

Searching for New Physics with Accelerator-based Neutrino Experiments

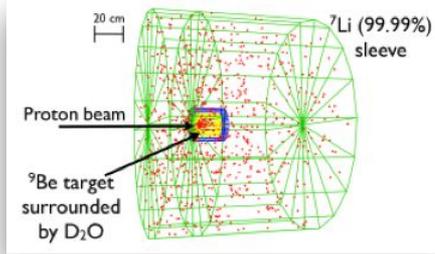
Georgia Karagiorgi, Columbia University

Symposium on Low Energy Experimental Particle Physics
Max Planck Institute of Physics
Munich, July 15, 2022

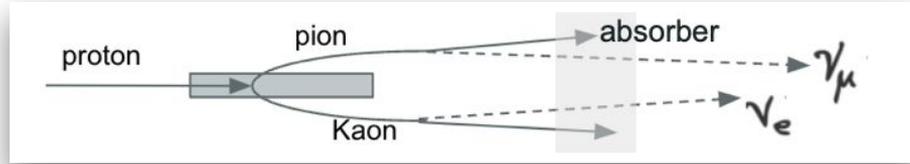


17 cm

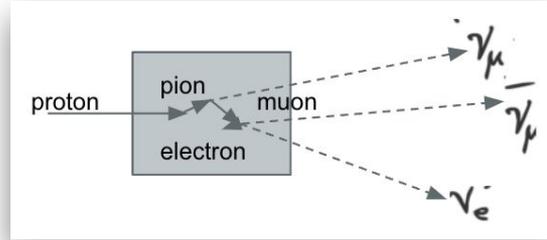
Accelerators as neutrino sources



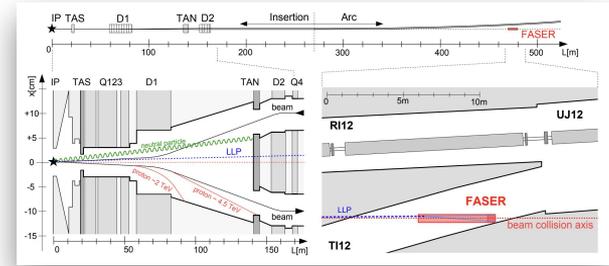
e.g., isotope Decay-At-Rest (DAR) sources



pion Decay-In-Flight (DIF) sources,



pion DAR sources,

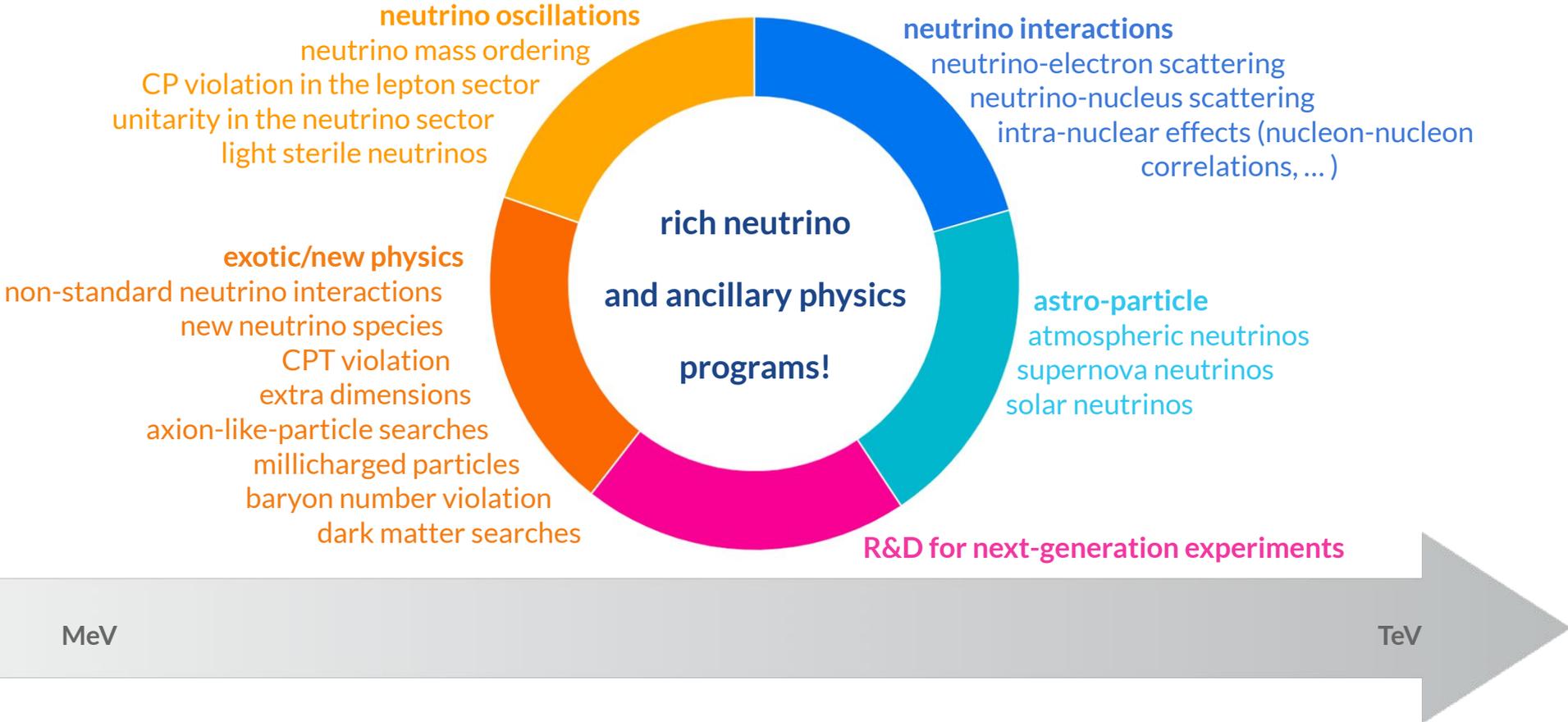


proton-proton collisions

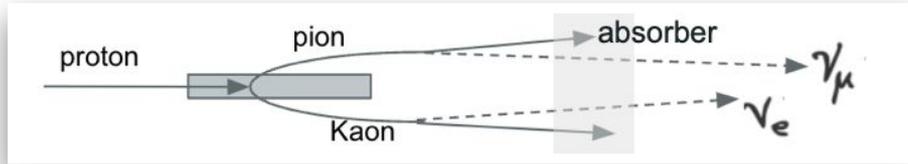
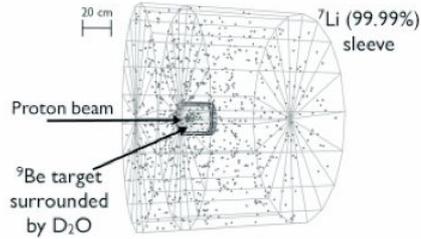
MeV

TeV

Accelerators as neutrino sources

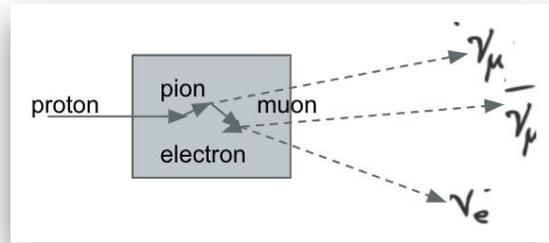


Accelerators as neutrino sources

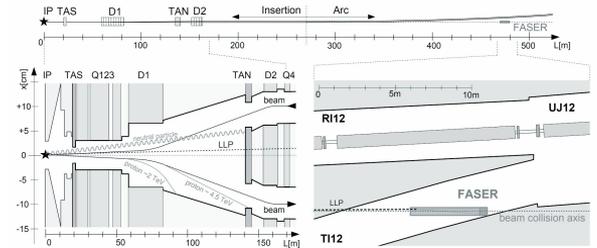


pion Decay-In-Flight (DIF) sources,

e.g., isotope Decay-At-Rest (DAR) sources



pion DAR sources,



proton-proton collisions

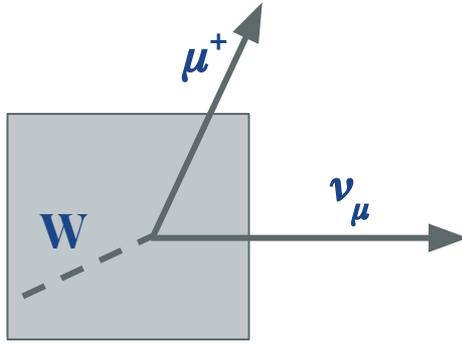
MeV

pion DAR and DIF source: "home" of experimental neutrino anomalies

TeV

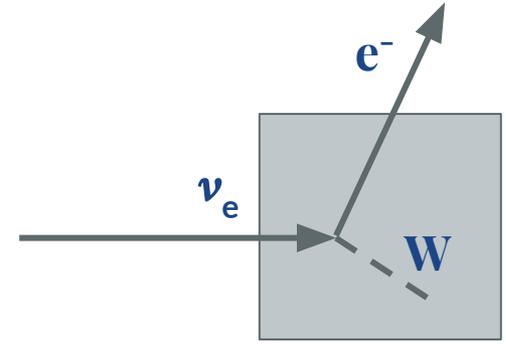
Pion DAR and DIF experimental neutrino anomalies

Your typical three-neutrino oscillation experiment...



neutrino source

"long distance"...

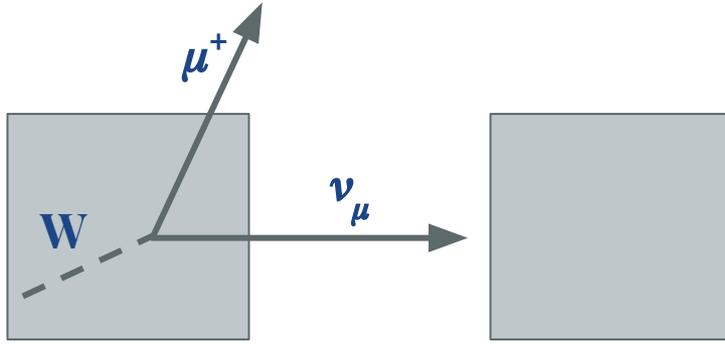


large detector
measuring

ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ

Pion DAR and DIF experimental neutrino anomalies

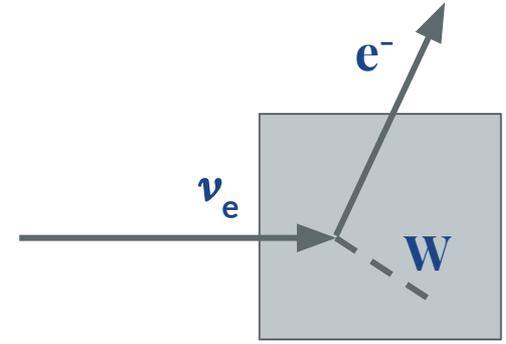
Your typical three-neutrino oscillation experiment...



neutrino source

detector at $L \sim 0$ measures
"unoscillated" rates

"long distance"...

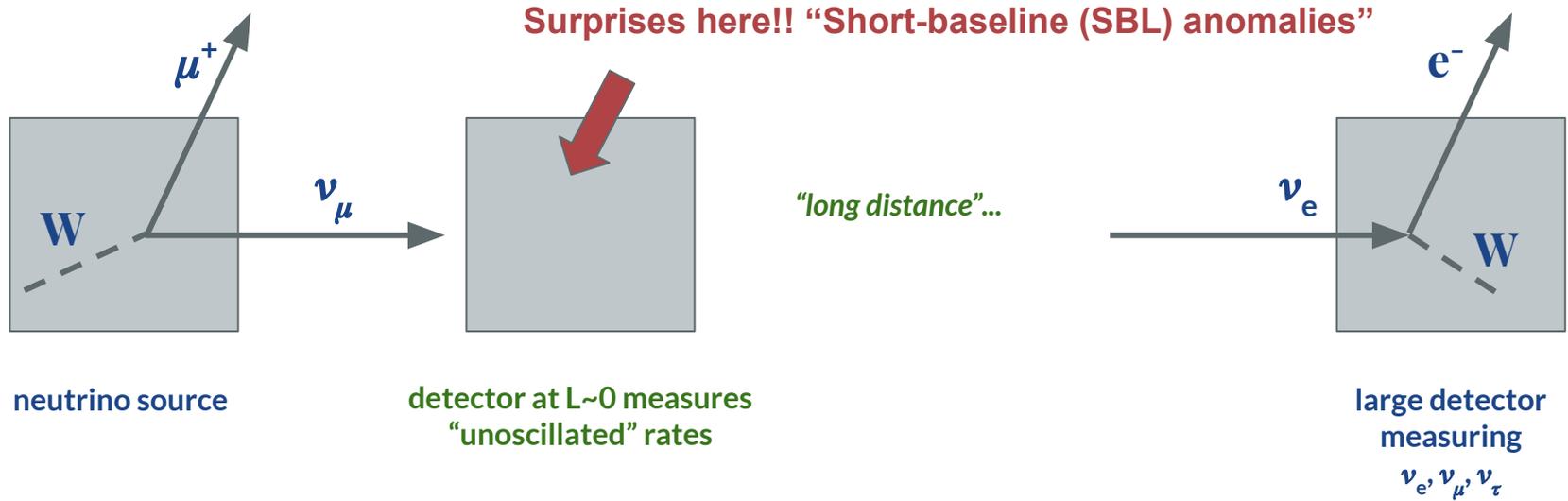


large detector
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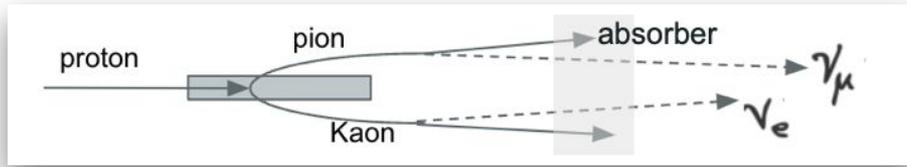
Pion DAR and DIF experimental neutrino anomalies

Your typical three-neutrino oscillation experiment...

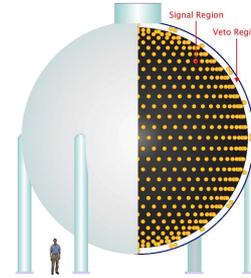


Pion DAR and DIF experimental neutrino anomalies

MiniBooNE



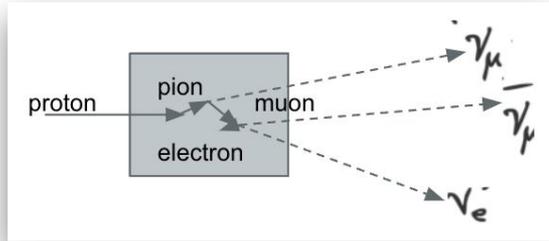
pion DIF source:
Booster Neutrino Beam (BNB) at Fermilab, US



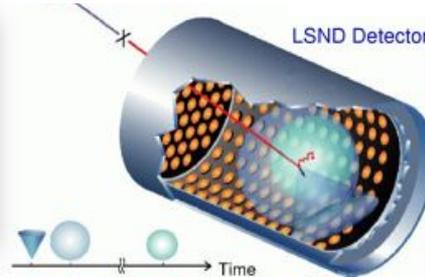
observed 4.8σ excess
of electron-anti/neutrinos
in muon-anti/neutrino beam

$$L_\nu/E_\nu \sim 500 \text{ m} / 500 \text{ MeV}$$

LSND



pion DAR source:
Los Alamos National Lab, US



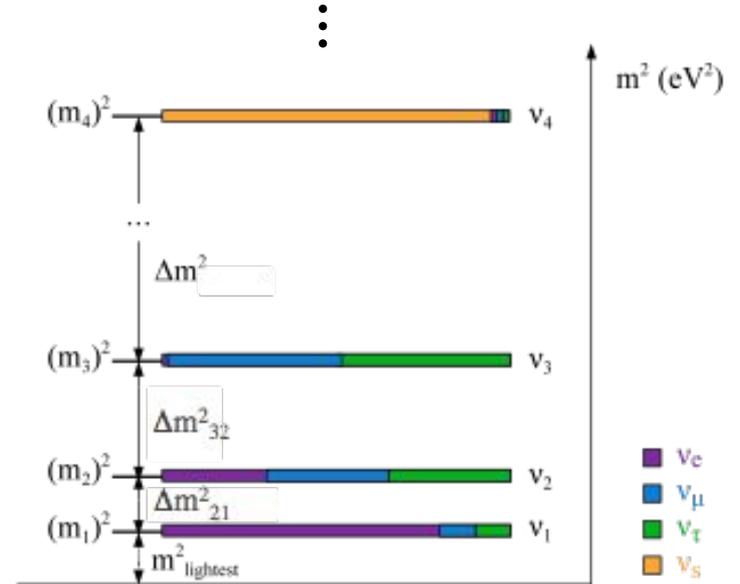
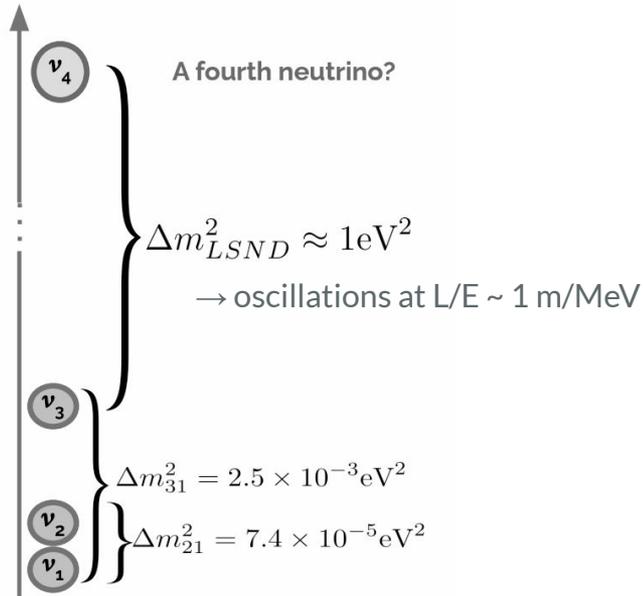
observed 3.8σ excess
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in muon-antineutrino beam

$$L_\nu/E_\nu \sim 30 \text{ m} / 30 \text{ MeV}$$



Most widely considered SBL anomaly interpretation

Beyond three neutrinos: Light ($m \sim \text{eV}$ -scale) sterile neutrinos



Most widely considered SBL anomaly interpretation

Beyond three neutrinos: Light ($m \sim \text{eV}$ -scale) sterile neutrinos

$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_s \rightarrow \nu_e$ oscillations

$$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_{\beta \neq \alpha}) = \sin^2 2\vartheta_{\alpha\beta} \sin^2(1.27\Delta m^2 L / E)$$

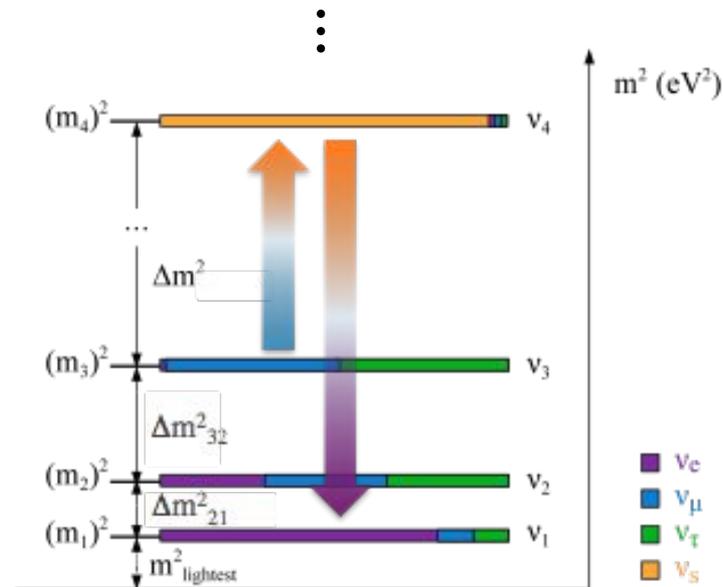
$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{e\mu} = 4|U_{e4}|^2|U_{\mu4}|^2$$

Predicts:

Small-amplitude **muon to electron neutrino** appearance $\sim O(1\%)$

Electron neutrino disappearance $\sim O(10\%)$

Muon neutrino disappearance $\sim O(10\%)$

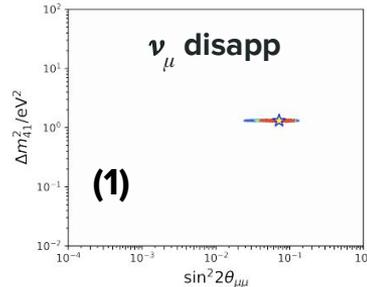
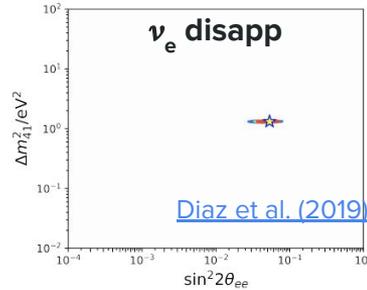
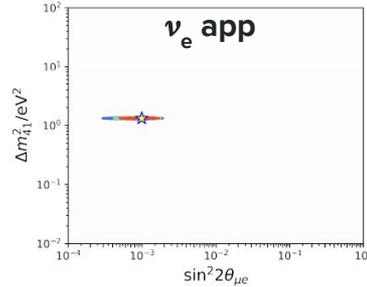


Most widely considered SBL anomaly interpretation

... seems to fall short !

