

# Towards Revealing the Unique Nature of Neutrino Mass Using Precision Detection of Photons

Andrey Elagin  
University of Chicago

# Outline

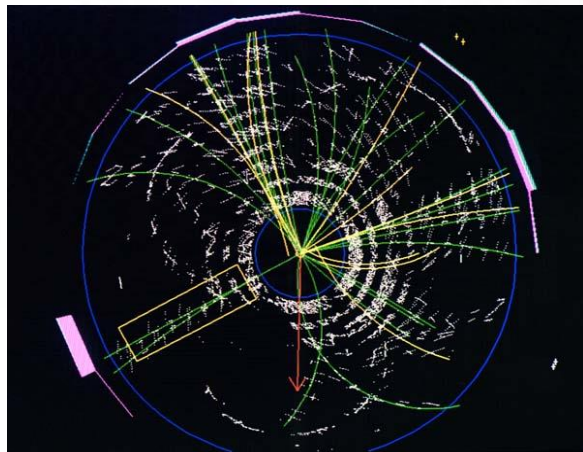
## Purpose of This Talk

Discuss the importance of fast timing and suggest the next steps in the development of affordable Large-Area Picosecond Photodetectors (LAPPD)

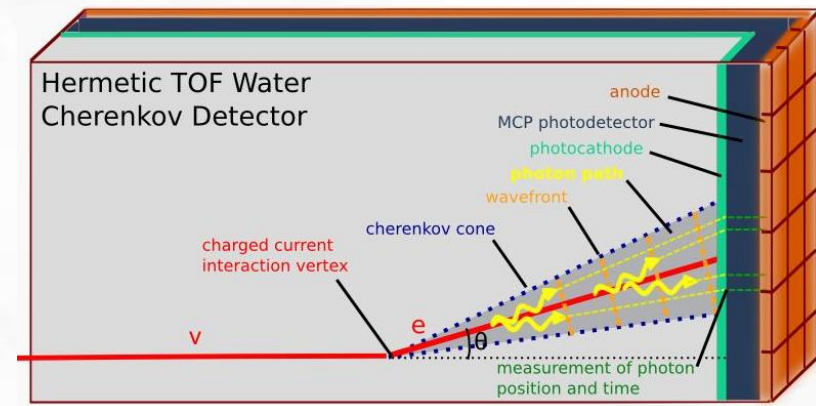
Important remarks:

- There are other fast timing technologies
- A lot of what I will be talking about applies there (e.g. SiPMs)

Fast timing is needed at colliders, fixed target, and neutrino experiments



- Assign tracks to vertices
- Separate overlapping tracks
- Particle ID by TOF
- Heavy particles, displaced vertices



- Vertex reconstruction
- 3D tracking

# Higgs Properties

$H \rightarrow \tau, \tau$

$\tau^+ \mu^-$  pair  
recoils against jets:  
smaller angle

MMC  
di-tau mass  
close to  
125 GeV

**Missing Mass Calculator**  
NIMA 654 (2011) 481  
A. Elagin, P. Murat,  
A. Pronko, A. Safonov

**Probabilistic Particle Flow**  
NIMA 705 (2013) 93  
A. Elagin, P. Murat,  
A. Pronko, A. Safonov

one neutrino:  
large visible  $p_T$

two neutrinos:  
smaller visible  $p_T$

$E_T^{miss}$  between  
 $\tau^+$  and  $\mu^-$

$E_T^{miss}$

$\tau^+$

$\mu^-$

$\tau^+$  and  $\mu^-$   
between jets in  $\eta$

Beamline

No other jets  
in between

jet

jet

Large  $\eta$  separation,  
large invariant mass

Diagram credit:  
<http://licollider.wordpress.com>

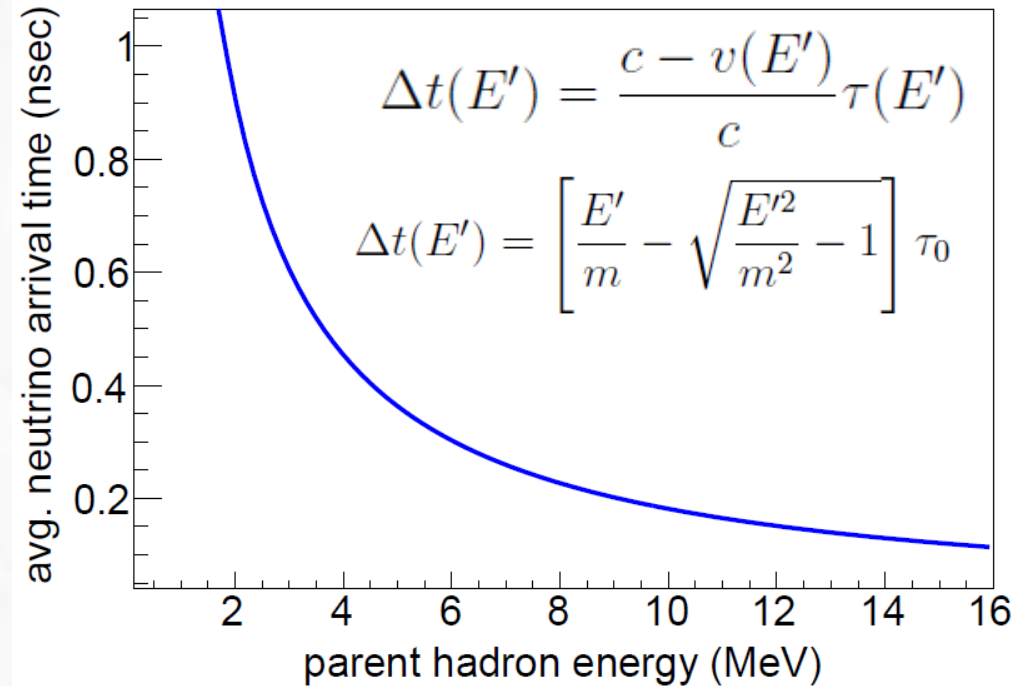
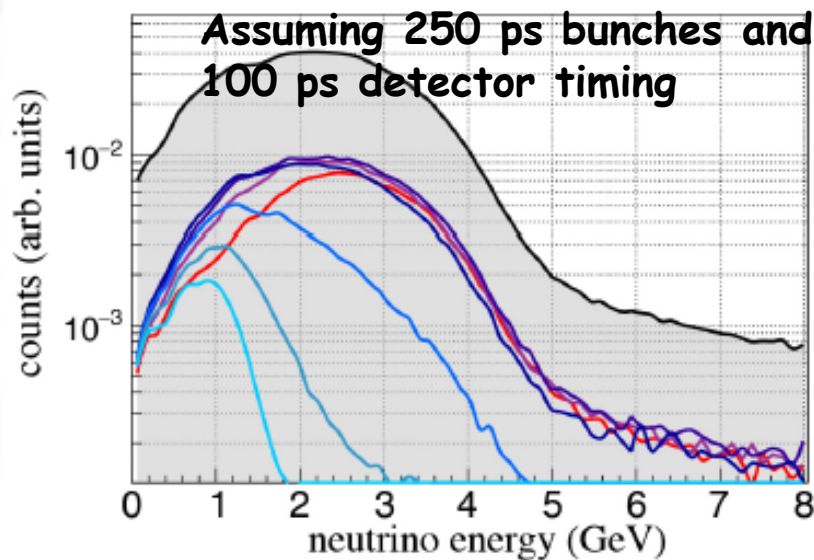
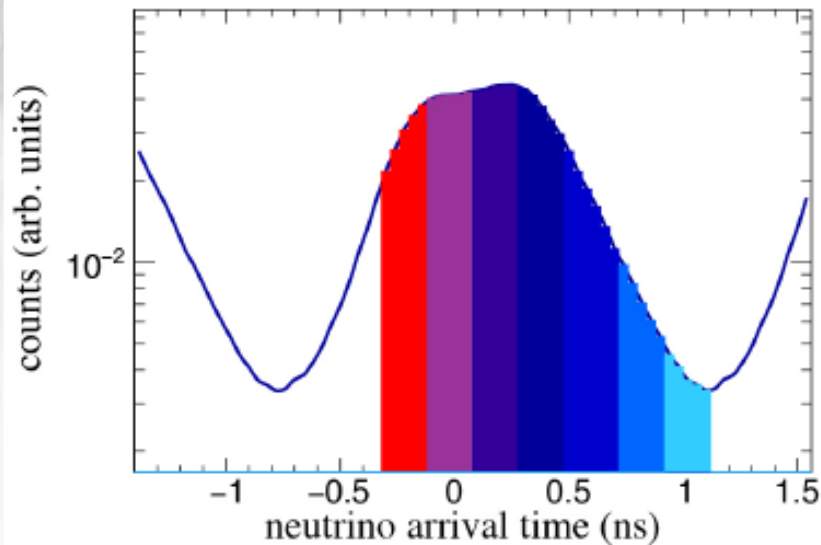
These techniques have been developed at CDF without using fast timing, but Kaon identification by TOF could have further improved energy resolution of hadronic taus

# Neutrino Properties

## Stroboscopic approach

PRD 100 (2019) 3, 032008

E. Angelico, J. Eisch, A. Elagin, H. Frisch,  
S. Nagaitsev, M. Wetstein

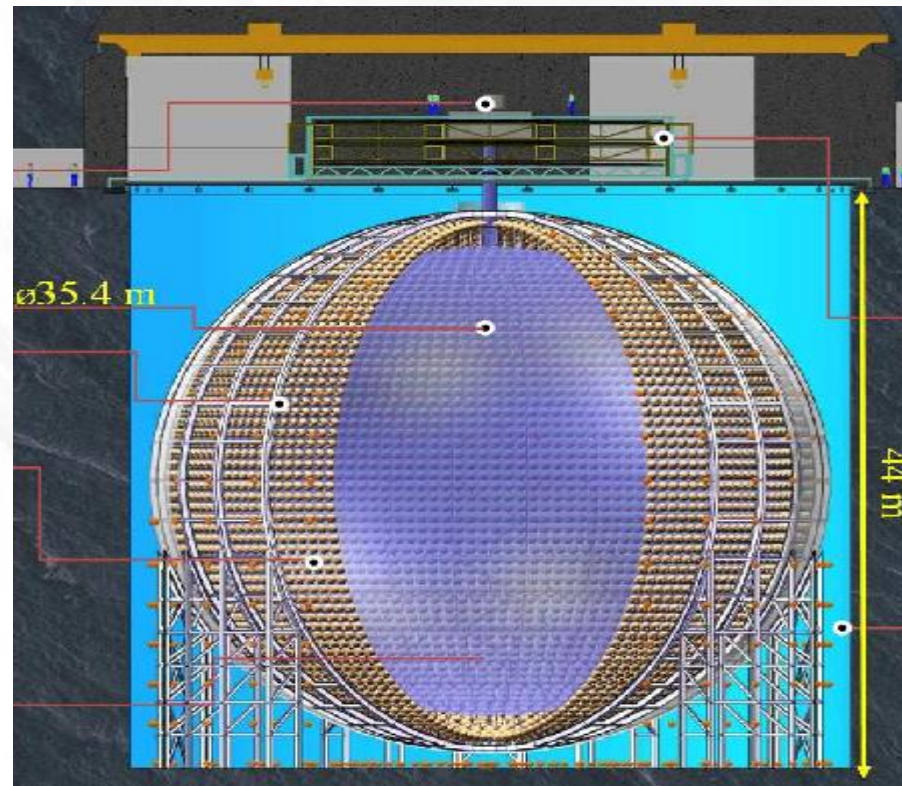


- Lower energy neutrinos arrive later
- Time slicing of neutrino events relative to the time of their parent bunch time allows for selecting different neutrino energy spectra and flavor content
- Could be complementary to NuPrism

# Outline

- How precision photon measurements can be used to discover neutrino-less double-beta decay
- How LAPPD can become affordable for large-scale experiments

An example of a large-scale experiment  
Surface area of the JUNO detector sphere is  $\sim 980 \text{ m}^2$



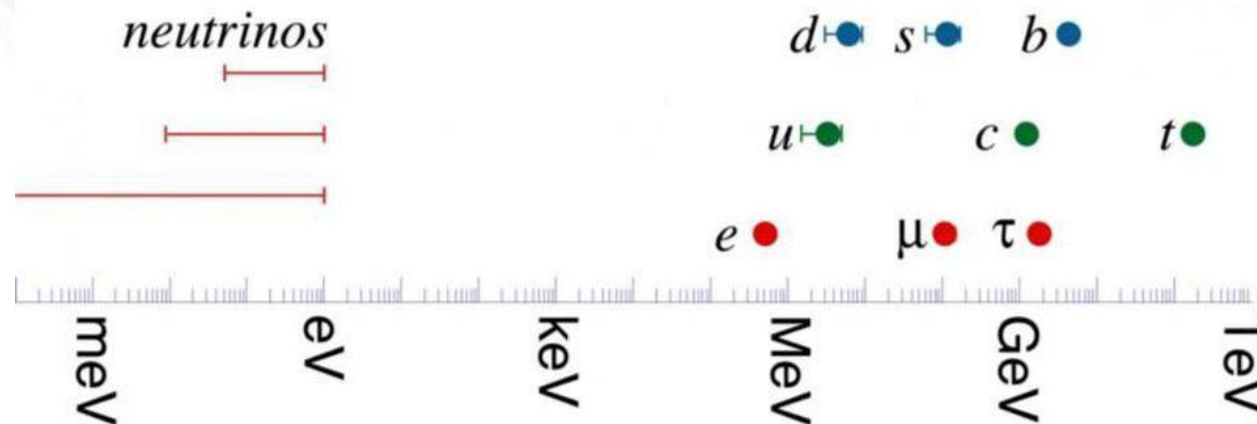
picture credit: the JUNO collaboration

# Is the Neutrino Its Own Antiparticle?

- It is possible because the neutrino has no electric charge
- It is intriguing question because no other fermion can be its own antiparticle

It is not only possible, but may be necessary to explain  
- the origin of matter-antimatter asymmetry in the universe  
- why the neutrino mass is so tiny?

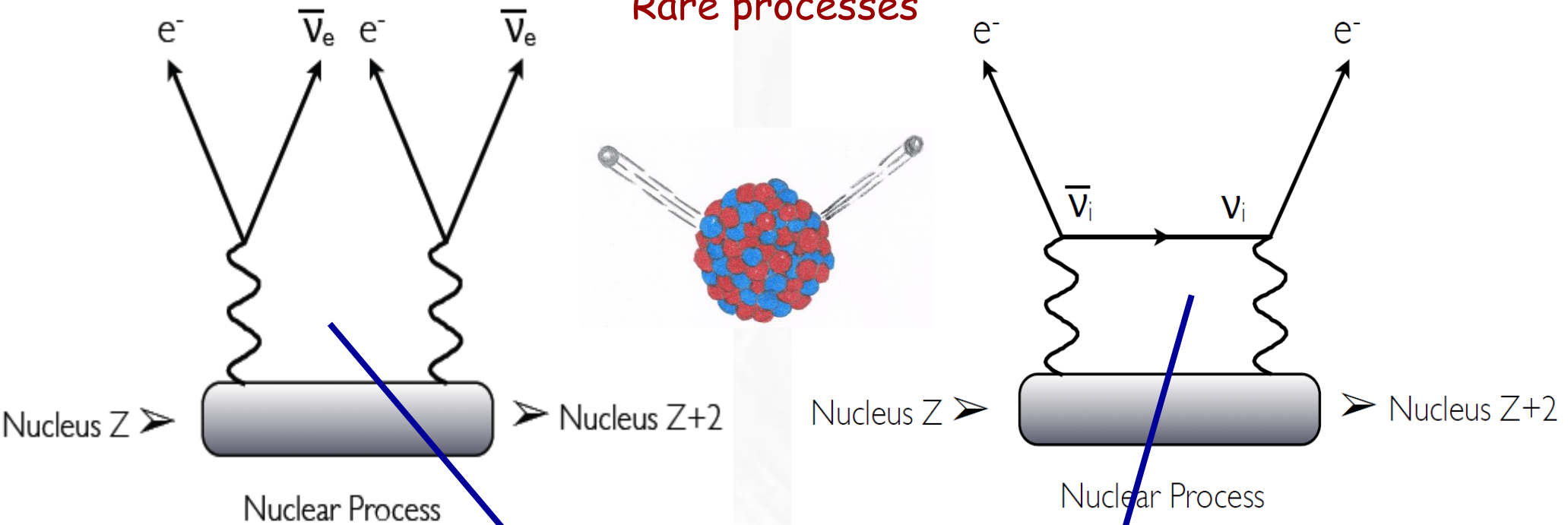
plot credit: Hitoshi Murayama  
(taken from Forbes 07/14/2020)



Search for neutrino-less double beta decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay) is the most feasible way to answer this question

# Double Beta Decay

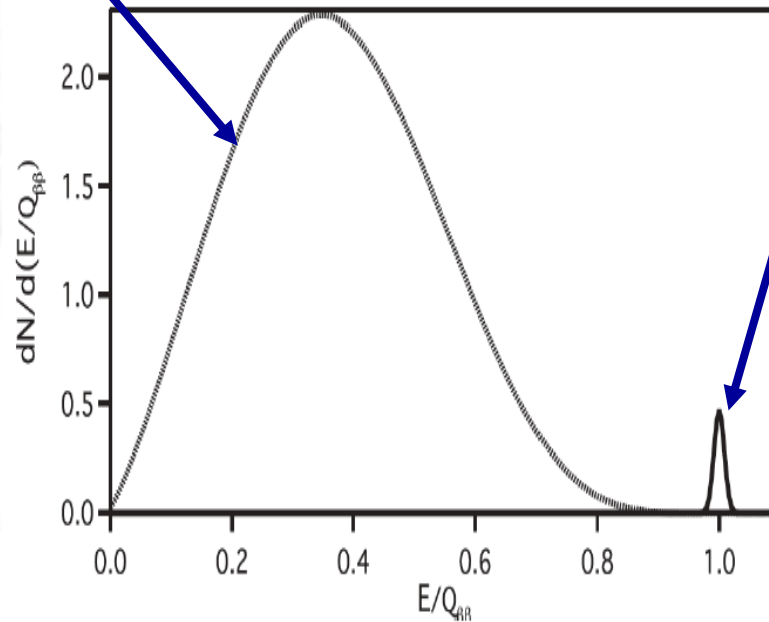
Rare processes



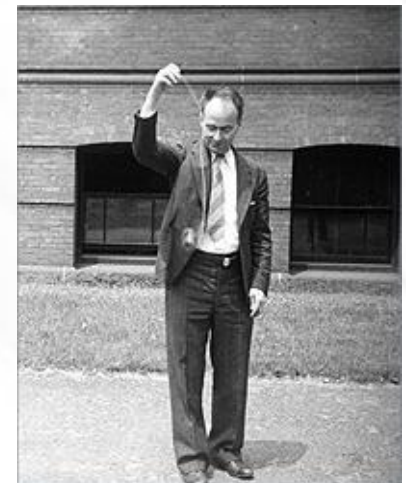
Maria Goeppert-Mayer



Total energy of two electrons

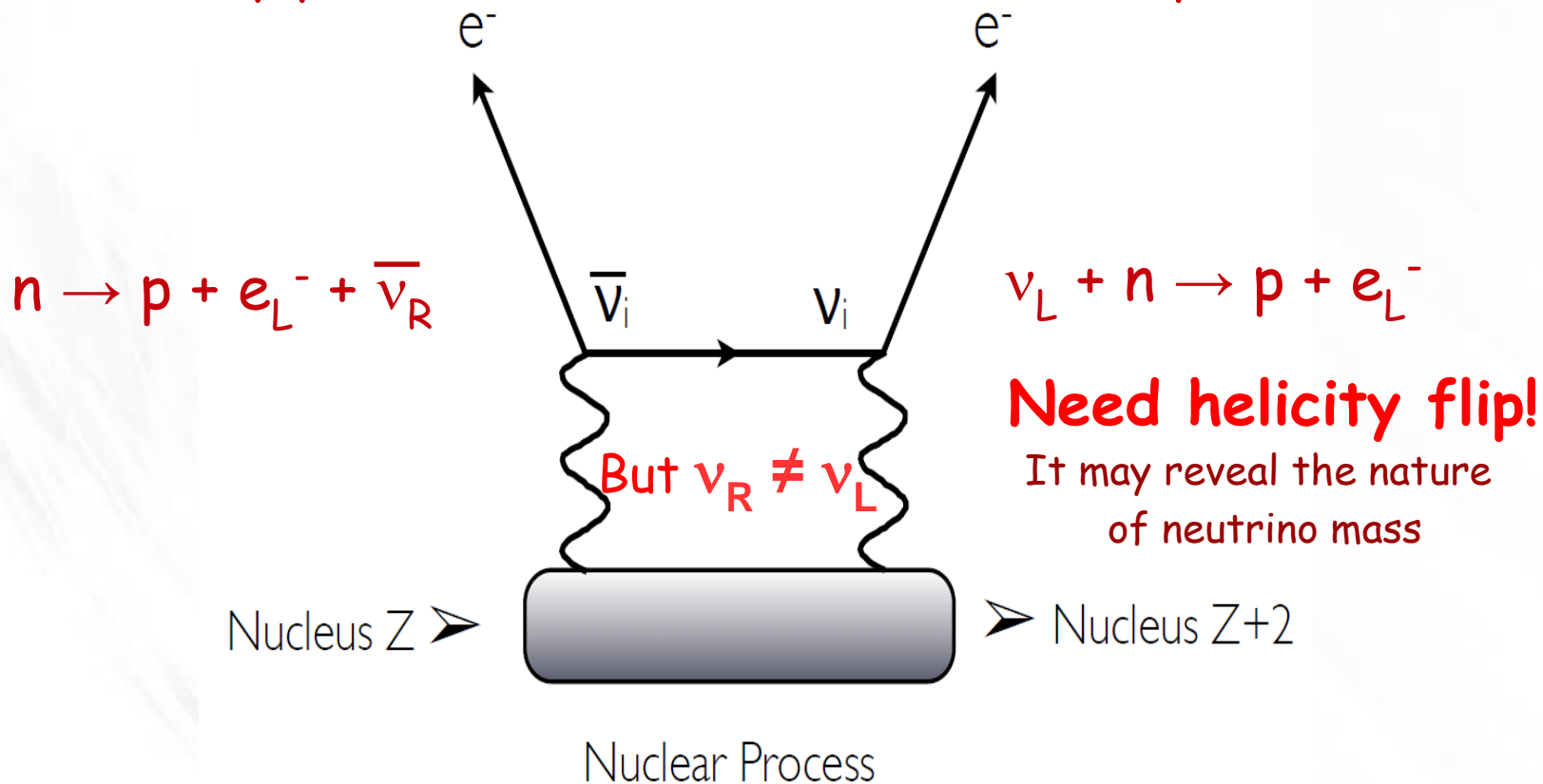


Wendell Furry



# Neutrinoless Decay Is Unique

Only possible if neutrino is its own antiparticle



If neutrino is Majorana then  $\nu_R$  is just a CP-conjugate of  $\nu_L$ , i.e.  $\nu_L^C = \nu_R$

Therefore  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay requires a mechanism for  $\nu_L^C \leftrightarrow \nu_L$  transition

Need coupling between  $\nu_L$  and  $\nu_L^C$

Such coupling can be effectively introduced into SM Lagrangian via "See-Saw" mechanism

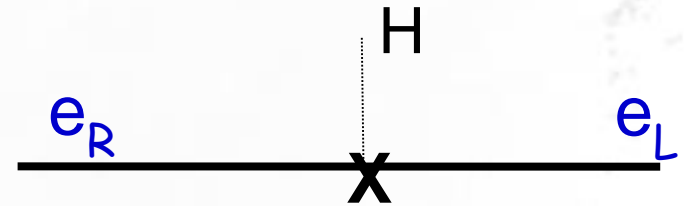


# Mass Terms in the SM Lagrangian

Electron mass term in the Standard Model Lagrangian

$$m_e e_L e_R$$

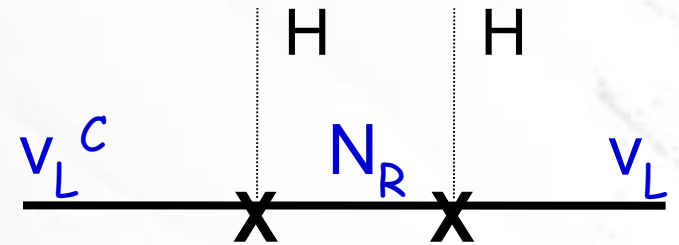
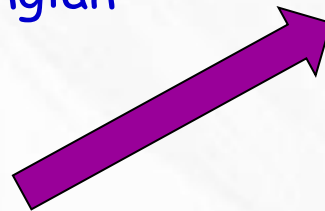
(Example of a Dirac mass term)



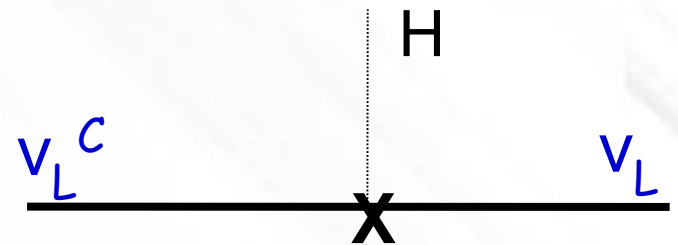
## See-Saw Mechanism

Possible extension of the SM Lagrangian to introduce neutrino mass

$$\begin{pmatrix} \bar{\nu}_L & \bar{N}_R^c \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_D \\ m_D^T & M_{RR} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_L^c \\ N_R \end{pmatrix}$$



"Effectively" in the limit  $M_{RR} \gg m_D$



In the limit  $M_{RR} \gg m_D$  the eigenvalues are  $m_D^2/M_{RR}$  (light neutrino) and  $M_{RR}$  (heavy neutrino)

This is exactly what's needed for  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

This is not the only option  
There are other mechanisms leading to  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

# How to Find $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay?

Step 1: Choose an isotope where  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay is allowed

Step 2: Wait for emission of two electrons with the right total energy

## Challenges:

1. Rare process
2.  $2\nu\beta\beta$ -background
3. Natural radioactivity

## Solutions:

1. Very large detector mass
2. Good energy resolution
3. Purification and shielding

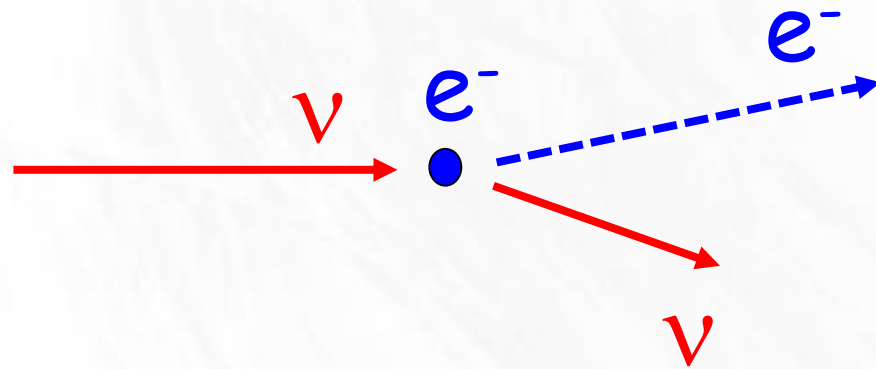
Isotope	Q-Value	Abundance (%)
Ca 48	4.271	0.187
Ge 76	2.039	7.8
Se 82	2.995	9.2
Zr 96	3.350	2.8
Mo 100	3.034	9.6
Pd 110	2.013	11.8
Cd 116	2.802	7.5
Sn 124	2.288	5.64
Te 130	2.529	34.5
Xe 136	2.479	8.9
Nd 150	3.367	5.6

$^{130}\text{Te}$ -loaded multi-kiloton liquid scintillator detector may become the only viable option for discovery

[See S.Biller, PRD87 (2013) 071301 ]

