

# Complimentary BSM Oscillation Experiments and Constraints

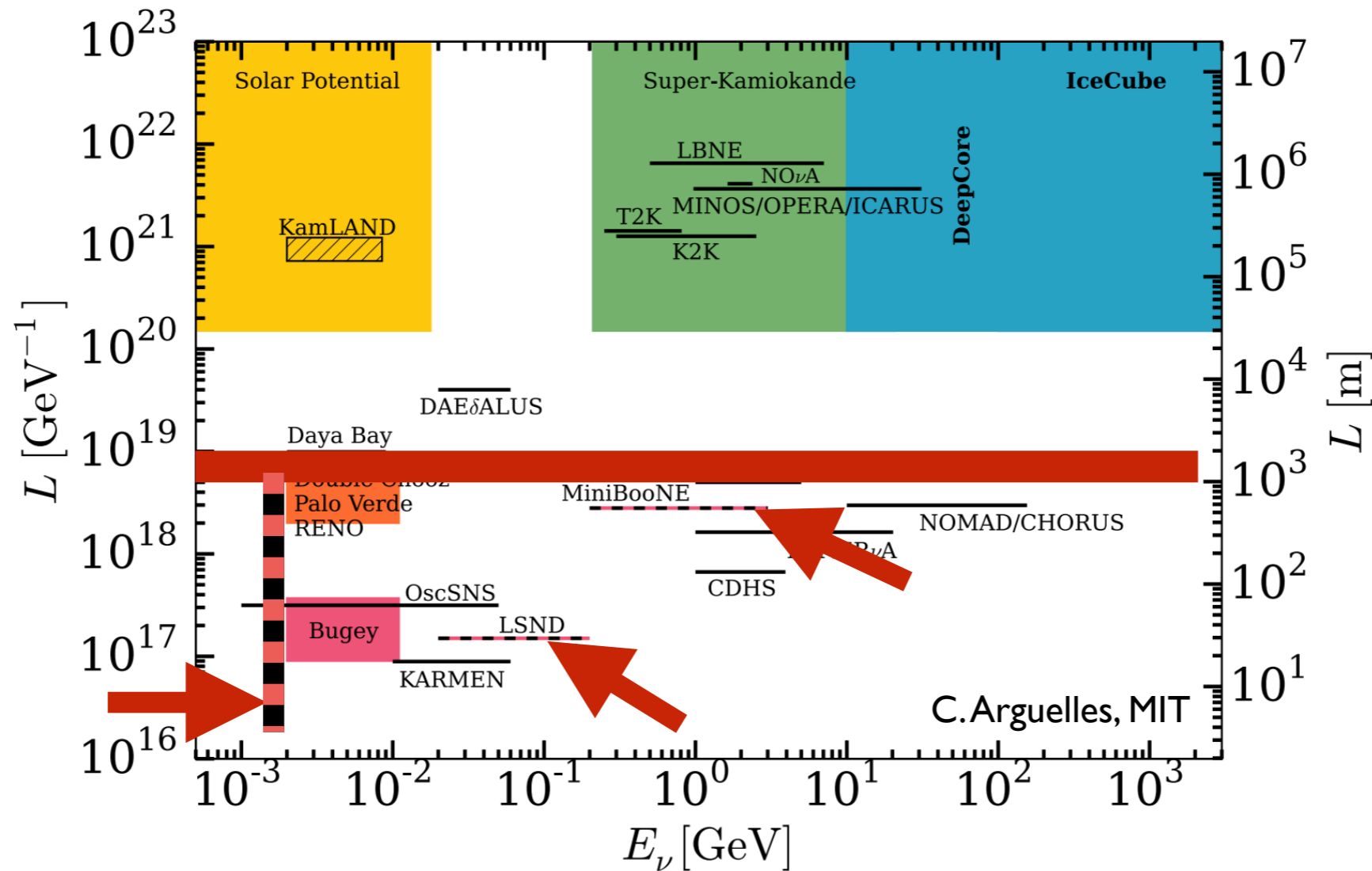
April 3, 2024

**Bryce Littlejohn**  
Illinois Institute of Technology



# Neutrino Anomalies

- Let's zoom in and explore the non-FNAL anomalies
  - What's their status?
  - How does this relate to the broader neutrino program (and SBN)?



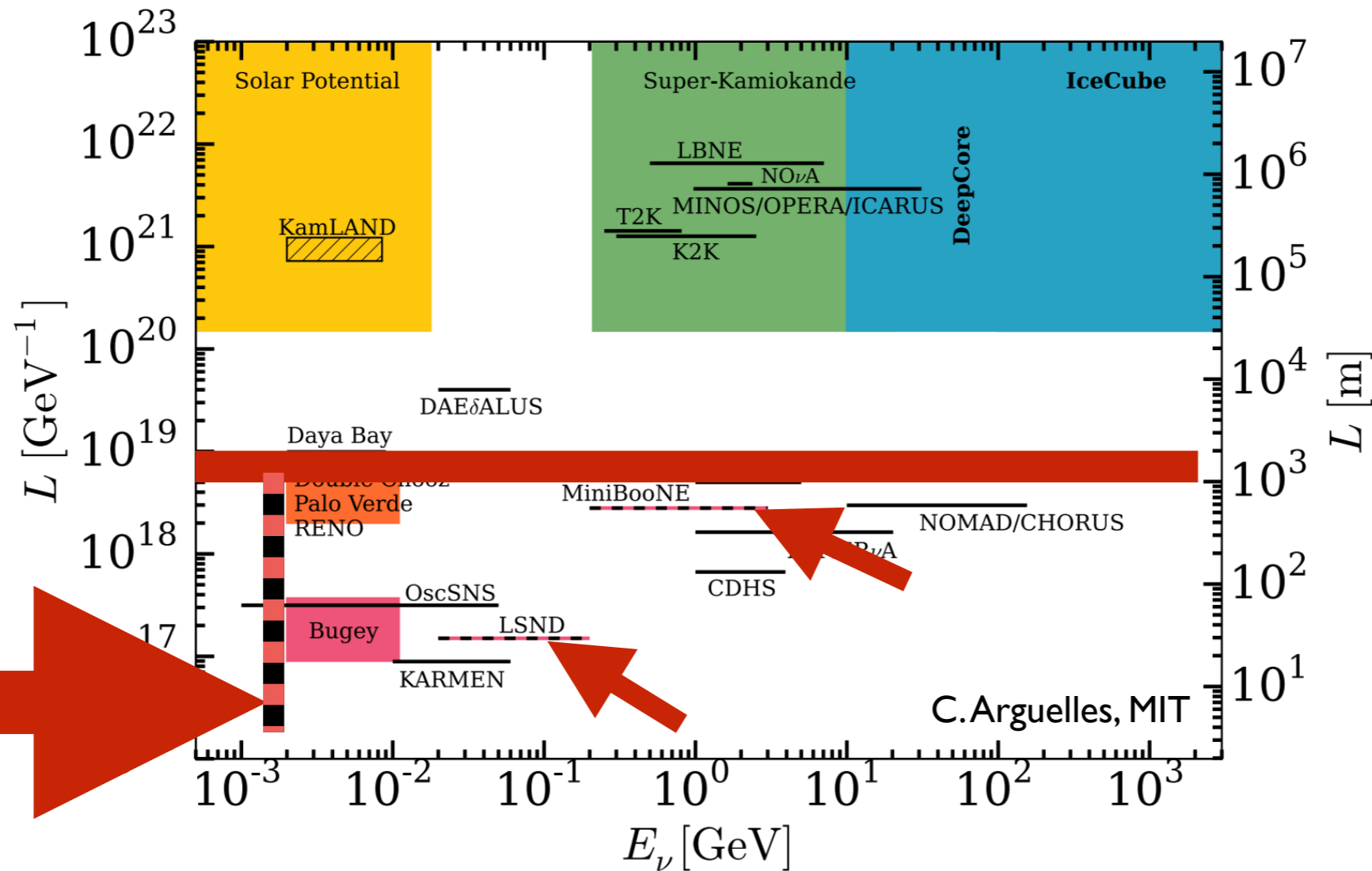
Note: no mention of IceCube or BEST in my slides here.

Note: I know others have covered global 3+1 picture; so I'll look forward

# Electron-Flavor Disappearance



- Let's zoom in and explore another of these anomalies
  - What's their status?
  - How does this relate to the broader neutrino program (and SBN)?

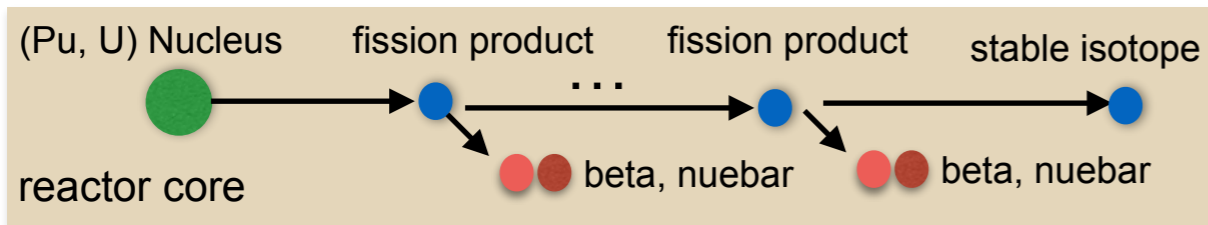


(Most of this talk...)

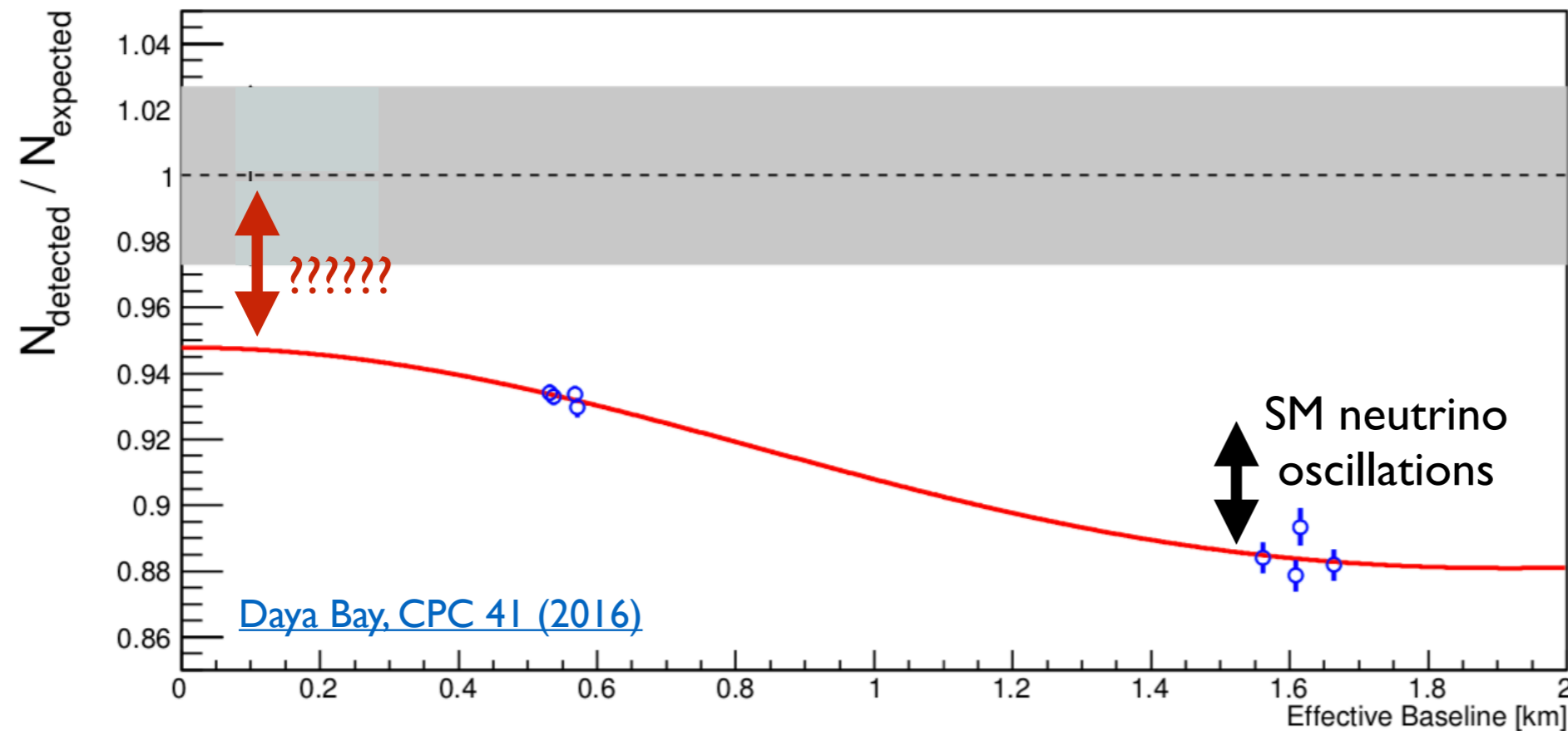
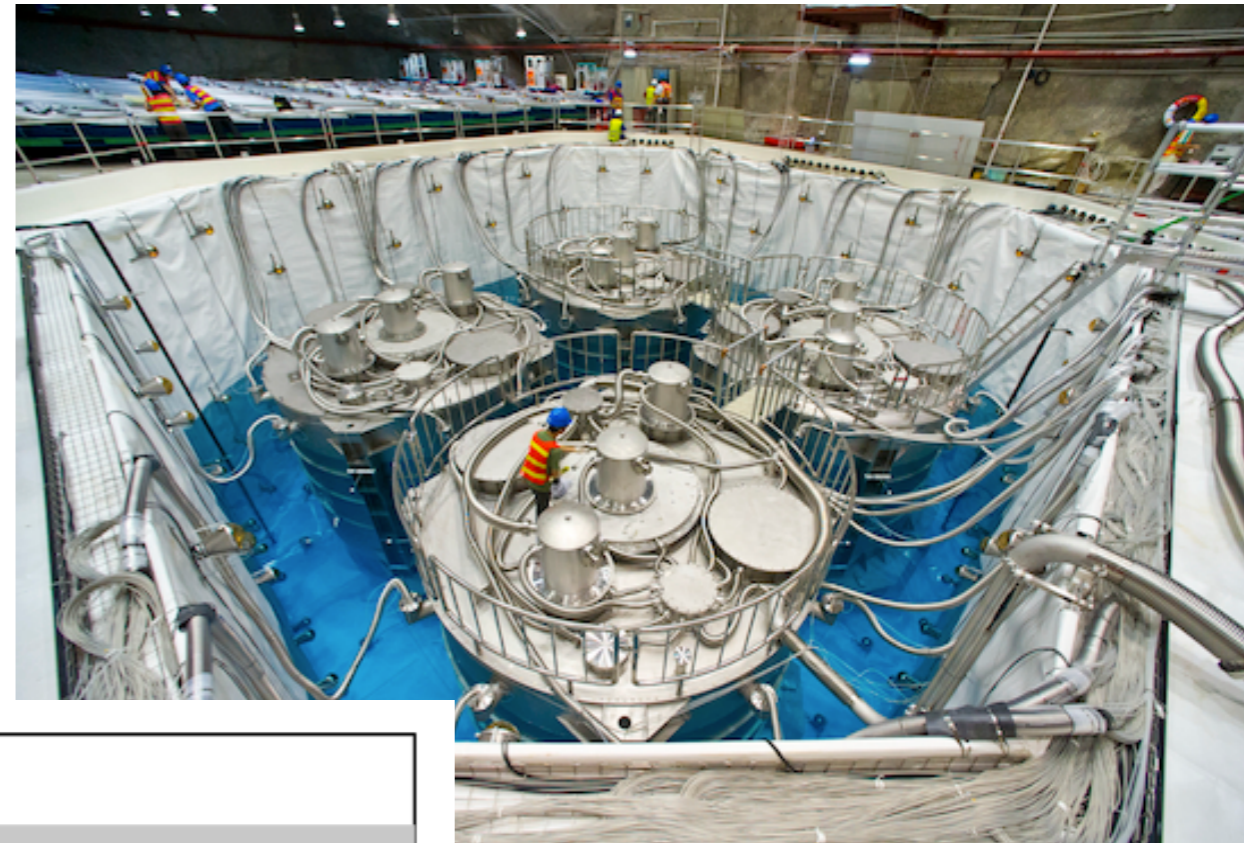
# Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly (RAA)?



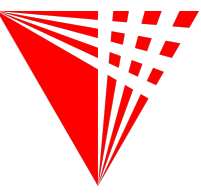
- Deficits in electron flavor detection rates at nuclear reactors



$\bar{\nu}_e$



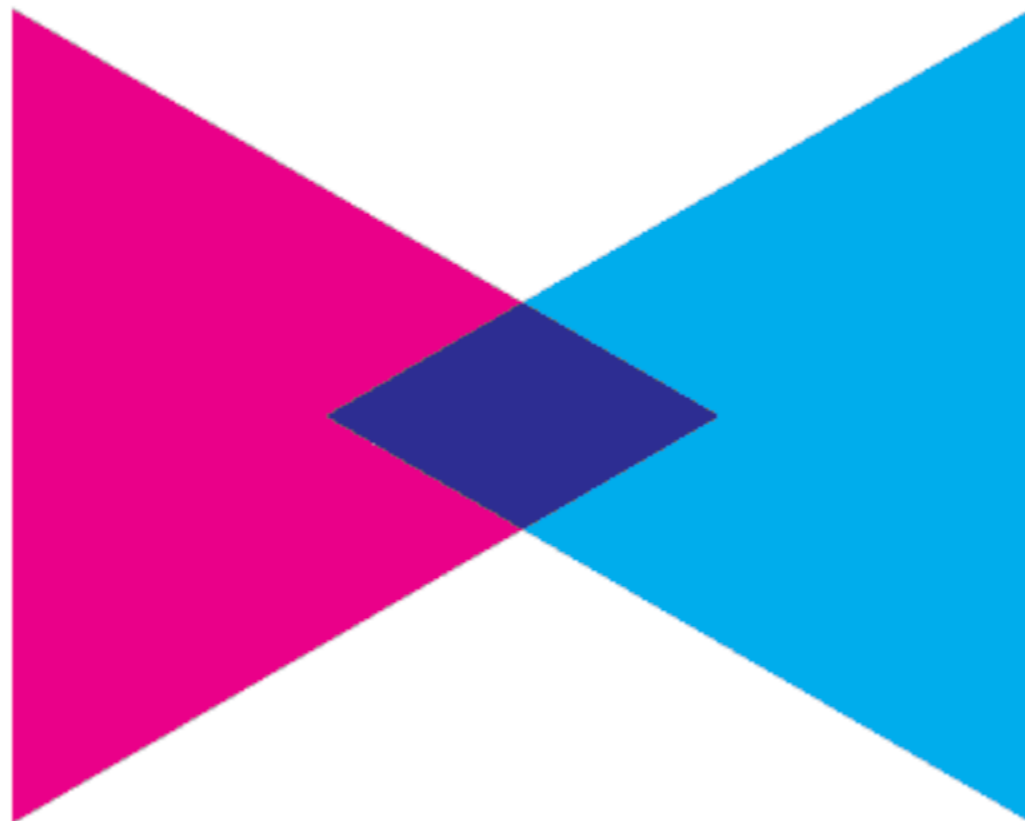
# So We've Heard From P5...



- From the [P5 Report](#), recapping the last decade, and outlining US particle physics strategy for the next decade:

Over the past decades neutrino oscillation searches at length/distance scales of 1 MeV/m have found a number of anomalous results: The liquid scintillator neutrino detector (LSND) anomaly, the reactor antineutrino anomaly, the MiniBooNE low-energy excess and the gallium anomaly. These anomalies have not been confirmed, and the reactor antineutrino anomaly has been recently resolved. The remaining phase space

→ 'RAA'



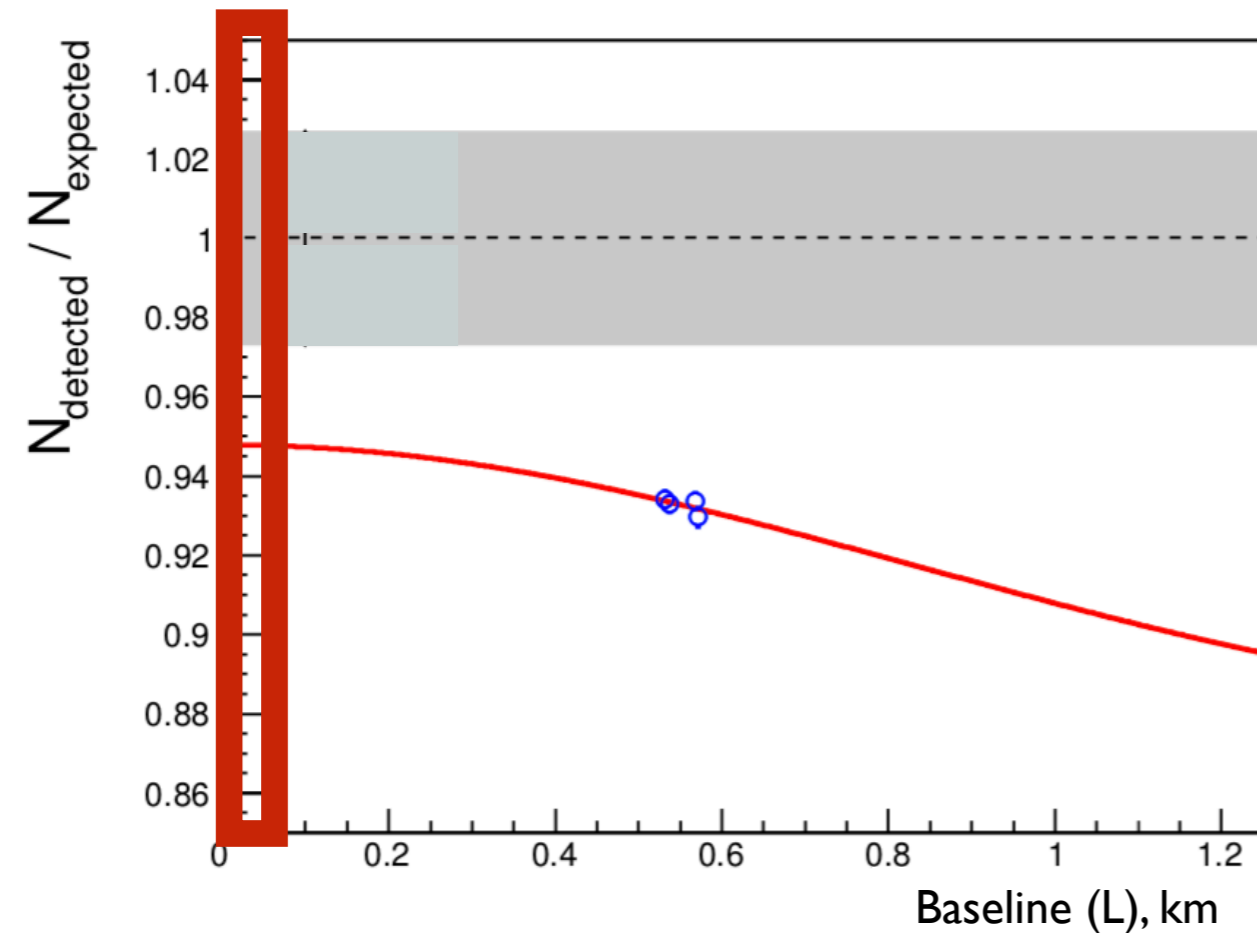
Exploring  
the  
Quantum  
Universe



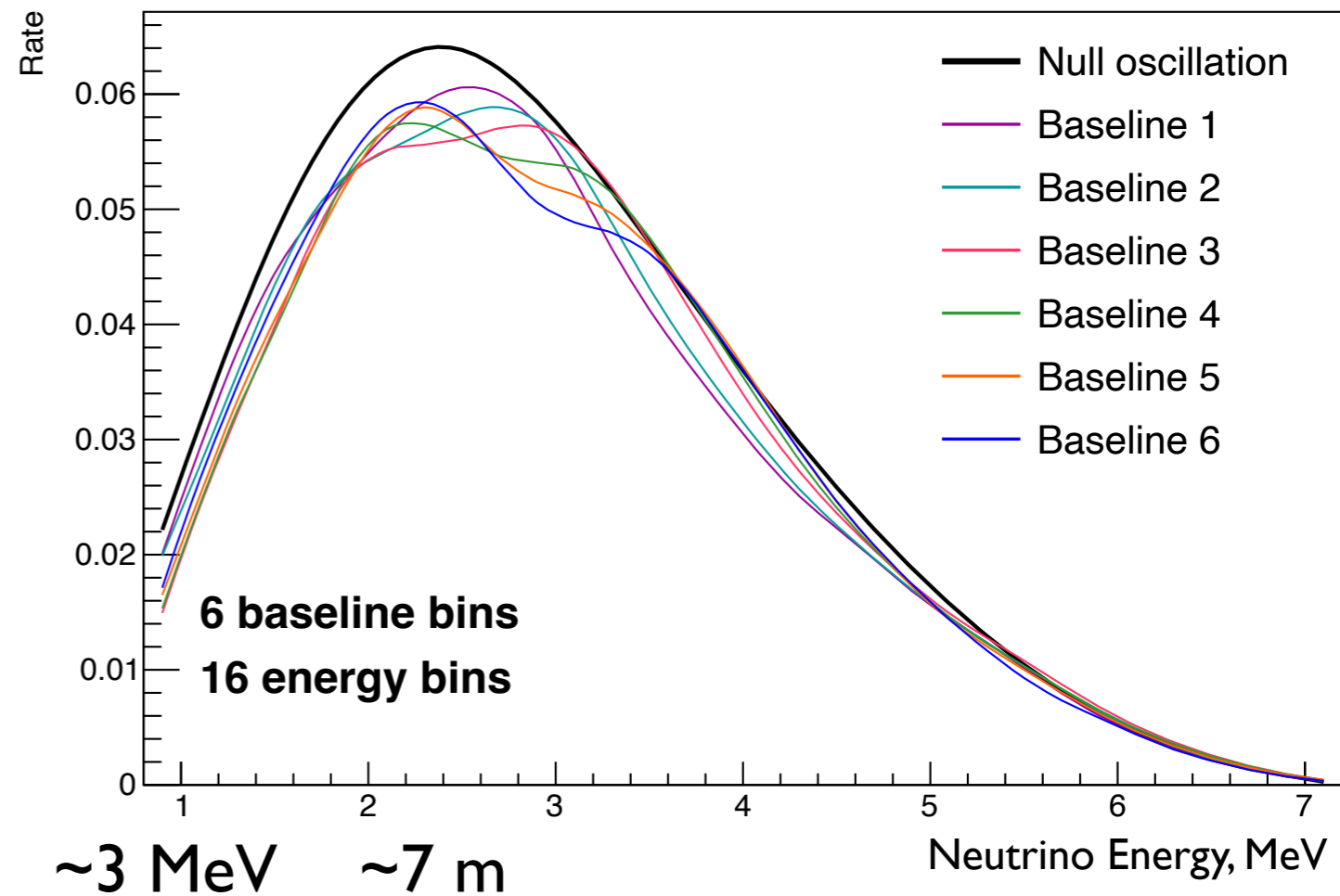
# RAA Resolution: Clear Sterile Searches

- Resolve the reactor anomaly by looking for variations between energy spectra of full detector versus individual baselines
- Any wiggles in ratio is evidence of L/E nature of sterile neutrino oscillations

Look here...



