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Innovation  
Council



UK Research  
and Innovation

C L  U D

**experiment's first release (almost)**

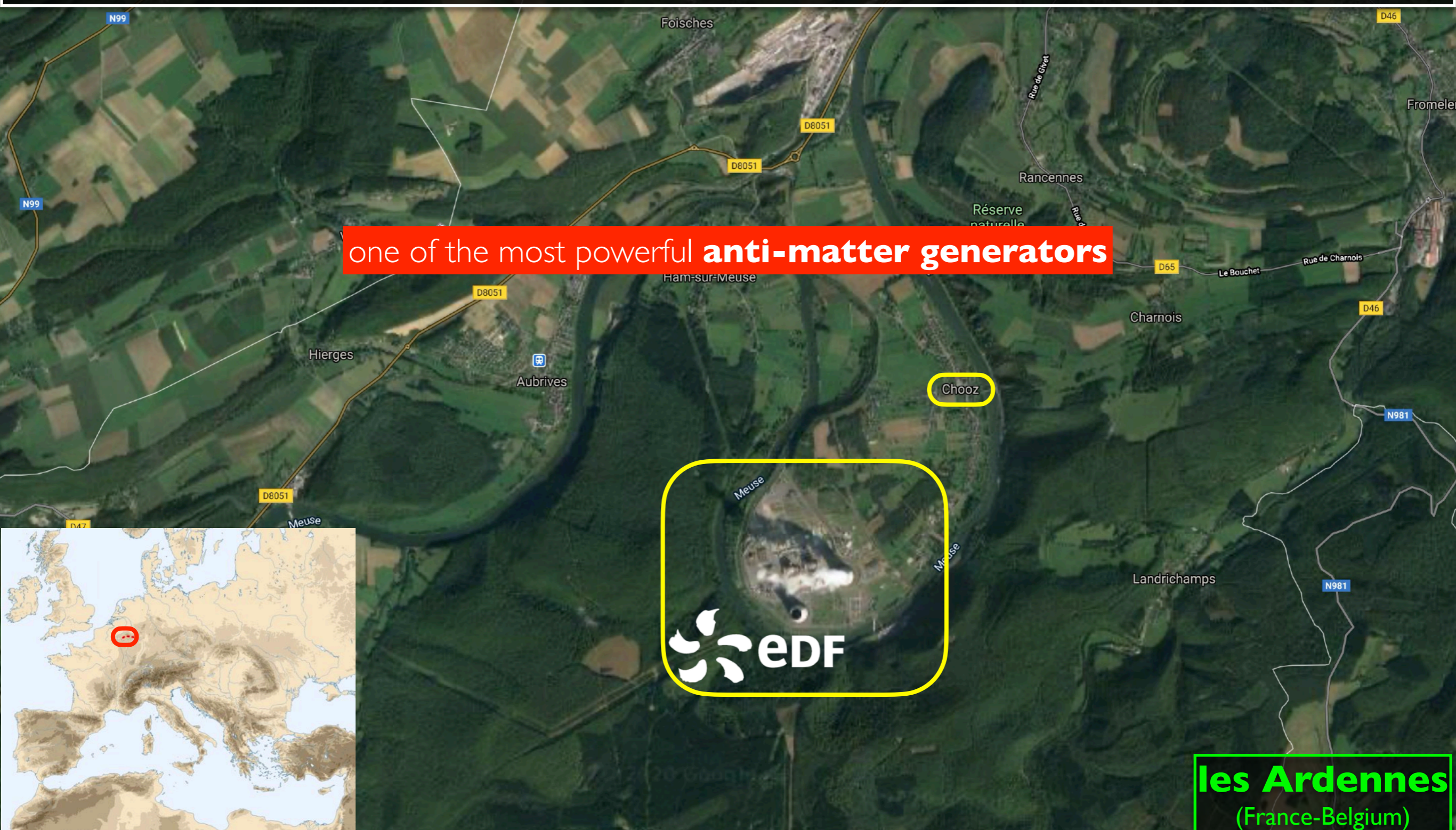
**HEP Seminar @ IJCLab**

6 November 2023 — Orsay (France)

**Anatael Cabrera**

IJCLab / LNCA - Université Paris-Saclay / CNRS  
Orsay, France

in the **middle of central Europe** (between France-Belgium): **Chooz** [meeting point with Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands]



one of the most powerful **anti-matter generators**

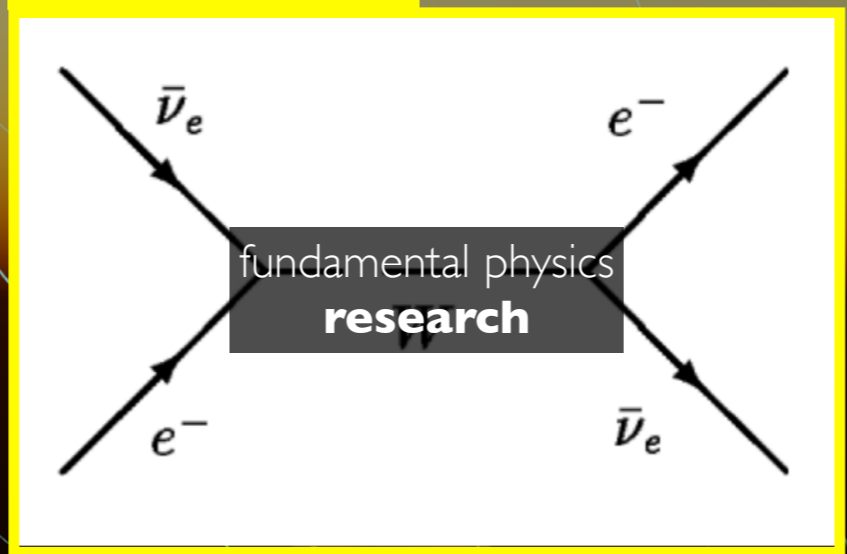


**les Ardennes**  
(France-Belgium)

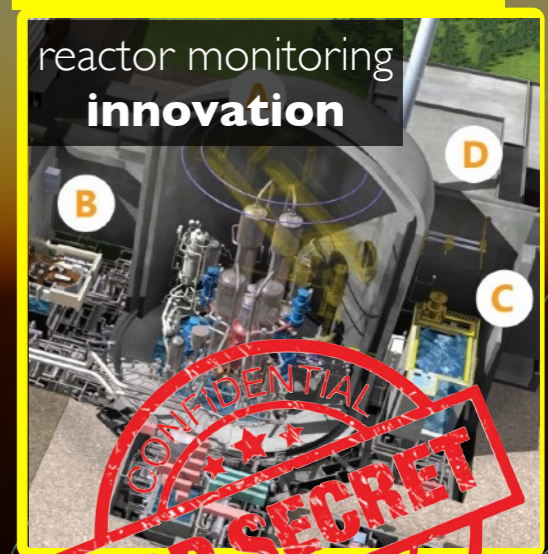
Europe's most powerful reactor site...

3<sup>rd</sup> generation of reactor neutrino experiments @ Chooz

**CLOUD's view...**



**AM-OTech's view...**



the Ardennes mountains

the Meuse river

**antineutrino** (neutrino?):  $\sim 10^{21}$  v/s per core

**Chooz-B:** Nuclear Reactor Cores

**experimental setup...**

- Detector Mass:  $\sim [5, 10]$  ton — **LiquidO** technology
- Overburden:  $\sim 3$  mwe
- Baseline:  $\geq 30$  m (**Ultra Near Detector** site @ Chooz)
- Rate:  $\sim 25,000$  anti- $\nu$  per day —  $\sim 10M$  anti- $\nu$  per year

# CLOUD vs AntiMatter-OTech...

## The origin of this idea: L.A. Mikaelyan – Neutrino '77 conference, Baksan

3. I want to talk about the development of the new technique of the remote reactor diagnostics by the neutrino radiation. Due to the novelty of the problem the consideration naturally will be incomplete and limited by two questions only:

- determination of the reactor power production and in prospect
- determination of the dynamics of the fissioning isotopes burning-out and accumulation (mainly  $^{235}\text{U}$  and  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ ).

The principle promises of the proposed technique seem to be the remote analysis and fixing the plutonium accumulation immediately in the place of its production. This technique (if developed successfully) will be sufficiently important from the point of view of the control on the leakage of fissioning materials and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and also for the economics of nuclear fuel recycling. More detail consideration of these problems on this conference seems to be irrelevant.

# neutrino in the **nuclear** industry?

today, **most experiments** bypass (whenever possible) the **absolute flux knowledge** — complex!  
**relative knowledge** (ex. multi-detector, etc.) well suited to **extract “known model” parameters**

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today's “known model”: **standard neutrino oscillations**

# status on neutrino oscillation knowledge...

**Standard Model** (3 families)

[leptons & quarks]

&

**PMNS**<sub>3x3</sub>( $\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}$ )

&

$\pm\Delta m^2$  ( $\pm\Delta m^2_{23}$ ) &  $+\delta m^2$  ( $\pm\Delta m^2_{12}$ )

no conclusive sign of  
any extension so far!!

(inconsistencies vs uncertainties)

**must measure all parameters** → characterise & test (i.e. over-constrain) **Standard Model**

	today		≥2030		
	best knowledge	global	foreseen	dominant	source
$\theta_{12}$	3.0 % SK⊕SNO	2.3 %	<1.0%	JUNO	reactor
$\theta_{23}$	5.0 % NOvA+T2K	2.0 %	≲1.0%	DUNE⊕HK	beam (octant)
$\theta_{13}$	1.8 % DYB+DC+RENO	<b>1.5 %</b>	<b>1.5 %</b>	DC⊕DYB⊕RENO	reactor
$+\delta m^2$	2.5 % KamLAND	2.3 %	≲1.0%	JUNO	reactor
$ \Delta m^2 $	3.0 % T2K+NOvA & DYB	1.3 %	≲1.0%	JUNO⊕DUNE⊕HK	<u>reactor</u> & beam
<b>Mass Ordering</b>	<b>unknown</b> SK et al	NO @ <b>~3σ</b>	@5σ	JUNO⊕DUNE⊕HK	reactor⊕beam
<b>CPV</b>	<b>unknown</b> T2K	3/2π @ <b>≲2σ</b>	<b>@5σ?</b>	DUNE⊕HK⊕ALL	reactor⊕ <u>beam</u>

(now)

(reactor-beam)

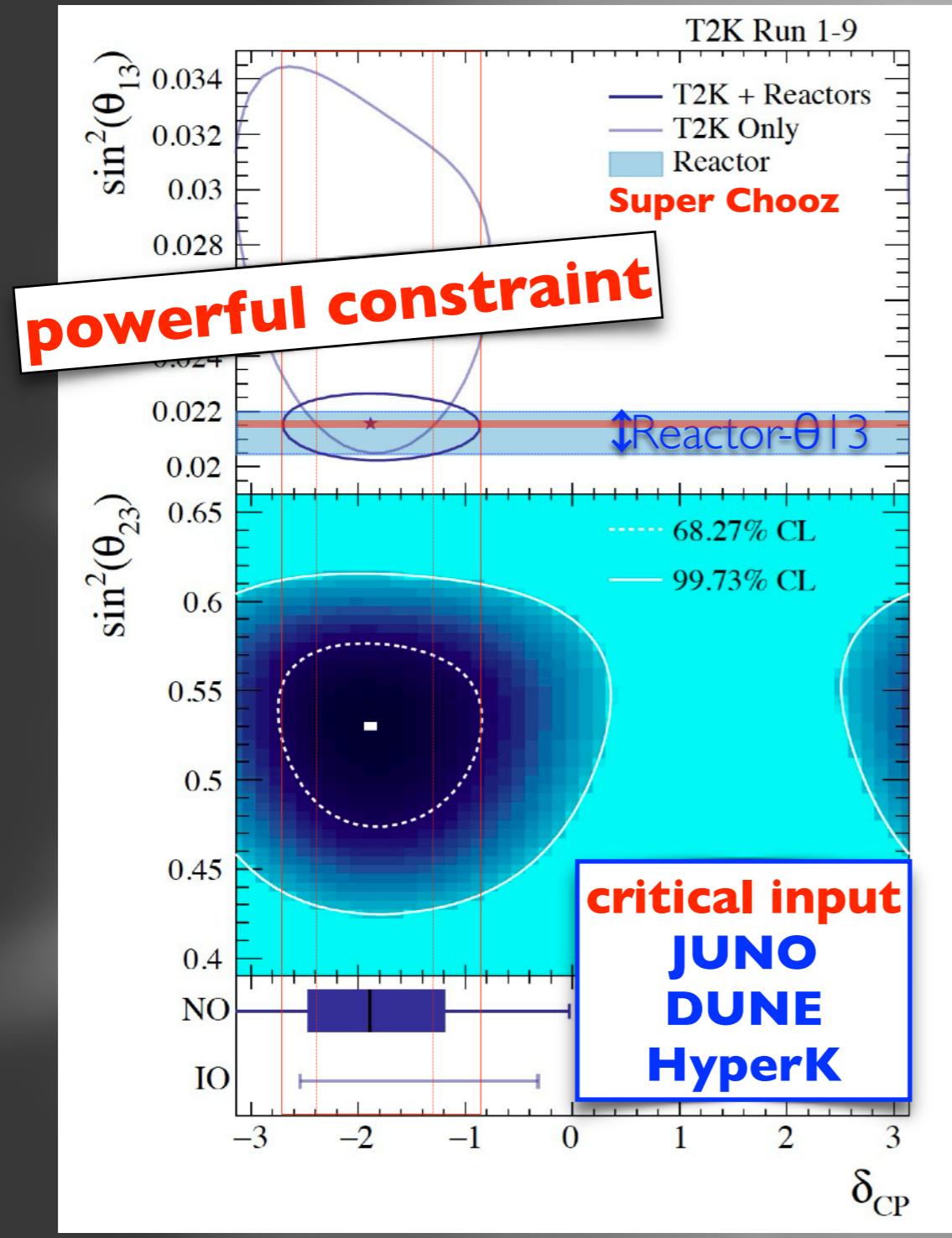
**JUNO⊕DUNE⊕HK** will lead precision in the field → **Mass Ordering** & **CPV** **except**  $\theta_{13}$ !

reactors drive much of **SM**'s knowledge...

**standard neutrino oscillations** ( $\theta_{12}$ ,  $\theta_{13}$ ,  $\theta_{23}$ ,  $+\delta m^2$ ,  $\pm\Delta m^2$ ,  $\delta_{CP}$ ) — if **PMNS unitary**

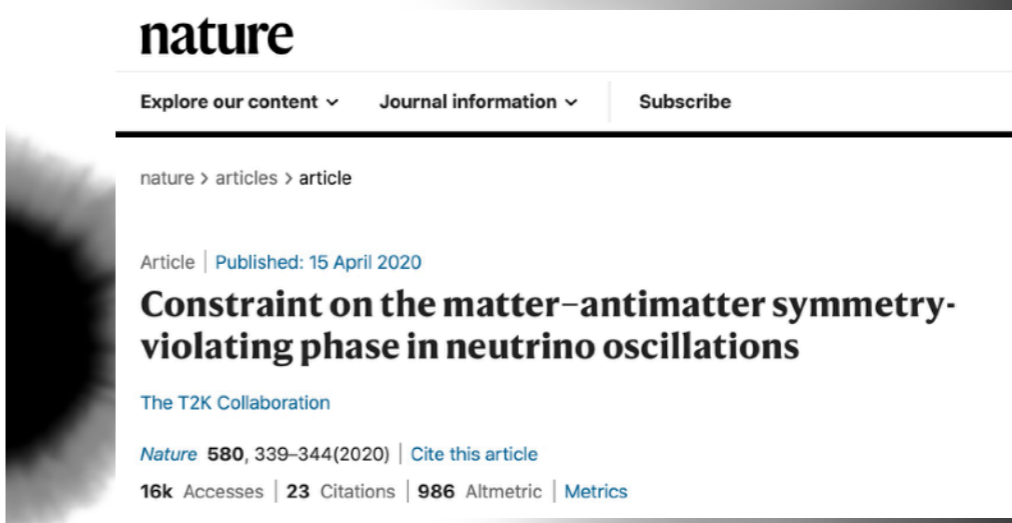
our ability to measure  **$\theta_{23}$ -octant** and  **$\delta_{CP}$**  (so far) needs the input from reactor neutrinos!

# measure CP-violation...



## CPV phase vs $\theta_{13}$

[constrained by reactor]



## CPV phase vs $\theta_{23}$

[octant ambiguity]



# flagship- $\nu$ experiments...

**DUNE**  
(USA)



~2030

**Hyper-Kamiokande**  
(Japan)



~2027

**JUNO**  
(China)



~2024

**enough?**  
(permille precision)

**European contributions in all experiments** — including technology (LAr, etc.)

**2 accelerator** experiments **HyperK** & **DUNE** → **redundancy**

&

**1 reactor** experiment **JUNO** → **no cross-check!**

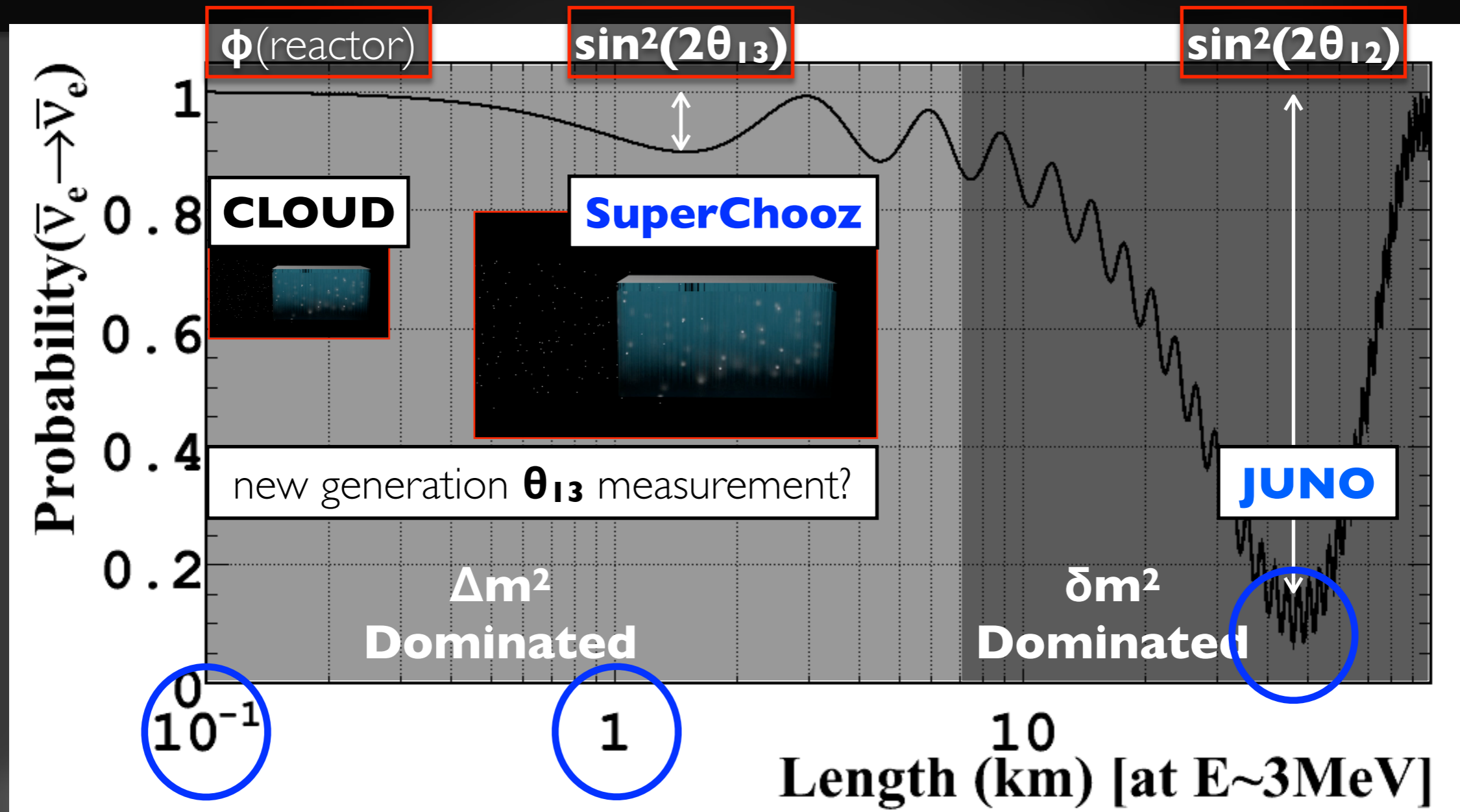
today, **most experiments** bypass (whenever possible) the **absolute flux knowledge** — complex!  
**relative knowledge** (ex. multi-detector, etc.) well suited to **extract “known model” parameters**

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confront **absolute flux knowledge** for **new neutrino physics** via “flux bias explorations”

- **extreme signal** (to BG) rates — unprecedented
- *must*: the **best-known cross-section**(s) today ( $\leq 1\%$ )
- **extreme energy control** ( $\leq 1\%$ ) — avoid spectral distortions ( $\rightarrow$  flux biases)
- **much redundancy** — as much as Nature kindly allows...

# baseline: experimental regime...



- **reactor:** extreme source of neutrino (commercial  $\rightarrow$   $1 \text{ GW} \approx 2 \times 10^{20} / \text{s}$ ) — no running cost.
- **3 measurement regimes:** depending on baseline ( $L$ ):
  - **zero-baseline** ( $L \rightarrow \sim 0 \text{ km}$ ; **CLOUD**):  $\phi(\text{reactor})$  — or **new physics?**
  - **short-baseline** ( $L \rightarrow \sim 1 \text{ km}$ ; **SuperChooz**):  $\theta_{13} \oplus |\Delta m^2|$  [multi-detector:  $\phi(\text{reactor})$ ]
  - **long baseline** ( $L \rightarrow \gtrsim 50 \text{ km}$ ; **JUNO**):  $\theta_{12} \oplus \delta m^2$  and (if enough resolution)  $\pm \Delta m^2$

# SM $\nu$ I.I: knowns & unknowns...

Weak Flavour Neutrinos (**3**):  $\nu(\mathbf{e}), \nu(\boldsymbol{\mu}), \nu(\boldsymbol{\tau})$  — observed **3!** (same as quarks)

Mass Neutrinos (**3**):  $\nu(\mathbf{1}), \nu(\mathbf{2}), \nu(\mathbf{3})$  — assumed  $\geq 3!$  [tight cosmology constraints]

Mass Hierarchy (MH): **the absolute neutrino mass?**  
 [→ why neutrinos so much lighter than charged-leptons?]

**PMNS** matrix (3x3; *a la* CKM):  $\mathbf{U}$ , assumed **unitarity** (→ **violation?**)  
 • mixing parameters (**3**):  $\theta_{13}, \theta_{12}, \theta_{23}$  (octant?) — derived  $J$  [Jarlskog invariant]  
 • CP-violation parameter (**1**):  $\delta?$

Mass Squared Differences (**2**):  $|\delta m^2|$  (i.e.  $\Delta m^2_{12}$ )  
 $|\Delta m^2|$  (i.e.  $\Delta m^2_{13}$  or  $\Delta m^2_{23}$ )

Mass Ordering (MO):  
 $+\delta m^2$  (solar data — observed!)  
 $\pm? \Delta m^2 \rightarrow$  the lightest neutrino  $\nu(\mathbf{1})$  or  $\nu(\mathbf{3})?$

Neutrino Nature: **Majorana?**

discovery!

discovery!

unknown [SM]

discovery!

several experiments

**CLOUD**  
SuperChooz?

**JUNO**  
**HyperK**  
**DUNE**  
SuperChooz?

$\beta\beta$  decay  
other ways?

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on the shoulders of giants...

