

# A brief history of Neutrinos

Ana Sofia Inácio, LIP and FCUL, Lisboa

# In this talk

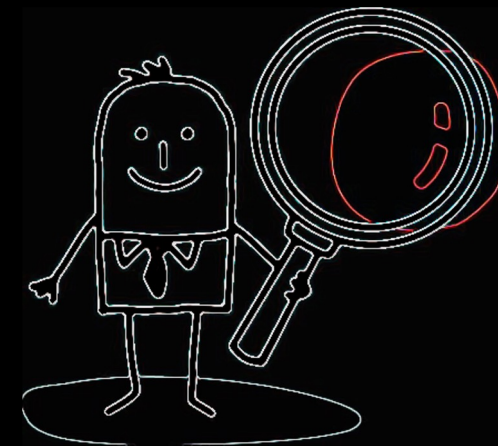
## Goal #1

- Neutrino properties
  - What we know
  - What we don't know



## Goal #2

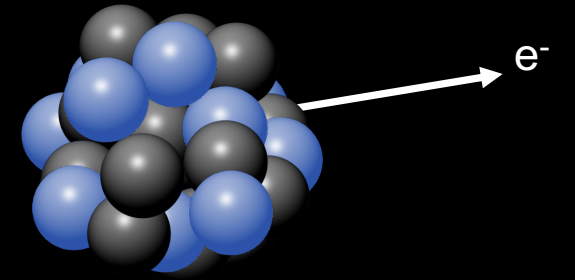
- Large Scale experiments looking for neutrinos
  - SNO+
  - DUNE



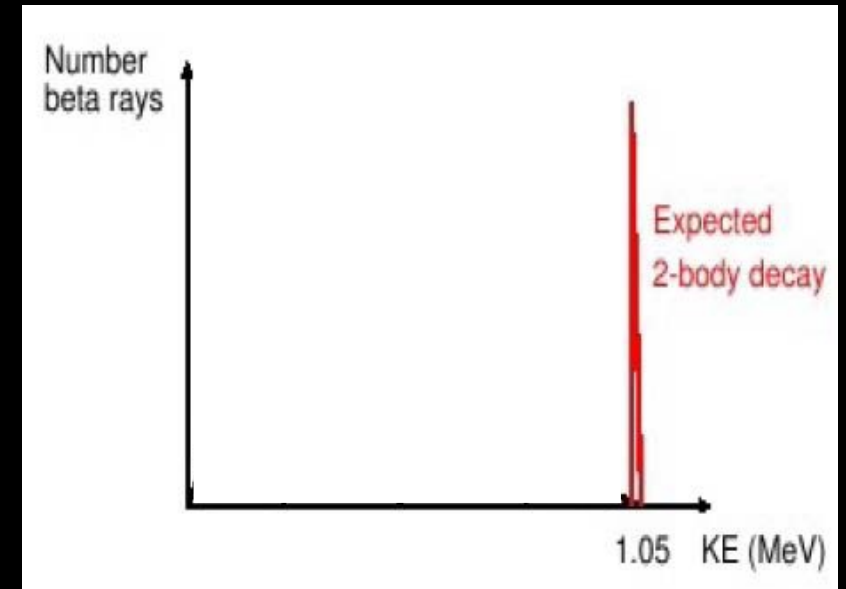
Once upon a time...

(in the 1930s)

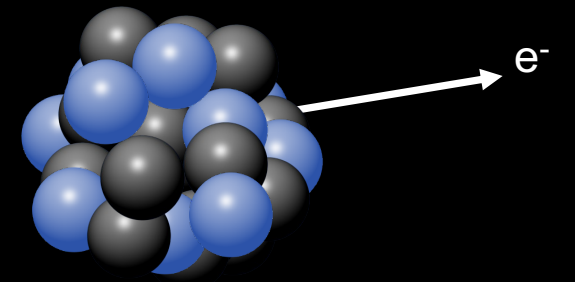
# The beta decay problem



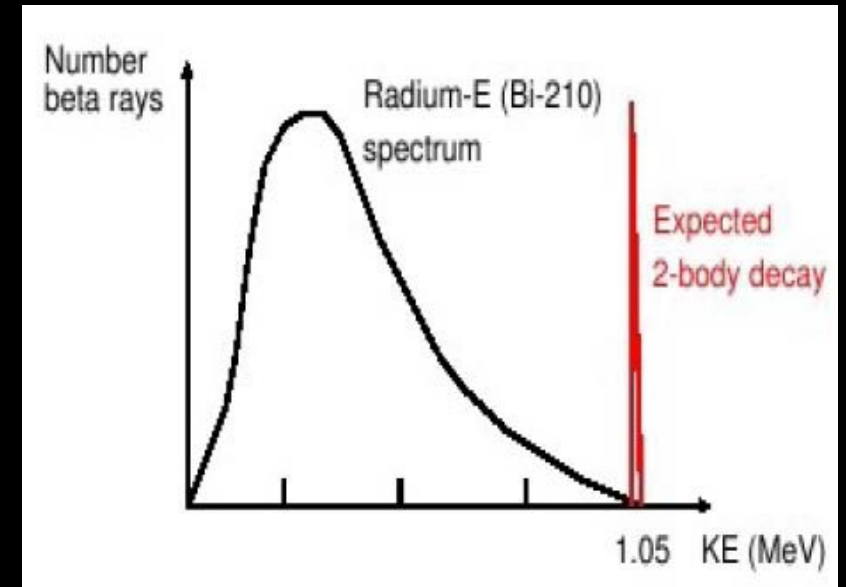
- Thought to be a two-body decay, like alpha decay
  - Energy and momentum conservation, electron at a fixed energy



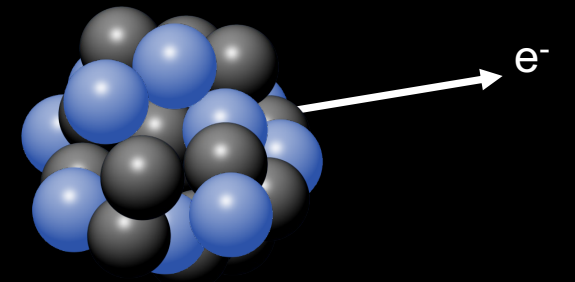
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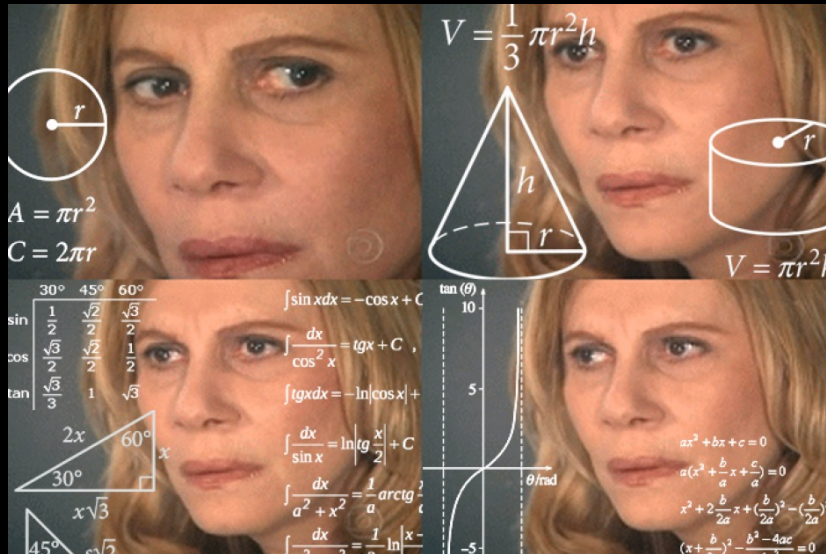
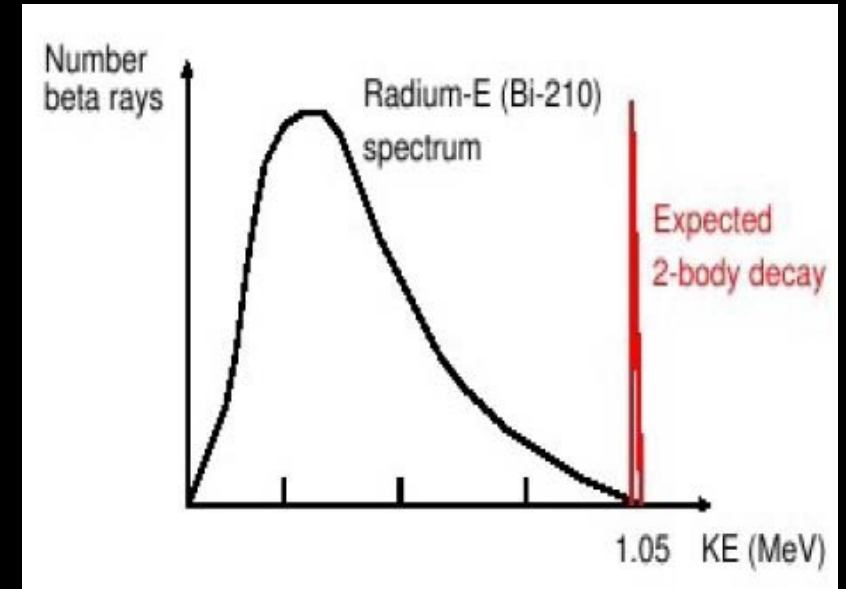
- Thought to be a two-body decay, like alpha decay
  - Energy and momentum conservation, electron at a fixed energy
- Experimental evidence (1920-29): Hahn, Meitner, Chadwick
  - Observed a continuous electron energy spectrum!



# The beta decay problem

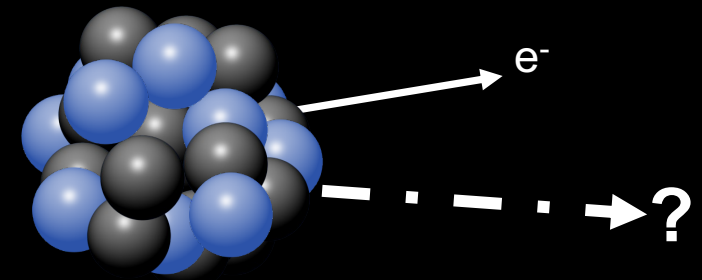


- Thought to be a two-body decay, like alpha decay
  - Energy and momentum conservation, electron at a fixed energy
- Experimental evidence (1920-29): Hahn, Meitner, Chadwick
  - Observed a continuous electron energy spectrum!



**Where did the energy go?**  
**What is happening during the decay?**  
**Is energy conservation a lie??**

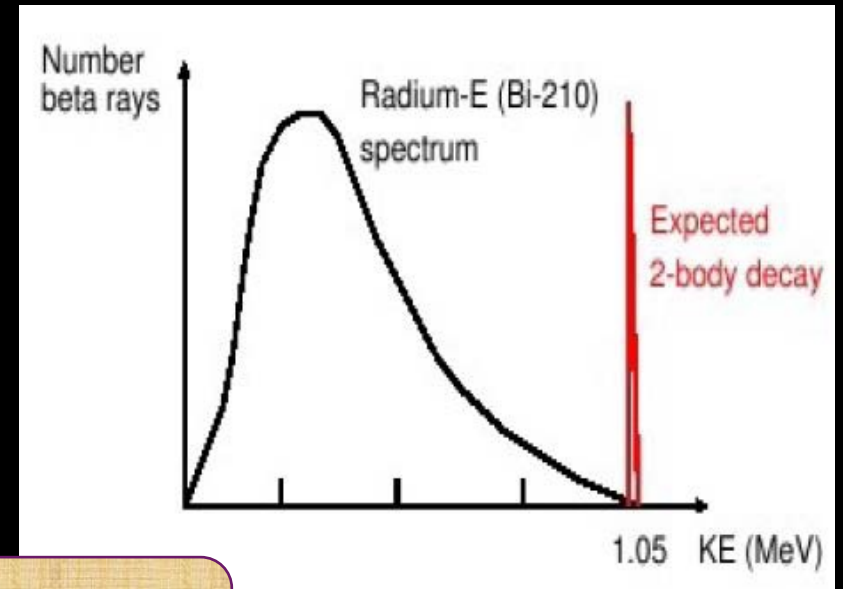
# The beta decay problem



- W. Pauli, 1930



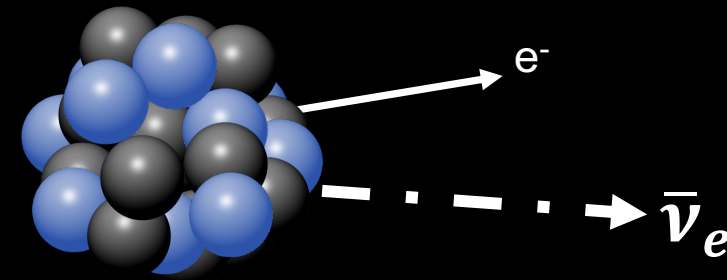
- Pauli hypothesized an undetected particle that he called a "neutron". The new particle was emitted from the nucleus together with the electron.



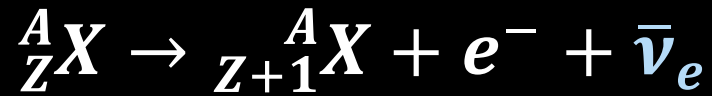
*Dear Radioactive Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*[...] I have hit upon a **desperate remedy** to save the [...] law of conservation of energy. Namely, the possibility that there could exist in the nuclei **electrically neutral particles**, that I wish to call neutrons, which have **spin 1/2** and [...]. The mass of the neutrons **should be of the same order of magnitude as the electron mass** and in any event not larger than 0.01 proton masses. [...]*

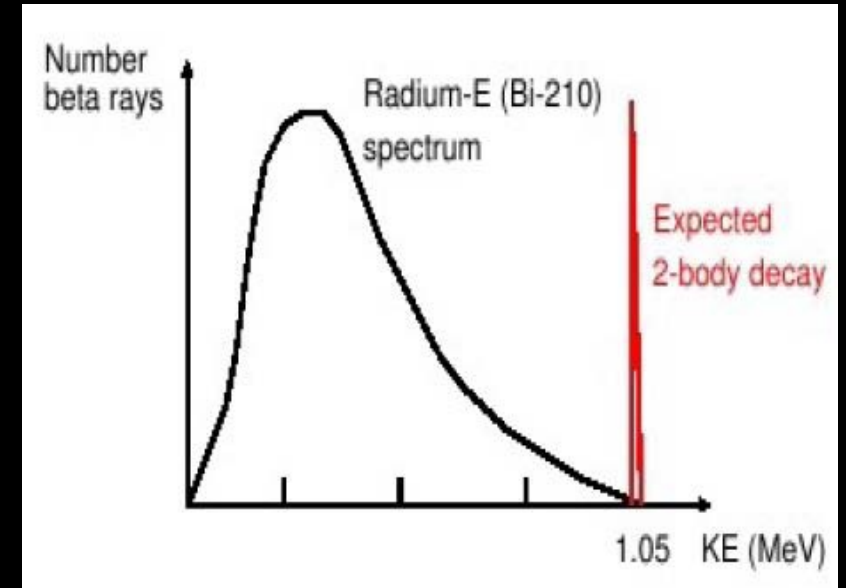
# The beta decay problem



- W. Pauli, 1930



- Pauli hypothesized an undetected particle that he called a "neutron". The new particle was emitted from the nucleus together with the electron.



Enrico Fermi gives it the name of **neutrino** (from italian, little neutral one) and includes in his beta decay theory (1934)



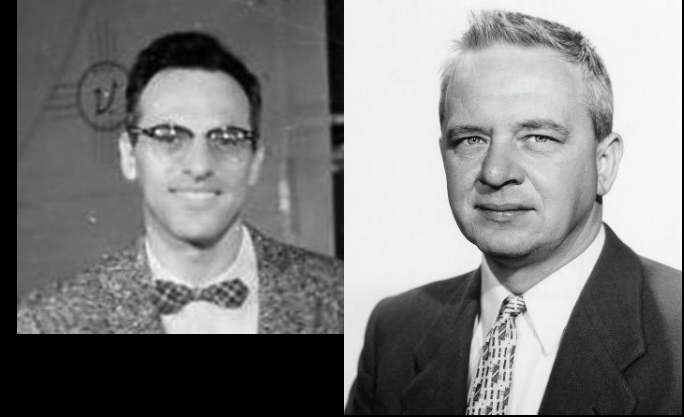
**I have done a terrible thing**

**I have postulated a particle  
that cannot be detected.**

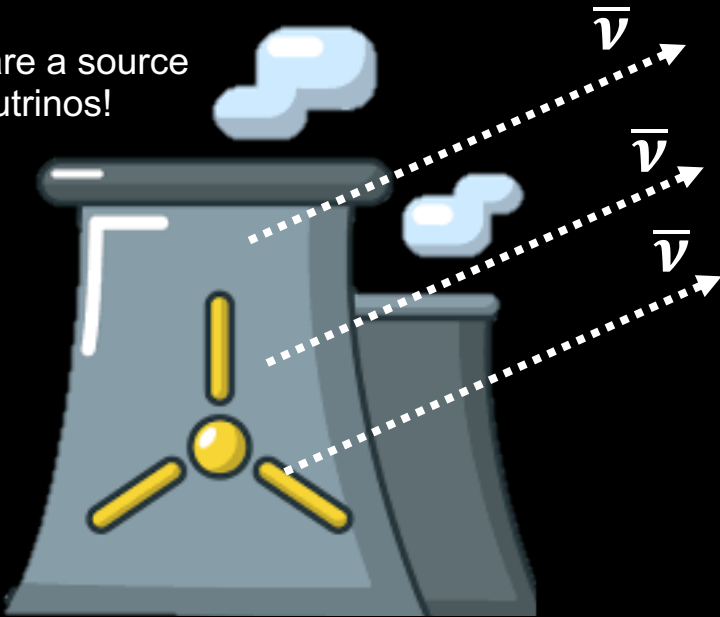
ROHIBOT

# However, 50 years later...

F. Reines and C. Cowan



Reactors are a source of (anti)neutrinos!



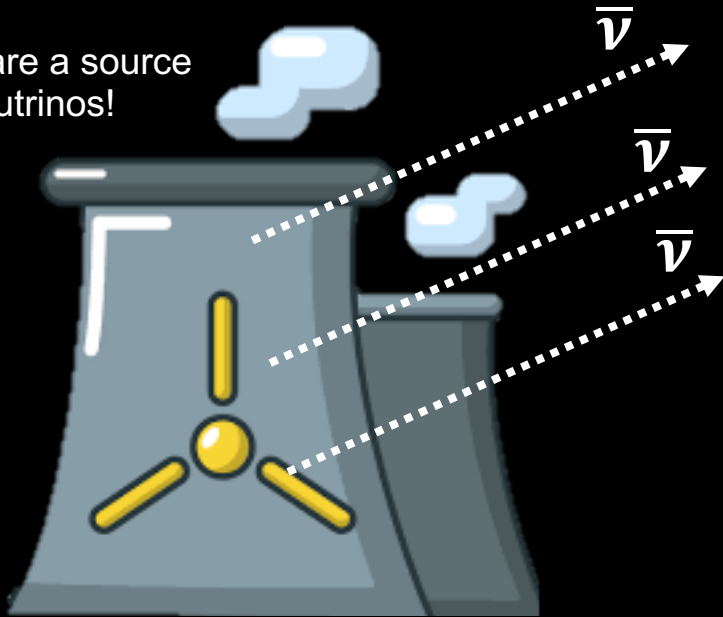
Detect the positron AND the neutron!

# However, 50 years later...

F. Reines and C. Cowan

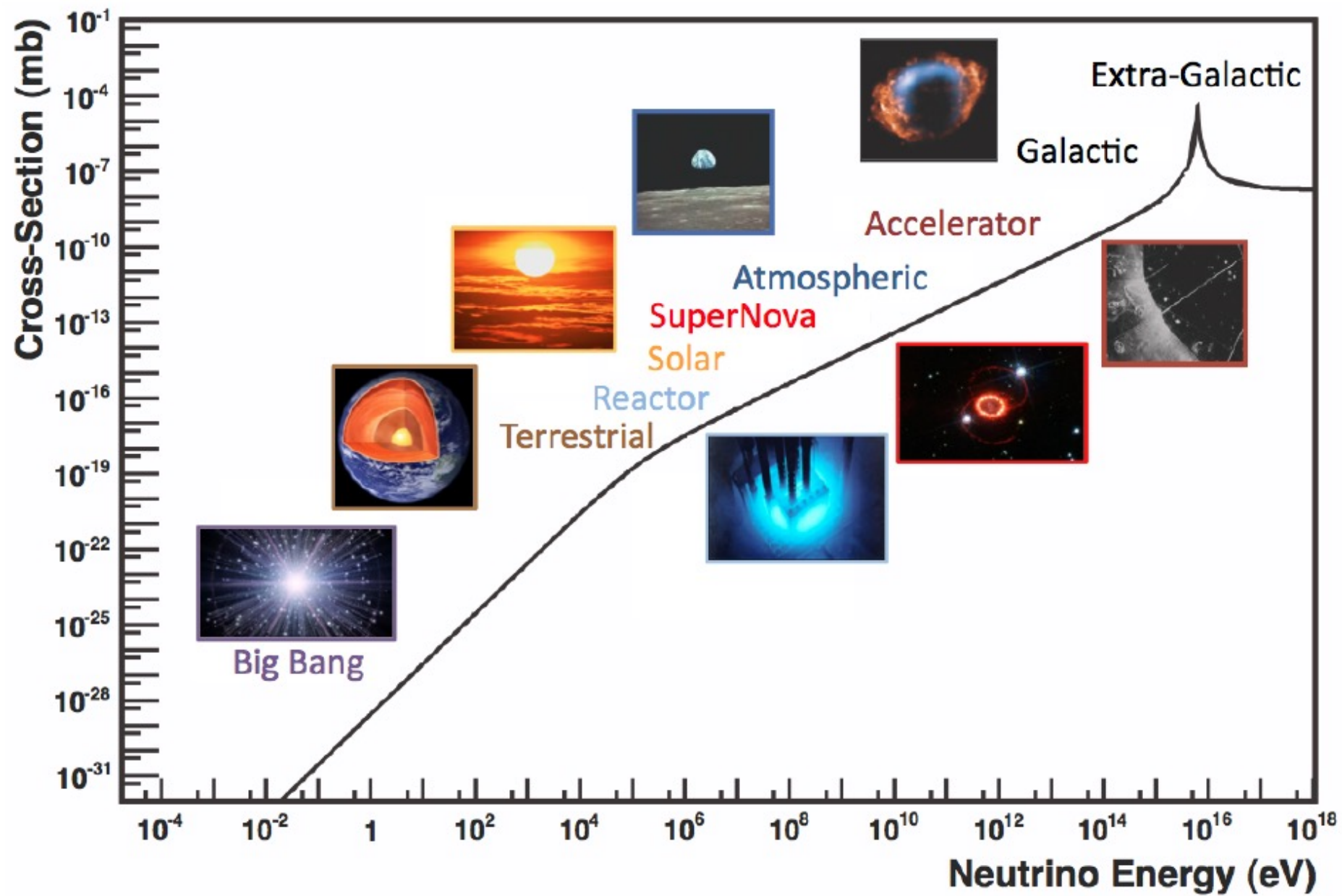


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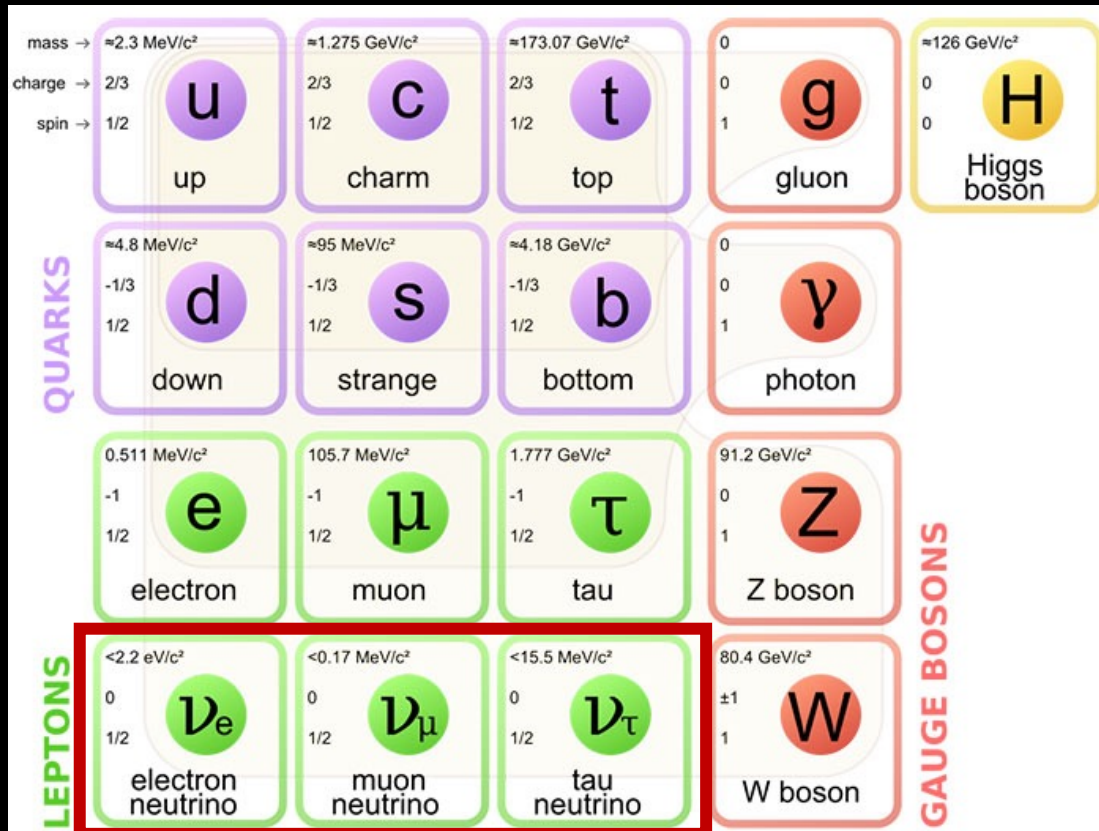


