# Recent Nucleon Decay Searches at the Super-Kamiokande Experiment

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for the Super-Kamiokande Collaboration



### Moriond EW 2016 @ La Thuile, Italy

## Motivation

- Baryon number (B) global accidental symmetry of Standard Model (SM)
  - → lightest baryon (proton) stable
- Many arguments + reductionism suggest a more unifying theory underlying the SM
- Grand Unification (GUT) unites SM gauge groups

 $G \supset SU(3)_C \otimes SU(2)_W \otimes U(1)_Y$ 

- $\rightarrow$  coupling unification, charge quantization, etc.
- $\rightarrow$  leptons + quarks in same GUT representation  $\rightarrow$  nucleon decay (explicit B)

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  - $\rightarrow$  lightest baryon (proton) stable
- Sakharov's conditions for baryogenesis require B [Sakharov (1967)]
- Many arguments + reductionism suggest a more unifying theory underlying the SM
- Proton decay is a signature prediction of GUTs and a unique test of  $O(10^{14-16})$  GeV scales
- Lifetime predictions  $\mathcal{O}(10^{30+})$  years ... how to observe?

→ look long at 1 proton or look at very many protons

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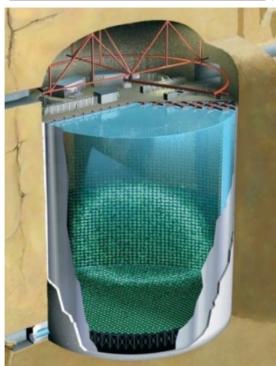
- Large water Cherenkov detectors → lots of protons and "cheap"
- State of the art experiment → <u>Super-Kamiokande</u>

## The Super-Kamiokande Experiment

- <u>Super-Kamiokande</u>
  - $\rightarrow$  22.5 kTon fiducial volume
  - → Inner (11k PMTs, 40% coverage) and outer (2k PMTs) detectors
  - → 4 run periods: SK-I (1996 2001) SK-II (2003 - 2005): accident,  $\frac{1}{2}$  PMT coverage SK-III (2006 - 2008): restore PMT coverage SK-IV (2008 - now ): upgraded electronics







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- <u>Amazing multipurpose physics detector</u> (range: MeV TeV)
  - $\rightarrow$  neutrino oscillations, Lorentz invariance, sterile neutrinos

 $\rightarrow$  nucleon decay (PDK)

- $\rightarrow$  solar neutrinos, day/night effect, supernovae relic neutrinos
- $\rightarrow$  indirect dark matter searches
- $\rightarrow$  more exotic searches (monopoles, etc.)



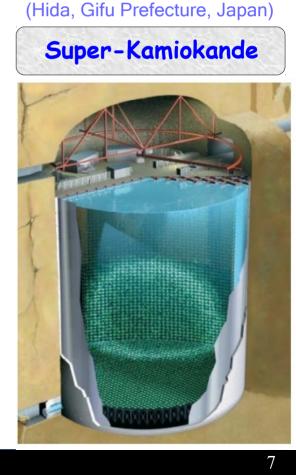
(Hida, Gifu Prefecture, Japan)

this talk

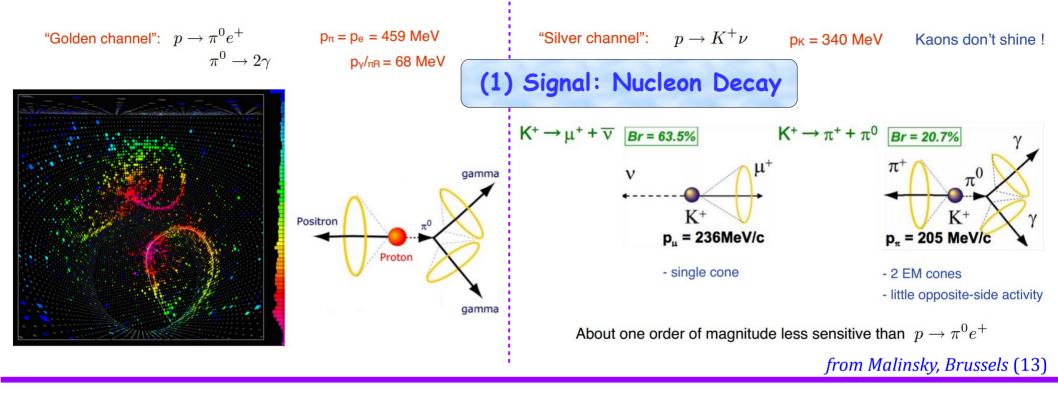
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- $\rightarrow$  more exotic searches (monopoles, etc.)
- Future of Super-K

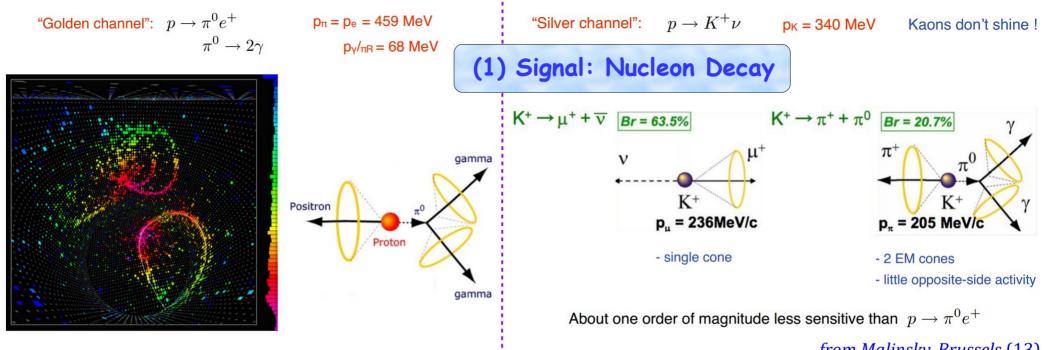
SK-GD (201?): add gadolinium (Approved) [Beacom, Vagins (2004)]



