

NEUTRINOS IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Ben Jones, University of Texas at Arlington

2

ON THE MENU



Menu

L1:

- Neutrinos in β decay
- Reactor neutrinos
- Endpoint ν mass searches

L2:

- Solar neutrinos
- Neutrino oscillations
- MSW effect

L3:

- Majorana v. Dirac
- Double beta decay

L4:

- Atmospheric neutrinos
- Accelerator neutrinos
- Gallium anomaly
- Sterile neutrinos, etc

More black-and-white photos of old dudes!



Pop quiz:

Who dis? →

Energy Production in Stars*

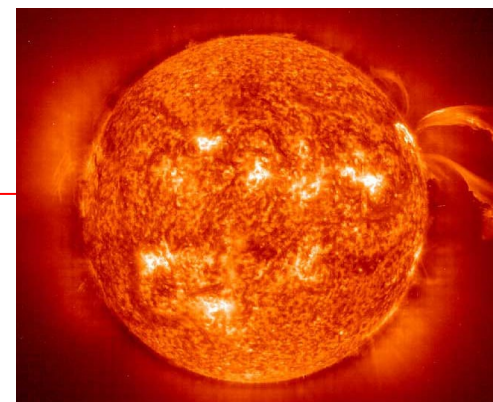
H. A. BETHE

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

(Received September 7, 1938)

TABLE V. Probability of nuclear reactions at $2 \cdot 10^7$ degrees.**

REACTION	Q (MMU)	Γ (EV)		P (SEC. ⁻¹)	LIFE, FOR $\rho x_1 = 30$
H+H=H ² +e ⁺	1.53	Ref. 16	12.5	$8.5 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{11}$ yr.
H ² +H=He ³	5.9	1 E	13.8	$1.3 \cdot 10^{-2}$	2 sec.
H ³ +H=He ⁴	21.3	10 E	14.3	$1.7 \cdot 10^{-1}$	0.2 sec.
He ³ +H=Li ⁴ *	(0.5)	0.02 D	22.7	$3 \cdot 10^{-7}$	1 day
He ⁴ +H=Li ⁵ *	(0.2)	0.005 D	23.2	$6 \cdot 10^{-8}$	6 days
Li ⁶ +H=He ⁴ +He ³	4.1	$5 \cdot 10^6$ X	31.1	$7 \cdot 10^{-3}$	5 sec.
Li ⁷ +H=2 He ⁴	18.6	$4 \cdot 10^4$ X	31.3	$6 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1 min.
Be ⁷ +H=B ⁸ ?	(0.5)	0.02 D	38.1	$6 \cdot 10^{-13}$	2000 yr.
Be ⁹ +H=Li ⁶ +He ⁴	2.4	10^6 X	38.1	$4 \cdot 10^{-5}$	15 min.
B ⁹ +H=C ¹⁰ *	3.5	2 D	44.6	$2 \cdot 10^{-13}$	5000 yr.
B ¹⁰ +H=C ¹¹	9.2	10 D	44.6	10^{-12}	1000 yr.
B ¹¹ +H=3 He ⁴	9.4	10^6 E	44.6	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-7}$	3 days
C ¹¹ +H=N ¹²	(0.4)	0.02 D	50.6	10^{-17}	10^8 yr.
C ¹² +H=N ¹³	2.0	0.6 X	50.6	$4 \cdot 10^{-16}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^6$ yr.
C ¹³ +H=N ¹⁴	8.2	30 X	50.6	$2 \cdot 10^{-14}$	$5 \cdot 10^4$ yr.
N ¹⁴ +H=O ¹⁵	7.8	5 D	56.3	$2 \cdot 10^{-17}$	$5 \cdot 10^7$ yr.
N ¹⁵ +H=C ¹² +He ⁴	5.2	10^6 E	56.3	$5 \cdot 10^{-13}$	2000 yr.
O ¹⁶ +H=F ¹⁷	0.5	0.02 D	61.6	$8 \cdot 10^{-22}$	10^{12} yr.
F ¹⁹ +H=O ¹⁶ +He ⁴	8.8	10^6 E	66.9	$4 \cdot 10^{-17}$	$3 \cdot 10^7$ yr.
Ne ²² +H=Na ²³	10.7	10 D	71.7	$5 \cdot 10^{-23}$	$2 \cdot 10^{13}$ yr.
Mg ²⁶ +H=Al ²⁷	8.0	10 D	81.3	10^{-26}	10^{17} yr.
Si ³⁰ +H=P ³¹	7.0	10 D	90.4	$4 \cdot 10^{-30}$	$3 \cdot 10^{20}$ yr.
Cl ³⁷ +H=A ³⁸	12.0	10 D	103.1	$5 \cdot 10^{-36}$	$2 \cdot 10^{25}$ yr.
H ² +H ² =He ³ +n	3.5	$3 \cdot 10^6$ X	15.7	10^3	
Be ⁷ +H ² =B ⁹ *	18.5	10 D'	45.9	$2 \cdot 10^{-13}$	
Be ⁷ +H ³ =B ⁹ +n*	11.9	10^6 E	50.7	$2 \cdot 10^{-10}$	
Be ⁷ +He ³ =C ¹⁰	16.2	1 D'	80.5	$3 \cdot 10^{-28}$	
H ² +He ⁴ =Li ⁶	1.7	$4 \cdot 10^{-3}$ Q	27.5	$3 \cdot 10^{-10}$	
He ³ +He ⁴ =Be ⁷	1.6	0.02 D'	47.3	$3 \cdot 10^{-17}$	$3 \cdot 10^7$ yr.
He ⁴ +He ⁴ =Be ⁸ *	(0.05)	$5 \cdot 10^{-9}$ Q	50.0	10^{-24}	
Li ⁷ +He ⁴ =B ¹¹	9.1	1 D'	71.0	$2.5 \cdot 10^{-24}$	
Be ⁷ +He ⁴ =C ¹¹	8.0	1 D'	86	$3 \cdot 10^{-30}$	$3 \cdot 10^{20}$ yr.
C ¹² +He ⁴ =O ¹⁶	7.8	1 Q'	119	$7 \cdot 10^{-43}$	



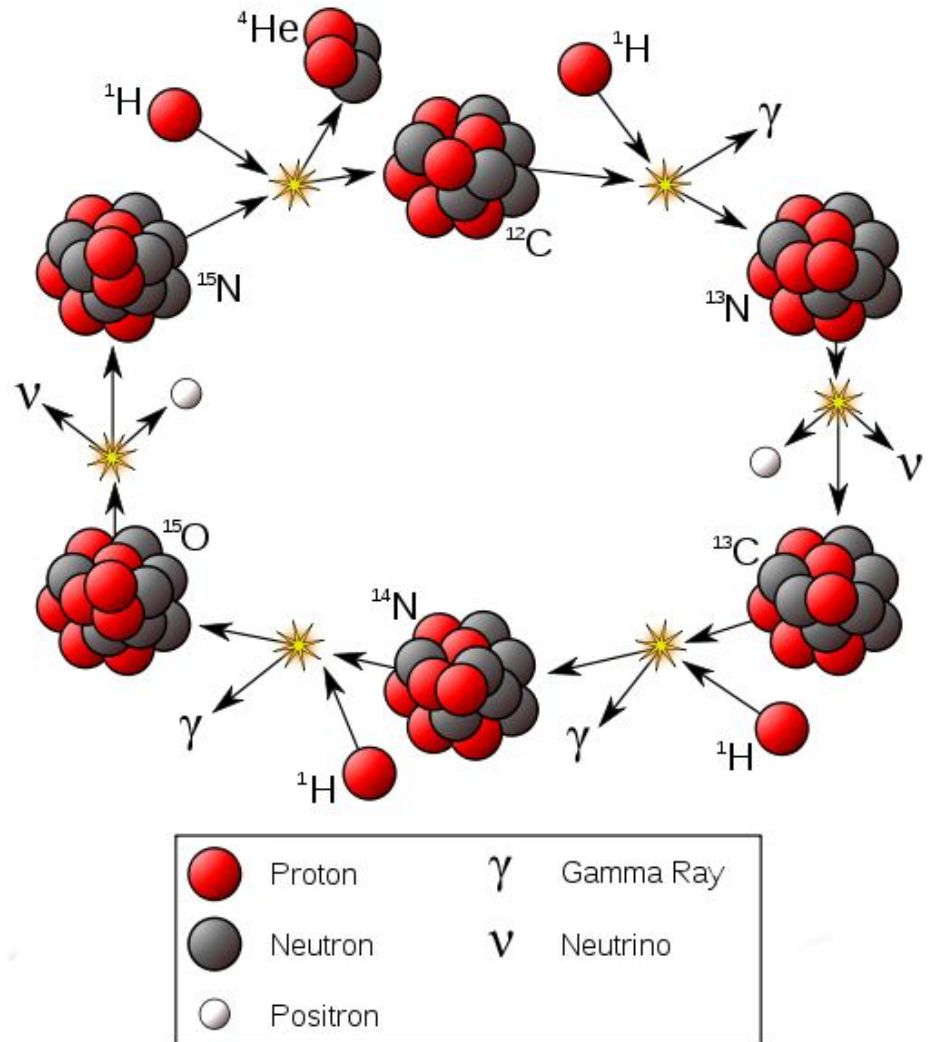
Hans Bethe
Nobel prize 1967



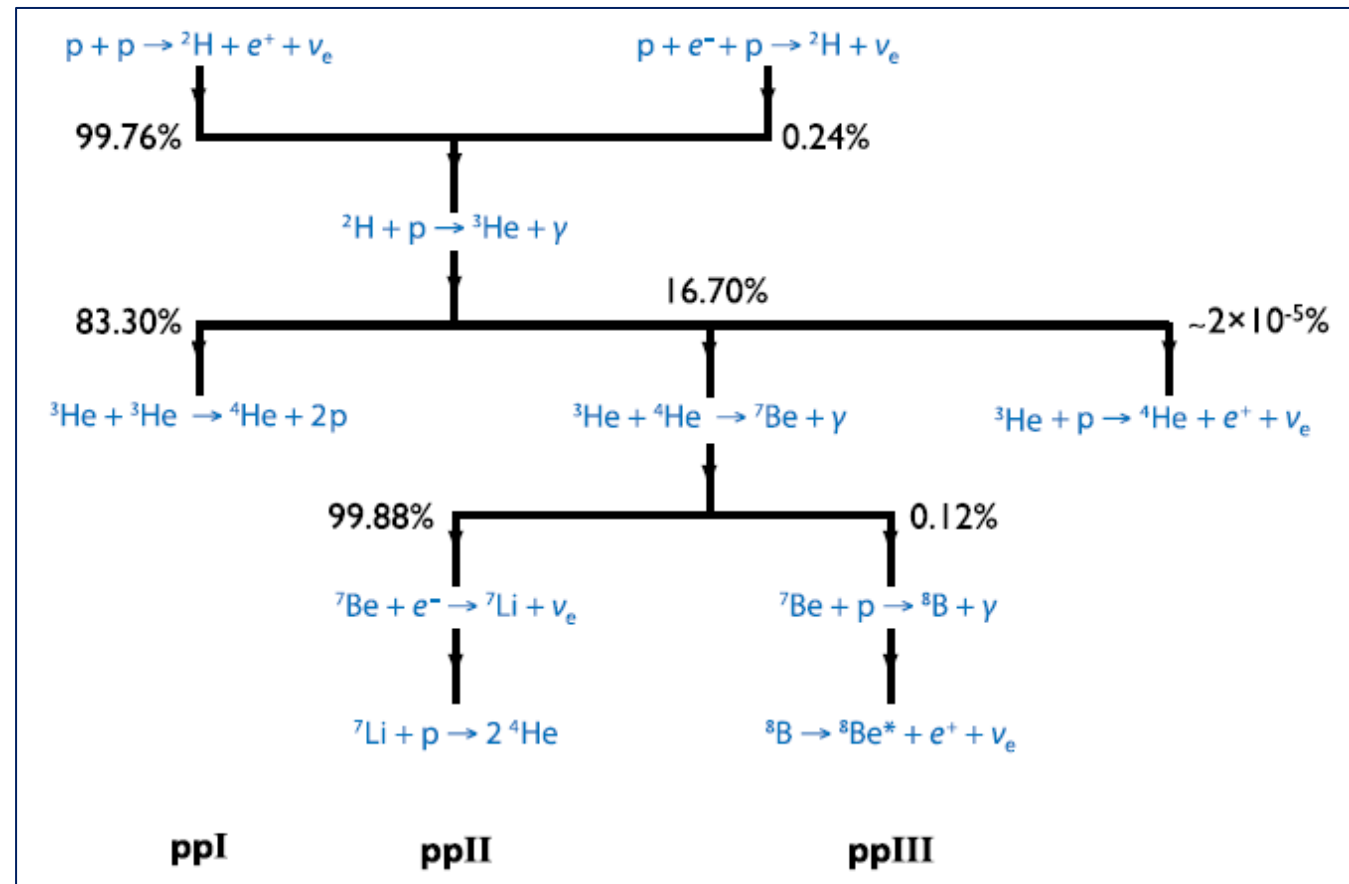
CNO CYCLE

- Most of the mass of the sun is H, and a little He.
- It seemed it was producing heat through $H \rightarrow He$ fusion, but how?
- Bethe exhaustively surveyed all known nuclear reactions and proposed a cycle whereby hydrogen is burned to helium via C,N,O isotopes as catalysts.
- It clearly emits several neutrinos on the way around too

→ the Sun should be a source of neutrinos



PP CYCLE

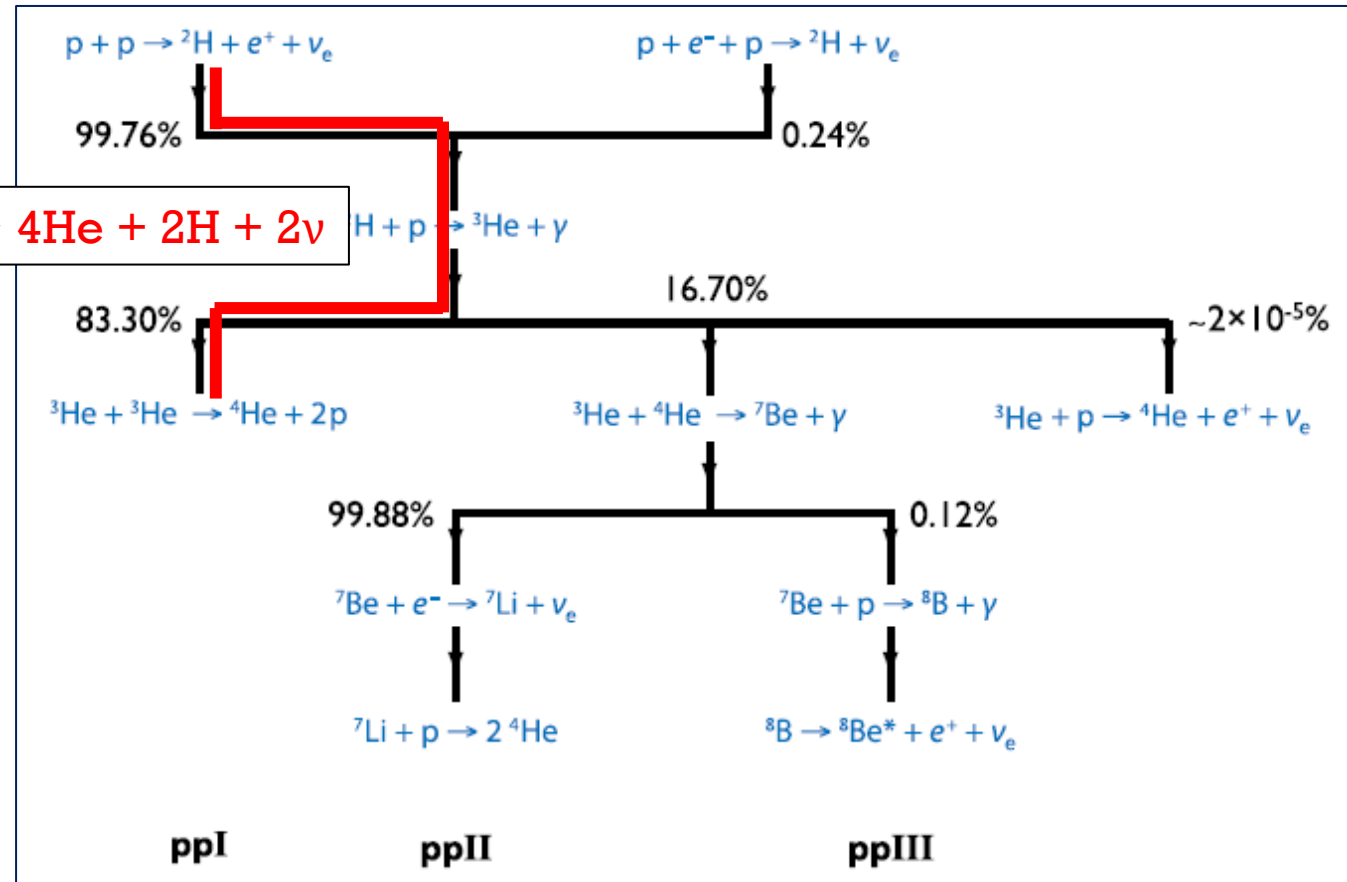


- Stars heavier than the Sun to burn through the CNO cycle.
- But the sun actually generates most of its energy through another process, the pp-cycle.
- This one also spits out multiple neutrinos on the way down.

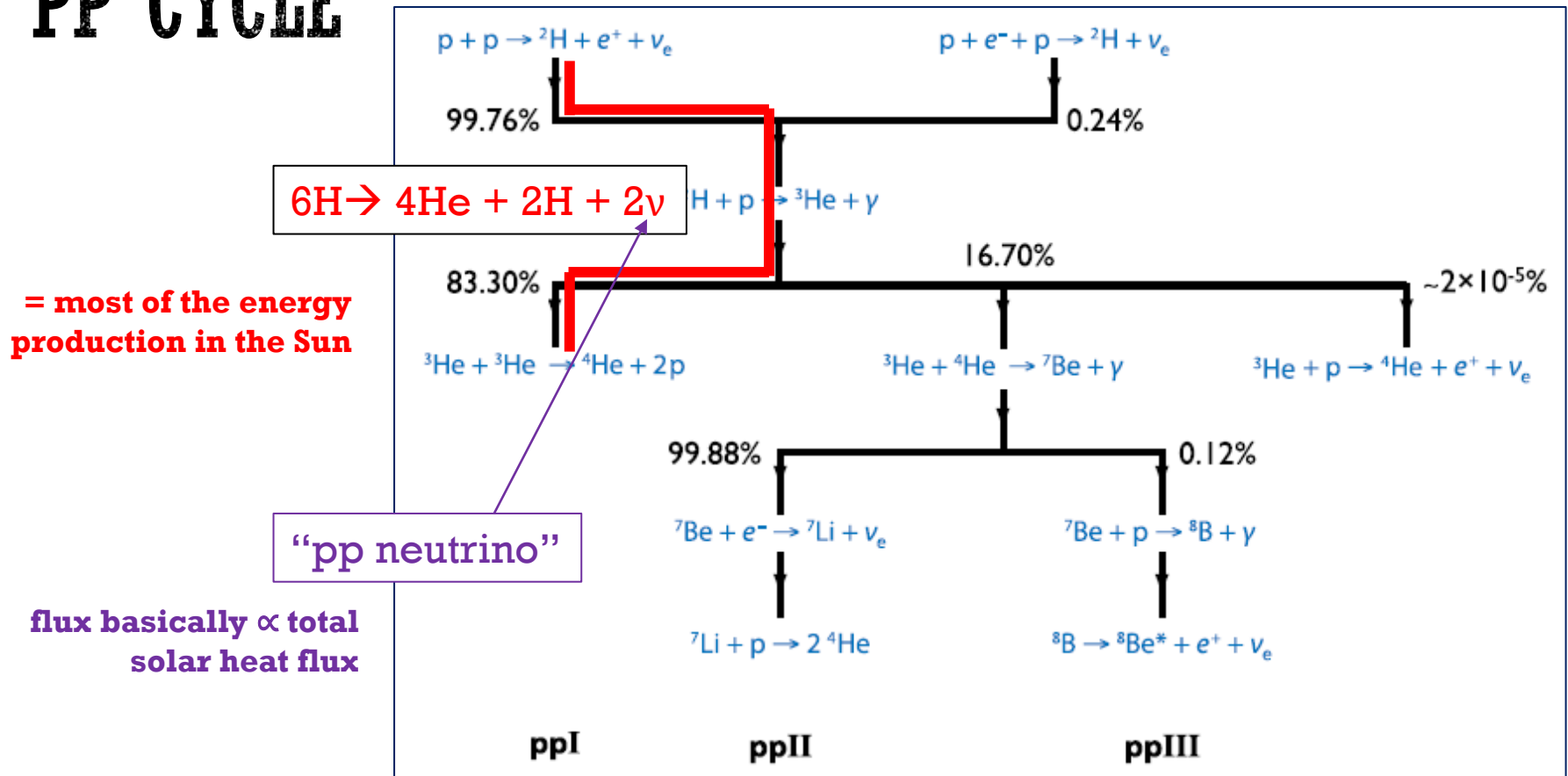
PP CYCLE

= most of the energy
production in the Sun

(Bethe missed the
 ${}^3\text{He} + {}^3\text{He}$ step)



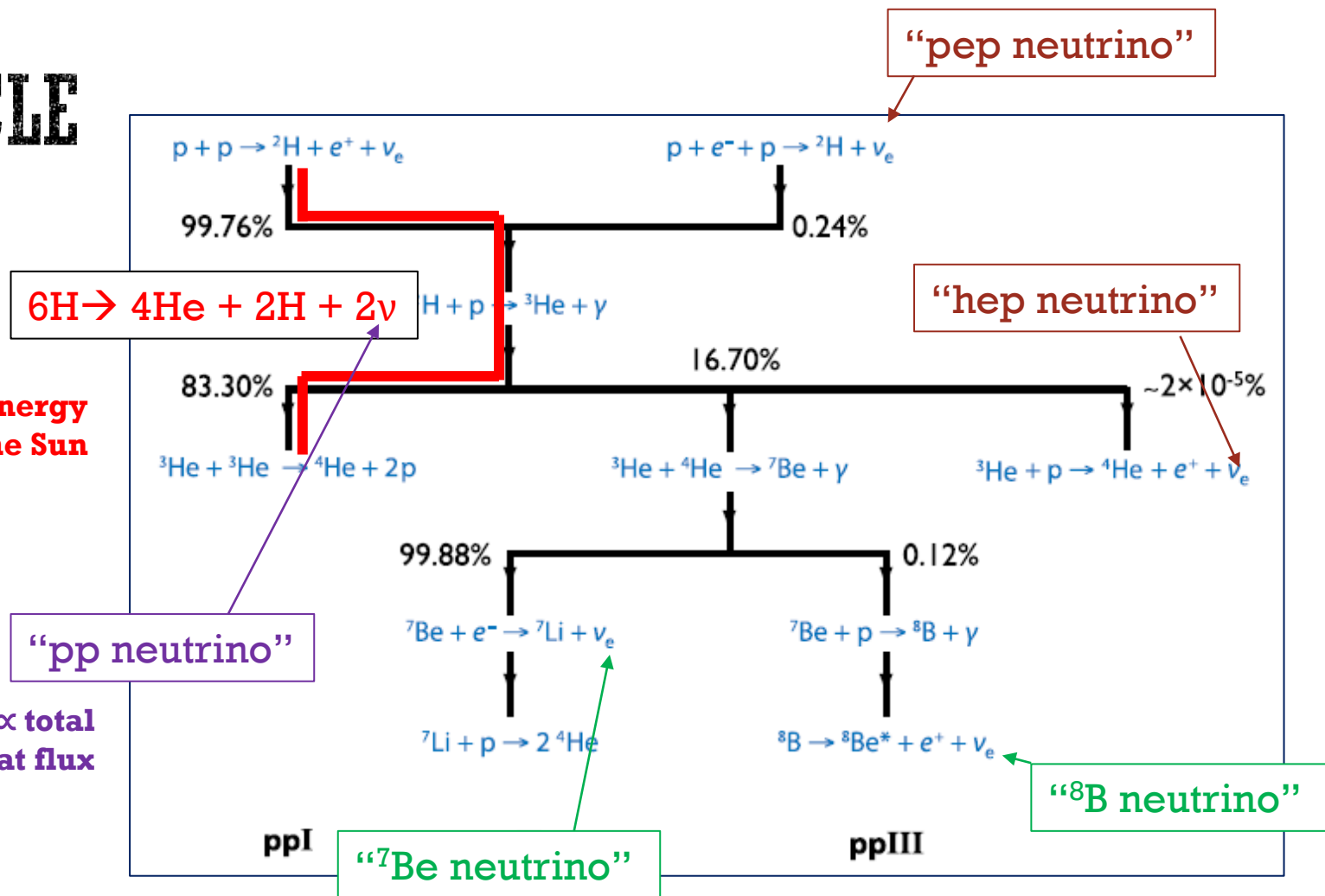
PP CYCLE



PP CYCLE

= most of the energy production in the Sun

flux basically \propto total solar heat flux



Depend on rates of several serial fusions, which each depend on solar temperature.

