

Status of Light Sterile Neutrinos

WWW.IHEP.CAS.CN



Yu-Feng Li

liyufeng@ihep.ac.cn

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing



8th Workshop on Flavor Symmetries and Consequences in Accelerators and Cosmology. Shanghai & Hefei, China

Three Neutrino Paradigm

Standard Parameterization of Mixing Matrix

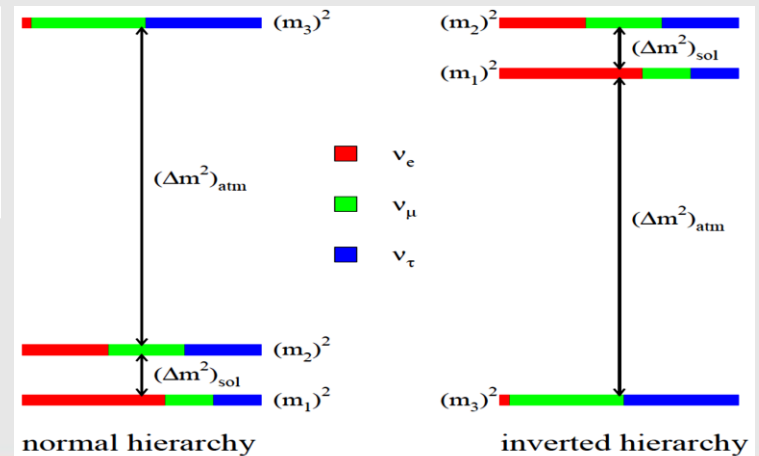
$$\begin{aligned}
 U &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta_{13}} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\lambda_{21}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\lambda_{31}} \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta_{13}} \\ -s_{12}c_{23}-c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & c_{12}c_{23}-s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23}-c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & -c_{12}s_{23}-s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\lambda_{21}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\lambda_{31}} \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$c_{ab} \equiv \cos \vartheta_{ab} \quad s_{ab} \equiv \sin \vartheta_{ab} \quad 0 \leq \vartheta_{ab} \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \quad 0 \leq \delta_{13}, \lambda_{21}, \lambda_{31} < 2\pi$$

- 3 Mixing Angles: $\vartheta_{12}, \vartheta_{23}, \vartheta_{13}$
- 1 CPV Dirac Phase: δ_{13}
- 2 independent $\Delta m_{kj}^2 \equiv m_k^2 - m_j^2$: $\Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{31}^2$

➤ **Absolute Neutrino Masses**

➤ **Two CPV Majorana Phases**



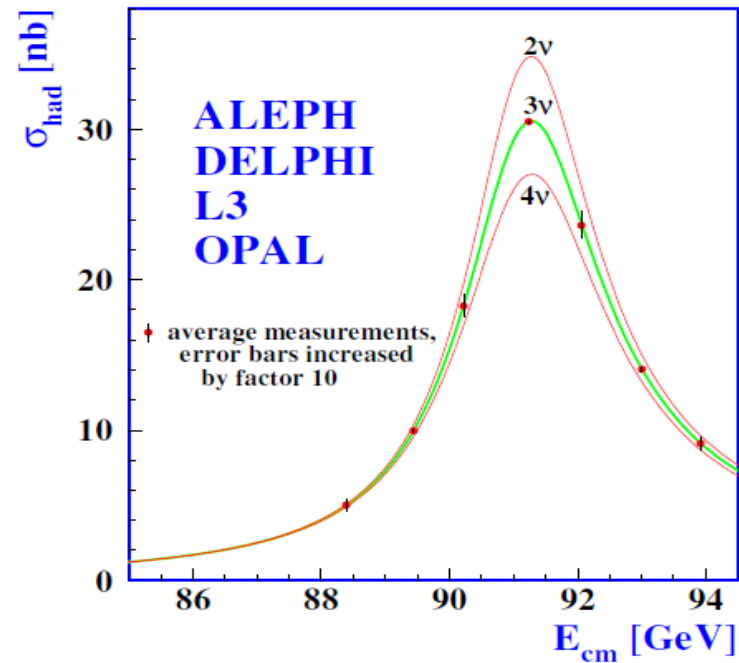
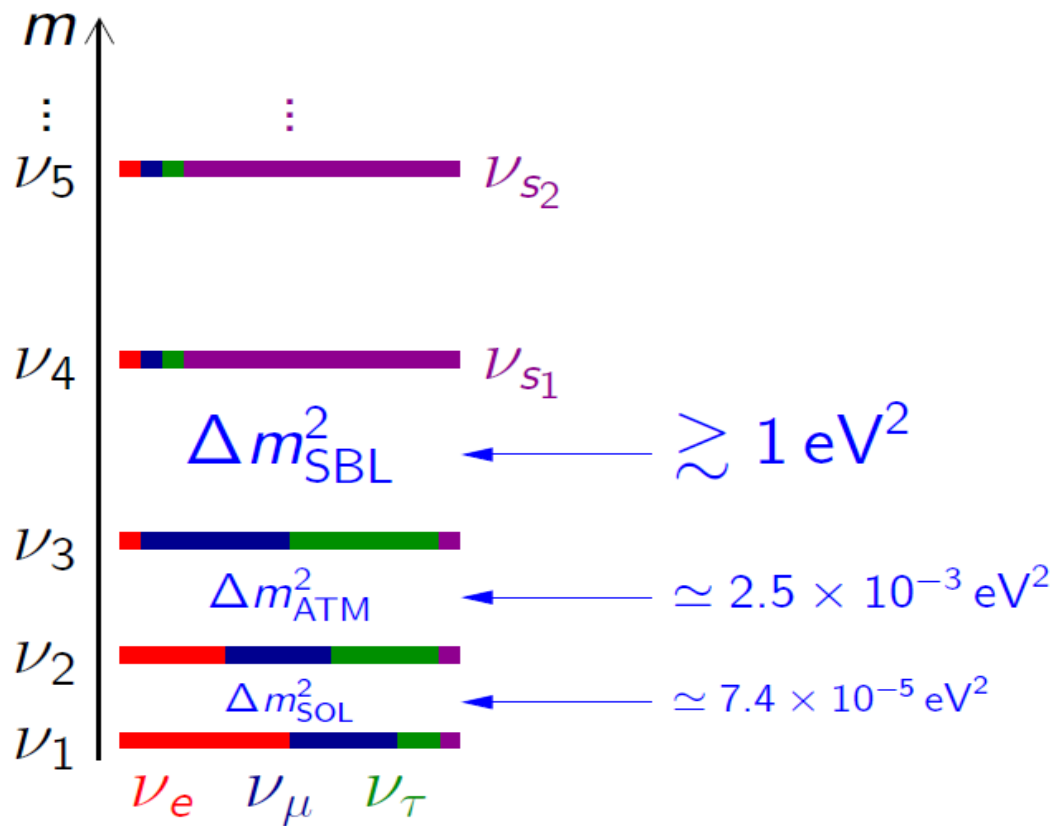
Current Status: 3- ν oscillations

de Salas et al, PLB782 (2018) 633, see also results from the Bari group & Nu-fit group

parameter	best fit $\pm 1\sigma$	3σ range	relative 1σ uncertainty
Δm_{21}^2 [10^{-5}eV^2]	$7.55^{+0.20}_{-0.16}$	7.05–8.14	2.4%
$ \Delta m_{31}^2 $ [10^{-3}eV^2] (NO)	2.50 ± 0.03	2.41–2.60	1.3%
$ \Delta m_{31}^2 $ [10^{-3}eV^2] (IO)	$2.42^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	2.31–2.51	
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}/10^{-1}$	$3.20^{+0.20}_{-0.16}$	2.73–3.79	5.5%
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}/10^{-1}$ (NO)	$5.47^{+0.20}_{-0.30}$	4.45–5.99	4.7%
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}/10^{-1}$ (IO)	$5.51^{+0.18}_{-0.30}$	4.53–5.98	4.4%
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}/10^{-2}$ (NO)	$2.160^{+0.083}_{-0.069}$	1.96–2.41	
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}/10^{-2}$ (IO)	$2.220^{+0.074}_{-0.076}$	1.99–2.44	3.5%
δ/π (NO)	$1.32^{+0.21}_{-0.15}$	0.87–1.94	10%
δ/π (IO)	$1.56^{+0.13}_{-0.15}$	1.12–1.94	9%

Are there any **new neutrino states, new interactions** or **new paradigm** ?

Beyond 3- ν oscillations: **sterile neutrinos**



$$N_{\nu_{\text{active}}}^{\text{LEP}} = 2.9840 \pm 0.0082$$

Explanation of **short baseline oscillations**:

eV-scale sterile neutrinos (which have mixing with active mass eigenstates)

**Status of short baseline oscillations in
 $\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance channels**

Gallium anomaly

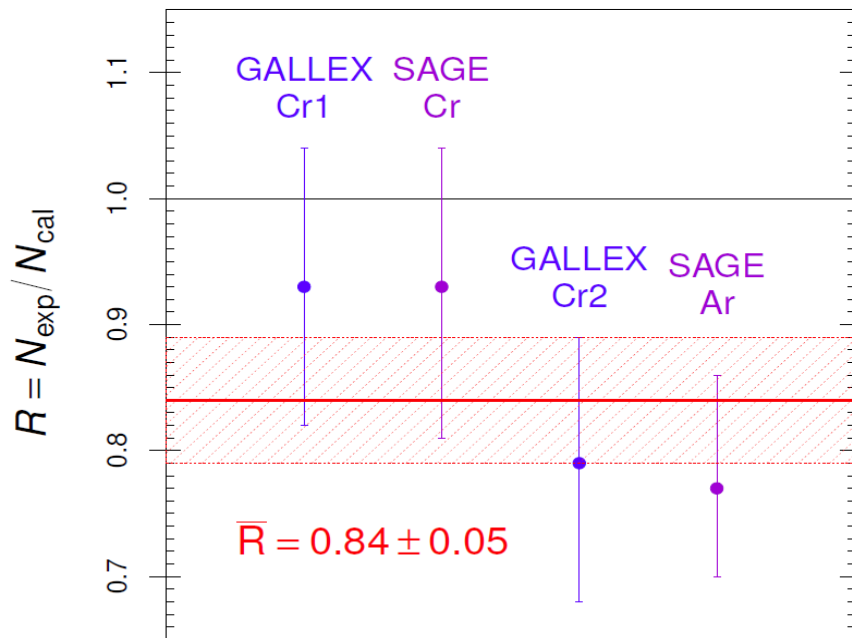
SAGE, PRC (2006); PRC (2009); Laveder et al. (2007)

Gallium Radioactive Source Experiments: GALLEX and SAGE

Test of Solar Neutrino Detection

Detection Process: $\nu_e + {}^{71}\text{Ga} \rightarrow {}^{71}\text{Ge} + e^-$

ν_e Sources: $e^- + {}^{51}\text{Cr} \rightarrow {}^{51}\text{V} + \nu_e$ $e^- + {}^{37}\text{Ar} \rightarrow {}^{37}\text{Cl} + \nu_e$



$\langle L \rangle_{\text{GALLEX}} = 1.9 \text{ m}$ $\langle L \rangle_{\text{SAGE}} = 0.6 \text{ m}$

➤ **~2.9 σ deficit**

Neutrino energies: ~0.8 MeV

$$\Delta m_{\text{SBL}}^2 \gtrsim 1 \text{ eV}^2 \gg \Delta m_{\text{ATM}}^2 \gg \Delta m_{\text{SOL}}^2$$

➤ **Anomaly supported by the new cross section measurement**



Frekers et al., PLB 706 (2011) 134

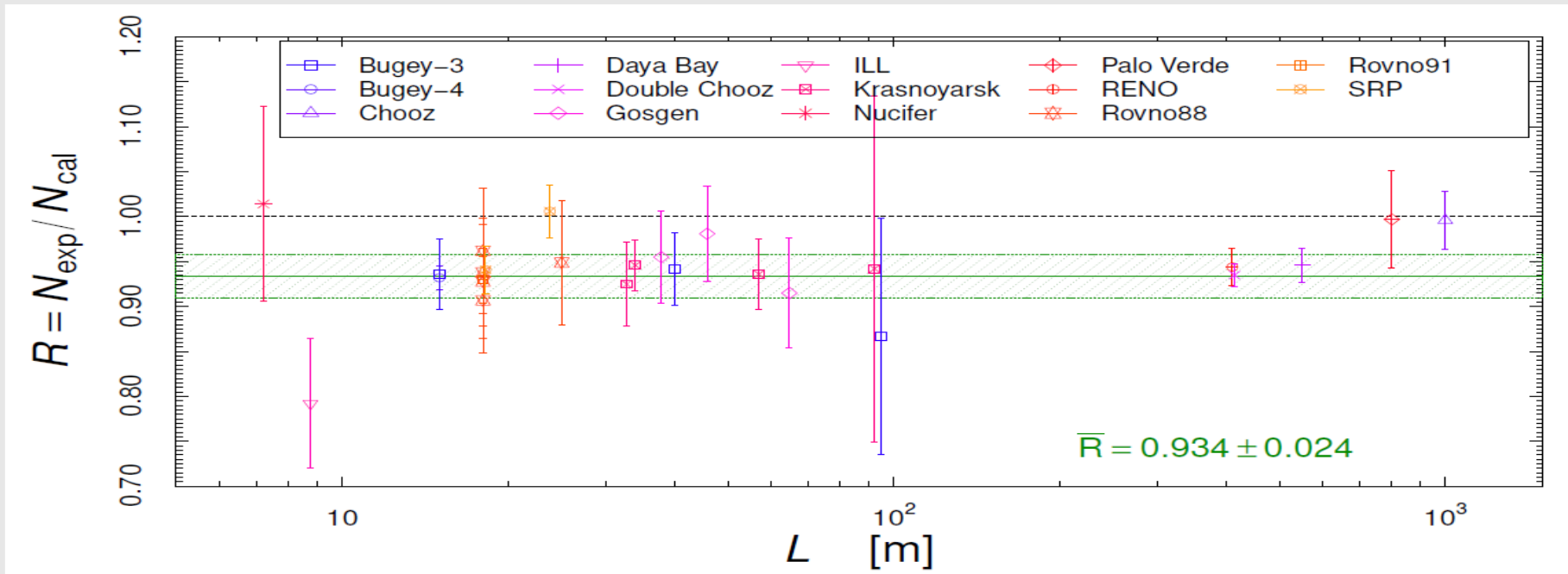
➤ **Contributions from excited states verified** *Giunti YFL et. al. 1210.5715*

Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly

[Mention et al, PRD 83 (2011) 073006]

New reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ fluxes

[Mueller et al, PRC 83 (2011) 054615; Huber, PRC 84 (2011) 024617]



- Discrepancy between theory and measurements
- **$\sim 2.8\sigma$ deficit** (depending on the theoretical flux uncertainty)
- Nominal theoretical uncertainty from the Mueller+Huber model $\sim 2.5\%$

