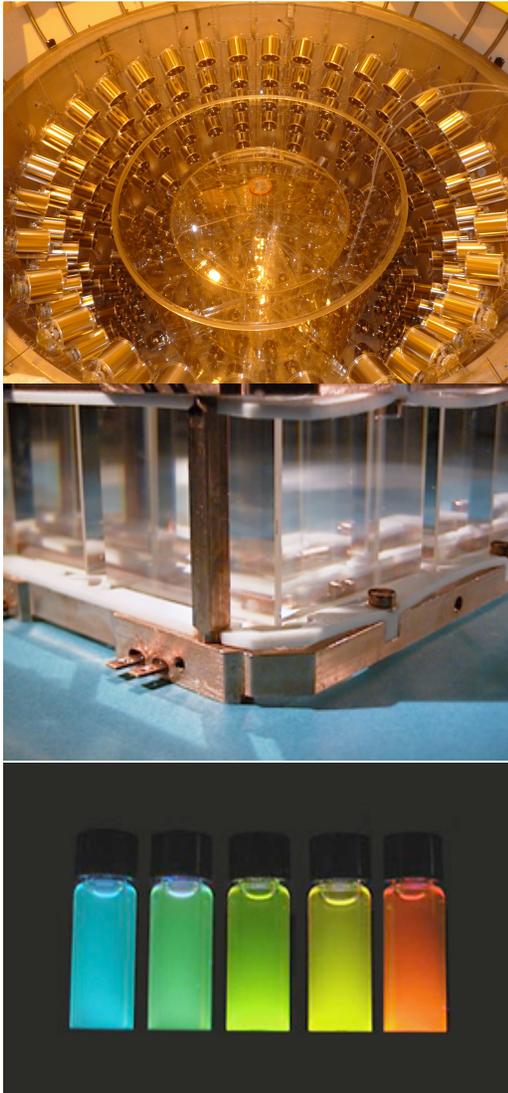


# reVolution



## Neutrino Oscillation and Beyond

Lindley Winslow  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Past: Neutrinos have mass.**

**On the Verge:  $\theta_{13}$  is Large!**

**Next: Neutrinos are Majorana?**

# ReVolution

Pronunciation: /,revə'luʃ(ə)n/

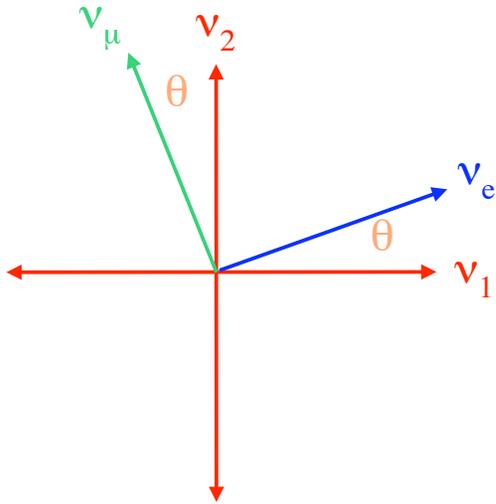
---

Fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something.

**Neutrinos have mass!**

**Remember:  
When I started graduate  
school neutrinos were  
believed to be massless.**

Let's hypothesize that neutrinos have tiny masses and some flavor mixing:



For Two Neutrinos....

flavor

mass

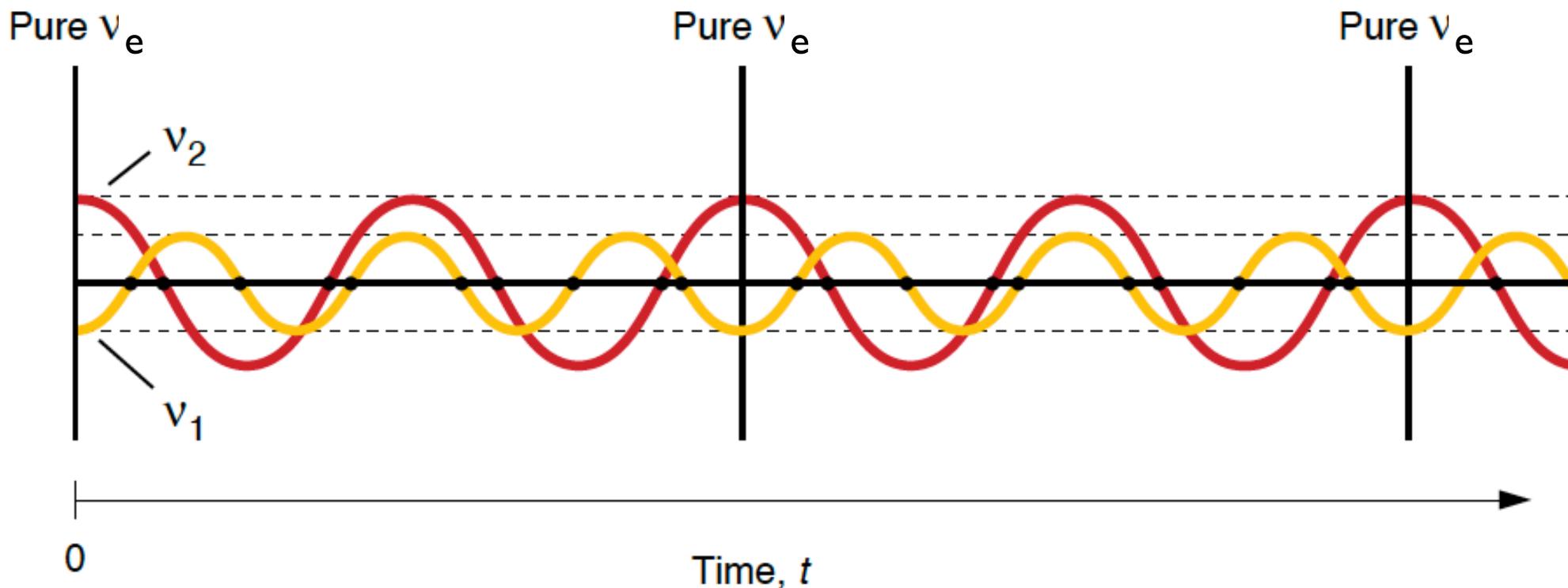
$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The mixing of the states is expressed by a rotation matrix.

$$|\nu_e\rangle = \cos \theta |\nu_1\rangle + \sin \theta |\nu_2\rangle$$

$$|\nu_\mu\rangle = -\sin \theta |\nu_1\rangle + \cos \theta |\nu_2\rangle$$

Neutrinos are produced and detected via their flavor states...



From Celebrating the Neutrino, LANL

but it's their mass states that propagate through space...

# Neutrino Oscillation

$$P_{osc} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{1.27 \Delta m^2 L}{E} \right)$$

# Neutrino Oscillation

$$P_{osc} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{1.27 \Delta m^2 L}{E} \right)$$



The Mixing Angle determines the amplitude.

# Neutrino Oscillation

$$P_{osc} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{1.27 \Delta m^2 L}{E} \right)$$

Distance between your source and detector.  
Units are km.

# Neutrino Oscillation

$$P_{osc} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{1.27 \Delta m^2 L}{E} \right)$$

Energy of the neutrinos  
Units are GeV



# Neutrino Oscillation

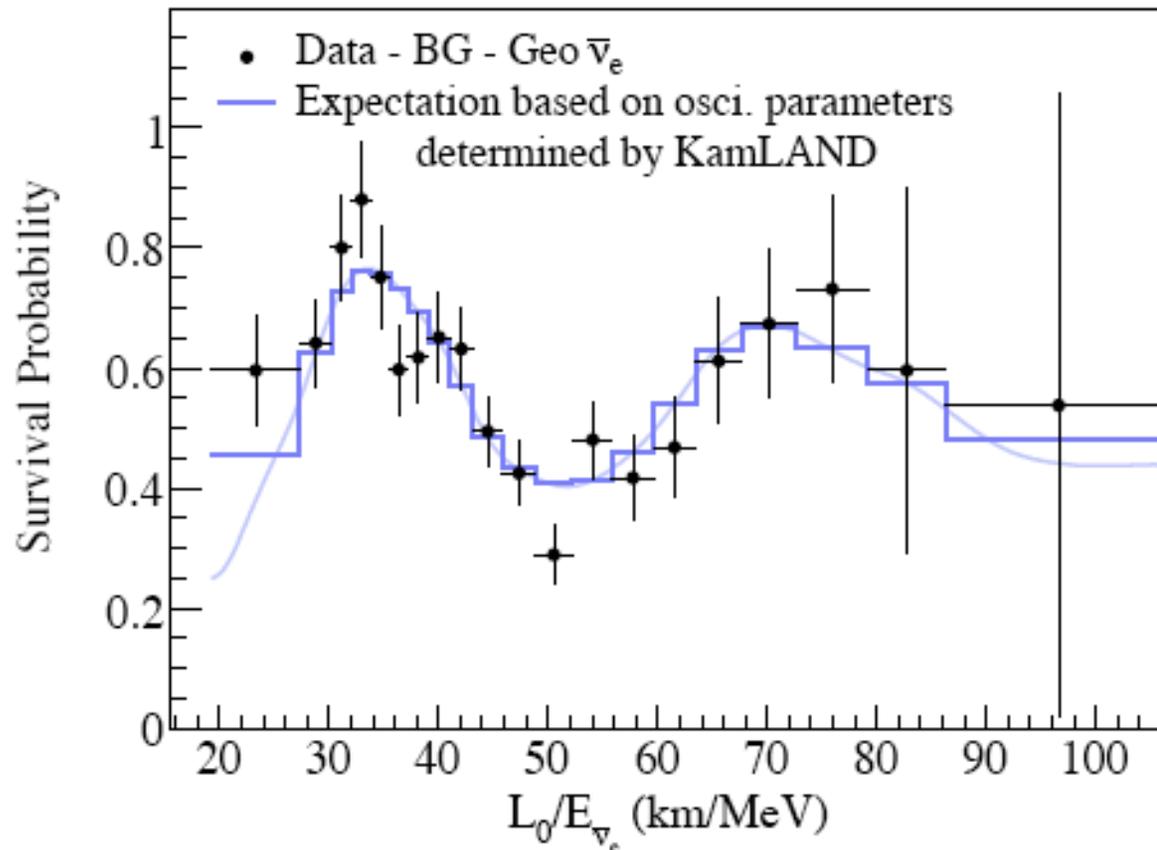
$$P_{osc} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{1.27 \Delta m^2 L}{E} \right)$$

Mass Squared Difference  
 $\Delta m^2 = m_2^2 - m_1^2$   
Units are  $\text{eV}^2$



# KamLAND Data:

$$P_{\text{survival}} = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{1.27 \Delta m^2 L}{E} \right)$$



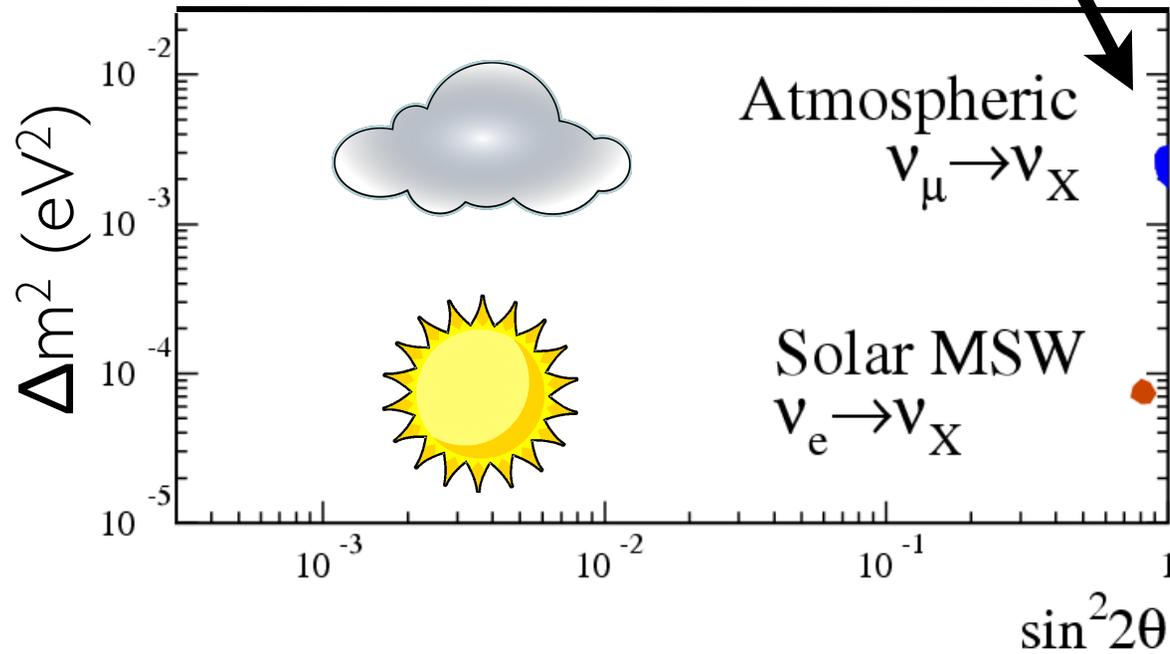
“Solar” (because solar  $\nu$  experiments saw it first)

$$\Delta m^2 = 7.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$$

Results  $> 5$  sigma in 2001

> 5 sigma **NOW!**

Look how tiny!



# reVolution

*You say you want a revolution  
Well, you know  
we all want to change the world.*

# ReVolution

Pronunciation: /,revə'luʃ(ə)n/

---

A change in daily life especially related to technology.

**$\theta_{13}$  is Large!**

# In January:

Igor presented to you the first results from Double Chooz,



Igor Ostrovskiy

# From November:

The first results from Double Chooz found,  
 $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.08 \pm 0.04 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.03 \text{ (sys)}$ .

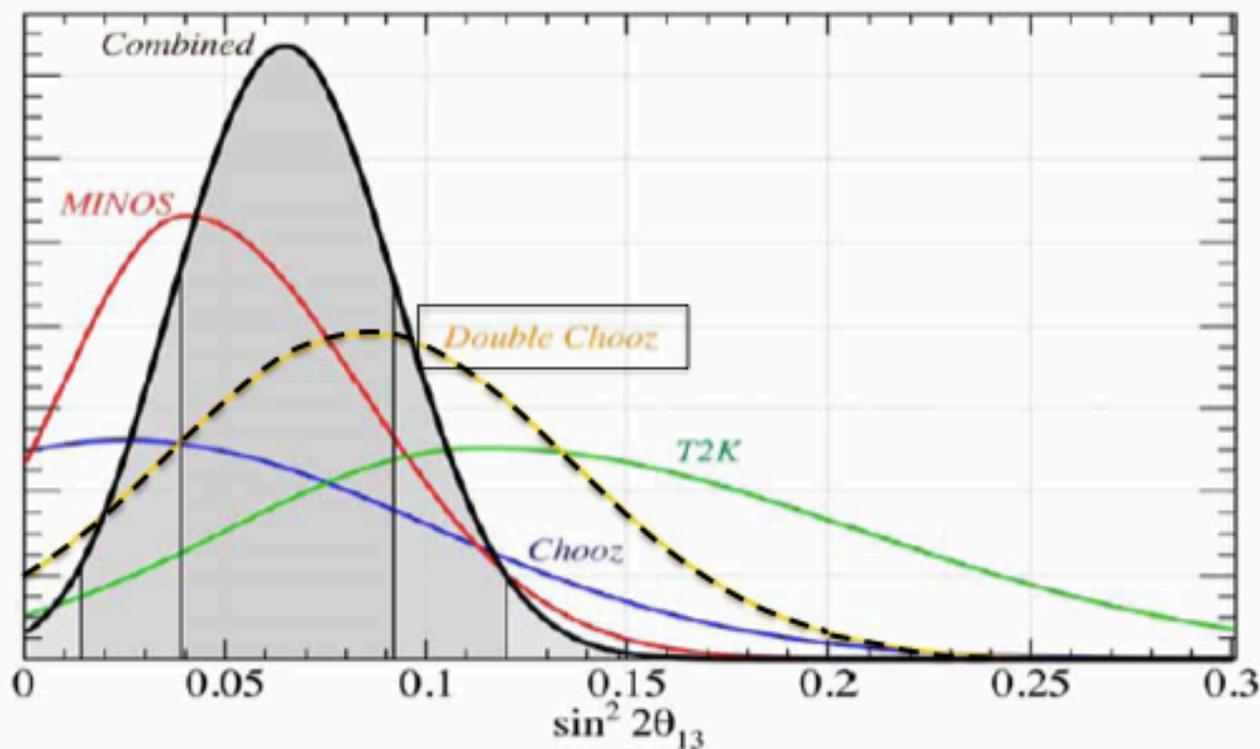
This is not significant by itself...

Why do I think we are on the verge of a technical revolution?

Because of what it brings to the global fits.

# From Pier Oddone's LBNE Presentation two weeks ago

The gate is likely open:  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} > 0$



Current knowledge of  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$  from T2K, MINOS and Double Chooz.  
Current reactor experiments like Daya Bay, T2K and NOvA will measure  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$  for all values  $> 0.01$

# From November:

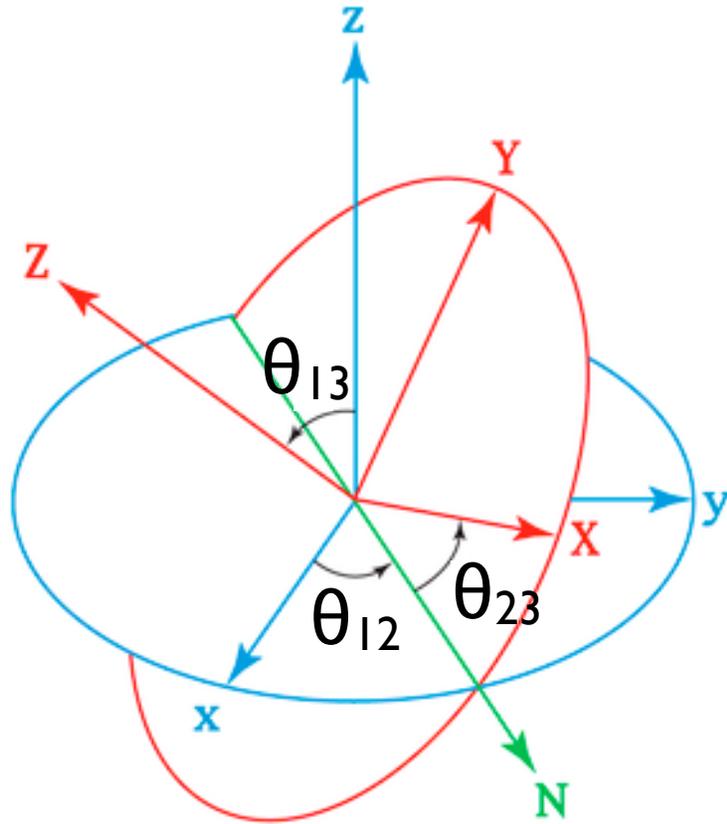
The first results from Double Chooz found,  
 $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.08 \pm 0.04 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.03 \text{ (sys)}$ .

This is not significant by itself...

Why do I think we are on the verge of a technical revolution?

Because of what it brings to the global fits.

- I. What we used to think.
- II. The measurement from Double Chooz.
- III. The global view and future directions.



$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

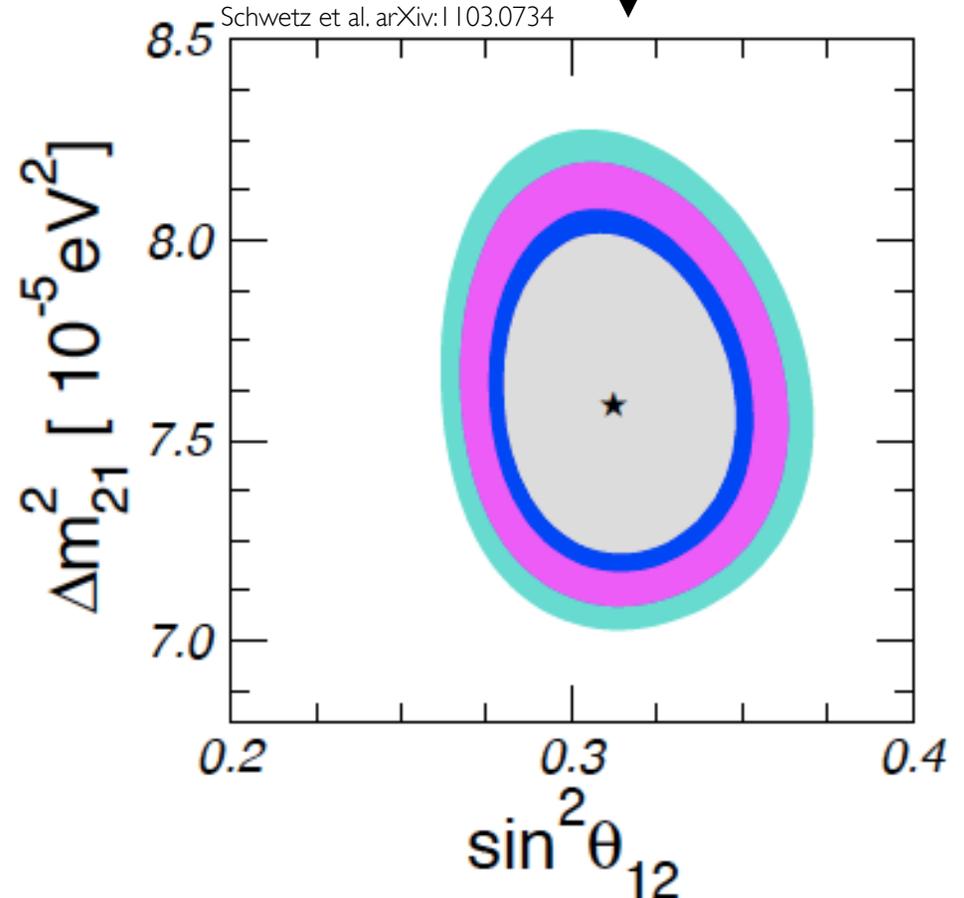
Three neutrino mixing will be defined by three mixing angles and two independent mass differences.



$$U_{\alpha j} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c\theta_{23} & s\theta_{23} \\ 0 & -s\theta_{23} & c\theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\theta_{13} & 0 & s\theta_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s\theta_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c\theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\theta_{12} & s\theta_{12} & 0 \\ -s\theta_{12} & c\theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

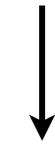
## Solar/KamLAND

Here is the mixing and  $\Delta m^2$  which is measured by the Solar neutrino experiments and KamLAND.

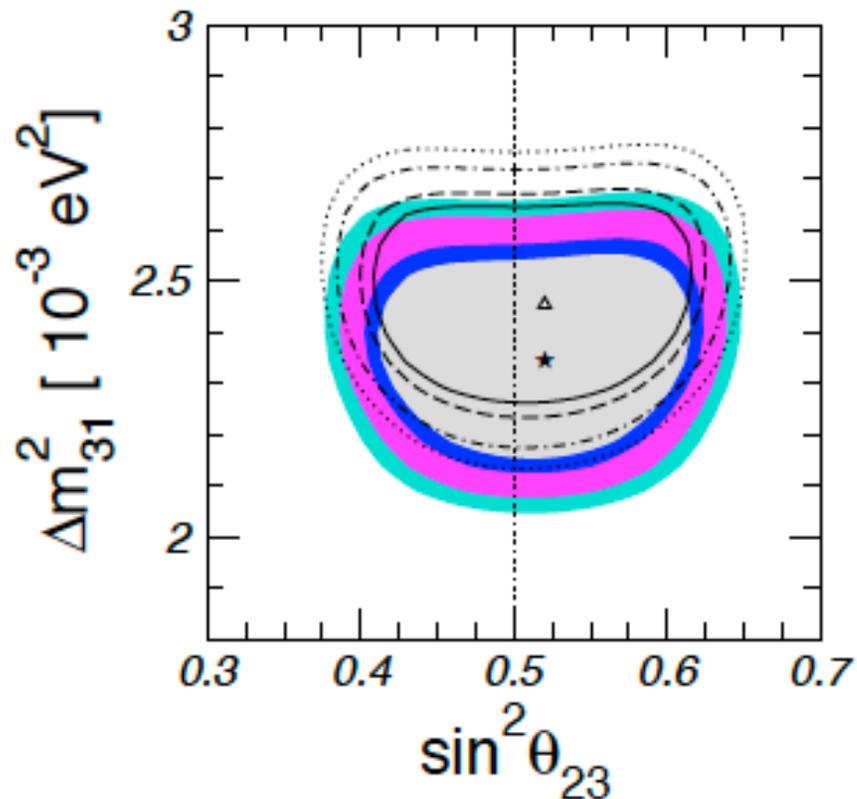




$$U_{\alpha j} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c\theta_{23} & s\theta_{23} \\ 0 & -s\theta_{23} & c\theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\theta_{13} & 0 & s\theta_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s\theta_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c\theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\theta_{12} & s\theta_{12} & 0 \\ -s\theta_{12} & c\theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Schwetz et al. arXiv:1103.0734



Atmospheric/Accelerator

This mixing and  $\Delta m^2$  which is measured by the Accelerator experiments like MINOS/T2K and Super-K's atmospheric neutrino measurements.

$$U_{\alpha j} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c\theta_{23} & s\theta_{23} \\ 0 & -s\theta_{23} & c\theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\theta_{13} & 0 & s\theta_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s\theta_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c\theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\theta_{12} & s\theta_{12} & 0 \\ -s\theta_{12} & c\theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



**?**

Everyone is excited by  $\delta$  the CP violating phase.

What is CP Violation?

$$P(a \rightarrow b) \neq P(\bar{a} \rightarrow \bar{b})$$

**or**

$$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e) \neq P(\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e)$$

If observed this would be a revolution.