10,000 STANDARD SOLAR MODELS: A MONTE CARLO SIMULATION

JOHN N. BAHCALL¹

Institute for Advanced Study, Einstein Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

ALDO M. SERENELLI

Institute for Advanced Study, Einstein Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540; and Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik,
Karl-Schwarzschild-Strasse 1, 85748 Garching, Germany

AND

SARBANI BASU

Department of Astronomy, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520-8101

Received 2005 November 18; accepted 2006 March 7

John Bahcall and collaborators published a series of important papers using the hydrodynamic, seismological and nuclear properties of the Sun to predict the solar neutrino flux.

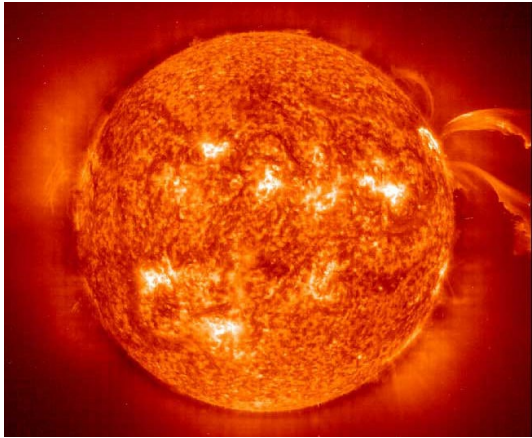
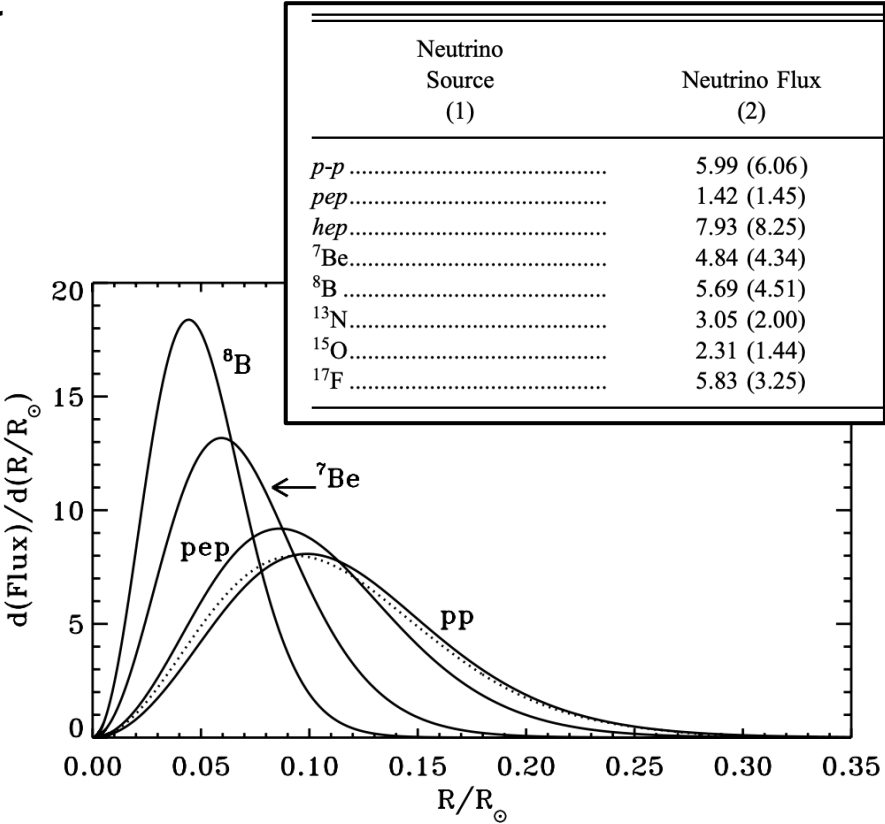


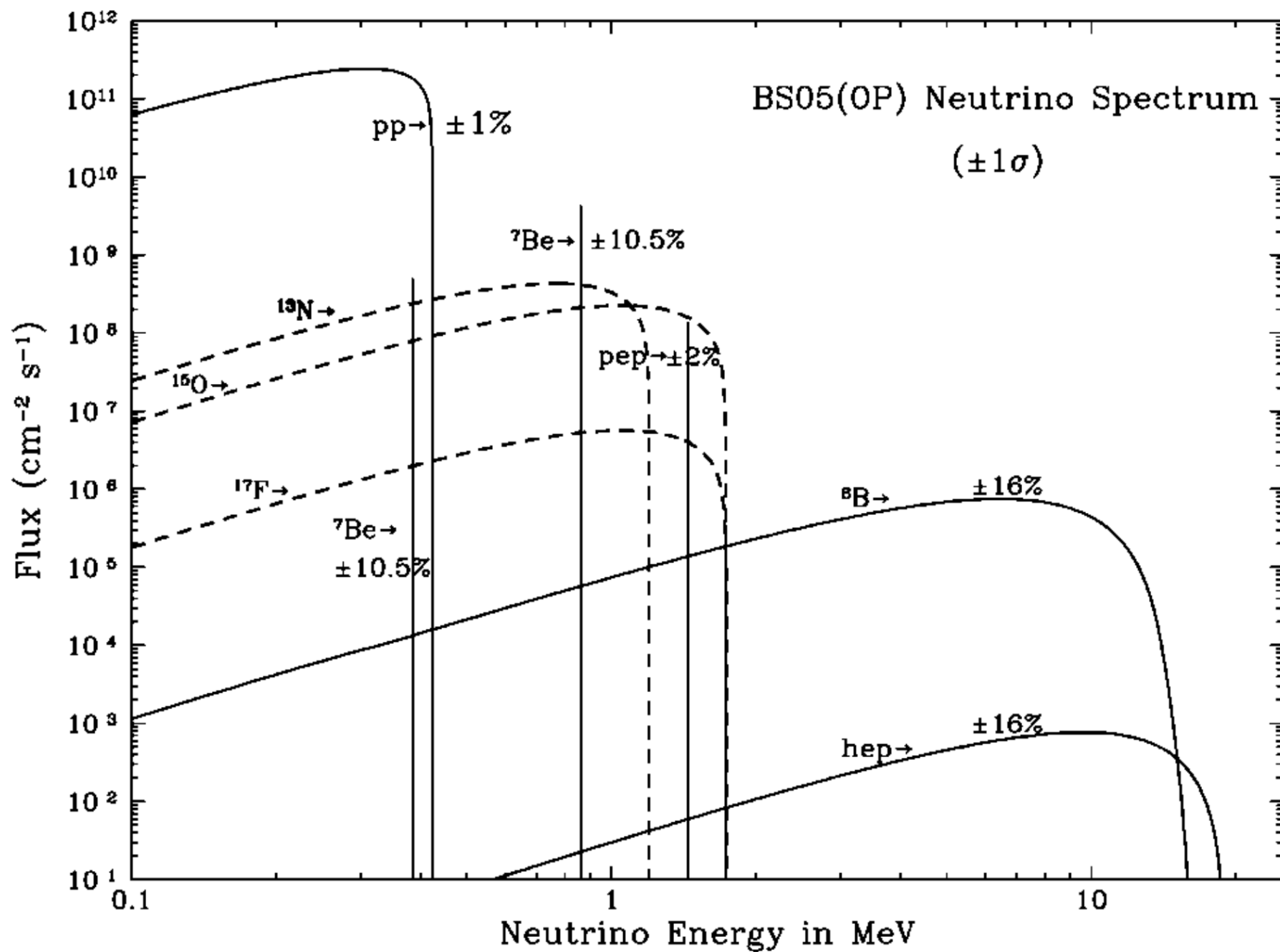
TABLE 1

BEST ESTIMATES AND 1 σ UNCERTAINTIES FOR 10 IMPORTANT INPUT PARAMETERS FOR SOLAR MODELS

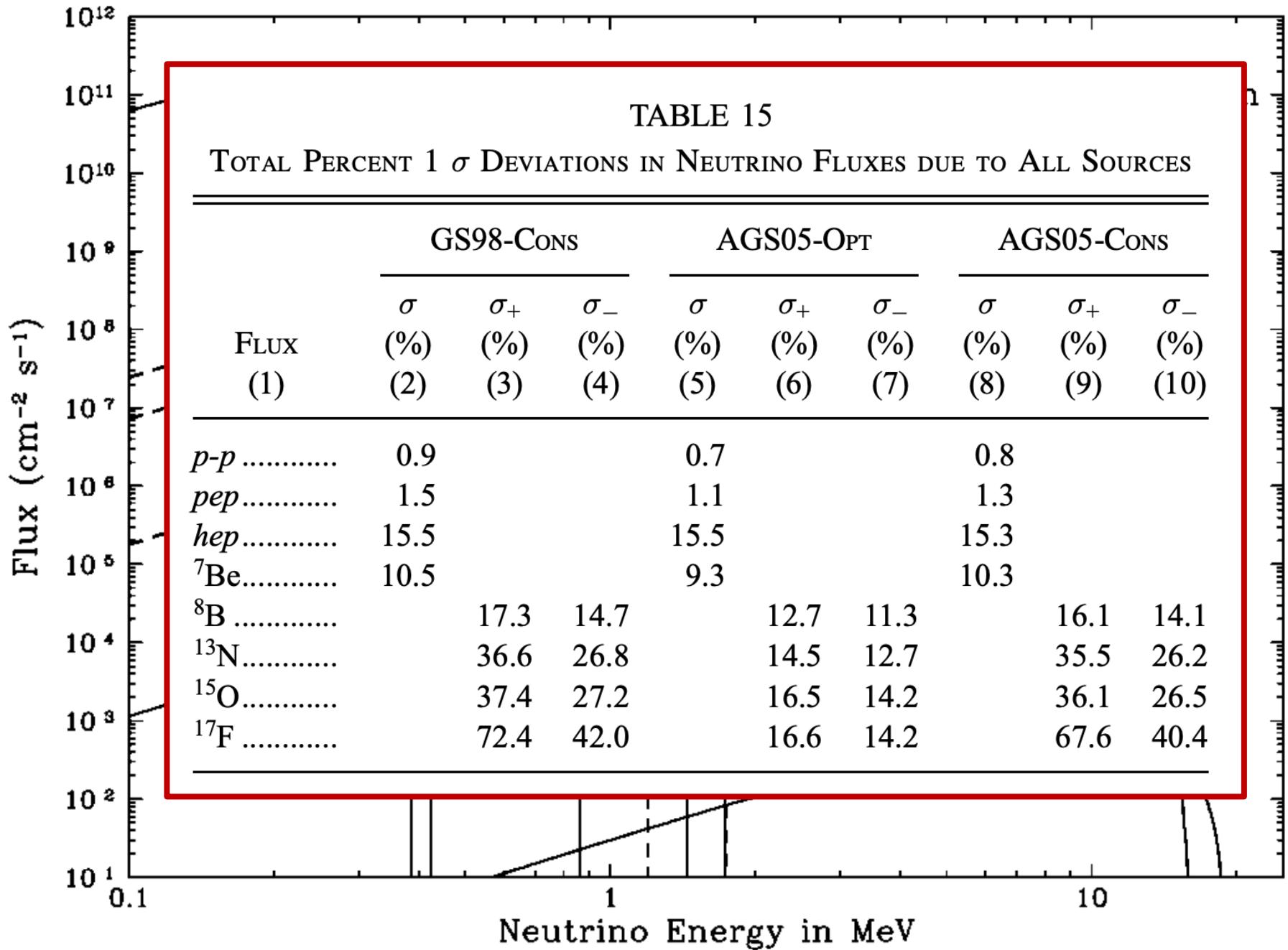
Quantity (1)	Best Estimate (2)	1 σ Uncertainty (%) (3)	Reference (4)
p - p	3.94×10^{-25} MeV b	0.4	1
$^3\text{He}+^3\text{He}$	5.4 MeV b	6.0	2, 3
$^3\text{He}+^4\text{He}$	0.53 keV b	9.4	3, 4
$^7\text{Be} + e^-$	Eq. (26), ref. 3	2	3, 5
$^7\text{Be}+p$	20.6 eV b	3.8	6
hep	8.6×10^{-20} keV b	15.1	1
$^{14}\text{N}+p$	1.69 keV b	8.4	7, 8
age	4.57×10^9 yr	0.44	9
diffusion	1.0	15.0	10
luminosity	3.8418×10^{33} ergs s ⁻¹	0.4	11, 12



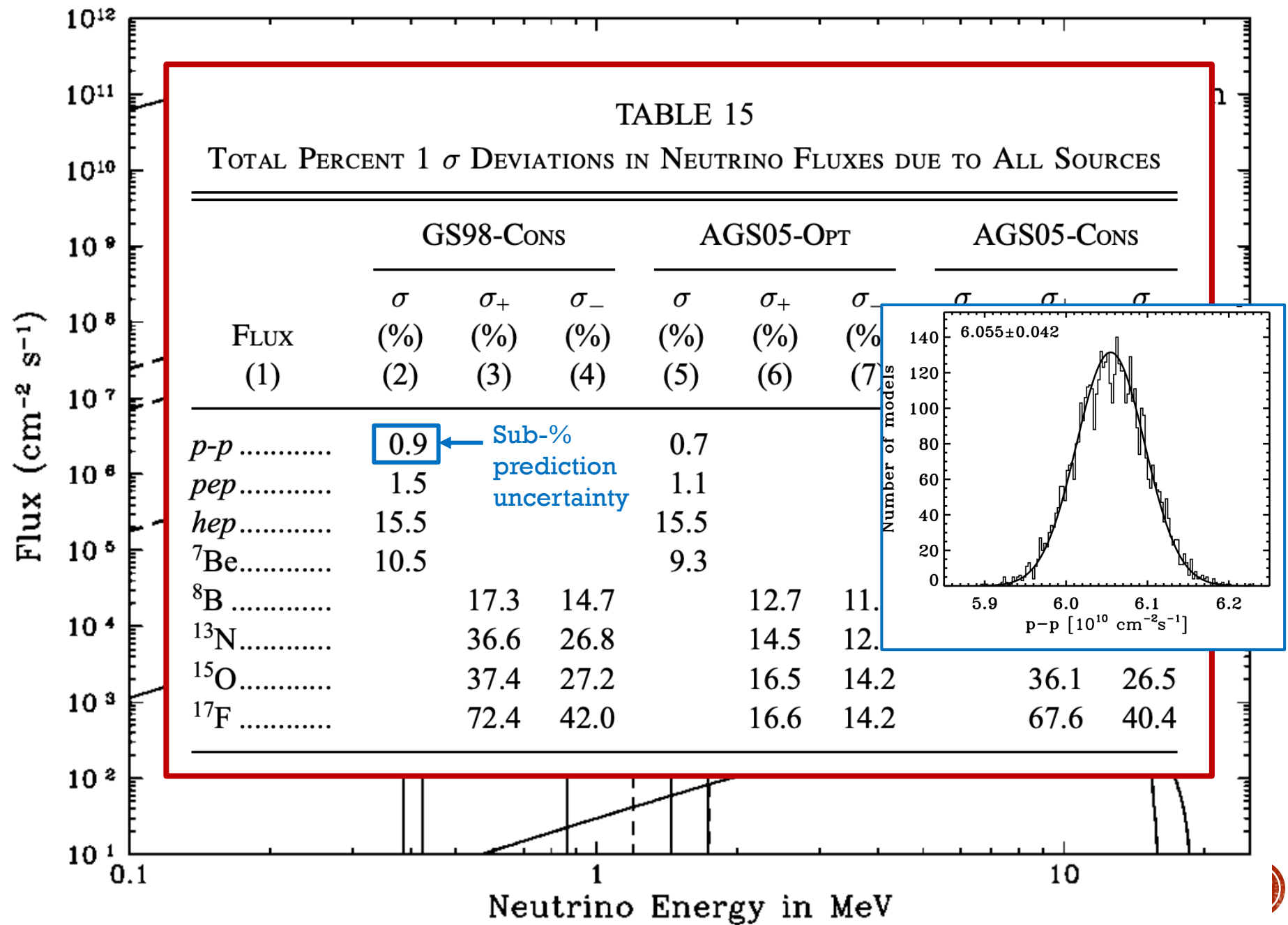
Predicted neutrino spectrum of the Sun:



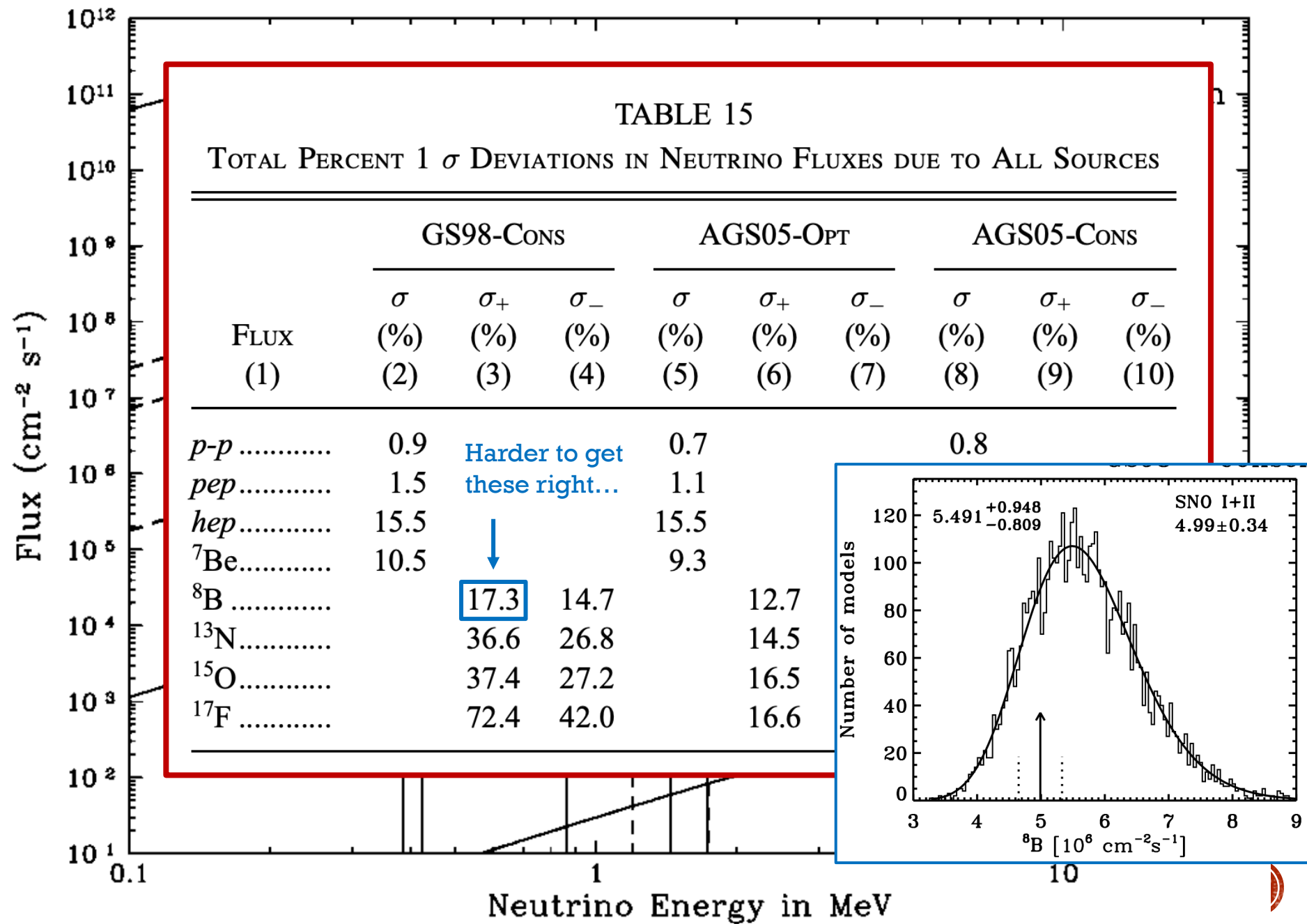
They also have uncertainties! Cool!



High up the pp chain the uncertainties are pretty small...



Admittedly, it gets harder, further down the chain...



The Temperature Dependence of Solar Neutrino Fluxes

John N. Bahcall

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Andrew Ulmer

Princeton University Observatory, Princeton, New Jersey 08544

$$\phi(pep) \propto T_c^{-1/2}(T_c^m) = T_c^{-1.4}.$$



99.76%



0.24%



“hep neutrino”

83.30%

16.70%

$\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}\%$



99.88%

0.12%



$$(\phi(pp) \propto T^{-1})$$

flux basically \propto total
solar heat flux

ppI

$$\phi({}^7\text{Be}) \propto T_c^{11},$$

ppIII

$$\phi({}^8\text{B}) \propto T_c^{25}.$$

Difficulty partly connected with steeper
difficult scaling with solar core temperature.

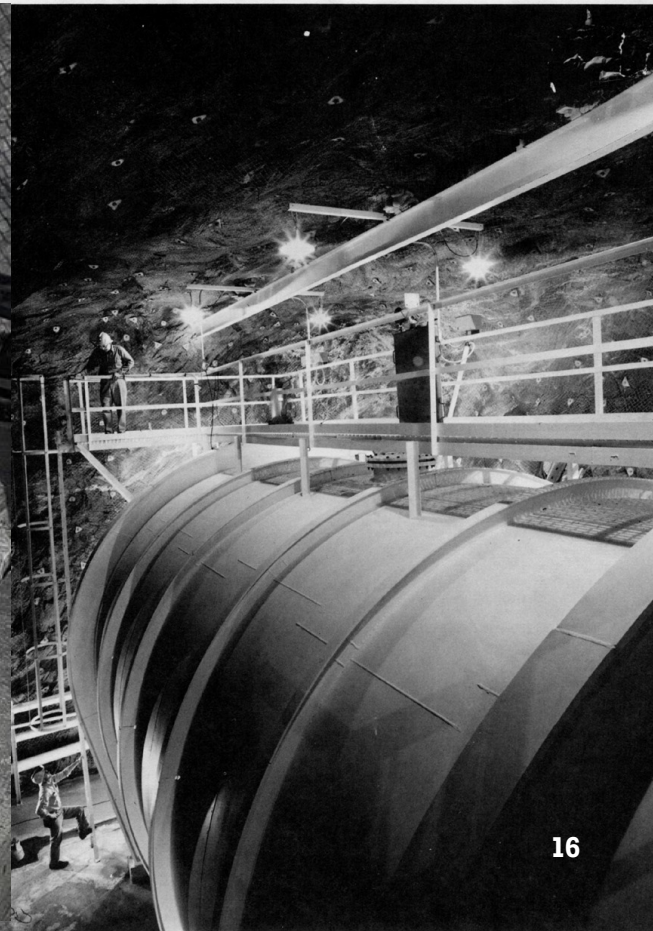
Ray Davis has re-entered the chat

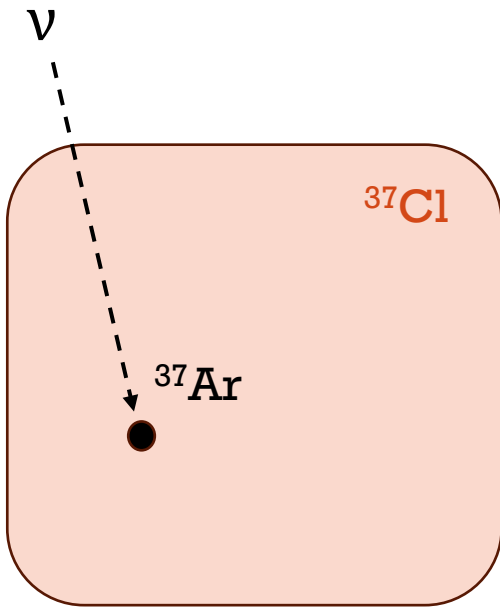
Unlike reactors, the Sun actually **does** make neutrinos!

The Homestake Chlorine Detector should be able to see them at a rate of 1-2 per day.

