

# The Short-Baseline Neutrino Oscillation Program in the Fermilab Booster Neutrino Beam

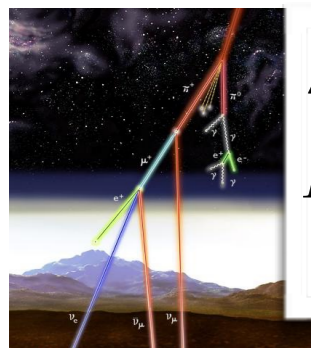
Erice Workshop on Nuclear Physics  
Erice (Italy)  
September 18, 2017  
Ornella Palamara  
Fermilab & Yale University (USA)\*

# Outline

- Why a Short-baseline Accelerator Neutrino program?
  - Oscillation Beyond Three-Neutrino Mixing - Status of Light Sterile Neutrinos
- The Fermilab Short-Baseline Neutrino (SBN) Program
  - Physics reach
  - Status

# Neutrino Oscillation - 3 neutrino mixing

- Three neutrino mixing is well established (*data from solar, atmospheric, reactor and accelerator neutrino experiments*)!
  - Picture consistent with the mixing of **3 neutrino flavors with 3 mass eigenstates** - with relatively small mass differences.



$$\Delta m_{32}^2 \simeq 2.4 \cdot 10^{-3} eV^2$$

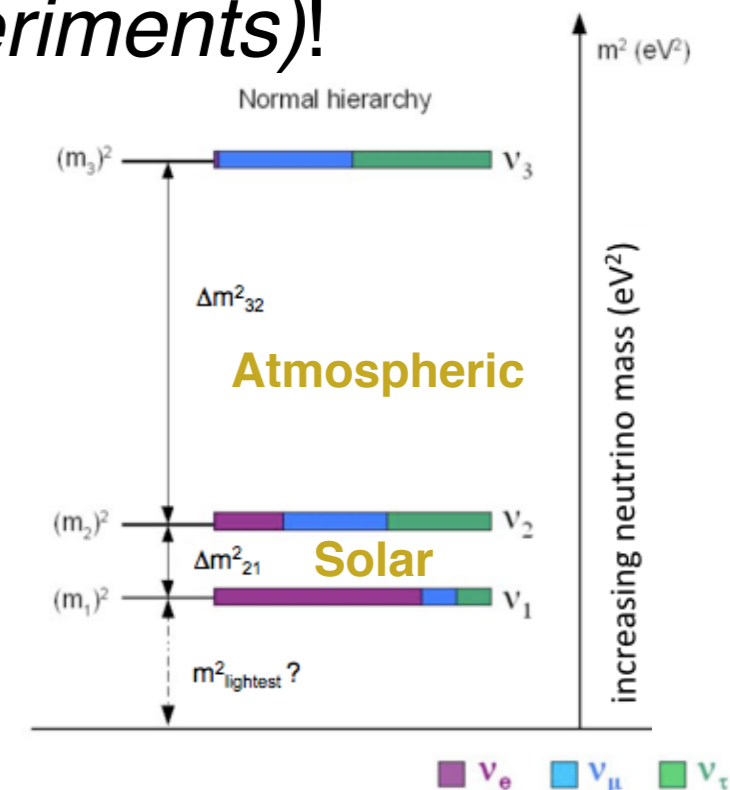
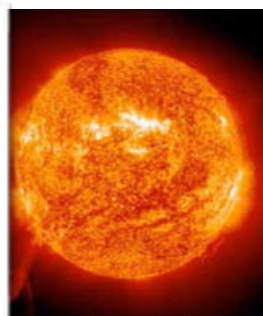
$$L/E = 500 Km/GeV$$

**Atmospheric**

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$$L/E = 15,000 Km/GeV$$

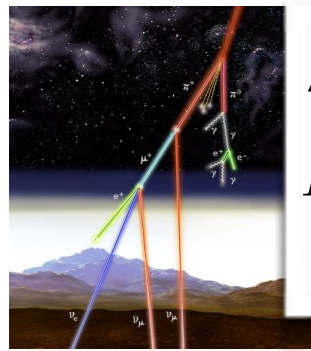
**Solar**



- Forthcoming experiments will address many questions related to neutrino properties:
  - What are the masses of the neutrinos? }  **$\beta$  and  $\beta\beta$  decay experiments**
  - Are neutrinos their own antiparticles? }
  - How are the masses ordered (referred as mass hierarchy)?
  - Do neutrinos and antineutrino oscillate differently?
  - Are there additional neutrino types or interactions?

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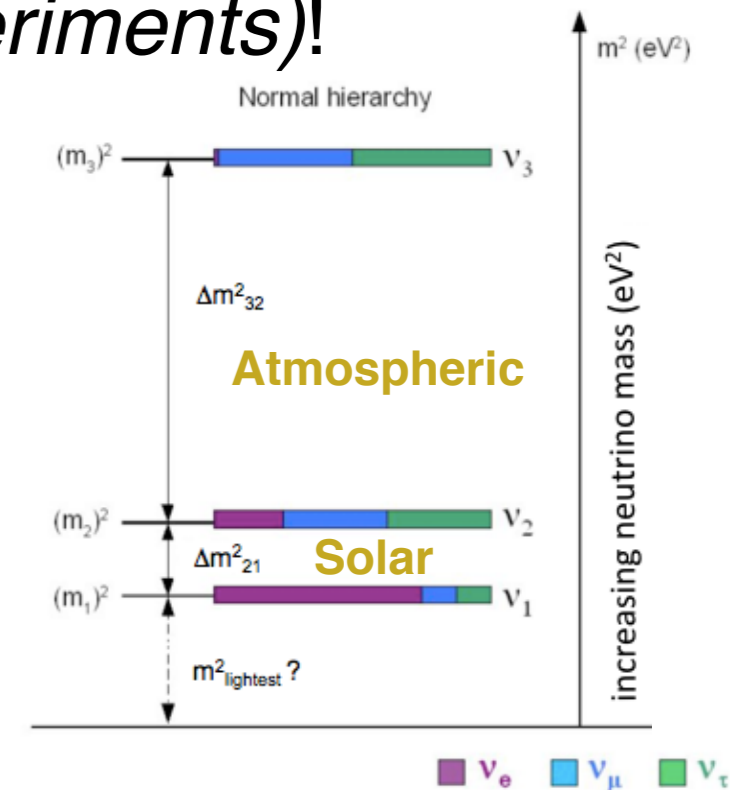
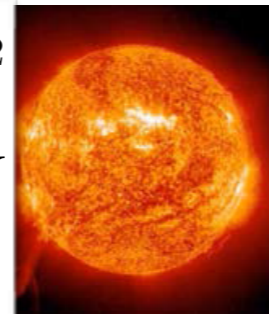
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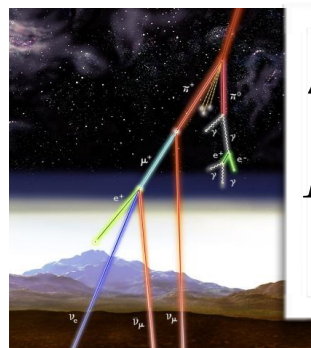
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**Accelerator  
Neutrino  
Oscillation  
(Short- and  
Long-Baseline)**

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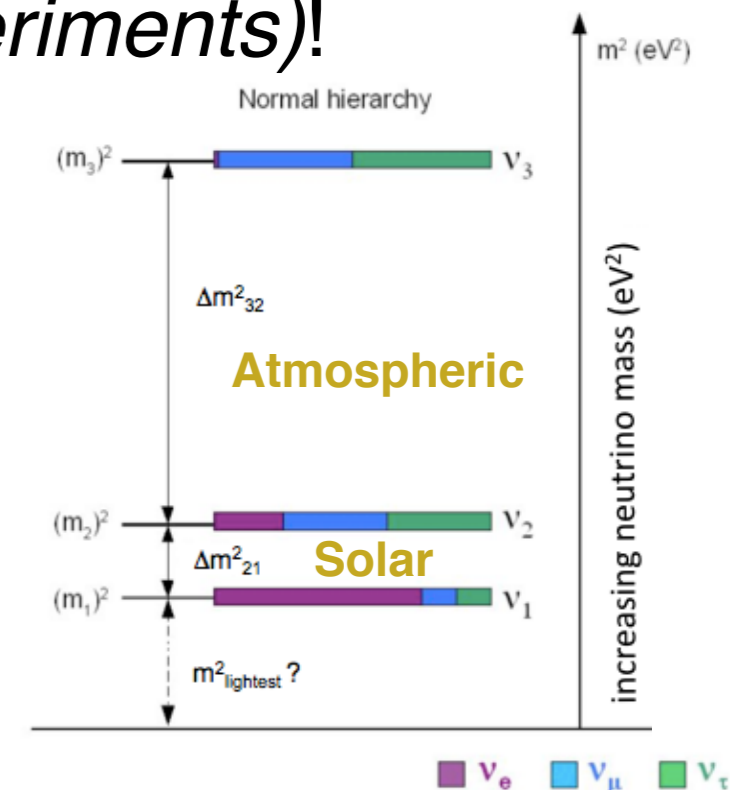
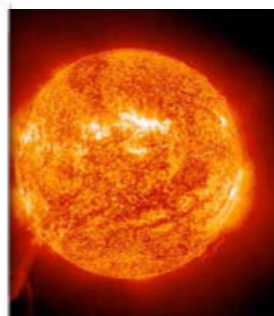
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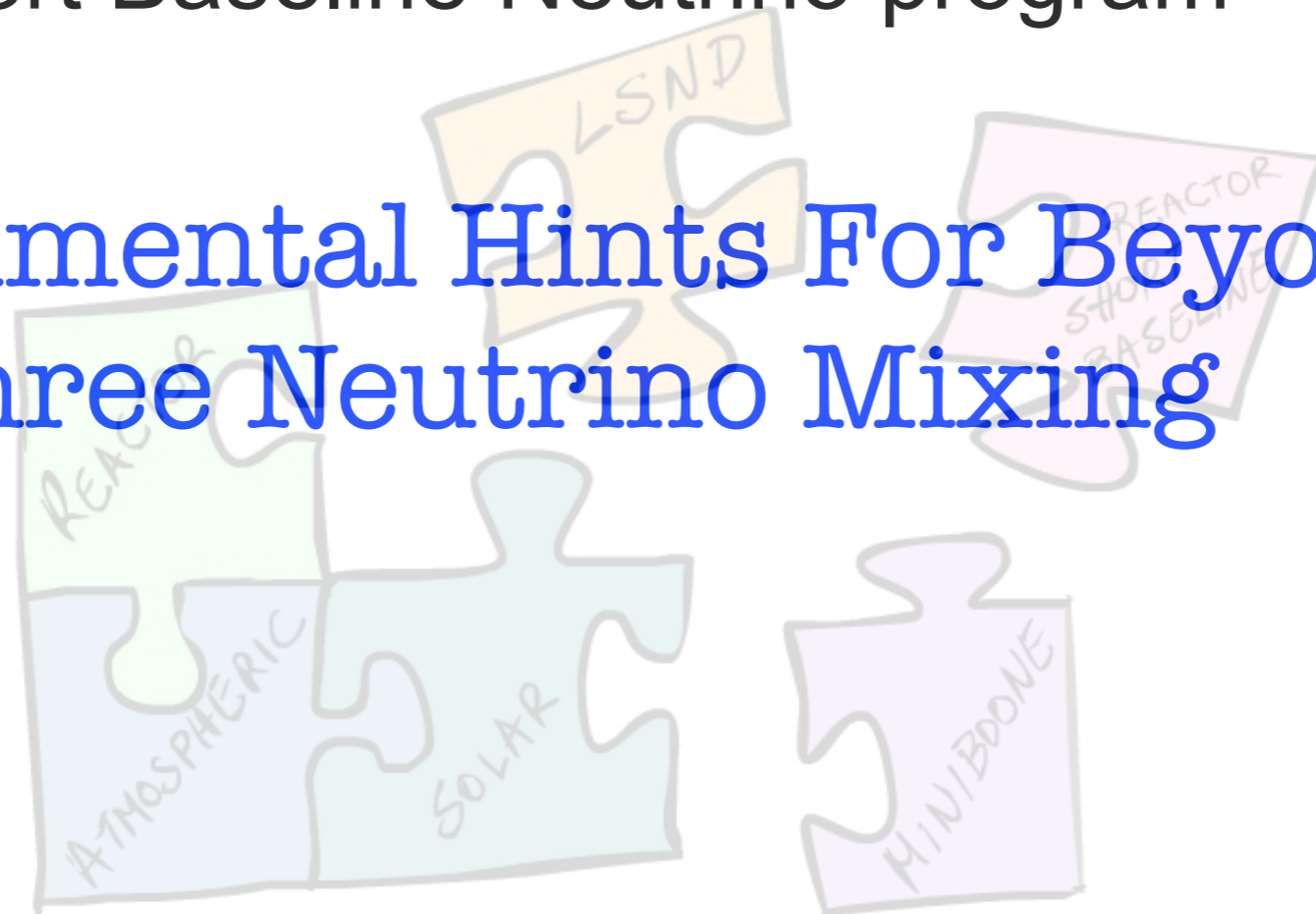
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**Accelerator  
Neutrino  
Oscillation  
(Short- and  
Long-Baseline)**

# Why a Short-baseline accelerator neutrino program?

Physics motivations for a  
Short Baseline Neutrino program

Experimental Hints For Beyond  
Three Neutrino Mixing



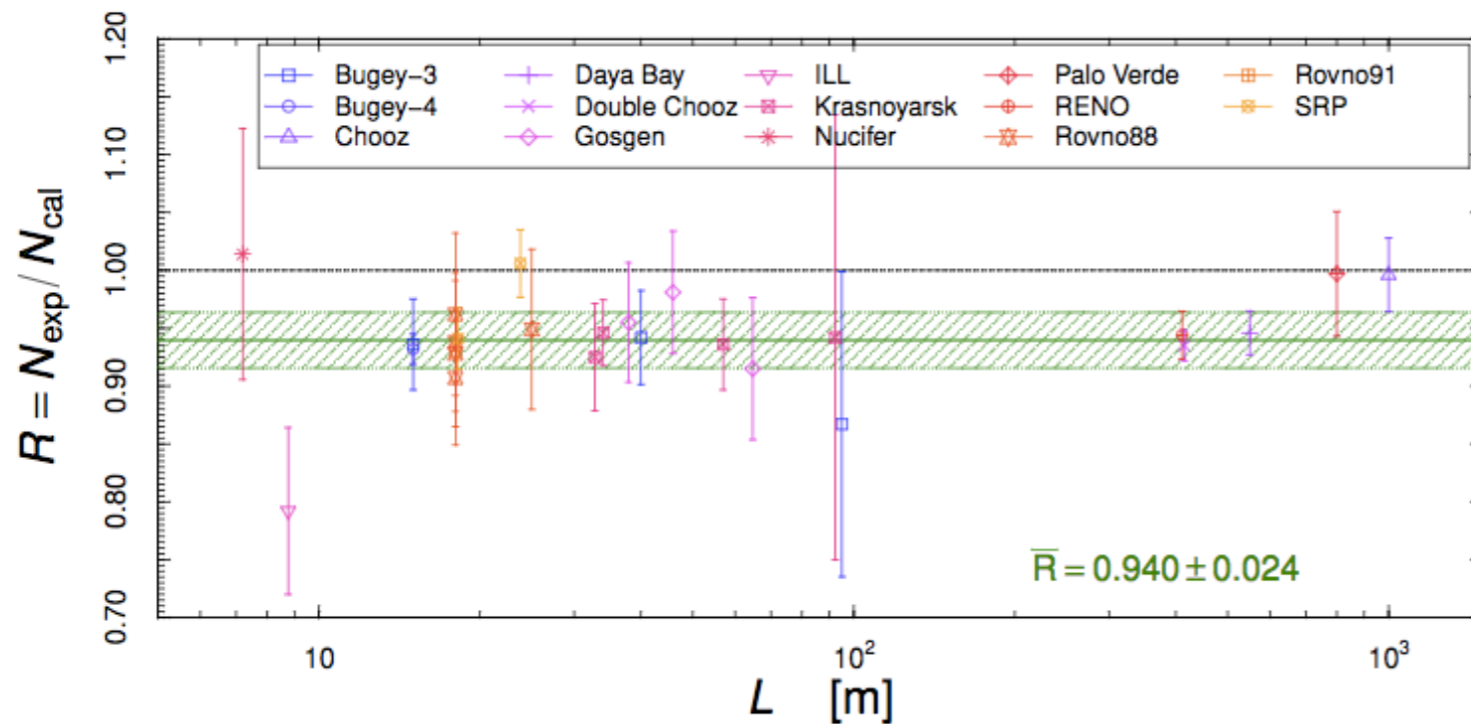
# Short-Baseline Neutrino Anomalies (I)

Two classes of experimental “neutrino anomalies” have been reported from measurement at short-baseline:

- (I) An apparent  $\bar{\nu}_e$  disappearance signal in the low energy neutrinos from nuclear reactors (“reactor anomaly”) and from radioactive neutrino sources in the Gallium experiments (“Gallium anomaly”)

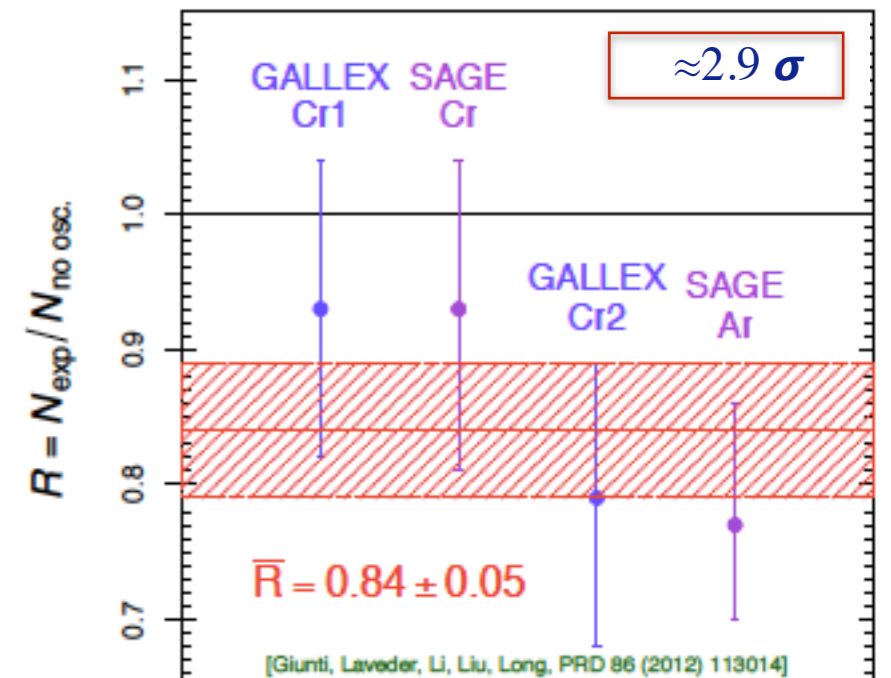
New reactor  $\bar{\nu}_e$  fluxes

[Mueller et al, PRC 83 (2011) 054615; Huber, PRC 84 (2011) 024617]



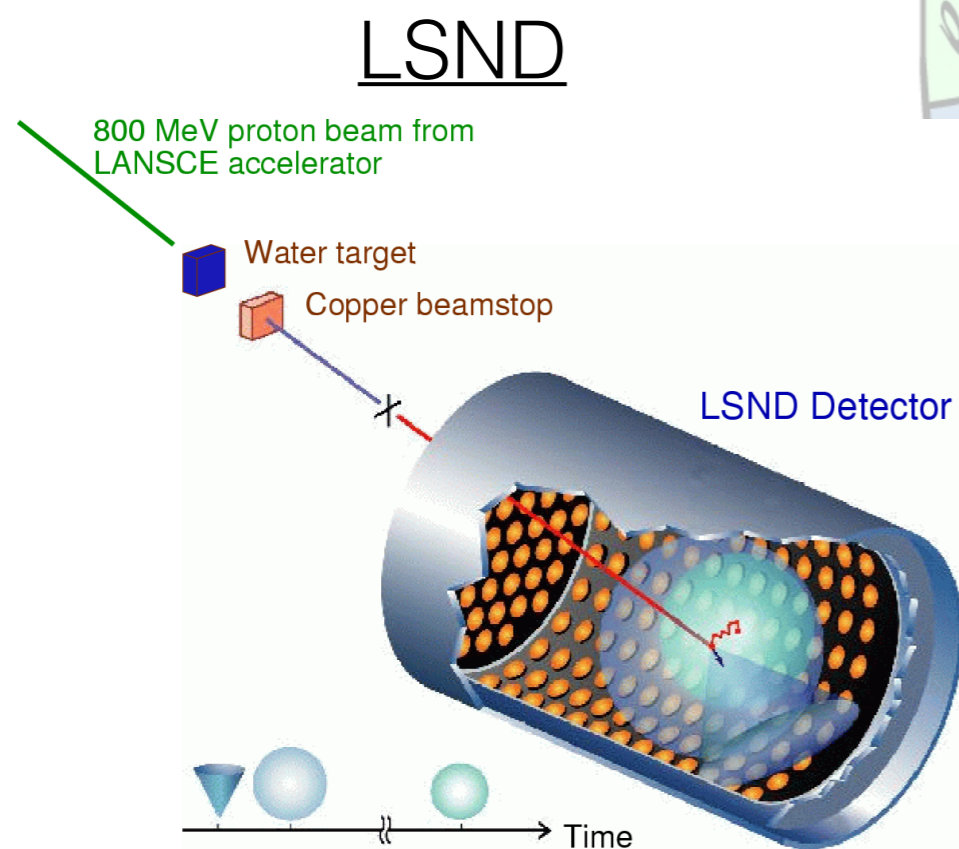
$\approx 2.5\sigma$  deficit

Gallium



# Short-Baseline Neutrino Anomalies (II)

- (II) Evidence for an electron-like excess from neutrinos from particle accelerators (the “LSND and Mini-BooNE anomalies”)





