

# Low(er) Energy Neutrinos in DUNE

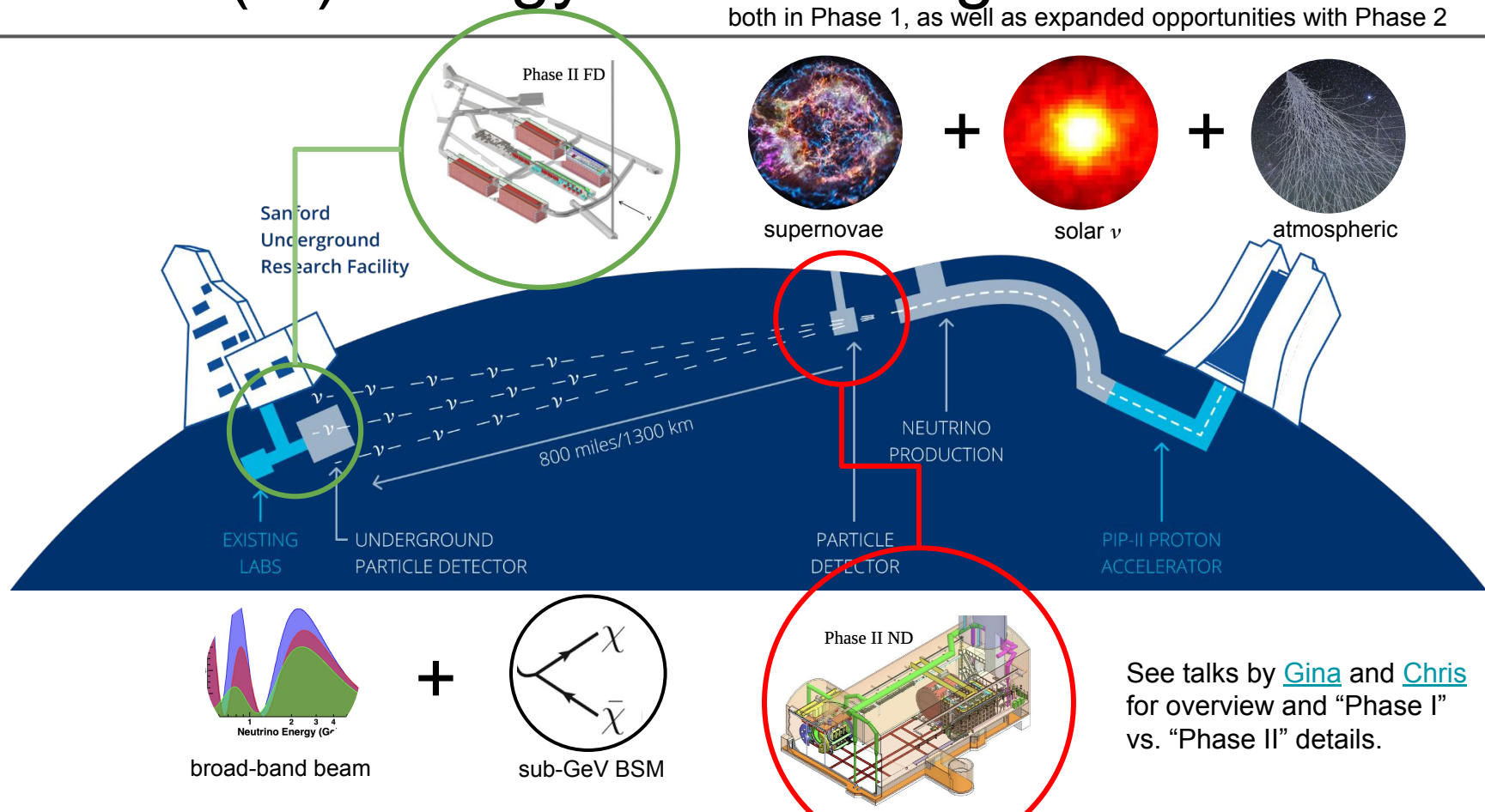


David Caratelli, UC Santa Barbara [[dcaratelli@ucsb.edu](mailto:dcaratelli@ucsb.edu)]

Snowmass Community Summer Study, Seattle, 07/20/22

# Low(er) Energy $\nu$ have a big role in DUNE!

both in Phase 1, as well as expanded opportunities with Phase 2



See talks by [Gina](#) and [Chris](#) for overview and “Phase I” vs. “Phase II” details.

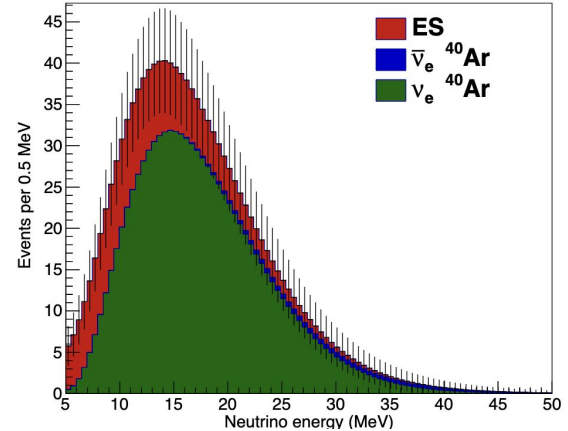
# Supernova and Solar Neutrinos

## Supernova Burst



DUNE, Eur.Phys.J.C 81 (2021) 5, 423

- Unique and rich astrophysics program.
- Neutrino properties (e.g. mass ordering)
- Few second burst w/  $10^2$ - $10^3$  @ 10 kpc

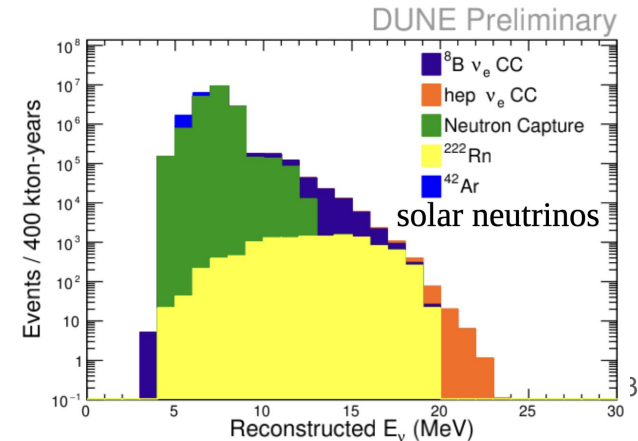


## Solar Neutrinos



Capozzi, Li, Zhu, Beacom PRL 123 (2019) 13, 131803

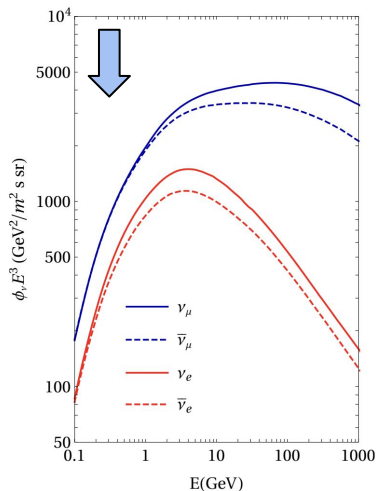
- $^8\text{B}$  and potentially hep neutrino fluxes.
- Solar neutrino mixing
- continuous flux of neutrinos



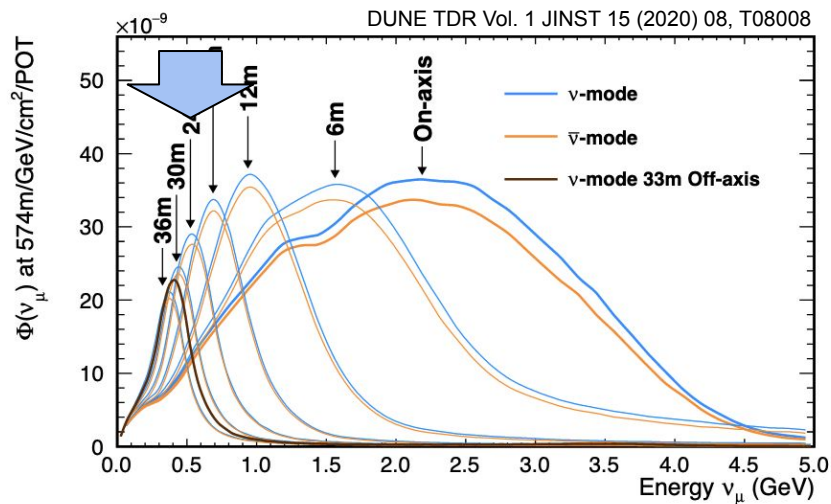
Refer to [talk](#) by Daniel Pershey for more details on this SNB and solar neutrinos  
See also “[Low Energy Physics in Liquid Argon](#)” workshop summary / whitepaper

# sub-GeV Neutrinos

atmospheric



beam induced



“[...] detailed event reconstruction capability of [LArTPCs]. This allows for studying the subGeV atmospheric neutrino component, which bears a rich oscillation phenomenology, strongly dependent on the matter potential sourced by the Earth.”

