Precision Reactor $\overline{\nu}_e$ Spectrum Measurements: Recent Results and PROSPECTs

November 11, 2015

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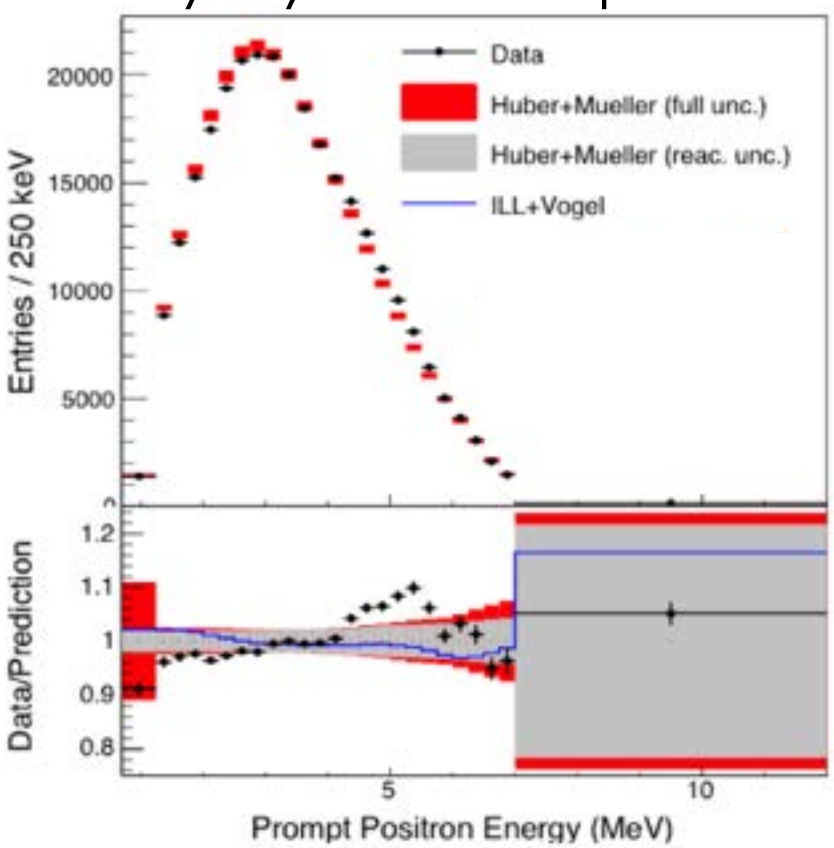
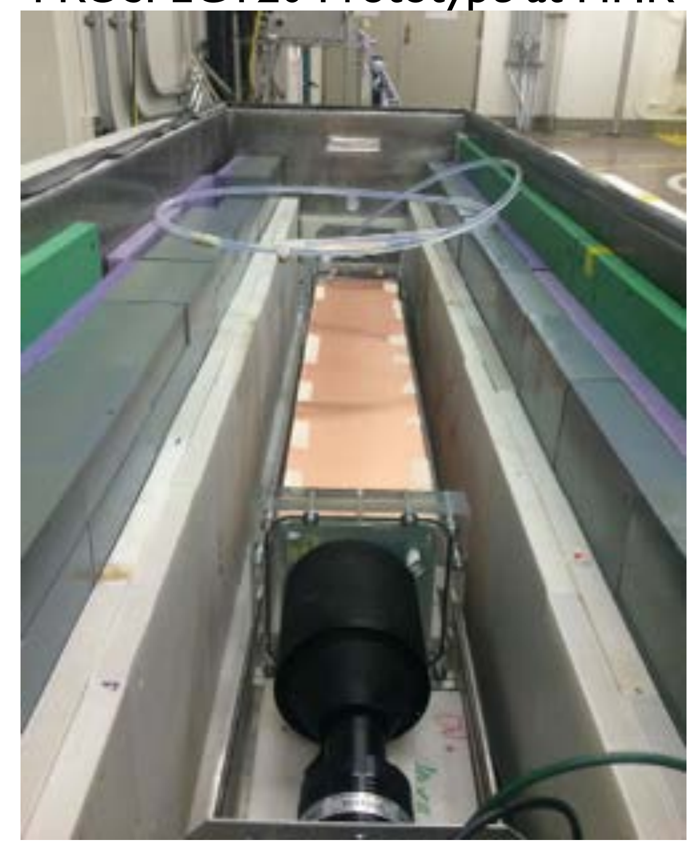
Illinois Institute of Technology

Daya Bay Antineutrino Spectrum



PROSPECT20 Prototype at HFIR



PROSPECT20 Prototype in Shield at HFIR

Outline

- Intro: Reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ Flux and Spectrum Predictions
- Reactor Anomaly and recent flux/spectrum measurements
- Measurement of the $\bar{\nu}_e$ spectrum at PROSPECT
- Current context for PROSPECT

Outline

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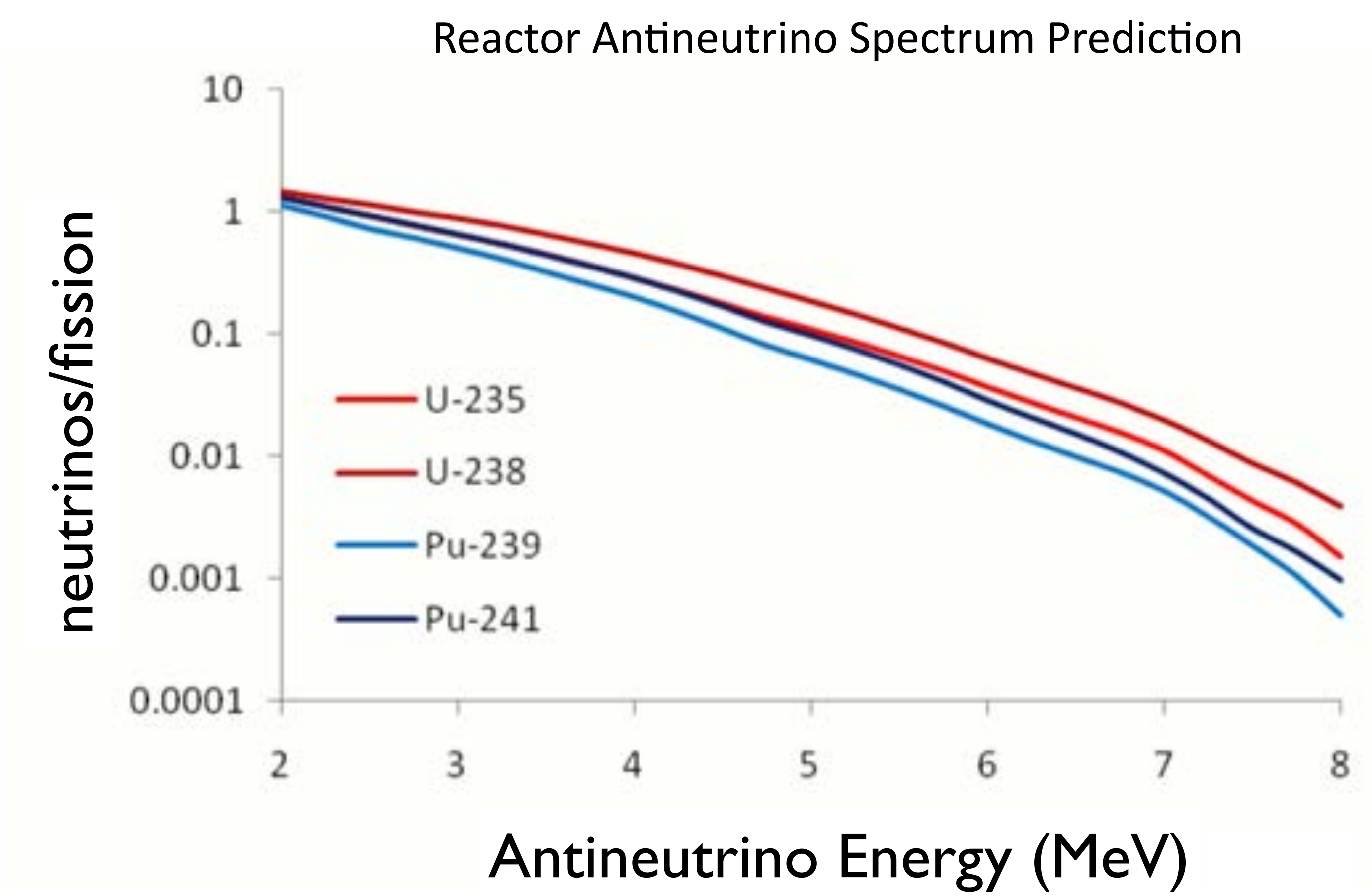
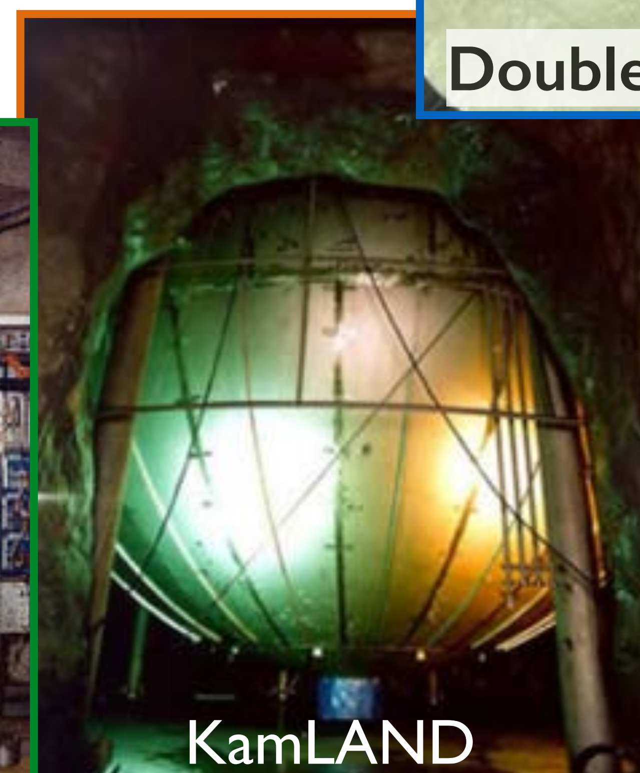


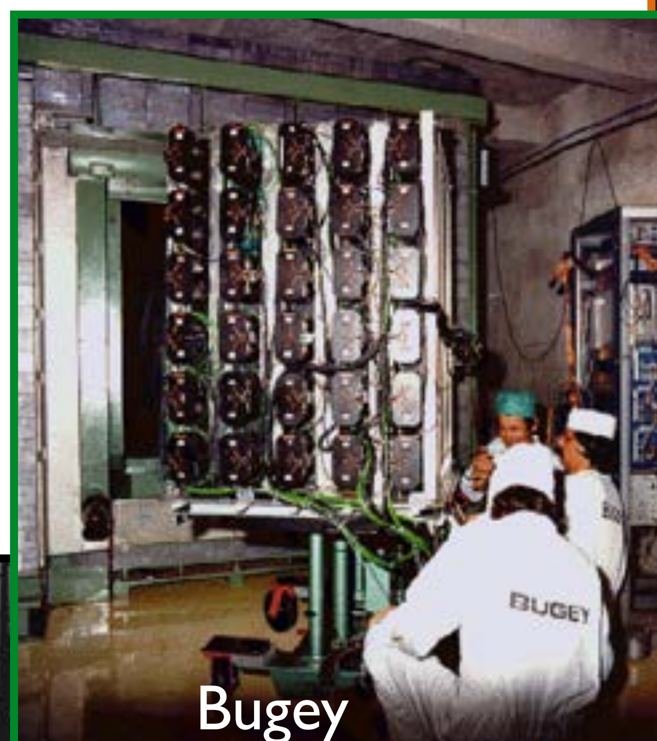
Reactor Neutrino History

- Reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$: a history of discovery
  Many experiments, differing baselines

1970s-80s-90s:
Reactor flux,
Cross-section measurements

2010s:
θ_{13}, precision oscillation measurements





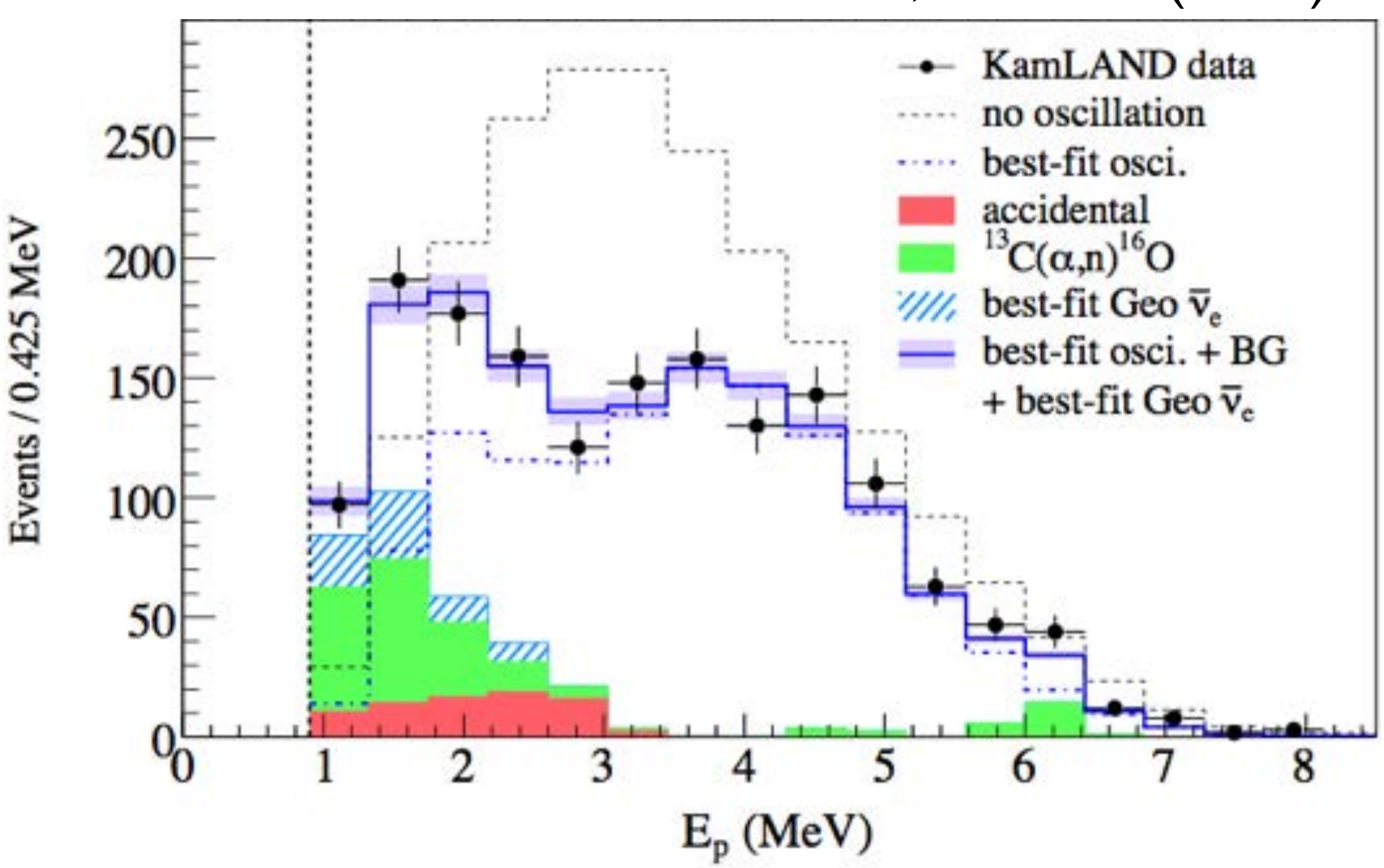
1950s: First neutrino observation

2000s: $\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance,
$\bar{\nu}_e$ oscillation measurements

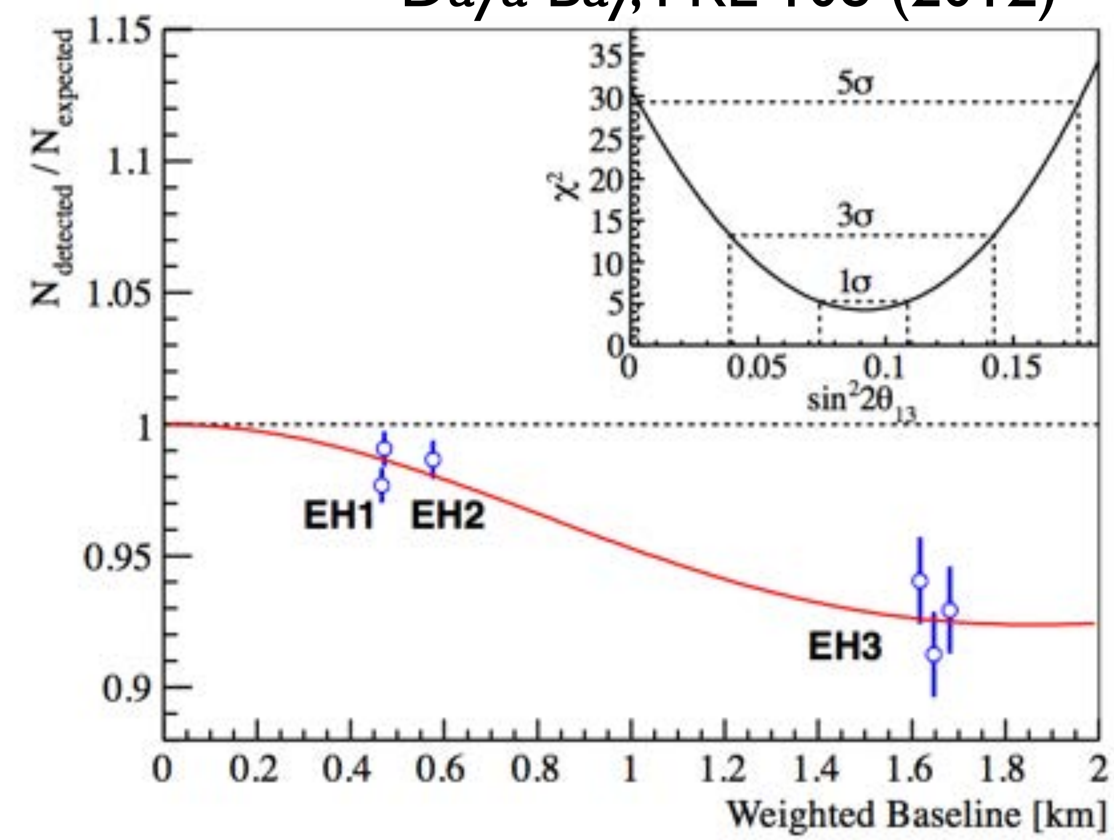
Reactor Neutrino Discovery

- How are these discoveries made?
- Comparing observed reactor neutrinos at different sites
- Comparing observed reactor neutrinos to predictions based on some model of how nuclear reactors work

KamLAND, PRL 100 (2008)



Daya Bay, PRL 108 (2012)

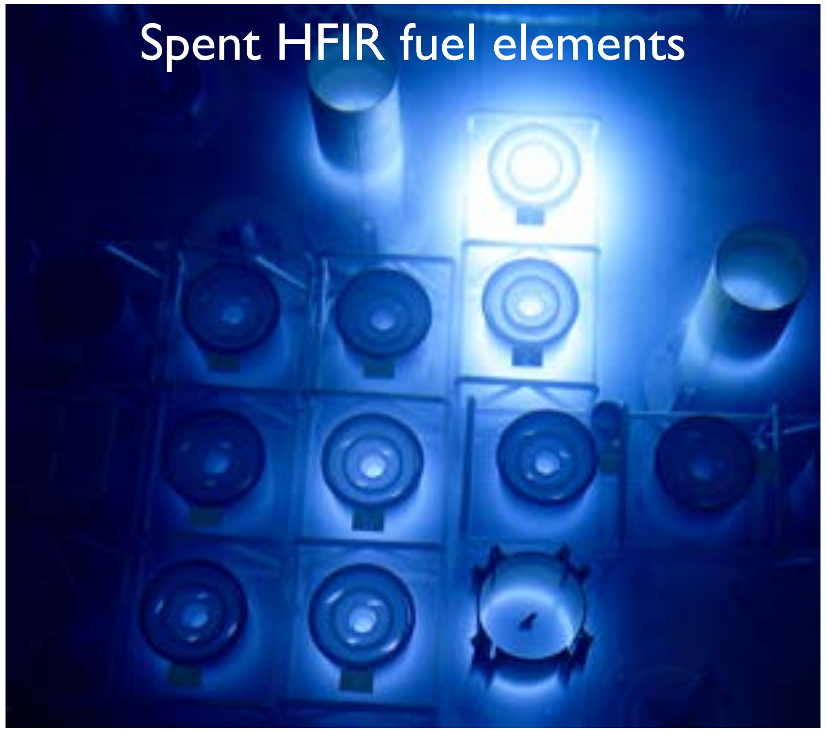


2000s: $\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance, $\bar{\nu}_e$ oscillation measurements

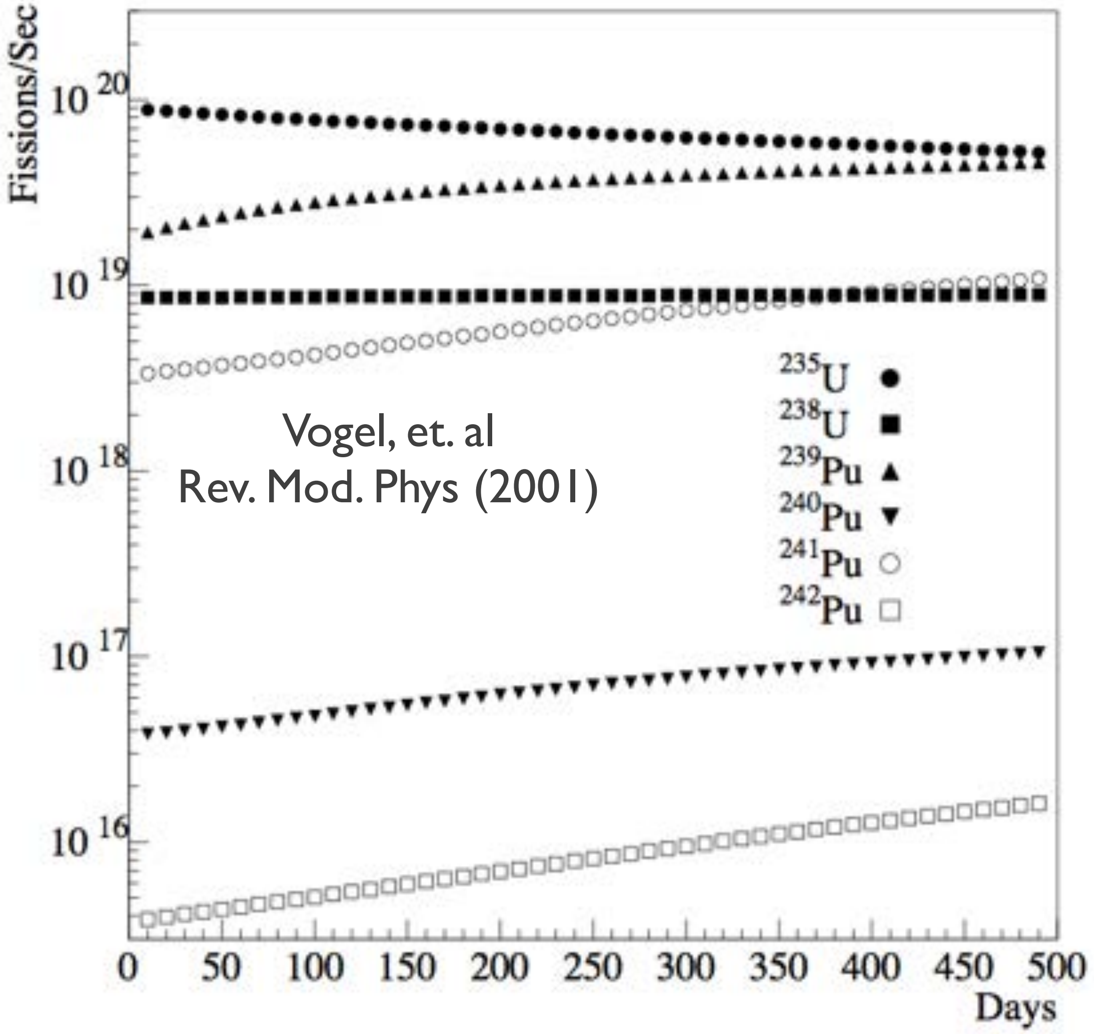
2010s: θ_{13}, precision oscillation measurements

Reactor Antineutrino Production

- Fission isotopes fission, creating neutron-rich daughters
  - Low-enriched (LEU): Many fission isotopes
  - Highly-enriched (HEU): U-235 fission only
- Overall fission rate described largely by reactor thermal power

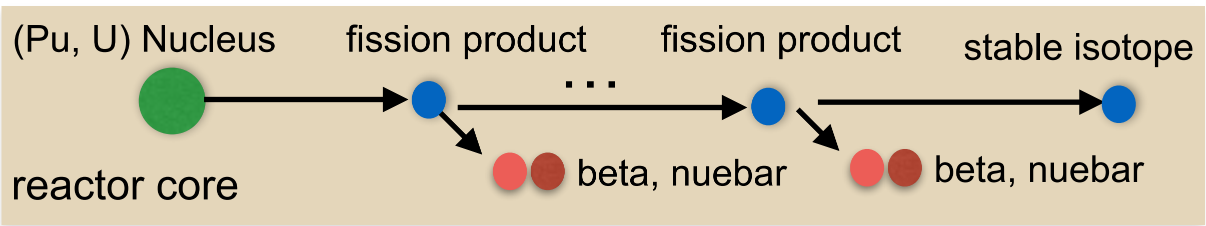


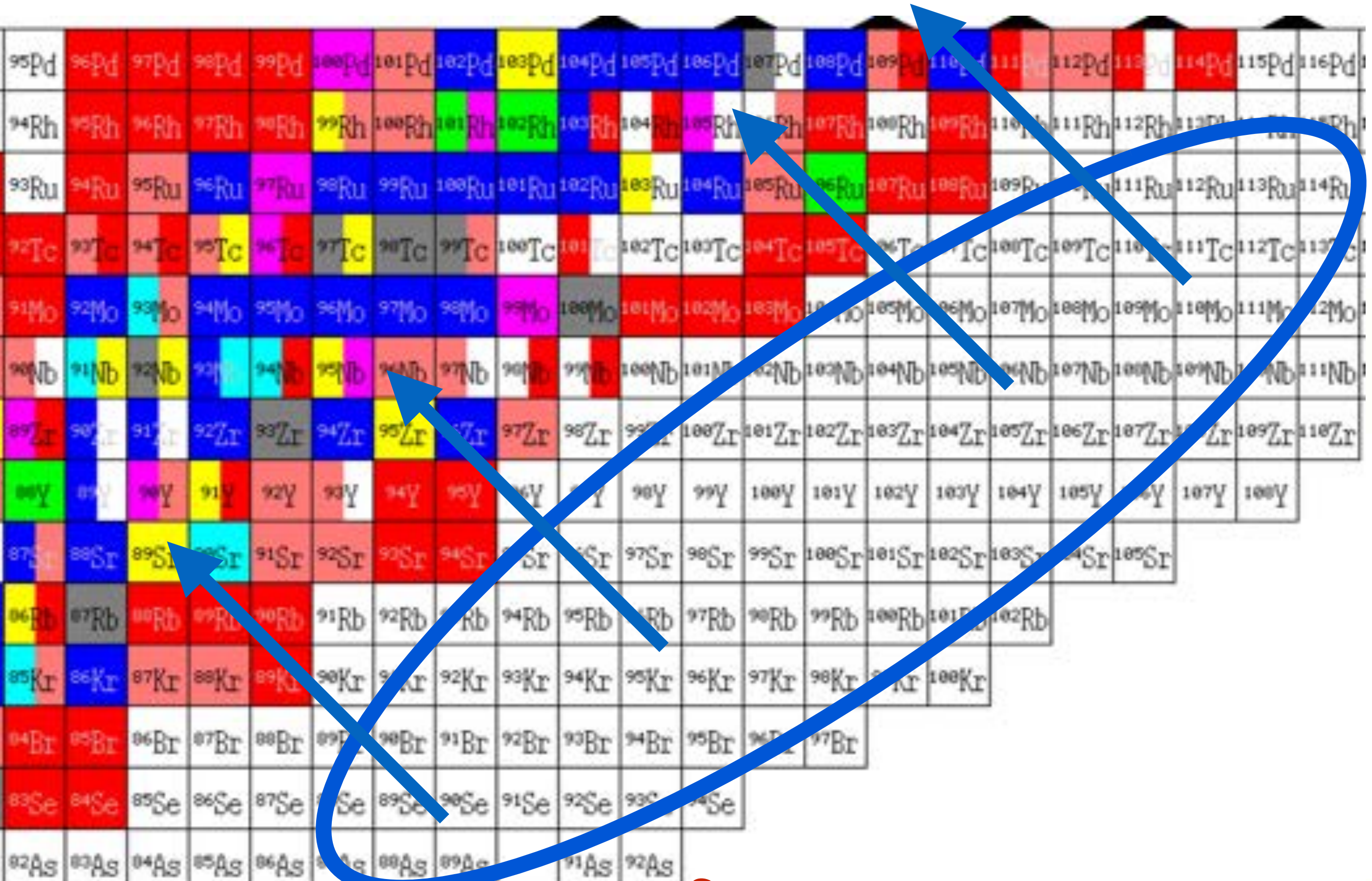
LEU Fission Fragment Contributors

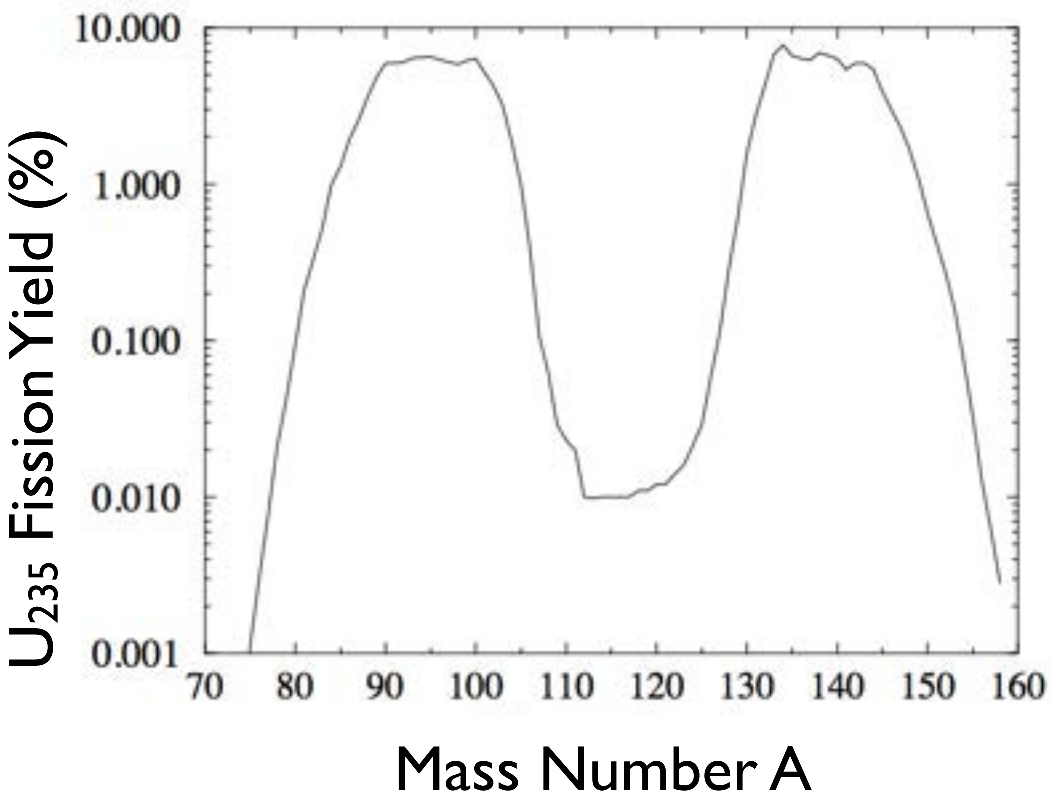


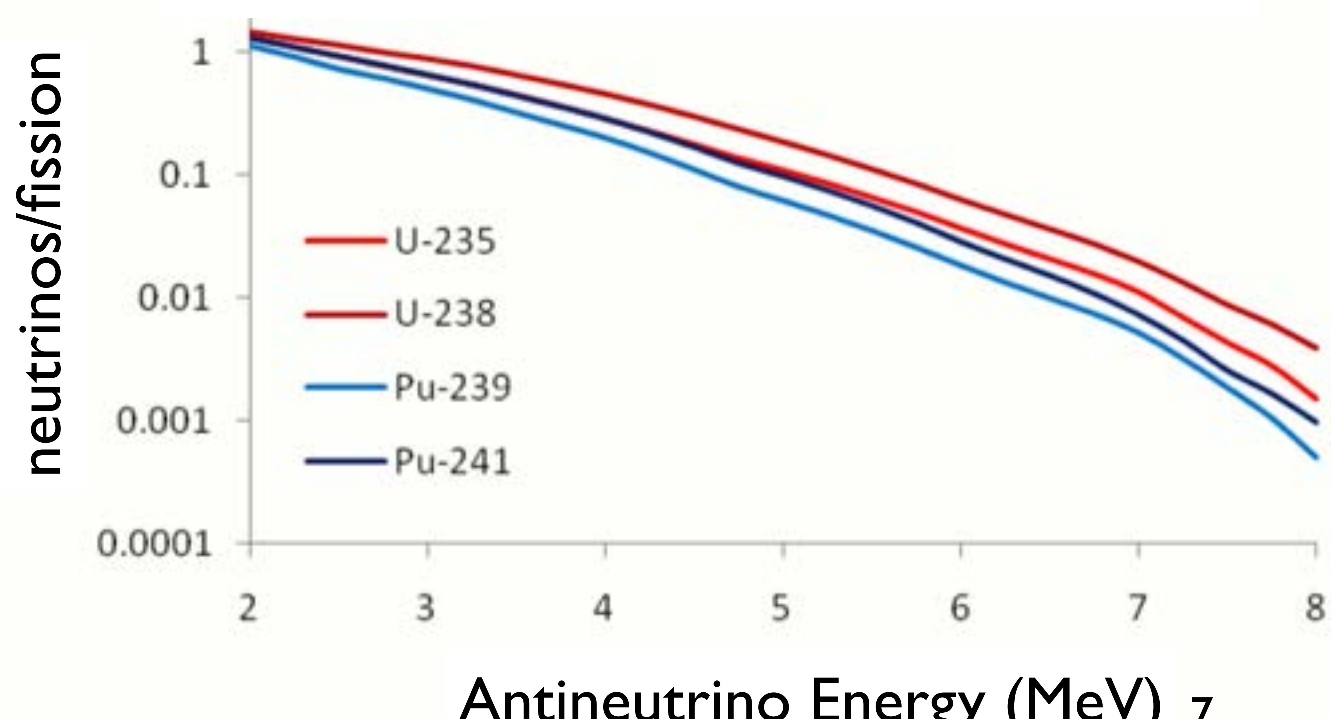
Reactor Antineutrino Production

- Reactor ν̄e: produced in decay of product beta branches
  - Each isotope: different branches, so different neutrino energies (slightly)









