

Recent Reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ Results From the PROSPECT Experiment

December 5, 2019

Bryce Littlejohn
Illinois Institute of Technology

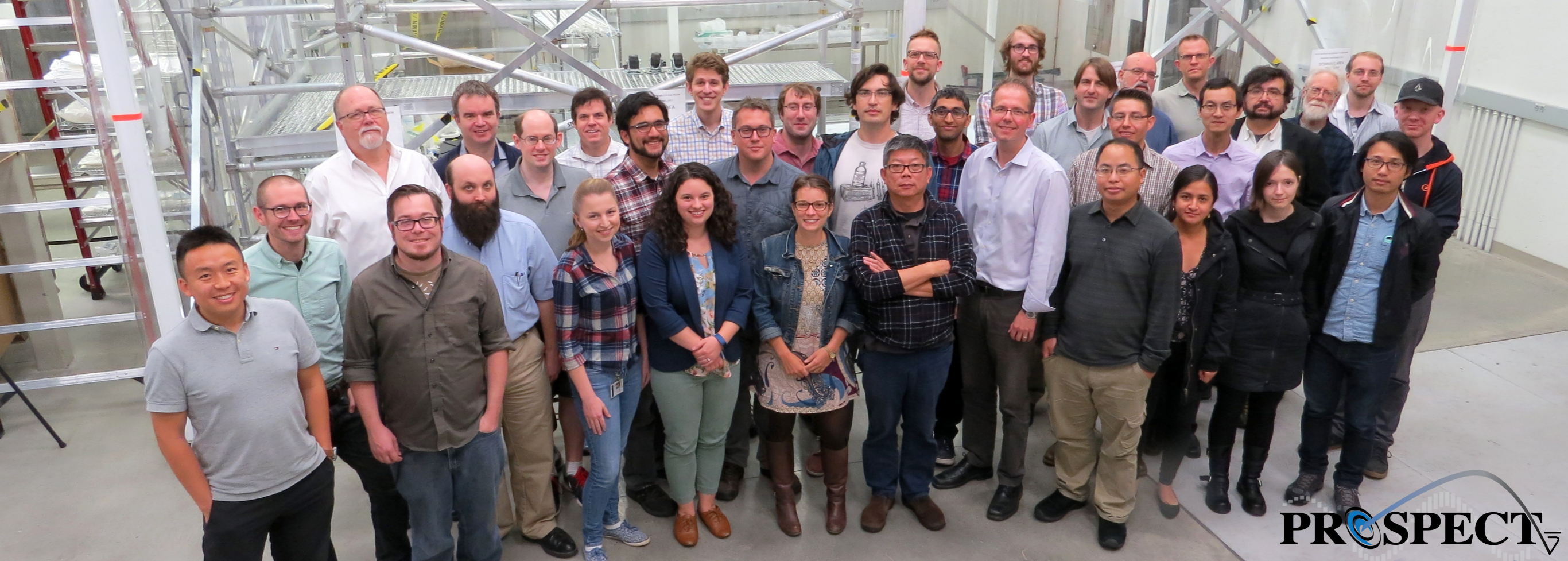


Present Issues, Summarized

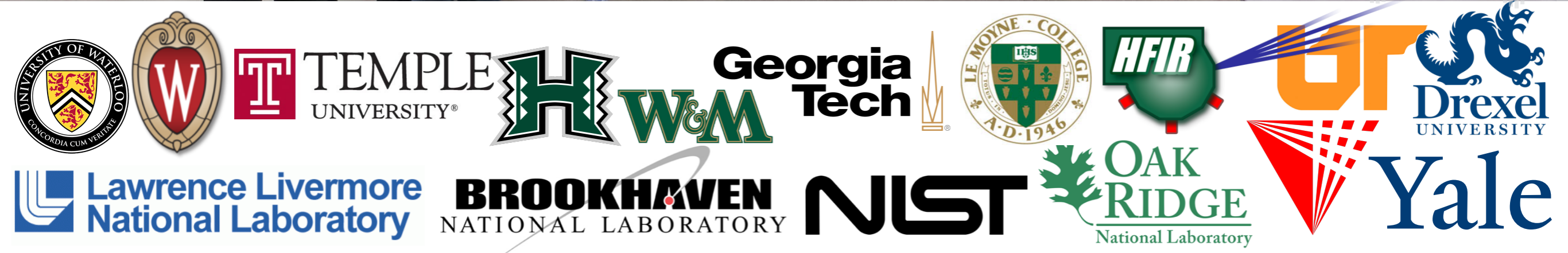


- Flux predictions don't match global measurements
 - Hypothesis 1: Electron antineutrinos are oscillating away
 - Hypothesis 2: Predicted fluxes are just wrong for some (all?) isotopes
- Spectrum predictions don't match global (LEU) measurements
 - Can't be from oscillations.
 - Likely a model problem. Is one isotope's prediction wrong? Or all isotopes?
- Thus far, PROSPECT has worked to tackle the two highlighted questions using a segmented detector deployed at the ^{235}U -burning HFIR reactor
- In performing physics measurements, we also perform valuable AAP R&D by demonstrating on-surface reactor antineutrino detection capabilities

The Precision Reactor Oscillation and SPECTrum experiment



PROSPECT

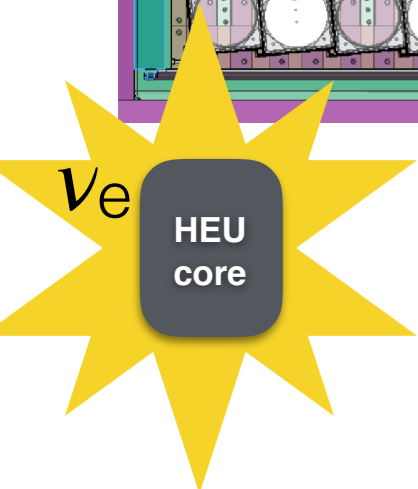
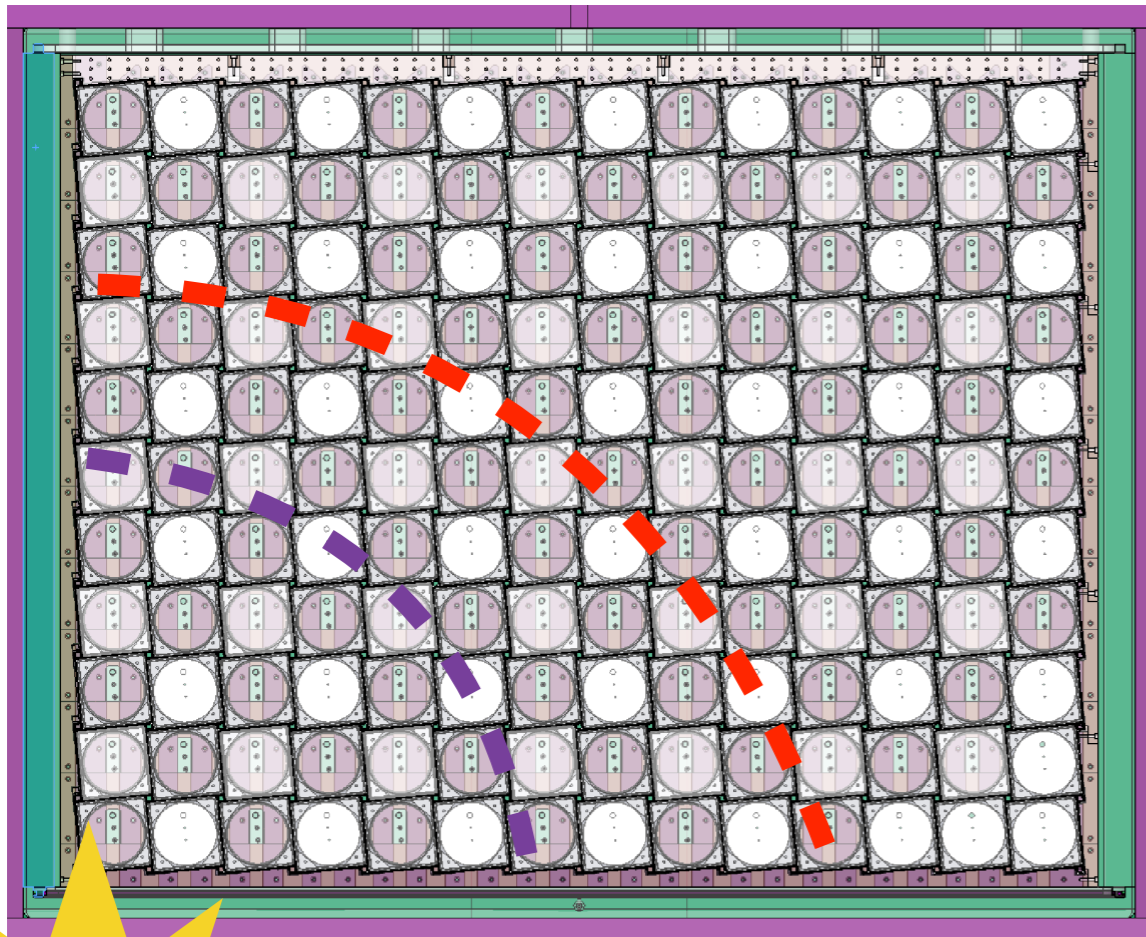


Flux-Independent Sterile Osc Search

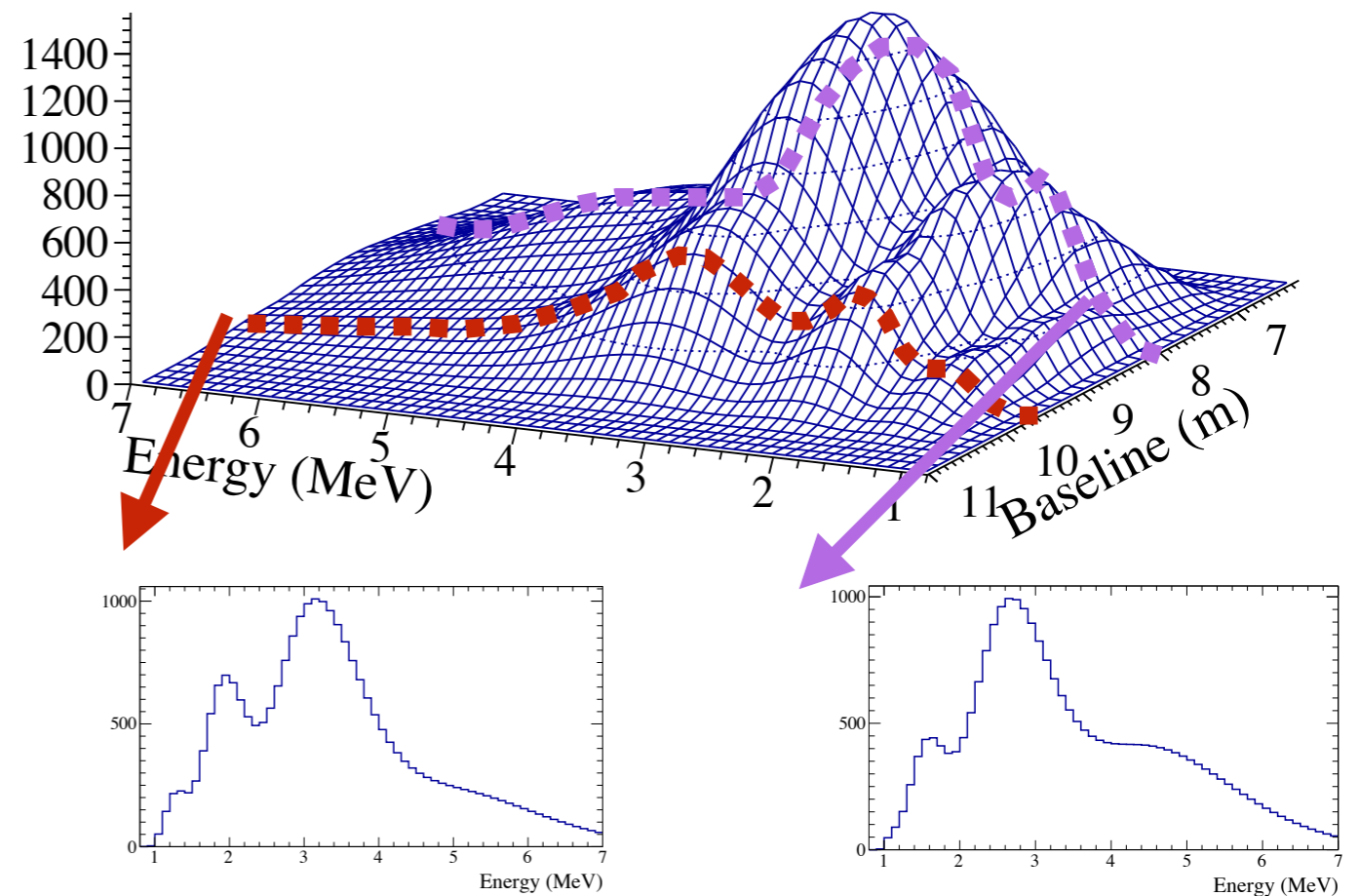


- Search for baseline-dependent energy spectrum distortion inside a stationary, segmented, short-baseline detector

100s of detectors in 1!

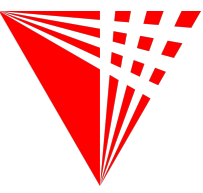


L vs E, oscillated

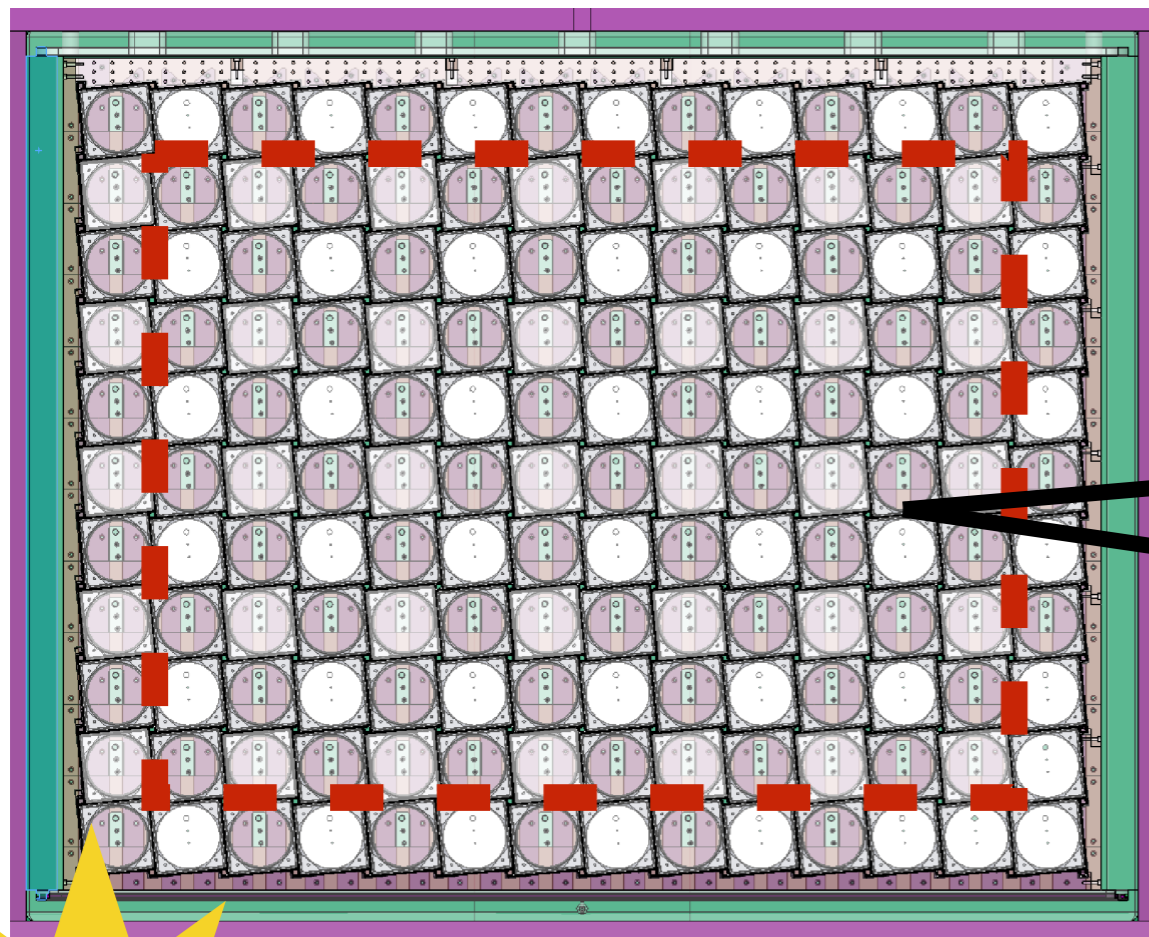


$$\sin^2(2\theta) \sin^2\left(1.27 \Delta m^2 \frac{L}{E_\nu}\right)$$

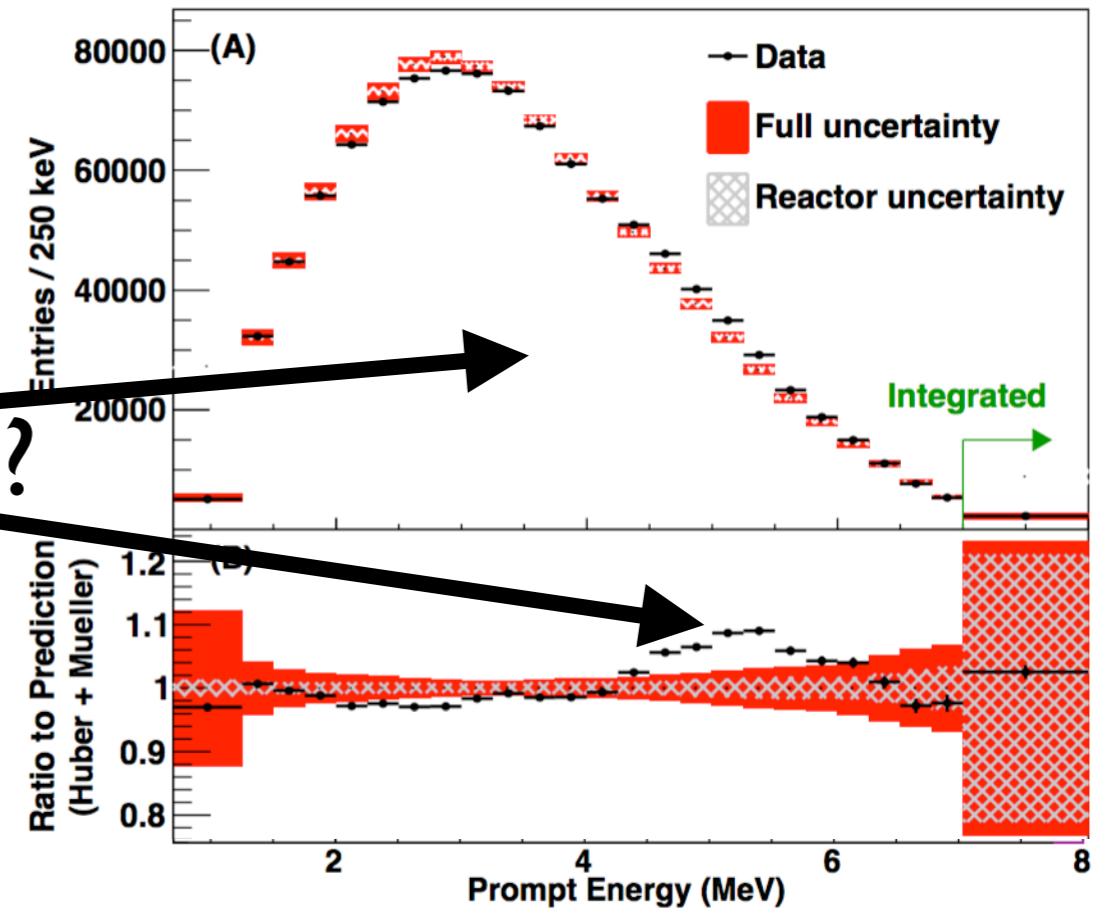
^{235}U $\bar{\nu}_e$ Energy Spectrum Measurement



- Measure energy spectrum of ^{235}U $\bar{\nu}_e$ using an HEU reactor
- Then ask: how do results differ for HEU and LEU reactors?
 - Can give a clue which isotopes are poorly predicted



Daya Bay, CPC 4I (2017)



ν_e

HEU
core

PROSPECT Experiment Overview



Scientific Goals

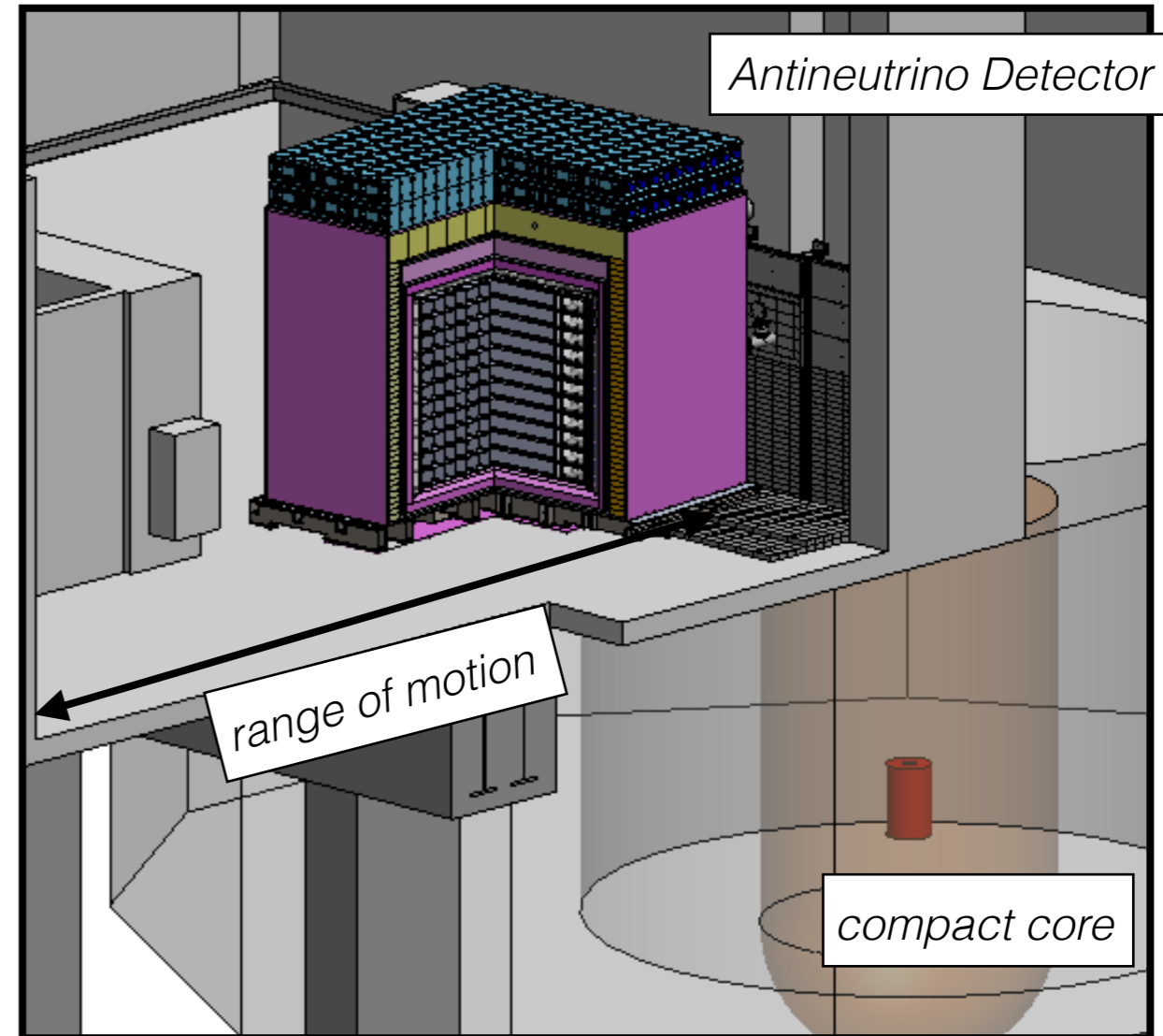
1. model independent search for eV-scale sterile neutrinos at short baselines
2. measure ^{235}U -only antineutrino spectrum to address spectral deviations

Close proximity to reactor (< 10m)

- search for sterile oscillations throughout the detector (segmented)
- high statistics for precision spectrum
- possible at research reactors, allows us to isolate a single isotope ^{235}U

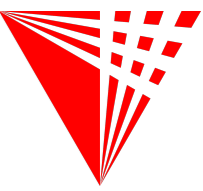
Challenges at HFIR near-surface site

- backgrounds: cosmogenic fast neutrons and reactor gammas
- limited space: compact calorimeter
- current detector technology not well-matched for this environment

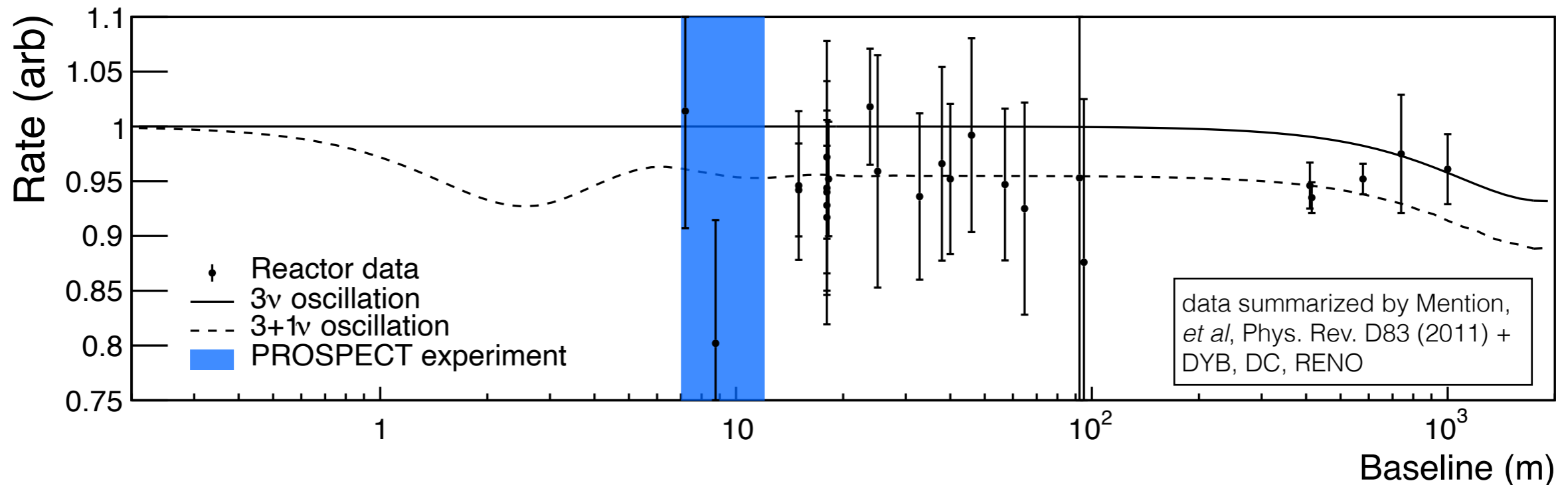
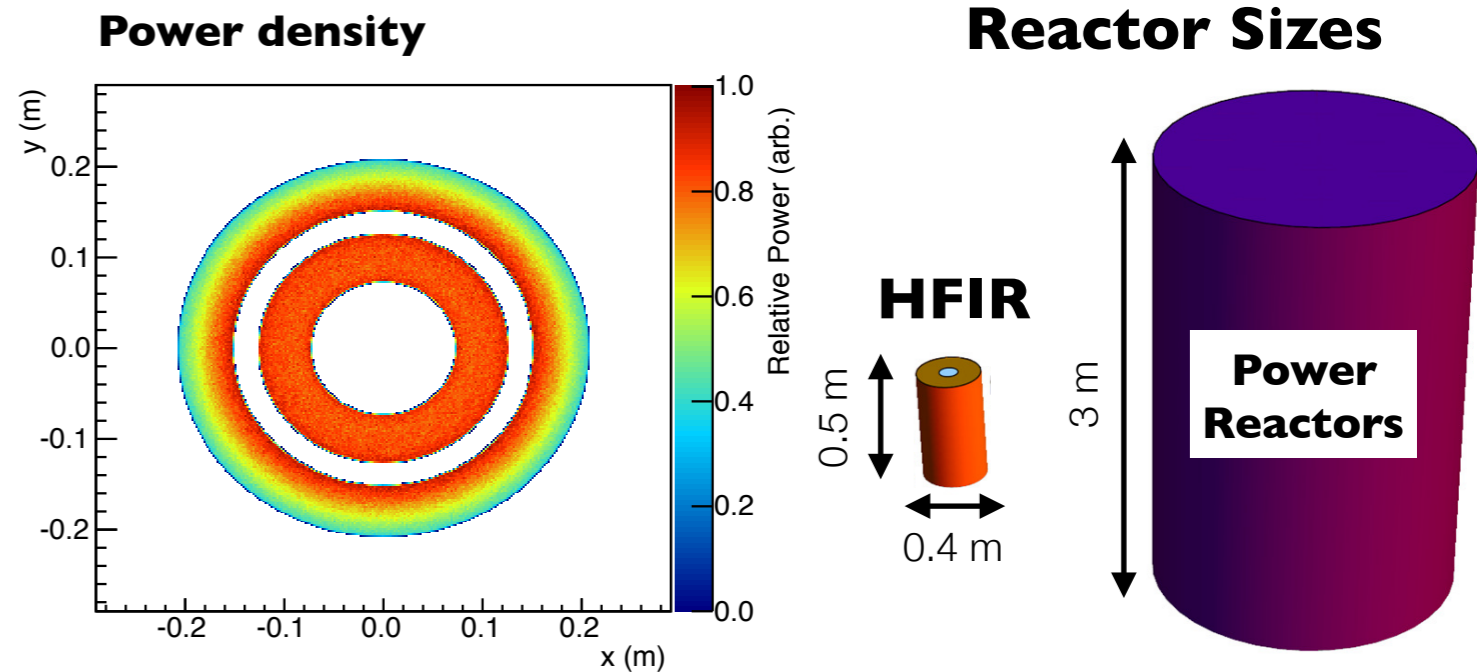


@ High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR),
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR)



- 85MW highly enriched uranium reactor
- >99% of ν from ^{235}U ,
~no isotopic evolution
- 24-day cycles, 46% RxOn;
RxOff: measure background
- Compact cylindrical core:
0.2m radius, 1m height
- Baselines 7-12m within mobile detector



