

Neutrino Physics with Reactors



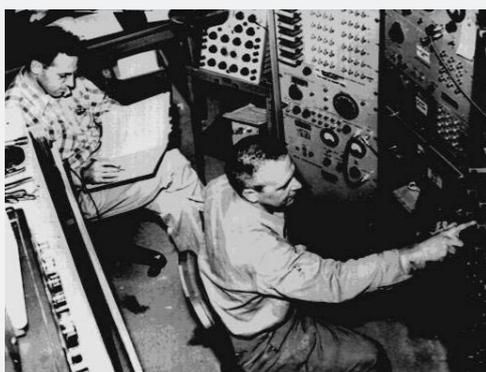
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Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

PIC2018, Bogota, Colombia
11-15 September 2018

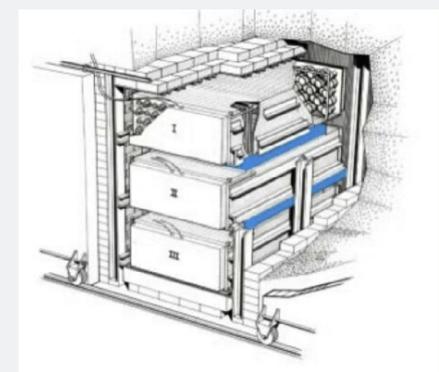


*member of Daya Bay and JUNO collaboration

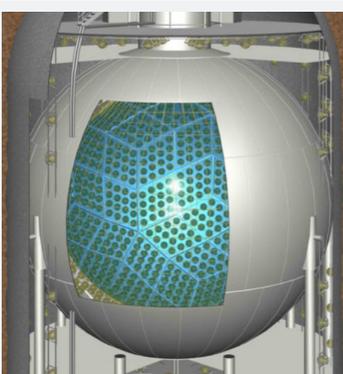
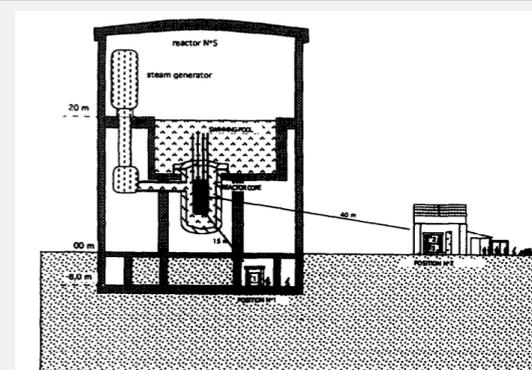
Reactor Neutrinos - Decades of Measurements



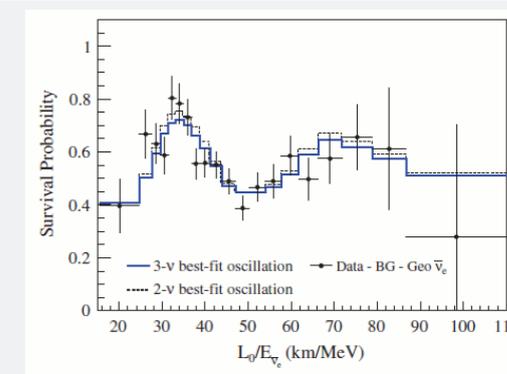
1950s: Savannah River
Discovery of (anti)neutrinos



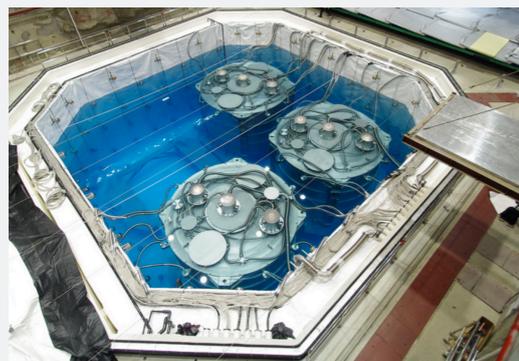
1980s+90s: ILL, Bugey,...
Reactor neutrino flux measurements



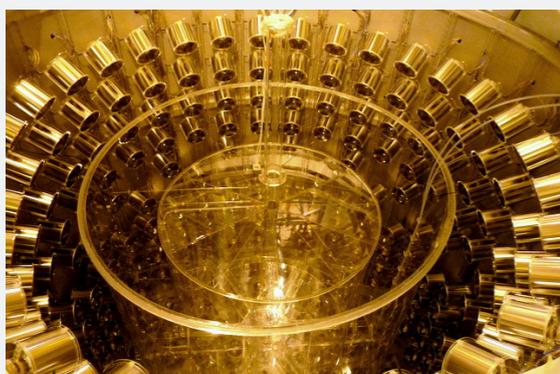
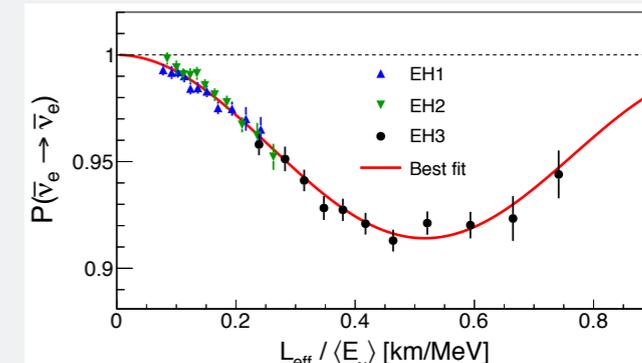
2000s: KamLAND
First evidence for Δm^2_{21} -driven oscillations



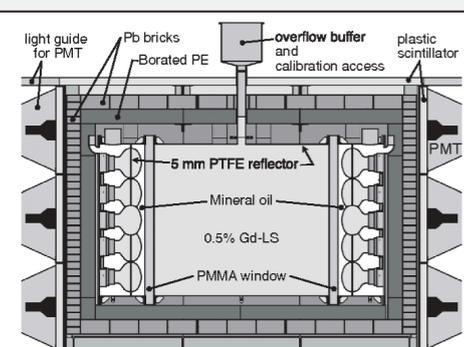
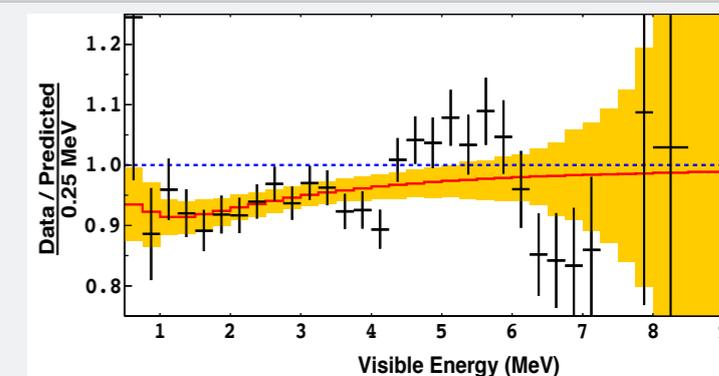
Era of the Precision Measurements



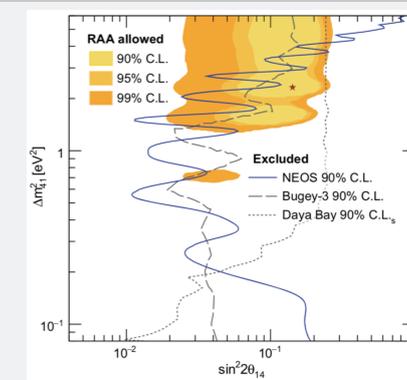
2012: Daya Bay, RENO, Double CHOOZ
Non-zero θ_{13} mixing angle



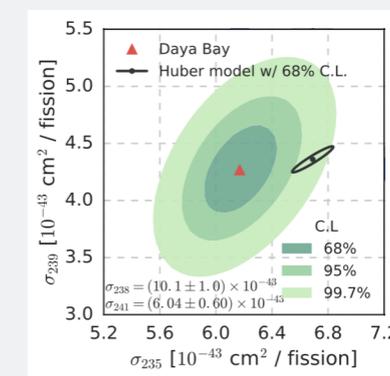
2014: Double Chooz, Daya Bay, RENO,
'Bump' in energy spectrum



Since 2014: Daya Bay, Double Chooz, RENO, NEOS, STEREO, PROSPECT,...
Reactor anomaly & Sterile Neutrinos



2017: Daya Bay, RENO
Fuel evolution



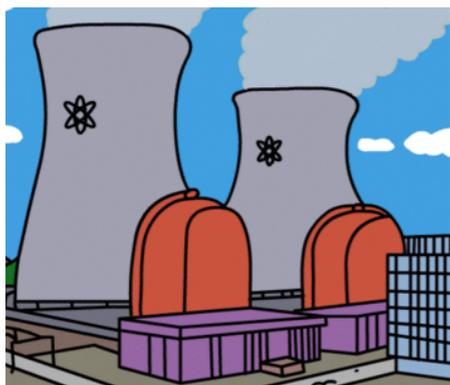


Outline



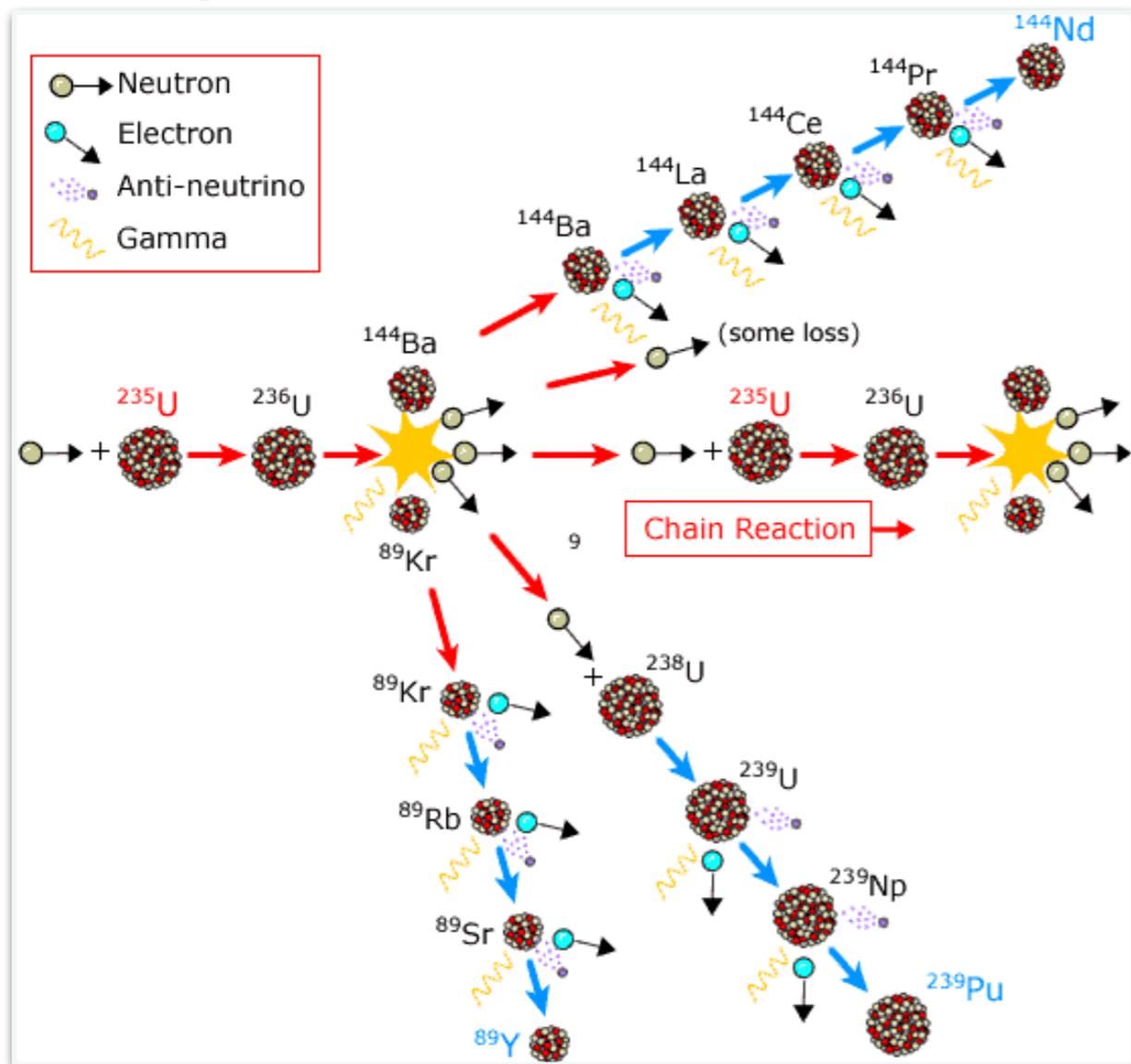
- **Reactor neutrinos**
 - Production process
 - Oscillations
- **Quest for θ_{13} mixing angle**
 - Experiments
 - Detection
 - Results
- **Reactor neutrino anomalies**
 - Reactor neutrino spectrum anomaly
 - Fuel evolution & reactor neutrino flux anomaly
- **A taste of upcoming experiments**

Reactor Neutrinos

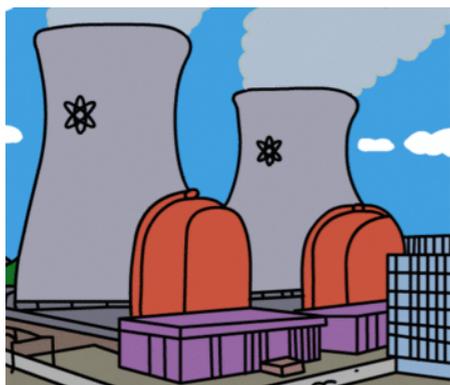


Nuclear reactor:
 Four main isotopes participate in fissions:
 ^{235}U , ^{238}U , ^{239}Pu , ^{241}Pu

Complex reactions in the reactor

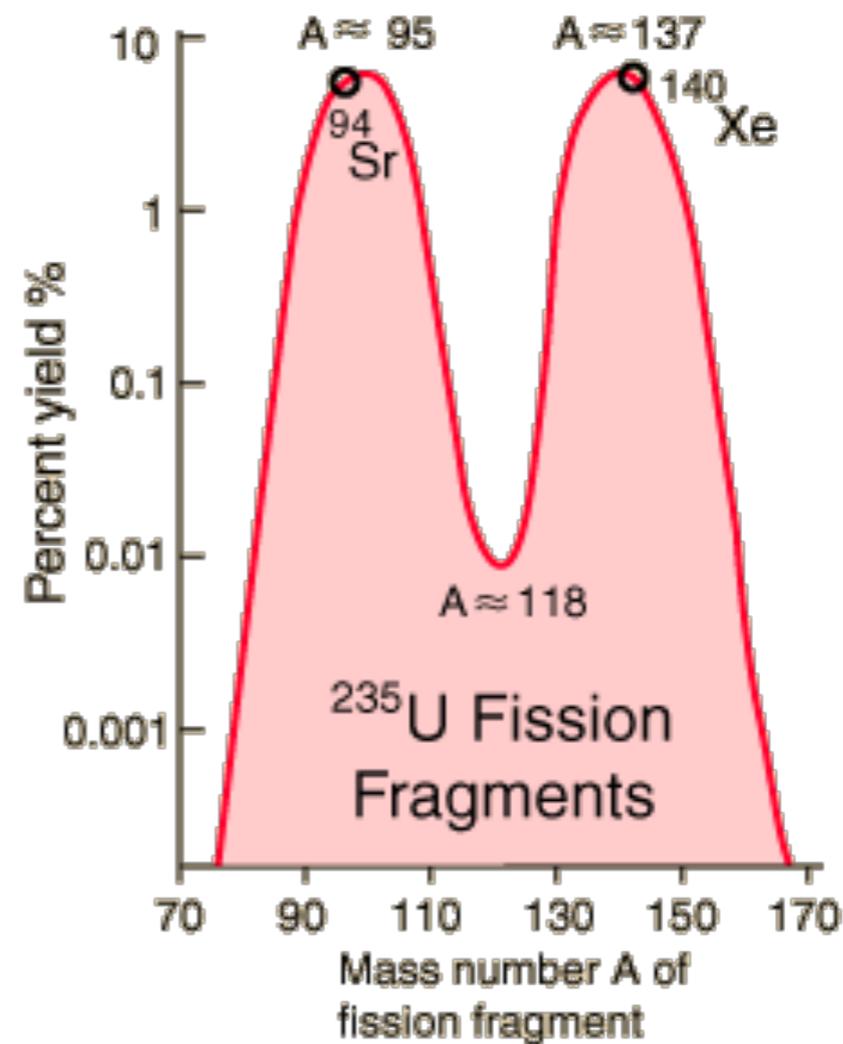
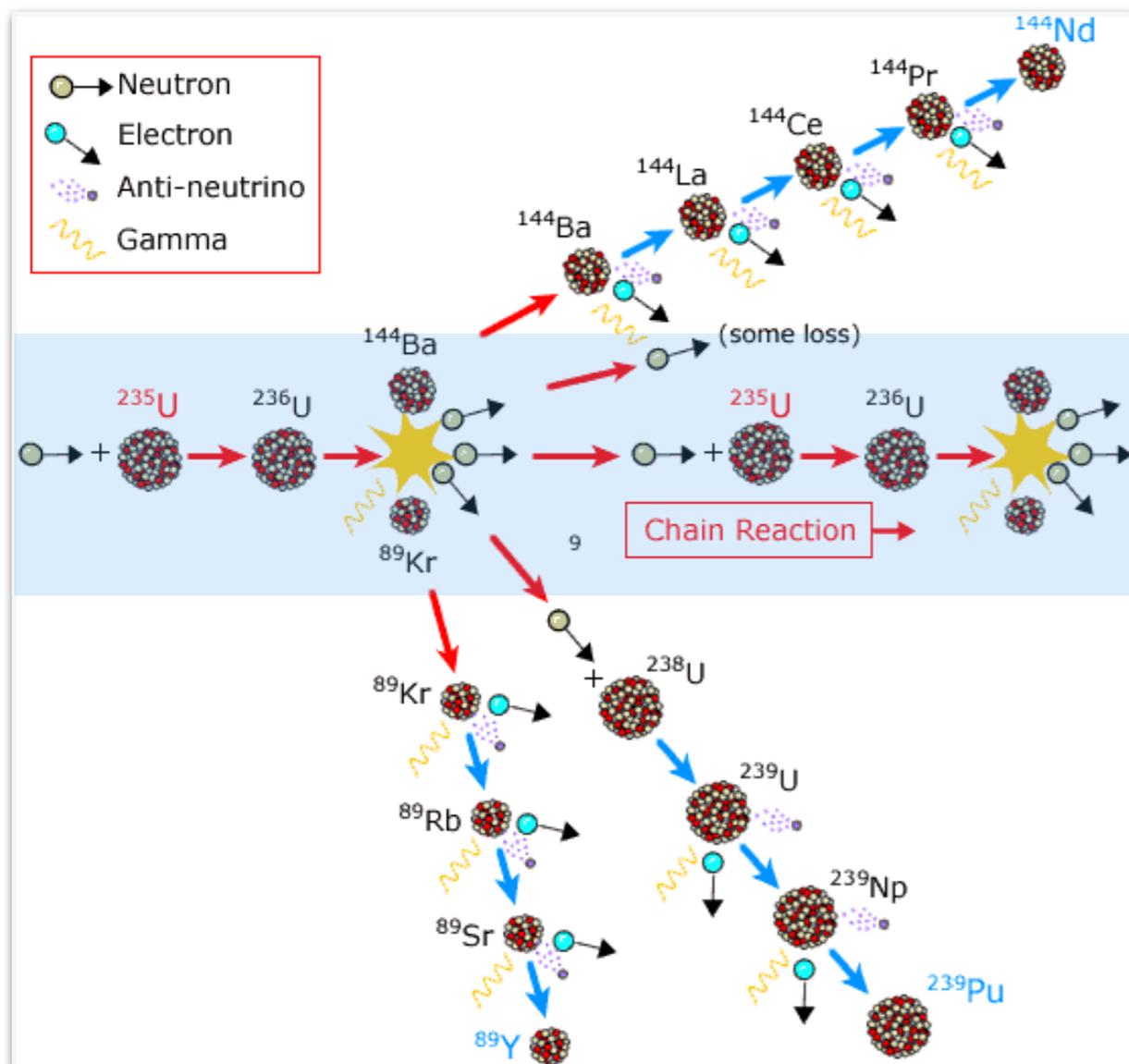


Reactor Neutrinos



Nuclear reactor:
Four main isotopes participate in fissions:
 ^{235}U , ^{238}U , ^{239}Pu , ^{241}Pu

The basic chain reaction of ^{235}U

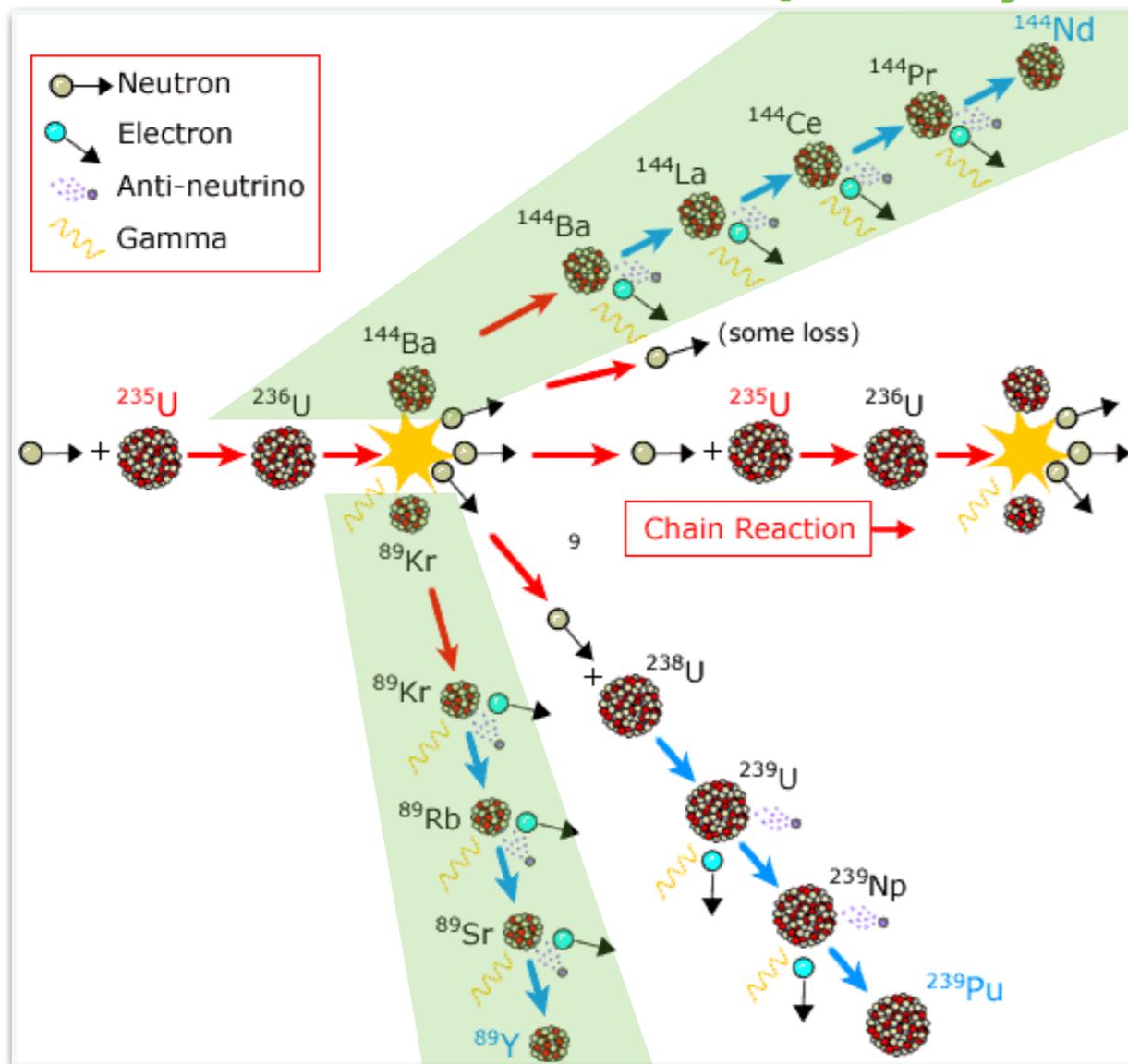


Reactor Neutrinos



Nuclear reactor:
 Four main isotopes participate in fissions:
 ^{235}U , ^{238}U , ^{239}Pu , ^{241}Pu

Neutron-rich elements - β decay cascade



Reactor: Source of pure $\bar{\nu}_e$
 (Reactor neutrino = electron antineutrino)

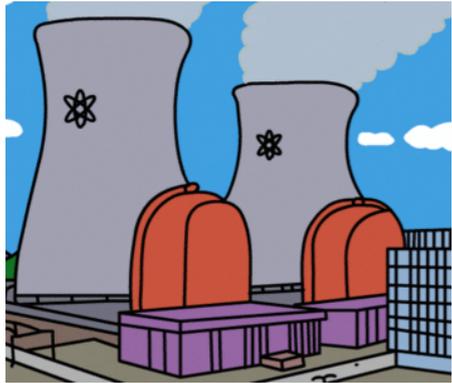


Reactor: Powerful source of $\bar{\nu}_e$

$\sim 6 \bar{\nu}_e$ per fission

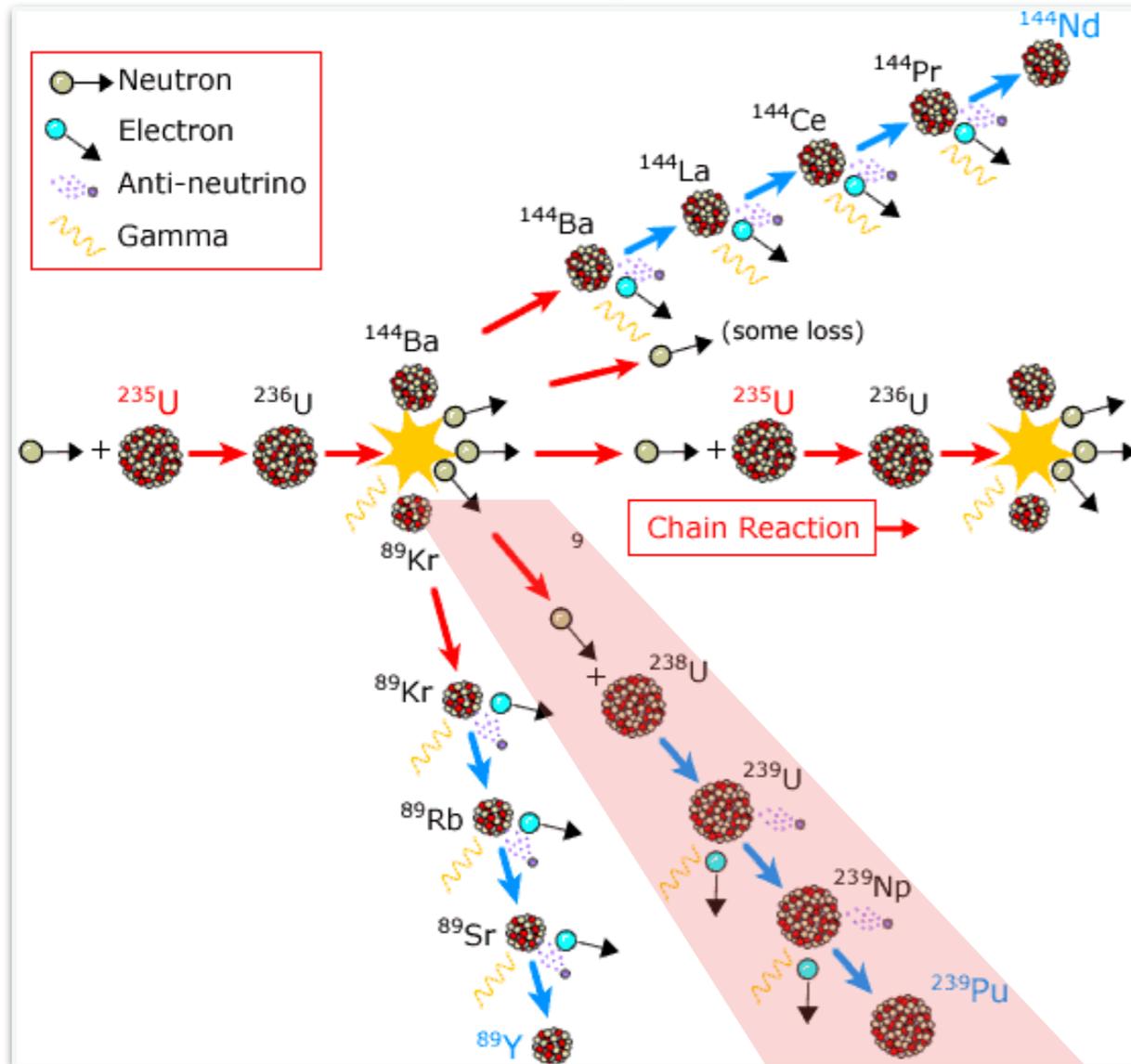
$$2 \times 10^{20} \bar{\nu}_e/\text{second}/\text{GW}_{th}$$

