

# Neutrino Experiments

## Lecture I

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# Goals of this Course



- 1<sup>st</sup> Goal: give you an understanding of how to make measurements of a particle that is
  - Neutral
  - Almost never interacts
- Physics requires these measurements to be:
  - Over many orders of magnitude of energy
  - Over many orders of magnitude of distance distance
- Many experiments out there to describe
  - Solar, Reactor, Atmospheric, Accelerator-based
  - Absolute and Majorana Mass

# Schedule



- Lecture 1 (9 July)
  - What do we know how to measure right now?
  - What neutrino sources are available?
  - How do neutrinos interact in matter?
- Lecture 2 (10 July)
  - How do non-neutrino particles interact in matter?
  - What neutrino detectors are out there?
- Lecture 3 (11 July)
  - Oscillation Measurements
- Lecture 4 (12 July)
  - Absolute Mass and Majorana Mass Measurements



# What are the parameters we want to measure?



## 1. Neutrino Masses

- A. Absolute
- B. Relative


## 2. Nature of Neutrinos: Majorana or Dirac?

## 3. Neutrino Mixing Matrix

- 1. 3 rotation angles and 1 CP-violating phase
- 2. Is the matrix unitary?
- 3. Is this a 3x3 matrix, or are there other generations out there?



# What are the parameters that we want to measure?



## 1. Neutrino Masses

*A. Absolute*

B. Relative


*To be covered Friday*

## *2. Nature of Neutrinos: Majorana or Dirac?*

## 3. Neutrino Mixing Matrix

1. 3 rotation angles and 1 CP-violating phase
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# What are the parameters that we want to measure?



## 1. Neutrino Masses

A. *Absolute*

B. Relative

*To be covered today  
and tomorrow*

2. *Nature of Neutrinos: Majorana or Dirac?*

## 3. Neutrino Mixing Matrix

1. 3 rotation angles and 1 CP-violating phase
2. Is the matrix unitary?
3. Is this a 3x3 matrix, or are there other generations out there?

# Do we really understand flavor?

- Simplistic way of describing mixing matrix

Lesson Learned from CKM: 3 mixing angles and a phase

Call them  $\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta$  if  $s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}, c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$ , then

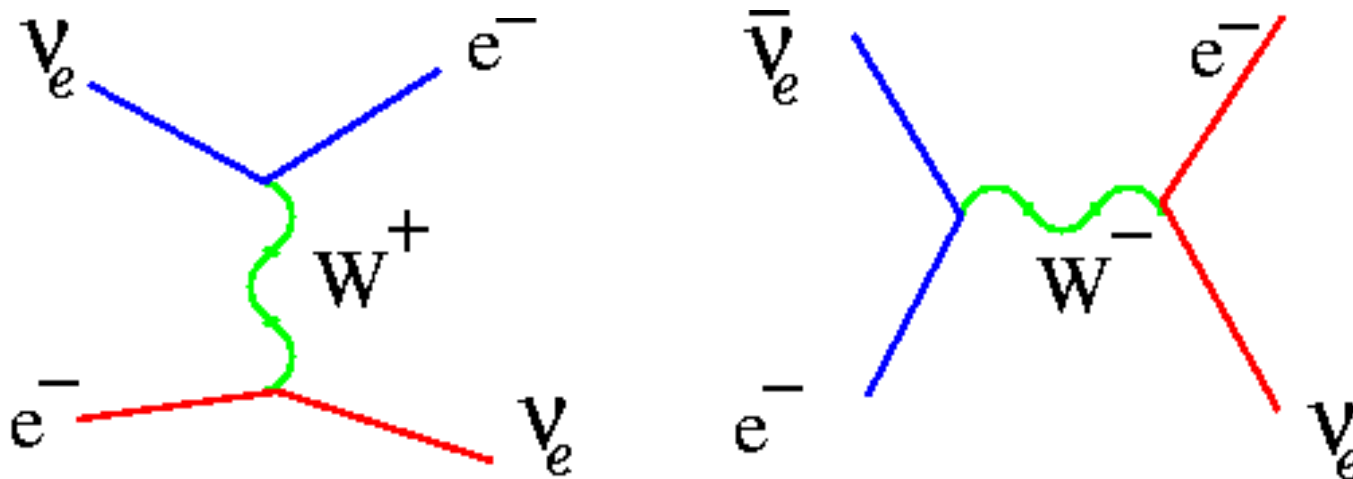
$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{-i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U = \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Earth} \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Reactor} \\ \text{and/or} \\ \text{Accelerator} \\ \nu_e \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Sun} \end{array} \right)$$



# Additional Complication: Matter Effects

- The oscillation probability changes differently for electron neutrinos vs antineutrinos when they propagate through matter in a straightforward way



Wolfenstein,  
PRD (1978)

- Can't treat neutrinos propagating through earth simply as mass eigenstates, have to take into account electron flavor
- This would give an apparent CP violation just because the earth is not CP-symmetric

# $\nu$ Oscillation Probabilities

- $\nu_\mu$  Disappearance:  $1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{23} \sin^2(\Delta m_{32}^2 L / 4E)$
- $\nu_e$  Disappearance:

$$P_{\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2(\Delta m_{31}^2 L / 4E) - \cos^4 \theta_{13} \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2(\Delta m_{21}^2 L / 4E)$$

- $\nu_e$  appearance in a  $\nu_\mu$  beam: even more complicated...

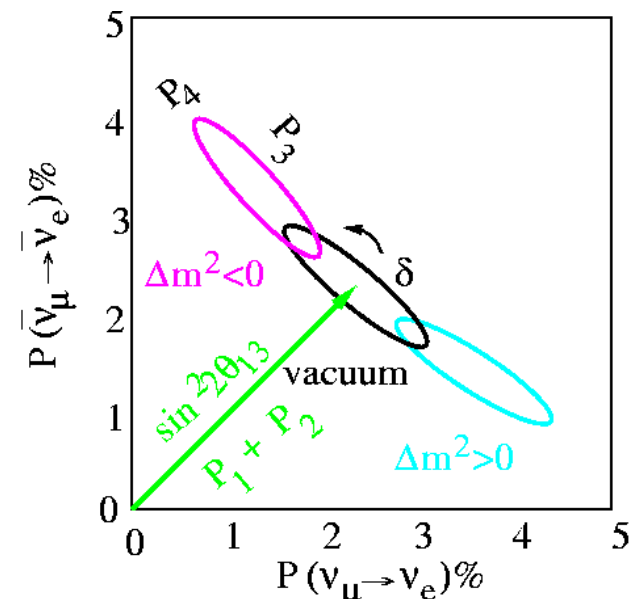
- $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e) = P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4$

$$P_1 = \sin^2 \theta_{23} \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \left( \frac{\Delta_{13}}{B_\pm} \right)^2 \sin^2 \frac{B_\pm L}{2}$$

$$P_2 = \cos^2 \theta_{23} \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \left( \frac{\Delta_{12}}{A} \right)^2 \sin^2 \frac{AL}{2}$$

$$P_3 = J \cos \delta \left( \frac{\Delta_{12}}{A} \right) \left( \frac{\Delta_{13}}{B_\pm} \right) \cos \frac{\Delta_{13}L}{2} \sin \frac{AL}{2} \sin \frac{B_\pm L}{2}$$

$$P_4 = \mp J \sin \delta \left( \frac{\Delta_{12}}{A} \right) \left( \frac{\Delta_{13}}{B_\pm} \right) \sin \frac{\Delta_{13}L}{2} \sin \frac{AL}{2} \sin \frac{B_\pm L}{2}$$



# To measure probabilities, need...



- Neutrino Flavor
- Distance between creation and detection
- Neutrino Energy
  - No source we can use today is monochromatic!
  - Initial state: neutrino plus nucleon or electron
  - Final state: a bunch of stuff you only measure so well, sometimes you only measure the charged lepton
- Neutrino or Antineutrino?
  - Accelerator-based beams are always a mixture of both
  - Atmospheric neutrinos are also a mixture
  - Reactors and the sun are only one or the other



# Measuring Oscillation Probabilities



For a given number of signal  $\nu_x$  events in a detector,  
Assuming you are starting with a source of  $\nu_y$ :

$$N = \varphi_{\nu_y} \sigma_{\nu_x} P(\nu_y \rightarrow \nu_x) \varepsilon_x M$$

$\phi$ =flux,  $\sigma$ = cross section  $\varepsilon$ =efficiency  $M$ =detector mass

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_x) = \frac{N}{\varphi_{\nu_\mu} \sigma_{\nu_x} \varepsilon_x M}$$

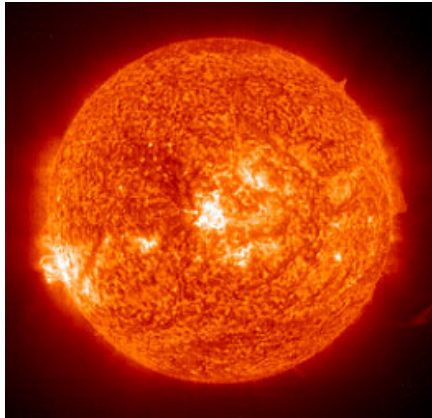
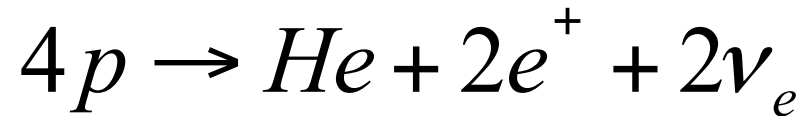
# Neutrino Sources



- Key Parameters:
  - Flux
  - Energy
  - Baseline(s) available
  - Neutrino Beam Flavor and Helicity Composition
  - Sensitive to Matter Effects?
    - What do the neutrinos travel through between production and detection

# How does the Sun Shine?

A Helium nucleus is produced by the fusion of 4 Hydrogen nuclei;



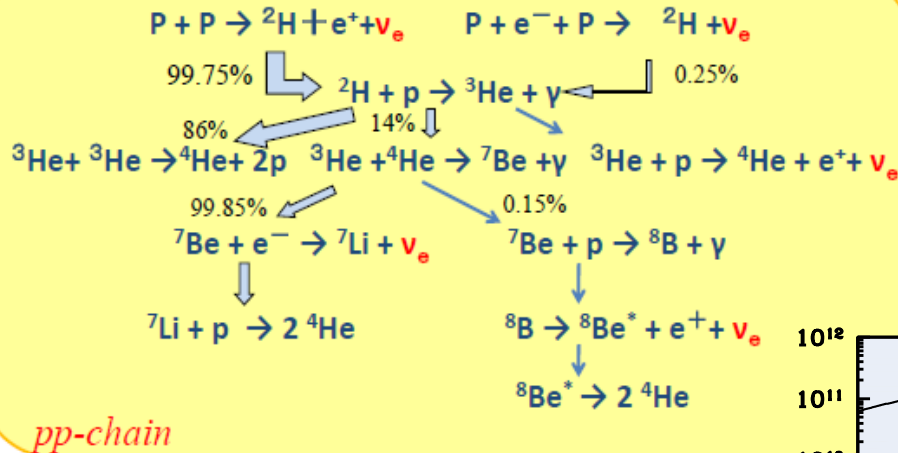
This reaction produces about 27 MeV energy.  
Then, the total neutrino flux on the Earth is;

$$\begin{aligned} flux &= \frac{1}{4\pi R^2} \times \frac{L_{sun}}{27 MeV} \times 2\nu_e \\ &\quad (L_{sun} = 3.86 \times 10^{33} \text{ erg / sec}) \\ &= 6 \times 10^{10} \nu_e / cm^2 / sec \end{aligned}$$