Sterile Neutrino Global Picture:
combining SBL anomalies
with other experimental data

1. The “3+1” scenario is much more preferred than null

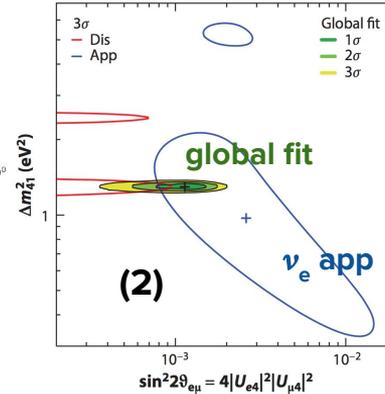
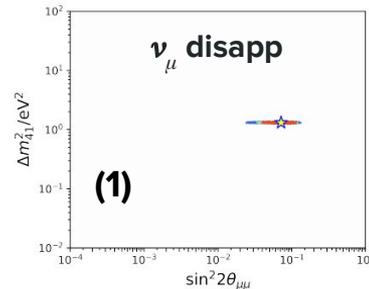
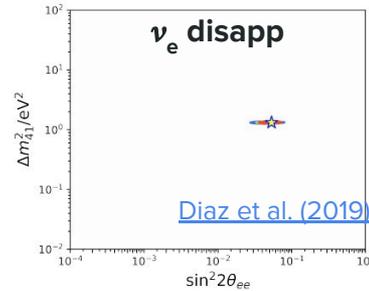
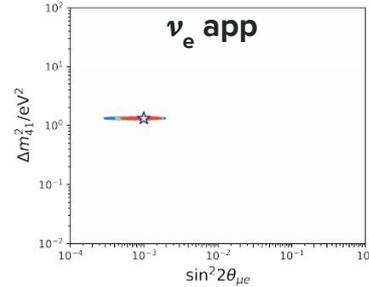


Most widely considered SBL anomaly interpretation

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Sterile Neutrino Global Picture:
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1. The “3+1” scenario is much more preferred than null
2. There is a large **tension** between appearance and disappearance data sets, and incompatibility of parameters preferred by appearance vs. disappearance experiments



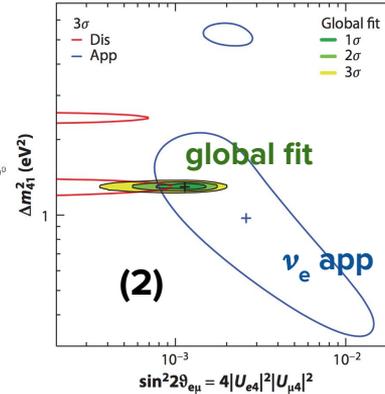
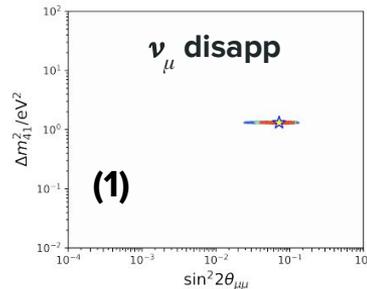
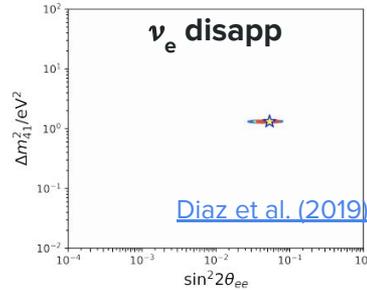
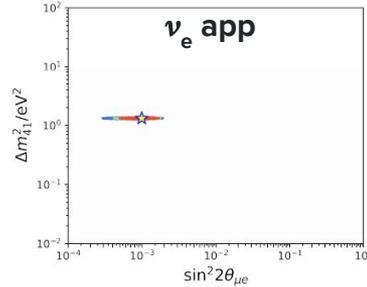
[Giunti & Lasserre \(2019\)](#)

Most widely considered SBL anomaly interpretation

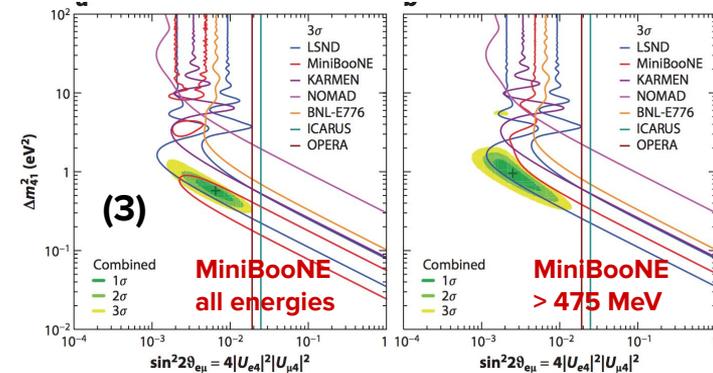
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Sterile Neutrino Global Picture:
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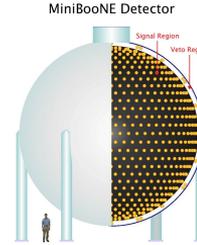
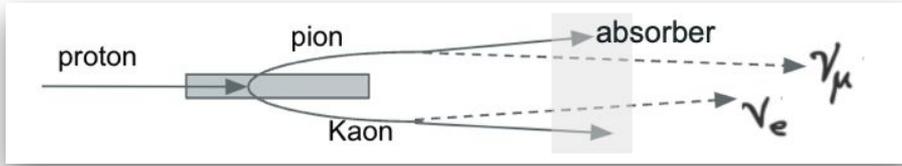
1. The “3+1” scenario is much more preferred than null
2. There is a large **tension** between appearance and disappearance data sets, and incompatibility of parameters preferred by appearance vs. disappearance experiments
3. Some of this tension can be relieved with omission of MiniBooNE “low-energy excess”



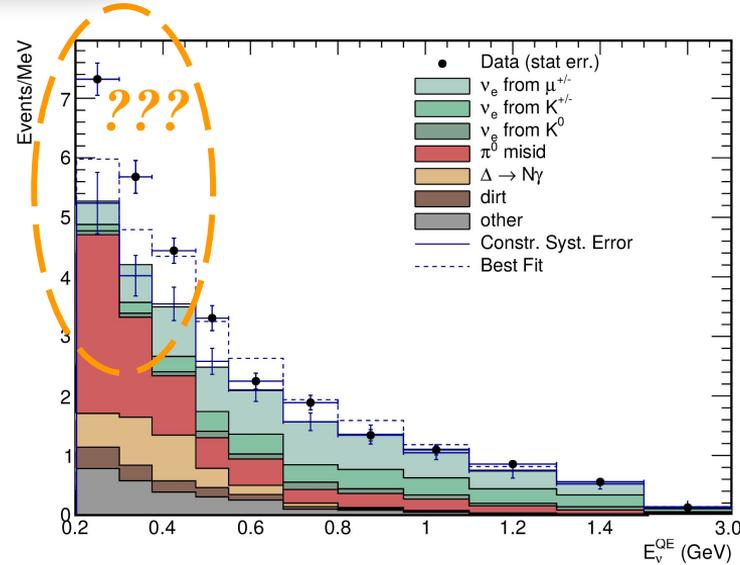
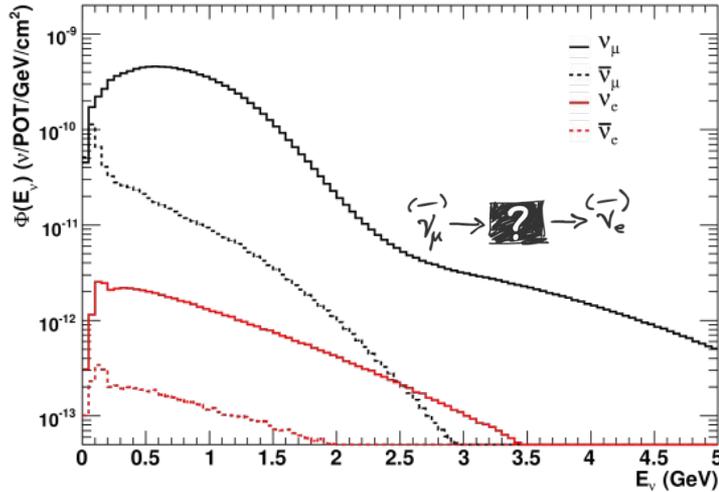
[Giunti & Lasserre \(2019\)](#)



Re-examination of MiniBooNE “low-energy excess”



observed 4.8σ excess
of electron-anti/neutrinos
in muon-anti/neutrino beam

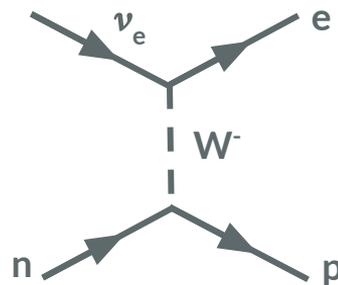
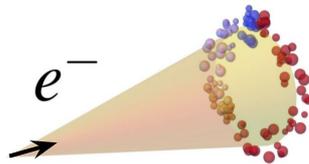


MiniBooNE Collaboration
[Phys. Rev. D 103, 052002 \(2021\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.05200)
Electron neutrino spectrum
Neutrino mode only

To this date, source of excess remains unexplained!

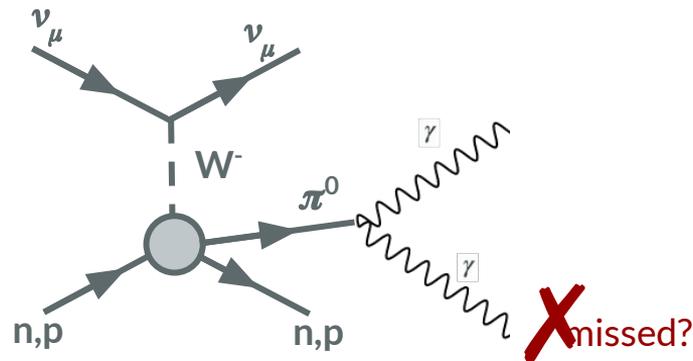
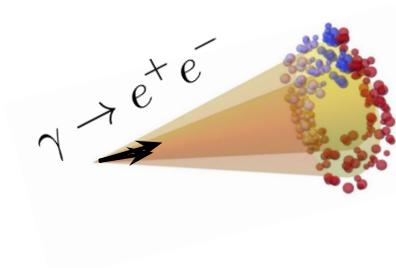
What could the source of the MiniBooNE excess be?

Key observation: electromagnetic shower
from ν_e CC interactions



For a broad review
of Standard Model
and beyond-Standard
Model interpretations,
see the “Snowmass 2022
White Paper”:
[arXiv:2203.07323](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.07323)

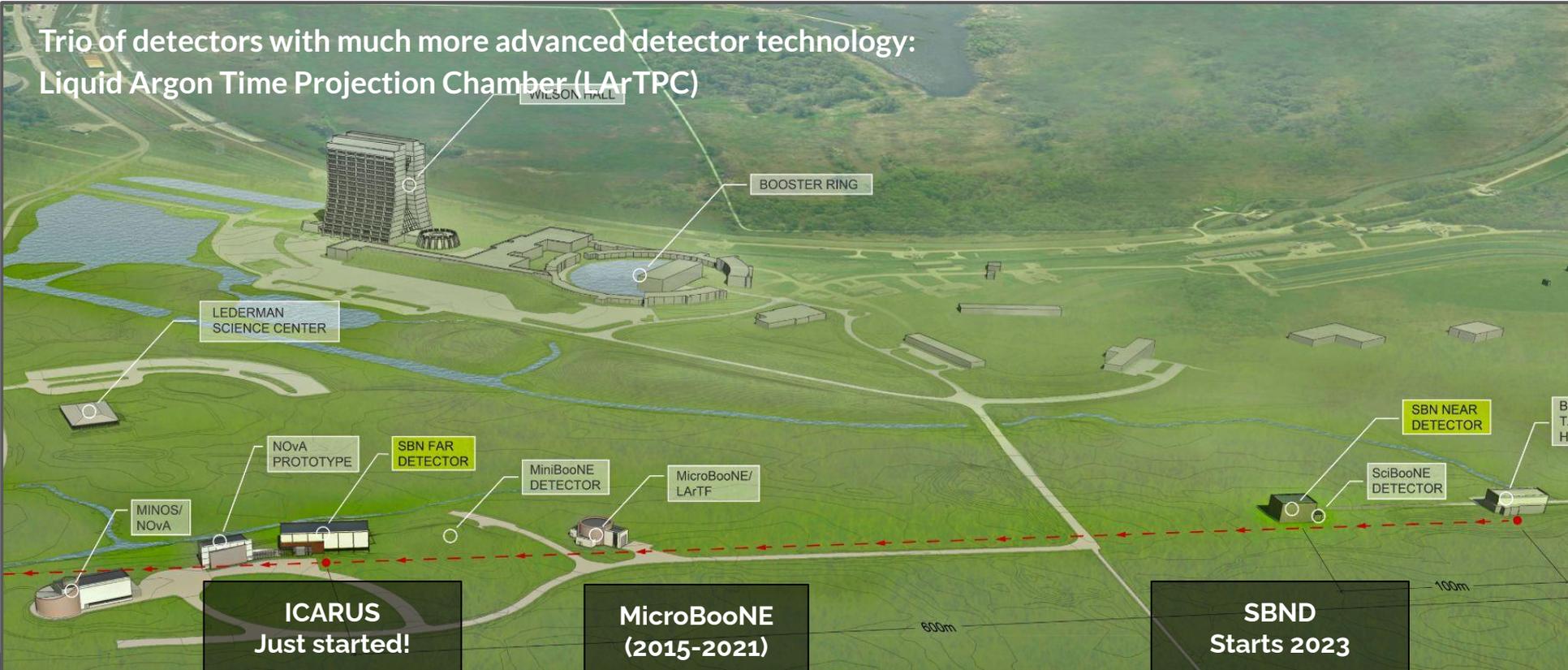
But, the same signature is shared by a photon,
e.g. from ν_μ NC interactions



Could the MiniBooNE excess
be a misunderstood SM photon background,
or new physics?

Short Baseline Neutrino (SBN) Program at Fermilab

Trio of detectors with much more advanced detector technology:
Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber (LArTPC)



ICARUS
Just started!

MicroBooNE
(2015-2021)

SBND
Starts 2023

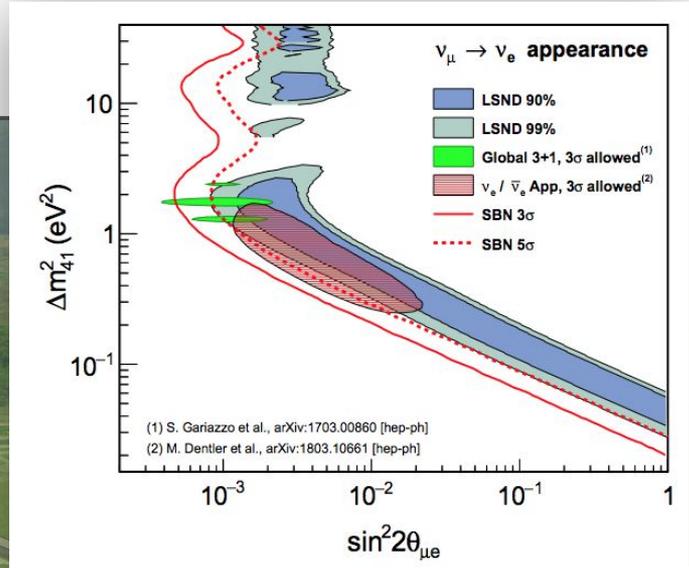
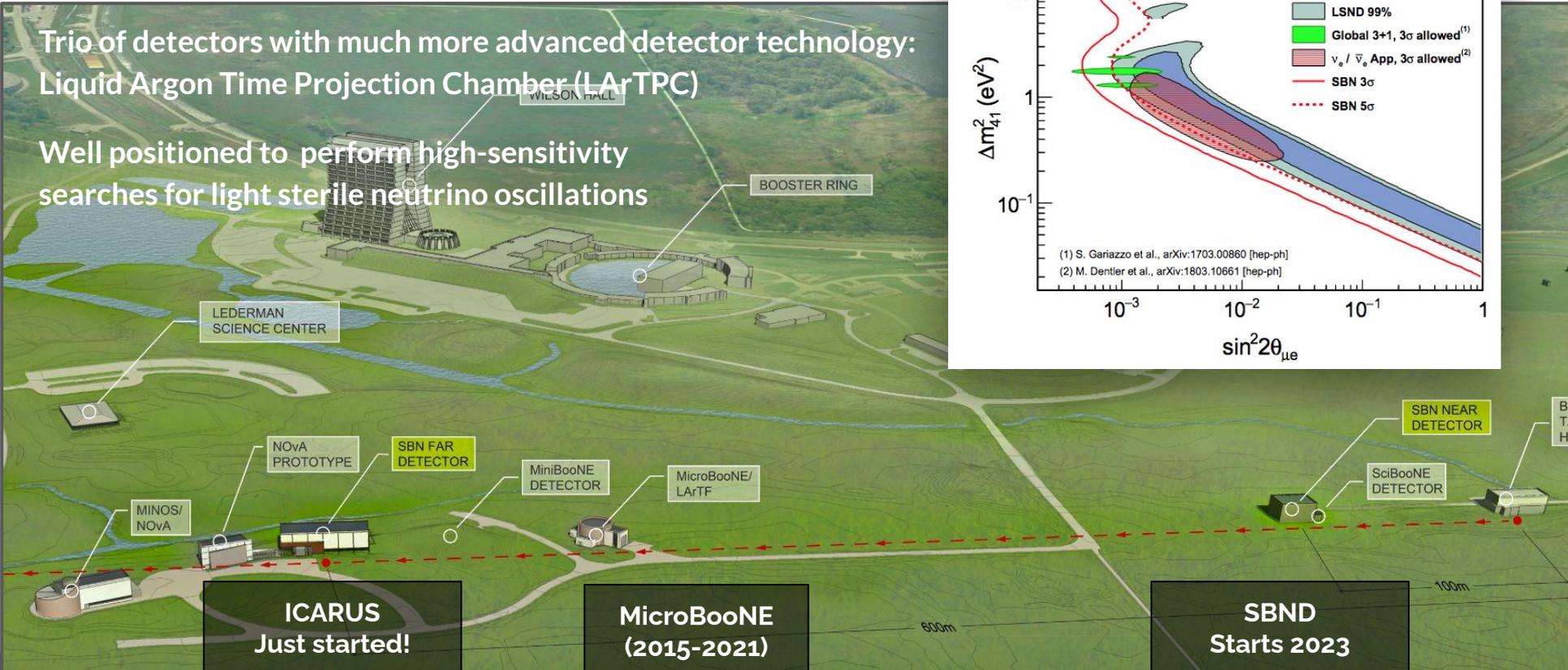
Short Baseline Neutrino (SBN) Program at Fermilab

[SBN Collab. arXiv:1503.01520](#)

see also [D. Cianci, A. Furmanski, G.K., M. Ross-Lonegan Phys.Rev.D 96 \(2017\) 5. 055001](#)

Trio of detectors with much more advanced detector technology:
Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber (LAr TPC)

Well positioned to perform high-sensitivity
searches for light sterile neutrino oscillations