PROSPECT Experiment Overview



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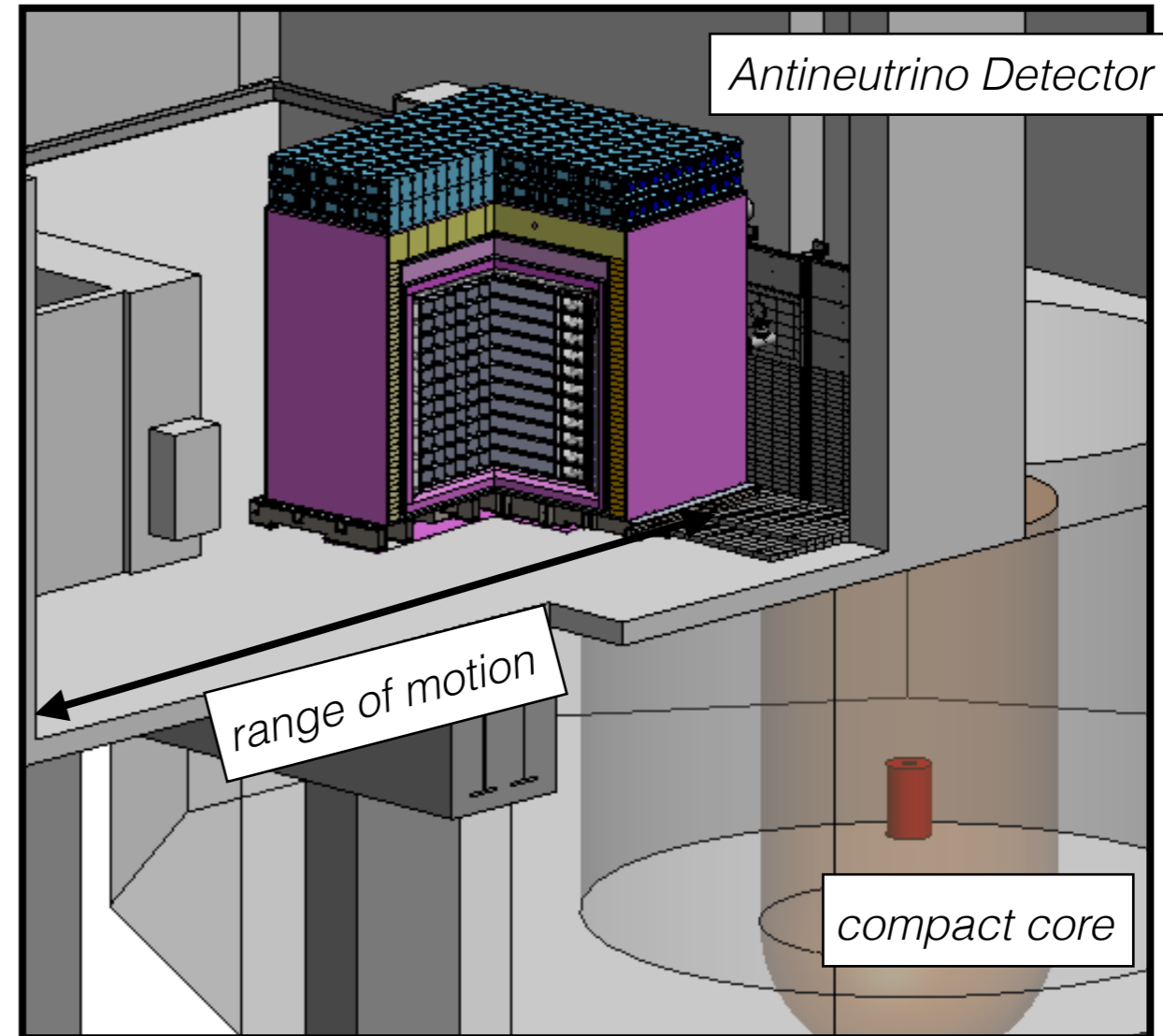
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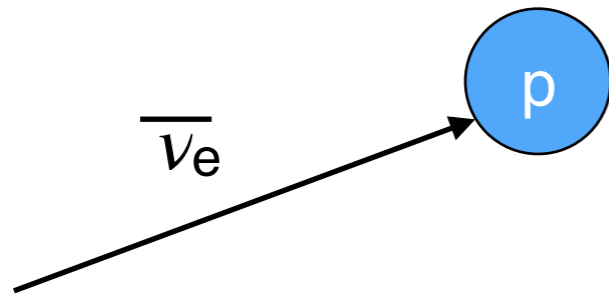
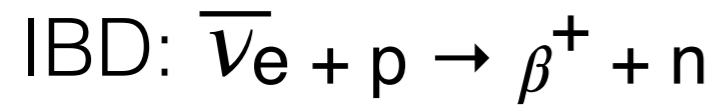
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- reactor θ_{13} detector technology not well-matched for this environment



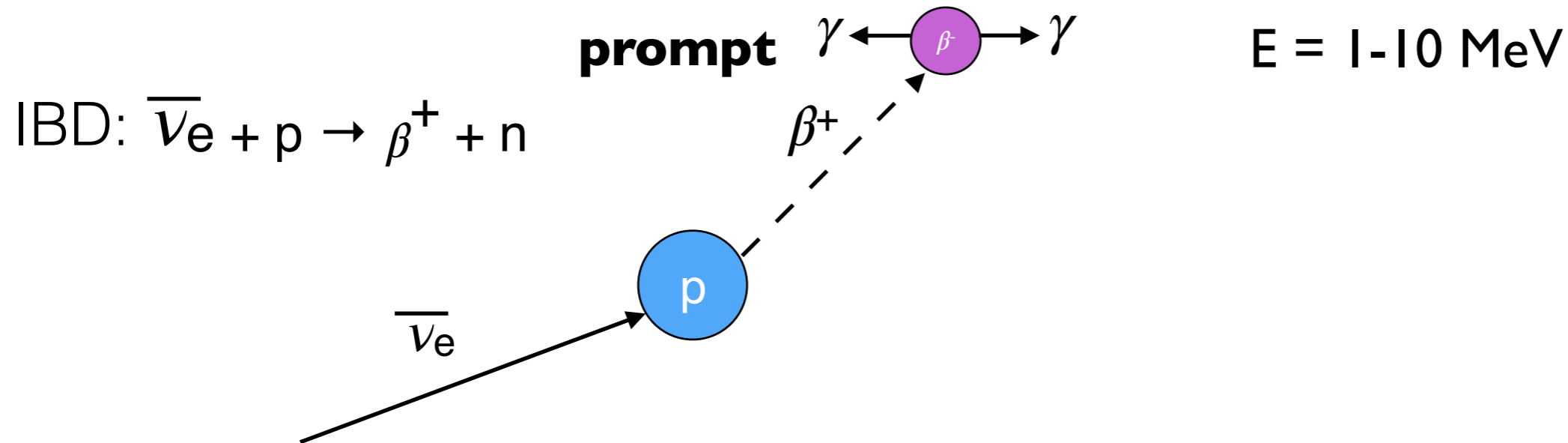
@ High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR),
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

IBD Detection in ${}^6\text{Li}$ -doped LS



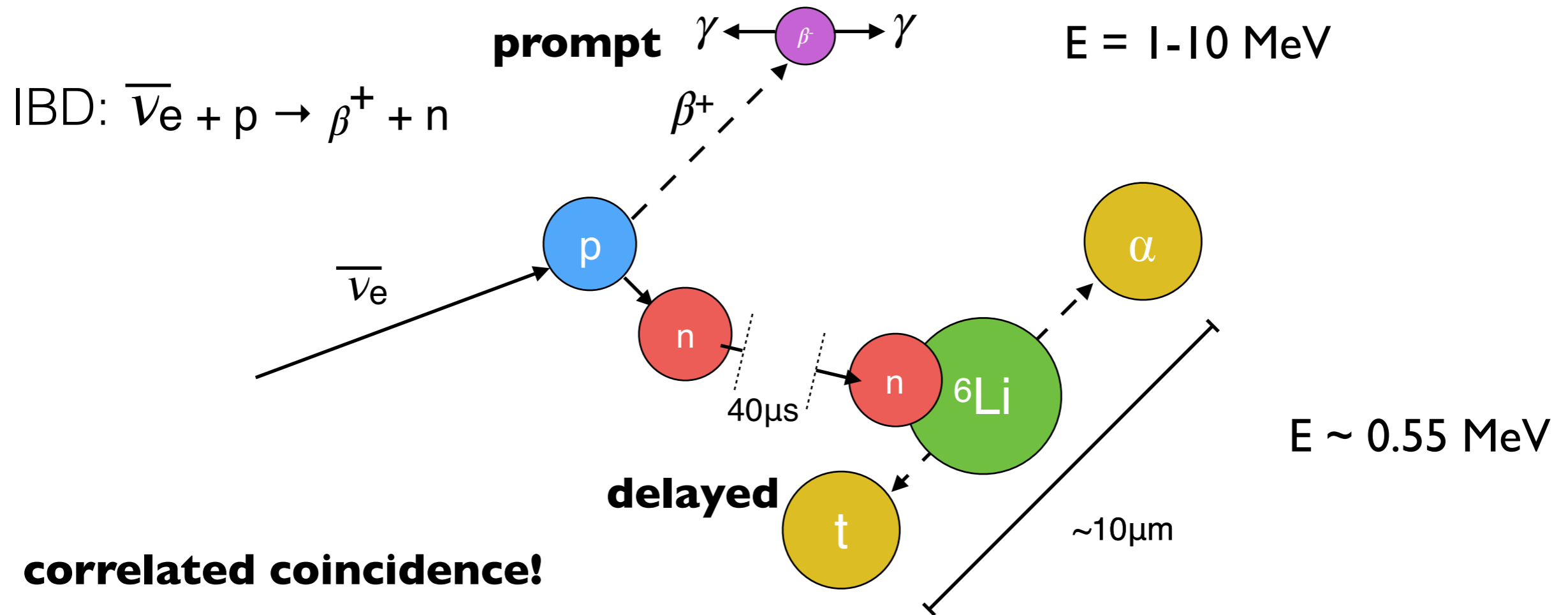
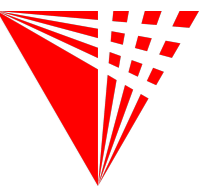
- develop new liquid scintillator to detect IBDs near-surface reactor environment

IBD Detection in ${}^6\text{Li}$ -doped LS



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- prompt (or detected) energy: positron ionization is a proxy for neutrino energy

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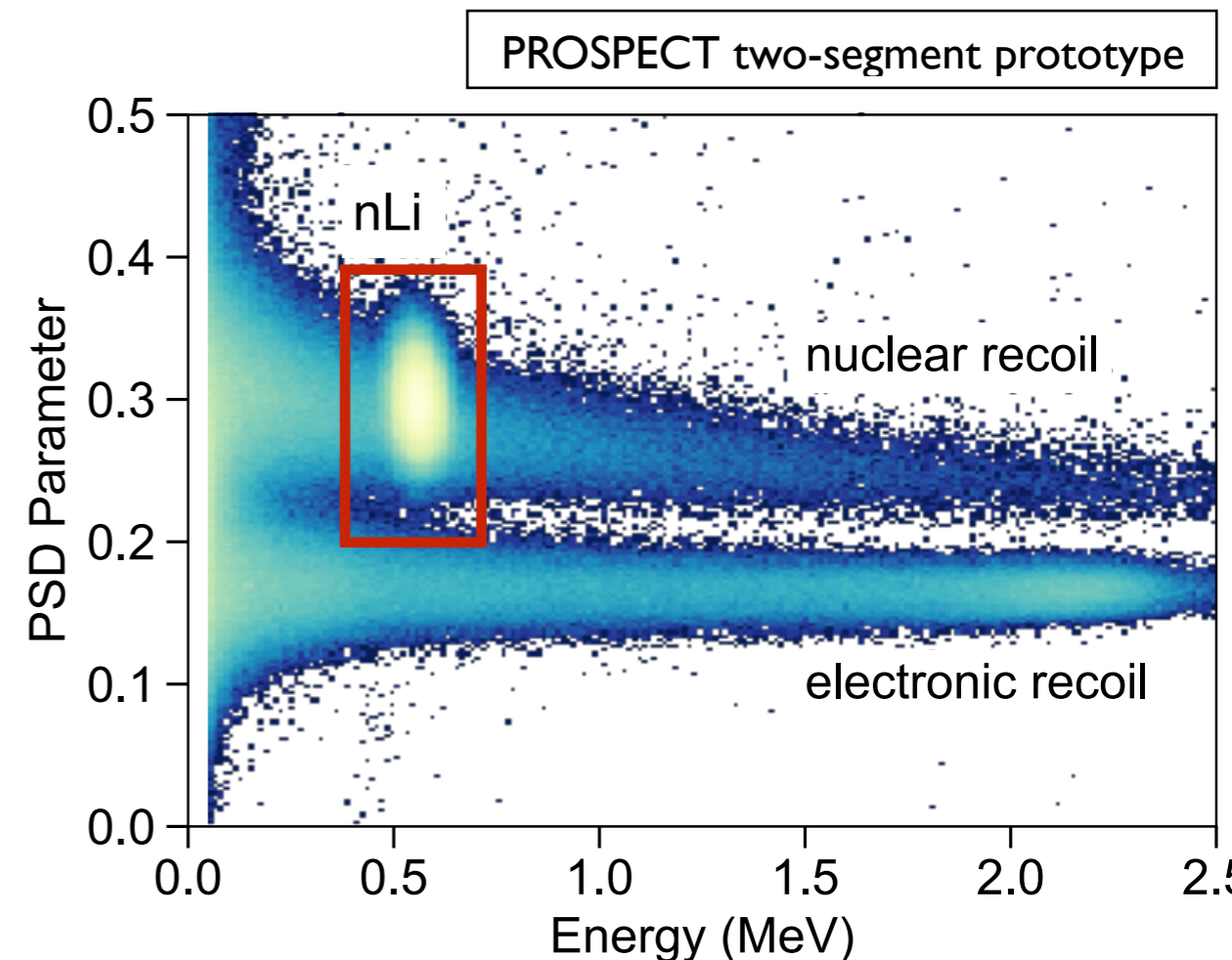
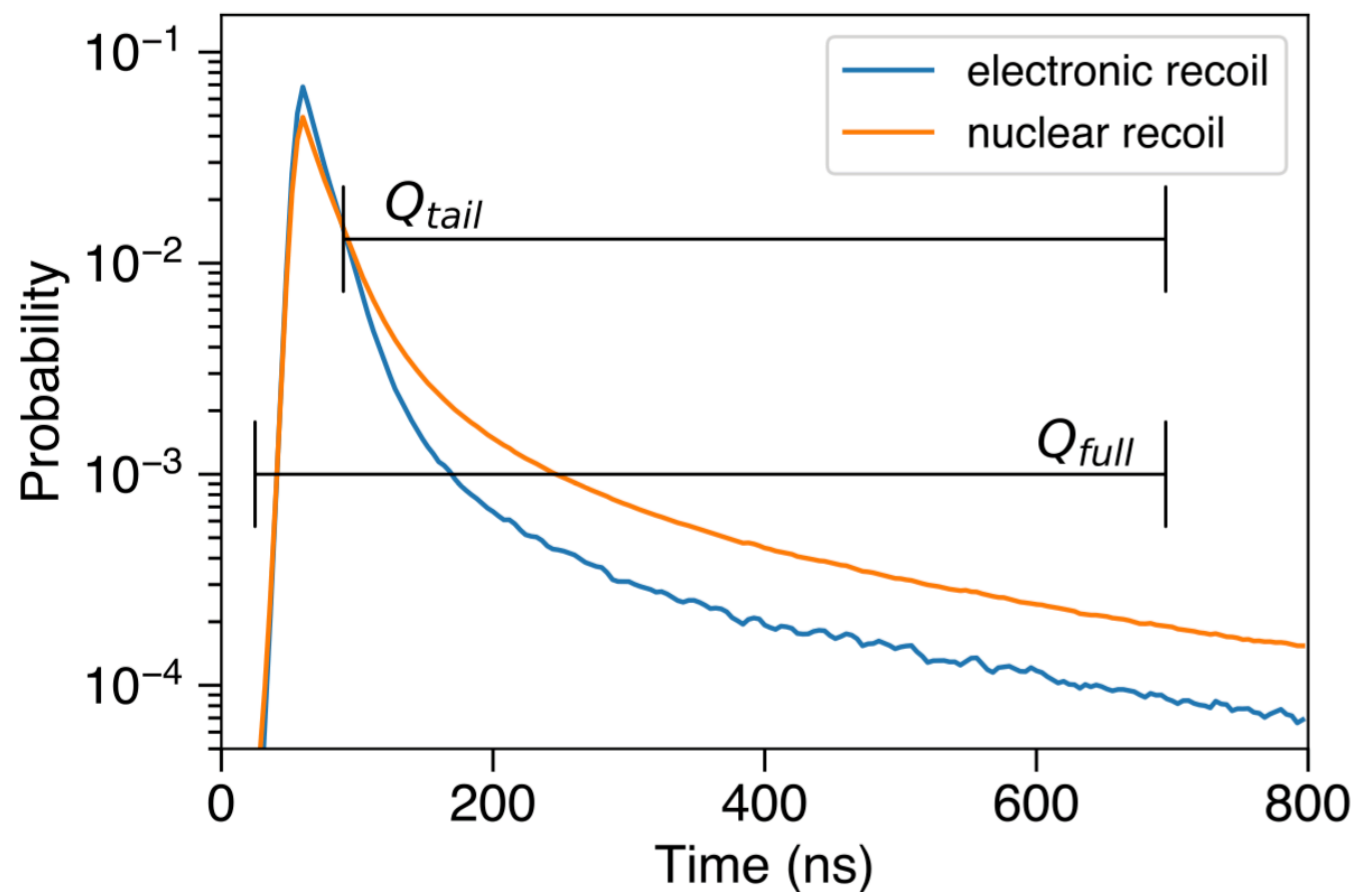
- develop new liquid scintillator to detect IBDs near-surface reactor environment
- prompt (or detected) energy: positron ionization is a proxy for neutrino energy
- development of ${}^6\text{LiLS}$ for neutron tag needed in compact detector as decay is highly localized in space.. within a PROSPECT segment

${}^6\text{LiLS}$ ideal for neutrino identification in compact, near-surface detector

Pulse-Shape Discriminating ${}^6\text{LiLS}$



- Developed ${}^6\text{LiLS}$ with capabilities to distinguish particles through their scintillation timing profile (ionization density).
- PSD adds powerful information to identify IBD and reject backgrounds
- A multi-year R&D effort to optimize PSD, geometry, optics, etc.



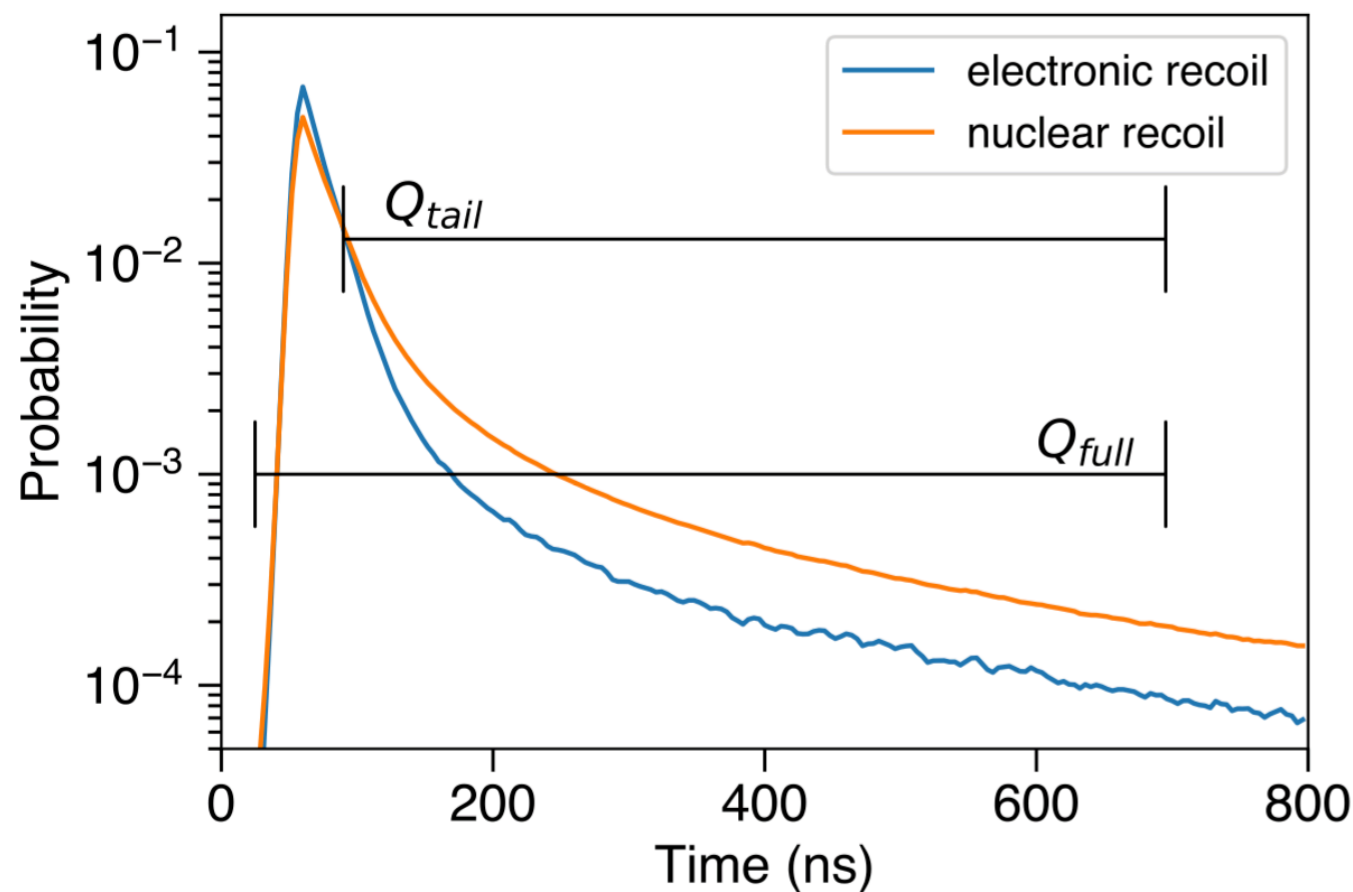
$$\text{PSD} = Q_{tail}/Q_{full}$$

PROSPECT, JINST 13 P06023 (2018)

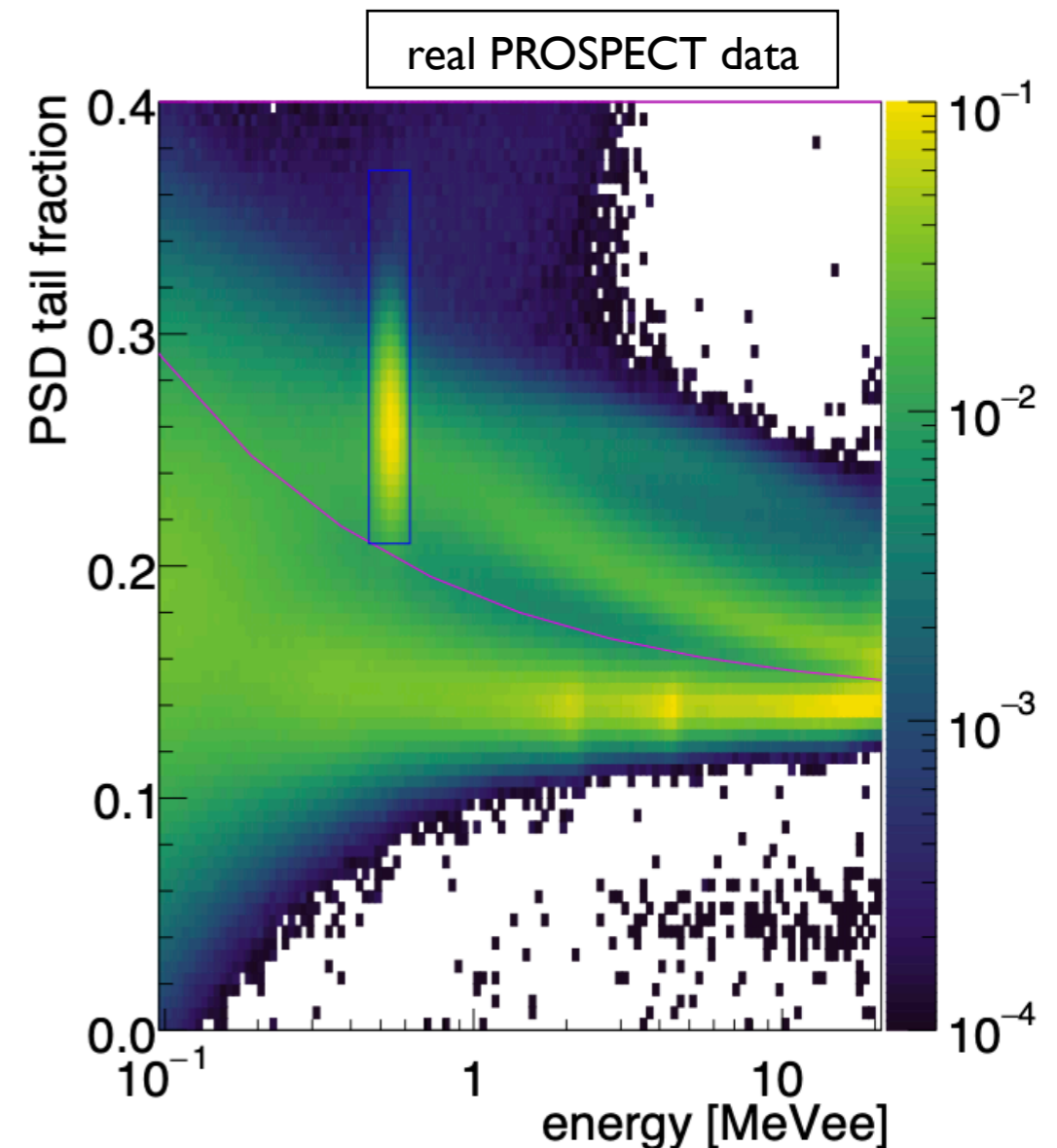
Pulse-Shape Discriminating ${}^6\text{LiLS}$



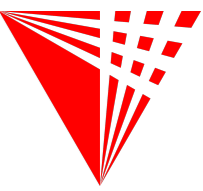
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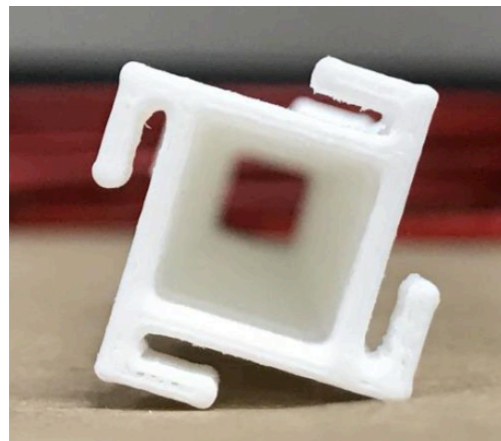
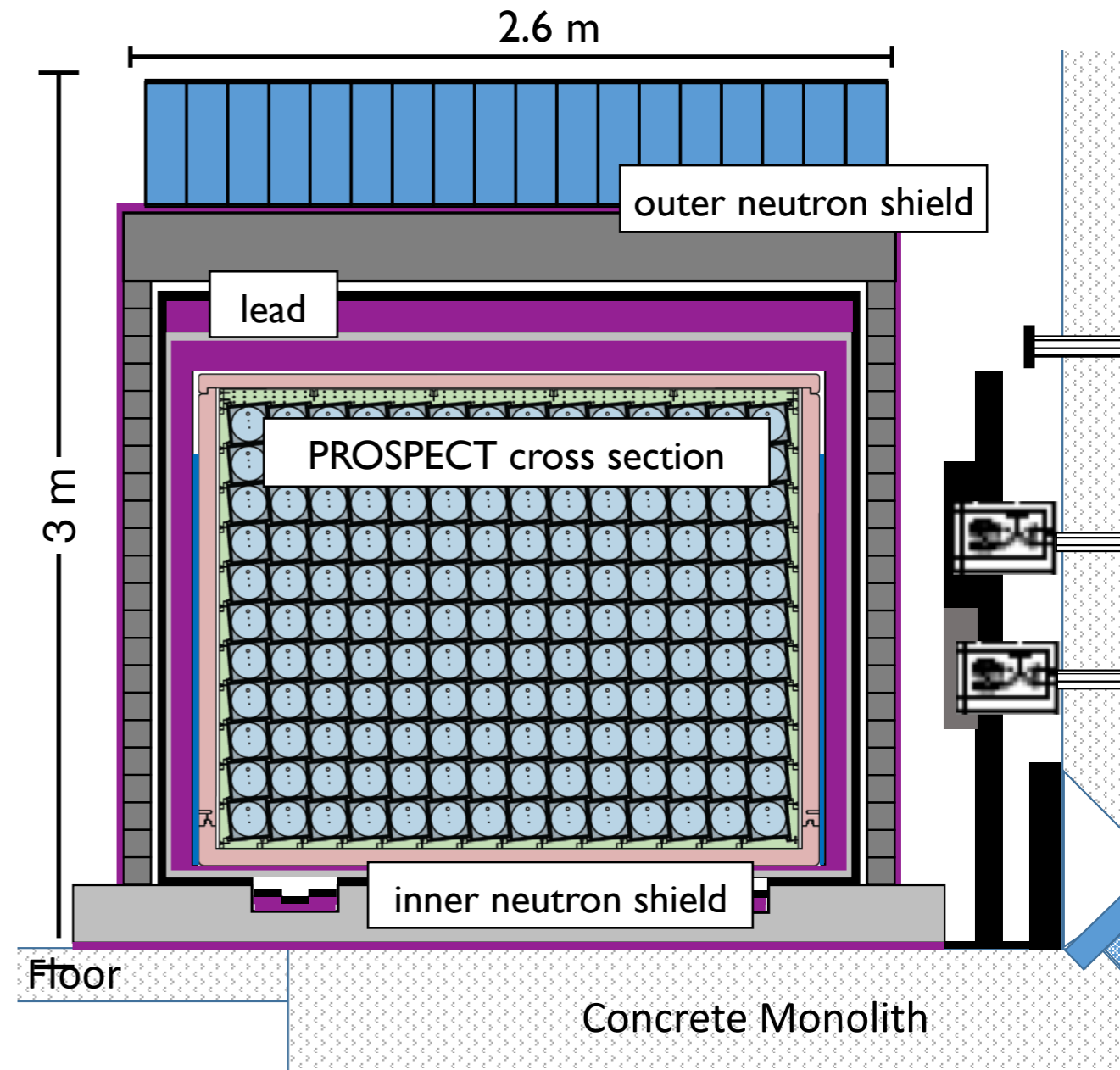
$$\text{PSD} = Q_{\text{tail}}/Q_{\text{full}}$$