## Detecting Nucleon Decay at Super-K

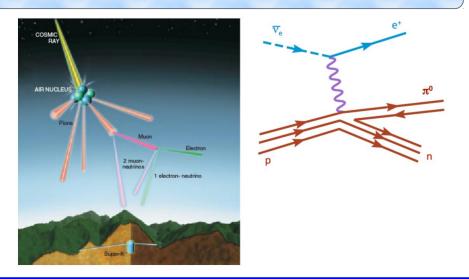


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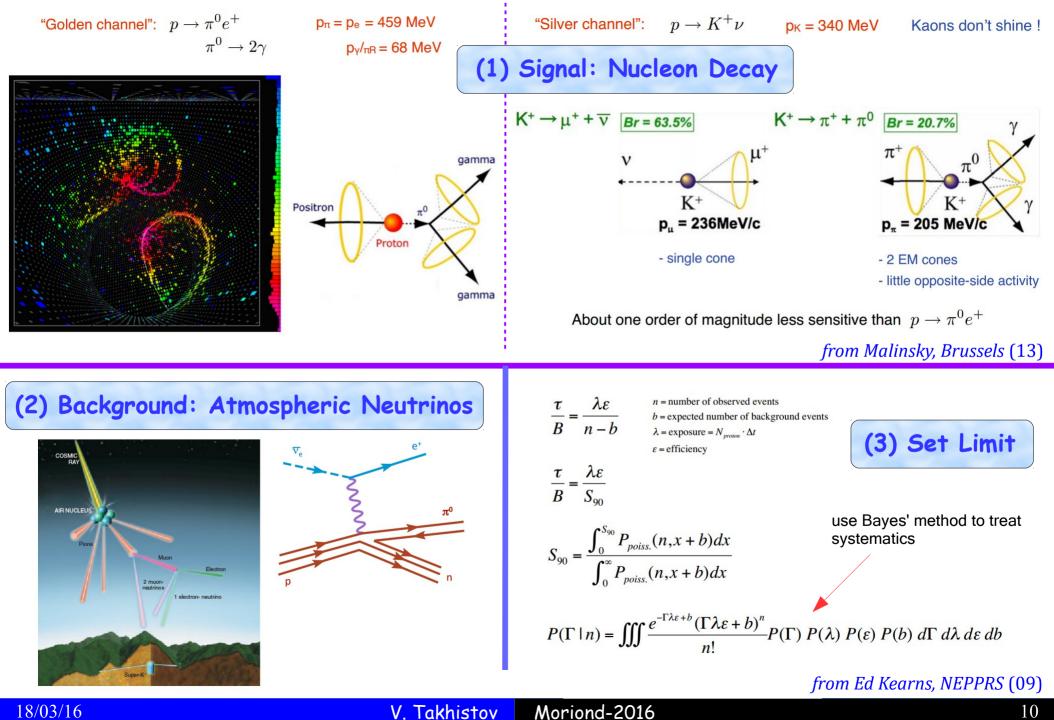
from Malinsky, Brussels (13)

#### (2) Background: Atmospheric Neutrinos



from Ed Kearns, NEPPRS (09)

## Detecting Nucleon Decay at Super-K

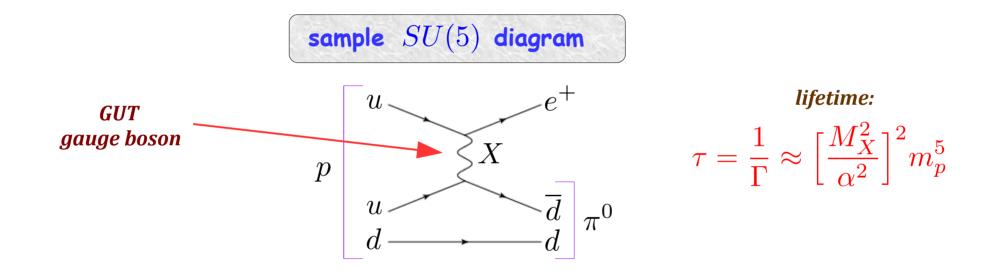


18/03/16

10

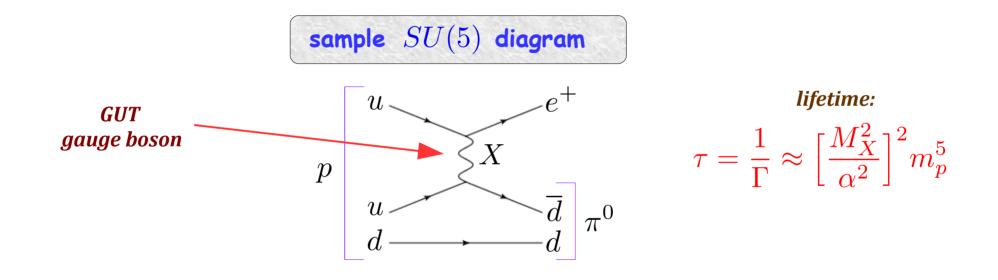
# Benchmark GUT mode: $\mathbf{p} ightarrow \mathbf{e}^+ \pi^{\mathbf{0}}$

- Motivation: dominant decay channel in most GUTs [Georgi, Glashow (1974)]  $\rightarrow$  typical predictions  $\tau \sim 10^{29-36}$  yrs
  - ightarrow ruled out minimal SU(5) [IMB-3, Kamiokande, Super-K]



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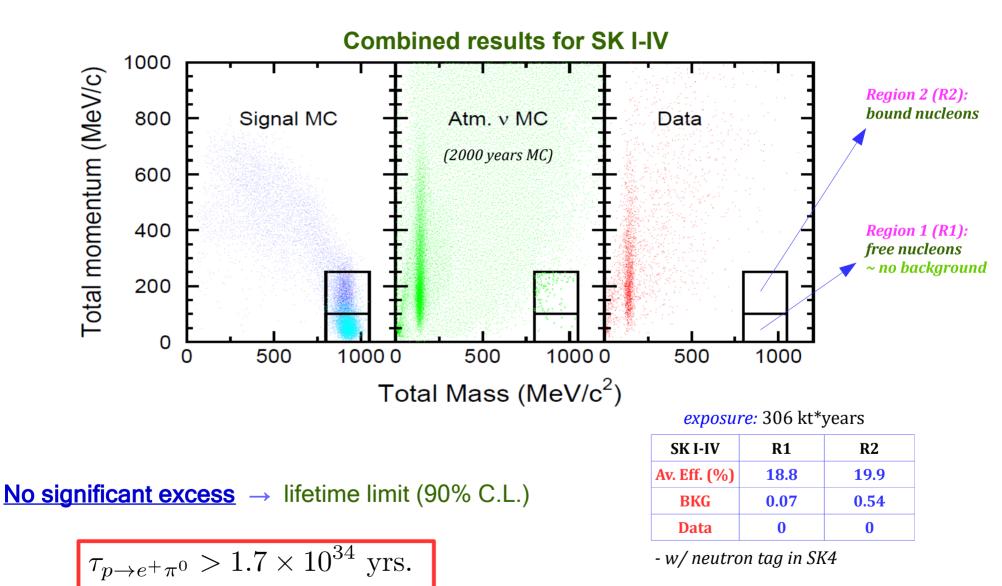
• Search strategy:  $e^+, \pi^0(\rightarrow \gamma + \gamma)$  are visible

→ reconstruct invariant mass and momentum of proton

Benchmark GUT mode:  $\mathbf{p} \rightarrow \mathbf{e}^+ \pi^0$ 

• <u>Results</u>:

[Super-K, preliminary]