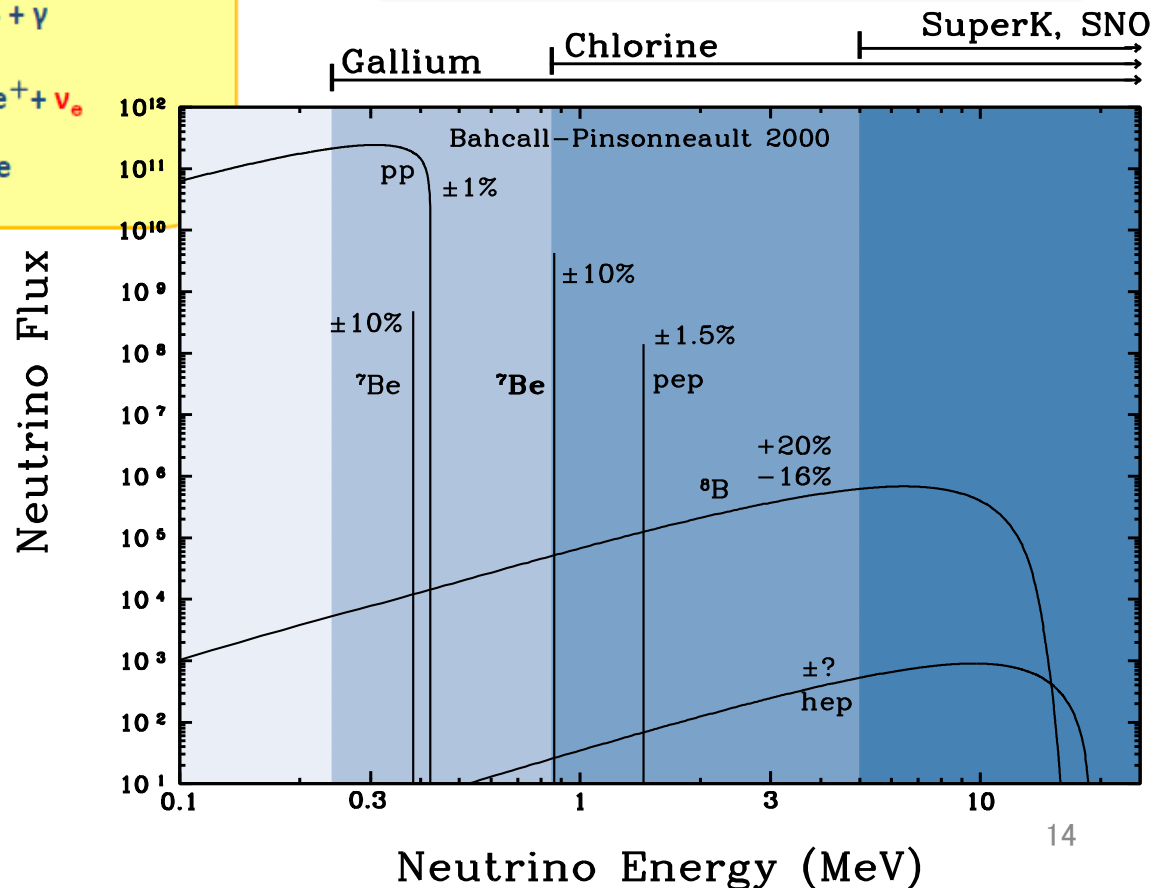
*Observing neutrinos from the sun is direct proof that the generation of the energy in the Sun is due to nuclear fusion.*



# Solar Neutrino Energy Spectrum



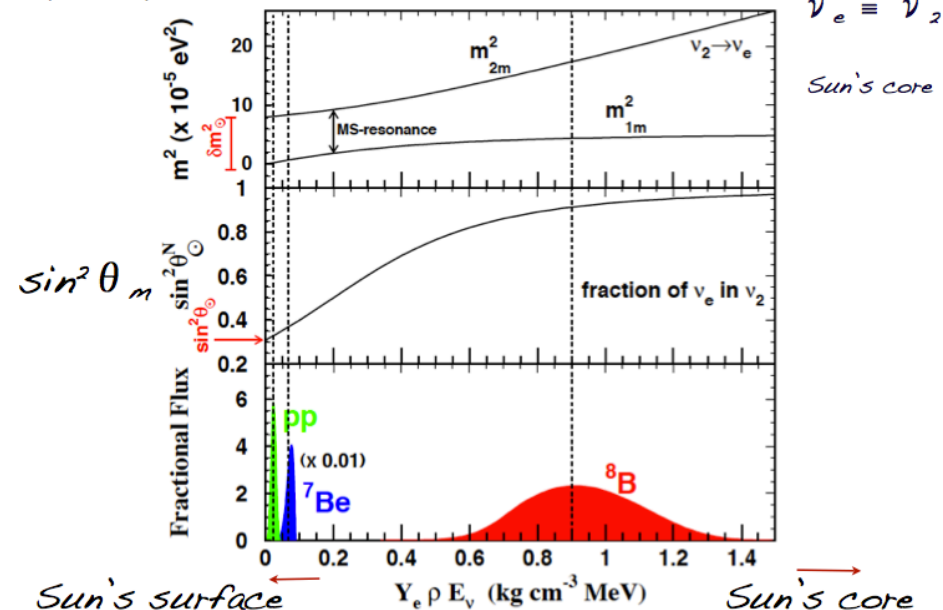
However, in reality, 4 protons cannot make a Helium nucleus at a time...



# Other Beam Parameters

- Baselines Available: all close to  $10^8 \text{ km}$ 
  - Distance to sun changes based on the season
  - Day/night asymmetry changes whether or not  $\nu$ 's went through the earth before detection
- Beam Composition  $\nu_e$
- Matter effects
  - See Renata's lecture from yesterday
  - $^8\text{B}$   $\nu$ 's feel matter effects from sun

$$P(\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e) = \cos^2 \theta_m \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta_m \sin^2 \theta$$



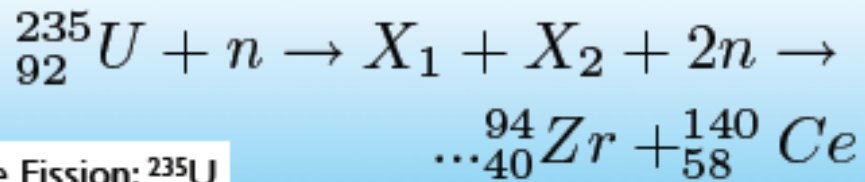
# Experimental Challenges with Solar Neutrino Measurements

- Neutrinos are very low in energy
  - Very few interactions are accessible
  - Cannot make final state muons or taus, so only neutral current or  $\nu_e$  charged current interactions are available
  - Different detectors have different energy thresholds, most neutrinos from sun not visible by most techniques
  - Cannot turn off the sun to measure backgrounds in the detector
  - “Standard Solar Model” had many tunable parameters...flux predictions were suspect for a long time.

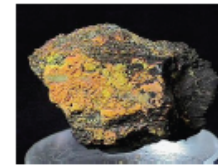


# Neutrinos from a Reactor

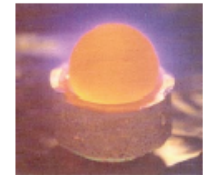
- Like the sun, but fission instead of fusion



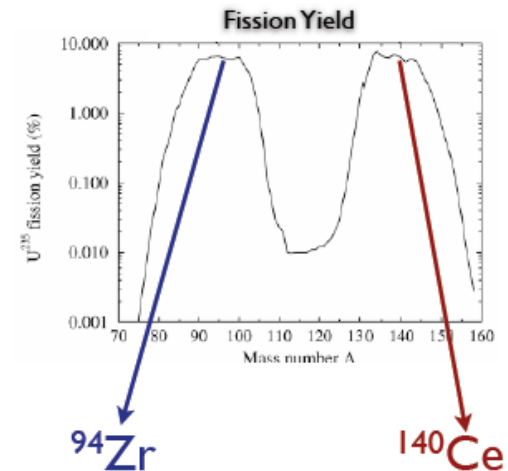
Sample Fission:  ${}^{235}\text{U}$



${}^{235}\text{U}$

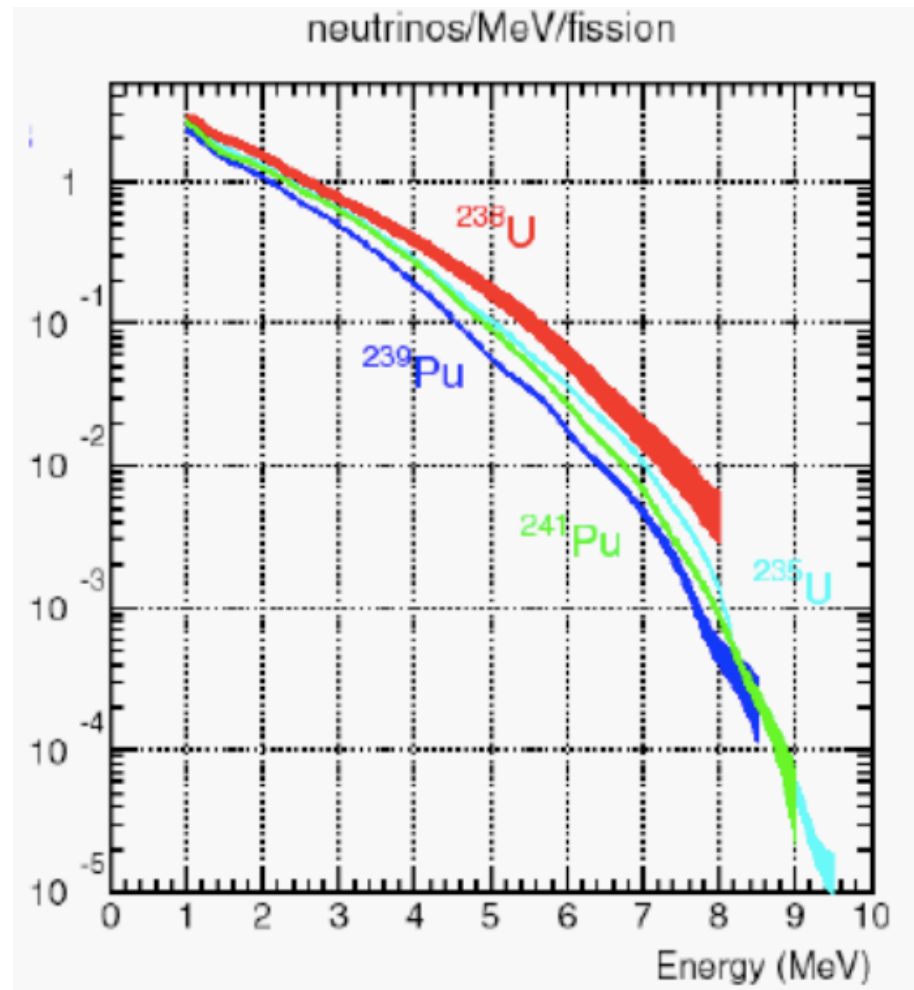


${}^{239}\text{Pu}$



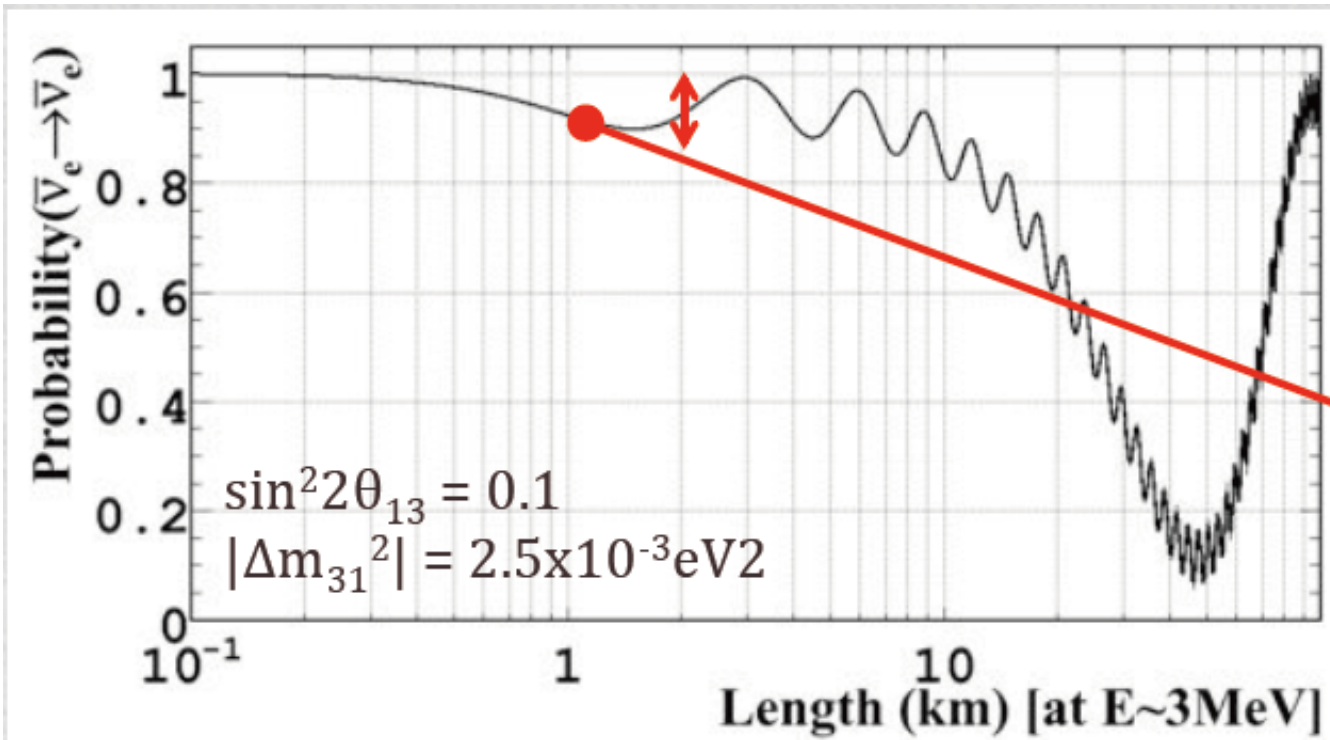
# Energy Spectrum from Reactors

- Several processes occurring during the fuel cycle of a reactor, with different yields and energy spectra



