

# SHORT-BASELINE NEUTRINO PROGRAM

P5 TOWN HALL

FERMILAB, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2023

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FERMILAB



# P5-2014 AND THE SHORT-BASELINE NEUTRINO PROGRAM

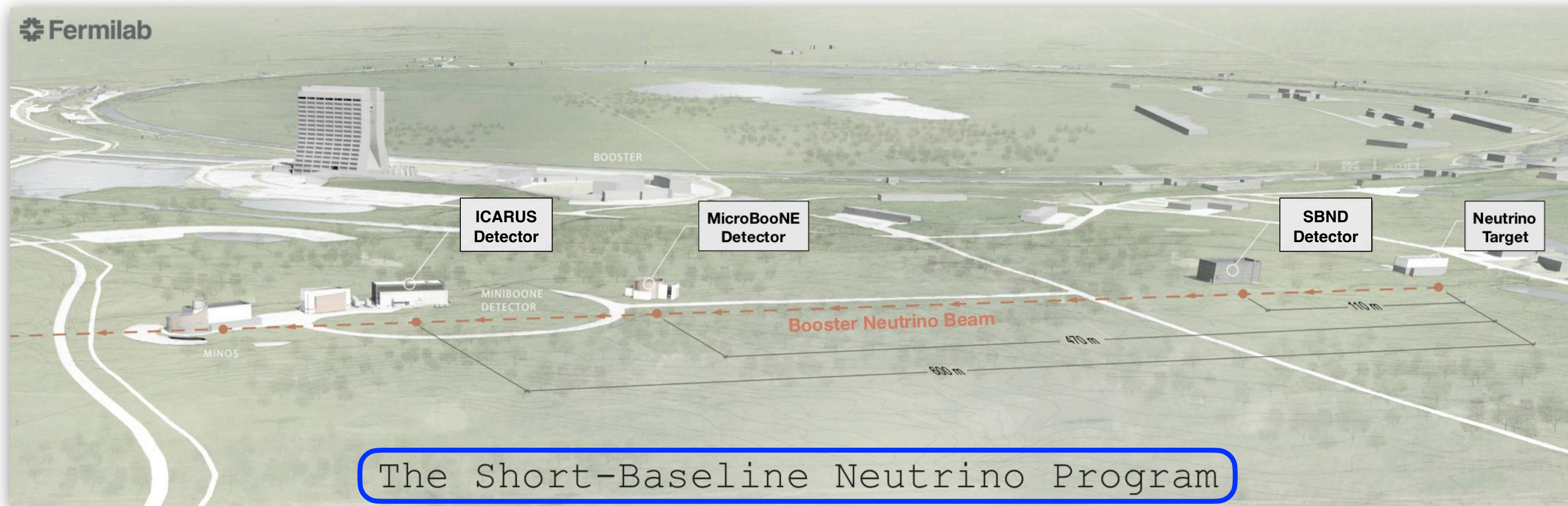
One of the recommendations of the **2014 P5** report “Building for Discovery” was to realize a **world leading short-baseline experimental neutrino program\*** with **strong participation by the domestic and international neutrino physics communities working toward LBNF [DUNE]**:

- **Recommendation 12**: In collaboration with international partners, develop a **coherent short- and long-baseline neutrino program hosted at Fermilab**.
- **Recommendation 15**: Select and perform in the short term a set of small-scale **short-baseline experiments** that can **conclusively address experimental hints of physics beyond the three-neutrino paradigm**. Some of these experiments should use **liquid argon** to advance the technology and build the international community for LBNF at Fermilab.



*P5 Report, May 2014*

The **Short-Baseline Neutrino (SBN)** program at Fermilab is well matched to these recommendations



SBN Proposal, January 2015  
*arXiv:1503.01520*

SBN detectors design/  
construction/installation,  
2016-2023

Physics in the forthcoming  
P5 cycle

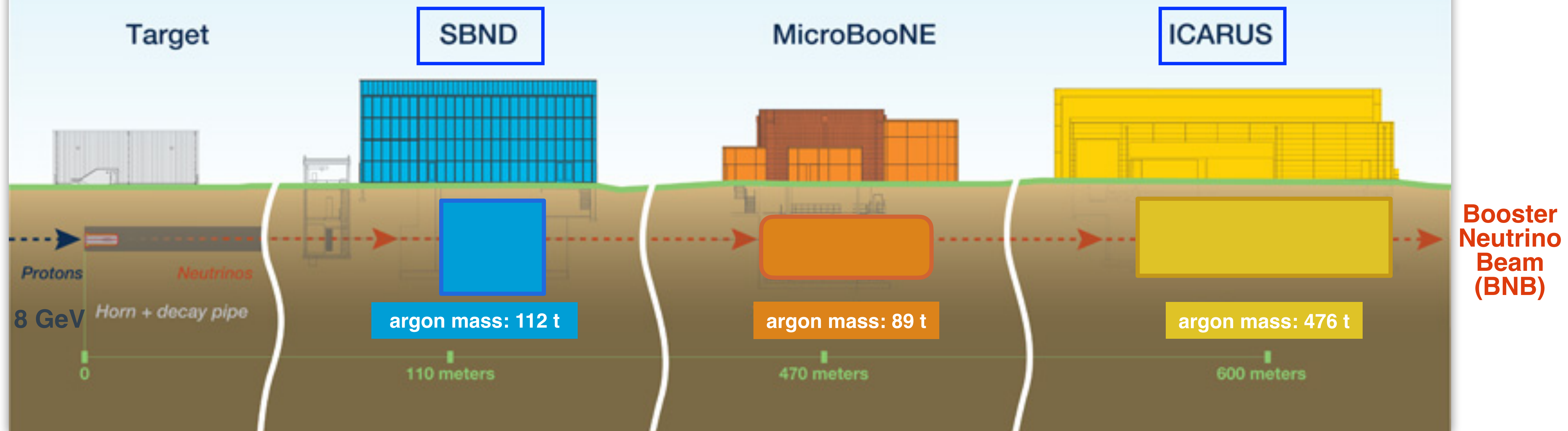


\* Short-Baseline:  $L \sim 100\text{-}1000\text{ m}$ ,  $\Delta m^2 \sim 1\text{eV}^2$   
cfr.: Long-Baseline:  $L \sim 100\text{-}1000\text{ km}$ ,  $\Delta m^2 \sim 10^{-3}\text{eV}^2$



# SHORT-BASELINE NEUTRINO PROGRAM

## Short-Baseline Neutrino Program at Fermilab



**2015-2021**  
Large production of  
scientific results

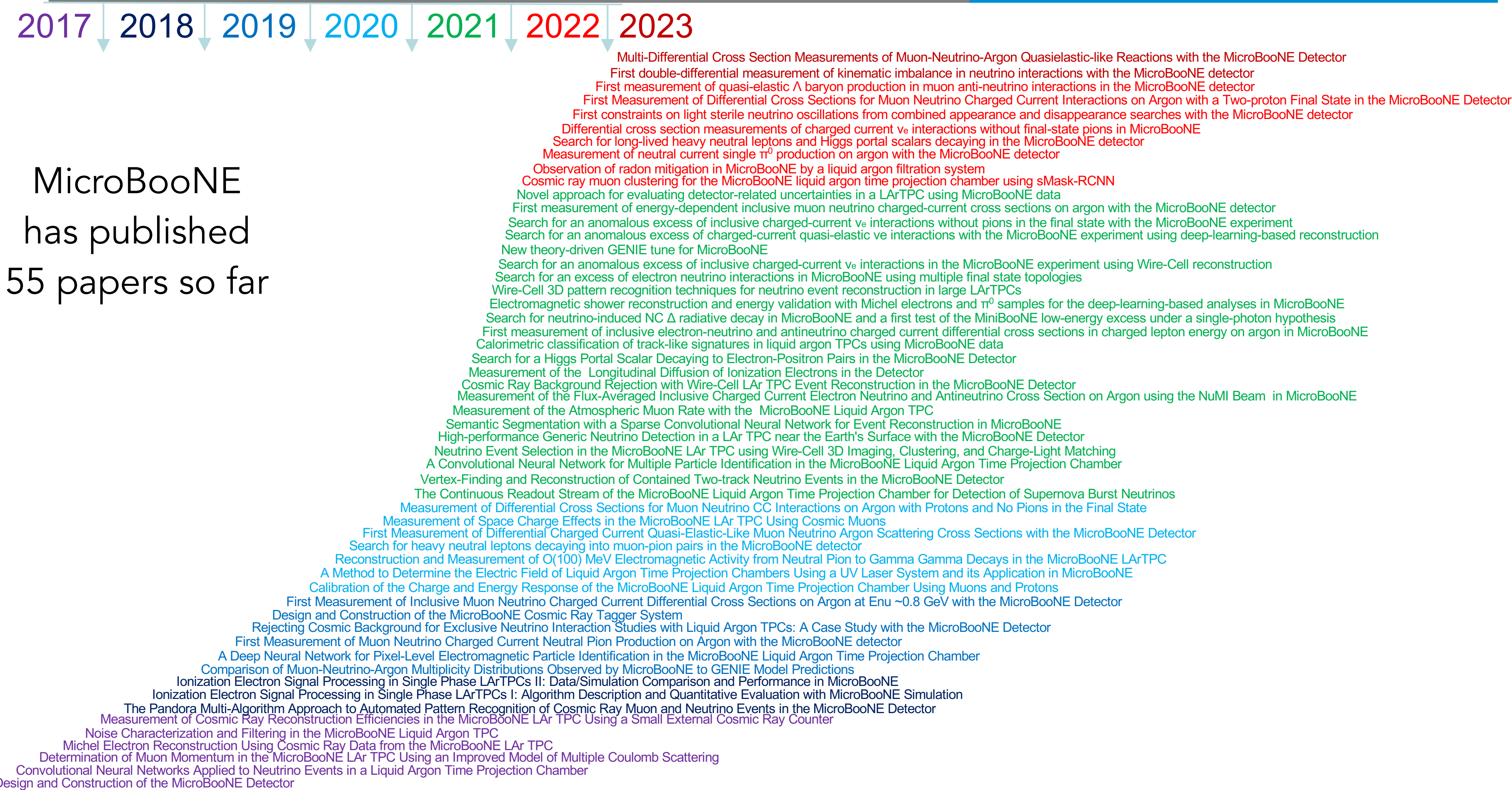
Beam composition:  
 $\nu_\mu$  (93.6%)  
 $\bar{\nu}_\mu$  (5.9%)  
 $\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$  (0.5%)

**Mean  $\nu_\mu$  energy:  
~0.8 GeV**



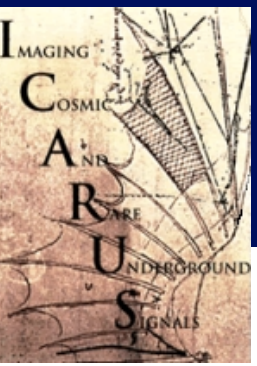


MicroBooNE Papers





# FAR DETECTOR - ICARUS



From **Gran Sasso Laboratory** to **Fermilab** via **CERN**

July 2017



Transport from **CERN** to **Fermilab**

August 2018



Installation of **ICARUS** cryostats

August 2020



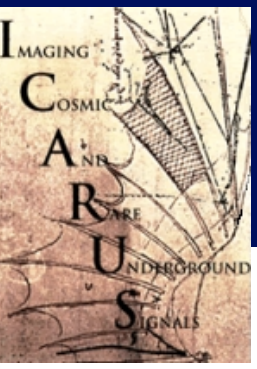
Start of **ICARUS** detector operation

Four Time Projection Chambers  
in two modules  
**Each module dimension:**  
3m x 4m x 18m

Steady **data taking** since **March 2021**, in parallel with commissioning activities



# FAR DETECTOR - ICARUS



August 2021

Completion of  
Cosmic Ray tagger

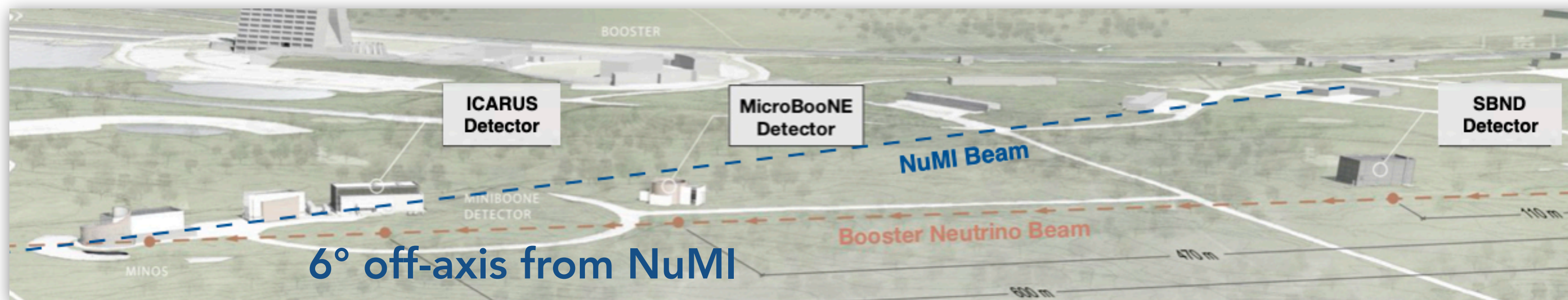


June 2022

Completion of  
concrete overburden

Collecting data in final configuration since **June 2022**

ICARUS receives two neutrino beams: it also sits  $6^\circ$  off-axis from the NuMI beam



**Detector components:** INFN (Italy)  
**Side/bottom CRT:** FNAL (DOE) and US institutions  
**Detector refurbishment infrastructure and shipping:** CERN  
**Cryostat and Cryogenics:** CERN and FNAL (DOE)  
**Building and Infrastructures:** FNAL (DOE)  
**Assembly and Installation:** FNAL (DOE) and Collaboration Institutions

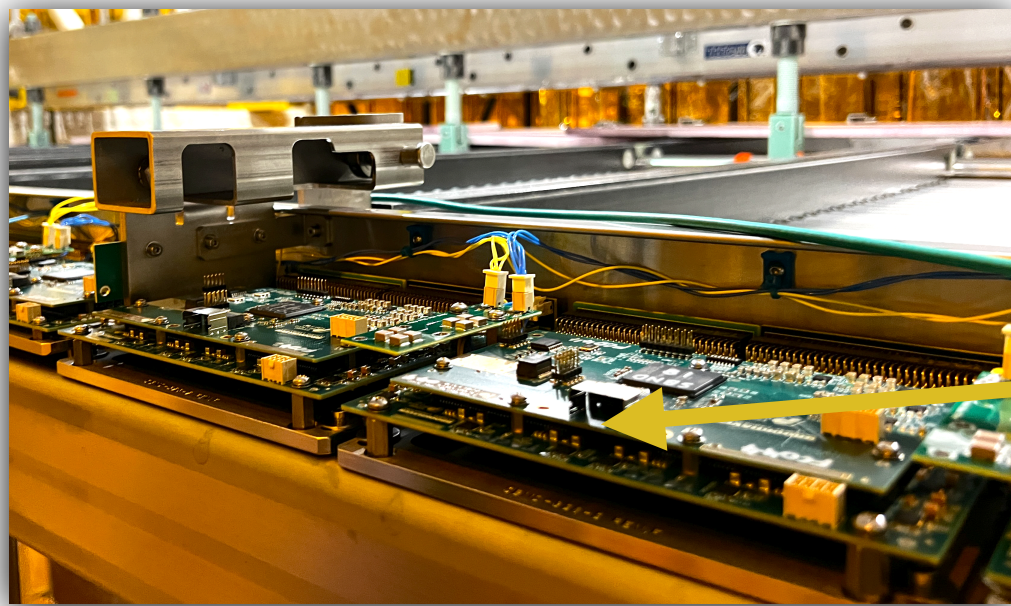


# NEAR DETECTOR - SBND OVERVIEW

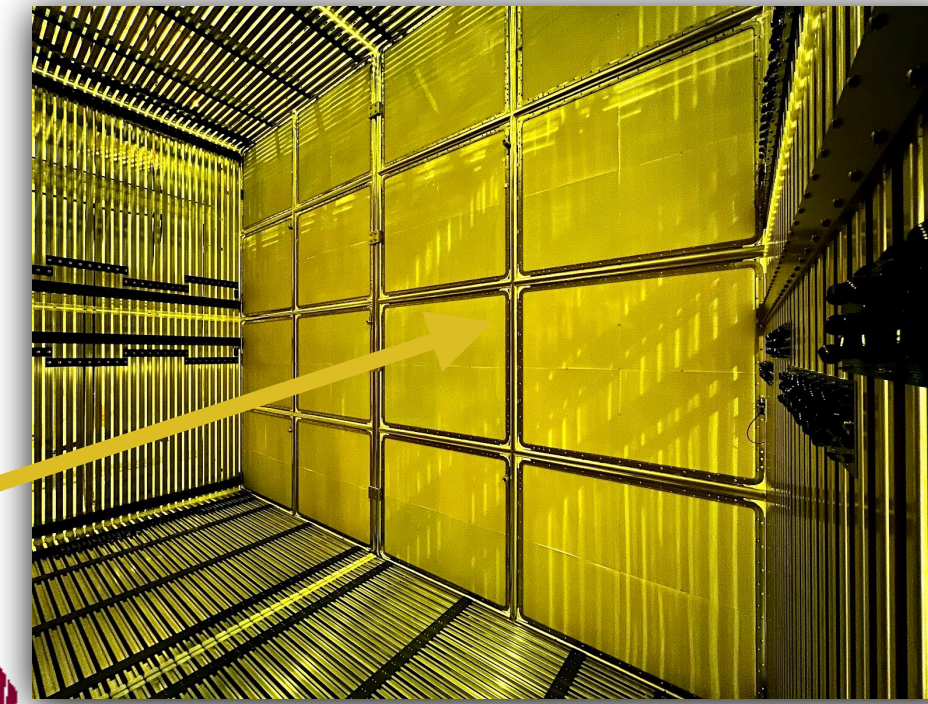
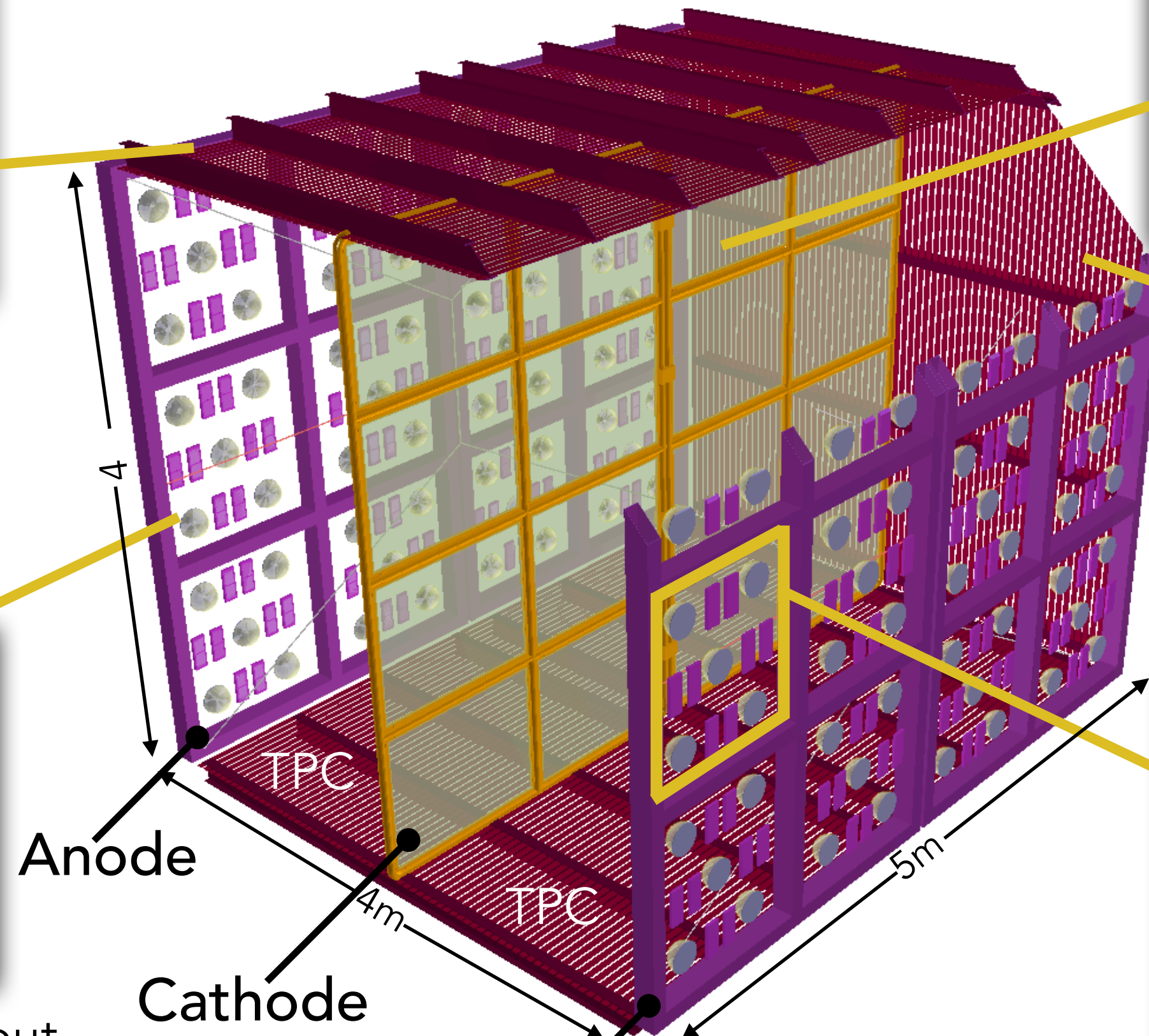


The design of the SBND TPC is largely based on the design of the TPC for the DUNE Far Detector 1 (FD1)

TPC Cold electronics

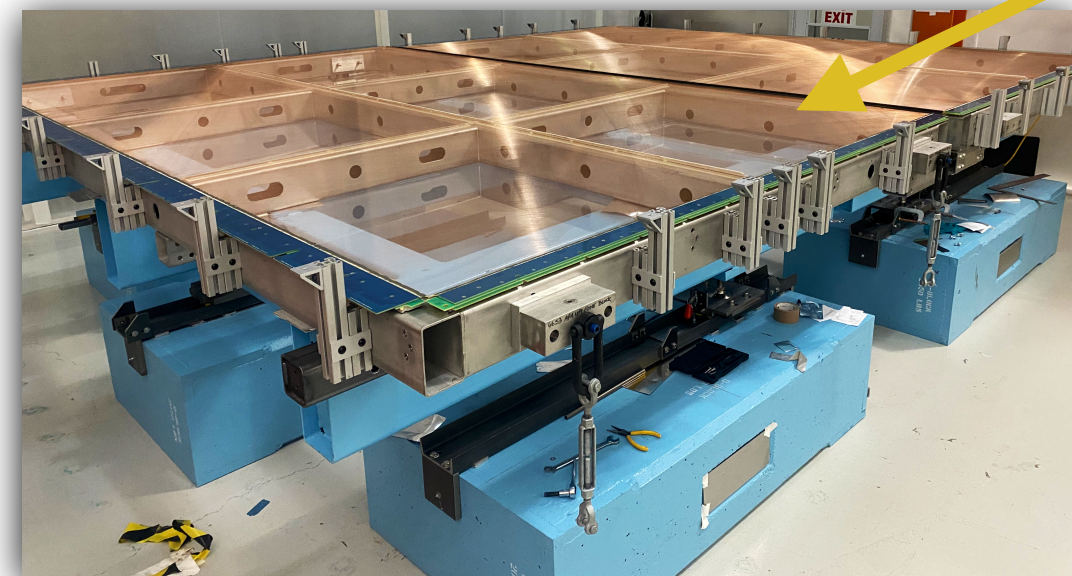


Two Time Projection Chambers  
**Total dimension:** 4m x 4m x 5m



**CPA - Cathode**  
covered with TPB  
coated reflectors

**Field Cage**



**APA - wire planes** - 3 readout  
planes, ~11000 wires



**Photon Detection  
Systems:** 120 PMTs,  
192 X-Arapucas

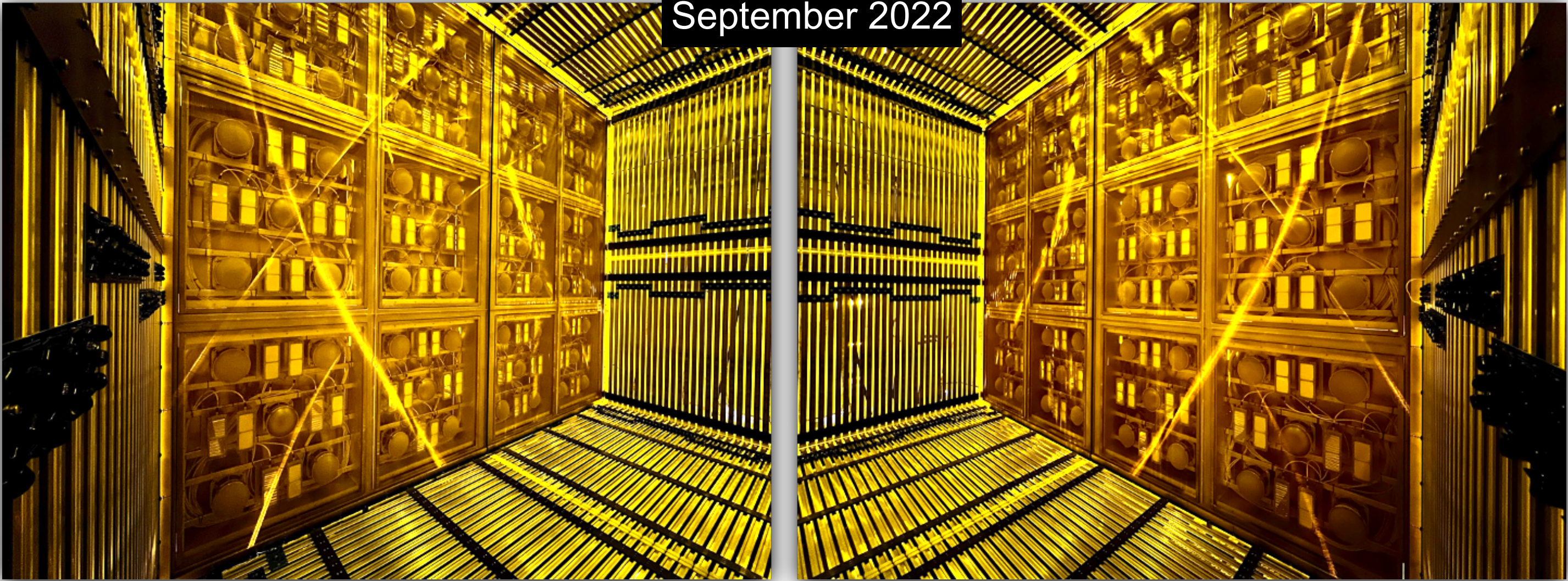
**Detector components:** Brazil, UK, Switzerland  
and US (NSF and DOE) Institutions  
**Cryostat and Cryogenics:** CERN and FNAL  
(DOE)  
**Building and Infrastructures:** FNAL (DOE)  
**Assembly and Installation:** FNAL (DOE) and  
Collaboration Institutions