Reactor Neutrinos

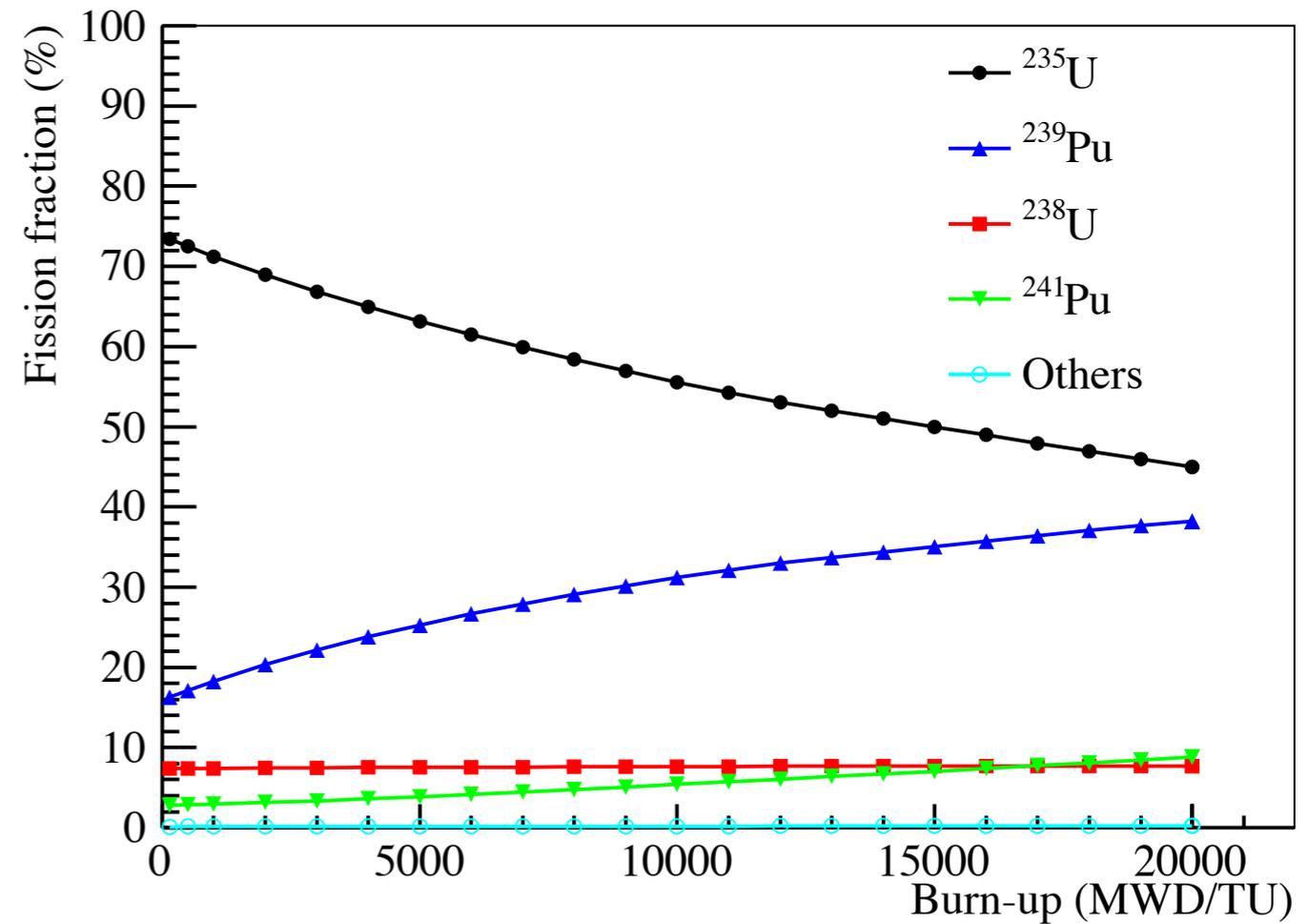


Nuclear reactor:
Four main isotopes participate in fissions:
 ^{235}U , ^{238}U , **^{239}Pu** , ^{241}Pu

Production of plutonium



Evolution of the fuel with burn-up





Neutrino Mixing and Oscillations (2ν's)



flavor (weak) states

mixing matrix

mass states

Two-neutrino mixing:

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

$$\Delta m^2 \equiv m_2^2 - m_1^2$$

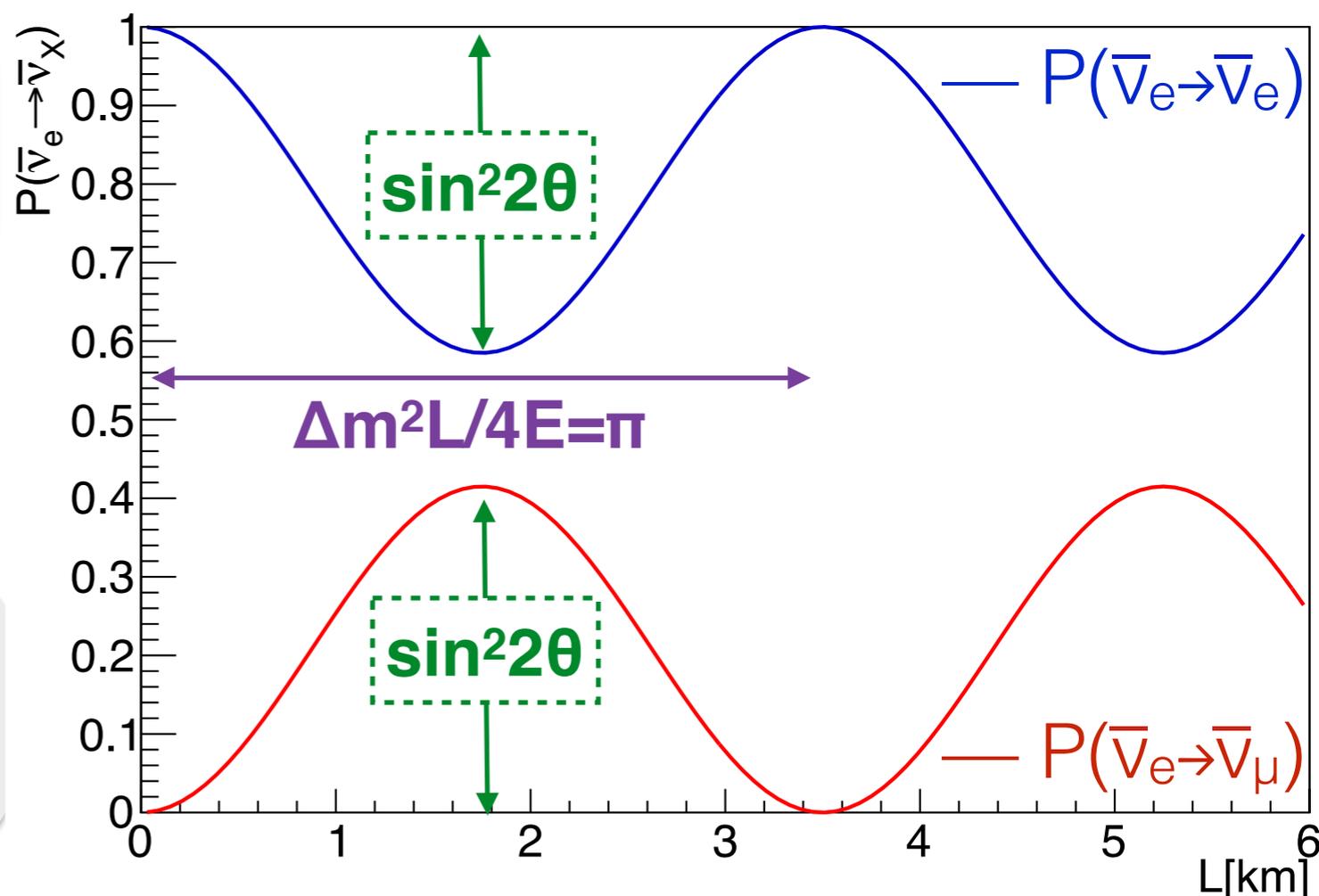
Disappearance

$$P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e}(L, E) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E}$$

$$P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e} + P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu} = 1$$

Appearance

$$P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu}(L, E) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E}$$



Three-neutrino mixing:

Atmospheric, accelerator ν

Solar, reactor L~60 km ν

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{-i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

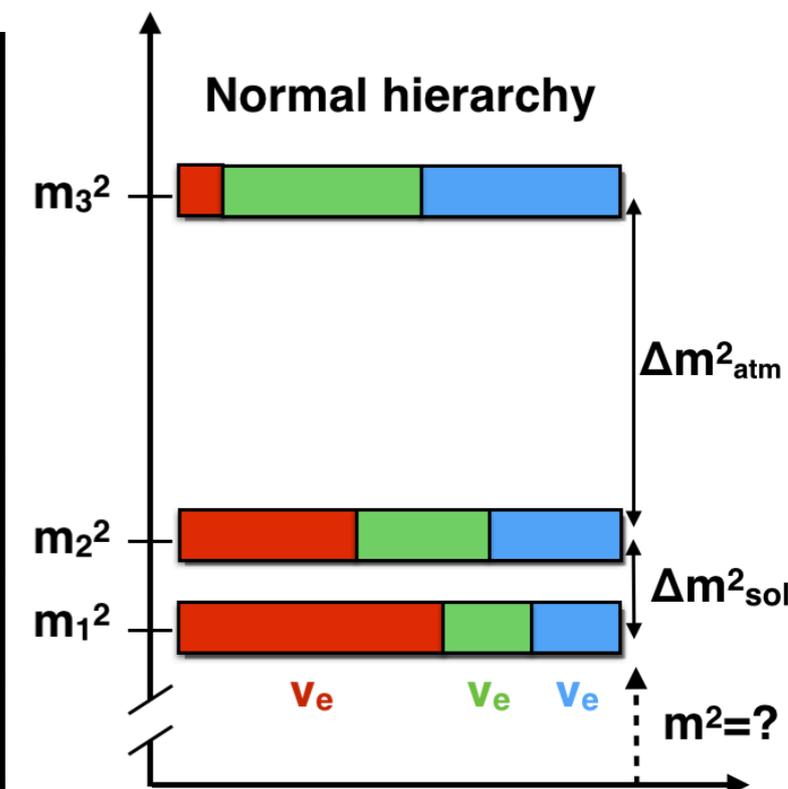
Reactor L~2 km, accelerator ν

$c_{ij} = \cos\theta_{ij}$
 $s_{ij} = \sin\theta_{ij}$

Oscillation parameters:

Parameter	Value	Open questions
Δm_{21}^2 *	$7.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$	—
$ \Delta m_{31}^2 \approx \Delta m_{32}^2 $ *	$2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$	Hierarchy? $\Leftrightarrow \Delta m_{31}^2 \leq 0$
θ_{12} *	33°	—
θ_{23}	$45^\circ?$	Maximal? $\Leftrightarrow \theta_{23} \geq 45^\circ$
θ_{13} *	9°	—
δ_{CP}	$?^\circ$	Value?

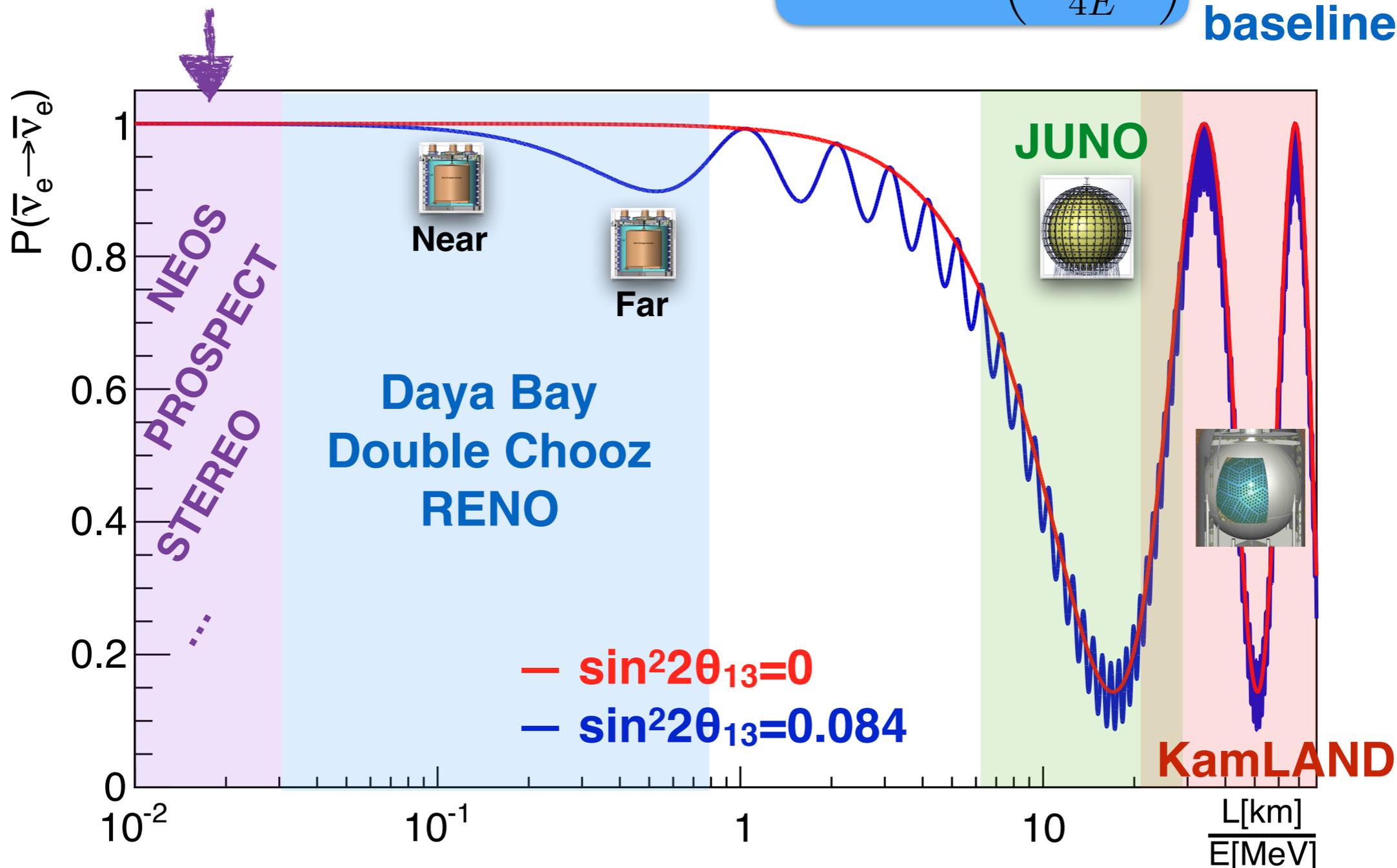
*Are measured by reactor neutrinos



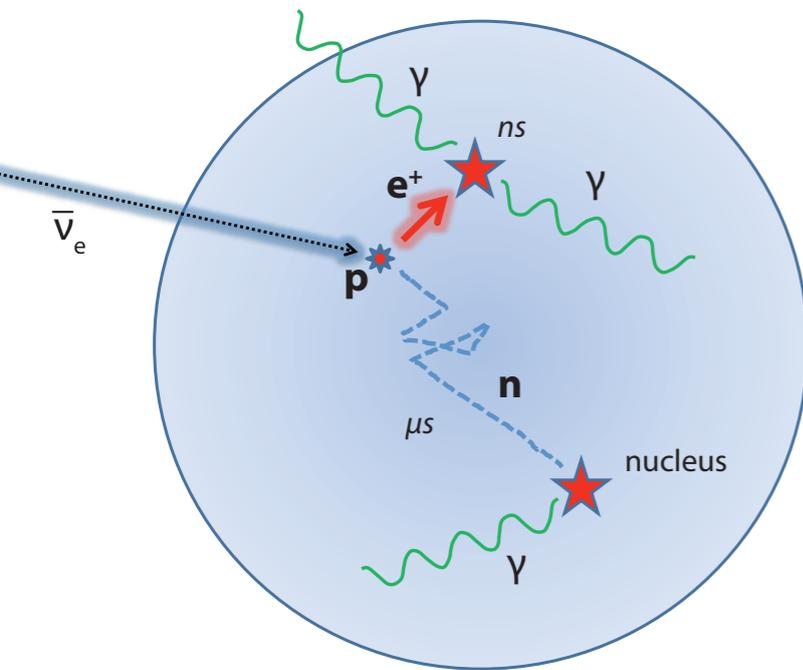
Two modes of oscillations: $P(\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \cos^4 \theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E} \right)$ **Medium baseline**

$-\sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{ee}^2 L}{4E} \right)$ **Short baseline**

Is there 3rd mode?!?

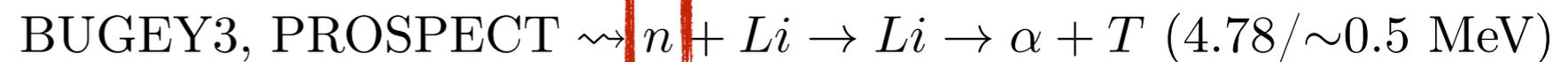
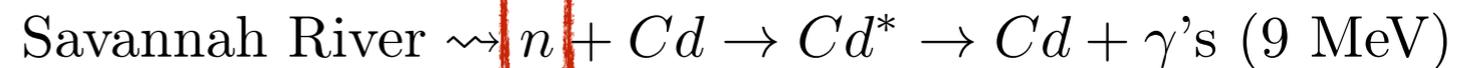
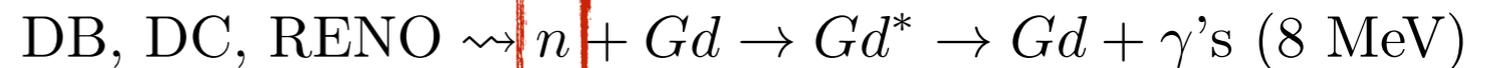


- **Primary method** - Inverse beta decay (IBD) in liquid scintillator



Coincidence in time

prompt signal delayed signal



- **Why IBD?**

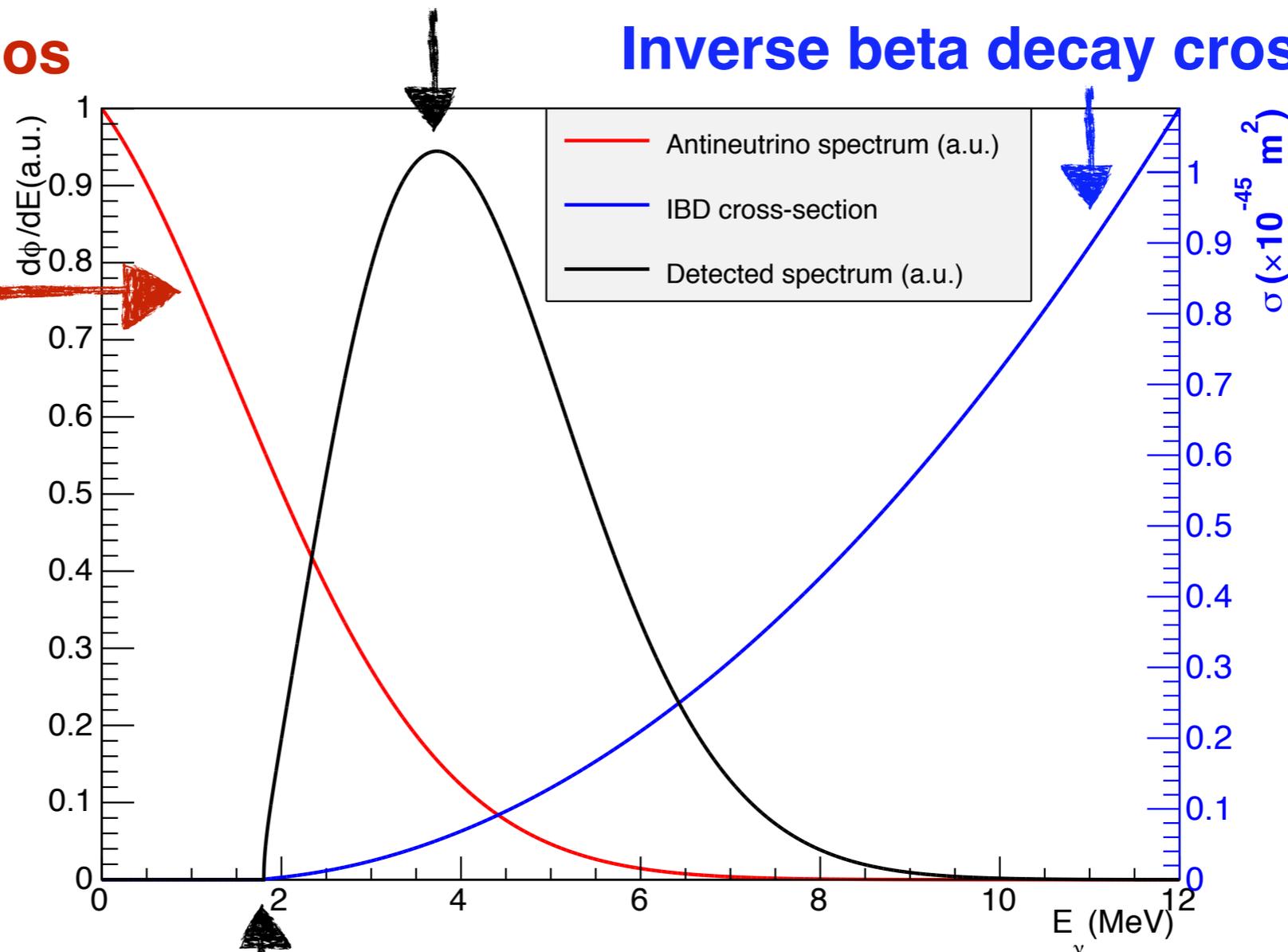
- Relatively large cross-section
- Distinctive coincidence signature
- Targets (H) already part of liquid scintillator

Typical detected spectrum

Flux of antineutrinos



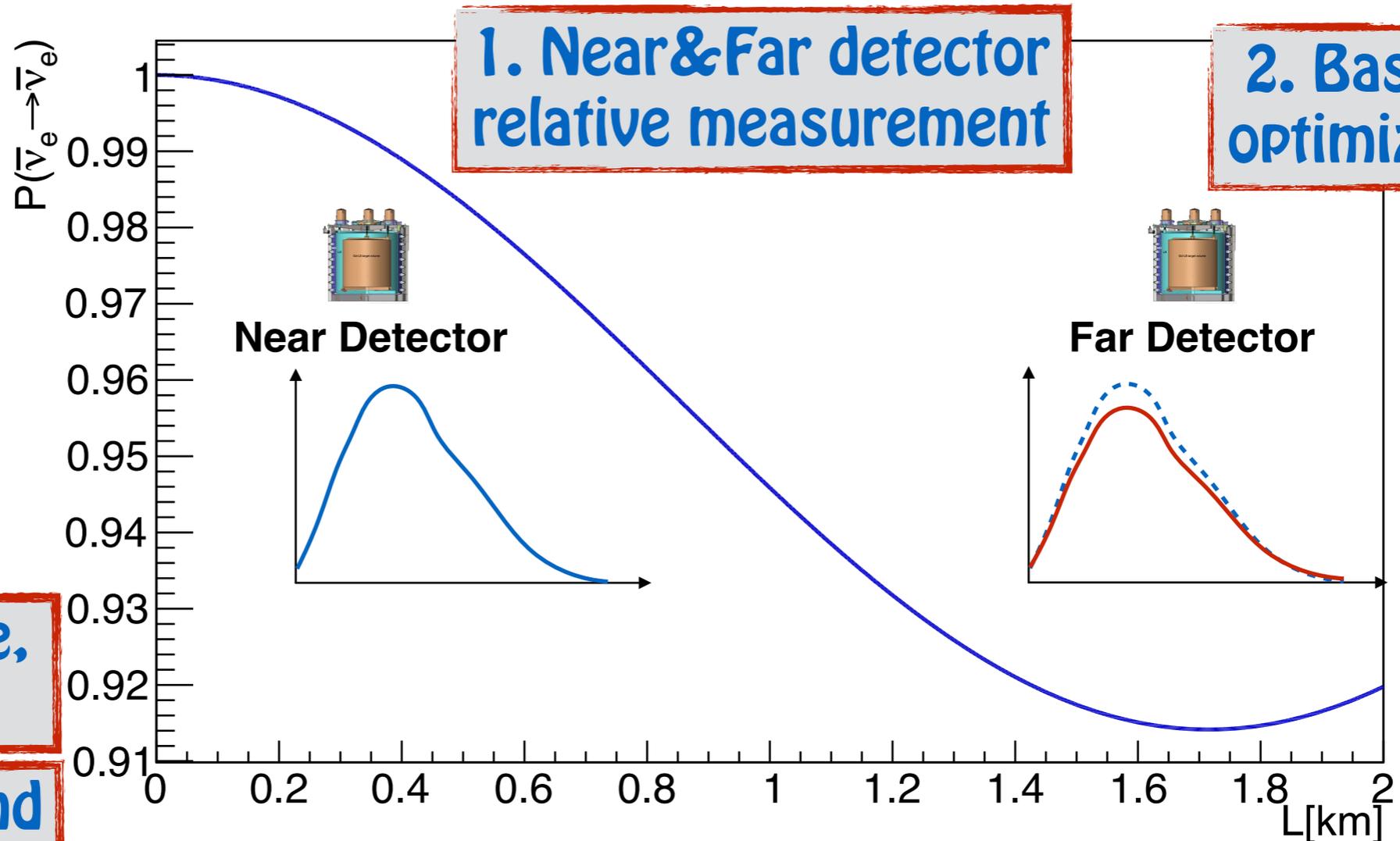
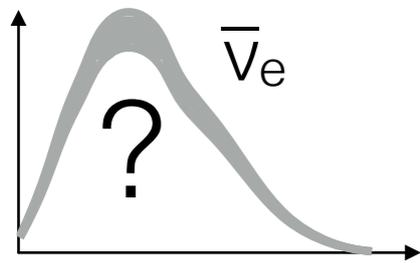
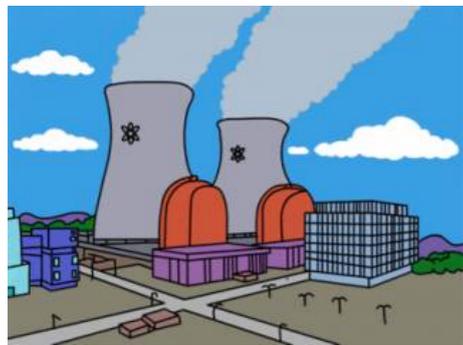
Inverse beta decay cross-section



IBD: $\bar{\nu} + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$
Threshold 1.8 MeV

Road to Measurement of θ_{13}

- Upper limit by CHOOZ experiment $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} < 0.15$ @ $\Delta m^2 = 2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$
- Main limitation - uncertainty in **expected flux** and **detection efficiency**
- Key features for success of current experiments:



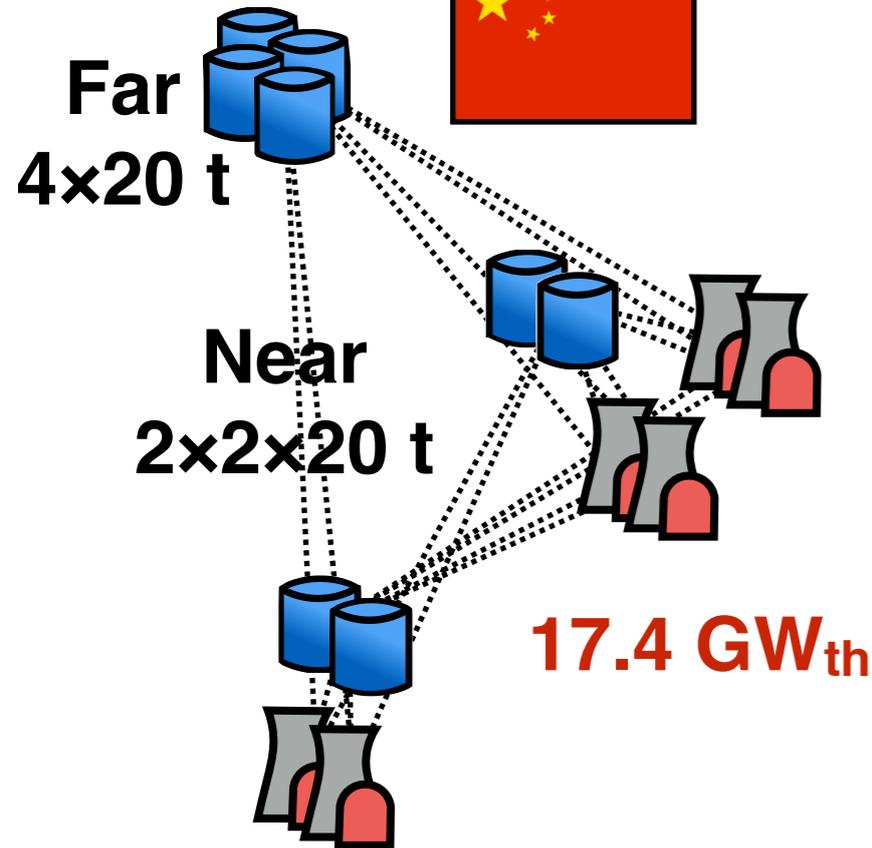
3. Powerful source, large detector(s)