...for this!

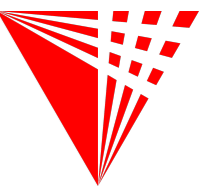


$$P(\nu_a \rightarrow \nu_b) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2$$

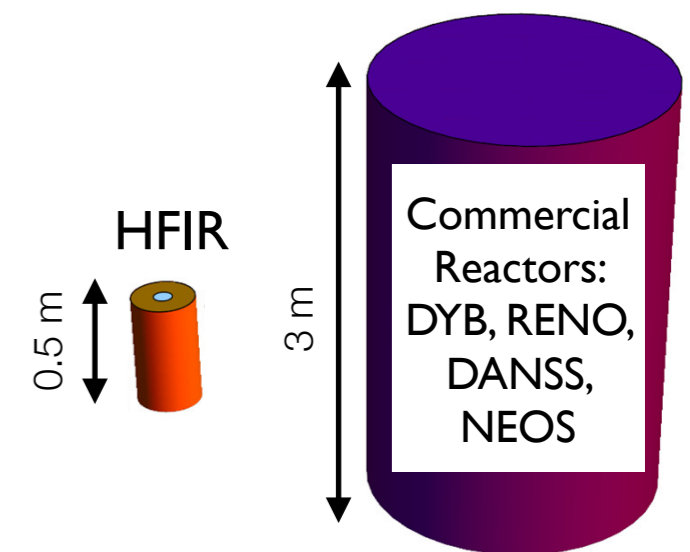
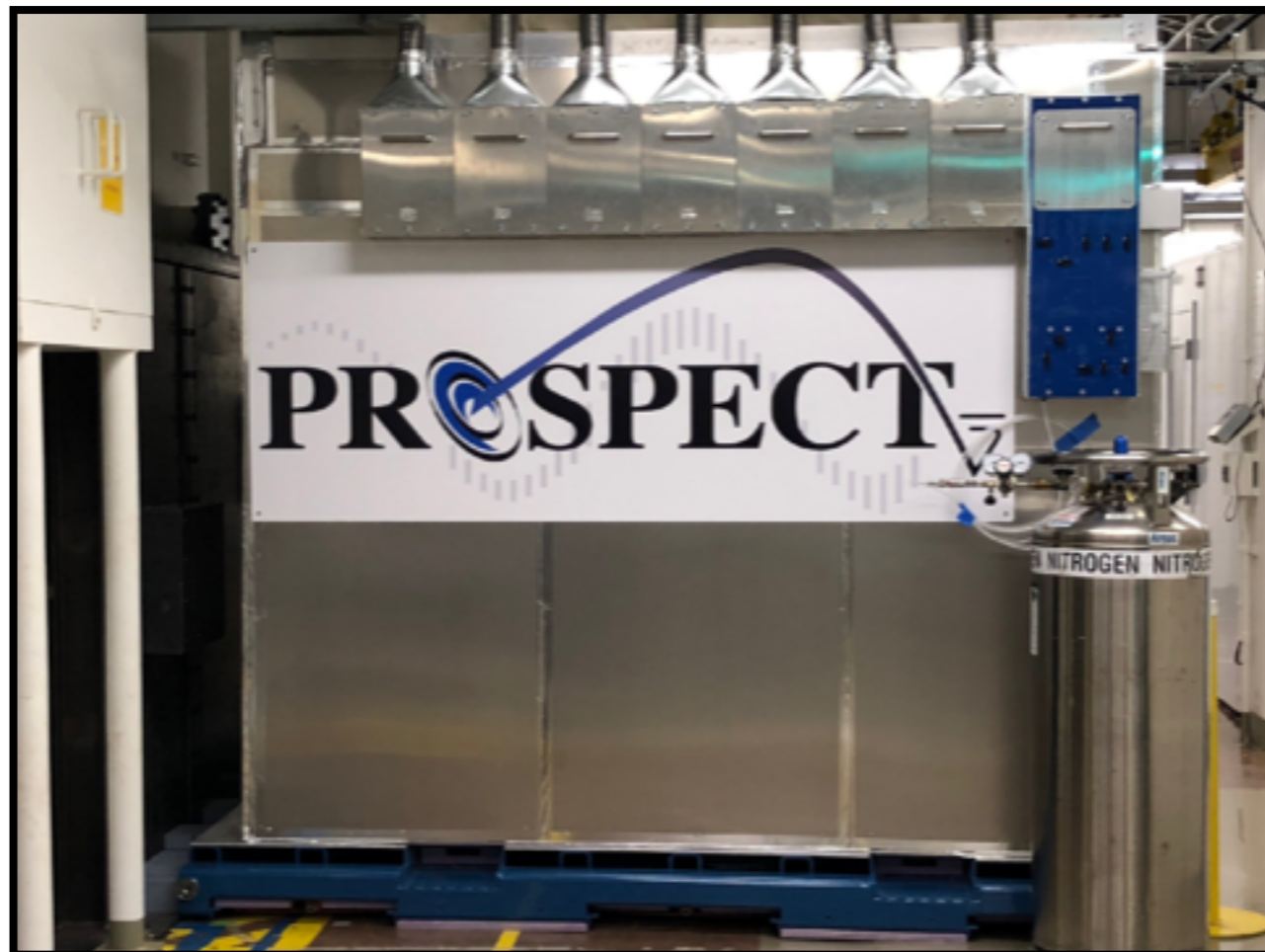
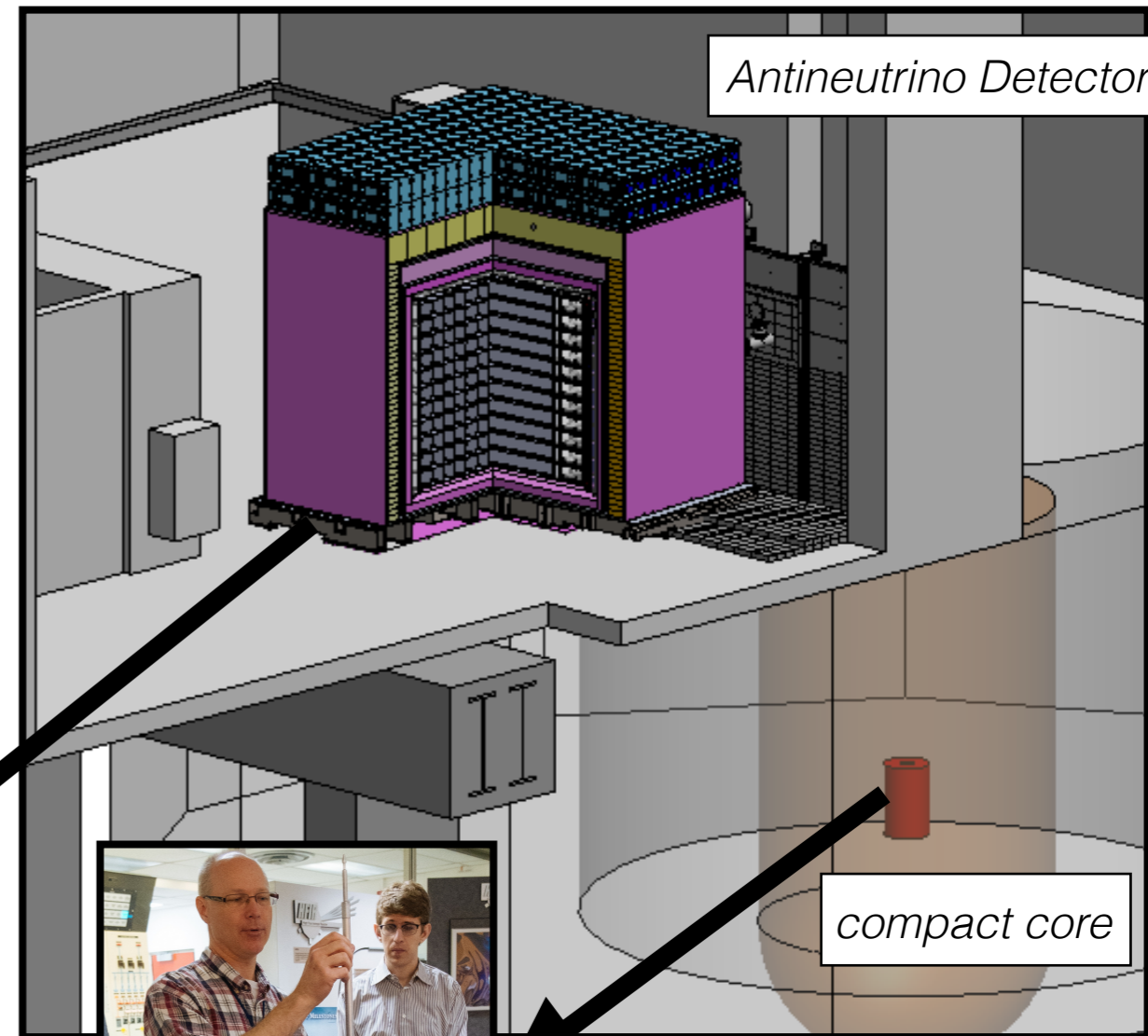
$$\left[ 1.27 \Delta m^2 (eV^2) \frac{L(km)}{E_\nu (GeV)} \right]$$

→ Probing  $\Delta m^2 \sim 0.6 \text{ eV}^2$   
 ~Same as mB; uB; SBN.

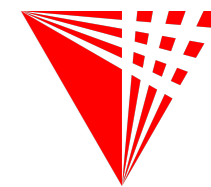
# Example: The PROSPECT Experiment



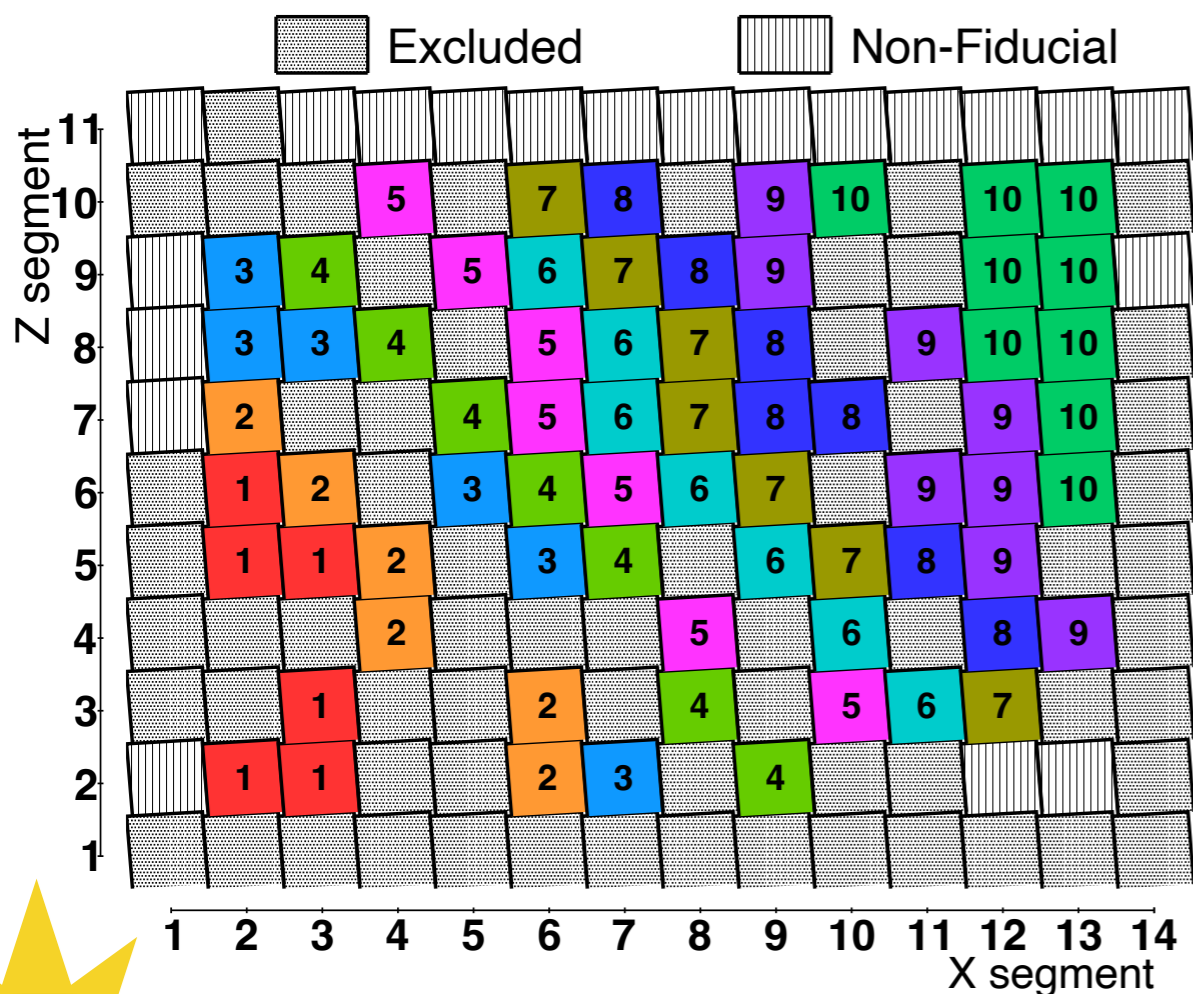
- A 4-ton  ${}^6\text{Li}$ -doped segmented liquid scintillator detector at the HFIR research reactor
- US-based: Oak Ridge Lab (Tennessee)
- Very short baseline: 6.7-9.2 meters
- Compact core: <50cm height, diameter



# RAA Resolution: Clear Sterile Searches



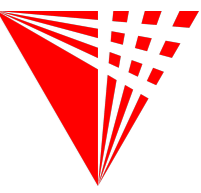
- Resolve the reactor anomaly by looking for variations between energy spectra of full detector versus individual baselines
- Any wiggles in ratio is evidence of L/E nature of sterile neutrino oscillations



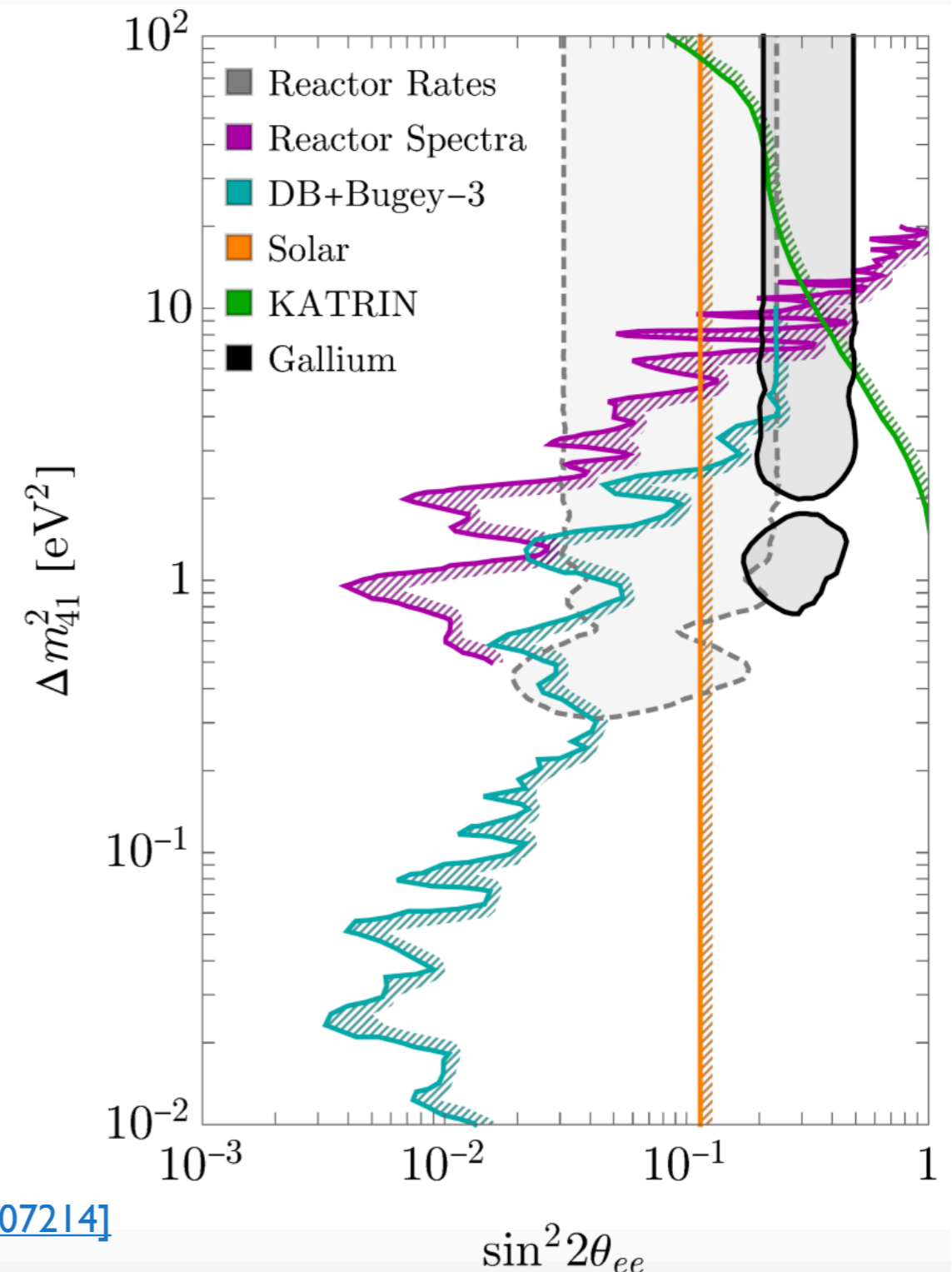
[PROSPECT Collaboration, PRD 103 \(2021\)](#)



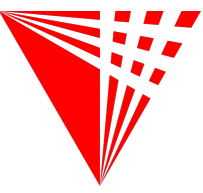
# RAA Resolution: Clear Sterile Searches



- Resolve the reactor anomaly by looking for variations between energy spectra of full detector versus individual baselines
- We have not observed any such effect so far, setting new bounds on oscillation at  $O(0.01-10) \text{ eV}^2$
- Reflects decade's worth of effort from many continents: Daya Bay, DANSS, NEOS, RENO, PROSPECT, STEREO, and more.
- Note: Could use more coverage at high  $\text{dm}^2$ ... will get back to this later.

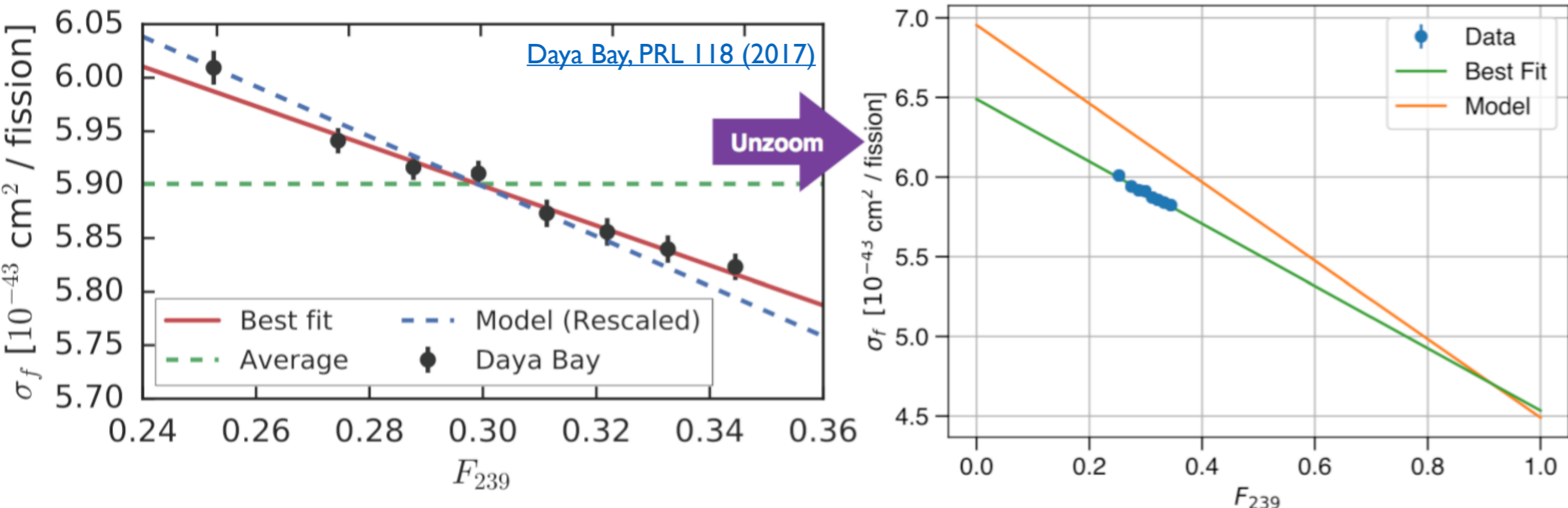


# RAA Resolution: New Flux Measurements



- Resolve by probing the RAA deficit from reactor fuels with differing content ('fuel evolution' measurements)
- The more  $^{235}\text{U}$  a reactor is burning, the bigger the measured deficit. Indicates that bad flux predictions cause the RAA!
- Parallel developments in nuclear [theory](#) and [experiment](#) support this picture
- Recent curiosities here: can comment more (in back-up...)

[Zhang, Qian, Fallot, hep-ex\[2310.13070\]](#)



# New P5 Period: Why SBL Reactors?

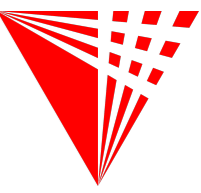


- Well-tailored reactor neutrino measurements have resolved a key outstanding neutrino physics question!
- With the RAA problem ‘solved,’ why do we still need short-baseline reactor experiments in the next P5 period?
  - Let’s ask this Q in general for e-flavor disappearance, too.