# breakthroughs with reactor antineutrinos...

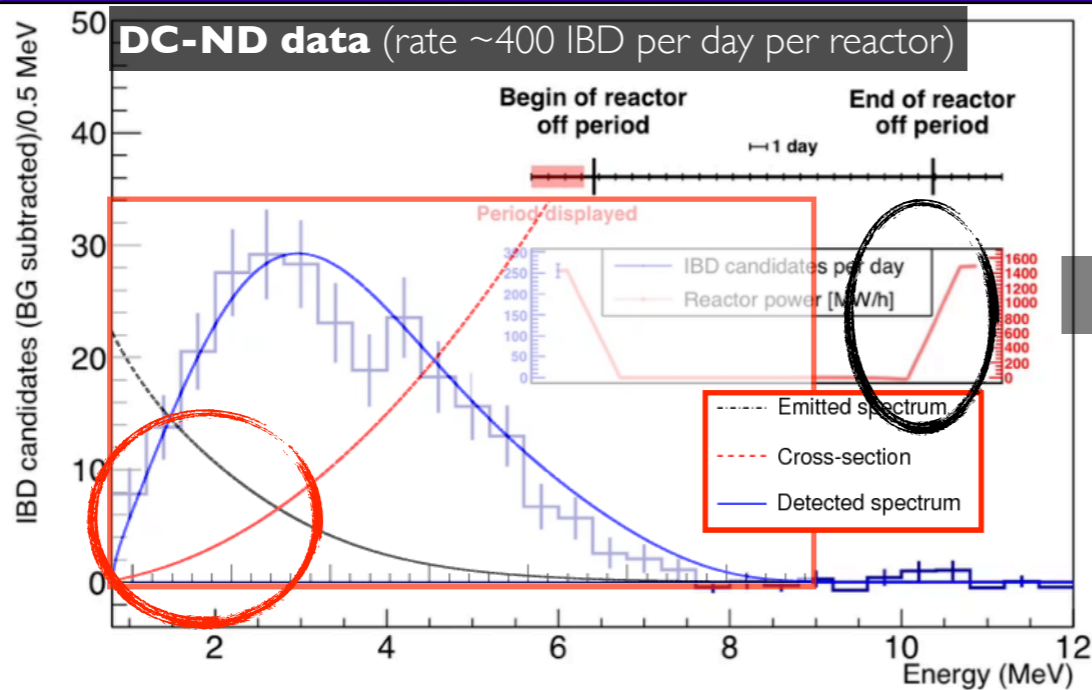
- [1950s;  $L \approx 10\text{m}$ ] **electron-(anti)neutrino discovery** by **Poltergeist** [Nobel Prize 1995]
- [1980s;  $L \approx 10\text{m}$ ] **Bugey3** (shape) & **Bugey4** (rate): [reactor flux understood  \$\leq 3\%\$ ?](#) [ILL data: **prediction**]
- [1990s;  $L \approx 1\text{km}$ ] **Chooz** & **Palo Verde** absence of oscillation  $\Delta m^2$  — **limit in  $\theta_{13}$** 
  - corroborated **Kamiokande's dominant oscillation  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$**  [Nobel Prize 2015]
- [2000s;  $L \approx 180\text{km}$ ] **KamLAND favoured solar "LMA"** — complementary **SNO** [Nobel Prize 2015]
- [2010s;  $L \approx 1\text{km}$ ] **Daya Bay, Double Chooz, RENO**: observed **predicted  $\theta_{13}$**   $\Rightarrow$  **SM** consolidation!
  - **Double Chooz sub-team**: [rate deficit issue](#)  $\rightarrow$  new physics vs prediction? [**prediction bias**]
  - **Double Chooz (all now)**: **spectral distortion** — contradicting **Bugey3** [**cause?**]
- [2020s;  $L \approx 50\text{km}$ ] **JUNO** will [measure  \$\theta\_{12}\$ ,  \$|\delta m^2|\$ ,  \$|\Delta m^2|\$](#)  to  $\leq 1\%$  — first "bi-oscillation energy spectrum"
  - **mass ordering** ( $\geq 5\sigma$ ) need [synergy](#) with accelerator experiments [**backup**]
- [ $\geq 2030\text{s}$ ;  $L \approx 1\text{km}$ ] **SuperChooz** will [measure  \$\theta\_{13}\$ - \$|\Delta m^2|\$  &  \$\theta\_{12}\$ - \$|\delta m^2|\$](#)  to  $\leq 1\%$  — & **more!!**

**reactors** leading much of **world's neutrino knowledge**  $\Rightarrow$  **NO new physics** (so far)

# reactor neutrinos...



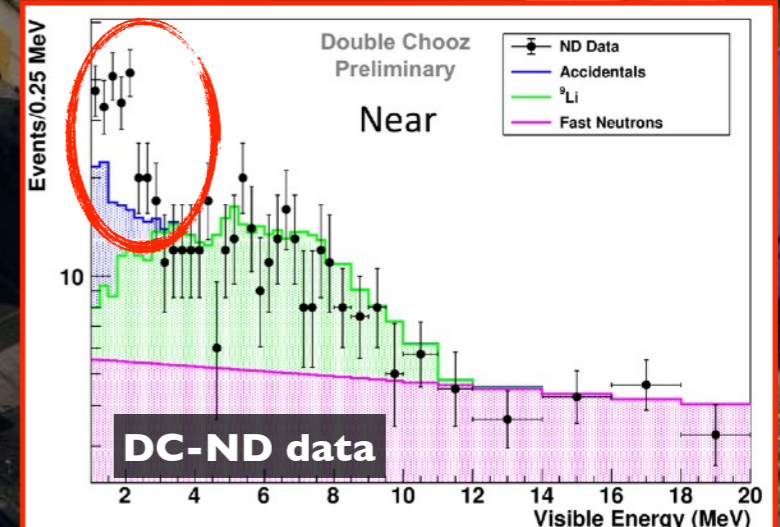
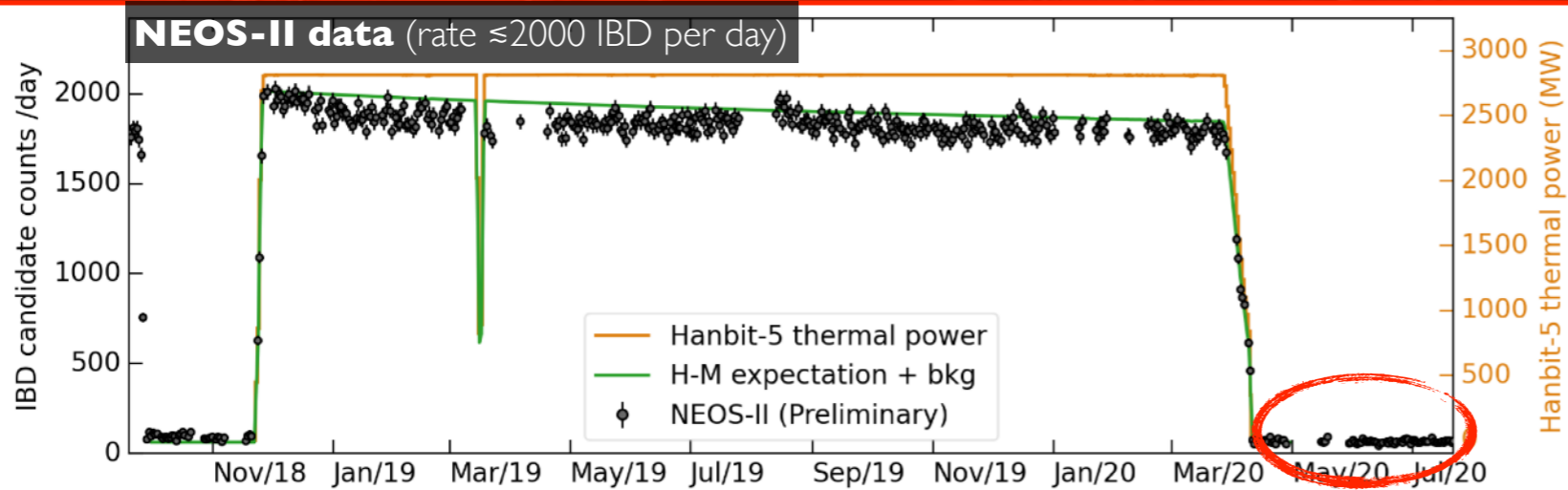
nature physics  
ARTICLE  
First Double Chooz  $\theta_{13}$  Measurement via Total Neutron Capture Detection

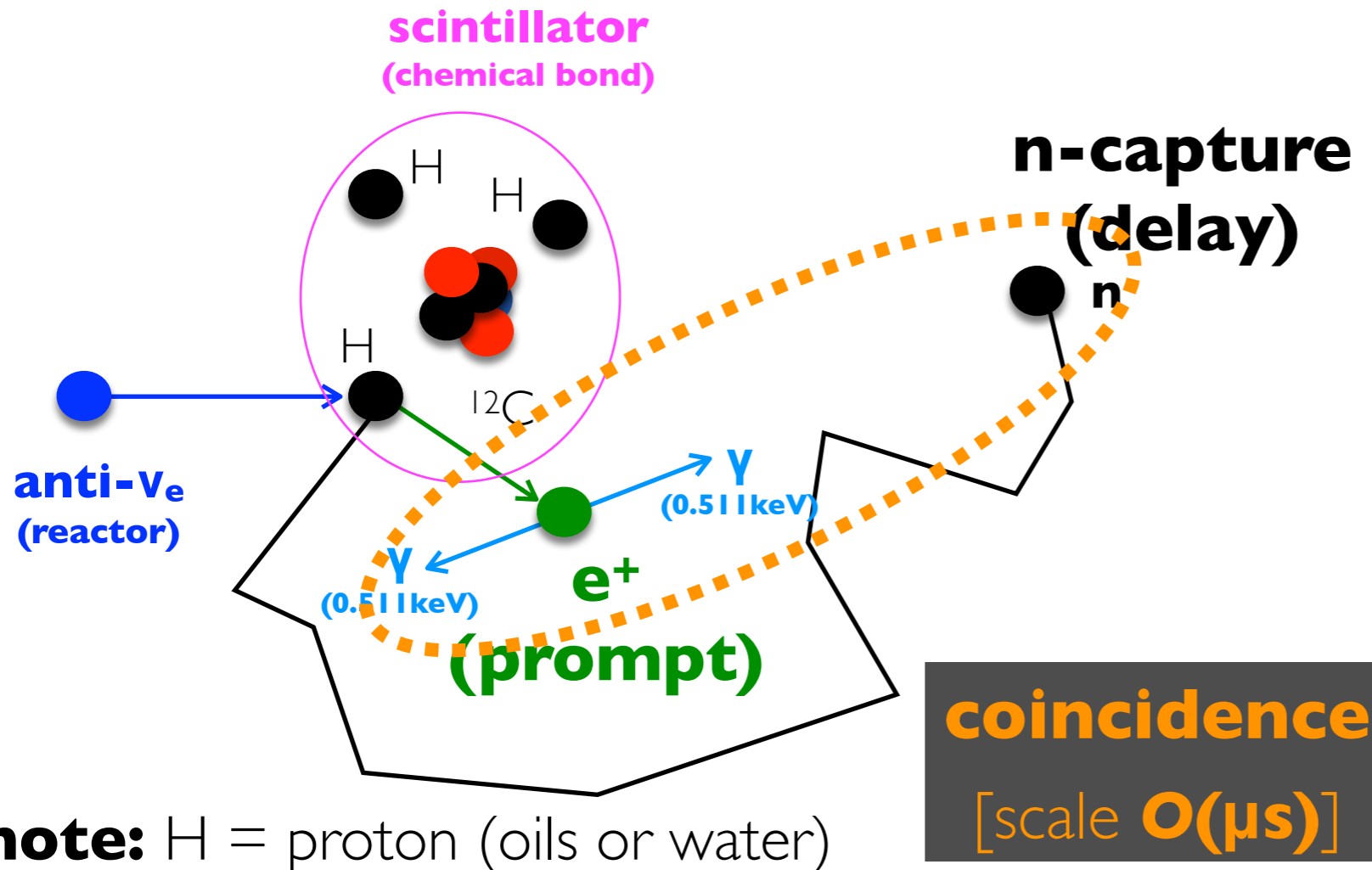
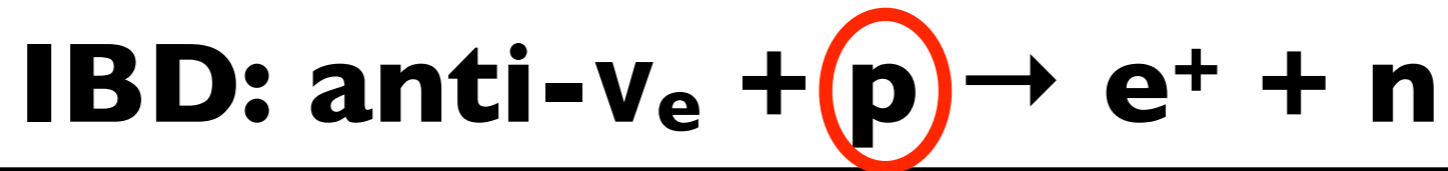


neutrino rate  $\approx$  reactor thermal power



**DC-ND overburden  $\sim 30m$**  (BG subtracted)



inverse- $\beta$  decay (IBD) interaction...

## IBD detection art...

- n-H (native)**
- n-C (native oil)**
- n-O? (native water)**
- n-Cd (non-native)**
- n-Li (non-native)**
- n-Gd (non-native)**
- $^3\text{He}$  (non-native)**

how to catch the n?

**no  $\text{e}^+$  PID** implies

$\gamma \approx \text{e}^- \approx \text{e}^+ \approx \alpha \approx \text{p-recoil (fast-n)}$



# today's reactor neutrino methodology...

## the most powerful source on Earth

- **interaction: IBD@p** [inverse-beta-decay on proton]
  - $\sigma(\text{IBC@p})$ : CC, high and known to  $\sim 0.2\%$  ( $\rightarrow$  neutron lifetime) with threshold  $\geq 1.8\text{MeV}$  ( $\rightarrow |m_{\text{proton}} - m_{\text{neutron}}|$ )
  - no other interactions — few attempts to “**electron elastic scattering**” (past)
- **flux:  $\sim 10^{20}$  antineutrino per second per GW** (thermal) — almost as high as Avogadro's number ( $\sim 6.0 \times 10^{23}$ )
  - **experimental precision  $\leq 1\%$**  [world's precision by Double Chooz]
  - **prediction precision  $[2\sim 6]\%$**  [ILL-based  $\oplus$  approximations  $\oplus$  bias correction by Kopeikin et al.]
    - **URGENT: new accurate reactor predictions** — how to **ensure reliable precision?**
- **signal (IBD@p) features (typically underground):**
  - **reactor modulation** (up to 100%):  $\text{rate}(\text{ON}) / \text{rate}(\text{OFF}) \approx 100$  [residual flux during rate(OFF)]
    - high-precision **spectral reactor-OFF information** [DoubleChooz]
  - **Signal-to-BG** order **10** (GW reactors — commercial) [ $\geq 10\times$  loss with research reactors]
    - BG dominated by **cosmogenic**  $\rightarrow$  **irreducible** [unless **e+ ID** was possible]
      - **e+ ID** via ortho-positronium [Borexino, Double Chooz] — impractical for reactor physics
    - **monolithic & hermetic detectors** — segmentation limited gain & risk radiogenic-BG issues

reactor neutrinos **experimental methodology largely similar** for the last  **$\sim 70$  years** (Reines et al.)  
**powerful framework** so far, but **good enough for discoveries  $\geq 2025$ ?**

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**WARNING:** from now we should talk about **neutrinos** and **antineutrino**...

reactor (anti)neutrino **future**... (?)

# future: discoveries?

**background:** *standard neutrino oscillation (PMNS)*

**neutrino $\oplus$ weak-interaction** remains **bizarre** (Majorana, etc)...

- new neutrino **phenomenology**? [ex. mixing and masses]
- new neutrino **interactions**?
- new neutrino **states**? [assume: “3+1 sterile” is largely ruled out]

# the future reactor neutrino...

- **interaction:** go beyond the **IBD@p** (antineutrino-**CC**)
  - **precise ES@e** [*elastic scattering on electrons*]: **CC+NC** &  **$\theta_w$  @ 1 MeV** (renormalisation running)
    - combined with **IBC@p**  $\Rightarrow$  isolate **NC-only** component? [à la SNO]
  - **reactor neutrinos** ( $\beta^+$ /EC at the reactor)? [ $\rightarrow$  the “**missing MeV neutrino source**”?]
  - **IBD@X < 1.8 MeV:** geoneutrino  $^{40}\text{K}$  & (non-intrusive) direct reactor-fuel monitoring (pool, etc.)
- **flux:** measure **all known** & **unknown(s)** possible emissions [**discovery potential**]
  - **$\phi(\text{anti-}\nu_e; \text{CC})$ :** ultimate precision  $\sim 0.5\%$ <sub>thermal-power</sub>  $\Rightarrow$  **unitarity violation?** — **new physics?**
    - **novel reactor predictions methodology?** probe & demonstrate accuracy
  - **$\phi(\nu_e; \text{CC})$ :** first observation ever (**surprises?**) & complementary to  $\phi(\text{anti-}\nu_e; \text{CC})$  prediction
  - **$\phi(\nu_x; \text{NC})$ :** **NC validation**  $\leftrightarrow$  agreement to **CC?** [à la SNO] — **new physics?**
- **signal** features:
  - **(IBD@p) S-to-BG  $\geq 100$**  (GW reactors)  $\Rightarrow$  address also low power reactors — **the future?**
    - empowered **coincidences & PID**; namely **topology e+ ID** (but not only)
  - other improvements elsewhere — if **ES@e**  $\Rightarrow$  radiopurity, etc.
- **neutrino-based innovation?**  $\rightarrow$  exploring in **AntiMatter-OTech** [**CONFIDENTIAL**]

**worthy challenges**  $\Rightarrow$  **major breakthrough(s)** ahead ( $\geq 2025$ ) & probing **discovery potential**

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the experiment...

# our collaboration...

European  
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UK Research  
and Innovation

## CLOUD

### CLOUD International collaboration

- **EDF** (France) — **first time in neutrino science**
- **Brookhaven National Laboratory** (USA)
- **Charles University** (Czechia)
- **CIEMAT** (Spain)
- **IJCLab** / Université Paris-Saclay (France)
- **Imperial College London** (UK)
- **INFN-Padova** (Italy)
- **Instituto Superior Técnico** (Portugal)
- **Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz** (Germany)
- **Pennsylvania State University** (USA)
- **Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro** (Brazil)
- **Queen's University** (Canada)
- **Subatech / Nantes Université** (France)
- **Tohoku University / RCNS** (Japan)
- **Universidad de Zaragoza** (Spain)
- **Universidade Estadual de Londrina** (Brazil)
- **University of California Irvine** (USA)
- **University of Michigan** (USA)
- **University of Sussex** (UK)

#### Spokespersons:

- A. Cabrera — IJCLab / Université Paris-Saclay (France)
- J. Hartnell — Sussex University (UK)

#### IB Chair:

- M. Chen — Queen's University (Canada)

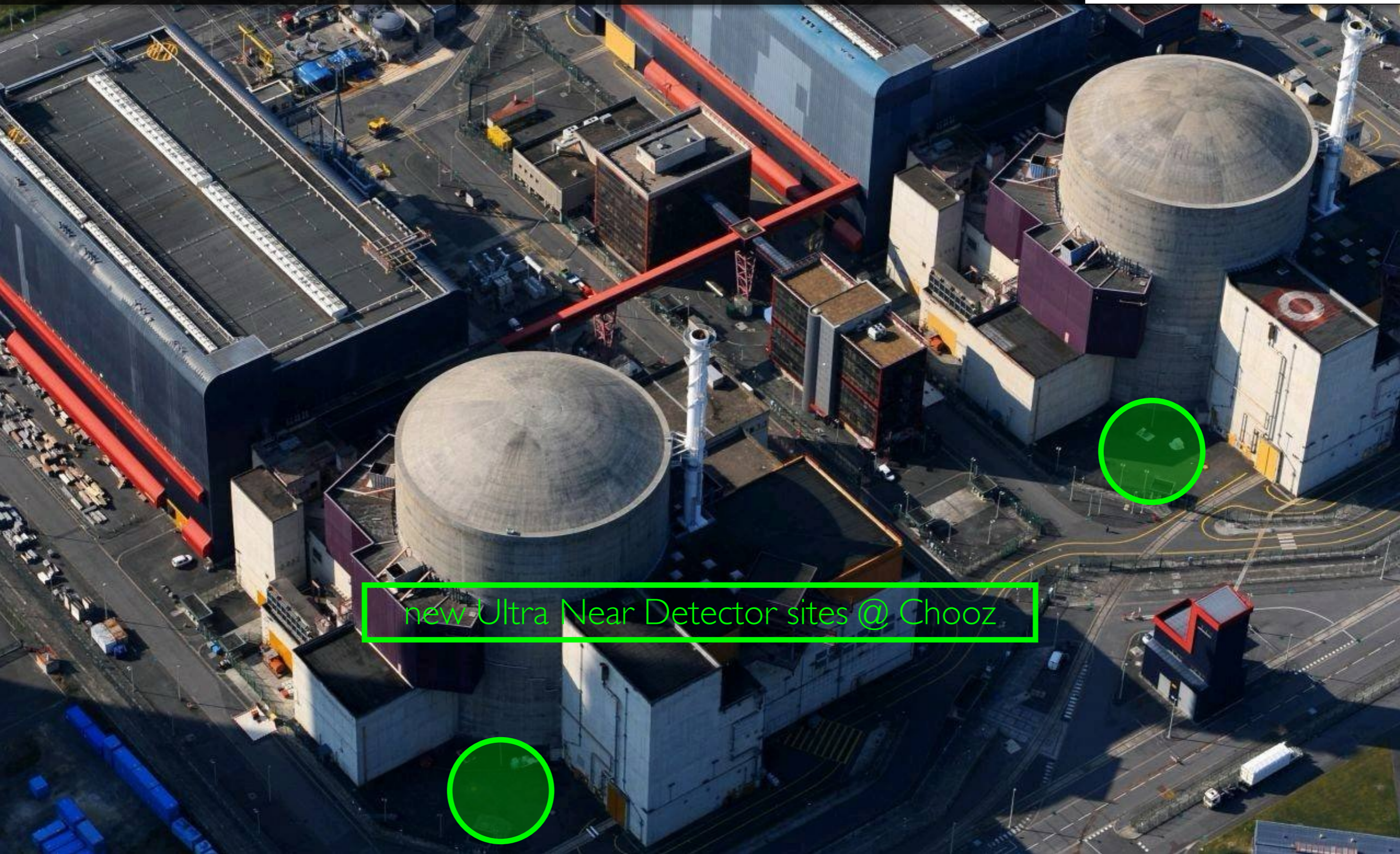
#### Webs:

<https://antimatter-otech.ijclab.in2p3.fr/> [AMOTech]

<https://liquido.ijclab.in2p3.fr/nucloud> [via LiquidO]

⇒ 19 institutions in 11 countries

# Chooz nuclear reactor...



new Ultra Near Detector sites @ Chooz

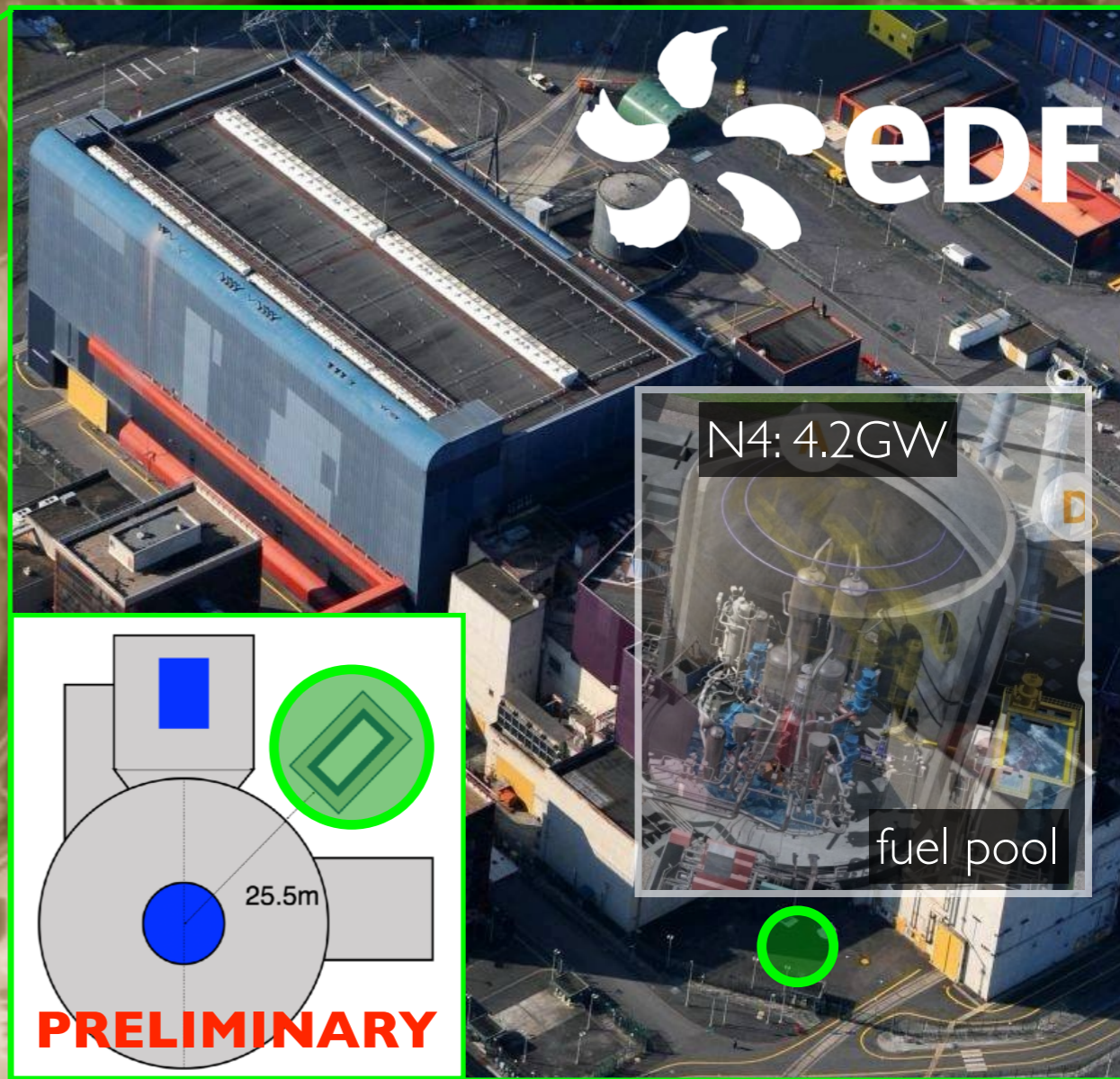
**Chooz-B Power Station**

- facility: EDF CNPE
- location: Chooz (France)
- reactor cores: 2x PWR AREVA-N4
- thermal power: 8.4GW (total)

**Double Chooz**  
Near Detector

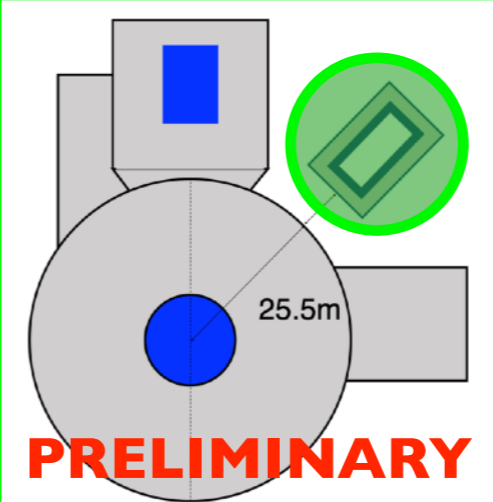
**LNCA-Hall (CNRS)**

**Ultra Near Detector (UND) sites**



N4: 4.2GW

fuel pool



OFF

ON

due to global warm → more frequent reactor-OFF (2022: several months)

**CLOUD** = "Chooz Liquid **U**ltraneur **D**etector"

**Double Chooz**  
Far Detector

# Europe's best reactor-V site...



**Water Pool** [20,40]cm thick

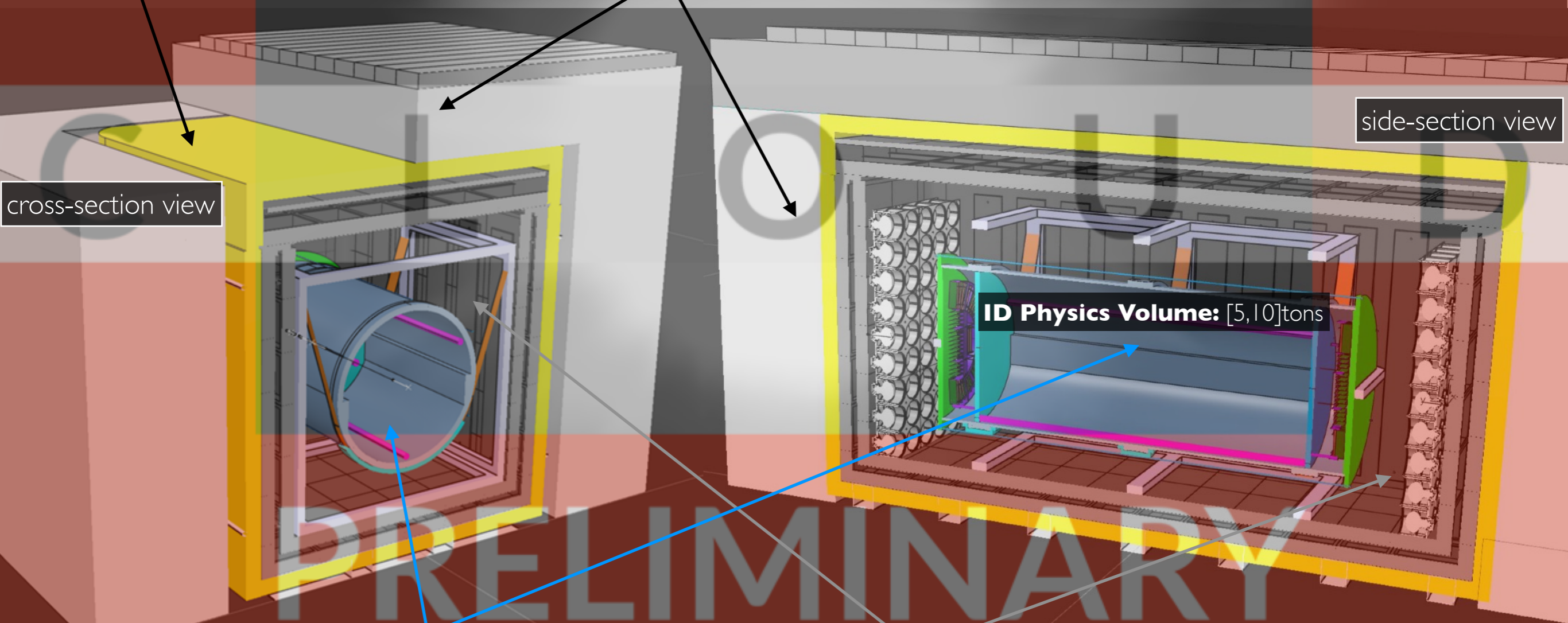
- $4\pi$  shield & neutron moderator
- controllable thermal-bath

**IGLOO** [ $\sim 3$ mwe]

- concrete **bunker** (with boron?)
- DC's iron steel shield (15cm thick)

**Redundant "surface neutron" layers...**

- **IGLOO** (absorption) — passive
- **Water** (moderator $\oplus$ absorption) — passive
- **Armour** (veto $\oplus$ moderator $\oplus$ absorption) — **OD**
- **Tracker** (PID $\oplus$ moderator) — **ID**



**LiquidO-Tracker** (or *inner-detector*) [ $\leq 10$ tons fiducial]

- opaque scintillator — new formulation(s) [more on this soon]
- **$\sim 10,000$  fibres $\oplus$ SiPM** readout channels (GHz waveforms)
- designed light level:  $\geq 200$ pe/MeV

**ARMOUR** (or *outer-detector*) [ $\sim 0.5$ m thickness]

- transparent scintillator (LAB $\oplus$ PPO $\oplus$ Bis-MSB)
- $\leq 180$  **DC-PMTs** & highly reflecting walls
- designed light yield  $\geq 400$ pe/MeV

**experimental setup...**

- Detector Mass:  $\sim [5, 10]$  ton — **LiquidO** technology
- Overburden:  $\sim 3$  mwe
- Baseline:  $\geq 30$  m (**Ultra Near Detector** site @ Chooz)
- Rate:  $\sim 25,000$  anti- $\nu$  per day —  $\sim 10M$  anti- $\nu$  per year

# CLOUD detector...

**CLOUD is powered by...**

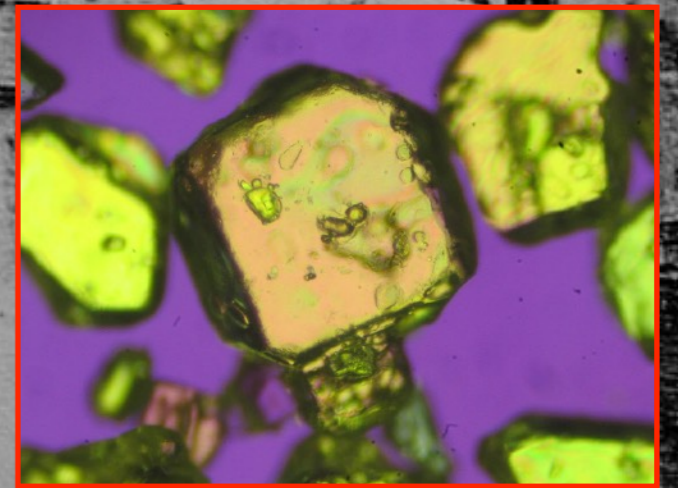
L I Q U I D



**novel imaging detector**

# the art of building images (2D)...

placing **point**(s) [confined information] in **space** [2D]



each energy deposition...