+4. Low background

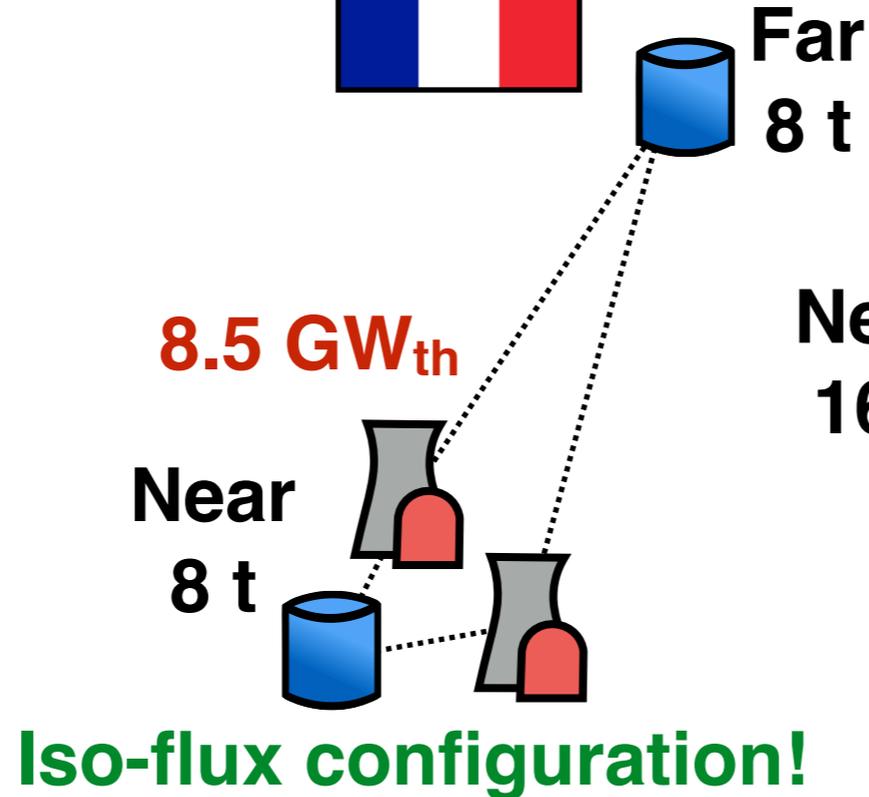
Mykaelyan & Sinev: Far/Near ratio reduces systematics:

$$\frac{R_{Far}}{R_{Near}} = \left(\frac{L_{Near}}{L_{Far}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{N_{Far}}{N_{Near}} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon_{Far}}{\epsilon_{Near}} \right) \left(\frac{P_{Far}(L_{Far})}{P_{Near}(L_{Near})} \right)$$

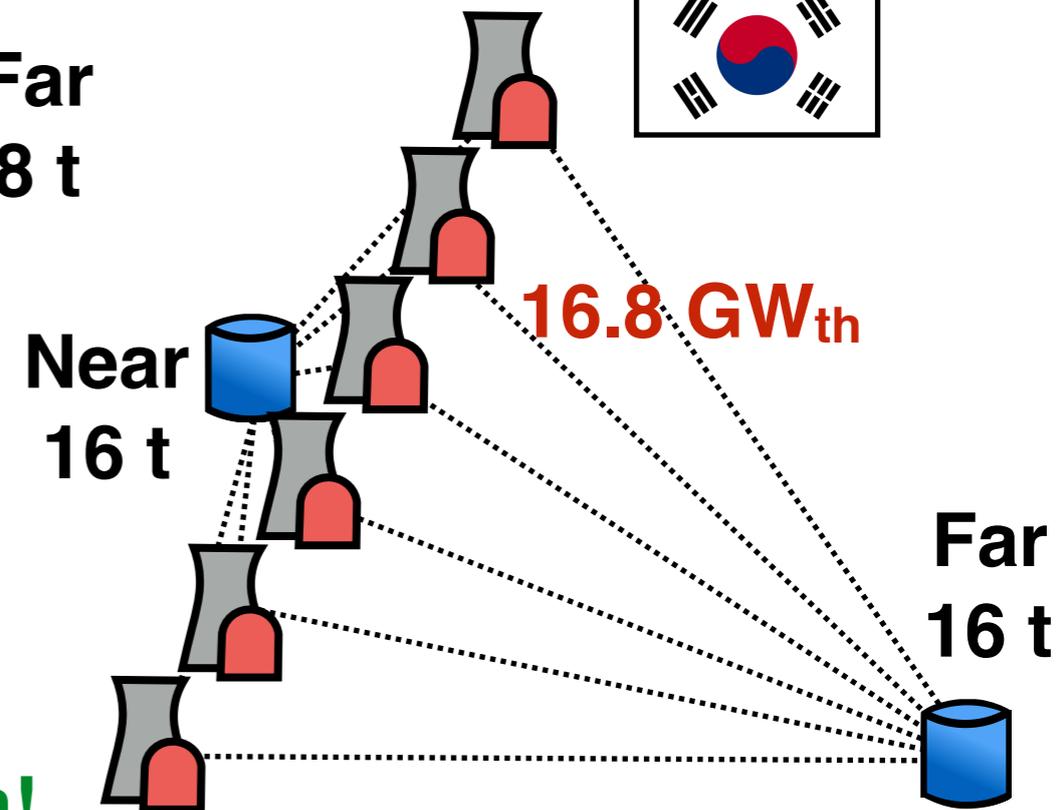
Daya Bay



Double Chooz

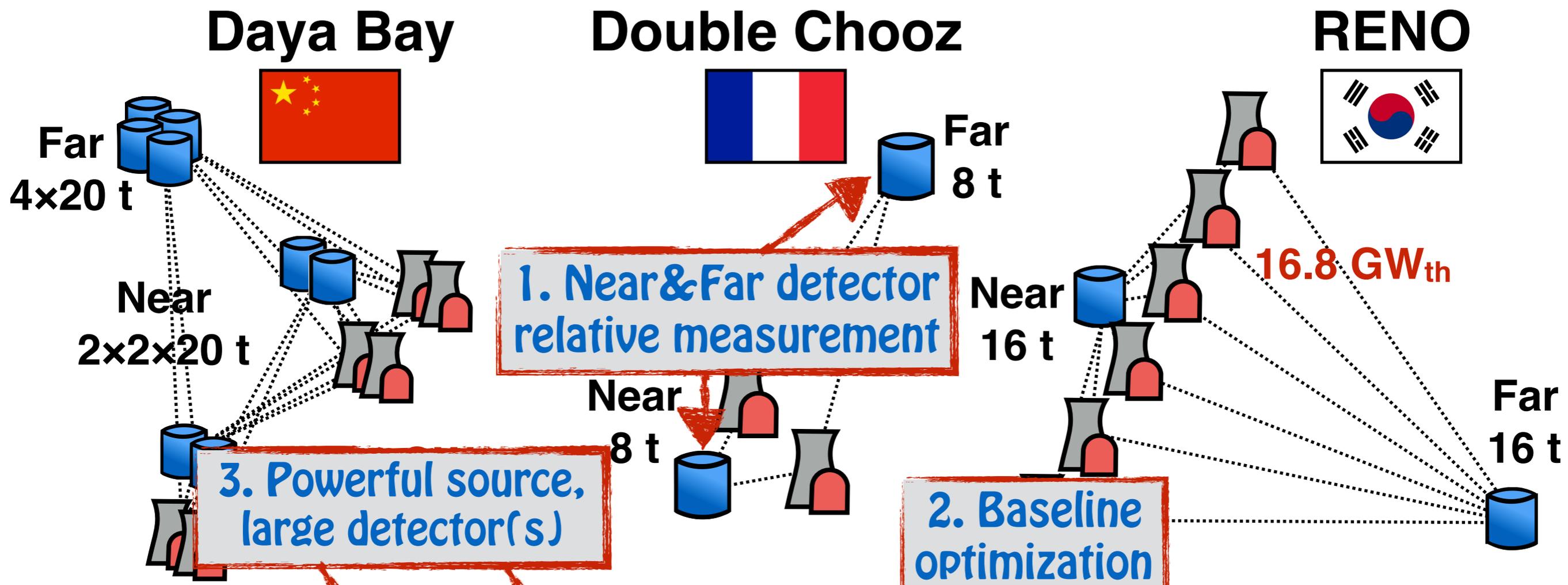


RENO



	Power [GW _{th}]	GdLS mass Near/Far [t]	Distance Near/Far [m]	Overburden [mwe]	Running until
Daya Bay	17.4	2x2x20 4x20	365, 490 1650	250 860	2020
Double Chooz	16.8	8 8	400 1050	120 300	Dec 2017 (Finished)
RENO	8.5	16 16	290 1380	120 450	2020-2021

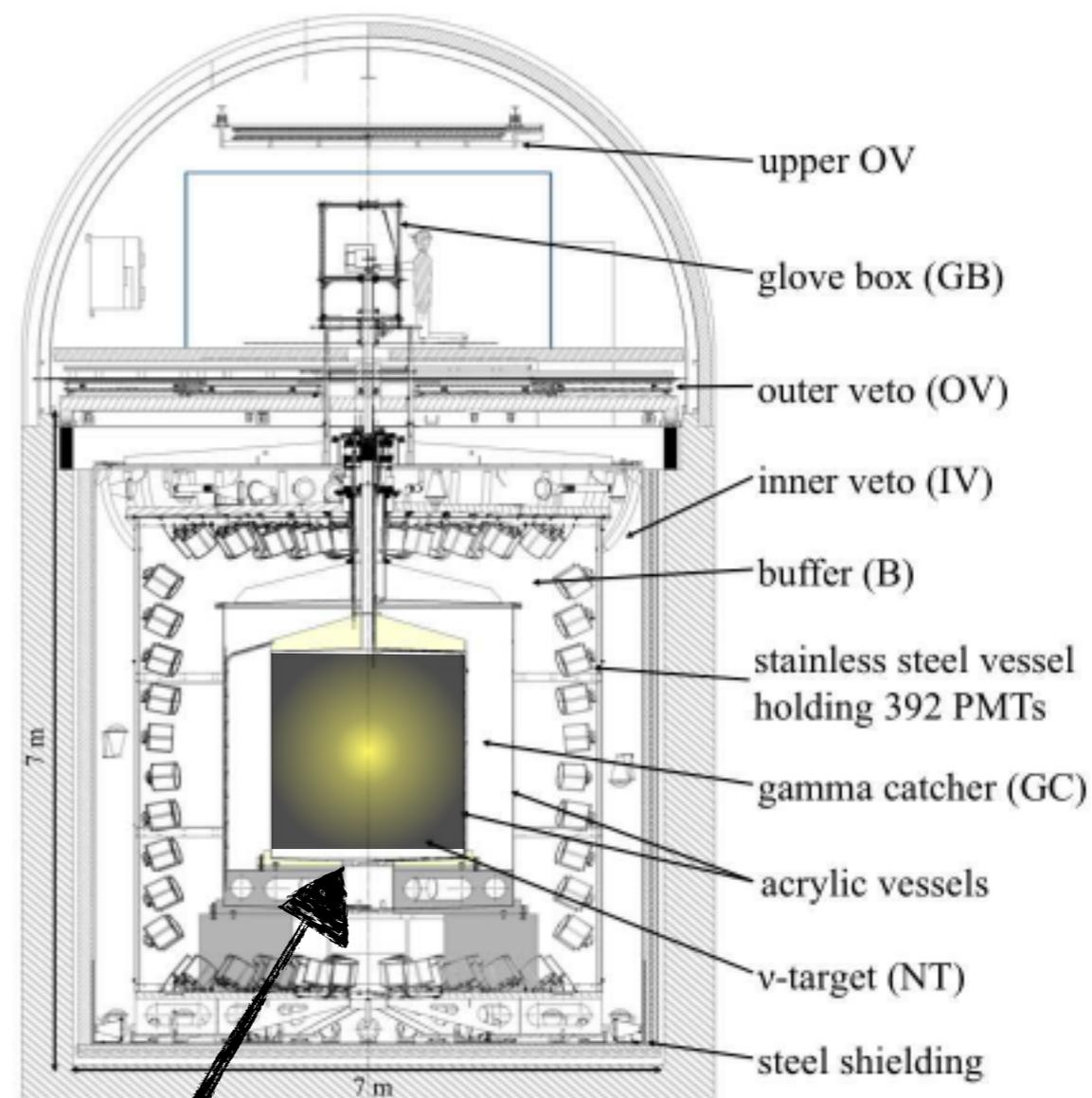
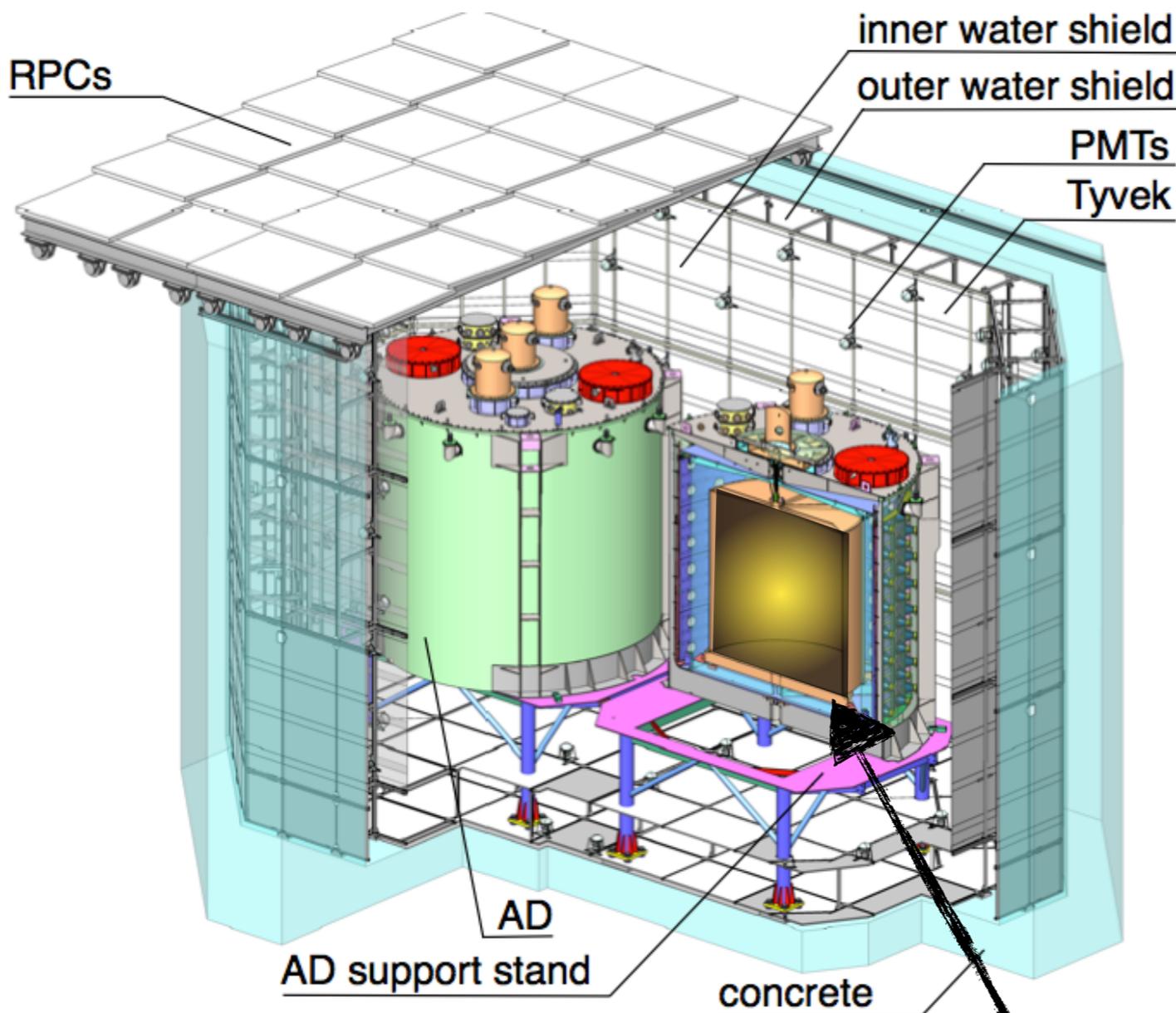
Experiments



	Power [GW _{th}]	GdLS mass Near/Far [t]	Distance Near/Far [m]	Overburden [mwe]	Running until
Daya Bay	17.4	2x2x20 4x20	365, 490 1650	250 860	2020
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Daya Bay & RENO

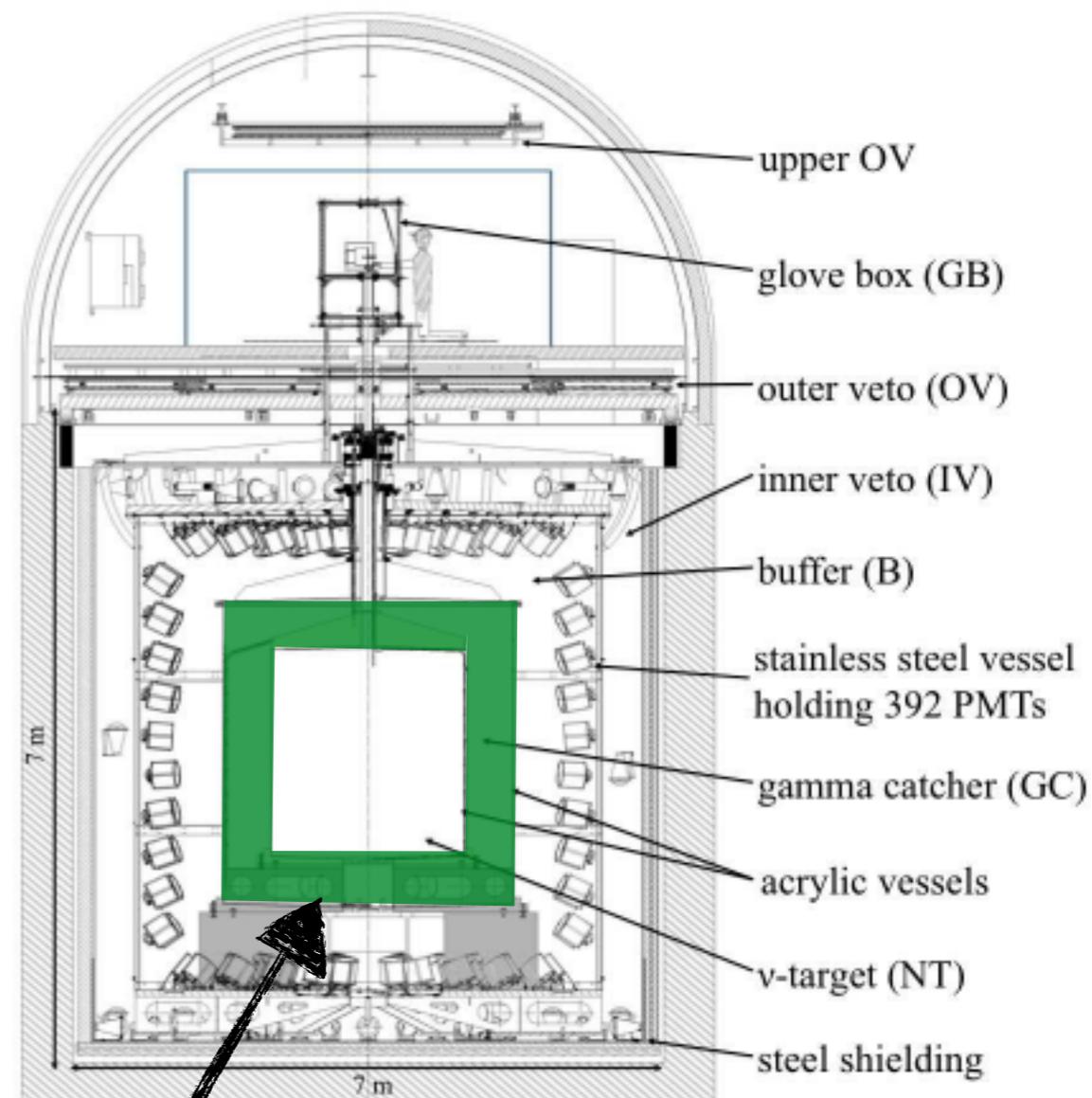
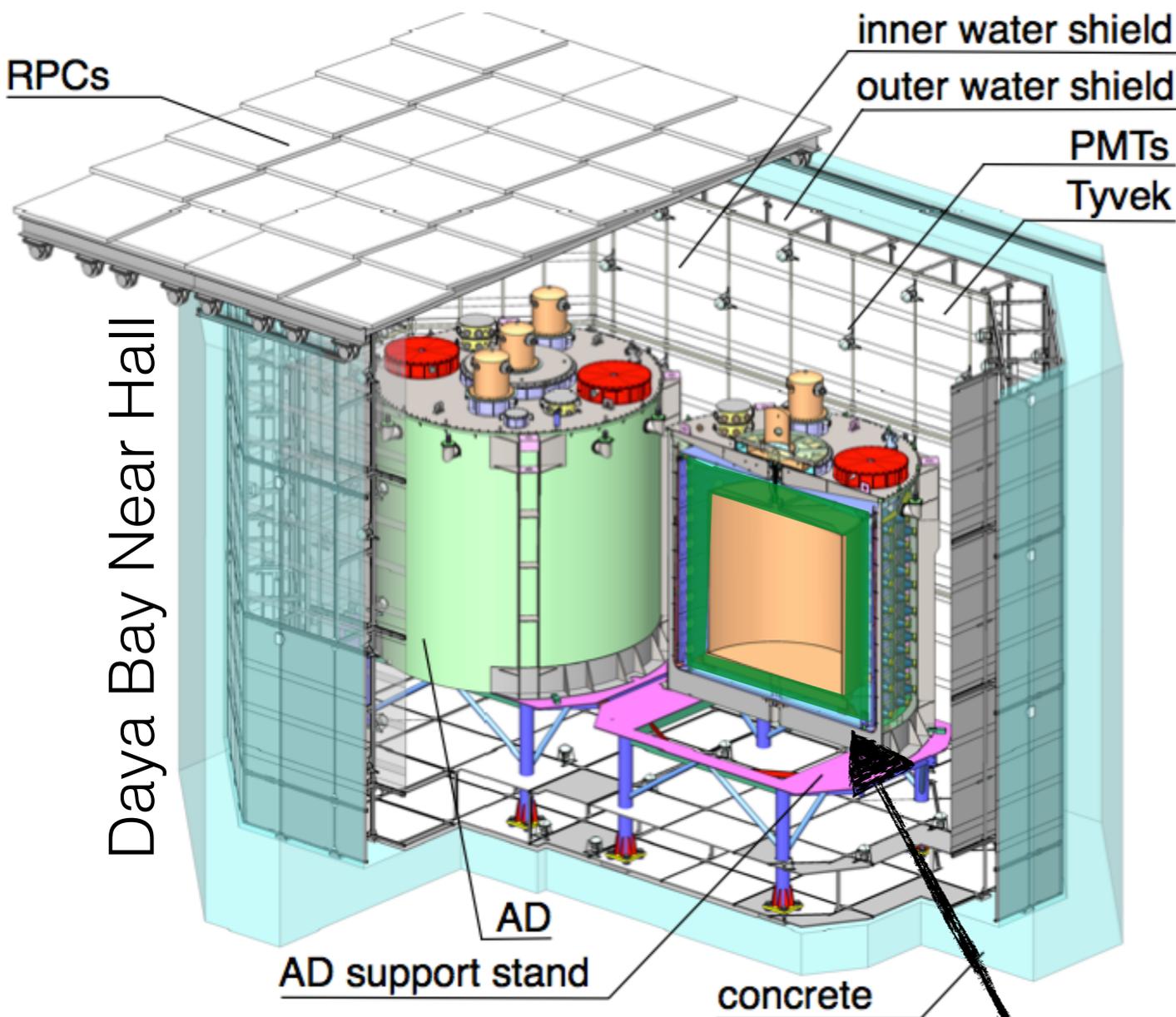
Double Chooz



Gadolinium-doped liquid scintillator

Daya Bay & RENO

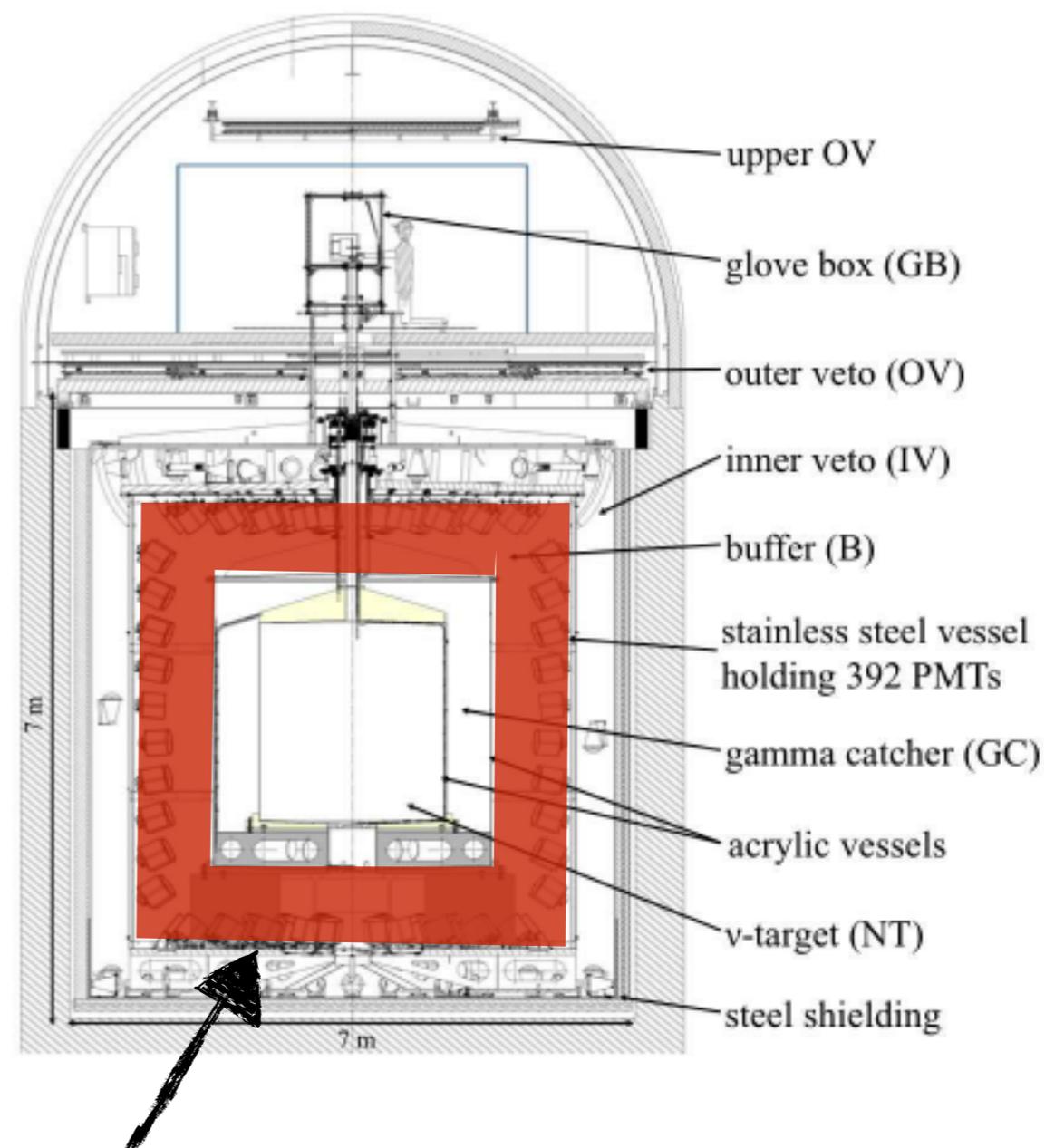
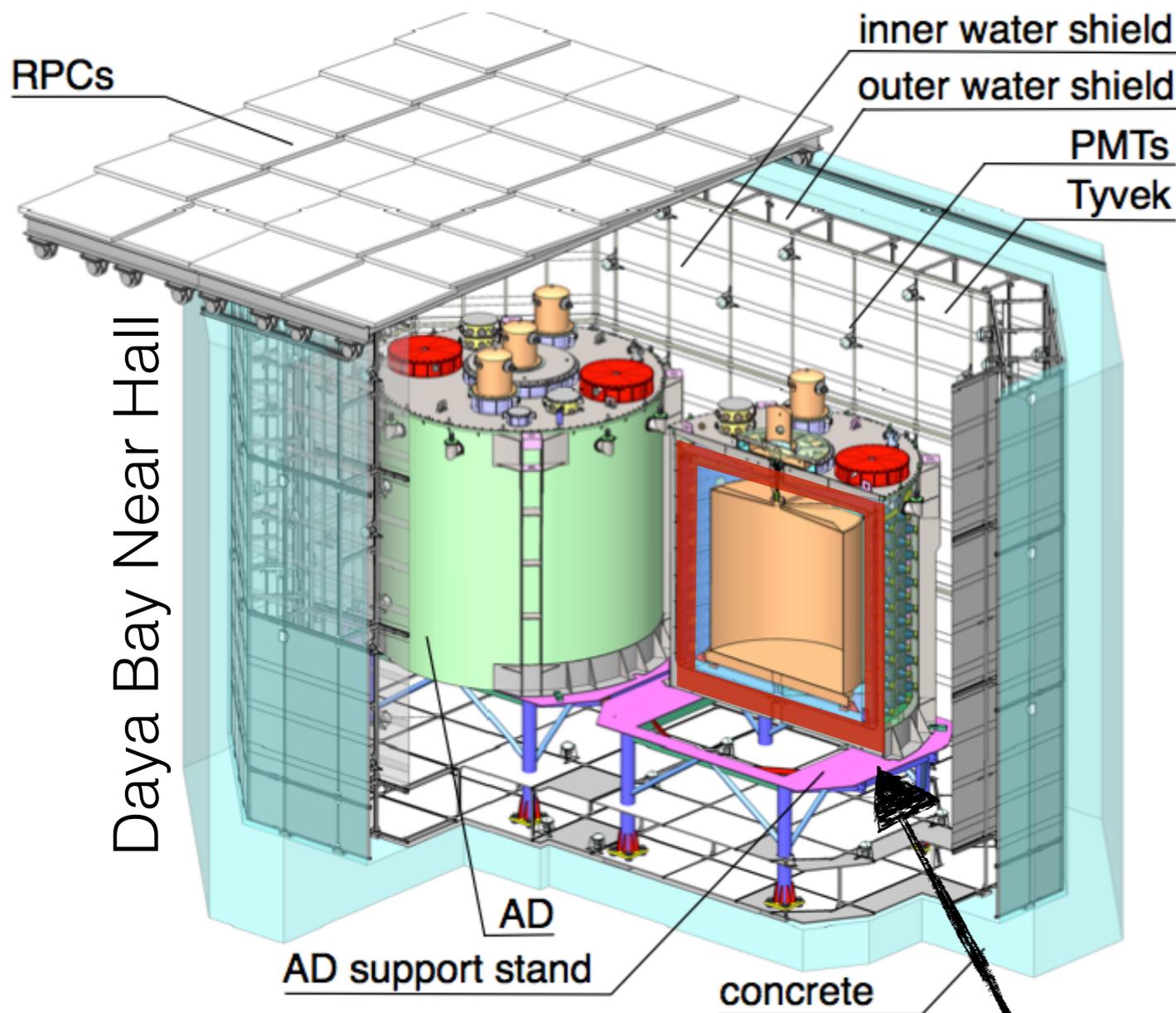
Double Chooz