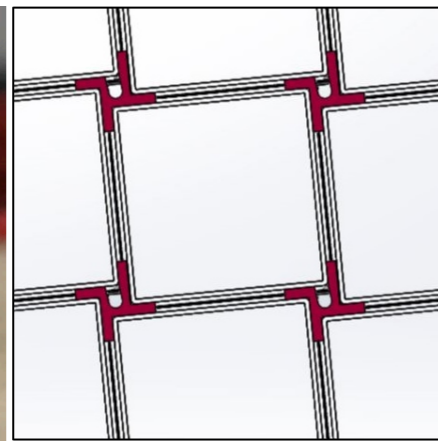
PROSPECT Segmented Detector Design



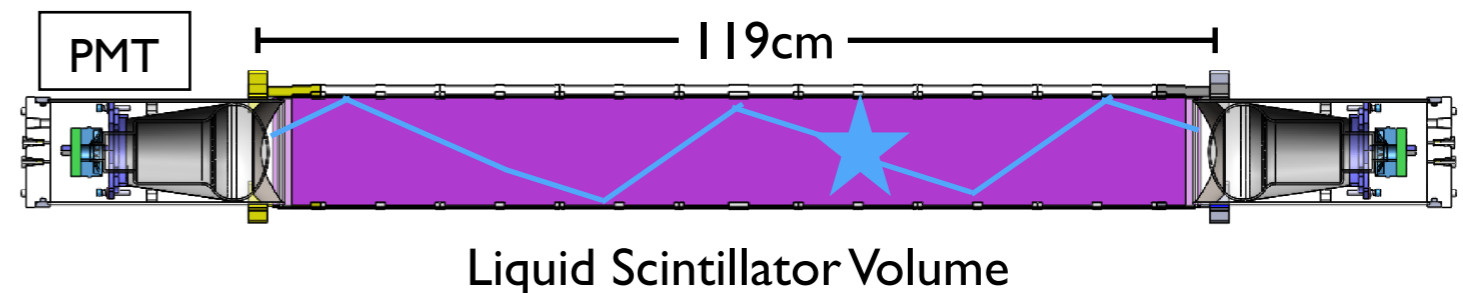
- 4 tons ${}^6\text{Li}$ -loaded liquid scintillator
- 154 segments, $119\text{cm} \times 15\text{cm} \times 15\text{cm}$
- thin (1.5mm) highly reflective optical panels held in place by 3D printed support rods
- calibration access along each segment
- 3D position reconstruction (X,Y) with (Z) from double-ended PMT readout
- optimized shield for backgrounds at the surface and reactor



3D printed support rod



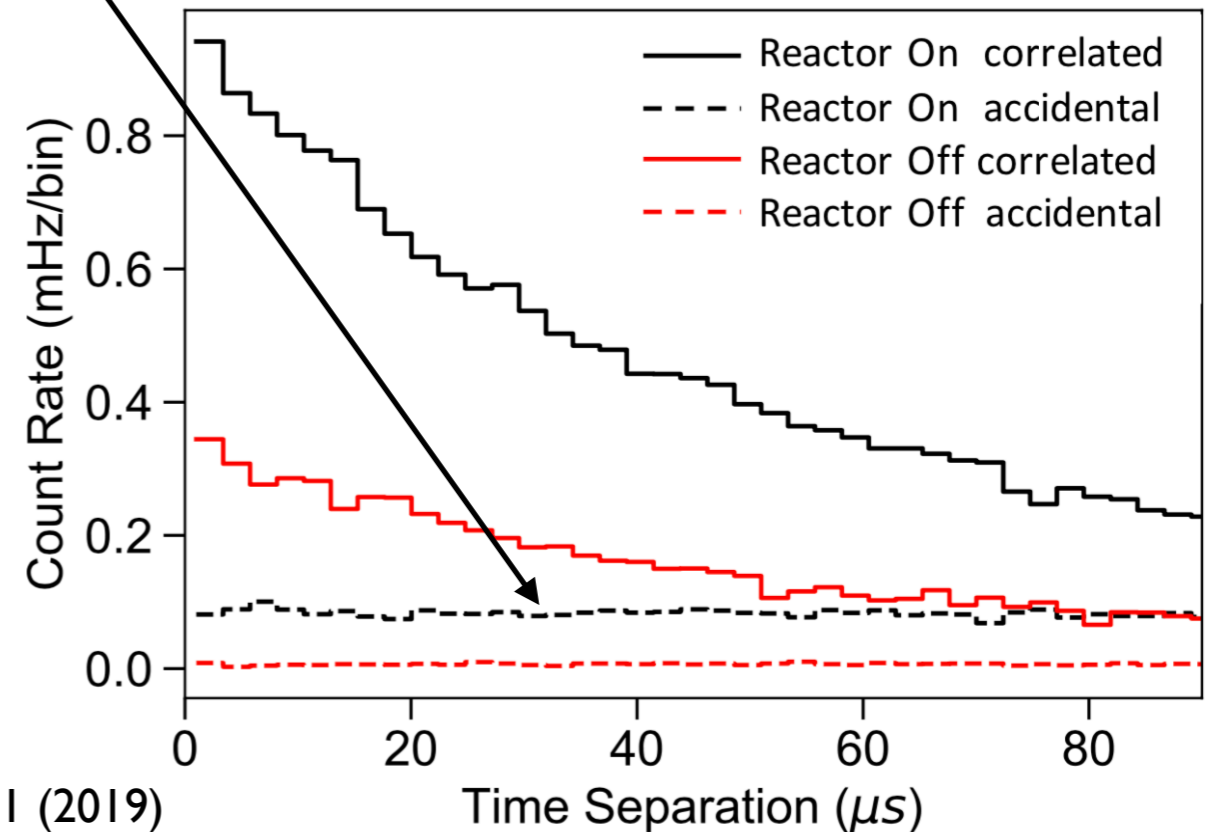
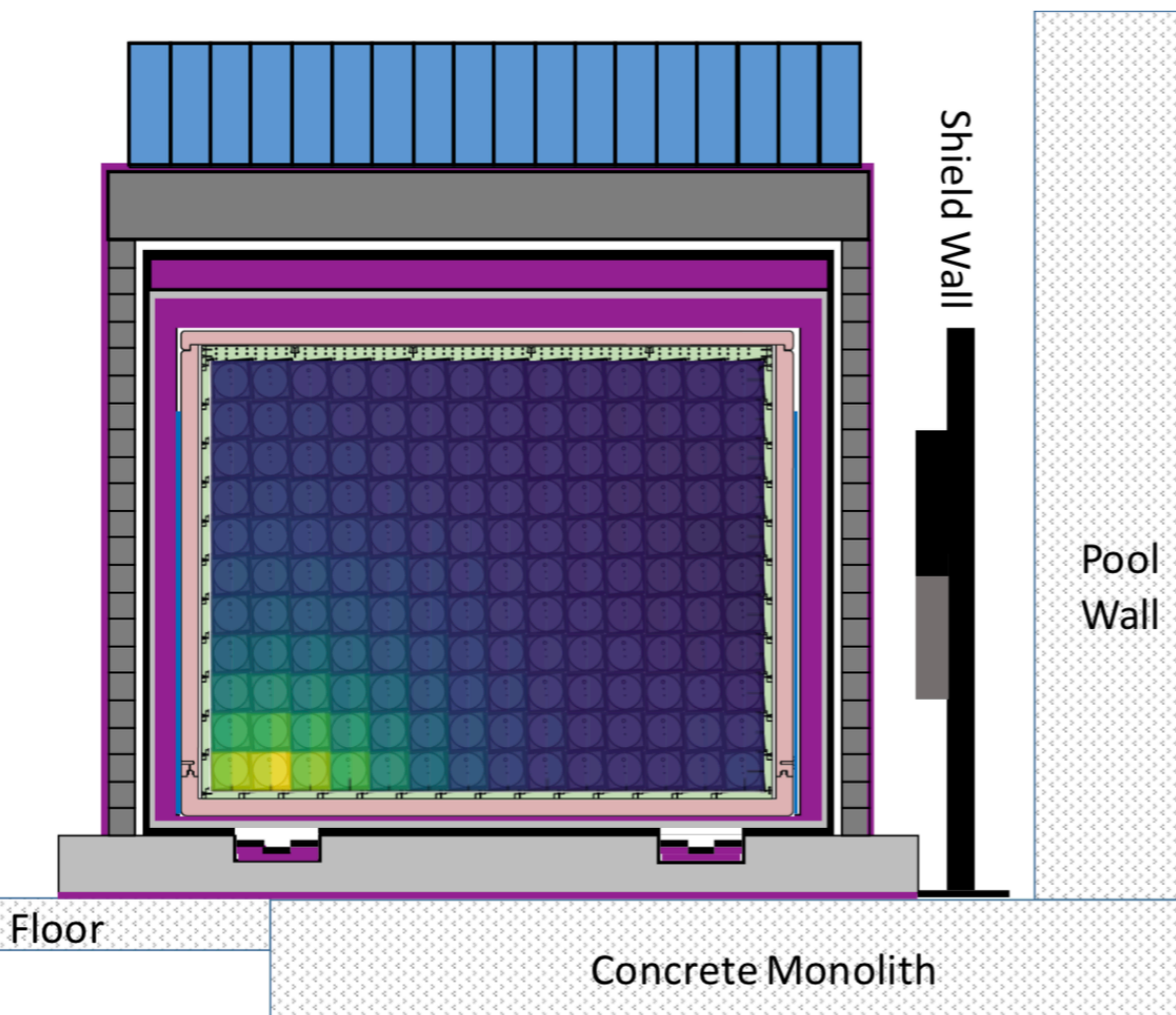
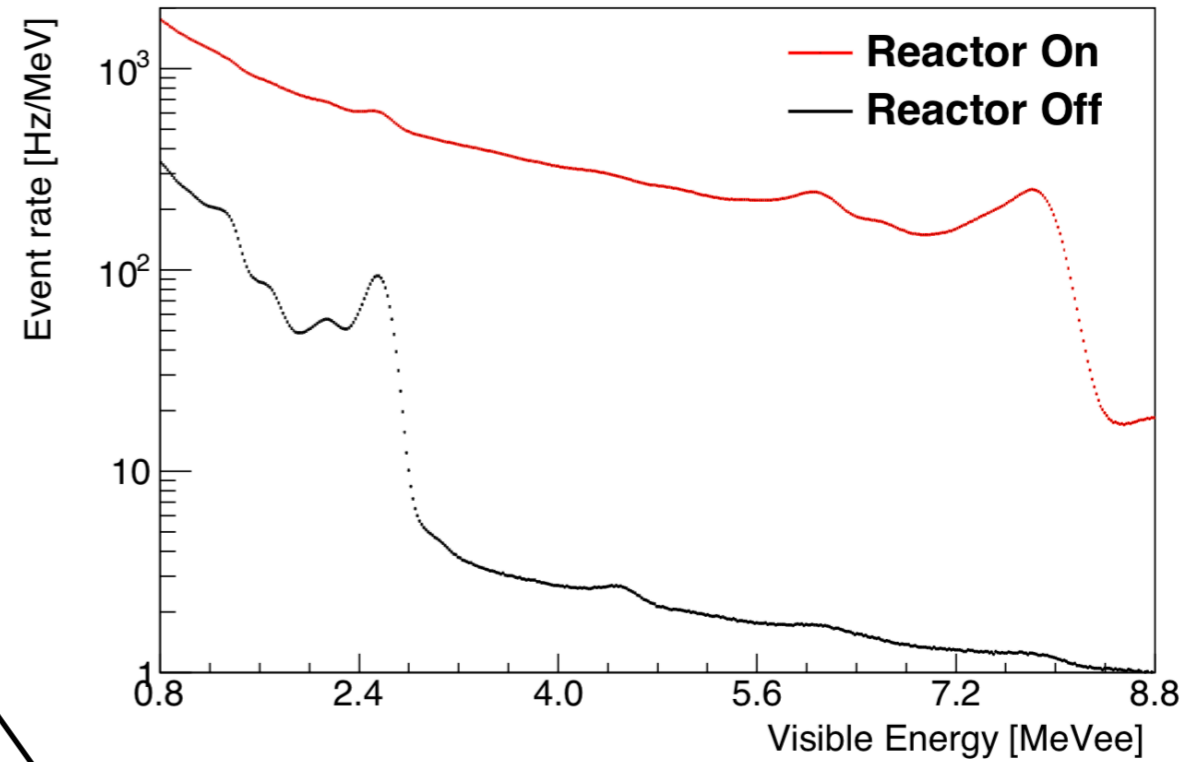
tilt for calibration access





Ambient Backgrounds

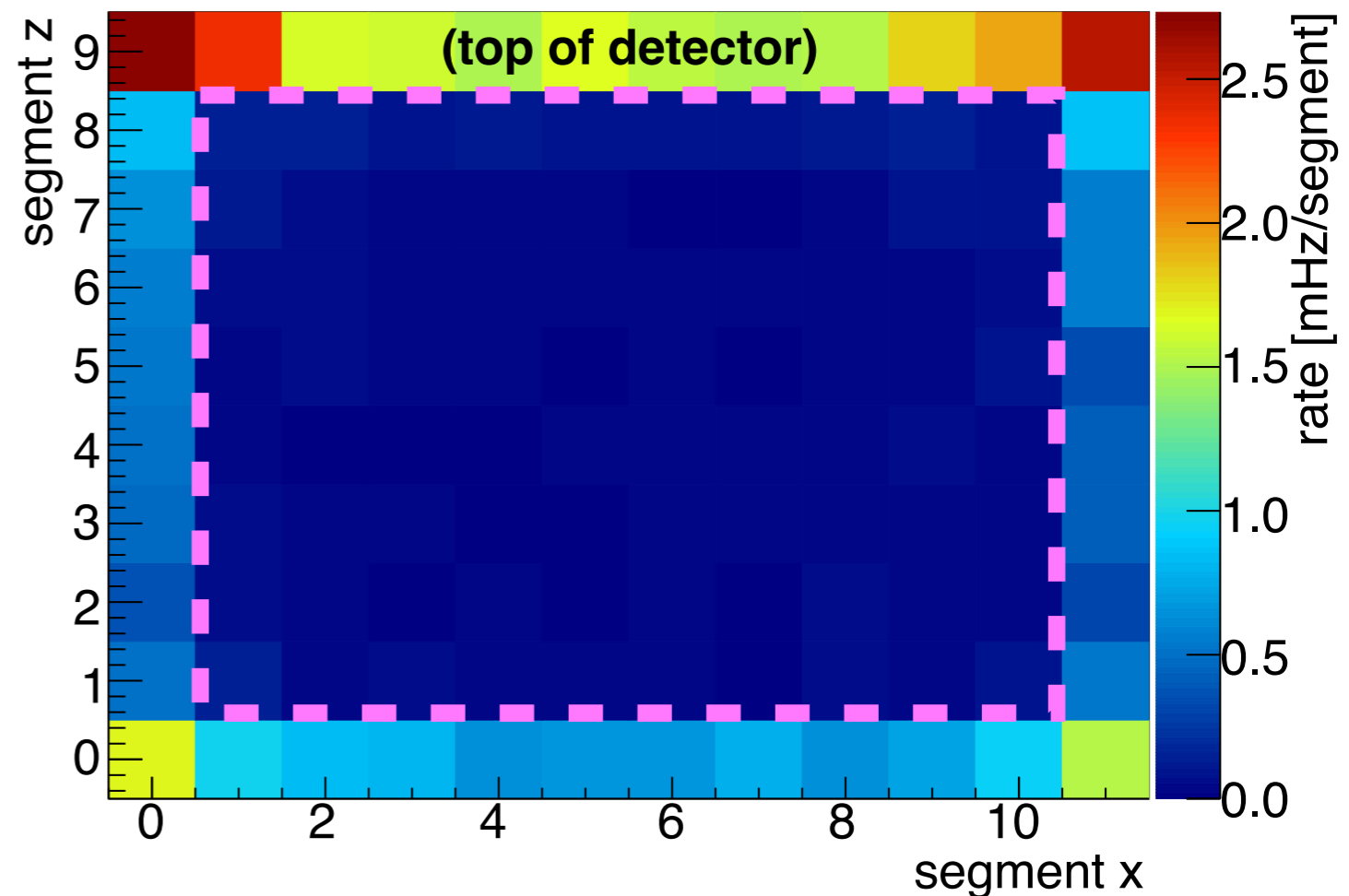
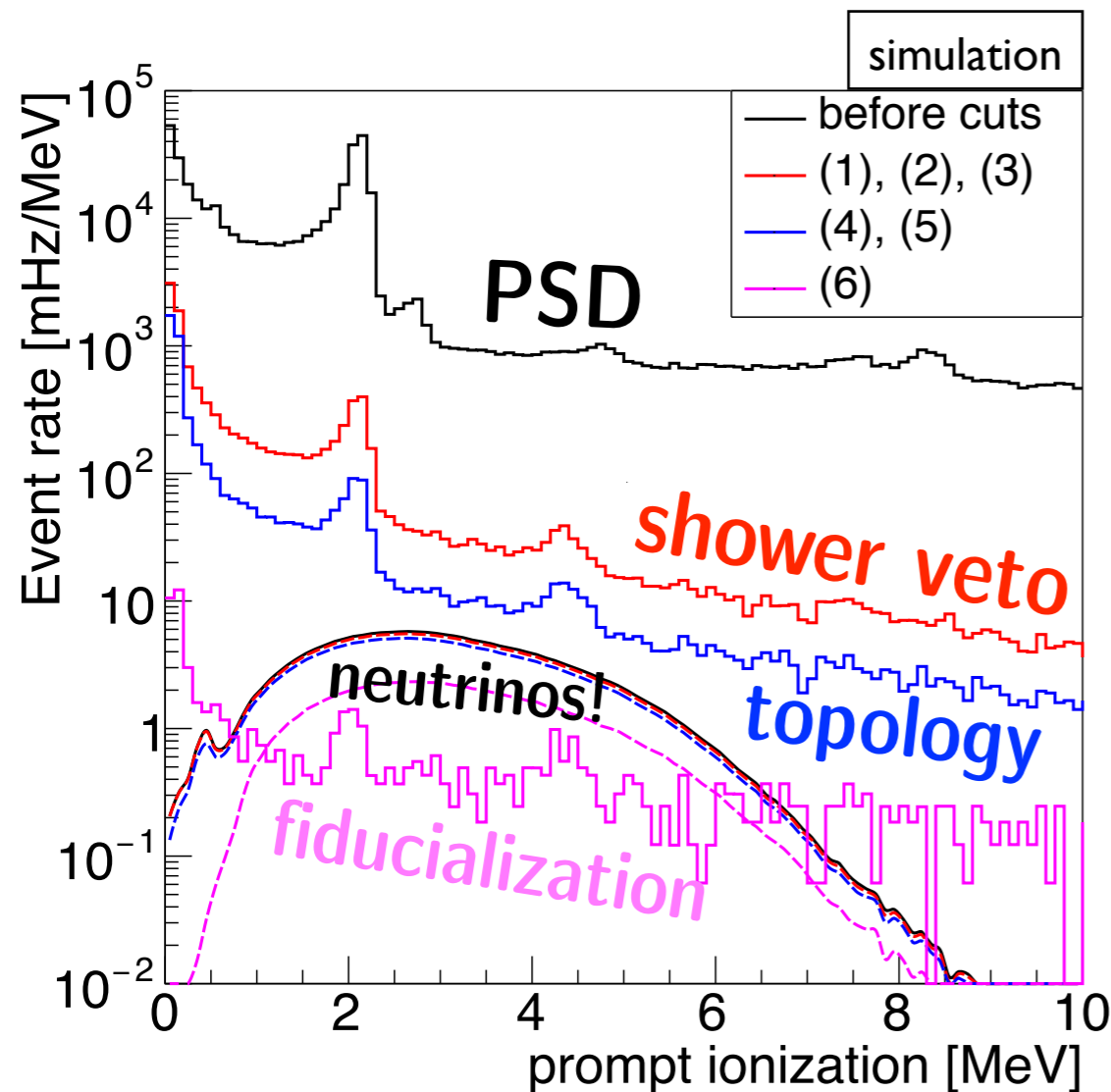
- Event rates in PROSPECT are substantially elevated during reactor-on data-taking periods
- Unique nLi signature, segmentation enable sub-dominant reactor-related accidental backgrounds



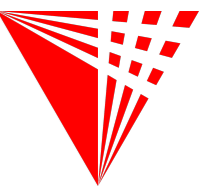
Combating Backgrounds On-Surface



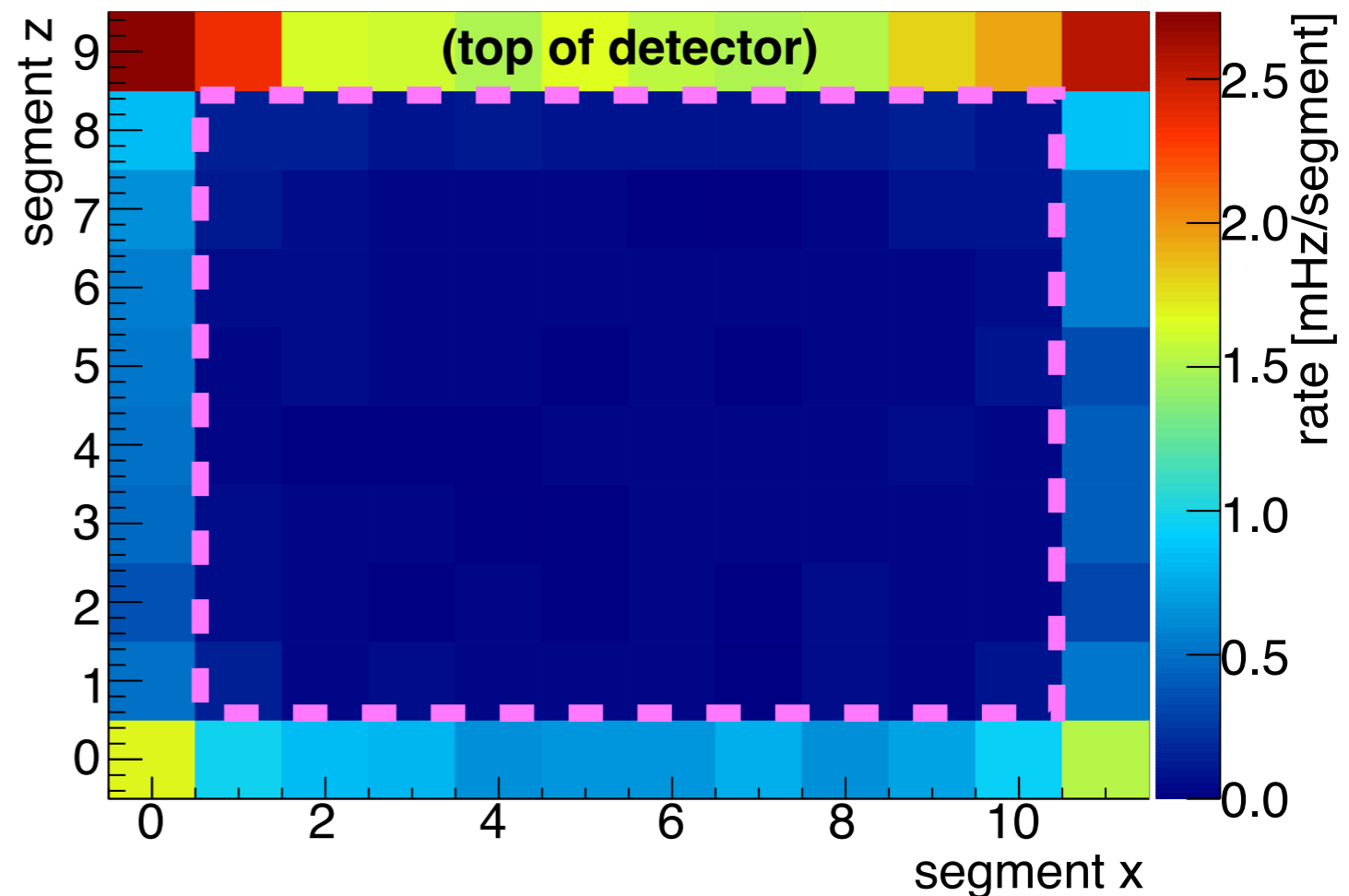
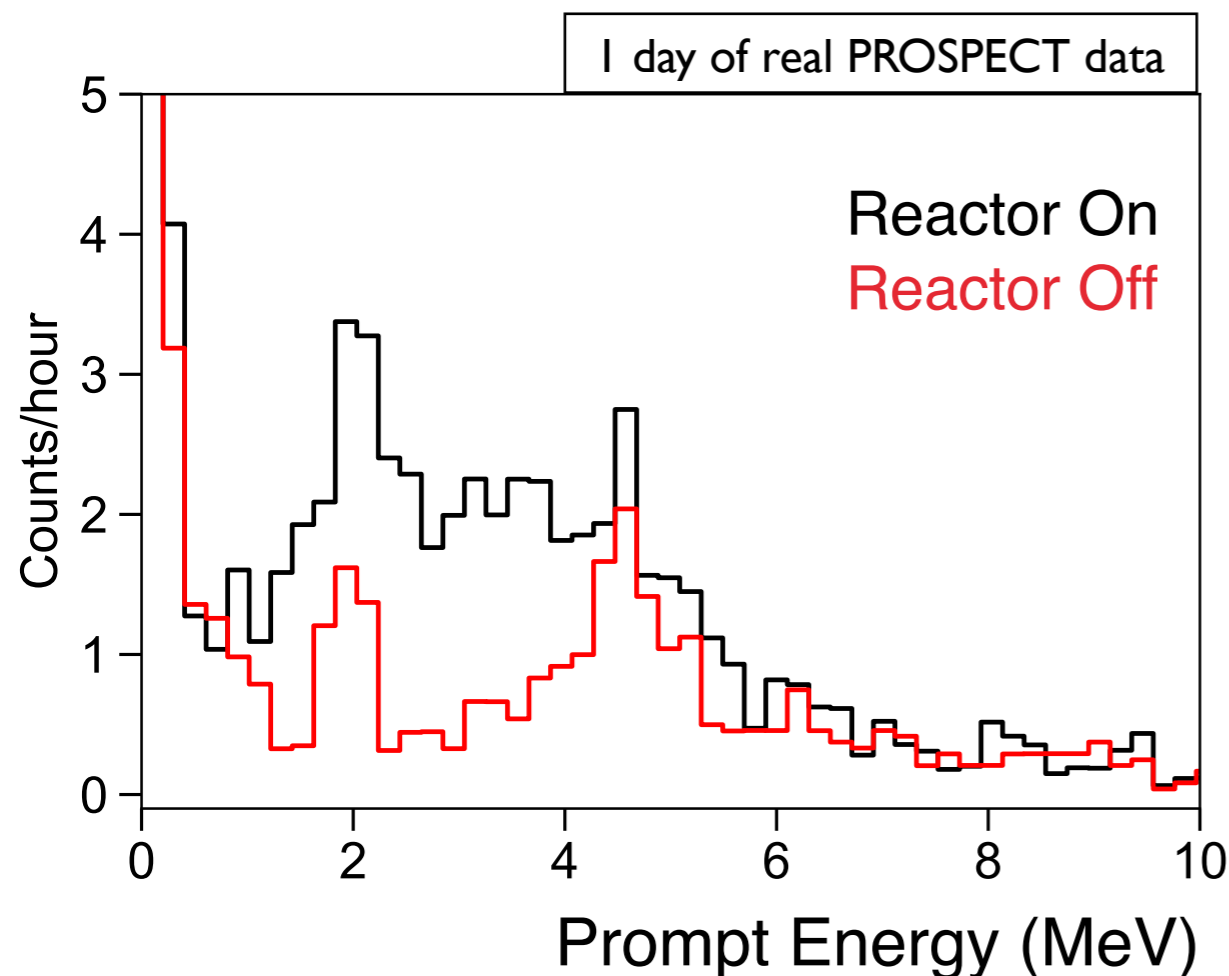
- Near-surface backgrounds: cosmogenic fast neutrons, reactor gammas
- Combination of segmentation, ${}^6\text{Li}$ liquid scintillator, particle ID powerful
- **PSD**, **shower veto**, **topology**, and **fiducialization** cuts provide $>10^4$ active background suppression (signal:background > 1)



Combating Backgrounds On-Surface

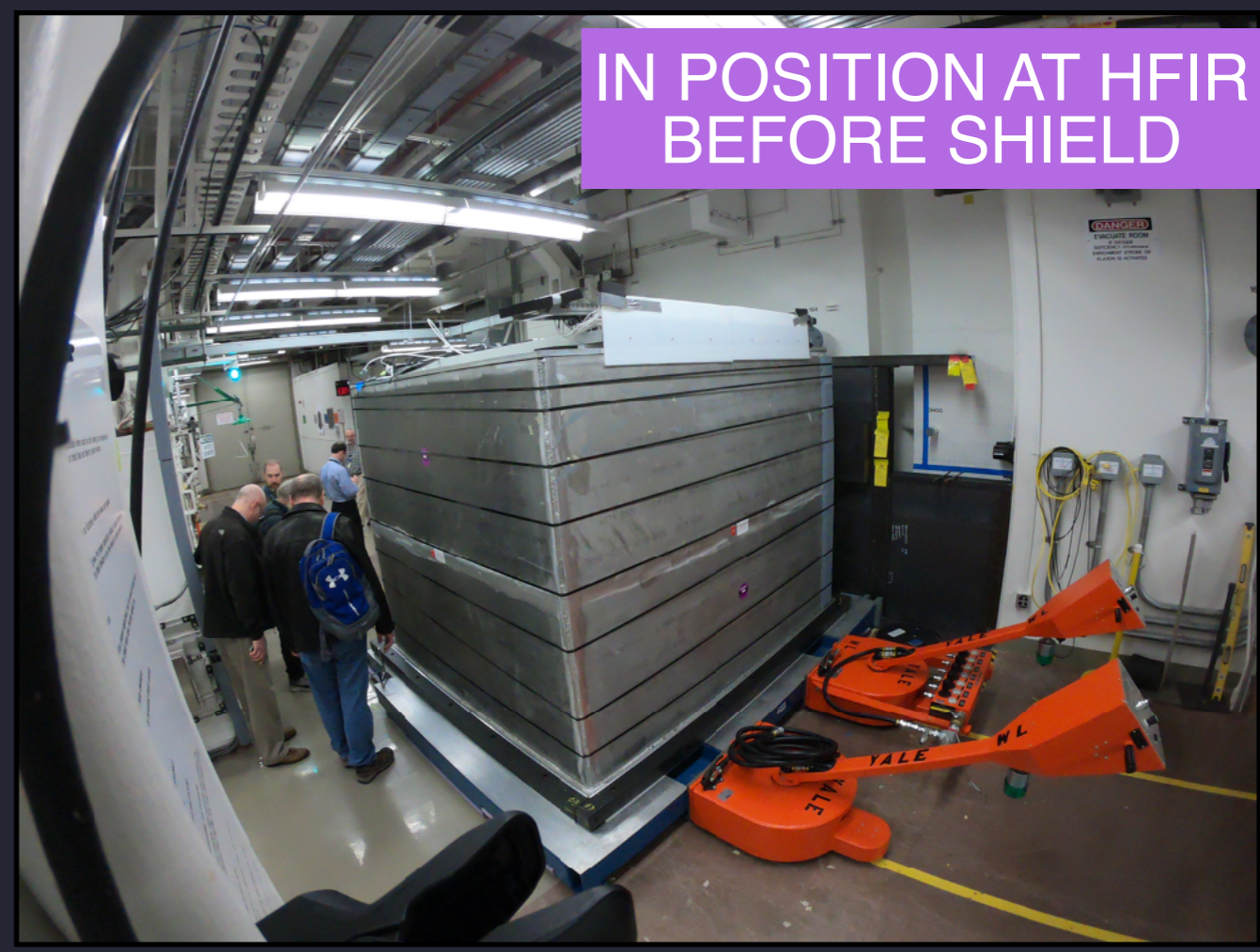


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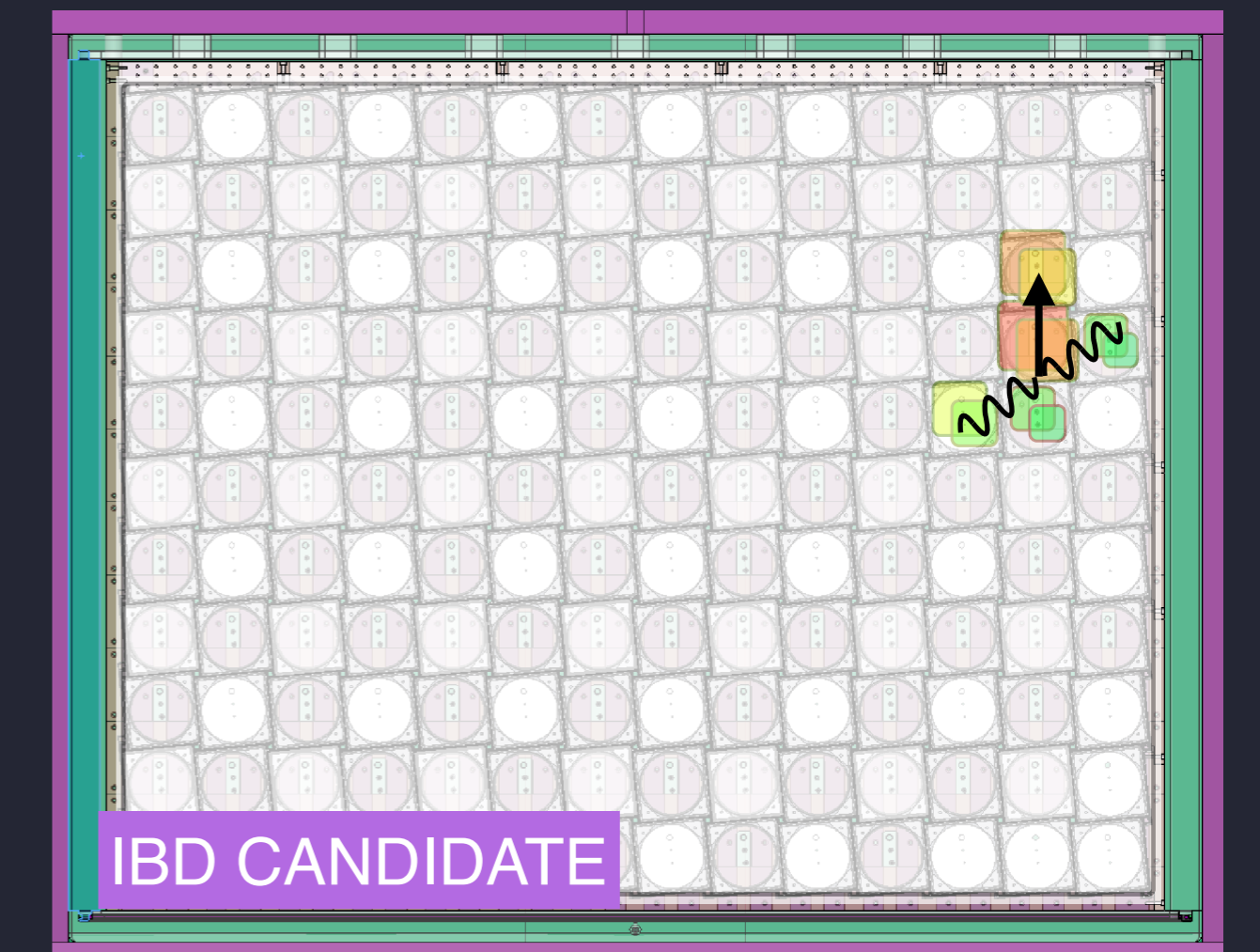
FEBRUARY 2018
ARRIVAL AT ORNL