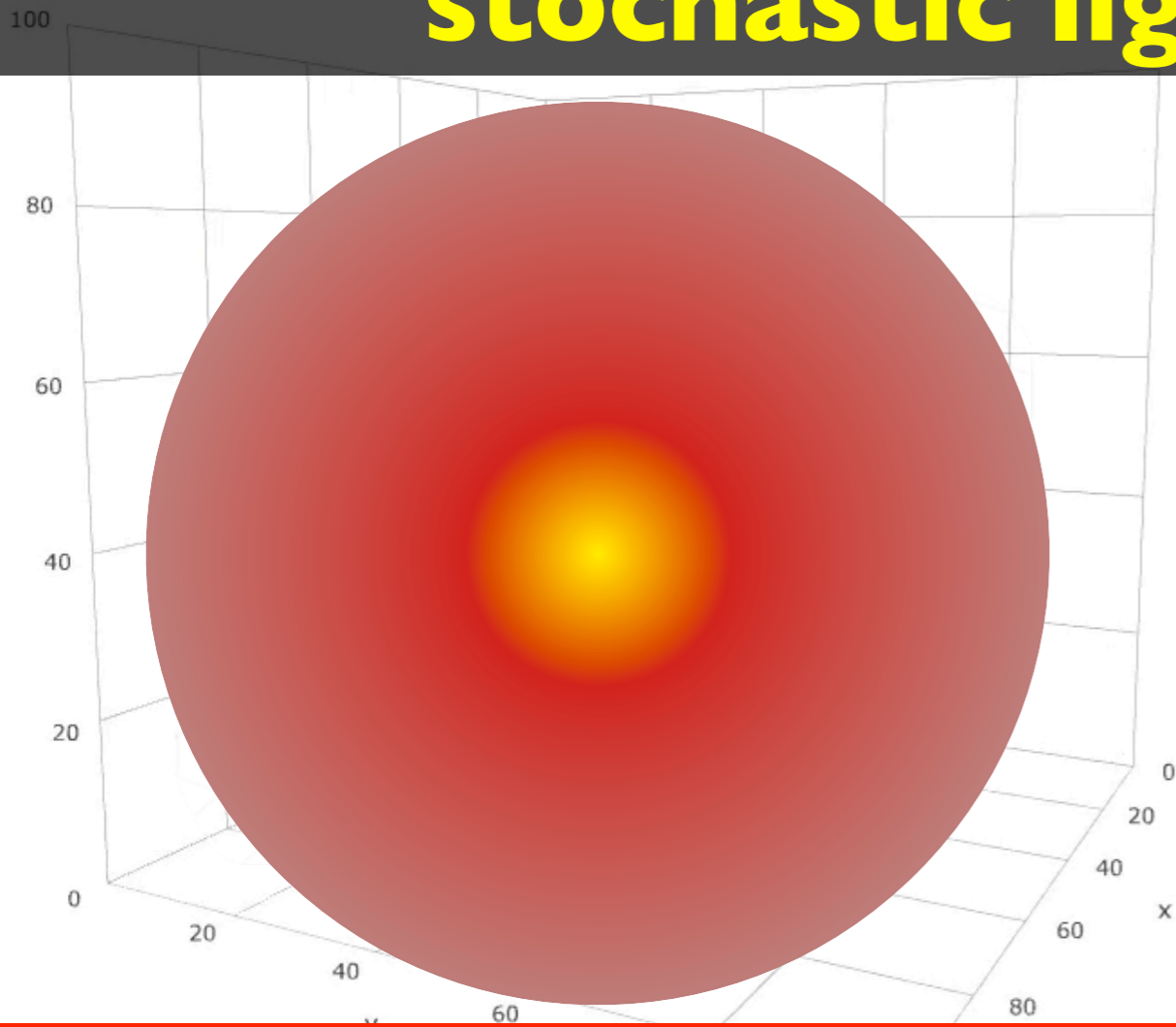
- **points**  $3D(x,y,z)$  & **energy**  $1D(E)$   
⇒ **lines** (i.e. point-sequence)

- **time**  $1D(t)$  — optional (generally available)

“**energy-flow**” → **energy-points** ordered in **time**

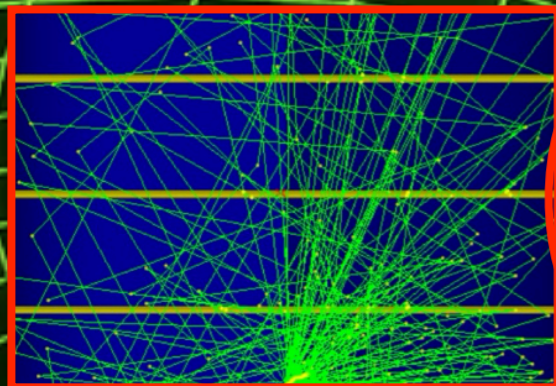
(dynamic) **imaging** building-blocks...

# stochastic light confinement

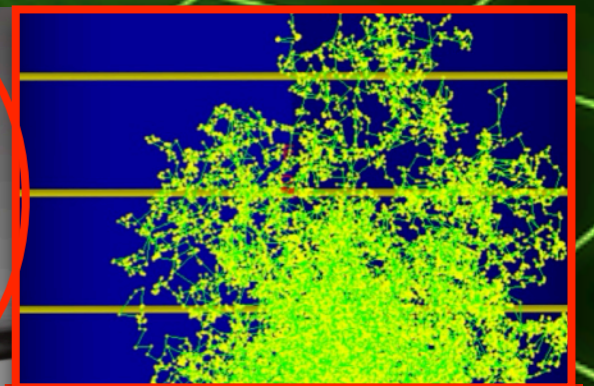


- **scattering** → random walk → **light ball** [order 1 cm]
    - scattering mean-free-path order 1mm:  $\times 10^{-4}$  smaller than usual
  - **lossless (elastic) light scattering:**
    - **Mie scattering:** achromatic & tiny losses [“cloudy” touch]
    - **Rayleigh scattering:** chromatic & lossless
    - **Internal Reflection** (Snell’s law lossless)
- warning:** avoid reflection (losses @ order  $\sim 1\%$ /reflection)
- LiquidO**  $\Leftrightarrow$  unique **stochastic light confinement**  
 $\Rightarrow$  **must NOT be transparent!!**

**LiquidO** → photon’s “random walk” (self-confinement)



**Transparency**  
 $\lambda(\text{scattering}) \geq 10\text{m}$



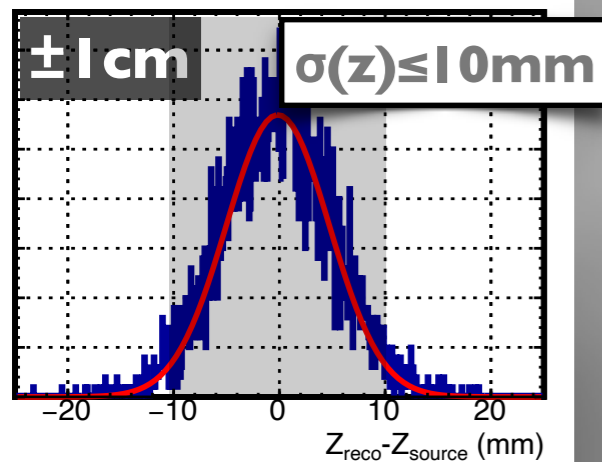
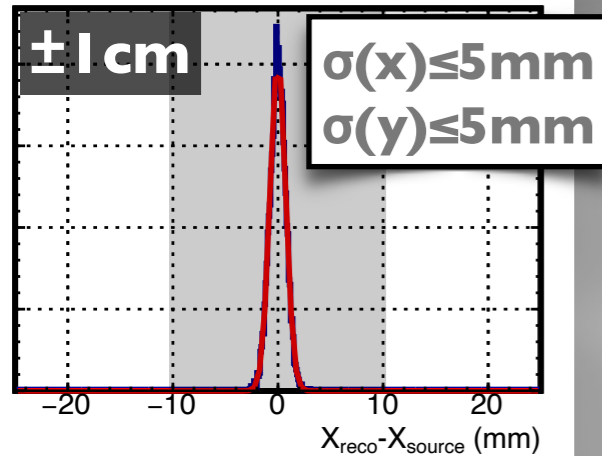
**Rayleigh & Mie Scattering**  
 $\lambda(\text{scattering}) \leq 1\text{cm}$

inducing light to a point (lossless)...

# LiquidO $\leftrightarrow$ stochastic light confinement

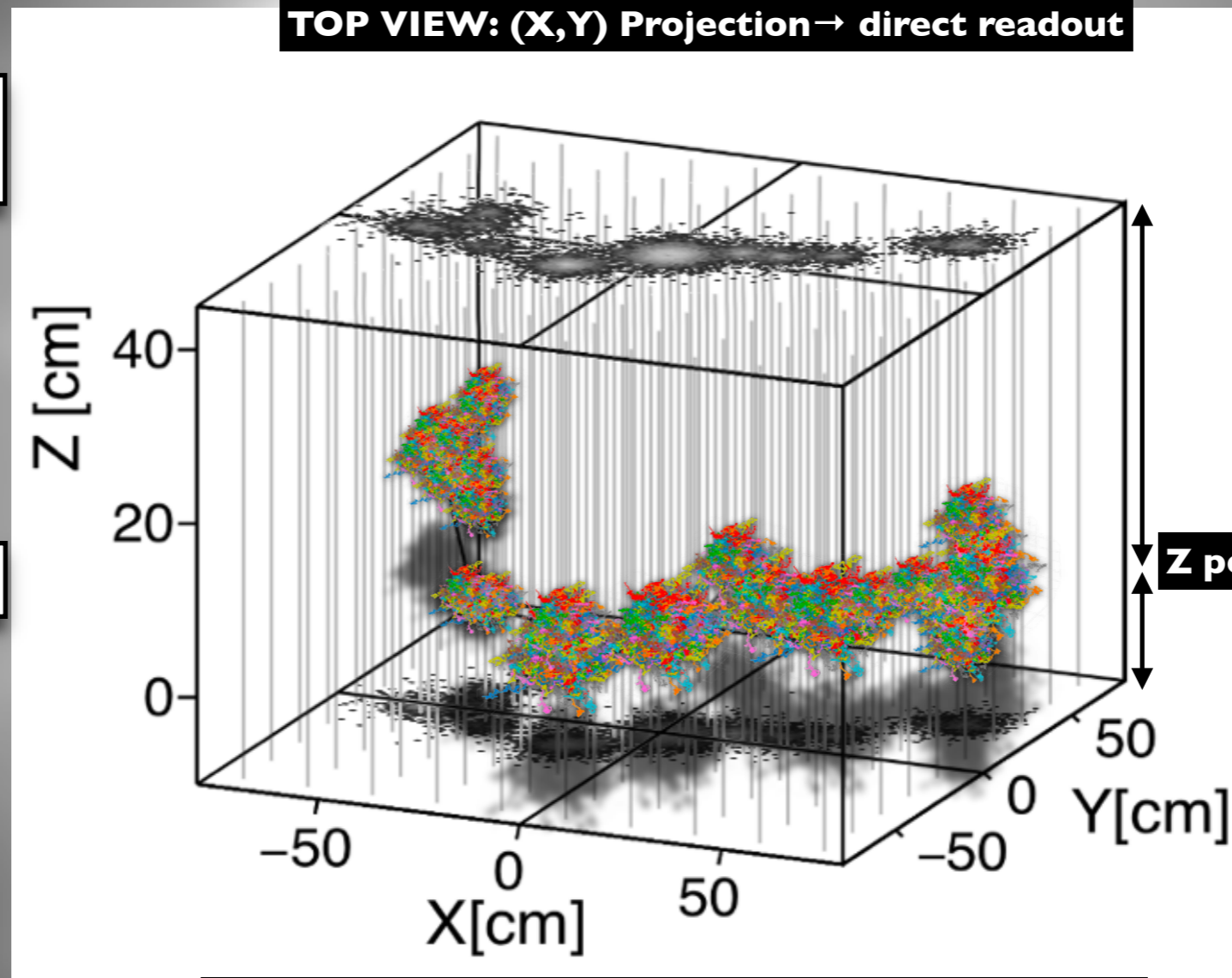
Topology (X,Y) direct & native (PID)  $\rightarrow$  possible sub-mm vertex precision

**$\sim 1.0\text{MeV}$**

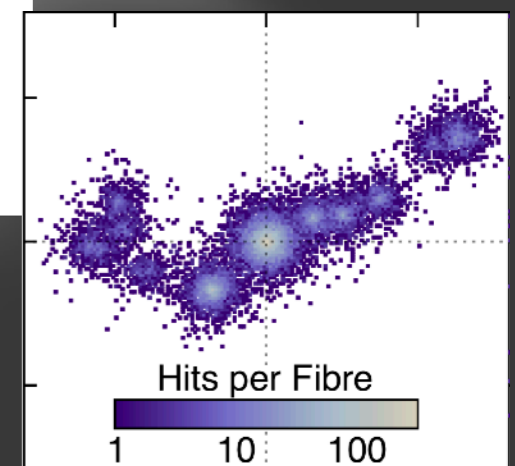
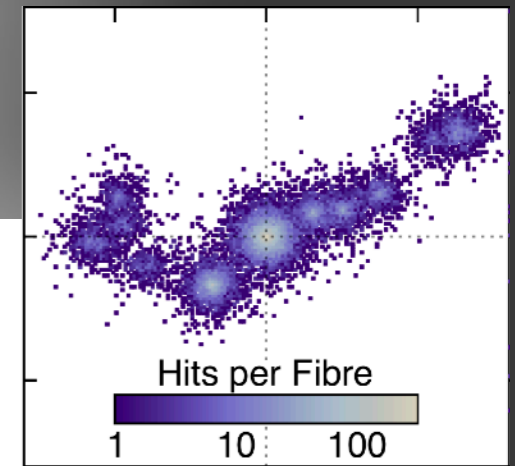


**Vanilla LiquidO: 1D lattice** (fibres along Z-axis only)

**TOP VIEW: (X,Y) Projection  $\rightarrow$  direct readout**

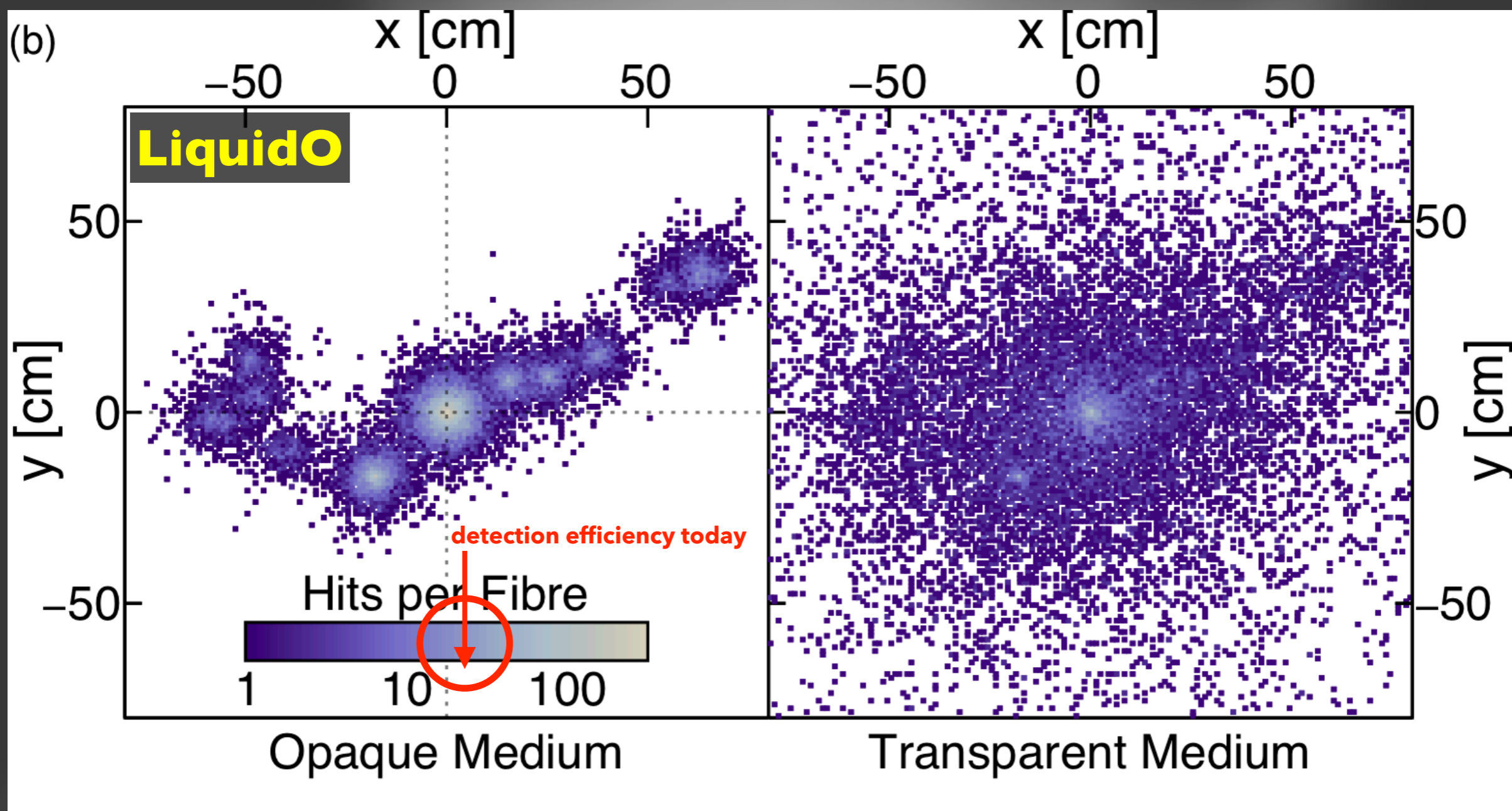


**BOTTOM VIEW: (X,Y) Projection  $\rightarrow$  direct readout**



**LiquidO can have up to 3 orthogonal fibre lattice orientations (3D)**

assume conventional liquid scintillators's yield  $\sim 10,000 \gamma/\text{MeV}$

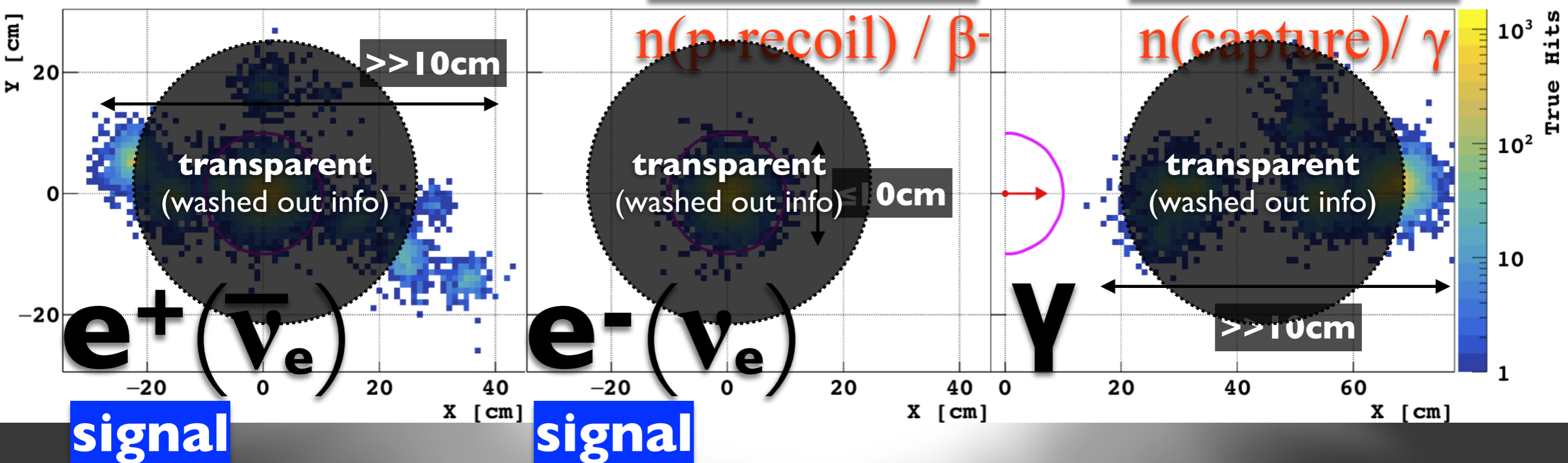


opacity implies neat images...