Liquid scintillator γ -catcher

Daya Bay & RENO

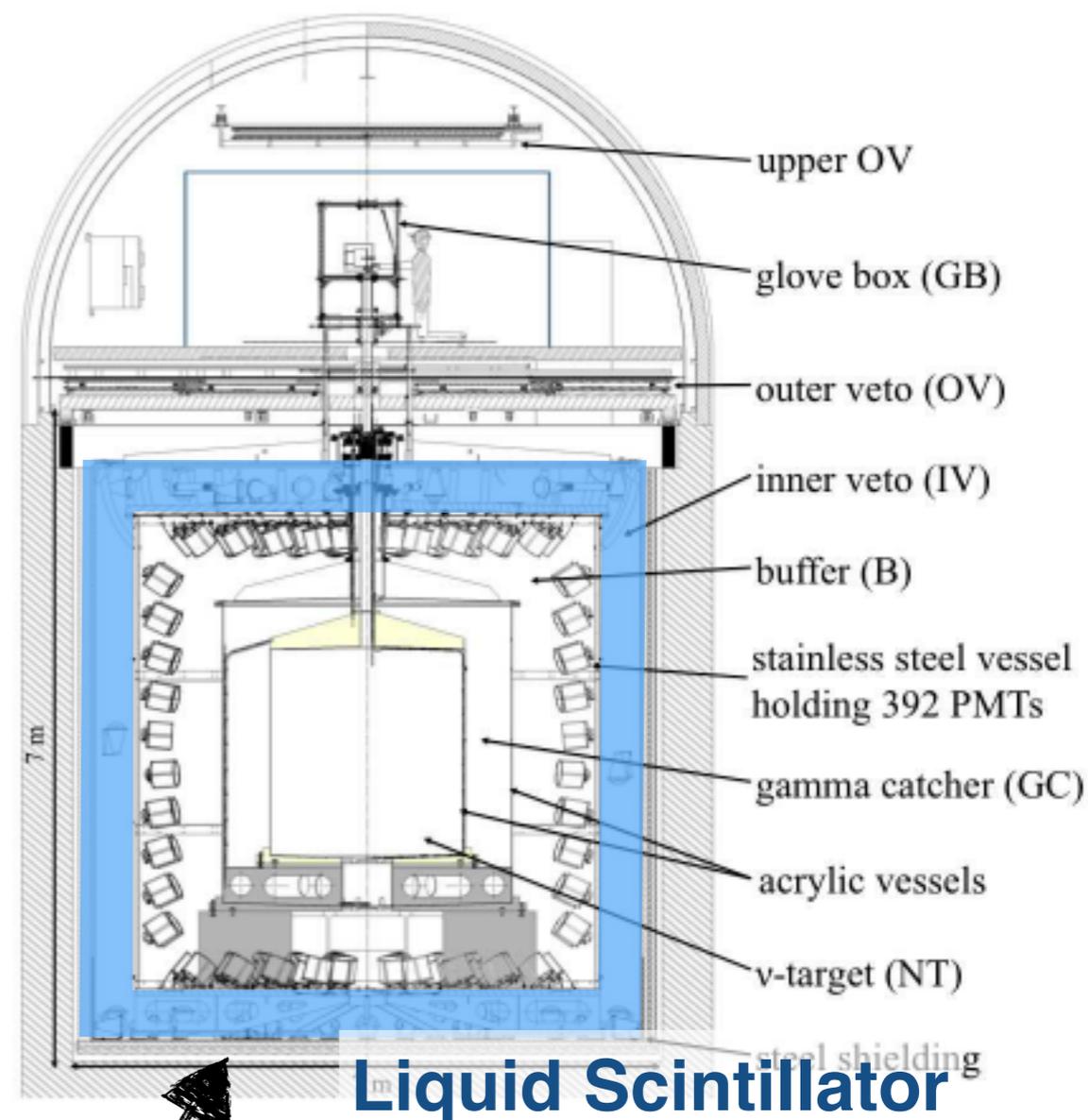
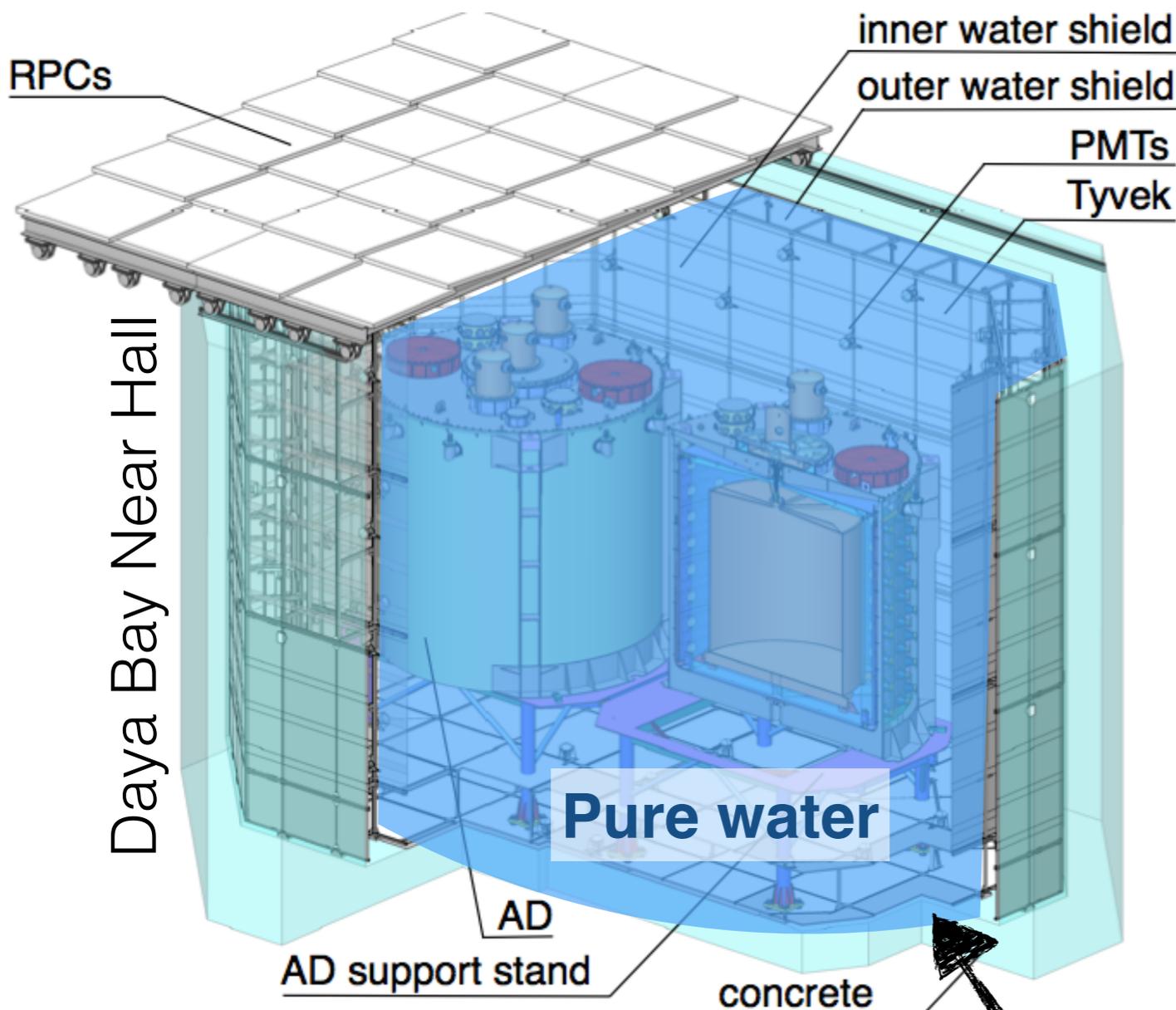
Double Chooz



Non-scintillating transparent mineral oil with PMTs

Daya Bay & RENO

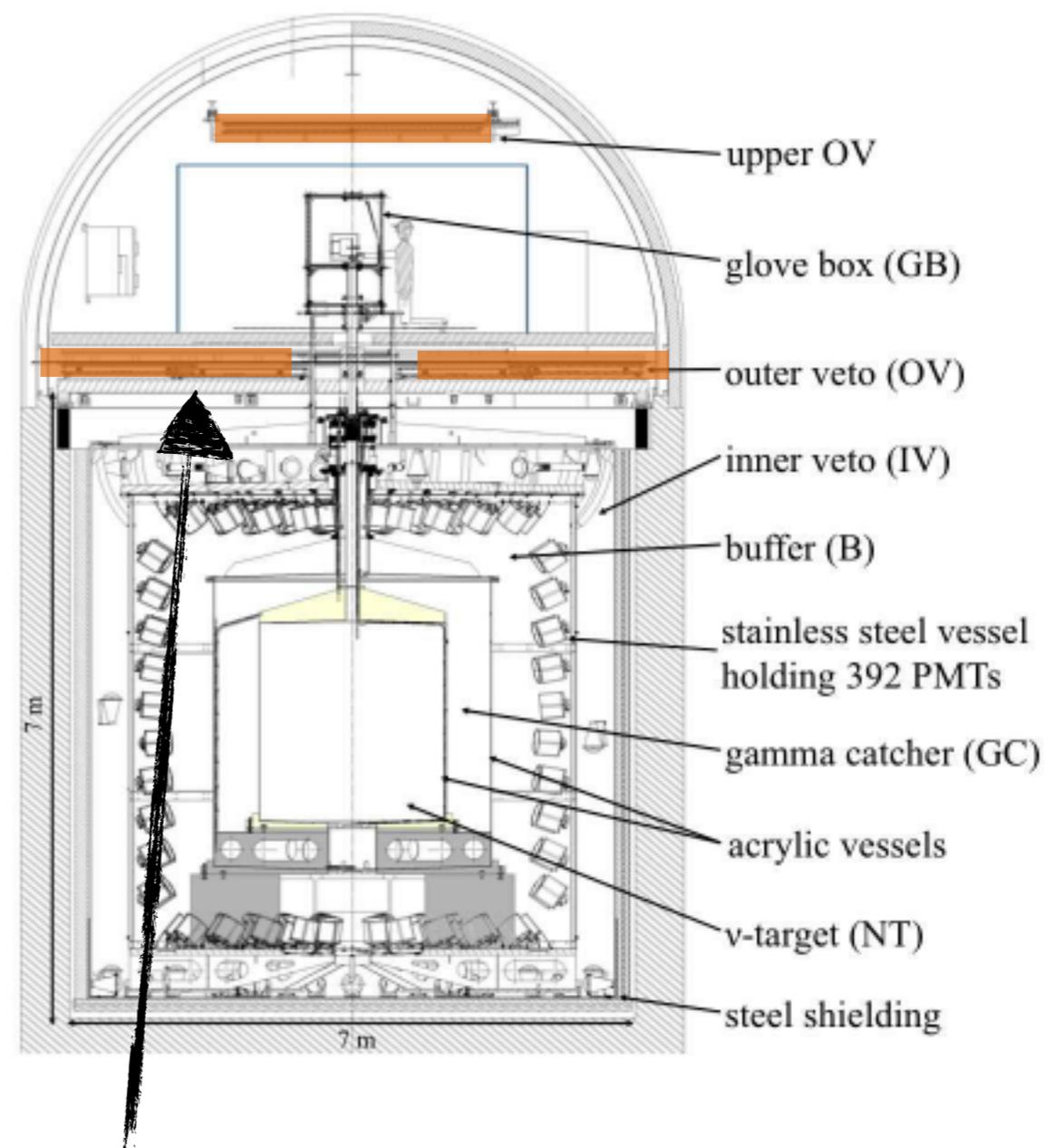
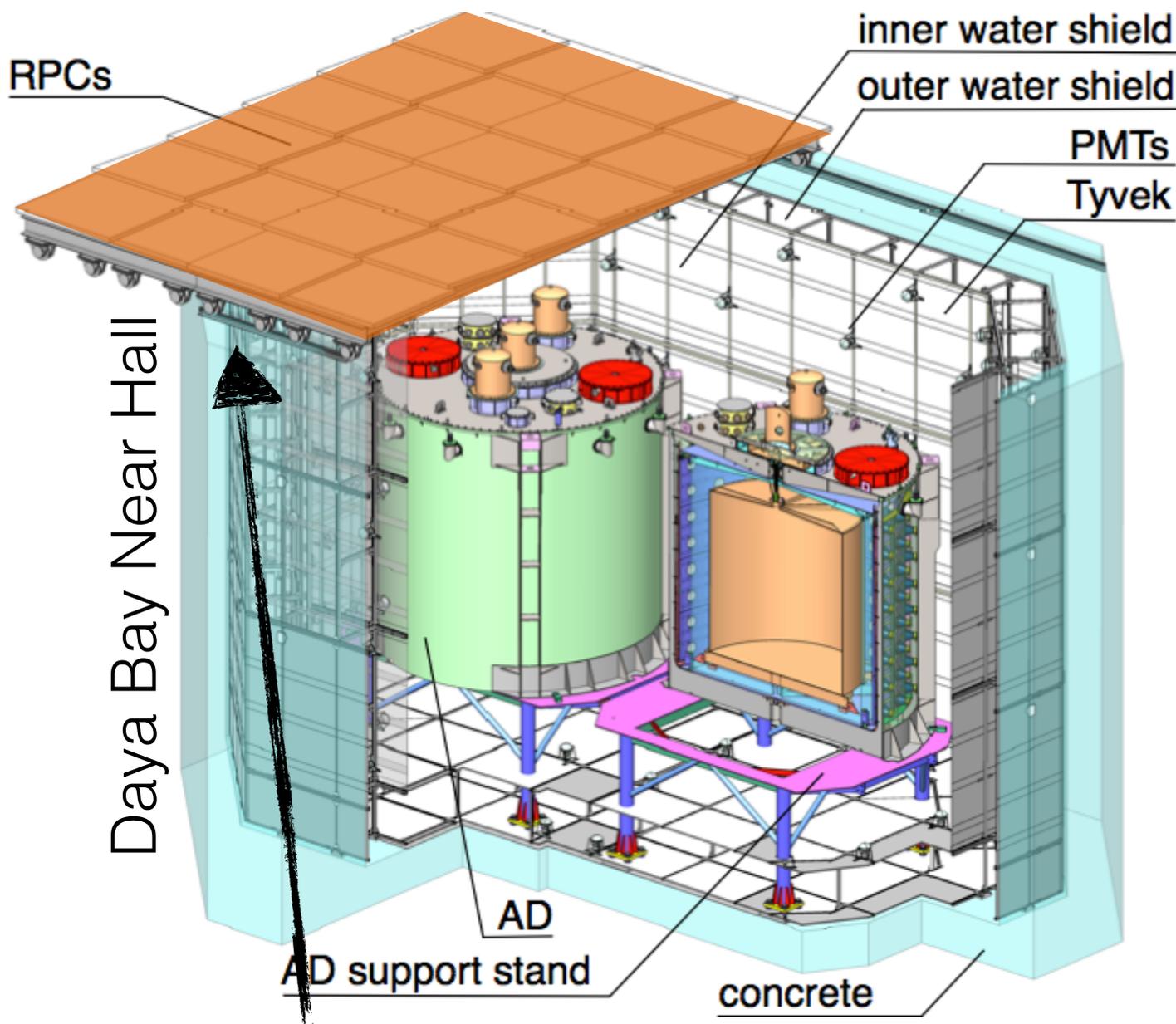
Double Chooz



Cherenkov detector for shielding and cosmic muon detection

Daya Bay

Double Chooz



4-layer RPC (Daya Bay)

Plastic scintillator for muons

- Apply muon veto to suppress backgrounds
- Search for time coincidence of prompt and delayed signal

Double Chooz

nH+nC+nGd together

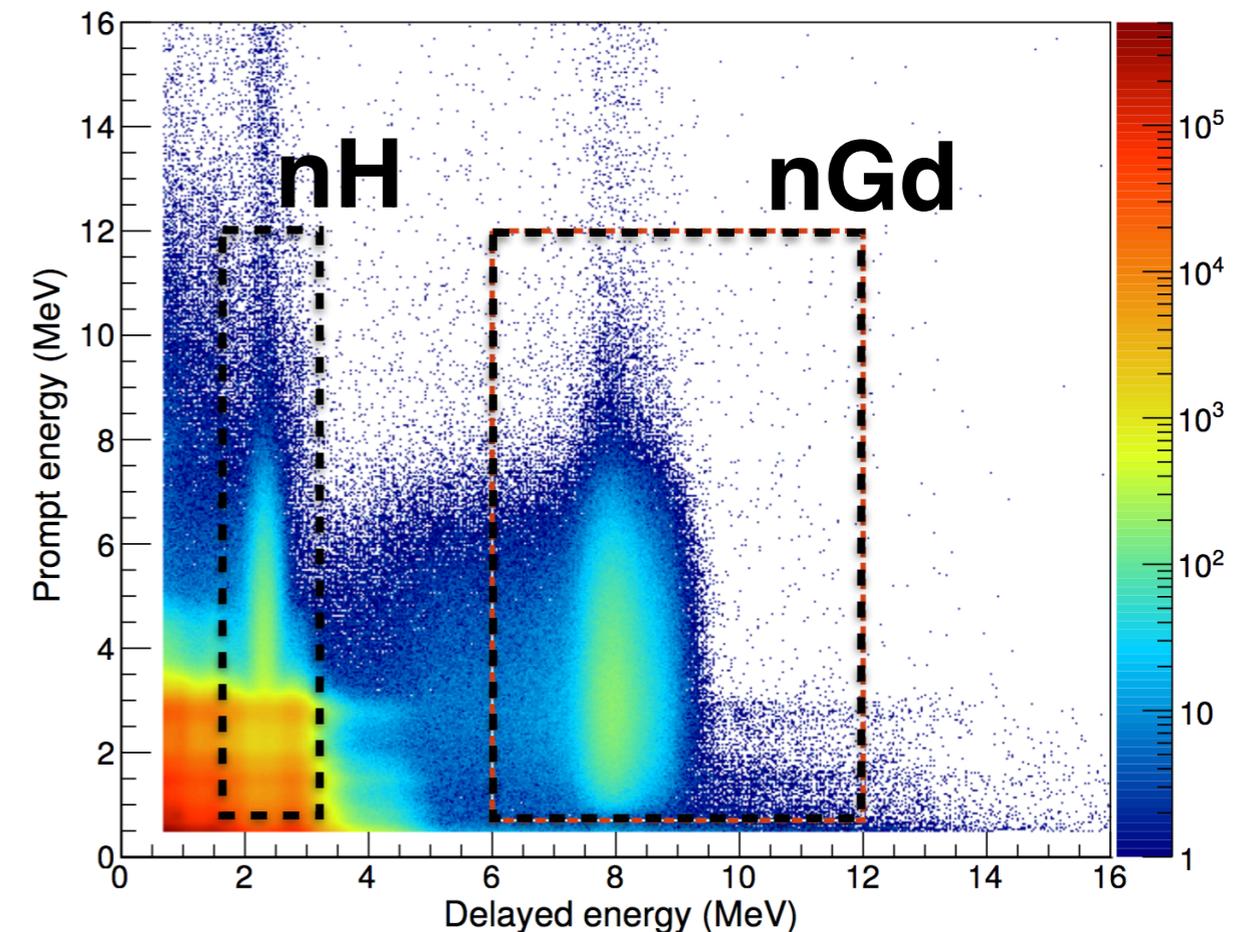
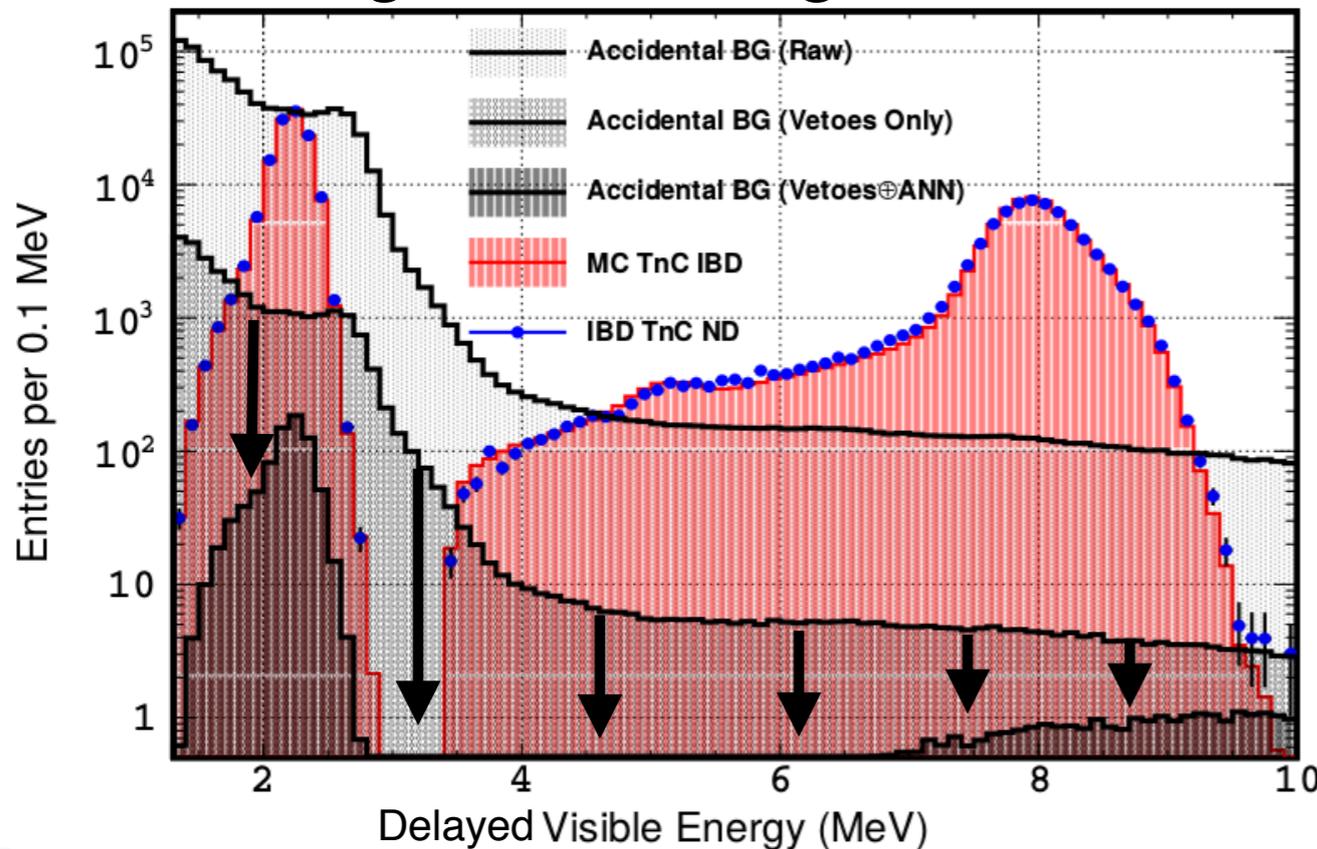
- Artificial neural network (ANN) used for candidate selection

Daya Bay & RENO

nH and nGd treated separately

- Prompt and delayed energy cut
- Time coincidence cut
- Distance cut for nH

ANN significant background reduction



IBD Backgrounds

+4. Low background

- IBD-like signature: Prompt&delayed energy, time proximity
- Low background: B/S **2%** (DYB) and **5%** (DC&RENO) in far detector(s)

Uncorrelated:



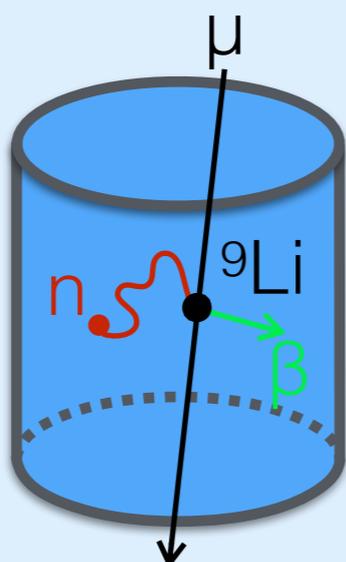
Accidental coincidence

Radioactivity γ

+

High-energy β decay

Correlated from cosmic muons:

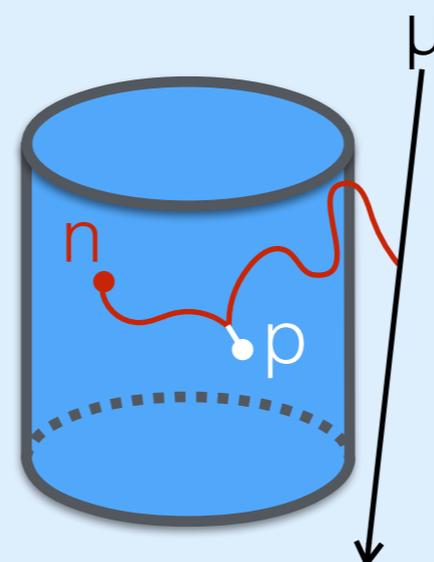


$^9\text{Li}/^8\text{He}$ Isotopes

β decay

+

n capture

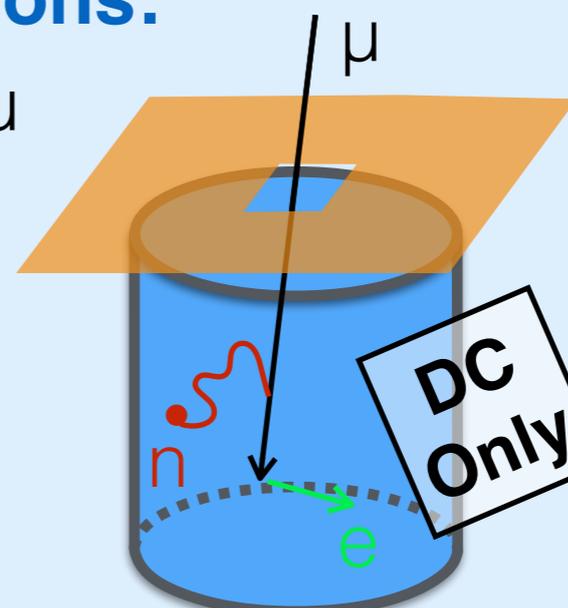


Fast neutrons

Recoil on p

+

n capture



Unvetoes muons

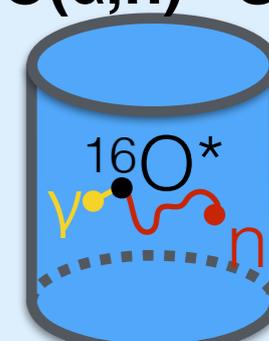
Muon ionization

+

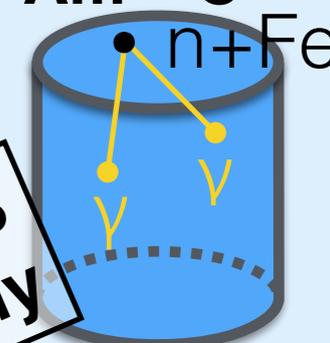
n capture/
muon decay

Others:

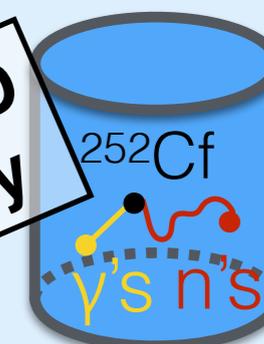
$^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n)^{16}\text{O}$



