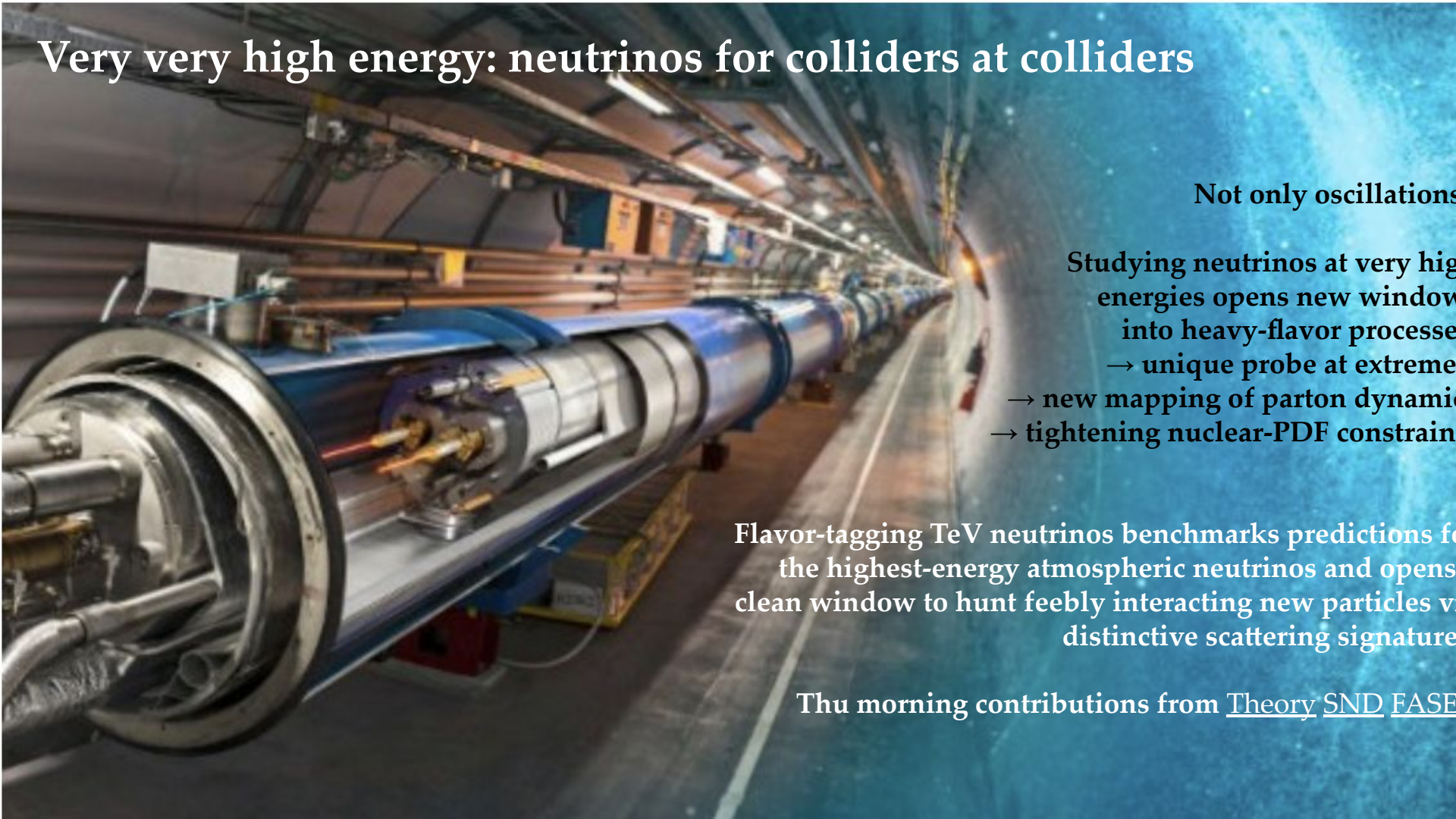
A word on charge lepton scattering



Electron scattering experiments enormous advantage: the energy of the incoming lepton is KNOWN. Data from these experiments helps us constrain “the vector” portion of the V-A interaction common to neutrinos! To probe the axial nucleon form factor we can only use neutrinos...