# Short-Baseline Accelerator Anomalies

## LSND

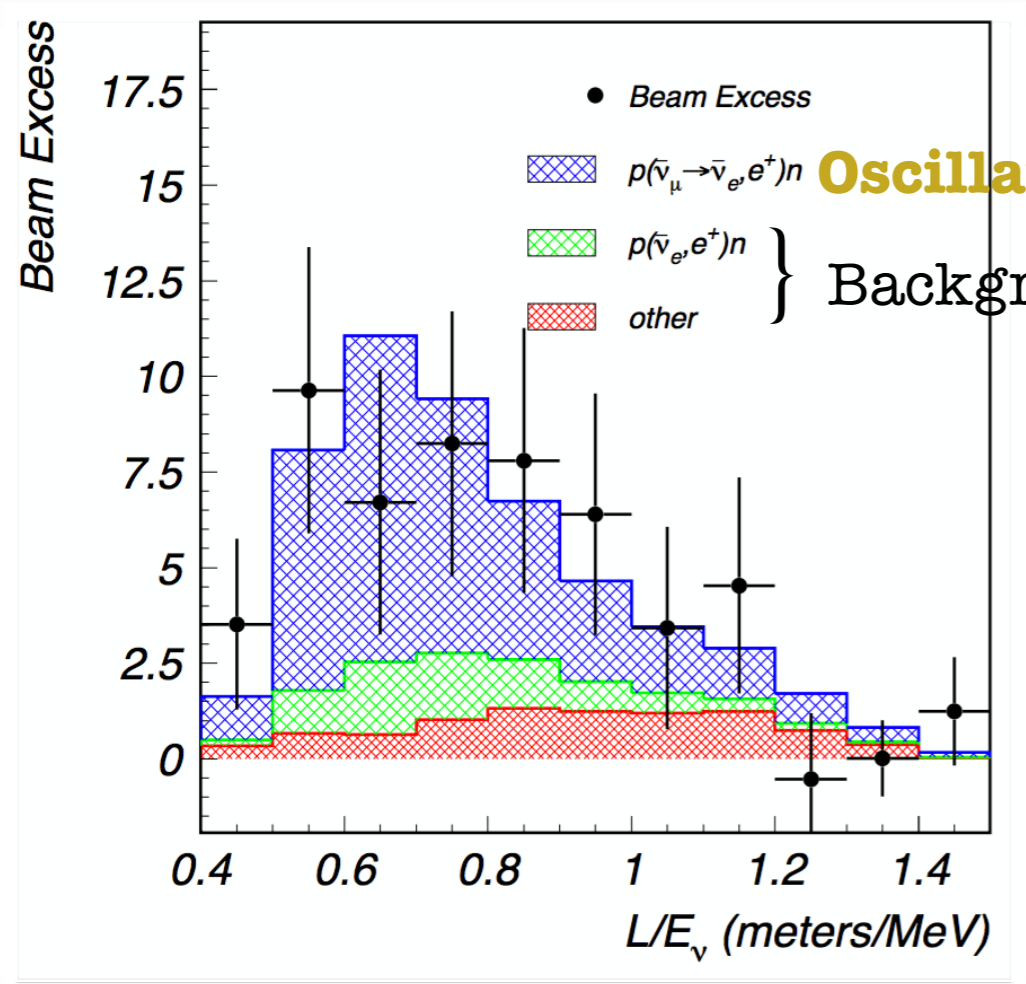
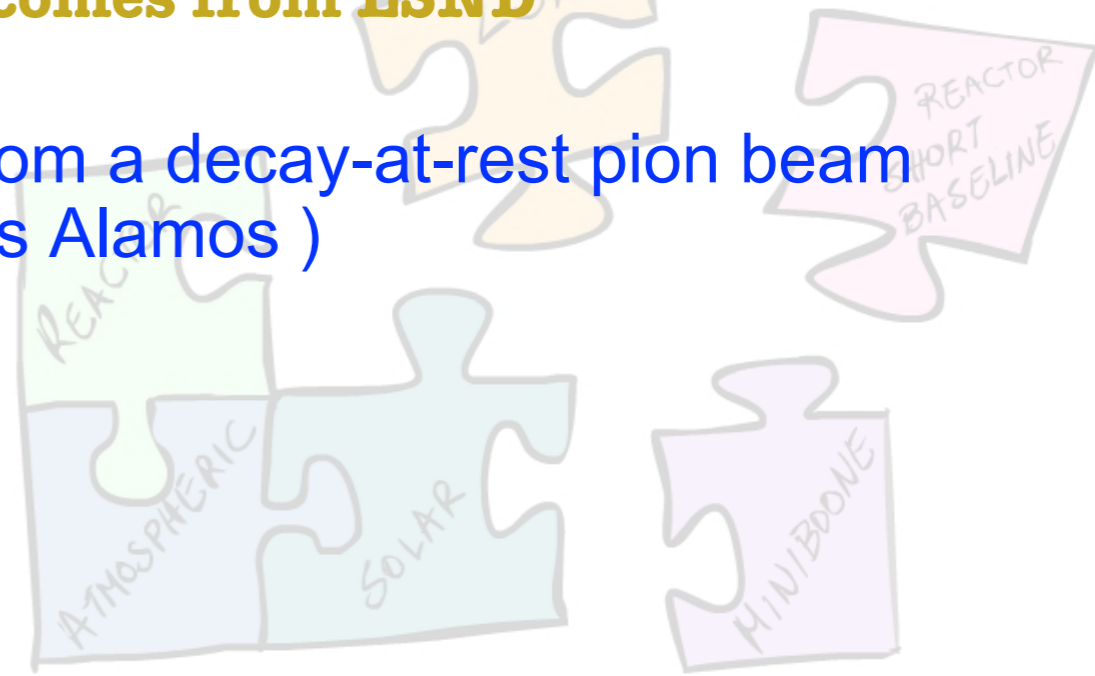
Baseline 30 m  
 E= [20 – 50] MeV  
 L/E  $\approx$  1 m/MeV

Most significant experimental hint of new physics comes from LSND

Low energy  $\bar{\nu}_\mu$  beam from a decay-at-rest pion beam (Los Alamos)

167 tons liquid scintillator

PRD 64 (2001) 112007



Oscillation signal?  
 } Backgrounds

Detected an excess in the appearance of  $\bar{\nu}_e$ , corresponding to a 3.8  $\sigma$  evidence for  $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$  oscillation occurring at  $\Delta m^2 \approx 1 \text{ eV}^2$

# Short-Baseline Accelerator Anomalies



MiniBooNE

Baseline 540 m

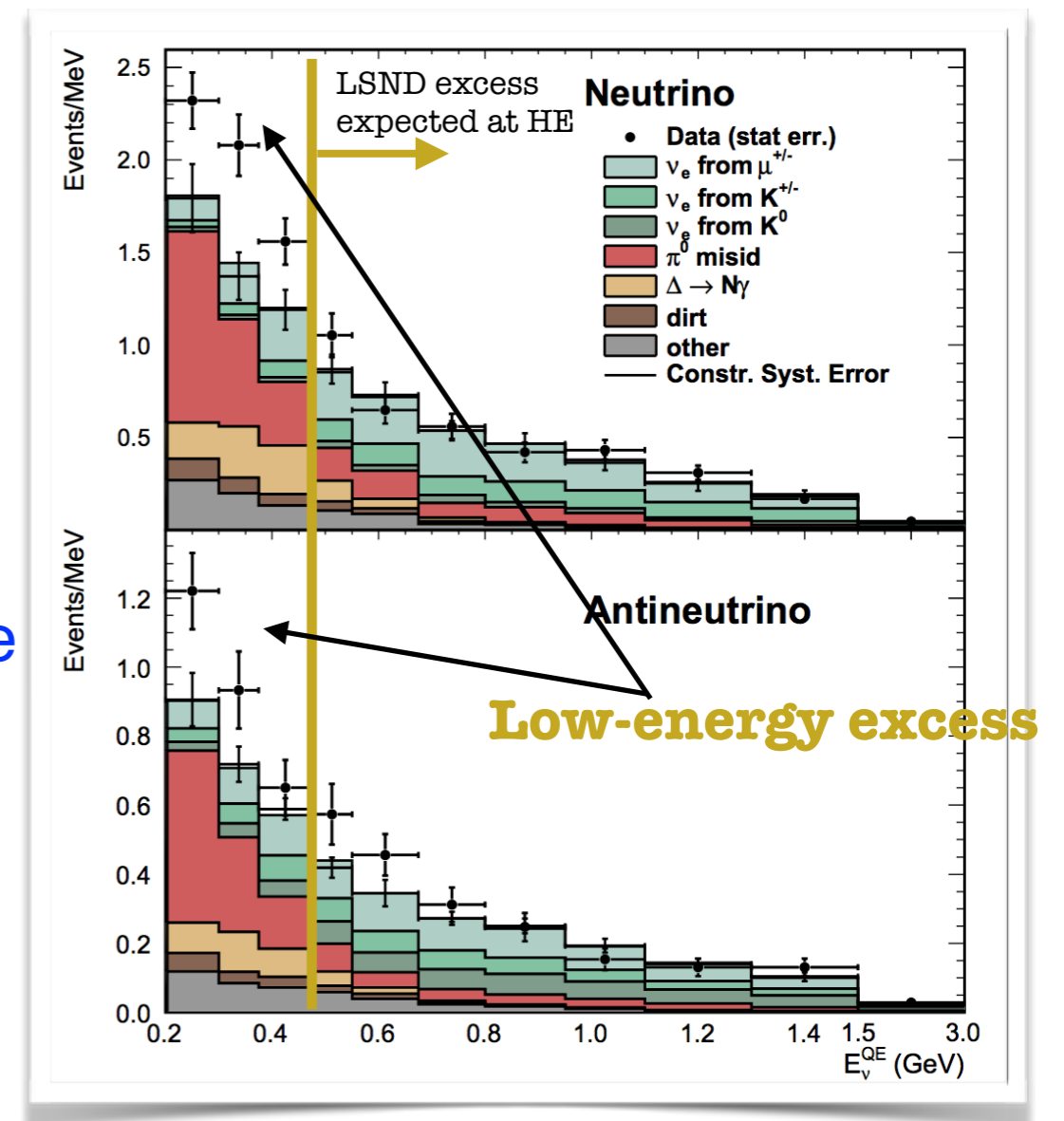
$E=[0 - 2]$  GeV

$L/E \approx 1$  m/MeV

800 tons mineral oil

PRL 110 (2013) 161801

- Decay in flight neutrino source (Booster Neutrino Beam - Fermilab)
- $L/E$  similar to LSND
- LSND anomaly not evident in MiniBooNE where expected, but a clear excess in  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  ( $3.4 \sigma$ ) and  $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$  ( $2.8 \sigma$ ) appearance is observed in a lower energy range



# Short-Baseline Accelerator Anomalies

MiniBooNE

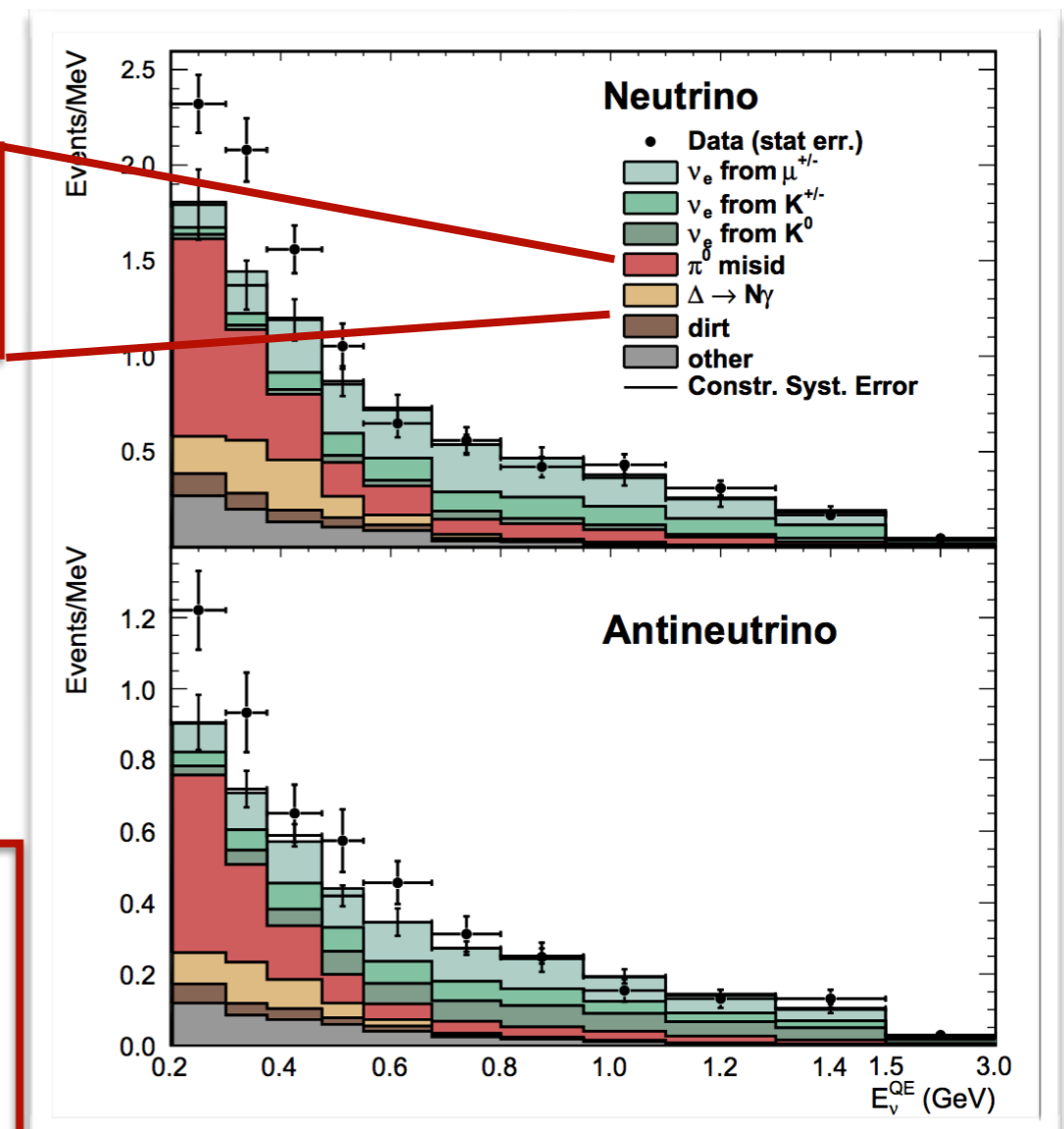
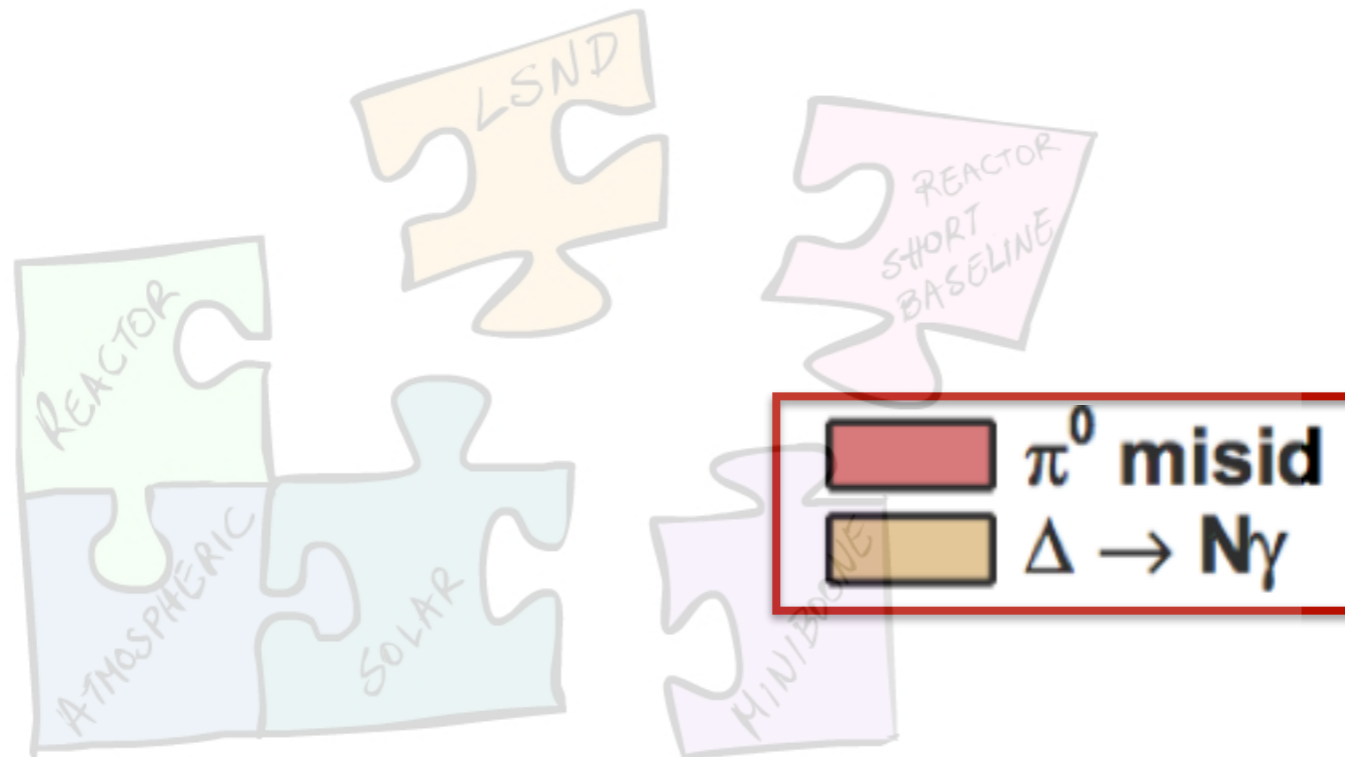
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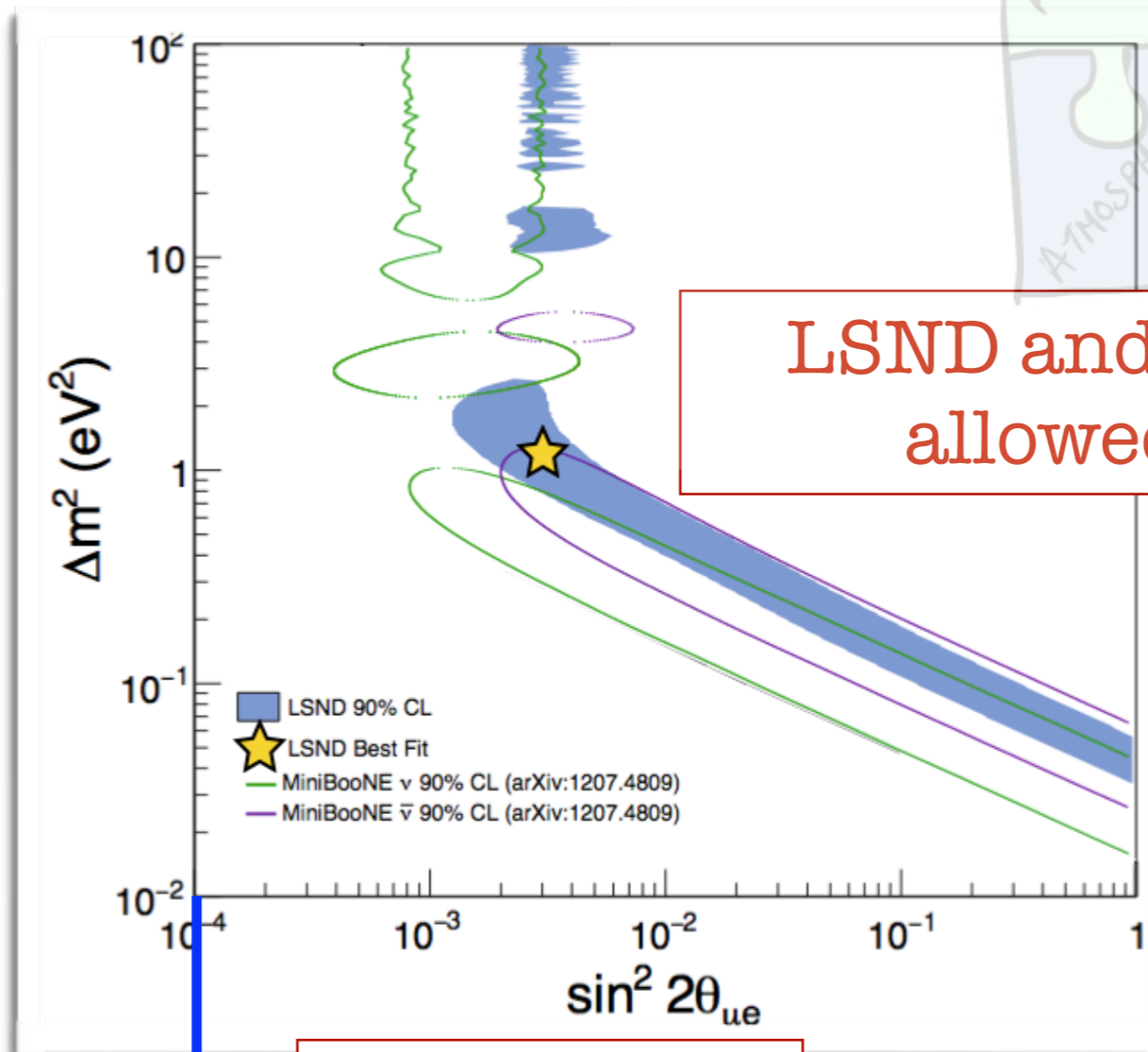
PRL 110 (2013) 161801