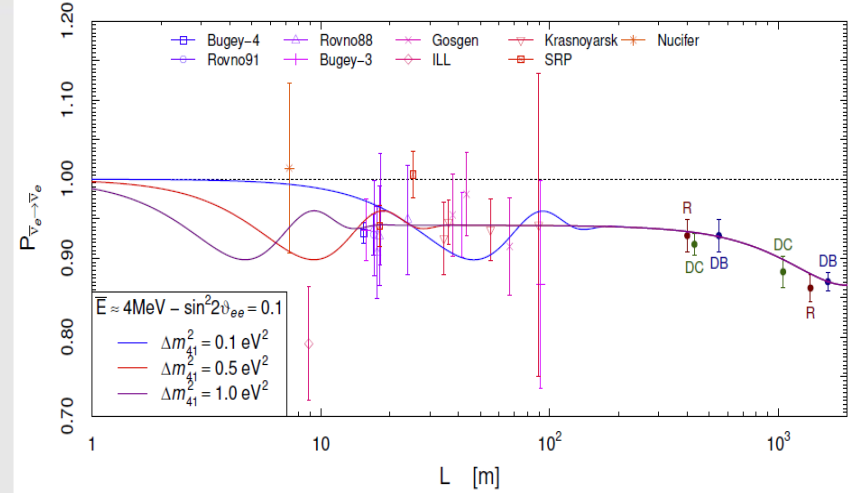
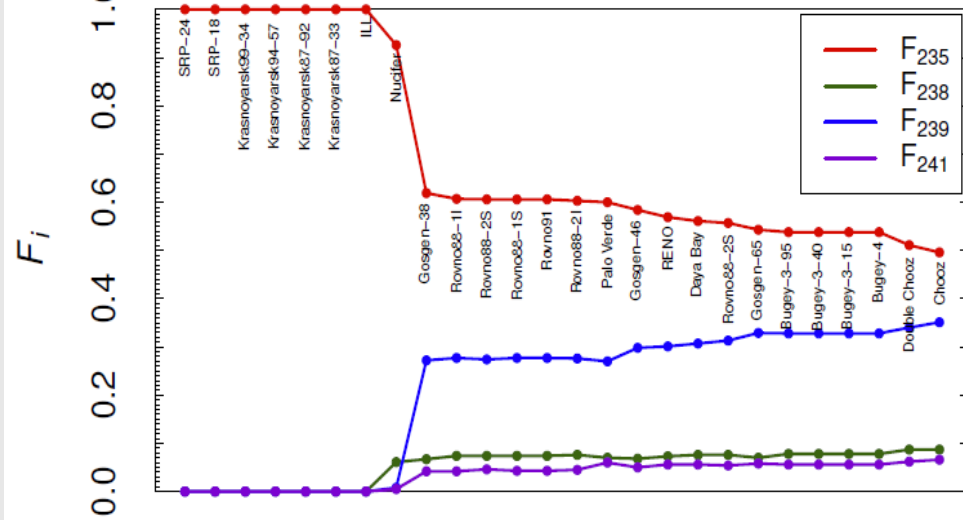
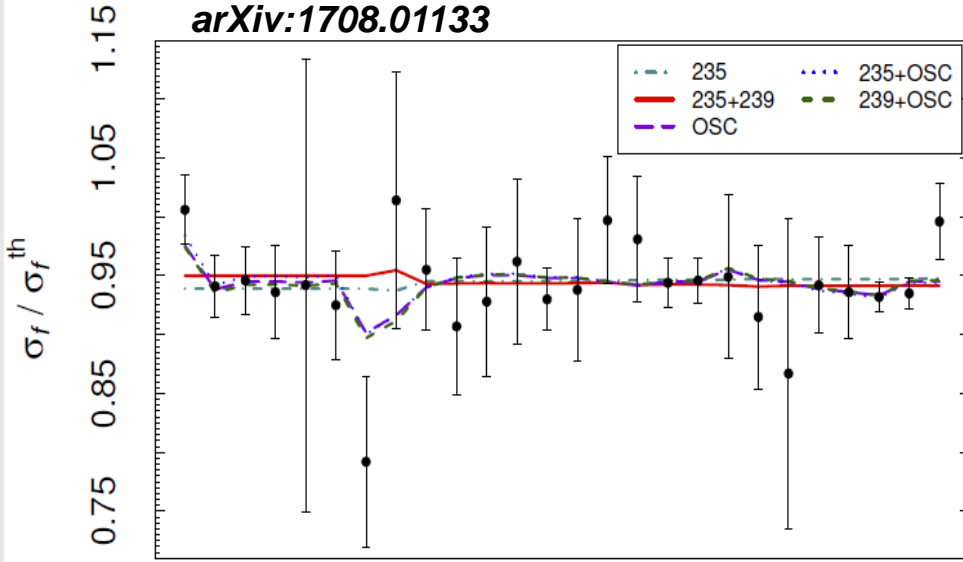
A closer look at reactor rates data

arXiv:1703.00860

a	Experiment	f_{235}^a	f_{238}^a	f_{239}^a	f_{241}^a	R_a^{exp}	σ_a^{exp} [%]	σ_a^{cor} [%]	σ_a^{the} [%]	L_a [m]	
1	Bugey-4	0.538	0.078	0.328	0.056	0.932	1.4	}1.4	2.5	15	
2	Rovno91	0.606	0.074	0.277	0.043	0.930	2.8		2.4	18	
3	Rovno88-1I	0.607	0.074	0.277	0.042	0.907	6.4	}3.1	2.4	18	
4	Rovno88-2I	0.603	0.076	0.276	0.045	0.938	6.4		2.4	18	
5	Rovno88-1S	0.606	0.074	0.277	0.043	0.962	7.3		}2.2	2.4	18
6	Rovno88-2S	0.557	0.076	0.313	0.054	0.949	7.3	2.5		25	
7	Rovno88-2S	0.606	0.074	0.274	0.046	0.928	6.8	}3.1	2.4	18	
8	Bugey-3-15	0.538	0.078	0.328	0.056	0.936	4.2		}4.0	2.5	15
9	Bugey-3-40	0.538	0.078	0.328	0.056	0.942	4.3	2.5		40	
10	Bugey-3-95	0.538	0.078	0.328	0.056	0.867	15.2	2.5		95	
11	Gosgen-38	0.619	0.067	0.272	0.042	0.955	5.4	}2.0	2.4	37.9	
12	Gosgen-46	0.584	0.068	0.298	0.050	0.981	5.4		}3.8	2.4	45.9
13	Gosgen-65	0.543	0.070	0.329	0.058	0.915	6.7			2.4	64.7
14	ILL	1	0	0	0	0.792	9.1	}4.1	2.4	8.76	
15	Krasnoyarsk87-33	1	0	0	0	0.925	5.0		2.4	32.8	
16	Krasnoyarsk87-92	1	0	0	0	0.942	20.4	0	2.4	92.3	
17	Krasnoyarsk94-57	1	0	0	0	0.936	4.2	0	2.4	57	
18	Krasnoyarsk99-34	1	0	0	0	0.946	3.0	0	2.4	34	
19	SRP-18	1	0	0	0	0.941	2.8	0	2.4	18.2	
20	SRP-24	1	0	0	0	1.006	2.9	0	2.4	23.8	
21	Nucifer	0.926	0.061	0.008	0.005	1.014	10.7	0	2.3	7.2	
22	Chooz	0.496	0.087	0.351	0.066	0.996	3.2	0	2.5	≈ 1000	
23	Palo Verde	0.600	0.070	0.270	0.060	0.997	5.4	0	2.4	≈ 800	
24	Daya Bay	0.561	0.076	0.307	0.056	0.946	2.0	0	2.5	≈ 550	
25	RENO	0.569	0.073	0.301	0.056	0.944	2.2	0	2.4	≈ 411	
26	Double Chooz	0.511	0.087	0.340	0.062	0.935	1.4	0	2.5	≈ 415	

Two alternative solutions

arXiv:1708.01133



Oscillation-based solution **or** fuel-based solution, **or** both?

All Reactors	^{235}U	OSC
χ^2_{min}	25.3	23.0
NDF	32	31
GoF	79%	85%

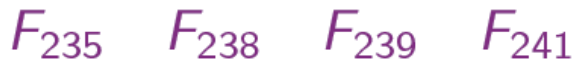
MC: ^{235}U disfavored at 1.7σ

New burn-up Feature @ Reactors

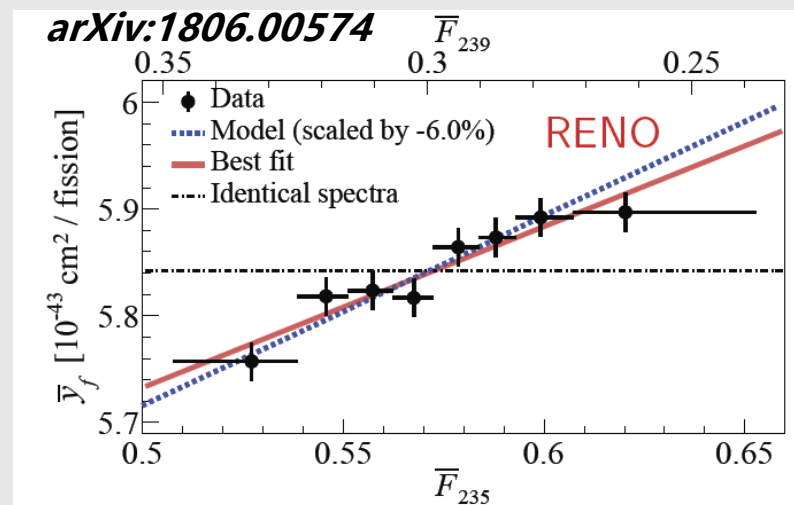
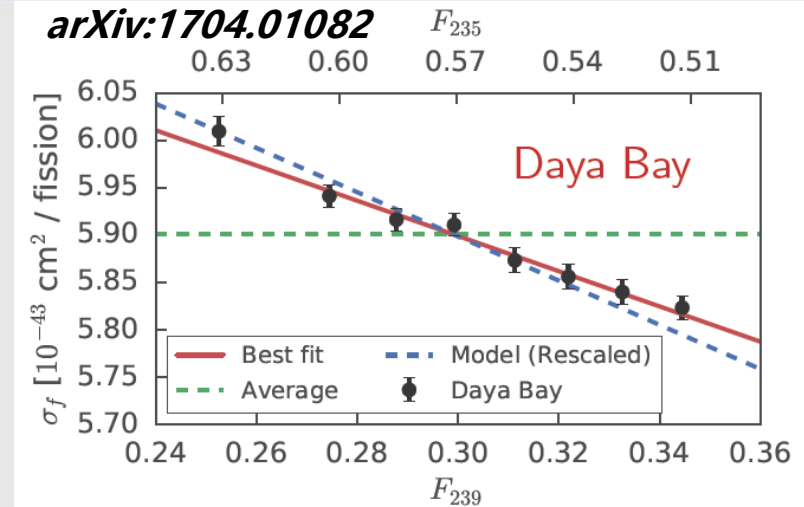
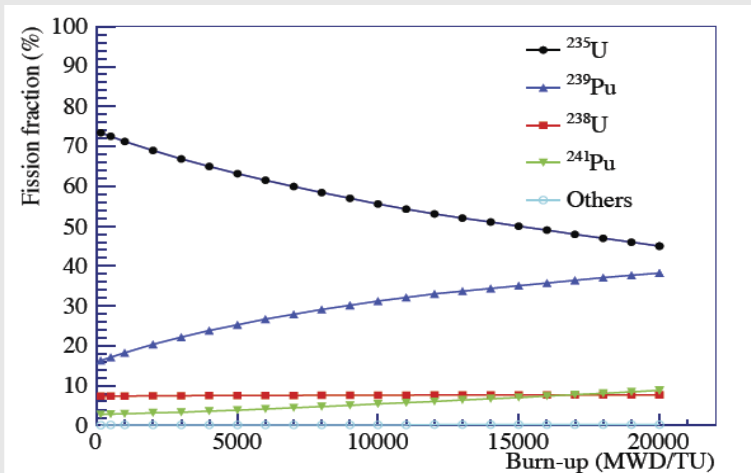
Reactor antineutrinos: produced by beta decays the fission products



The fission fractions are changing along with **the burn-up**:



The IBD yields are measured as the **cross sections per fission**



Both experiments disfavor the equal suppression **at around 3-sigma!**

Global Analysis of Reactor Flux Data

DYB+RENO joint data:

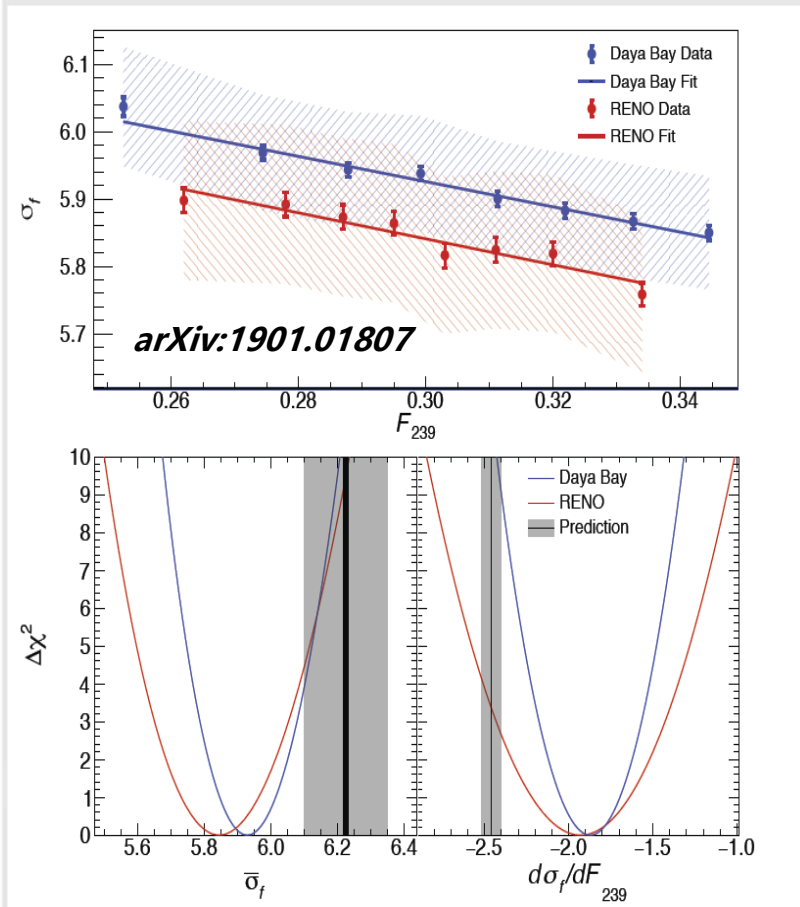
disagree with both rates and slopes, **2.9 σ preference** of U235 over oscillation-only

Global Flux Data (DYB+RENO+rates):

a) A common inaccuracy of all beta conversion predictions: **disfavored at 2.9 σ** \rightarrow question on the ILL data

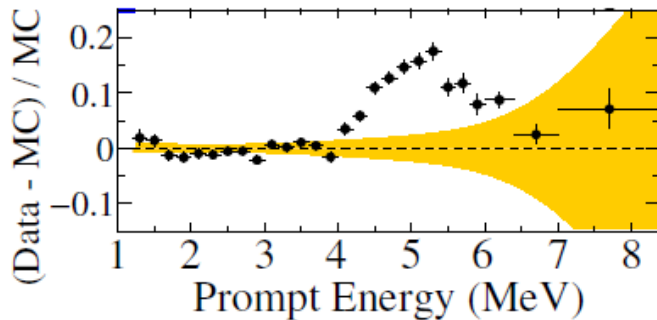
b) Oscillation-including hypothesis is favored over the oscillation-including one: **at 1-2 σ**

Needs future results from highly-enriched uranium (HEU) reactors !