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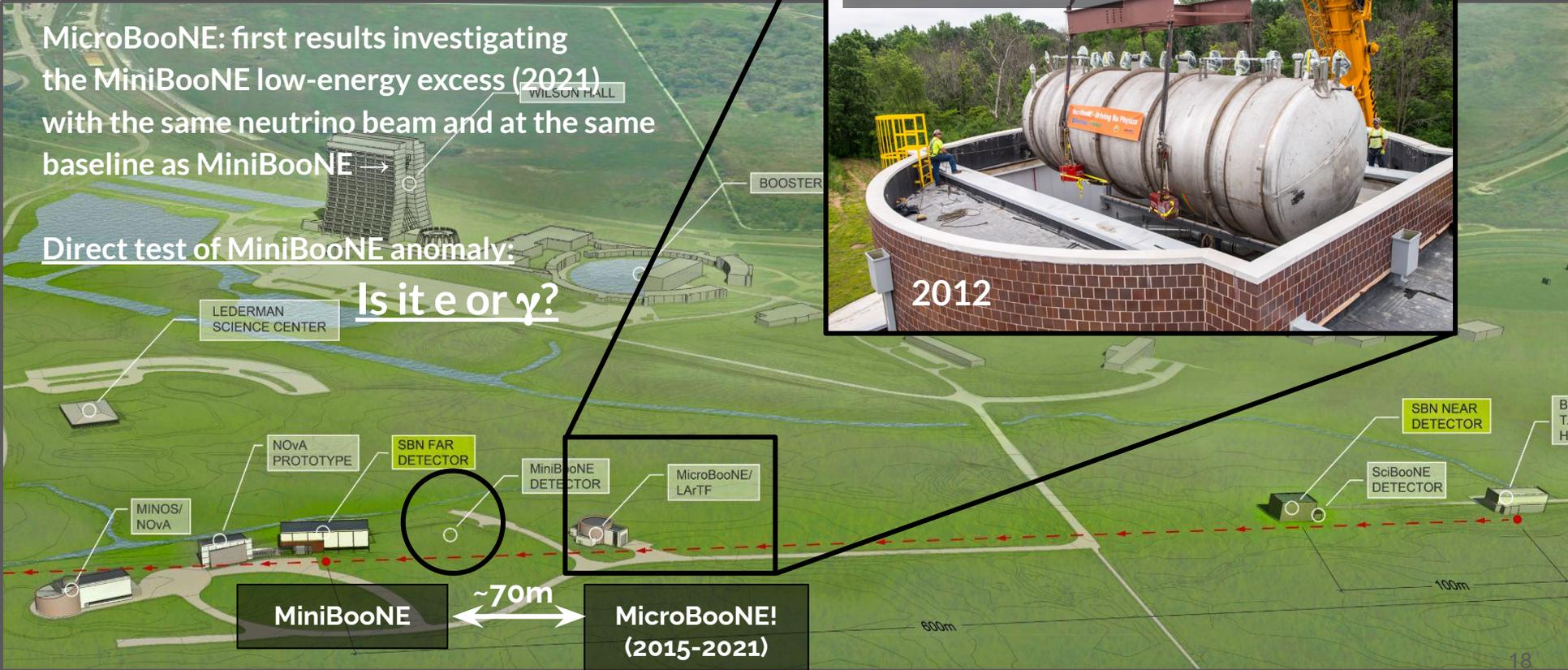
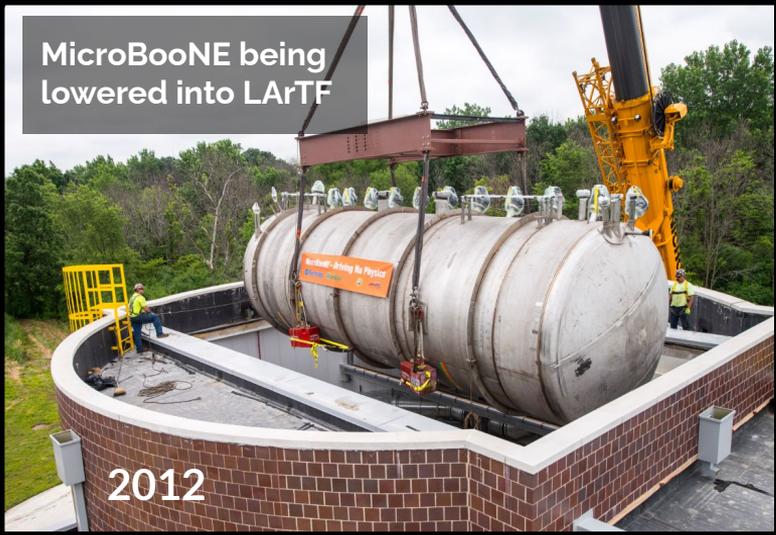
Short Baseline Neutrino (SBN) Program at Fermilab

MicroBooNE Collaboration
[JINST 12 \(2017\) 02, P02017](#)

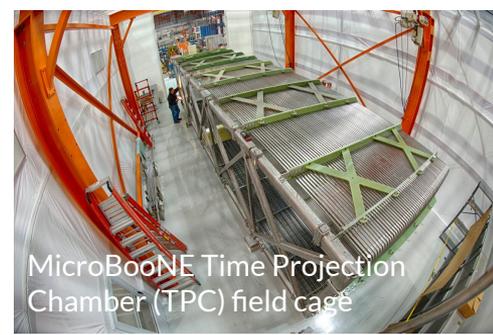
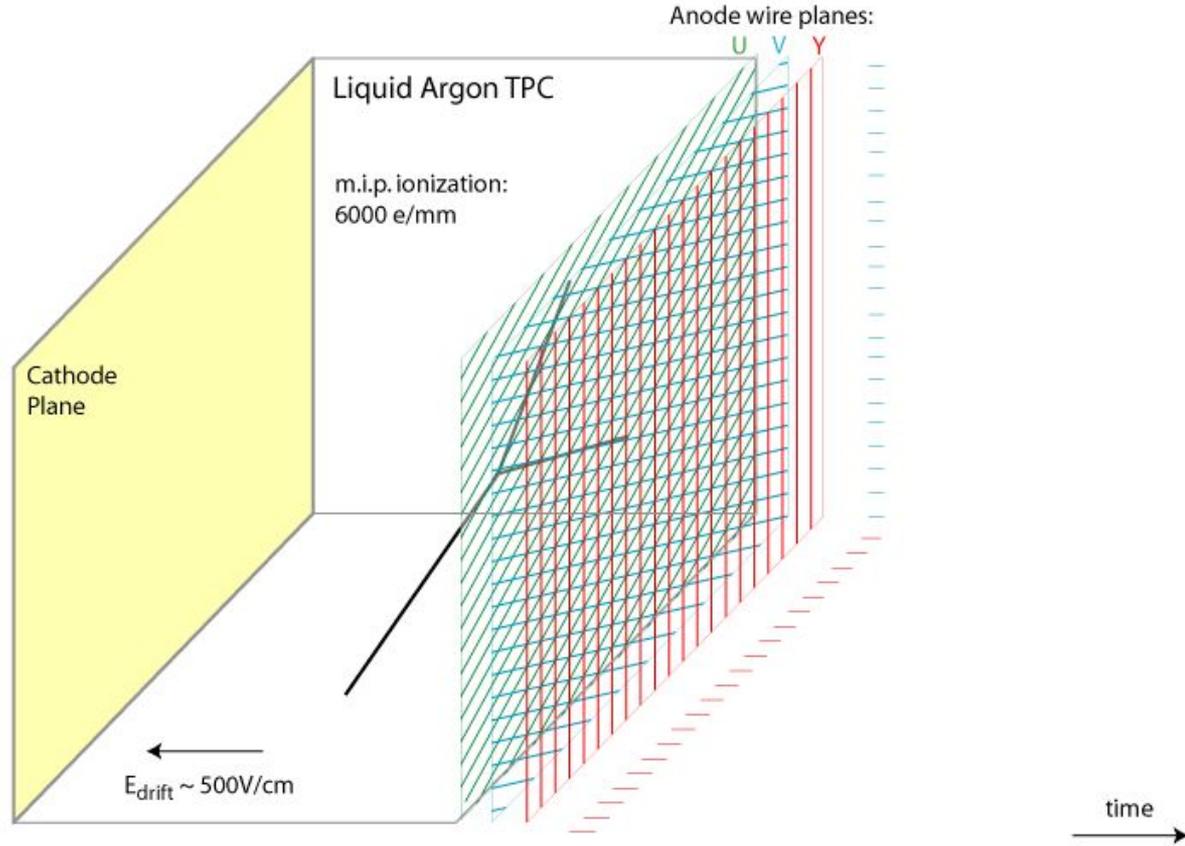
MicroBooNE: first results investigating the MiniBooNE low-energy excess (2021) with the same neutrino beam and at the same baseline as MiniBooNE →

Direct test of MiniBooNE anomaly:

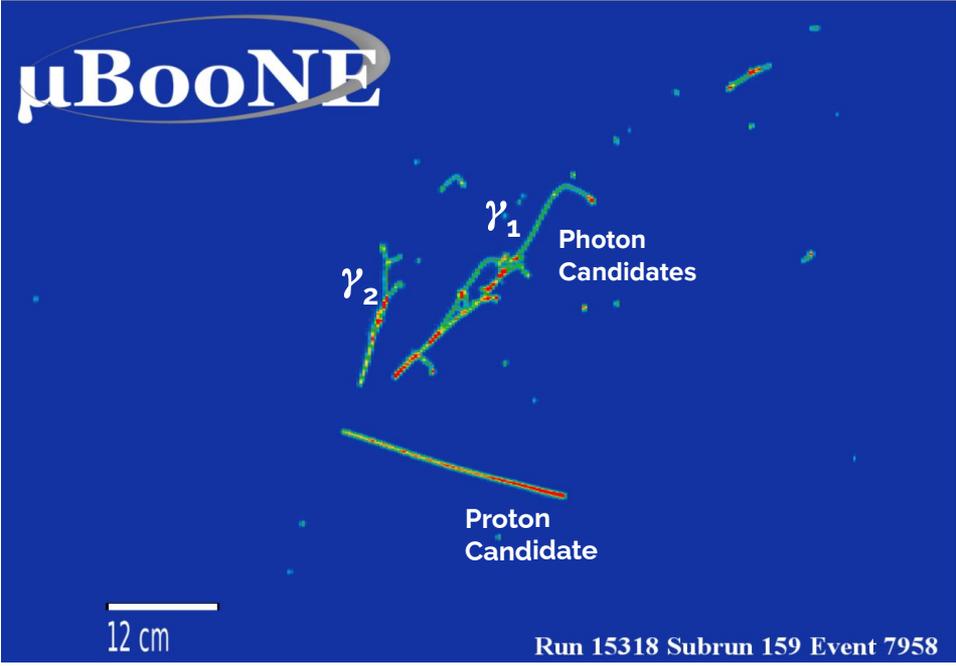
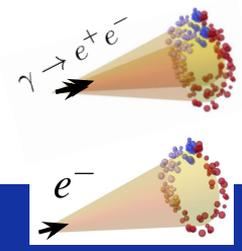
Is it e or γ ?



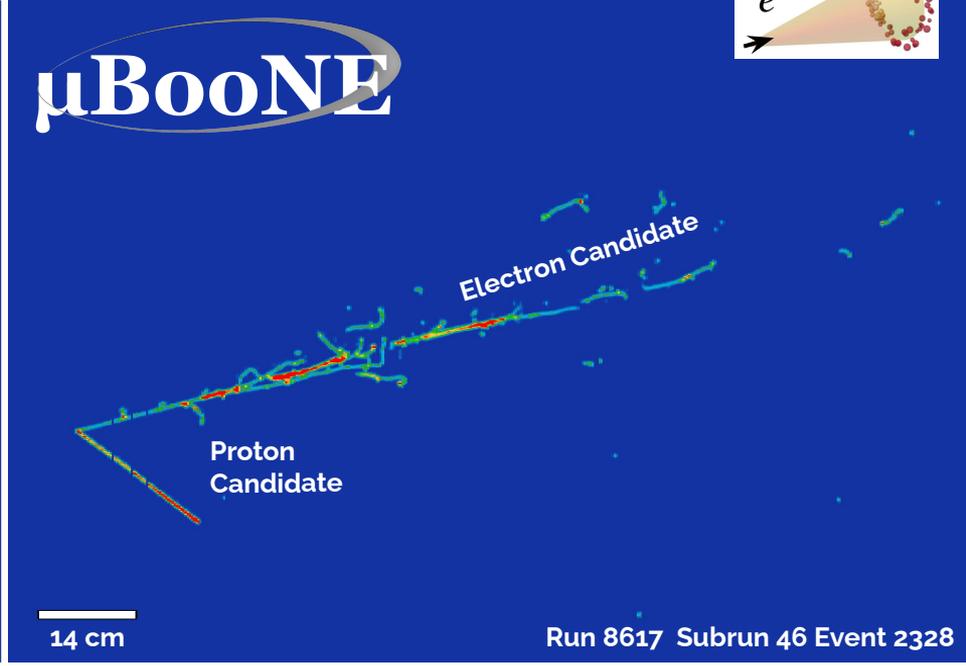
How a LArTPC works



MicroBooNE can resolve electrons/photons!

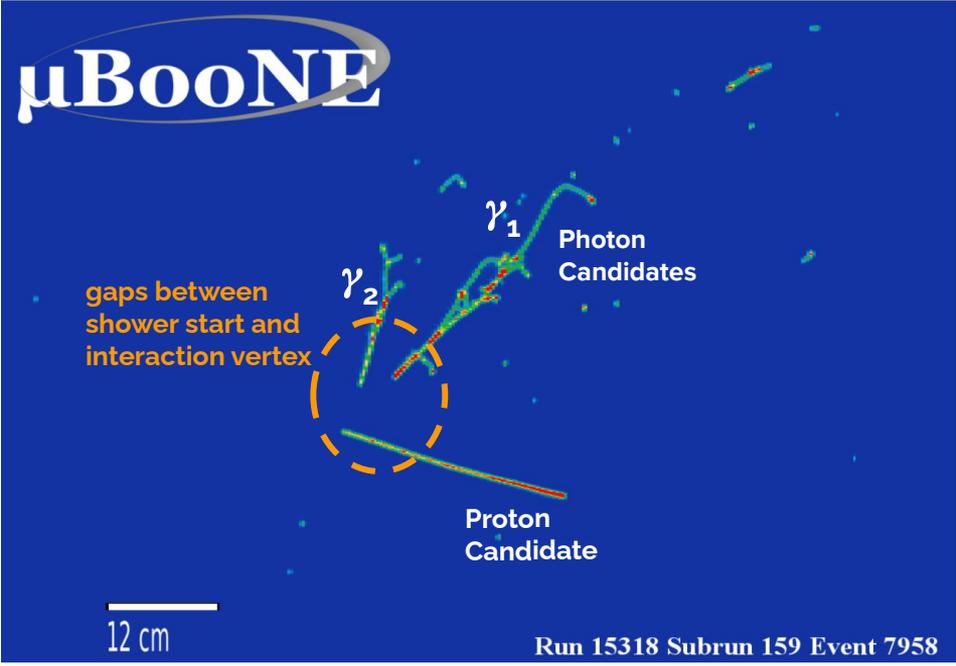
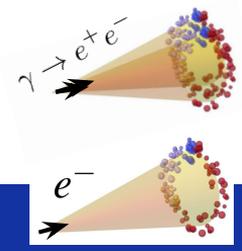


ν_μ NC π^0 candidate data event

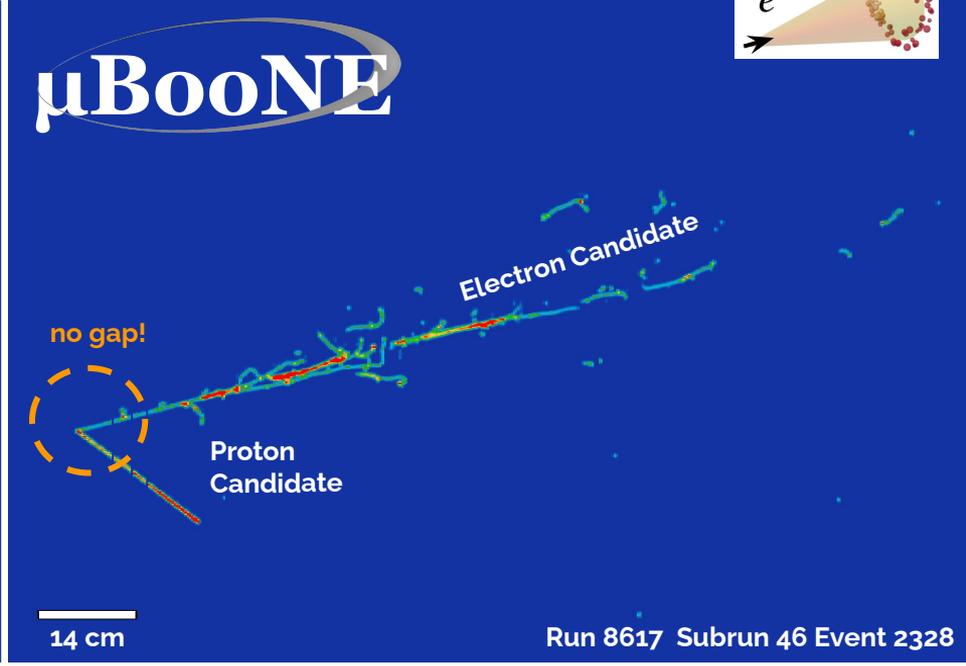


ν_e CC candidate data event

MicroBooNE can resolve electrons/photons!

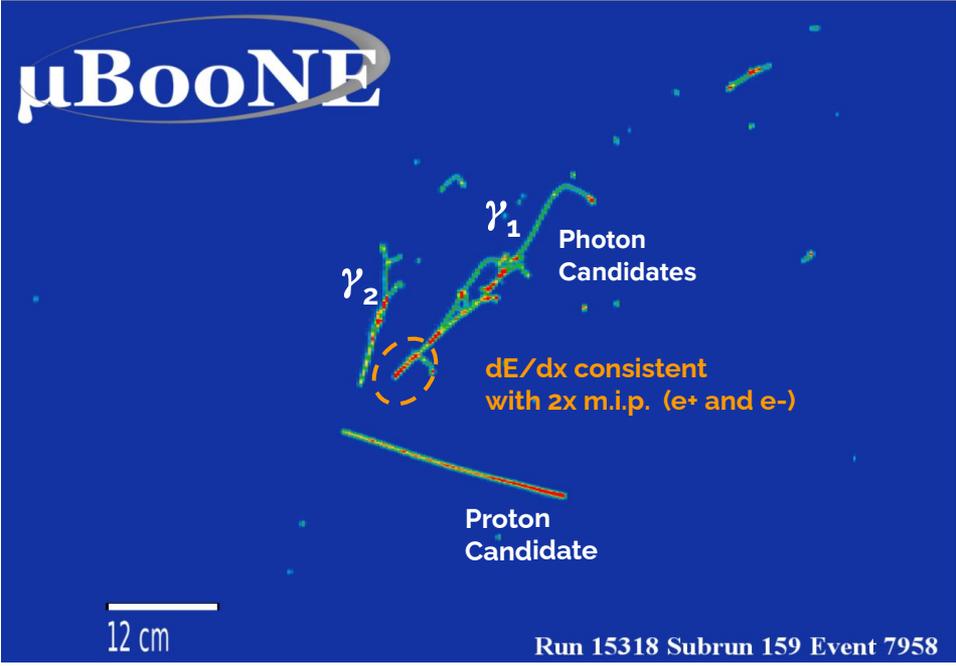
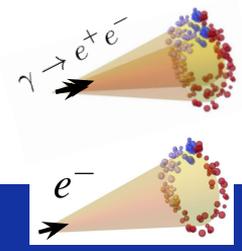


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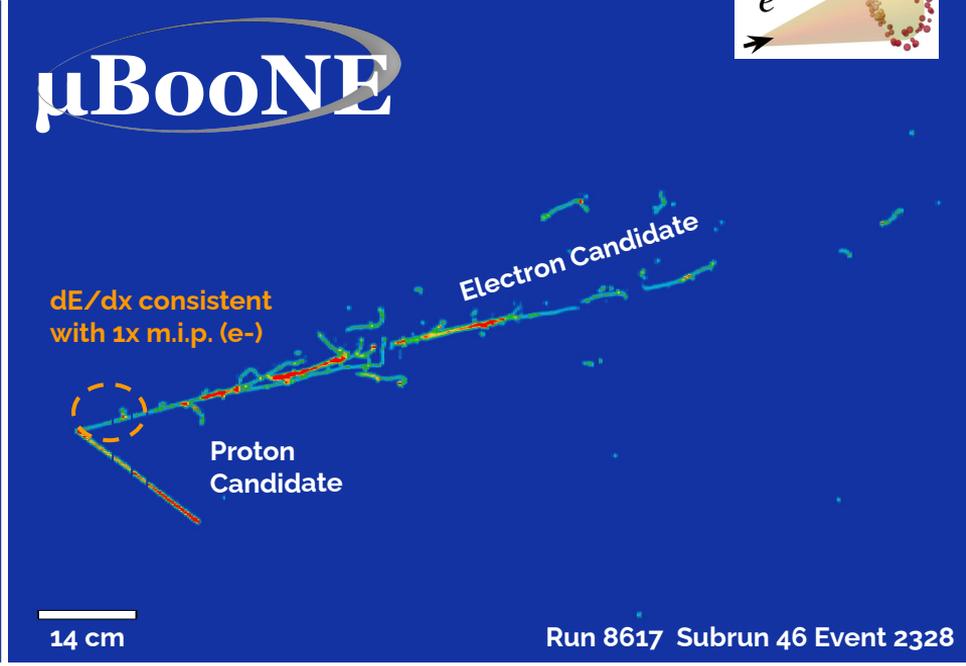


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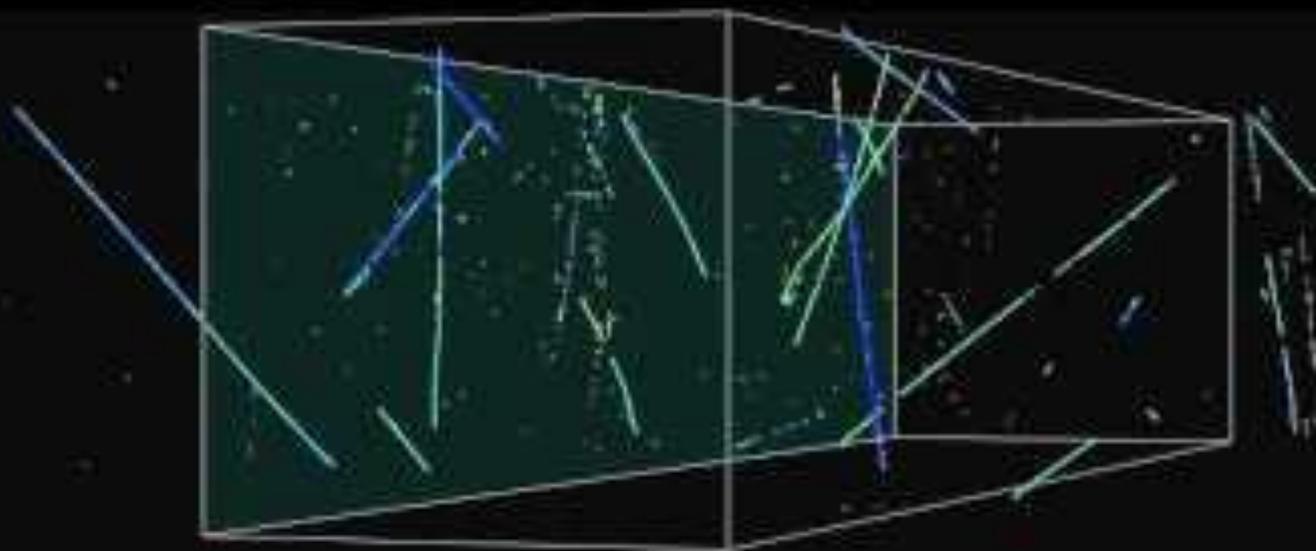


ν_μ NC π^0 candidate data event



ν_e CC candidate data event

A few milliseconds' worth of activity in the MicroBooNE detector



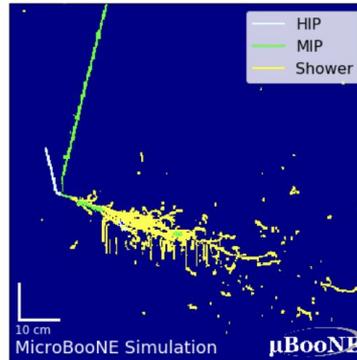
New detector technology, new challenges!