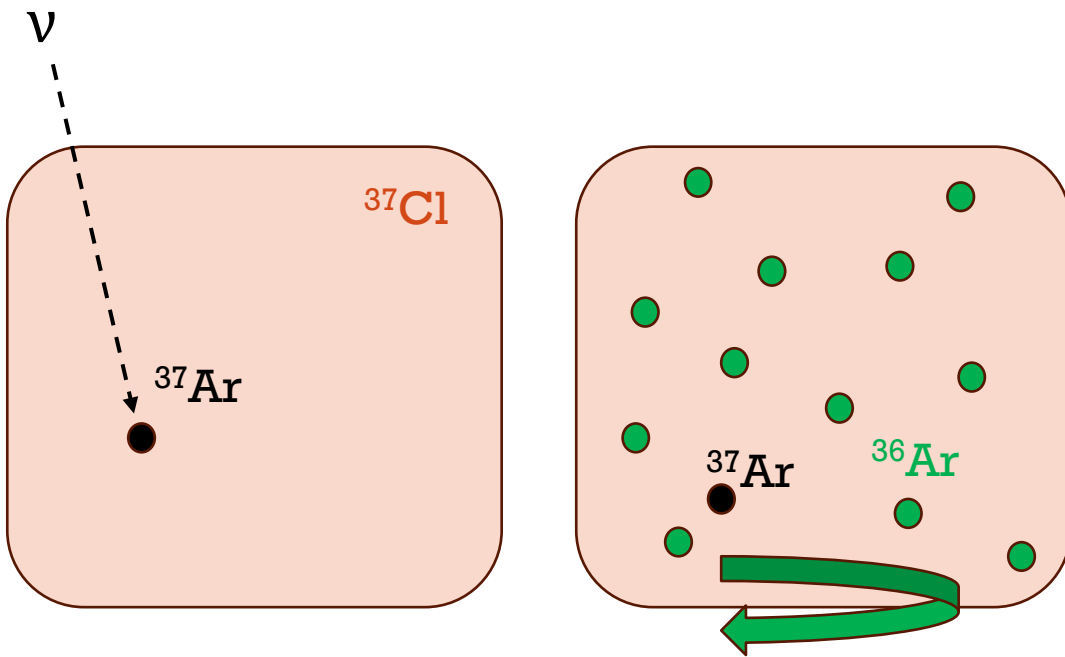


Ray Davis

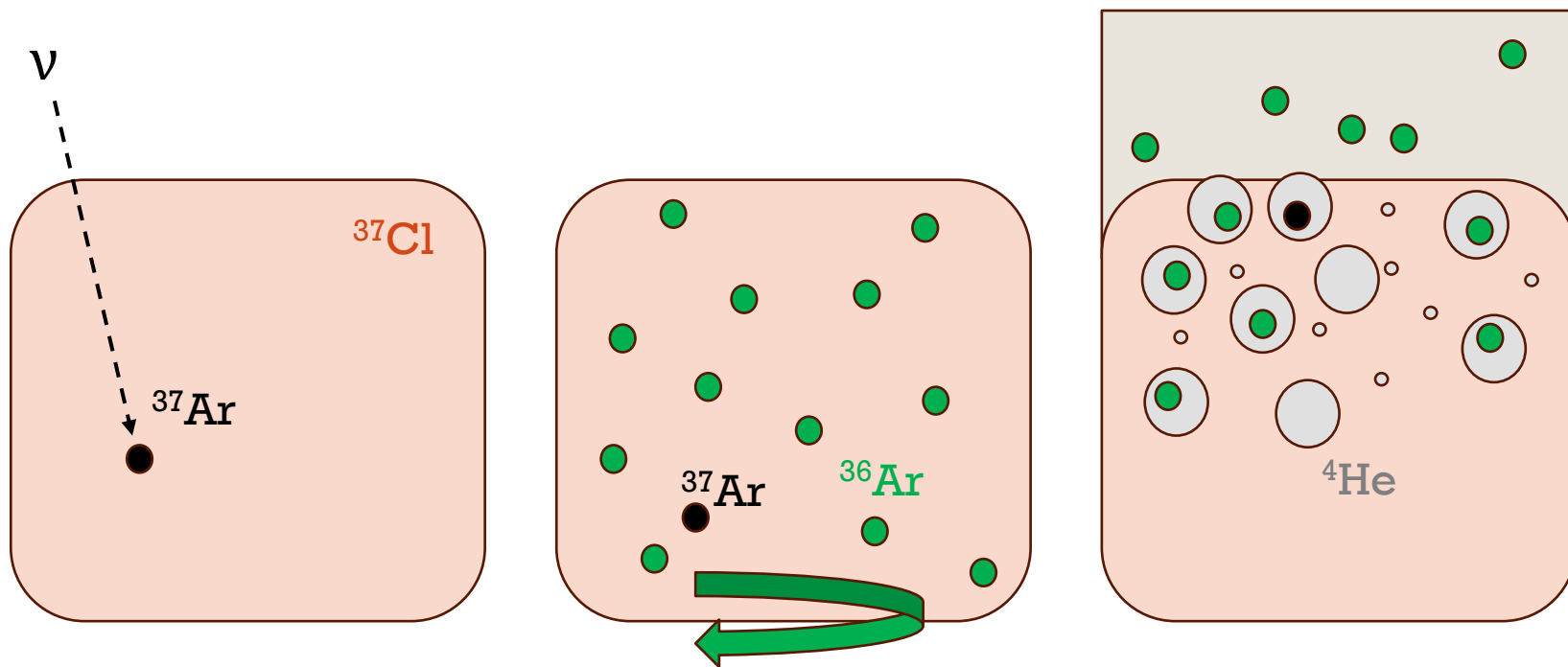




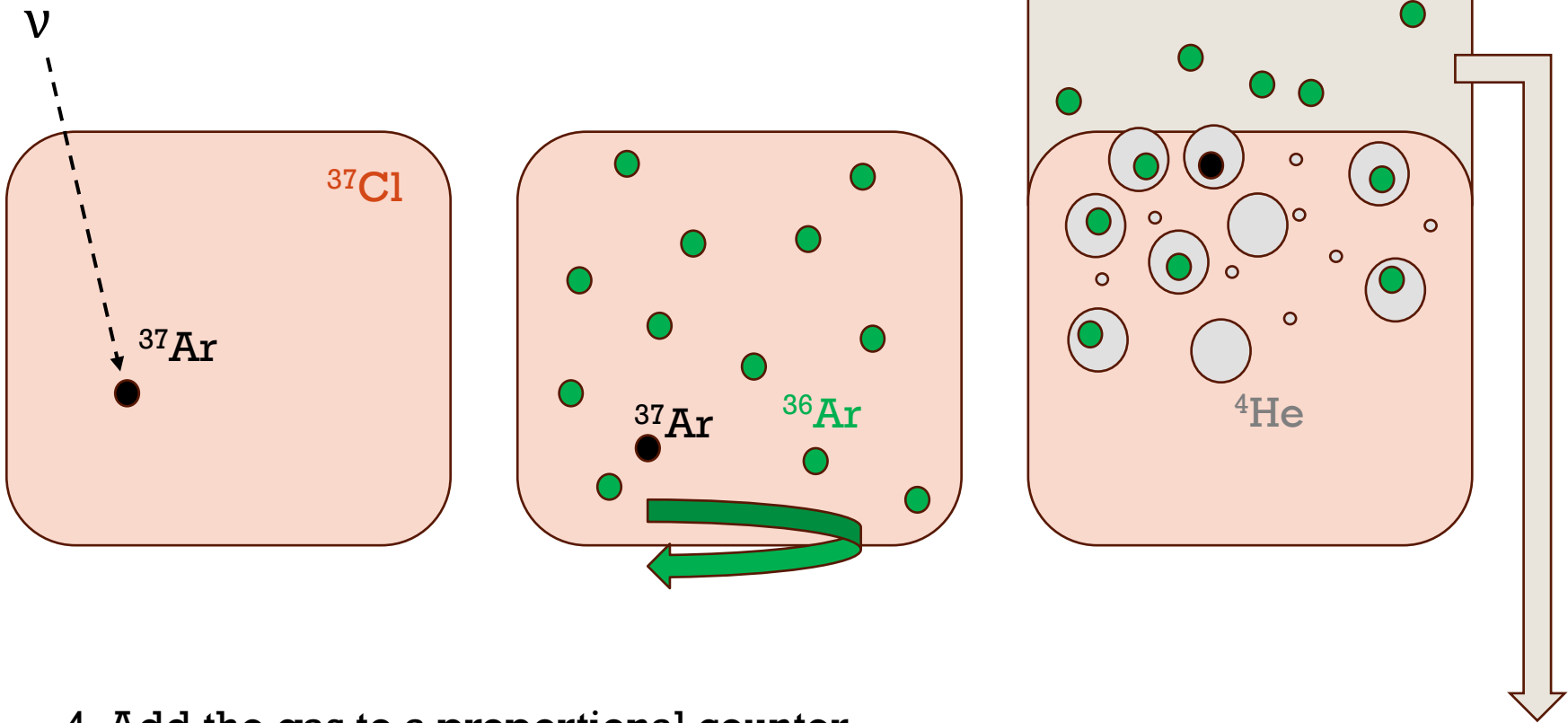
1. Neutrino captures on ^{37}Cl to make ^{37}Ar



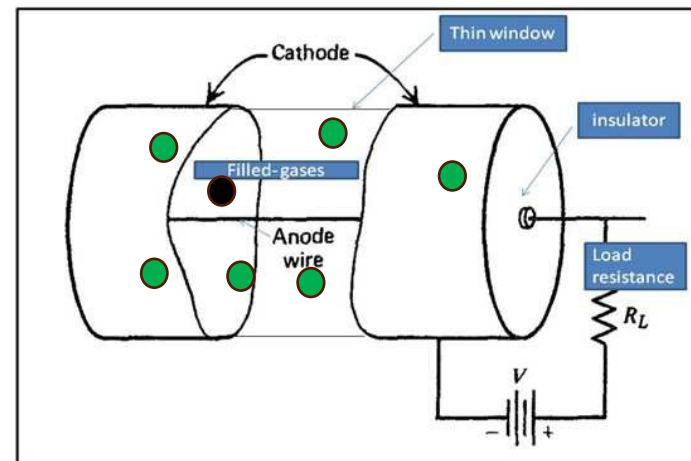
2. Stir in well known quantity of stable ^{36}Ar to act as carrier

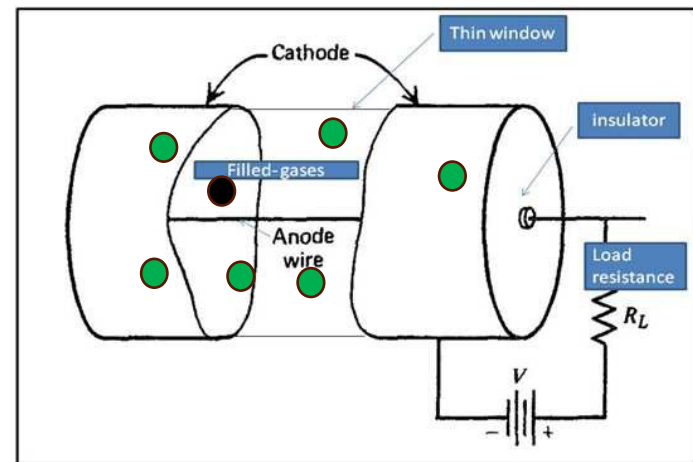
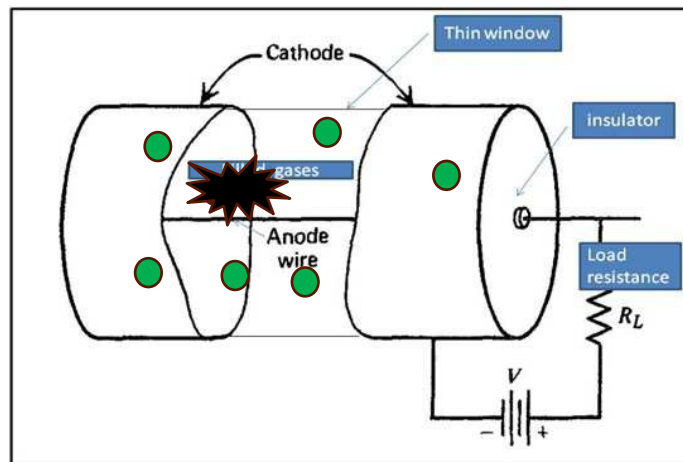
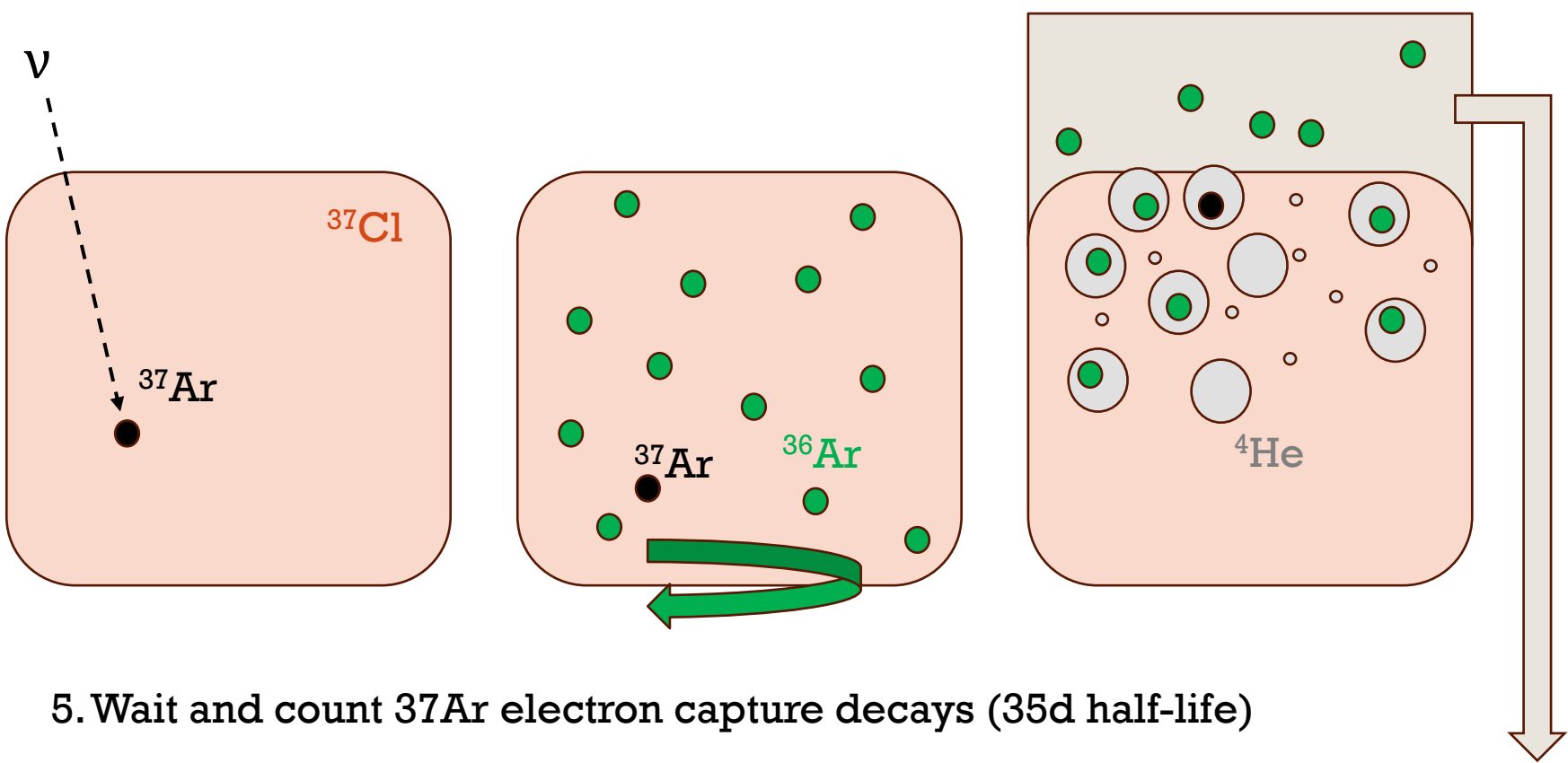


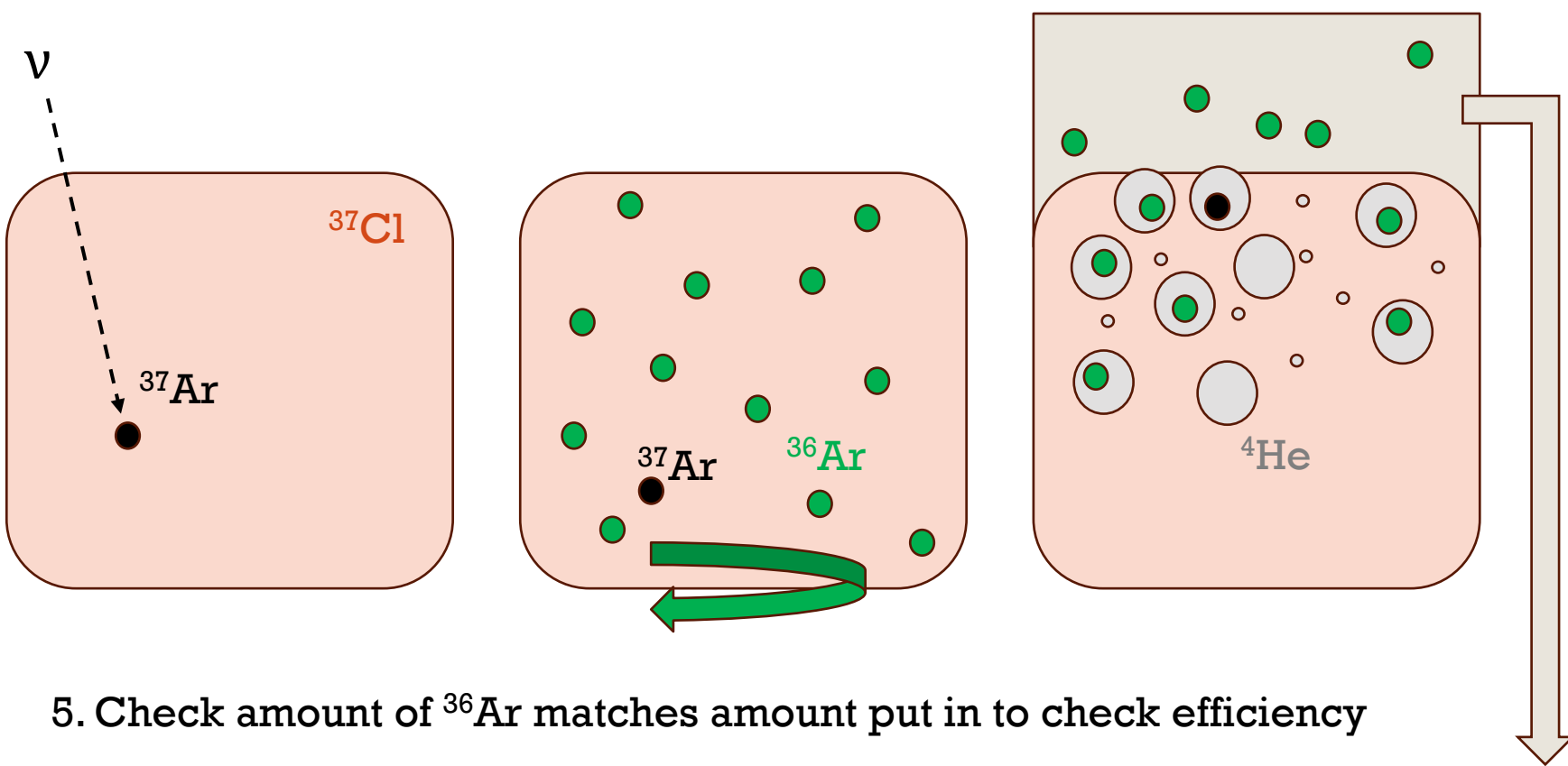
3. Bubble He gas through to extract all the argon
(^{37}Ar and ^{36}Ar are chemically identical)



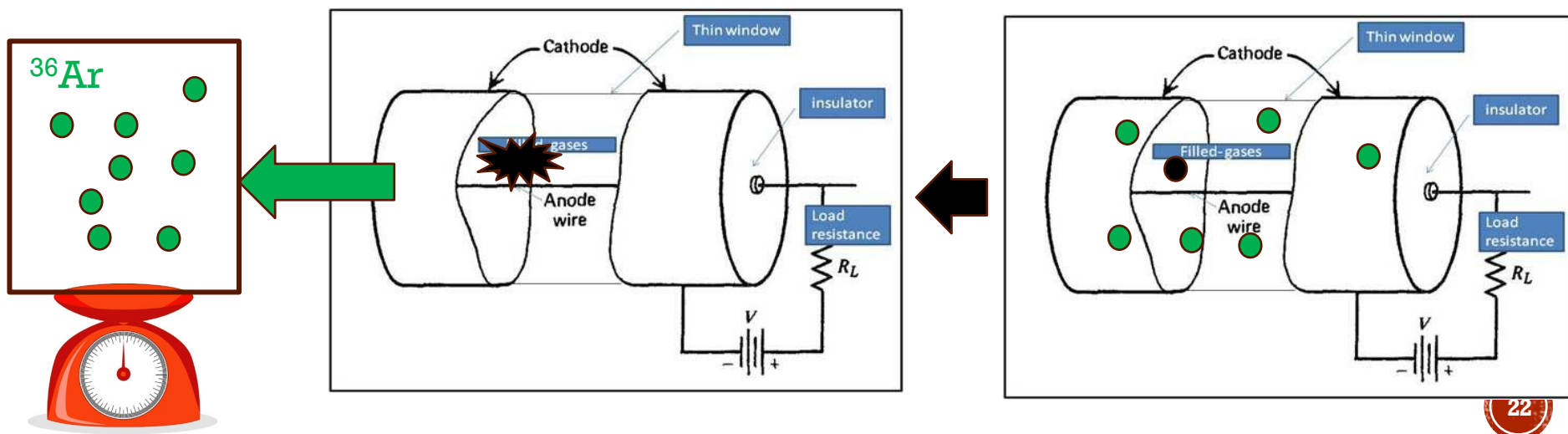
4. Add the gas to a proportional counter

