

Neutrino Theory & Phenomenology (II)

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IV PHD SUMMER SCHOOL ON
NEUTRINOS
HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen, 7-11 July 2025

Neutrino oscillations in vacuum and in matter

Neutrino oscillations

1957: Pontecorvo suggests oscillations between neutrinos & antineutrinos (only ν_e).

B. Pontecorvo, J. Exp. Theor. Phys. 33 (1957) 549, Ibidem. 34 (1958) 247.



Бруно Понтекорво

1962: Maki, Nakagawa and Sakata propose neutrino mixing between flavor eigenstates

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_1 &= \nu_e \cos \delta + \nu_\mu \sin \delta, \\ \nu_2 &= -\nu_e \sin \delta + \nu_\mu \cos \delta.\end{aligned}$$

2ν mixing

true
neutrinos weak
neutrinos

Z. Maki, M. Nakagawa, S. Sakata,
Prog. Theor. Phys. 28 (1962) 870.



1969: Gribov & Pontecorvo calculated the neutrino oscillation probability (in vacuum) for the first time

V. Gribov, B. Pontecorvo,
Phys. Lett. B28 (1969) 493.

$$P(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 2\theta \left(1 - \cos \frac{\Delta m^2 L}{2E} \right)$$

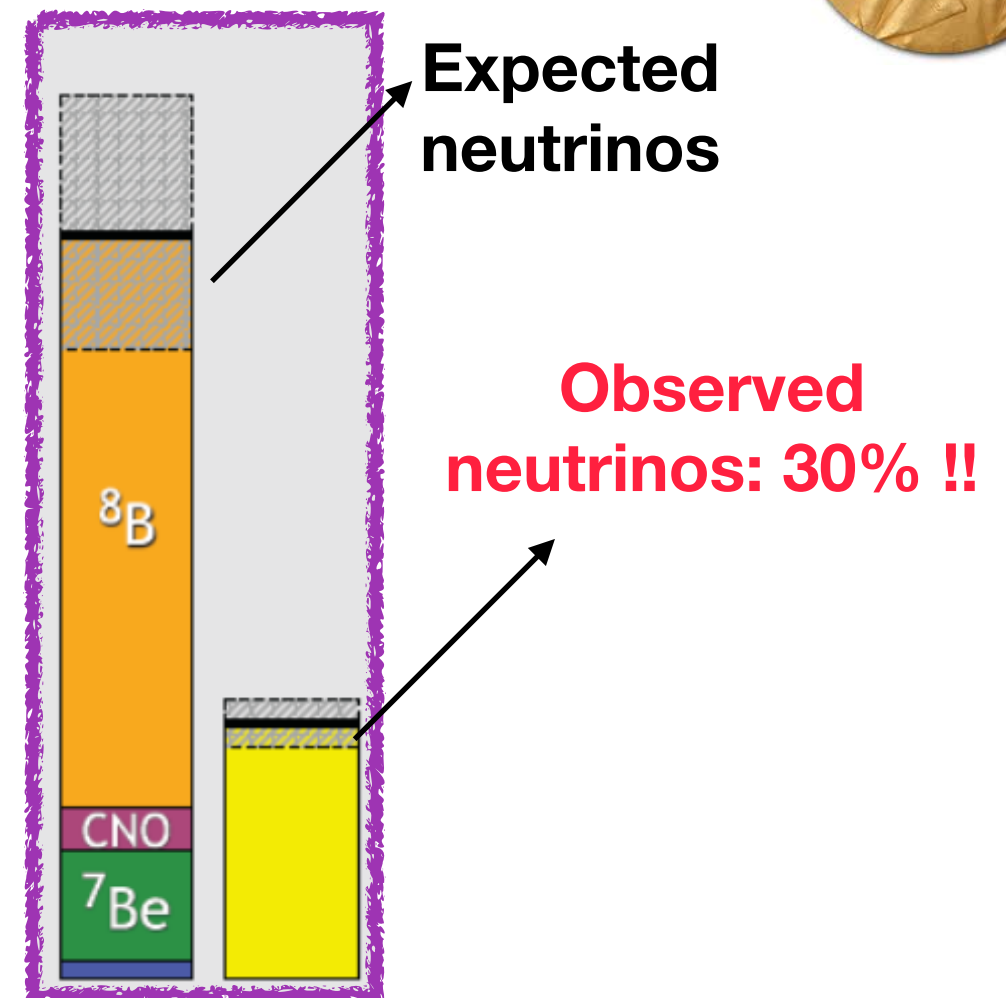
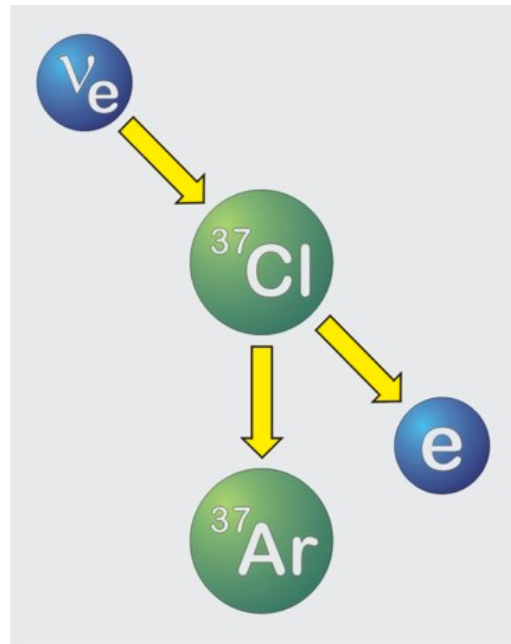
First indication of ν oscillations



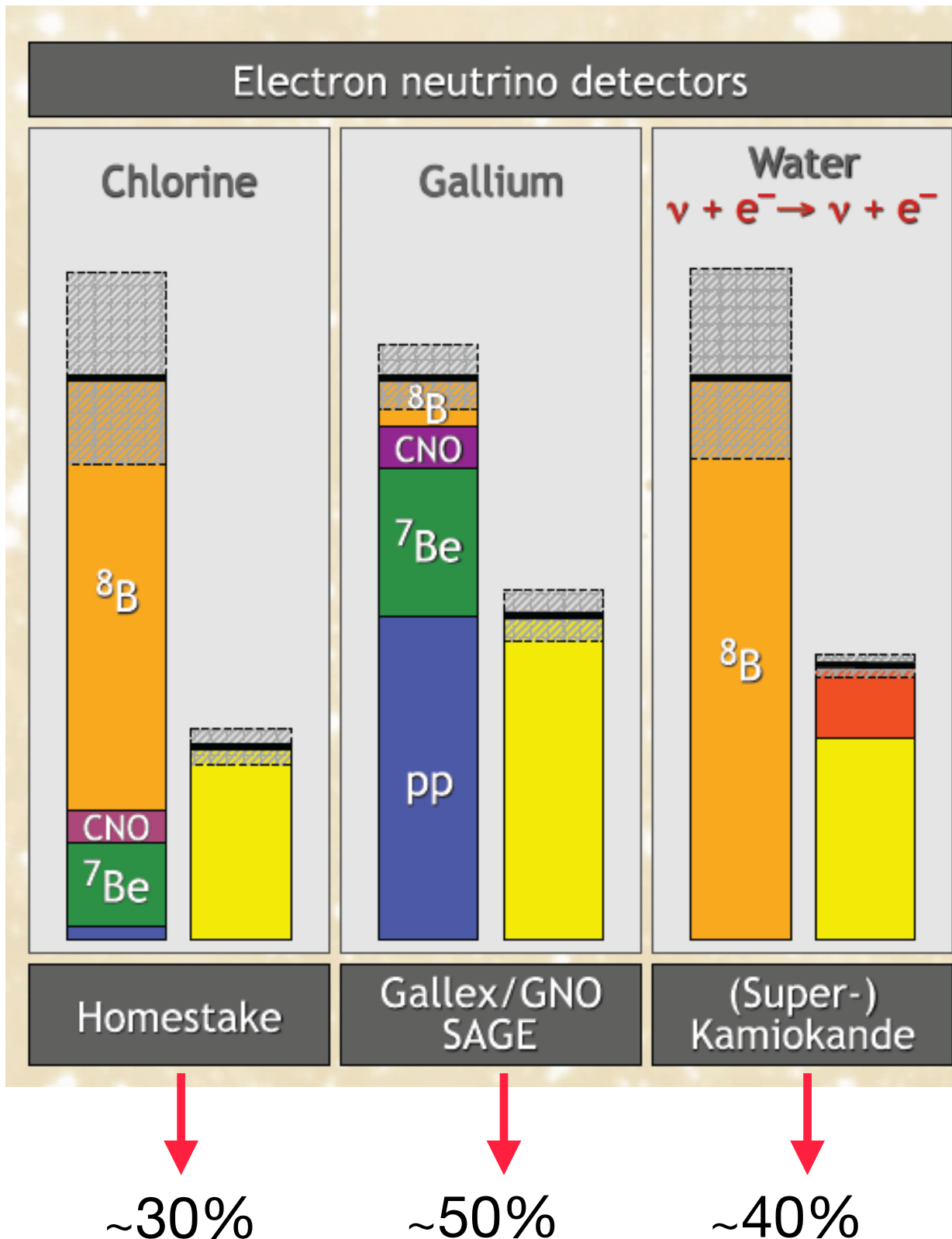
Raymond Davis Jr.

1968: First observation of solar neutrinos by R. Davis in an underground experiment (Homestake gold mine, South Dakota) using 615 ton of C_2Cl_4

2002 Nobel
Prize in Physics



The solar neutrino problem

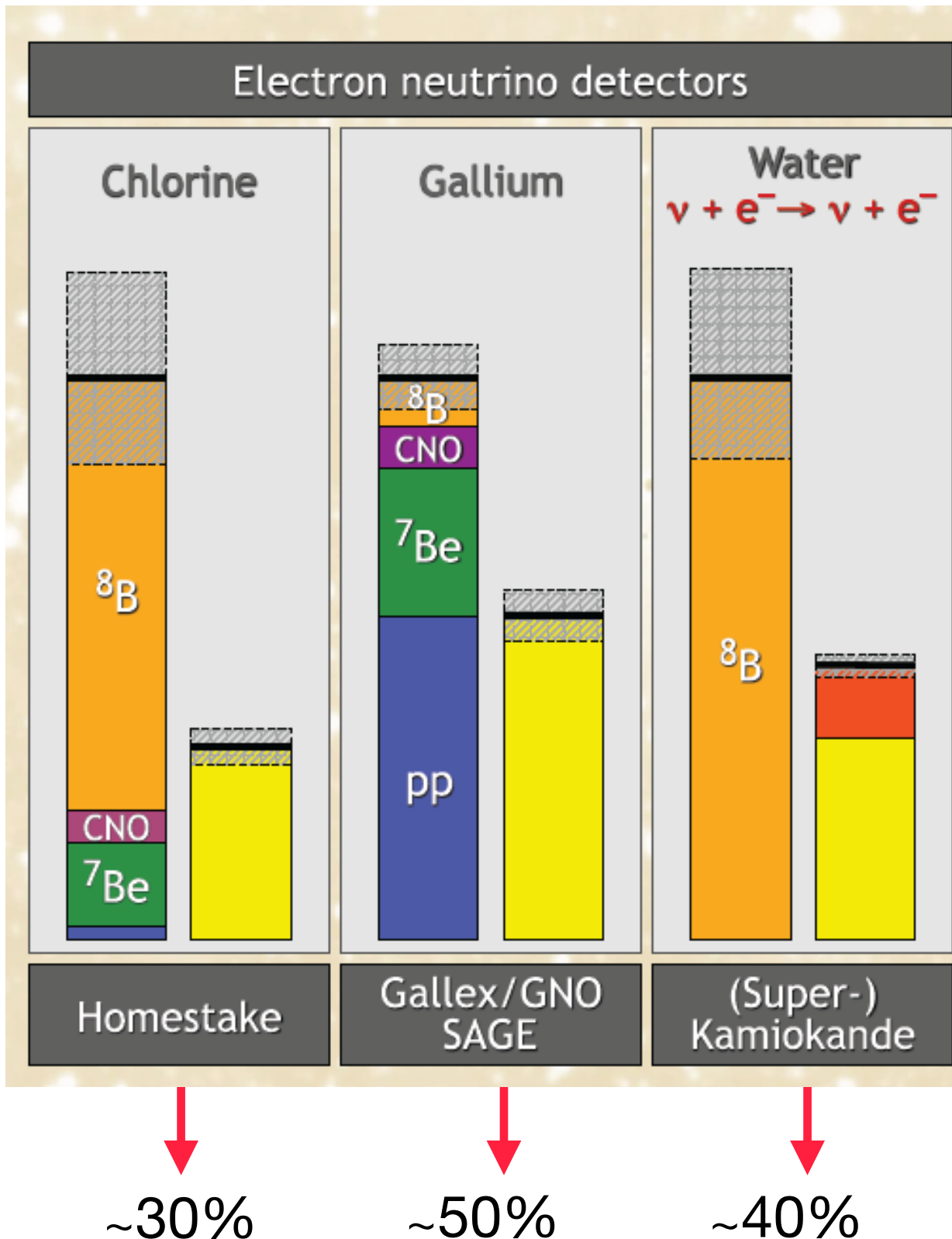


1980s-1990s: Confirmed by the following solar neutrino experiments

Explanation?

- theory (SM, SSM) was wrong
- experiments were wrong (all of them?)
- something was happening to neutrinos

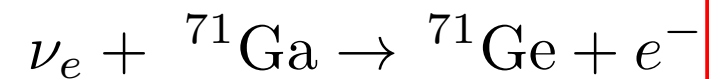
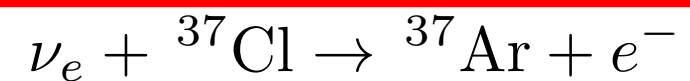
The solar neutrino problem



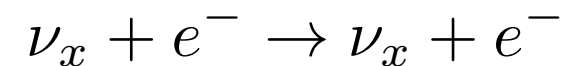
Why results are different?