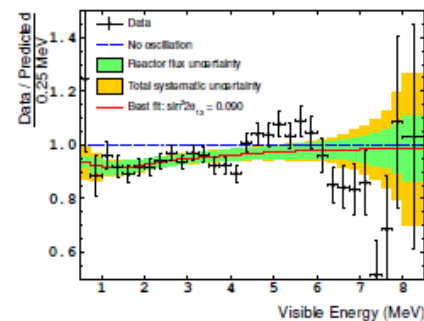


$$\sigma_f(F_{239}) = \bar{\sigma}_f + \frac{d\sigma_f}{dF_{239}} (F_{239} - \bar{F}_{239})$$

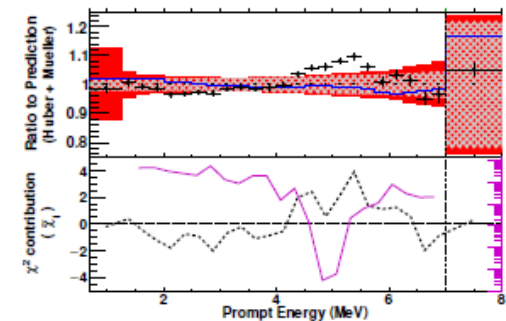
New Spectral Feature @ Reactors



[RENO, arXiv:1511.05849]



[Double Chooz, arXiv:1406.7763]



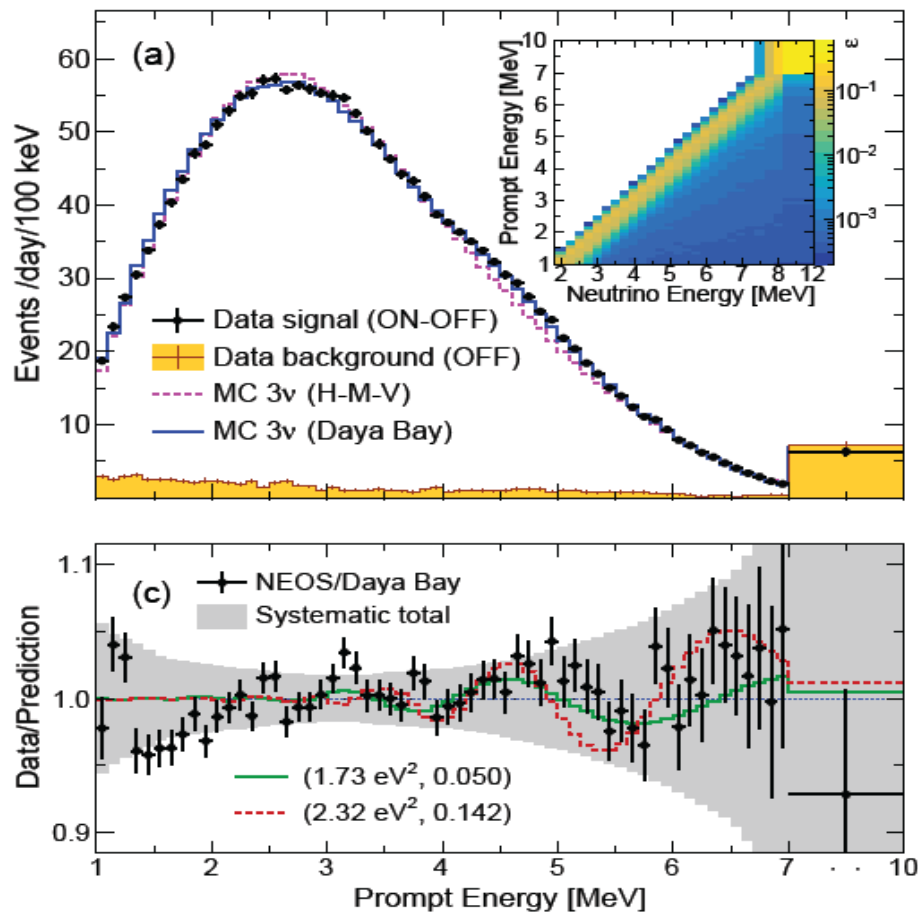
[Daya Bay, arXiv:1508.04233]

- (1) The "5 MeV bump" cannot be explained by neutrino oscillations (averaged in RENO, Double CHOOZ and Daya Bay)
- (2) Theoretical miscalculation of both the rate and spectrum?
- (3) Detector energy nonlinearity? [Mention et al, PLB 773 (2017) 307] (DYB/DC achieved better than 1% precision)
- (4) One may need to increase the uncertainty: e.g. 5% or larger. [Hayes and Vogel, 2016, YFL, Zhang 2019]

Spectral ratio result@NEOS

NEOS

[PRL 118 (2017) 121802 (arXiv:1610.05134)]



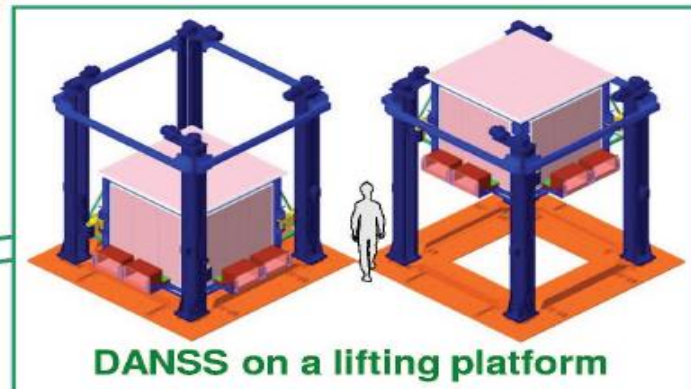
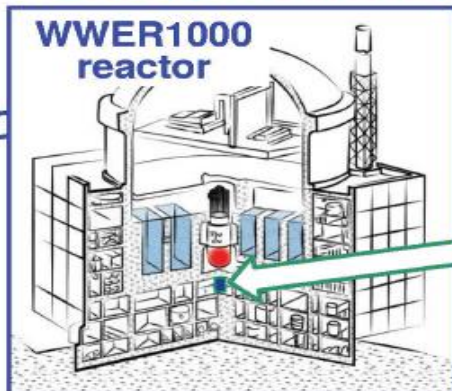
- ▶ Hanbit Nuclear Power Complex in Yeong-gwang, Korea.
- ▶ Thermal power of 2.8 GW.
- ▶ Detector: a ton of Gd-loaded liquid scintillator in a gallery approximately 24 m from the reactor core.
- ▶ The measured antineutrino event rate is 1976 per day with a signal to background ratio of about 22.

Spectral ratio result@DANSS

DANSS

[Solvay Workshop, 1 December 2017; La Thuile 2018, 3 March 2018; Neutrino 2018, 8 June 2018]

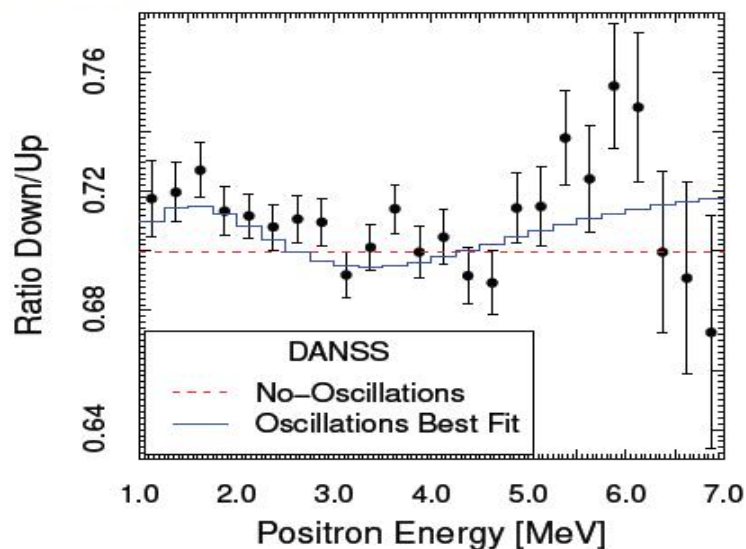
Detector of reactor AntiNeutrino based on Solid Scintillator



- ▶ Installed on a movable platform under a 3 GW reactor.
- ▶ Large neutrino flux.
- ▶ Reactor shielding of cosmic rays.
- ▶ Variable source-detector distance with the same detector!

