



# First evidence of Reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ in water

一个灌水才能出来的成果

张洋 山东大学

2023. 09. 08



Featured in Physics

Editors' Suggestion

## Evidence of Antineutrinos from Distant Reactors Using Pure Water at SNO+

A. Allega *et al.* (The SNO+ Collaboration)  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 091801 – Published 1 March 2023

**Physics** See synopsis: [Reactor Neutrinos Detected by Water](#)

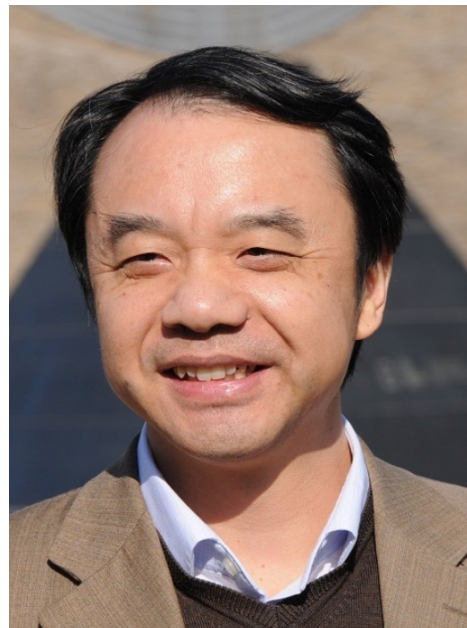


### PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **130**, 091801 (2023)

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The SNO+ Collaboration reports the first evidence of reactor antineutrinos in a Cherenkov detector. The nearest nuclear reactors are located 240 km away in Ontario, Canada. This analysis uses events with energies lower than in any previous analysis with a large water Cherenkov detector. Two analytical methods are used to distinguish reactor antineutrinos from background events in 190 days of data and yield consistent evidence for antineutrinos with a combined significance of  $3.5\sigma$ .

“通过纯水的切伦科夫效应测量反应堆中微子是一个全新的成就，实验技术上极其困难。这种新方法和技术为未来中微子实验开辟了一条新的道路。祝贺山东大学张洋教授及其团队！”



## 中科院院士，高能所所长王贻芳院士

潘诺夫斯基实验粒子物理学奖-2014  
基础物理学突破奖-2016  
国家自然科学基金一等奖-2016  
未来科学大奖“物质科学奖”-2019

### 美国《Physics》杂志

## Reactor Neutrinos Detected by Water

March 1, 2023 • Physics 16, s28

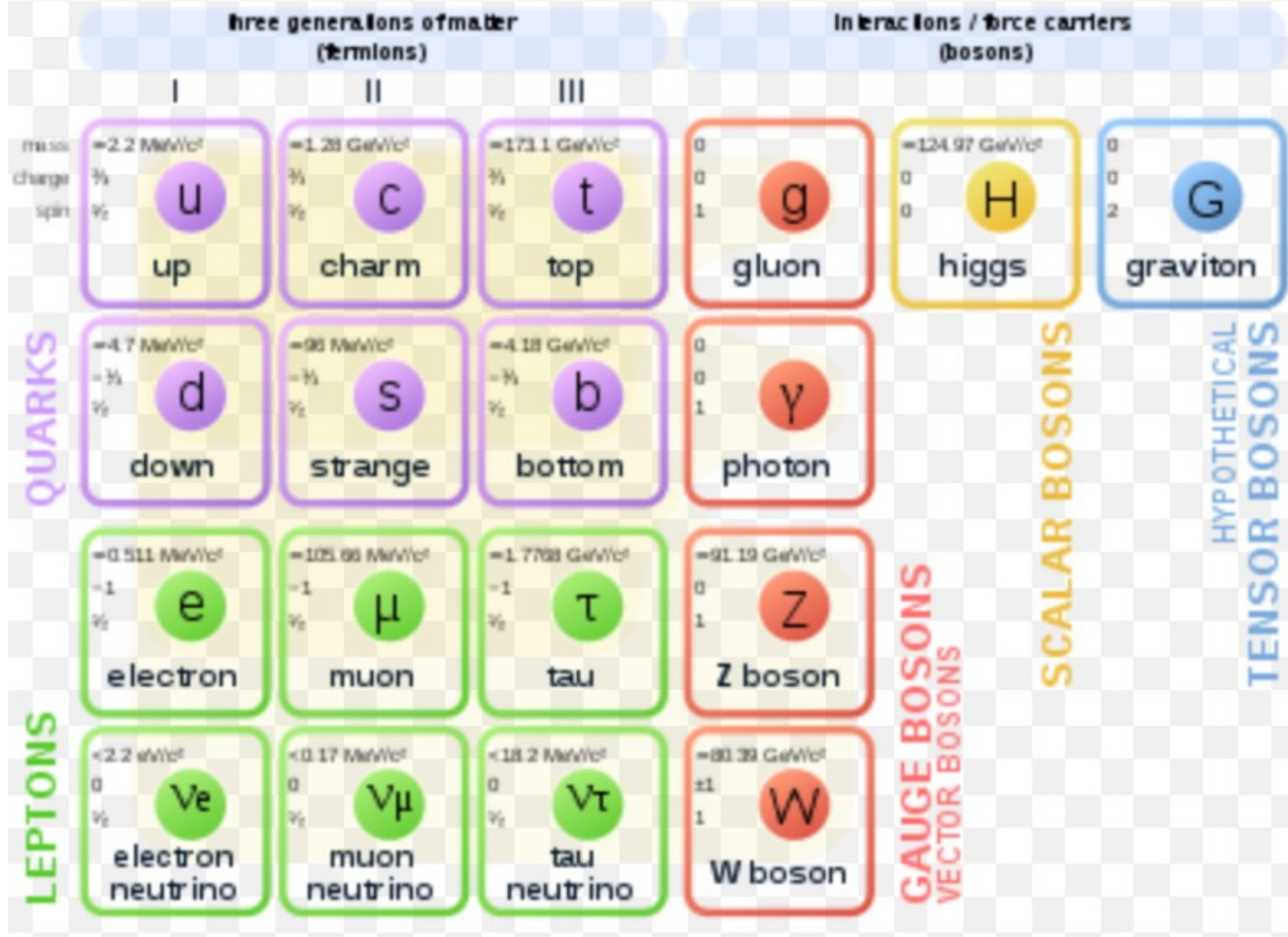
Researchers have captured the signal of neutrinos from a nuclear reactor using a water-filled neutrino detector, a first for such a device.

Viewpoint: Probing Majorana Neutrinos). But while SNO+ team members prepare for that search, they have made another breakthrough by capturing the interaction with water of antineutrinos from nuclear reactors [1]. The finding offers the possibility of making neutrino detectors from a nontoxic material that is easy to handle and inexpensive to obtain, key factors for use of the technology in auditing the world's nuclear reactors (see **Feature: Neutrino Detectors for National Security**).

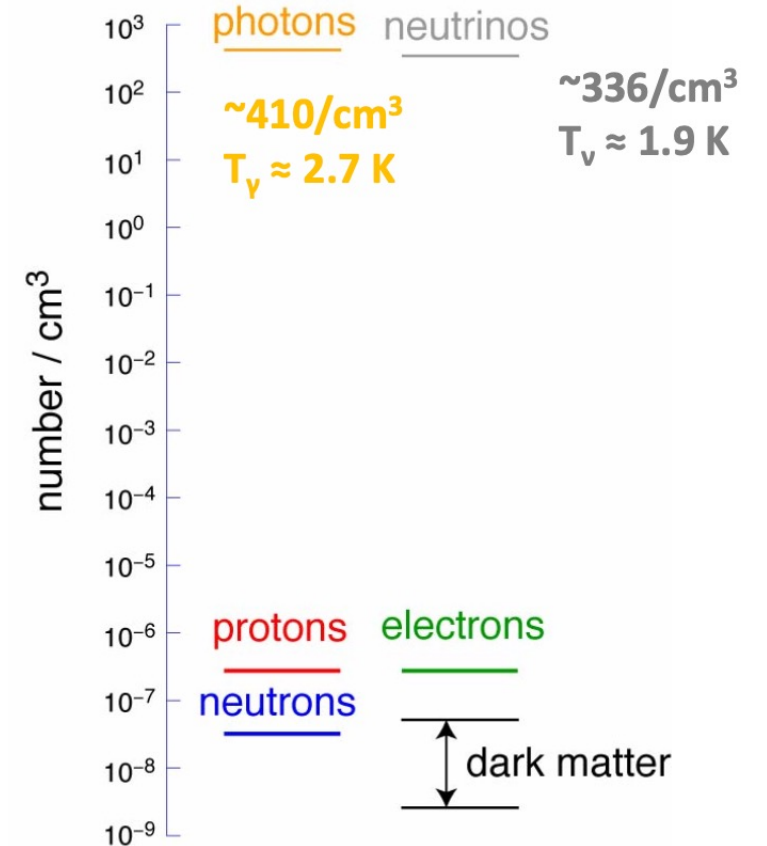


DOE Highlight

# Standard Model of Elementary Particles + Gravity

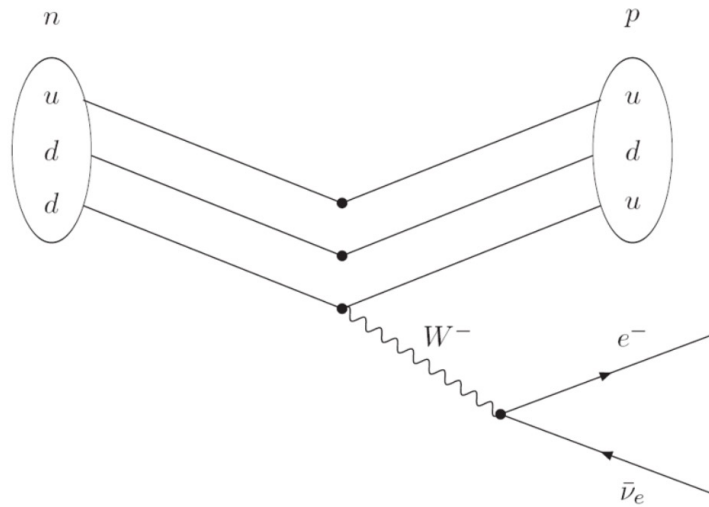


## The Particle Universe



# Pauli's proposal

- ❖ The neutrino was postulated first by Wolfgang Pauli in 1930 to conserve the energy, linear and angular momentum.



Niels Bohr



量子过程中能量不守恒

Wolfgang Ernst Pauli

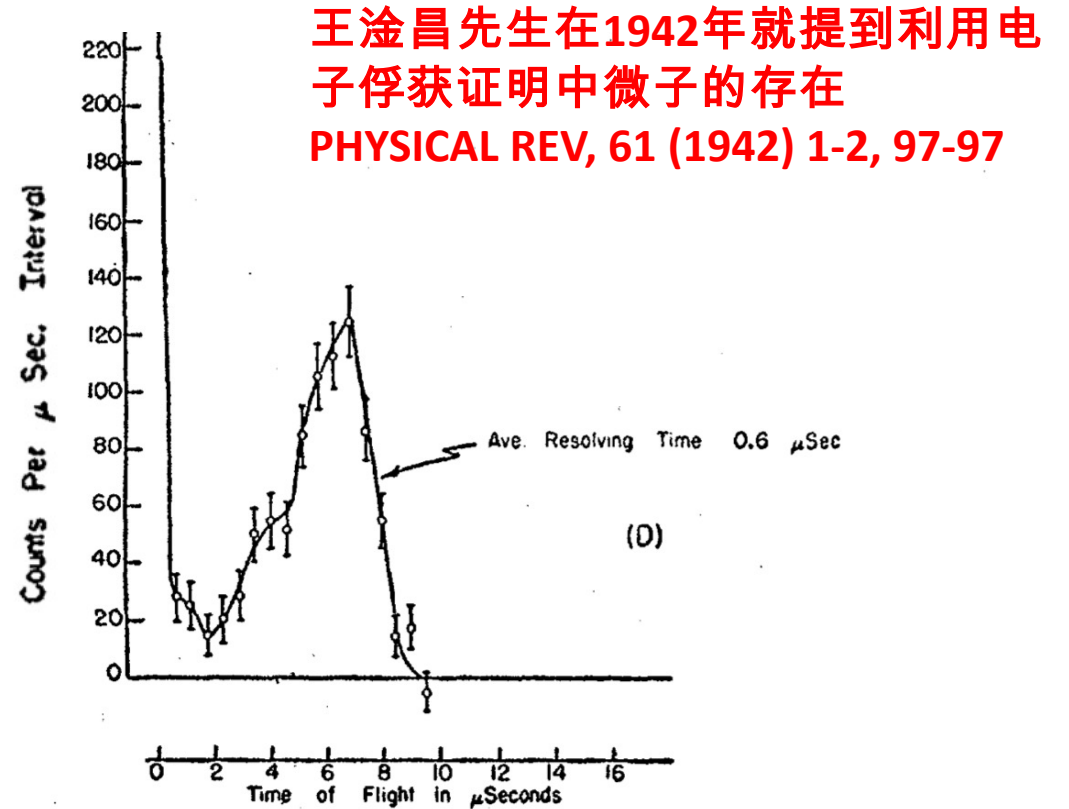
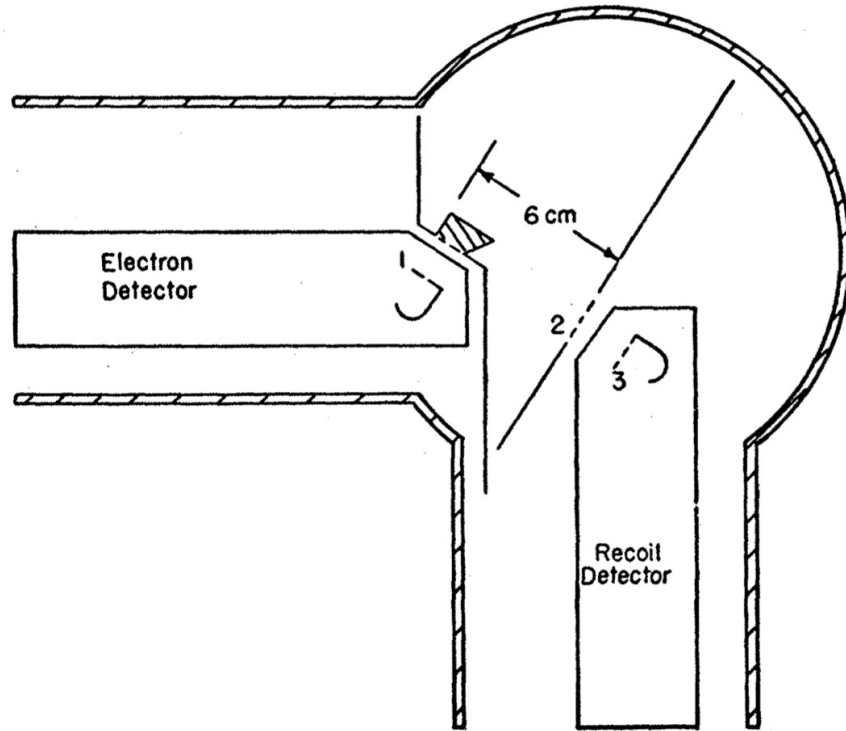


看不见的粒子，能量守恒。

1900-1958.

- ❖ Pauli received the Nobel Prize for physics based on Pauli principle, not the hypothesis of neutrinos.

# 中微子存在的间接证据

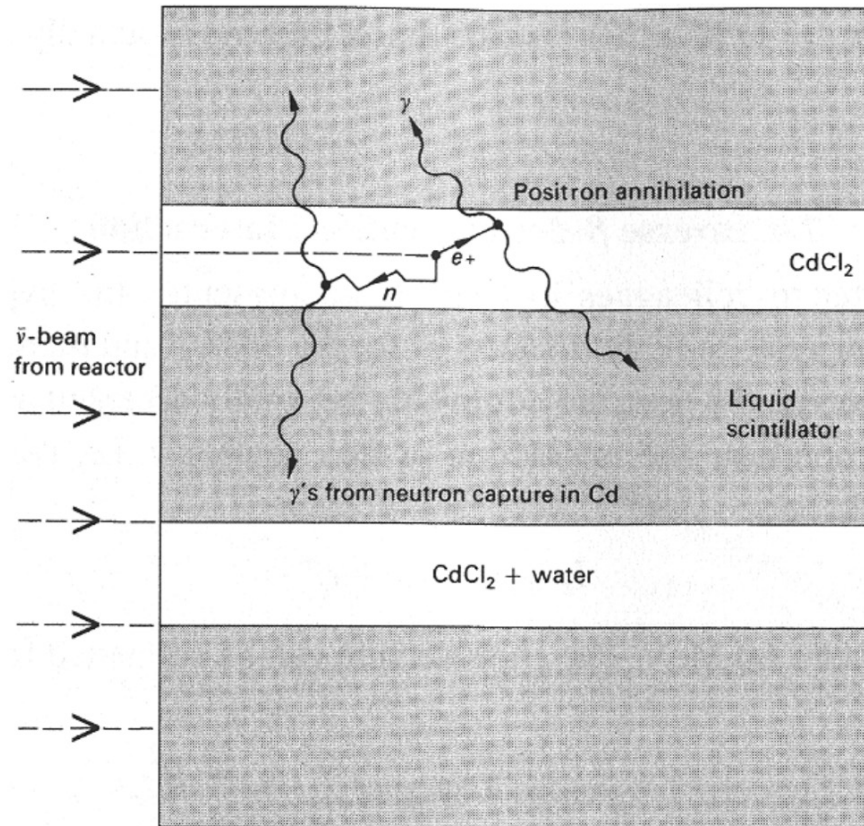


Pointed out by H. R. Crane, Revs. Modern Phys. 20, 295 (1948)

Performed by G.W. Rodeback and J. S. Allen, PHYSICAL REV, 86, 4 (1952)

# 中微子存在的直接发现

Nobel lecture, 1995



So why did we want to detect the free neutrino? Because everybody said, you couldn't do it. Not very sensible, but we were attracted by the challenge.