*JHEP* 05 (2022) 187, Kelly, Machado, Martinez-Soler, Perez-Gonzalez

Lower energy beam neutrinos:

- 2nd oscillation maximum
- Oscillation and BSM physics @ Near Detector

# BSM / Neutrinos as Backgrounds

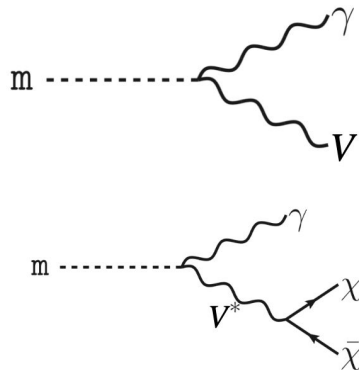


Fig. 18 Production of fermionic DM via two-body pseudoscalar meson decay  $m \rightarrow \gamma V$ , when  $M_V < m_m$  (top) or via three-body decay  $m \rightarrow \gamma \chi \bar{\chi}$  (center) and DM-electron elastic scattering (bottom).

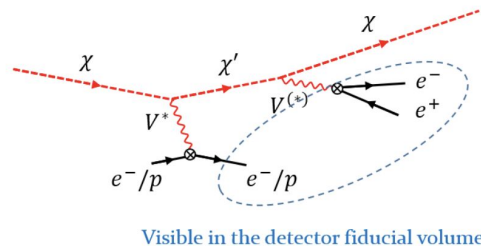


Fig. 20 The inelastic BDM signal under consideration.

DUNE provides a rich program for Beyond the Standard Model searches.

sub-GeV Dark Matter produced directly in the beam is a centerpiece of this program.

See Kevin's [talk](#) for more details on this.

Neutrino interactions are a background.

Uncertainty on their rate, at low energies in particular, impacts sensitivity and physics reach.

Talks by Pilar Coloma [\[link\]](#), Alex Sousa [\[link\]](#), and Jaehoon Yu [\[link\]](#) in Tuesday's session provide broad overview.

Many examples in literature. Taking some diagrams from DUNE's "Prospects for Beyond the Standard Model physics searches ..." [Eur.Phys.J.C 81 (2021) 4, 322]

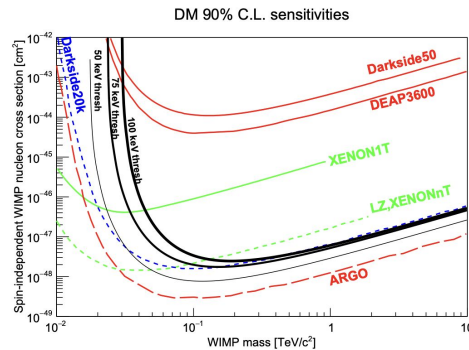
# Potential New Directions in Phase II

How can new technologies complement / expand existing program?

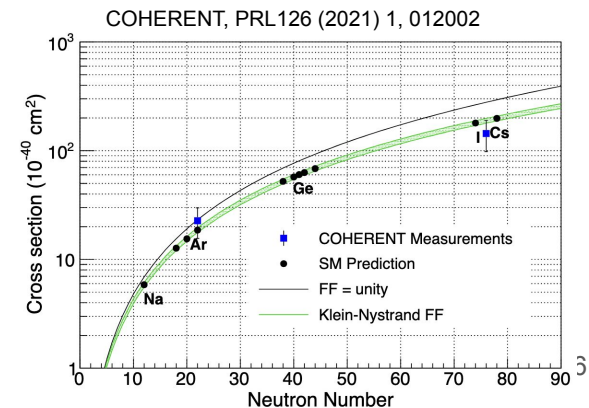
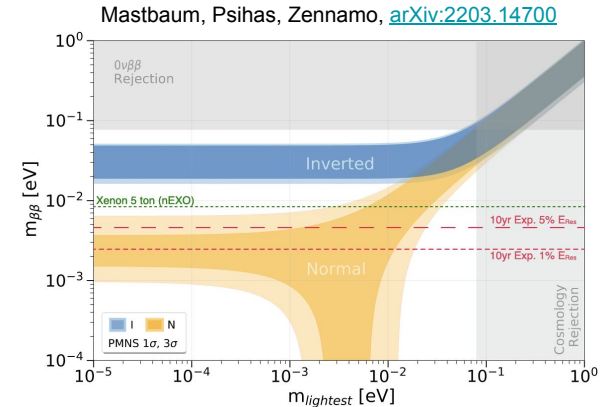
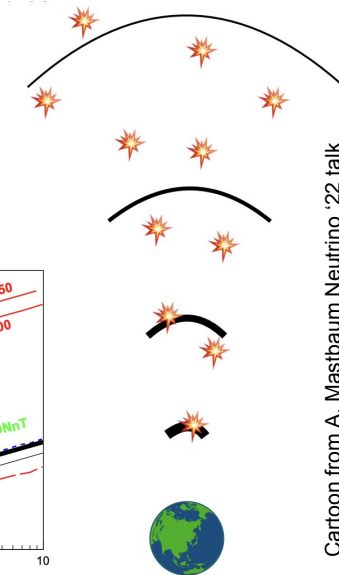
Many ideas aiming to leverage FD underground environment, as well as multi-detector and MW beam setup at the ND.

- $0\nu\beta\beta$
- $CE\nu NS$  glow from a supernova
- Diffuse Supernova Neutrino Background
- Dark Matter searches

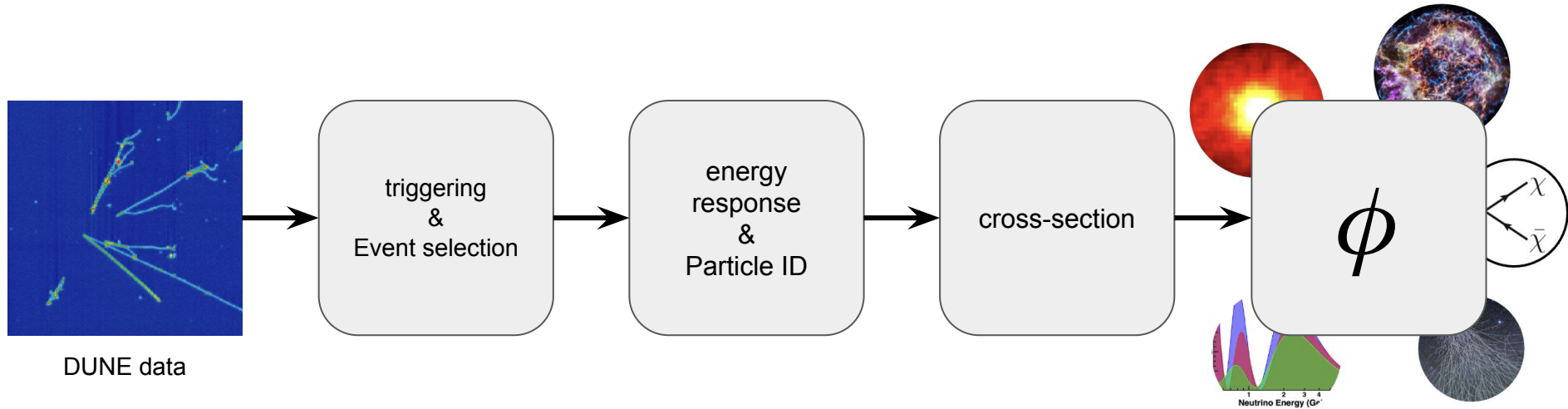
Low(er) energy  
vs play a key role  
here as well!



[arXiv:2005.04824](https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.04824), Church, Jackson, Saldana



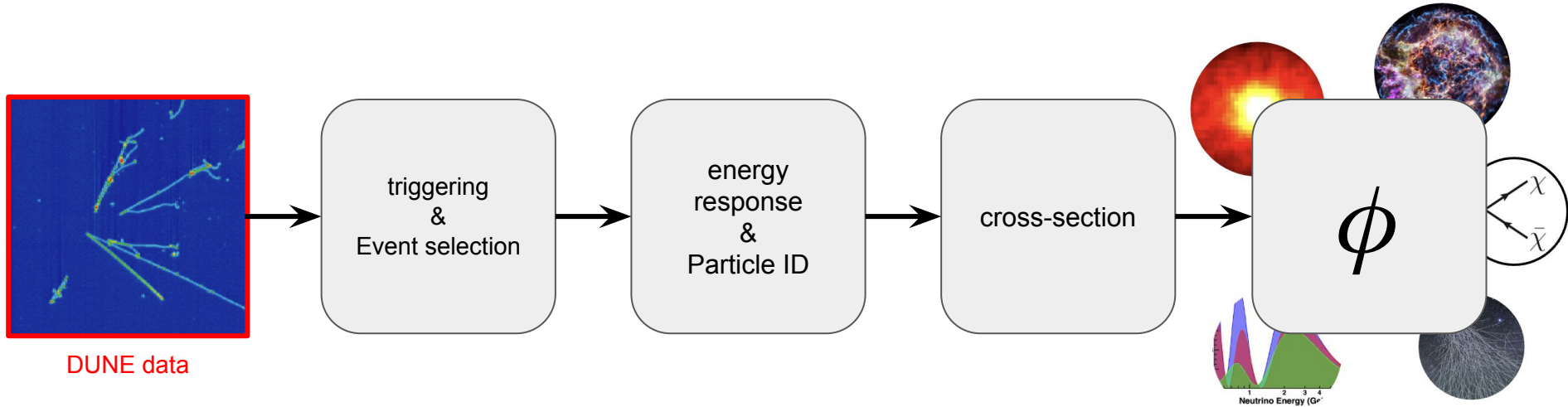
# Extracting Physics with Low(er) Energy $\nu$ s



This is a chain that can be applied to most topics of interest, and to any detector technology, planned or conducting R&D.