✓ Sensitive to different neutrinos:

- Cl, Ga: only sensitive to ν_e

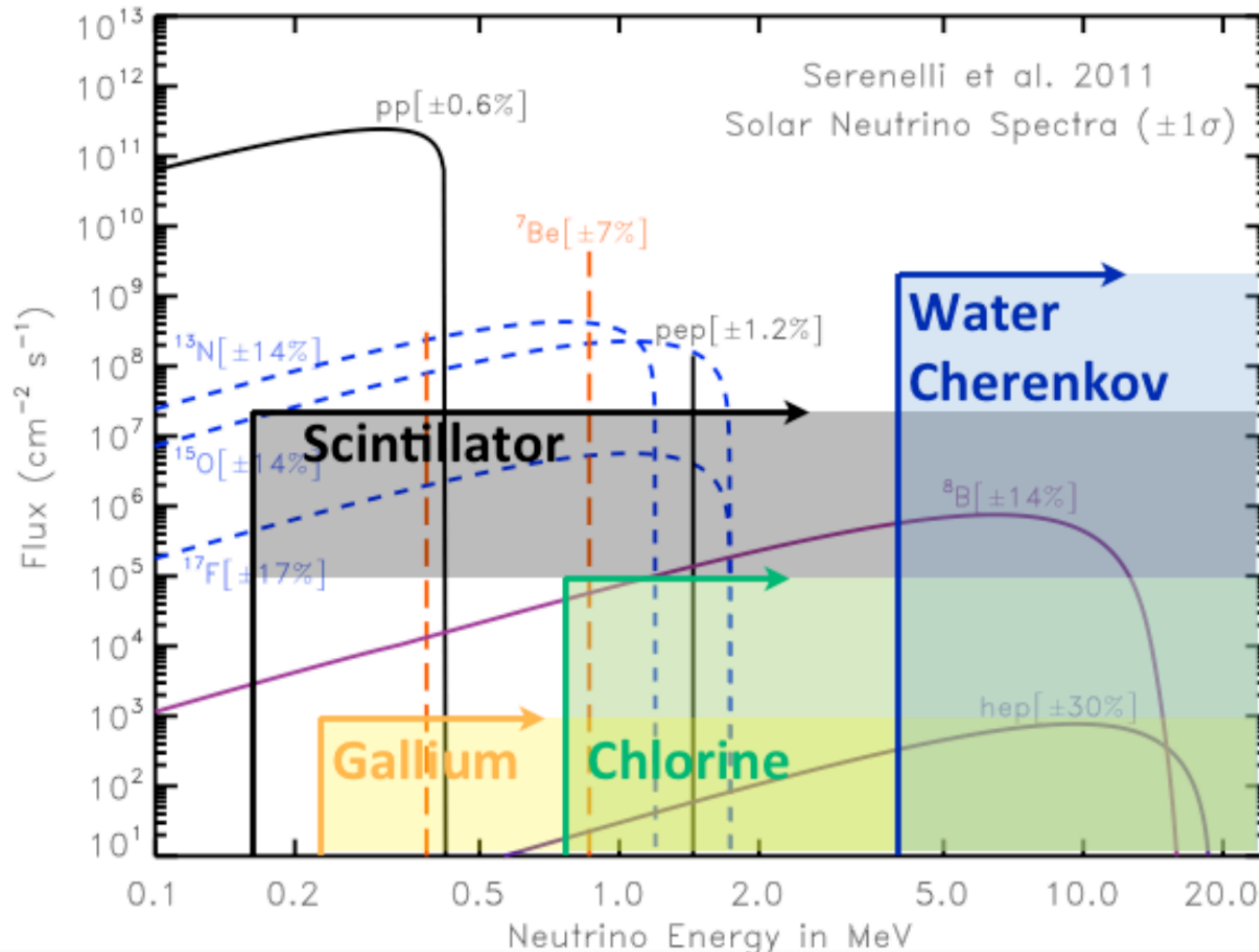


- Super-K: $\nu_e + \nu_\mu + \nu_\tau$



✓ Sensitive to different part of the neutrino spectrum

The Solar Neutrino Spectrum



Atmospheric neutrinos

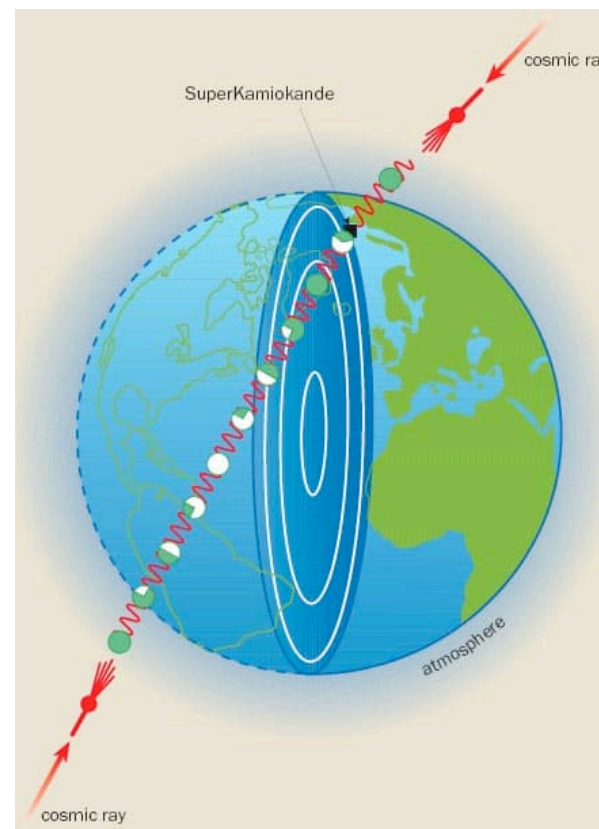
Cosmic rays interacting with the Earth atmosphere producing pions and kaons, that decay generating neutrinos:

$$\pi^- \rightarrow \mu^- + \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu$$

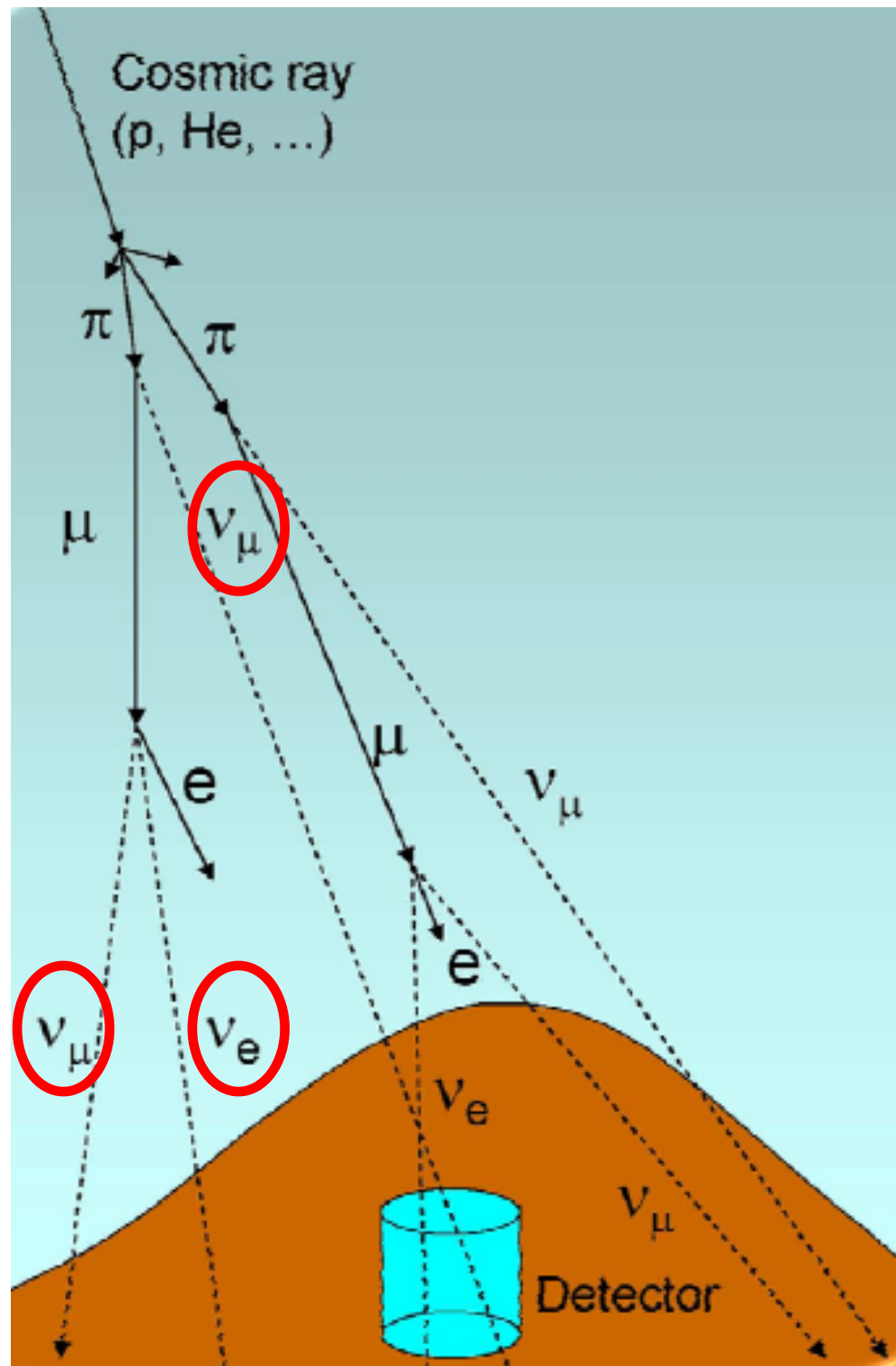
$$\mu^- \rightarrow e^- + \bar{\nu}_e + \nu_\mu$$

$$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ + \nu_e + \bar{\nu}_\mu$$



$$\begin{aligned} \nu_e + N &\rightarrow e^- + N' \\ \nu_\mu + N &\rightarrow \mu^- + N' \end{aligned}$$

⇒ atmospheric neutrino detection in 360°



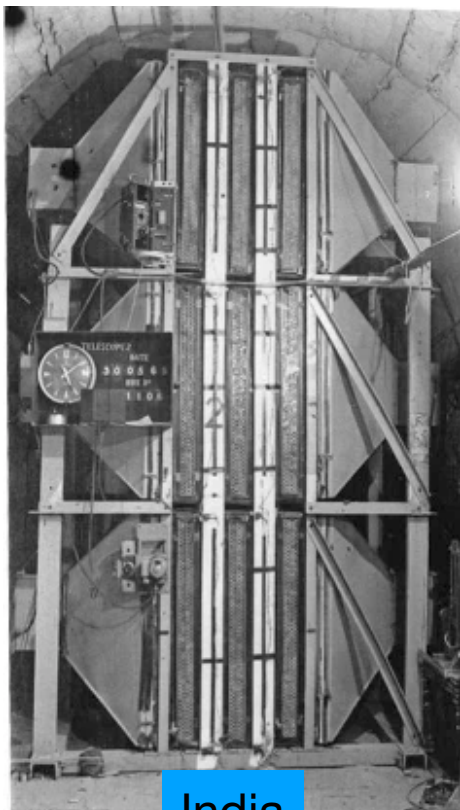
Atmospheric neutrinos

1965: First observation of **atmospheric neutrinos** in a gold mine in South Africa (F. Reines) and Kolar Gold Fields (India), at 3.2 and 2.4 km depth.

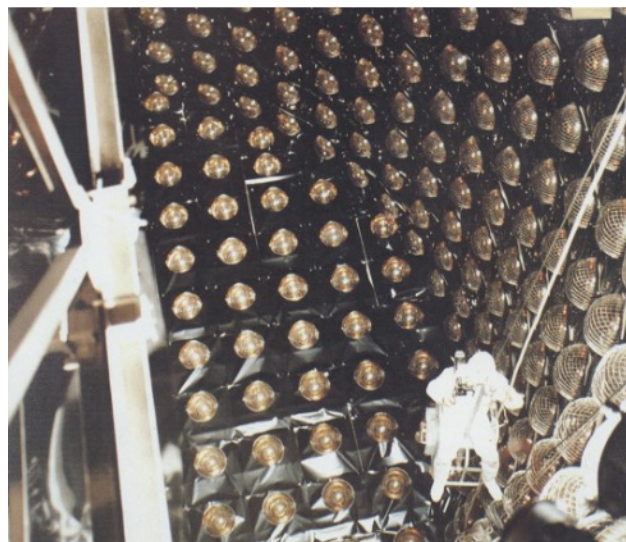
$$\nu_{\mu} + N \rightarrow \mu^{-} + N'$$

1980's: Proton decay experiments for which atmospheric neutrinos were a source of background.