Detector generates tens of GB/s, continuously.

High data rate introduces challenges to the entire data pipeline
(more so for future, much larger detectors!)

Potential neutrino events must be identified
amongst a high multiplicity of cosmogenic interactions.

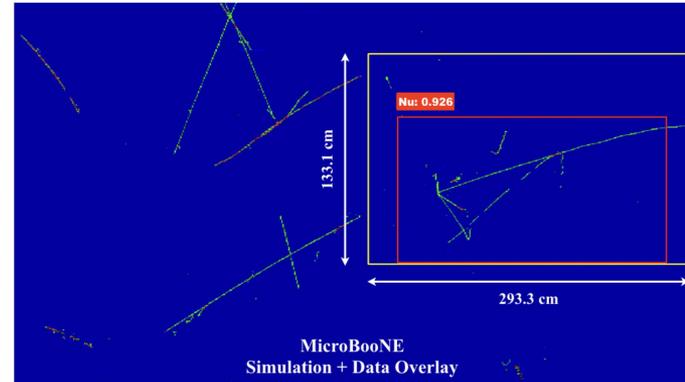
Advanced reconstruction techniques are employed offline;
computer vision algorithms naturally
lend themselves to
neutrino identification and
reconstruction.



Led the construction, commissioning, and operation
of MicroBooNE and SBND digital readout system,
including a novel triggerless readout
system for supernova neutrino detection!



[MicroBooNE Collab, 2017 JINST 12 P02017](#)
[MicroBooNE Collab, 2021 JINST 16 P02008](#)



[MicroBooNE Collab, 2017 JINST 12 P03011](#)
[MicroBooNE Collab, Phys. Rev. D 99, 092001 \(2019\)](#)
[MicroBooNE Collab, Phys. Rev. D 103, 092003 \(2021\)](#)

Unprecedented look at neutrino interaction final states!

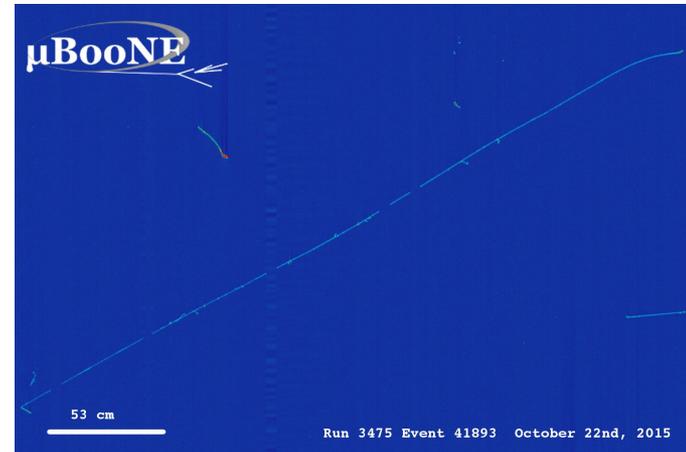
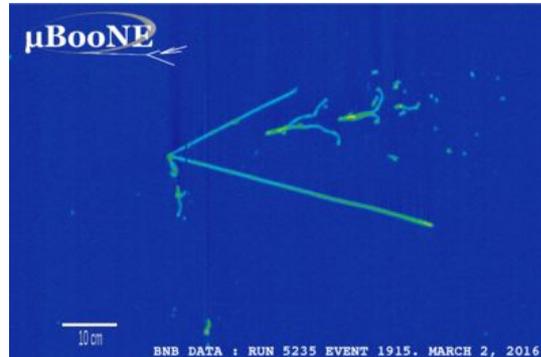
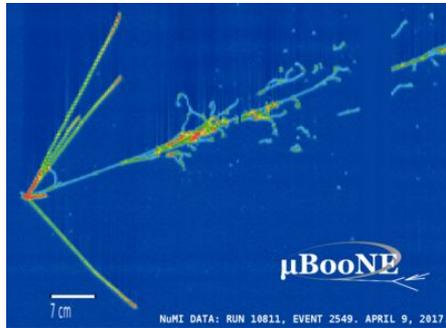
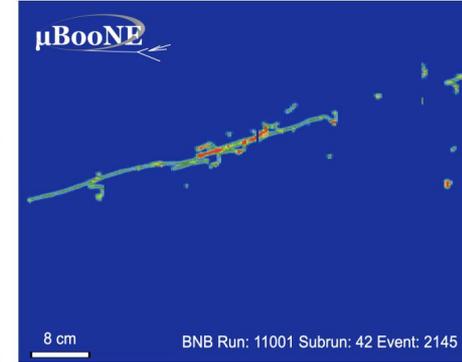
Neutrinos reveal themselves in multiple ways!

More/less violent (energetic) collisions with nucleus...

Resonantly, or coherently, leading to different (on average) kinematics...

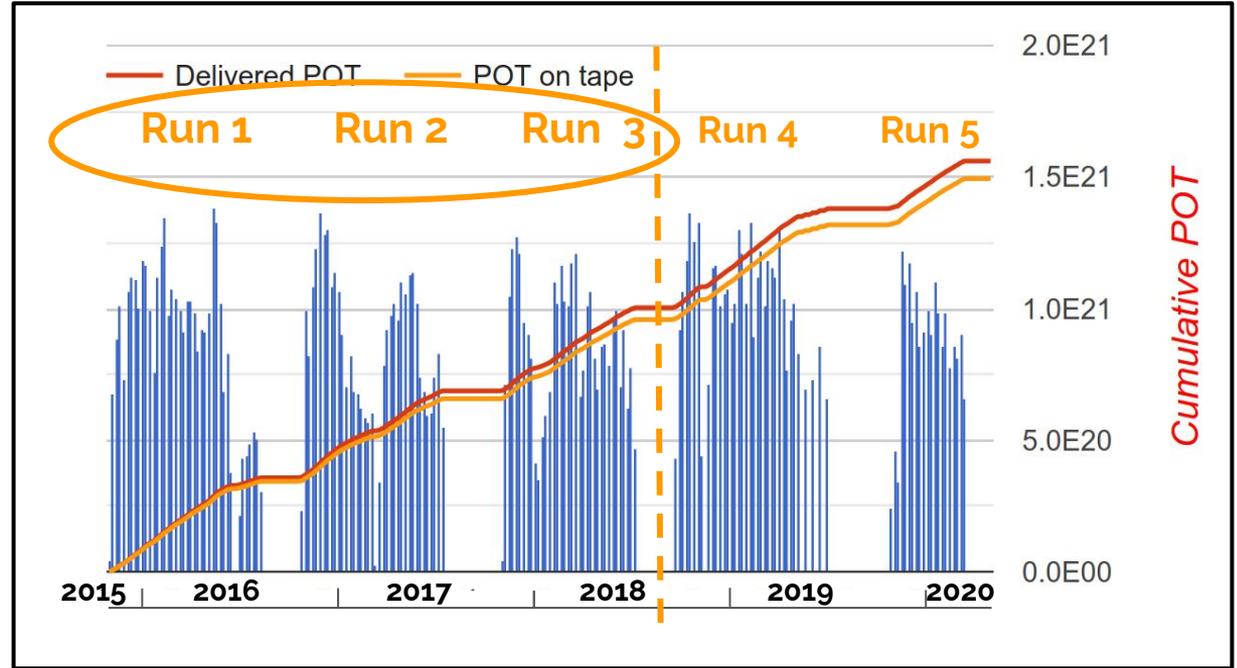
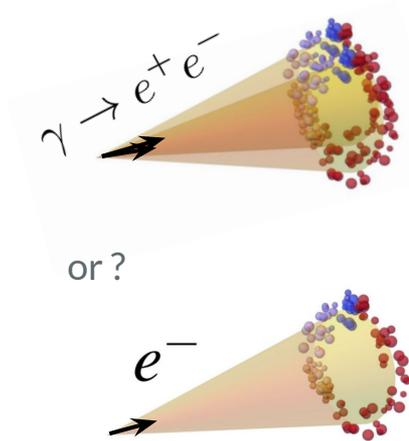
Unique strength of LArTPC detector technology:

Ability to identify explicitly the way each ν_e or ν_μ interacts!



First low-energy excess search results in October 2021!

Making use of **only half of the total dataset** collected by MicroBooNE during its entire operations timeline

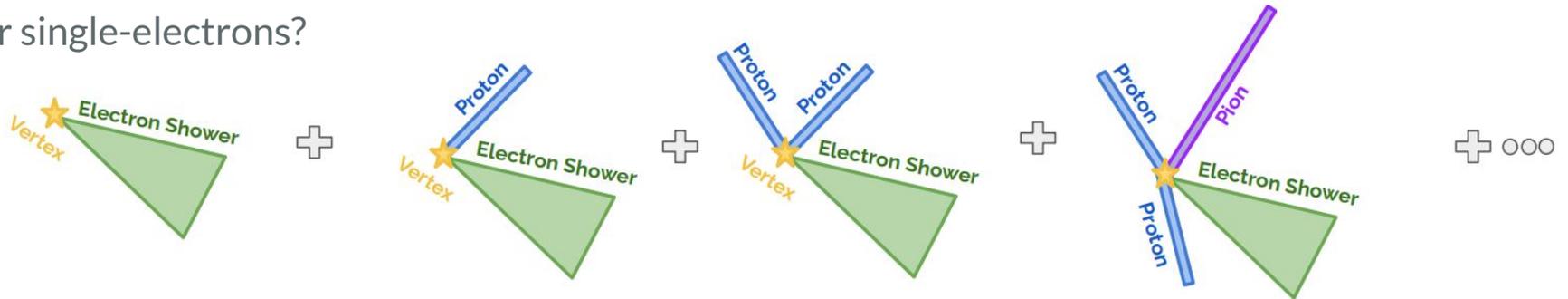


Two main searches in MicroBooNE

Is the MiniBooNE excess
single-photons?

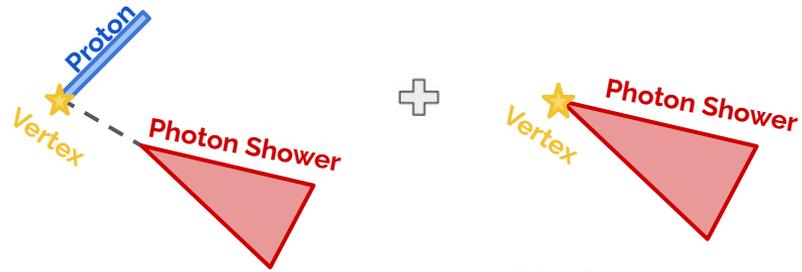


or single-electrons?



MicroBooNE photon search

Is the MiniBooNE excess
single-photons?



[MicroBooNE Collab, Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 111801 \(2022\)](#)

Led by my group at Columbia

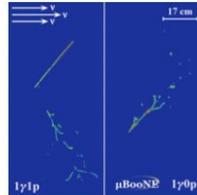


Editors' Suggestion

Search for Neutrino-Induced Neutral-Current Δ Radiative Decay in MicroBooNE and a First Test of the MiniBooNE Low Energy Excess under a Single-Photon Hypothesis

P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration)

Phys. Rev. Lett. **128**, 111801 (2022) – Published 14 March 2022

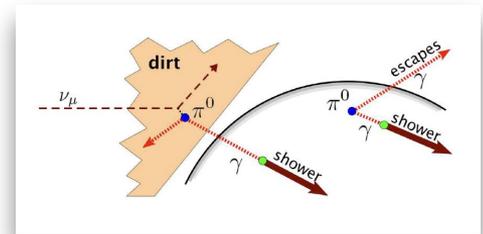
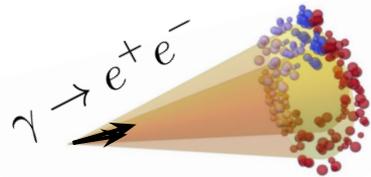
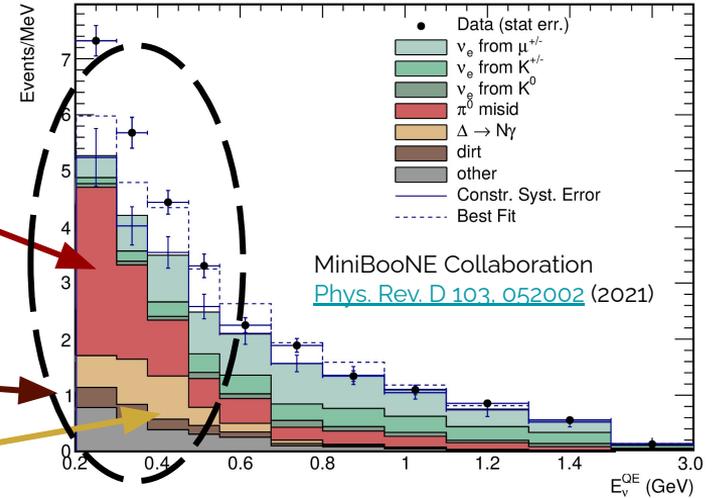


The MicroBooNE collaboration rules out a promising standard model explanation for the MiniBooNE low-energy excess: Δ baryon radiative decay.

[Show Abstract](#) +

Is the MiniBooNE excess a misunderstood γ background?

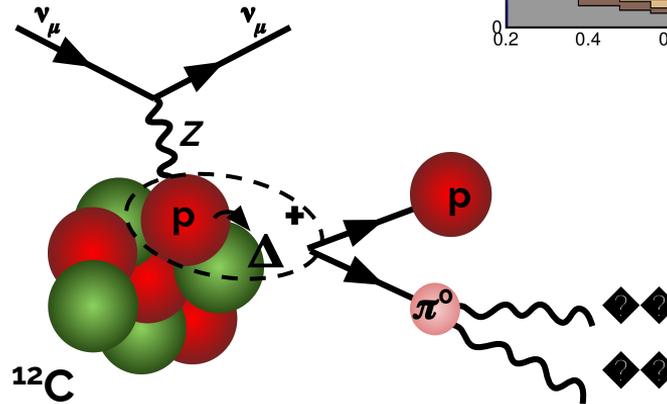
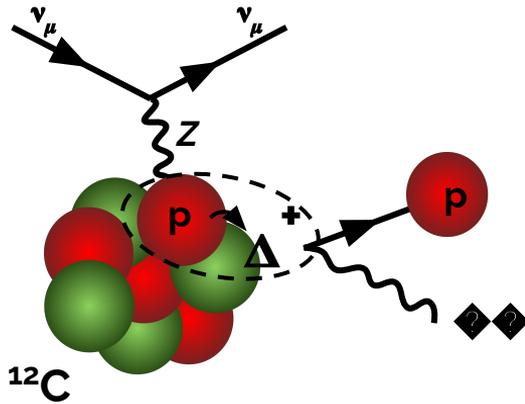
- **Neutral Current (NC) π^0 production** followed by $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decay and mis-identification
 - **Constrained in situ**
- **“Dirt”** (mostly π^0 events with γ 's scattering in from outside the detector)
 - **Constrained in situ**
- A Standard Model-expected, rare process: **NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$**
 - A factor of x3.18 increase could explain the MiniBooNE low-energy excess!
 - Needed a direct check!



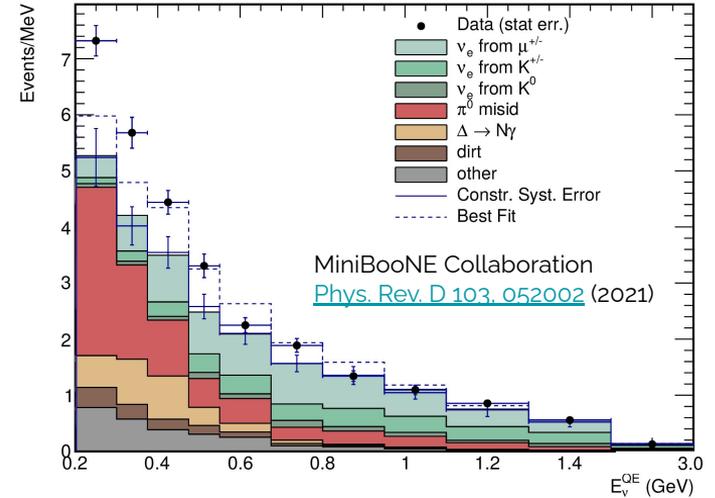
MicroBooNE photon search

Is the MiniBooNE excess mis-estimated NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$?

- Dominant source of Standard-Model-expected single-photon processes at MiniBooNE beam energies
- Never been directly measured in neutrinos before
- Only indirectly constrained in the MiniBooNE analysis

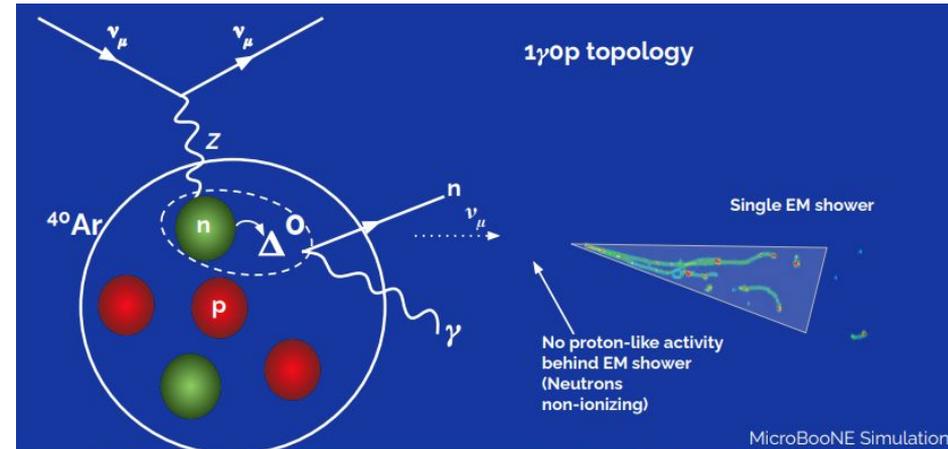
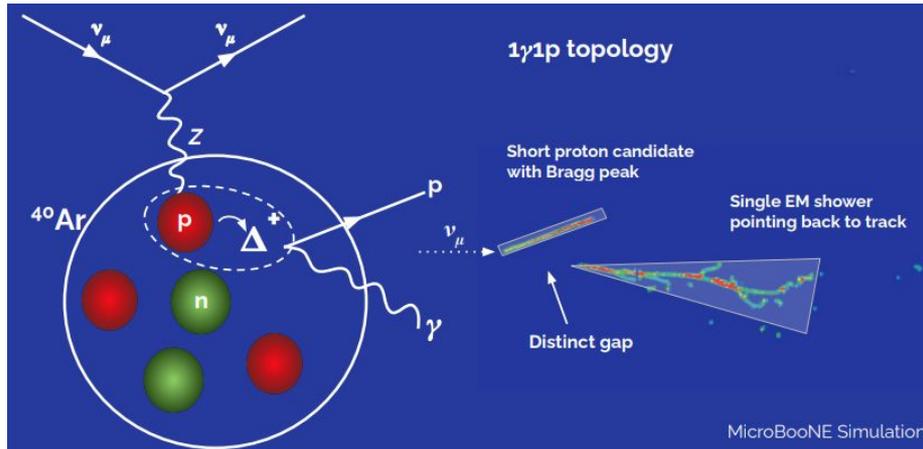


NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$ and
NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\pi^0$ rates
are correlated



MicroBooNE photon search

NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$: Delta (1232MeV) baryon resonance production, followed by radiative decay:



A rare Standard Model-expected process!
We expect only 124.1 such events in Run 1-3 data!