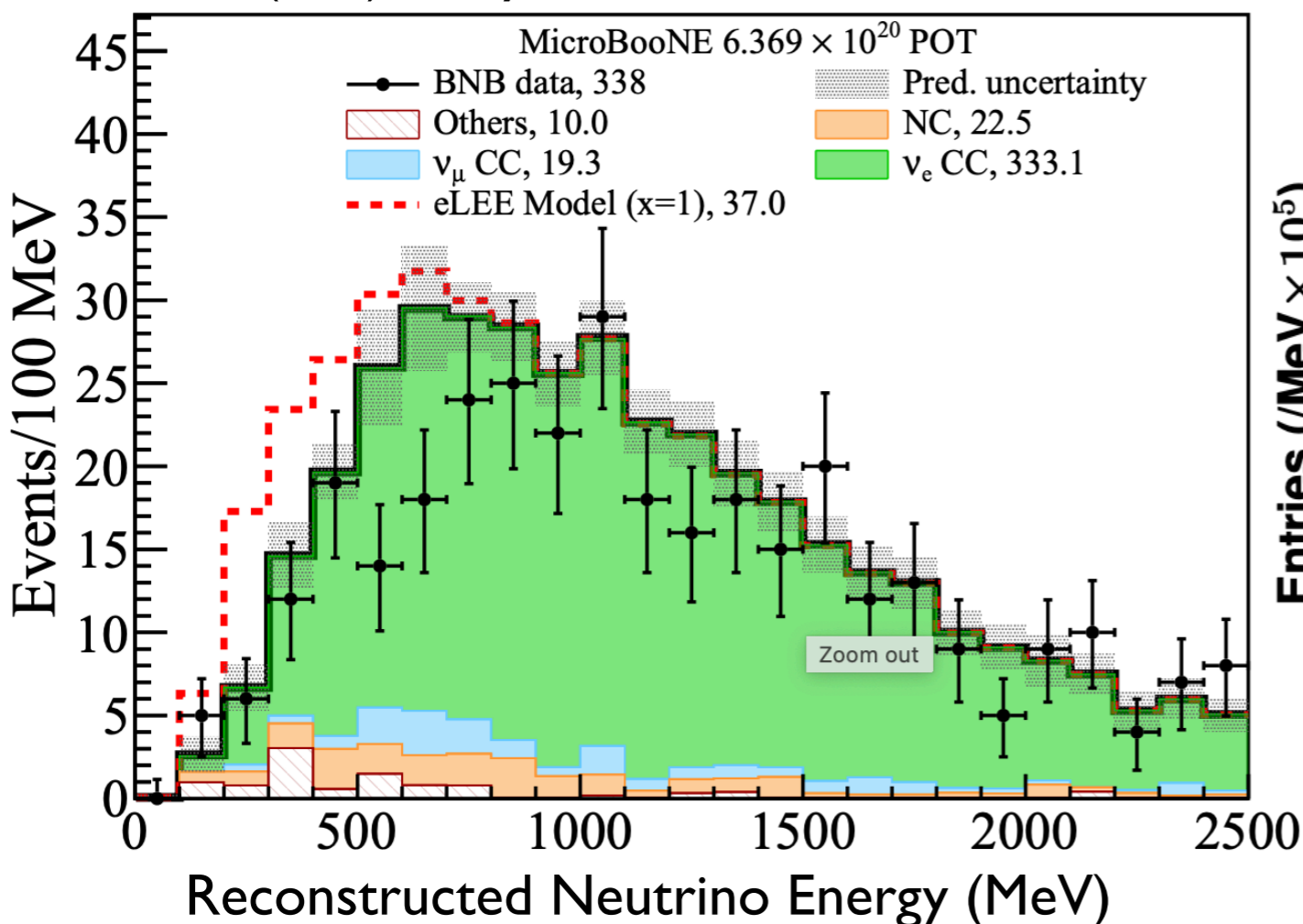
Over the past decades neutrino oscillation searches at length/distance scales of 1 MeV/m have found a number of anomalous results: The liquid scintillator neutrino detector (LSND) anomaly, the **reactor** antineutrino anomaly, the MiniBooNE low-energy excess and the gallium anomaly. These anomalies have not been confirmed, and the **reactor** antineutrino anomaly has been recently resolved. The remaining phase space

# Reason I: Electron Flavor



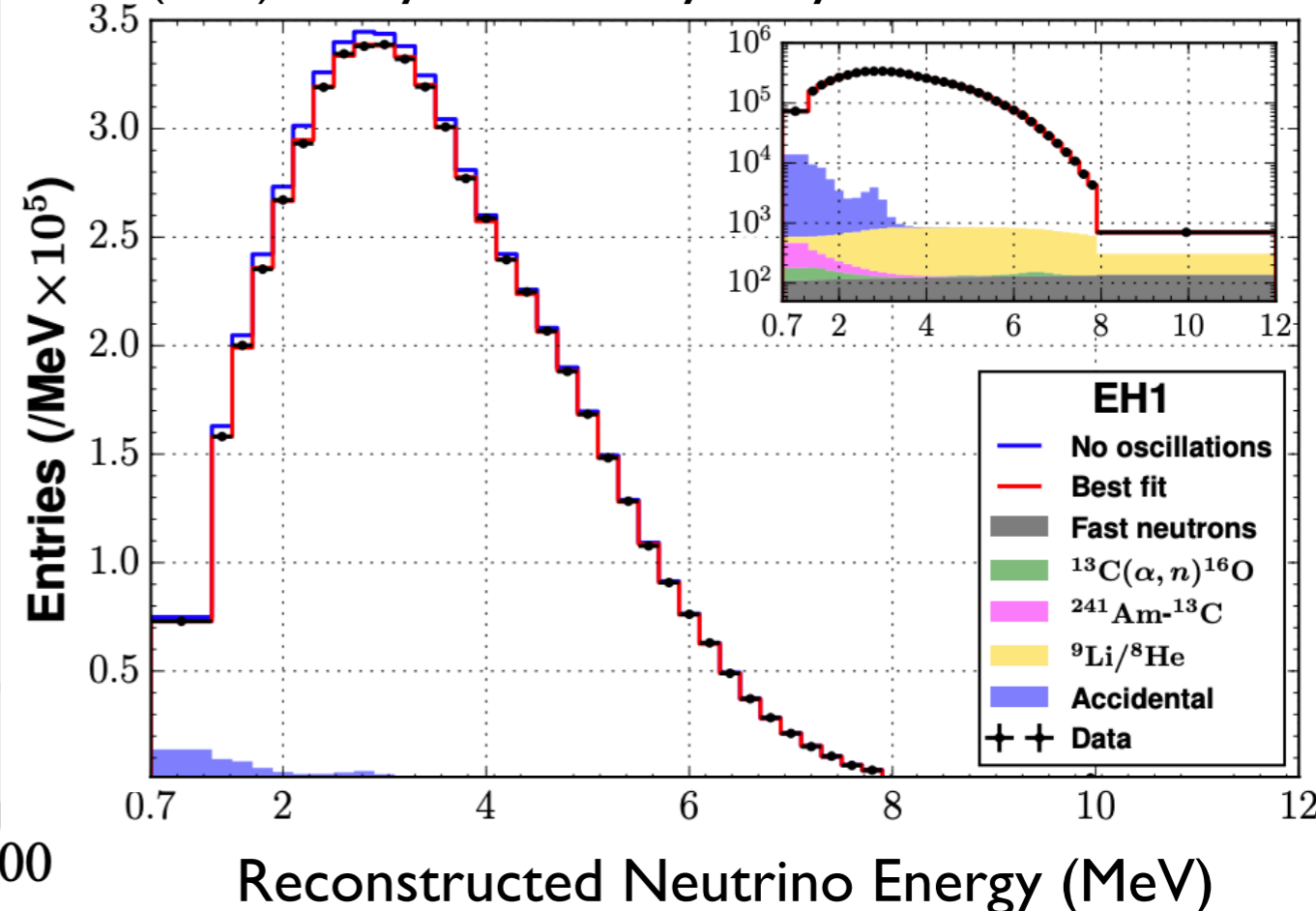
- Reactors are the purest, highest-intensity source of electron-flavor neutrinos that we have to work with
- Purity and high stats are complimentary to mixed-flavor accelerator fluxes

O(100) ton-years at Fermilab: 350  $\nu_e$



[MicroBooNE, PRL 128 \(2022\)](#)

O(100) ton-years at Daya Bay reactors: 2.5M  $\nu_e$



[Daya Bay, PRD 95 \(2017\)](#)

# Reason 2: Remaining Anomalies



- **Three** other short-baseline anomalies remain unexplained: Gallium, LSND, and MiniBooNE

- Many pheno explanations impact reactor signatures, too

- '3+1' sterile picture, for example

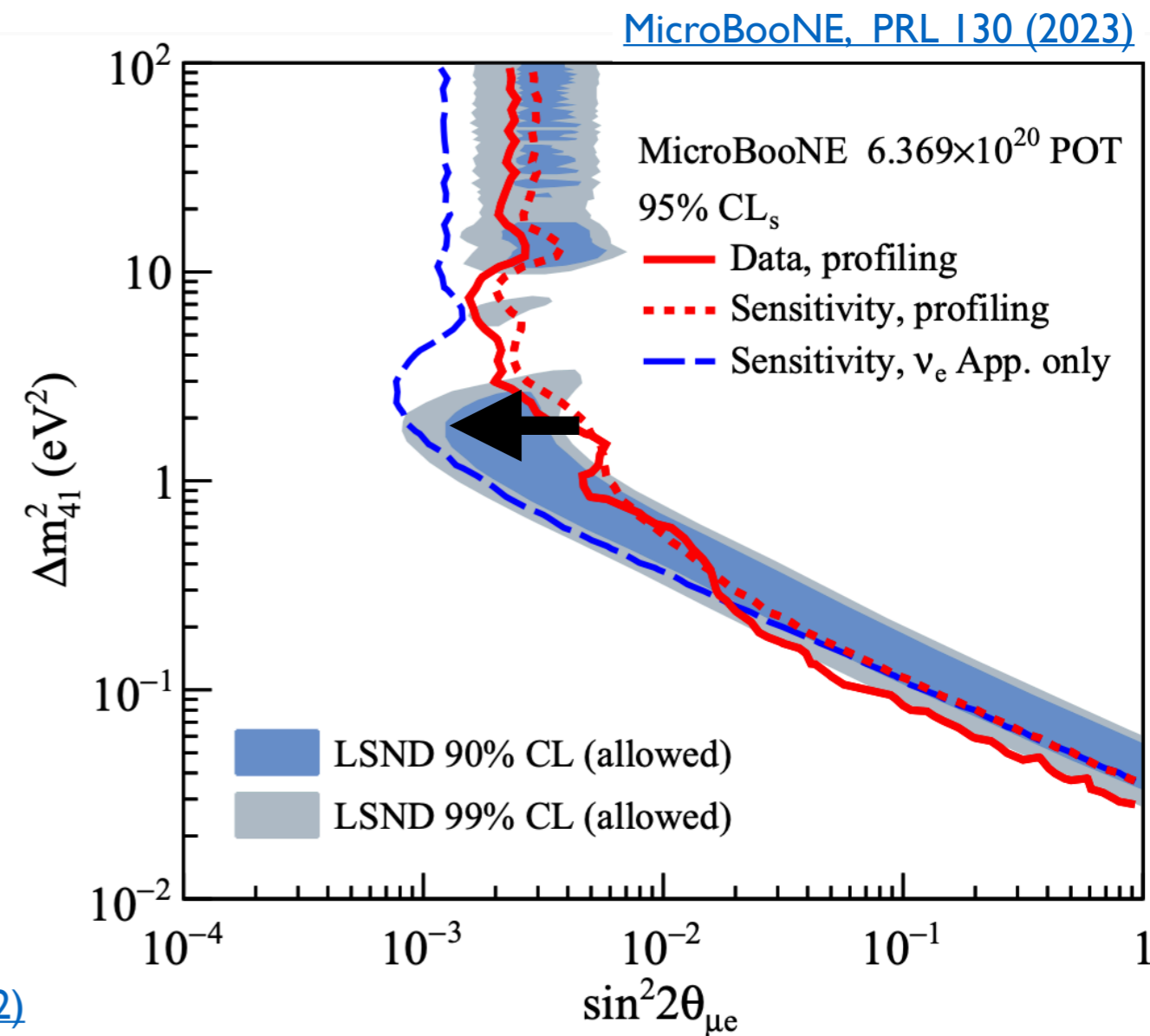
- 'Non-vanilla' models too:  
3+1+NSI, 3+1+decay, others

- Key to unravelling/excluding BSM causes: dataset diversity

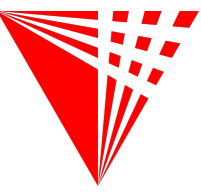
- MeV and GeV; muon and electron; appearance and disappearance

- Example: Testing MiniBooNE with MicroBooNE data [Arguelles et al, PRL 128 \(2022\)](#)

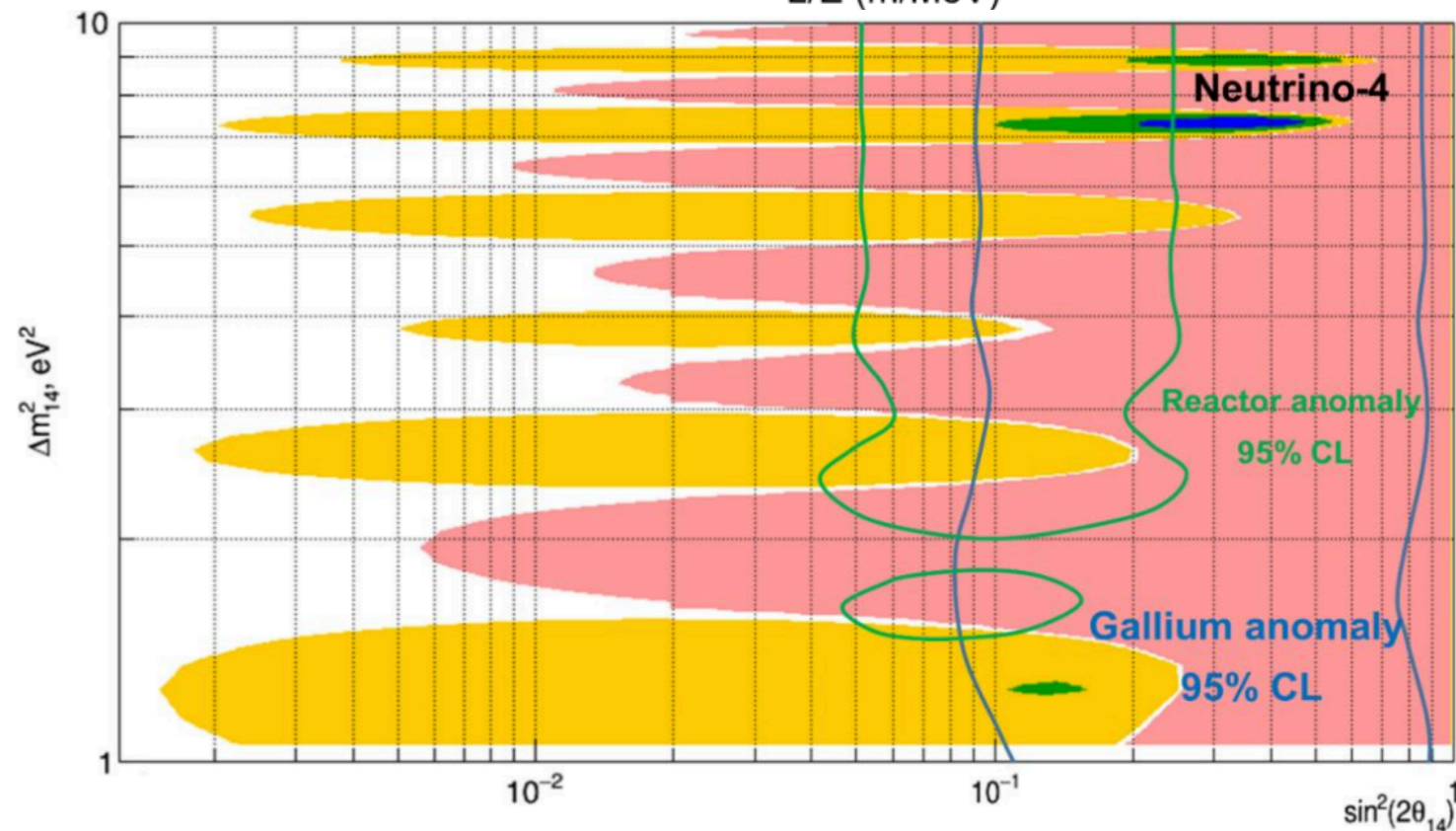
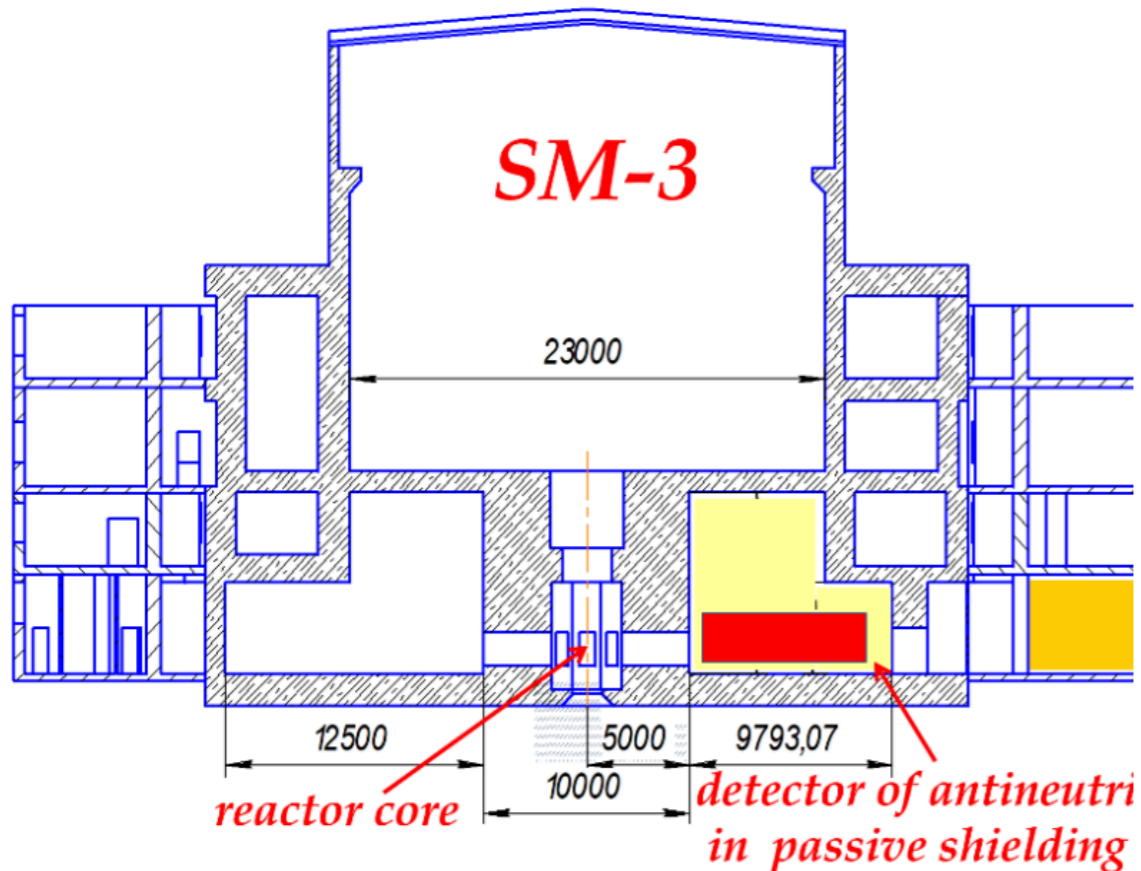
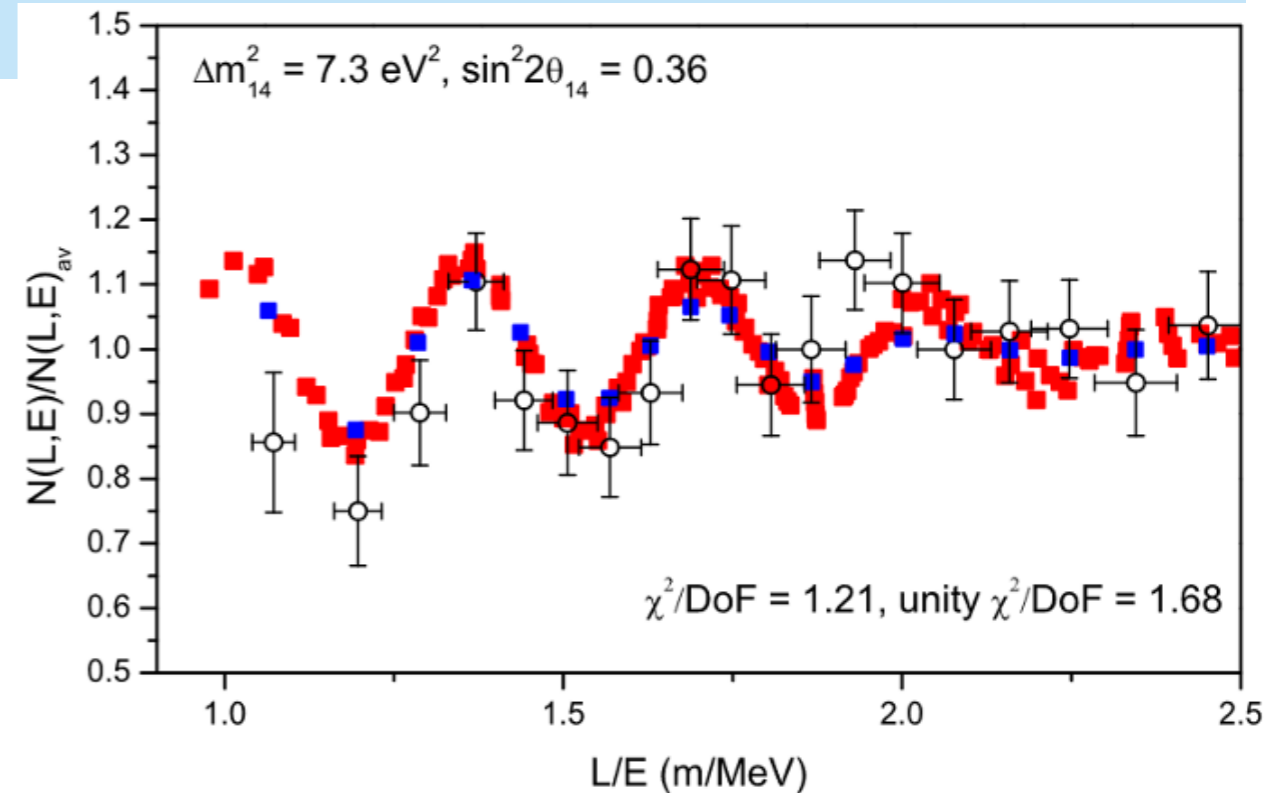
- Short-baseline reactor experiments play a unique role in an integrated global effort to understand these anomalies.