# unprecedented MeV imaging...

reduce overburden/shielding

~2MeV



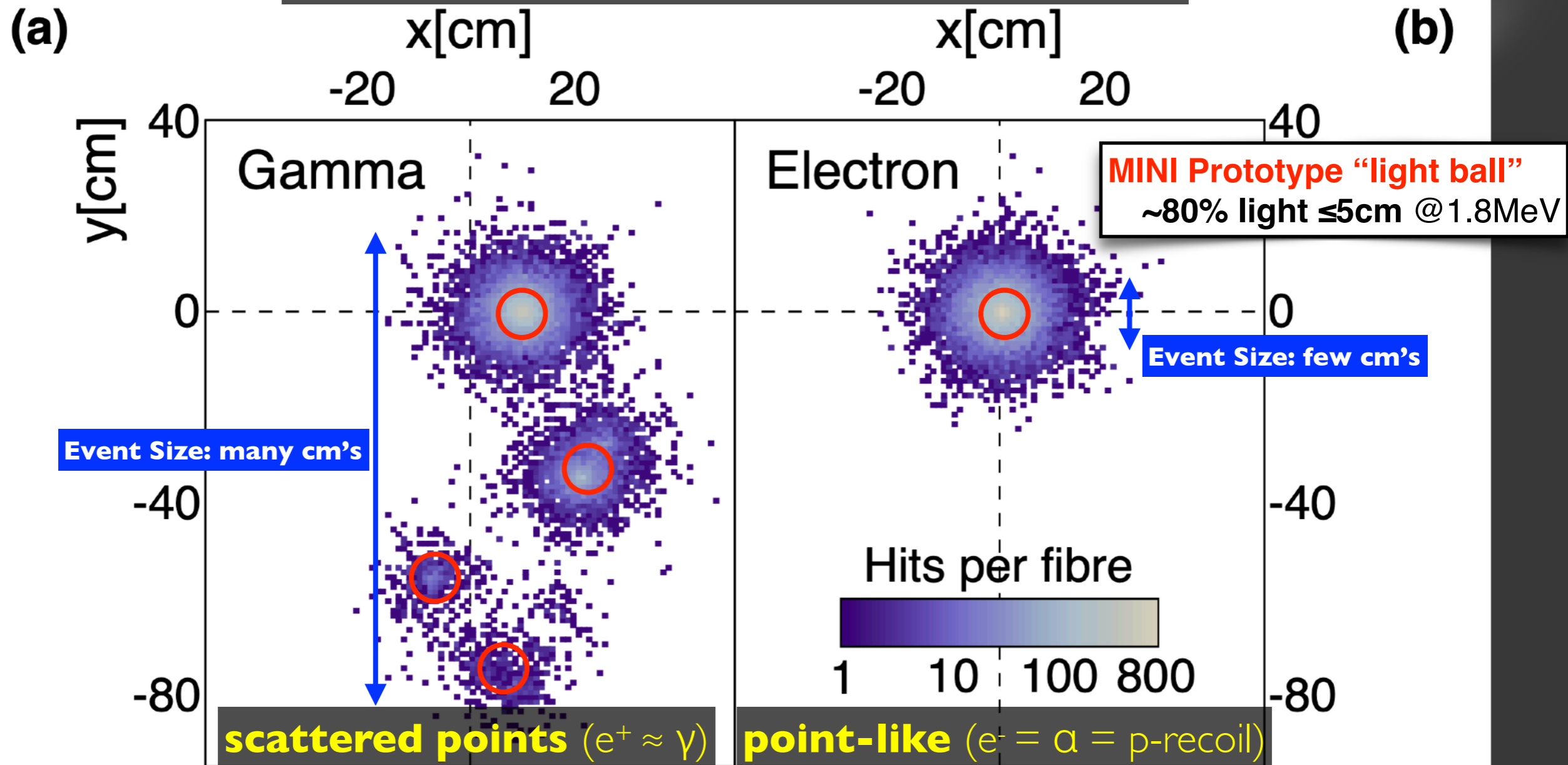
**LiquidO: stochastic confinement** (NO segmentation)



# topology's PID (no timing)...

**PID e/ $\gamma$  should be  $\geq 100:1$  rejection @  $\geq 90\%$**

( $\gamma$  resembles more  $e^+ = e^- + 2\gamma$ )



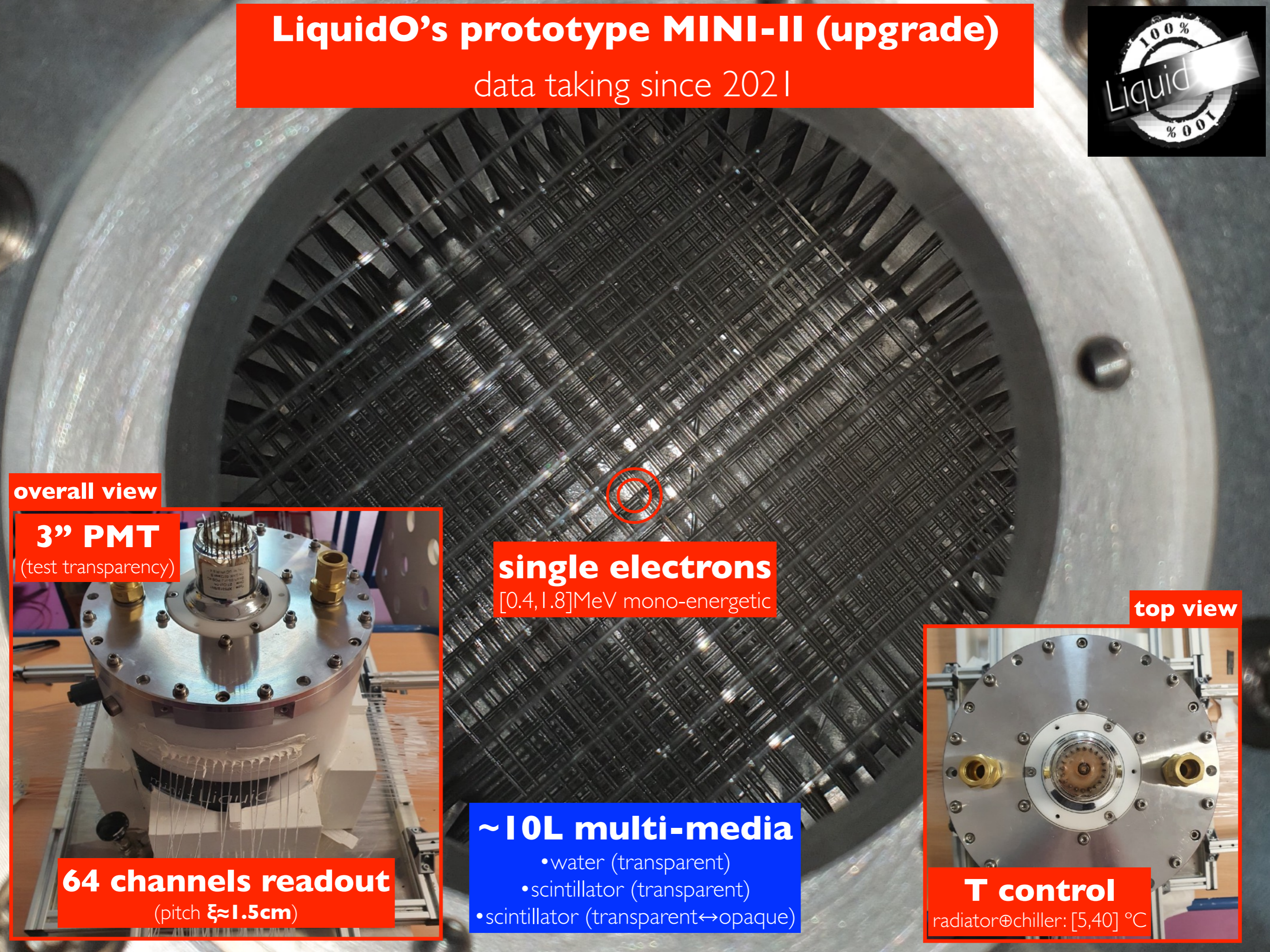
**Neutrino physics with an opaque detector**

[LiquidO Consortium](#)

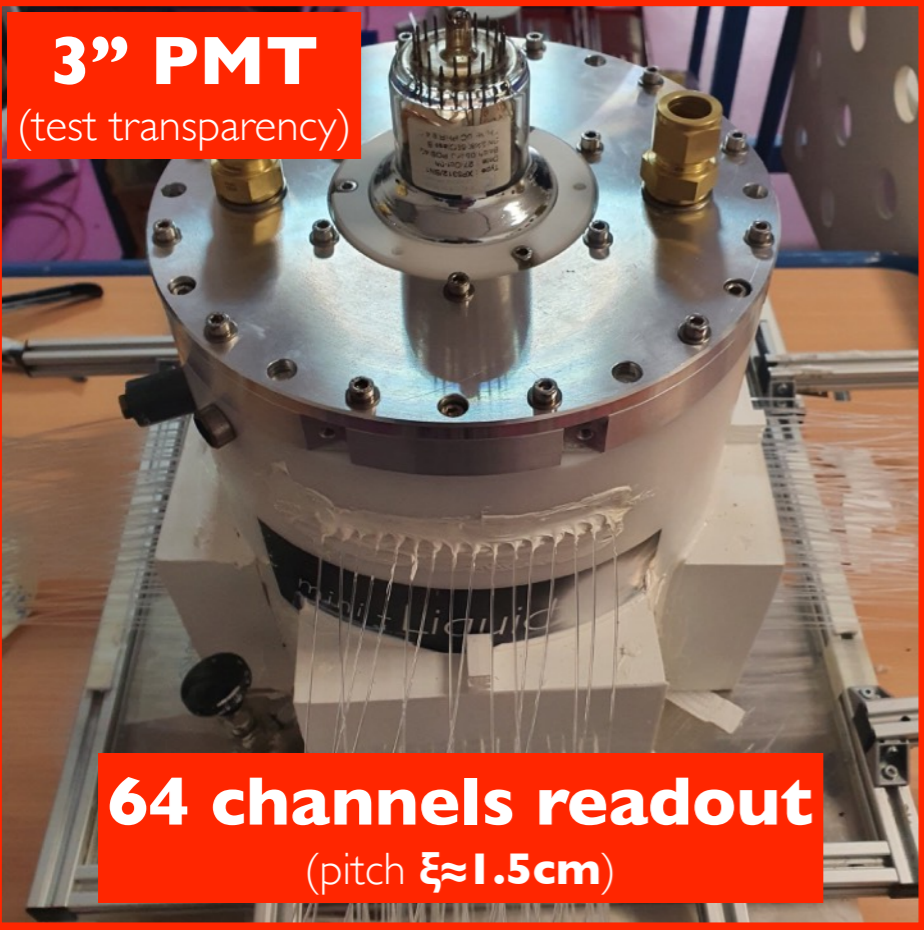
[Communications Physics](#) 4, Article number: 273 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

# LiquidO's prototype MINI-II (upgrade)

data taking since 2021



overall view



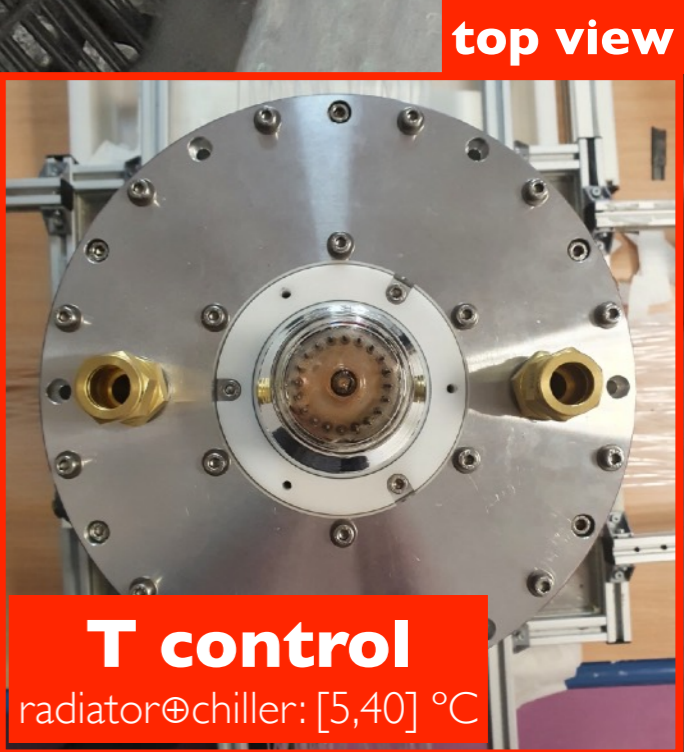
**3" PMT**  
(test transparency)

**64 channels readout**  
(pitch  $\xi \approx 1.5\text{cm}$ )

**single electrons**  
[0.4, 1.8] MeV mono-energetic

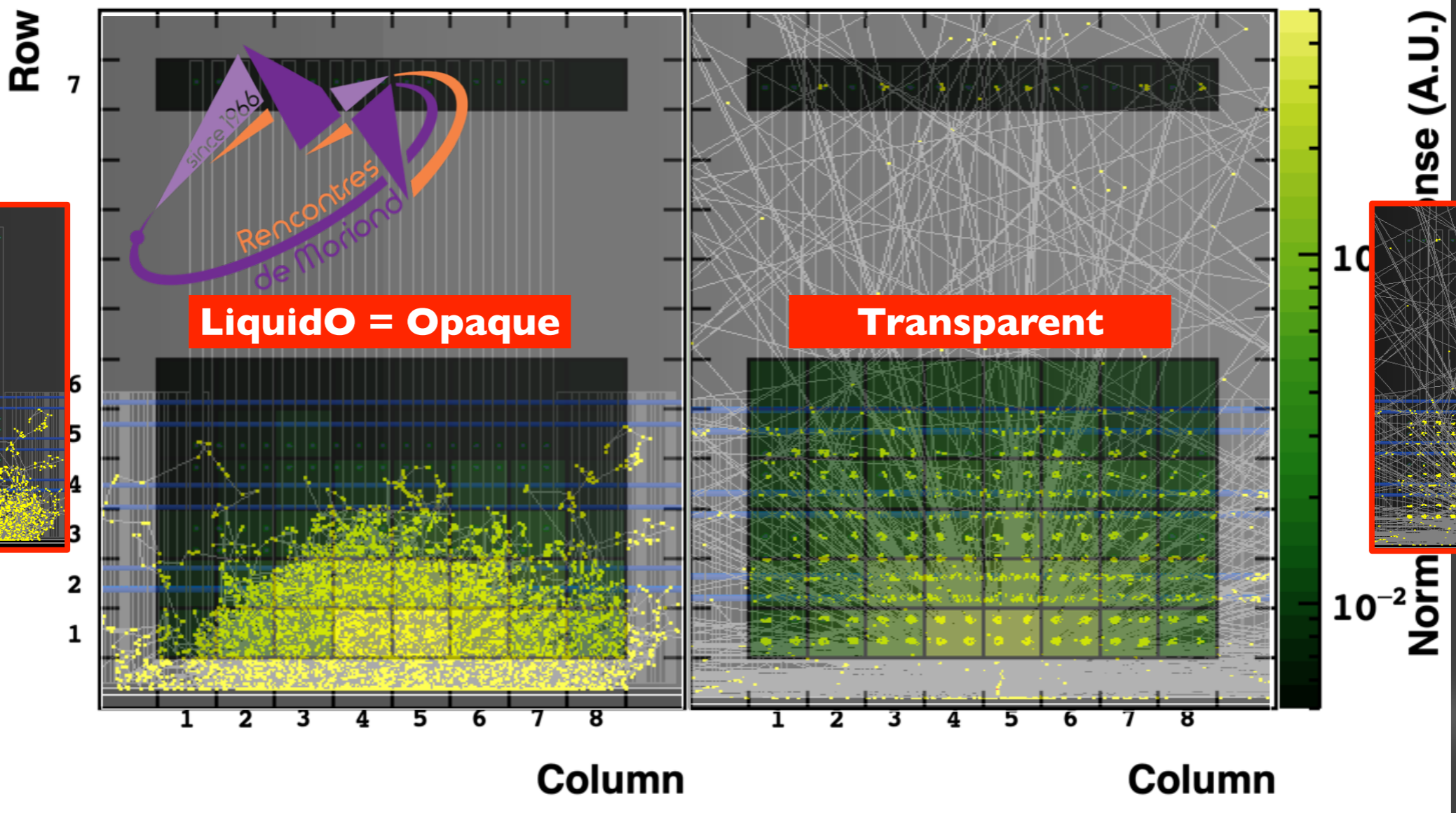
**~10L multi-media**

- water (transparent)
- scintillator (transparent)
- scintillator (transparent ↔ opaque)



top view

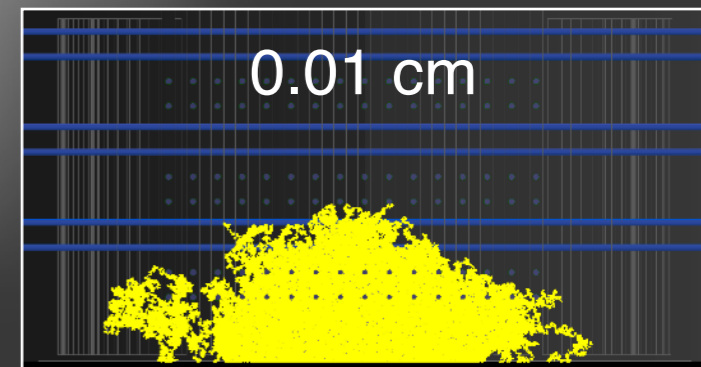
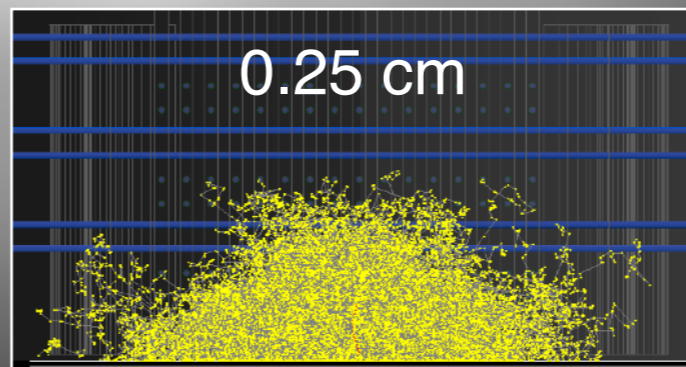
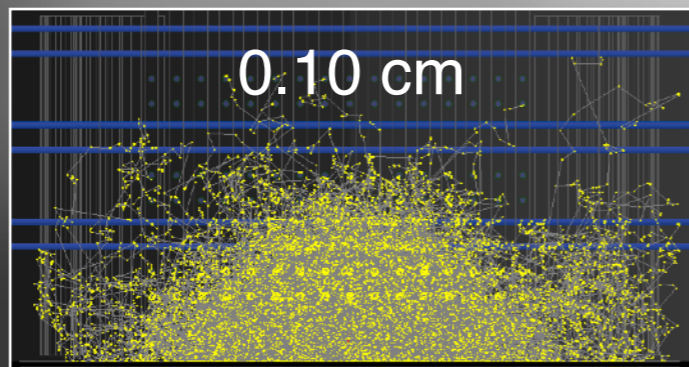
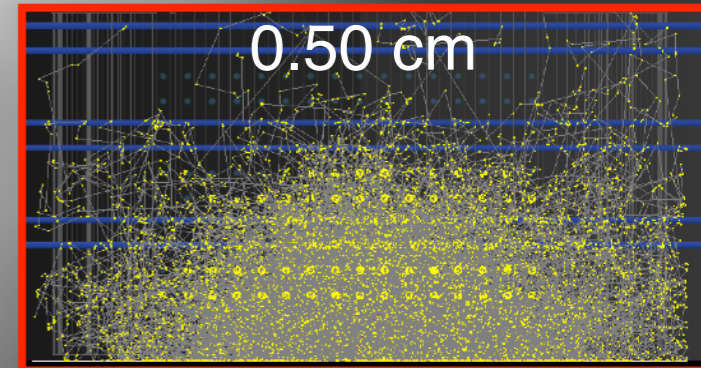
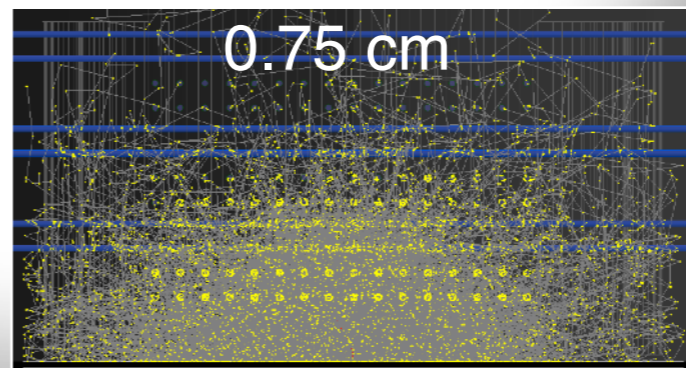
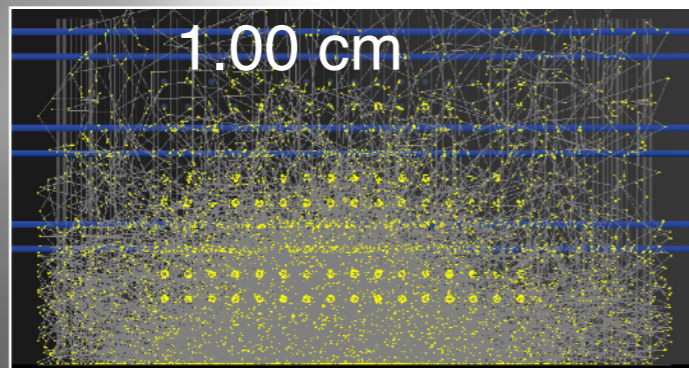
**T control**  
radiator ⊕ chiller: [5, 40] °C

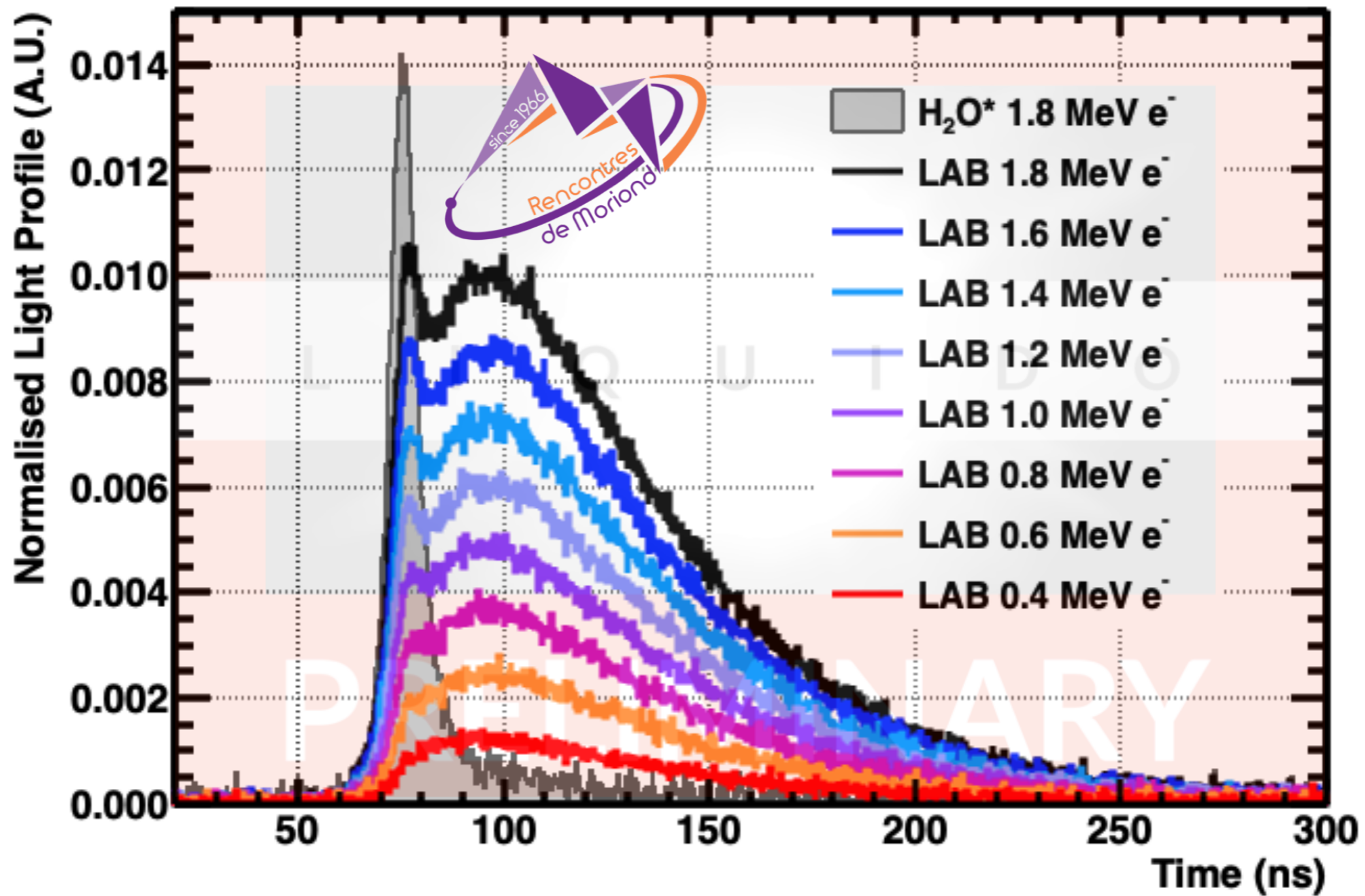


## Geant4 Simulation (under tuning)

“light ball” size:

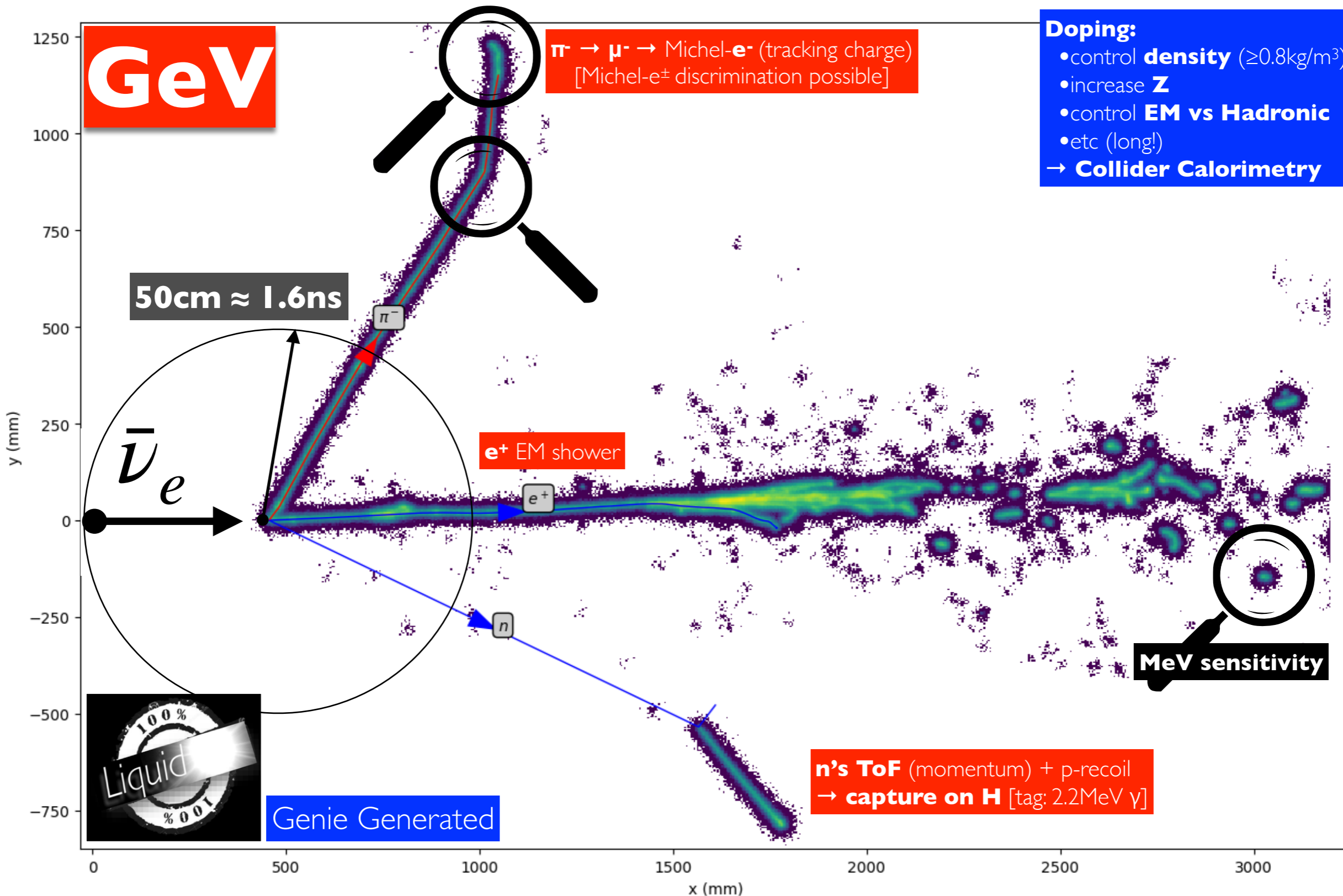
- scattering:  $\lambda_s$
- # fibres
- absorption?





**ANY light detection: Cherenkov / Scintillation / anything!**  
(ensure the opaque medium is granted)

# complex GeV with LiquidO...



**Stochastic calorimetry order 0.1% [ $\sim 10^5$  PE/GeV] — excellent control of non-stochastic**

**$\geq 100 \text{ MeV}$ : accelerator, atmospheric, p-decay, etc**

**First Release at CERN** July 2019 (detector seminar)

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/823865/>

# nature communications physics

**Neutrino 2022**  
(June 2022)

Article | [Open access](#) | [Published: 21 December 2021](#)

## Neutrino physics with an opaque detector

[LiquidO Consortium](#)

[Communications Physics](#) 4, Article number: 273 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

5131 Accesses | 9 Citations | 23 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

### Abstract

**COVID delayed**

In 1956 Reines & Cowan discovered the neutrino using a liquid scintillator detector. The neutrinos interacted with the scintillator, producing light that propagated across transparent volumes to surrounding photo-sensors. This approach has remained one of the most widespread and successful neutrino detection technologies used since. This article introduces a concept that breaks with the conventional paradigm of transparency by confining and collecting light near its creation point with an opaque scintillator and a dense array of optical fibres. This technique, called LiquidO, can provide high-resolution imaging to enable efficient identification of individual particles event-by-event. A natural affinity for adding dopants at high concentrations is provided by the use of an opaque medium. With these and other capabilities, the potential of our detector concept to unlock opportunities in neutrino physics is presented here, alongside the results of the first experimental validation.

[www.nature.com/articles/s42005-021-00763-5](https://www.nature.com/articles/s42005-021-00763-5)



**FNAL Seminar 2023**  
(May 2023)

**publication under preparation**



**LiquidO Official WEB:** <https://liquido.ijclab.in2p3.fr/>

## LiquidO Consortium<sup>(a-z)\*</sup>

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### Spokespersons:

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- F. Suekane — Tohoku University / RCNS (Japan)

Contact: [LiquidO-Contact-L@in2p3.fr](mailto:LiquidO-Contact-L@in2p3.fr)

Web: <https://liquid.ijclab.in2p3.fr/>

**Chooz** (most powerful reactor) ⊕ **UND** ( $\geq 30\text{m}$  baseline) ⊕ **LiquidO** (BG rejection)  
[**EDF** within the team — unprecedented]

C L  U D

I - II - III

a probe to the future?