[The Axial Form Factor Extracted from Elementary Targets](#)

Very very high energy: neutrinos for colliders at colliders



Not only oscillations

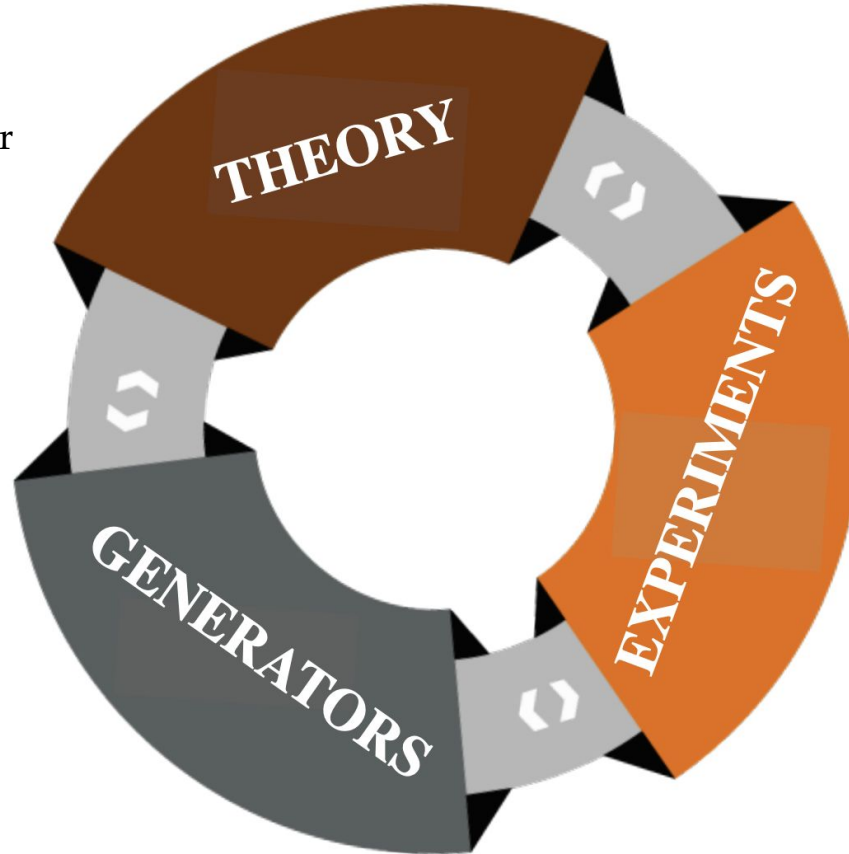
- Studying neutrinos at very high energies opens new windows into heavy-flavor processes
- unique probe at extreme
- new mapping of parton dynamics
- tightening nuclear-PDF constraints

Flavor-tagging TeV neutrinos benchmarks predictions for the highest-energy atmospheric neutrinos and opens a clean window to hunt feebly interacting new particles via distinctive scattering signatures