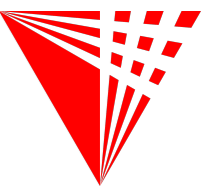
# Reason 3: Outstanding Reactor Issues



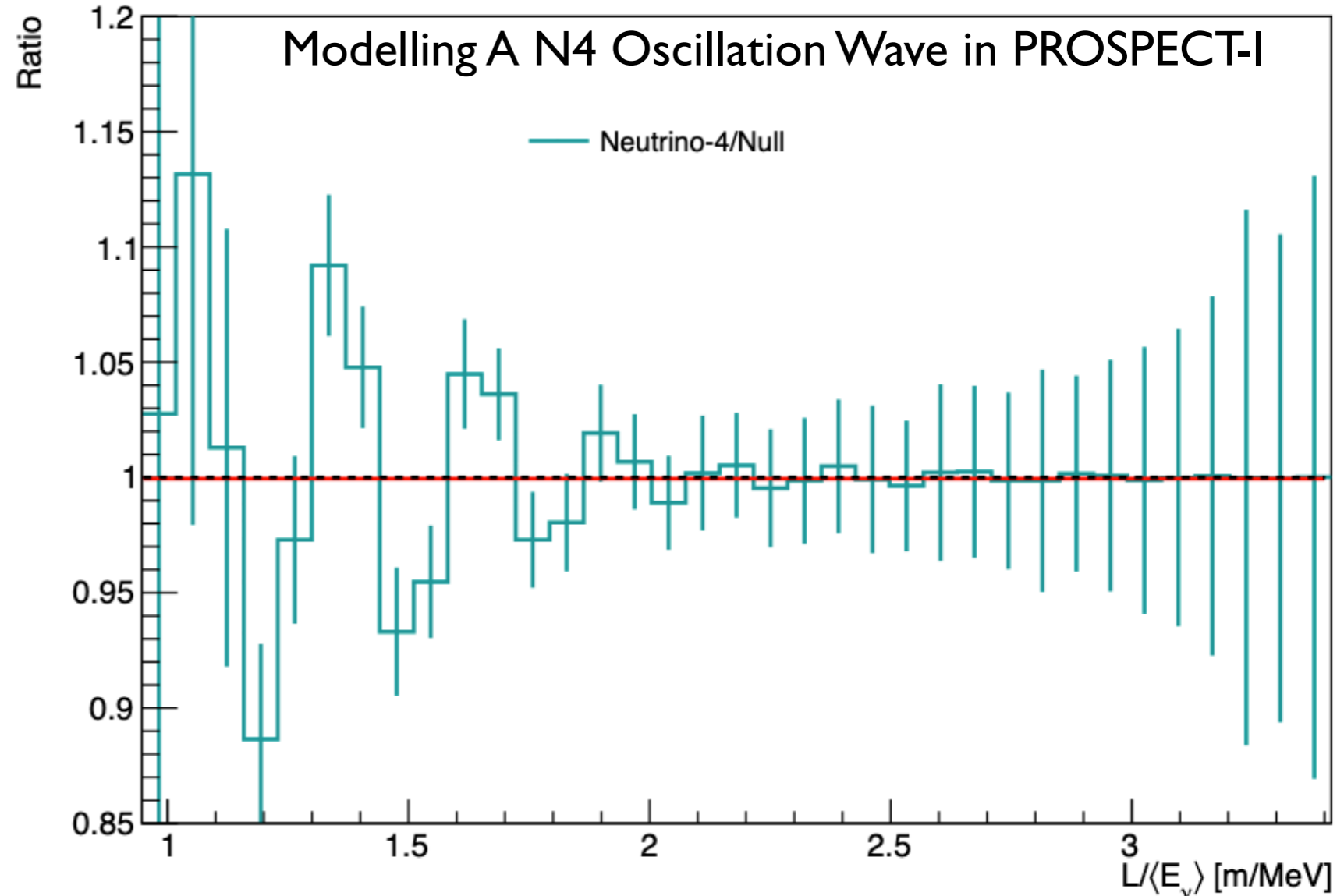
- While the RAA is largely resolved, the oscillation picture from short-baseline reactors is not.
- Specifically: Neutrino-4 claims to observe high-amplitude, high- $\Delta m^2$  sterile oscillations
- Other sources (accelerators) are insufficient to settle the issue



# Horizons: Data From Existing Experiments



- In the new P5 period, we can use existing short-baseline datasets to learn more about BSM phenomena
- PROSPECT's final dataset will provide a high-CL test of most of N4-suggested phase space

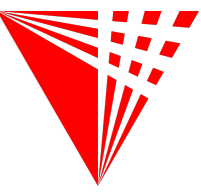


Data Set	Rx-On(Off) Days	$N_{\text{IBD}}$	$N_{\text{eff}}$	S:CB(AB)
Prev. Analysis	95.65(73.09)	$50560 \pm 406$	18100	1.37(1.78)
This Analysis	95.62(72.69)	$61029 \pm 338$	36204	3.90(4.31)

[PROSPECT, PRD 103 \(2021\)](#) →

COMING SOON! →

# Horizons: New P5 Period Experiments



- In the new P5 period, major enhancements in sensitivity can come from ‘ultimate’ next-generation SBL reactor experiments

- PROSPECT-II:

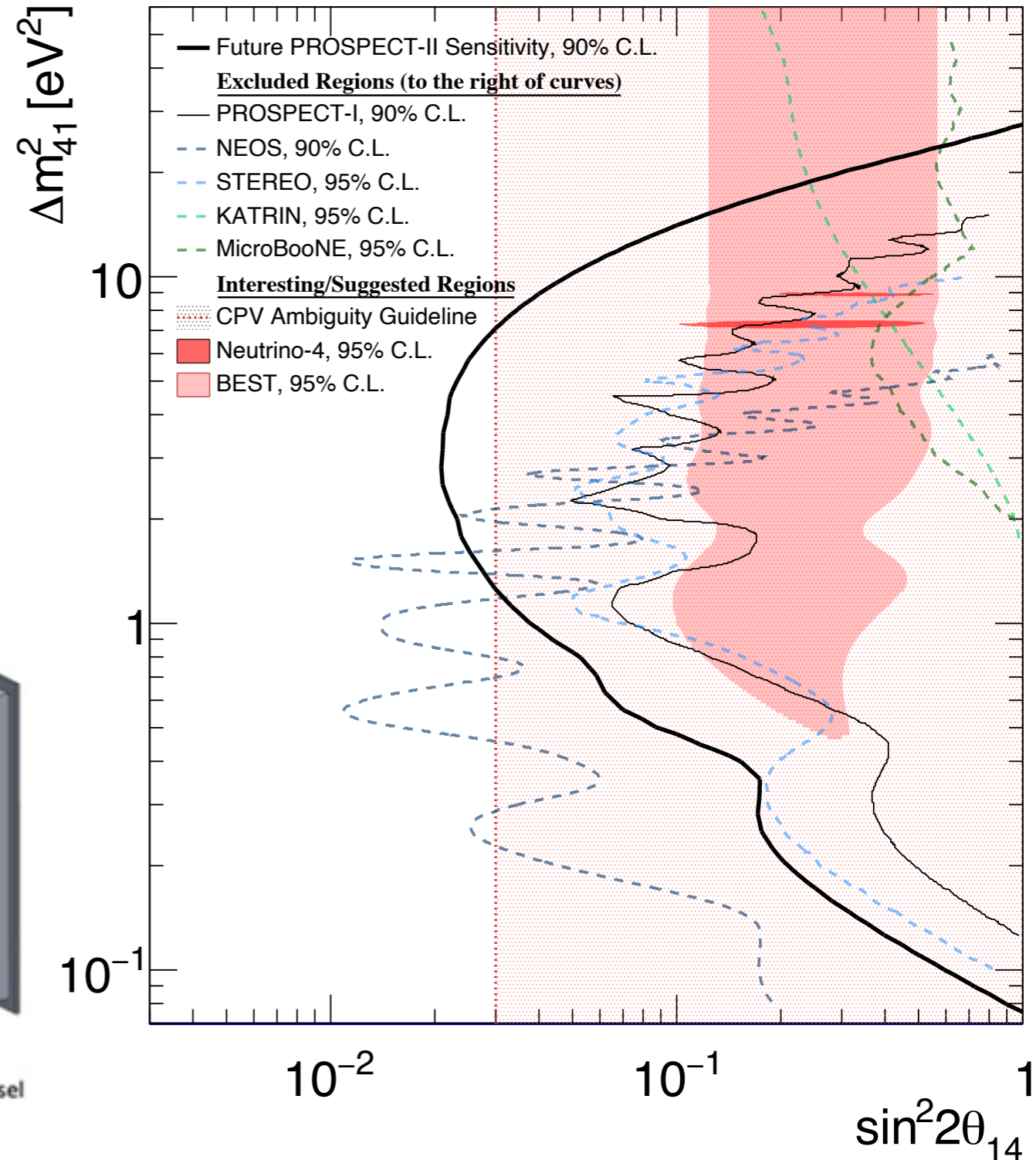
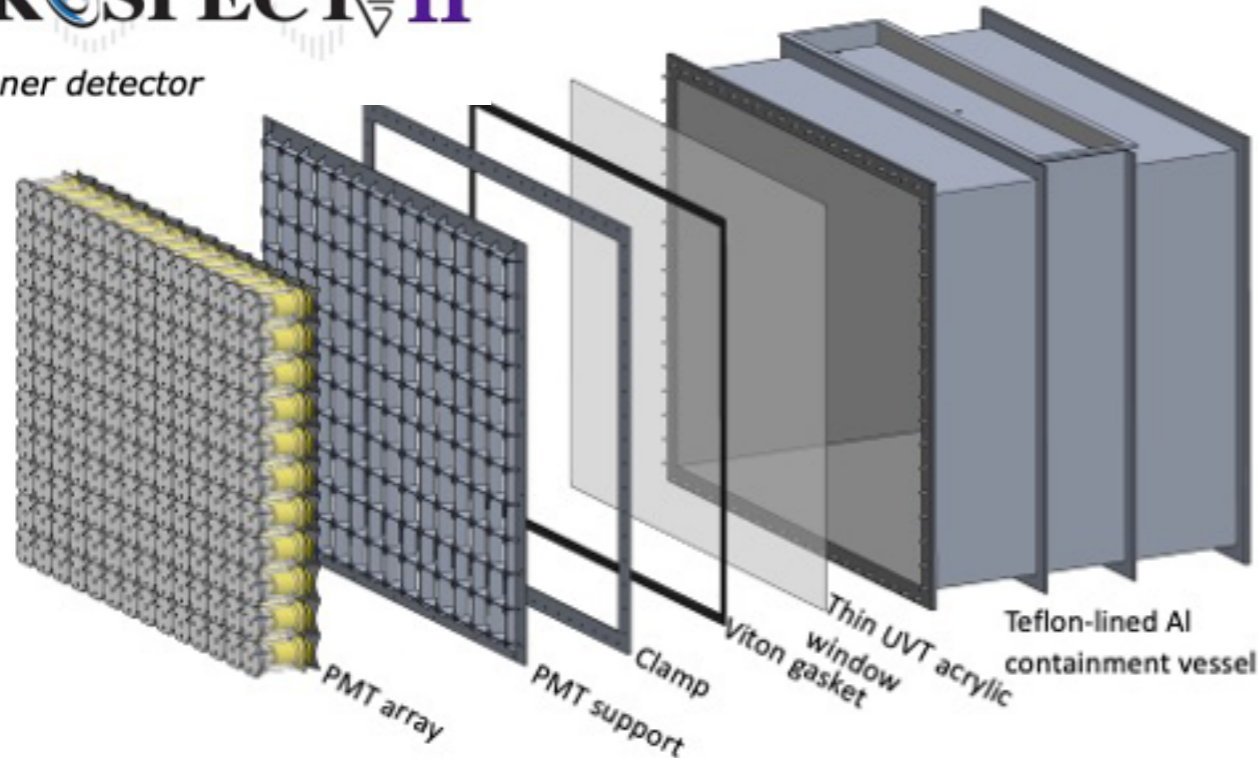
- Correlated HEU and LEU measurements in a mobile, robust tons-scale detector

[PROSPECT, J Phys G 49 \(2022\)](#)

- JUNO-TAO:

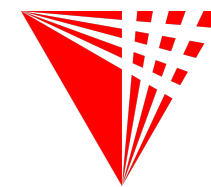
- Percent-level energy resolution in a LEU-based short-baseline measurement

[JUNO, hep-ex\[2005.08745\]](#)





# Reason 4: Exploring New Paradigms



- Reactors would be the most intense terrestrial source of hidden sector particles below the  $\sim 10$  MeV scale
  - Production of new MeV-scale hidden sector particles in the radioactive crucible of a reactor
  - BSM imprints in reactor-based CEvNS signatures
  - Low-threshold detection with QIS sensors
  - Enabling support measurements (flux, spectrum) from IBD detectors



[T.Akindele et al, hep-ex\[2203.07214\]](#)

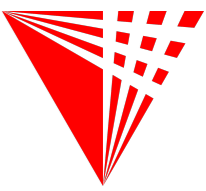


Search for Direct Evidence of New Particles

Pursue Quantum Imprints of New Phenomena

ical phenomena and long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiments. The adaptability and deployment flexibility of agile experiments, **whether near beams or reactors** offer promise for synergistic explorations of hidden sector particles and other phenomena in the evolving BSM field. Technology development, such as innovative materials and unique sensors,

# Reason 4: Exploring New Paradigms

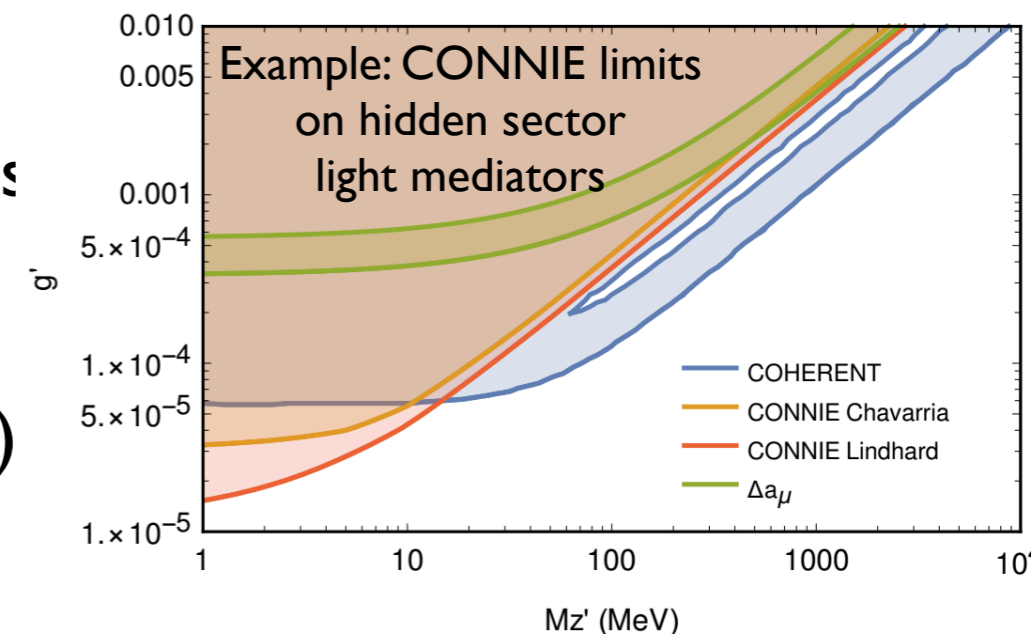


- Reactors would be the most intense terrestrial source of hidden sector particles below the  $\sim 10$  MeV scale!

- Production of new MeV-scale hidden sector particles in the radioactive crucible of a reactor
- BSM imprints in reactor-based CEvNS signatures
- Low-threshold detection with QIS sensors
- Enabling support measurements (flux, spectrum) from IBD detectors

[T.Akindele et al, hep-ex\[2203.07214\]](#)

[CONNIE, JHEP 54 \(2020\)](#)



## Workshop on Neutrino Science and Applications at HFIR

Apr 22 – 24, 2024  
America/New\_York timezone

<https://indico.phy.ornl.gov/event/433/overview>

Enter your search term



Overview

Timetable

Registration

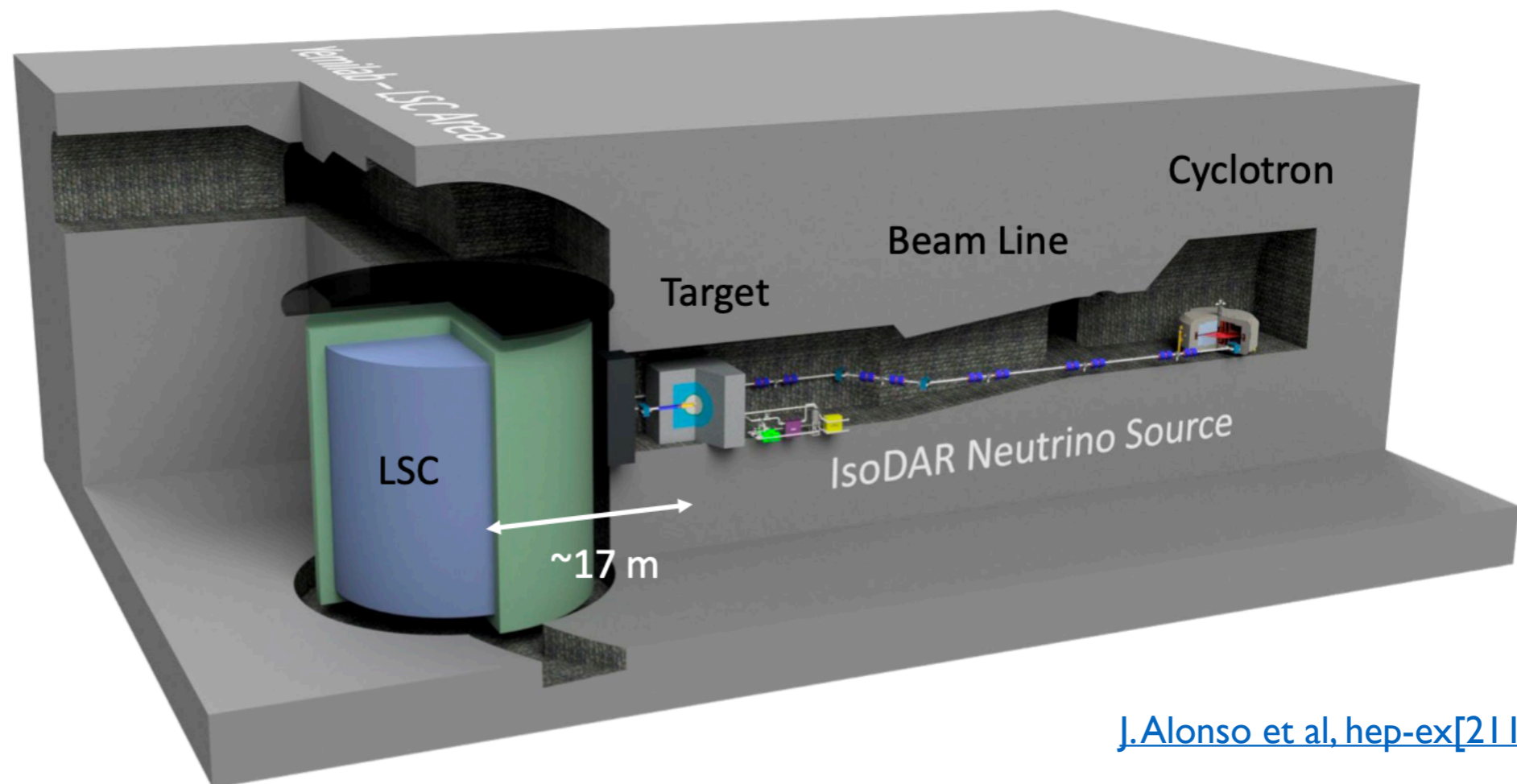
Participant List

The **Workshop on Neutrino Science and Applications at HFIR** will be held at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to explore opportunities provided by the unique High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) facility (see attached Fact Sheet) to host a world-leading neutrino science experimental program over the next two decades that matches the spirit and utility of its sister laboratory at the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) at ORNL, Neutrino Alley. Many physics topics accessible at a short distance from an intense and well

# Back to Reason I: Electron Flavor



- “Reactors are the purest, highest-intensity source of electron-flavor neutrinos that we have to work with” ... CURRENTLY.
- A new experiment type provides another option: IsoDAR!



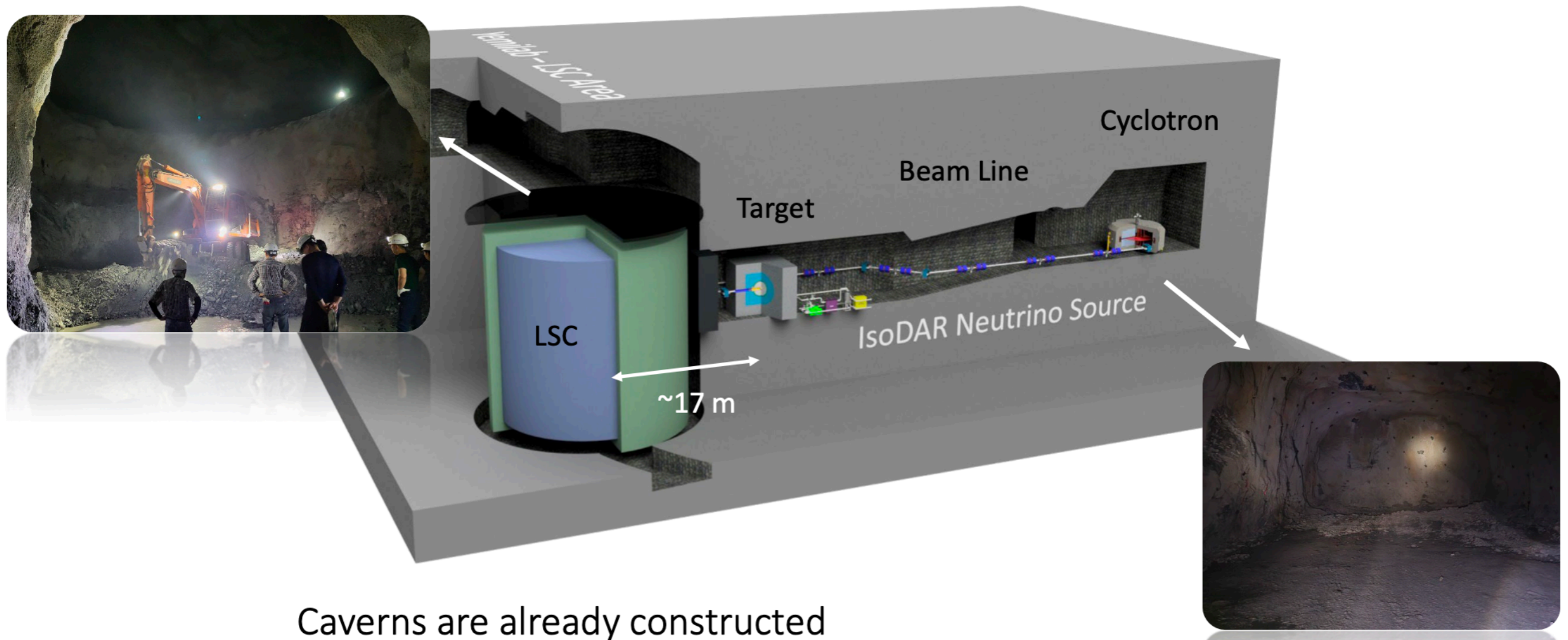
[J.Alonso et al, hep-ex\[2111.10635\]](#)

- Compact Cyclotron → 10 mA protons @ 60 MeV (10x more current than existing)
- Target → 600 kW power deposited →  $\sim 1$  mole  $\bar{\nu}_e$  produced in 5 years from pure  $^8\text{Li}$  DAR
- Liquid Scintillator Counter →  $\sim 2\text{M}$  Inverse Beta Decay ev.,  $\sim 7000$   $\bar{\nu}_e - e^-$  ES ev.

# New P5: More Electron Flavor!



- IsoDAR at Yemilab in South Korea: existing civil construction!
  - Accelerator and LSC R&D work continues; approaching shovel-ready status
  - Funding explorations active on both sides of the Pacific



Caverns are already constructed

Physics Paper: <http://arxiv.org/abs/2111.09480>, PRD 2022

IsoDAR@Yemilab – CDR: <http://arxiv.org/abs/2110.10635> arXiv 2021

Thanks to J. Spitz for input.

