

Detectors in Nuclear and Particle Physics

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10. Detection of neutral particles

- 1 Detection of neutral particles
 - Introduction
 - Detection of Neutrons
 - Detection of Neutrinos

10.1 Introduction

Electrically neutral particles do not interact via electromagnetic forces; for detection they are thus generally converted into charged particles.

Apart from the converting material, detectors for neutrals use essentially same techniques as those for charged particles.

Examples:

photons: total energy deposited in electromagnetic shower
use energy measurement, shower shape
and information on neutrality (e.g. no track)

neutrons: energy in calorimeter or scintillator (Li, B, ^3He)
and information on neutrality (e.g. no track)

K_0 , Λ , ... reconstruction of invariant masses

neutrinos: Identify products of charged and neutral current interactions

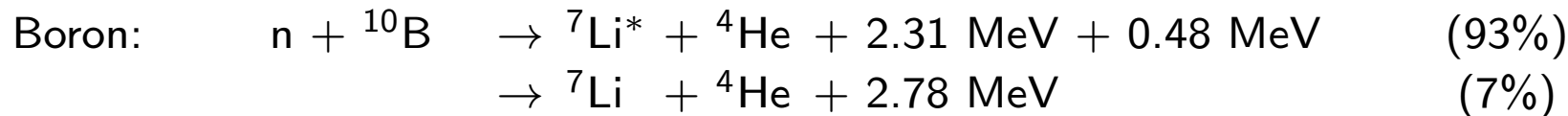
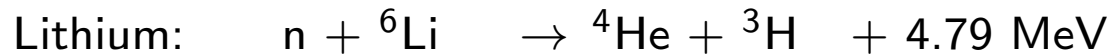
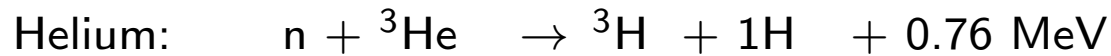
10.2 Detection of Neutrons

Neutron detection via nuclear interaction, interaction used varies with the neutron energy:

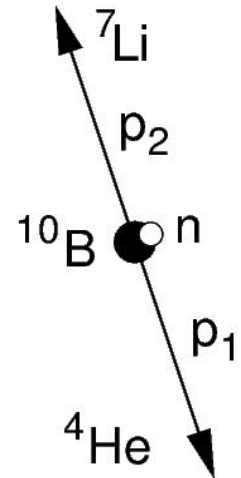
high energy	hadron calorimeter [see above] measure energy deposited in form of hadronic shower neutrality of incident particle has little effect on shower process
moderate energy	np-scattering detection of neutrons by scattering them from material containing appreciable amounts of hydrogen; recoiling proton is detected
low energy	exoergic nuclear processes use converter medium with large capture cross-section for slow neutrons; capture process results in unstable nuclei subsequent decay products give a detectable signal

Detection of Neutrons

Nuclear reactions used for neutron detectors:



charged nuclei Q-value



$$\vec{p}_1 = -\vec{p}_2 \quad E({}^4\text{He}) = \frac{m_{\text{Li}}}{m_{\text{Li}} + m_{\text{He}}} Q \approx \frac{7}{11} Q = 1.77 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\frac{\vec{p}_1^2}{2m_1} + \frac{\vec{p}_2^2}{2m_2} = \frac{-\vec{p}_1^2}{2m_1} \left(1 + \frac{m_1}{m_2}\right) = Q \quad E({}^7\text{Li}) = \frac{m_{\text{He}}}{m_{\text{Li}} + m_{\text{He}}} Q \approx \frac{4}{11} Q = 1.01 \text{ MeV}$$



Detection of Neutrons

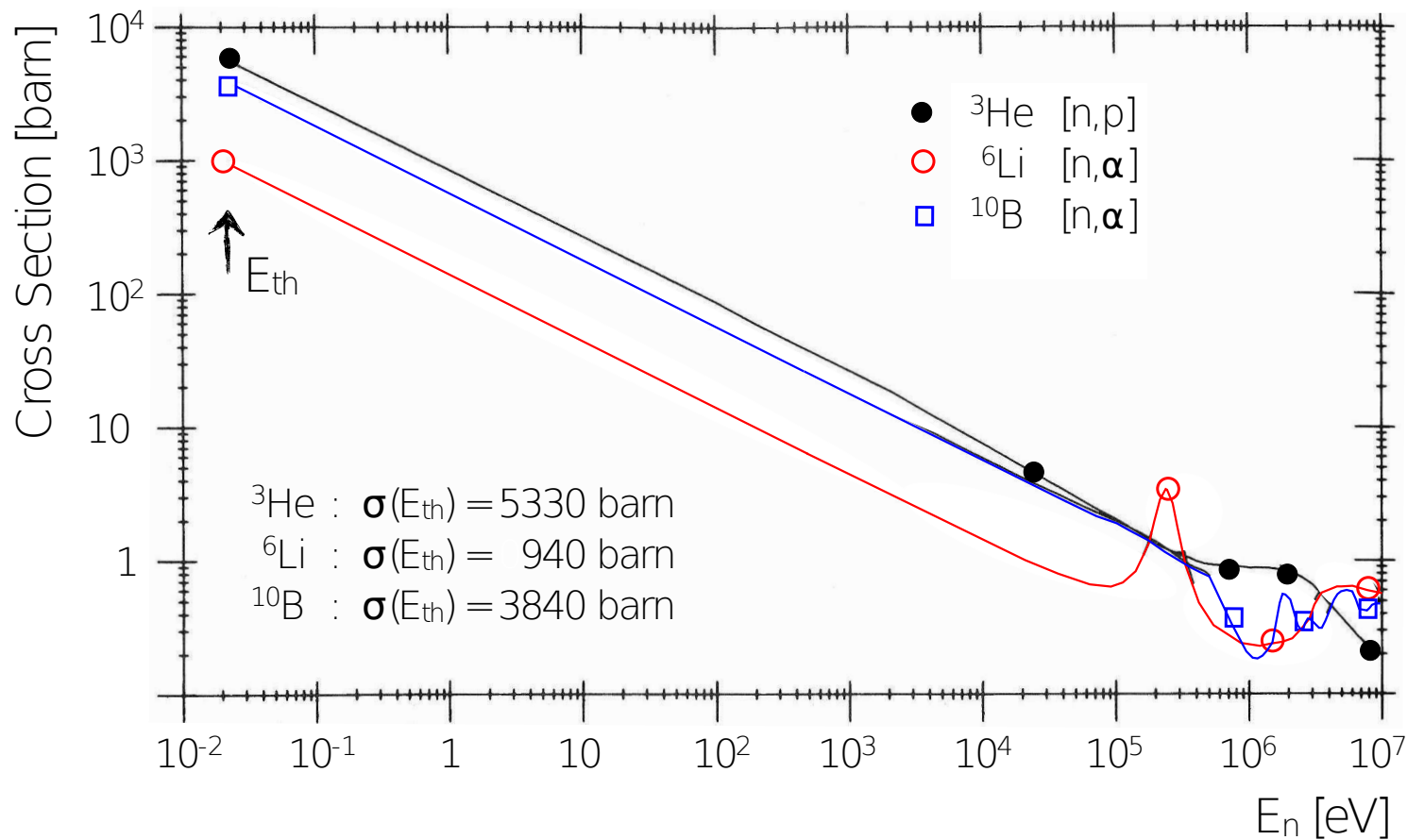
cross section for neutron capture process (apart from resonances)

$$\sigma(E) \approx \sigma(E_{th}) \frac{v_{th}}{v}$$

interpretation:

cross section increases with time neutron is close to absorbing nucleus

→ v^{-1} -dependence



Detection of Neutrons

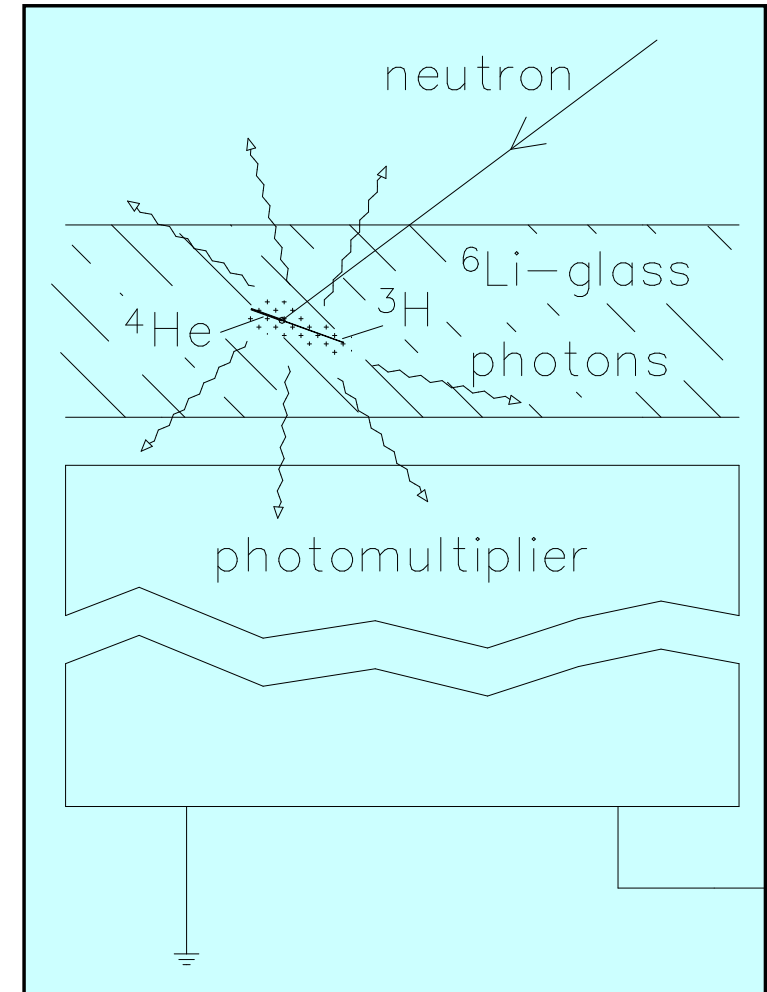
scintillation detectors: detect scintillation light produced in capture process

e.g. Lithium glass:



common scintillators used for neutron detection

	density of ${}^6\text{Li}$ atoms [10^{22} cm^{-3}]	scintillation efficiency [in %]	photon wavelength [nm]	photons per neutron
Lithium glass (Ce)	1.75	0.45	395	7000
LiI(Eu)	1.83	2.8	470	51 000
ZnS(Ag)-LiF	1.18	9.2	450	160 000

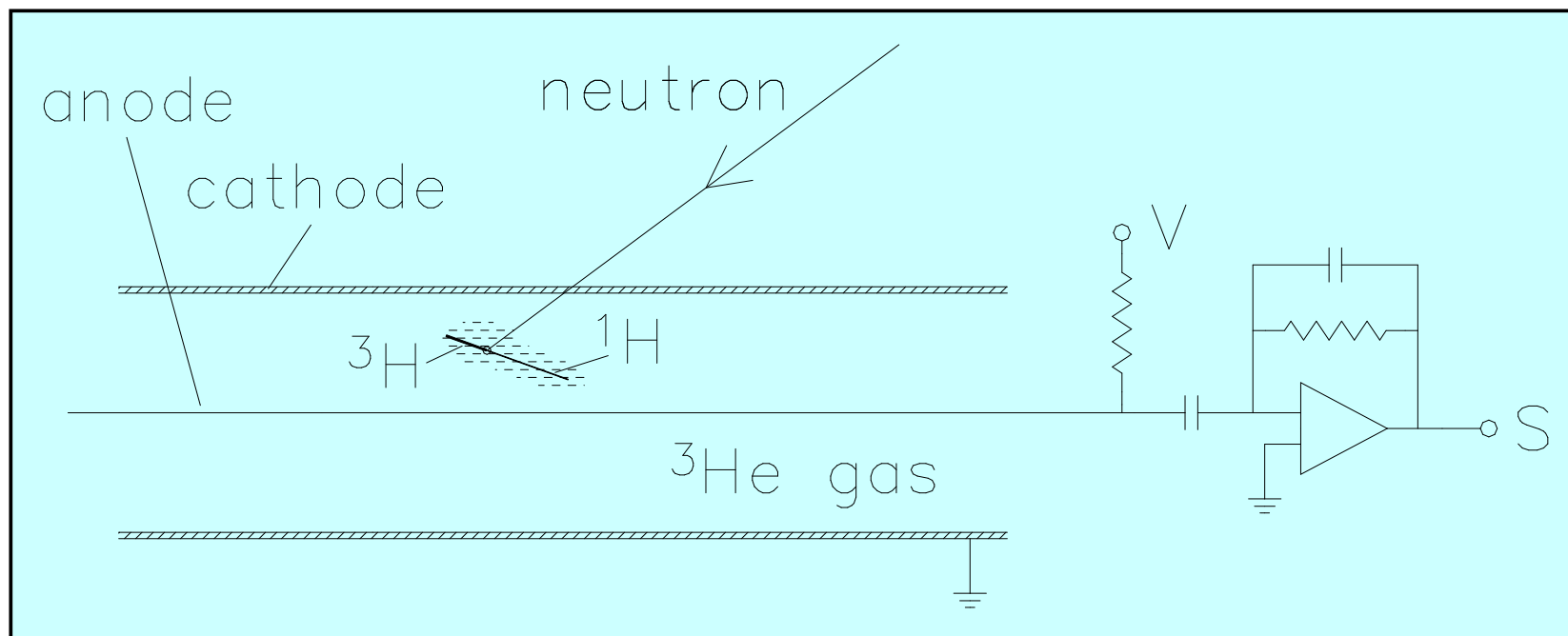


Detection of Neutrons

gas detectors: standard Geiger counter with ^3He or BF_3 gas

e.g. Helium: $n + ^3\text{He} \rightarrow ^3\text{H} + ^1\text{H} + 0.76 \text{ MeV}$

(about 25 000 ionizations produced per neutron, charge $\approx 4 \text{ fC}$)



Detection of Neutrons

wall effect:



from mass ratio

$$E_p = 573 \text{ keV} \quad (p = {}^1\text{H})$$

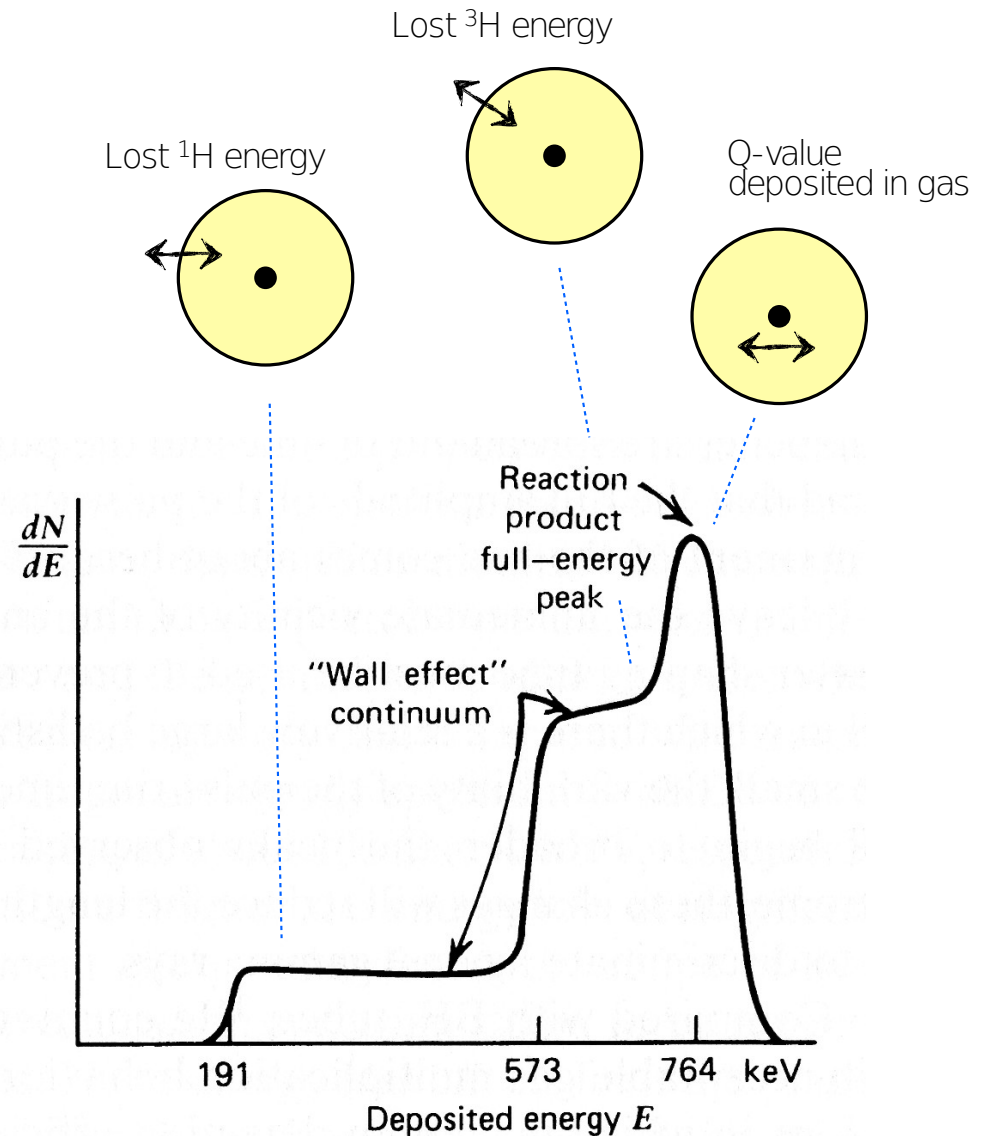
$$E_t = 191 \text{ keV} \quad (t = {}^3\text{H})$$

ranges:

$$\text{Si: } R_p \approx 6\mu\text{m}, R_t \approx 5\mu\text{m}$$

$$\text{gas: few mm } (\sim 1000 \times R_{\text{solid}})$$

remark: energy spectrum reflects detector response, not neutron energy



Detection of Neutrons

Fast Neutrons

detection relies on observing neutron-induced nuclear reactions

capture cross sections for fast-neutron induced reactions are small compared to those at low energies; remember: $\sigma_{\text{cap}} \propto 1/v$

two approaches to detect fast neutrons:

- thermalize/moderate & capture as before, only providing count rates (i.e. neutron flux)
- elastic scattering from protons at high energy
 - protons are easy to detect in conventional detectors
 - observe recoils for time-of-flight (ToF), enables neutron energy measurements by measuring the velocity

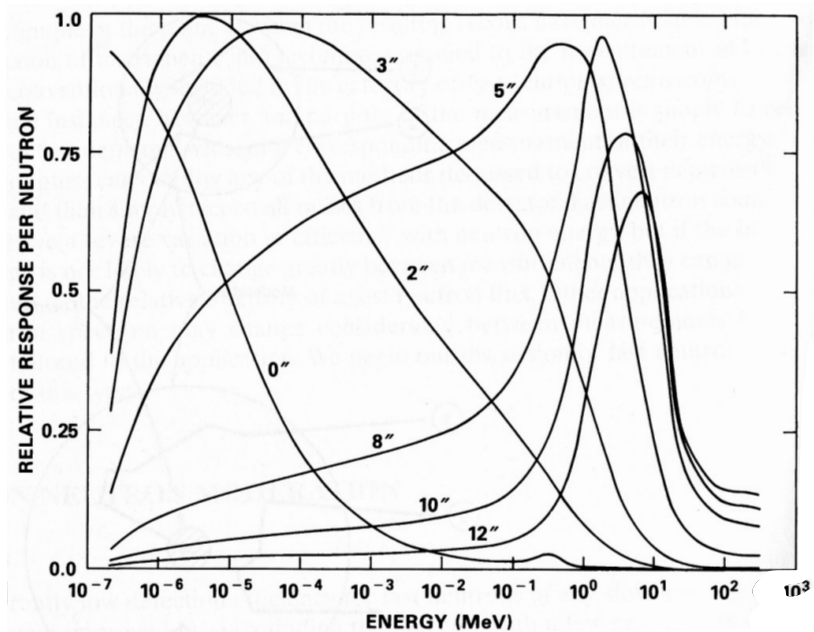
Detection of Neutrons

Neutron Moderation

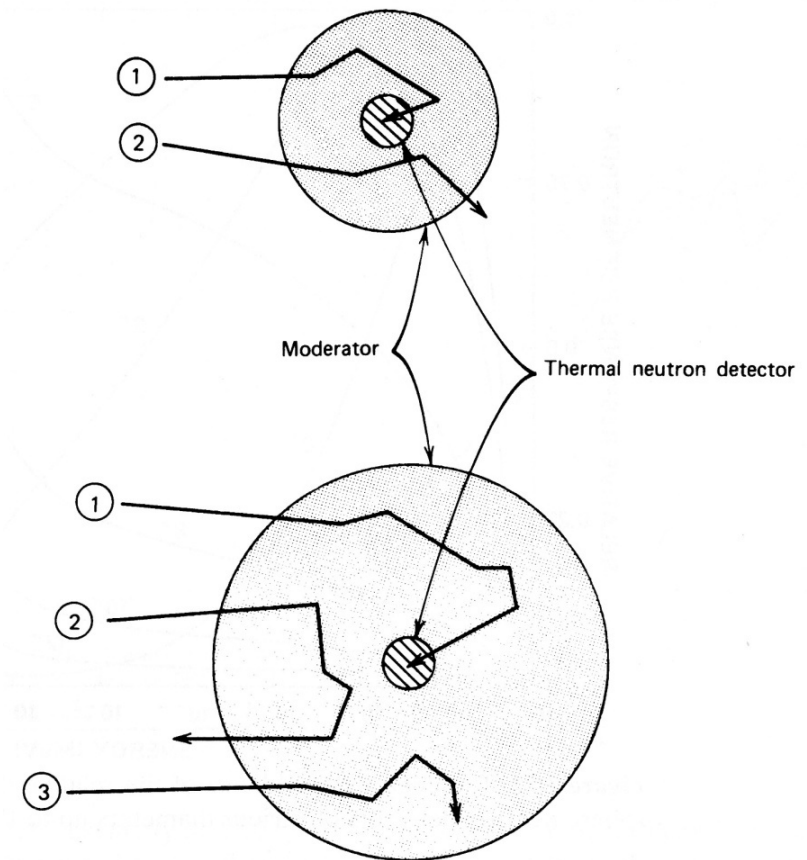
- moderate neutrons to increase efficiency in conventional slow-neutron detector
- hydrogen-rich materials: polyethylene or paraffin

optimum thickness between few cm to tens of cm
for energies of keV to MeV

trade-off between sufficient slow down
and detection cross section



Relative response vs. energy for various absorber thicknesses (in inch)