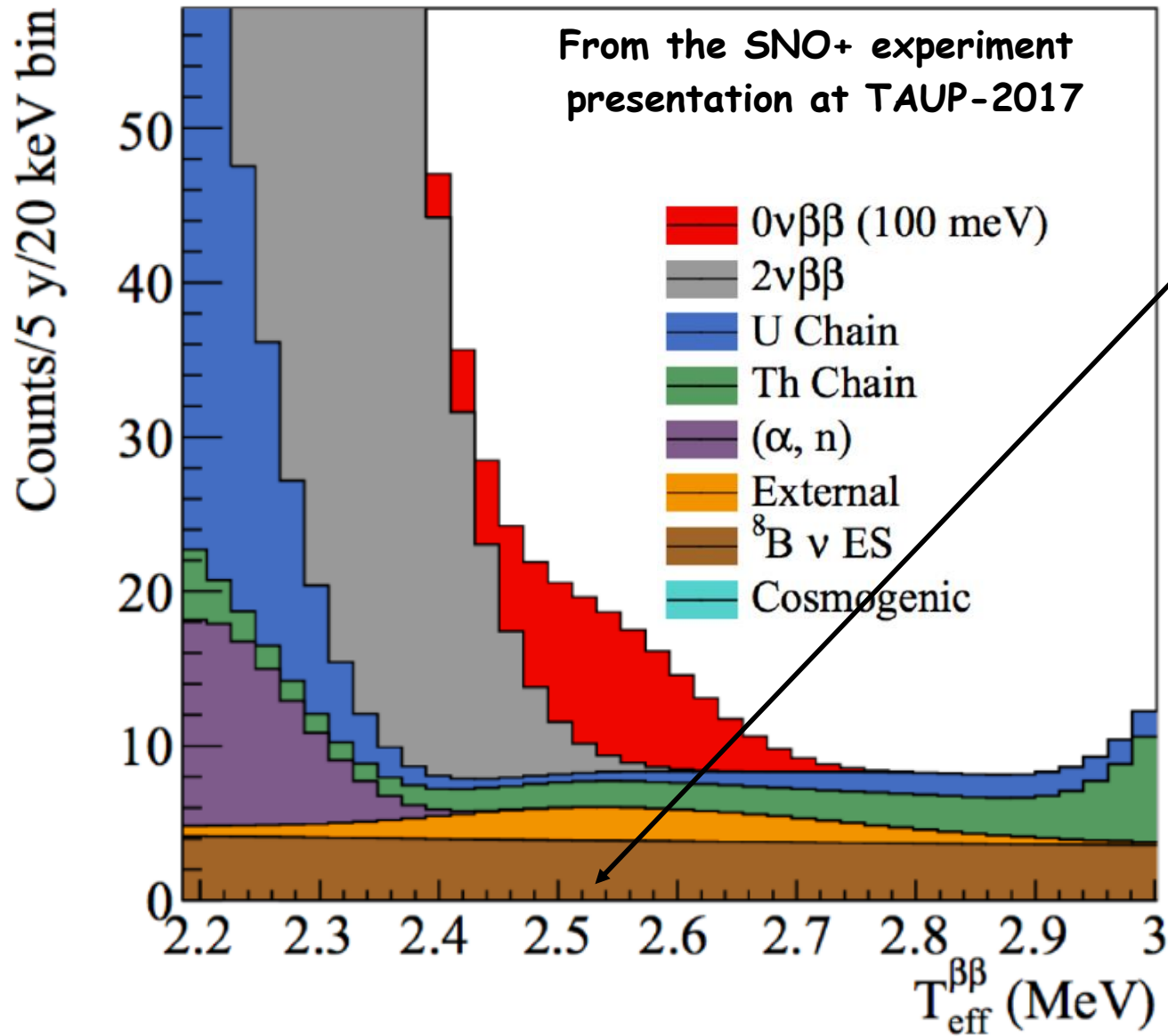
# New Challenge for a Large Detector

Electron scattering of neutrinos  
coming from  ${}^8\text{B}$ -decays in the sun



${}^8\text{B}$  can become dominant "irreducible" background without  
event topology reconstruction

# Example of Background Budget



$$Q(^{130}\text{Te}) = 2.53 \text{ MeV}$$

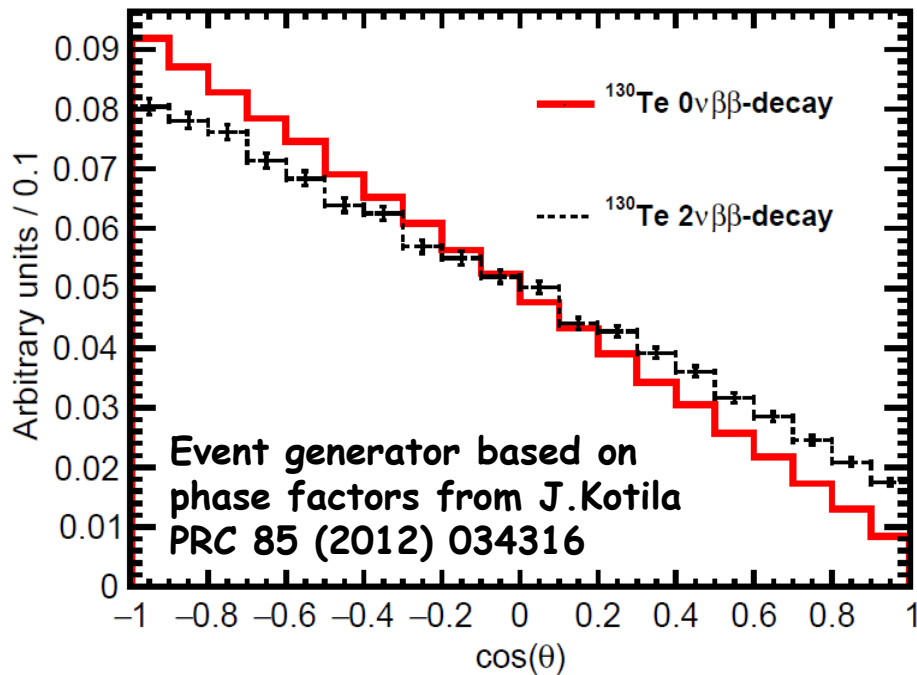
The largest background in the ROI is coming from  $^8\text{B}$  solar neutrinos

It has only 1 electron, while 0 $\nu\beta\beta$ -decay has 2 electrons

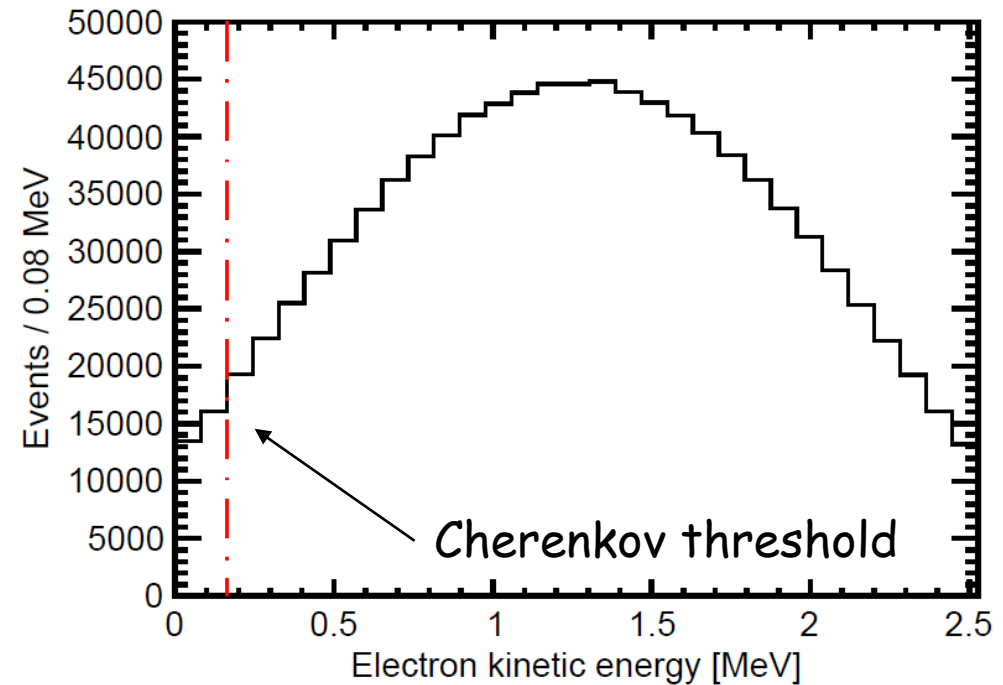
Is it possible to separate two-track and one-track events?

# Double-Beta Decay Kinematics

Angle ( $\cos\theta$ ) between two electrons



Kinetic energy of each electron



- Lots of "back-to-back" (large angle) events
- Most of electrons are above Cherenkov threshold

# Can We See This?

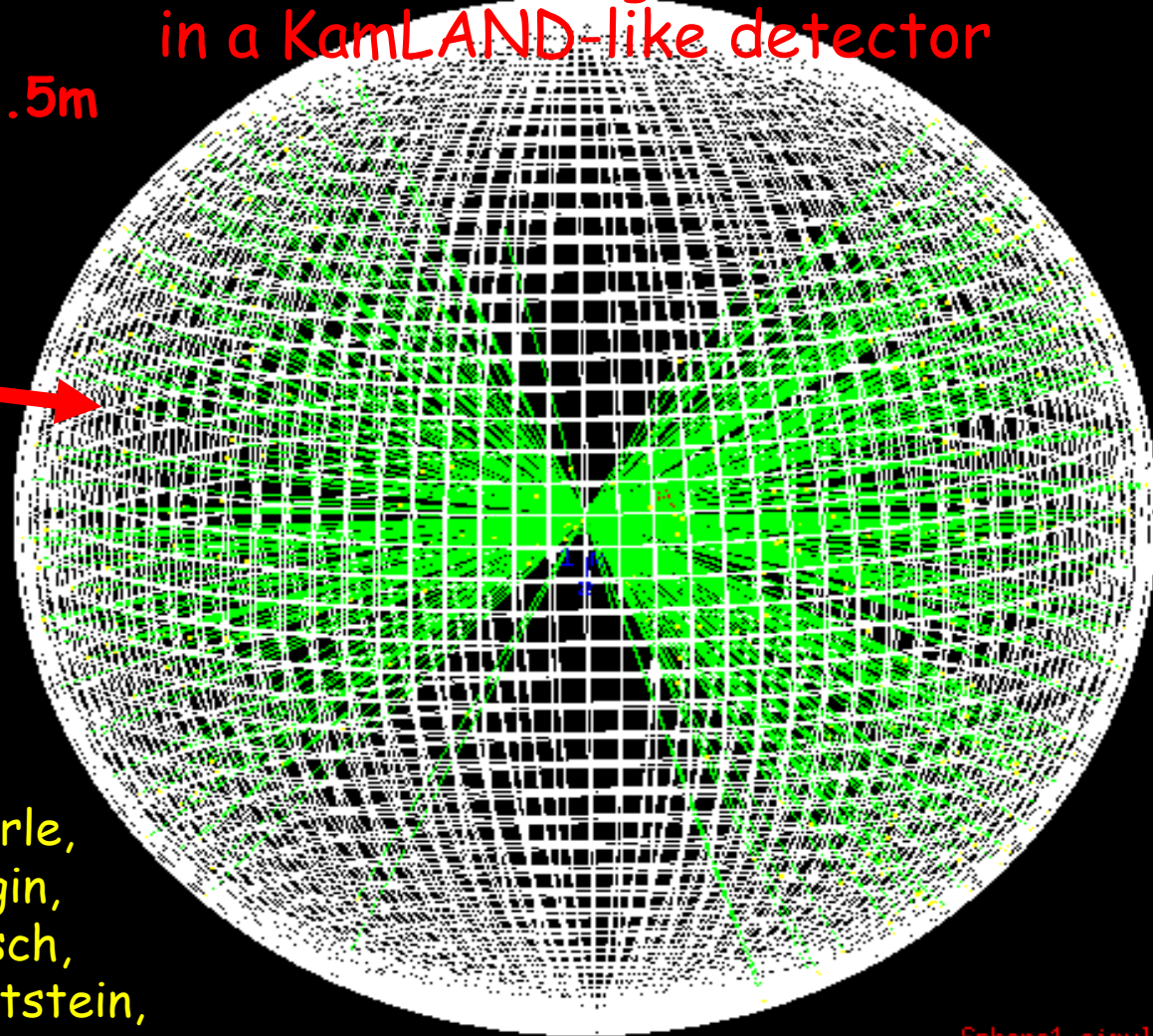
Run 1 (1 event)

Thu Mar 28 09:56:40 2013

Simulation of Cherenkov light from a  $0\nu\beta\beta$  event  
in a KamLAND-like detector

R=6.5m

One selected event  
with large angle  
between electrons



C. Aberle,  
A. Elagin,  
H. Frisch,  
M. Wetstein,  
L. Winslow

2014 JINST 9 P06012

Sphere1\_simulation

A detailed Geant4 simulation was built to study how to separate directional Cherenkov light from abundant isotropic scintillation

# Normalized Che/Sci Spectra

An example of a scintillator model similar to KamLAND

Spectral threshold sorting for che/sci separation is also being investigated.

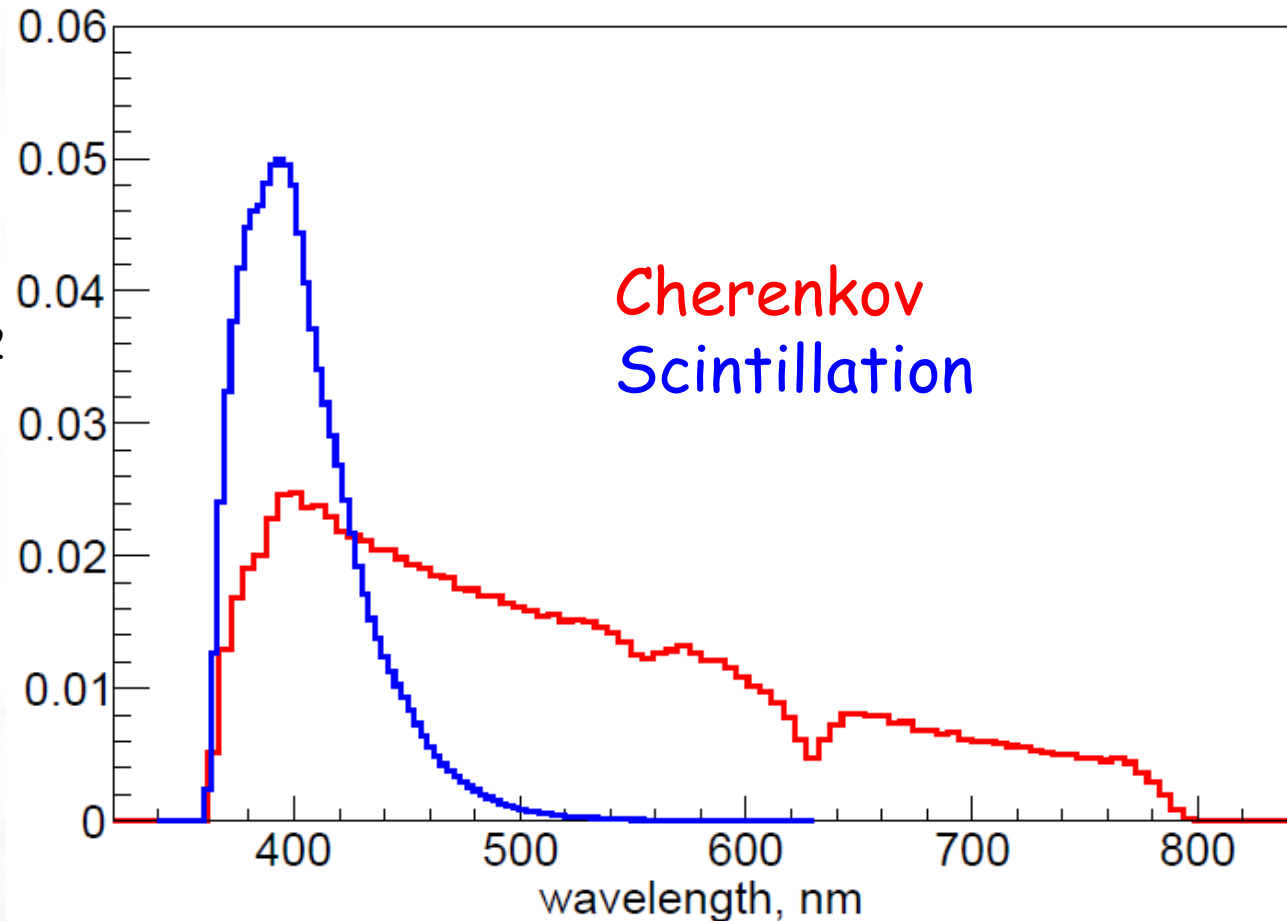
See T.Kaptanoglu et al  
PRD 101 (2020) 7, 072002

**The focus of this talk is on timing**

Many groups are exploring various aspects of che/sci separation

E.g. see also  
PRC95 (2017) 055801  
Eur.Phys.J. C77 (2017) no.12, 811  
NIMA 830 (2016) 303

There is more  
It's a hot field!



Scintillation emission is slower

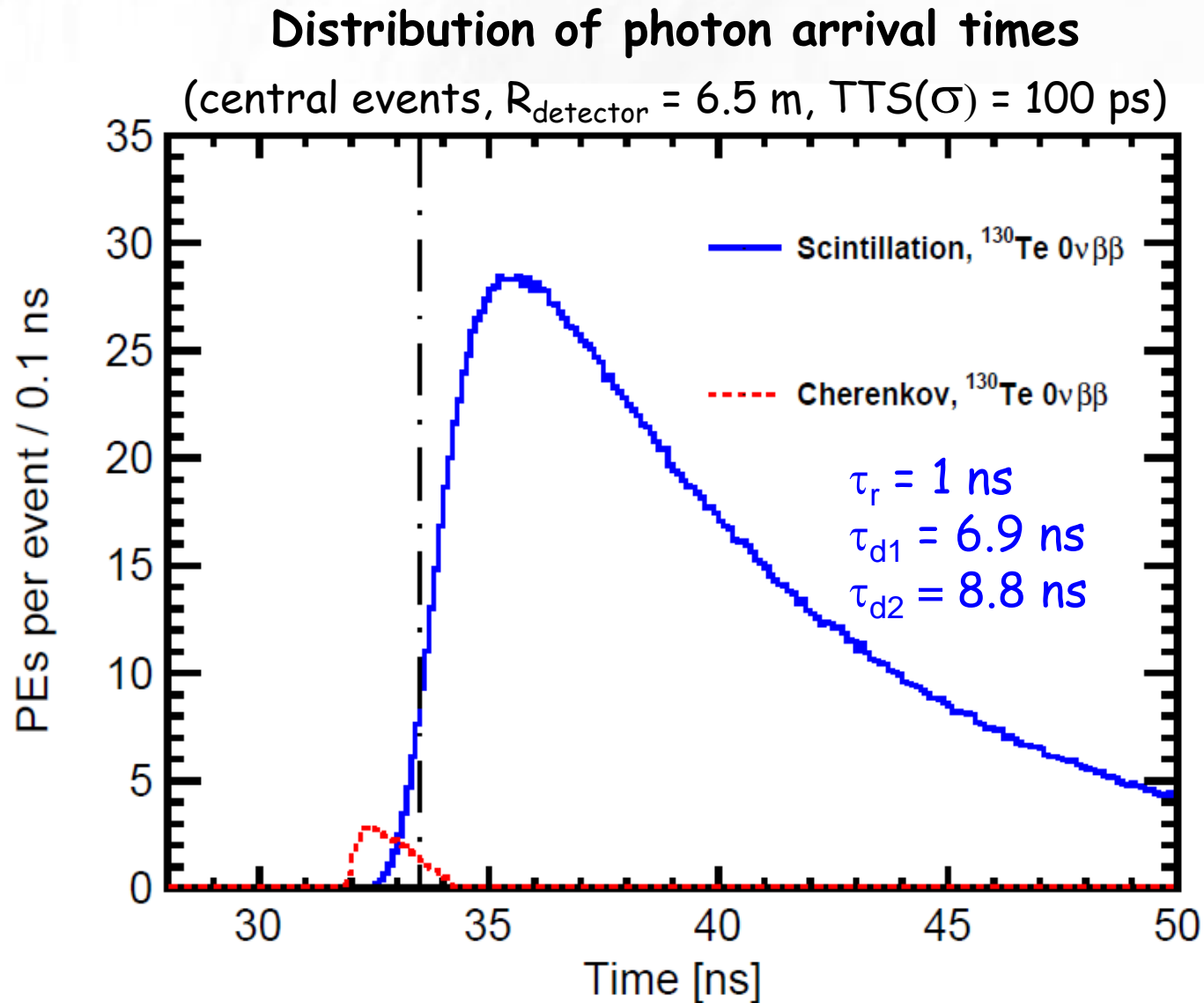
Longer (red) wavelengths travel faster

370 nm  $\rightarrow$  0.191 m/ns

600 nm  $\rightarrow$  0.203 m/ns

$\sim$ 2 ns difference over 6.5m distance

# Cherenkov Light Comes First



Cherenkov light arrives earlier



# LSND did separation of Cherenkov and scintillation light in a diluted scintillator

## Dilute scintillators for large-volume tracking detectors

R.A. Reeder, B.D. Dieterle, C. Gregory, F. Schaefer<sup>1</sup> and K. Schum

*University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131, USA*

W. Strossman

*University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, USA*

D. Smith

*Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ 86301, USA*

L. Christofek, K. Johnston<sup>2</sup>, W.C. Louis, M. Schillaci, M. Volta<sup>3</sup>, D.H. White and D. Whitehouse

*Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545, USA*

M. Albert and K. Yaman

*University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA*

C. Athanassopoulos, L.B. Auerbach, P. Hermida and D. Works

*Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, USA*

Received 2 April 1993

Dilute scintillation mixtures emit isotropic light for both fast and slow particles, but retain the Cherenkov light cone from fast particles. Large volume detectors using photomultipliers to reconstruct relativistic tracks will also be sensitive to slow particles if they are filled with these mixtures. Our data show that 0.03 g/l of b-PBD in mineral oil has a 2.4:1 ratio (in the first 12 ns) of isotropic light to Cherenkov light for positron tracks. The light attenuation length is greater than 15 m for wavelength above 400 nm, and the scintillation decay time is about 2 ns for the fast component. There is also a slow isotropic light component that is larger (relative to the fast component) for protons than for electrons. This effect allows particle identification by a technique similar to pulse shape discrimination. These features will be utilized in LSND, a neutrino detector at LAMPF.

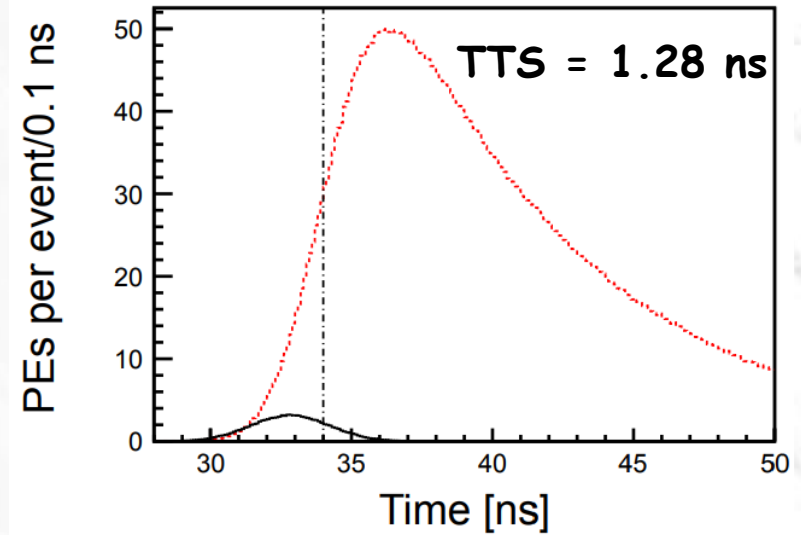
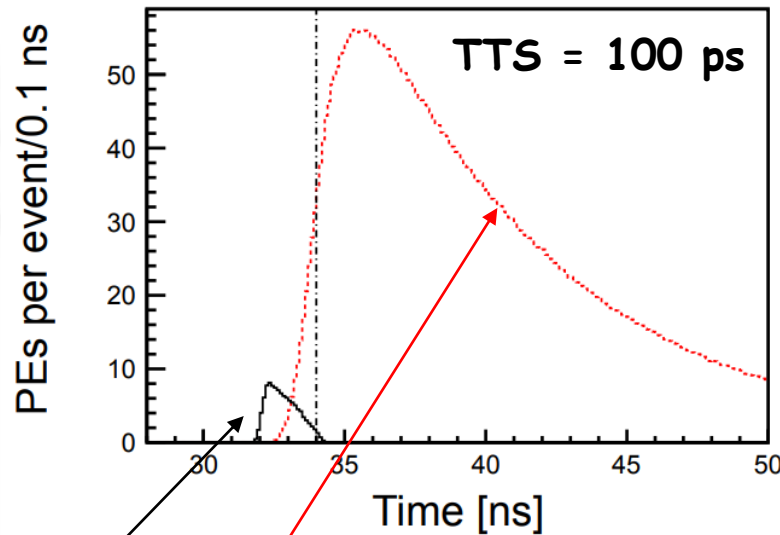
Che:Sci = 2.4:1



# Cherenkov/Scintillation Separation

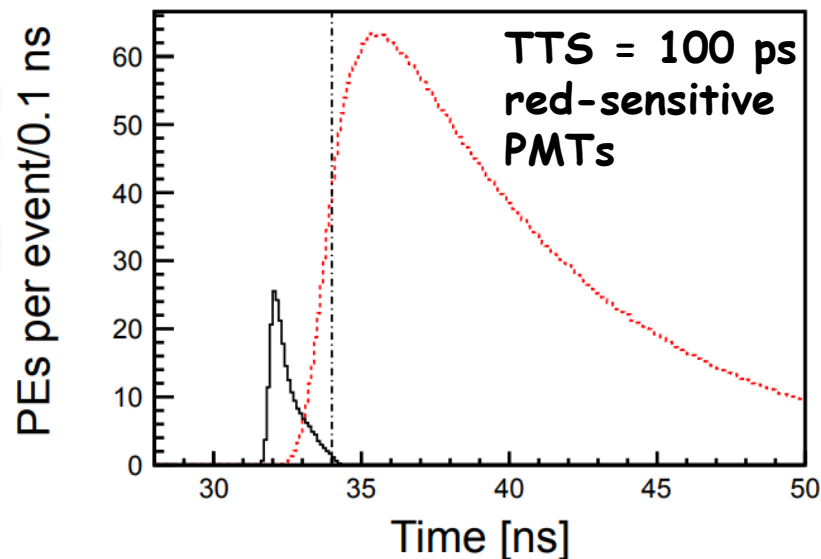
Simulation of a KamLAND-like detector  
non-diluted high light-yield scintillator

Photon arrival times for events originated at the center of the detector



Cherenkov

Scintillation

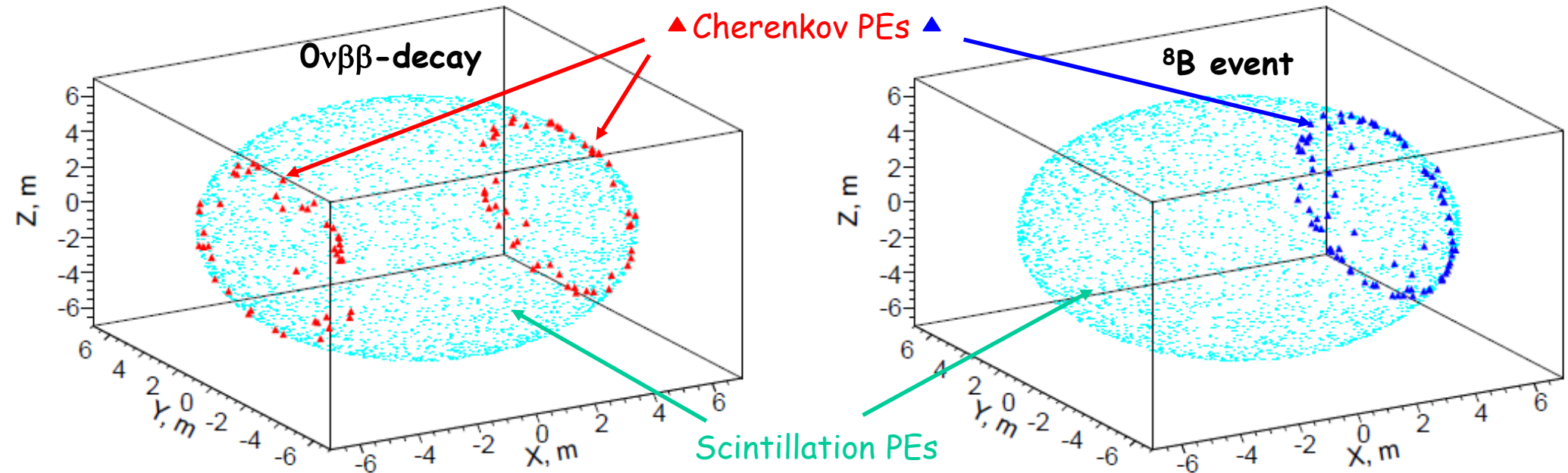


2014 JINST 9 P06012

# Event Topology

Idealized event displays

- no multiple scattering of electrons
- QE=30%
- no time cut on PE arrival time



Tagging Cherenkov photons would clearly separate signal and background

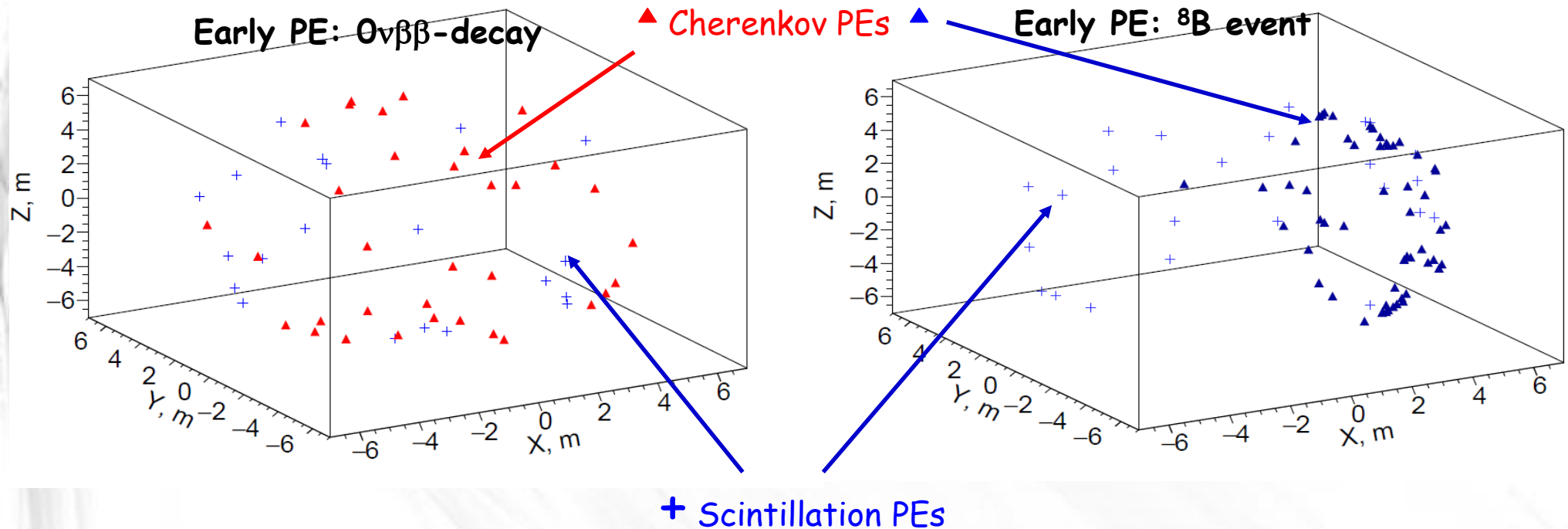
Potential markers to tag Cherenkov photons