# Broad IsoDAR Physics

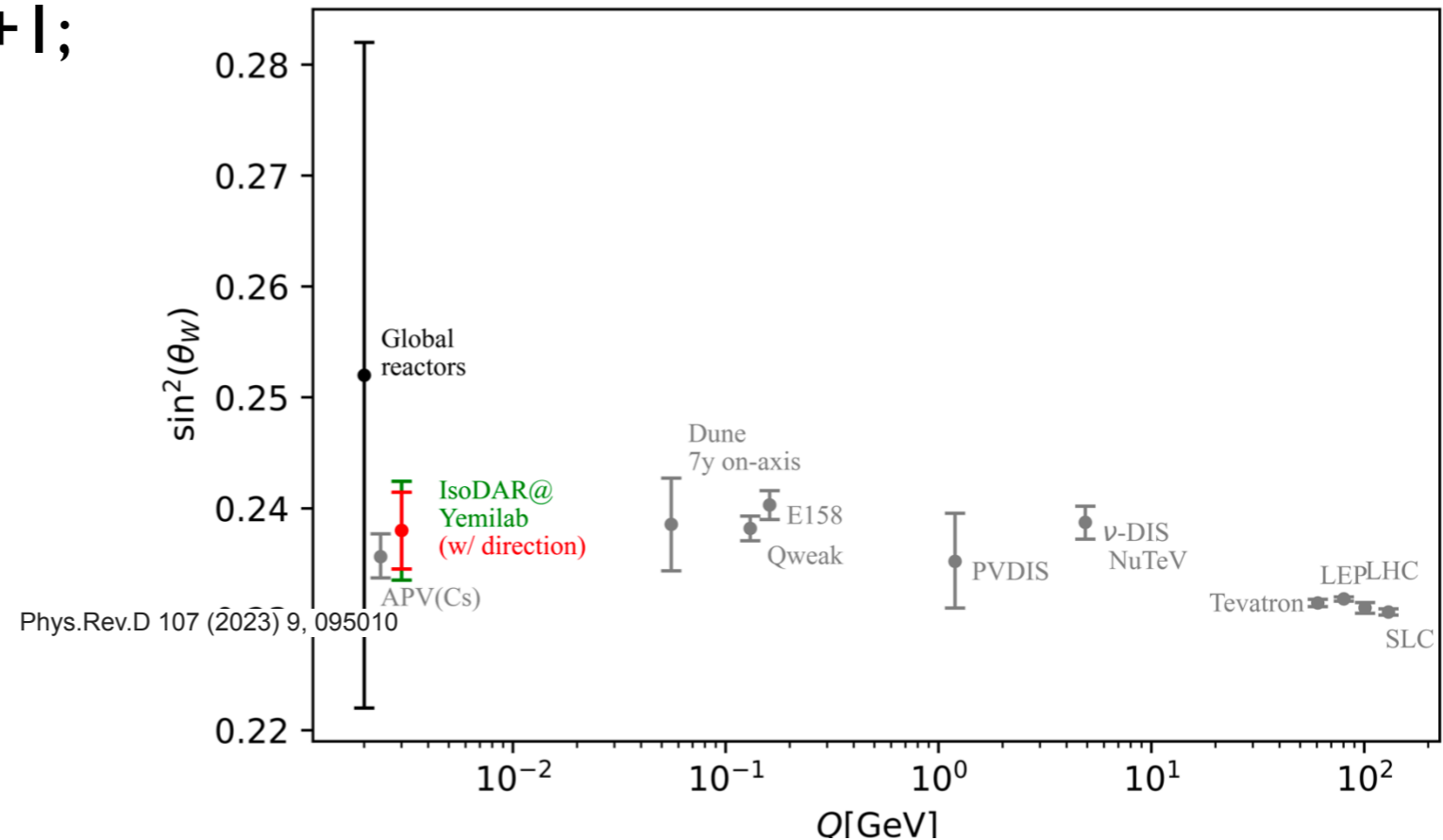


- IsoDAR @ Yemilab aims for broad, long-term physics program

- IBD: Osc-related searches: 3+1; 3+2; 3+1+decay, etc.
- Nu-e like signatures:  $\theta_w$ , ALPs, and more.
- Non-beam signatures: solar neutrinos

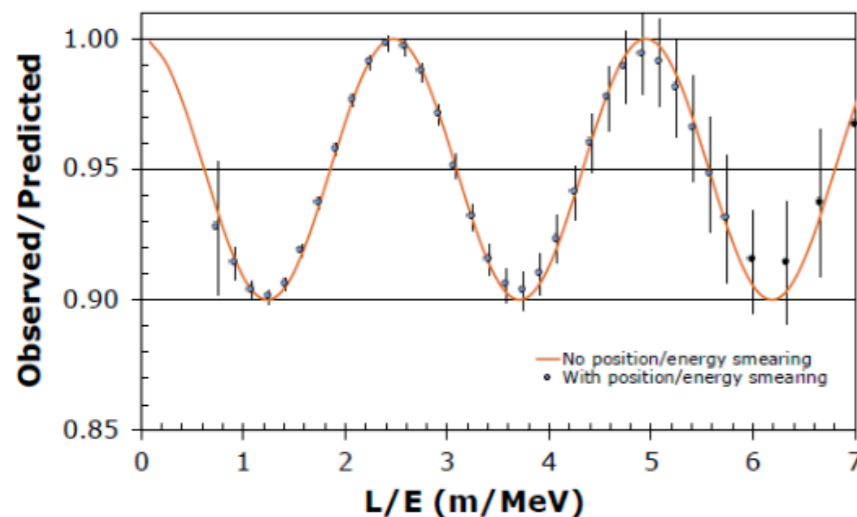
[J.Alonso, et al, Phys Rev D 105 \(2022\)](#)

[L.Waites et al, Phys Rev D 107 \(2023\)](#)



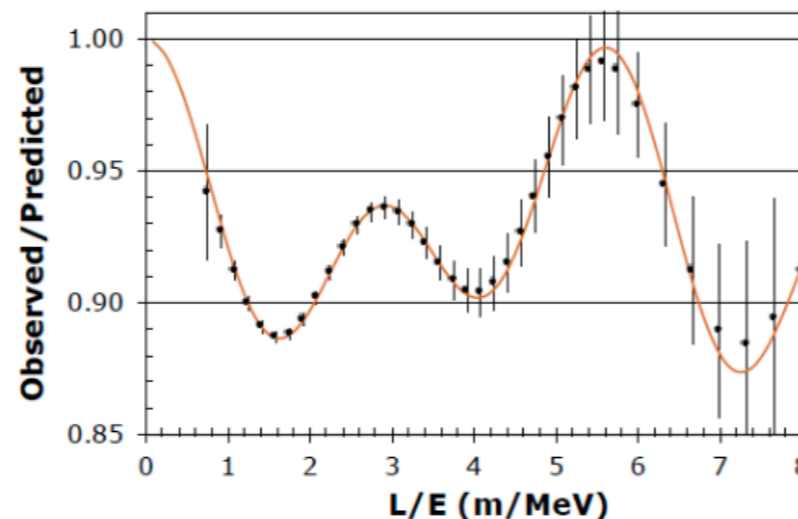
one exotic neutrino

IsoDAR@ Yemilab:  $\Delta m^2 = 1 \text{ eV}^2$  and  $\sin^2 2\theta = 0.1$



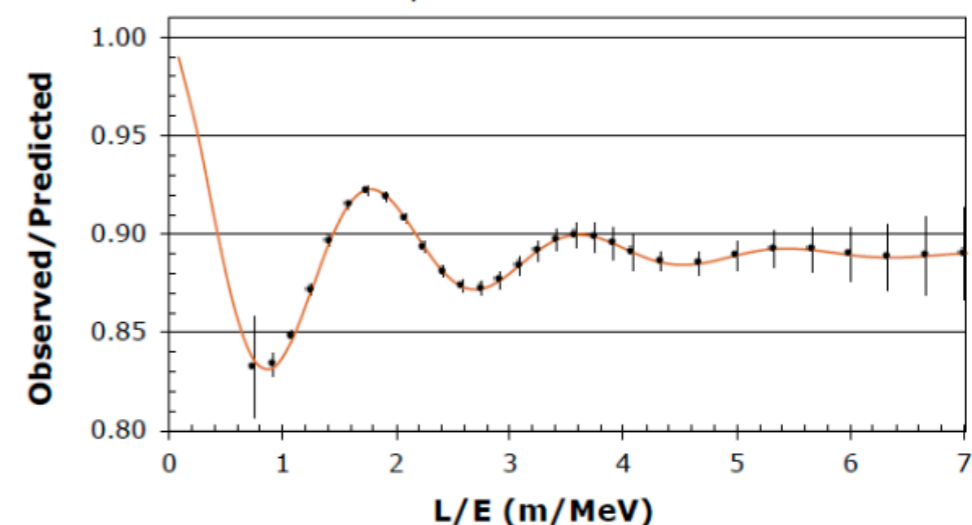
two exotic neutrinos

IsoDAR@Yemilab: (3+2) Model with Kopp/Maltoni/Schwetz Parameters



one that decays...

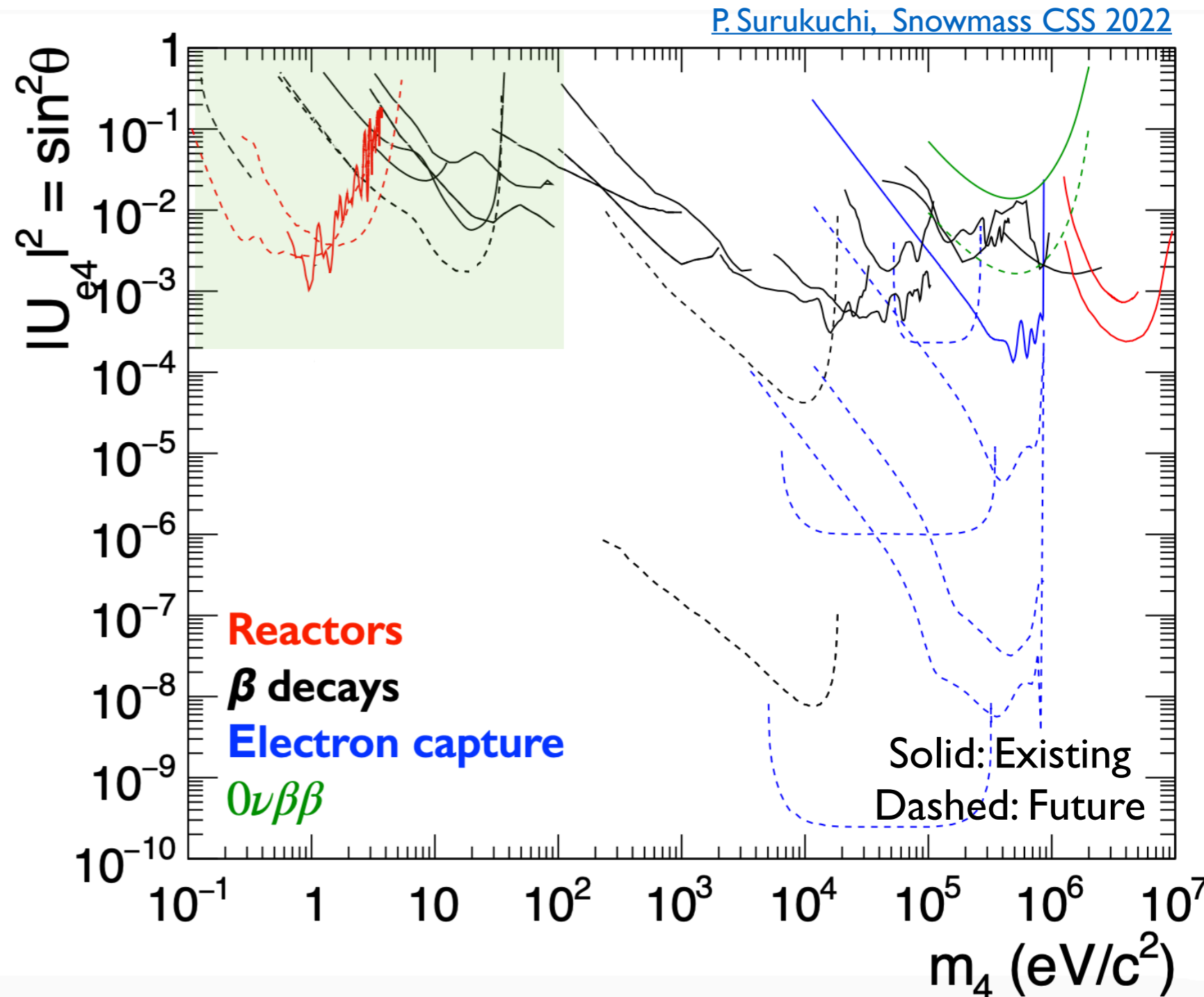
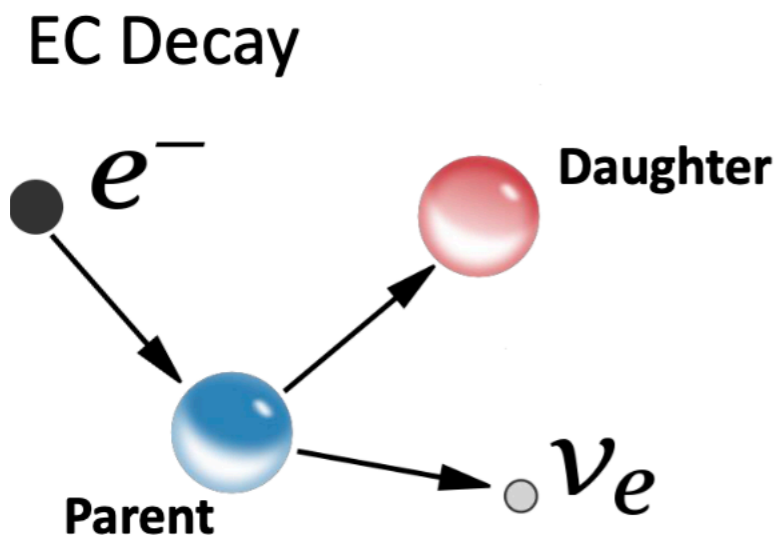
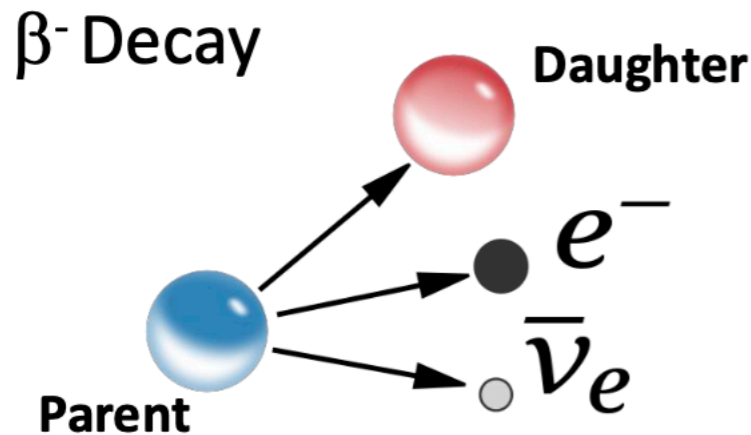
IsoDAR@Yemilab: (3+1) plus Decay Model  $\Delta m^2 = 1.35 \text{ eV}^2$ ,  $\sin^2 2\theta = 0.214$  and  $\tau = 4.5 \text{ eV}^{-1}$





# More About High $\Delta m^2$ : Decay Experiments

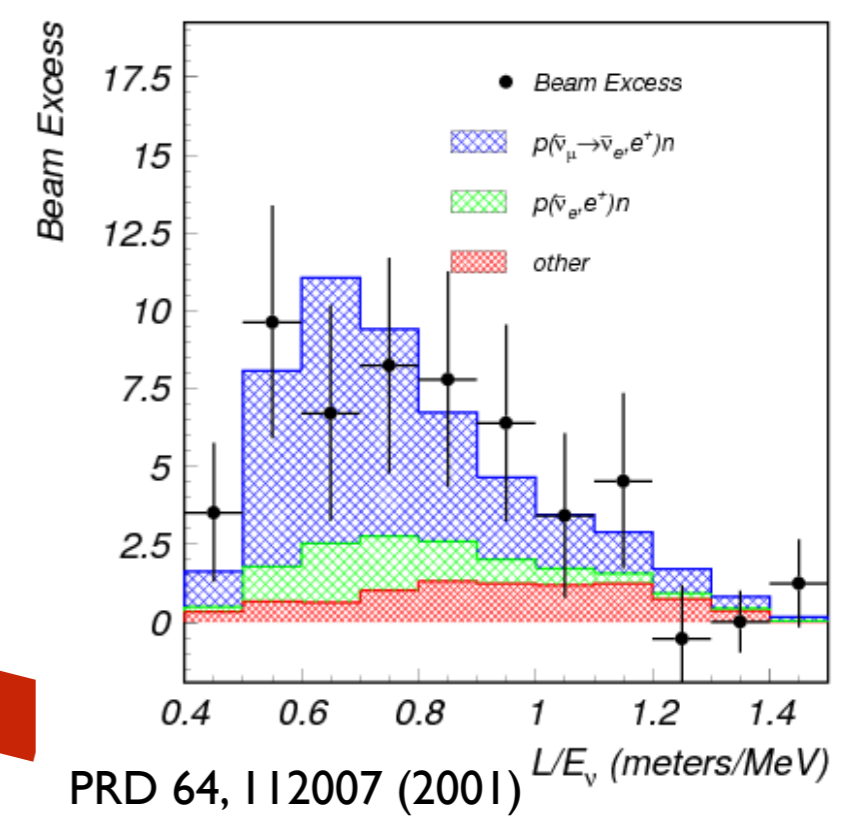
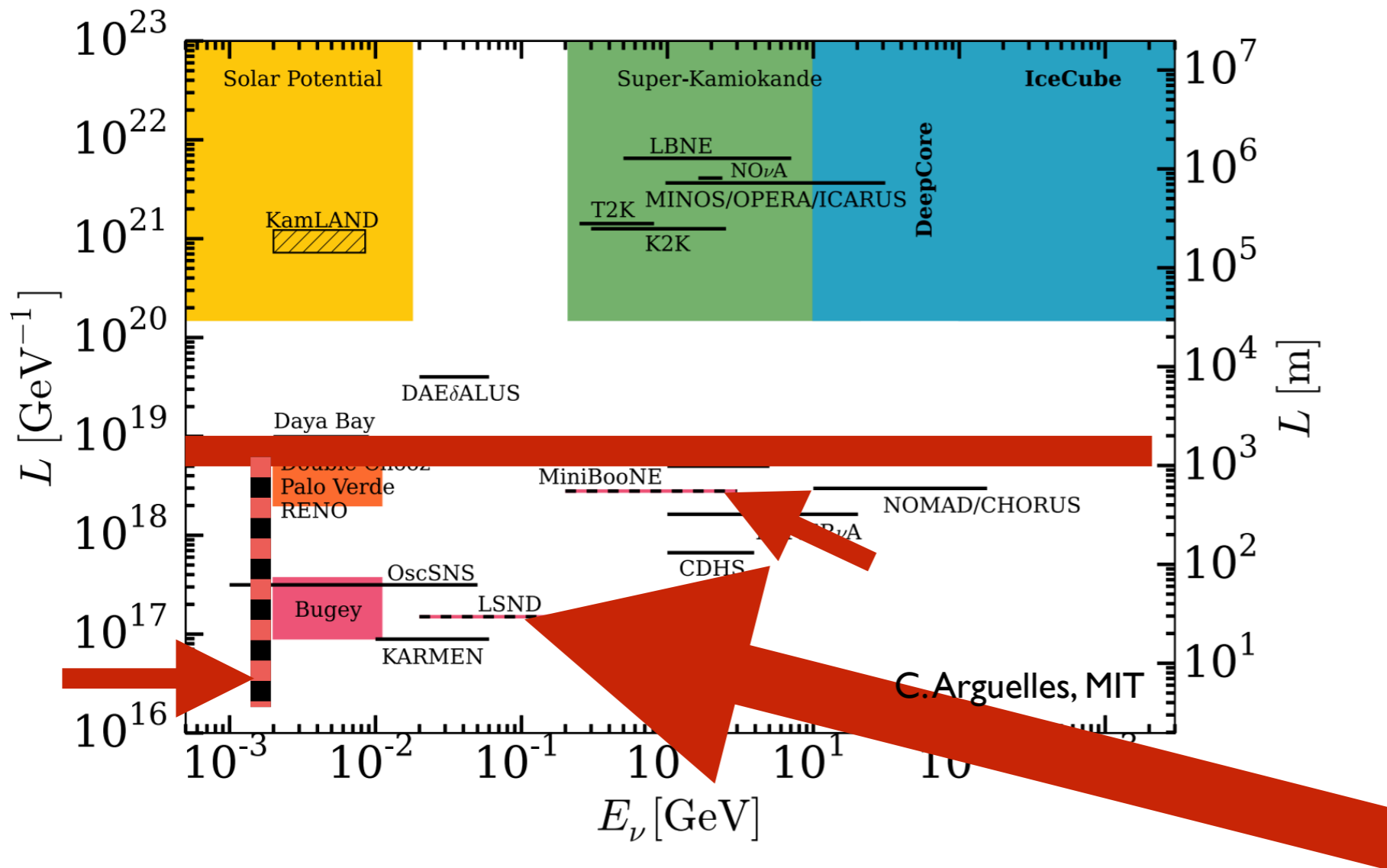
- Electron-flavored weak decay: great coverage at very high  $\Delta m^2$ 
  - Measure tritium beta, or measure EC nuclear recoil
  - Below  $\sim 100 \text{ eV}^2$ , future limits from KATRIN, Project-8



# Decay-At-Rest Electron Appearance (LSND)



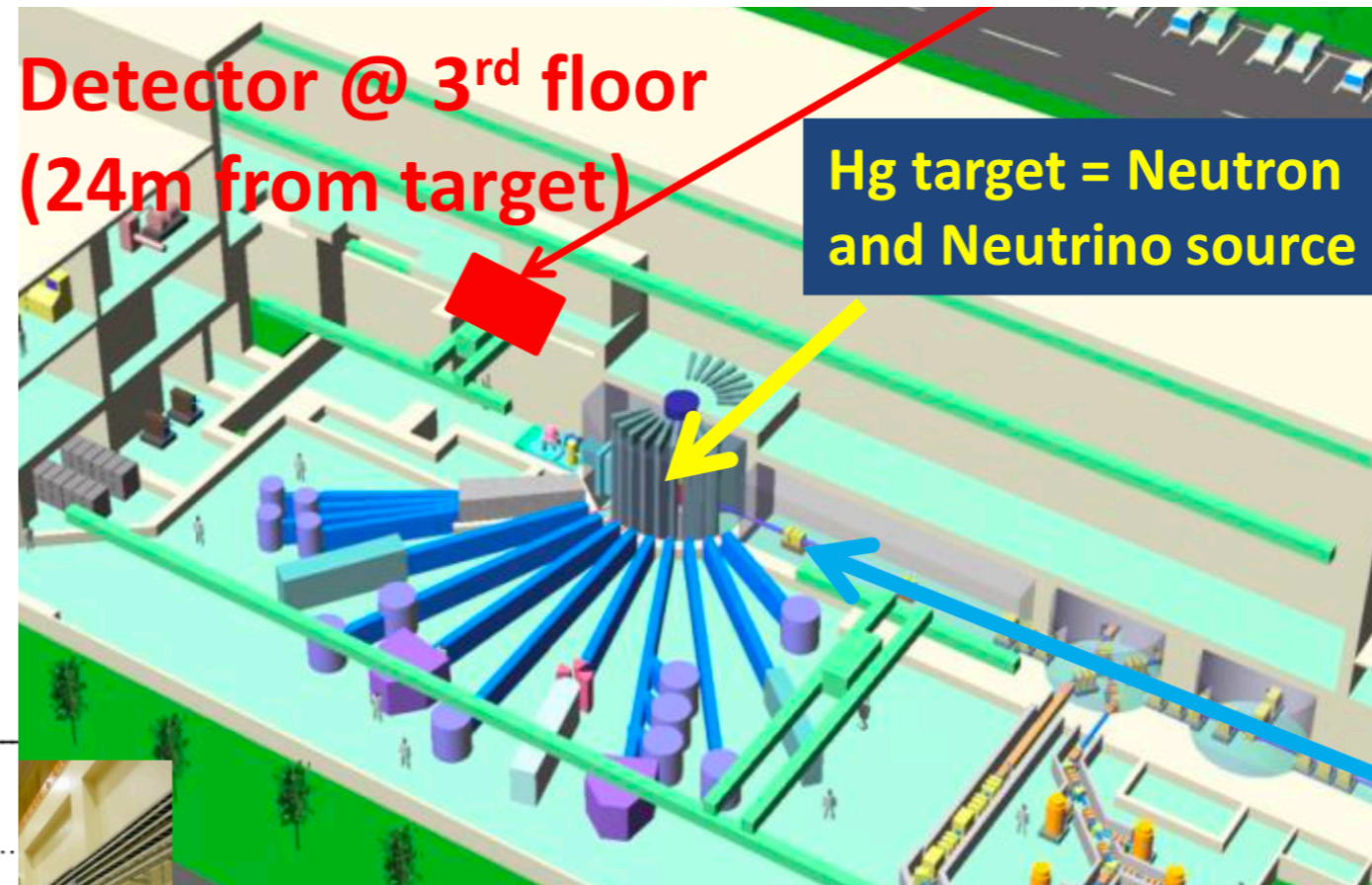
- Let's zoom in and explore another of these anomalies
  - What's their status?
  - How does this relate to the broader neutrino program (and SBN)?