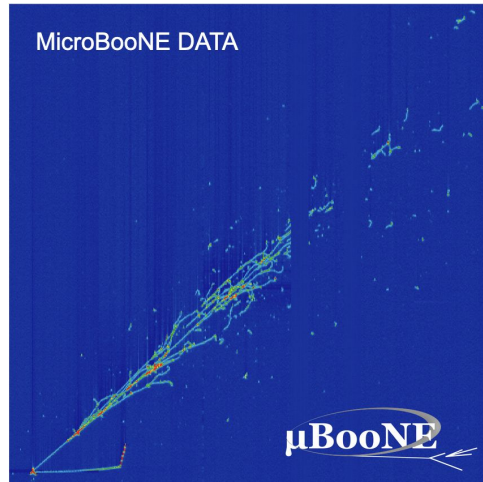
Will walk through this chart and attempt to make relevant considerations.

# The Data at Low(er) Energies

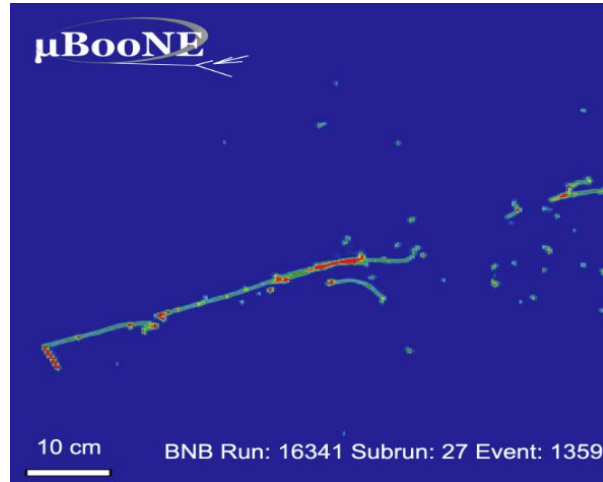




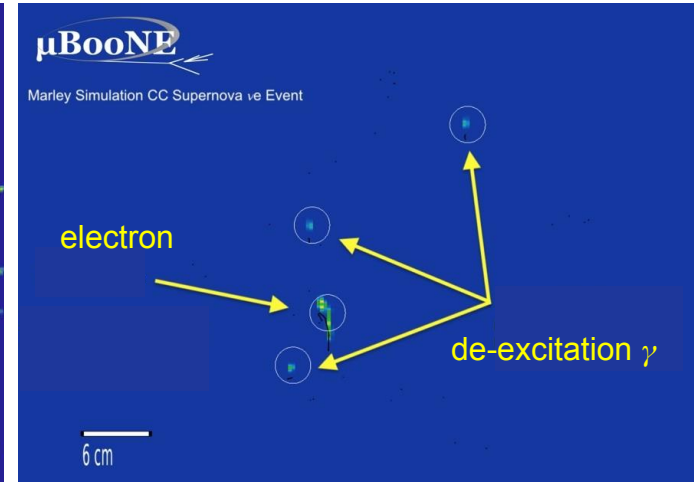
# What Neutrinos?



GeV-scale



100s of MeV



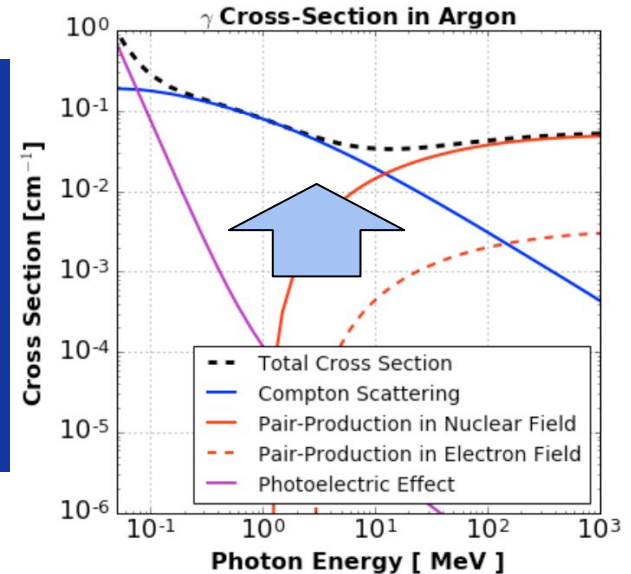
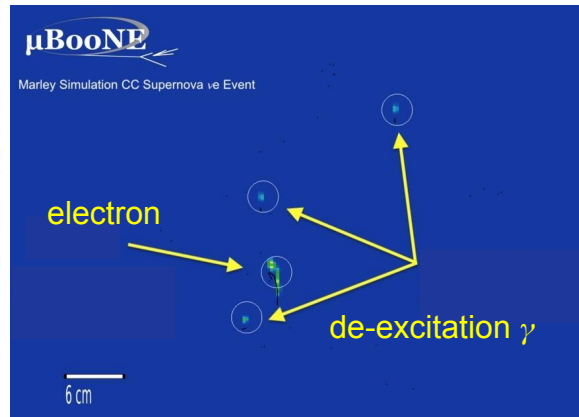
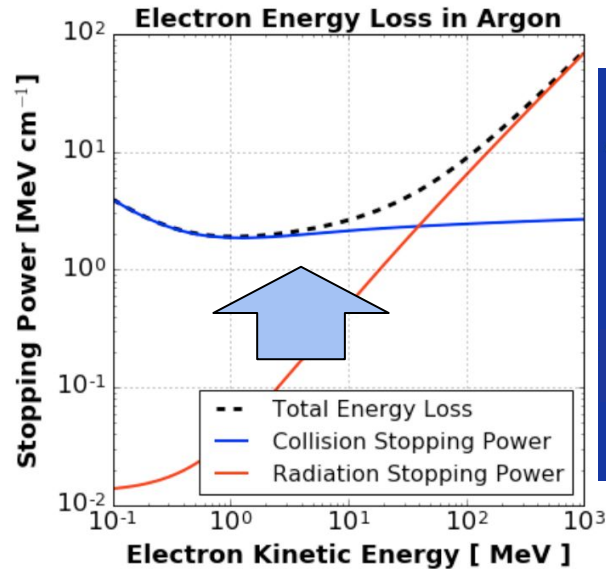
Few-10s of MeV

Examples of  $\nu_e$  interactions in LAr. Final-state appearance varies significantly depending on the energy.

- Potentially different design and analysis considerations for different regimes.
- At the same time, MeV-scale performance improvements can benefit GeV-scale program.

[Friedland, Li Phys.Rev.D 99 (2019) 3, 036009] & [Castiglioni, et al. Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020) 9, 092010]

# Detector response: electrons and $\gamma$

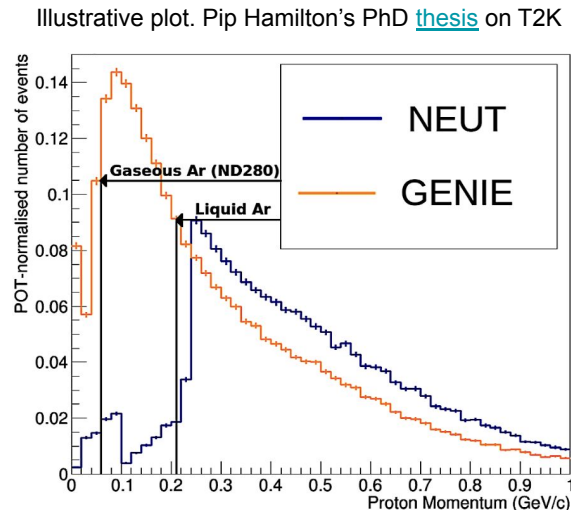
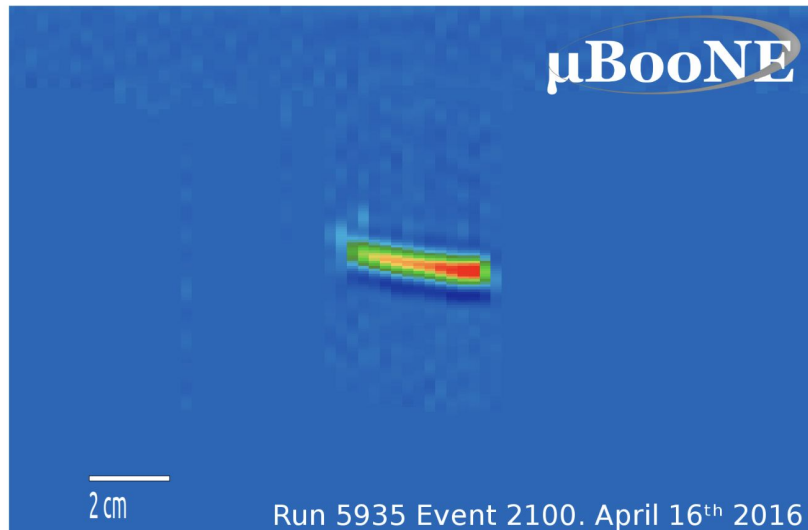


Radiative losses a lower fraction of total:

- “track-like” EM showers
- Stochastic photons, event-to-event variation in topology

Below 10 MeV photons Compton scatter, losing a small fraction of their energy in “blips”.