- 1) Timing
- 2) Spectral sorting
- 3) Polarization

# Early Light Topology

## Realistic event displays

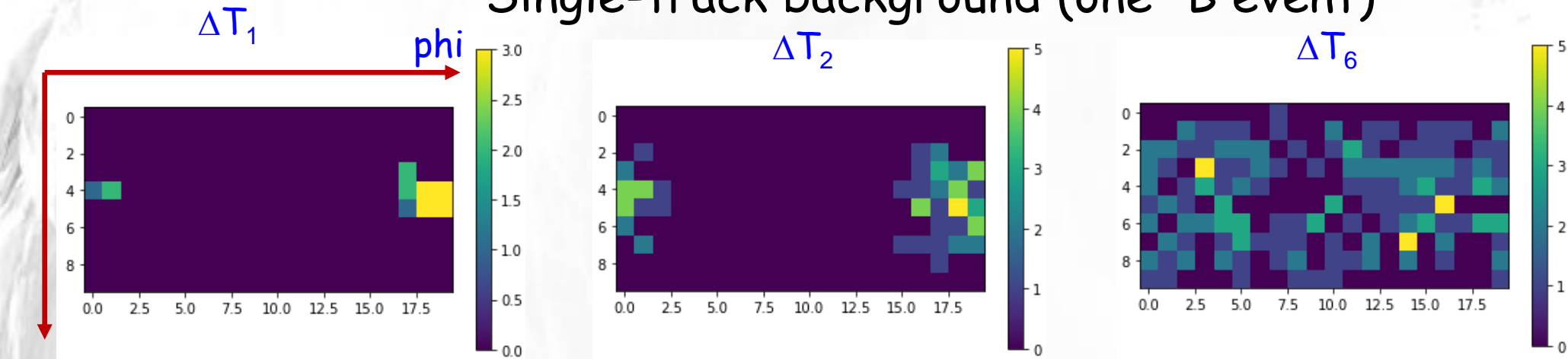
- full Geant4 simulation
- QE: **Ch $\sim$ 12%**, Sci $\sim$ 23% (modeled after KamLAND PMTs)
- early PEs only (first 2.5ns)



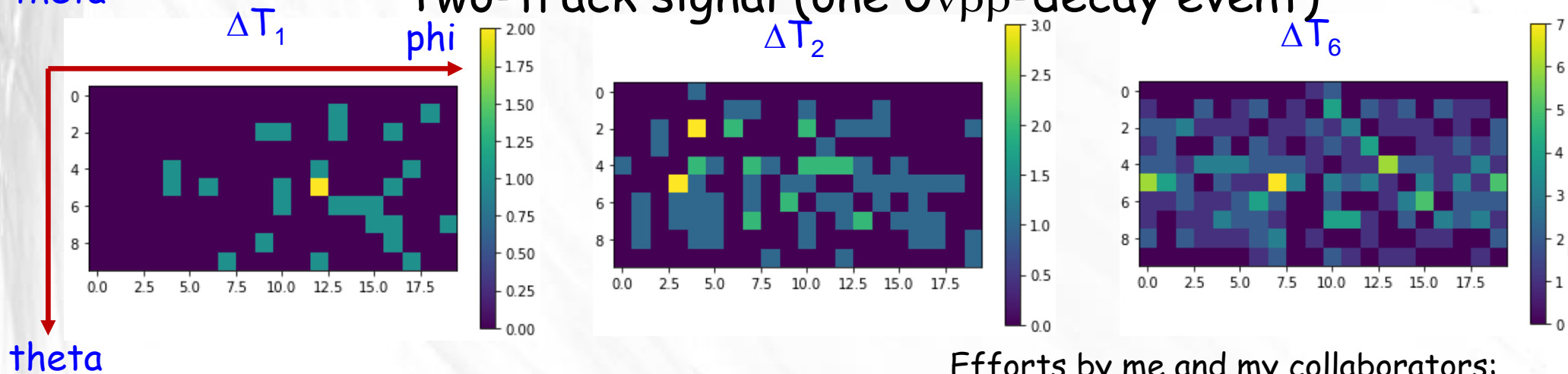
**Timing alone allows for getting a sample of PEs with high enough fraction of Cherenkov light to apply various pattern recognition algorithms to separate signal from background**

# Pattern Recognition Problem

Single-track background (one  $^8\text{B}$  event)



Two-track signal (one  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay event)



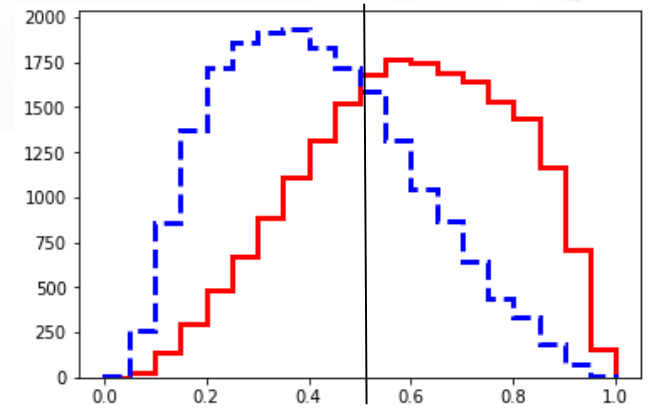
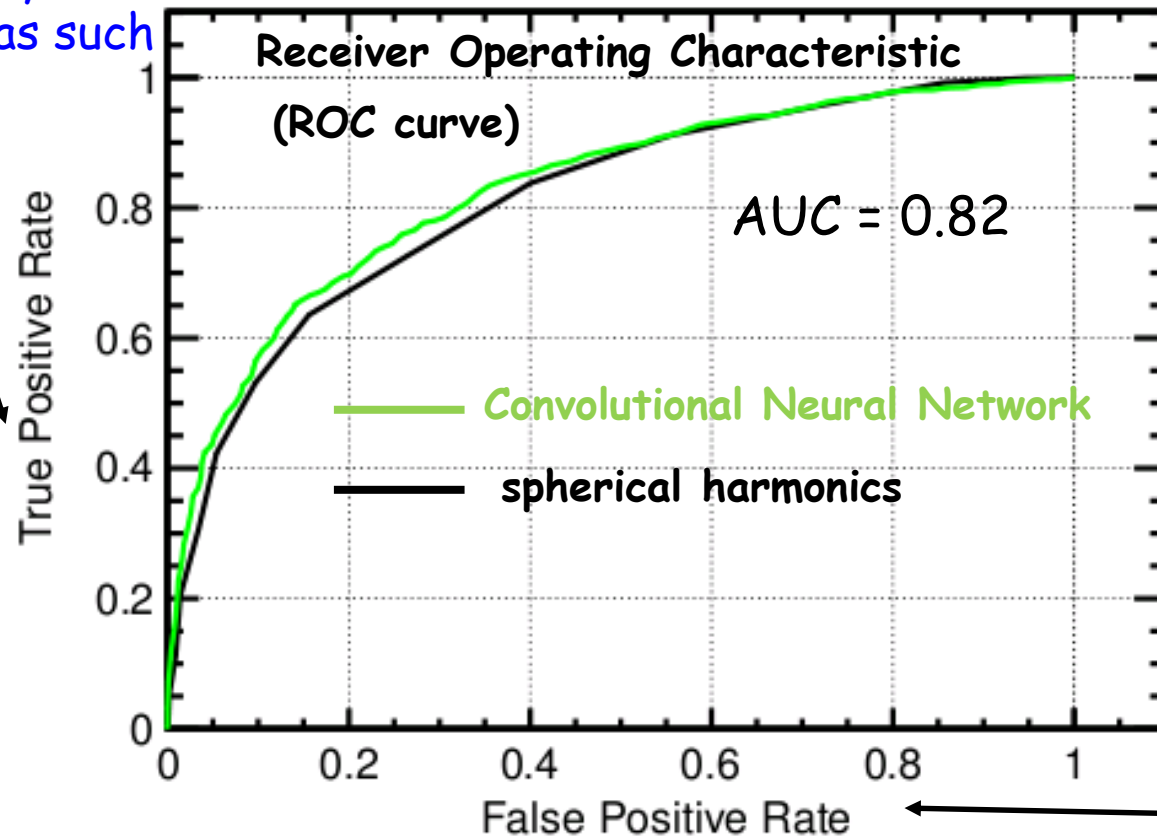
There are plenty ideas on how to “see”  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay in liquid scintillator via prompt directional Cherenkov light

Efforts by me and my collaborators:  
JINST 9 (2014) P06012  
NIMA 849 (2017) 102-111  
JINST 14 (2019) 02, P02005  
NIMA 947 (2019), 162604  
arXiv:1902.06912 (submitted to NIMA)  
Eur.Phys.J.C 80 (2020) 5, 416

# Which Pattern Recognition Works Best?

## $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay vs ${}^8\text{B}$ classification

Events at the center of the detector



- AUC of 1.0 means perfect reconstruction/classification
  - AUC of 0.5 means a random guess
  - Note: some fraction of  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decays have only one track above  $\text{Che}$  threshold or there is very small angle between two electrons
- ${}^8\text{B}$  event mislabeled as  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

When the vertex location is explicitly reconstructed separately, all neural networks (CNNs, PCA, Fully Connected, Locally Connected, and LSTM) have similar performance. Actual AUC depends on photo-coverage, QE, and vertex resolution.

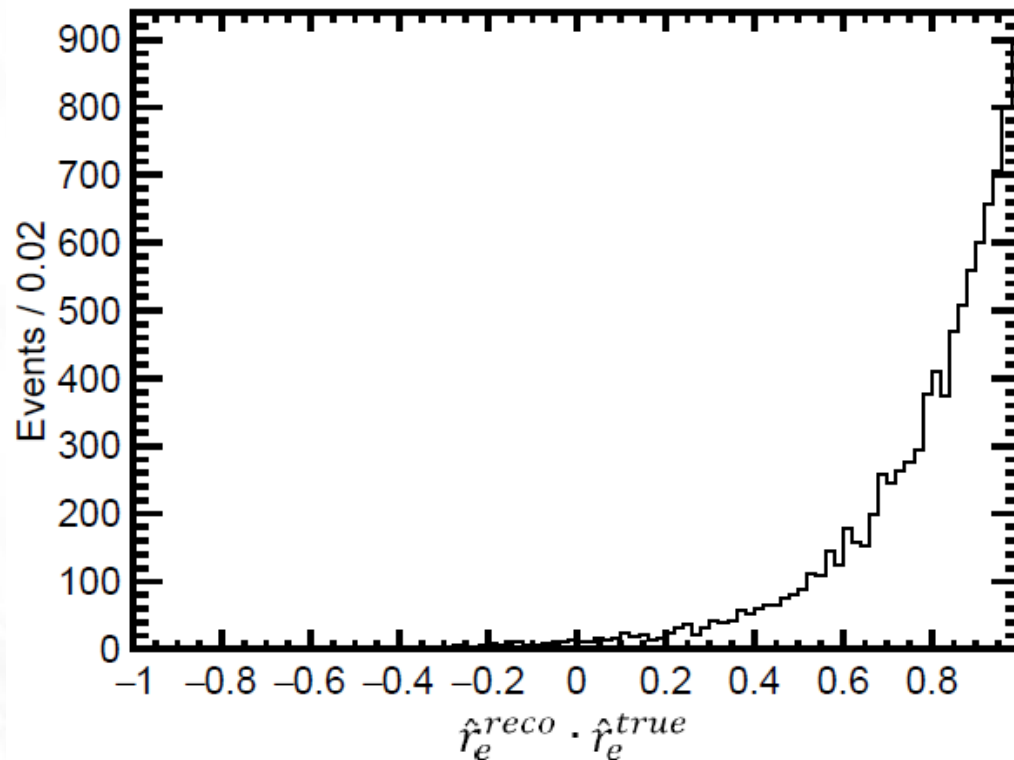
LSTMs work well without vertex reconstruction

Thank you to I. Vukotic and E. Toropov for introducing me to all these ML acronyms

# Don't Forget Directionality

$^8\text{B}$  neutrinos are coming from the Sun

Dot product of reconstructed and true direction of an electron



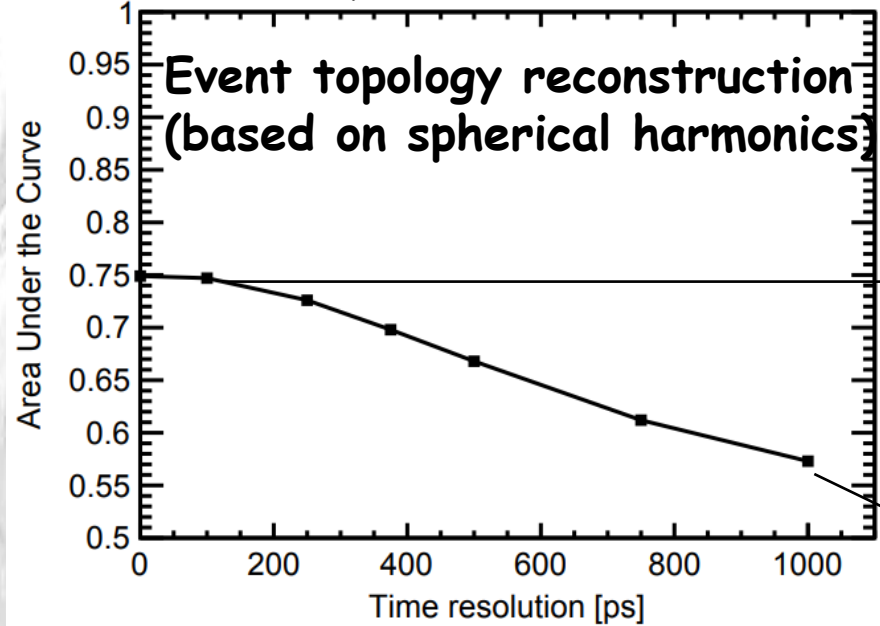
A. Elagin, R. Jiang  
arXiv:1902.06912

- Combined signal-background separation based on both topological and directionality reconstruction is subject of ongoing studies
- A lot depends on actual detector parameters (scintillator properties, quantum efficiency, photo-coverage, total fiducial volume, etc)

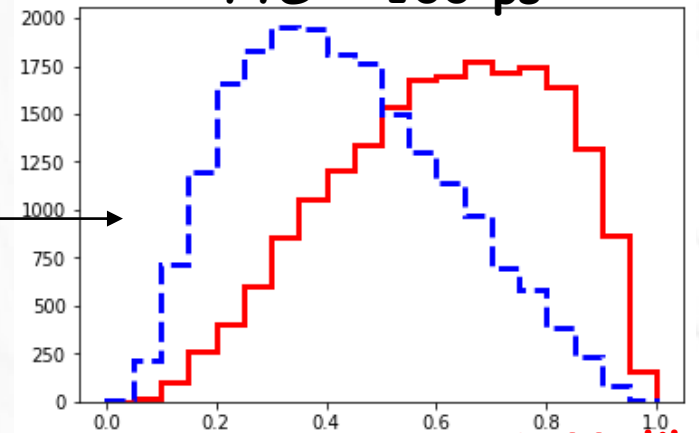
The goal of suppressing 50% of  $^8\text{B}$  background at 75% signal efficiency is within the reach

# How Good the Timing Should Be?

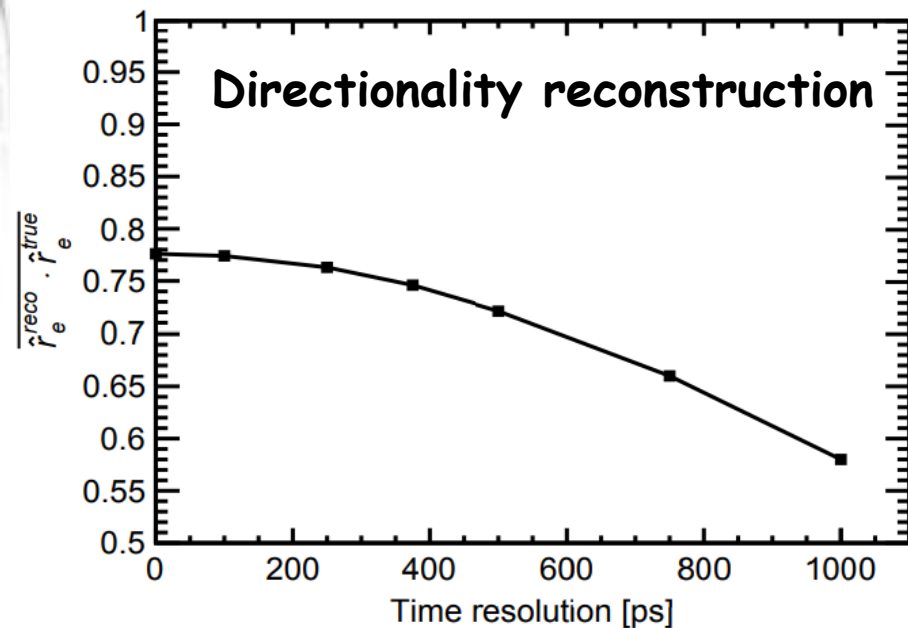
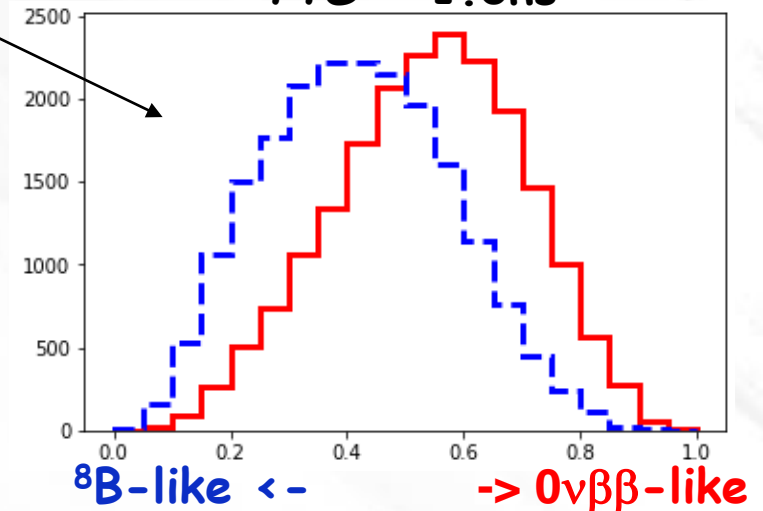
A. Elagin, R. Jiang  
submitted to NIM



Classifier output for  
TTS = 100 ps



Classifier output for  
TTS = 1.0ns



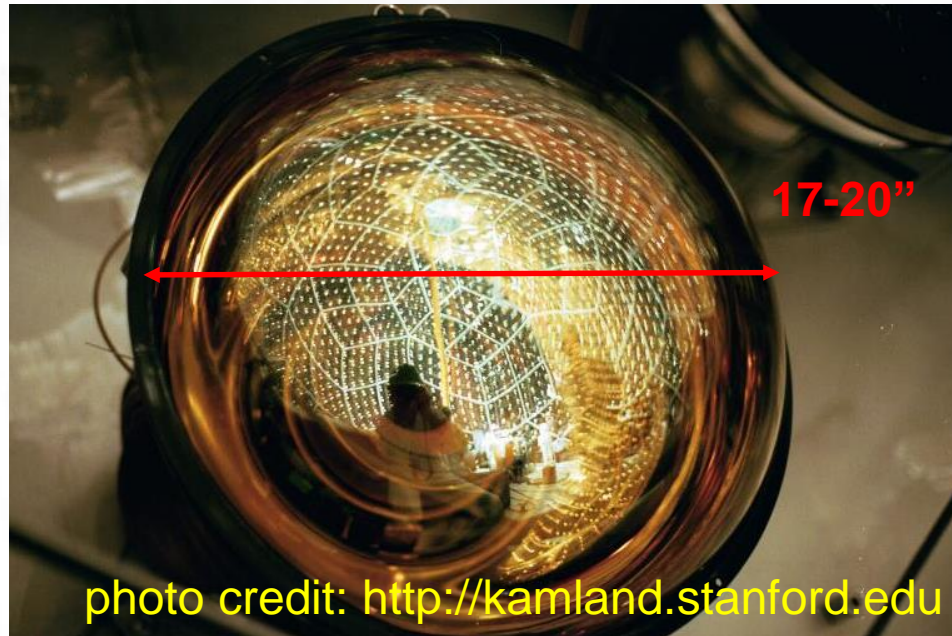
100 ps is close to optimal for a KamLAND-like detector



# Photo-Detector Candidates

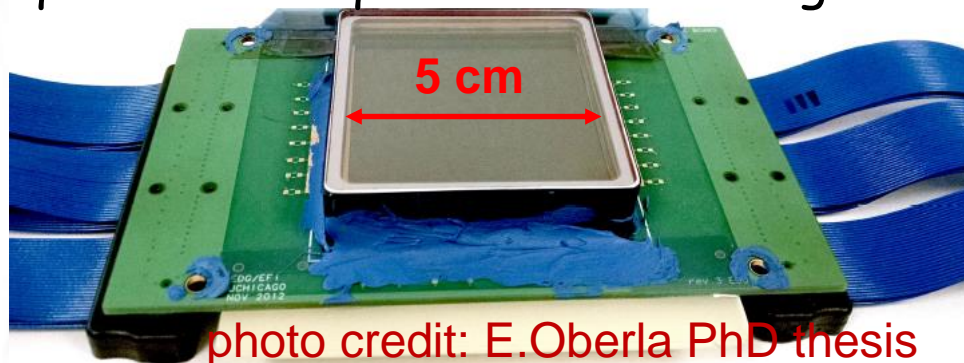
## 1) Regular PMTs

Large area, but slow...



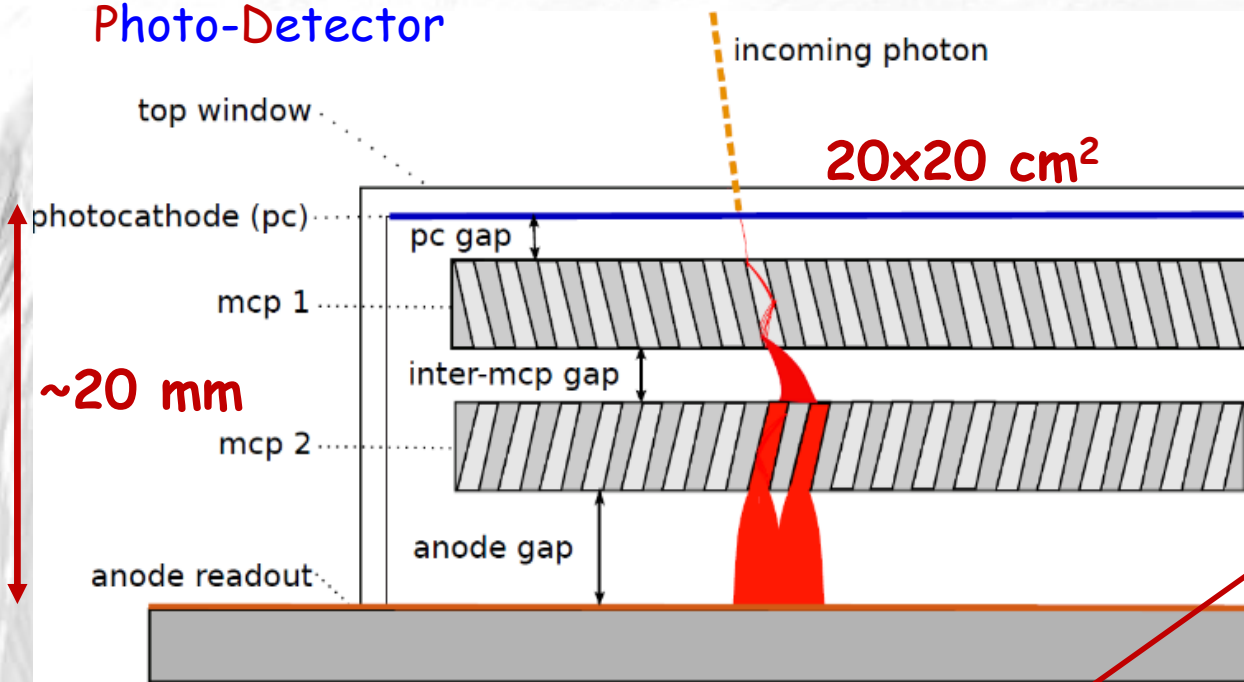
## 2) MCP-PMTs

Fast, but small...and not really available in quantities required to cover large areas

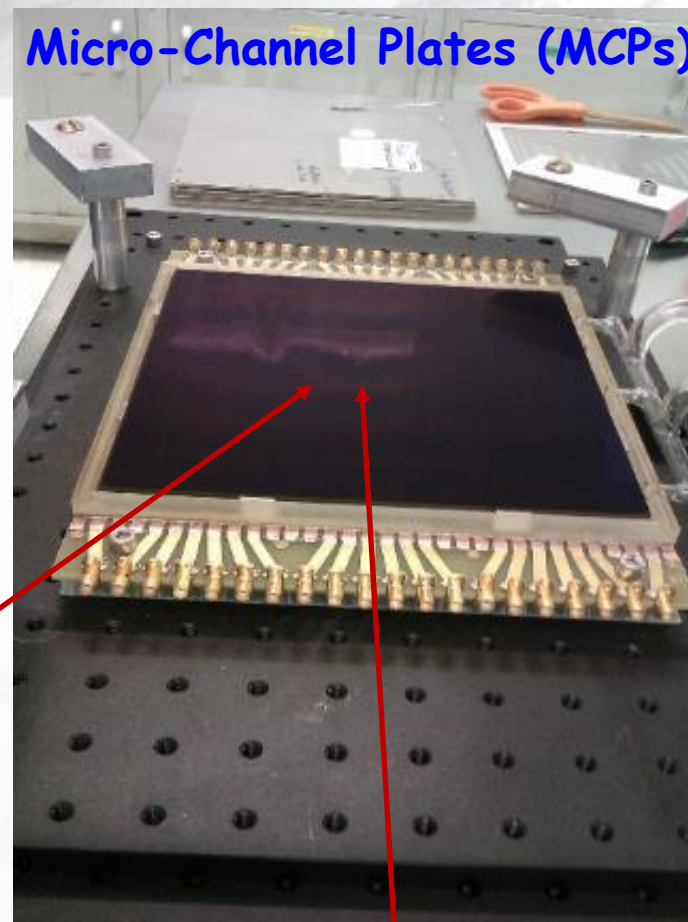


# LAPPD™

## Large-Area Picosecond Photo-Detector

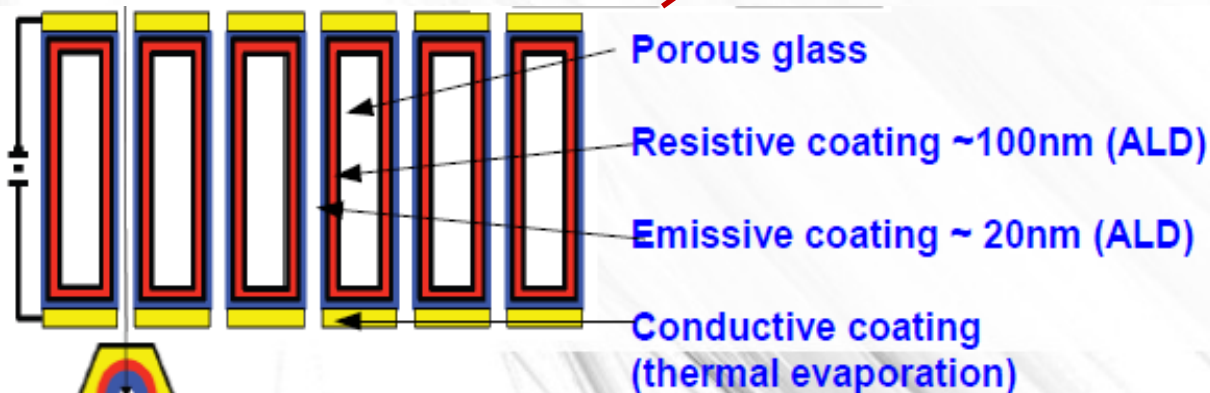


## Micro-Channel Plates (MCPs)



## Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD)

- J.Elam and A.Mane at Argonne (process is now licensed to Incom Inc.)
- Arradiance Inc. (independently)



## Micro-Capillary Arrays by Incom Inc.

- Material: borofloat glass
- Area: 8x8"
- Thickness: 1.2mm
- Pore size: 20 μm
- Open area: 60-74%

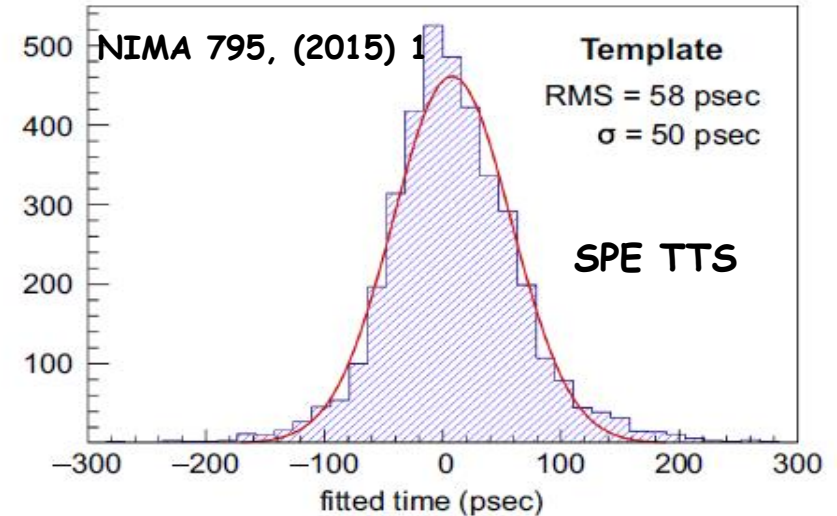
LAPPD™ is being commercialized by Incom Inc.