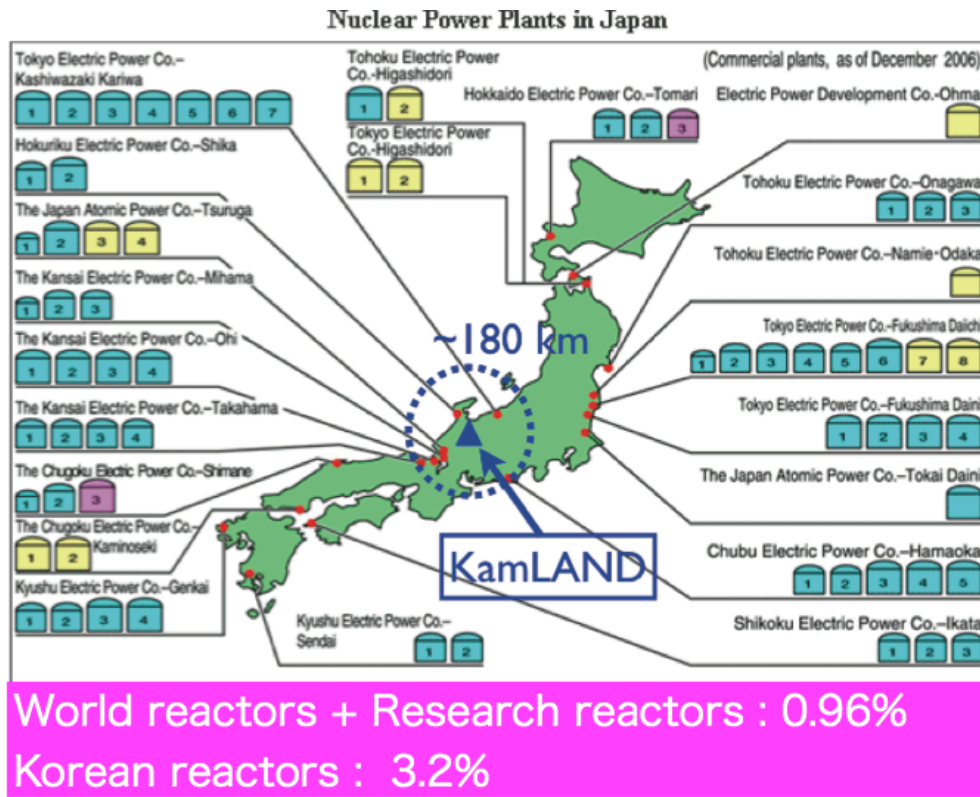
# Baselines available

- Reactors send out neutrinos in all directions, so you could put detectors at any baseline you chose
- Different physics can be reached at different baselines

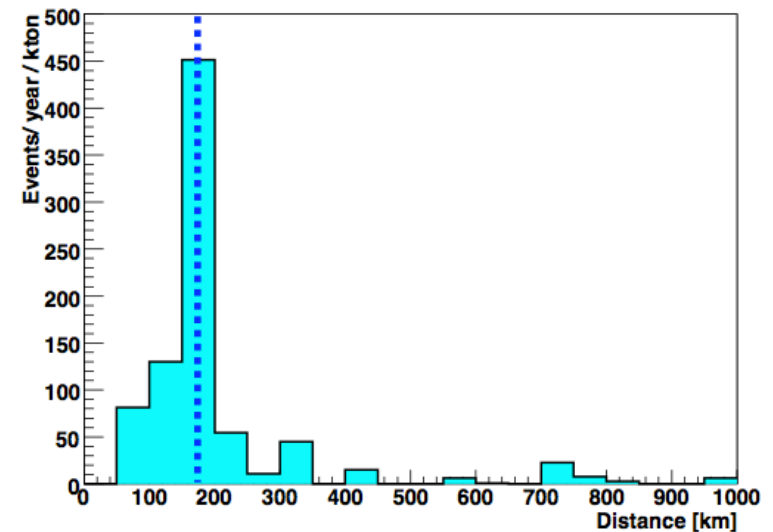


# Extreme Example of Long baseline

- Kamland experiment: sees neutrinos from large array of reactors in Japan



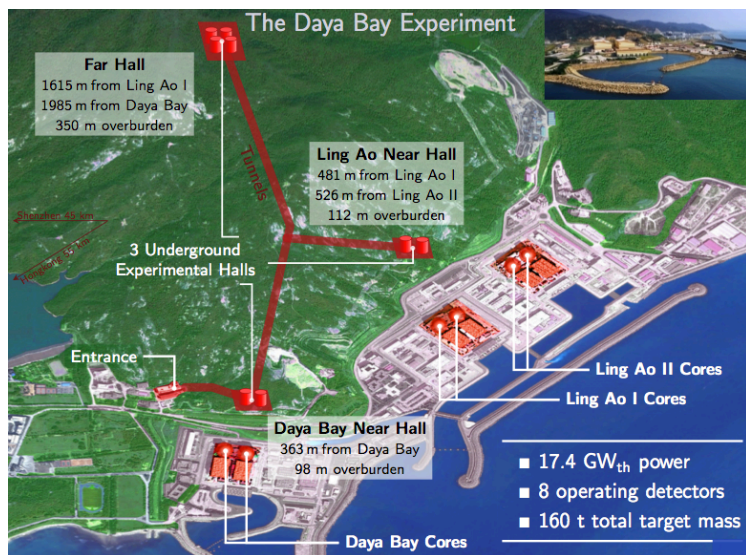
Effective baseline  
~180 km



Ichimura,  $\nu$ 2008

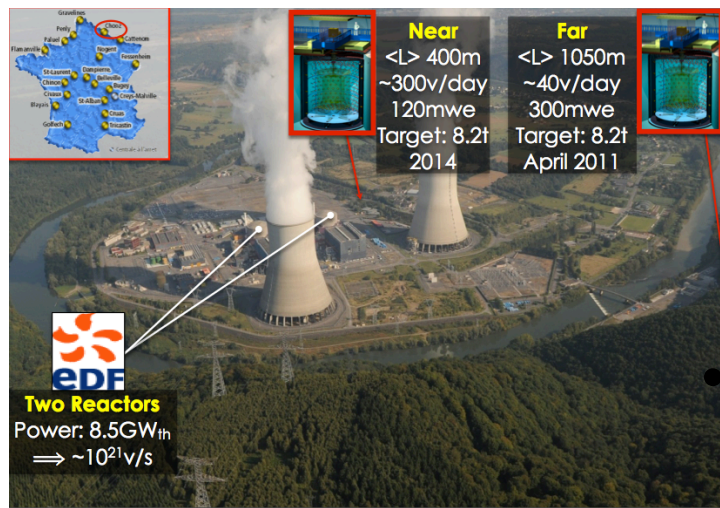
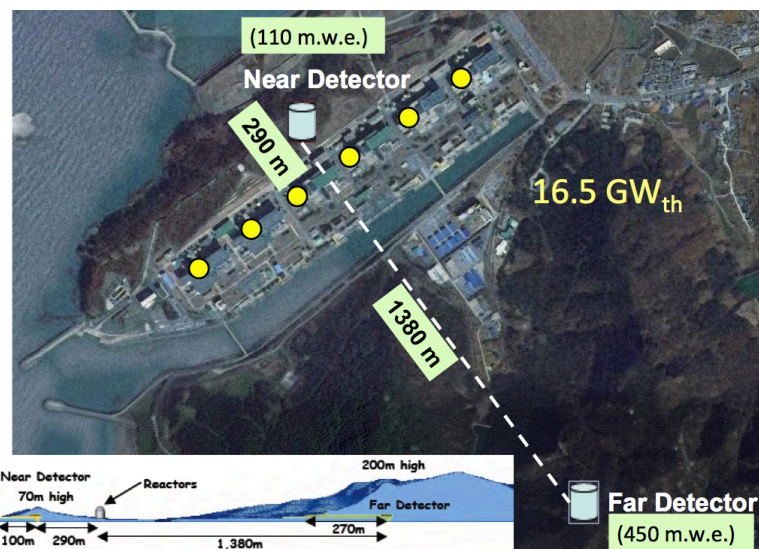