# Detector response: protons

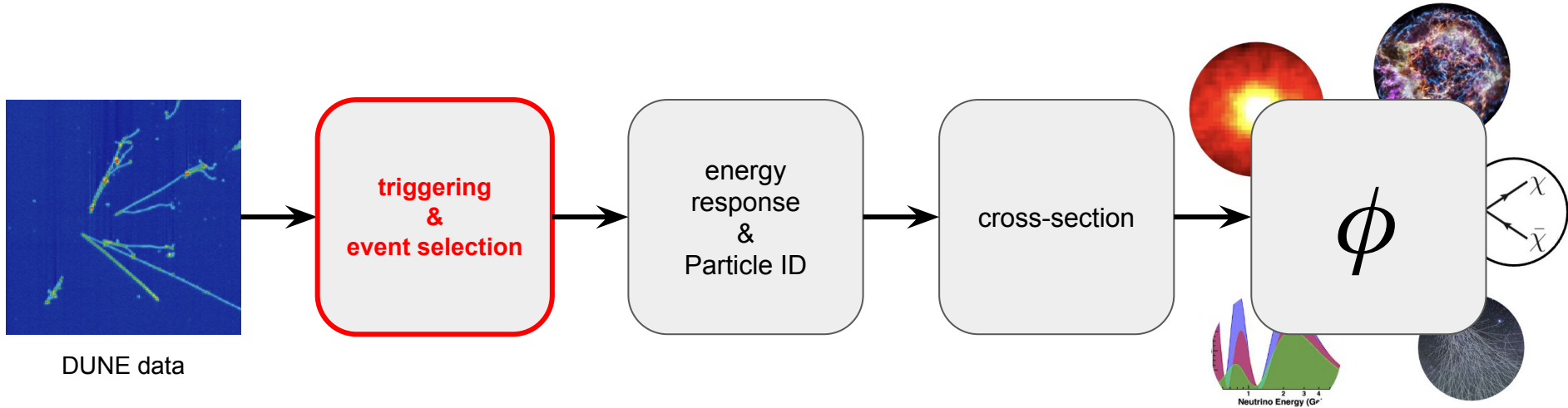


Protons range out quickly due to high  $dE/dx$ .

Gas detector like ND-GAr brings new capabilities in tracking and measuring kinematics of low-energy protons.

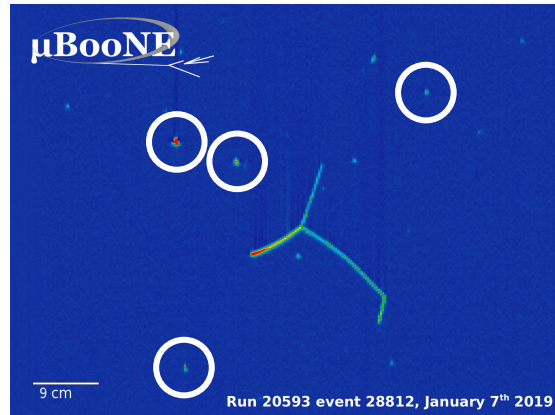
See talk by Jen Raaf [\[link\]](#) @ 10 AM Thursday session.

# Triggering on Low(er) Energy $\nu$ s



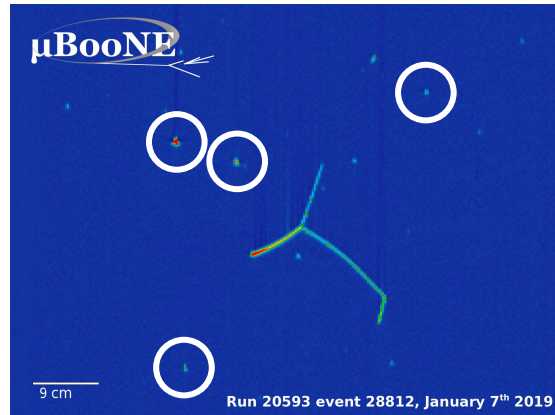
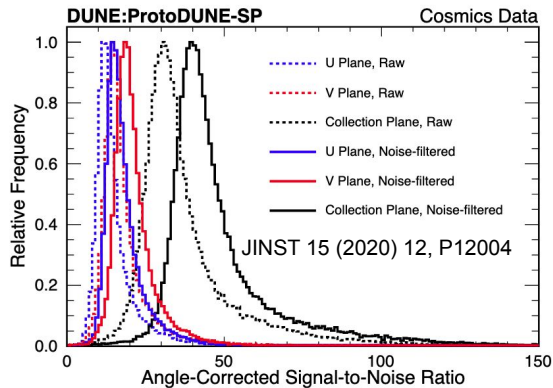
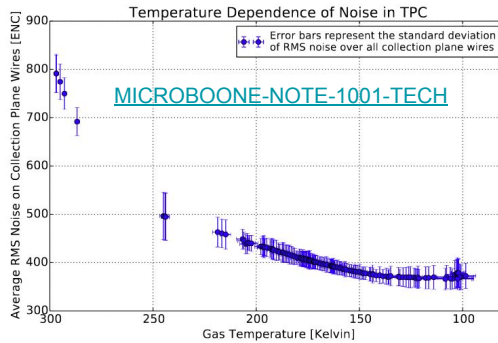
# Low-Thresholds

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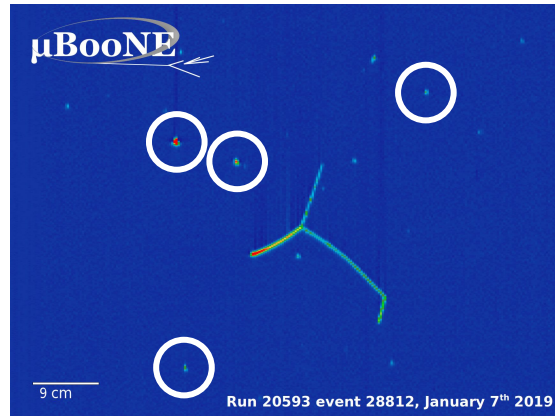
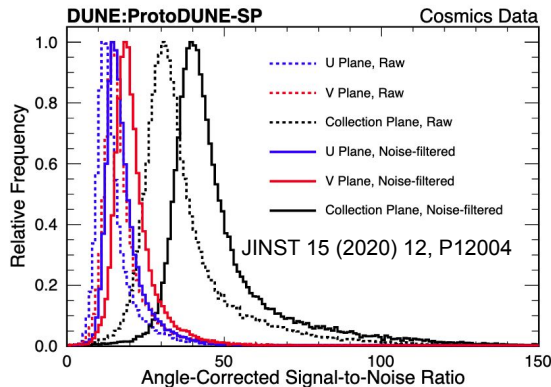
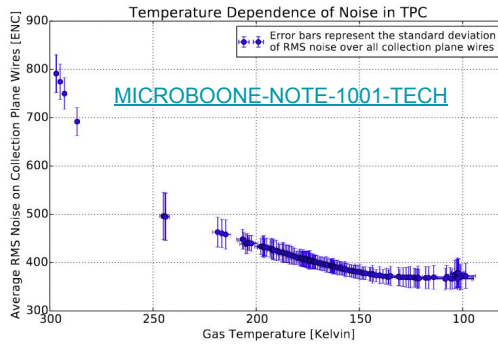
# Low-Thresholds

Cold electronics have had a huge impact on the ability to reconstruct low-energy activity

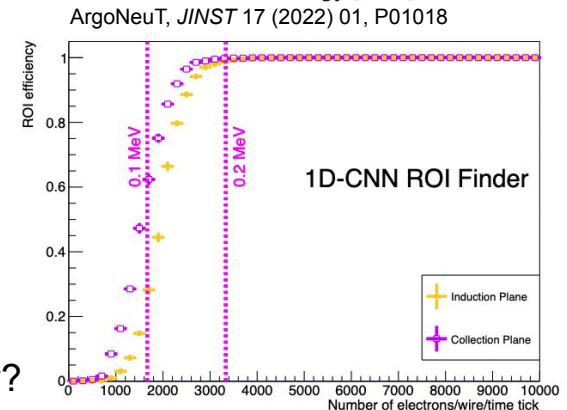
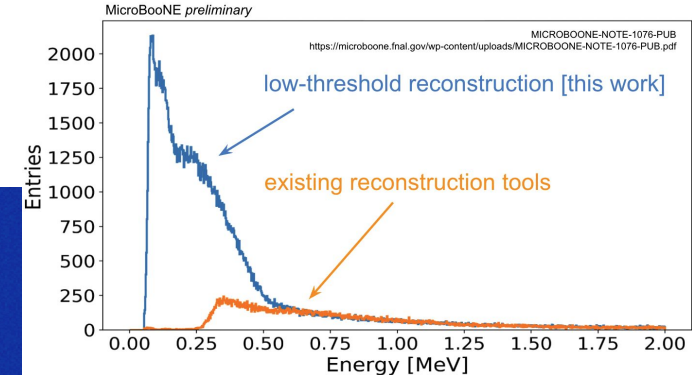


# Low-Thresholds

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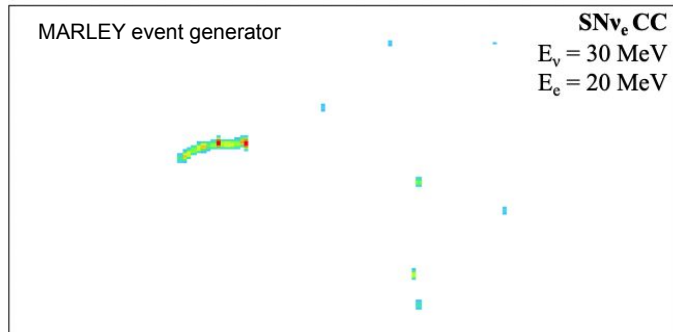


Can we outperform?  
Where to go from here?  
What complements this technology?