On June 14, 1956, Reines and Cowan sent a telegram to Pauli:

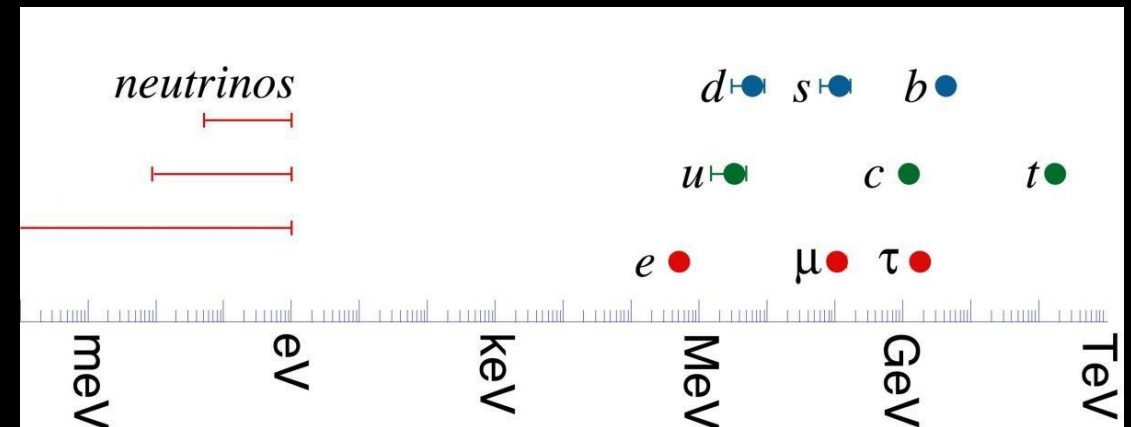
*"We are happy to inform you that we have definitely detected neutrinos from fission fragments by observing inverse beta decay of protons. Observed cross section agrees well with expected six times ten to minus forty-four square centimeters."*



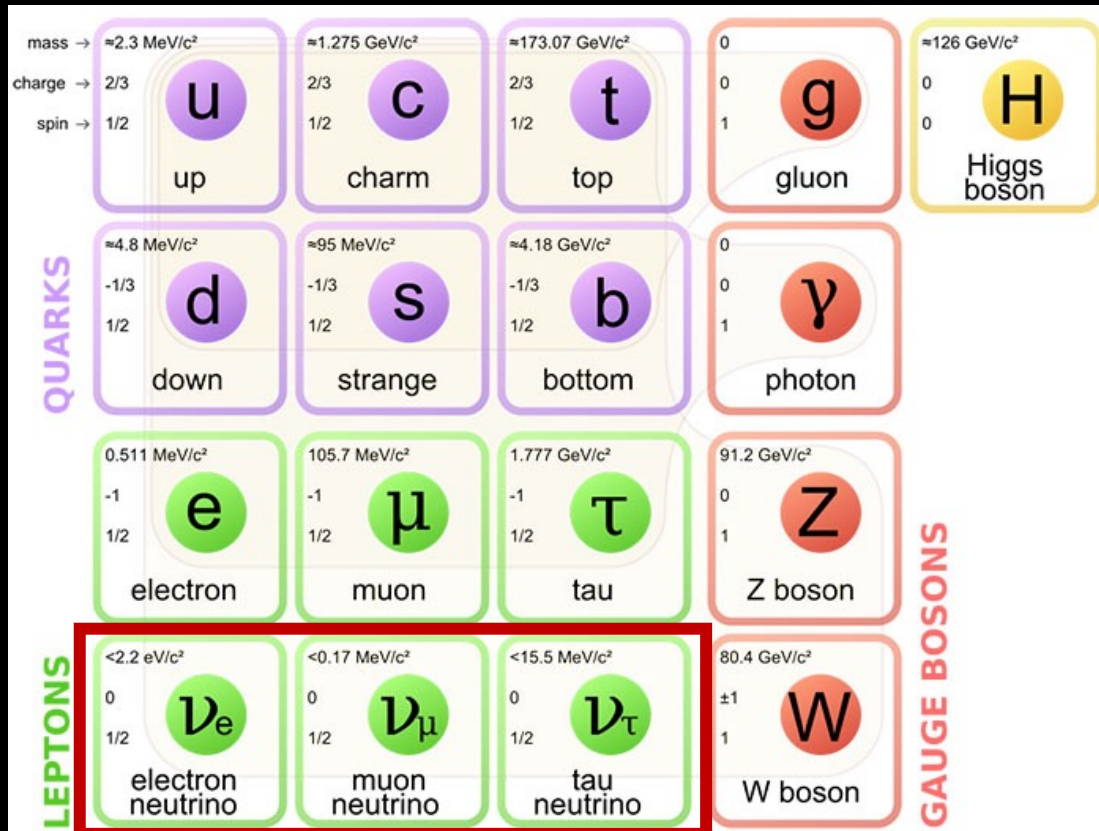
# Neutrinos in the Standard Model



- Neutrinos are:
  - Neutral leptons
  - 3 flavours
  - Spin 1/2
  - Only interact via weak interaction (Z and W bosons)
- The Standard Model does not account for their masses (massless)
- But we know that they have a very very small mass... (but not the exact value of the mass)

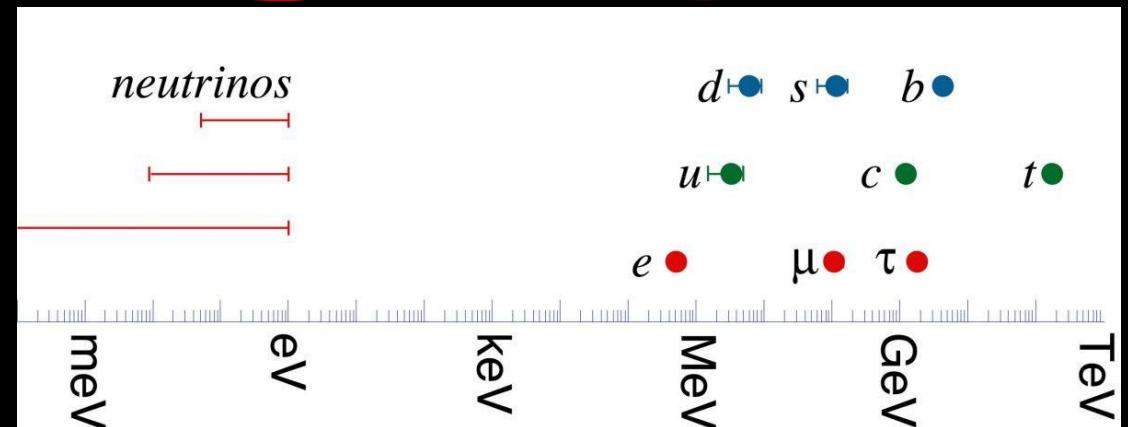


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How do we know that  
neutrinos have non-zero  
masses?

# Neutrinos Oscillate

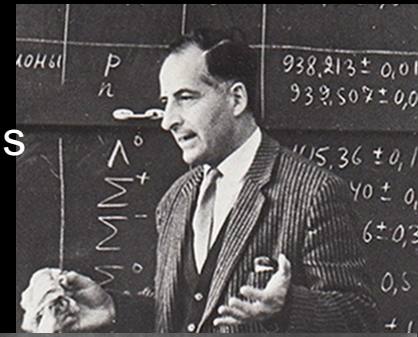
Three flavours of Neutrinos

$\nu_e$

$\nu_\mu$

$\nu_\tau$

B. Pontecorvo  
 $\nu - \bar{\nu}$  oscillations



S. Sakata  
1911-1970

Z. Maki  
1929-2005

M. Nakagawa  
1932-2001

Courtesy of Sakata Memorial Archival Library



# Neutrinos Oscillate

## Three flavours of Neutrinos

$$\nu_e \quad \nu_\mu \quad \nu_\tau$$

Are a linear combination of three neutrino mass states

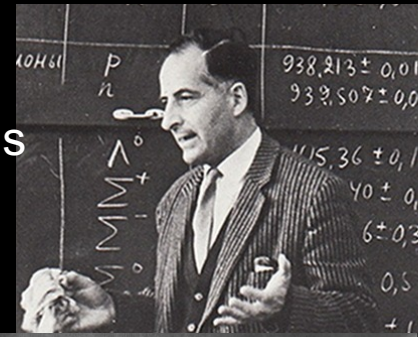
$$\nu_1 \quad \nu_2 \quad \nu_3$$

$$\nu_e = a\nu_1 + b\nu_2 + c\nu_3$$

$$\nu_\mu = d\nu_1 + e\nu_2 + f\nu_3$$

$$\nu_\tau = g\nu_1 + h\nu_2 + i\nu_3$$

B. Pontecorvo  
 $\nu - \bar{\nu}$  oscillations



# Neutrinos Oscillate

## Three flavours of Neutrinos

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

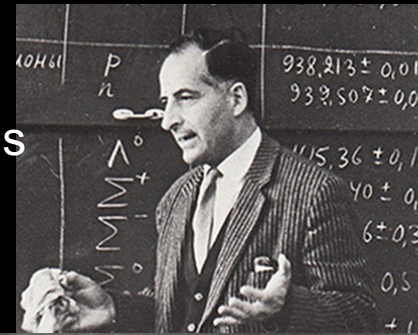
Are a linear combination of three neutrino mass states

 $\nu_1$  $\nu_2$  $\nu_3$ 

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

The PMNS Matrix

B. Pontecorvo  
 $\nu - \bar{\nu}$  oscillations



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## Three flavours of Neutrinos

$\nu_e$

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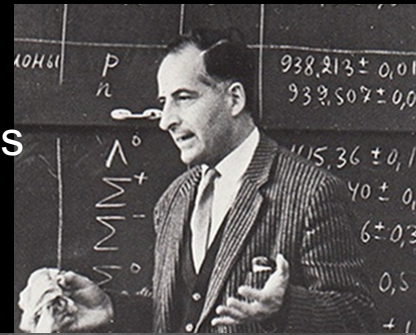
Are a linear combination of three neutrino mass states

$\nu_1$

$\nu_2$

$\nu_3$

B. Pontecorvo  
 $\nu - \bar{\nu}$  oscillations



$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{13}c_{12} & c_{13}s_{12} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -c_{23}s_{12} - s_{13}s_{23}c_{12}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{12} - s_{13}s_{23}s_{12}e^{i\delta} & c_{13}s_{23} \\ s_{23}s_{12} - s_{13}c_{23}c_{12}e^{i\delta} & -s_{23}c_{12} - s_{13}c_{23}s_{12}e^{i\delta} & c_{13}c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

The PMNS Matrix

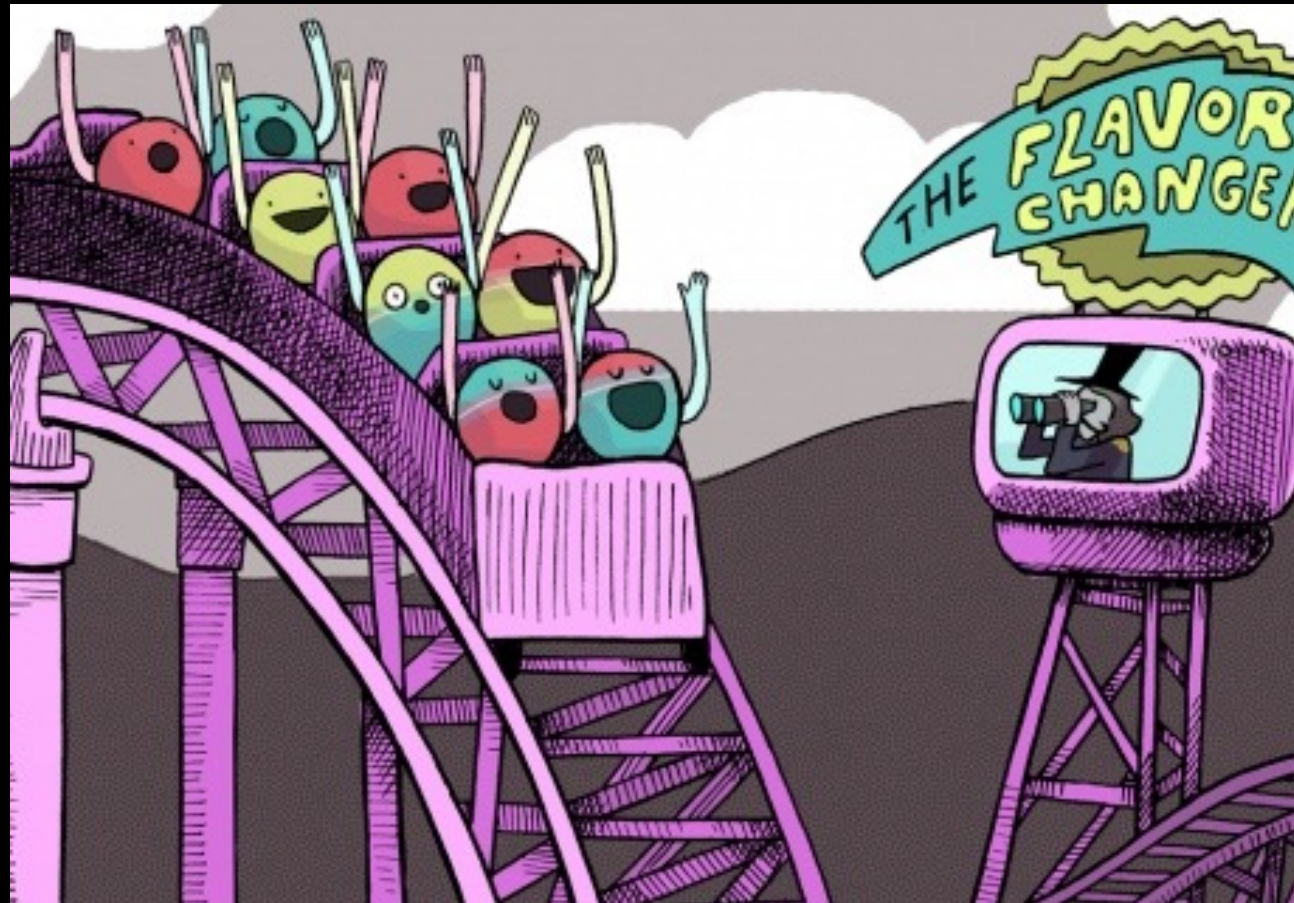
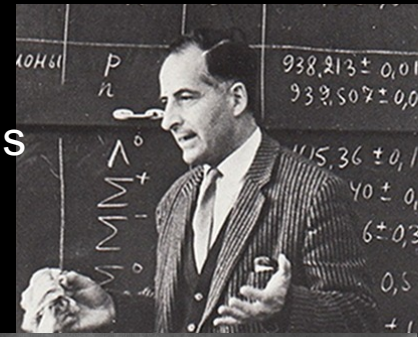
(that looks more like this)



# Neutrinos Oscillate

When neutrinos travel, they change from one flavour to the other.

B. Pontecorvo  
 $\nu - \bar{\nu}$  oscillations



S. Sakata  
1911-1970

Z. Maki  
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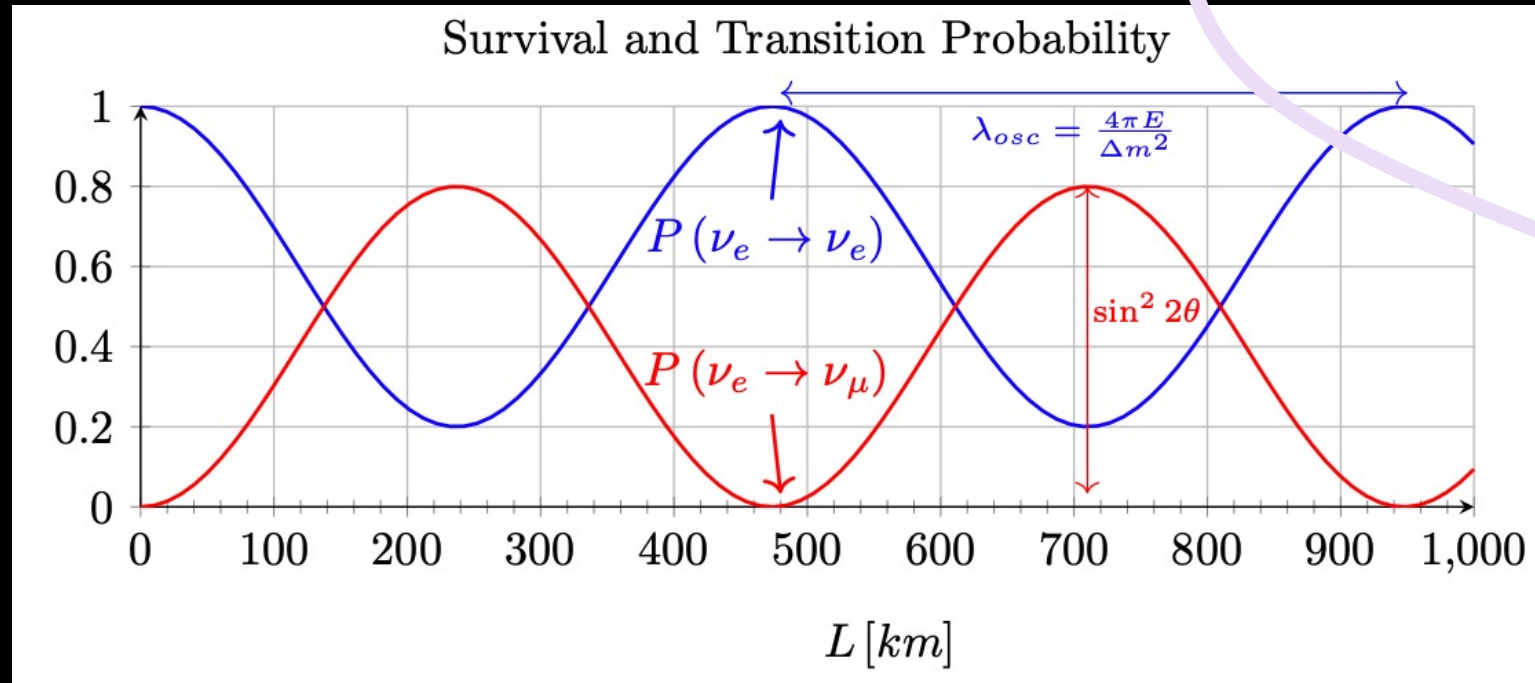
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# Neutrinos Oscillate

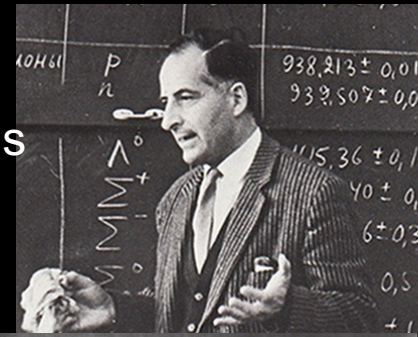
When neutrinos travel, they change from one flavour to the other.

Two neutrino case:

$$P_{oscillation}(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 \left( 1.27 \Delta m_{21}^2 [\text{eV}^2] \frac{L[\text{m}]}{E[\text{MeV}]} \right)$$



B. Pontecorvo  
 $\nu - \bar{\nu}$  oscillations



$m_2^2 - m_1^2$

Hummm...