# LAPPD Timing Capabilities

There are two very distinct scenarios to define Transit Time Spread (TTS):

## 1) Single Photo-Electron (SPE TTS)

- applications with a low number of photons per surface area (e.g. neutrino experiments)
- 50 ps has been demonstrated
- can be improved with smaller pores size



## 2) Multi Photo-Electrons (MPE TTS)

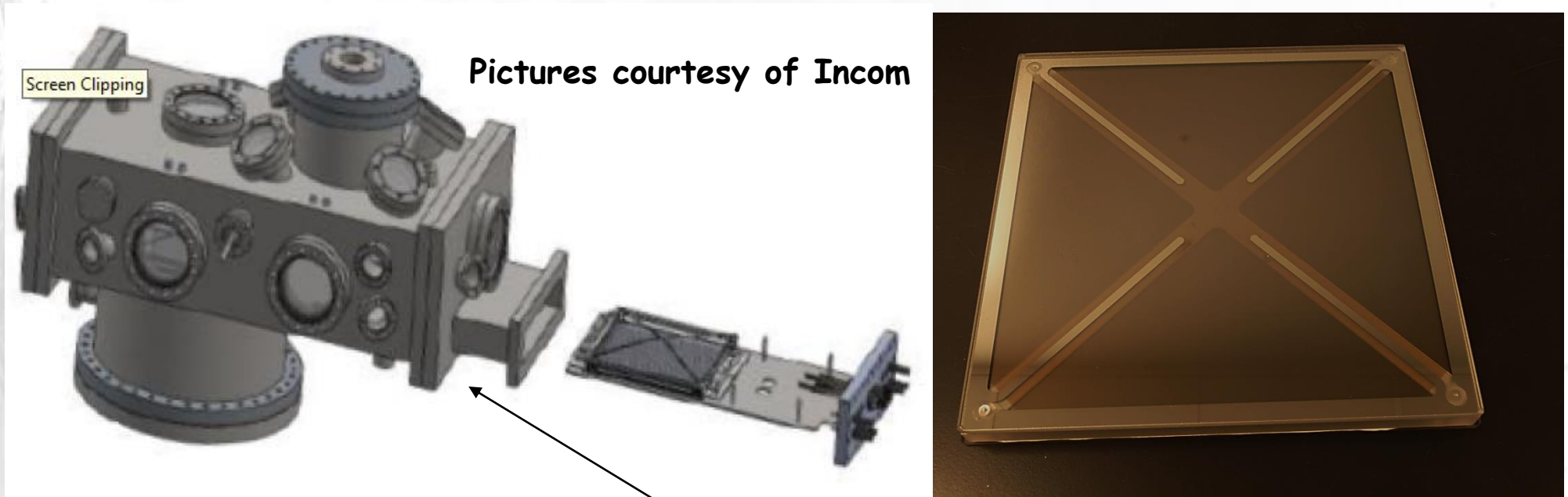
- applications with lots of light (e.g. Cherenkov light from charged particle on the front window)
- effort is ongoing to measure MPE TTS

Oshima et al demonstrated  $\sim 5$  ps MPE TTS for MCP-PMTs

Anatoly Ronzhin and Caltech team got  $\sim 7$  ps at the Testbeam at Fermilab

# Vacuum Transfer

LAPPDs are now routinely produced using this process at Incom Inc



## Industry standard vacuum transfer process

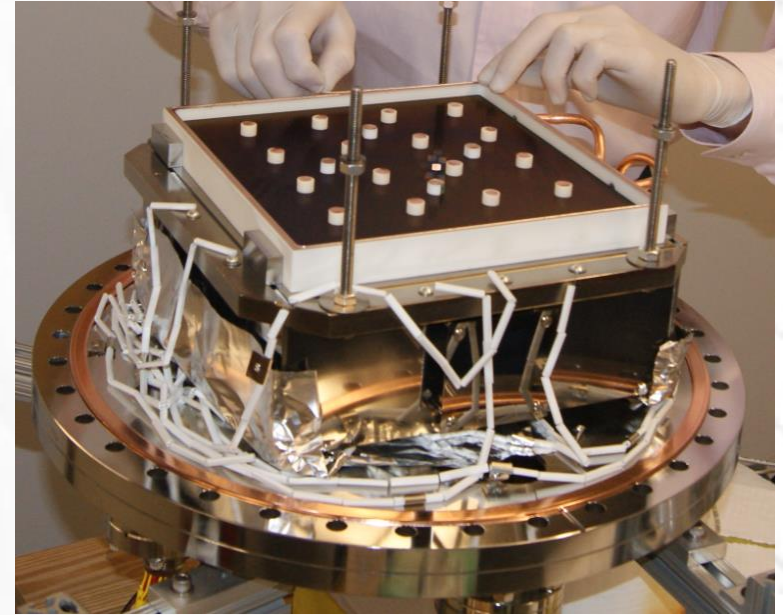
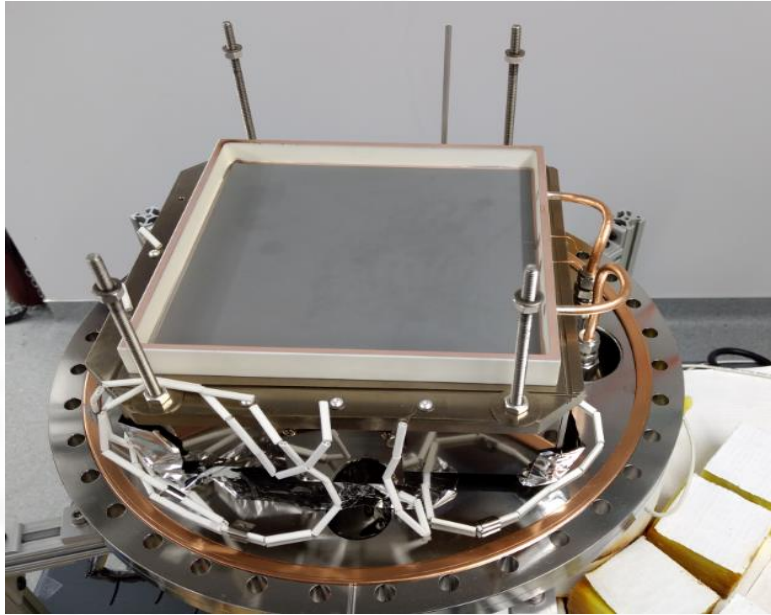
- Photocathode is synthesized in a separate volume of the assembly chamber
- The window is transferred in ultra-high vacuum to be hermetically sealed over the pre-assembled MCP-Anode stack-up ("tile")

# Can We Make LAPPDs in Batches Like PMTss?

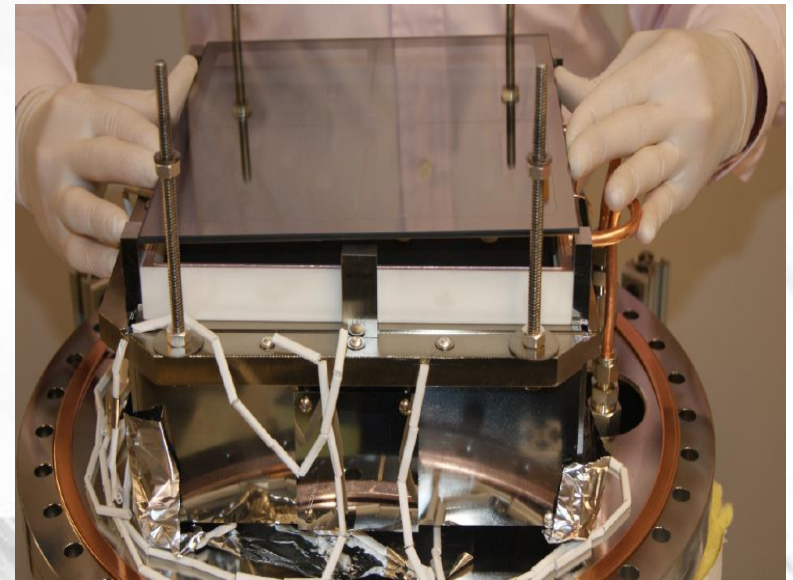
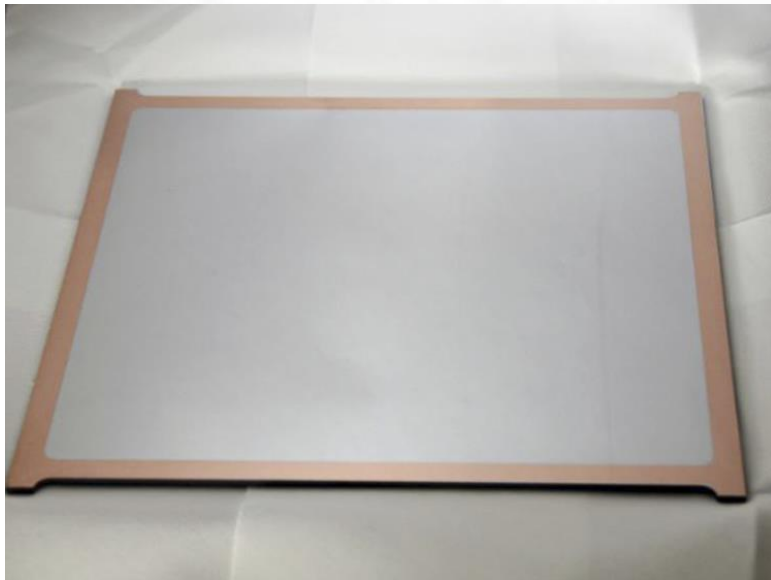


Chicago group has been exploring if a process without vacuum transfer can be inexpensive and easier to scale for a very high volume production

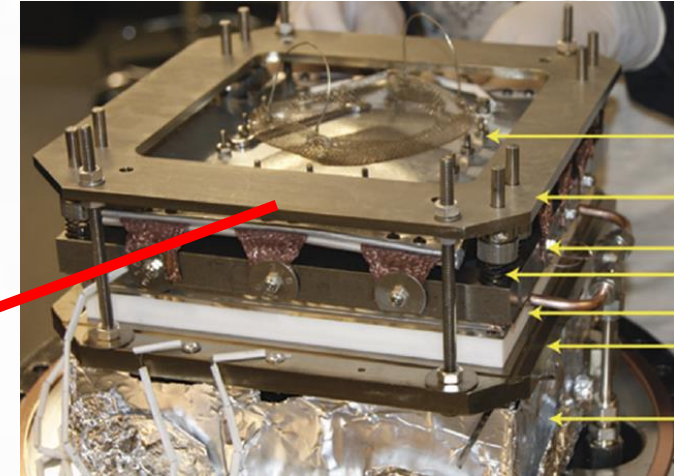
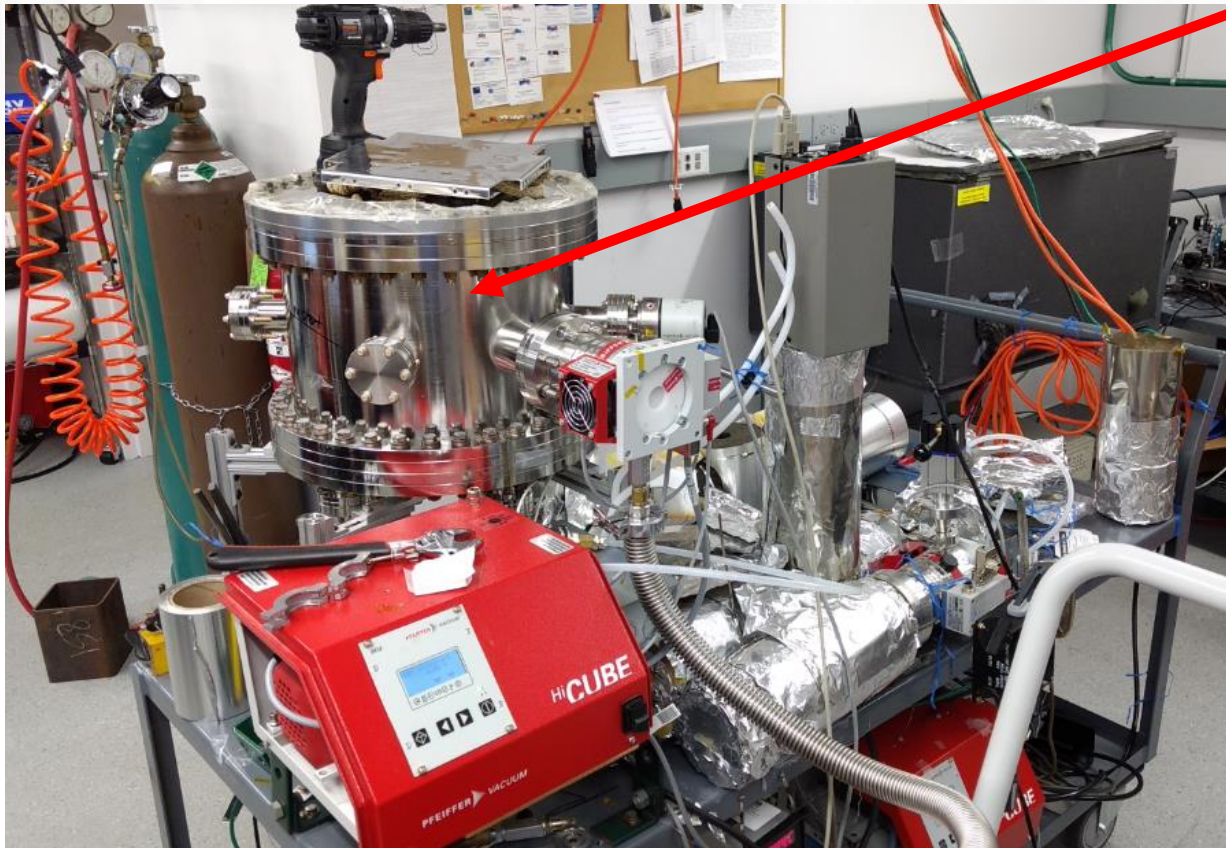
# Air-Transfer



Transfer the window with a pre-deposited Sb precursor in air to synthesize photocathode after hermetic package is formed



# Air-Transfer Processing Chamber

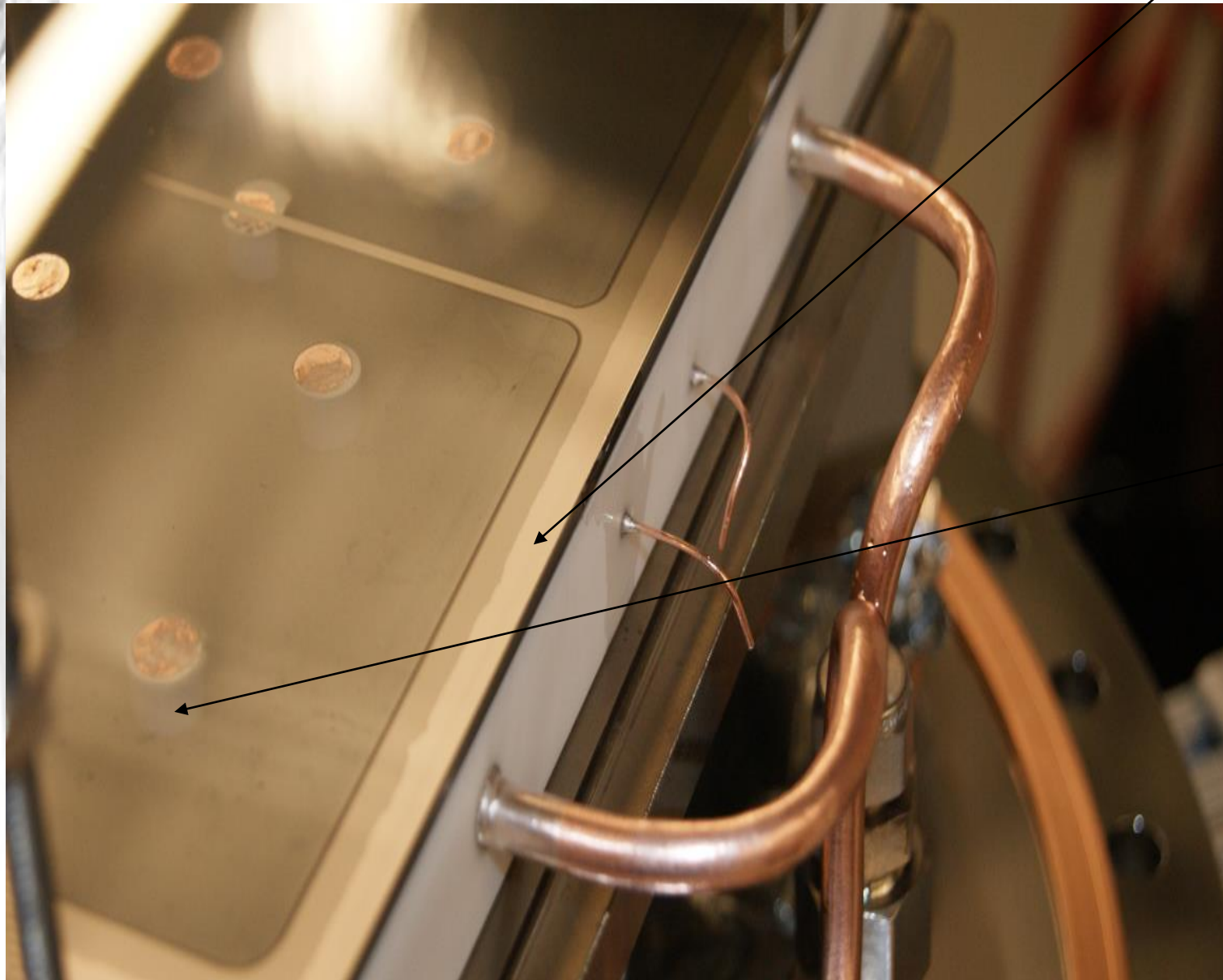


Dual vacuum system  
Heaters are around the tile, not around the vacuum vessel

# After Bakeout and Hermetic Seal

Ultra-sensitive ( $\sim 10^{-12}$  cc/s of He) check for leaks can be done at this step

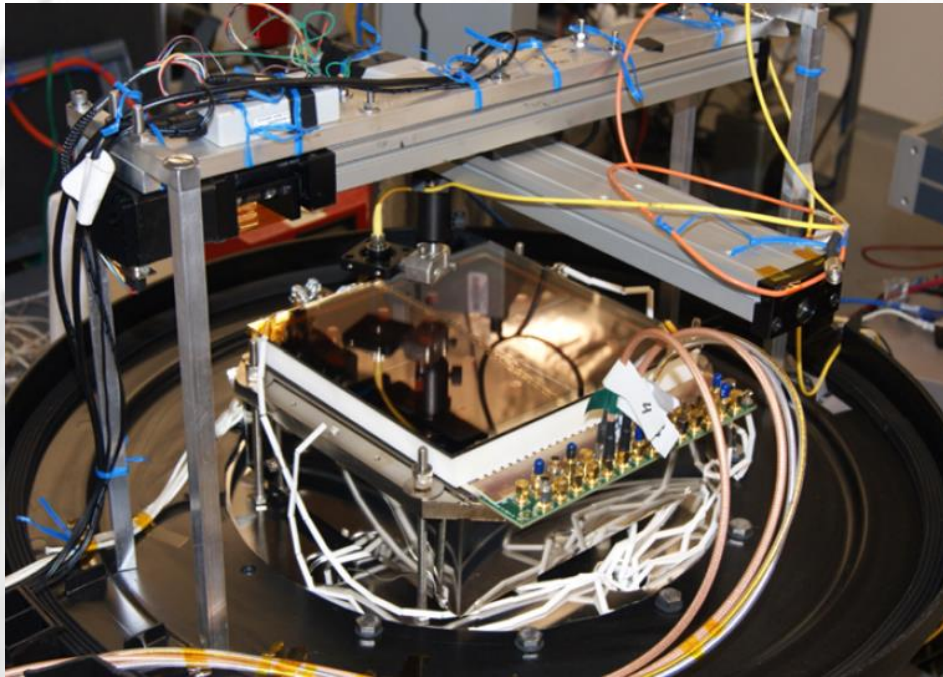
Indium seal line  
(The most tricky part. A lot of effort has gone into development of a robust hermetic packaging.)



Buttons appear gray/white color (view through a window with a thin Sb layer)

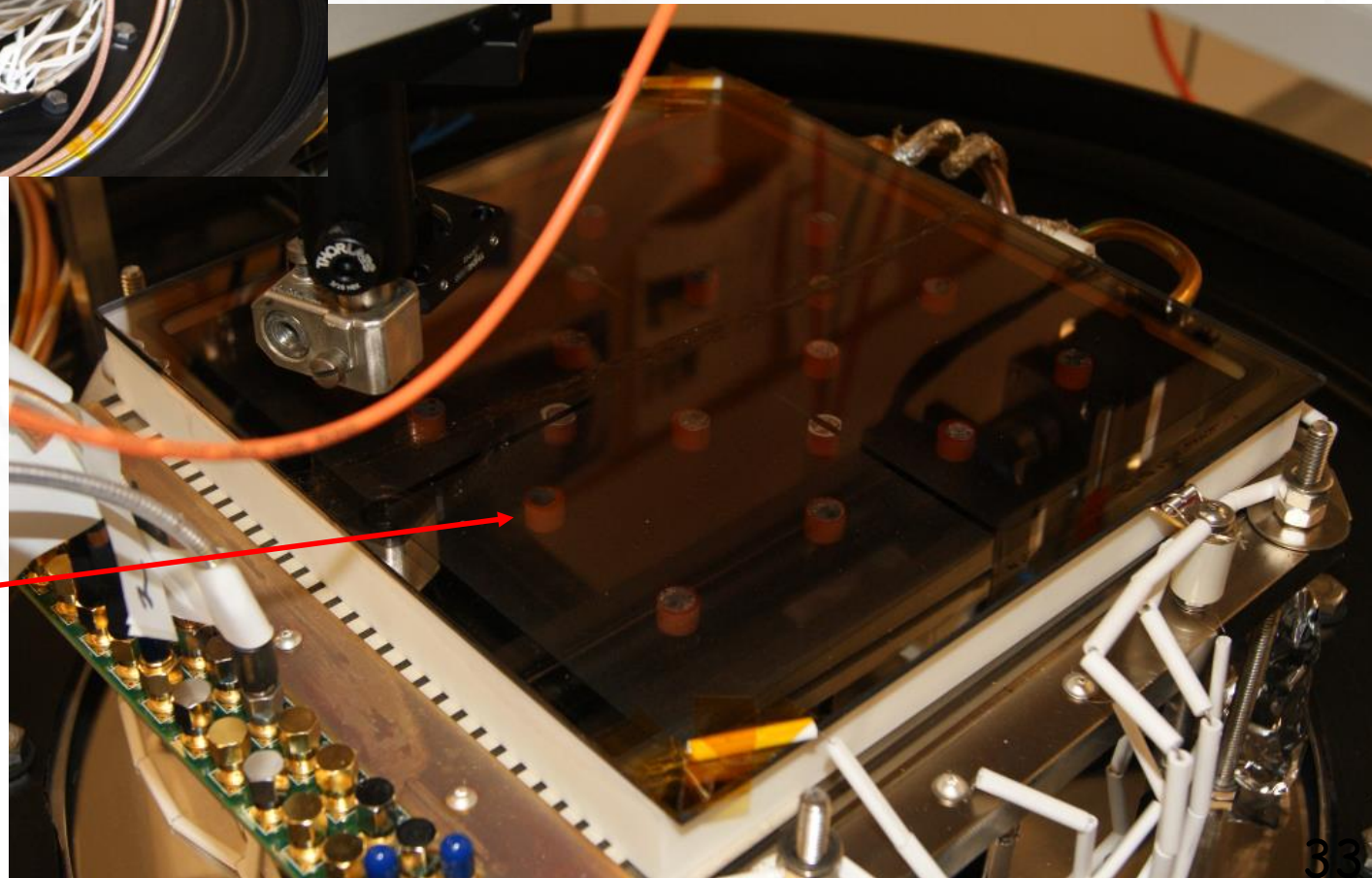


# Photocathode Synthesis

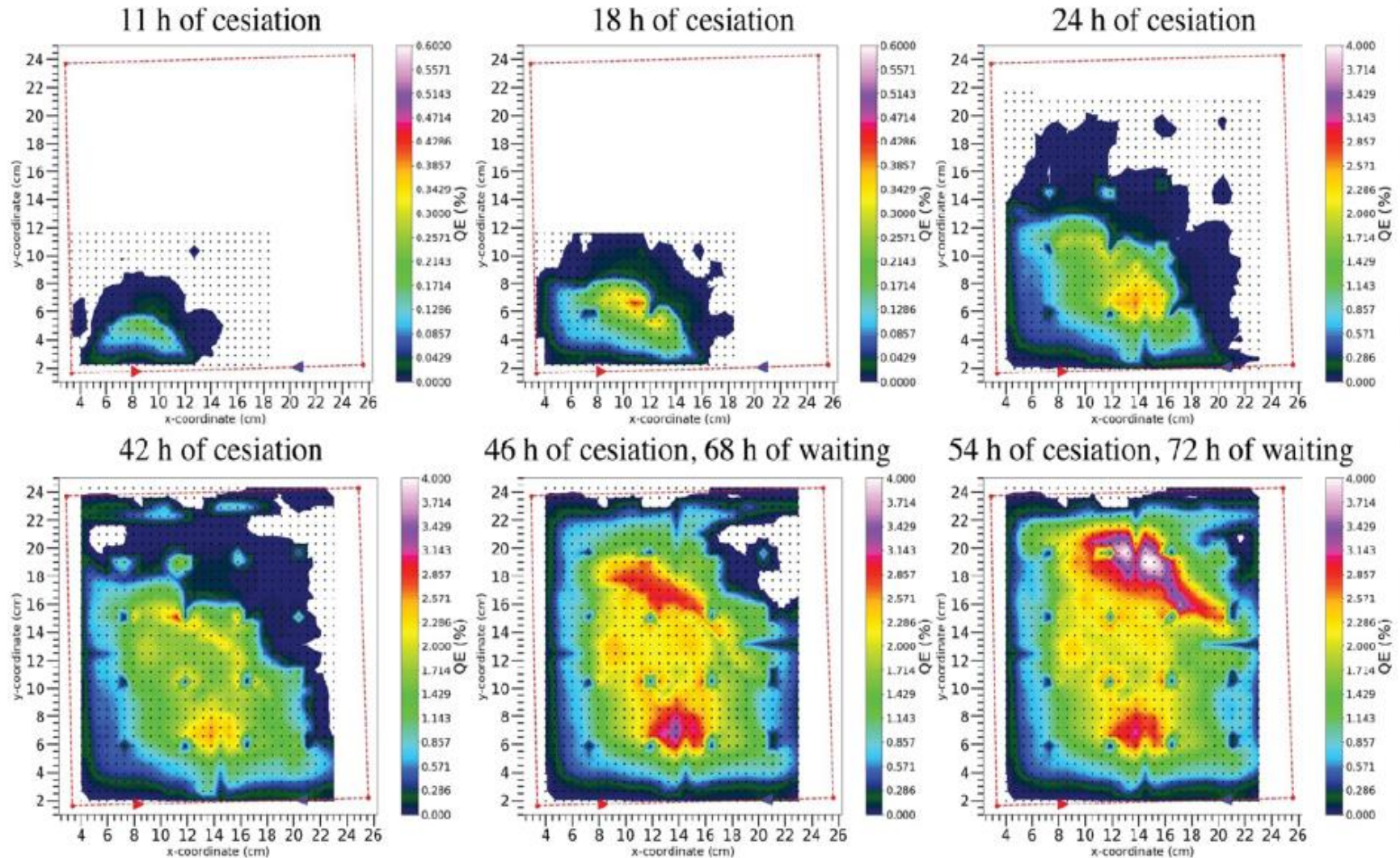


In-situ photocathode synthesis  
with full access to the detector

Note reddish color of  
the buttons appearance  
(view through a window  
with Cs-Sb layer)



# Air-Transfer Photocathode



Chemistry of photocathode synthesis using Sb in equilibrium with Cs is well known