# SBND STATUS

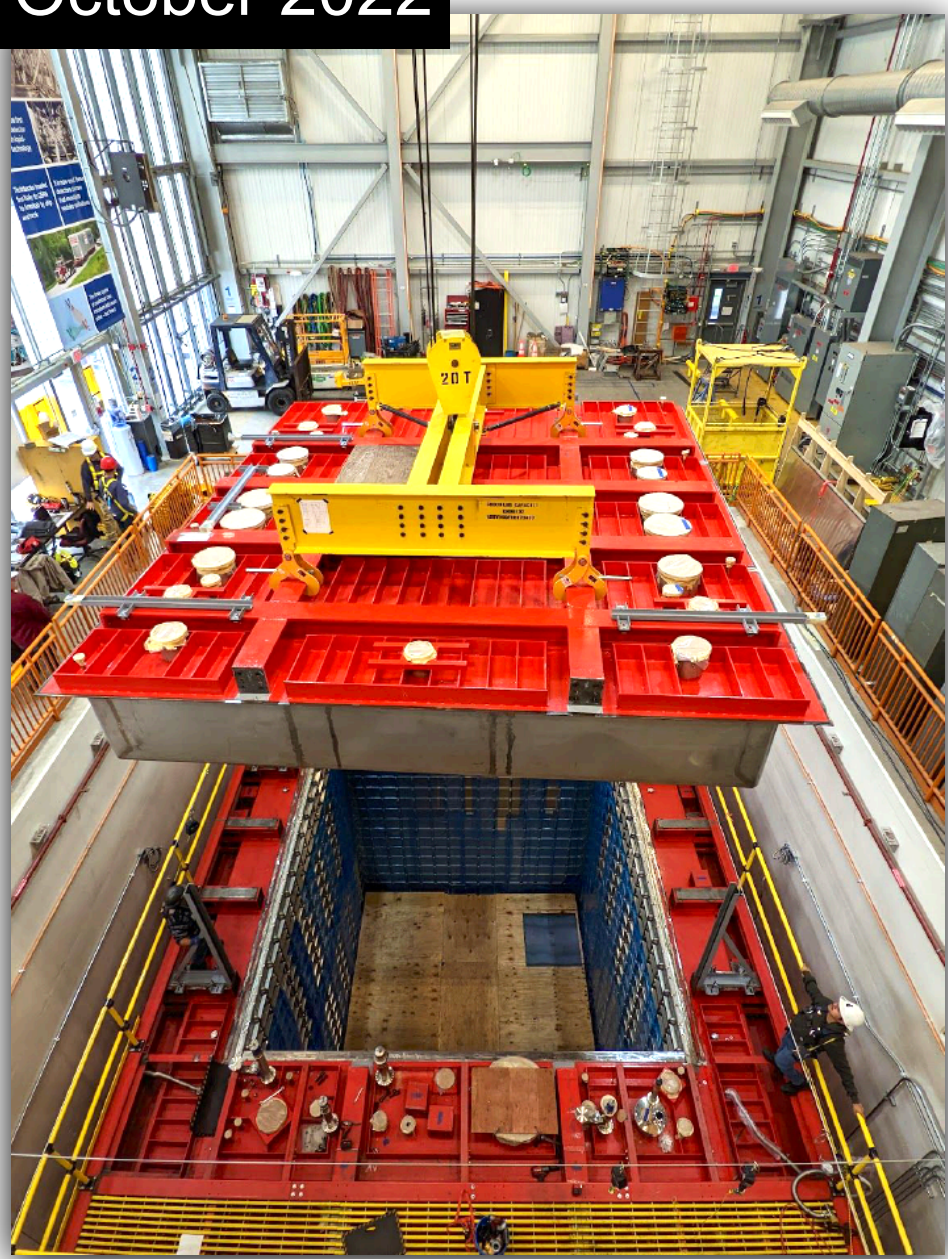


September 2022



SBND  
detector  
completed

October 2022



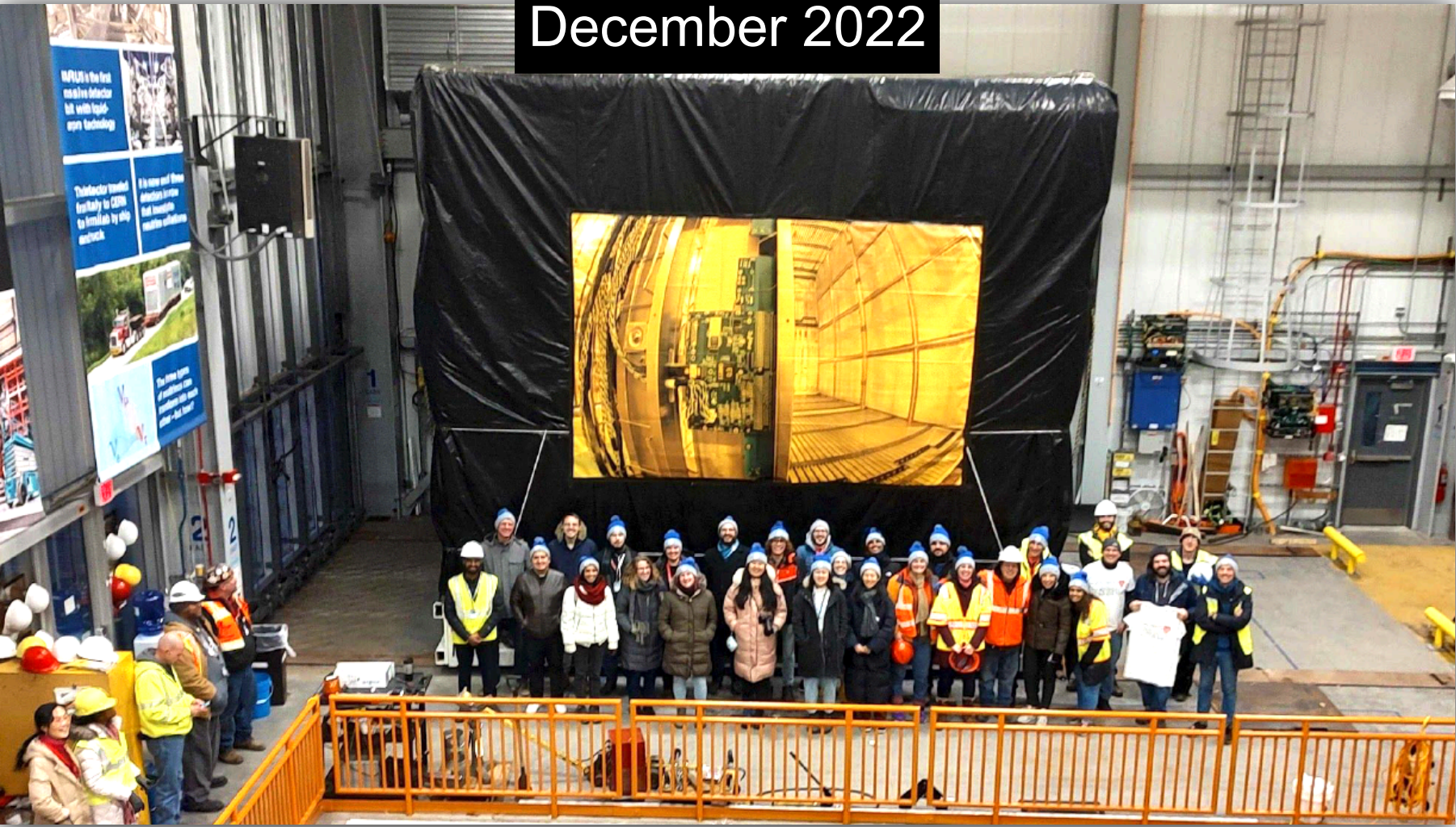
Membrane  
cryostat as in  
DUNE FD1 and  
FD2

SBND  
cryostat  
completed

On **December 1, 2022** the assembled SBND TPC + photon detector systems was successfully moved across the Fermilab site from DAB to the SBND Detector hall

SBND detector move

December 2022

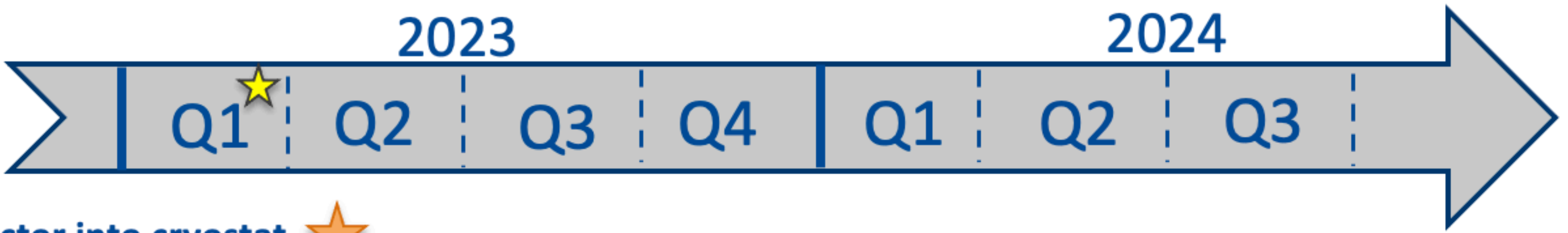
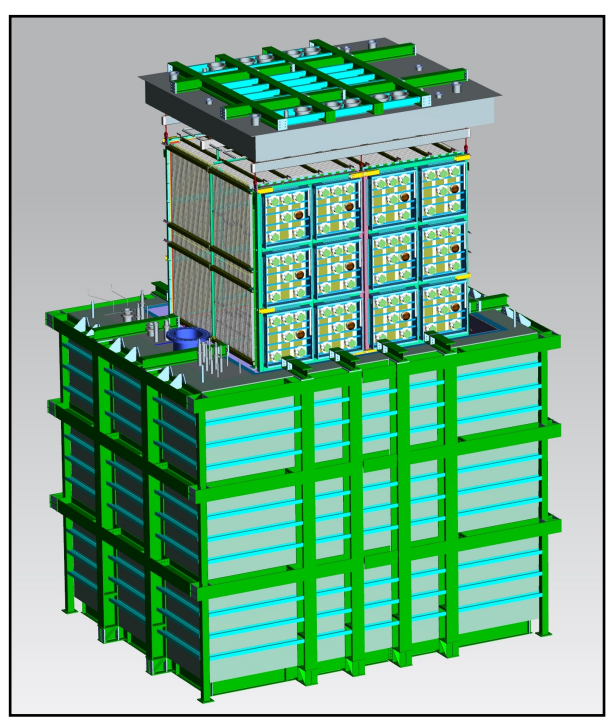


A newsworthy  
day





# SBND - TIMELINE TO OPERATIONS



Rigging detector into cryostat  April, 2023

Ready for Cryogenic Commissioning 

Purge, Cooldown, Fill 

Filled & ready for Physics Commissioning  November, 2023

Detector commissioning 

Initial Physics Run 

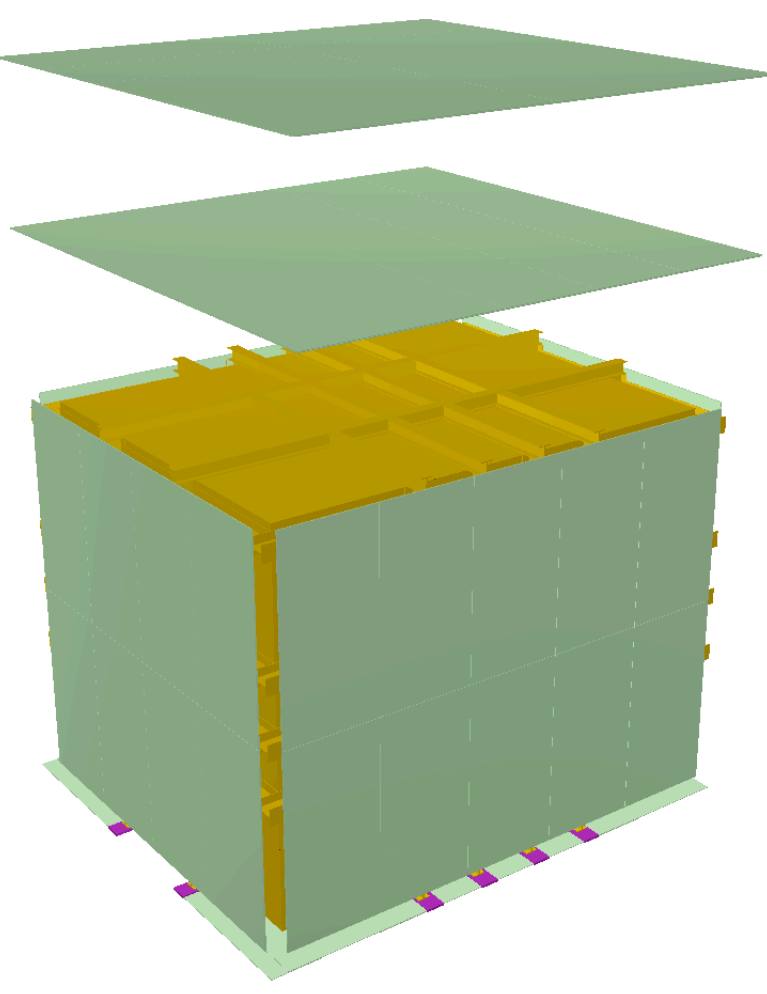
Complete CRT Installation 

CRT is operational 

summer shutdown 2024 



Cryostat surrounded by a Cosmic Ray Tagger system. Panels made of scintillator strips



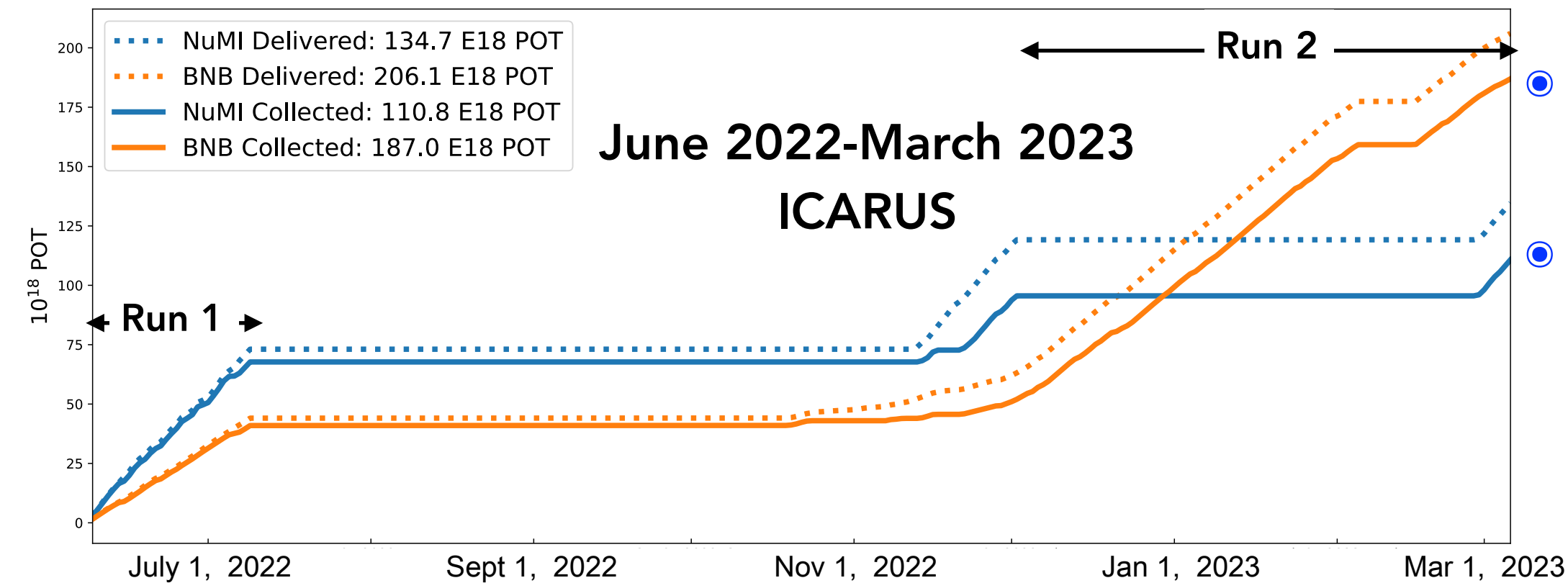


# SBN RUN PLAN

- ICARUS is collecting physics data since June 2022:

**Run 1**, first ICARUS physics run:  
June 9<sup>th</sup> – July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
(average collection efficiency ~93% for both BNB and NuMI)

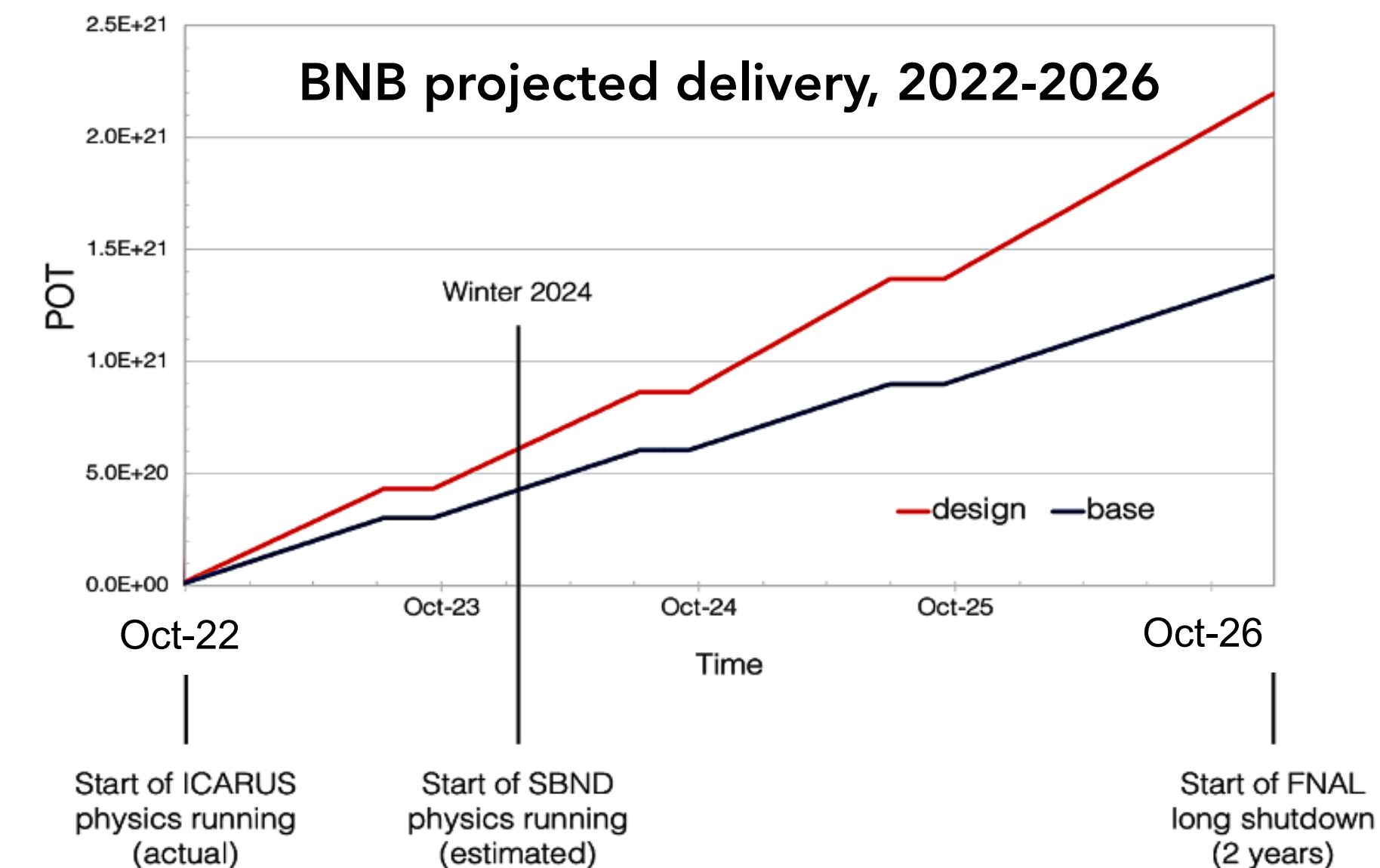
**Run 2:**  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 –  
(average collection efficiency ~95%)



- $1.9 \times 10^{20}$  protons on target (POT) collected from BNB
- $1.1 \times 10^{20}$  POT collected from NuMI

- Running **until** the Fermilab **accelerator long-shutdown** in 2027:
  - ICARUS is expected to collect  $15-22 \times 10^{20}$  POT from BNB
  - SBND is expected to collect  $10-13 \times 10^{20}$  POT from BNB
    - This is x2 the assumed exposure in the SBN proposal ( $6.6 \times 10^{20}$  POT)

- We have started considering the **physics potential of extending the run after the long-shutdown** (2029+). Possible scenarios:
  - Continue to run in neutrino mode
  - Run in anti-neutrino mode
  - Run in beam-dump mode

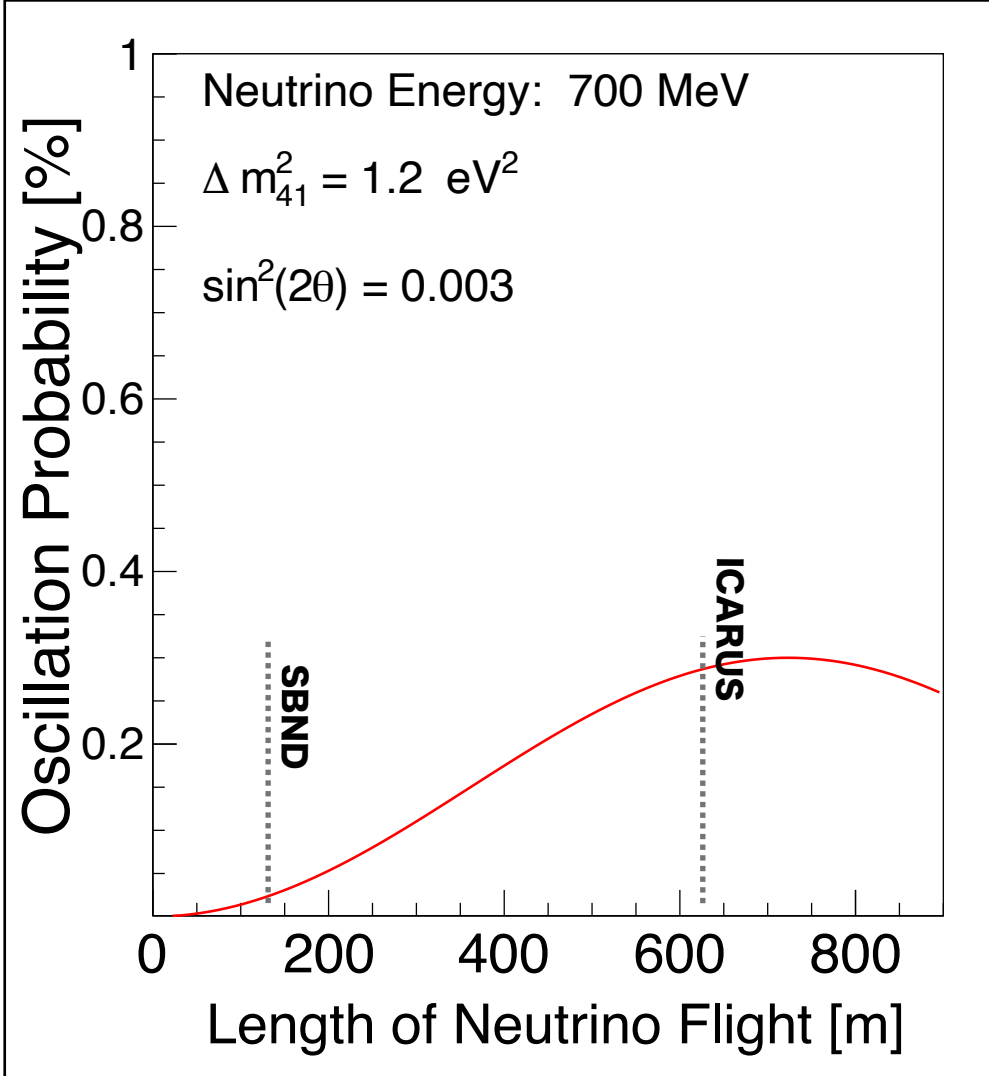




# WHAT MAKES THE SBN PROGRAM UNIQUE?

## LAr Technology

Event imaging  
Fine granularity calorimetry  
and particle identification  
Electron- $\gamma$  separation  
Good timing resolution  
Low energy threshold



## Near detector **SBND**

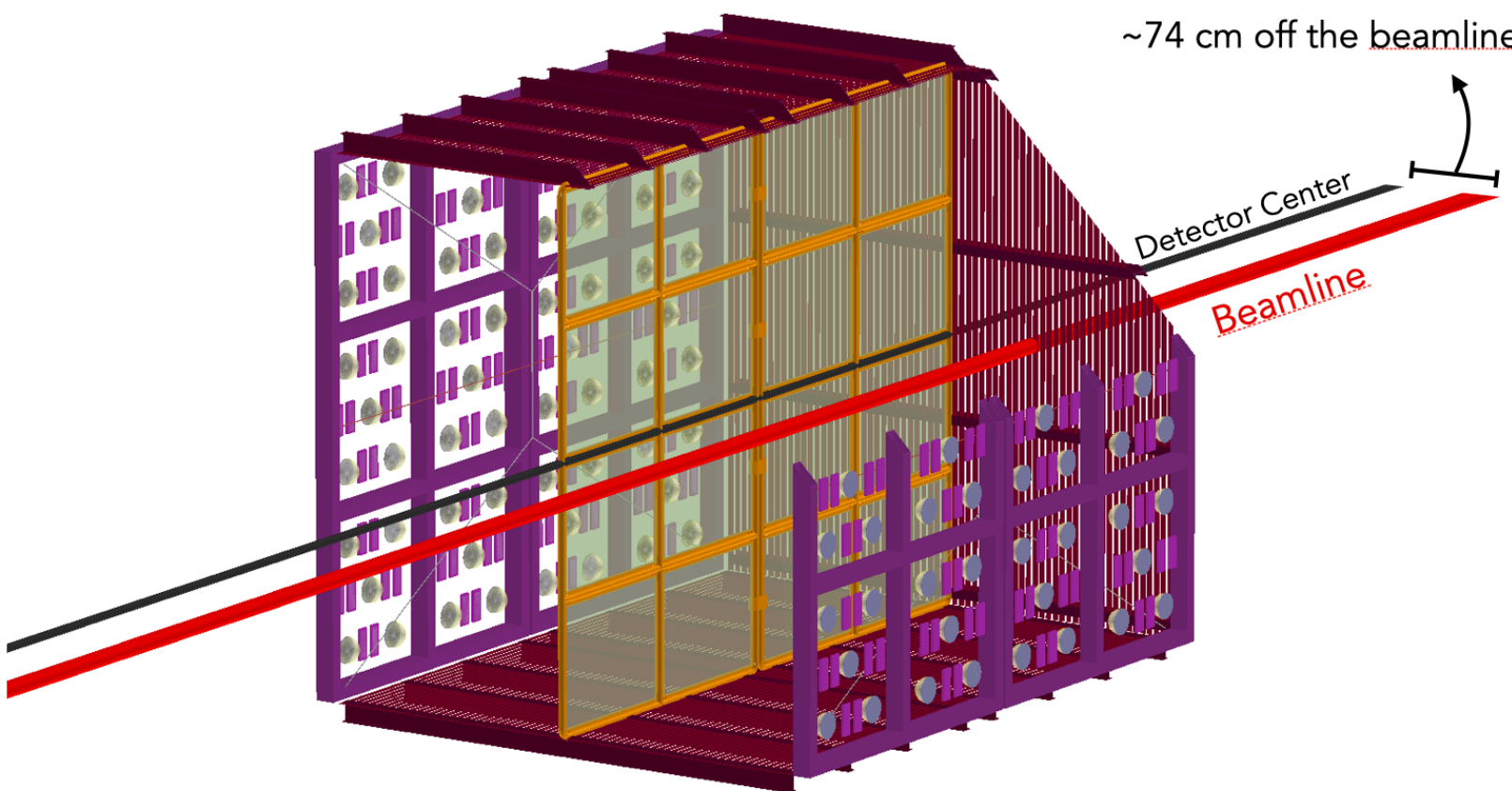
Crucial for oscillation searches.