South Africa



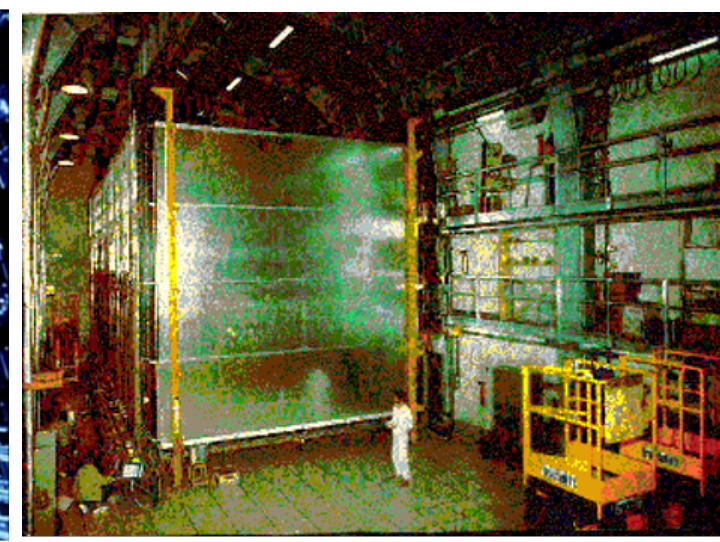
India



Kamiokande, Japan
[1000 ton]



IMB, USA
[3300 ton]

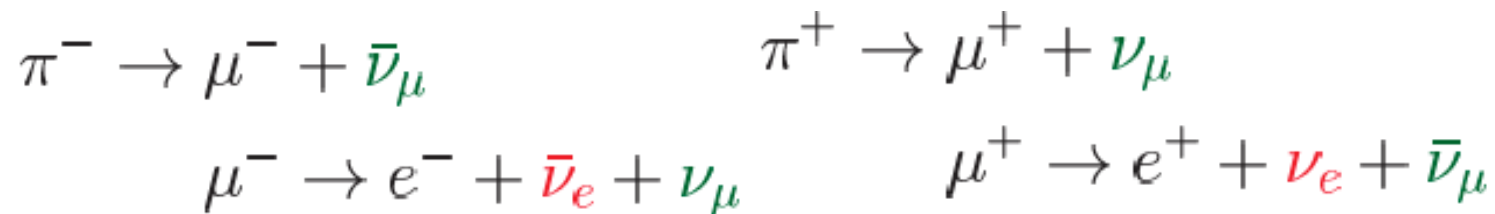


Fréjus, France
[700 ton]

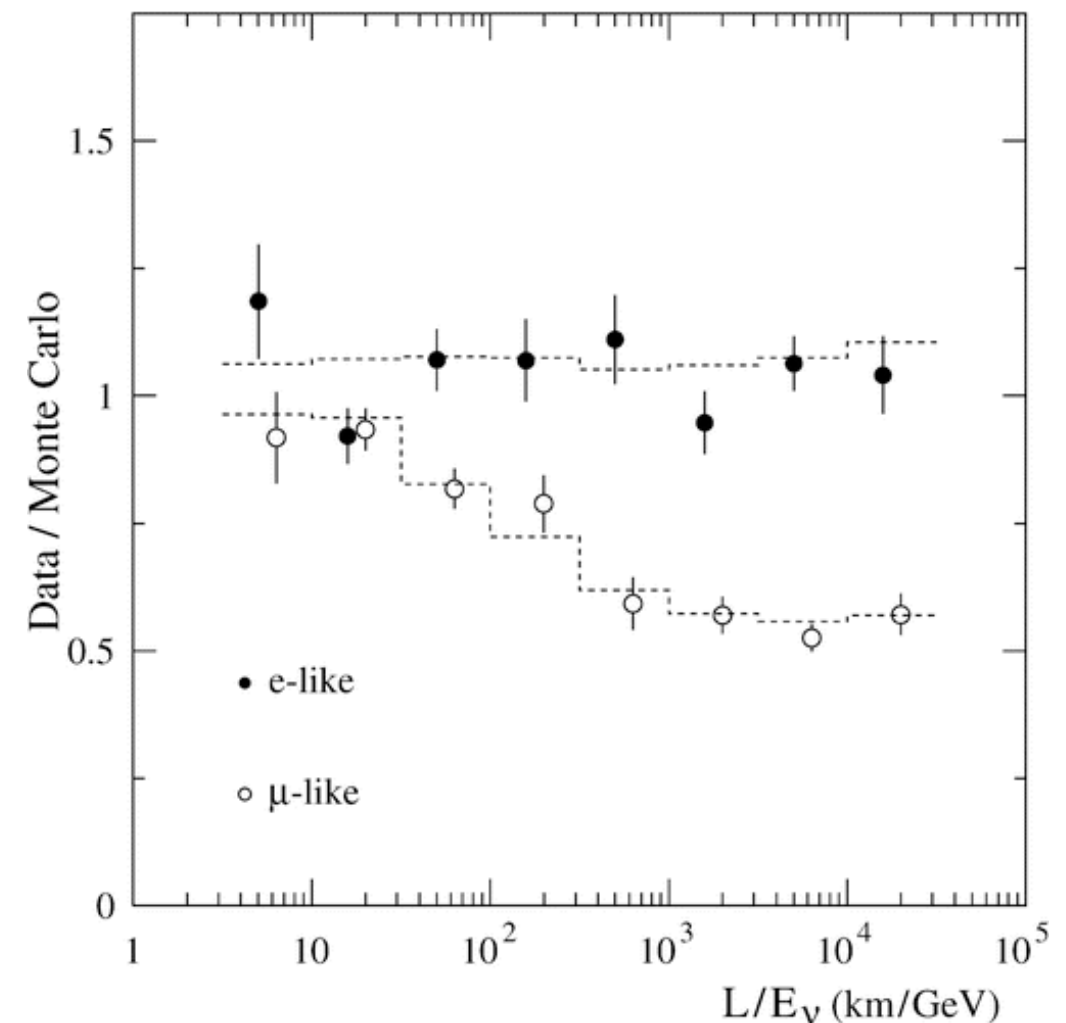
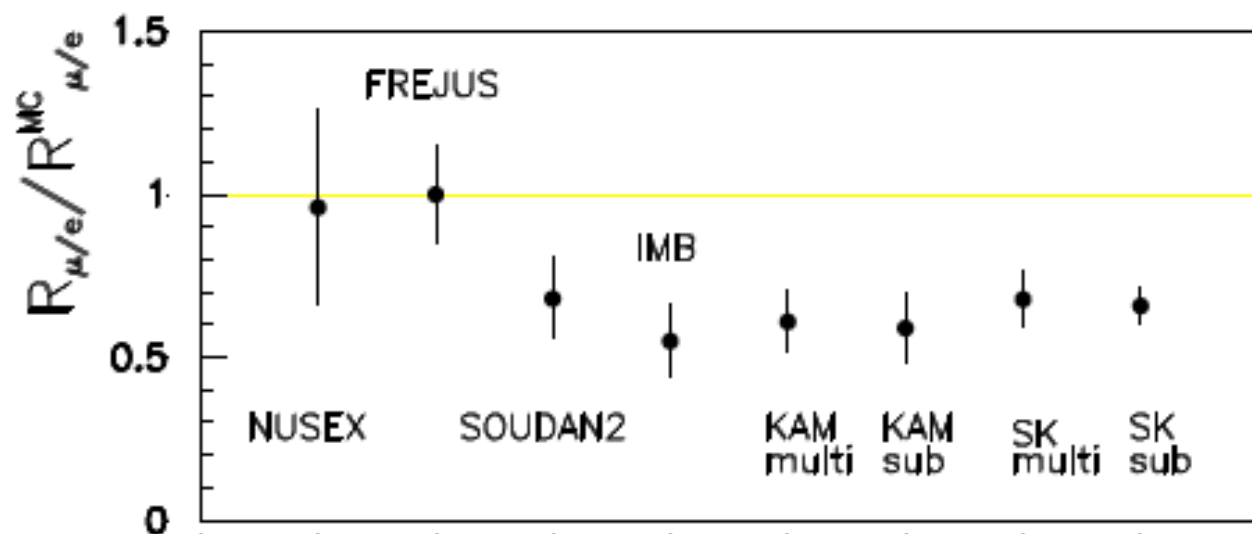
The atmospheric neutrino anomaly

1985: First indications of a deficit in the observed number of atmospheric ν_μ at IMB.

1994: Kamiokande finds the ν_μ deficit depends on the distance travelled by the neutrino and its energy.

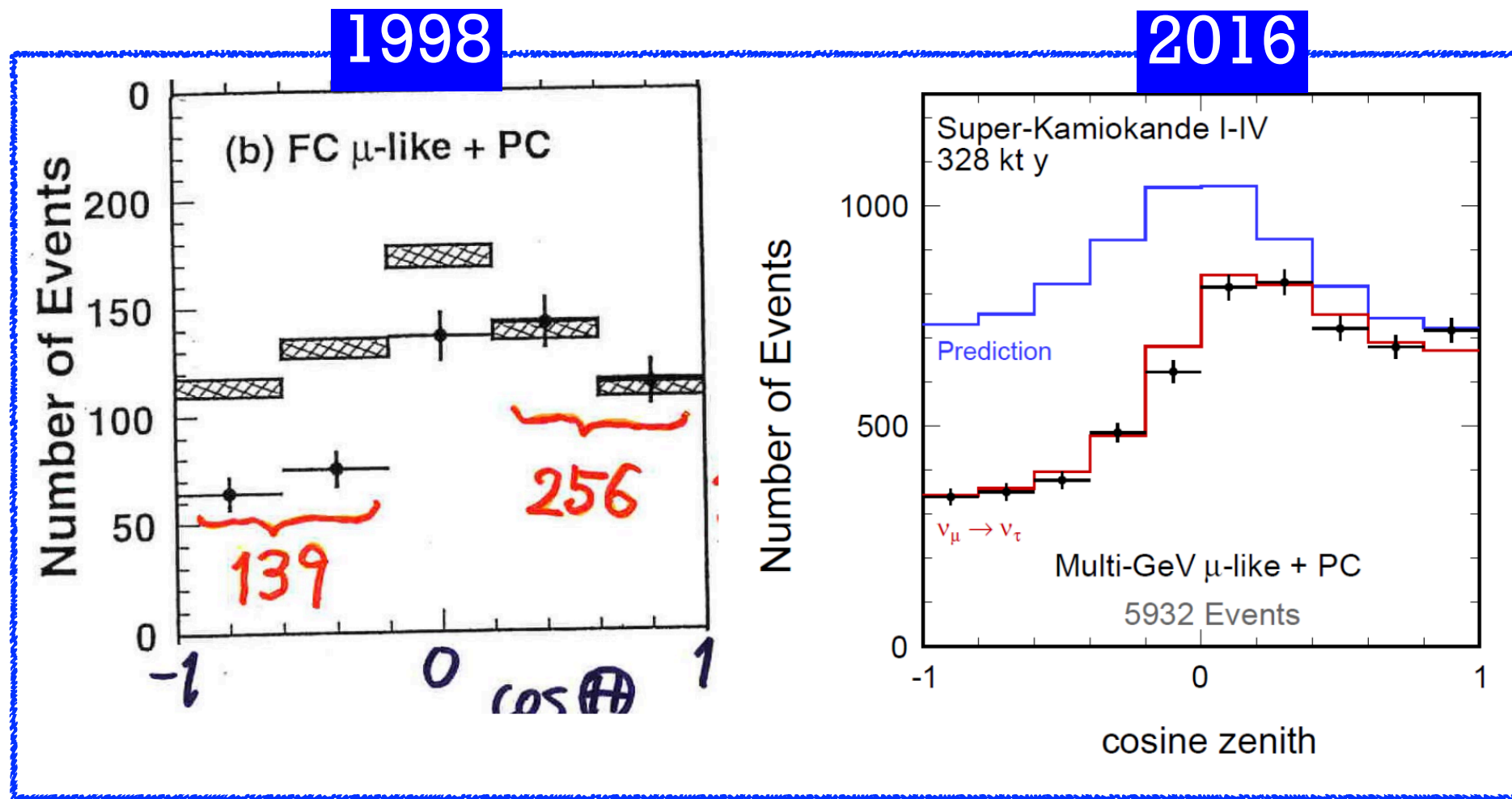


$$R_{\mu/e} = \frac{N_{\nu_\mu} + N_{\bar{\nu}_\mu}}{N_{\nu_e} + N_{\bar{\nu}_e}} \simeq 2$$