MicroBooNE photon search

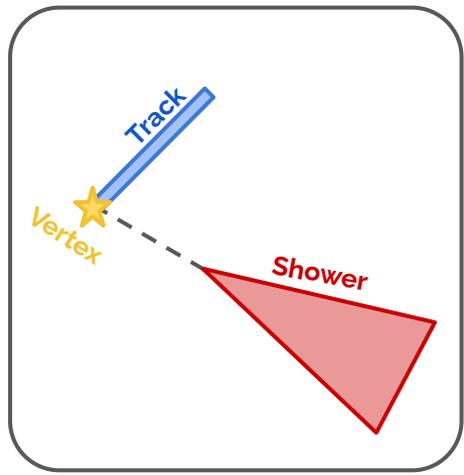


At this selection stage, >100,000 single-shower background events!

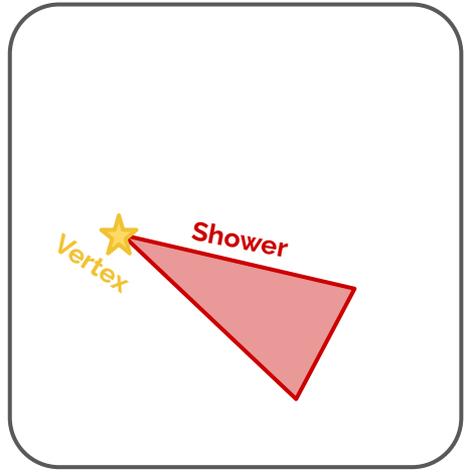
Additional machine learning algorithms target the key backgrounds to the NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$ signal.

Leverage the known kinematics of the $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$ decay products, particularly for the $1\gamma 1p$ selection.

1 γ 1p



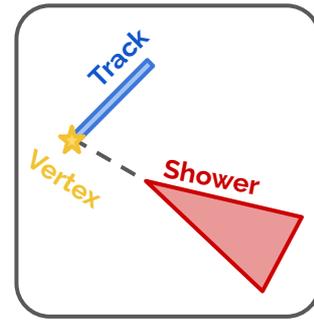
1 γ 0p



Two mutually exclusive **NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$ rich single-photon** selections

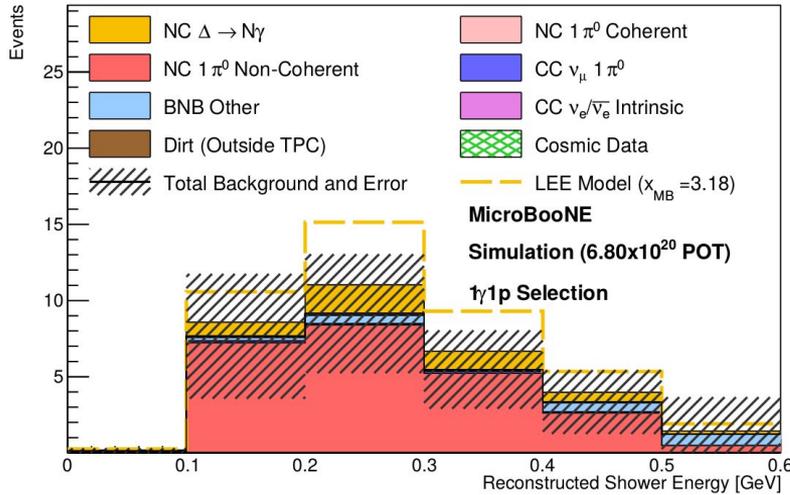
MicroBooNE photon search

1 γ 1p



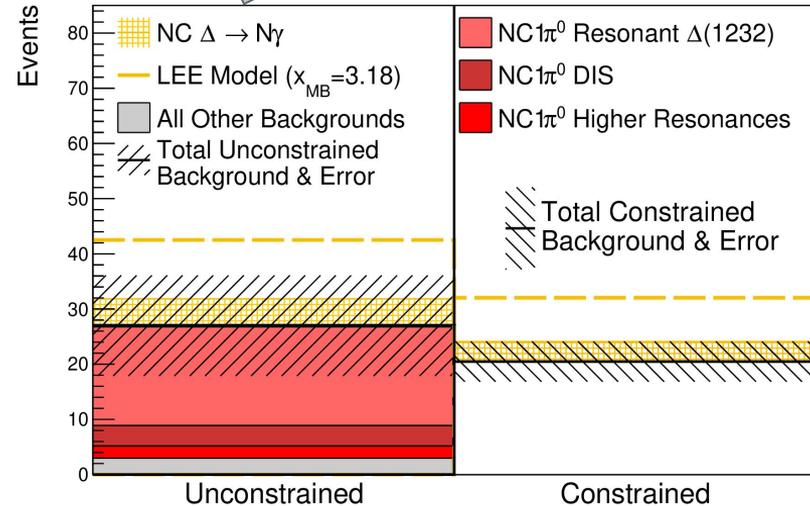
final selection

[MicroBooNE Collab, Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 111801 \(2022\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/2108.08111)



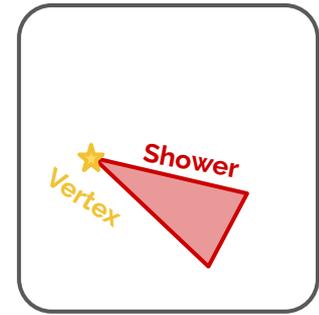
1 γ 1p

Unconstr. bkgd.	27.0 ± 8.1
Constr. bkgd.	20.5 ± 3.6
NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$	+ 4.88
LEE ($x_{MB} = 3.18$)	+ 15.5



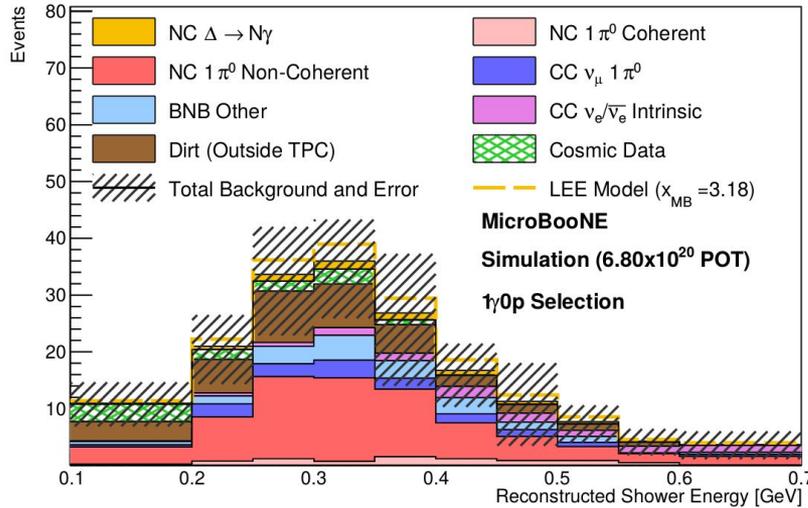
MicroBooNE photon search

1 γ 0p



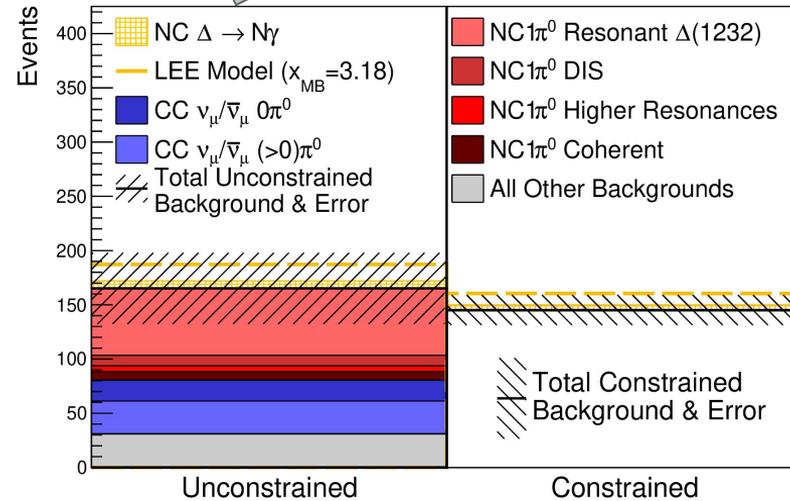
final selection

[MicroBooNE Collab, Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 111801 \(2022\)](#)



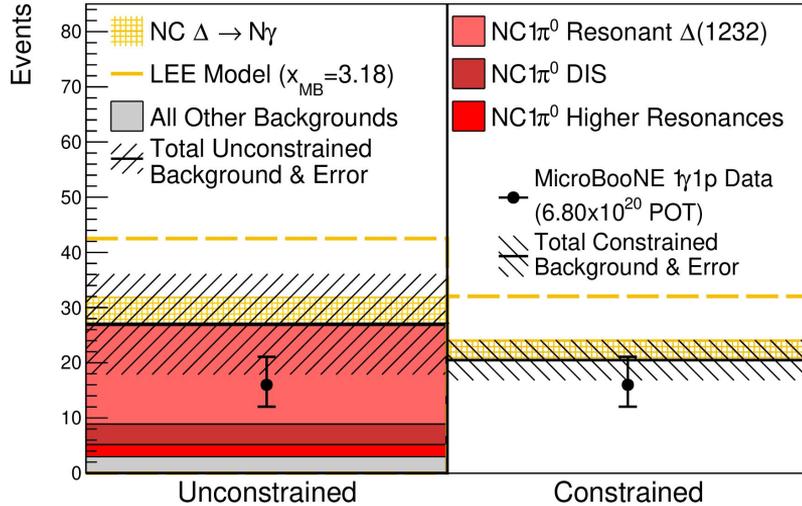
1 γ 0p

Unconstr. bkgd.	165.4 ± 31.7
Constr. bkgd.	145.1 ± 13.8
NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$	+ 6.55
LEE ($x_{MB} = 3.18$)	+ 20.1



Photon search results

1 γ 1p

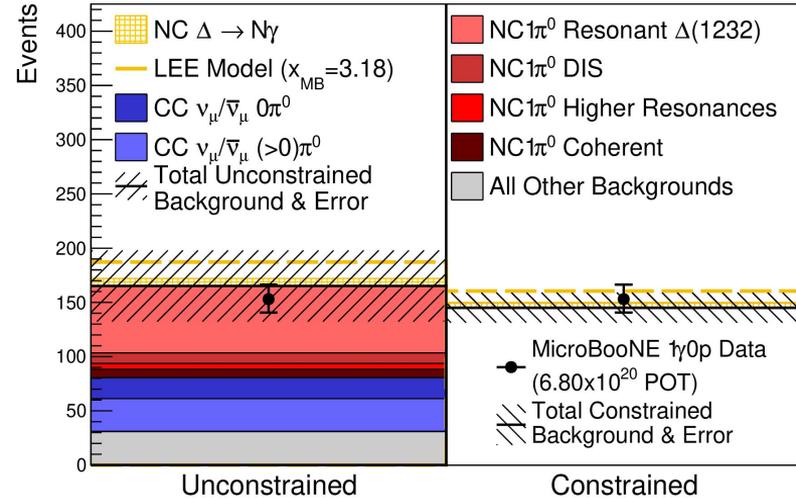


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16
 Data Events
 Observed

1 γ 0p



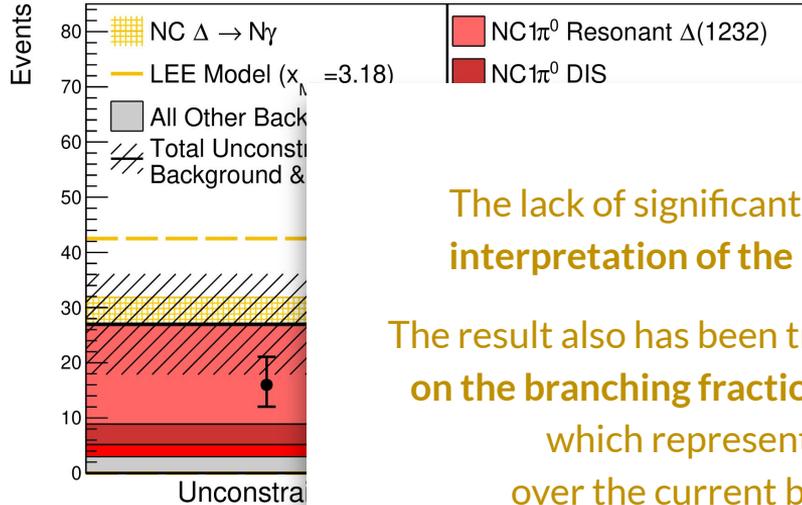
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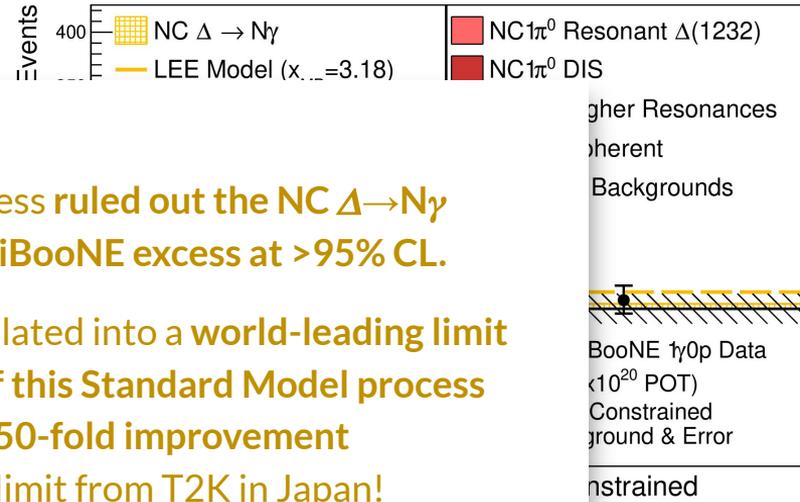
153
 Data Events
 Observed

Photon search results

1 γ 1p



1 γ 0p



The lack of significant excess ruled out the NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$ interpretation of the MiniBooNE excess at >95% CL.

The result also has been translated into a world-leading limit on the branching fraction of this Standard Model process which represents a 50-fold improvement over the current best limit from T2K in Japan!

1 γ 1p

Unconstr. bkgd.	27.0 ± 3.1
Constr. bkgd.	20.5 ± 3.6
NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$	+ 4.88
LEE ($x_{MB} = 3.18$)	+ 15.5

16
Data Events
Observed

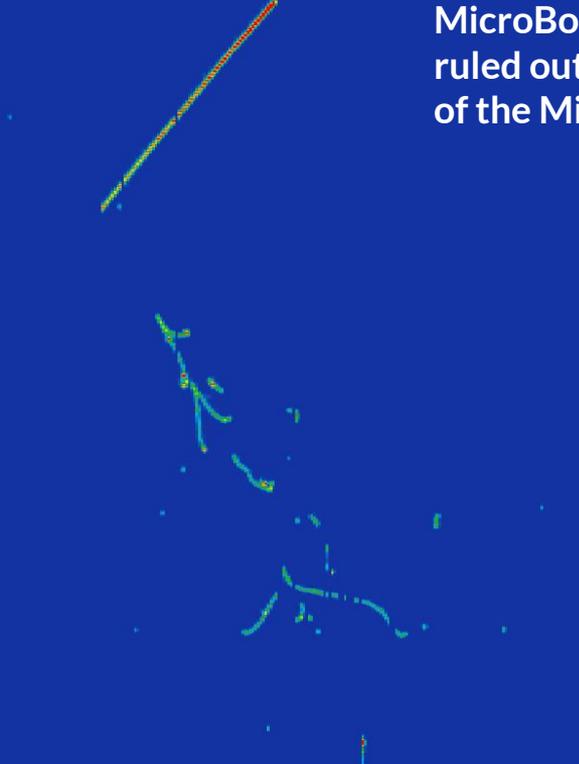
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Constr. bkgd.	145.1 ± 13.8
NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$	+ 6.55
LEE ($x_{MB} = 3.18$)	+ 20.1

153
Data Events
Observed

MicroBooNE's single-photon measurement has ruled out the leading background interpretation of the MiniBooNE anomaly

“...the watershed moment where neutrino analyses reached the same sophistication as LHC analyses; this, made possible by the LArTPC technology ...”

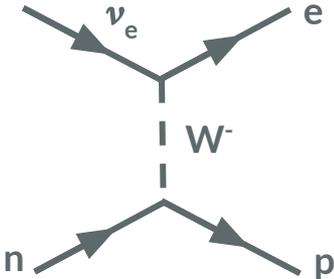
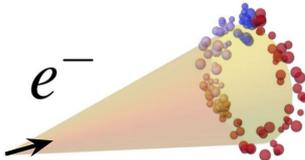
*Joseph Lykken, Fermilab Deputy Director
Oct. 2, 2021*



17 cm

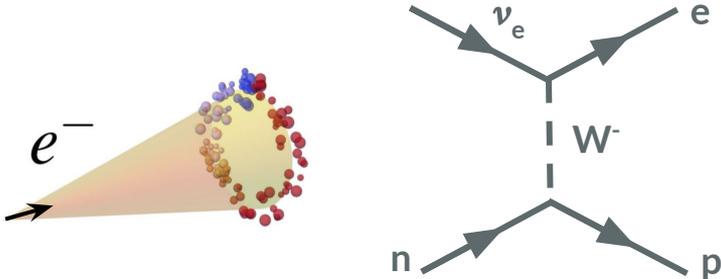
MicroBooNE electron search

Is the MiniBooNE excess electrons?

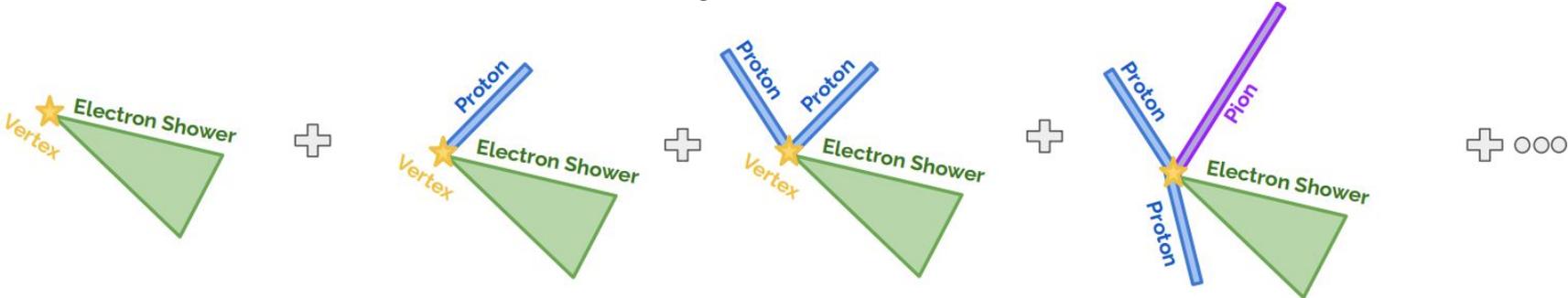


MicroBooNE electron search

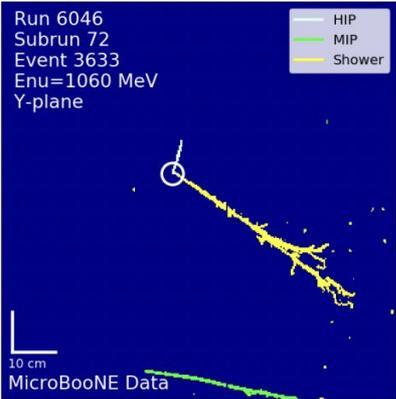
Is the MiniBooNE excess electrons?