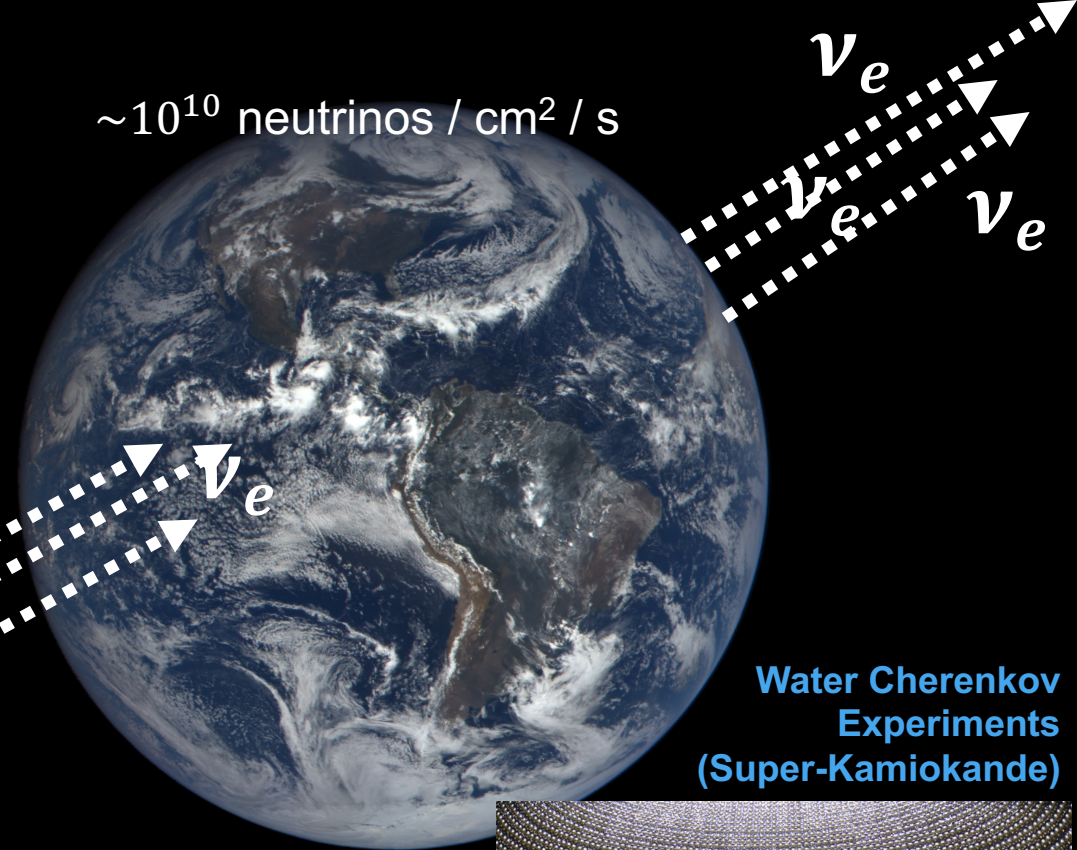
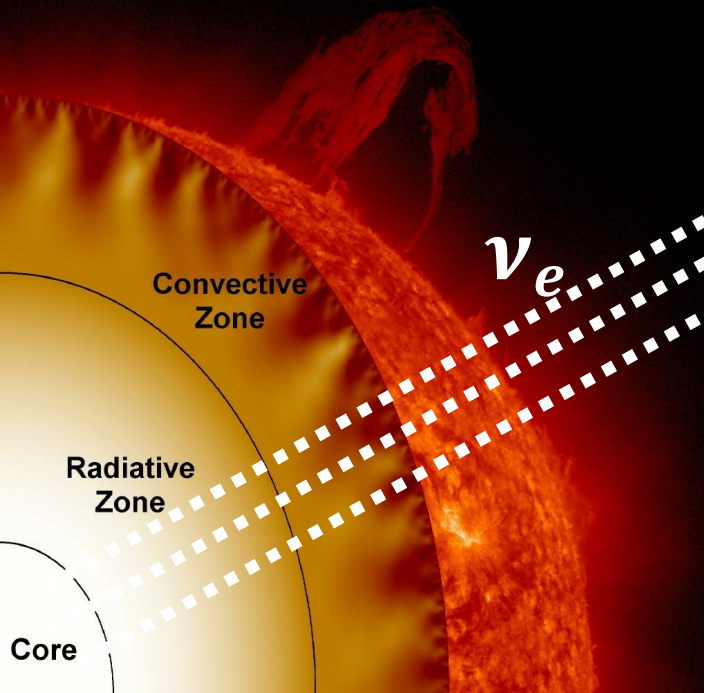
And how do we know that  
neutrinos oscillate?

From the 1970s to the 2000s, multiple experiments were measuring neutrinos from the Sun.

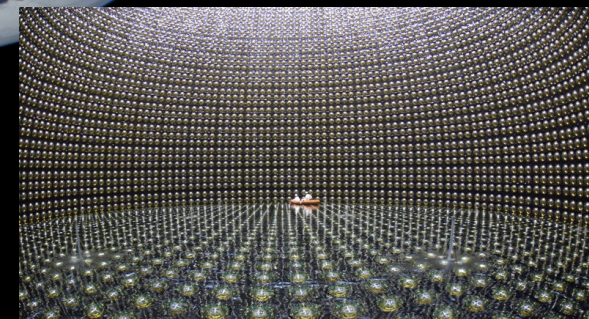
A lot of neutrinos, but very small interaction cross-section of  $\sim 10^{-44} \text{ cm}^{-2}$

The detectors were placed underground in order to be shielded by rock from cosmic rays.  
*Muon flux at sea level = 1 / cm<sup>2</sup> / minute*

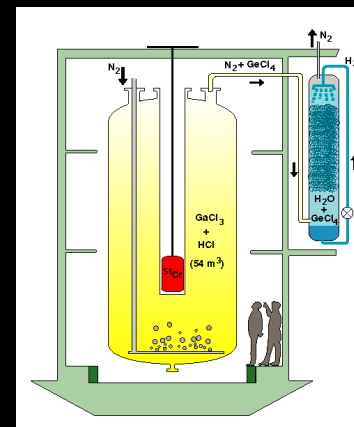
$\sim 10^{10}$  neutrinos / cm<sup>2</sup> / s



Water Cherenkov Experiments  
(Super-Kamiokande)



Homestake Experiment  
(Chlorine)



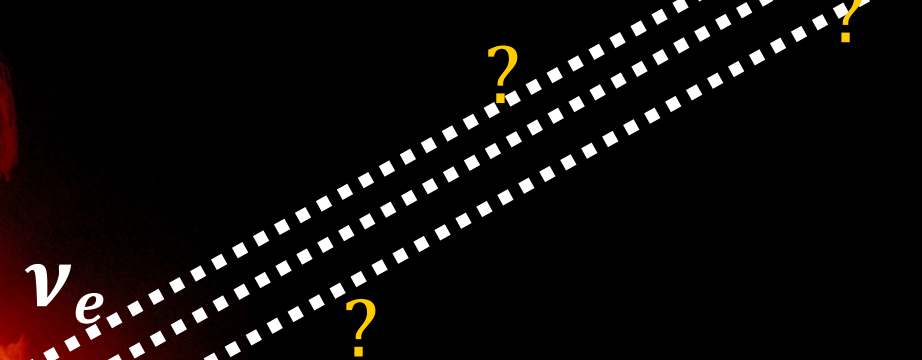
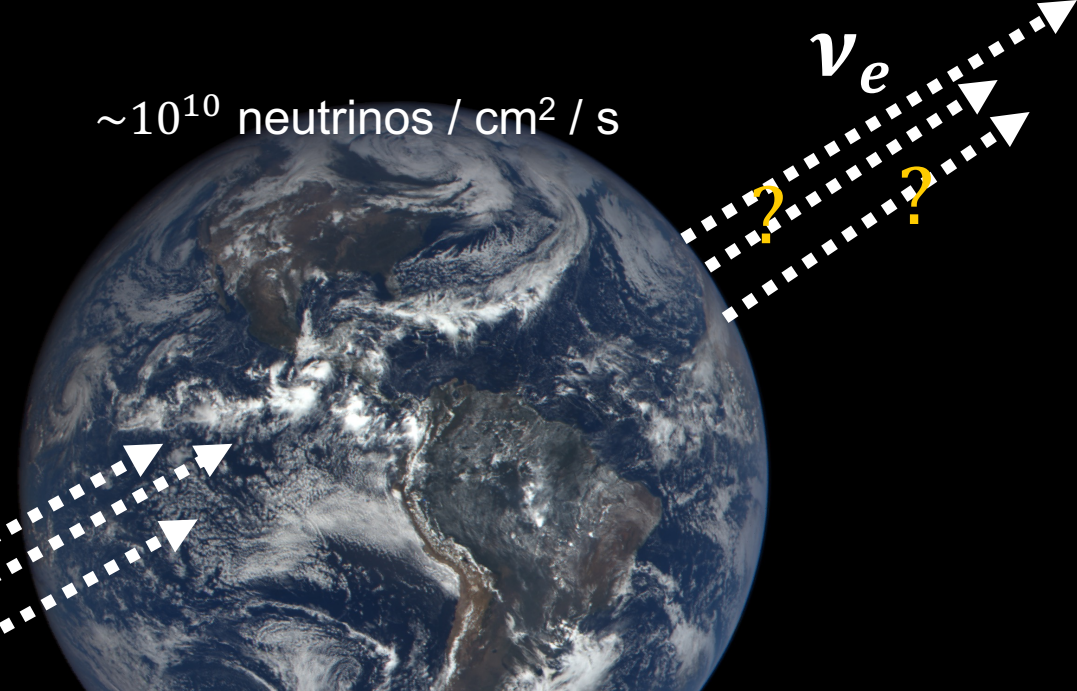
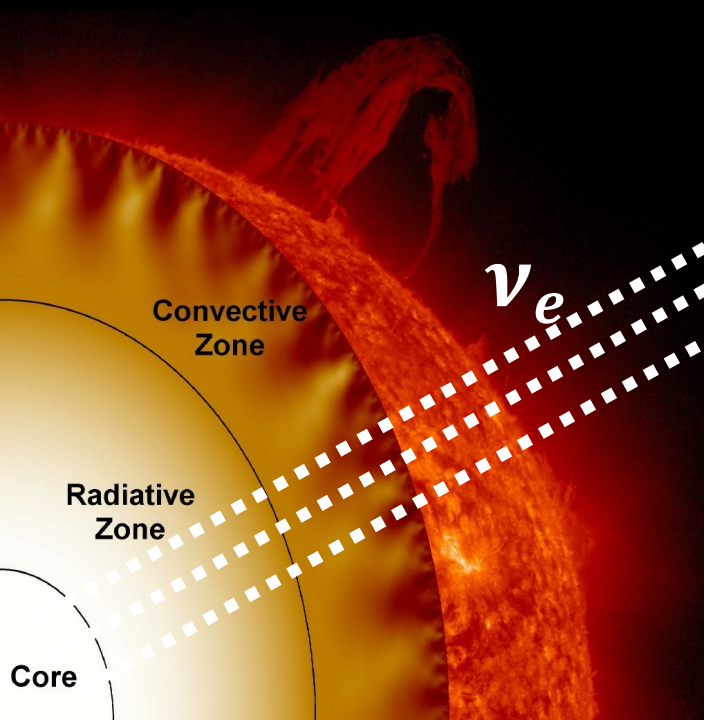
Gallium Experiments  
(SAGE, GALLEX, GNO)

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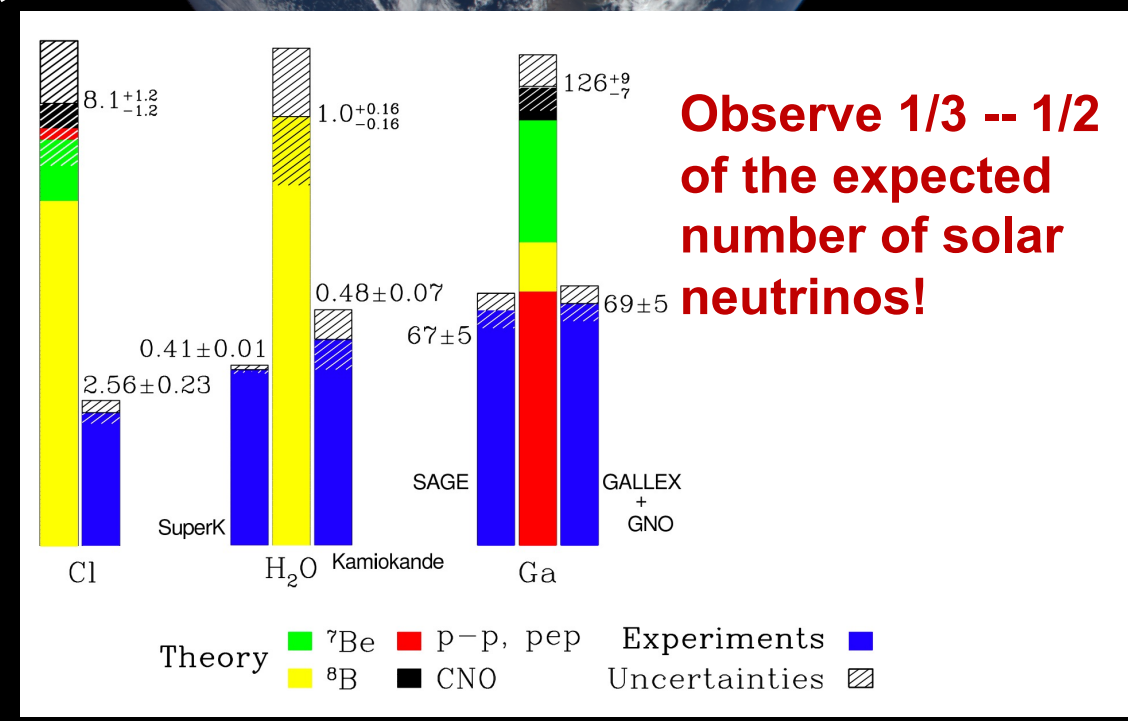
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$\sim 10^{10}$  neutrinos / cm<sup>2</sup> / s



Are we not measuring all the neutrinos from the Sun?  
 What happens to them on the way to Earth?

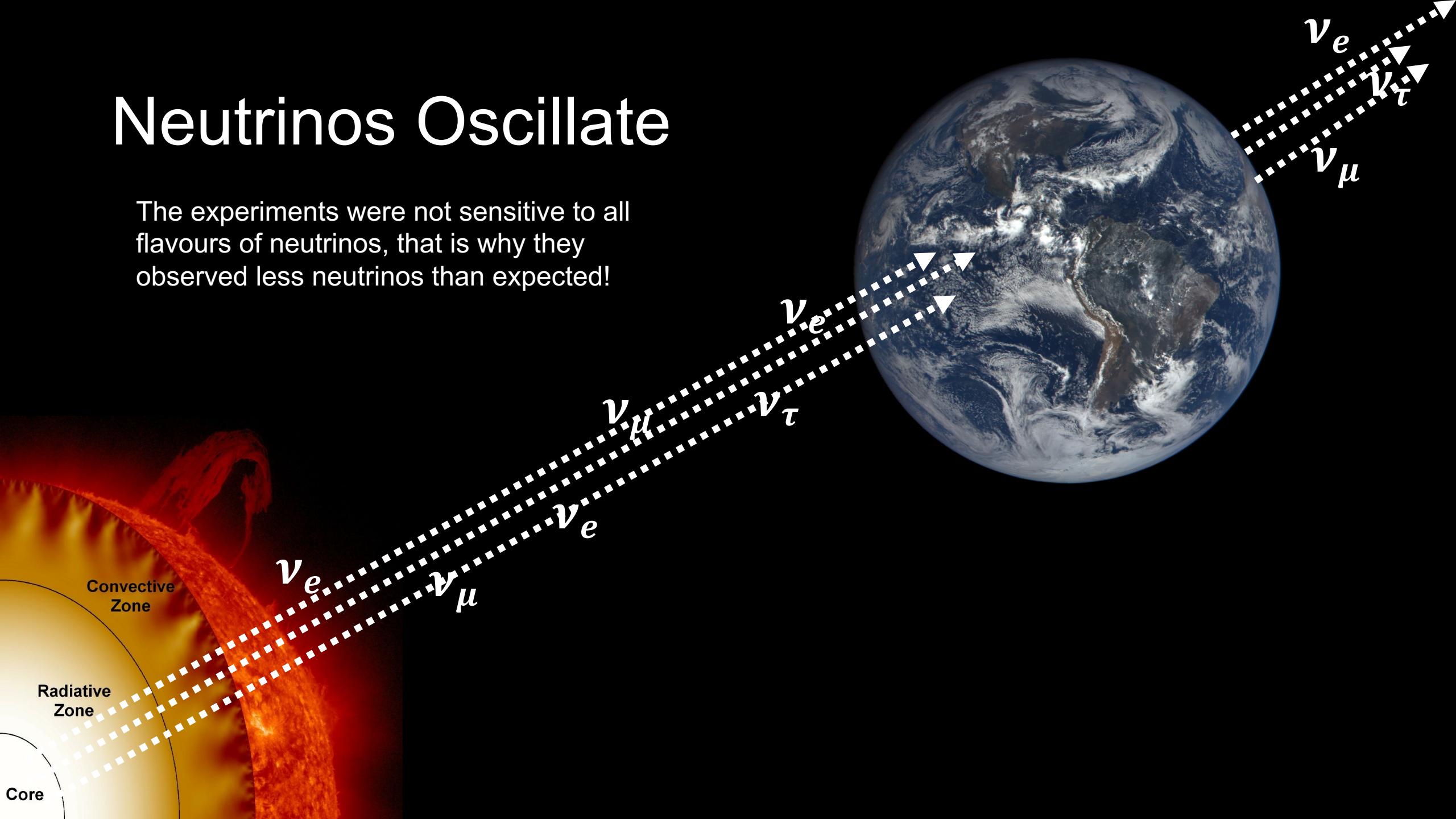


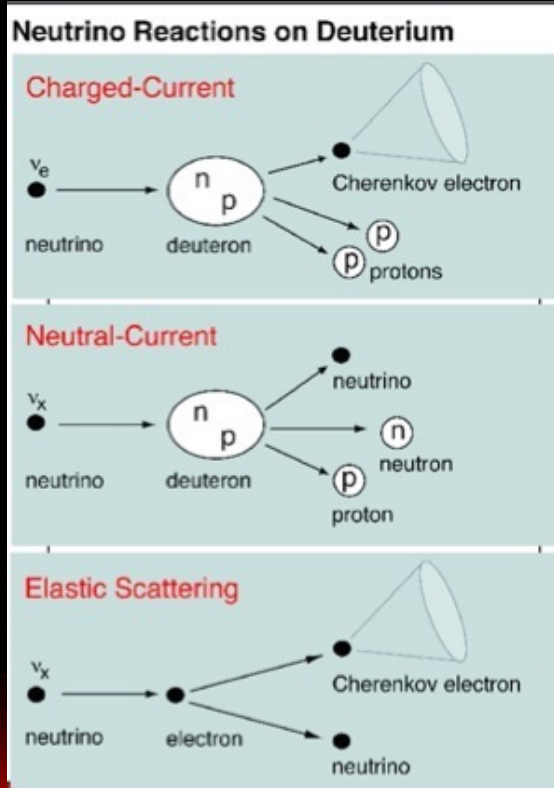
Observe 1/3 -- 1/2 of the expected number of solar neutrinos!



# Neutrinos Oscillate

The experiments were not sensitive to all flavours of neutrinos, that is why they observed less neutrinos than expected!

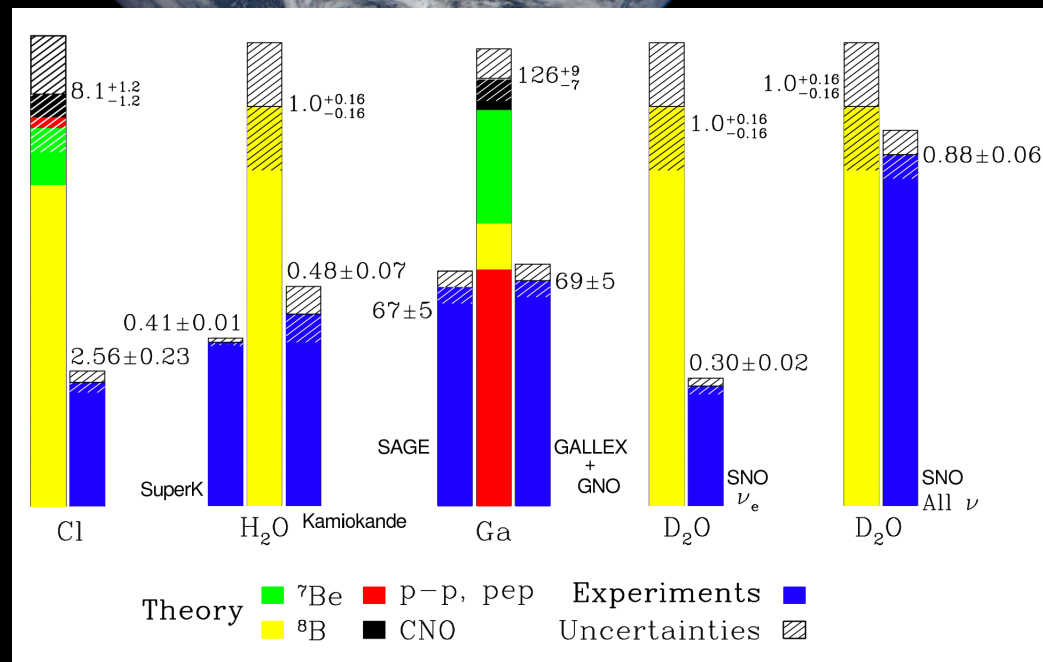
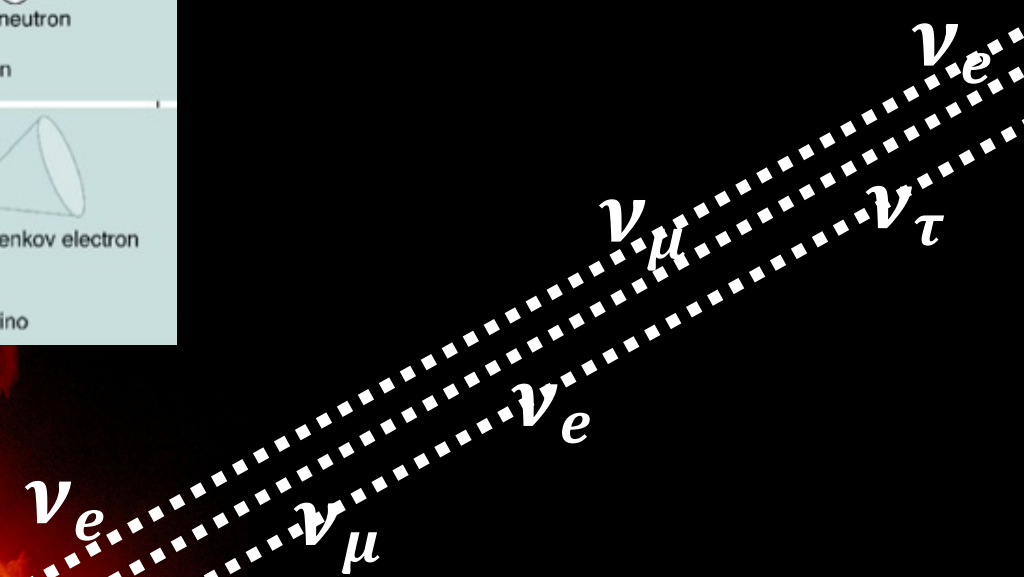
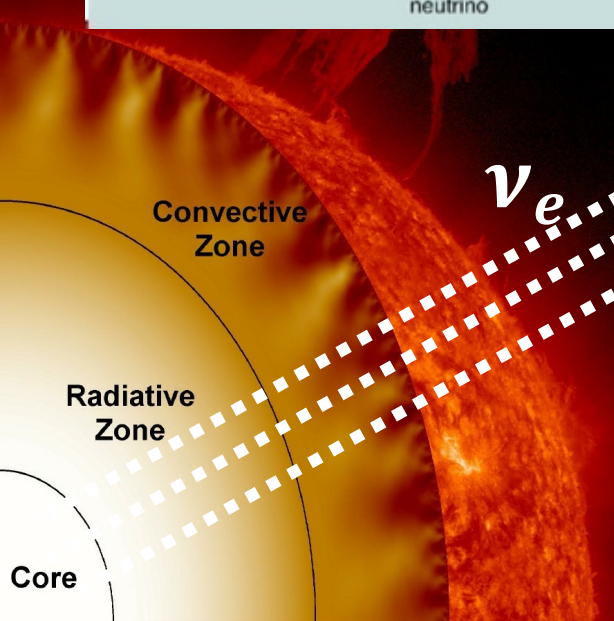
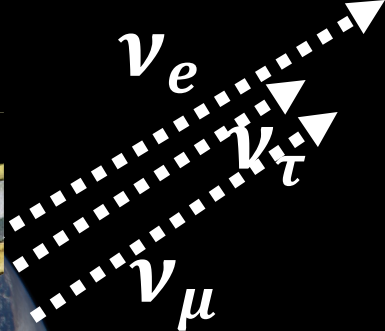
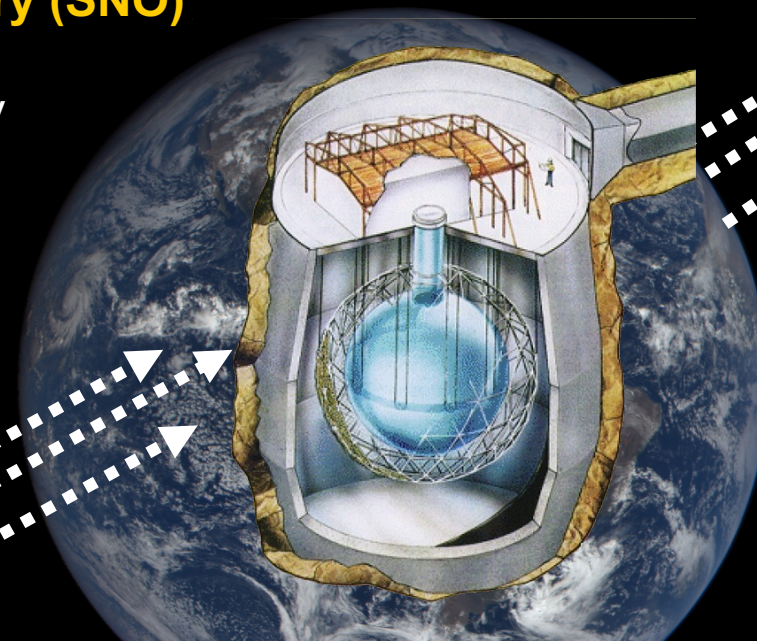




## The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO)

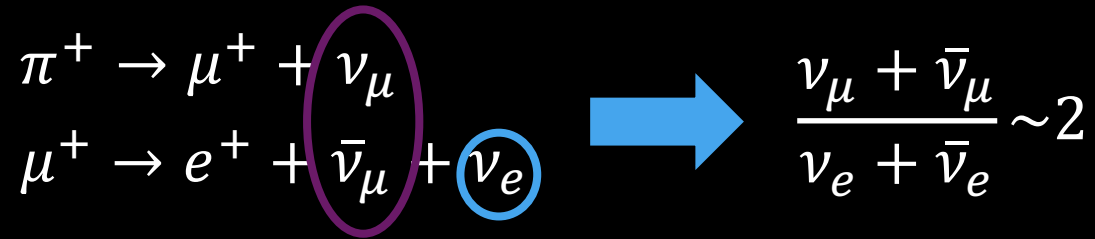
Heavy water (deuterium) Cherenkov detector.