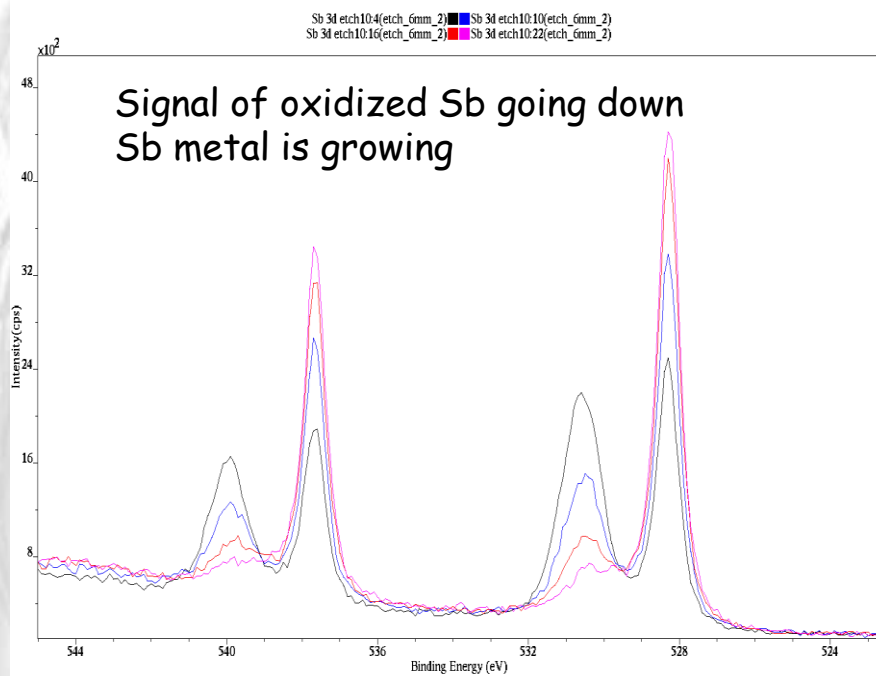
- J.M. Barois et al, Mater. Chem. Phys. **24** (1989) 189, Mater. Chem. Phys. **30** (1991) 7

Making photocathode after Sb exposure to air is a well established industry process

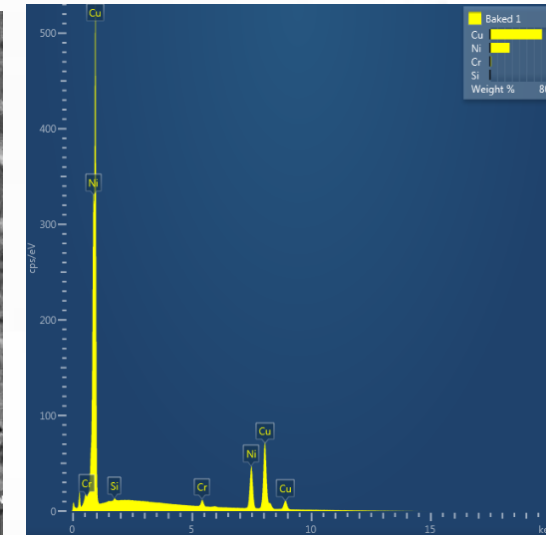
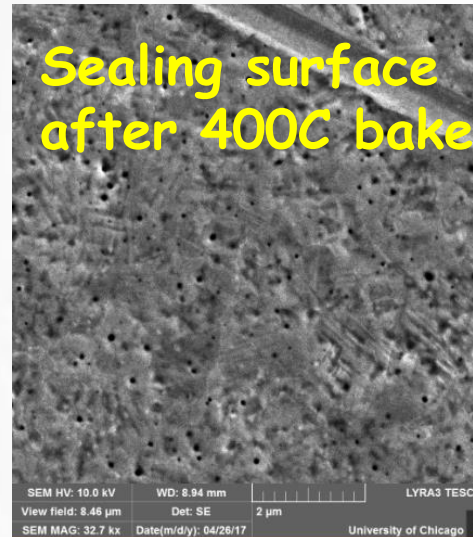
- MELZ-FEU Ltd., Zelenograd, Russia, catalog item FEU-527
- Hamamatsu [NIMA **970** (2020) 163373]

# Material Characterization

## XPS



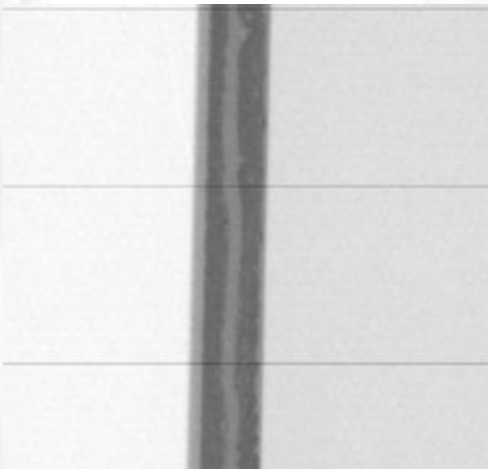
## SEM and EDS



(Very Good) Optical  
Microscope

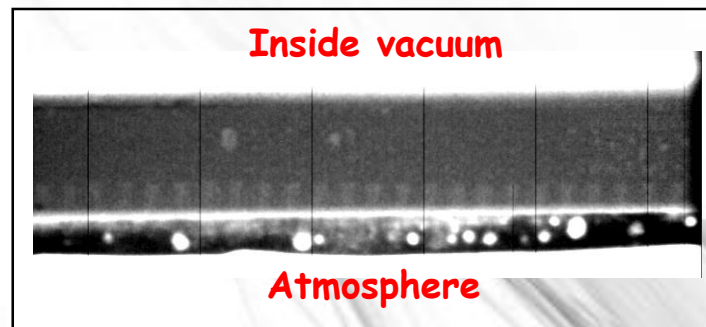


## X-ray

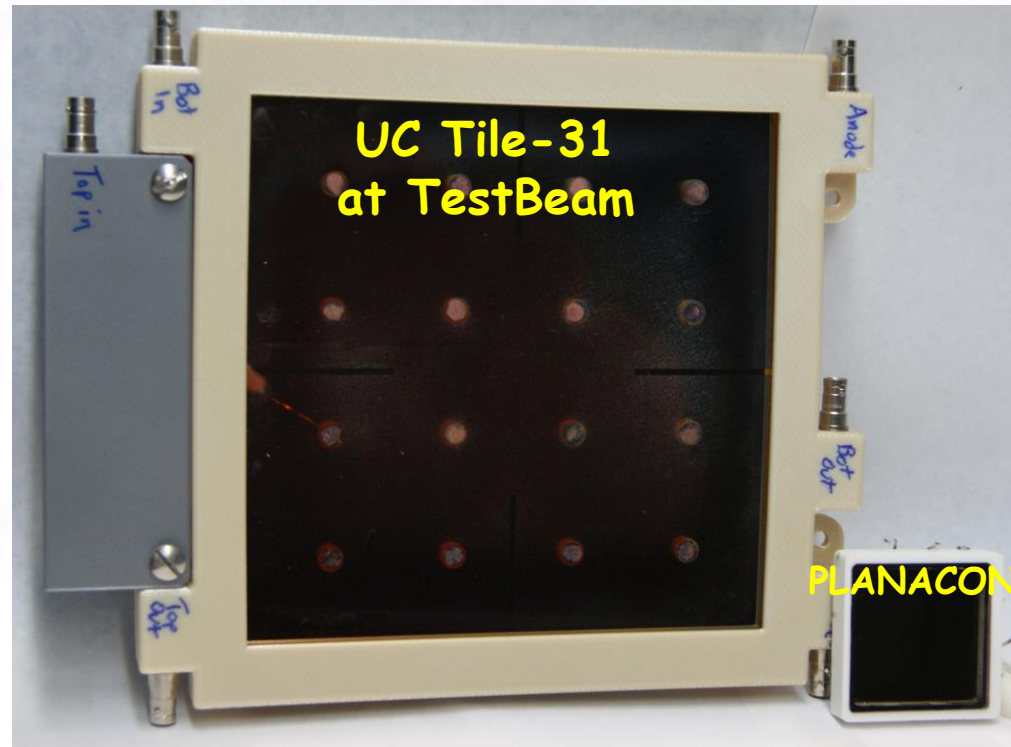


Turning (very) good recipes  
into well understood processes

X-ray showing continuity and  
quality of indium in capillary seal



# Tile-31



E. Angelico, A. Elagin, H.J. Frisch, E. Spieglan, B.W. Adams, M.R. Foley, M.J. Minot, "Air-Transfer Production Method for Large-Area Picosecond Photodetectors", Rev.Sci.Instrum. **91** (2020) 5, 053105

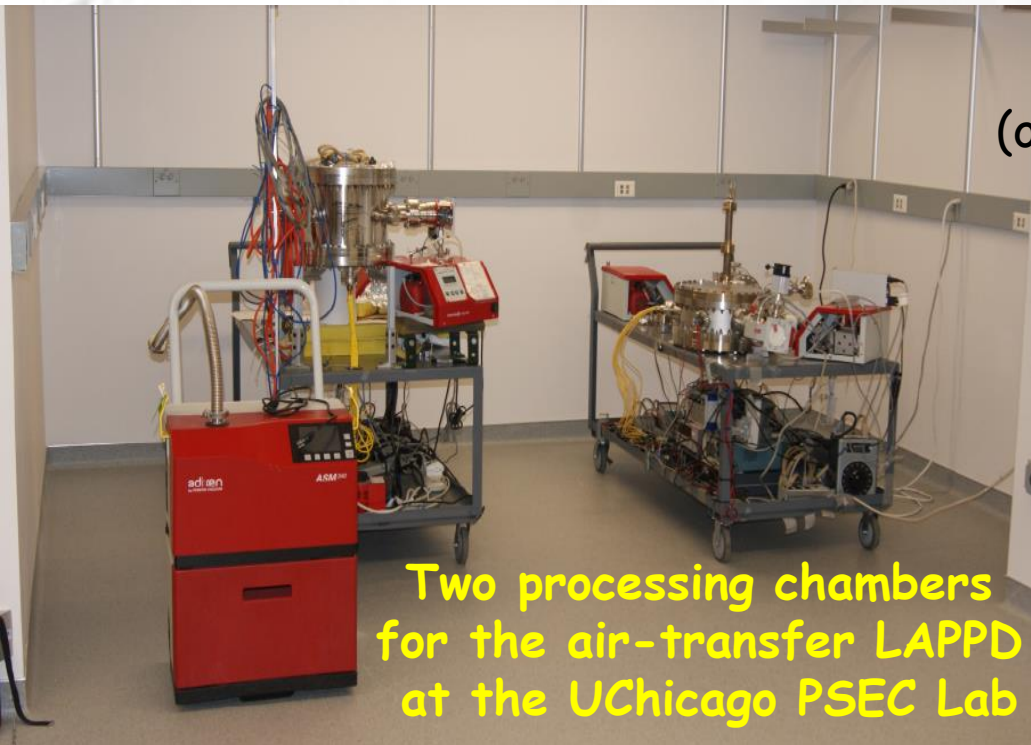
## This was not a competition with industry

- The entire time we worked closely with our industry partners from Incom Inc
- We took a risky R&D path while Incom were focusing on another difficult and very important task - making LAPPDs available by scaling up the vacuum-transfer process to an unprecedented 8x8" format

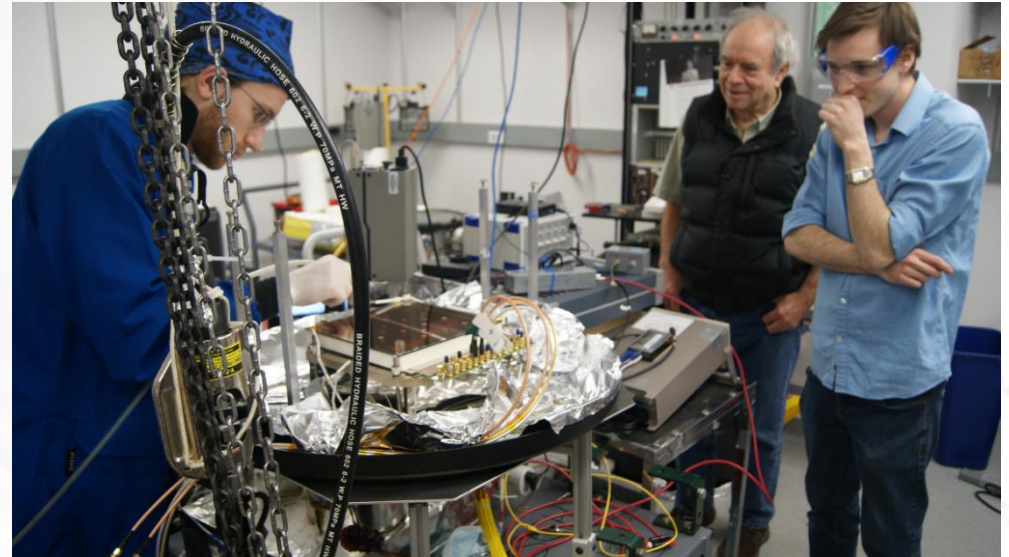
# Towards Batch Production

UC Team:

Evan Angelico, Henry Frisch, Eric Spieglan,  
and AE behind the camera  
(only 75% of the group can be on the same photo)



Two processing chambers  
for the air-transfer LAPPD  
at the UChicago PSEC Lab



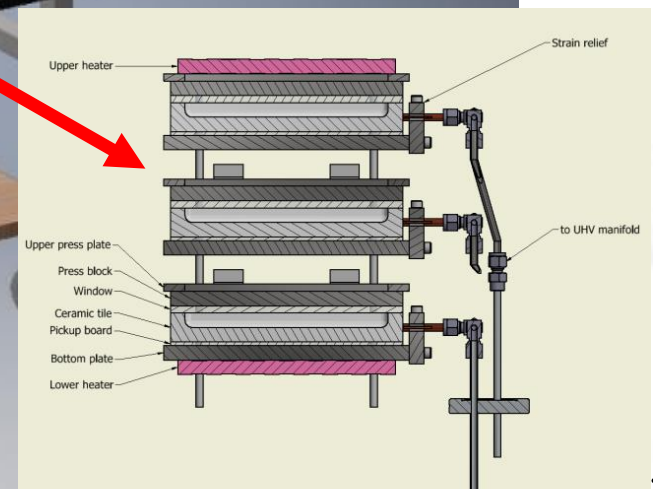
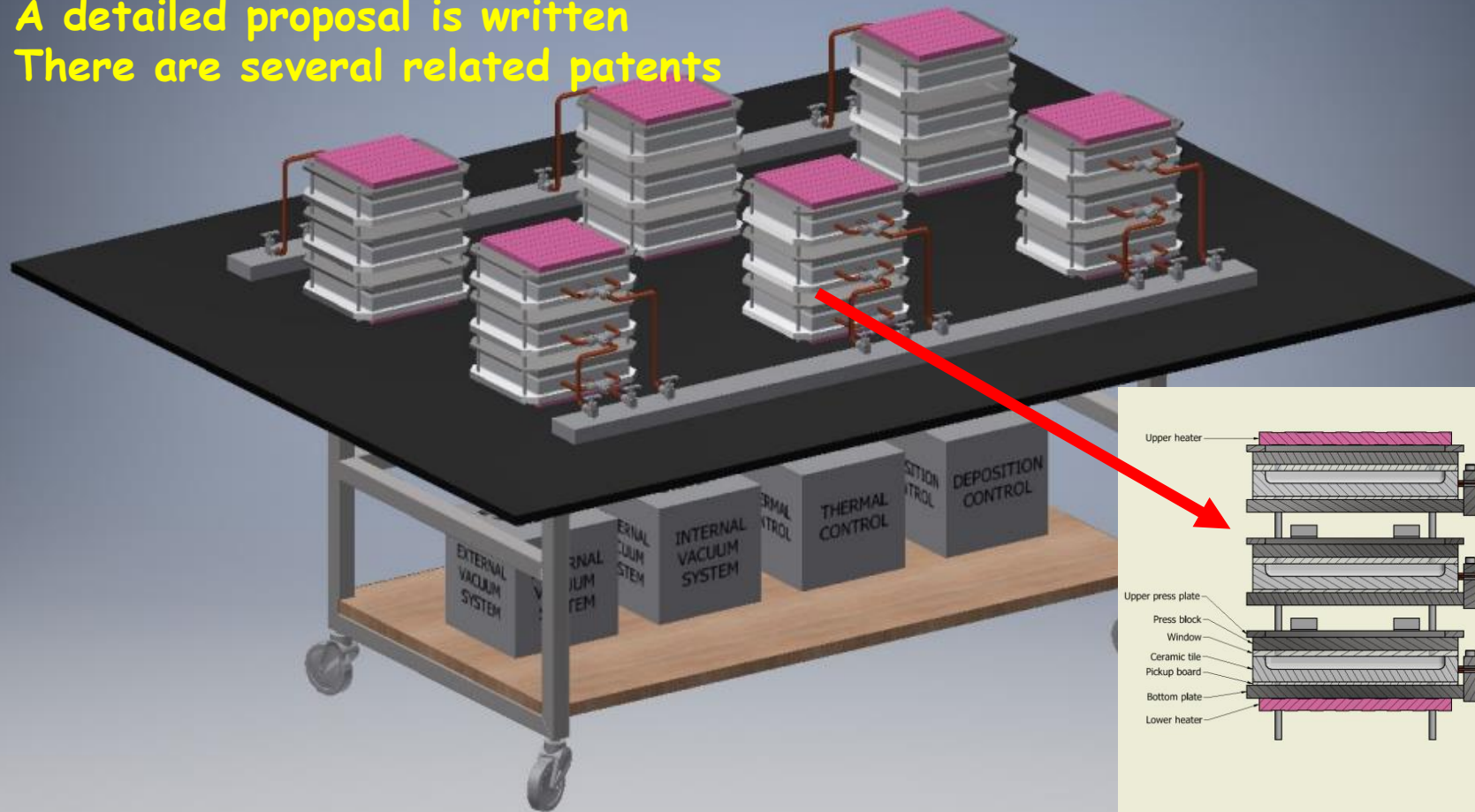
- I believe that as a small team at a university settings we have gone as far as we could
- Feasibility of using air-transfer for LAPPD production has been demonstrated
- Optimization is still to be done, but
- There are no showstoppers

# Proposal

- I would like to bring the UC processing chamber to Fermilab
- Optimize process for single tile production
- Build an 18-tiles production table
- Transfer the technology to industry so that we can focus on how to use LAPPDs for new discoveries

## We have a plan

- A detailed proposal is written
- There are several related patents



It's not a substitute for industry development, it's building a bridge

# How Large the Effort Would Be?

A relatively small-size operation is required

## People

- 1 Engineer (~75% FTE)
- 2 Experienced Techs (full time)
- 1 Postdoc (mostly TestBeam and LAPPD applications)
- 1 Junior Tech (part time, mostly to help with Testbeam)

## Equipment

- For a 3-year period, MCPs would be about half of the total price tag for the hardware
- The other half is a typical cost of building a mid-size vacuum system

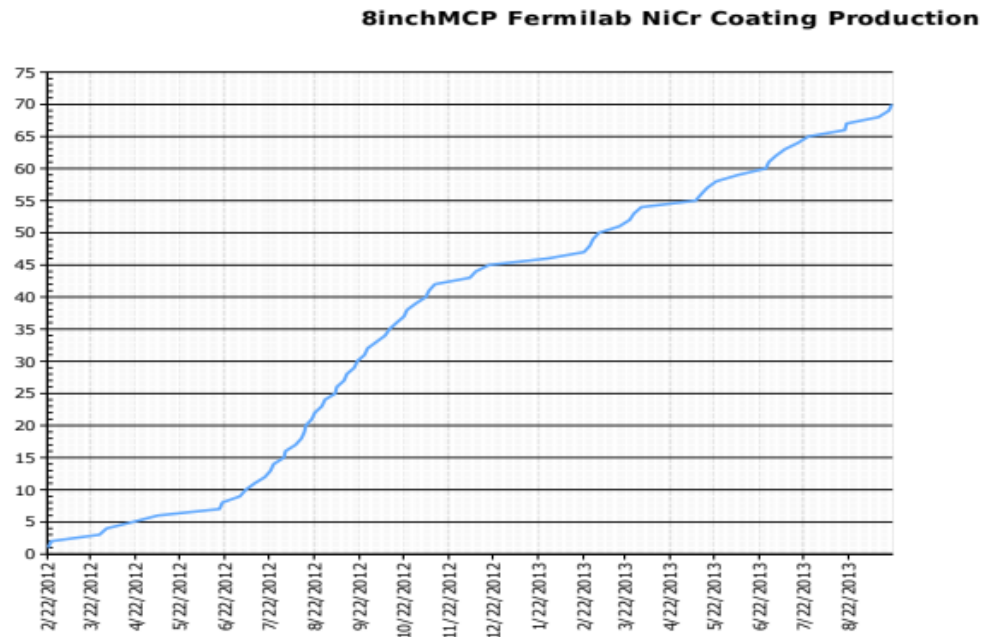
## Important clarifications

- It's a project with an end day in about 3 years
- That's the time for the bridge
- The 18-tile production table is just a prototype for industry to pick up and scale-up further
- The goal is to enable an industrial yield of up to 100 LAPPDs/week
- The goal is NOT to turn Fermilab into an LAPPD factory

# Why at Fermilab?

## MCP electroding at Fermilab - the week of Sep 24 2013

Eileen Hahn, P. Murat



**Over 70 large-size 8x8" MCP were electroded by Eileen Hahn, thank you!**

**Fermilab has already played a major role in LAPPD development  
(many thanks to Pasha Murat and Erik Ramberg)**



# Why at Fermilab?

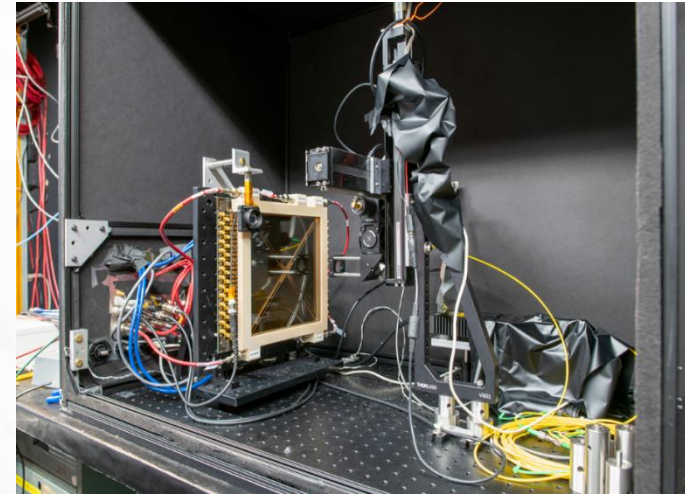
LAPPD coating chamber at Lab 7



Precision welding of vacuum components for Cs source



Dark box test setup at Lab 6

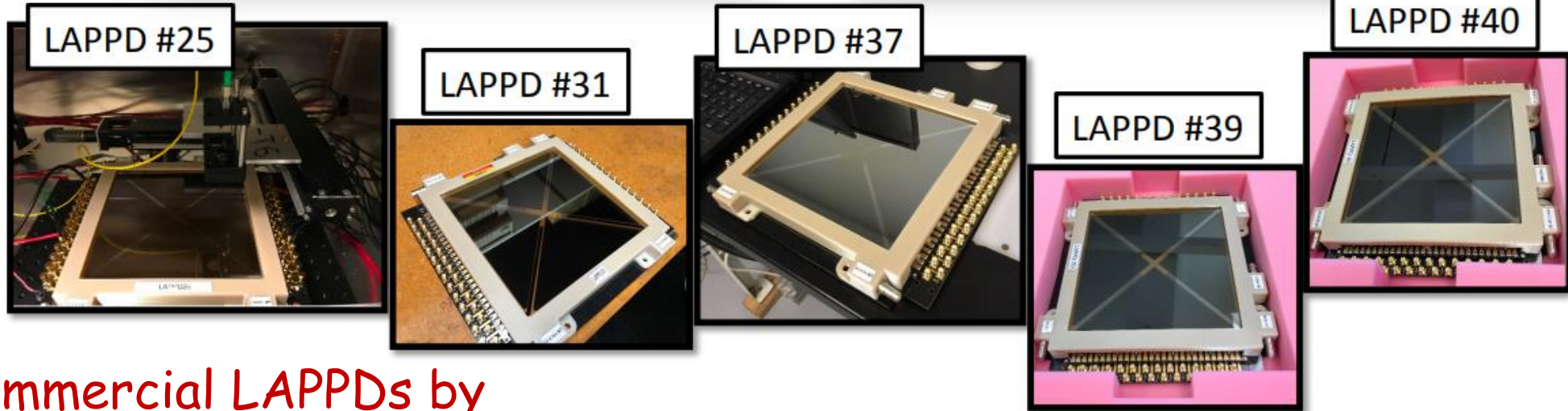


**Fermilab has the necessary infrastructure that we are already using**  
(many thanks to Petra Merkel, Luciano Ristori, Rick Ford)

# Why at Fermilab?

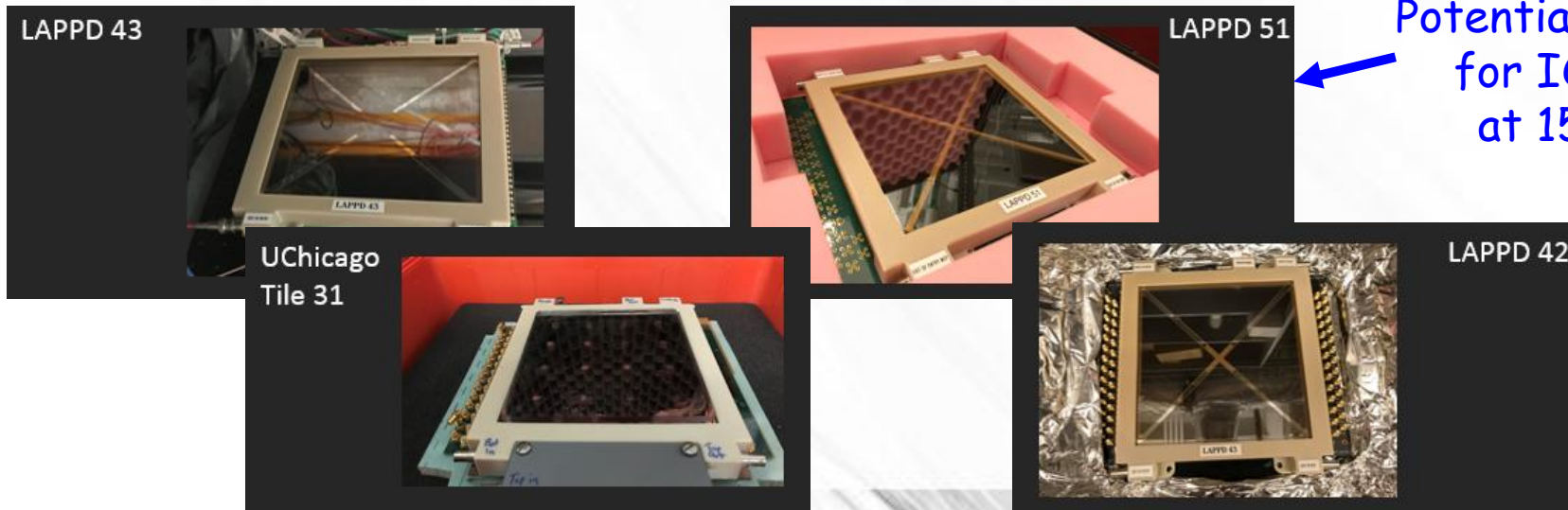
## ANNIE

Currently can use up to 32 LAPPDs, Phase III ANNIE can use up to 200 LAPPDs



Commercial LAPPDs by  
Incom Inc.