CLOUD's sequence...

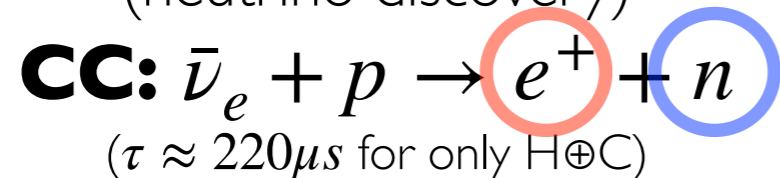


# the power of coincidences

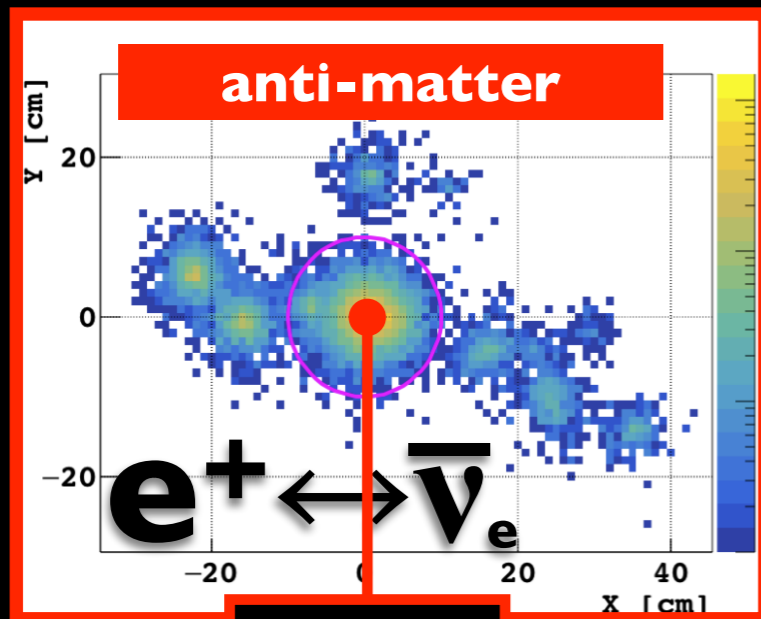
being at **the right “place & time & energy & PID”** — huge rejection(s)

## Reines et al ‘50s

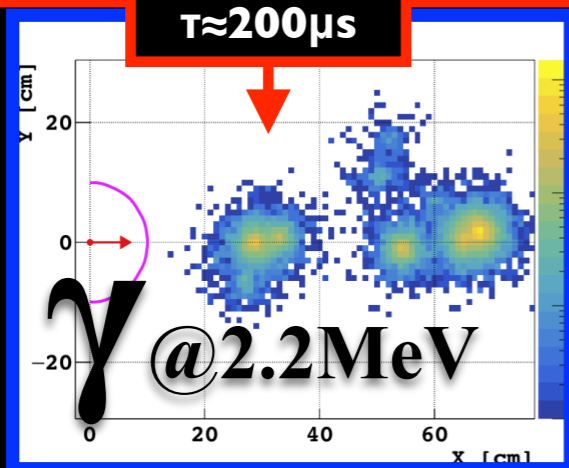
(neutrino discovery)



(anti)neutrino **discovery** [ $\tau_n$  &  $\Delta m_{p\sim n}$ ]

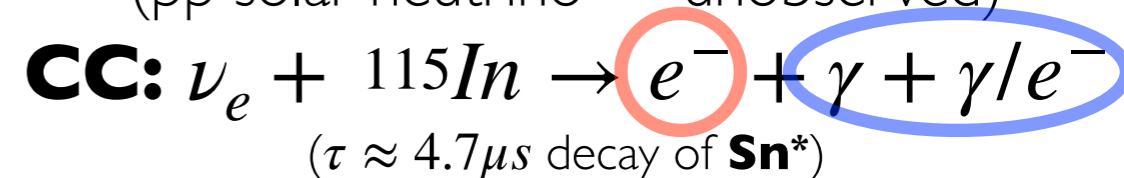


$\tau \approx 200\mu\text{s}$

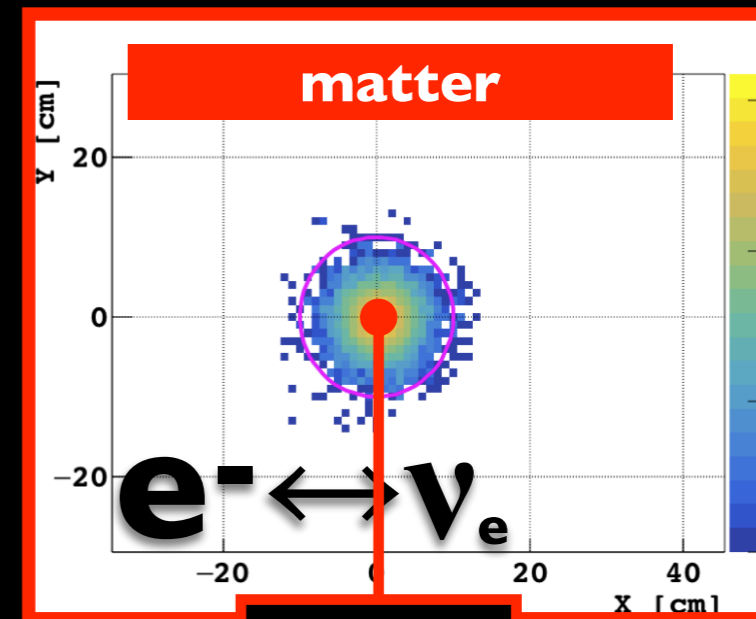


## Raghavan et al ‘70s

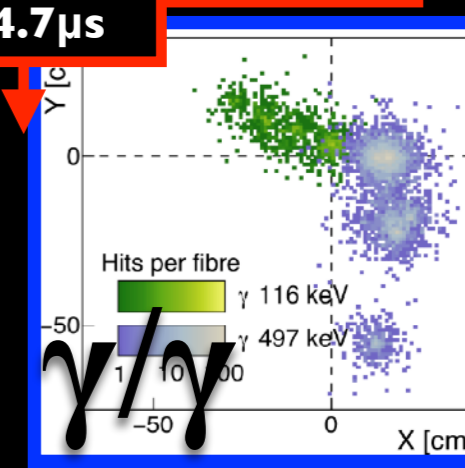
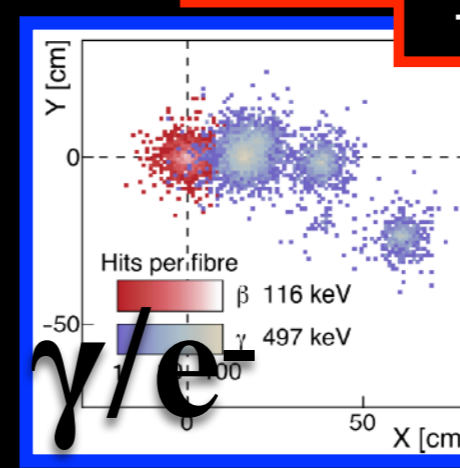
(pp solar neutrino — unobserved)



major **R&D** [ $\sim 2$  decades] by **LENS** *et al.*



$\tau \approx 4.7\mu\text{s}$

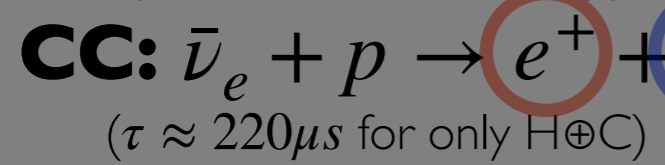


# the power of coincidences

being at **the right “place & time & energy & PID”** — huge rejection(s)

## Reines et al ‘50s

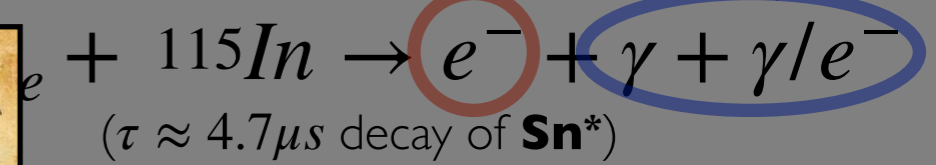
(neutrino discovery)



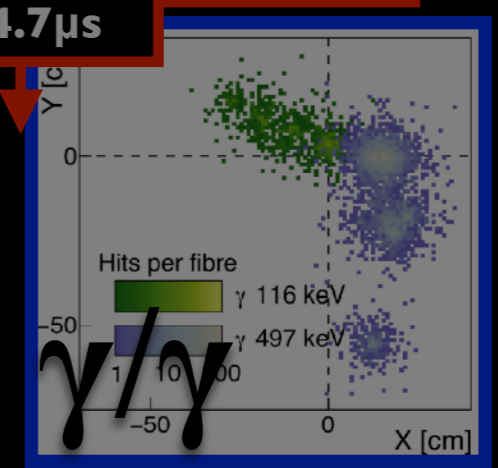
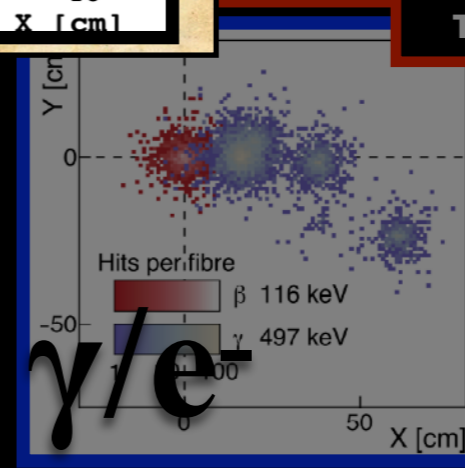
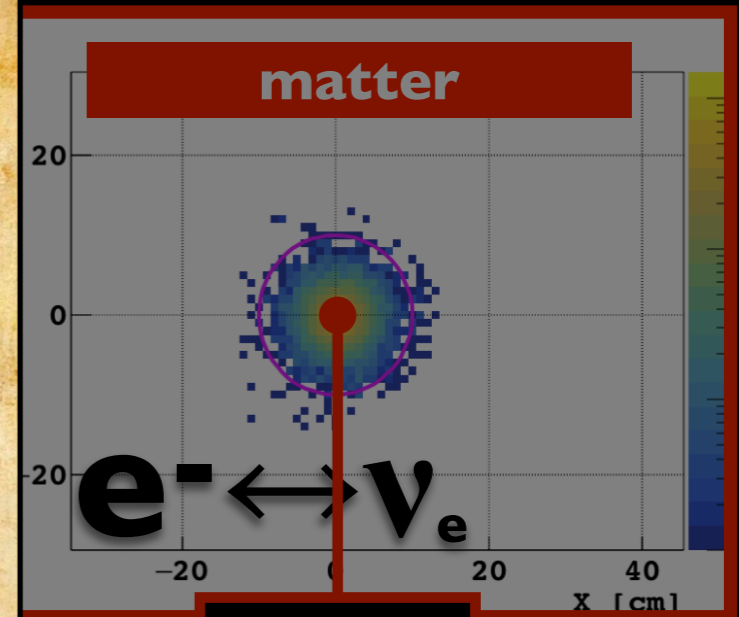
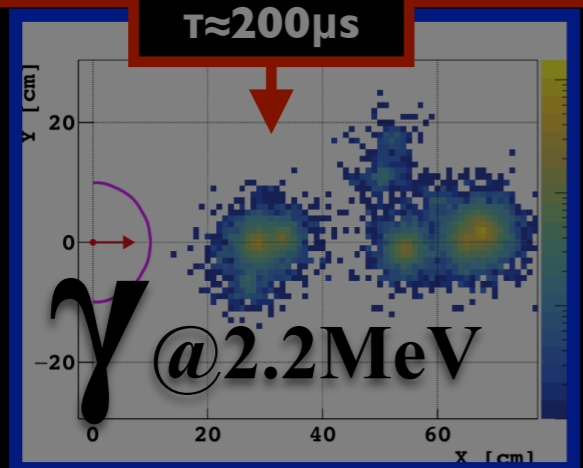
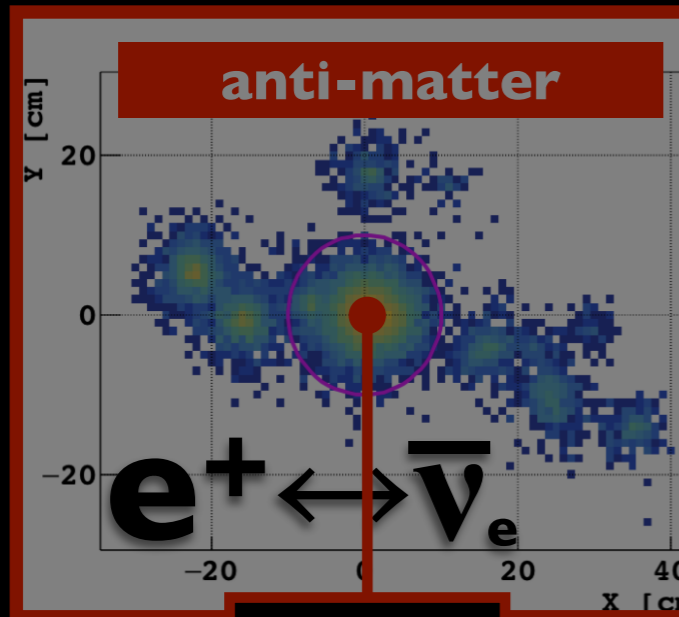
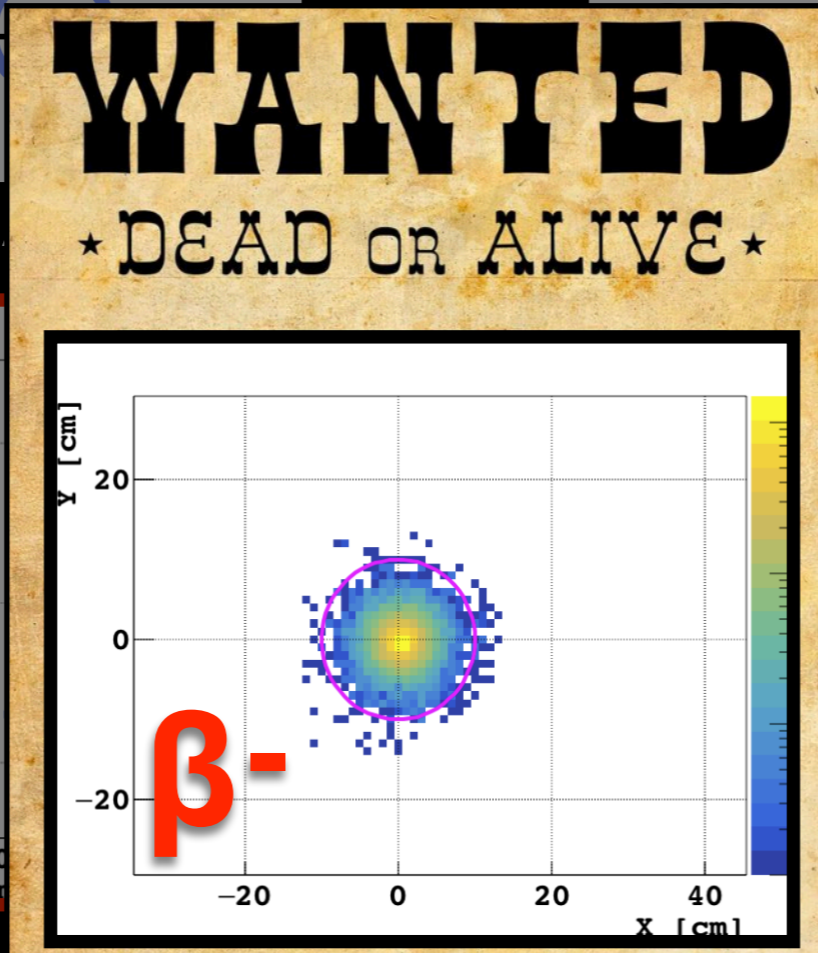
(anti)neutrino **discovery** [ $\tau_n$  & ...]

## Raghavan et al ‘70s

(pp solar neutrino — unobserved)



**R&D** [ $\sim 2$  decades] by **LENS** et al.

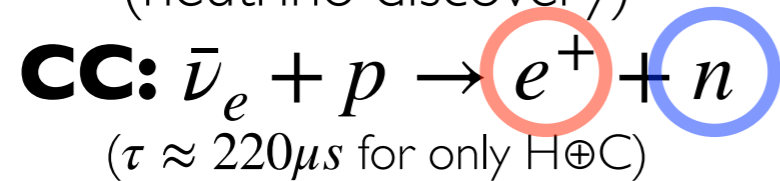


# the power of coincidences

low energy ( $\leq 3\text{MeV}$ ) neutrinos interactions benefit by interactions leading to coincidences

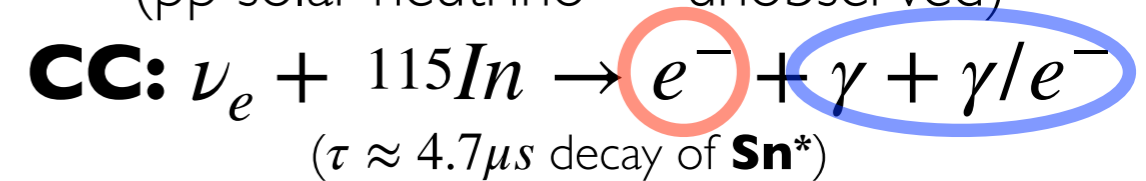
## Reines et al 1956

(neutrino discovery)



## Raghavan et al 1977

(pp solar neutrino — unobserved)

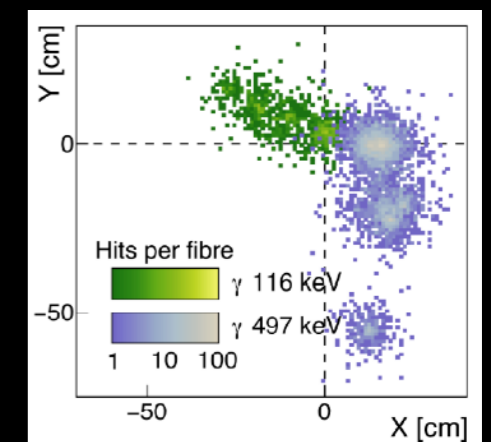
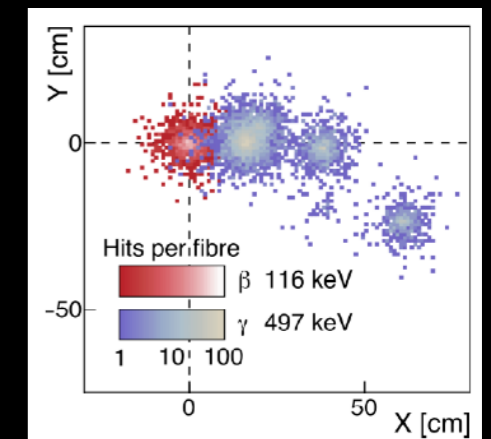


major **R&D** by **LENS** *et al* [many years]

### CC antineutrino

### CC neutrino

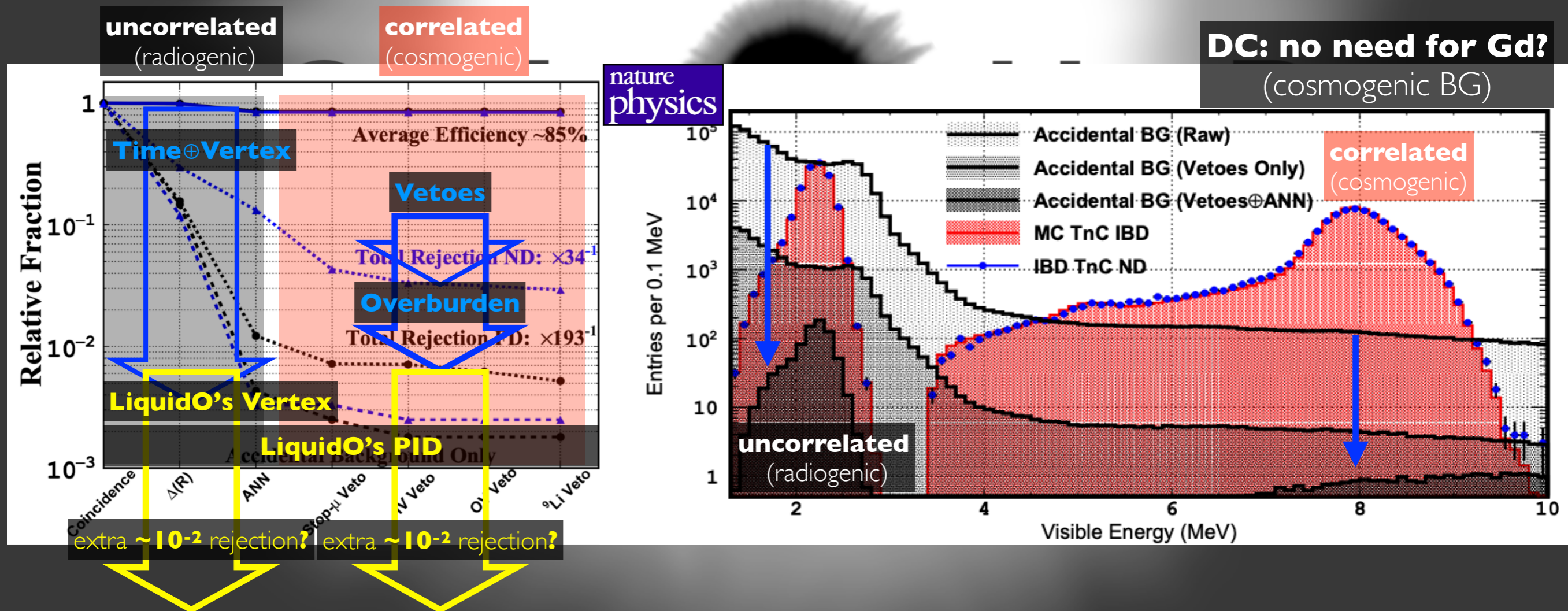
	native [H atoms]	loaded @ $\geq 10\%$ indium
<b>threshold</b>	$\geq 1.8\text{ MeV}$	$\geq 114\text{ keV}$
$\delta(\sigma)$	$\sim 0.2\%$ [ $\leftrightarrow$ neutron lifetime]	order $1.0\%$ ? [a la Ga]
<b>prompt / delayed</b>	$e^+$ / $\gamma(2.2\text{MeV})$ [H-n capture]	$e^-$ / $\gamma(0.5\text{MeV}) \oplus \beta^-/\gamma(0.1\text{MeV})$
<b>LiquidO's PID</b>	prompt ( $e^+$ )	both prompt & delayed
$\Delta t$ (1D)	$\sim 220\mu\text{s}$	$\sim 4.7\mu\text{s}$
$\Delta r$ (3D)	$\leq 1\text{m}$ (DC) / $\leq 0.5\text{?m}$ (LiquidO)	few cm's
$\Delta E$ (1D)	around <b>2.2MeV</b>	around <b>0.6MeV</b>
<b>Rejection (4D)</b>	$\sim 1e5\text{?}$ (LiquidO) $\sim 1e4$ (DC)	$\geq 1e12\text{?}$ (LiquidO)
<b>Signal/BG</b>	$\geq 100\text{?}$ (LiquidO) [DC: $\sim 20$ ]	$\geq 10\text{?}$ (LiquidO) [LENS: $\sim 3$ ]



# active BG rejection and control...

- detection using **coincidence-signal** (ex. **IBD@p**)  $\Rightarrow$  prompt-delayed correlations
  - **combinatory (uncorrelated) BG(s): 5D-coincidence** ( $\Delta t \oplus \Delta r \oplus \Delta E$ ) — **LiquidO's mm-vertex**
  - **cosmogenic (correlated) BG(s): particle-ID** — **LiquidO's imaging** [impossible so far]
- **active rejection**  $\rightarrow$  rejected-BG as **data-driven BG input** (high accuracy physics extraction)
  - **radiogenic control:** in-situ radiogenic BG model tuning (radiopurity control order  $\leq 10^{-14}$ g/g)

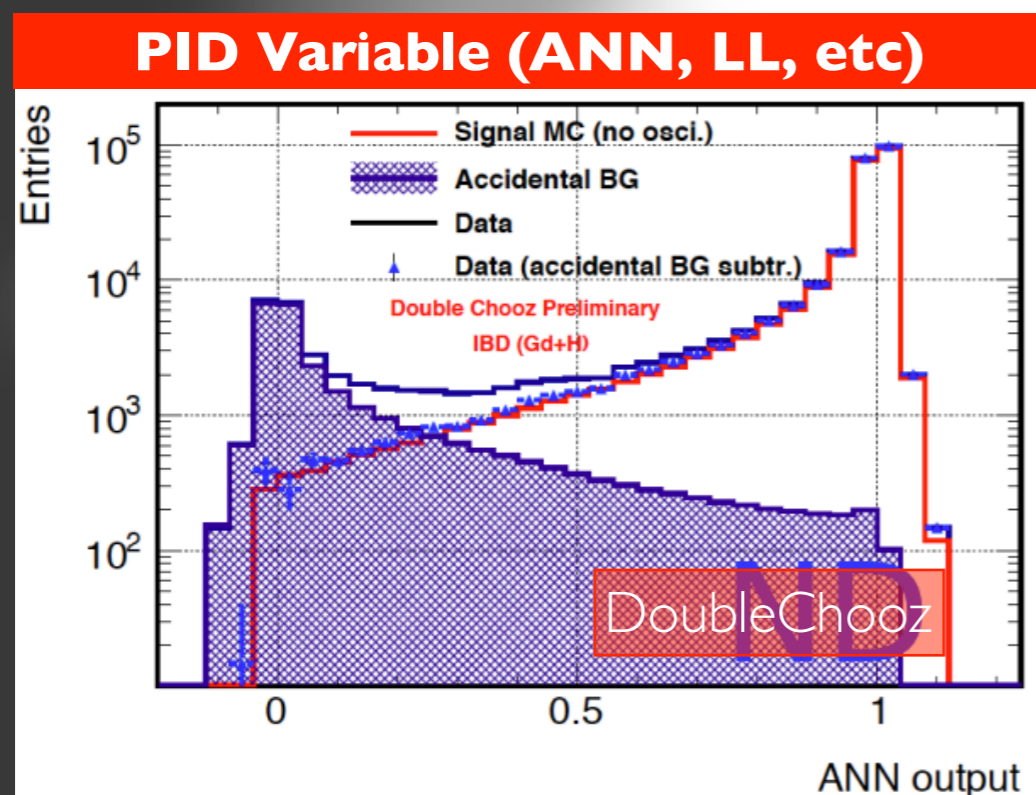
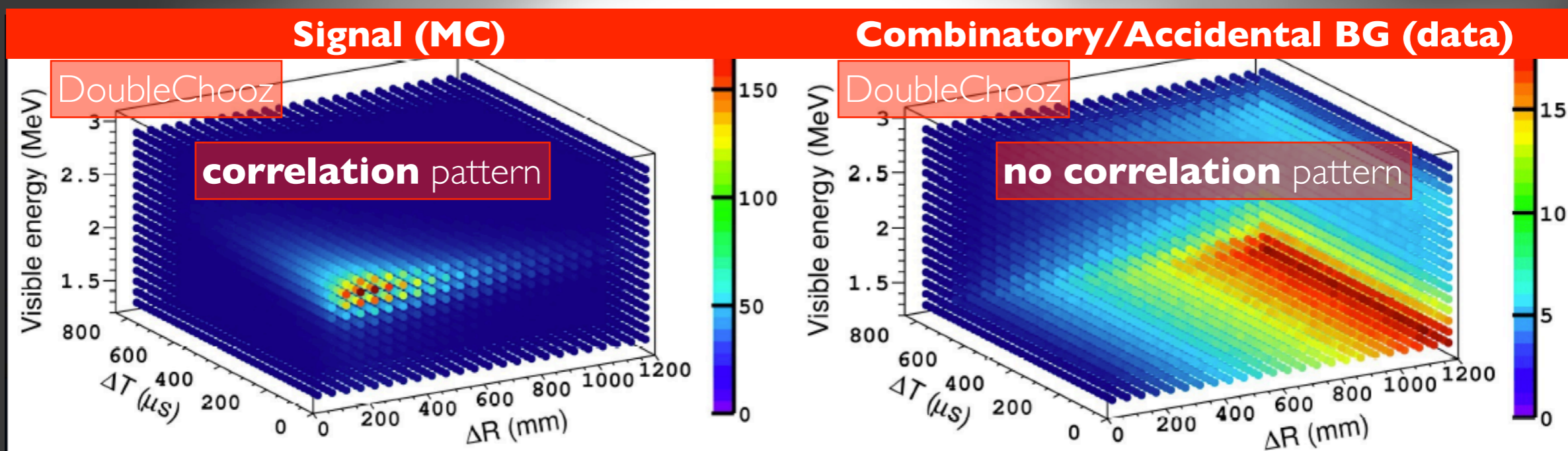
at right **place  $\oplus$  time  $\oplus$  energy  $\oplus$  PID** — many orders of magnitude



easier to lower **combinatory-BG** ( $\sim 3$  orders of magnitude) than **cosmogenic-BG** ( $\sim 1$  order of magnitude)