Sensitive to all flavours of neutrinos.

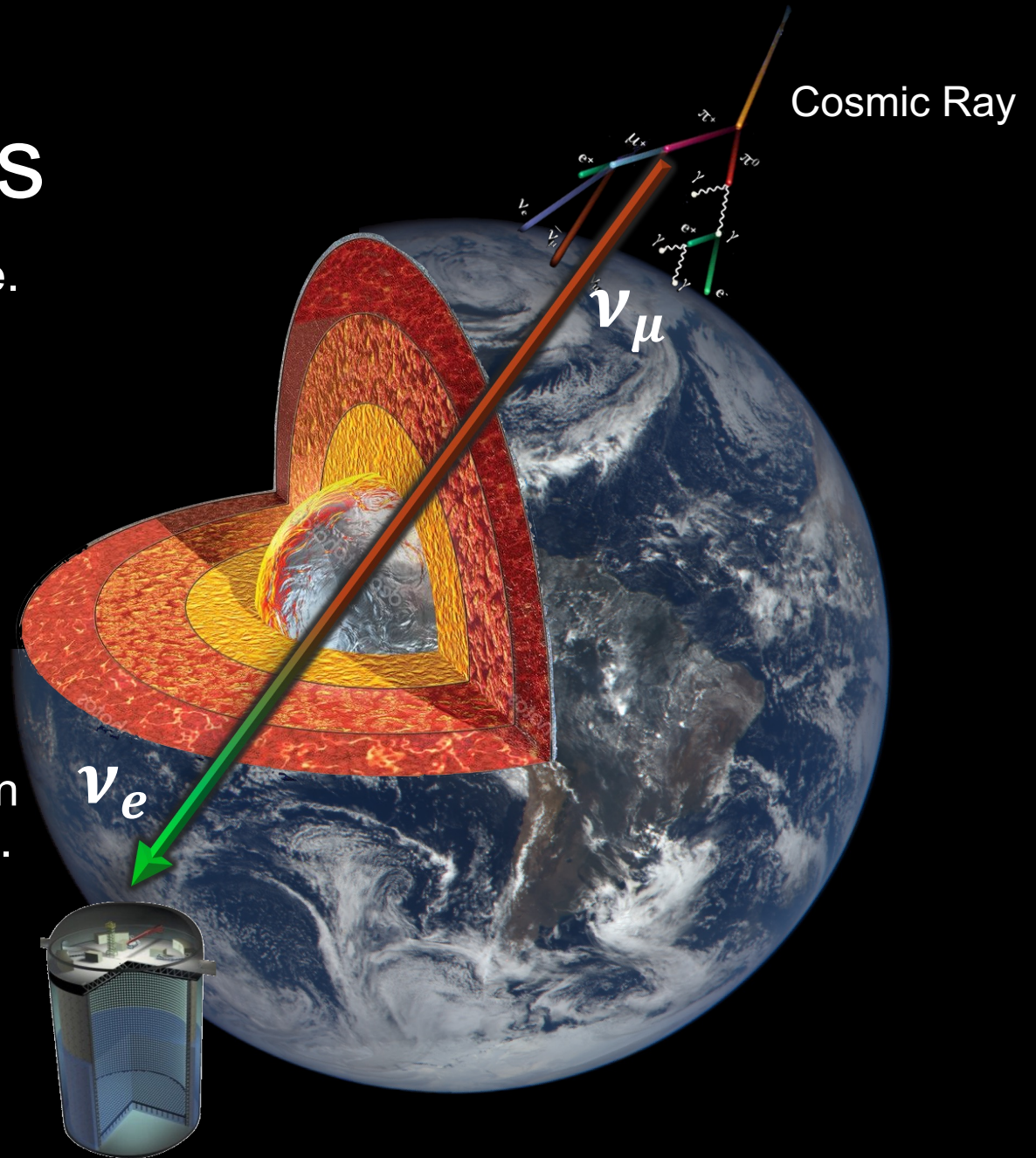
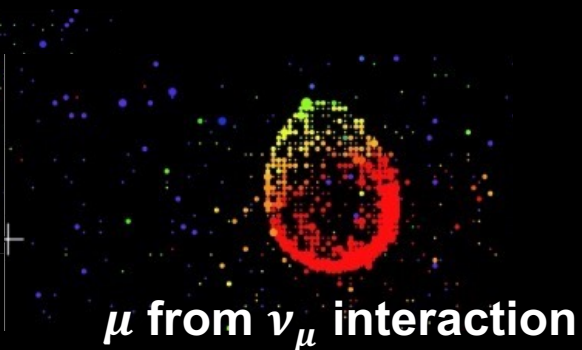


# Atmospheric Neutrinos

- Produced ~15 kilometers above Earth's surface.



- A different ratio shows that neutrinos oscillated.
- That is what Super-Kamiokande observed when comparing the number of  $\nu_e$  and  $\nu_\mu$  interactions.



# Neutrino Oscillations Discovered!



“...the research group in Canada led by Arthur B. McDonald could demonstrate that the neutrinos from the Sun were not disappearing on their way to Earth. Instead they were captured with a different identity when arriving to the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory.”

“...Takaaki Kajita presented the discovery that neutrinos from the atmosphere switch between two identities on their way to the Super-Kamiokande detector in Japan.”

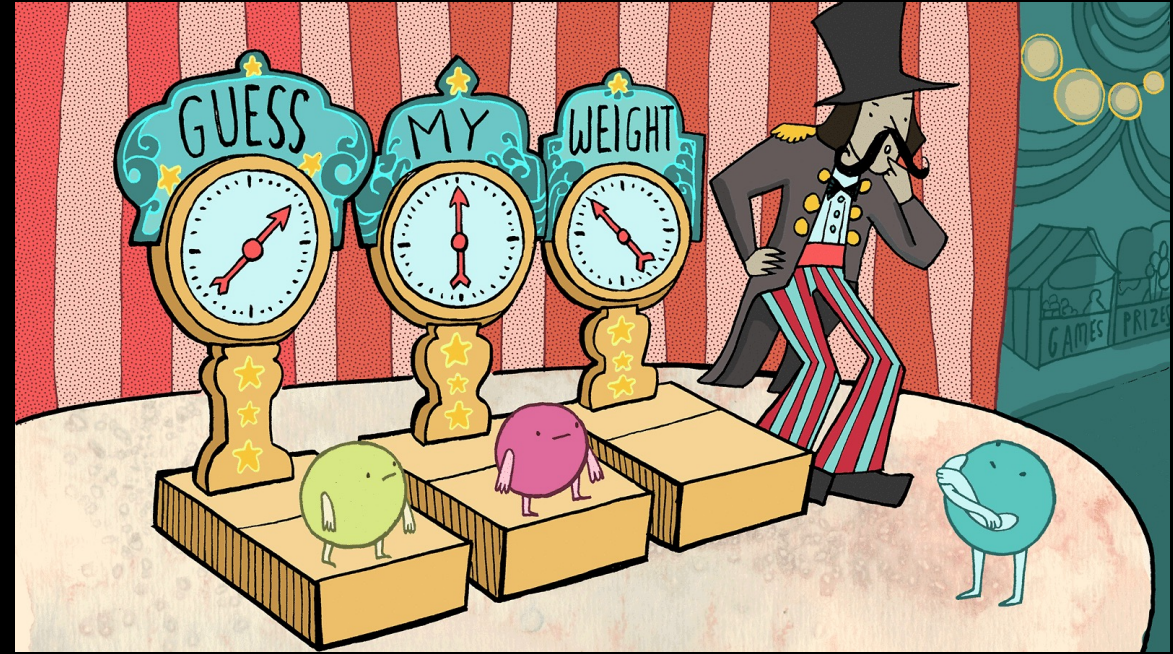
when your parents ask where all your electron neutrinos went

The meme features two young men. The one in the blue shirt is holding a large graph showing the Flavor Fraction (y-axis, 0.0 to 1.0) versus Distance [km] (x-axis, 1 to 100). The graph shows three curves:  $\bar{\nu}_e$  (yellow),  $\bar{\nu}_\mu$  (green), and  $\bar{\nu}_\tau$  (blue). The  $\bar{\nu}_e$  fraction starts at 1.0 and decreases as distance increases, while the other two fractions increase. The one in the red shirt is holding a diagram of neutrino oscillation showing  $\nu_e$ ,  $\nu_\mu$ , and  $\nu_\tau$  connected by arrows. The one in the blue shirt is holding a sign with the equation 
$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = U_{PMNS} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

What are the open questions?

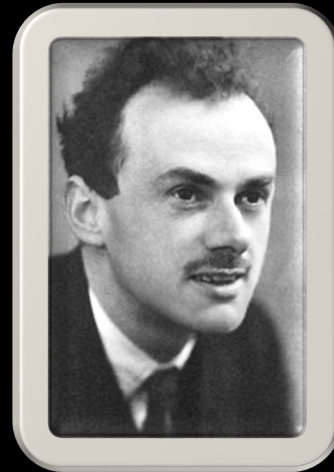
# What we don't know about neutrinos

- What is the value of the mass?



# What we don't know about neutrinos

- What is the value of the mass?
- Where do the masses come from?



**Dirac Neutrinos**  
Lepton number conservation  
Neutrino  $\neq$  anti-neutrino

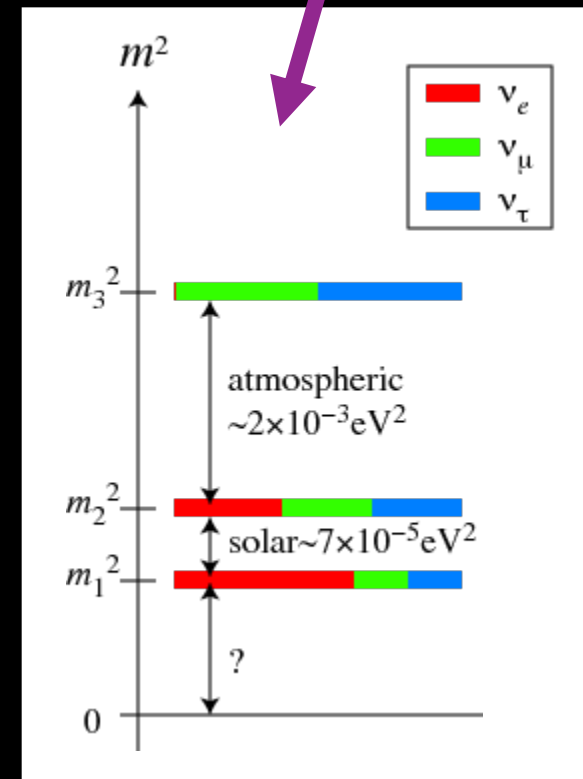


**Majorana Neutrinos**  
Lepton number violation  
Neutrino = anti-neutrino

# What we don't know about neutrinos

- What is the value of the mass?
- Where do the masses come from?
- How are the masses ordered?

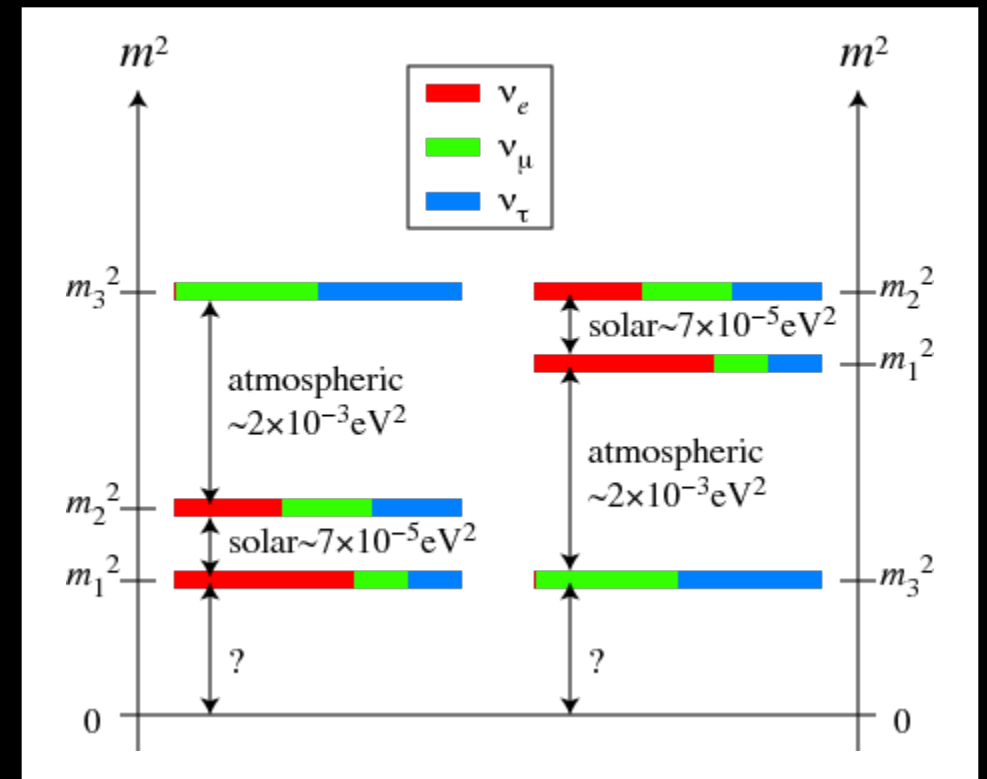
Solar experiments have fixed the order between  $m_1$  and  $m_2$





# What we don't know about neutrinos

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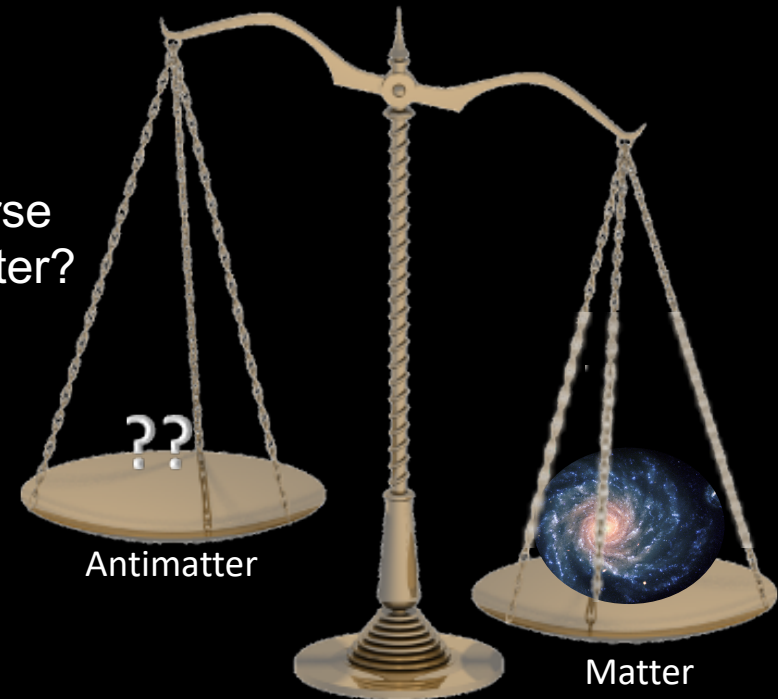


# What we don't know about neutrinos

- What is the value of the mass?
- Where do the masses come from?
- How are the masses ordered?
- Is there CP violation in the lepton sector?

*study of differences  
between neutrino and  
antineutrino oscillations*

Why is the Universe  
only made of matter?



To answer these questions...

# Neutrino detection 101

- Neutrinos have a very small interaction probability
  - You need more than  $10^{16}$  neutrinos to observe 1 neutrino/s in  $10 \text{ m}^3$  of water
  - *important:* We don't observe neutrinos directly (weak interaction and no charge), we observe the product of their reactions!!!!!!



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  - We need large detectors



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- **So how do we study neutrinos?**

- We need large detectors
- And large neutrinos fluxes



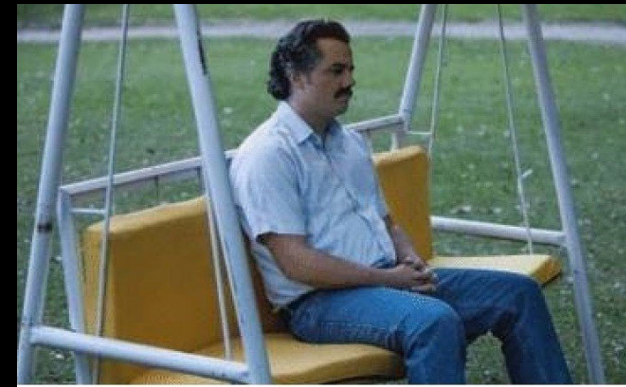
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- **So how do we study neutrinos?**

- We need large detectors
- And large neutrinos fluxes
- A looooot of time





# Neutrino detection 101

- Neutrinos have a very small interaction probability
  - You need more than  $10^{16}$  neutrinos to observe 1 neutrino/s in  $10 \text{ m}^3$  of water
  - *Important:* We don't observe neutrinos directly (weak interaction and no charge), we observe the product of their reactions!!!!!!



- **So how do we study neutrinos?**

- We need large detectors
- And large neutrinos fluxes
- A looooot of time
- Reduce as much as possible other sources of contamination (cosmic radiation for example)



# What we don't know about neutrinos

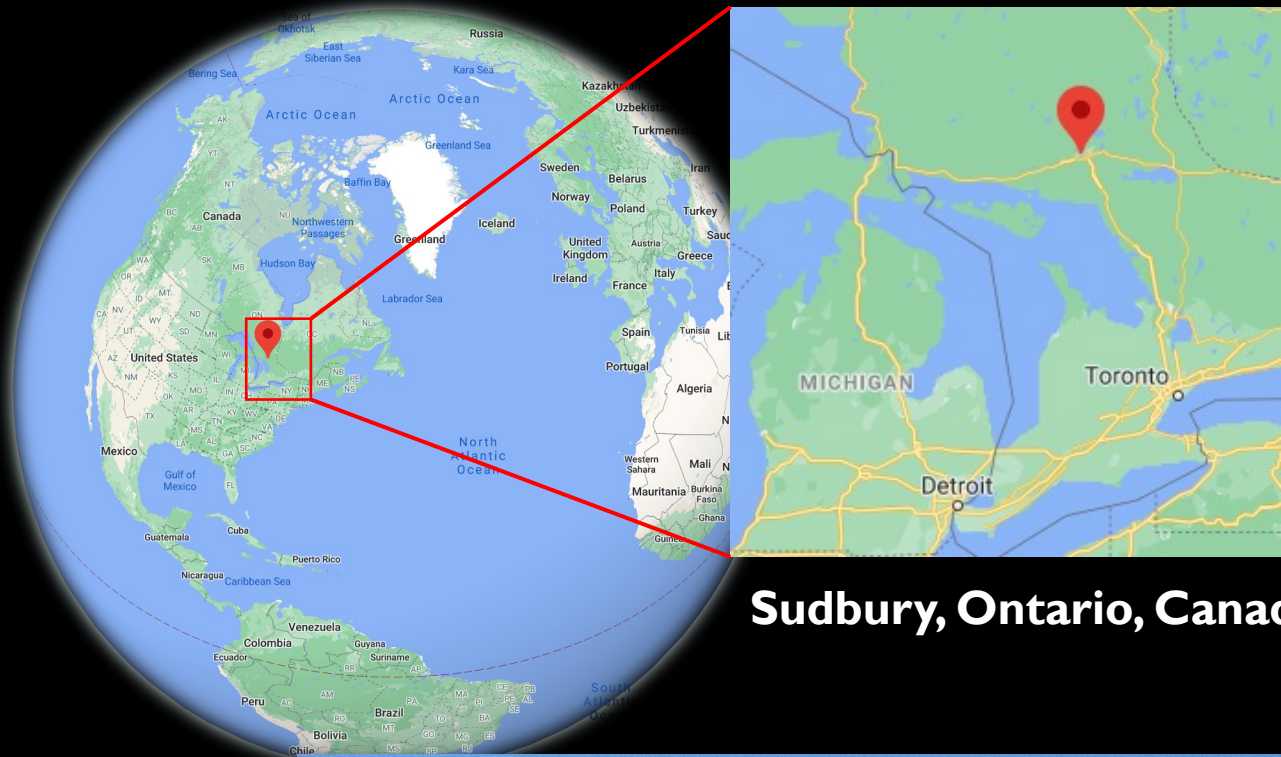
- What is the value of the mass?
- Where do the masses come from?
- How are the masses ordered?
- Is there CP violation in the lepton sector?