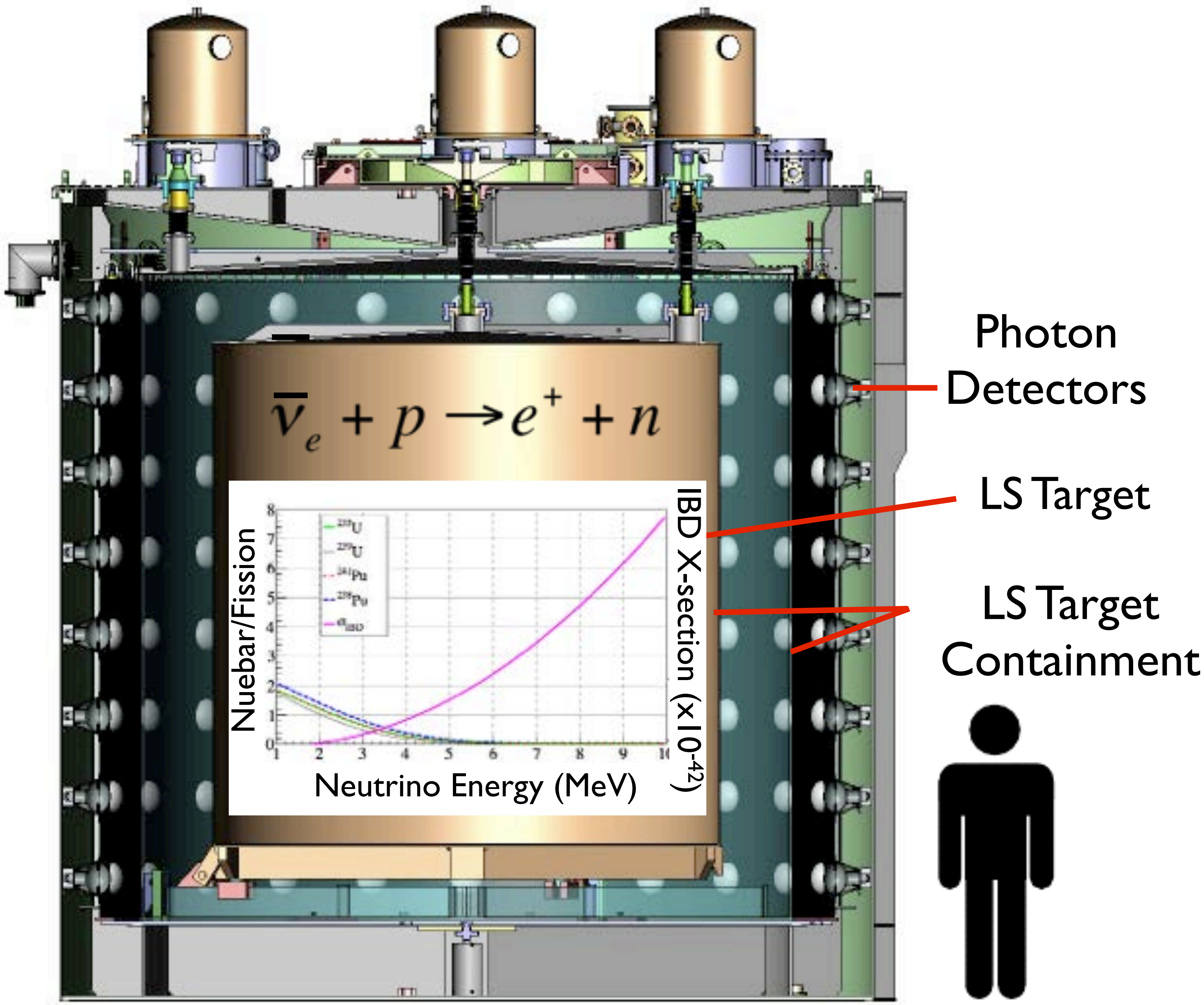
Spectrum

$$S(E) = \sum F_i S_i(E) \qquad F_i = \frac{W_{\rm th} f_i}{\sum_k f_k E_k}$$

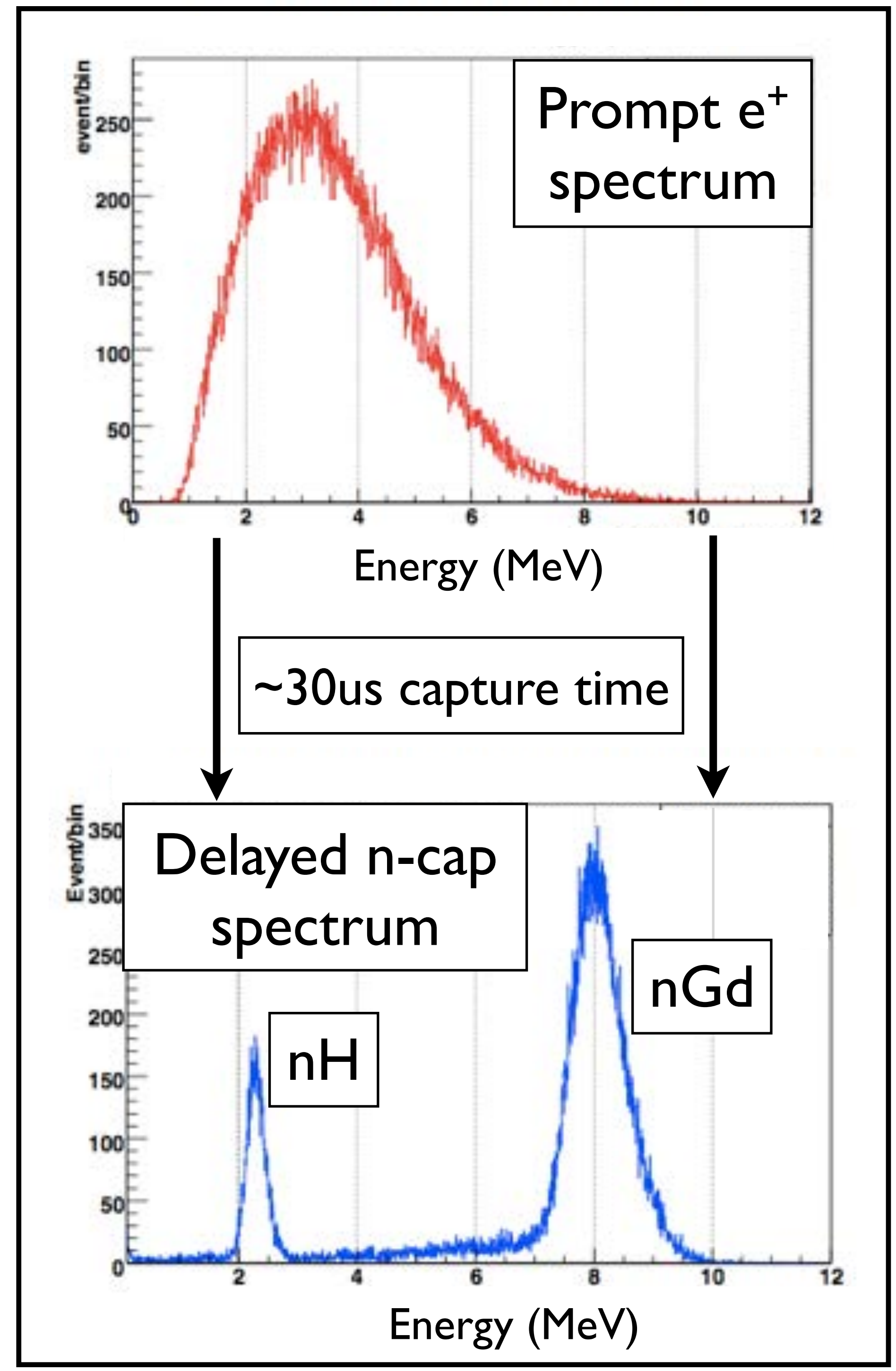
Fission Isotope i Flux

Reactor Antineutrino Detection

- Detect inverse beta decay with liquid or solid scintillator, PMTs
  - IBD e+ is direct proxy for antineutrino energy



Example: Daya Bay Detector



Daya Bay Monte Carlo Data

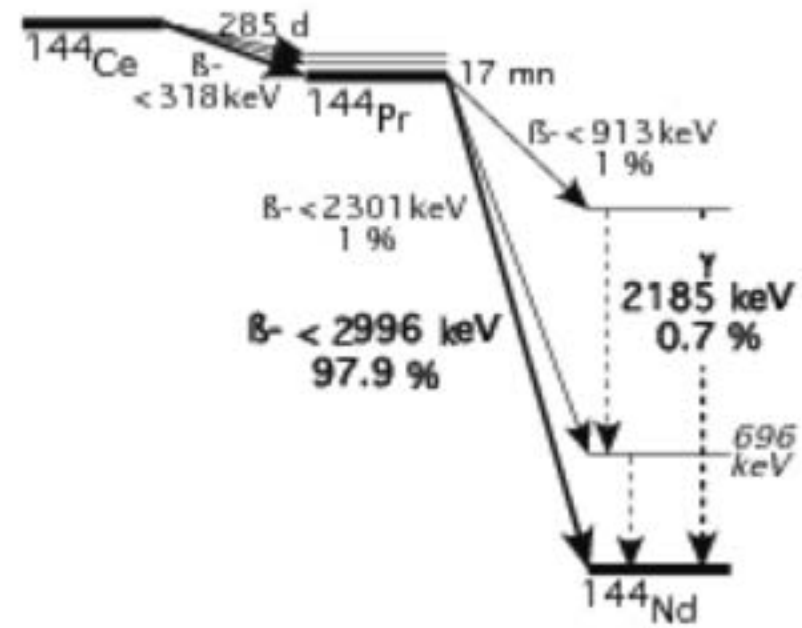
Predicting $S_i(E)$, Neutrinos Per Fission

- Two main methods:
- *Ab Initio* approach:
  - Calculate spectrum branch-by-branch using beta branch databases: endpoints, decay schemes
  - **Problem:** many rare beta branches with little information; infer these additions
- Conversion approach
  - Measure beta spectra directly
  - Convert to $\bar{\nu}_e$ using 'virtual beta branches'
  - **Problem:** 'Virtual' spectra not well-defined: what forbiddenness, charge, etc. should they have?
- Devised in 50's, each method has lost and gained favor over the years

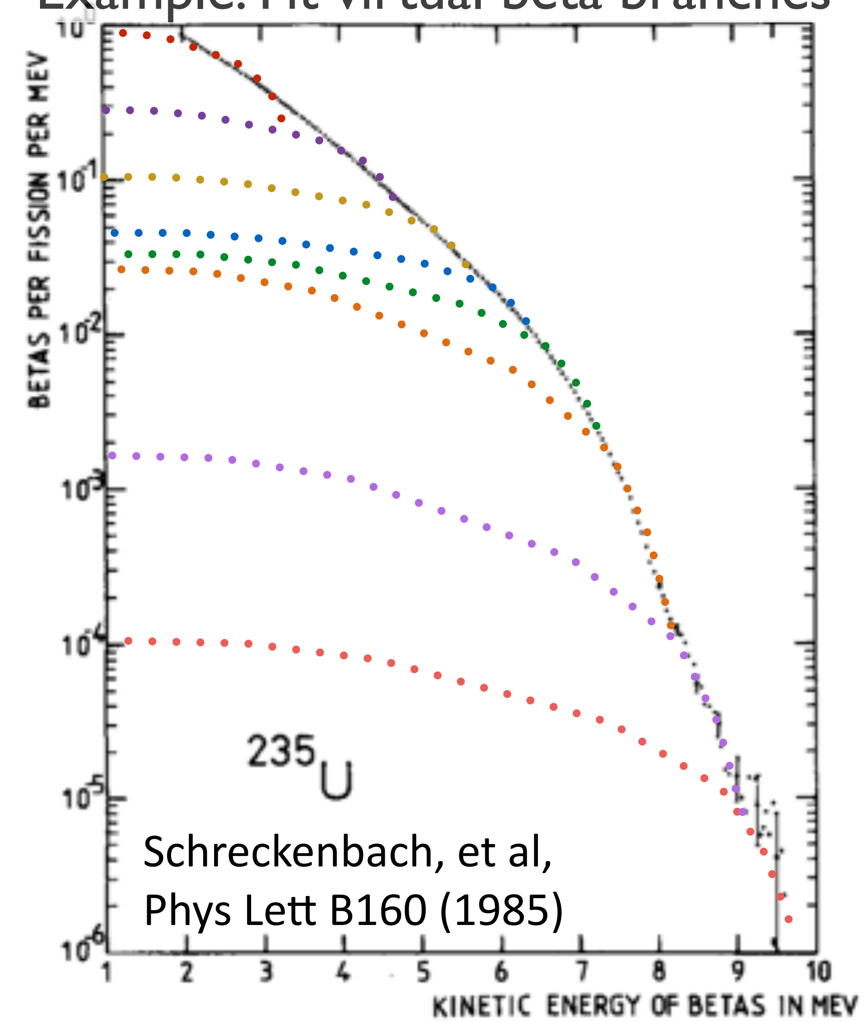
  Carter, *et al*, Phys. Rev. 113 (1959)

  King and Perkins, Phys. Rev. 113 (1958)

Example: Ce-144 Decay Scheme



Example: Fit virtual beta branches



Predicting $S_i(E)$, Neutrinos Per Fission

- Early 80s: ILL $\bar{\nu}_e$ data fits newest *ab initio* spectra well

  Davis, Vogel, *et al.*, **PRC** 24 (1979)

  Kown, et al., **PRD** 24 (1981)

- 1980s: New reactor beta spectra: measurements — conversion now provides lower systematics

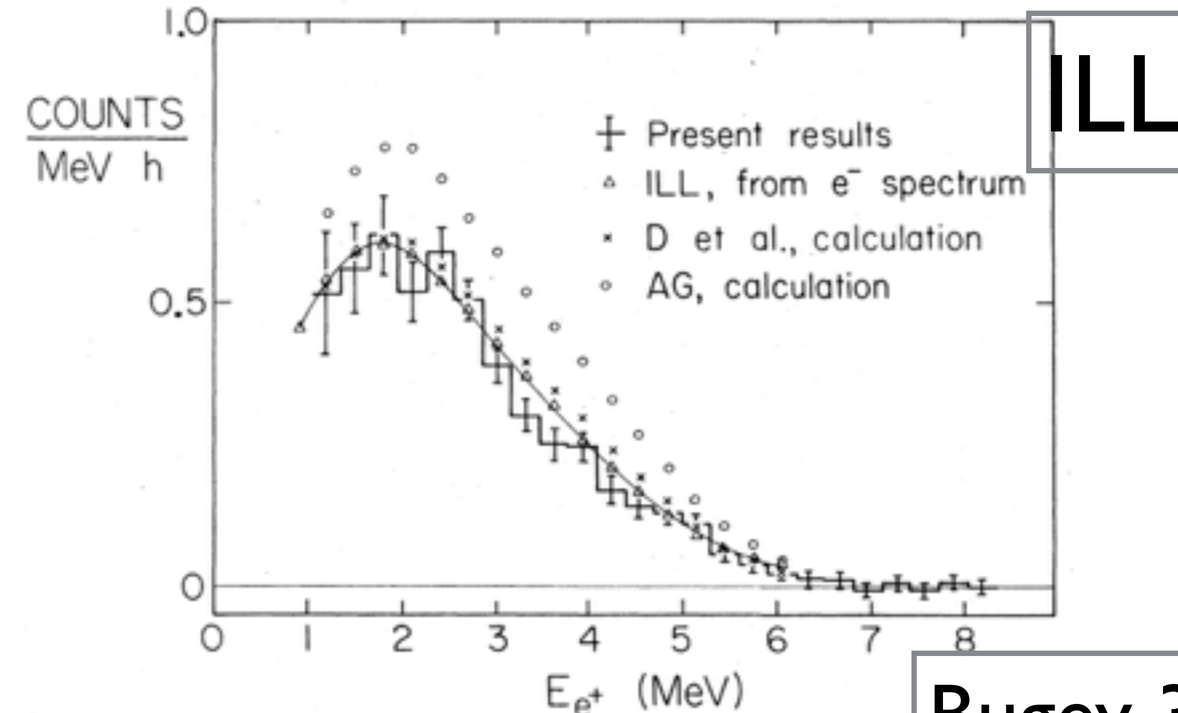
  Schreckenbach, *et al.*, Phys Lett **B**160 (1985)

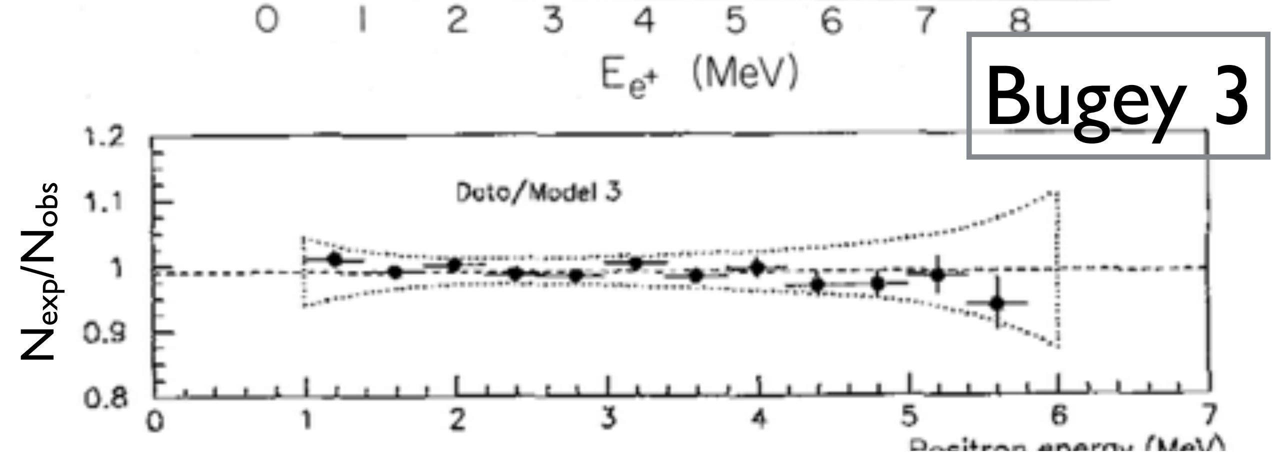
  Schreckenbach, *et al.*, Phys Lett **B**218 (1989)

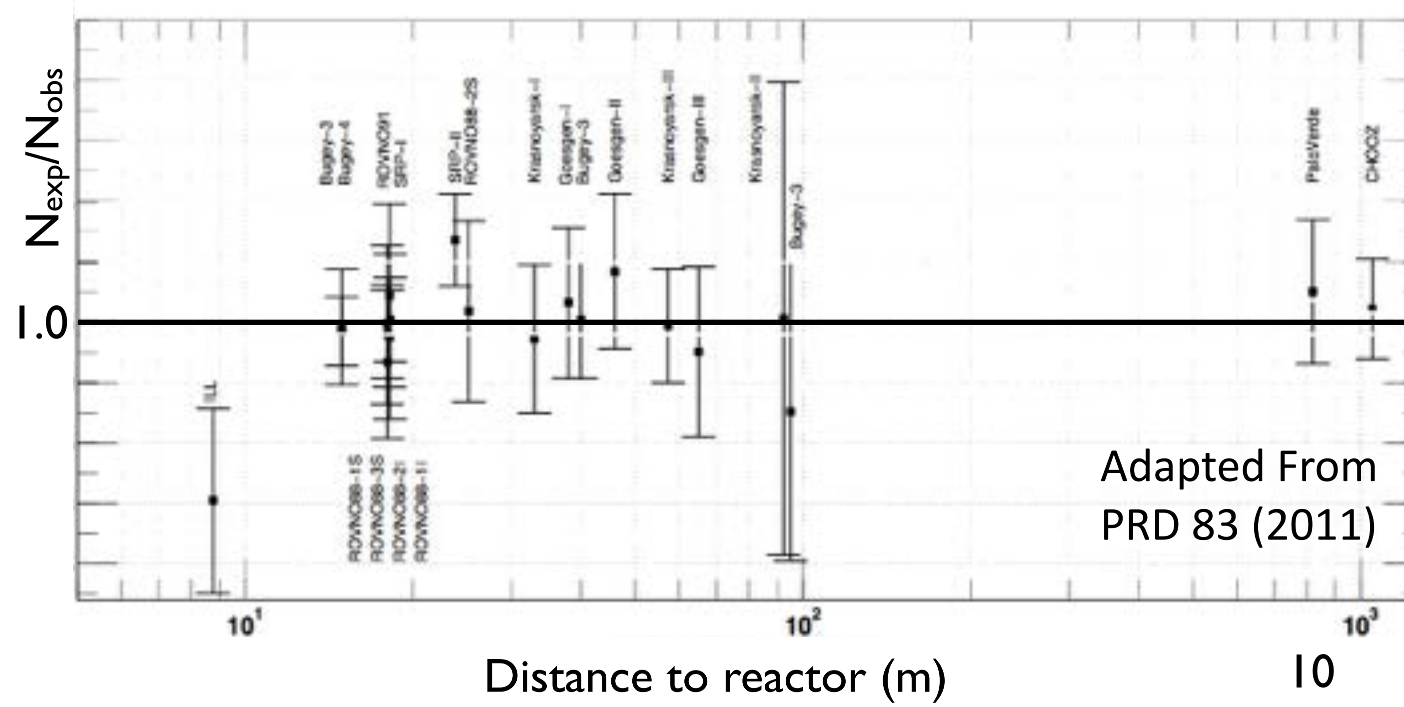
- 1990s: Bugey measurements fit converted spectrum well

  B. Achkar, *et al.*, Phys Lett B374 (1996)

- 1980s-2000s: Predicted, measured fluxes agree



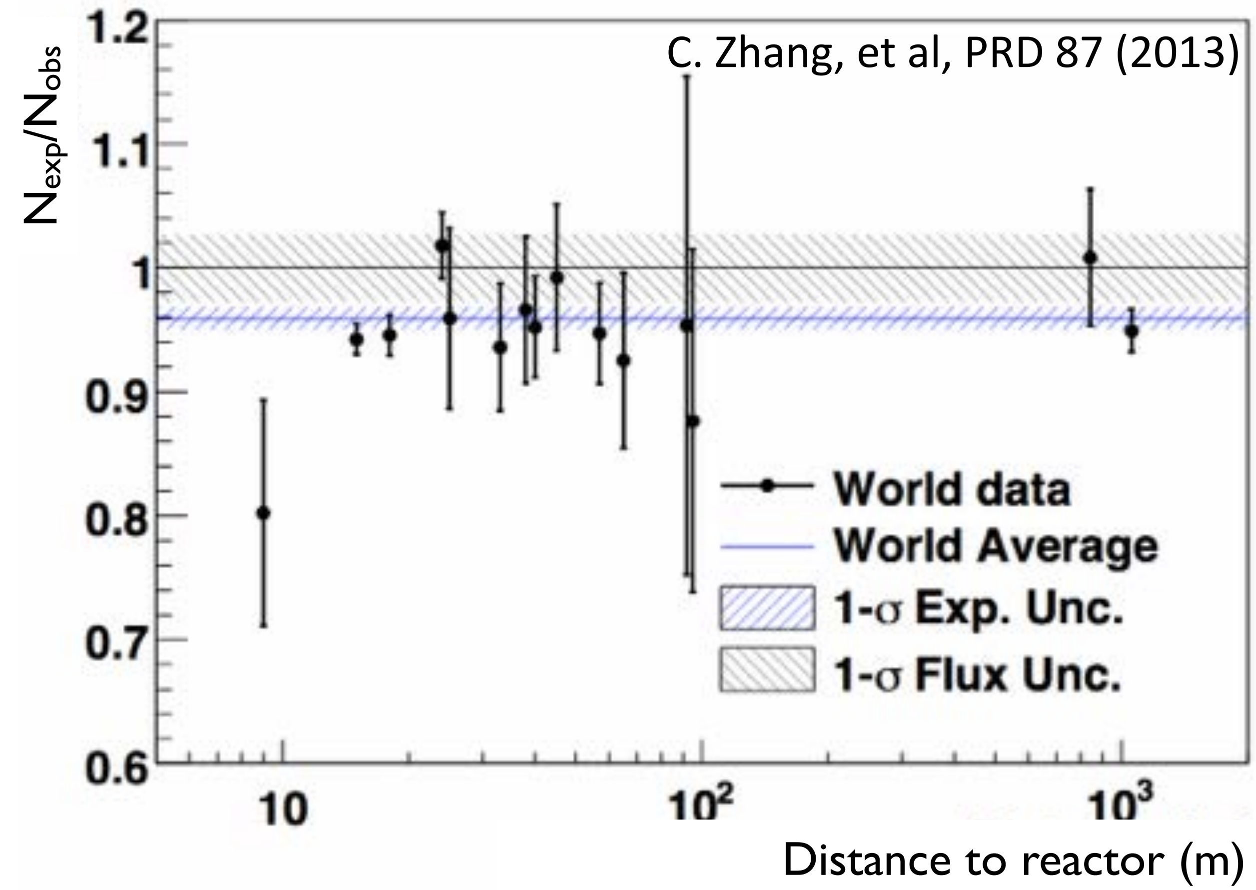


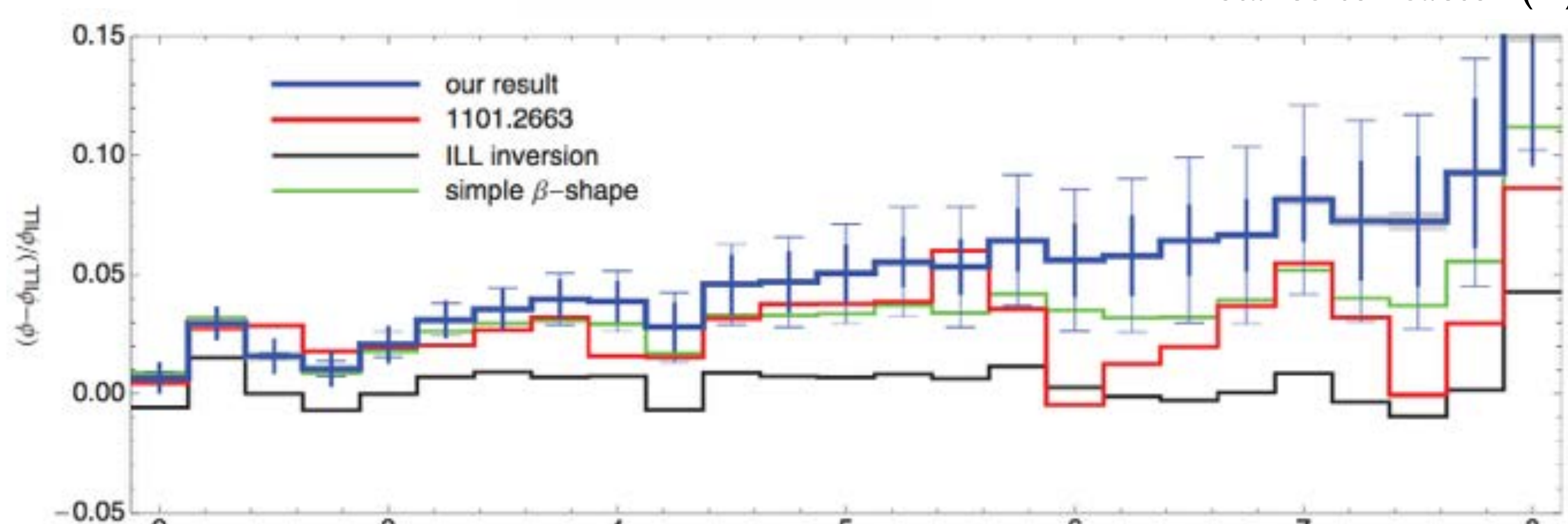


Recent History: Problems Emerge

- 2010s: Re-calculation of conversion for θ_{13} measurements
  - Start with ab initio approach
  - Subtract this from ILL beta spectra
  - Use conversion procedure on remaining beta spectrum: ~10%
  - OR Huber: virtual branches only
- Change in flux/spectrum!
  - Flux increase from:
    - Conversion (~3%)
    - X-section (1%)
    - Non-equilibrium isotopes (1%)

Mueller, *et al*, Phys. Rev. C83 (2011)
Mention, *et al*, Phys. Rev. D83 (2011)
Huber, Phys. Rev. C84 (2011)





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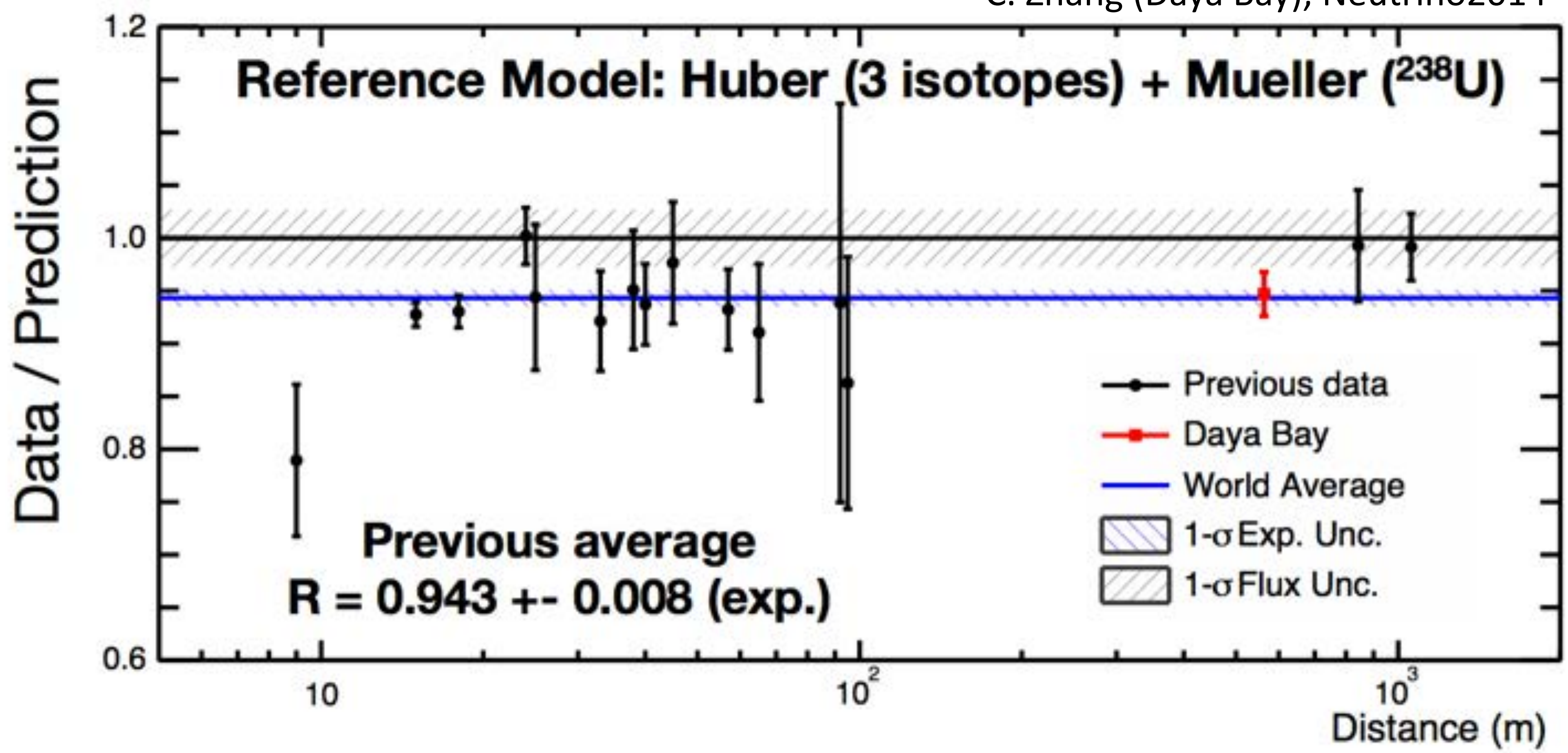
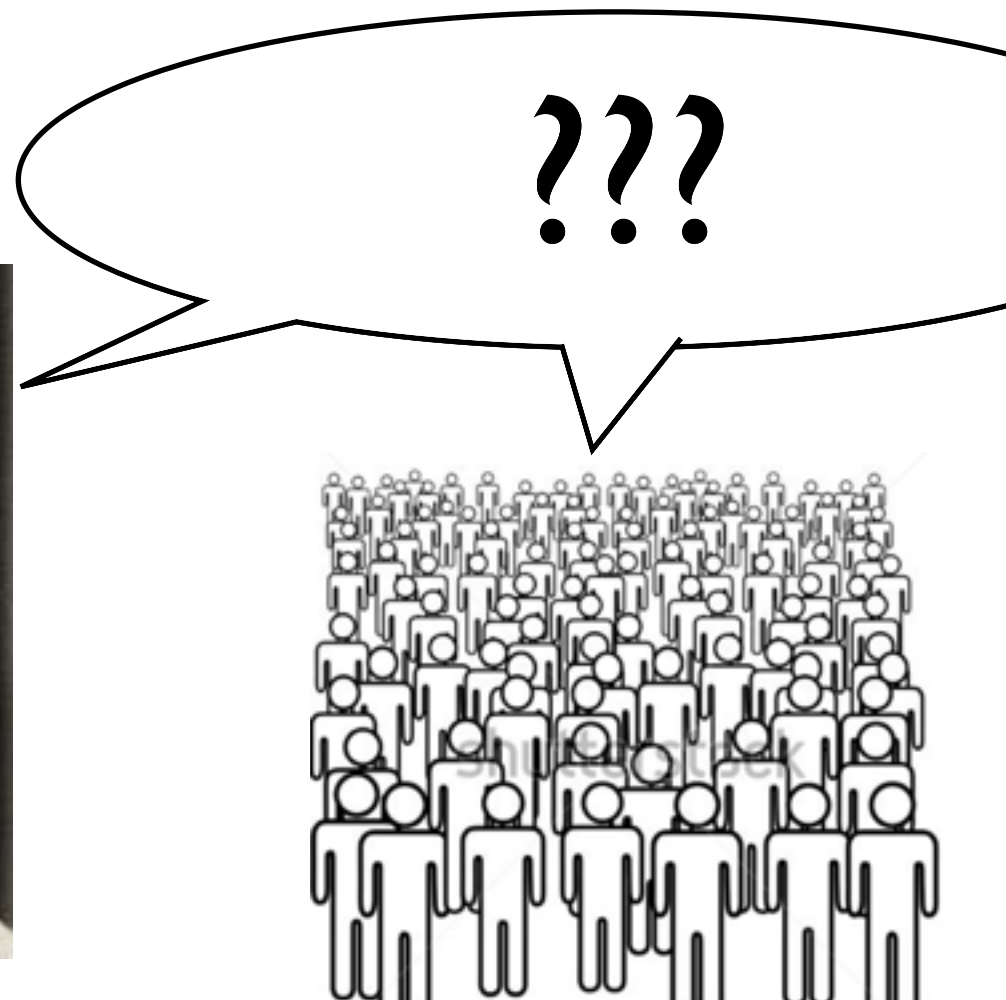
C. Zhang (Daya Bay), Neutrino2014



Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly?

- Do we have a 'reactor antineutrino anomaly?'
  - "No: the previous experiments could have been biased to report flux measurements that agreed with existing predictions of the time."
  - "Yes: but probably attributable to uncertainties in the beta-to-ν_e conversion."
  - "Yes: the deficit could result from short-baseline sterile neutrino oscillations."

P. Vogel, Caltech



The rest of us

T. Lasserre, CEA, France

P. Huber, VTech

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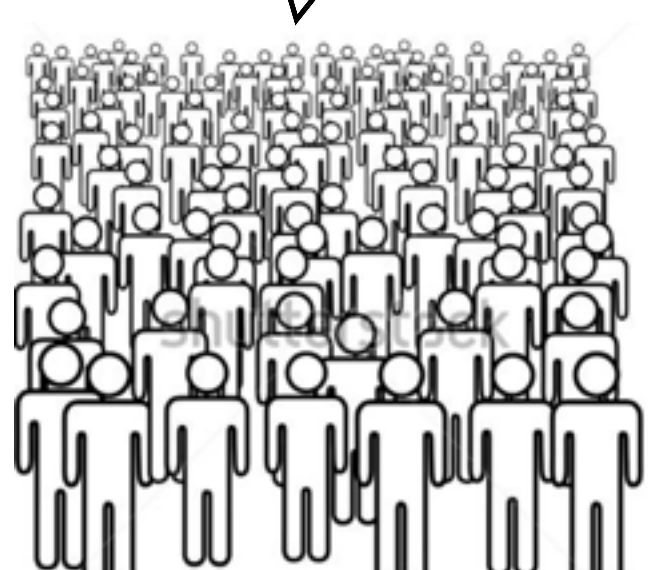
  - “Yes: the deficit could result from short-baseline sterile neutrino oscillations.”