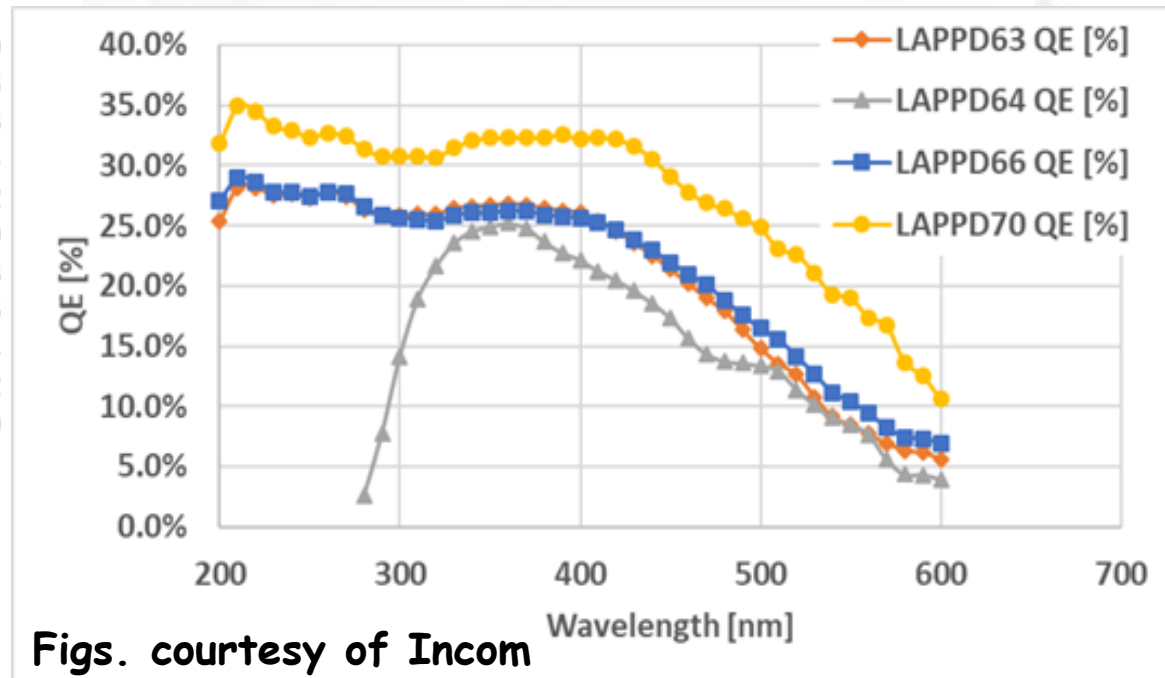
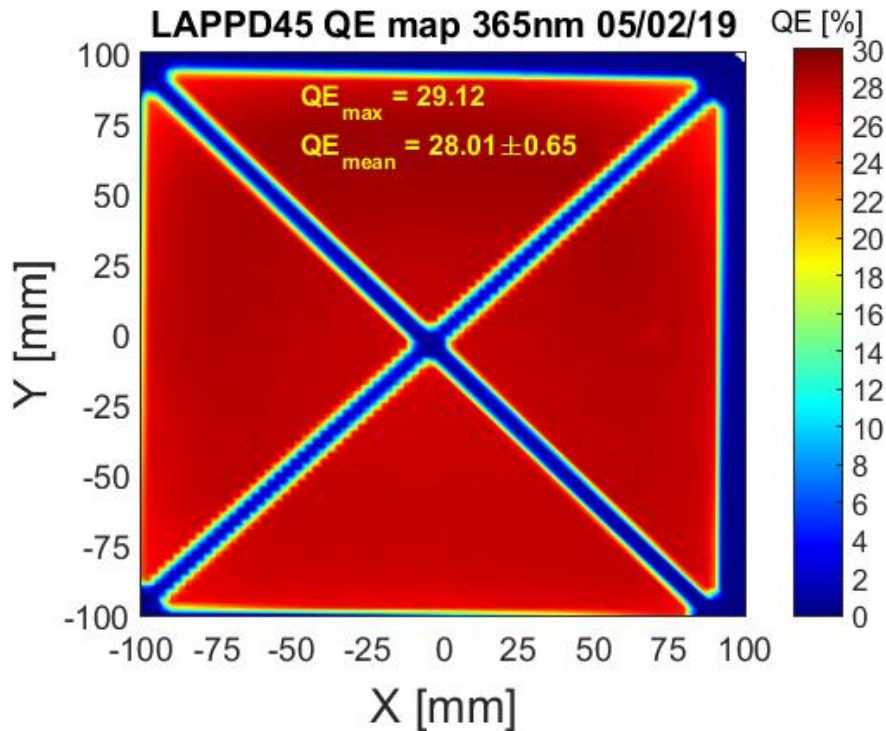
Testbeam



Potential candidate  
for IOTA run  
at 150 MeV

Fermilab already has the largest number of LAPPDs on site

# Incom LAPPDs



## Performance summary

- Gain: mid- $10^6$  and above
- Dark rate:  $10^3/\text{cm}^2$   
(in the mid- $10^6$  gain range)
- TTS:  $\sim 55$  ps or better
- QE: 20-30% @ 365 nm

## Availability status

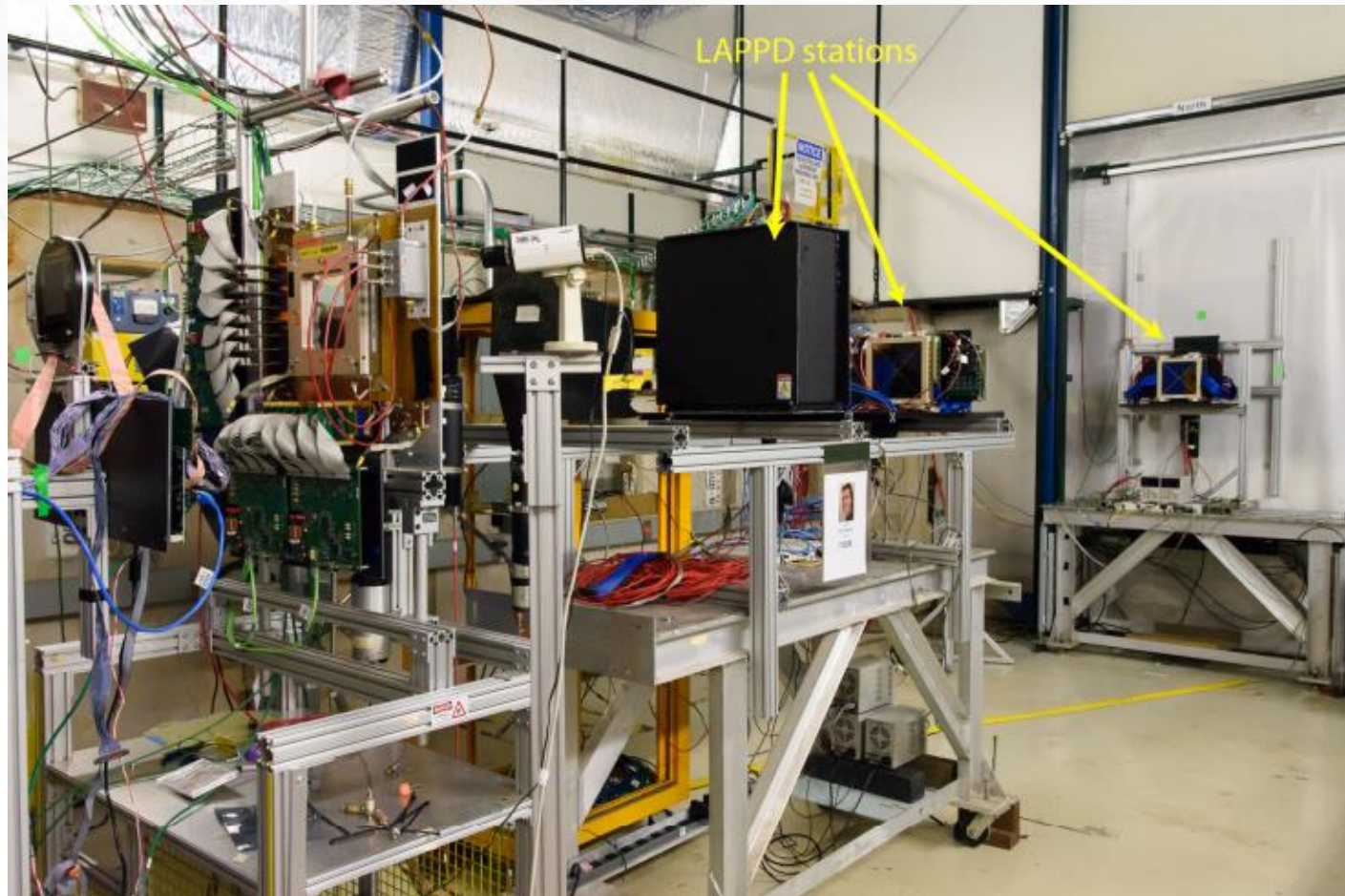
- Established reproducible process
- Present capacity 4 LAPPDs/month
- Plan 6 LAPPDs/month by late 2020
- LAPPDs are available for rent or purchase
- Qualified prospects that don't presently have a budget or the ability to either rent or purchase an LAPPD may qualify for special negotiated terms.

Particle physics community needs high production yield of LAPPDs (50+/week)  
Working closely with Incom on batch production is important

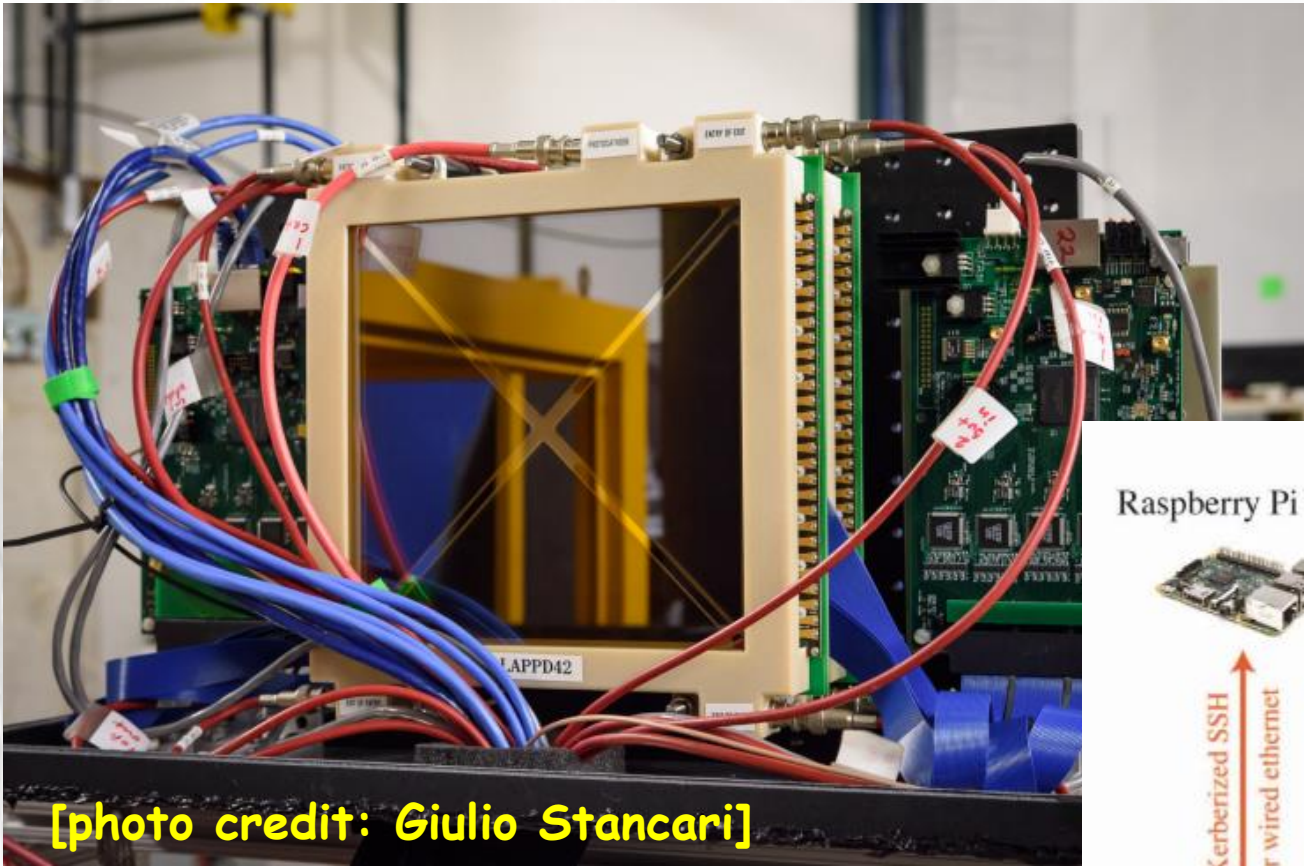
# TOF Particle ID at FTBF

Enable users to:

- Identify particles in the beam
- Measure how their detector respond to different flavors (e.g. calorimeter response to K and pi)
- Reject unwanted particles from their data analysis sample

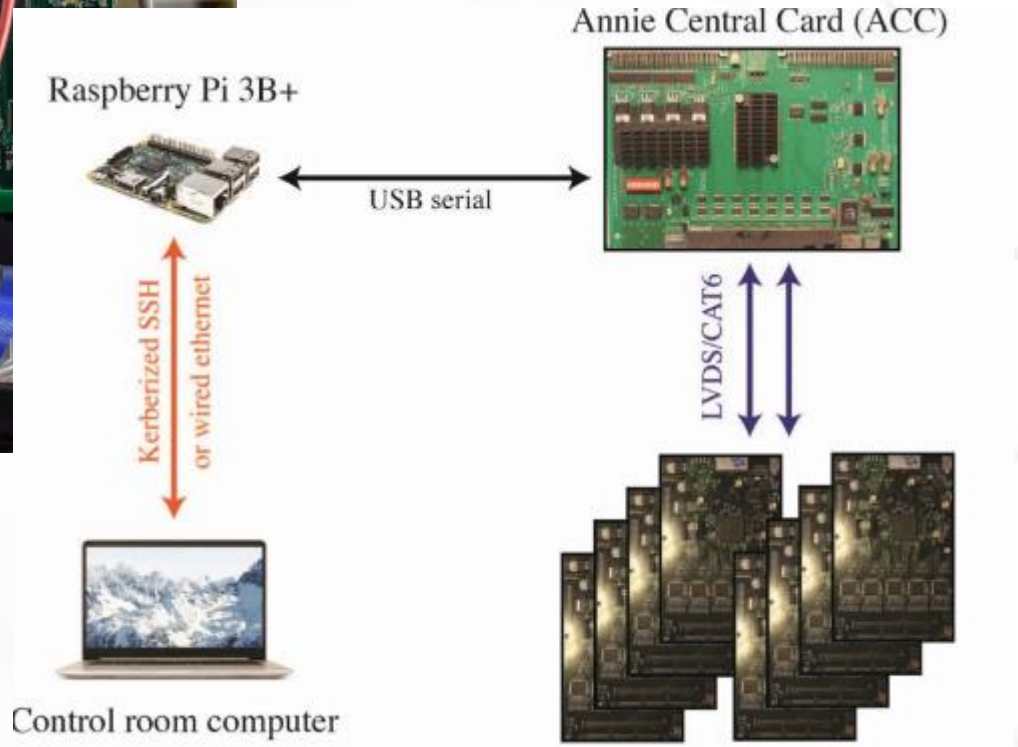


# TOF Particle ID at FTBF



[photo credit: Giulio Stancari]

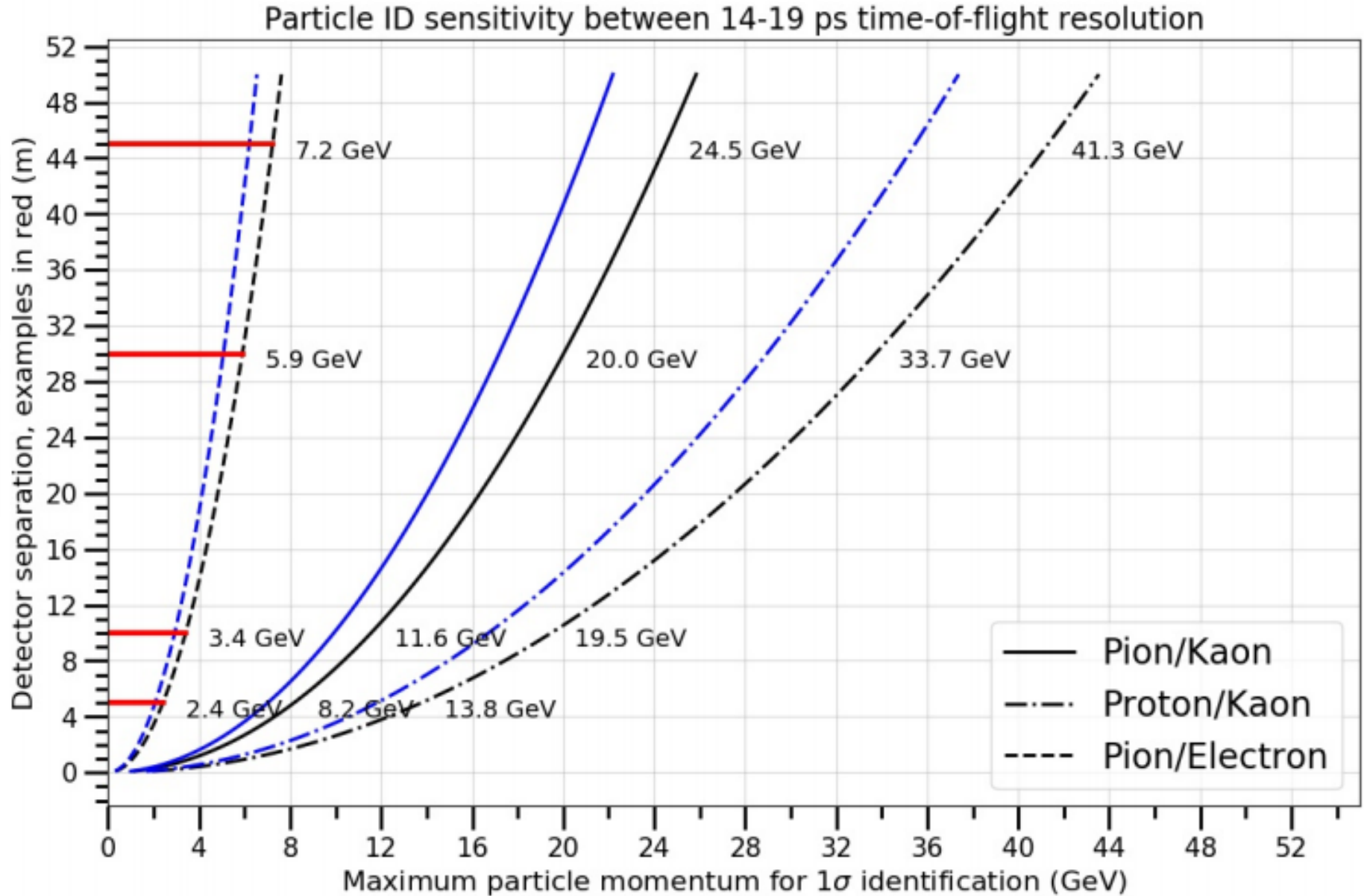
Multi-channel PSE4 electronics has been developed



A commercially available clock synchronization system (White Rabbit) has been identified and is being implemented at FTBF

ACDC boards connected to LAPPDs

# TOF Particle ID at FTBF



# A 3 Year Plan for FTBF

Single PE TTS


Readout electronics

White Rabbit  
Clock synchronization

	$\sigma_L / \sqrt{N_{pe}}$	$\sigma_{pulse}$	$\sigma_{WR}$	$\sigma_{tof}$	Maximum $\pi/K$ momentum at 5 m / 45 m
Present installation	55 ps / $\sqrt{30}$	7 ps	5 ps	19 ps	7.0 / 21 GeV/c
Use of fused silica window	55 ps / $\sqrt{200}$	7 ps	5 ps	14 ps	8.2 / 25 GeV/c
Low-jitter WR-ZEN	55 ps / $\sqrt{200}$	7 ps	< 0.5 ps	13 ps	8.5 / 25 GeV/c
10 $\mu\text{m}$ pores and higher cathode voltages	10 ps / $\sqrt{200}$	7 ps	< 0.5 ps	11 ps	9.2 / 28 GeV/c
PSEC4 chip development	10 ps / $\sqrt{200}$	1 ps	< 0.5 ps	1.7 ps	24 / 70 GeV/c

# ANNIE

## Accelerator Neutrino Neutron Interaction Experiment

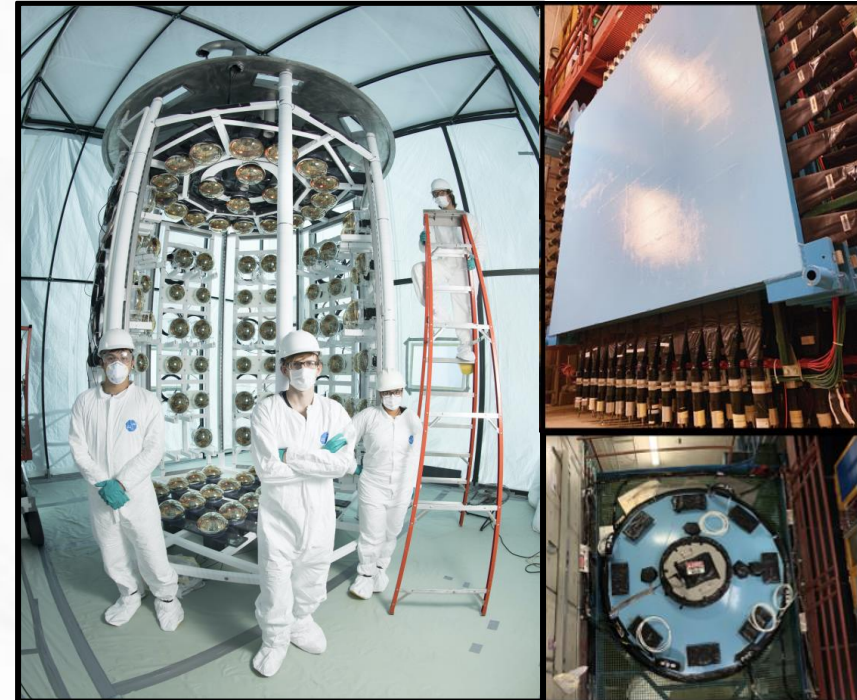
- Fermilab is already leading the field in the development of the next-generation water-based neutrino detector as the home of the ANNIE experiment
- International collaboration with 12 institutions from 3 countries:   
- Fermilab approved and deployed on the Booster Neutrino Beam (former SciBooNE Hall)

### New technologies

- First application of LAPPDs in a neutrino detector
- First Gd-loaded water on a neutrino beam and *only* Gd-loaded near detector.
- Likely first deployment of WbLS

### New reconstruction capabilities

- Demonstration of Ch/Sc separation using LAPPDs in a neutrino detector
- Able to efficiently count final-state neutrons
- Able to resolve energy from sub-Cherenkov particles



### New physics opportunities

- Ability to measure neutrino-Oxygen cross-sections with unprecedented statistics and detail
- Particular attention to neutron yields of neutrino-Oxygen scatters

The material for this slide is courtesy of Matt Wetstein

**Built, commissioned, and ready for beam data in November**

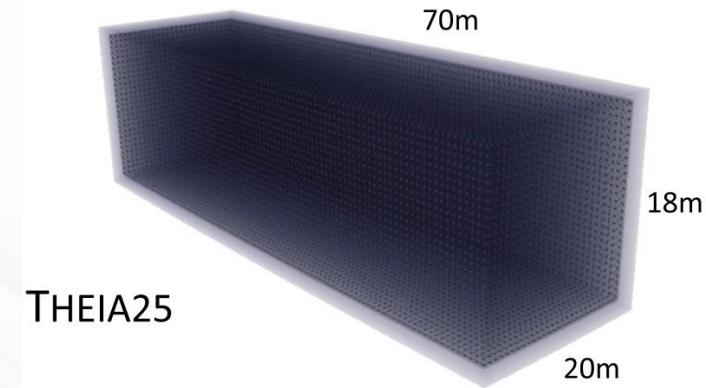


# Longer Time Scale Plan for the Field

## Large Directional Liquid Scintillator

- Large scintillator detectors and large water-Cherenkov detectors have been very effective in measuring neutrino properties
- Combining the two technologies may allow expanded physics reach of the next generation large neutrino experiments:
  - Cherenkov light provides directionality
  - Scintillation light provides good energy measurements
- Physics Program of THEIA:
  - Neutrinoless double beta decay
  - Solar neutrinos
  - Geo-neutrinos
  - Supernova burst neutrinos & DSNB
  - Nucleon decay
  - Long-baseline physics (mass hierarchy, CP-violation)
  - Unexpected surprises

A concept drawing of the THEIA detector

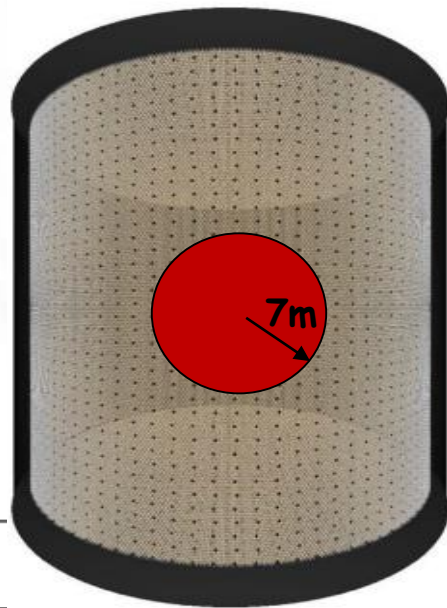


Several design options exist (e.g. 25kT, 50kT, and 100kT)

Currently there are several smaller scale experiments that can develop components and test ideas for such hybrid detector

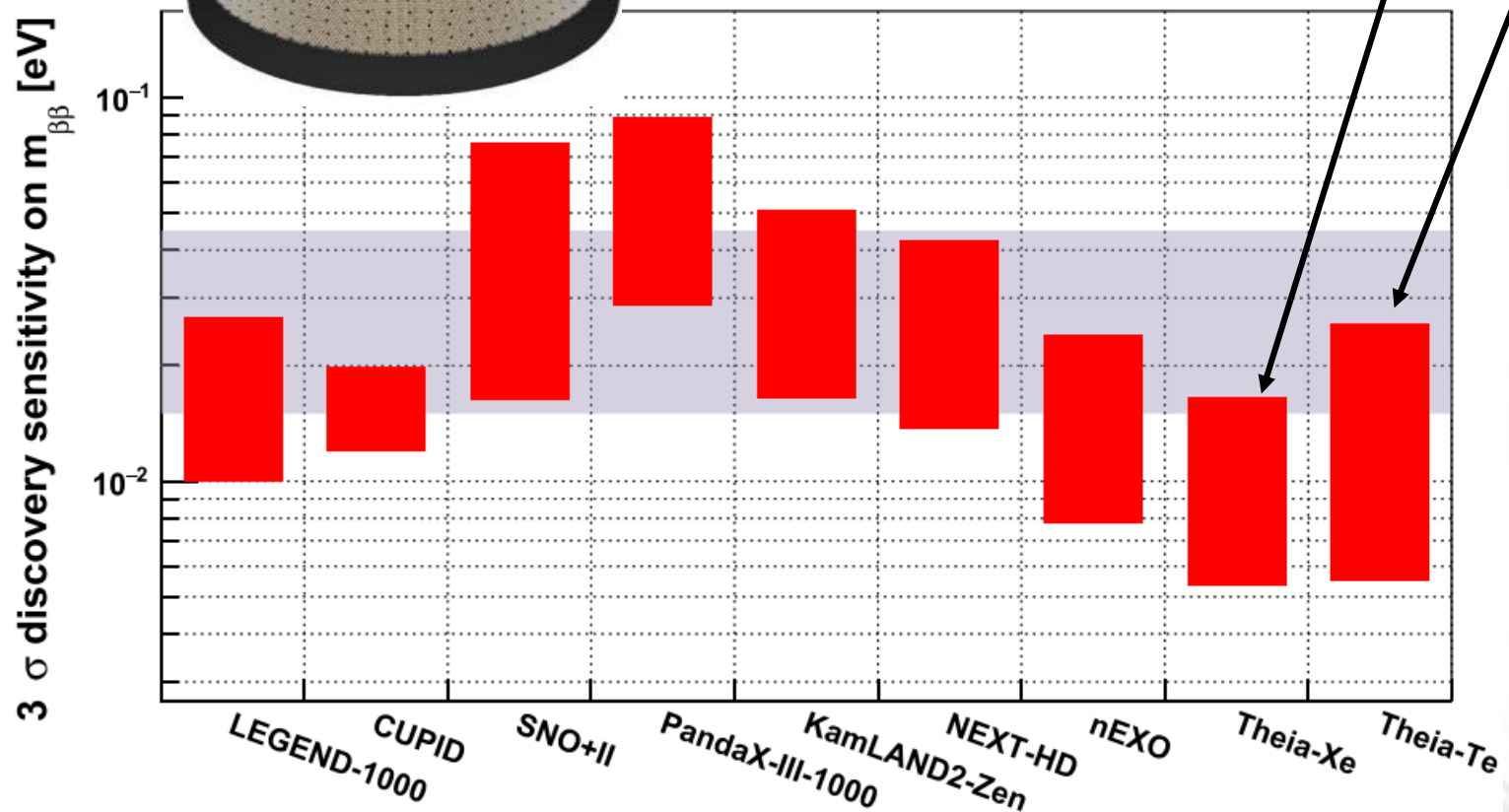
Besides ANNIE there is CHESS, NuDot, Watchman, and more

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay Sensitivity



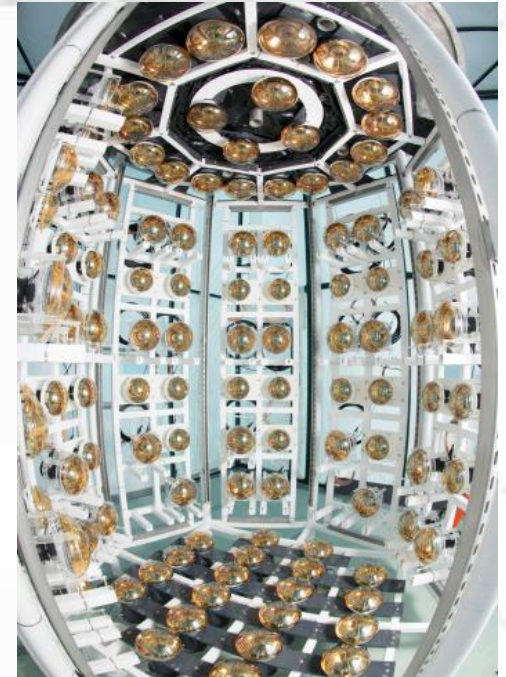
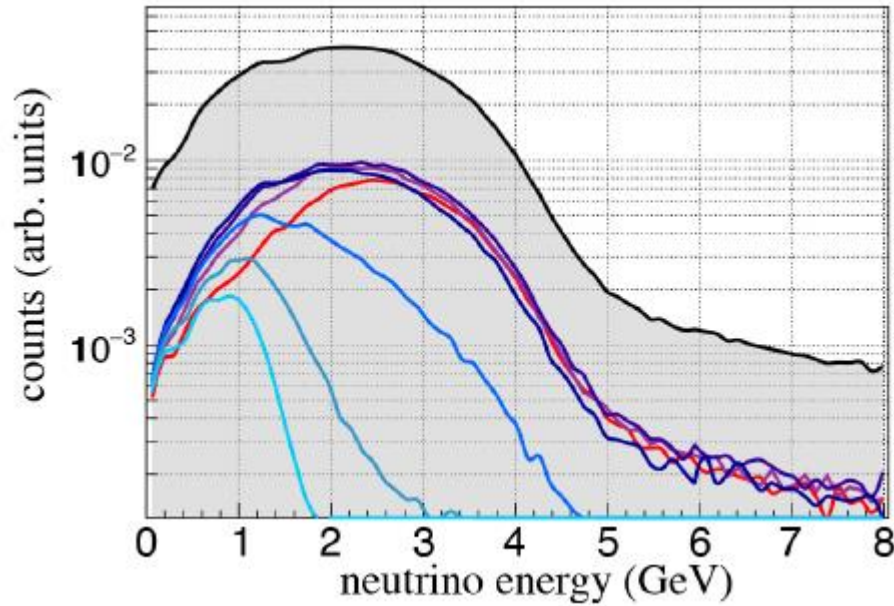
Assuming 50% rejection of  $^8\text{B}$   
at 75% signal efficiency

