# Neutrinos and Nuclei

Plan of lectures:

- Introduction, neutrino mass and oscillations
- Double beta decay
- Neutrinos and supernovae
- Neutrino interactions and cross sections

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# A brief history of neutrino physics:

- 1930: Pauli proposes existence of neutrinos in order to save the laws of energy and angular momentum conservation.
- 1953: Reines and Cowan show that neutrinos are real particles. (1995 Nobel prize for Reines)
- 1962: Danby *et al.* show that  $v_{\mu}$  and  $v_{e}$  are distinct particles (1988 Nobel prize for Lederman, Schwartz and Steinberger) 1970: Davis solar neutrino experiment begins; measured flux
  - is only ~1/3 of expected (2002 Nobel prize for Davis).
- 1975: The third lepton,  $\tau$ , discovered (1995 Nobel prize for Perl).
- 1993-2006: LEP experiments establish that  $N_v = 2.984 \pm 0.008$ .
- 1980-present: Experiments with atmospheric, solar, reactor, and accelerator neutrinos show that neutrinos have a tiny but finite mass and are strongly mixed. (2002 Nobel prize for Koshiba).

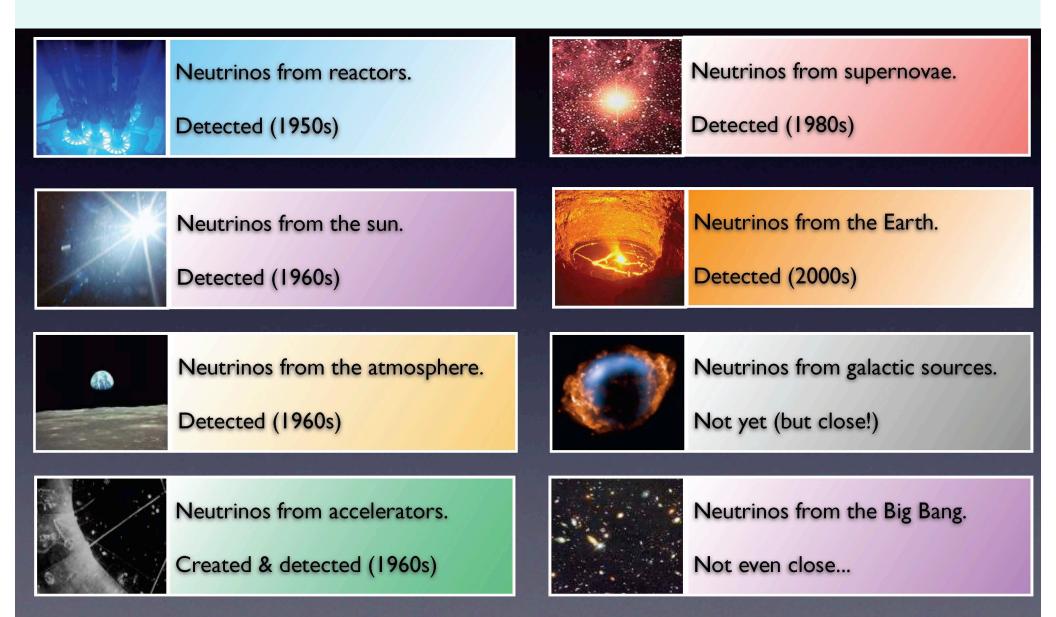
Discovery of neutrino mass and mixing represents the first and until now the only indication for ``physics beyond the Standard Model".

#### Why experiments with neutrinos are so difficult?

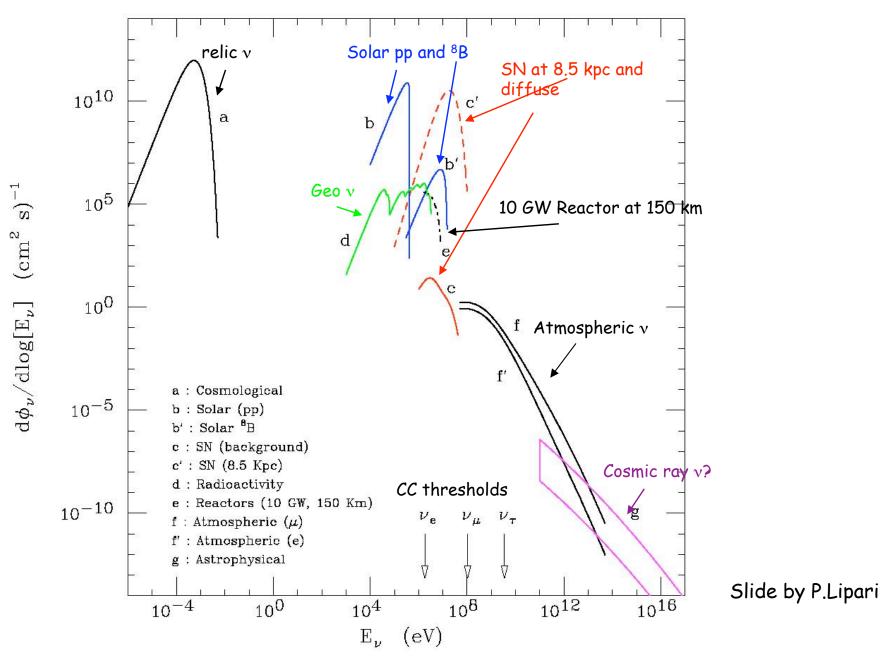
Estimate of the cross section: Take n -> p + e<sup>-</sup> +  $\Rightarrow$  and consider  $\Rightarrow$  + p -> n + e<sup>+</sup> At low (~MeV) energies the cross section can depend only on E (the energy of the neutrino or positron). Hence  $\sigma \sim G_F^2 E^2 (hc)^2$ .  $G_F = 1.17 \times 10^{-11} \text{ MeV}^{-2}$ , hc = 2x10<sup>-11</sup>MeV cm Thus  $\sigma \sim 10^{-44} \text{ cm}^2$  (as in Bethe and Peierls in 1934)

Reminder: Nuclei have R ~ a few x 10<sup>-13</sup> cm, nucleon Size is ~ 10<sup>-13</sup> cm = 1 fm. Hence typical cross sections are  $\sigma \sim \pi R^2 \sim 10^{-24} cm^2 \equiv barn$ . The low energy weak cross sections are ~20 orders of magnitude smaller.

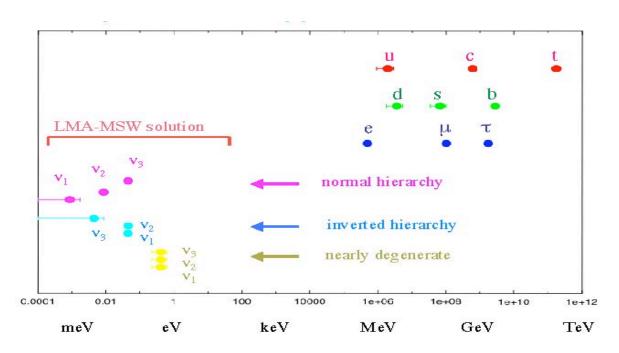
# Track record of neutrino observations:



# Overview of neutrino sources and fluxes (20 orders of magnitude in energy and flux)



Standard Model of Electroweak interactions postulates that all neutrinos are exactly massless. As a consequence, the individual lepton flavors are conserved, i.e. processes like  $\mu \rightarrow e + \gamma$  and also  $\nu_{\mu} + n \rightarrow e^{-} + p$  etc. are strictly forbidden. However, more recent discoveries challenge this postulate and show that neutrinos are massive (albeit much lighter than other fermions) and that the individual lepton numbers are not conserved. Description of these phenomena will be the main topic of these lectures. It is hoped that the pattern of neutrino masses and mixing that is emerging will offer a glimpse into the fundamental source of particle masses and the role of flavor.



Even though we do not know as yet the exact values (or pattern) of neutrino masses, we **do know** that they are ~10<sup>6</sup> times lighter than other fermions.