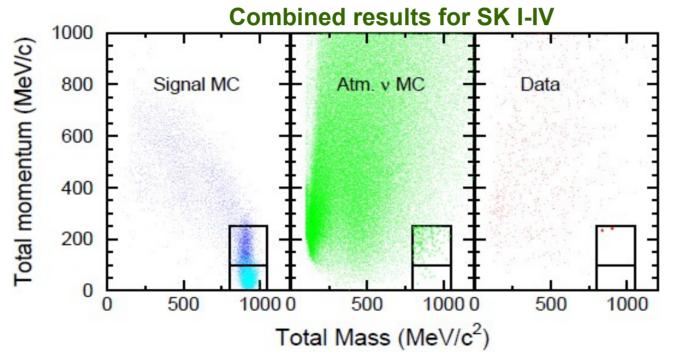


# Benchmark GUT mode: $\mathbf{p} ightarrow \mu^+ \pi^0$

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- <u>Search strategy</u>:  $\mu^+(\rightarrow e^+\nu\nu), \pi^0(\rightarrow \gamma + \gamma)$  all visible, reconstruct nucleon

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- <u>Results</u>:



#### [Super-K, preliminary]

<i>exposure:</i> 306 kt*years					
SK I-IV	R1	R2			
Av. Eff (%)	17.9	16.7			
BKG	0.05	0.82			
Data	0	2			

- w/ neutron tag in SK4
- SK4 better decav-e detection

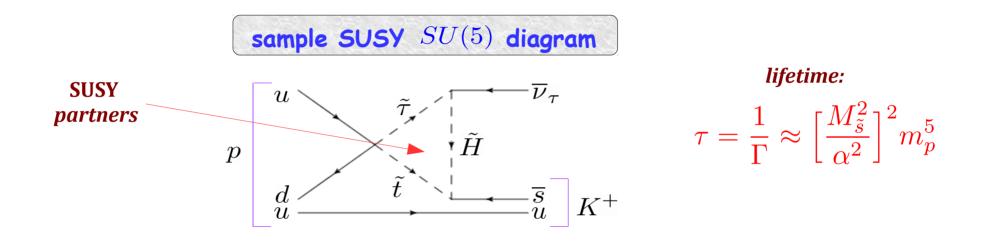
(details in Appendix)

- 2 events pass selection, consistent with background (Poisson prob. 23%, "eye scan")
- <u>No significant excess</u> → lifetime limit (90% C.L.)

$$\tau_{p \to \mu^+ \pi^0} > 7.8 \times 10^{33}$$
 yrs.

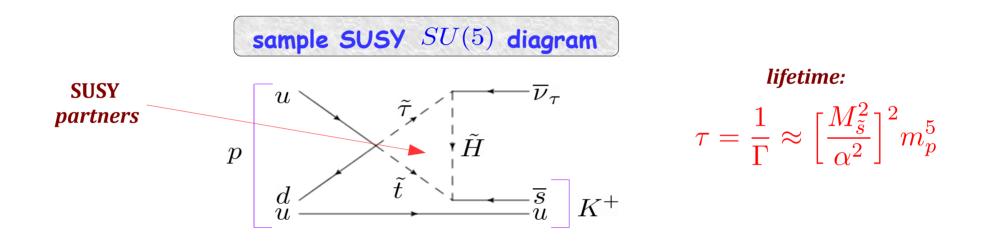
## Benchmark SUSY GUT mode: $\mathbf{p} ightarrow \nu \mathbf{K}^+$

- Motivation: dominant decay in most SUSY GUTs [Weinberg (1982); Sakai, Yanagida (1982)]  $\rightarrow$  typical predictions  $\tau \sim 10^{29-36}$  yrs
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• Search strategy:  $\nu, K^+(\rightarrow \mu^+ \nu, \pi^0 \pi^+)$  both invisible (K+ below threshold)

→ can't reconstruct proton, can do ...

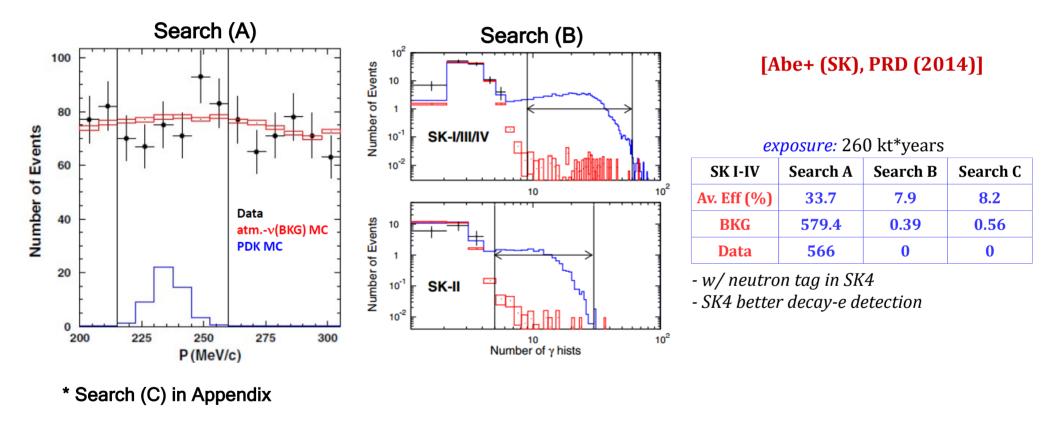
Search (A)  $(K^+ \to \mu^+ \nu)$  spectral fit to  $\mu^+$  momentum Search (B)  $(K^+ \to \mu^+ \nu)$  tag  $\gamma$  from nuclear de-excitation Search (C)  $(K^+ \to \pi^0 \pi^+)$  reconstruct pion from  $\pi^0 \to \gamma \gamma$ 

## Benchmark SUSY GUT mode: $\mathbf{p} ightarrow \nu \mathbf{K}^+$

Search (A) = spec. fit  $\mu^+$ Search (B) = prompt  $\gamma$ Search (C) = pions

Results:

#### Sample combined results for SK I-IV



• <u>No significant excess</u>  $\rightarrow$  lifetime limit (90% C.L.)