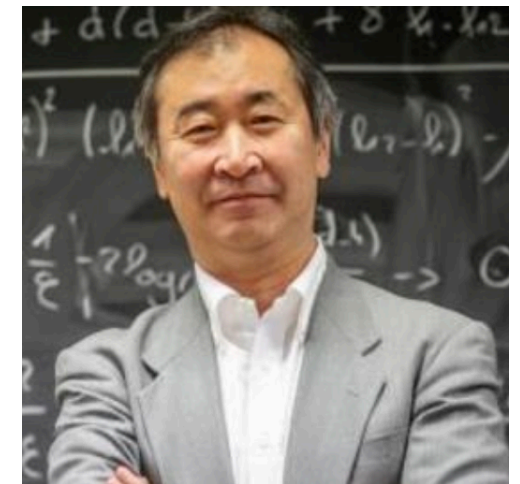


The atmospheric neutrino anomaly

1998: Discovery of atmospheric neutrino oscillations in **Super-Kamiokande**



From T. Kajita



2015 Nobel
Prize in Physics

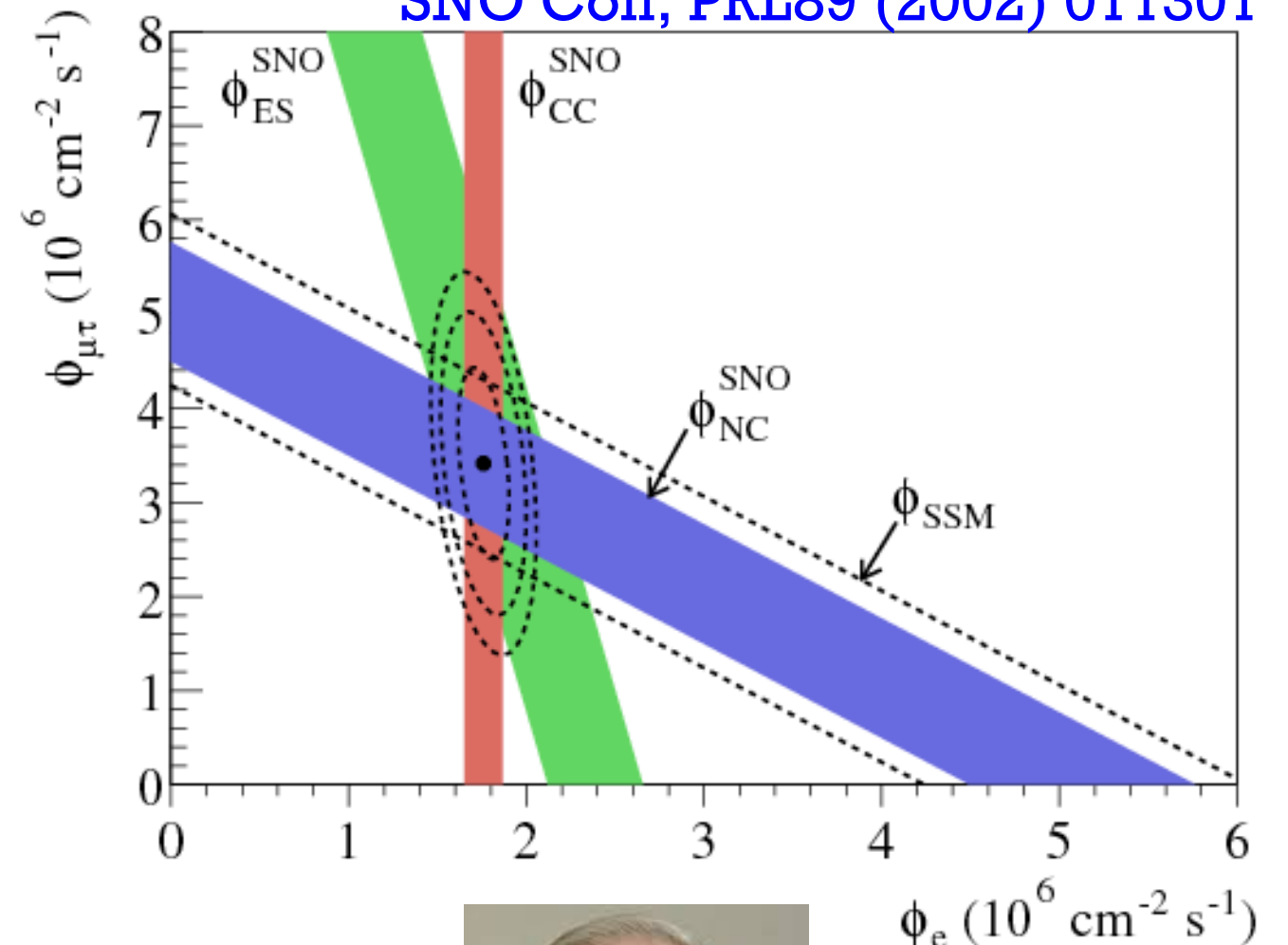
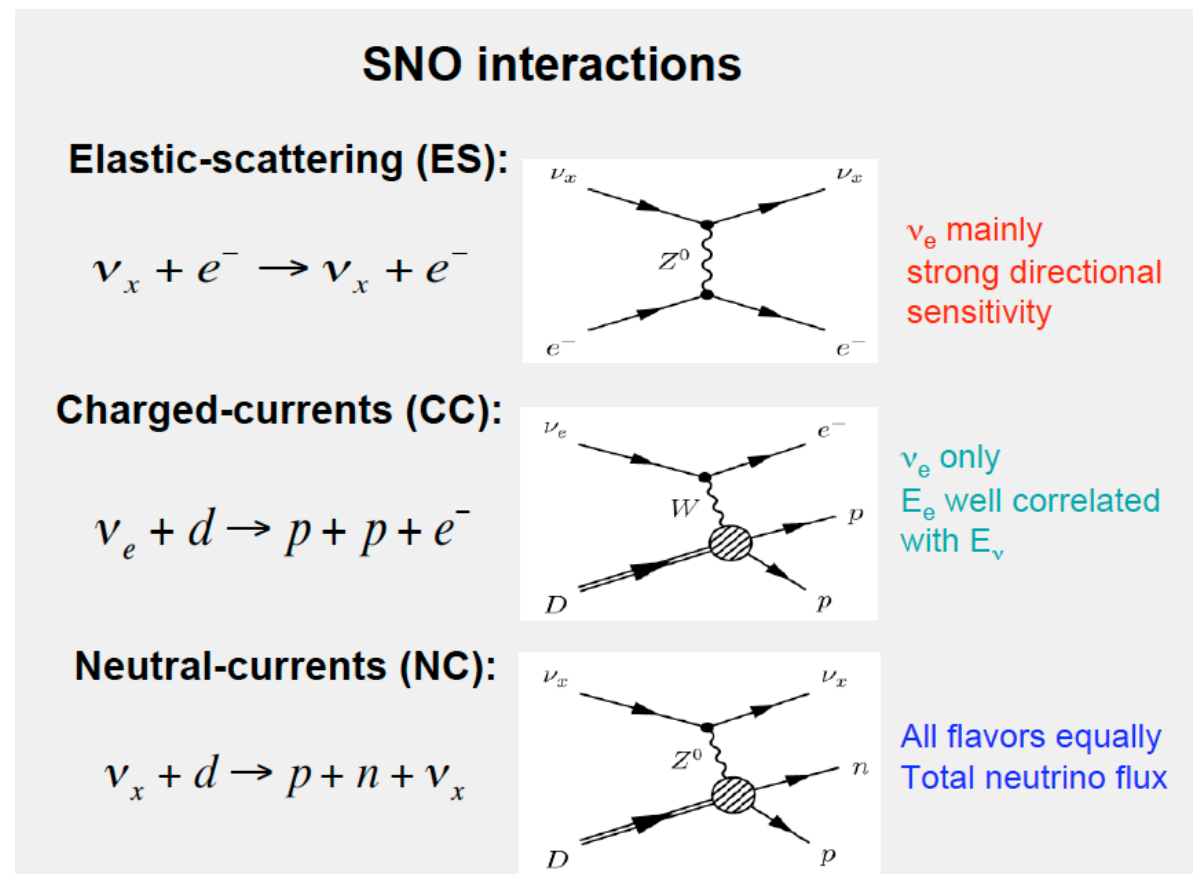
oscillation channel $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$

➔ first evidence for non-zero **neutrino masses**.

Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO)

2001: Confirmation of flavor conversion in solar neutrinos in SNO (1 kton D₂O)

SNO Coll, PRL89 (2002) 011301



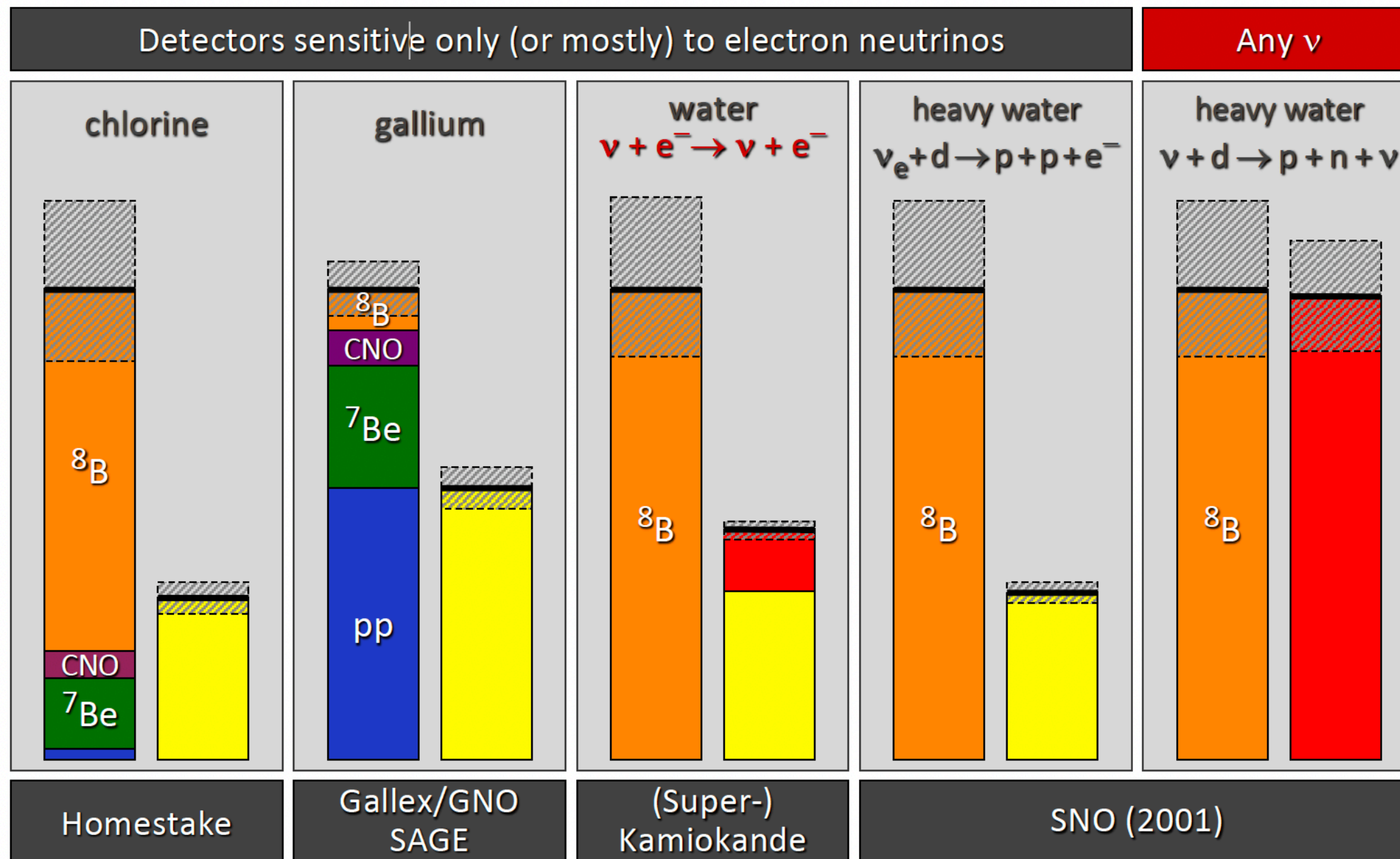
$$\frac{\phi_{CC}^{SNO}}{\phi_{NC}^{SNO}} = 0.301 \pm 0.033 \rightarrow 30\% \text{ of solar neutrinos are detected as } \nu_e$$

$$\phi_{NC}^{SNO} \simeq \phi_{8B}^{SSM} \rightarrow \text{conversion } \nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$$



2015 Nobel Prize in Physics

The solar neutrino ~~problem~~



All solar neutrinos predicted by the SSM are detected

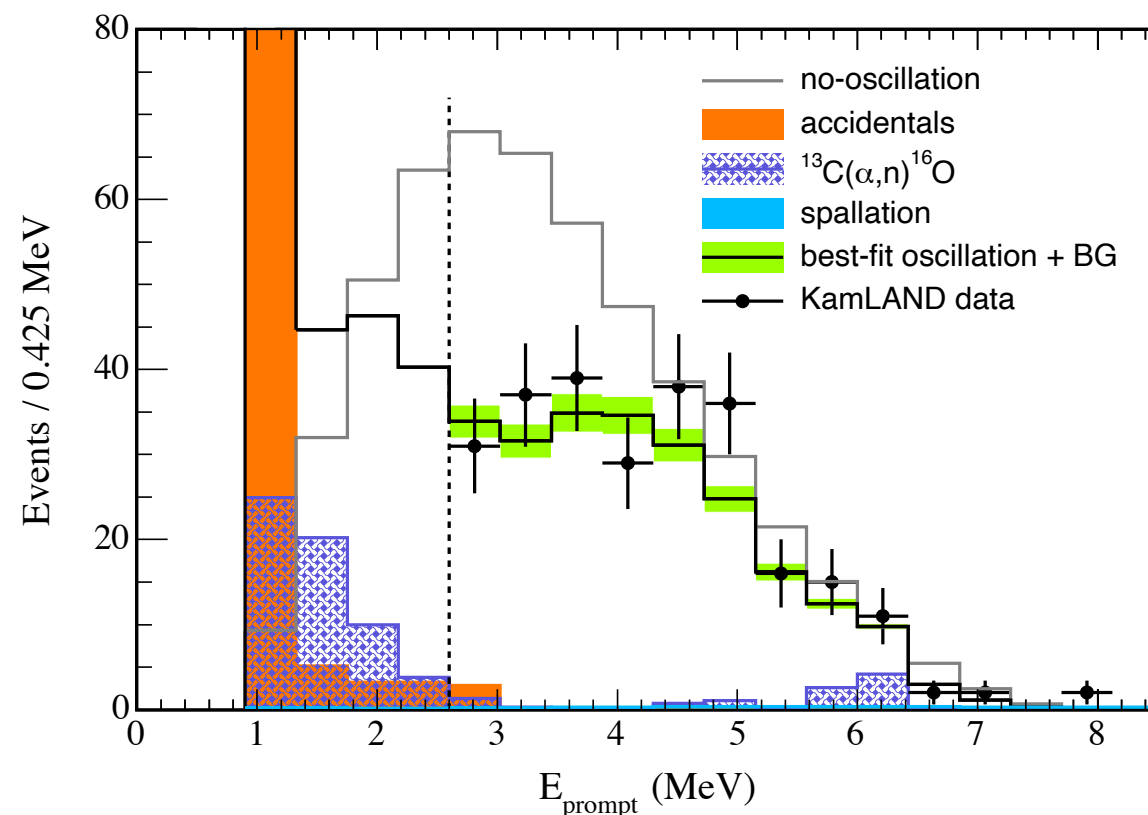
SNO confirms the conversion

$$\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$$

Conversion mechanism??

Other important results

2002: The reactor experiment **KamLAND** observed neutrino oscillations consistent with the solar anomaly.