#### Oscillation phenomenology-quantum mechanical interference

$$|v_{e}\rangle = \cos\theta |v_{1}\rangle + \sin\theta |v_{2}\rangle$$

$$|v_{\mu}\rangle = -\sin\theta |v_{1}\rangle + \cos\theta |v_{2}\rangle$$

$$|v(t)\rangle = e^{-iE_{1}t} \cos\theta |v_{1}\rangle + e^{-iE_{2}t} \sin\theta |v_{2}\rangle$$

$$E_{2} - E_{1} \approx (m_{2}^{2} - m_{1}^{2})/2p = \Delta m^{2}/2p$$

$$|\langle v_{e} |v(t)\rangle|^{2} = 1 - \sin^{2}2\theta \sin^{2}(\pi L/L_{osc})$$

$$|\langle v_{\mu} |v(t)\rangle|^{2} = \sin^{2}2\theta \sin^{2}(\pi L/L_{osc})$$

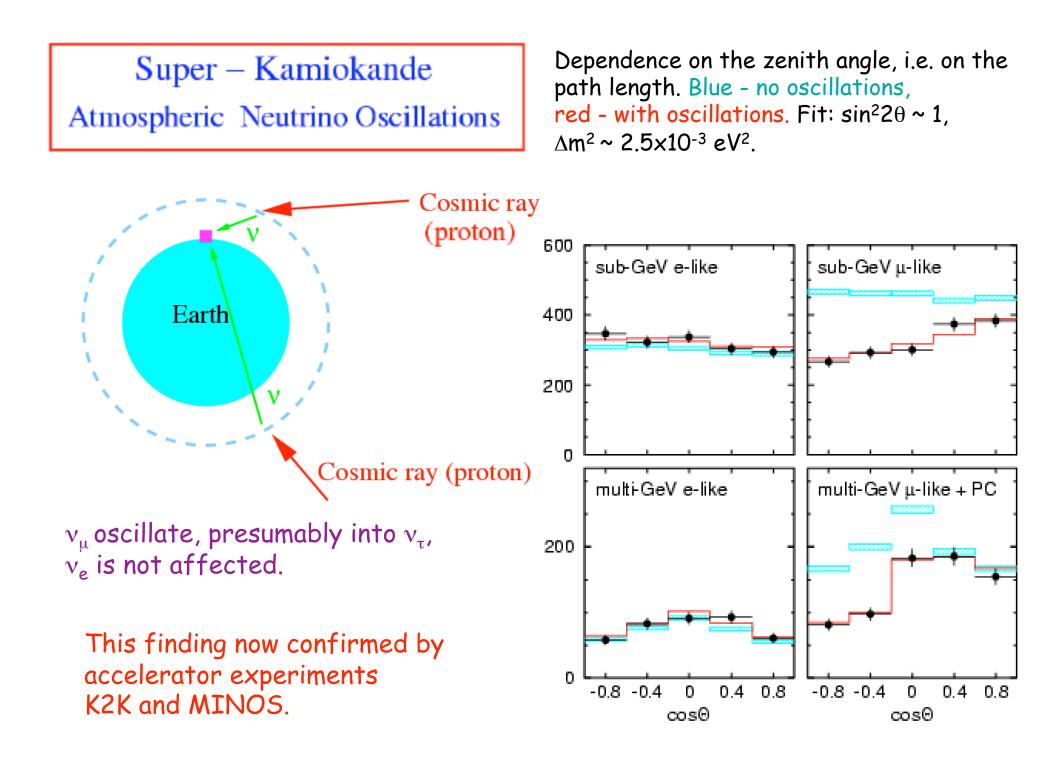
Where  $L_{osc} = 4\pi p / \Delta m^2 = 4\pi E_v / \Delta m^2$ 

States with a definite flavor,  $v_e$ ,  $v_{\mu}$ , are superpositions of states  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ with definite mass which propagate simply as plane waves.

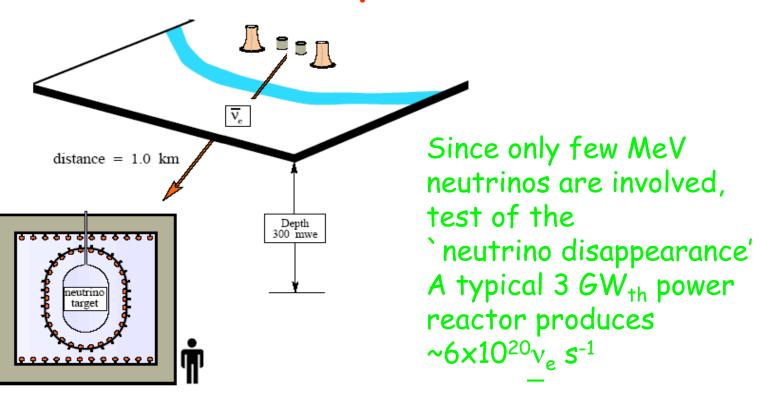
Propagation of a beam that began as  $v_{e}$ . Phase difference for ultrarelativistic neutrinos

When the beam v(t) is projected onto  $|v_e\rangle$  or  $|v_{\mu}\rangle$  at L = t the resulting probability is an oscillating function of L.

$$\begin{split} E_{\nu} &= 1 \text{ GeV}, \ \Delta m^2 = 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2, \ L = 1240 \text{ km} \\ E_{\nu} &= 1 \text{ MeV}, \ \Delta m^2 = 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2, \ L = 1.2 \text{ km} \\ E_{\nu} &= 1 \text{ MeV}, \ \Delta m^2 = 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2, \ L = 1.2 \text{ km} \\ E_{\nu} &= 1 \text{ MeV}, \ \Delta m^2 = 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2, \ L = 125 \text{ km} \\ E_{\nu} &= 1 \text{ MeV}, \ \Delta m^2 = 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2, \ L = 125 \text{ km} \\ \end{bmatrix}$$



# **Reactor Neutrino Experiments**

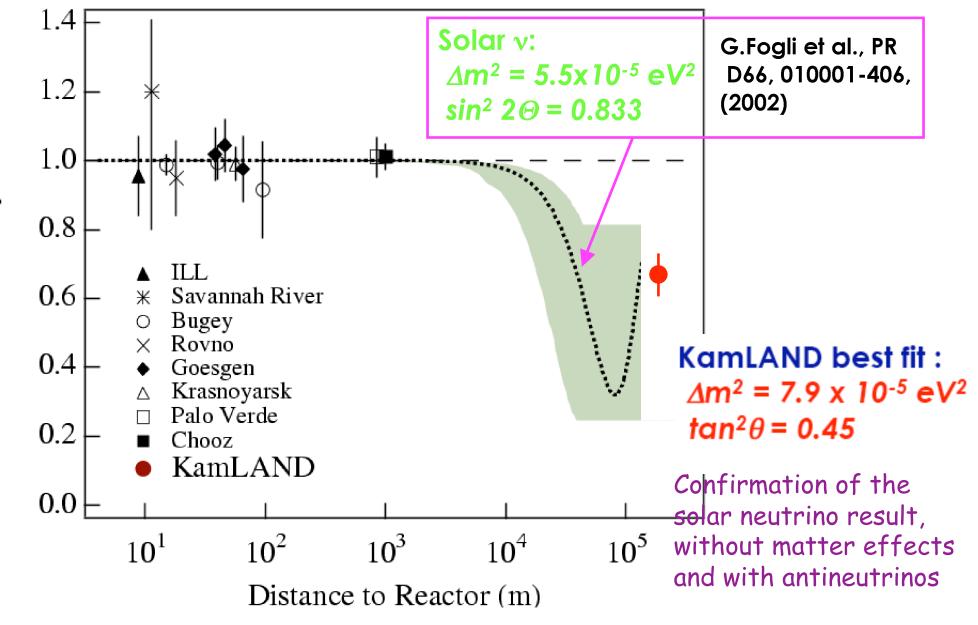


- $\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{e}$  from n-rich fission products
- detection via inverse beta decay ( $\overline{v}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$ )
- Measure flux and energy spectrum
- Variety of distances L = 10-1000 m + ~180 km (Kamland)

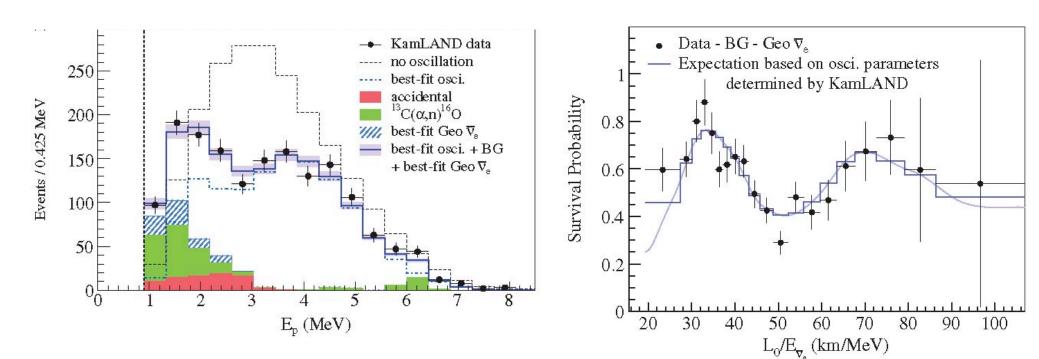


Nobs/Nexp

# Ratio of Measured and Expected $\overline{\nu}_e$ Flux from Reactor Neutrino Experiments



Kamland convincingly shows that  $\nabla_e$  disappear and that the spectrum is distorted in a way only compatible with oscillations.



There are fewer events than expected and the shape is significantly different

Even though there is no well defined distance (40 reactors) ~80% of the flux originates from  $L_0 = 180$  km. One can see that neutrinos indeed oscillate.