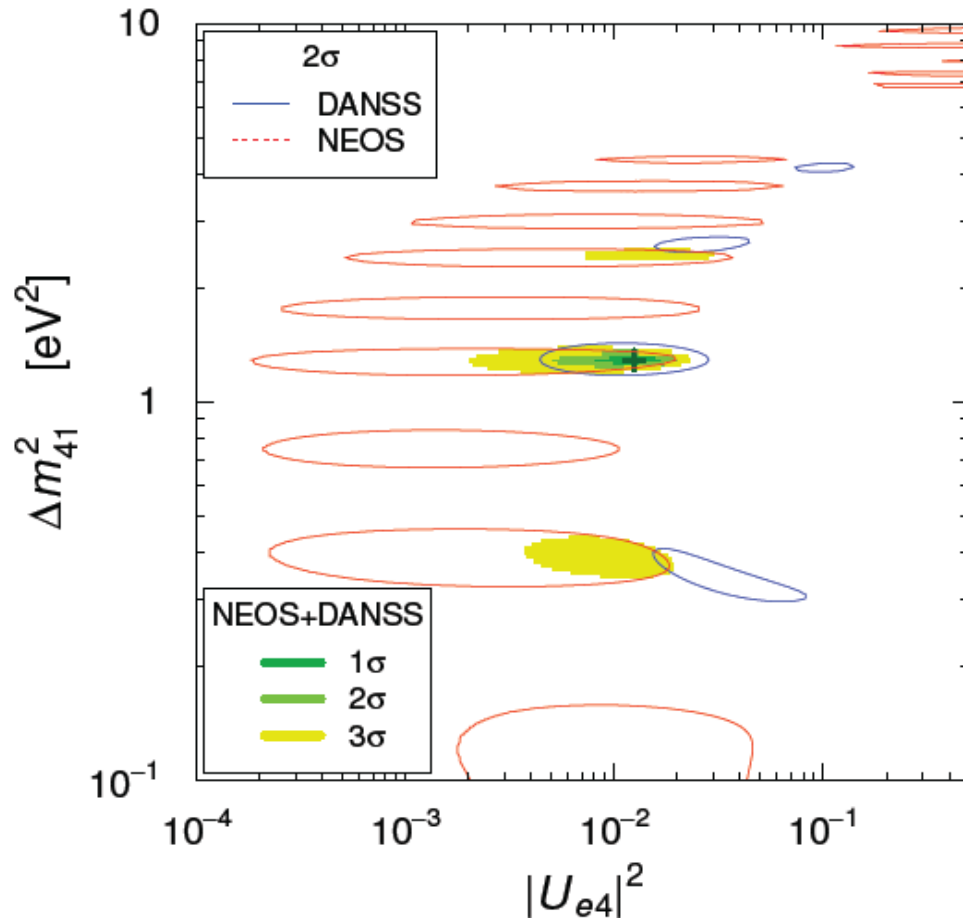
Down = 12.7 m

Up = 10.7 m



Model independent SBL oscillations

Gariazzo et. al., PLB 782 (2018) 13



$\sim 3.7\sigma$

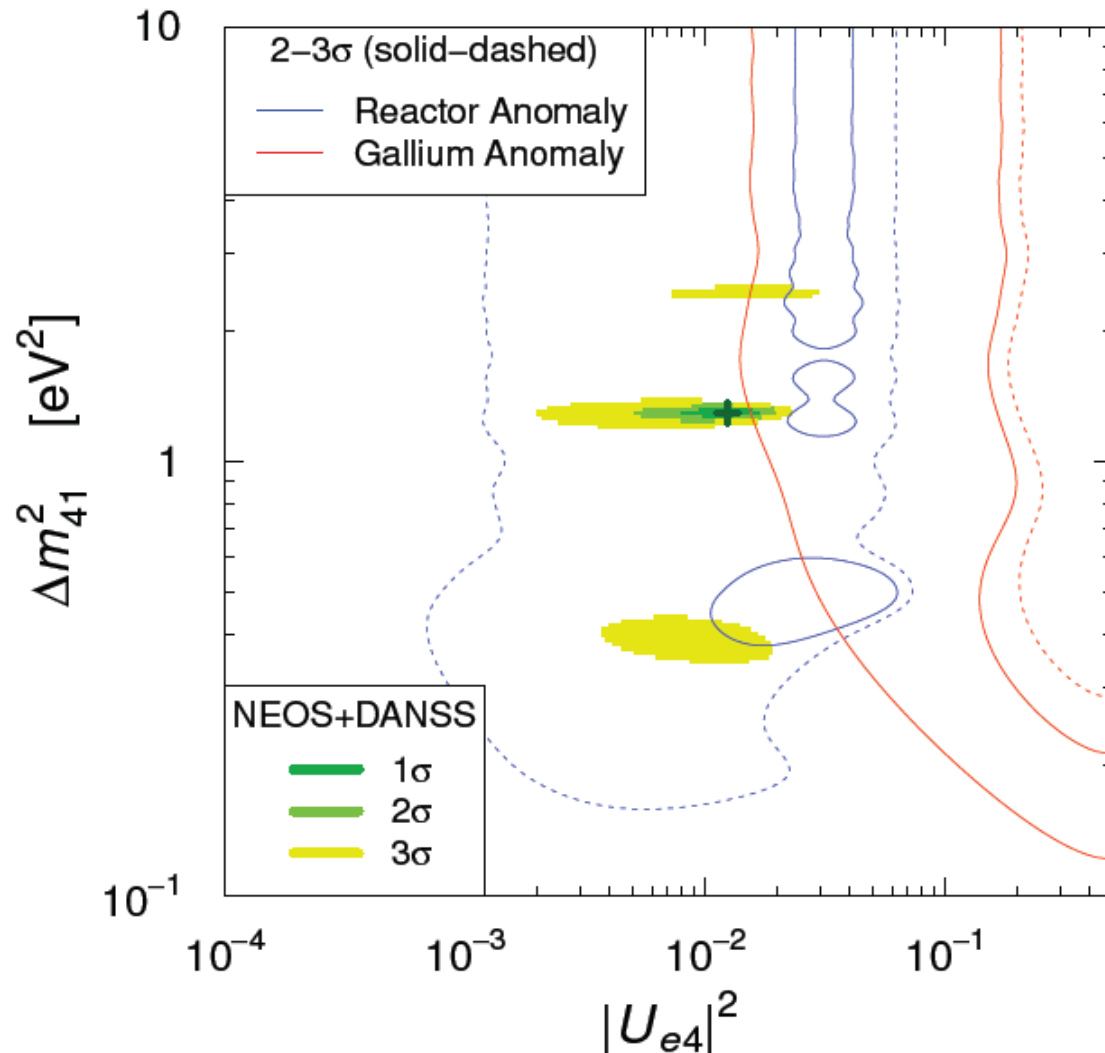
$$\Delta m_{41}^2 = 1.29 \pm 0.03$$

$$|U_{e4}|^2 = 0.012 \pm 0.003$$

$$|U_{e3}|^2 = 0.022 \pm 0.001$$

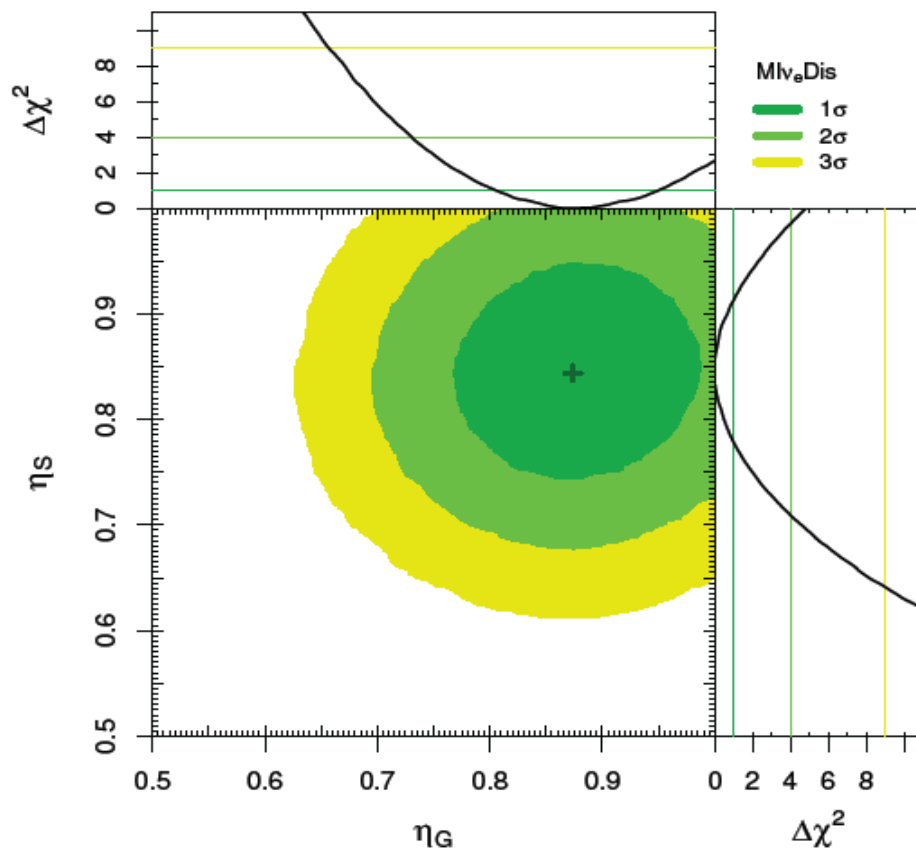
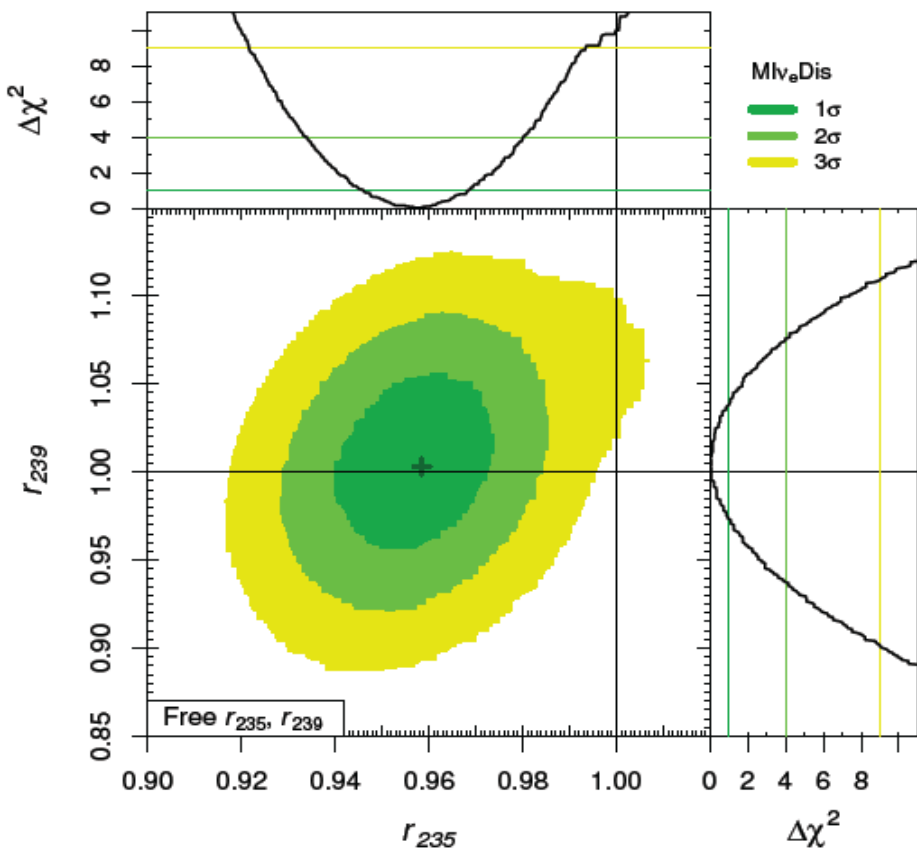
[See also Dentler, Hernandez-Cabezudo, Kopp, Machado, Maltoni, Martinez-Soler, Schwetz, arXiv:1803.10661]

Implications for Reactor and Gallium anomalies



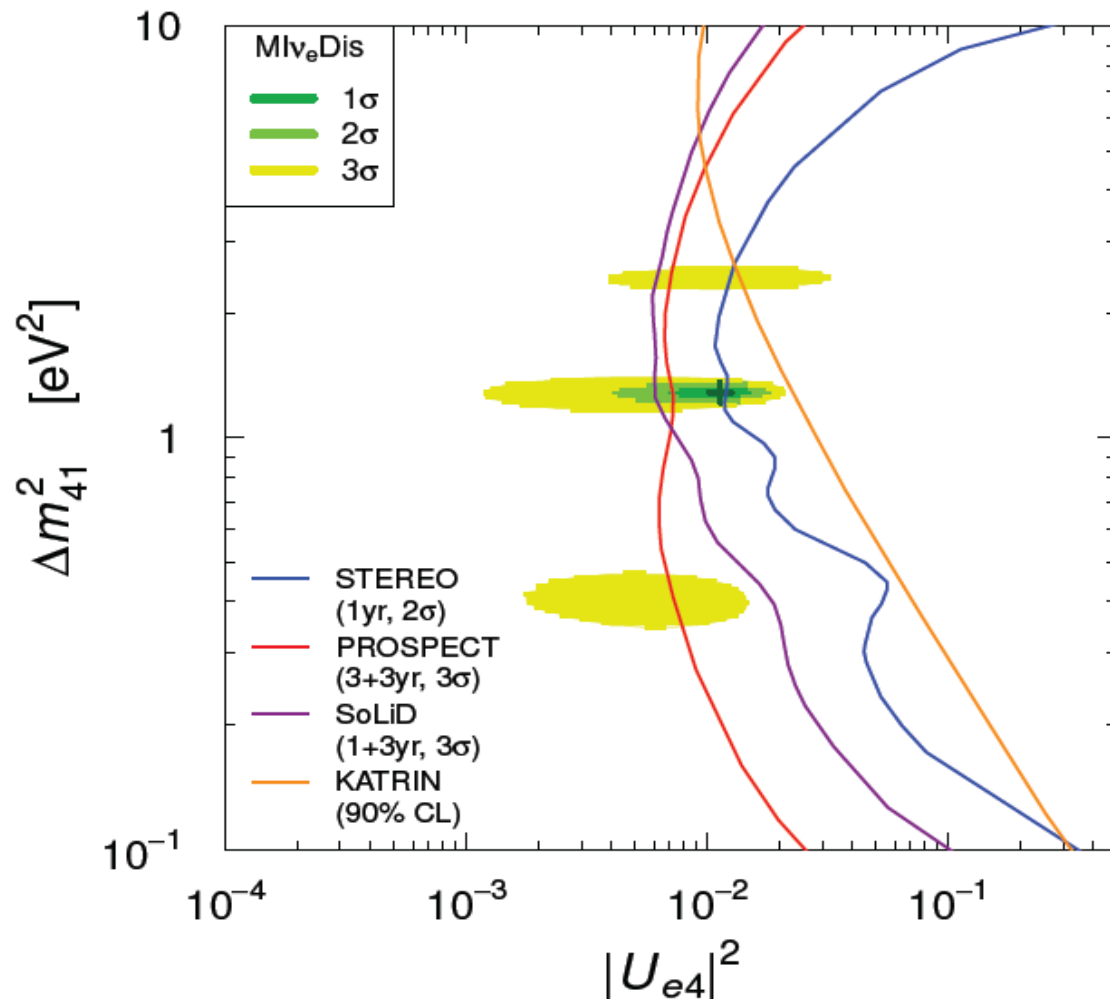
- ▶ 3 σ agreement.
- ▶ 2 σ tension.
- ▶ Small overestimate of the reactor fluxes.
- ▶ Small overestimate of the GALLEX and SAGE efficiencies.

Implications for Reactor and Gallium anomalies



- ▶ Indication of $r_{235} < 1$.
- ▶ Likely small overestimate of the GALLEX and SAGE efficiencies.

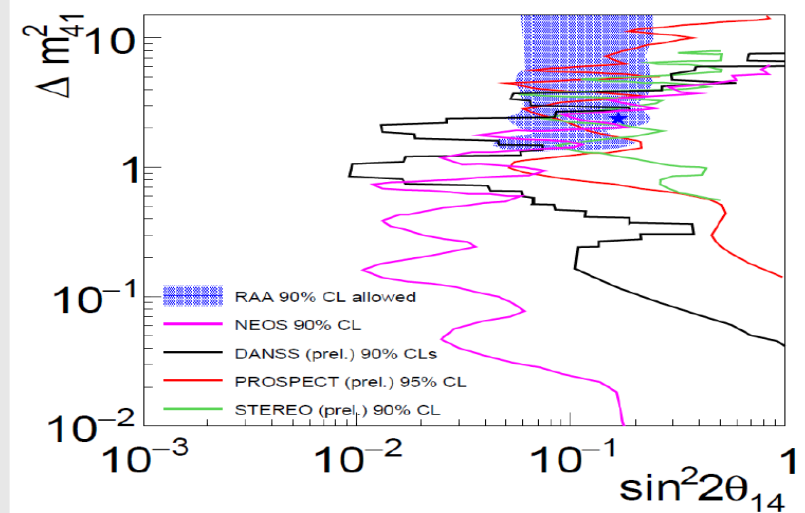
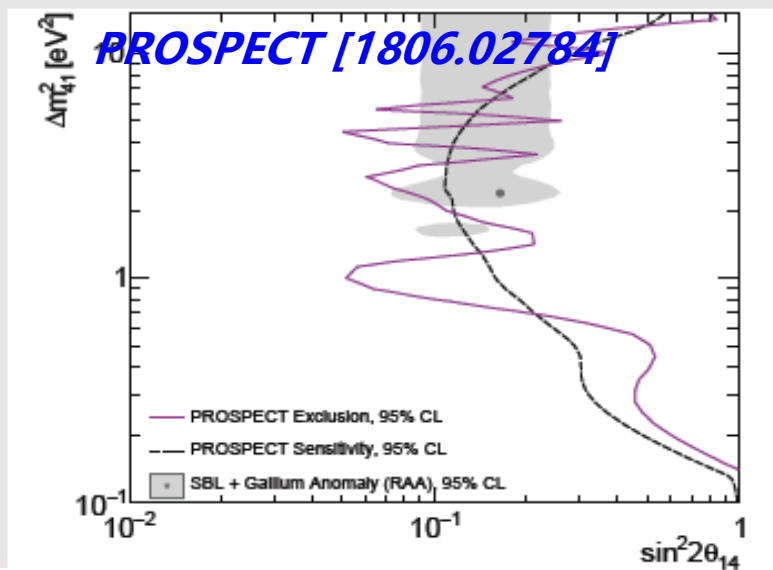
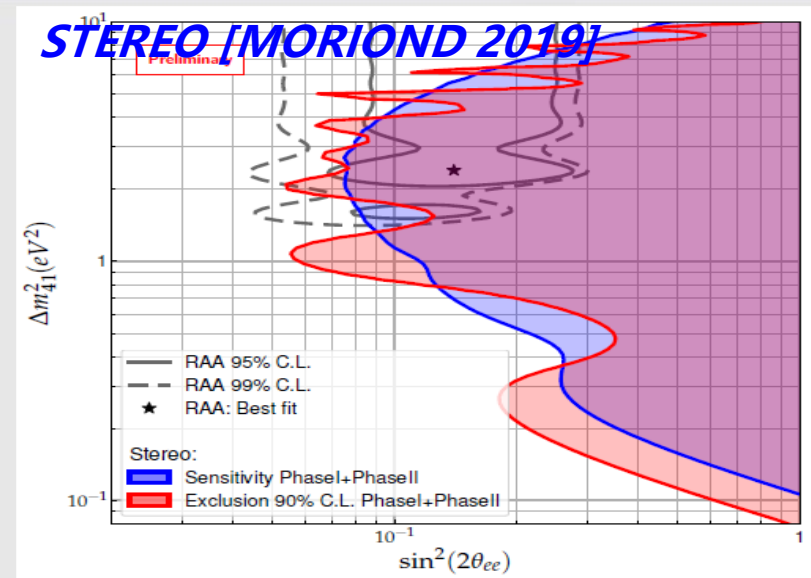
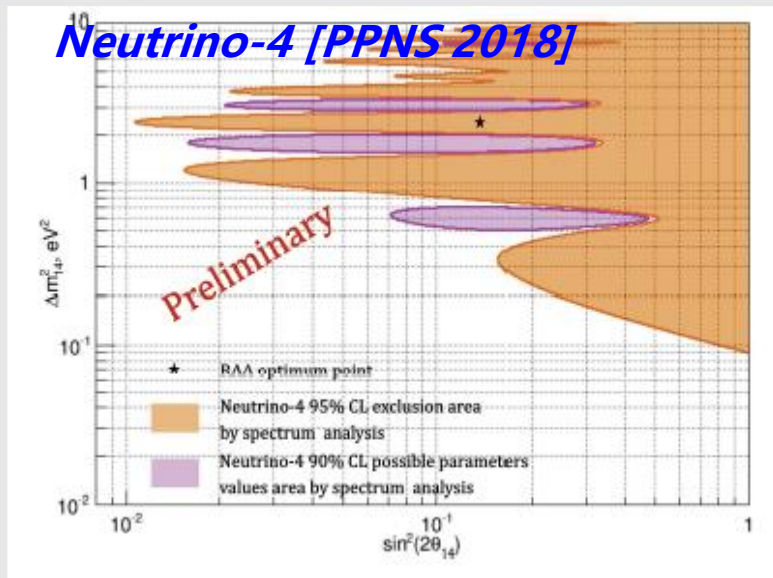
Model independent fit and the future tests