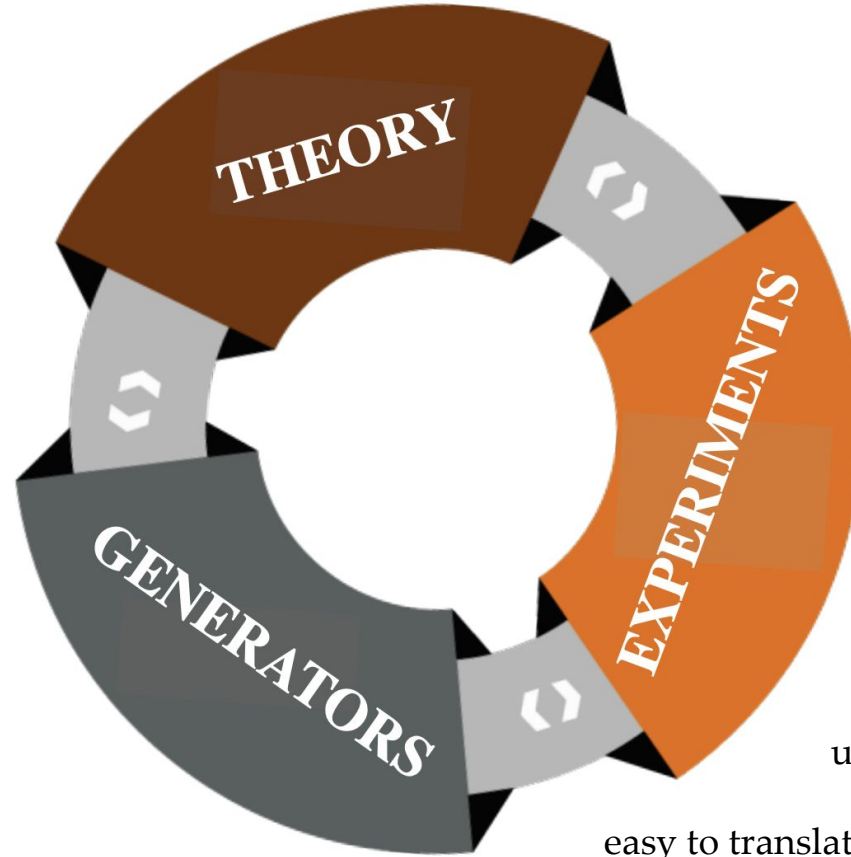
Thu morning contributions from [Theory](#) [SND](#) [FASE](#)

It all plays together

Continuous improvement of our understanding neutrino interactions from the interplay between model development (theory & implementation) and cross section results.

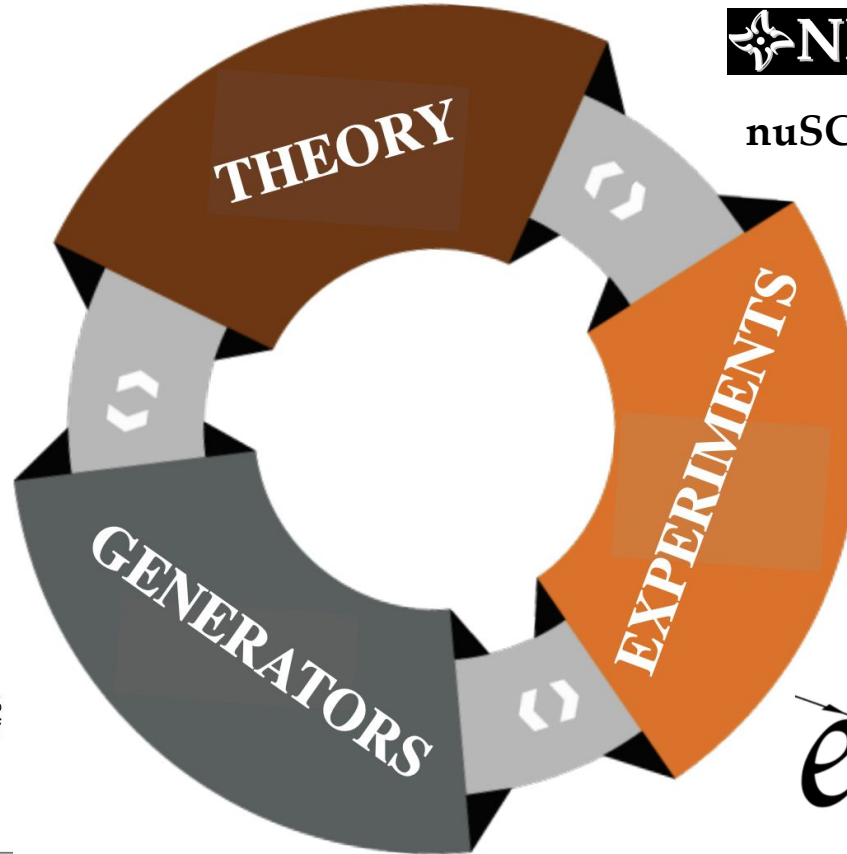


It all plays together

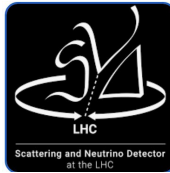


Aim to perform measurements in a form useful for model building, and produce predictions easy to translate into usable observables