$^{241}\text{Am}-^{13}\text{C}$



^{252}Cf decay



DC Only

DYB Only

RENO Only



Importance of Relative Measurement



	Reactor flux		IBD detection	
	Correlated	Uncorrelated	Correlated	Uncorrelated
Daya Bay	1.5%	0.2%	1.2%	0.13%
Double Chooz	1.7%	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%
RENO	2.0%	0.9%	0.97%	0.13%

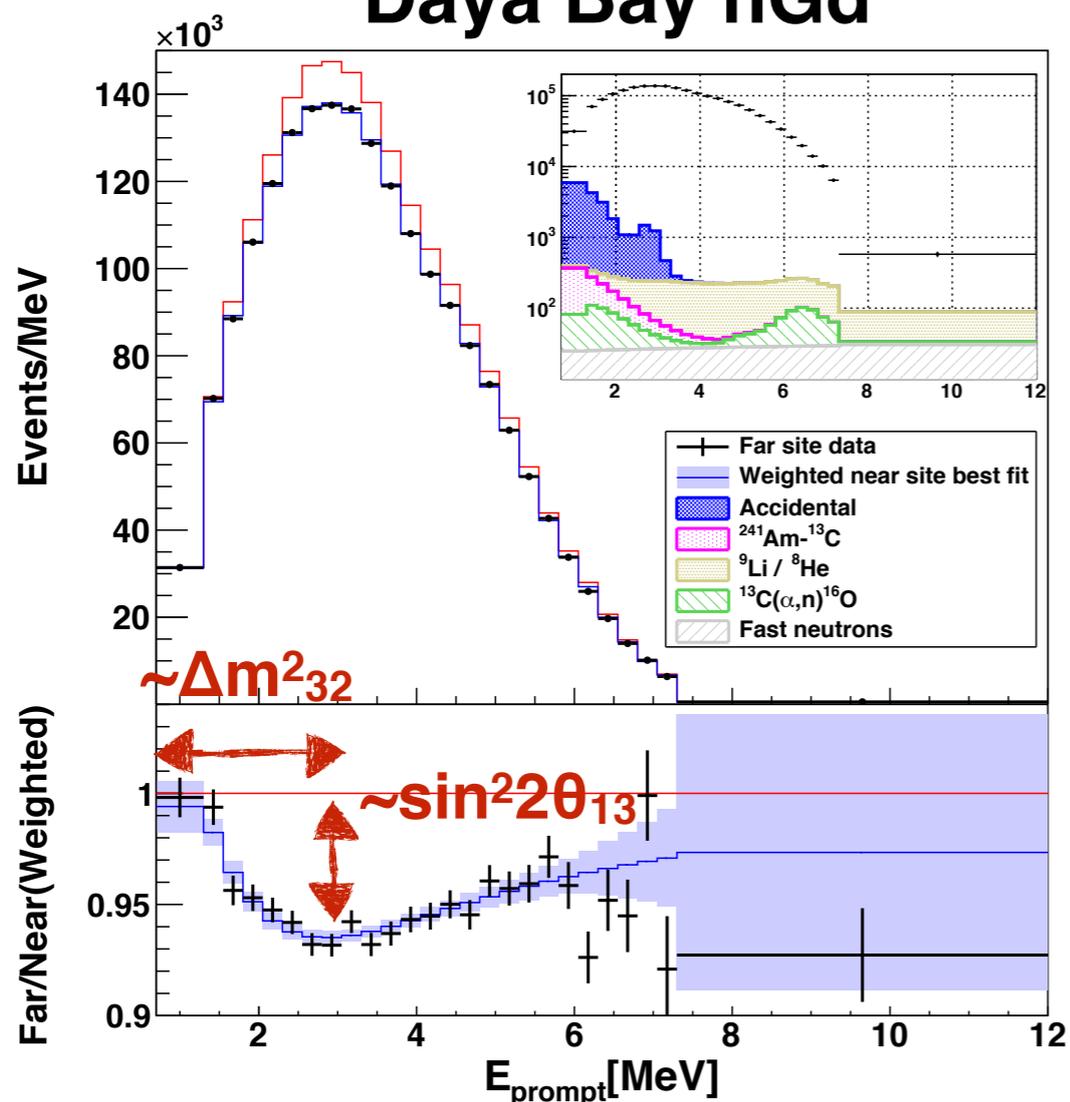
- Essentially only **uncorrelated uncertainties matter** for the relative far/near measurement
- Correlated uncertainties play role in absolute measurement of reactor neutrino flux and spectrum (see later)



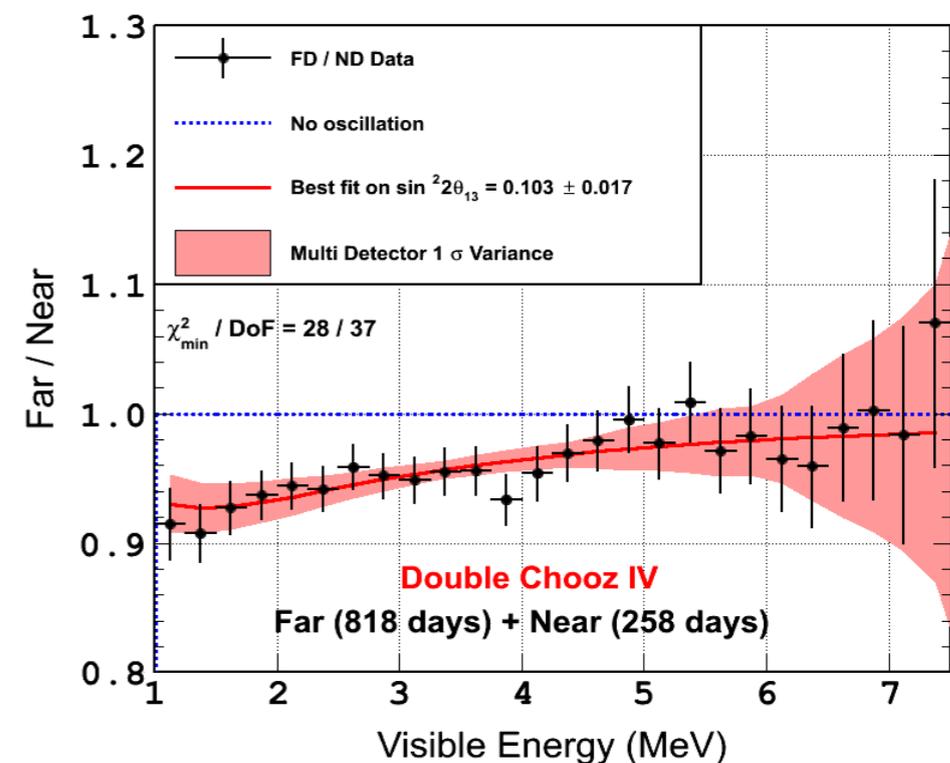
Spectrum Modulation



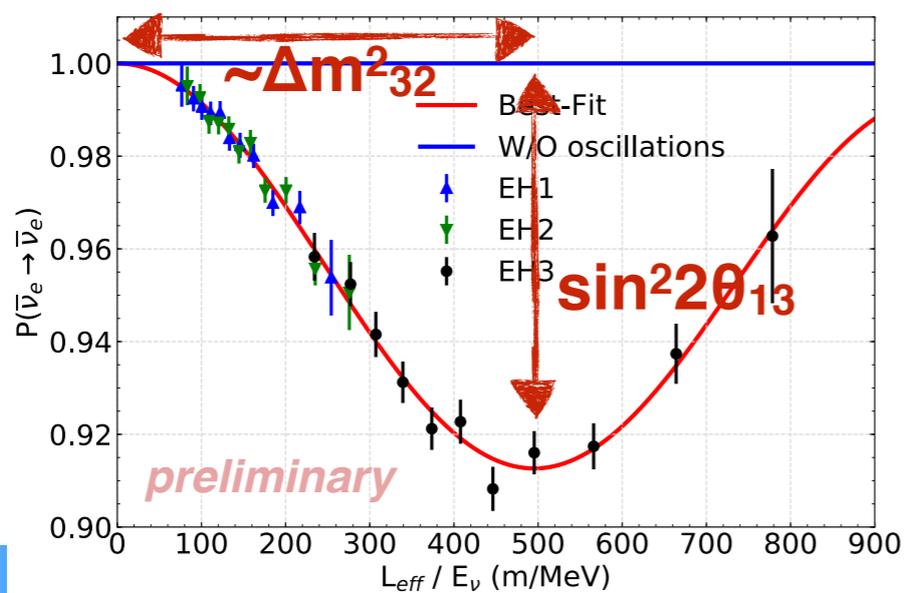
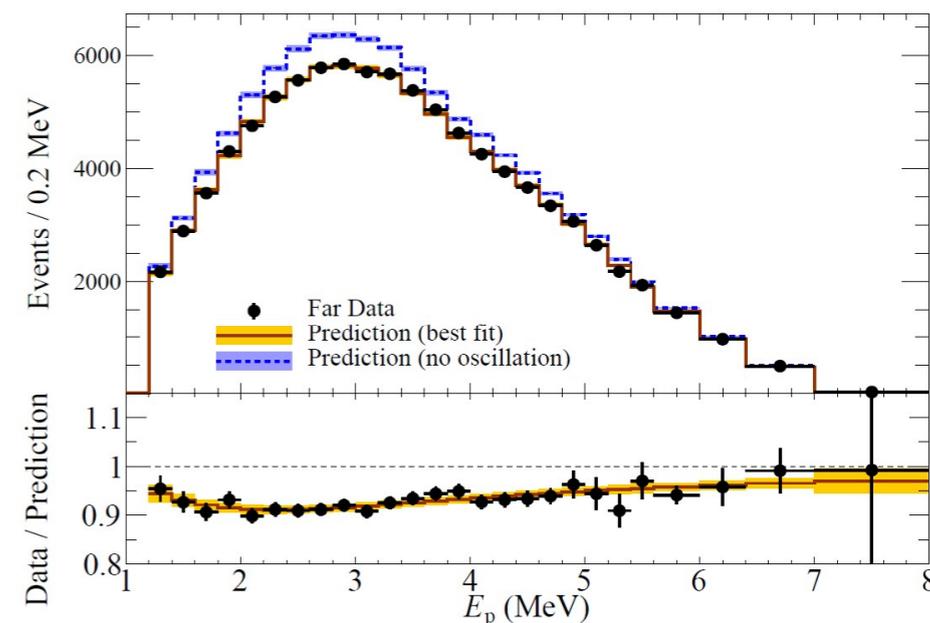
Daya Bay nGd



Double Chooz nH+nC+nGd



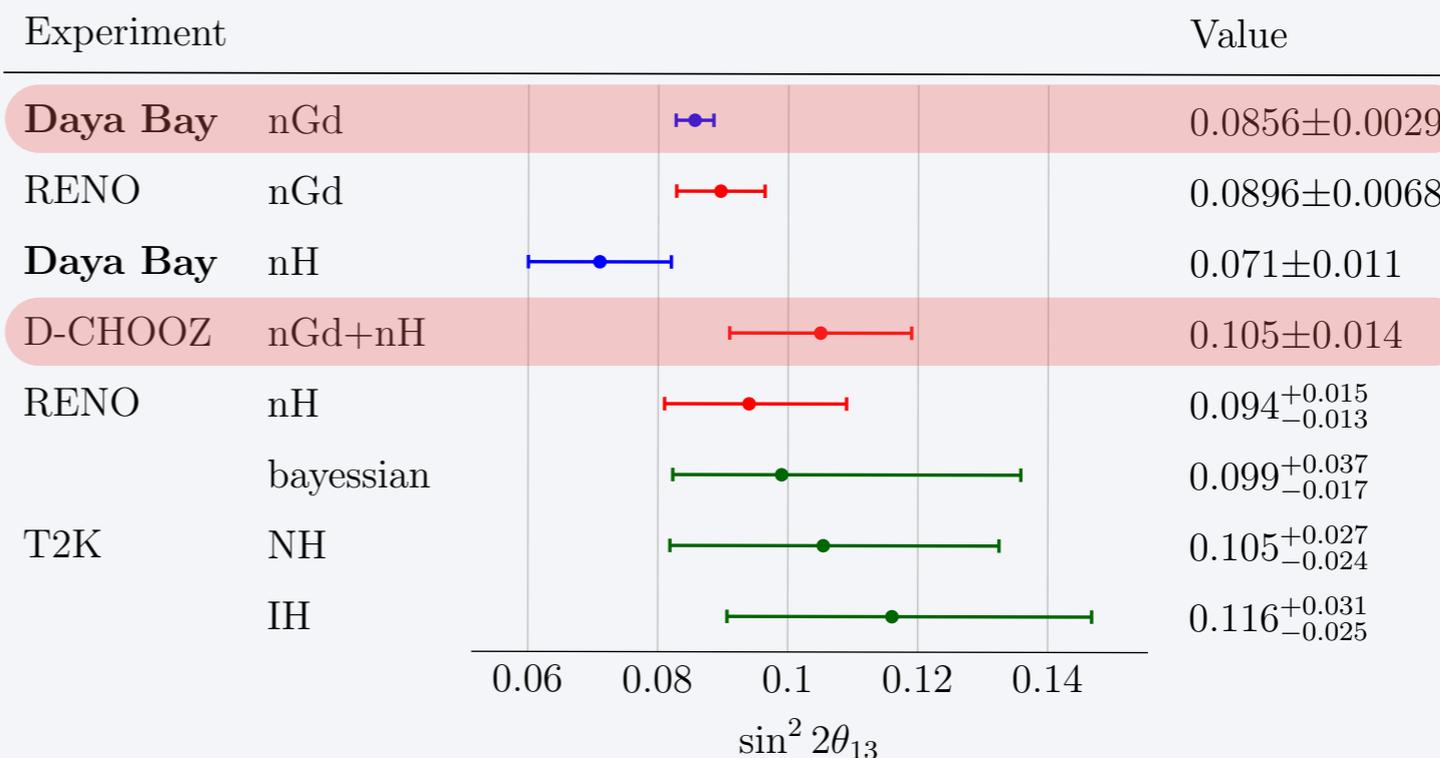
RENO nGd



Oscillation Results

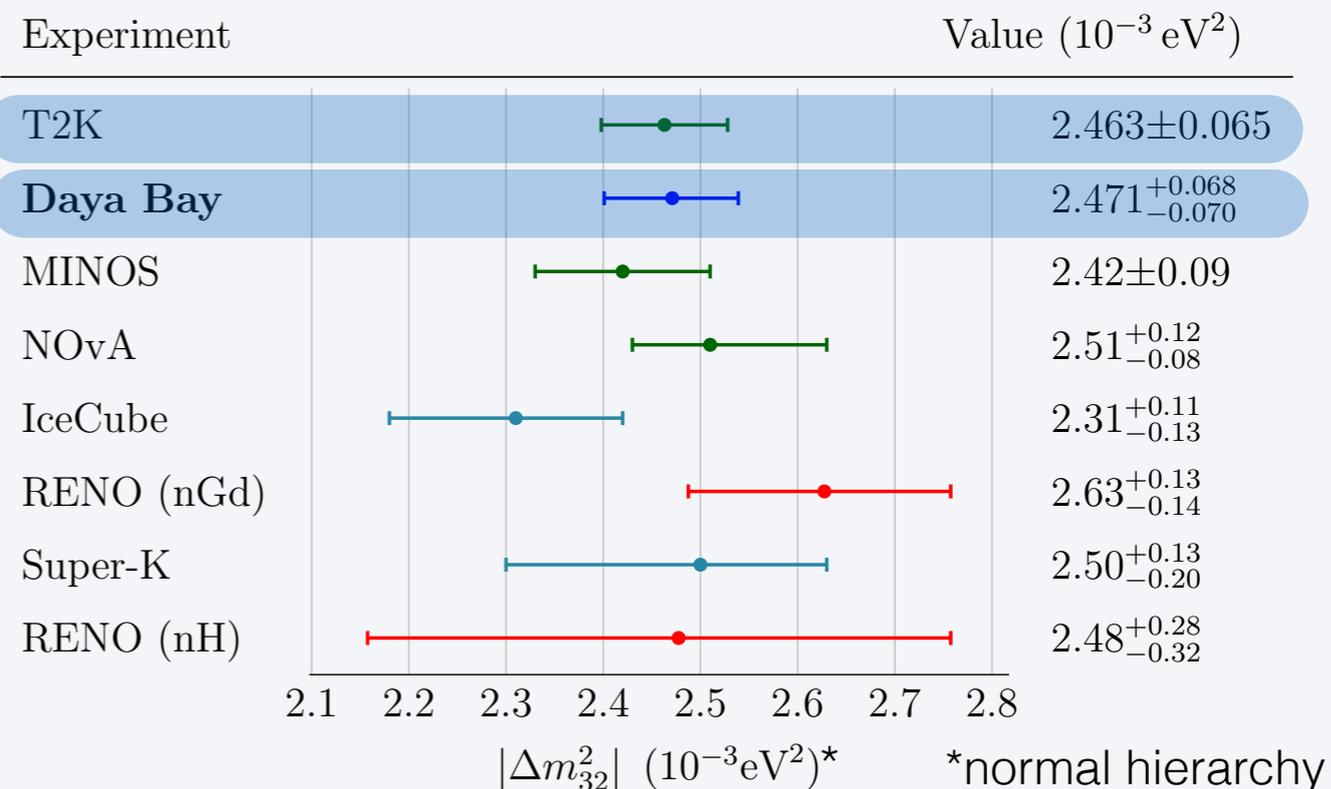
$\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$

- Daya Bay precision 3.4% - best known mixing angle
- 1σ tension between Daya Bay and Double Chooz



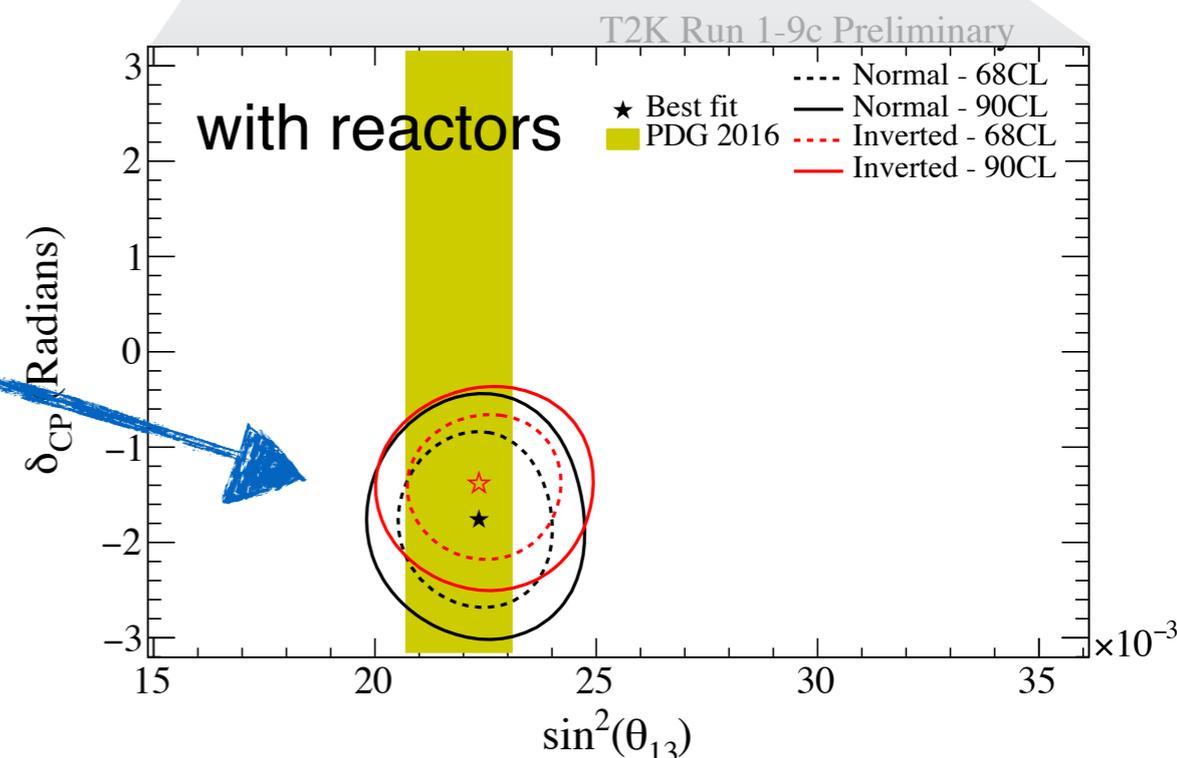
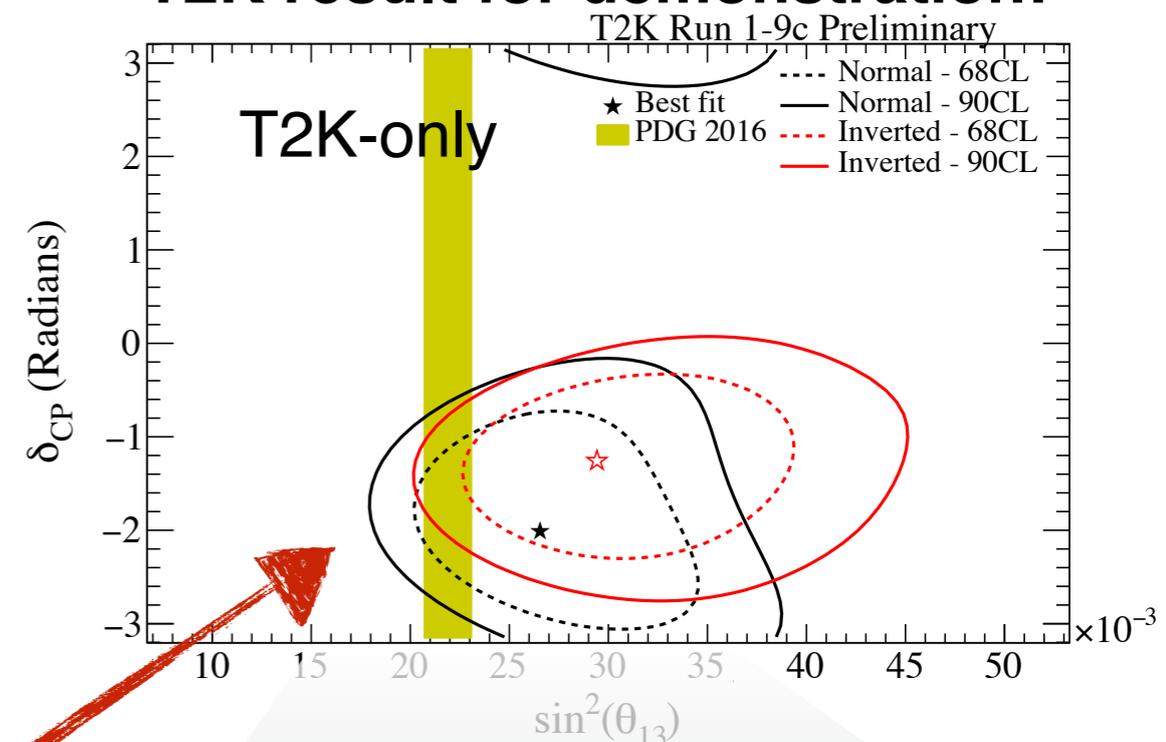
Δm^2_{32}

- Daya Bay's result is consistent and of comparable precision to that of accelerator experiments
- Further improvement by JUNO (see later)



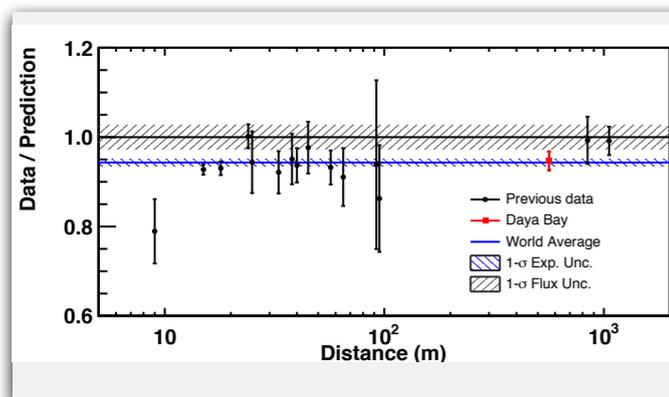
- Non-zero θ_{13} mixing angle allows CP-violation in lepton sector
- CP-violation can be tested in appearance experiments such as **T2K** and **NOvA** which look at $\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e}$ oscillations
- δ_{CP} is linked to θ_{13} - uncertainty on the angle is propagated to the uncertainty on phase
- Precise measurement done by reactor experiments very important for δ_{CP} measurement

T2K result for demonstration:

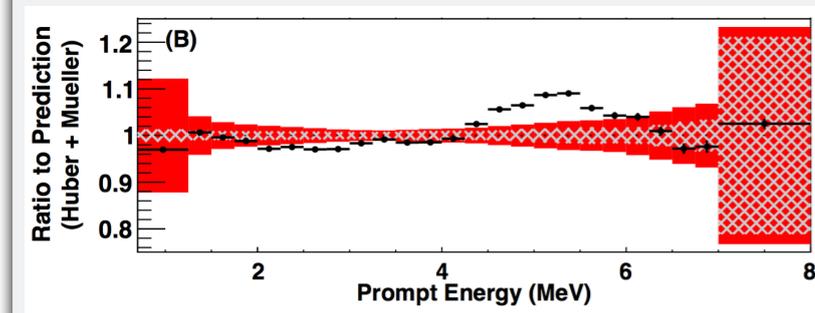


Absolute Measurements

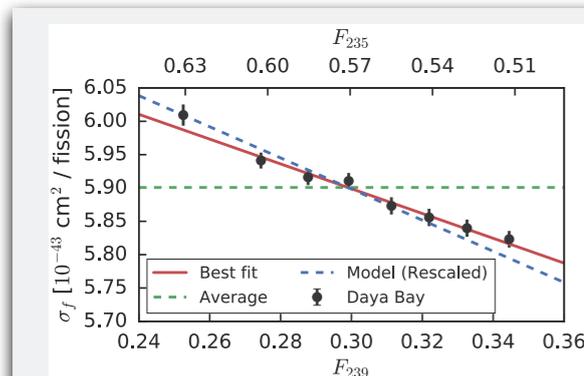
- Reactor Neutrinos Anomalies -> discrepancy between measurement and prediction



Reactor (neutrino flux) anomaly
Reanalysis of reactor flux prediction in 2011



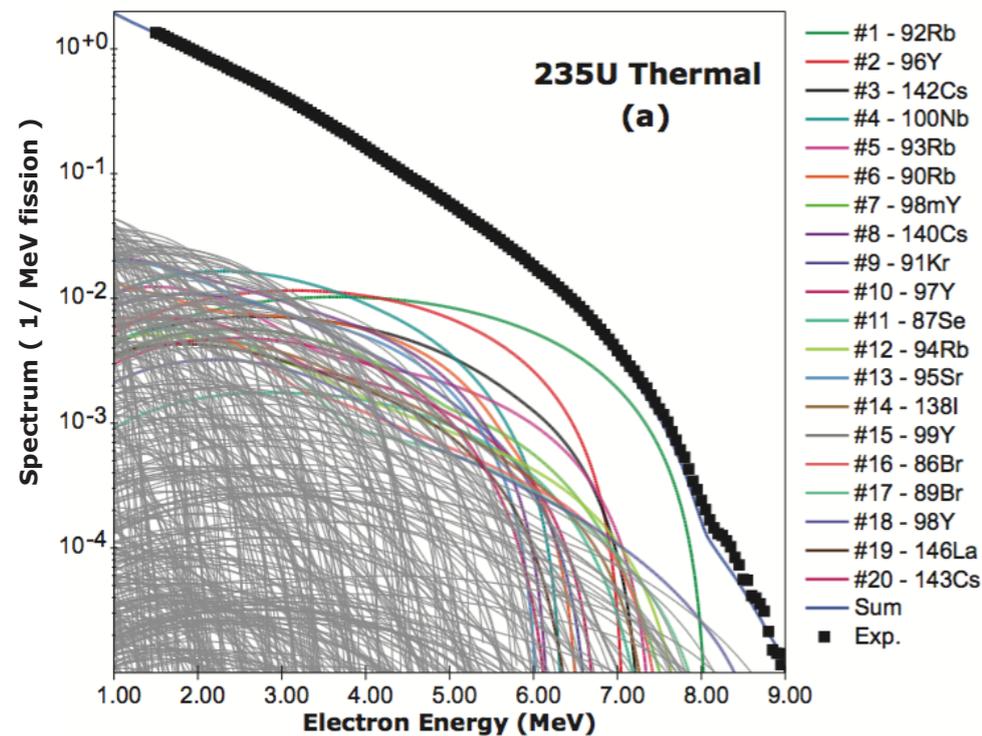
Reactor neutrino spectrum anomaly
'Bump' in the spectrum observed by Double Chooz, Daya Bay, RENO in 2014



Deeper look at reactor flux anomaly
with reactor fuel evolution
Reported by Daya Bay and RENO in 2017