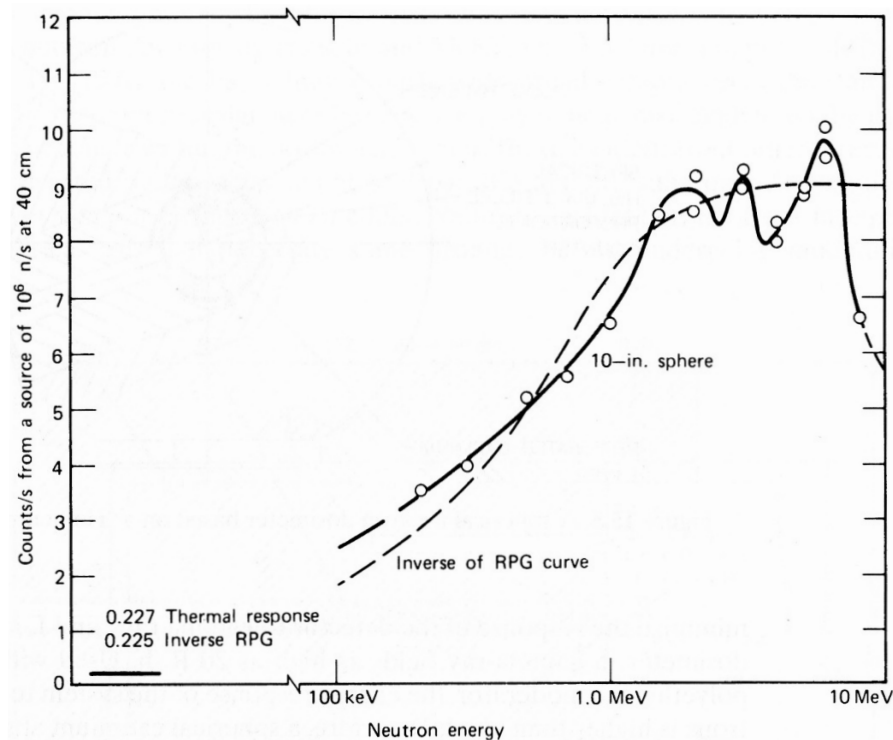
Detection of Neutrons

The Bonner Sphere

10-12" diameter moderator sphere has a similar response curve as the [neutron dose spectrum in tissue](#) e.g. with $\text{LiI}(\text{Eu})$ scintillator in center

application:

determination of dose equivalent due to neutrons with an unknown or variable neutron spectrum over a large range of neutron energies



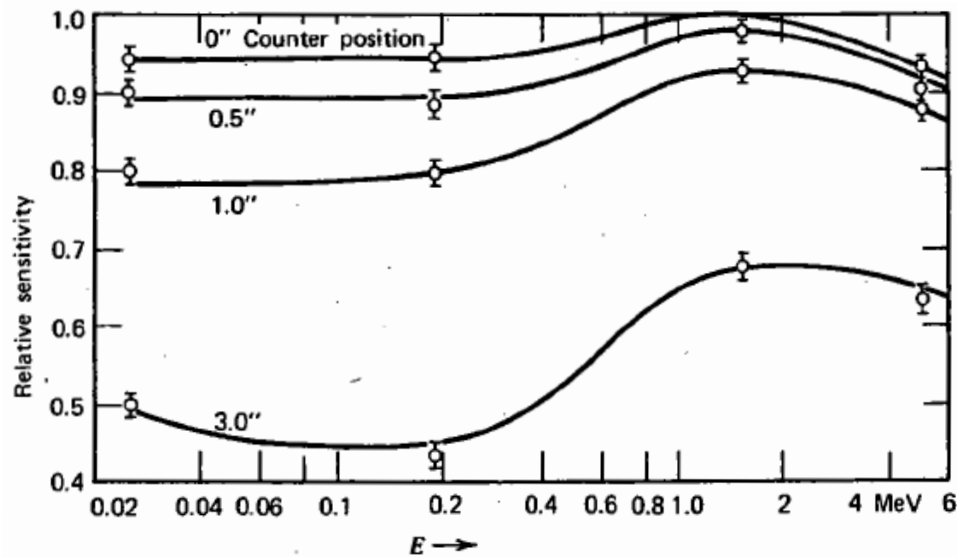
Detection of Neutrons

The Long Counter

neutron energy independent efficiency:
 'flat response'

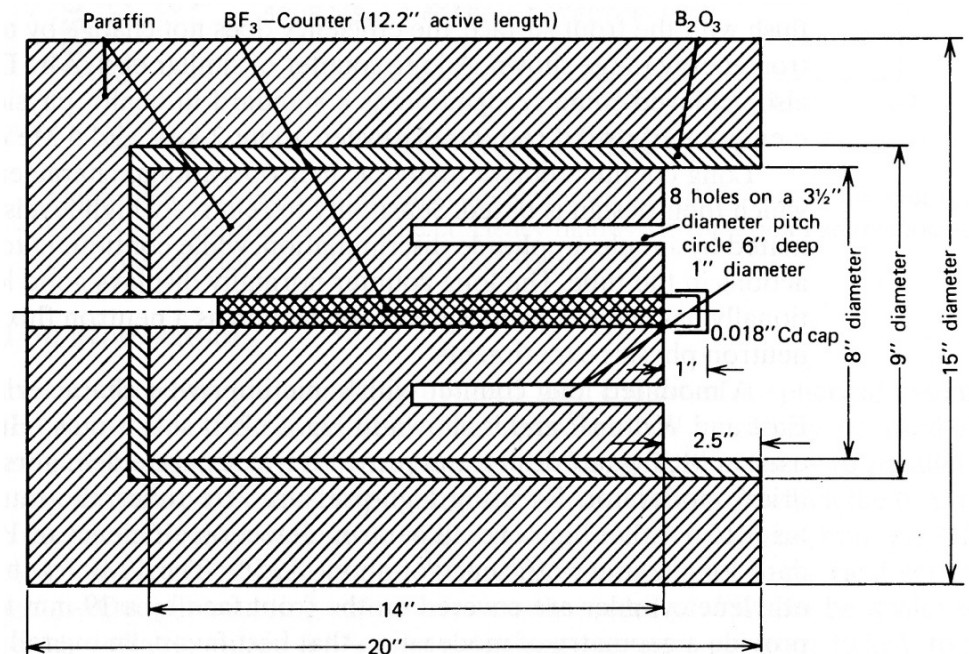
slow-neutron BF₃ detector in center of device
 paraffin moderator, B₂O₃ absorber (shielding)

only sensitive to neutrons from one side



relative sensitivity of long counter

varied parameter is the distance of the end of the BF₃ tube if shifted in from the front of the moderator face



cross Section of Long counter

holes prevent efficiency reduction for neutrons with energies below 1 MeV

Detection of Neutrons

detector type	size	neutron active material	incident neutron energy	neutron detection efficiency ^a (%)	γ -ray sensitivity (R/h) ^b
plastic scintillator	5 cm thick	^1H	1 MeV	78	0.01
liquid scintillator	5 cm thick	^1H	1 MeV	78	0.1
loaded scintillator	1 mm thick	^6Li	thermal	50	1
Hornyak button	1 mm thick	^1H	1 MeV	1	1
CH_4 (7 bar)	5 cm \emptyset	^1H	1 MeV	1	1
^4He (18 bar)	5 cm \emptyset	^4He	1 MeV	1	1
^3He (4 bar), Ar (2 bar)	2.5 cm \emptyset	^3He	thermal	77	1
^3He (4 bar)m CO_2 (5%)	2.5 cm \emptyset	^3He	thermal	77	10
BF_3 (0.66 bar)	5 cm \emptyset	^{10}B	thermal	29	10
BF_3 (1.18 bar)	5 cm \emptyset	^{10}B	thermal	46	10
^{10}B -lined chamber	0.2 mg/cm ³	^{10}B	thermal	10	10 ³
fission chamber	1.0 mg/cm ³	^{235}U	thermal	0.5	10 ⁶ – 10 ⁷

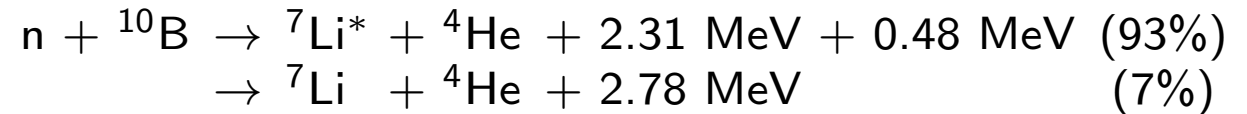
^a interaction probability for neutrons of the specified energy, normal incidence angle

^b approximate upper limit of γ -ray dose that can be present with the detector still providing usable neutron output signals

Detection of Neutrons

Cascade Detector

capture process:

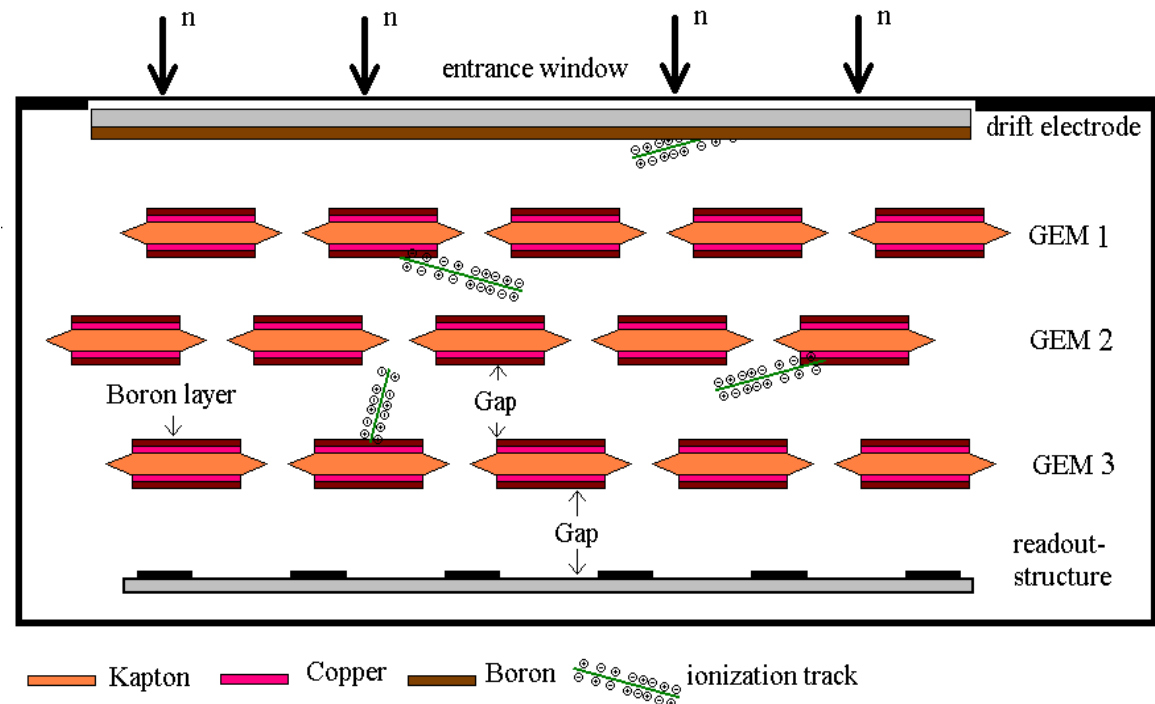


Setup:

Boron layers on multiple GEM foils

GEMs:

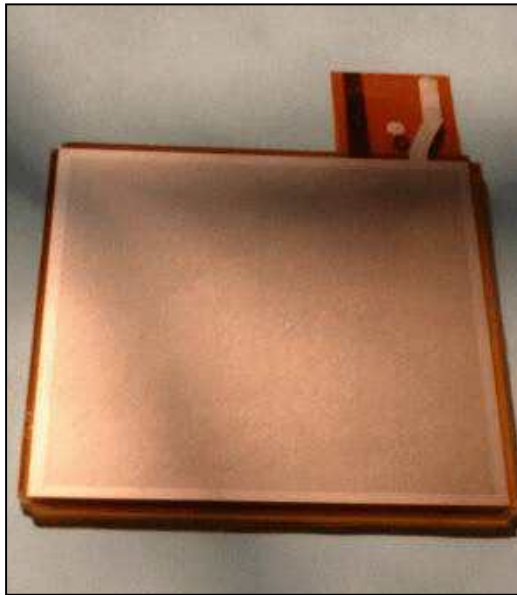
- operated to be transparent for produced charges
- can be cascaded
- two Boron layers each
- last one: amplification layer
- high rate capability [10^7 Hz/cm^2]



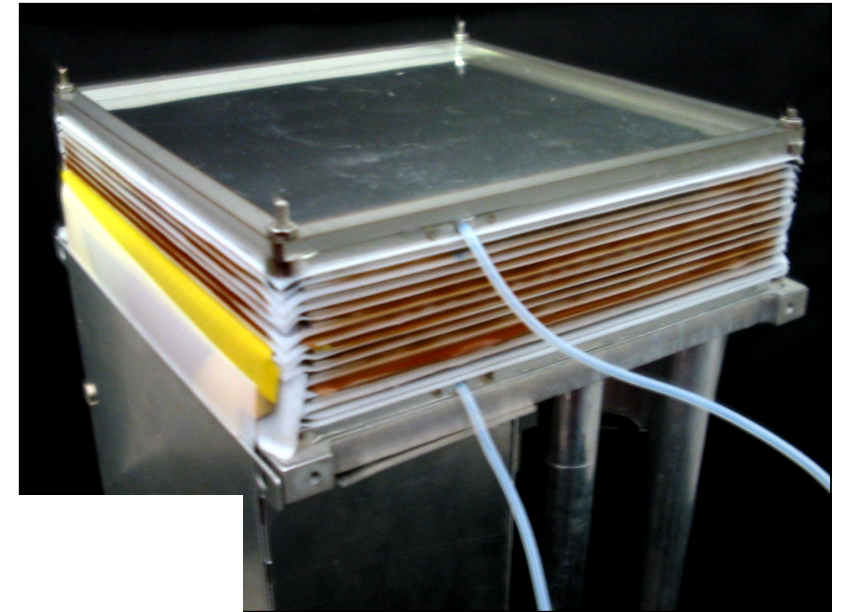
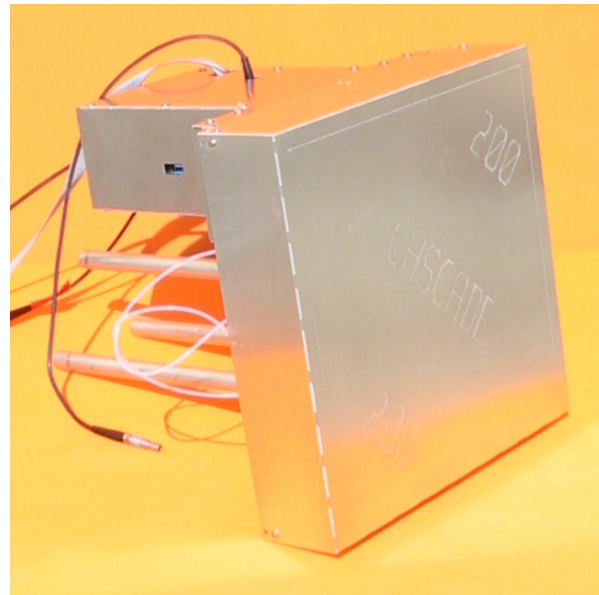
CASCADE neutron detector schematic

Detection of Neutrons

CASCADE Detector



GEM foil glued to frame, complete CASCADE module



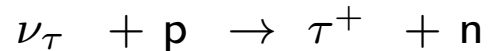
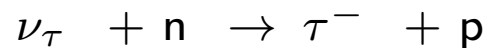
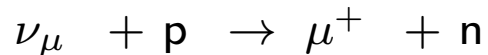
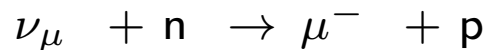
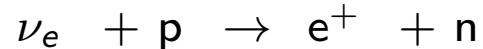
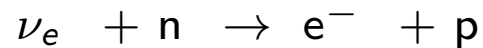
Cascade neutron detector: several GEM-modules stacked with drift electrodes and readout

10.3 Detection of Neutrinos

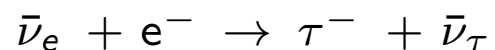
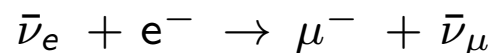
neutrino detection only via weak interaction

possible reactions:

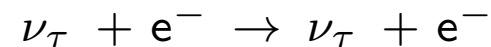
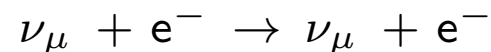
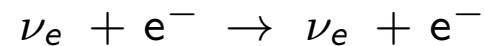
charged current reactions:



...



neutral current reactions:



neutrino-nucleon cross section, examples:

10 GeV neutrinos: $\sigma = 7 \cdot 10^{-38} \text{ cm}^2/\text{nucleon}$

10 m Fe-target:

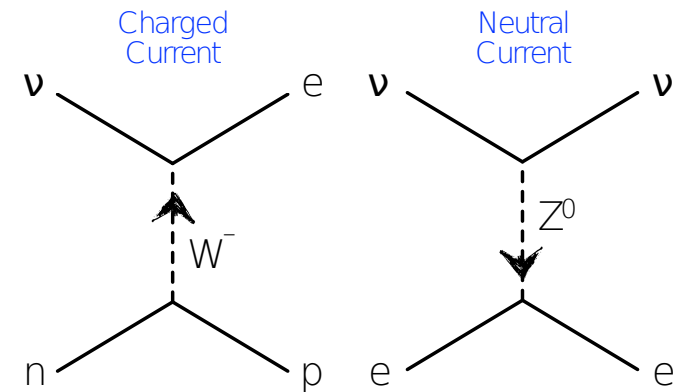
interaction probability $R = \sigma N_A d \rho = 3.2 \cdot 10^{-10}$

with $d = 10 \text{ m}$, $\rho = 7.6 \text{ g/cm}^3$

solar neutrinos [100 keV]: $\sigma = 7 \cdot 10^{-45} \text{ cm}^2/\text{nucleon}$