MiniBooNE (Cherenkov detector) cannot distinguish electron from single gamma and cannot determine the composition of the excess

# Hints at new physics

None of the SBL neutrino anomalies can be described by oscillations between the three Standard Model neutrinos



LSND and MiniBooNE  
allowed regions

The standard active  
neutrino mass  
splittings are way  
down here at  $10^{-3}$   
and  $10^{-5}$  eV<sup>2</sup>

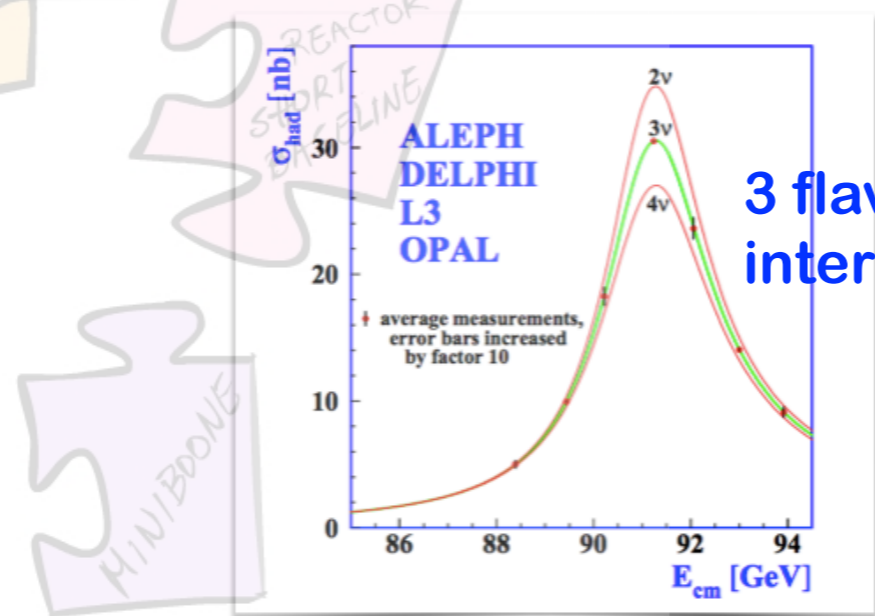
Atmospheric

Solar

# Hints at new physics

None of the SBL neutrino anomalies can be described by oscillations between the three Standard Model neutrinos **and ...**

Could be pointing at **additional physics beyond the Standard Model** in the neutrino sector:  
additional neutrino states with larger mass-squared differences  
driving neutrino oscillation at small distances



Any additional neutrino doesn't participate in weak interactions  $\Rightarrow$  **“sterile neutrino”**

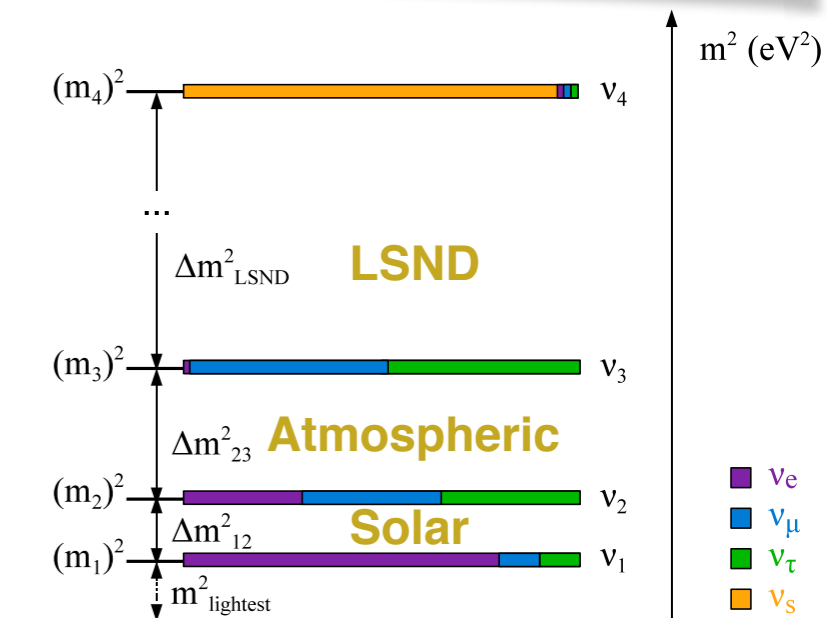
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## Minimal model

- a **"3+1" neutrino mixing** (minimal modification of the standard three-neutrino scheme)
- the new sterile neutrino would be mainly composed by a heavy neutrino  $\nu_4$  such that the new  $\Delta m^2 = \Delta m_{41}^2 \simeq [0.1 - 10]eV^2$  and  $m_1, m_2, m_3 \ll m_4$



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# Hints at new physics

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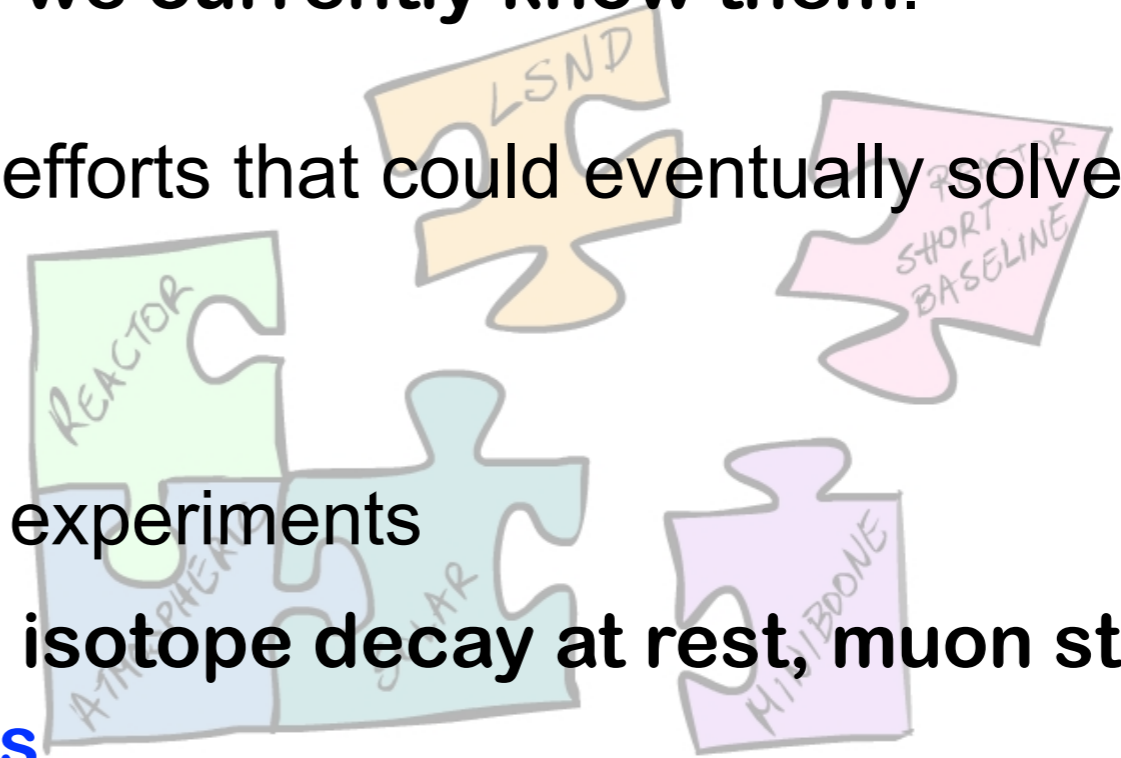
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Constraints on sterile neutrino mixing from  $\nu_\mu$  **disappearance** data (no hints of  $\nu_\mu$  disappearance in the  $\Delta m^2 \sim 1 \text{ eV}^2$  region):

- Tension when combined with appearance data
- Some global analyses are performed including **more than one active sterile neutrino**.

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# Probing hints at new physics

- Data from previous experiments suggest that there might be a **fourth kind** of neutrino that **may not follow the rules of neutrino oscillations and interactions with matter as we currently know them.**
  - Ongoing and future experimental efforts that could eventually solve this **puzzle** use different approaches:
    - **Reactor** experiments
    - **Intense radioactive sources** experiments
    - **Pion and kaon decay at rest, isotope decay at rest, muon storage ring, decay in flight neutrinos** ...
- 

*“Given the potential implications [and challenges] of sterile neutrinos, it is important to confirm their existence in multiple (preferably orthogonal) approaches.”*

Light Sterile Neutrinos: A White Paper (arXiv:1204.5379)



# Global Analysis of Short-baseline Neutrino Current Exclusion Limits

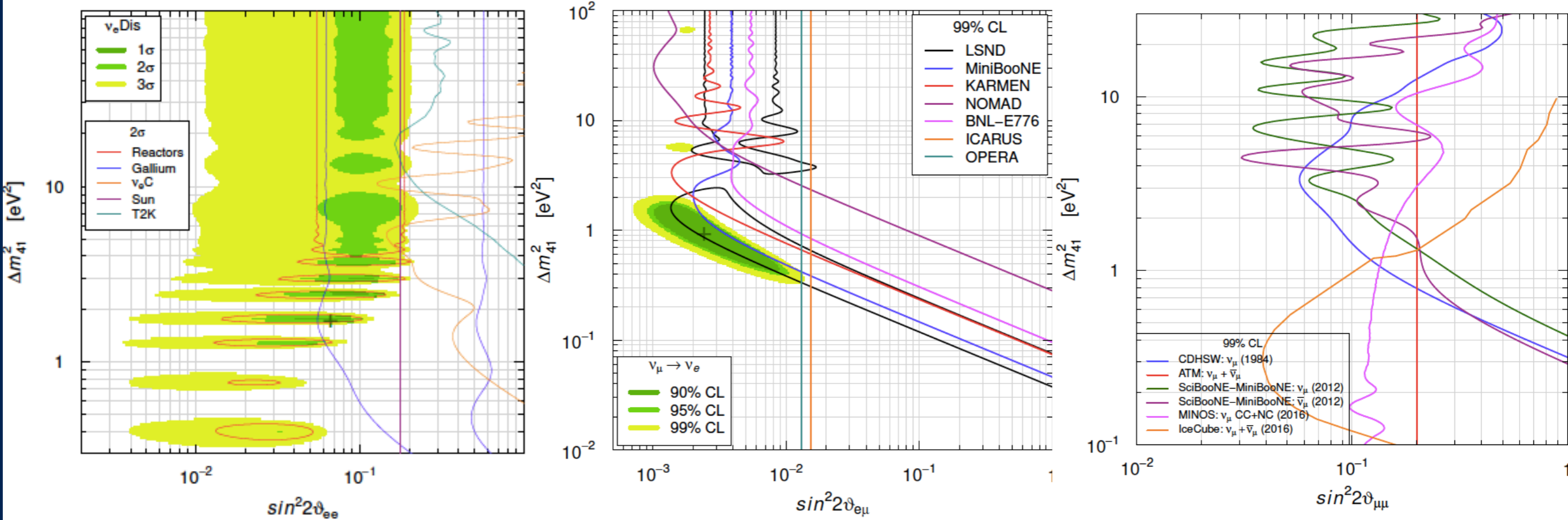
S. Gariazzo, C. Giunti, M. Laveder, Y.F. Li, arXiv:1703.00860

“Updated Global **3+1 Analysis** of Short-BaseLine Neutrino Oscillations”

$\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e$  and  $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$   
( $\nu_e$  disappearance)

$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  and  $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$   
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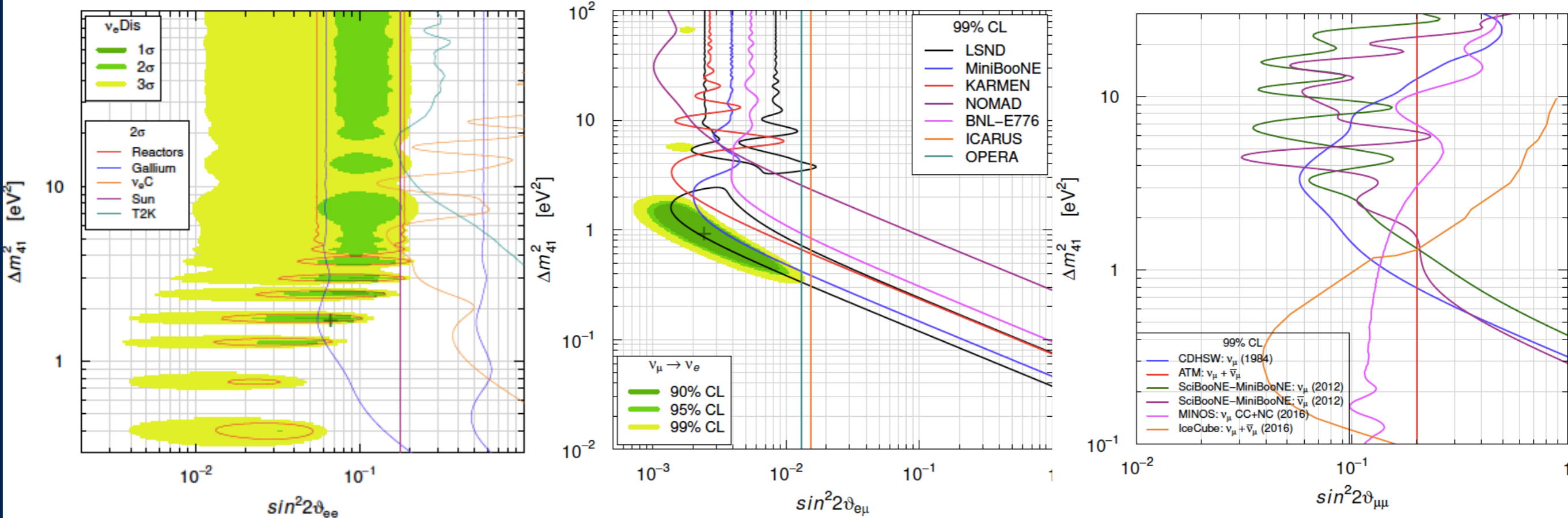
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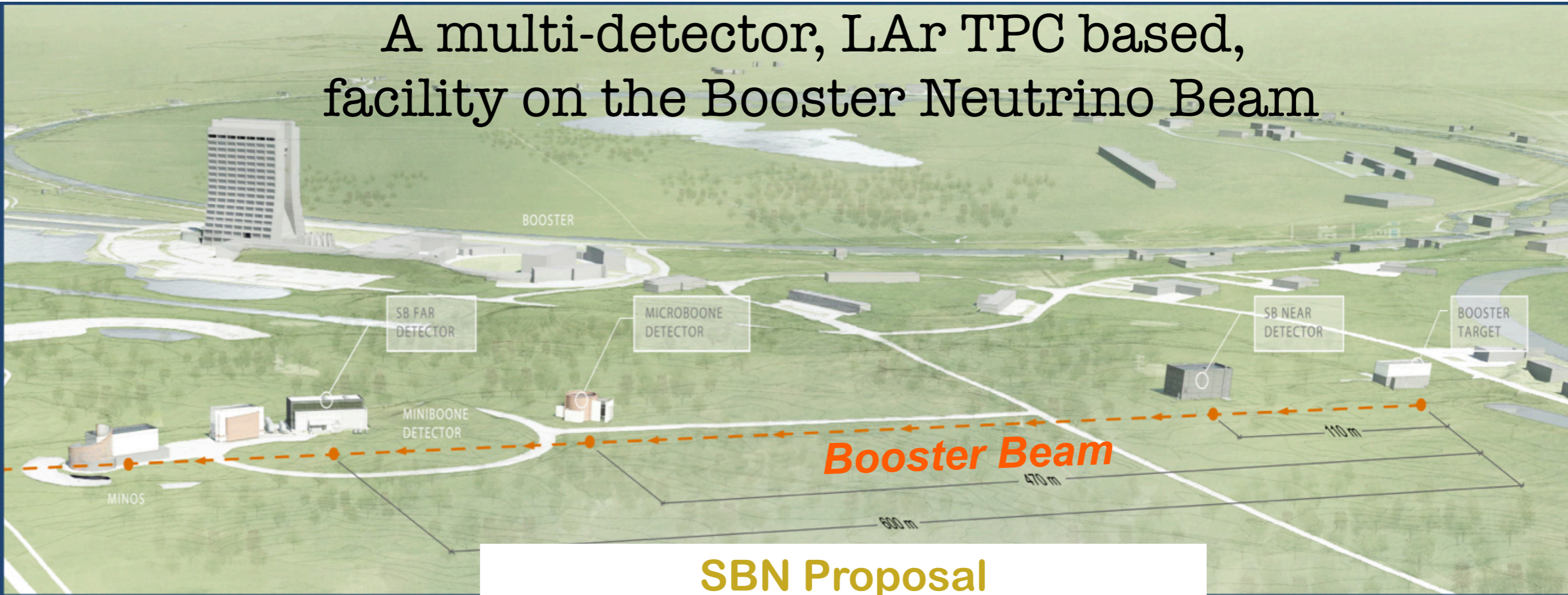
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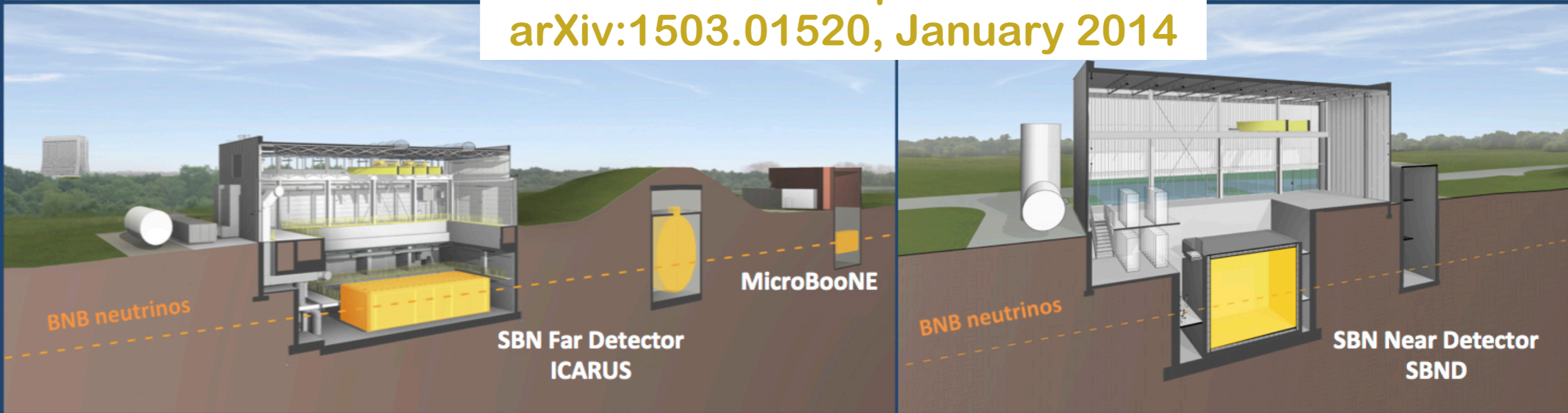
- Recent measurements, especially from **NEOS**, **IceCube** and **MINOS** experiments, have constrained the possible sterile neutrino parameters significantly (see later)
- Only a small region of mass-squared values remains compatible with all of the available data