# “combinatory” background...

at  $\sim 1$  MeV **backgrounds** due to **radiogenic** (radio-purity only  $\sim 10^{-15}$ g/g) & **cosmogenic**



LiquidO's vertex precision sub-cm — major

**CC antineutrino (reactor)**

- **sub-dominant BG** — enough shielding (easy)
- **dominant: correlated cosmogenic**

**CC neutrino (solar)**

- **dominant BG:  $\beta$ -decay of  $^{115}\text{In}$**   
[ $^{14}\text{C}$  is lower: oil from underground petrol]

C L I U D

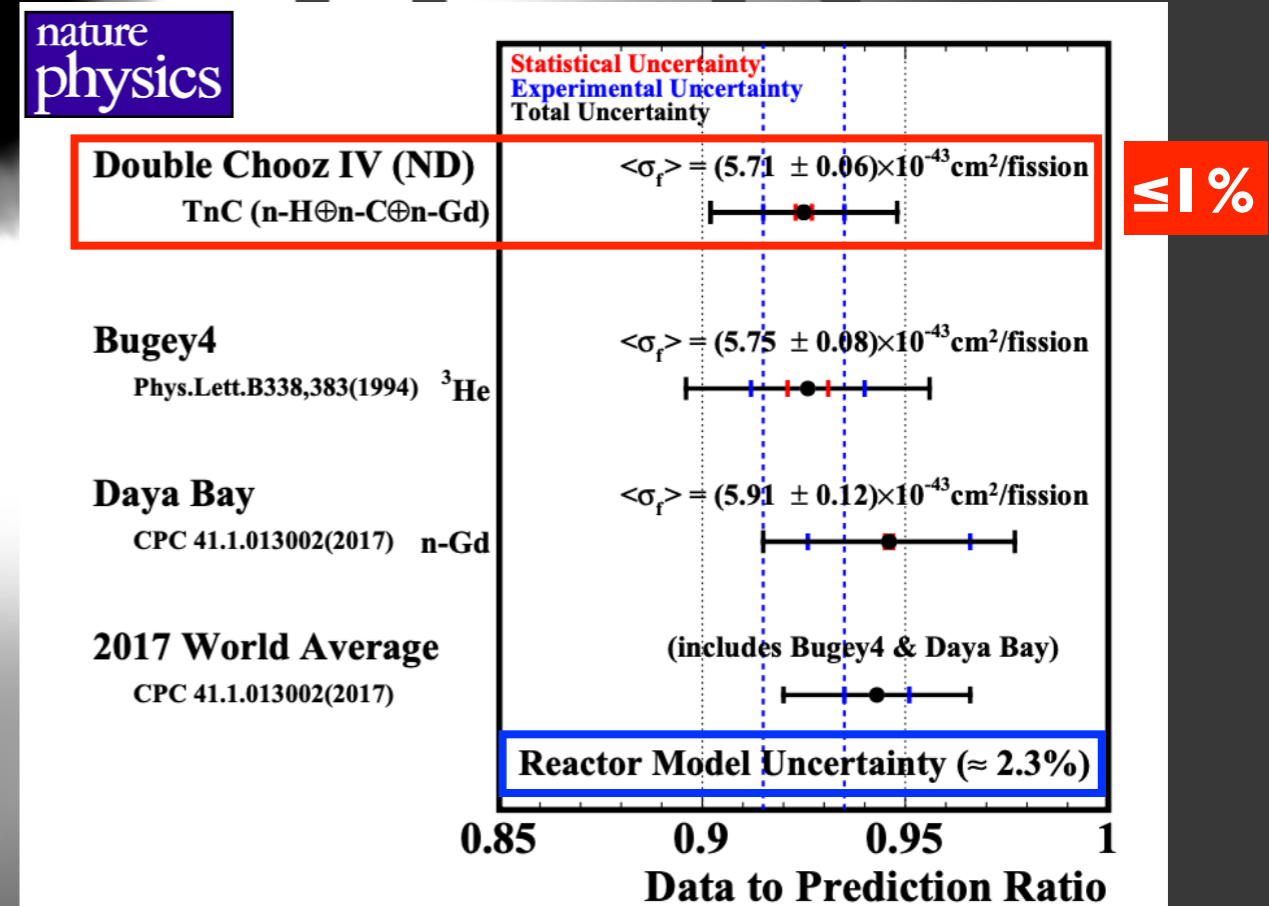
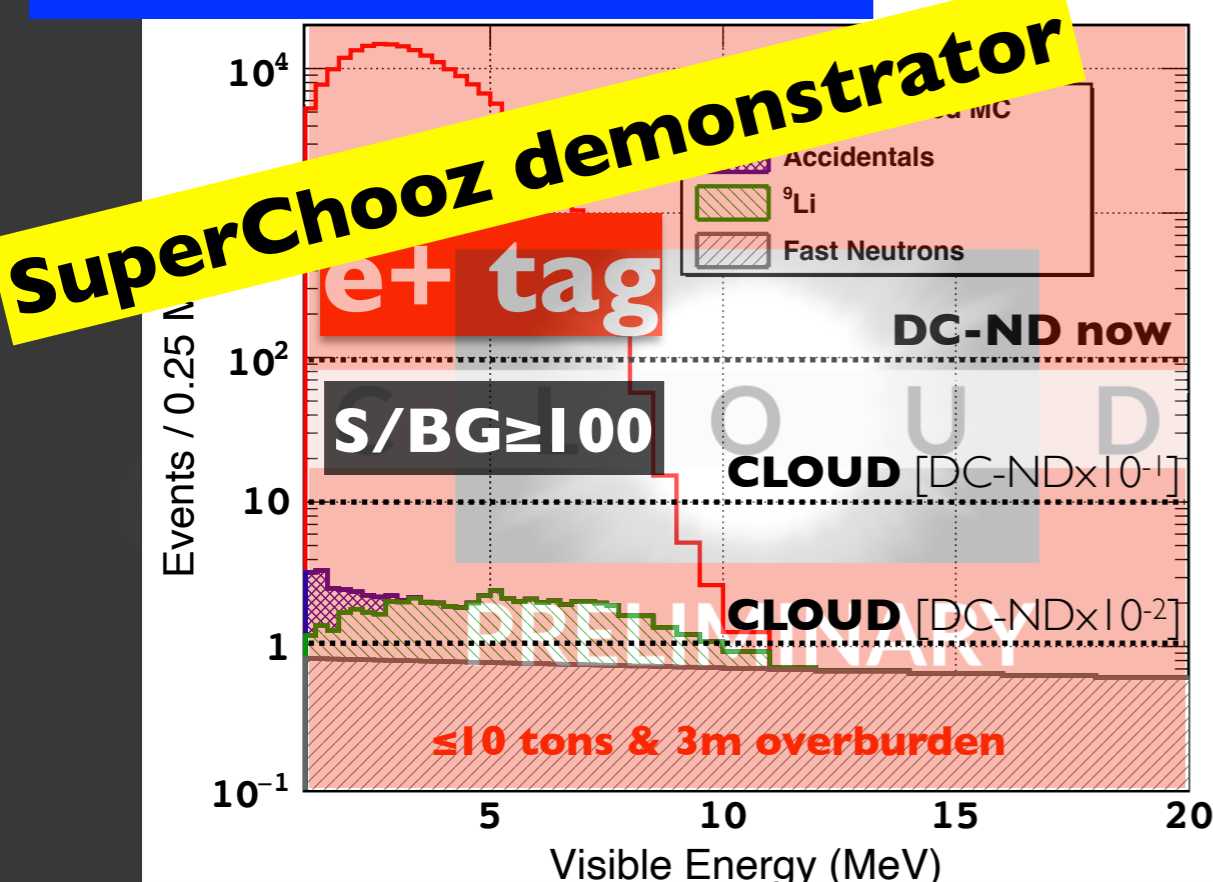
**AntiMatter-OTech** — synergy  
**SuperChooz's antineutrino golden channel demonstration** — byproduct

antineutrino CC & NC? (~~doping~~)...

# CLOUD-I physics programme: **IBD@p**...

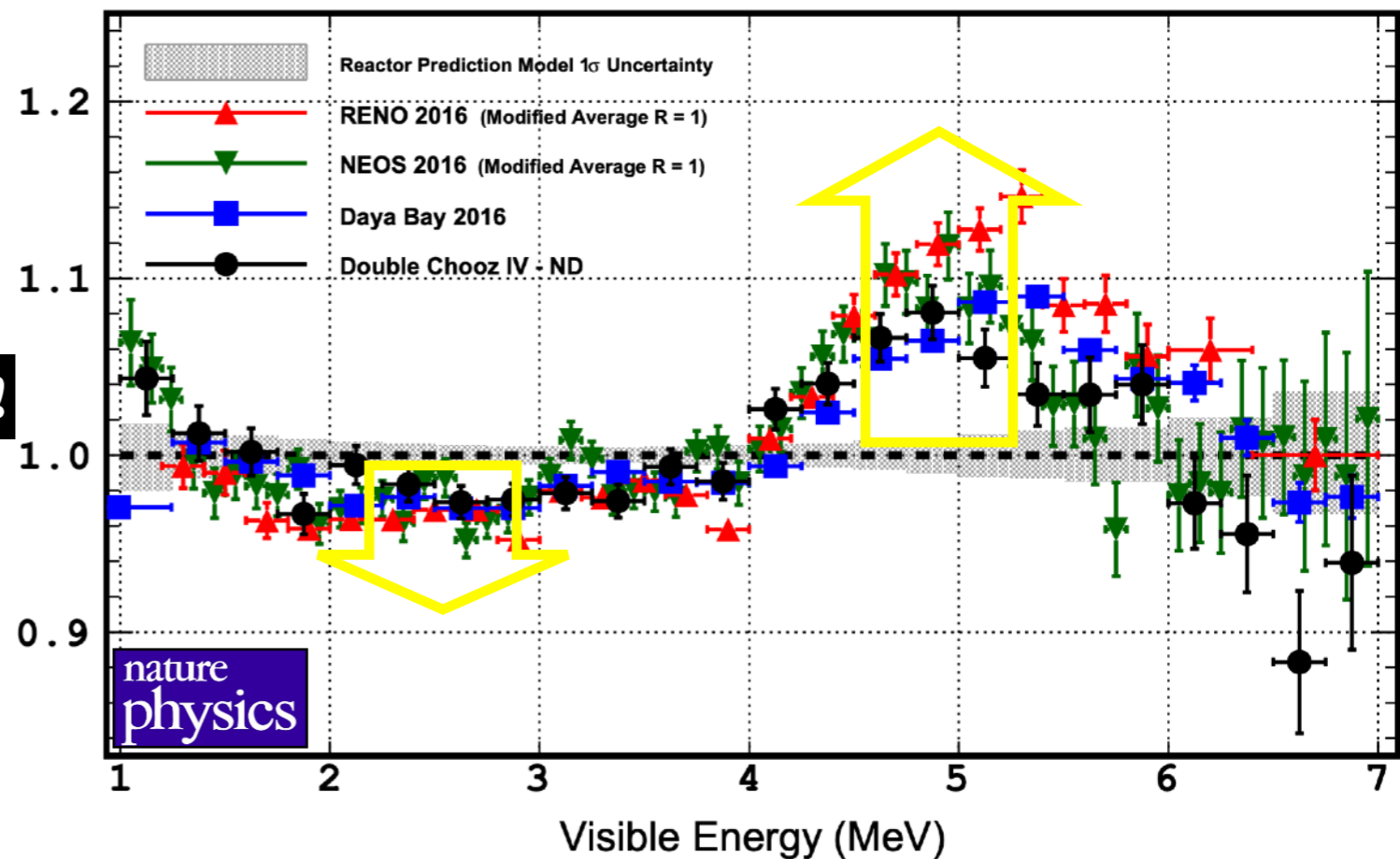
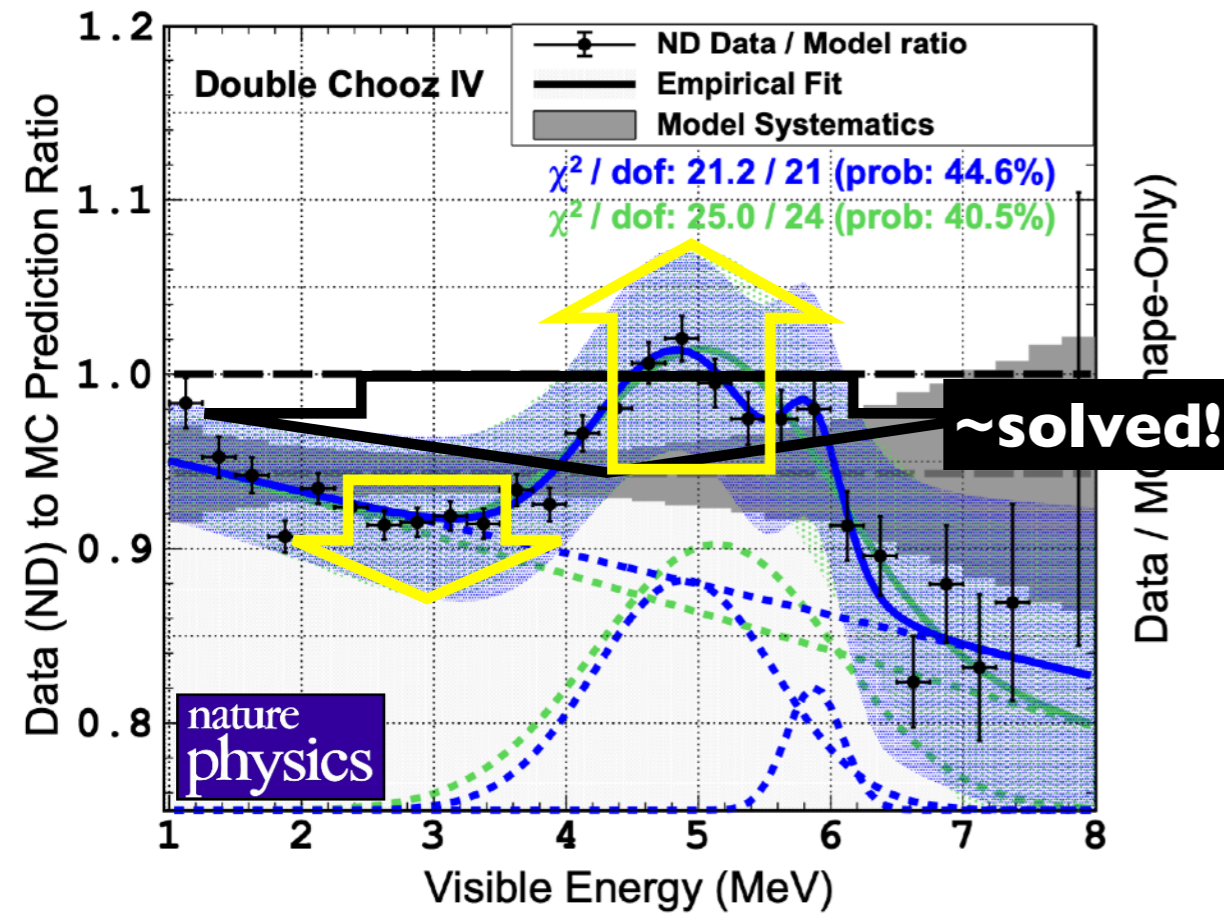
- **IBD@p** (anti-ν CC): **≥10,000** interaction per day for **10tons ID** [**≥3M** interactions per year]
  - **LiquidO** reach a **background-less** regime — improve **≥3x** today's BG control (ex. DC-ND)
  - **Signal(ON)-to-BG ≥100** — unprecedented high precision reactor characterisation
    - dominant **~0.5(thermal power) uncertainty** & accurate **U/Pu composition**
  - **Signal(OFF)-to-BG ≥1** — unprecedented **reactor-fuel monitoring**
    - accurate monitoring of **transitions OFF-ON-OFF** — some interesting physics
  - **unique test-bench data for accurate prediction** — validate uncertainties, too?

**AntiMatter-OTech** starts...



**CLOUD precision ≥0.6% ⇒ Unitarity Violation?** (if predictions are improved!)

**all experiments consistent — except Bugey3??**



**ABSOLUTE FLUX: the future of reactor-antineutrino physics**

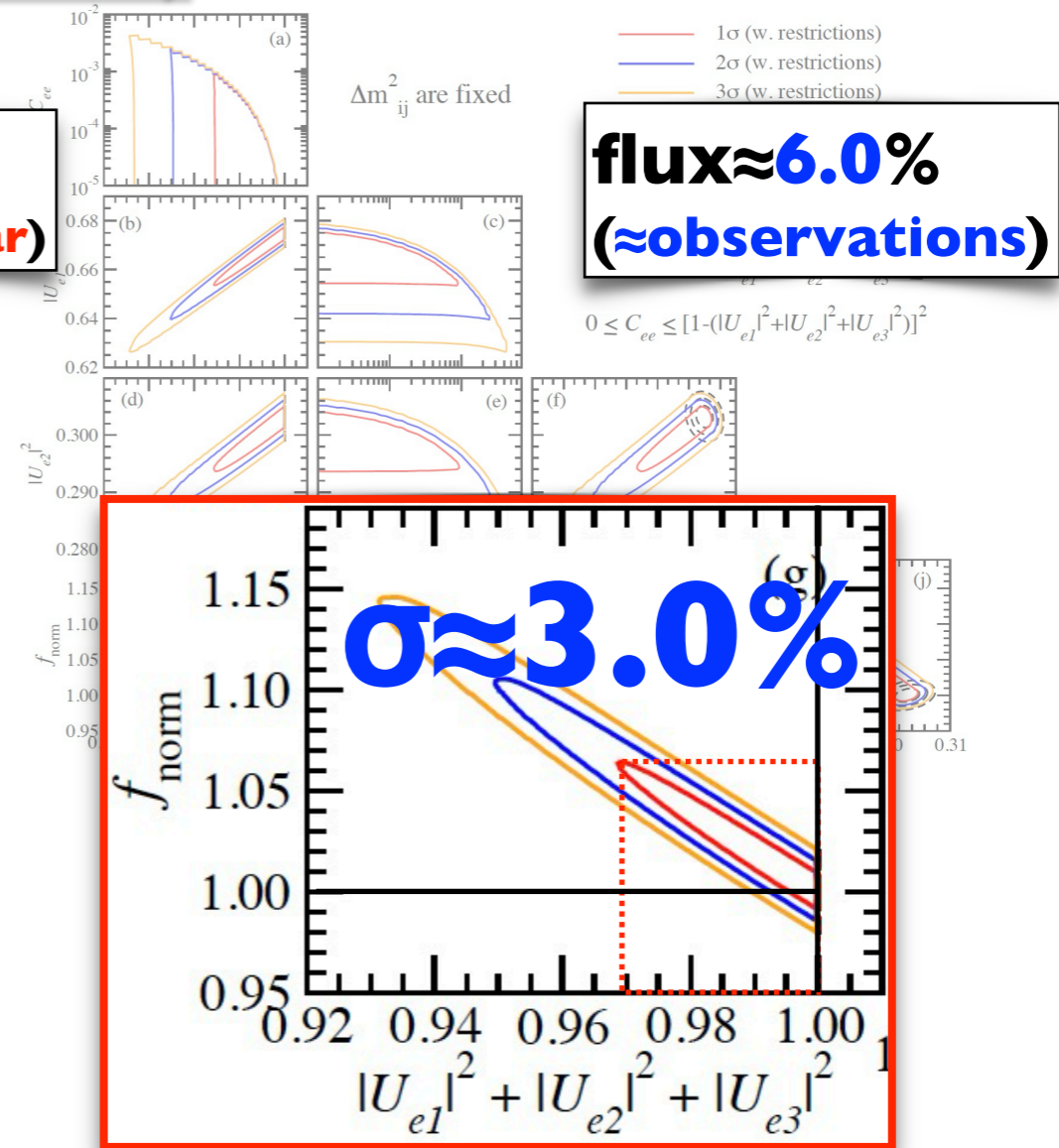
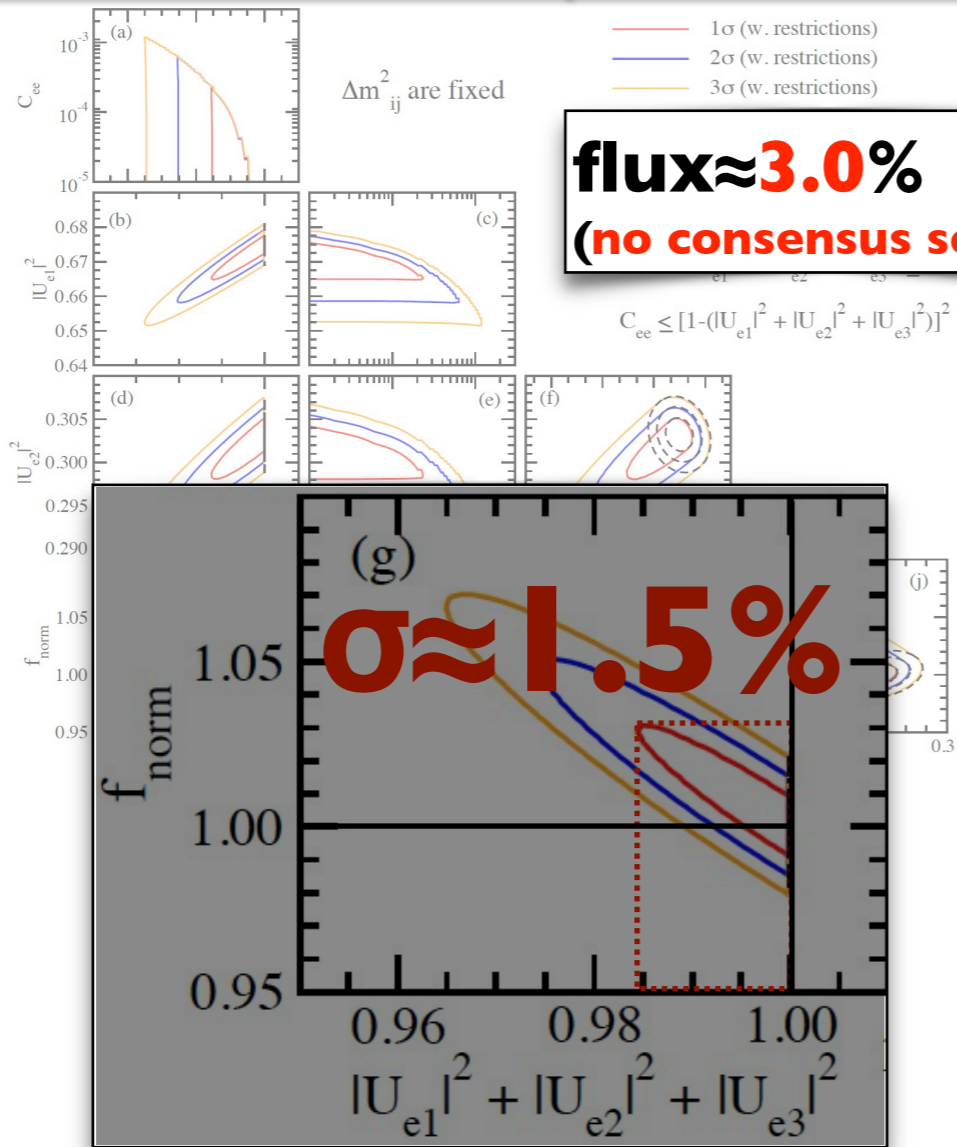
**we must solve this “mess”**  $\Rightarrow$  the reward **possible new physics!**  
 (if so, prediction should not use neutrino input  $\Rightarrow$  **no** new physics)

must understand flux  $\leq 1\%$ ...