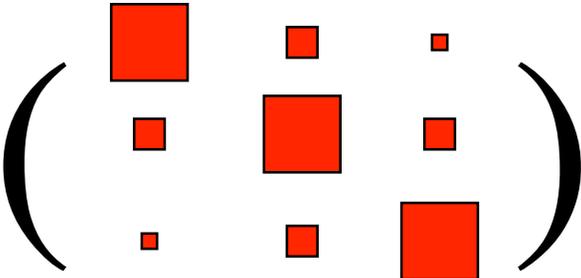
$$U_{\alpha j} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c\theta_{23} & s\theta_{23} \\ 0 & -s\theta_{23} & c\theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\theta_{13} & 0 & s\theta_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s\theta_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c\theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\theta_{12} & s\theta_{12} & 0 \\ -s\theta_{12} & c\theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



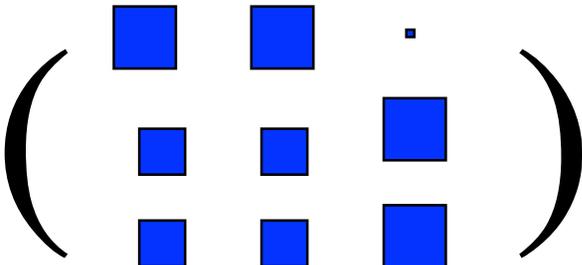
**?**

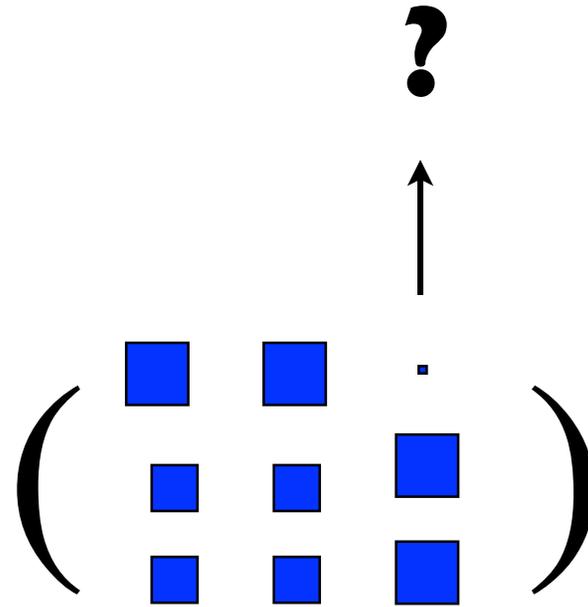
But I would argue the last mixing angle is interesting all in itself.

This is Quark Mixing



This is Neutrino Mixing



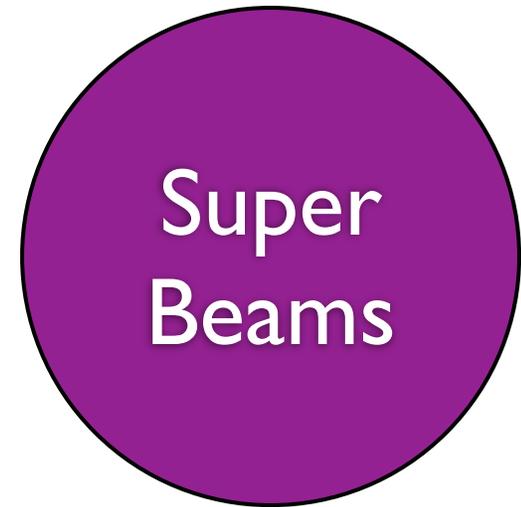
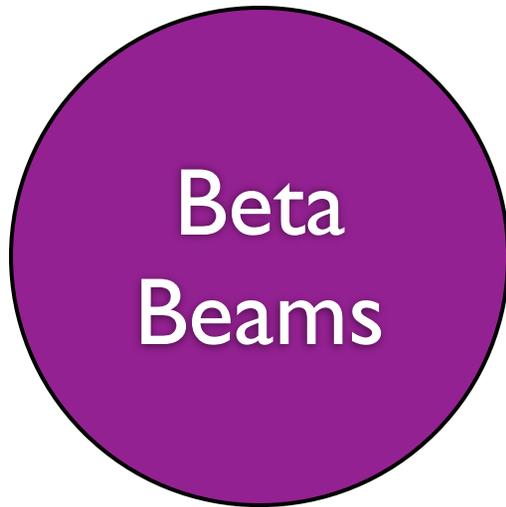


It is a fundamental parameter that contributes to many calculations involving electron neutrinos.

# Theory favors small $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$ :

<b>Theory</b>	<b>Order of Magnitude Prediction</b>	
$L_e-L_\mu-L_\tau$	0.00001	Model Review by Albright et. al. ArXiv:0803.4176
SO(3)	0.00001	
S3 and S4	0.001	Neutrino Factory Dreams
A4 Tetrahedral	0.001	
Texture Zero	0.001	Modern Design
RH Dominance	0.01	
SO(10) with Sym/Antisym Contributions	0.01	It looks like we are here!
SO(10) with lopsided masses	0.1	

The most talked about beam designs:



- These are particularly needed if  $\theta_{13}$  is small.
- These are **enormous** investments.
- We may still want one but they are not critical.



It's Chooz Time!

**arXiv:1112.6353**

**Submitted to PRL**

# Double Chooz Collaboration!



## Brazil

CBPF  
UNICAMP  
UFABC



## France

APC  
CEA/DSM/IRFU:  
SPP  
SPhN  
SEDI  
SIS  
SENAC  
CNRS/IN2P3:  
Subatech  
IPHC  
ULB/VUB



## Germany

EKU Tübingen  
MPIK Heidelberg  
RWTH Aachen  
TU München  
U. Hamburg



## Japan

Tohoku U.  
Tokyo Inst. Tech.  
Tokyo Metro. U.  
Niigata U.  
Kobe U.  
Tohoku Gakuin U.  
Hiroshima Inst  
Tech.



## Russia

INR RAS  
IPC RAS  
RRC Kurchatov



## Spain

CIEMAT-Madrid



## UK

Sussex



## USA

U. Alabama  
ANL  
U. Chicago  
Columbia U.  
UCDavis  
Drexel U.  
IIT  
KSU  
LLNL  
MIT  
U. Notre Dame  
Sandia National  
Laboratories  
U. Tennessee

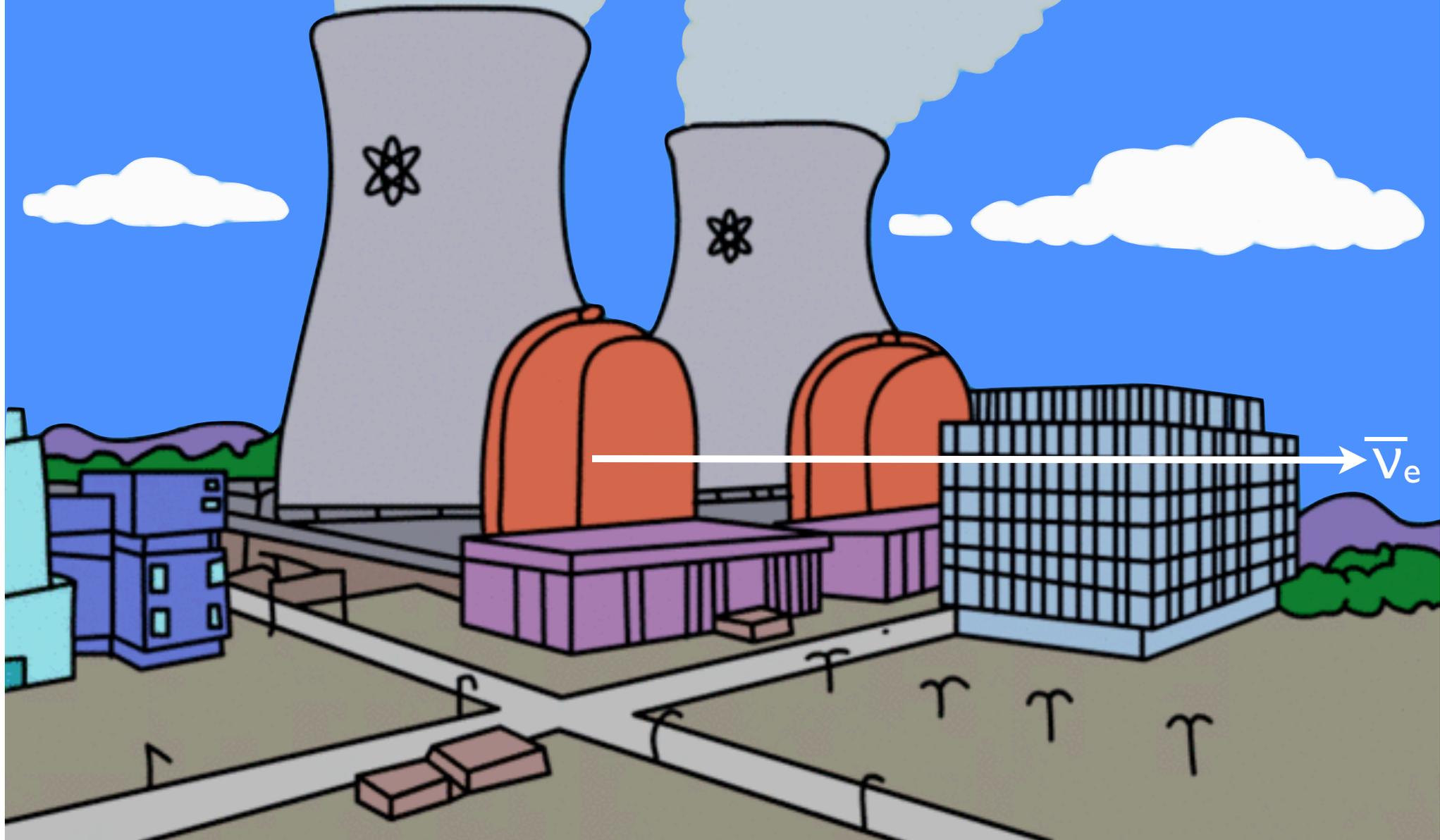
Spokesperson: H. de Kerret (IN2P3)  
Project Manager: Ch. Veyssière (CEA-Saclay)

Web Site: [www.doublechooz.org/](http://www.doublechooz.org/)

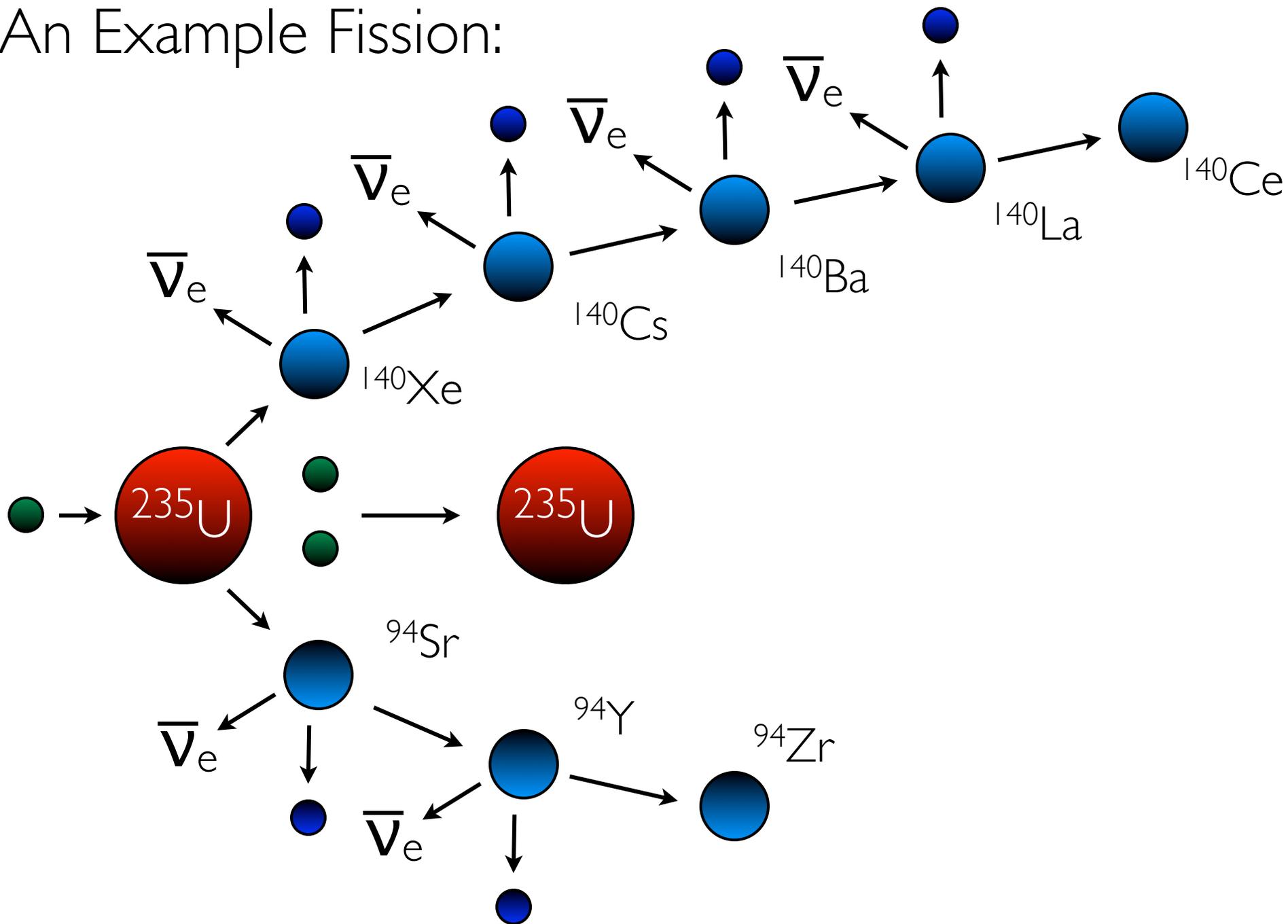
**Double Chooz is an  
antineutrino disappearance  
experiment.**