**SNO+**

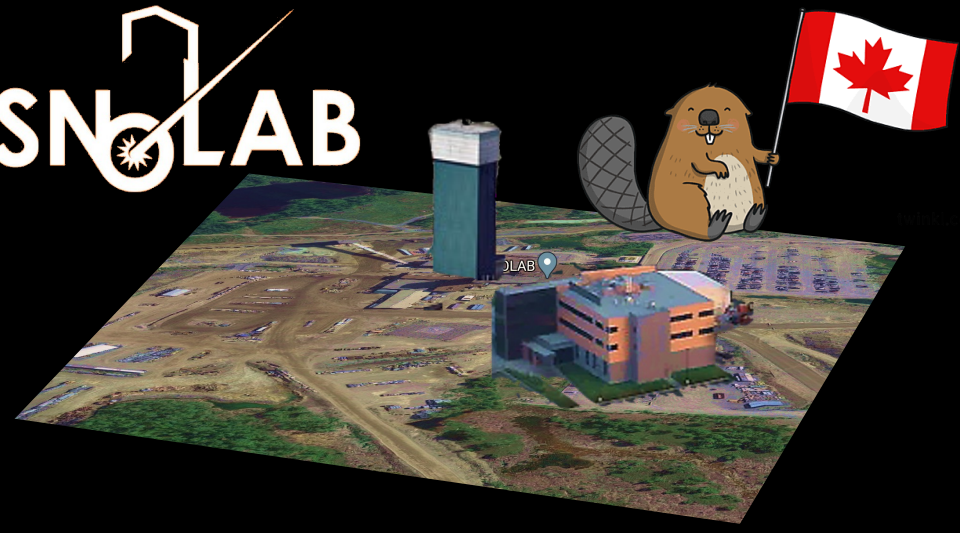
**DUNE**

A visualization of the SNO+ detector, showing a central vertical column of liquid scintillator surrounded by a spherical array of photomultiplier tubes (PMTs). The entire structure is illuminated with a blue glow, and a dense field of small blue dots represents the PMTs. The text 'SNO+' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

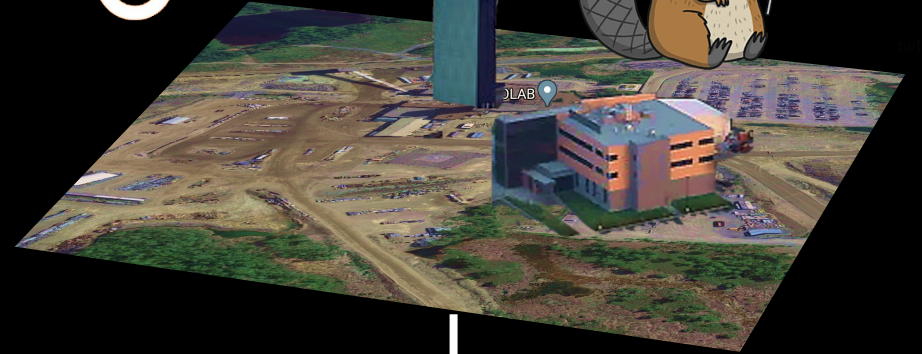
**SNO+**



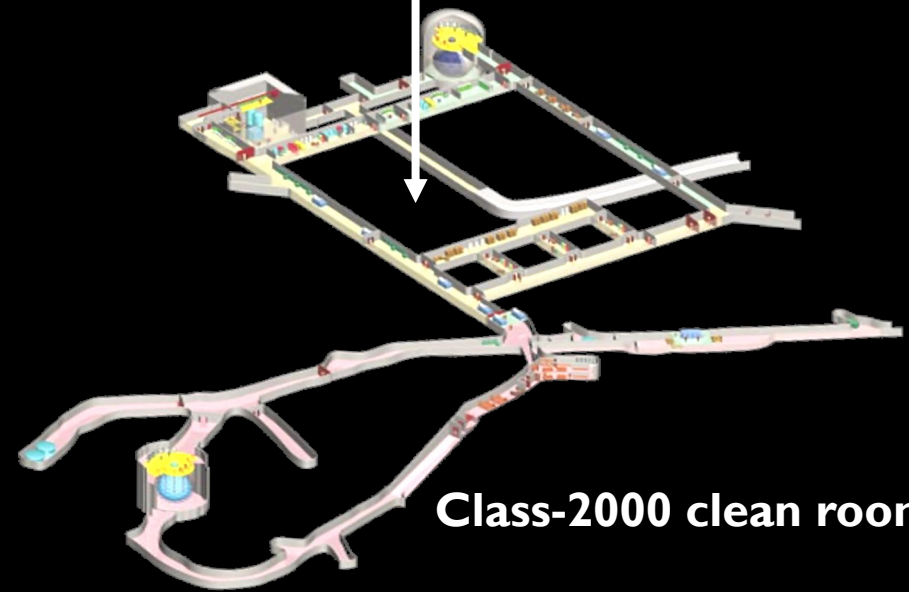
**Sudbury, Ontario, Canada**



**SNOLAB**



**2070m (6000m w.e.)**  
~ 63 cosmic muons/day

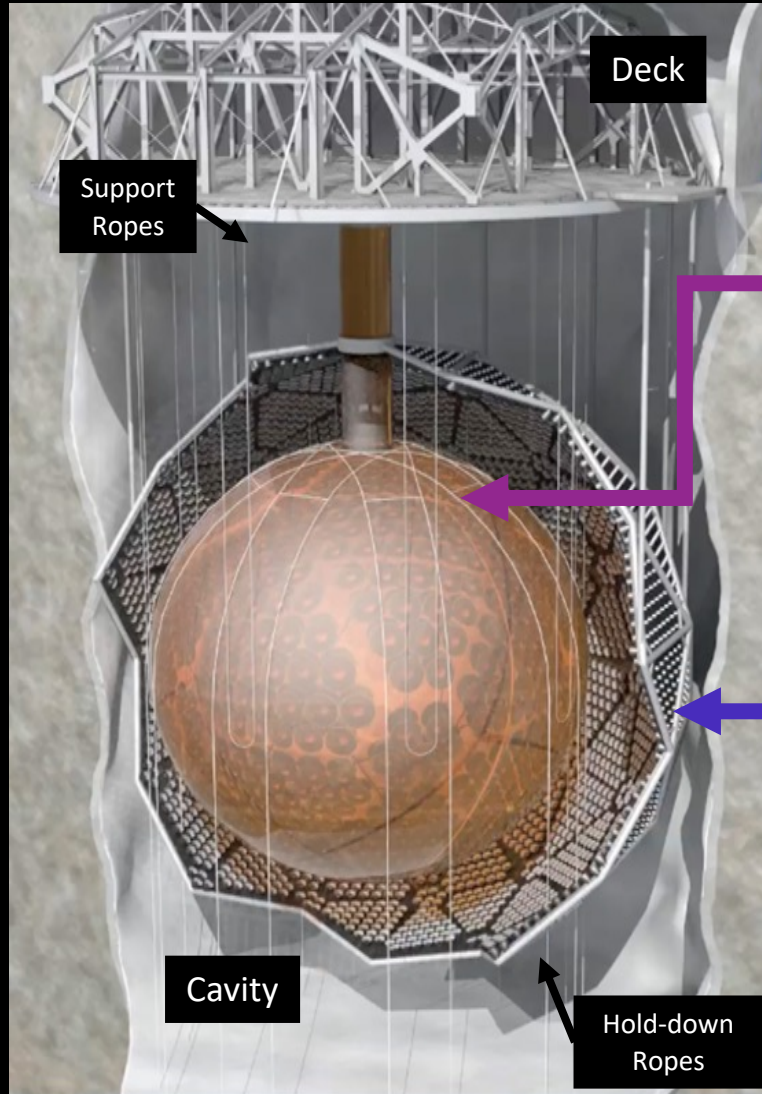


**Class-2000 clean room**



# The SNO+ Detector

At a depth of 2km (rock, ~5900 mwe, ~63 cosmic muons/day)



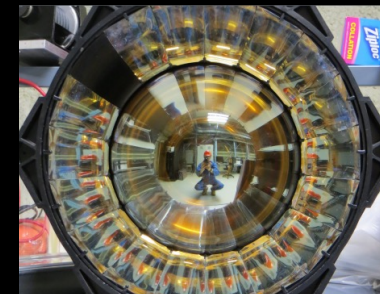
**Acrylic Vessel**  
6 m radius, 5 cm thickness

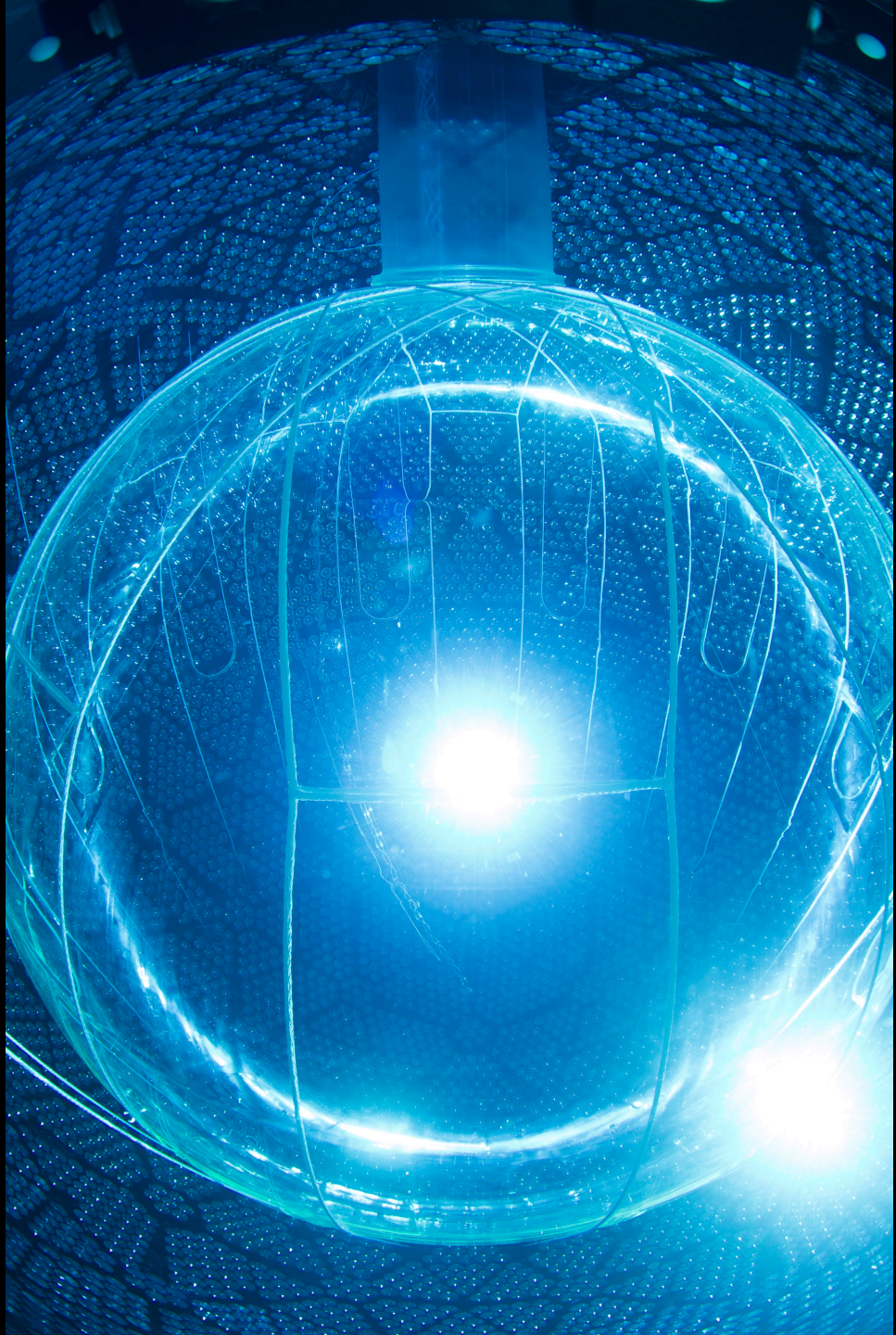
905 tonnes of ultra-pure water

780 tonnes of Liquid Scintillator

+ 3.9 tonnes of natural Tellurium

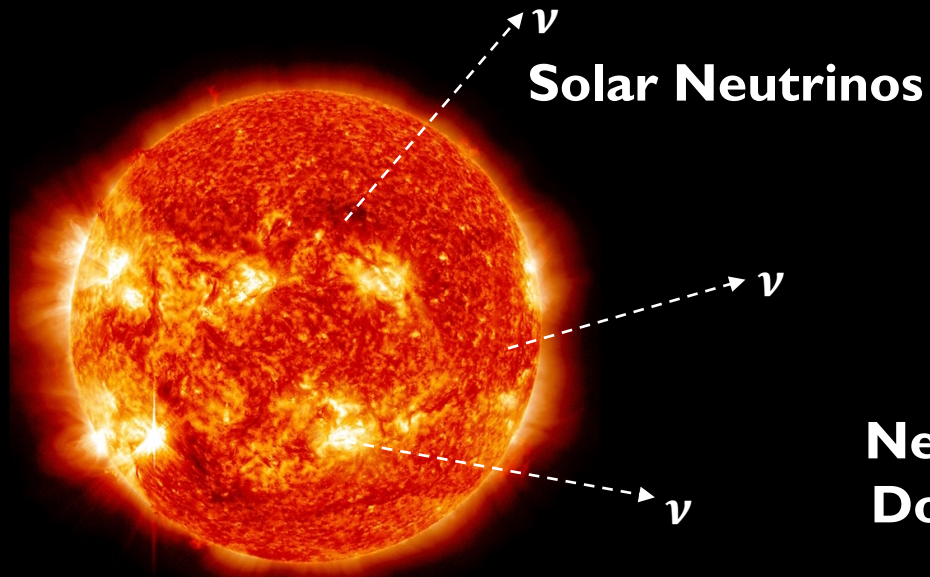
**PMT Support Structure**  
8.9 m radius, holds 9400 PMTs +  
Concentrators



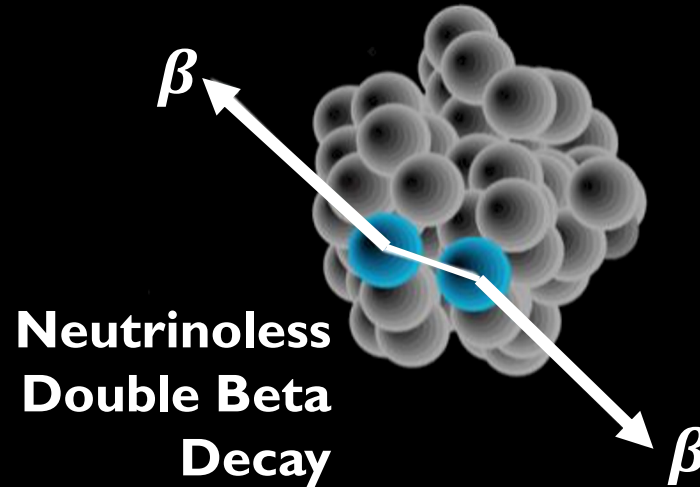




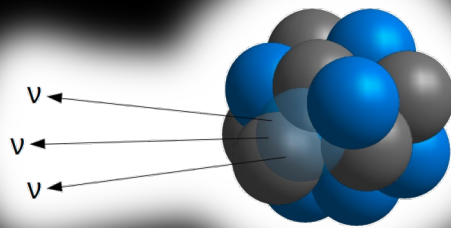
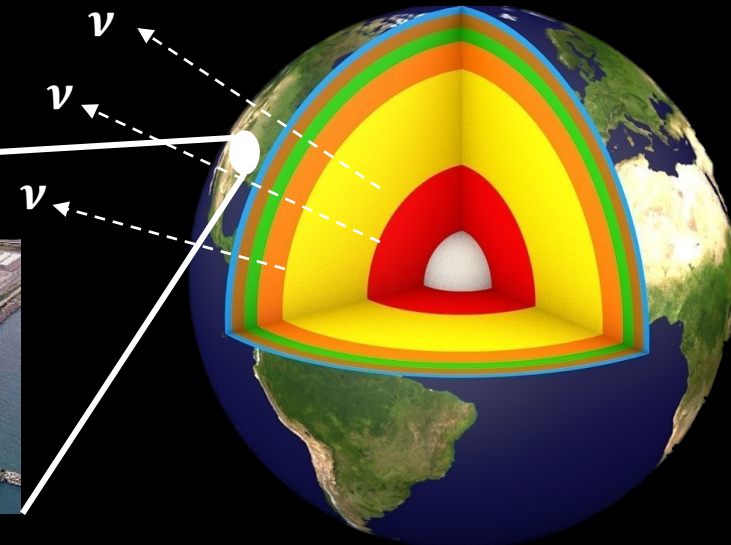
# Physics Programme



**Supernova  
Neutrinos**



**Geo-neutrinos**



**Reactor Anti-Neutrinos**

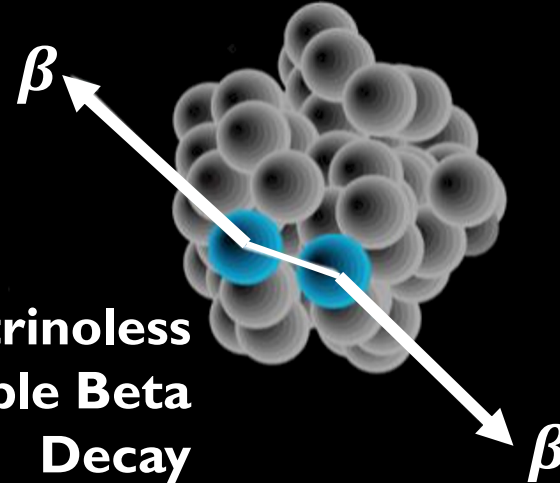
# Physics Programme

Supernova  
Neutrinos

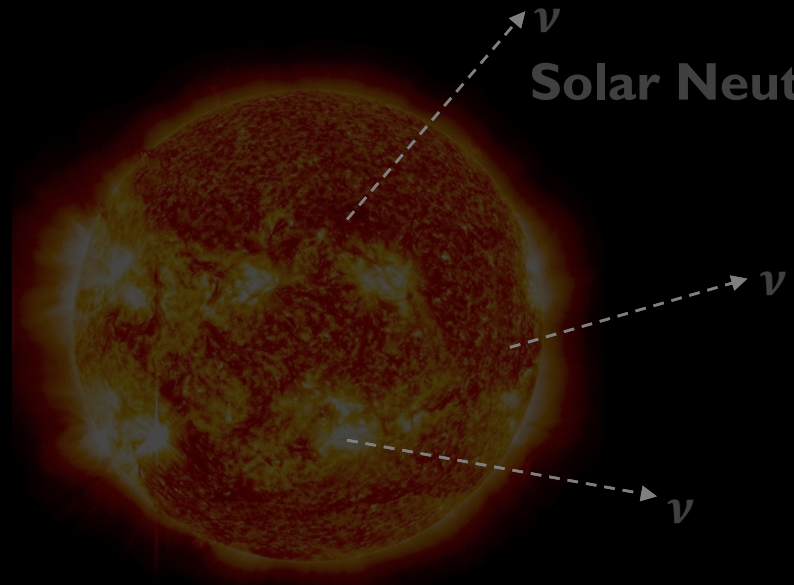


Solar Neutrinos

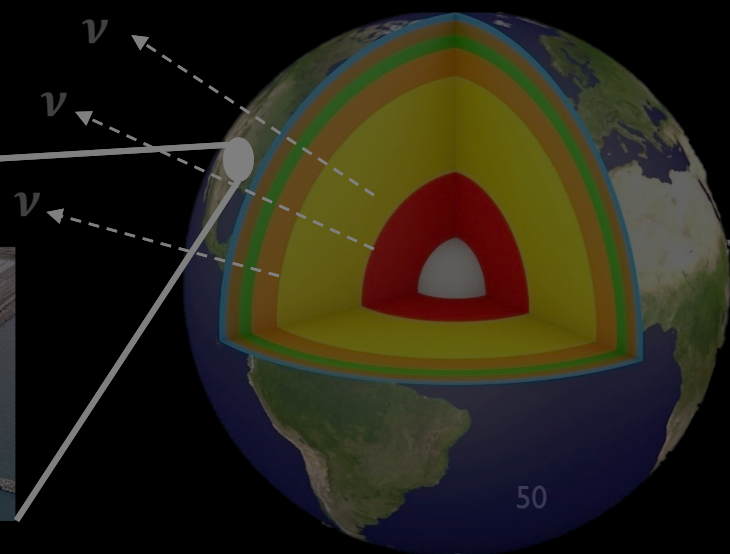
**Main Goal**



Neutrinoless  
Double Beta  
Decay

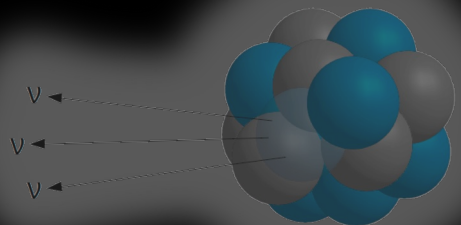


Geo-neutrinos



50

Invisible Nucleon  
Decay

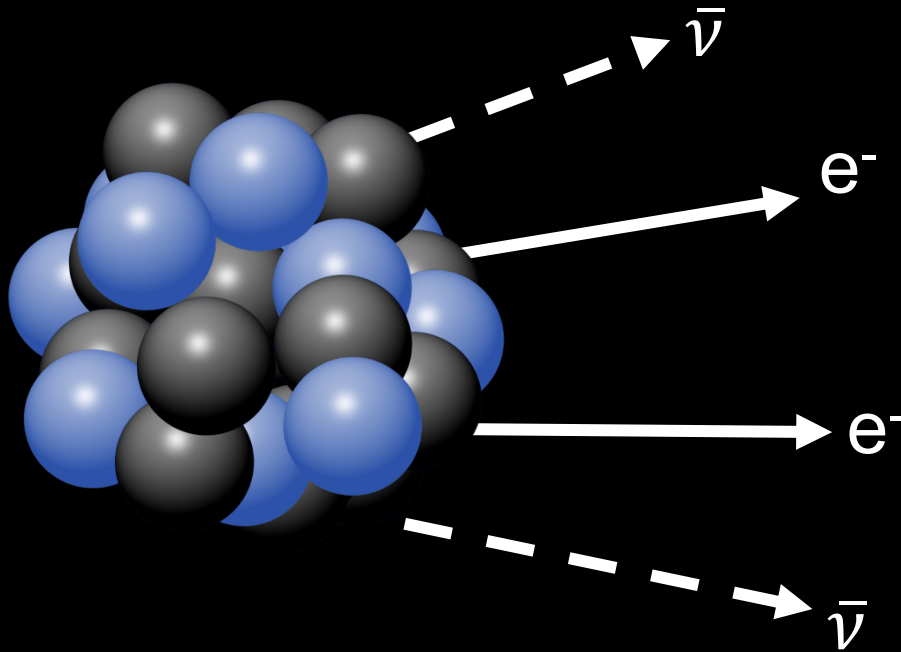


Reactor Anti-Neutrinos

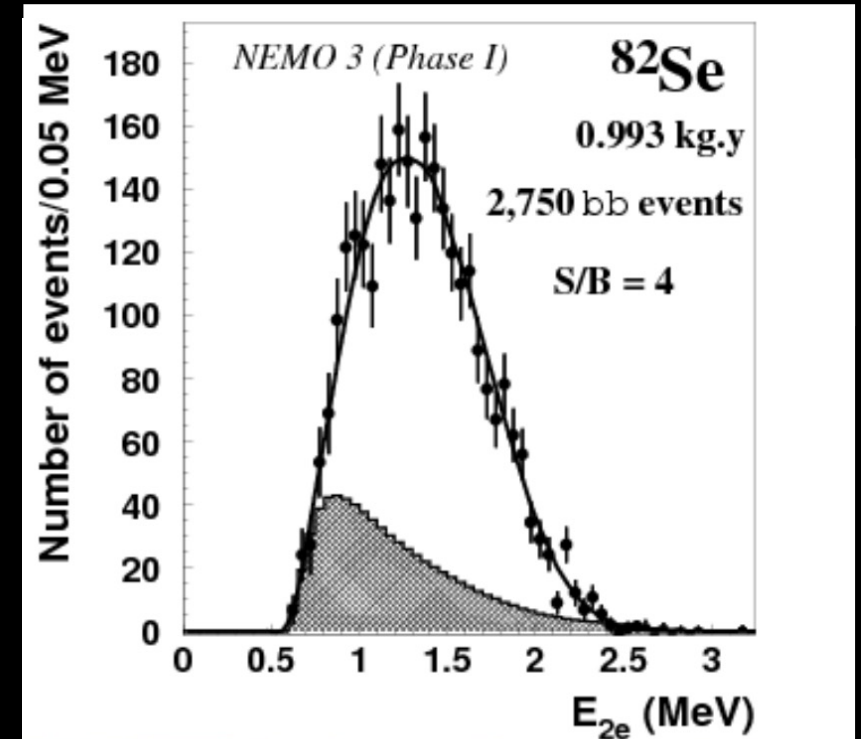


# $2\nu$ Double Beta Decay

A rare nuclear decay through which some nuclei reach stability.