- ▶ NEOS and DANSS.
- ▶ Reactor rates with free ^{235}U and ^{239}Pu fluxes: r_{235} and r_{239} .
- ▶ Gallium data with free GALLEX and SAGE efficiencies: η_G and η_S .
- ▶ New reactor experiments: STEREO, Neutrino-4, SoLiD, PROSPECT
- ▶ Kinematic ν_4 mass measurement: KATRIN

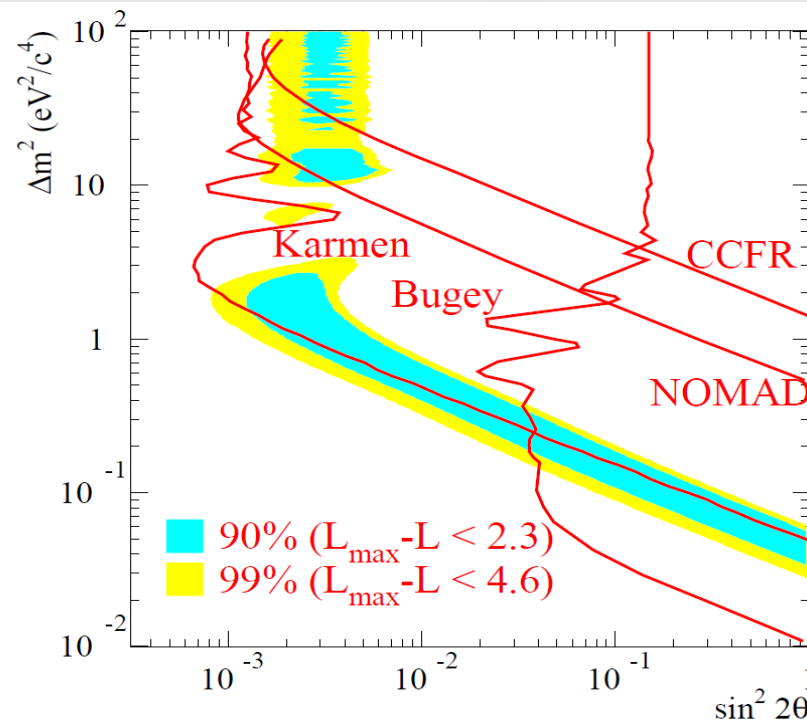
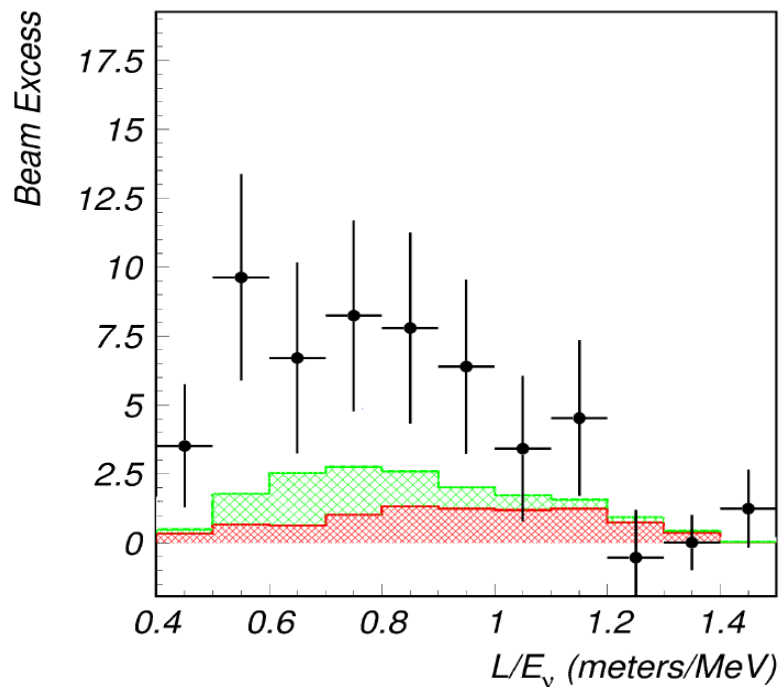
[See also Dentler, Hernandez-Cabezudo, Kopp, Machado, Maltoni, Martinez-Soler, Schwetz, arXiv:1803.10661]

Latest results from Spectral Ratios



X. Qian and J-C Peng, arXiv:1801.05386

**Status of short baseline oscillations in
 $\nu\text{-}\mu(\bar{\nu}) \rightarrow \nu\text{-}e(\bar{\nu})$ and $\nu\text{-}\mu(\bar{\nu})$
disappearance channels**



➤ Muon decay-at-rest beam:

$$\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$$

$$L \simeq 30 \text{ m}$$

$$20 \text{ MeV} \leq E \leq 200 \text{ MeV}$$

3.8 σ excess

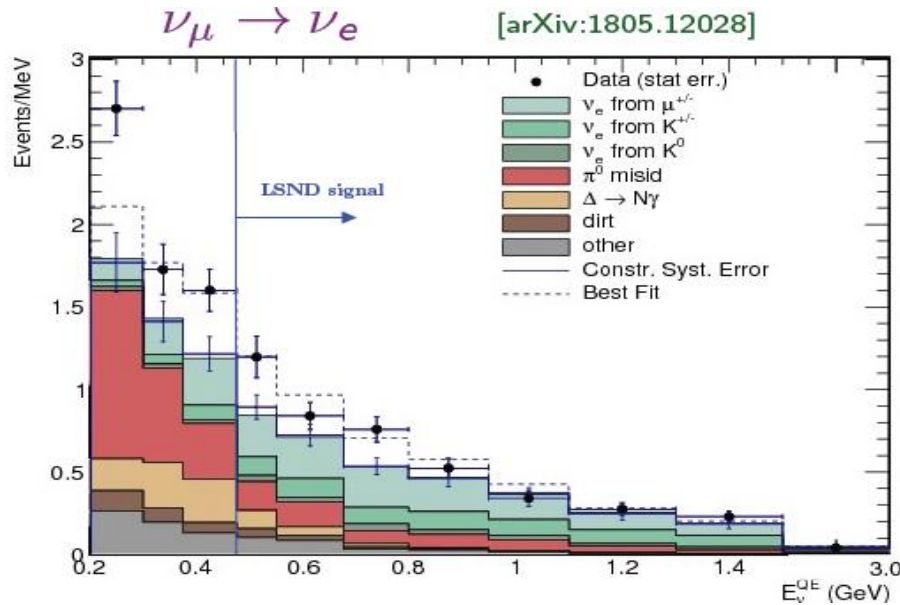
$$\Delta m^2 \gtrsim 0.2 \text{ eV}^2$$

$$(\gg \Delta m_A^2 \gg \Delta m_S^2)$$

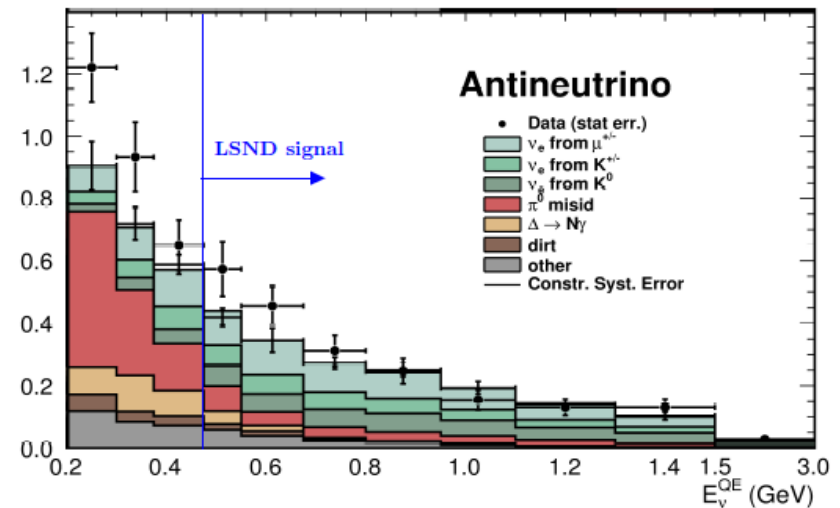
MiniBooNE

$L \simeq 541 \text{ m}$

$200 \text{ MeV} \leq E \lesssim 3 \text{ GeV}$



$\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ [PRL 110 (2013) 161801]

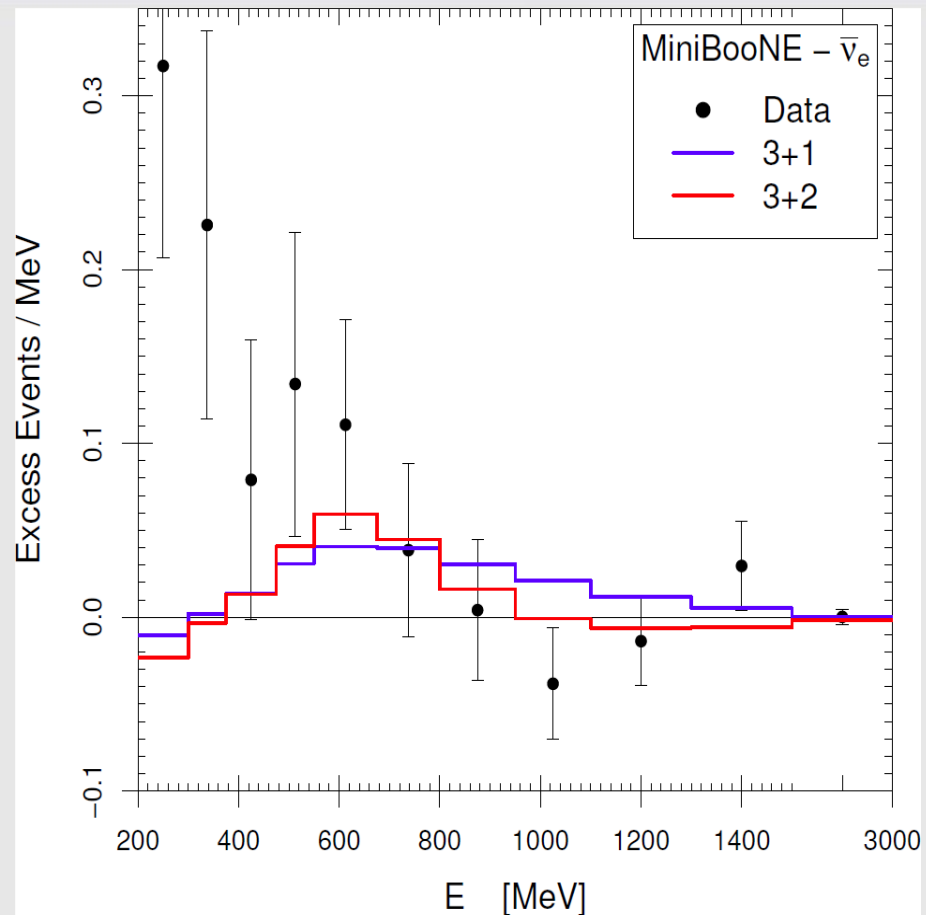
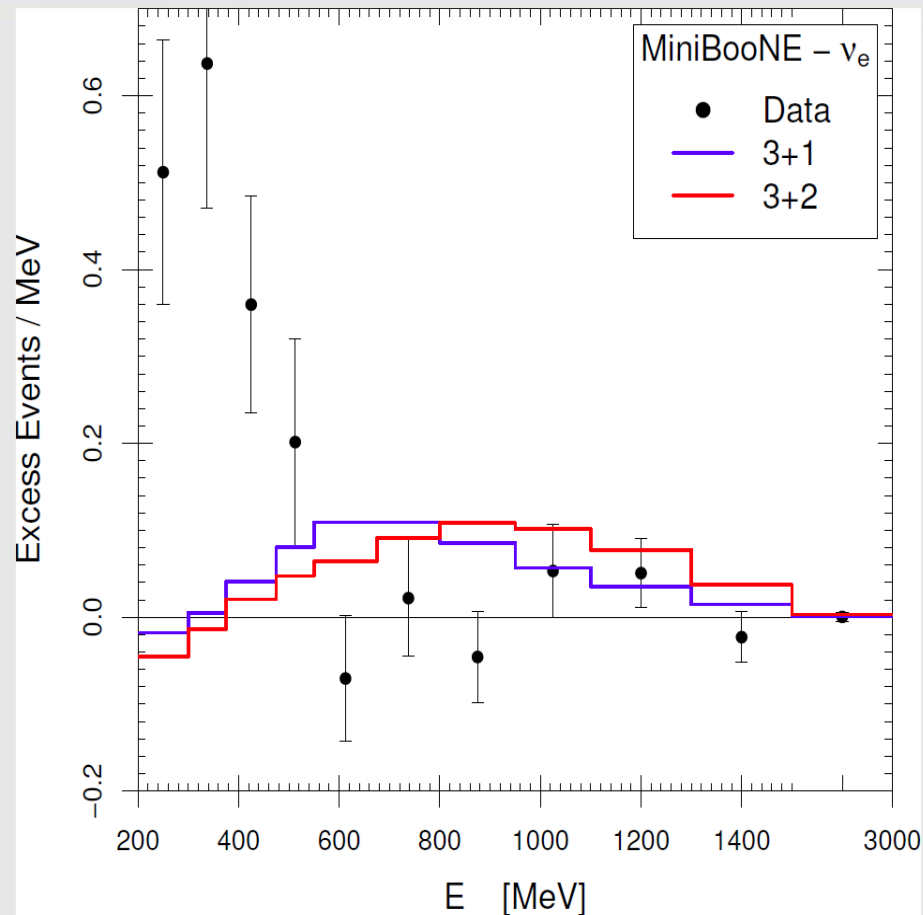


Purpose: check LSND signal with different L&E, but the same L/E (>475 MeV)

~4.5 σ (2.8 σ) excess: unidentified backgrounds in low energy ranges?
→ further test at MicroBooNE.