As Bohr is reputed to have said, "A deep question is one where either a yes or no answer is interesting." So I guess this question of the existence of the "free" neutrino might be construed to be deep. Alright, what about the pro-

cross section with which you have to deal would be  $\sim 10^{-44}$  cm<sup>2</sup>. To appreciate how minuscule this interaction is we note that the mean free path is  $\sim 1000$  light years of liquid hydrogen. Pauli put his concern succinctly during a visit to Caltech when he remarked: "I have done a terrible thing. I have postulated a particle that cannot be detected." No wonder that Bethe and Peierls

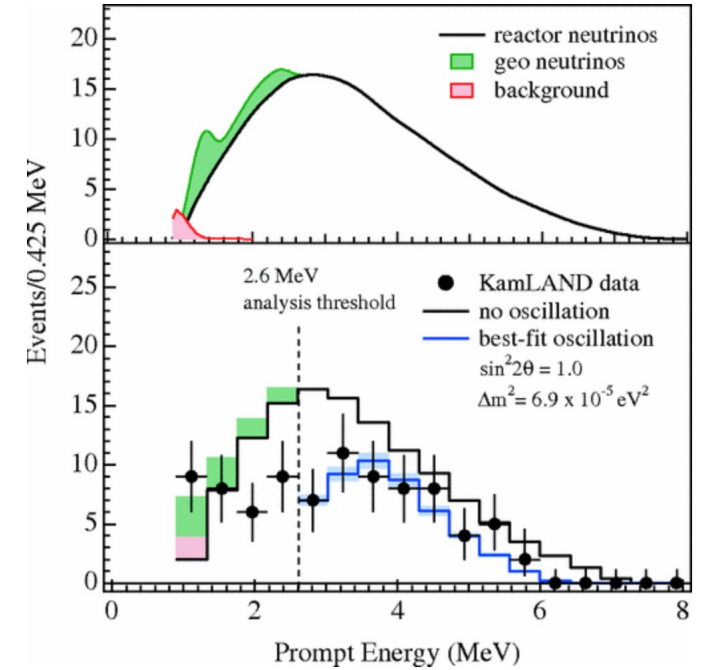
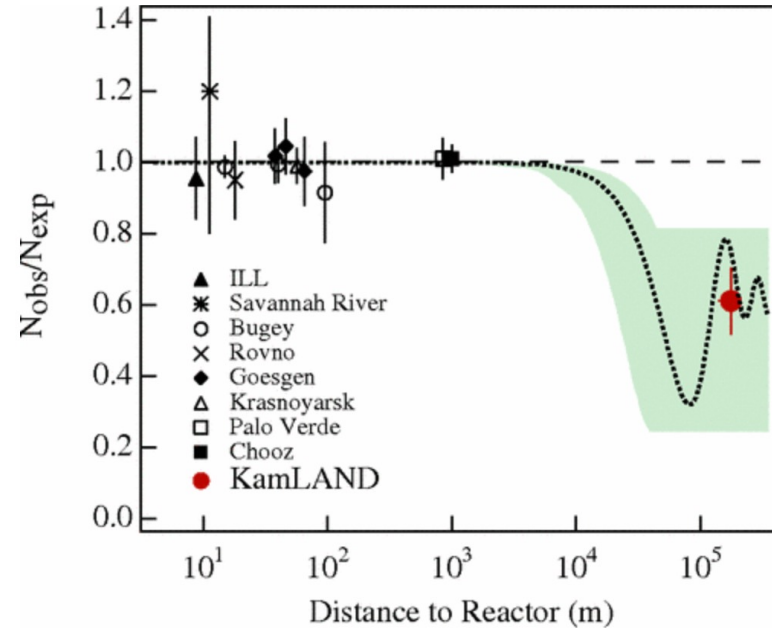
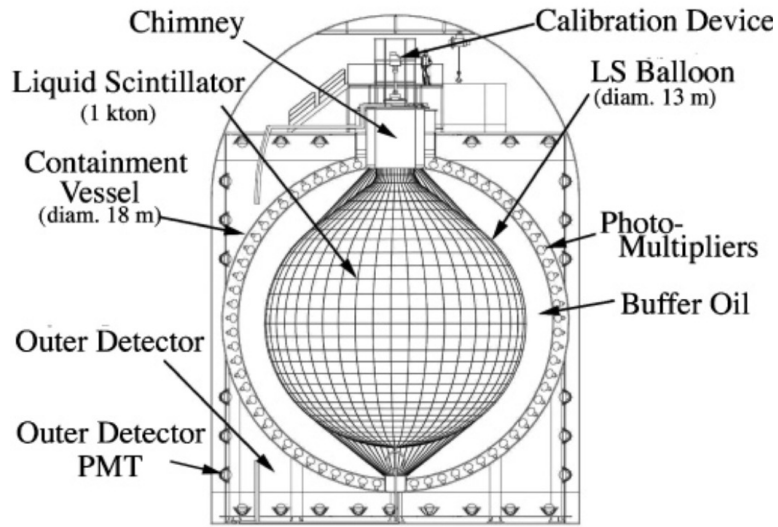
those around us. But of one thing I am certain: the open, free communication of our ideas was most stimulating to us and played a significant role in our eventual success. We were not inhibited in our communication by the concern that someone would scoop us. Neutrino detection was not a popular activity in 1952.

8 and says, "Thanks for the message. Everything comes to him who knows how to wait. Pauli"

- ❖ **Reactor neutrinos was capitalized(1956).**
- ✓ **IBD reaction; Enormous  $\bar{\nu}_e$  flux.**
- ❖ **Reins receives the Nobel prize in 1995;**

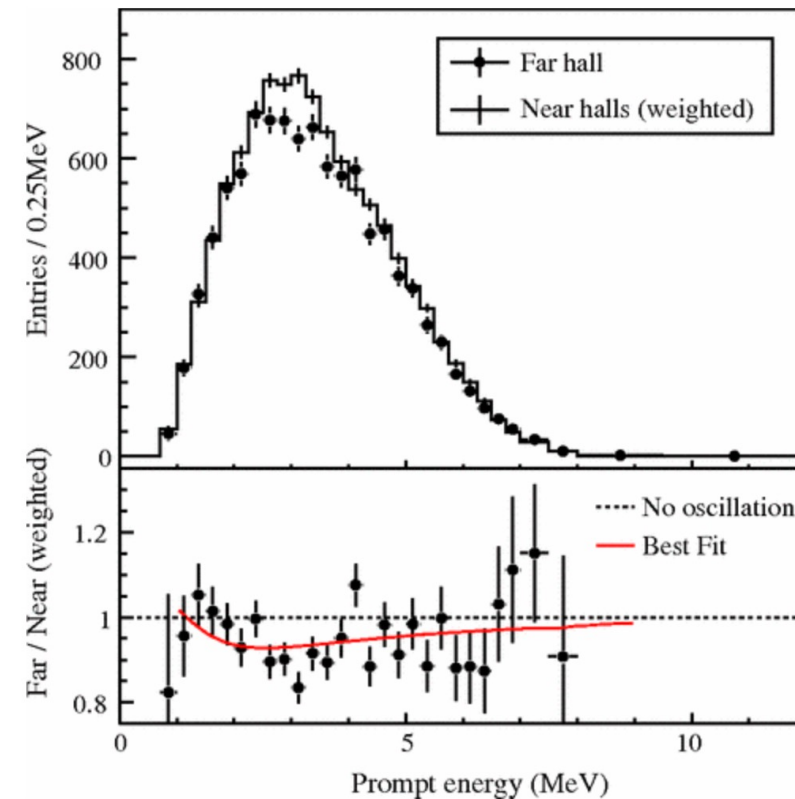
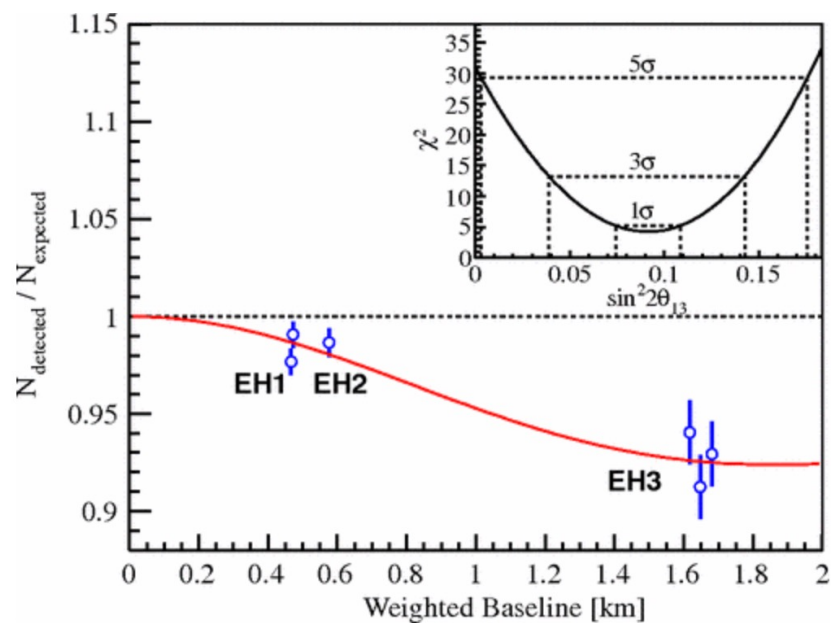
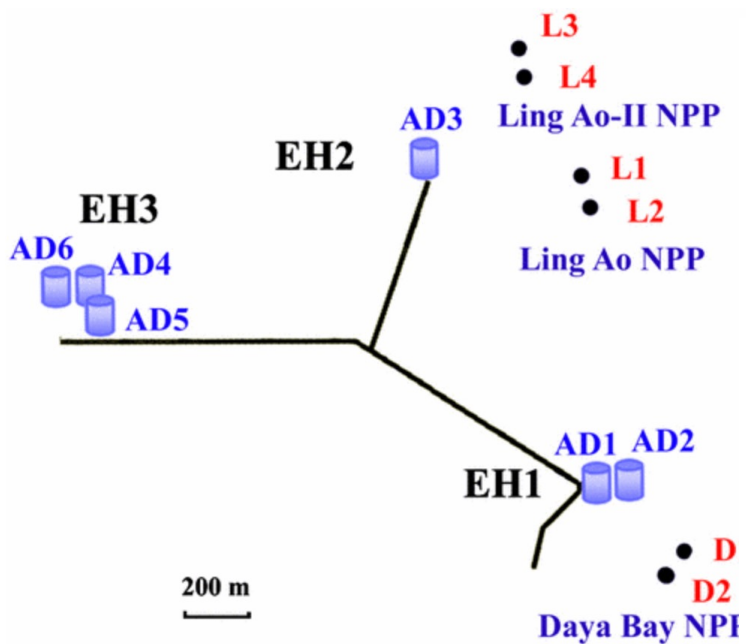
of many talented coworkers. One in particular I must mention - my very good friend and colleague Clyde Cowan, who was an equal partner in the experiments to discover the neutrino. I regret that he did not live long enough to share in this honor with me. I also wish to thank the personnel at

# Roles of reactor neutrinos-KamLAND





# Roles of reactor neutrinos- Daya Bay

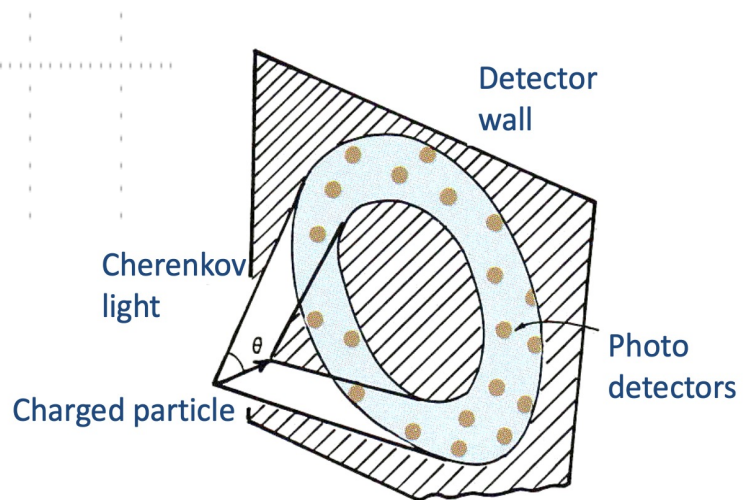
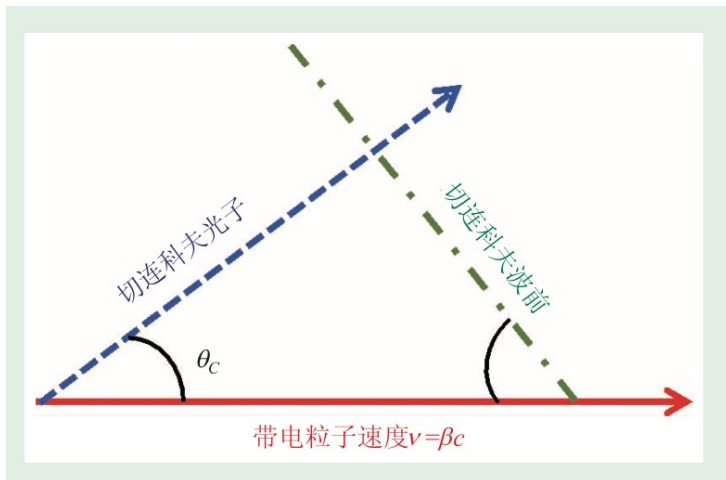


# 基础物理突破奖-2016

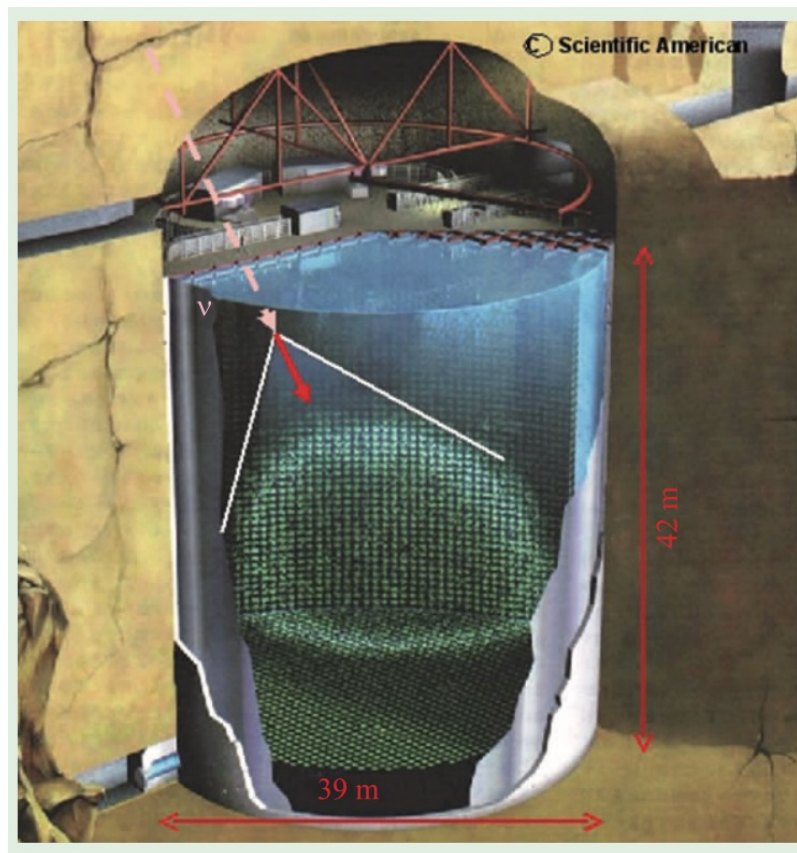


❖ KamLand and Daya Bay etc. win the 2016 fundamental physics breakthrough prize.

# 水契伦科夫技术

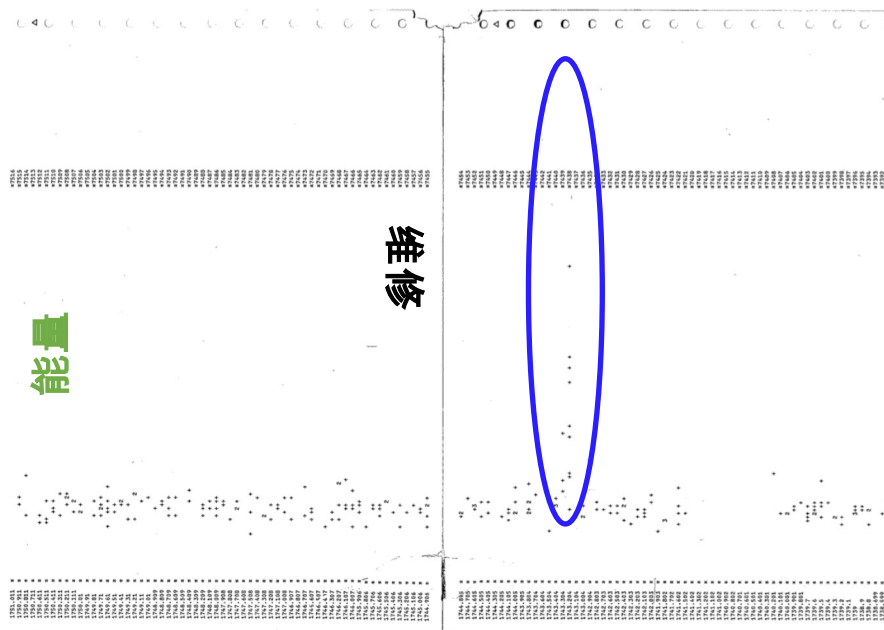


Courtesy: Kajita's nobel lecture , 《物理》



昂贵的重水：~20万美元/吨  
(Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL))

# 水契伦科夫技术-Kamiokande

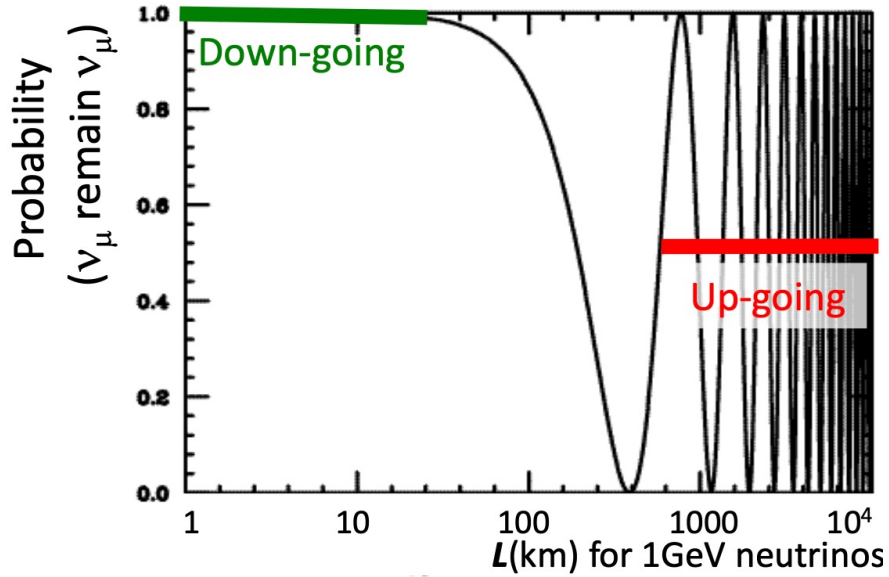


小柴昌俊  
诺贝尔2002

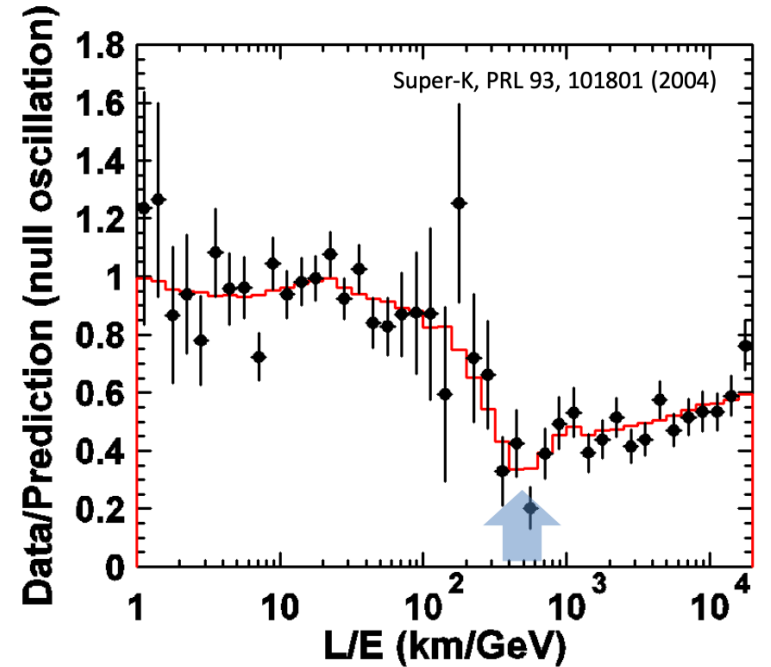
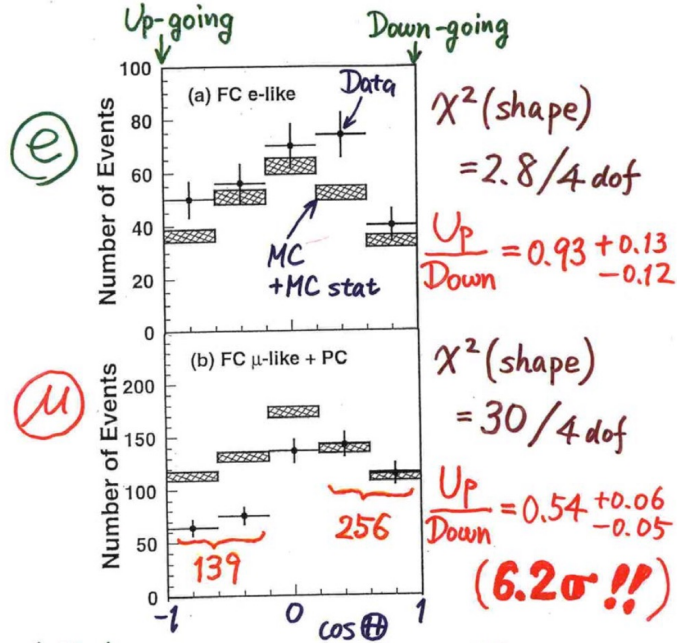
UNIV OF PENN - DEPT OF PHYSICS P.01  
TO: EUGENE BEIER  
SENSATIONAL NEWS! SUPERNOVA WENT OFF  
4-7 DAYS AGO IN LARGE MAGELLANIC CLOUD, 50 KPC  
AWAY. NOW VISIBLE MAGNITUDE 4.5, WILL  
REACH MAXIMUM MAGNITUDE (-1.00) IN A WEEK.  
CAN YOU SEE IT? THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE  
BEEN WAITING 350 YEARS FOR!  
SID BLUDMAN  
(215) 546-3083

中微子天文学的开启!