# Shorter Baselines used



Daya Bay:  
3 cores,  
3 halls,  
baselines  
of  
1.6-2.0km

Reno: 6 reactor cores, 2  
halls, baseline(s) ~1.3km

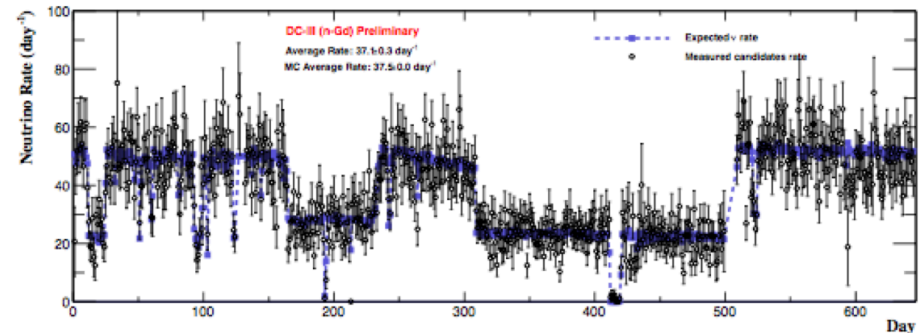


• Double Chooz: 2 cores,  
2 halls at 0.4 and 1.0km

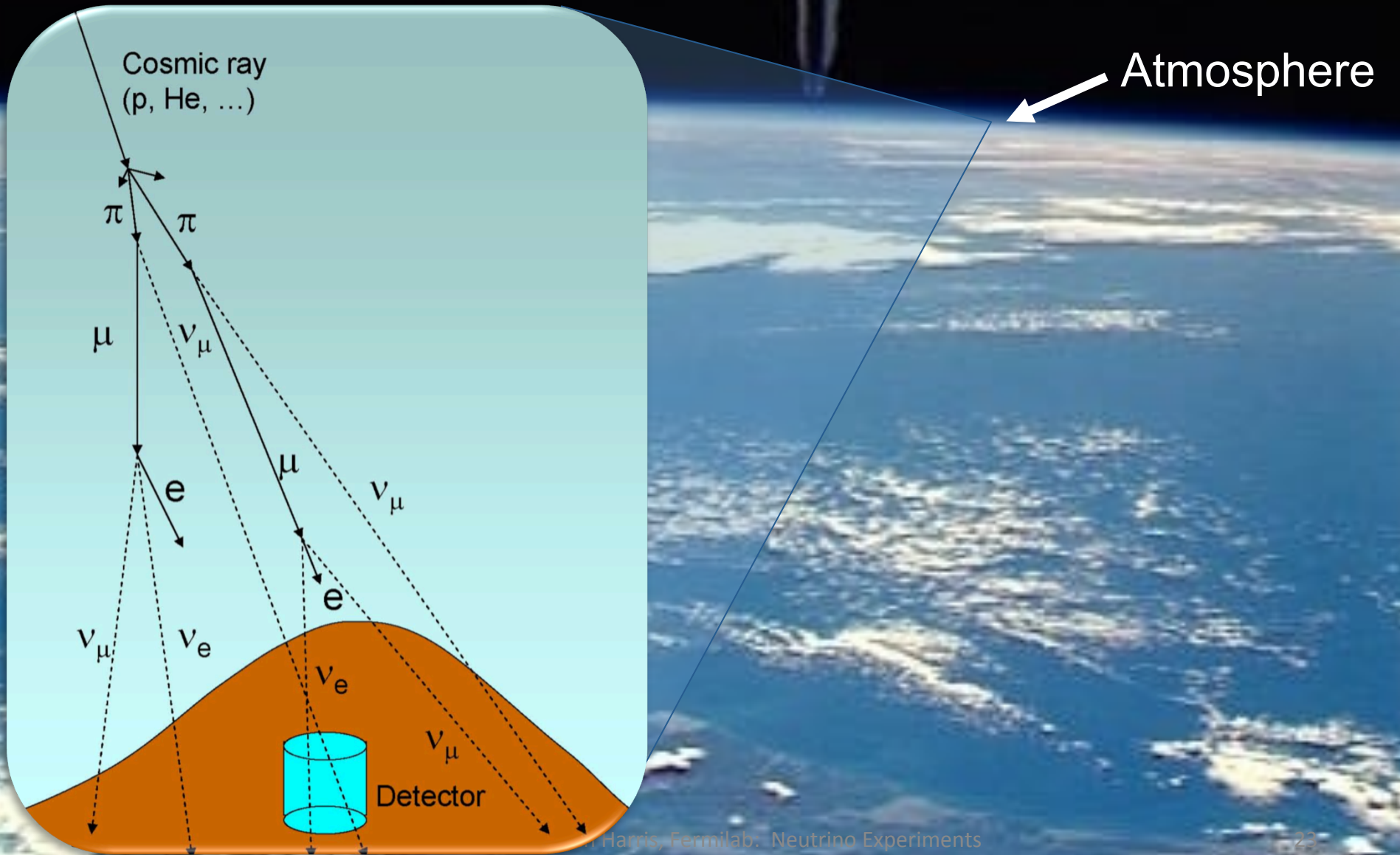


# Experimental Challenges with Reactor Fluxes

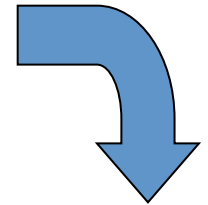
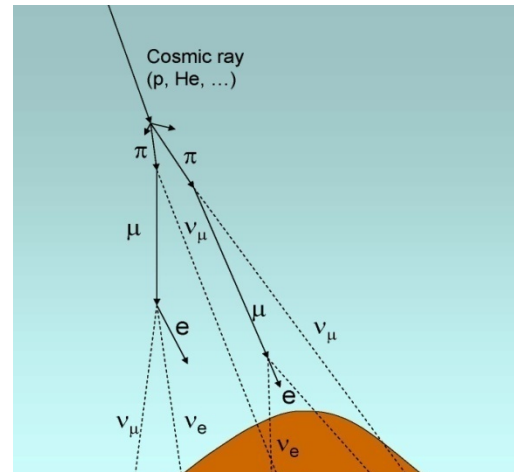
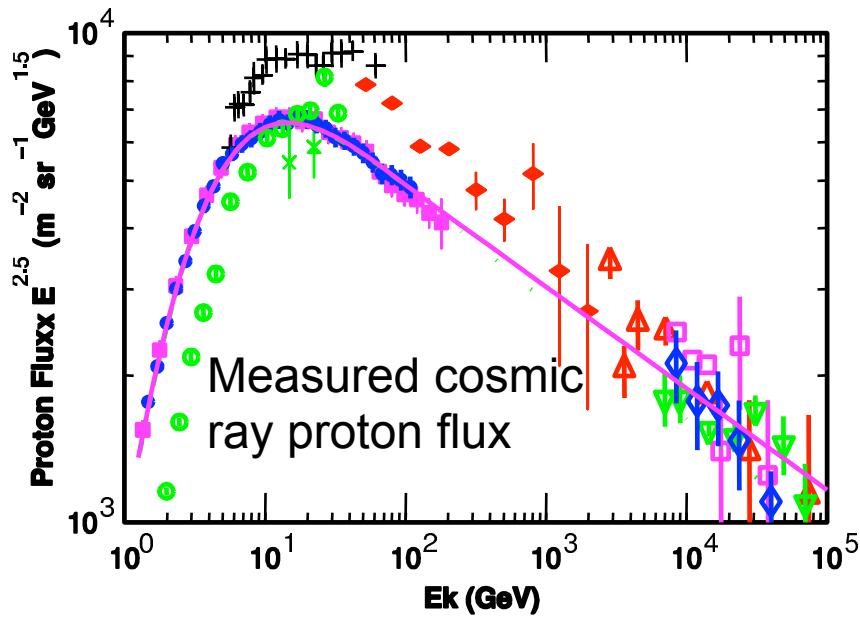
- Flux changes over time because of fuel cycle
  - Double Chooz( $\nu$ 2014) at right
- Have several cores, not all at the same distance from the detector
- Energy deposited in detector is so low you can't possibly figure out original direction of neutrino
- Hard to determine backgrounds since reactors are always on (usually), signal rates very different between near and far detectors



# Atmospheric Neutrinos

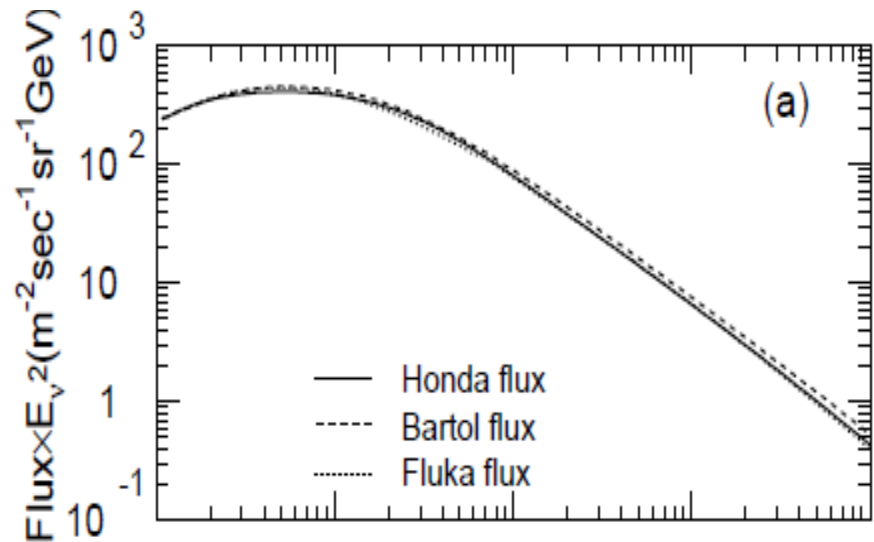


# From Cosmic Rays to Neutrinos



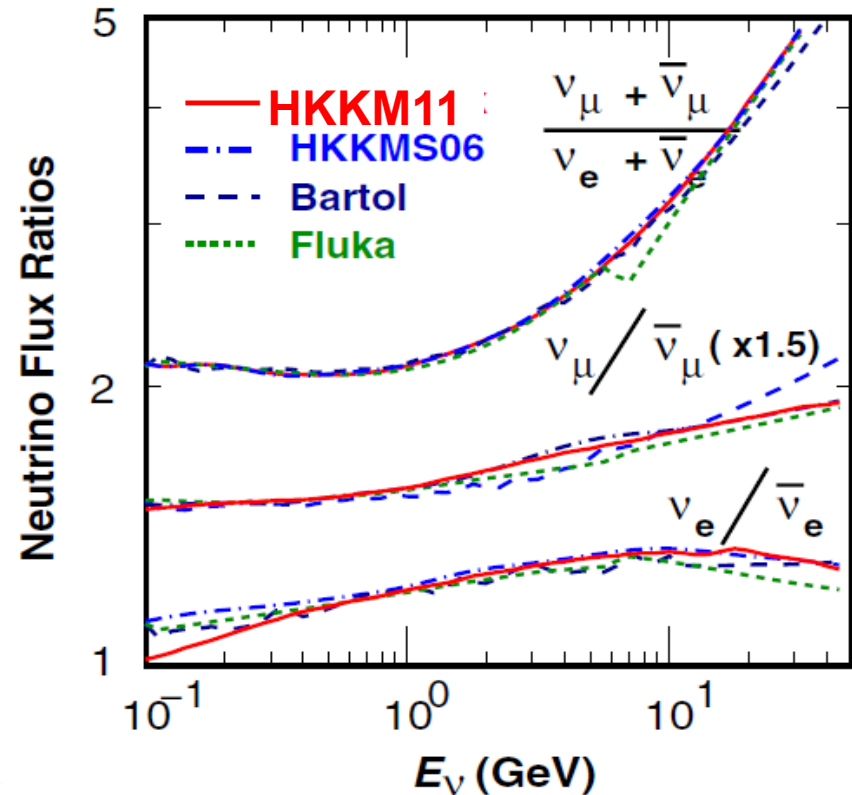
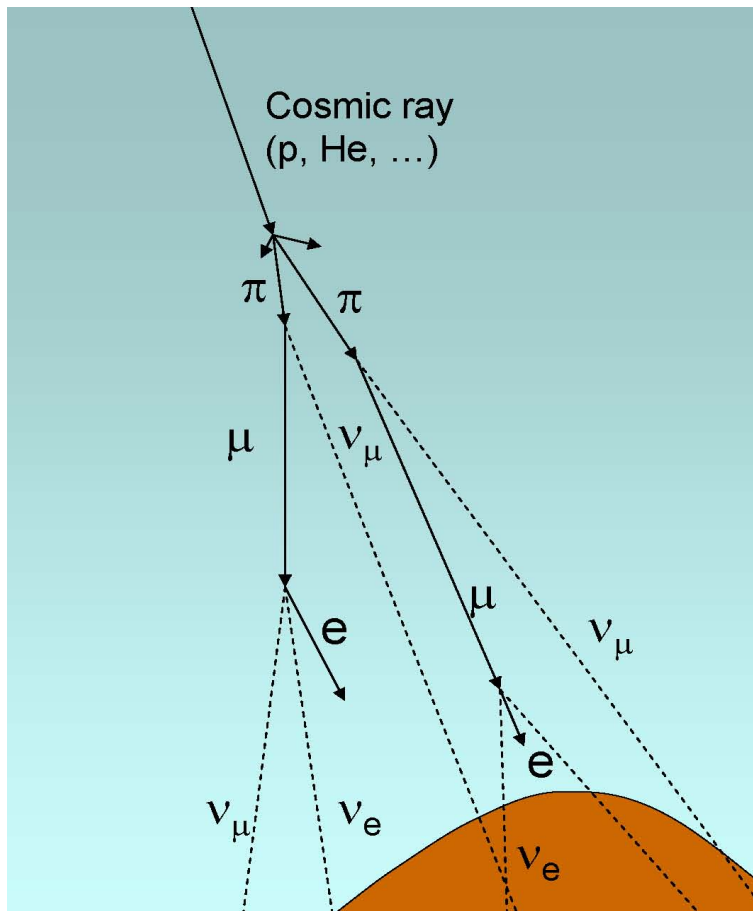
Carrying out the calculation  
all over the Earth

- + solar activity
- + geomagnetic field
- + (p+Nucleon) int.
- + decay of  $\pi$  or K



# What is known well

$$(\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu)/(\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e)$$



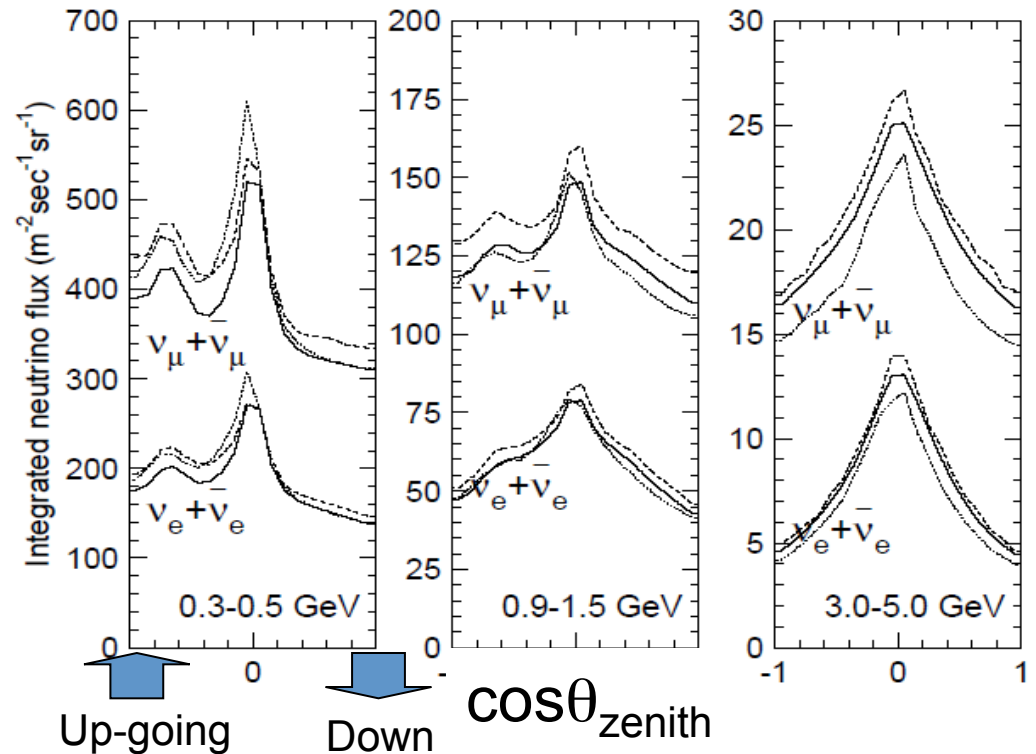
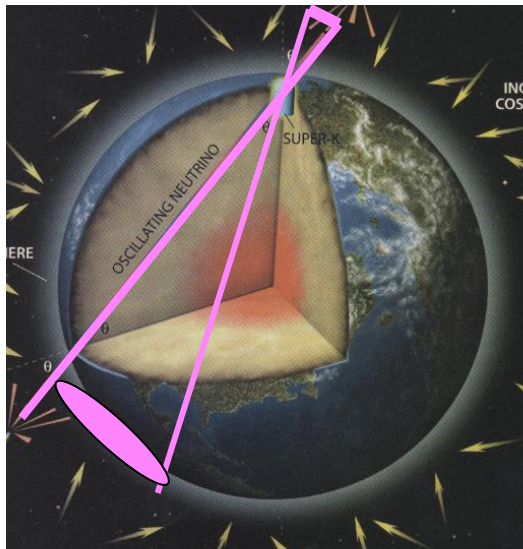
✓  $\nu_\mu/\nu_e$  ratio is calculated to an accuracy of about 2% below  $\sim 5$  GeV.