We need more data!!


P. Vogel, Caltech


The rest of us

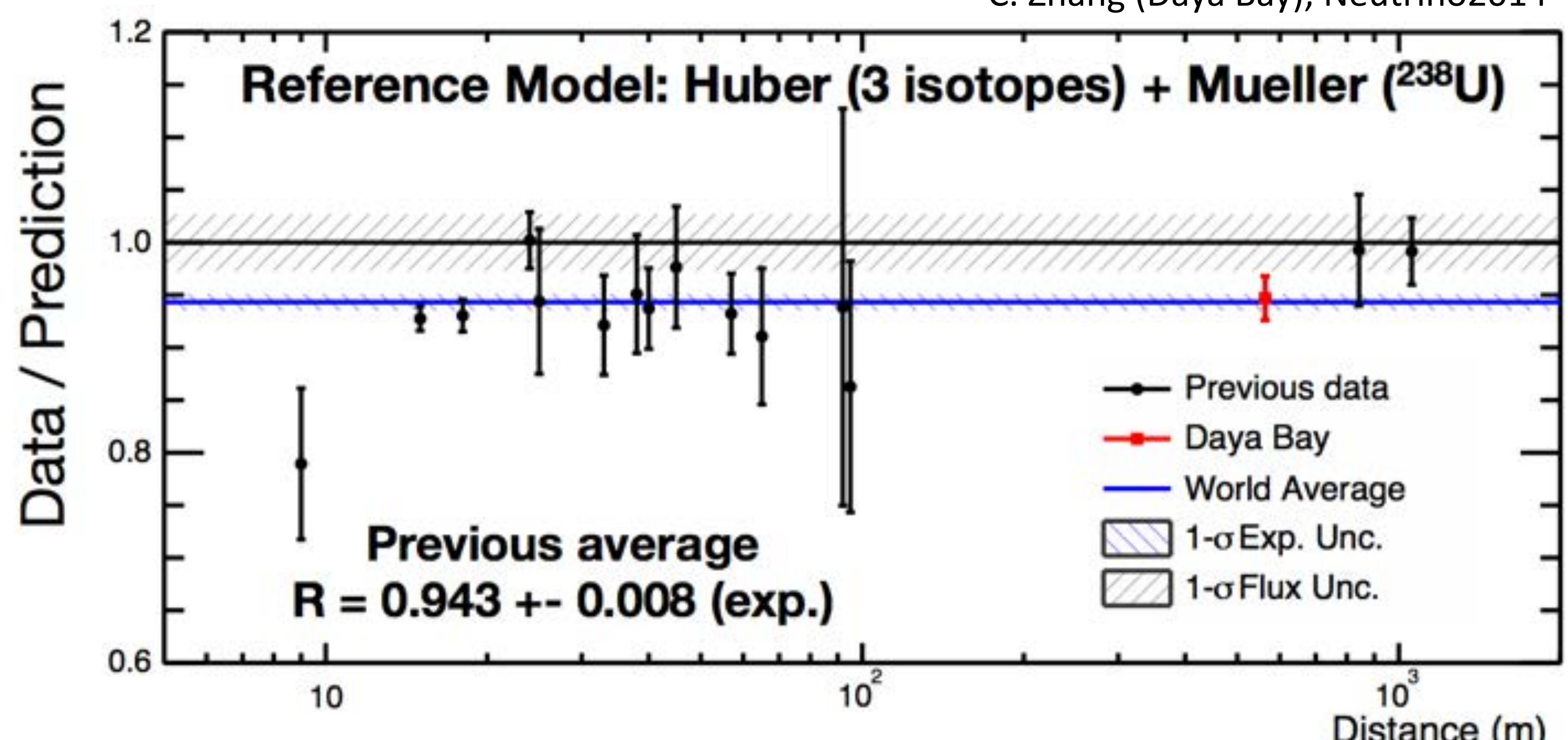

T. Lasserre, CEA, France


P. Huber, VTech

Reactor Anomaly Explanations

- Do we have a 'reactor antineutrino anomaly?'
  - "No: the previous experiments could have been biased to report flux measurements that agreed with existing predictions of the time"
- Daya Bay also sees the reactor flux deficit
  - 5% deficit relative to 2011 Huber/Mueller flux prediction
  - Blind analysis: No reactor power data available until analysis is totally fixed

C. Zhang (Daya Bay), Neutrino2014

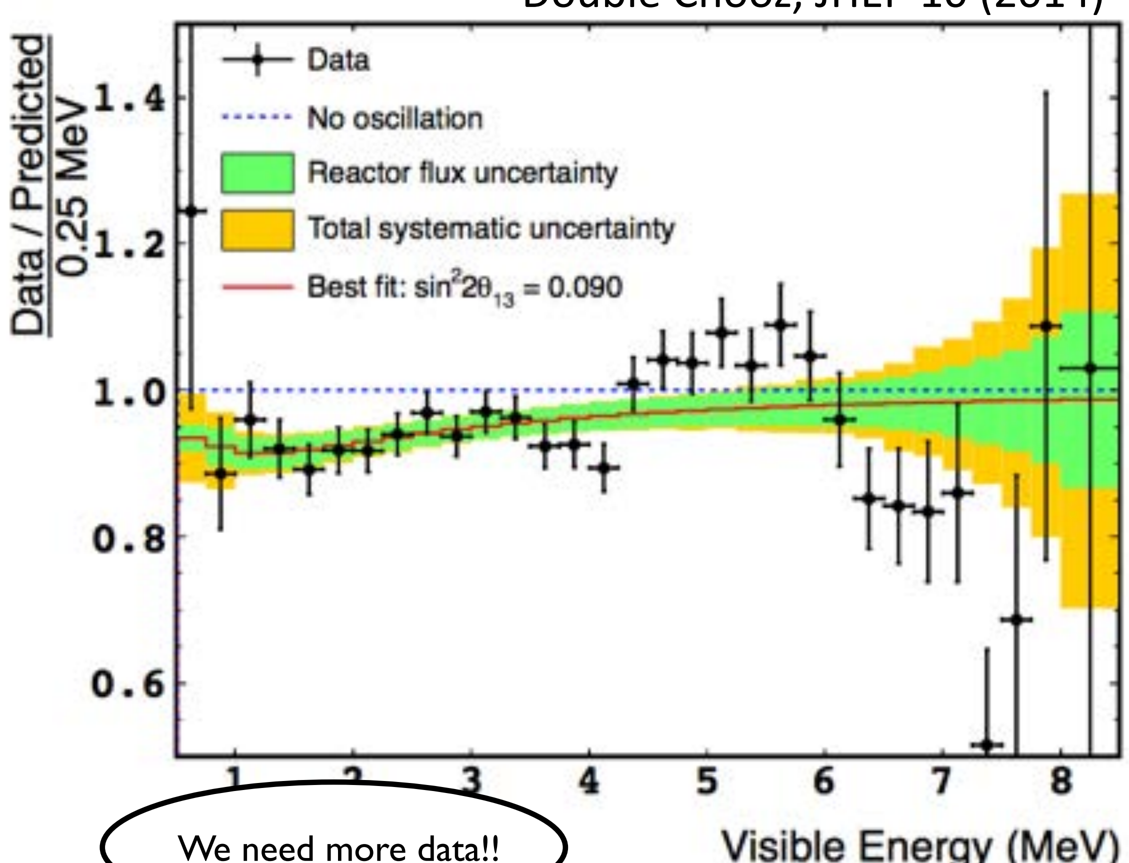


C. Zhang (Daya Bay)
Neutrino 2014

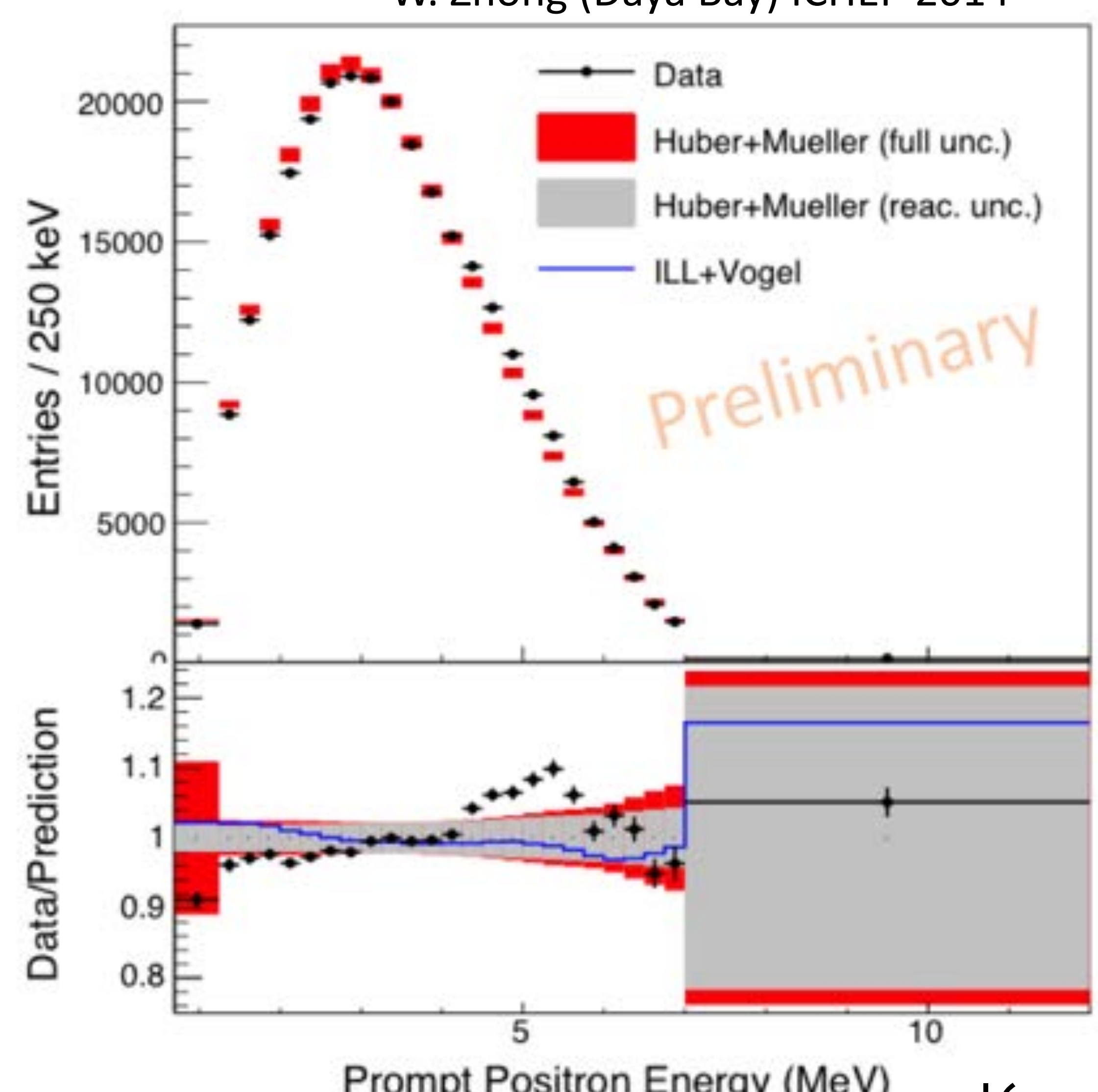
Reactor Anomaly Explanations

- Do we have a ‘reactor antineutrino anomaly?’
  - “Yes: it’s probably attributable to problems in the beta-to-ν_e conversion”
- Spectra from θ_{13} experiments disagree with predictions
  - “If measured spectrum doesn’t match, why should measured flux?”

Double Chooz, JHEP 10 (2014)



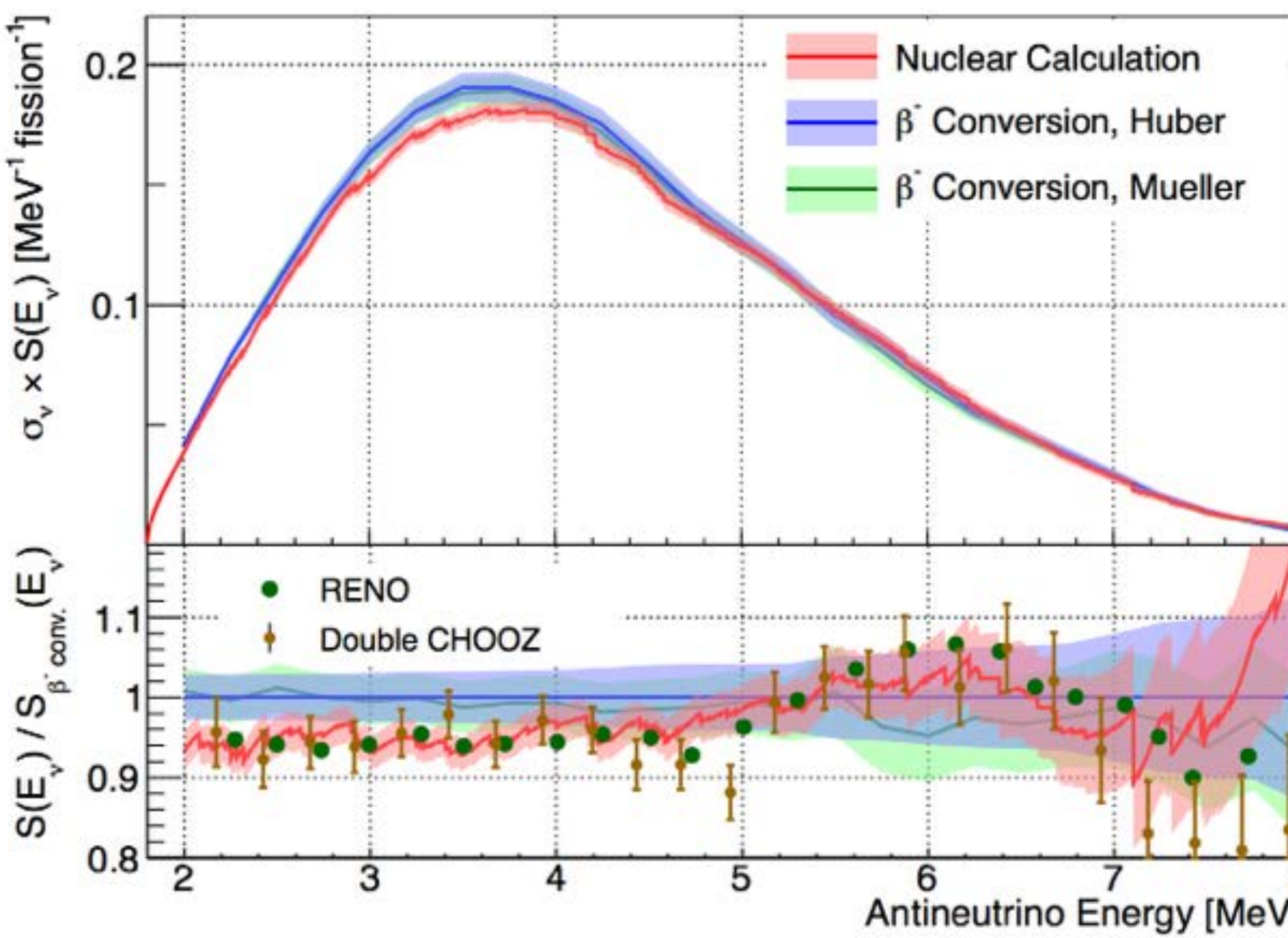
W. Zhong (Daya Bay) ICHEP 2014



Reactor Anomaly Explanations

- Do we have a 'reactor antineutrino anomaly?'
  - "Yes: it's probably attributable to problems in the beta-to-ν_e conversion"
- New *ab initio* shape seems to match RENO/DC data quite well
  - But not the flux…?
  - Not enough data to constrain this situation further!

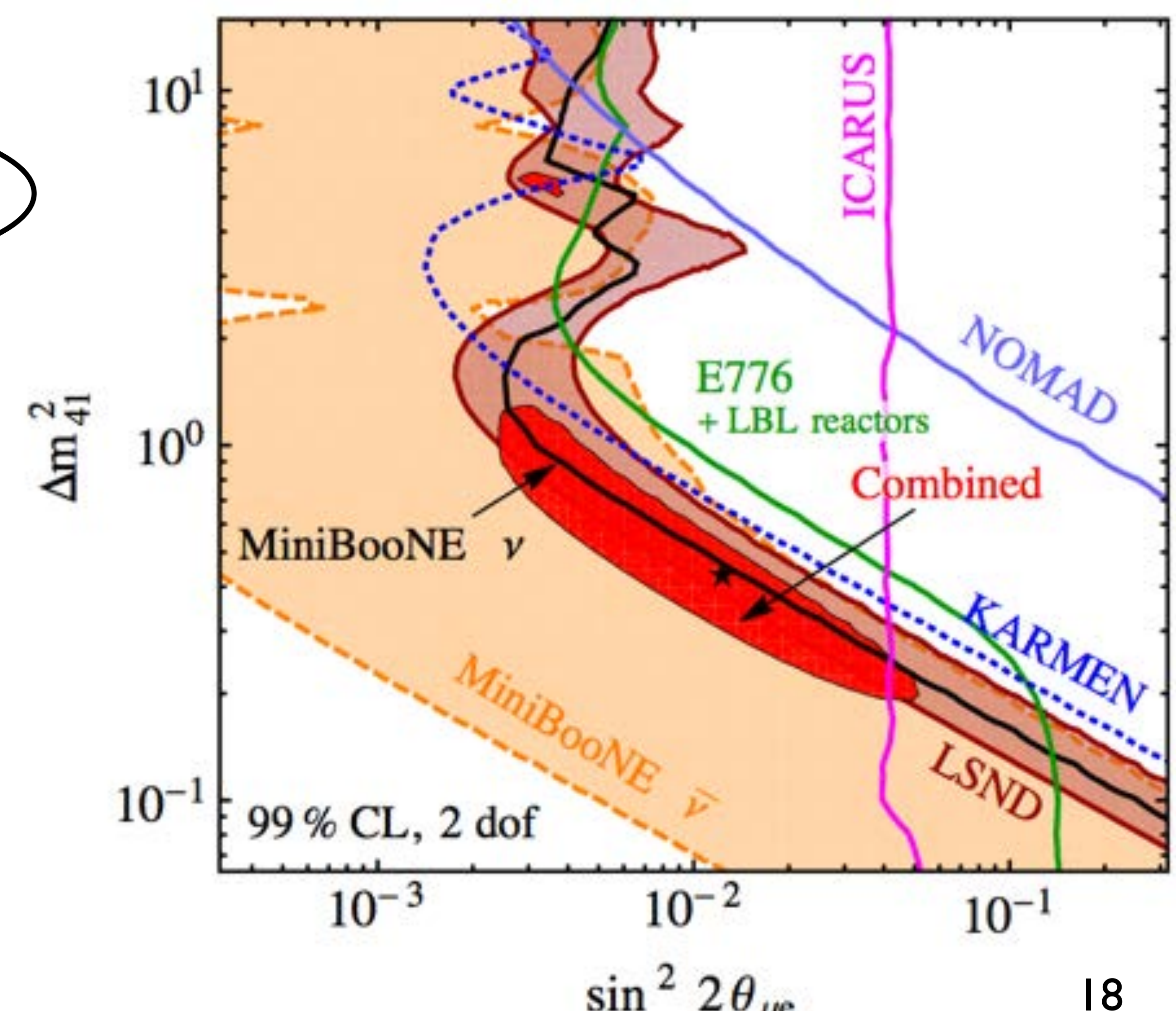
Dwyer and Langford, PRL 114 (2015)



Reactor Anomaly Explanations

- Do we have a 'reactor antineutrino anomaly?'
  - "Yes: the deficit could result from short-baseline sterile neutrino oscillations"
- Consistent with existing hints for 1 eV sterile neutrinos
  - However, tension with null ν_μ disappearance measurements…
- Also, to be able to tell if CP-violation exists, we need to know if sterile neutrinos exist…

Boris Kayser, Fermilab



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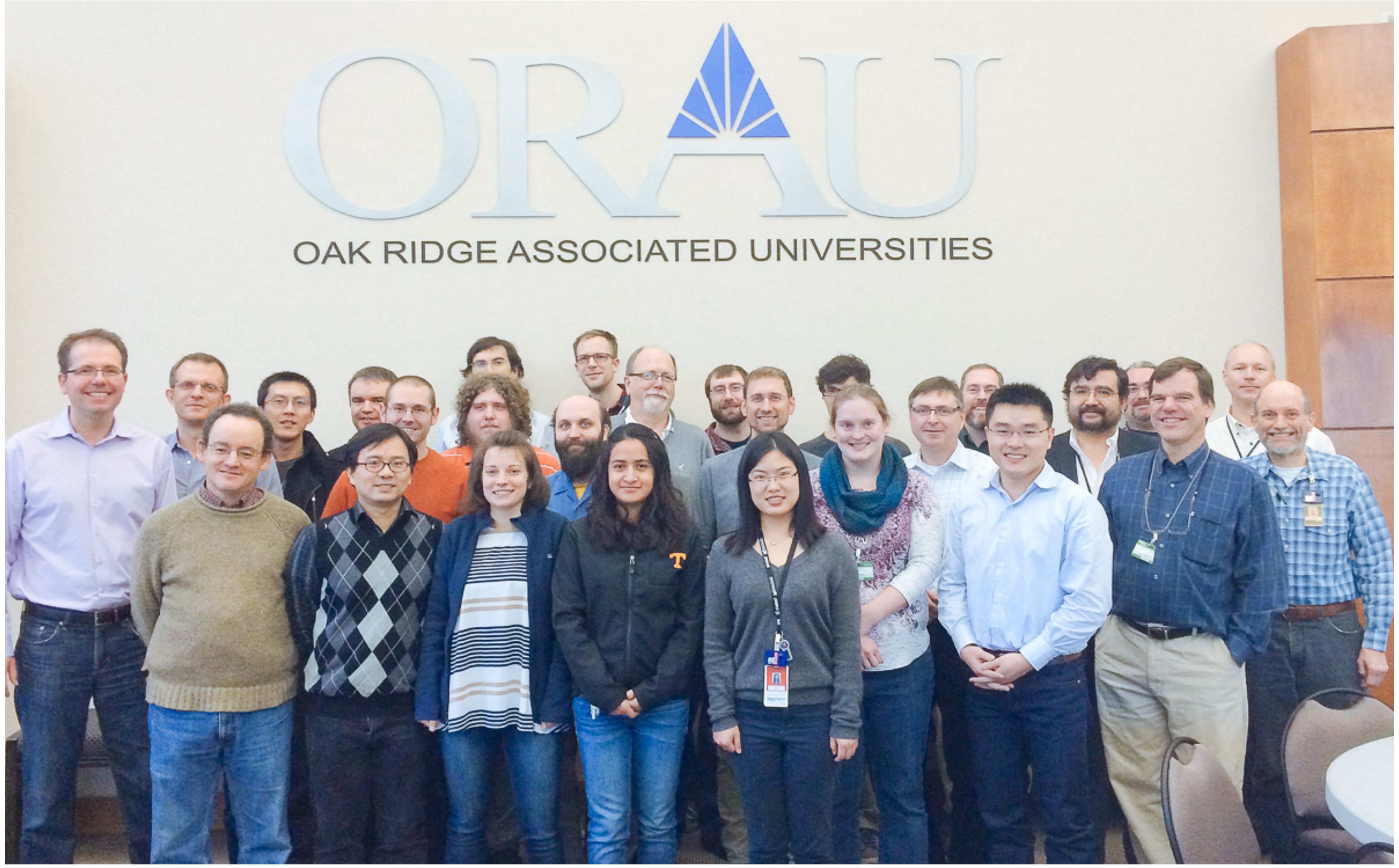
PROSPECT20 meter-long cell

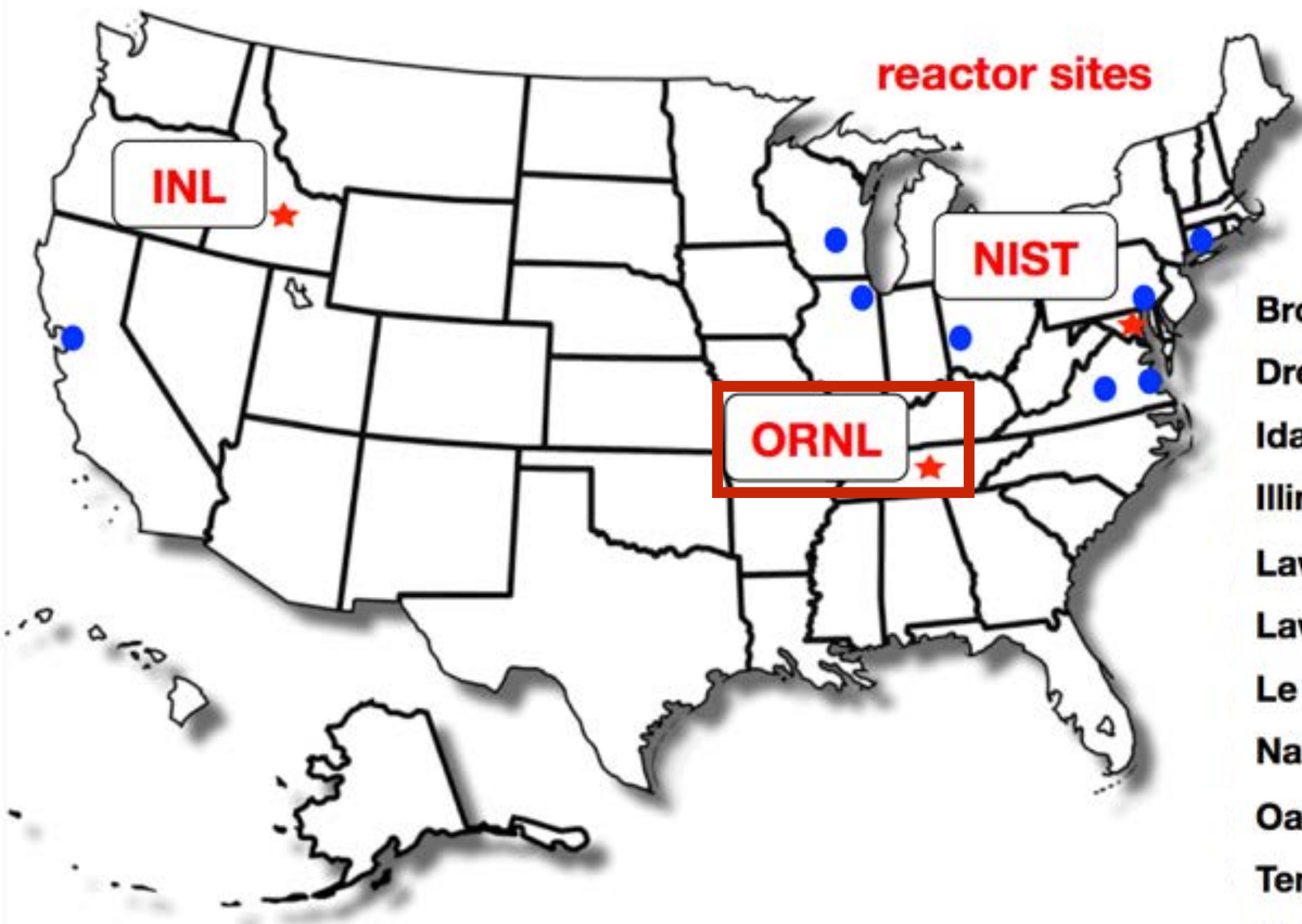
Precise Reactor Spectrum Measurements

- A lot yet to be learned from/about reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ spectra
- In particular we could really use:
  - A high energy-resolution detector for precisely measuring absolute spectrum
  - A high position-resolution detector for comparing spectra between baselines
- Enter PROSPECT: the Precision Reactor Oscillation and SPECTrum Experiment



PROSPECT Collaboration

PROSPECT Collaboration



Brookhaven National Laboratory
Drexel University
Idaho National Laboratory
Illinois Institute of Technology
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Le Moyne College
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Temple University
University of Tennessee
Virginia Tech University
University of Waterloo
University of Wisconsin
College of William and Mary
Yale University

10 universities
6 national laboratories

Updated whitepaper
arXiv:1309.7647

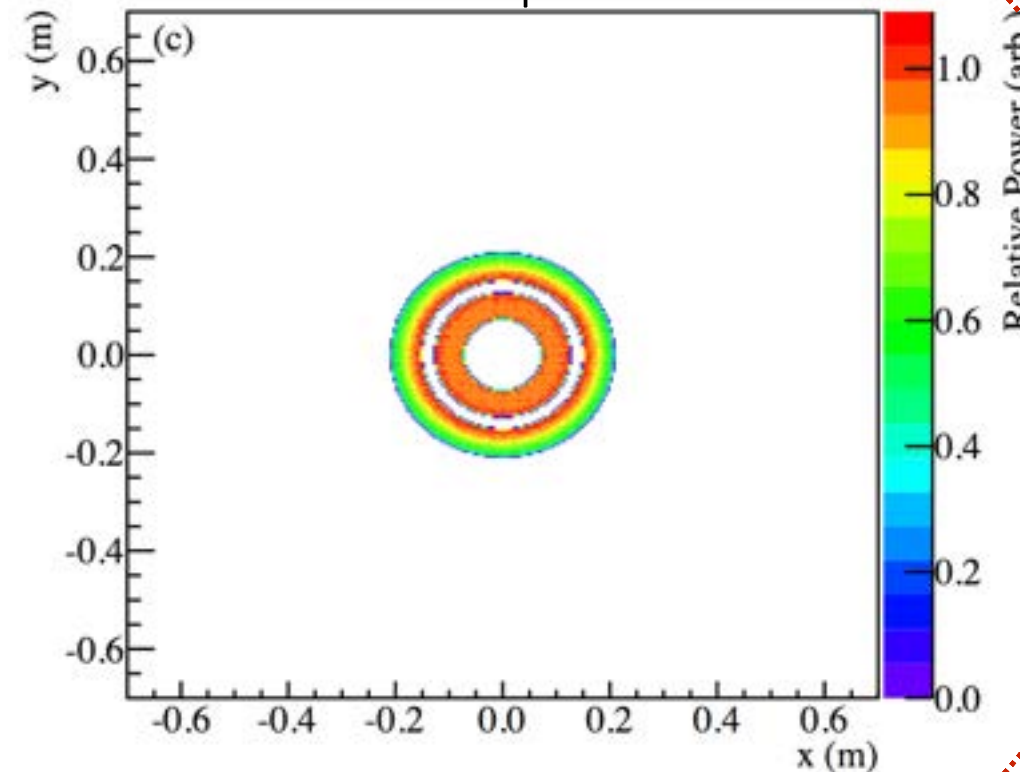
Website
http://prospect.yale.edu/

High-Flux Isotope Reactor at ORNL

- Compact 85MW Core
- HEU: constant U-235 $\bar{\nu}_e$ spectrum
- 42% reactor up-time (5 yearly cycles)
- Available detector location at 6+ m
- Have surveyed reactor backgrounds

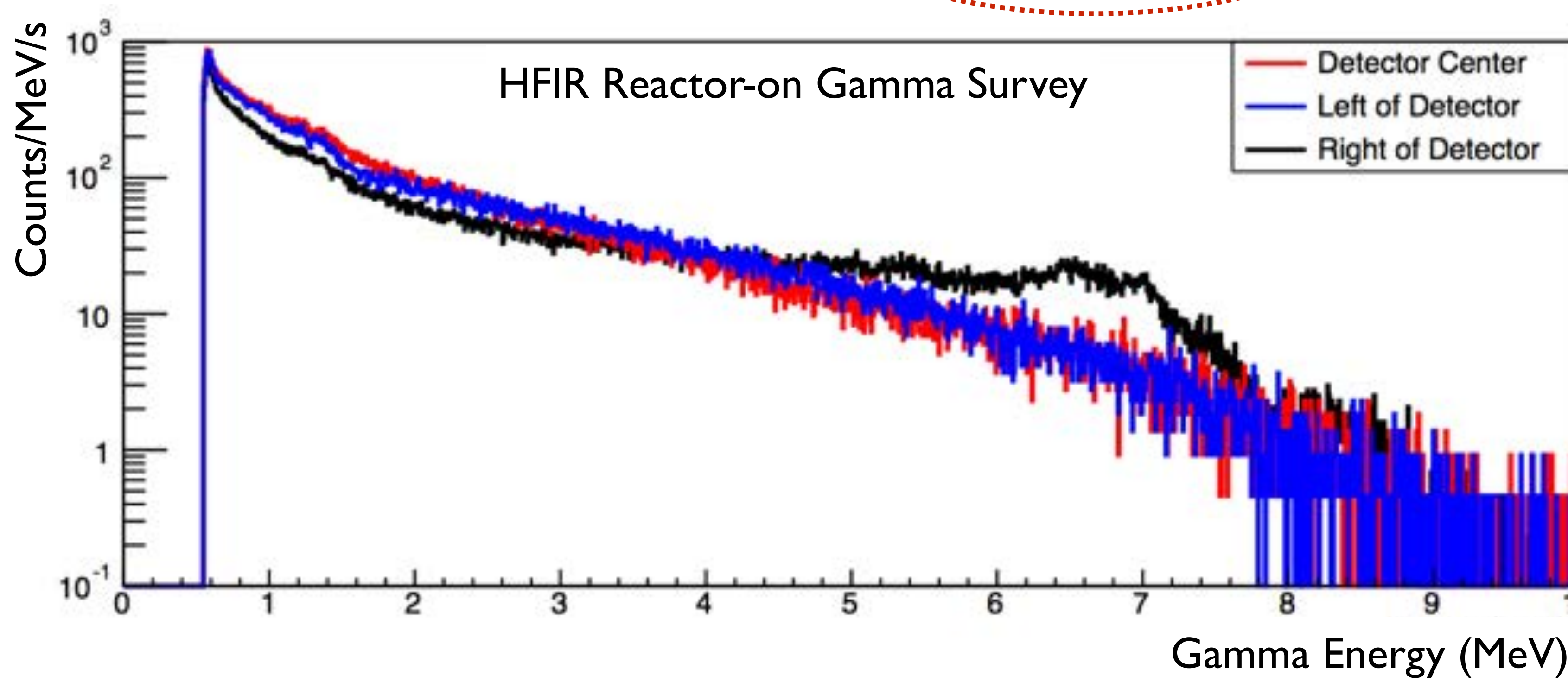
Commercial core size

HFIR core size and power distribution



HFIR gamma background survey

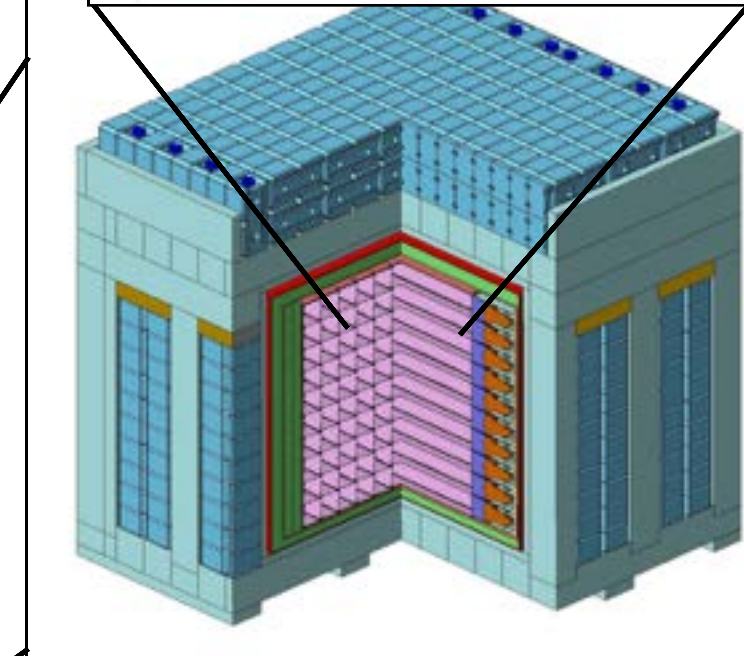
HFIR core viewed from above



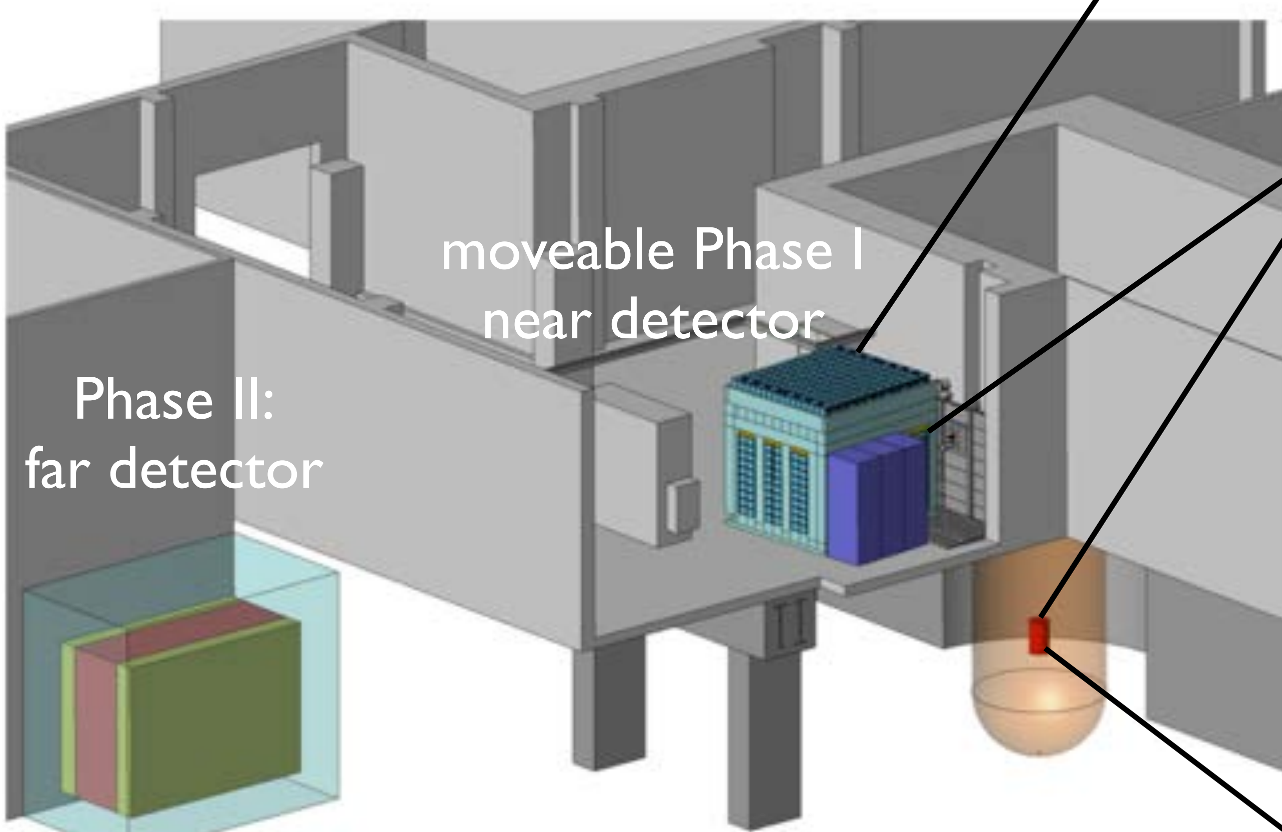
PROSPECT Experimental Layout

- High Flux Isotope Reactor: ORNL
- Extensive passive shielding
- Segmented liquid scintillator target region: ~3 tons for near detector (Phase I)
- Moveable: 7-12 m baselines