#### See PRL100, 221803(2008)

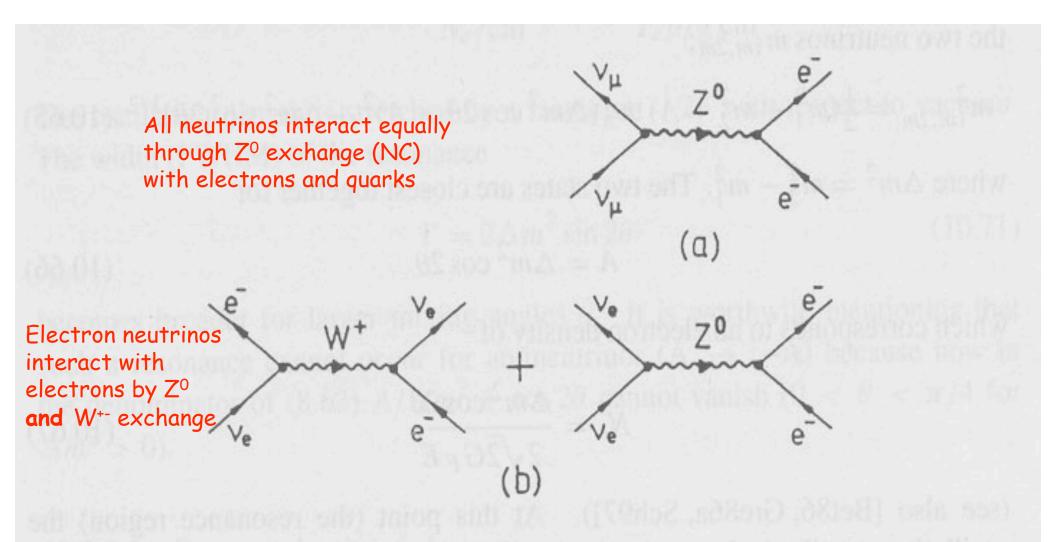
#### Oscillation of solar neutrinos: Effect of matter on neutrino propagation

That is a preposterous idea; the mean free path is too long  $\lambda$ = 1/N $\sigma$ , N = number density ~ N<sub>0</sub> $\rho$  ~ 10<sup>24</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\sigma$  = cross section ~ 10<sup>-43</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> for low energy neutrinos , thus,  $\lambda$ ~ 10<sup>19</sup> cm ~ 10 light years.

The  $\sigma$  is so small because it is ~  $G_F^2$ . But interaction energy with matter is ~  $G_F$  and might affect the relative phase of states that are not energy eigenstates.

In matter the phase  $e^{-iEt}$ , where  $E \sim p + m^2/2p$  should be replaced by  $E + \langle H_{eff} \rangle$ , where  $\langle H_{eff} \rangle$  represents the expectation value of the weak interaction between the neutrinos and the constituents of matter.

Thus in matter schematically  $E_{eff} = E_0 + m^2/2E_0 + 2^{1/2}G_FN_e$ This term is present only for  $v_e$  and has a minus sign for  $v_e$ 



**Figure 10.16.** Origin of the Mikheyev–Smirnov–Wolfenstein effect. Whereas weak NC interactions are possible for all neutrino flavours, only the  $v_e$  also has the possibility of interacting via charged weak currents.

The matter oscillation length is therefore  $L_0 = 2\pi/2^{1/2}G_F N_e = 1.7 \times 10^7$  (meters)/ $Y_e \rho(g \text{ cm}^{-3})$   $Y_e = Z/A$  (electron fraction)

 $L_0$  is independent of energy. For typical densities on Earth  $L_0 \sim$  Earth diameter so matter effects are small. However, in Sun or other astrophysical objects they are decisive.

So, we can have two kinds of neutrino oscillations, vacuum and matter. To see which of them dominates, compare the two oscillation lengths:

 $L_{osc}/L_{0} = 2^{3/2}G_{F}N_{e}E_{v}/\Delta m^{2}$ = 0.22[E<sub>v</sub>(MeV)][ $\rho$ Y<sub>e</sub>(100g cm<sup>-3</sup>)][7x10<sup>-5</sup>/\Delta m^{2}(eV^{2})]

If this ratio is >> 1 matter oscillations dominate, if it is <1, vacuum oscillations dominate.

A bit of formalism: In matter, for the simplified case of two neutrino flavors, we have to diagonalize H in the flavor basis that contains  $V = 2^{1/2}G_FN_e$  and  $\xi = L_{osc}/L_0$ . The hamiltonian matrix can be transformed into the form of vacuum oscillations by introducing the effective mixing angle  $\theta_m$  and effective oscillation length  $L_m = L_{osc} \sin 2\theta_m/\sin 2\theta$ 

$$H = H_{\text{vacuum}} + H_{\text{matter}}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m_1^2/2E & 0 \\ 0 & m_2^2/2E \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} V & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

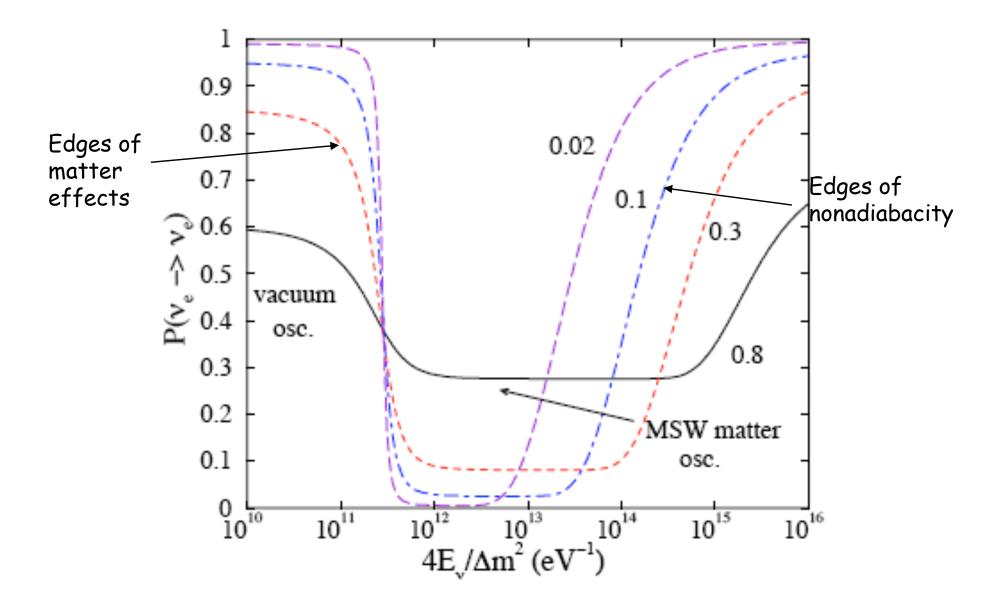
$$= \frac{\Delta m^2}{4E} \begin{pmatrix} -\cos 2\theta + \xi & \sin 2\theta \\ \sin 2\theta & \cos 2\theta - \xi \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{(\Delta m^2)_m}{4E} \begin{pmatrix} -\cos 2\theta_m & \sin 2\theta_m \\ \sin 2\theta_m & \cos 2\theta_m \end{pmatrix}$$
(1.13)

For constant density case there can be three distinct regimes:

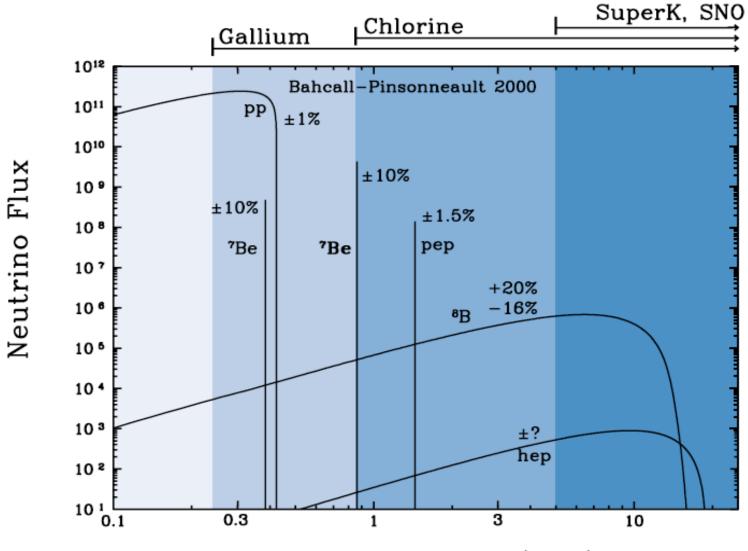
- 1) Low density,  $L_0 \gg |L_{osc}|$ : matter has little effect on oscillations
- 3) High density,  $L_0 \ll |L_{osc}| : v_e \rightarrow v_H$  and oscillations are suppressed (since the amplitude ~  $\sin^2 2\theta_m$ , where  $\theta_m$  is the effective mixing angle in matter.
- 3) Resonance, when  $2^{3/2} EG_F N_e \rightarrow \Delta m^2 cos 2\theta_v$  ( $L_{osc} = L_0 cos 2\theta v$ ): in that case the oscillations are enhanced since  $\theta_m \rightarrow \pi/4$ independently of  $\theta_v$ . Note that the resonance condition depends on the sign of  $\Delta m^2$ , and whether v or v are involved.