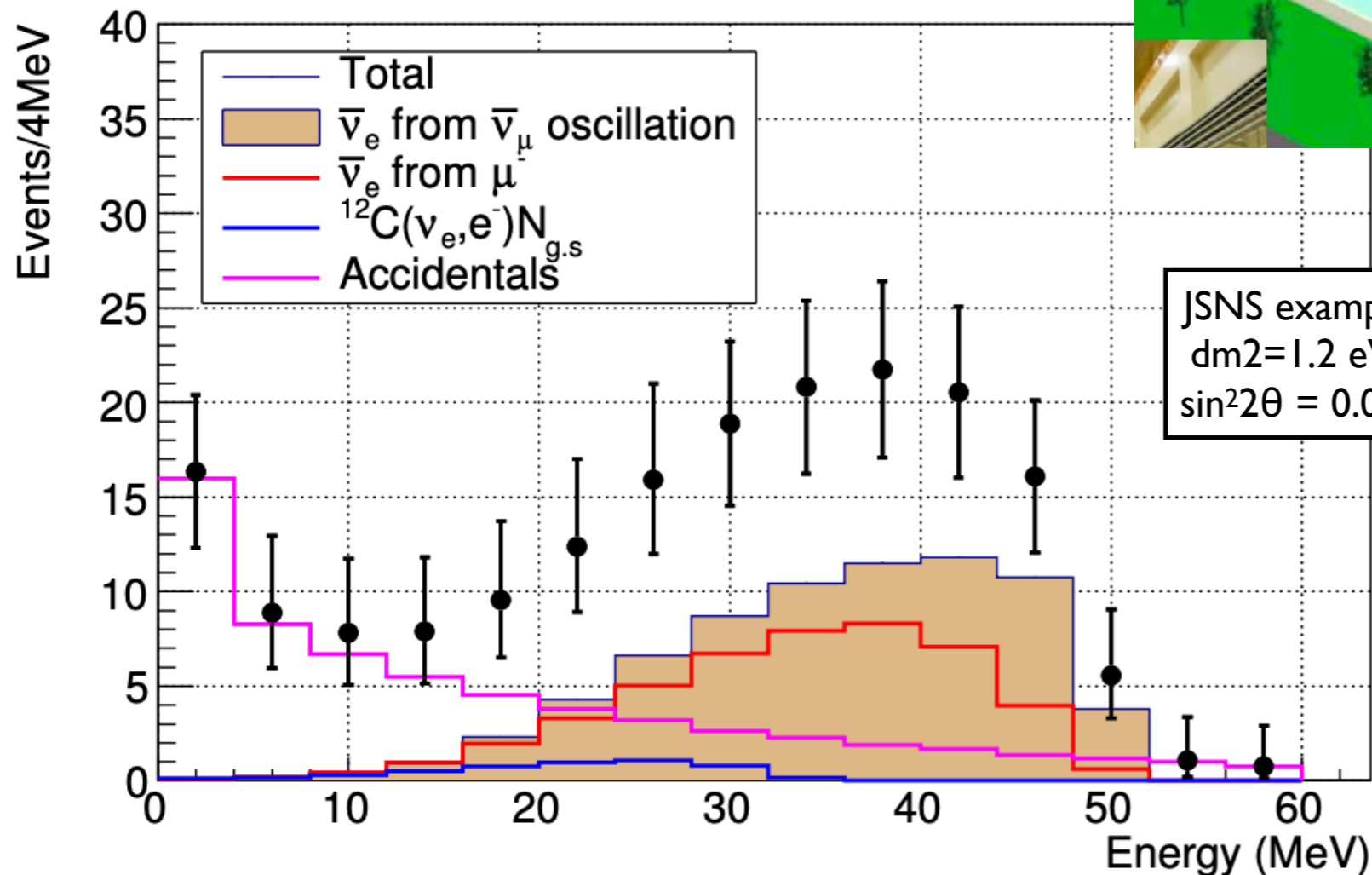
# Into the New P5: JSNS<sup>2</sup>



- JSNS<sup>2</sup> at JPARC: like LSND, source nearly free of all  $\bar{\nu}_e$
- Higher beam power (1MW), and higher statistics
- Shorter beam width (100ns), lower backgrounds



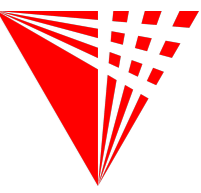
[JSNS2, hep-ex\[1705.08629\]](#)



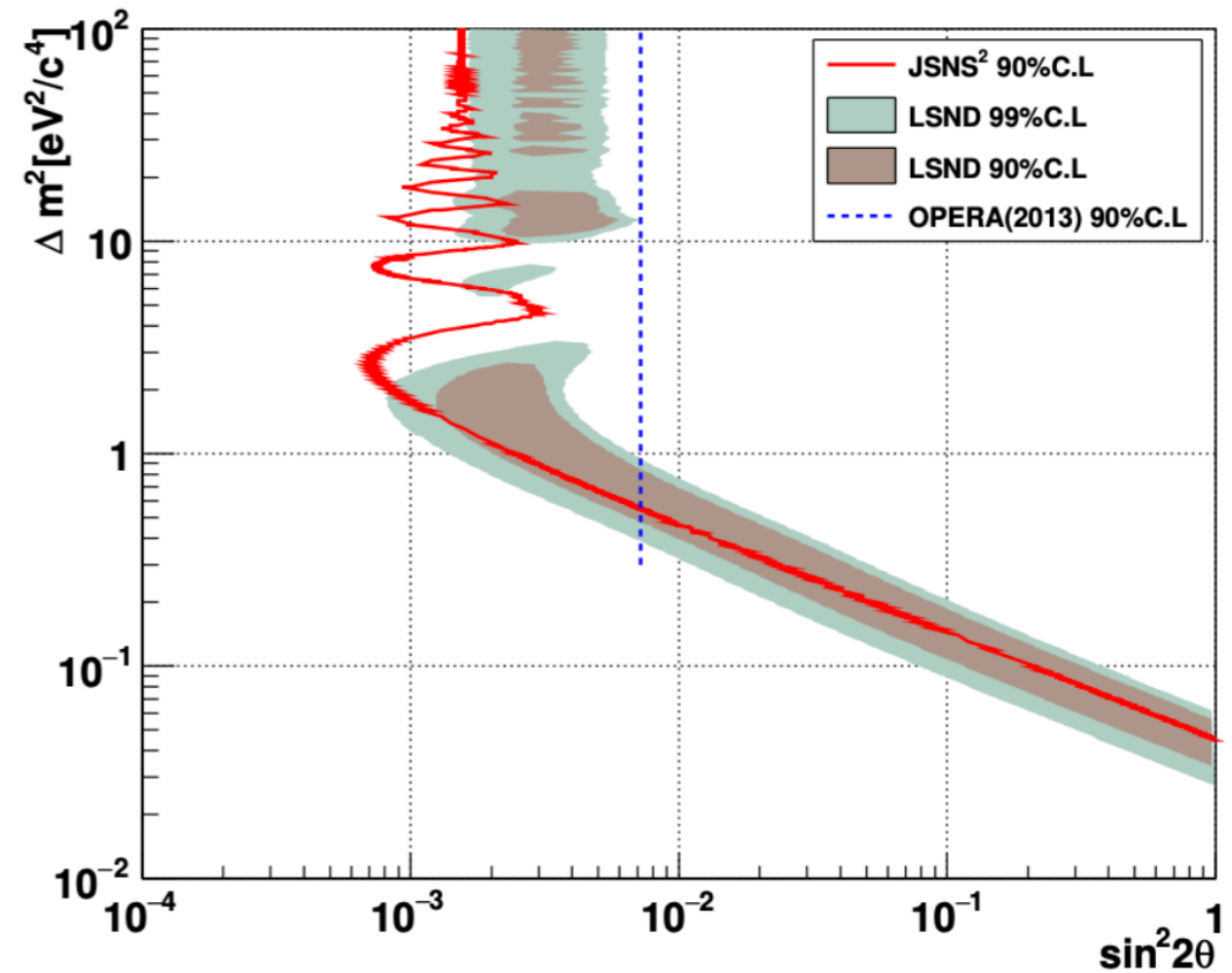
Thanks to J. Spitz for input.



# Into the New P5: JSNS2



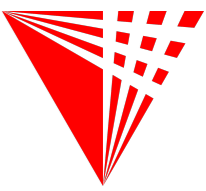
- In the new P5 period, we will directly test the LSND anomaly
- Experiment is constructed and already taking data:  $4e22$  POT (36% of total)
- 2nd detector (JSNS2-II) planned to start data-taking in late 2024.



[JSNS2, hep-ex\[2012.10807\]](#)

Thanks to J. Spitz for input.

# First Public Analysis of JSNS<sup>2</sup> Data



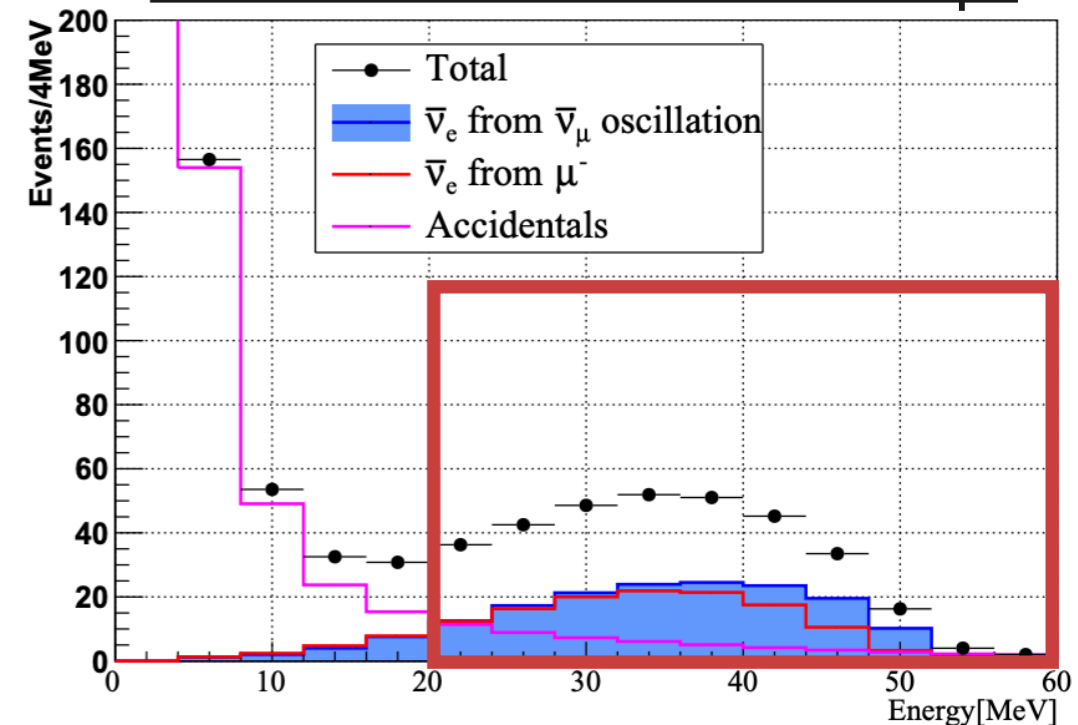
- Some JSNS<sup>2</sup> data analysis is public: accidentals rates

- Accidentals (pink):  $9e-8$ /spill/0.75MW
- Osc signal (LSND BF) :  $5e-8$ /spill/0.75MW
- While shape+rate can be easily measured, it looks like accidentals may be higher than initially anticipated

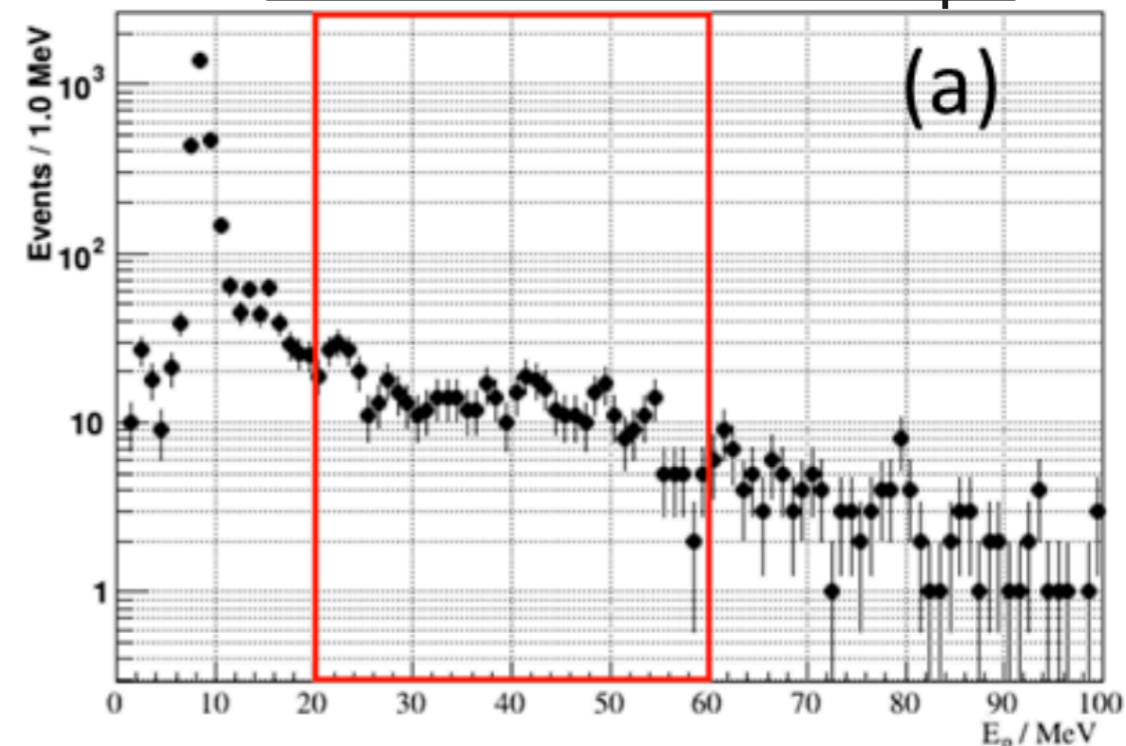
- Collaboration is hard at work at both oscillation and KDAR analyses

- These results will both be highly relevant to the SBN program; different JSNS results may point SBN towards different new physics scenarios of interest!

2021 Predicted Accidentals Shape



Measured Accidentals 'Shape'



[JSNS2, hep-ex\[2012.10807\]](#)

[JSNS2, hep-ex\[2308.02722\]](#)

# Summary

---



- In the new P5 period, there will be a lot more going on at short baselines than just FNAL SBN!
- We can expect new electron-flavor disappearance limits from reactors and weak decay experiments, and we have a new generation of Reactor-nu/IsoDAR-nu/weak-decay experiments that can be initiated in the new P5 period
- For electron disappearance, JSNS<sup>2</sup> has data in the can, and we can expect 1- and 2-detector results in the new P5 period

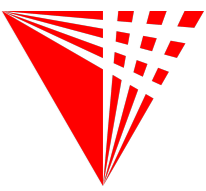
Thanks!

# Backup

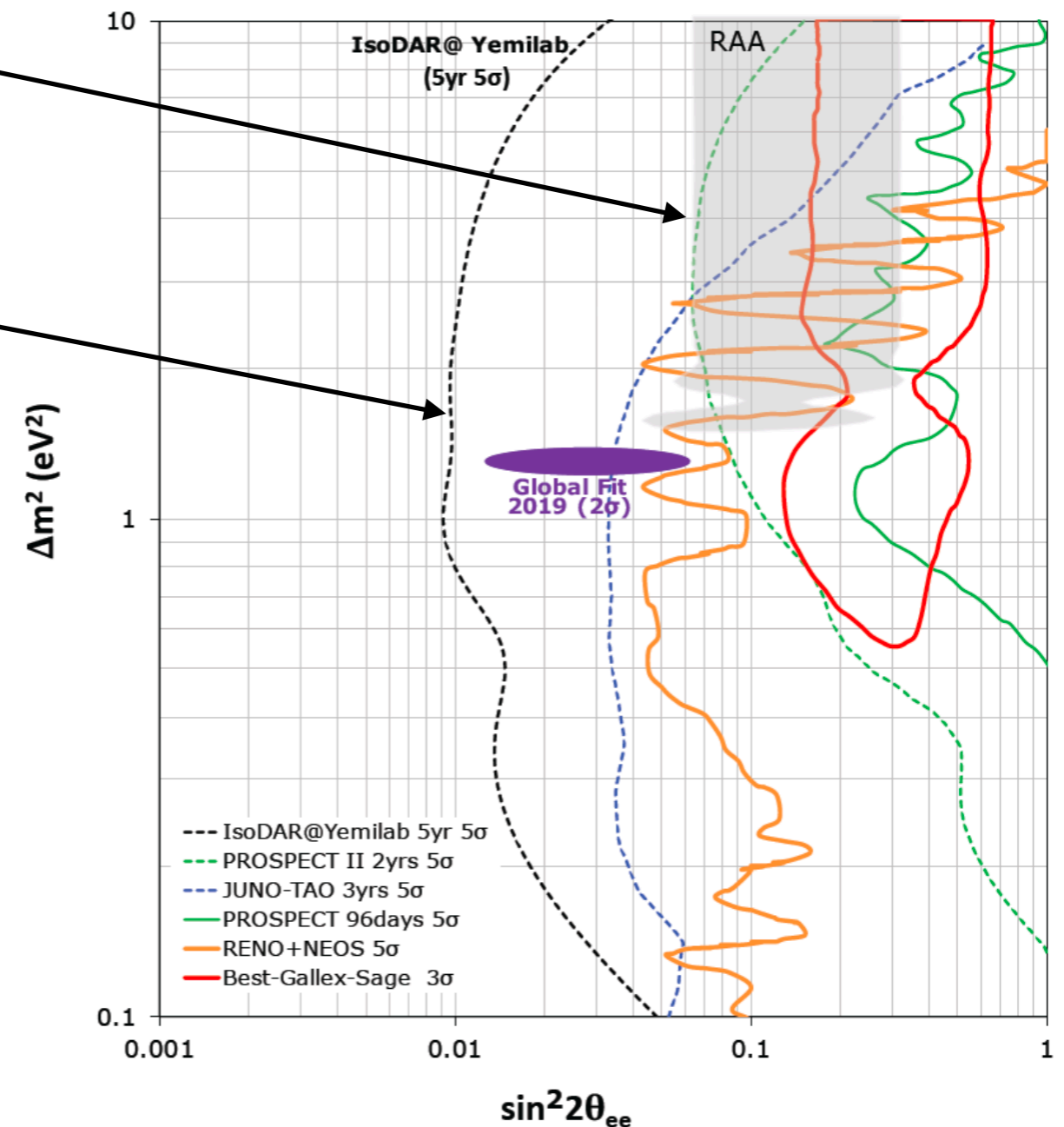
---



# Future Electron-Disappearance Limits?



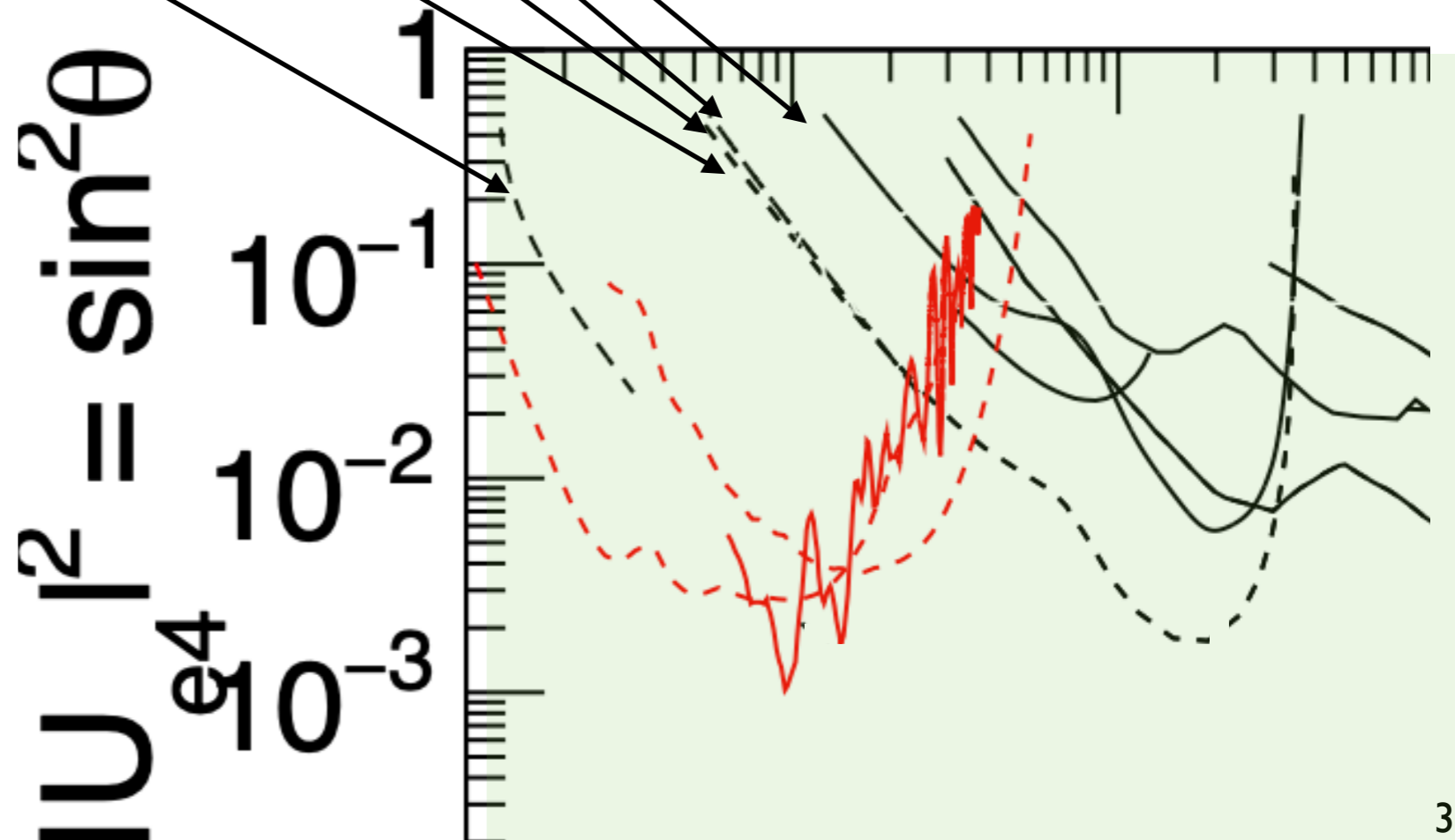
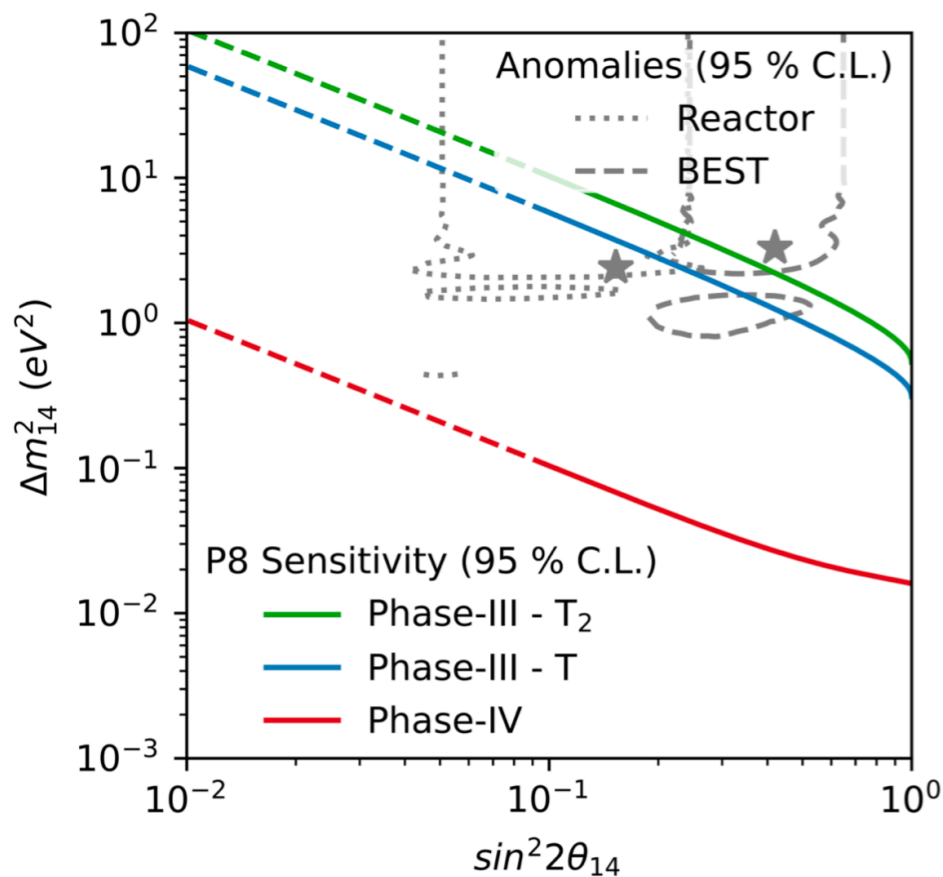
- Let's make a hypothetical scenario where we started building IsoDAR and PROSPECT-II today:
  - Assume 1 year PROSPECT construction; 2 year IsoDAR + LSC construction
  - 2027: P2@HFIR final results
  - ~2027: BNB Long shutdown?
  - 2031: IsoDAR final results
  - ~2031: DUNE+Beam startup?
- This is a pretty nice picture of what we might know by DUNE start-up time!
- Note all curves are 5sigma



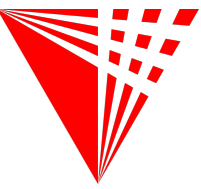
# Future E-Flavor Weak Decay Limits?