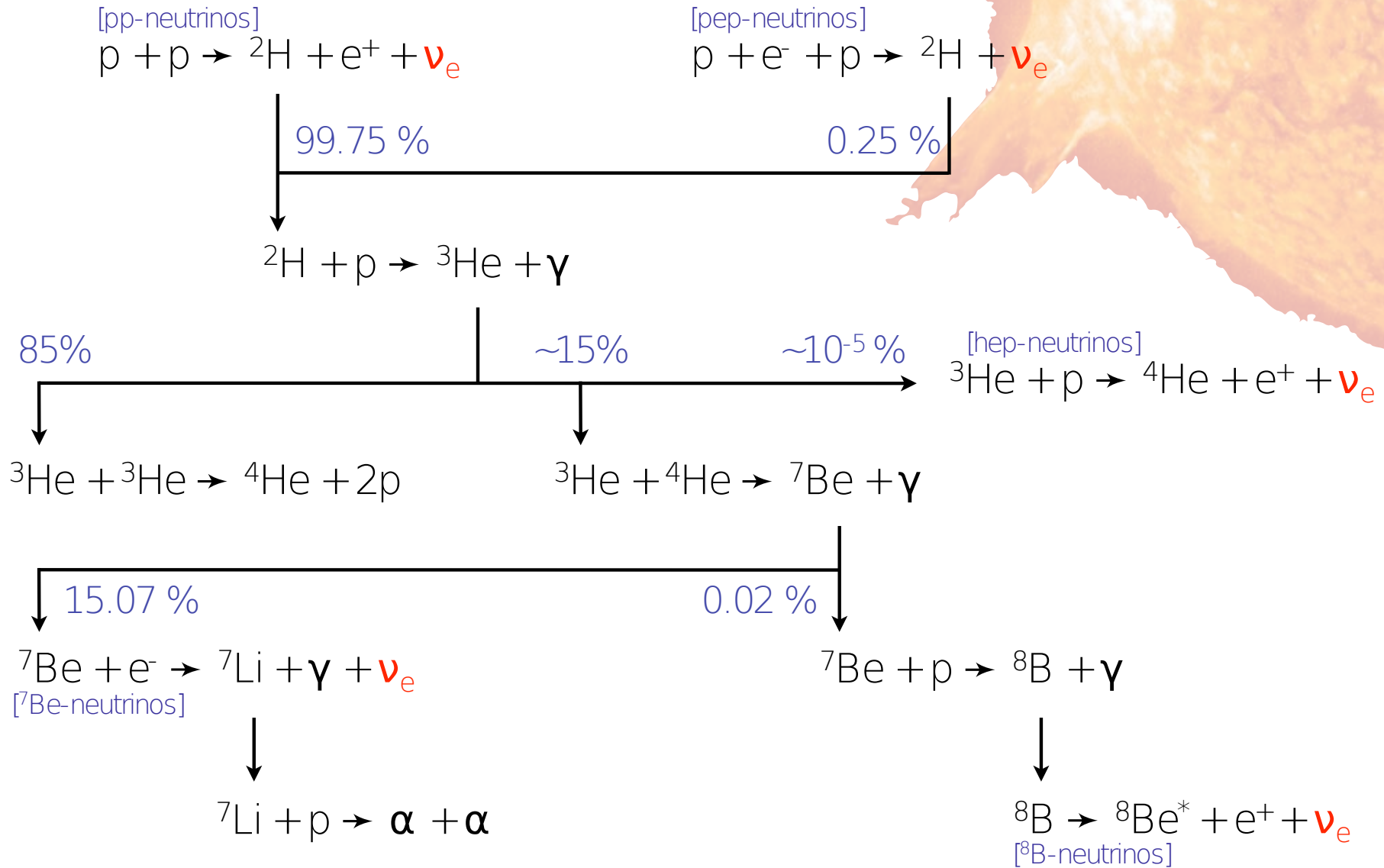
interaction probability for earth: $R = \sigma N_A d \rho \approx 4 \cdot 10^{-14}$

$d = 12000 \text{ km}$, $\rho = 5.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$

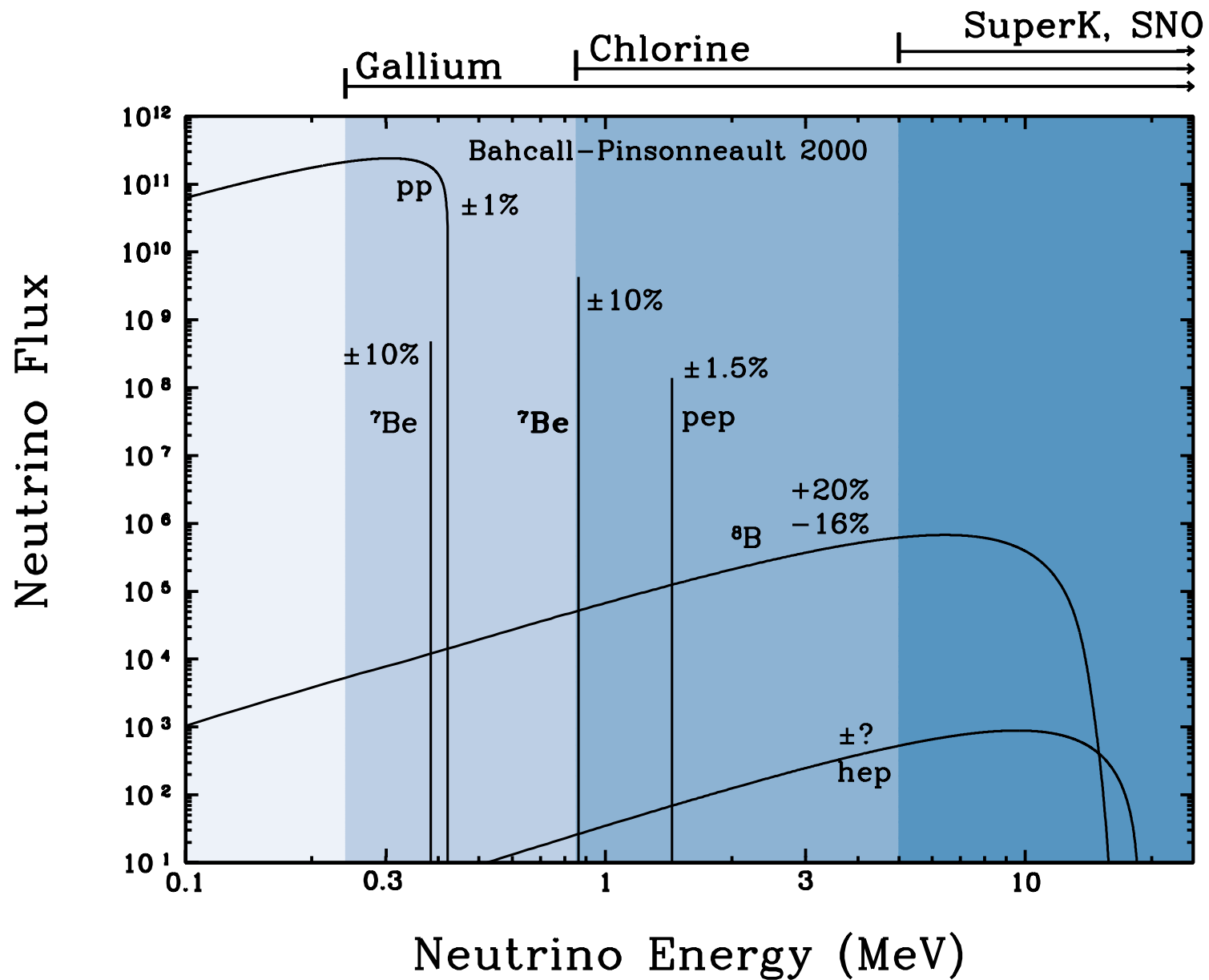


Neutrinos from the Sun (pp chain)

[also: CNO cycle]

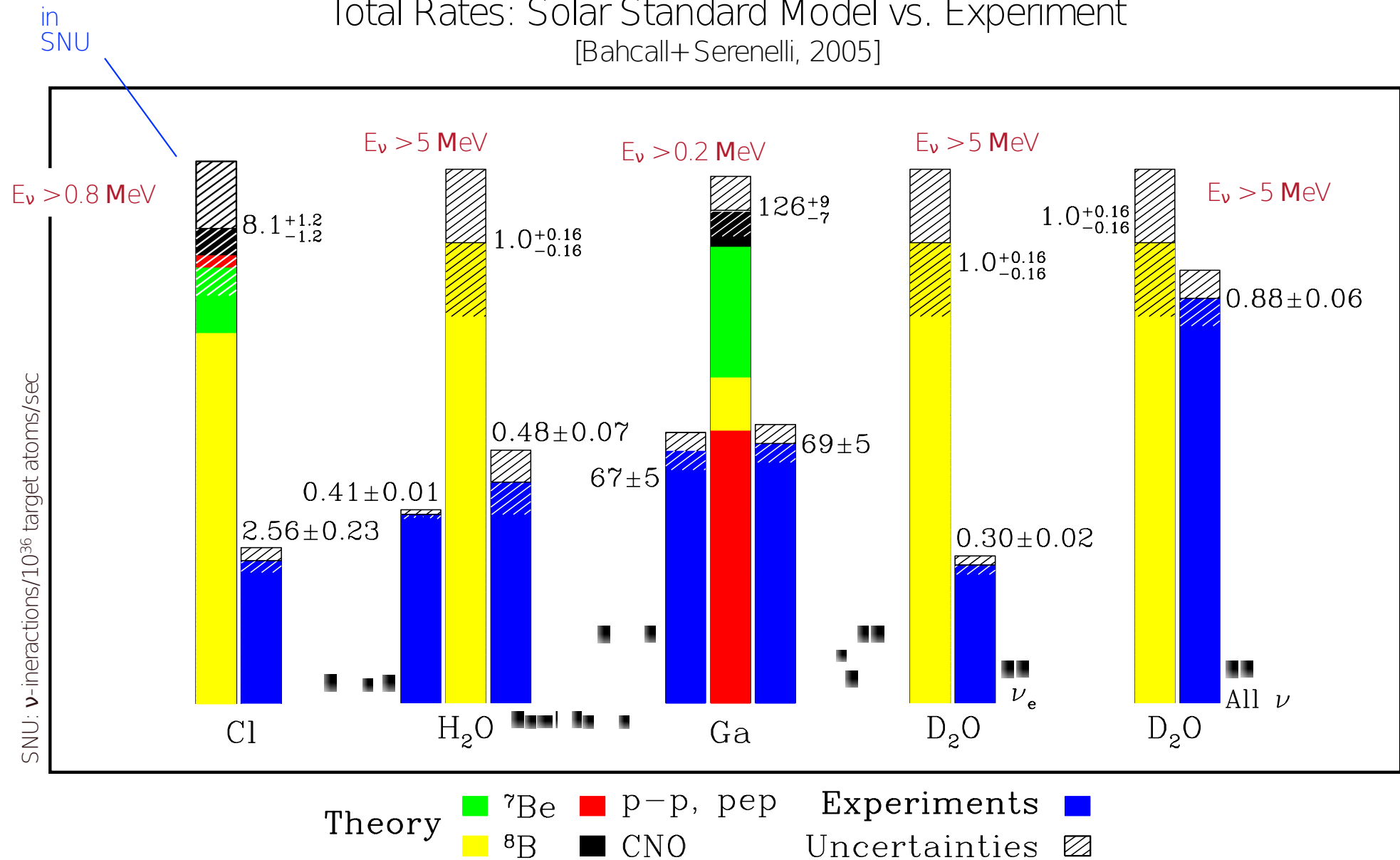


Neutrinos from the Sun

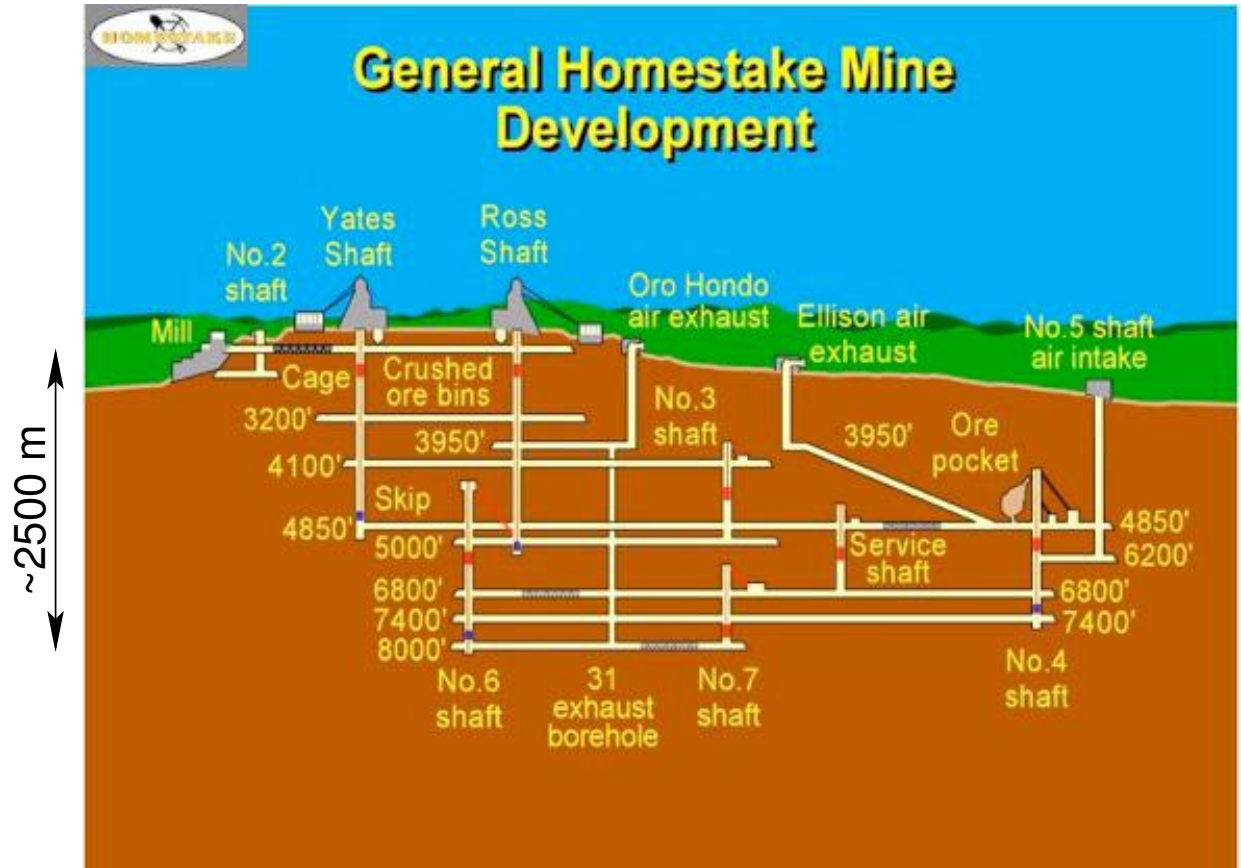


Solar Electron-Neutrino Problem

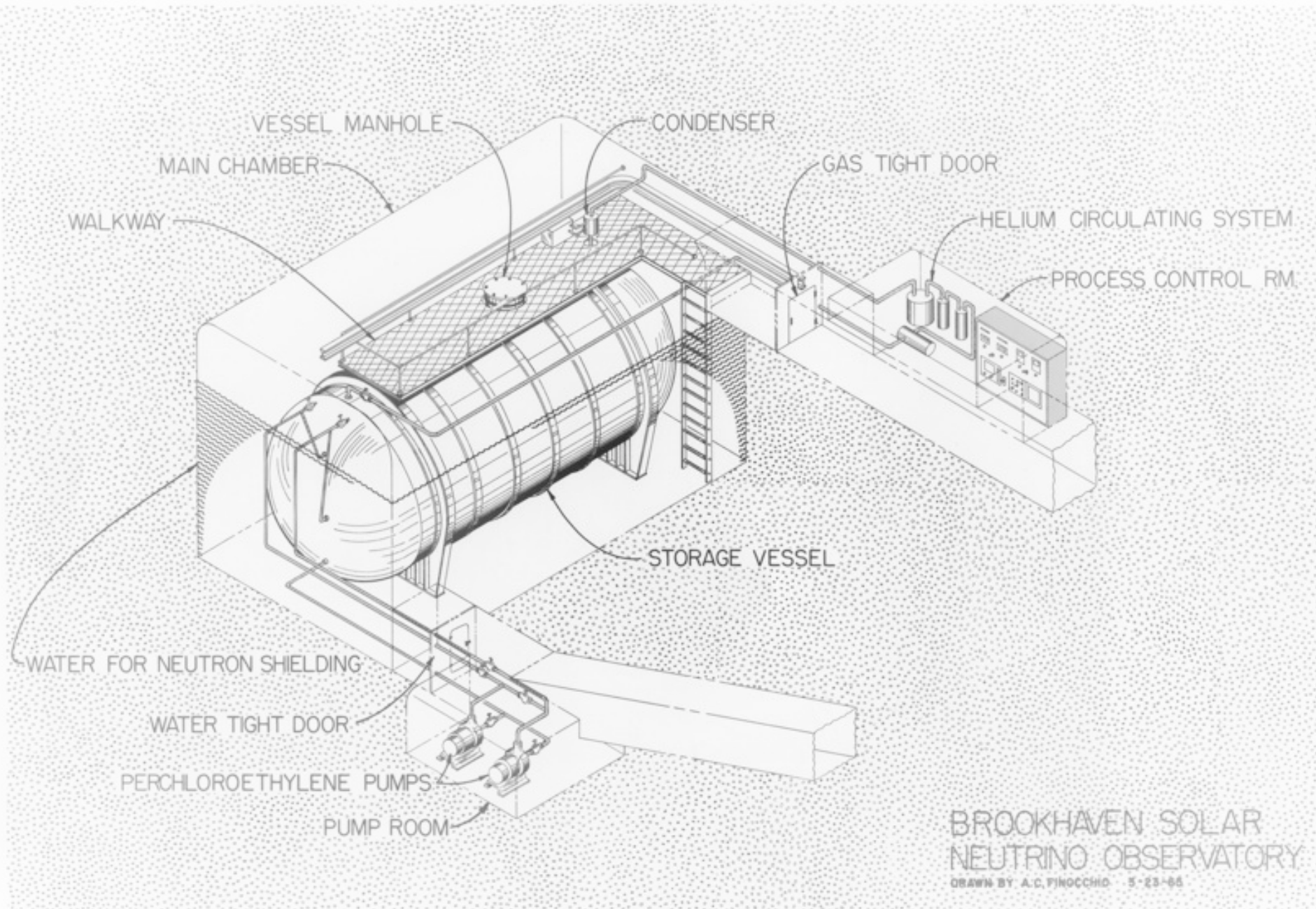
Total Rates: Solar Standard Model vs. Experiment
[Bahcall+ Serenelli, 2005]



The Homestake Experiment: the Homestake Mine



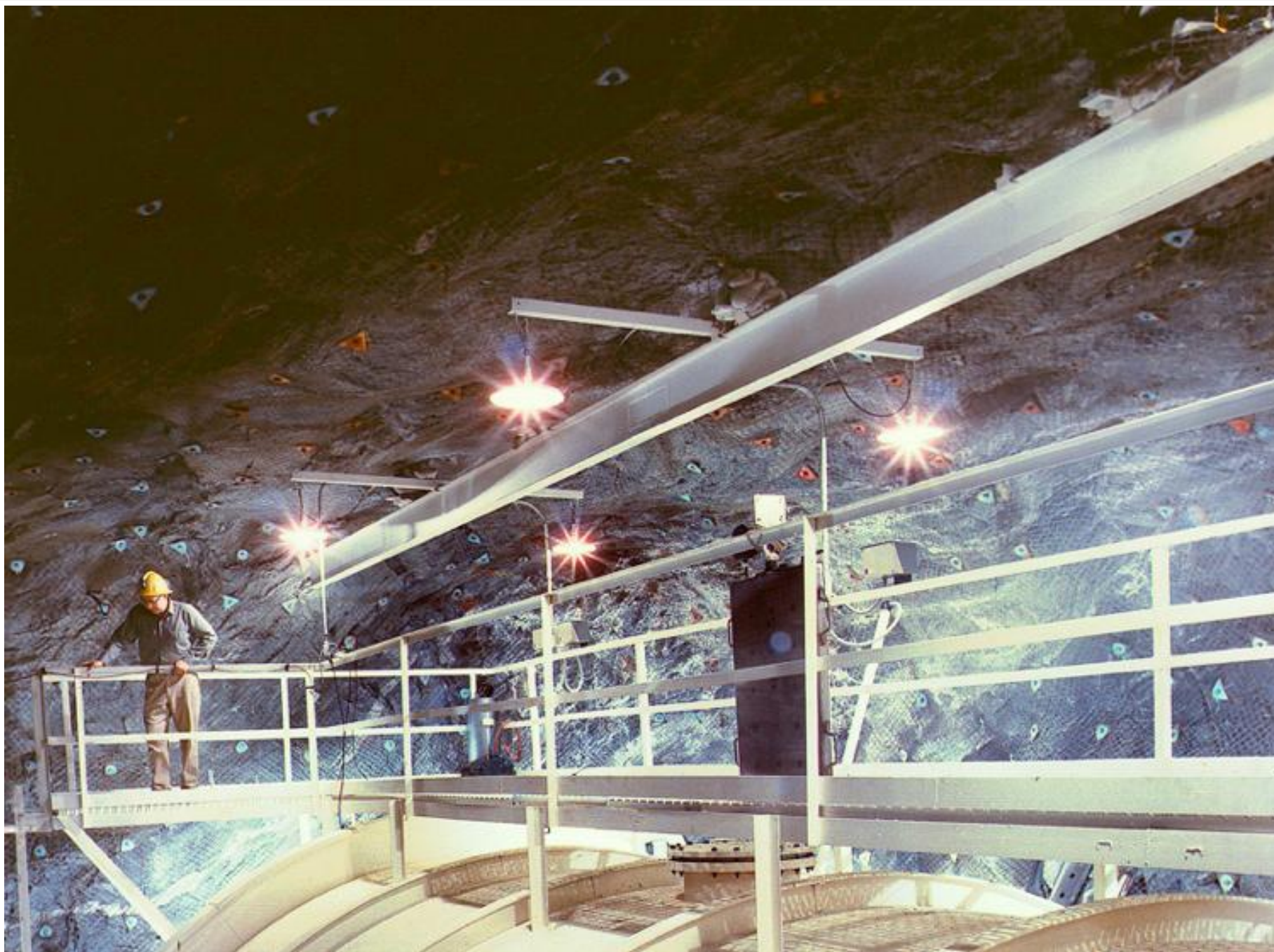
The Homestake Experiment



The Homestake Experiment



The Homestake Experiment

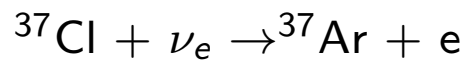


The Homestake Experiment



The Homestake Experiment

neutrino capture:

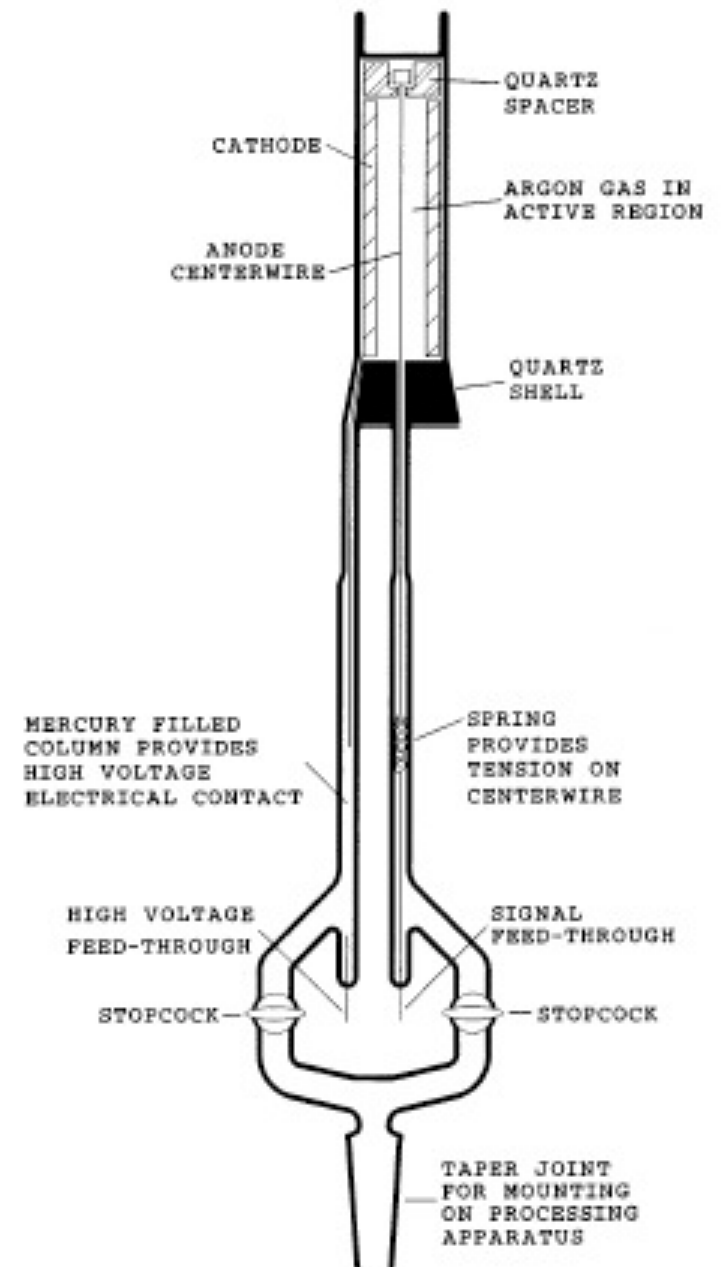


detection of ${}^{37}\text{Ar}$ via e^- -capture

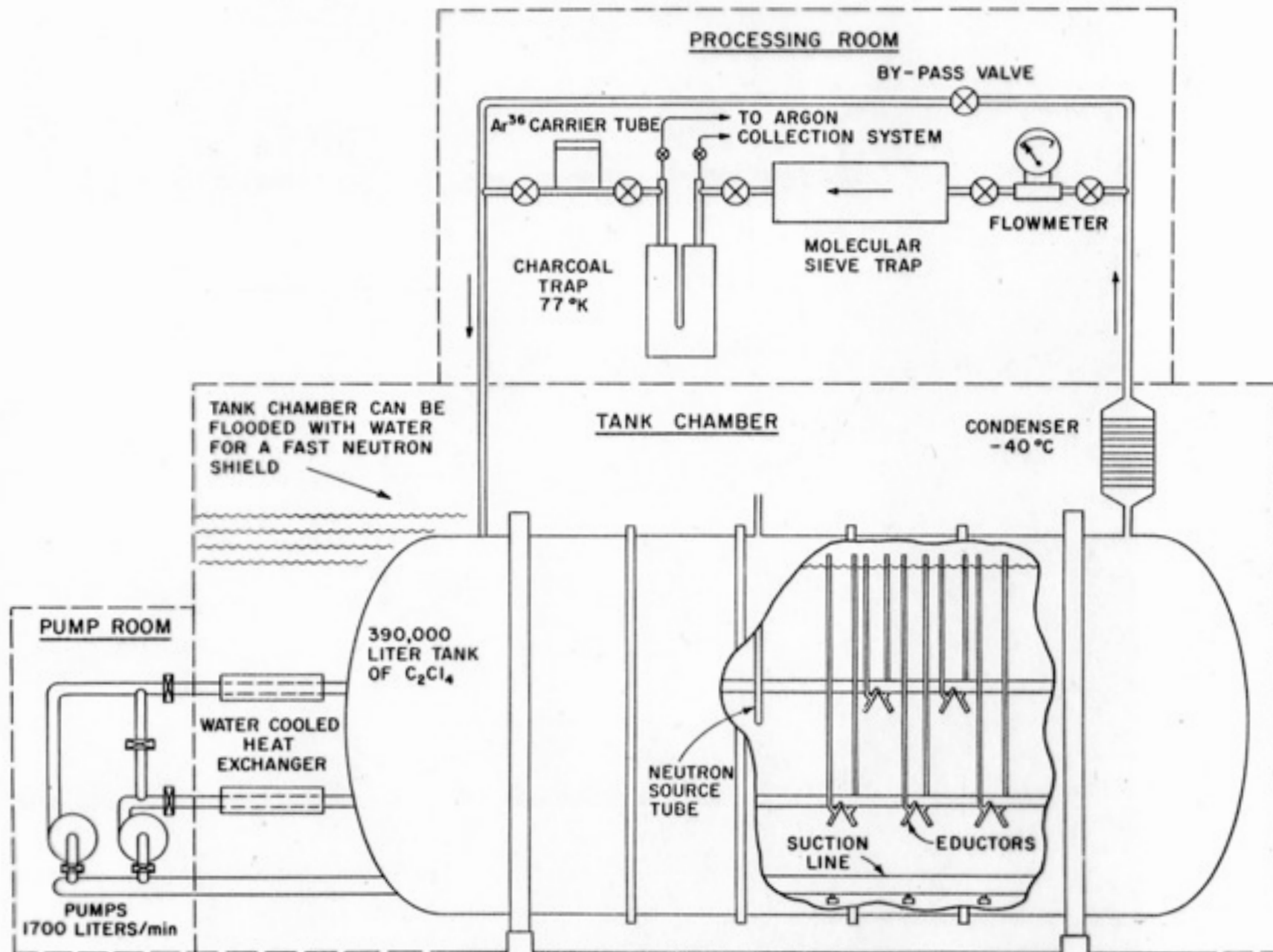


results in 2.82 keV Auger electron

detection after extraction in proportional counter



The Homestake Experiment



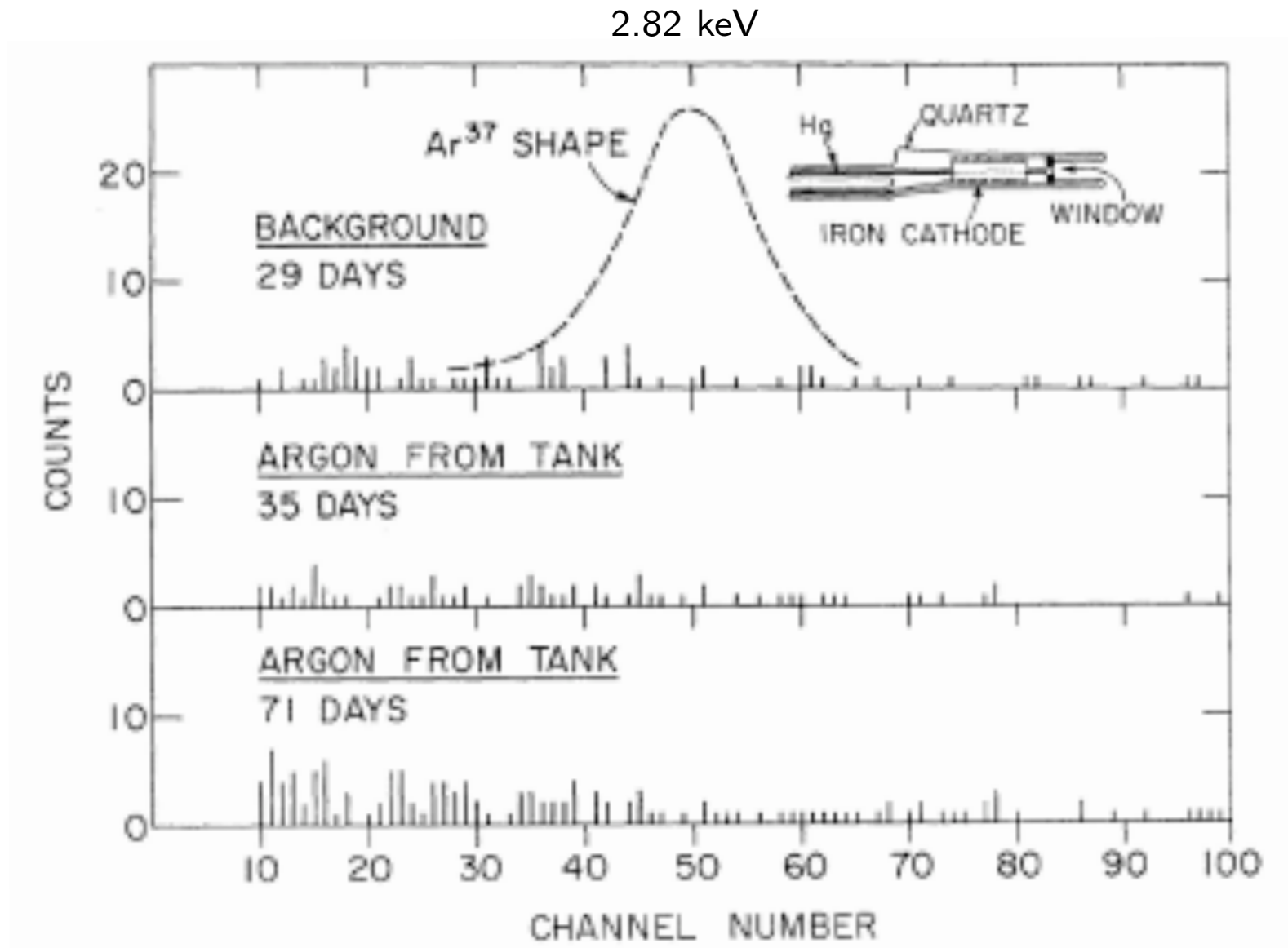
The Homestake Experiment

some very approximate numbers

- 615 tons C_2Cl_4 (tetrachlor-ethylene)
- about $5 \cdot 10^{29}$ chlorine atoms (^{37}Cl)
- prediction: $8 \cdot 10^{-36}$ neutrino reactions/atom/s
i.e.: about 60 ^{37}Ar atoms/month
but: half-life = 35 days \rightarrow 30 atoms/m
- expect: 60 atoms every 2 month out of ca. 1030 tetrachlor-ethylene molecules
- After 25 years: expectation: ≈ 5000 ^{37}Ar atoms expected
observation: ≈ 2200 ^{37}Ar atoms produced
[875 counted, 776 after background subtraction]
 ^{37}Ar extraction efficiency: $\approx 95\%$
 ^{37}Ar detection efficiency: $\approx 45\%$

The Homestake Experiment

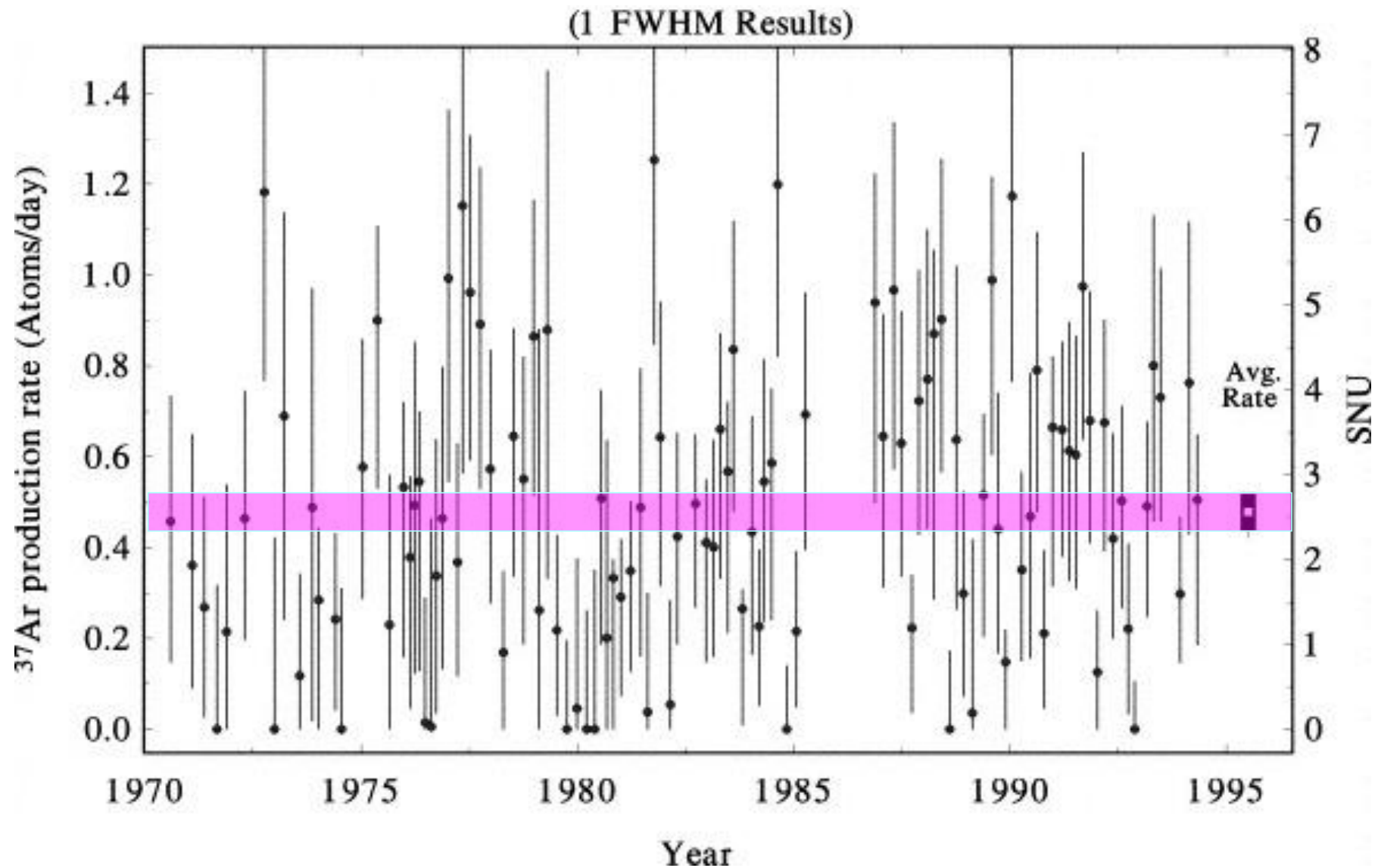
Pulse height Spectra from first runs [1968]



The Homestake Experiment

Result of 25 years of running

(after implementation of rise time counting)



Nobel Prize 2002



Raymond
Davis Jr.
[Homestake]

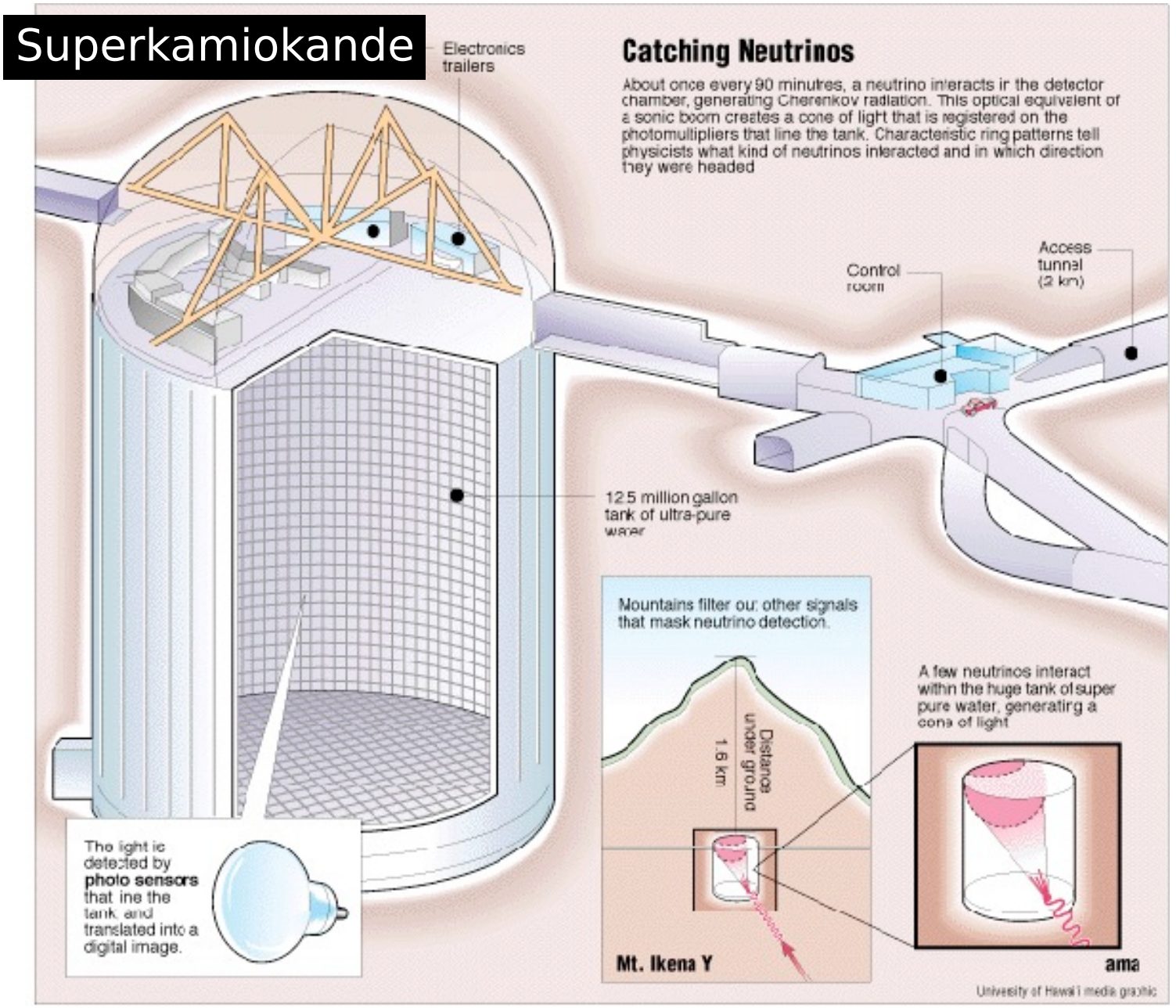


Masatoshi
Koshiwa
[Kamiokande]



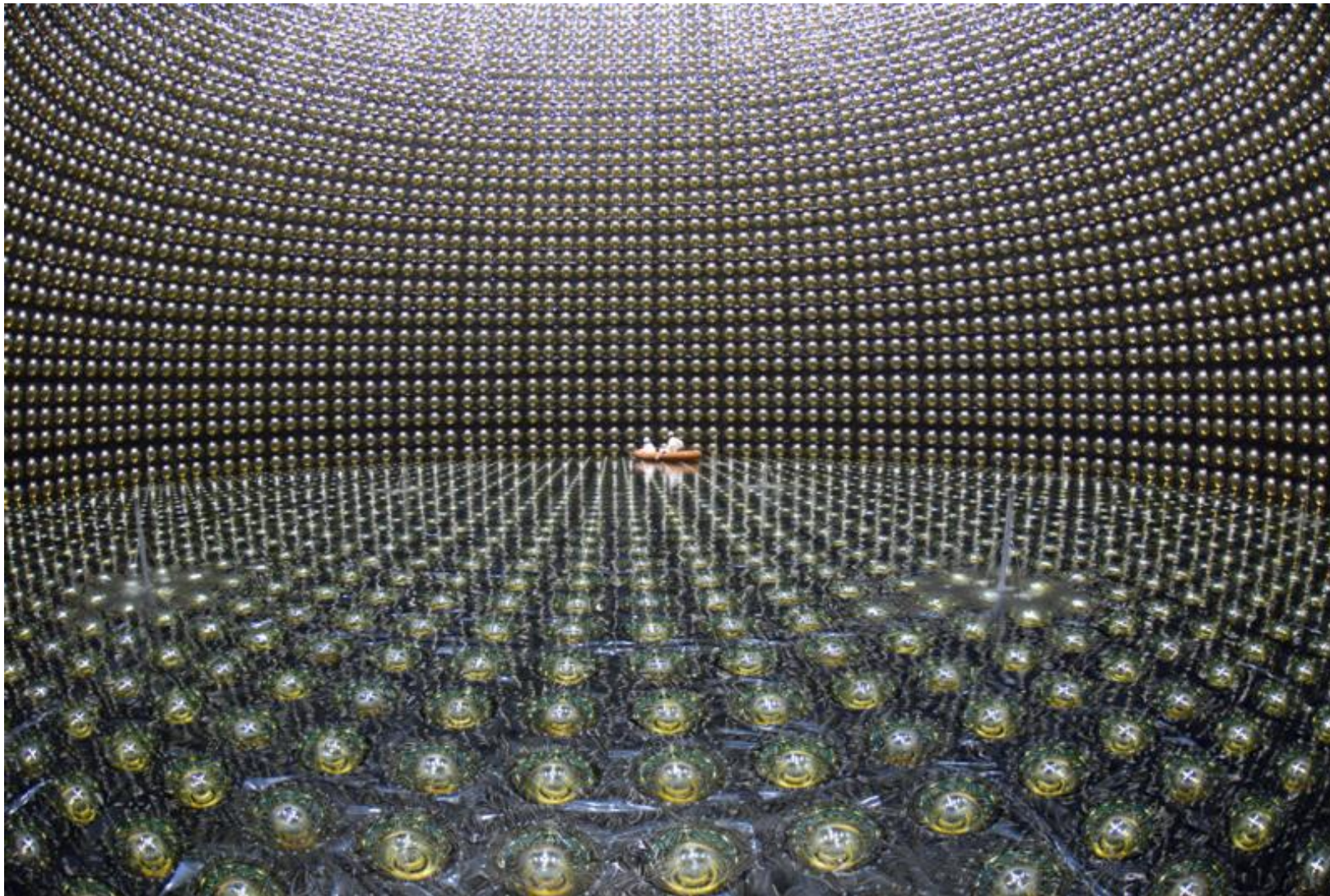
Riccardo
Giacconi
[X-Ray Sources]