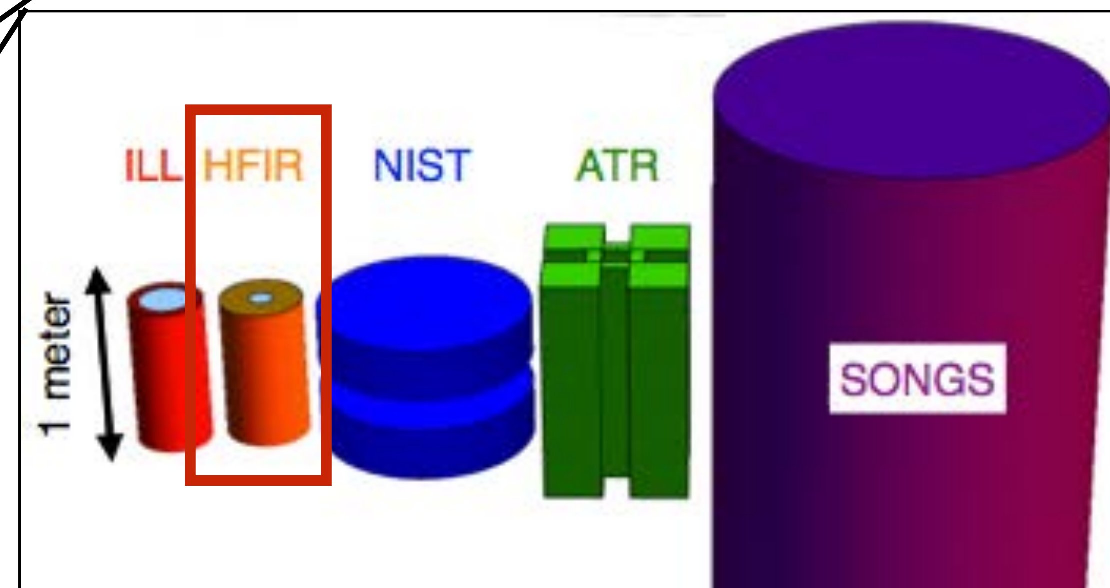
Sub-cell conceptual design



Near detector conceptual design



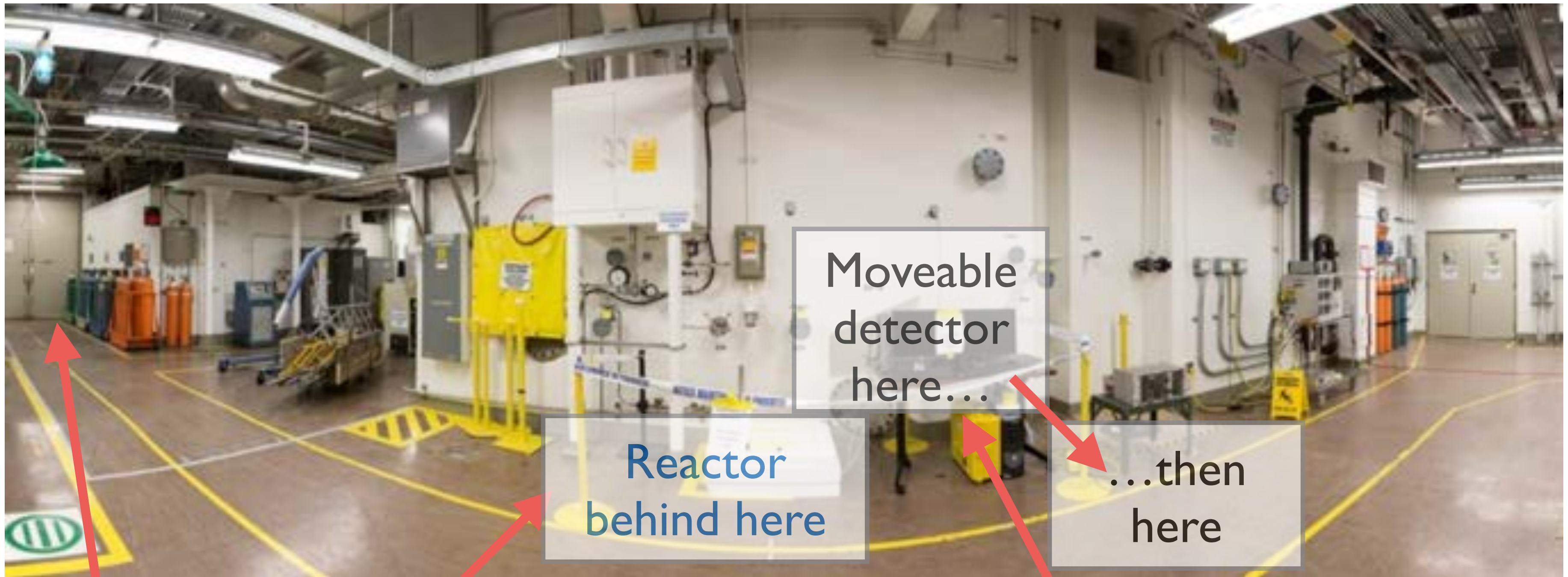
Two-detector PROSPECT deployment at HFIR



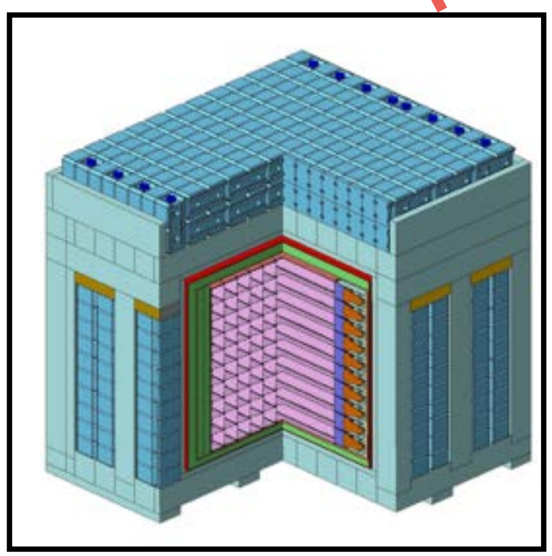
HFIR core shape and relative size comparison

PROSPECT Location at HFIR

HFIR Main Level Hallway



Wide door to grade level: bring detector subsystems in here

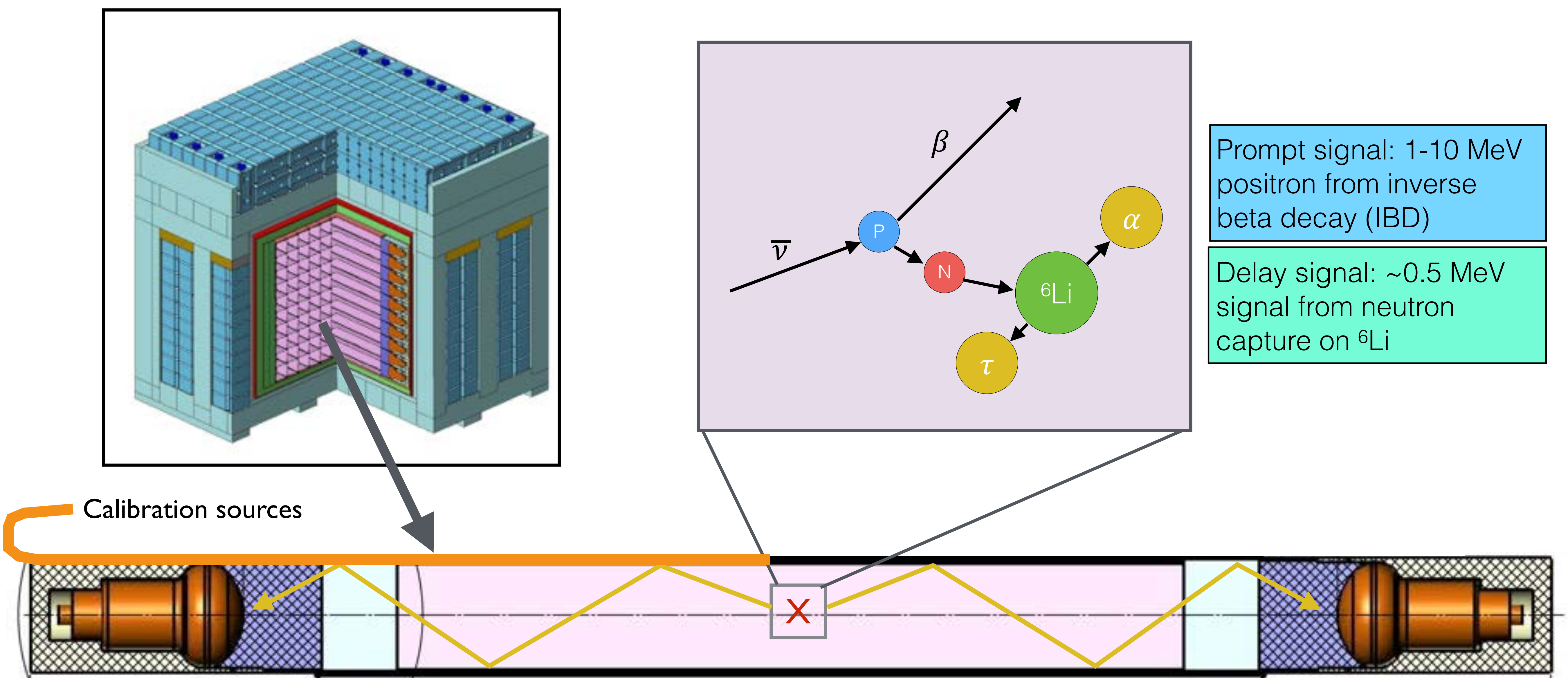


PROSPECT Prototype and shielding at HFIR

Have been working in this location for > 1 year; PROSPECT prototypes operating here since August 2014!

IBD Detection in Target

- Inverse beta interactions in Li-loaded PSD liquid scintillator
- 10 x 14 optically decoupled cells: ~15cm x 15cm x 100cm each
- Specularly reflecting cell walls quickly guide light to PMTs
- System can meet position/energy resolution requirements



PROSPECT Prototype Demonstrations

Run DAQ,
Remote data-taking

See n-Li + PSD

PROSPECT 0.1*
Aug 2014

2 inches

PROSPECT 2*
Dec 2014 -
Mar 2015

5 inches

Demonstrate shielded
background rates

Demonstrate full
timing and PE response

PROSPECT 20*
Mar 2015

1 meter

Deploy final design concepts

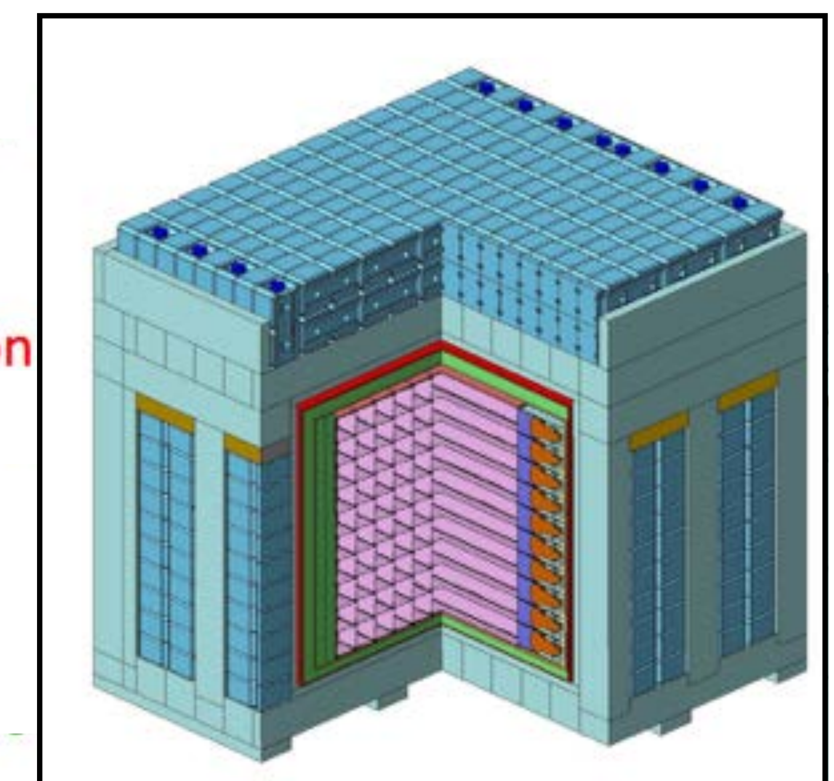
Observe relative segment responses

PROSPECT 60
Jan 2016

See antineutrinos

Meet physics goals

PROSPECT 2ton



* Deployment complete!!!!

Approximate mass kg

PROSPECT Prototype Demonstrations

✓ Run DAQ, Remote data-taking

✓ See n-Li + PSD

PROSPECT 0.1*
Aug 2014

2 inches

arXiv:1506.03547 (2015)

✓ Demonstrate shielded background rates

PROSPECT 2*
Dec 2014 - Mar 2015

5 inches

✓ Demonstrate full timing and PE response

arXiv:1508.56575 (2015)

PROSPECT 20*
Mar 2015

I meter

Deploy final design concepts

Observe relative segment responses

PROSPECT 60
Jan 2016

See antineutrinos

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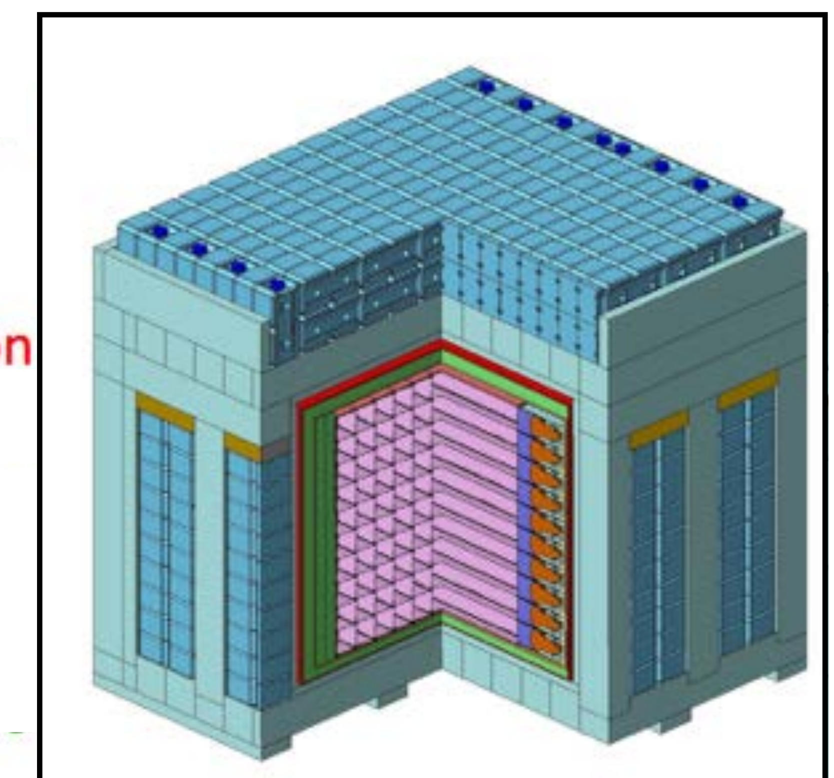
PROSPECT 2ton

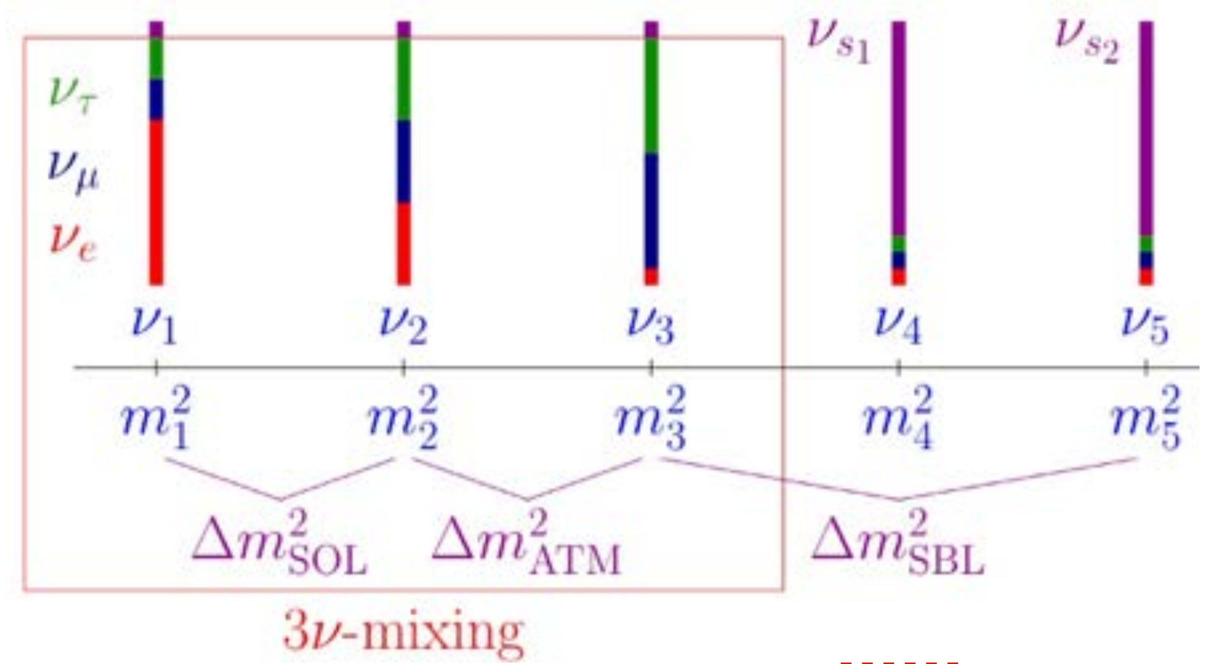


* Deployment complete!!!!

Approximate mass kg

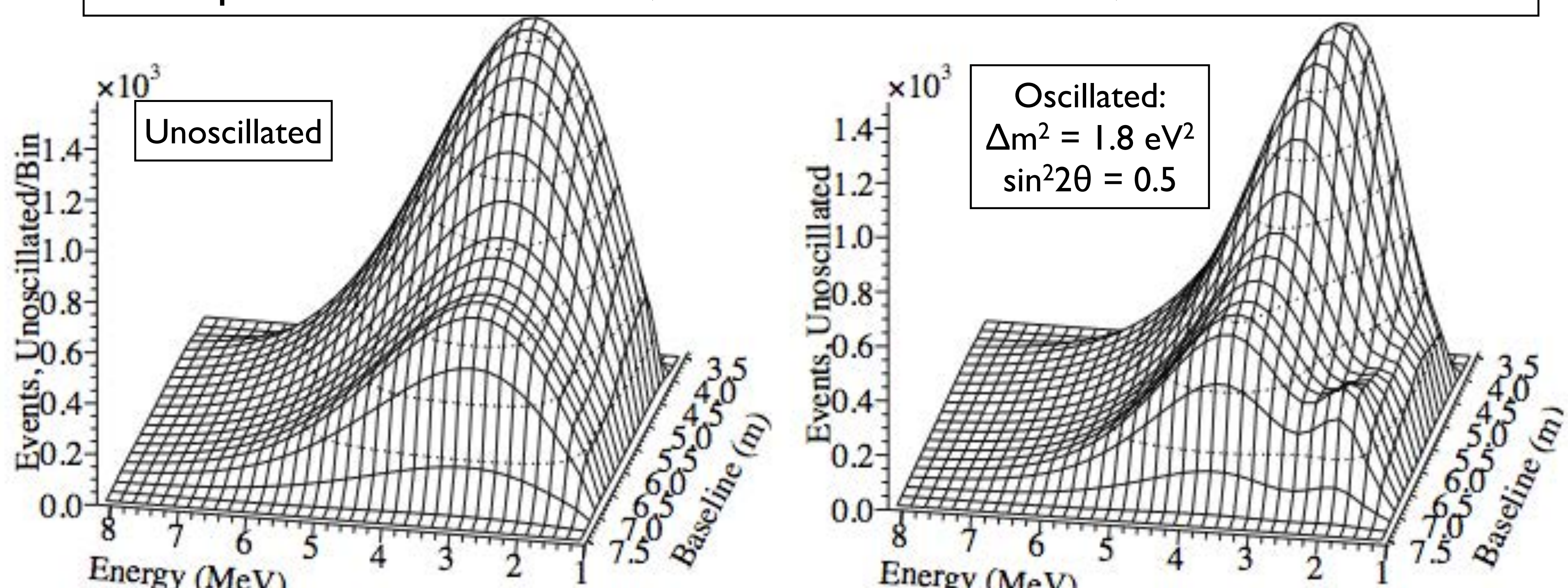
PROSPECT Physics: Oscillations

- Measure energy spectrum separately in each segment
- Look for unexpected L/E distortion: oscillations
  - Mass splitting wouldn't match observed three-neutrino splittings: fourth (sterile) neutrino



$$P(\nu_a \rightarrow \nu_b) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left[1.27 \Delta m^2 (eV^2) \frac{L(km)}{E_\nu (GeV)} \right]$$

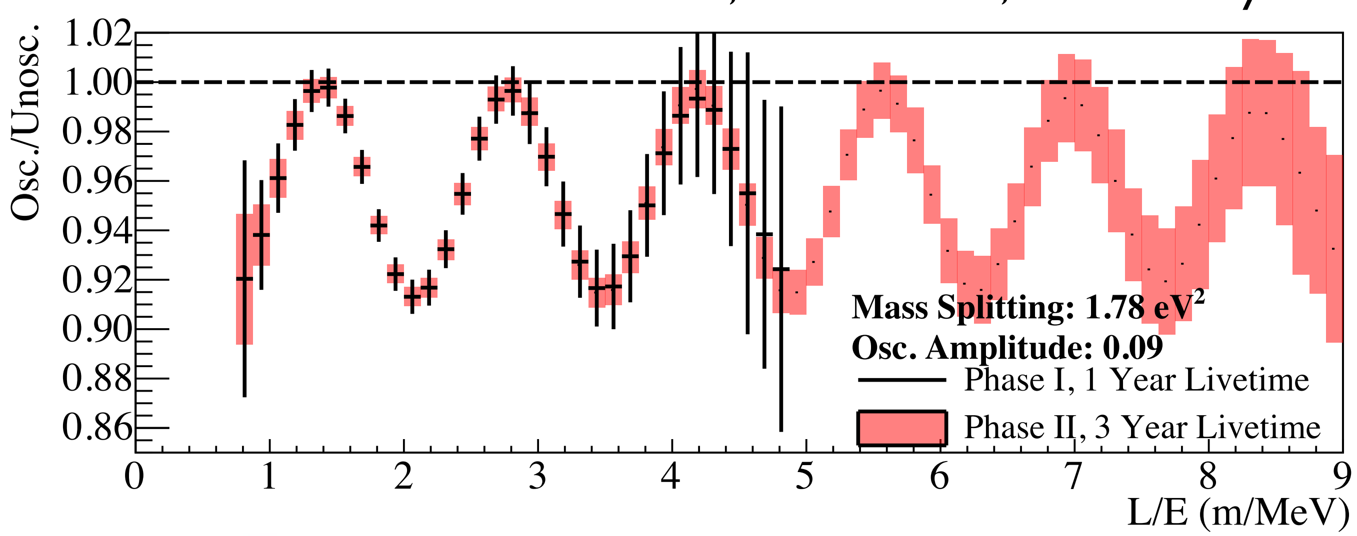
Example: 3x1x1 m^3 detector, 1m^3 20 MW HEU core, 4m closest distance

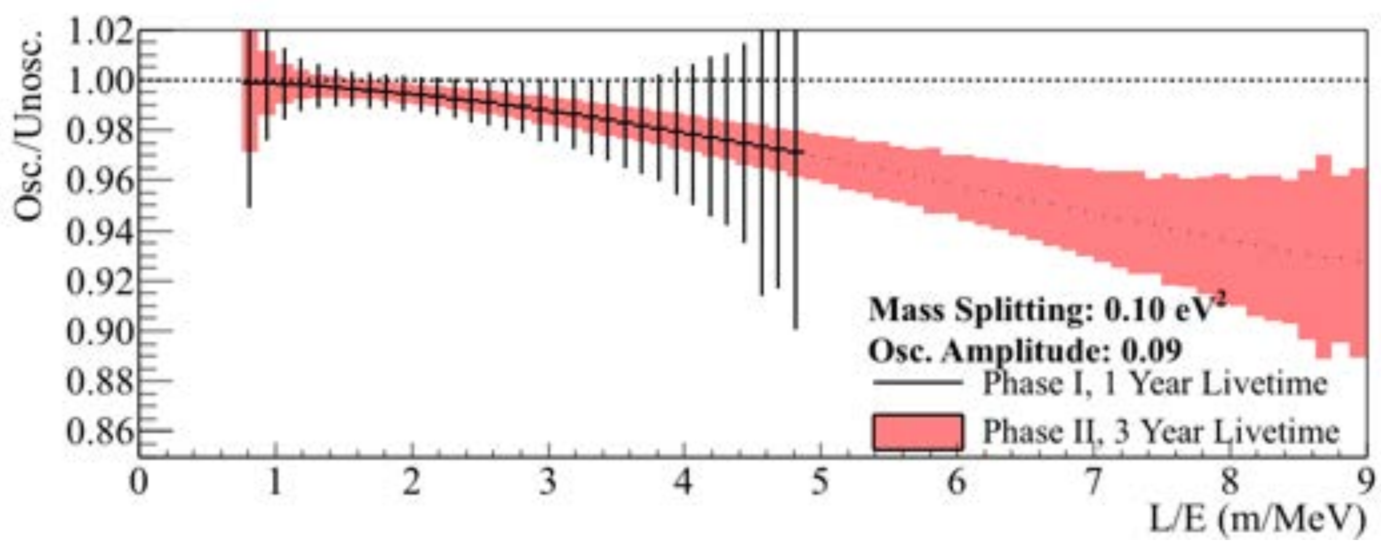


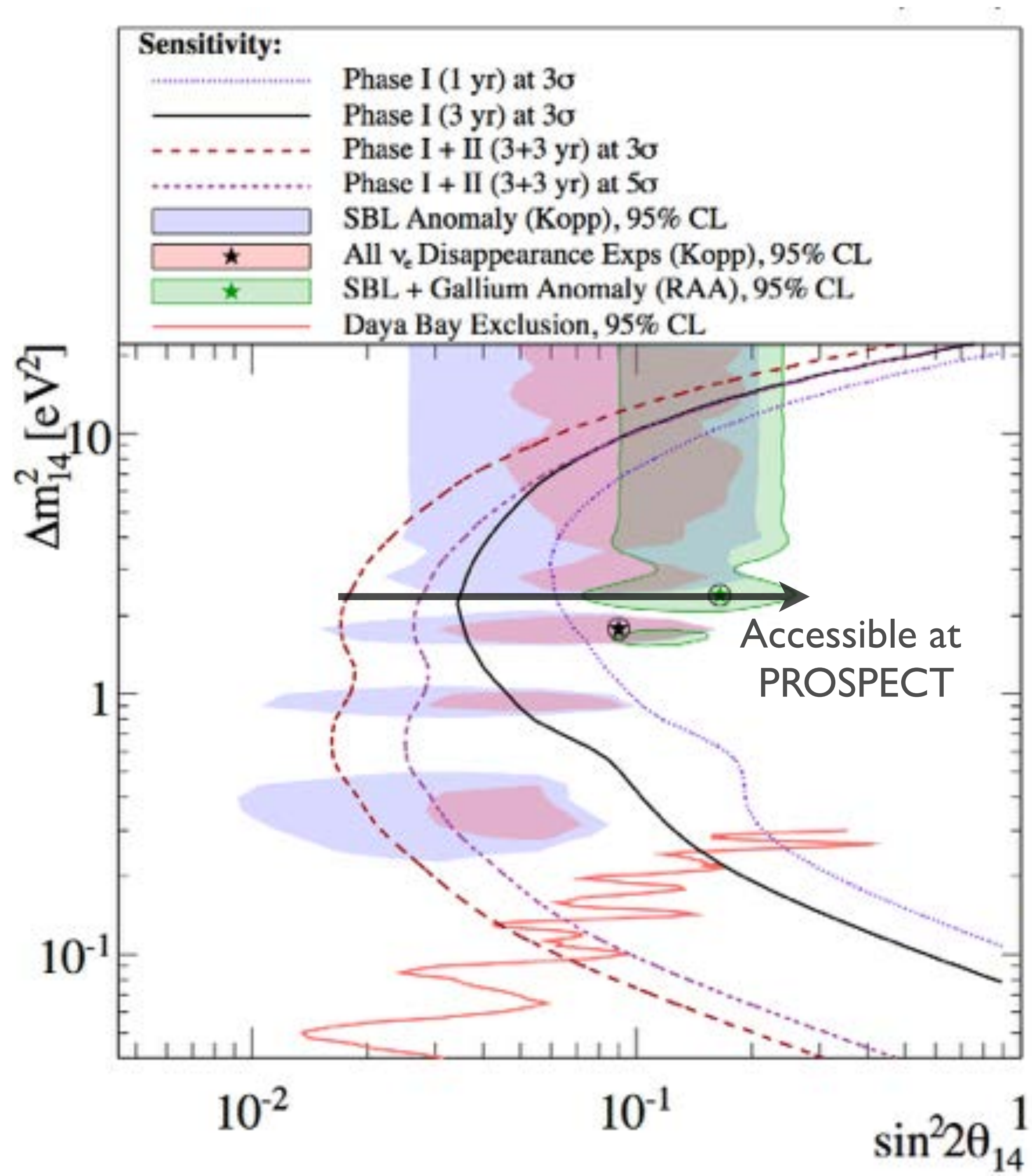
PROSPECT Physics: Oscillations

- **Excellent oscillation discovery potential at PROSPECT**
  - If new sterile neutrino is where global fits suggest, it's very likely we'll see it!
  - No reliance on absolute spectral shape or normalization: pure relative measurement
  - Good coverage with a single detector and one/three calendar years of data-taking