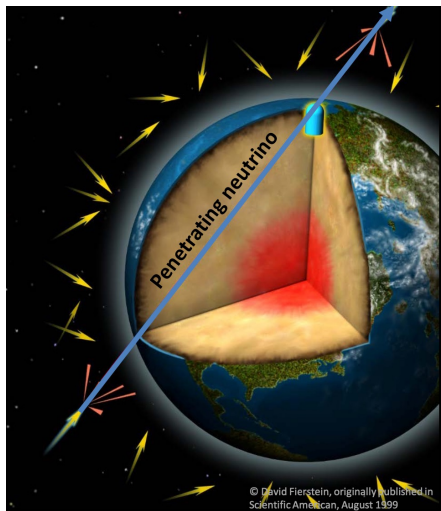
# 水契伦科夫技术-SK



Zenith angle dependence  
(Multi-GeV)



A dip is seen around  $L/E = 500$  km/GeV.  
 → Really oscillations (2004) !!



PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

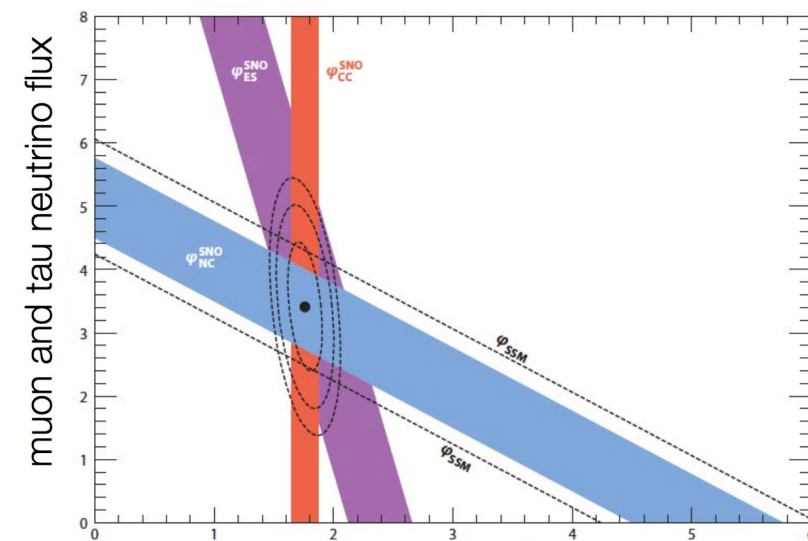
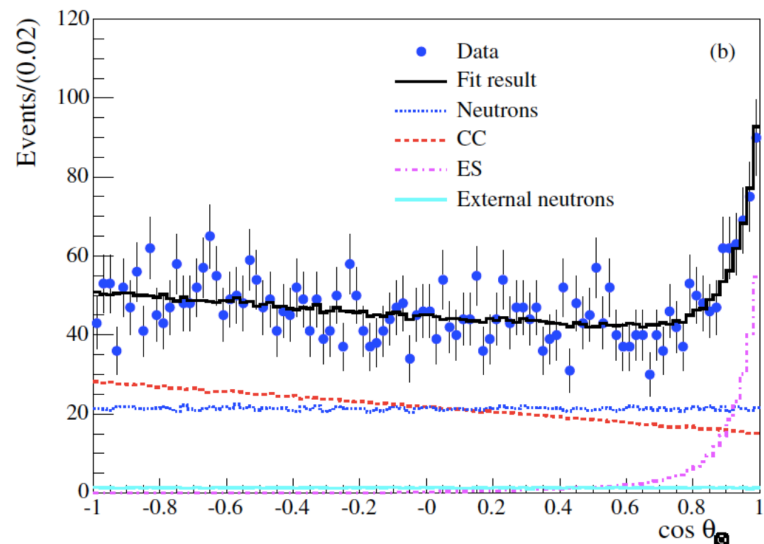
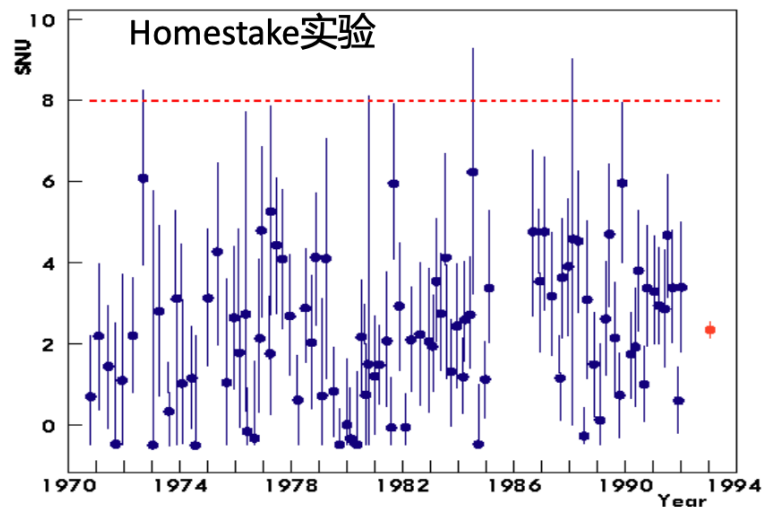
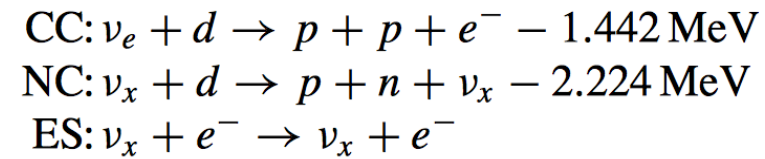
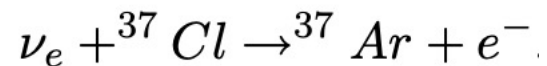
Featured in Physics

Milestone

Free to Read

# 水契伦科夫技术-SNO

Herbert H. Chen (陈华森)  
(1942 - 1987)



首次观测到太阳中微子，但与预期不符！

# Nobel physics prize 2015



© Nobel Media AB. Photo: A. Mahmoud

Takaaki Kajita



© Nobel Media AB. Photo: A. Mahmoud

Arthur B. McDonald

**Discovery of atmospheric  
neutrino oscillation at SK**

**&**

**Discovery of solar  
neutrino oscillation at  
SNO**

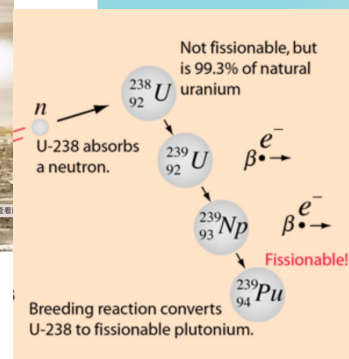
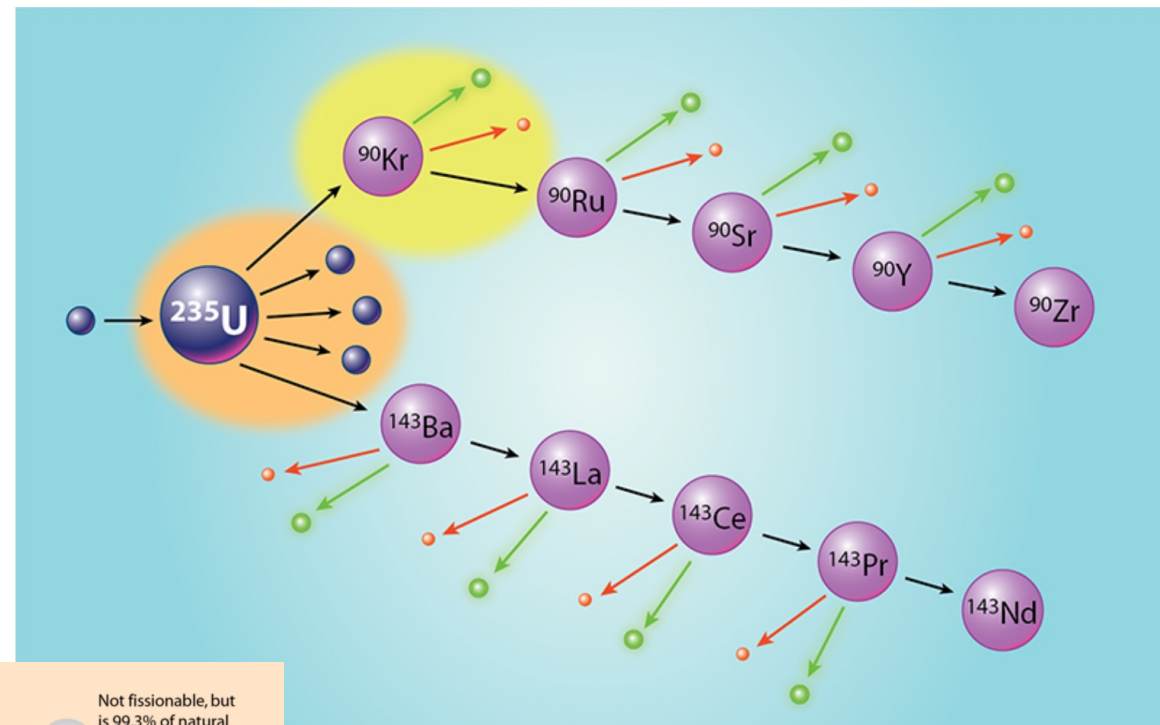
The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015 was awarded jointly to Takaaki Kajita and Arthur B. McDonald "for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass."

# 可否用纯水来测量反应堆中微子？(Yes or No)





# 中微子探测和国家安全、世界和平



<https://physics.aps.org/articles/v13/36>

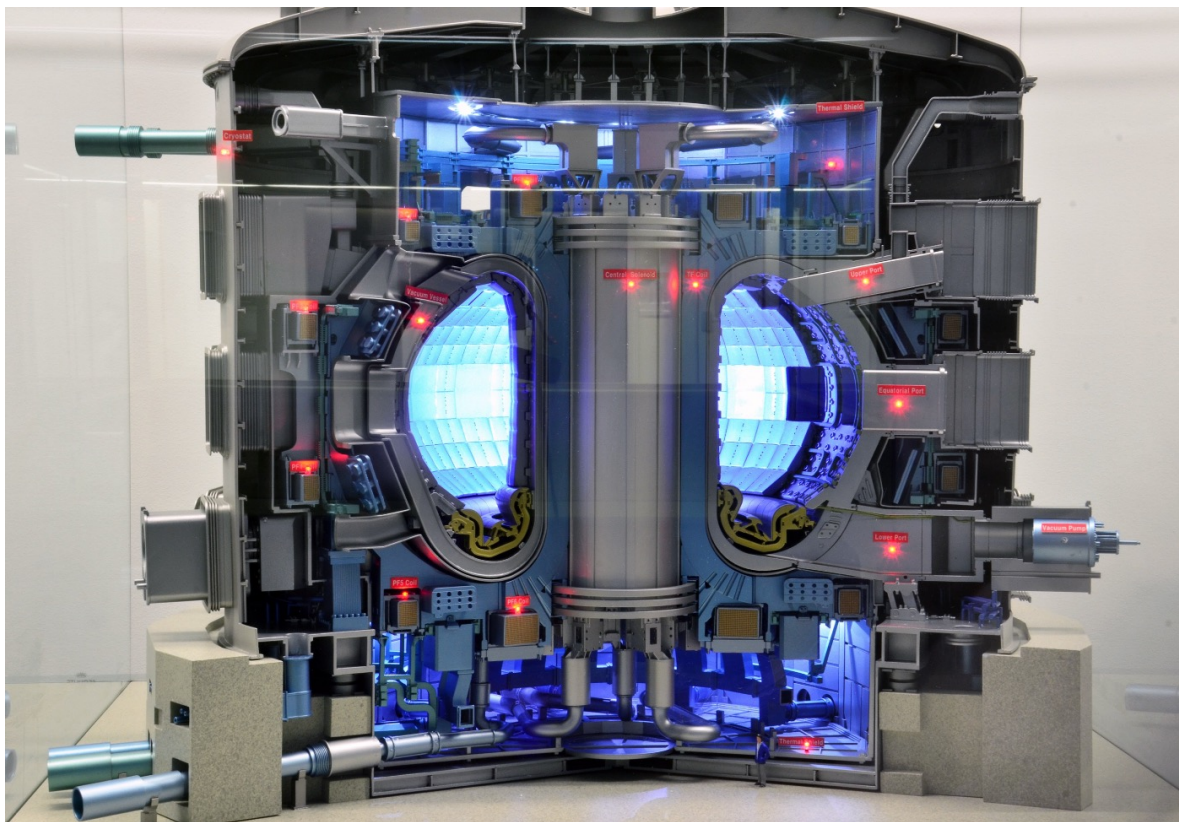
# Neutrino Detectors for National Security

March 12, 2020 • *Physics* 13, 36

**Detecting neutrinos offers a new way to monitor the potential bomb materials inside a nuclear reactor, but the technology's practicality remains uncertain.**

The cost of these detectors also presents a significant implementation barrier, since building and operating even one detector could potentially require a large fraction of the annual nuclear verification budget (about \$170 million) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the organization that audits nuclear reactors. So the IAEA has no immediate plans to use the technology. But researchers are still hopeful that the technology will find use. “This kind of monitoring is eminently feasible. We have already done it and could do it at other reactors fairly easily,” says Bryce Littlejohn, a nuclear physicist at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

# 核反应堆的实时无接触式监测

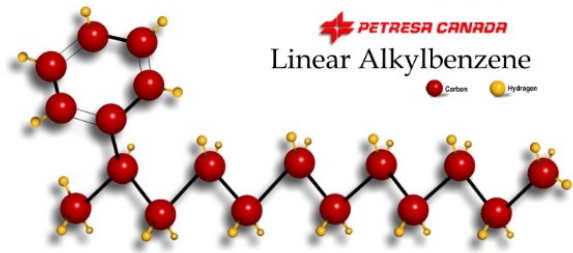


$$\sim 10^{20} \bar{\nu}_e / \text{GW}_{\text{th}}, \propto \frac{1}{R^2}, \text{ 概率 } \sim 1/10^{19}.$$

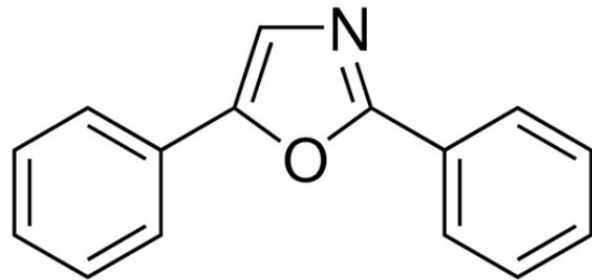
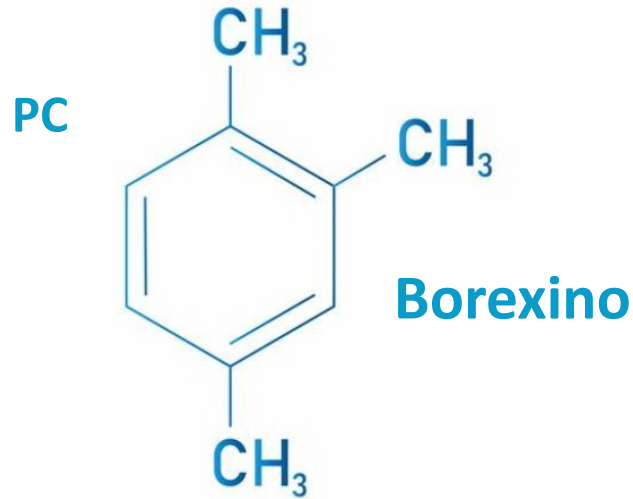
➤ 中微子探测器需要大的靶质量



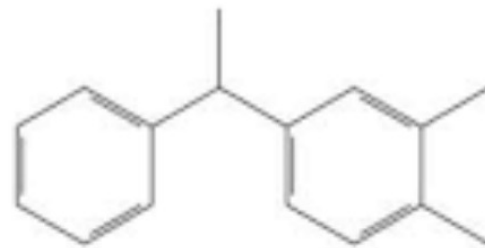
# 探测器材料-安全性



LAB (solvent)