IN POSITION AT HFIR
BEFORE SHIELD



FILLING FROM
MIXING TANK

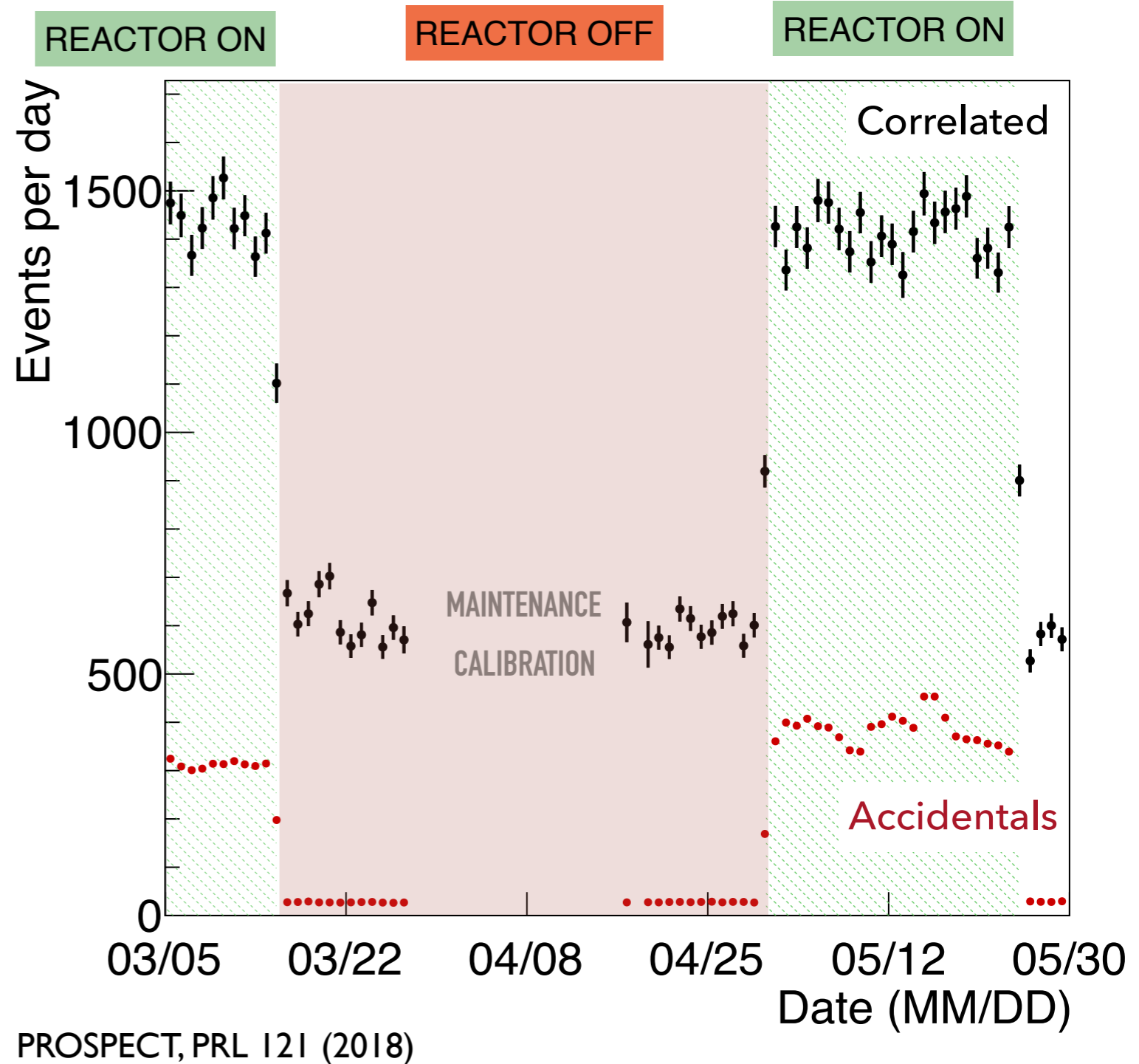
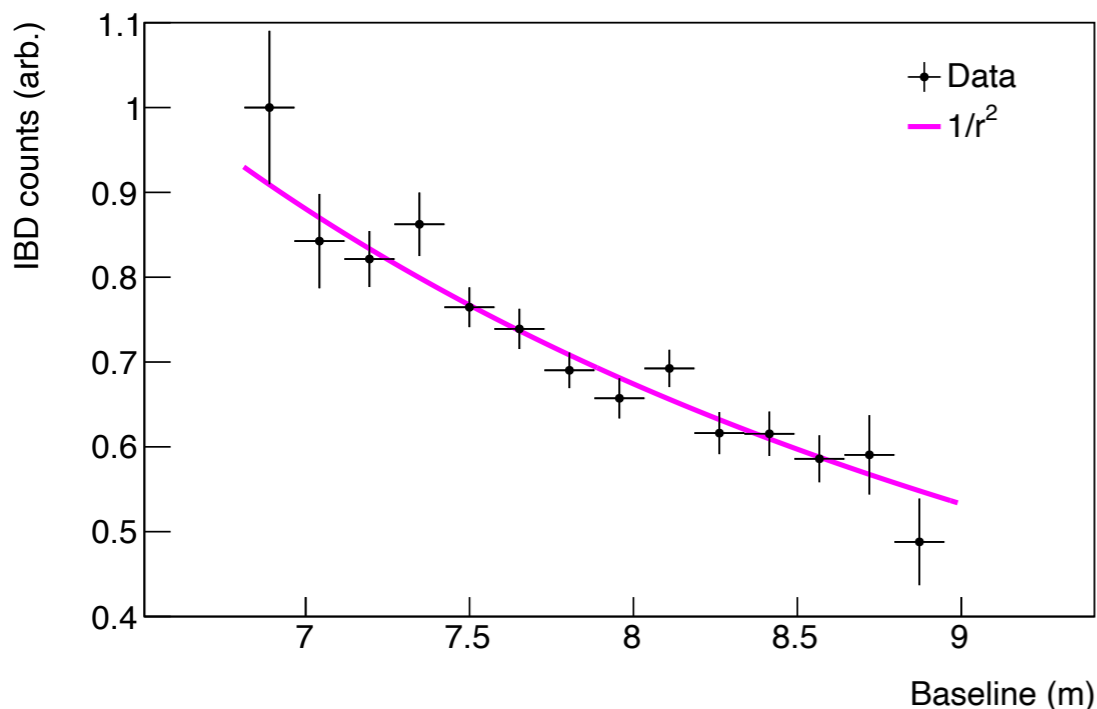


IBD CANDIDATE

Review: Sterile Oscillation Dataset



- 33 days of Reactor On
- 28 days of Reactor Off
- From 0.8-7.2 MeV prompt:
 - ~25,000 IBD interactions
 - average of ~770 IBDs/day
 - **correlated S:B = 1.32**
 - **accidental S:B = 2.20**
 - IBD selection defined and frozen on 3 days of data
- Segment-to-segment $1/r^2$ drop-off clearly visible



PROSPECT, PRL 121 (2018)



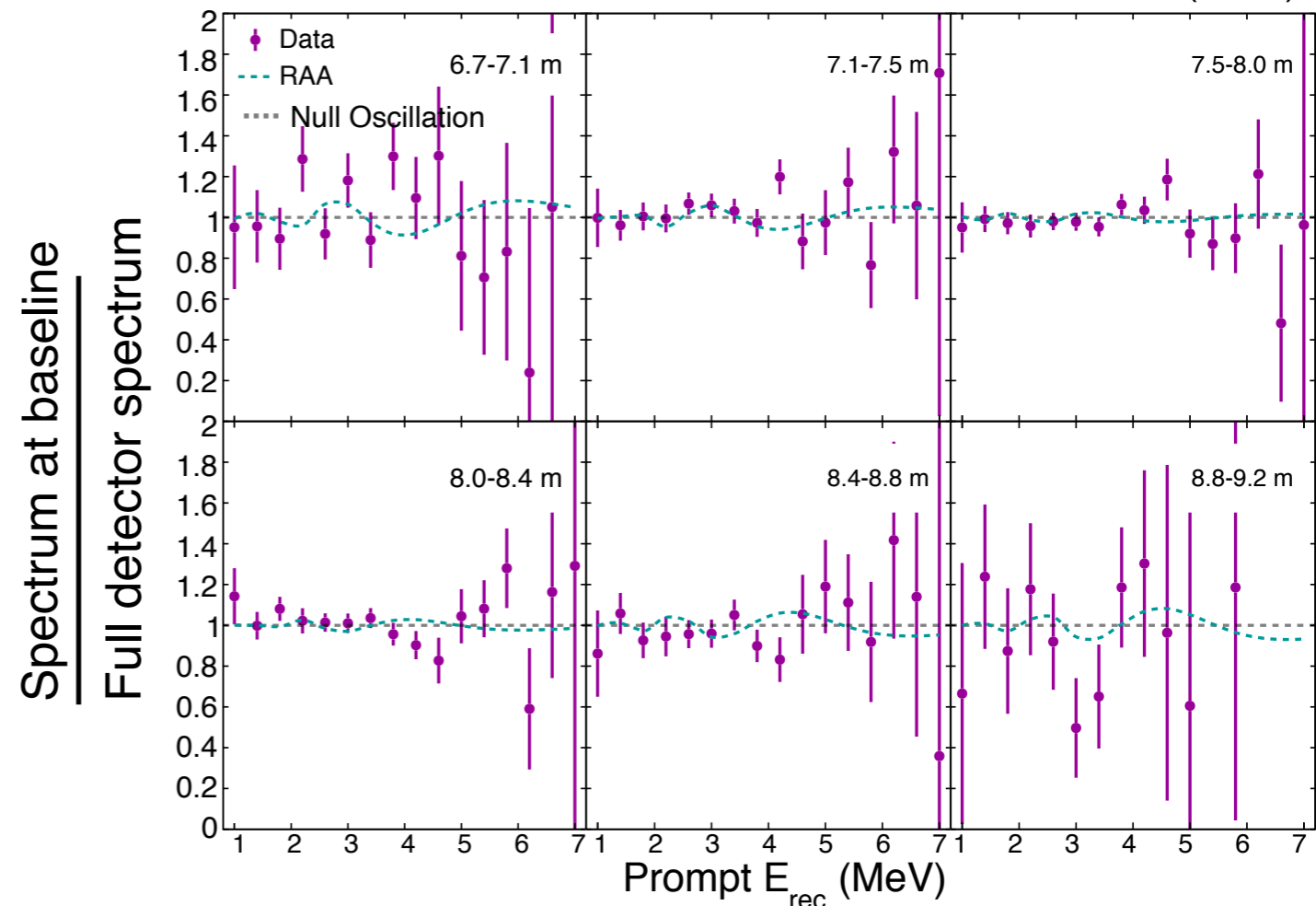
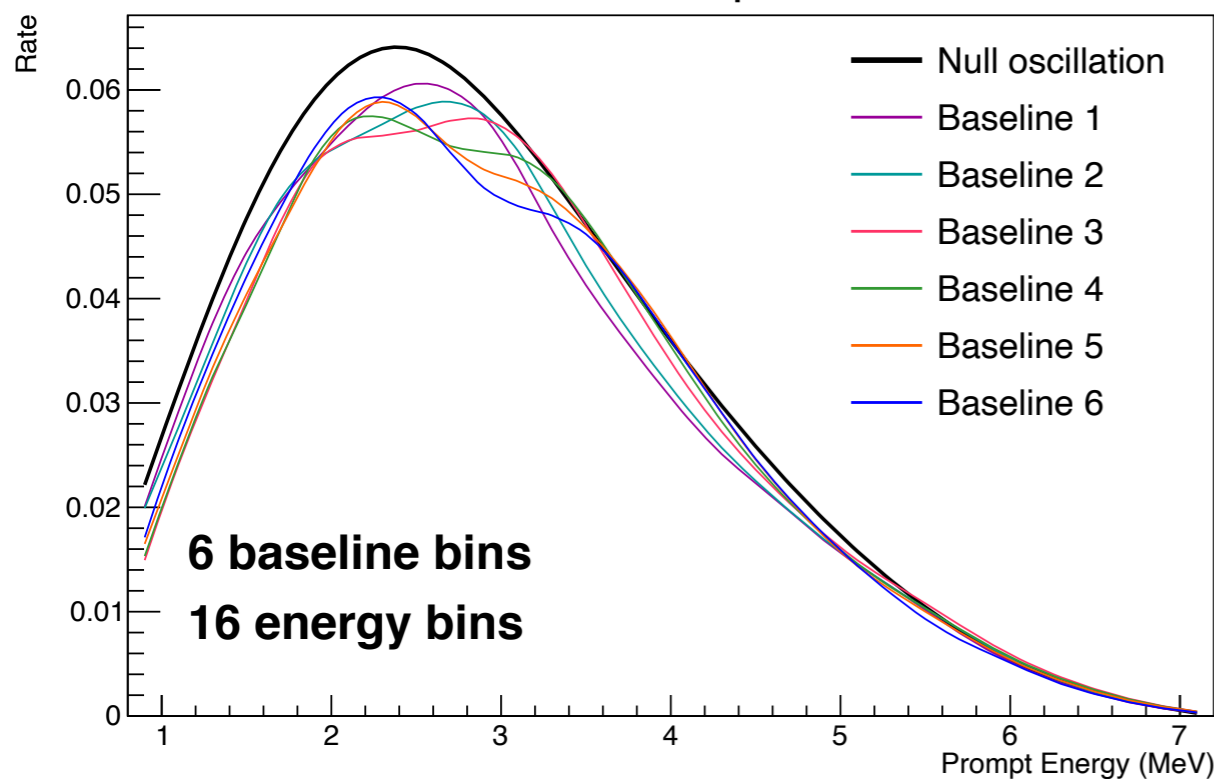
Sterile Oscillation Patterns

- Combine data into 16 energy, 6 baseline bins
- Divide each baseline's measured energy spectrum by the full-detector measured energy spectrum
- Compare this to predicted ratio for different $(\Delta m^2_{41}, \sin^2 2\theta_{14})$:

$$\chi^2_{min}(\Delta m^2, \sin^2 2\theta) = \Delta^T \mathbf{V}_{tot}^{-1} \Delta$$

PROSPECT, PRL 121 (2018)

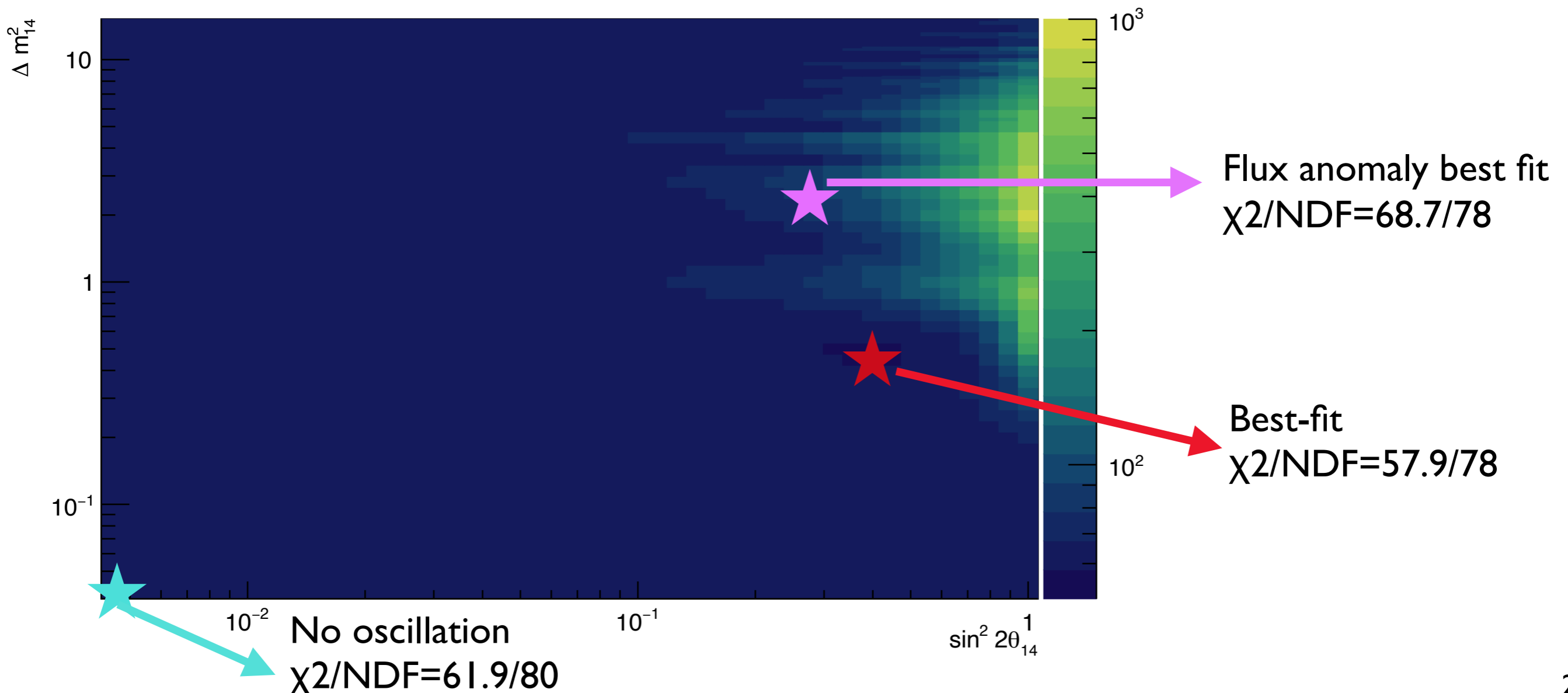
illustration of baseline-dependent oscillation



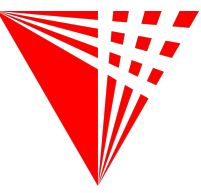
Sterile Oscillation Fit Results



- Best-fit χ^2 of 57.9/78
 - Null (reactor flux anomaly) oscillation is 4 (10.8) higher in χ^2
- What does this mean?
 - Do we rule out null oscillations? Or the osc-only flux anomaly best-fit?



Sterile Oscillation Systematics

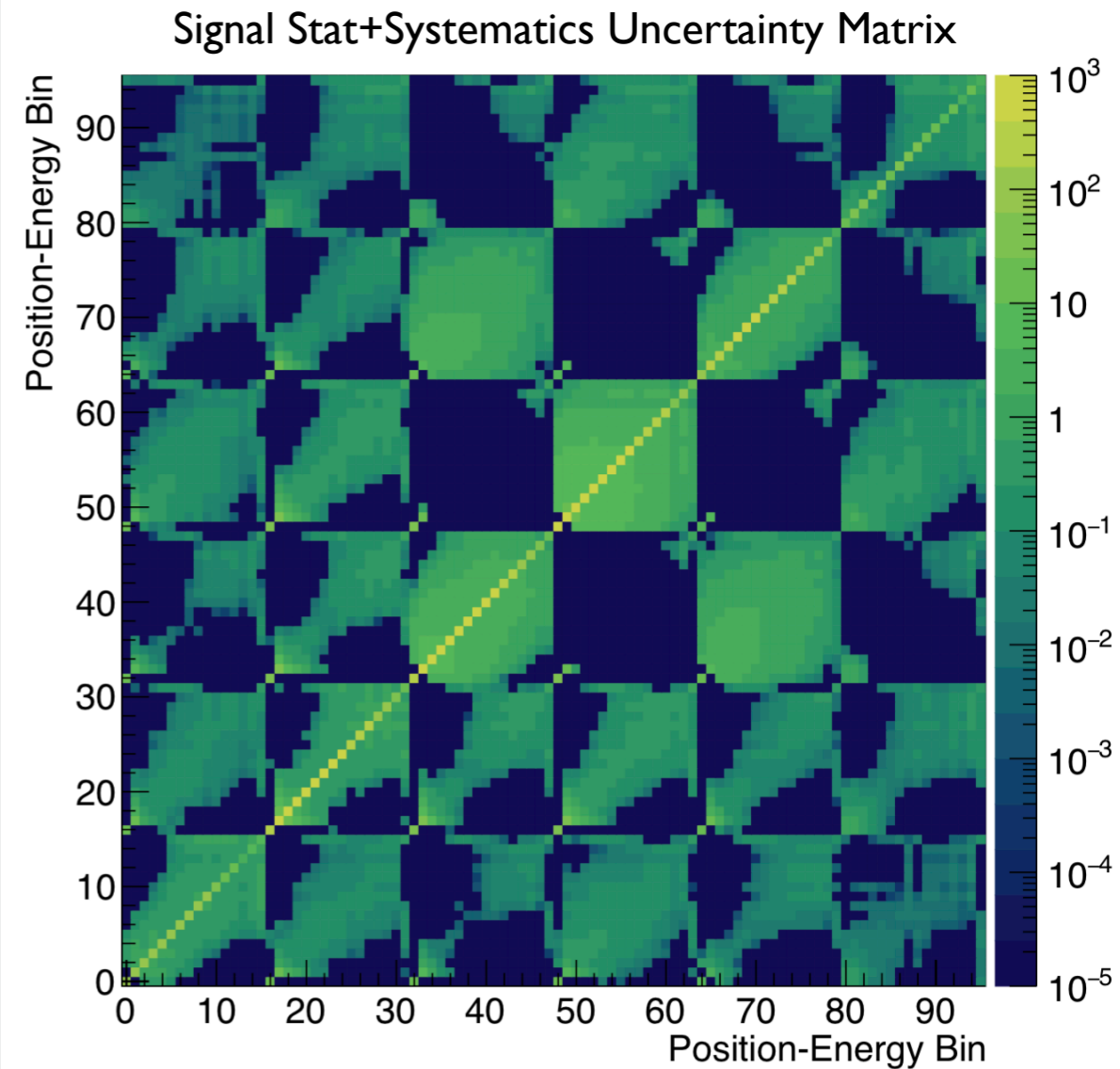


- Must define uncertainties \mathbf{V}_{tot}

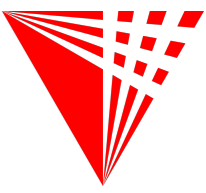
$$\chi_{min}^2(\Delta m^2, \sin^2 2\theta) = \Delta^T \mathbf{V}_{\text{tot}}^{-1} \Delta$$

- Measurements have more than just statistical errors! \mathbf{V}_{tot} , and exclusion curve, are ill-defined without them — especially if the dataset is very large!

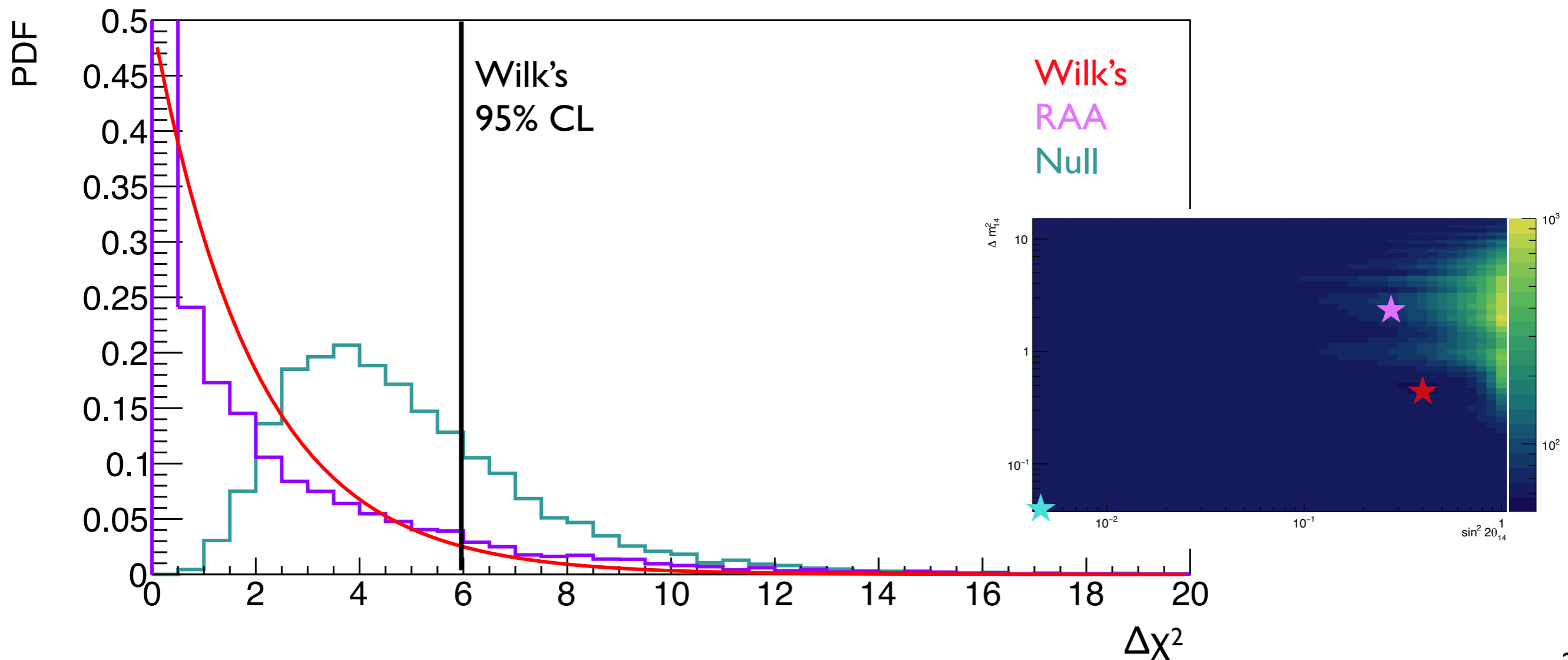
Uncertainty Eliminated		$\delta\chi_{min}^2$	BF	
			Δm_{14}^2	$\sin^2 2\theta$
All uncertainties		-	0.50	0.40
No systematics (Only statistical uncertainties)		6.0	0.50	0.35
Correlated	Baseline shift	1.0	0.50	0.40
	Non-linearity	0.5	0.50	0.40
	Background normalization	0.3	0.50	0.40
	Background energy scale	0.2	0.50	0.40
	Al28 and Non-eq	0.2	0.50	0.40
	Energy loss	0.1	0.50	0.40
Uncorrelated	Background peak non-uniformity uncertainty	1.9	0.50	0.40
	Energy resolution	1.0	0.50	0.40
	Energy scale	0.5	0.45	0.40
	Efficiency	0.4	0.50	0.40
	Energy loss	0.4	0.50	0.40



Sterile Oscillation Confidence Intervals



- To change $\Delta\chi^2$ to p-value preference ($N\sigma$ exclusion), usually assume that $\Delta\chi^2$ follows a χ^2 distribution
- Generation of toy PROSPECT datasets show that this is not true for short-baseline reactor measurements with \sim small osc signatures
- Must establish confidence intervals with frequentist (Feldman-Cousins) method

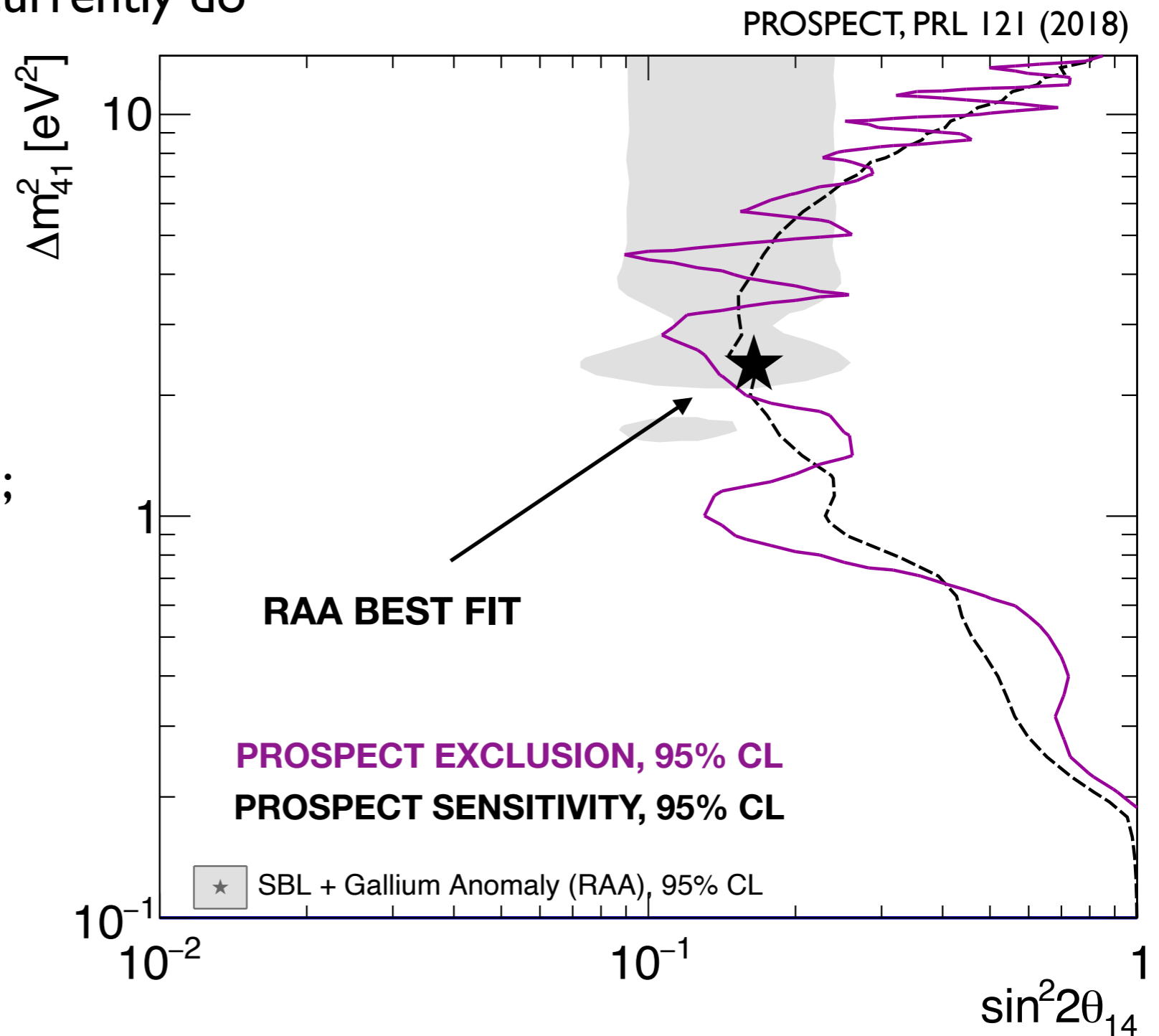


Osc Parameter Sensitivity and Exclusion



- With 33 days of reactor-on data-taking we excluded new interesting regions of $\sin^2 2\theta_{14}$ parameter space.