# FNAL Short Baseline Neutrino program

A multi-detector, LAr TPC based, facility on the Booster Neutrino Beam

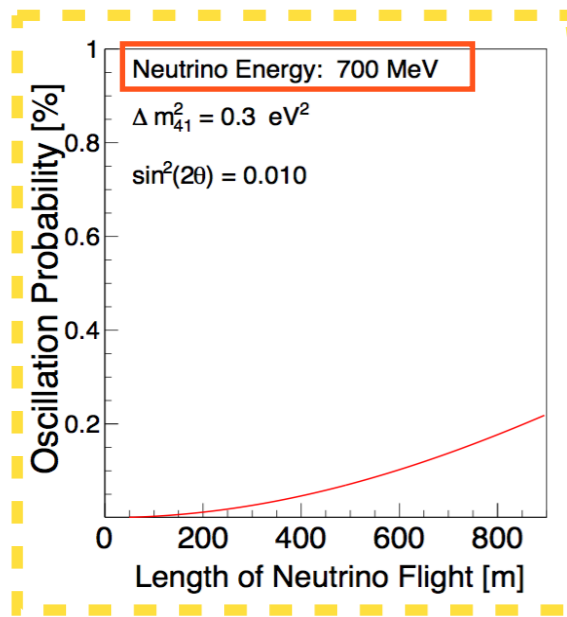
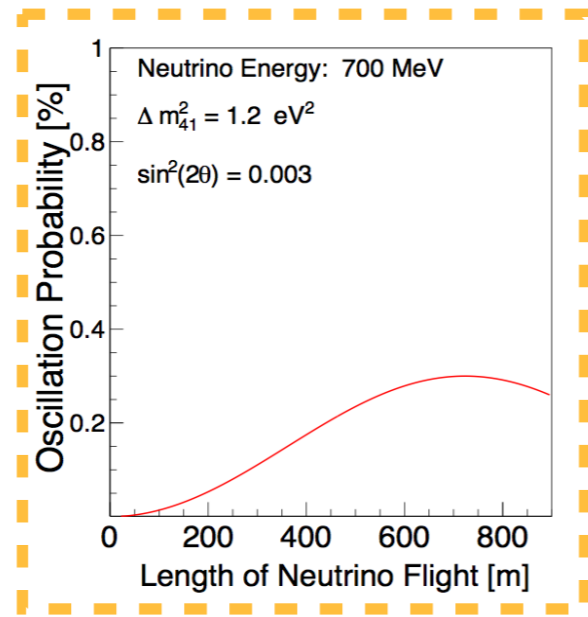
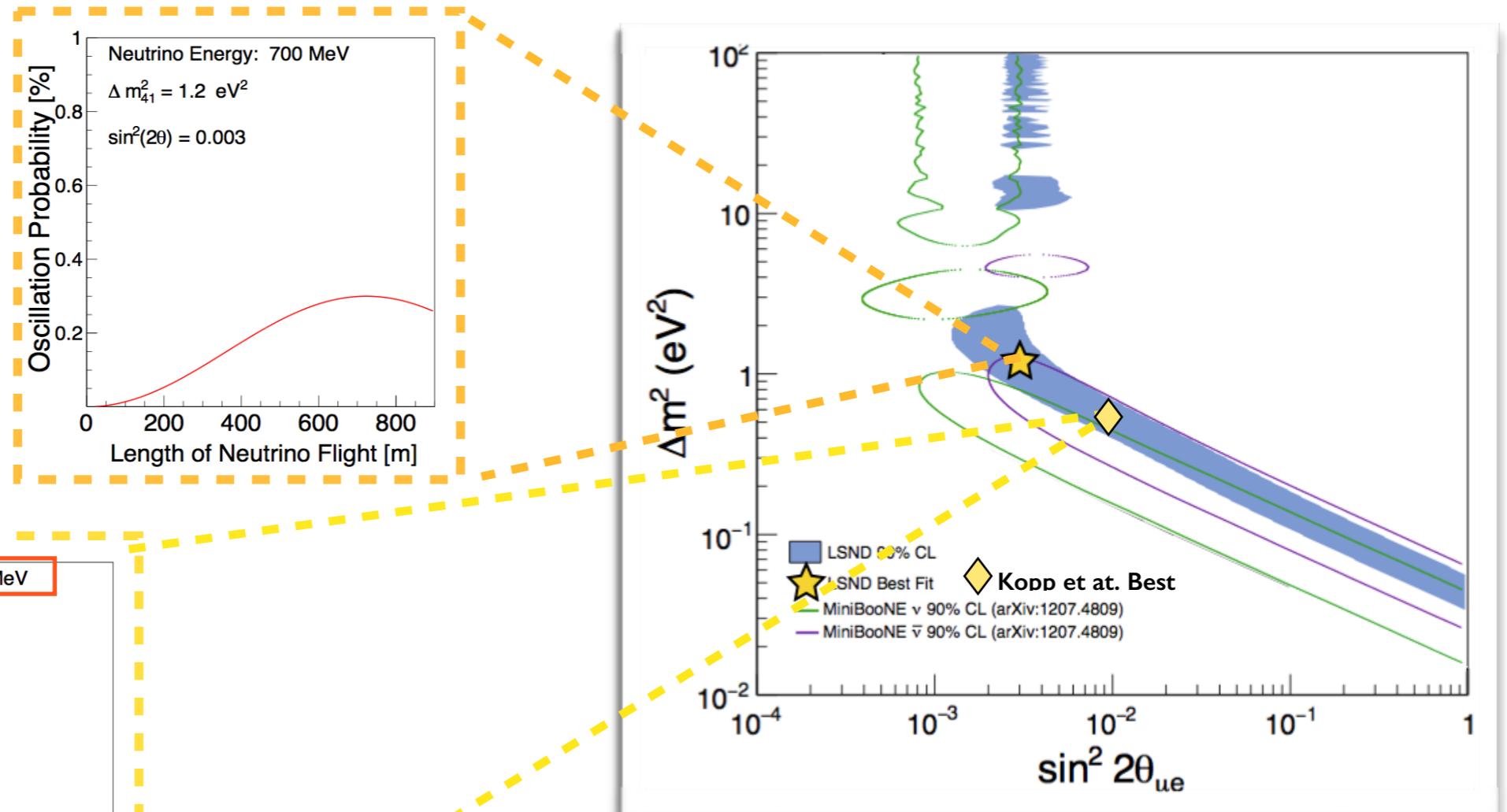


**SBN Proposal**  
arXiv:1503.01520, January 2014



# Sterile Neutrino Search at FNAL

- The accelerator neutrino anomalies at short-baseline hint at oscillation with very small amplitude
- Resolving small oscillation effects requires good control of **systematic uncertainties**



FNAL SBN: LAr TPC - multi-detector approach - in a well characterized beam

# Fermilab – aerial view



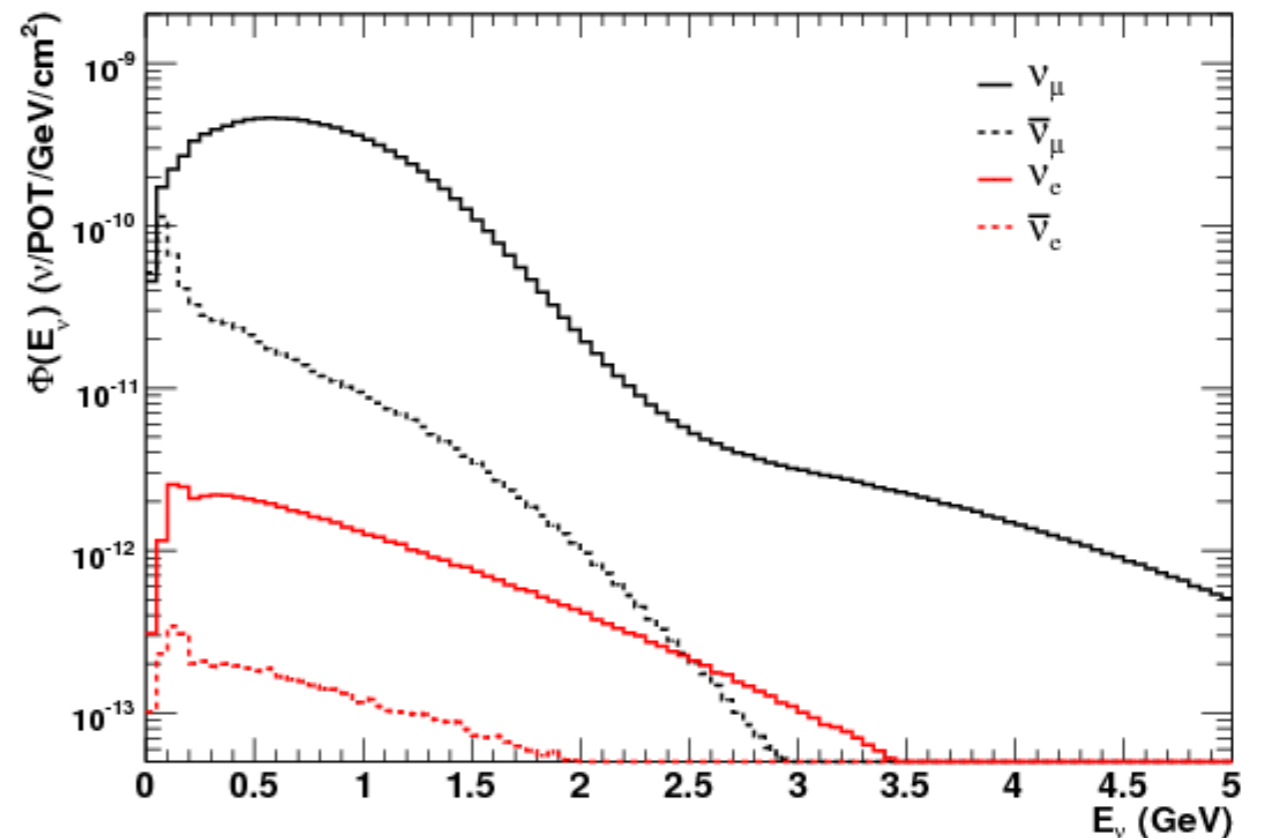
# Fermilab – Neutrino beams

## Booster Neutrino Beam (BNB)

Fermilab's low-energy neutrino beam:

$$\langle E_\nu \rangle \approx 700 \text{ MeV}$$

Booster - 8 GeV protons



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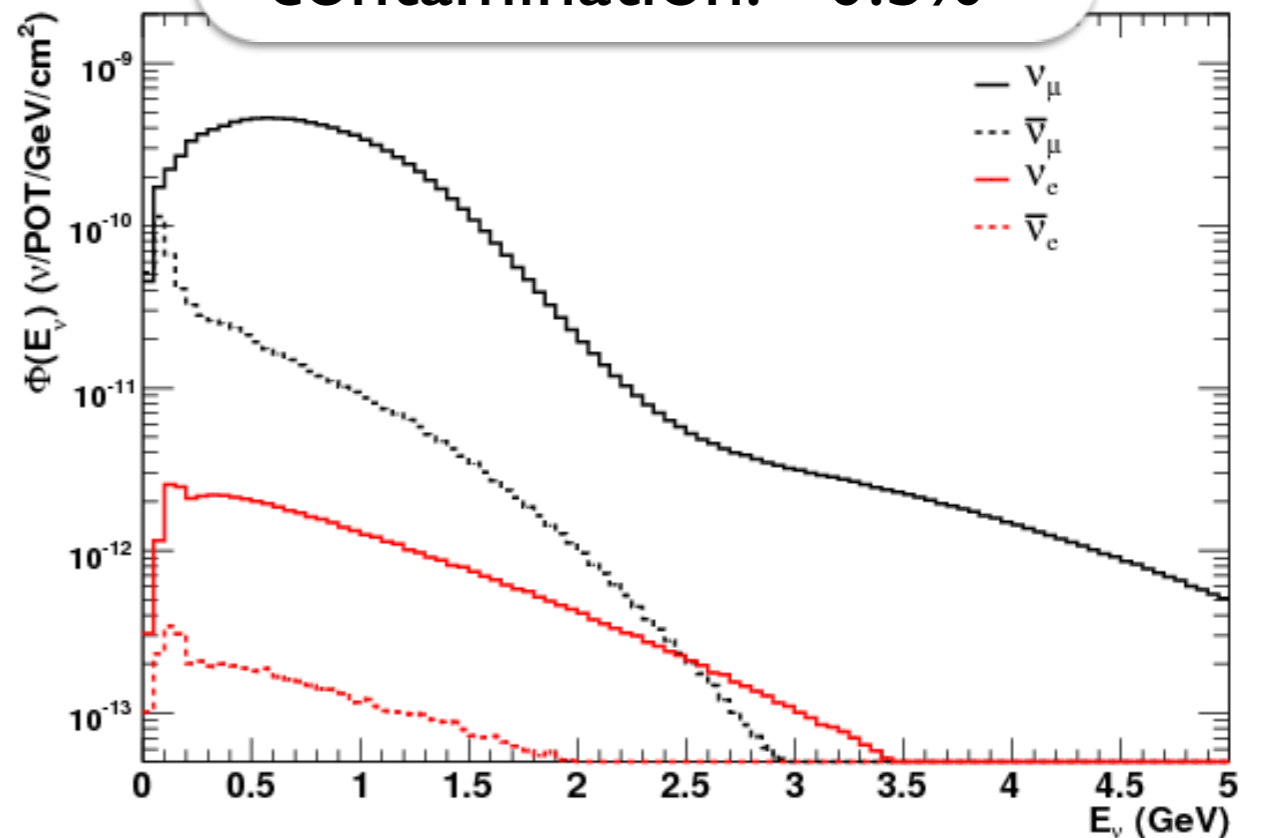
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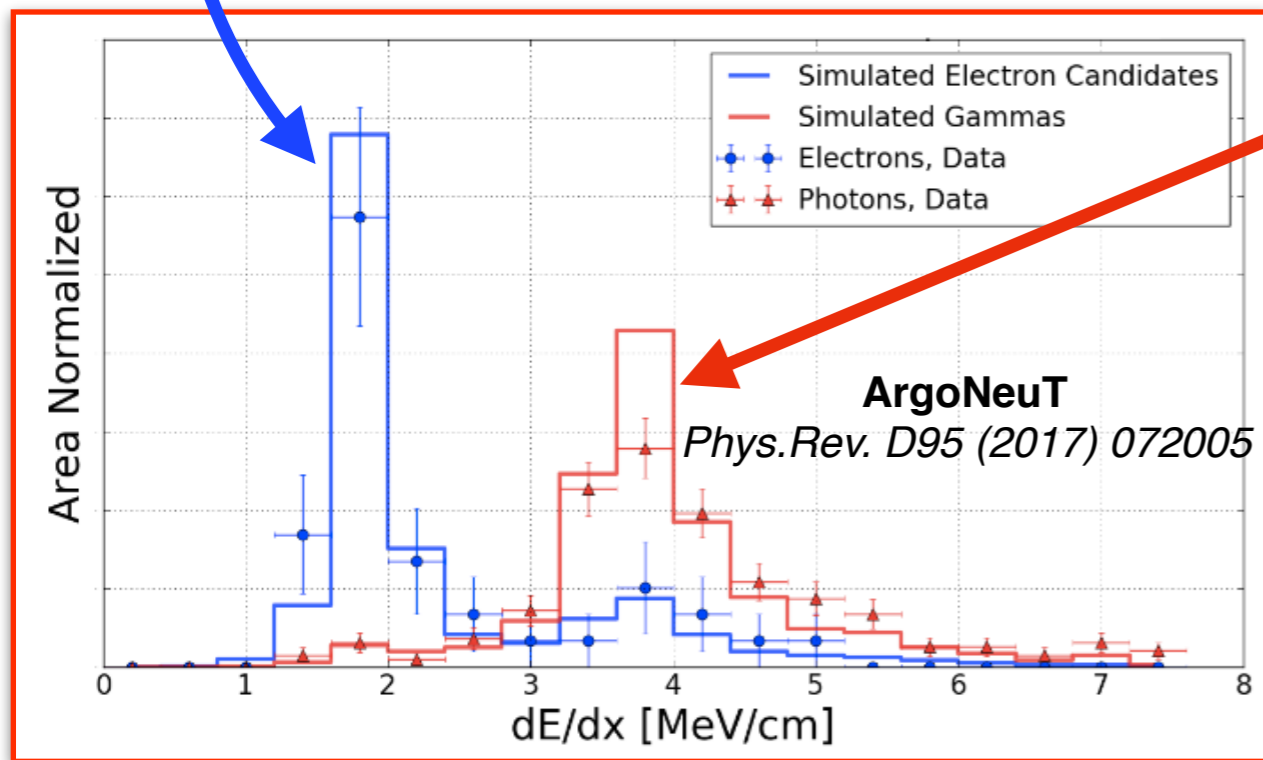
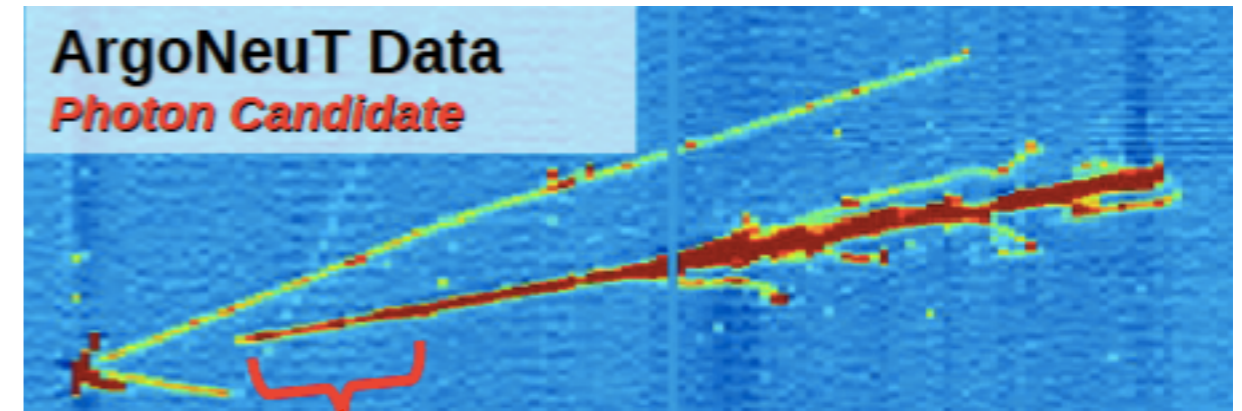
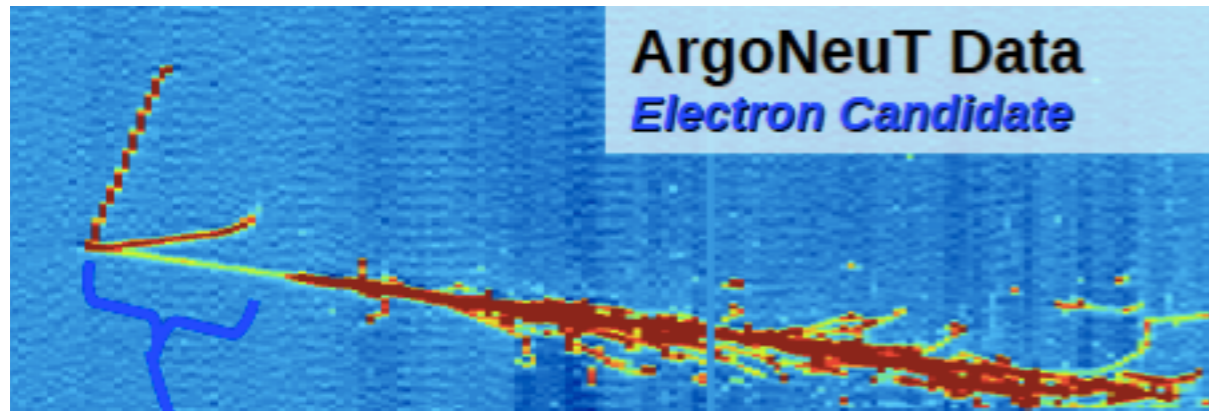
Booster - 8 GeV protons

Small electron neutrino  
contamination:  $<0.5\%$

- Beam - mostly muon neutrinos
- BNB stably running for a decade (well characterized)
- Anomalies exist here (MiniBooNE)