It all plays together

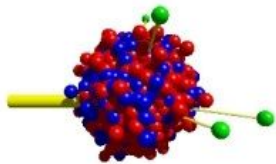


nuSCOPE



Gen Session
[Tue Afternoon](#)

Genie



GiBUU
The Giessen Boltzma



This week for WG2: Contributions

PLENARIES

This Afternoon:

A Theoretical Overview of Neutrino Interaction XSs

-- Raul Jimenez

An Experimental Overview of Neutrino Interactions

-- Afroditi Papadopoulou

Friday afternoon:

Neutrino cross-sections at the BSM boundary

-- Zahra Khajeh Tabrizi

An overview of cross-section generators

-- Jan Sobczyk

PARALLELS:

Talks:

→ 11 experimental efforts,


→ 5 theory,

→ 4 generator,

→ 4 joint with WG1

→ 6 posters

This week for WG2: Schedule (please check the indico [here](#))

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Early Morning						Closeout
Late Morning		Experiment Argon		Experiment v in Colliders		
Early Afternoon	Plenary XS theory overview XS exp overview	WG1-WG2 joint		Experiment JParc & Minerva		
Late Afternoon	Poster session	Gen		Theory	Plenary XS in BSM results XS Gen overview	

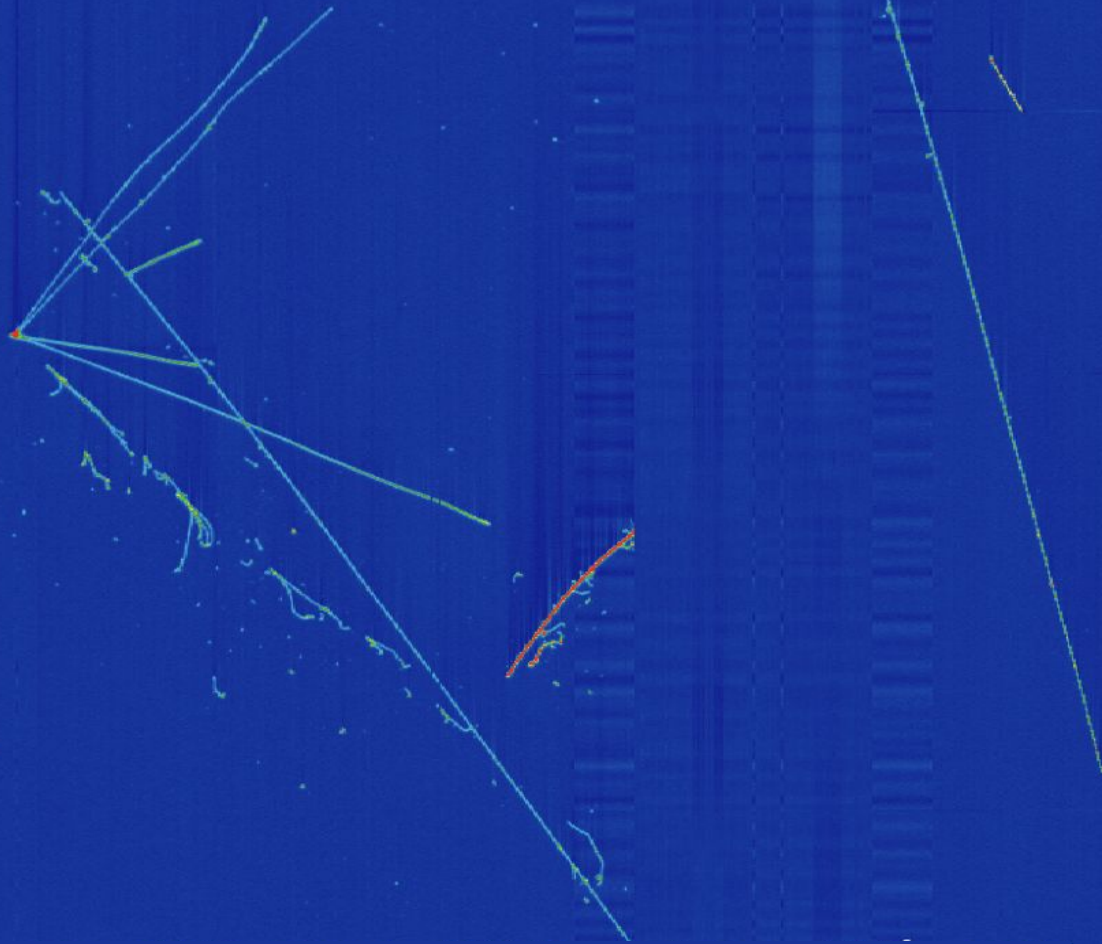
In ν interaction physics much needs to be done...