 $\tau_{p \to \nu K^+} > 6.6 \times 10^{33} \text{ yrs.}$ 

#### $\mathbf{n} - \overline{\mathbf{n}}$

• Motivation:  $\Delta B = 2$  process

 $\rightarrow$  parametrizes breaking scale of  $U(1)_{B-L}$ , can embed into GUT

→ natural connection w/ Majorana neutrinos (see-saw) + baryogenesis

[Babu, Mohapatra (2001); Mohapatra (2009); Kuzmin (1970)]

$$\sim 10^8 \text{ s.}$$
  
 $\sim 10^{32} \text{ yrs.}$   $\tau_{n-\overline{n}} = R \cdot \tau_{n-\overline{n}}^{vac.2}$  nuclear suppression  $\sim 10^{23}$ 

→ test of intermediate scale physics

$$\mathcal{O}_{n-\overline{n}} \sim \frac{1}{M^5} (udd) (udd) \longrightarrow \tau_{n-\overline{n}}^{vac.} \sim 10^8 \text{ s.} \longrightarrow M \sim 100 \text{ TeV}$$

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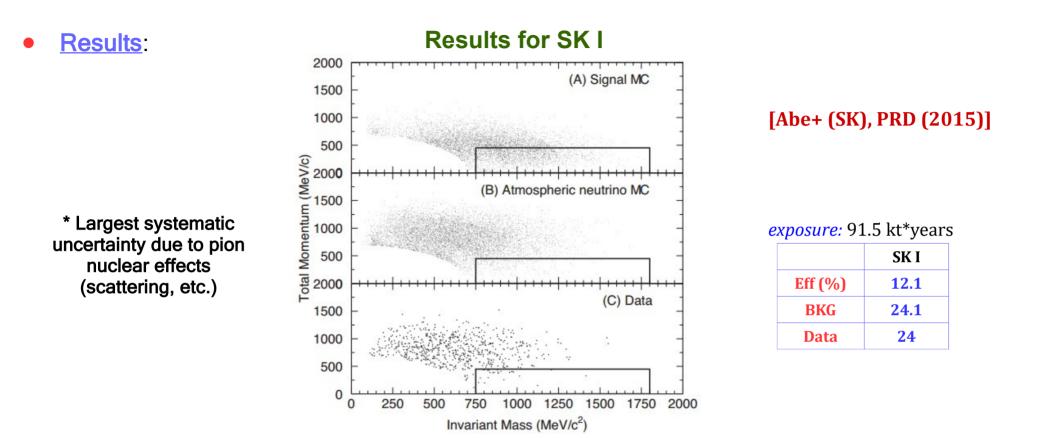
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→ test of intermediate scale physics

$$\mathcal{O}_{n-\overline{n}} \sim \frac{1}{M^5} (udd)(udd) \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \frac{current \ limit}{\tau_{n-\overline{n}}^{vac.} \sim 10^8 \ s.} \longrightarrow M \sim 100 \ TeV$$

		$\bar{n}+p$		$\bar{n}+n$	
•	<u>Search strategy</u> : $\overline{n}$ is captured by nucleons	$\pi^+\pi^0$	1%	$\pi^+\pi^-$	2%
		$\pi^{+}2\pi^{0}$	8%	$2\pi^0$	1.5%
	$\rightarrow$ look for pions from $\overline{n} + p, \overline{n} + n$	$\pi^{+}3\pi^{0}$	10%	$\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$	6.5%
		$2\pi^{+}\pi^{-}\pi^{0}$	22%	$\pi^{+}\pi^{-}2\pi^{0}$	11%
	$\rightarrow$ reconstruct "di-nucleon" invariant mass and momentum	$2\pi^{+}\pi^{-}2\pi$	$^{0}$ 36%	$\pi^{+}\pi^{-}3\pi^{0}$	28%
		$2\pi^+\pi^-2\omega$	16%	$2\pi^{+}2\pi^{-}$	7%
		$3\pi^{+}2\pi^{-}\pi$	$^{0}$ 7%	$2\pi^{+}2\pi^{-}\pi^{0}$	24%
				$\pi^+\pi^-\omega$	10%
				$2\pi^+ 2\pi^- 2\pi^0$	10%

#### $\mathbf{n} - \overline{\mathbf{n}}$



• No significant excess → lifetime limit (90% C.L.)

- $\tau_{n-\overline{n}} > 1.9 \times 10^{32}$  yrs.
- $\rightarrow$  being redone for SK1-4 w/ boosted decision tree (BDT)
- $\rightarrow$  same BDT technique as in recent SK dinucleon searches, with limits  $\mathcal{O}(10^{32} \text{ yrs.})$

 $pp \to \pi^+\pi^+, np \to \pi^0\pi^+, nn \to \pi^0\pi^0$ 

[Gustafson+ (SK), PRD (2015)]

## More Exotic Searches

- Motivation: large theory uncertainty requires broad search strategy
  - $\rightarrow$  understand well 1-ring atm.-v background
  - $\rightarrow$  do wide search of channels w/ 1-ring signature:

$$p \to e^+ \nu \nu, \quad p \to \mu^+ \nu \nu, \quad p \to e^+ X, \quad p \to \mu^+ X$$

$$np \to e^+ \nu, \quad np \to \mu^+ \nu, \quad np \to \tau^+ \nu, \quad n \to \gamma \nu$$

→ trilepton decays arise in Pati-Salam models, in some  $\tau_{p \to e(\mu)\nu\nu} \sim 10^{32\pm1} \text{yrs.}$  [Pati, Salam (1973)] → dinucleon decays arise in extended Higgs models [Arnold, Fornal, Wise (2013)]

 $\rightarrow$  because  $m_{ au} > 1$  GeV, au only occurs in dinucleon channels [Bryman (2014)]

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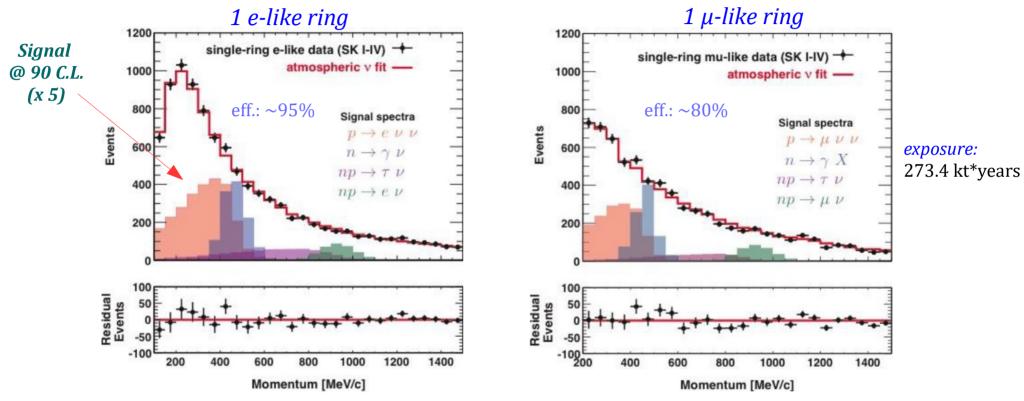
- $\rightarrow$  because  $m_{ au} > 1$  GeV, au only occurs in dinucleon channels [Bryman (2014)]
- Search strategy: only  $e^+, \mu^+$  are visible
  - $\rightarrow$  can't reconstruct nucleon(s)
  - $\rightarrow$  do spectral fit for 1-ring momenta