Three independent analyses: All searching for a ν_e excess at low energy



MicroBooNE electron search



Analysis 1:

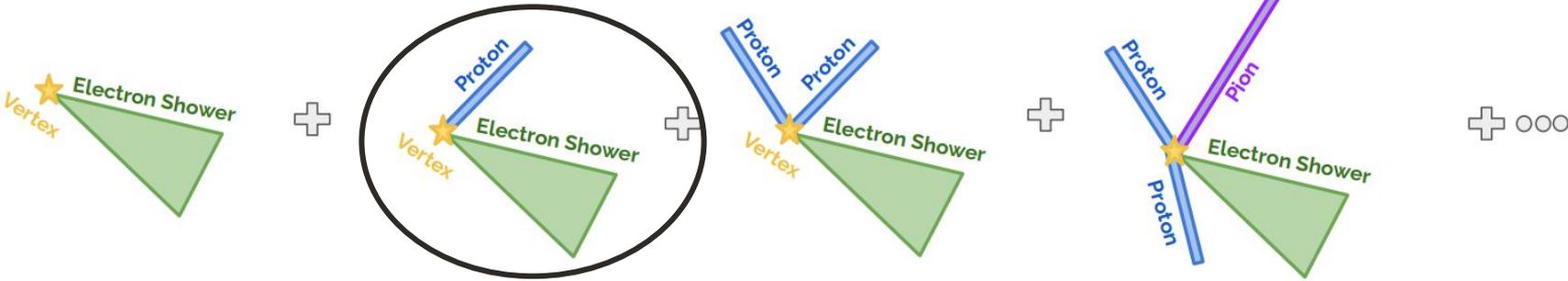
Very ν_e -pure (charged-current quasi-elastic kinematics)

Deep Learning-based reconstruction

MicroBooNE Collab, [Phys.Rev.D 105 \(2022\) 11, 11](#)
MicroBooNE Collab, [Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 \(2022\) 24, 241801](#)



Three independent analyses: All searching for a ν_e excess at low energy



MicroBooNE electron search

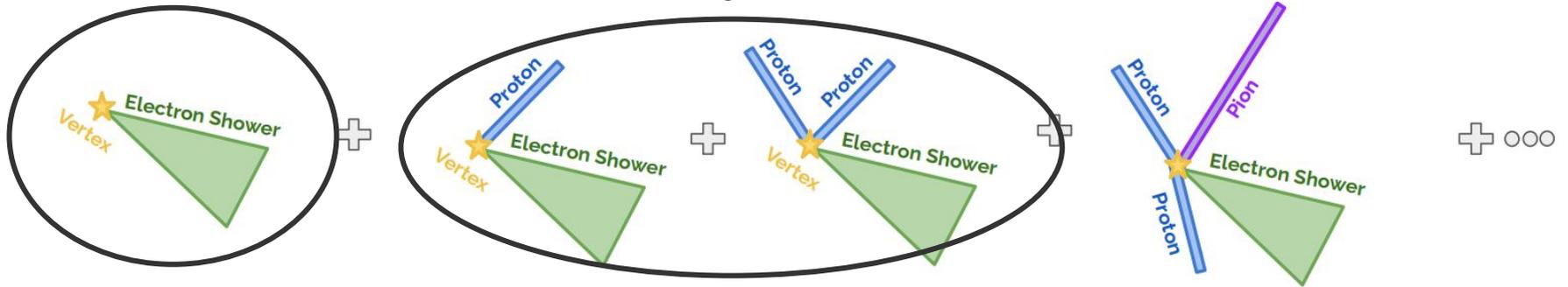
Analysis 2:

MiniBooNE-like final states
“Traditional” reconstruction

MicroBooNE Collab, [Phys.Rev.D 105 \(2022\) 11, 112004](#)
MicroBooNE Collab, [Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 \(2022\) 24, 241801](#)



Three independent analyses: All searching for a ν_e excess at low energy

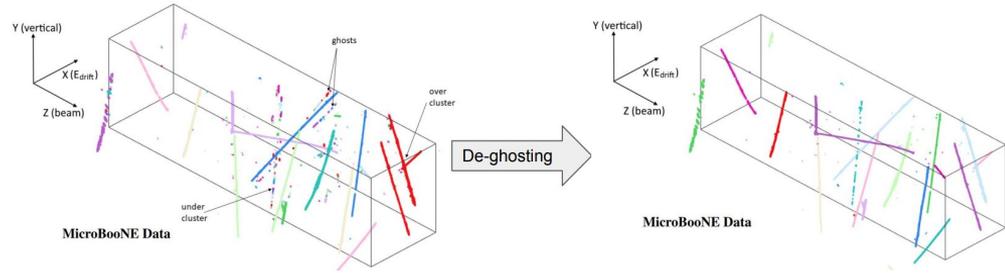


MicroBooNE electron search

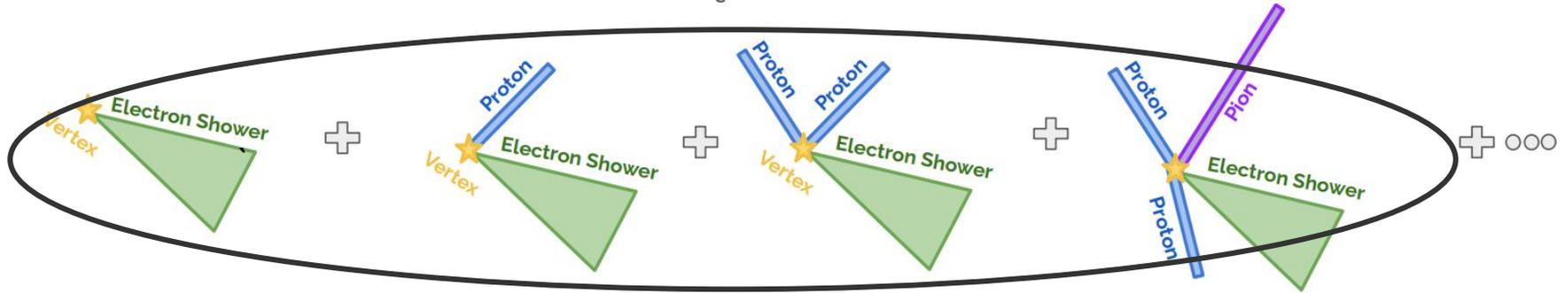
Analysis 3:

All-inclusive final states, high statistics
Tomographic reconstruction techniques

MicroBooNE Collab, [Phys.Rev.D 105 \(2022\) 11, 112005](#)
MicroBooNE Collab, [Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 \(2022\) 24, 241801](#)



Three independent analyses: All searching for a ν_e excess at low energy



MicroBooNE electron search

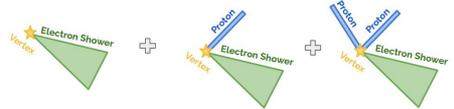
No significant ν_e excess observed!

Conclusion: MiniBooNE anomalous excess cannot be all ν_e

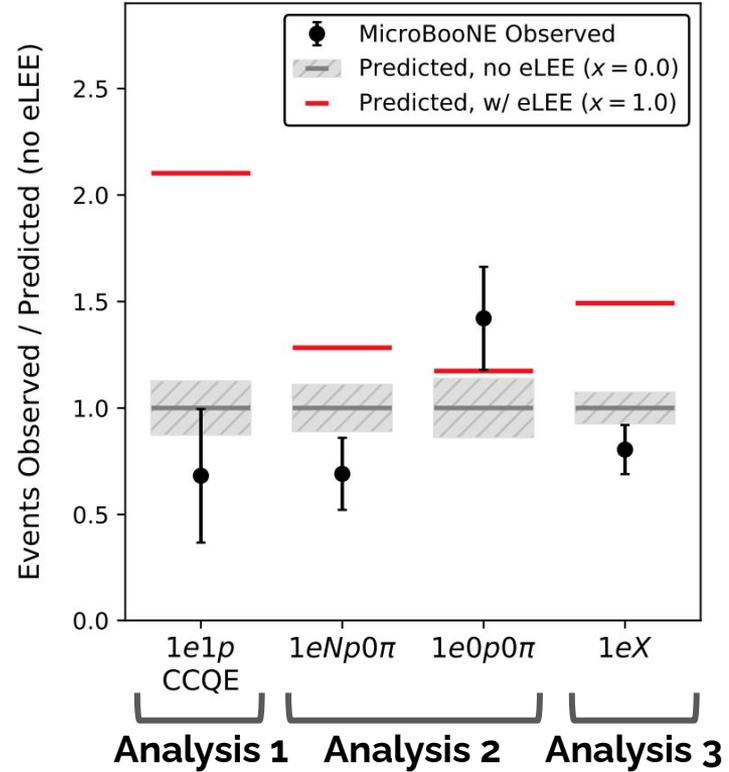
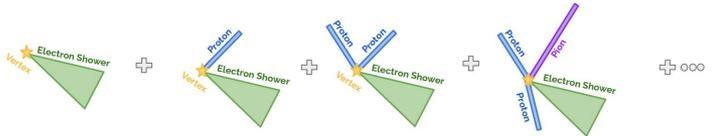
Analysis 1



Analysis 2



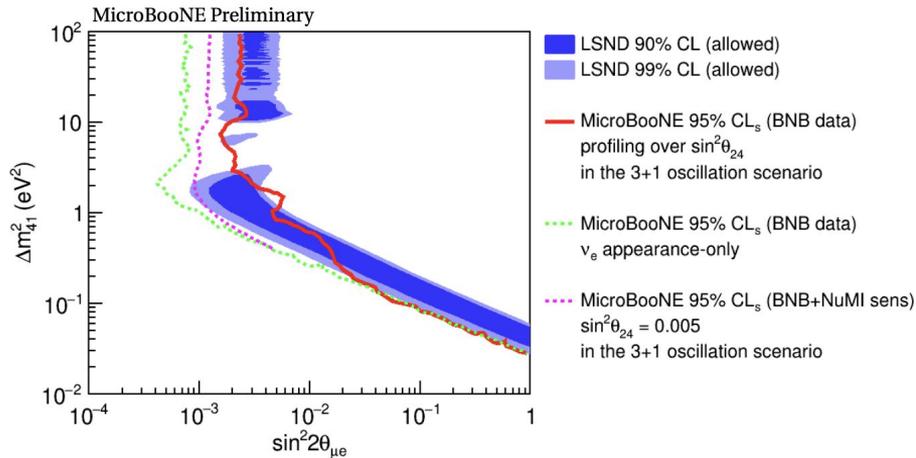
Analysis 3



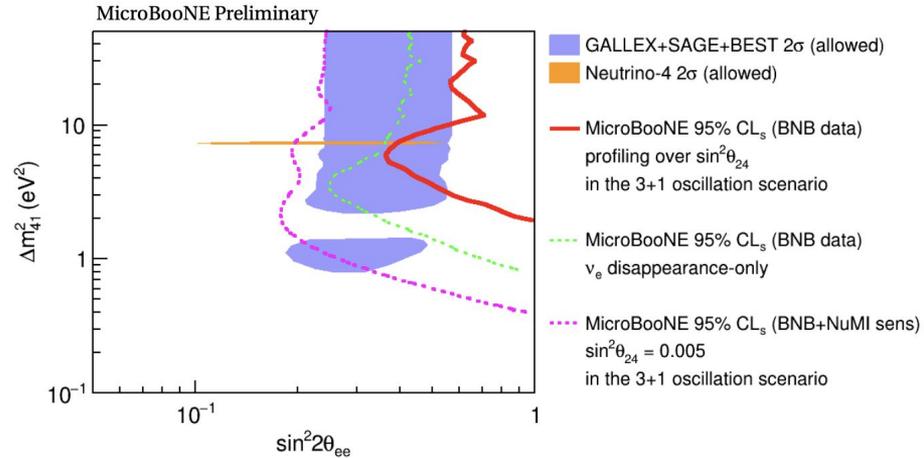
What does this imply about sterile neutrinos?

Preliminary results from MicroBooNE explicitly testing sterile neutrino hypothesis: [MICROBOONE-NOTE-1116](#)

ν_e appearance



ν_e disappearance



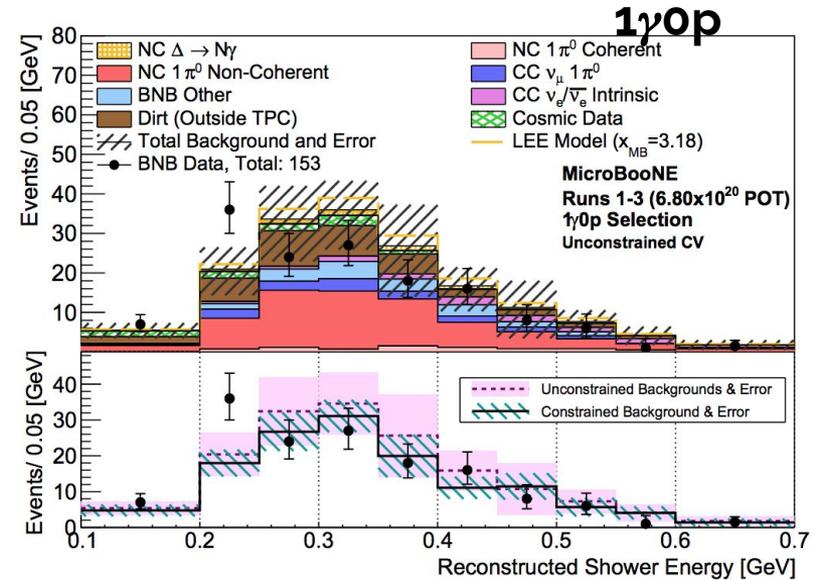
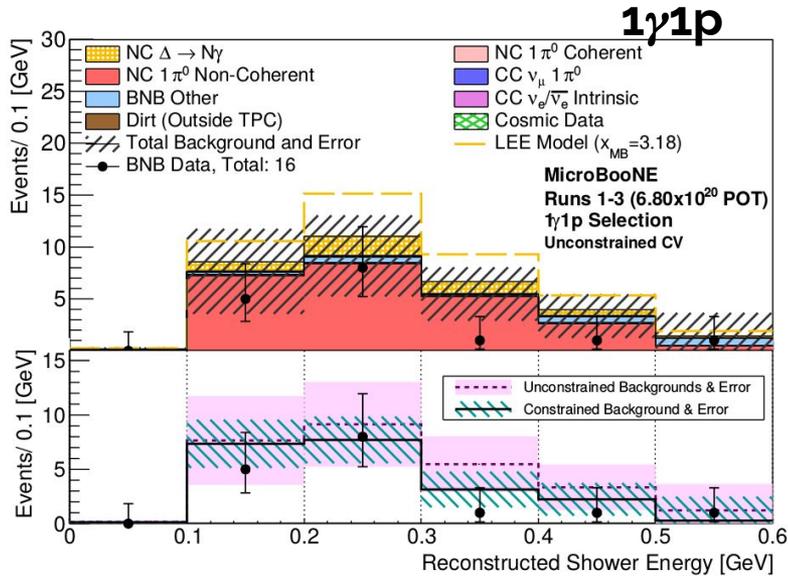
Results so far consistent with three-neutrinos.

LArTPC high-purity ν_e measurements pave the way toward future, more sensitive sterile neutrino oscillation searches with MicroBooNE and SBN

In the near future



More MicroBooNE data at hand (Runs 4 and 5)! **What more can we learn from studying single-photon event rates with enhanced statistics, and as a function of different kinematic variables?**

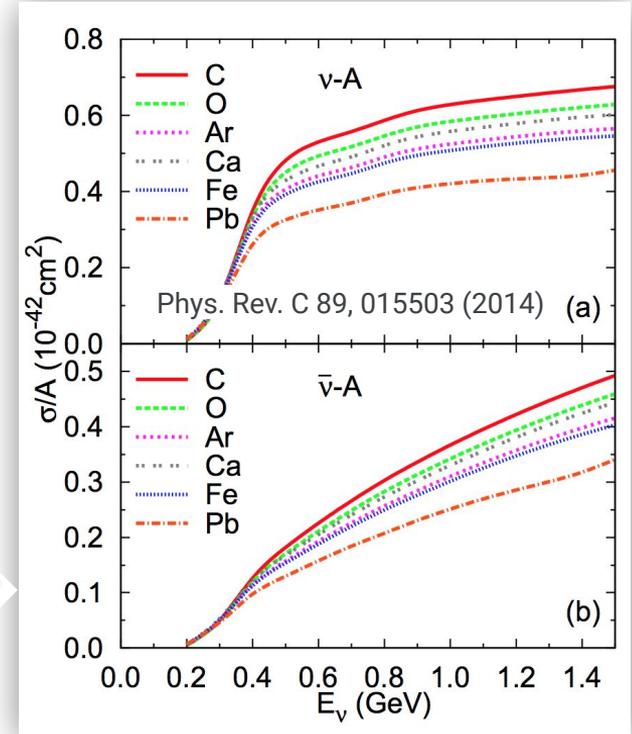
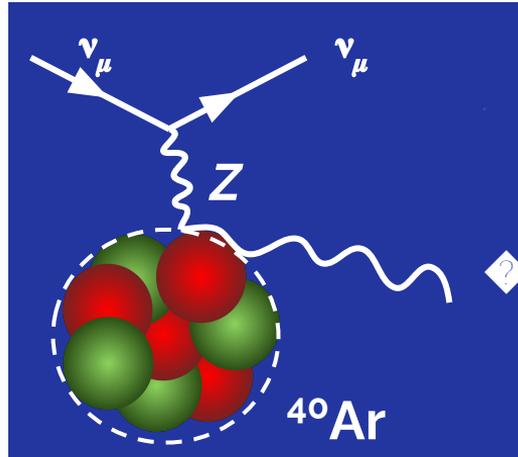


In the near future



MicroBooNE is searching for **other rare, never-before-measured, Standard Model-expected single-photon processes**, e.g. coherent single-photon production, production and radiative decays of higher-mass resonances, ...

Expect **significantly enhanced sensitivity with SBND** (x15-20 higher neutrino flux!)

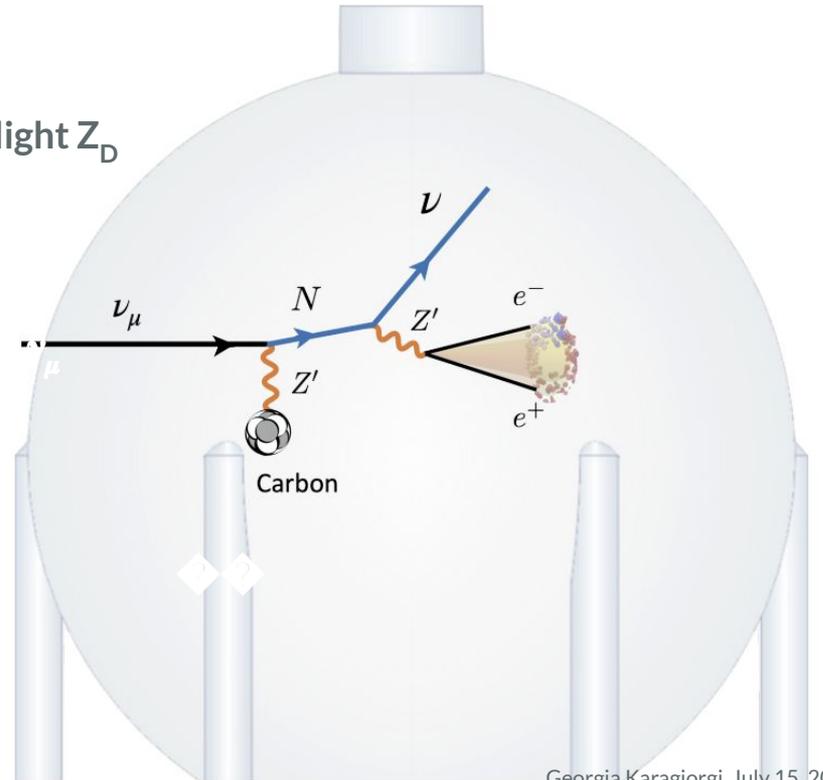
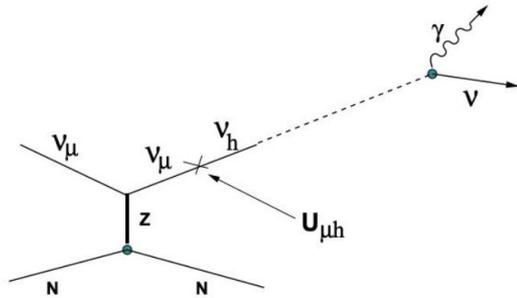


In the near future



MicroBooNE is also searching for other rare, BSM “single-photon” processes, e.g. anomalously large neutrino magnetic moment

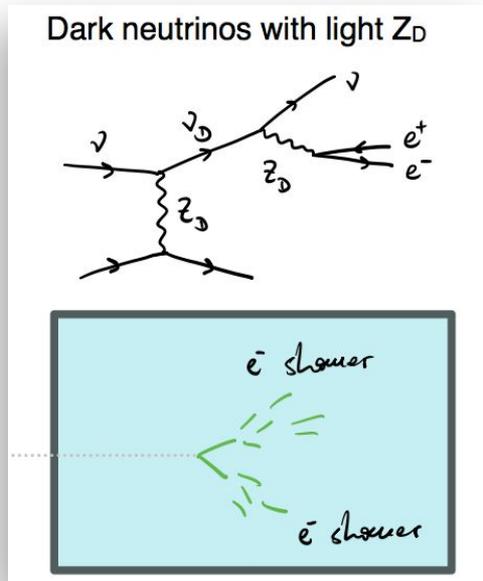
or “single-photon-like” processes, e.g. boosted e^+e^- pairs, e.g. due to “dark neutrinos” and a light Z_D



Expect enhanced sensitivity with SBND (x15-20 higher neutrino flux!)

A plethora of new physics, testable at MicroBooNE and SBN!