# Triggering on MeV-scale Physics in DUNE

W. Castiglioni, et al., Phys. Rev. D, 102(9):092010, 2020

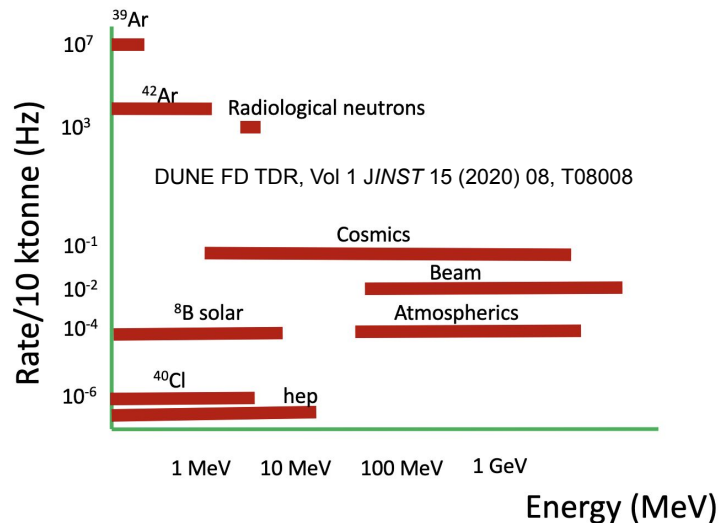


Low-Energy Physics in Neutrino LArTPCs, [arXiv:2203.00740](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.00740)

Event Type	Rate (1/s/10 kT)	Data Rate (PB/y)		
		Module	TPC	m <sup>3</sup> Box
Beam or Atmospheric $\nu$	$2 \times 10^{-5}$	$10^{-3}$	-	-
Cosmic Muons	$4 \times 10^{-2}$	4	-	-
Solar $\nu$	$3 \times 10^{-4}$	0.03	$2 \times 10^{-4}$	$10^{-6}$
$n$ -Ar Captures	1	$10^2$	0.6	$4 \times 10^{-3}$
$^{42}\text{Ar}$ Decays	1000	$10^5$	700	4

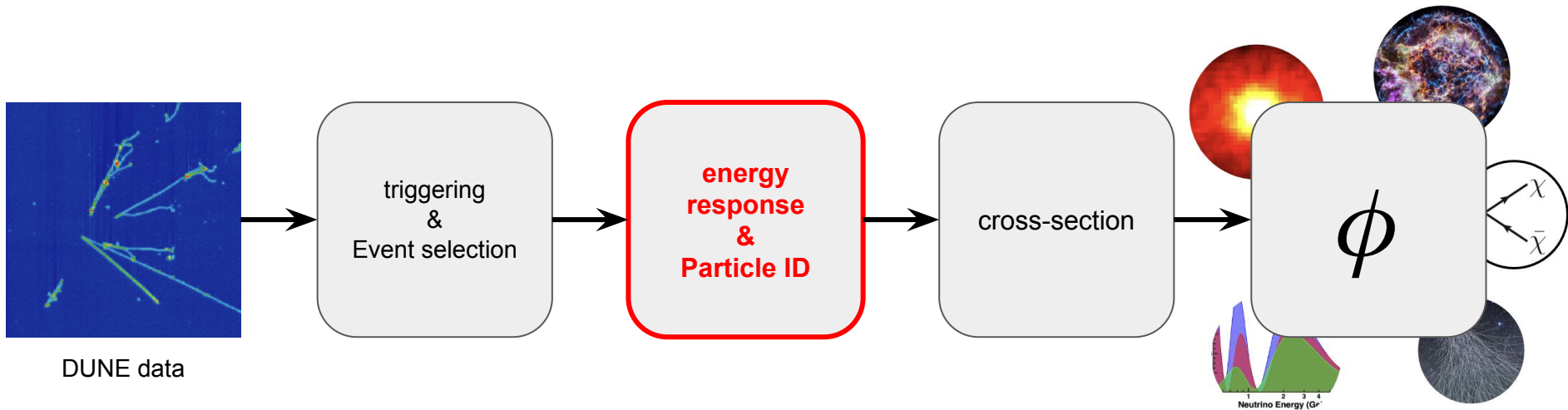
How to mitigate backgrounds:

- Sophisticated Triggers
- Shielding (e.g. Capozzi, Li, Zhu, Beacom PRL 123 (2019) 13, 131803)
- Underground Ar [see next NF session]

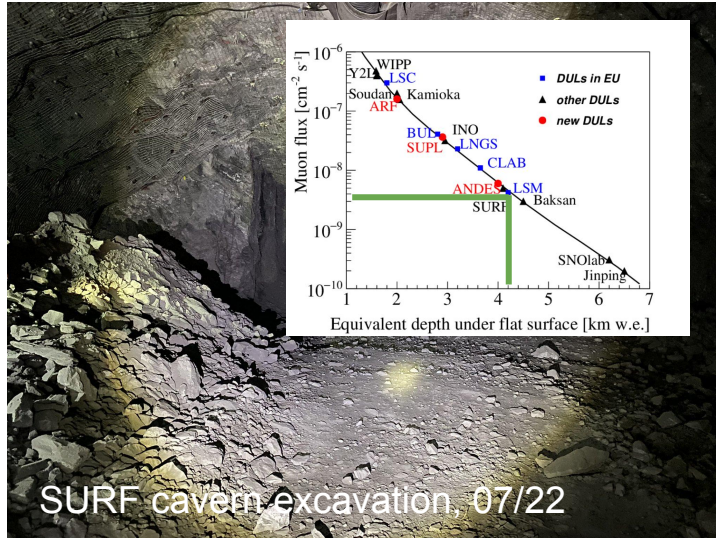




# Calibrations and Energy Measurements



# Calibrations @ FD



Low energy physics program has particular calibration needs:

- Neutron and Compton scatters
- MeV-scale electrons vs. higher energy showers.
- particle-species dependent charge quenching and Light Yield.

Important for each module to have adequate calibration strategy (intrinsic + artificial) that can meet the needs of this physics program.

Underground environment is “quiet” by design. Fewer cosmogenic sources traditionally leveraged in LArTPCs thus far.

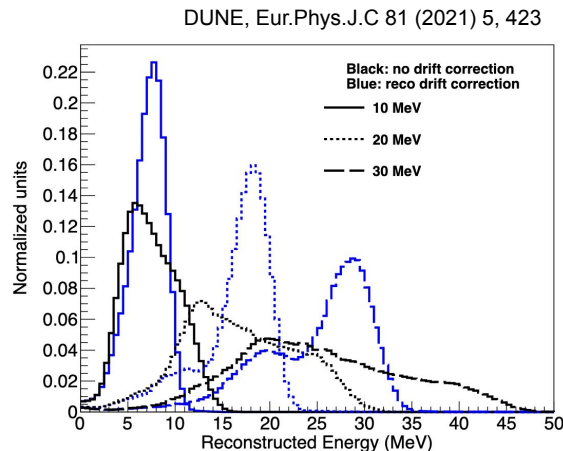
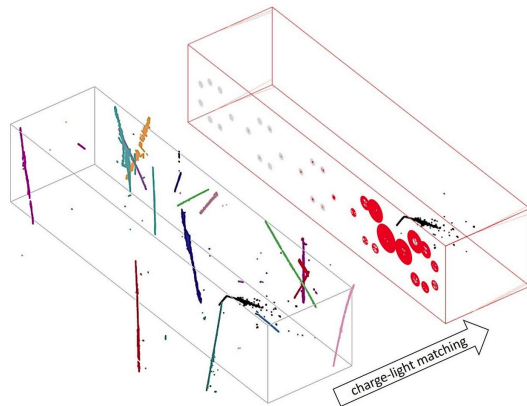
Value of existing detectors, both in designing calibration strategies, and providing constraints on detector physics parameters.

# Light Collection

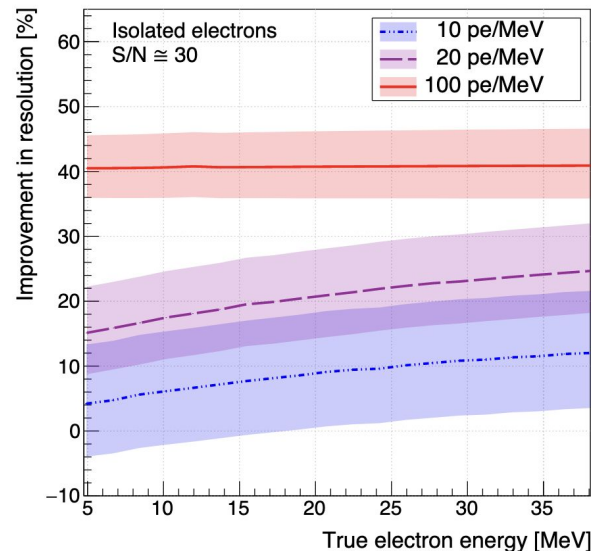
Scintillation light in LArTPCs key to extract full 3D position.

“Charge-to-light” matching used to “time” interaction.