# Reactors Produce a lot of antineutrinos!

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

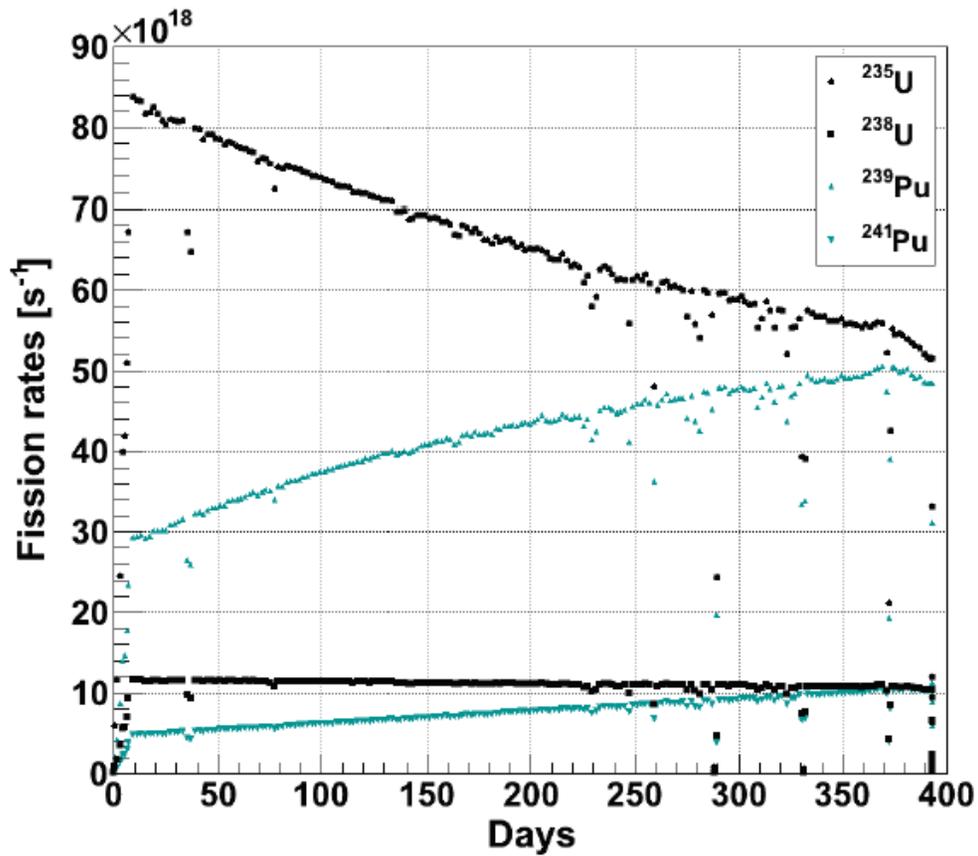


# An Example Fission:

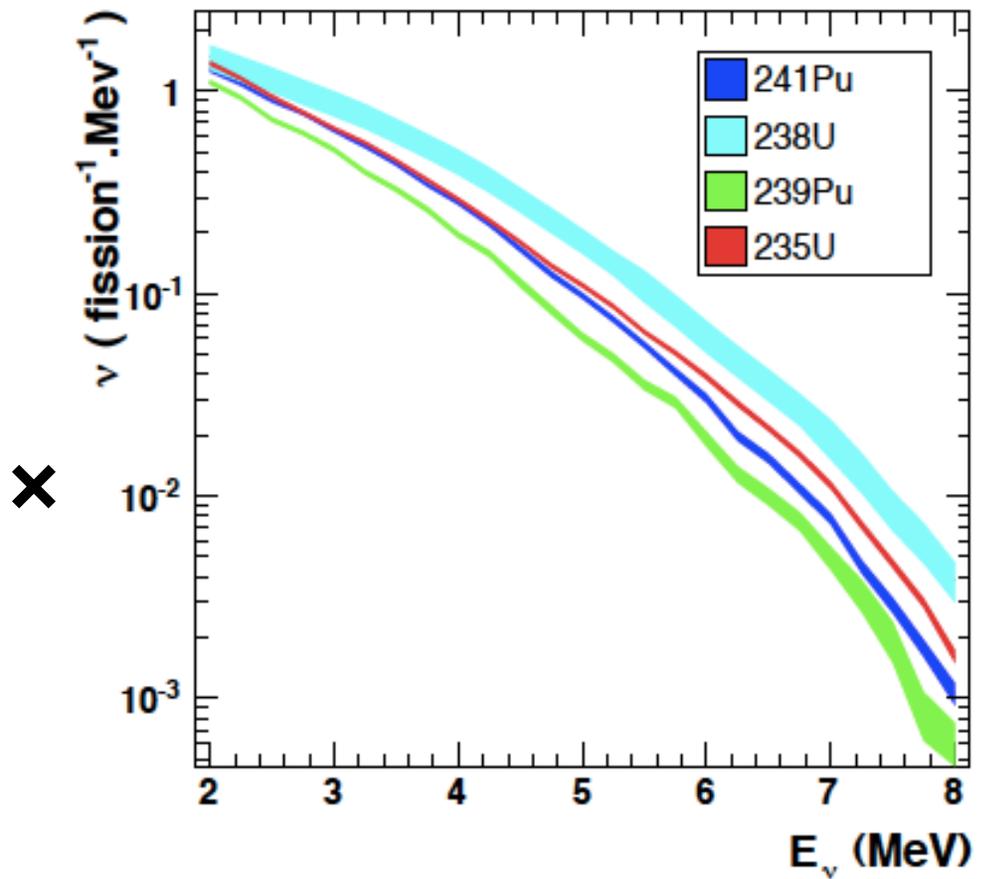


# The Prediction:

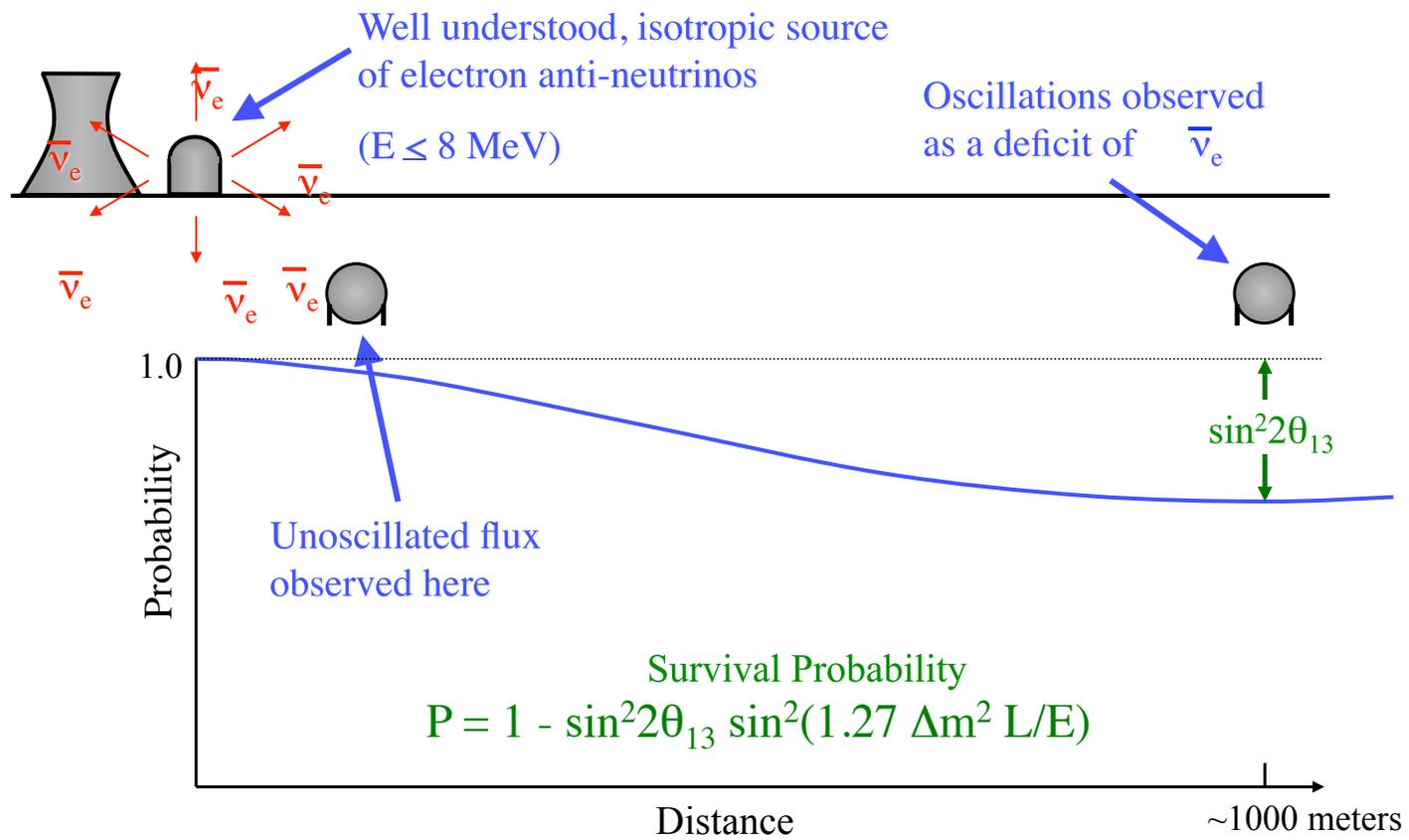
## Fission Rates



## Spectra per Fission

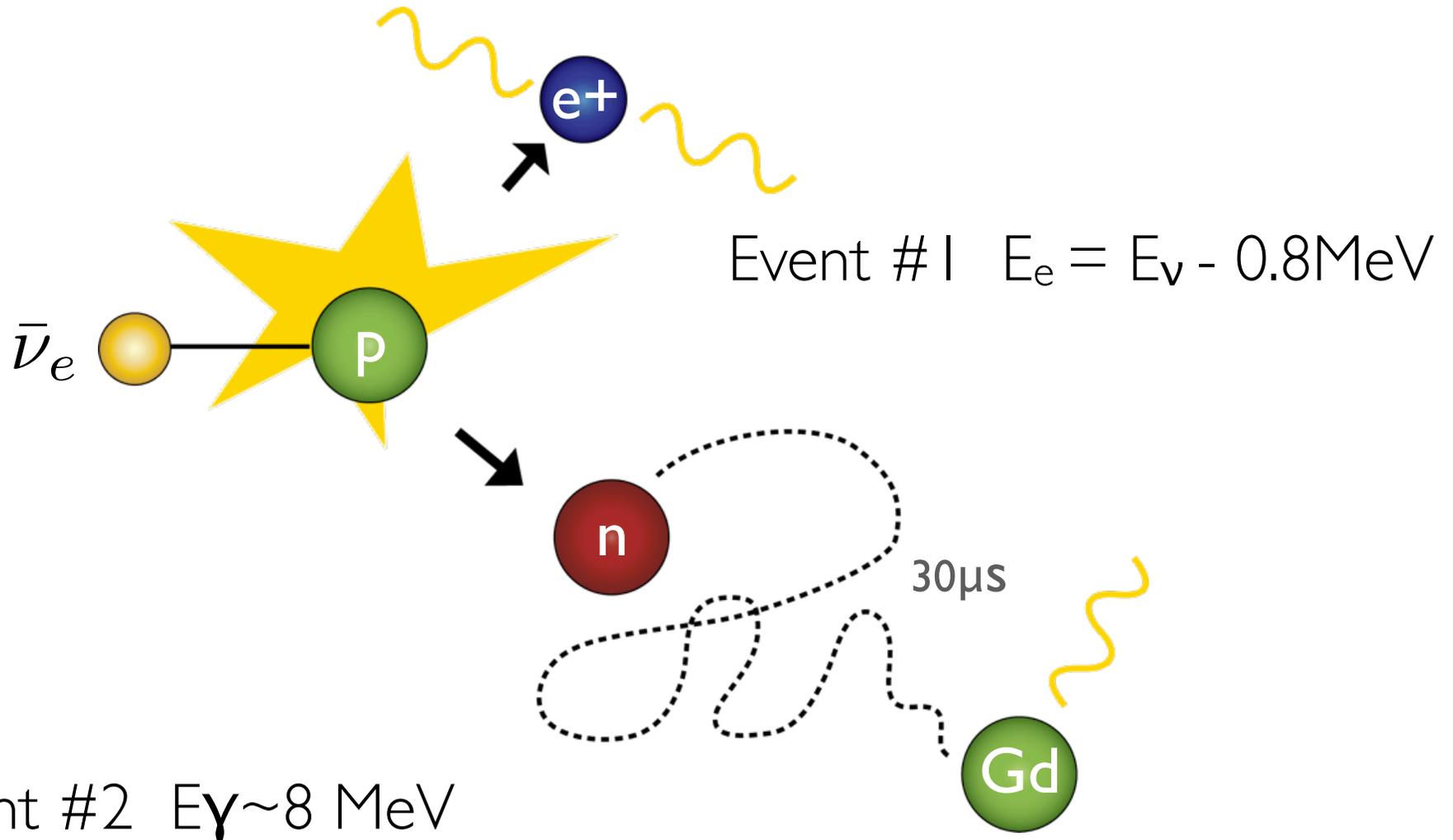


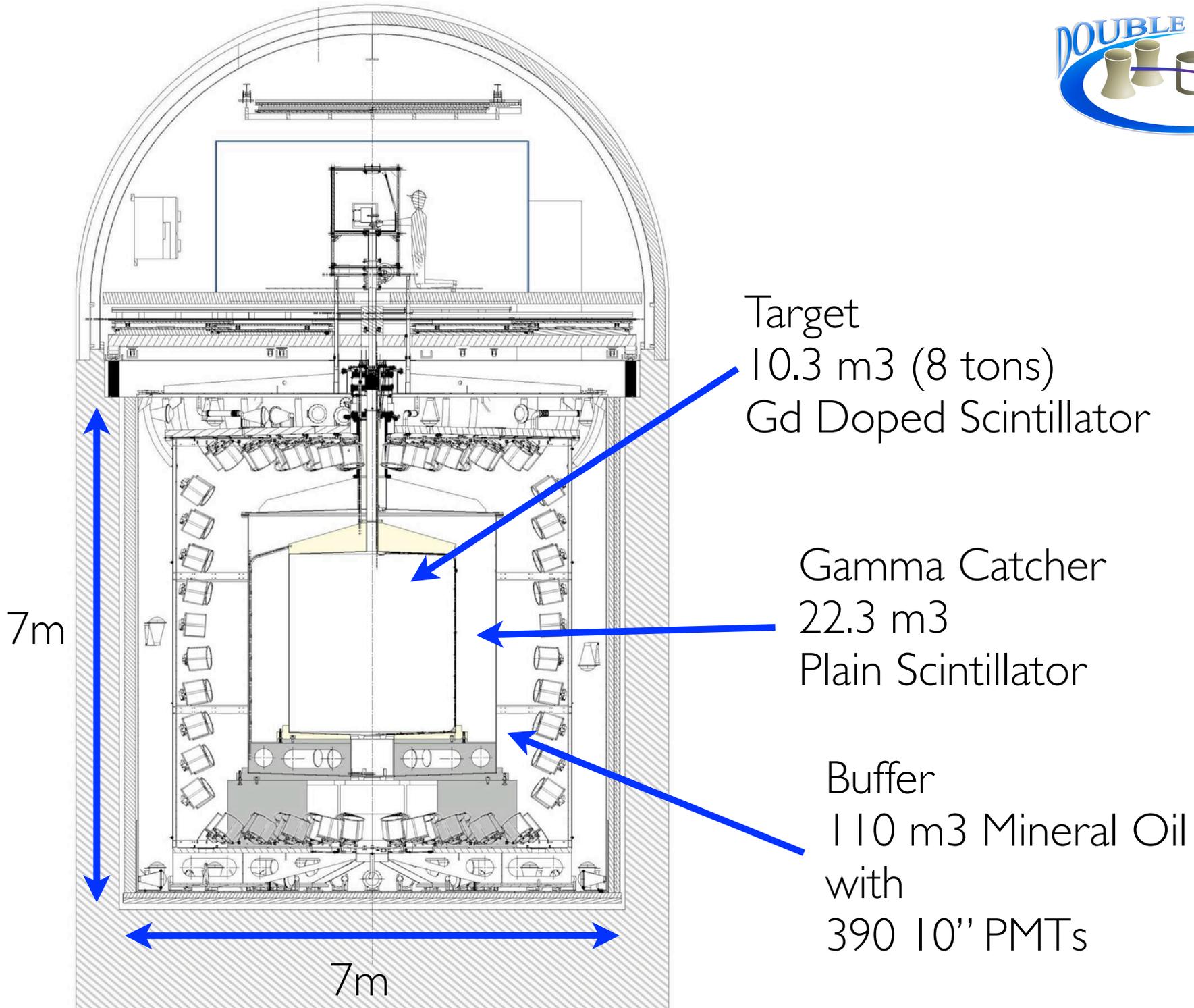
See arXiv:1109.5379

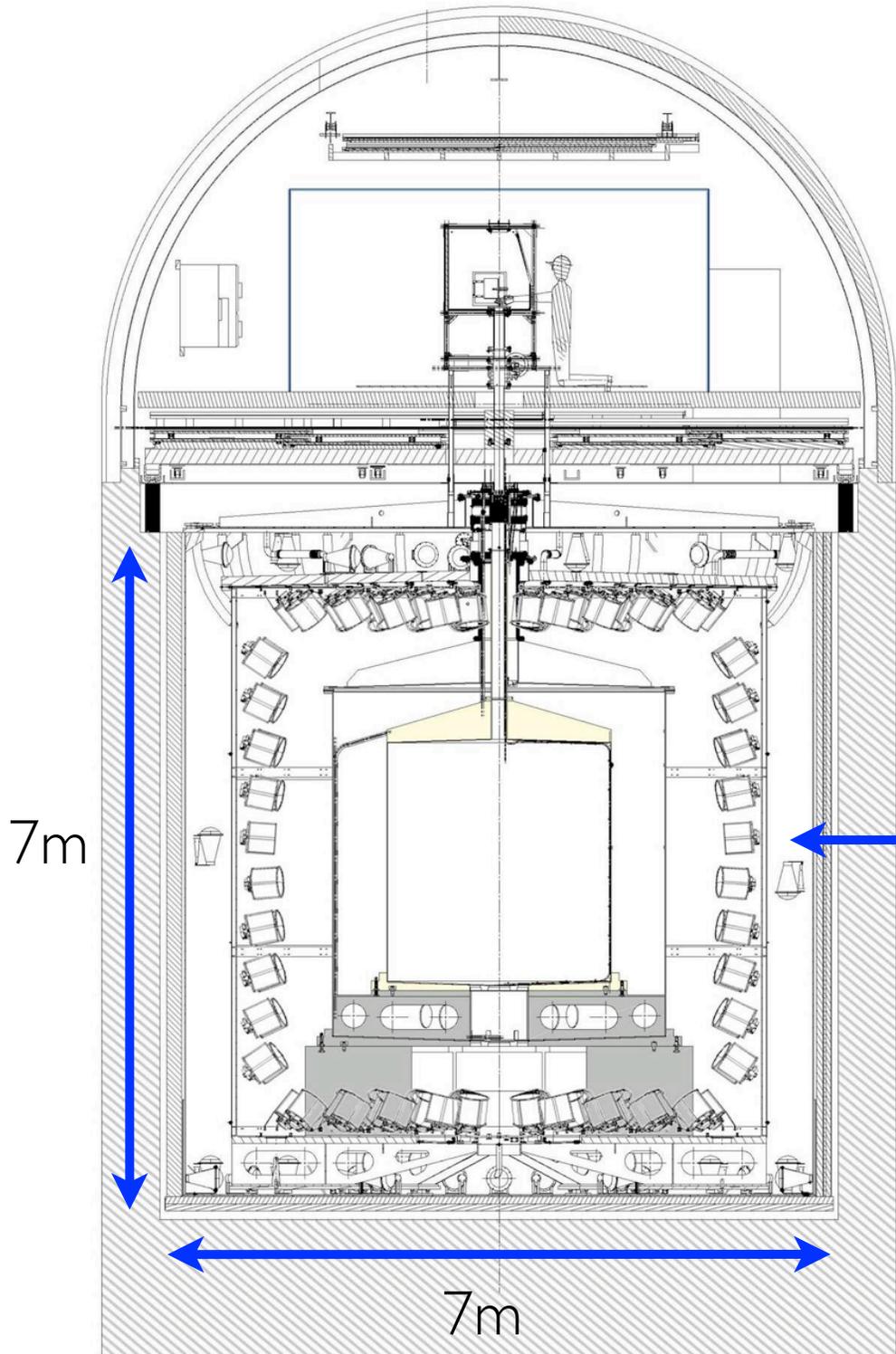


Drawing by A. Kaboth

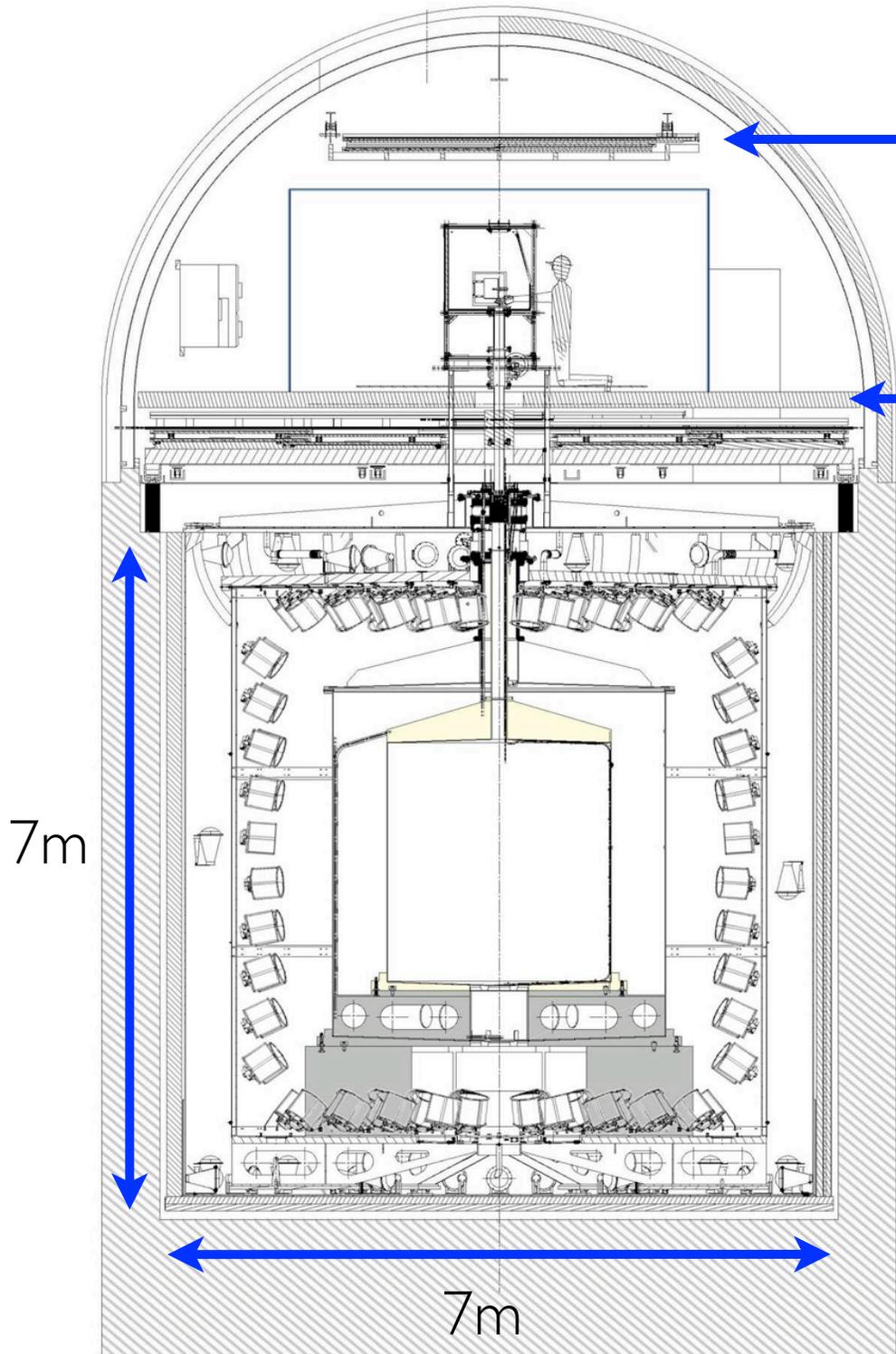
# The Signal: Inverse Beta Decay



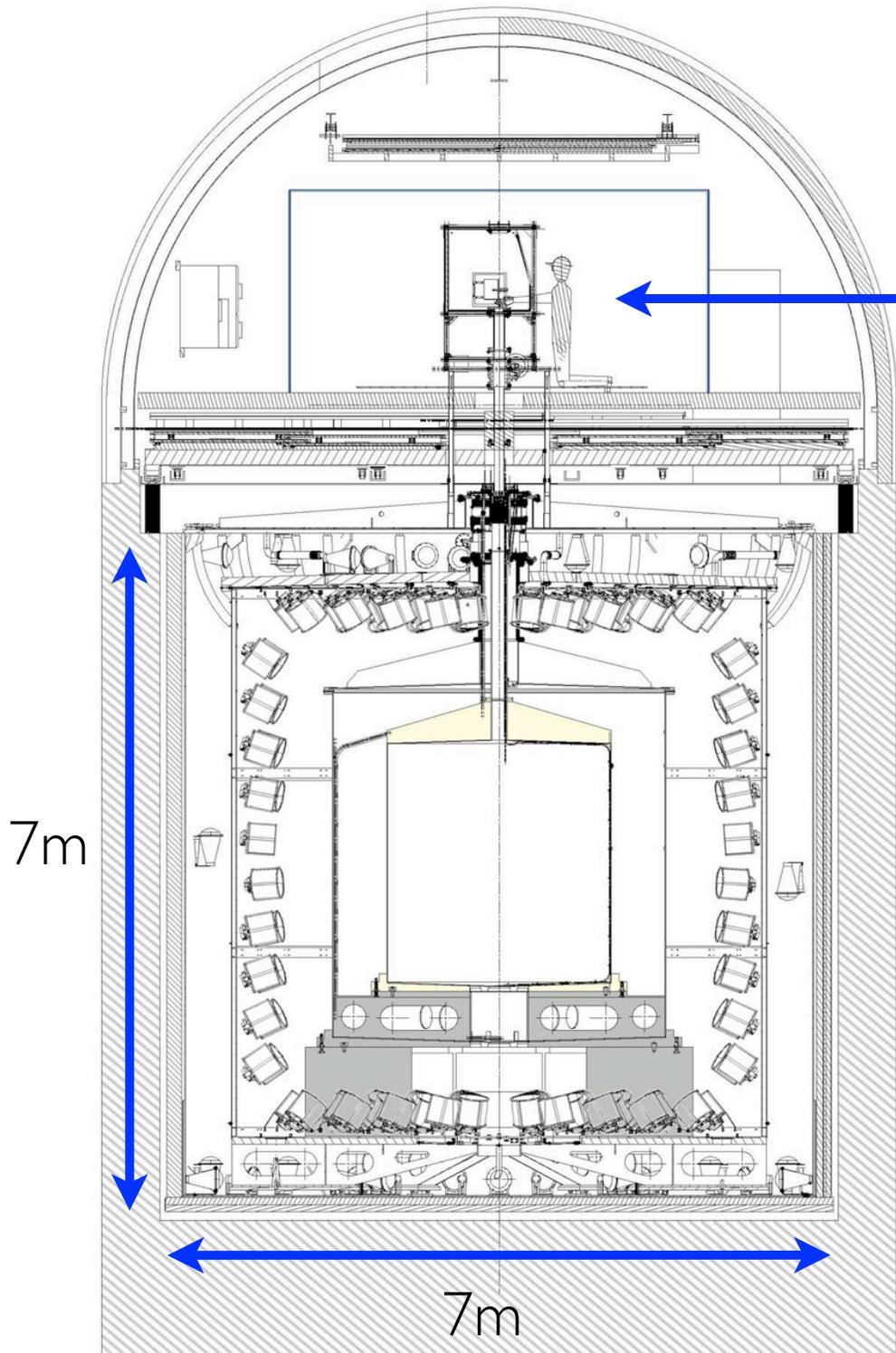




Inner Veto  
90 m<sup>3</sup> LAB Scintillator  
with  
78 8" PMTs



Outer Veto  
Precision muon  
tracking with plastic  
scintillator readout  
with fibers and multi-  
anode PMTs.

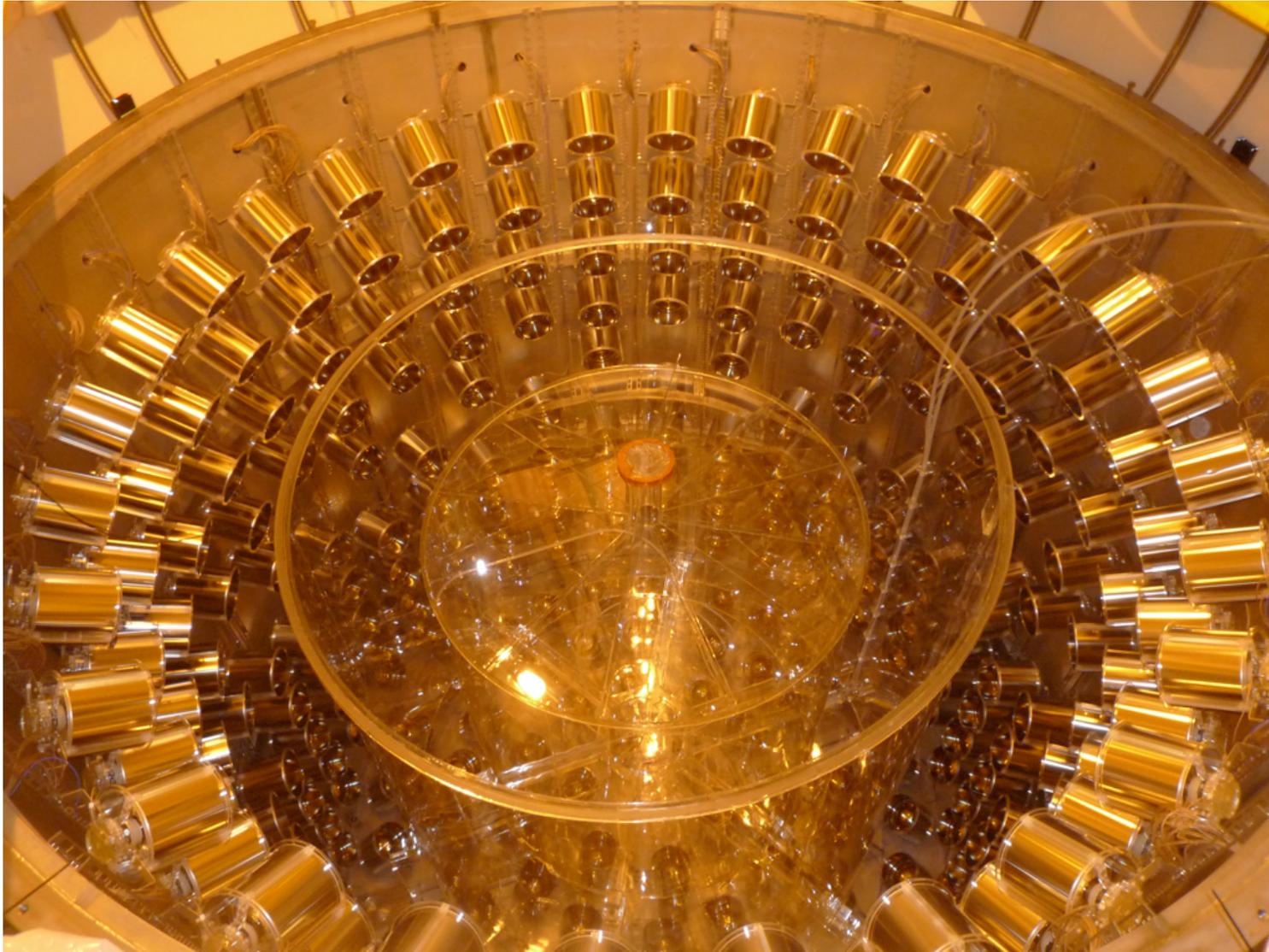


## Calibration Systems

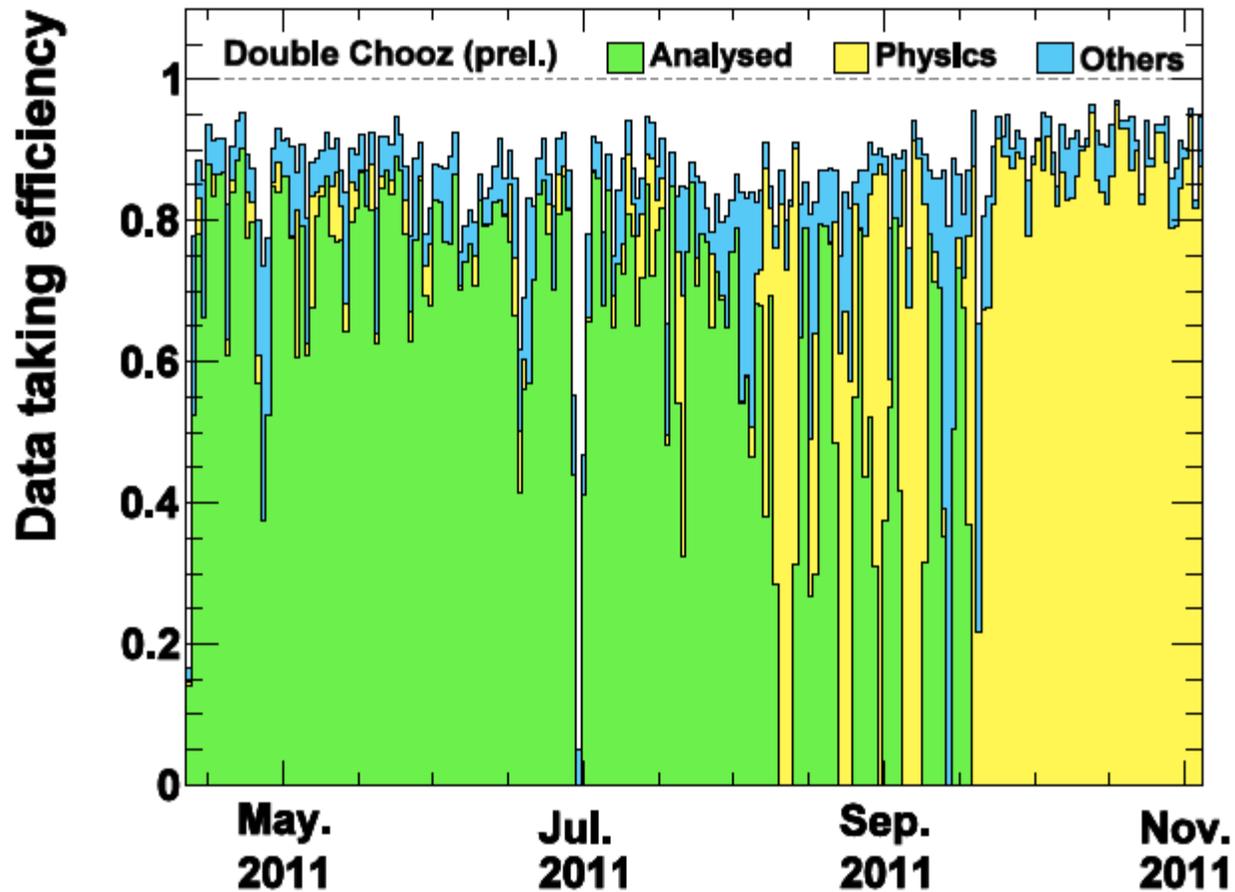
- Z-Axis
- Guide Tube in Gamma Catcher
- Buffer Tube
- Articulated Arm

**Most robust calibration plan among the reactor experiments.**

# View of the Acrylic Vessels:



# Collecting Data Since April 13:



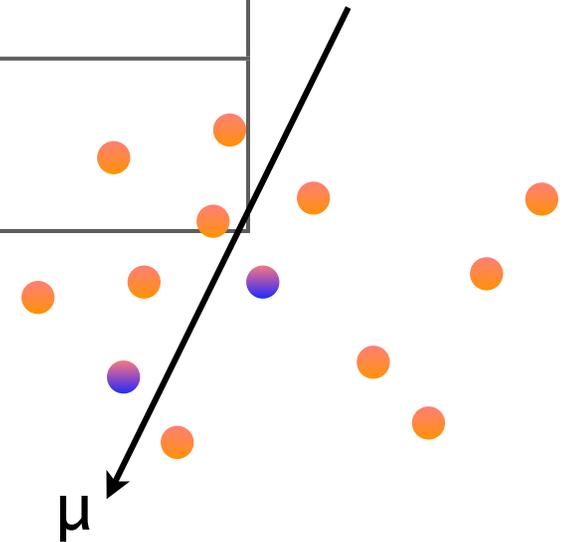
We see **4121** candidates in **96.8** live days.

# Background Summary:



	Events per Day
${}^9\text{Li}$	$2.3 \pm 1.2$
Fast-N + Stopped Muons	$0.83 \pm 0.38$
Accidental	$0.33 \pm 0.03$
Total	$3.46 \pm 1.29$
Candidates	42.6

We have 3.0% uncertainty due to the backgrounds, but they can be constrained in a Rate + Shape analysis.