A pragmatic approach: ($E > 475 \text{ MeV}$) [arXiv: 1308.5288]

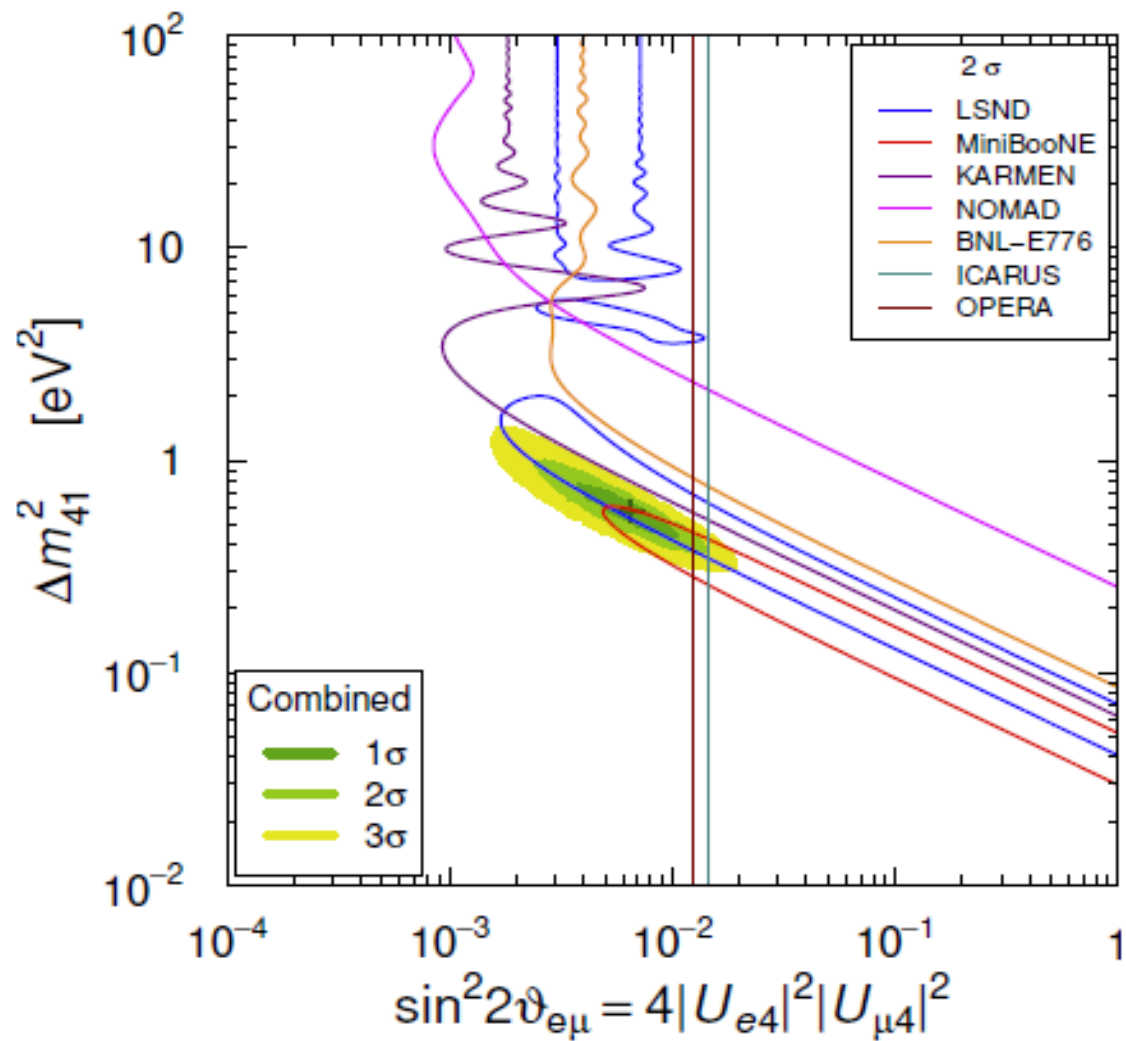
MiniBooNE low energy bins



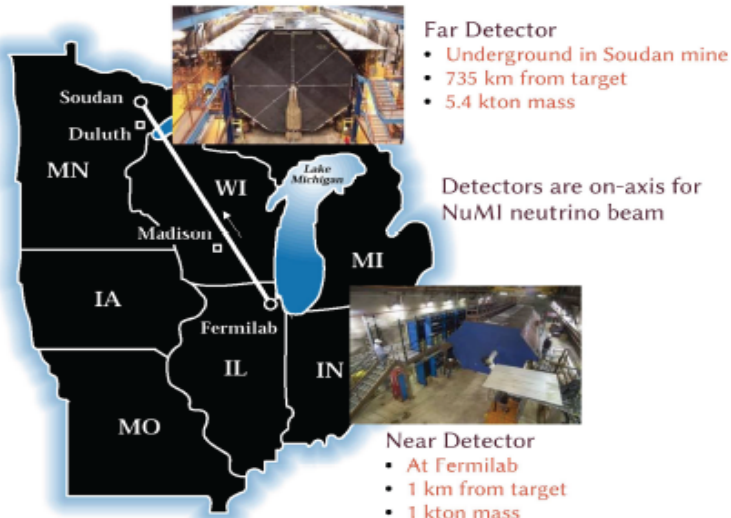
Fit of MB Low-Energy Excess requires small mass splitting and large mixing angle, which are in contradiction with ICARUS/OPERA and the disappearance data.

Appearance data

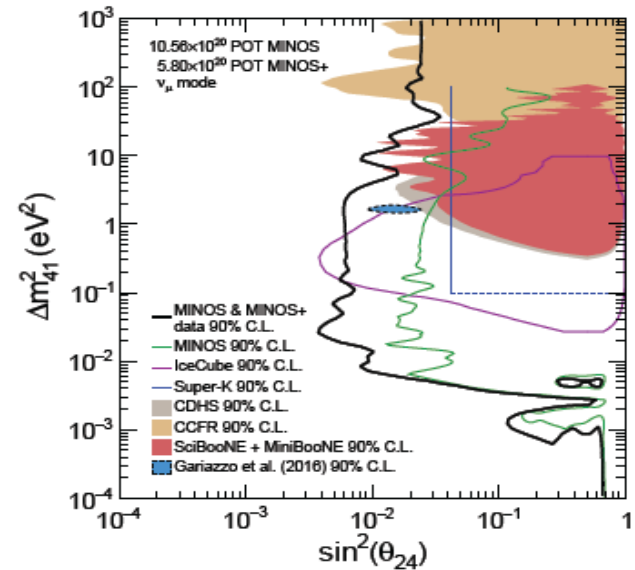
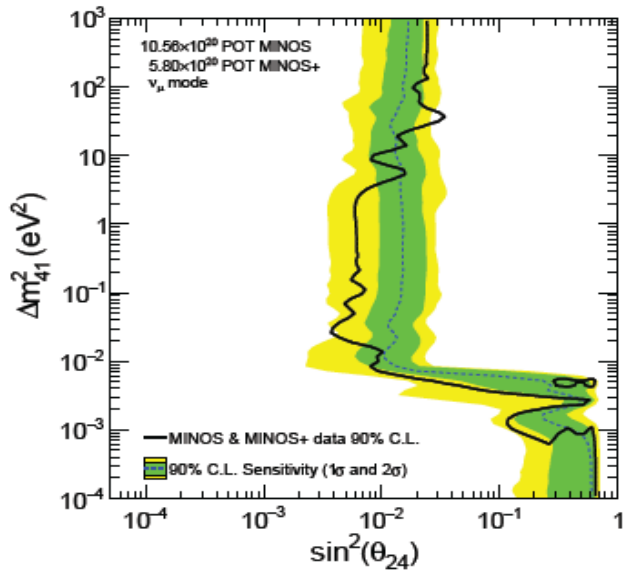
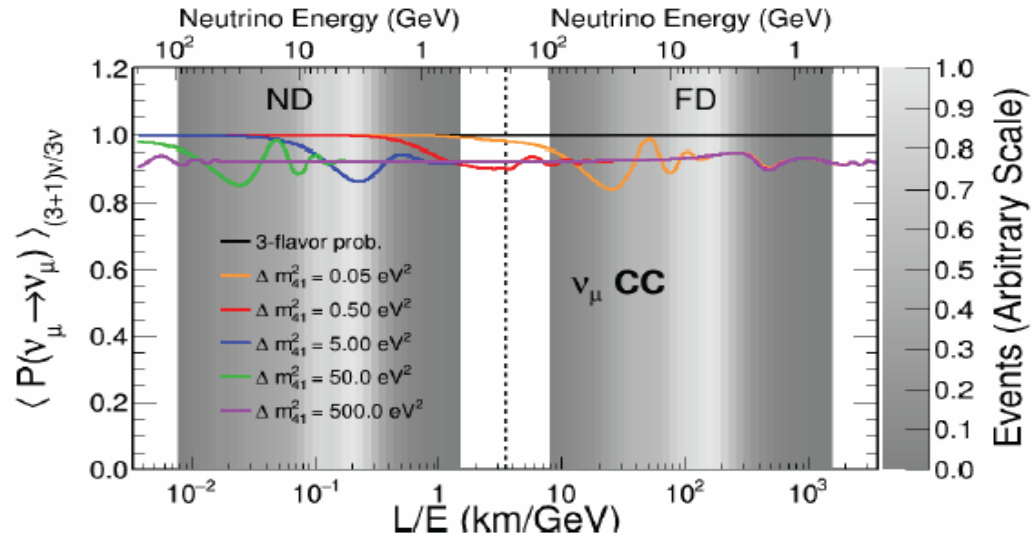
$\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ and $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ Appearance



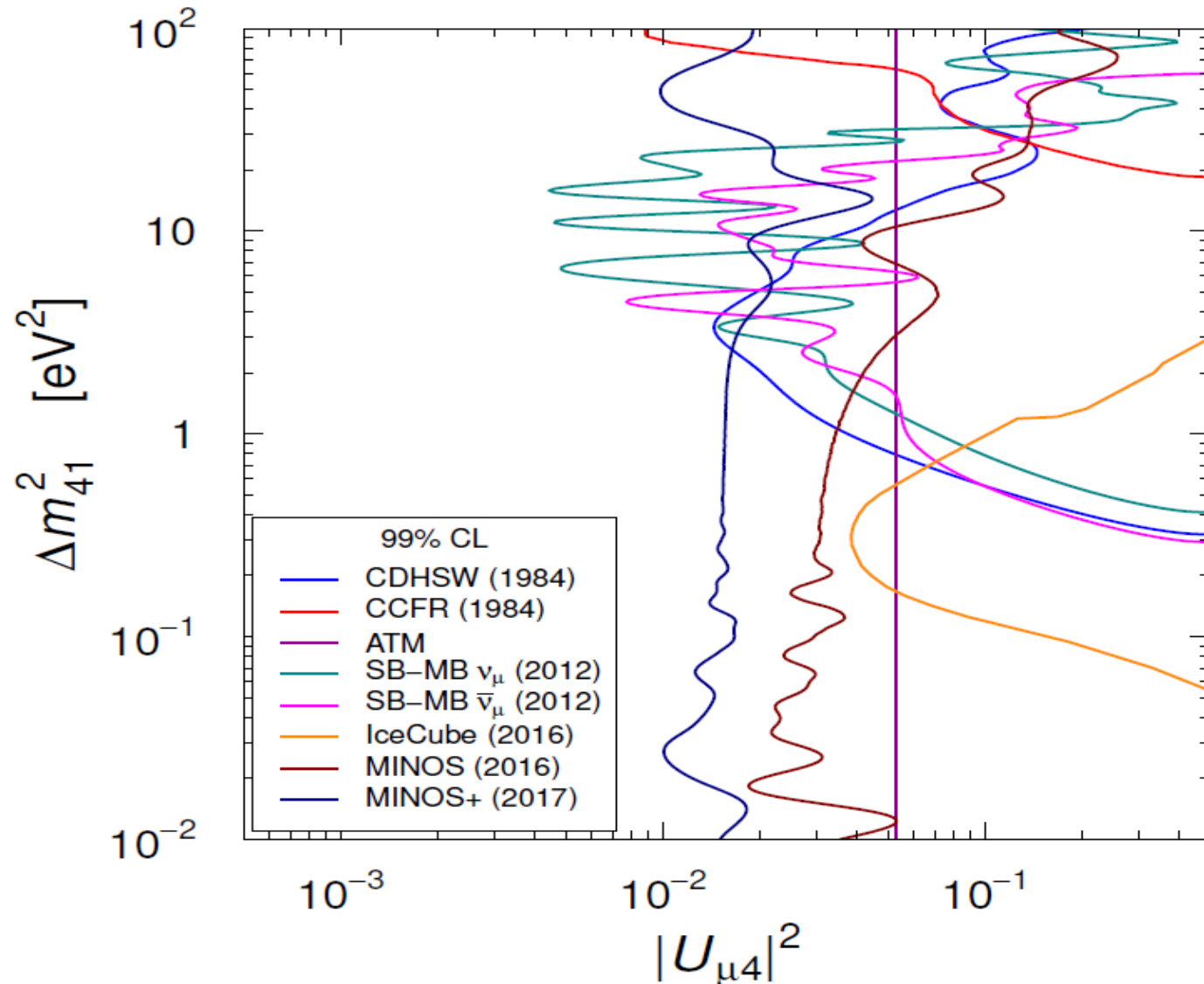
MINOS+



[arXiv:1710.06488]



All the results in $(\text{anti})\nu_\mu$ disappearance



Global fit of $\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance, $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ disappearance data

Based on the 2019 update of

Gariazzo, Giunti, Laveder, YFL, arXiv:1703.00860

Oscillations in the 3+1 scheme

In SBL experiments $\Delta_{21} \ll \Delta_{31} \ll 1$.

$$P_{\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\beta}}^{\text{SBL}(-)} \simeq \sin^2 2\vartheta_{\alpha\beta} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{41}^2 L}{4E} \right) \qquad \sin^2 2\vartheta_{\alpha\beta} = 4|U_{\alpha 4}|^2 |U_{\beta 4}|^2$$

$$P_{\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\alpha}}^{\text{SBL}(-)} \simeq 1 - \sin^2 2\vartheta_{\alpha\alpha} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{41}^2 L}{4E} \right) \qquad \sin^2 2\vartheta_{\alpha\alpha} = 4|U_{\alpha 4}|^2 (1 - |U_{\alpha 4}|^2)$$

► Amplitude of $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e$ transitions:

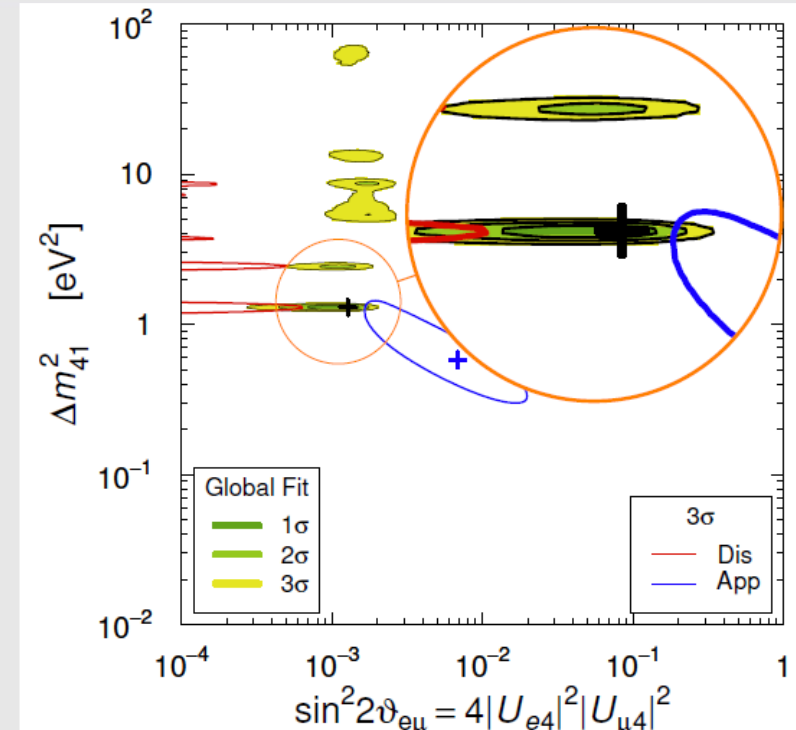
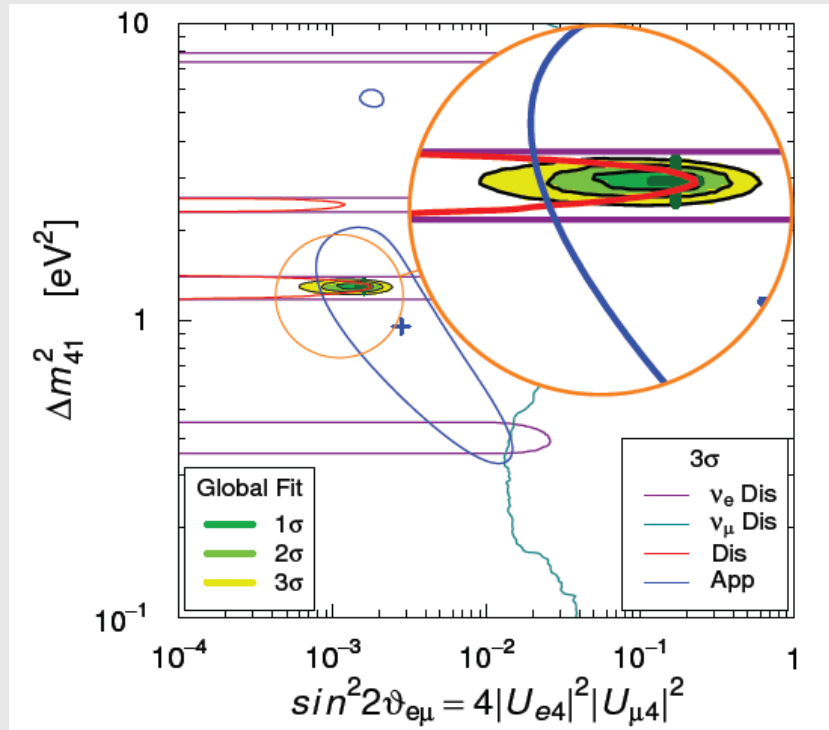
$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{e\mu} = 4|U_{e4}|^2 |U_{\mu 4}|^2 \simeq \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 2\vartheta_{ee} \sin^2 2\vartheta_{\mu\mu}$$

► Upper bounds on ν_e and ν_{μ} disappearance \Rightarrow strong limit on $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e$

[Okada, Yasuda, IJMPA 12 (1997) 3669; Bilenky, Giunti, Grimus, EPJC 1 (1998) 247]

► Similar constraint in 3+2, 3+3, ..., 3+ N_S ! [Giunti, Zavanin, MPLA 31 (2015) 1650003]

Appearance-Disappearance Tension

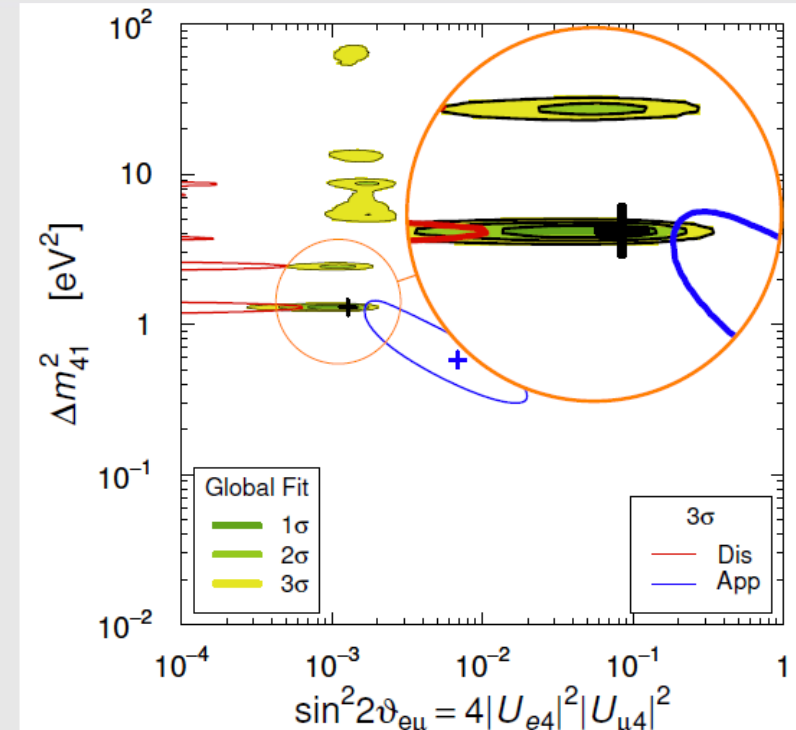
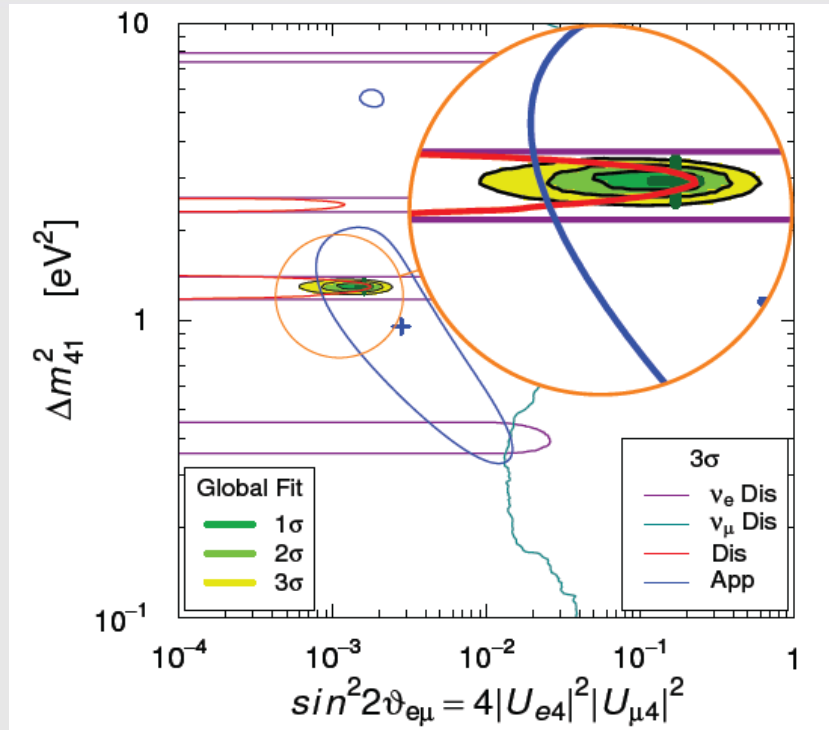


➤ Without (left) and with (right) MINOS+ data (both without the MB low energy bins)

$$\chi_{\text{PG}}^2 / \text{NDF}_{\text{PG}} = 7.8 / 2 \Rightarrow \text{GOF}_{\text{PG}} = 2\%$$

$$\chi_{\text{PG}}^2 / \text{NDF}_{\text{PG}} = 42.8 / 2 \Rightarrow \text{GOF}_{\text{PG}} = 5 \times 10^{-10}$$

Appearance-Disappearance Tension



- Without (left) and with (right) MINOS+ data (both without the MB low energy bins)

$$\chi^2_{\text{PG}}/\text{NDF}_{\text{PG}} = 7.8/2 \Rightarrow \text{GOF}_{\text{PG}} = 2\%$$

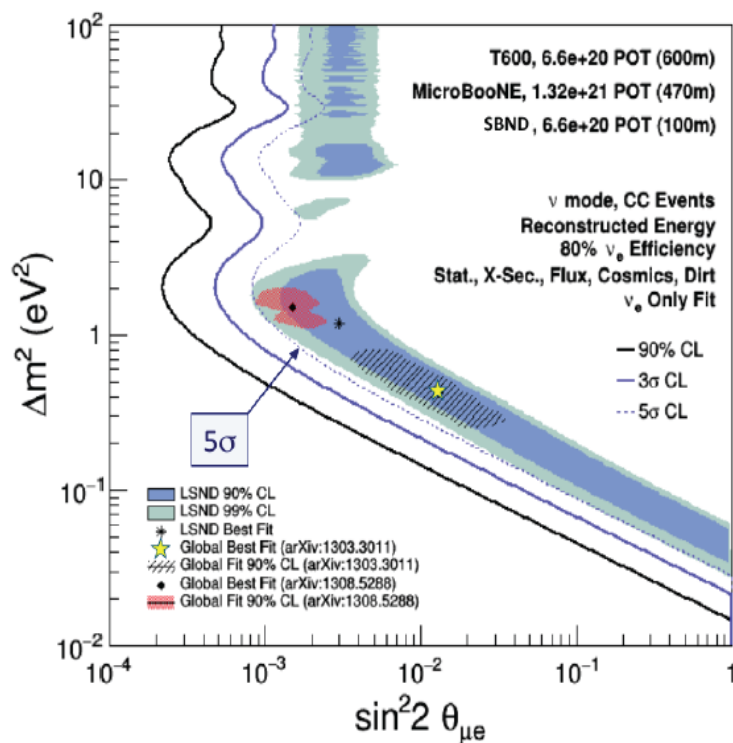
$$\chi^2_{\text{PG}}/\text{NDF}_{\text{PG}} = 42.8/2 \Rightarrow \text{GOF}_{\text{PG}} = 5 \times 10^{-10}$$

- From Mild to Strong tension \rightarrow New physics beyond 3+1 (3+N) vacuum mixing ?

Future test of the appearance channel

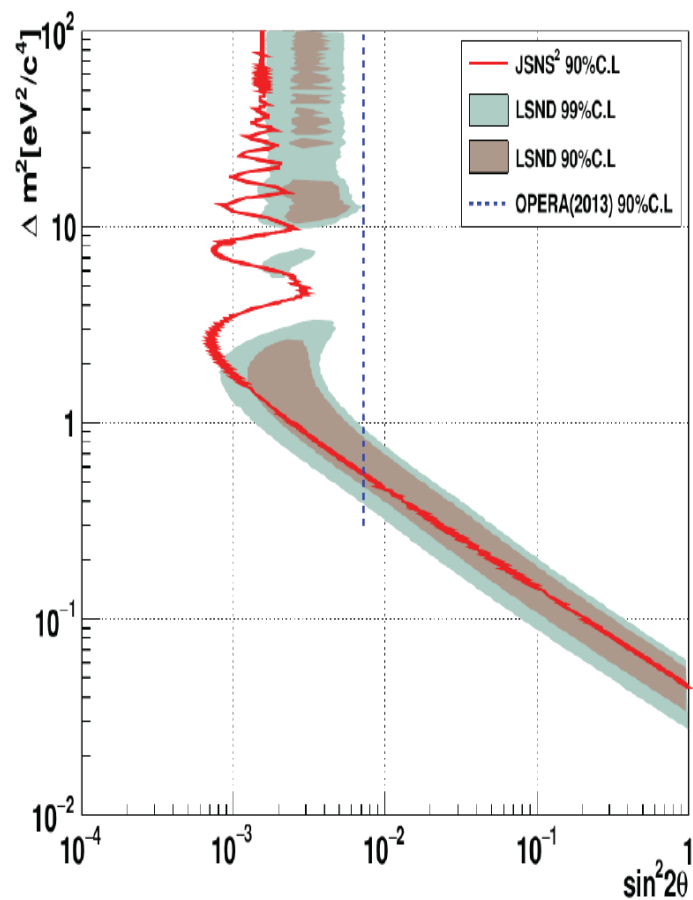
SBN PROGRAM @ FERMILAB

Definitive program to address LSND/MiniBoone anomalies in next ~5 years.



JSNS2 @ J-PARK

Sensitivity of the JSNS2 experiment with the latest configuration (1 MW x 3years x 1 detector).



Conclusion

- a) Model-independent indications of short baseline oscillations (SBL) from reactors (DANSS & NEOS → ~3 sigma)
- b) Reactor and Gallium Anomalies → latest analysis favors hybrid solutions with SBL and nuclear effects
- c) Many on-going experiments will check the indications DANSS, NEOS, STEREO, Neutrino-4, PROSPECT, SoLid, CHANDLER, ...
- d) The MINOS+ & LSND signals disfavor the 3+1 (3+N) vacuum mixing scheme
→ future direct test at SBN@Fermi Lab and JSNS2@J-PARC

Status of light sterile neutrinos: They do not seem to feel well

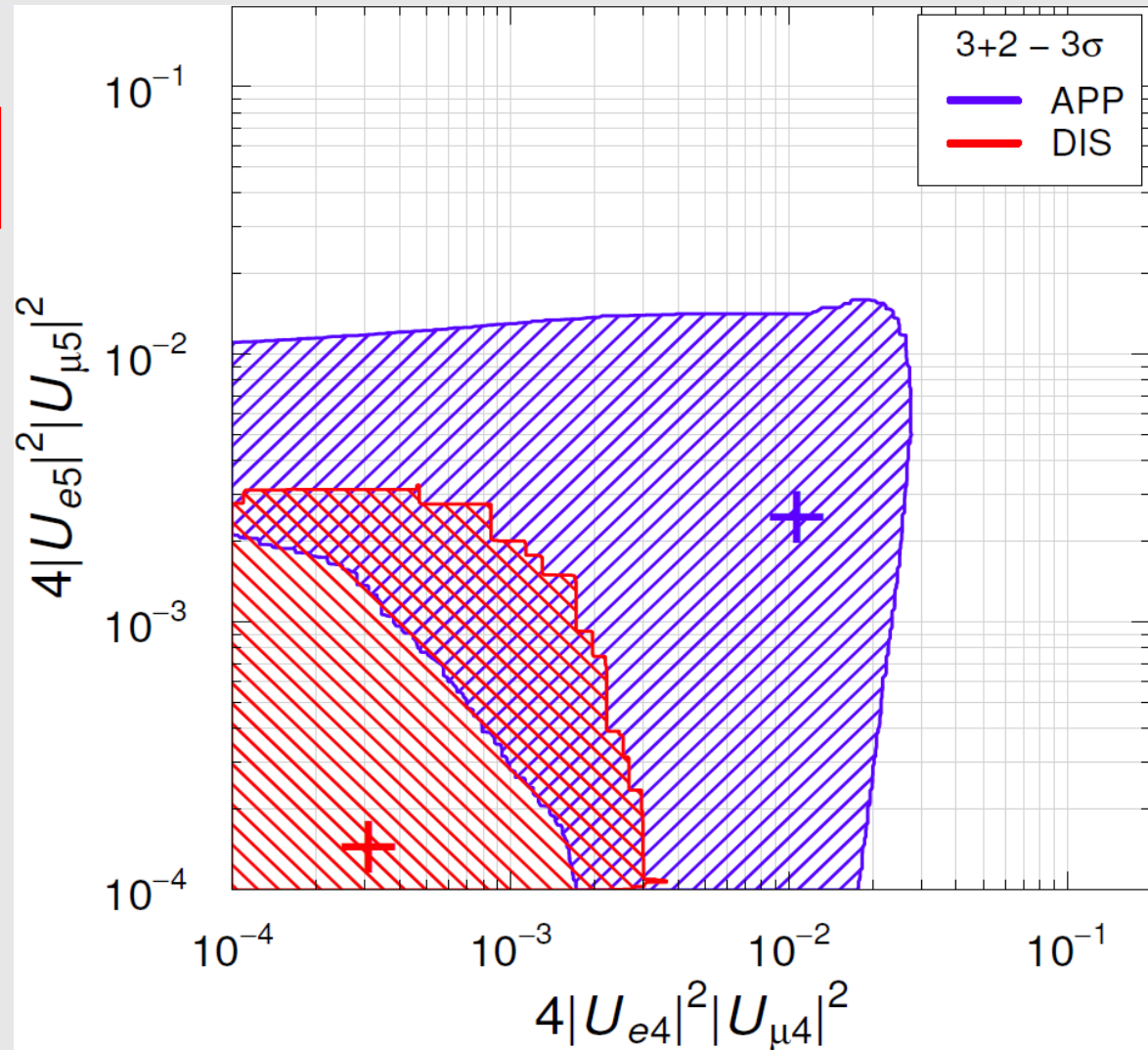
Thanks!