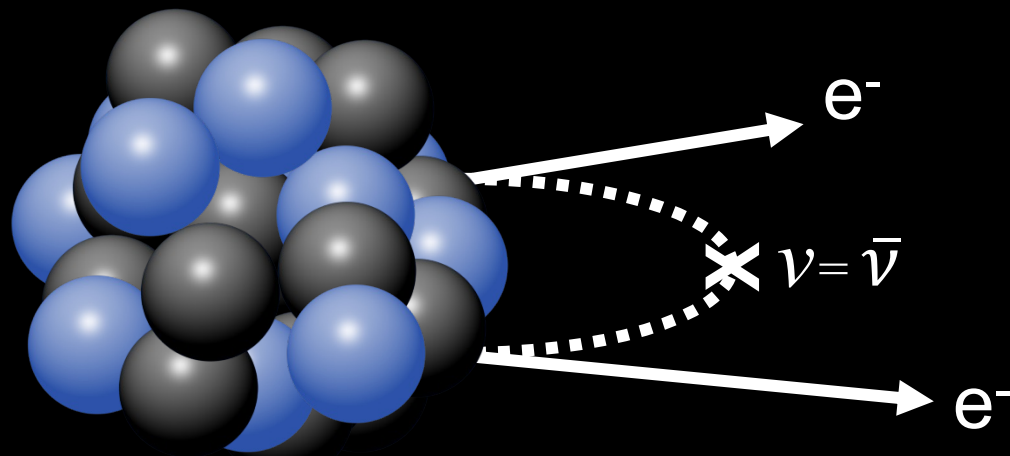


- Possible when normal beta decay is not energetically allowed.
- Can happen for 35 natural isotopes.  
Observed in 11:  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ,  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ,  $^{130}\text{Te}$ ,  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ...
- Long half-lives between  $10^{19}$  and  $10^{24}$  years.

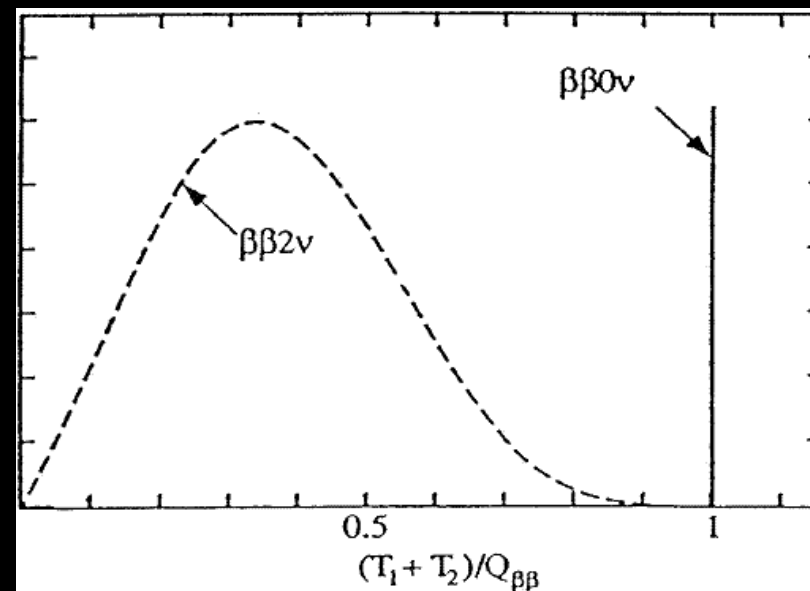


Detected Kinetic Energy of the Two Electrons/Q

# $0\nu$ Double Beta Decay



- Possible if neutrinos are Majorana particles (their own anti-particles).
- Violates lepton number conservation.
- Rate depends on the effective electron neutrino Majorana mass.

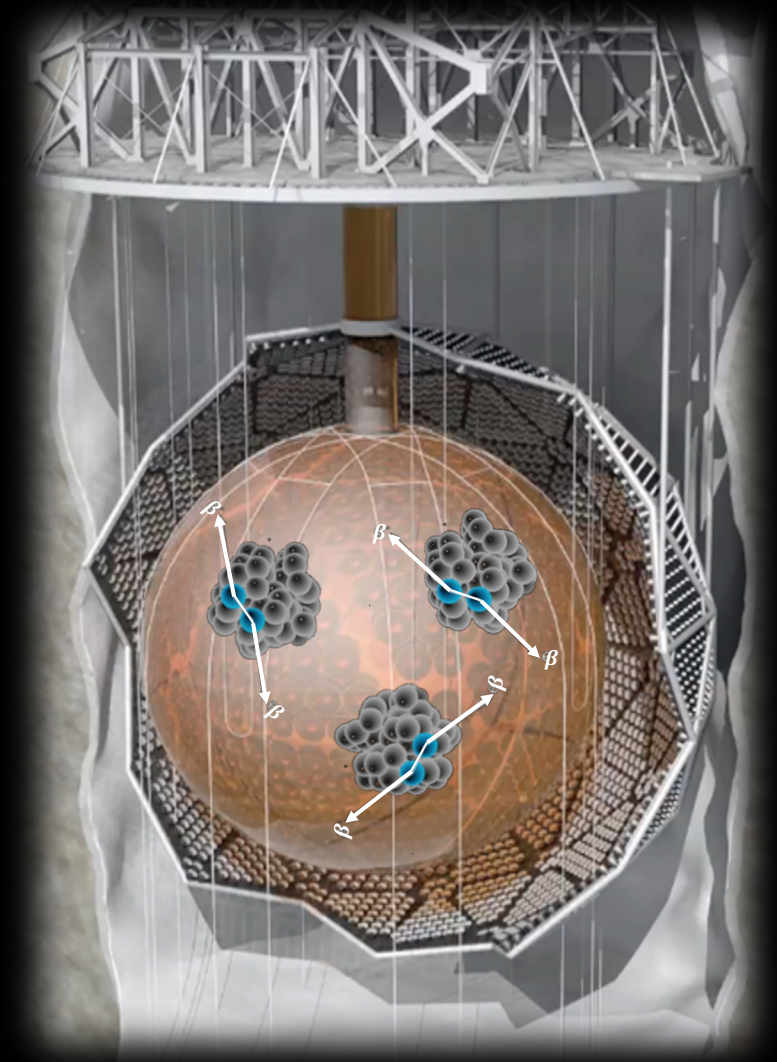


$$\left[ T_{0\nu}^{1/2} \right]^{-1} = G_{0\nu} |\mathcal{M}_{0\nu}|^2 \left| \frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e} \right|^2$$

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_{i=1,2,3} e^{i\xi_i} |U_{ei}^2| m_i \right|$$

# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Search in SNO+

What are the advantages?

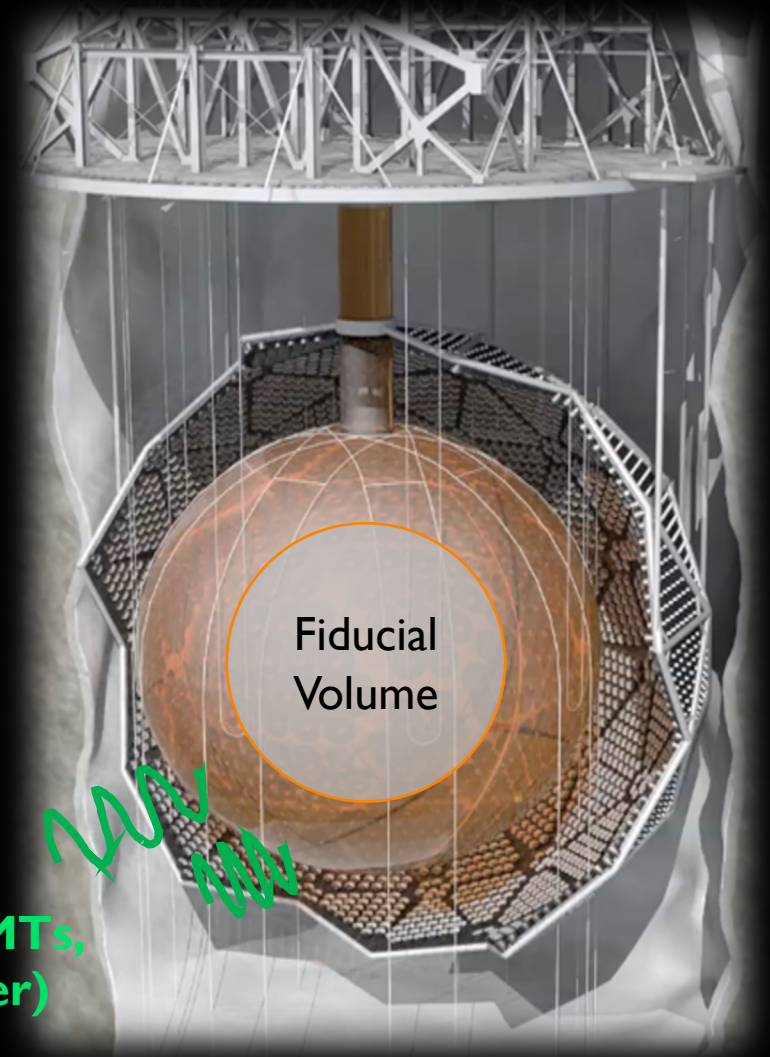


# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Search in SNO+

What are the advantages?

1. Massive detector
  - High statistics
  - Self-shielding from external backgrounds through fiducialization.

External  
gammas  
(ropes, PMTs,  
rock, water)

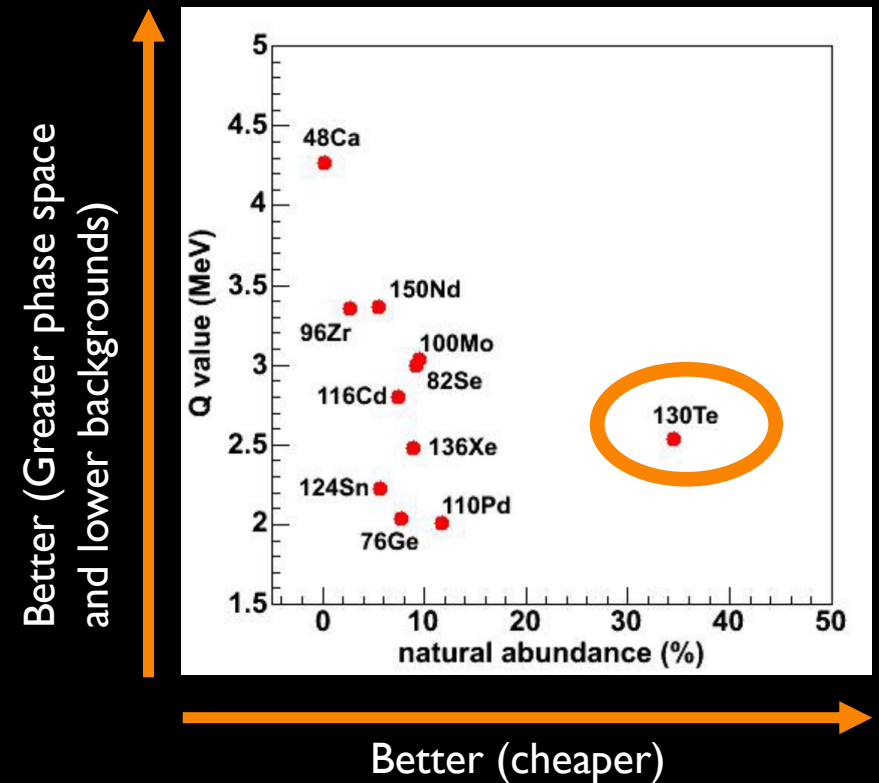


# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Search in SNO+

What are the advantages?

1. Massive detector
  - High statistics
  - Self-shielding from external backgrounds through fiducialization.
2.  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay candidate:  $^{130}\text{Te}$ 
  - Highest natural abundance (34%), no enrichment needed – easily scalable at low cost.
  - Q-value at 2.527 MeV – less background from natural radioactivity
  - Initial phase loading: 0.5% natural Te by weight  
= 1333 kg of  $^{130}\text{Te}$ .

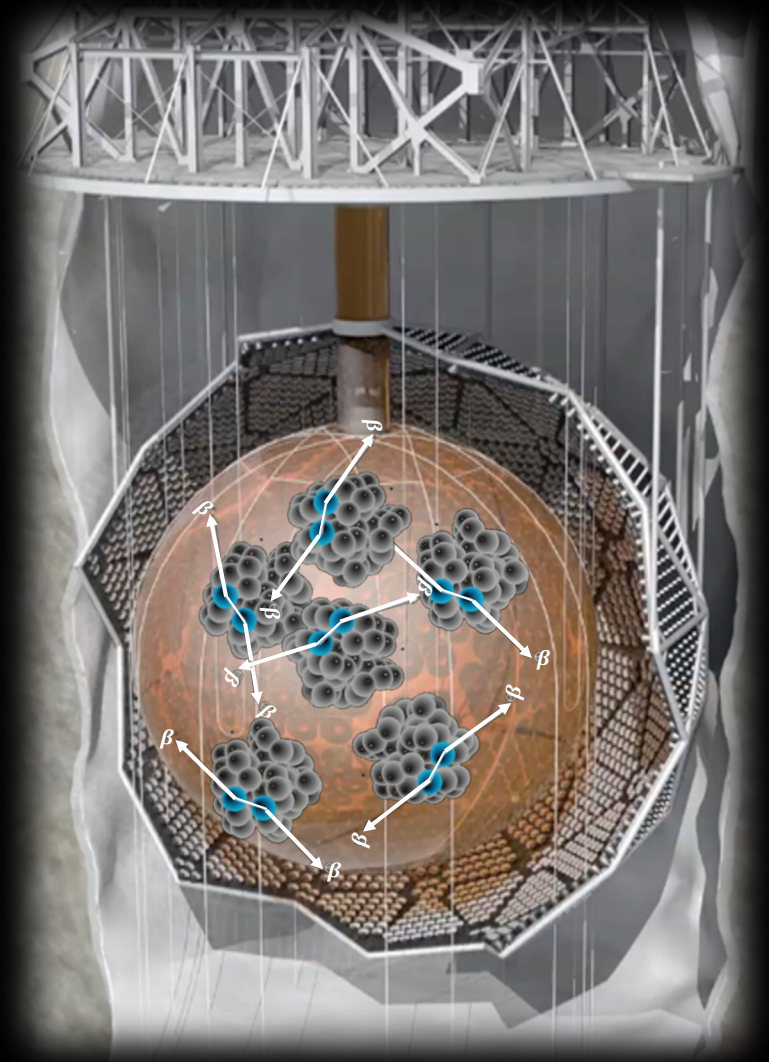
← **Ton-scale!**



# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Search in SNO+

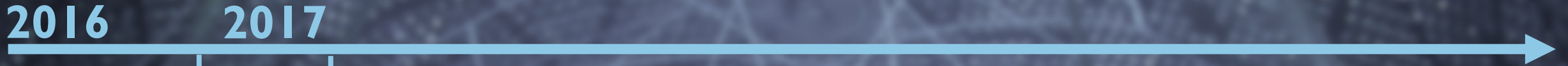
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  - Highest natural abundance (34%), no enrichment needed – easily scalable at low cost.
  - Q-value at 2.527 MeV – less background from natural radioactivity
3. Liquid scintillator
  - Can be purified
  - Loading can be scaled