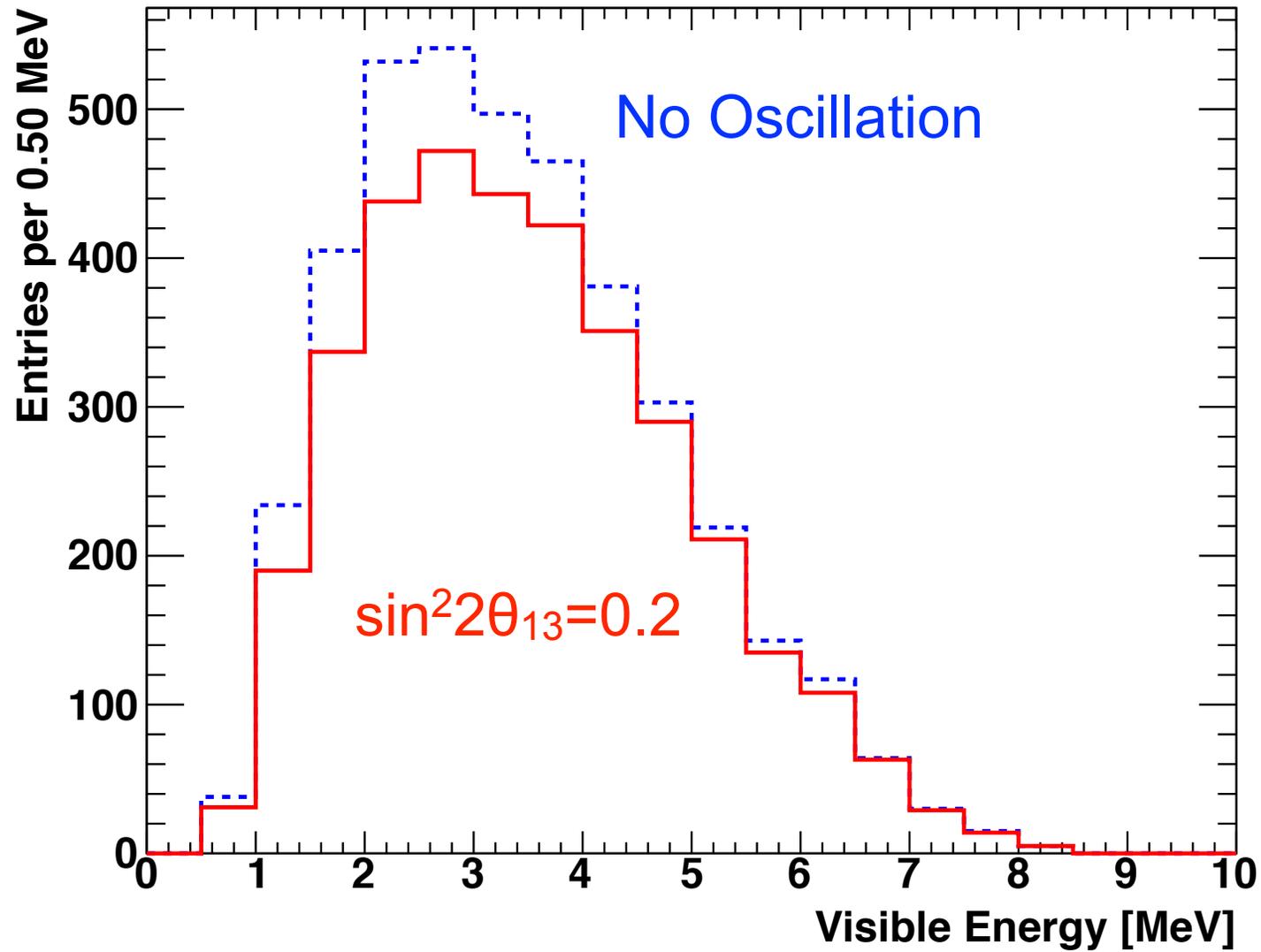


# **Reactor Off-Off, *great verification for first result!***



**Statistics 1.6%**  
**Reactor 1.7%**  
**Detector 1.1%**  
**Energy Scale 1.8%**  
**Backgrounds 3.0%**

# Example Prediction:



**Two ways to do the analysis:**

**Rate**

**or**

**Rate+Shape**



**Rate Only:**

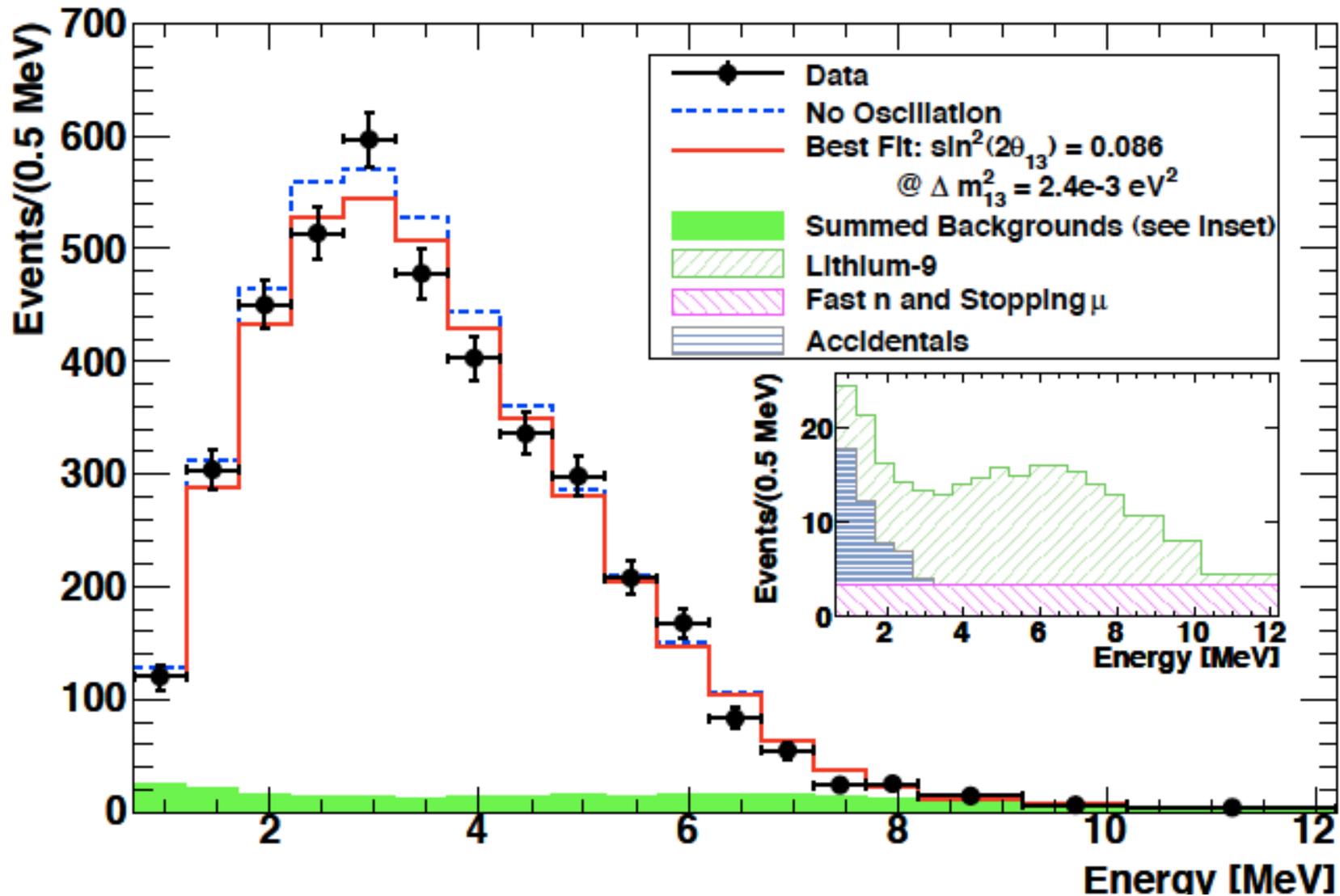
$$\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.104 \pm 0.081$$



# Rate + Shape

$$\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.086 \pm 0.051$$

$$\chi^2/\text{NDF} = 23.7/17$$



The other way is...

Appearance

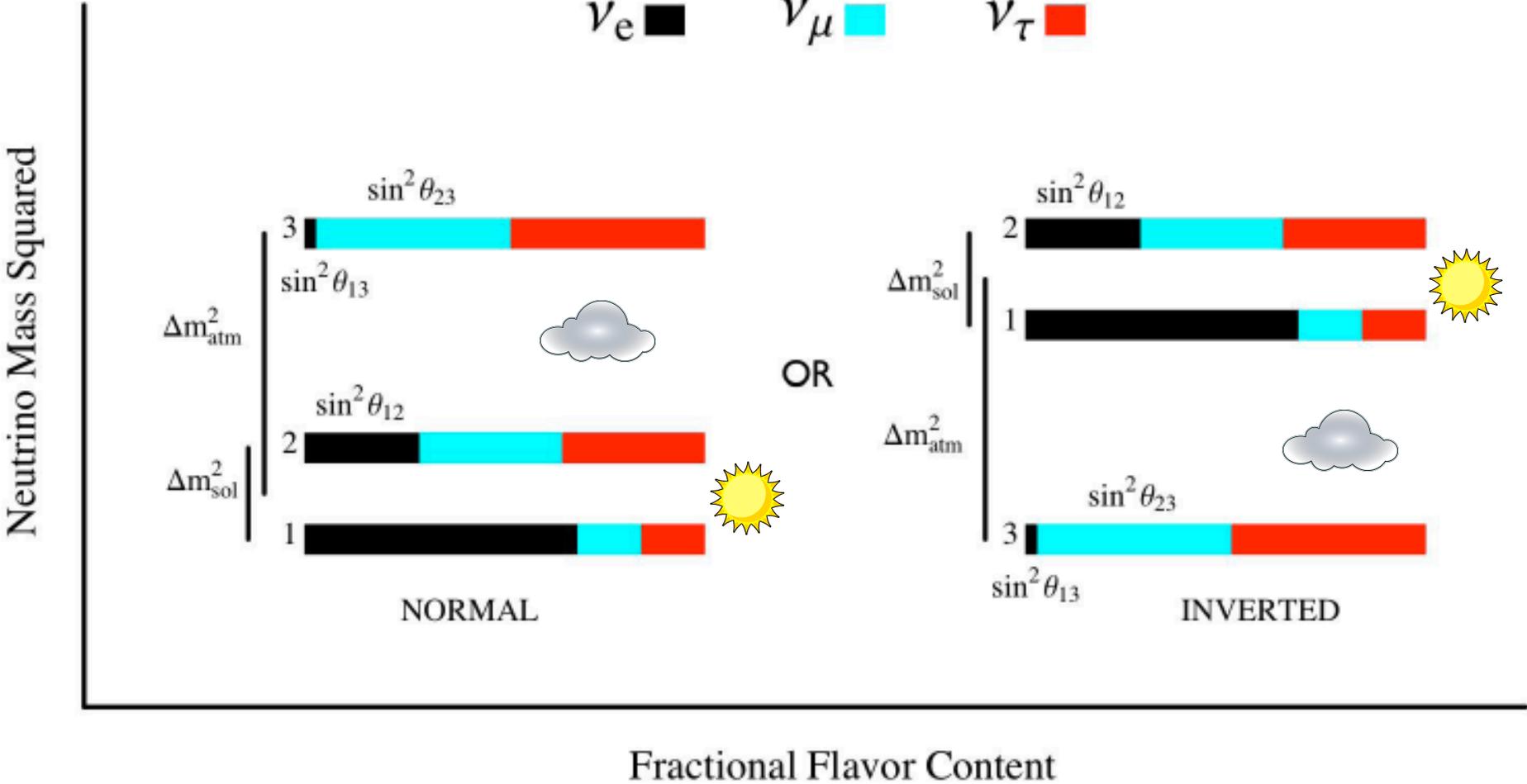
$$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{\text{mat}} = & \\
 & \sin^2 \theta_{23} \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \frac{\sin^2 (\Delta_{31} \mp aL)}{(\Delta_{31} \mp aL)^2} \Delta_{31}^2 \\
 & \mp \sin \delta \sin 2\theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{23} \sin 2\theta_{12} \sin \Delta_{31} \frac{\sin (\Delta_{31} \mp aL)}{(\Delta_{31} \mp aL)} \Delta_{31} \frac{\sin (aL)}{(aL)} \Delta_{21} \\
 & + \cos \delta \sin 2\theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{23} \sin 2\theta_{12} \cos \Delta_{31} \frac{\sin (\Delta_{31} \mp aL)}{(\Delta_{31} \mp aL)} \Delta_{31} \frac{\sin (aL)}{(aL)} \Delta_{21} \\
 & + \cos^2 \theta_{23} \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \frac{\sin^2 (aL)}{(aL)^2} \Delta_{21}^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

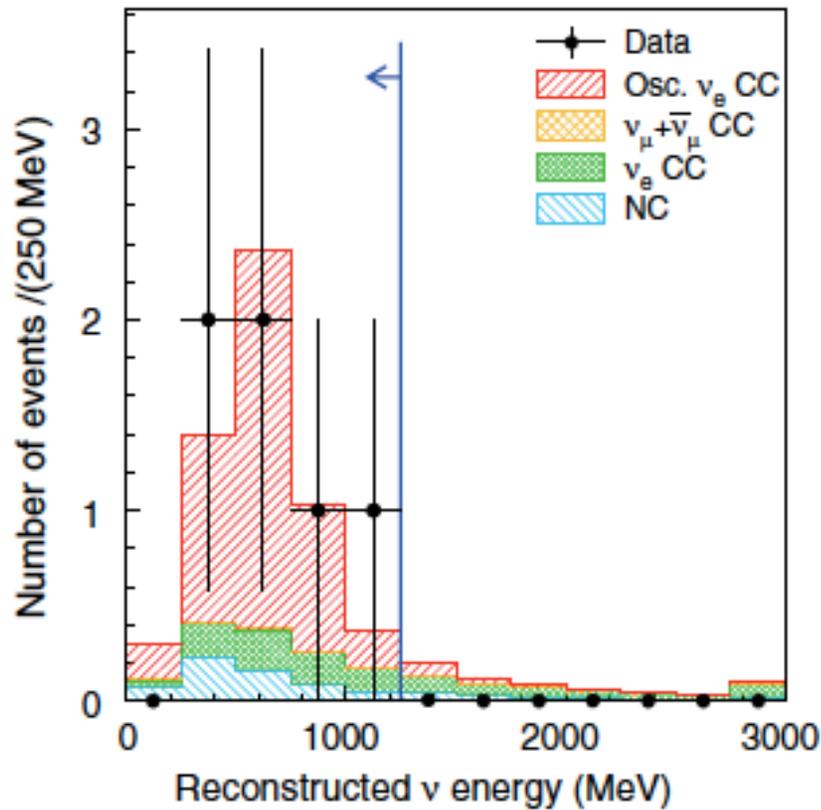
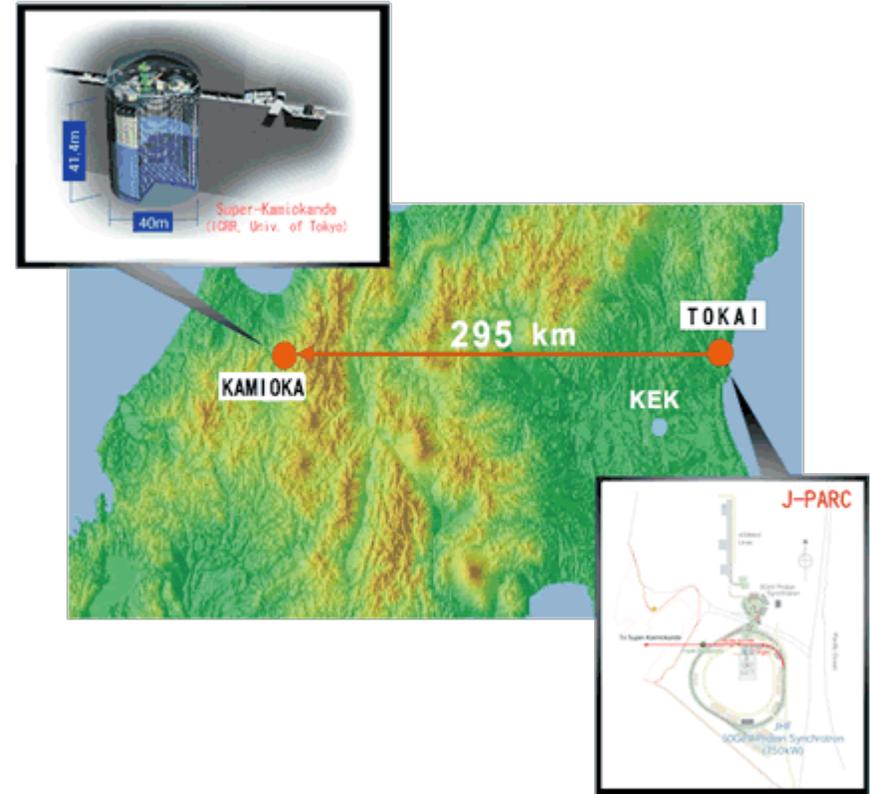
**$\theta_{13}$ , CP Violation, Mass Hierarchy, Oh My!**

# Mass Hierarchy?

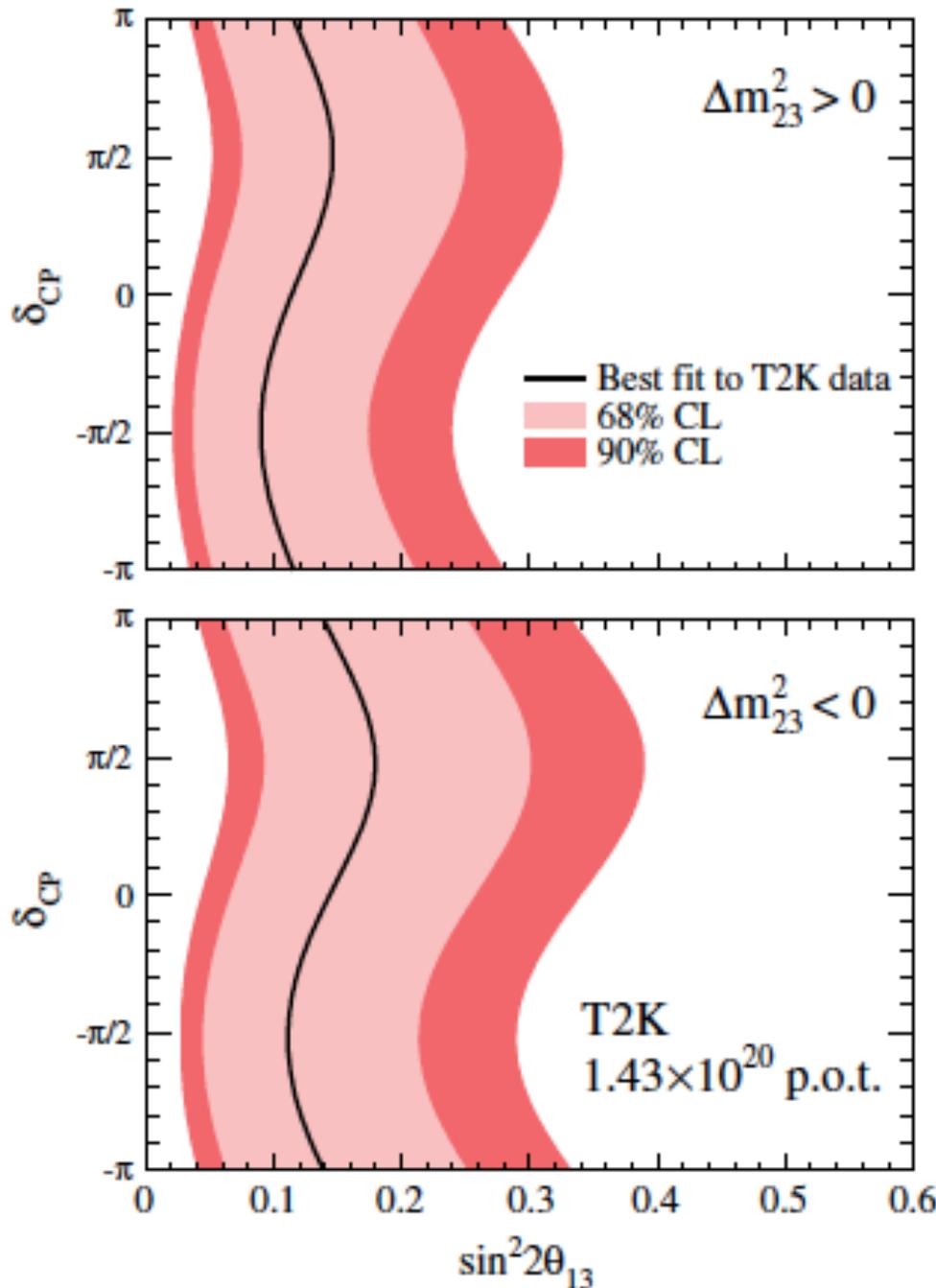
$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$



We are the strongest disappearance result to date. The strongest appearance result is from T2K.



# Plotting the T2K Result:

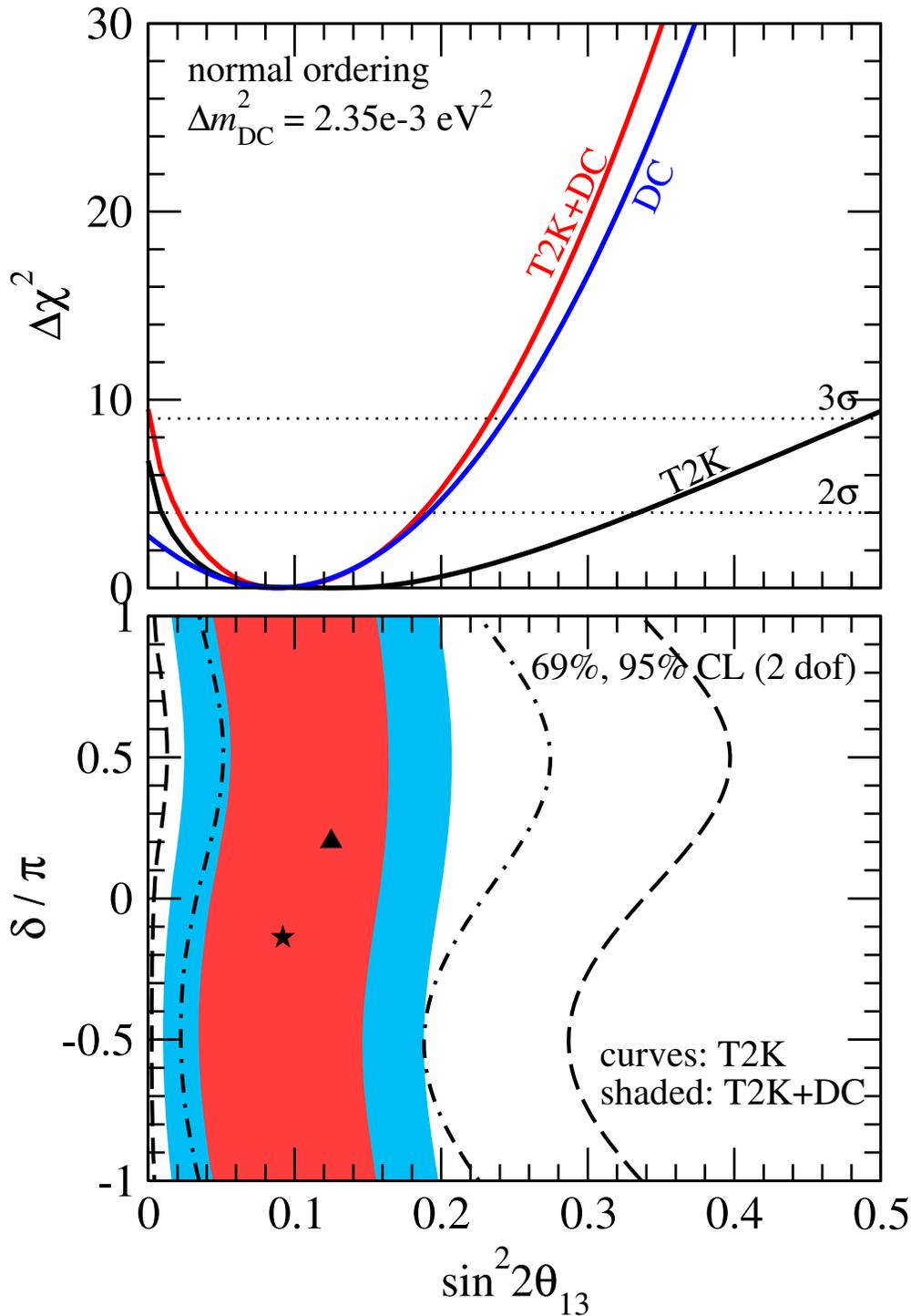


Normal hierarchy, allowed parameter space for mixing angle and CP phase.

Inverted hierarchy, allowed parameter space for mixing angle and CP phase.

*From now on, I will just show normal hierarchy....*

**There are NO systematics  
in common between T2K  
and Double Chooz.**

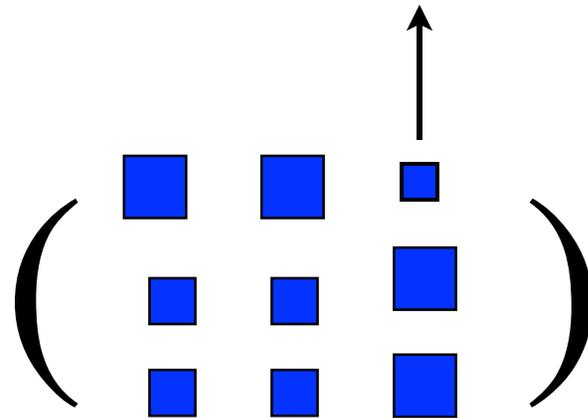


With just T2K+DC,  
 $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0$   
is ruled out at  $> 3\sigma$ .

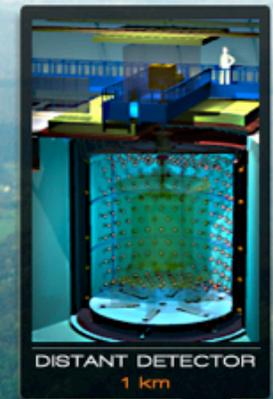
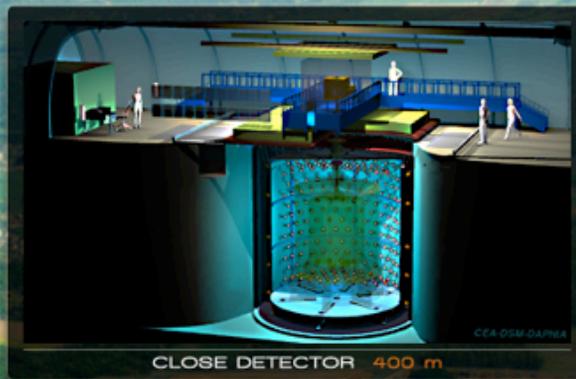
# Impact of the Double Chooz first result

- First in the new generation of reactor experiments.
- Provides strong bound at high  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$ .
- Compliments T2K's bound at low  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$ .
- When combined with T2K, pushes global fit to non-zero at  $3\sigma$ .
- For the first time, values for entries of this mixing matrix.

**Bigger than we  
thought!**



# Summer 2012 Construction Begins!



# The MIT Double Chooz Group: Analyses Today!

Lindley - Analysis of 300 day data sample

Josh - Lorentz violation analysis

Kazu - Analysis expanding the fiducial volume using nH captures

Chris - Writing his thesis on the reactor flux prediction

# reVolution

*You say you want a revolution  
Well, you know  
we all want to change the world.*

*You ask me for a contribution  
Well, you know  
We are all doing what we can*

# ReVolution

Pronunciation: /,revə'lu:ʃ(ə)n/

---

Overthrow in favor of a new system.