KamLAND Coll, PRL 90 (2003) 021802

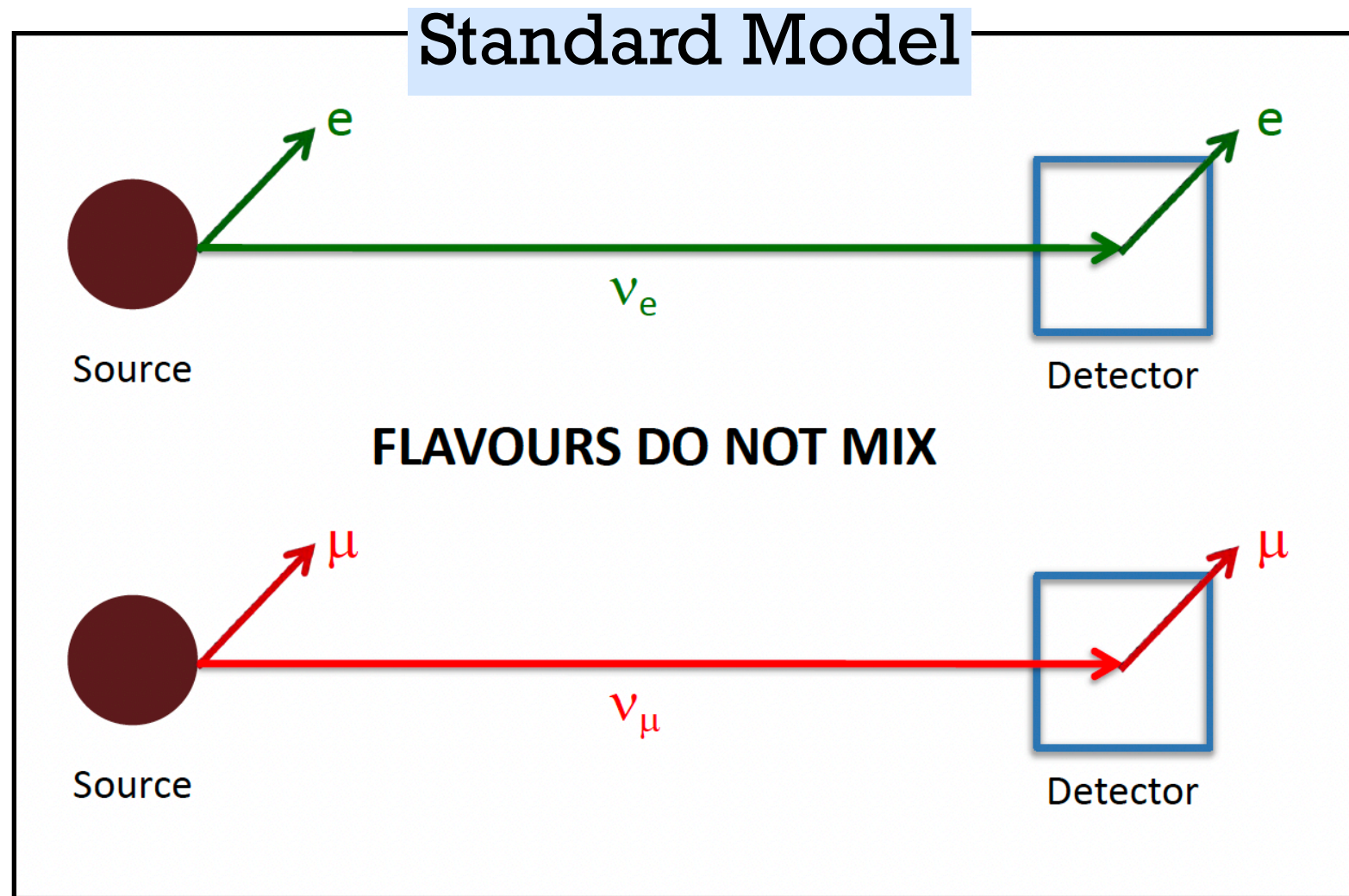
2002: Results of the accelerator experiment **K2K** consistent with ν_μ oscillations as in the atmospheric anomaly (**MINOS, T2K, NOvA**).

2011: $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ oscillations observed in long-baseline accelerator experiments.

2011: Double Chooz confirmed reactor antineutrino oscillations in a baseline of ~ 1 km (**Daya Bay, RENO**).

neutrino oscillations have been observed in solar, atmospheric, reactor and accelerator neutrino experiments.

Neutrino oscillations

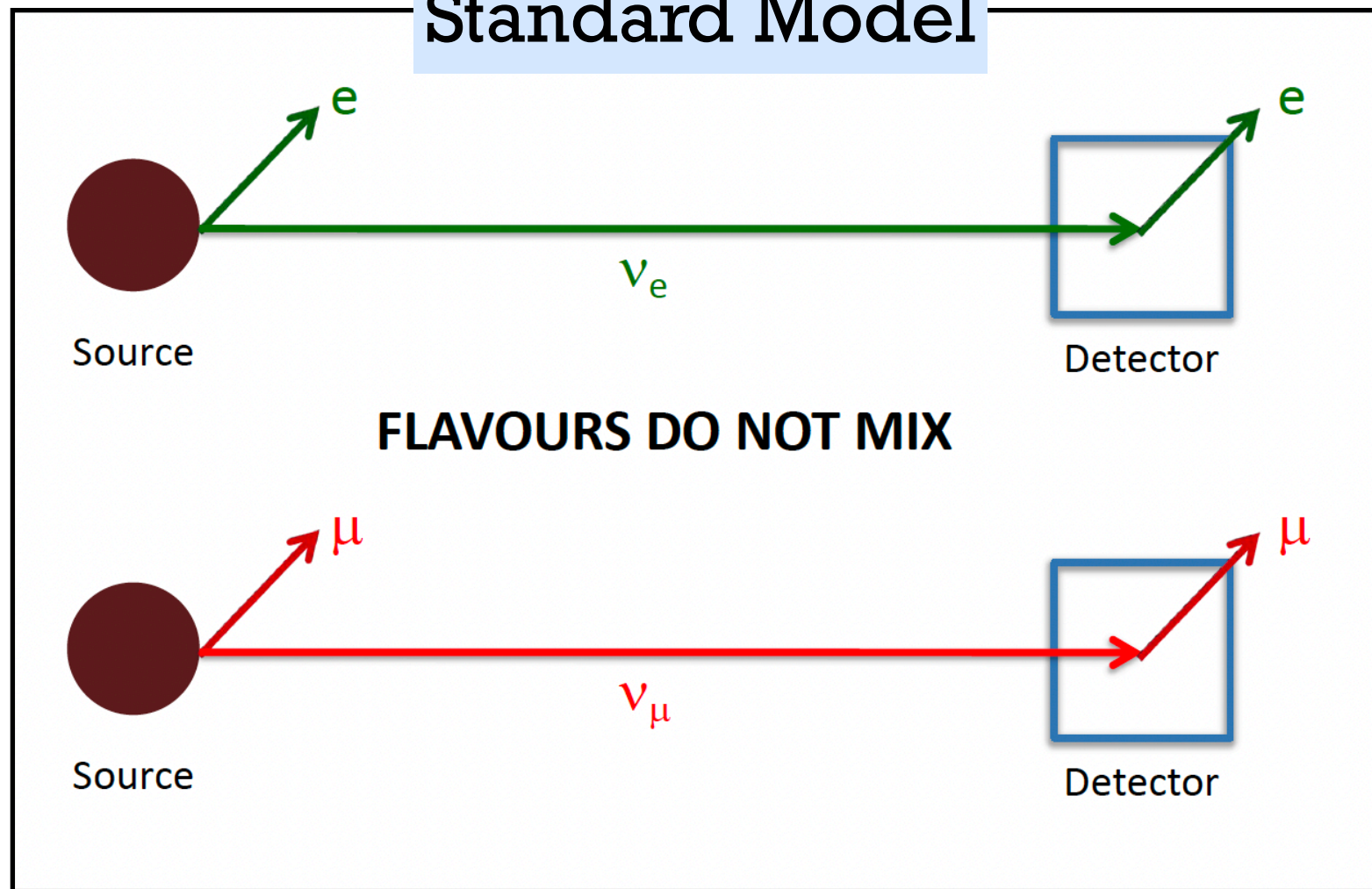


However

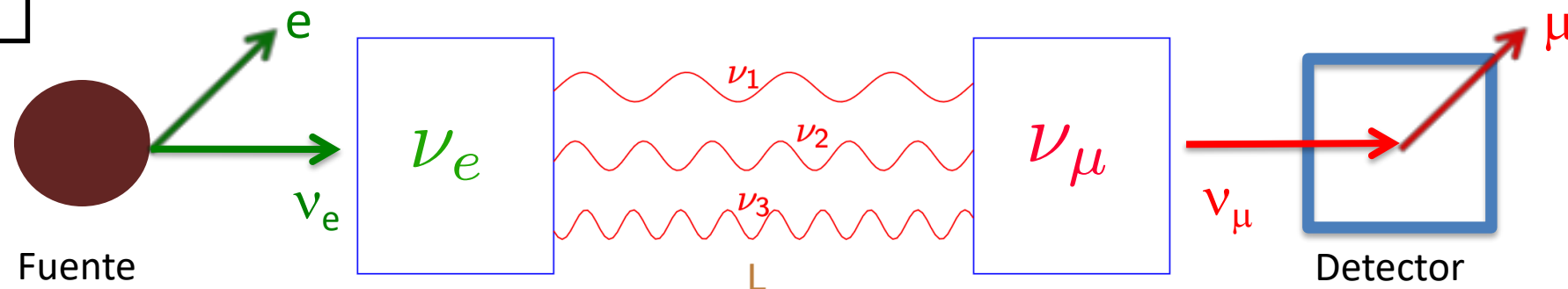


Neutrino oscillations

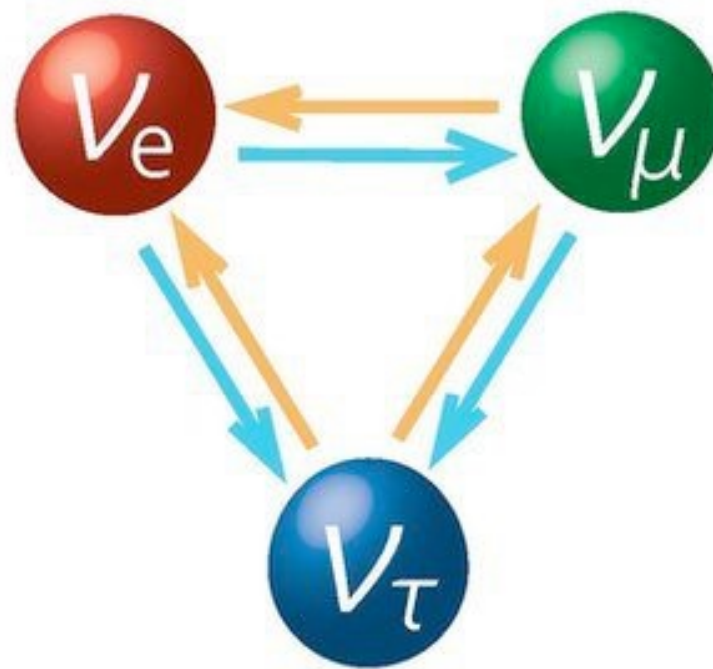
Standard Model



$$\nu_{\alpha L} = \sum_k U_{\alpha k} \nu_{k L}$$



Neutrino oscillations: formalism



Neutrino mixing

- ♦ Mixing described by the Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata (PMNS) matrix:

$$\nu_{\alpha L} = \sum_k U_{\alpha k} \nu_{k L}$$

- ♦ NxN unitary matrix: NxN real parameters

→ $N(N-1)/2$ mixing angles + $N(N+1)/2$ phases (not all observables!)

- ♦ Leptonic weak charged current:

$$J^\rho = 2 \sum_\alpha \overline{l_{\alpha L}} \gamma^\rho \nu_{\alpha L} = \sum_\alpha \sum_k \overline{l_{\alpha L}} \gamma^\rho U_{\alpha k} \nu_{k L}$$

$N(N+1)/2$ phases

- ♦ Lagrangian invariant under global phase transformations of Dirac fields:

$$l_\alpha \rightarrow e^{i\theta_\alpha} l_\alpha, \quad \nu_k \rightarrow e^{i\phi_k} \nu_k$$

$$J^\rho \rightarrow 2 \sum_{\alpha, k} \overline{l_{\alpha L}} e^{-i(\theta_\alpha - \phi_1)} \gamma^\rho U_{\alpha k} e^{i(\phi_k - \phi_1)} \nu_{k L}$$

$\mathbf{N}$ $\mathbf{N-1}$

(2N-1) phases
from U
reabsorbed in
the fields

$(N-1)(N-2)/2$ physical phases

Neutrino mixing

♦ For **Majorana neutrinos**, the lagrangian is NOT invariant under global phase transformations of the Majorana fields:

$$\nu_k \rightarrow e^{i\phi_k} \nu_k \quad \longrightarrow \quad \nu_{kL}^T \mathcal{C}^\dagger \nu_{kL} \rightarrow e^{2i\phi_k} \nu_{kL}^T \mathcal{C}^\dagger \nu_{kL}$$

→ only N phases can be eliminated by rephasing charged lepton fields (neutrino fields can not be rephased!!):

$$J^\rho \rightarrow 2 \sum_{\alpha, k} \overline{l_{\alpha L}} e^{-i\theta_\alpha} \gamma^\rho U_{\alpha k} \nu_{kL}$$

N

$N(N+1)/2 - N = N(N-1)/2$ physical phases for Majorana neutrinos

→ $N(N-1)/2$ **physical phases**: $(N-1)(N-2)/2$ Dirac phases → effect in ν oscil.

$(N-1)$ Majorana phases → relevant for $0\nu\beta\beta$

Neutrino mixing

- ♦ 2-neutrino mixing depends on 1 angle only (+1 Majorana phase)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

- ♦ 3-neutrino mixing is described by 3 angles and 1 Dirac (+2 Majorana) CP violating phases.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

atmospheric + LBL

reactor + LBL

solar + KamLAND

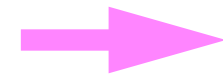
Neutrino oscillations

♦ Flavour states are admixtures of mass eigenstates: $\nu_{\alpha L} = \sum_j U_{\alpha j} \nu_{j L}$

♦ Neutrino **evolution equation**: $-i \frac{d}{dt} |\nu_j\rangle = H |\nu_j\rangle$

in the neutrino mass eigenstates basis ν_j :

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} E_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E_3 \end{pmatrix}$$



neutrino mass eigenstates evolve as plane waves *:

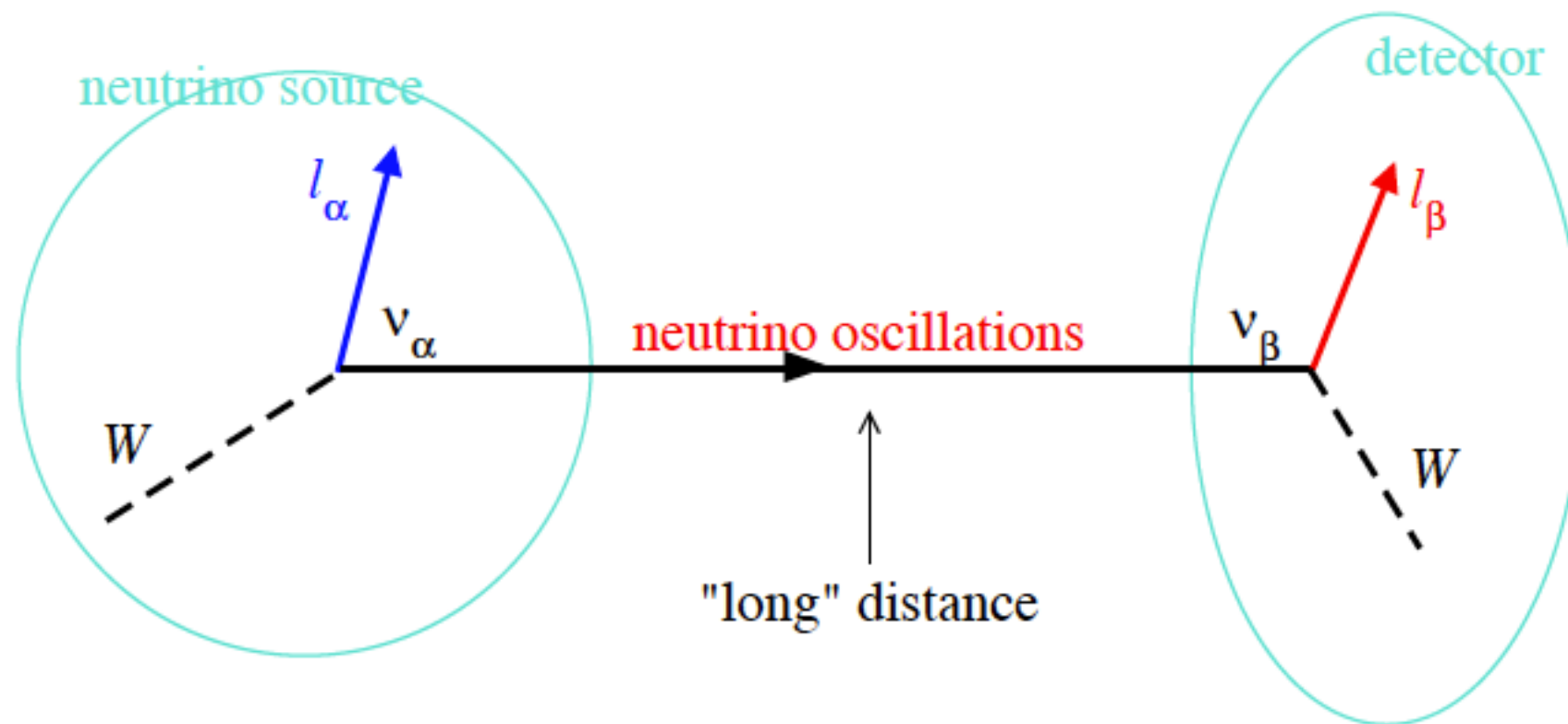
$$|\nu_j(t, L)\rangle = e^{-i(E_j t - p_j L)} |\nu_j\rangle$$

♦ For **ultrarelativistic neutrinos**: $(E_j - p_j)L = \frac{E_j^2 - p_j^2}{E_j + p_j} L \simeq \frac{m_j^2}{2E} L$
(t=L)



$$|\nu_j(t, L)\rangle = e^{-i \frac{m_j^2 L}{2E}} |\nu_j\rangle$$

Neutrino oscillations picture



Production

$$|\nu_\alpha\rangle = \sum_j U_{\alpha j}^* |\nu_j\rangle$$

coherent superposition
of massive states

Propagation

$$\nu_j : e^{-i \frac{m_j^2 L}{2E}}$$

different propagation
phases change ν_j
composition

Detection

$$\langle \nu_\beta | = \sum_j \langle \nu_j | U_{\beta j}$$

projection over
flavour eigenstates

Neutrino oscillation probability

Neutrino oscillation amplitude:

$$\mathcal{A}_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta} = \langle \nu_\beta(t) | \nu_\alpha(0) \rangle = \sum_j \langle \nu_\beta | \nu_j(t) \rangle \langle \nu_j(t) | \nu_j(0) \rangle \langle \nu_j(0) | \nu_\alpha \rangle$$

detection production

propagation

Neutrino oscillation probability: $P_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta} = \left| \sum_j U_{\beta j} e^{-i \frac{m_j^2 L}{2E}} U_{\alpha j}^* \right|^2$

$$P_{\alpha\beta} = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4 \sum_{i>j} \text{Re} (U_{\alpha i}^* U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta i} U_{\beta j}^*) \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{ij}^2 L}{4E} \right) +$$

$$+ 2 \sum_{i>j} \text{Im} (U_{\alpha i}^* U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta i} U_{\beta j}^*) \sin \left(\frac{\Delta m_{ij}^2 L}{2E} \right)$$

* For a realistic derivation considering uncertainties in E and L and wave packet treatment see:

Giunti & Kim, Fundamentals of Neutrino Physics and Astrophysics. Oxford University Press, 2007.

Neutrino oscillation properties

♦ Conservation of probability: $\sum_{\beta} P(\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\beta}) = 1$

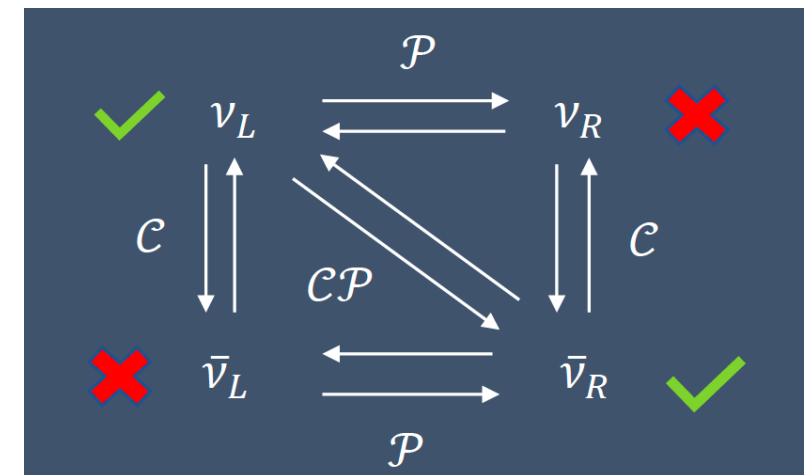
♦ Neutrino oscillations are sensitive only to **mass squared differences**:

$$\Delta m_{kj}^2 = m_k^2 - m_j^2$$

♦ For **antineutrinos**: $U \rightarrow U^*$

♦ Phases in the mixing matrix induce **CP violation**:

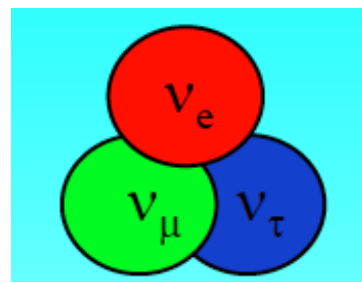
$$P(\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\beta}) \neq P(\bar{\nu}_{\alpha} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\beta})$$



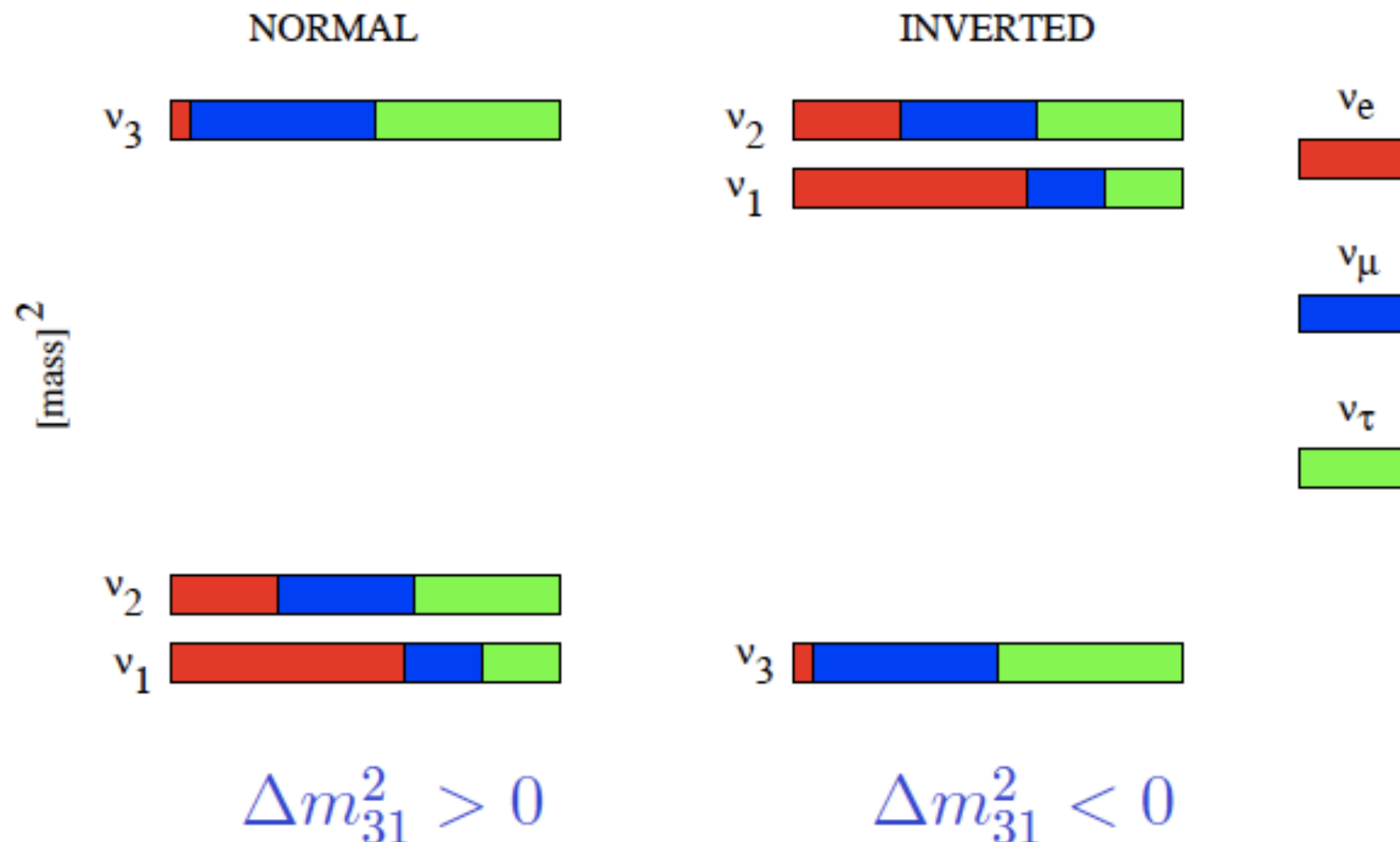
♦ Neutrino oscillations do not depend on the absolute neutrino mass scale and Majorana phases.

♦ Neutrino oscillations violate flavour **lepton number conservation** but conserve total lepton number.

Two possible mass orderings



- ♦ Δm_{21}^2 : solar + KamLAND (positive)
- ♦ Δm_{31}^2 : atmospheric + LBL accelerator + SBL reactor (sign?)



Two-neutrino oscillations

♦ Two-neutrino mixing matrix: $\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$

♦ Two-neutrino oscillation probability ($\alpha \neq \beta$):

$$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) = \left| U_{\alpha 1} U_{\beta 1}^* + U_{\alpha 2} U_{\beta 2}^* e^{-i \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{2E}} \right|^2 = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E} \right)$$

♦ The **oscillation phase**:

$$\phi = \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E} = 1.27 \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 [\text{eV}^2] L [\text{km}]}{E [\text{GeV}]}$$

→ short distances, $\phi \ll 1$: oscillations do not develop, $P_{\alpha\beta} = 0$

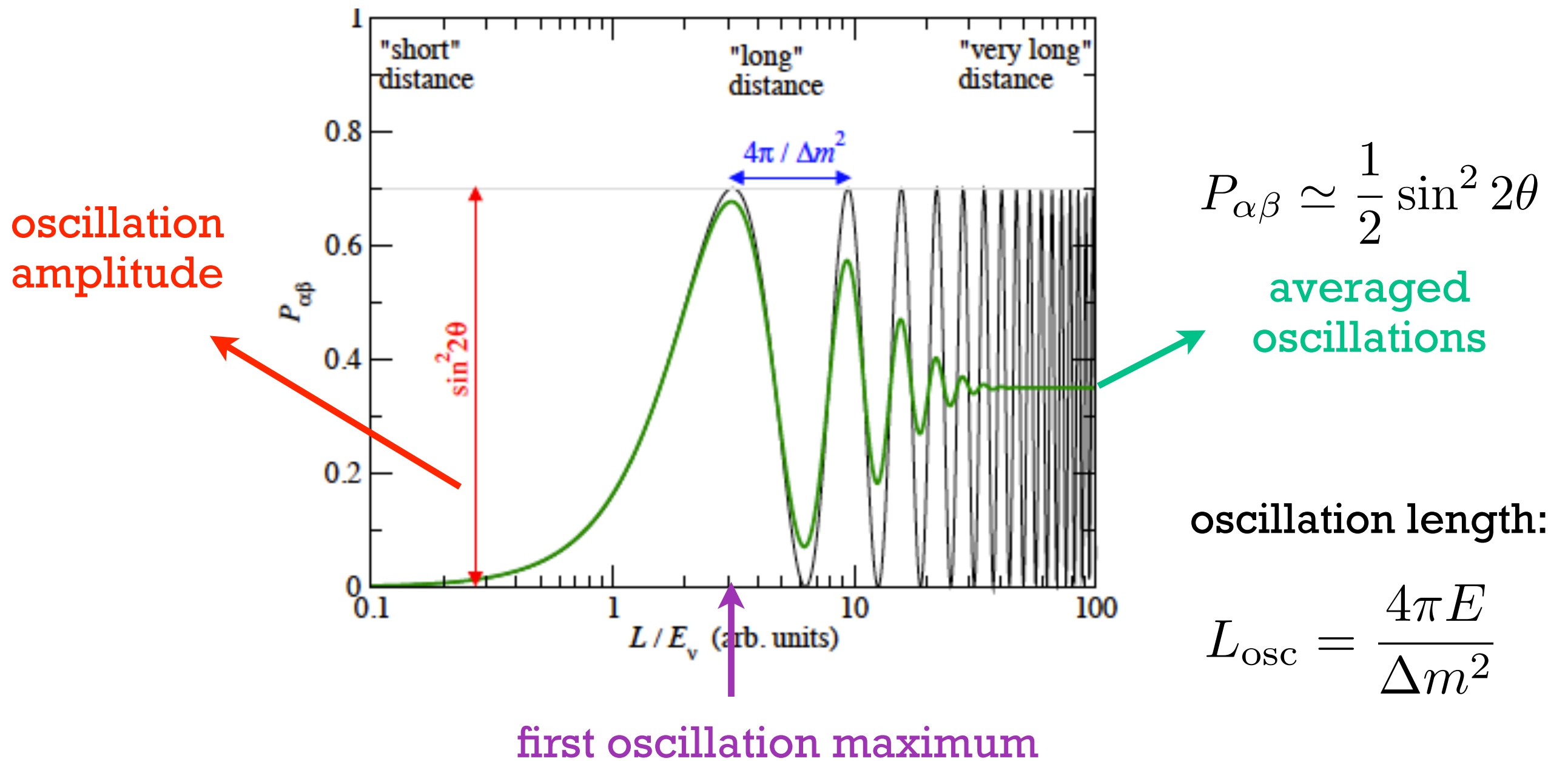
→ long distance, $\phi \sim 1$: oscillations are observable