Super-Kamiokande



- water tank
- 1.6 km below ground
- 50 million liter ultra-pure water
- 1 neutrino interaction every 1.5 hours
- neutrino detection via Cherenkov light

Super-Kamiokande



Super-Kamiokande

Mounting of Photomultiplier Tubes



total number of photomultipliers:

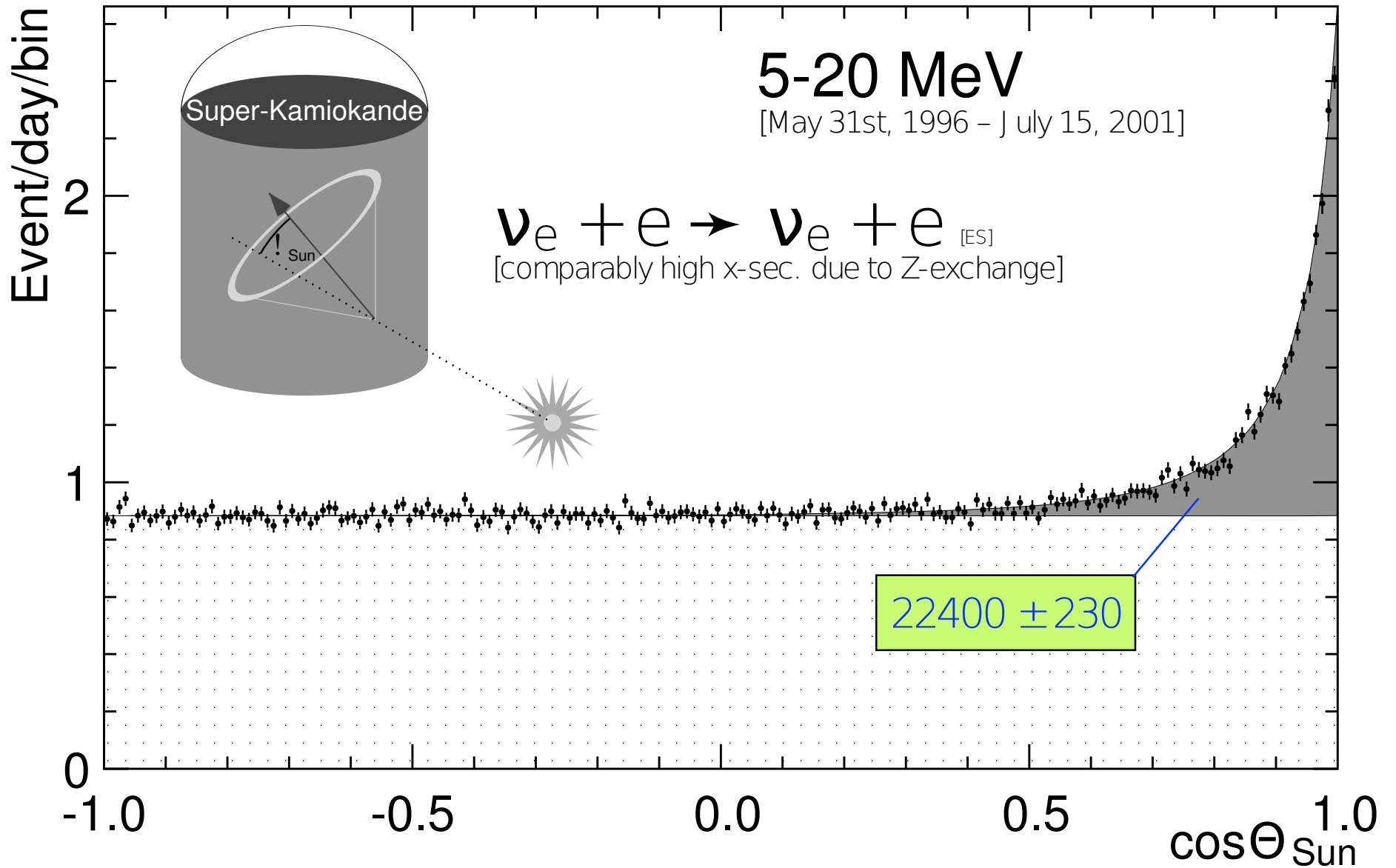
20 inch \emptyset 11,146

8 inch \emptyset 1,885

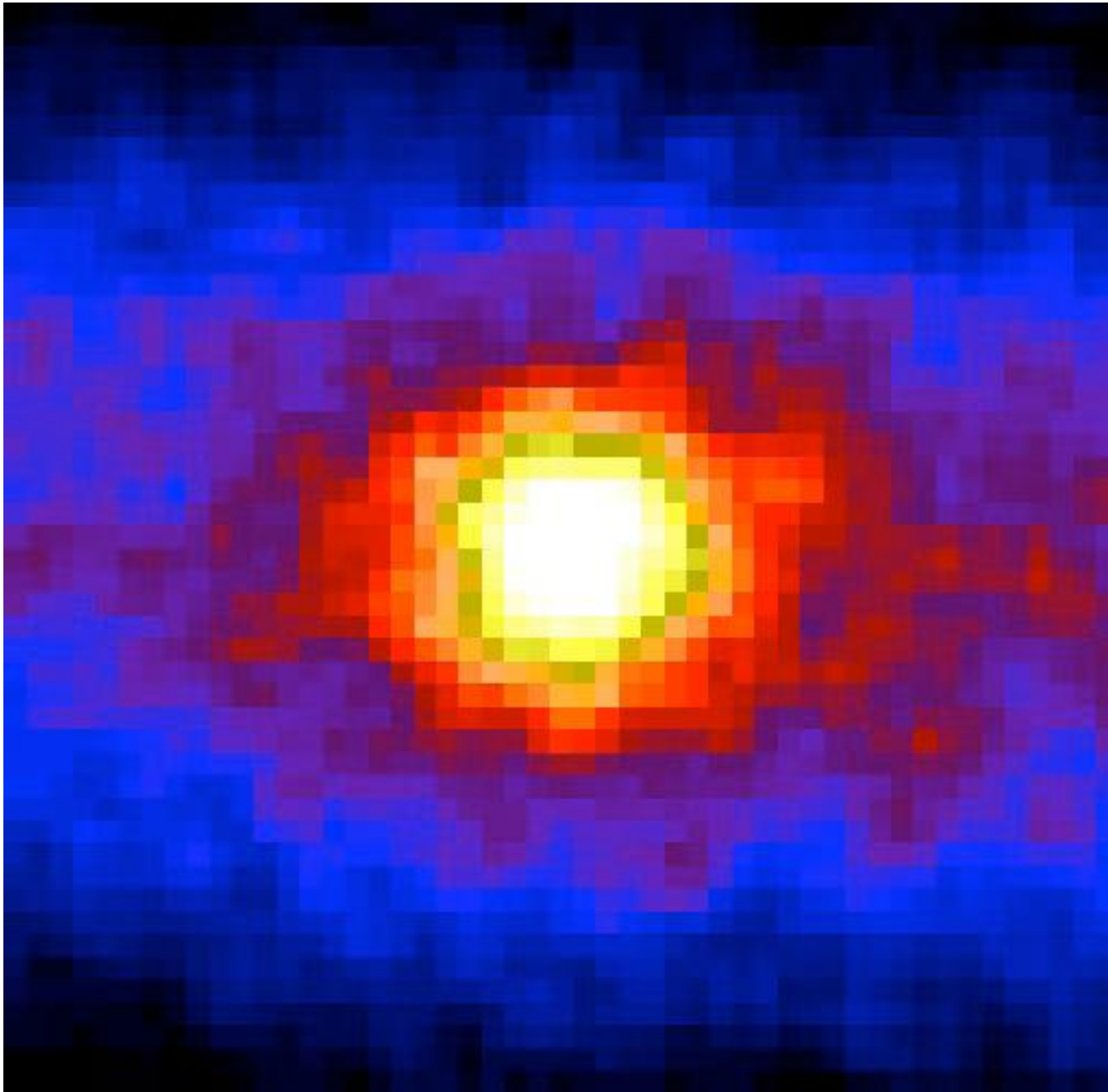


Super-Kamiokande

SK-I: ⁸B Solar Neutrino Flux

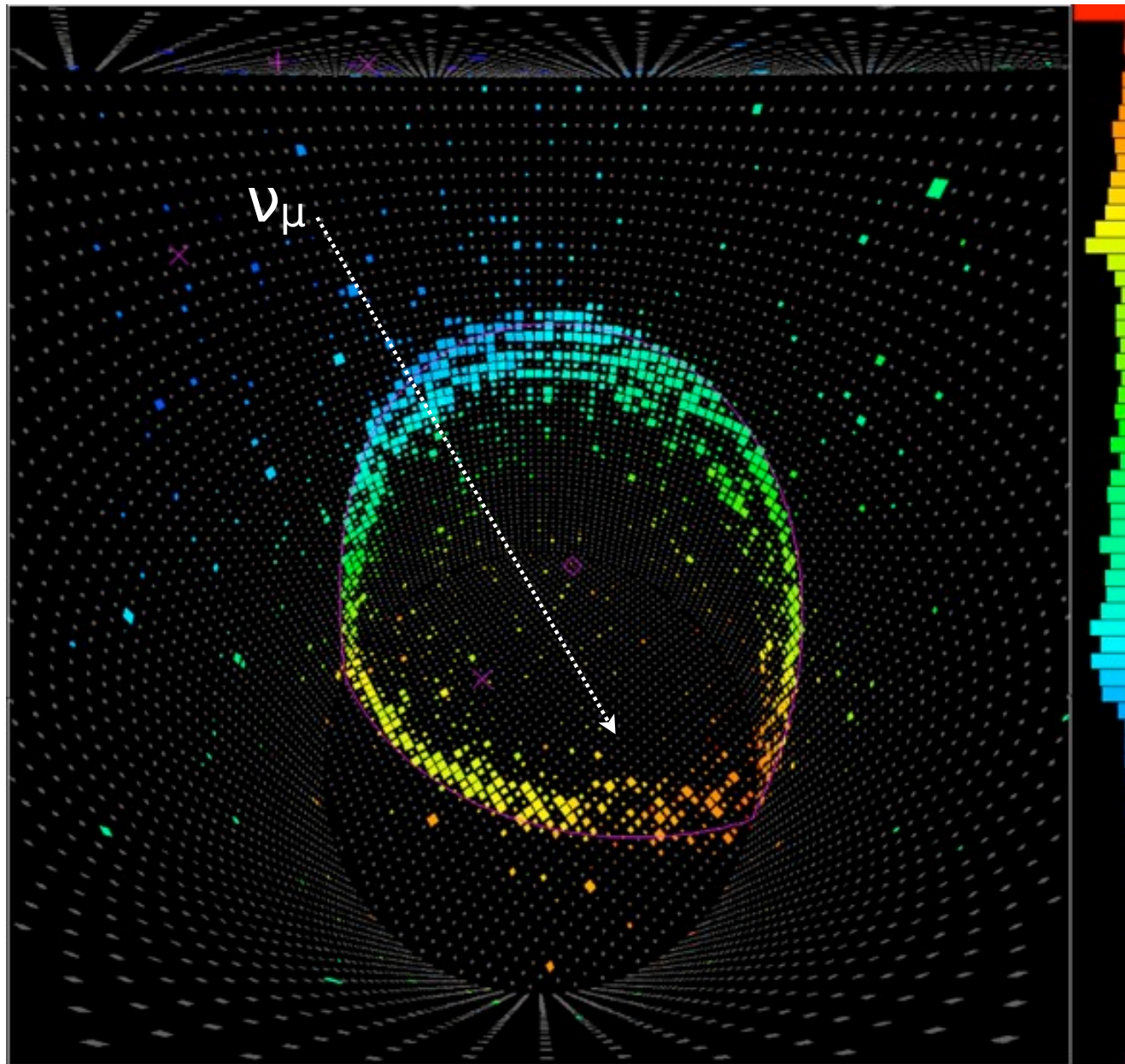


Super-Kamiokande



the sun seen through the earth
in neutrino light

Super-Kamiokande



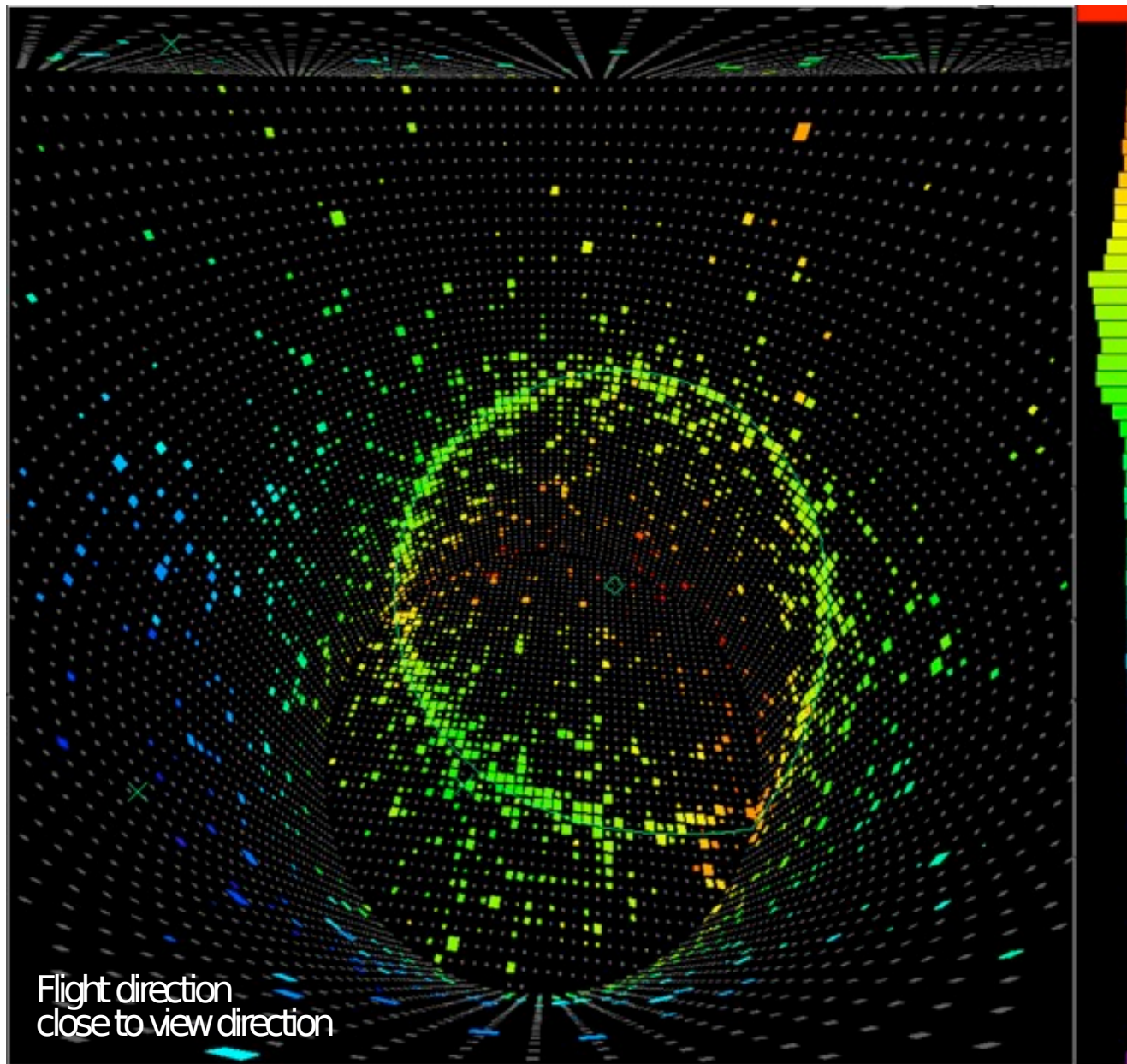
muon event (603 MeV)

observation of clean Cherenkov ring with sharp edges

flight direction from timing measurements
blue: early, red: late

energy from amount of light observed in PMs

Super-Kamiokande



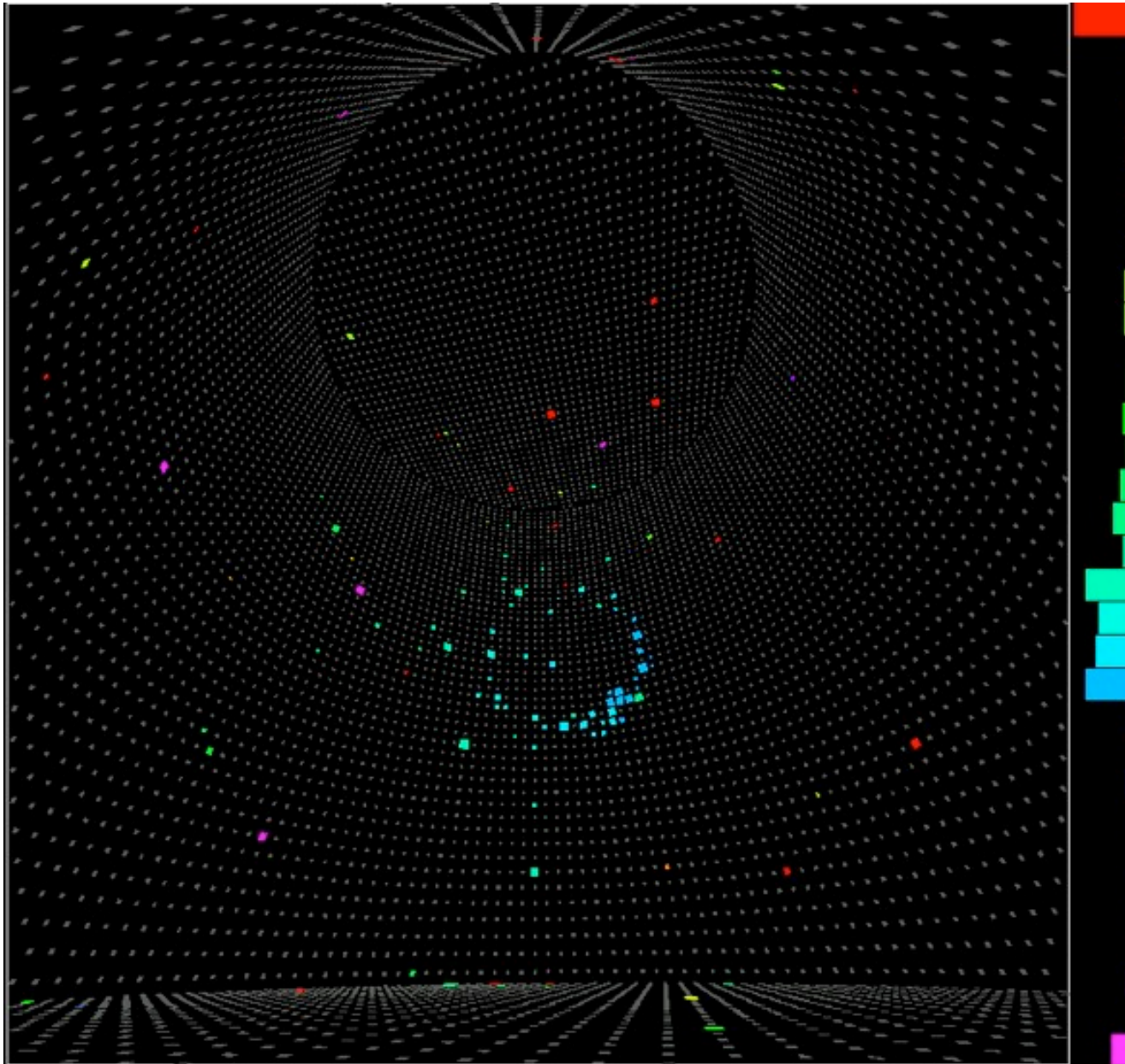
electron event (492 MeV)

observation of Cherenkov ring
with fuzzy edge
(from e.m. shower)

flight direction from
timing measurements
blue: early; red: late

energy from amount of light
observed in PMs

Super-Kamiokande



solar neutrino (12.5 MeV)