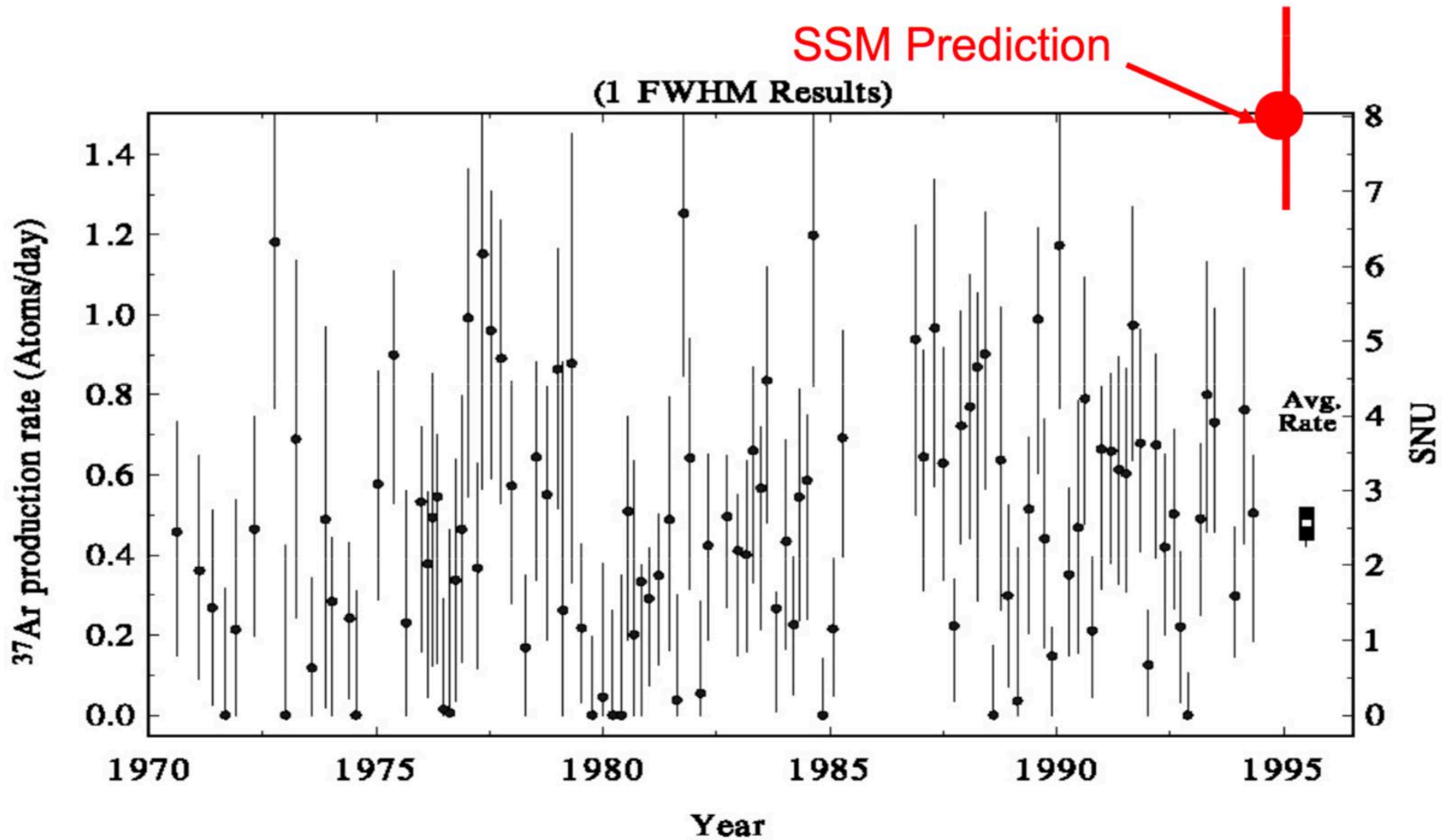






5. Check amount of ^{36}Ar matches amount put in to check efficiency



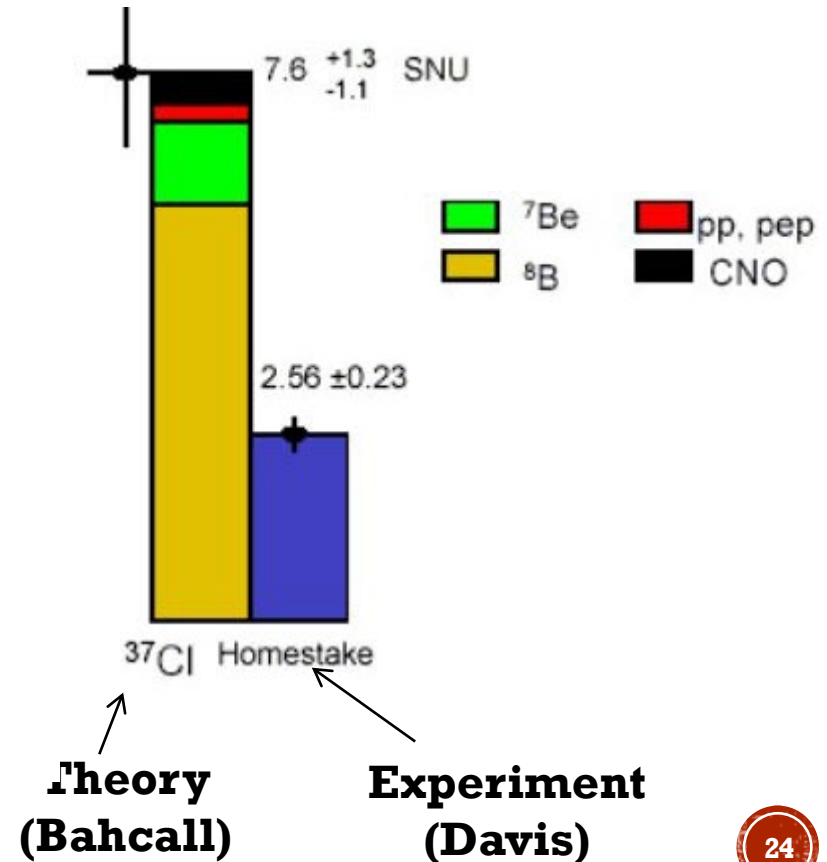
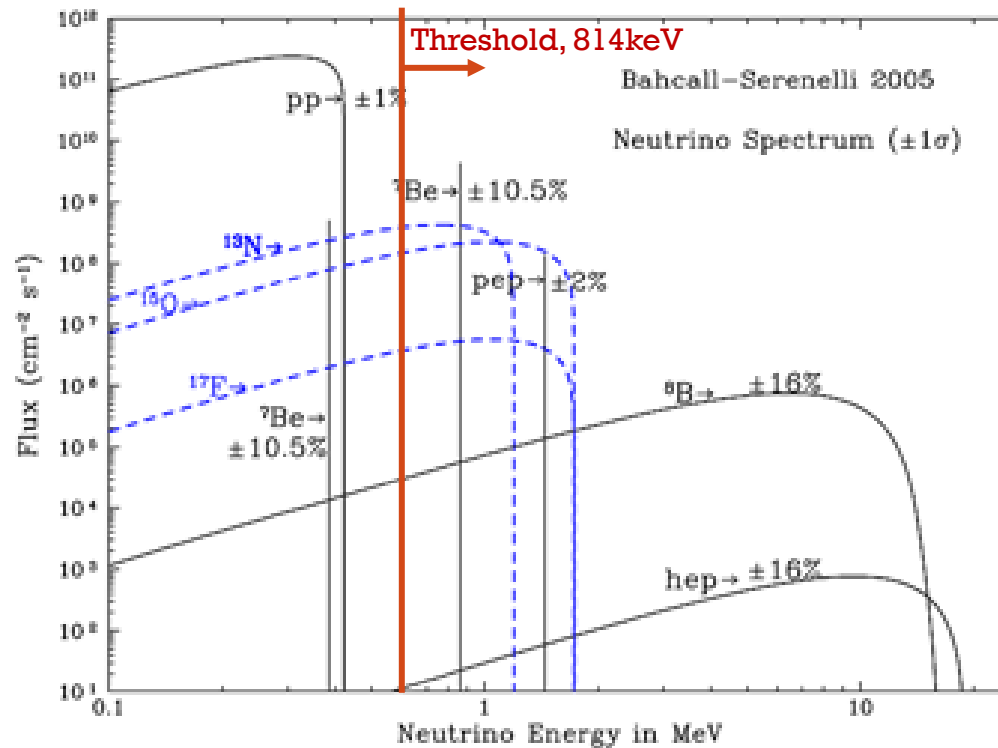


Davis detects solar neutrinos, but only 1/3 as many as standard solar model predicts

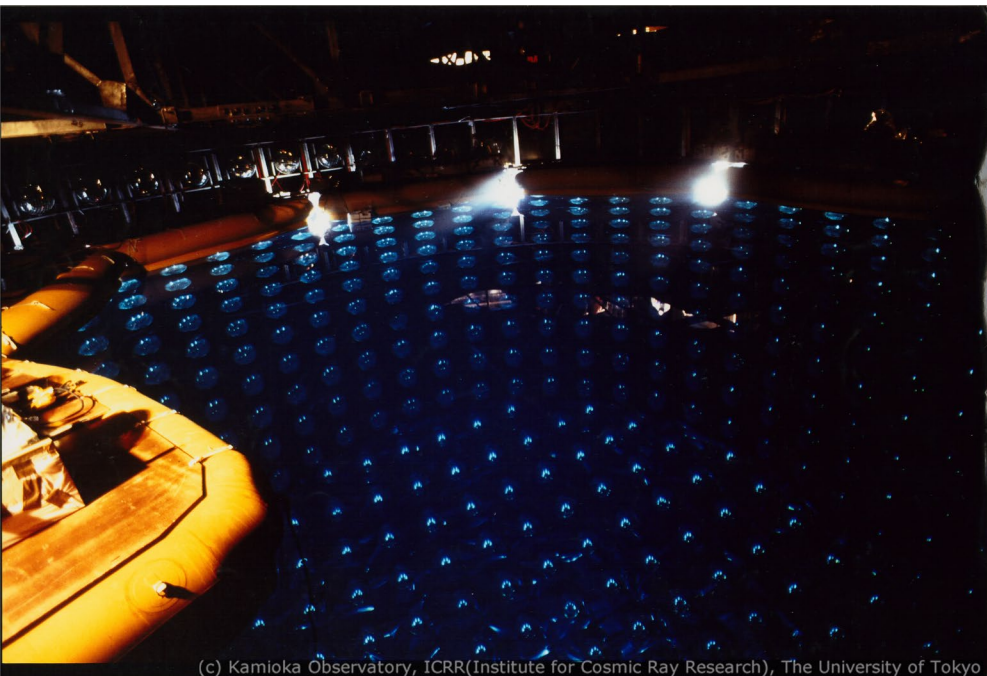
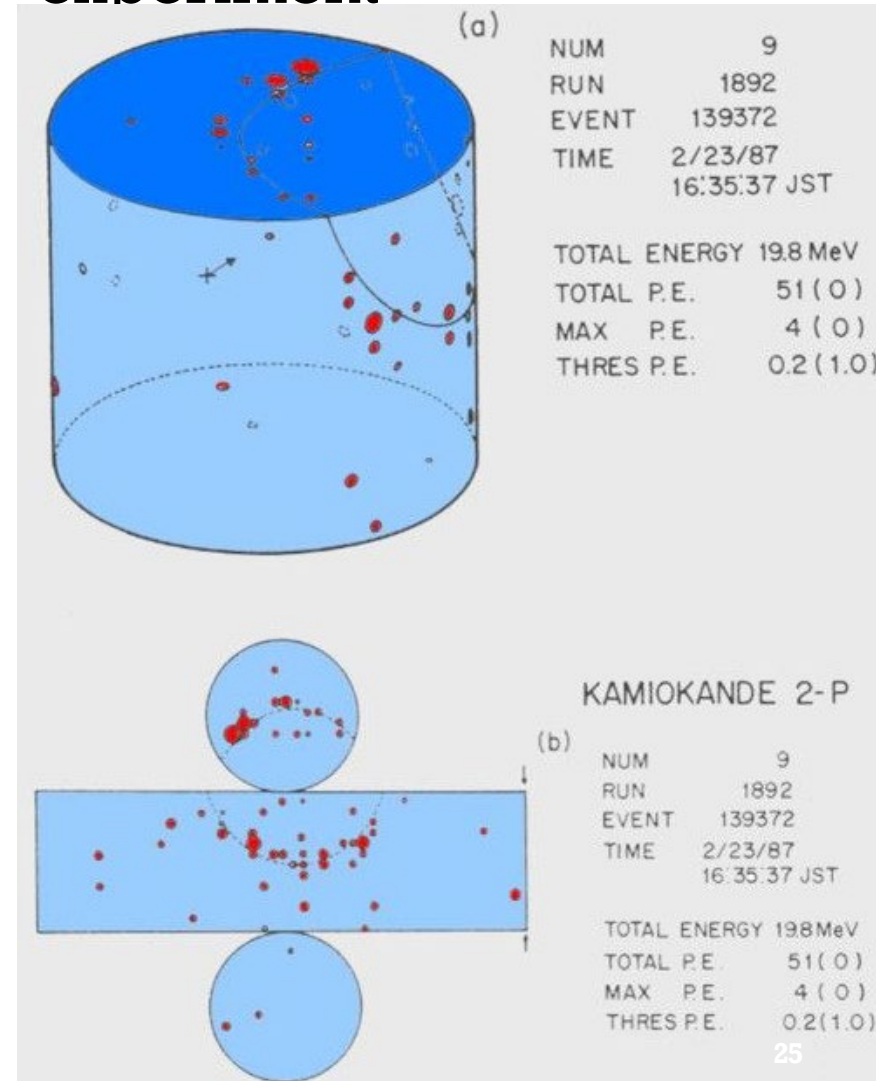
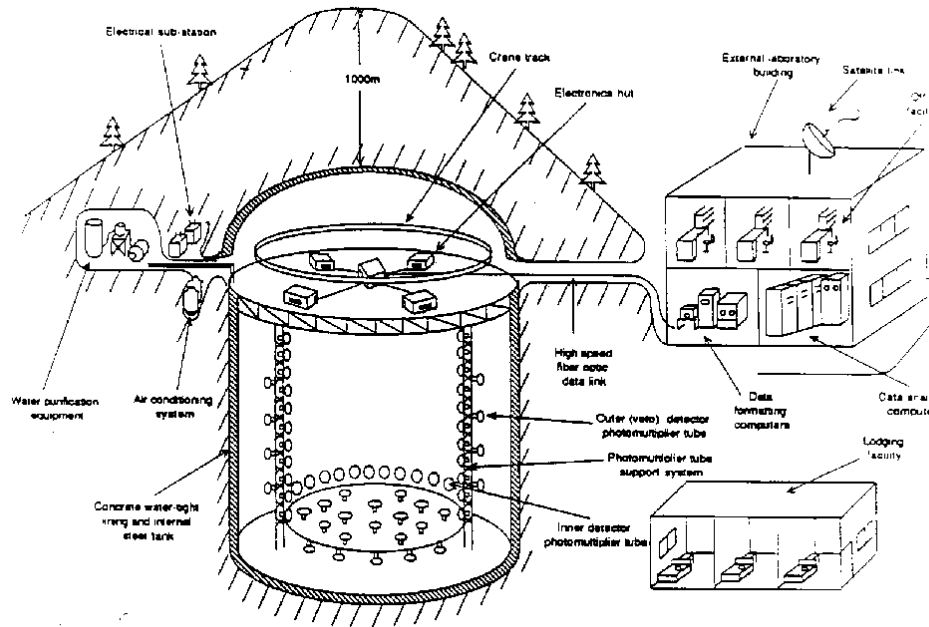
Davis experiment ran for 20+ years.

- A huge experiment / theory discrepancy observed.

1SNU = 1e-36 captures per target atom per second



Kamiokande-II experiment – 2140 ton water Cerenkov experiment

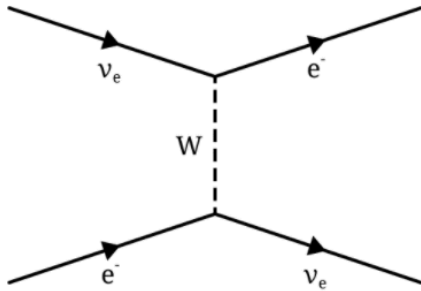


(c) Kamioka Observatory, ICRR(Institute for Cosmic Ray Research), The University of Tokyo

NEUTRINO ELECTRON SCATTERING

A key advantage of the Kamiokande signature:

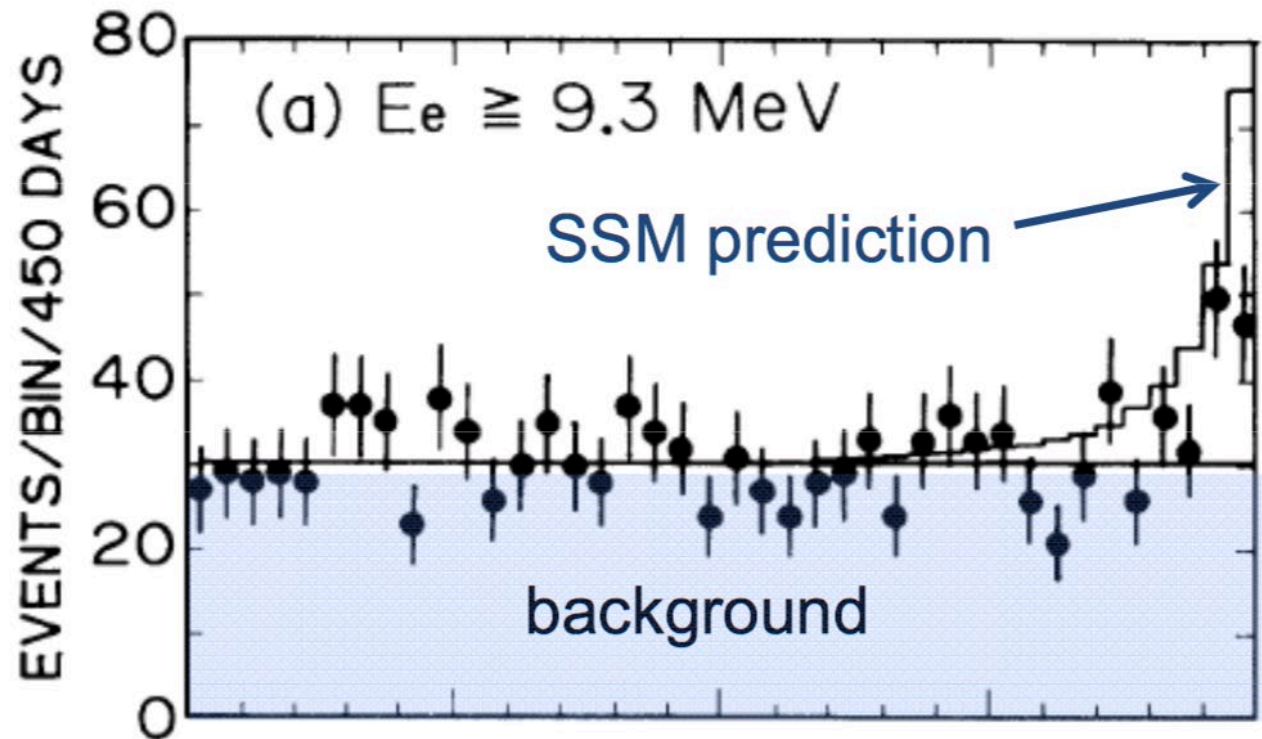
Electron neutrino elastic scattering is very forward: $\nu_e e \rightarrow \nu_e e$

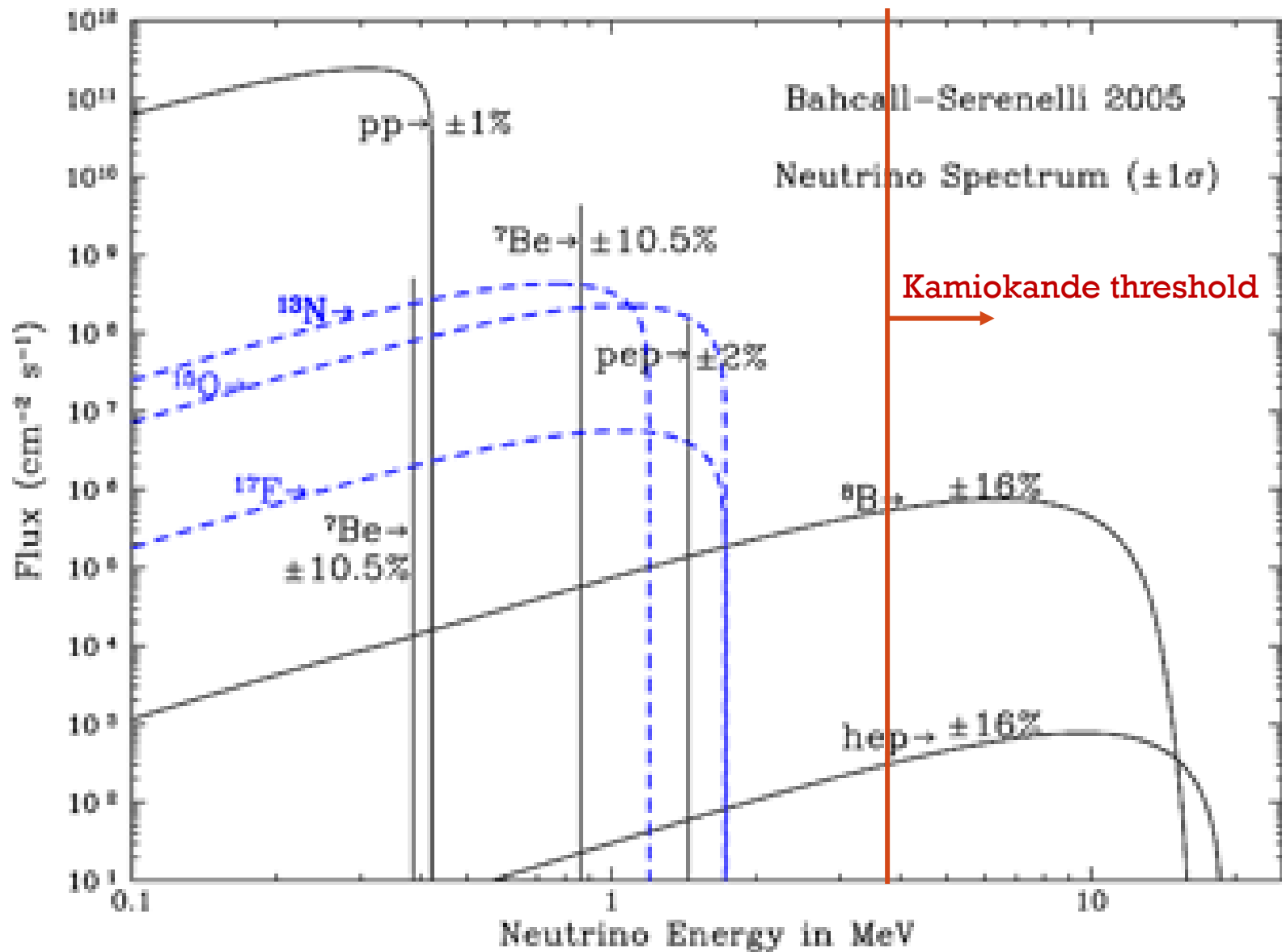


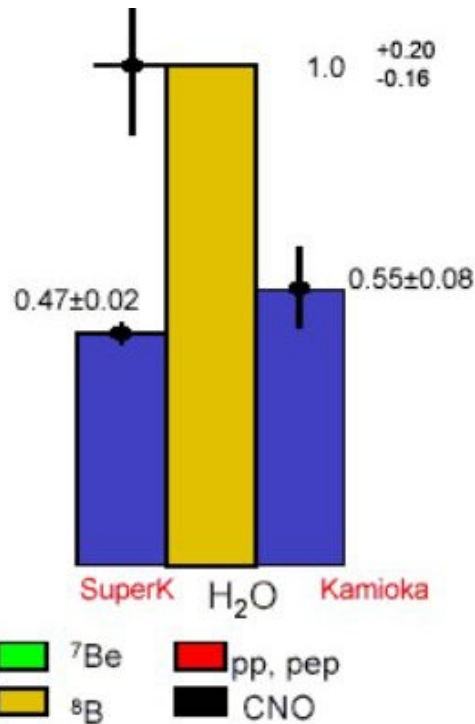
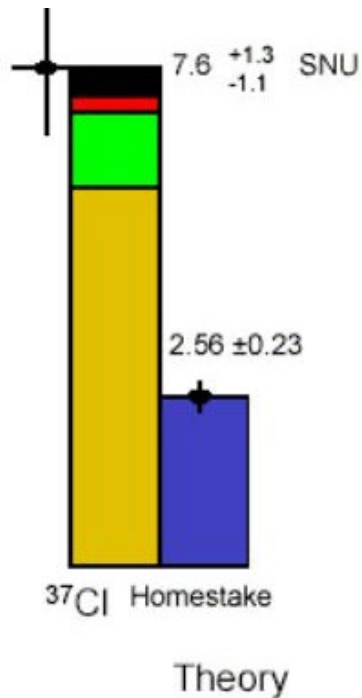
Reconstructed electrons point back to the Sun

And the cross section is very easy to calculate.

This a **very clean** signature.







Still see a low result, but not quite as low as the Chlorine experiment...

(but notice, K and SK see all ^8B neutrinos)

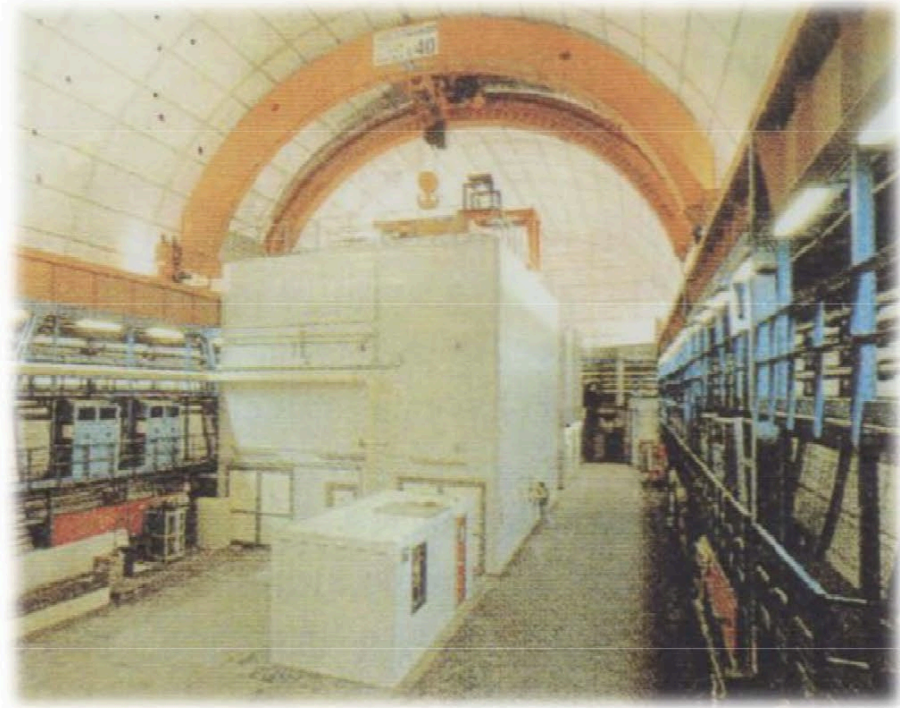
GALLIUM EXPERIMENTS

$^{71}\text{Ga} + \nu \rightarrow ^{71}\text{Ge} + e$ has a threshold of only 233 keV. Can access pp neutrinos!