**Neutrinos are their own  
anti-particle i.e.  
Majorana?**

# The Majorana Neutrino Revolution:

I. Double Beta Decay

II. CUORE - My Next Experiment

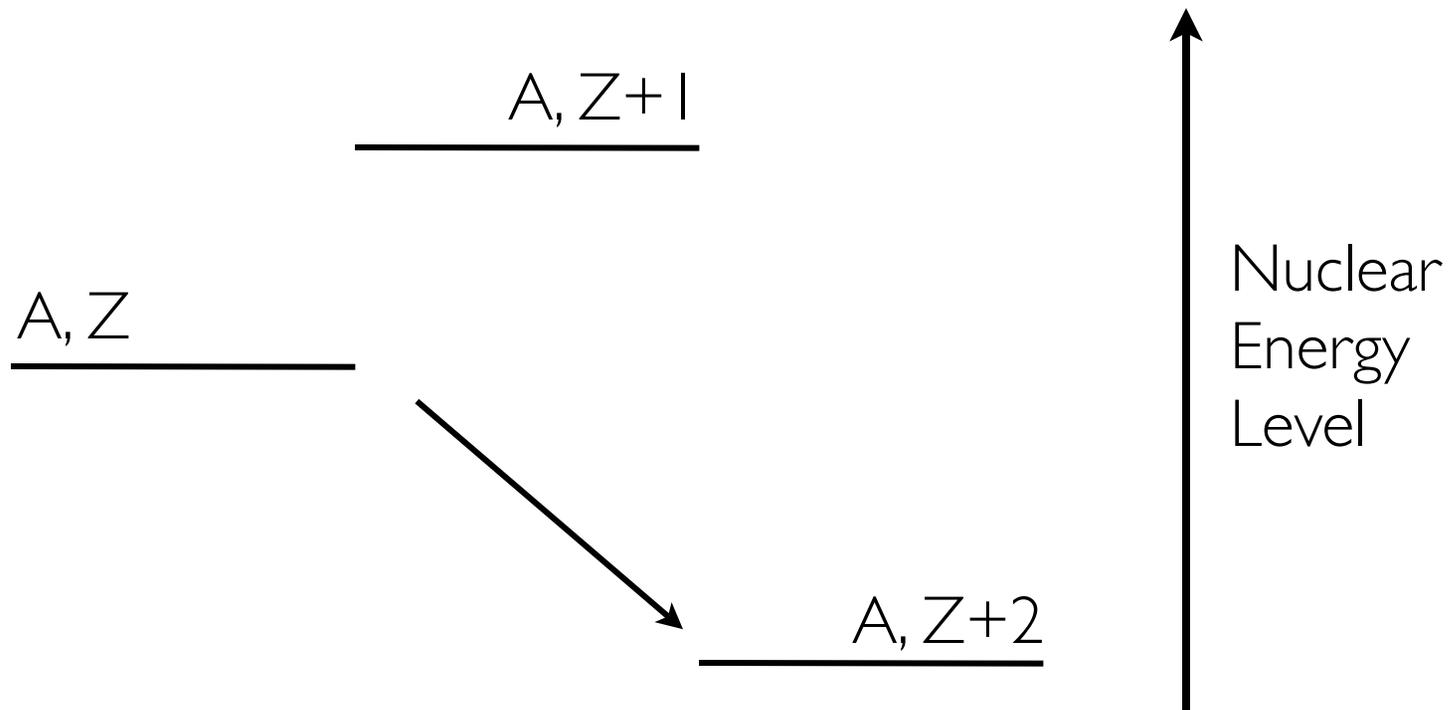
III. The Next Generation? - First results from quantum dots!

There is one process that is feasible for determining the Majorana nature of the neutrino.

**Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay**

# Double Beta Decay

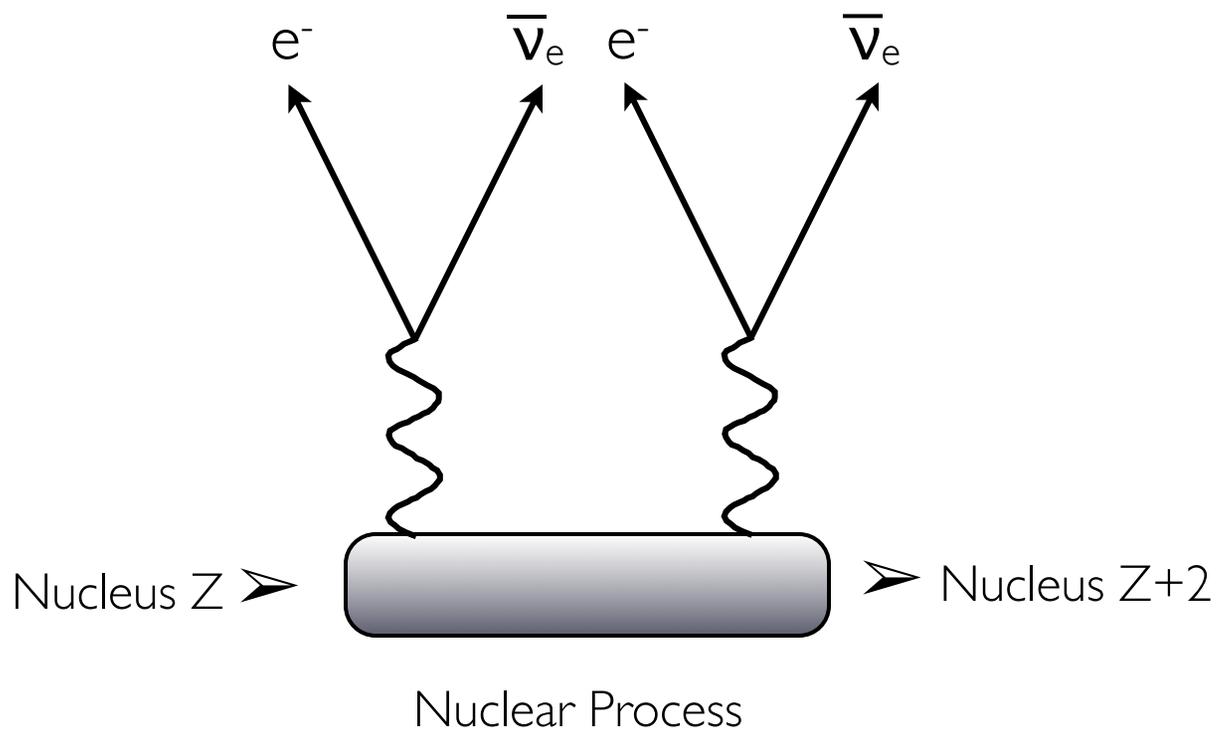
Due to energy conservation some nuclei can't decay to their daughter nucleus, but can skip to their granddaughter nucleus.



Just a few isotopes!

# The Standard Model Process

This process is completely allowed and the rate was first calculated by Maria Goeppert-Mayer in 1935.

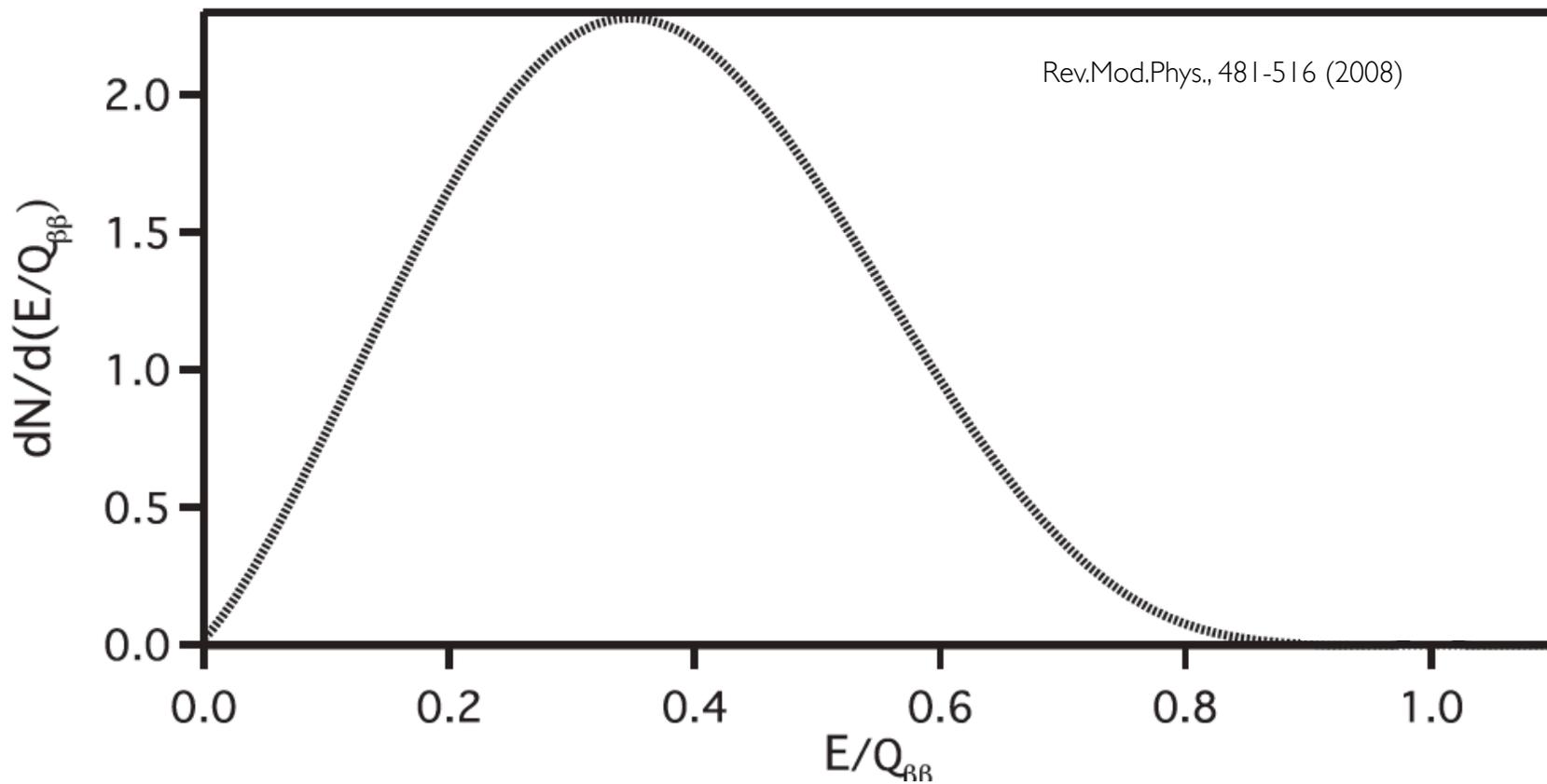


Phys. Rev. 48, 512-516 (1935)



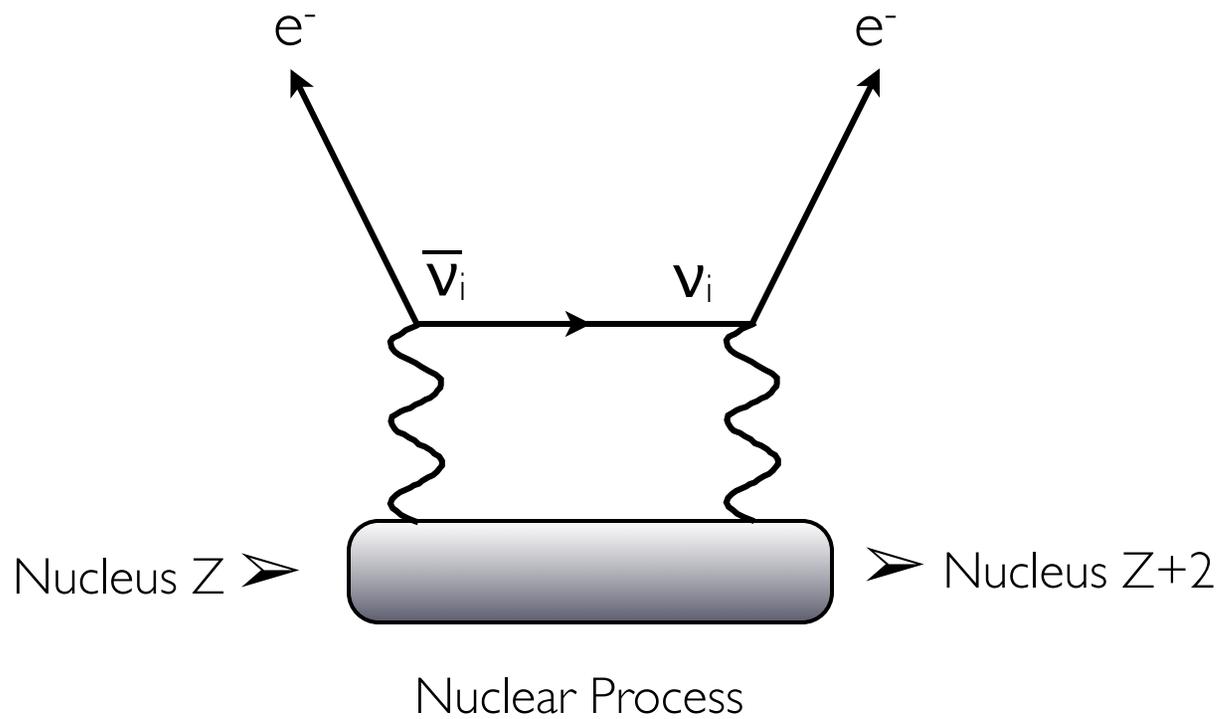
# Double Beta Decay

The sum of the electron energies gives a spectrum similar to the standard beta decay spectrum.



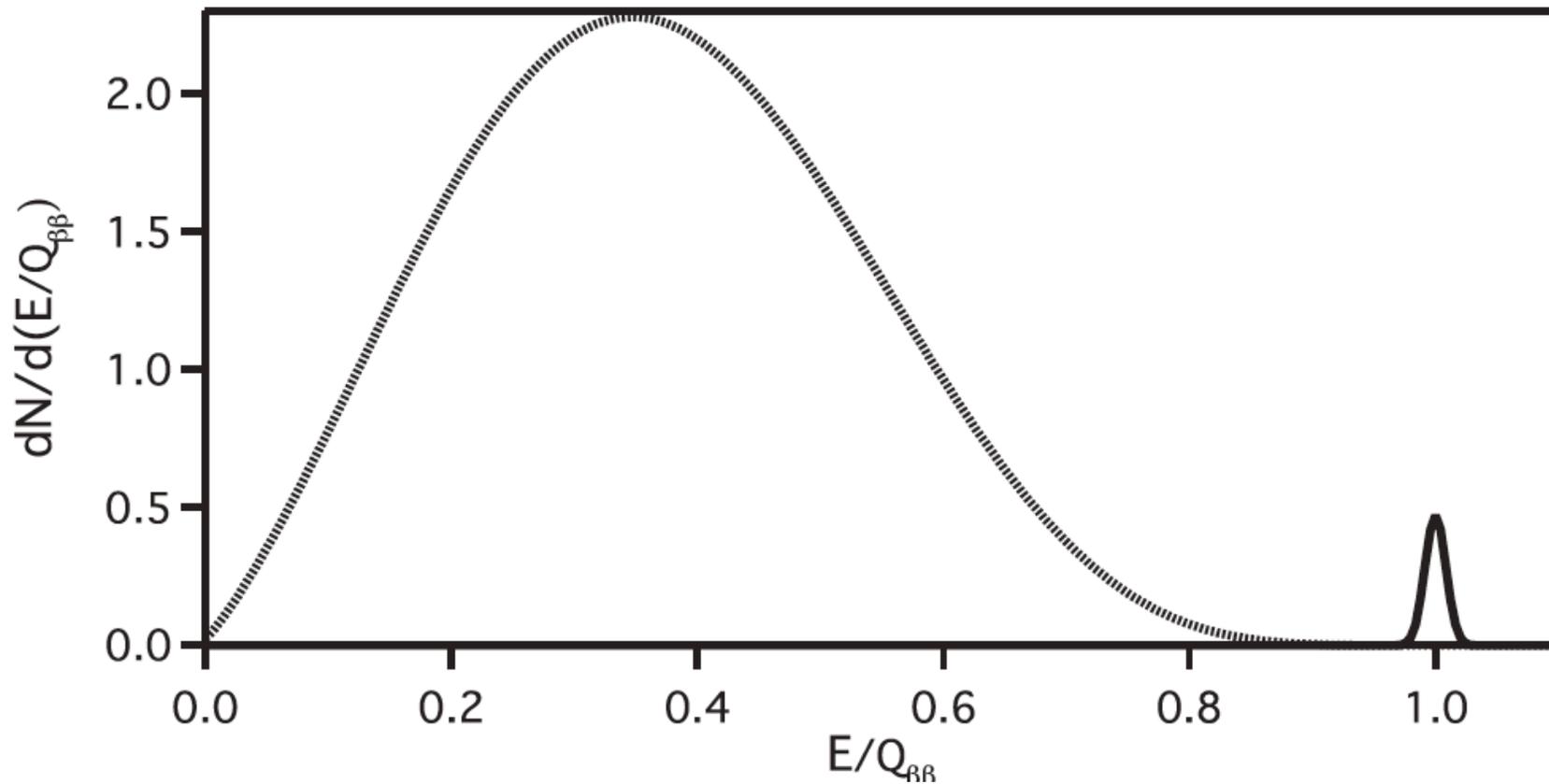
This has been observed in isotopes such as  $^{130}\text{Te}$  and  $^{116}\text{Cd}$ .

# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay



# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

The sum of the electron energies gives a spike at the endpoint of the “neutrino-full” double beta decay.



# What is measured is a half-life...

The half-life of the neutrinoless decay:

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2$$

Phase space factor

Notice higher endpoint means faster rate.

## What is measured is a half-life:

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2$$



Nuclear Matrix Element

This is a difficult calculation with large errors and substantial variation between isotopes...motivates searches with multiple isotopes.

## What is measured is a half-life:

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2$$



Effective Majorana Mass of  
the neutrino

## Effective Majorana Mass:

$$m_{ee} = \sum V_{ei}^2 m_i = \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1 e^{2i\beta} \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2 e^{2i\alpha} \sin^2 \theta_{12}) + m_3 \sin^2 \theta_{13}$$

ooh... look  $\theta_{13}$  !

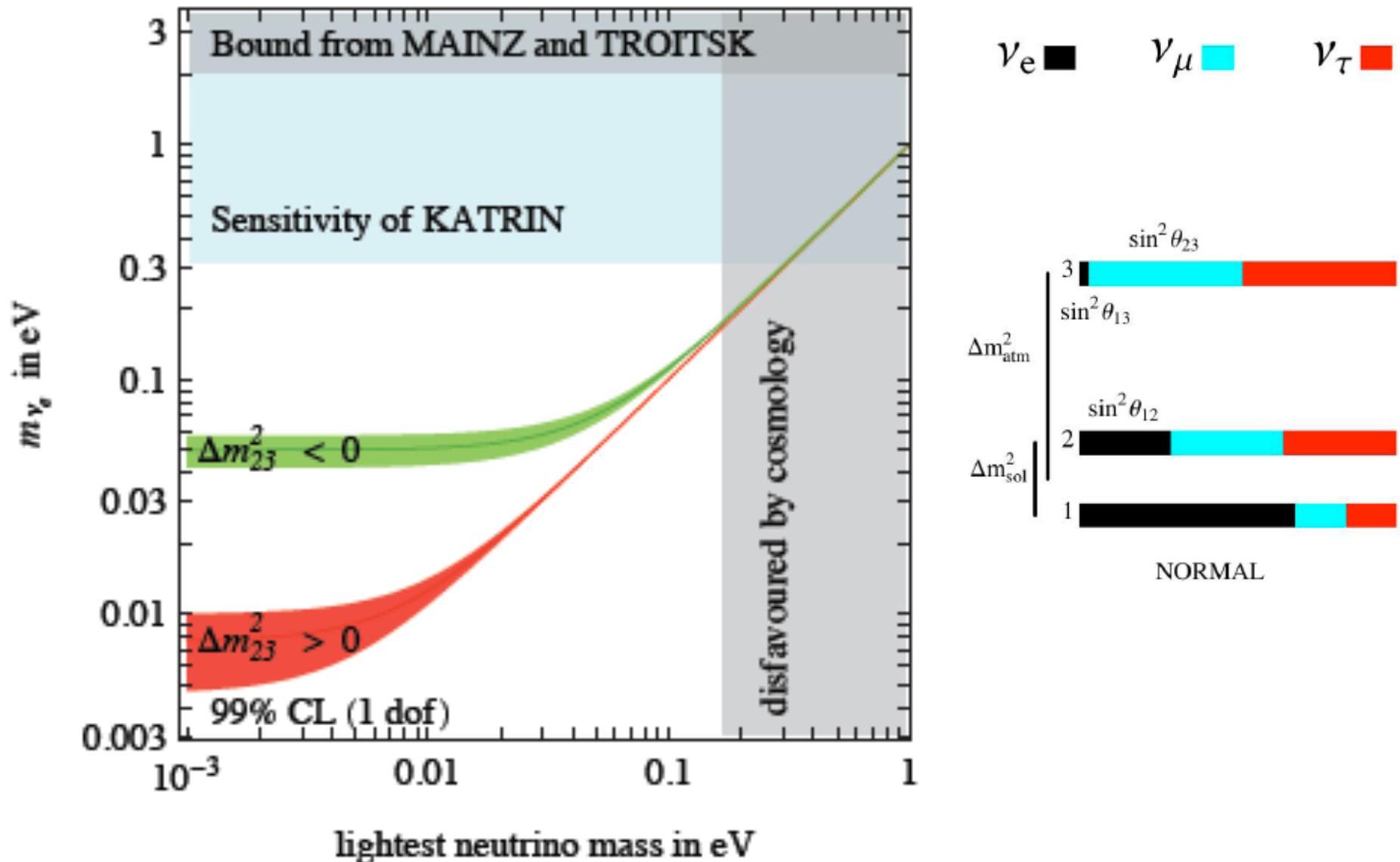
## Electron Neutrino Mass:

$$m_{\nu_e}^2 \equiv \sum_i |V_{ei}^2| m_i^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1^2 \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2^2 \sin^2 \theta_{12}) + m_3^2 \sin^2 \theta_{13}$$

measured by KATRIN

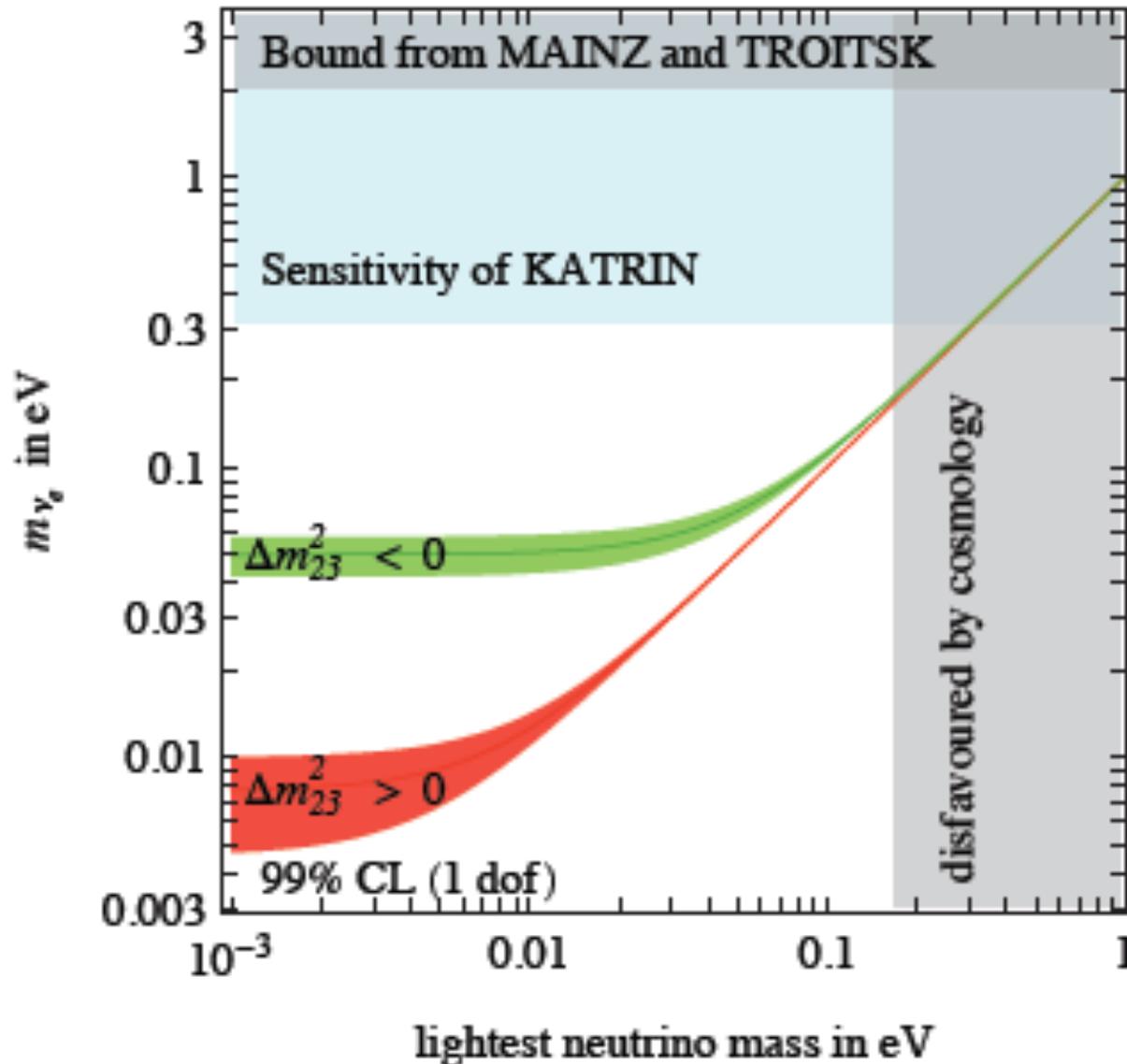
# Visualizing the Equations:

$$m_{\nu_e}^2 \equiv \sum_i |V_{ei}^2| m_i^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1^2 \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2^2 \sin^2 \theta_{12}) + m_3^2 \sin^2 \theta_{13}$$

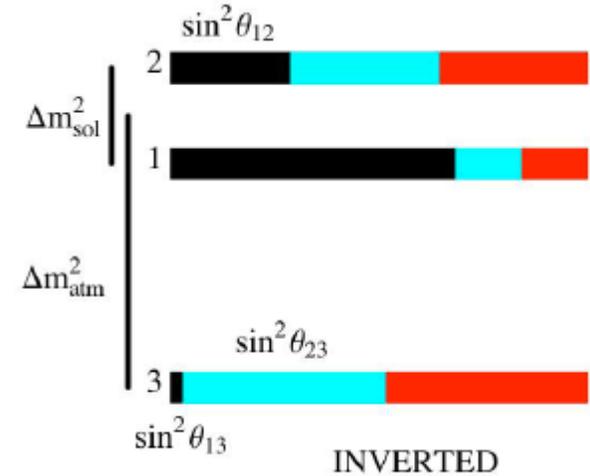


# Visualizing the Equations:

$$m_{\nu_e}^2 \equiv \sum_i |V_{ei}^2| m_i^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1^2 \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2^2 \sin^2 \theta_{12}) + m_3^2 \sin^2 \theta_{13}$$