✓  $\nu$  and anti- $\nu$  ratios also accurately calculated.

M. Honda et al., PRD 83, 123001 (2011)

# What else is known well: up/down


## Zenith angle



@Kamioka (Japan)

Up/down ratio very close to 1.0 and accurately calculated (1% or better) above a few GeV.

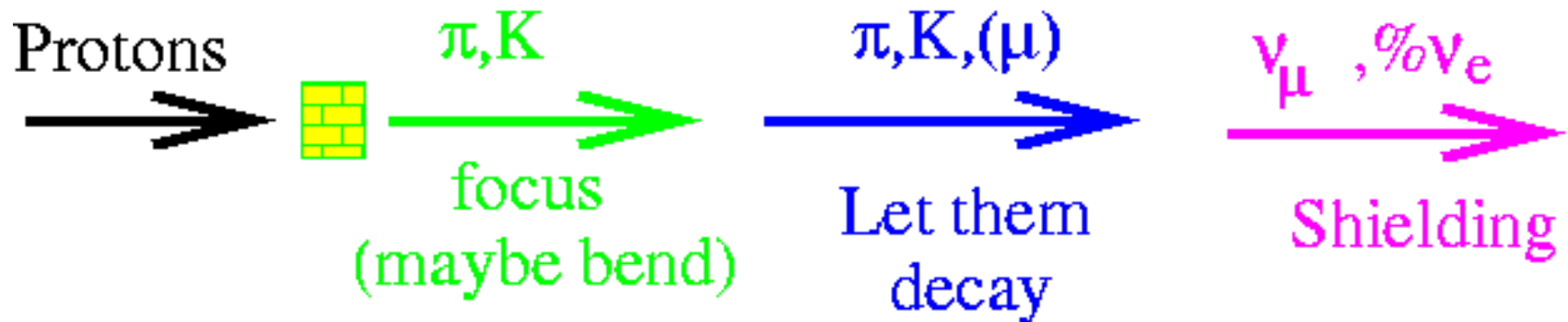
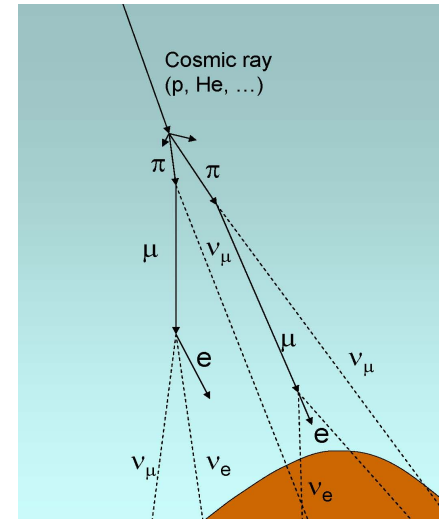
# Experimental Challenges with Atmospheric Fluxes



- Absolute rates are hard to predict
- Overall rates are low and steeply falling in energy
- Near equal mix of neutrino and antineutrino means CP violation measurement is near impossible
- *Homework question: how might you be able to see matter effects using atmospheric neutrinos? Do you NEED a magnetic field in your detector?*

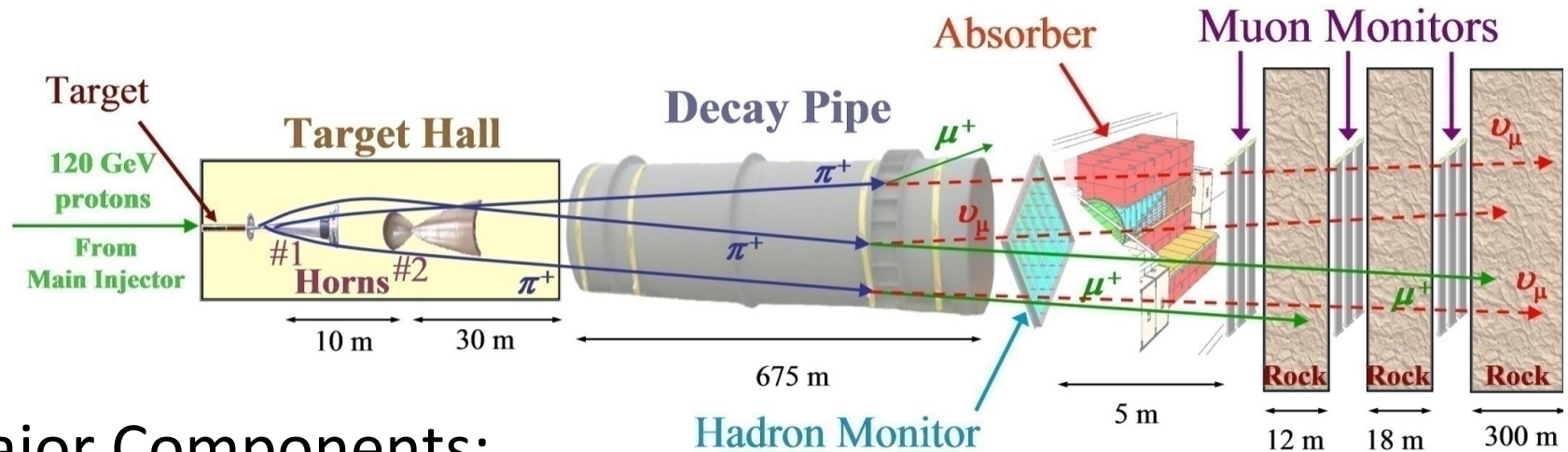
# Neutrinos from Accelerators

- Atmospheric Neutrino Beam:
  - High energy protons strike atmosphere
  - Pions and kaons are produced
  - Pions decay before they interact
  - Muons also decay
- Conventional Neutrino Beam: very similar!





# Example: NuMI beamline at Fermilab



## Major Components:

- Proton Beam
- Pion Production Target
- Focusing System
- Decay Region
- Absorber
- Shielding...

Most  $\nu_\mu$ 's from 2-body decays:

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

$$K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$$

Most  $\nu_e$ 's from 3-body decays:

$$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \nu_\mu$$

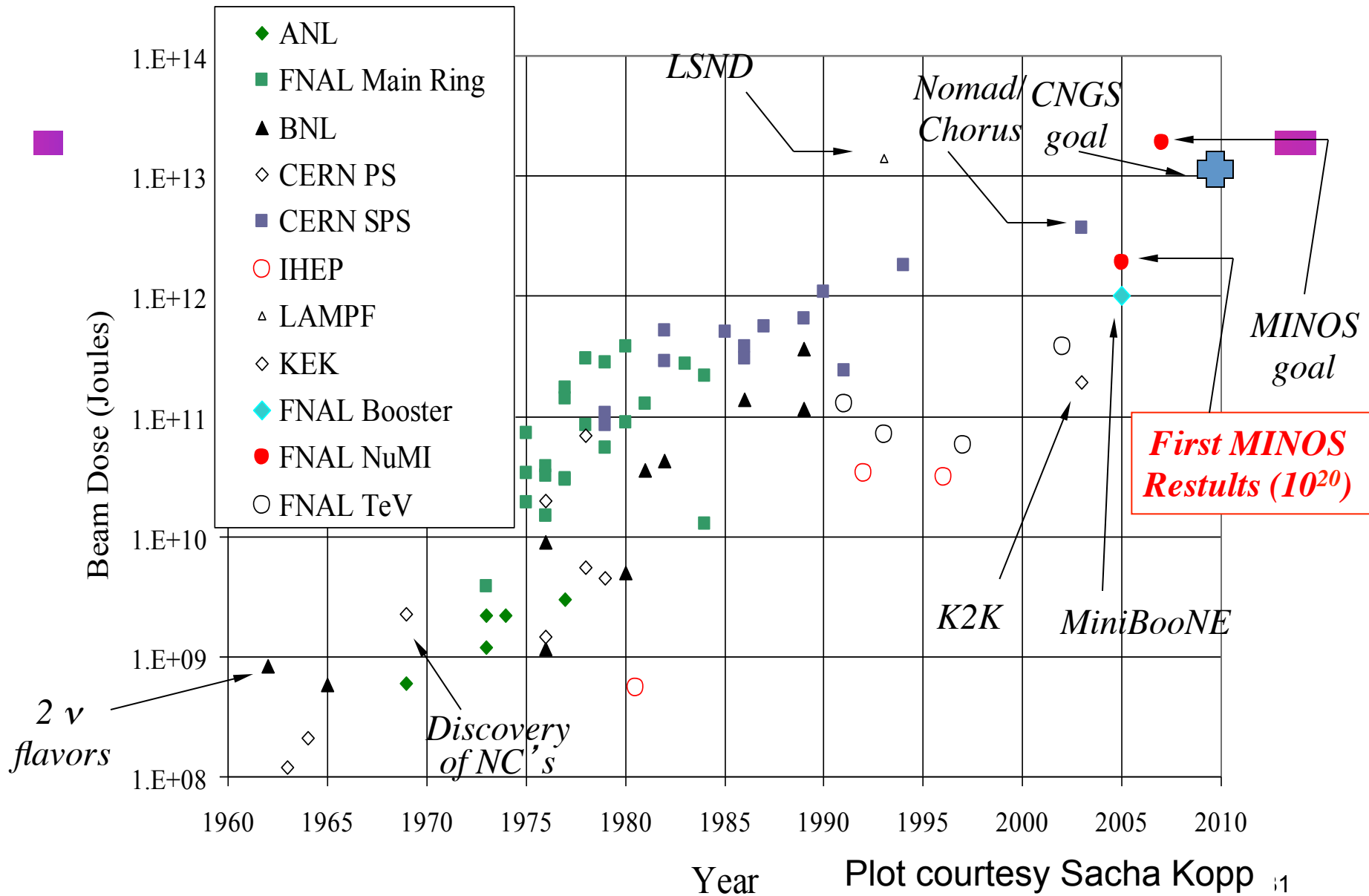
$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$$

# Proton beam Basics

- Rules of Thumb

- number of pions produced is roughly a function of “proton power” (or total number of protons on target x proton energy)
- The higher energy  $\nu$  beam you want, the higher energy p you need

Proton Source	Experiment	Proton Energy (GeV)	p/yr	Power (MW)	Neutrino Energy (GeV)
KEK	K2K	12	$1 \times 10^{20}/4$	0.0052	1.4
FNAL Booster	MiniBooNE	8	$5 \times 10^{20}$	0.05	1
FNAL Main Injector	MINOS and NOvA	120	$3\text{-}6 \times 10^{20}$	0.3 to 0.7	3-17
CNGS	OPERA	400	$0.45 \times 10^{20}$	<b>0.48</b>	25
J-PARC	T2K	40-50	$11 \times 10^{20}$	0.25 to 0.75	0.77



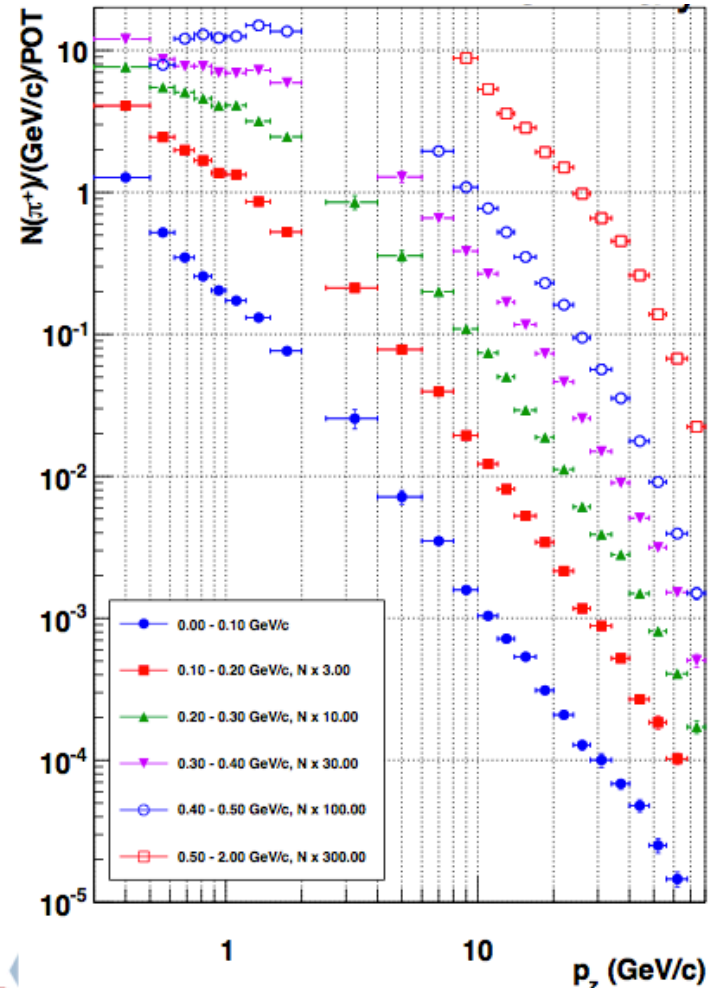
# Neutrino Production Targets

- Have to balance many competing needs:
  - The longer the target, the higher the probability the protons will interact
  - The longer the target, the more the produced particles will scatter
  - The more the protons interact, the hotter the target will get—targeting above  $\sim 1\text{MW}$  not easy!
  - Rule of thumb: want target to be 3 times wider than  $\pm 1$  sigma of proton beam size