Gallium is a metal (though, low melting point). Can do a similar experiment to the chlorine detectors, though with more complex chemical engineering.

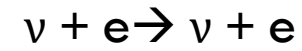
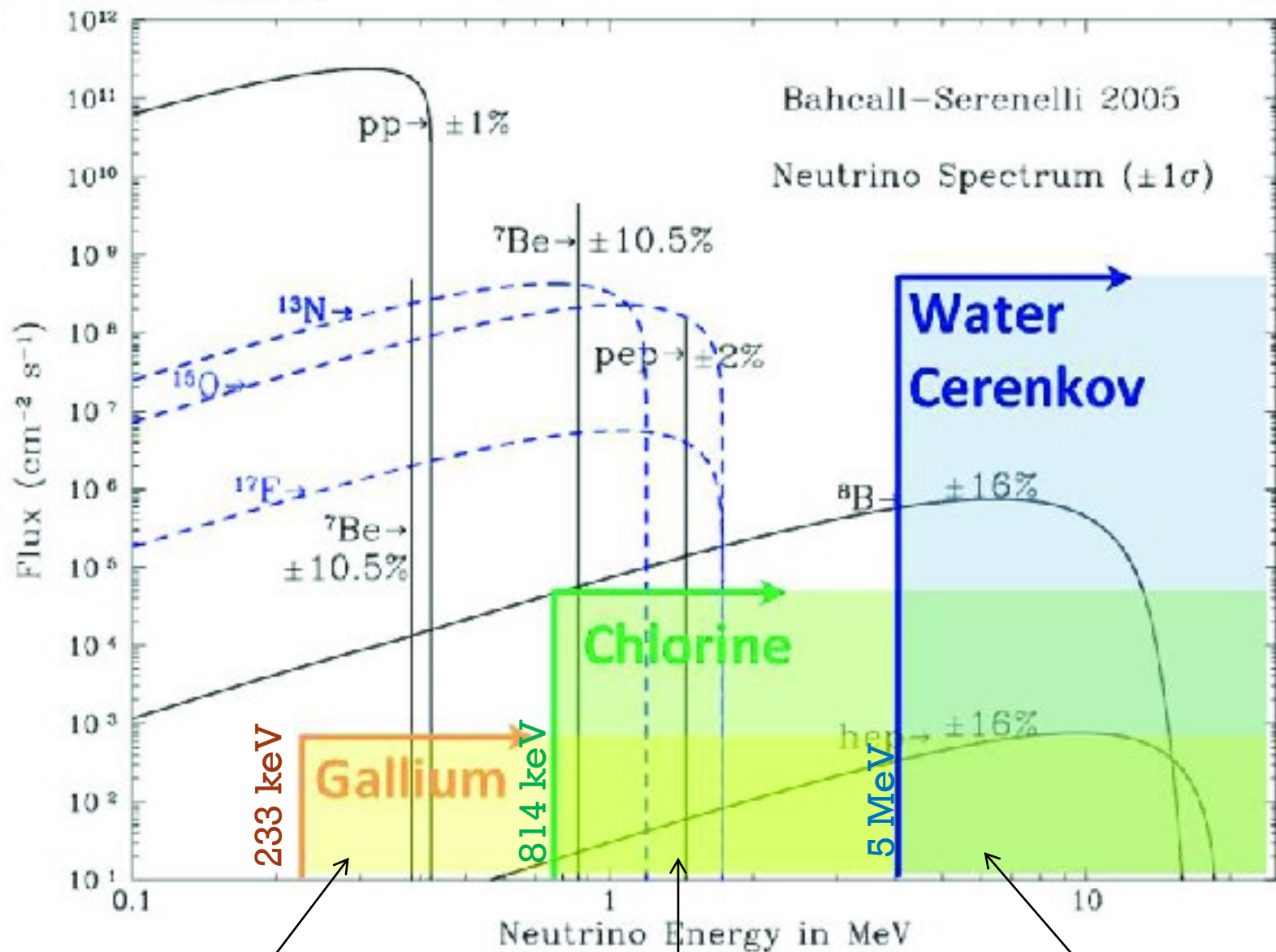


SAGE (Baksan, Russia)

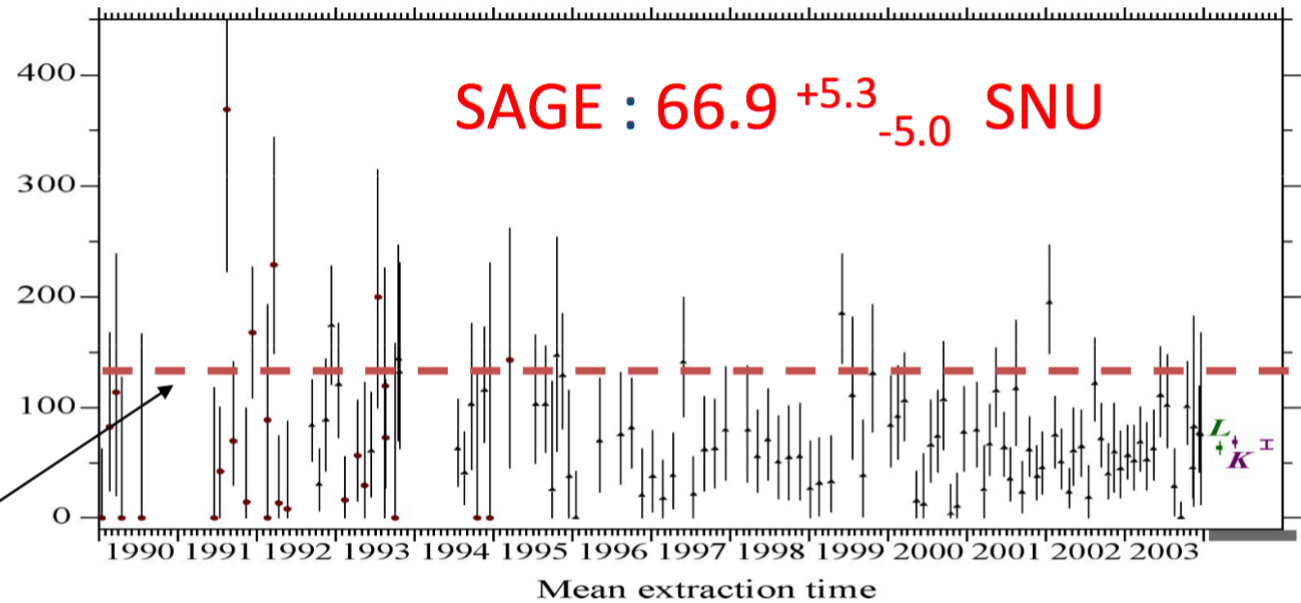


Gallex/GNO (Gran Sasso, Italy)

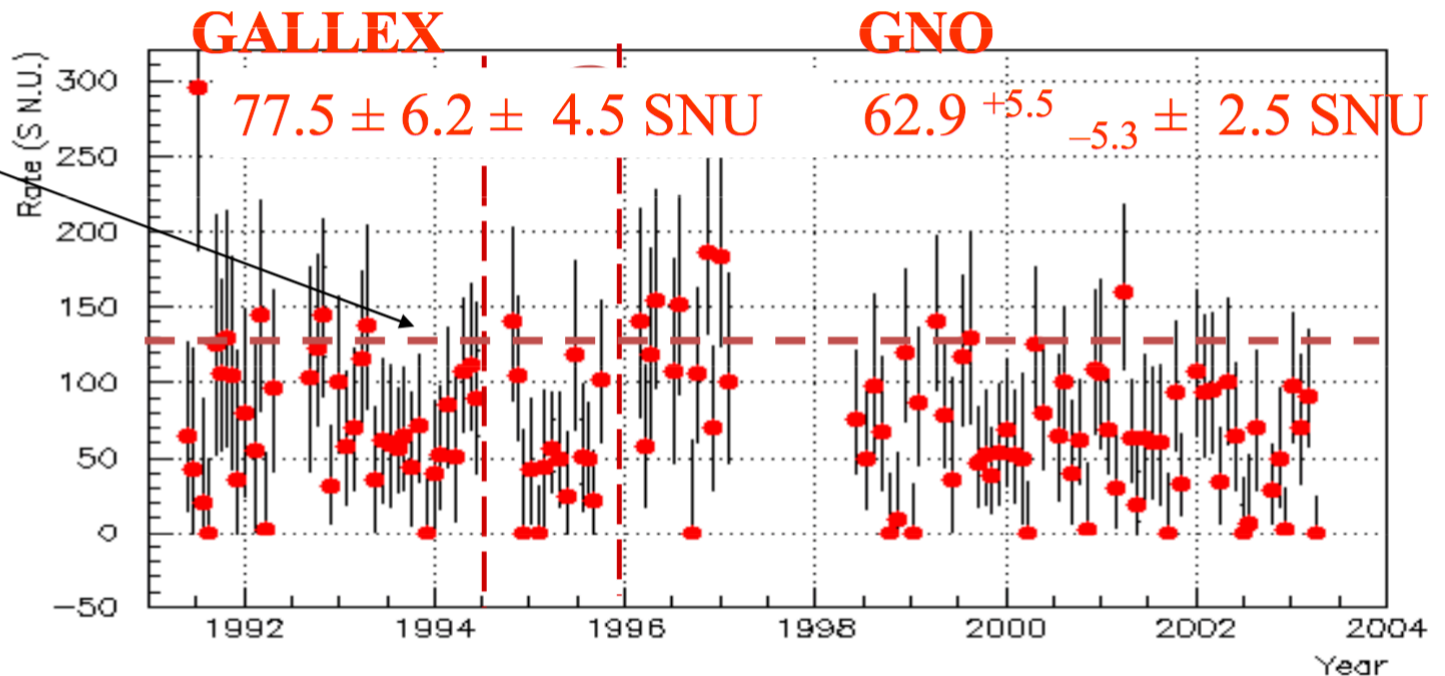
Main benefit of Ga \rightarrow pp neutrinos much less dependent on details of solar model



GALLIUM SOLAR RESULTS



SSM
prediction

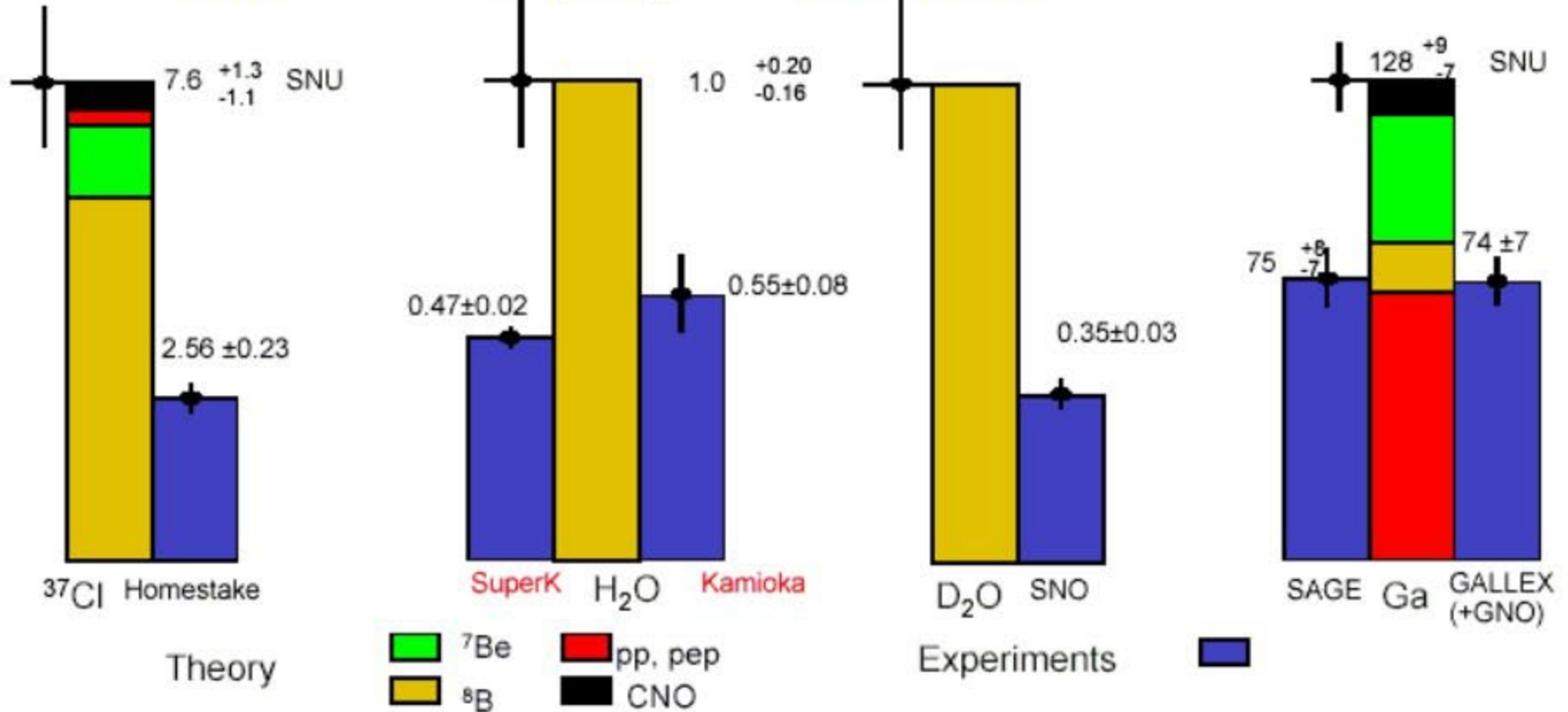


The Solar Neutrino Problem

Credit: some of these slides are borrowed from Wick Haxton, who borrowed them from Richard Kass. Thanks guys!

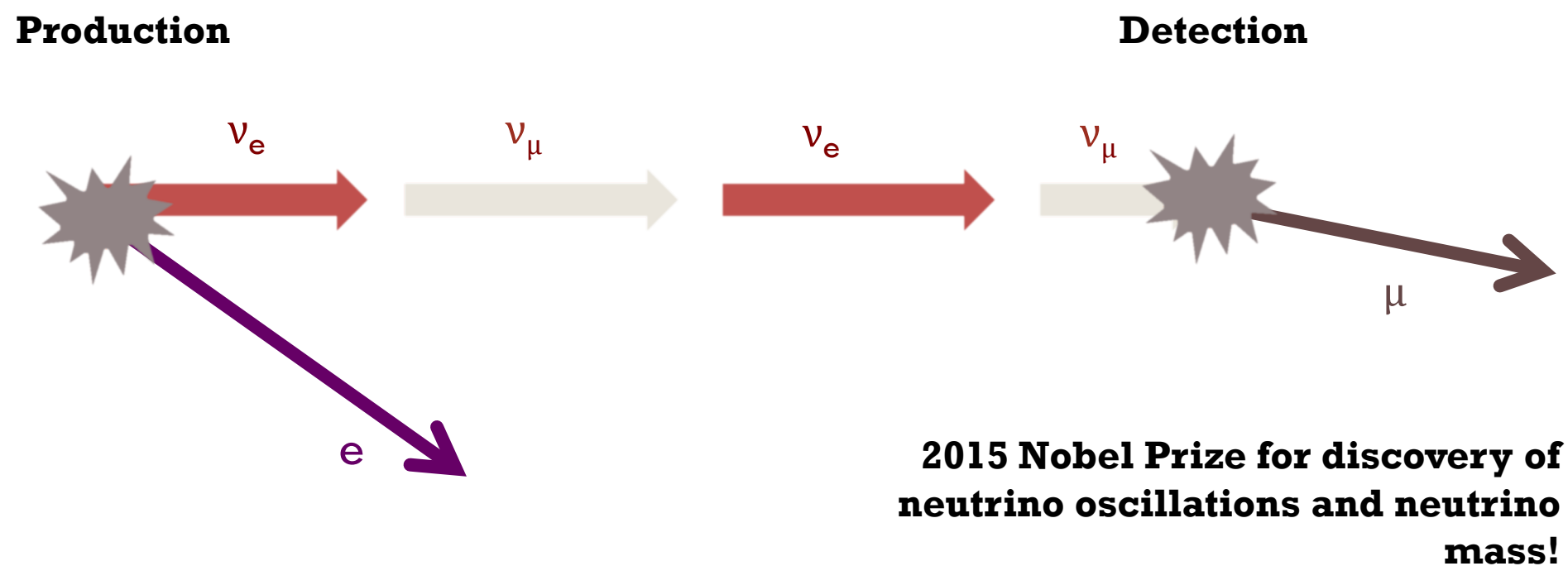
- Homestake ^{37}Cl 0.34 ± 0.03
- SAGE ^{71}Ga 0.59 ± 0.06
- GALLEX+GNO ^{71}Ga 0.58 ± 0.05
- Super-K e^- (water) $0.465 \pm 0.016^*$
- SNO d (D_2O) 0.347 ± 0.029

* 0.451 for BP2000_old



PERHAPS ITS NEUTRINO OSCILLATIONS?

- Neutrinos have a tiny, but non-zero mass, and this makes them oscillate



MIXING

- A neutrino oscillation requires two things:
 - 1) Neutrinos states at multiple masses
 - 2) Interaction state is not a mass state
- Quantum mechanically, in a 2-flavor system:

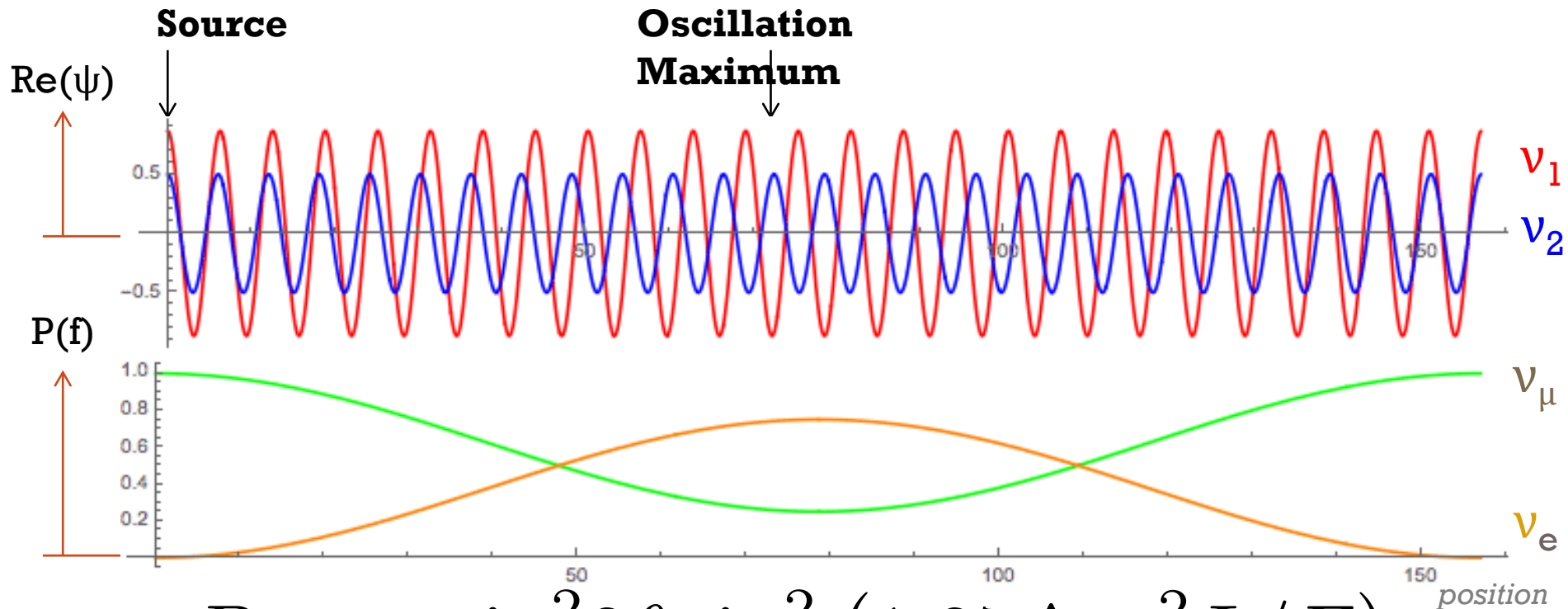
$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_\mu \\ \nu_e \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Basis states with
definite flavor

“mixing matrix”

Basis states with
definite mass

A NEUTRINO OSCILLATION:



$$P_{osc} = \underbrace{\sin^2 2\theta}_{\text{amplitude}} \underbrace{\sin^2 \left(1.27 \Delta m^2 L / E \right)}_{\text{wavelength}}$$

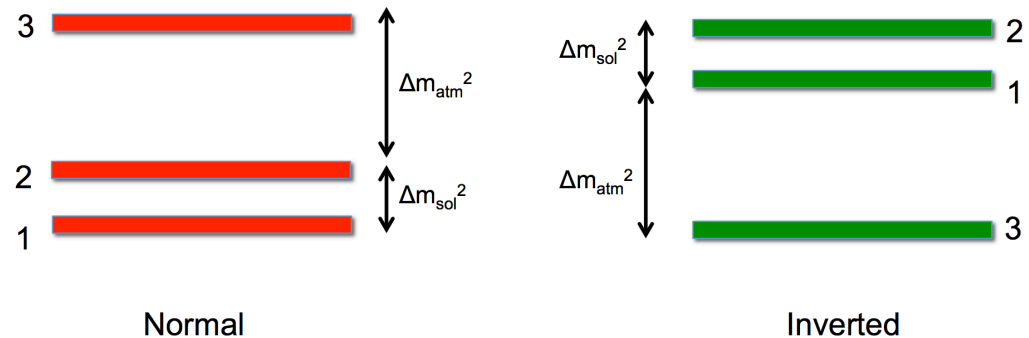
MASS AND MIXING : 3 NEUTRINO MODEL

- Two characteristic oscillation wavelengths.

- Experimentally,
 $\Delta m_{31}^2 \gg \Delta m_{21}^2$

- Mass ordering unknown (hints exist, but inconclusive)

- * Mixing between 3 states dictated by 3 mixing angles and (1 or 3) CP phases.