## More Exotic Searches

#### [Takhistov+ (SK), PRL (2014)] [Takhistov+ (SK), PRL (2015)]

#### • <u>Results</u>:

#### Combined results for SK I- IV



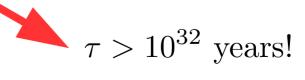
- <u>No significant excess</u>  $\rightarrow$  lifetime limit (90% C.L.)
  - $\rightarrow$  limit improved > 2 orders
  - → constrain Pati-Salam models

$$\tau_{spec.\ modes} > \text{few} \times 10^{32} \text{ yrs.}$$

## Summary of Super-K Results

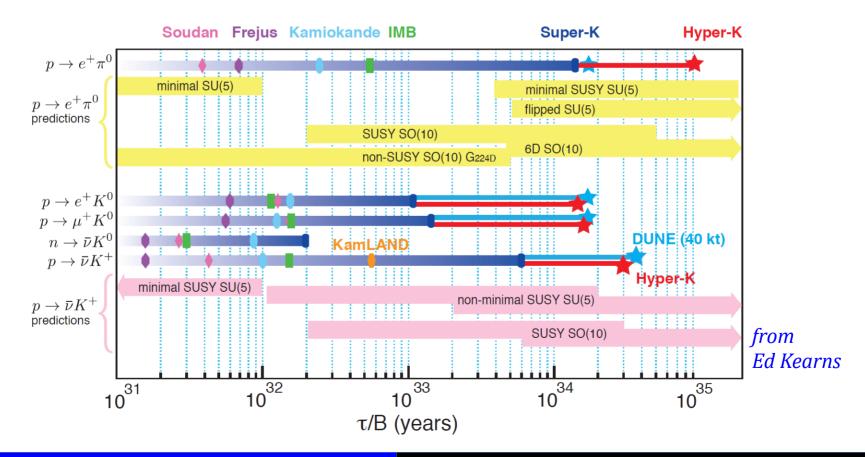
#### from S. Mine, TAUP (2015)

Decay mode	∆(B-L)	Lifetime lower limit at 90% CL (years)	Paper (previous result)
p→e⁺π <sup>0</sup>	0	(*) 1.67 × 10 <sup>34</sup>	( <u>PRD 85, 112001 (2012)</u> )
p→vK⁺	0(v), 2(v)	6.61 × 10 <sup>33</sup>	( <u>PRD 90, 072005 (2014)</u> )
p→μ⁺π⁰	0	(*) 7.78 × 10 <sup>33</sup>	( <u>PRD 85, 112001 (2012)</u> )
p→e⁺/μ⁺(η,ρ,ω)	0	(0.04-4.2) × 10 <sup>33</sup>	<u>PRD 85, 112001 (2012)</u>
p→µ⁺K⁰	0	1.6 × 10 <sup>33</sup>	PRD 86, 012006 (2012)
$n \rightarrow \overline{\nu} \pi^0$ , $p \rightarrow \overline{\nu} \pi^+$	0	$1.1  imes 10^{33}$ , $3.9  imes 10^{32}$	PRL 113, 121802 (2014)
p→e⁺/µ⁺vv	0(⊽v), 2(vv,vv)	1.7/2.2 × 10 <sup>32</sup>	<u>PRL 113, 101801 (2014)</u>
p→e⁺/µ⁺X	?	7.9/4.1 × 10 <sup>32</sup>	arXiv:1508.05530, accepted by PRL
n→νγ	0(v), 2(v)	5.5 × 10 <sup>32</sup>	arXiv:1508.05530, accepted by PRL
pp→K⁺K⁺	2	1.7 × 10 <sup>32</sup>	PRL 112, 131803 (2014)
pp→ $\pi^+\pi^+$ , pn→ $\pi^+\pi^0$ , nn→ $\pi^0\pi^0$	2	7.22 × 10 <sup>31</sup> , 1,70 × 10 <sup>32</sup> , 4.04 × 10 <sup>32</sup>	<u>PRD 91, 072009 (2015)</u>
np→(e⁺,μ⁺,τ⁺)ν	0(v), 2(v)	(0.22-5.5) × 10 <sup>32</sup>	arXiv:1508.05530, accepted by PRL
n-n oscillation	2	1.9 × 10 <sup>32</sup>	<u>PRD 91, 072006 (2015)</u>



### Future

- <u>Future</u>: Hyper-K (+ DUNE/LBNF)
- Hyper-K ≈ SK x 20, improved technology
- Large uncertainty in predictions, however ...
  - $\rightarrow$  approaching interesting regime of  $\tau \sim 10^{35}$  yrs.
  - $\rightarrow$  will greatly benefit from large volume of Hyper-K



## Conclusions

- Baryon number violation appears in many contexts
- Connection between nucleon decay and other physics highlights it as a unique experimental window to high energies
- Uncertainty in theory predictions requires a broad search program and Super-K is the best detector for this

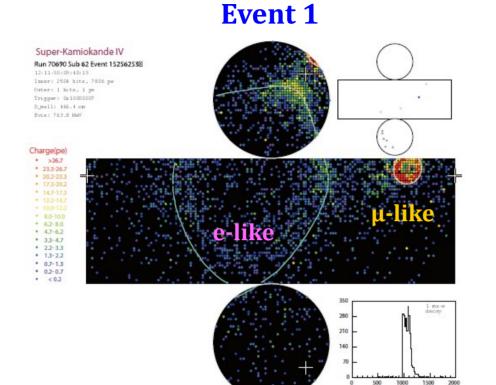
 $\rightarrow$  new future analyses (e.g.  $n \rightarrow \nu \nu \nu, pp \rightarrow e^+e^+...$ )

• Approaching interesting limit range of  $\tau \sim 10^{35}$  yrs.

 $\rightarrow$  exciting times ahead (Hyper-K + DUNE)

# Appendix

# Appendix: 2 events passing selection in $\mathbf{p} ightarrow \mu^+ \pi^0$



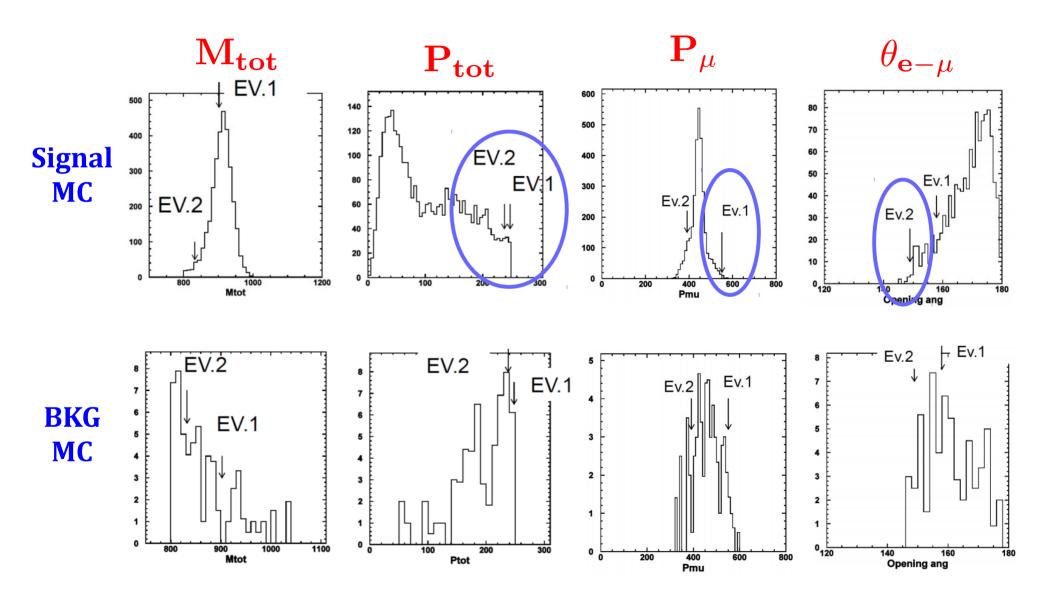
$$(M_p, P_{tot}) = (902.5, 248.0) \text{ MeV}$$
  