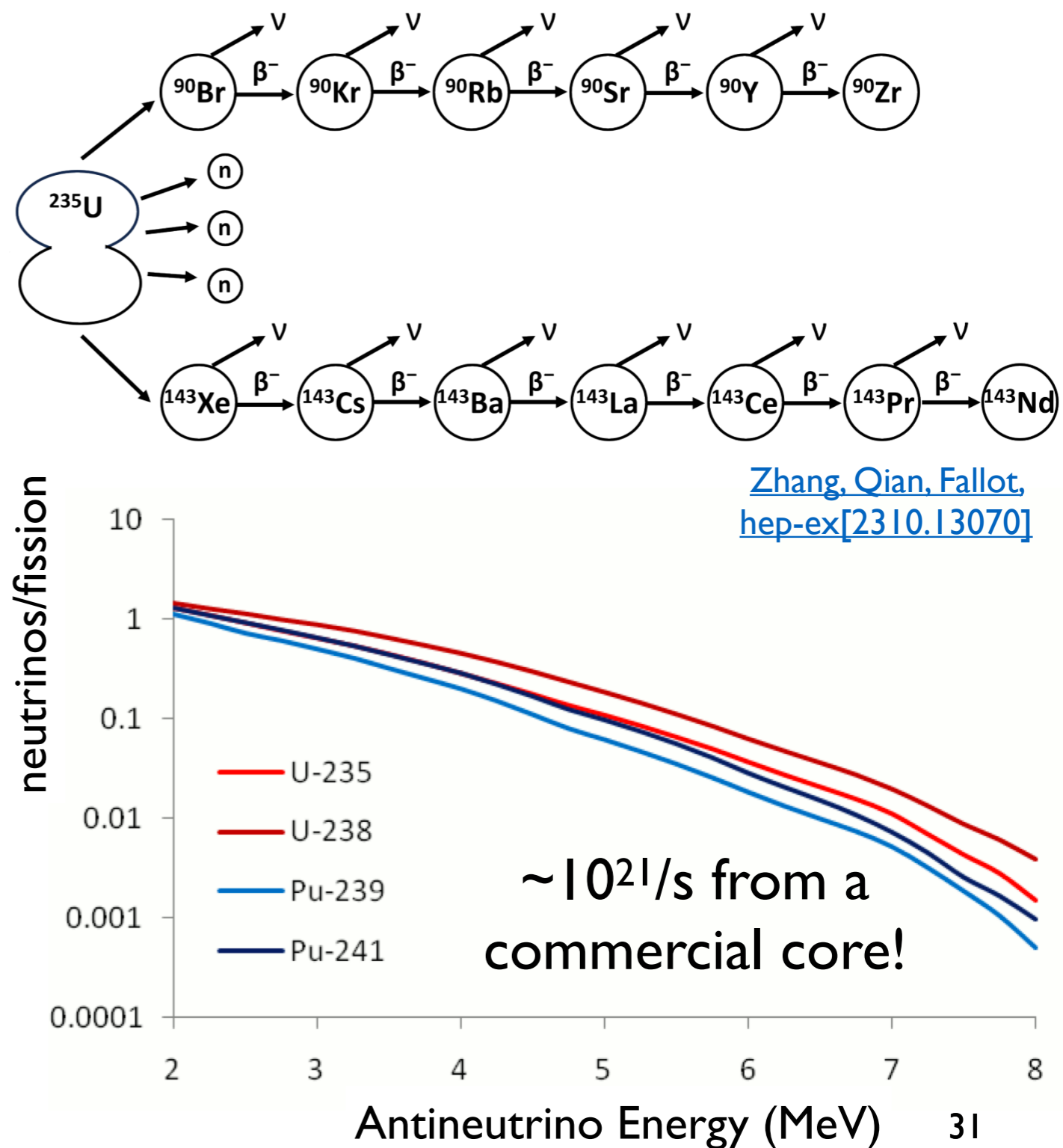
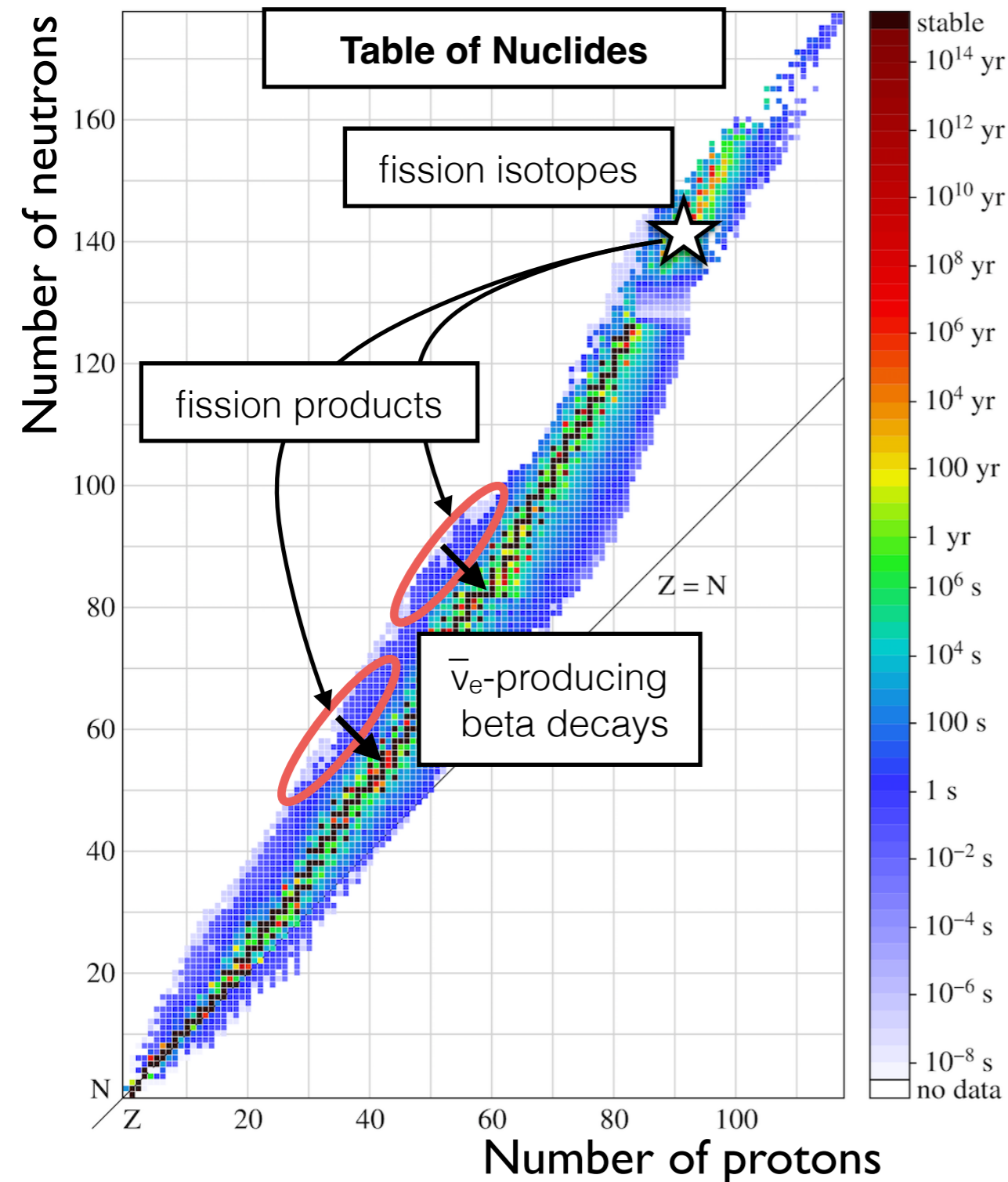
- When do weak decay limits come into existence?
  - KATRIN Current: 2021
  - KATRIN Completion: 2025
  - Project-8, Phase III (T2): 2030
  - Project-8, Phase III (T): 2033
  - Project-8, Phase IV: 2040

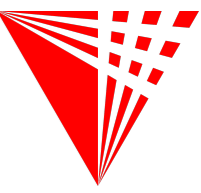


# How Do Reactors Make Neutrinos?



- Heavy isotopes fission make lighter isotopes and energy... and neutrons, betas, gammas and **electron antineutrinos**





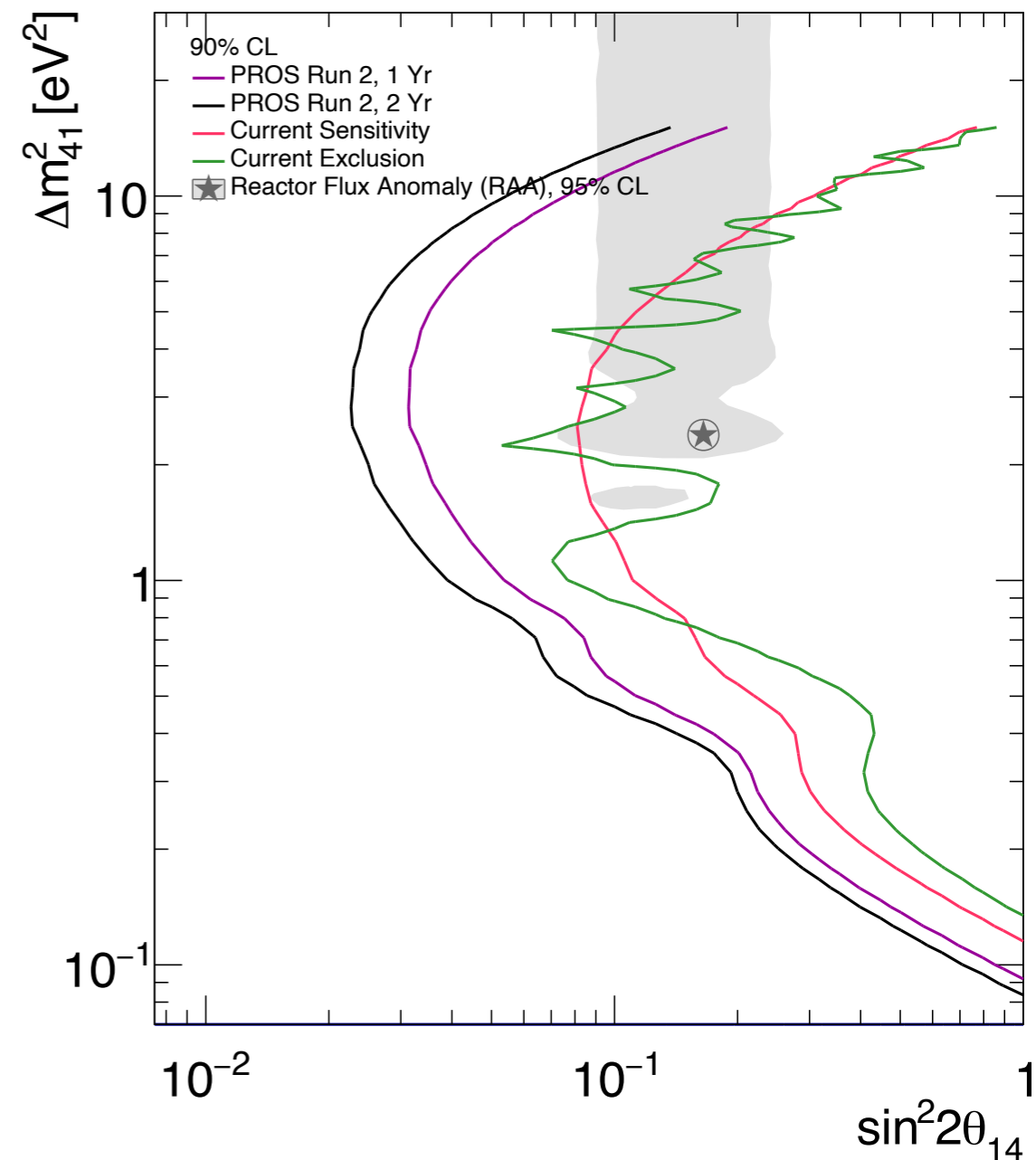
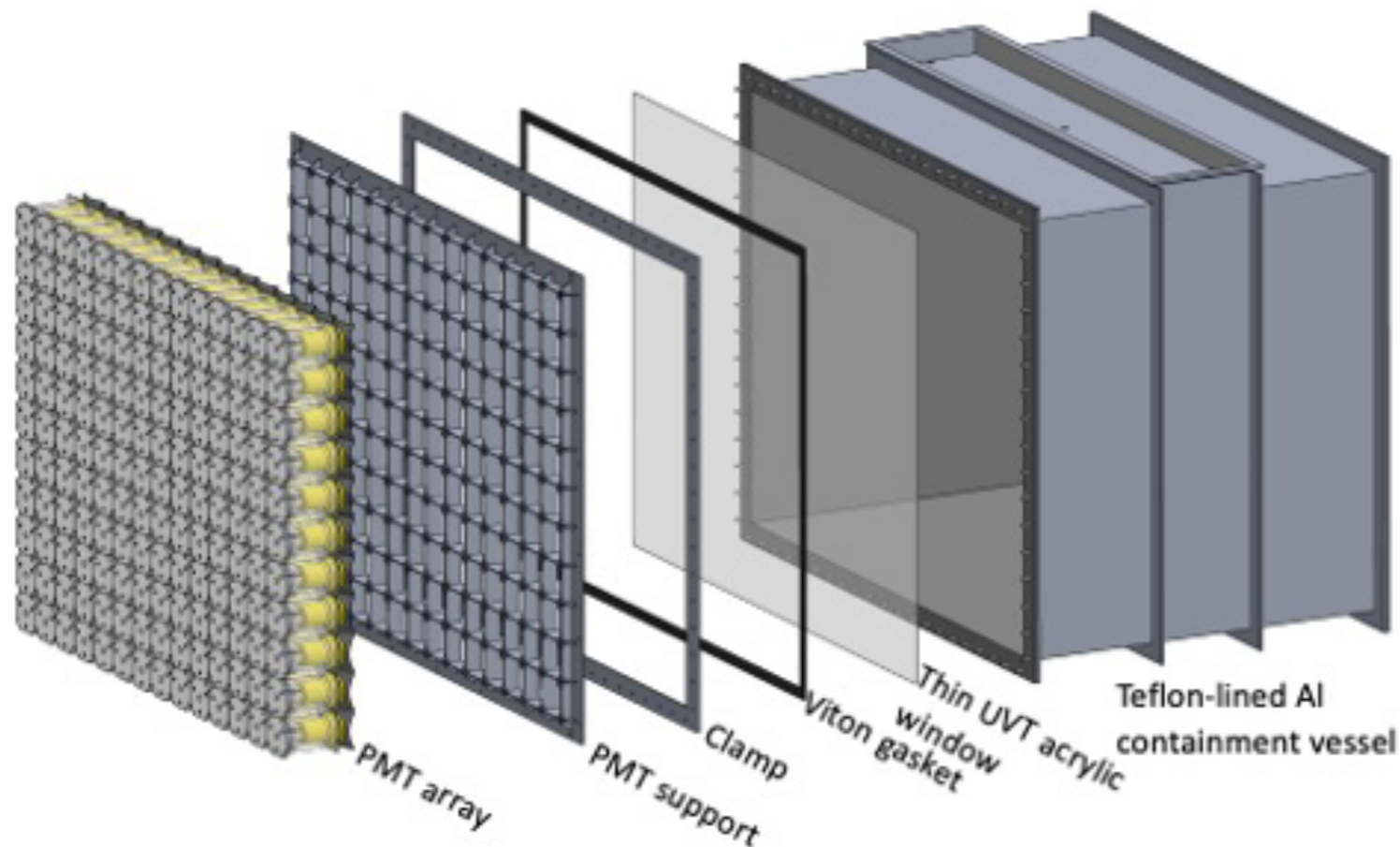
# Next Steps: PROSPECT-II

- PROSPECT-II will deliver x10 more IBD at HFIR than P-I, extending our statistics-limited oscillation limits
- Designed to be mobile and perform correlated measurements at different reactor types (commercial and highly-enriched)
- Probe oscillation and neutrino emissions by different reactor fuel components

[PROSPECT, J. Phys. G49 \(2022\)](#)

[PROSPECT, JINST P06010 \(2023\)](#)

[Fujikake, BRL, Rodrigues, Surukuchi, PRD 107 \(2023\)](#)

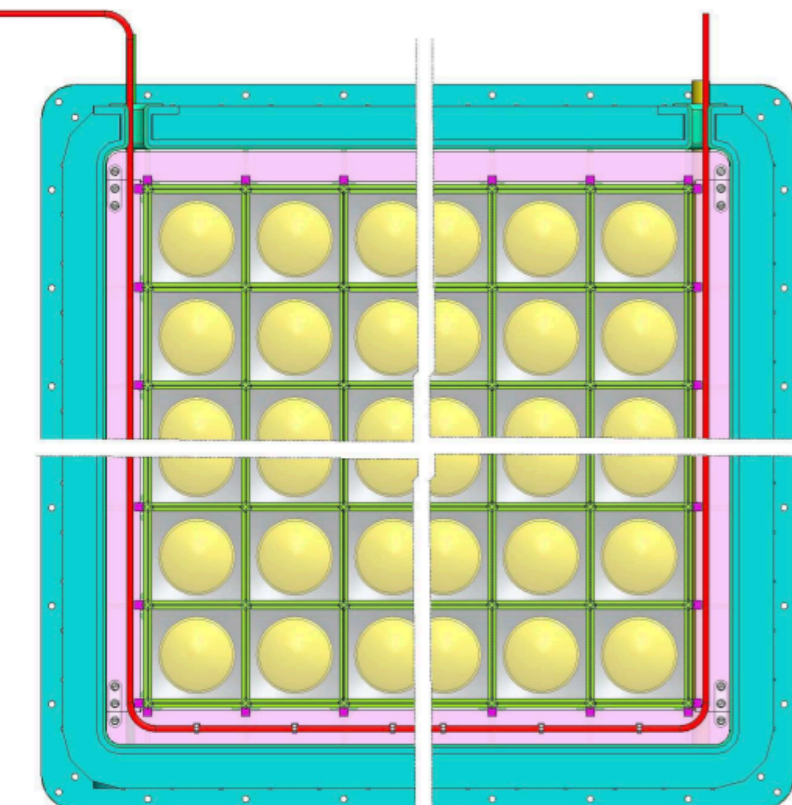




# PROSPECT-II R&D Highlights

- Developed/validated external calibration design [JINST 18 P06010 \(2023\)](#)
- Retired risks associated with segment cross-talk [J Phys G 49 \(2022\)](#)
- Engineering design for inner tank underway; fabrication in 2024!
- Initiate Eng. design for PMT supports in 2024
- [Details: P-II IAEA Talk](#)

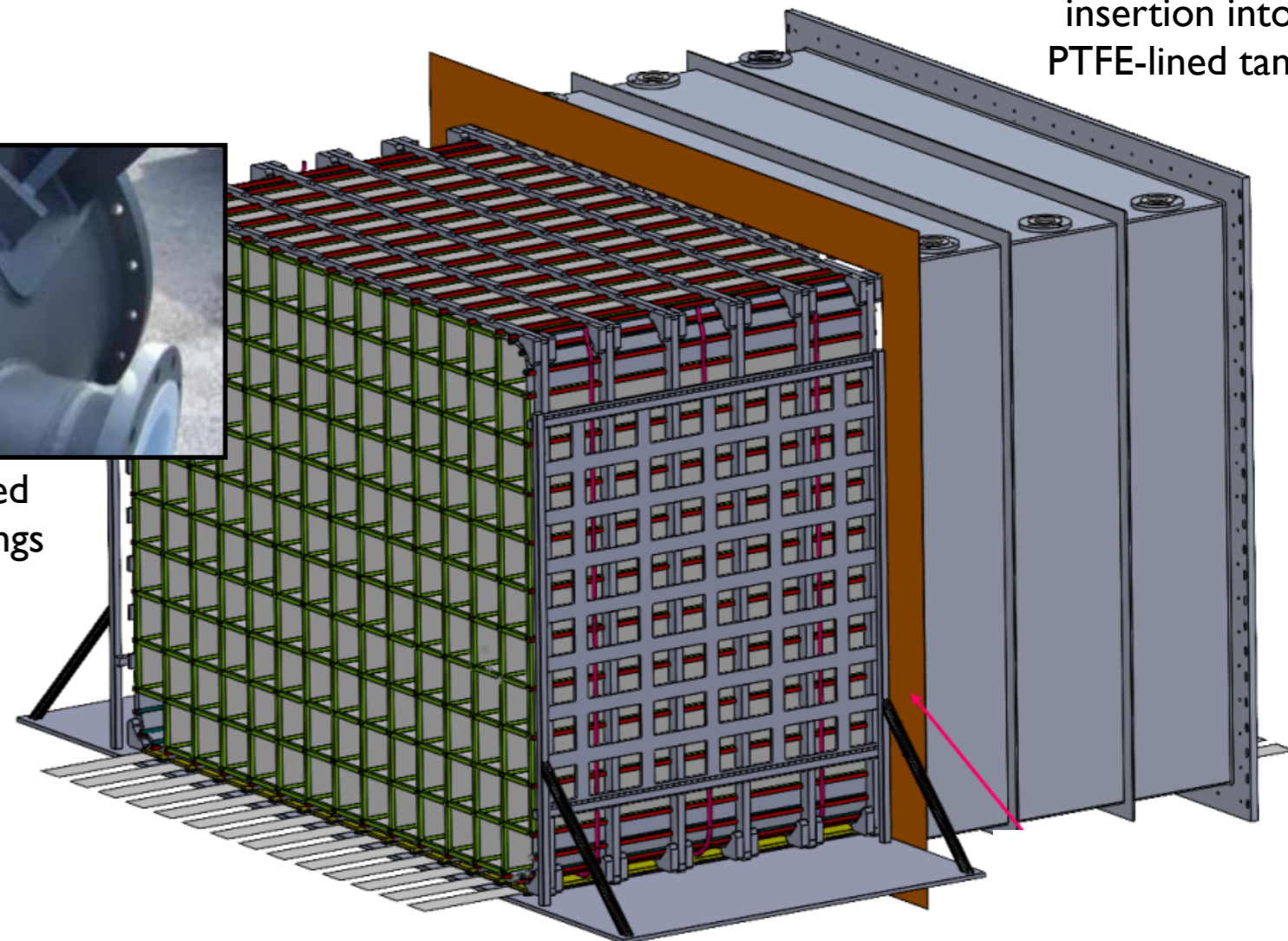
Optical grid  
insertion into  
PTFE-lined tank