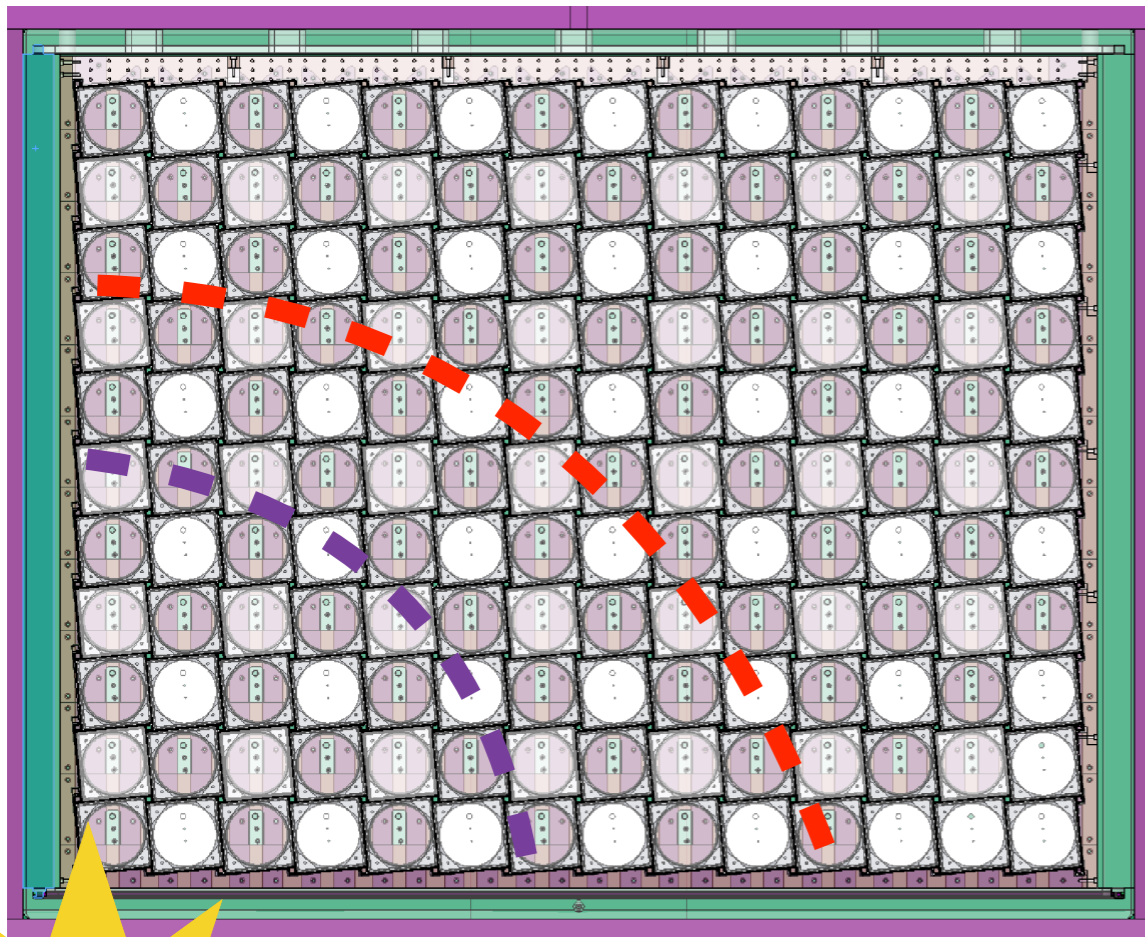
- Short-baseline reactors currently do the best in constraining this active-sterile mixing parameter
- Rule out best-fit of the osc-only solution to the flux anomaly at 2.2σ
- Result is statistics limited; additional data in the can



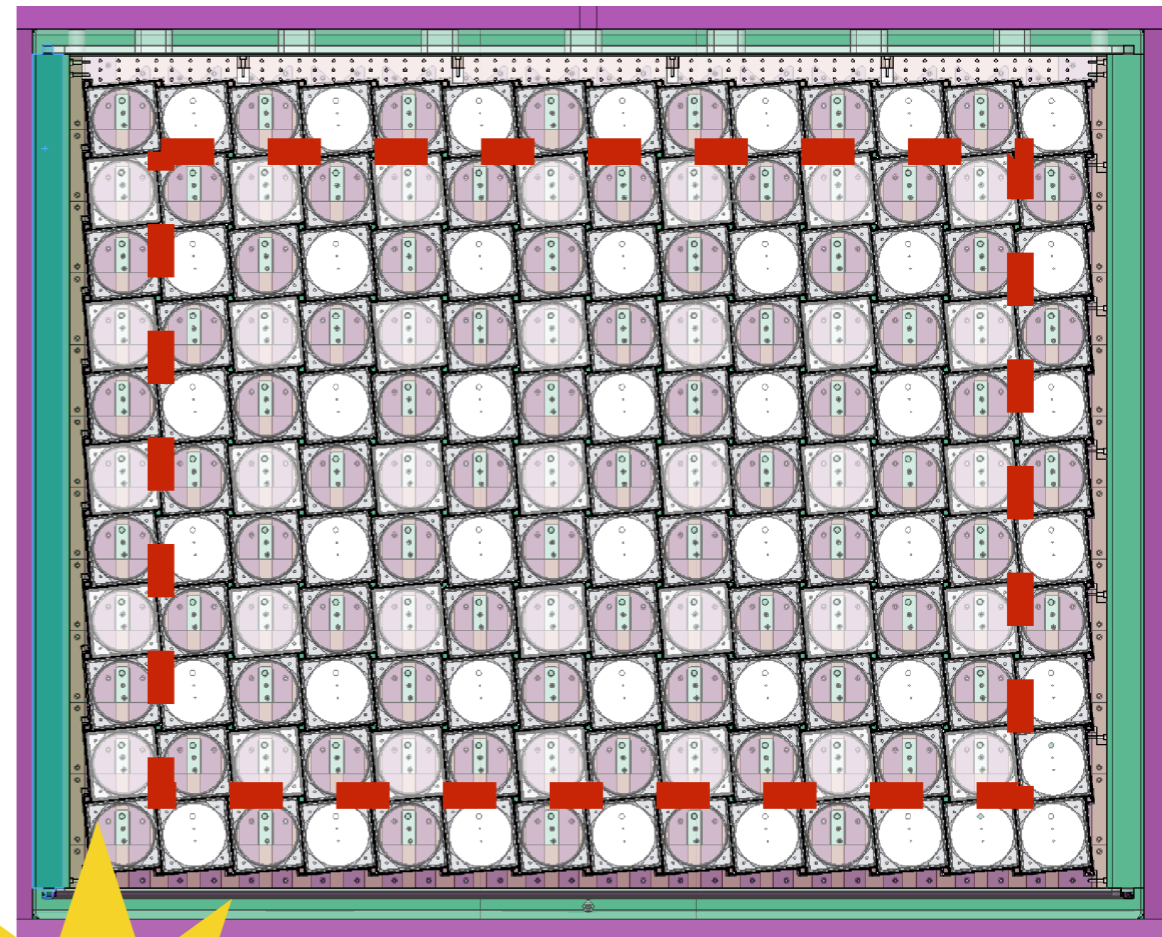
New to AAP: HEU Spectrum Results



- Look at absolute spectrum observed in the baseline-integrated fiducial detector volume.
- Datasets largely similar: 40 (33) reactor-on days for osc (spectrum) result
- Spectrum dataset: 31,000 IBDs detected, 1.7:1 signal:background



ν_e HEU core Oscillation Search

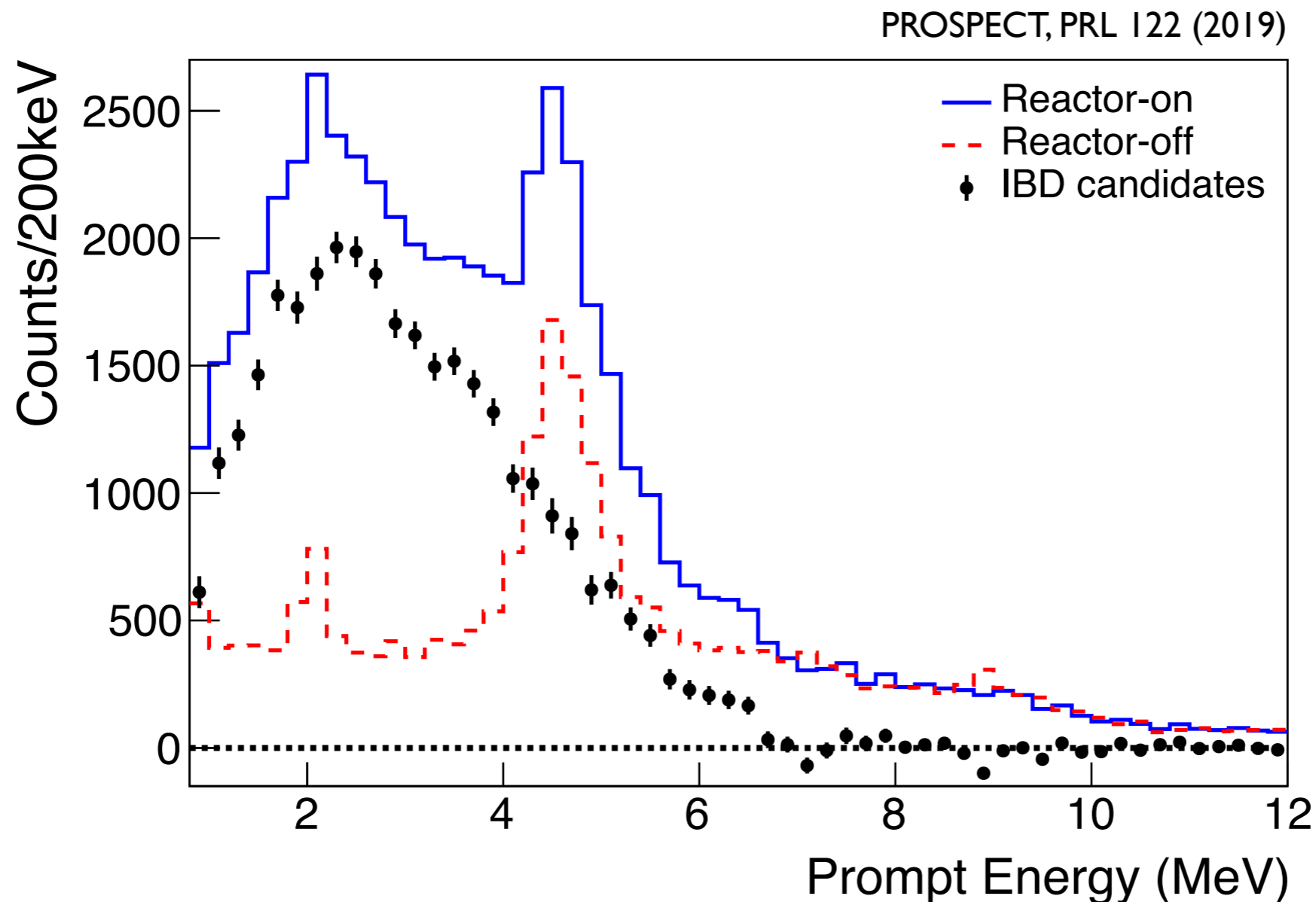


ν_e HEU core Spectrum Result

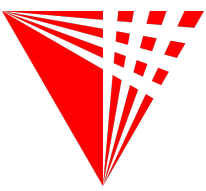
Neutrino and Background Datasets



- Look at reactor-on and reactor-off data in a different way: energy spectrum before and after on-off subtraction
- Subtraction looks complete in high-energy sideband (good!)
- Expected background peaks at ~ 2 and ~ 4.5 MeV cosmogenic neutrons



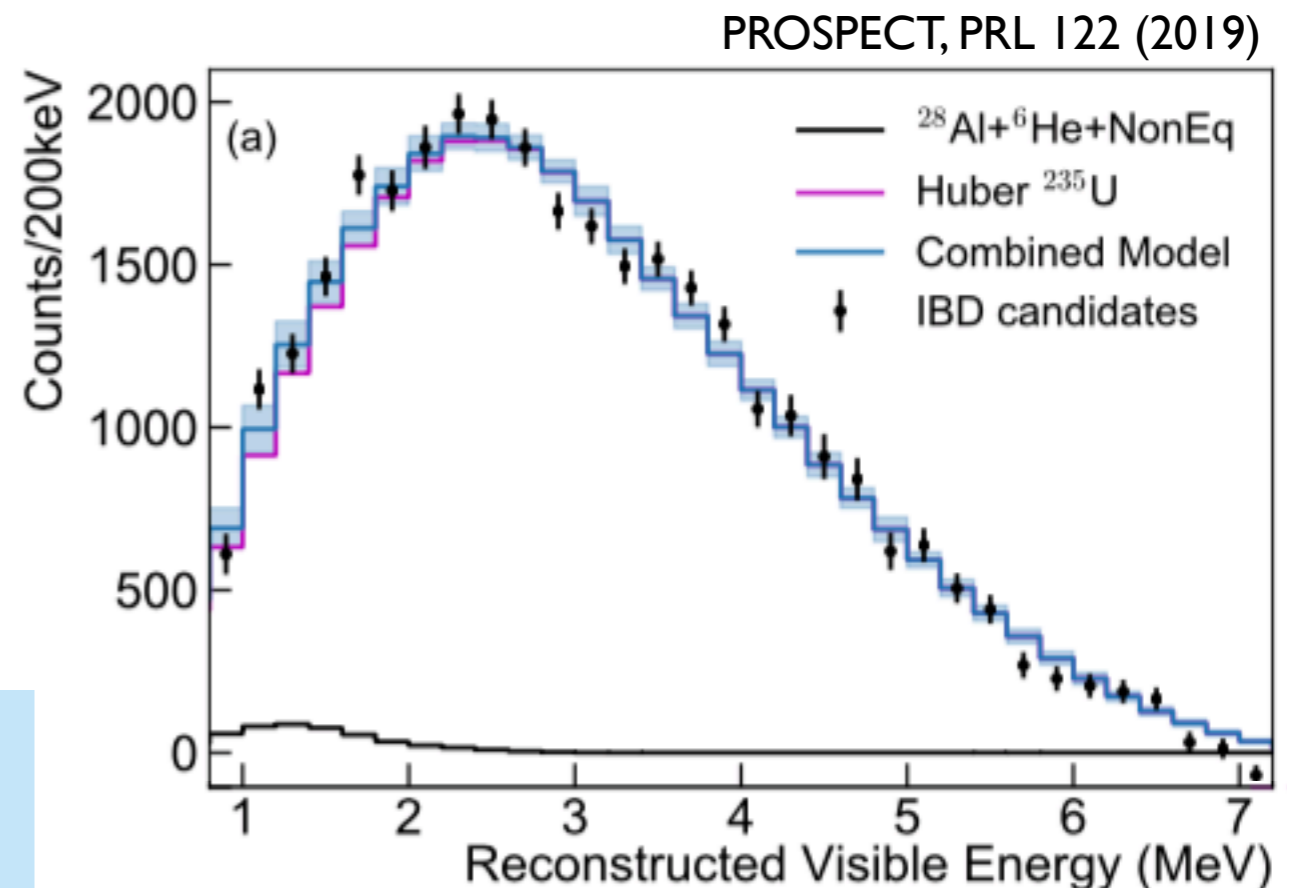
PROSPECT ^{235}U Spectrum Result



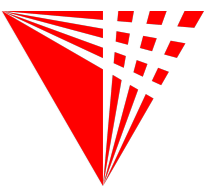
- Background-subtracted ^{235}U spectrum result

- Compare to the Huber beta conversion prediction
- Small neutrino contribution from activation of reactor components
- Small correction for time-dependent effects in reactor fuel

- General agreement in broad spectrum features



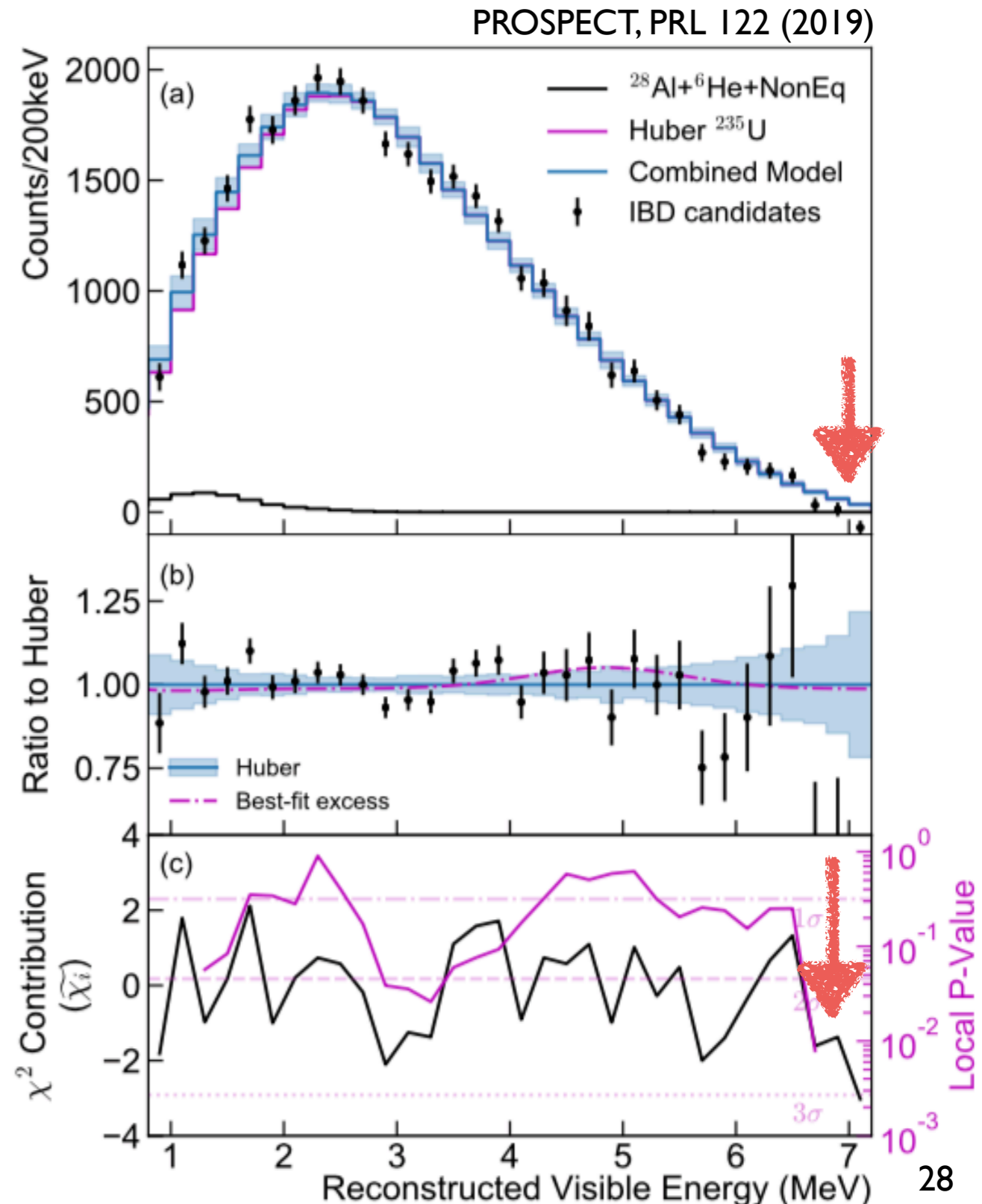
PROSPECT ^{235}U Spectrum Result



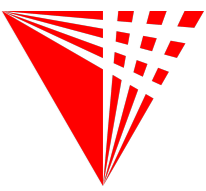
- Background-subtracted ^{235}U spectrum result

- Is PROSPECT consistent with Huber's ^{235}U model?

- $\chi^2/\text{ndf} = 52.1/31$;
p-value = 0.01
- So Huber broadly agrees with PROSPECT, but not a great fit
- Worst offender is high energy; fit is OK otherwise.
 - Bkg issue? Unlucky statistics? Need more stats to know for sure.
 - Note: stats still dominate overall uncertainties across the spectrum



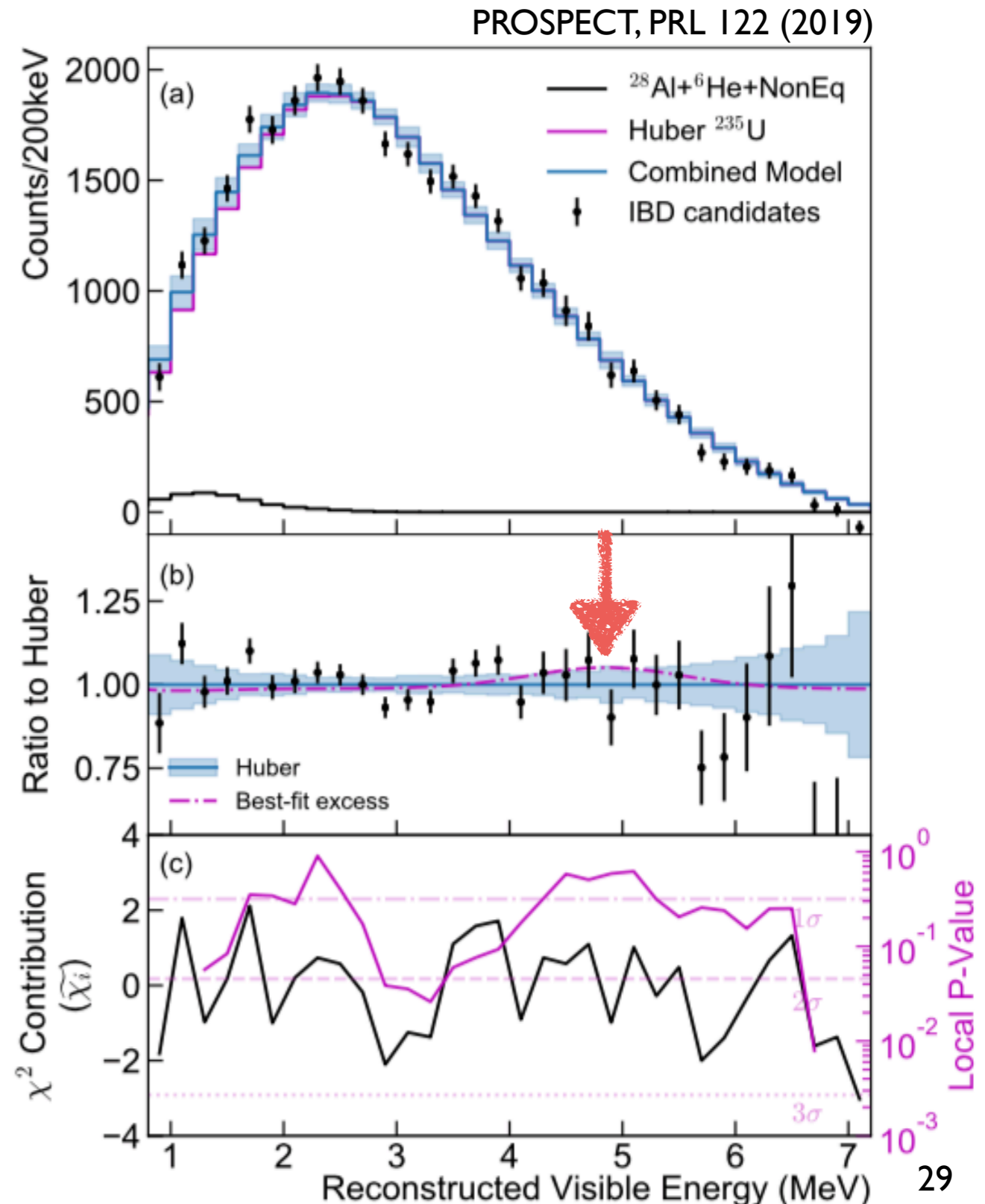
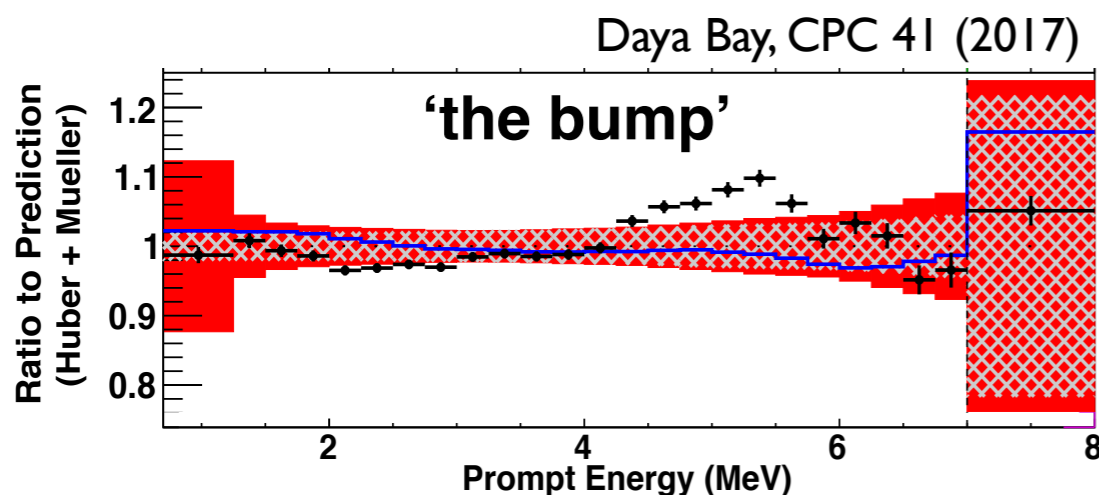
PROSPECT ^{235}U Spectrum Result



- Background-subtracted ^{235}U spectrum result

How does PROSPECT compare to 'bump' in LEU θ_{13} experiments?