Wall = 466.0 cm  
# rings = 2  
 $P_e = 374.9 \text{ MeV/c}$   
 $P_\mu = 551.1 \text{ MeV/c}$   
 $\theta_{e-\mu} = 157.9$ 

#### **Event 2** Super-Kamiokande IV Run 72130 Sub 1162 Event 2855998508 13-11-22:11:50:56 Laner: 2400 hits, 7793 pe Oster: 2 hits, 0 pe Trigger: 0:1000000 1\_wall: 351.6 cm Bris: 669.3 HeV Charge(pe) \* >26.7 • 23.3-26.7 • 20.2-23.3 u-like • 62-8.0 e-like \* 4.7-6.2 \* 33-47 • 22-33 • 13-22 • 0.7-1.3 • 0.2-0.7 + <0.2 1 mi-e decay 320 "fake ring" 500 1000 1500 2000 Times (ns)

 $(M_p, P_{tot}) = (832.4, 237.9) \text{ MeV}$ Wall = 351.6 cm # rings = 2  $P_e = 460.5 \text{ MeV/c}$  $P_\mu = 391.3 \text{ MeV/c}$  $\theta_{e-\mu} = 148.9$ 

Times (ns)

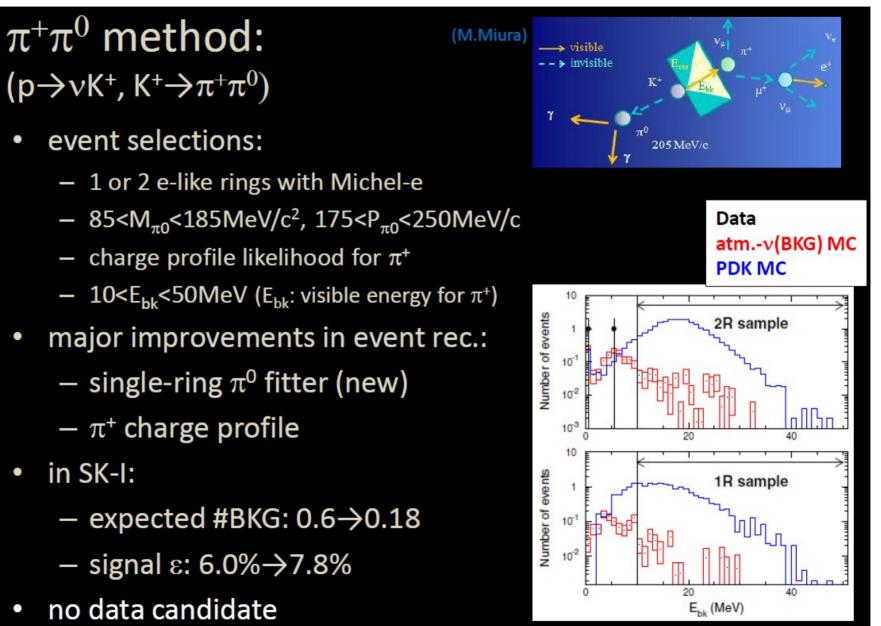
# Appendix: 2 events passing selection in ${f p} o \mu^+ \pi^0$



plots from M. Miura

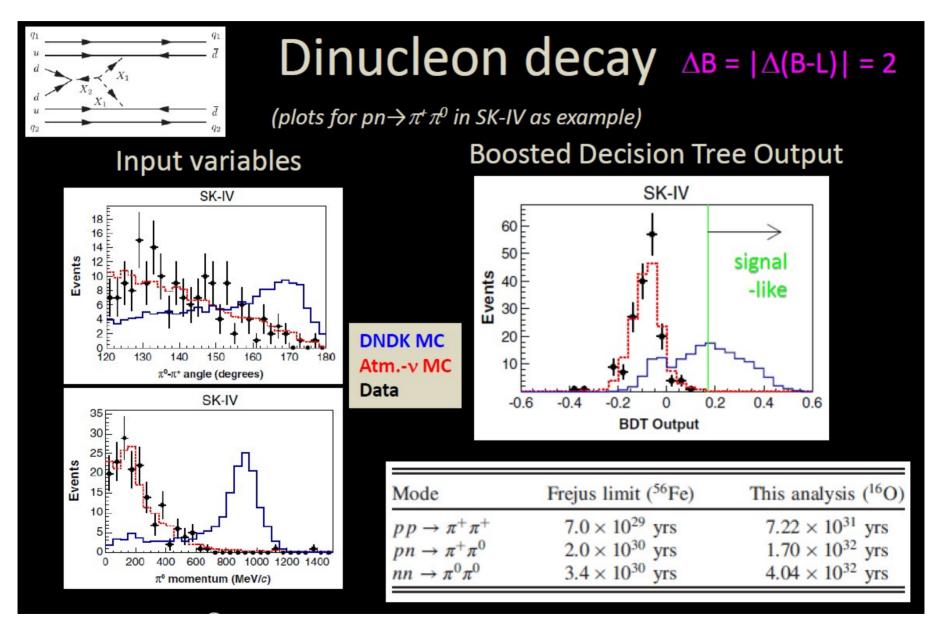
## Appendix: Search (C) for $\mathbf{p} ightarrow u \mathbf{K}^+$