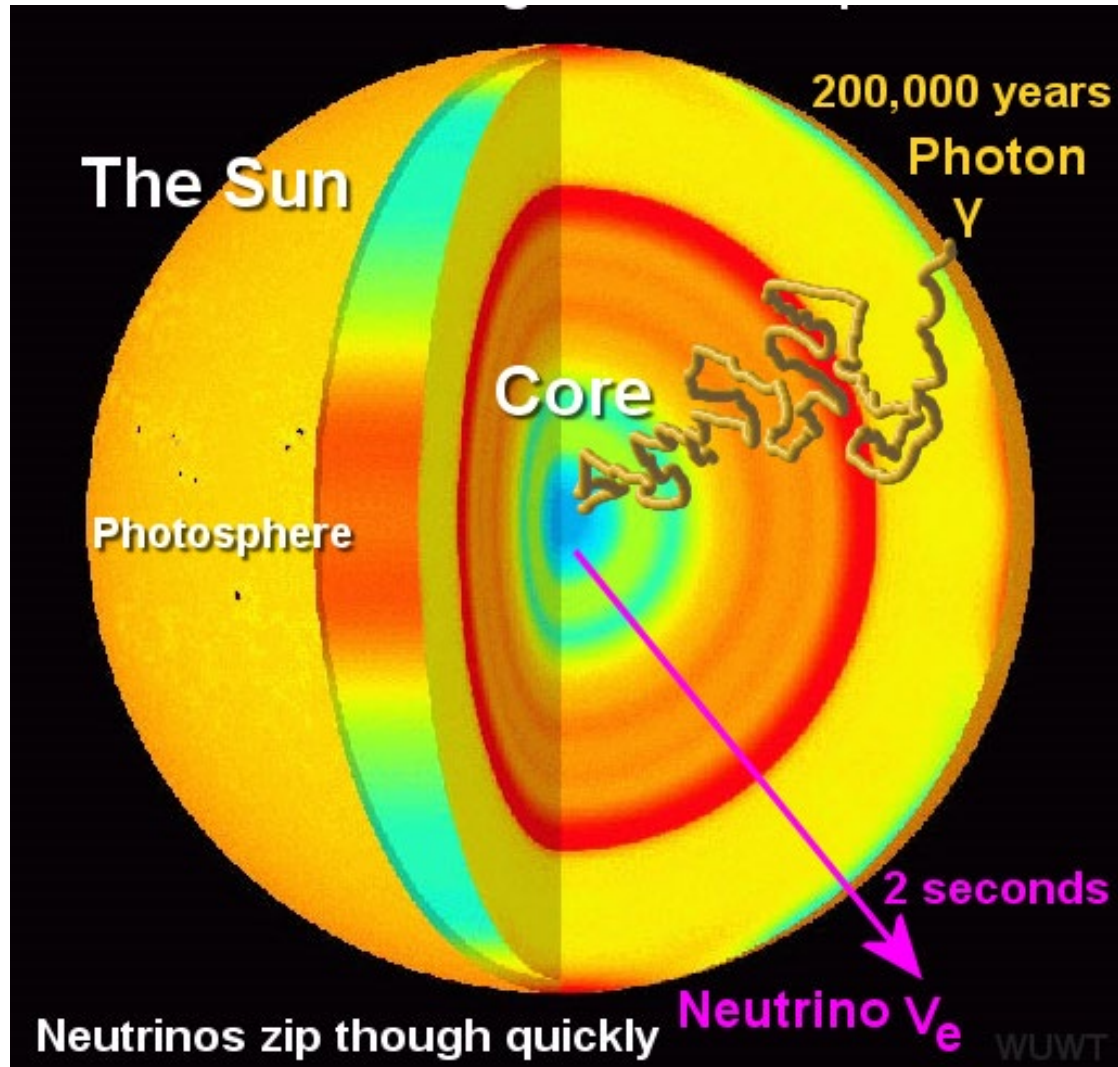


From PDG :

Parameter	best-fit ($\pm 1\sigma$)	3σ
Δm_{21}^2 [10^{-5} eV ²]	$7.54^{+0.26}_{-0.22}$	6.99 – 8.18
$ \Delta m^2 $ [10^{-3} eV ²]	2.43 ± 0.06 (2.38 ± 0.06)	2.23 – 2.61 (2.19 – 2.56)

CAN IT EXPLAIN THE SOLAR NEUTRINO PROBLEM?

- Not quite... one ingredient missing.



REMINDER ABOUT REFRACTIVE INDEX

- A particle travelling in a vacuum evolves as:



$$\psi_{plane}(\vec{x}, t) = e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x} - i\omega t}$$

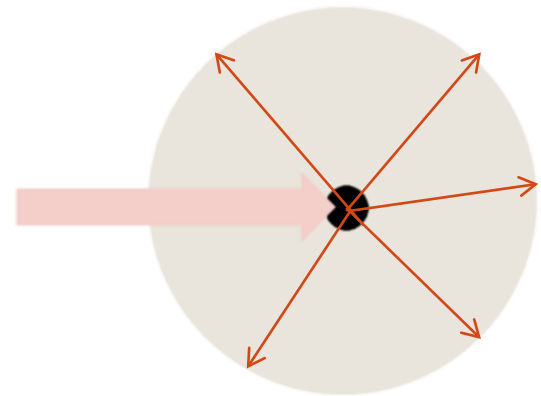
REMINDER ABOUT REFRACTIVE INDEX

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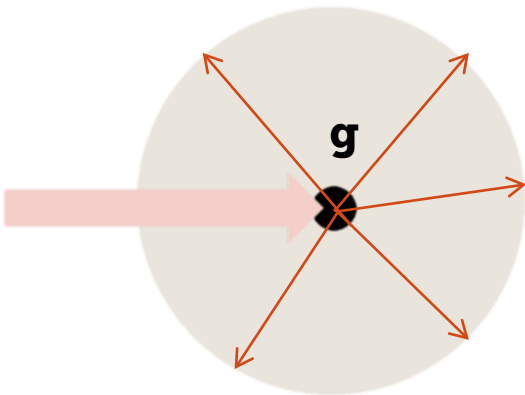
- * A particle scattered (S-wave) from a small point object evolves as:



$$\psi_{scat}(\vec{x}, t) = e^{i|p|r - i\omega t}$$

REMINDER ABOUT REFRACTIVE INDEX

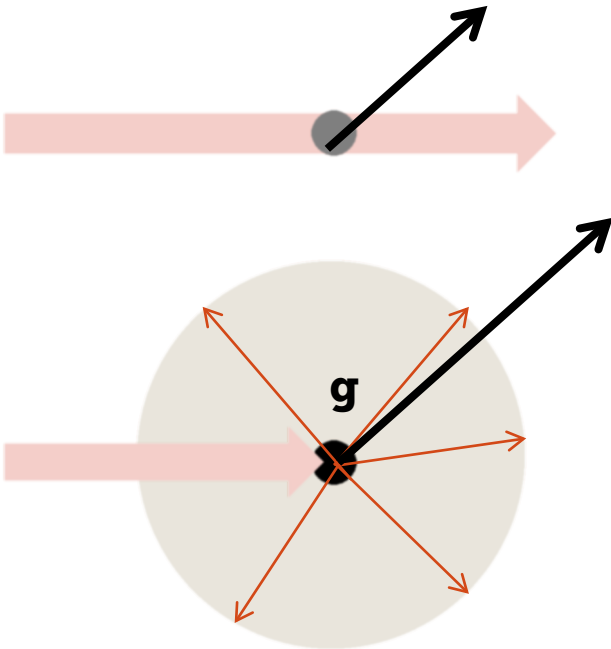
- A particle in material with some scattering strength g evolves as a superposition of scattered and unscattered waves



$$\psi_{total} = \psi_{plane} + g\psi_{scat}$$

REMINDER ABOUT REFRACTIVE INDEX

- In the NON-FORWARD direction, only scattered wave contributes. Finite probability for detection in any direction leads to **scattering cross section**.



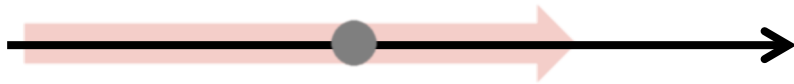
$$\psi_{non-fwd} = [g\psi_{scat}]_{(x \neq p)}$$

Cross section: $\sigma \propto g^2$

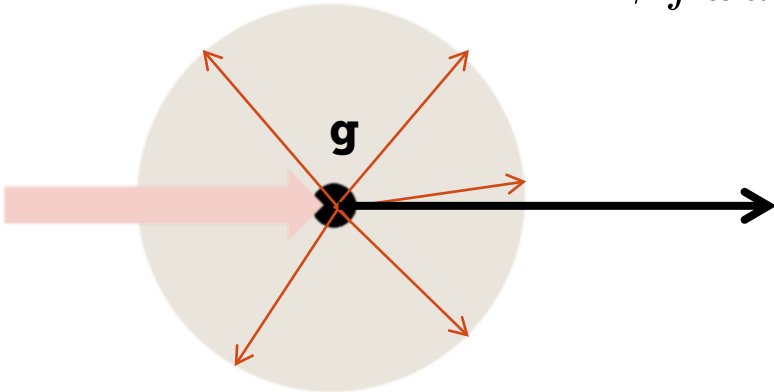
“Incoherent scattering”

REMINDER ABOUT REFRACTIVE INDEX

- In the FORWARD direction, scattered and scattered waves interfere. Components not independently detectable. Phase evolves faster than fwd alone, leading to **refractive index**.



$$\psi_{fwd} = [\psi_{plane} + g\psi_{scat}]_{(\vec{x} \parallel \vec{p})} = e^{in\vec{p}\vec{x}}$$



Refractive index: $(n - 1) \propto g$

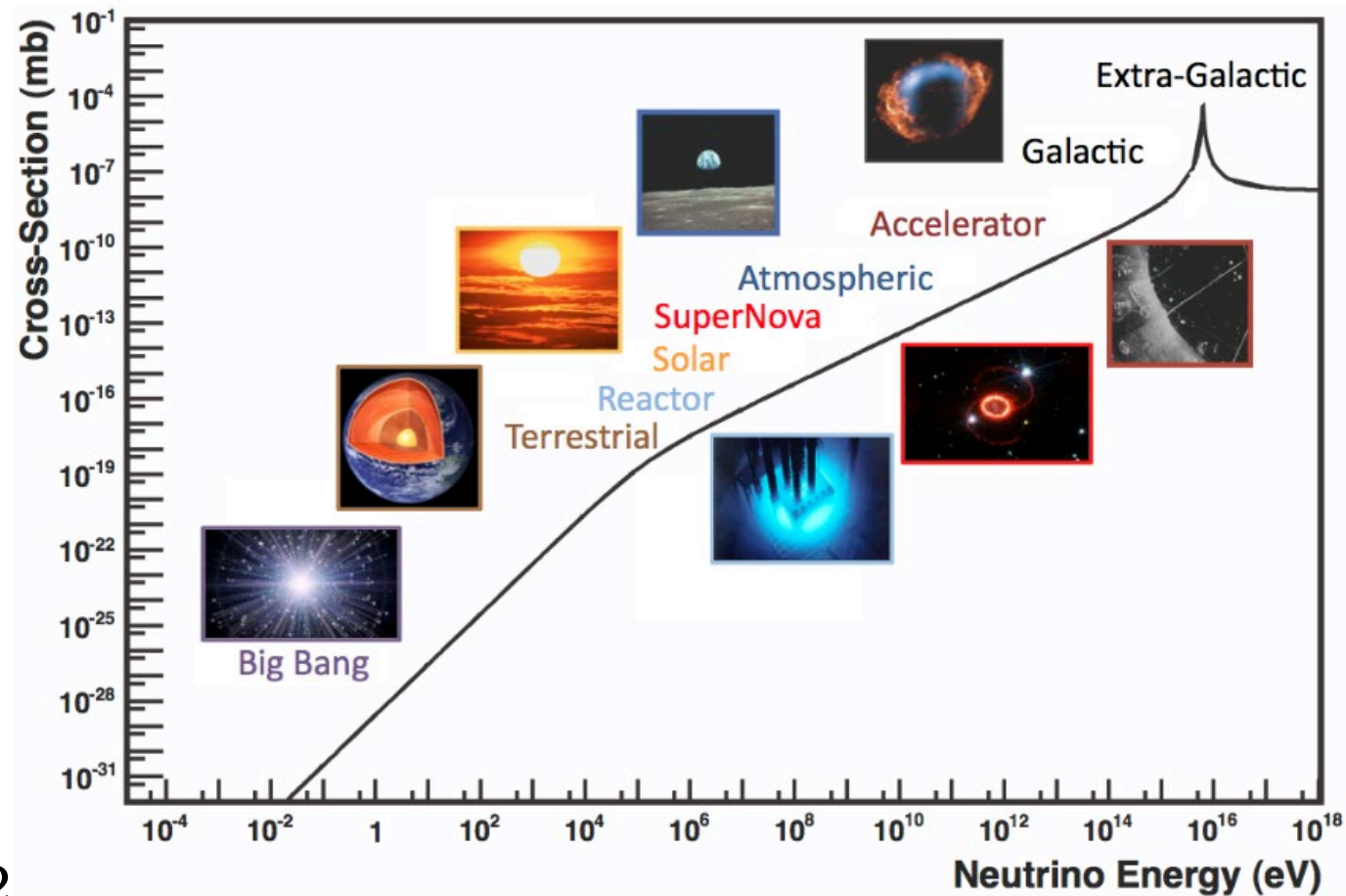
“Coherent forward scattering”

NEUTRINO CROSS SECTIONS

- Neutrinos interact very weakly, so g is very small
- Our experiments are typically more sensitive to refractive index than effects of incoherent scattering

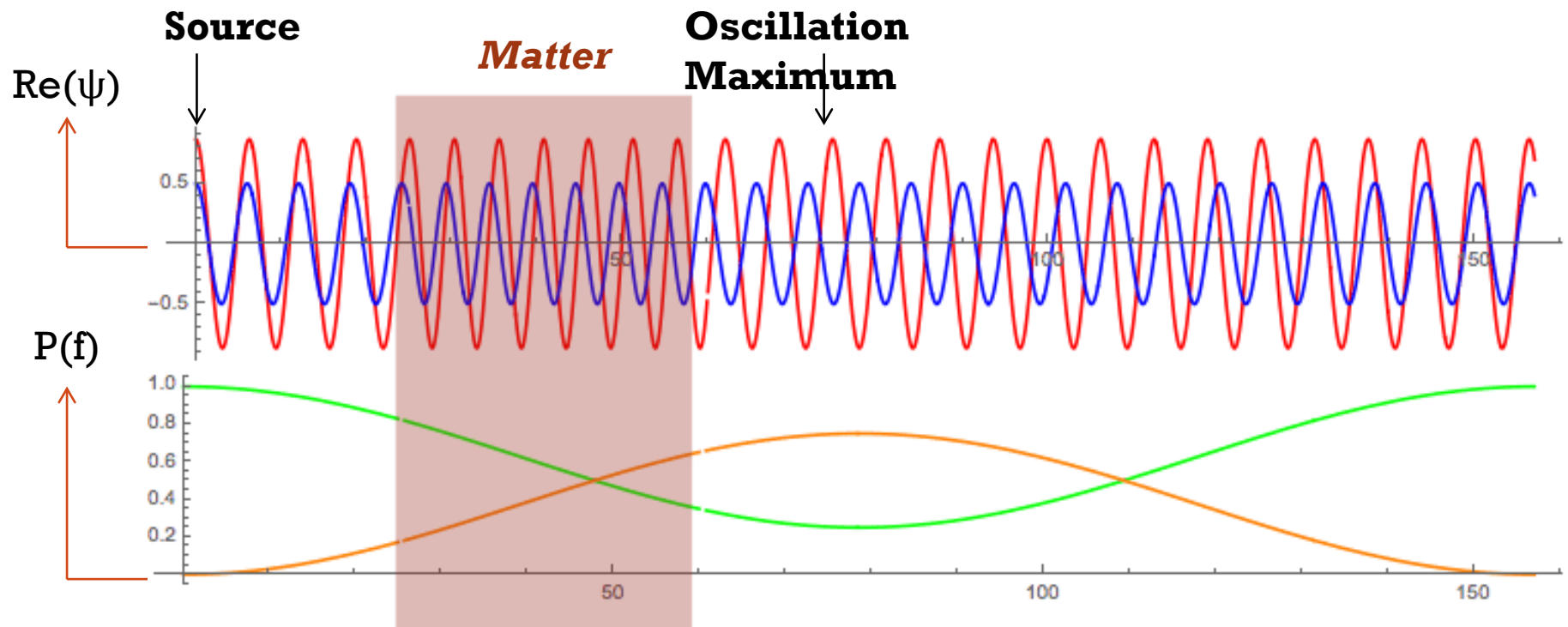
$$(n - 1) \propto g$$

$$\sigma \propto g^2$$



NEUTRINOS IN MATTER WITH REFRACTION

$$P_{Osc} = A_{mixing} \sin^2 \left(1.27 \Delta m^2 L / E \right)$$

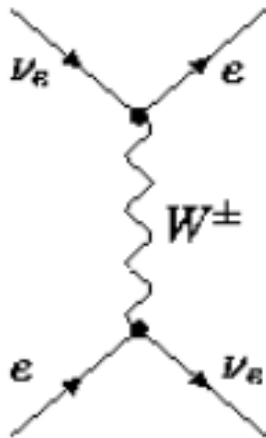


In this example, phases roll faster in matter \rightarrow mass states are effectively **heavier**

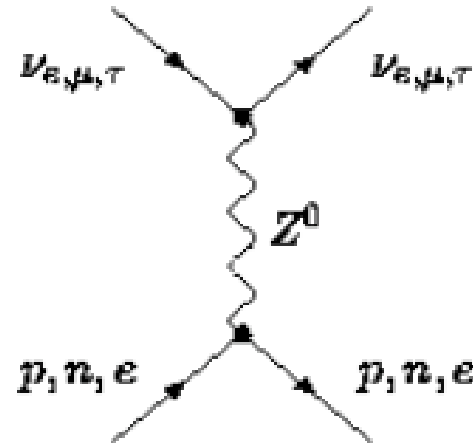
Both states have same interaction strength $\rightarrow \Delta m^2$ **unchanged**

BUT THEY DON'T ALL HAVE THE SAME INTERACTIONS:

- Different neutrino flavors interact with matter differently:



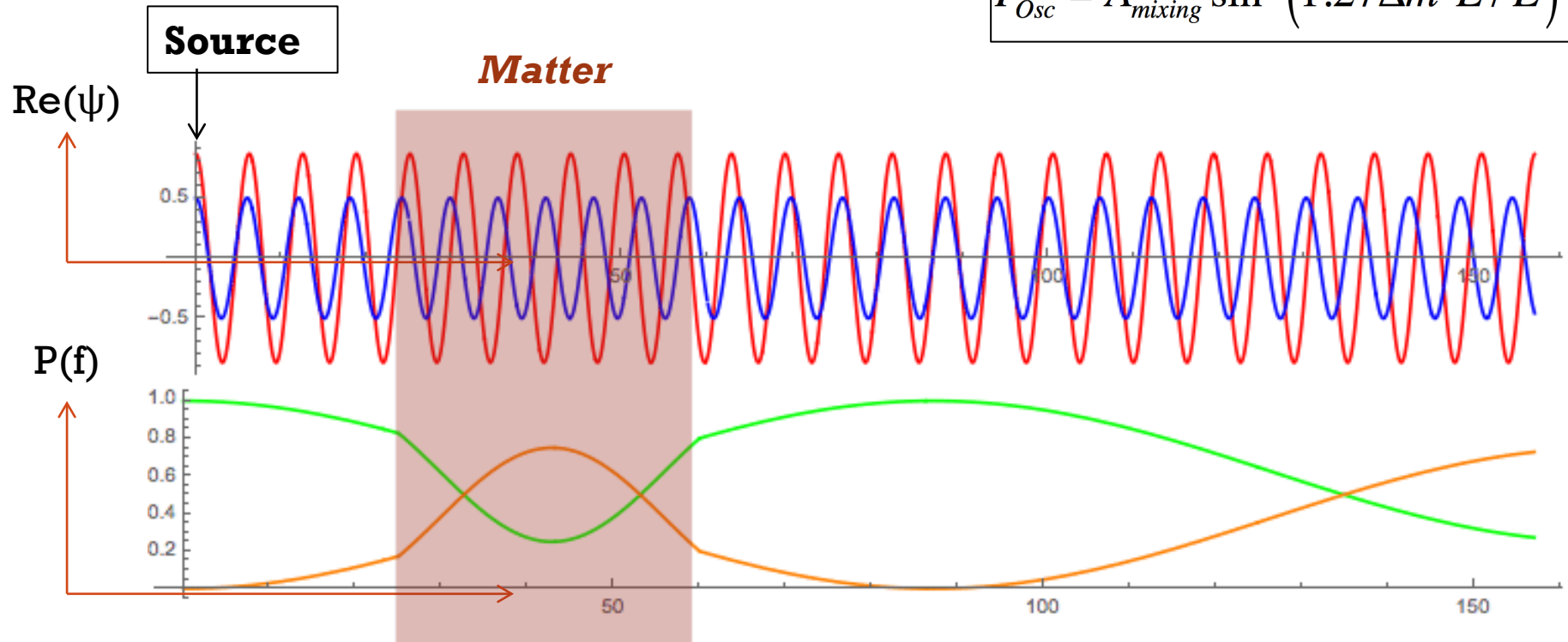
Electron flavor



e + mu / tau flavor

FROM NOW ON, MATTER MATTERS!

$$P_{Osc} = A_{mixing} \sin^2 \left(1.27 \Delta m^2 L / E \right)$$

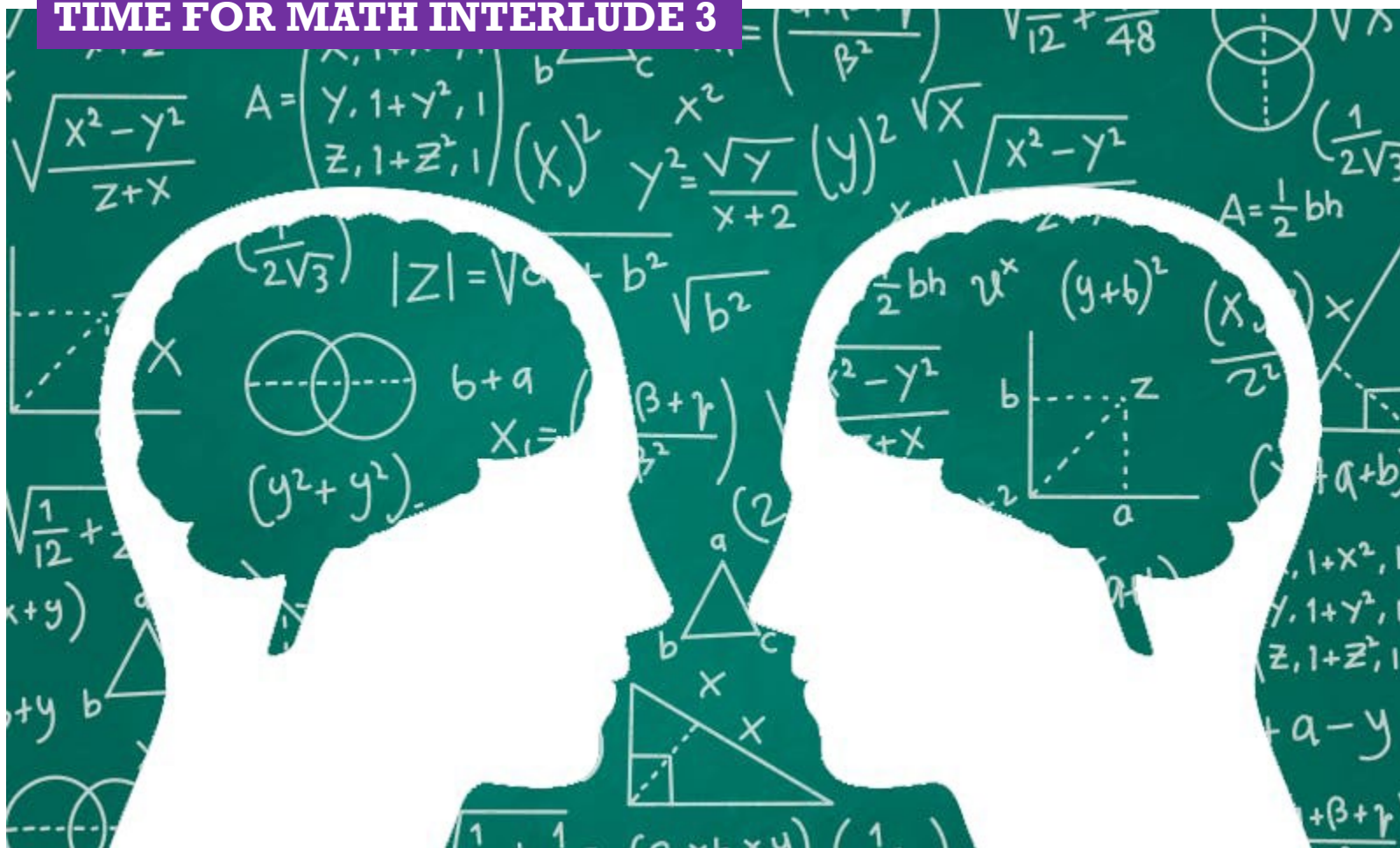


Couplings in matter change effective masses of the neutrinos. In the above cartoon (not physical!), one mass state has a matter coupling and the other does not.