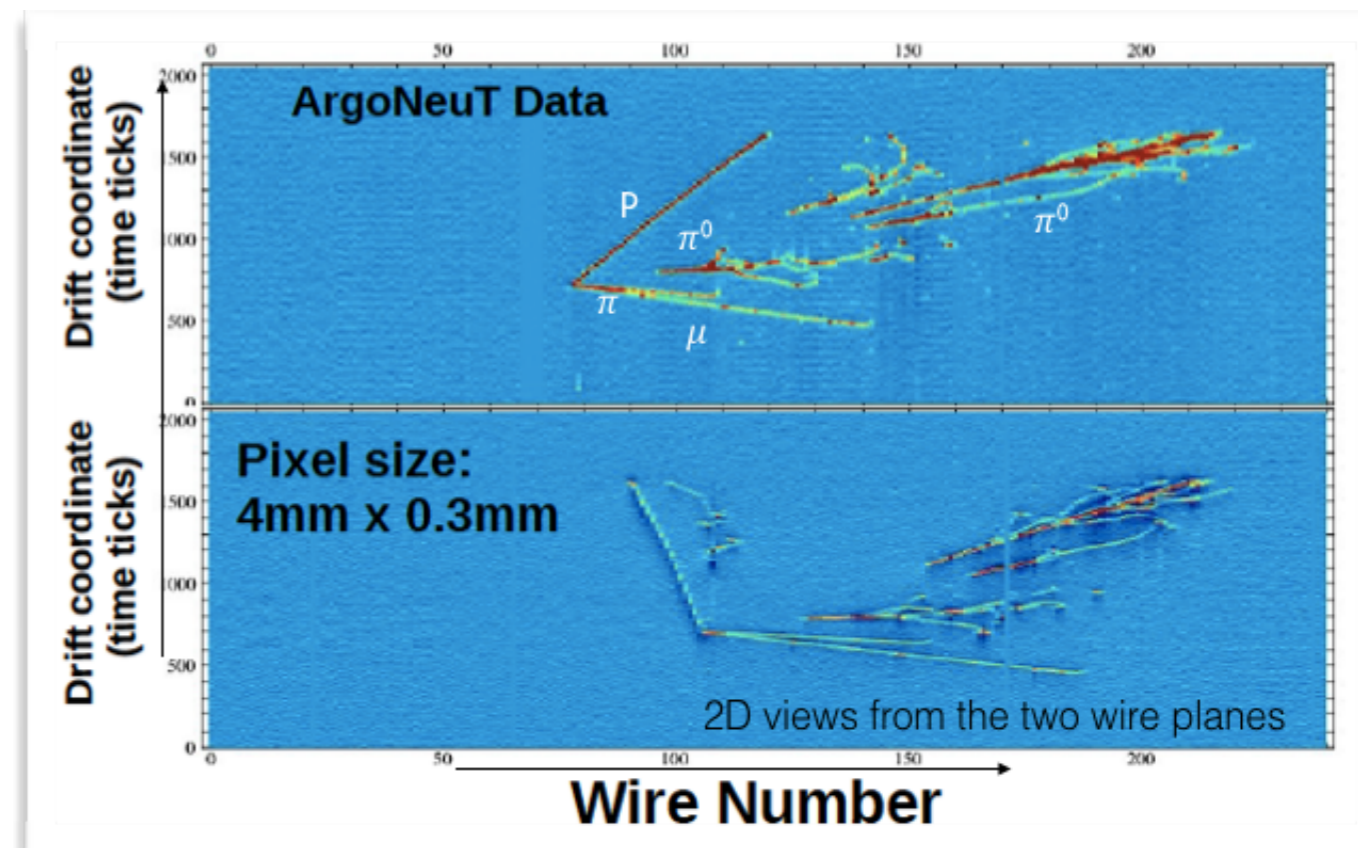


# Electron- $\gamma$ separation in LAr



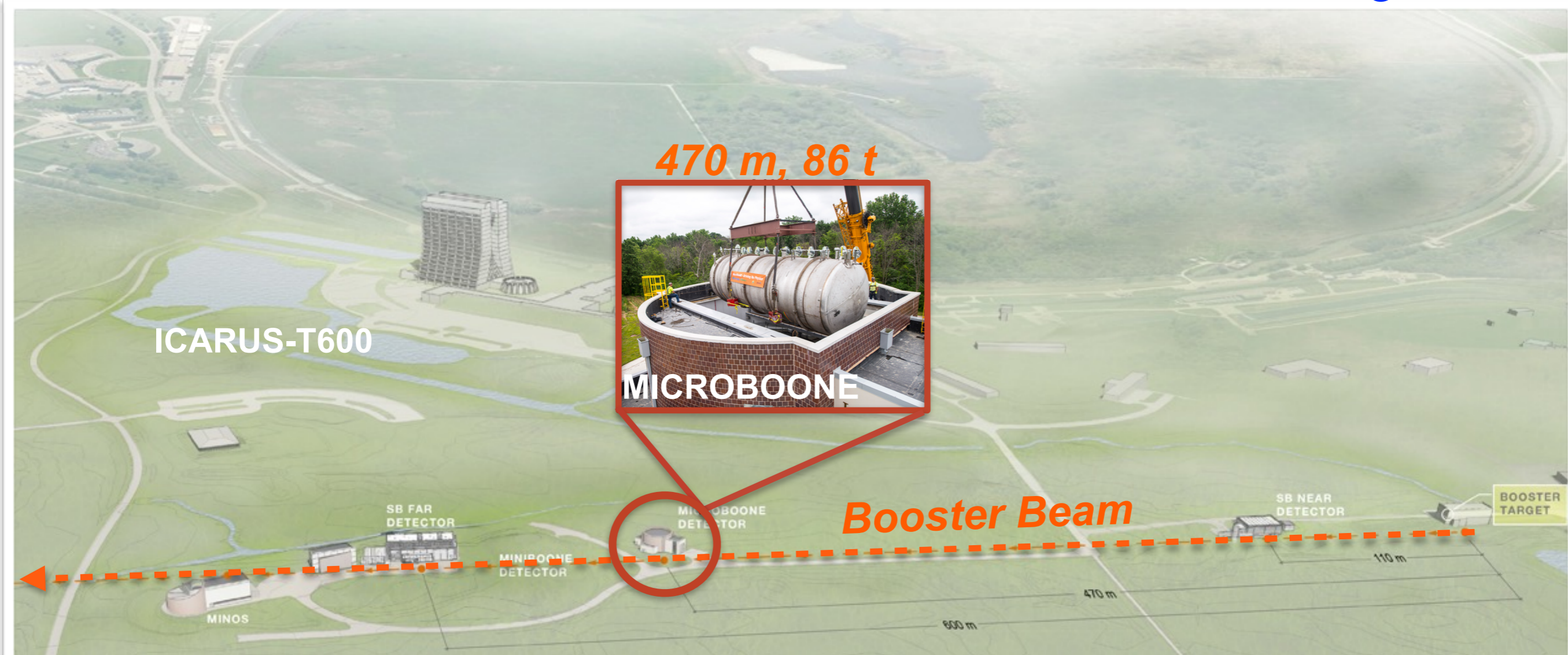
Analyzing topology and dE/dx

LAr TPC offers incredible fine tracking and calorimetry, along with electron/photon separation





# MicroBooNE: testing an anomaly

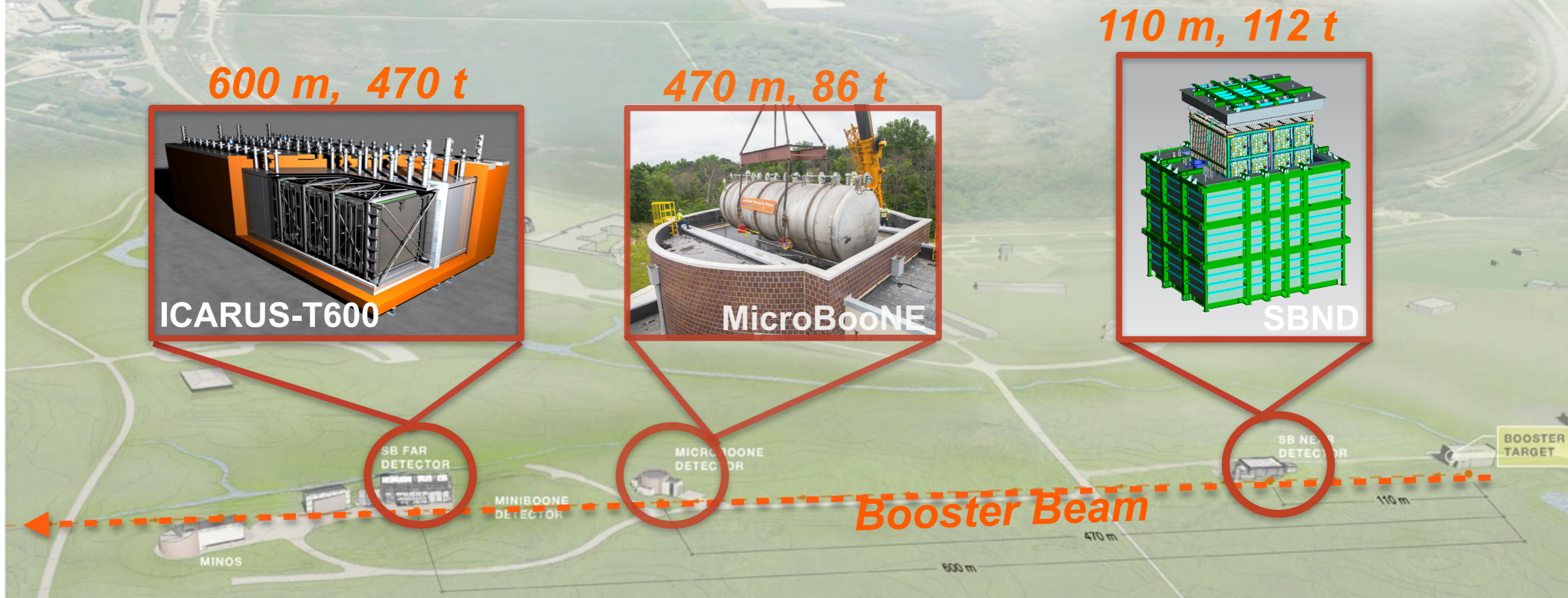


**SBN program - Phase 1** - The MicroBooNE detector is taking neutrino data

- Apply the **LArTPC technology** to test the **unexplained excess** in the **MiniBooNE** data (on the same beam)
- Determine its composition as **electrons** (from  $\nu_e$  appearance) or **photons** (from unaccounted background).

# FNAL Short Baseline Neutrino program

arXiv:1503.01520, January 2014

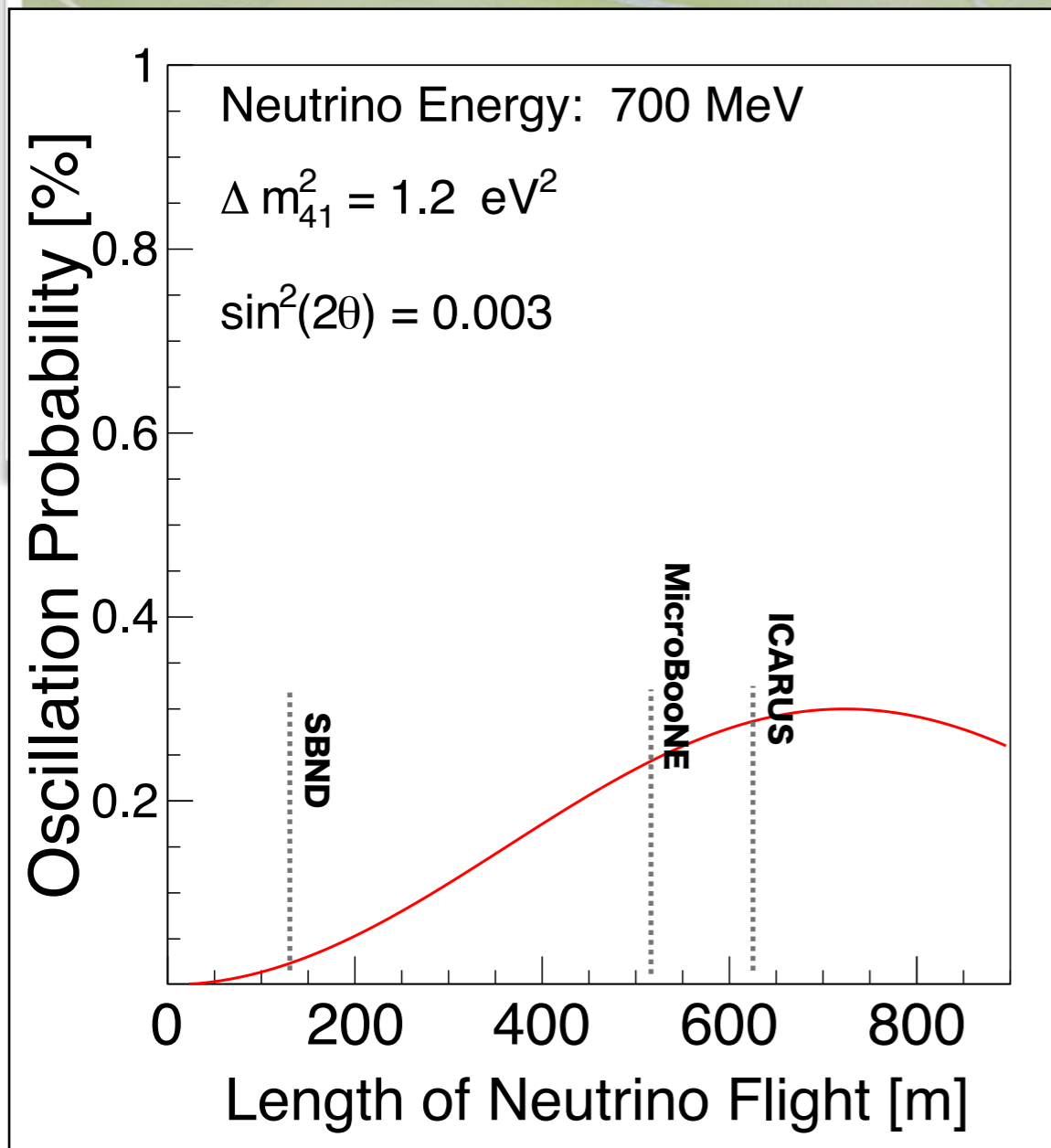
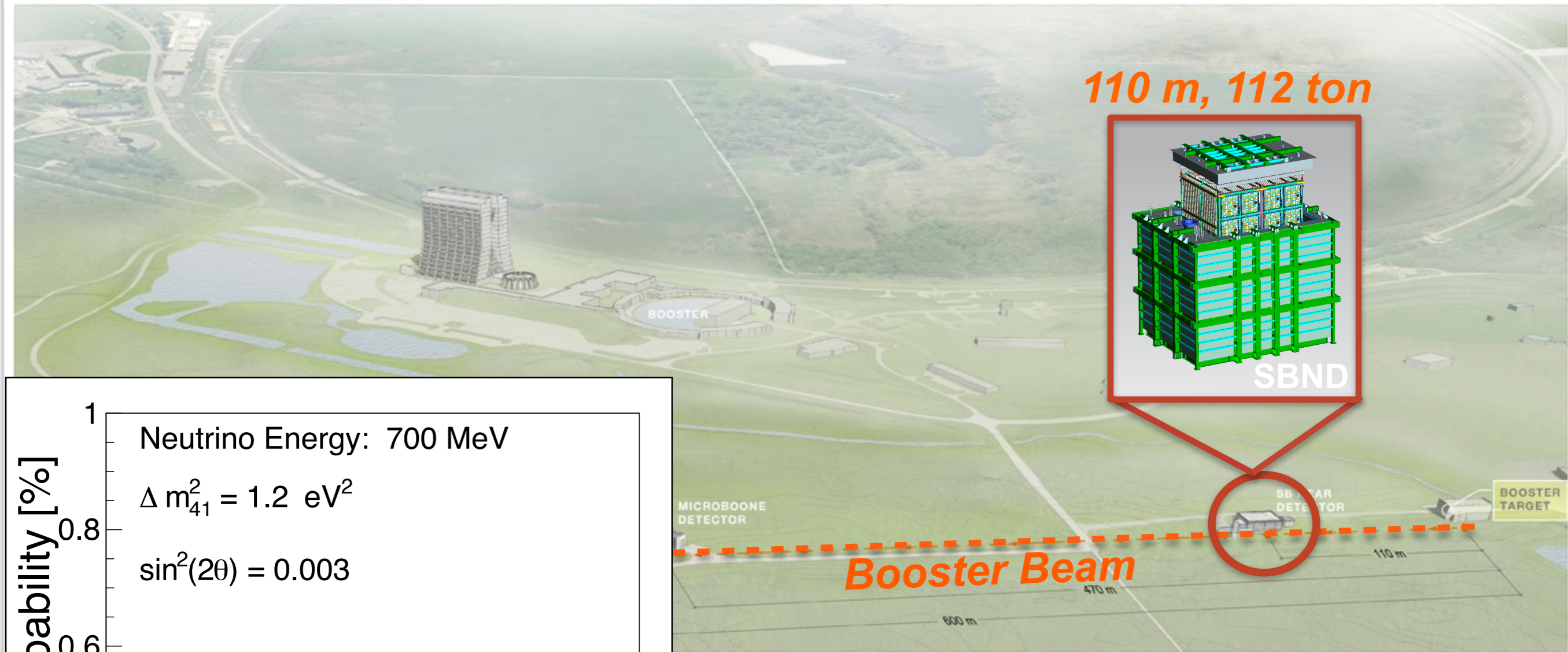


**SBN program - Phase 2** - By 2018/19, the MicroBooNE detector will be joined by two additional LAr-TPC detectors at different baselines

- the **SBND** detector and
- the **ICARUS-T600** detector

forming a **LAr TPC trio** (to sample the neutrino spectrum as a function distance) for the **SBN neutrino oscillation program**

# SBND - closest to the source



The Short-Baseline Near Detector (SBND), which will sit close to the source, plays a **unique role** in the chain of detectors, measuring the purity of the muon neutrino beam (it will **characterize the beam before oscillations occur** and address one of the dominant systematic uncertainties)

# ICARUS - high-tech from Italy

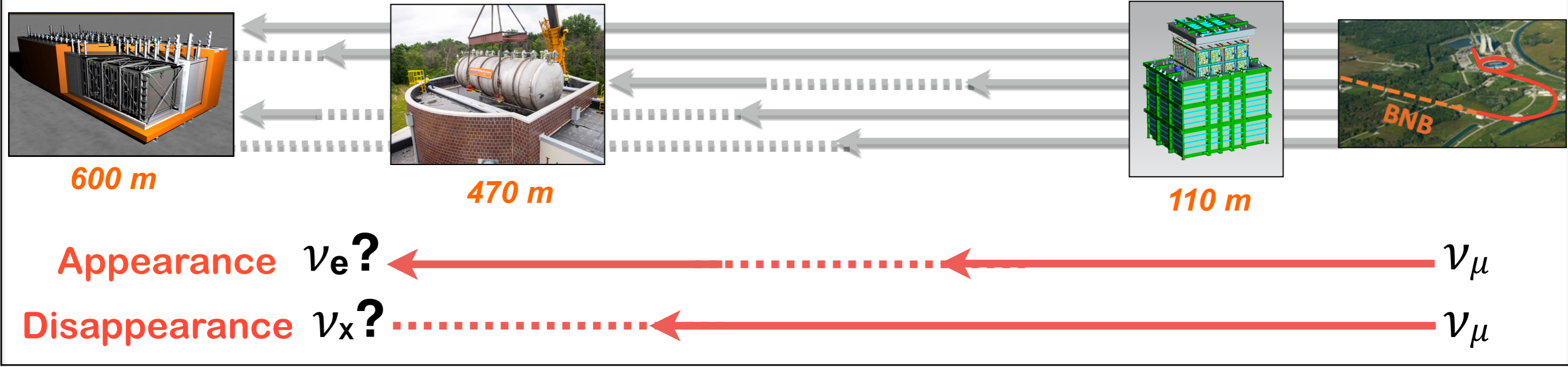


- The ICARUS T600 neutrino detector —the world’s largest liquid-argon neutrino experiment — operated at Gran Sasso National Laboratory in Italy for four years on the CNGS beam, has made its way across the ocean for a new research at Fermilab.
- Given its **large mass and far location** ICARUS-T600 will provide high sensitivity to oscillated neutrinos allowing for a precision search.

# The search for the fourth neutrino in SBN

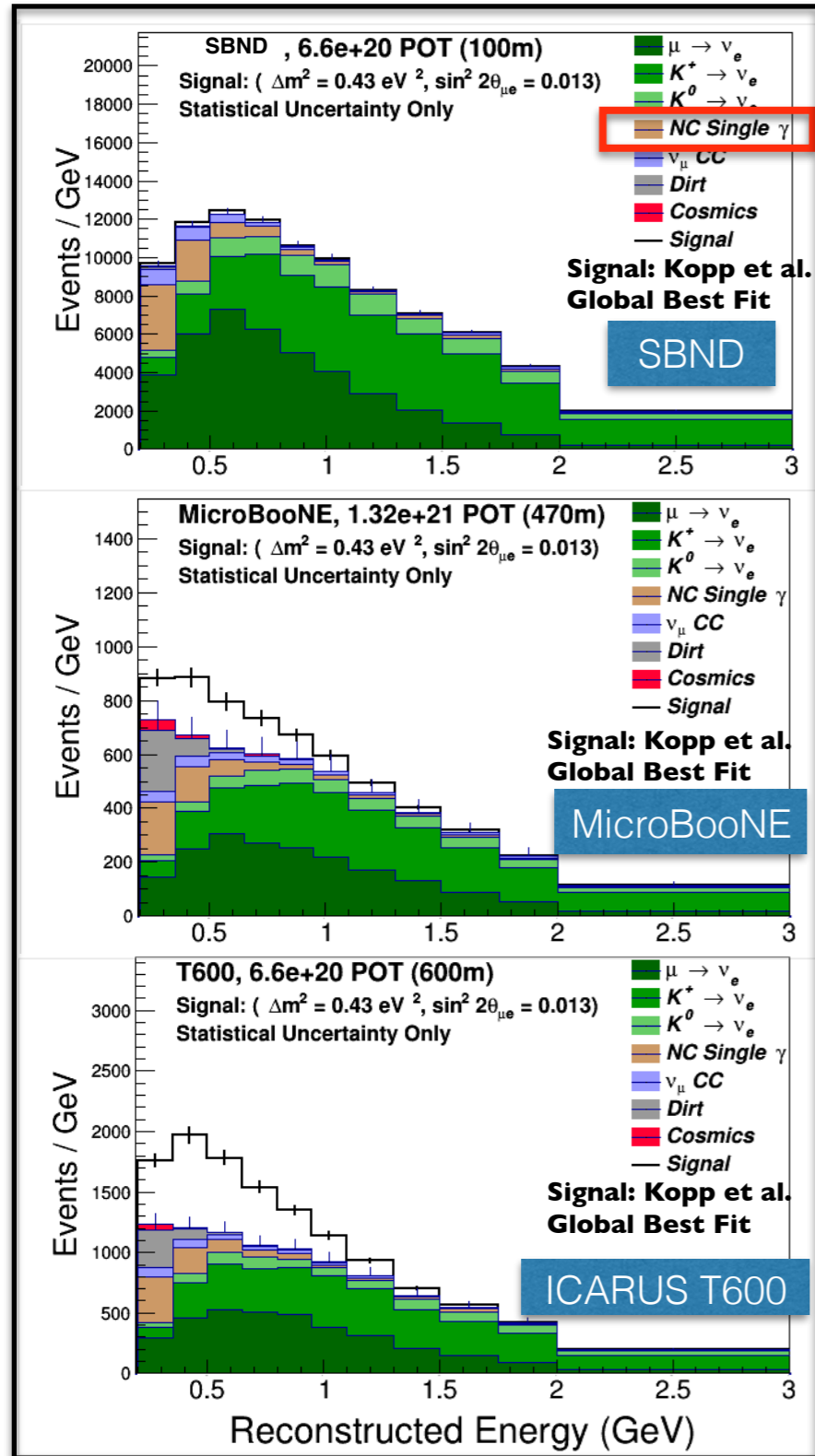
**(II)** on the way, these might be morphing into another, undetectable form (sterile neutrinos,  $\nu_x$ )... and eventually change again to electron neutrinos ( $\nu_e$ )...