unusually nice, well-defined

flight direction from
timing measurements

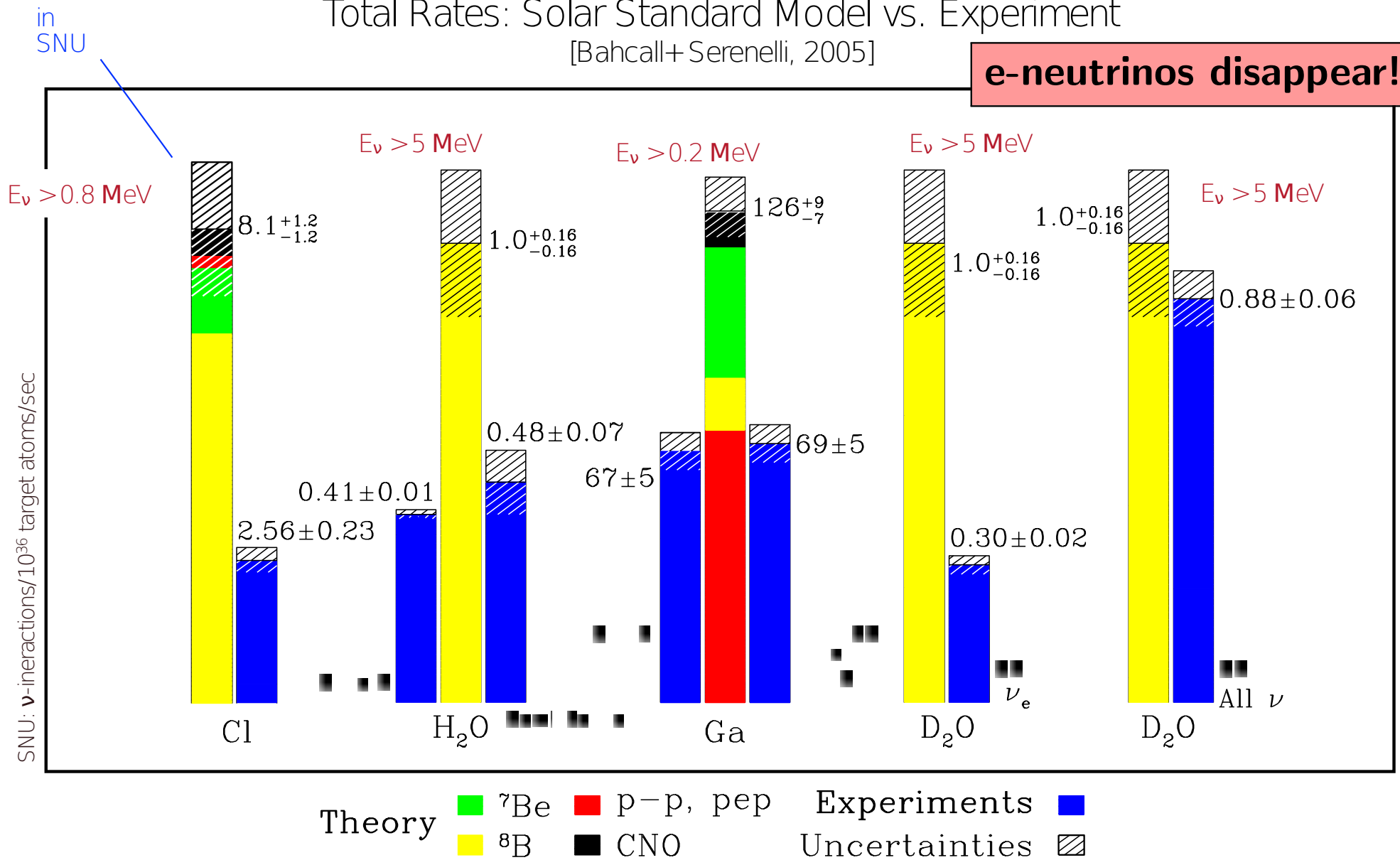
blue: early; red: late

energy from amount of light
observed in PMs

Solar Electron-Neutrino Problem

Total Rates: Solar Standard Model vs. Experiment
 [Bahcall+ Serenelli, 2005]

e-neutrinos disappear!



Other Solar Neutrino Experiments

- $^{37}\text{Cl} \rightarrow ^{37}\text{Ar}$
(Homestake)

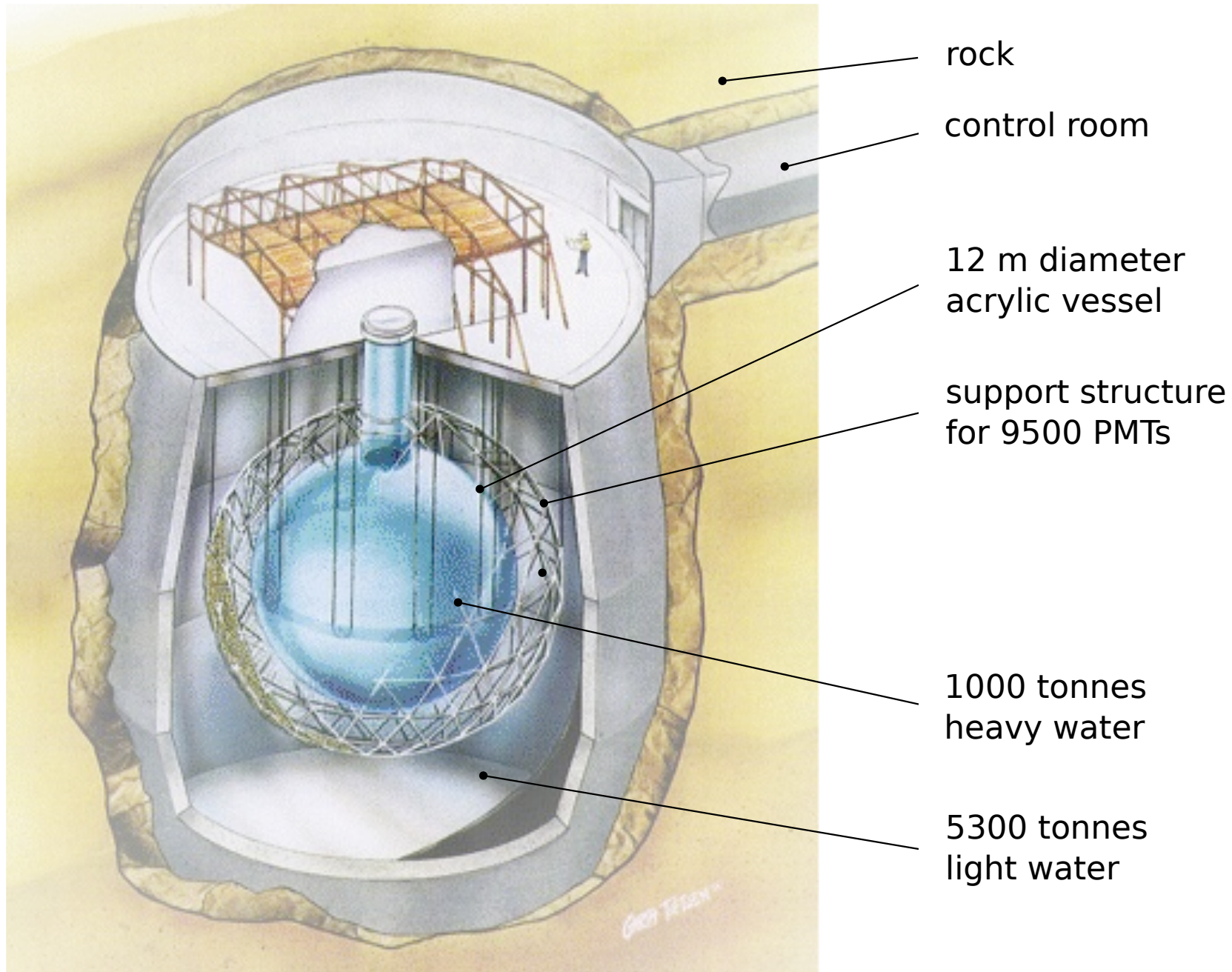
Exp: 2.6 SNU
BS05: 8.1 SNU
- $^{71}\text{Ga} \rightarrow ^{71}\text{Ge}$
(Gallex, GNO, Sage)

Exp: 70 SNU
BS05: 126 SNU
- $^8\text{B} \nu_e$ -flux
(Kamikande, SNO)

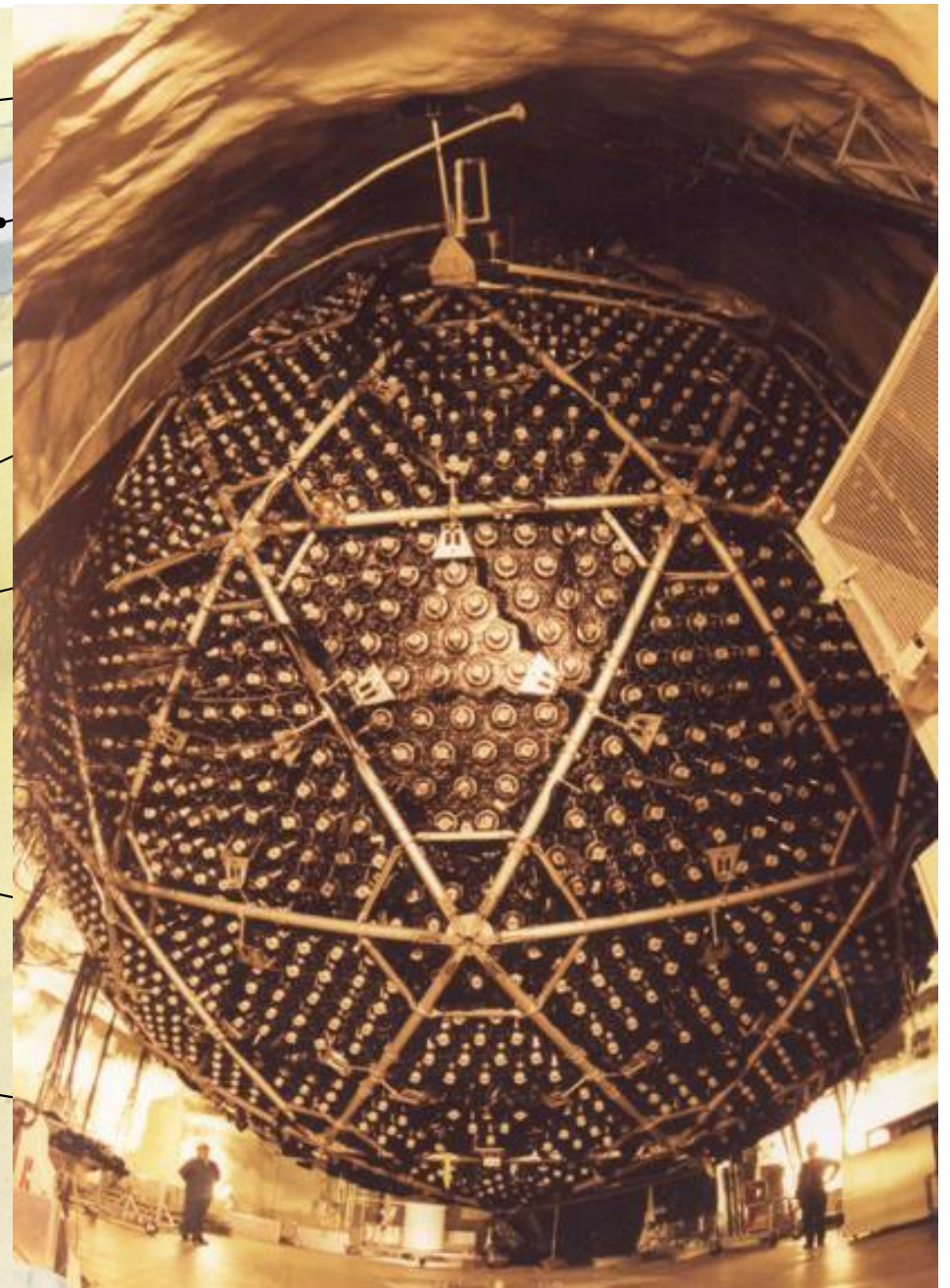
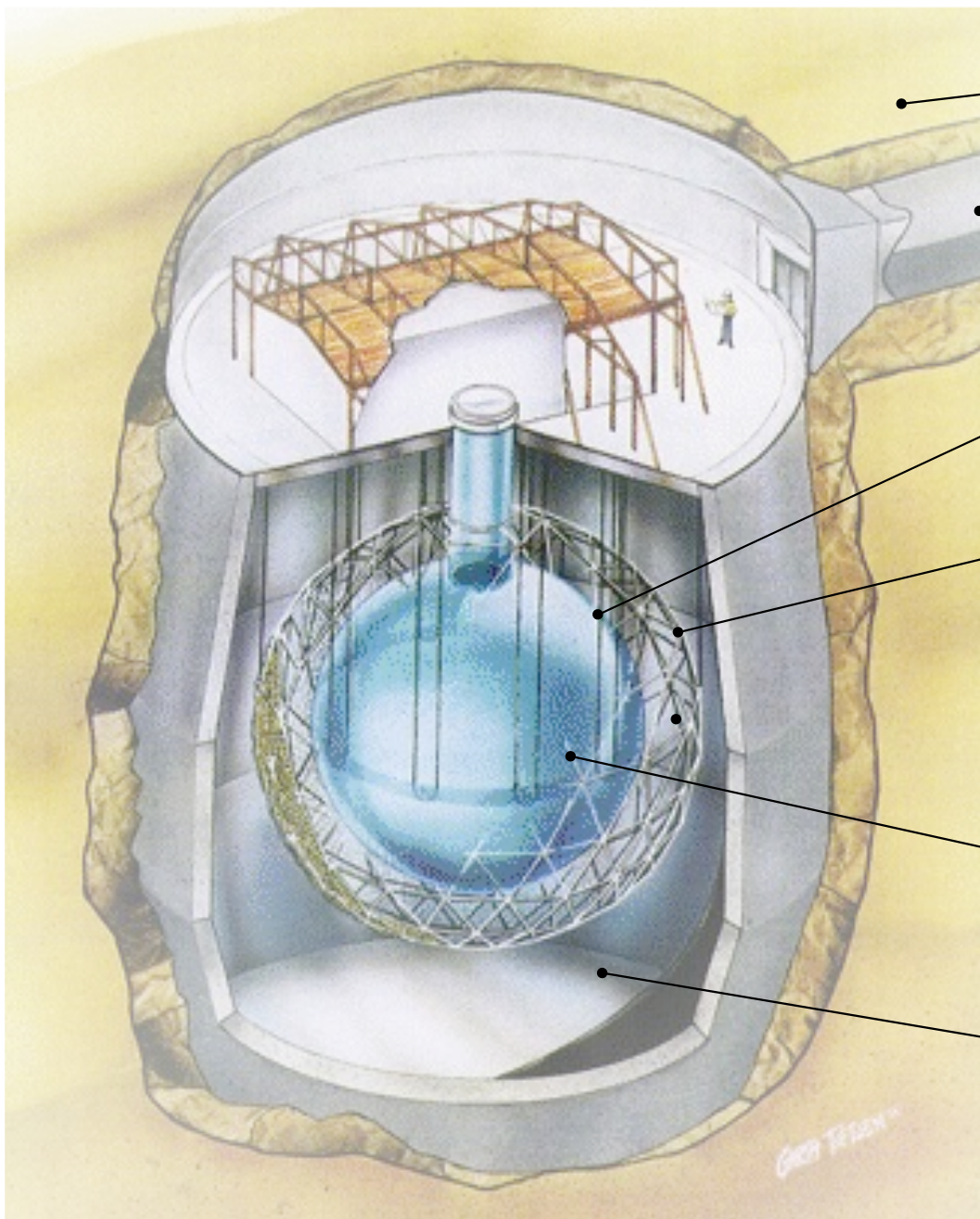
Exp: 2.4 SNU
BS05: 5.7 SNU

	$^{37}\text{Cl} \rightarrow ^{37}\text{Ar}$ (SNU)	$^{71}\text{Ga} \rightarrow ^{71}\text{Ge}$ (SNU)	$^8\text{B} \nu$ flux ($10^6 \text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$)
Homestake			
(CLEVELAND 98)[20]	$2.56 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.16$	—	—
GALLEX			
(HAMPEL 99)[21]	—	$77.5 \pm 6.2^{+4.3}_{-4.7}$	—
GNO			
(ALTMANN 05)[22]	—	$62.9^{+5.5}_{-5.3} \pm 2.5$	—
GNO+GALLEX			
(ALTMANN 05)[22]	—	$69.3 \pm 4.1 \pm 3.6$	—
SAGE			
(ABDURASHIDZE 02)[23]	—	$70.8^{+5.3+3.7}_{-5.2-3.2}$	—
Kamiokande			
(FUKUDA 96)[24]	—	—	$2.80 \pm 0.19 \pm 0.33^\dagger$
Super-Kamiokande			
(HOSAKA 05)[25]	—	—	$2.35 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.08^\dagger$
SNO (pure D ₂ O)			
(AHMAD 02)[4]	—	—	$1.76^{+0.06}_{-0.05} \pm 0.09^\ddagger$
	—	—	$2.39^{+0.24}_{-0.23} \pm 0.12^\ddagger$
	—	—	$5.09^{+0.44+0.46*}_{-0.43-0.43}$
SNO (NaCl in D ₂ O)			
(AHARMIM 05)[11]	—	—	$1.68 \pm 0.06^{+0.08\ddagger}_{-0.09}$
	—	—	$2.35 \pm 0.22 \pm 0.15^\ddagger$
	—	—	$4.94 \pm 0.21^{+0.38*}_{-0.34}$
BS05(OP) SSM [13]			
	8.1 ± 1.3	126 ± 10	$5.69 (1.00 \pm 0.16)$
Seismic model [18]			
	7.64 ± 1.1	123.4 ± 8.2	5.31 ± 0.6