→ very long distances, $\phi \gg 1$: oscillations are averaged out:

$$P_{\alpha\beta} \simeq \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 2\theta$$

2-neutrino oscillation probability

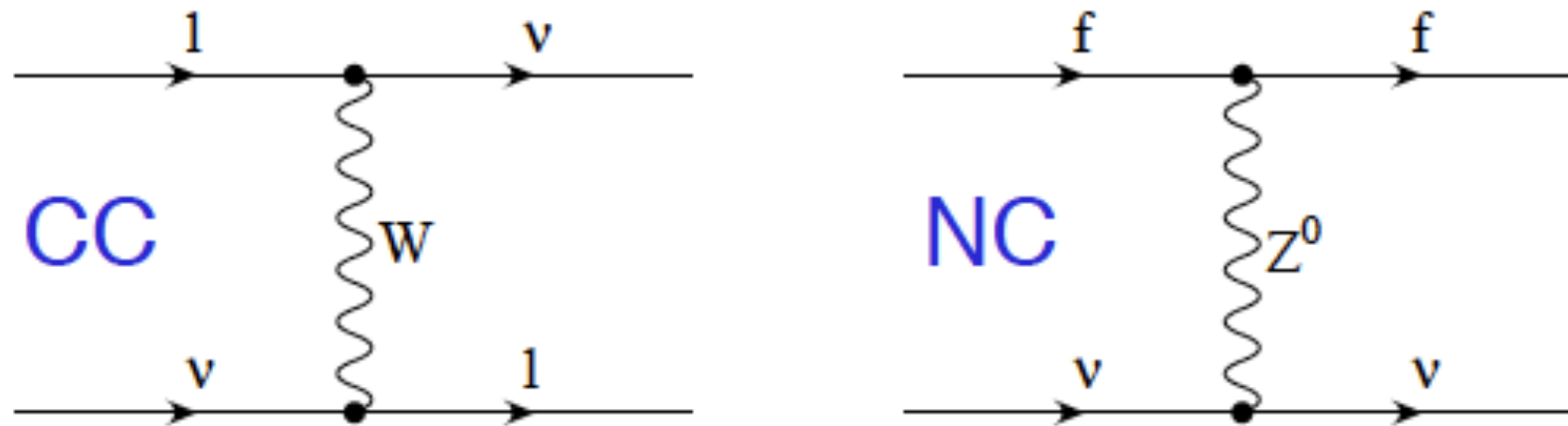
$$P_{\alpha\beta} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E} \right)$$



Matter effects on neutrino oscillations

♦ When neutrinos pass through matter, the interactions with the particles in the medium induce an **effective potential** for neutrinos.

[→ the coherent forward scattering amplitude leads to an index of refraction for neutrinos. **L. Wolfenstein, 1978**]



→ modifies the **mixing between flavor states and mass eigenstates** as well as the eigenvalues of the Hamiltonian, leading to a different oscillation probability with respect to vacuum oscillations.

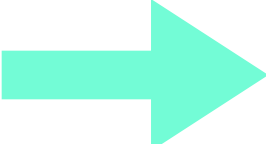
Effective matter potential

- ♦ Effective four-fermion interaction Hamiltonian (CC+NC)

$$H_{\text{int}}^{\nu_\alpha} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{\nu}_\alpha \gamma_\mu (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_\alpha \sum_j \bar{f} \gamma_\mu (g_V^{\alpha,f} - g_A^{\alpha,f} \gamma_5) f$$

in ordinary matter: $f=e^-, p, n$

To obtain the **matter-induced potential** we integrate over f -variables,
For a non-relativistic unpolarised neutral medium


$$V_{\text{matt}} = \sqrt{2} G_F \text{diag}(N_e - \frac{1}{2} N_n, -\frac{1}{2} N_n, -\frac{1}{2} N_n)$$

- ♦ only ν_e are sensitive to CC (no μ, τ in ordinary matter)
- ♦ **NC** has the same effect for all flavours → it has **no effect on evolution**
(however it can be important in presence of sterile neutrinos)
- ♦ for **antineutrinos** the potential has opposite sign

2-ν oscillations in constant matter

♦ If N_e is constant (good approximation for oscillations in the Earth crust):

→ θ_M and ΔM^2 are constant as well

→ we can use vacuum expression for oscillation probability, replacing “vacuum” parameters by “matter” parameters:

$$P_{\alpha\beta} = \sin^2 2\theta_M \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta M^2 L}{4E} \right)$$

$$\sin^2 2\theta_M = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - A)^2}$$

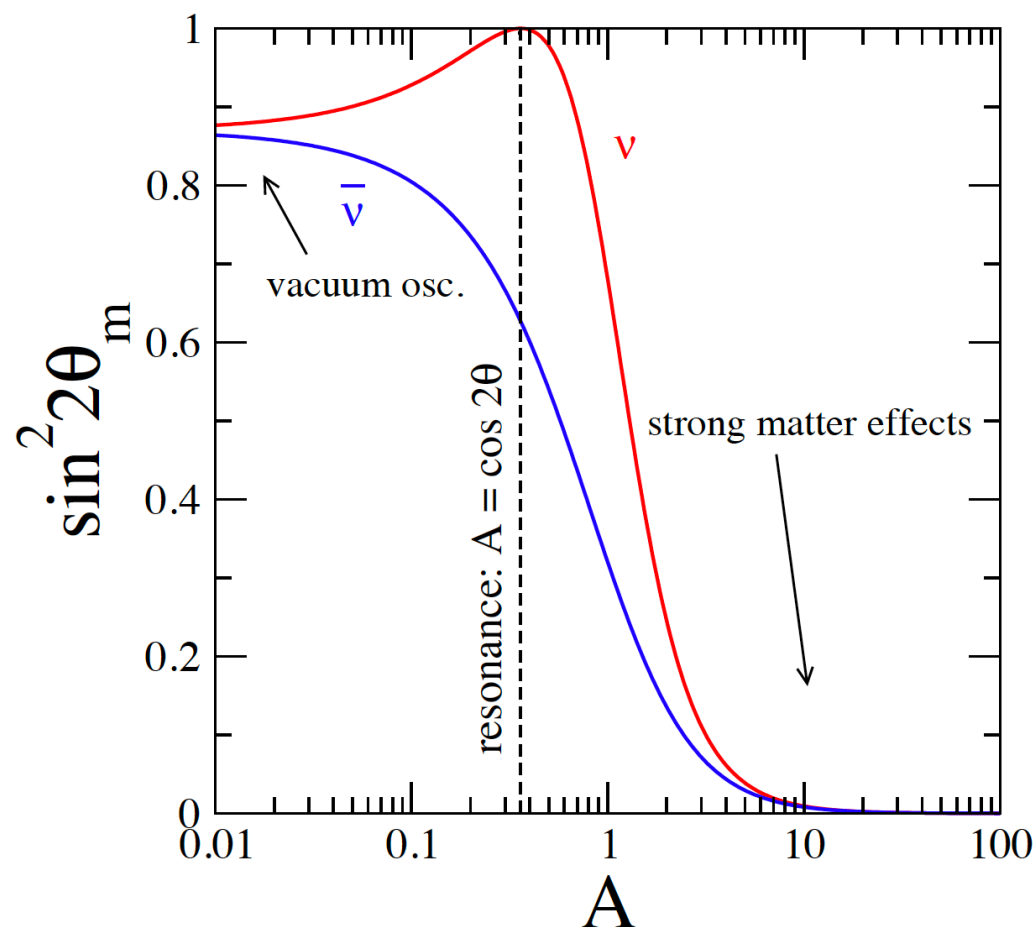
$$A = \frac{2EV}{\Delta m^2}$$

$$\Delta M^2 = \Delta m^2 \sqrt{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - A)^2}$$

There is a **resonance** effect for $A = \cos 2\theta \rightarrow$ **MSW effect**

Wolfenstein, 1978. Mikheyev & Smirnov, 1986

2-ν oscillations in constant matter



mixing angle in matter:

$$\sin^2 2\theta_M = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta \mp A)^2}$$

$$A = \frac{2EV}{\Delta m^2}$$

for antineutrinos

- ♦ $A \ll \cos 2\theta$, small matter effect $\rightarrow$ vacuum oscillations: $\theta_M = \theta$
- ♦ $A \gg \cos 2\theta$, matter effects dominate $\rightarrow$ oscillations suppressed: $\theta_M \approx \pi/2$
- ♦ $A = \cos 2\theta$, resonance takes place $\rightarrow$ maximal mixing $\theta_M \approx \pi/4$

$\rightarrow$ **resonance condition** is satisfied for neutrinos for $\Delta m^2 > 0$

for antineutrinos for $\Delta m^2 < 0$

2-ν oscillations in varying matter

► If N_e varies with time (nu beam propagating through the Earth or the Sun)

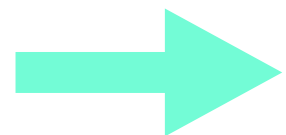
→ diagonalization of H_{matt} at every instant to obtain $\theta_M(t)$ and $\Delta M^2(t)$

→ evolution of the **instantaneous eigenstates in matter** $\mathbf{v}_i^m$:

$$i \frac{d}{dt} \nu_\alpha = i \frac{d}{dt} [U(\theta_M) \nu_i^m] = i \frac{d}{dt} U(\theta_M) \nu_i^m + U(\theta_M) i \frac{d}{dt} \nu_i^m$$

On the other hand:

$$i \frac{d}{dt} \nu_\alpha = H_f \nu_\alpha = U(\theta_M) H_{\text{diag}} \left(\frac{\Delta M^2}{4E} \right) U(\theta_M)^\dagger \nu_\alpha = U(\theta_M) H_{\text{diag}} \left(\frac{\Delta M^2}{4E} \right) \nu_i^m$$


$$i \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1^m \\ \nu_2^m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\Delta M^2/4E & -i\dot{\theta}_M \\ i\dot{\theta}_M & \Delta M^2/4E \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1^m \\ \nu_2^m \end{pmatrix}$$

→ the presence of off-diagonal terms induce the **mixing of $\mathbf{v}_i^m$ states**

Adiabatic evolution

$$i \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1^m \\ \nu_2^m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\Delta M^2/4E & -i\dot{\theta}_M \\ i\dot{\theta}_M & \Delta M^2/4E \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1^m \\ \nu_2^m \end{pmatrix}$$

► For small off-diagonal terms: $|\dot{\theta}_M| \ll \Delta M^2/4E$

→ the transitions between the instantaneous eigenstates $\mathbf{v}_1^m$ and $\mathbf{v}_2^m$ are suppressed: **adiabatic approximation**.

► Adiabaticity condition:

$$\gamma^{-1} \equiv \frac{2\dot{\theta}_M}{\Delta m^2/2E} = \frac{\sin 2\theta \Delta m^2/2E}{(\Delta M^2/2E)^3} |\dot{V}_{CC}| \ll 1$$

adiabaticity parameter

from the instantaneous expression of θ_M

the typical value in the Sun: $\gamma^{-1} \sim \frac{\Delta m^2}{10^{-9} \text{eV}^2} \frac{\text{MeV}}{E}$

→ adiabaticity applies up to 10 GeV

Solar neutrinos: the MSW effect

- ♦ 2nu approx: electron neutrino is born at the center of the Sun as:

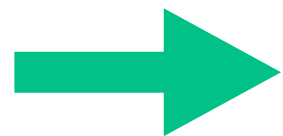
$$|\nu_e\rangle = \cos \theta_M |\nu_1^m\rangle + \sin \theta_M |\nu_2^m\rangle$$

→ ν_1^m and ν_2^m evolve adiabatically until the solar surface and propagate in vacuum from the Sun to the Earth:

$$P(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e) = P_{e1}^{\text{prod}} P_{1e}^{\text{det}} + P_{e2}^{\text{prod}} P_{2e}^{\text{det}}$$

$$P_{e1}^{\text{prod}} = \cos^2 \theta_M, \quad P_{1e}^{\text{det}} = \cos^2 \theta$$

$$P_{e2}^{\text{prod}} = \sin^2 \theta_M, \quad P_{2e}^{\text{det}} = \sin^2 \theta$$



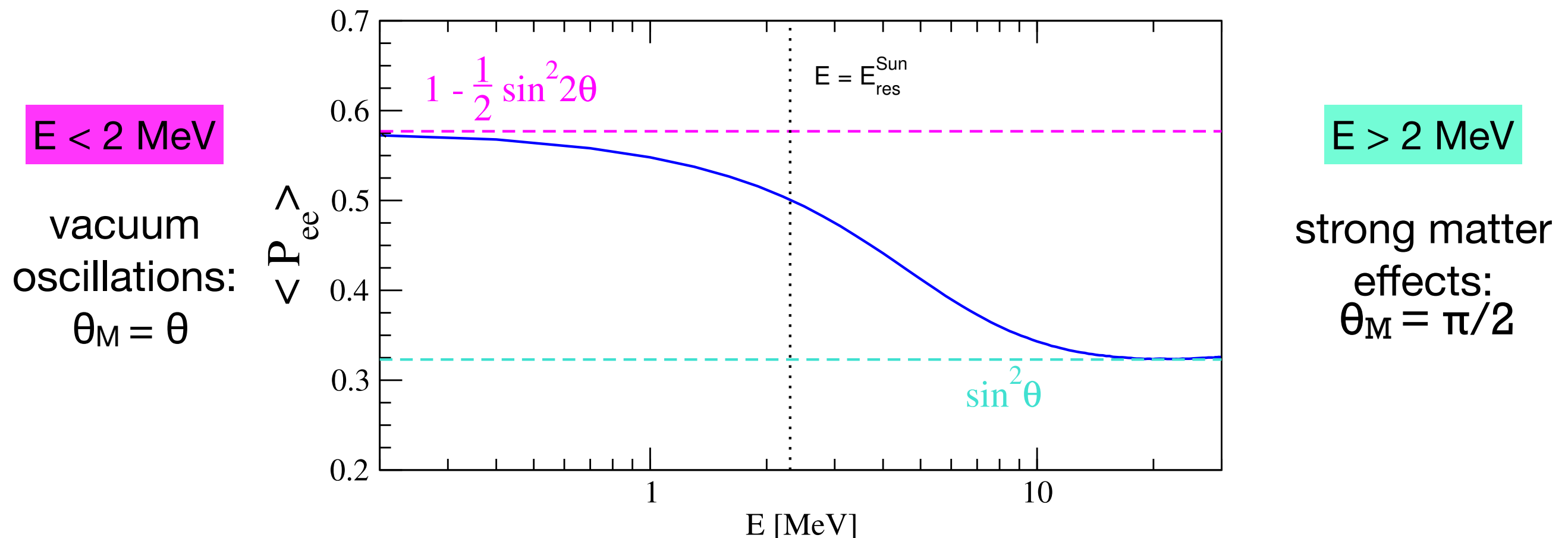
$$P_{ee} = \cos^2 \theta_M \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta_M \sin^2 \theta$$