# Hadron Production

- This is tricky stuff, hard to predict with theory alone
- Copious thin target measurements available, but neutrino targets are usually long
- NA61 data from CERN: thin and thick target data used for T2K analysis
- New this year: MIPP hadron production results (Fermilab), using same target as used for MINOS, and 120GeV protons (at right)



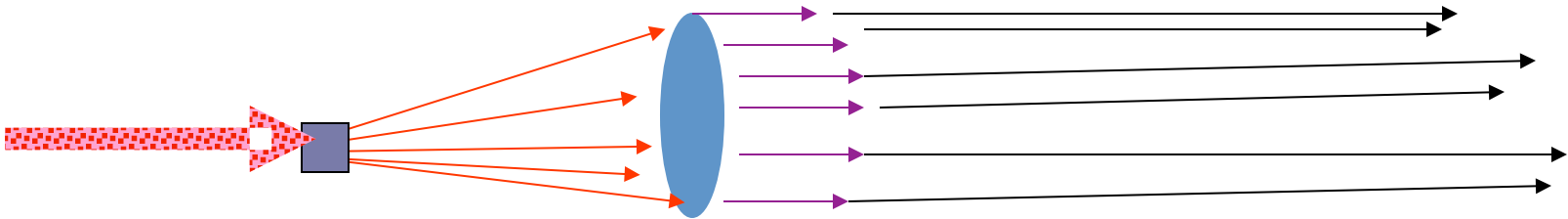
Ref: J.M.Paley, M.D.Messier, R.Raja et al, arXiv: 1404.5882

# Focusing Systems

- Want to focus as many particles as possible for highest neutrino flux
- Typical transverse momentum of secondaries: approximately  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , or about 200MeV
- Minimize material in the way of the pions you've just produced
- What kinds of magnets are there?
  - Dipoles—no, they won't focus
  - Quadrupoles
    - done with High Energy neutrino beams
    - focus in vertical or horizontal, need pairs of them
    - they will focus negative and positive pions simultaneously

# What focusing works best?

- Imagine particles flying out from a target:
  - When particle gets to front face of horn, it has transverse momentum proportional to radius at which it gets to horn

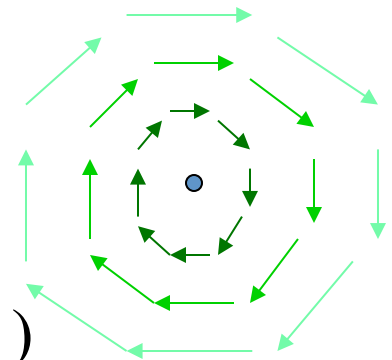


B Field from line source of current is

in the  $\Phi$  direction

but has a size proportional to  $1/r$

How do you get around this? (hint:  $\partial p_t \propto B \times \partial l$  )





# What should the B field be?

FROM

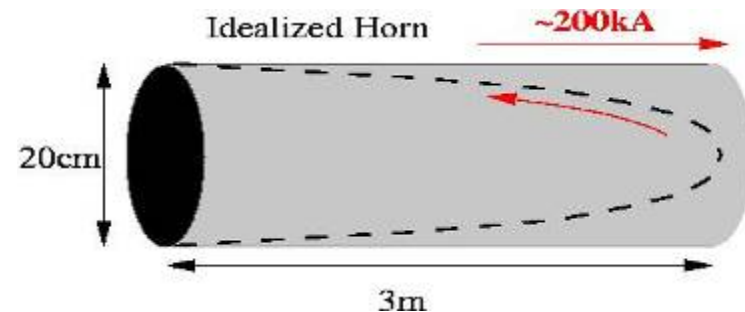


TO



- Make the particles at high radius go through a field for longer than the particles at low radius. ( $B \propto 1/r$ , but make  $dl \propto r^2$ )
- Horn: a 2-layered sheet conductor
- No current inside inner conductor, no current outside outer conductor
- Between conductors, toroidal field proportional to  $1/r$

$$\delta p_t \approx \frac{e\mu_0 I}{2\pi cr} \times \frac{r^2 l}{r_{outer}^2} \approx p_{tune} \theta$$



# Horn Photo Album

	Length (m)	Diameter (m)	# in beam
K2K	2.4,2.7	0.6,1.5	2
MBooNE	~1.7	~0.5	1
NuMI	3,3	0.3,0.7	2
CNGS	6.5m	0.7	2
T2K	1.4,2,2.5	.47,.9,1.4	3





Designing what provides the 180kA is almost as important as designing the horn itself!

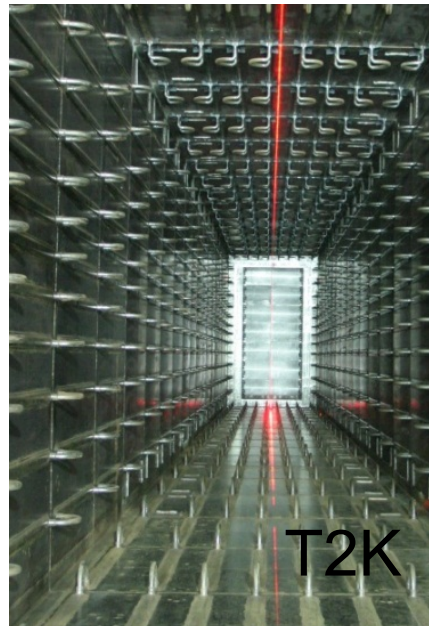


# Decay Regions

- How long a decay region you need (and how wide) depends on what the energy of the pions you're trying to focus.
- The longer the decay region, the more muon decays you'll get (per pion decay) and the larger  $\nu_e$  contamination you'll have
- *What is better: air, vacuum window, or He-filled decay pipe? Does it depend on energy?*

	Length	Diameter
BNB	50m	1.8m
NuMI	675m	2m
CNGS	1000m	2.45m
T2K	130m	Up to 5.4m

NUMI





# Beamline Decay Pipe Comparison

Can show that  
neglecting things hitting  
the side of the decay pipe...

$$\frac{\Phi(\nu_e)}{\Phi(\nu_\mu)} = \frac{L m_\mu c}{E_\pi \tau_\mu} \left( \frac{1}{e^{y_\pi} - 1} + 1 - \frac{1}{y_\pi} \right)$$

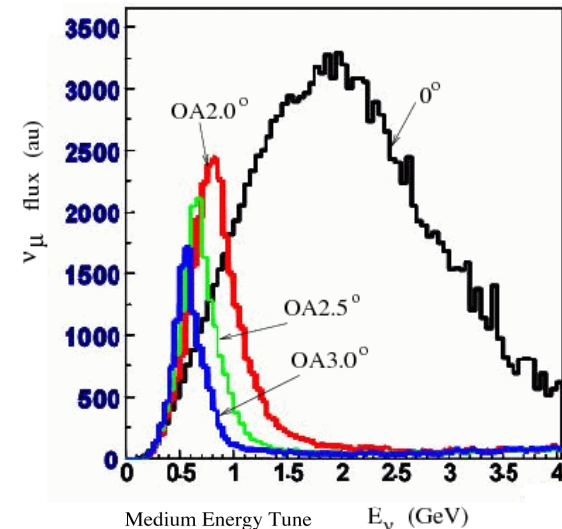
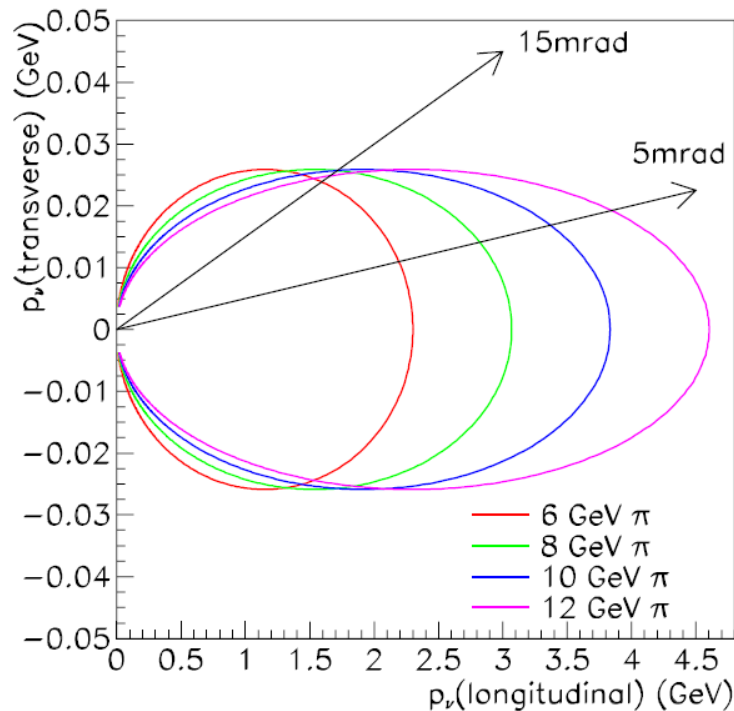
$y_\pi$  = the number of pion lifetimes in one decay pipe...

$$y_\pi = \frac{L m_\pi c^2}{E_\pi c \tau_\pi}$$

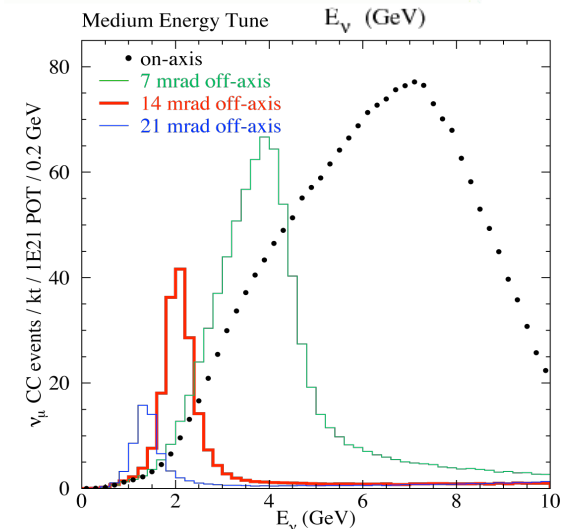
	Length	$E_\pi$ (GeV)	$y_\pi$	$y_\mu$	$\Phi(\nu_e)/\Phi(\nu_\mu)$ (theoretical)
BNB	50m	2.5	0.36	0.3%	0.15%
MINOS	675m	9	1.3	1.2%	0.8%
CNGS	1000m	50	0.36	0.3%	0.15%
T2K	130m	9	0.47	0.2%	0.10%

# Off-Axis Technique

- 1-1 relationship between neutrino energy and pion energy+angle between neutrino and pion (*derive*)
- Off axis neutrino beams: aim pions and kaons AWAY from detector



T2K



NOvA

# Experimental Challenges with Accelerator-based Neutrinos

- Operations
  - Target and horns must be robust
  - Still working on a target that can survive 1MW beam power
- Composition
  - Can never make pure beam, always some contamination of anti-neutrinos or  $\nu_e$ 's in what you designed as  $\nu_\mu$  beam
- Flux Predictions
  - Hadron production uncertainties still at the 5% level even with new data
  - Using different hadron shower models to predict flux gives even higher differences
  - Beamline optics can also introduce uncertainties
- *Question: what are the advantages of a neutrino beam made of muon decays?*

# Neutrino Source Summary

Source	Flux	$\nu$ Energy	Composition	Baseline	Matter Effects?
Sun	$6 \times 10^{10} \nu / \text{cm}^2 / \text{sec}$	0.1-10 MeV	$\nu_e (\nu_2)$	$10^8 \text{ km}$	yes
Reactor	$10^{20} \nu / \text{sec} / \text{GW}$	1-10 MeV	Anti- $\nu_e$	1-180 km	Not yet...
Atmosphere	$1 \nu / \text{cm}^2 / \text{sec}$	0.1- $10^4$ GeV	$\nu_e + \nu_\mu$ and anti-	$80-10^4 \text{ km}$	yes
Accelerator	$6 \times 10^5 \nu / \text{cm}^2 / \text{sec}$ @1 km*	0.1-100 GeV	$\nu_\mu + \% \nu_e$ or anti- $\nu_\mu + \% \nu_e$	1-1000 km	yes

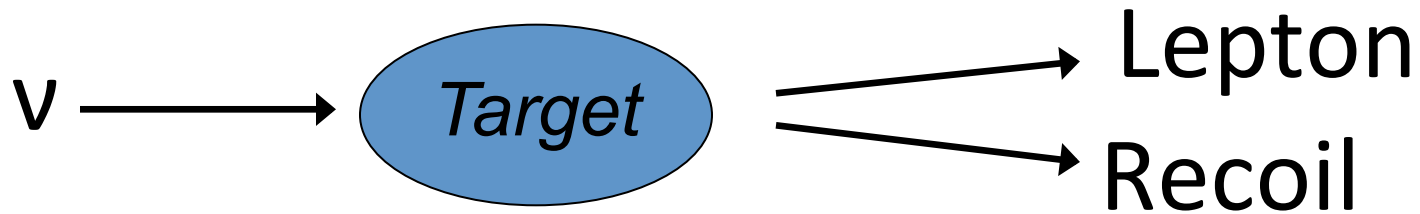
\* NuMI beamline “low energy tune”, on axis, currently x3 higher!