# SNO+ Timeline

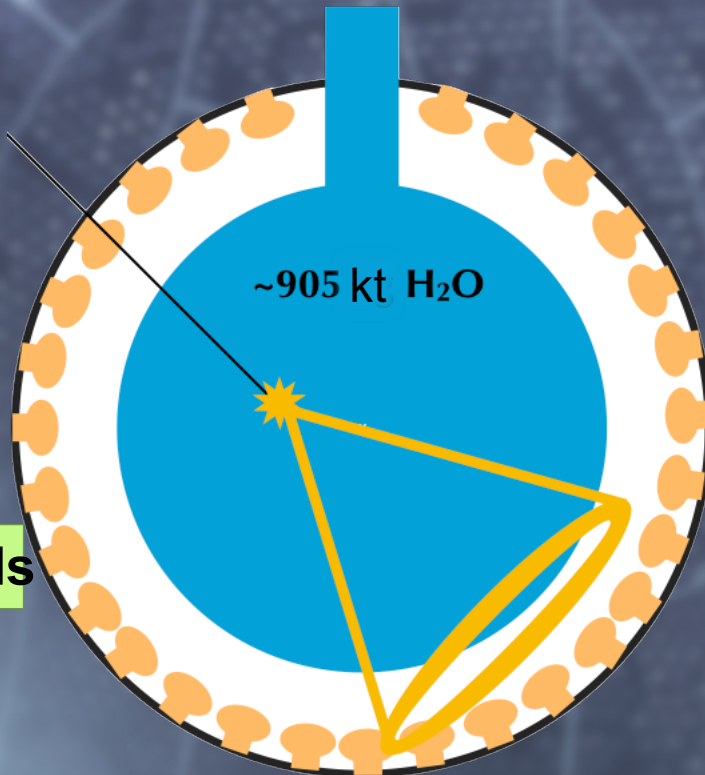


Dec. 2016  
Started taking  
commissioning data

May 2017  
Start of the  
Water Phase

Detector Calibration

Measure External Backgrounds

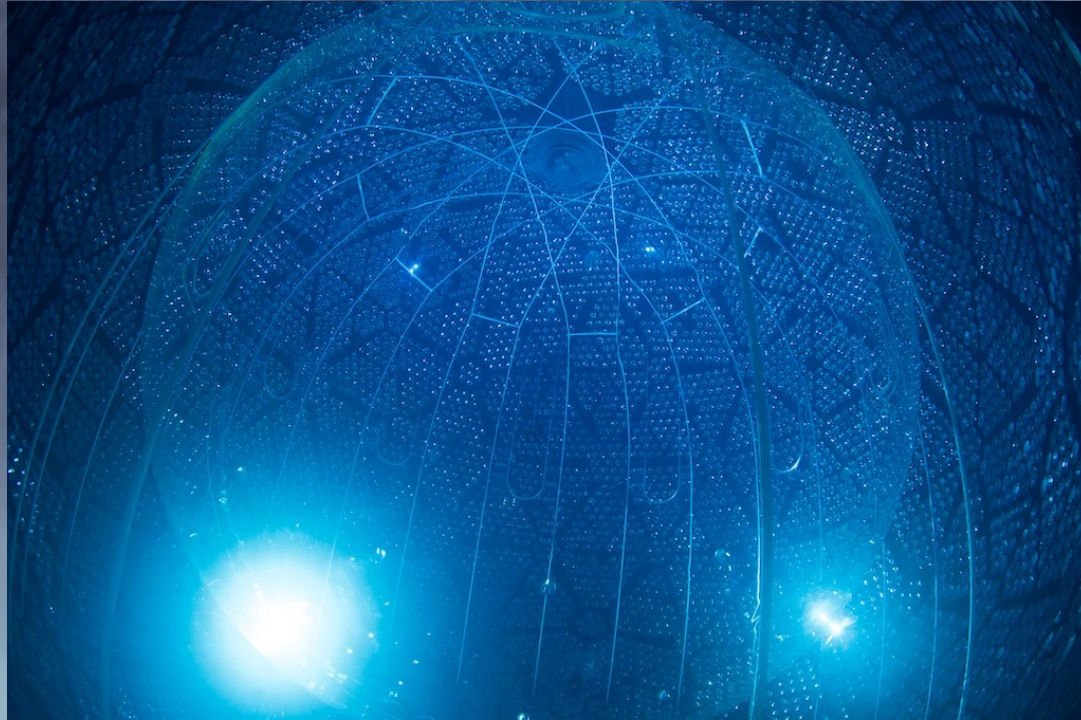


<sup>8</sup>B Solar Neutrinos

Nucleon Decay Searches

Neutron response  
and Anti-neutrinos

# SNO+ Timeline



# SNO+ Timeline

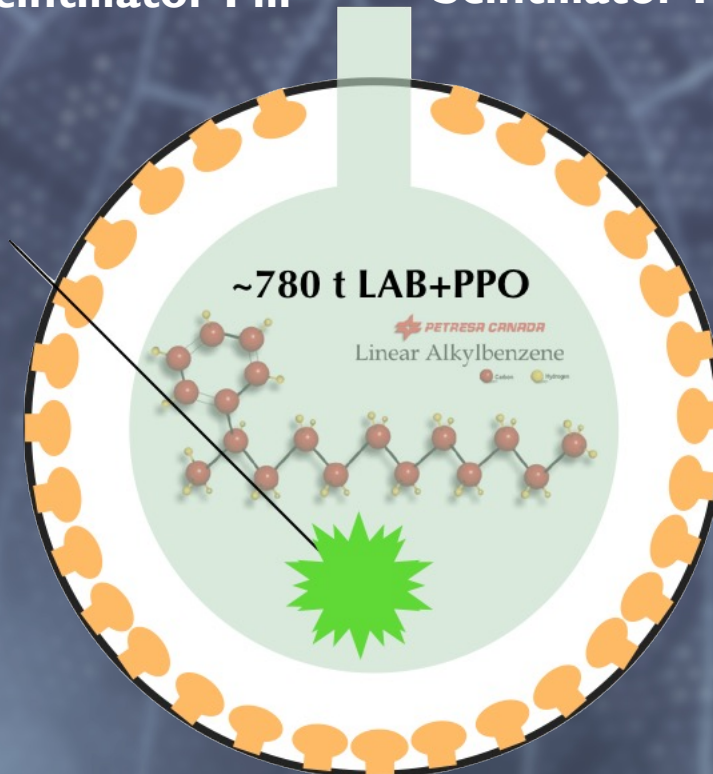


**$^8\text{B}$  + Low Energy Solar Neutrinos**

**Reactor Anti-neutrinos**

**Nucleon Decay Searches**

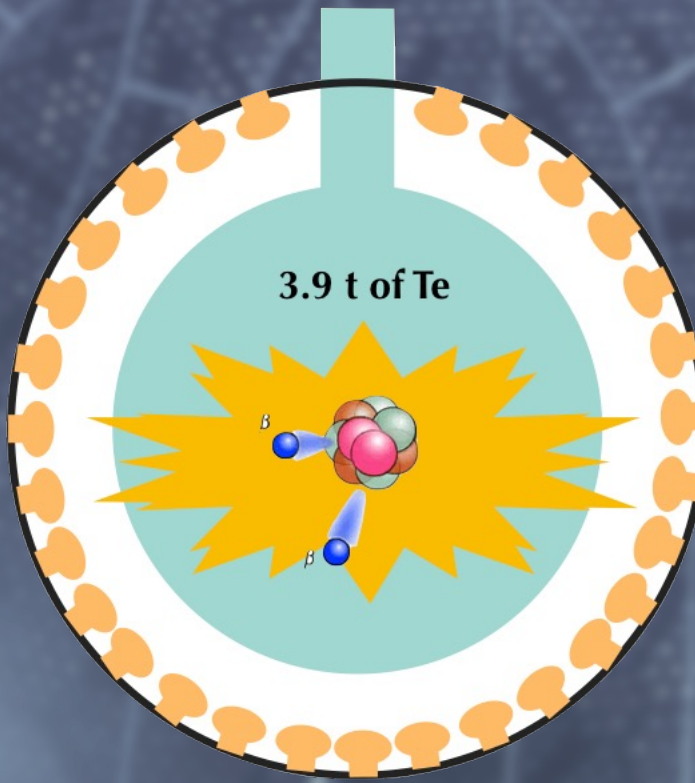
**Geo Anti-Neutrinos**



Measurement of Internal Backgrounds before adding the Tellurium

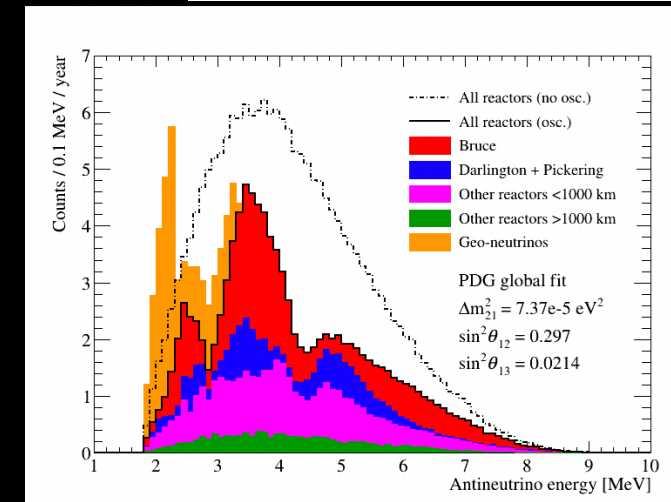
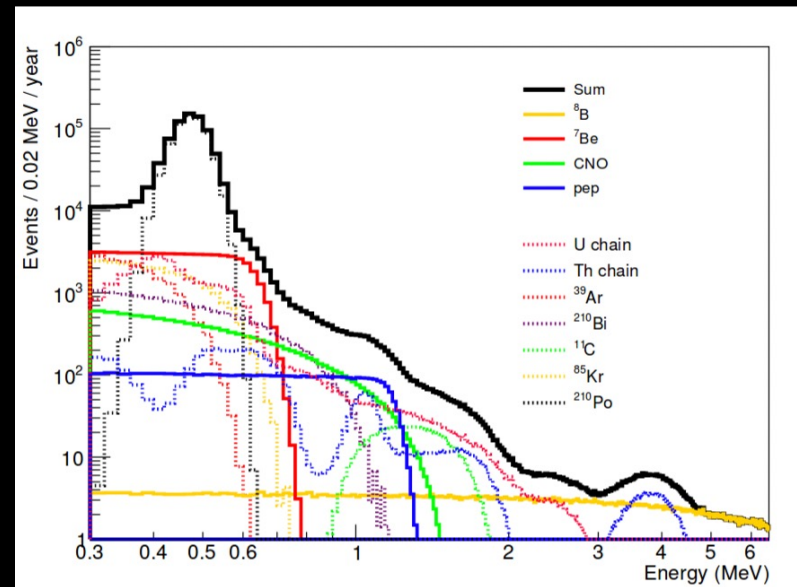
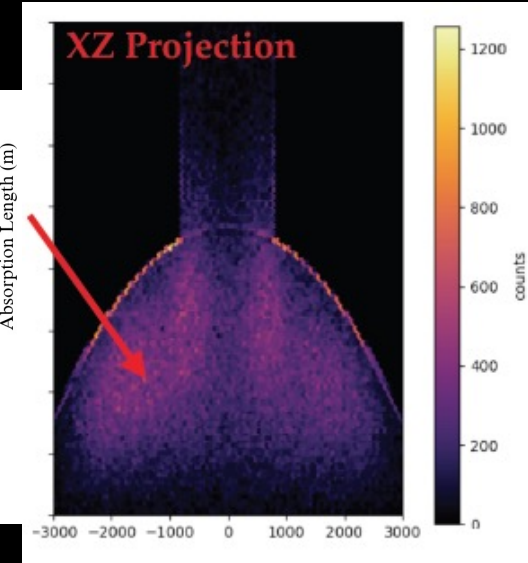
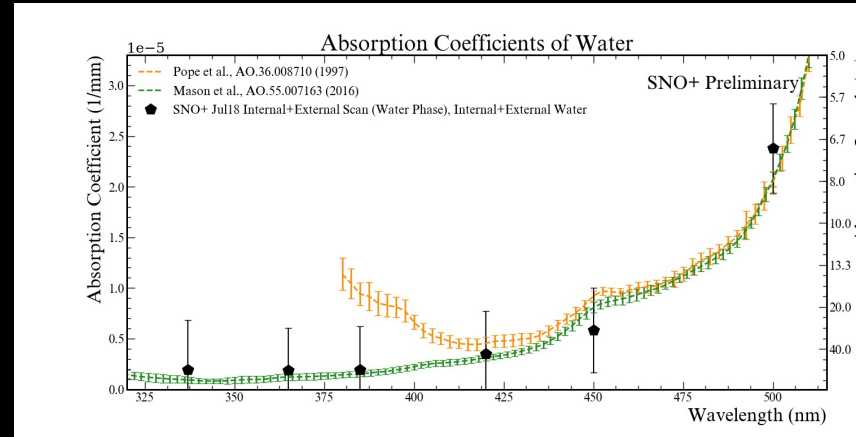
Perform a "target out"  $\beta\beta$  analysis  
→ prepare/test analysis and techniques using real data  
→ determine count rate in the ROI in the absence of Tellurium

# SNO+ Timeline



# SNO+ Activities @LIP

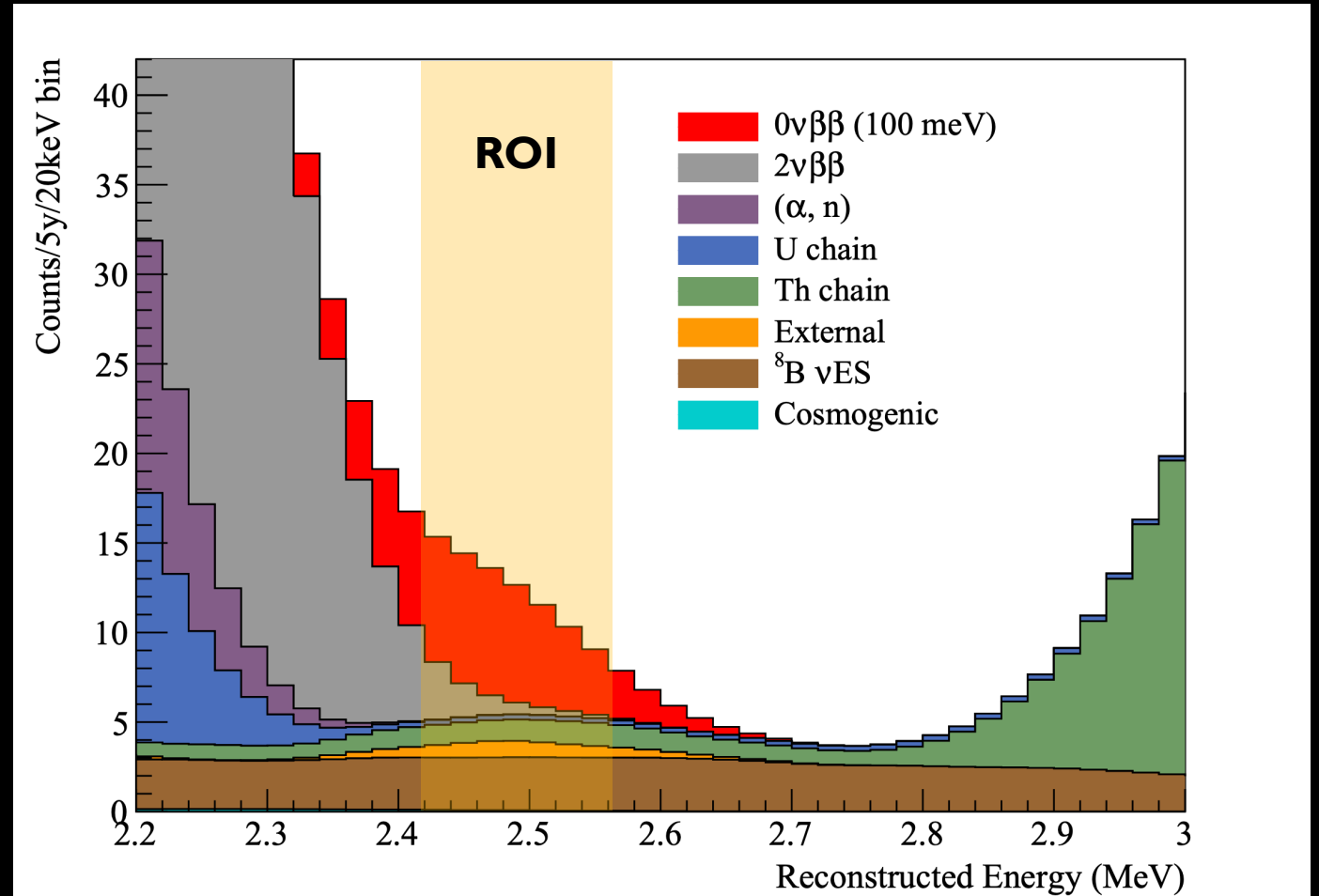
- **Detector calibration**
  - Optical and Radioactive sources
- **Background events**
  - Water/Scintillator characterisation
- **Data analysis**
  - Cosmic muons in SNO+
  - Solar neutrinos
  - Reactor anti-neutrinos
  - $0\nu\beta\beta$



# SNO+ Tellurium Phase - Prospects

Expected Energy Spectrum after 5 Years with 0.5% Te loading, Fiducial Volume of 3.3 m radius

Expect 9.47 events / year in the ROI (with our target background levels)



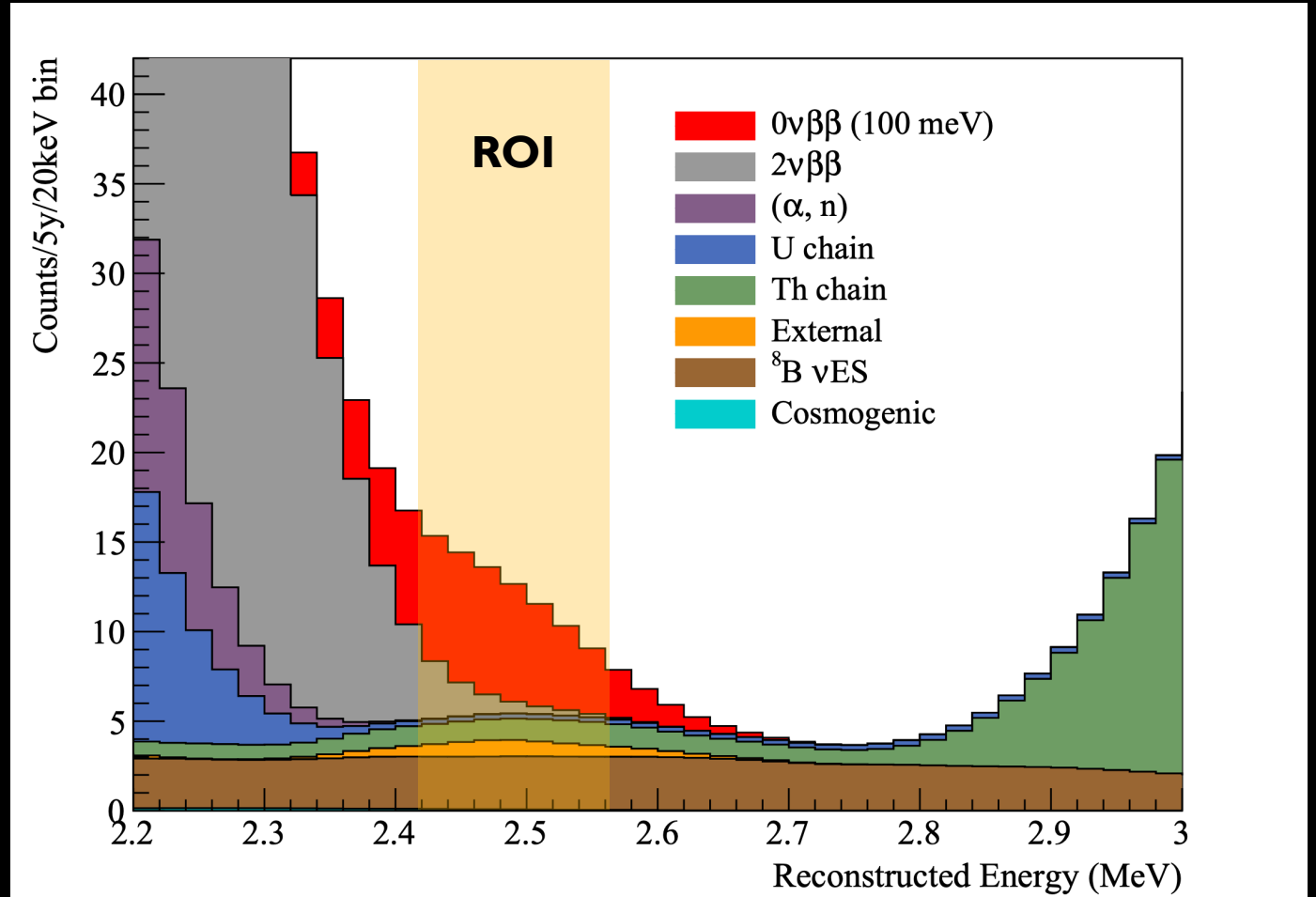
# SNO+ Tellurium Phase - Prospects

Expected Energy Spectrum after 5 Years with 0.5% Te loading, Fiducial Volume of 3.3 m radius

From a simple counting analysis, for 5 years, in an optimized energy ROI and fiducial volume



Expected Half-Life Sensitivity  $> 2.1 \times 10^{26}$  years  
 $m_{\beta\beta}$  range 37-89 meV (model dependent)



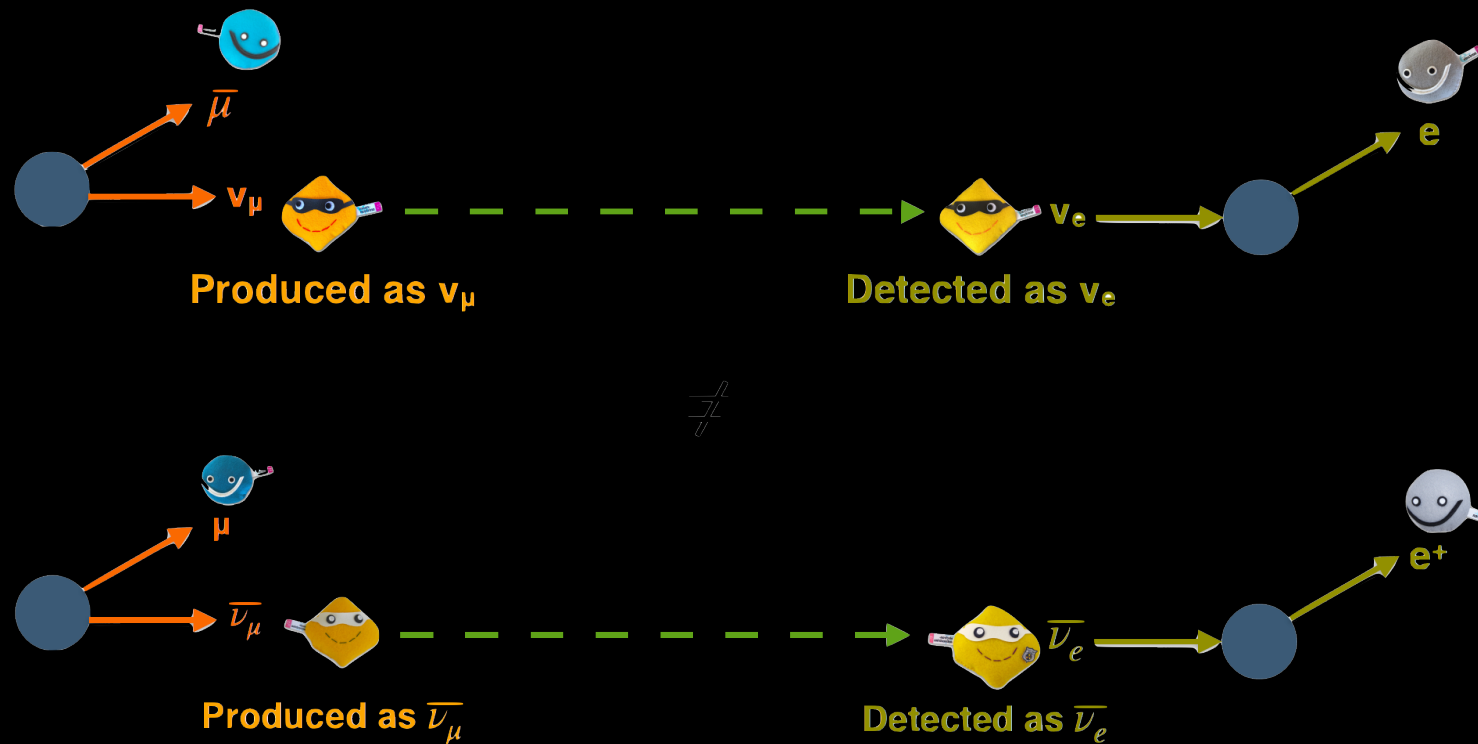
A large, golden, metallic tunnel with a person standing in the distance. The tunnel is constructed from a grid of metal panels, creating a complex, geometric pattern. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the texture of the metal. A person is visible in the distance, providing a sense of scale to the massive structure. The word "DUNE" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# DUNE

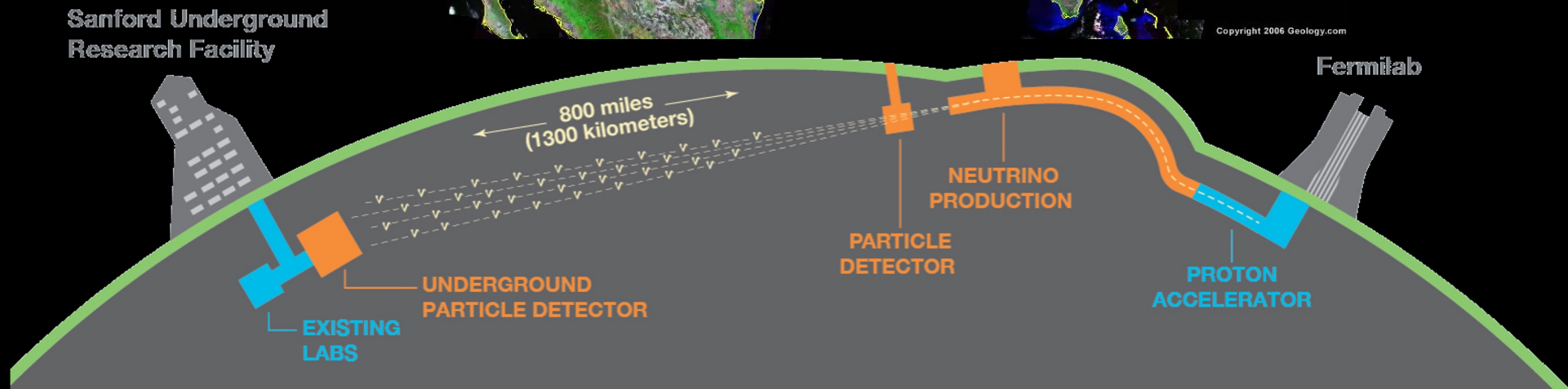
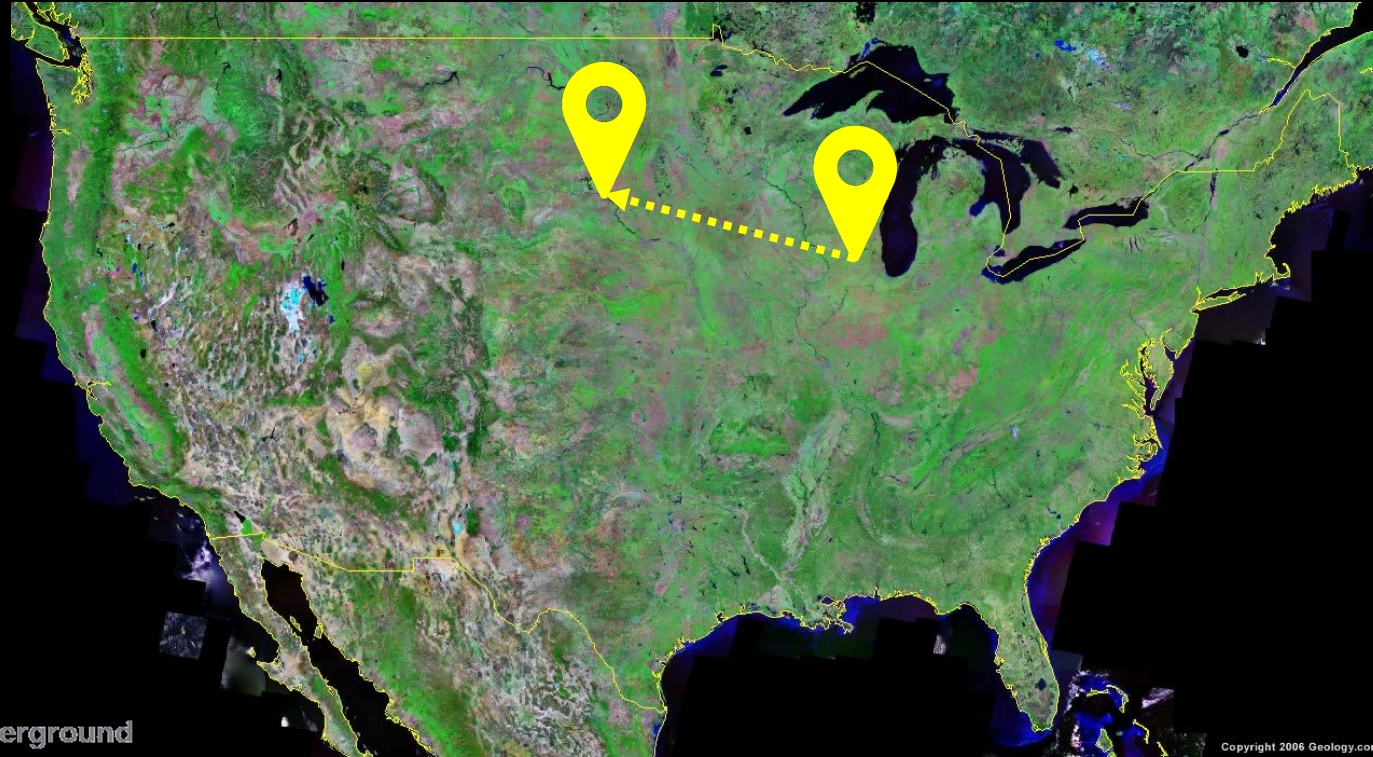