Solar neutrinos: the MSW effect

♦ In the center of the Sun: $A = \frac{2EV}{\Delta m^2} \simeq 0.2 \left(\frac{E}{\text{MeV}} \right) \left(\frac{8 \times 10^{-5} \text{eV}^2}{\Delta m^2} \right)$

♦ Since resonance occurs for $A = \cos(2\theta) = 0.4 \rightarrow E_{\text{res}} \approx 2 \text{ MeV}$

$$P_{ee} = \cos^2 \theta_M \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta_M \sin^2 \theta$$



→ $P_{ee}(E)$ will be crucial to understand solar neutrino data

Mass hierarchy in solar neutrinos

- ♦ Mixing angle in matter:

$$A = \frac{2EV}{\Delta m^2}$$

$$\sin^2 2\theta_M = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta \mp A)^2}$$

for antineutrinos

→ **resonance condition** $A = \cos 2\theta$ is satisfied for neutrinos for $\Delta m^2 > 0$ and for antineutrinos for $\Delta m^2 < 0$ (change of sign in V_{cc})

- ♦ Matter effects observed in solar neutrino data are in agreement with the presence of a resonance as predicted above:

→ since solar neutrinos are ν_e : $\Delta m_{21}^2 > 0 \rightarrow m_2 > m_1$

Earth regeneration effect

- ♦ Neutrinos observed at night are also affected by Earth matter effects
- ♦ If neutrinos cross only the Earth mantle, P_{2e}^{det} is well approximated by the evolution of a constant potential:

$$P_{2e}^{\text{det}} = \sin^2 \theta + f_{\text{reg}}$$

↑ prob. during day ↑ regeneration term

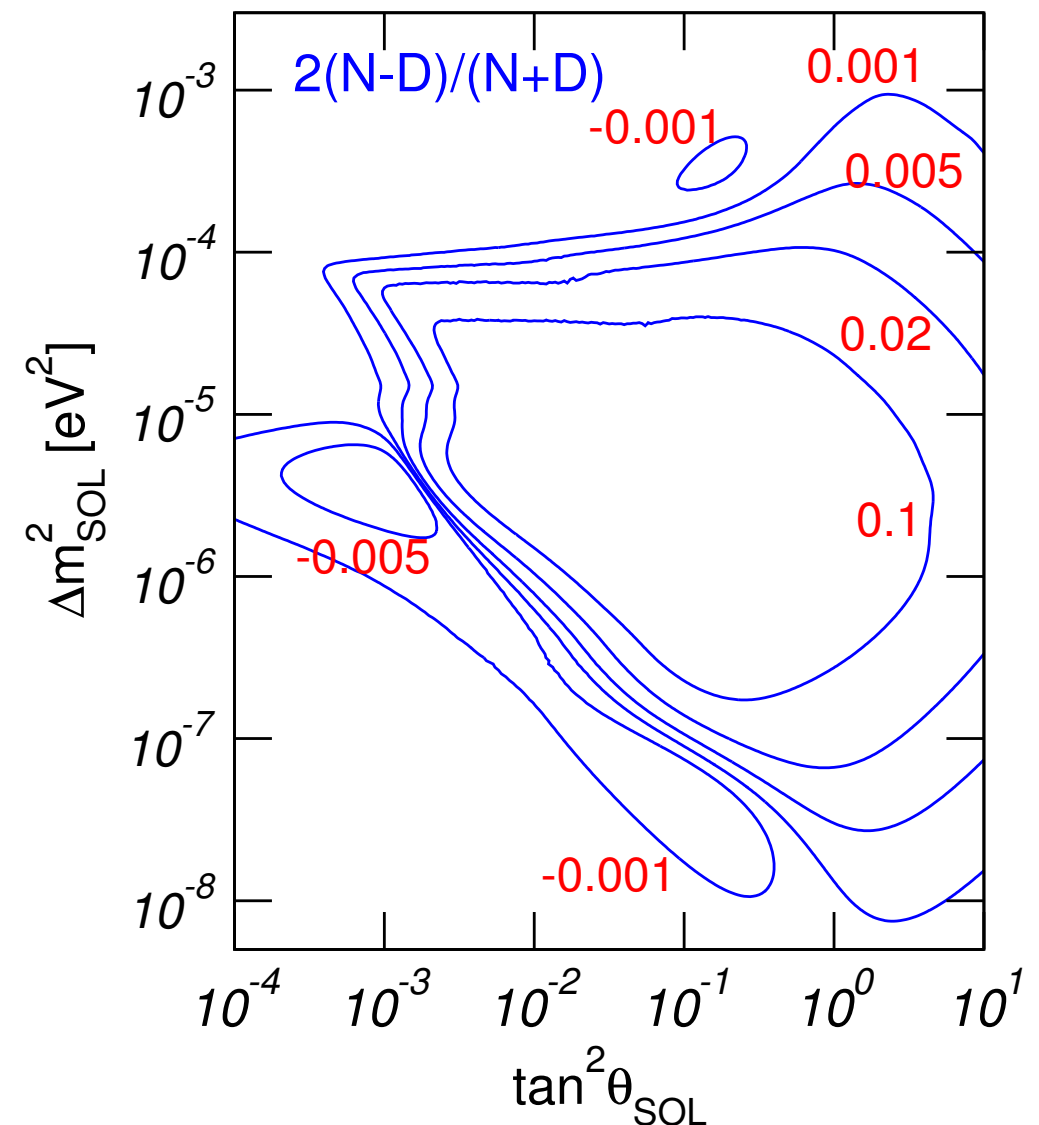
$$f_{\text{reg}} = \frac{4EV_{CC}}{\Delta m^2} \sin^2 2\theta_E \sin^2 \frac{\pi L}{L_{\text{osc}}}$$

$$P_{ee}^{\text{night}} = P_{ee}^{\text{day}} - \cos 2\theta_M f_{\text{reg}}$$

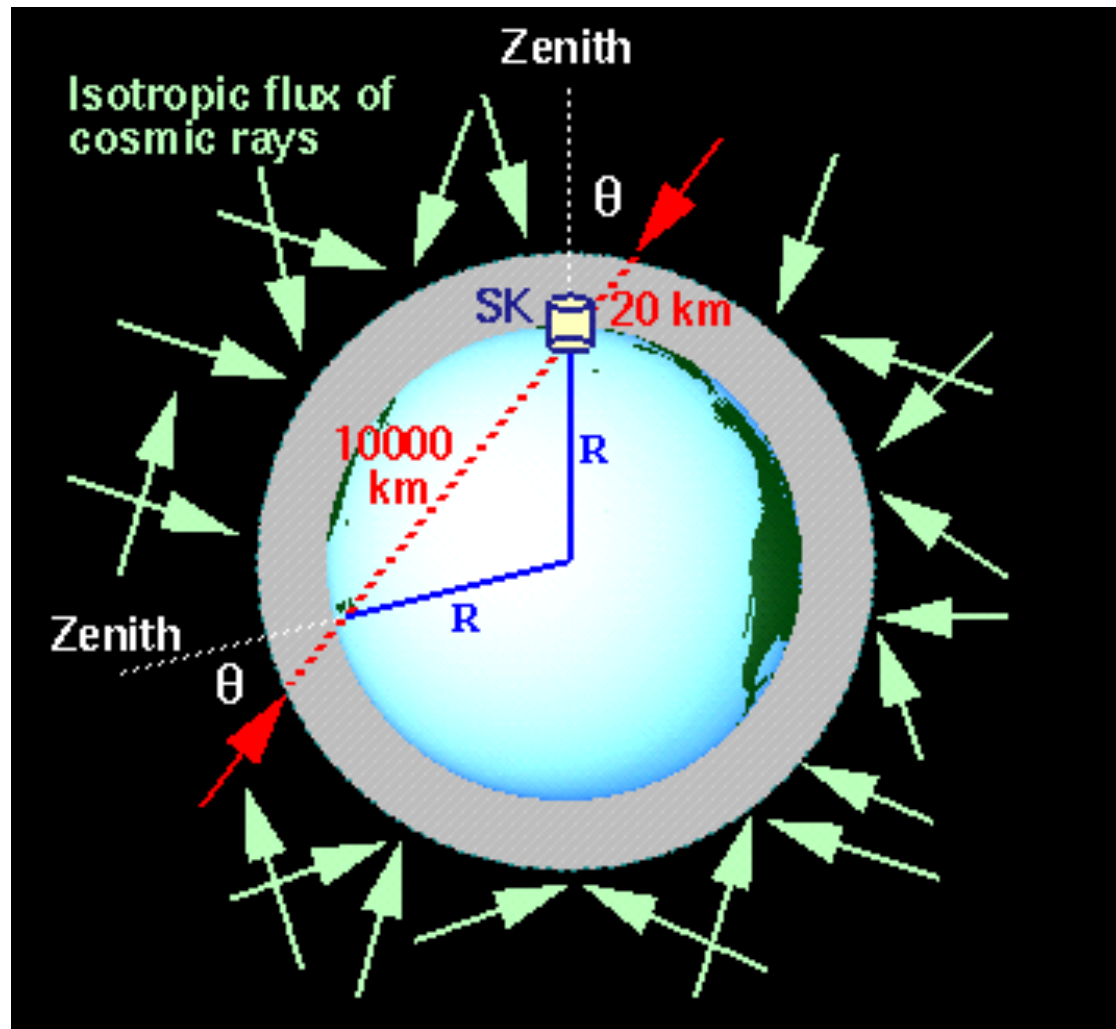
→ day-night asymmetry:

$$A_{\text{DN}} \equiv 2 \frac{(P_N - P_D)}{P_N + P_D}$$

- ♦ For the measured solar neutrino parameters $f_{\text{reg}} \sim +1\%$



Matter effects in atmospheric ν 's



◆ Atmospheric neutrinos interact with the Earth mantle and core

✓ no matter effects in $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ channel

✓ MSW resonance in $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ channel

$$\tan 2\theta_m = \frac{\frac{\Delta m^2}{4E} \sin 2\theta}{\frac{\Delta m^2}{4E} \cos 2\theta \mp \sqrt{2}G_F N_e}$$

(-) neutrinos (+)antineutrinos

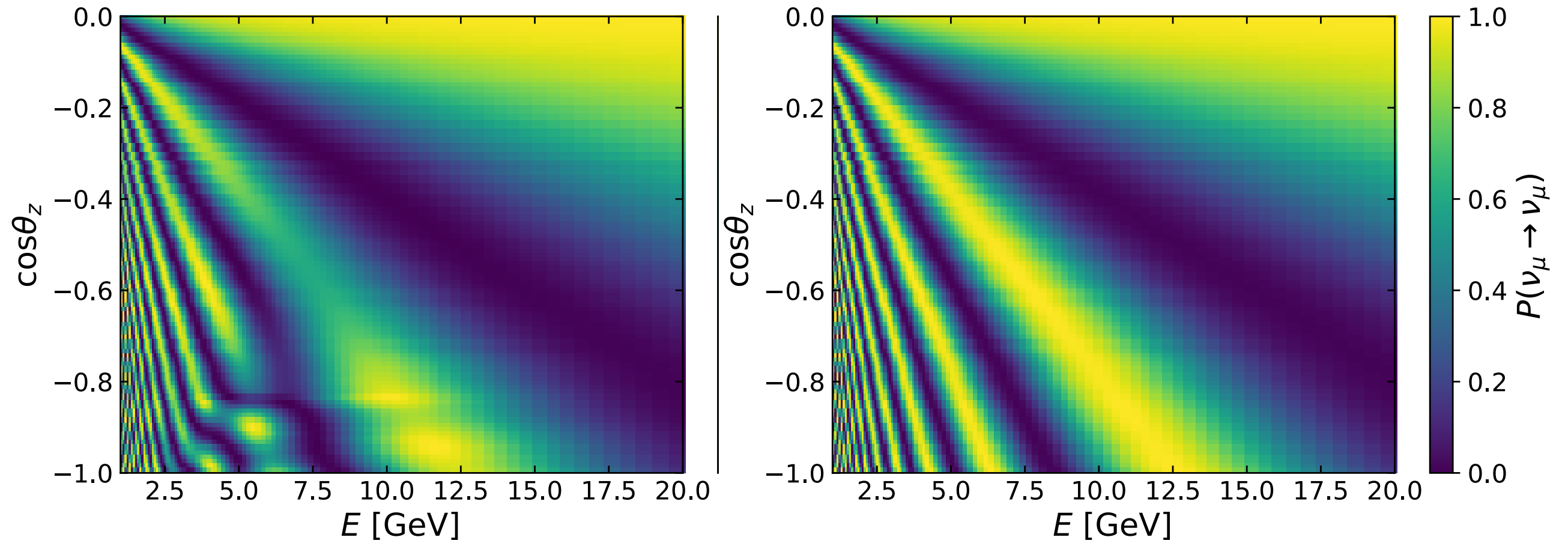
→ Matter effects on the atmospheric neutrino flux are sensitive to the **mass ordering**.

→ they are harder to observe since $P_{\mu e} \propto \theta_{13}$

Matter effects in atmospheric ν 's

NO

IO



de Salas et al, arXiv:1806.11051

At $E \sim 3-8$ GeV: MSW resonance for neutrinos and NO mass spectrum.

For antineutrinos $\Rightarrow$ the resonance appears in IO