Sitting close to the neutrino source, SBND plays a **unique role**. It sits before oscillations turn on @eV-scale  $\rightarrow$  it characterizes the beam and **addresses the dominant systematic uncertainties**

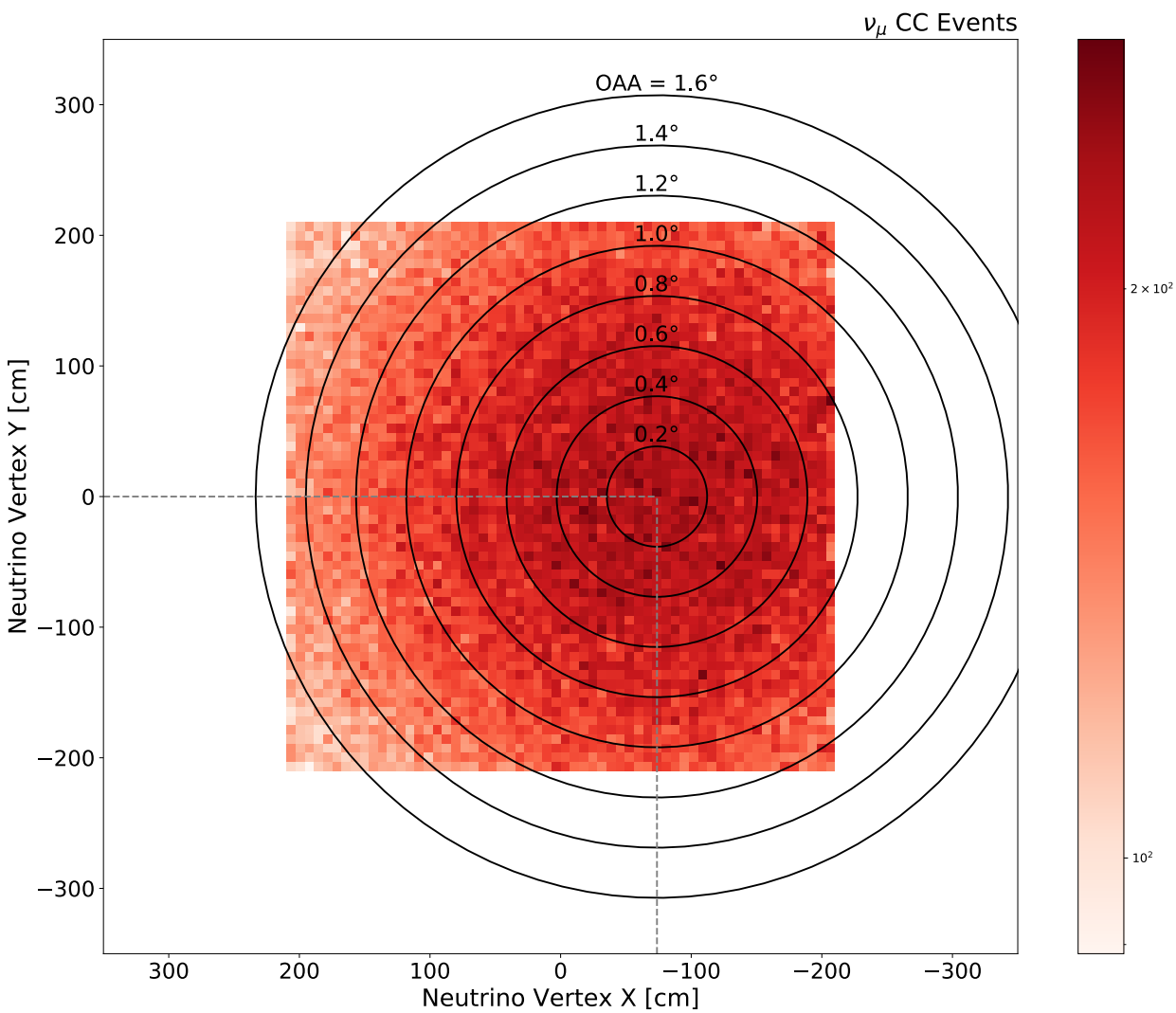
## Far detector **ICARUS**

Given its far location and large mass provides big exposure to oscillated neutrinos, allowing for a **high sensitivity oscillation search**

SBND is close (110 m) to the neutrino source and intentionally positioned offset relative to the beam center.



## **SBND-PRISM**



This "PRISM"\* feature of SBND allows **sampling multiple neutrino fluxes in the detector**

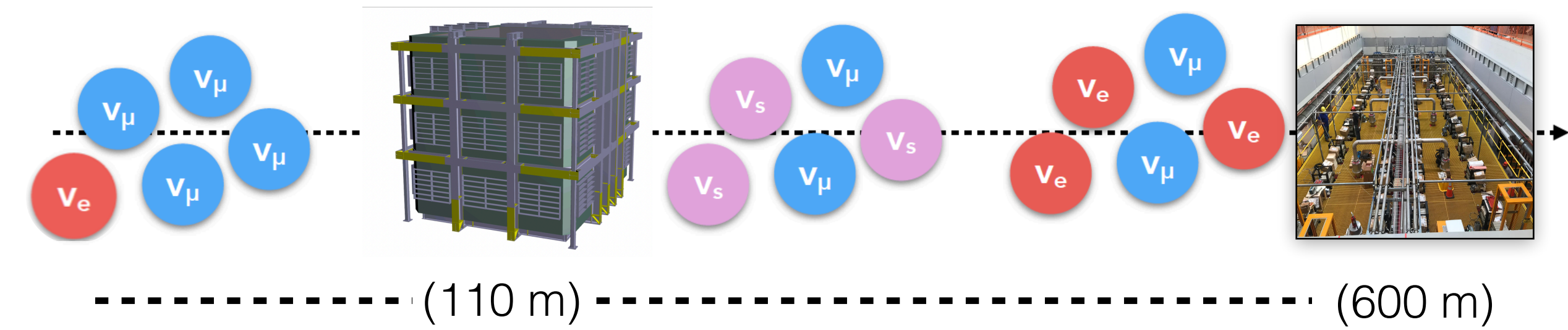
**SBND-PRISM** provides unique constraints of systematic uncertainties, helps mitigate backgrounds and expands the SBN(D) physics potentials

\*Similar to the nu-PRISM and DUNE-PRISM concepts, but with a fixed detector.

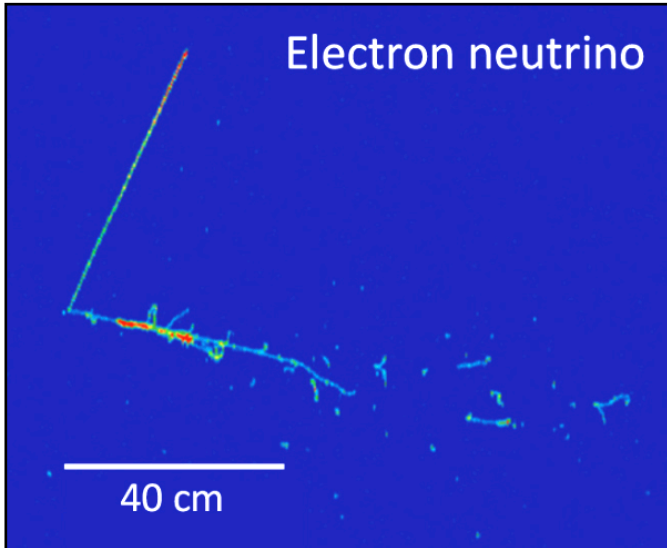


# SBN - A BROAD PHYSICS PROGRAM

**eV-scale sterile neutrinos:** searches for physics beyond the three-neutrino mixing with **multiple-detectors at different baselines.**



**Neutrino-argon interactions:** with **an order of magnitude more data** than is currently available.

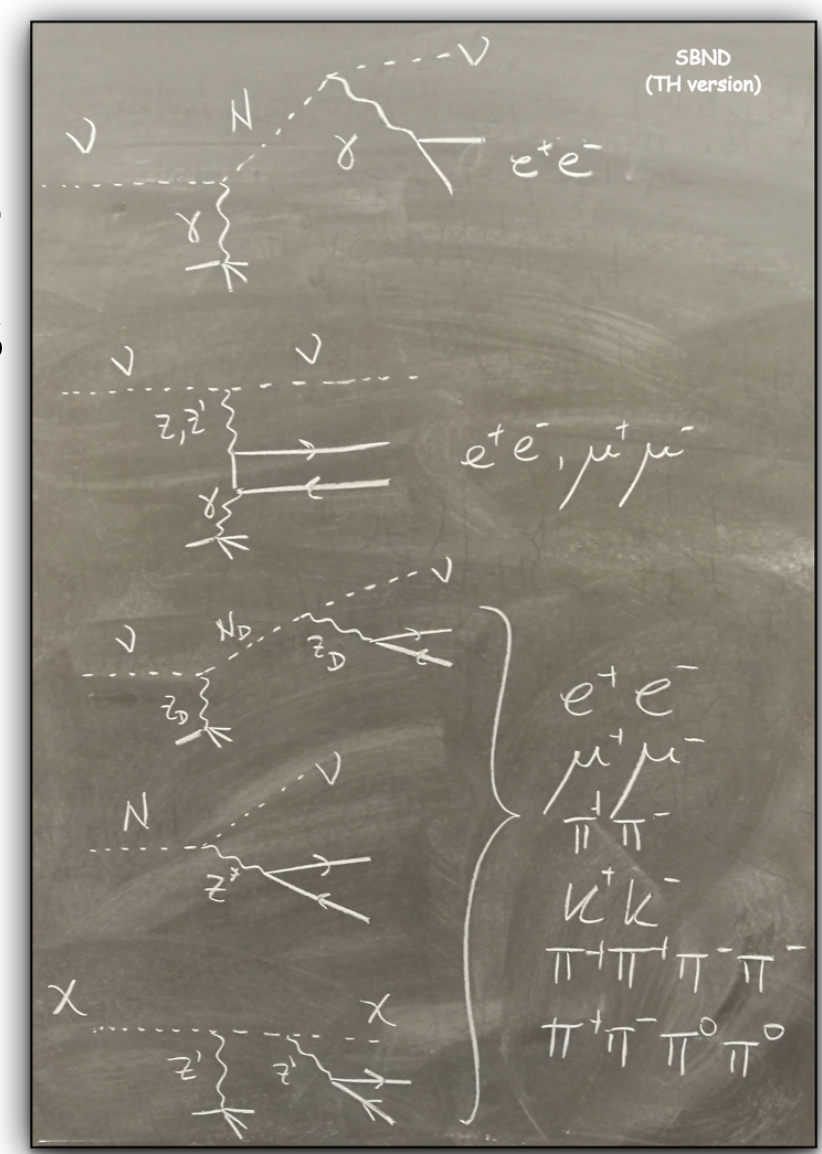


**We have expanded the physics program!**

**New physics scenarios:** study alternative explanations of the short-baseline anomalies and other Beyond Standard Model scenarios.

**Many ideas for new searches** emerging from collaboration with theory colleagues.

Large volumes of LAr data will enable further developments of powerful reconstruction and analysis techniques.

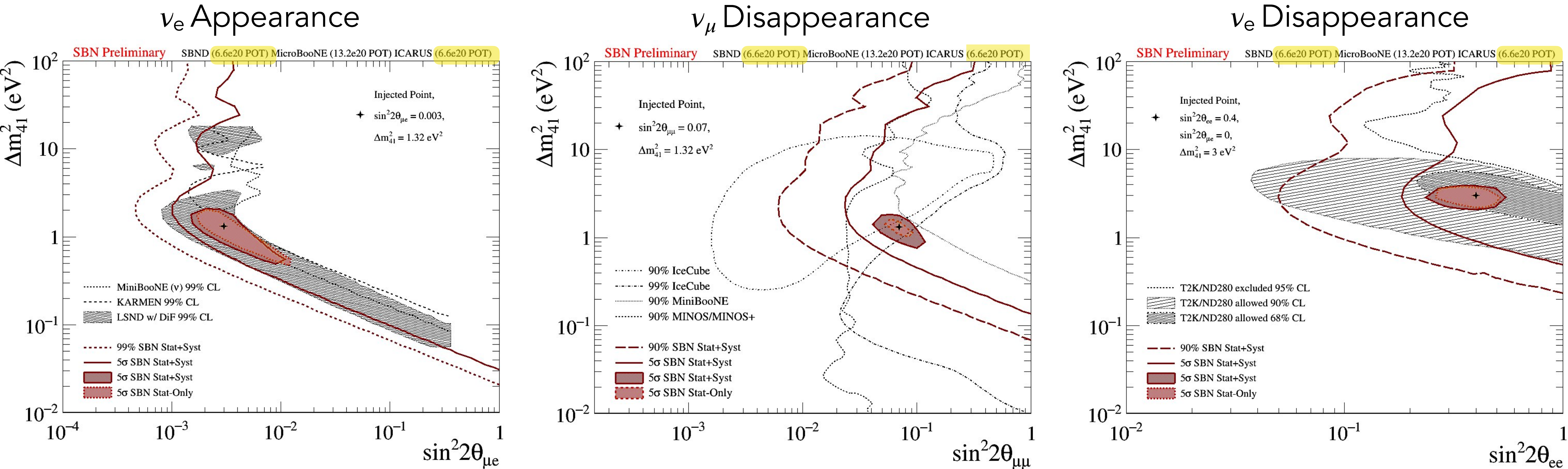


P.Machado, O.P., D. Schmitz, *Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci.* 69 363-387 (2019)

Courtesy of P. Machado



# SBN STERILE NEUTRINO SENSITIVITIES

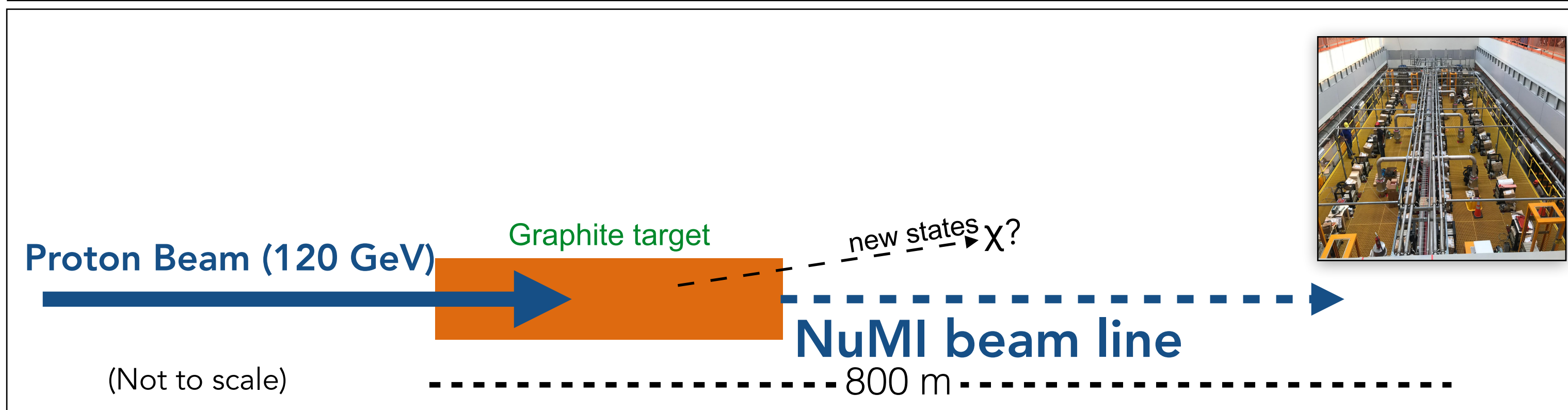
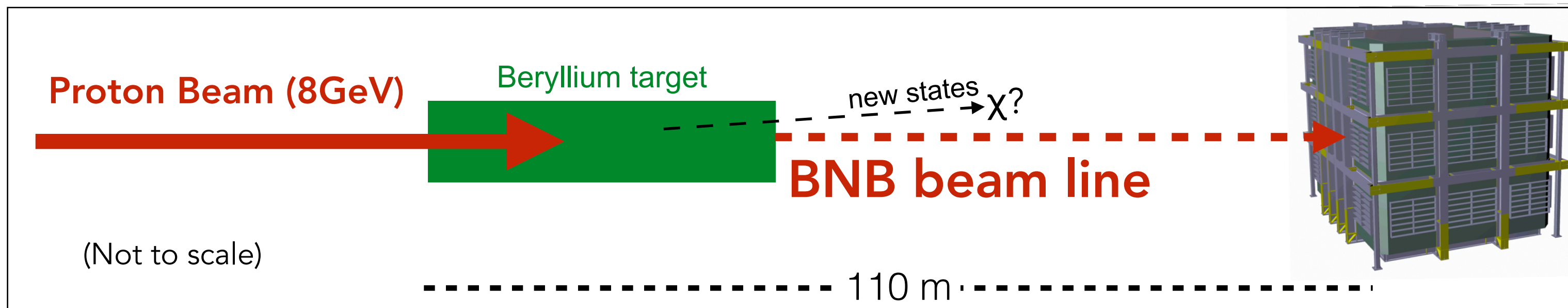


The SBN program tests the sterile neutrino hypothesis by covering the parameter regions allowed by past anomalies at **5 $\sigma$  significance**.

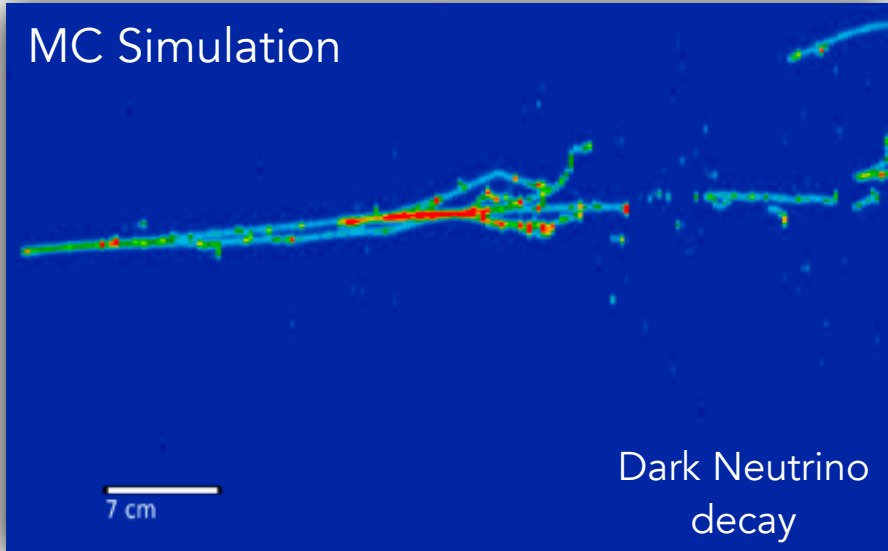
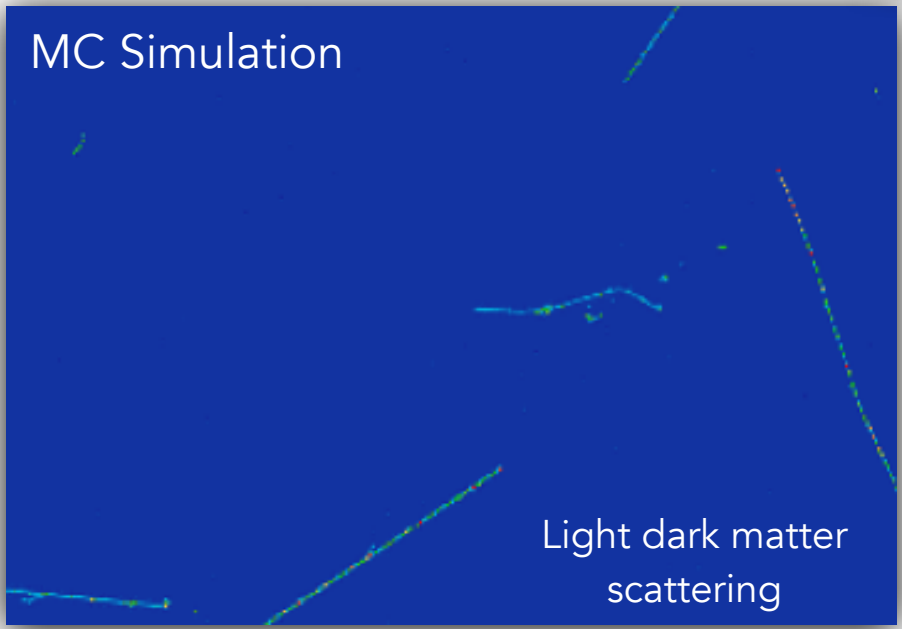
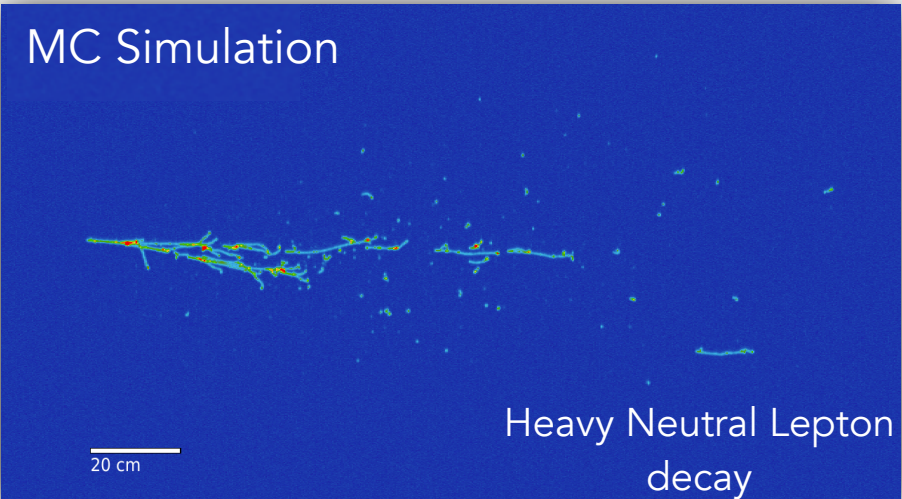
Complementary measurements in different modes:  
important for interpretation in terms of **sterile neutrino oscillation**.



# SIGNATURES FOR NEW PHYSICS IN SBN



Large mass LAr detectors close to the beam target



High-intensity proton beams  
(high-intensity neutrino beams)

Opportunities to **probe signatures** for **new physics scenarios** in the **neutrino sector** and **beyond**

Final state signatures: single photon, single electron, "trident" with di-leptons and different levels of hadronic activity