PXE



挥发性、毒性和易燃等缺点

e.g. 意大利Borexino实验 shut down 2021.10



纯天然，最安全

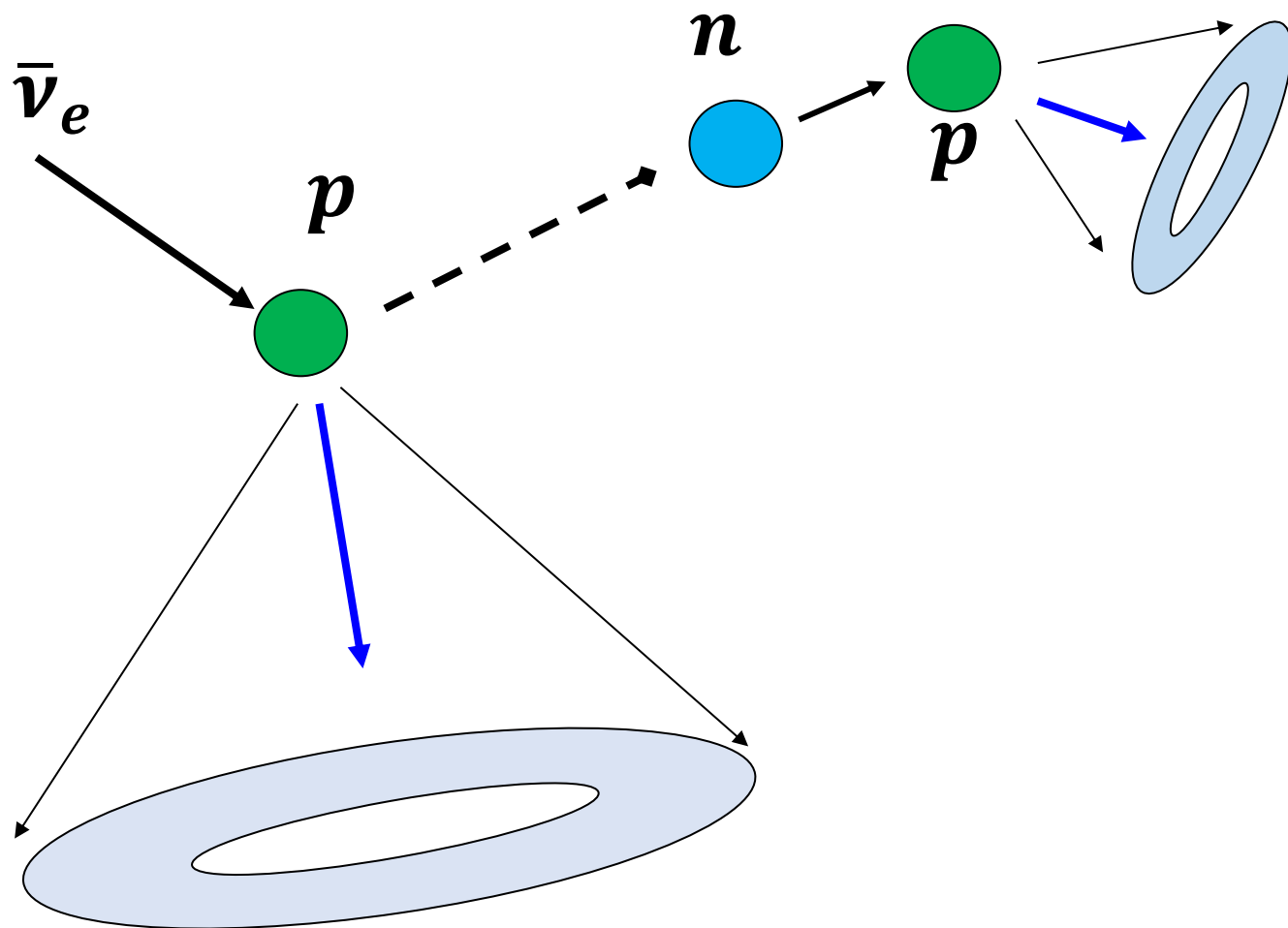
# 探测器透明度-靶质量



液体闪烁体：~20 米

水：>100 米。因此探测器可以做的很大，譬如百万吨级别。

# 反应堆中微子在水中的测量



关键是中子的高效测量

# 中子测量在纯水中可行吗(Yes or No)

Y. Suzuki: 2016年基础物理突破奖获得者

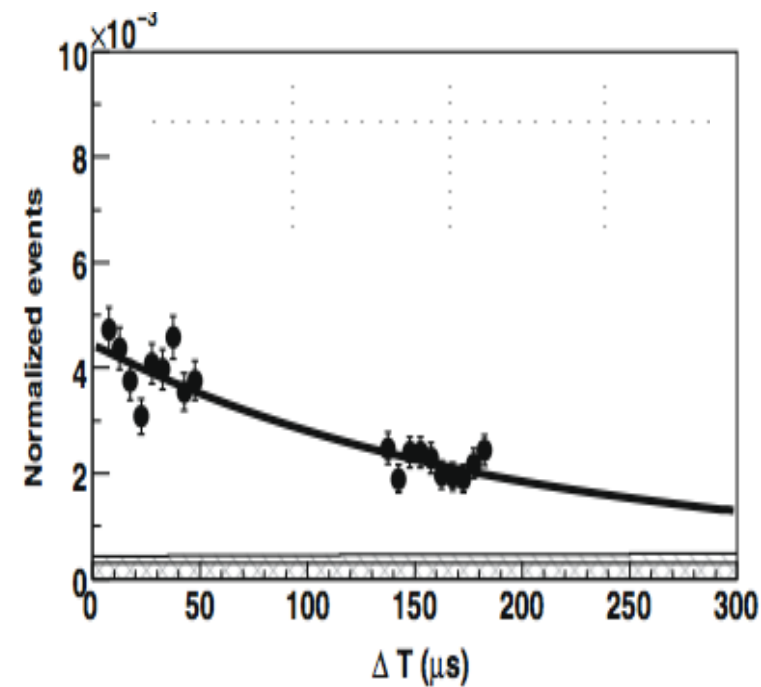
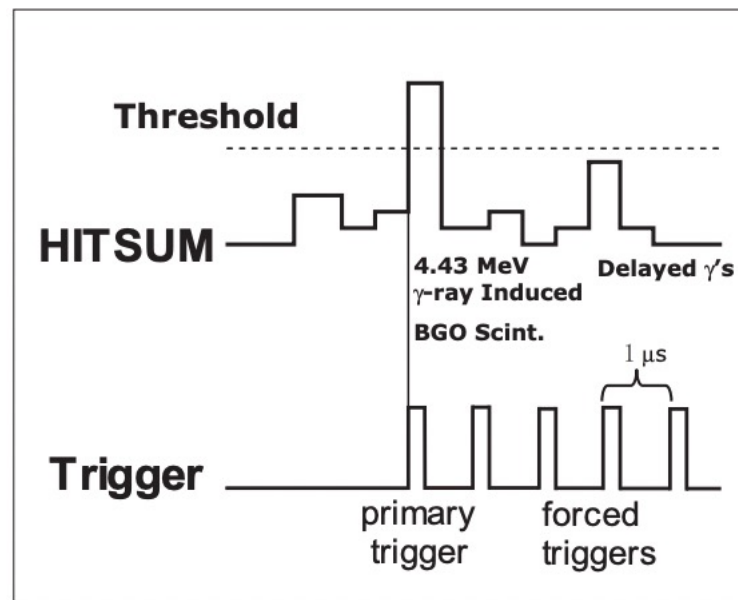
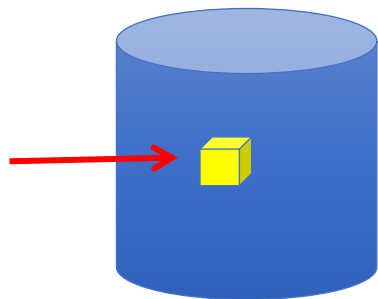
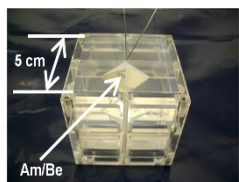
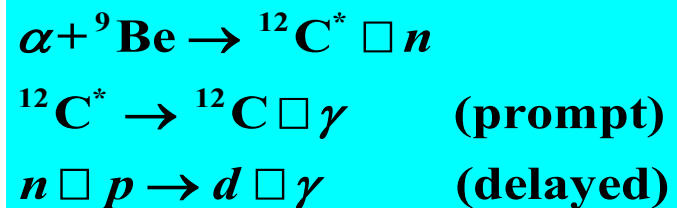
J. Beacom: 著名天体物理理论学家



曾认为中子测量在纯水中  
无法实现！



# 中子测量在水中的首次实现

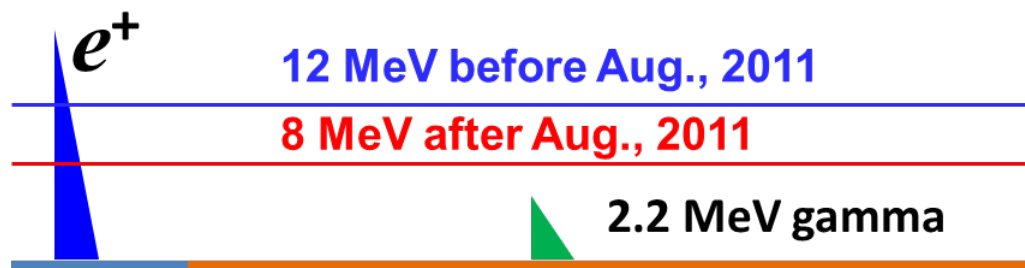


Astropart.Phys. 31 (2009) 320-328

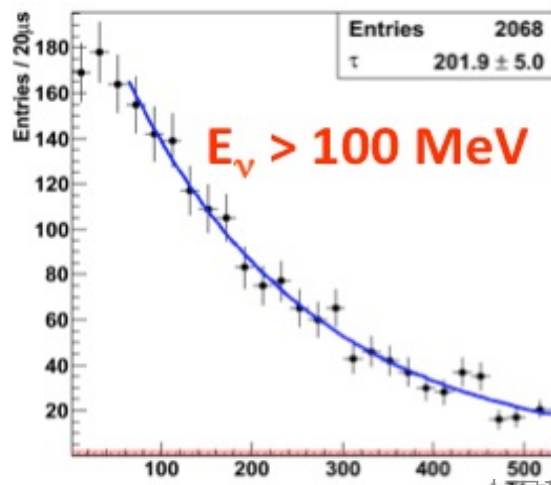
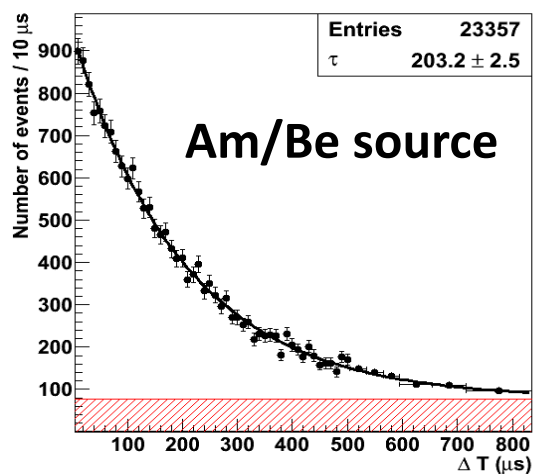
中子在纯水中的测量首次由清华大学工物系在超级神冈实现

# 中子测量系统在SK-IV中的安装

## ● Implement a correlated trigger online



Primary trigger  $40 \mu\text{s}$  Forced trigger  $500 \mu\text{s}$



## TAUP 2011 HAMAMATSU Poster Award

The Steering Committee of the conference series  
Topics in Astroparticle and Underground Physics (TAUP)  
awards

**Shaomin Chen**

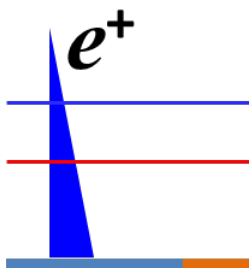
for the best poster with the topic “Neutrino Properties”  
at the TAUP conference at (5 – 9 Sept 2011, Munich).

*AB Bottino*

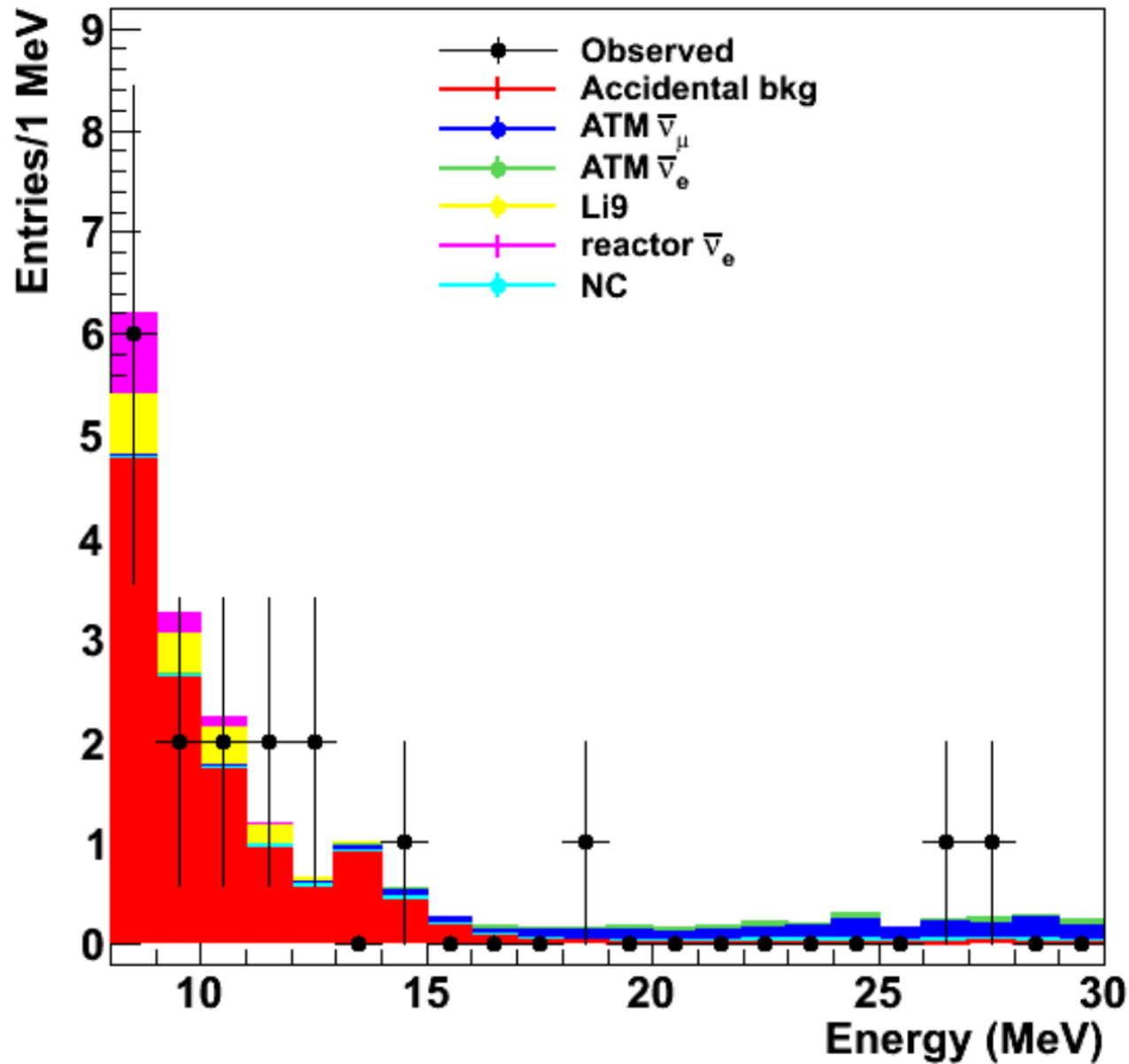
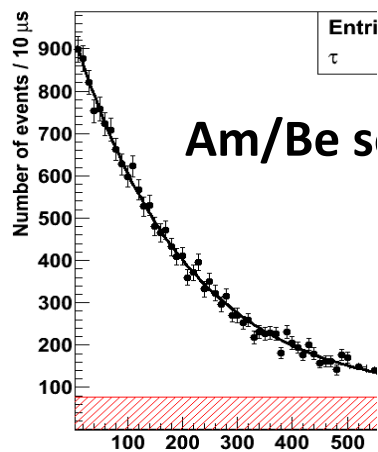
Prof. Alessandro Bottino  
(University of Turin & INFN, chair)



● Implan



Primary trig



## Poster Award

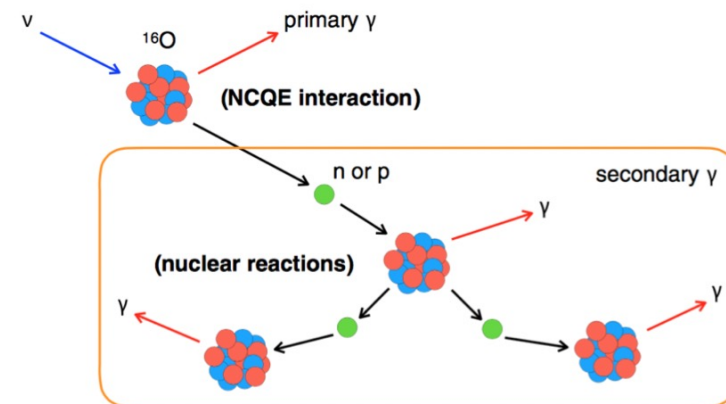
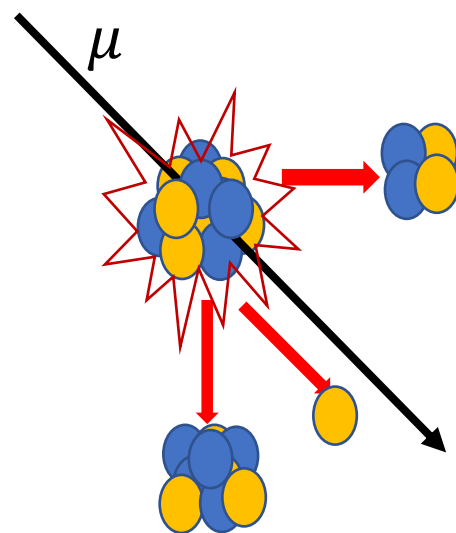
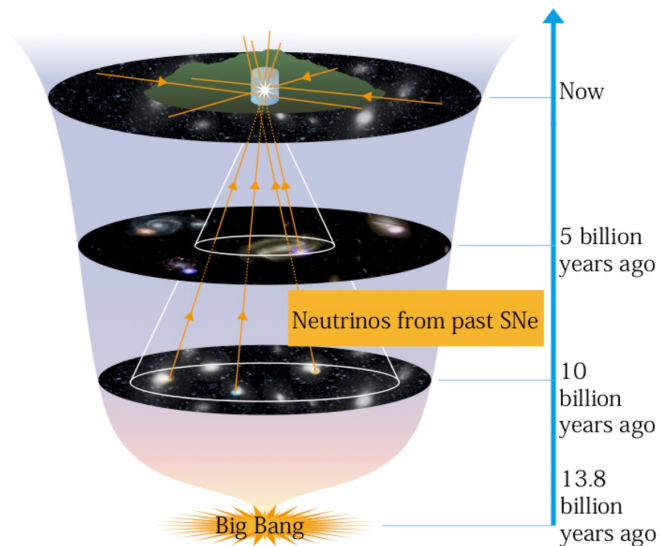
reference series  
 and Physics (TAUP)

en

neutrino Properties"  
 2011, Munich).



# 中子测量在物理研究中取得的成就



## Supernova Relic Neutrino Search with Neutron Tagging at Super-Kamiokande-IV

Super-Kamiokande Collaboration · H. Zhang (Tsinghua U., Beijing) [Show All\(120\)](#)  
Nov 15, 2013

6 pages  
Published in: *Astropart.Phys.* 60 (2015) 41-46  
Published: Jan, 2015  
e-Print: [1311.3738 \[hep-ex\]](#)  
DOI: [10.1016/j.astropartphys.2014.05.004](#)  
Experiments: SUPER-KAMIOKANDE  
View in: [OSTI Information Bridge Server](#), [ADS Abstract Service](#)

[pdf](#) [cite](#) [claim](#) [reference search](#) [139 citations](#)

## First measurement of radioactive isotope production through cosmic-ray muon spallation in Super-Kamiokande IV

Super-Kamiokande Collaboration · Y. Zhang (Tsinghua U., Beijing, Dept. Eng. Phys.) [Show All\(129\)](#)  
Sep 27, 2015

12 pages  
Published in: *Phys.Rev.D* 93 (2016) 1, 012004  
Published: Jan 15, 2016  
e-Print: [1509.08168 \[hep-ex\]](#)  
DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.93.012004](#)  
Experiments: SUPER-KAMIOKANDE  
View in: [OSTI Information Bridge Server](#), [ADS Abstract Service](#)

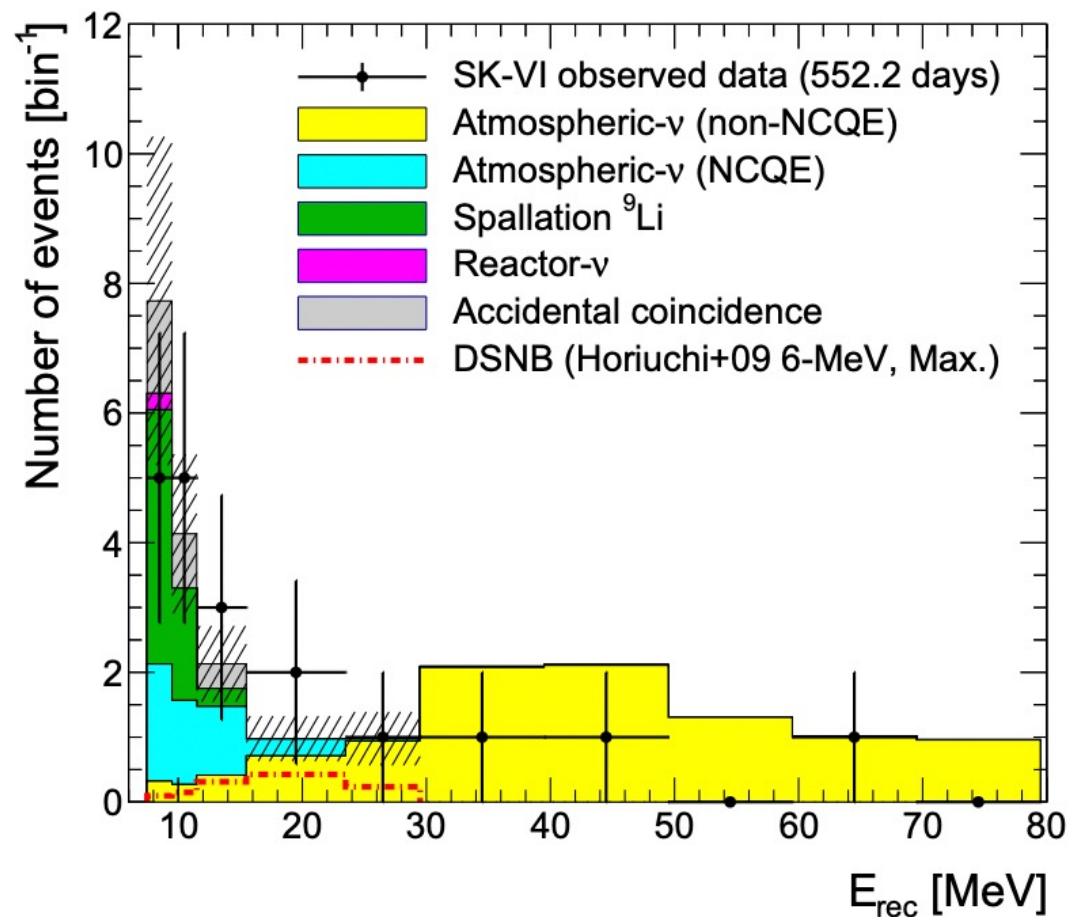
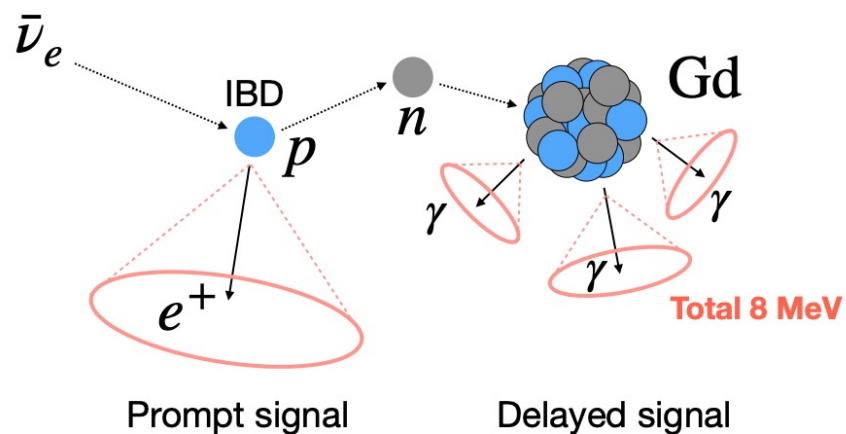
[pdf](#) [cite](#) [claim](#) [reference search](#) [59 citations](#)