- PROSPECT relative bump size WRT to Daya Bay: $69\% \pm 53\%$
- ~consistent with 'no bump' (0%) and 'DYB-sized bump' (100%)
- 'Big bump' (178%) if ^{235}U is the sole bump contributor
 - Disfavored at 2.1σ

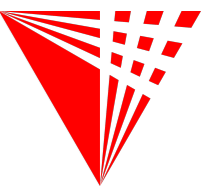


Update: Current Analysis Status



- PROSPECT began running in March 2018 PROSPECT, NIM A806 401 (2019)
- Oscillation PRL used data through May 2018 PROSPECT, PRL 121 (2018)
- ^{235}U Spectrum PRL used data through July 2018 PROSPECT, PRL 122 (2019)
- We have reactor-on data in the can through October 2018
 - Limited by HFIR reactor availability: see next slide
 - This data includes $\sim 2x$ the IBD statistics of the previous analyses
- Currently are working on a detailed PRD-style physics paper
 - Will likely provide updates to both spectrum and oscillation analyses
 - Will present in-depth descriptions of data and analysis
 - Will include extensive supplementary materials useful for comparison of PROSPECT data to other models and experiments

Update: Detector and Reactor Status



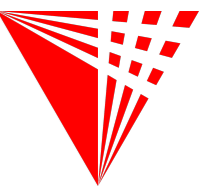
- PROSPECT began running in March 2018, and completed ~1 year of successful data-taking.
- From November 2018 to November 2019, the HFIR reactor did not operate.
 - Nov 2018: elevated radiation levels were detected in primary coolant
 - Issue was with core production; took ~year to identify a solution and a core production QA procedure to ensure no similar problems in the future
 - PROSPECT was obviously unable to accrue IBD statistics during this time
- Through 2019, PROSPECT developed an unacceptable number of non-functioning PMT channels.
 - The issue is briefly described in PROSPECT PRL publications
 - PROSPECT has been emptied and is presently being moved to Yale
 - At Yale, it will be de-constructed and repaired/upgraded in preparation for re-deployment

Update: Future Plans



- PROSPECT plans to perform an upgrade of its detector while it is at Yale
 - Deconstruct detector
 - Repair or replace non-functioning PMT bases and PMT housings
 - Re-assemble with improved design features, aimed at improving ease of assembly and repair, portability, and longevity.
- Planning for re-deployment at HFIR in 2021, to perform multiple additional years of HEU data-taking
 - This dataset will greatly improve PROSPECT's HEU spectrum and sterile neutrino search physics deliverables.
 - Improved detector design aimed at enabling detector movement to other reactor sites (LEU reactor)
 - Studies are currently underway to quantify the gains of additional HEU or new LEU data-taking with PROSPECT

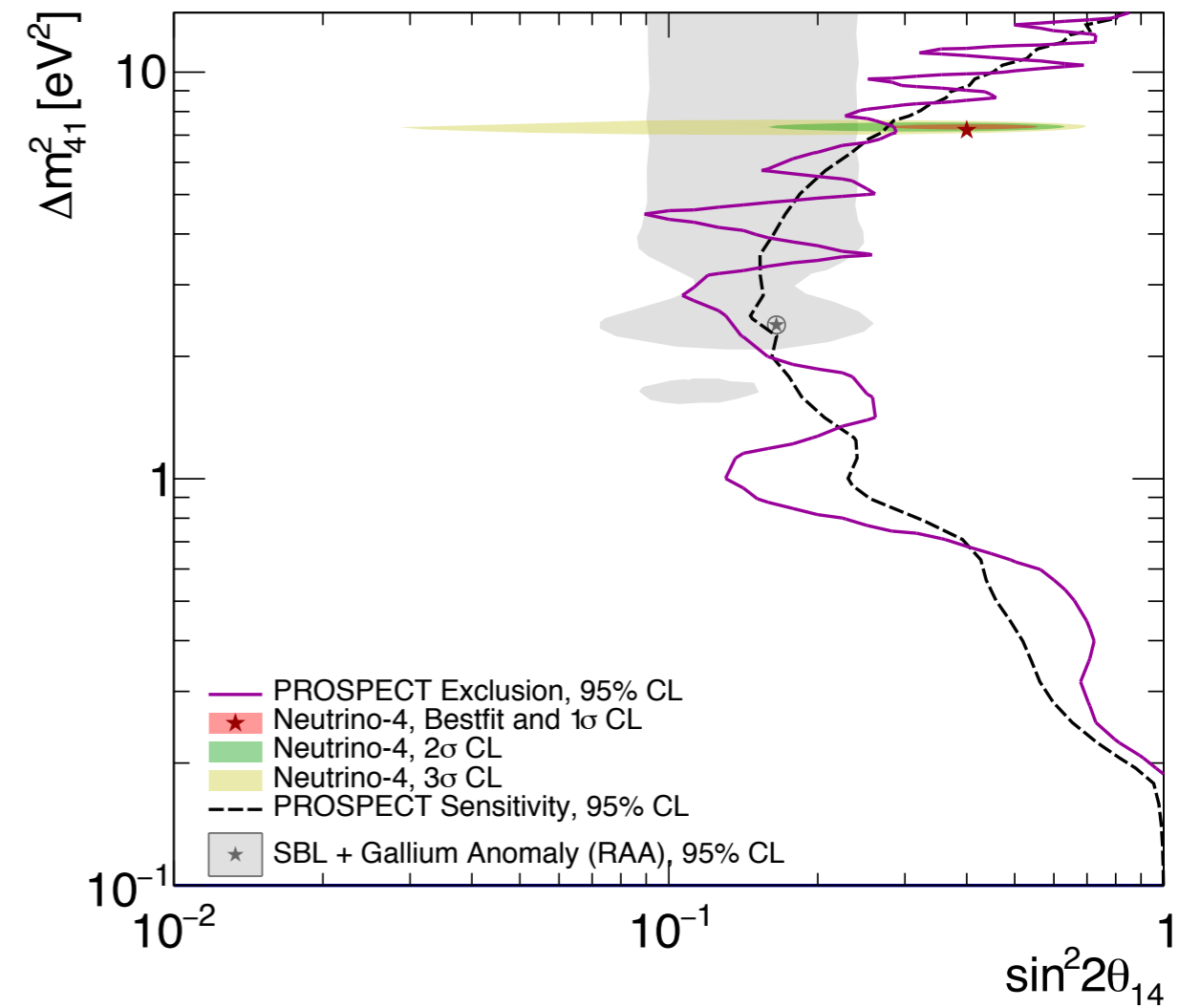
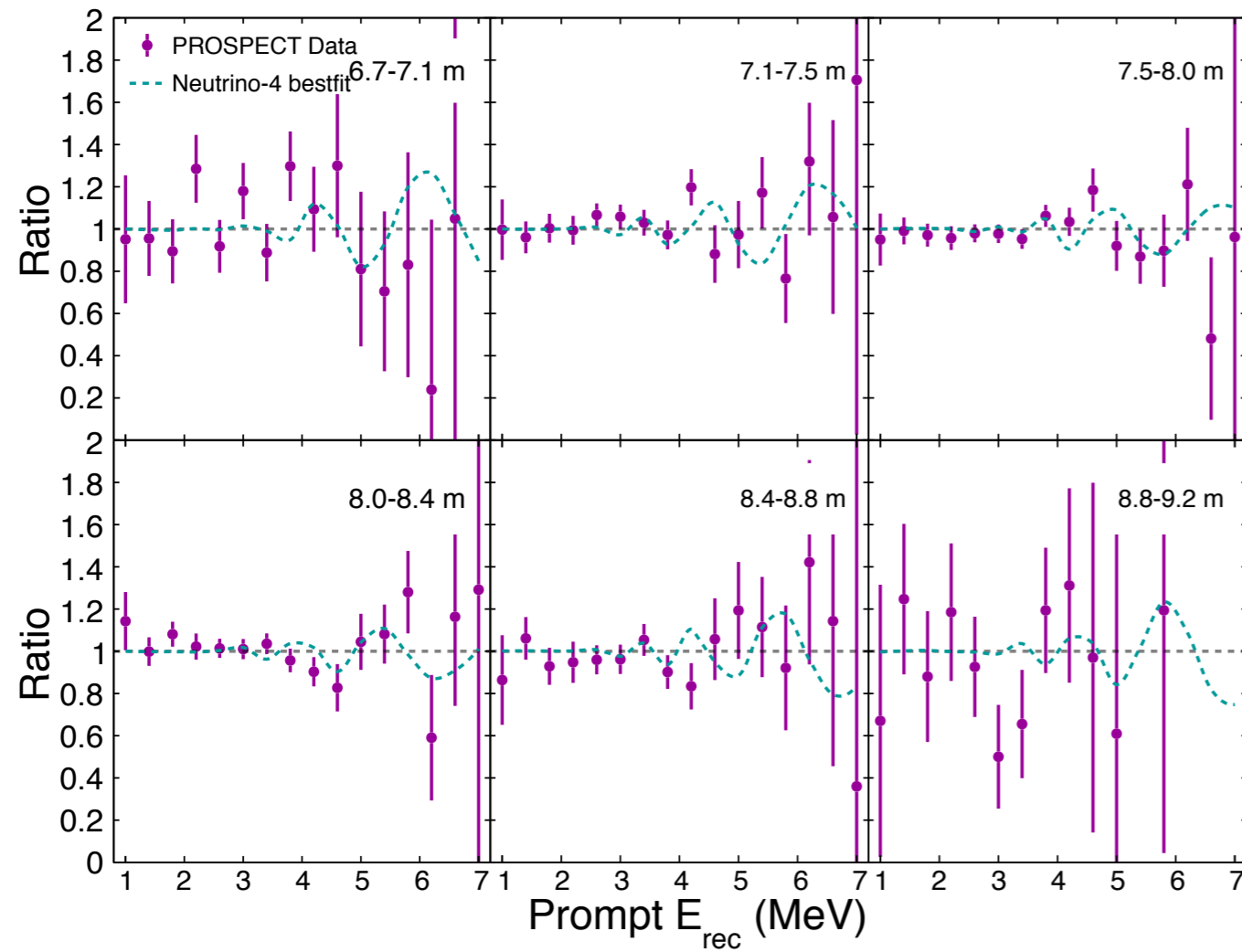
Summary



- PROSPECT has demonstrated that low-background on-surface reactor antineutrino detection is achievable.
- PROSPECT has set new limits on active-sterile neutrino mixing
 - PROSPECT and other reactor experiments will continue to lead global sensitivity to $\sin^2 2\theta_{14}$ in the eV-scale regime for the foreseeable future
- PROSPECT has performed the best-ever measurement of the ^{235}U ν_e spectrum
 - Lack of a ‘large bump’ in PROSPECT data with respect to prediction: indicates ^{235}U is not the sole producer of ‘bumps’ in LEU measurements
- Additional statistics will improve both of these PROSPECT measurements in the near future.
- PROSPECT’s detector is currently being deconstructed, in preparation for an upgrade and re-deployment at HFIR.

BACKUPS





Active-Sterile Osc Formalism



Giunti and Lasserre, hep-ph[1901.08330]

- With 1 additional (sterile) neutrino, new PMNS matrix:

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13}c_{14} & s_{12}c_{13}c_{14} & c_{14}s_{13}e^{-i\delta_{13}} & s_{14}e^{-i\delta_{14}} \\ \dots & \dots & c_{13}c_{24}s_{23} & c_{14}s_{24} \\ \dots & \dots & -s_{13}s_{14}s_{24}e^{i(\delta_{14}-\delta_{13})} & c_{14}s_{24} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & c_{14}c_{24}s_{34}e^{-i\delta_{34}} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Short-baseline oscillation looks like this:

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

where $\Delta m_{41}^2 = \Delta m_{\text{SBL}}^2$, and

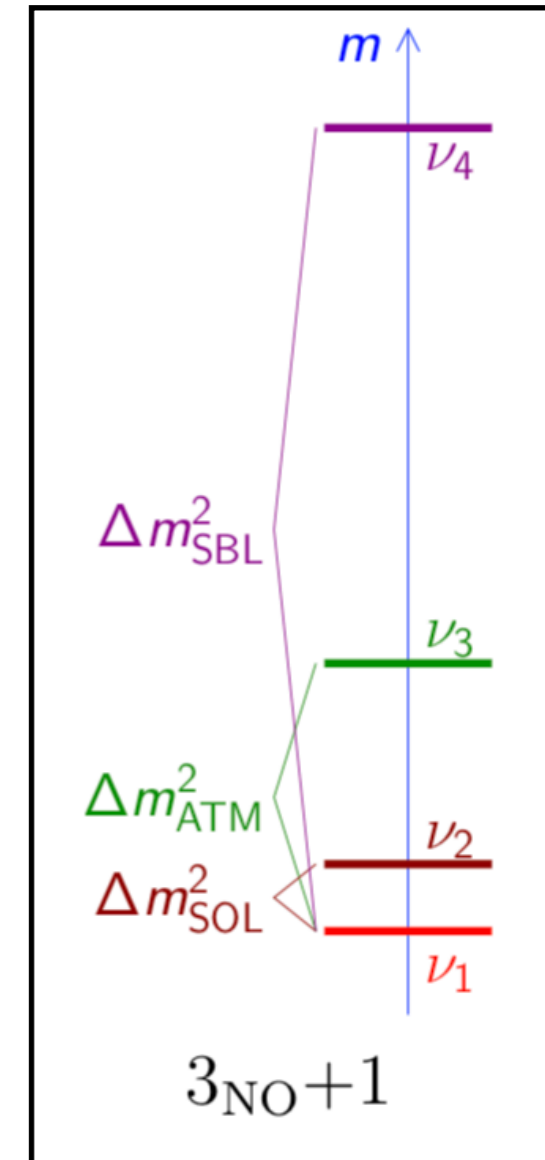
$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{\alpha\beta} = 4|U_{\alpha 4}|^2 |\delta_{\alpha\beta} - |U_{\beta 4}|^2|.$$

- For numu, nue experiments:

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{e\mu} = 4|U_{e4}|^2 |U_{\mu 4}|^2 = \sin^2 2\vartheta_{14} \sin^2 \vartheta_{24} \quad \text{LSND/mB/uB}$$

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{ee} = 4|U_{e4}|^2 (1 - |U_{e4}|^2) = \sin^2 2\vartheta_{14} \quad \text{PROSPECT / short-baseline reactor}$$

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{\mu\mu} = 4|U_{\mu 4}|^2 (1 - |U_{\mu 4}|^2) = \sin^2 2\vartheta_{24} \cos^2 \vartheta_{14} + \sin^2 2\vartheta_{14} \sin^4 \vartheta_{24} \simeq \sin^2 2\vartheta_{24} \quad \text{MINOS+}$$

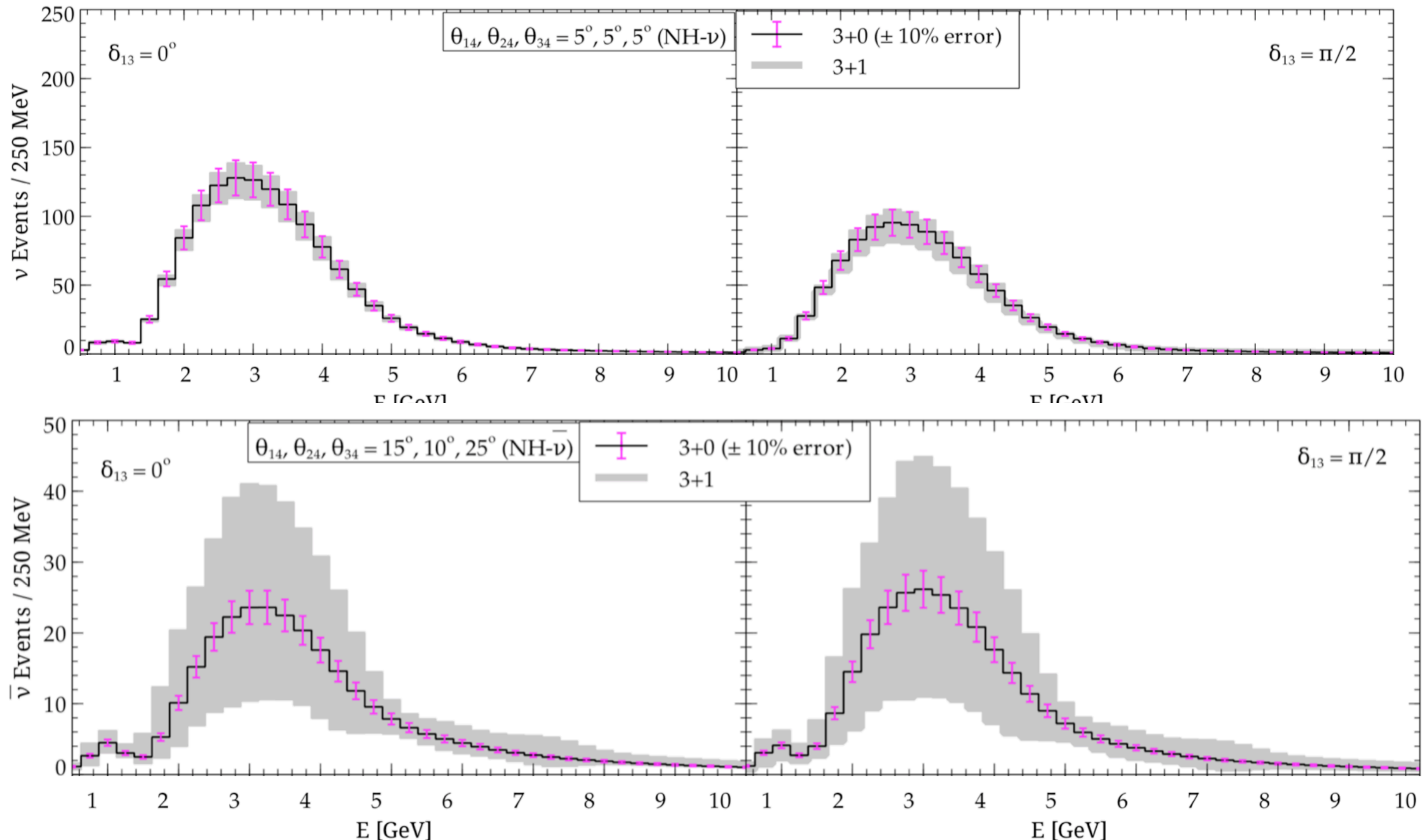


Active-Sterile Osc and LBL CP-Violation



- To avoid obscuring LBL CP-violation interpretation, would be best to have $O(5\%)$ constraints on $\sin^2 2\theta_{x4}$

Dutta, Gandhi, Kayser, Masud, and Prakash, JHEP 2016:122
B. Kayser, 2016 PITT PACC SBN Workshop



Path to segmented ${}^6\text{LiLS}$ detector with particle ID

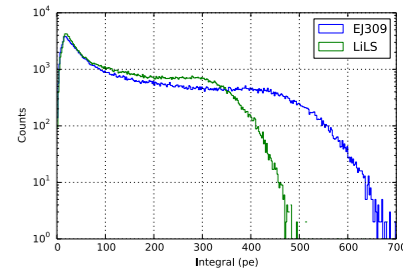
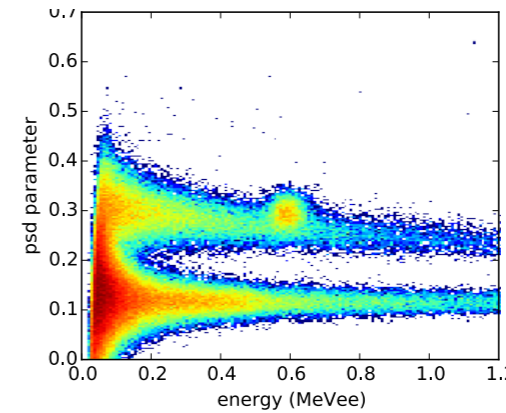
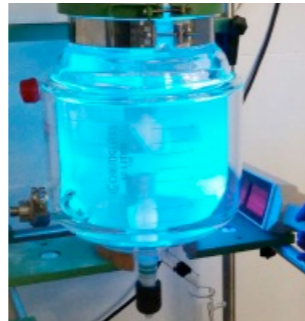
PROSPECT-0.1

Develop LS

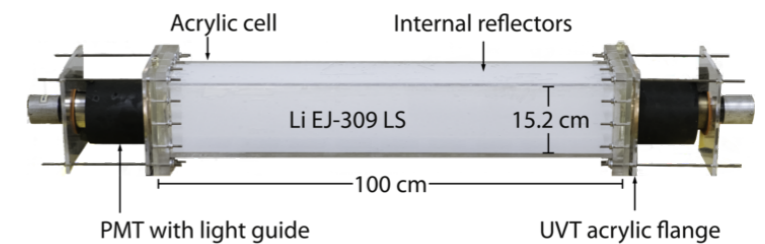
Characterize LS

Aug 2014-Spring 2015

5cm length
0.1 liters
LS, ${}^6\text{LiLS}$



light guides
low mass reflectors



PROSPECT-2

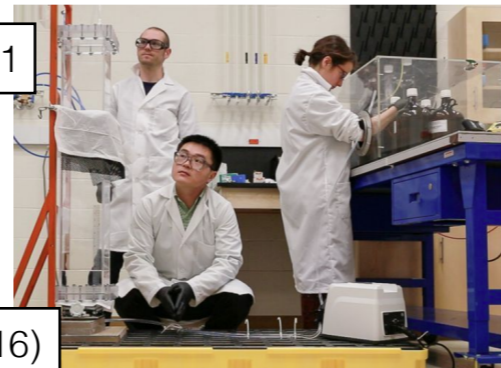
Background studies

Dec 2014 - Aug 2015

12.5 length
1.7 liters
 ${}^6\text{LiLS}$



PROSPECT: NIMA A806 (2016) 401



PROSPECT-20

Segment optics

Component design

Spring/Summer 2015

1m length
23 liters
LS, ${}^6\text{LiLS}$

PROSPECT: JINST 10 P11004 (2016)

PROSPECT-50

Performance validation

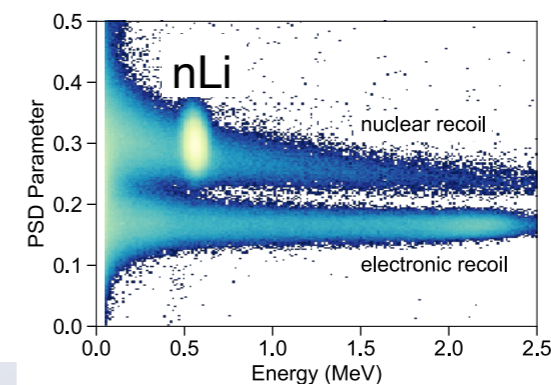
Subsystem testbed

Simulation benchmark

2017-2018

1x2 segments
1.2m length
50 liters
LS, ${}^6\text{LiLS}$

PROSPECT: JINST 13 P06023 (2018)



light collection
energy resolution
PSD performance

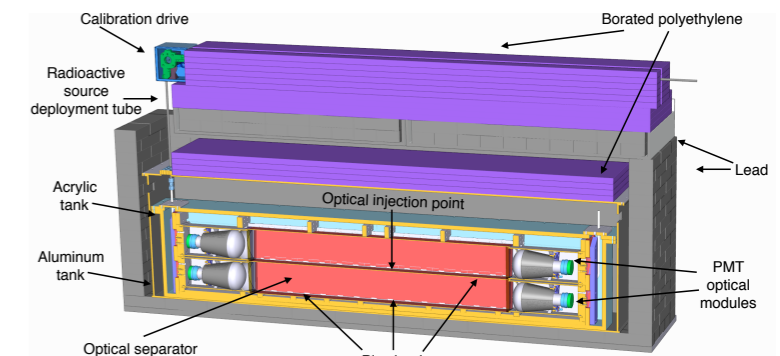
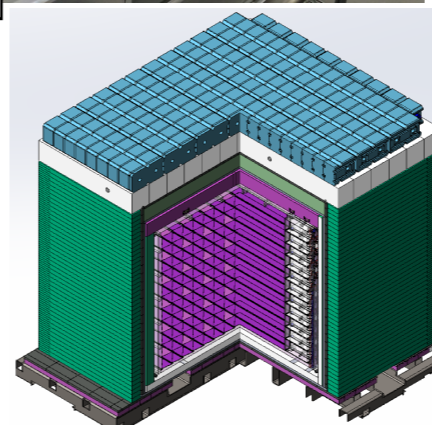
PROSPECT AD

Physics measurement

data taking 2018

11x14 segments
1.2m length
4 tons
 ${}^6\text{LiLS}$

PROSPECT: arXiv:1808.00097



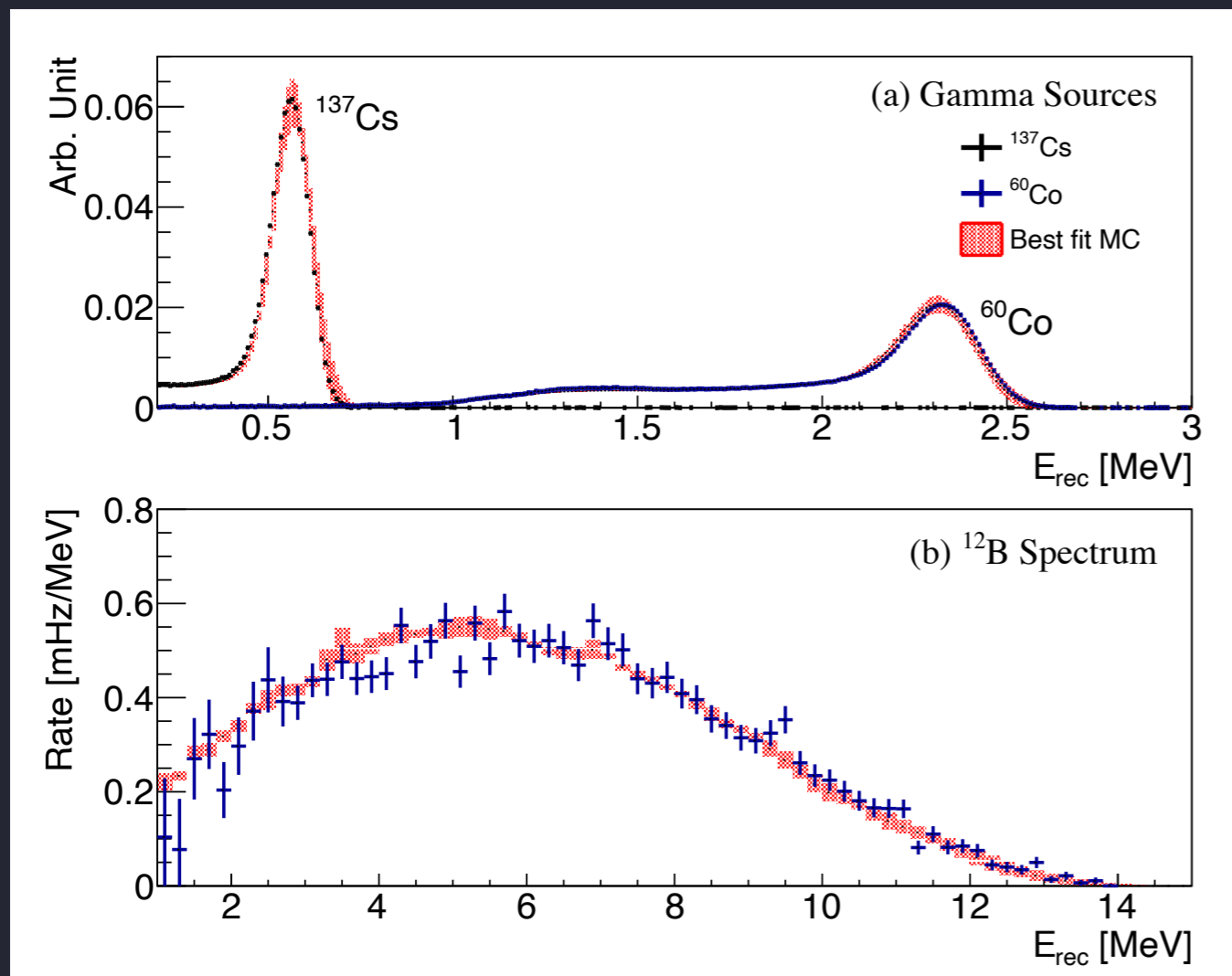
Energy Calibration



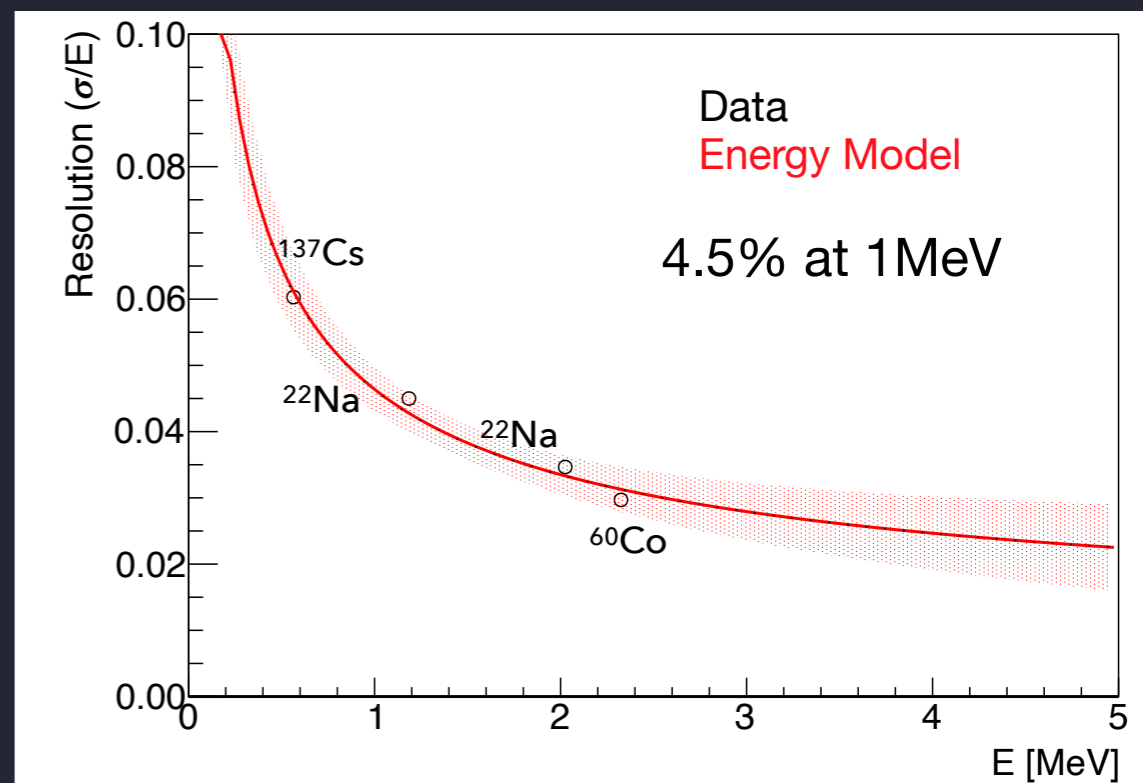
Gamma sources (^{137}Cs , ^{60}Co): Deployed throughout the detector

Fast-neutron tagged ^{12}B : High-energy beta spectrum calibration

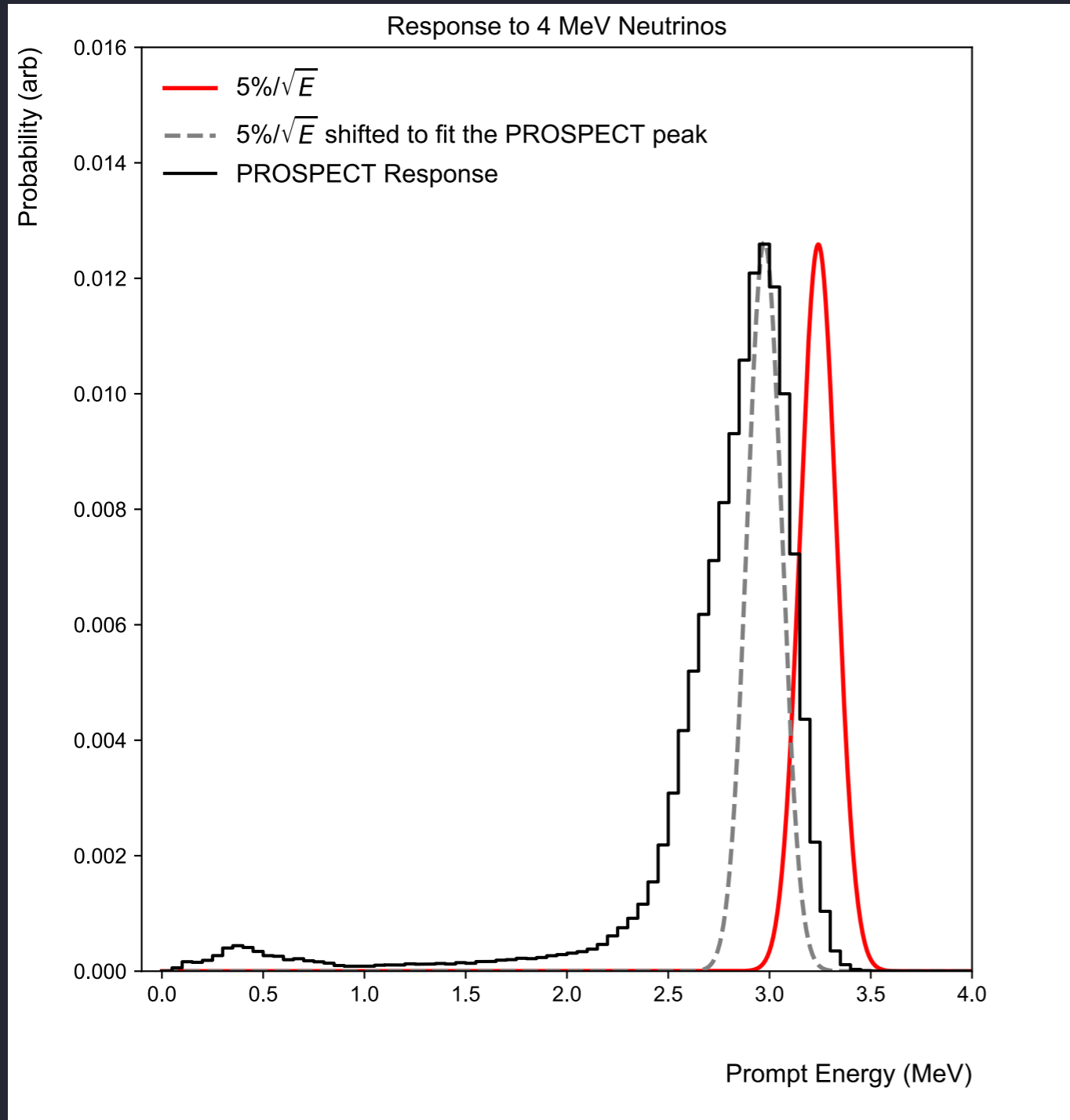
Full-detector E_{rec} within 1% of E_{true}