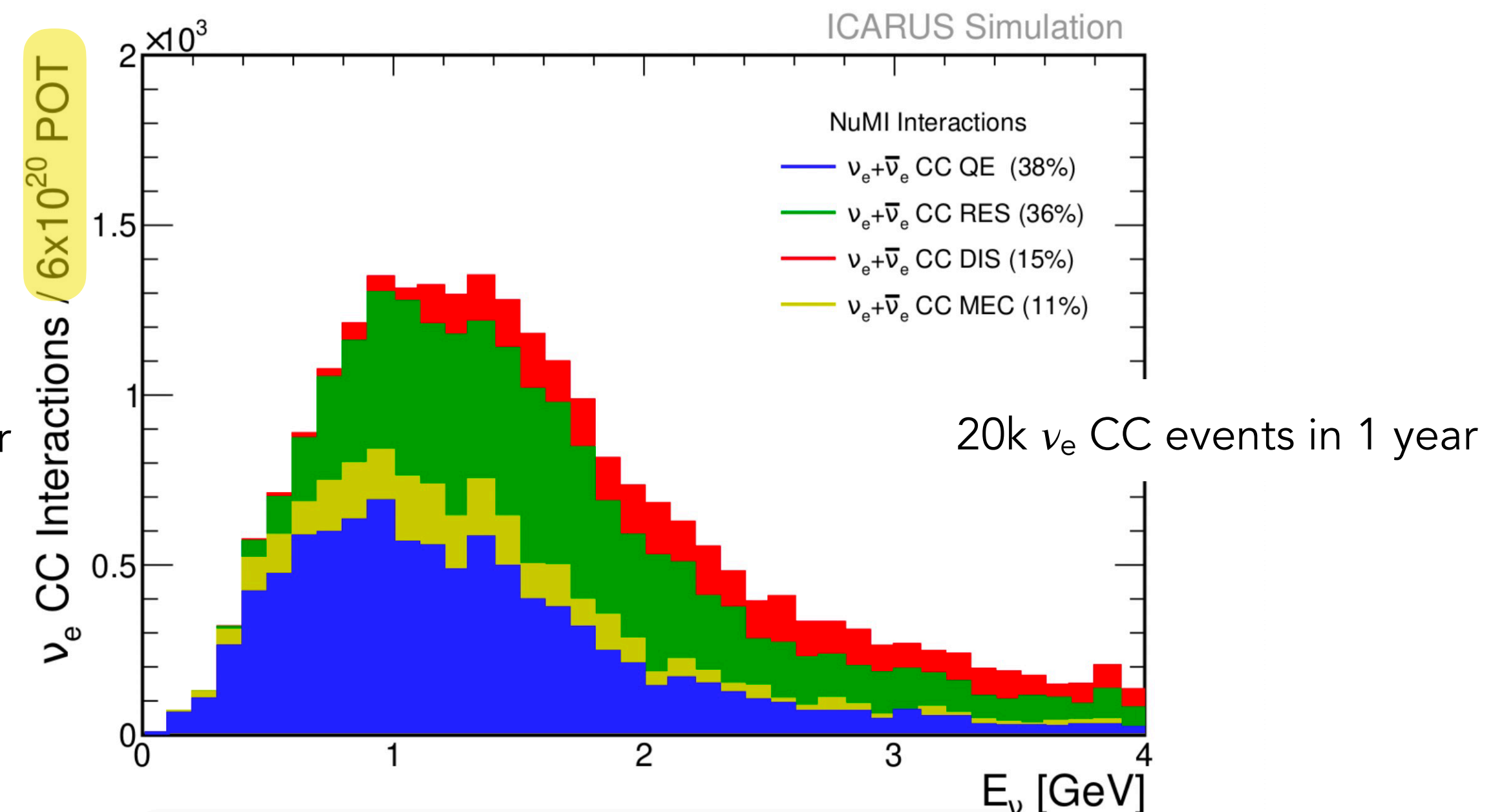
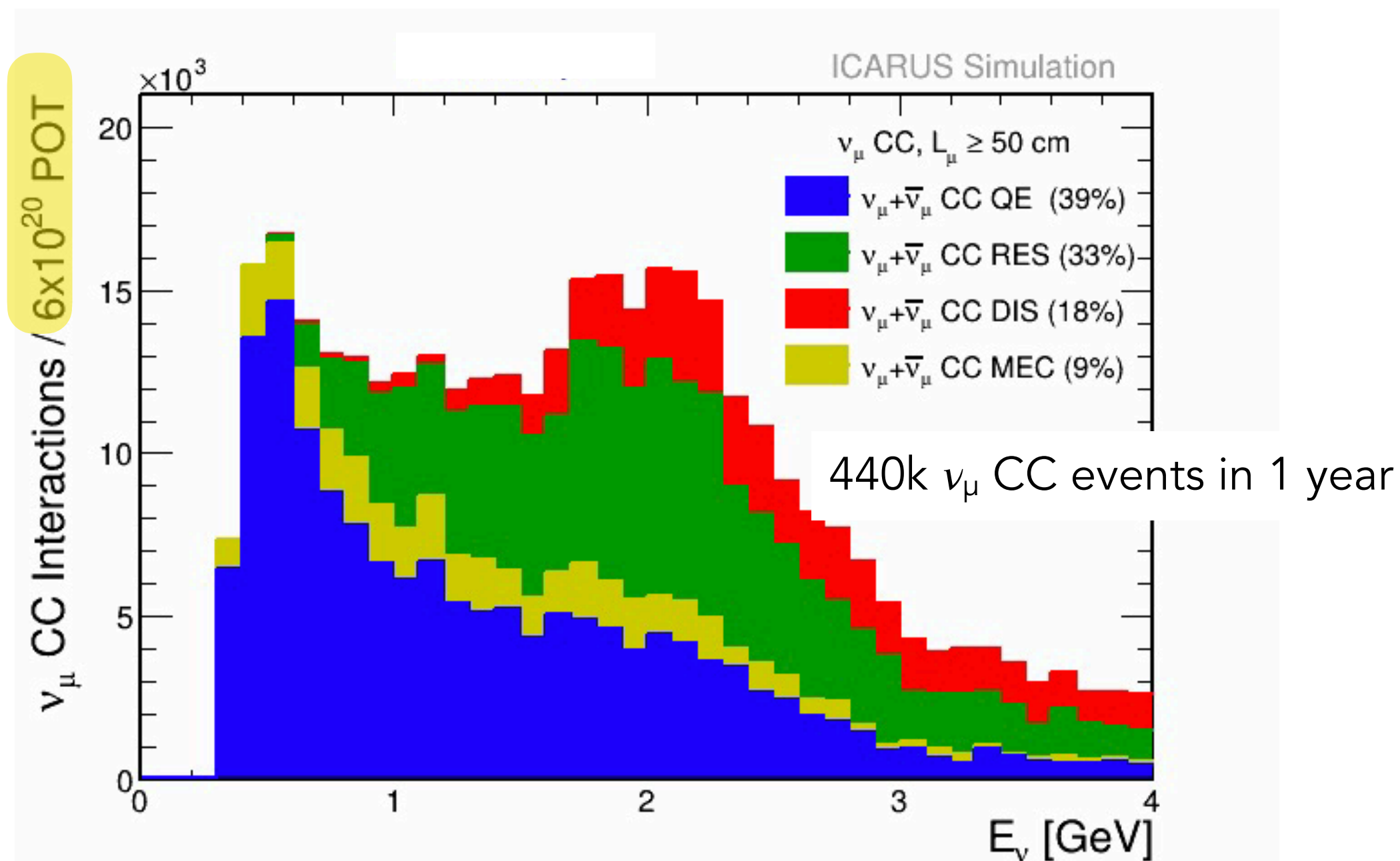
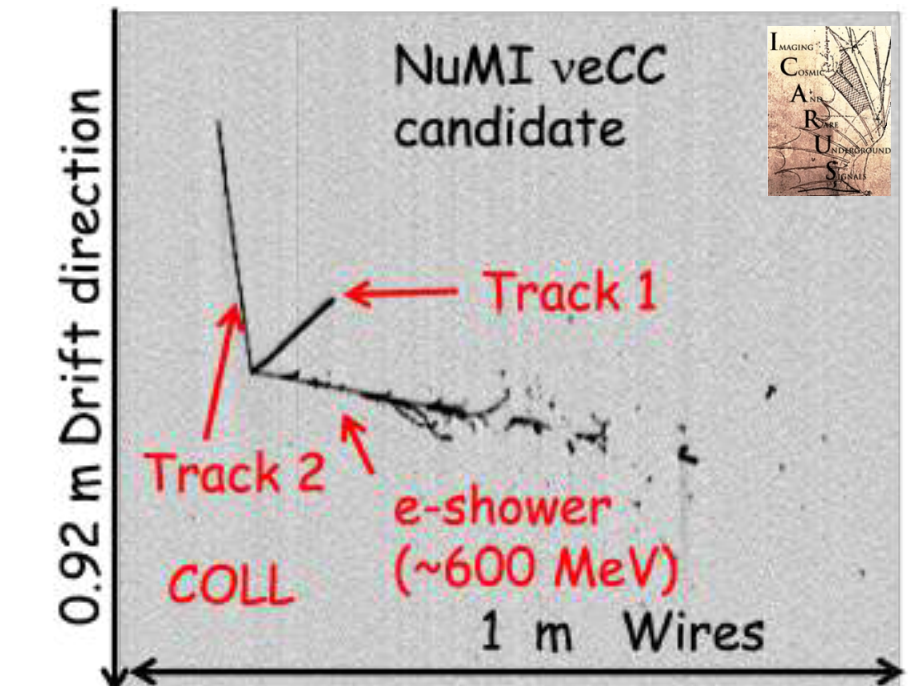
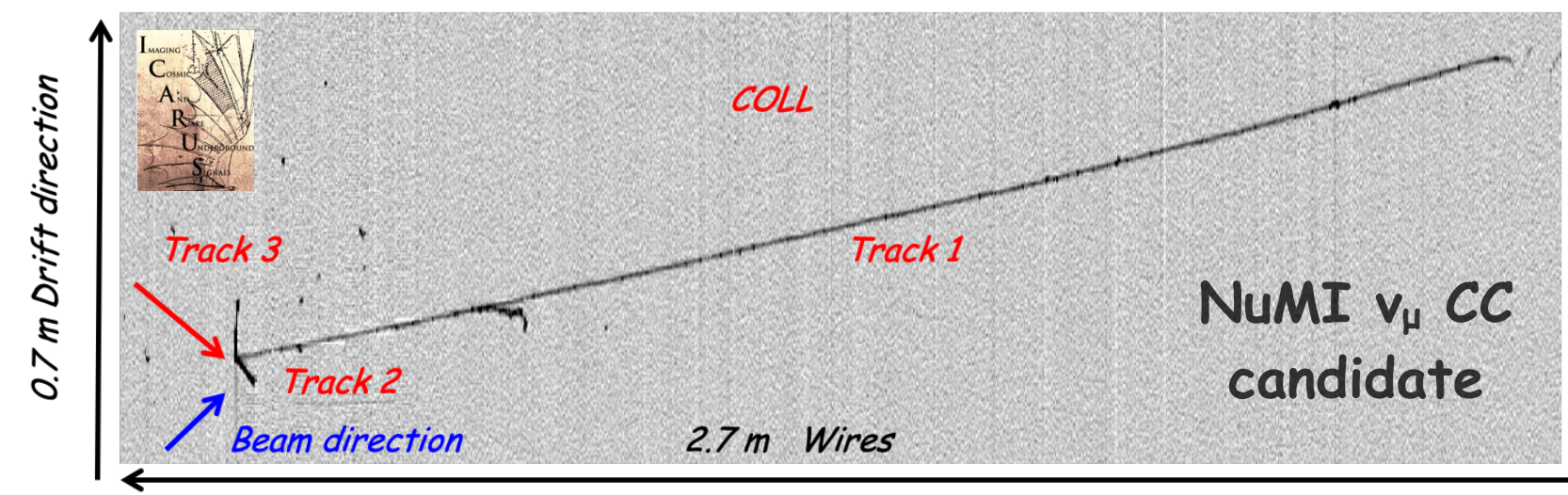
Ability of LAr experiments to perform BSM searches have been demonstrated by recent measurements from ArgoNeuT and MicroBooNE.



# PRECISION STUDIES OF NEUTRINO-ARGON INTERACTIONS IN SBN

Neutrino cross sections measurements are crucial for understanding neutrino interaction with matter and informing oscillation measurements. Also, neutrinos are background for BSM searches!

**ICARUS** collects high statistics of neutrino-argon interactions in its off-axis location on NuMI.



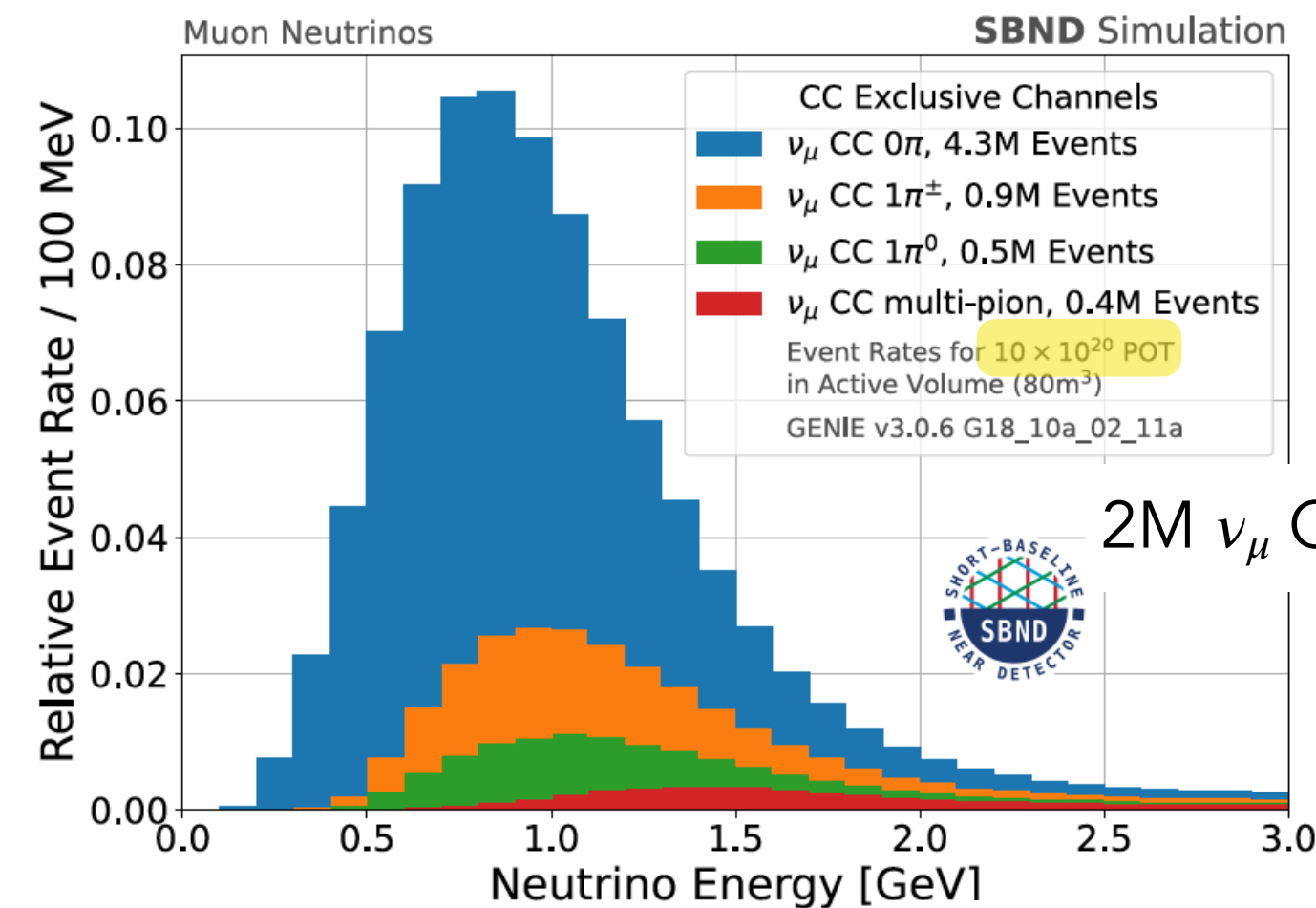
Electron and muon neutrino spectra from NuMI at ICARUS includes a substantial event rate at the DUNE first oscillation peak



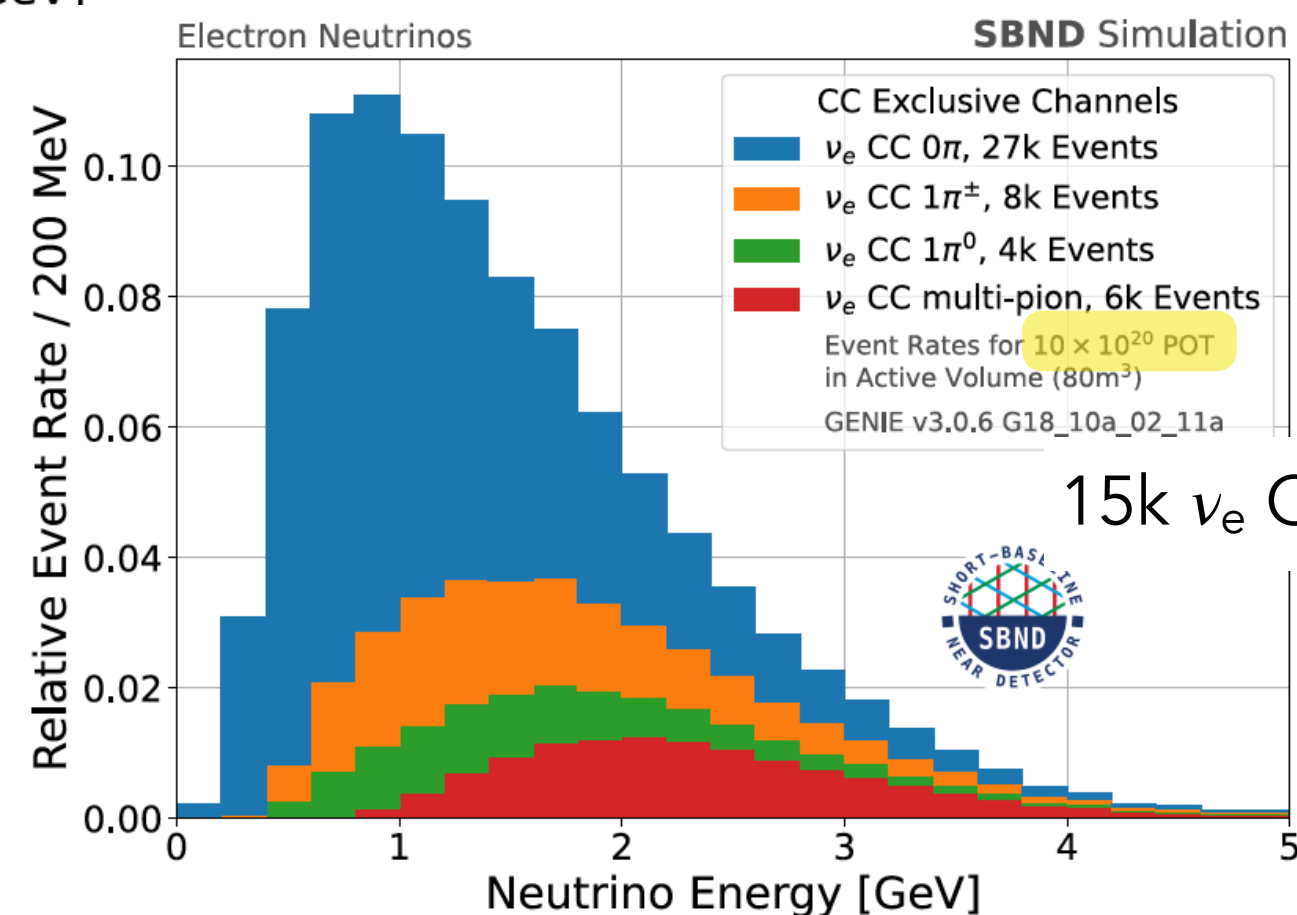
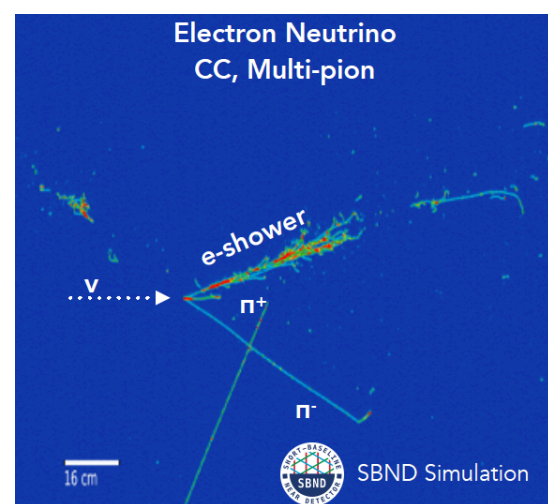
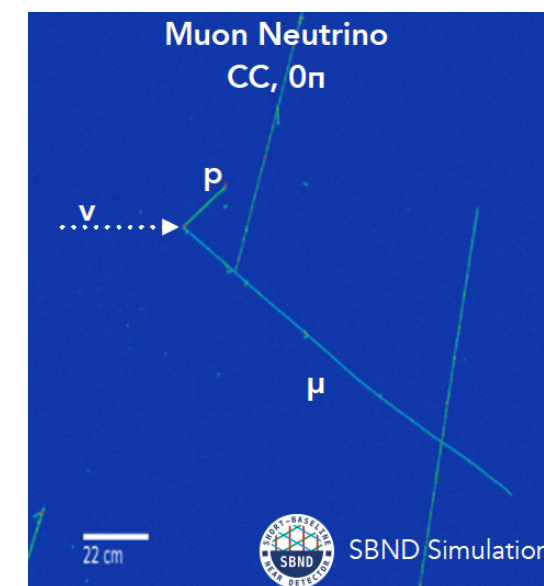
# PRECISION STUDIES OF NEUTRINO-ARGON INTERACTIONS IN SBN

With its proximity to the neutrino source, **SBND** will compile neutrino data with unprecedented high event rate and will enable a generational advance in the study of neutrino-argon interactions in the GeV energy range.

**Up to 7000  $\nu$  events/per day in SBND!**

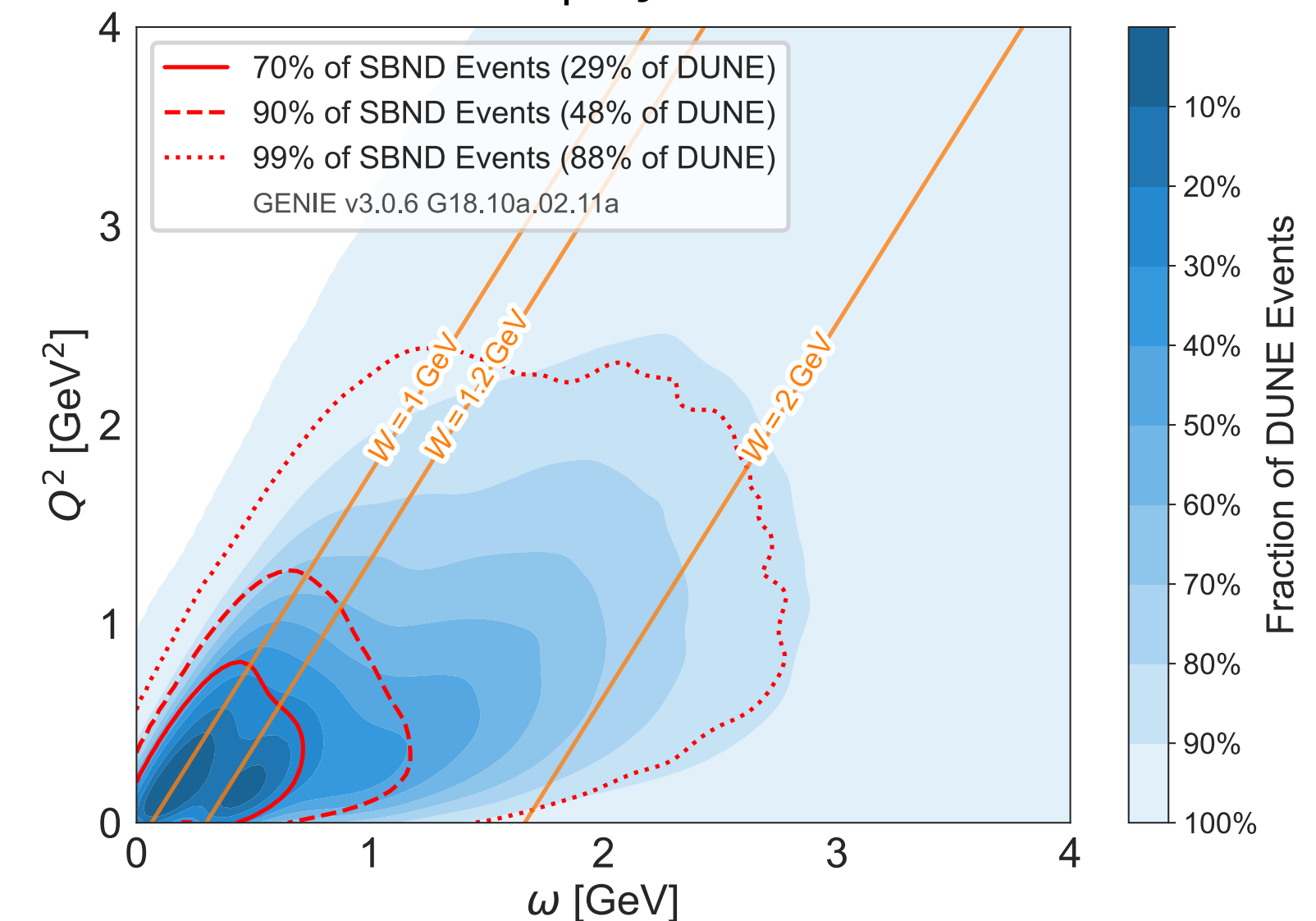


2M  $\nu_\mu$  CC events in 1 year



15k  $\nu_e$  CC events in 1 year

SBND has a **significant phase space overlap with DUNE** → SBND measurements can be used to constrain the same physics DUNE needs to know.



DUNE kinematic coverage is represented with the blue 2D histogram. SBND kinematic coverage is shown with 3 contours, representing 70%, 90%, and 99% of all SBND data.

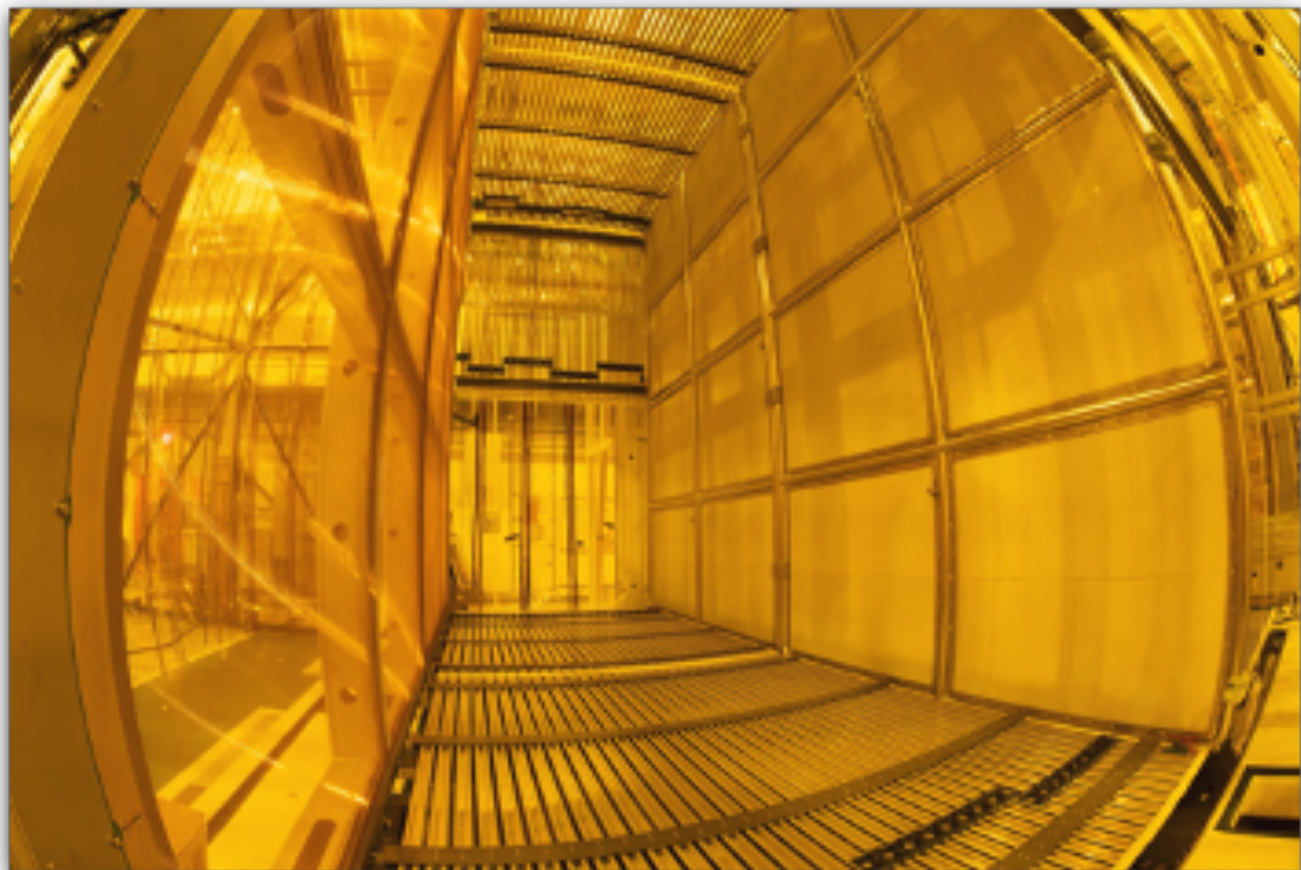
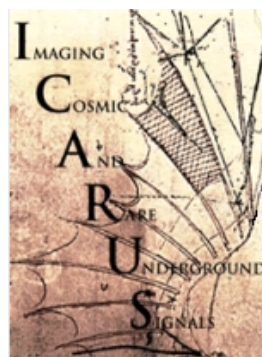
SBND will record **20-30x more neutrino-argon interactions** than is currently available

(10 million total events (CC+NC), including around 50,000  $\nu_\mu$  CC events above 2 GeV, and 50,000  $\nu_e$  CC events).



# SBN IN NUMBERS

A **large, International team** to produce the SBN physics!