## Measurement of the neutrino-oxygen neutral-current quasielastic cross section using atmospheric neutrinos at Super-Kamiokande

Super-Kamiokande Collaboration · L. Wan (Tsinghua U., Beijing, Dept. Eng. Phys.) [Show All\(166\)](#)  
Jan 16, 2019

11 pages  
Published in: *Phys.Rev.D* 99 (2019) 3, 032005  
Published: Feb 16, 2019  
e-Print: [1901.05281 \[hep-ex\]](#)  
DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.99.032005](#) (publication)  
Experiments: SUPER-KAMIOKANDE  
View in: [HAL Science Ouverte](#), [ADS Abstract Service](#)

[pdf](#) [cite](#) [claim](#) [reference search](#) [20 citations](#)



**0.01% Gd, 552 days**

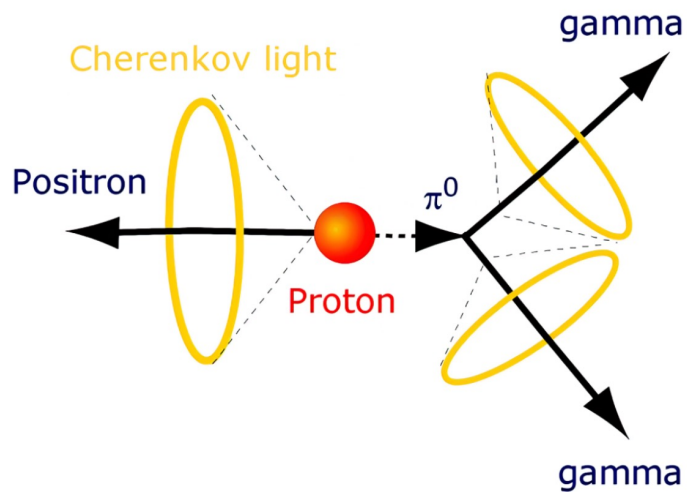
Editors' Suggestion

Search for proton decay via  $p \rightarrow e^+ \pi^0$  and  $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \pi^0$  in **0.31 megaton · years** exposure of the Super-Kamiokande water Cherenkov detector

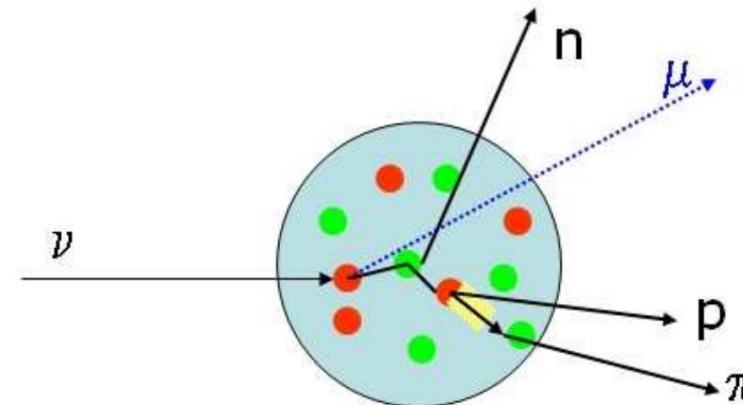
K. Abe *et al.* (Super-Kamiokande Collaboration)  
Phys. Rev. D **95**, 012004 – Published 6 January 2017

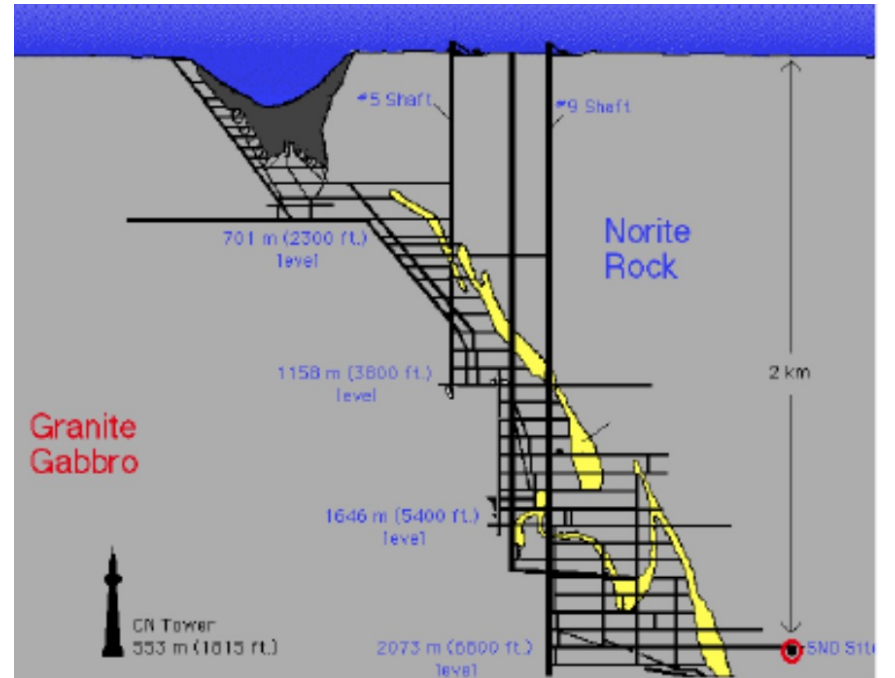


Article References Citing Articles (102) PDF HTML Export Citation



ACTA PHYSICA POLONICA B, 40, 9, 2009



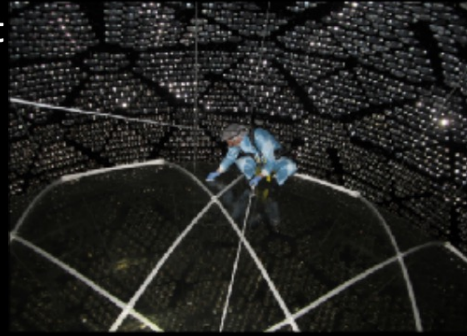


# SNO → SNO+

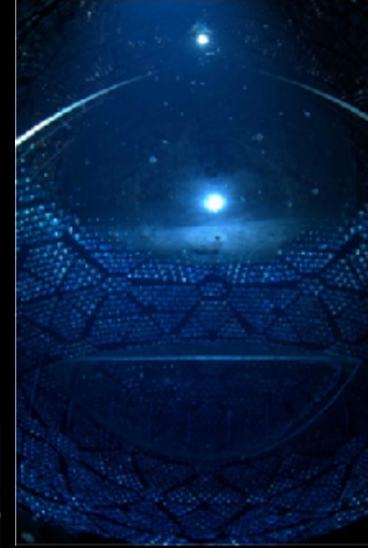


Cleaning the AV

Installed hold-down rope net



More cleaning

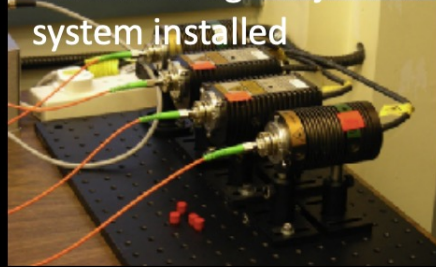


Filling with water



PMT repairs

New calibration hardware: light injection system installed

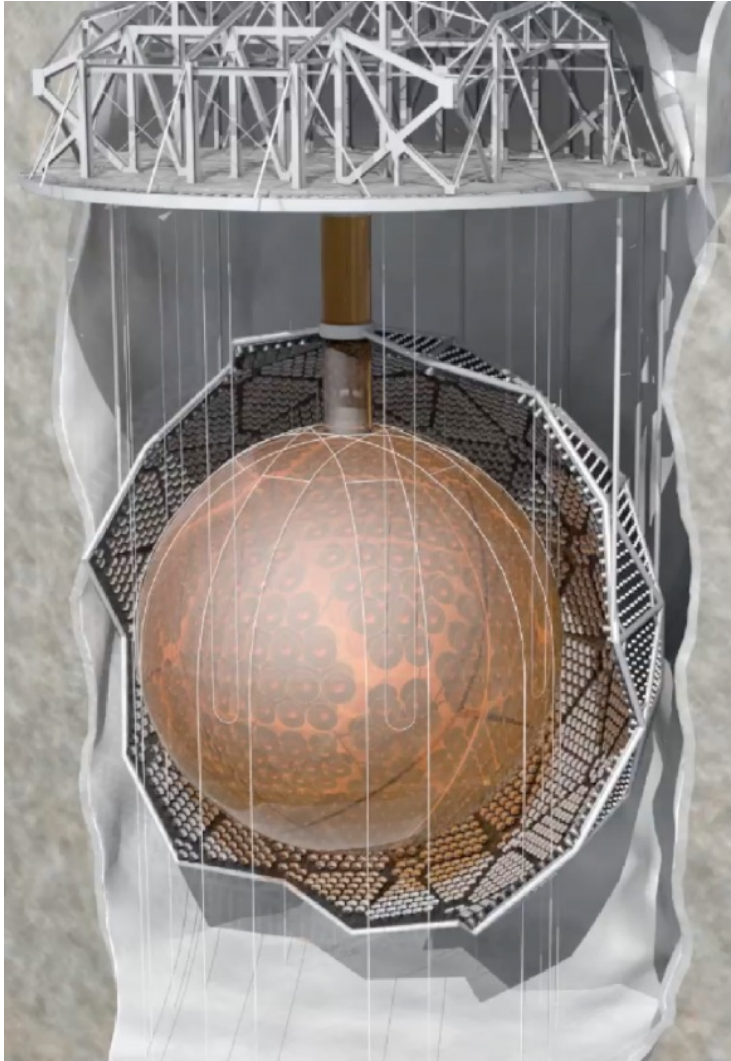


Upgraded trigger electronics and DAQ

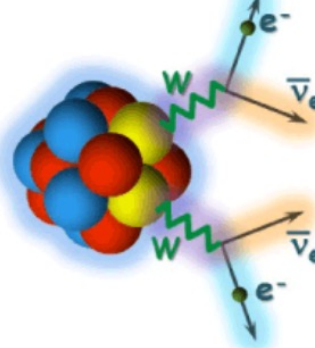




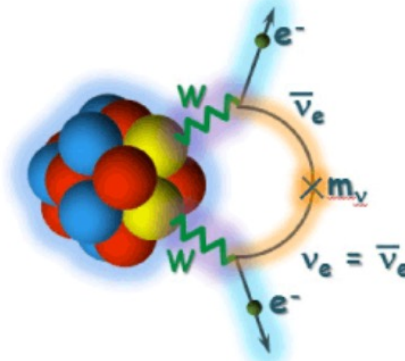
# SNO+ experiment



[Double beta decay]

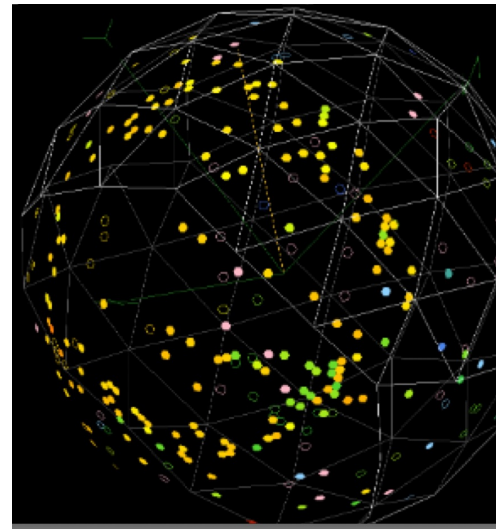


Double beta decay  
which emits anti-neutrinos



Neutrinoless  
double beta decay

Te-loaded LS



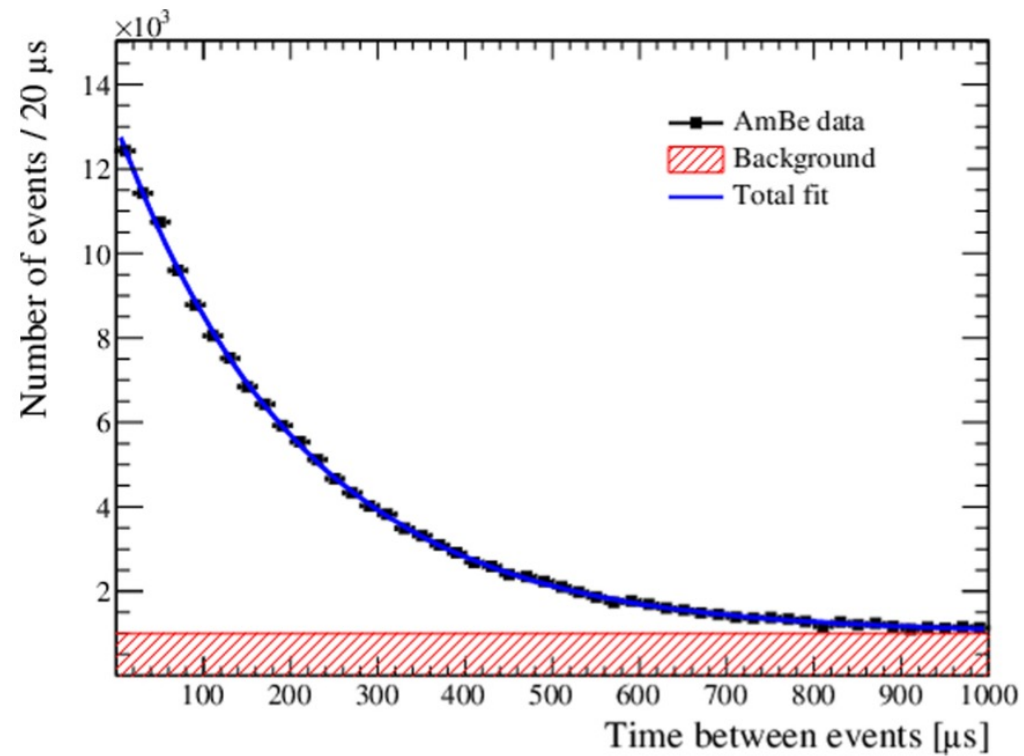
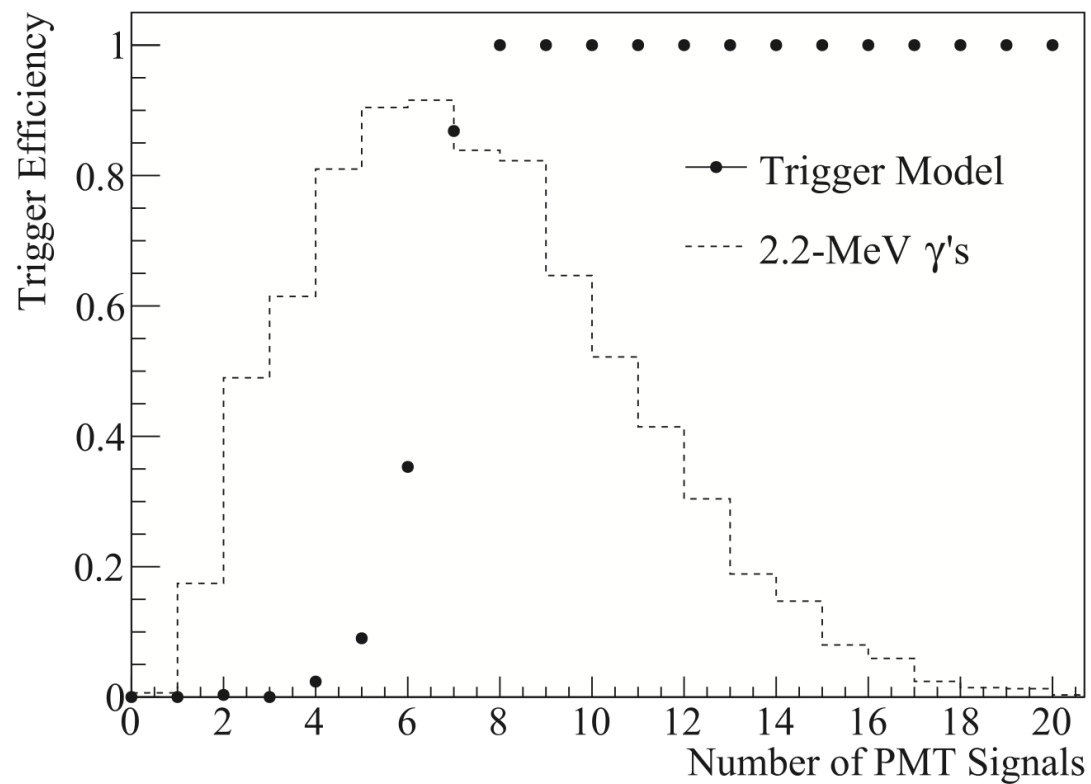
- 水数据: 刻度探测器性能
- 1.2017.05-2017.09 : Nhits=15
  - 2.2017.09-2018.09: Nhits~7
  - 3.2018. 09-2019.07: N<sub>2</sub> gas above

# SNO+ timeline

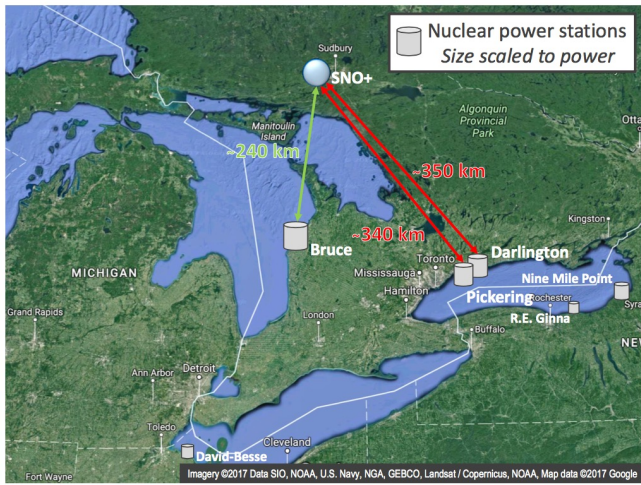
- 
- Dec 2016: start commissioning with water
  - May 2017: start of water phase

<sup>8</sup>B Solar neutrino flux: PRD 99 (2019) 012012  
Invisible nucleon decay modes: PRD 99 (2019) 032008, PRD 105 (2022) 112012  
Neutron-proton capture: PRC 102 (2020) 014002  
Reactor neutrinos: PRL 130 (2023) 9