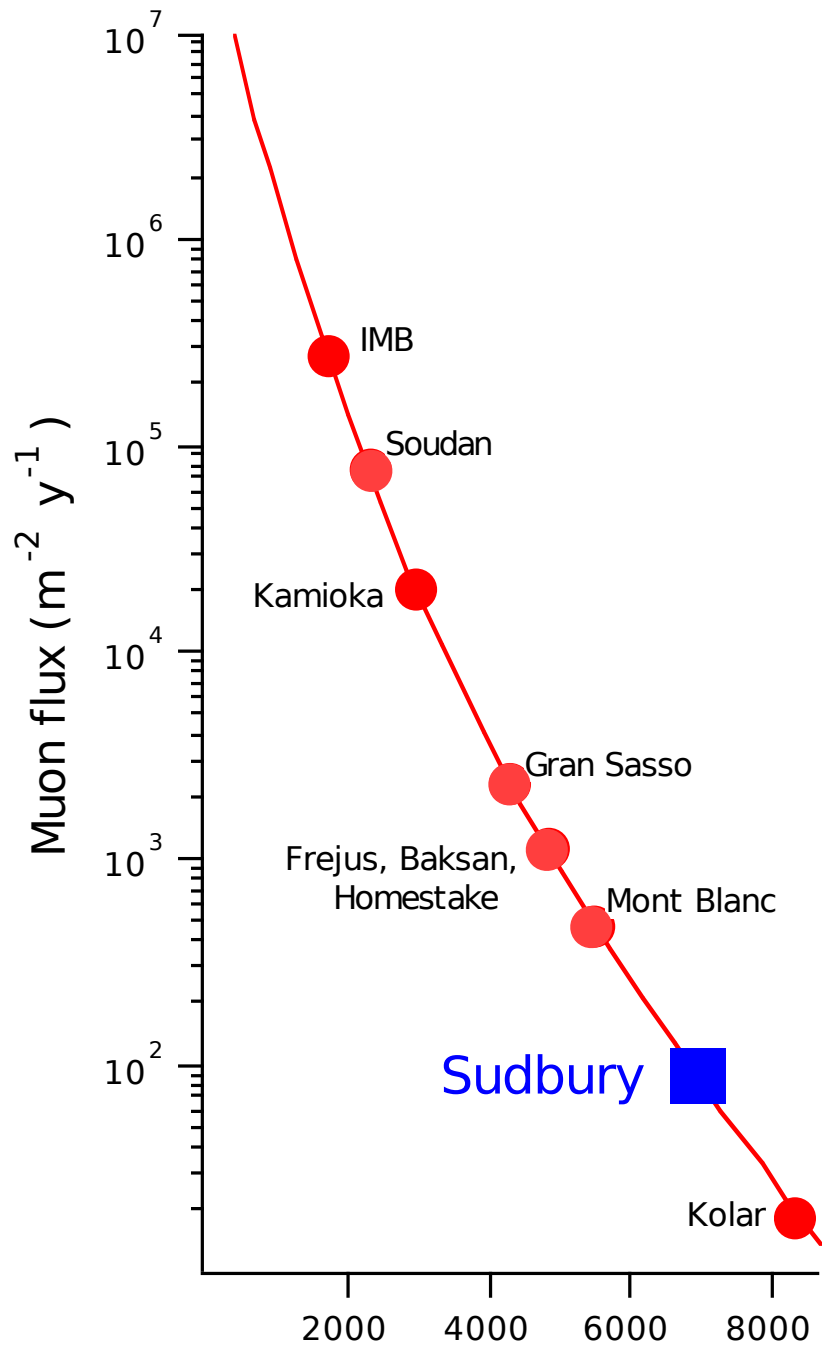
The SNO Experiment



The SNO Experiment



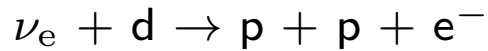
The SNO Experiment



more than 3 km below ground
background < 100 muons/d

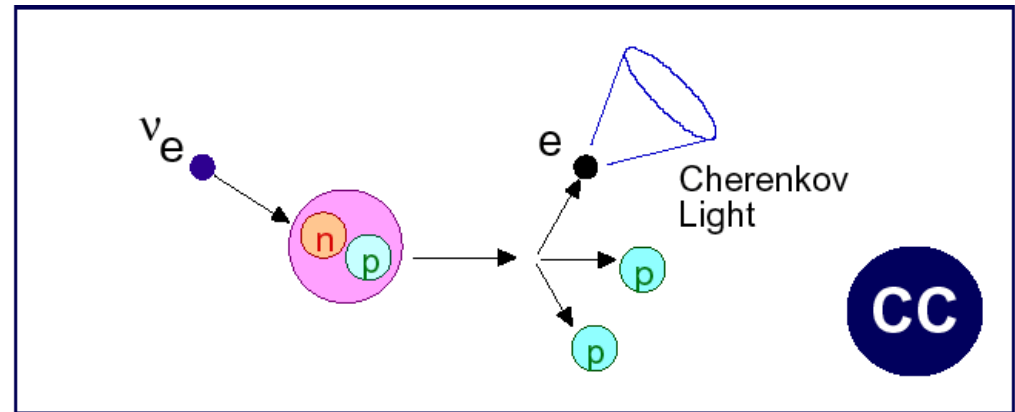
The SNO Experiment

charged current

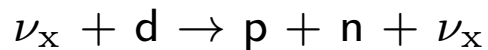


measurement of ν_e energy spectrum

weak directionality: $0.34 < \cos \theta < 1$

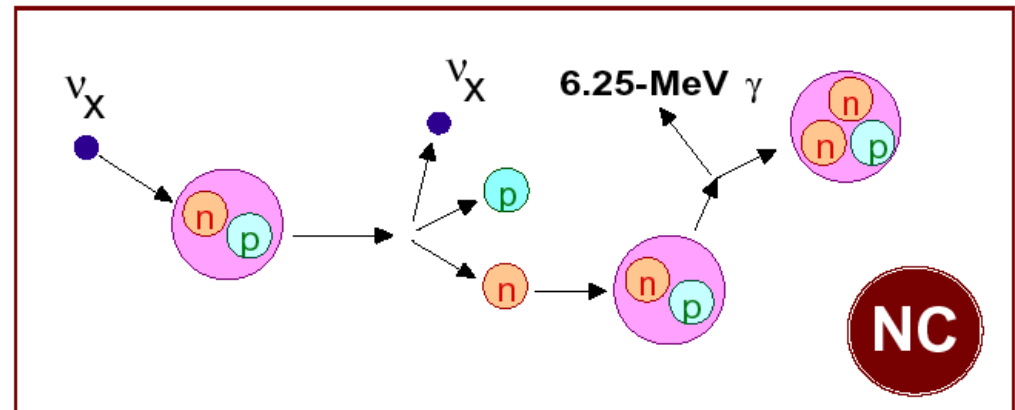


neutral currents

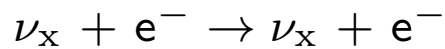


measure total ${}^8\text{B}$ neutrino flux from the sun

$$\sigma(\nu_e) = \sigma(\nu_\mu) = \sigma(\nu_\tau)$$

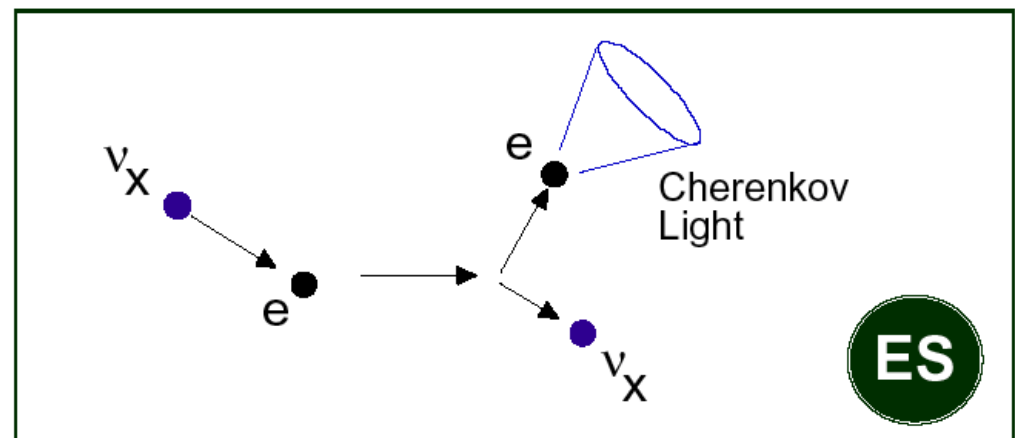


electron scattering

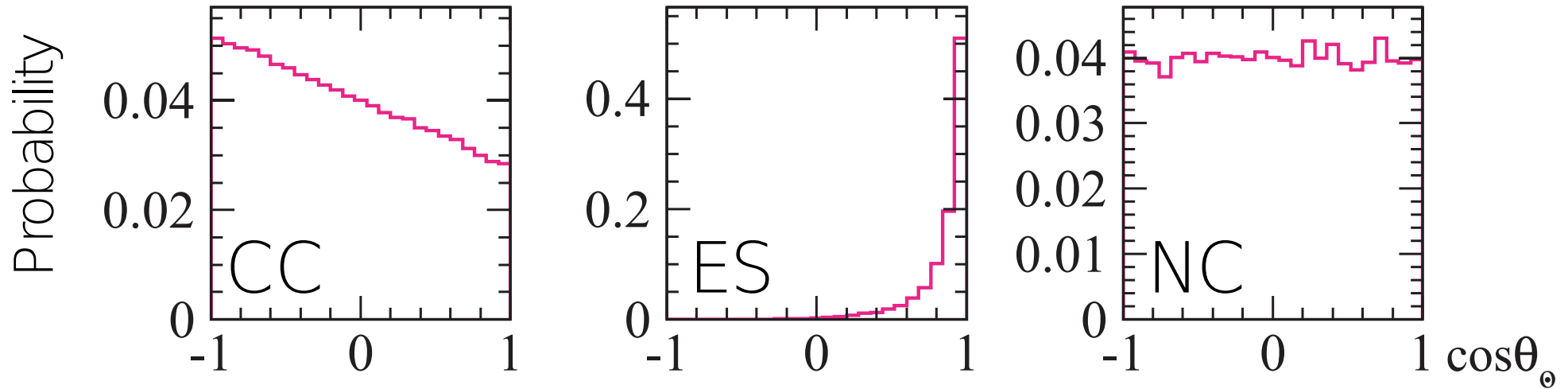


low statistics

strong directionality: $\theta \leq 18^\circ$ ($T_e = 10$ MeV)

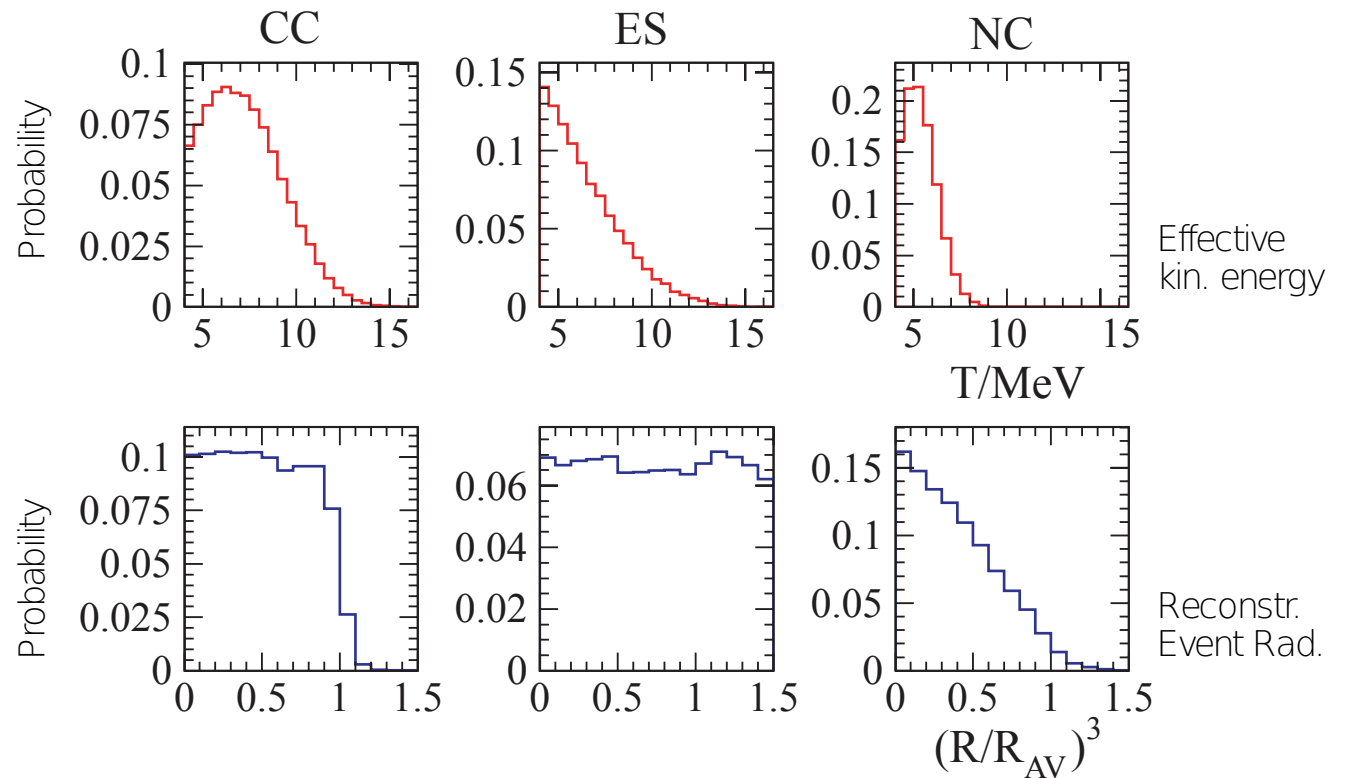


The SNO Experiment

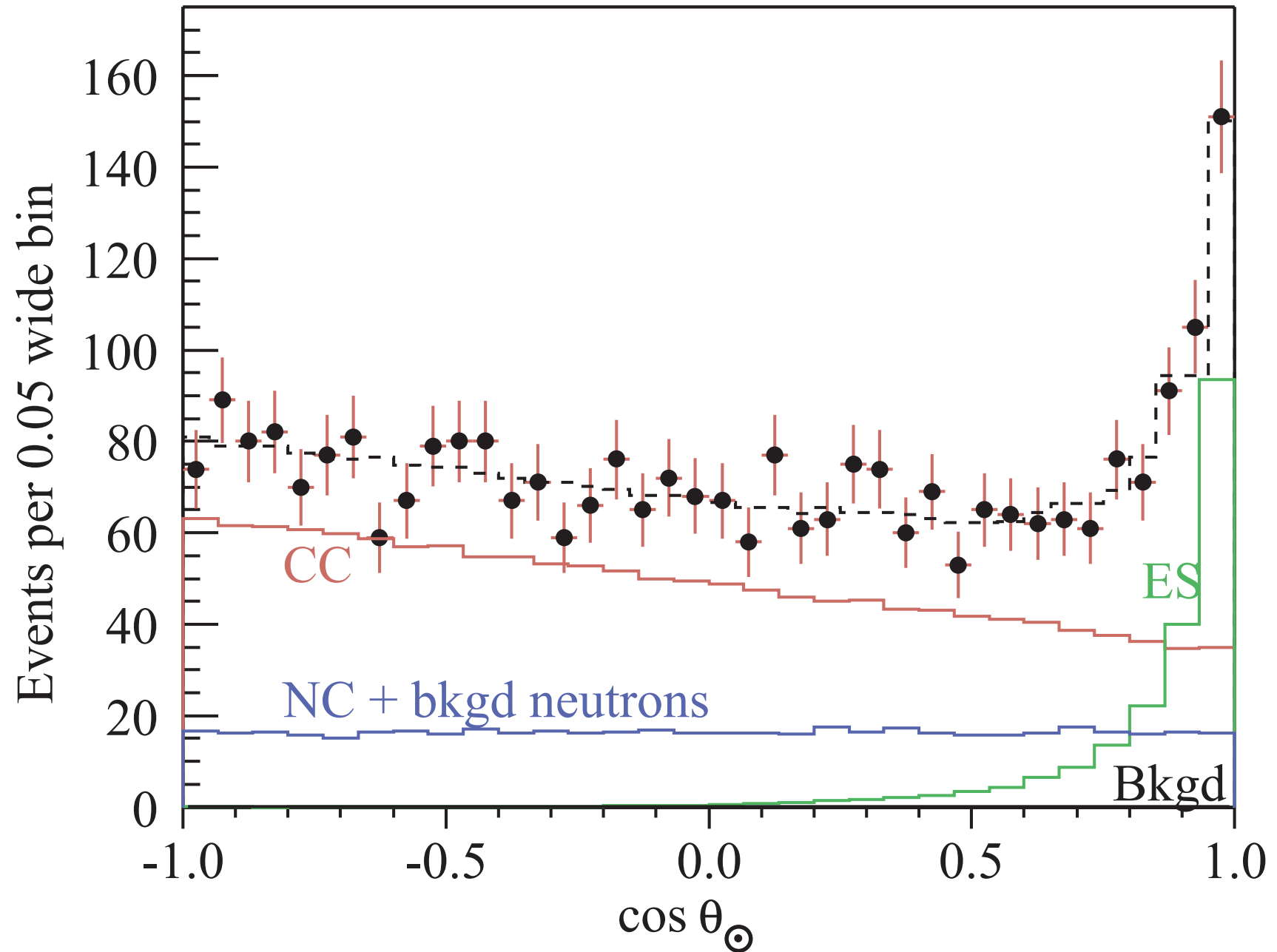


analysis strategy:

determine size of
CC, ES, and NC signals
via fit of the data
to probability distributions



The SNO Experiment

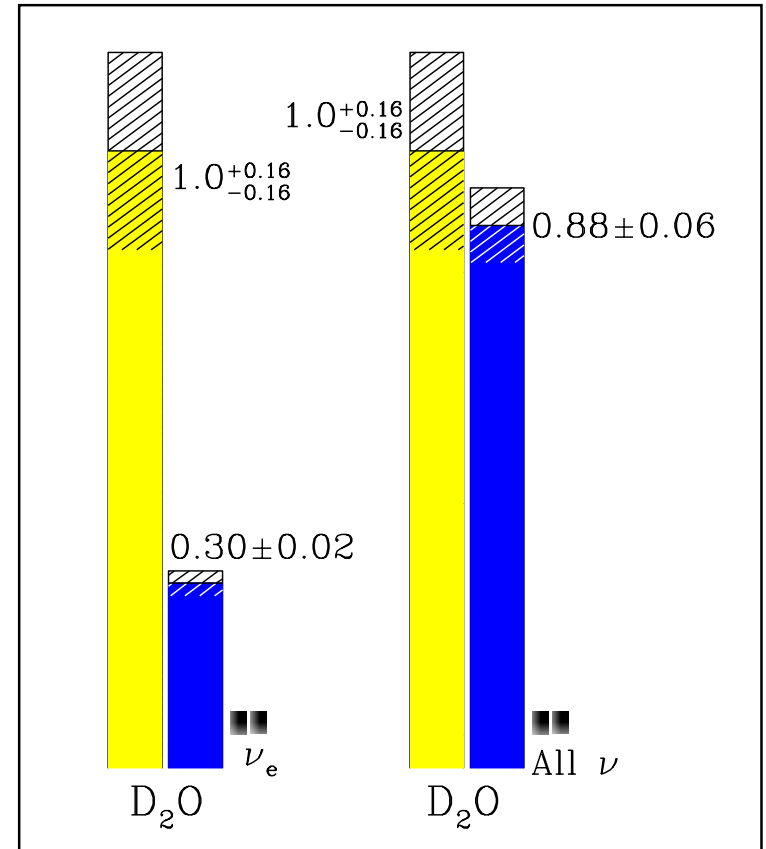
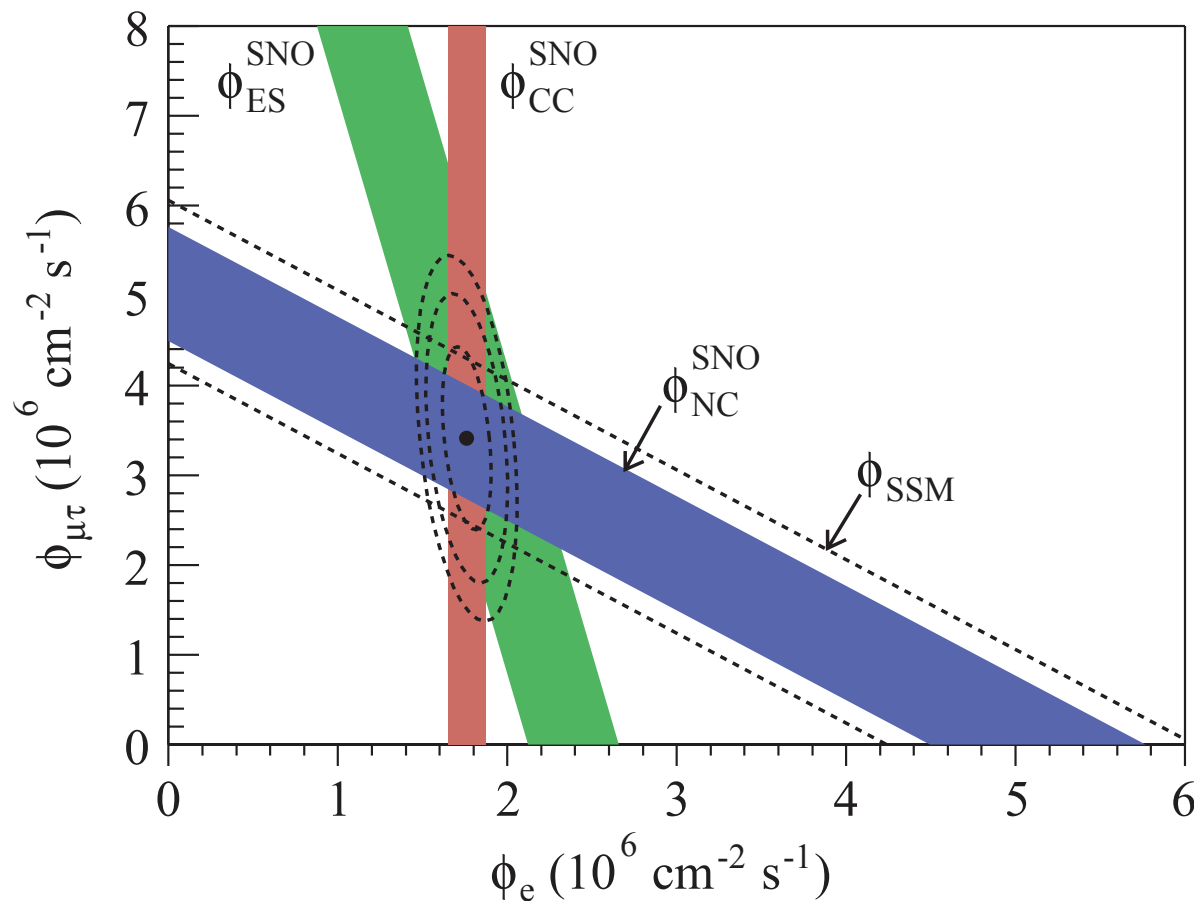


The SNO Experiment

$$\Phi_{CC} = 1.76^{+0.06}_{-0.05}(\text{stat.})^{+0.09}_{-0.09}(\text{syst.}) \cdot 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\Phi_{ES} = 2.39^{+0.24}_{-0.23}(\text{stat.})^{+0.12}_{-0.12}(\text{syst.}) \cdot 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\Phi_{NC} = 5.09^{+0.44}_{-0.43}(\text{stat.})^{+0.46}_{-0.43}(\text{syst.}) \cdot 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$



$$\Phi(\nu_e) = 1.76^{+0.05}_{-0.05}(\text{stat.})^{+0.09}_{-0.09}(\text{syst.})$$

$$\Phi(\nu_{\mu\tau}) = 3.41^{+0.45}_{-0.45}(\text{stat.})^{+0.48}_{-0.45}(\text{syst.}) \cdot 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Cryogenic Detectors

motivation: **WIMP detection**

WIMPs = weakly interacting massive particles

dark matter particles:

must be neutral, i.e. must neither interact via electromagnetic nor strong interactions