Oscillation length changes → **Effective Δm^2 is modified**



TIME FOR MATH INTERLUDE 3



$$\sin^2 2\theta_M \equiv \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - x)^2} ,$$

$$x \equiv \frac{V_W/2}{\Delta m^2/4E} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E}{\Delta m^2}$$

Neutrino
energy

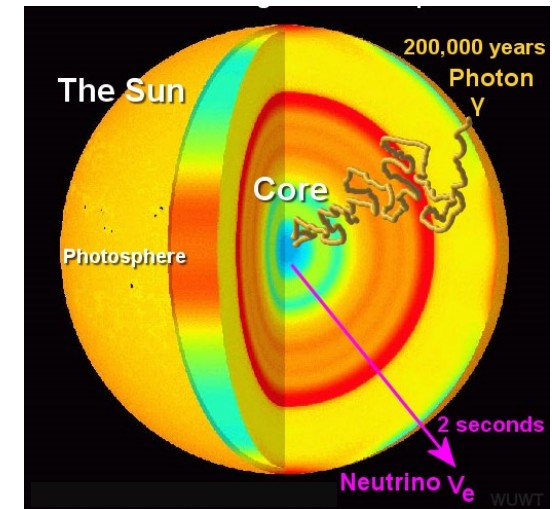
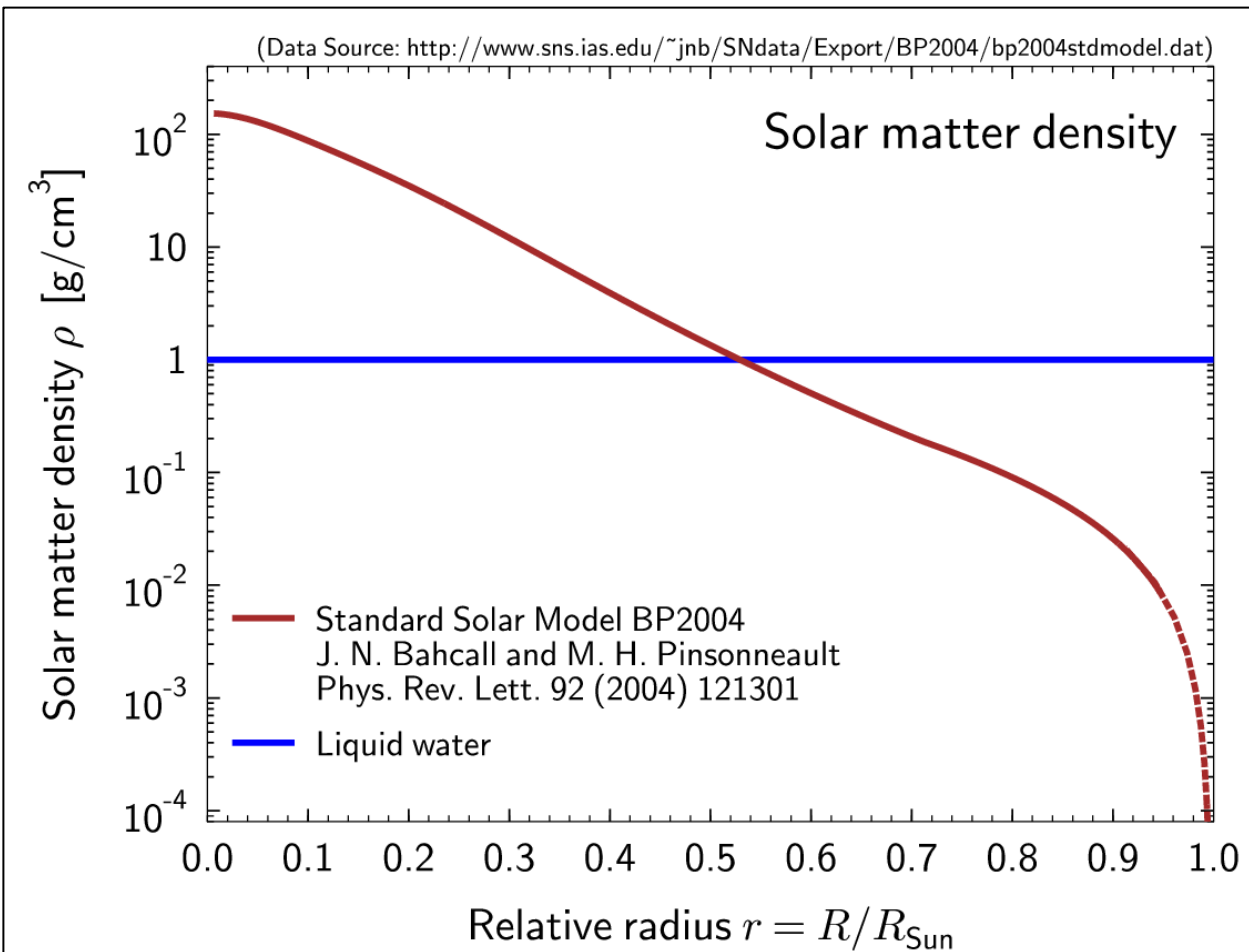
Electron
density

$$\sin^2 2\theta_M \equiv \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - x)^2} ,$$

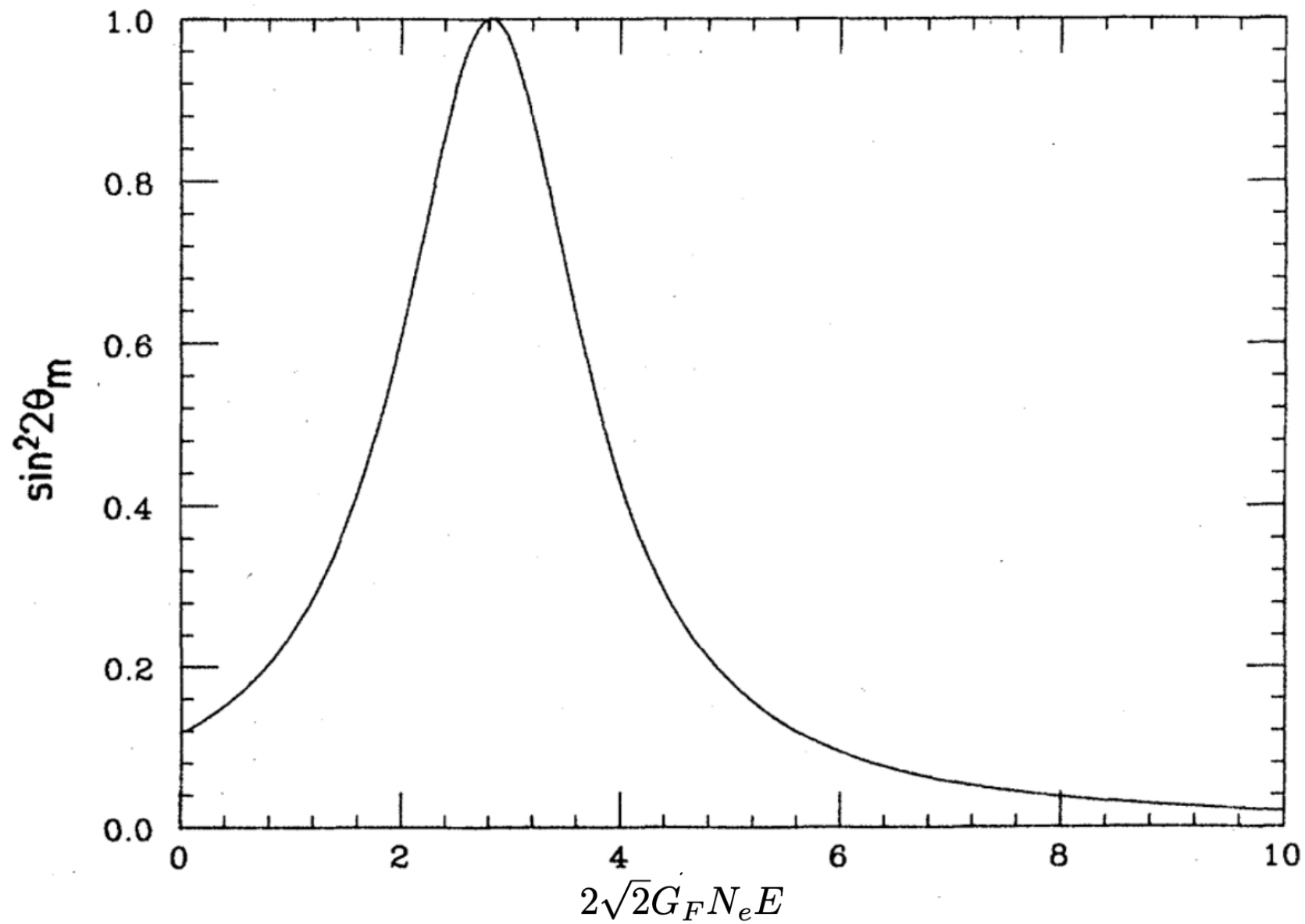
$$x \equiv \frac{V_W/2}{\Delta m^2/4E} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E}{\Delta m^2}$$

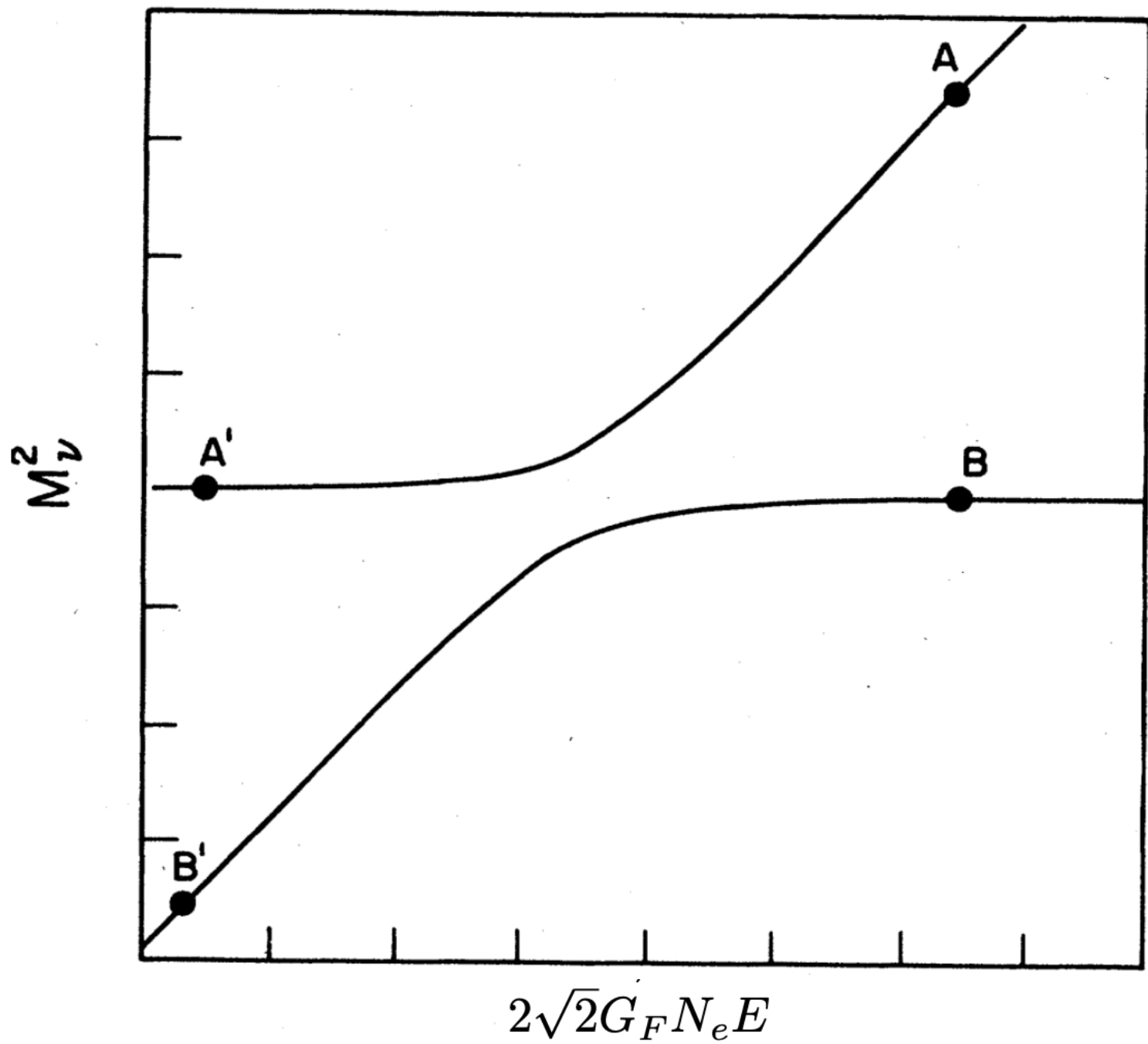
Neutrino
energy

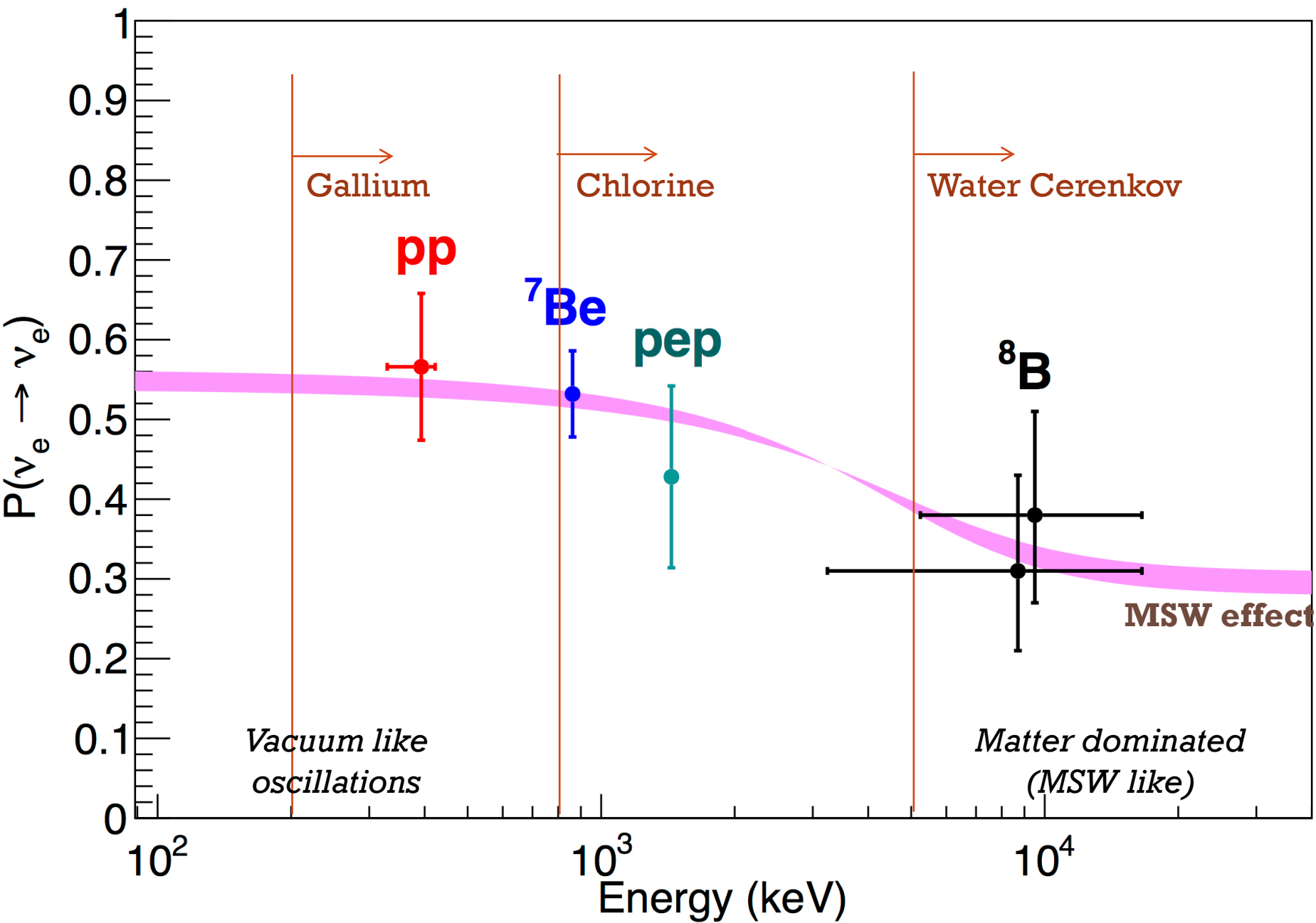
Electron
density



Neutrinos in the sun
move from center to
surface, exploring a
range of x values



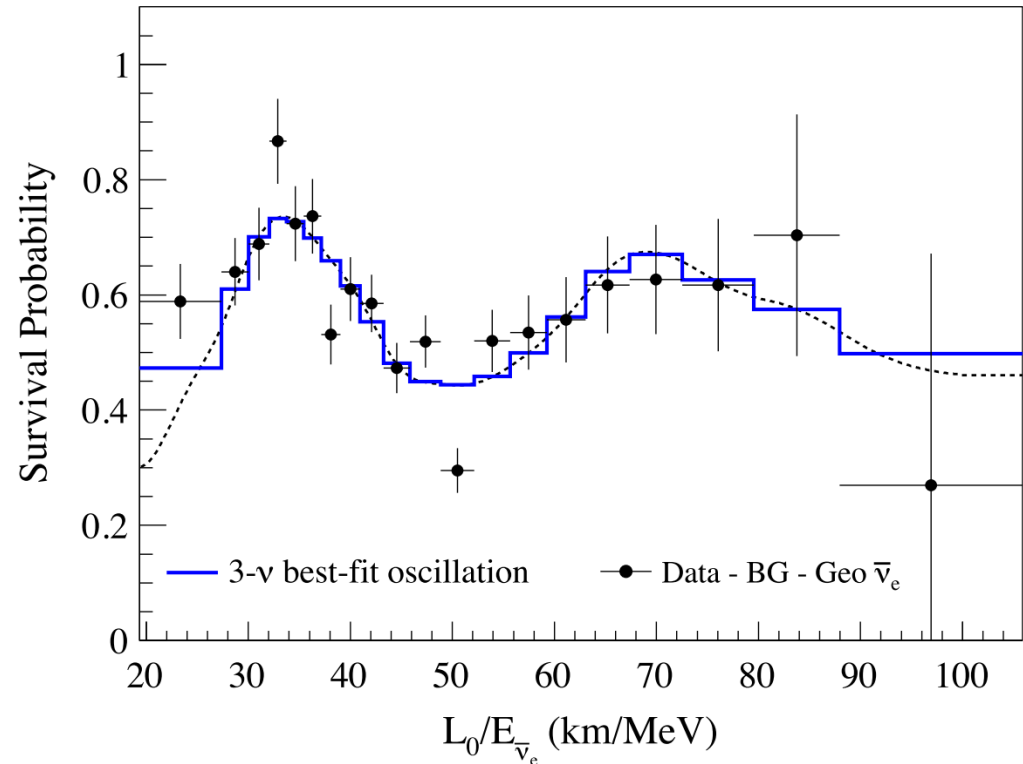
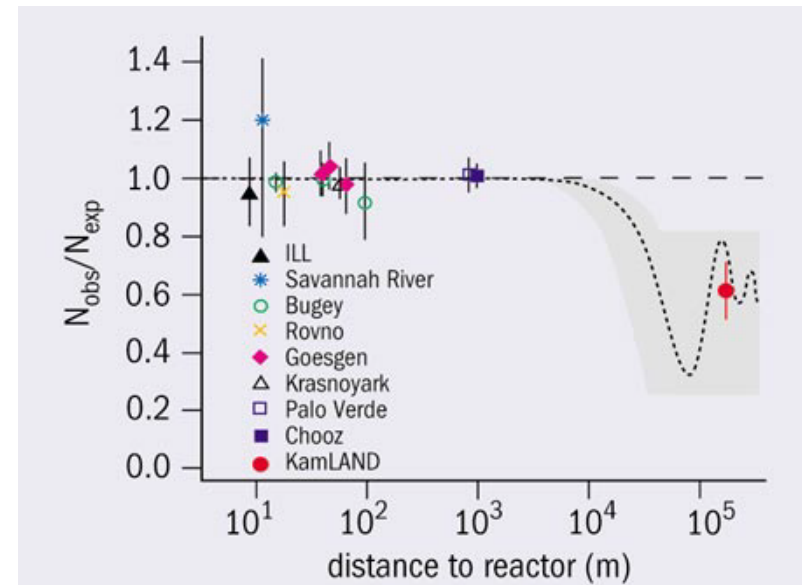
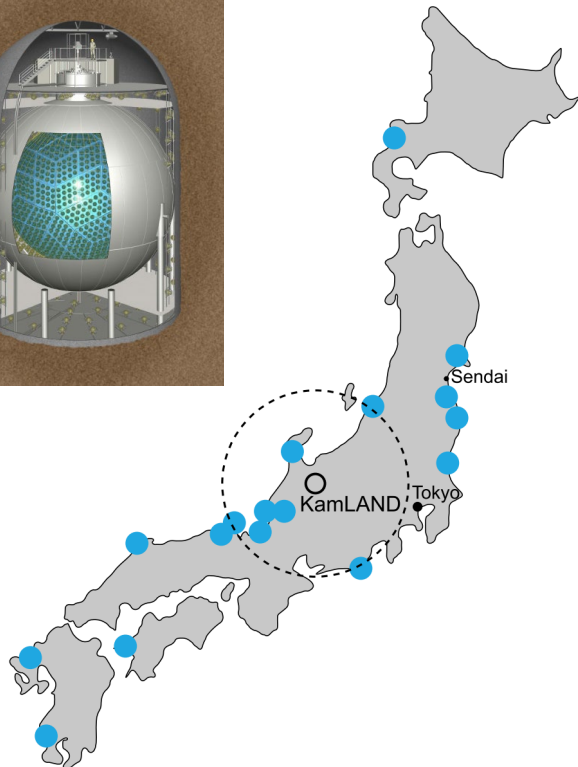
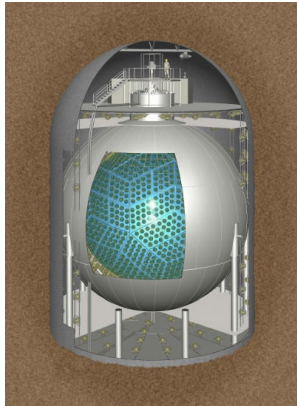




KAMLAND

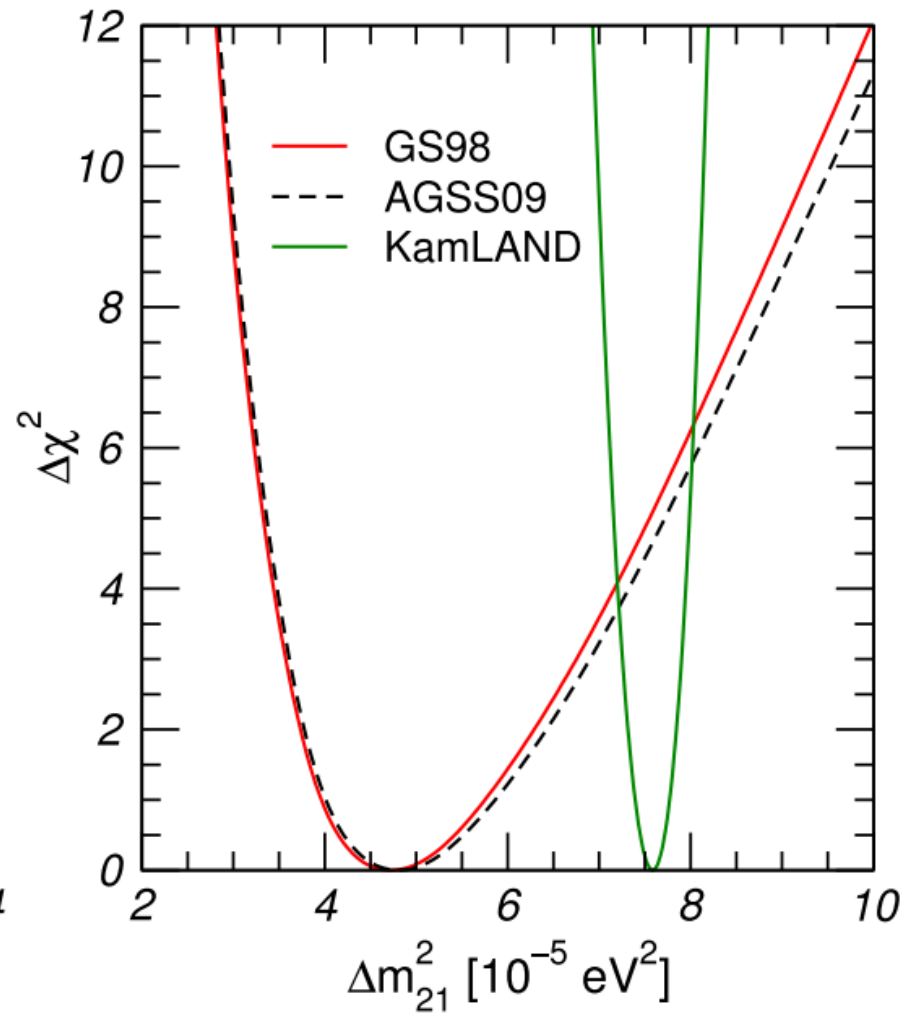
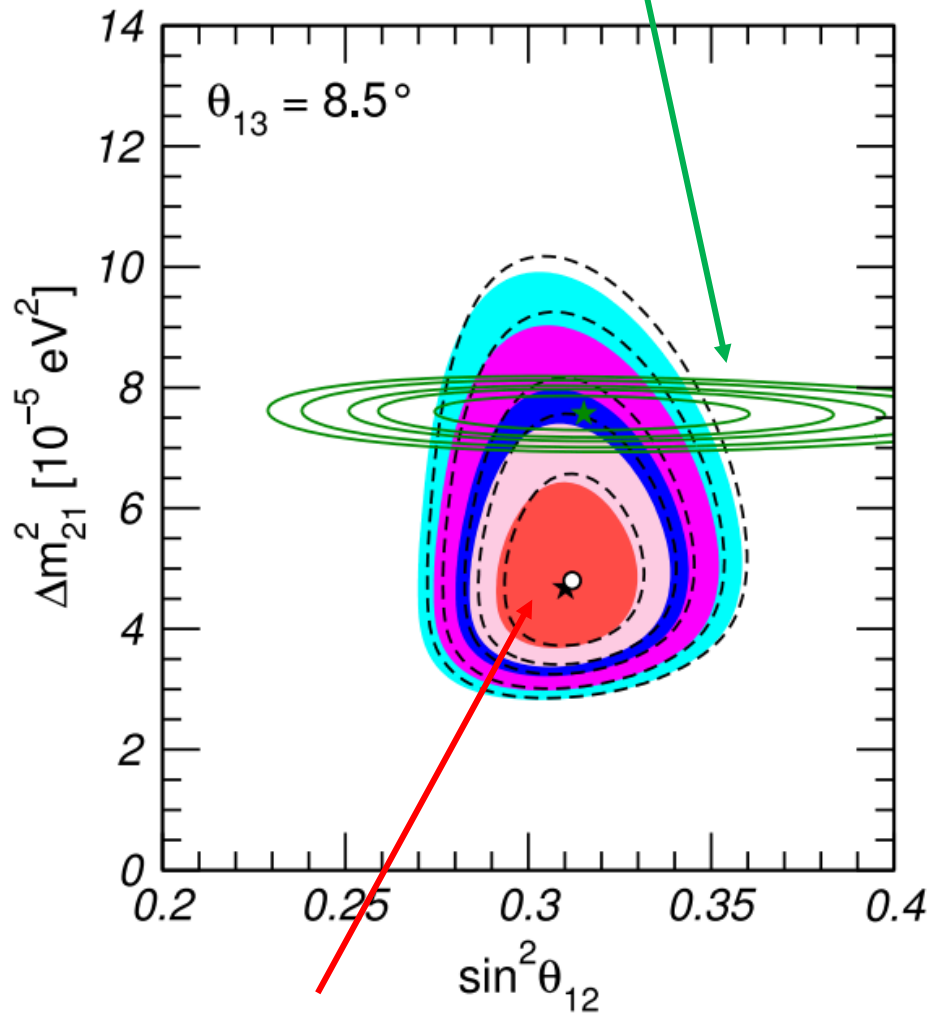
The flux-weighted average distance from Japan's power reactors to detector is 180km.