• Summation (ab initio) method

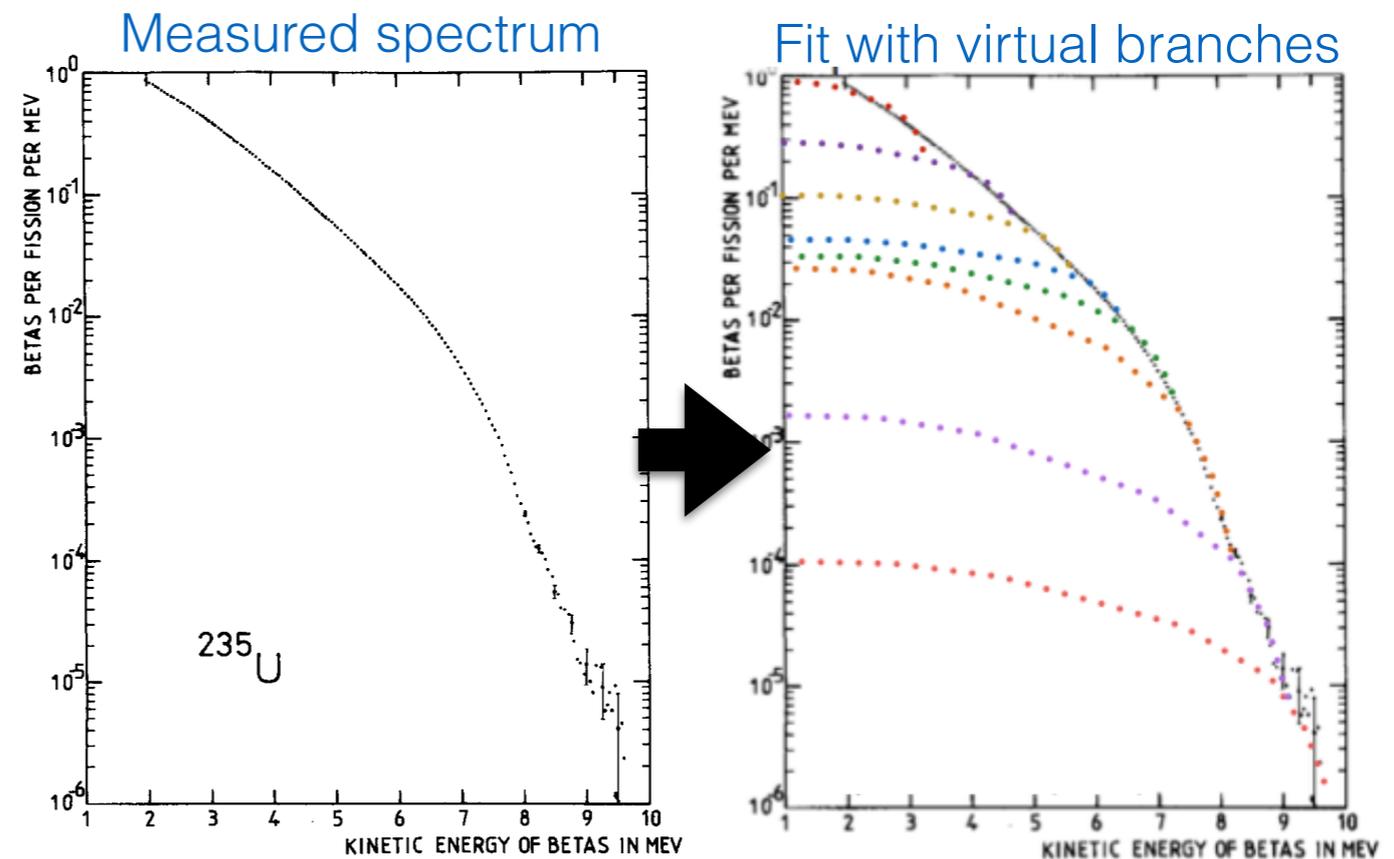
- Sum spectra of each decay branch of all fission fragments based on nuclear database
- More than 6000 branches
- Not all branches sufficiently covered in database
- Claimed $\sim 10\%$ uncertainty



Sonzogni et al PRC 91,011301

• Conversion method

- Electron spectrum from fission fragments converted to $\bar{\nu}_e$ spectrum
- Performed at ILL in 80s & 90s
- Uncertainty $\sim 2.7\%$
- Leading method nowadays



Schreckenbach et al. PLB 160 (1985)



Huber+Mueller Model



Huber's ILL spectrum conversion for ^{235}U , ^{239}Pu , ^{241}Pu

Huber P. Phys. Rev. C 84:024617 (2011);
erratum ibid. 85:029901 (2012)

+

Mueller's ab-inicio calculation for ^{238}U

Mueller T. A. et al. Phys. Rev. C 83:054615 (2011)

Spectrum
for individual branch

Shape correction
 $C \neq 1$ for forbidden decays

$$S(E_{\bar{\nu}}, E_0^i, Z) = K p_e E_e (E_0 - E_e)^2 F(Z, E_e) C(Z, E_e) (1 + \delta(Z, A, E_e))$$

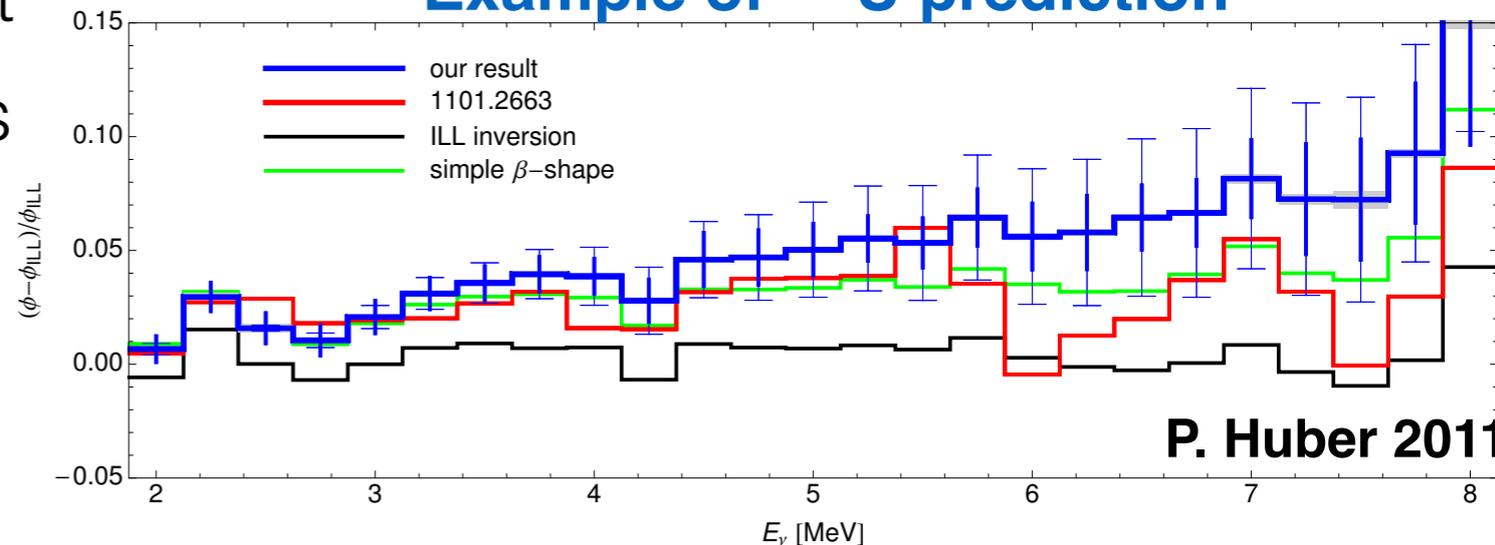
Fermi function

Correction $\delta = \delta_{\text{WM}} + \delta_{\text{FS}} + \delta_{\text{RC}}$
 δ_{WM} - Weak magnetism corr.
 δ_{FS} - Finite structure corr.
 δ_{R} - Radiative corr.

Main reasons for higher prediction in H+M:

- Finite structure and Weak Magnetism correction more careful treatment
- Newer $\langle Z \rangle(E)$ of fission fragments
- Updated neutron lifetime

Example of ^{235}U prediction



- **Flux deficit observed w.r.t. Huber+Muller model**

- **Daya Bay** $R=0.952\pm 0.014$
- **Double Chooz** $R=0.945\pm 0.008$
- **RENO** $R=0.918\pm 0.018$

$$R = \frac{\text{Measured}}{\text{Model (Huber+Muller)}}$$

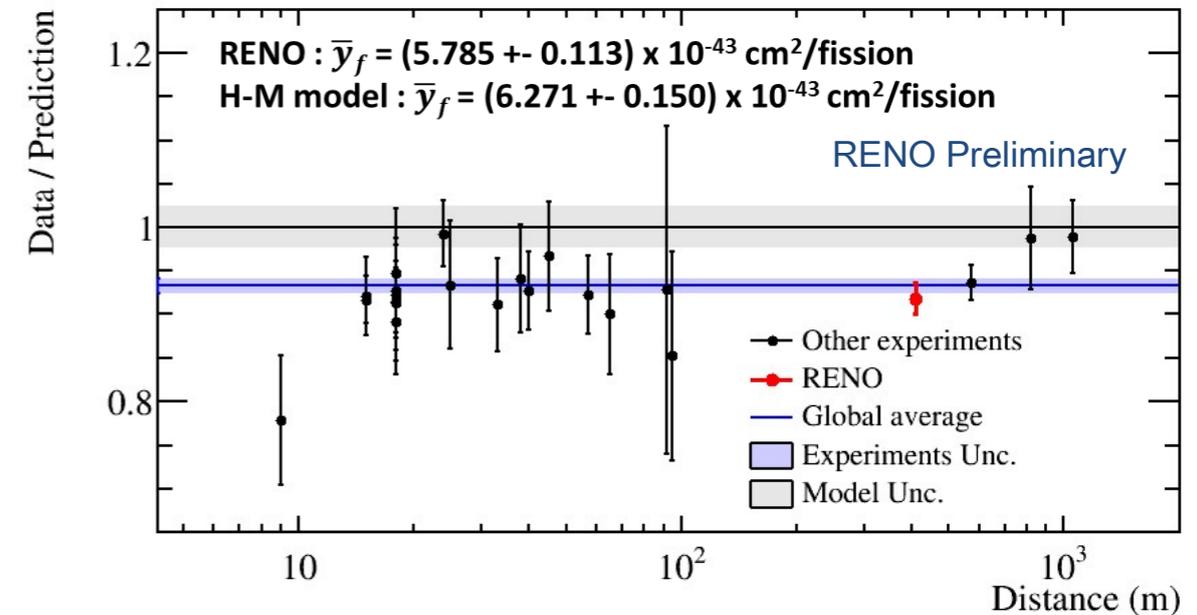
- **Similar effect observed**

- by several experiments
- at different reactors
- at different baselines

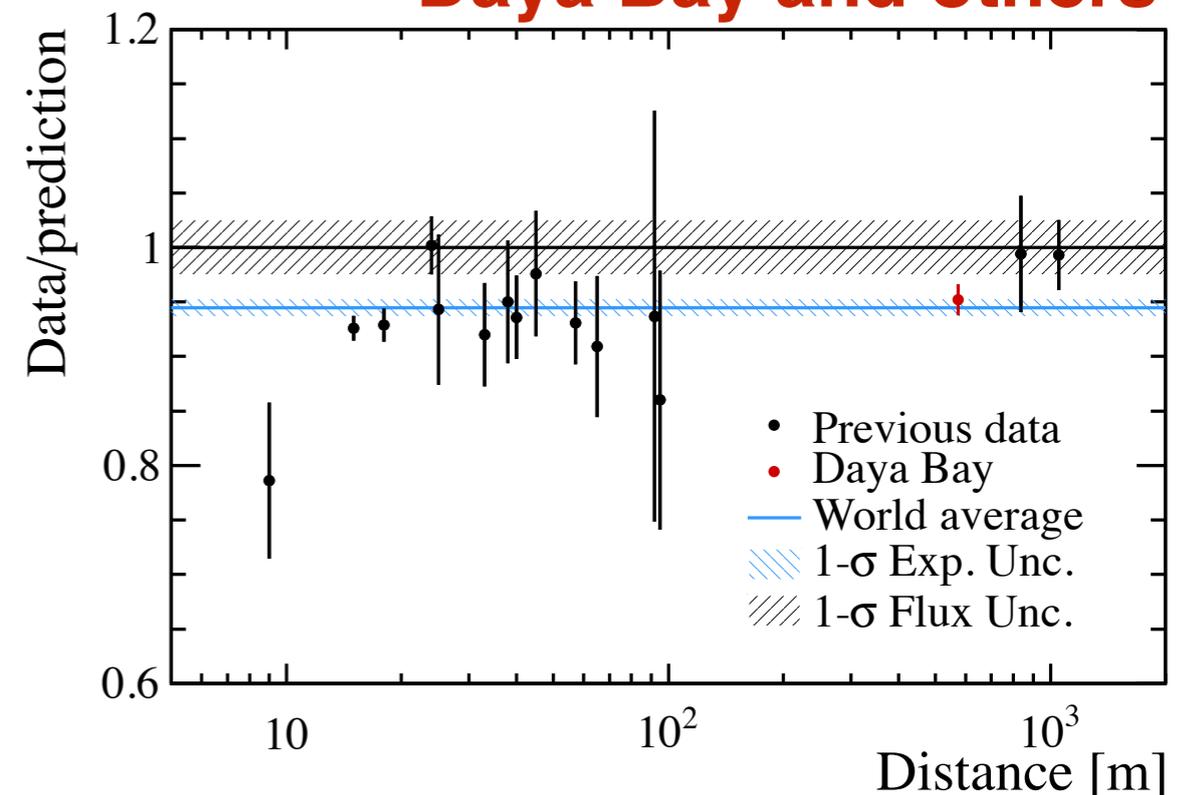
- **Possible explanations**

- Not a detector/reactor effect
- Prediction issues - particular isotope responsible? (see later)
- **New phenomena - Sterile ν 's**

RENO and others



Daya Bay and others





Sterile Neutrinos

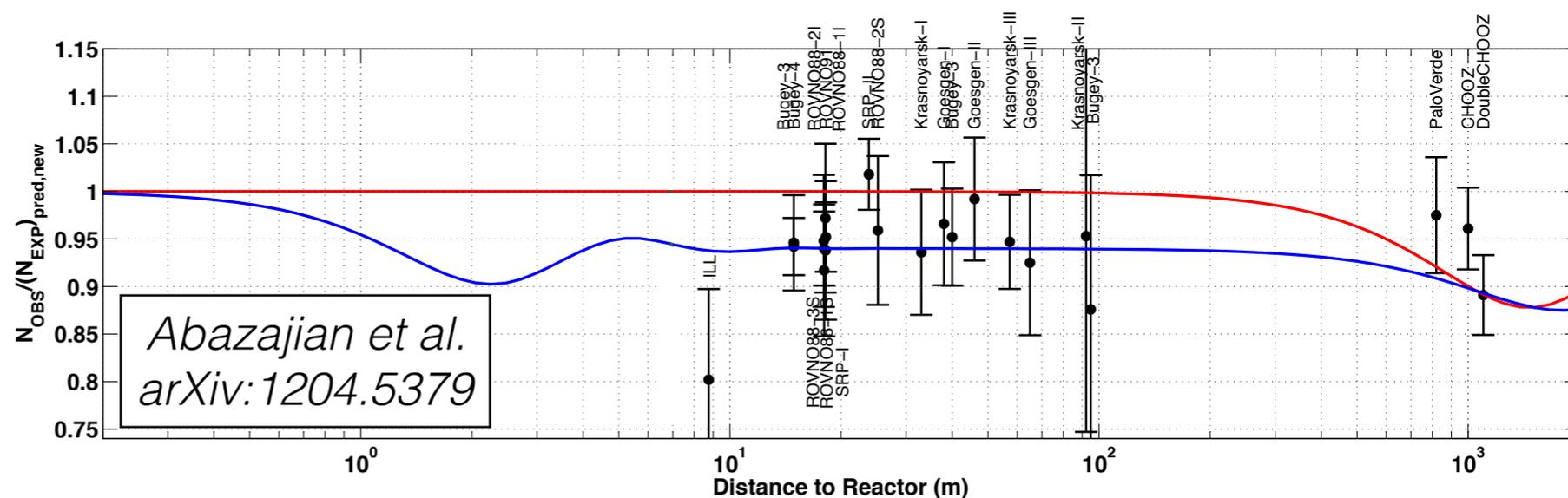
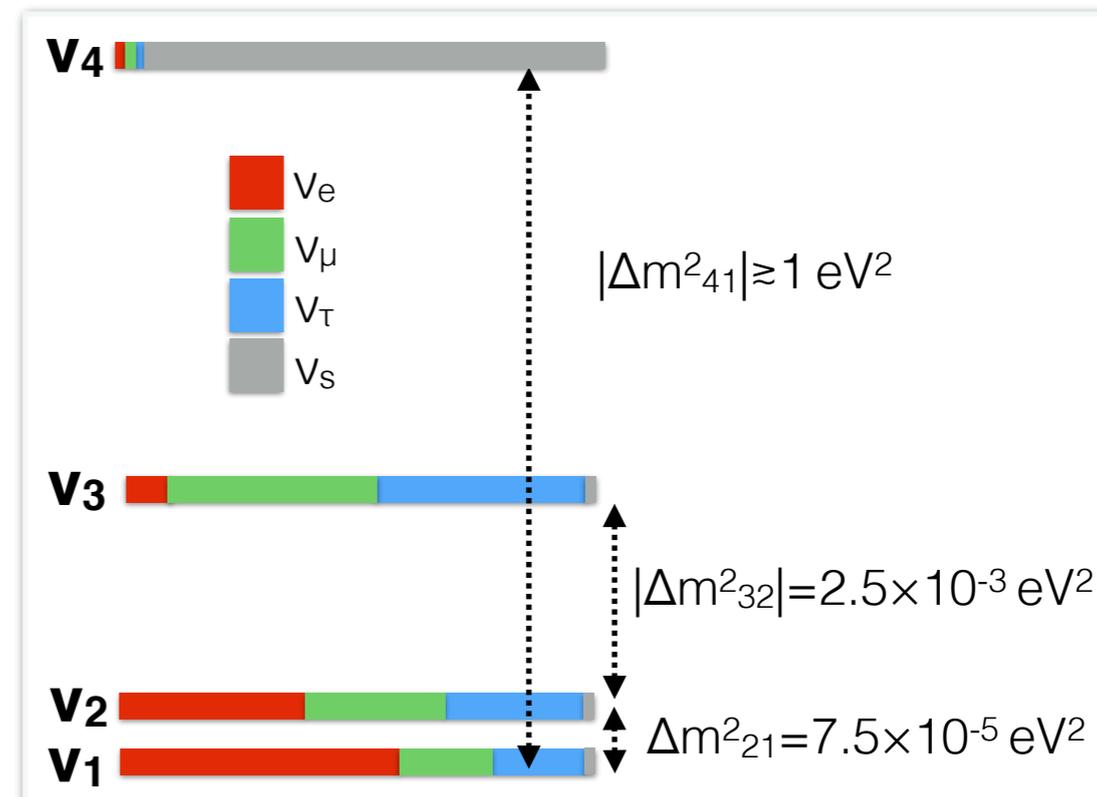
Covered in talk
by Jaison Lee

- **Existence of sterile neutrinos can explain the anomaly**

- $\Delta m^2_{\text{new}} \gtrsim 1 \text{ eV}^2 \Leftrightarrow L_{\text{osc}} < \text{few m}$
- Fast oscillations averaged

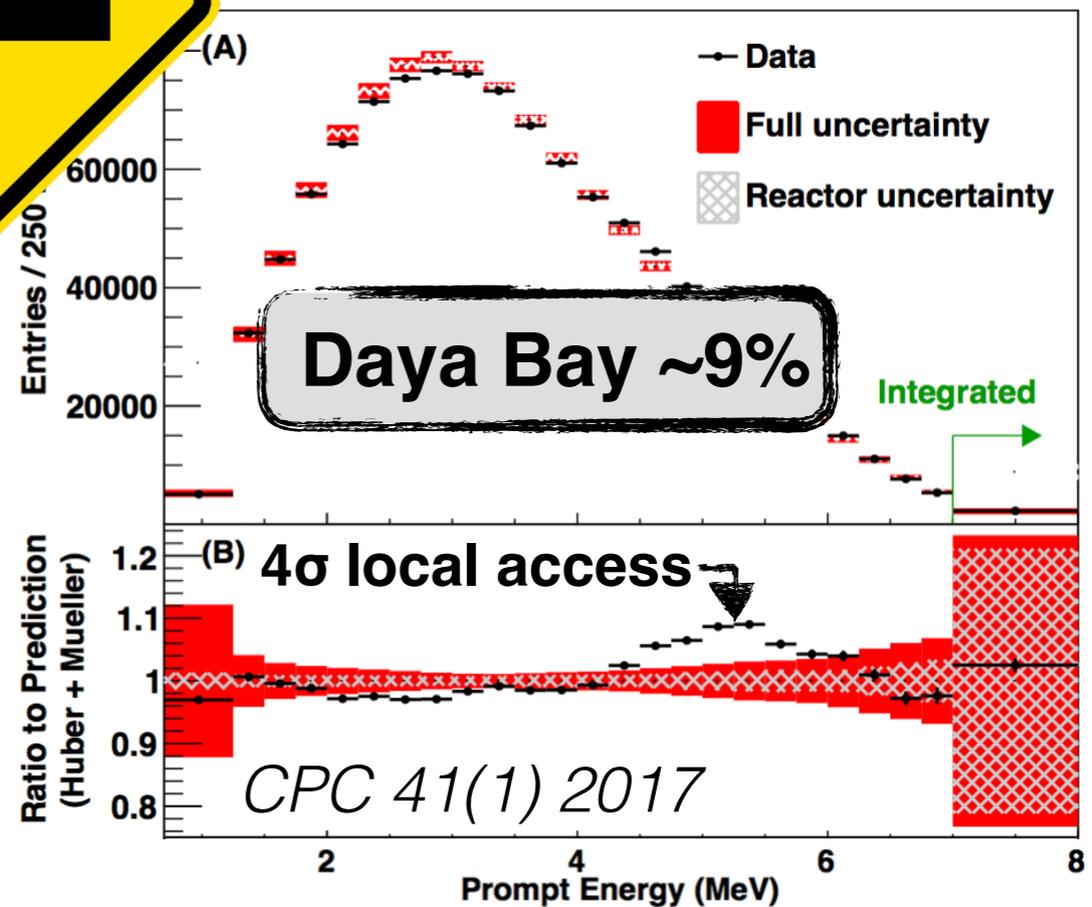
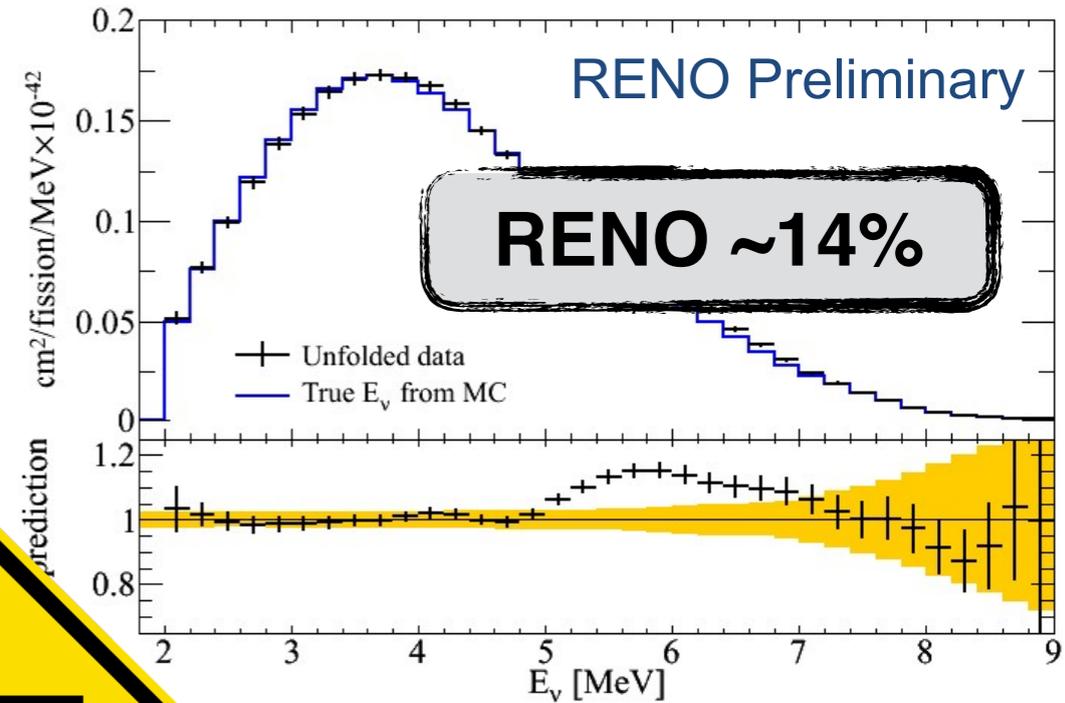
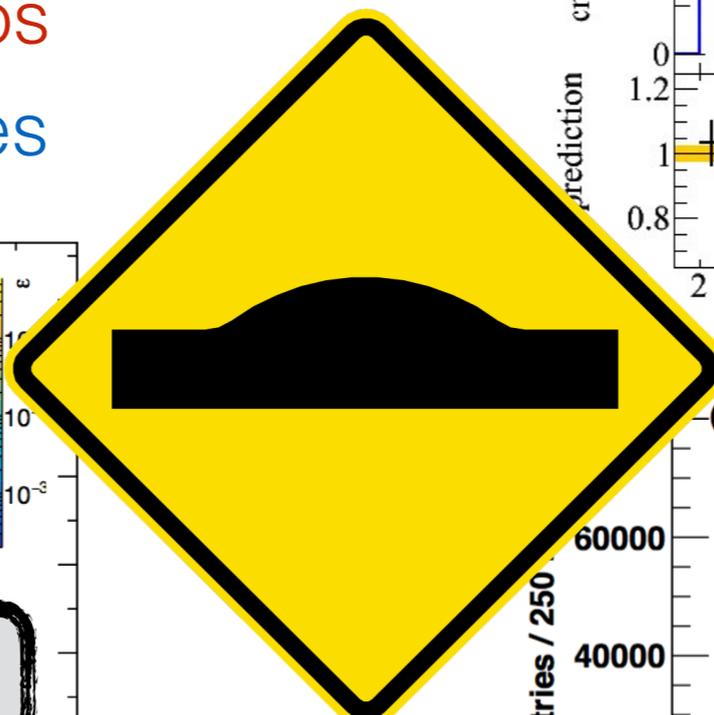
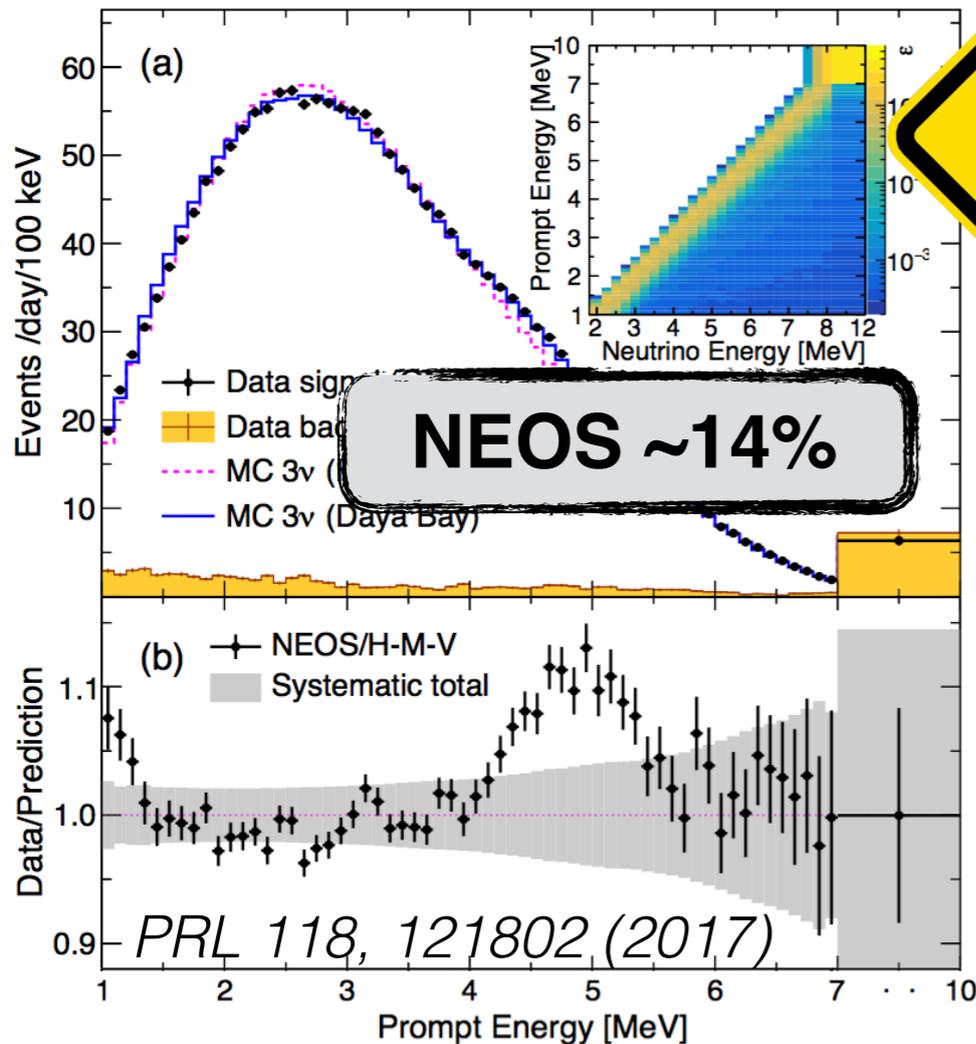
- **Hints of steriles elsewhere**