# NEUTRINO INTERACTIONS

# Thresholds and Processes

- We detect neutrino interactions only in the final state, and often with poor knowledge of the incoming neutrinos
- Creation of that final state may require energy to be transferred from the neutrino



- In charged-current reactions, where the final state lepton is charged, this lepton has mass
- The recoil may be a higher mass object than the initial state, or it may be in an excited state

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# Thresholds and Processes

Process	Considerations	Threshold (typical)
$\nu N \rightarrow \nu N$ (elastic)	Target nucleus is often free (recoil is very small)	none
$\nu_e n \rightarrow e^- p$	In some nuclei (mostly metastable ones), this reaction is exothermic if proton not ejected	None for free neutron some others.
$\nu e \rightarrow \nu e$ (elastic)	Most targets have atomic electrons	$\sim 10\text{eV} - 100\text{keV}$
$\text{anti-}\nu_e p \rightarrow e^- n$	$m_n > m_p + m_e$ . Typically more to make recoil from stable nucleus.	1.8 MeV (free p). More for nuclei.
$\nu_\ell n \rightarrow \ell^- p$ (quasielastic)	Final state nucleon is ejected from nucleus. Massive lepton	$\sim 10\text{s MeV}$ for $\nu_e$ $+ \sim 100\text{ MeV}$ for $\nu_\mu$
$\nu_\ell N \rightarrow \ell^- X$ (inelastic)	Must create additional hadrons. Massive lepton.	$\sim 200\text{ MeV}$ for $\nu_e$ $+ \sim 100\text{ MeV}$ for $\nu_\mu$

- Energy of neutrinos determines available reactions, and therefore experimental technique

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# Why is the interaction so weak?

- Weak interactions are weak because of the massive W and Z bosons exchange

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dq^2} \propto \frac{1}{(q^2 - M^2)^2}$$

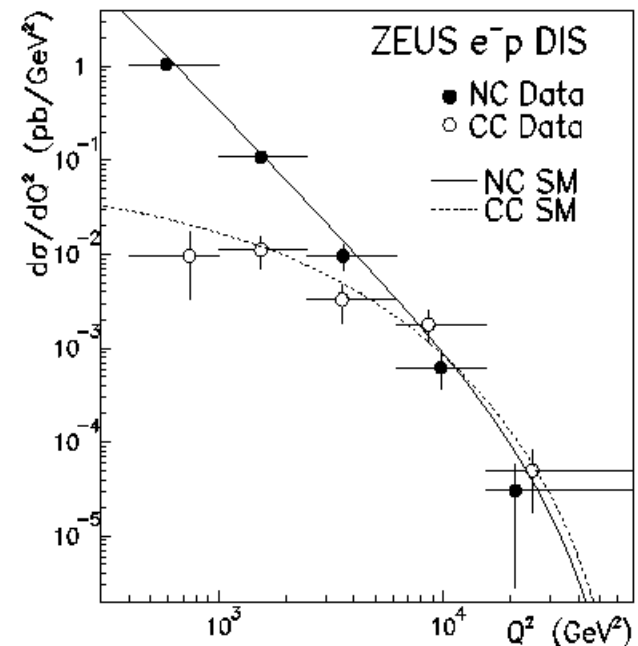
$q$  is 4-momentum carried by exchange particle  
 $M$  is mass of exchange particle

At HERA see W and Z  
 propagator effects  
 - Also weak  $\sim$  EM strength

- Explains dimensions of Fermi “constant”

$$G_F = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{8} \left( \frac{g_W}{M_W} \right)^2$$

$$= 1.166 \times 10^{-5} / \text{GeV}^2 \quad (g_W \approx 0.7)$$



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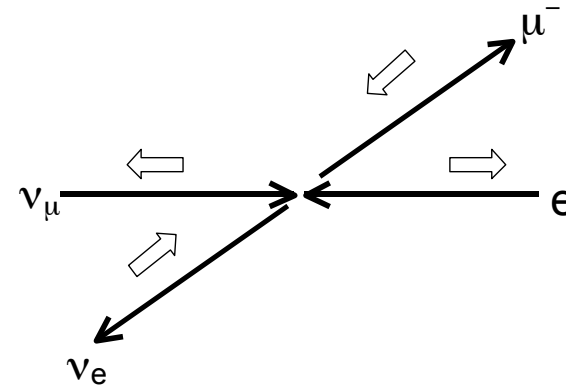
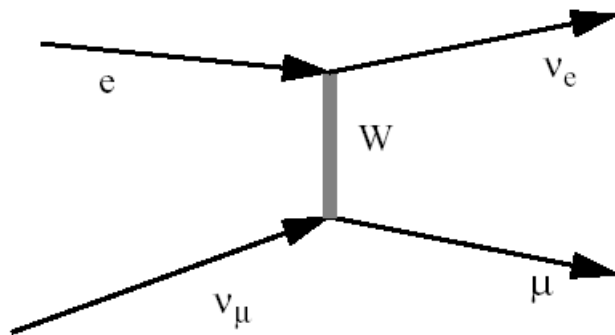
# Neutrino-Electron Scattering

- Inverse  $\mu$ -decay:**

$$\nu_{\mu} + e^{-} \rightarrow \mu^{-} + \nu_e$$

– Total spin  $J=0$

(Assuming massless muon,  
helicity=chirality)



$$Q^2 \equiv -(\underline{e} - \underline{\nu}_e)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{TOT} &\propto \int_0^{Q_{\max}^2} dQ^2 \frac{1}{(Q^2 + M_W^2)^2} \\ &\approx \frac{Q_{\max}^2}{M_W^4} \end{aligned}$$

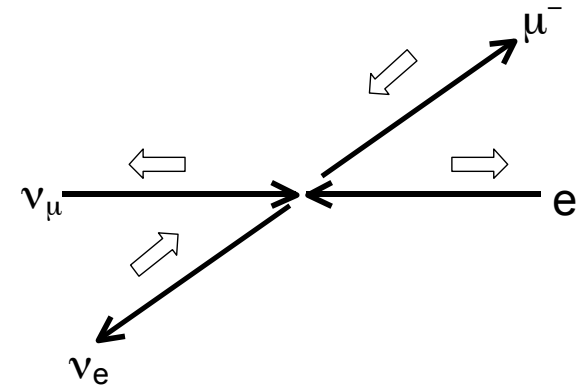
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# Neutrino-Electron Scattering

$$\sigma_{TOT} \propto Q_{\max}^2 = s$$

$$\sigma_{TOT} = \frac{G_F^2 s}{\pi}$$

$$= 17.2 \times 10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2 / \text{GeV} \cdot E_\nu (\text{GeV})$$



- Why is it proportional to beam energy?

$$s = (\underline{p}_{\nu_\mu} + \underline{p}_e)^2 = m_e^2 + 2m_e E_\nu \text{ (e}^-\text{ rest frame)}$$

- Proportionality to energy is a generic feature of point-like scattering!
  - because  $d\sigma/dQ^2$  is constant (at these energies)



# Neutrino Electron Elastic Scattering

- Elastic scattering:**

$$\nu_\mu + e^- \rightarrow \nu_\mu + e^-$$

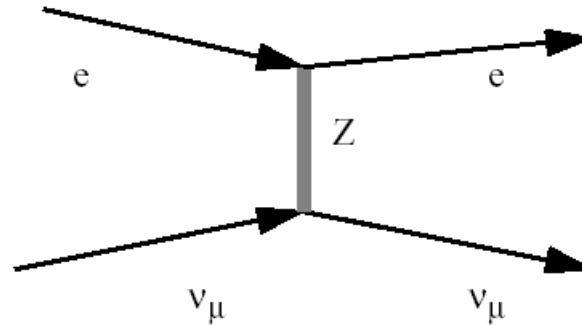
- Recall, EW theory has coupling to left *or* right-handed electron

- Total spin,  $J=0,1$

- Electron- $Z^0$  coupling**

- Left-handed:  $-1/2 + \sin^2\theta_W$

- Right-handed:  $\sin^2\theta_W$



<i>Z Couplings</i>	$g_L$	$g_R$
$\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$	1/2	0
$e, \mu, \tau$	$-1/2 + \sin^2\theta_W$	$\sin^2\theta_W$
$u, c, t$	$1/2 - 2/3 \sin^2\theta_W$	$-2/3 \sin^2\theta_W$
$d, s, b$	$-1/2 + 1/3 \sin^2\theta_W$	$1/3 \sin^2\theta_W$

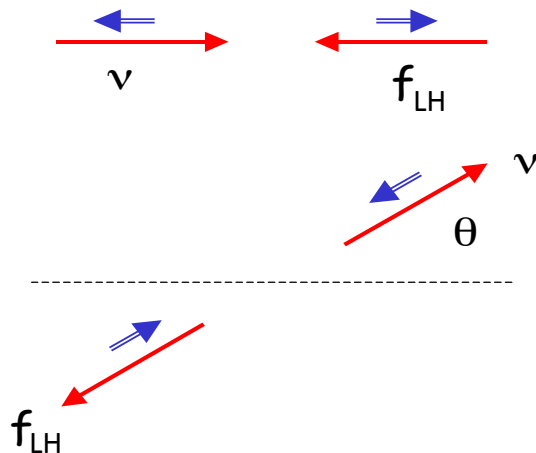
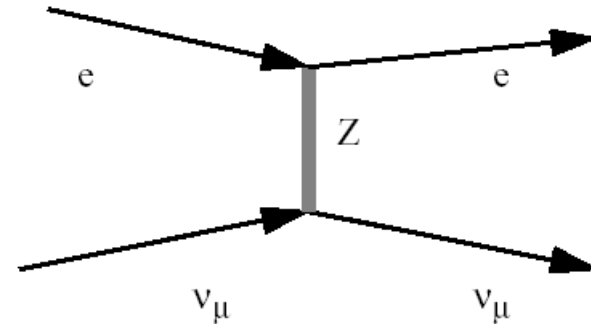
$$\sigma \propto \frac{G_F^2 s}{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{4} - \sin^2 \theta_W + \sin^4 \theta_W \right)$$

$$\sigma \propto \frac{G_F^2 s}{\pi} \left( \sin^4 \theta_W \right)$$

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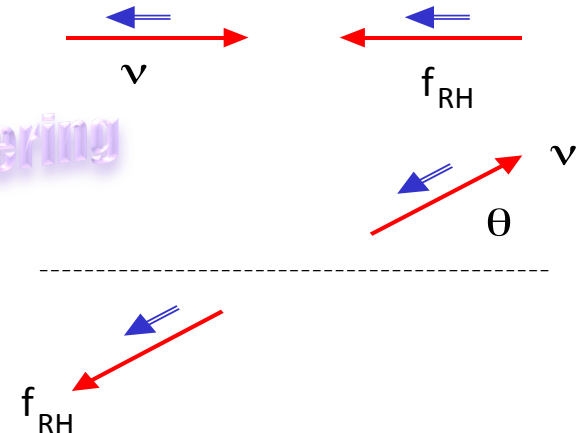
# Neutrino Electron Scattering, cont'd

- What are relative contributions of scattering from left *and* right-handed electrons?



