

# OPOS Seminar: The NOvA Experiment

**Alex Himmel**

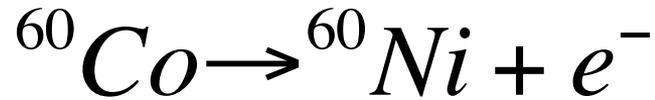
April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

(Plus a bunch of slides I stole from Ryan Patterson's  
Wine & Cheese presentation last summer)

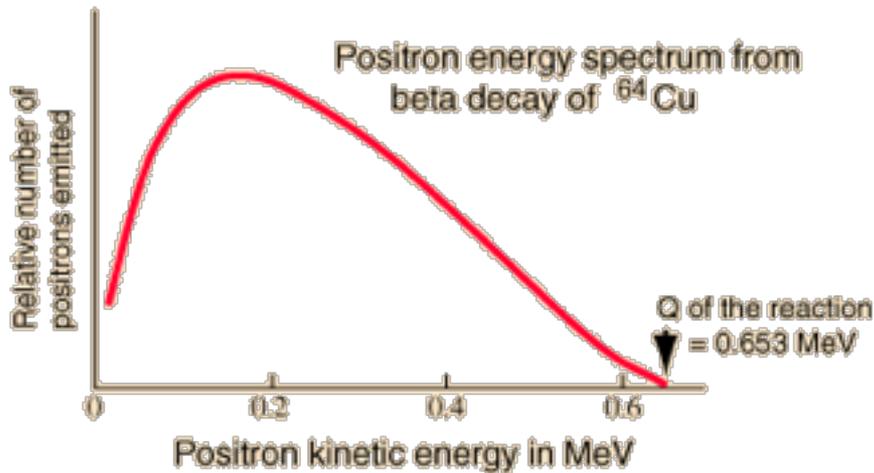
# Outline

- The neutrino
  - and neutrino oscillations
- The NOvA Experiment
- Production Processing
- $\nu_{\mu}$  Disappearance Results
- $\nu_e$  Appearance Results

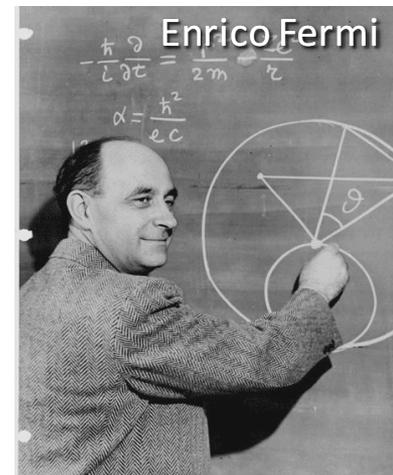
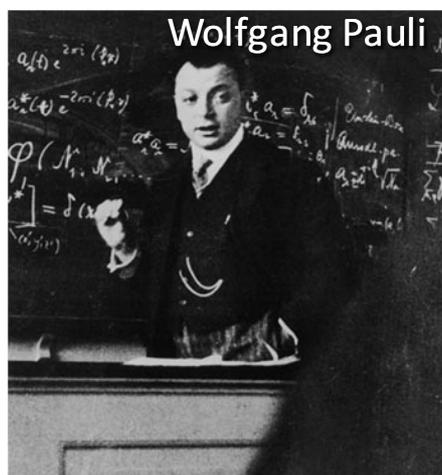
# The Neutrino