Kamland verified the oscillation pattern and directly “sees the wiggle”.



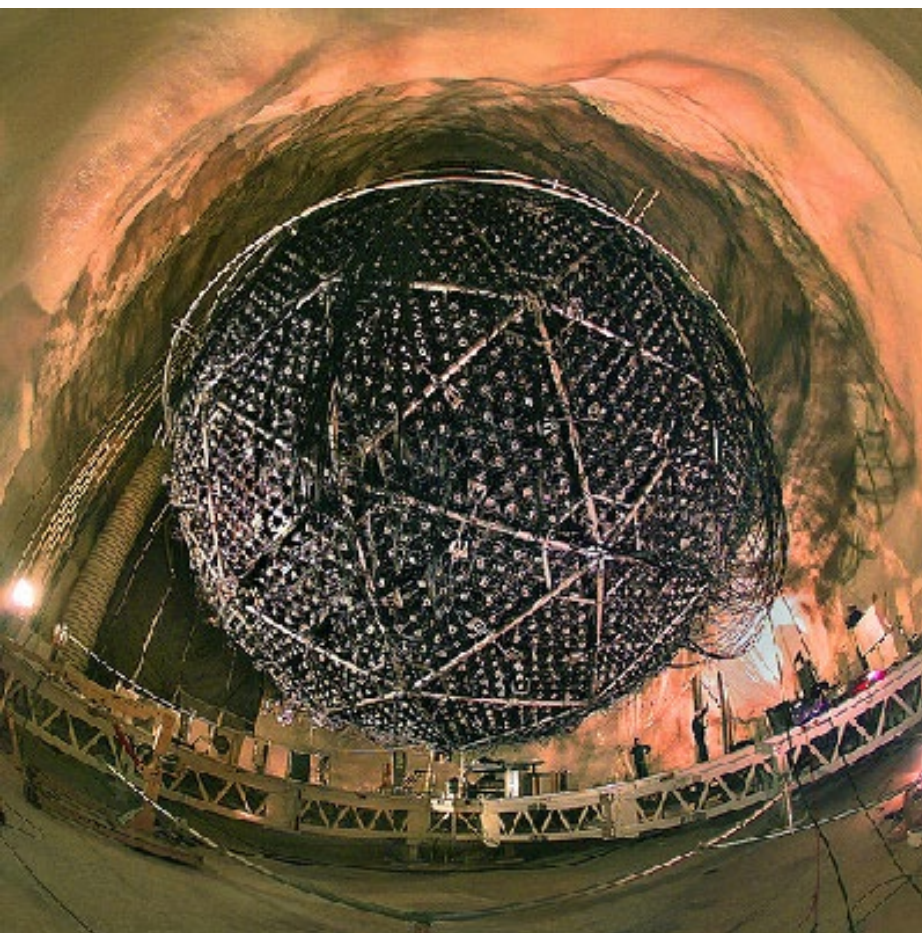
Reactors measure Δm^2 well

NuFIT 2.0 (2014)



Solar measures mixing angle well

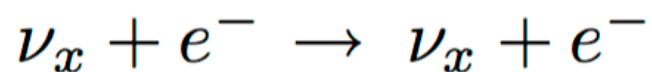
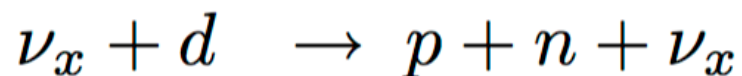
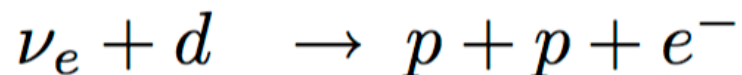
Some folks claim there is a tension here. It looks to me like a magnificent confirmation, given the different methods... but each to their own.



ARE THEY REALLY TRANSFORMING, OR JUST DISAPPEARING?

← SNO experiment, Sudbury, Canada.

Heavy water target for observing
neutrinos through three channels:



(charged current, CC),
(neutral current, NC),
(elastic scattering, ES).

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

$$\nu_x + d \rightarrow p + n + \nu_x$$

$$\nu_x + e^- \rightarrow \nu_x + e^-$$

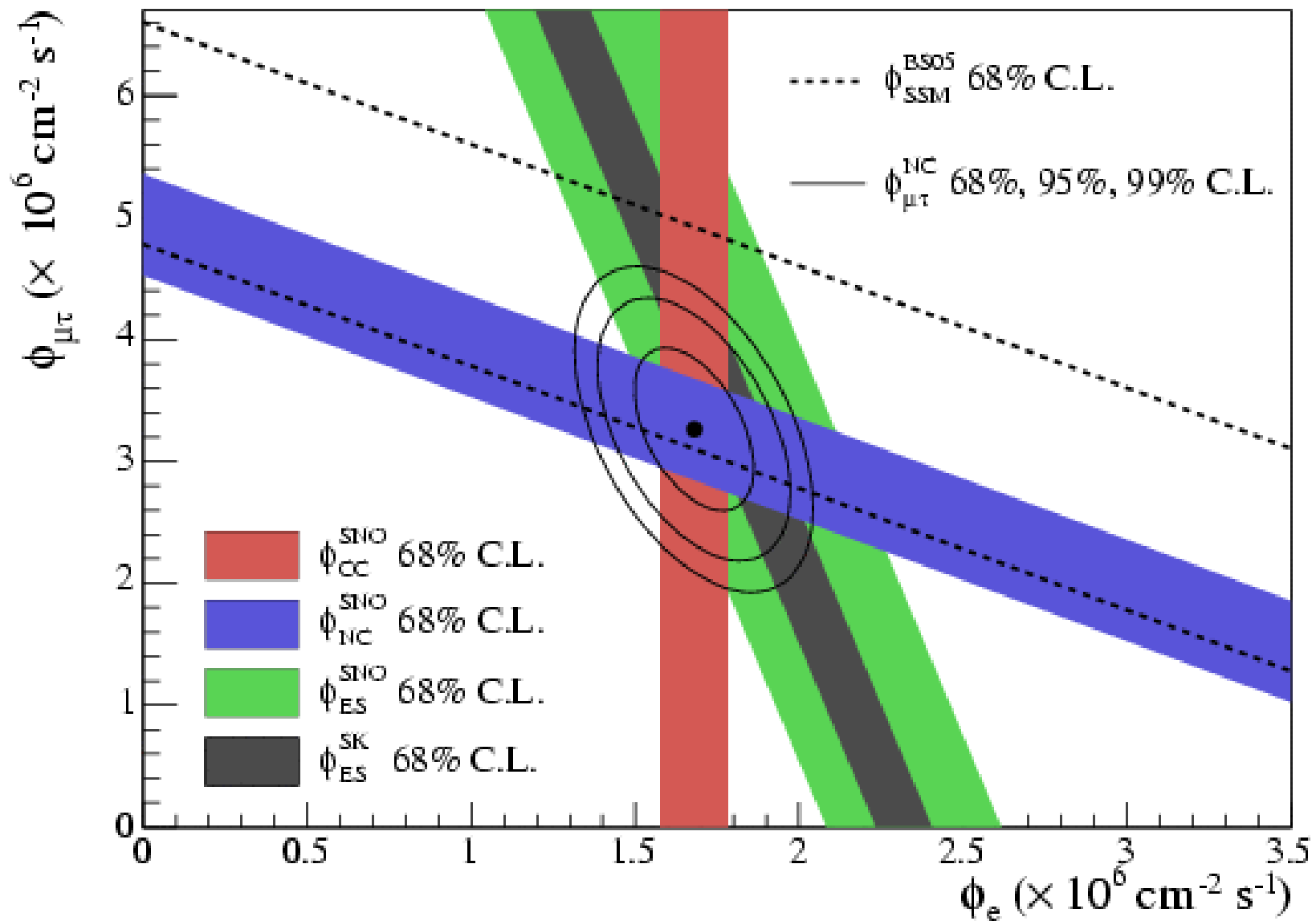
(charged current, CC),
(neutral current, NC),
(elastic scattering, ES).

ALL neutrinos
experience this one
but e do it more

ALL neutrinos
do this equally

Only electron
neutrinos do this

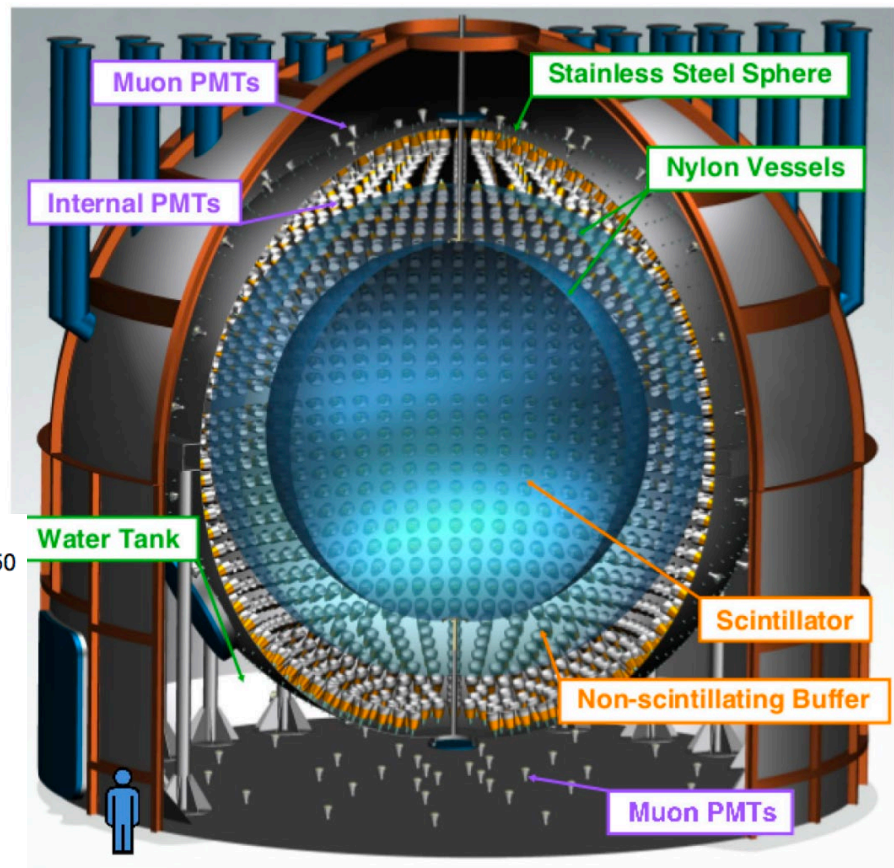
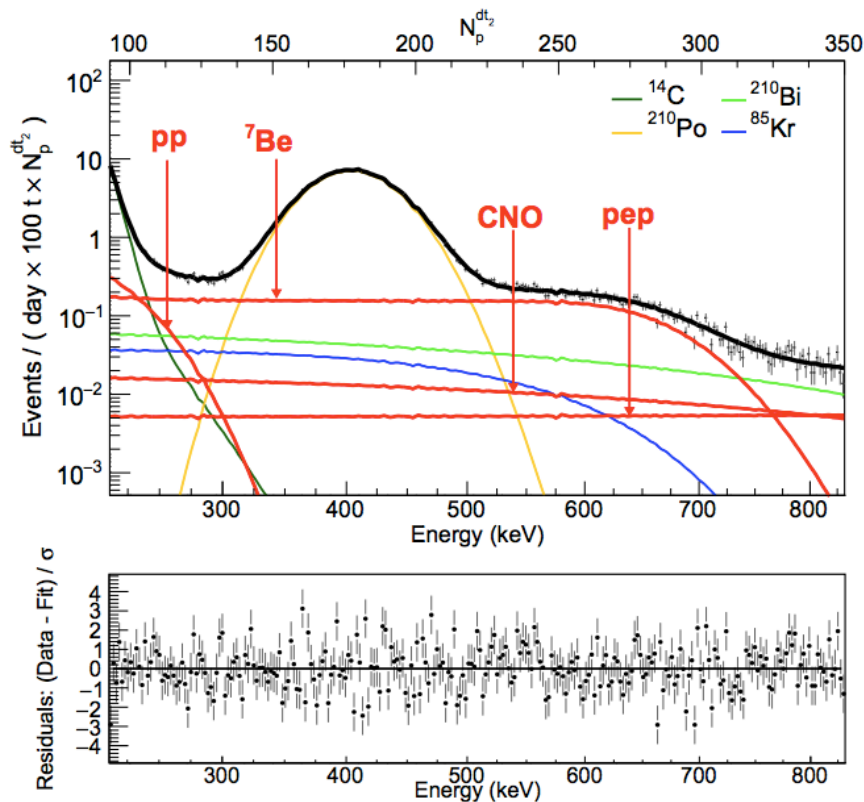
If neutrinos are oscillating rather than disappearing or underproducing,
NC rate should match solar model but other rates should be low.



DEFINITIVE confirmation of oscillations between flavors. Nobel prize 2015.

BOREXINO

- The foremost precision solar neutrino observatory.
- Gran Sasso, 2007-2021
- Spectroscopically resolved \sim all neutrinos in the pp chain

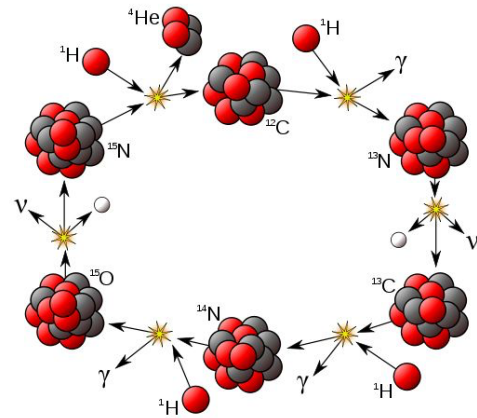


A masterpiece of detector instrumentation and radiopurity.

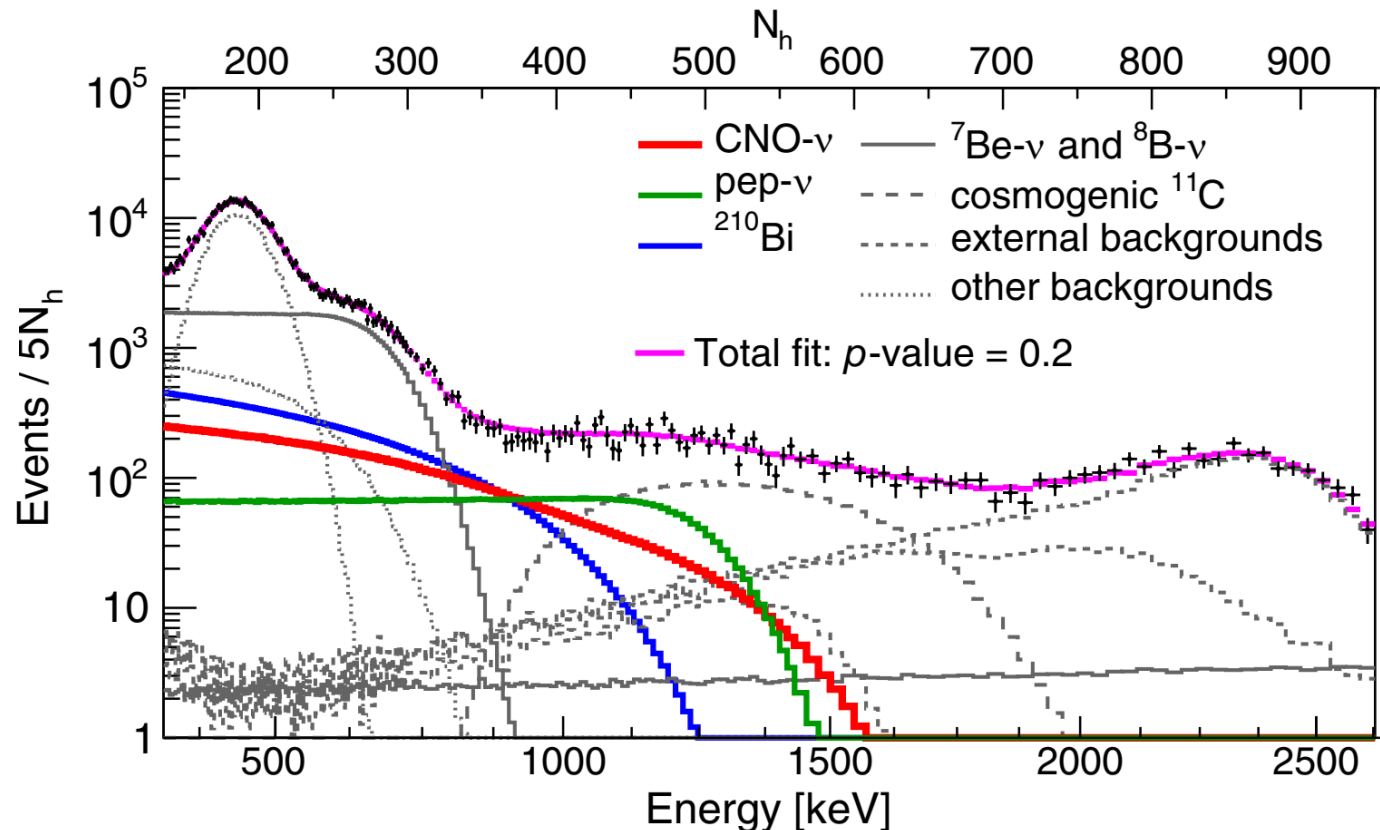
Borexino is the gold-standard for the field of low-background nuclear physics.

BOREXINO CNO

- The CNO cycle contributes only a tiny fraction of the Sun's neutrino flux, relative to pp cycle.
- It sits under numerous other flux contributions. Observing it is a tour-de-force in understanding detector responds and solar neutrino spectral shapes.



**Borexino
observes CNO
flux at 7σ**



FUTURE OF SOLAR NEUTRINOS

As with reactors, predicting the absolute flux of solar neutrinos remains complicated.

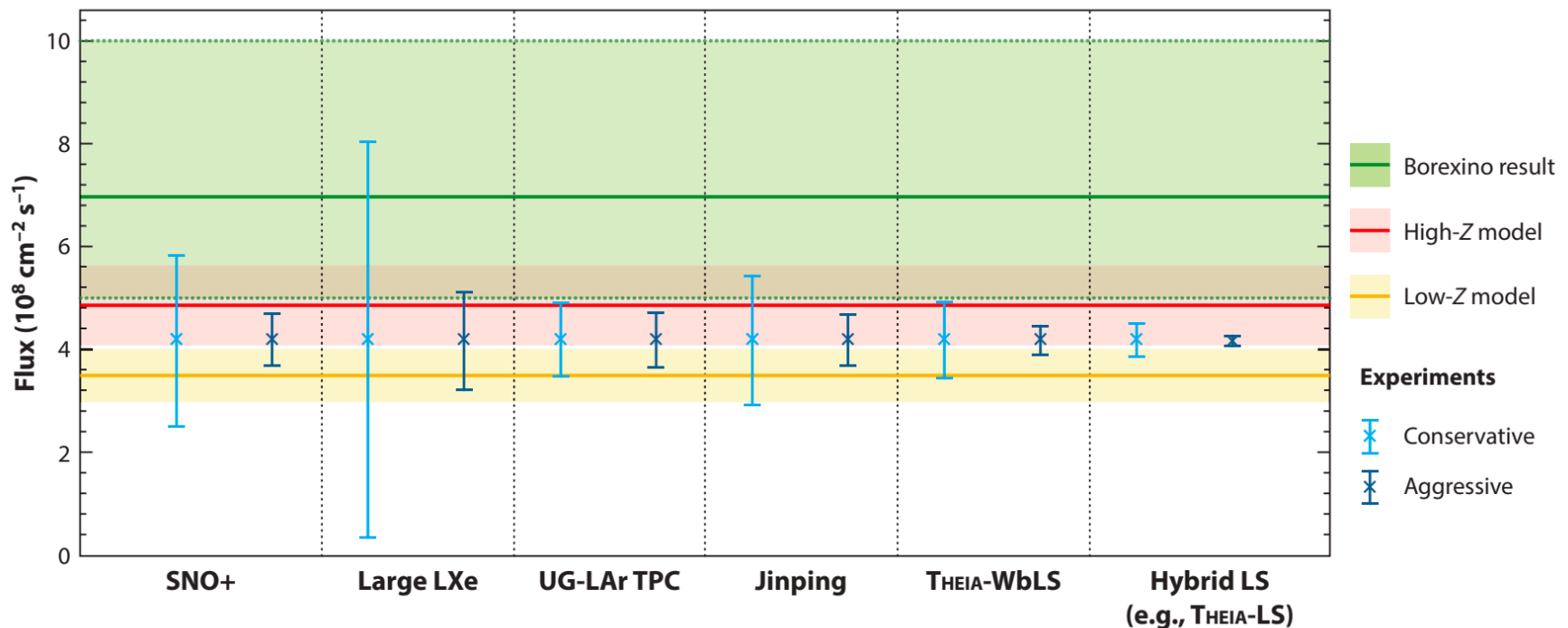
Solar metallicity from helioseismology still at odds with SSM tuned on neutrinos, at some level.

Various large, clean scintillator experiments have been discussed, to address this.

Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science

The Future of Solar Neutrinos

Gabriel D. Orebi Gann,^{1,2} Kai Zuber,³
Daniel Bemmerer,⁴ and Aldo Serenelli^{5,6,7}



SUMMARY

- Solar neutrinos were pivotal in establishing the mass and mixing of neutrinos.
- The transformation of solar neutrinos is energy dependent and reveals a rich phenomenology of neutrino oscillations and matter effects.
- All major species of solar neutrinos have now been detected.
- Their oscillations have been used to measure crucial parameters governing neutrino oscillations.
- Some complexities of the details of the solar model remain.