Simulated PROSPECT data, binned in L/E; Stat err. only



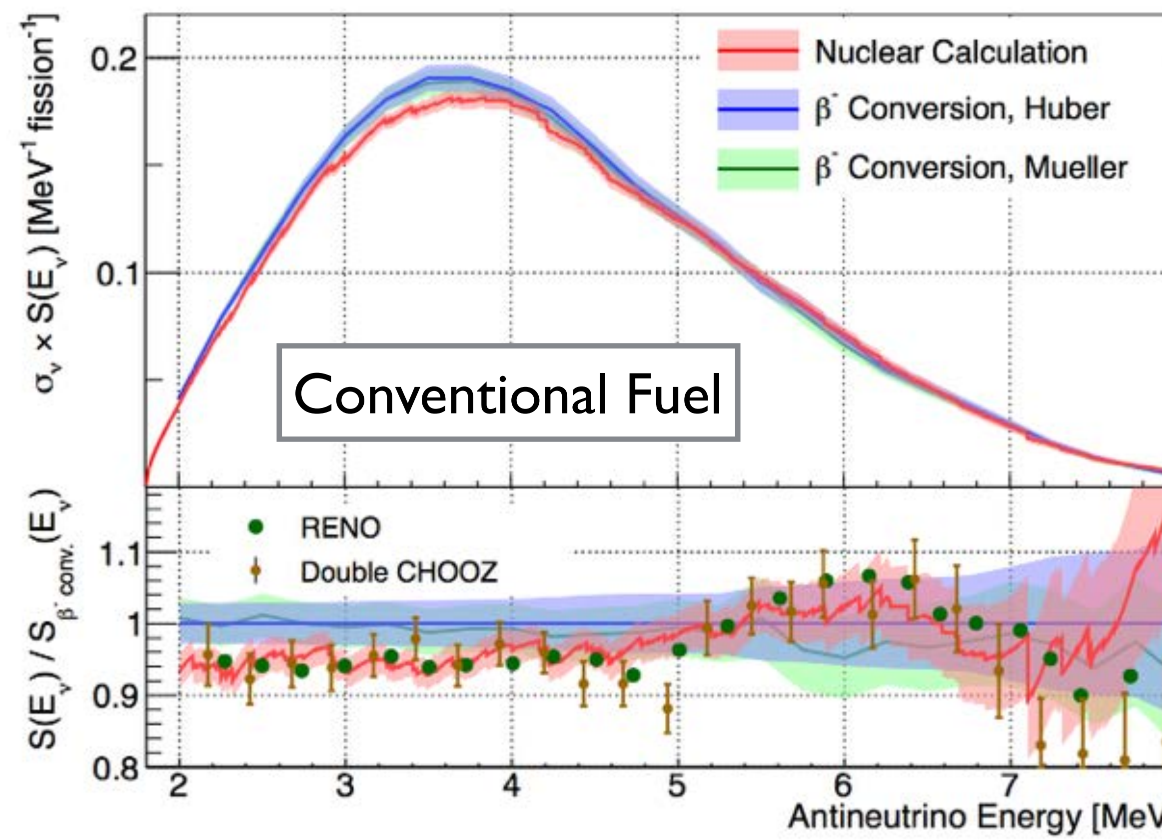


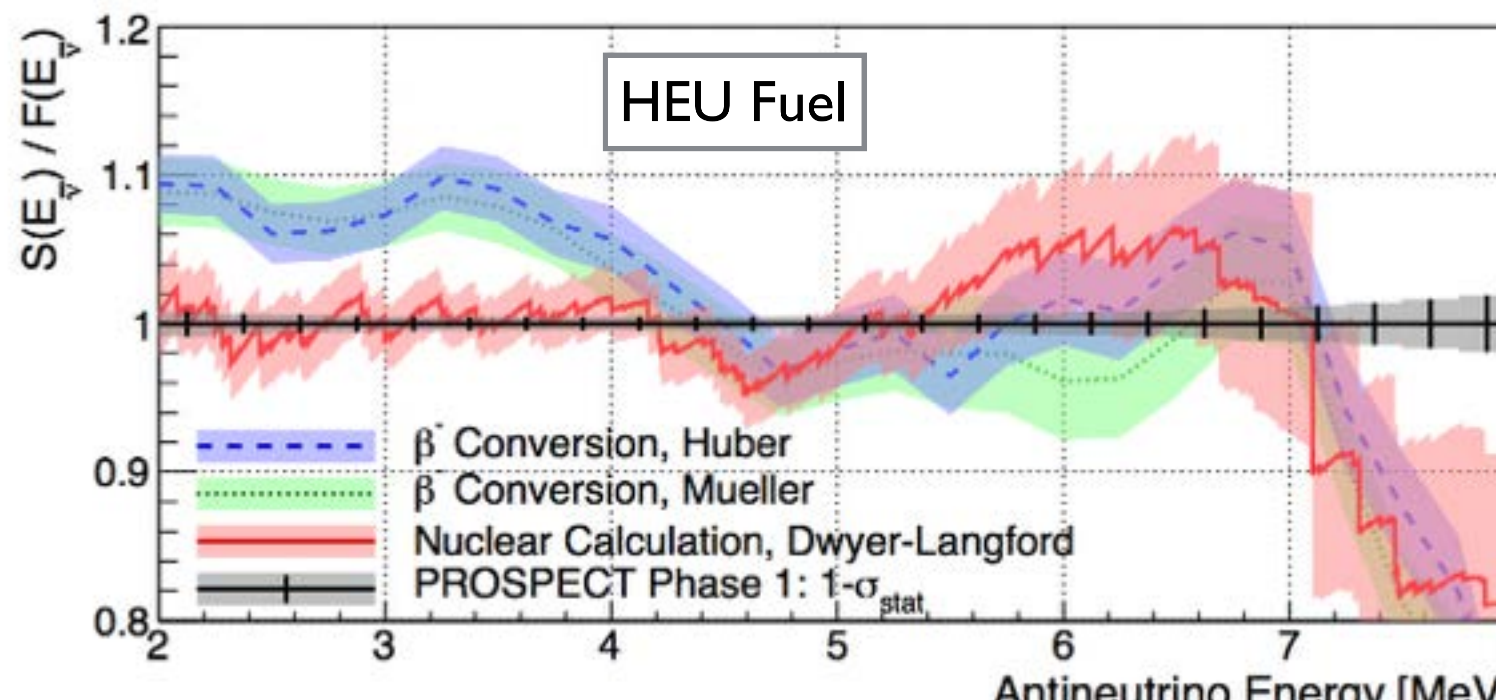


PROSPECT Physics: Absolute Spectrum

- What is the correct model?
  - Have data points for conventional fuel (^{235}U, ^{238}U, ^{239}Pu, ^{241}Pu)
  - HEU (^{235}U): independent constraint
- Benefits of HFIR:
  - 1 core versus many cores (Daya Bay, RENO)
  - Easier model: only 1 isotope, no time-dependence
- Implications for reactor monitoring:
  - Example: what if 5MeV bump isn't present for HEU fuel?
  - In that case, 'bump' size could be a proxy for ^{239}Pu concentration in core

Dwyer and Langford, arxiv:[nucl-ex]1407.1281 (2014)





Demonstrating Key Requirements

- To accomplish these physics goals, PROSPECT needs:
  - Control of backgrounds at on-surface near-reactor location
  - Understanding position reconstruction ability
  - Understanding of energy scale and energy resolution
- Pre-PROSPECT program should demonstrate PROSPECT's abilities in all three of these areas.

IBD Detection and Backgrounds

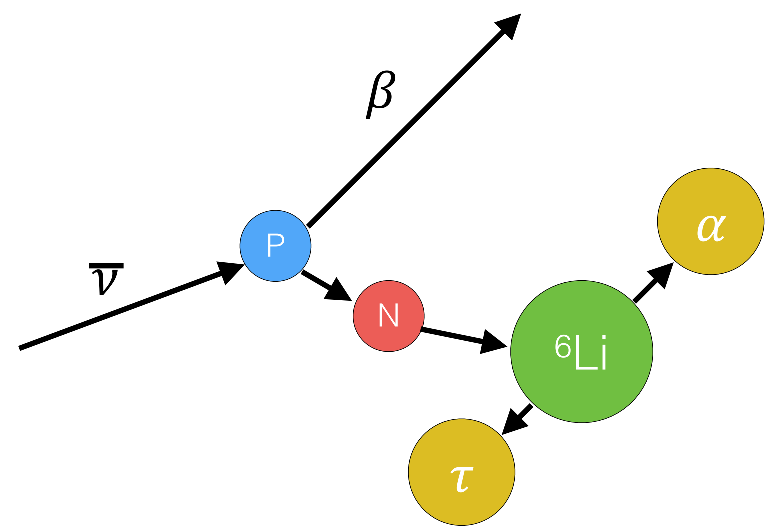
- Have a highly sensitive detector operating at the surface in the direct vicinity of an operating nuclear reactor
- Major design challenge: background reduction
- Aiming for S:B ratio of 1:1
  - If we can achieve this, PROSPECT can meet the physics goals I discussed.

Signal, Main Backgrounds

Inverse Beta Decay
γ-like prompt, n-like delay

Fast Neutron
n-like prompt, n-like delay

Accidentals
γ-like prompt, γ-like delay

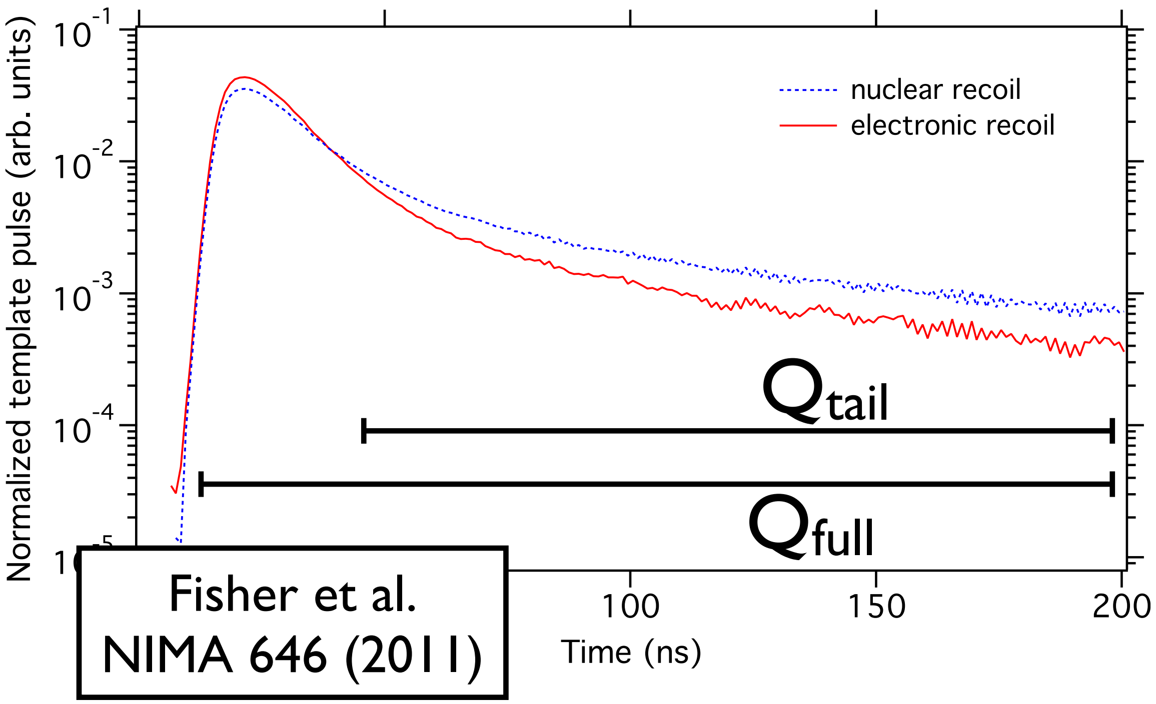


Prompt signal: 1-10 MeV positron from inverse beta decay (IBD)

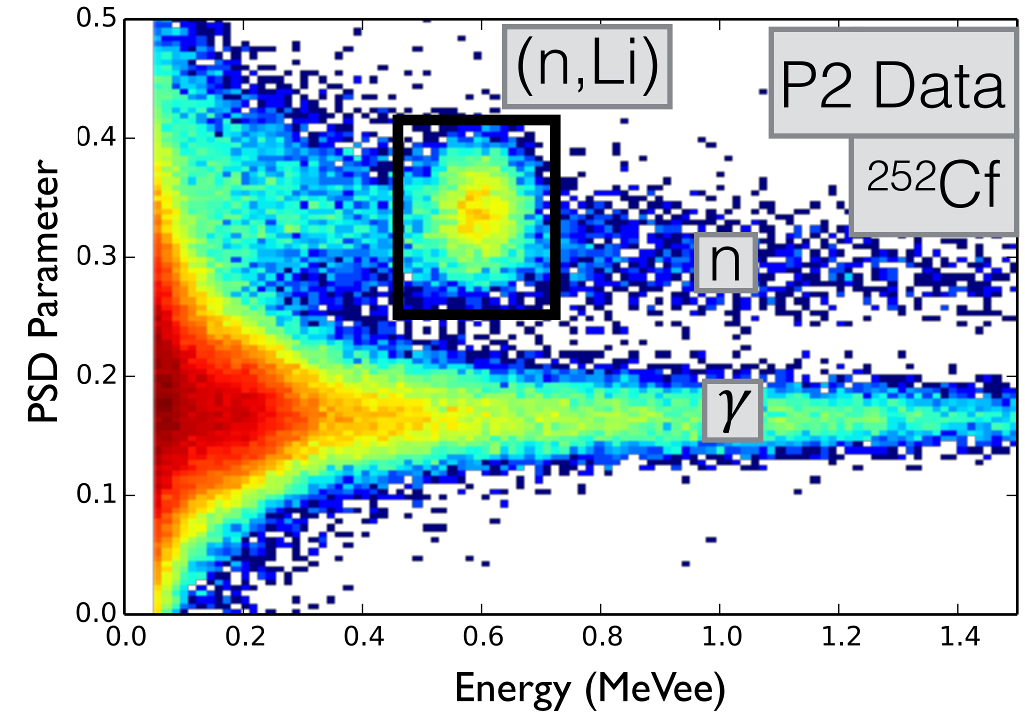
Delay signal: ~0.5 MeV signal from neutron capture on ^{6}Li

Background Rejection, Signal Selection

- Reduce backgrounds: Li-capture and pulse-shape discrimination



$$PSD = \frac{Q_{tail}}{Q_{full}}$$



Signal, Main Backgrounds

Inverse Beta Decay

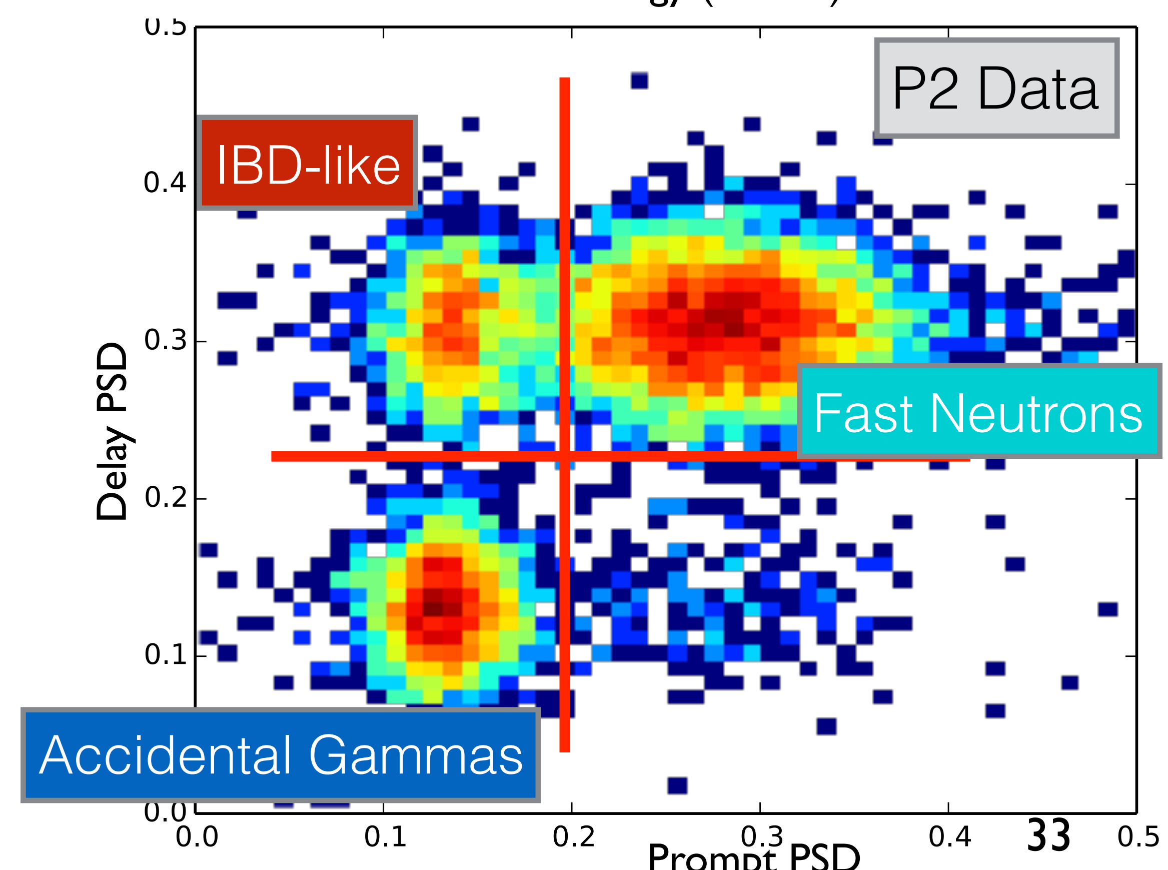
γ-like prompt, n-like delay

Fast Neutron

~~n-like prompt, n-like delay~~

Accidentals

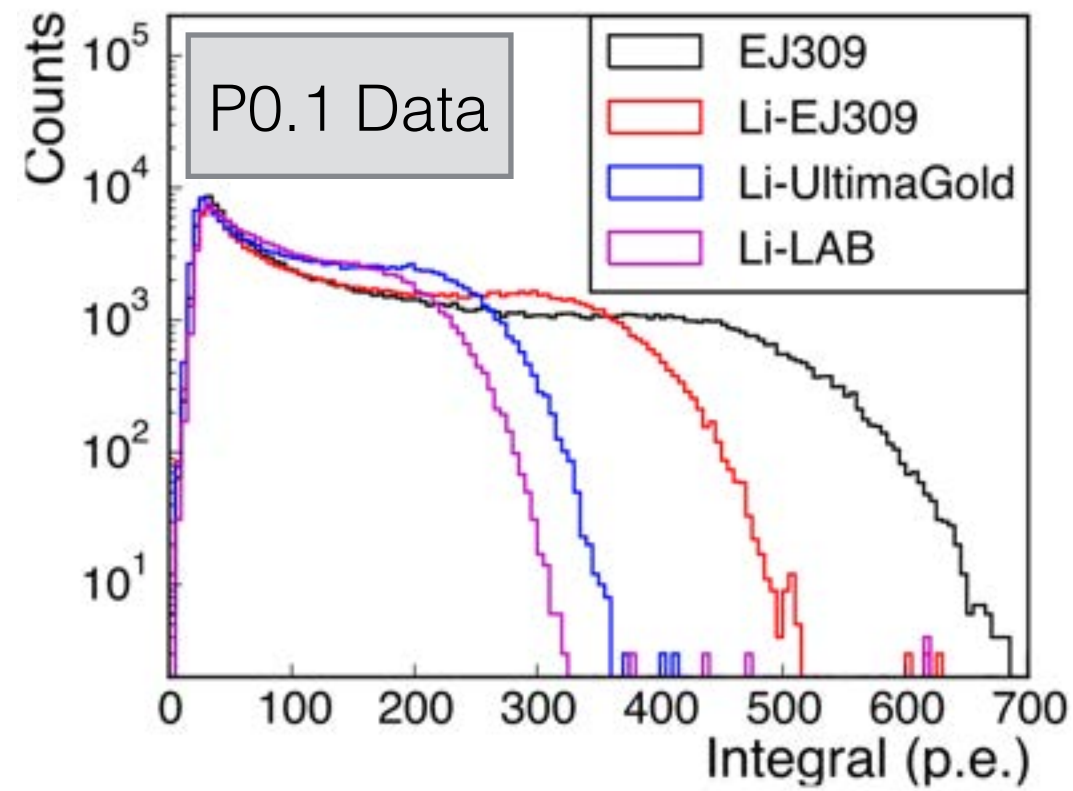
~~γ-like prompt, γ-like delay~~

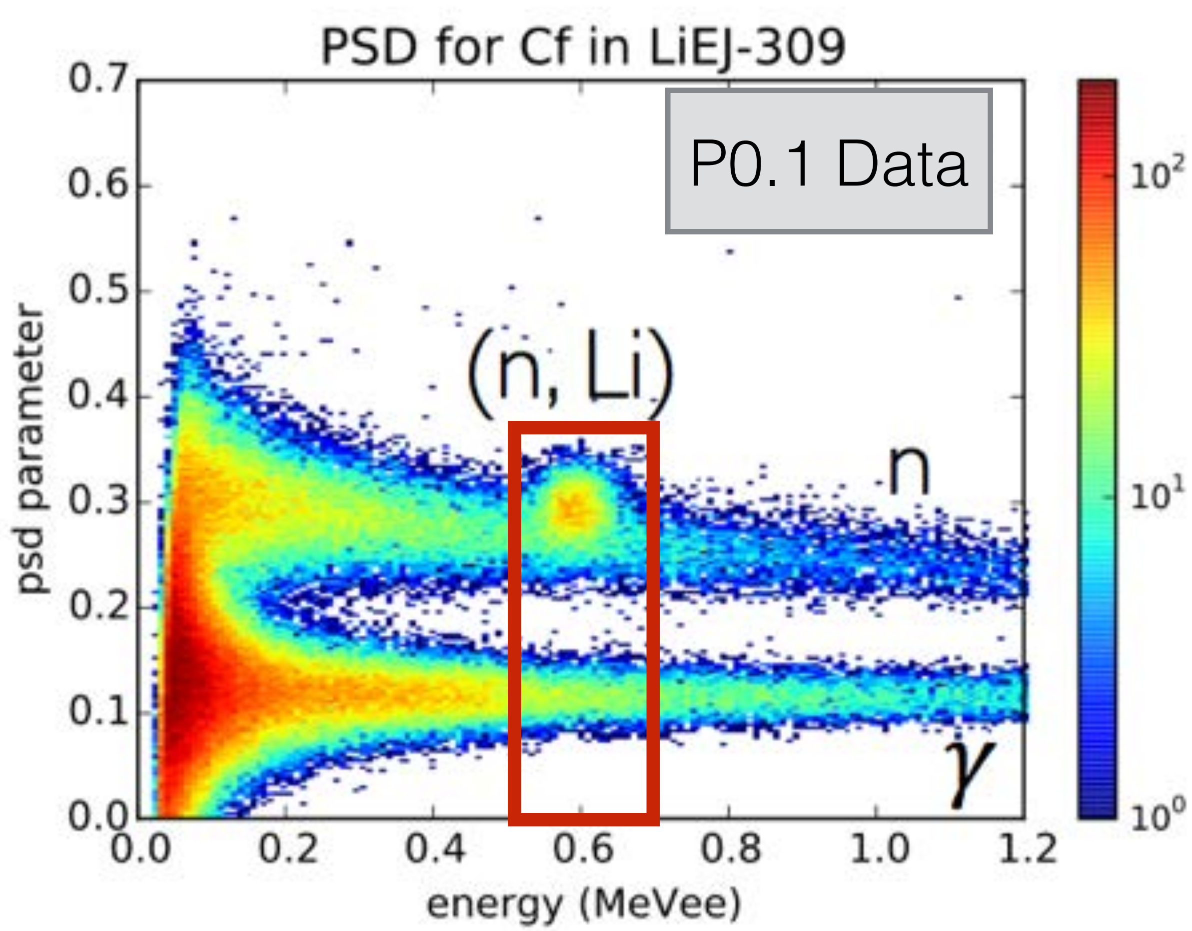


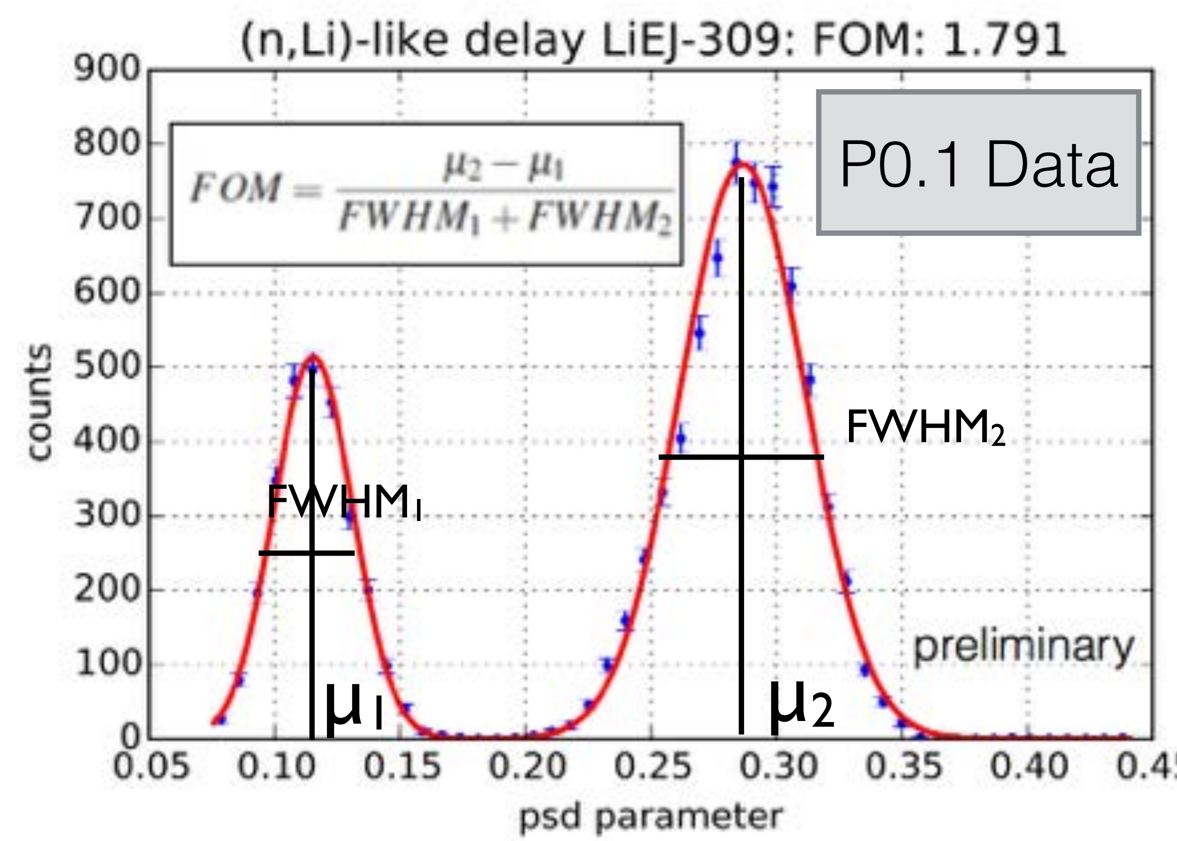
arXiv:1506.03547 (2015), accepted to NIM A

Background Rejection: Li-EJ309 in P0.1

- Light yield remains high for Li-EJ309
  - 8200 photons/MeV (11500 for EJ309)
  - Needed to meet resolution requirements
- PSD excellent for Li-EJ309
  - Needed for background rejection requirements



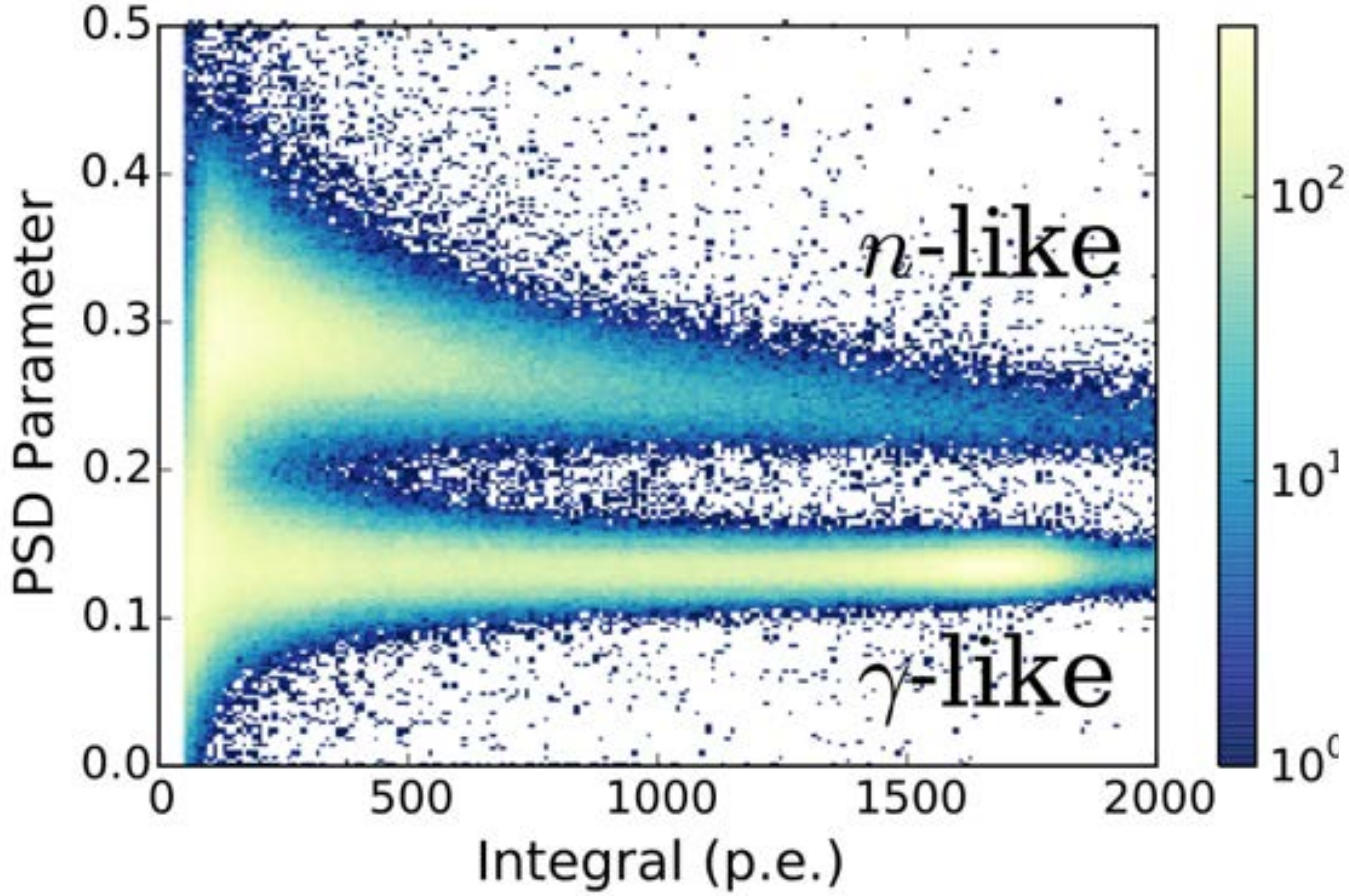




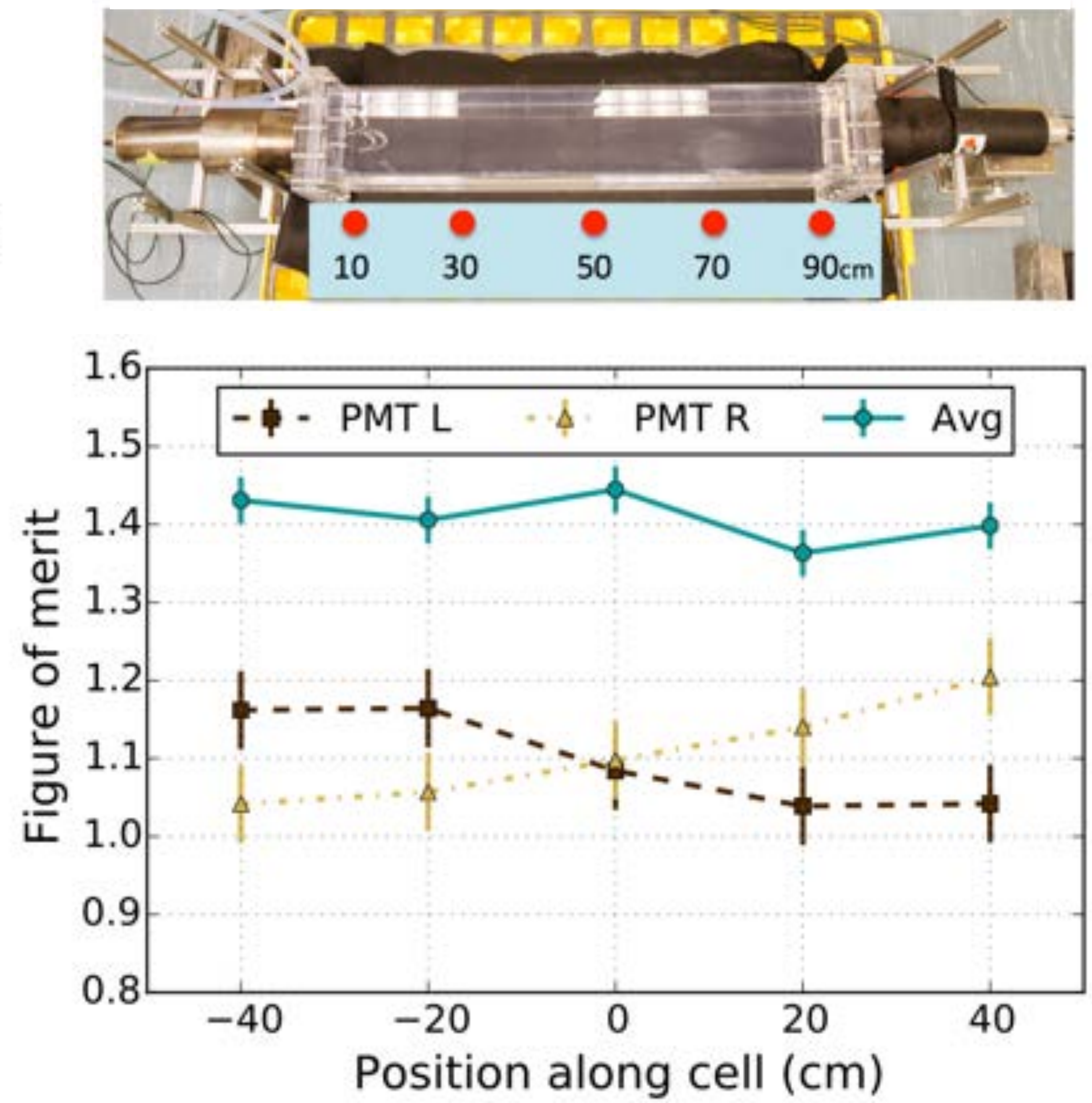
Background Rejection: PSD in P20

- PSD is maintained even at large cell sizes
  - Ability to reject many neutron-related, reactor gamma backgrounds
  - PSD highly uniform over entirety of meter-length cell