10 years of running with a 7 m  
radius fiducial volume loaded  
with either 5% of natural Te  
or 3% of enriched Xe



# Mid-Term Opportunities at Fermilab

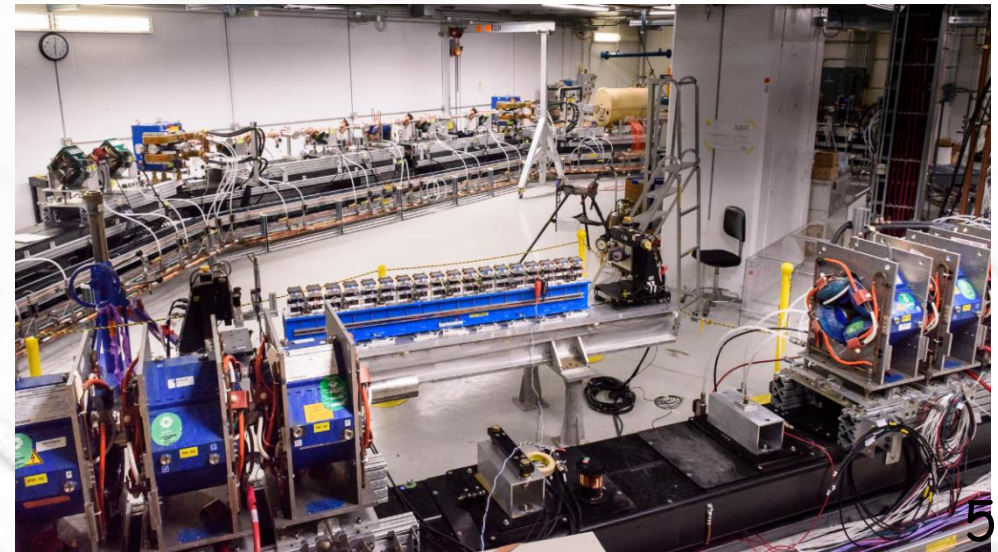
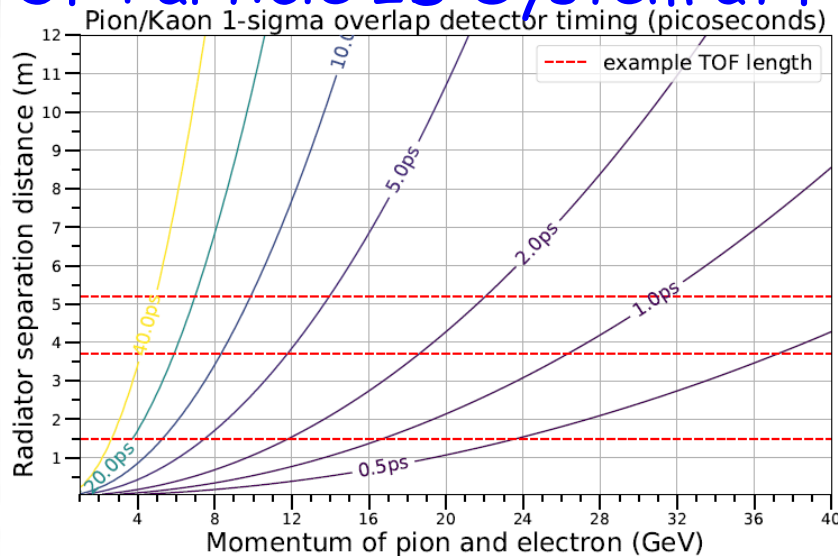
Stroboscopic approach



ANNIE

Single photon detection experiments at IOTA

TOF Particle ID System at FTBF



# Take Away Messages

Dirac/Majorana nature of the neutrino is a fundamental question

A very large liquid scintillator surrounded by LAPPDs  
has a good chance of answering that question

High volume production of LAPPDs requires a bridge between  
industry's yield at the present and the future demand of particle  
physics

There are many other opportunities for fast timing at Fermilab

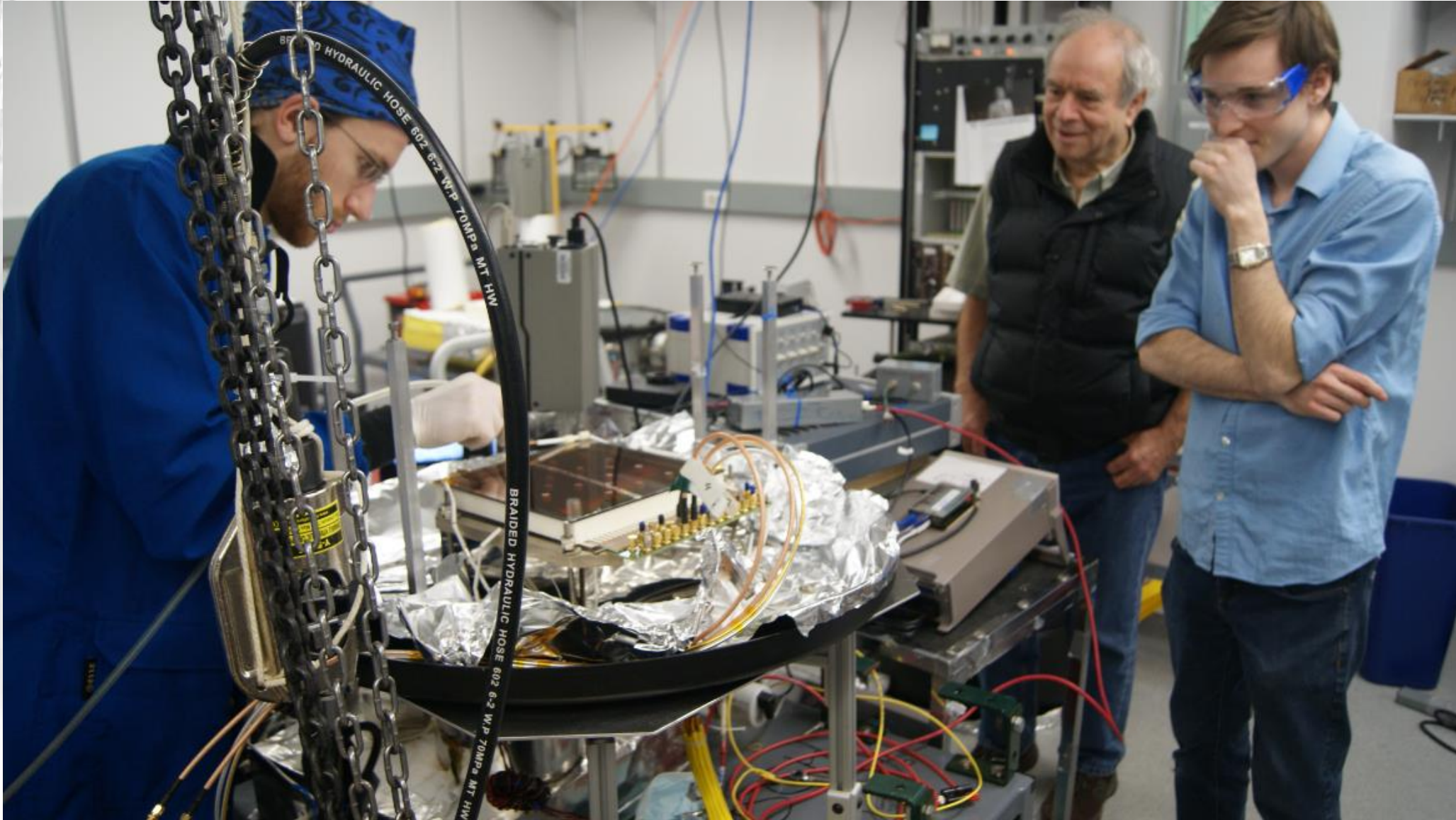
**These opportunities are not limited to LAPPDs**

# Acknowledgments

- We are thankful for the support from the DOE Office of Science (Helmut Marsiske, Michelle Shinn )
- We also acknowledge support from the Physical Sciences Division at the University of Chicago
- We are grateful for the help from our staff at UC
- Many thanks to the team at Incom Inc
- We value crucial contributions from SSL Berkeley, Argonne , and Fermilab

A very large number of people contributed  
to the work presented today.  
I thank them all.

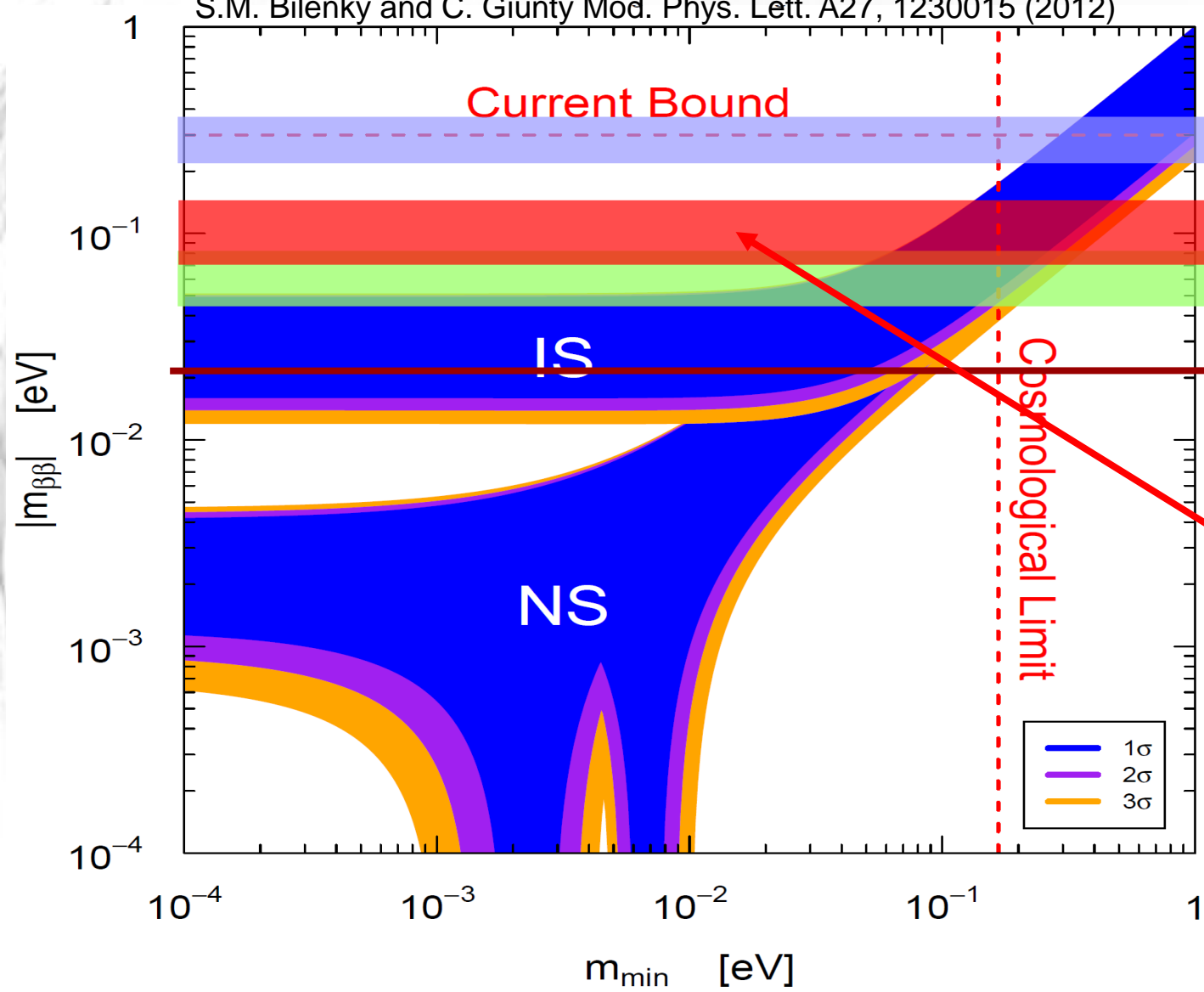
# Thank You



# Back-ups

# Experimental Status of $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

S.M. Bilenky and C. Giunty Mod. Phys. Lett. A27, 1230015 (2012)



- EXO (~200kg  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ )
- KamLAND-Zen (~300 kg  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ , before Summer 2016)
- GERDA (~20 kg  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ )
- Projections by
- CUORE (~200kg  $^{130}\text{Te}$ )
- SNO+ (0.8 ton  $^{130}\text{Te}$ )
- SNO+ (8 ton  $^{130}\text{Te}$ )

Current best limit is set by KamLAND-Zen:  
 $T_{1/2} > 1.07 \times 10^{26}$  years  
 $m_{\beta\beta} < 61-165$  meV

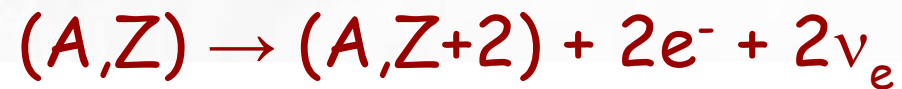
$$|m_{\beta\beta}| = |\cos^2 \vartheta_{12} \cos^2 \vartheta_{13} m_1 + e^{2i\alpha_{12}} \sin^2 \vartheta_{12} \cos^2 \vartheta_{13} m_2 + e^{2i\alpha_{12}} \sin^2 \vartheta_{13} m_3|$$

$$m_{\beta} = \sqrt{\sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2}$$



# Double-Beta Disintegration

Maria Goeppert-Mayer



ER 15, 1935

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME

## Double Beta-Disintegration

M. GOEPPERT-MAYER, *The Johns Hopkins University*

(Received May 20, 1935)

From the Fermi theory of  $\beta$ -disintegration the probability of simultaneous emission of two electrons (and two neutrinos) has been calculated. The result is that this process occurs sufficiently rarely to allow a half-life of over 10<sup>17</sup> years for a nucleus, even if its isobar of atomic number different by 2 were more stable by 20 times the electron mass.

Rare process

The author wishes to express her gratitude to Professor E. Wigner for suggesting this problem, and for the interest taken in it.



# Wendell Furry

DECEMBER 15, 1939

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 56

## On Transition Probabilities in Double Beta-Disintegration

W. H. FURRY

*Physics Research Laboratory, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts*

(Received October 16, 1939)

The phenomenon of double  $\beta$ -disintegration is one for which there is a marked difference between the results of Majorana's symmetrical theory of the neutrino and those of the original Dirac-Fermi theory. In the older theory double  $\beta$ -disintegration involves the emission of four particles, two electrons (or positrons) and two antineutrinos (or neutrinos), and the probability of disintegration is extremely small. In the Majorana theory only two particles—the electrons or positrons—have to be emitted, and the transition probability is much larger. Approximate values of this probability are calculated on the Majorana theory for the various Fermi and Konopinski-Uhlenbeck expressions for the interaction energy. The selection rules are derived, and are found in all cases to allow transitions with  $\Delta i = \pm 1, 0$ . The results obtained with the Majorana theory indicate that it is not at all certain that double  $\beta$ -disintegration can never be observed. Indeed, if in this theory the interaction expression were of Konopinski-Uhlenbeck type this process would be quite likely to have a bearing on the abundances of isotopes and on the occurrence of observed long-lived radioactivities. If it is of Fermi type this could be so only if the mass difference were fairly large ( $e \gtrsim 20$ ,  $\Delta M \gtrsim 0.01$  unit).

Proposed  $(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z+2) + 2e^-$  via virtual neutrino exchange

Quite optimistic experimentally:

- $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay is a factor of  $10^6$  more favorable than  $2\nu\beta\beta$ -decay due to the phase factor advantage
- V-A structure of weak interactions is not known yet



## Neutrinoless double- $\beta$ decay in $SU(2) \times U(1)$ theories

J. Schechter and J. W. F. Valle

*Department of Physics, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York 13210*

(Received 14 December 1981)

It is shown that gauge theories give contributions to neutrinoless double- $\beta$  decay [ $(\beta\beta)_{0\nu}$ ] which are not covered by the standard parametrizations. While probably small, their existence raises the question of whether the observation of  $(\beta\beta)_{0\nu}$  implies the existence of a Majorana mass term for the neutrino. For a "natural" gauge theory we argue that this is indeed the case.

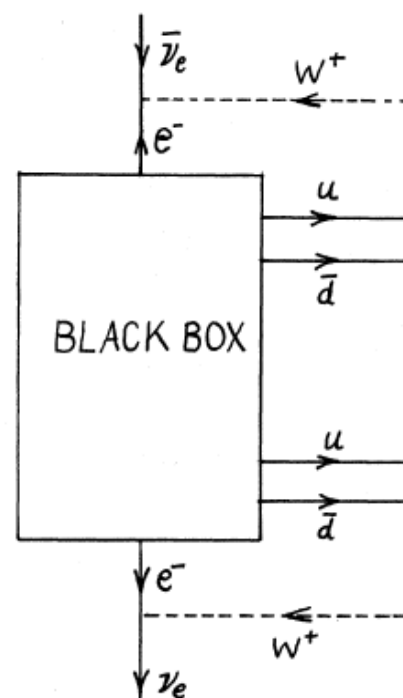
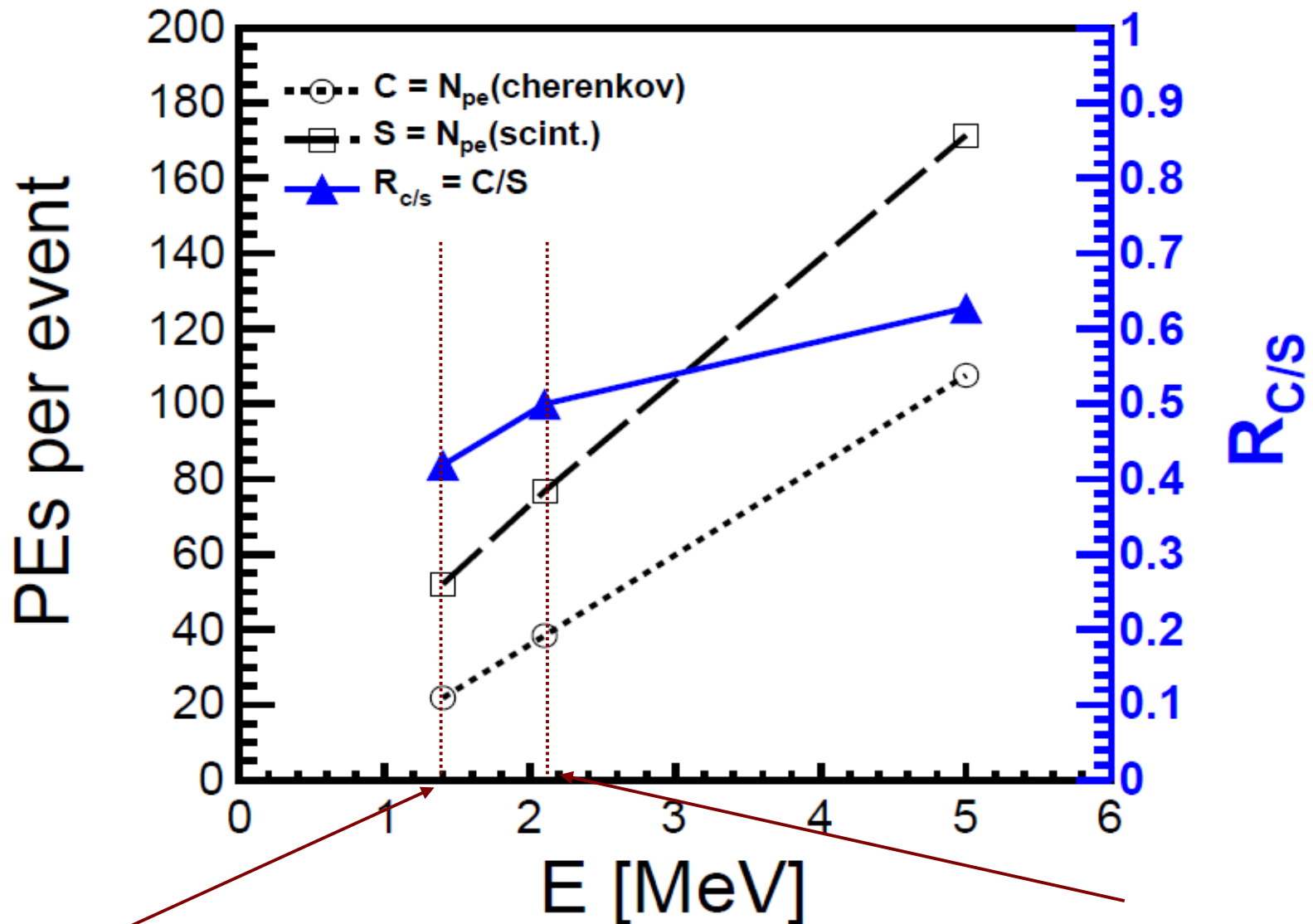


FIG. 2. Diagram showing how any neutrinoless double- $\beta$  decay process induces a  $\bar{\nu}_e$ -to- $\nu_e$  transition, that is, an effective Majorana mass term.

## Light yield: Cherenkov vs scintillation



$\frac{1}{2} Q (^{116}\text{Cd}) = 1.4 \text{ MeV}$

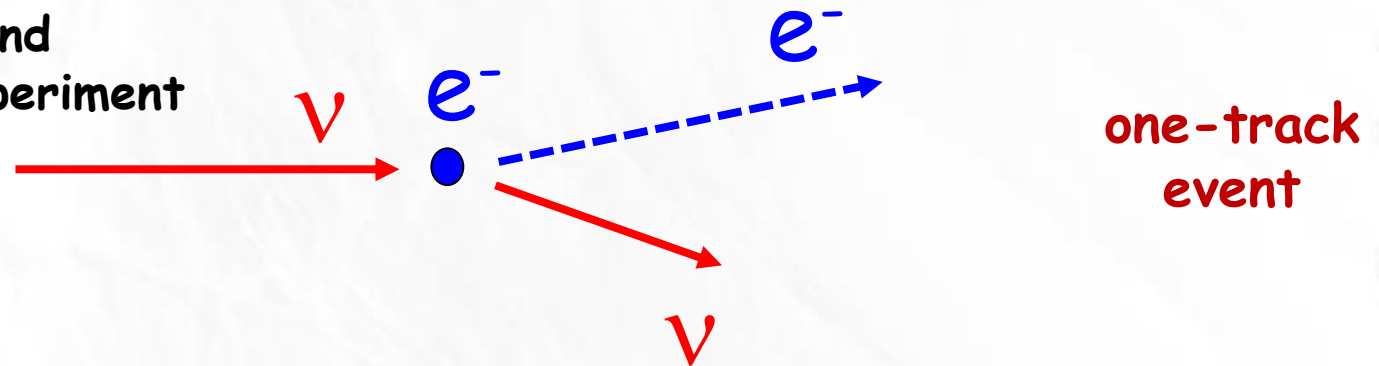
$\frac{1}{2} Q (^{48}\text{Ca}) = 2.1 \text{ MeV}$

# Backgrounds in Liquid Scintillators

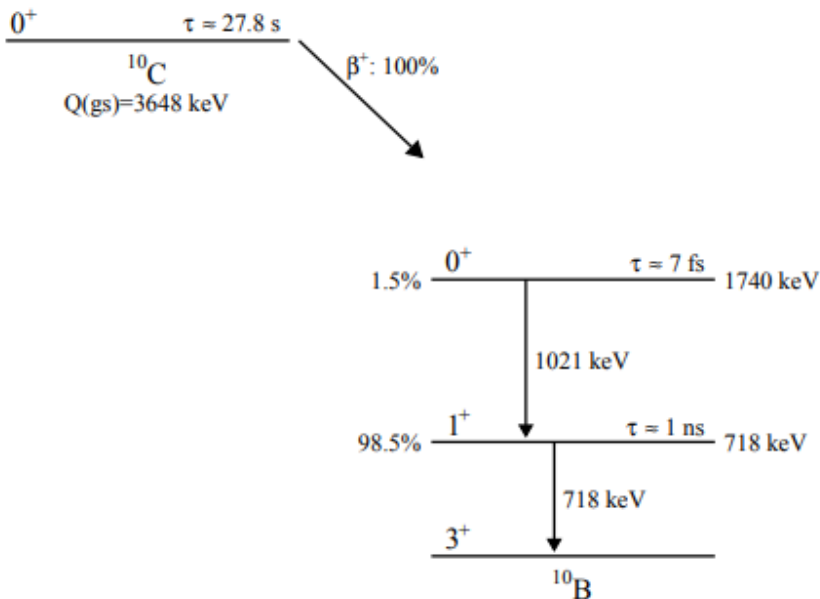
Q-value of most interesting  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay isotopes is 2-3 MeV  
 A lot is going on in the MeV range. Let's consider two (major) backgrounds.