The most interesting case is the case of neutrinos propagating through an object of varying density (e.g. the Sun) from the high density regime to the low density regime.



Schematic illustration of the survival probability of  $v_e$  created at the solar center. Curves are labelled by the corresponding sin<sup>2</sup>2 $\theta$  values.

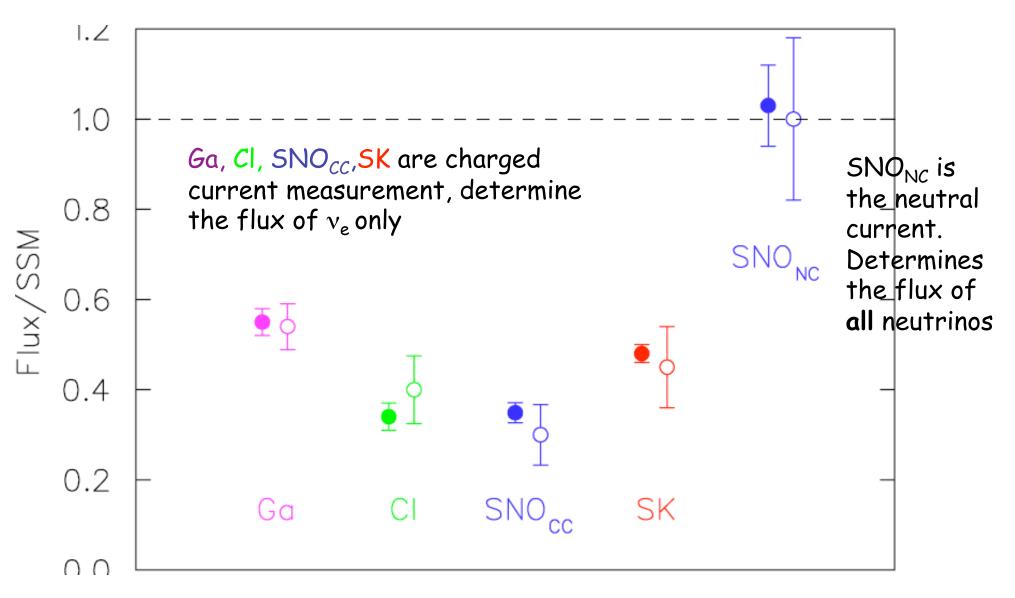
#### Expected fluxes of solar neutrinos (Bahcall)



Neutrino Energy (MeV)

Components of the  $v_e$  flux (no oscillations) and ranges of the solar neutrino detection experiments are indicated. Note the extreme log Scale.

#### Summary of results: Ratio of the observed/expected flux



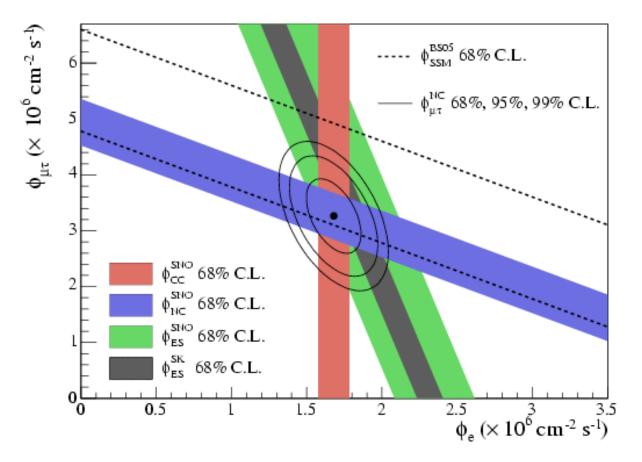
Note: The Cl and  $SNO_{cc}$  are below ~0.3. Ratio below 0.5 is impossible for two flavor vacuum oscillations. This is a clear indication of matter effects.

By combining the charged and neutral current events, SNO was able to show convincingly that the solar  $v_e$  were transformed into another active neutrino flavor.

$$\phi_{CC} = 1.68 \, {}^{+0.06}_{-0.06}(\text{stat.}) {}^{+0.08}_{-0.09}(\text{syst.})$$
  
$$\phi_{NC} = 4.94 \, {}^{+0.21}_{-0.21}(\text{stat.}) {}^{+0.38}_{-0.34}(\text{syst.})$$
  
$$\phi_{ES} = 2.35 \, {}^{+0.22}_{-0.22}(\text{stat.}) {}^{+0.15}_{-0.15}(\text{syst.})$$

(Fluxes  $\Phi$  in units of 10<sup>6</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>) Shown are the SNO results from the 391 day salt phase.

$$\frac{\phi_{CC}}{\phi_{NC}} = 0.340 \pm 0.023 (\text{stat.})_{-0.031}^{+0.029}$$



#### Summary of the positive evidence:

1)  $v_{\mu}$  oscillate into  $v_{\tau}$  with  $|\Delta m^2| \sim 2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$  and nearly maximum mixing angle (near 45°). The sign of  $\Delta m^2$  remains unknown.

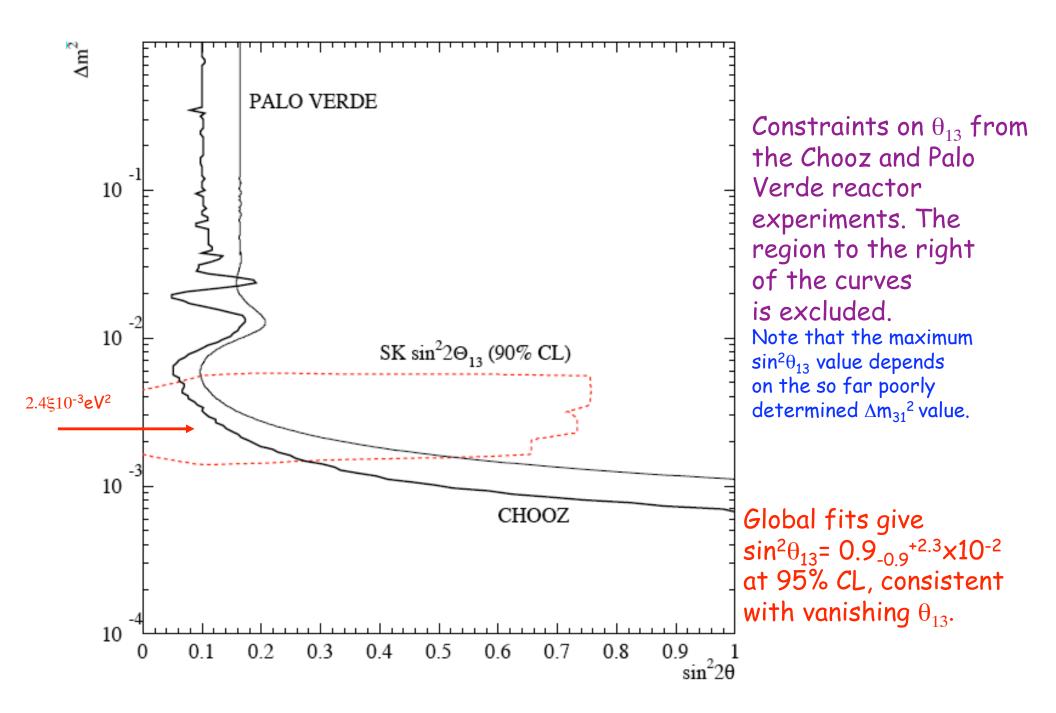
2)  $v_e$  oscillate into another active flavor with  $\Delta m^2 \sim 8 \times 10^{-5} \, eV^2$  and a large but not maximum mixing angle ( $\theta_{12} \sim 32^{\circ}$ ). Because of the matter effects in the Sun, the sign of  $\Delta m^2$  is fixed (> 0 by convention,  $v_e$  are dominantly the lighter of the two).

3) But we do not know whether  $v_e$  are affected by oscillations with  $|\Delta m^2| \sim 2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ . If that effect exists, it is small because the angle  $\theta_{13}$  is small.

#### What about the corresponding mixing angle $\theta_{13}$ ?

We have argued that the determination of the  $v_e$  component of atmospheric neutrino flux does not give very useful information on the angle  $\theta_{13}$ . The most natural way of determining that angle is to look for the  $v_e$  disappearance (or appearance) at distances corresponding to  $\Delta m_{atmos}^2$ .