$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} = \text{const}$$

Backwards scattering  
is disfavored



$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} = \text{const} \times \left( \frac{1 + \cos\theta}{2} \right)^2$$

# What about $\nu_e$ scattering off $e^-$ 's?

## The reaction

$$\nu_\mu + e^- \rightarrow \nu_\mu + e^-$$

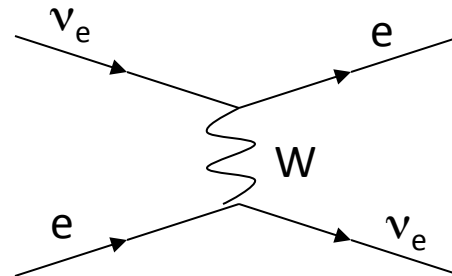
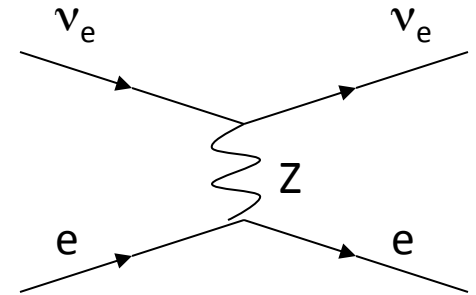
has a much smaller cross-section than

$$\nu_e + e^- \rightarrow \nu_e + e^-$$

Why?

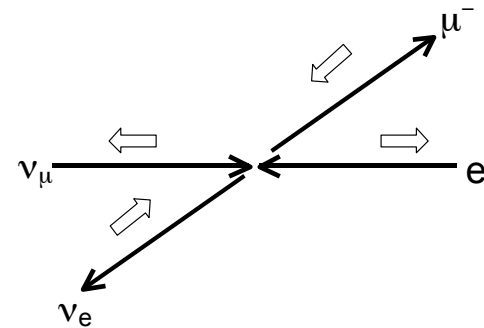
$$\nu_e + e^- \rightarrow \nu_e + e^-$$

has a second contributing  
reaction, charged current



# Muon Neutrino thresholds:

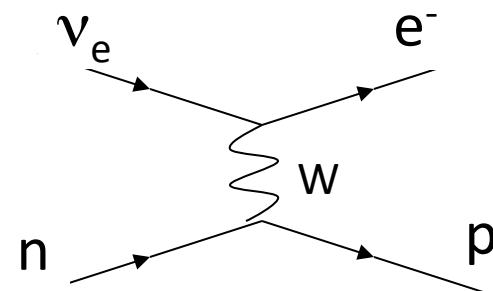
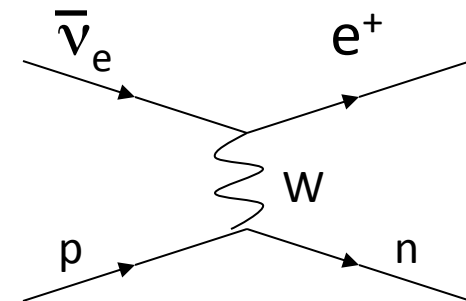
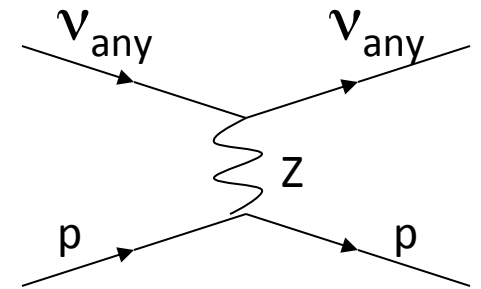
- Inverse muon decay:
  - Need enough energy to create a final state muon
  - *Question: how much energy do you need for this process?*



# What about other targets?

- Imagine now a proton target
  - Neutrino-proton elastic scattering:
$$\nu_e + p \rightarrow \nu_e + p$$
  - “Inverse beta-decay” (IBD):
$$\text{anti-}\nu_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$$
  - and “stimulated” beta decay:
$$\nu_e + n \rightarrow e^- + p$$
  - IBD was the Reines and Cowan discovery signal
- Cross section much higher
  - Think of what  $s$  is here

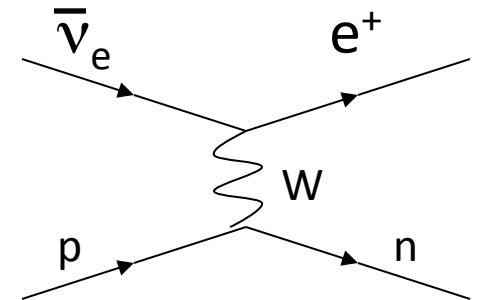
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# Final State Mass Effects

- In IBD,  $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$ , have to pay a mass penalty *twice*

- $M_n - M_p \approx 1.3 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $M_e \approx 0.5 \text{ MeV}$



- What is the threshold?

- kinematics are simple, at least to zeroth order in  $M_e/M_n \rightarrow$  heavy nucleon kinetic energy is zero

$$S_{\text{initial}} = (\underline{p}_{\nu} + \underline{p}_p)^2 = M_p^2 + 2M_p E_{\nu} \quad (\text{proton rest frame})$$

$$S_{\text{final}} = (\underline{p}_e + \underline{p}_n)^2 \approx M_n^2 + m_e^2 + 2M_n \left( E_{\nu} - (M_n - M_p) \right)$$

- Solving... 
$$E_{\nu}^{\text{min}} \approx \frac{(M_n + m_e)^2 - M_p^2}{2M_p} \approx 1.806 \text{ MeV}$$

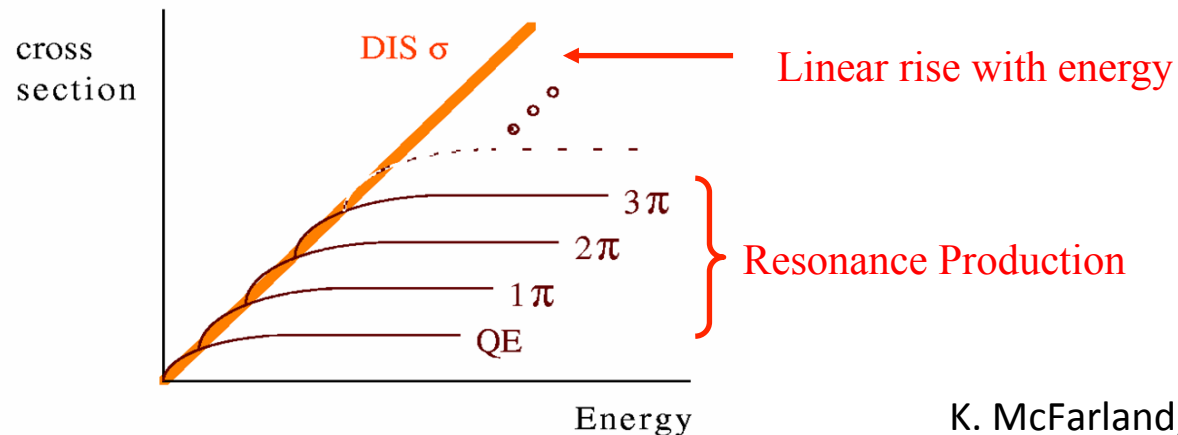
- What is threshold for neutrino analog?*

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# Neutrino-Nucleon Scattering

- Charged - Current:  $W^\pm$  exchange
  - Quasi-elastic Scattering:  
(Target changes but no break up)  
 $\nu_\mu + n \rightarrow \mu^- + p$
  - Nuclear Resonance Production:  
(Target goes to excited state)  
 $\nu_\mu + n \rightarrow \mu^- + p + \pi^0$  ( $N^*$  or  $\Delta$ )  
 $n + \pi^+$
  - Deep-Inelastic Scattering:  
(Nucleon broken up)  
 $\nu_\mu + \text{quark} \rightarrow \mu^- + \text{quark}'$
- Neutral - Current:  $Z^0$  exchange
  - Elastic Scattering:  
(Target unchanged)  
 $\nu_\mu + N \rightarrow \nu_\mu + N$
  - Nuclear Resonance Production:  
(Target goes to excited state)  
 $\nu_\mu + N \rightarrow \nu_\mu + N + \pi$  ( $N^*$  or  $\Delta$ )
  - Deep-Inelastic Scattering  
(Nucleon broken up)  
 $\nu_\mu + \text{quark} \rightarrow \nu_\mu + \text{quark}$

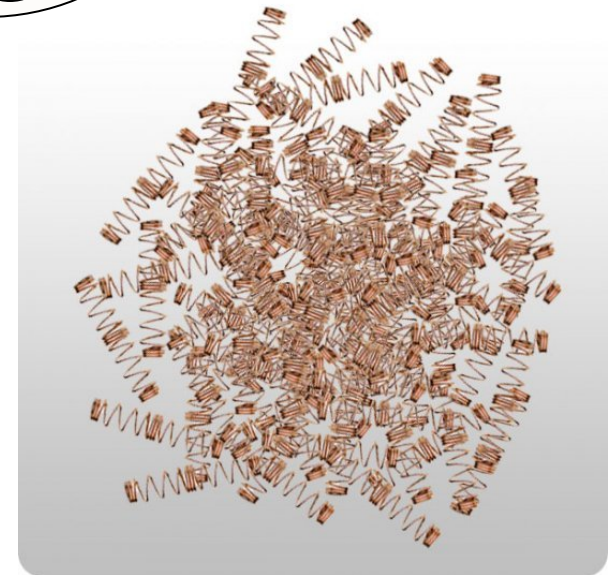
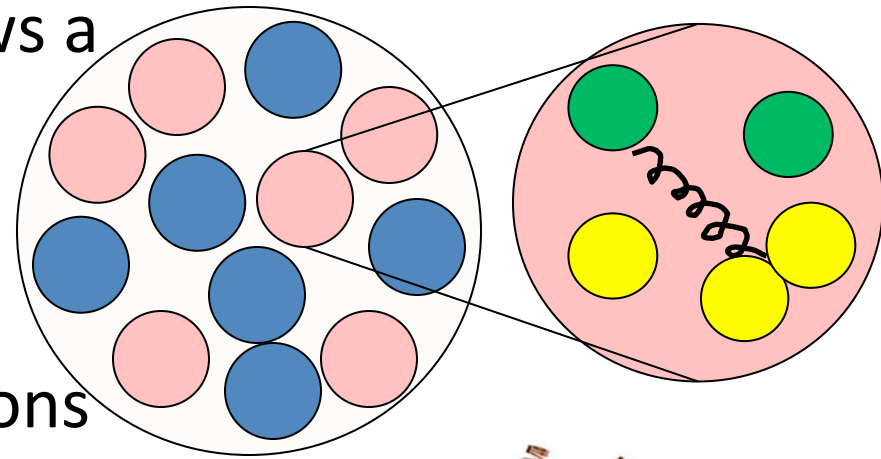


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# Scattering off Nuclei

- The fundamental theory allows a complete calculation of neutrino scattering from quarks
- But those quarks are in nucleons (PDFs), and those nucleons are in a strongly interacting tangle
- Imagine calculating the excitations of a pile of coupled springs. Very hard in general.

To be discussed in 3<sup>rd</sup> lecture...



# Summary for Neutrino Interactions

- Total cross section proportional to neutrino energy
- Angular dependence because of  $\nu$  helicity and conservation of spin
  - Consequence: Neutrinos have higher cross section than anti-neutrinos
- $\nu$ -e scattering is the ONLY perfectly known cross section
  - Everything else is more complicated: **NEED BETTER THEORY PREDICTIONS!**
- The higher the  $\nu$  energy, the more final state particles produced
  - Those particles can produce backgrounds to your oscillation analysis!

Source	$\nu$ Energy	Composition	Reactions
Sun	0.1-10MeV	$\nu_e$ ( $\nu_2$ )	$\nu$ -e or CCQE
Reactor	0.1-10MeV	Anti- $\nu_e$	CCQE
Atmosphere	0.1-1000GeV	$\nu_e + \nu_\mu$	CCQE+RES +DIS
Accelerator	0.1-100GeV	$\nu_\mu + \% \nu_e$ or anti- $\nu_\mu + \% \nu_e$	CCQE+RES +DIS

# Questions from Lecture

- Given the luminosity of the sun, how long would the sun last if it was simply burning chemical energy instead of nuclear energy? (assume sun is  $2 \times 10^{30} \text{kg}$ )
- How might you be able to see matter effects using atmospheric neutrinos? Do you NEED a magnetic field in your detector? (students on INO or PINGU should answer a different question...)
- What is better: air, vacuum window, or He-filled decay pipe? Does it depend on pion energy? (recall multiple scattering formula)
- Derive the relationship between the neutrino energy and the pion energy and angle between neutrino and pion
- What is threshold for  $\nu_e + n \rightarrow e^- + p$ ?
  - Hint: where do you find neutrons?
  - What about for  $\nu_\mu$ ?
  - What about for  $\nu_\tau$ ?