## 178 Total Collaborators

**150 Scientific Collaborators**  
(faculty/scientists, postdocs, PhD students)

## 25 Institutions

- 12 INFN Sections (Italy)
- CERN
- 1 Indian Laboratory
- 1 Mexico University
- 7 US Universities, 3 National Laboratories



## 253 Total Collaborators

**206 Scientific Collaborators**  
(faculty/scientists, postdocs, PhD students)

## 39 Institutions

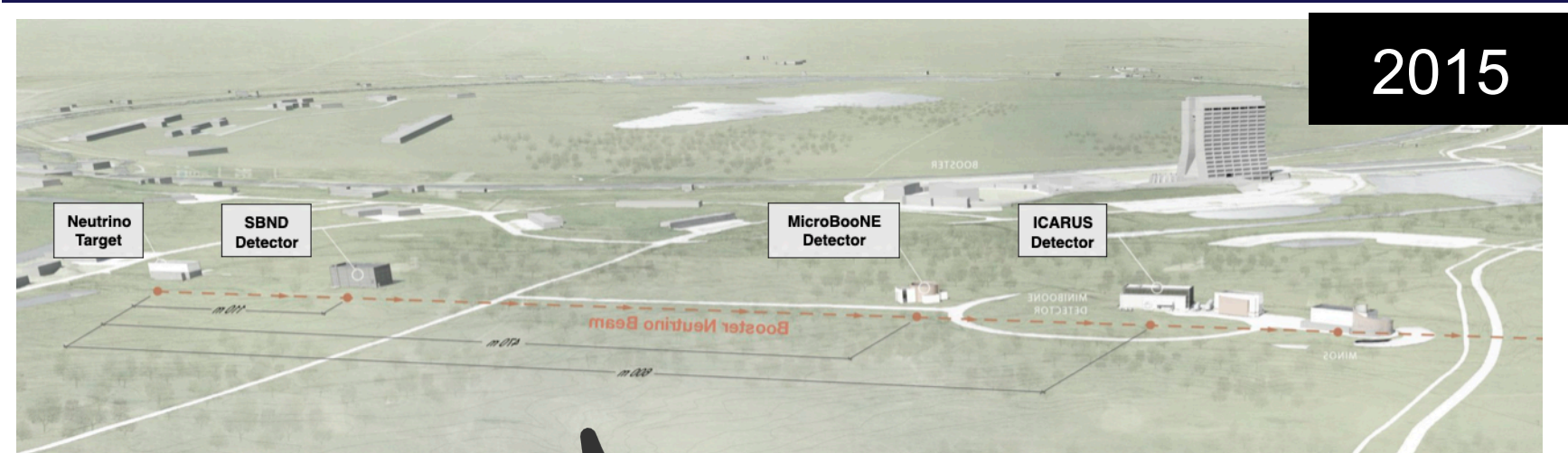
- 5 Brazilian Universities
- CERN
- 1 Spanish University, 1 National Laboratory
- 1 Swiss University
- 7 UK Universities, 1 National Laboratory
- 18 US Universities, 4 National Laboratories



**P5-2014 - Recommendation 15:** Select and perform in the short term a set of small-scale **short-baseline experiments** that can conclusively address experimental hints of physics beyond the three-neutrino paradigm. Some of these experiments should use **liquid argon to advance the technology and build the international community for LBNF [DUNE] at Fermilab.**



# SBN IN PICTURES



2015



2023

## SHORT-BASELINE NEUTRINO PROGRAM

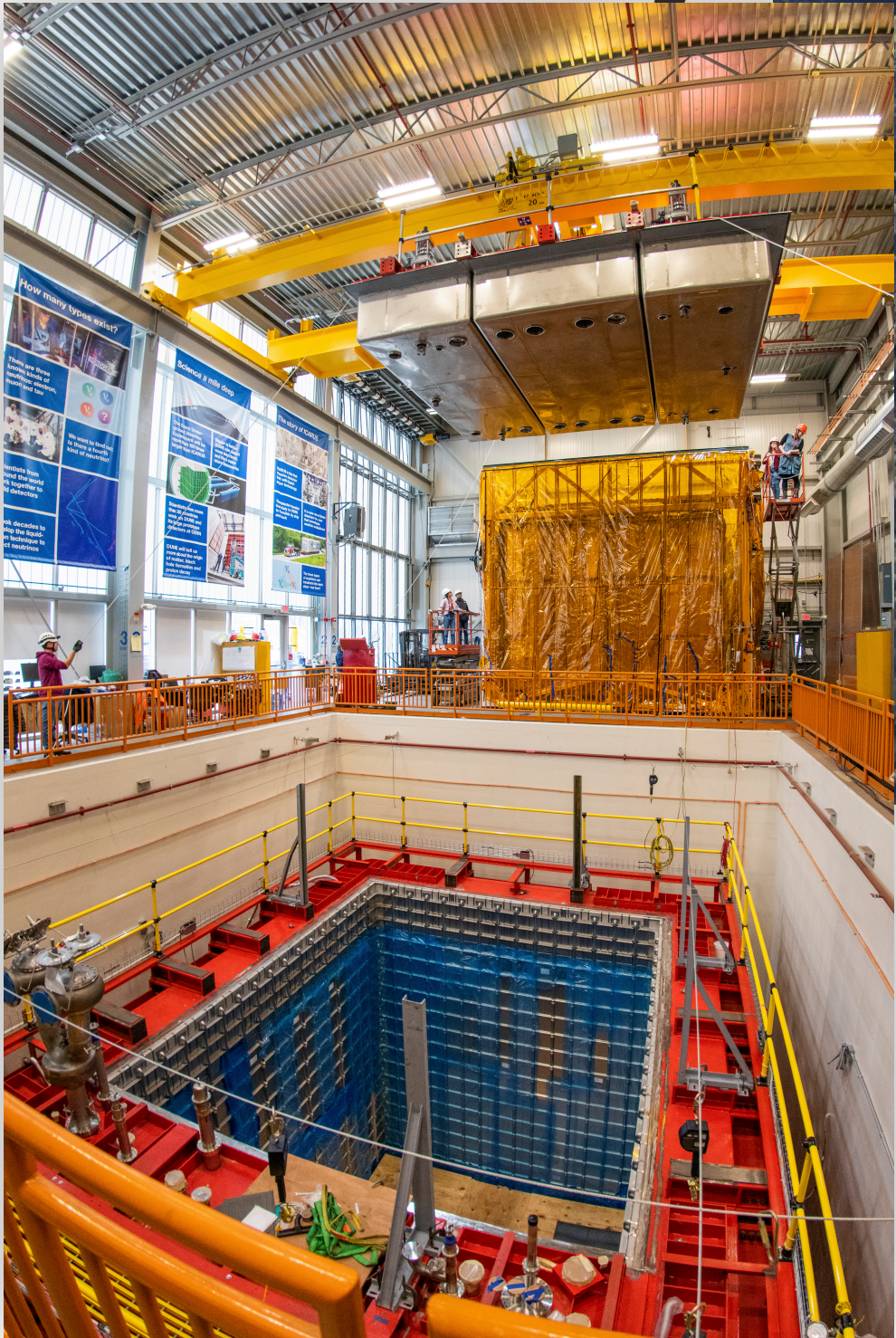


# SBN IN PICTURES

2023

SBND

ICARUS





# SBN IN SUMMARY

Construction of the SBN program realized several recommendations from the last P5.  
SBN operations and physics program will be mostly realized in the forthcoming P5 period.



Exciting times are ahead for the  
**Short-Baseline Neutrino Program!**

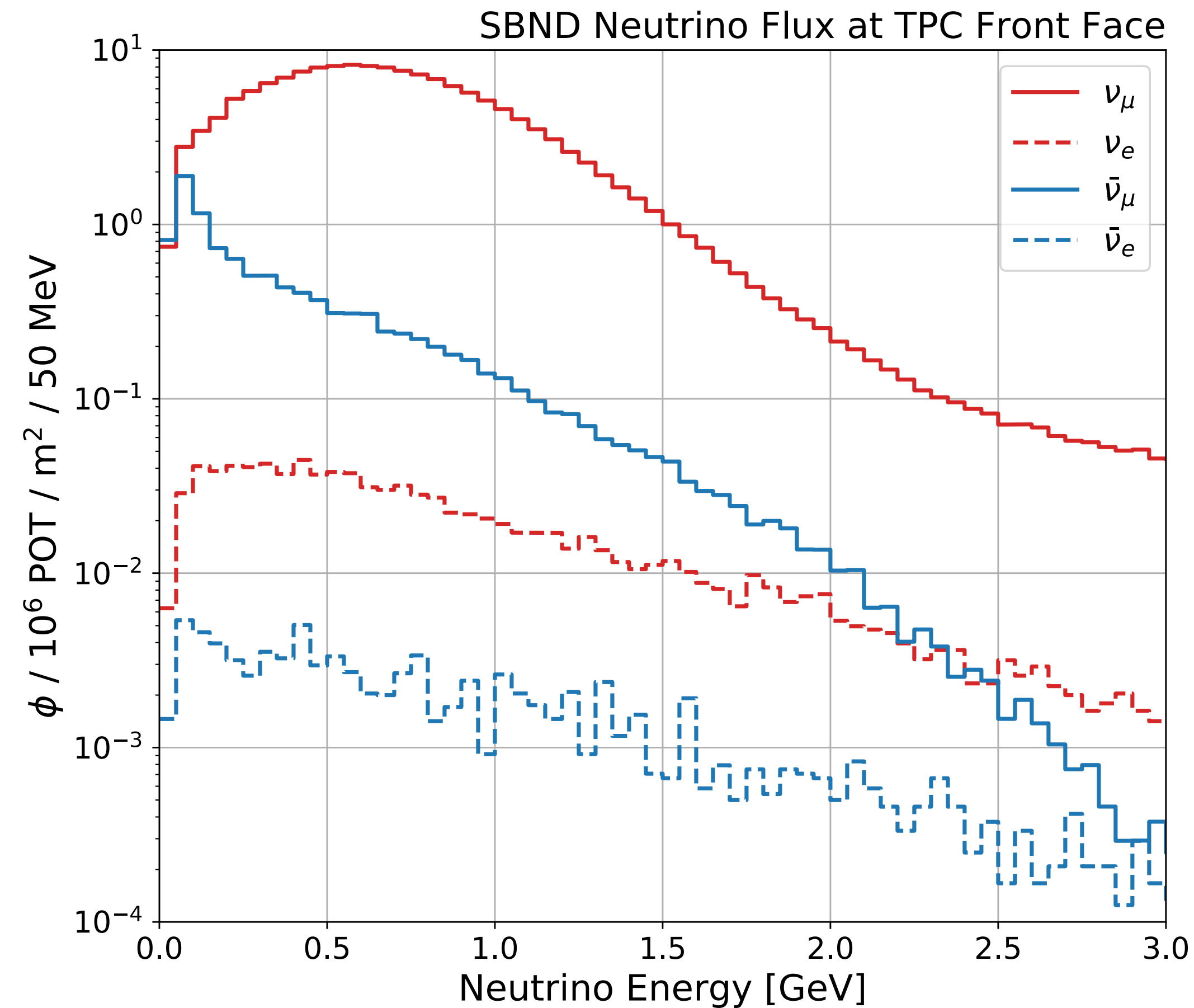
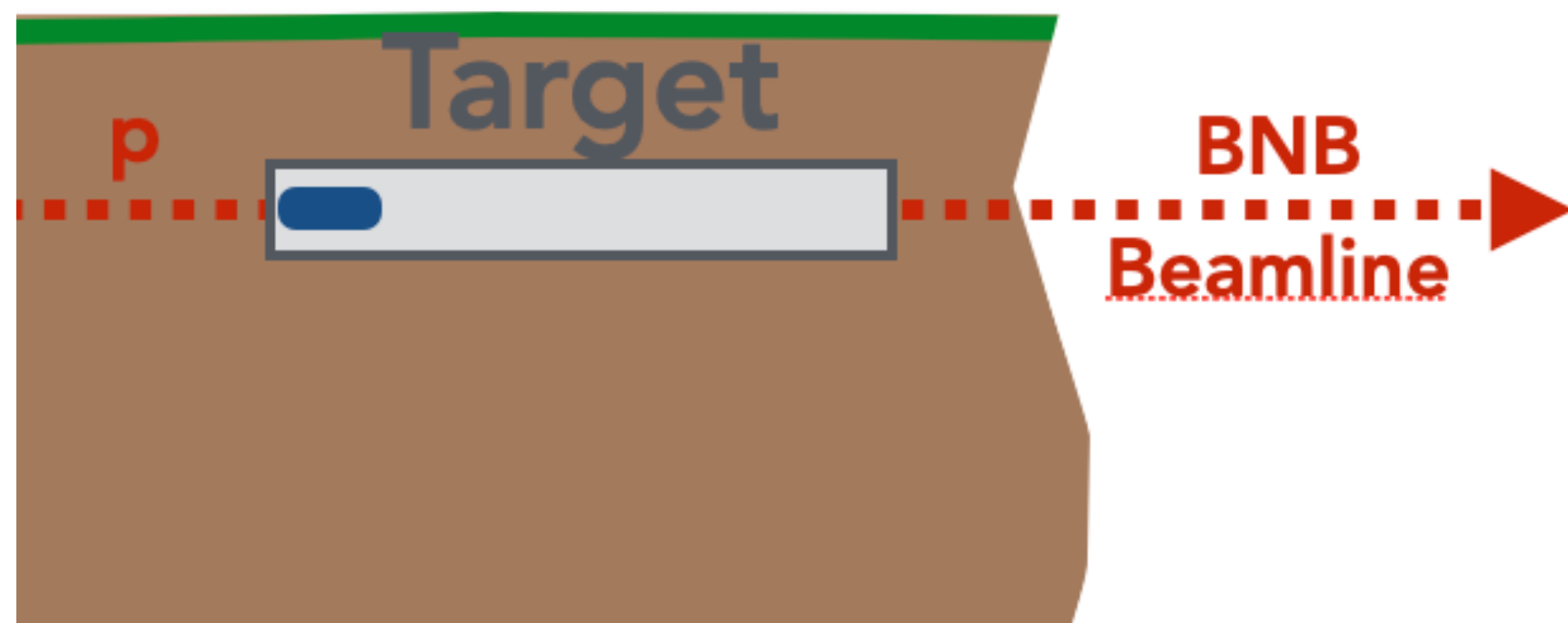






# BOOSTER NEUTRINO BEAM

High-intensity neutrino beam  
from 8 GeV proton beam.



Neutrino flux at the  
SBND front face.

Mean muon-neutrino  
energy:  $\sim 0.8 \text{ GeV}$

Beam composition:

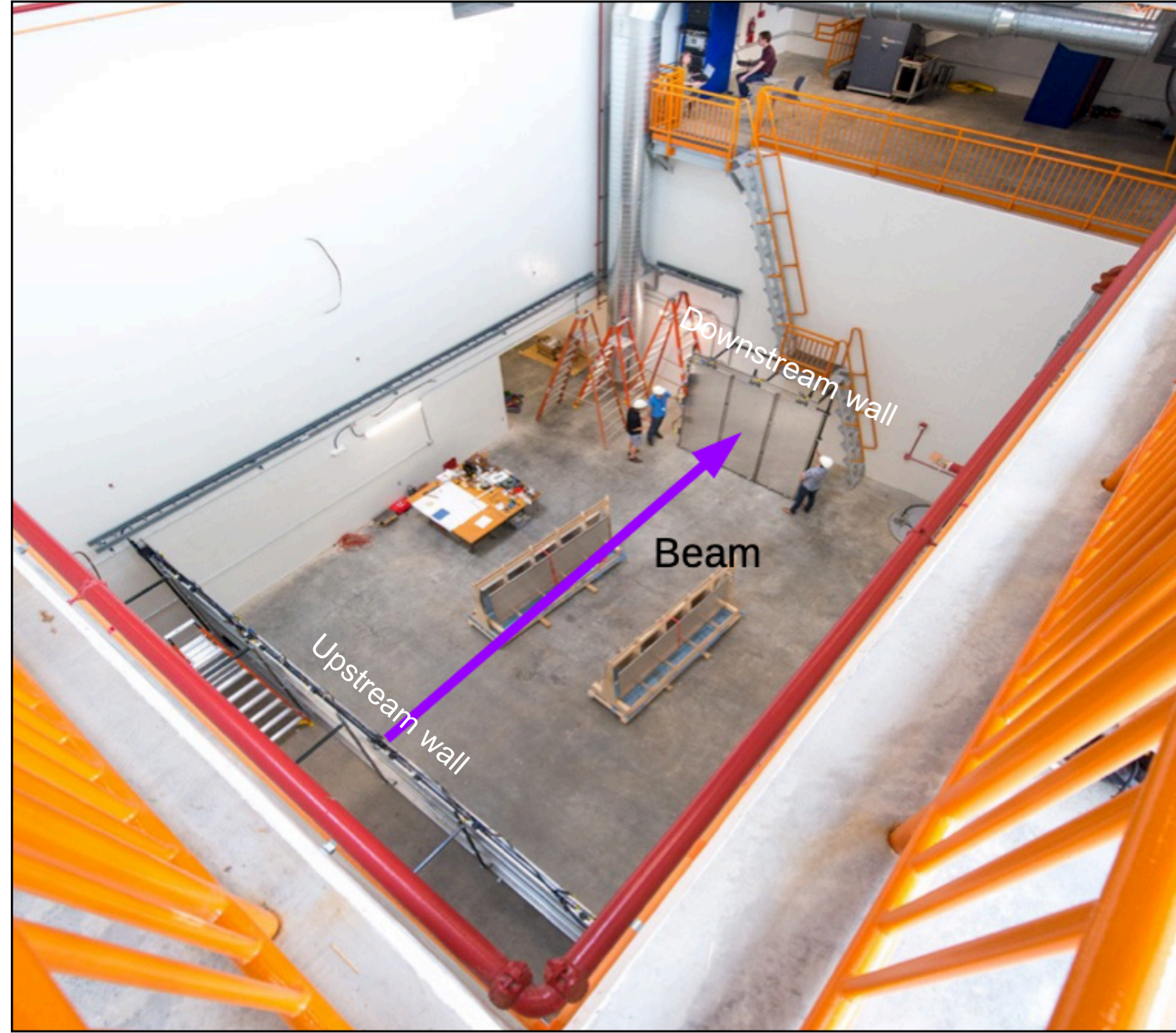
$\nu_\mu$  (93.6%)

$\bar{\nu}_\mu$  (5.9%)

$\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$  (0.5%)

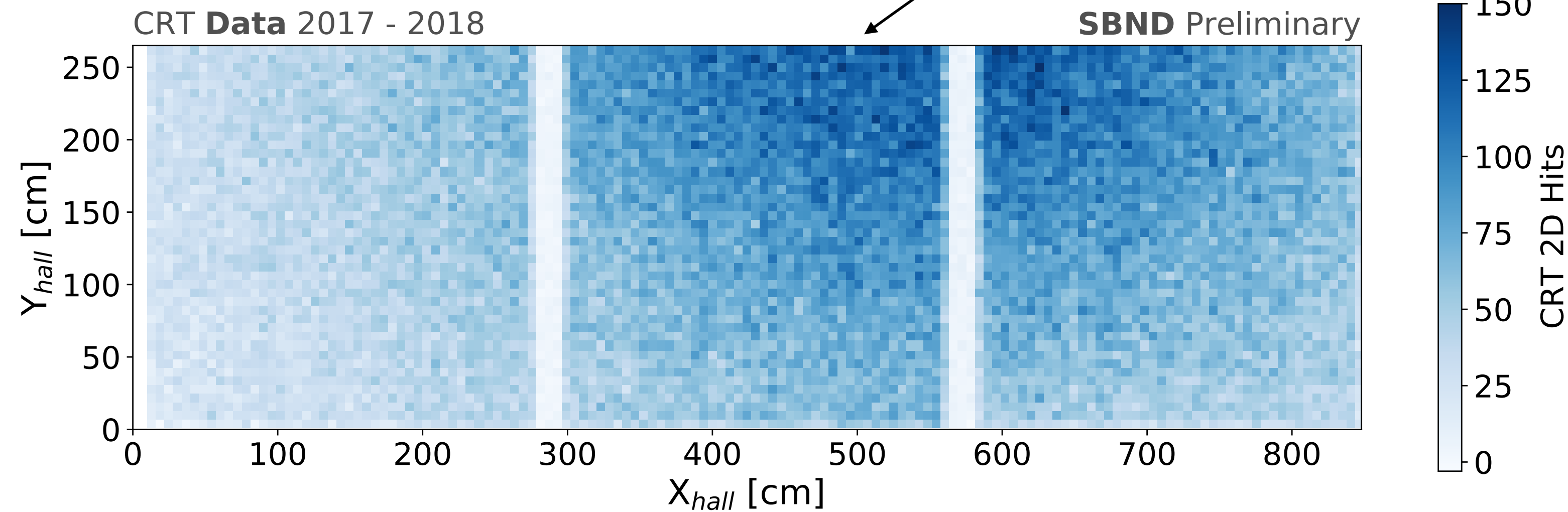


# COSMIC RAY TAGGER (CRT) DATA



Part of the SBND CRT system was temporary installed in the detector hall and took BNB data in 2017-2018

CRT data: **muons from neutrinos** that interacted in the material upstream of the SBND detector hall. The beam intensity decreases moving away from the beam center.

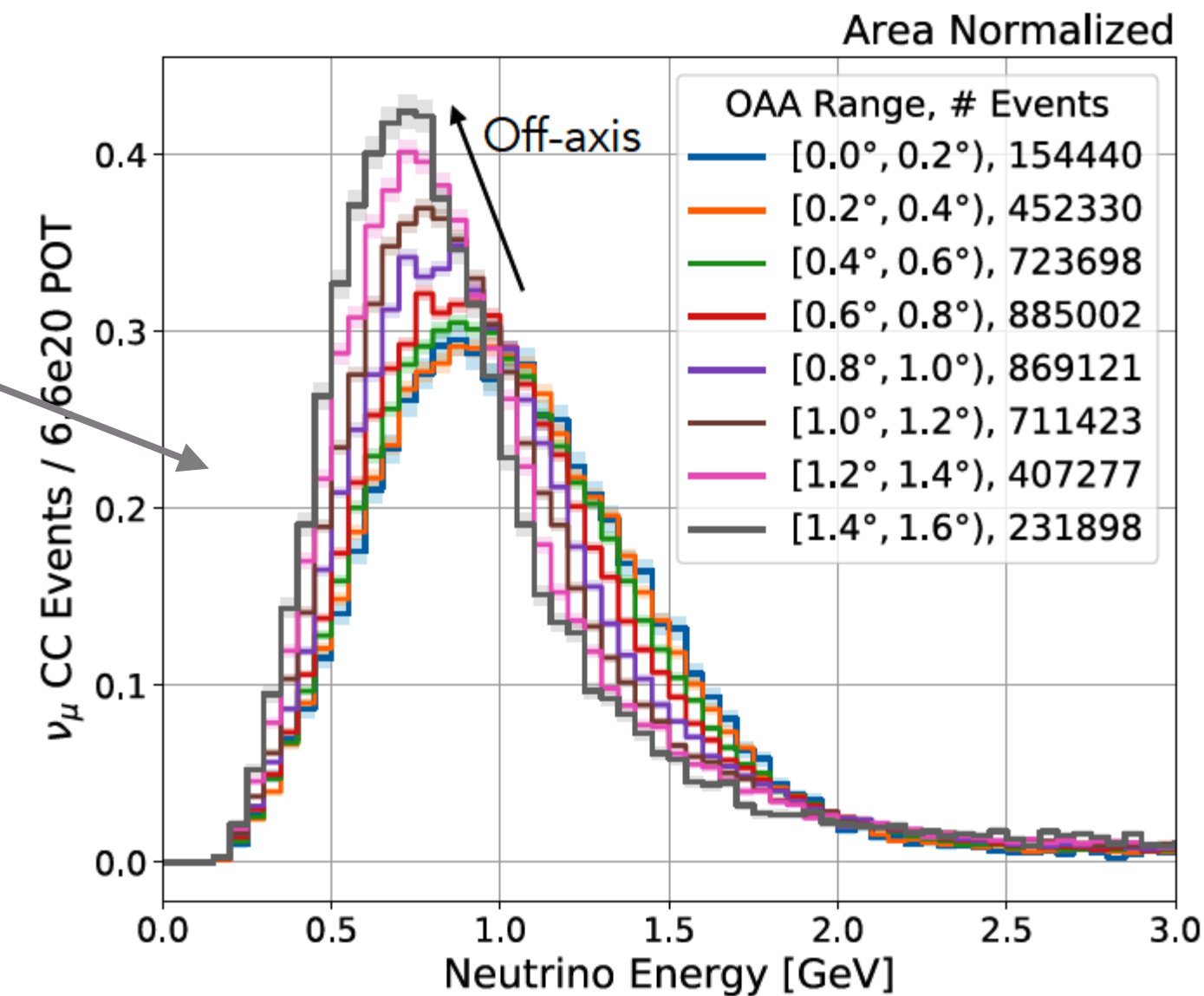




# SBND-PRISM - NEUTRINO FLUXES

## Neutrino Fluxes in Off-Axis Angle (OAA) regions

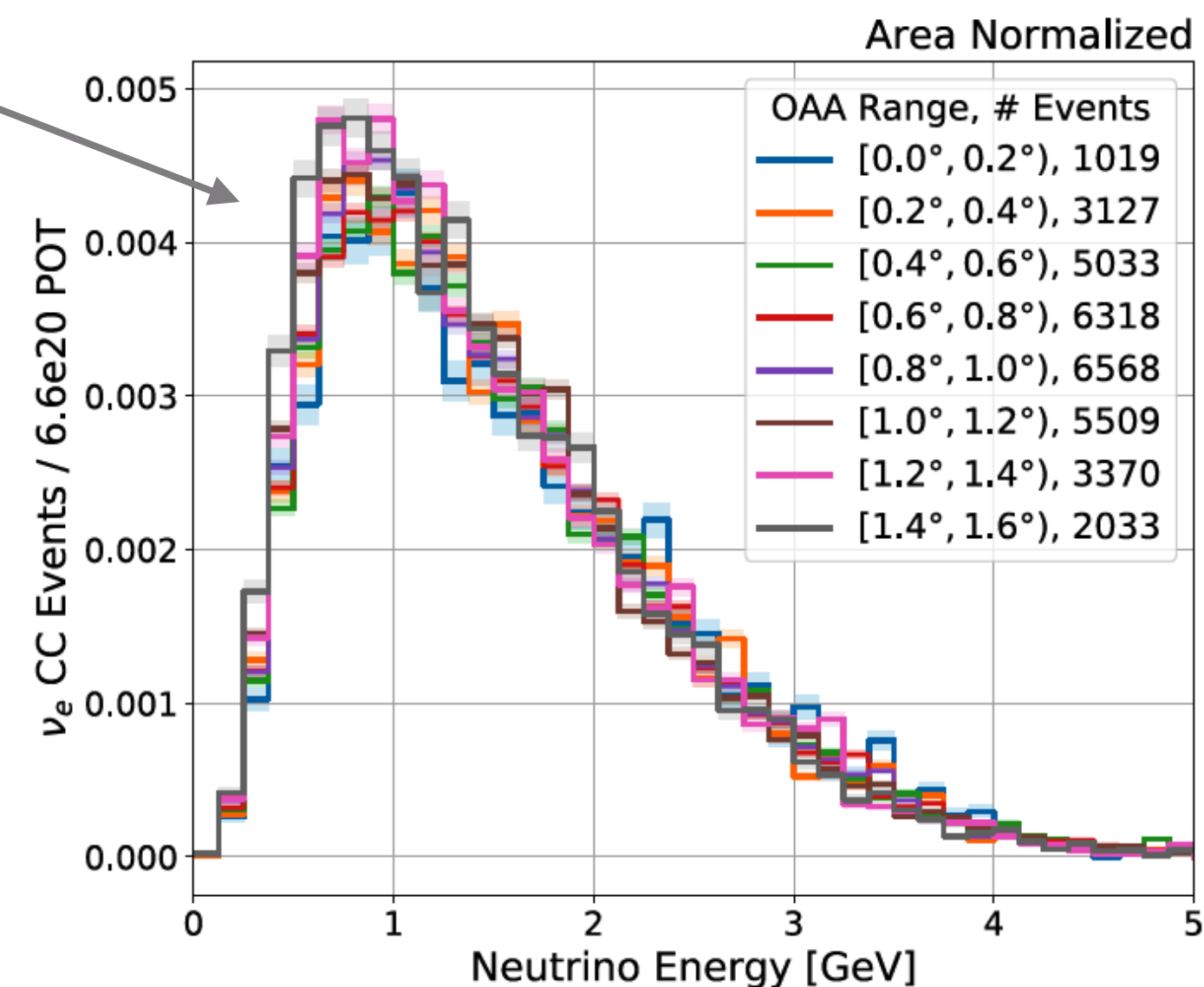
The **Muon** neutrino energy distributions are affected by the off-axis position  
[ $\nu_\mu$  come predominantly from two-body decay].  
Larger off-axis angle  $\rightarrow$  lower mean energy.



**Muon** neutrino

The **Electron** neutrino energy distributions also change, but they are less affected by off-axis position  
[ $\nu_e$  come from three-body decay].

**Muon and electron neutrino spectra change in a different way!**



High event statistics in all off-axis regions.