**(I)** BNB emits muon neutrinos ( $\nu_\mu$ )

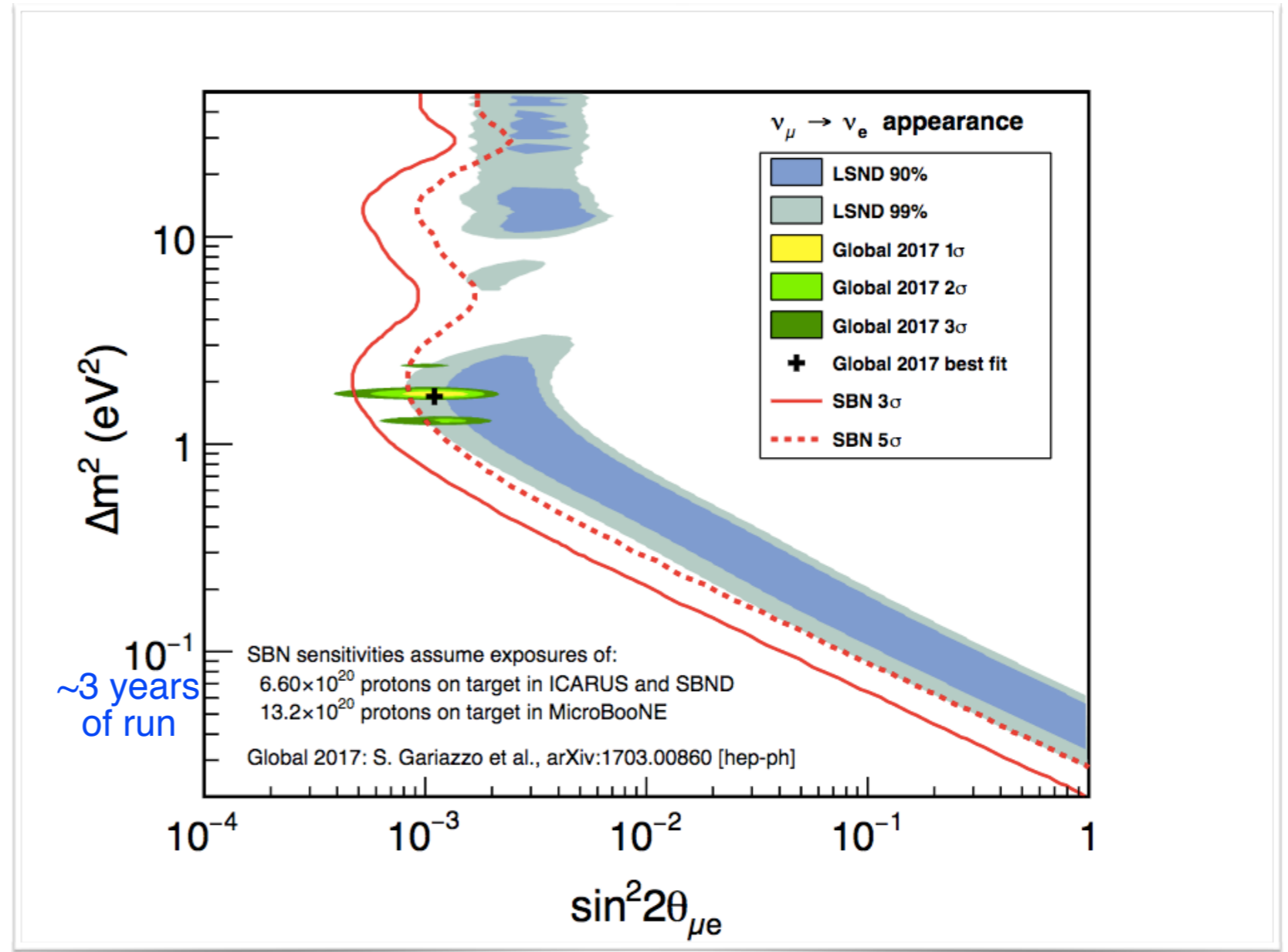


Having multiple detectors allows simultaneous searches for oscillations in **appearance and disappearance** channels, a very important constraint for interpreting the experimental observations.

# Physics reach of the SBN Program



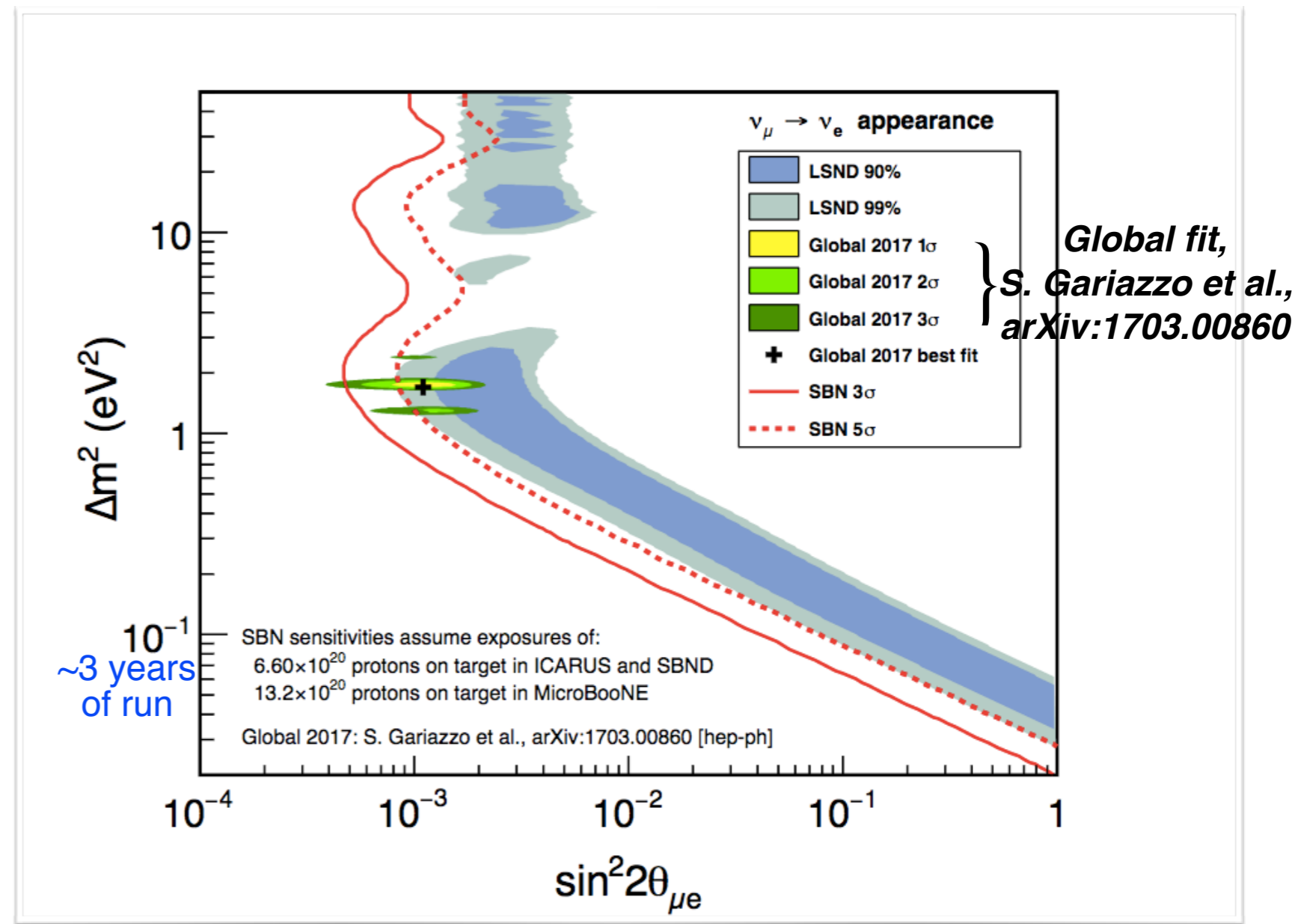
## $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ Appearance sensitivity



# Physics reach of the SBN Program

$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e$  Appearance sensitivity

- **3+1" Analysis**
- **Multi-channel approaches, with possible improvements in sensitivity from exclusive topology measurements are under study**

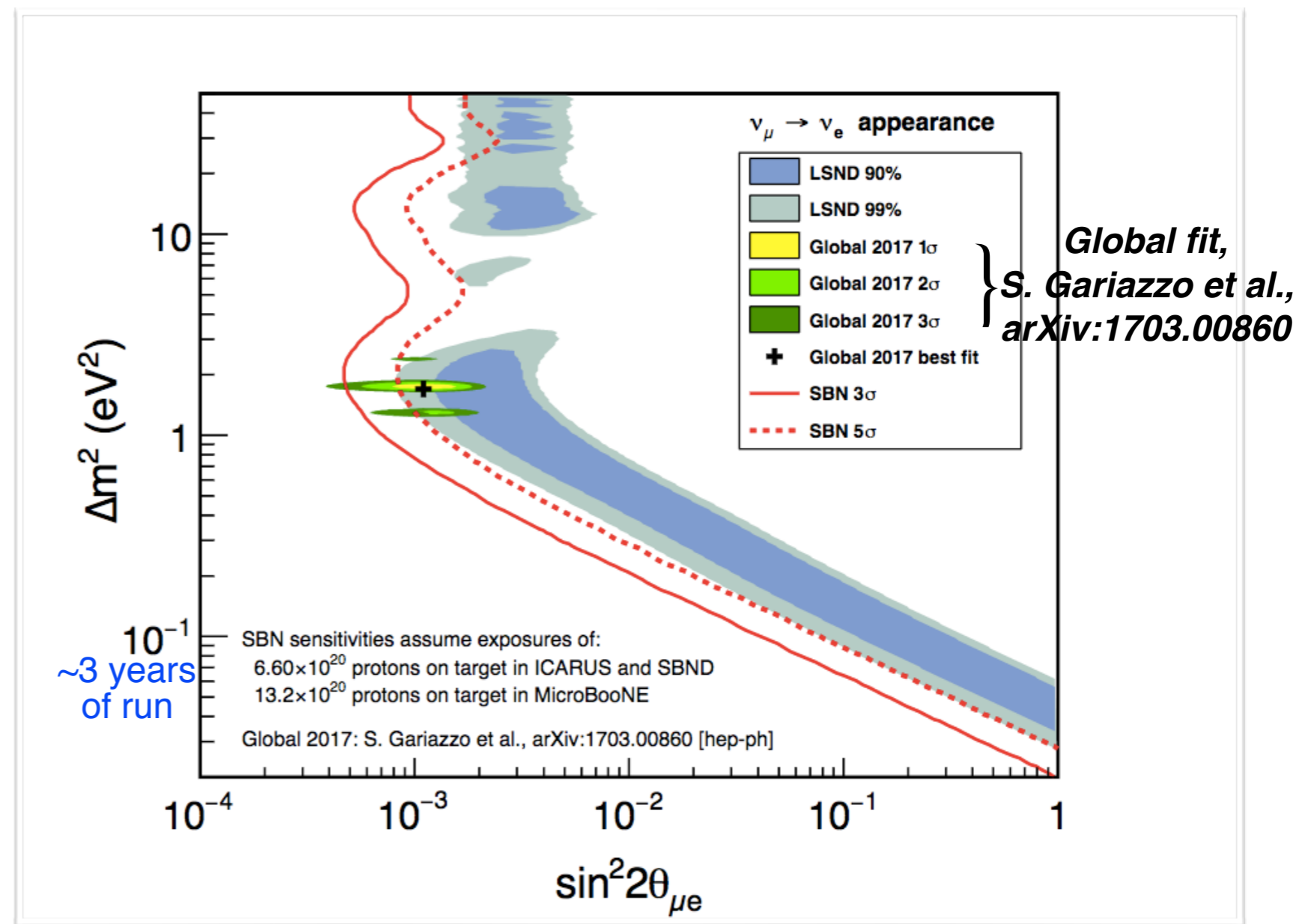


A large mass far detectors and a near detector of the same technology is the key to large reductions of both statistical and systematic uncertainties (reduced to % level) in SBN oscillation searches, allowing to address region of interest at 5 $\sigma$

# Physics reach of the SBN Program

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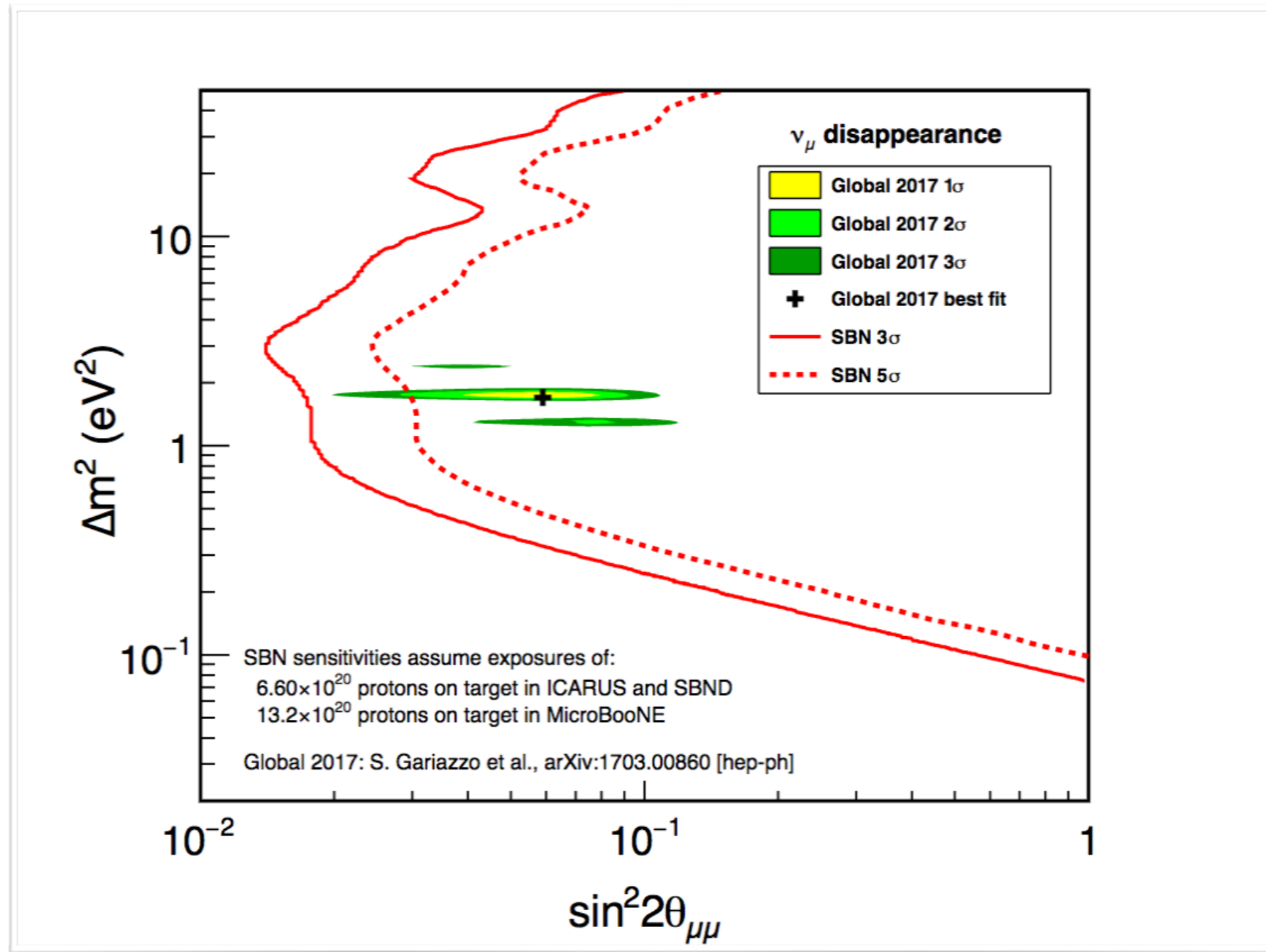


- The sensitivity of the SBN program is highest near the most favored values of  $\Delta m^2$
- SBN will cover the LSND 99% C.L. allowed region with  $\geq 5\sigma$  significance (conclusive experiment w.r.t. LSND anomaly)



# Physics reach of the SBN Program

$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_x$  Disappearance sensitivity



In addition to  $\nu_e$  appearance, SBN also has sensitivity to  $\nu_\mu$  disappearance

- Needed to confirm an oscillation interpretation of any observed appearance signal
- Providing a more robust result on sterile-neutrino-induced oscillations

# Not only oscillation physics: Cross Sections at the SBN

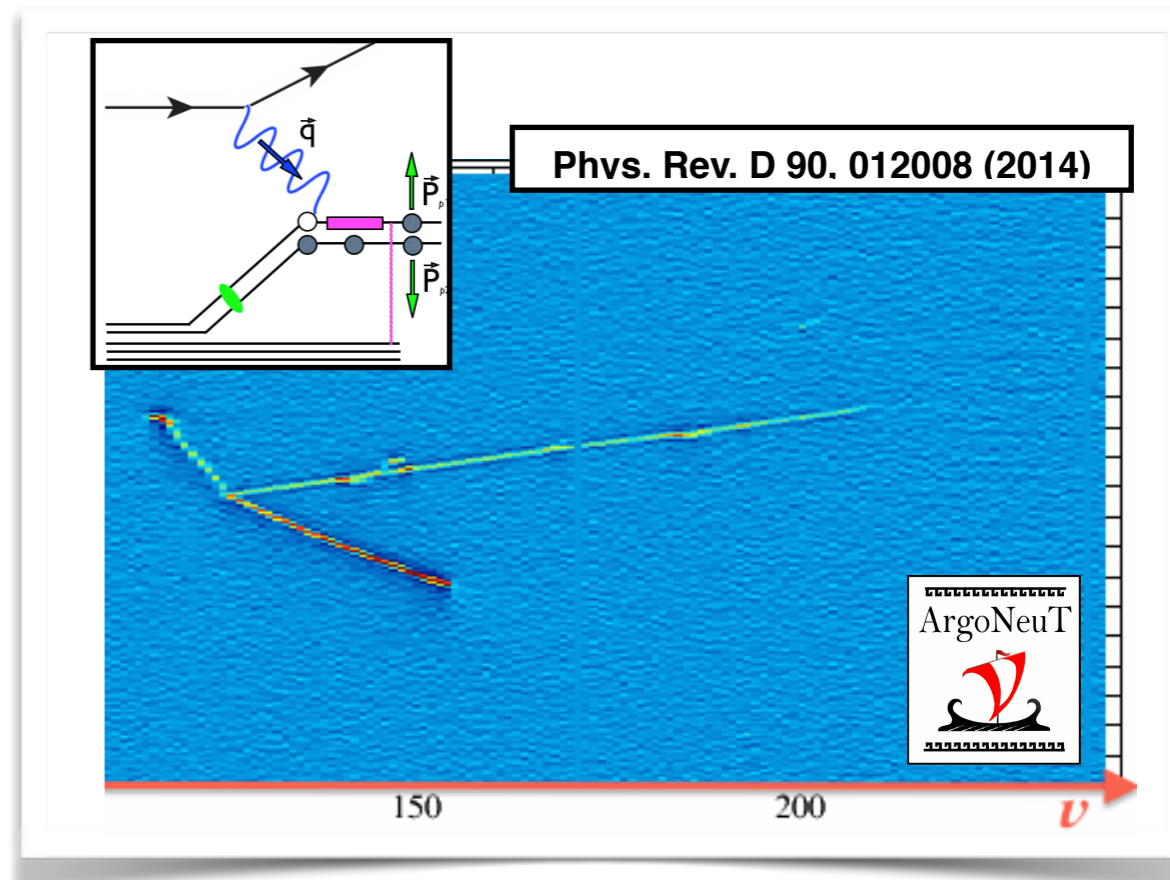
- A correct interpretation of the outcome of  $\nu$  oscillation experiments requires precise understanding of  $\nu$  interaction cross sections
- SBN detectors will provide **huge data sets of  $\nu$ -Ar interactions** from the BNB on-axis and the NuMI off-axis fluxes
  - Large samples in MicroBooNE are coming!
  - SBND will have by far the largest data set of neutrino-argon interactions in the world for the foreseeable future. SBND will record  **$\sim 1.5$  million  $\nu_\mu$  CC** and  **$\sim 12,000$   $\nu_e$  CC interactions** per year.
  - $\sim 100$ k NuMI off-axis events in T600 per year