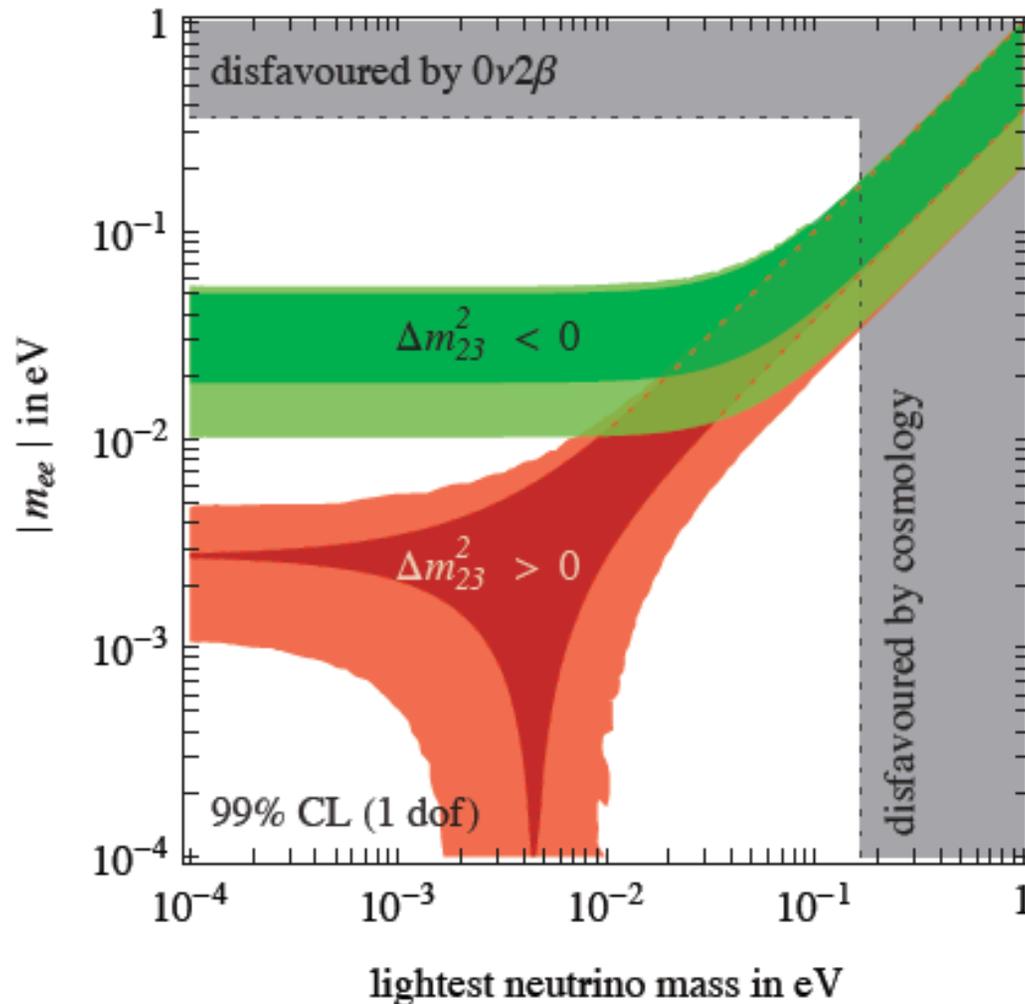
$\nu_e$  ■  $\nu_\mu$  ■  $\nu_\tau$  ■



# Double Beta Decay Visualizing the Equations:

$$m_{ee} = \sum V_{ei}^2 m_i = \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1 e^{2i\beta} \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2 e^{2i\alpha} \sin^2 \theta_{12}) + m_3 \sin^2 \theta_{13}$$

[arXiv:hep-ph/0606054v3](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0606054v3)



# Design Issues:

## Size

- Natural Abundance
- Detector technology

## Backgrounds

*(2.6 MeV is the highest energy U/Th gamma ray)*

- Energy of endpoint
- Cleanliness
- Particle/Event identification

## Energy resolution

## Pick your favorite candidate isotope.....

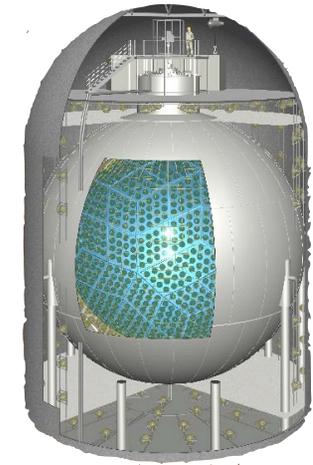
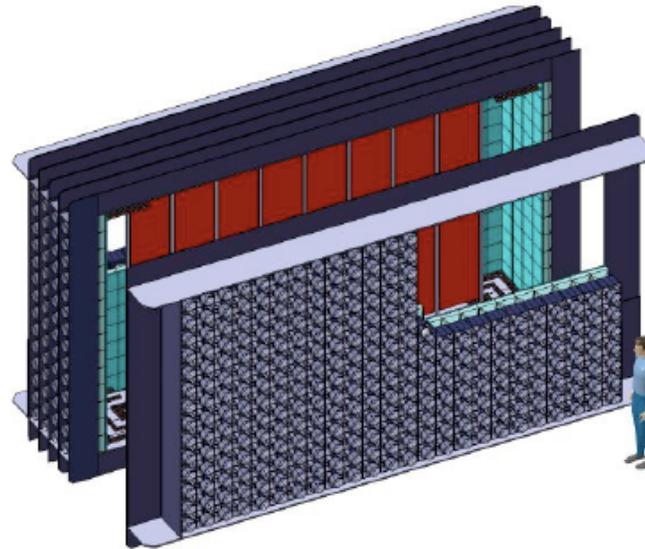
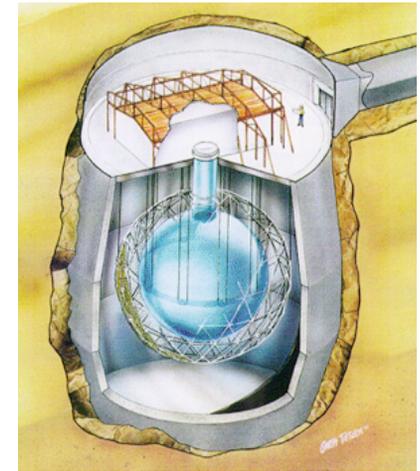
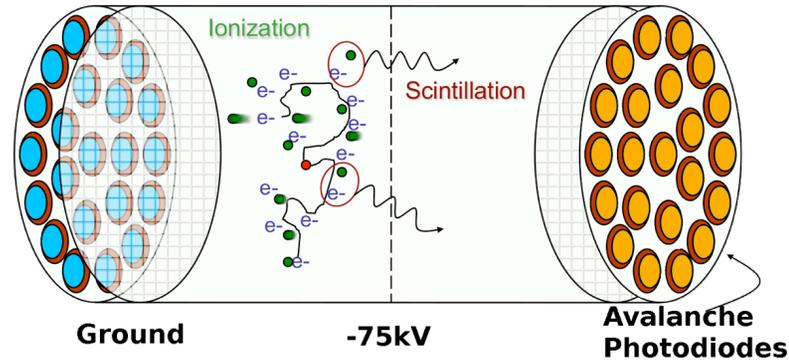
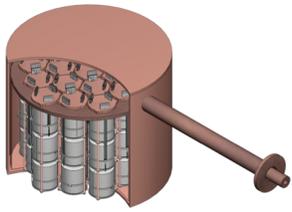
<b>Isotope</b>	<b>Endpoint</b>	<b>Abundance</b>
$^{48}\text{Ca}$	4.271 MeV	0.0035%
$^{150}\text{Nd}$	3.367 MeV	5.6%
$^{96}\text{Zr}$	3.350 MeV	2.8%
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	3.034 MeV	9.6%
$^{82}\text{Se}$	2.995 MeV	9.2%
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	2.802 MeV	7.5%
$^{130}\text{Te}$	2.533 MeV	34.5%
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	2.479 MeV	8.9%
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	2.039 MeV	7.8%
$^{128}\text{Te}$	0.868 MeV	31.7%

## Pick your favorite candidate isotope.....

Isotope	Endpoint	Abundance
$^{48}\text{Ca}$	4.271 MeV	0.0035%
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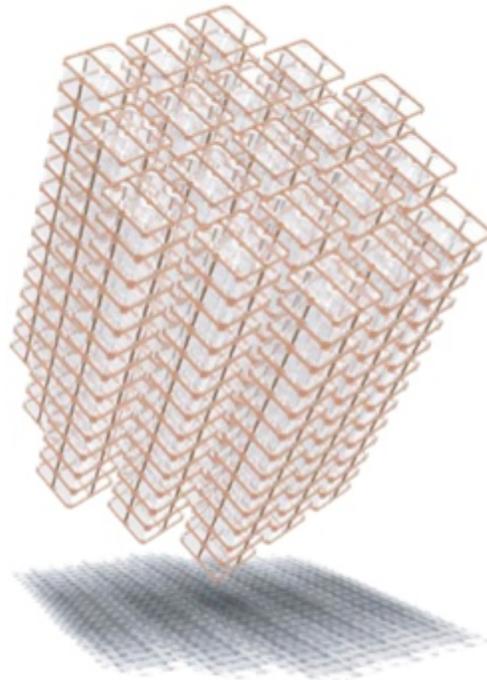
**Lower Background!** ↑

# An explosion of technology!



*Because of the sensitivity needed almost all experiments have the source = detector.*

# CUORE



Super Cool and a Big Deal

# Super cool

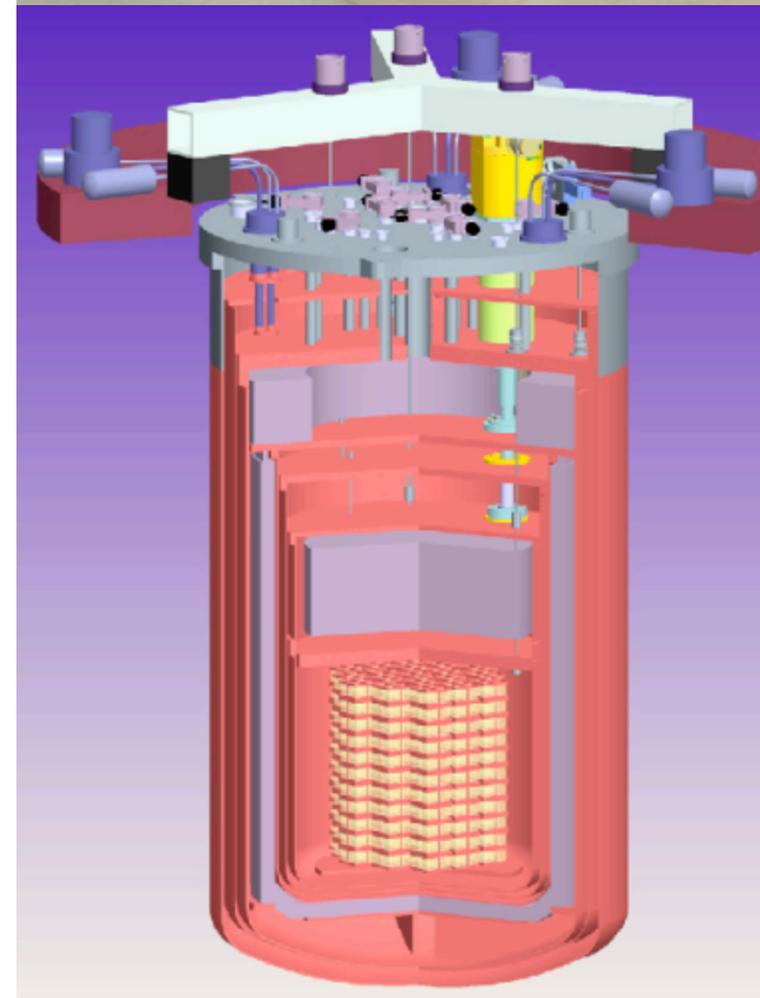
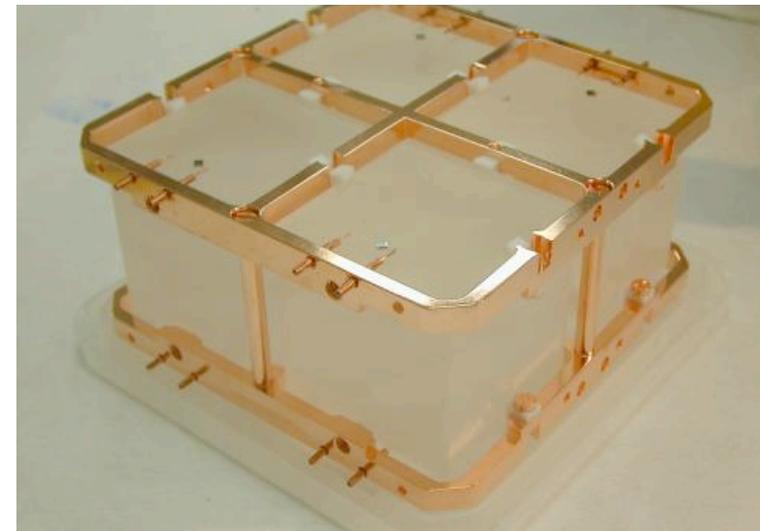
TeO<sub>2</sub> crystals operated as bolometers in a dilution refrigerator at approximately ~10mK.

bolometer = temperature measurement

# Big Deal

Largest detector currently under construction, 750kg with 206 kg of <sup>130</sup>Te.

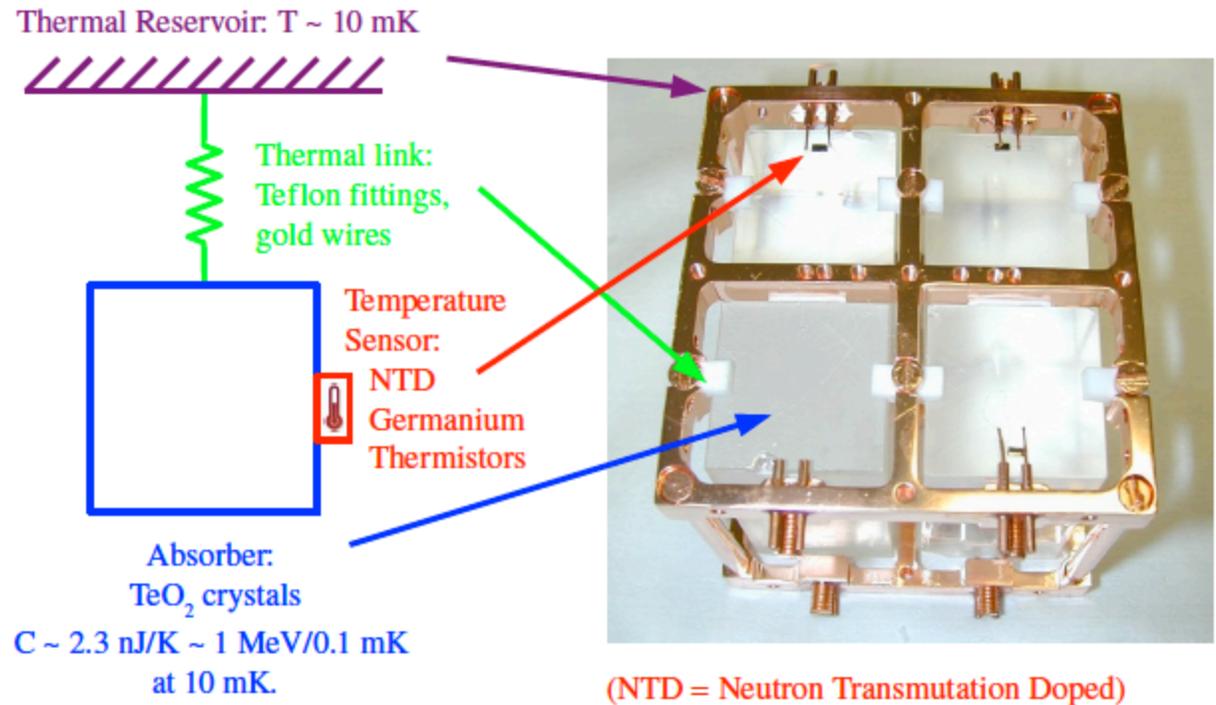
Next largest are EXO and KamLAND Xen with 140kg and 129kg of <sup>136</sup>Xe respectively.



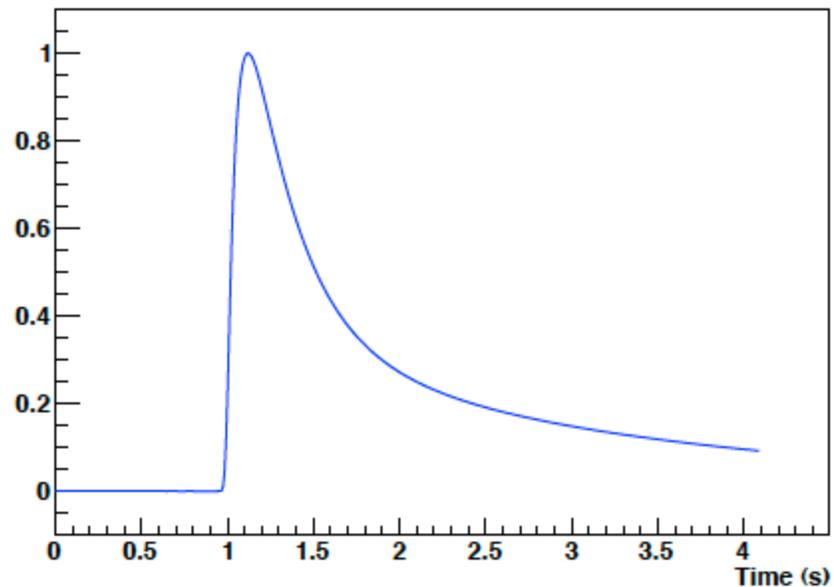
TeO<sub>2</sub> crystals are in a dilution refrigerator at approximately ~10mK.

A very sensitive thermometer glued onto the crystal is used to measure the heat generated by the energy deposition.

The peak pulse height is proportional to the energy, but it's not very fast.



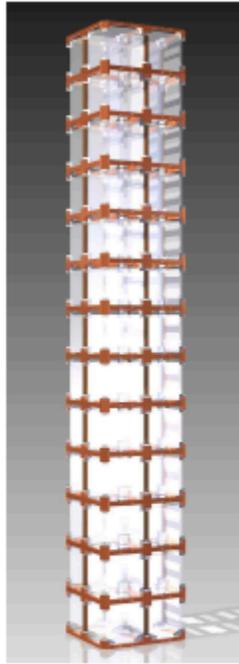
Average pulse



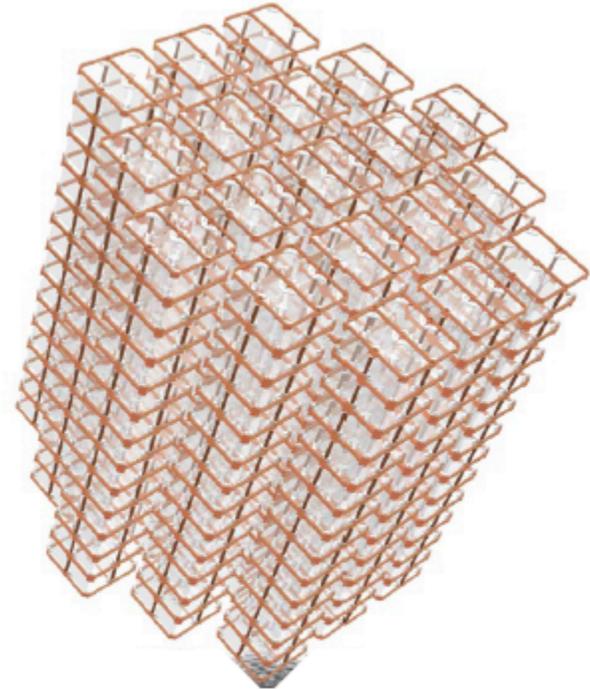
# The Next Generation of Bolometer Experiments:



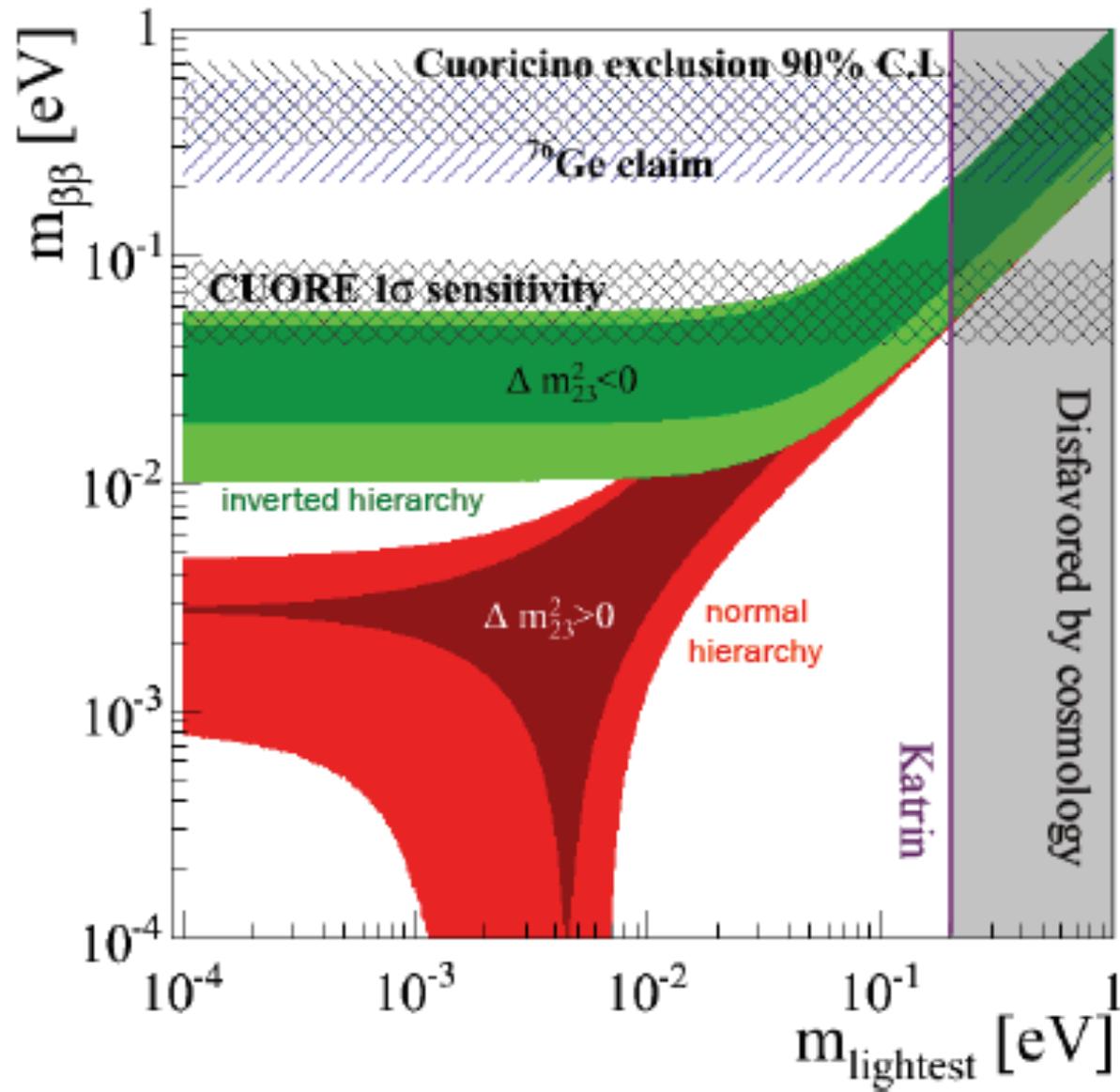
**Cuoricino**  
2003–2008  
11 kg  $^{130}\text{Te}$



**CUORE-O**  
2012–2014  
11 kg  $^{130}\text{Te}$



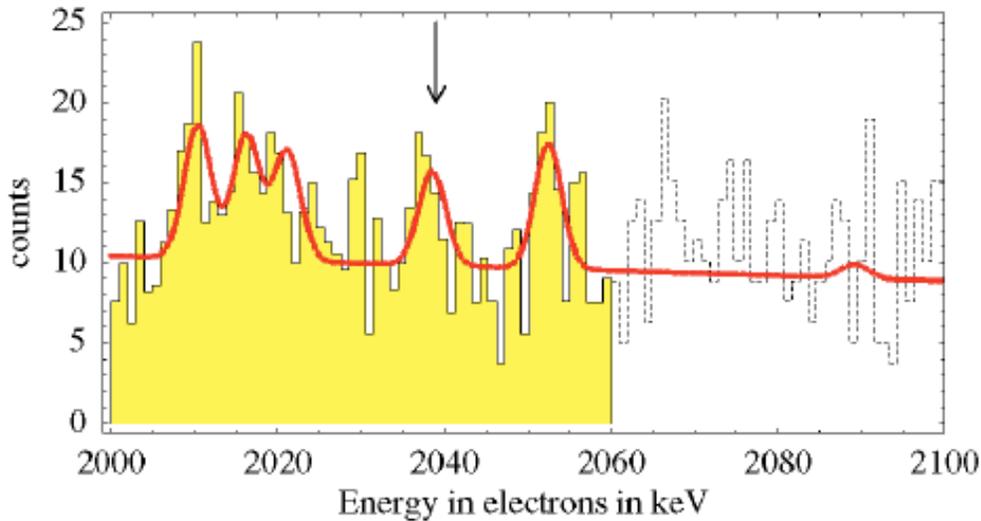
**CUORE**  
2013–2018  
206 kg  $^{130}\text{Te}$



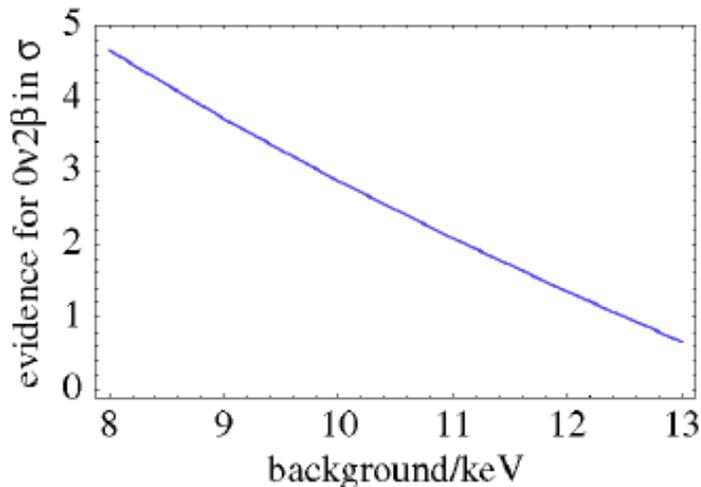
This is the only experiment currently under construction that pushes into the inverted hierarchy.