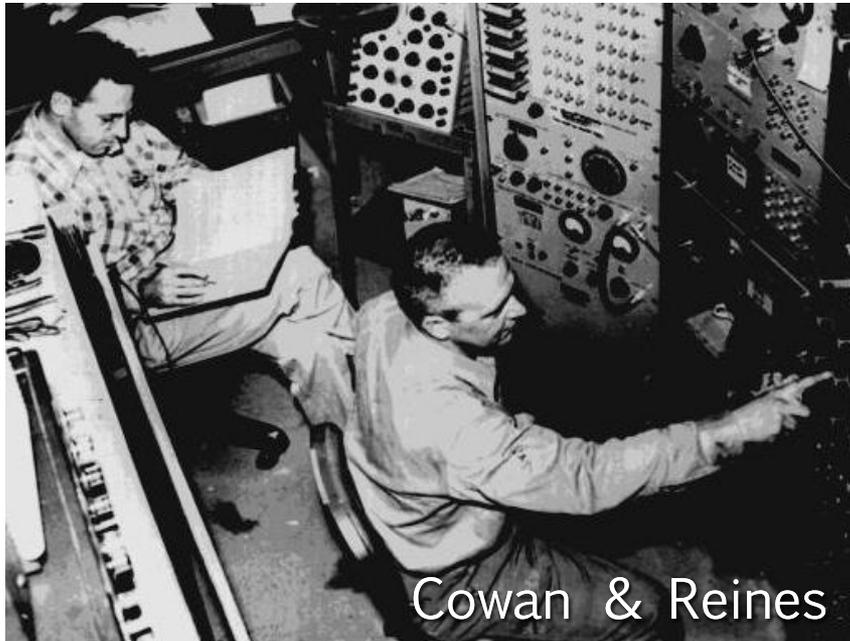
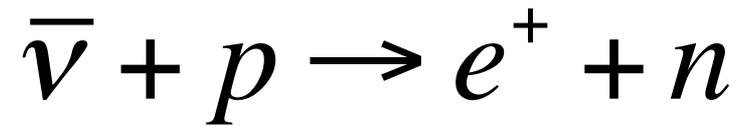
- The “little neutral one”
  - Massless, neutral particle
  - Proposed in the 1930’s to save energy conservation in  $\beta$  decay