Segment-external calibration axes



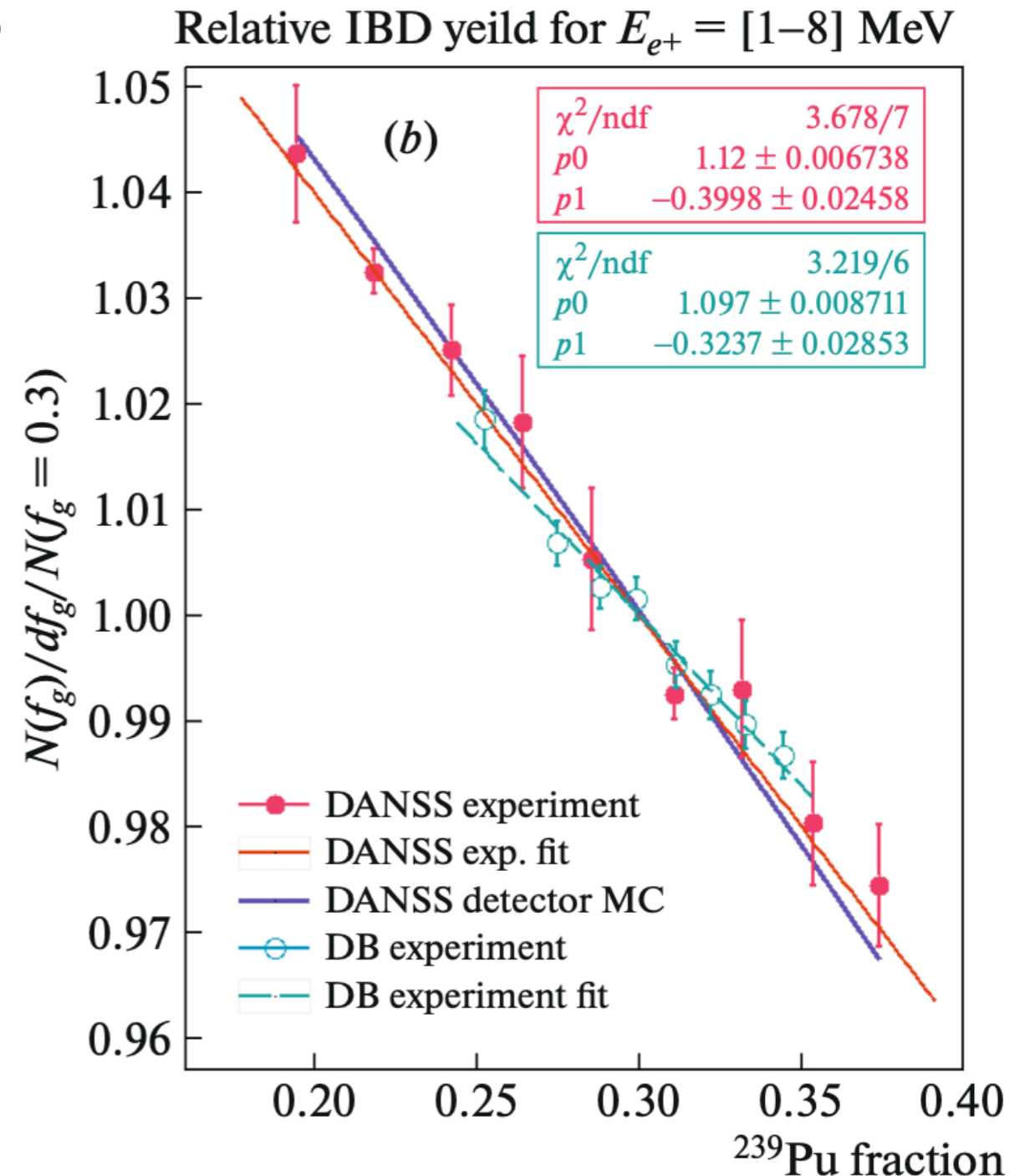
Example: rotolined  
PTFE flange coatings



# Recent Flux Evolution Curiosities



- I said: neutrinos (Daya Bay) and nuclear experiment/theory all agree that U-235 could be largely to blame for the RAA
- Recent DANSS results disagree? NEOS-II as well?
  - No longer perfect consonance in the picture above?
- We have yet to see Daya Bay's final results here; stay tuned.
- PROSPECT-II HEU+LEU can further hone this picture from the neutrino side

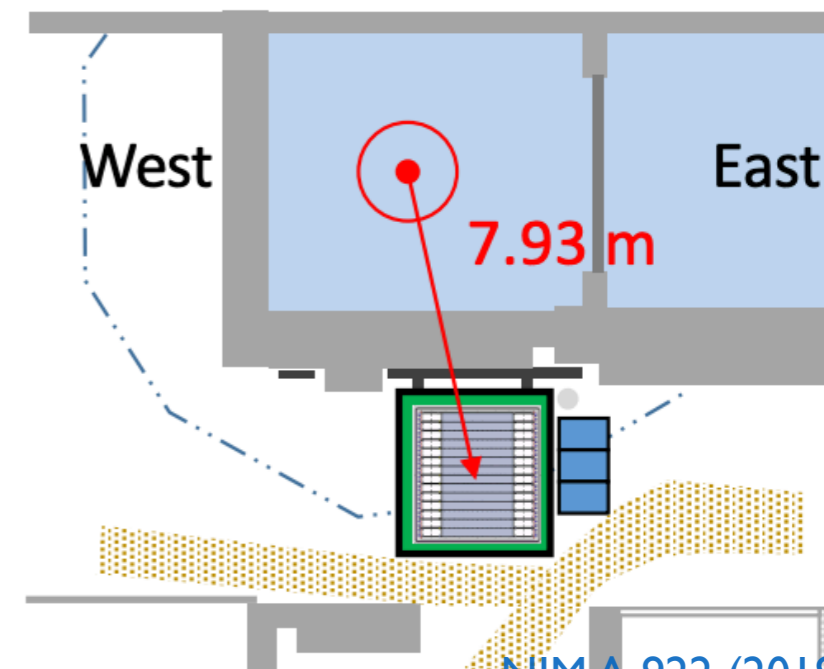
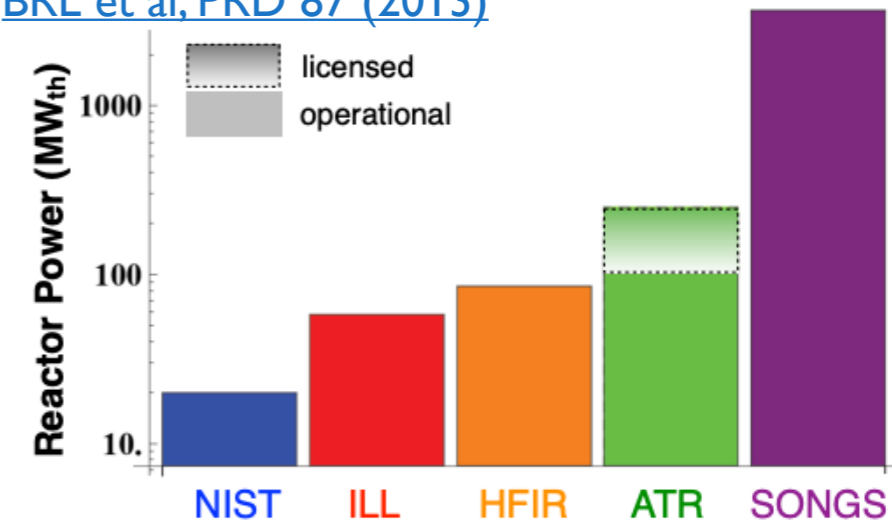


# Key HFIR Features

- Reactor:
  - 85 MW core burns only  $^{235}\text{U}$
  - <50cm height, diameter
- Facilities:
  - Many m<sup>2</sup> of floor (~3m wide) 6-10m from core
  - Concrete monolith beneath: high floor loading
  - Adjacent to ground-level exterior doors
- Backgrounds:
  - Lead wall shields gammas from reactor direction
  - Neutron experiments below shielded by monolith
  - <1 mwe overburden: little to no cosmic shielding
- Access:
  - 24/7 data/physical access for authorized personnel
  - HFIR ops rarely ( $\ll 1/\text{y}$ ) require detector movement

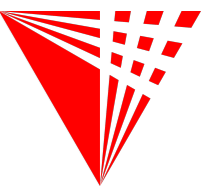


BRL et al, PRD 87 (2013)

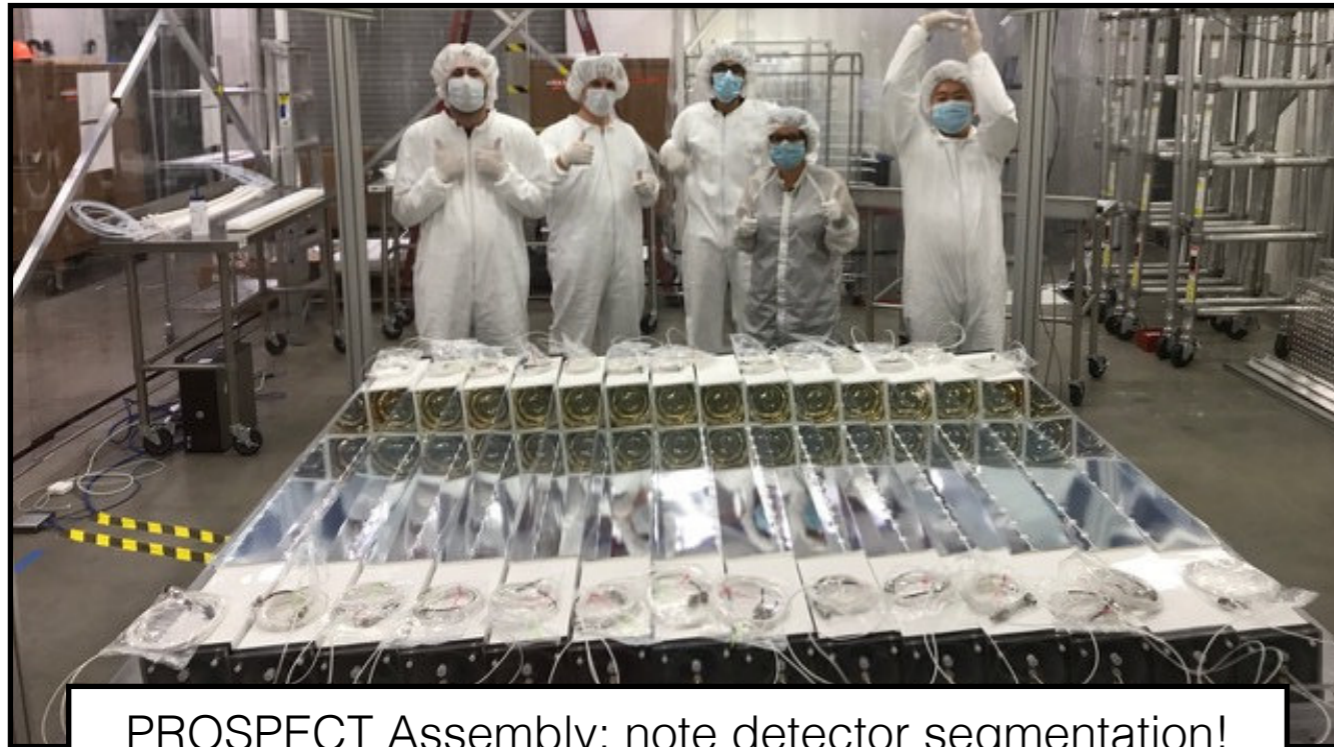


NIMA 922 (2018)

# PROSPECT: Pretty Pictures



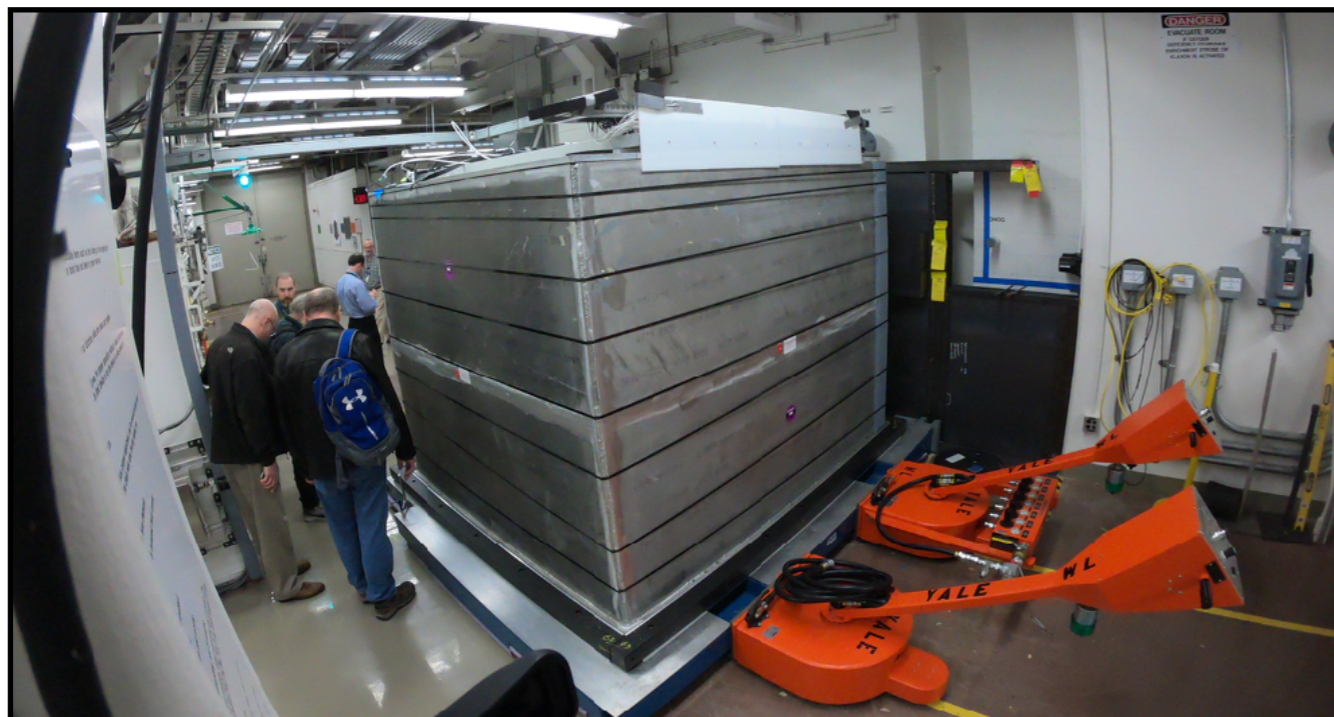
- Assembly start to first data @ HFIR by March 2018: <5 months!



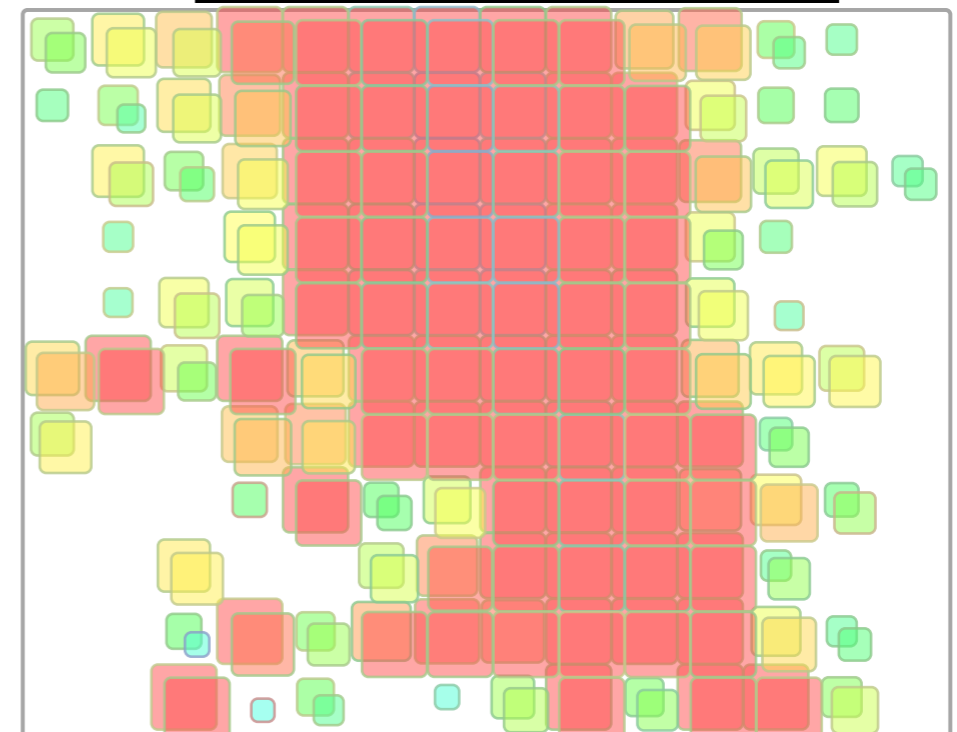
PROSPECT Assembly: note detector segmentation!



PROSPECT arrival at ORNL



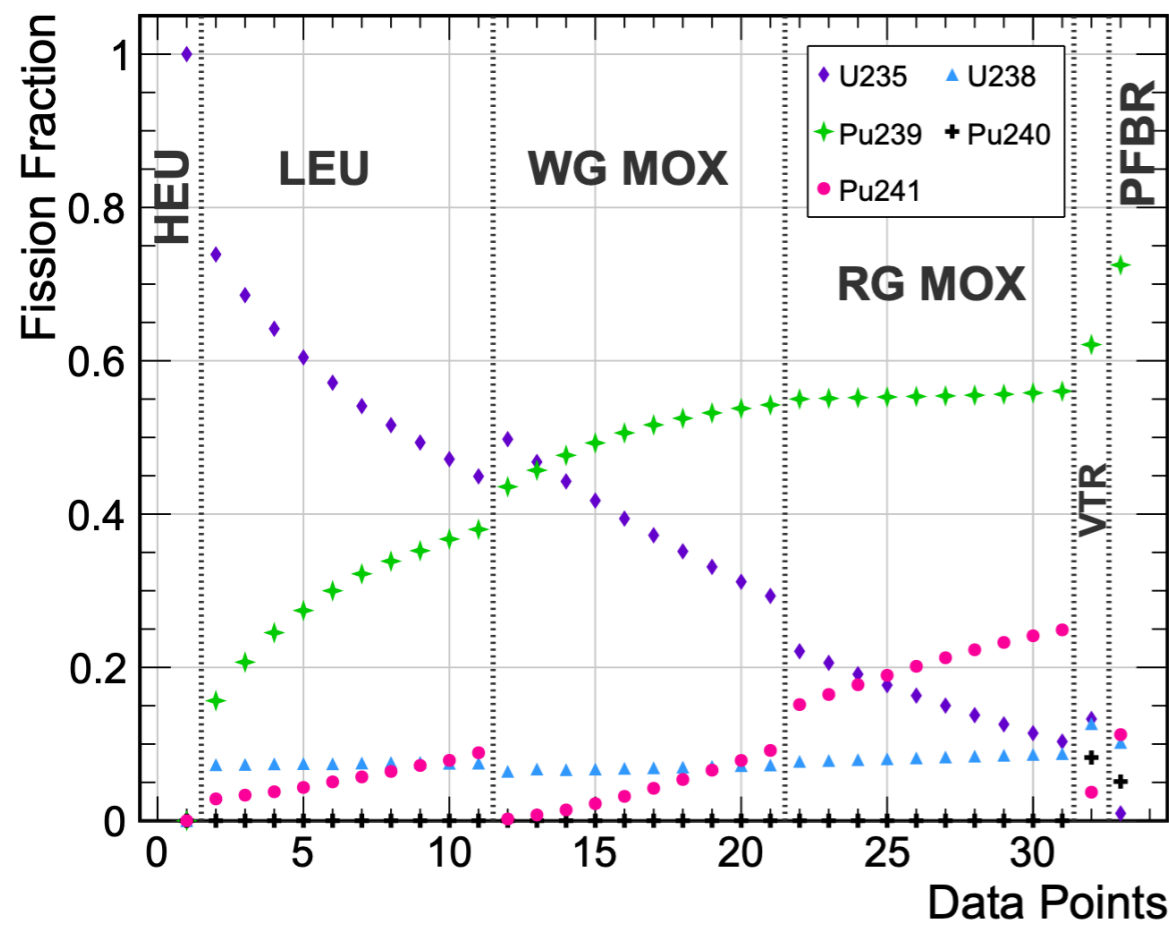
PROSPECT Installation: Rx on other side of the wall!



First fun event: cosmic hadronic shower!

- Q: If we deploy one IBD detector at different reactor types, how well can we measure isotopic IBD yields?
- A: with combined HEU+LEU measurement, four fission isotopes' yields can be measured at 10%-level accuracy ( $^{241}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$ ) or much better ( $^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ )
- **JOIN US** in fully developing the (detector-agnostic) physics case for correlated HEU+LEU deployment (isotopic spectra, oscillations, etc)!

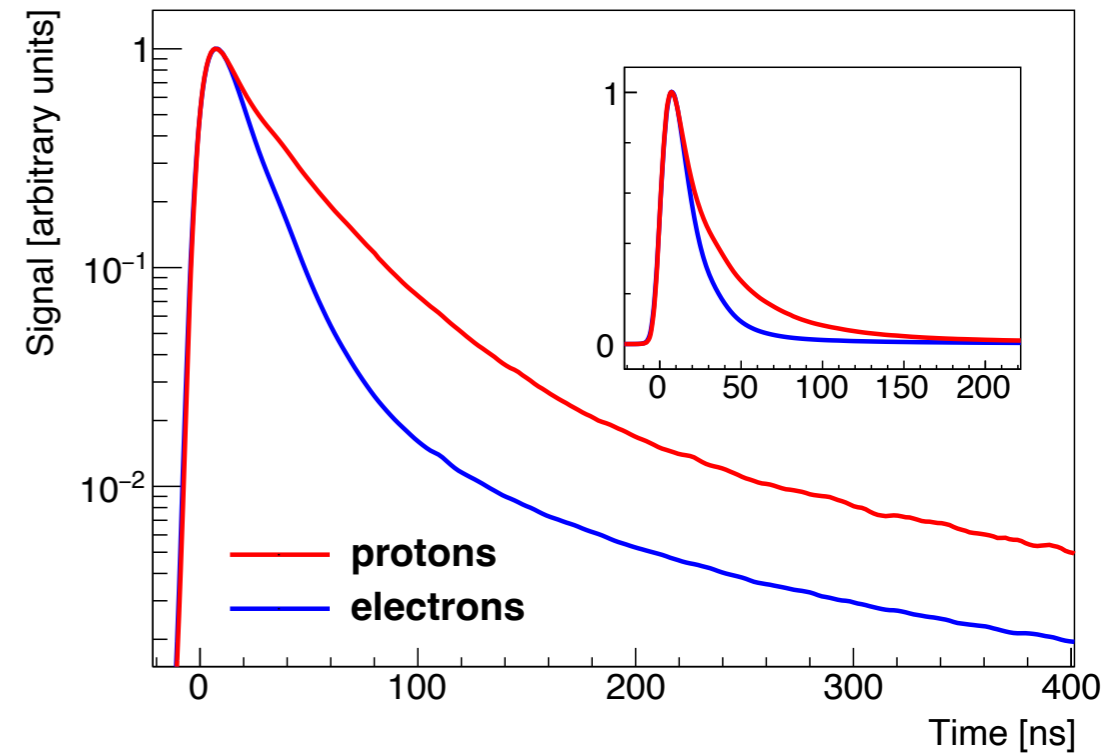
[Fujikake, BRL, Rodrigues, Surukuchi, PRD 107 \(2023\)](#)



Case	Description	Precision on $\sigma_i$ (%)				
		$^{235}\text{U}$	$^{238}\text{U}$	$^{239}\text{Pu}$	$^{240}\text{Pu}$	$^{241}\text{Pu}$
-	Existing Global Data	1.3	26.4	25.2	-	42.6
1	HEU + LEU	1.6	11.1	4.6	-	10.5
3	HEU + LEU + RG-MOX	1.6	9.7	2.2	-	3.4
2	HEU + LEU + WG-MOX	1.6	9.9	2.5	-	3.6
4	HEU + LEU + Fast	1.6	10.9	4.6	27.2	10.3
5	All	1.6	9.5	2.1	23.6	3.3
6	All, Uncorrelated	1.5	14.3	2.1	36.2	4.2
-	Model Uncertainty [66]	2.1	8.2	2.5	-	2.2

# Key Detector Features

- Prompt  $e^+$  gives  $\bar{\nu}_e$  energy estimate ( $>400$  pe/MeV)
- Fully-contained, single-cell delayed  $n$ - $^6\text{Li}$  signal
- Prompt, delayed PSD differ from common background classes
- Double-end PMT readout and segmentation allows XYZ reco and topology cuts
- Reactor-on data rates are only manageable with zero-suppression of segments and PMT waveforms!



[PRD 103 \(2021\)](#)