High light collection: 795 ± 15 PE/MeV



PROSPECT Response

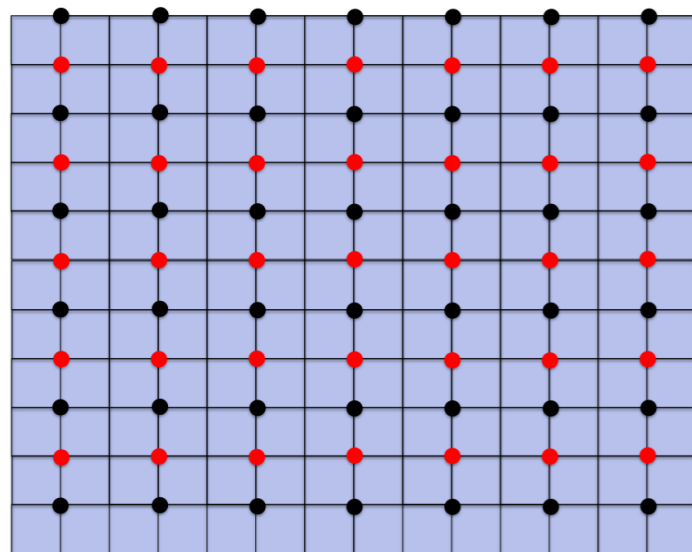


- PROSPECT detector is **compact** with a **limited gamma catcher volume** and **modest inactive volume**
- Escaping gammas and the energy lost in the inactive volume makes the response complicated
- Additionally a small contribution of reconstructed events at ~ 0.5 MeV arises from IBDs originating in the inactive volume whose gammas and neutrons are detected in the active volume
- Monte Carlo-generated response matrix is used in PROSPECT to handle this complicated response
- Response matrices are similarly **required** to be able to properly model energy response of other **compact detectors**

Energy Stability and Uniformity

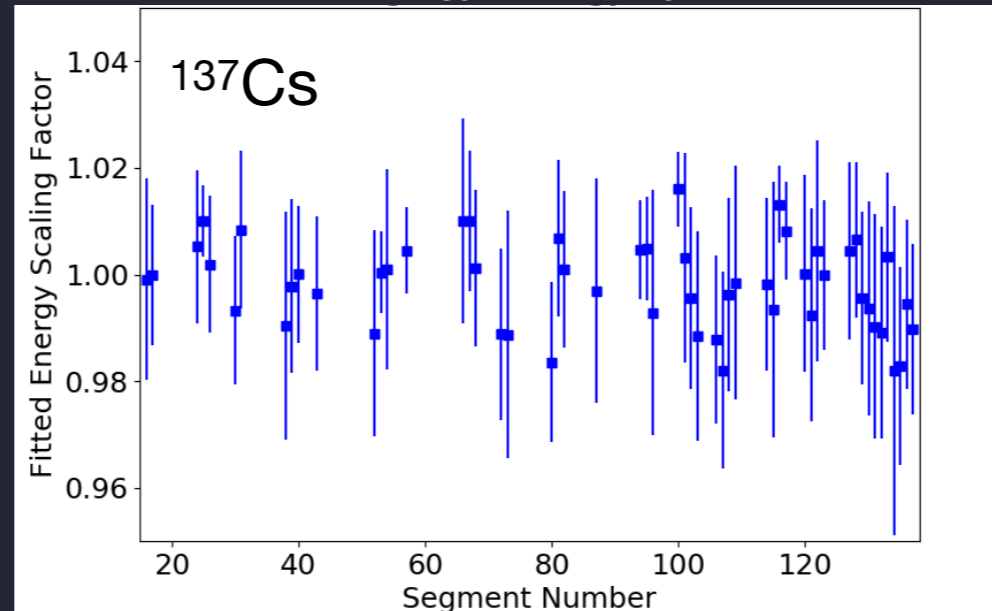


Calibration position map

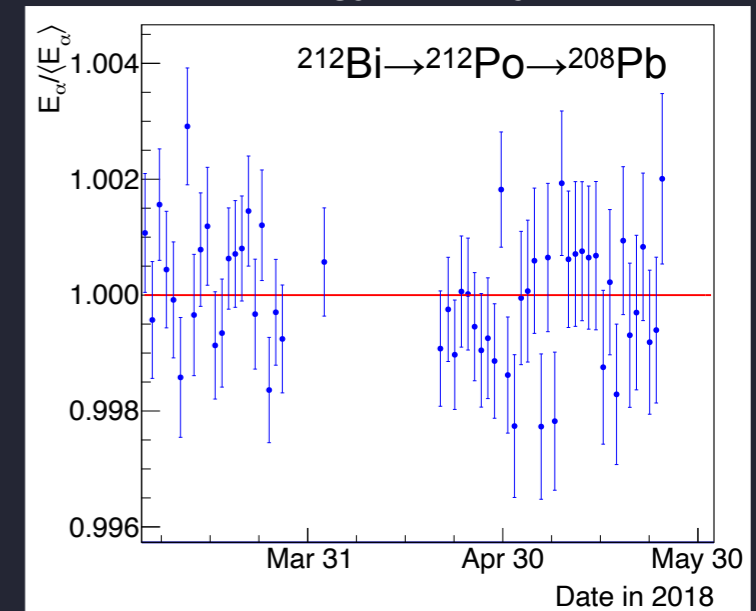


- Source Calibrations
- Optical Calibrations

Energy uniformity

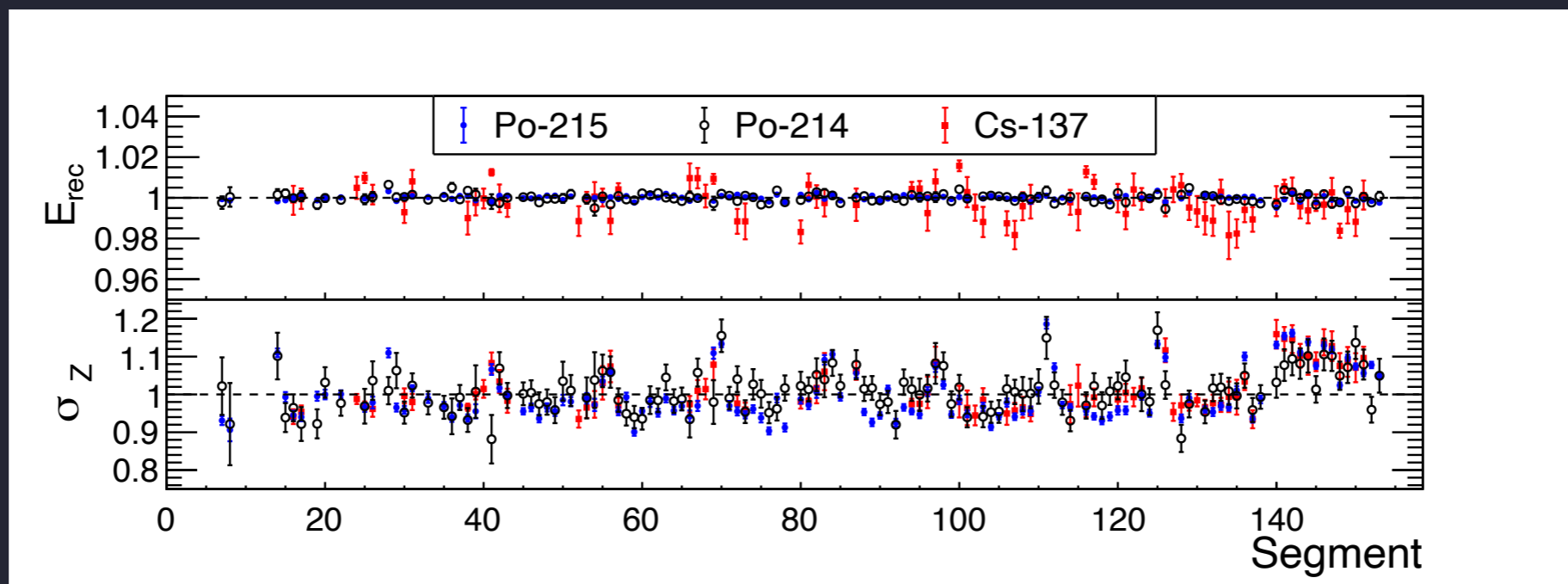
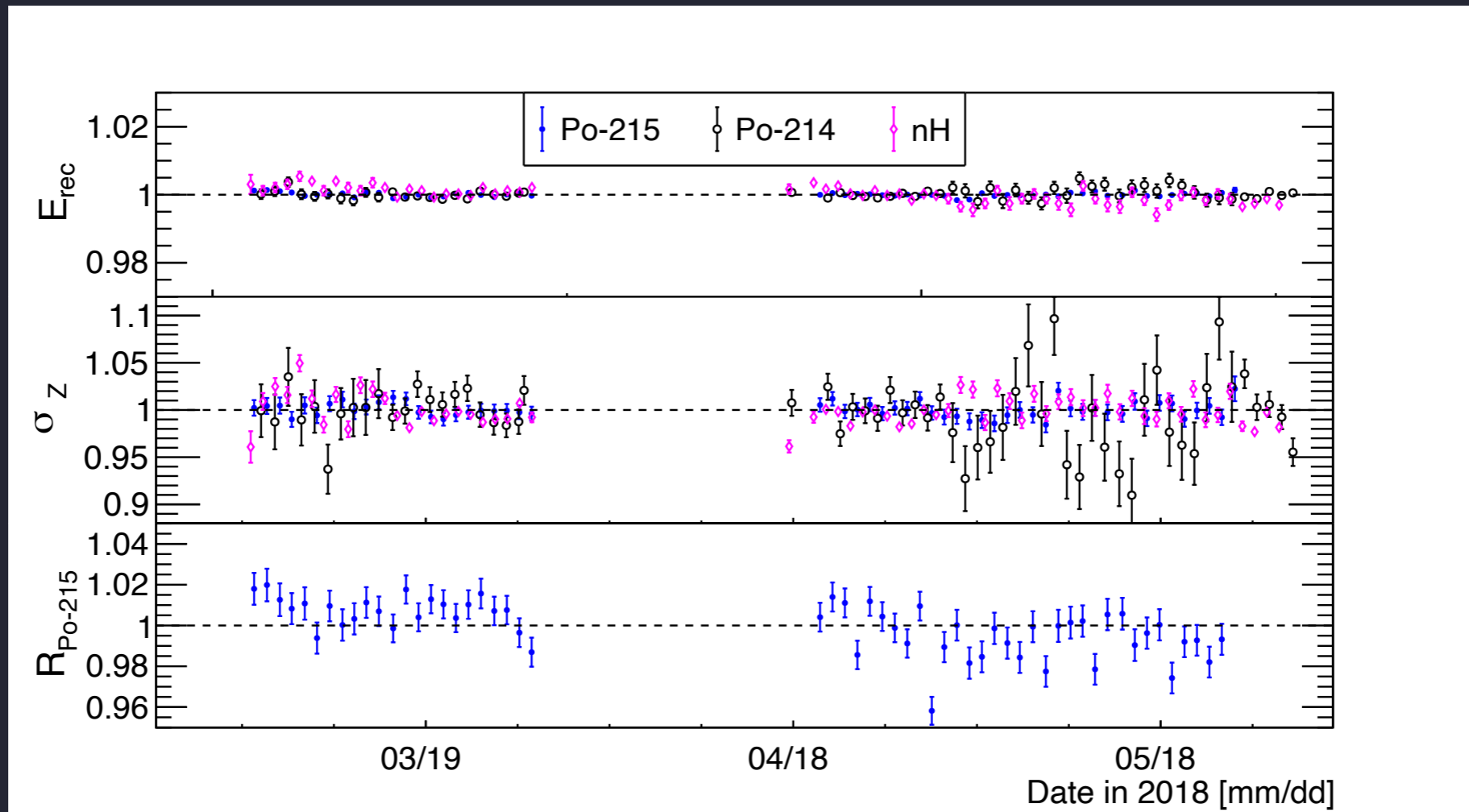


Energy stability



- 35 calibration source tubes throughout detector to map energy response
- Uniform segment to segment response
- Stability in reconstructed energy over time

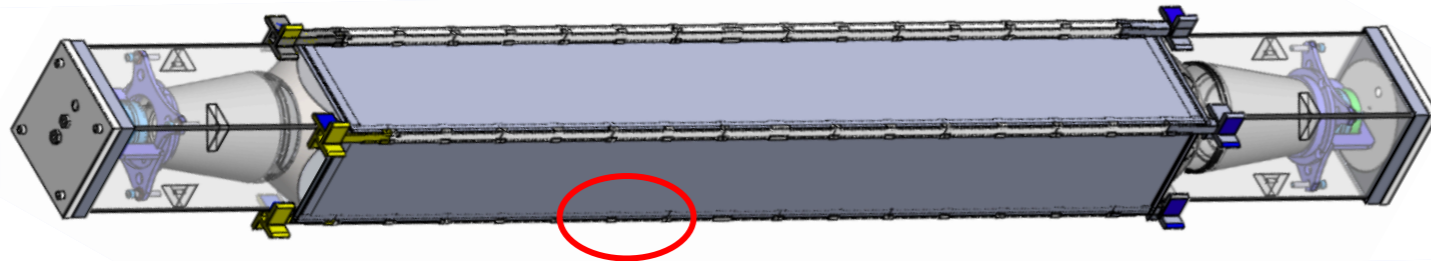
Energy Stability and Uniformity



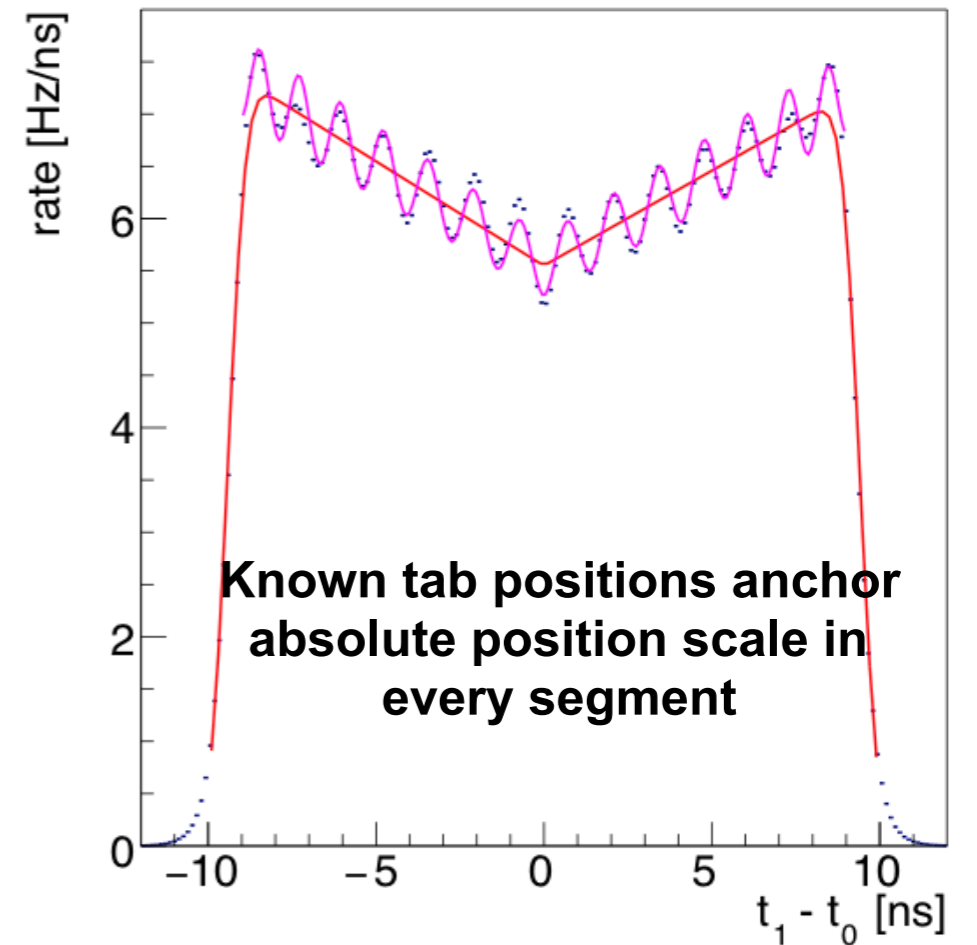
Position Calibration



Position Calibration



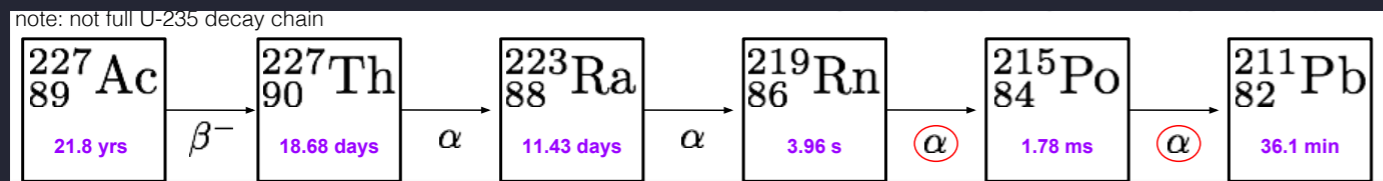
Pinwheel tabs alter local light transport, causing 'tiger stripes'



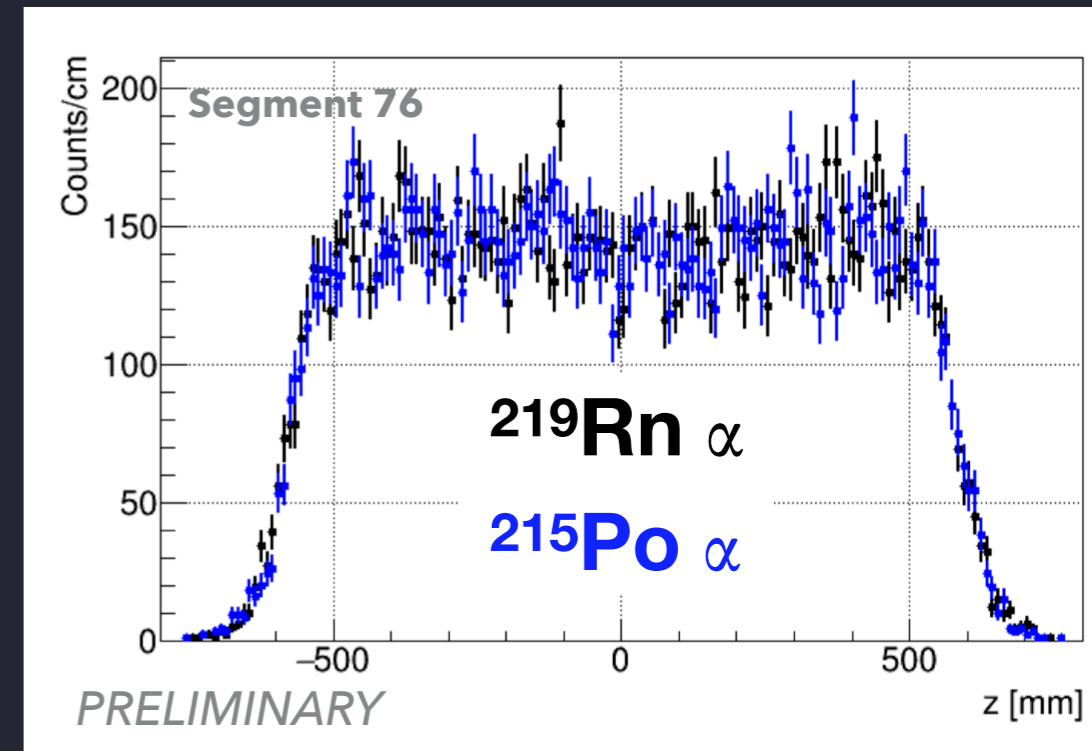
Relative Segment Volume Calibration



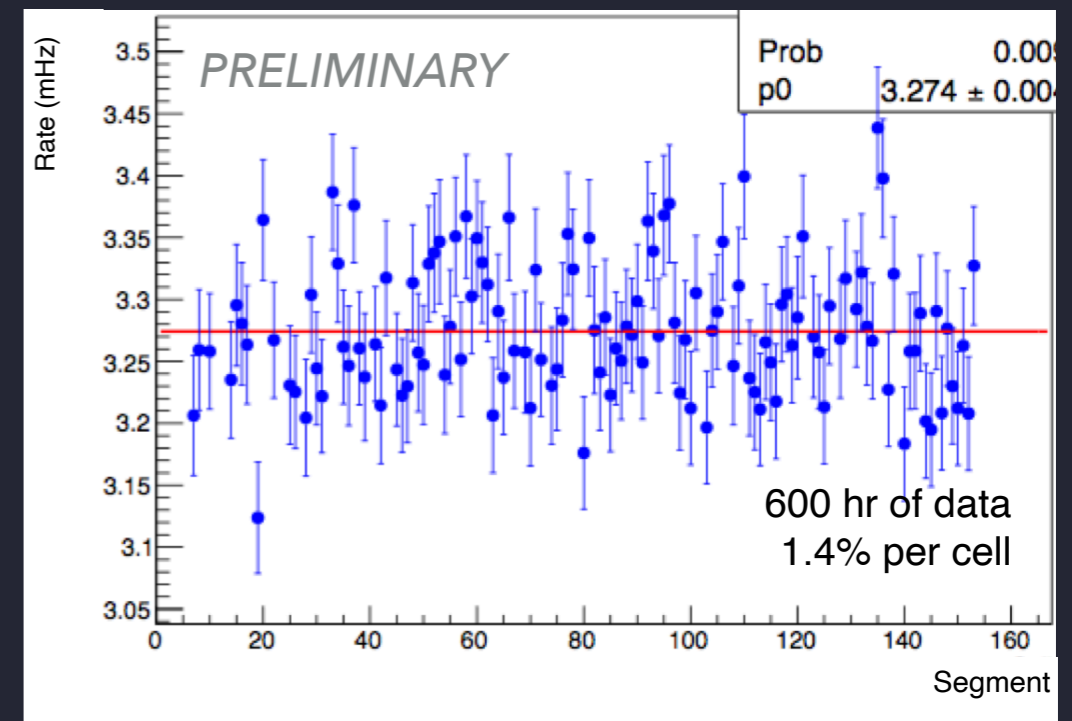
- Relative mass vital for oscillation search
- Survey during assembly: < 1% variation



- ^{227}Ac added to LS prior to filling
- Double alpha decay ($^{219}\text{Rn} \rightarrow ^{215}\text{Po} \rightarrow ^{211}\text{Pb}$), highly localized, 1.78ms half-life, efficient selection straightforward,
- Measured absolute z-position resolution of < 5cm
- Direct measurement of relative target mass in each segment



Uniformity in rates within segment

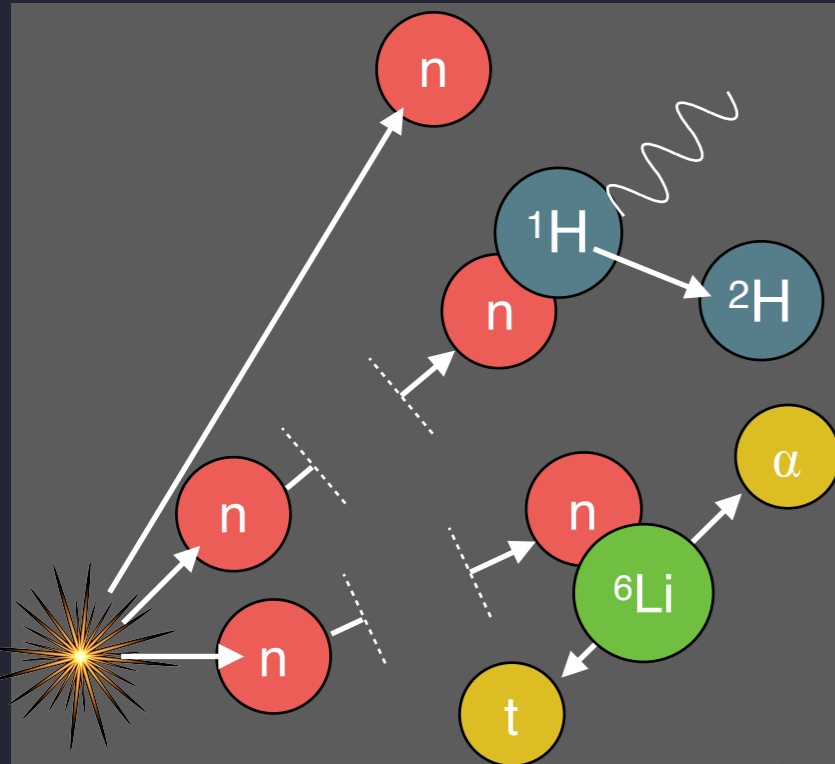


Uniformity in rates between segments

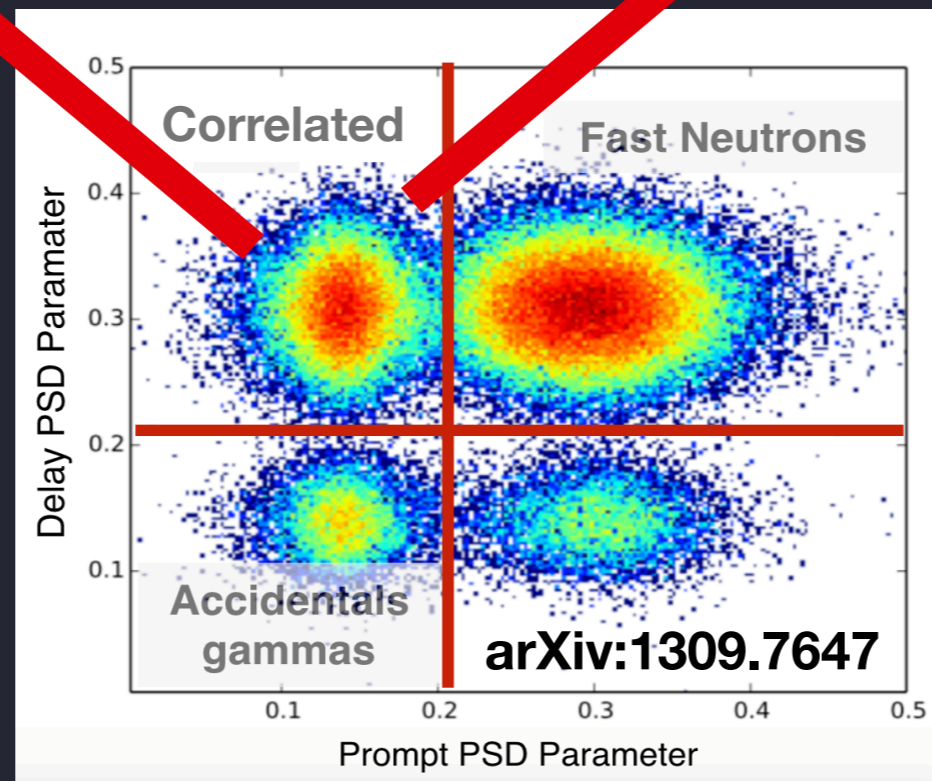
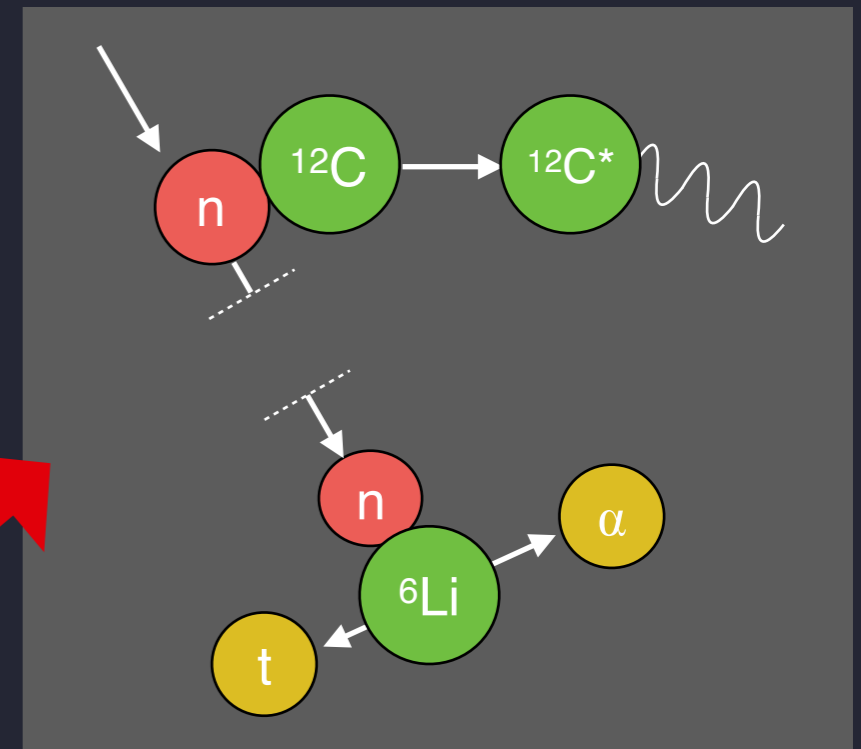
Other Backgrounds