Two such experiments with reactor antineutrinos, CHOOZ and Palo Verde were done in late nineties when it was unclear whether the atmospheric neutrinos involve  $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$ , or  $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$ . The characteristic distance is ~ km, and no effect was seen. Hence these result constrain  $\theta_{13}$  from above to rather small value.



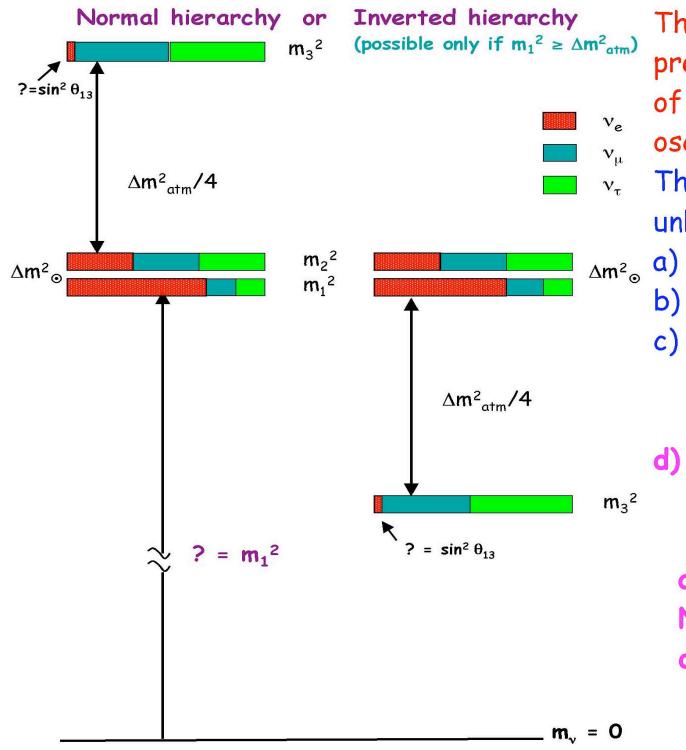
# Present status of our knowledge of oscillation parameters or what do we know?

Neutrino Oscillation Parameters Determined From Various Experiments (2003)						
	Parameter	Value $\pm 1\sigma$	Reference	Comment		
	$\Delta m_{12}^2$	$7.1^{+1.2}_{-0.6}\times 10^{-5}~{\rm eV^2}$	[72] (7	7.59±0.21)x 10 <sup>-5</sup> eV <sup>2</sup> (2008)		
	$\theta_{12}$	$32.5^{\circ+2.4}_{-2.3}$	[72]	For $\theta_{13} = 0.34.4^{\circ} \pm 1.6^{\circ}(2008)$		
	$\Delta m^2_{32}$	$2.0^{+0.6}_{-0.4}\times 10^{-3}~{\rm eV^2}$	[62]	(2.43±0.13)×10 <sup>-3</sup> eV <sup>2</sup> (2009)		
	$\sin^2 2\theta_{23}$	> 0.94	[62]	For $\theta_{13} = 0$		
:	$\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$	< 0.11	[64]	For $\Delta m^2_{atm} = 2 \times 10^{-3} \ {\rm eV^2}$		

The mixing matrix therefore, as of now, looks like this (error bars not shown):

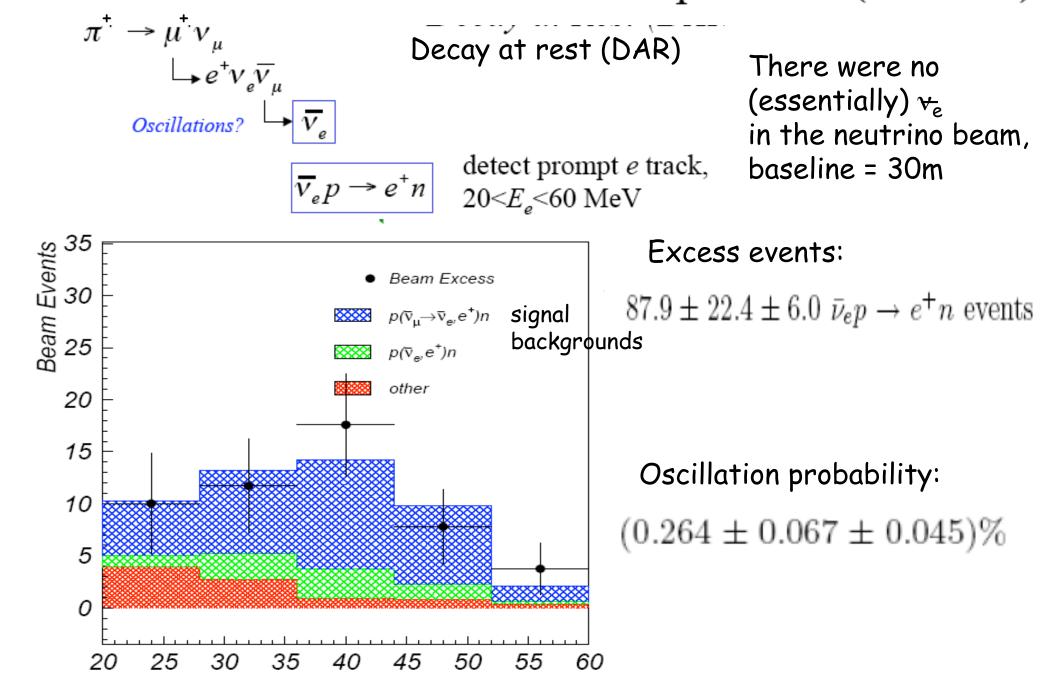
Here the first entry is for  $\theta_{13} = 0$  and the (second) for  $\theta_{13} = 0.15$ , i.e. the maximum allowed value. (The possible deviation of  $\theta_{23}$ from 45° is neglected as well as error bars on all mixing angles, also, the CP phase  $\delta$  is assumed to vanish.) Note that the second column  $v_2$  looks like a constant made of  $1/\sqrt{3} = 0.58$ , i.e. as if  $v_2$  is maximally mixed. The  $\mu$  and  $\tau$  lines are almost identical suggesting another symmetry. In fact, the neutrino mixing matrix resembles the tri-bimaximal matrix, which can be a convenient zeroth order term of expansions. (Compared to the empirical matrix above the the last line and last column were multiplied by -1)

Many papers exist trying to find the reasons for such apparent symmetry as well as using the small expansion parameter  $\Delta m_{sol}^2/\Delta m_{atm}^2 \sim 1/30$ .

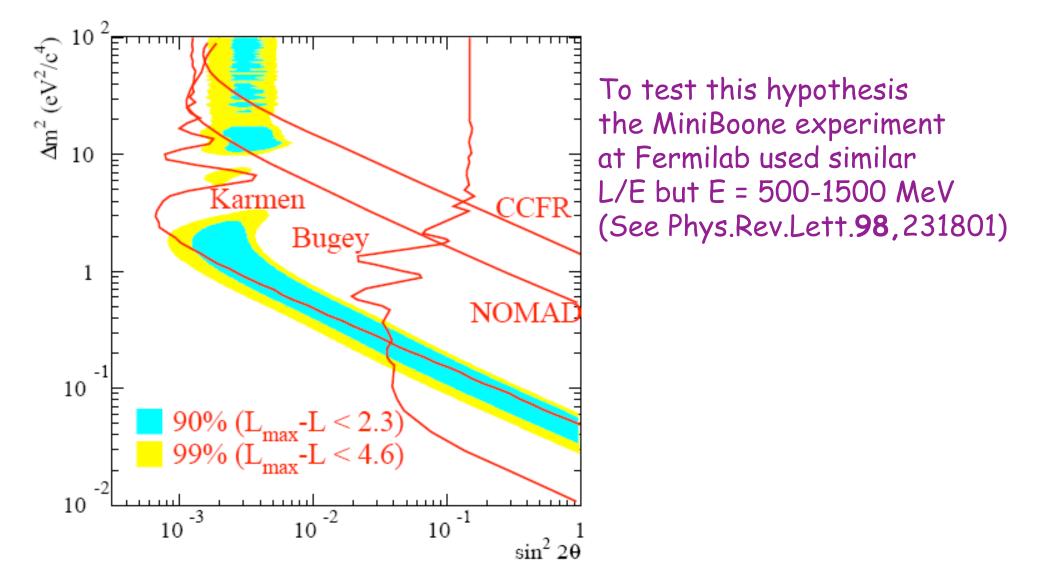


The status of the present knowledge of the neutrino oscillation phenomena. These quantities are unknown at present: The mass  $m_1$ The angle  $\theta_{13}$ c) Whether the normal or inverted hierarchy is realized. d) Most importantly, we do not know whether