# Is there CP violation in the lepton sector?

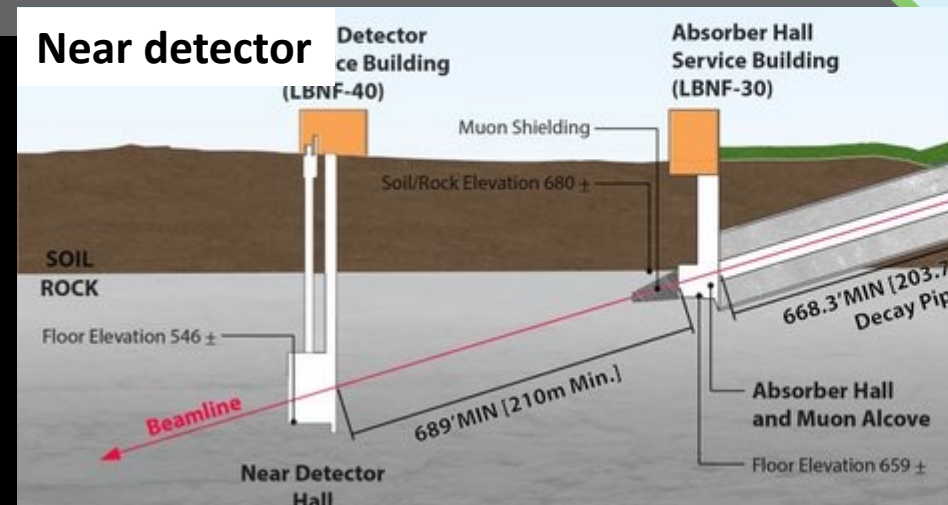
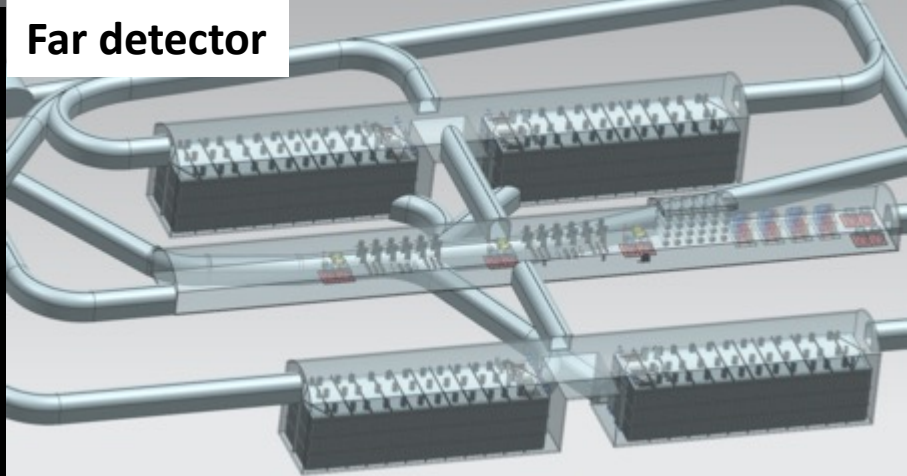
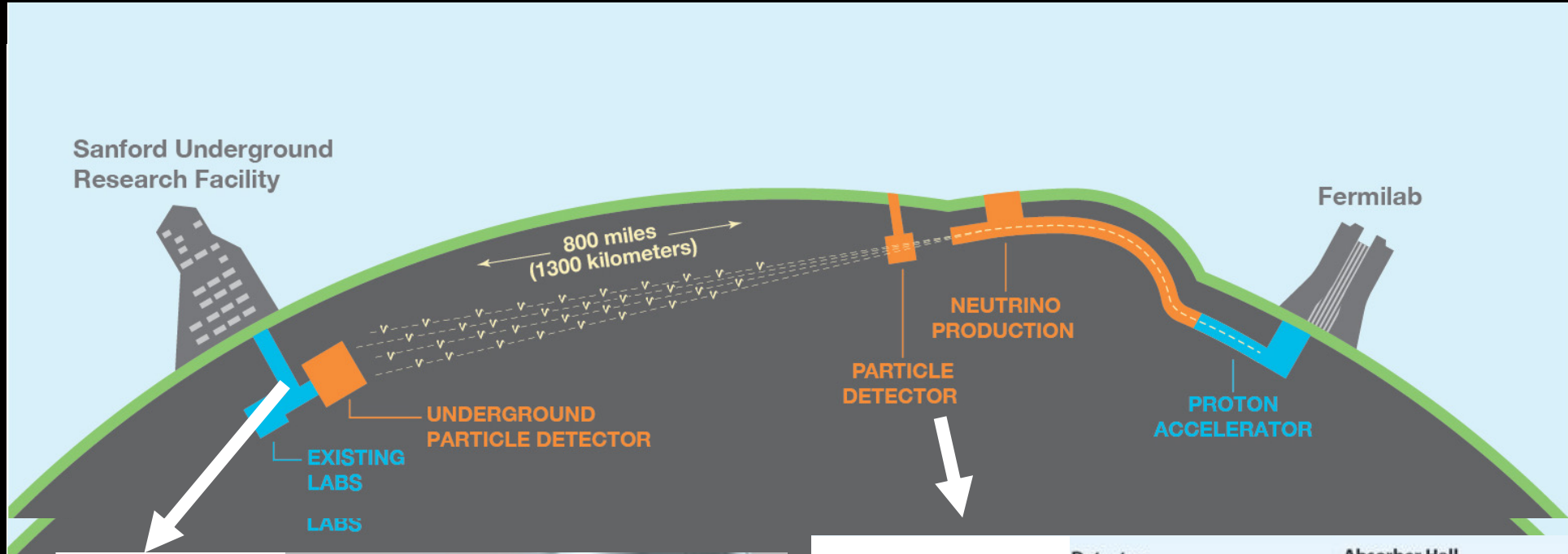
- If neutrino's interactions DO NOT conserve CP, neutrino and antineutrinos oscillations are different!



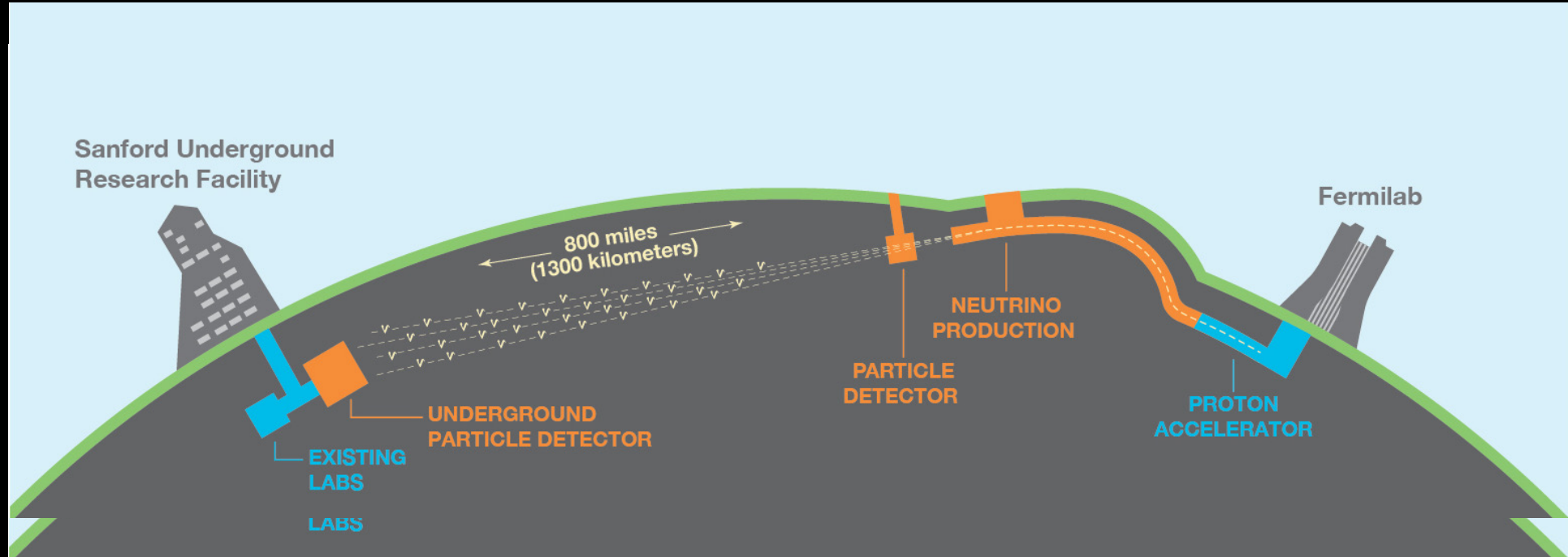
# The Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment



# The Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment



# The Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment



## ★ Neutrino Oscillation Physics

- ◎ High sensitivity for leptonic CP violation
- ◎ Identify the neutrino mass hierarchy
- ◎ Precision oscillation physics

## ★ Proton Decay

- ◎ Target SUSY-favored mode  $p \rightarrow K^+ \nu ND$

## ★ SN burst physics and astrophysics

- ◎ Galactic core collapse supernova
- ◎ unique sensitivity to  $\nu_e$

## ★ Atmospheric Neutrinos

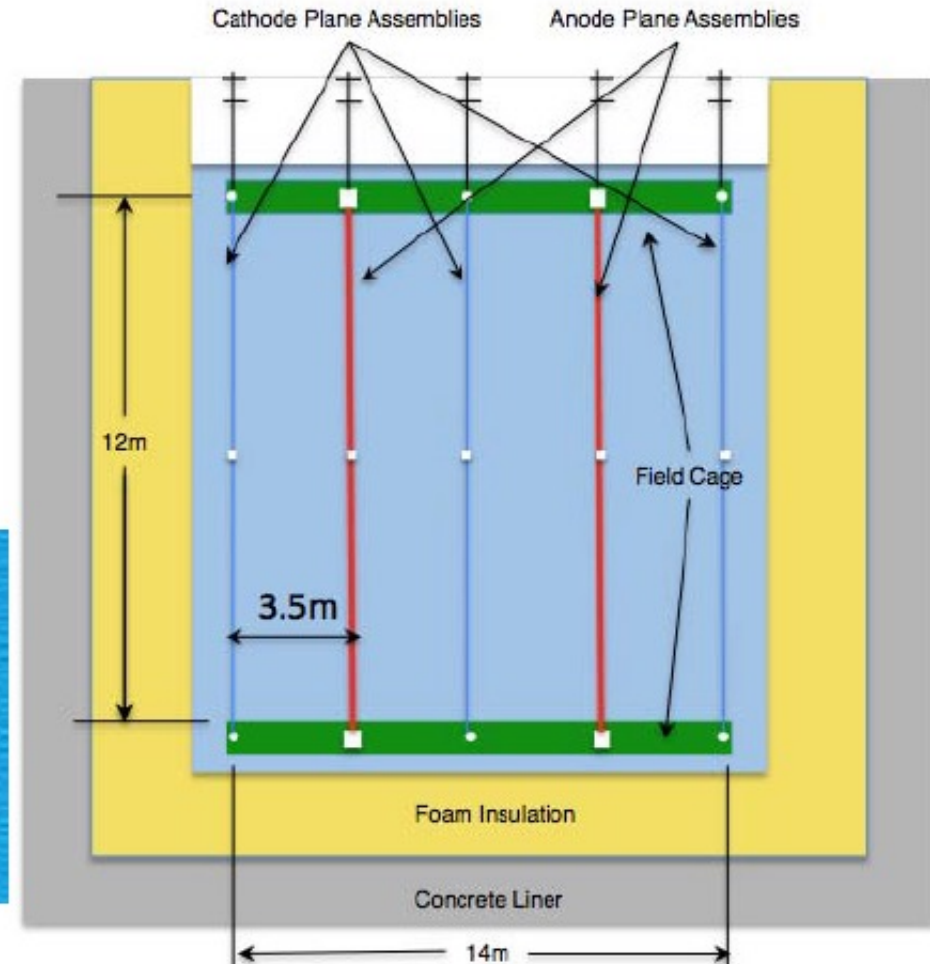
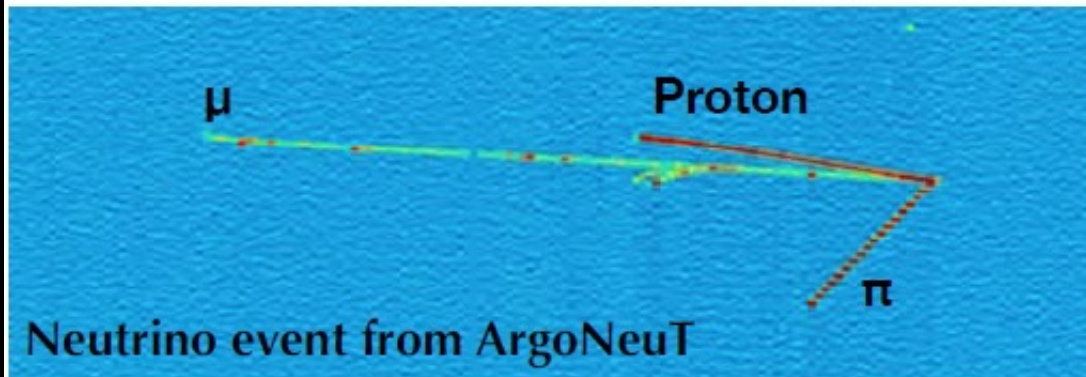
## ★ Solar neutrinos (similar approach as SN)

## ★ Neutrino Interaction Physics (Near Detector)

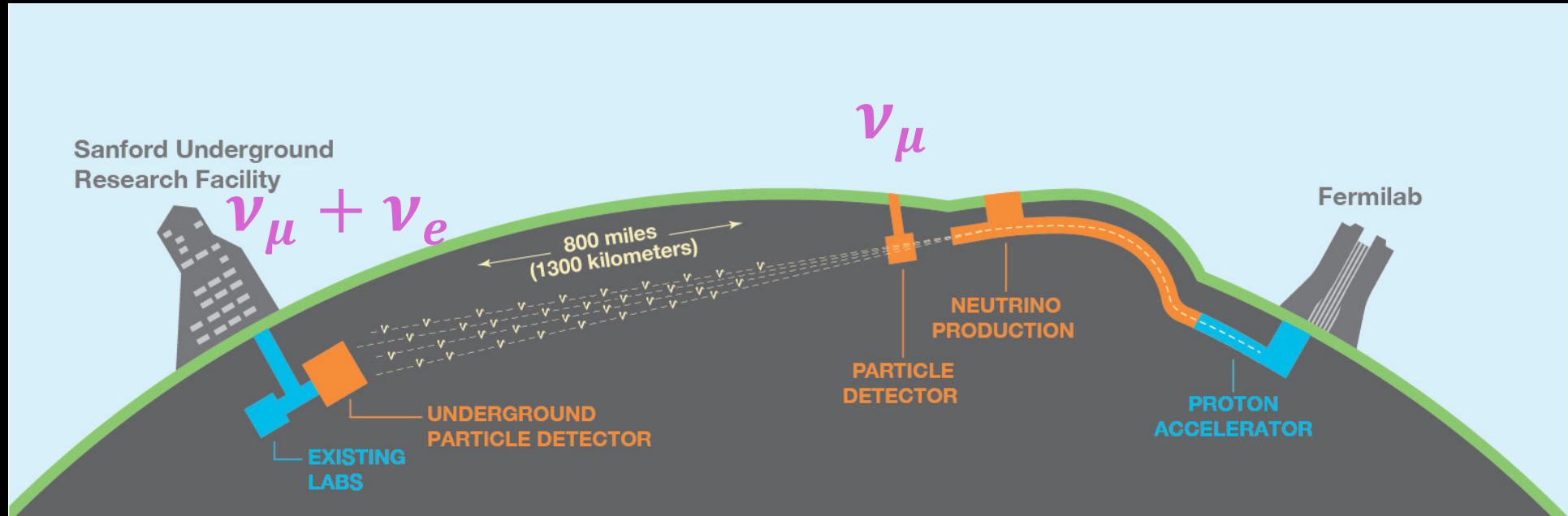
# The Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment

\*\* Liquid Argon Time Projection Chambers

\*\* Full measurement of all particle tracks  $\rightarrow$  more information than in water Cherenkov detector



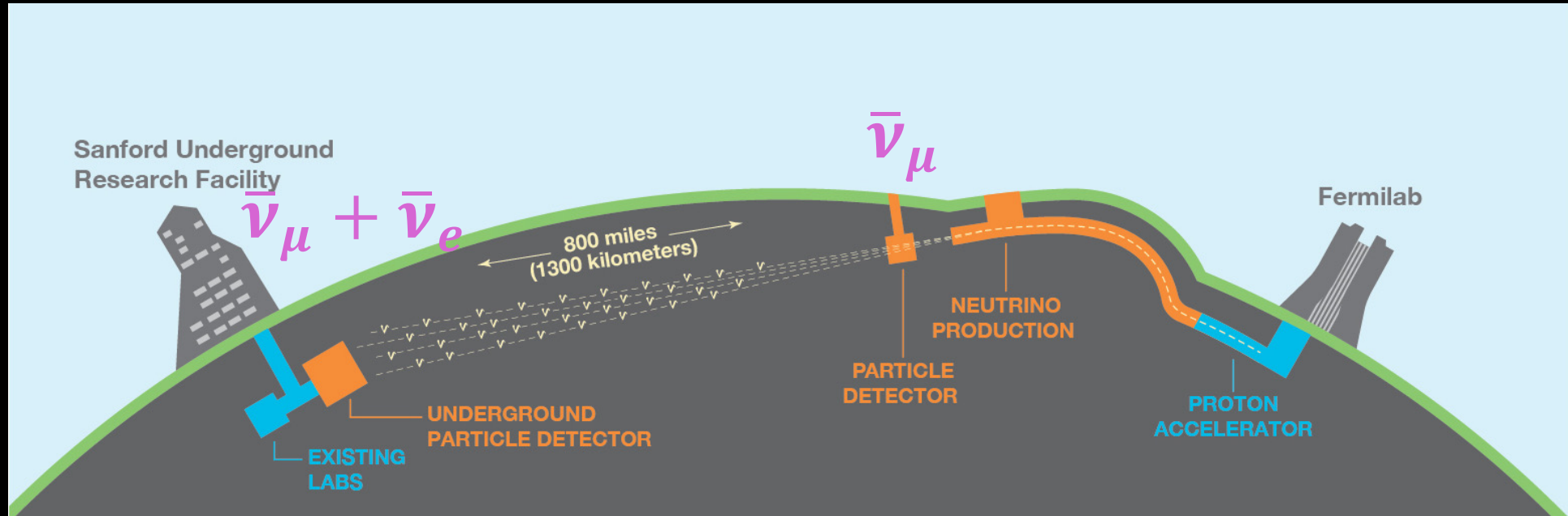
# The Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment



Measure a **neutrino beam** at long distance...

Near detector at Fermilab: measurement of  $\nu_\mu$  unoscillated beam  
Far detector at SURF: measure oscillated  $\nu_\mu$  and  $\nu_e$

# The Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment



...and then repeat for **antineutrinos**

Compare oscillations of neutrinos and antineutrinos  
Direct probe of CP violation in the neutrino sector

# DUNE Activities @LIP

- **Detector calibration**

- Hardware design (laser, n-source)
- Analysis of calibration data

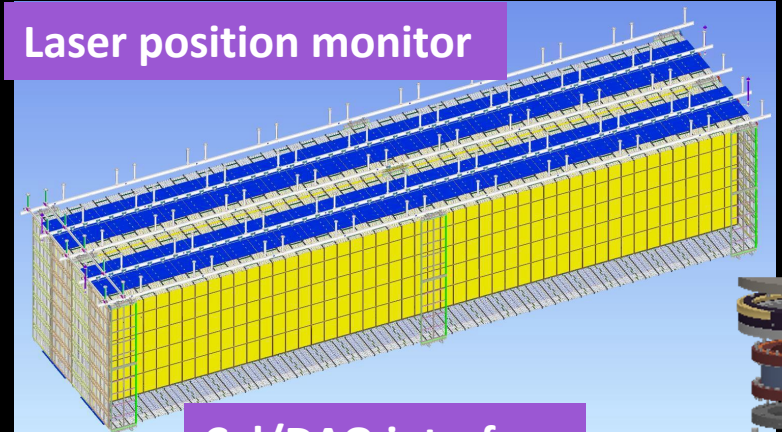
- **DAQ**

- Electronics design
- Data quality

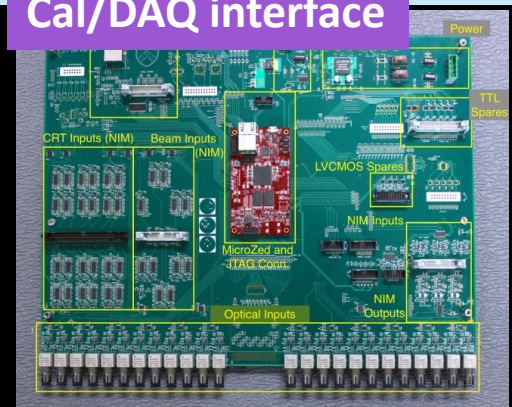
- **Data analysis**

- Cosmic rays
- Beam data

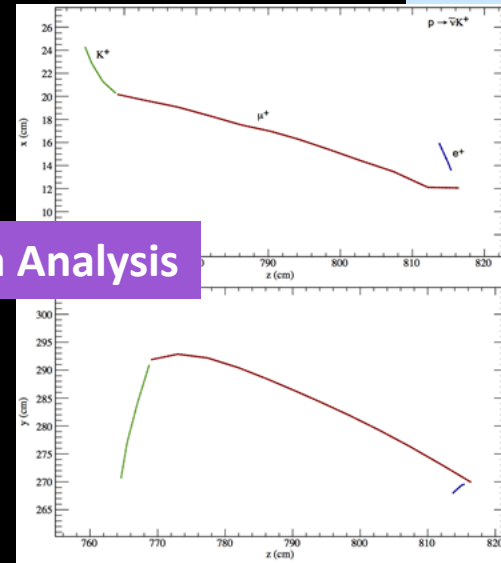
Laser position monitor



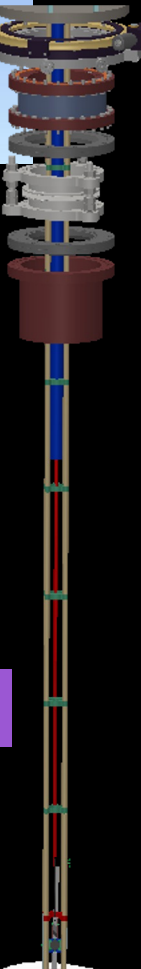
Cal/DAQ interface



Data Analysis



Laser design





# Summary

- ★ They oscillate (and we know how)
- ★ They are massive (but we don't know how much)
  
- ★ Are neutrinos their own antiparticles?
- ★ What is the absolute mass scale?
- ★ What is the CP violation phase?
- ★ What is the mass hierarchy?
  
- ★ A whole zoo of experiments are trying to address these questions
- ★ A rich field of opportunities is in place