# Not only oscillation physics: Cross Sections at the SBN

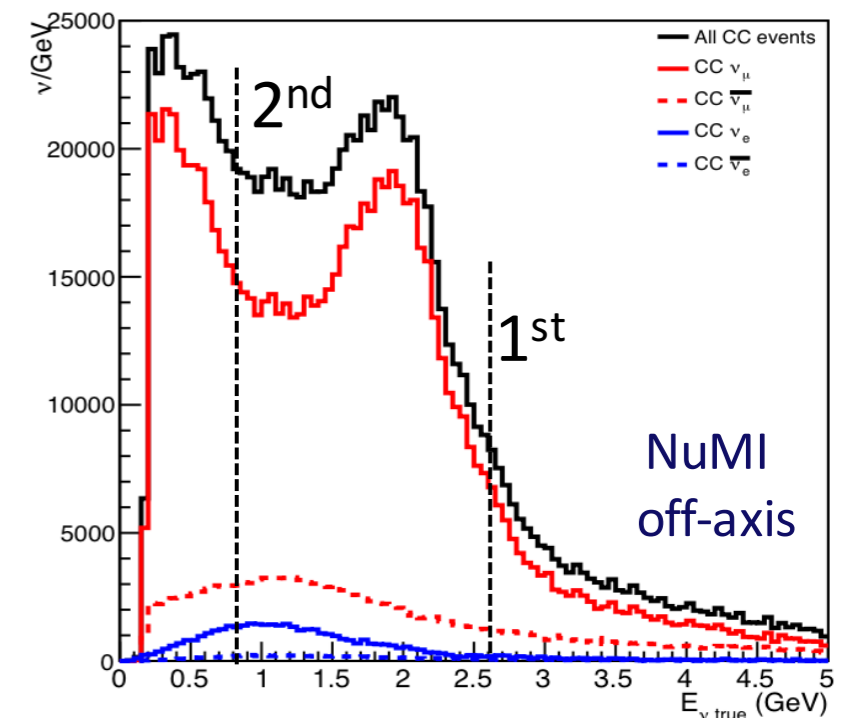
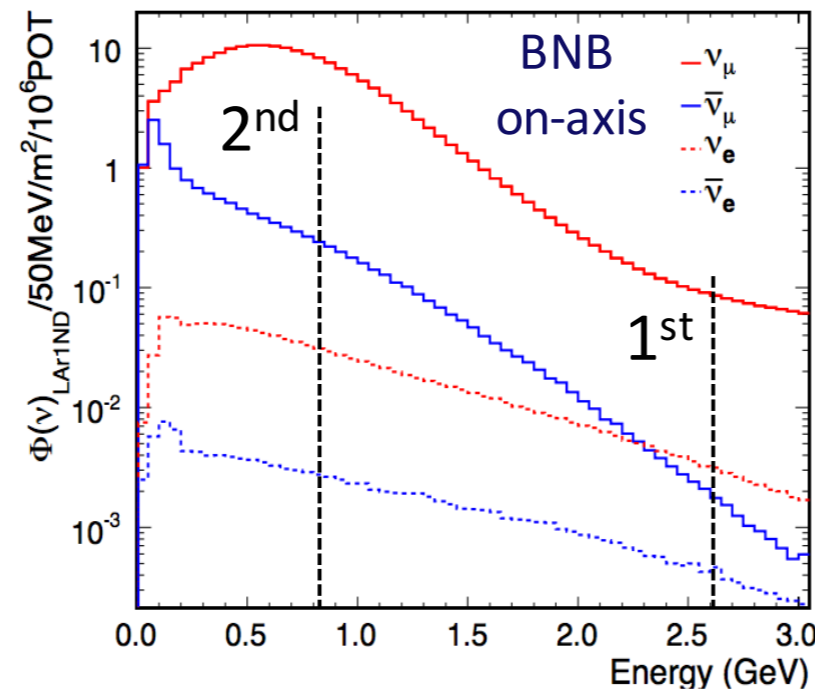
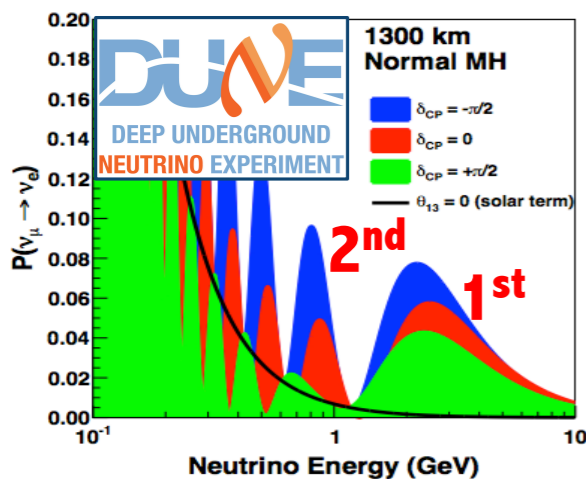
- A correct interpretation of the outcome of  $\nu$  oscillation experiments requires precise understanding of  $\nu$  interaction cross sections
- SBN detectors will provide **huge data sets of  $\nu$ -Ar interactions** from the BNB on-axis and the NuMI off-axis fluxes
  - Large samples in MicroBooNE are coming!
  - SBND will have by far the largest data set of neutrino-argon interactions in the world for the foreseeable future. SBND will record  **$\sim 1.5$  million  $\nu_\mu$  CC** and  **$\sim 12,000$   $\nu_e$  CC interactions** per year.
  - $\sim 100$ k NuMI off-axis events in T600 per year

The only published GeV neutrino-Ar scattering data are  $\sim 6000$  events from ArgoNeuT (NuMI beam, 3 GeV peak energy)



# Not only oscillation physics: Cross Sections at the SBN

- A correct interpretation of the outcome of  $\nu$  oscillation experiments requires precise understanding of  $\nu$  interaction cross sections
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  - $\sim 100$ k NuMI off-axis events in T600 per year
  - Large statistics at both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> DUNE oscillation peaks



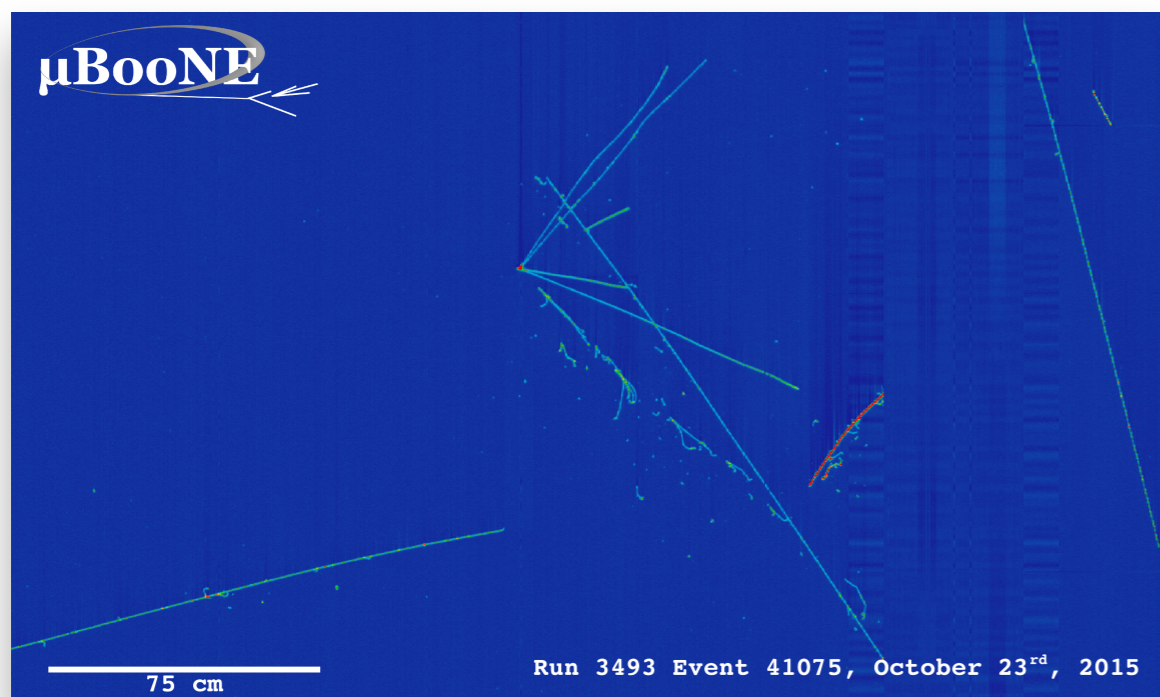
# MicroBooNE experiment

Fermilab Today

MicroBooNE installs time projection chamber inside vessel, prepares for move



TPC Active volume:  
86 t of LAr



MicroBooNE is taking  
neutrino data  
since Oct. 2015  
( $\sim 5 \times 10^{20}$  POT collected)

See G. Karagiorgi's talk on Friday



# ICARUS: From Gran Sasso to Fermilab via CERN

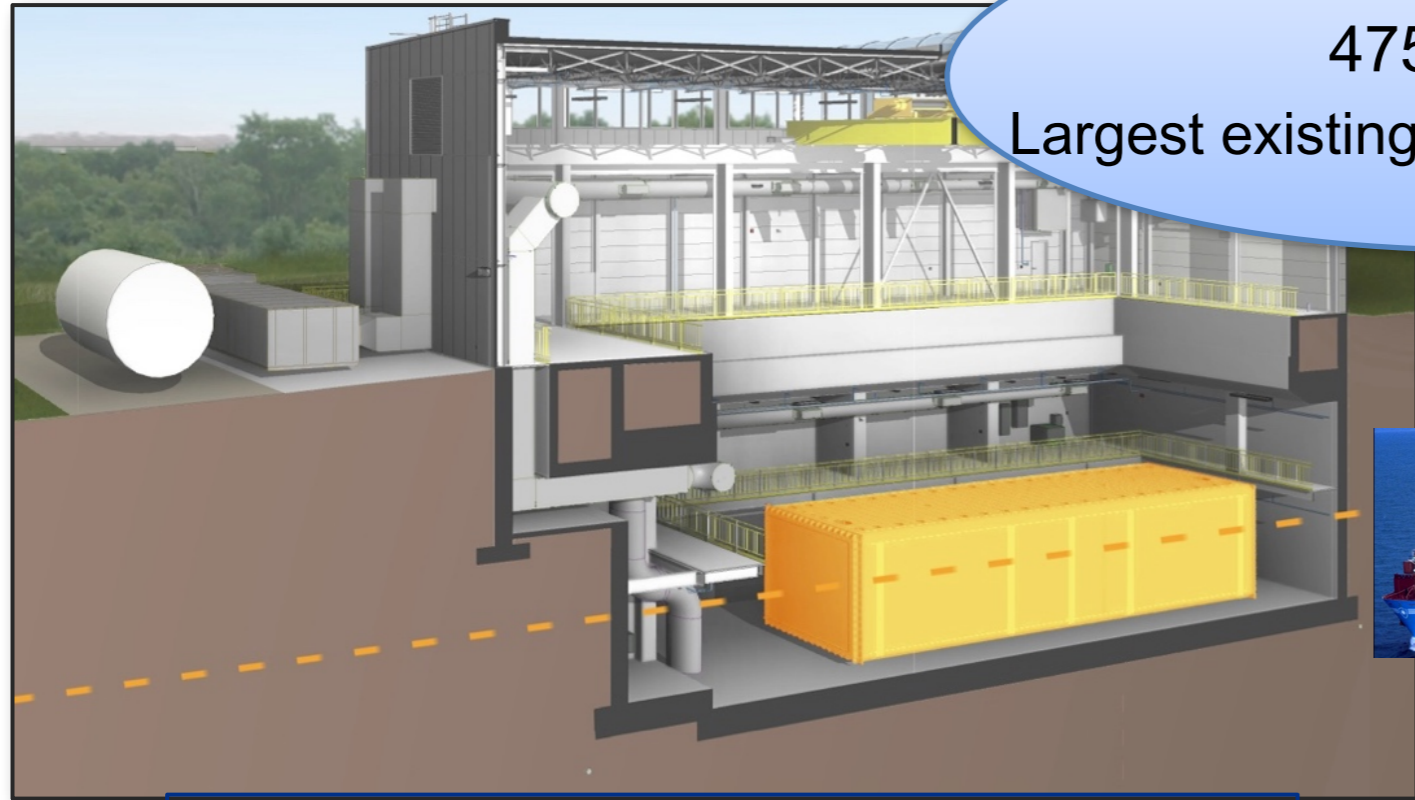
Removing from Gran Sasso



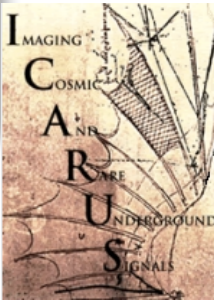
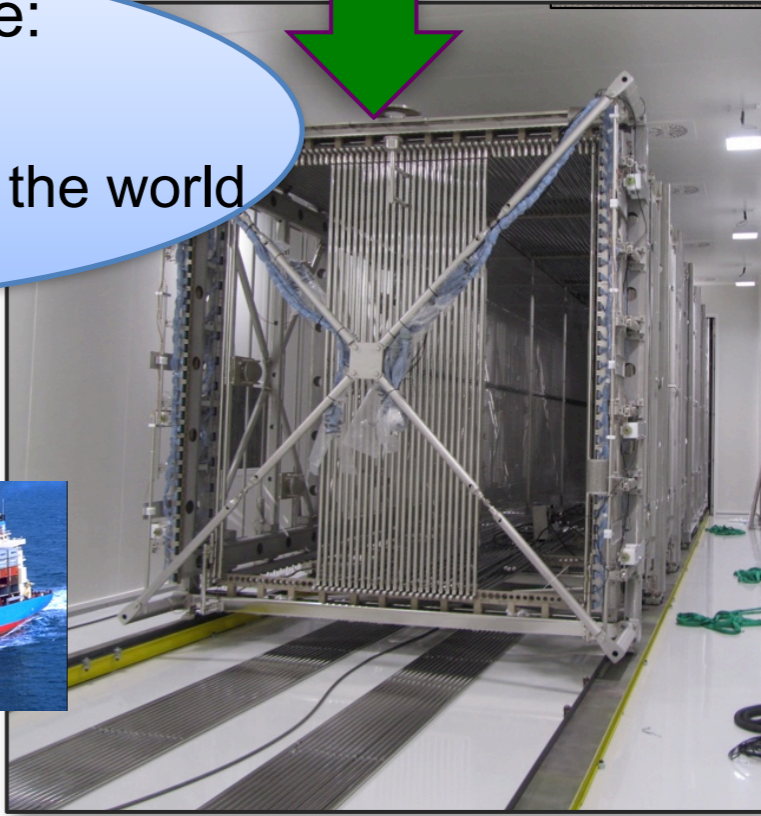
On the road to CERN



TPC Active volume:  
475 t of LAr  
Largest existing LAr TPC in the world



2017



# ICARUS: Transport from CERN to Fermilab (2017)



Ready to leave from CERN - June 12



Loading in Antwerp (Belgium) – June 21



Unloading in Burns Harbor (IN) USA – July 21



On the Road in IN – July 25

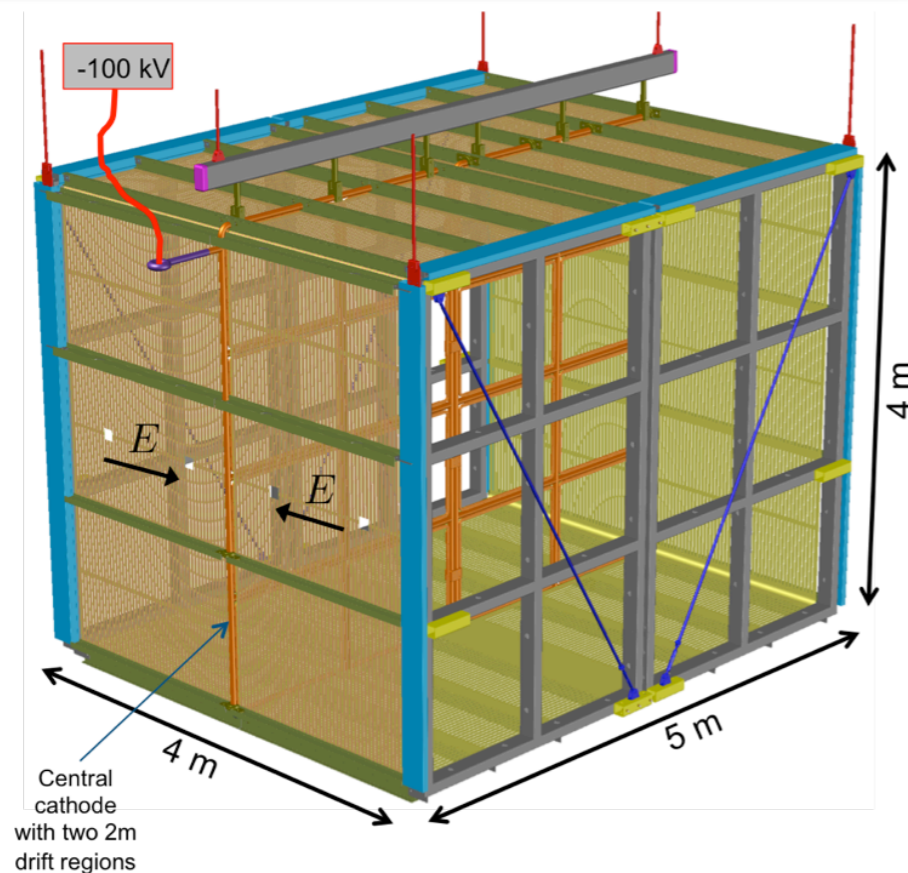
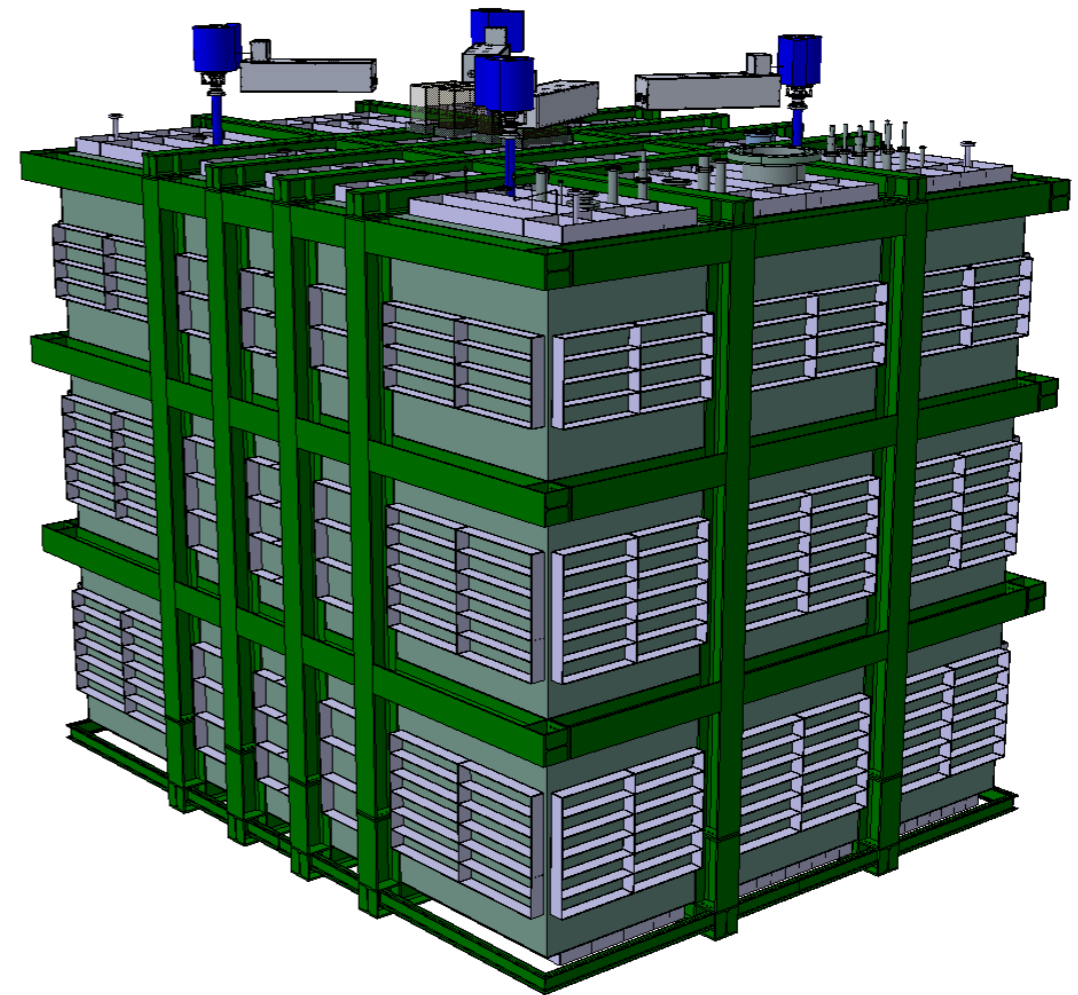
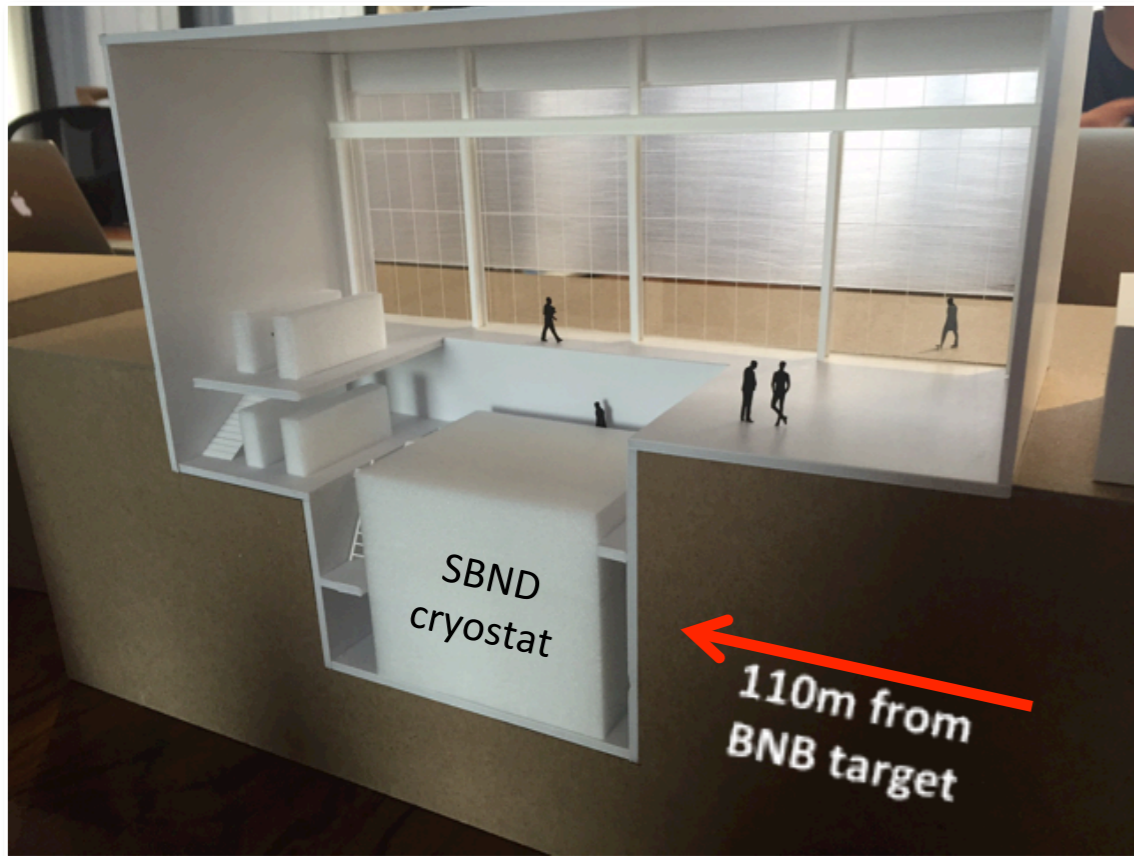