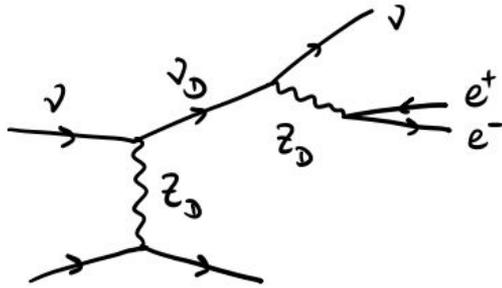
The promise of the LArTPC technology has motivated exciting leaps into the dark/beyond-Standard Model sector by many within the theory community:



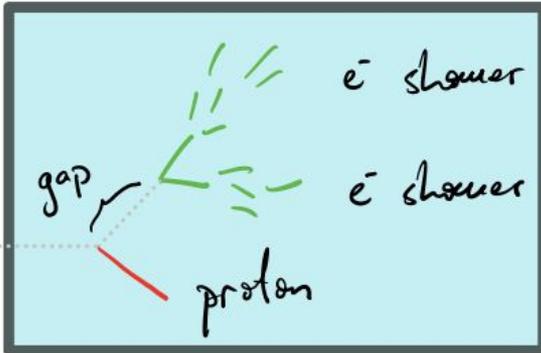
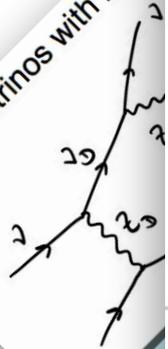
Bertuzzo Jana Machado Zukanovich PRL 2018
Bertuzzo Jana Machado Zukanovich PLB 2019
Arguelles Hostert Tsai PRL 2019

A plethora of new physics, testable at MicroBooNE and SBN!

Dark neutrinos with heavy Z_D



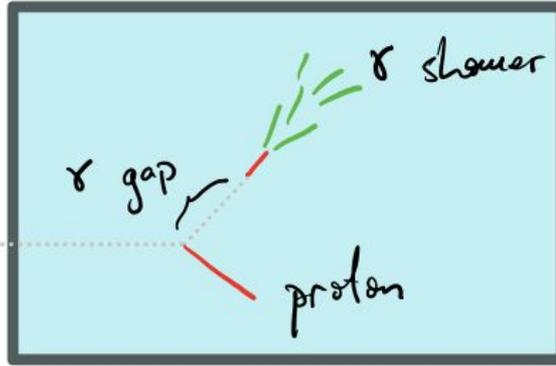
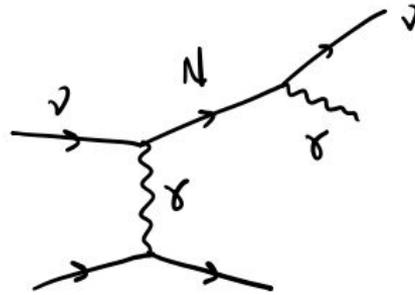
Dark neutrinos with light Z_D



Ballett Pascoli Ross-Lonergan PRD 2019
Ballett Hostert Pascoli PRD 2020

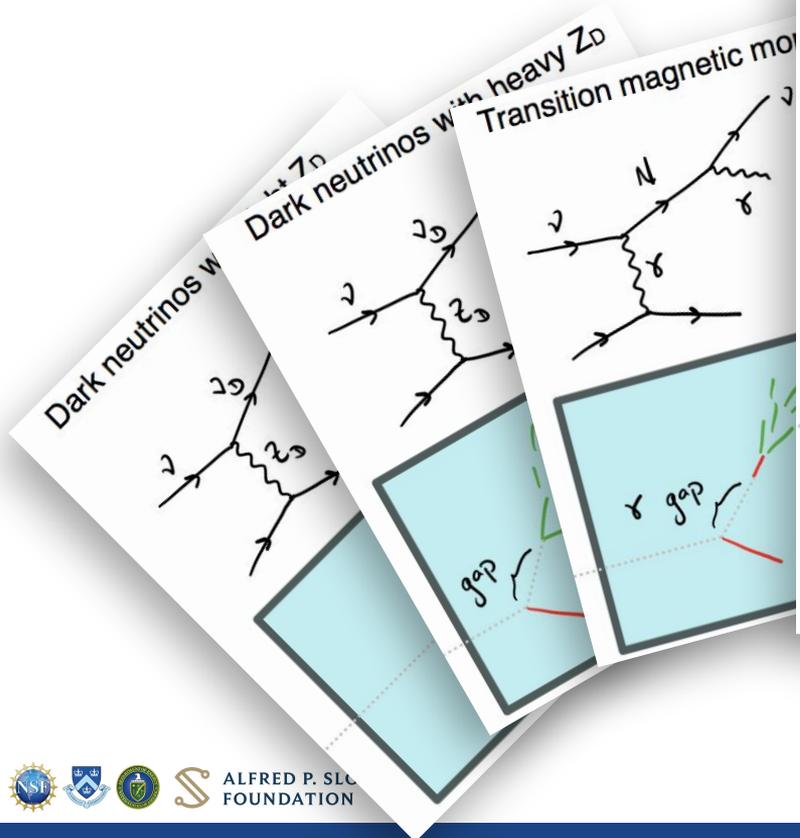
A plethora of new physics testable at MicroBooNE and SBN!

Transition magnetic moment

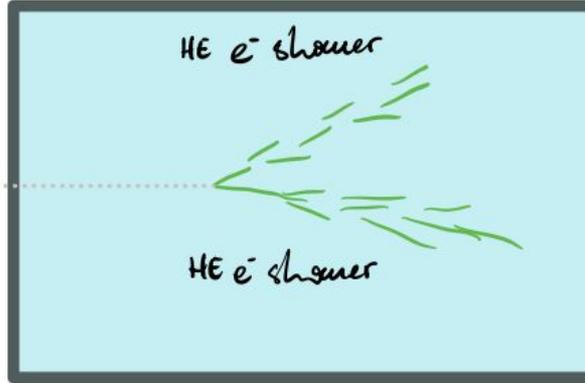
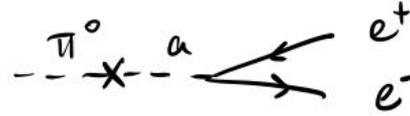


Gninenko PRL 2009
Coloma Machado Soler Shoemaker PRL 2017
Atkinson et al 2021
Vergani et al 2021

A plethora of new physics, testable at MicroBooNE and SBN!



Axion-like particles



Kelly Kumar Liu PRD 2021
Brdar et al PRL 2021

A plethora of new physics, testable at MicroBooNE and SBN!

Dark neutrinos with Z_0

Dark neutrinos with heavy Z_0

Transition magnetic moment

Axi

$-\pi^0$

Heavy neutral leptons

π^0/K^0

N

e^+

e^-

e^+

meson

μ^+

e^+

μ^+

μ^-

π^-

Too many papers to list, but see
 Ballett Pascoli Ross-Lonergan JHEP 2017
 Kelly Machado PRD 2021

A plethora of new physics, testable at MicroBooNE and SBN!

Dark neutrinos w/ Z_0

Dark neutrinos w/ heavy Z_0

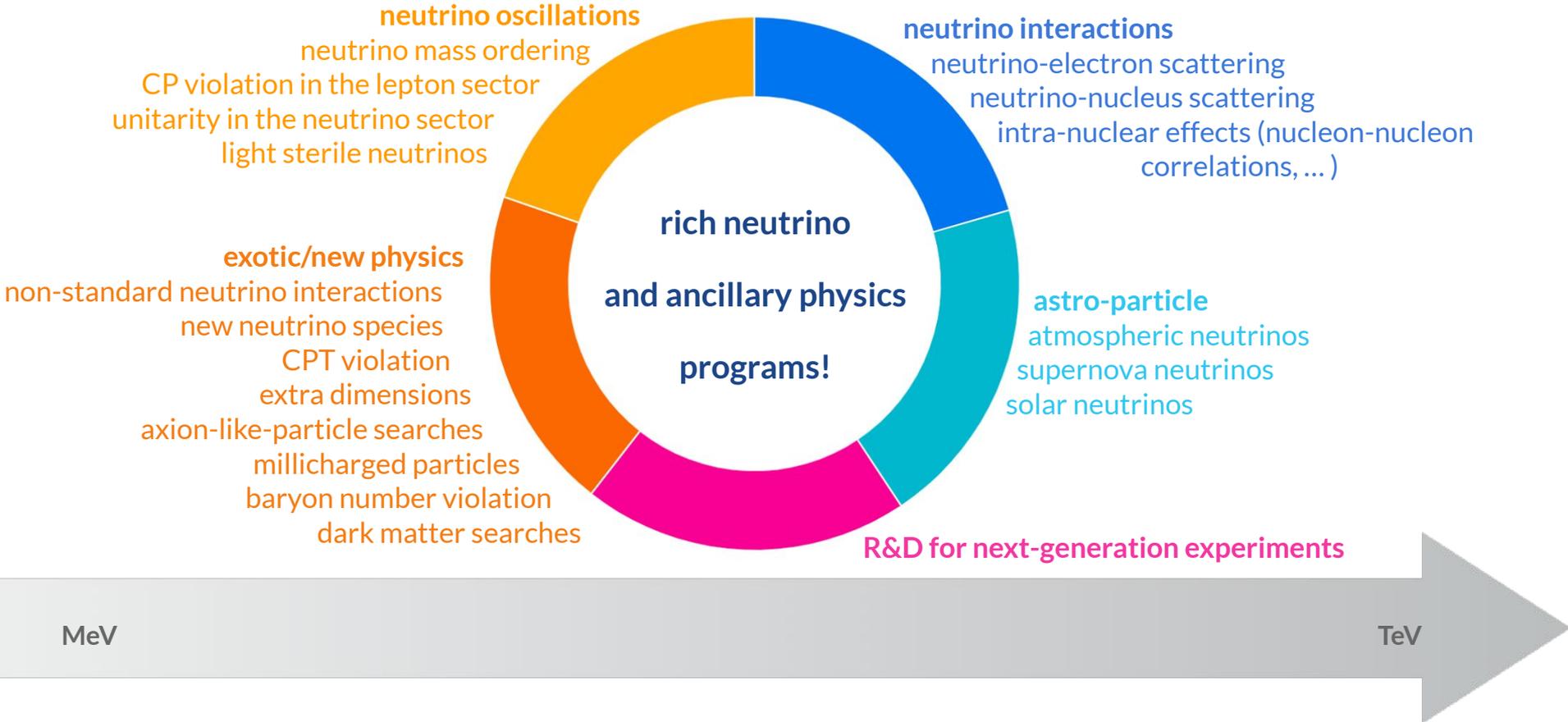
Transition magnetic moment

Axion-like part

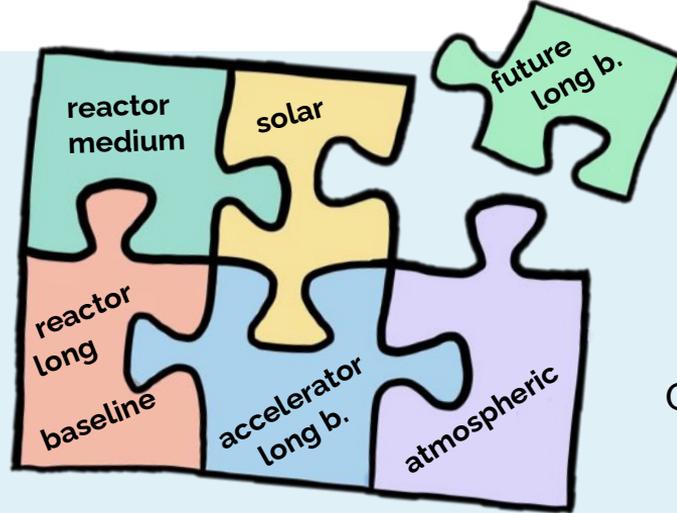
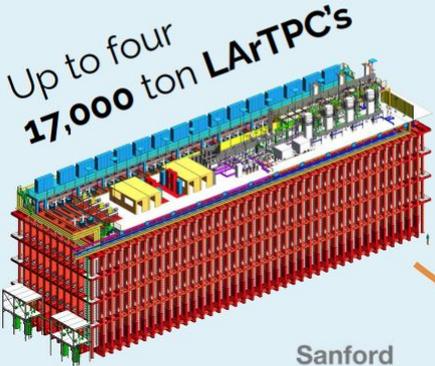
Higgs portal scalars

Pat Wilczek 2006
 Batell Berger Ismail PRD 2019
 MicroBooNE 2021

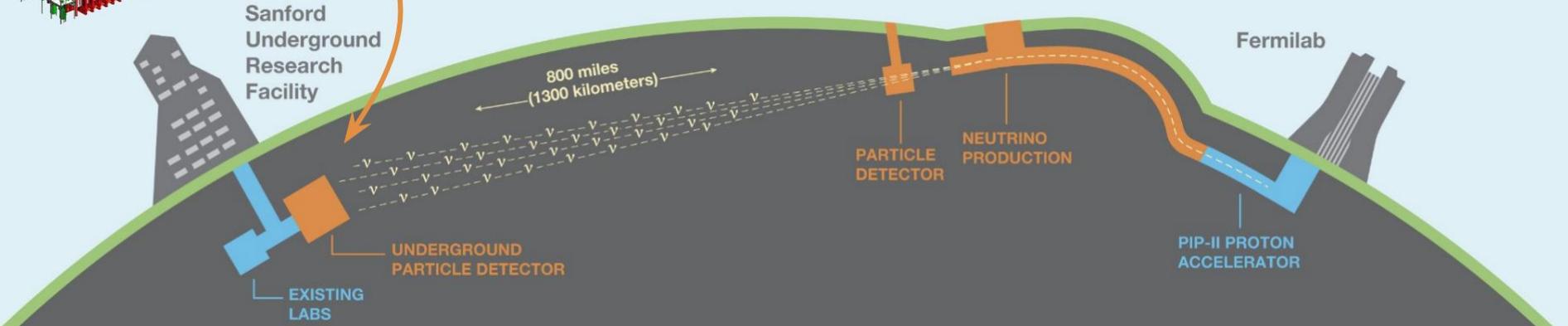
Accelerators as neutrino sources



Beyond MicroBooNE and SBN: DUNE



Over-constraining three-neutrino sector:
CP violation?
neutrino mass hierarchy?



DUNE scalability challenge



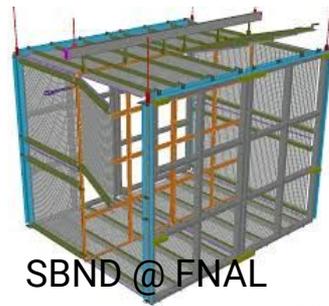
~100x



4 neutrino detector modules
1 mile underground



[<https://www.dunescience.org/>]



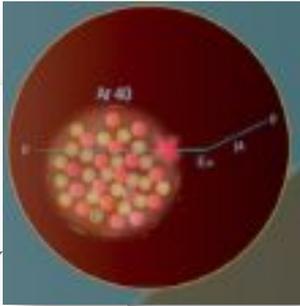
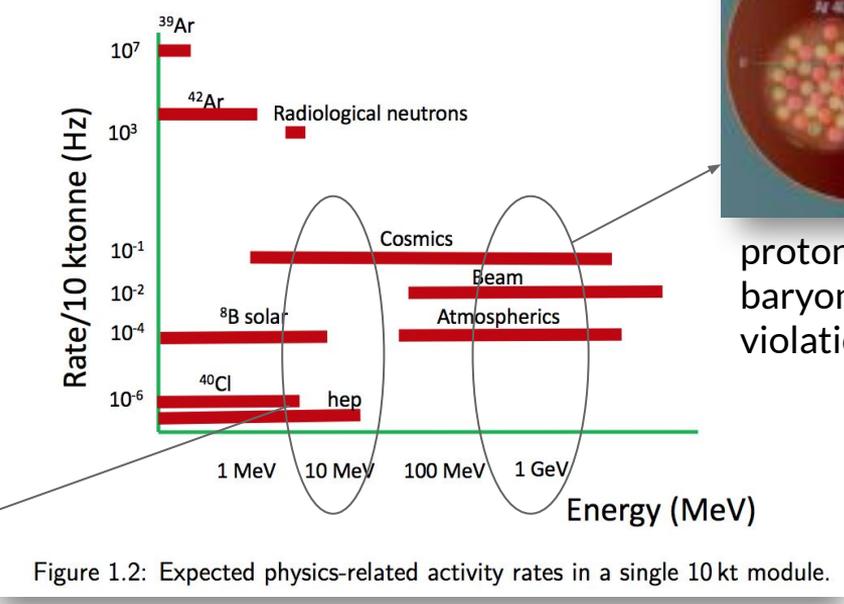
DUNE: up to >1 million readout channels
2 MHz x 12 bit ADC digitization
>5 TB/s data rate!

Off-beam, rare event searches in DUNE

For rare event searches, future LArTPCs will require **efficient data processing systems** to parse increasingly large amounts of data through data-informed data selection!



neutrinos from nearby supernova bursts



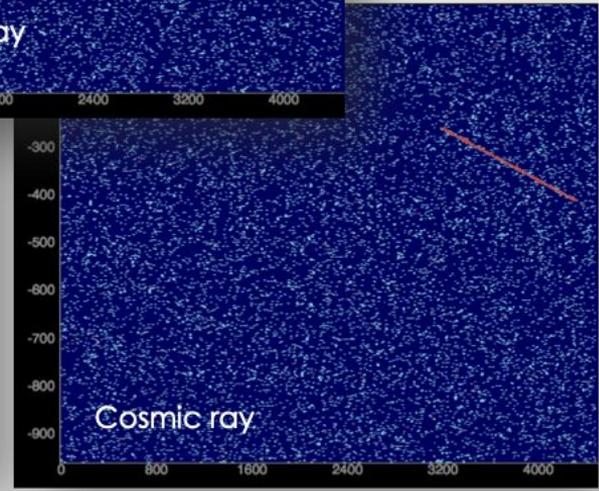
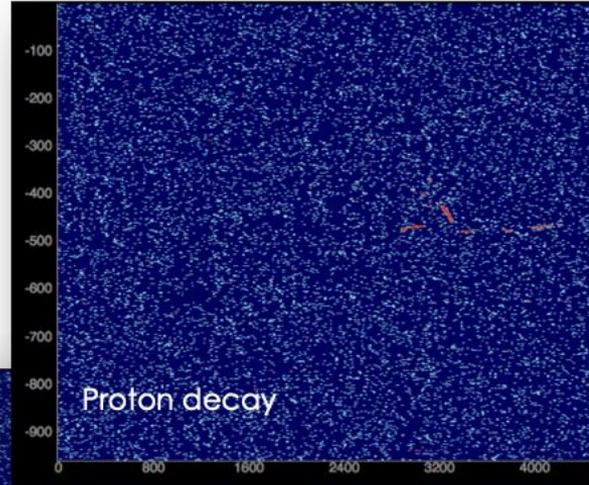
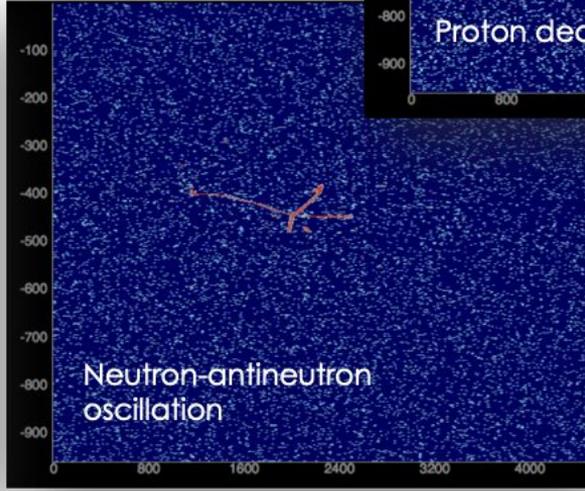
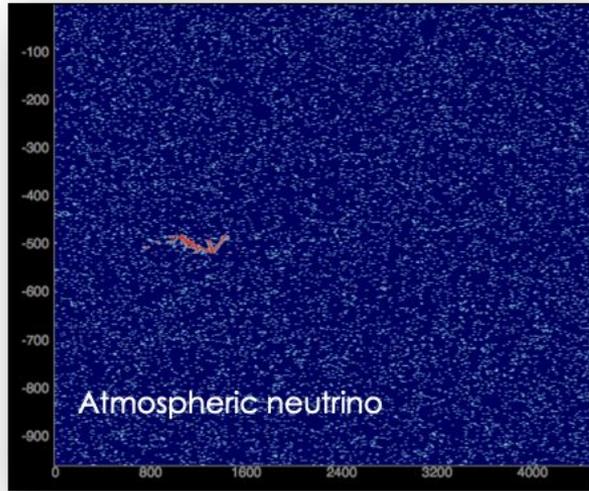
proton decay, baryon number violation

Figure 1.2: Expected physics-related activity rates in a single 10 kt module.