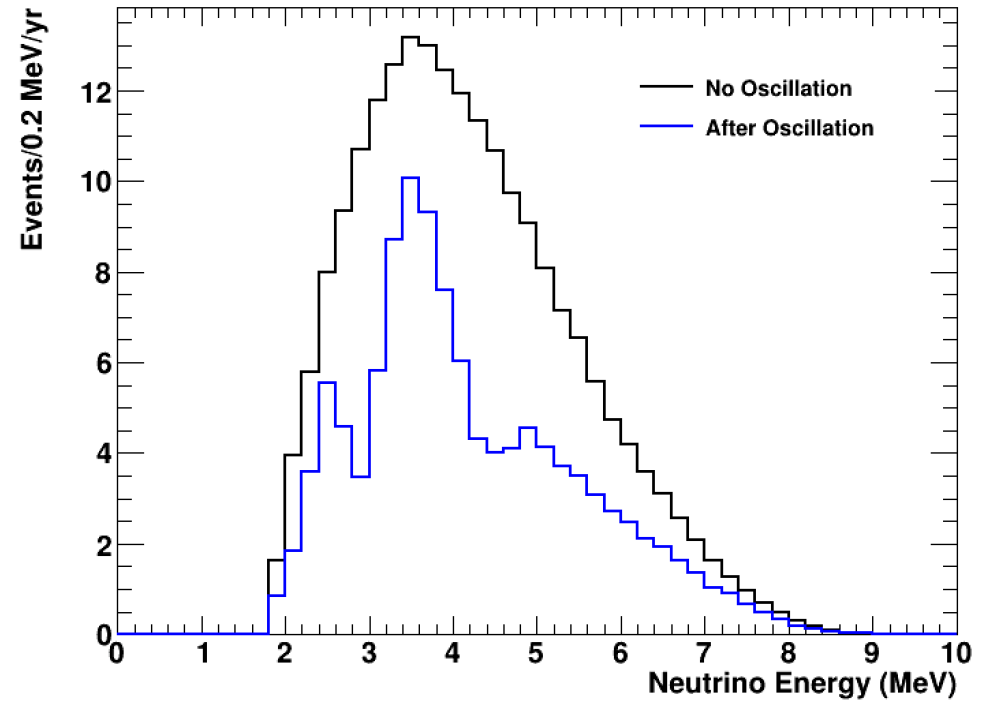
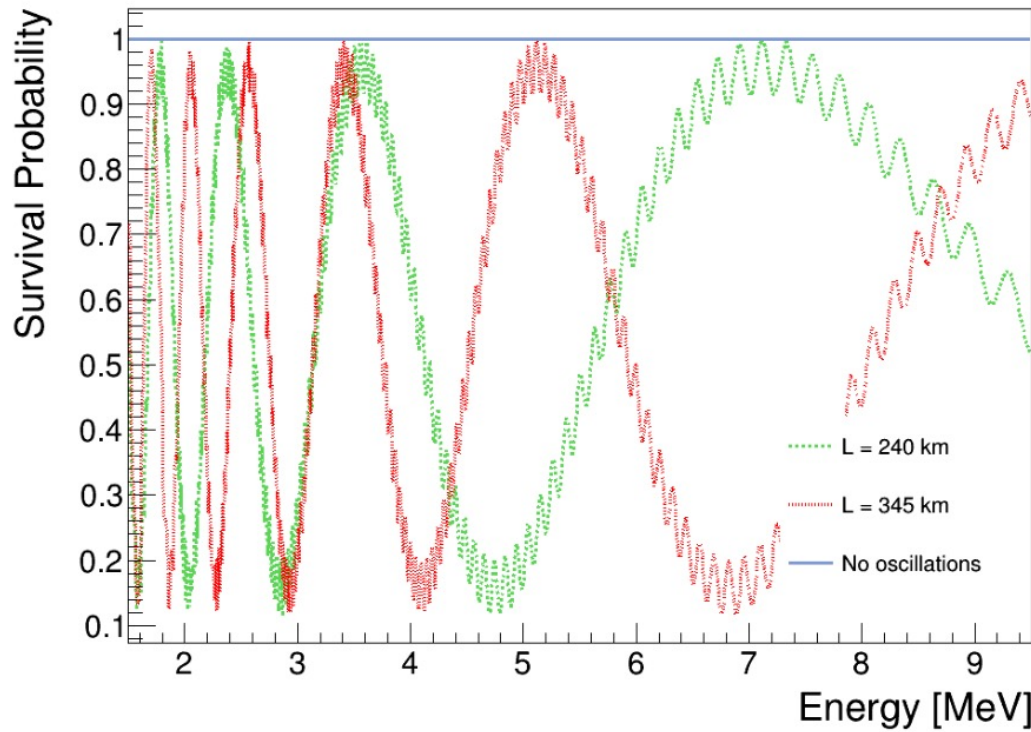
- July 2019: start filling with scintillator (LAB+PPO fluor)
  - “Partial fill” phase due to pandemic: 365T LS, 0.6g/L PPO
- April 2022 : start of scintillator phase
  - 780T LS, 2.2g/L PPO
- 2023: preparation for Te loading for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  phase



Phys.Rev.C 102 (2020) 1, 014002



$$P_{ee} = 1 - S^2 2\theta_{12} C_{13}^4 S^2 1.27 \Delta m_{21}^2 [\text{eV}^2] \frac{L[\text{km}]}{E[\text{GeV}]} - S^2 2\theta_{13} S^2 1.27 \Delta m_{31}^2 [\text{eV}^2] \frac{L[\text{km}]}{E[\text{GeV}]}$$



Can we see it?

# 不能完成的任务？(Yes or No)

Electron Antineutrinos in the Water Phase of the SNO+ Experiment

by

Pawel MekarSKI

数据: 2.2017.09-2018.01: 65 days

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Department of Physics  
University of Alberta

	Minimum $e^+$ nHit	Expected	Measured
指数增长 ↑	25	19.53	15
	26	12.46	11
	27	7.94	7
	28	5.06	5
本底预期	29	2.94	5
	30	1.75	5
	31	1.00	2
	32	0.52	1
	33	0.25	0

Signal: 0.07 /65天

“We’ve done it. We cannot see it.”

© Pawel MekarSKI, 2018

# 重拾信心



2018.05 : 加入SNO+

6月就开展实际研究工作

Study of IBD ( $\bar{\nu} + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$ ) events @SNO+

Yang ZHANG

PDF @University of Alberta

Supervising member: [Aksel Hallin](#)

June. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

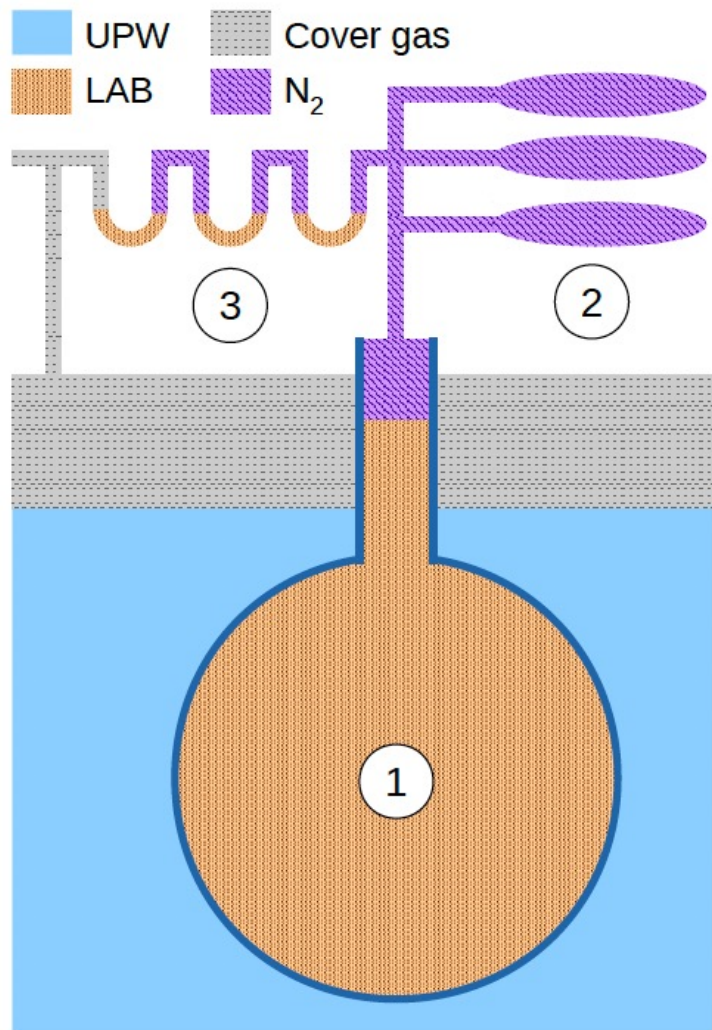


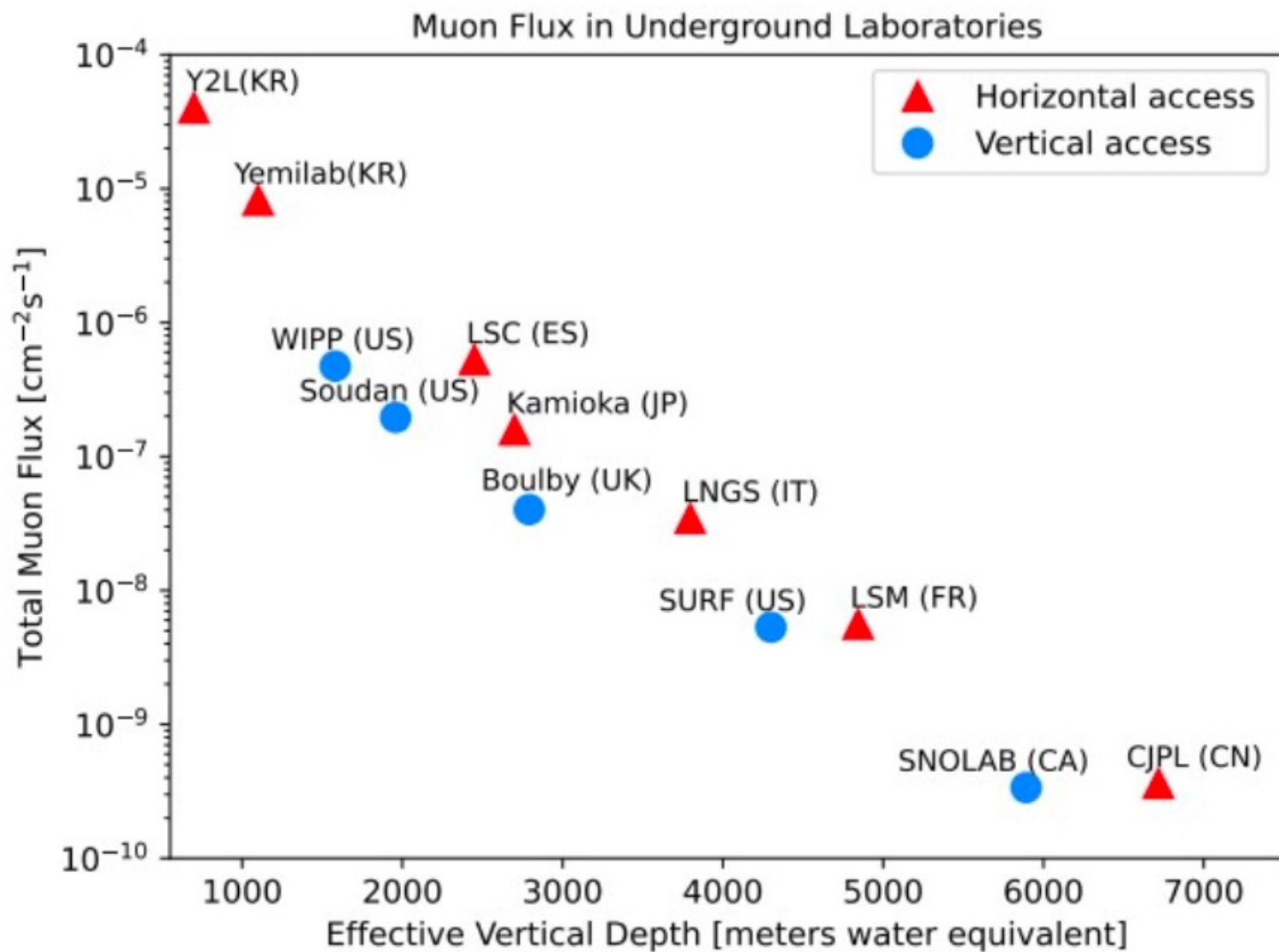
## Summary

- Roughly speaking, we would expect  $\sim 0.4$  signal events v.s.  $\sim 0.8$  bkg. events ( $N_{\text{hits}} \geq 29$ ) per year at signal efficiency of  $\sim 10\%$  and bkg. level of  $0.01\%$ . (assuming other settings are same as Pawel's).
  - Notice accidental bkg level is suppressed by a factor of  $\sim 20$ .
  - This could be achieved.

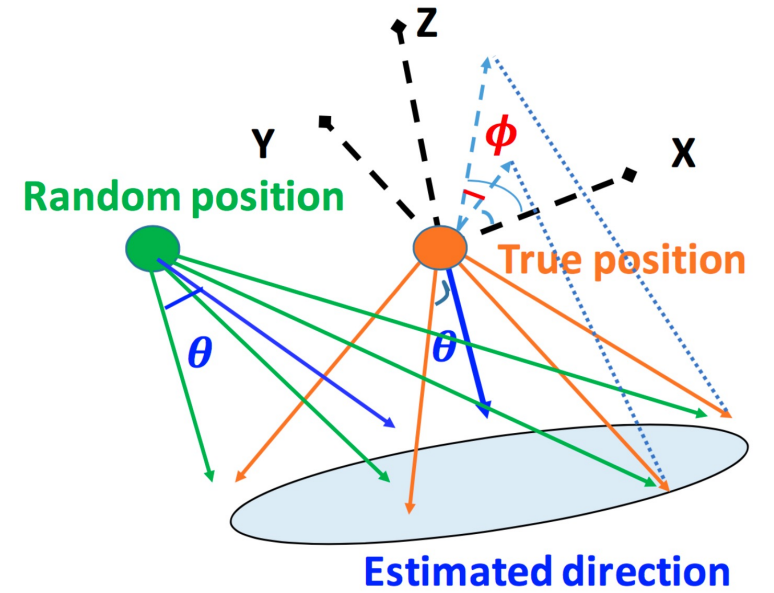
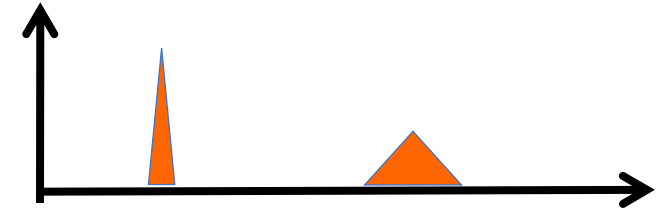
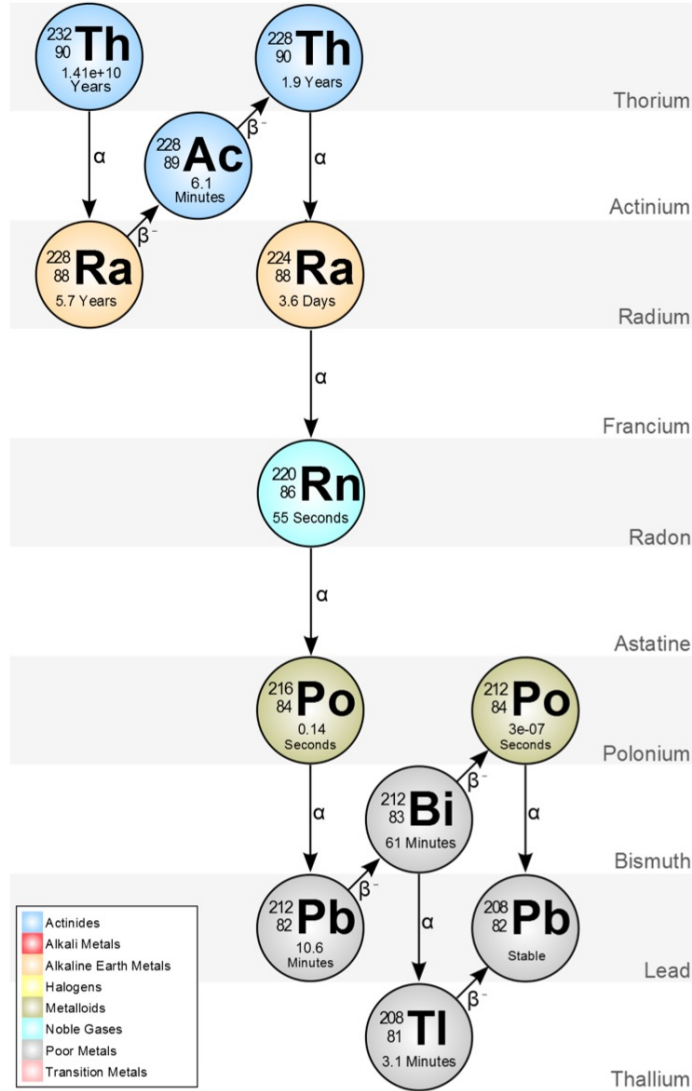
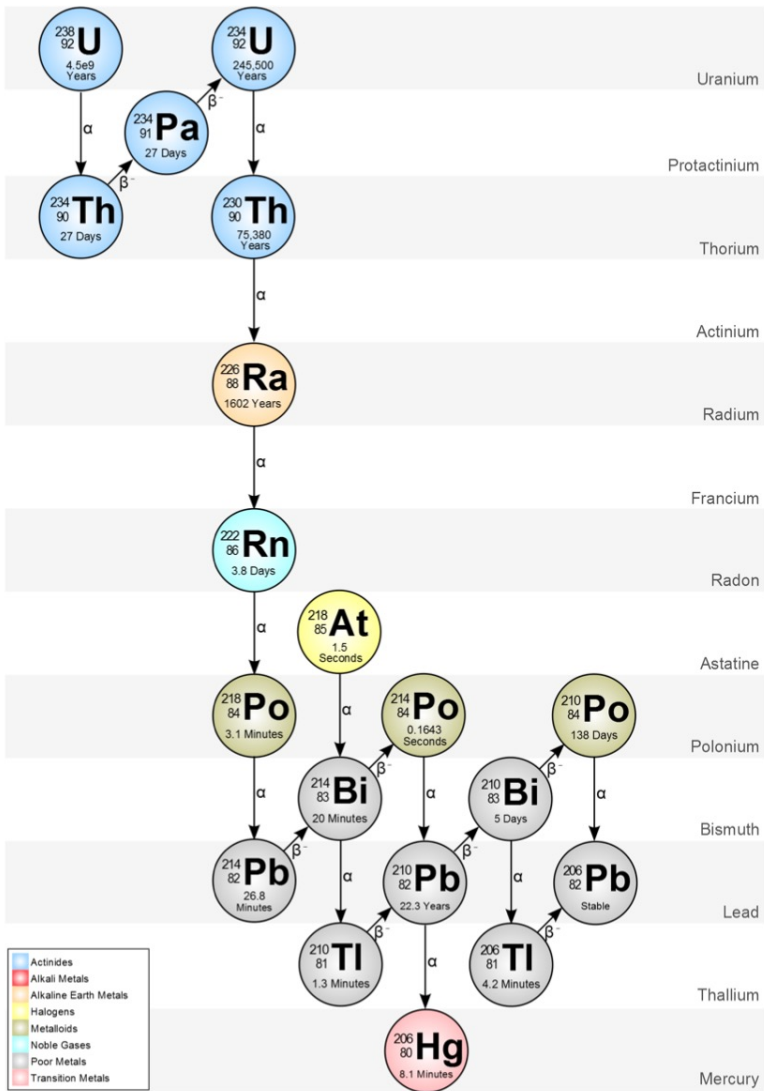
**Expectation:  $\sim 1$  IBD,  $\sim 1$  bkg for  $\sim 140$ -day data**