#### from S. Mine, Moriond (2015)



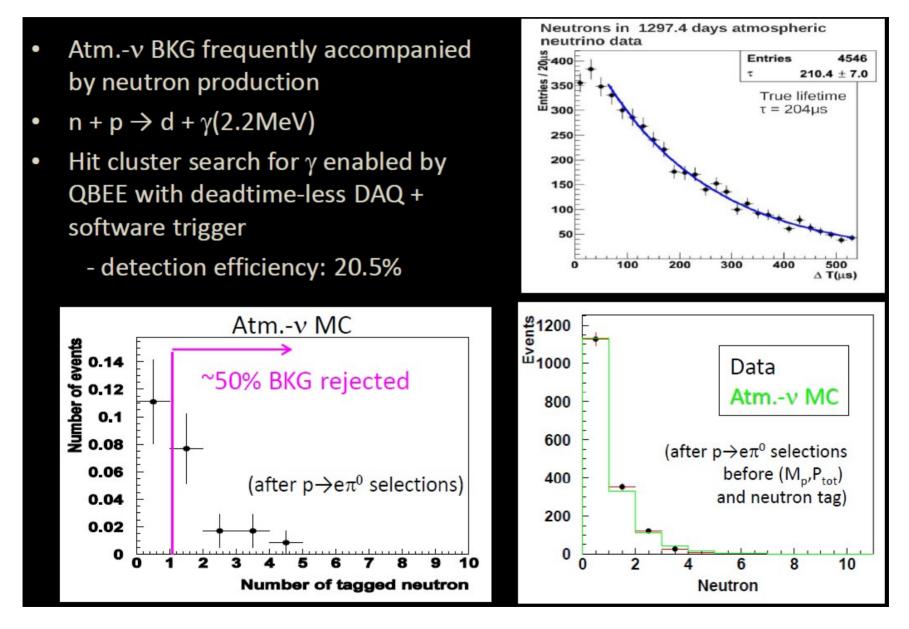
### Appendix: Dinucleon Decay to Pions

from S. Mine, TAUP (2015)



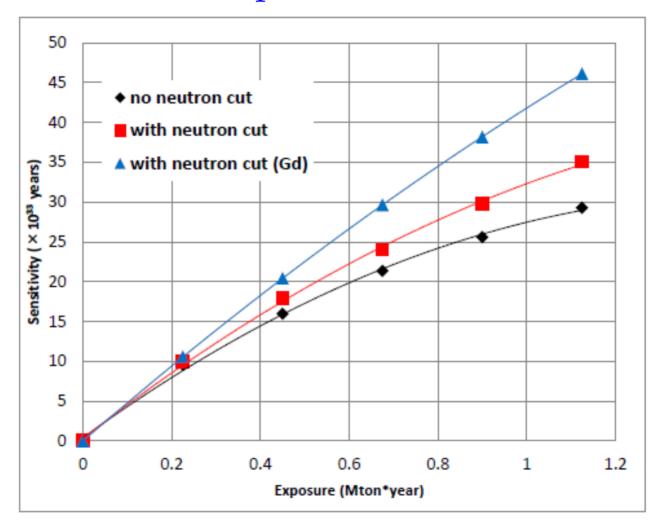
## Appendix: Neutron Tagging in SK-IV

#### from S. Mine, TAUP (2015)



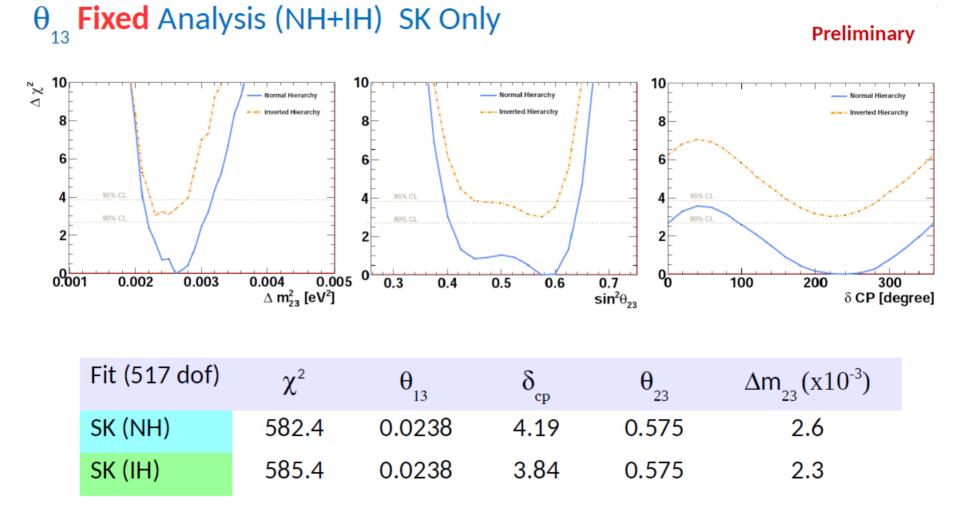
## Appendix: Proton Decay w/ Gadolinium

 $p \to e^+ \pi^0$ 



## Appendix: Atmospheric Oscillation Results (SK)

#### from R. Wendell, ICRC (2015)

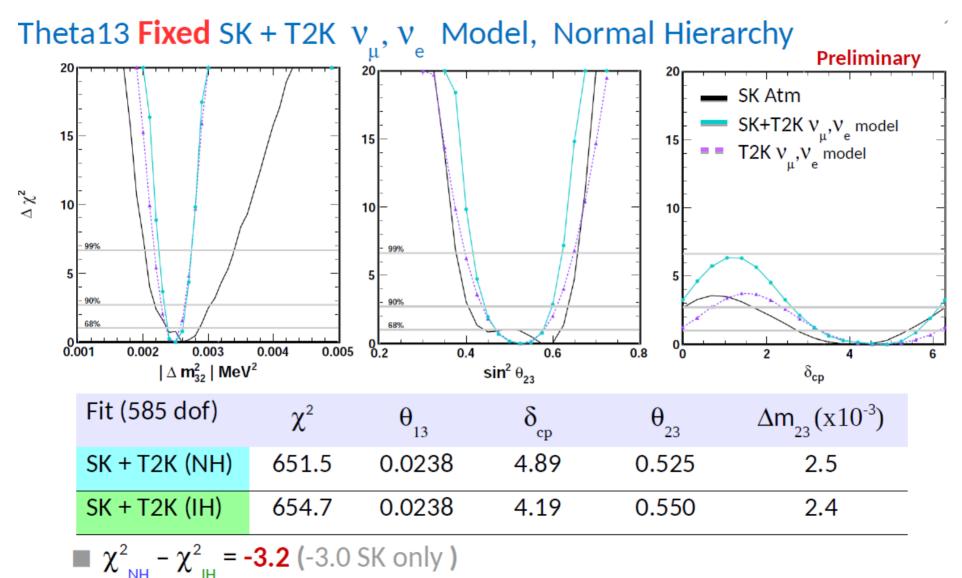


Offset in these curves shows the difference in the hierarchies

Normal hierarchy favored at:  $\chi^2_{NH} - \chi^2_{H} = -3.0$ , not significant

## Appendix: Atmospheric Oscillation Results (SK+T2K)

from R. Wendell, ICRC (2015)