Correlated nH followed by nLi

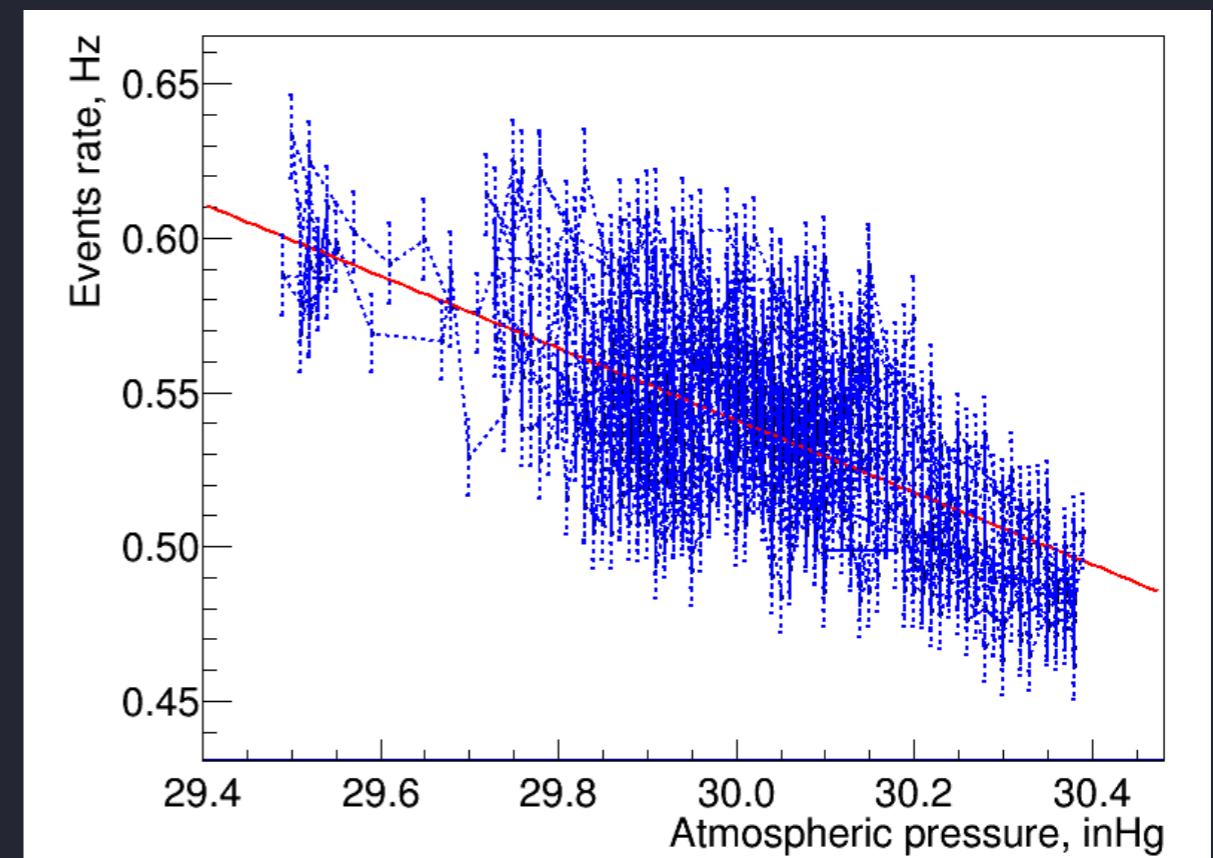
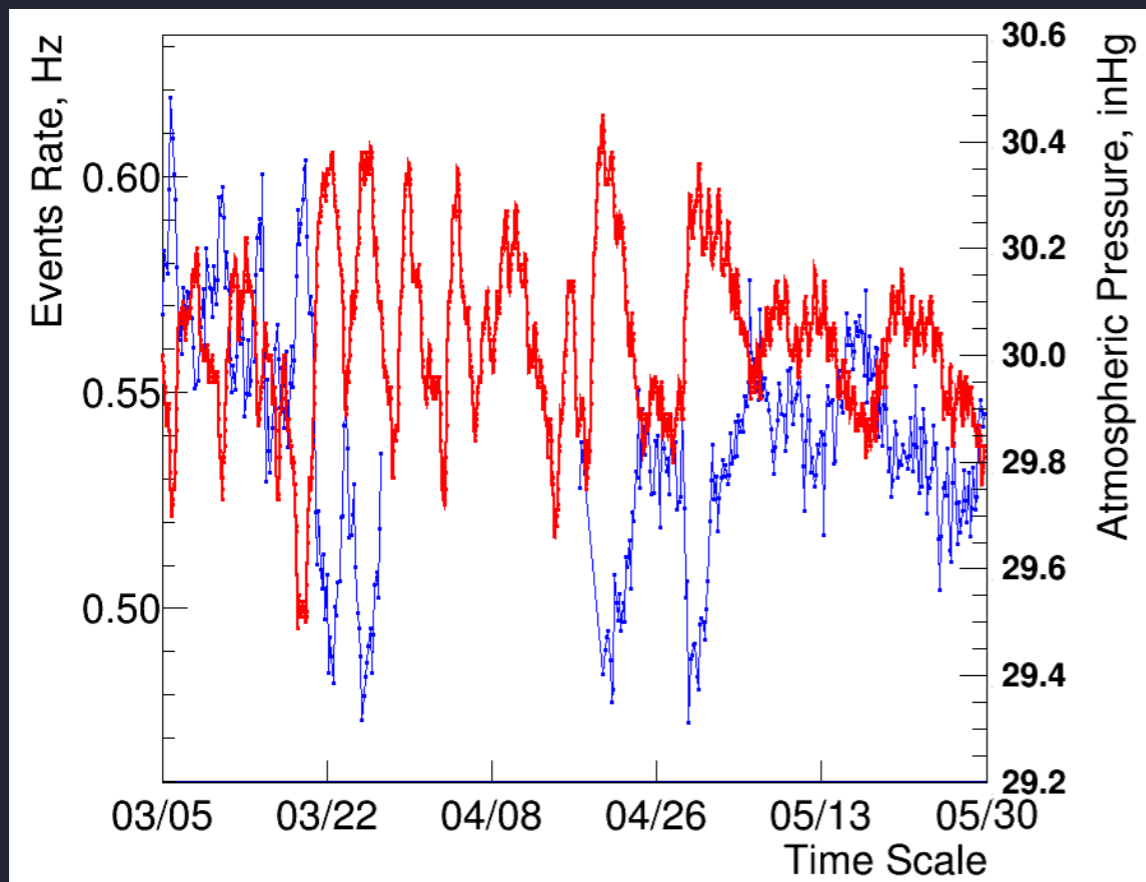


Correlated inelastic scattering on ^{12}C followed by nLi



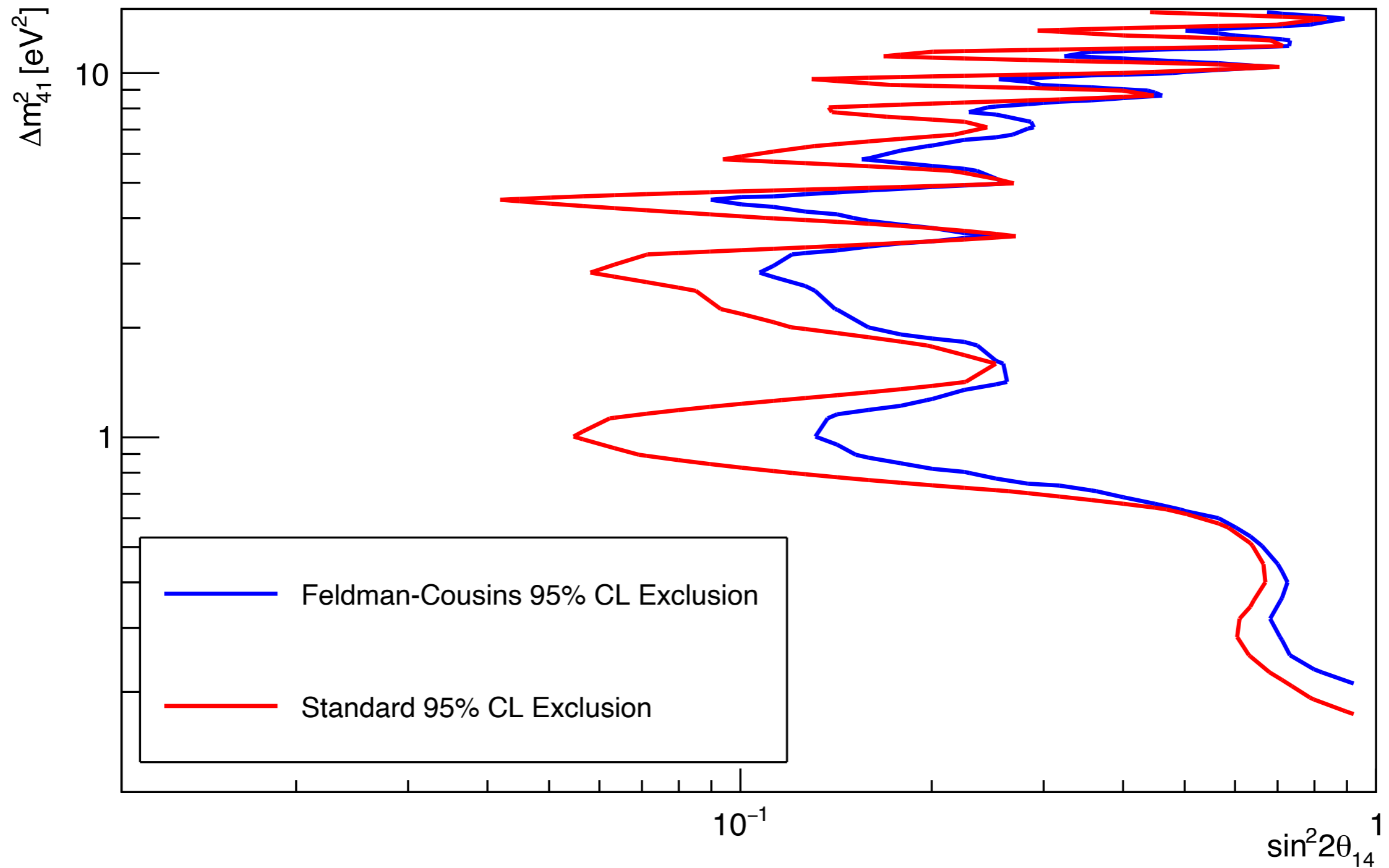
Cosmogenics are the main source for these two background classes

Cosmogenic Background Variations

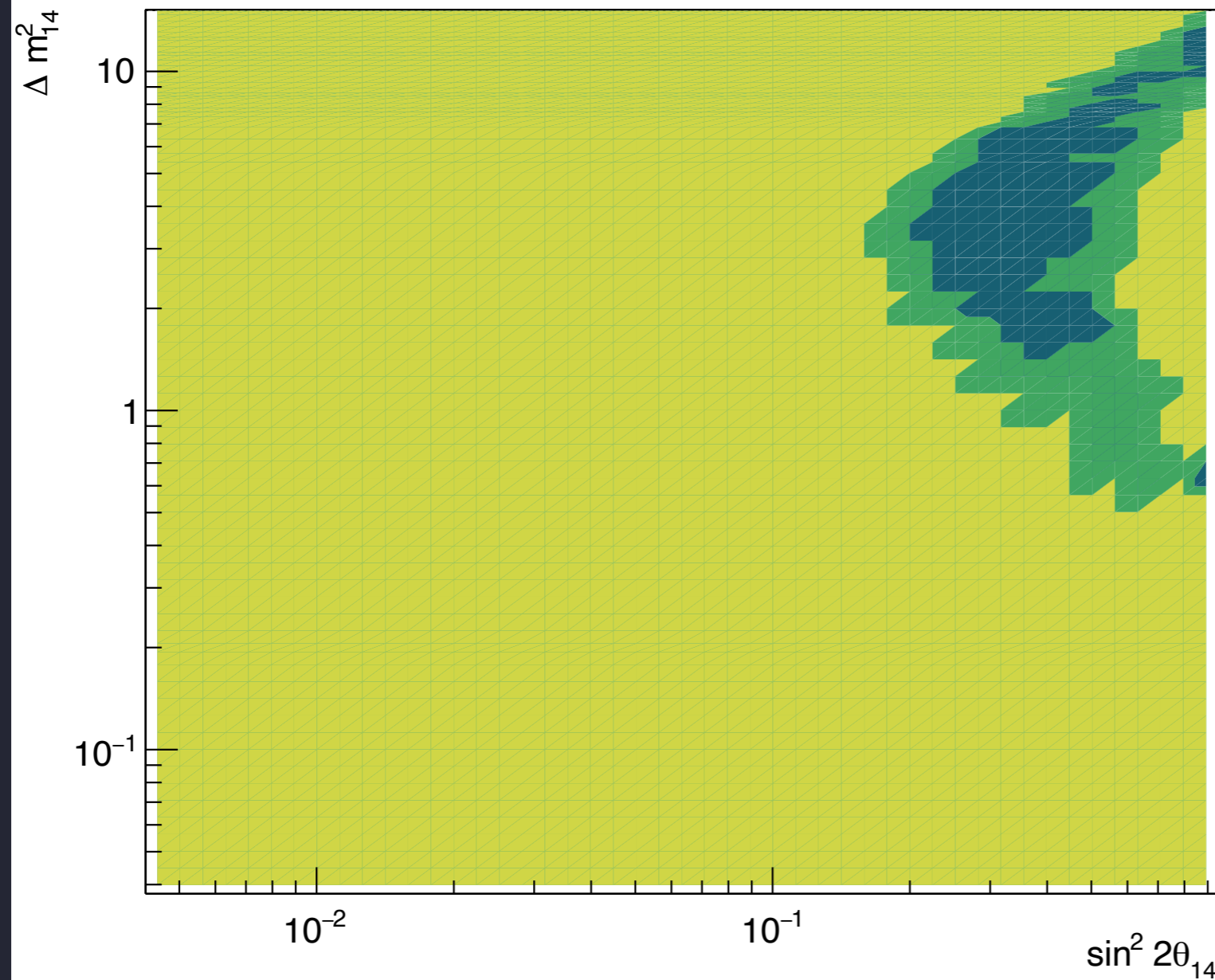


- ◉ Cosmogenic backgrounds are slightly dependent on the atmospheric pressure
- ◉ Measure correlation between pressure and background rates during reactor-off time
- ◉ Scale the backgrounds during reactor-off time using this correlation

Why use FC ?



Why use FC ?

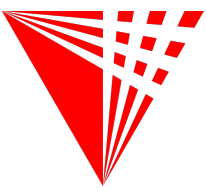


Correct coverage

Undercoverage

Overcoverage

- If probability contained in the Wilk's theorem-defined chi2 values $<(>) 0.95$ then that point is undercovered (overcovered)
- Chi2 = +/- 1 taken as threshold to define the right coverage
- => undercoverage if $P(6.99) < 0.95$ and
overcoverage if $P(4.99) > 0.95$



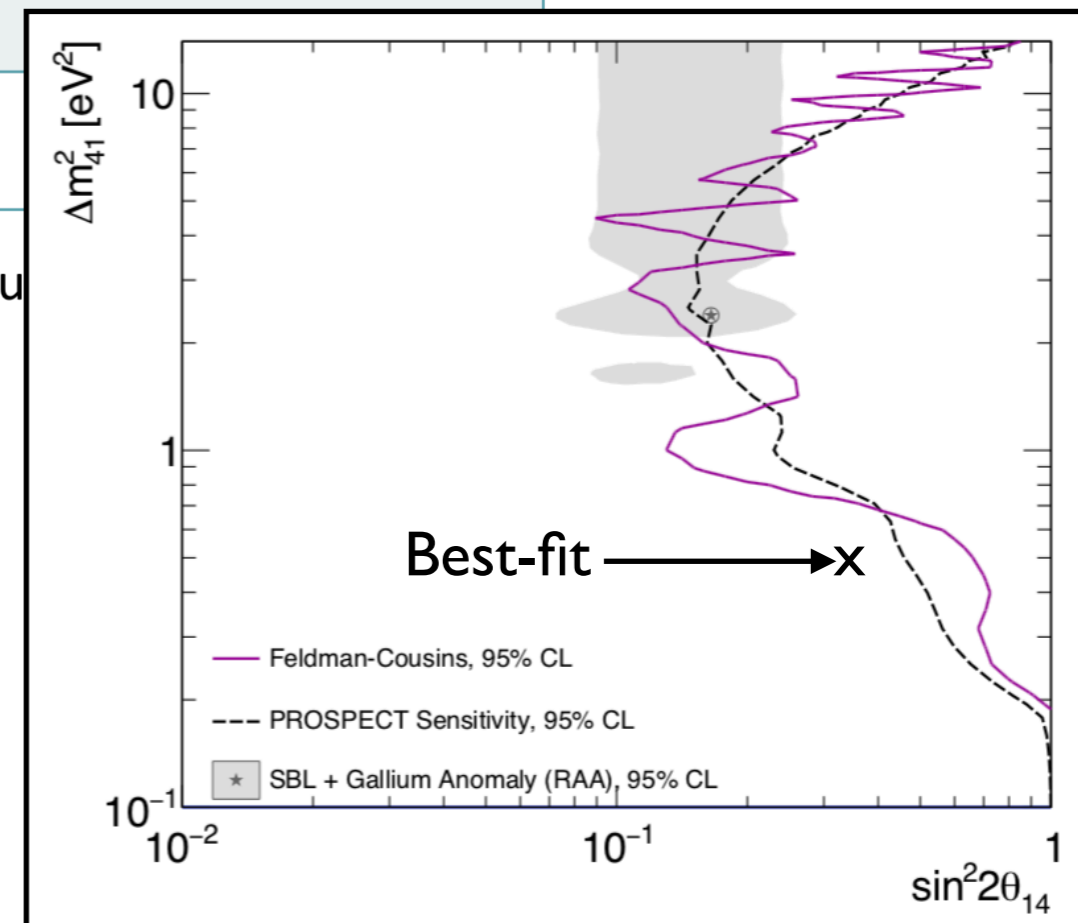
Feldman-Cousins Approach

- ❑ Standard (incorrect) method does not handle boundary features such as bounded nature of $\sin^2 2\theta$ (0,1) or cases when oscillation frequency approaches energy bin size. Feldman-Cousins method solves those problems
- ❑ Comparing p-values for Feldman-Cousins and standard (incorrect) methods:

P-values	3ν -oscillation hypothesis	RAA sterile ν oscillation hypothesis
Feldman-Cousins	0.58	0.013
Standard (incorrect) confidence intervals assignment	0.14	0.005

- ❑ If standard (incorrect) confidence levels used instead of Feldman-Cousins
 - We say 3ν is **less compatible** with data than it actually is

❑ Illustrates an importance of using Feldman-Cousins

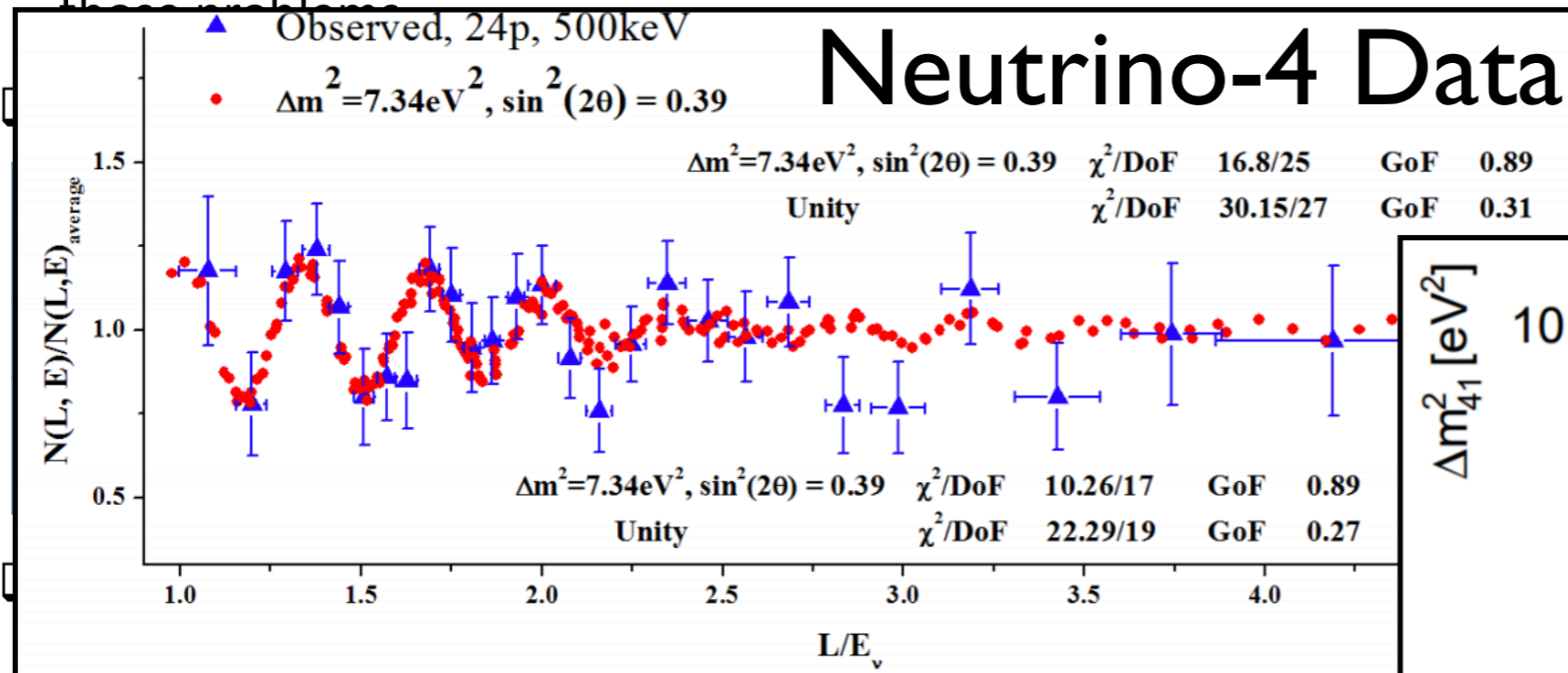




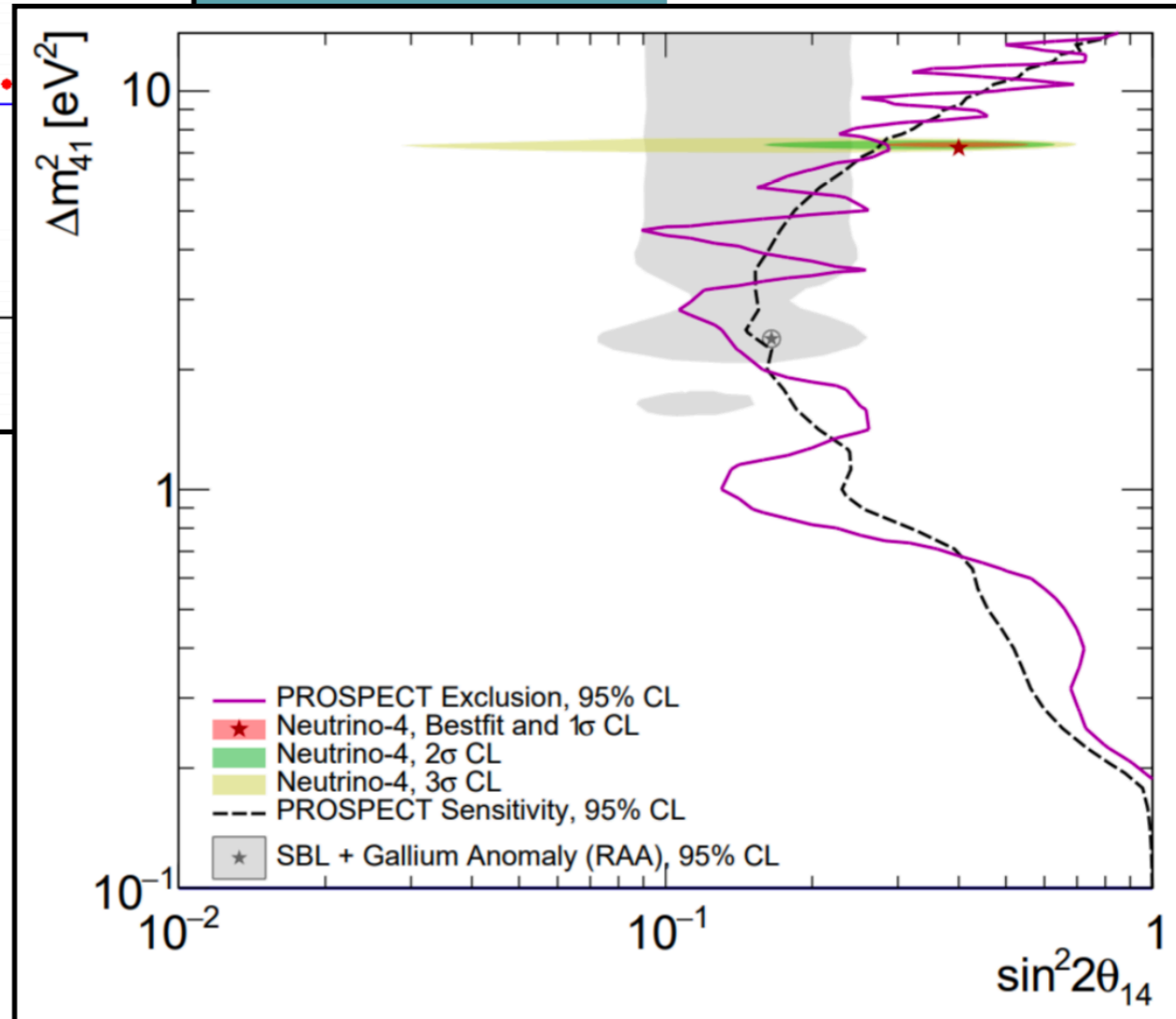
Neutrino-4

Feldman-Cousins Approach

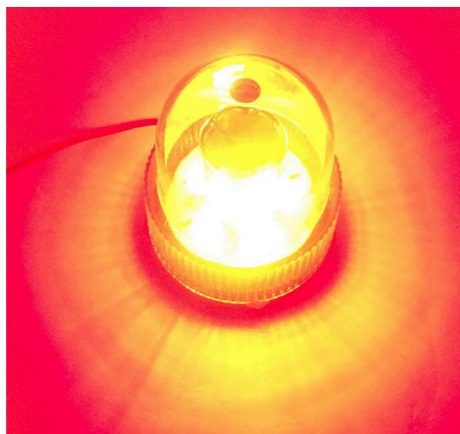
- Standard (incorrect) method does not handle boundary features such as bounded nature of $\sin^2 2\theta$ (0,1) or cases when oscillation frequency approaches energy bin size. Feldman-Cousins method solves



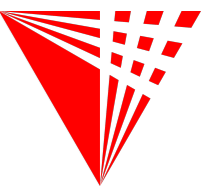
Methods:
 le ν oscillation



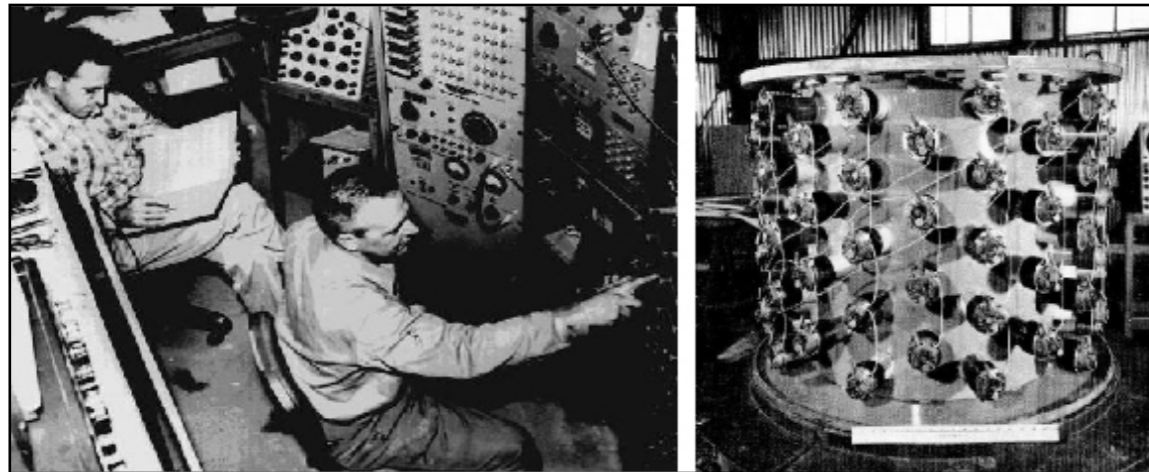
- Illustrates an importance of using Feldman-Cousins



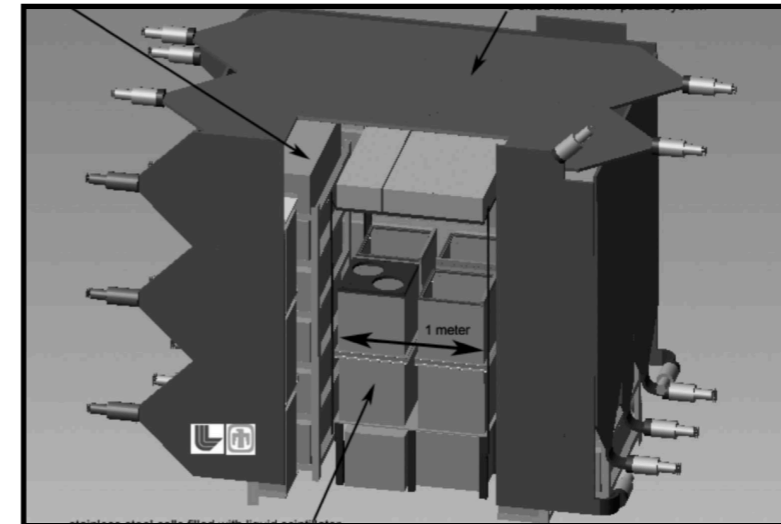
Reactor Neutrino Monitoring Advances



- Last few decades have brought major advances in realized tech:



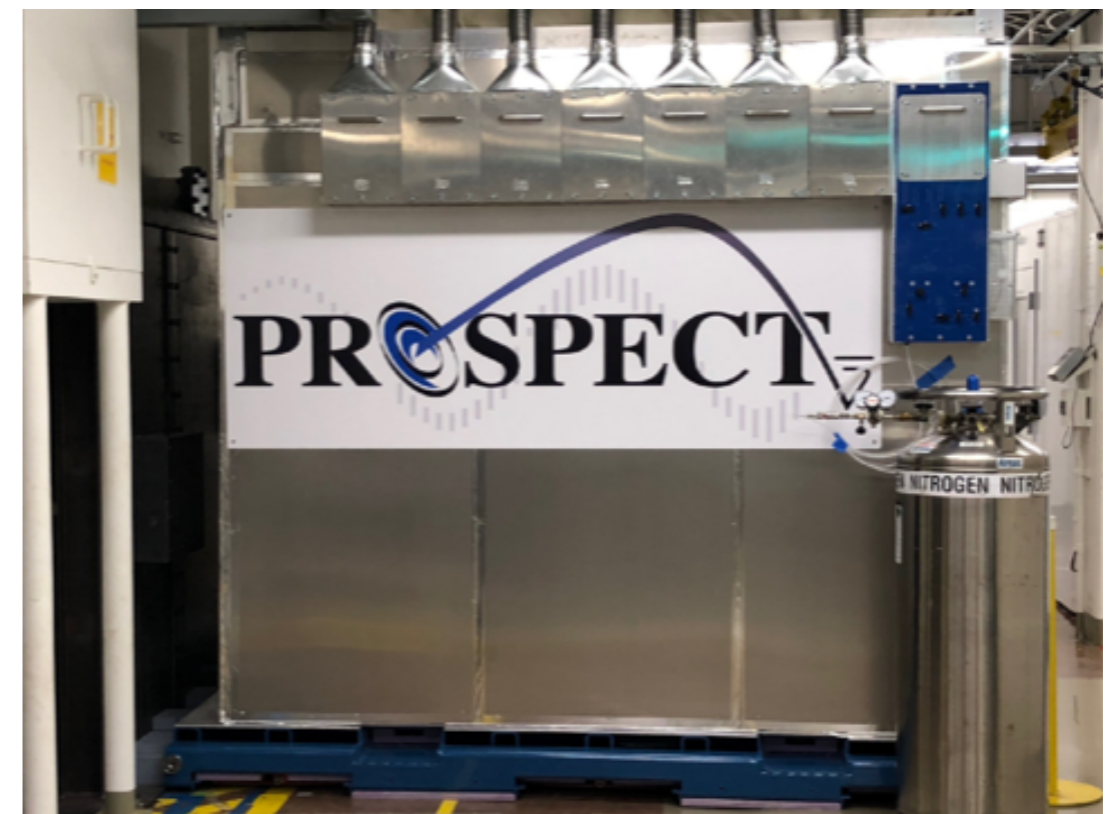
1950s: First Detection; ~1000 counts in 1 month; 5 background counts per 1 antineutrino count (S:B 1:5)



2000s: SONGS: ~230 counts per day, 25:1 S:B, but must be underground. 'semi-safe' detector liquid



1980s: Bugey: ~1000 counts per day, S:B 10:1, but only underground. fl ammable/corrosive solvent detector liquids



NOW: PROSPECT detector: ~750/day from only 80MW reactor, S:B 1:1 on surface, 'safe' plug-n-play detector