## 1) Electron scattering of neutrinos coming from ${}^8\text{B}$ -decays in the sun

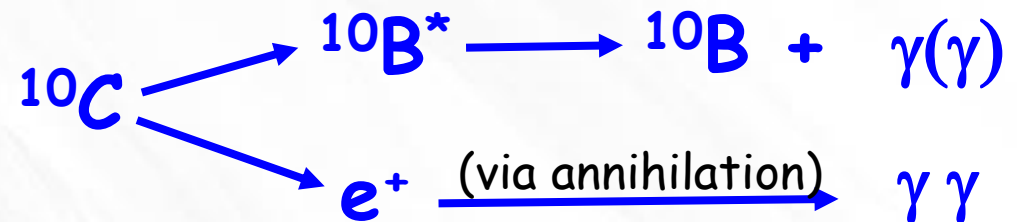
Key background  
 for the SNO+ experiment



## 2) ${}^{10}\text{C}$ decays produced by cosmic muon spallation



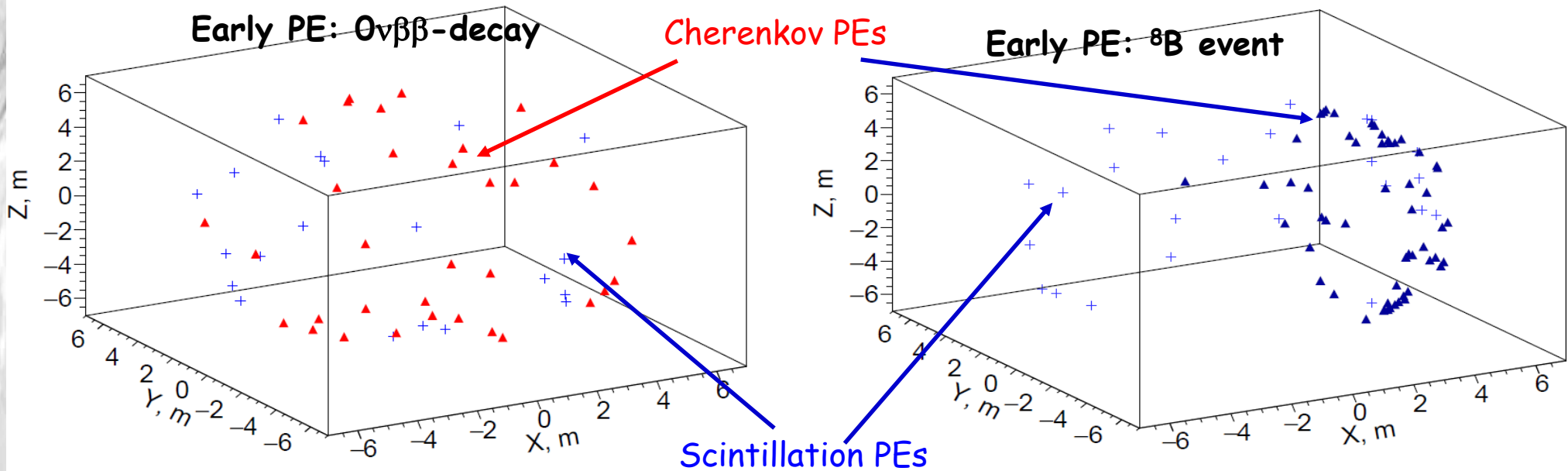
Key background  
 for the KamLAND-Zen experiment



multi-track multi-vertex  
 event

# Early Light Topology

Realistic event displays: early PEs only, KamLAND PMTs QE: Che~12%, Sci~23%



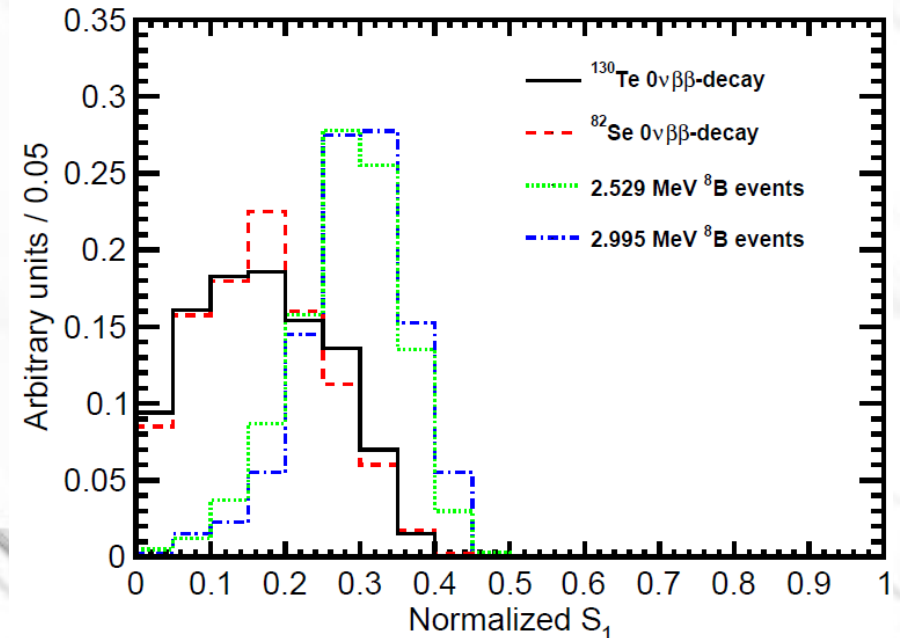
## Spherical harmonics analysis

$$f(\theta, \varphi) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} f_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi).$$

## Rotation invariant power spectrum

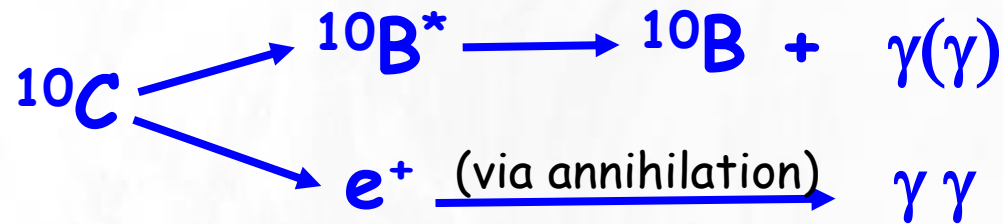
$$S_{ff}(\ell) = \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} |f_{\ell m}|^2$$

## Multipole moment $l=1$

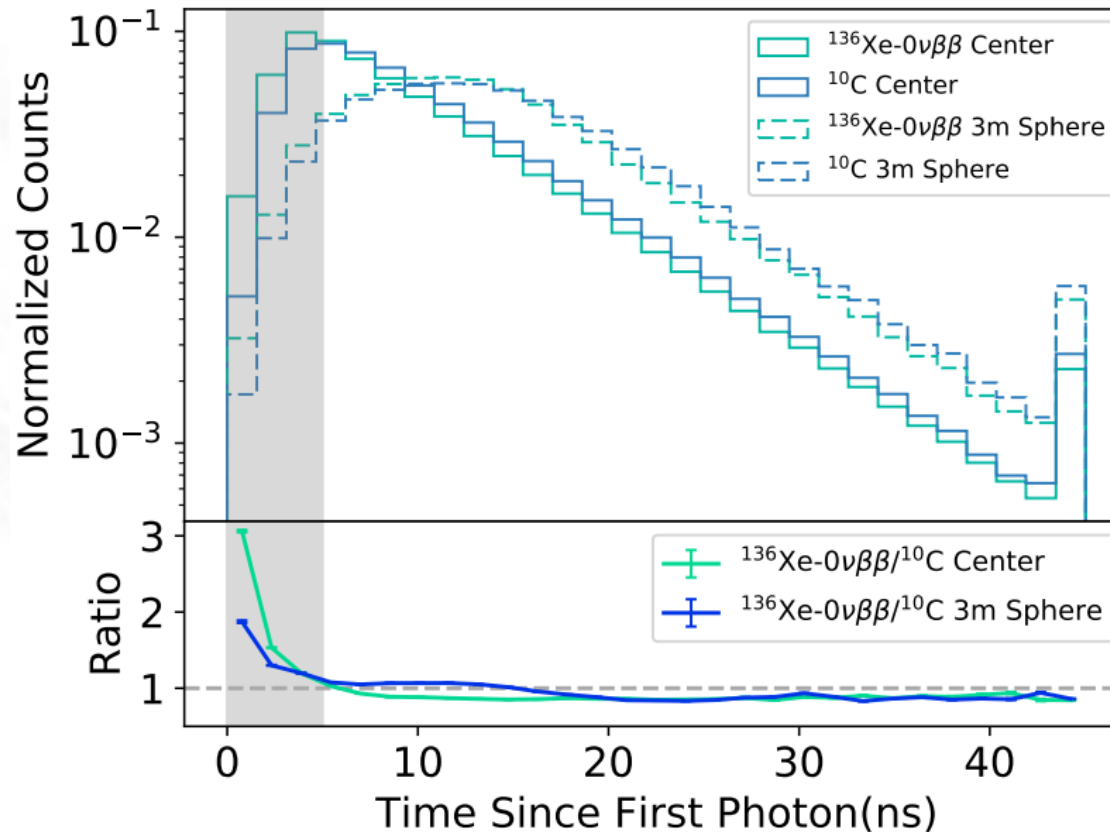


Runyu Jiang and AE have updated this technique  
See [arXiv:1902.06912](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.06912)

# Timing of $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay vs $^{10}\text{C}$



**Multi-track-vertex topology  
leads to different timing distribution**



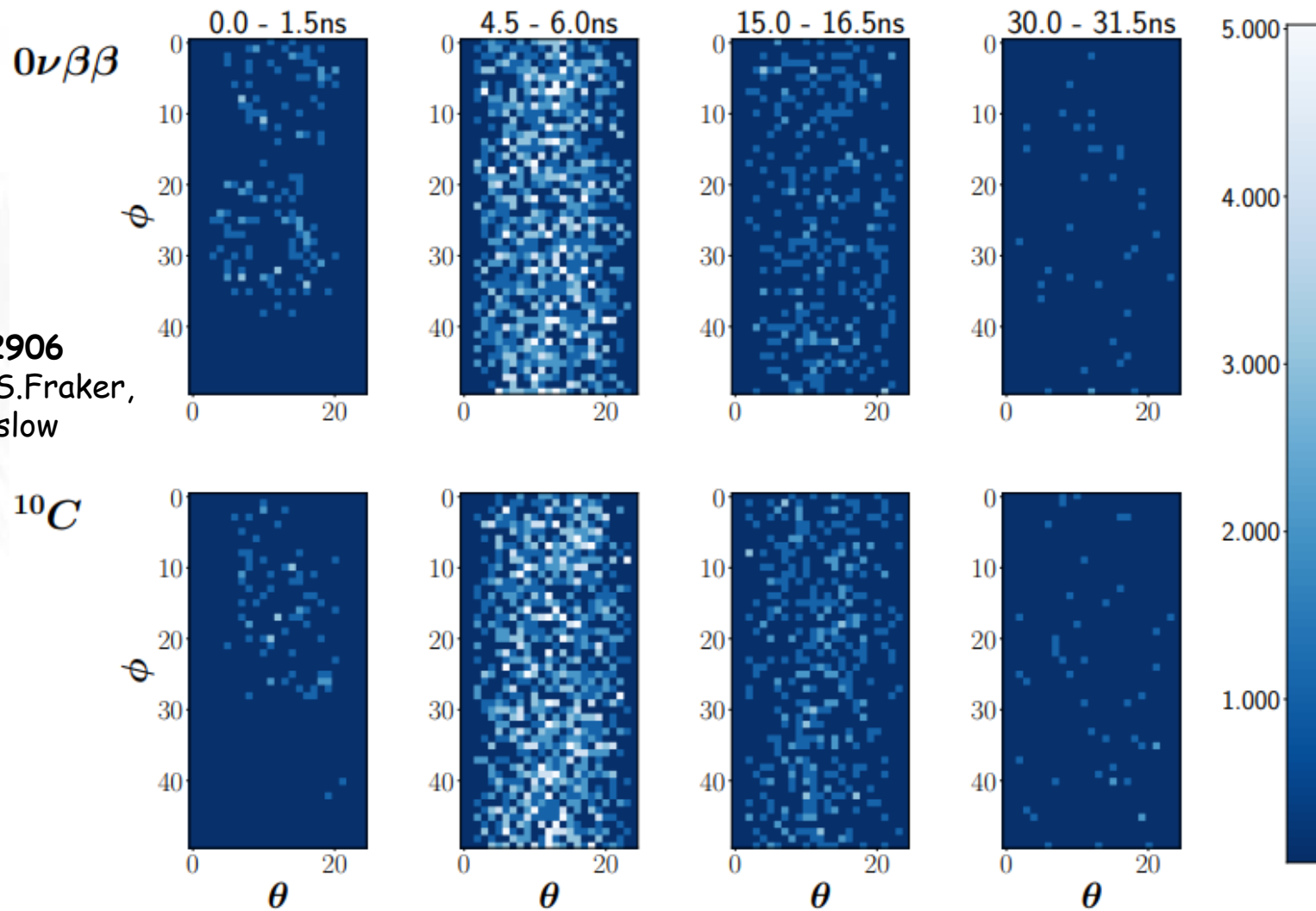
arXiv:1812.02906

A.Li, A.Elagin, S.Fraker,  
C.Grant, L.Winslow

~3ns delay from ortho-positronium is not included (~50% of  $^{10}\text{C}$  have even longer delay)

# PE Spatial Distribution: $^{10}\text{C}$ vs $0\nu\beta\beta$

arXiv:1812.02906  
A.Li, A.Elagin, S.Fraker,  
C.Grant, L.Winslow

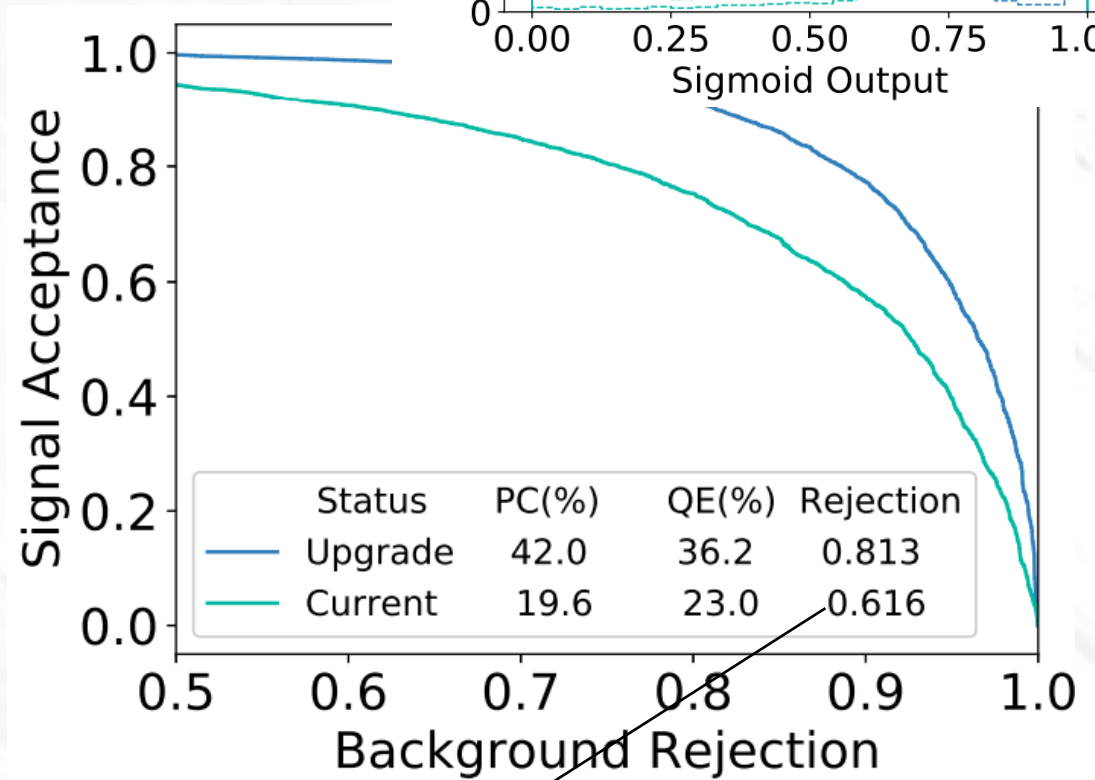
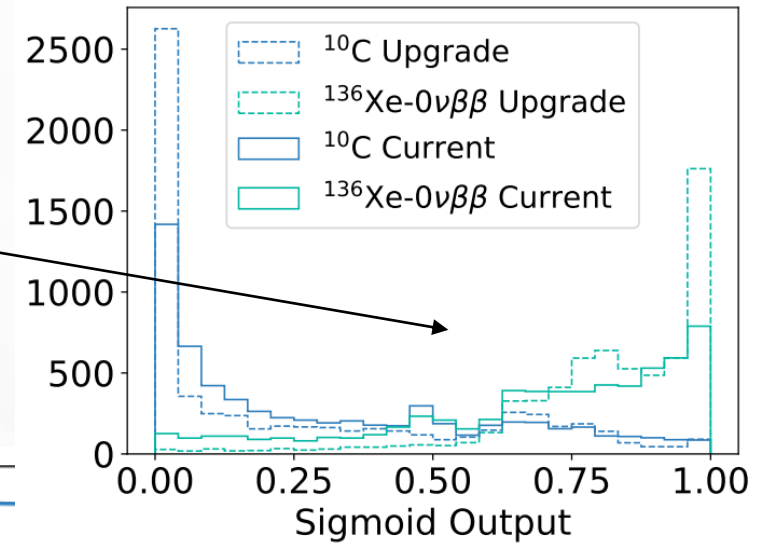
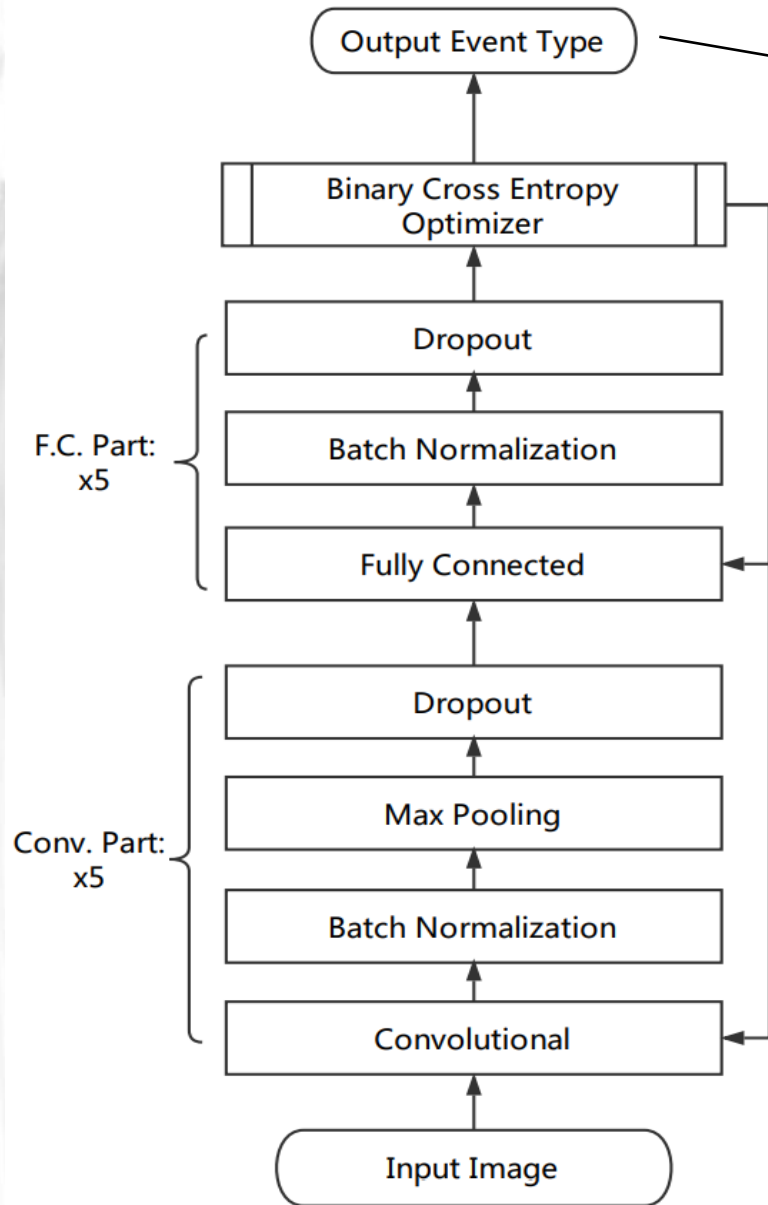


CNN input: theta x phi x time = 25 x 50 x 34



# CNN for $^{10}\text{C}$ Suppression at KamLAND-Zen

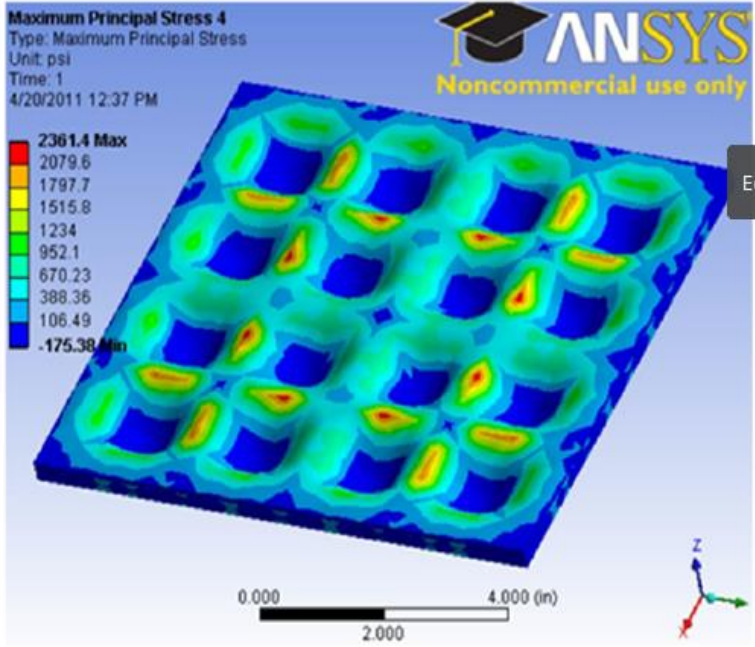
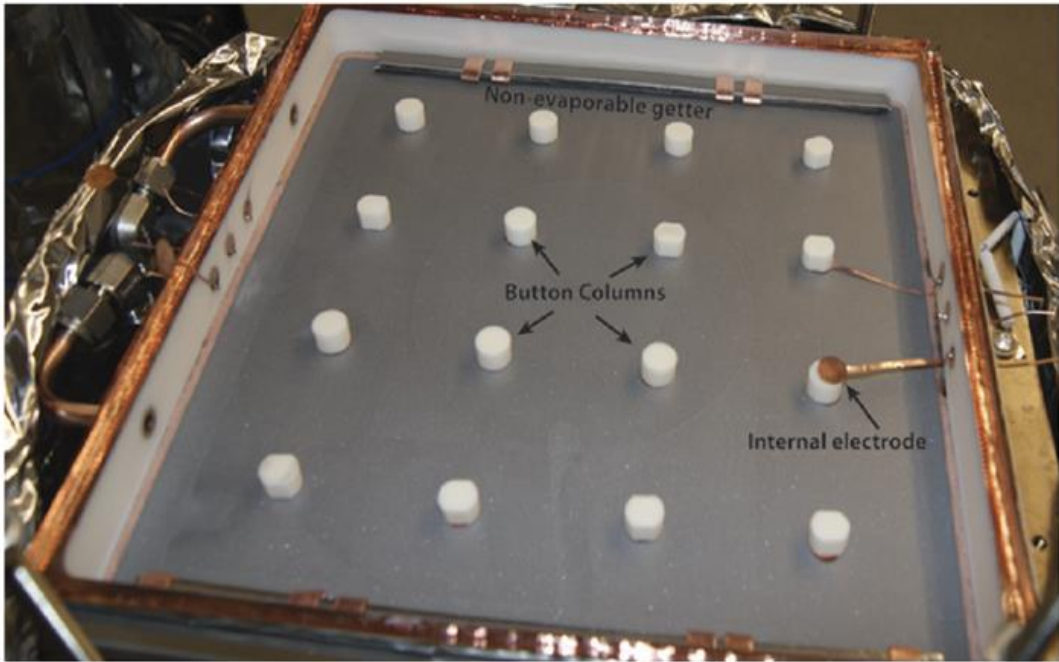
arXiv:1812.02906  
 A.Li, A.Elagin, S.Fraker,  
 C.Grant, L.Winslow



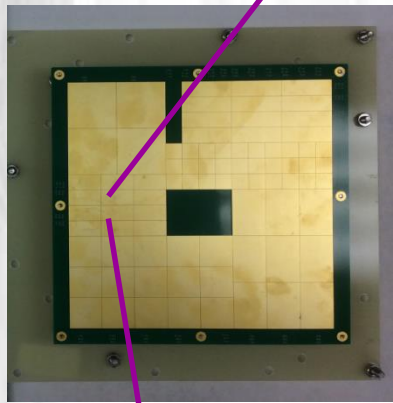
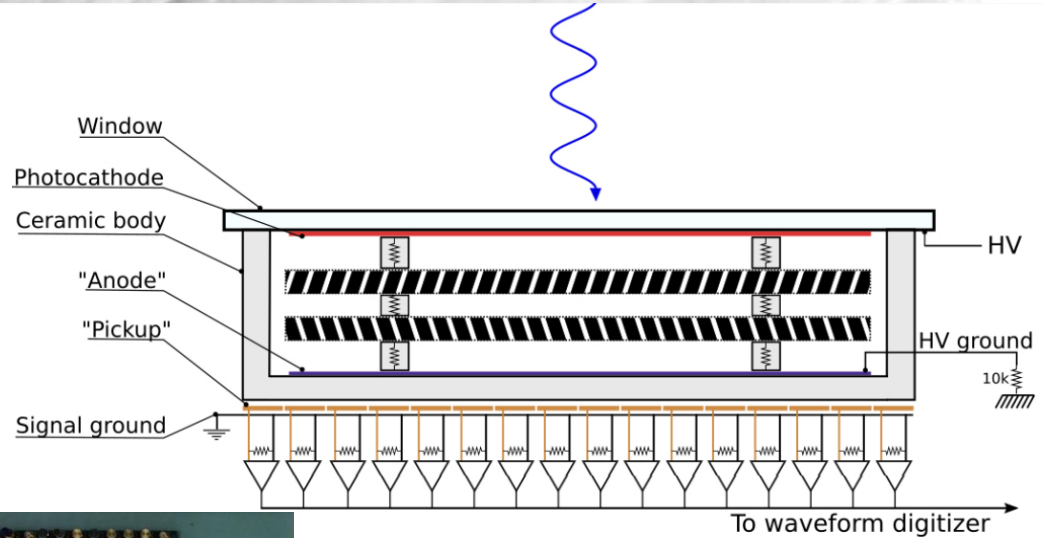
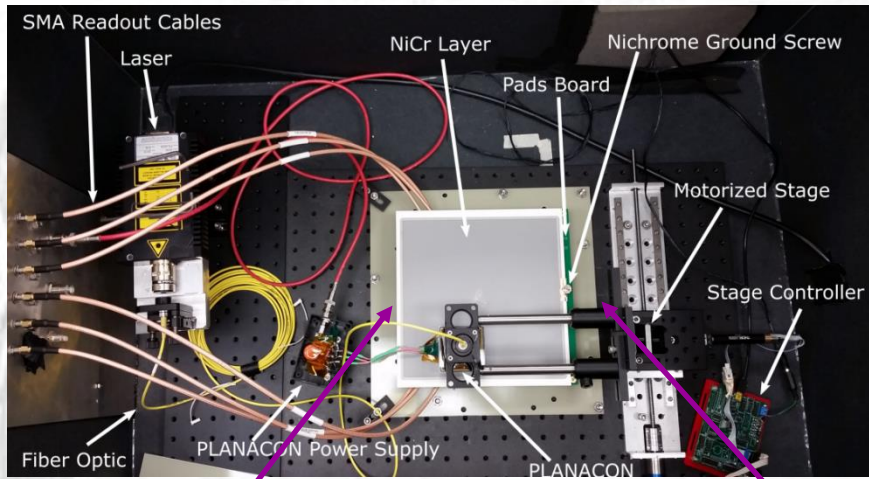
Bkg rejection is 0.55 if only timing is used

**Table 1** THEIA physics reach. Exposure is listed in terms of the fiducial volume assumed for each analysis. For NLDBD the target mass assumed is the mass of the candidate isotope within the fiducial volume

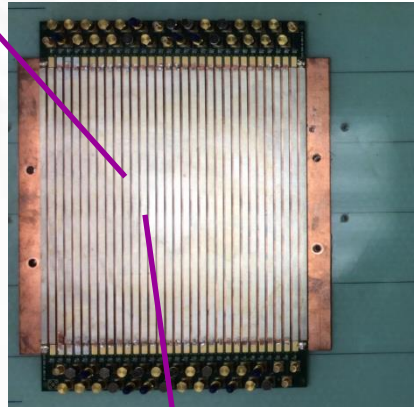
Primary physics goal	Reach	Exposure/assumptions
Long-baseline oscillations	$> 5\sigma$ for 30% of $\delta_{CP}$ values	524 kt-MW-year
Supernova burst	$< 1(2)^\circ$ pointing accuracy 20,000 (5000) events	100(25)-kt detector, 10 kpc
DSNB	$5\sigma$ discovery	125 kton-year
CNO neutrino flux	$< 5$ (10)%	300 (62.5) kton-year
Reactor neutrino detection	2000 events	100 kton-year
Geo neutrino detection	2650 events	100 kton-year
NLDBD	$T_{1/2} > 1.1 \times 10^{28}$ year	211 ton-year $^{130}\text{Te}$
Nucleon decay $p \rightarrow \bar{\nu}K^+$	$T > 3.80 \times 10^{34}$ year (90% CL)	800 kton-year



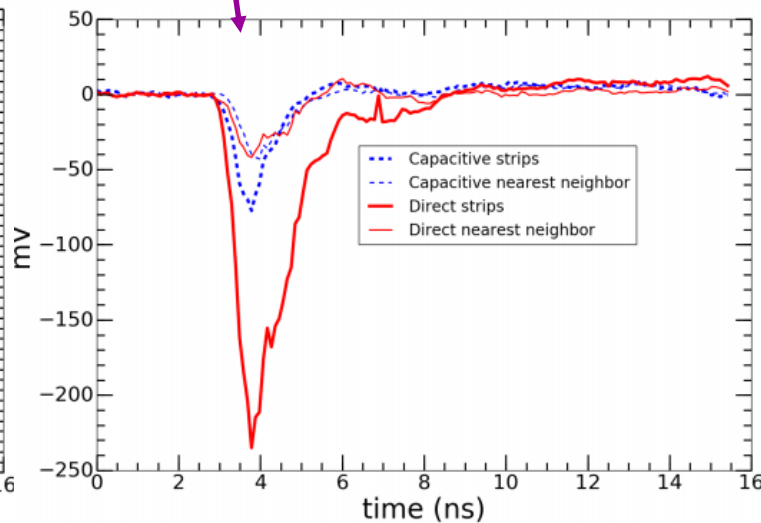
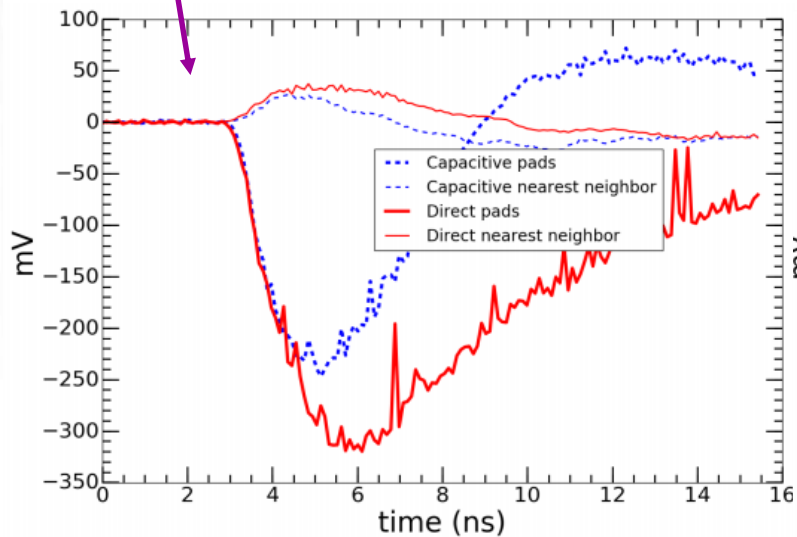
# Gen-II LAPPD: "inside-out" anode



Chose your own readout pattern



- Custom anode is outside
- Capacitively coupled
- Compatible with high rate applications



For details see NIMA 846 (2016) 75