- Radioactive calibration sources at GALLEX, SAGE
- Accelerator experiments LSND and MiniBooNE



Reactor Neutrino Spectrum Shape Anomaly

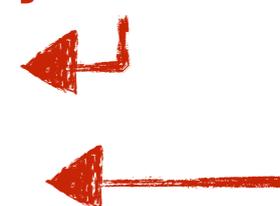
- **Obvious 'Bump' (excess over prediction) at 4-6 MeV in prompt spectrum**
 - Not a detector effect
 - Not due to sterile neutrinos
 - Could be prediction issues



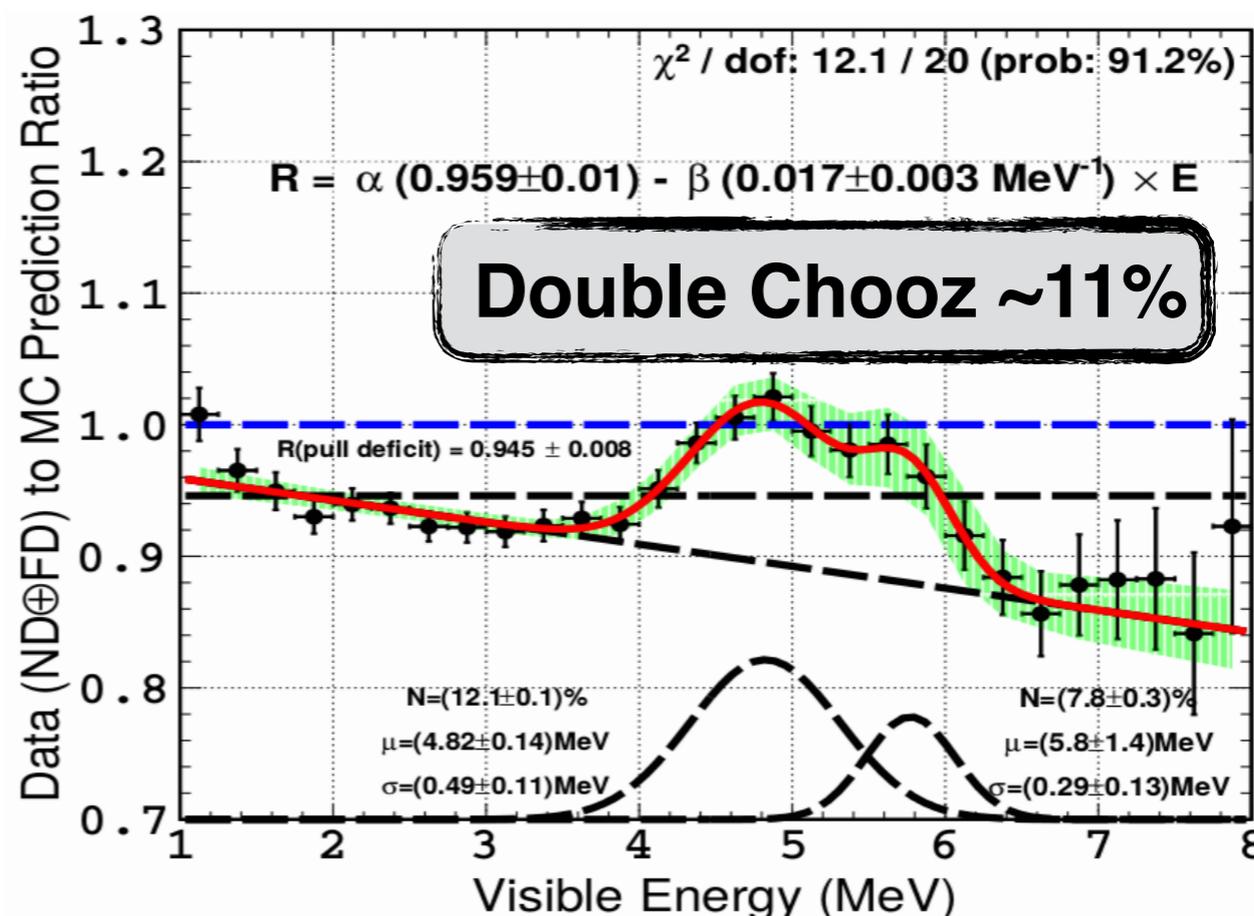
Origin of the Bump

- Origin of the ‘bump’ is unknown - several hypotheses:
 - Forbidden decay corrections - not as assumed
 - Harder n spectrum in the reactor than in ILL measurement
 - **Eventual problem in ILL measurement**
 - **^{238}U spectrum loosely constrained - different ^{238}U contribution among experiments \Leftrightarrow different size of the bump**

Can be tested by ^{235}U reactors



- Further (empirical) structure of the bump suggested by Double Chooz

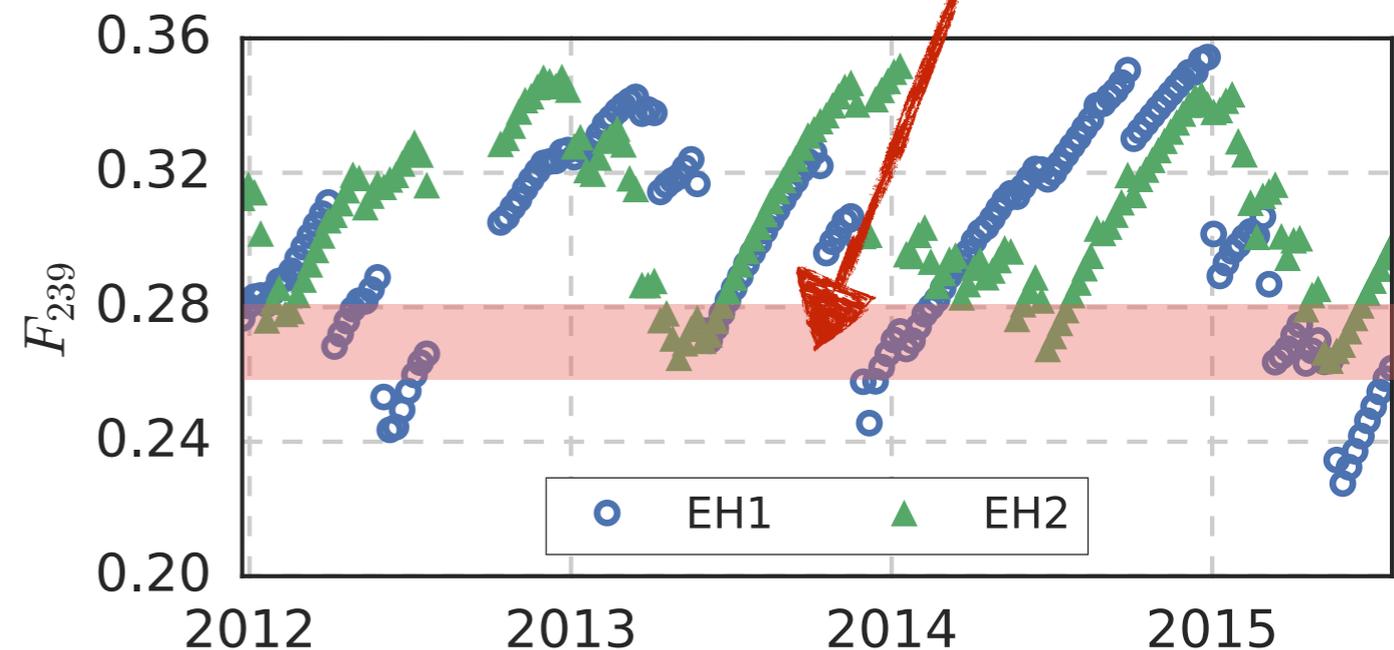
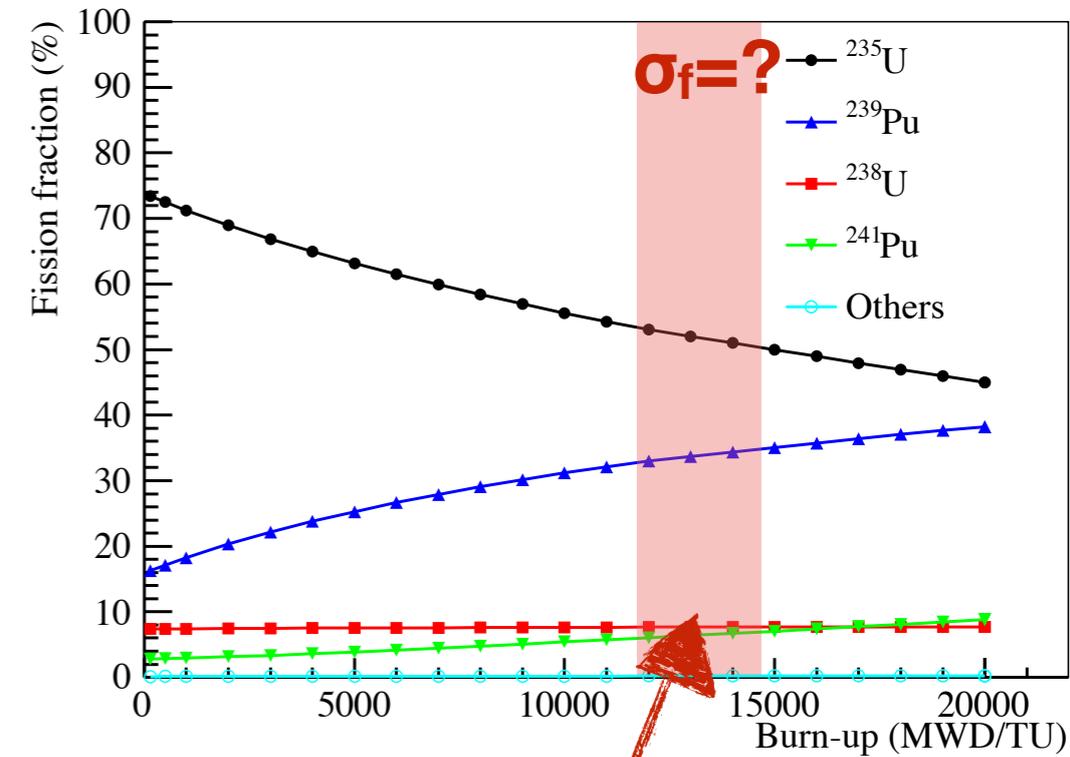


- Fuel evolution expected - measured by Rovno (90s), SONGS (00's)

$$\sigma_f = \sum_i f_i \times \sigma_f^i$$

Total IBD yield $\leftarrow \sigma_f$
Isotope fission fraction $\leftarrow f_i$
Isotope IBD yield $\leftarrow \sigma_f^i$

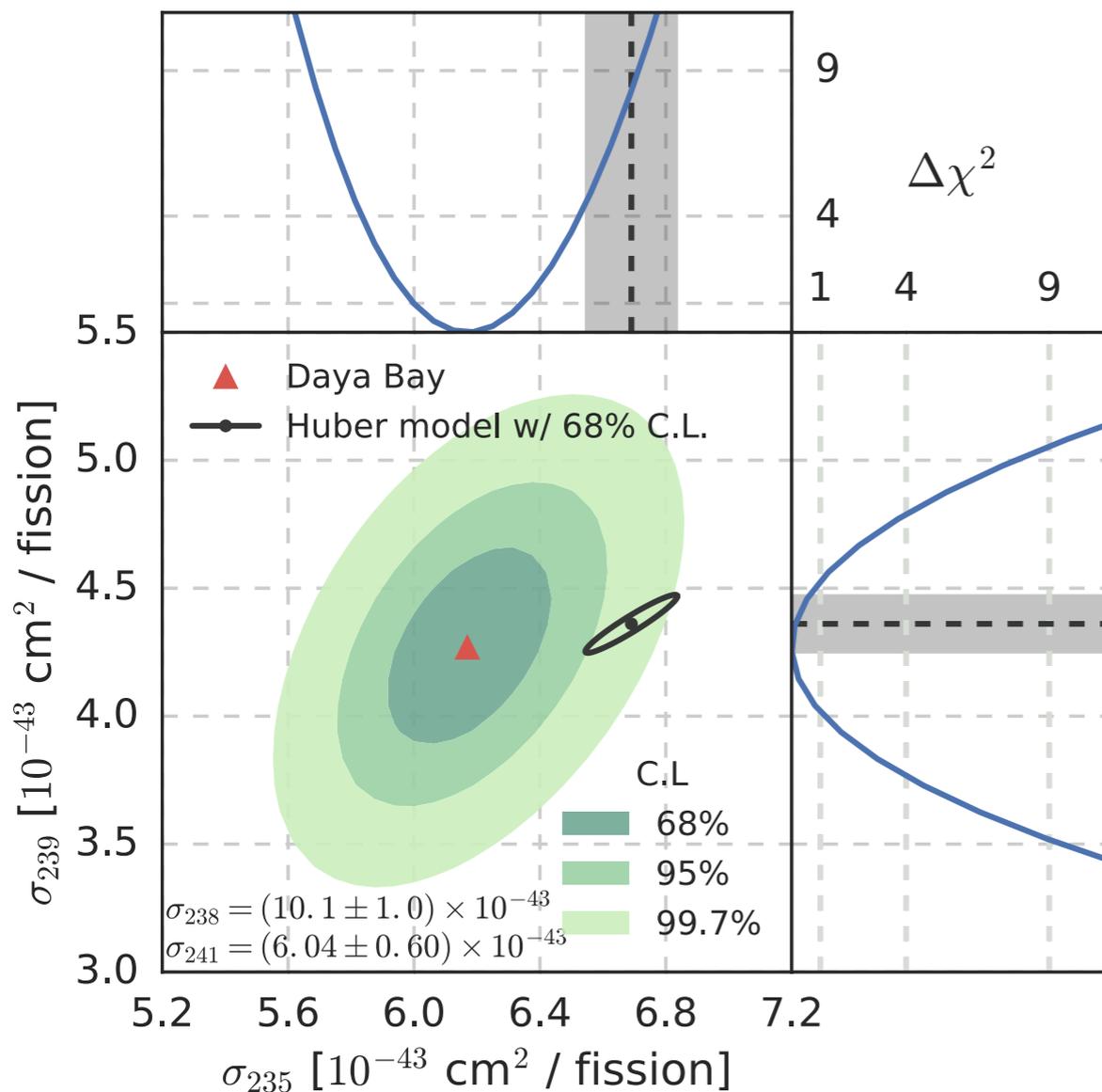
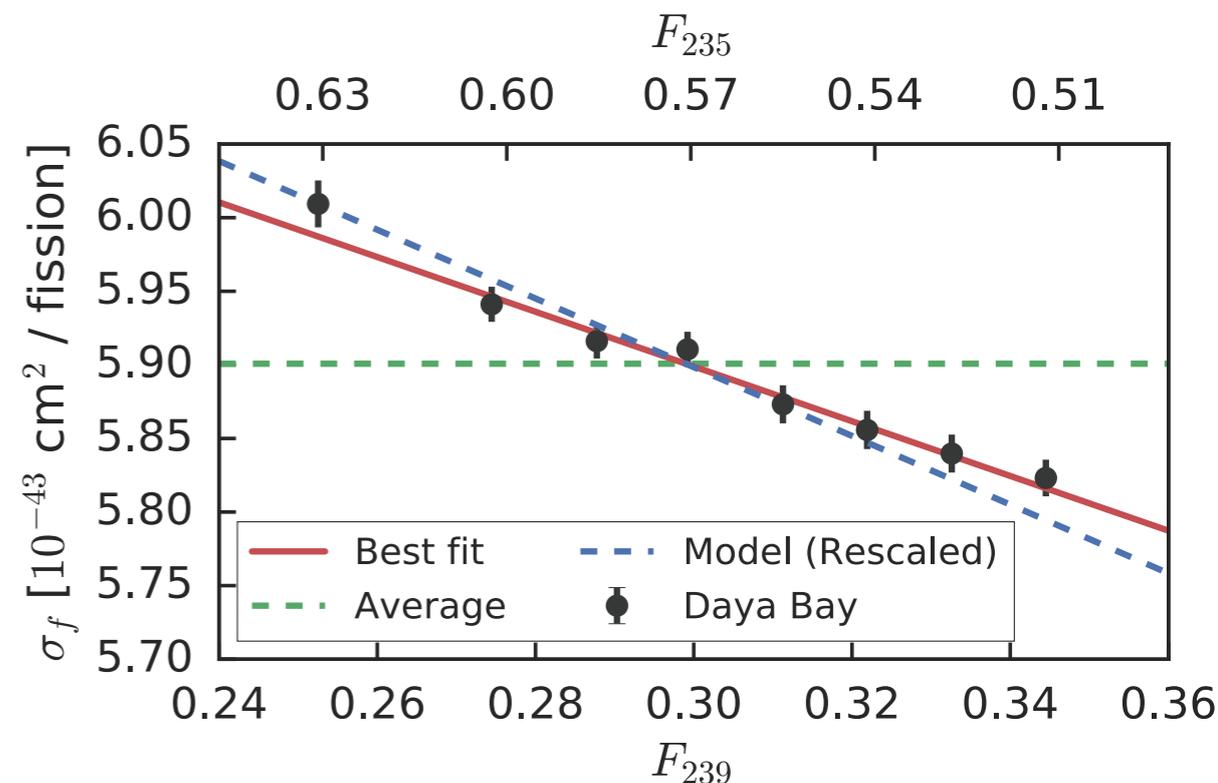
- Since $\sigma_f^{235U} \neq \sigma_f^{238U} \neq \sigma_f^{239Pu} \neq \sigma_f^{241Pu}$ we expect change in total IBD yield
- Change in total IBD yield + Fission fraction evolution \rightarrow Disentangle isotopic contribution
- Daya Bay data binned by effective fission fraction of ^{239}Pu
- Allowed by spectacular statistics of 2.2 millions events in near halls



PRL 118, 251801 (2017)

- **Fuel evolution measured by Daya Bay with unprecedented precision in 2017**

- Obvious linear change of $\sigma_f(F_{239})$
- **Does not agree with prediction**



- Allowed to disentangle ^{235}U and ^{239}Pu yields (with conservative constraints on ^{238}U and ^{241}Pu)
- ^{235}U lower than H-M model by 7.8% while ^{239}Pu consistent
- **Suggests prediction issues**

PRL 118, 251801 (2017)



Conclusions from Fuel Evolution



- **Fuel evolution discrepancy closely linked to flux anomaly**
 - Daya Bay measurement suggest that ^{235}U incorrect prediction is behind most of the reactor flux anomaly
 - Explanation of flux anomaly purely by **sterile neutrinos** \Leftrightarrow **equal deficit** disfavoured at **2.8σ**

Reactor Flux Anomaly Cause	Suggests	$\Delta\chi^2/\text{NDF}$	Confidence level
^{235}U only	Prediction issues	0.17/1	Very probable
^{239}Pu only	Prediction issues	10.0/1	Disfavored at 3.2σ
All isotopes w/ equal deficit	Sterile neutrinos	7.9/1	Disfavored at 2.8σ

Nevertheless, Daya Bay did not rule out sterile neutrinos completely!

Composite model still possible

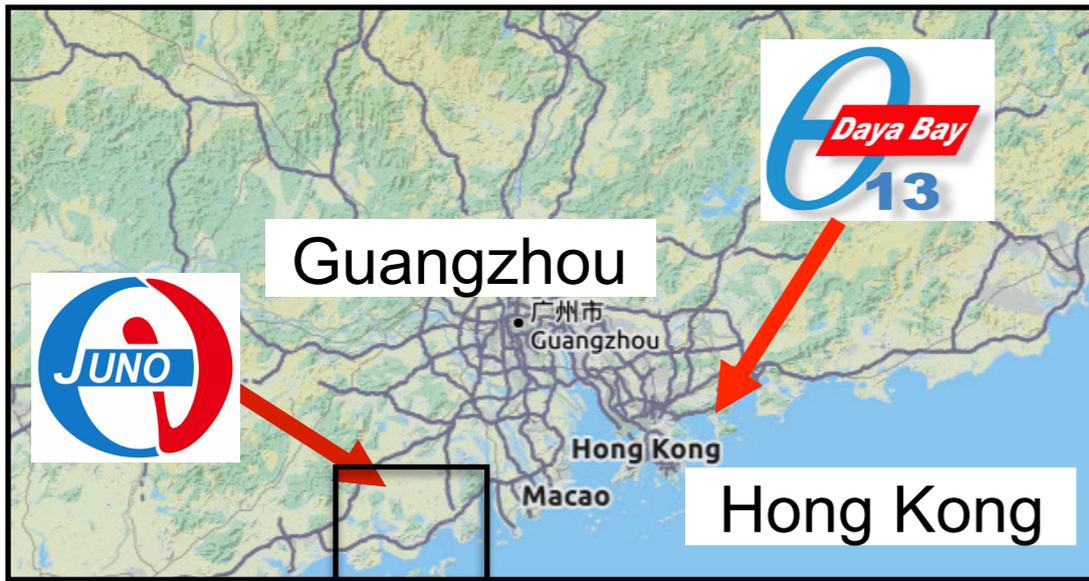
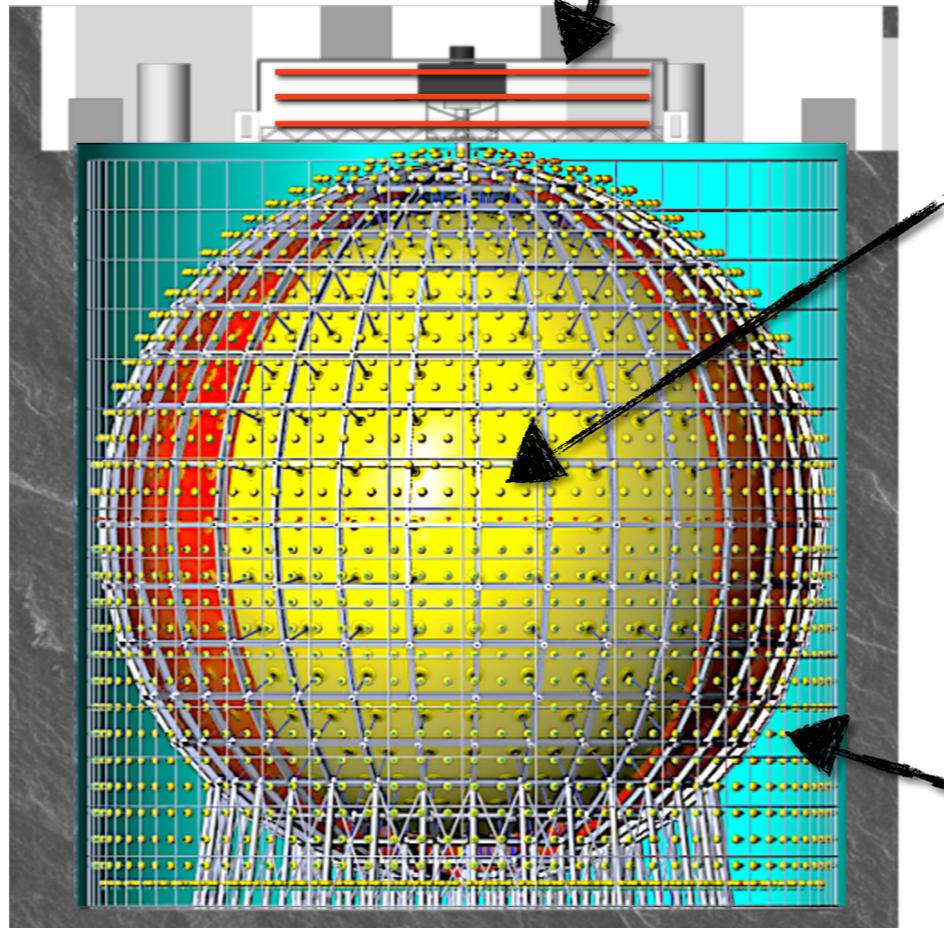
- **Powerful source:** 10 nuclear reactors (26.6 TW_{th} in 2021, later 35.8 GW_{th})
- **Ideal baseline:** 52.5 km
- **Shielding:** 700 m underground

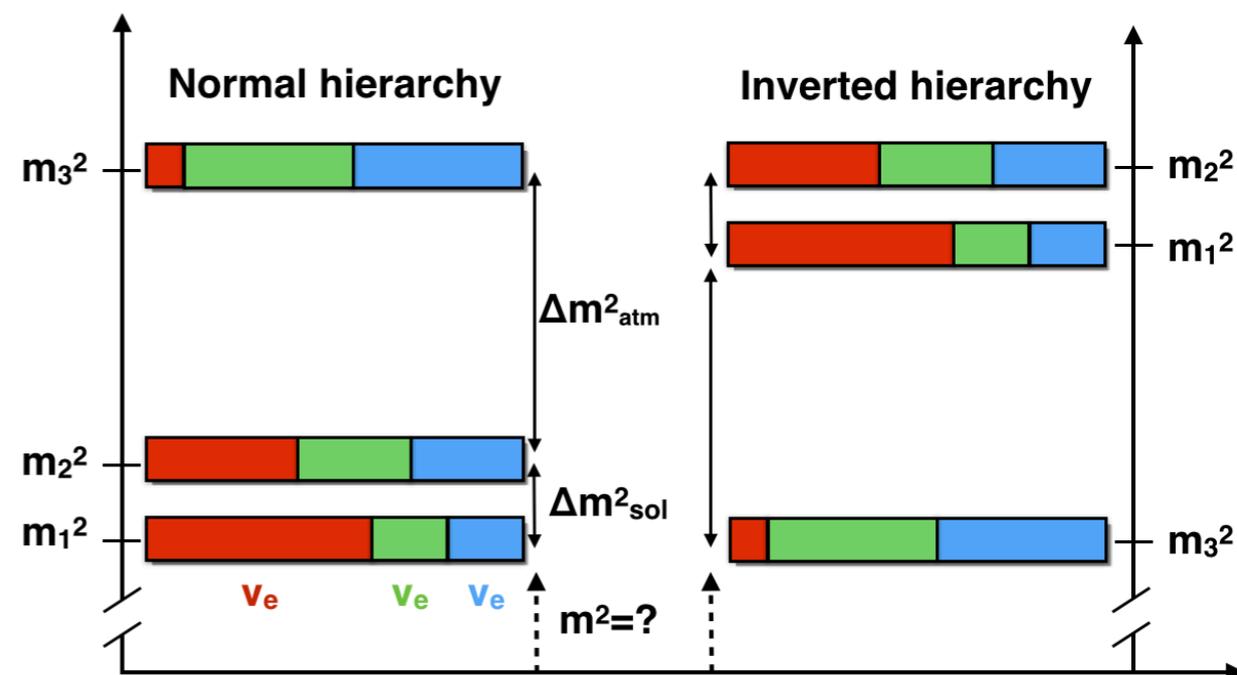
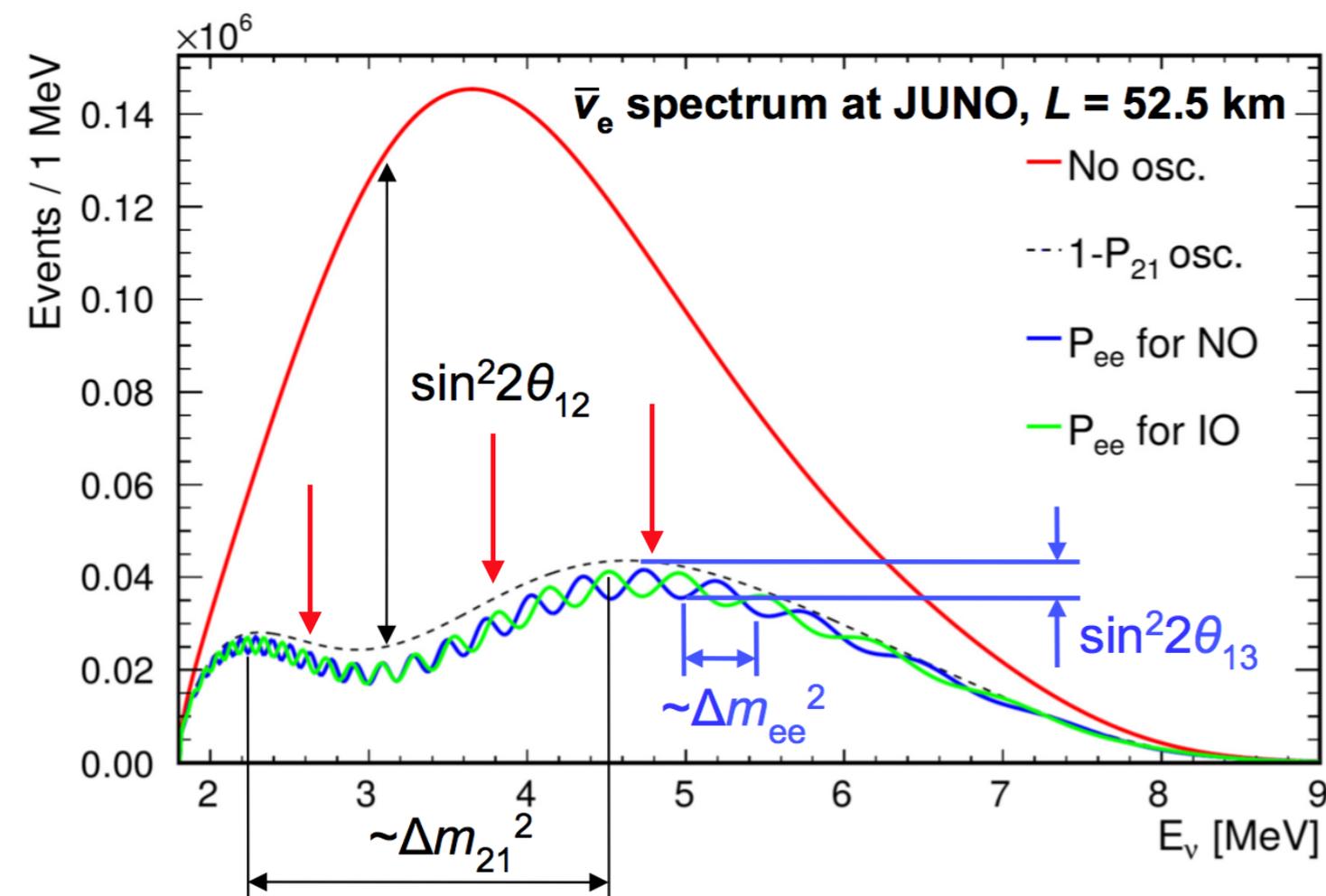
Top tracker
3 layers of plastic scintillator