Enhancements to scintillation light collection can further expand reach and opportunities for event tagging.

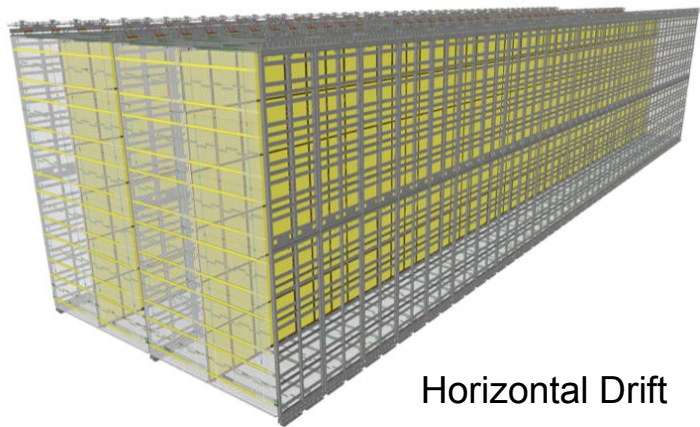


LArIAT, Phys.Rev.D 101 (2020) 1, 012010

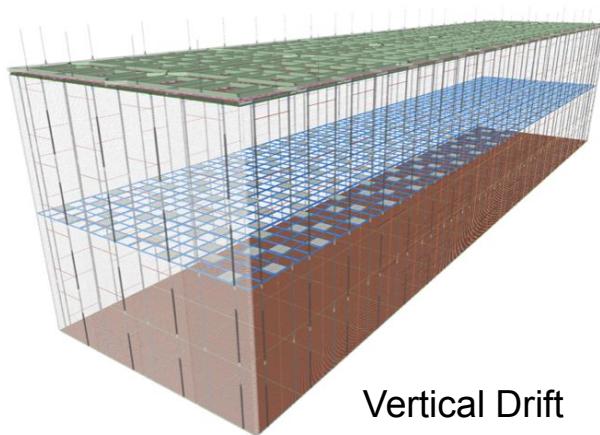


high Light Yield can further bring improvements to calorimetric energy reconstruction

# Calibrations with Multiple FD Modules

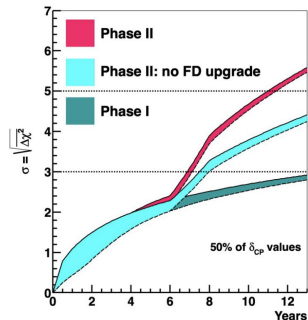


Horizontal Drift



Vertical Drift

+ ...

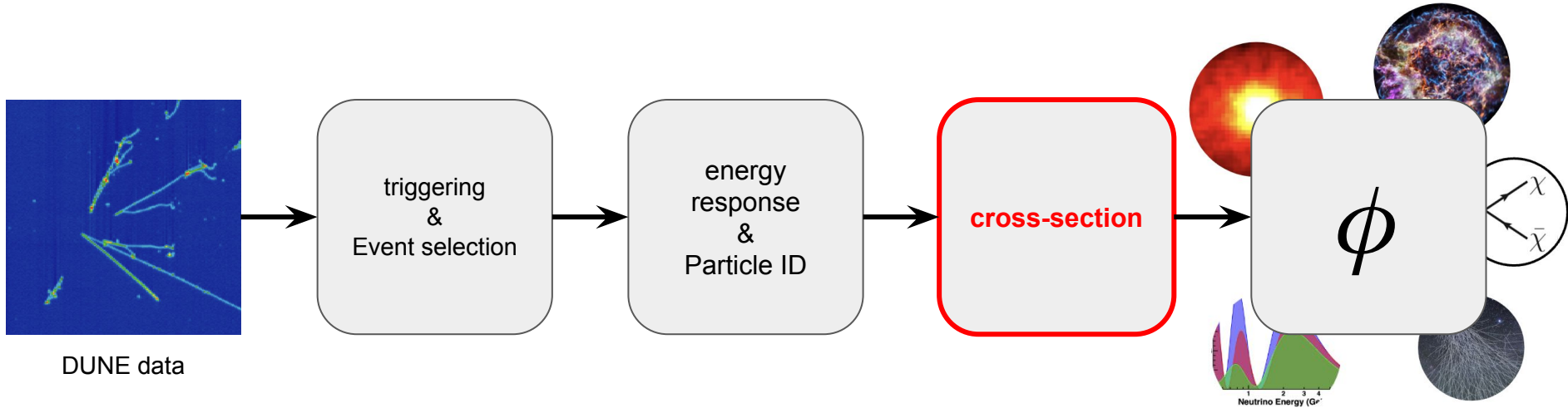


Precious statistics from all 4 FD modules for DUNE Phase II.

Important for modules to satisfy the needs of the beam oscillation program.

Ensure datasets from different detectors can be combined effectively.

# Neutrino Interaction Modeling



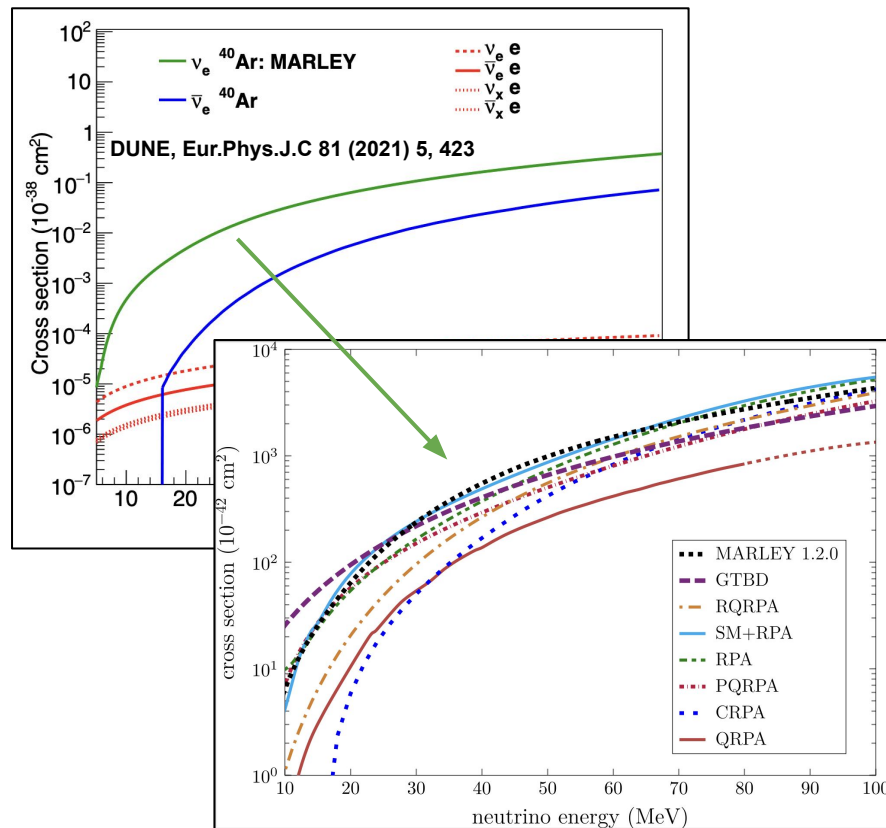
# Interaction Cross-Sections

Modeling uncertainties on  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  cross-section calculations impact ability to measure the flux of the sources we are interested in

- Calculations focus on inclusive channel
- MARLEY generator [Gardiner, Phys. Rev. C 103, 044604] recent development focusing on de-excitation modeling.
- Need for experimental data

Input can come from:

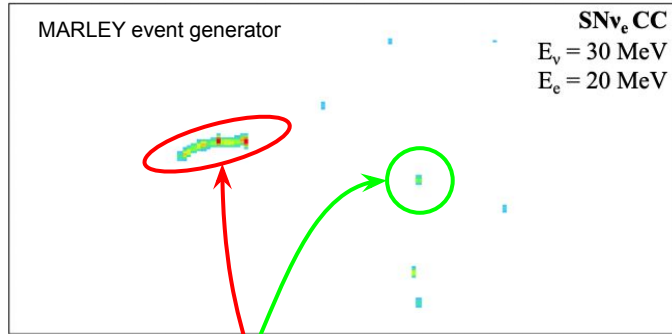
- Measurements of 10s of MeV  $\nu$ -Ar interactions
- MeV activity in higher energy neutrinos
- Further theory / generator developments



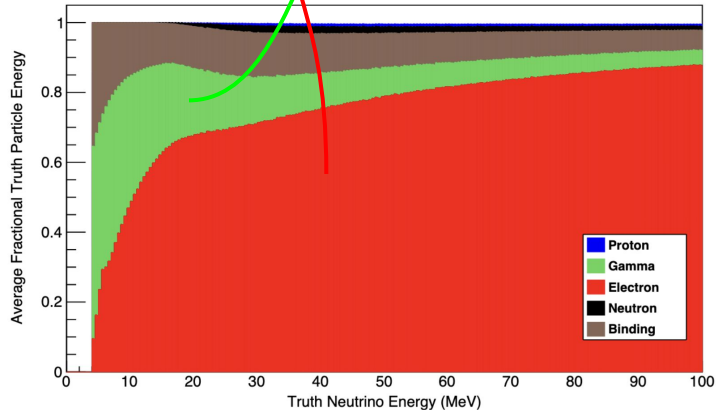
Discussion contained in “Low-Energy Physics in Neutrino LArTPCs”  
[[arXiv:2203.00740](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.00740)] and references therein  
Summary of LEPLAr workshops, prepared for Snowmass