# 49 today's (**e-row**) **unitarity** knowledge...

H. Nunokawa et al (arXiv:1609.08623v2)



**unitary explorations limited by absolute flux uncertainty**

if **unitarity** (must for the “definition” of any mixing-angle  $\theta_{ij}$ ) is **only controlled to  $\geq 3\%$**  (today)

C L O U D

how to ensure the **correctness** of any  $\theta_{ij}$  **permille precision measurement?**

[ex. **JUNO's**  $\delta(\theta_{12}) \leq 0.5\%$ ]

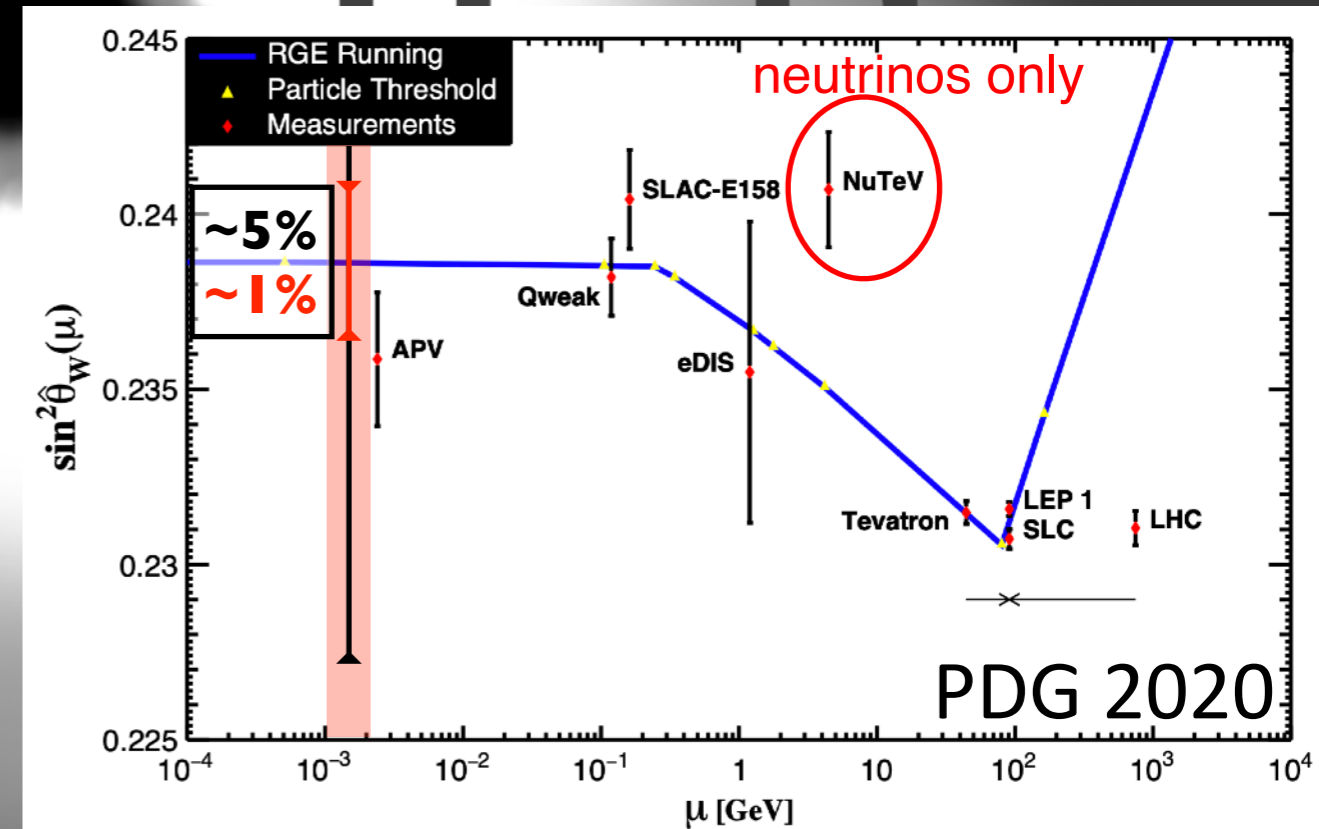
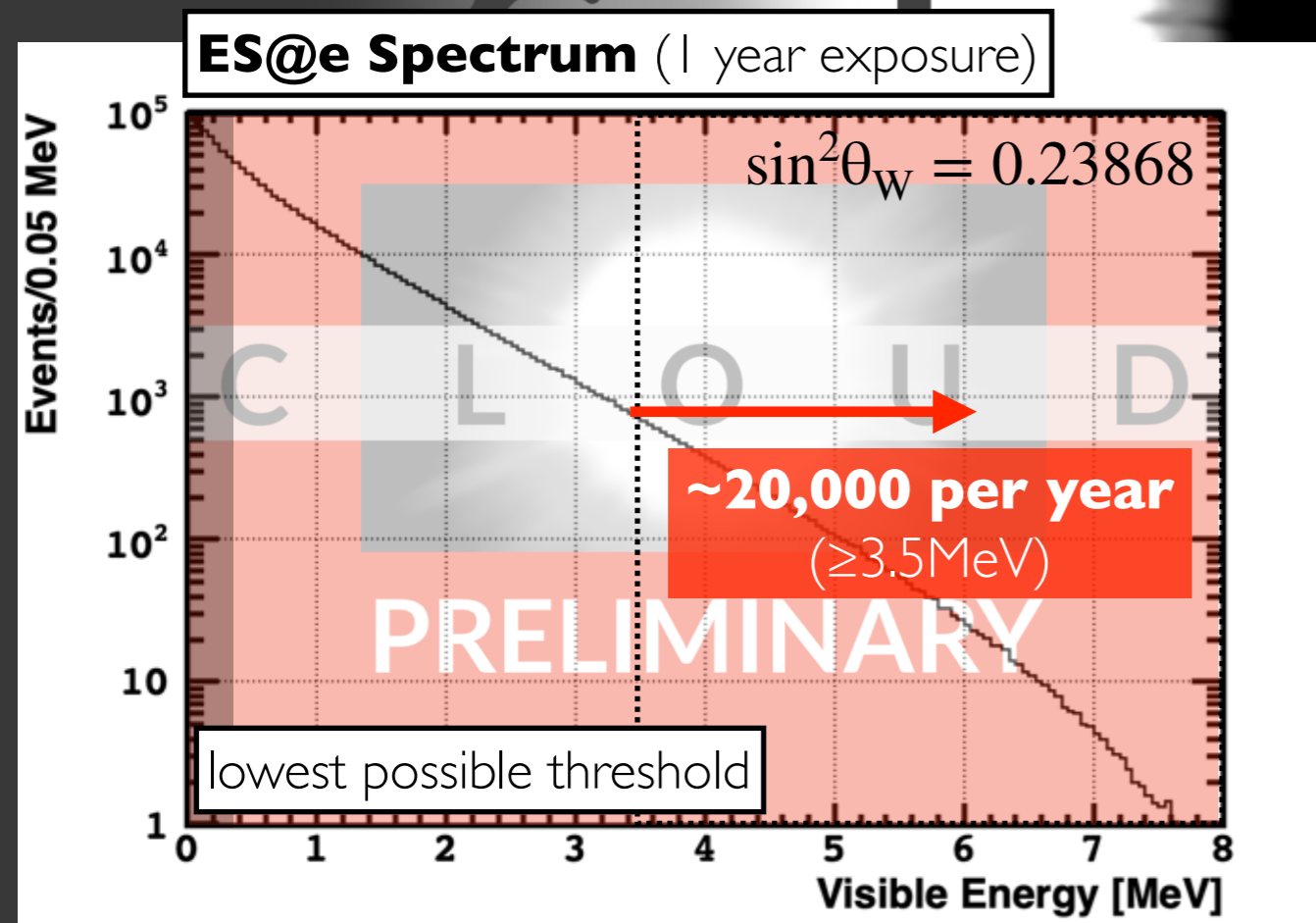
CLOUD's fundamental question...

C L O U D

**accuracy** implies **redundancy**...

# CLOUD-I physics programme: ES@e...

- **eES** (anti- $\nu$  CC $\oplus$ NC):  **$\leq 5,000$**  interactions per day for **10tons ID** [ $\approx 2M$  interactions per year]
  - interference CC & NC — different for neutrino (easier) and antineutrino (harder)
  - measure  $\theta_w$  and the **NC flux** component: **absolute flux Z-coupled** (neutrino-oscillation)
  - PDG-2022's  $\sin^2\theta_w \approx [0.231, 0.239]$  — the **running** due to SM's renormalisation
- **major challenge: LiquidO** isolate “e-like” PID and exploit **high-rate reactor modulation**
  - likely strong **fiducial volume** & **higher energies** — reduce detected rate drastically
  - **$\leq 10\%$  precision** ( $\geq 5\sigma$  observation) tolerates much BG but  **$\leq 1\% \Rightarrow S/BG \geq 2 (!!)$  impossible?**



R.L. Workman et al. (Particle Data Group), Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. 2022, 083C01 (2022)

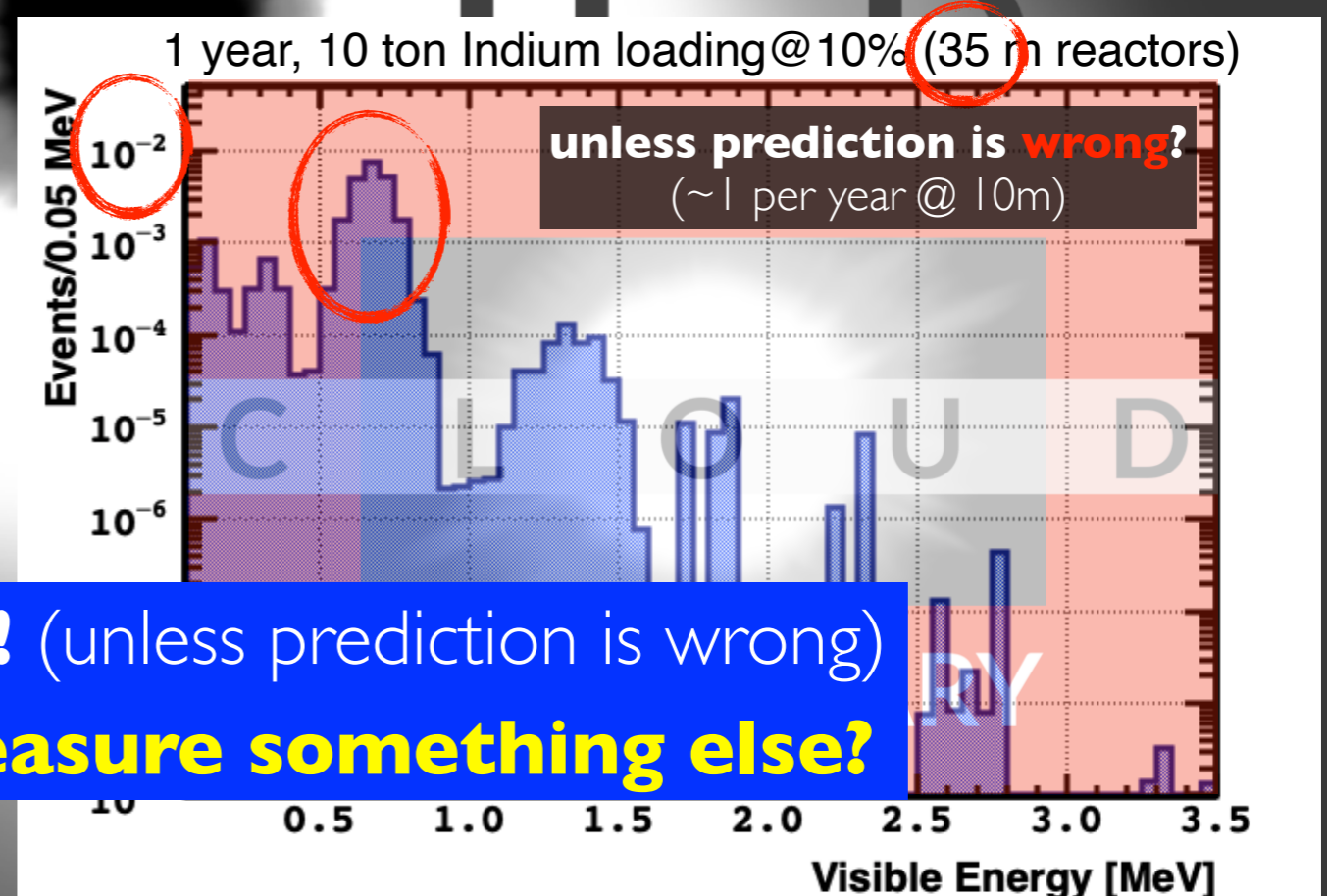
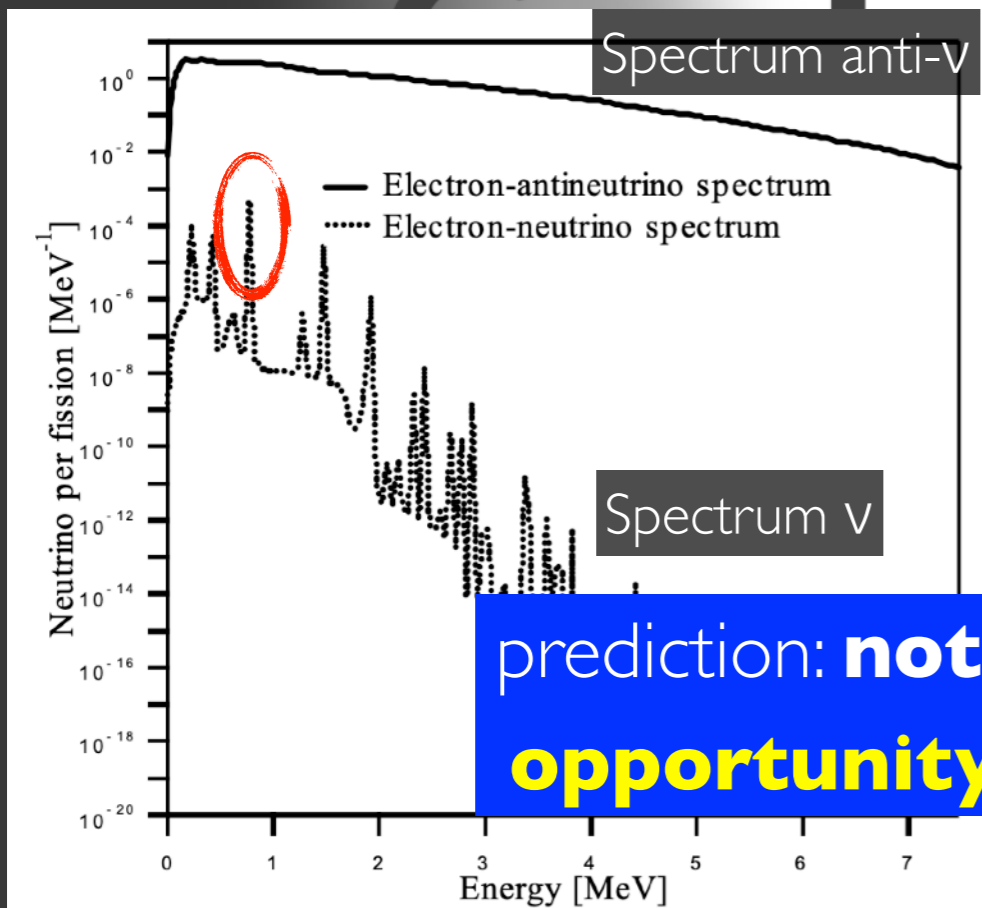
C L **II** U D

**SuperChooz's neutrino golden channel demonstration** — byproduct

neutrino CC (doping)...

# CLOUD-II physics programme: **neutrino**...

- loading **indium** on the detector — **unique strong coincidence  $\geq 114\text{keV}$**  (“solar-pp” in mind)
  - low threshold  $\oplus$  high natural-abundance  $\oplus$  high-ish cross-section  $\oplus$  BG-killer (coincidence)
  - CC interaction:  $\nu_e + {}^{115}\text{In} \rightarrow e^- + {}^{115}\text{Sn}^*$  [ $\tau: 4.8\mu\text{s}$  decay:  $\gamma/e(116\text{keV}) + \gamma(496\text{keV})$ ]
  - reactor neutrino **modulate with the reactor power** — no ambiguity whatsoever
- detecting **neutrinos close to a reactor? possible?**
  - **reactor neutrinos** (from  $\beta^+/\text{EC}$ ): **rate( $\nu$ )  $\approx 10^{-5}$  rate(anti- $\nu$ )** — prediction (both correlated)
  - could **reactors be the missing MeV neutrino source?** [otherwise impractical]

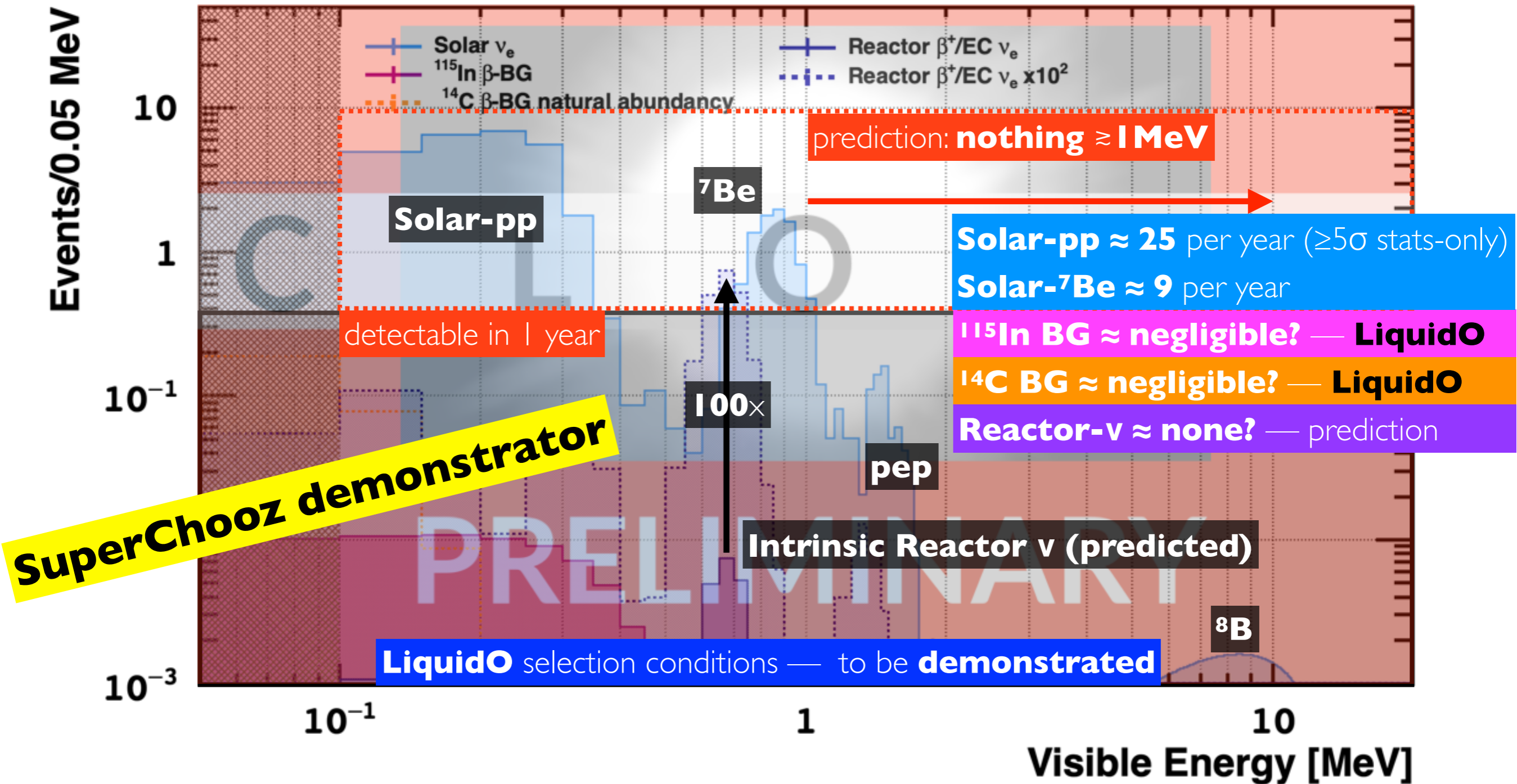


prediction: **nothing!** (unless prediction is wrong)  
**opportunity: measure something else?**

# the big picture of neutrinos @CLOUD...

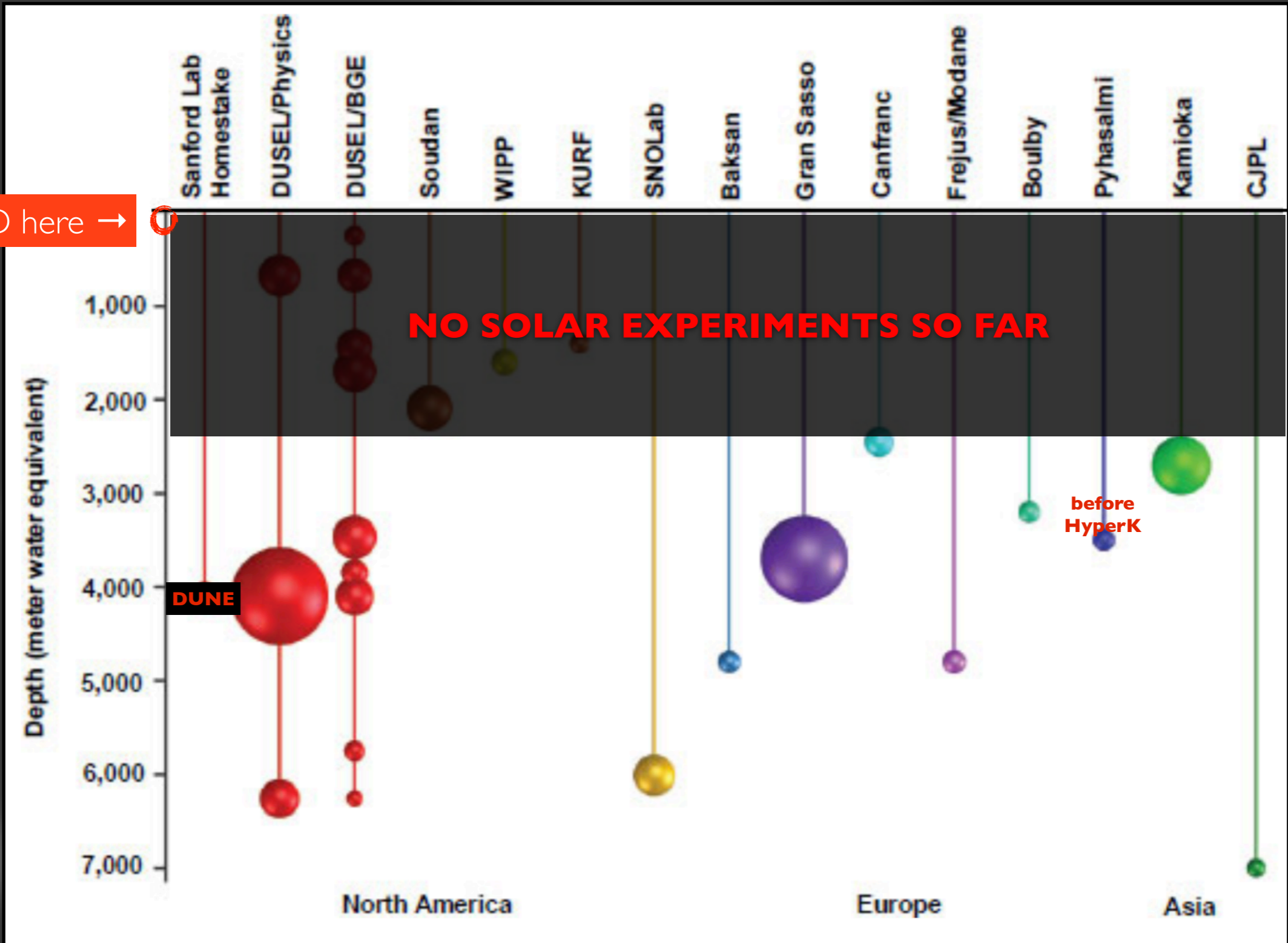
assuming the **LENS "BG model"** — valid at **overburden ~3m?** (to be demonstrated)

1 year, 10 ton Indium loading @10% (35 m reactors)



detection **solar-pp neutrinos** on a **10ton** detector **almost on surface** right **next a nuclear reactor?**

CLOUD here →



**ISSUE!!! overburden almost at surface ⇒ first time ever?**

# solar-ν detection on surface...?



C L III U D

**R&D for low energy reactor-fuel monitoring & geoneutrino  $^{40}\text{K}$  discovery** — demonstration

new antineutrino CC (doping)...

arXiv:2308.04154

## Probing Earth's Missing Potassium using the Unique Antimatter Signature of Geoneutrinos

A. Cabrera<sup>\*12 $\alpha$ ,2,a</sup>, M. Chen<sup>†6</sup>, F. Mantovani<sup>‡3 $\alpha$ ,3 $\beta$</sup> , A. Serafini<sup>§3 $\alpha$ ,3 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ ,13 $\beta$</sup> , V. Strati<sup>\*3 $\alpha$ ,3 $\beta$</sup> , J. Apilluelo<sup>18</sup>, L. Asquith<sup>1</sup>, J.L. Beney<sup>11</sup>, T.J.C. Bezerra<sup>1</sup>, M. Bongrand<sup>11</sup>, C. Bourgeois<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , D. Breton<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , M. Briere<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , J. Busto<sup>10</sup>, A. Cadiou<sup>11</sup>, E. Calvo<sup>8</sup>, V. Chaumat<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , E. Chauveau<sup>4</sup>, B.J. Cattermole<sup>1</sup>, P. Chimenti<sup>7</sup>, C. Delafosse<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , H. de Kerret<sup>||a</sup>, S. Dusini<sup>13 $\alpha$</sup> , A. Earle<sup>1</sup>, C. Frigerio-Martins<sup>7</sup>, J. Galán<sup>18</sup>, J. A. García<sup>18</sup>, R. Gazzini<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , A. Gibson-Foster<sup>1</sup>, A. Gallas<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , C. Girard-Carillo<sup>9 $\alpha$</sup> , W.C. Griffith<sup>1</sup>, F. Haddad<sup>11</sup>, J. Hartnell<sup>1</sup>, A. Hourlier<sup>†7</sup>, G. Hull<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , I. G. Irastorza<sup>18</sup>, L. Koch<sup>9 $\alpha$</sup> , P. Lanièce<sup>12 $\alpha$ ,12 $\beta$</sup> , J.F. Le Du<sup>12 $\alpha$ ,2</sup>, C. Lefebvre<sup>6</sup>, F. Lefevre<sup>11</sup>, F. Legrand<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , P. Loaiza<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , J. A. Lock<sup>1</sup>, G. Luzón<sup>18</sup>, J. Maalmi<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , C. Marquet<sup>4</sup>, M. Martínez<sup>18</sup>, B. Mathon<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , L. Ménard<sup>12 $\alpha$ ,12 $\beta$</sup> , D. Navas-Nicolás<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , H. Nunokawa<sup>15</sup>, J.P. Ochoa-Ricoux<sup>5</sup>, M. Obolensky<sup>3</sup>, C. Palomares<sup>8</sup>, P. Pillot<sup>11</sup>, J.C.C. Porter<sup>1</sup>, M.S. Pravikoff<sup>4</sup>, H. Ramarijaona<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , M. Roche<sup>4</sup>, P. Rosier<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , B. Roskovec<sup>14</sup>, M.L. Sarsa<sup>18</sup>, S. Schoppmann<sup>9 $\beta$</sup> , W. Shorrocks<sup>1</sup>, L. Simard<sup>12 $\alpha$</sup> , H.Th.J. Steiger<sup>9 $\alpha$ ,9 $\beta$</sup> , D. Stocco<sup>11</sup>, J.S. Stutzmann<sup>11</sup>, F. Suekane<sup>16,a</sup>, A. Tunc<sup>9 $\alpha$</sup> , M.-A. Verdier<sup>12 $\alpha$ ,12 $\beta$</sup> , A. Verdugo<sup>8</sup>, B. Viaud<sup>11</sup>, S. M. Wakely<sup>9 $\alpha$</sup> , A. Weber<sup>9 $\alpha$</sup> , and F. Yermia<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Institute of Particle and Nuclear Physics, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

<sup>15</sup> Department of Physics, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<sup>16</sup> RCNS, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

<sup>17</sup> Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC, Strasbourg, France