WIMPs must be heavy, i.e. non-relativistic (cold dark matter) to allow for galaxy formation

assumed mass range: 10 GeV - 10 TeV

mass limits dependent on cross section, e.g.: $\sigma_{\chi p} = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-7}$ pb yields $m_{\text{WIMP}} > 60$ GeV

detection via elastic χp -scattering

assume WIMP velocity: $v_{\chi} \approx 300$ km/s, i.e. $\beta = 10^{-3}$

solar system speed w.r.t. to milky way: $v = 250$ km/s

velocity of earth moving w.r.t solar system: $v = 30$ km/s

maximum energy transfer for collision with nucleus N:

$$T_{\text{N}}^{\text{max}} = 2 \frac{m_{\chi}^2 M_{\text{N}} c^2}{(m_{\chi} + M_{\text{N}})^2} \beta^2 \quad (\approx 2 M_{\text{N}} v_{\chi}^2 \text{ for } m_{\chi} \ll M_{\text{N}})$$

for e.g. $M_{\text{N}} = 100$ GeV: $T_{\text{N}}^{\text{max}} \approx 100$ keV

Cryogenic Detectors

How to detect WIMPs

transferred energy of recoiling nuclei generally much smaller ($< 10\%$)

need detector that allows detection of recoil nuclei below keV range
energy resolution requires: $n_{\text{excitation}} \gg 1$, i.e. $E_{\text{excitation}} \ll 1 \text{ eV}$

remember: gases – ionization energy $\approx 30 \text{ eV}$
silicon – electron/hole pair creation $\approx 3 \text{ eV}$

better possibilities:

- phonon excitation:

maximum phonon energy in Si is 60 meV,
roughly 2/3 of the energy required for electron-hole formation goes into phonon excitation

- superconducting detectors:

in superconductors the energy gap 2Δ is equivalent to the band gap in semiconductors
absorption of energy $> 2\Delta$ (typically 1 meV) can break up a Cooper pair

Cryogenic detectors:

detect low energies with very good resolution

Cryogenic Detectors

Phonon Detectors

assume thermal equilibrium:

convert absorbed energy into phonons:

$$\Delta T = E/C$$

C: heat capacity of the sample
(specific heat \times mass)

E: deposited energy

optimal detector: low heat capacity

example 1: Si-detector at room temperature

$$C_{\text{spec}} = 0.7 \text{ J/gK}$$

$$E = 1 \text{ keV}, m = 1 \text{ g} \rightarrow \Delta T = 2 \cdot 10^{-16} \text{ K}$$

not very practical, need lower specific heat and mass

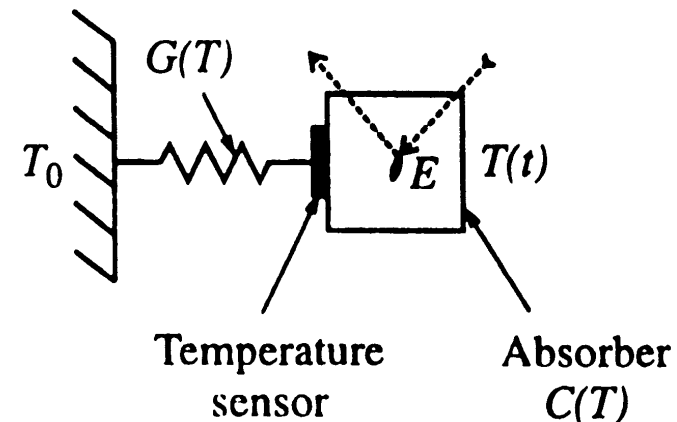
example 2: Si-detector at low temperature

$$C_{\text{spec}} \propto (T/\Theta)^3$$

$$C_{\text{spec}} = 2 \cdot 10^{-15} \text{ J/gK at } T = 0.1 \text{ K}$$

$$E = 1 \text{ keV}, m = 15 \mu\text{g} \rightarrow \Delta T = 0.04 \text{ K (possible!)}$$

basic configuration of cryogenic calorimeter



resolution:

$$n = CT/kT = C/k$$

$$\sigma_0 = kT\sqrt{n} = \sqrt{CkT^2}$$

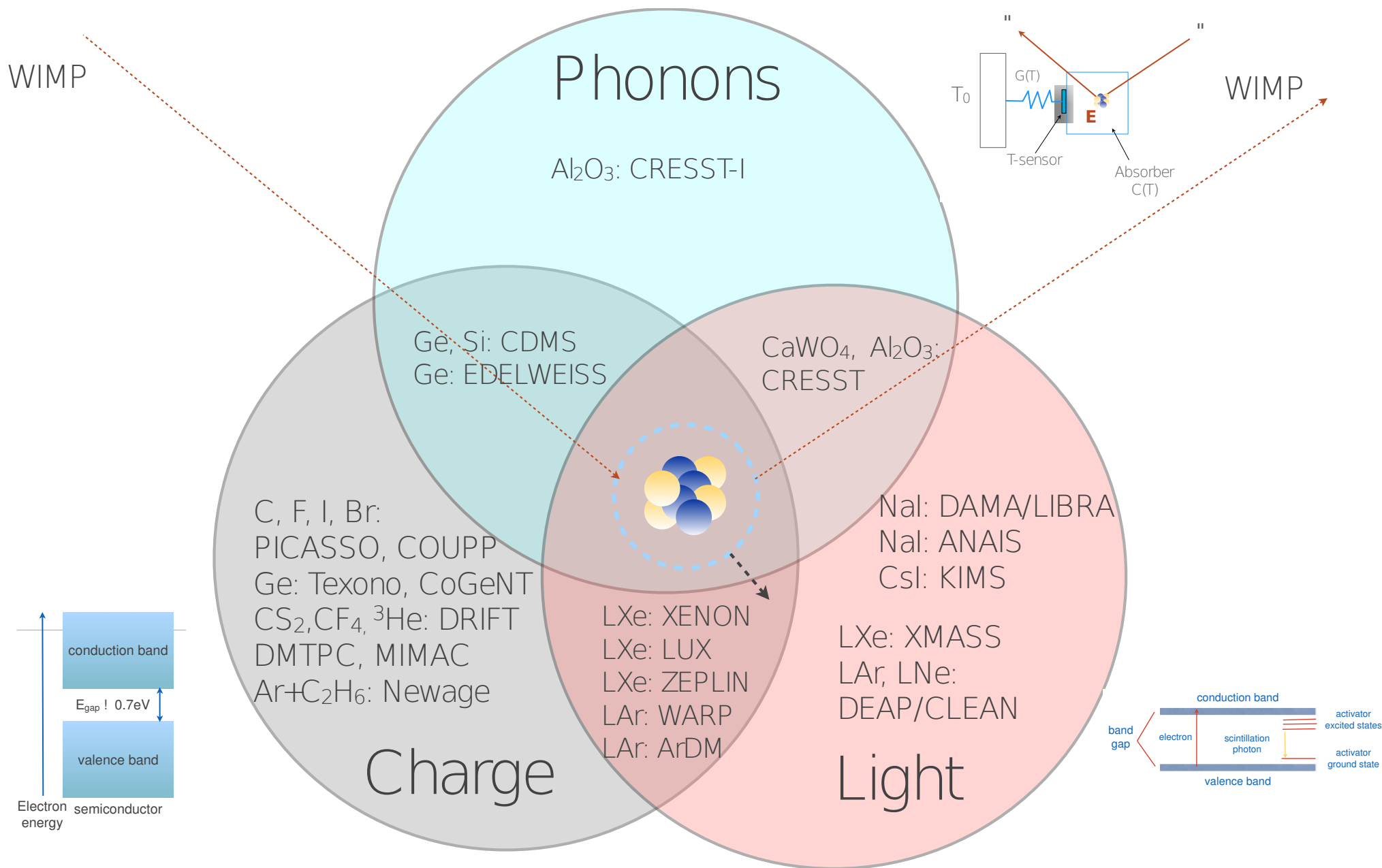
$$\sigma_E = \varepsilon\text{Ph}\sqrt{E/\varepsilon\text{Ph}} = \sqrt{kTE}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \sigma_0^2 + \sigma_E^2$$

yields: $\sigma < 0.2 \text{ eV}$

(cf. Si semiconductor detector: $\sigma = 20 \text{ eV}$)

Dark Matter Detection



Dark Matter Detection

Example: CDMS

Soudan Underground Lab

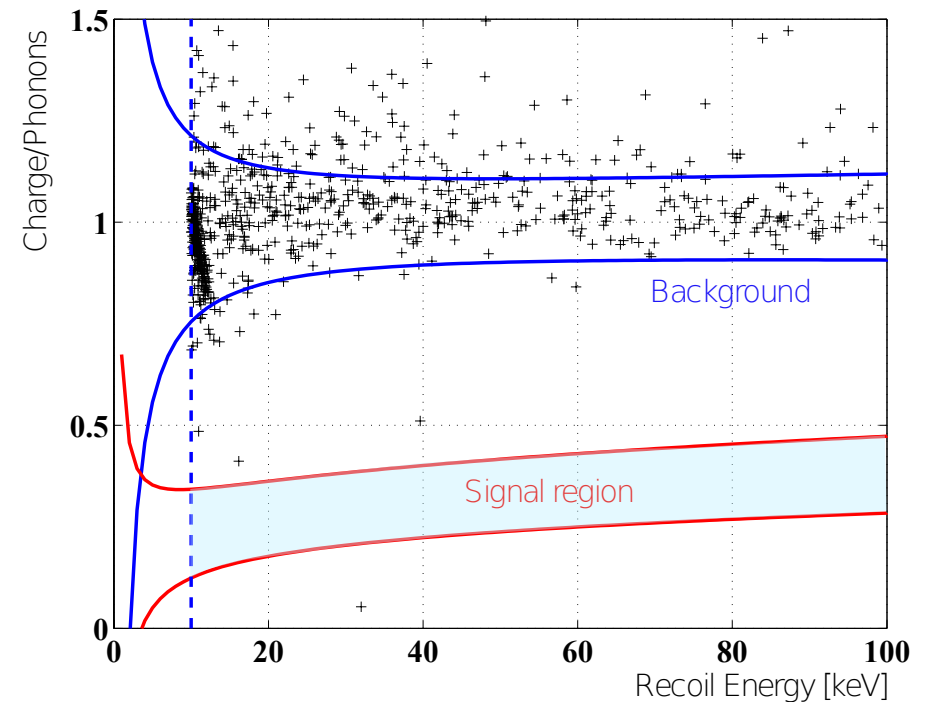
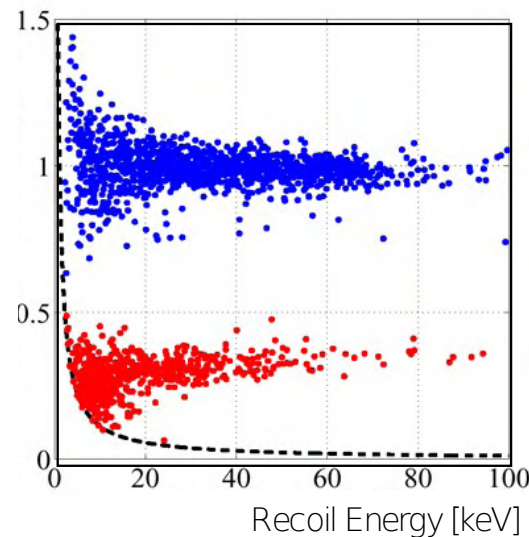
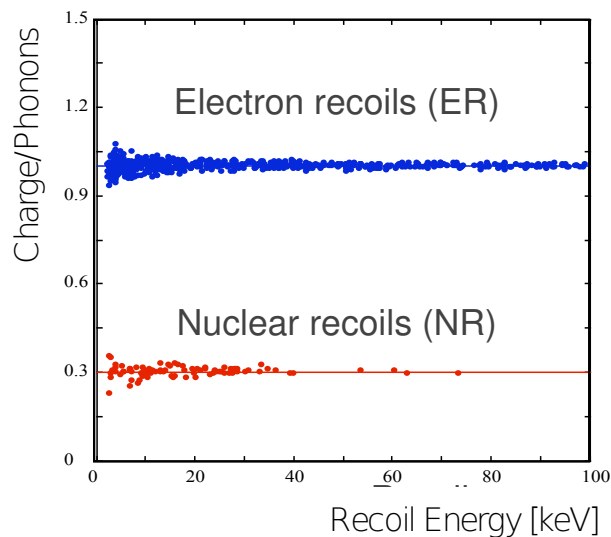
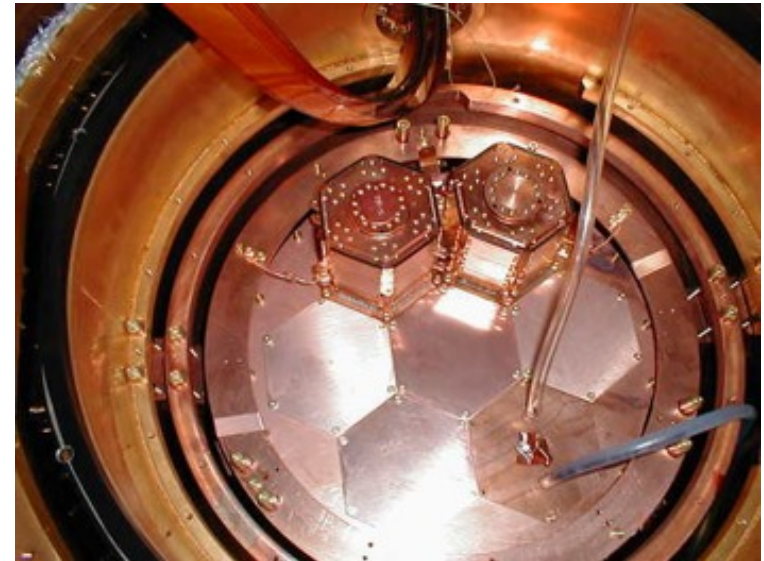
5 towers with 6 Ge/Si detectors each
operated at $T \approx 20$ mK

Idea:

WIMPs (and neutrons) scatter off nuclei

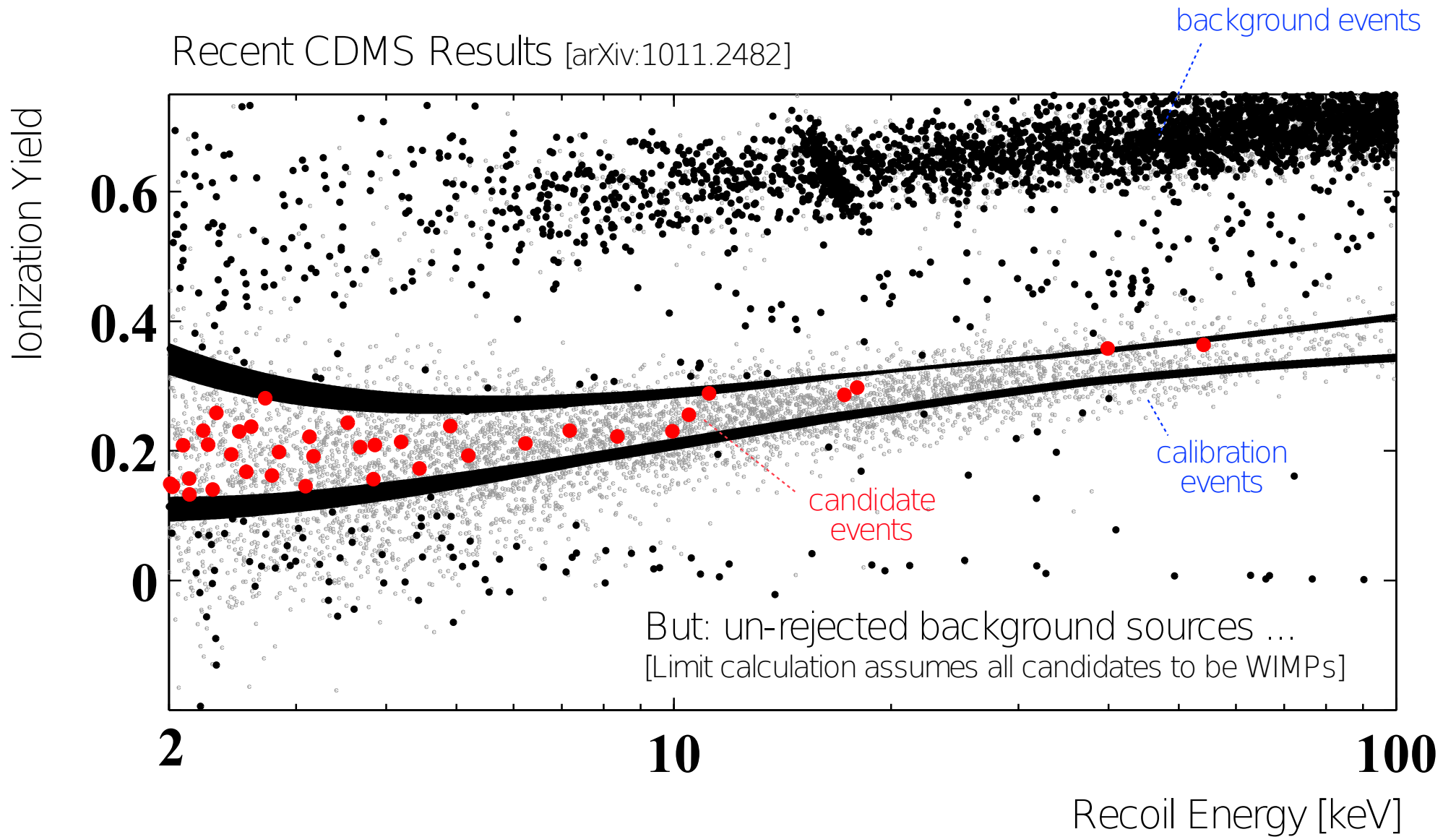
most background noise sources (γ, e) scatter off electrons

ratio ionization/phonons differs for nuclear and electron recoils



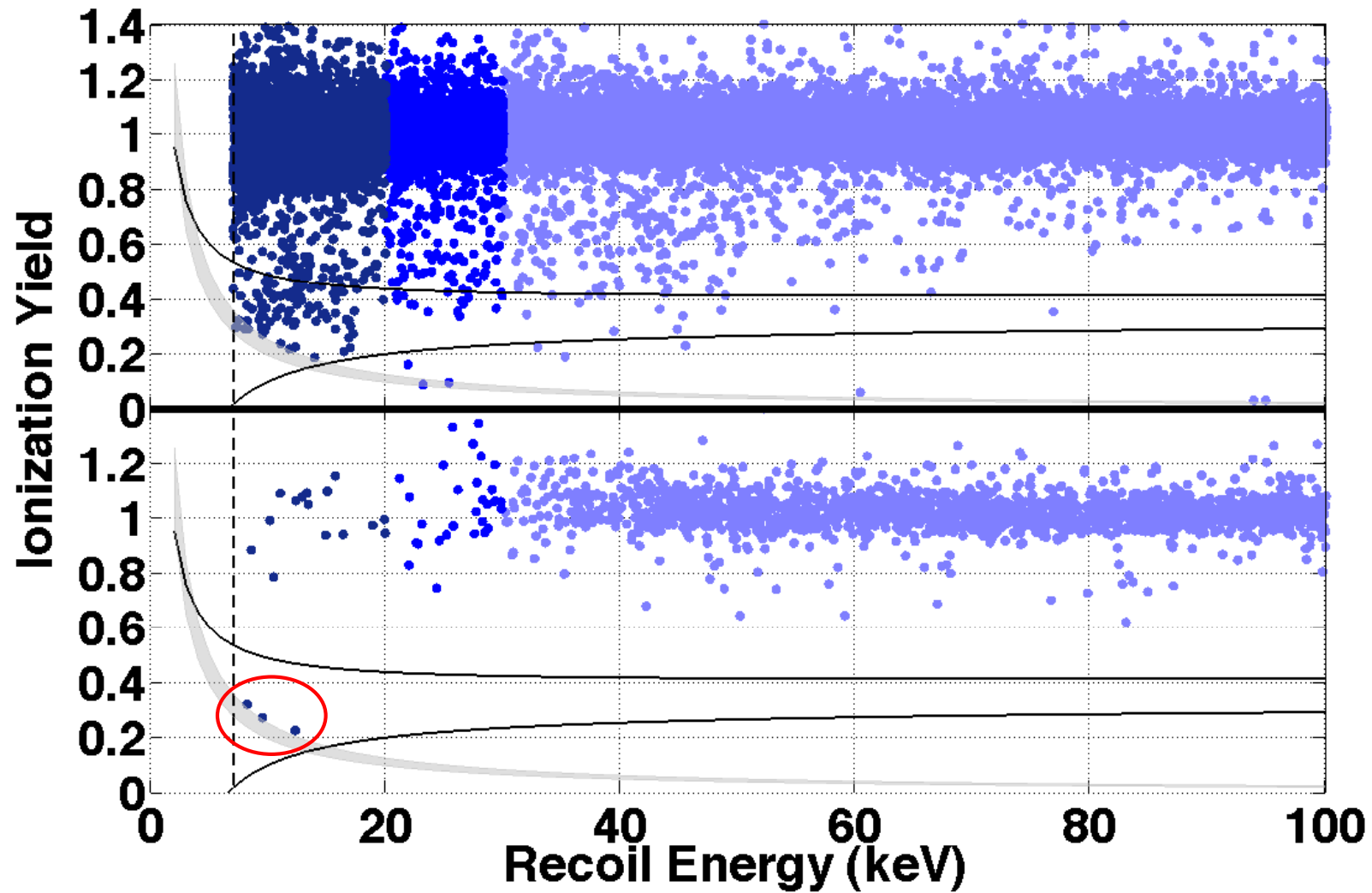
Dark Matter Detection

Recent CDMS Results [arXiv:1011.2482]



Dark Matter Detection

CDMS II Si 2013 Result



3 candidate WIMPs, 'not yet a discovery'

Dark Matter Detection

Summary Dark Matter WIMP Searches