P20, PSD Versus Energy



P20 PSD Response to Cf-252 source

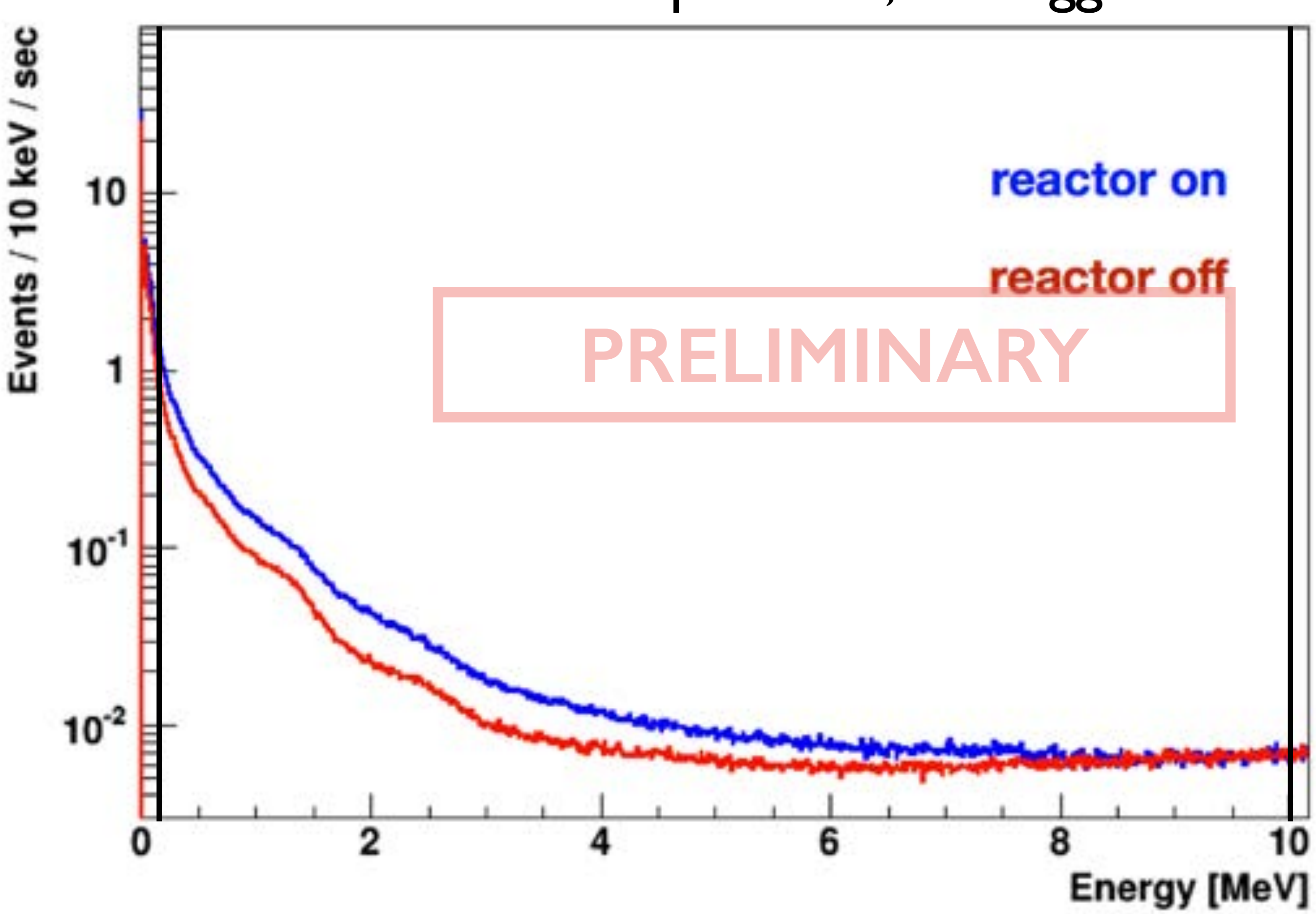


arXiv:1508.56575 (2015), accepted to JINST

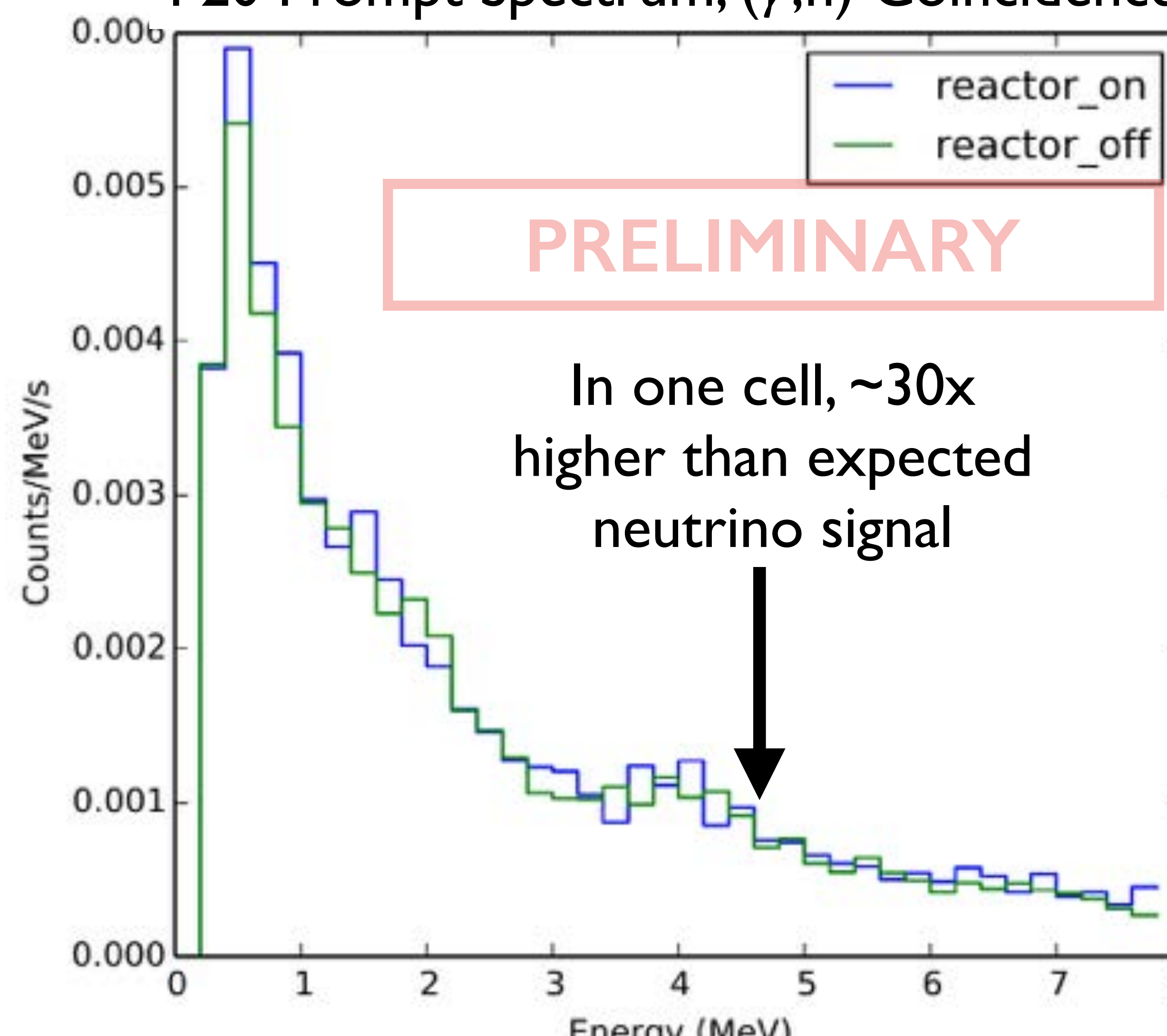
Background Rejection: Reactor-On

- Sub-dominant change in raw trigger rate with reactor status
- Sub-dominant (γ,n) coincidence change with reactor status
- Cosmogenic, not reactor backgrounds are the primary concern!
  - Muon veto says neutrons, not muons, are primary concern!
  - Reactor-off periods very valuable!

PROSPECT20 Spectrum, All Triggers



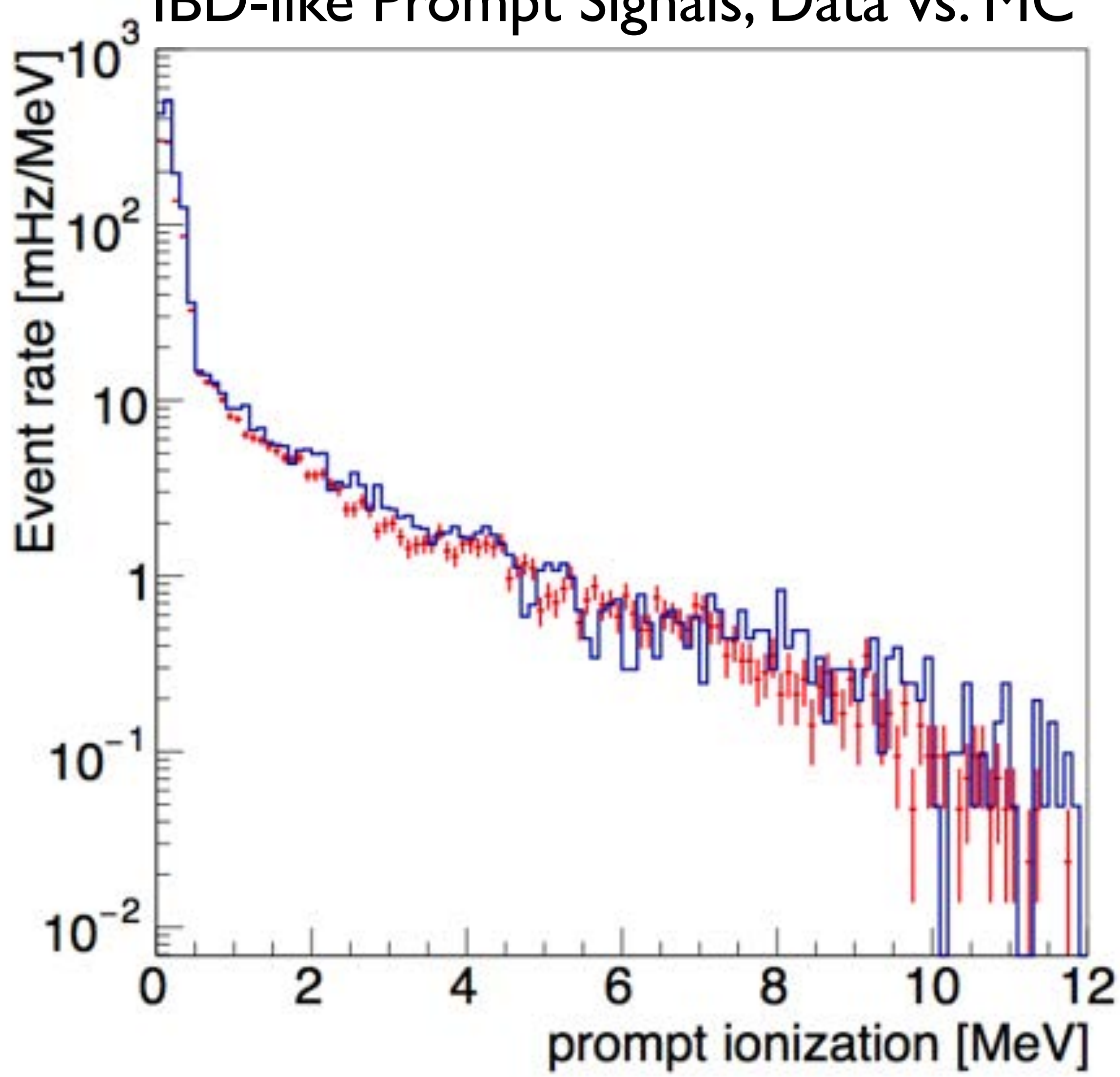
P20 Prompt Spectrum, (γ,n) Coincidences



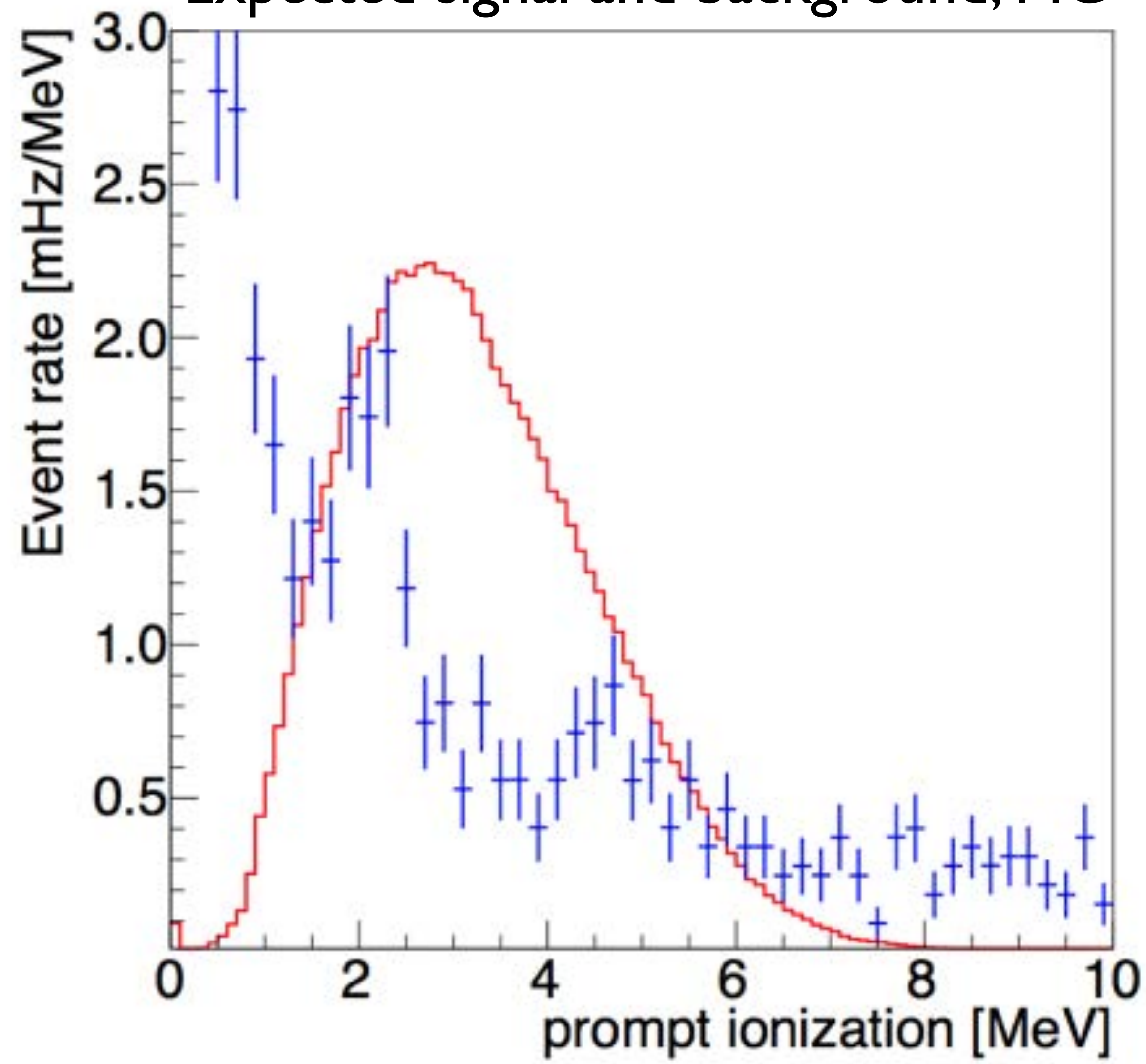
Background Estimation: MC/Data Agreement

- Have CRY- and Goldhagen-based cosmogenic neutron, muon sim
- P20 n-coincidences, multiplicity in good agreement with MC
    - Provides confidence in full PROSPECT S:B estimate from data-matched MC
    - Full PROSPECT topological, multiplicity cuts modeled w/ MC give major power to improve S:B

IBD-like Prompt Signals, Data vs. MC

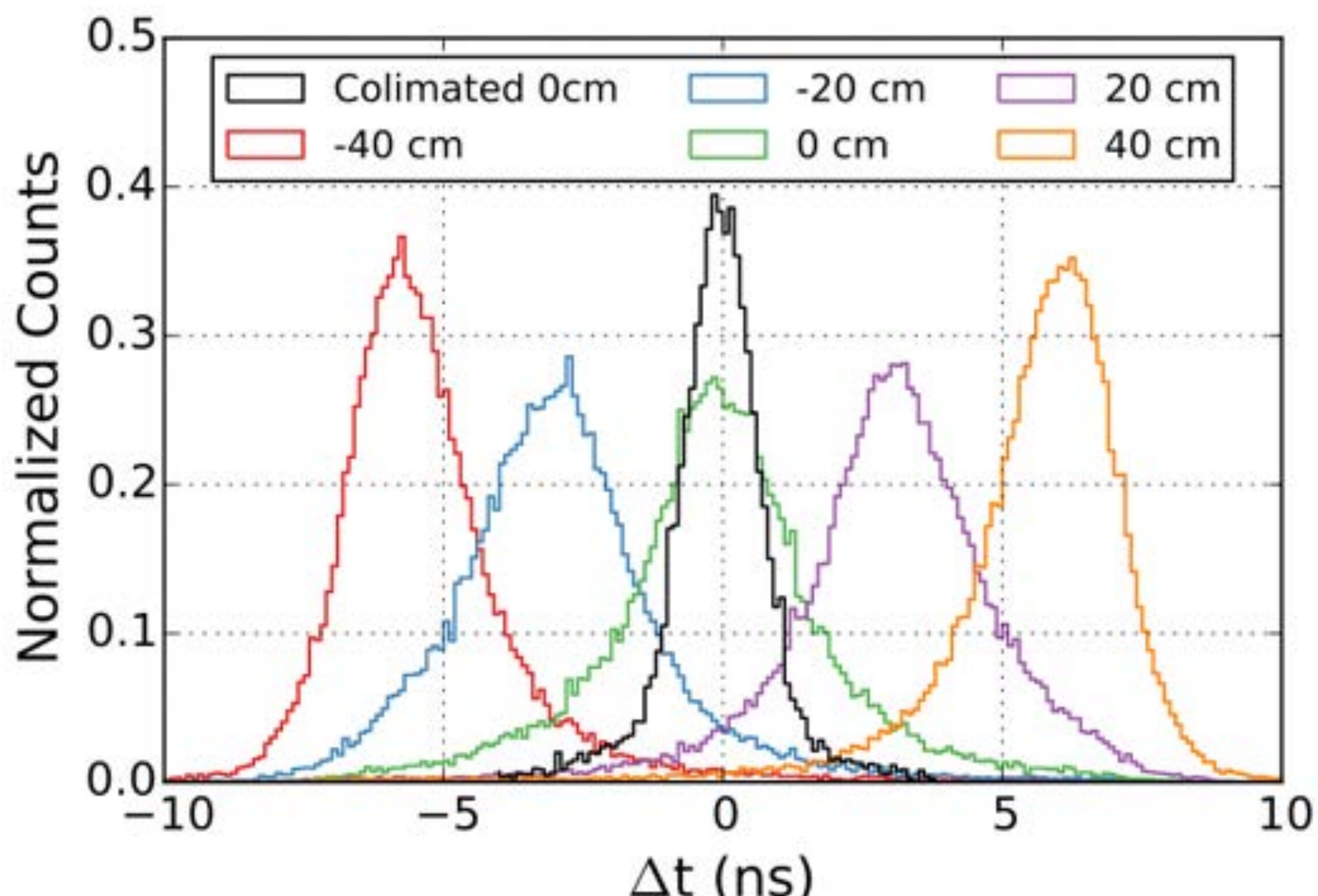


Expected signal and background, MC



P20 Demonstration: Position Reco

- Examine charge, arrival time ratios between cell's PMTs
  - Closer PMT to interaction will have more charge, shorter time
- Resolution along cell better than 10cm along cell
  - More topology background rejection capability than we were expecting!
- Segmentation gives resolution in other two dimensions

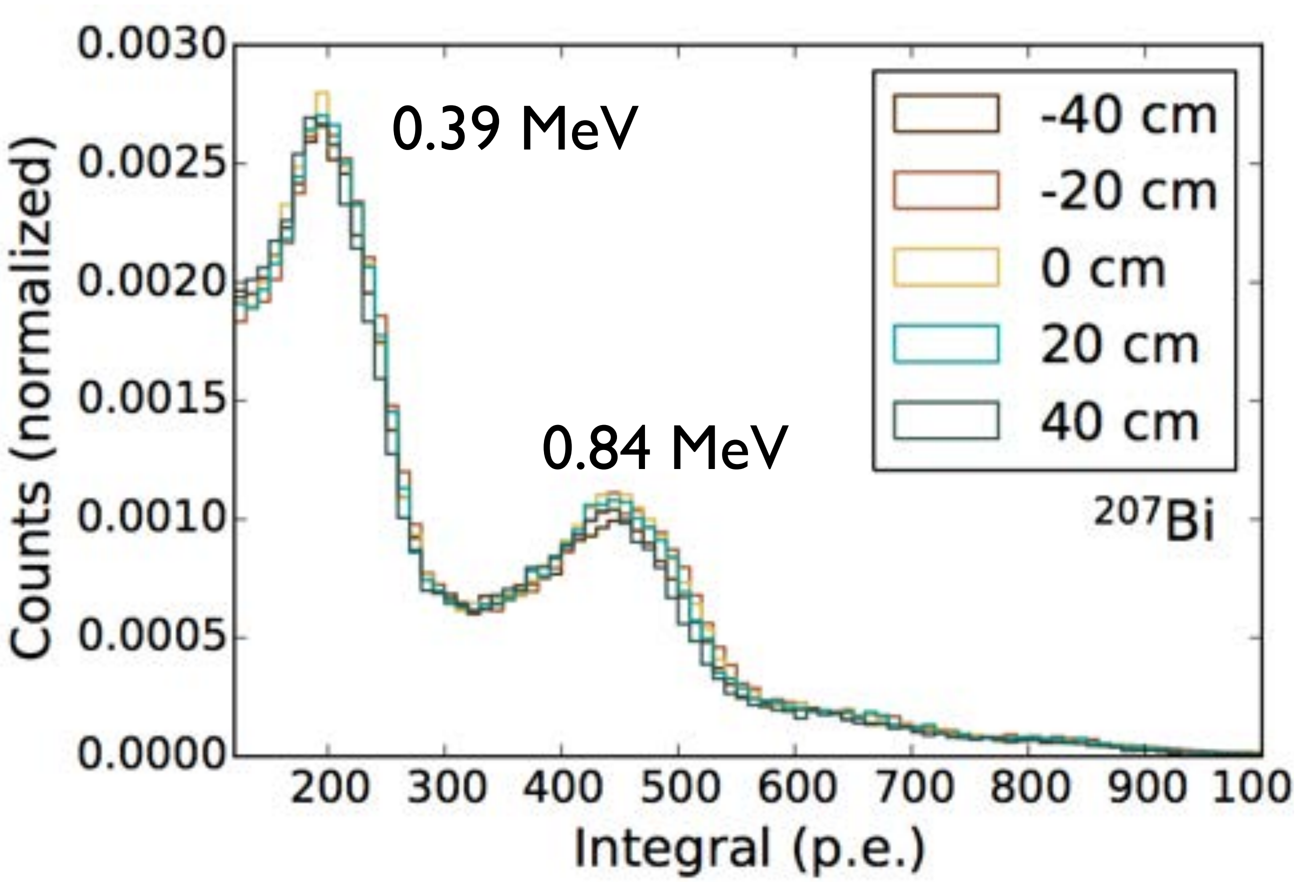


arXiv:1508.56575 (2015), accepted to JINST

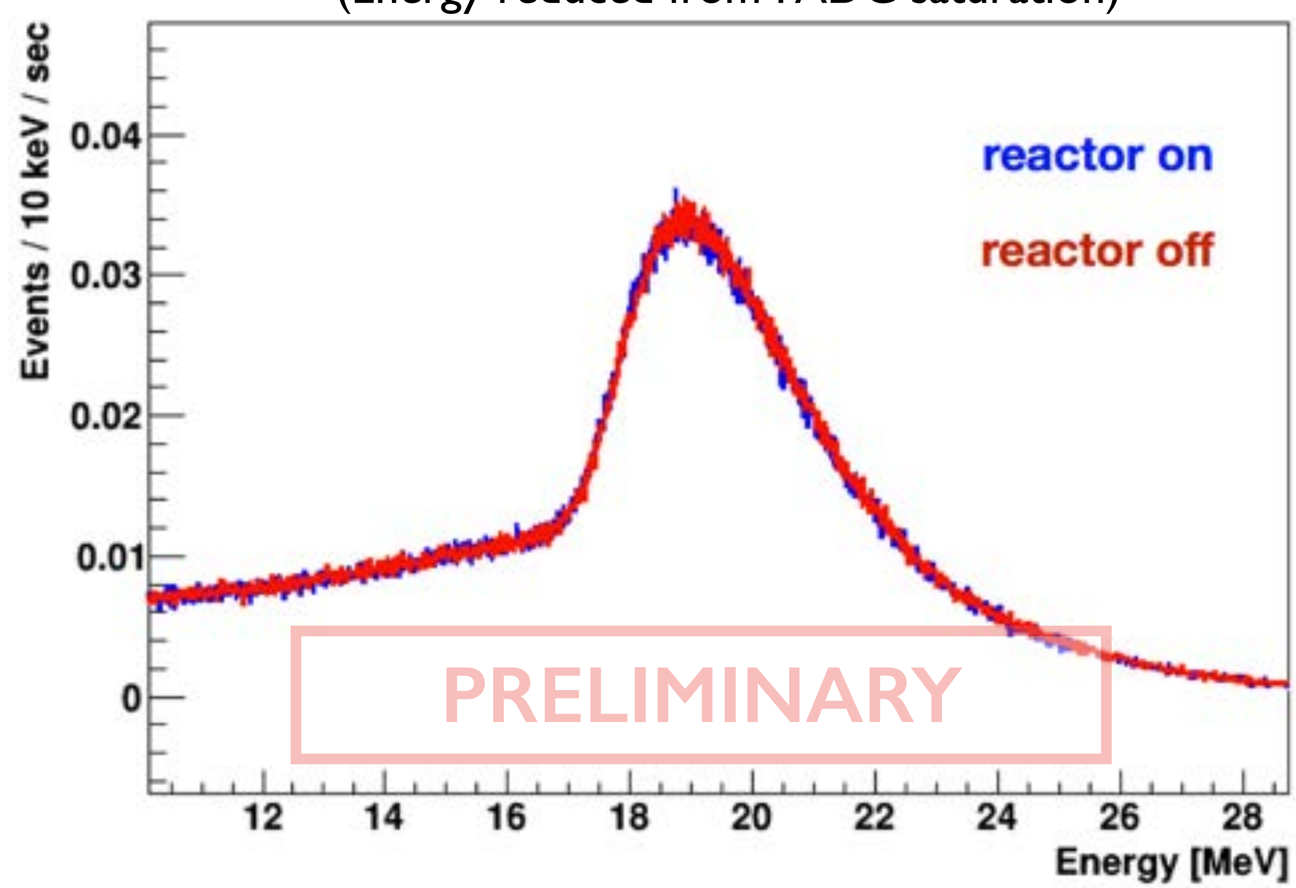
P20 Demonstration: Energy Response

- High, uniform, and stable light collection in full cell
  - Exact PE yield is likely to be different in full PROSPECT cells
- Good energy resolution visible: 4-5% at 1 MeV!
- Many background peaks, calibration sources to choose from

PROSPECT20 Response to Bi-207



Muon MIP Peak in PROSPECT20
(Energy reduced from FADC saturation)



arXiv:1508.56575 (2015), accepted to JINST

Outline

- Intro: Reactor $\overline{\nu}_e$ Flux and Spectrum Predictions
- Reactor Anomaly and recent flux/spectrum measurements
- Future measurement of the $\overline{\nu}_e$ spectrum at PROSPECT
- Current context for PROSPECT

SBL Reactor Context

- PROSPECT: designed to provide a precision measurement for BOTH key physics goals
  - Moveable segmented detectors give best mapping of oscillation space
  - Design enables higher energy resolution other efforts
- PROSPECT has the experience, development, and infrastructure in place for the world's pre-eminent SBL reactor effort.

My (biased) overview of global efforts — Good : Not Good

	Effort	Dopant	Good X-Res	Good E-Res	L Range (meters)	Fuel	Exposure, MW*ton	Move-able?	Running at intended reactor?
US	**PROSPECT**	**Li**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**6.5-20**	**HEU**	**185**	**Yes**	**Yes**
	NuLat	Li/B	Yes	Yes	TBD	TBD	TBD	Yes	No
	Nucifer	Gd	No	Yes	7	HEU	56	No	Yes
EU	STEREO	Gd	Yes	Yes	9-11	HEU	100	No	Yes
	SoLid	Li	Yes	No	6-8	HEU	155	No	Yes
Russia	DANSS	Gd	Yes	No	9.7-12	LEU	2700	Yes	Yes
	Neutrino4	Gd	Yes	No	6-12	HEU	150	Yes	Yes
Asia	Hanaro	Li/Gd	No	Yes	20-ish	LEU	30	No	No

Sterile Oscillation Context

- PROSPECT complimentary to current experimental efforts

arxiv:1503.06637
WINP 2015

The Intermediate Neutrino Program

2.1 Sterile Neutrinos

The working group's consensus can be summarized in the following five recommendations:

3. Experiments designed to test both the ν_μ to ν_e appearance and ν_e disappearance channels are needed. We must ensure that any pion decay beam program has optimized ν_μ disappearance sensitivity.

Sterile Oscillation Context

- PROSPECT complimentary to current experimental efforts
  - Independently attacking similar suggested space for each accessible channel
  - Want (need?) signals in all channels to really trust a sterile discovery

arxiv:1503.06637
WINP 2015

The Intermediate Neutrino Program

2.1 Sterile Neutrinos

The working group's consensus can be summarized in the following five recommendations:

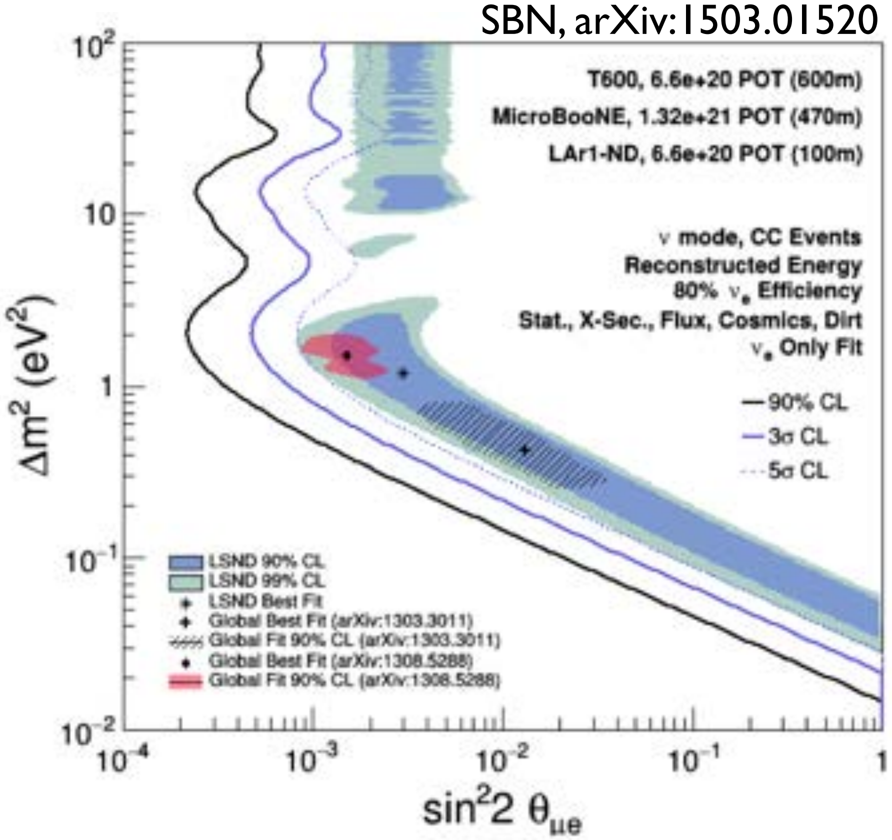
3. Experiments designed to test both the ν_μ to ν_e appearance and ν_e disappearance channels are needed. We must ensure that any pion decay beam program has optimized ν_μ disappearance sensitivity.

Fermilab SBN

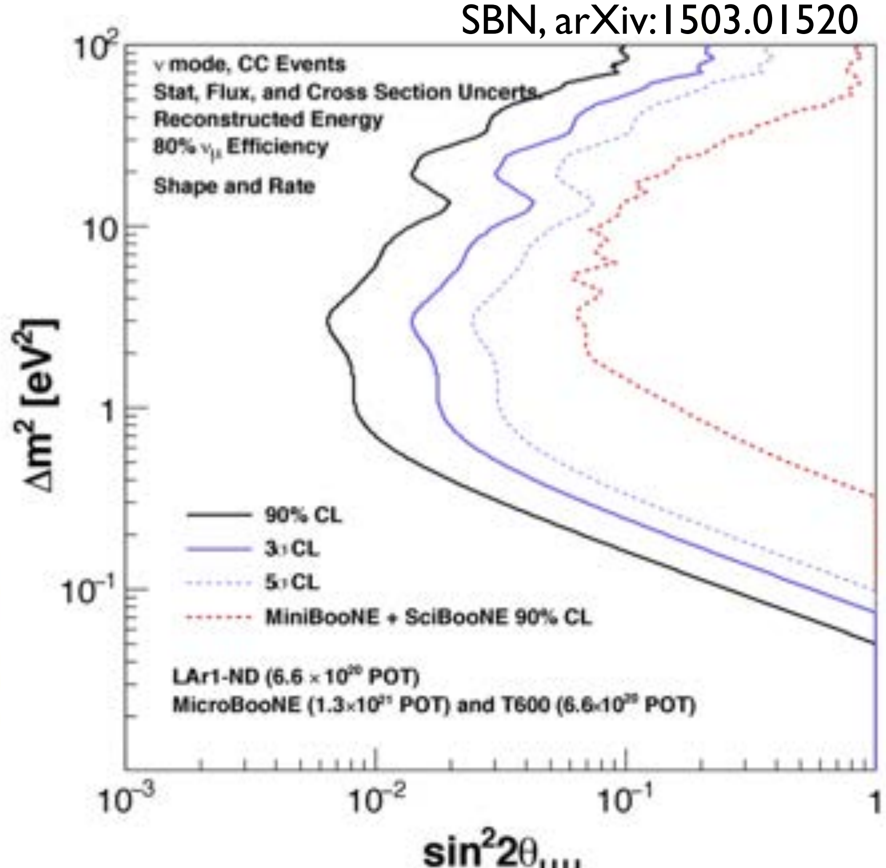
PROSPECT

IceCube, Minos+, …

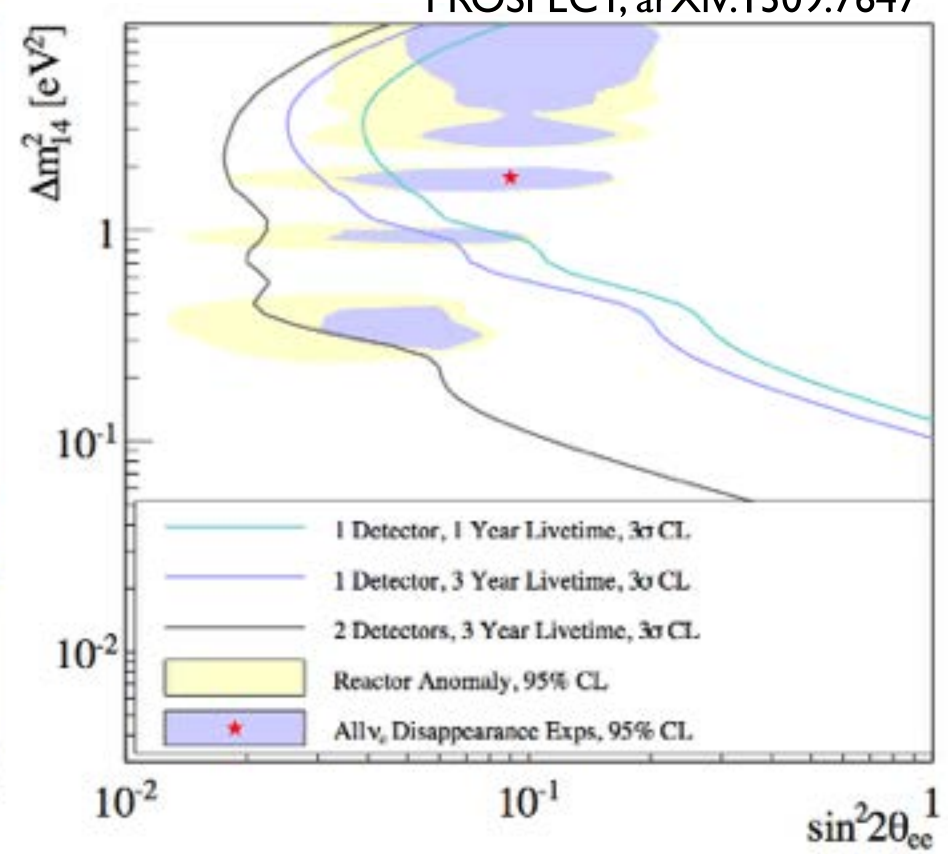
SBN, arXiv:1503.01520



SBN, arXiv:1503.01520



PROSPECT, arXiv:1309.7647



Summary

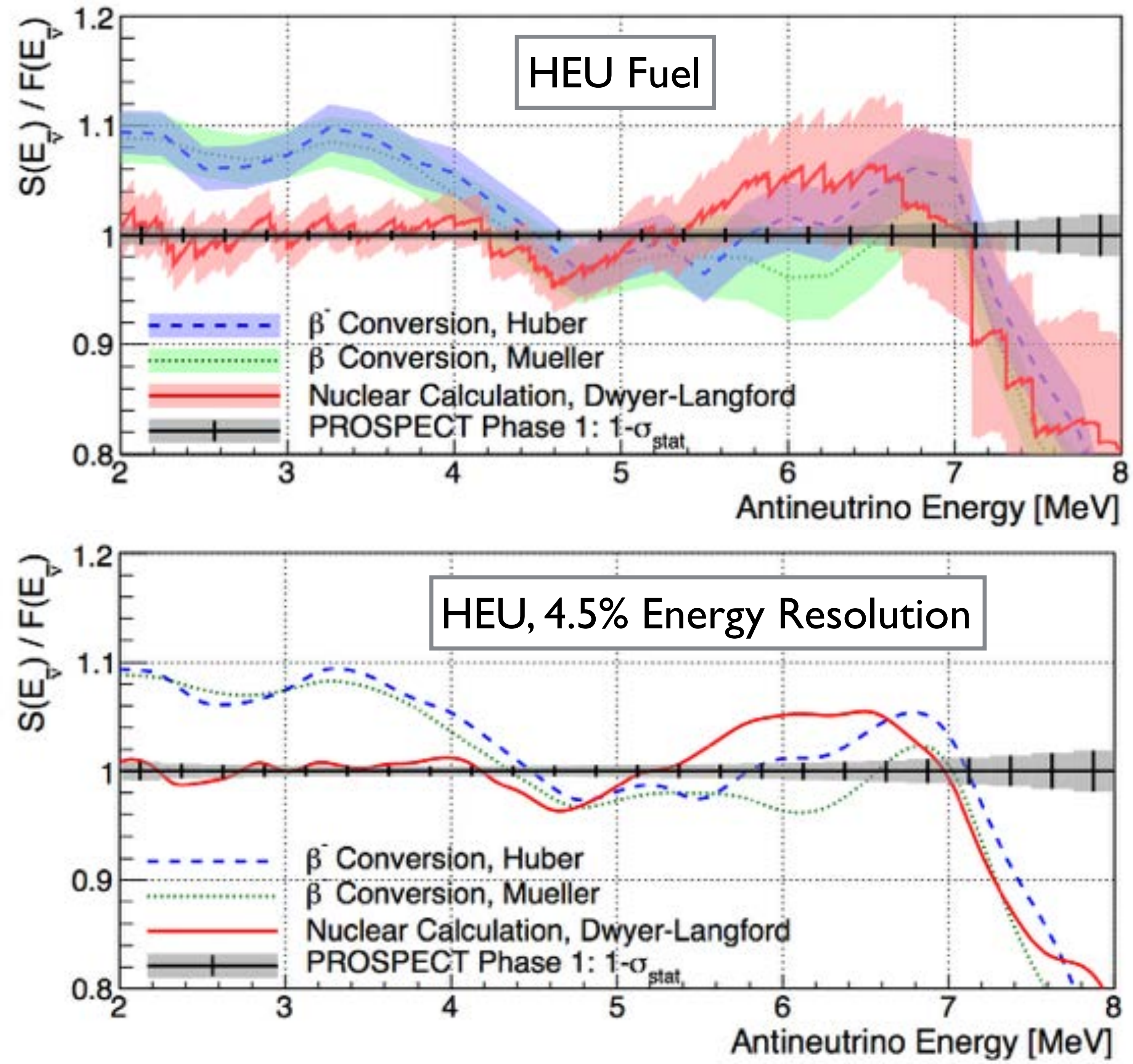
- Much has been learned about the absolute reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ flux and spectrum in the past 2-3 years
- More data is needed to address persisting questions
- PROSPECT will provide valuable new SBL ^{235}U $\bar{\nu}_e$ data
  - Can address existing sterile best-fits with <1 calendar year of data
  - Reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance complimentary to SBN program (ν_e app, ν_μ dis)
  - Learn much about reactor spectrum regardless of oscillation outcome
- Prototype deployments at HFIR are well underway
  - Two new papers demonstrate backgrounds and detector response
  - Well-prepared for efficient assembly and deployment of the full experiment

END

PROSPECT Physics: Absolute Spectrum

- How much fine structure exists in reactor spectrum?
  - Ab initio calculations suggest significant fine structure from endpoints of prominent beta branches

- PROSPECT can provide highest-ever energy resolution on the spectrum
  - Thus, will give best fine structure measurement
  - Goal resolution: 4-5%
  - Provide constraints on individual beta branches (reactor spectroscopy)?
  - Input for next reactor experiments (JUNO)?