# Final States / $\nu$ Energy Reconstruction

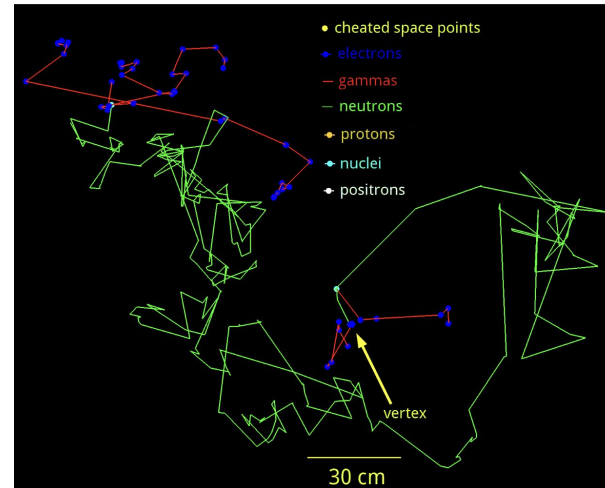
W. Castiglioni, et al., Phys. Rev. D, 102(9):092010, 2020



DUNE, Eur.Phys.J.C 81 (2021) 5, 423

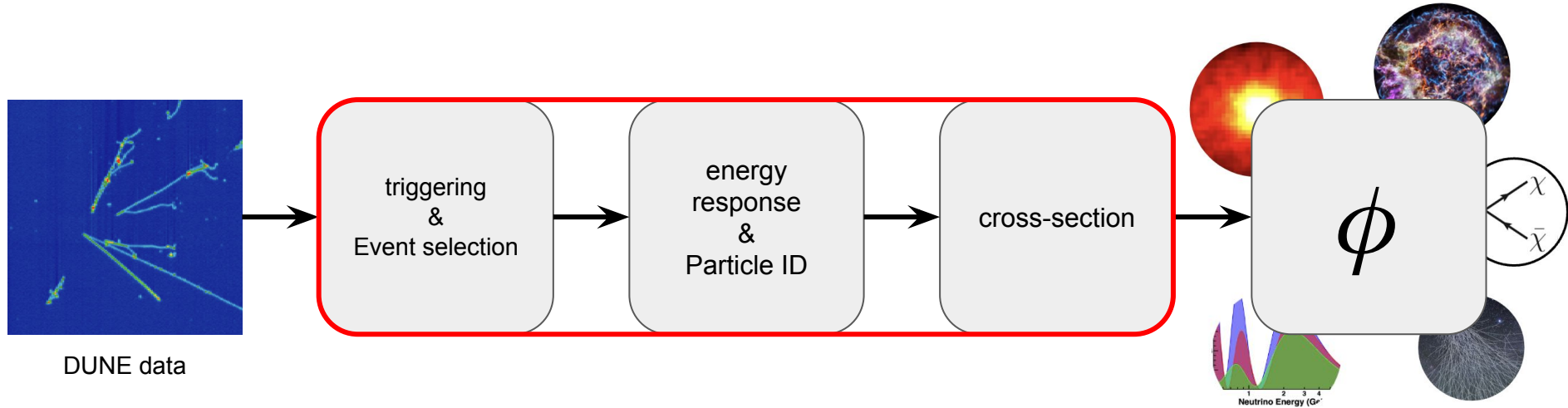


- Energy “budget” split amongst final-states
  - Important to model different contributions
  - Important to tag and reconstruct final-states
- Significant event-to-event variation.





# New Analysis Tools and Techniques



We are continuously devising new ways to analyze and extract more information from LArTPCs

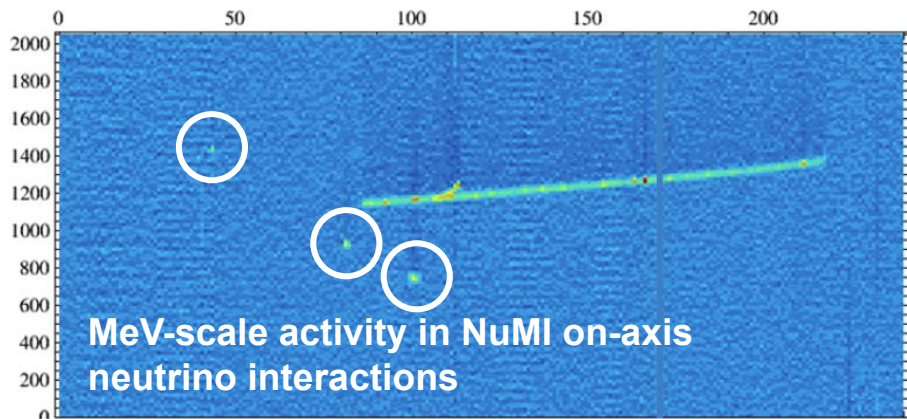
R&D in analysis methods offers exciting opportunities for low-energy physics program in DUNE

- An investment in the future potential for DUNE



# ArgoNeuT

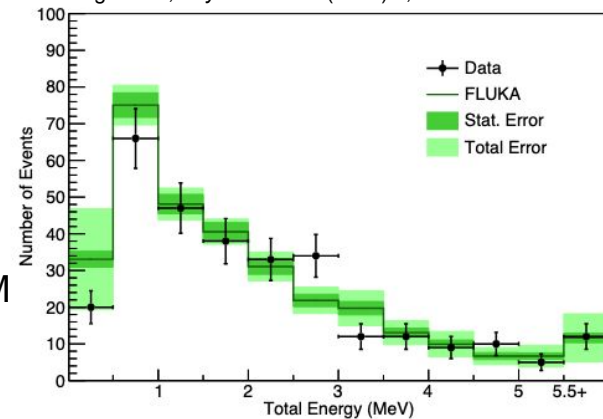
ArgoNeuT, *Phys.Rev.D* 99 (2019) 1, 012002



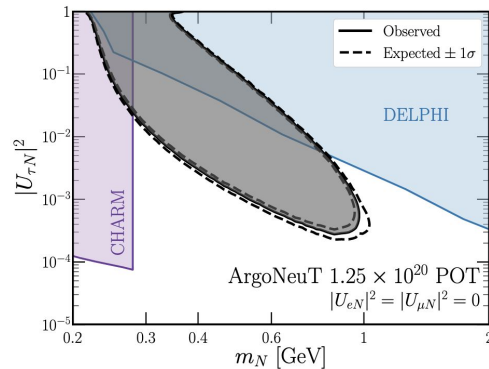
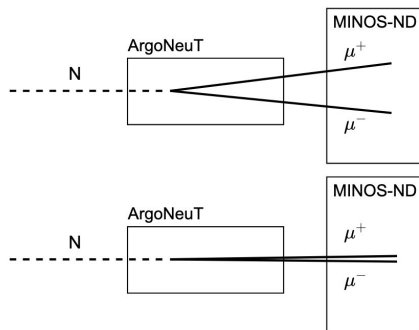
$\nu$  interaction modeling

Expanded BSM program

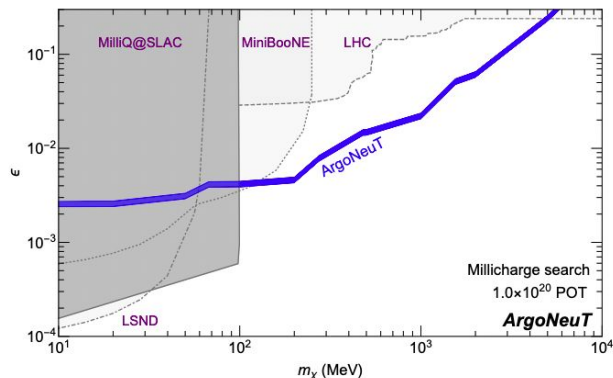
ArgoNeuT, *Phys.Rev.D* 99 (2019) 1, 012002



*Phys.Rev.Lett.* 127 (2021) 12, 121801



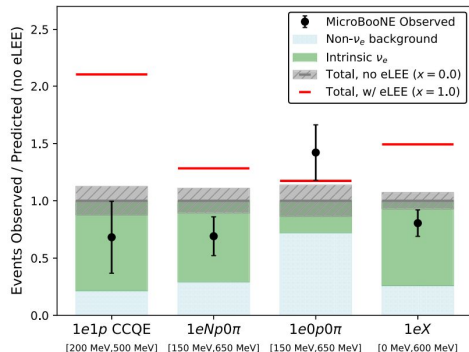
ArgoNeuT, *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 124 (2020) 13, 131801



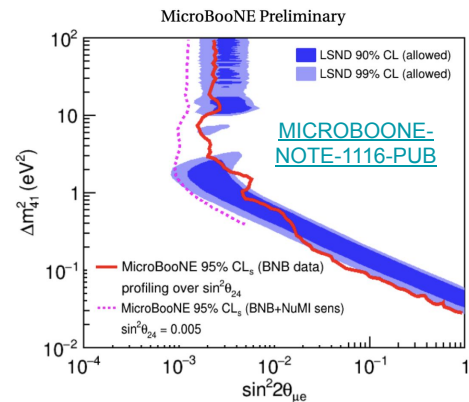
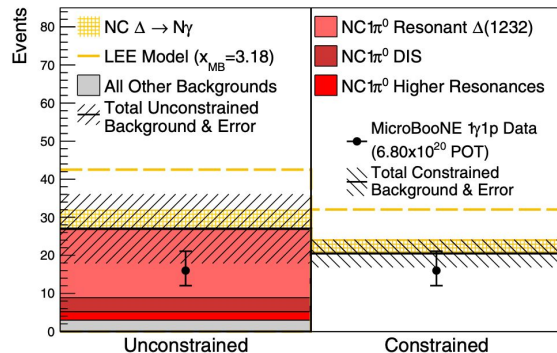
# sub-GeV: MicroBooNE “LEE” Results