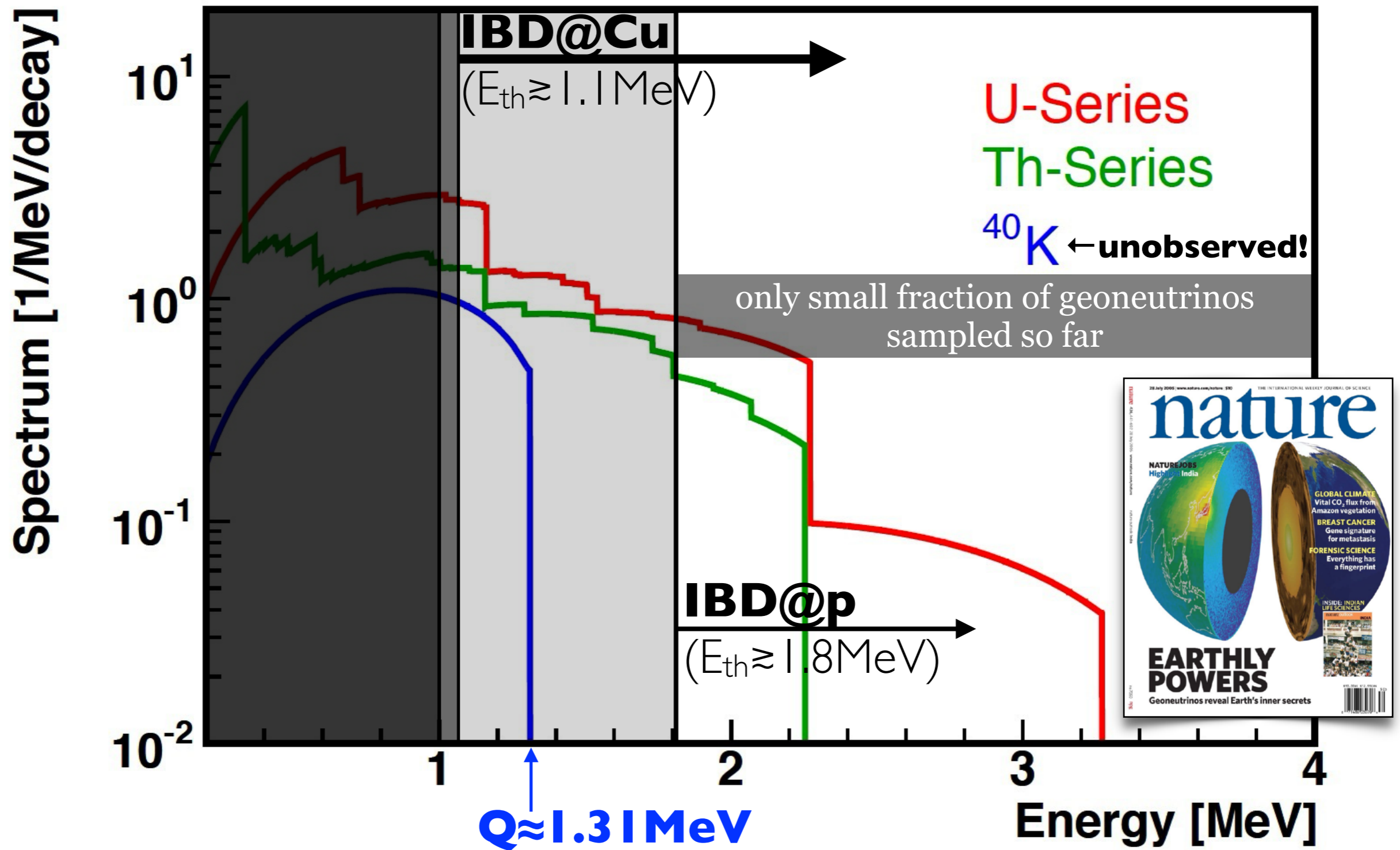
<sup>18</sup> Centro de Astropartículas y Física de Altas Energías (CAPA), Universidad de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain

<sup>a</sup> Université de Paris Cité, CNRS, APC, Paris, France

(LiquidO Consortium)

**<sup>40</sup>K geoneutrino new methodology** → good enough for discovery?

# $^{40}\text{K}$ geoneutrino ("holy grail") via **IBD@Cu**?

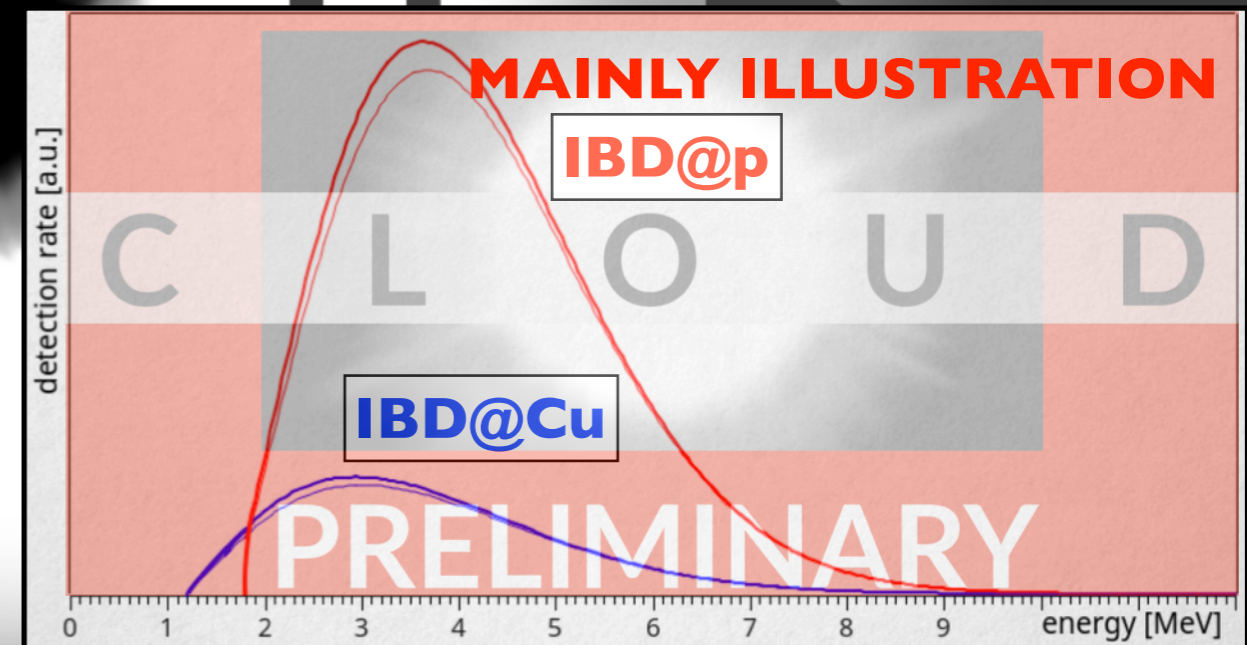
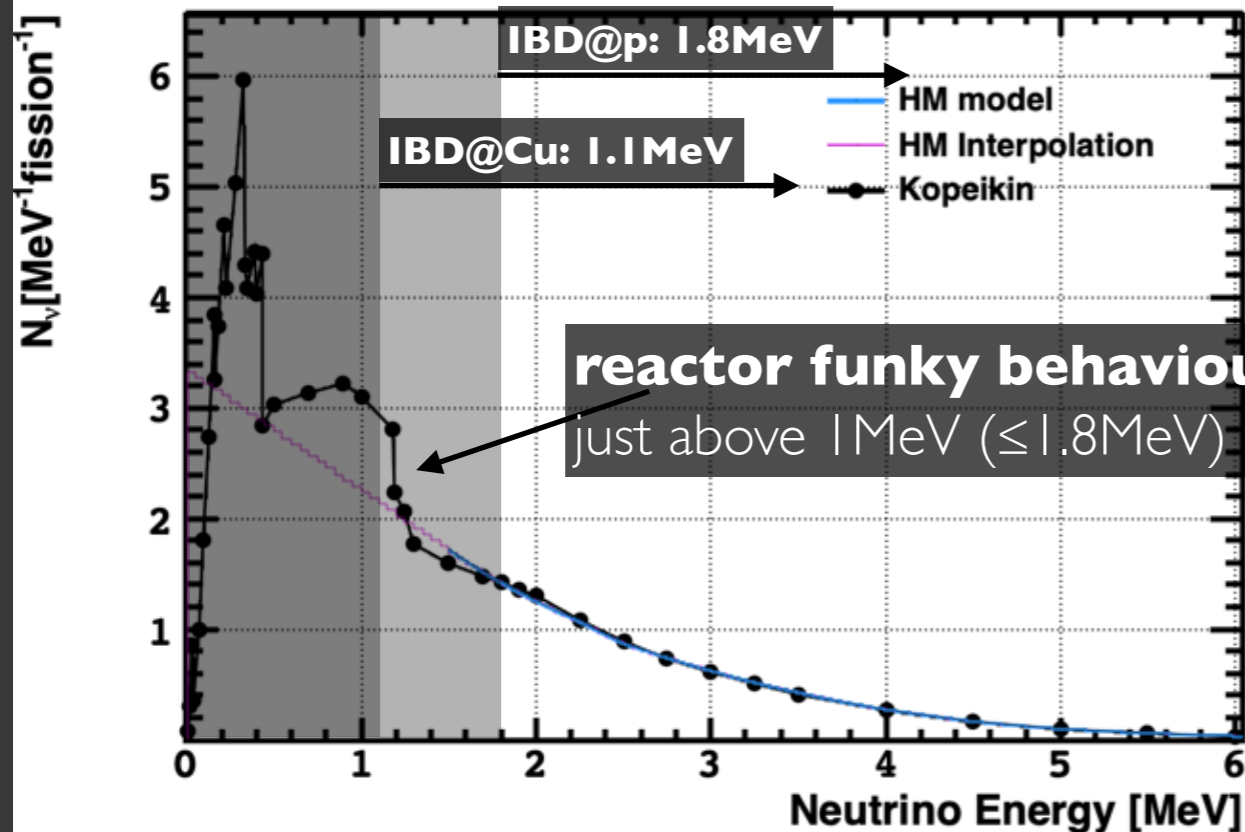


# CLOUD-II physics programme...

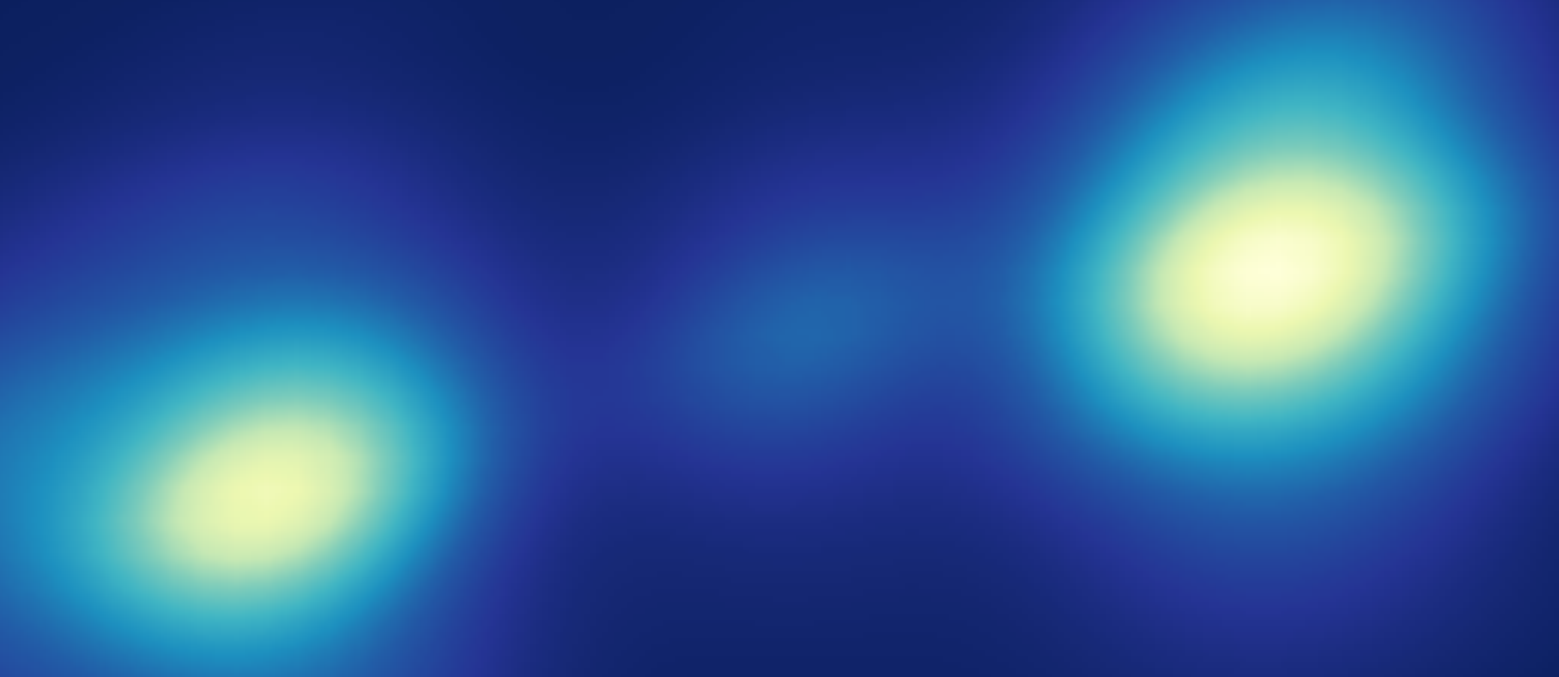
## Probing Earth's Missing Potassium using the Unique Antimatter Signature of Geoneutrinos

- **unique IBD-like** interaction on **Cu** [ $E(\text{threshold}): \sim 1.176 \text{ MeV}$ ] — **unique in the Universe**
  - low threshold  $\oplus$  high natural-abundance  $\oplus$  high-ish cross-section  $\oplus$  BG-resilience? (even coincidence?)
  - CC interaction: **anti- $\nu_e$**  +  **$^{63}\text{Cu}$**   $\rightarrow$   **$e^+$**  +  $^{63}\text{Ni}$  + [if  $^{63}\text{Ni}$  was excited:  **$\gamma$** (87keV;  $\tau \approx 1.67\mu\text{s}$ )]
- **possible applications:** reactor as **team-beam (demo)**
  - direct **reactor-fuel monitoring?** — remote **fuel-storage monitoring?**
  - **$^{40}\text{K}$  geoneutrino exploration?** (discovery?) — extremely challenging

### Reactor Flux Prediction (Kopeikin et al.)



- IBD@Cu: net increase of events — to be demonstrated
- **detection feasibility**
  - **cross-section** measurement — relative to IBD@p
  - branching-ratio for **Cu\*** (**tagging**) versus Cu

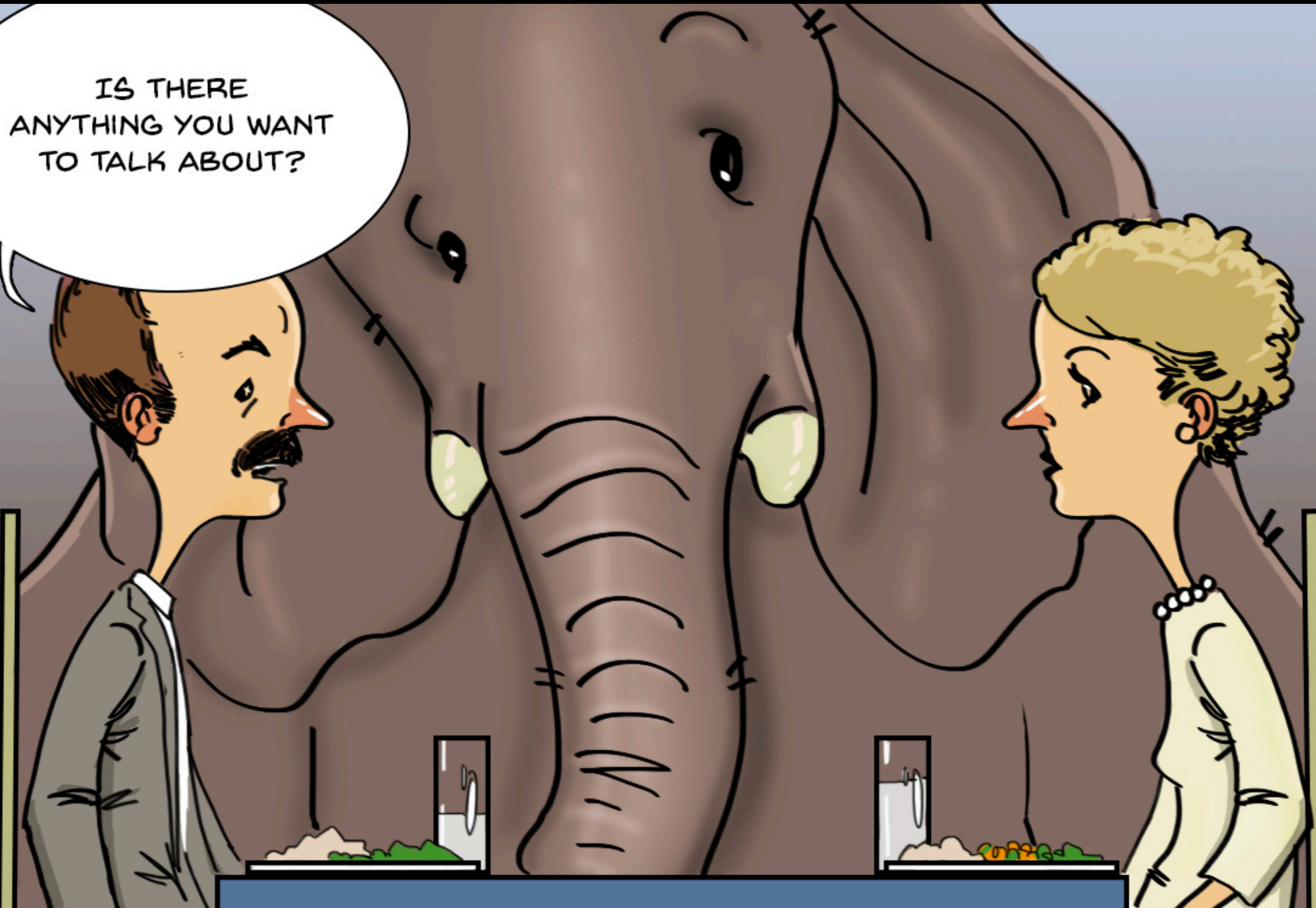


**e+ PID:** mainly an annihilation pattern (i.e. negligible kinetic energy) — **the same as in LPET!**

C L O U D

a long story short...

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

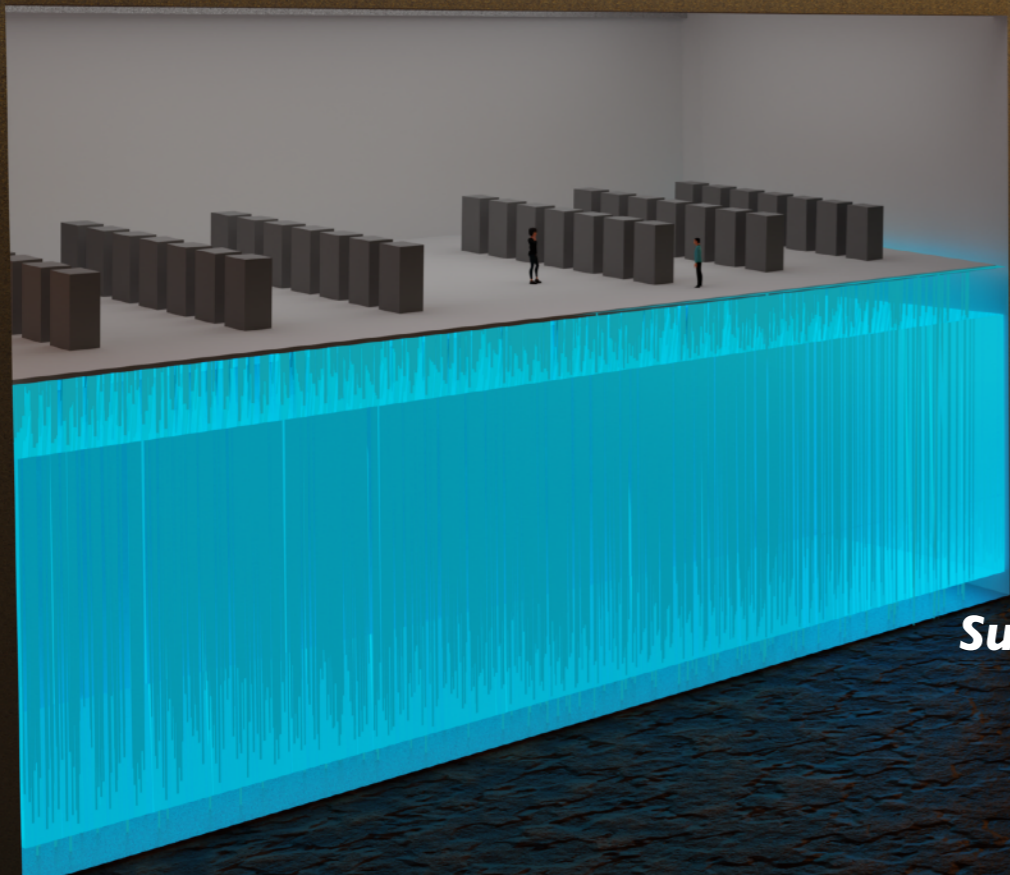


# SuperChooz exploration...

**flagship neutrino oscillation experiment in Europe?**

the Ardennes mountains

**Chooz-A:** Cavern Reactor Core



European  
Innovation  
Council



UK Research  
and Innovation

**AM-OTech** project [EIC-UKRI]  
**CLOUD** experiment

1 Dec 2022

**Chooz-B:** Reactor Cores

**Ultra Near Detectors @ Chooz-B:**

- LiquidO technology
- Mass:  $\leq 5$  tons
- Overburden:  $\leq 5$ m
- Baseline:  $\leq 30$ m

**SuperChooz demonstrator**

**Super Far Detector @ Chooz-A**

- LiquidO technology
- Mass:  $\sim 10,000$  tons
- Overburden:  $\leq 100$ m
- Baseline:  $\sim 1$ km

the Meuse river





HEP-European Physics Society  
(July 2019 @ Ghent Belgium)

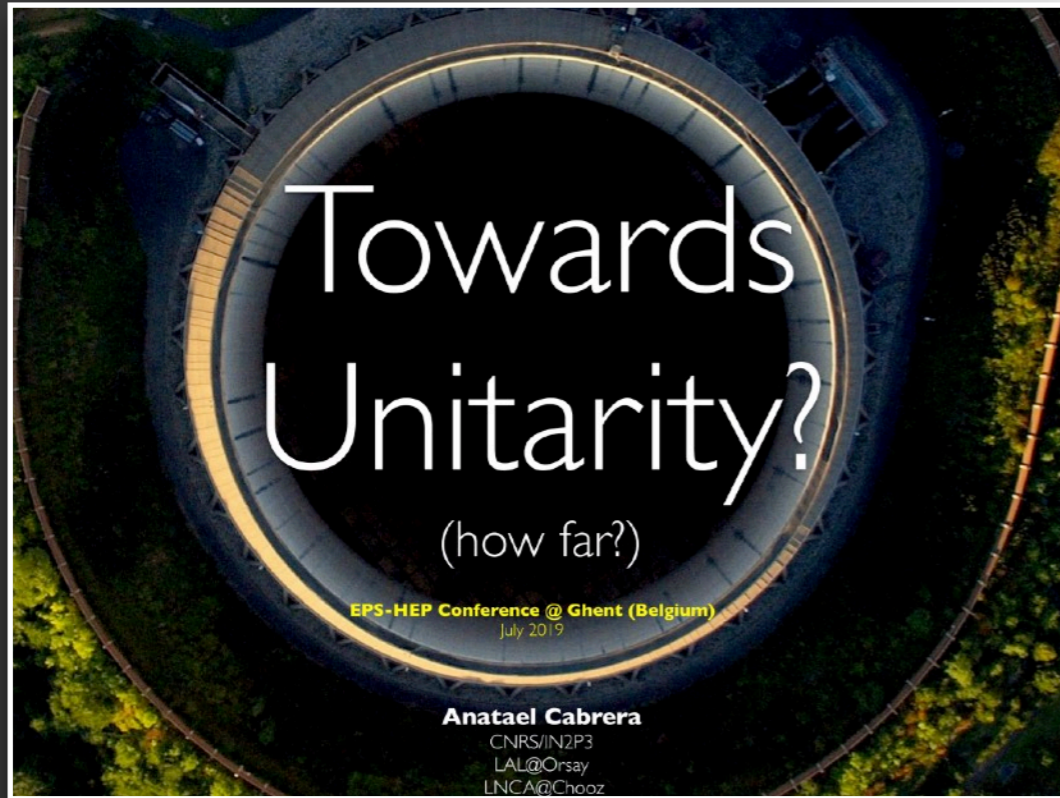
EP Seminar

# The SuperChooz Experiment: Unveiling the Opportunity

by Dr Anatael CABRERA (IJCLab - IN2P3/CNRS)

Tuesday 29 Nov 2022, 11:00 → 12:00 Europe/Zurich

222/R-001 (CERN)



<https://indico.cern.ch/event/577856/contributions/3421609/>

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1215214/>

<https://zenodo.org/record/7504162>

<https://liquido.ijclab.in2p3.fr/>

# exploring since 2018...

- **CLOUD** demonstrator for **LiquidO's (anti)neutrino detection capabilities** — **a revolution?**
  - byproduct to **new reactor monitoring capability?** [a dream since '70s]
- **CLOUD-I:** *approved & funded [AM-OTech]* **plan: data by 2025**
  - **most precise absolute CC-antineutrino flux** — **new physics?**
  - possible **first NC-(anti)neutrino flux** — **new physics?**
- **CLOUD-II:** *under feasibility study* (→ new **indium**-loaded opaque scintillator)
  - (first) **absolute CC-neutrino flux reactor** — **new physics?**
  - **measure solar-pp ( $\geq 5\sigma$ )** in a tiny detector almost on the surface? ⇒ **a major breakthrough**
    - [backup] ⇒ explore **new physics?**
- **CLOUD-III:** *under feasibility study* (→ new **copper**-loaded opaque scintillator)
  - probe **reactor flux at low energies?** — **surprises?** [first time ever below 1.8MeV]
  - demonstration for  **$^{40}\text{K}$  detection methodology** — **a discovery one day?**

SuperChooz demonstrator

SuperChooz demonstrator

**a vaster future of reactor (anti)neutrinos ahead?**

conclusions...

# our collaboration...

European  
Innovation  
Council



UK Research  
and Innovation

## CLOUD

### CLOUD International collaboration

- **EDF** (France) — **first time in neutrino science**
- **Brookhaven National Laboratory** (USA)
- **Charles University** (Czechia)
- **CIEMAT** (Spain)
- **IJCLab** / Université Paris-Saclay (France)
- **Imperial College London** (UK)
- **INFN-Padova** (Italy)
- **Instituto Superior Técnico** (Portugal)
- **Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz** (Germany)
- **Pennsylvania State University** (USA)
- **Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro** (Brazil)
- **Queen's University** (Canada)
- **Subatech / Nantes Université** (France)
- **Tohoku University / RCNS** (Japan)
- **Universidad de Zaragoza** (Spain)
- **Universidade Estadual de Londrina** (Brazil)
- **University of California Irvine** (USA)
- **University of Michigan** (USA)
- **University of Sussex** (UK)

#### Spokespersons:

- A. Cabrera — IJCLab / Université Paris-Saclay (France)
- J. Hartnell — Sussex University (UK)

#### IB Chair:

- M. Chen — Queen's University (Canada)

#### Webs:

<https://antimatter-otech.ijclab.in2p3.fr/> [AMOTech]

<https://liquido.ijclab.in2p3.fr/nucloud> [via LiquidO]

⇒ 19 institutions in 11 countries