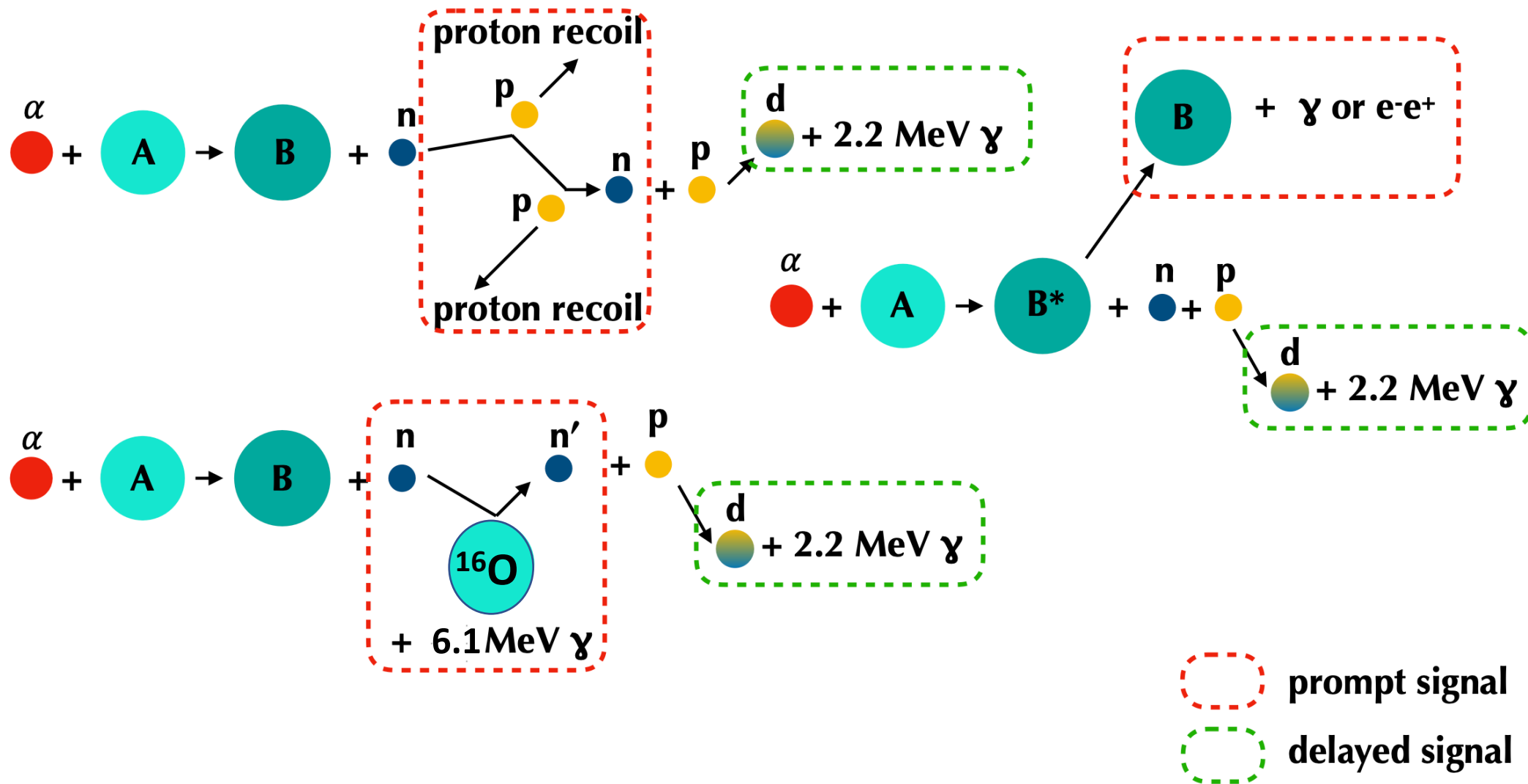
**Observed: 1 evt**



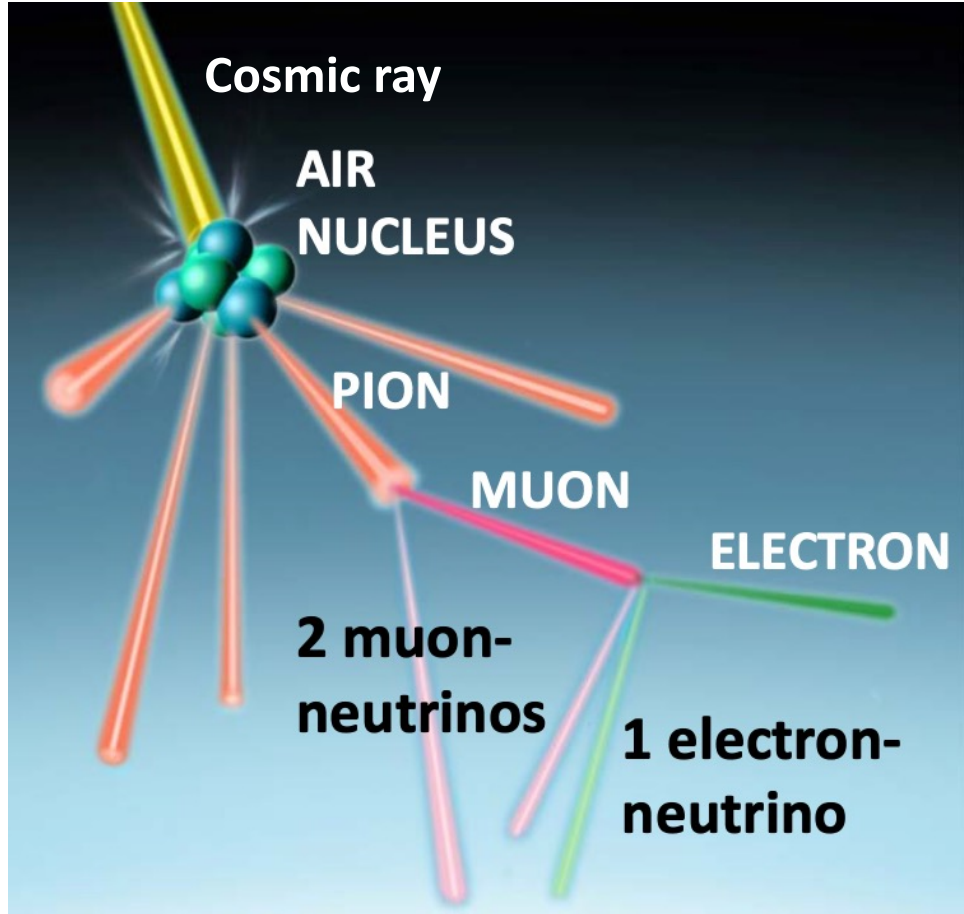




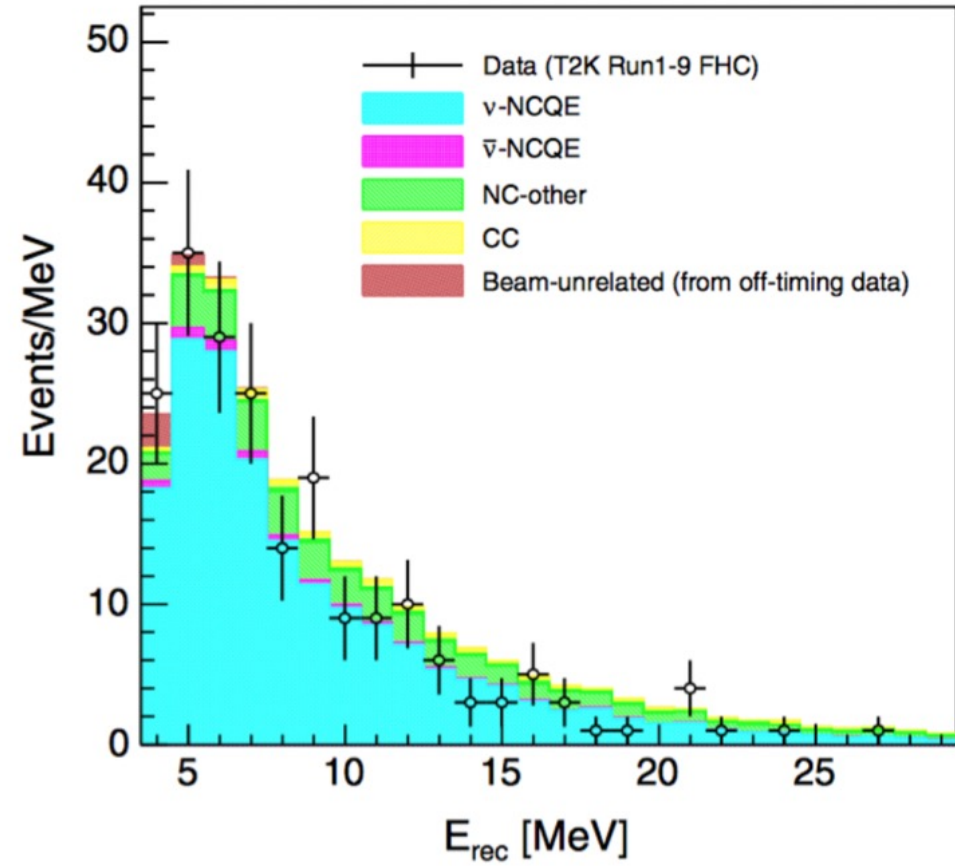




*PRD 100, 112009 (2019) .*



Courtesy: Kajita's nobel lecture



# 盲分析-Sideband 研究本底

## 偶然符合

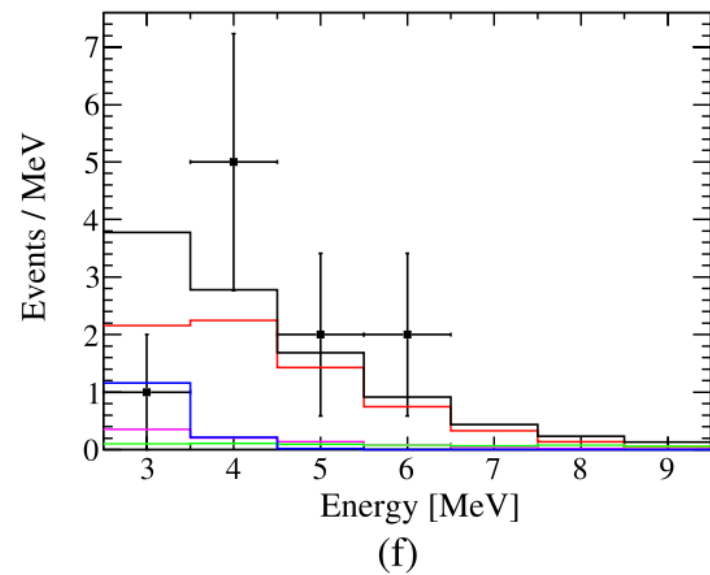
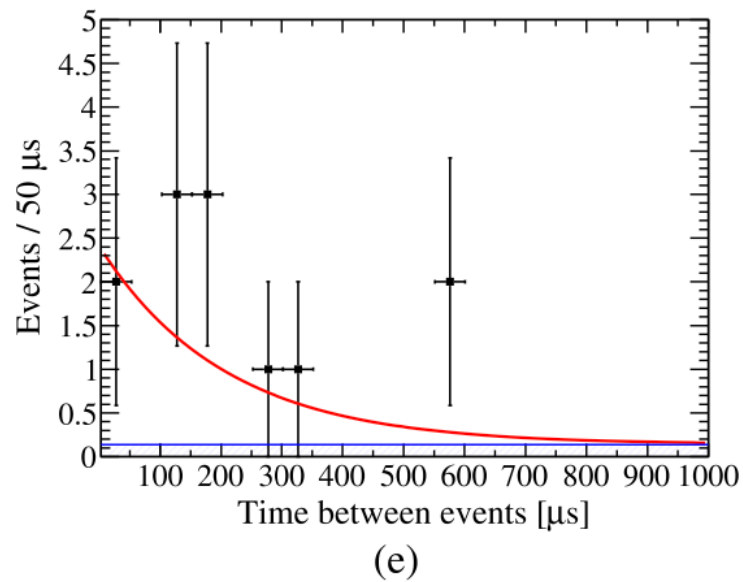
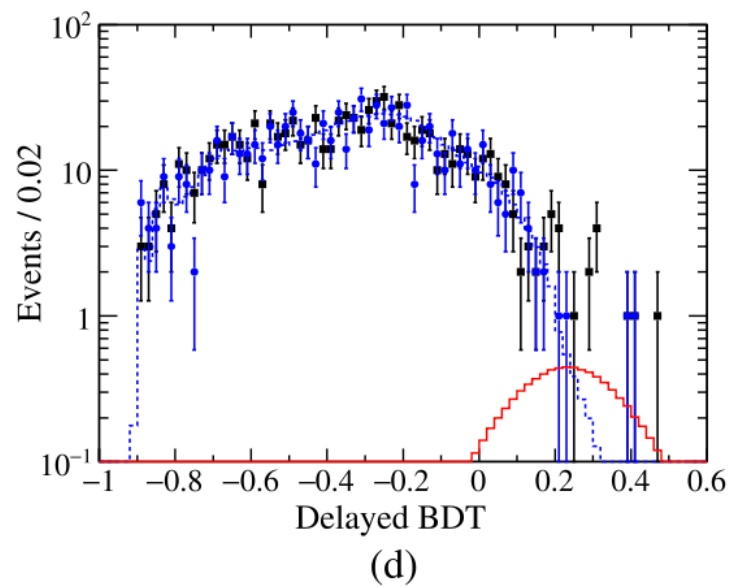
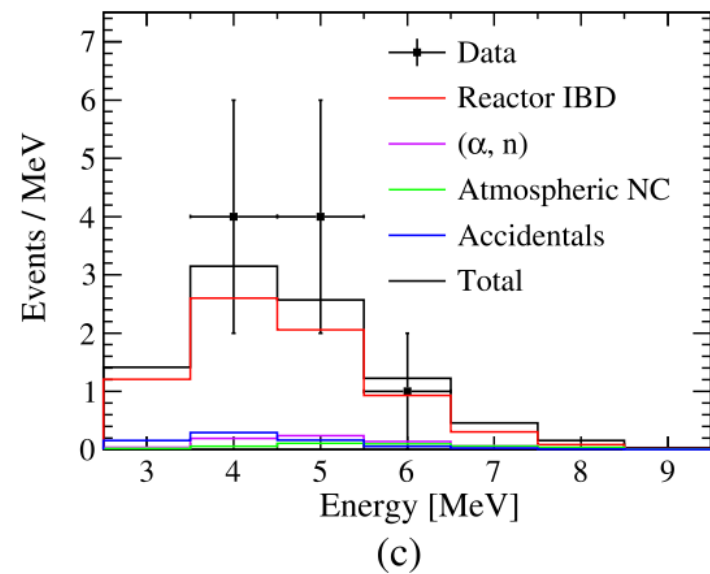
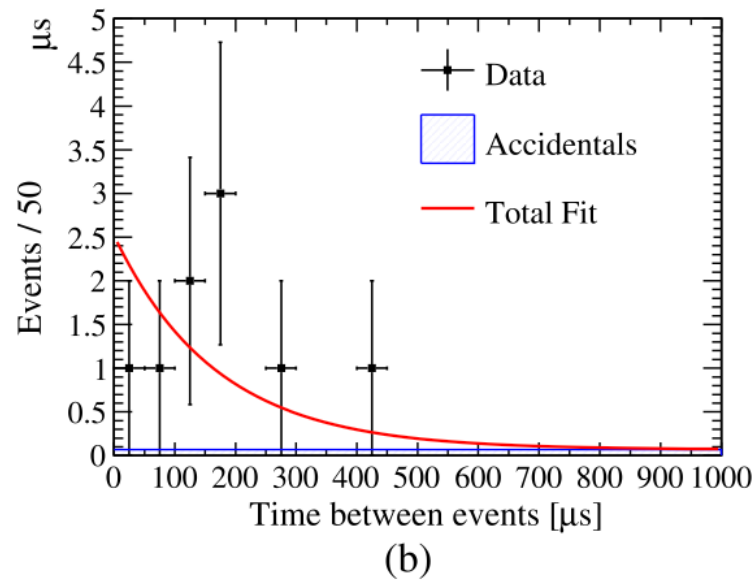
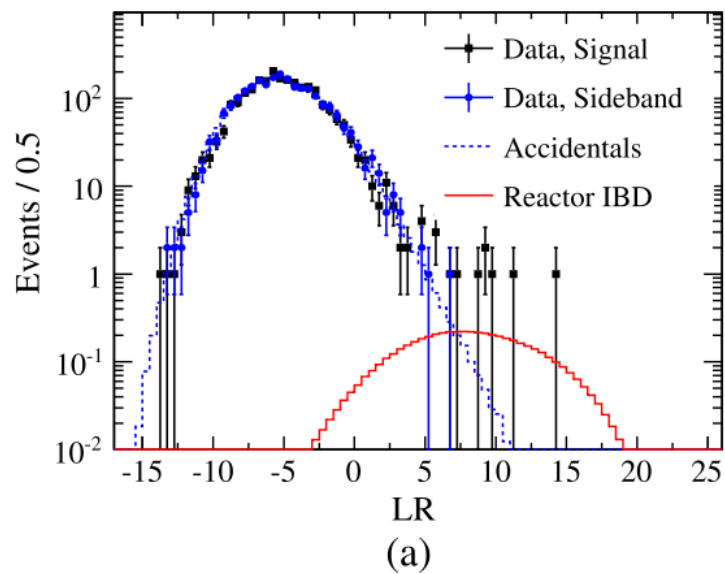
- 1、即时事例和延时事例随机配对，进行无偏估计。
- 2、用0.5-1 ms 时间窗口进行本底验证

## ( $\alpha, n$ ) 本底

- 1、Si- $\alpha$  计数器测量<sup>210</sup>Po活度 over acrylic in-situ,  $2.4 \pm 0.8$  Bq/m<sup>2</sup>
- 2、Bench-top measurement of leaching rate.
- 3、亚克力附近 ( $\alpha, n$ ) 事例测量来验证

## 中性流

- 1、2.5-25 MeV, 中子重复度 $\geq 2$ 。
- 2、9.5-25 MeV, 中子重复度为1。



## Evidence of Antineutrinos from Distant Reactors Using Pure Water at SNO+

Overview of attention for article published in Physical Review Letters, March 2023



- 35 news outlets
- 6 blogs
- 62 tweeters
- 1 Facebook page
- 3 Redditors
- 1 Dimensions
- 4 Mendeley

SUMMARY News Blogs More...

So far, Altmetric has seen 37 news stories from 35 outlets.

In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric

High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age (99th percentile)

High Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age and source (99th percentile)

**marketer\*** სუფთა წყალში ატომური ელექტროსადგურის მოჩვენებითი ნათება დააფიქსირეს  
Marketer.ge, 12 Apr 2023  
ეს ამბავი ინტაროში მოხდა და მნიშვნელოვანი იმითაა, რომ პირველი შემთხვევაა, როცა წყალი ანტინეიტრონის ნაწილაკის გამოსაუღუნად გამოიყ...

**elef** The Ghostly Glow of a Nuclear Power Station Detected in Pure Water 150 Miles Away  
Science Alert, 12 Apr 2023  
Buried under kilometers of rock in Ontario, Canada, a tank of the purest water flashed as barely detectable particle slammed...

**PHYS.ORG** The SNO+ collaboration gathers the first evidence of antineutrinos in a water Cherenkov detector  
Phys.org, 11 Apr 2023  
Antineutrinos, the antimatter counterpart of neutrinos, have an almost non-existent mass and charge, and almost never interact...

**hvg.hu** 2100 méterrel a felszín alatt kapcsolták be az érzékelőt, bejelzett a 240 km-re lévő atomerőmű miatt  
hvg.hu, 19 Apr 2023  
tudomány + Kanadai kutatók korábban úgy gondolták, egy olyan kis detektor, mint amit ők használnak egy földalatti bányában, nem...

**Today Headline** Pure Water Breakthrough in Neutrino Detection  
Today Headline, 04 Apr 2023  
A view inside the SNO detector when filled with water. In the background, there are 9,000 photomultiplier tubes that detect...

**Scitech Daily** Pure Water Breakthrough in Neutrino Detection  
Scitech Daily, 04 Apr 2023  
A view inside the SNO detector when filled with water. In the background, there are 9,000 photomultiplier tubes that detect...

**Nouvelles du monde** Une équipe a trouvé un moyen de détecter les neutrinos à l'aide d'eau  
Nouvelles du monde, 03 Apr 2023  
Dans une expérience collaborative connue sous le nom d'observation des neutrinos de Sudbury (SNO+), une équipe internationale...

**INTERESTING ENGINEERING** Ground-breaking 'antineutrino' detector requires pure water only  
Interesting Engineering, 29 Mar 2023  
A significant breakthrough in detecting subatomic particles known as antineutrinos has been achieved, according to recent...

**physicsworld** Reactor antineutrinos detected in pure water in an experimental first  
physicsworld.com, 28 Mar 2023  
For the first time, pure water has been used to detect low-energy antineutrinos produced by nuclear reactors.

**PHYS.ORG** New neutrino detection method using water  
Phys.org, 28 Mar 2023  
Research published in the journal Physical Review Letters conducted by an international team of scientists including Joshua...