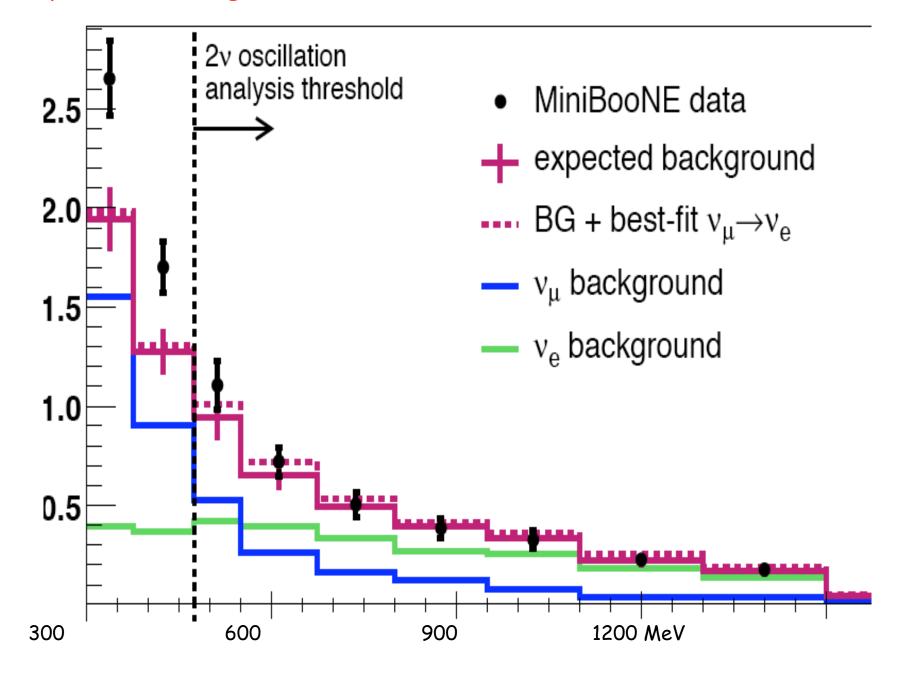
neutrinos are Dirac or Majorana fermions. Need Ονββ decay to decide this question. Fly in the ointment: The LSND Experiment (1993-98)



For LSND L(m)/E(MeV) ~ 1 so the simple oscillation picture requires that  $\Delta m^2 \sim 1 \text{ eV}^2$ , clearly not compatible with the 3 neutrino picture with solar and atmospheric  $\Delta m^2$ . Hence at least one sterile neutrino is required.



MiniBoone data above the previously chosen threshold of 475 MeV are compatible with background. LSND oscillation signal not observed. However, an anomaly at lower energies observed.



# Experimental goals for near future

- 1. Determine the mixing angle  $\theta_{13}$
- 2. Resolve the mass hierarchy (sign of  $\Delta m_{atm}^2$ )
- 3. Determine the Dirac CP phase  $\delta$
- 4. Determine how close is  $\theta_{23}$  to  $45^{\circ}$
- 5. Determine the absolute mass scale

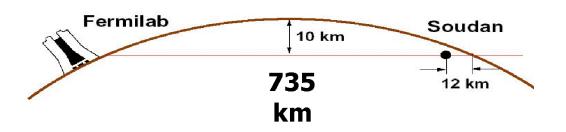
In order to solve the problems 1.-4. it is necessary to go beyond the 2 flavor picture and observe `subdominant' oscillations, suppressed by one of the small parameters,  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$  or  $\Delta m^2_{sol} / \Delta m^2_{atm}$ . The mass hierarchy can be resolved by matter effects.

The CP violation is proportional to the product (Jarlskog invariant)  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 2\theta_{23} \sin^2 \Delta m^2_{21} L/E_v \sin^2 \Delta m^2_{31} L/E_v \sin^2 \Delta m^2_{32} L/E_v \sin \delta$ 

# MINOS experiment:



<sup>c</sup> Running since 3/2005. Results so far:  $|\Delta m_{23}^2| = 2.38^{+0.20}_{-0.16} \times 10^{-3}$ eV<sup>2</sup>, sin<sup>2</sup>2 $\theta_{23}$  > 0.87 (68%CL), and (v-c)/c = (5.1  $\pm$  2.9) × 10<sup>-5</sup>.



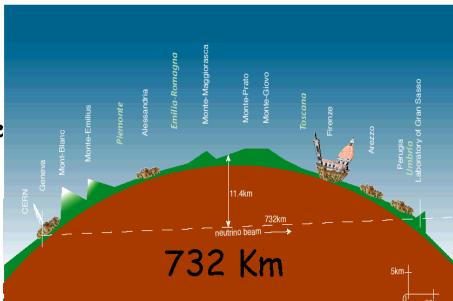
# **OPERA:** at Gran Sasso

Provide an unambiguous evidence for  $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$ oscillations in the region of atmospheric neutrinos by looking for  $v_{\tau}$  appearance in a pure  $v_{\mu}$  beam

Search for the subleading  $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$ scillations (measurement of  $\Theta_{13}$ ) Given the distance (732 Km):  $v_{\mu}$  flux optimized for the maximal

number of  $\nu^{}_{\tau}$  charged current

 $\times 1\bar{0}^9$  $P_{osc} * \sigma_{\tau \ cc}$  (arbitrary units) 0.4 ~ ∆m²= 3 10<sup>-3</sup>eV² In fluence at Gran Sasso (pot GeV 0.35 0.3 0.25 0.2 0.15 v\_fluen<u>ce</u> 0.1 0.05  $\mathbf{O}$ 35 40 Ō 30 45 50 5 20 25 10 15

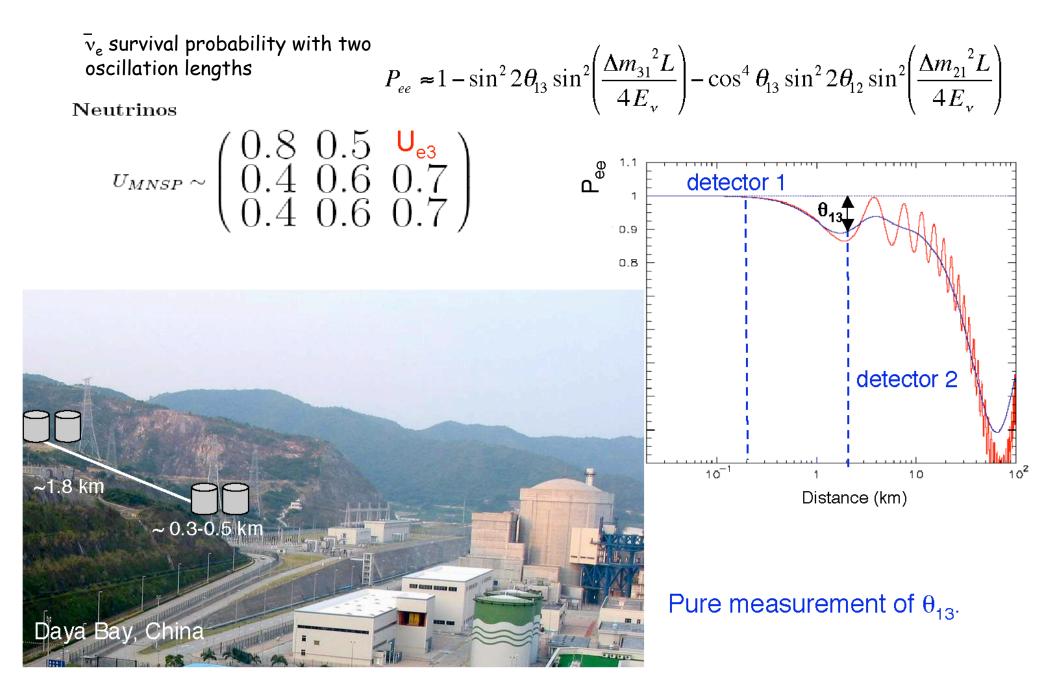


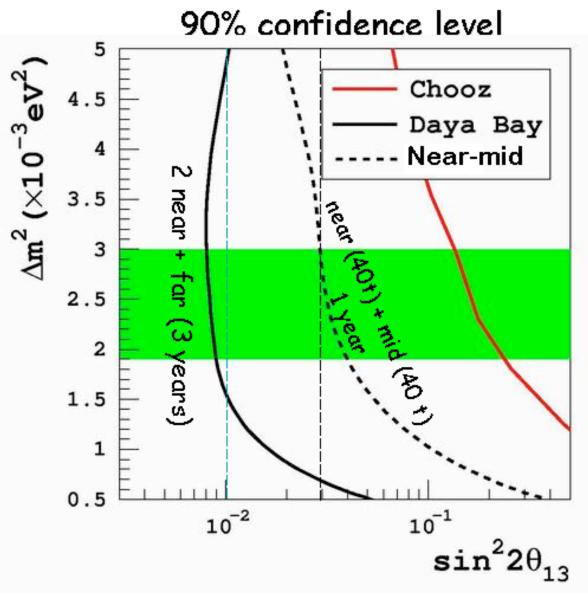
<ev<sub>µ&gt;</ev<sub>	17 GeV
$(v_e + \overline{v}_e) / v_\mu$	0.87%
<b>ν</b> <sub>μ</sub> / ν <sub>μ</sub>	2.1%
$v_{\tau}$ prompt	negligible