Central detector

- **20 kt liquid scintillator** (largest LS in the world)
- **18k 20-inch PMTs** resolution 3%@1 MeV 75% photo coverage
- **25k 3-inch PMTs** for systematics control

Water pool
Ultra-pure water
Cherenkov detector with 2k 20-inch PMTs





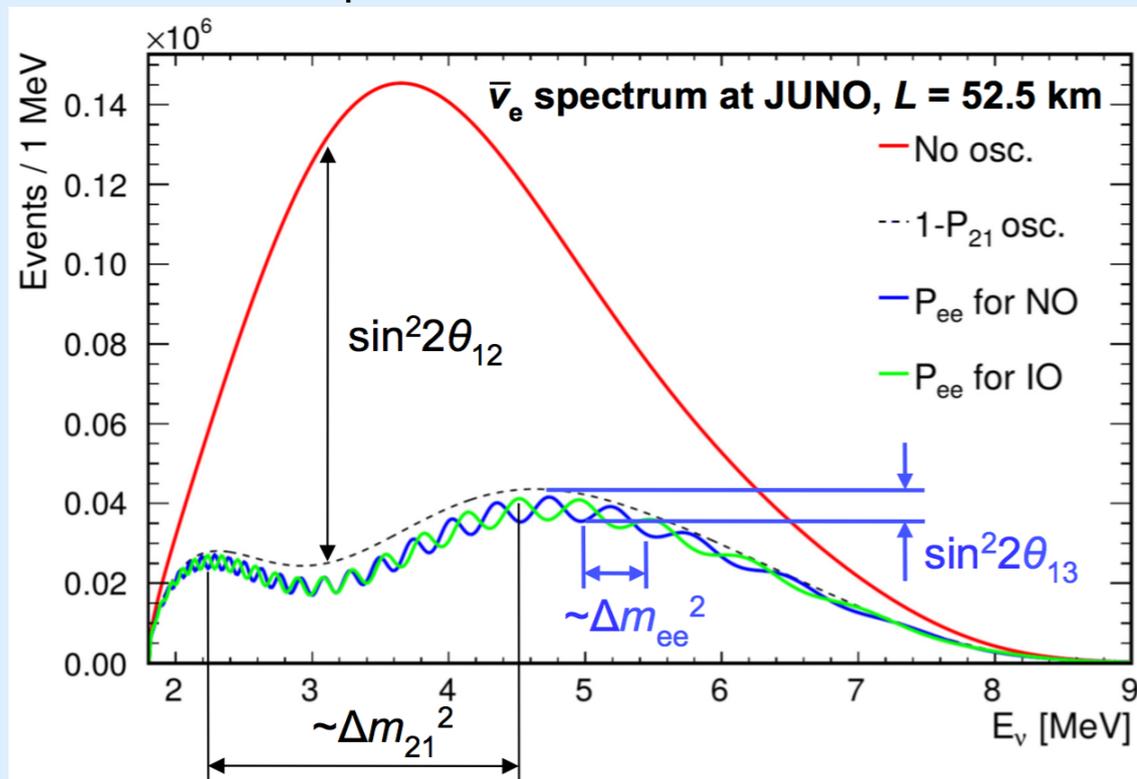
Normal $m_3 > m_2 (m_1)$ \rightleftharpoons Inverted $m_3 < m_1 (m_2)$

$$P(\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \cos^4 \theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E} \right) - \cos^2 \theta_{12} \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E} \right) - \sin^2 \theta_{12} \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{32}^2 L}{4E} \right)$$

- JUNO first experiment to observe **solar and atmospheric neutrino oscillation modes simultaneously**
- Neutrino mass hierarchy (ordering) identified based on different phase throughout the whole spectrum

Reactor neutrino oscillations:

- Mass hierarchy determination
- Precise measurement of particular oscillation parameters

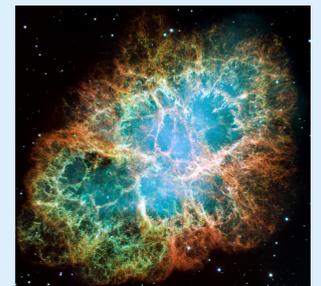


Parameter	Current precision (1σ)	Improvement by JUNO
$\sin^2 2\theta_{12}$	5%	<0.7%
Δm_{21}^2	2.3%	<0.6%
Δm_{31}^2	2.5% sign unknown	<0.5% sign determination

Other physics:

• Supernova (SN) neutrinos

- 10^4 events from SN @ 10 kpc
- Testing SN models
- Possibility of independent determination of MH

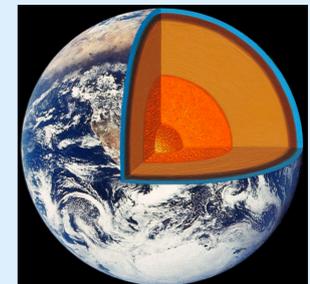


• Diffused SN neutrinos

- 1-4 events per year
- Discovery if measured

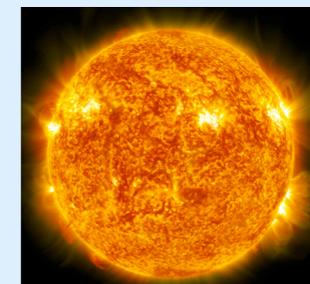
• Geoneutrinos

- From U/Th decays



• Solar neutrinos

- ${}^7\text{Be}$ neutrinos detected via elastic scattering



• Proton decay

- $p \rightarrow K^+ + \nu$

• ...and more



Very Short Baseline Experiments



More detail in talk
by Jaison Lee

Not extensive list of VSBL experiments

Experiment	Reactor power [MW _{th}]	Distance [m]	Target Mass [t]	Target type
NEOS	2700	25	1	GdLS
DANSS	3000	10-12	0.9	GdPS
STEREO	58	9-11	1.8	GdLS
PROSPECT	85	7-12	1	⁶ LiLS
SOLID	100	6-9	1.6	⁶ LiPS

LS=Liquid Scintillator PS=Plastic Scintillator

- **Hunt for sterile neutrinos** at ~1 eV scale ⇔ explanation of flux anomaly
- Precise **measurement of reactor neutrino flux and energy spectrum** for different fuel composition
 - Commercial reactors with mixture of ²³⁵U, ²³⁸U, ²³⁹Pu, ²⁴¹Pu
 - Research reactors with mainly ²³⁵U
- Challenge prediction models - measurement of ²³⁵U yield&spectrum

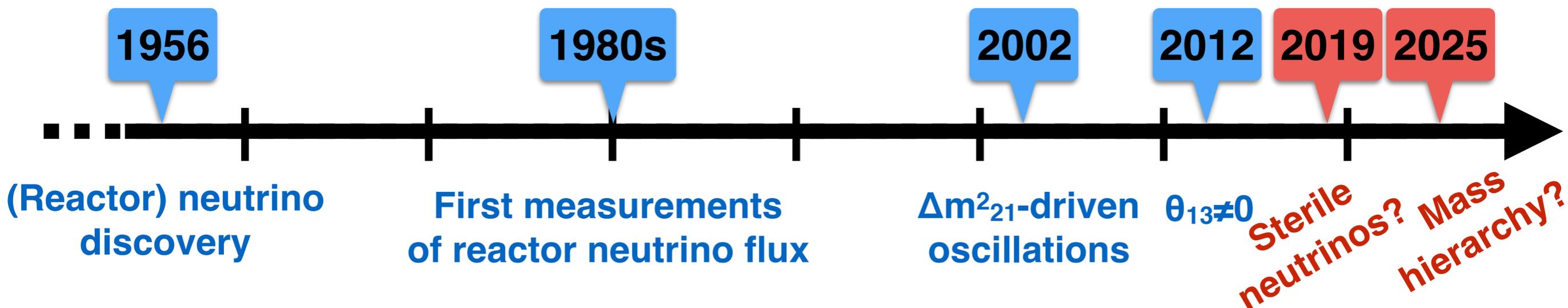


Conclusions

- Non-zero θ_{13} paved the way for CP-violation search in lepton sector and measurement of mass hierarchy with oscillations
- Precise measurement of the θ_{12} , Δm^2_{21} , Δm^2_{32} and neutrino mass hierarchy ahead with JUNO reactor neutrino experiment
- Recently, anomalies in reactor neutrinos observed:
 - Reactor Flux Anomaly
 - 'Bump' in the spectrum
- Dedicated very short-baseline measurements needed to resolve those
- **Nuclear reactors continue to provide us with one of the most fruitful environments for studying the elusive neutrino**



Outlook



Stay tuned... Reactor neutrinos picking up the pace!?!

Thank you!



Extras

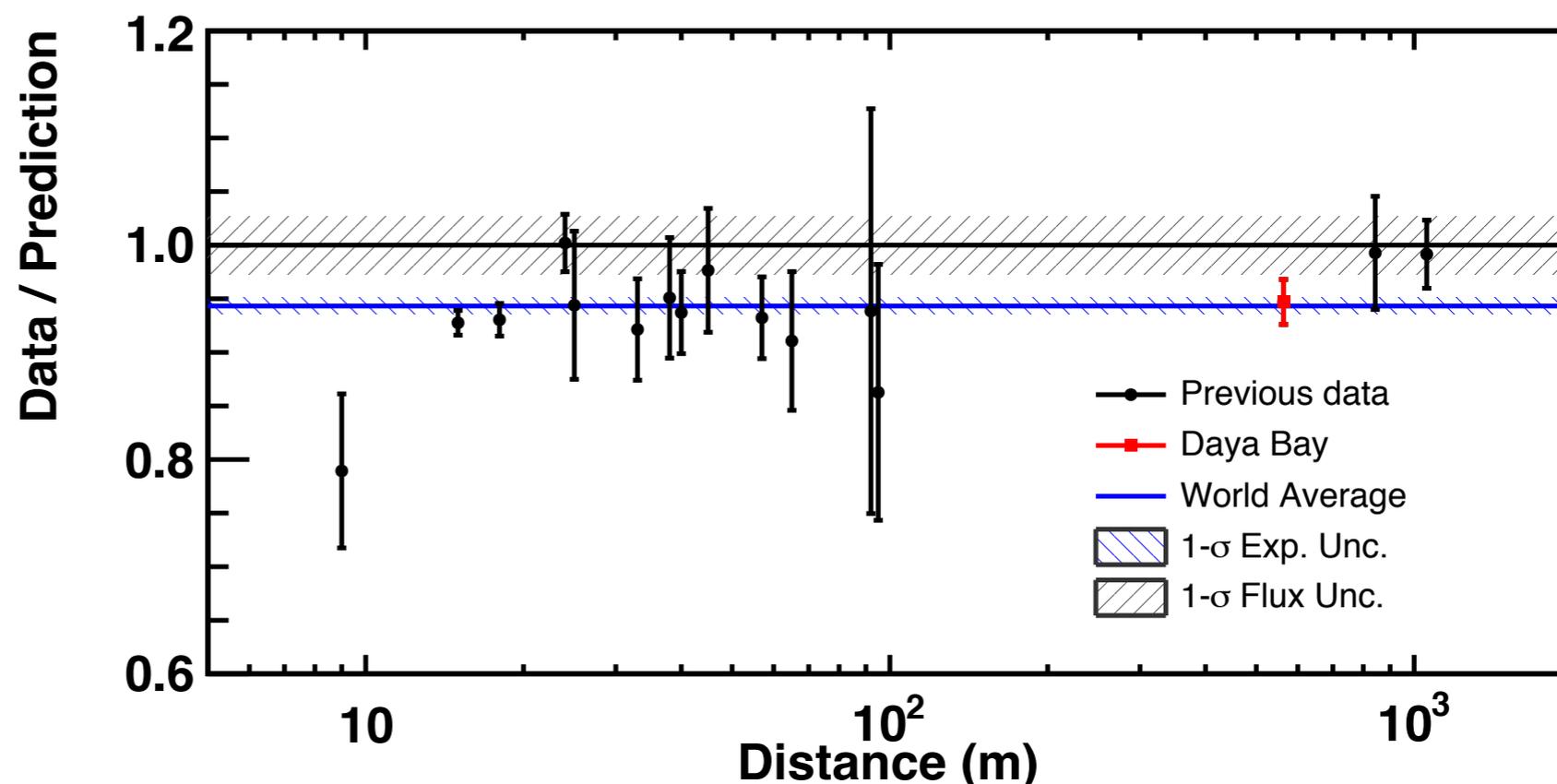




Past Flux Measurements



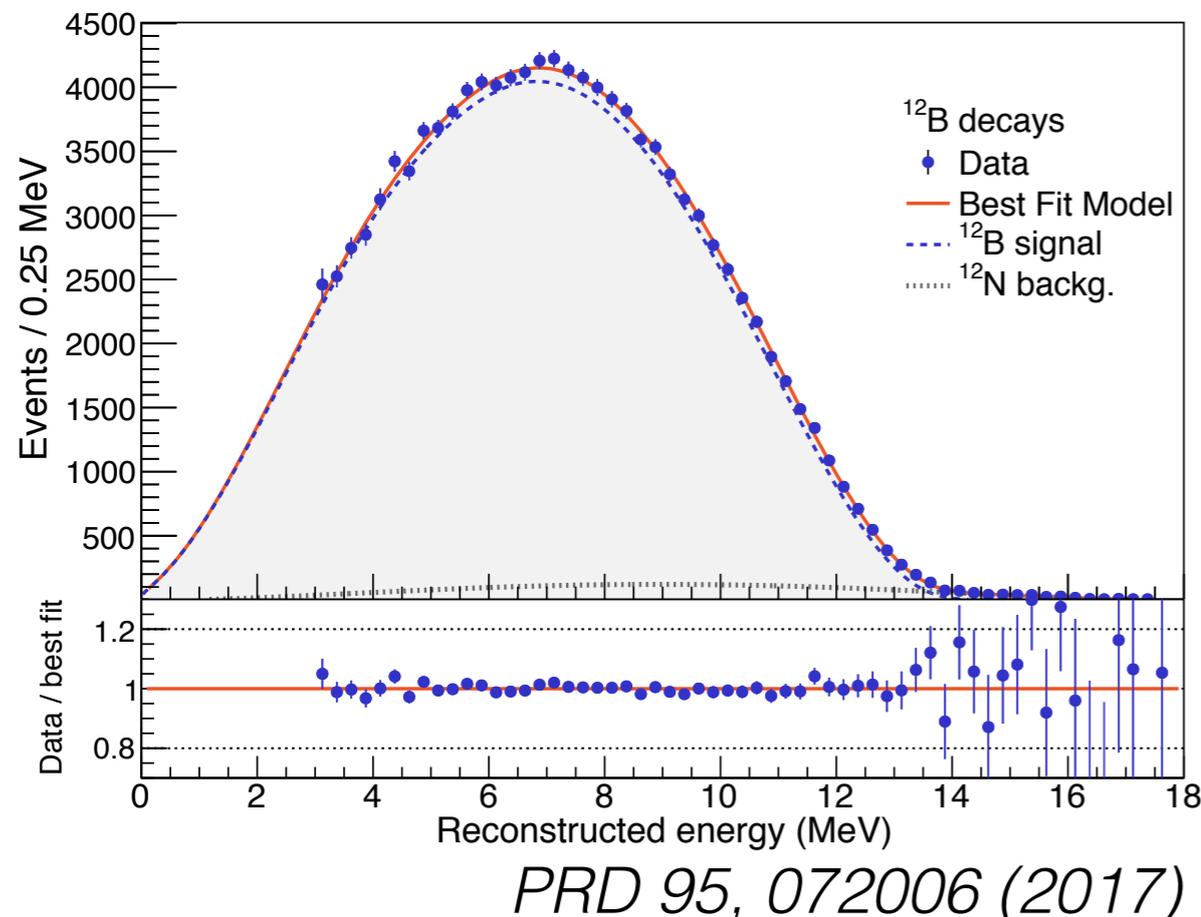
#	Exp.
1	Bugey-4
2	ROVNO91
3	Bugey-3-I
4	Bugey-3-II
5	Bugey-3-III
6	Goesgen-I
7	Goesgen-II
8	Goesgen-III
9	ILL
10	Krasn. I
11	Krasn. II
12	Krasn. III
13	SRP-I
14	SRP-II
15	ROVNO88-1I
16	ROVNO88-2I
17	ROVNO88-1S
18	ROVNO88-2S
19	ROVNO88-3S
20	Palo Verde
21	CHOOZ



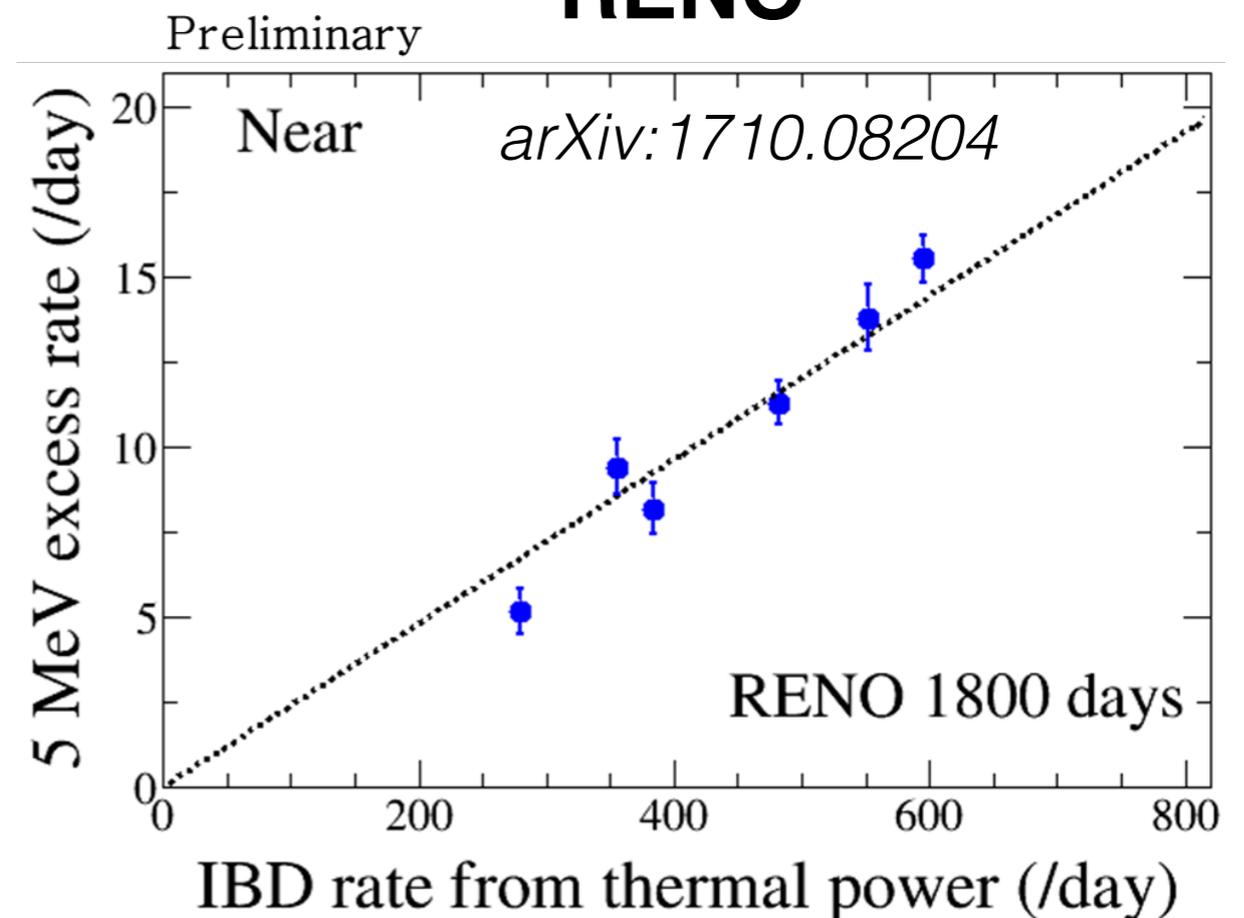
'Bump' Not a Detector Effect

- **Not a background**
 - Reactor power correlated
- **Not a detector nonlinearity**
 - Not observed in other than IBD data, e.g. ^{12}B
 - Any physical process known with such a 'bump' effect

Daya Bay



RENO

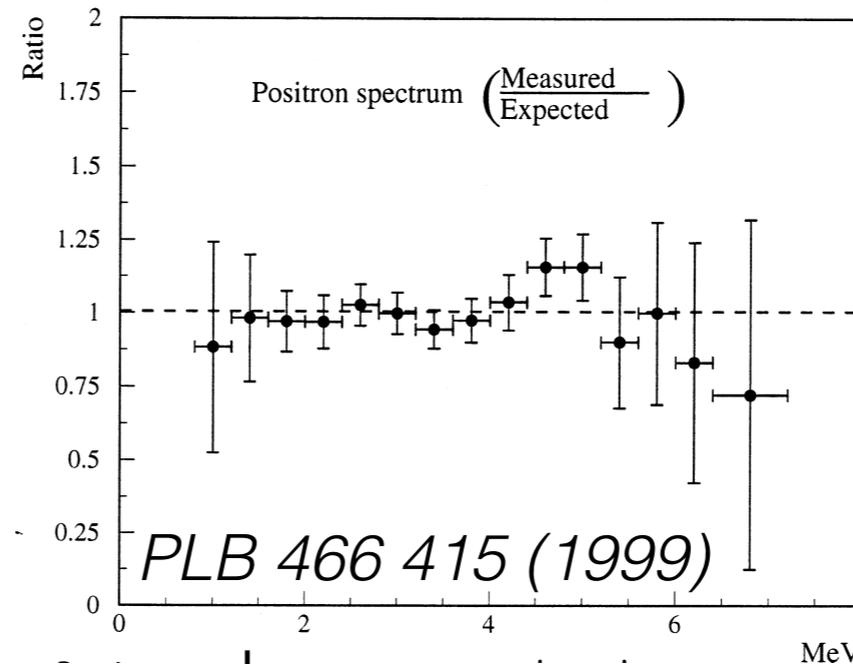


'Bump' in Past

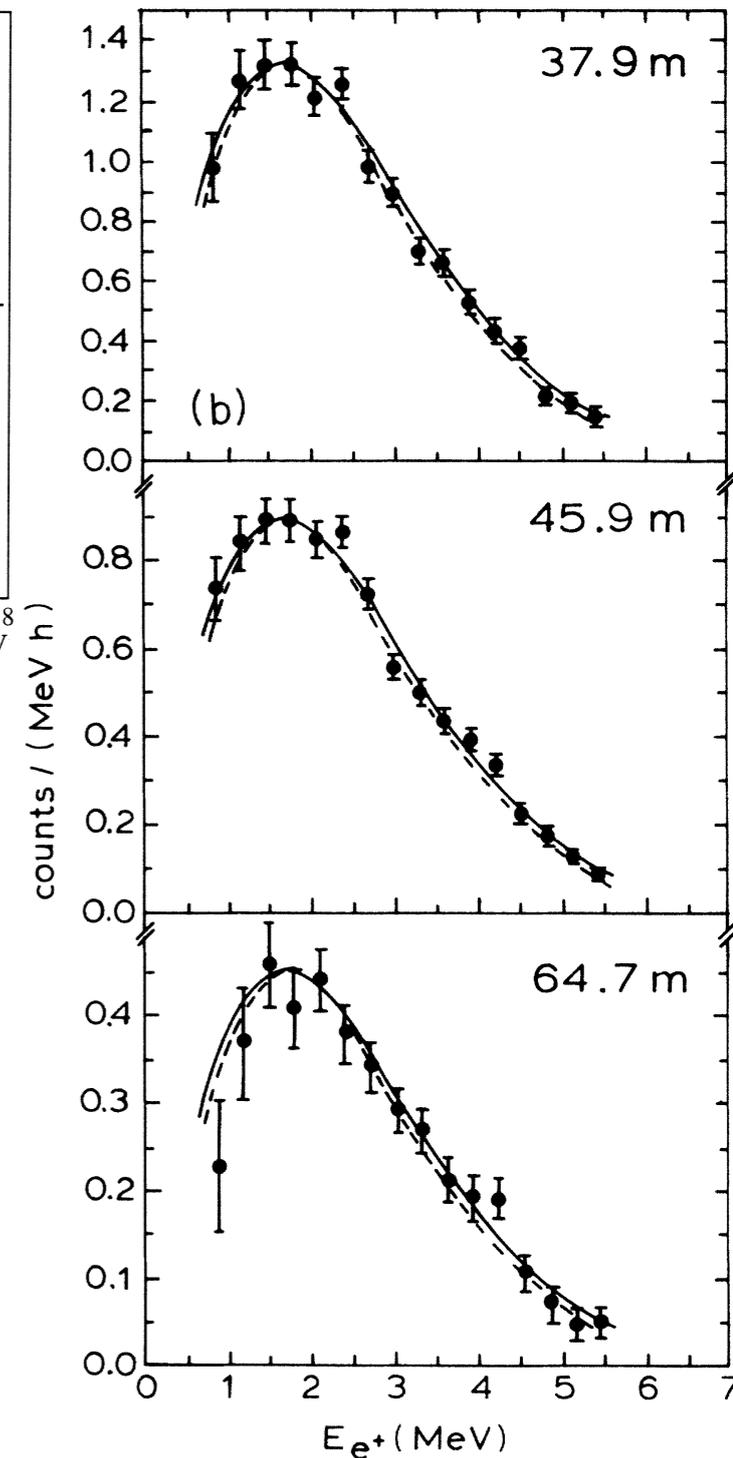
- **'Bump' observed in past**

- Observed by several experiments in 80s/90s
- However, most precise measurement from Bugey-3 agrees $<5\%$
- Bump was not seen with enough significance then

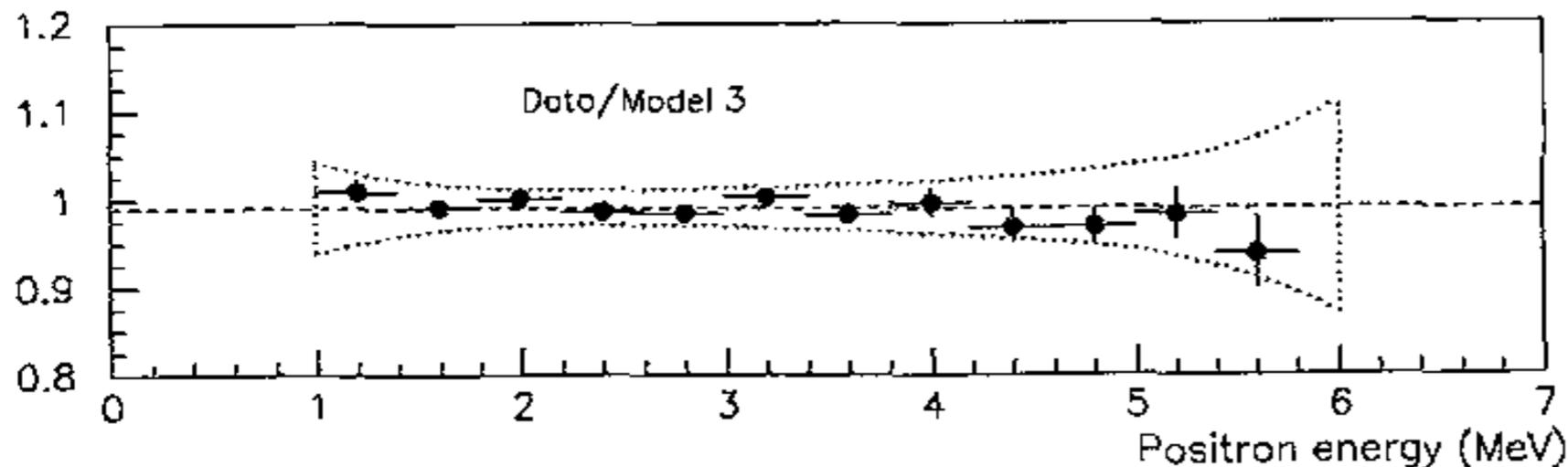
CHOOZ



Gösgen



Bugey-3



Phys.Lett. B374 (1996)

PRD 34 2621 (1986)