# The Controversial Signal

Heidelberg-Moscow Experiment using  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ .....

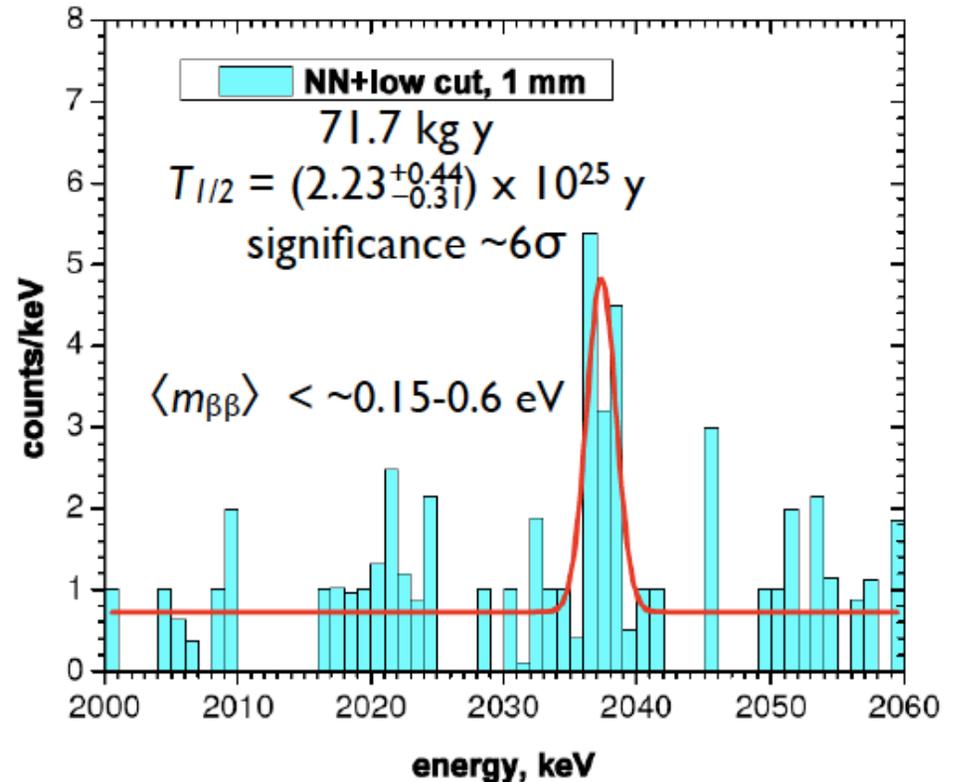


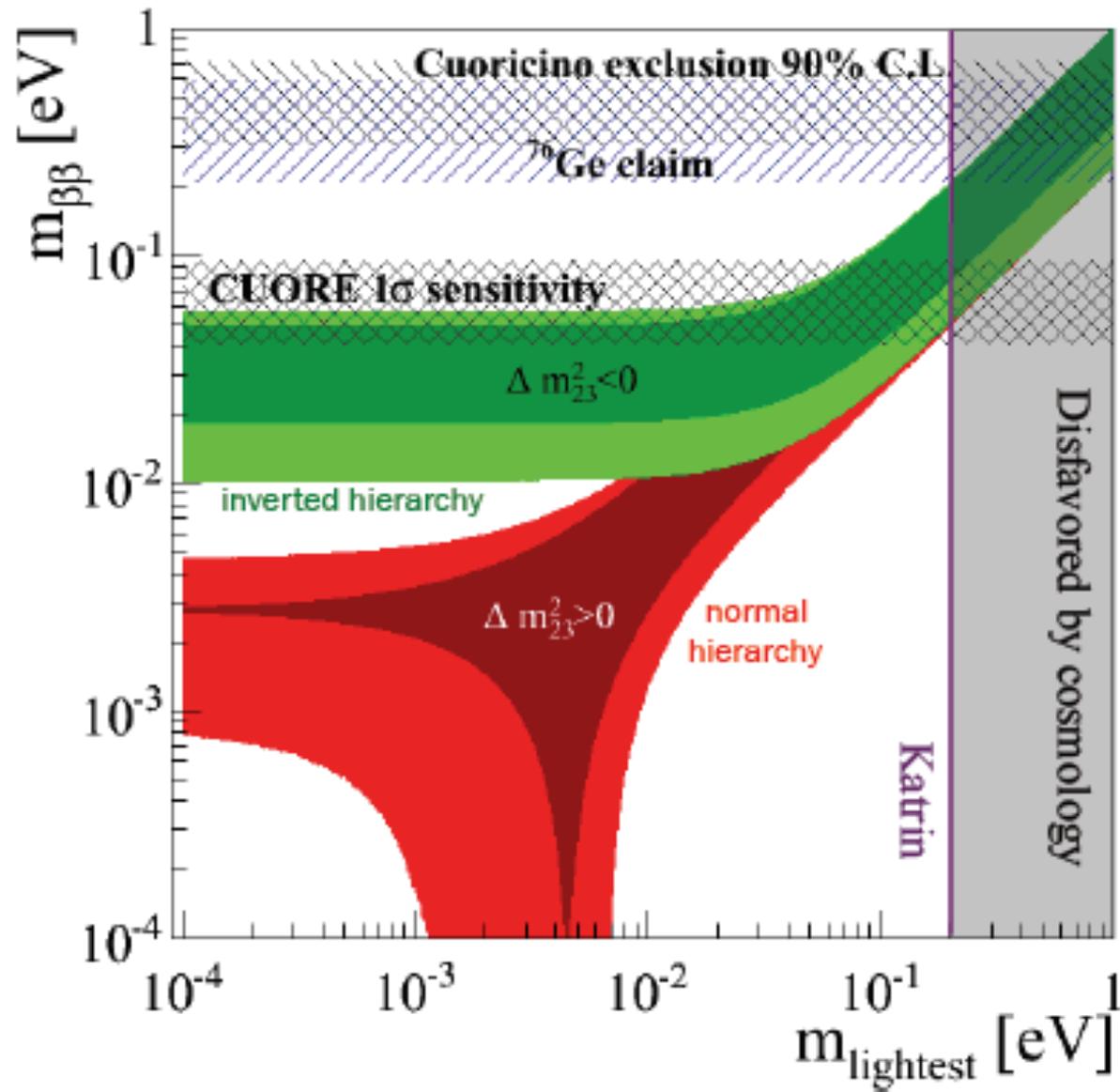
From: Nuclear Physics B 726 (2005) 294–316



Final Analysis of the data using more advanced techniques makes the measurement almost background free.

Klapdor Kleingrothaus *et al.*, *Mod. Phys. Lett. A* **21** (2006) p 1547.



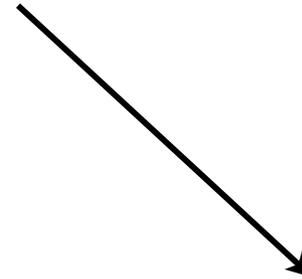


This is the only experiment currently under construction that pushes into the inverted hierarchy.

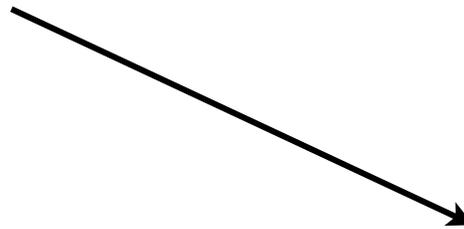
If CUORE sees something by 2020



Go after more rare processes to determine whether its the “vanilla” standard model or new physics.



If another experiment sees something and CUORE doesn't



If no experiments see a signal.



**Bigger  
Cleaner  
Better  
Detector**

# First Results from

v.



**Because v's are worth it.**

## Characterizing Quantum-Dot-Doped Liquid Scintillator for Applications to Neutrino Detectors

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Lindley Winslow<sup>a,\*</sup> and Raspberry Simpson<sup>a</sup>

*<sup>a</sup>Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
77 Massachusetts Ave Cambridge, MA 02139, USA  
E-mail: lwinslow@mit.edu*

**ABSTRACT:** Liquid scintillator detectors are widely used in modern neutrino studies. The unique optical properties of semiconducting nanocrystals, known as quantum dots, offer intriguing possibilities for improving standard liquid scintillator, especially when combined with new photodetection technology. Quantum dots also provide a means to dope scintillator with candidate isotopes for neutrinoless double beta decay searches. In this work, the first studies of the scintillation properties of quantum-dot-doped liquid scintillator using both UV light and radioactive sources are presented.

**KEYWORDS:** Scintillators; Large detector systems for particle and astroparticle physics; Particle identification methods.

---

\*Corresponding author.

**Available at  
arXiv:1202.4733**

# What are Quantum Dots?

Quantum Dots are semiconducting nanocrystals.

Most of the time a shell of organic molecules is used to suspend them in an organic solvent (toluene) or water.



# Why are they so popular?

Because of their small size, their electrical and optical properties are more similar to atoms than bulk semiconductors.

In fact, the optical properties of quantum dots with diameter  $< 10\text{nm}$  is completely determined by their size.



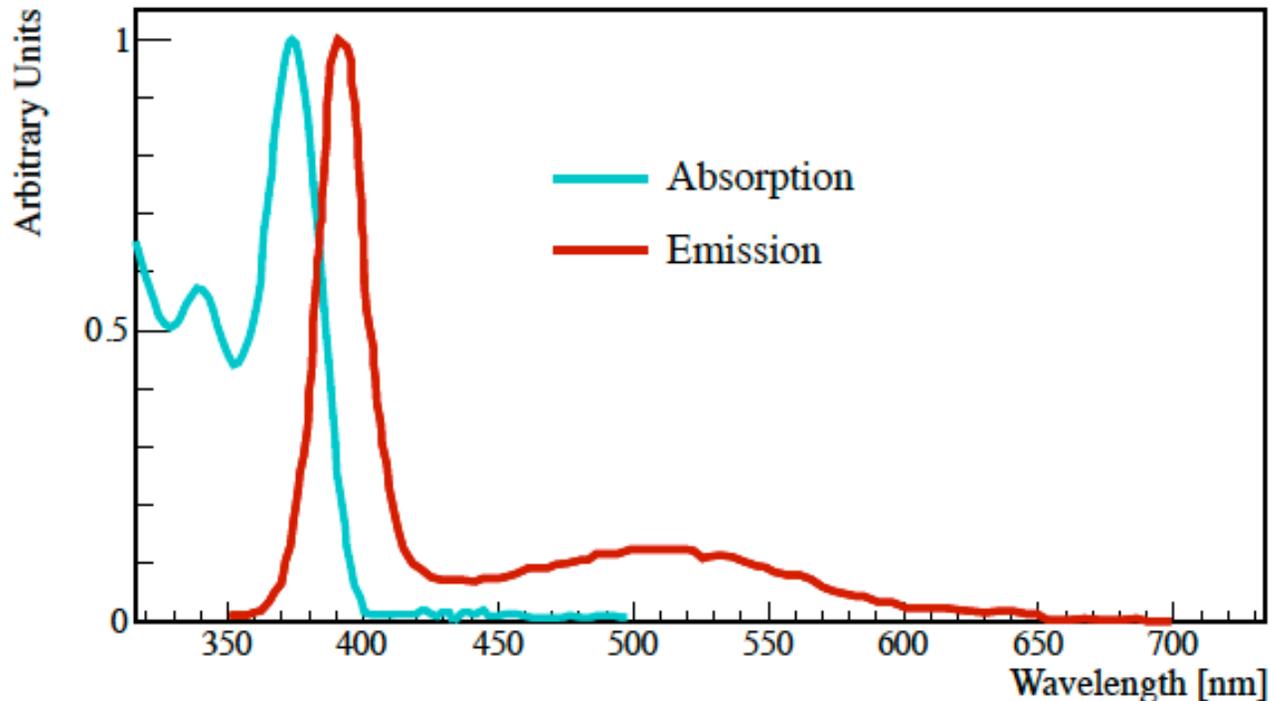
**Finally:**

Their synthesis allows precise control of the size of the quantum dots.

**Can use them to make  
any wavelength of light  
that you want!**

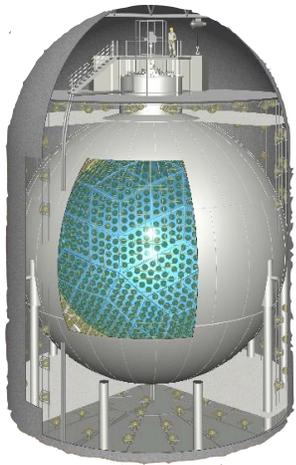
## Example CdS Quantum Dot Spectra:

These are 400nm dots made from CdS. They absorb all light shorter than 400nm and re-emit it in a narrow resonance around this wavelength.



**Other types of quantum dots include CdSe, CdTe, and ZnS....**

# What can quantum dots do for neutrino experiments especially neutrinoless double beta decay?



Reminder: liquid scintillator makes light when charged particles go through it, and we know how to make very large liquid scintillator detectors.

# What can quantum dots do?

Perfectly tune the wavelength of your scintillator's emission

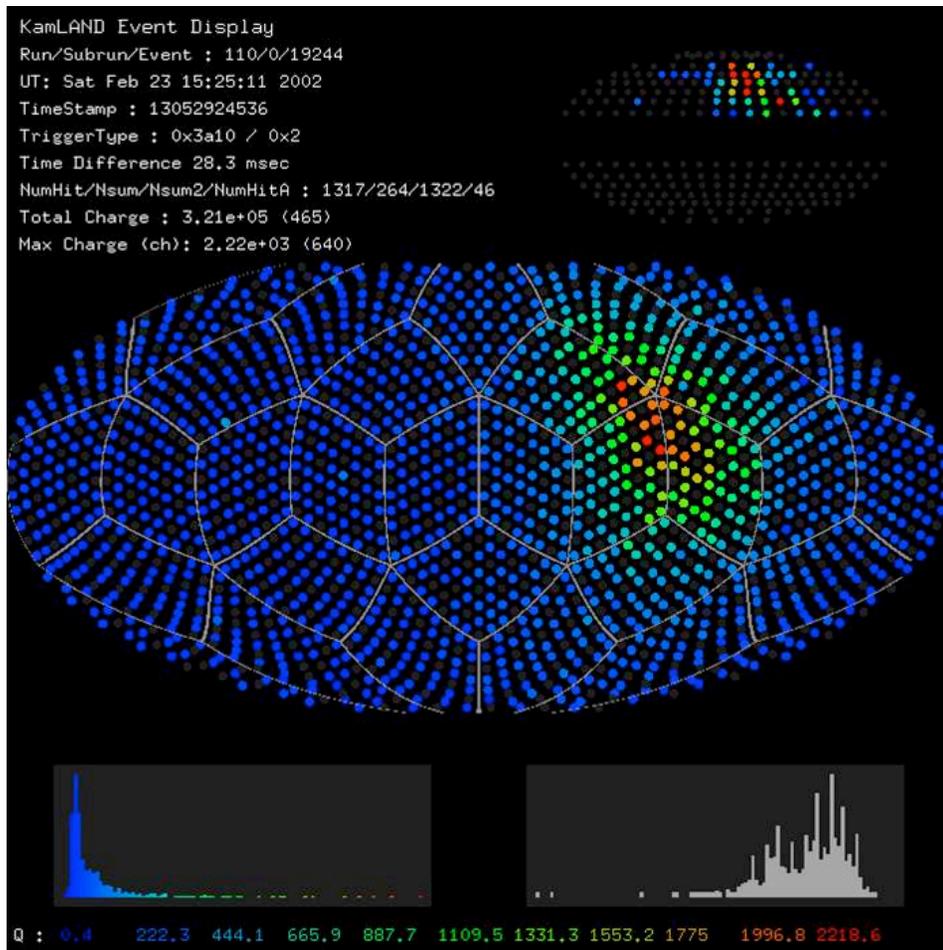
- Increases total light collected by photomultiplier tubes.
- Match photo-cathode efficiency of new devices.

An example of a new devices being design by the LAPPD collaboration (Large Area Picosecond Photodetectors). Such a device could be made cheaper than a PMT, covers more area, and improves timing resolution by an order of magnitude.

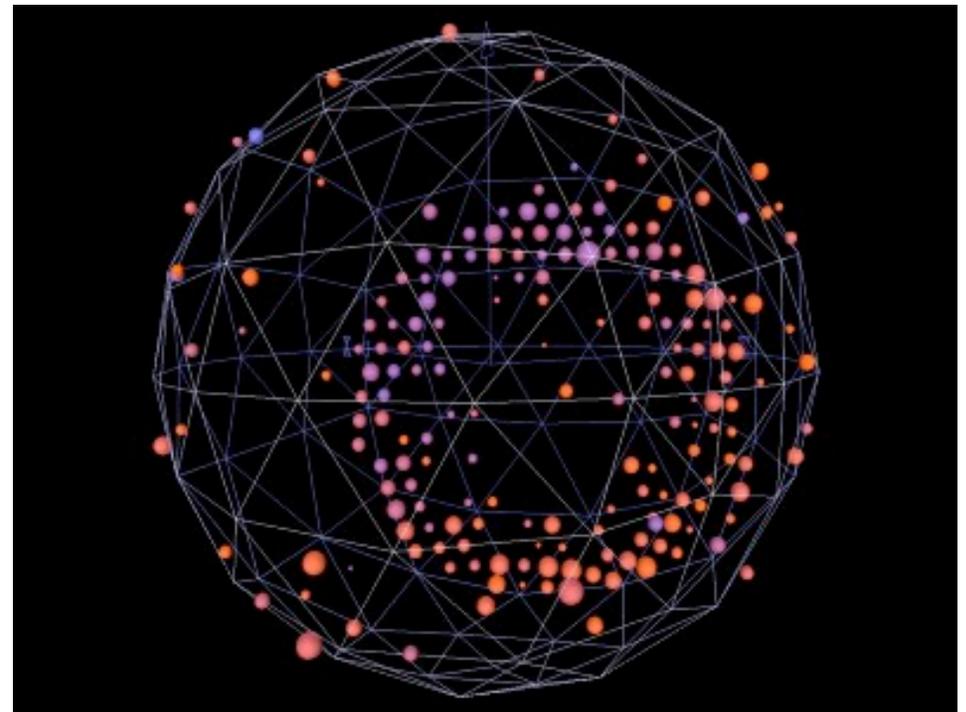


# Remember:

Scintillator detectors still have Cerenkov light it just gets overwhelmed by the scintillation light.



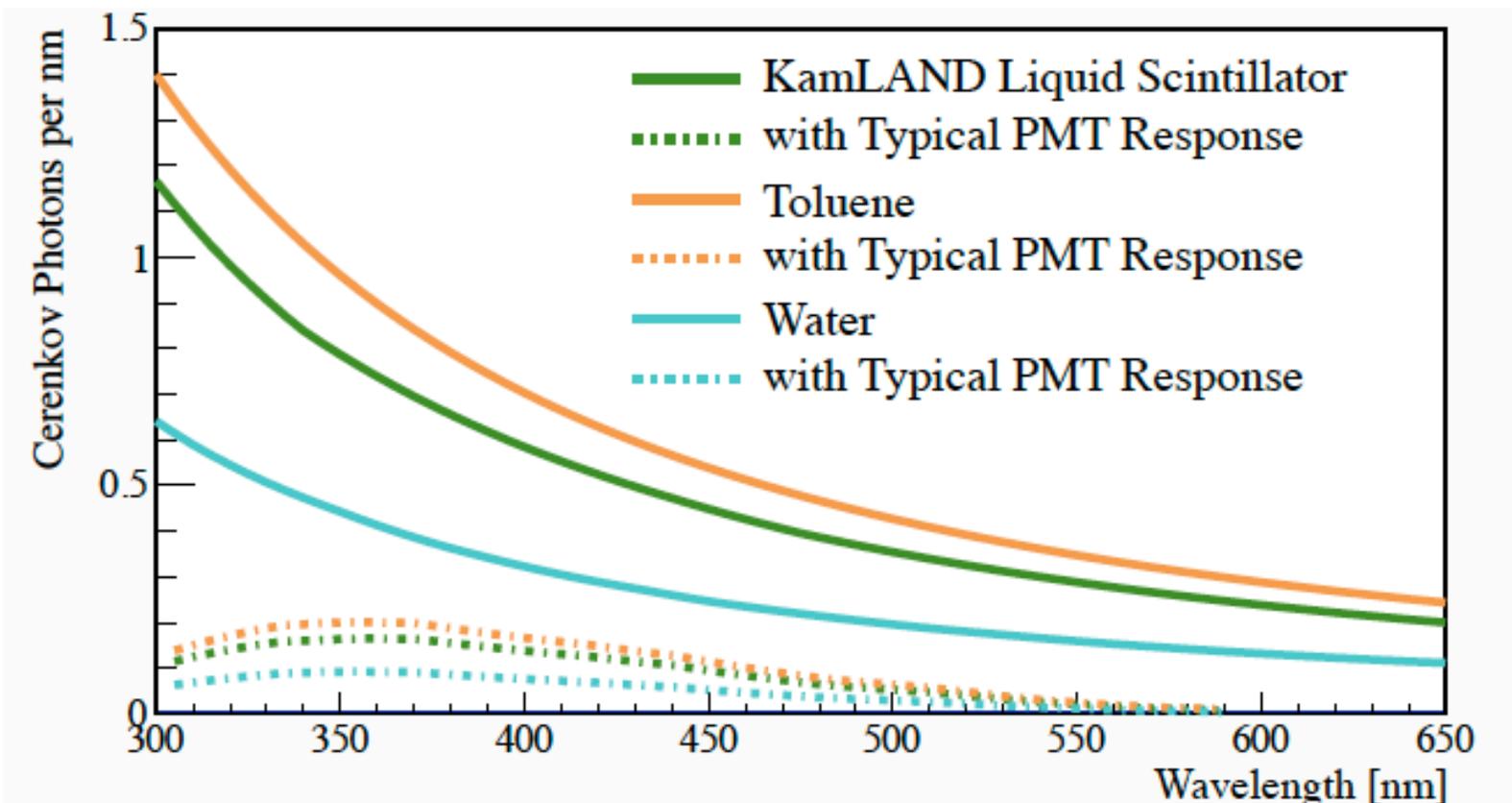
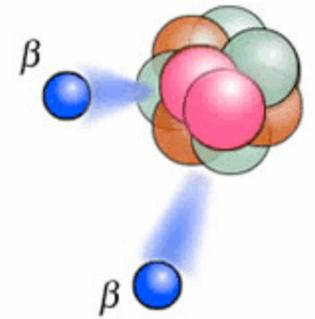
Scintillation: A KamLAND Muon



Cerenkov: A MiniBooNE Muon

# Event Topology:

- Some fraction of the Cerenkov light is produced above the scintillation absorption cut-off.
- Cerenkov light travels to PMTs faster.
- Use quantum dots to tune the absorption cut-off.



**This application is perfect for the LAPPD's.**



First **P** is for picosecond.

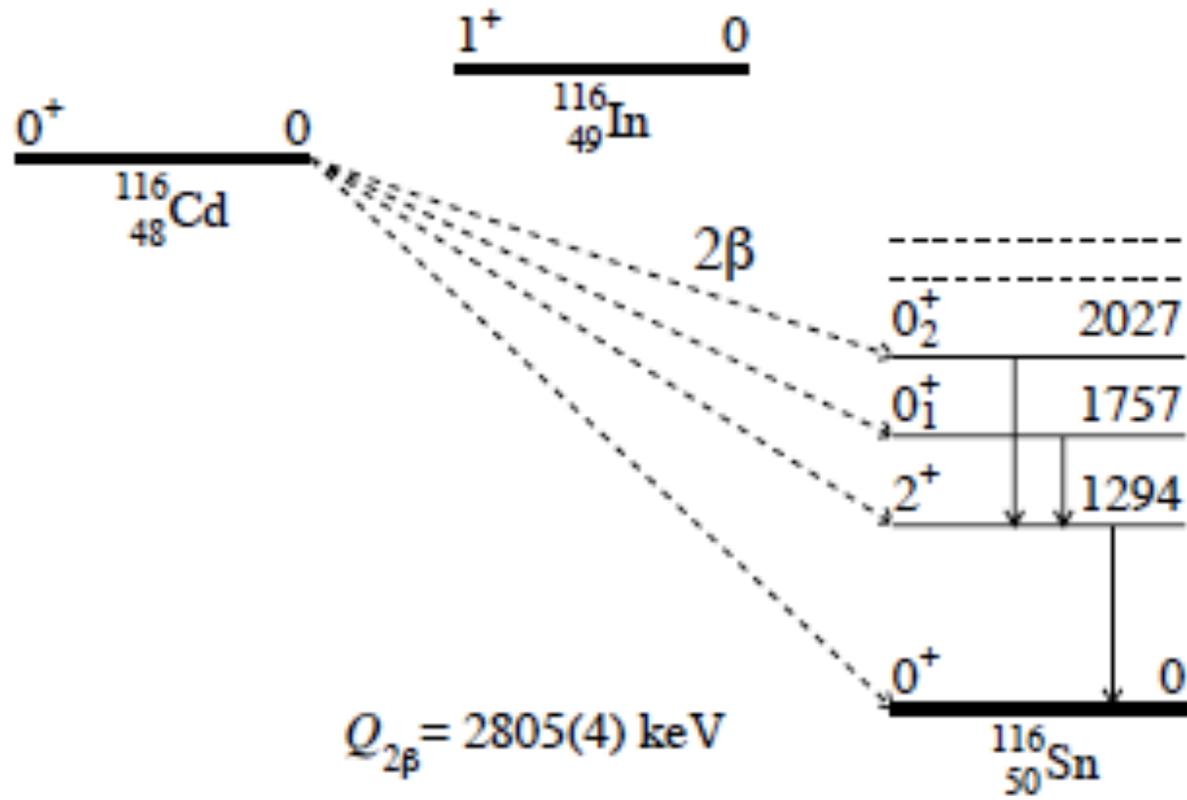
# **What can quantum dots do?**

They provide you a robust way to dope liquid scintillator with heavy metals.... especially Cd!