Backup

The 3+2 scheme and more

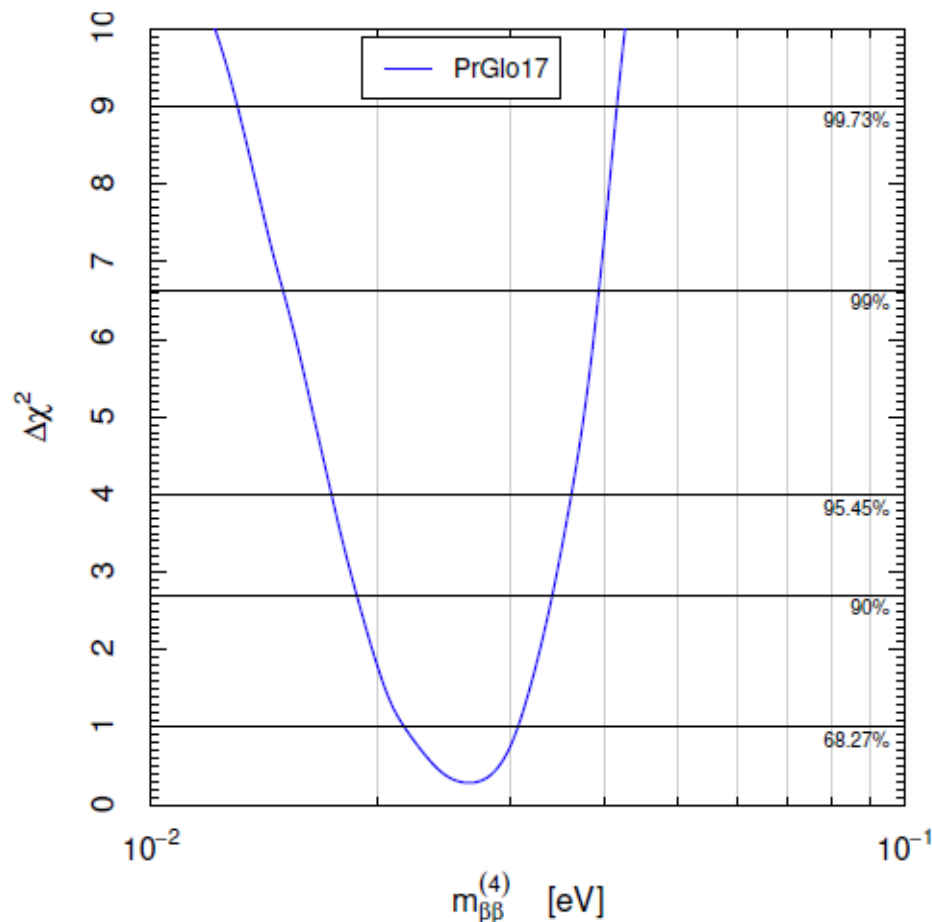
$$\sin^2 2\theta_{\alpha\beta}^{(k)} \simeq \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 2\theta_{\alpha\alpha}^{(k)} \sin^2 2\theta_{\beta\beta}^{(k)},$$

arXiv:1508.03172



Light Sterile Neutrinos@ $0\nu\beta\beta$

$$m_{\beta\beta} = |U_{e1}|^2 m_1 + |U_{e2}|^2 e^{i\alpha_{21}} m_2 + |U_{e3}|^2 e^{i\alpha_{31}} m_3 + |U_{e4}|^2 e^{i\alpha_{41}} m_4$$



$$m_{\beta\beta}^{(k)} = |U_{ek}|^2 m_k$$

$$m_1 \ll m_4$$



$$m_{\beta\beta}^{(4)} \simeq |U_{e4}|^2 \sqrt{\Delta m_{41}^2}$$

warning:
possible cancellation
with $m_{\beta\beta}^{(3\nu)}$

[Barry, Rodejohann, Zhang, JHEP 07 (2011) 091]

[Li, Liu, PLB 706 (2012) 406]

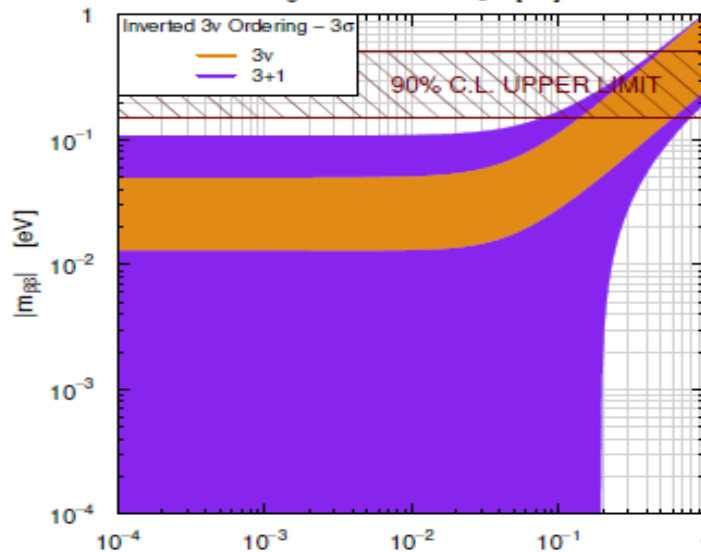
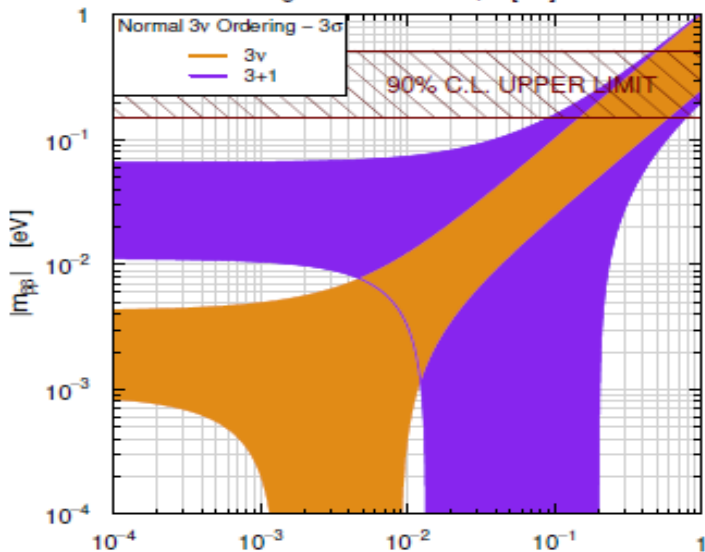
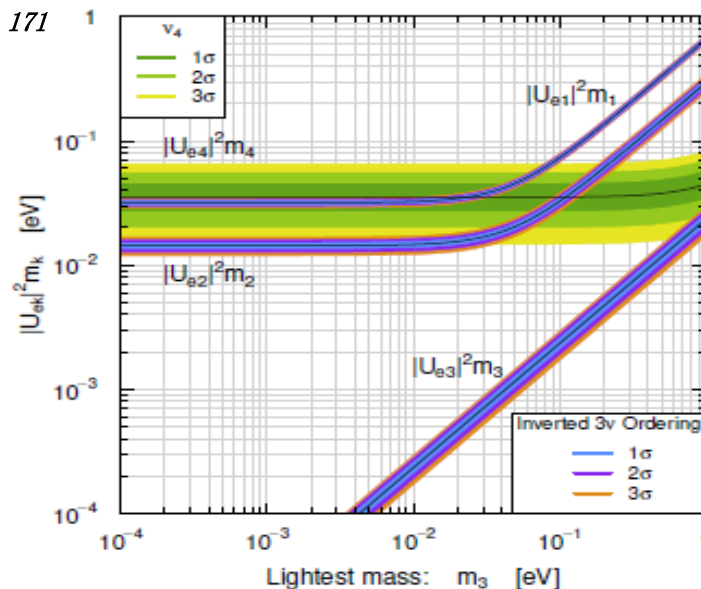
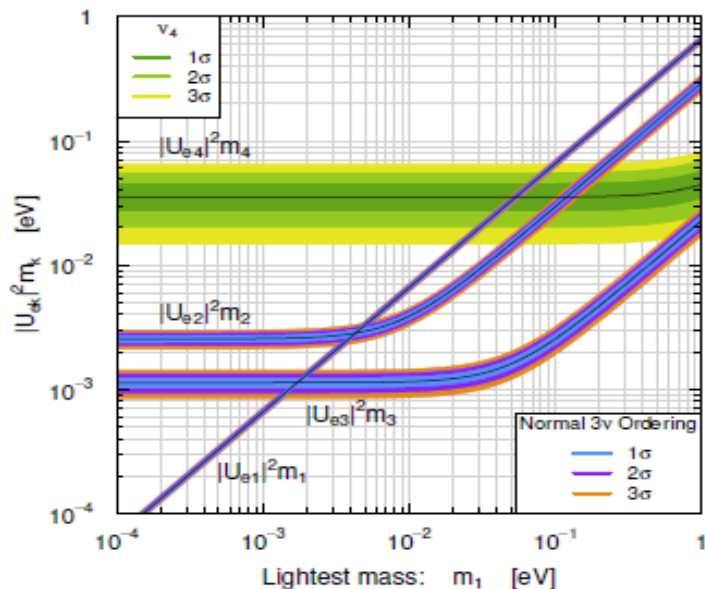
[Rodejohann, JPG 39 (2012) 124008]

[Girardi, Meroni, Petcov, JHEP 1311 (2013) 146]

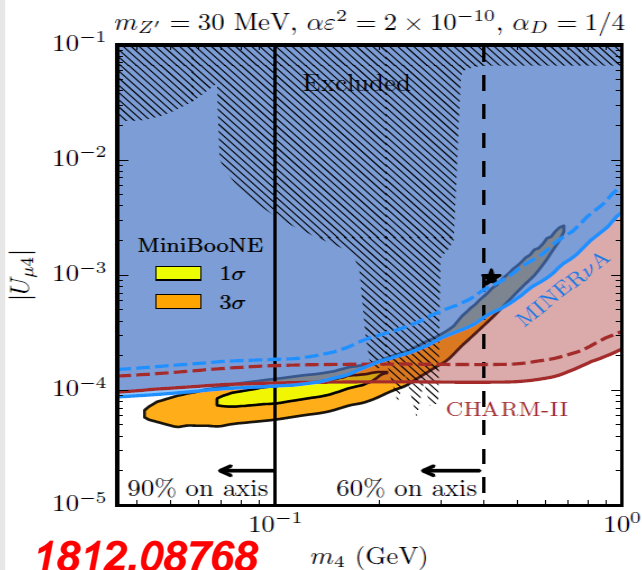
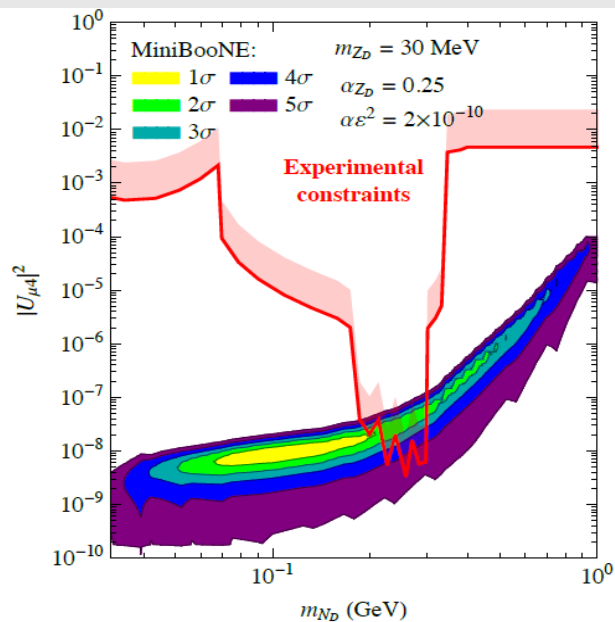
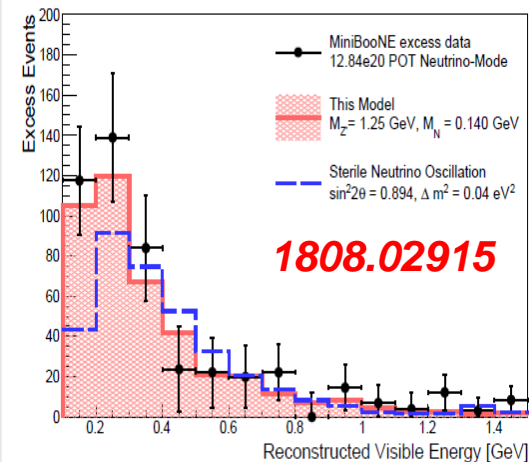
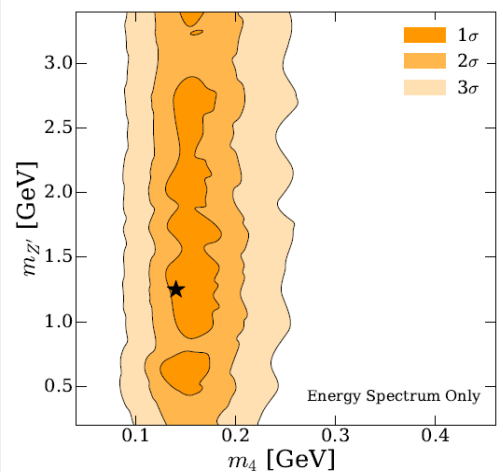
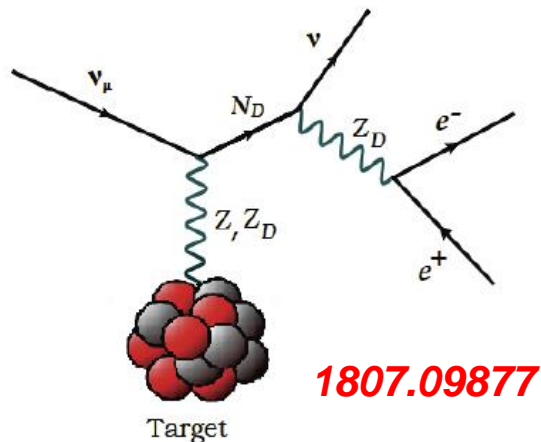
[CG, Zavanin, JHEP 07 (2015) 171]

Light Sterile Neutrinos@ $0\nu\beta\beta$

JHEP 07 (2015) 171



Examples of New Physics for the MB Excess



See also other models and constraints:
1810.07185;
1810.01000;
1808.07460