Behind the ICARUS building – July 26



Entering the vessel

# Short-Baseline Near Detector: SBND

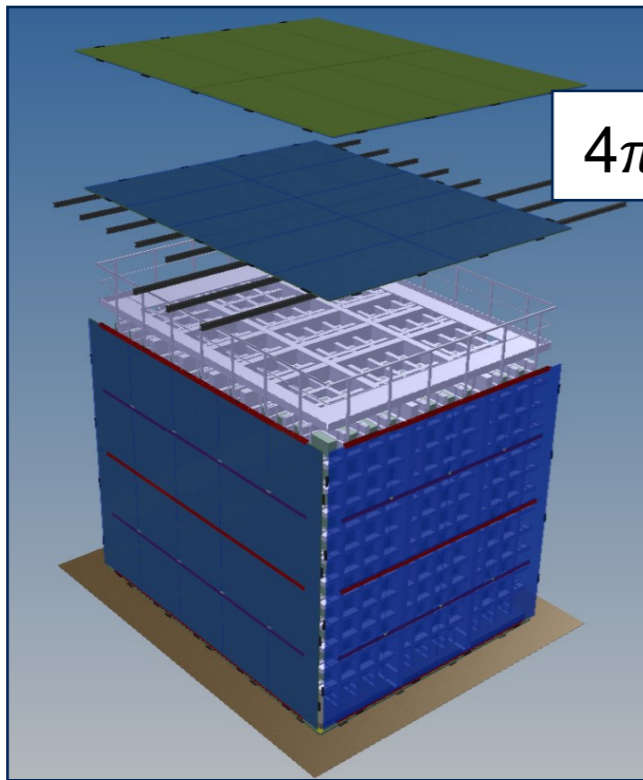


TPC Active volume:  
112 t of LAr

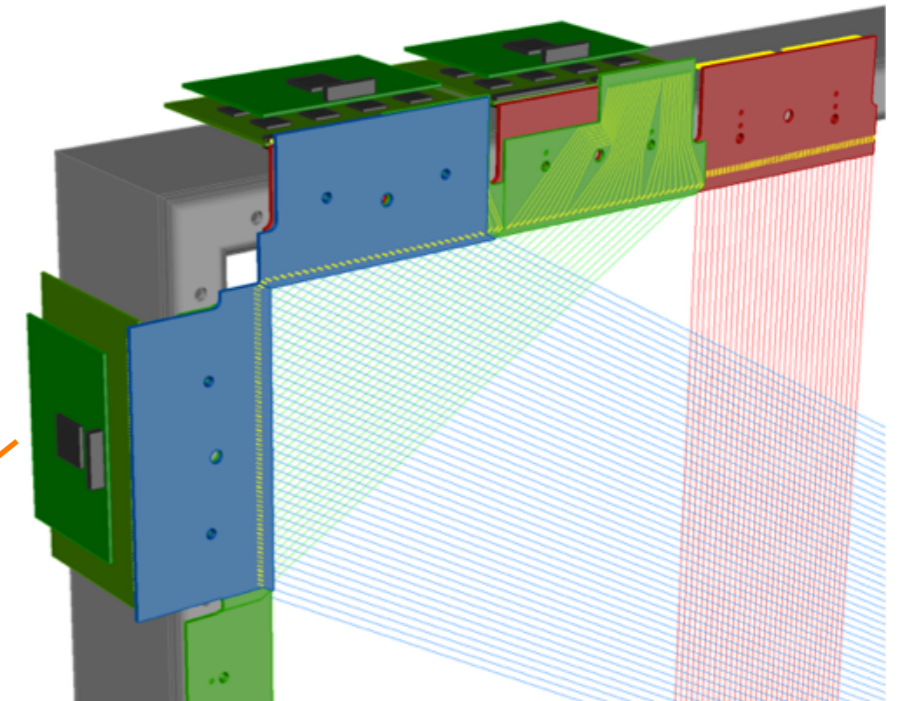




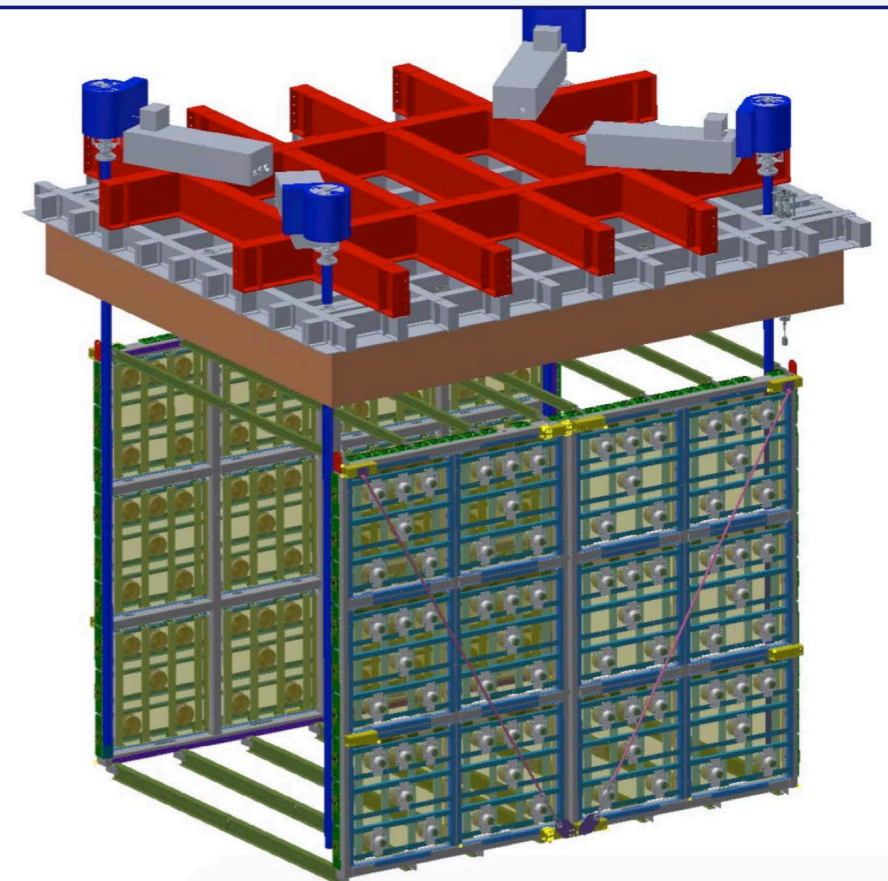
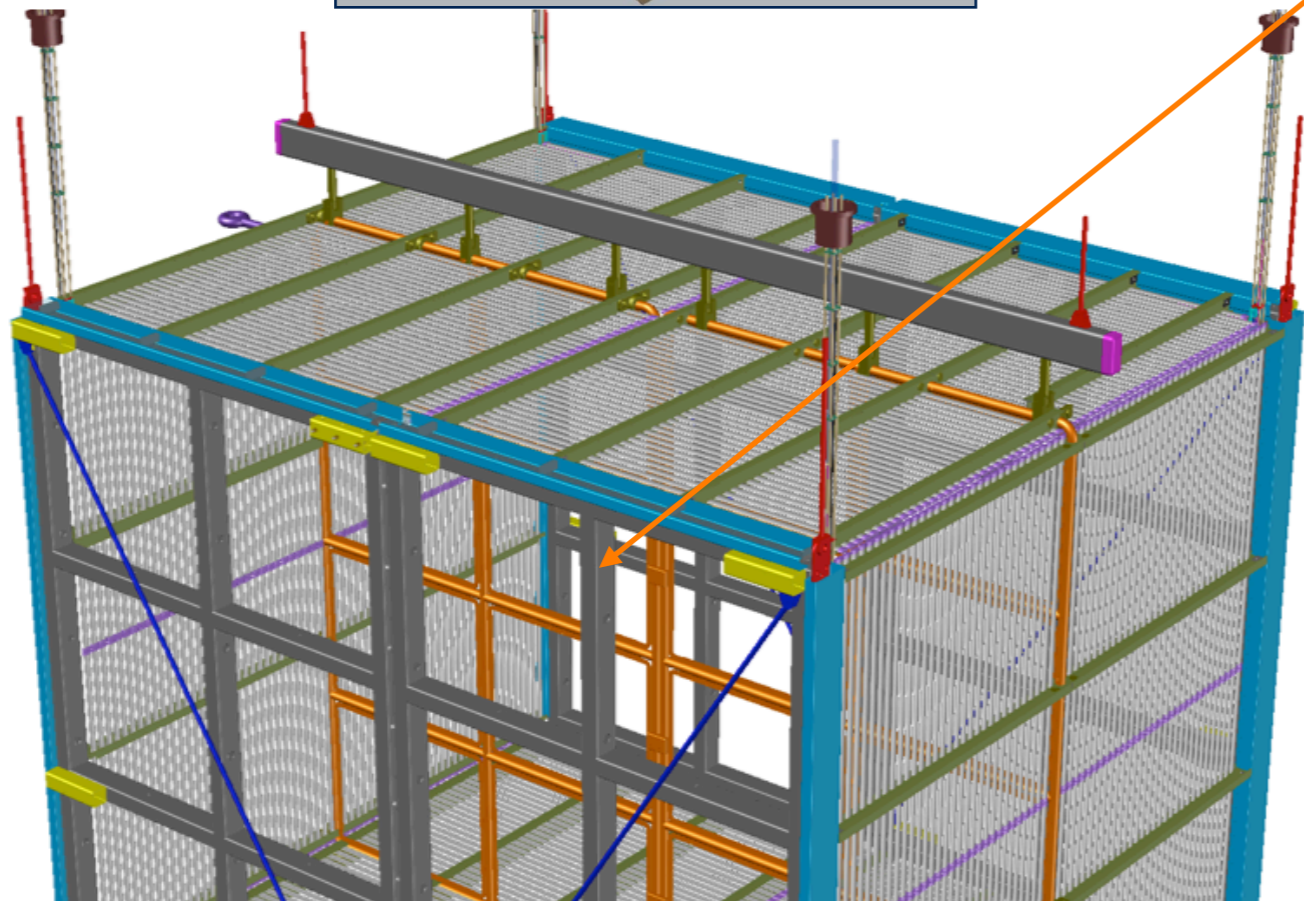
# SBND: Detector Elements



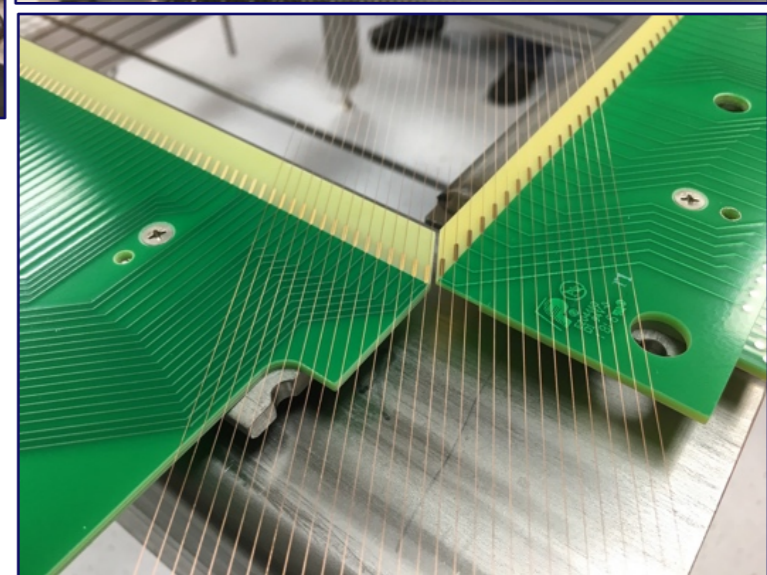
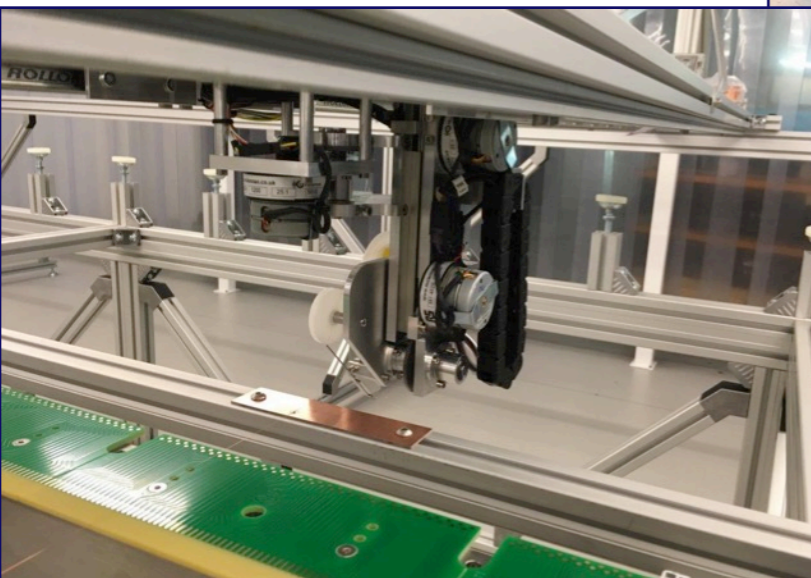
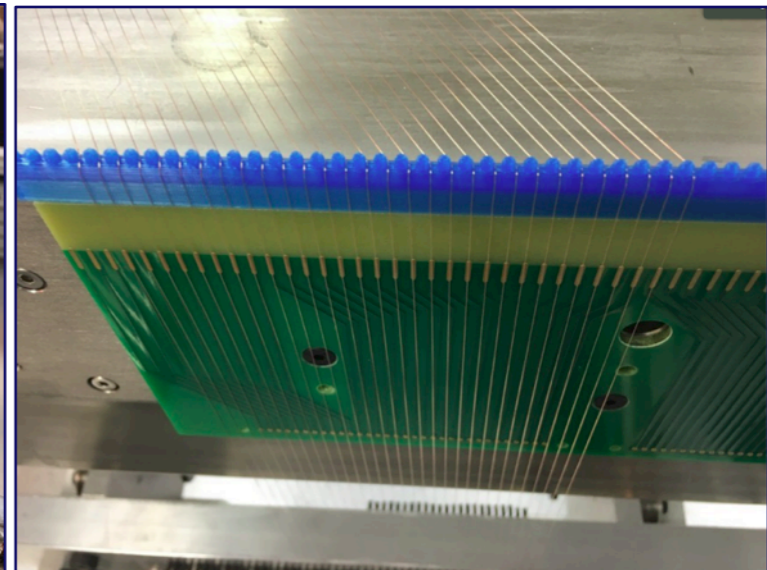
4 $\pi$  CRT coverage



**Anode Plane Assemblies:** 4.1 x 2.5 m wire plane frames (4) tiled to create two drift regions



# SBND: TPC Construction



# Near and Far Detector Buildings

© Steinkamp Photography 05.23.17

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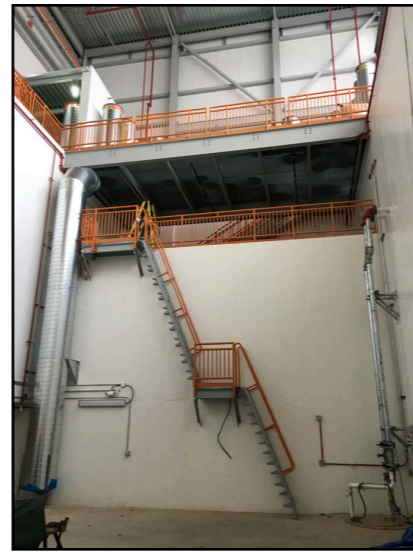
8850-22\_DSC7952.tif

Holabird Root Fermilab 1st Edit



© Steinkamp Photography 05.23.17

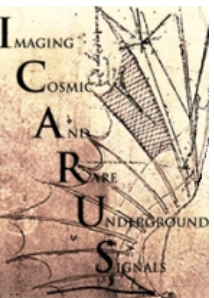
12



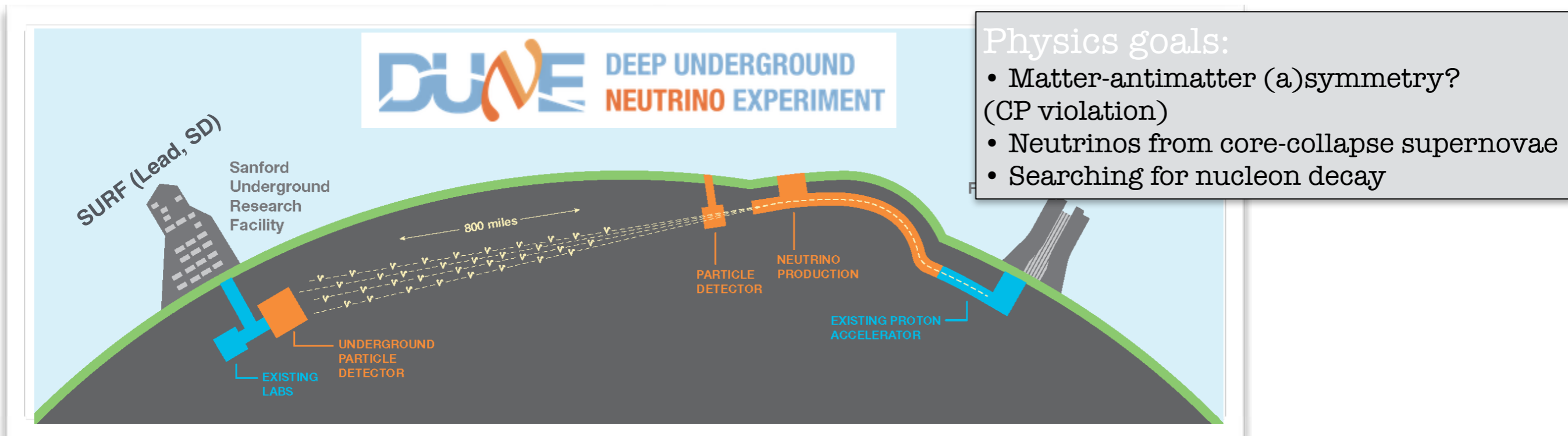
## Near Detector building



## Far Detector building



# SBN ties to the Long-Baseline Program



- SBN provides an excellent opportunity for the continued **development of the liquid argon TPC technology** toward the **DUNE long-baseline program**
- SBN data also presents **important physics opportunities valuable to the future LBL program**
  - Measurements of **neutrino-argon interactions**
  - Execution of precision oscillation searches will drive the development of sophisticated **reconstruction and data analysis techniques** using TPC data

40 Kton LAr TPC



# SBN: The search for a fourth type of neutrino

The three SBN detectors will sit on the Booster Neutrino Beamline at Fermilab and will all use the state-of-the-art **liquid-argon time projection technology** to perform the most sensitive search to date for eV-scale sterile neutrino. The SBN program will

- Follow up on hints of new physics, in particular the LNSD allowed region will be covered at  $>5\sigma$
- Make high precision measurements of  $\nu$ -Ar cross sections
- Develop LAr TPC technology & expertise in preparation for DUNE

**Well on our way to an exciting**

**Short-Baseline Accelerator Neutrino Oscillation Program!!**