[DUNE TDR]



Off-beam interactions of interest in DUNE

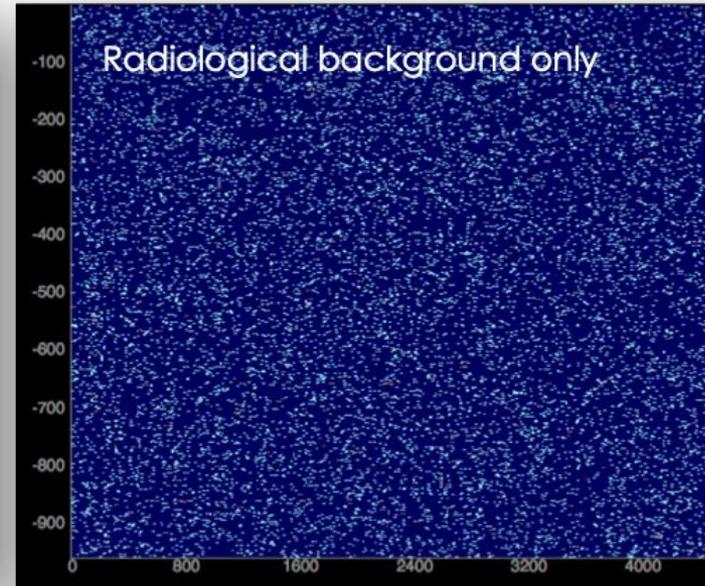
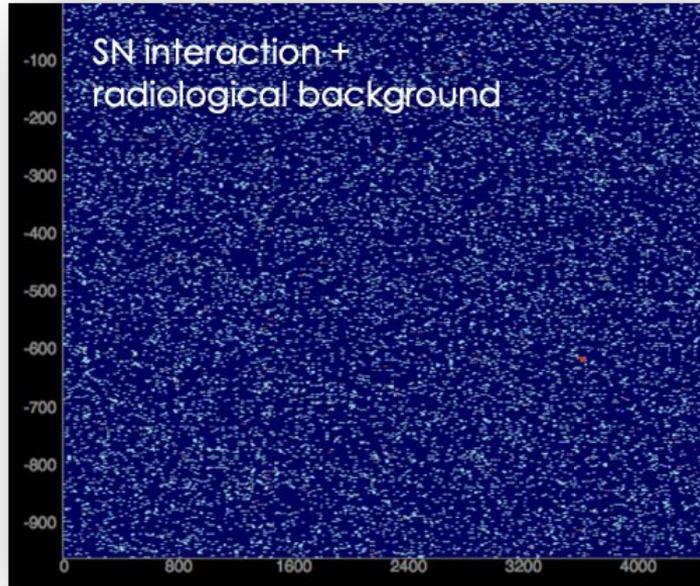


The challenge of supernova neutrino detection

Supernova neutrino interactions:

Very low energy and small (in extent) topology, similar to radiological background activity in the detector

Need $O(10^4)$ background suppression, while maintaining high efficiency to individual supernova interactions

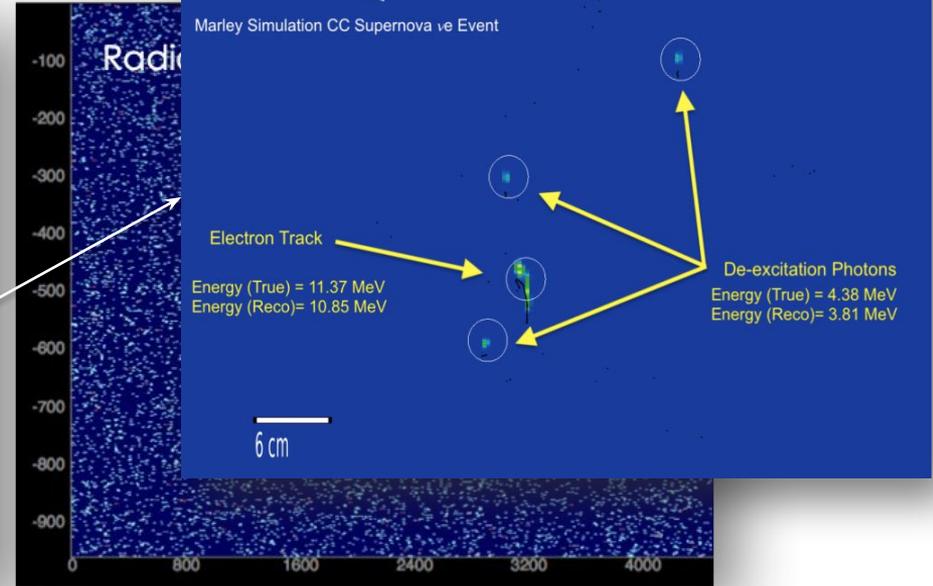
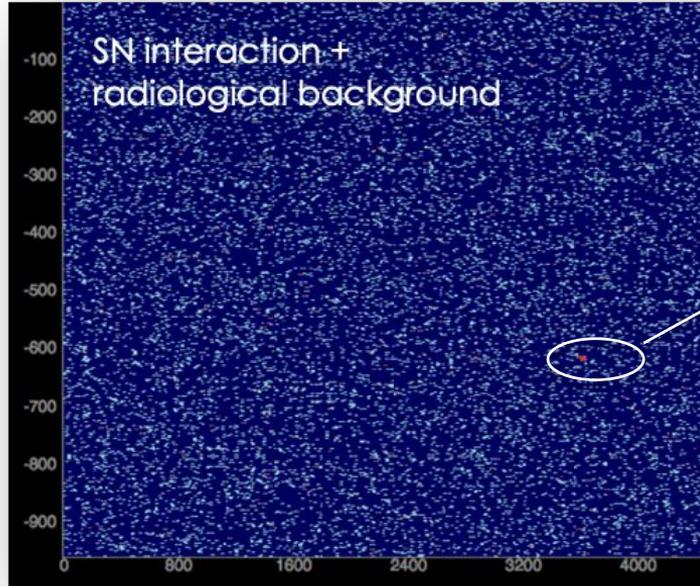


The challenge of supernova neutrino detection

Supernova neutrino interactions:

Very low energy and small (in extent) topology, similar to radiological background activity in the detector

Need $O(10^4)$ background suppression, while maintaining high efficiency



Real-time AI for data selection/triggering

New technology and tools enable the possibility of hardware acceleration of machine learning algorithms for low-latency, real-time applications in high-rate data streaming:



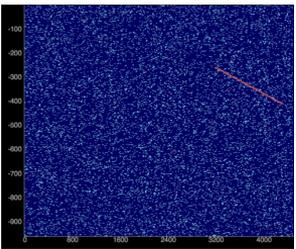
Increasingly more powerful COTS FPGA



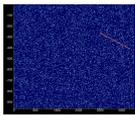
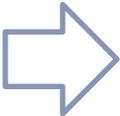
Real-time inference in DUNE is possible with a small CNN, downsized and further optimized to reduce computational footprint, and trained with “quantization awareness”



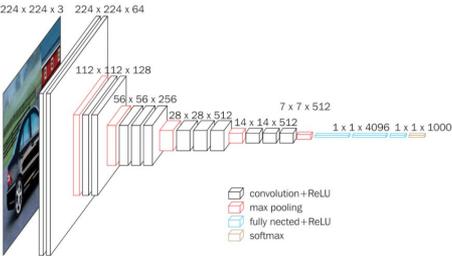
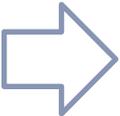
[Y. Jwa et al. arXiv:2201.04740]



raw image input (4450x960)



down-sampling, resizing (600x600)



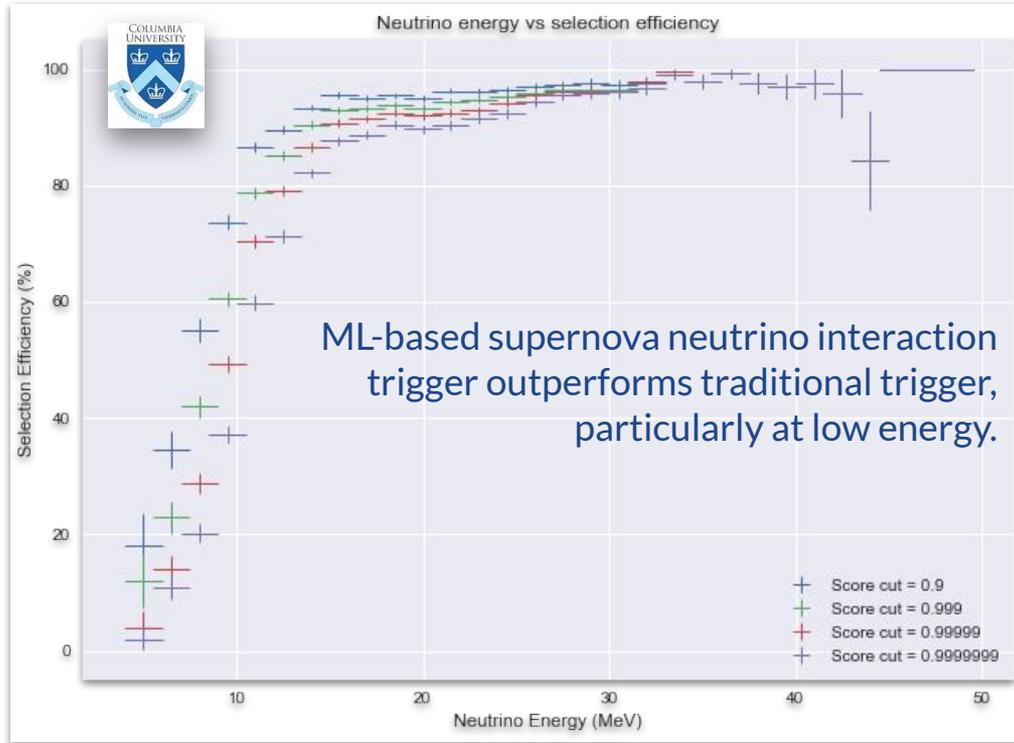
CNN classification



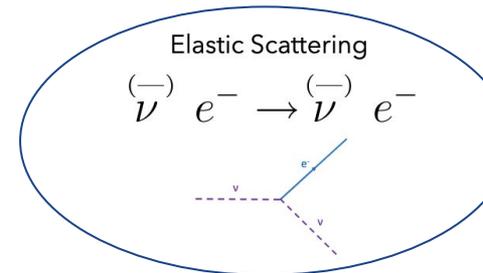
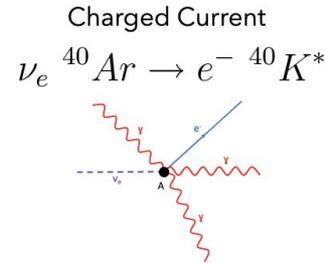
- Background
- Supernova neutrino
- Other interaction

selection (e.g., lowest background class score)

Pushing the (low-energy) limit of LArTPC's



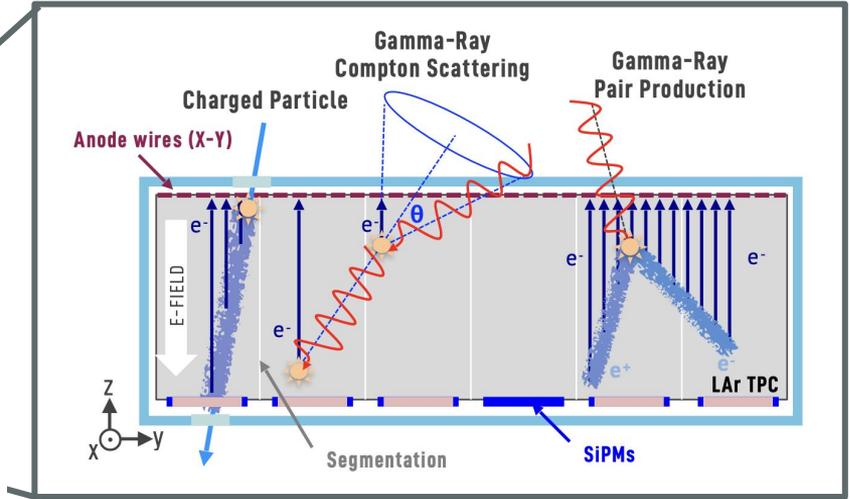
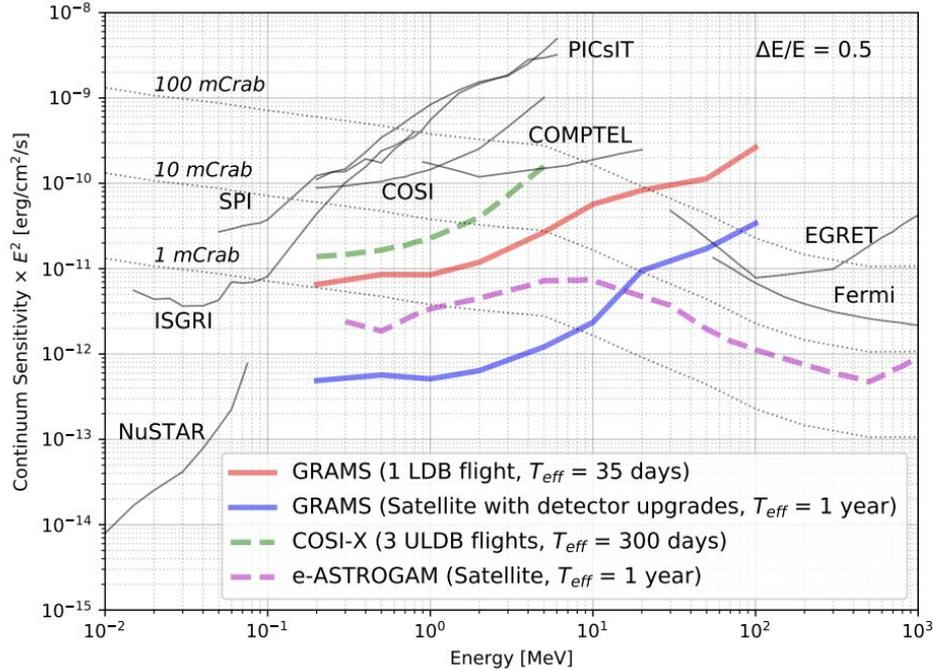
With large sample of supernova neutrino candidates in real time prompt studies of directionality are possible → DUNE could become an important player in multi-messenger astrophysics!



Electron direction much more correlated with incoming neutrino direction.

Pushing the (low-energy) limit of LArTPC's

LArTPC as a “Compton telescope”:



Gamma Ray and AntiMatter Survey (GRAMS) experiment

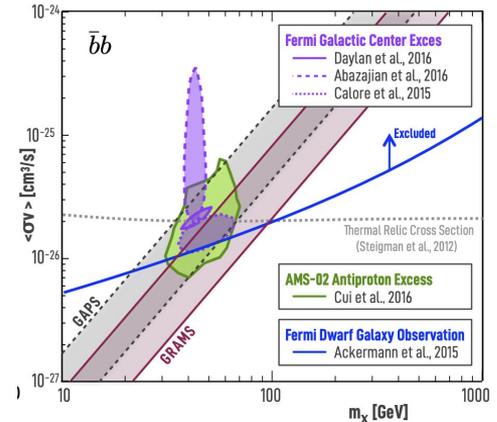
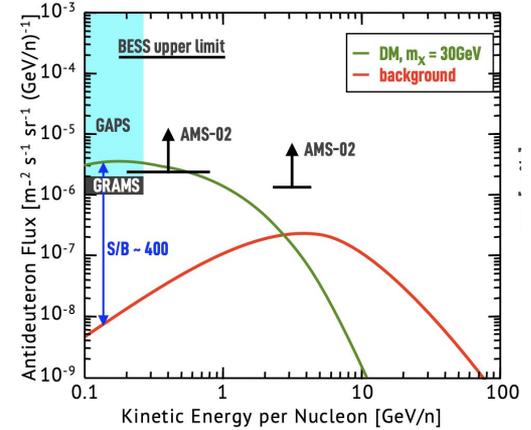
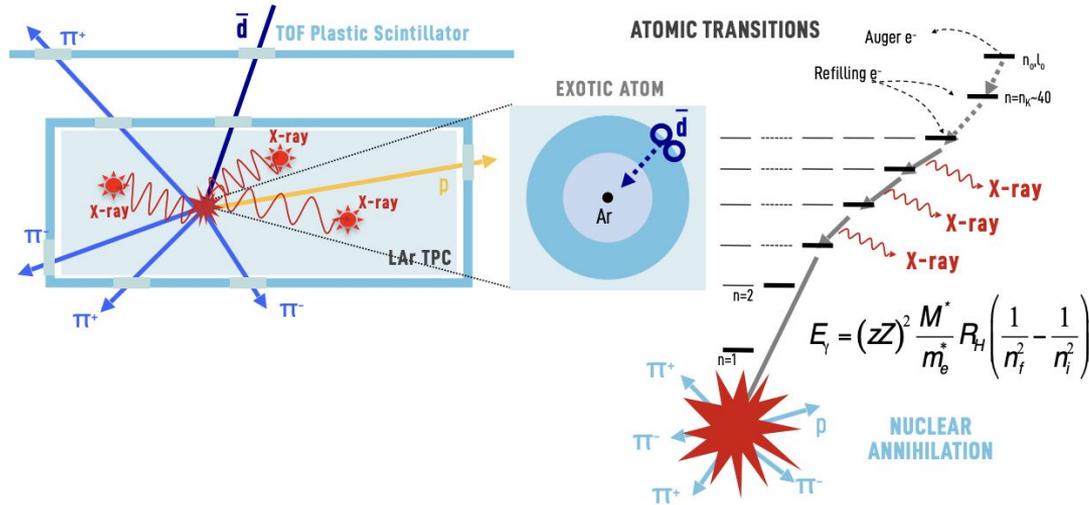
T. Aramaki, P. Hanson Adrien, GK, H. Odaka,
[Astropart.Phys. 114 \(2020\) 107-114](https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.08114)

Pushing the (low-energy) limit of LArTPC's

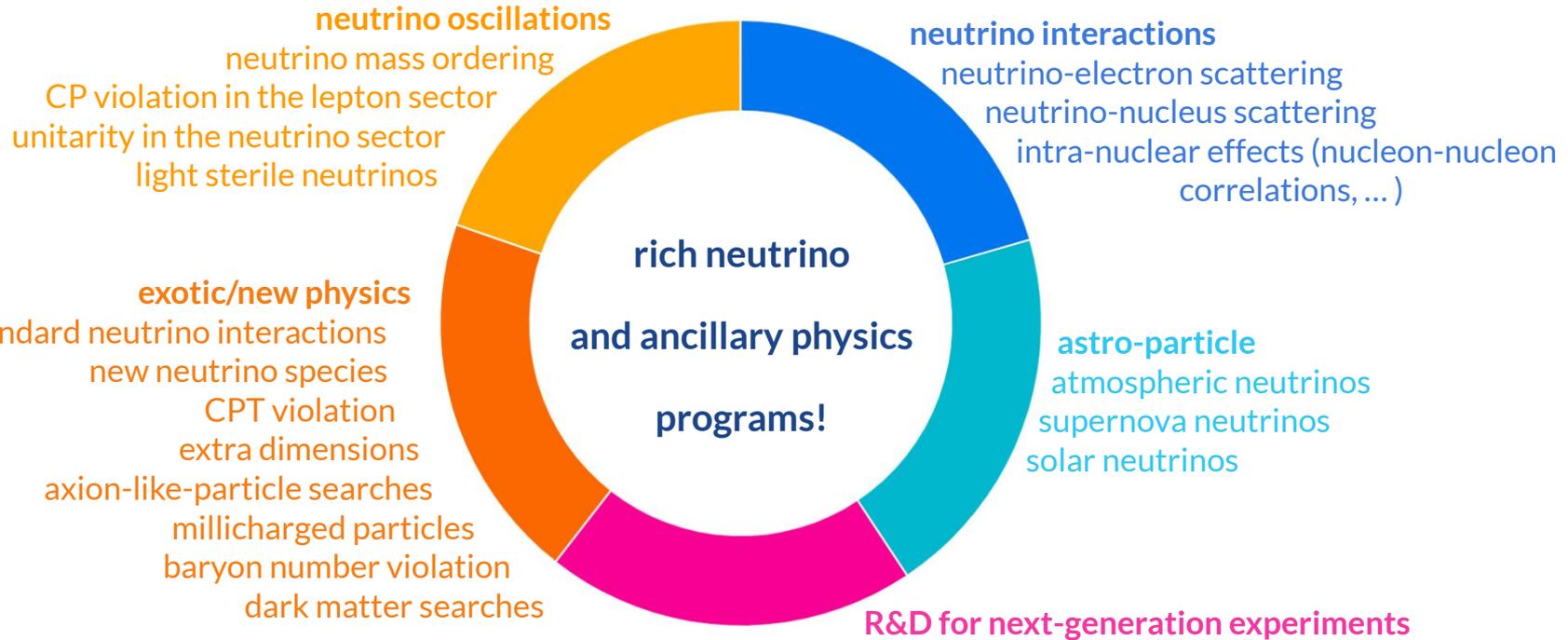
GRAMS as an indirect dark matter detector:

T. Aramaki, P. Hannson Adrien, GK, H. Odaka,
[Astropart.Phys. 114 \(2020\) 107-114](https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.114)

antimatter from galactic
 dark matter annihilation



Exciting path ahead, in search for new physics!



Exciting path ahead, in search for new physics!

Charted by accelerator-based neutrino experiments, and new LArTPC technology developments.

MicroBooNE's mastering of the LArTPC detector technology has enabled **unprecedented studies of neutrino interactions**, which are only **beginning to scratch the surface** of rich physics accessible through neutrino experiments.

MicroBooNE (and, in the near future, SBN) is bringing to test leading interpretations of compelling, **long-standing experimental anomalies**, and providing **new opportunities to search for BSM physics**.

Their technological success is **enabling future particle and astro-particle physics experiments**.

Thank you!