... happy workshopping
everyone!

Thank you!

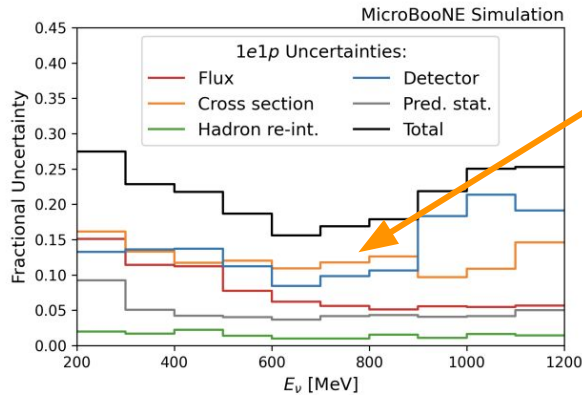
Special thanks for your help in preparing this talk:
Adi Ashkenazi

Back up

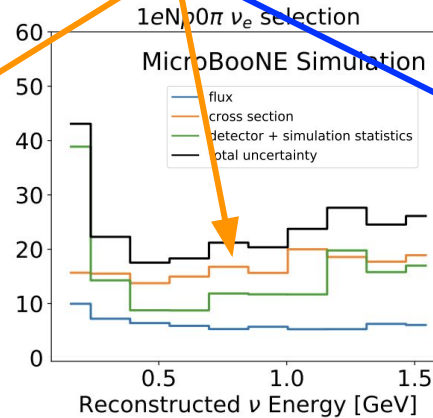


How does this feeds back into neutrino “new” physics? Anomaly hunting @ short baseline

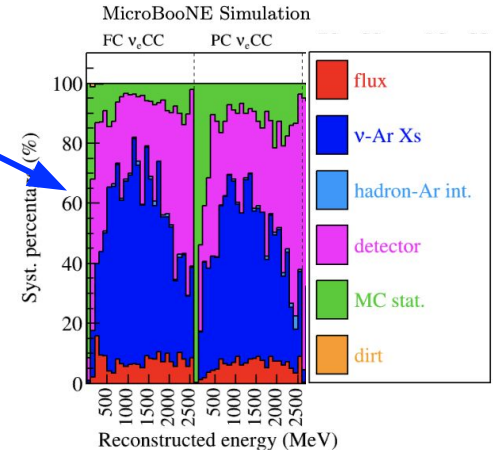
ν_e Cross Section Systematics



CC-QE like
[Phys. Rev. D105, 112003 \(2022\)](#)



Pionless
[Phys. Rev. D105, 112004 \(2022\)](#)



Inclusive
[Phys. Rev. D105, 112005 \(2022\)](#)