**ASKBYGEEKS** AskByGeeks | Five things to know: The latest breakthrough in neutrino detection  
AskByGeeks, 27 Mar 2023  
research published in journals Physical Review Letters The study, conducted by an international team of scientists including...

**teknika & talous** Ydinvoimalan säteily havaittiin 240 kilometrin päästä suoraan peruskallion läpi  
Tekniikka & Talous, 17 Mar 2023  
Ydinvoimalan neutrinosäteily on onnistuttu mittaamaan 240 kilometrin päästä suoraan peruskallion läpi kanadalais-yhdysvaltalaise...

**NewScientist** Neutrinodetector meet achieve kerncentrales honderden kilometers verderop  
NewScientist.nl, 14 Mar 2023  
Het Canadese deeltjesexperiment SNO+ heeft neutrino's gevangen die zijn ontstaan in kerncentrales honderden kilometers verderop.

**CTV NEWS** Sudbury SNOLAB makes scientific breakthrough in monitoring nuclear power  
CTV News, 06 Mar 2023  
A surprise result during an experiment at SNOLAB in Sudbury revealed a scientific breakthrough in the astroparticle physics...

**the.sudburystar.com** SNOLAB captures first reactor neutrinos detected by water  
The Sudbury Star, 06 Mar 2023  
Even before it's completed, the SNO+ experiment at Sudbury's SNOLAB has made a breakthrough, one that can assist in monitoring...

格鲁吉亚语

匈牙利语

法语

芬兰语

荷兰语



Science

## Five things to know: The latest breakthrough in neutrino detection

could be very expensive,” Klein said. “So, our work shows that it’s possible to build very large detectors and do it with just water.”

abides by its commitments in the nuclear weapons treaty; it is the handle to ensure nuclear non-proliferation.

Joshua Klein is the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Professor and Chair of Graduate Studies in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Arts and Sciences.



## Ground-breaking 'antineutrino' detector requires pure water only

A team of scientists has devised a new technique to detect antineutrinos from a distance using little more than pure water.

A significant breakthrough in detecting subatomic particles known as antineutrinos has been achieved, according to recent research published in *APS*.

# Today Headline **SciTechDaily**

## Pure Water Breakthrough in Neutrino Detection

An international team of scientists has made a breakthrough in detecting neutrinos using pure water instead of the expensive liquid scintillator that was previously used. The Sudbury Neutrino Observation (SNO+) experiment, located in a mine in Sudbury, Ontario, detected subatomic particles, known as antineutrinos, using pure water. Neutrinos and antineutrinos are tiny subatomic particles that are considered fundamental building blocks of matter and have practical applications such as monitoring nuclear reactors and detecting nuclear activities. The researchers hope that an array of large and inexpensive reactors could be built to ensure that countries are adhering to nuclear weapons treaties.

**physicsworld**

## Reactor antineutrinos detected in pure water in an experimental first

For the first time, pure water has been used to detect low-energy antineutrinos produced by nuclear reactors. The work was done by the international SNO+ collaboration and could lead to safe and affordable new ways to monitor nuclear reactors from a distance.

The result could have implications for the development of techniques used to monitor nuclear reactors. Recent proposals have suggested that antineutrino detection thresholds could be lowered by doping pure water with elements like chlorine or gadolinium – but now, the results from SNO+ show that these costly, potentially dangerous materials may not be necessary to achieve the same quality of results.

# DOE SCIENCE NEWS SOURCE

## Detecting Neutrinos from Nuclear Reactors with Water

*The SNO+ experiment has for the first time shown that neutrinos from a nuclear reactor over 240 km away can be detected with plain water.*



### The Impact

The SNO+ measurement shows that distant nuclear reactors can be observed and monitored with something as simple and inexpensive as water. Reactors cannot shield the neutrinos they produce. This means SNO+'s measurement is a proof of the idea that such water detectors could play a role in ensuring nuclear non-proliferation. Like SNO+, such detectors would still need to be very clean of any radioactivity, large (SNO+ contains 1,000 tons of water), and able to detect the tiny amount of light that the neutrinos produce. The use of water, however, means that very large detectors are possible and a real option for "seeing" even very distant reactors.

### Summary

Water detectors have several advantages. They are inexpensive and can be very large, making them useful for monitoring reactors across international borders. Improvements to

Scientists long thought that the tiny signals (just 10-20 photons) created by reactor neutrinos in a water detector would make it impossible to detect those neutrinos, particularly when the detector was far away from the reactor and the rate of these signals was very low. By ensuring that the detector was clean from even trace amounts of





视点首页 > 学术纵横 > 正文

## SNO+合作组在国际上首次实现利用纯水测量反应堆中微子，山大团队作出重要贡献

发布日期：2023年03月03日 08:37 点击次数：1020

## 首次实现利用纯水测量反应堆中微子，山大团队做出重要贡献

Original 山大中微子团队 现代物理知识杂志 2023-03-31 18:42 Posted on 北京

近期，SNO+（Sudbury Neutrino Observatory +）合作组在国际上首次实现利用水契伦科夫技术测量反应堆中微子，基线长度大于240公里，统计显著度为3.5倍标准偏差。实验结果于3月1日在线发表在《物理评论快报》（Phys.Rev.Lett. 130, 091801,(2023)）。论文同时被选为编辑推荐（Editors'suggestion）和物理特写（Featured in physics）【1】。山东大学前沿交叉科学青岛研究院的张洋教授是该研究结果的主要完成人之一，独立完成了论文所述两种并行方法的其中一种。目前，张洋教授担任SNO+国际合作组的中方代表。

# 清华大学高能物理研究中心

Center for High Energy Physics, Tsinghua University

主页 Home 中心简介 About 学术委员会 Committee 中心人员 People 研究方向 Research 招聘信息 Employment 发表文章 Publication 论文查阅 Thesis 文件下载 Download 讲义文档 Training

## 中心毕业生发表数百公里反应堆中微子探测文章

2023年3月1日，清华工物系中微子研究小组毕业的两位博士研究生张洋和Logan Michael Lebanowski作为主要贡献人，在加拿大萨德伯里地下实验室的SNO+实验中，分别通过似然比和增强决策树两种方法分析了2018年的数据，首次在水质切伦科夫探测器以超过三倍标准偏差的显著性观测到来自至少240公里外的核反应堆的反中微子的信号。该文章发表在Physical Review Letter 130, 091801 (2023)，并被选为Editor's suggestion和Featured in Physics。

## 中国物理学会高能物理分会 HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS BRANCH OF CPS

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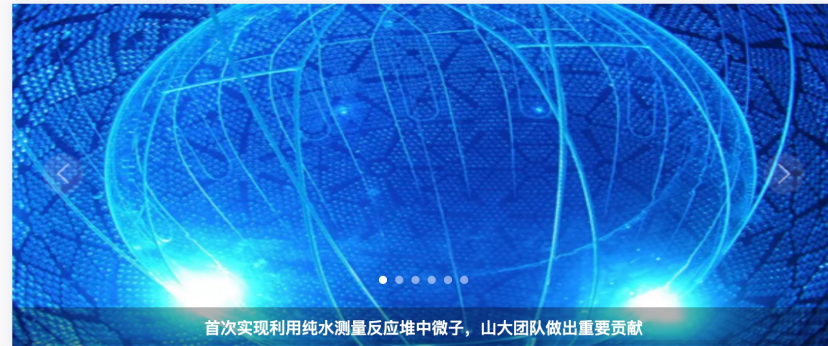
成为会员

高能苑地

科普专栏

学会奖项

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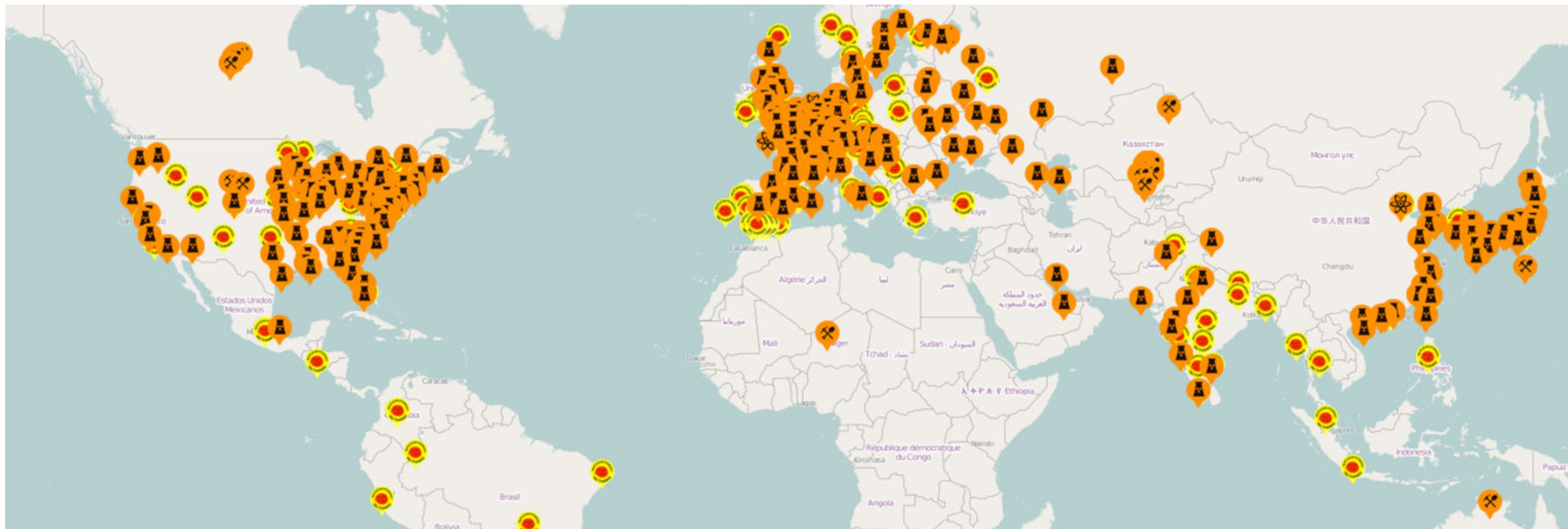
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- FASER 实验首次探测到对撞机产... 2023/03/31
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CPC封面文章解读

- BESIII实验首次观测到多个含中子... 2023/02/10

# Towards future



把 $\frac{1}{10}$ SNO+探测器放在~500 m处，信号增强~ $10^4$ 倍！ $O(10^2)$ /天！

# 中微子：从科学走向技术




走过长夜，走过坎坷，走进曙色



**山大是国内唯一合作单位!**

# Neutrino 2020

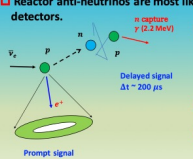


## Reactor anti-neutrino search in the SNO+ water phase

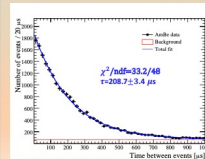
Yang Zhang and Tanner Kaptanoglu for the SNO+ Collaboration.  
June, 22nd, Neutrino 2020 (The XXIX International Conference on Neutrino Physics)

### I. Introduction

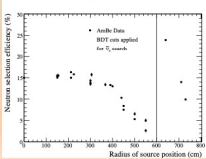
- Reactor anti-neutrinos are most likely to be detected via inverse beta decay (IBD) reaction in hydrogen-rich detectors.
- However, they have never been detected in pure water Cherenkov detectors due to the limited light yields and huge backgrounds at the energy region of interest, and the first detection would be quite interesting.
- SNO+ has a relatively high (~50%) neutron detection efficiency [1].
- Preparation for a reactor anti-neutrino search using the SNO+ detector during the water-fill phase is presented.



### IV. Calibration using AmBe data

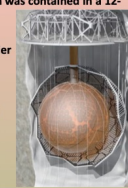


- AmBe calibration data [1] are employed to verify and calibrate the n-selection efficiency.



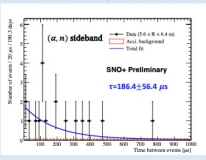
### II. SNO+ detector

- SNO+ [2] is a multipurpose neutrino experiment that began taking data with pure water in May, 2017.
- In water phase, the detector was filled with 900 tons of ultra-pure water, which was contained in a 12-meter-diameter acrylic vessel (AV).
- The vessel is surrounded by more than 9,000 20-cm Hamamatsu photo-multiplier tubes (PMT), which are mounted on a 18-m-diameter geodesic PMT support structure.
- The detector is currently half-full with liquid scintillator. The physics objectives during the scintillator phase include measurements of reactor neutrinos and geoneutrinos.
- The water phase dataset used in this poster has 190.3-day livetime.



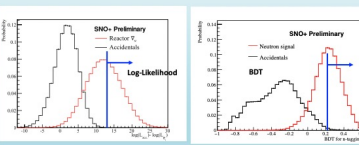
### V. Signal estimation and background analysis

- Signal region is defined as  $2.5 < E_{\text{prompt}} < 9.5$  MeV,  $R < 5.6$  m (internal) or  $6.4 < R < 7.3$  m (external),  $3 < \Delta T < 500$   $\mu$ s and neutron multiplicity = 1.
- Both analyses (BDT and LogL) expect ~2.5 signal events in the internal volume with ~0.5 accidental events. The statistics can be doubled approximately adding the external region.
- Cosmogenic spallation backgrounds are negligible due to our great depth (~2 km).
- Atmospheric neutrino neutral current (NC) interactions produce a background via:  $\nu + {}^{16}\text{O} \rightarrow \nu + {}^{15}\text{O} + n$ , with the emission of a prompt 6.13 MeV  $\gamma$ .
- No events induced by atmospheric neutrino NC interactions are found in the following two sidebands.
  - $9.5 < E < 25$  MeV and neutron multiplicity  $\geq 1$
  - $2.5 < E < 25$  MeV and neutron multiplicity  $> 1$
- $(\alpha, n)$  reactions on  ${}^{13}\text{C}$  and  ${}^{18}\text{O}$  channels are studied using the sideband around the AV with radius (5.6, 6.4) m.
- There are  $(\alpha, n)$  background events at large radii near the AV.
- Fiducial volume cut is needed to exclude these events.



### III. Methodology

- Two approaches are in place, Log-Likelihood and boosted decision tree (BDT) in TMVA [2] based on spatial and temporal proximity.
- Both analyses use the energy, position, and radial direction of the delayed events.
- For the BDT, instead of directly reconstructing the delayed event position in the first place, the hit times of the delayed event are tested against the hypothesis that the delayed event occurred at the same reconstructed position as the prompt event.
- We reduce the accidentals by a factor of ~10<sup>4</sup> and retain ~15% of the neutrons.



### VI. Summary and Outlooks

- Following the AmBe study [1], we have successfully studied the reactor  $\bar{\nu}_e$  signal and the sideband backgrounds regarding accidentals, NC and  $(\alpha, n)$  events in the SNO+ water phase.
- We will un-blind the signal region soon. Stay tuned!
- We have an additional ~150-day livetime of earlier data that will be combined with the current 190.3-day dataset.

### VI. References

[1] M. R. Anderson et al. SNO+ Collaboration arXiv:2002.10311  
[2] S. Andringa et al. SNO+ Collaboration Advances in High Energy Physics 2016, 619430 (2016).  
[3] A. Hocker, et al. PoS(AIC 04) (2007), arXiv:physics/0709109; P. Spickmeyer, et al. Phys. Conf. Ser. 219, 02057 (2010).

# Neutrino 2022

## First detection of reactor antineutrinos in a pure-water Cherenkov detector

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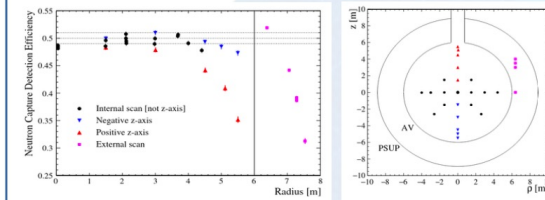
on behalf of the SNO+ Collaboration



a phased experiment, in SNOLAB, Canada, with the ultimate goal of searching for neutrino less double beta decay in Tellurium-loaded liquid scintillator.

### SNO+ as a low energy threshold Cherenkov detector

From 2017 to 2019, SNO+ operated as a pure water Cherenkov detector with a very low energy threshold. 2.2 MeV  $\gamma$  from neutron capture in hydrogen can be seen with ~50% efficiency in the center of SNO+. After calibration, a total of 1.3 kton of pure water can be used for analyses based on neutron-tagging.



Detection efficiency calibrated with a neutron source, inside AV (acrylic vessel) and PSUP (PMT support structure).

[1] SNO+ Coll. Measurement of neutron-proton capture in the SNO+ water phase, Phys. Rev. C 102, 014002 (2020), arXiv:2002.10351

### Dealing with low energy backgrounds

Delayed events are only kept if they follow within 1000  $\mu$ s from a higher energy prompt event (PMT hits  $\geq 15$ , Energy  $> 2.5$  MeV, with good reconstruction evaluated by auxiliary parameters).

Less than 1 antineutrino IBD event per day expected from nuclear reactors at more than 240 km.

More than 1 accidental coincidence per hour from separate prompt and delayed event rates.

Two independent analyses designed to suppress this background by four orders of magnitude.

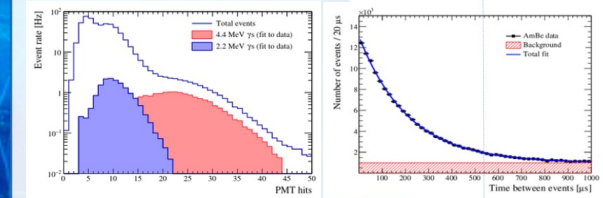
One analysis uses two Boosted Decision Trees (BDT) and the other uses a Likelihood Ratio (LR), with consistent results inside the AV, close to the AV, outside the AV, with different background levels.

[2] SNO+ Coll. Observation of Antineutrinos from Distant Reactors using Pure Water at SNO+, in preparation

- Blind analyses optimized by constructing fake coincidences from real data events
- Coincidence detection at the lowest thresholds from calibrations and full detector simulations
- Side-band analyses for direct measurements of other processes with neutron delayed coincidences
- N<sub>2</sub> cover gas installed above the neck of SNO+ for significantly lower backgrounds in last 190.3 days!

### Neutron delayed coincidence tagging

The source  $(\alpha, n)$  reaction mimics the interaction of low energy reactor antineutrinos (IBD:  $\bar{\nu} p \rightarrow e^+ n$ ). The neutron is emitted with a prompt gamma (or a positron), and the neutron capture is seen later. Natural  $(\alpha, n)$  reactions are also expected due to decays of  ${}^{210}\text{Po}$  accumulated in the AV of SNO+.



SNO+ has a high light coverage, by ~9400 PMTs. PMT hits is a first proxy used for energy reconstruction. Time (and distance) between the prompt and neutron capture signals are used to select the coincidence events.

### First measurements of $(\alpha, n)$ and reactor antineutrinos

Two analysis optimized separately to detect a hand-full of reactor antineutrino events each in the SNO+ water phase will soon give the first measurement of low energy antineutrinos in a pure-water Cherenkov detector

Coincidence counts selected in a 321 days data-set from  ${}^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n){}^{16}\text{O}$  with up to 6.1 MeV prompt  $\gamma$  directly measure the  ${}^{210}\text{Po}$  levels at the AV, providing its monitoring from the first to last phases of SNO+

~ 1  $(\alpha, n)$  event expected in each of the two analysis in the complementary fiducial volumes away from the AV

Events with time separation between 0.5 ms and 1.0 ms to directly cross-check accidental coincidence background

~ 1 accidental coincidence expected within 500  $\mu$ s (separation of more than 3 us to exclude instrumental event bursts)

All other backgrounds are reduced to less than one event in this data-set after neutron delayed coincidence tagging

Results cross-checked with the 2020 data taking with the detector partially filled with pure scintillator

[3] Charlie Mills et al, on behalf of SNO+ Coll, Reactor antineutrinos at SNO+, poster presentation at Neutrino 2022

SNO+ is now measuring antineutrinos in pure-liquid scintillator, before loading in the Tellurium

# BACKUP

- Po-210 is measured using Si-alpha counters
- Measurements are done over acrylic *in situ*
- *Also* two pipes from inside AV were measured
- Distance from detector to acrylic 1-2 mm of air
- Po-210 spectral line at 5.3 MeV is counted
- Efficiency estimated with Am-241 source