<L/E> = 43 Km/GeV : « off peak » OPERA: 6200  $v_{\mu}$  CC+NC /year

 $E^{45}$  50 E (GeV) 19 v<sub>t</sub> CC/year (@ 2 10<sup>-3</sup> eV<sup>2</sup>)

#### Determining $\theta_{13}$ with reactor neutrinos:

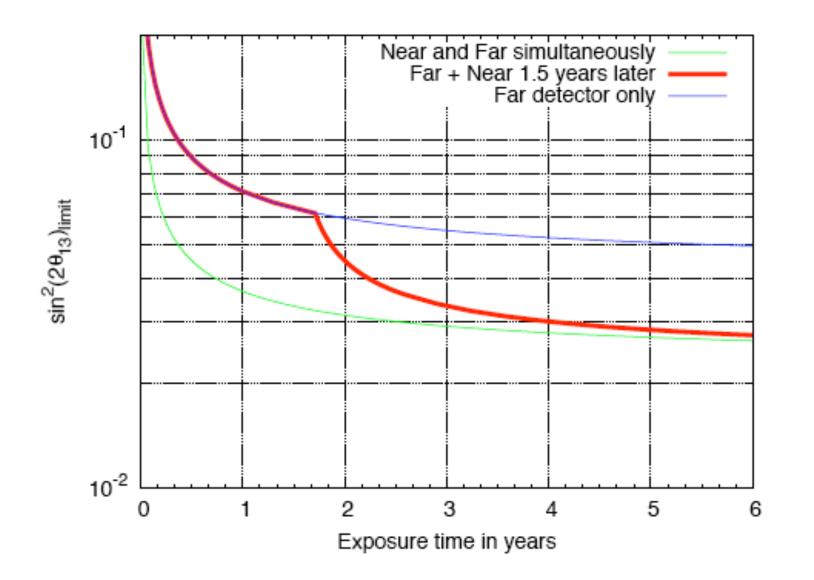


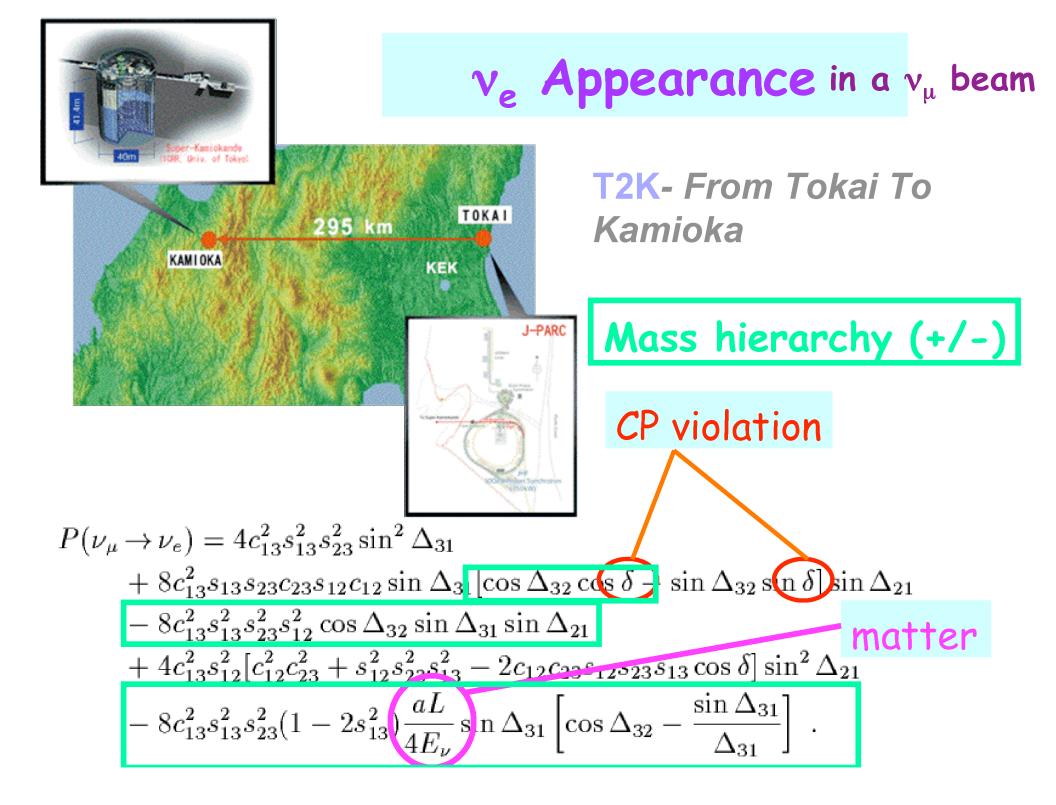


Projected sensitivity of the Daya-Bay experiment (ultimately to  $sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sim 0.01$ )

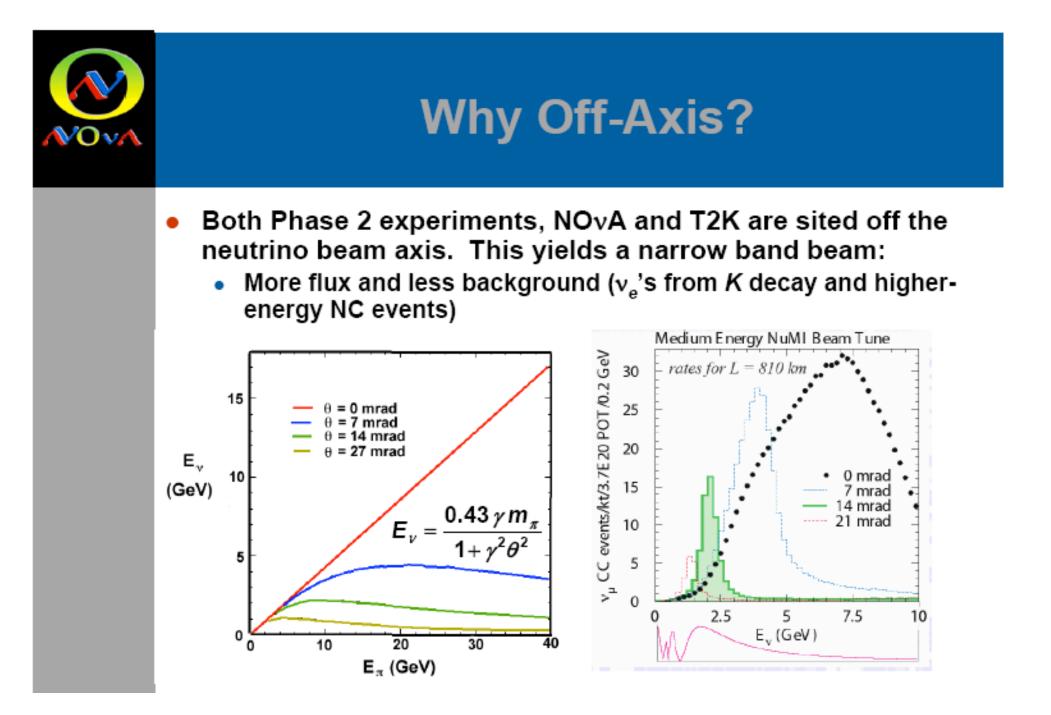
- Use rate and spectral shape
- input relative detector systematic error of 0.2%