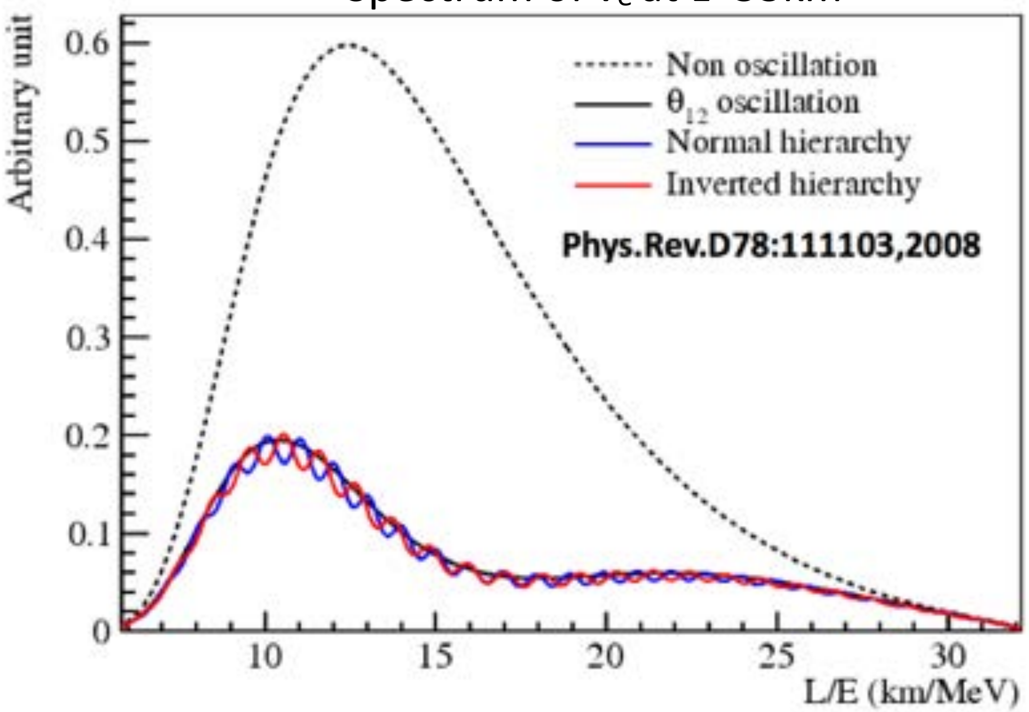


Reactor Spectrum: Why Do We Care?

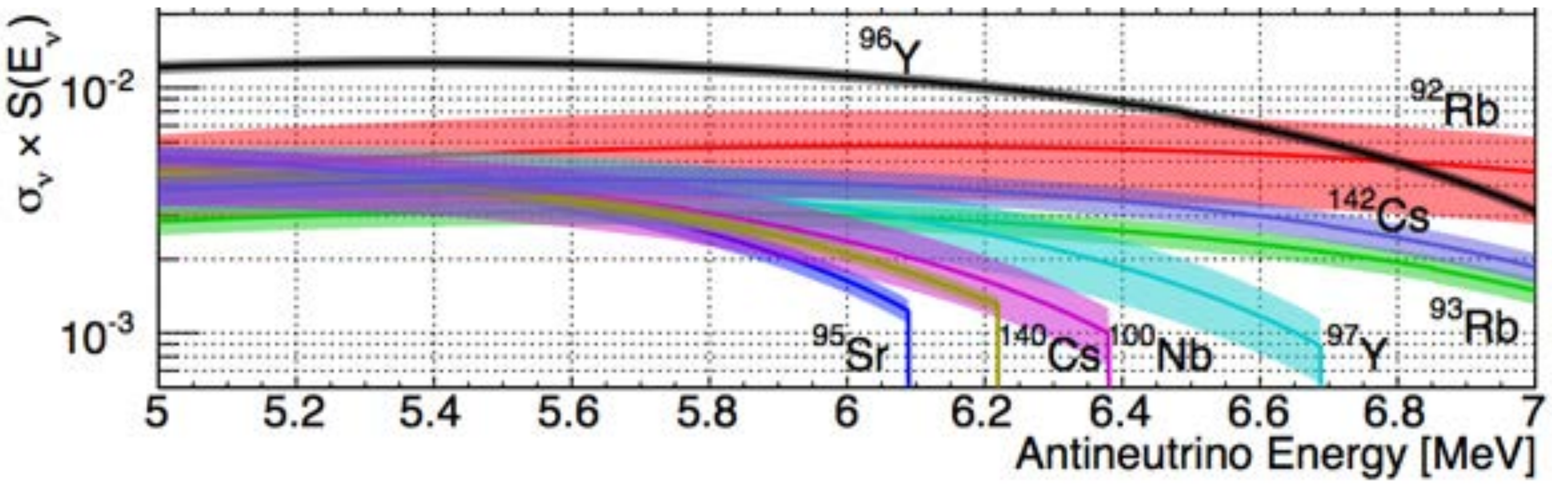
- Major implications for Standard Model if ν_s DO actually exist
- Even if they do not, ability to constrain reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ models
  - Valuable for reactor oscillation experiments
  - Inputs to reactor modeling
  - 'Reactor spectroscopy:' probe individual branches in reactor spectrum
  - Implications for non-proliferation

Buttons Provided by Neutrino2014!
Sweater Provided by J. Asaadi

Spectrum of ν_e at L~53km

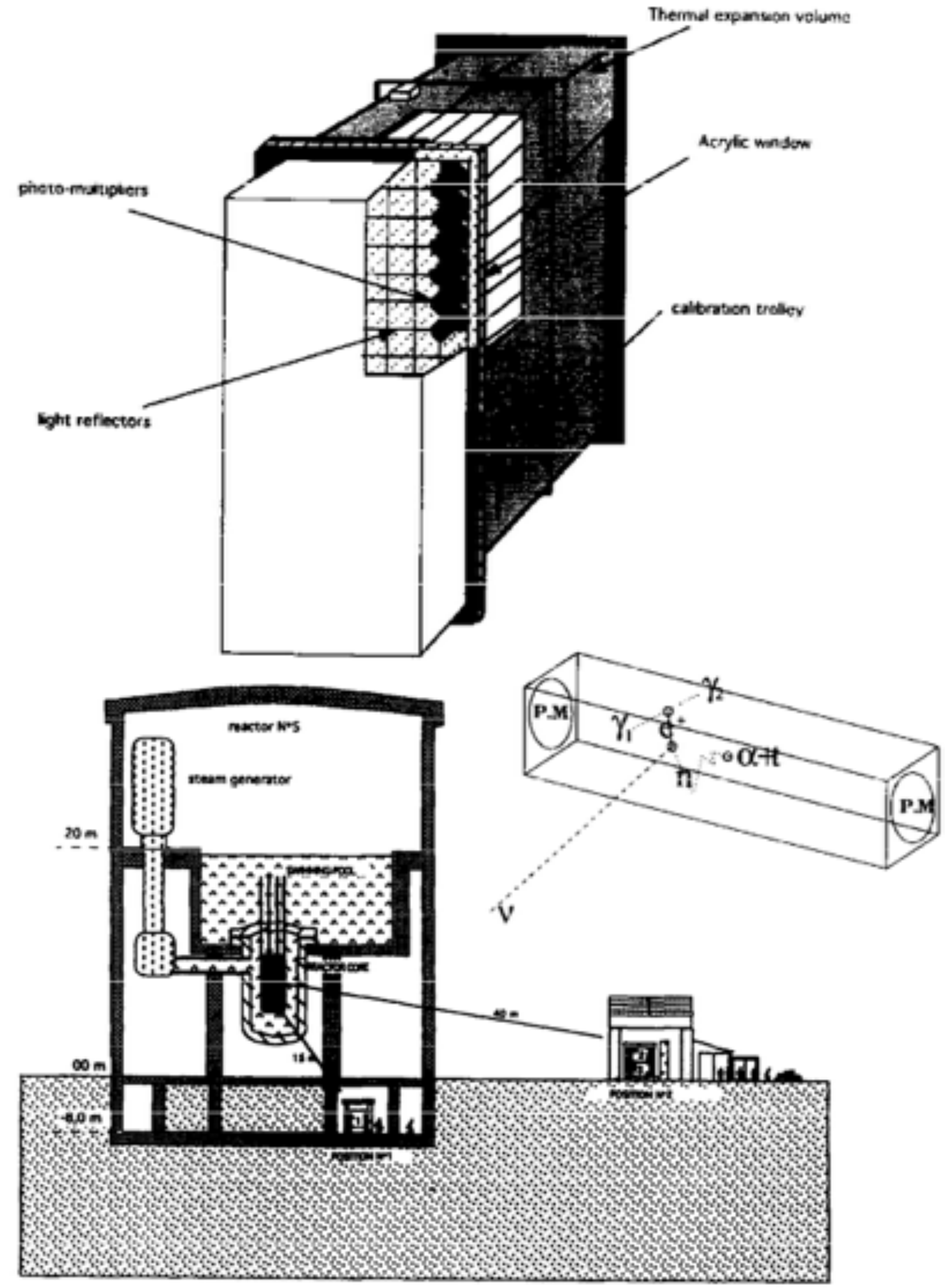


Dwyer and Langford, PRL 114 (2015)



Historical Context

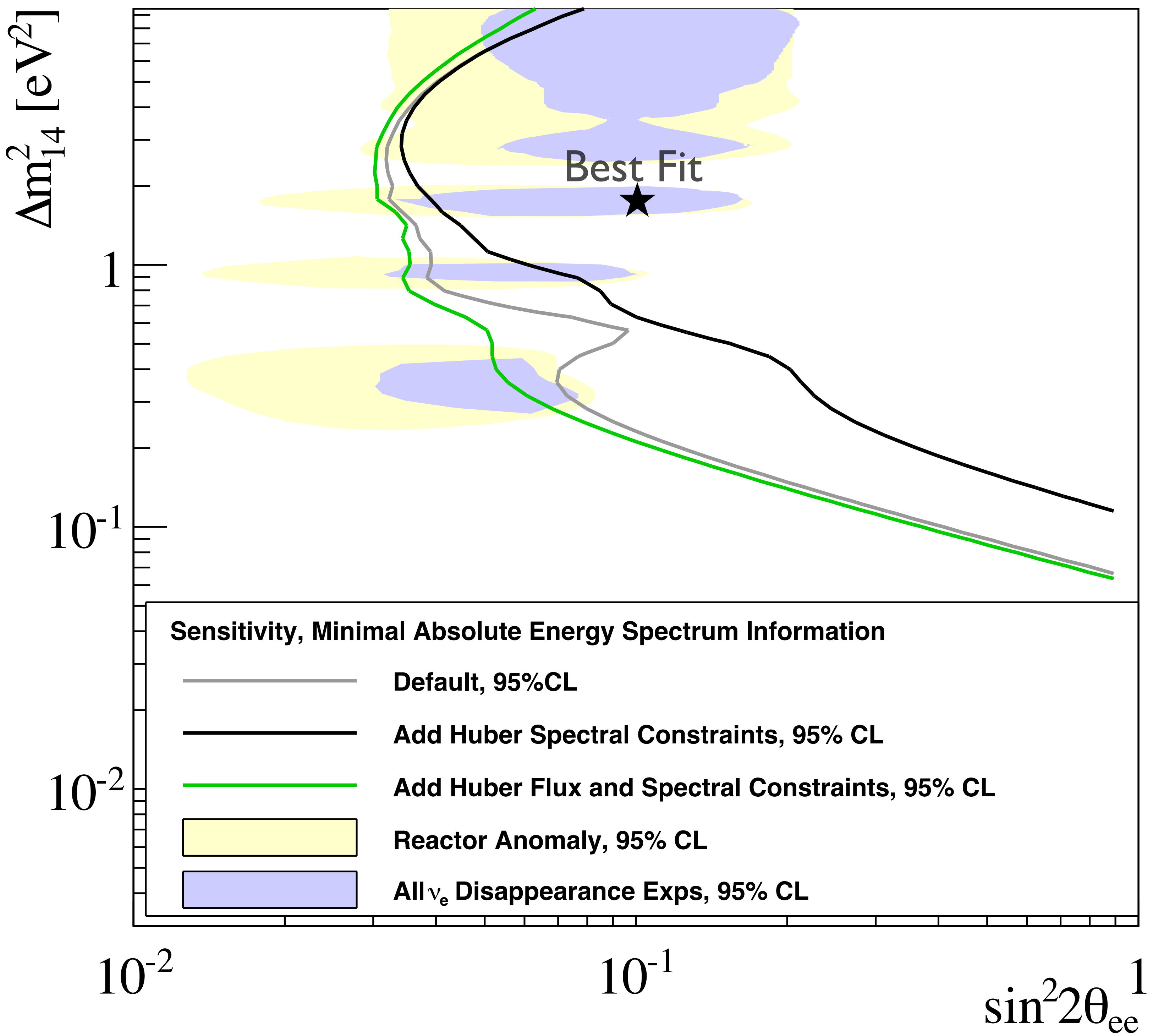
- A similar experimental setup in the past: Bugey-3
  - Segmented short-baseline LiLS detector
- PROSPECT Pros:
  - Smaller reactor core, closer to core: better for SBL oscillation search
    - Further improved by cell-to-cell oscillation search
  - Stable scintillator: Bugey's degraded after a few months in near detector!
  - Smaller target dead volume: ~2% versus >15% for Bugey
  - Better light yield, energy resolution
- Only Bugey Pro: Overburden
  - 14+ mwe (Bugey-3), <10 mwe (PROSPECT)
    - Bugey had 25:1 S:B; PROSPECT can be successful with 1:1



from Abbes at al, NIM **A**374 (1996)

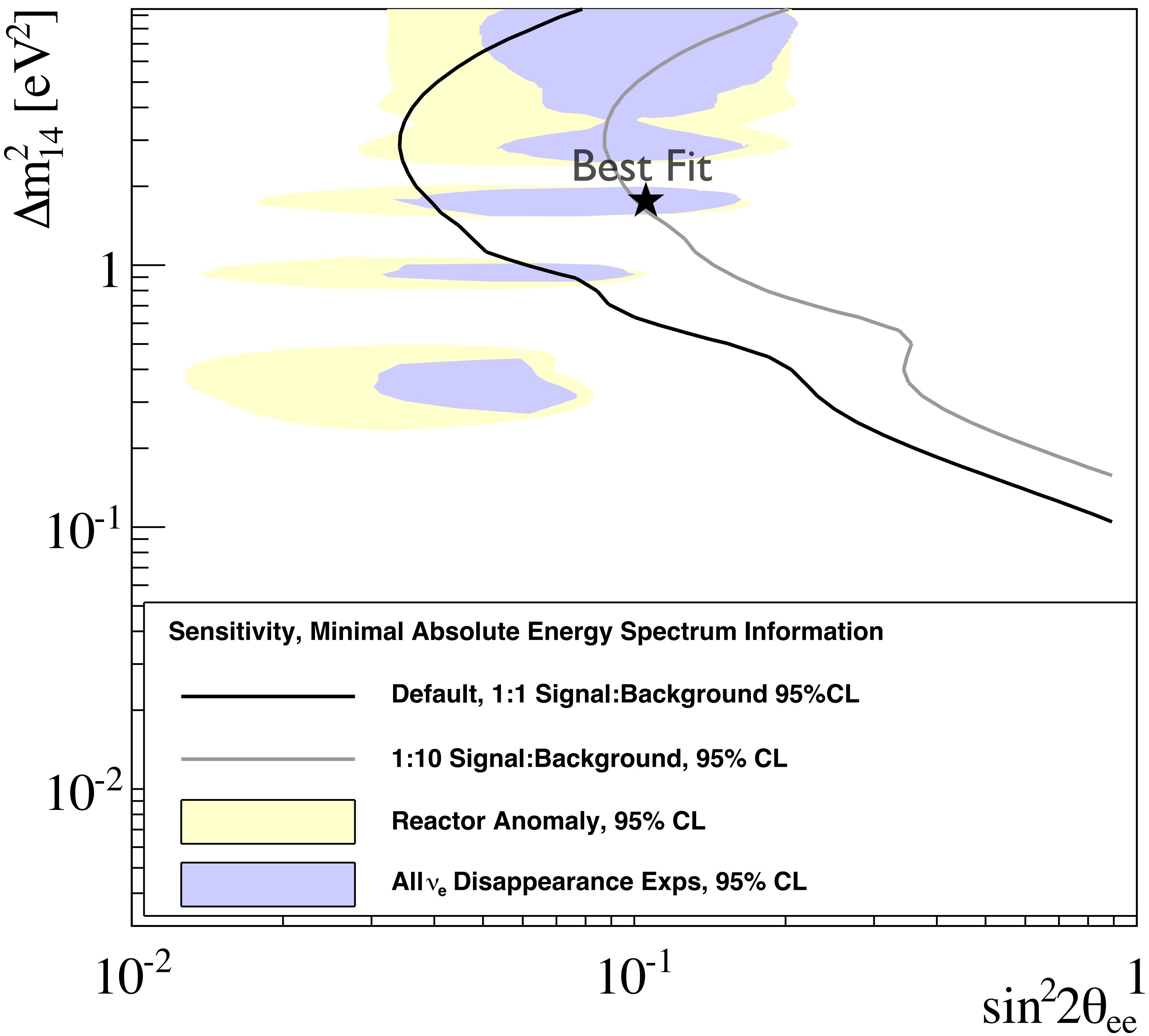
Oscillation: Absolute Uncertainties

- Oscillations with spectral prediction assumptions included:

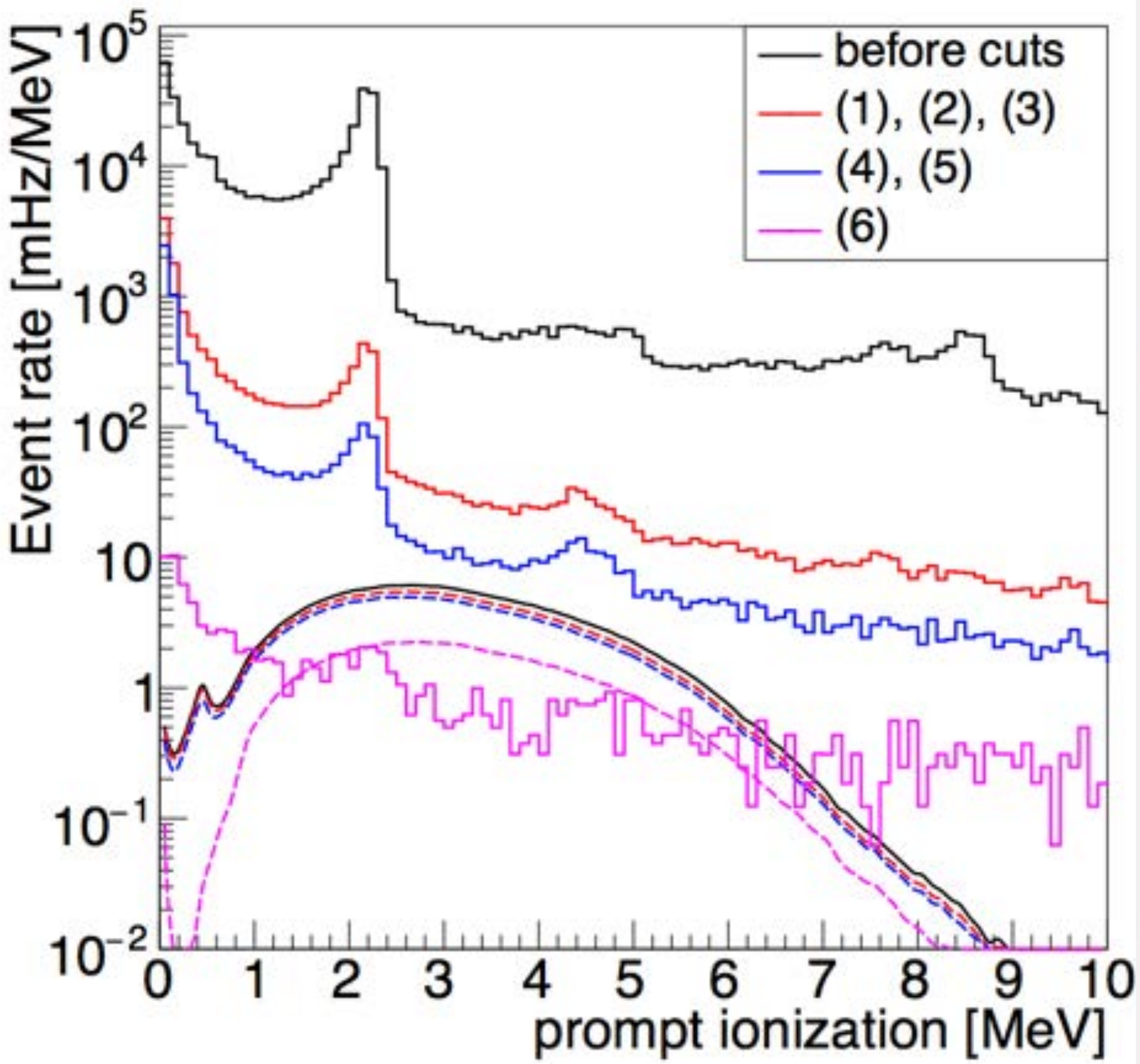


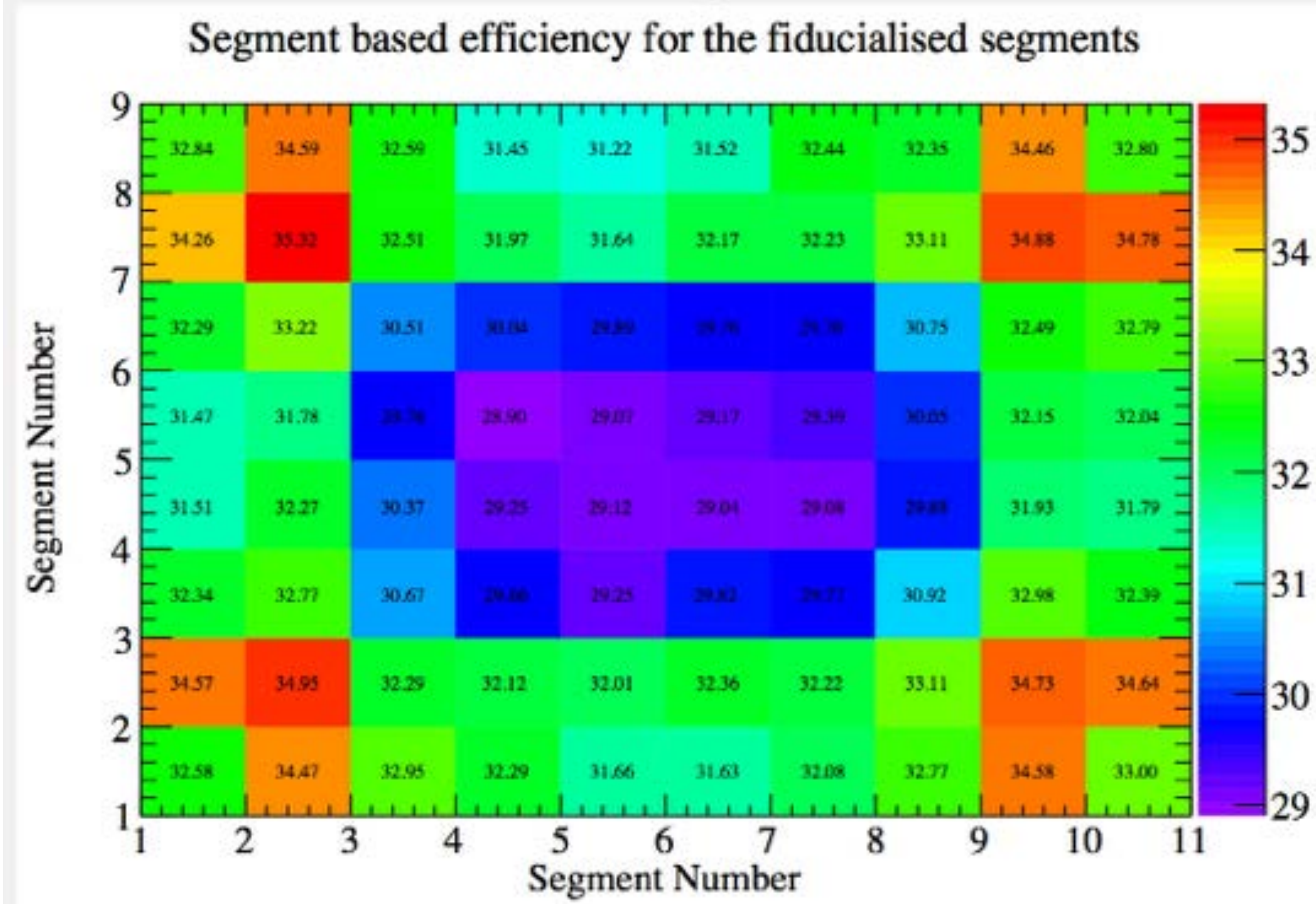
Oscillation: S:B

- Still have significant osc. sensitivity with 10x larger background



Efficiencies





Segment IBD efficiency mean (fiducial segments)	Segment IBD efficiency standard deviation (fiducial segments)
69.35	1.53

Relative Systematics

- Osc sensitivities include 1.5% totally uncorrelated uncertainty
- Developing covariance matrix approach to include relative cell-to-cell detector, backgrounds systematics more precisely
- Running simulations to quantify cell-to-cell energy response differences
    - How does calibration source signal differ with deployment position?
    - How much is from energy leakage?
    - How much is from as-constructed cell-to-cell variations?
    - How big a cell-to-cell response correction will we need to apply? Uncertainties on this correction?

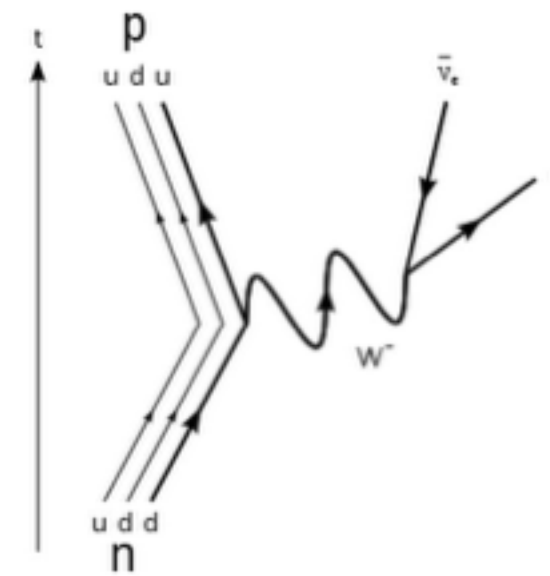
Beta Decay Recap

- W-mediated weak interaction
- Use Fermi's Golden rule to calculate:

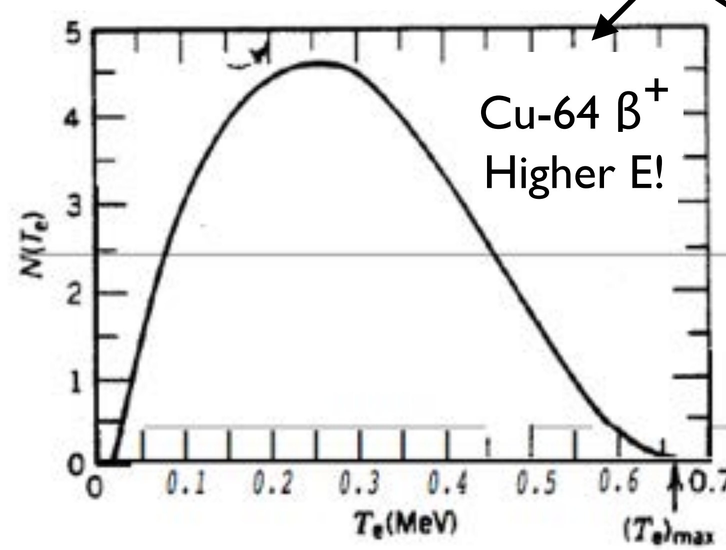
$$N_\beta(W) = K\, \underbrace{p^2 (W - W_0)^2}_{\text{phase space}}\, F(Z, W)$$

From nuclear matrix element: Extra factors of p pop in here for beta decays (→ K)

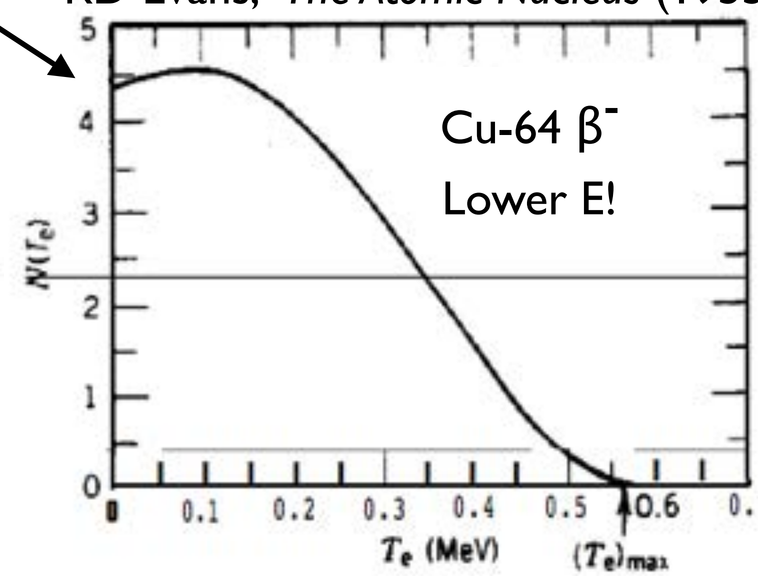
QED correction: semi-classicaly, positive nucleus attracts product beta; lowers its energy (→ $F(Z, W)$)

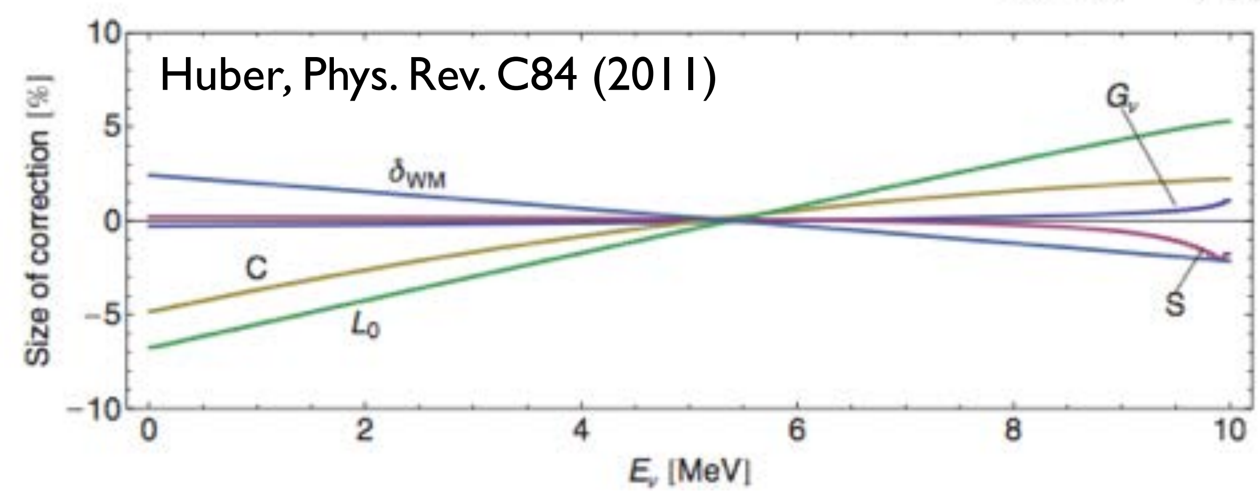


- Other corrections:
  - Finite size: C, L_0
  - Electron screening: S
  - Radiative corrections: C
  - Weak magnetism: d_{wm}