**Why do we like Cd so much?**

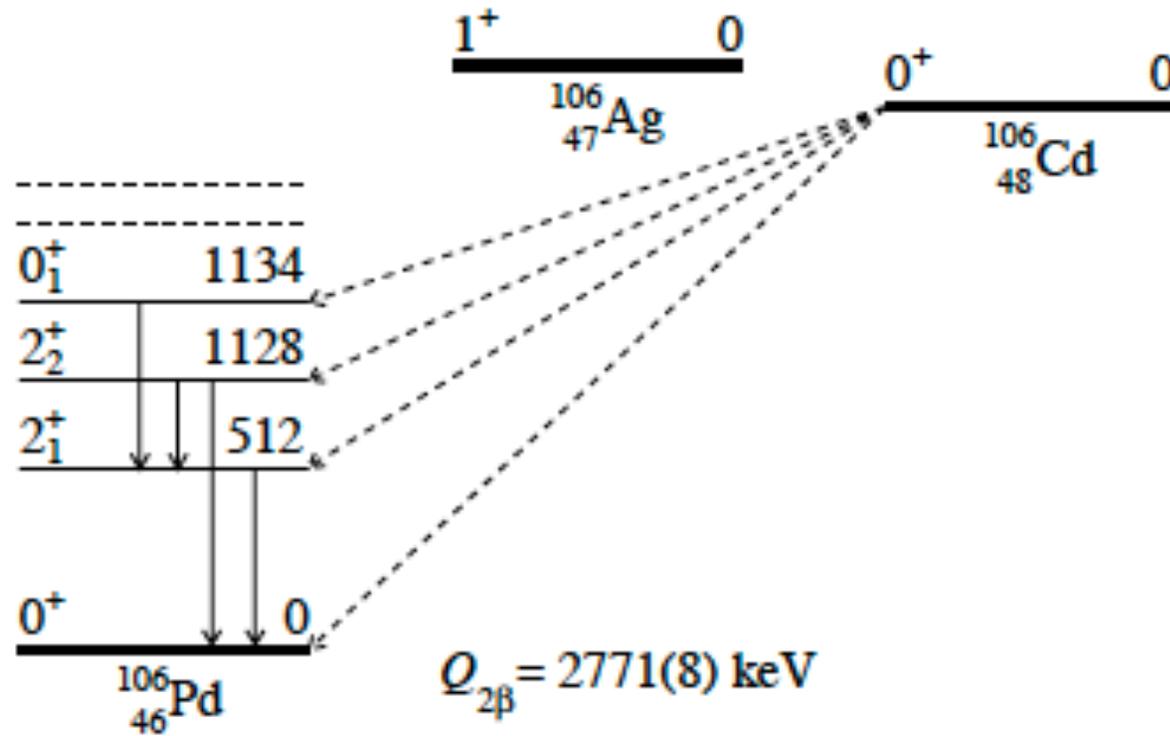
# Double Beta Decay Candidate!

Danevich et al. PHYSICAL REVIEW C **68**, 035501 (2003)



# Also Double Positron + Electron Capture Decay Candidate!

Danevich et al. PHYSICAL REVIEW C **68**, 035501 !2003"



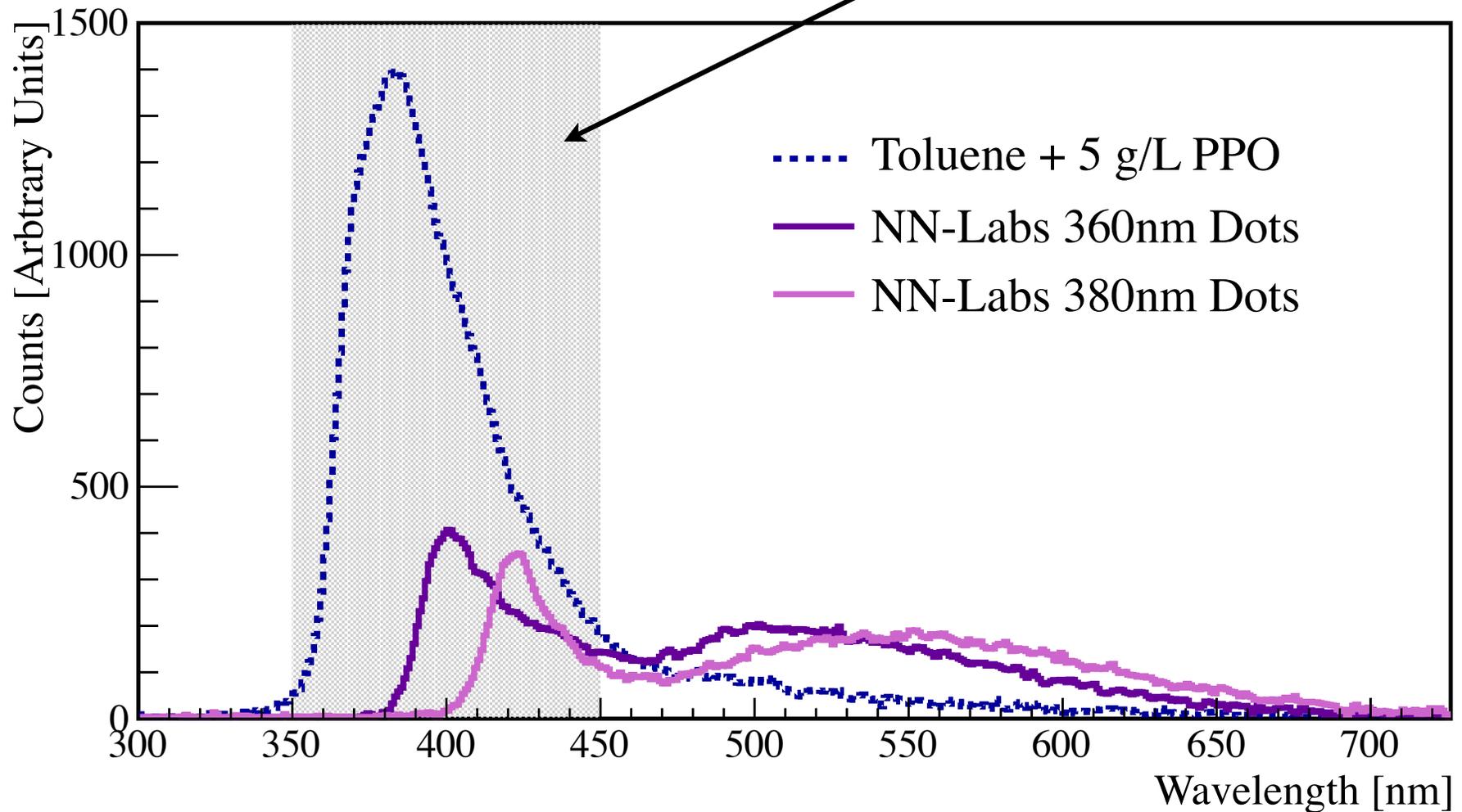
**Now for some basic measurements**

**(Because no one has done this before!)**

# How much light?

Excite the scintillator with a 280nm LED.

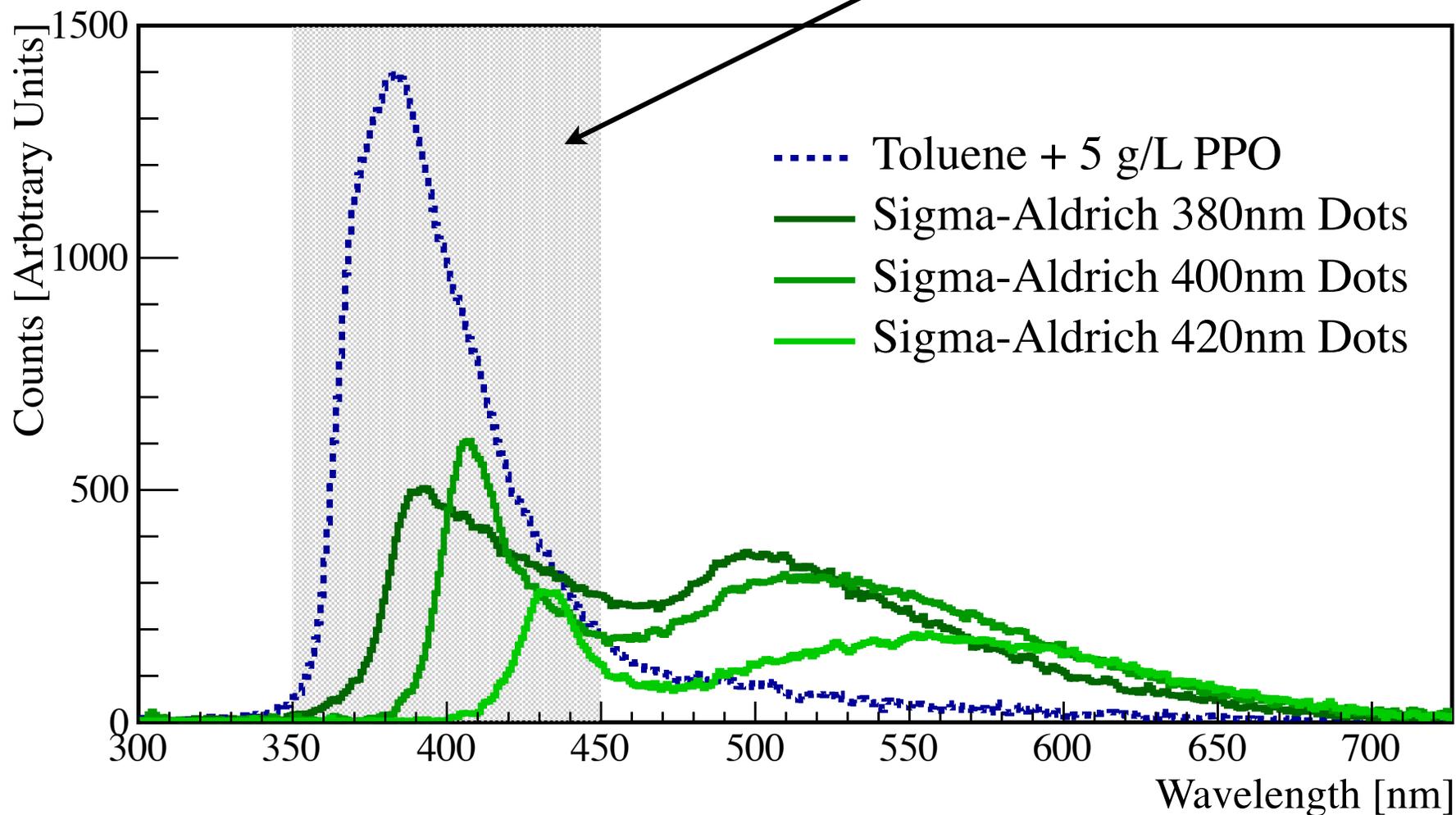
PMT Peak Sensitivity



# How much light?

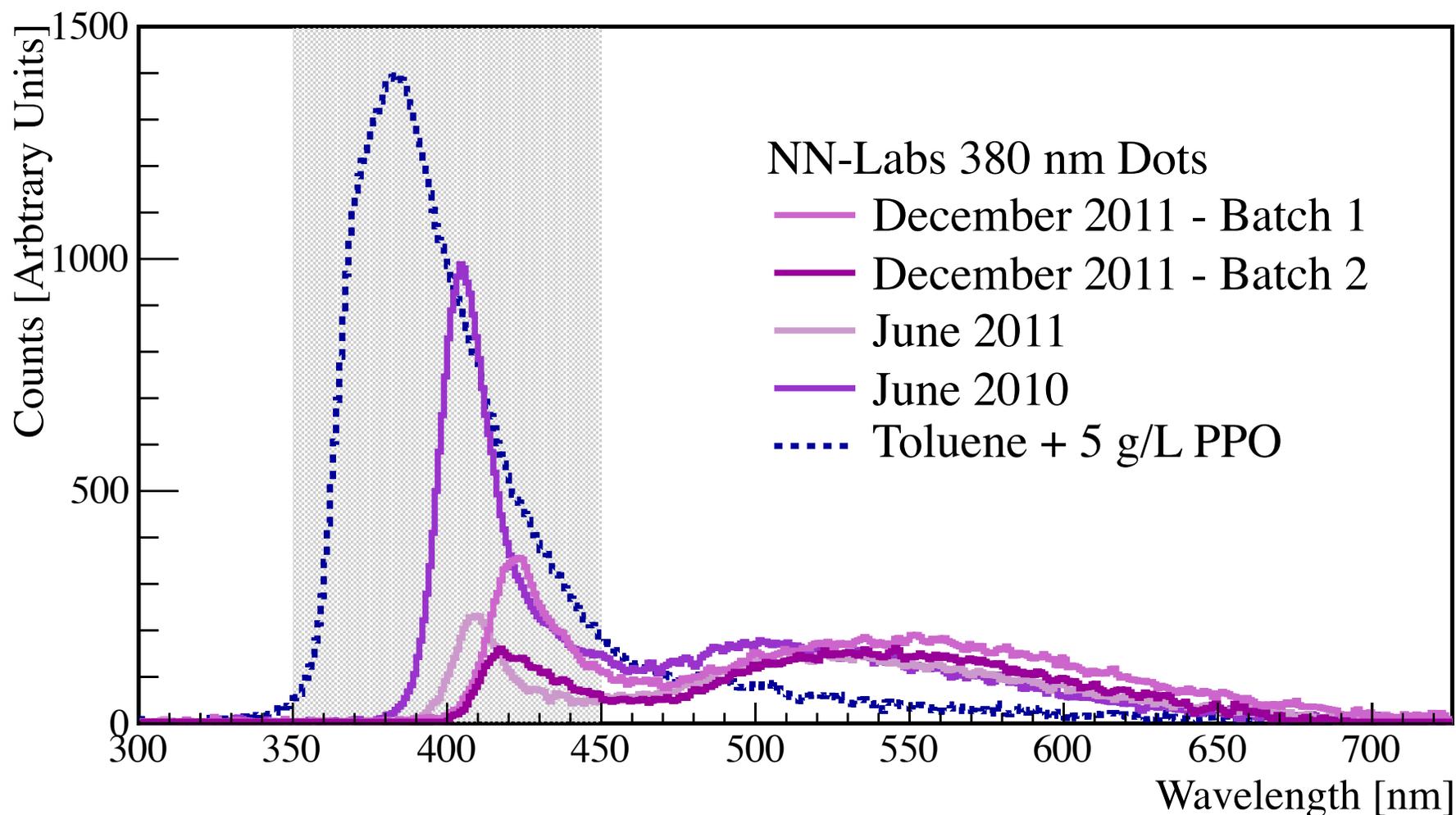
Excite the scintillator with a 280nm LED.

PMT Peak Sensitivity



# Do Quantum Dots Age?

One of the NSF reviewers asked if this was an issue.

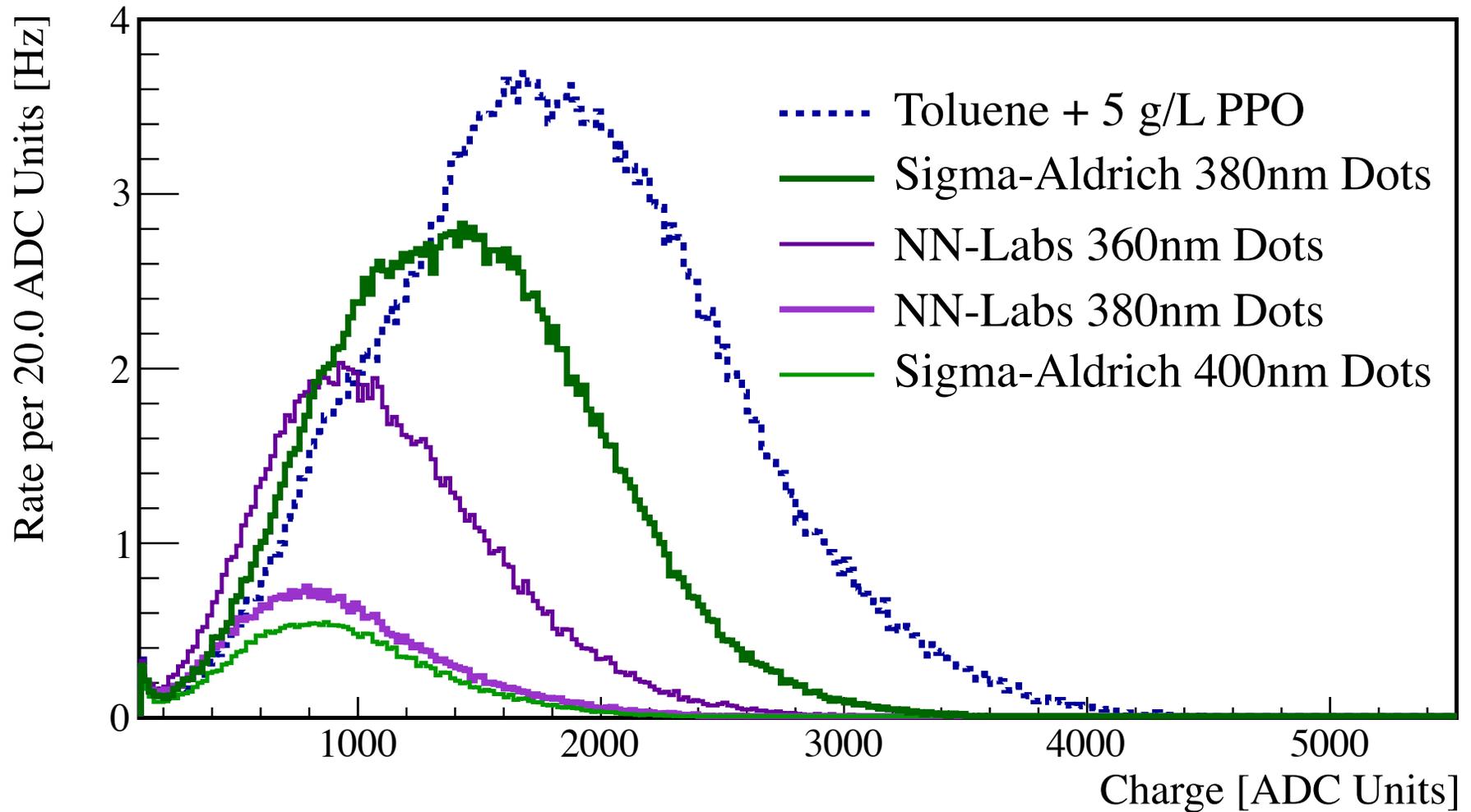


No evidence for aging.

The bigger issue for us seems to be batch to batch variations.

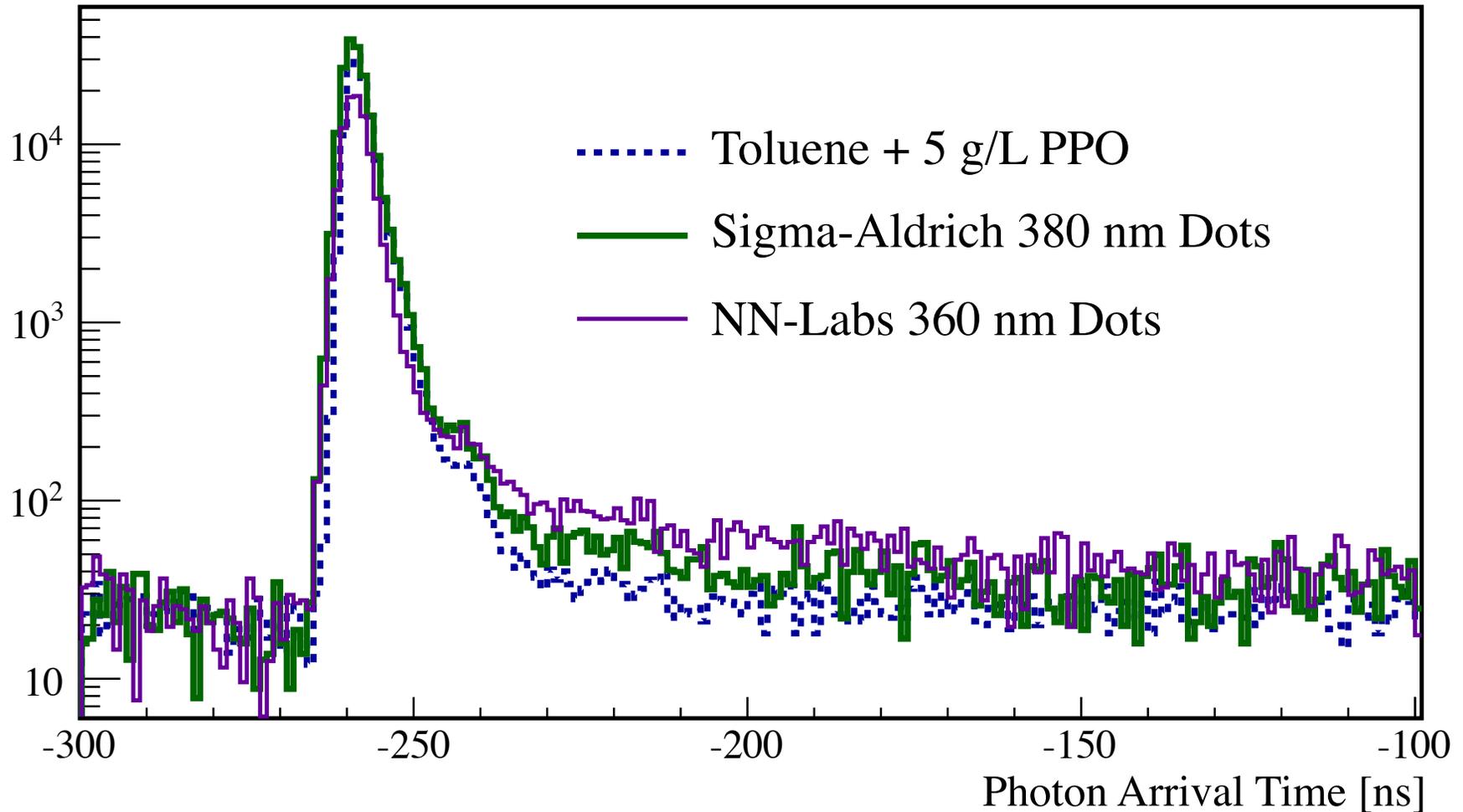
# Does the scintillator still scintillate?

Study the scintillator with a  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  beta source.



The light yield is reduced compared to the standard scintillator

# Do they change the timing characteristics of the scintillator?



The answer is no, though the quantum dot scintillator seems to have a slightly larger late light component.



## Next Steps:

### **IL Detector - This Summer**

- More quality control of the dots before using.
- Nitrogen purging for better light yield
- Larger quantum quantities
- Attenuation length measurements

### **Im<sup>3</sup> Detector**

- Make use of knowledge from IL detector
- Perhaps collaborate with LAPPD collaboration
- Make measurement of two neutrino double beta decay in  $^{116}\text{Cd}$ .

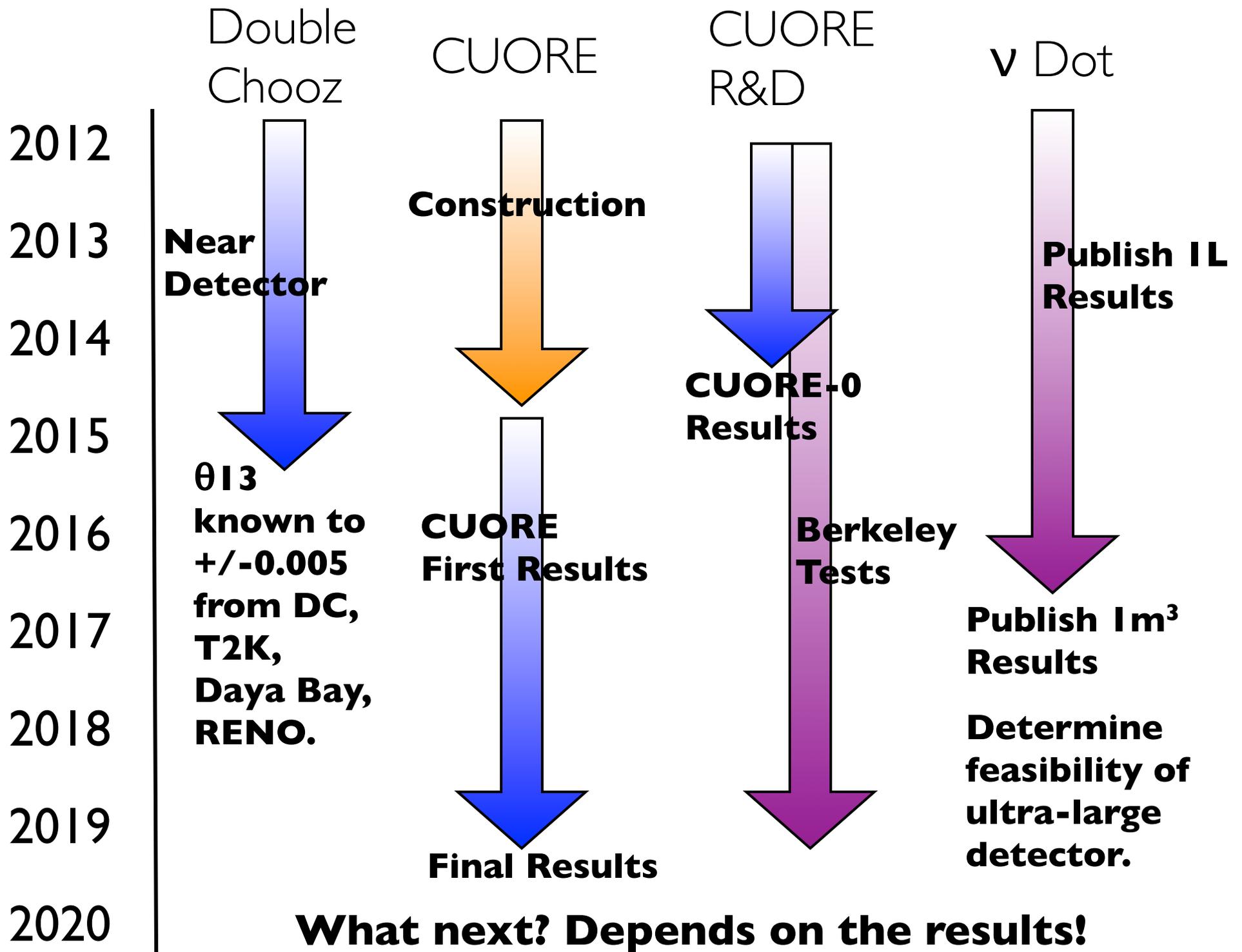
With 10g of  $^{116}\text{Cd}$ , I expect 1000 events in 6 months.

# reVolution

*You say you want a revolution  
Well, you know  
we all want to change the world.*

*You ask me for a contribution  
Well, you know  
We are all doing what we can*

*You say we want a real solution  
Well, you know  
We'd all love to see the plan*



# The Neutrino Revolution

***Don't you know its  
gonna be alright!***

**Many apologies to the  
Beatles and the OED.**