MicroBooNE released in 2021 its first results investigating the MiniBooNE “Low Energy Excess”

[PRL 128 \(2022\) 24, 241801](#)



[PRL 128 \(2022\) 111801](#)

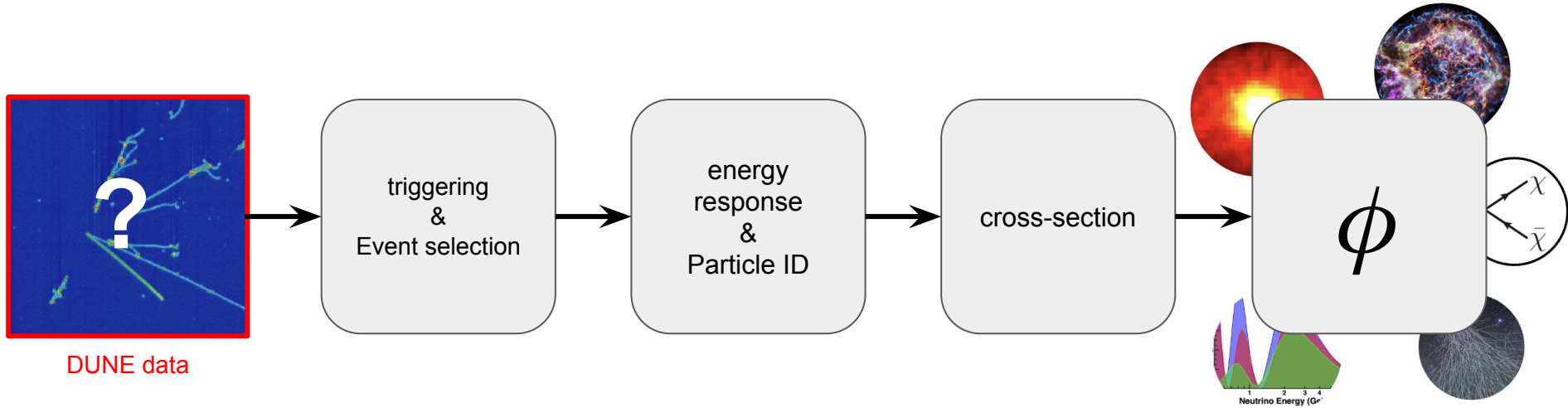


Major milestone for LArTPC technology, very much relevant to sub-GeV neutrino interactions.

Years of analysis R&D development in the making - even after demonstration of technology performance - on the tail of the Snomass process.

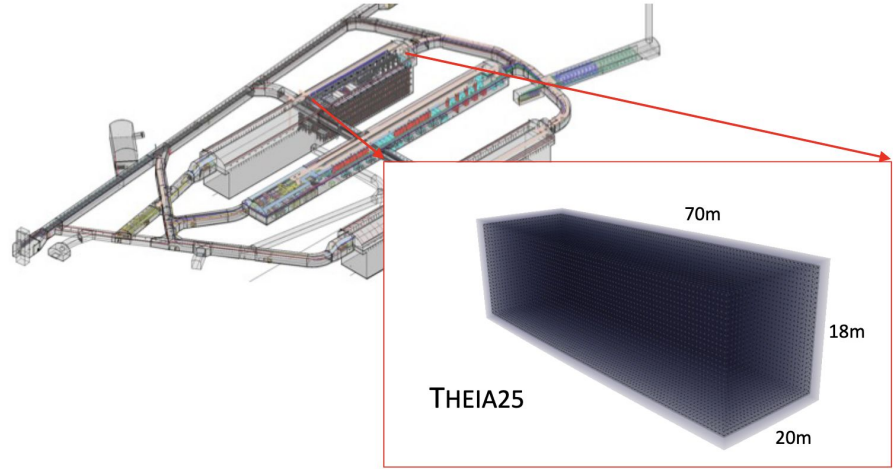
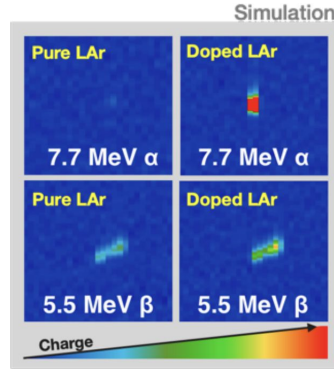
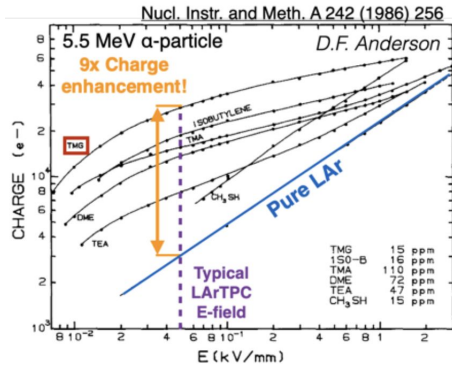
Contributing to broaden scope and reach of BSM searches in neutrino experiments.

# Detector Technologies for Phase II

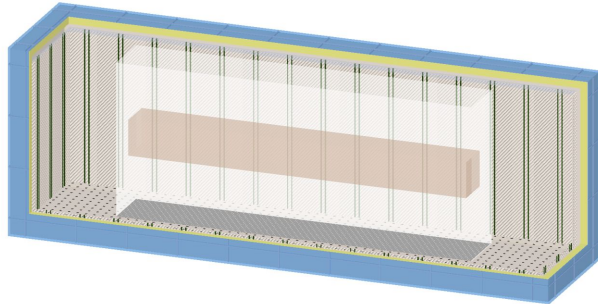


# R&D Efforts Targeting Low-Energy

Talk by Fernanda Psihas [\[link\]](#) on dopants for increased charge yield



Talk by Chris Jackson [\[link\]](#) on Underground Argon solutions



Talk [\[link\]](#) by Gabriel Orebi Gann on THEIA module

Many ideas: dope the argon...clean the argon...or get rid of the argon...

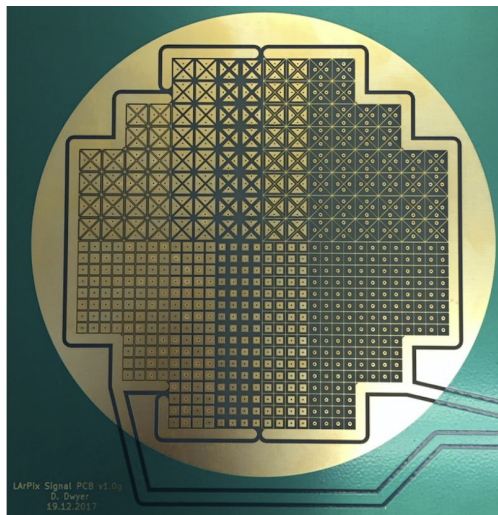
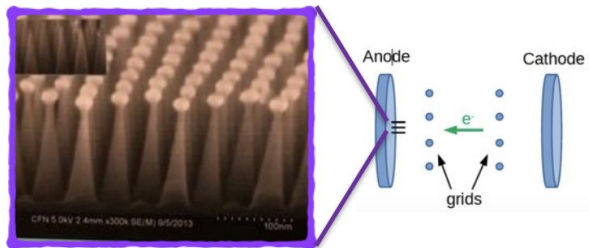
# R&D Efforts Targeting Low-Energy

Broad landscape for R&D in LArTPCs that can build on and enhance existing detectors

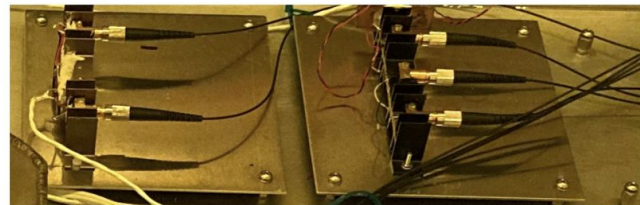
[see Angela Fava's Neutrino '22 [talk](#) for a very nice overview]

Pixel detectors, e.g. Q-Pix. Talk by Brooke Russell [\[link\]](#)

charge Amplification in LAr.



PoF - Power housing unit (5 warm Transmitter laser diodes)



LV-HC PoF supply board  
(2 cold Receivers on heatsink)

HV-LC PoF supply cold board  
(3 cold Receivers on heatsink)

Photodetectors for HV surfaces, and  
signal/power over fiber transport  
Active and successful tests @ CERN



# Conclusions

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DUNE has an exciting road ahead with many clear scientific questions to address.

Excitement for the unknowns we may learn from a broad and diverse physics program.

Achieving and expanding possibilities tied to Low(er) energy Neutrinos can support:

- Strong(er) astrophysics program in FD
- Exciting prospects for BSM searches and important role of sub-GeV neutrinos in ND
- Expanded physics scope with detector and analysis R&D

Coordinate strategically: achieve performance that is greater than the sum of the parts.