RD Evans, *The Atomic Nucleus* (1955)





Forbidden Decay Handling

- W-mediated weak interaction
- Use Fermi's Golden rule to calculate

$$N_\beta(W) = K\, \underbrace{p^2 (W - W_0)^2}_{\text{phase space}}\, F(Z, W)$$

From nuclear matrix element: Extra factors of p pop in here for beta decays

- Hayes, et. al, PRL 112 (2014): conversion result highly dependent on forbidden-ness of virtual branches
  - Capable of shifting predicted flux downward by 5%
  - Has not been shown what forbidden decay treatment would reproduce both reactor beta and nuebar spectra — but it might be possible to do so

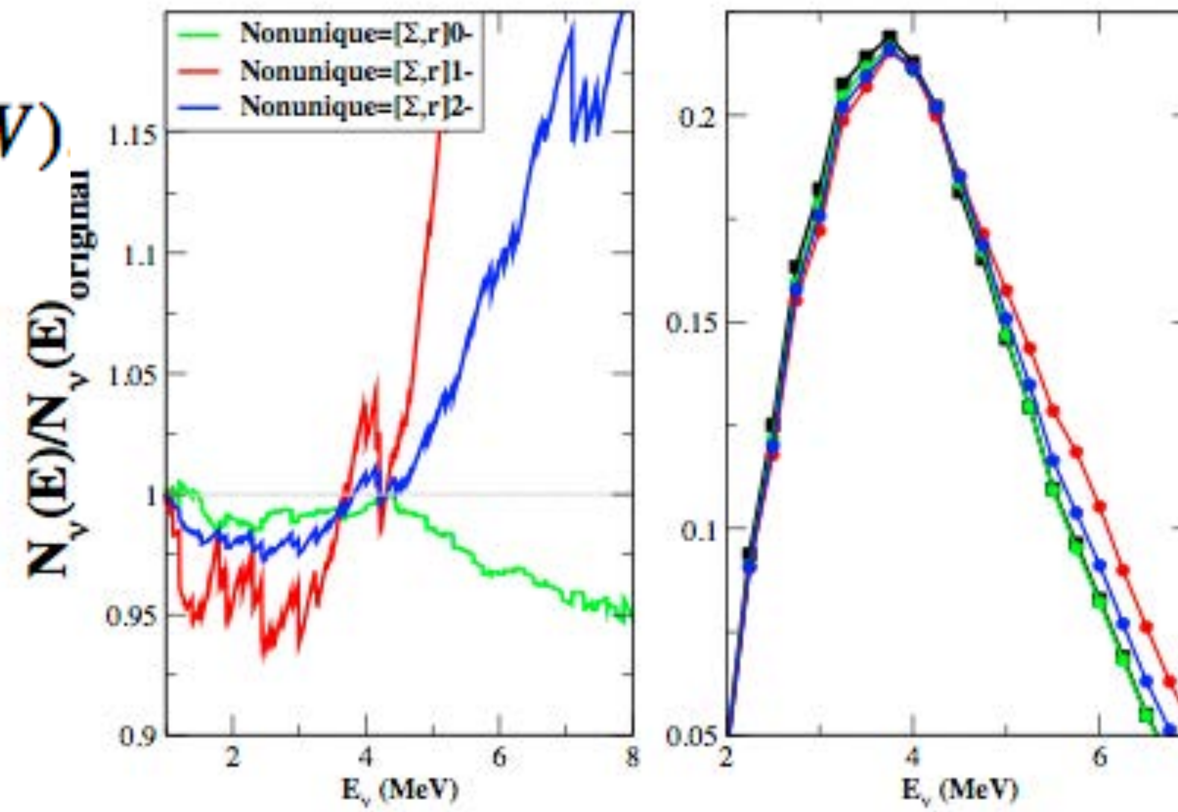
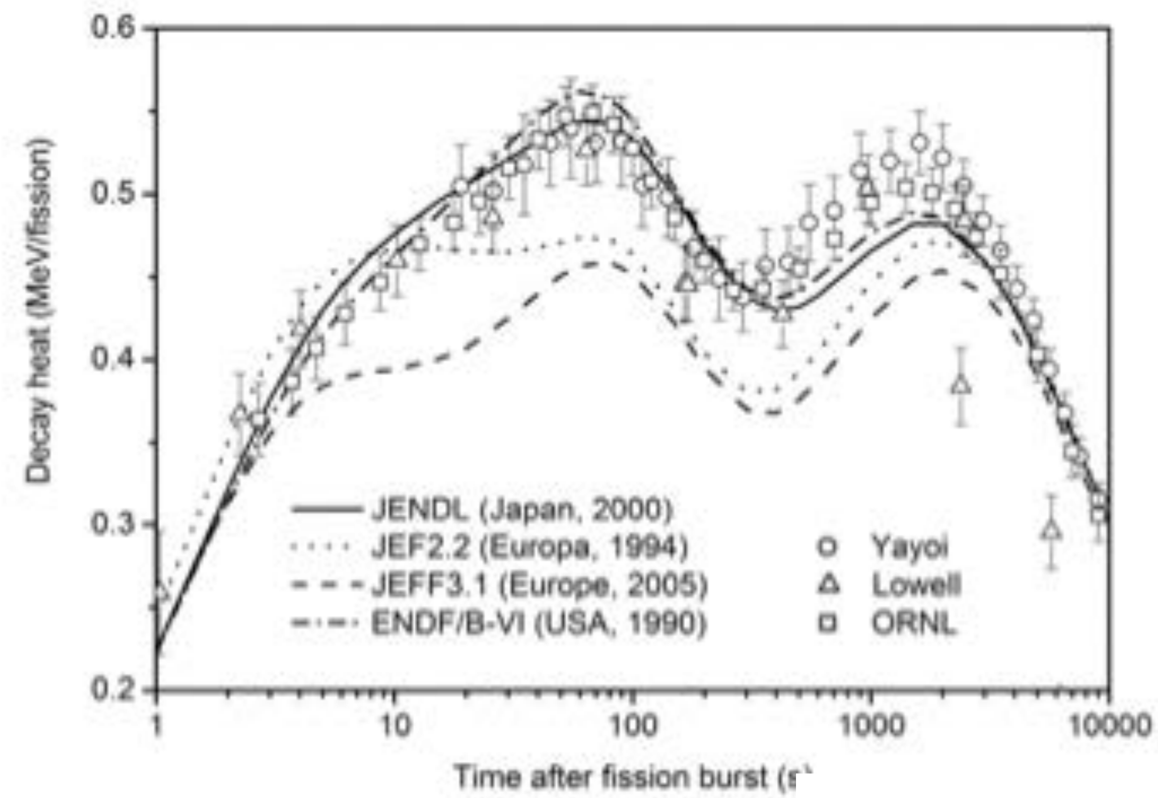


FIG. 3: Different treatments of the forbidden GT transitions contributing to the antineutrino spectrum summed over all actinides in the fission burn in mid-cycle [21] of a typical reactor. The left panel shows the ratio of these antineutrino spectra relative to that using the assumptions of Ref. [4]. The right panel shows the spectra weighted by the detection cross section, where the additional curve in black uses the assumptions of Ref. [4]. The spectra are strongly distorted by the forbidden operators, being lower below the peak and in some cases more than 20% larger above the peak than Ref. [4]. The corresponding change in the number of detectable antineutrinos relative to [4] is -0.75%, 5.8% and 1.85% for the 0^-, 1^-, and 2^- forbidden operators, respectively.

Reactor Spectroscopy: Application

- Why is there more decay heat than predicted 3-3000s after a reactor is turned off???
- Means we need higher cooling safety factors during reactor-off periods: This costs $$$!!!
- Hypothesis: maybe we measured branching fractions of some rare isotopes incorrectly…

Figure 3. Electromagnetic decay heat following thermal fission burst of ^{239}Pu – data from JENDL, JEF-2.2, JEFF-3.1 and ENDF/B-VI are shown together with experimental data from Yayoi, Lowell and Oak Ridge National Laboratory



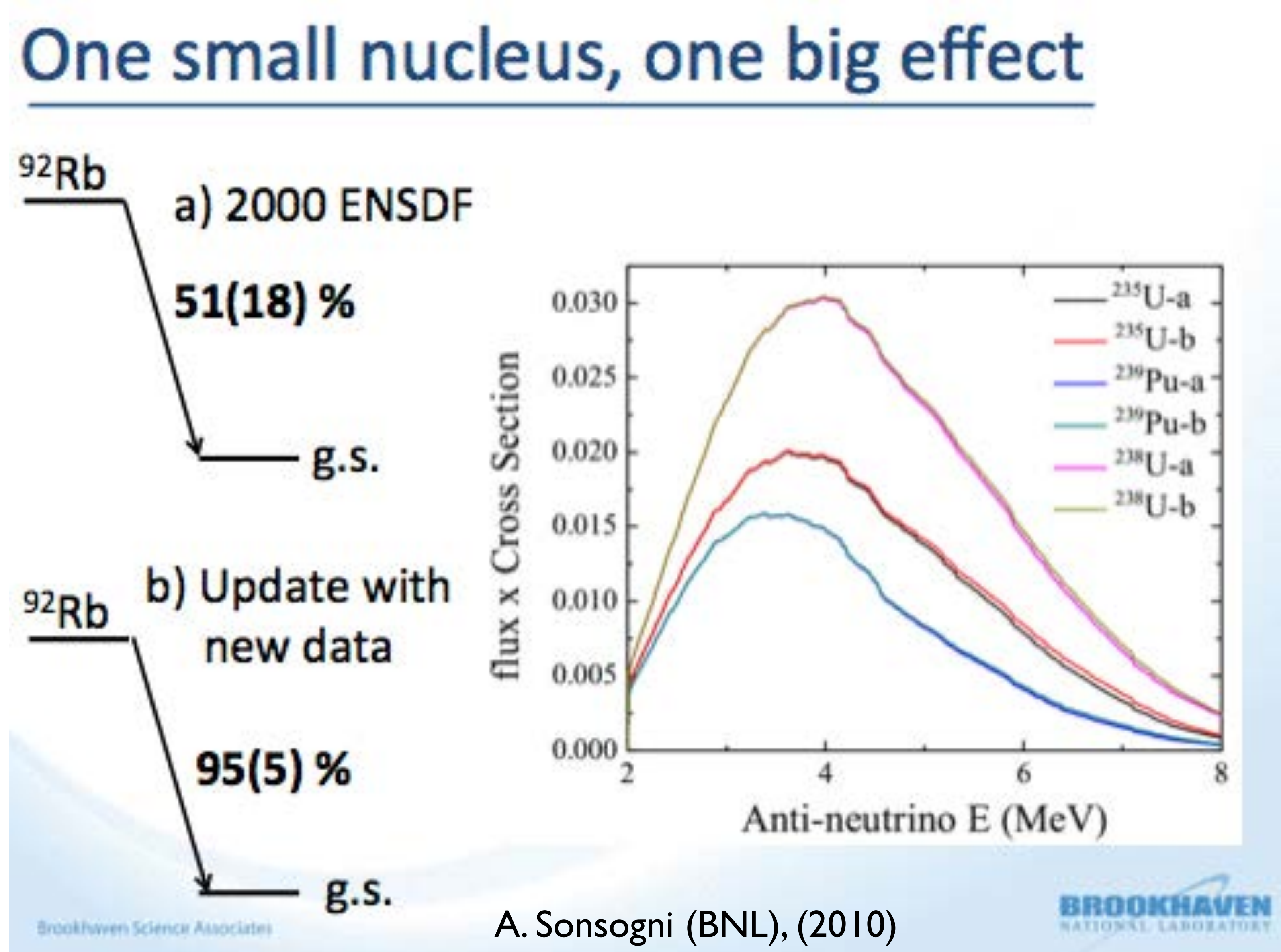
VOLUME 25

Nuclear Science
NEA/WPEC-25

ASSESSMENT OF FISSION PRODUCT DECAY DATA FOR DECAY HEAT CALCULATIONS

Reactor Spectroscopy: Example

- TAGS:
  Total absorption gamma spectroscopy
- Measure total gamma energy, not individual gamma energies
- Allows ID of levels, BRs much easier

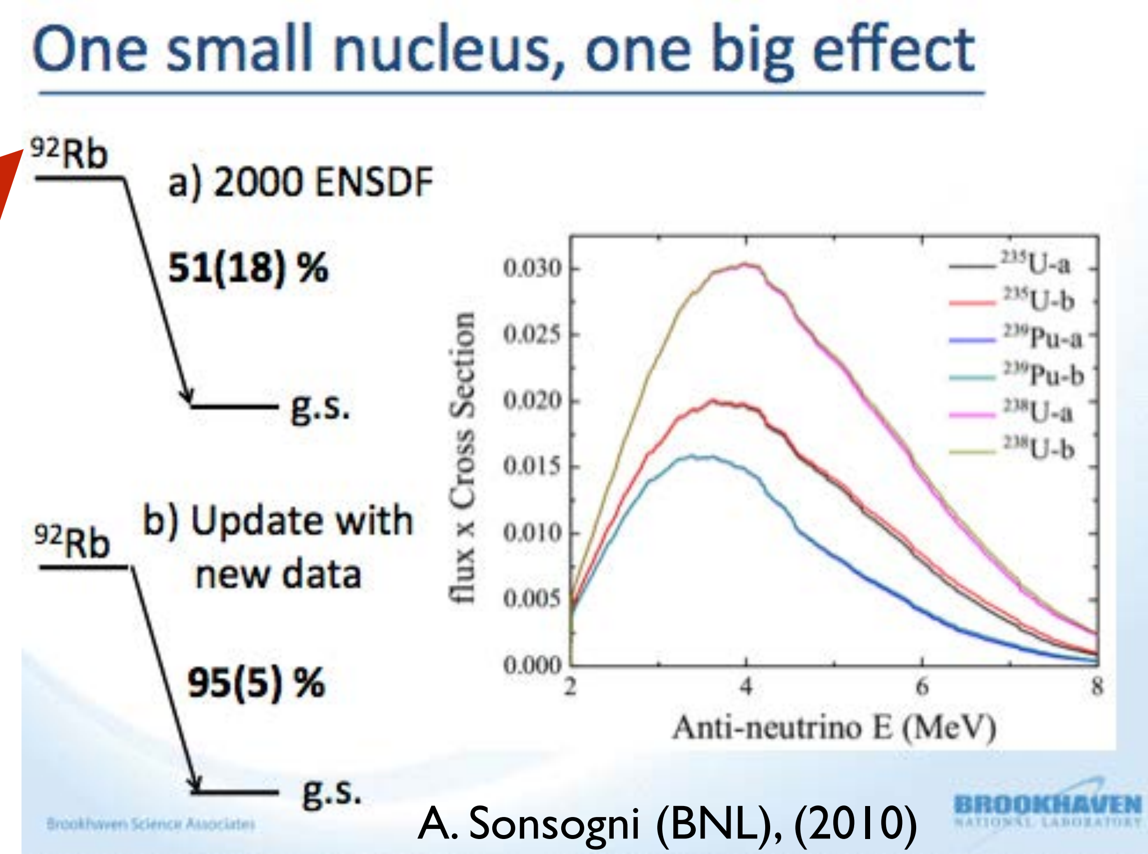


A. Sonsogni (BNL), (2010)

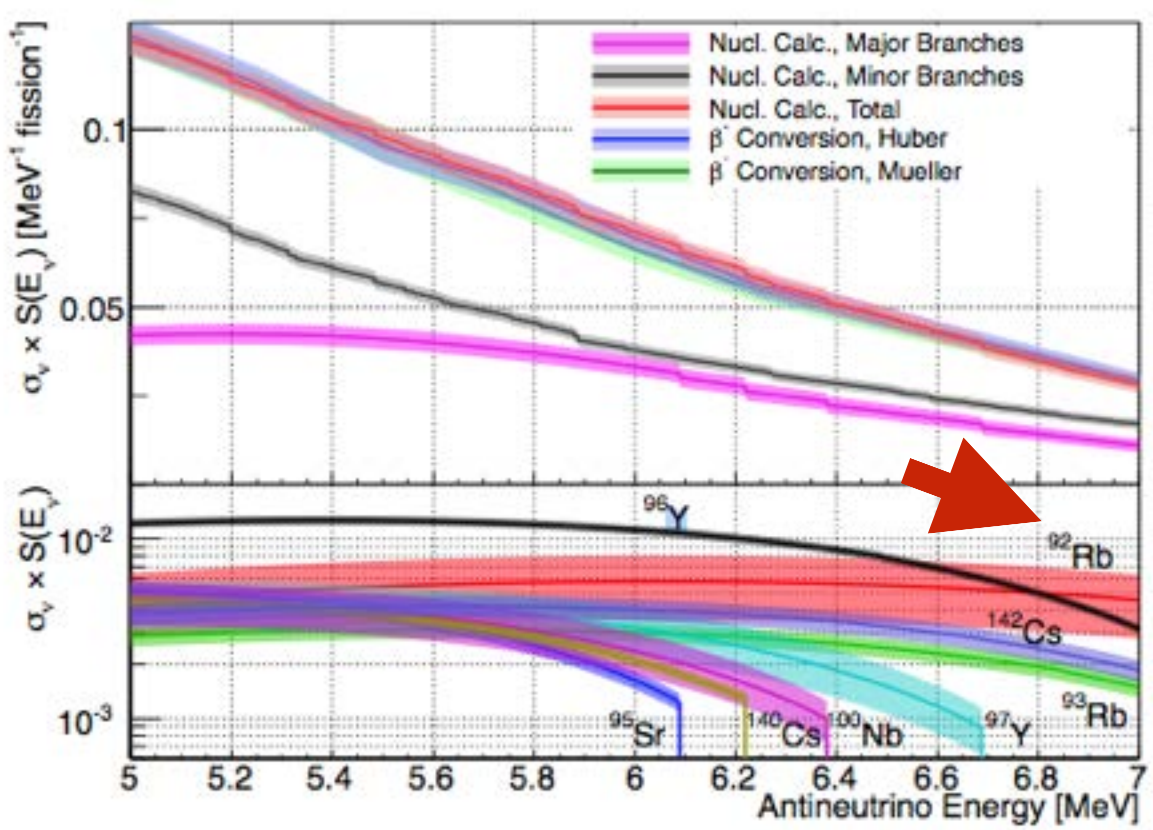
- If branching ratios are known better, decay released in those decays will be modelled better
- Better model = smaller safety factor = $$$ saved.

Reactor Spectroscopy: Implications

- 5 MeV 'bump' region produced by many isotopes of great concern to this decay heat measurement!
- Two anomalies from the same source?
- Reactor spectroscopy measurements can provide:
  - Direct check on existing TAGS measurements
    - TOTALLY different systematics!
  - NEW data if TAGS has not been done!
  - Isotopes: Rb-92, Sr-97, Cs-142

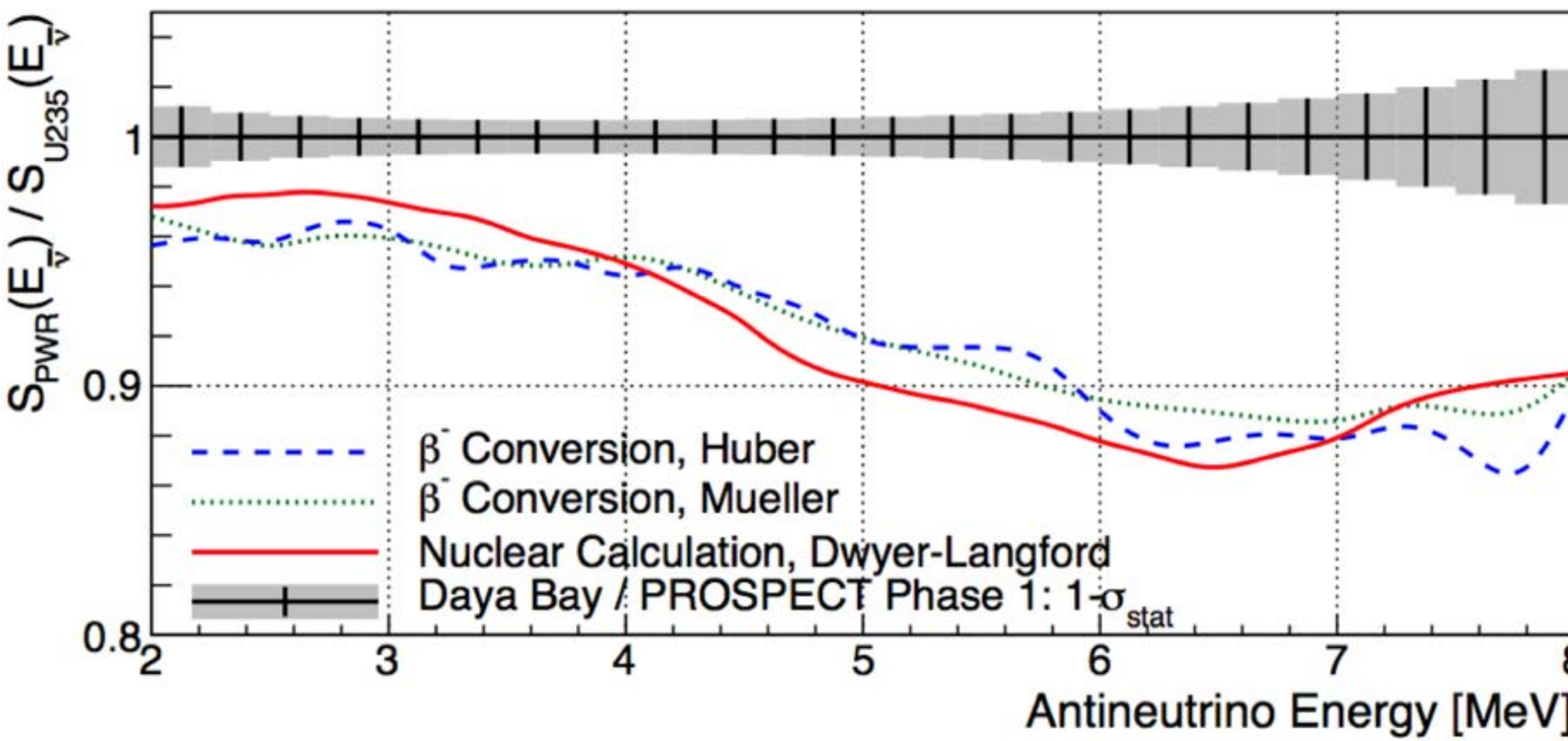


A. Sonsogni (BNL), (2010)



Spectrum Measurement HEU:LEU

- HEU-LEU difference, made more explicit:
  - ~10% difference in spectra between low and high energies
  - Extent of this difference depends on exact modeling
    - Ab initio: Predicts larger HEU-LEU spectral variation
    - Larger LEU-HEU variation in spectra: better for non-proliferation!!



Formulas for Energy Reconstruction

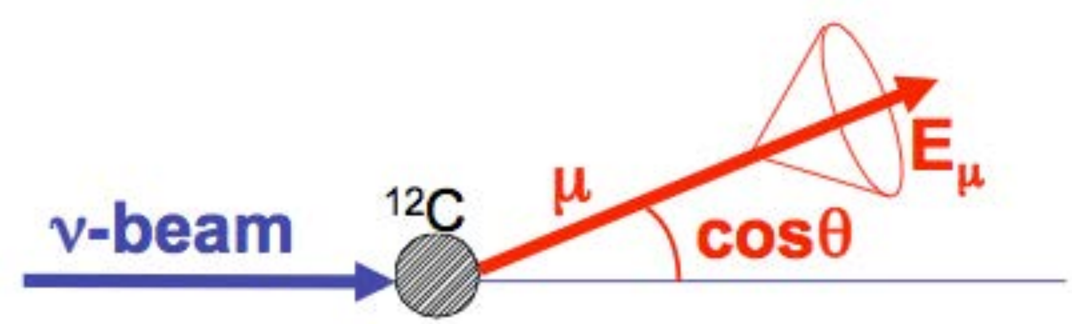
- Daya Bay
  - Minimum energy of 1.8 MeV needed to make neutron and positron
  - Momentum conservation means positron gets almost all kinetic energy

$$E_{prompt} = E_{\overline{\nu}_e} + (m_n - m_p) + m_{e^-}$$

- MicroBooNE
  - Not such a simple picture at higher energy; both target an lepton get significant amounts of momentum
  - In addition, interacting proton is bound in a nucleus
  - Need to measure lepton energy AND angle to get neutrino energy

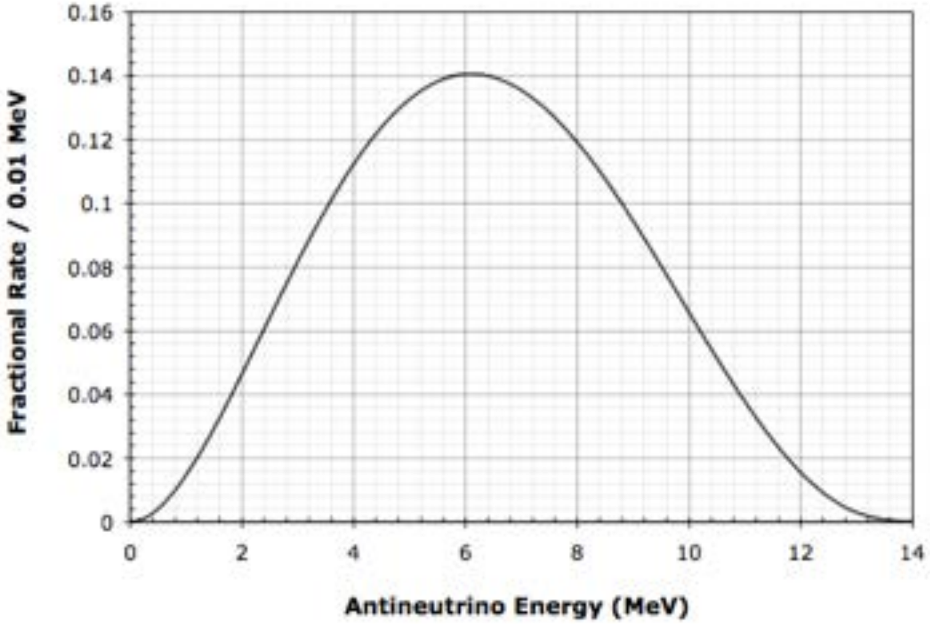
$$E_\nu^{QE} = \frac{2(M - E_B)E_\mu - (E_B^2 - 2ME_B + m_\mu^2 + \Delta M^2)}{2[(M - E_B) - E_\mu + p_\mu \cos\theta_\mu]}$$

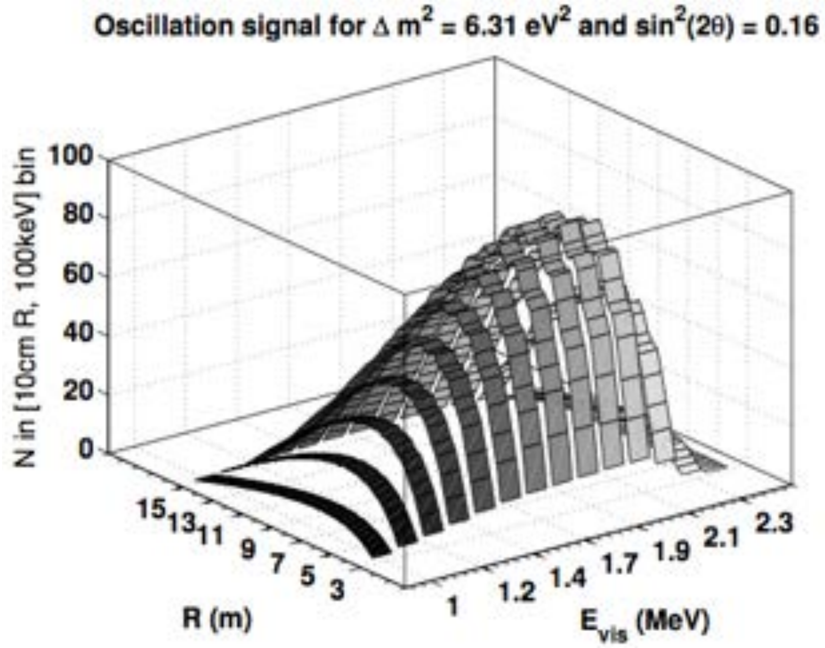
$$Q_{QE}^2 = -m_\mu^2 + 2E_\nu^{QE}(E_\mu - p_\mu \cos\theta_\mu)$$

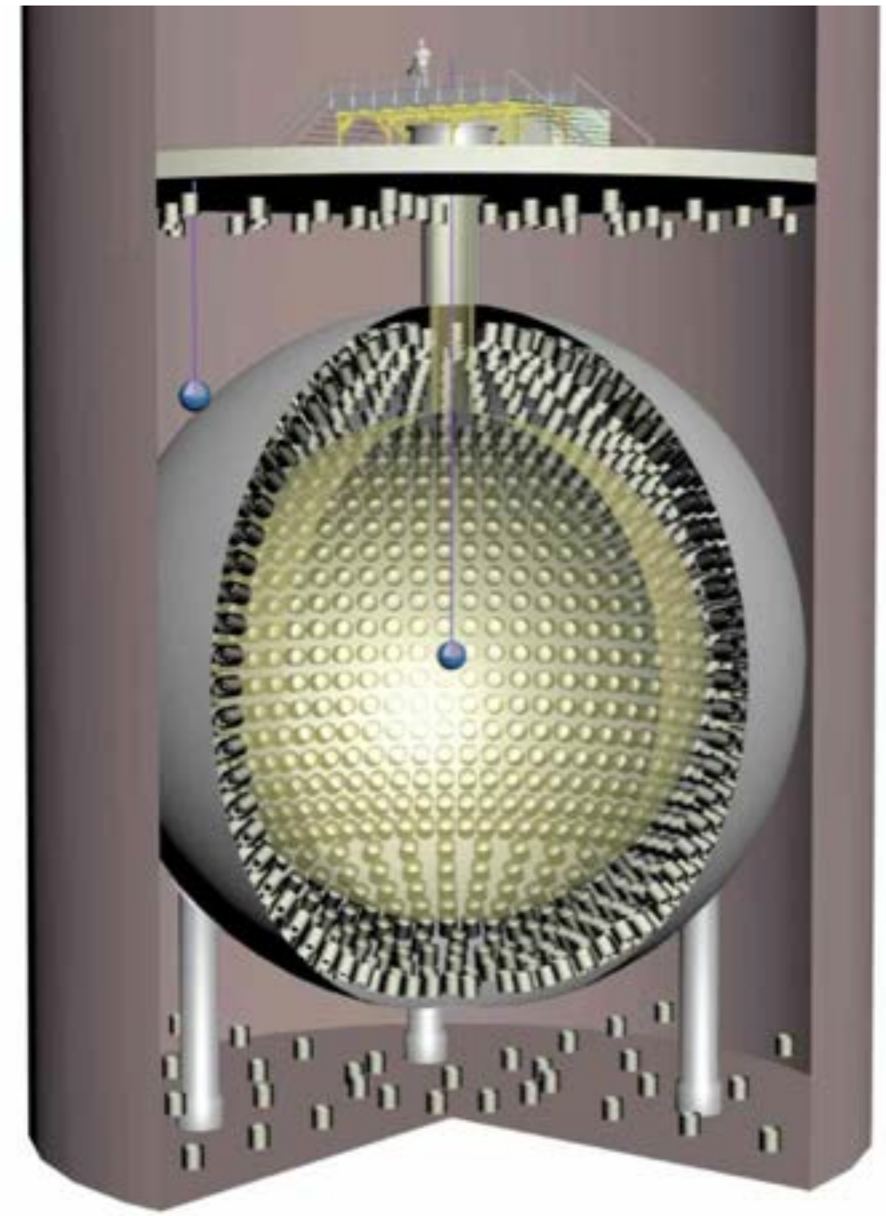


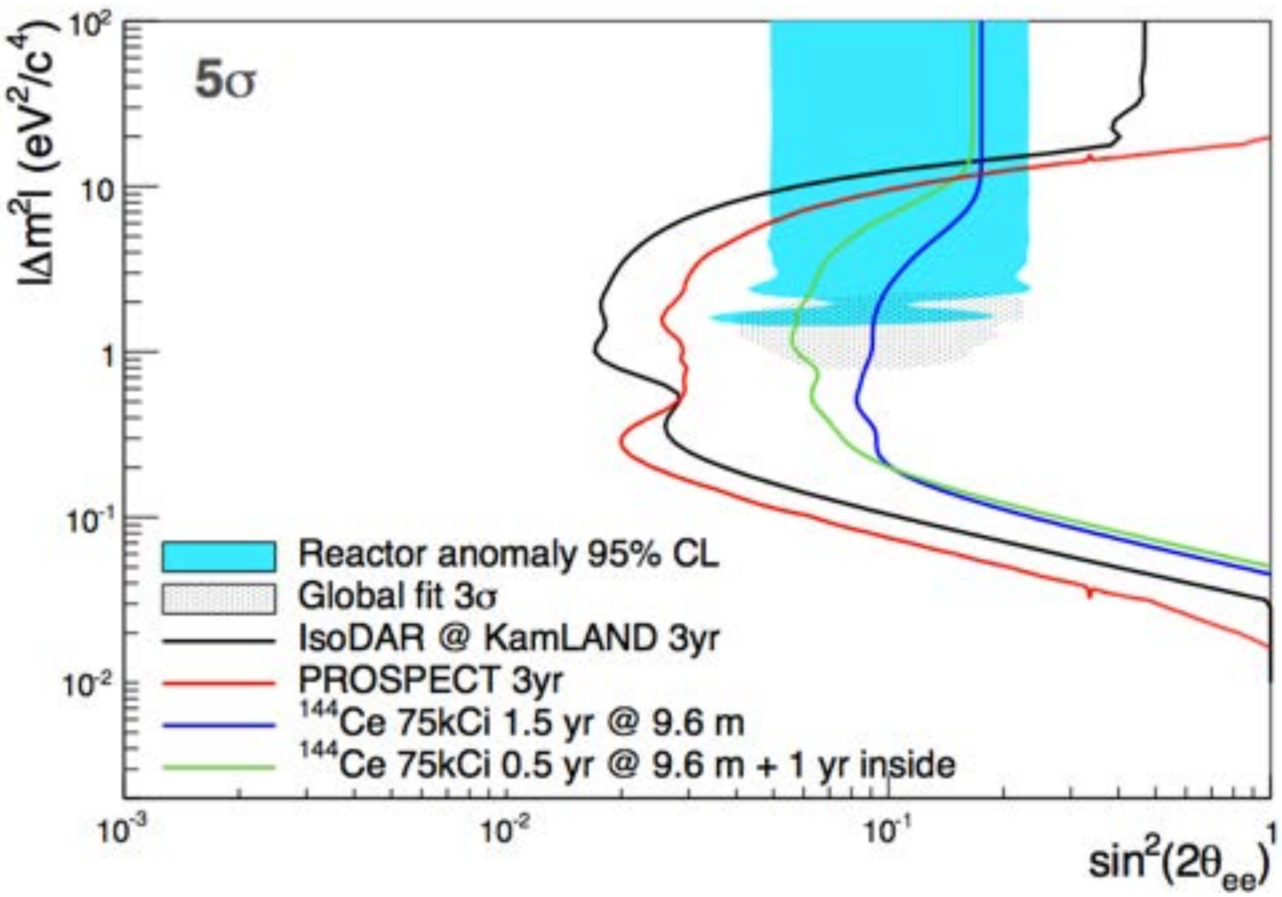
Competing Efforts

- CeLAND and SOX: Radioactive source experiments: quick-ish
- IsoDAR: Accelerator-produced beta decay source: longer timescale









arXiv:1312.0896

arXiv:1307.2949

arXiv:1304.7721