**CP** Conservation (sin $\delta_{m}$  = 0) allowed at (at least) 90% C.L. for both hierarchies

## Appendix: Sterile Neutrinos

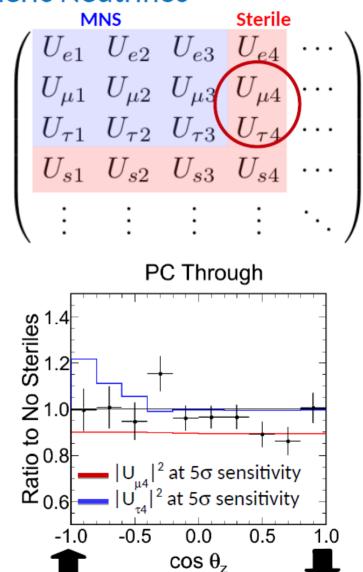
from R. Wendell, ICRC (2015)

### Sterile Neutrino Oscillations in Atmospheric Neutrinos

- Sterile Neutrino searches at SK are independent of the sterile  $\Delta m^2$  and the number sterile neutrinos U = U
  - 3+1 and 3+N models have the same signatures in atmospheric neutrinos
  - For  $\Delta m_s^2 \sim 1 \text{ eV}^2$  oscillations appear fast:  $< \sin^2 \Delta m^2 L/E > \sim 0.5$

## ■ | U<sub>µ4</sub> |<sup>2</sup>

- Induces a decrease in event rate of µlike data of all energies and zenith angles
- | U<sub>τ4</sub> |<sup>2</sup>
  - Shape distortion of angular distribution of higher energy μ-like data



## Appendix: Sterile Neutrinos

from R. Wendell, ICRC (2015) **Sterile Oscillations Results** PRD.91.052019 (2015)  $10^{2}$ Unitarity PRL. 52. 1384 (1984) 0.8 10  $\Delta m^2_{41}$  (eV<sup>2</sup>) 0.6 IU 4 MiniBooNE + 0.4 SciBooNE 1E **PRD86**. 052009 (2012) 0.2 SK SK 0 10<sup>-2</sup> 10<sup>-3</sup> 10 10<sup>-1</sup> 10<sup>-3</sup> 10<sup>-2</sup>  $10^{-1}$  $|\bigcup_{\mu 4}|^2$  $|U||^2$ 

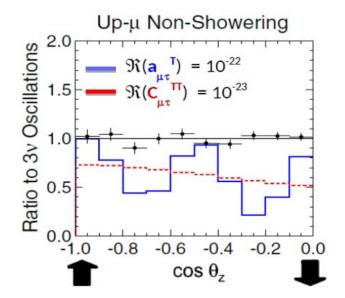
Turning off sterile matter effects while preserving standard three-flavor oscillations provides a pure measurement of | U<sub>114</sub> |<sup>2</sup>

- Using sterile matter effects, but decoupling v<sub>e</sub> oscillations provides a joint measurement of  $| U_{\mu 4} |^2$  and  $| U_{\tau 4} |^2$ , with a slightly biased estimate of the former
- Using SK-I+II+III+IV data (4438 days)
   | U<sub>µ4</sub> |<sup>2</sup> < 0.041 at 90% C.L. | U<sub>τ4</sub> |<sup>2</sup> < 0.18 at 90% C.L.</li>

$$\begin{split} H &= UMU^{\dagger} + V_e + H_{\rm LV} \\ H_{\rm LV} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a_{e\mu}^T & a_{e\tau}^T \\ (a_{e\mu}^T)^* & 0 & a_{\mu\tau}^T \\ (a_{e\tau}^T)^* & (a_{\mu\tau}^T)^* & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &- \frac{4E}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c_{e\mu}^{TT} & c_{e\tau}^{TT} \\ (c_{e\tau}^{TT})^* & 0 & c_{\mu\tau}^{TT} \\ (c_{e\tau}^{TT})^* & (c_{\mu\tau}^{TT})^* & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{split}$$

Coefficient	Unit	d	CPT	Oscillation effect
Isotropic				
$a_{\alpha\beta}^T$	GeV	3	Odd	$\propto L$
$c_{\alpha\beta}^{TT}$		4	Even	$\propto LE$

from S. Mine, Moriond (2015)



LV	LV Parameter 95% Upper Limi		Best Fit	No LV $\Delta \chi^2$	Previous Limit		
еµ	$\operatorname{Re}\left(a^{T}\right)$	$1.8\times 10^{-23}~{\rm GeV}$	$1.0\times 10^{-23}~{\rm GeV}$	1.4	$4.2 \times 10^{-20}$ GeV [	[51]	
	$\operatorname{Im}(a^{T})$	$1.8\times 10^{-23}~{\rm GeV}$	$4.6\times 10^{-24}~{\rm GeV}$	1.4	4.2 × 10 Gev [	[91]	
	$\operatorname{Re}\left(c^{TT}\right)$	$1.1  imes 10^{-26}$	$1.0\times 10^{-28}$	0.0	$9.6 \times 10^{-20}$	[51]	
	$\operatorname{Im}\left(c^{TT}\right)$	$1.1  imes 10^{-26}$	$1.0 imes 10^{-28}$		5.0 × 10		
	$\operatorname{Re}\left(a^{T}\right)$	$4.1\times 10^{-23}~{\rm GeV}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-24} {\rm ~GeV}$	0.0	$7.8  imes 10^{-20} { m ~GeV}$	[59]	
$e\tau$	$\operatorname{Im}\left(a^{T}\right)$	$2.8\times 10^{-23}~{\rm GeV}$	$1.0\times 10^{-28}~{\rm GeV}$	0.0	7.8 × 10 Gev [	[92]	
er	$\operatorname{Re}\left(c^{TT}\right)$	$1.2  imes 10^{-24}$	$1.0 imes 10^{-28}$	0.3	$1.3  imes 10^{-17}$	[52]	
	$\operatorname{Im}(c^{TT})$	$1.4  imes 10^{-24}$	$4.6  imes 10^{-25}$		1.3 × 10		
	$\operatorname{Re}\left(a^{T}\right)$	$6.5\times 10^{-24}~{\rm GeV}$	$3.2\times 10^{-24}~{\rm GeV}$	0.9			
	$\operatorname{Im}(a^{T})$	$5.1\times 10^{-24}~{\rm GeV}$	$1.0\times 10^{-28}~{\rm GeV}$	0.5	_		
$\mu \tau$	$\operatorname{Re}\left(c^{TT}\right)$	$5.8\times10^{-27}$	$1.0\times 10^{-28}$	0.1			
	$\operatorname{Im}\left(c^{TT}\right)$	$5.6\times10^{-27}$	$1.0\times 10^{-27}$	0.1	_		

no evidence of Lorentz violation observed (4,438days ~ 274kt·year)

- set limits for the first time in neutrino  $\mu\tau$  sector of SME
- improved existing limits by up to 7 orders of magnitude

## Appendix: Indirect DM Searches (solar WIMPs)

#### [Choi+ (SK), PRL (2015)]