**Double Chooz experiment:** projected sensitivity  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.03$ .

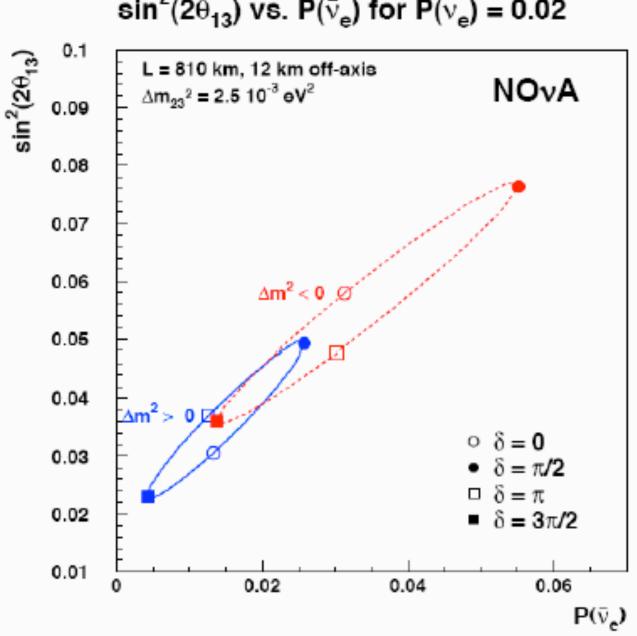




NOvA experiment at Ash River, 810 km from FermiLab

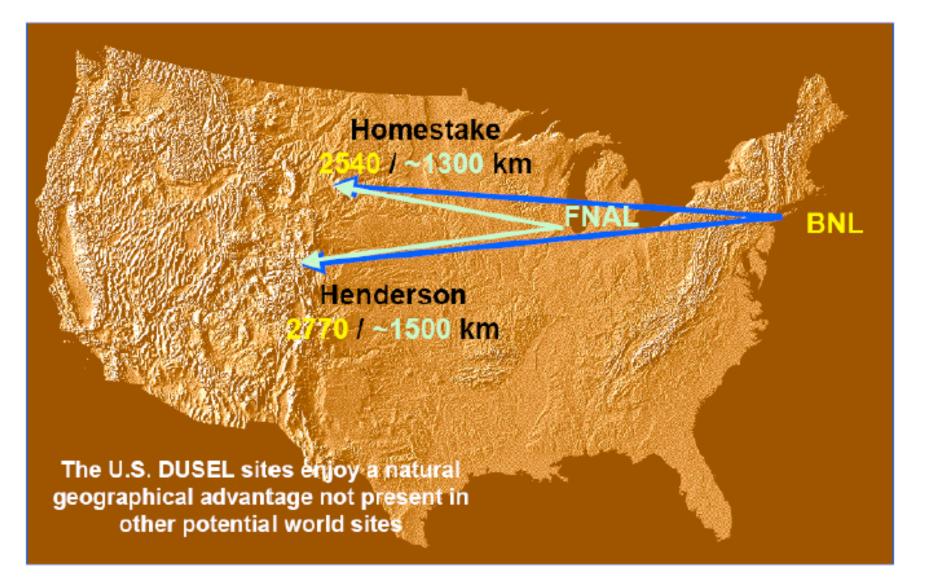


Parameter degeneracy: There are several solutions with different  $\Theta_{13}$ , sign of hierarchy, CP phase  $\delta$  giving the same P( $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$ )



 $sin^{2}(2\theta_{13})$  vs.  $P(\bar{v}_{e})$  for  $P(v_{e}) = 0.02$ 

#### Super Neutrino Beam to DUSEL Candidate Sites



DUSEL = Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory The Homestake (South Dakota) site now chosen and the FNAL beam

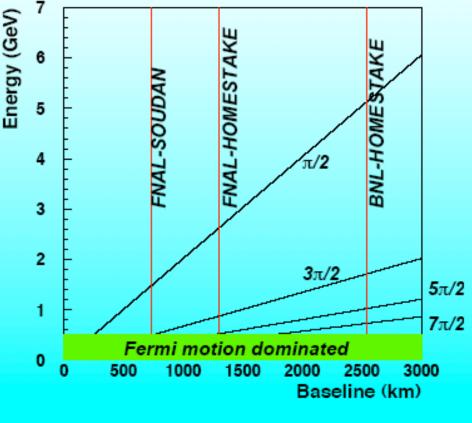
#### Why Very Long Baseline?

observe multiple nodes in oscillation pattern Iess dependent on flux normalization

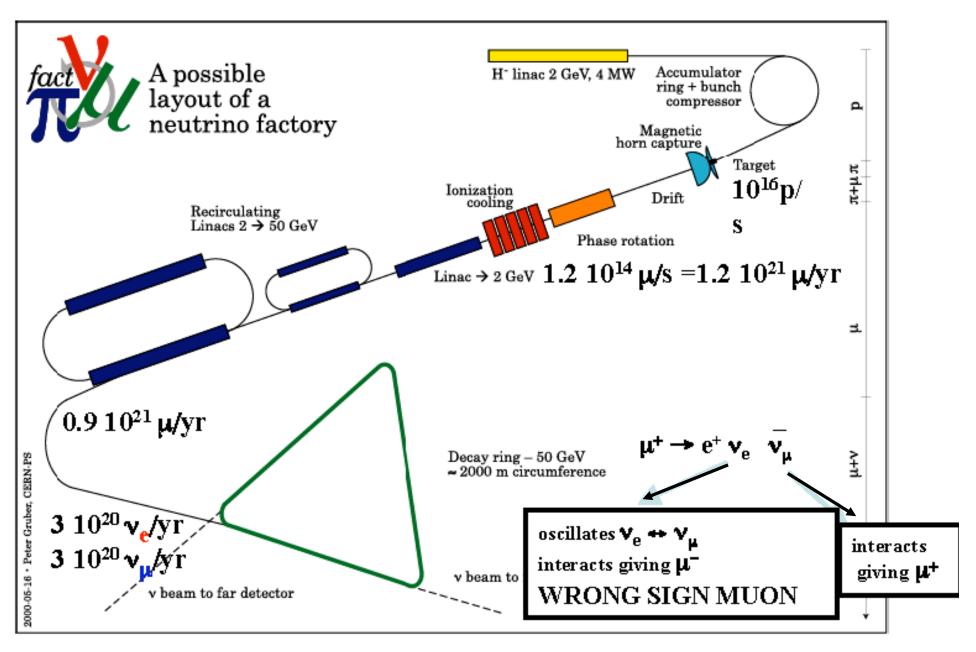
neutrino travels larger distance through earth larger matter effects

flux ~ L<sup>-2</sup>: lower statistics but: CP asymmetry ~ L sensitivity to  $\delta_{CP}$  independent of distance! better S:B (Marciano hep-ph/0108181)

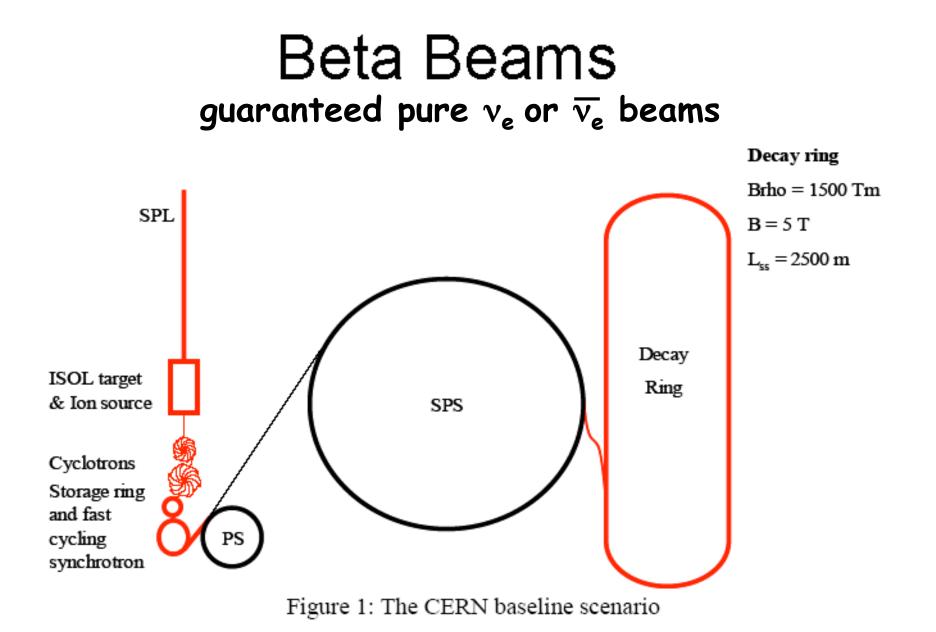
Oscillation Nodes for  $\Delta m^2 = 0.0025 \text{ eV}^2$ 



# Neutrino Factory -- CERN layout



The appearance of wrong sign muon represents golden measurement



The accelerated ions could be <sup>6</sup>He ( $T_{1/2}$  = 0.8s, Q = 3.5MeV,  $\beta^-$ ,  $\gamma \sim 150$ ) and <sup>18</sup>Ne ( $T_{1/2}$  = 1.7s, Q = 4.4 MeV,  $\beta^+$ ,  $\gamma \sim 60$ ) with ~10<sup>18</sup> decays/year

# Summary:

- The evidence for v oscillations and thus for the nonvanishing neutrino mass is beyond reasonable doubt.
- Several parameters (angles and  $\Delta m^2$ ) are determined with good accuracy, but some are still missing.
- Experiments designed to furnish the missing information are either running or will run soon.
- The pattern of mixing angles and masses is quite different than the somewhat analogous CKM matrix and masses of quarks.
- Some approximate symmetries (tri-bimaximal mixing) are present; their significance is not yet clear.
- It is hoped that the study of neutrino intrinsic properties will eventually lead to the formulation of the generalized Standard Model and to a better understanding of the origin of mass of elementary fermions.