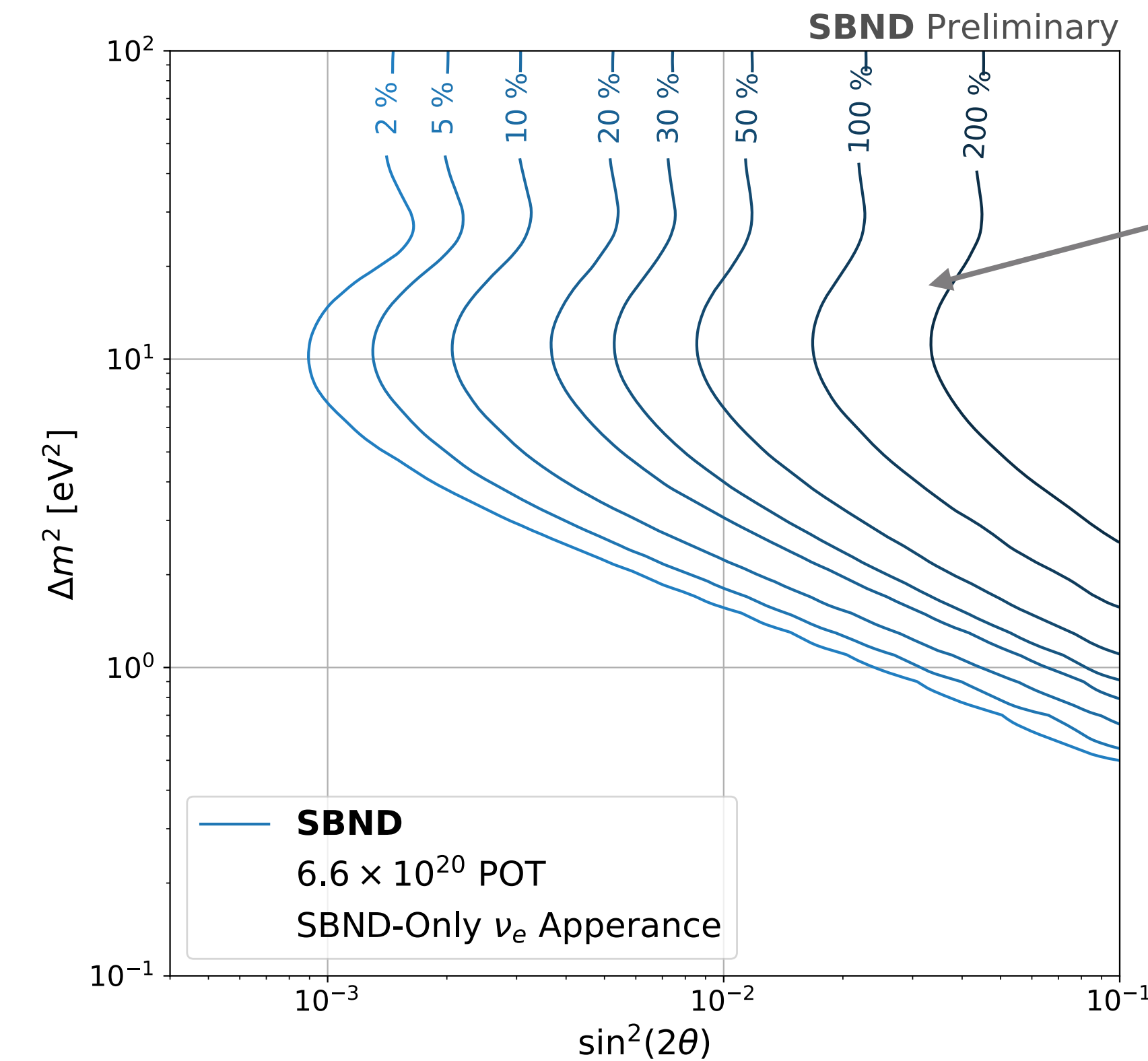
**Electron** neutrino

Leveraging the different behavior of muon and electron neutrinos in the OAA regions, we can improve sensitivity for sterile neutrino searches.



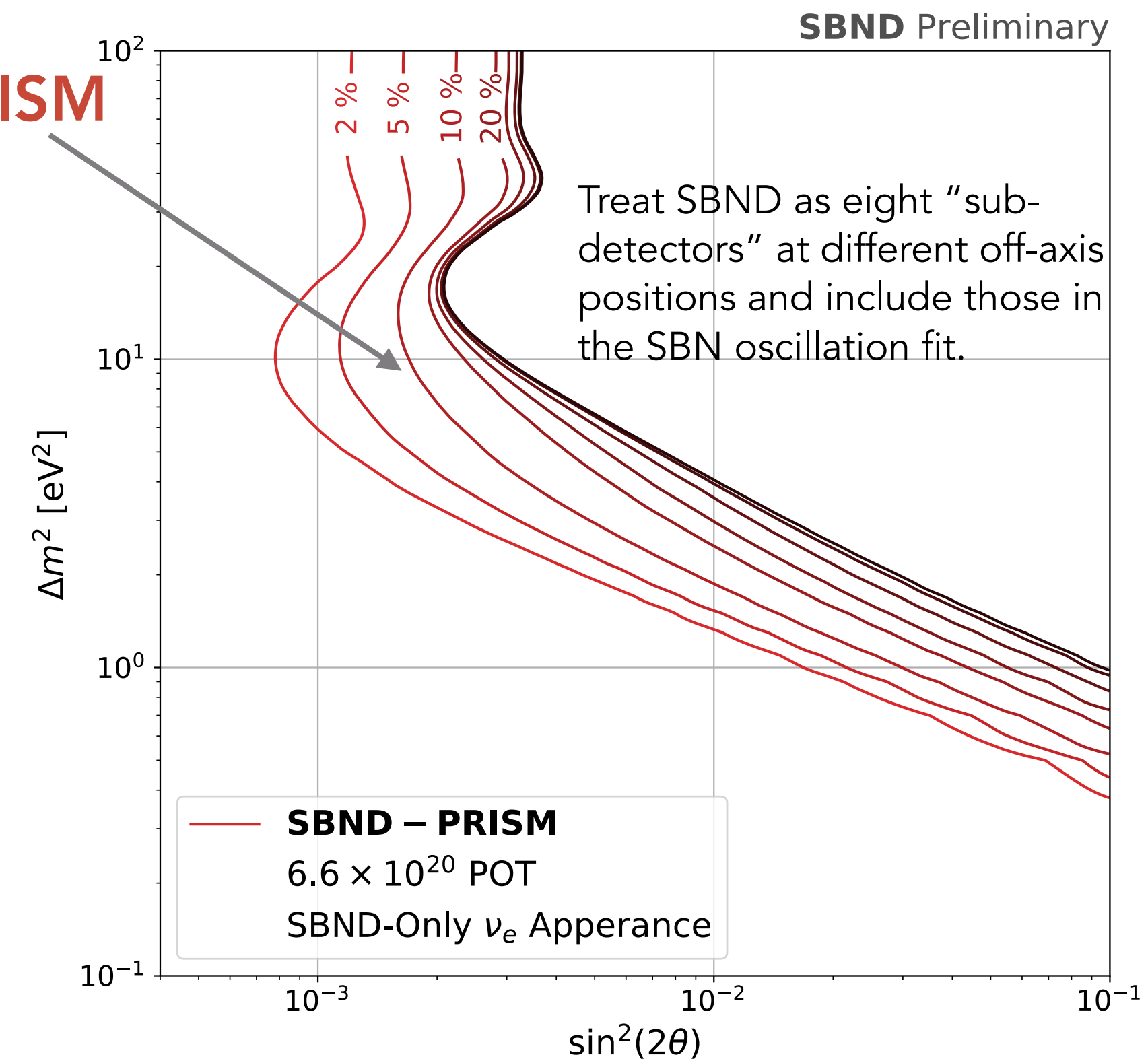
# EFFECT OF SBND-PRISM ON OSCILLATION ANALYSES

## SBND-only - simplified Oscillation Analysis ( $\nu_e$ Appearance)



**SBND** as a single detector vs **SBND-PRISM**

Curves include neutrino flux plus 2-to-200% systematics on total cross section.



- Improvement in sensitivity by exploiting SBND-PRISM.
- Using the PRISM technique the neutrino interaction model is over-constrained, becoming ~ insensitive to cross section model uncertainties above 20%. Robust against large cross-section uncertainties.

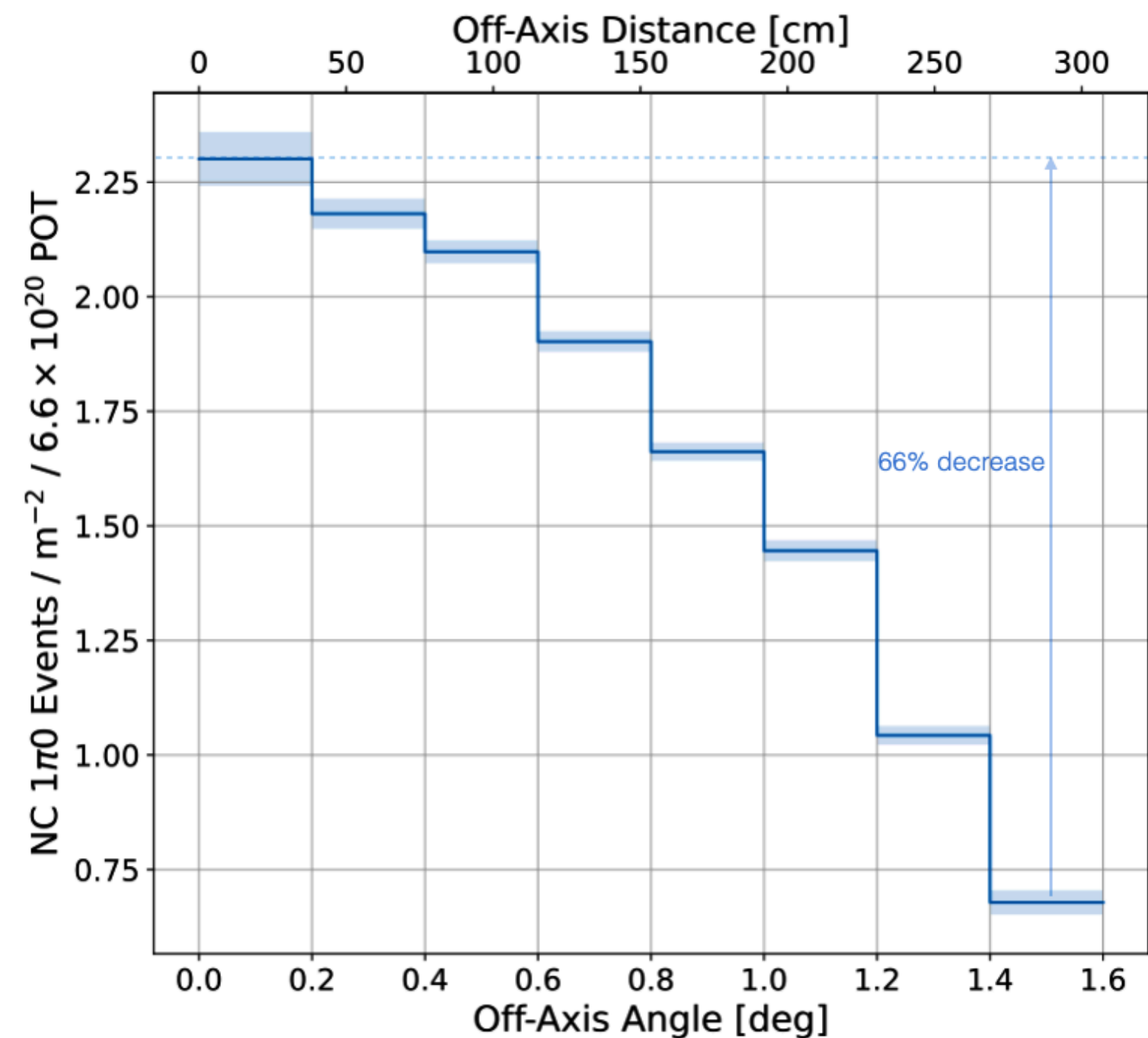
Study of the effect of SBND-PRISM on SBN Sterile neutrino oscillation sensitivities is ongoing.



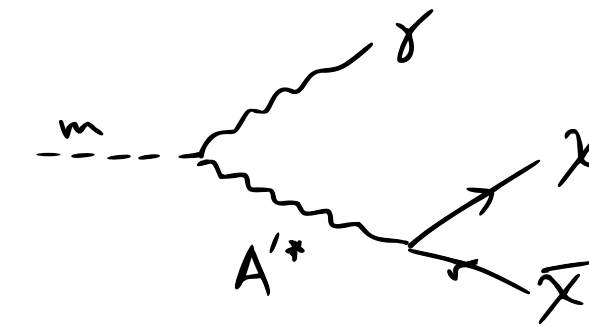
# SBND-PRISM TO MITIGATE BACKGROUNDS

## An example: electron neutrino measurements

Main background for electron neutrino:  
NC  $1 \pi^0$  events.

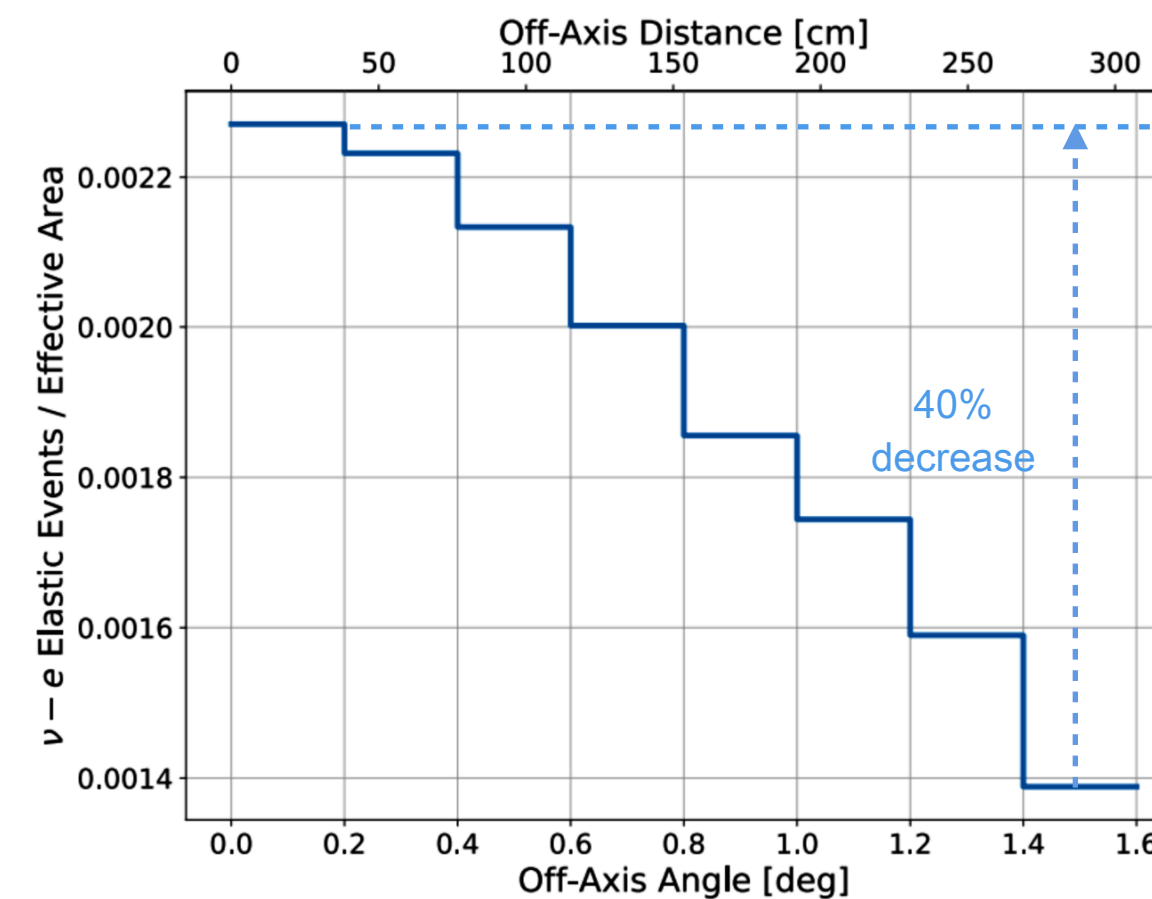


## Another example: search for Light (sub-GeV) Dark Matter

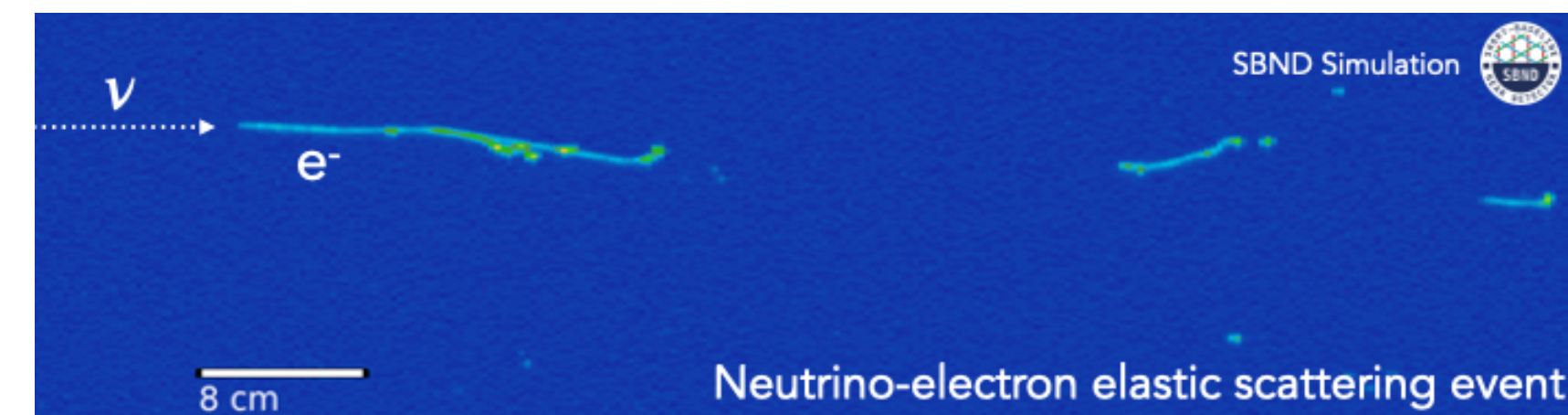


Dark photons, produced by the decay of neutral meson (pions, etas) in the target and decay into dark matter.

The dark matter, through the dark photon, **scatter off electrons in the detector.**



- **Signal:** DM elastic scattering electron events. DM comes from neutral (unfocused) mesons.
- **Background:** neutrino-electron elastic scattering. Neutrinos come from two-body decays of charged (focused) mesons.

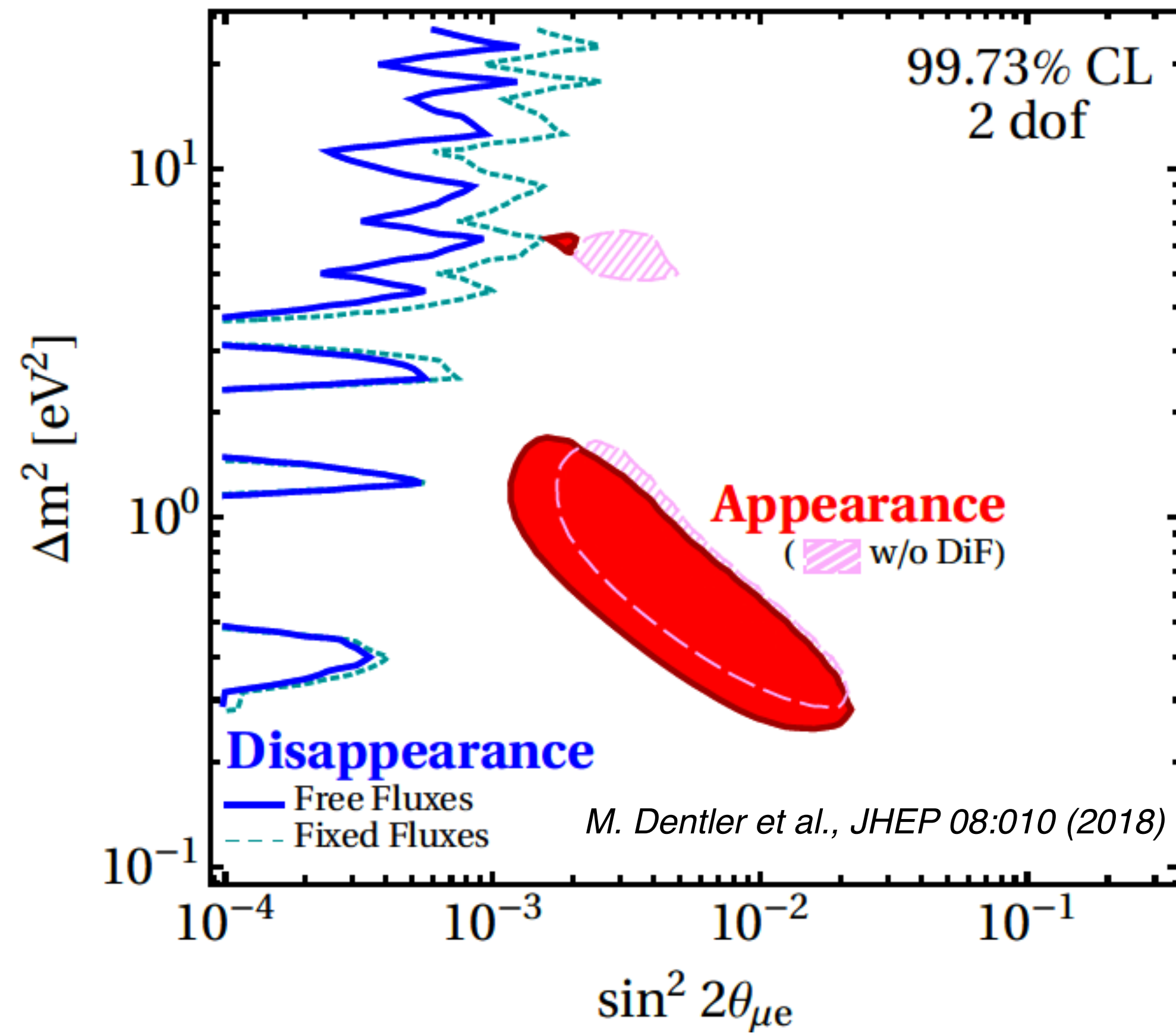


**SBND-PRISM** provides a natural way to **reduce backgrounds by looking off-axis.**



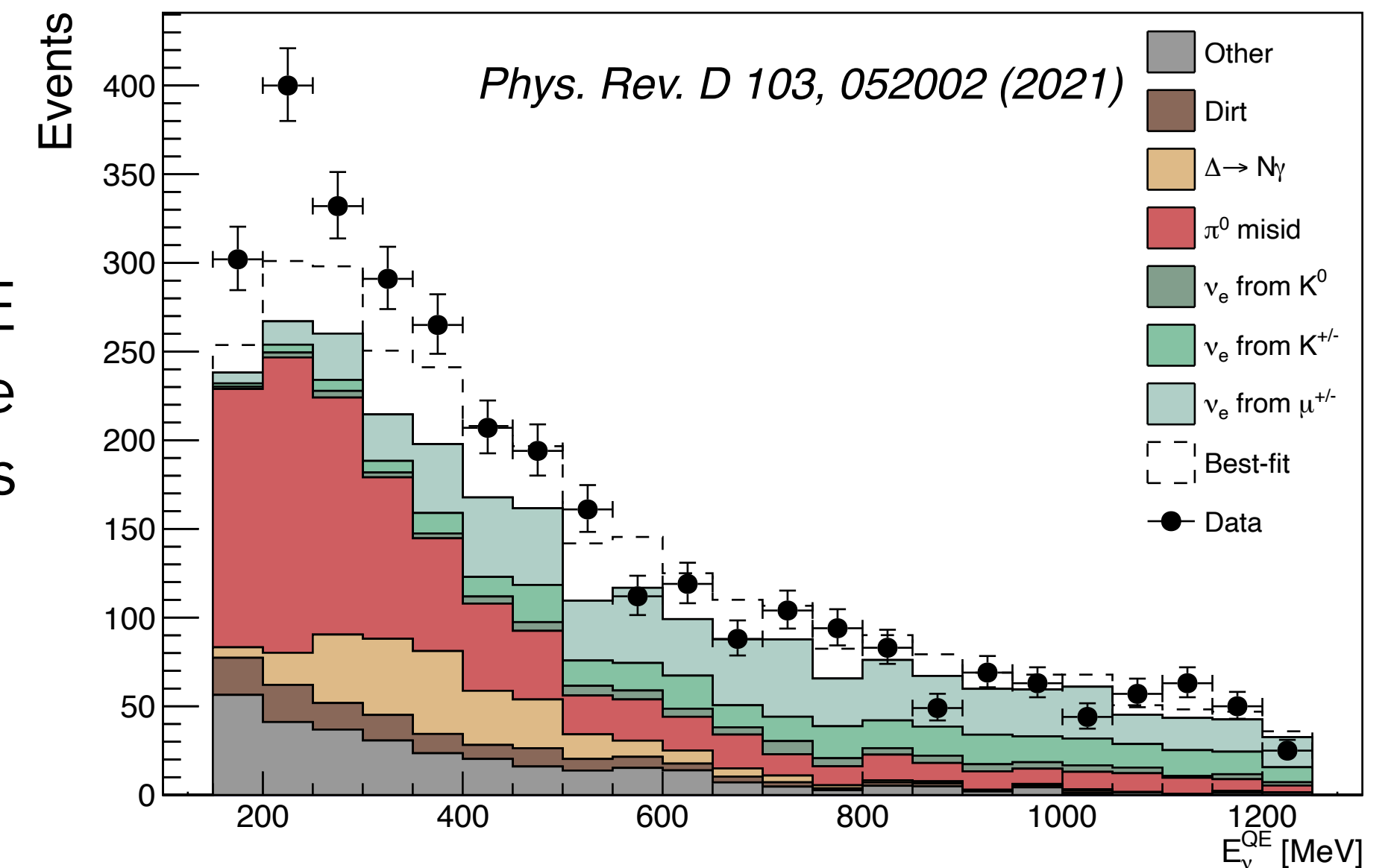
# LIGHT STERILE NEUTRINO - EXPERIMENTAL LANDSCAPE

A  $4.7 \sigma$  tension arises when combining  $\nu_e$  appearance and  $\nu_\mu$  disappearance data sets.



Limits from disappearance and appearance allowed region

MiniBooNE  
electron-like  
excess



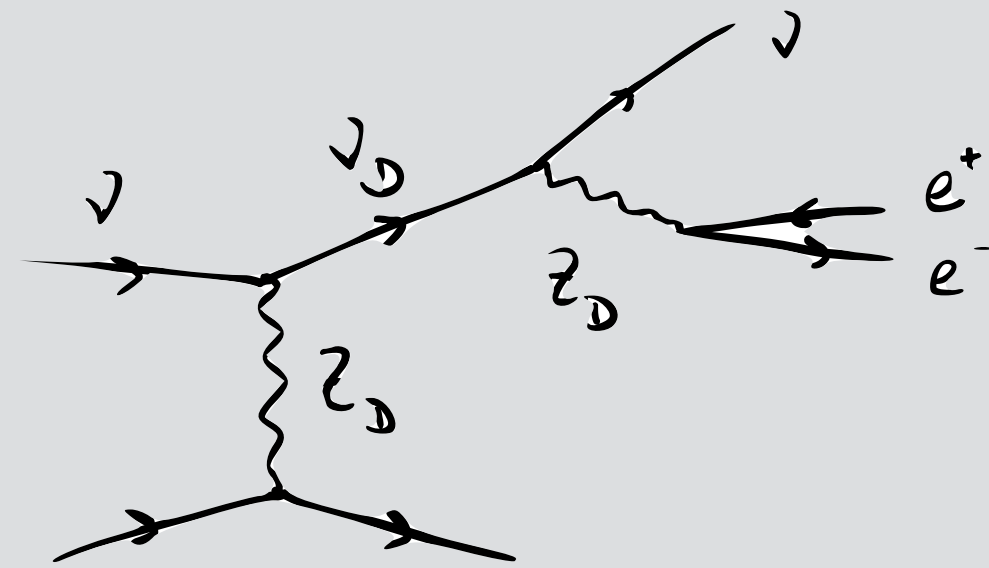
Alternative (Beyond Standard Model) explanations exist that could explain the MiniBooNE (and LSND) anomalies.



# EVOLVING LANDSCAPE...

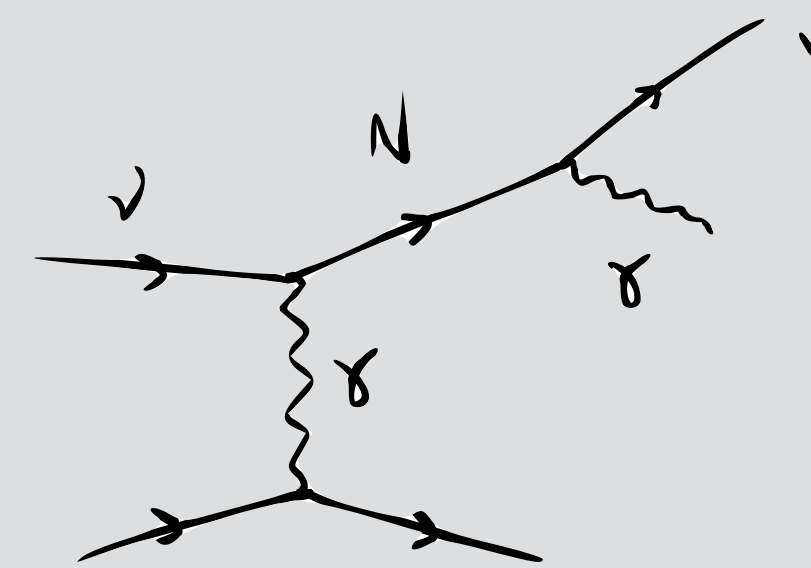
Alternative explanations  
of the MiniBooNE excess  
and other Beyond  
Standard Model scenarios.

## Dark Neutrinos



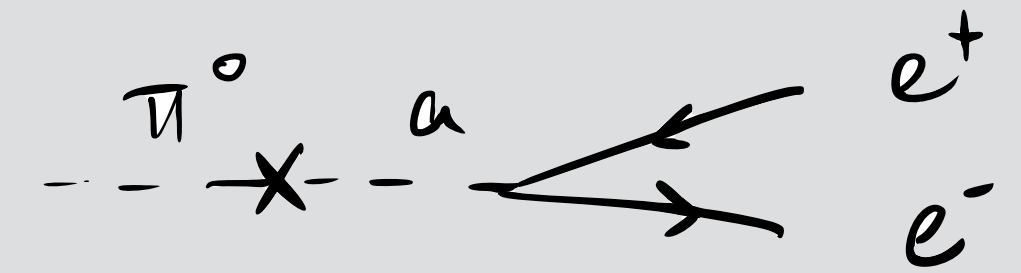
Bertuzzo Jana Machado Zukanovich PRL 2018, PLB 2019  
Arguelles Hostert Tsai PRL 2019  
Ballett Pascoli Ross-Lonergan PRD 2019  
Ballett Hostert Pascoli PRD 2020

## Transition Magnetic Moment



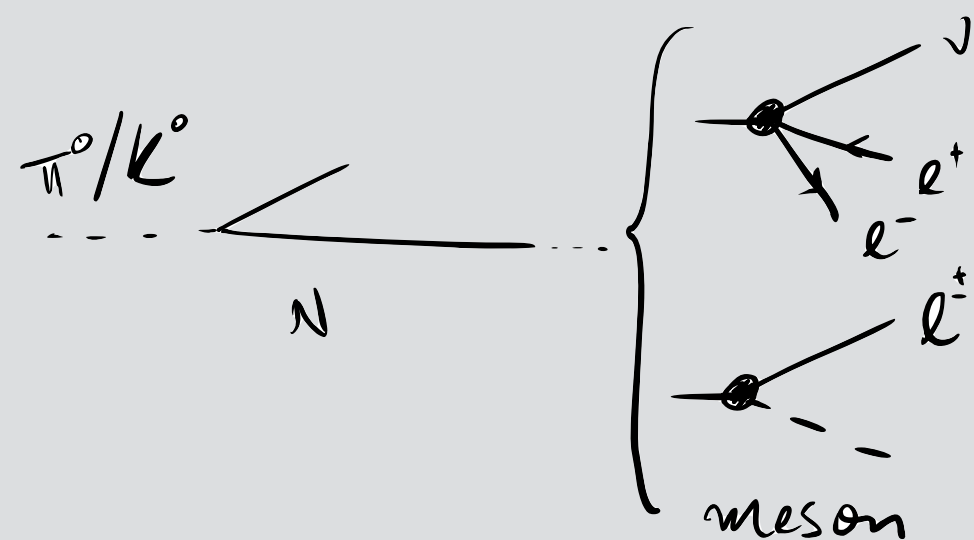
Gninenko PRL 2009  
Coloma Machado Soler Shoemaker PRL 2017  
Atkinson et al 2021 Vergani et al 2021

## Axion-like Particles



Kelly Kumar Liu PRD 2021  
Brdar et al PRL 2021

## Heavy Neutral Leptons



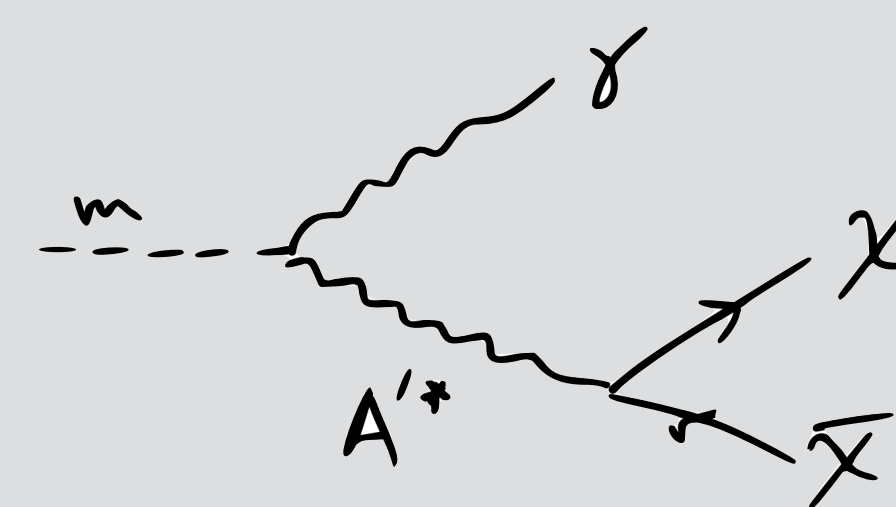
Ballett Pascoli Ross-Lonergan JHEP 2017  
Kelly Machado PRD 2021

## Higgs Portal Scalar



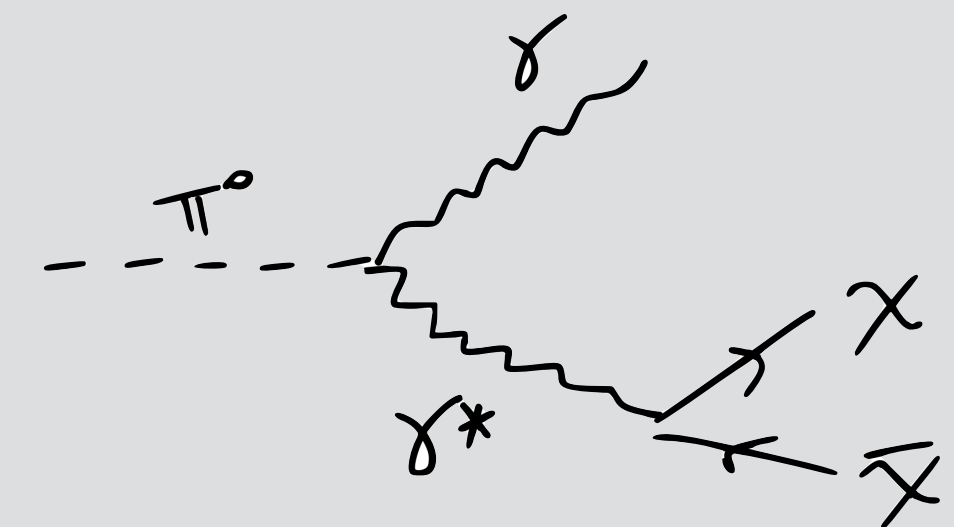
Pat Wilczek 2006  
Batell Berger Ismail PRD 2019  
MicroBooNE 2021

## Light Dark Matter



Romeri Kelly Machado PRD 2019

## Millicharged Particles



Magill, Plestid, Pospelov, Tsai, PRL 2019  
Harnik Liu Palamara, JHEP 2019

*Note: not an exhaustive list!*

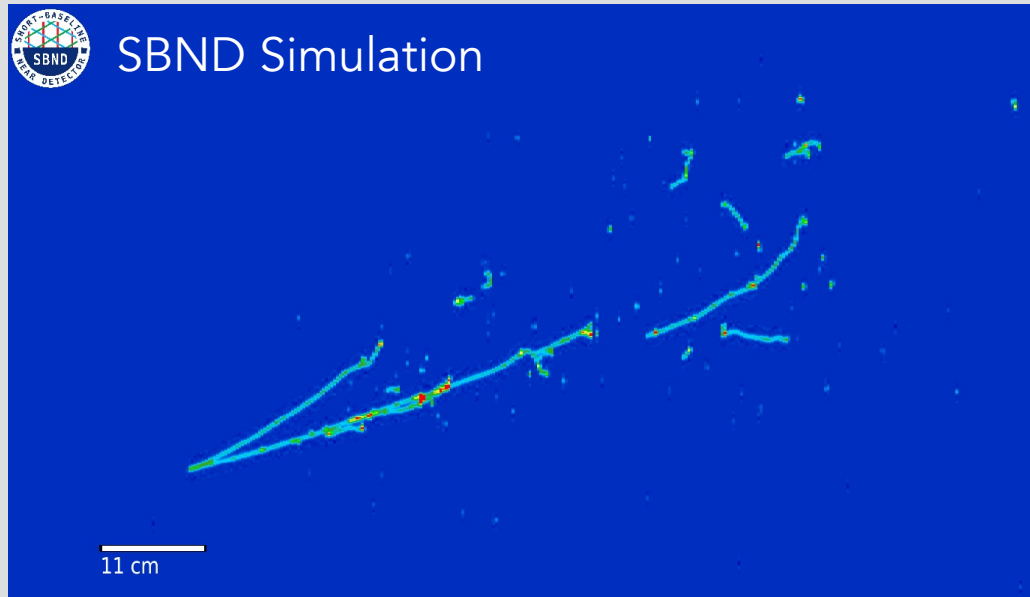
Image credit P. Machado and M. Del Tutto



# SIGNATURES FOR NEW PHYSICS IN SBN

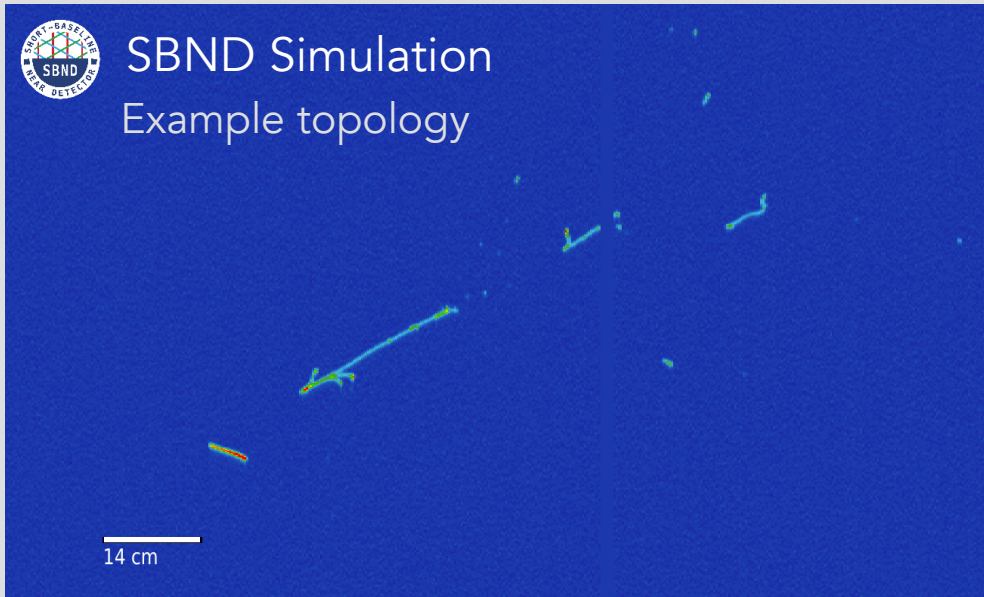
Collaboration between experimentalists and theorists is crucial for these searches.

## Dark Neutrinos



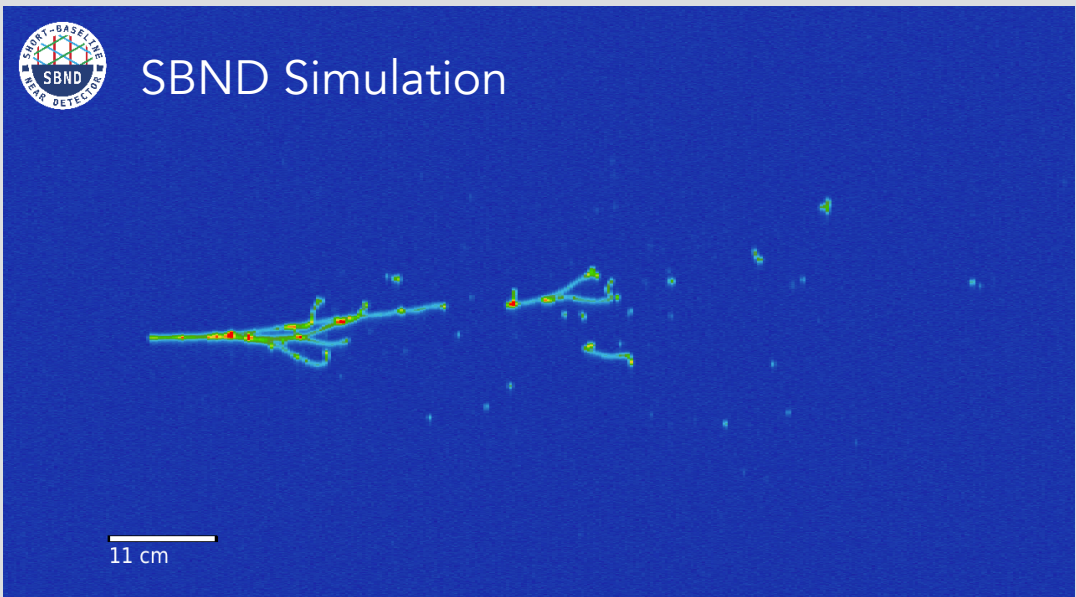
$e^+e^-$  pair w/ or w/o hadronic activity

## Transition Magnetic Moment



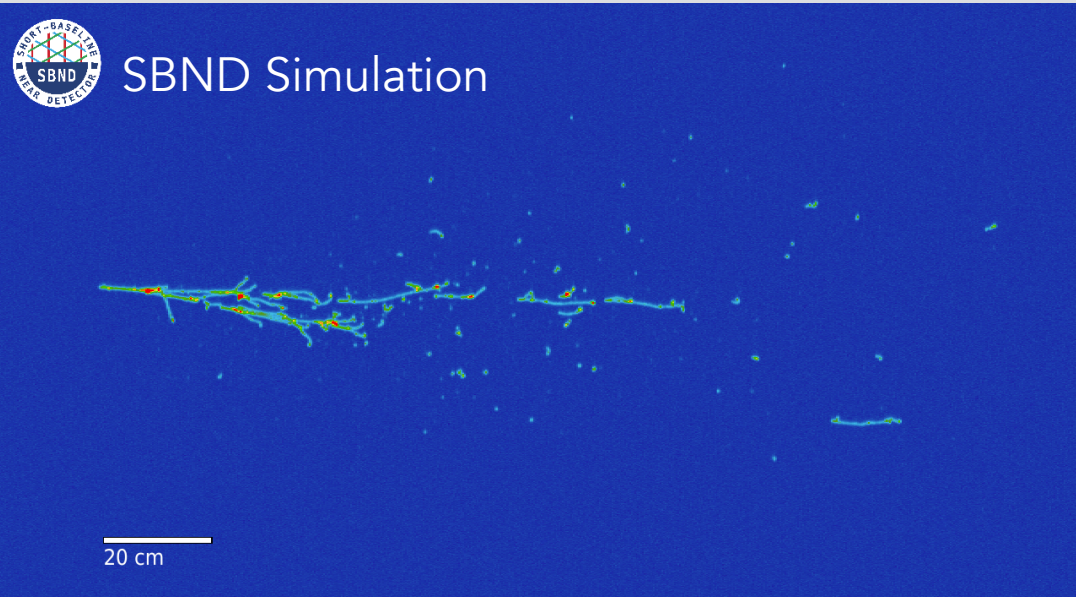
photon shower and hadronic activity

## Axion-like Particles



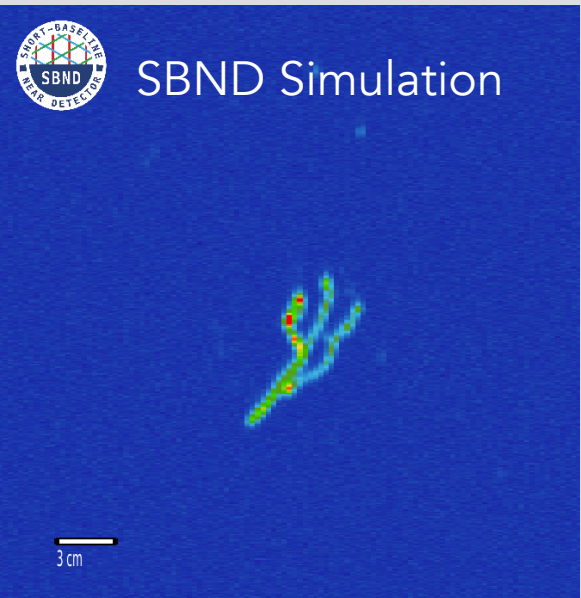
high-energy  $e^+e^-$ ,  $\mu^+\mu^-$

## Heavy Neutral Leptons



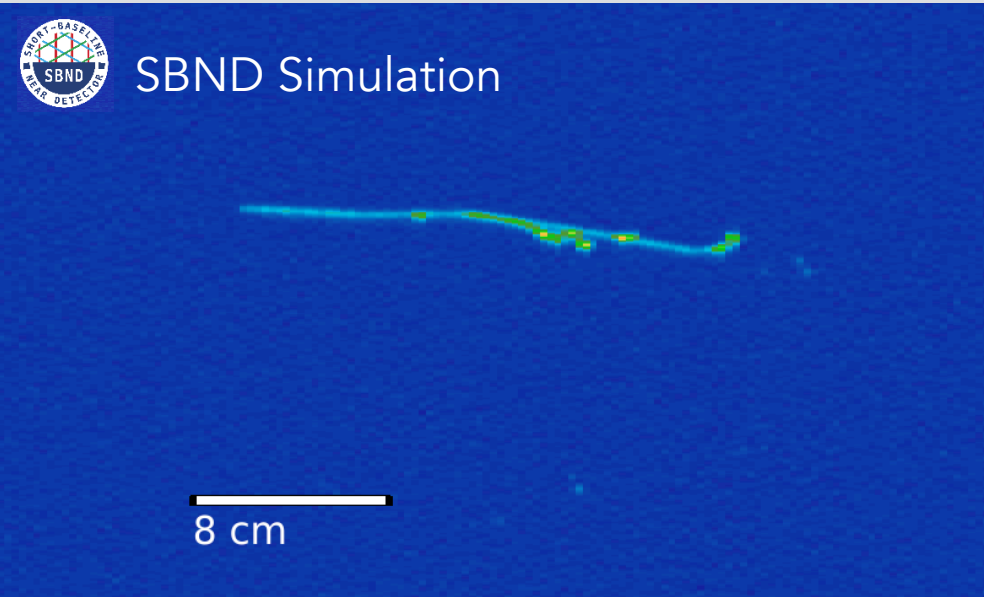
$e^+e^-$ ,  $\mu^+\mu^-$ ,  $\mu\pi$

## Higgs Portal Scalar



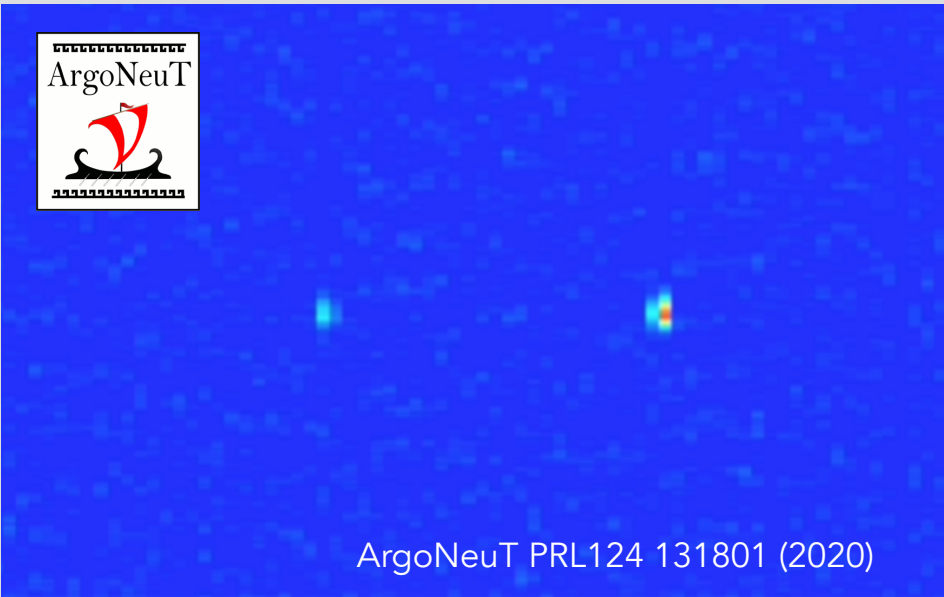
$e^+e^-$ ,  $\mu^+\mu^-$ , no hadronic activity

## Light Dark Matter



electron scattering

## Millicharged Particles



blips/faint tracks



# SEARCH FOR MILLICHARGED PARTICLES IN SBND



Millicharged particles would appear in SBND as **blips** or **faint tracks** pointing back to the target.

Projected SBND threshold: 50 keV

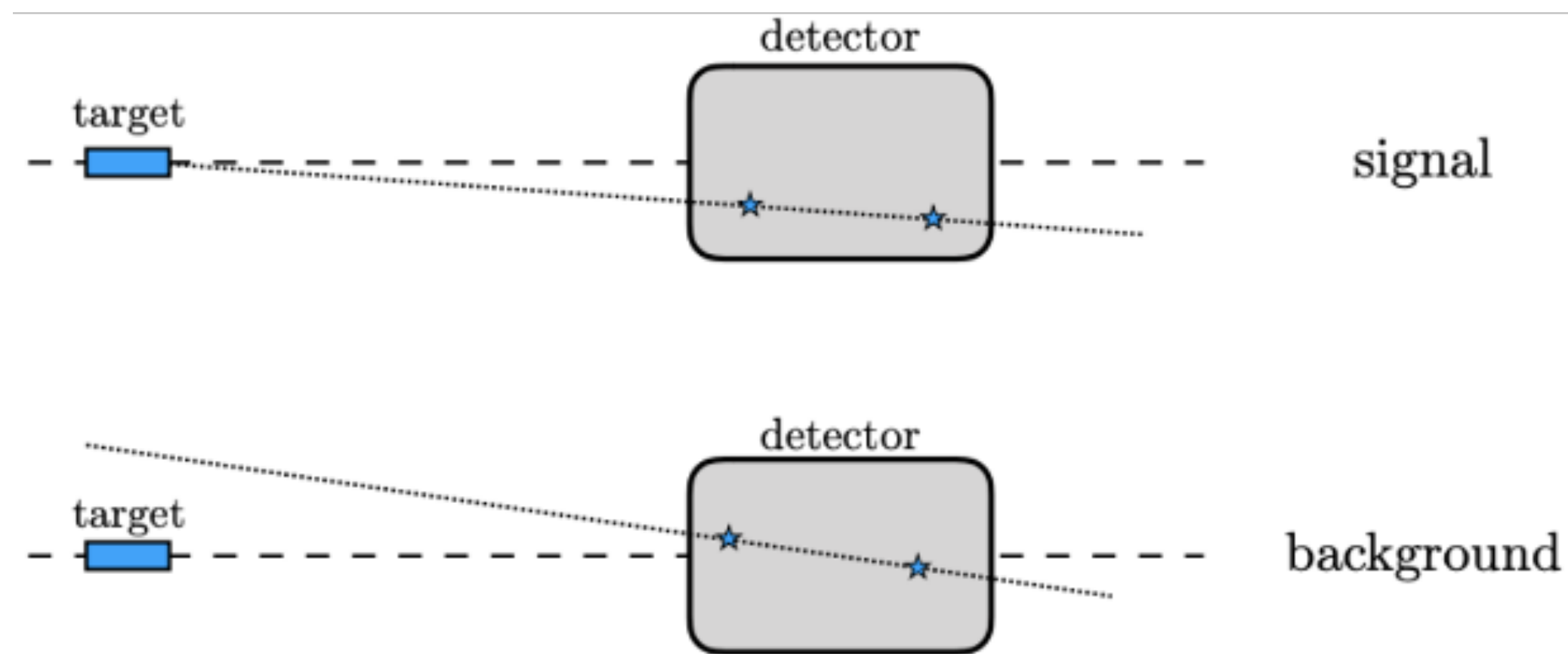
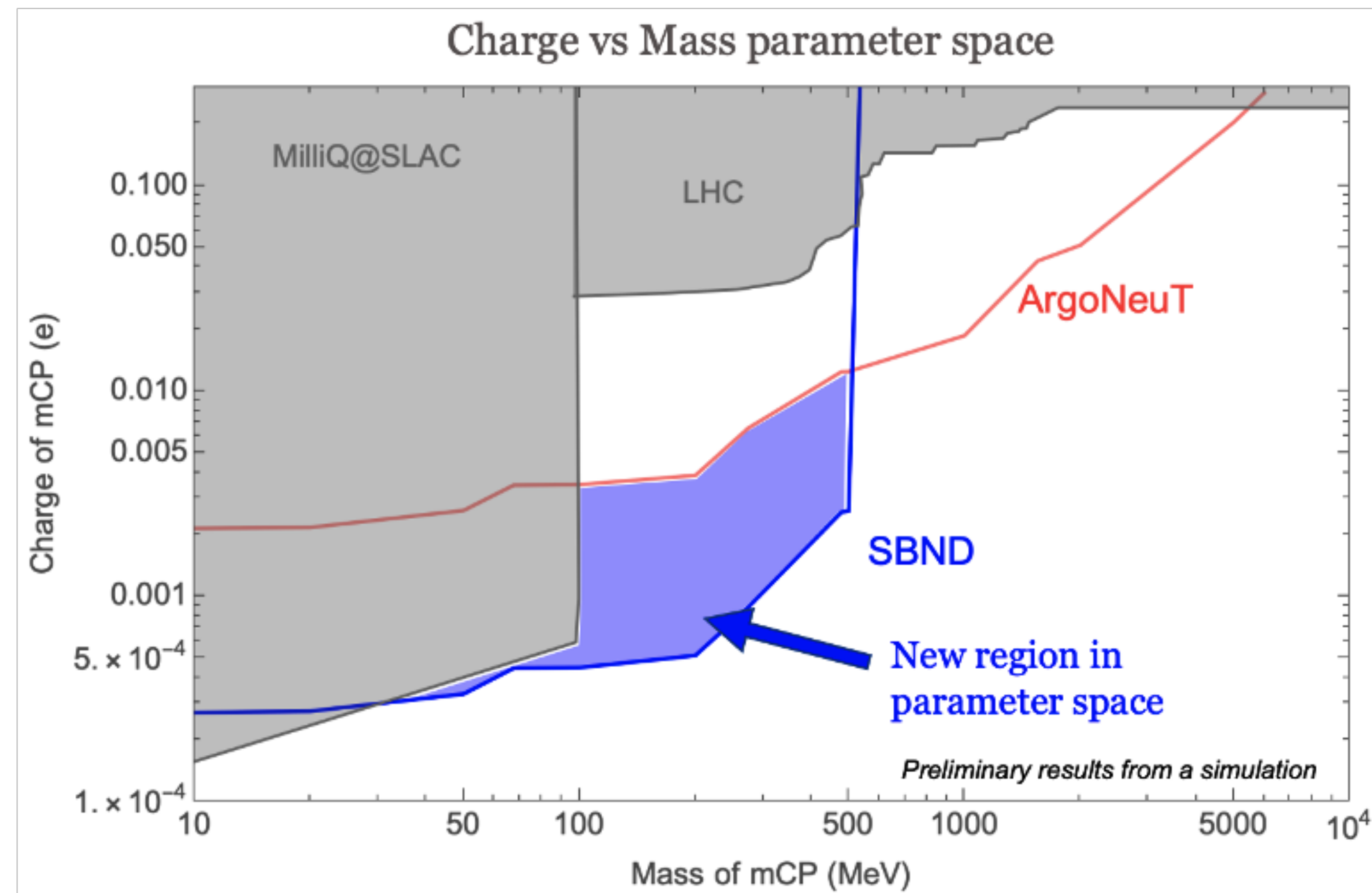


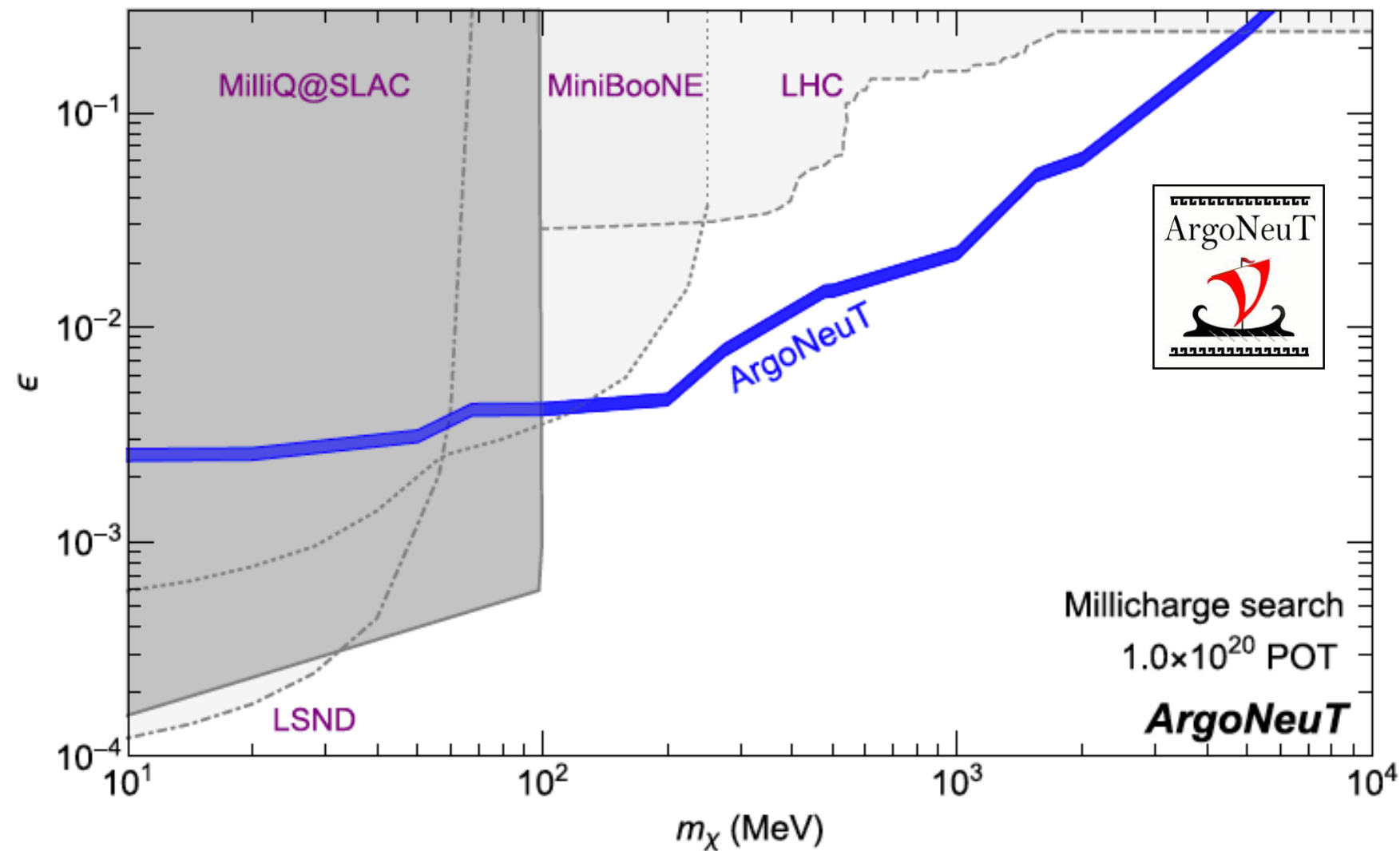
Image credit: ArgoNeuT, PRL124 131801 (2020)





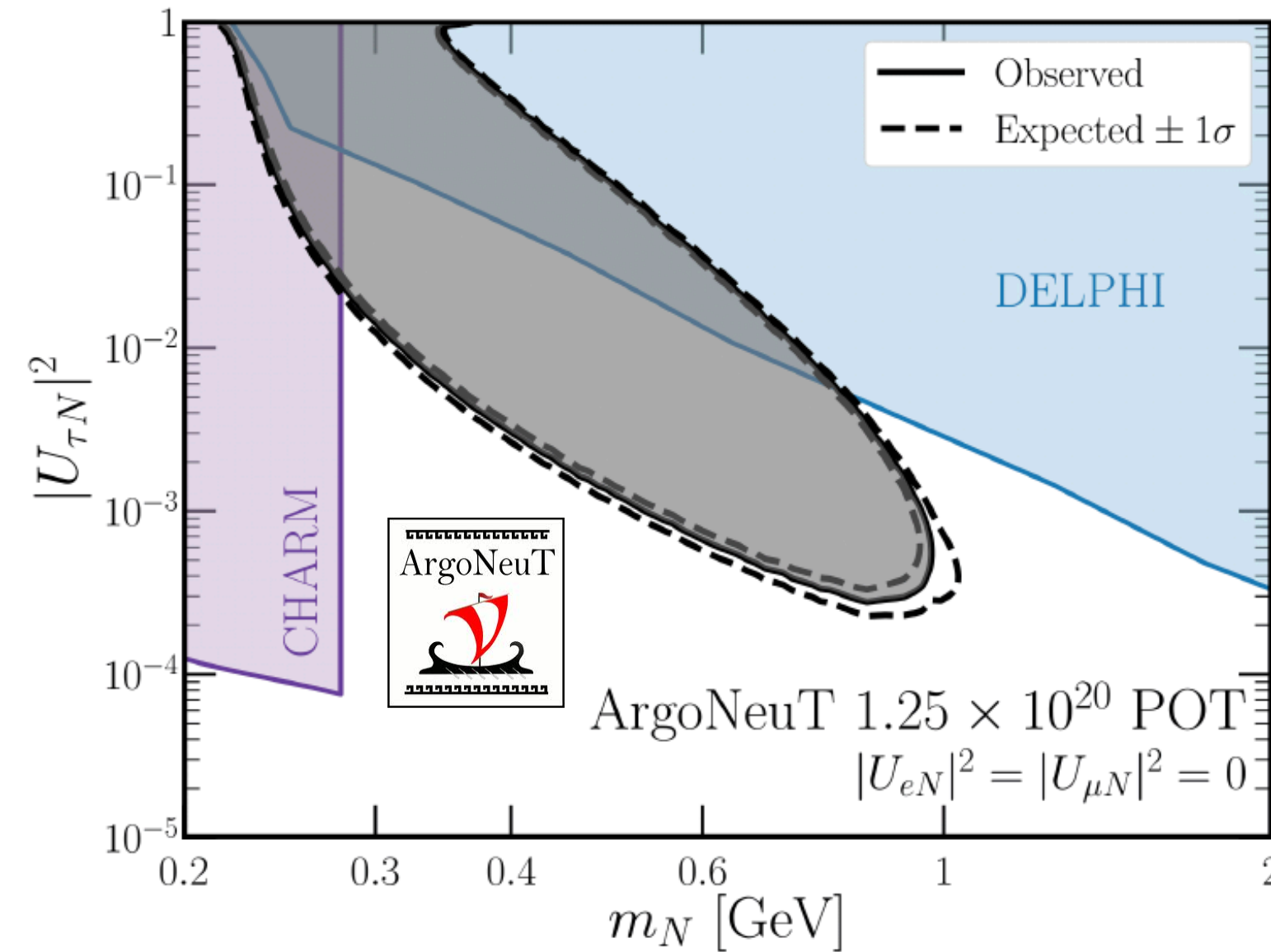
# SEARCH FOR NEW PHYSICS IN LAR DETECTORS

## Millicharged Particles



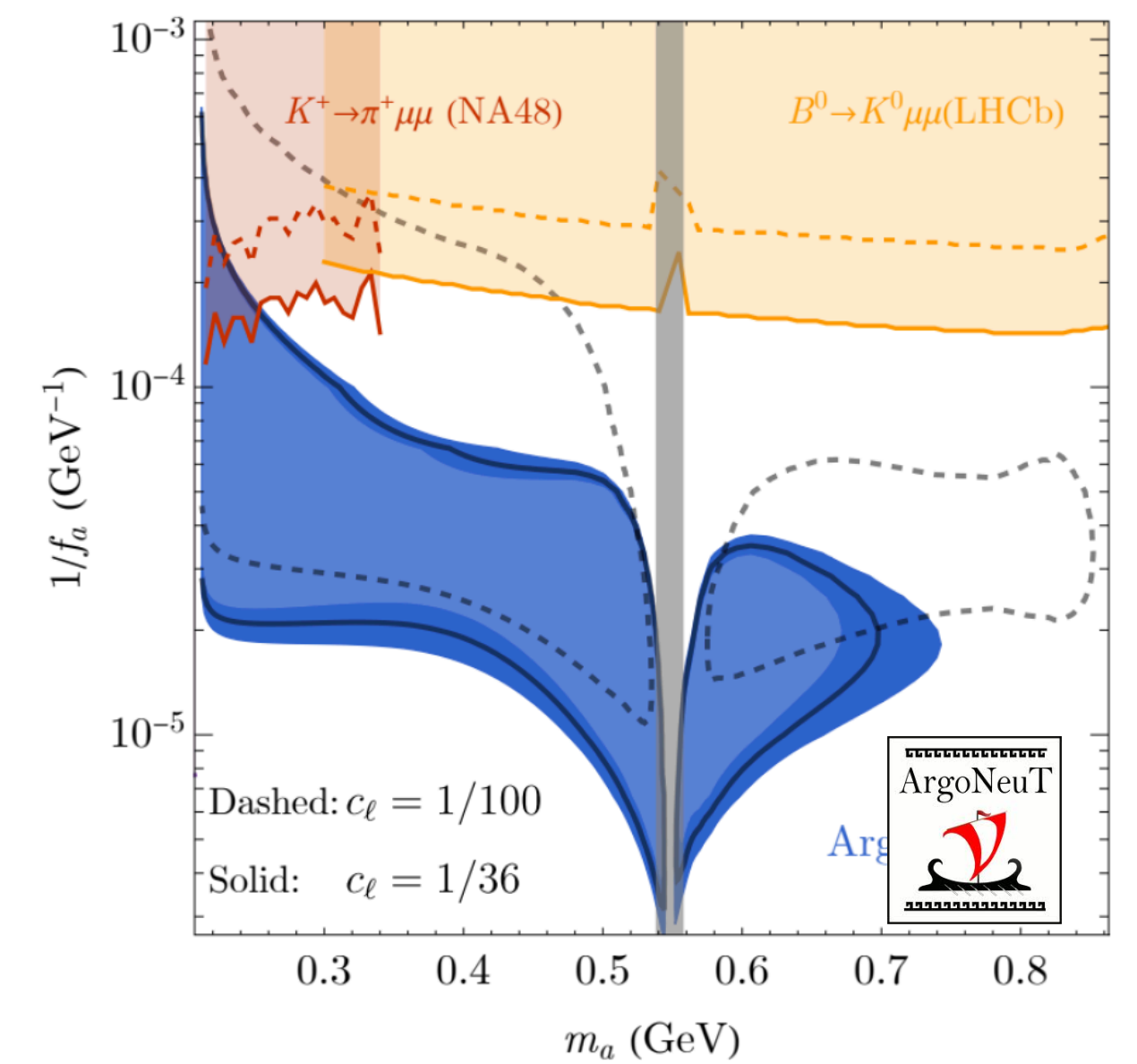
R. Acciarri et al., PRL124 131801 (2020)

## Heavy Neutral Leptons $N \rightarrow \nu \mu^+ \mu^-$



R. Acciarri et al., PRL 127 121801 (2021)

## Heavy QCD Axions



R. Acciarri et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.08448>

**ArgoNeuT:** small LAr TPC - 0.24 t - exposed to the NuMI beam at Fermilab for 5 months.

## MicroBooNE:

- **Heavy Neutral leptons** ( $N \rightarrow \mu^\pm \pi^\mp$  decay channel in a delayed time window)

P. Abratenko et al., PRD 101 052001 (2020)

- **Higgs scalar portal** ( $e^+e^-$  final state from NuMI off-axis events)

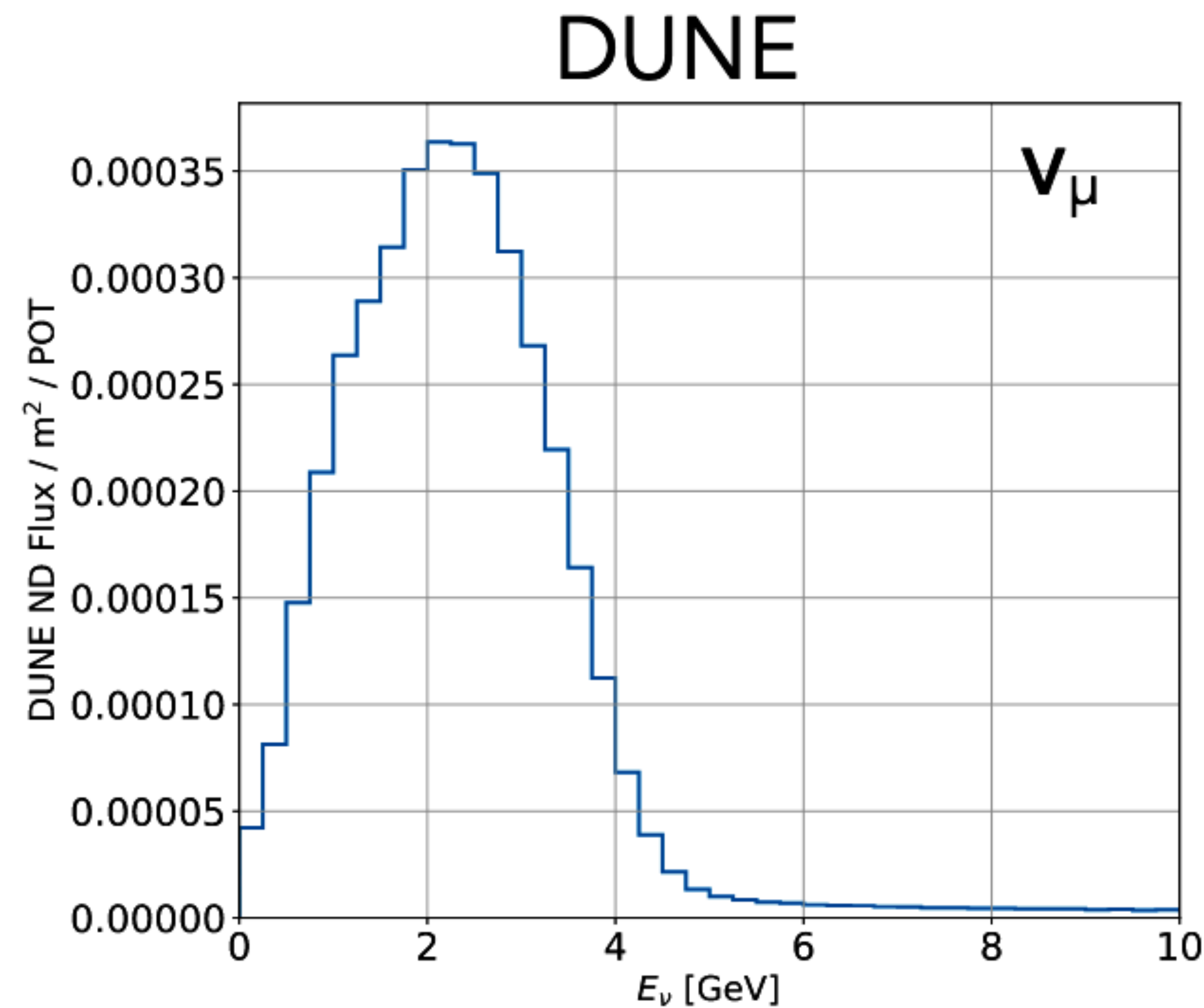
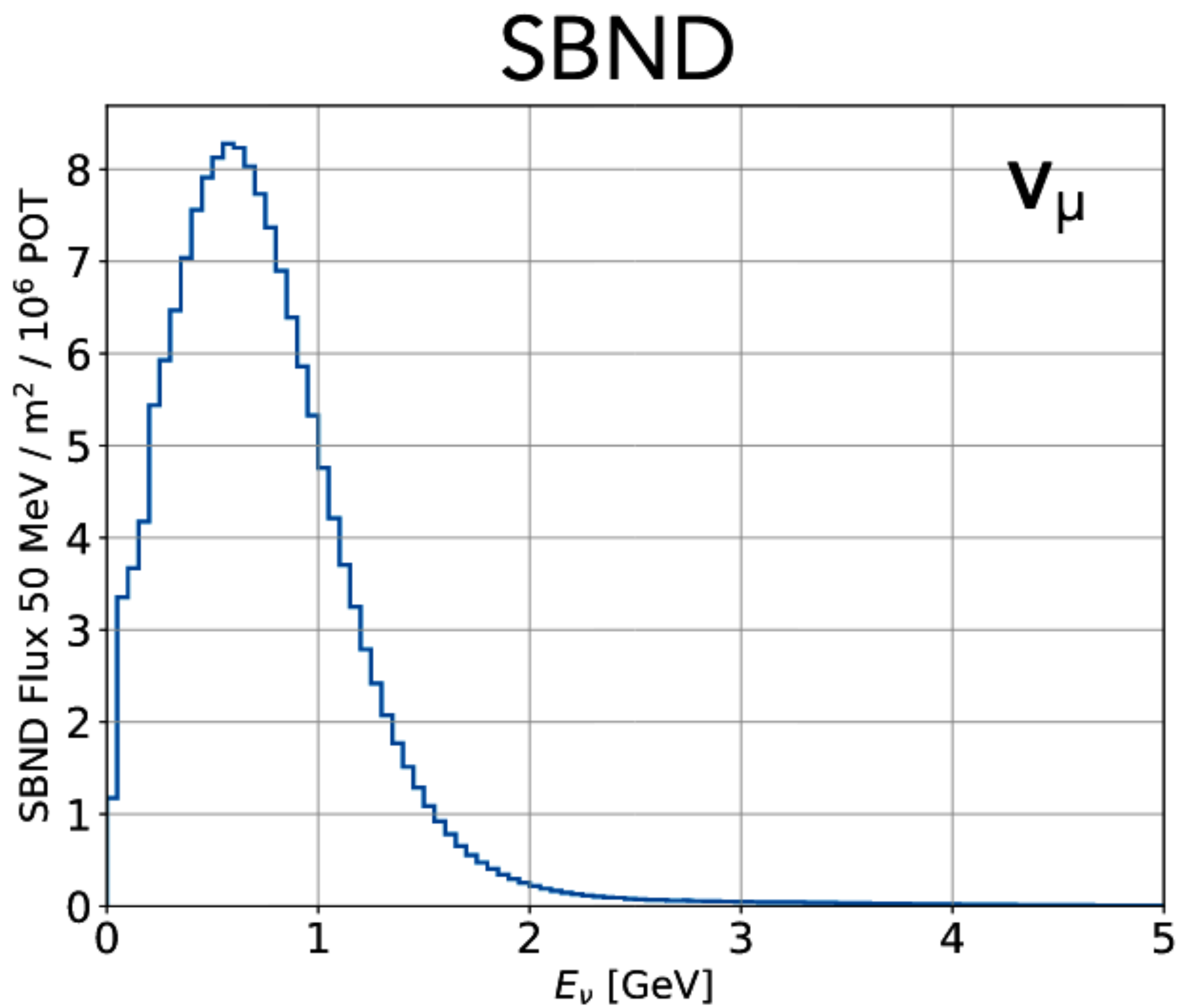
P. Abratenko et al., PRL 127 151803 (2021)

Results recasted to constraint **Heavy Neutral Leptons**

K. Kelly and P. Machado, arXiv:2106.06548



# SBND/DUNE ENERGY SPECTRA



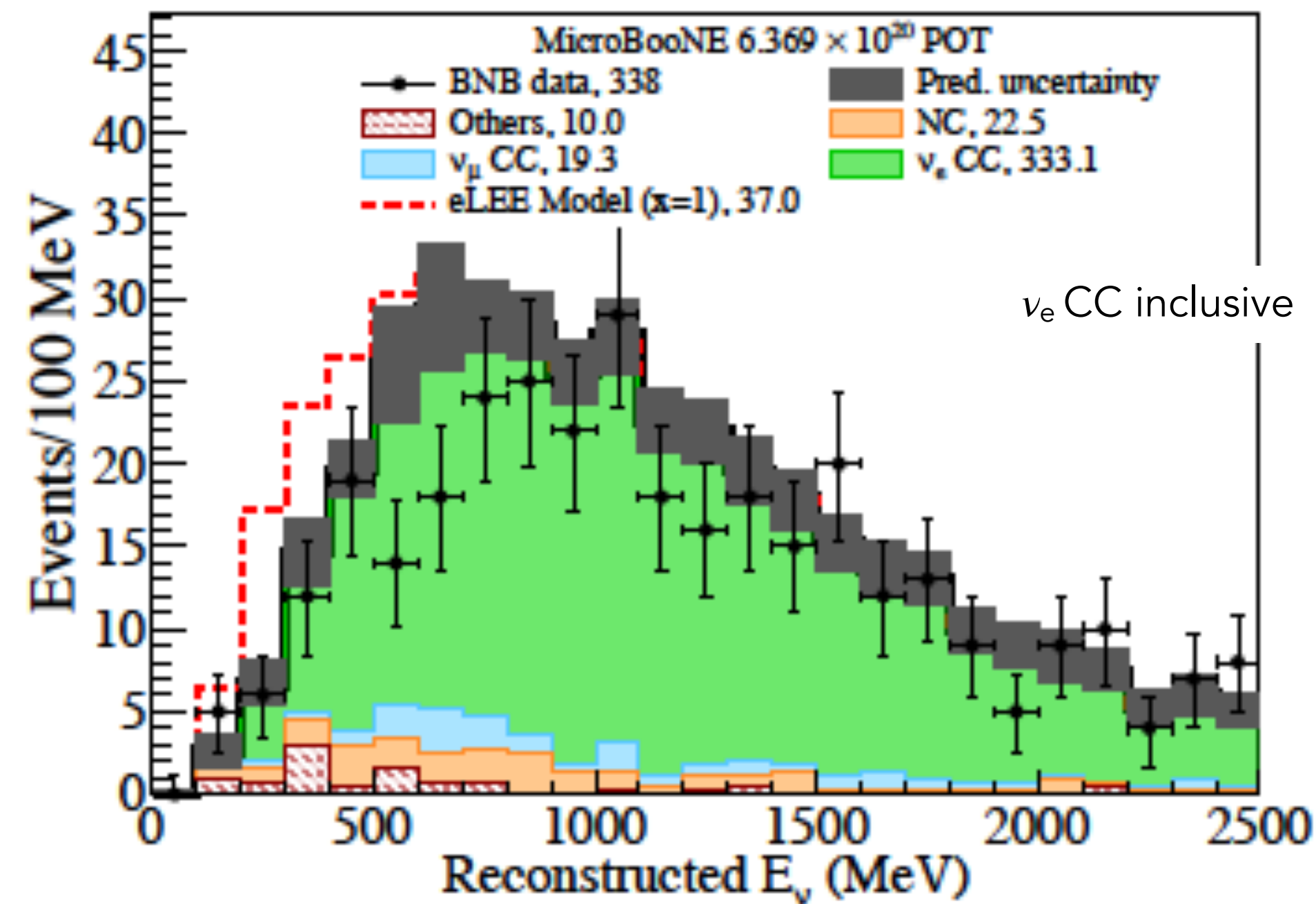


# STERILE NEUTRINO SEARCHES BEYOND MICROBOONE

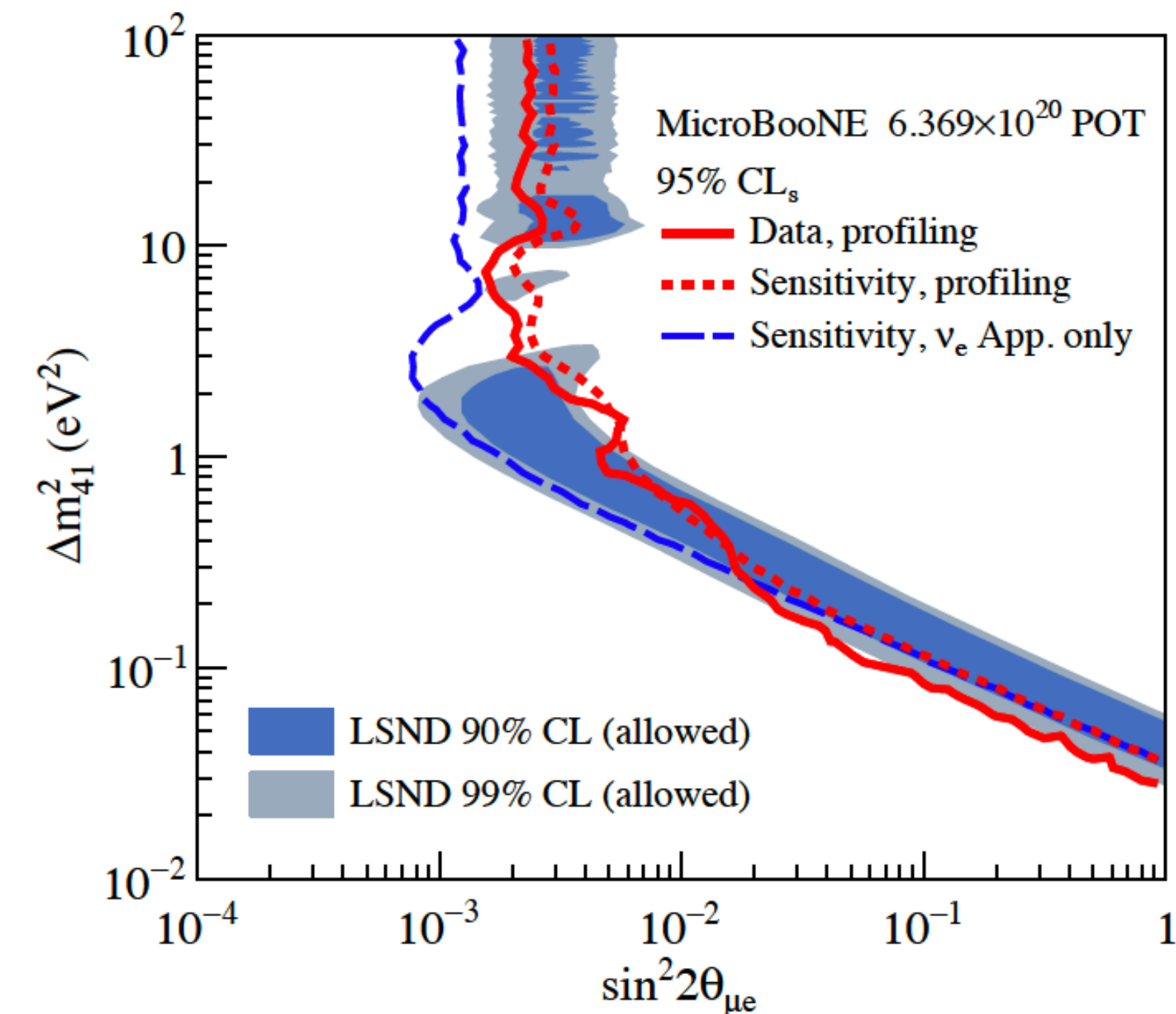
The MicroBooNE experiment presented very interesting results of first analyses searching for an excess of low-energy electromagnetic events:

**no hints of an electromagnetic event excess, but results do not rule out existence of sterile neutrinos.**

*P. Abratenko et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 241801*



*P. Abratenko et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.10216>*



Entering the **next phase** now, with a **Near detector** and a **larger Far detector**.