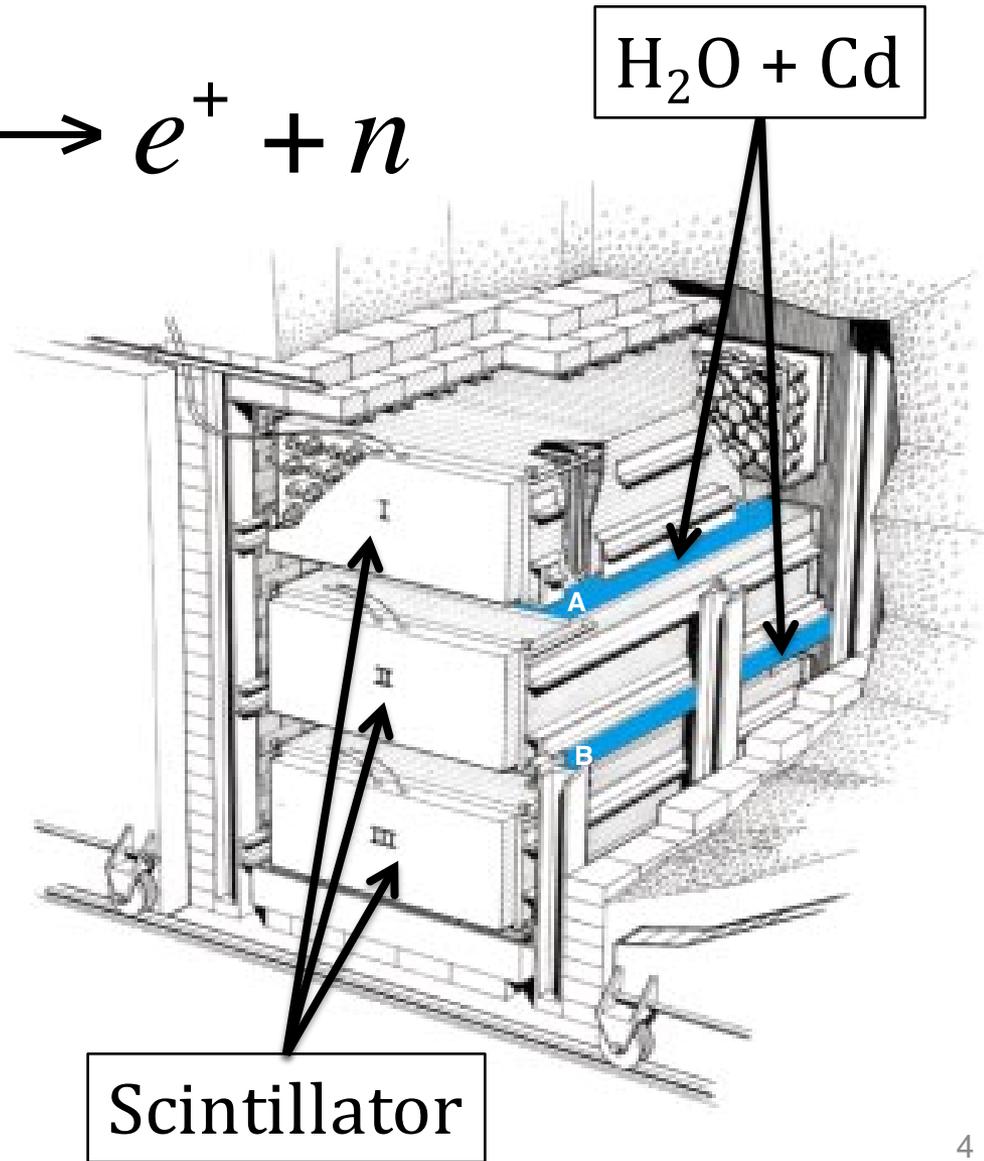
Alex Himmel



# The First Detection

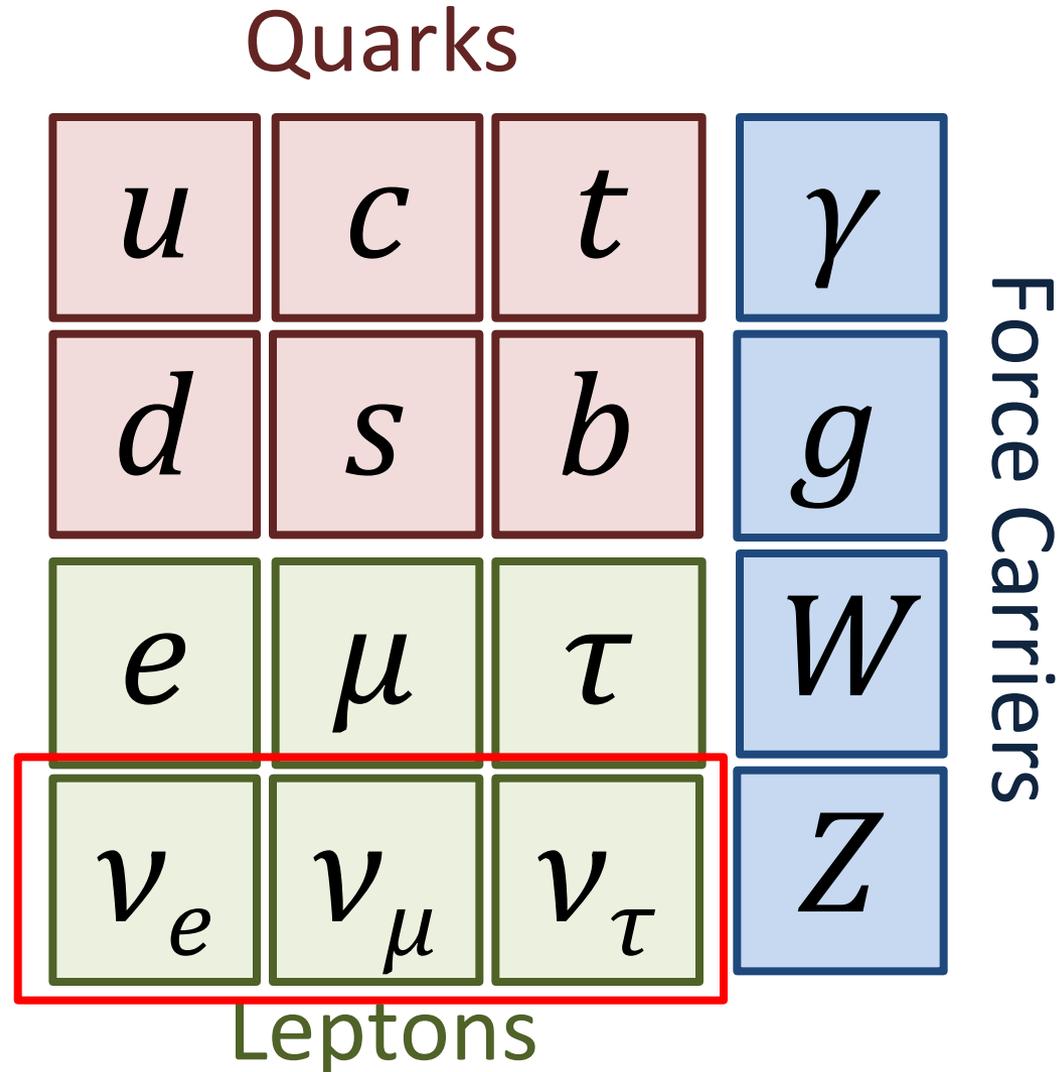


1956

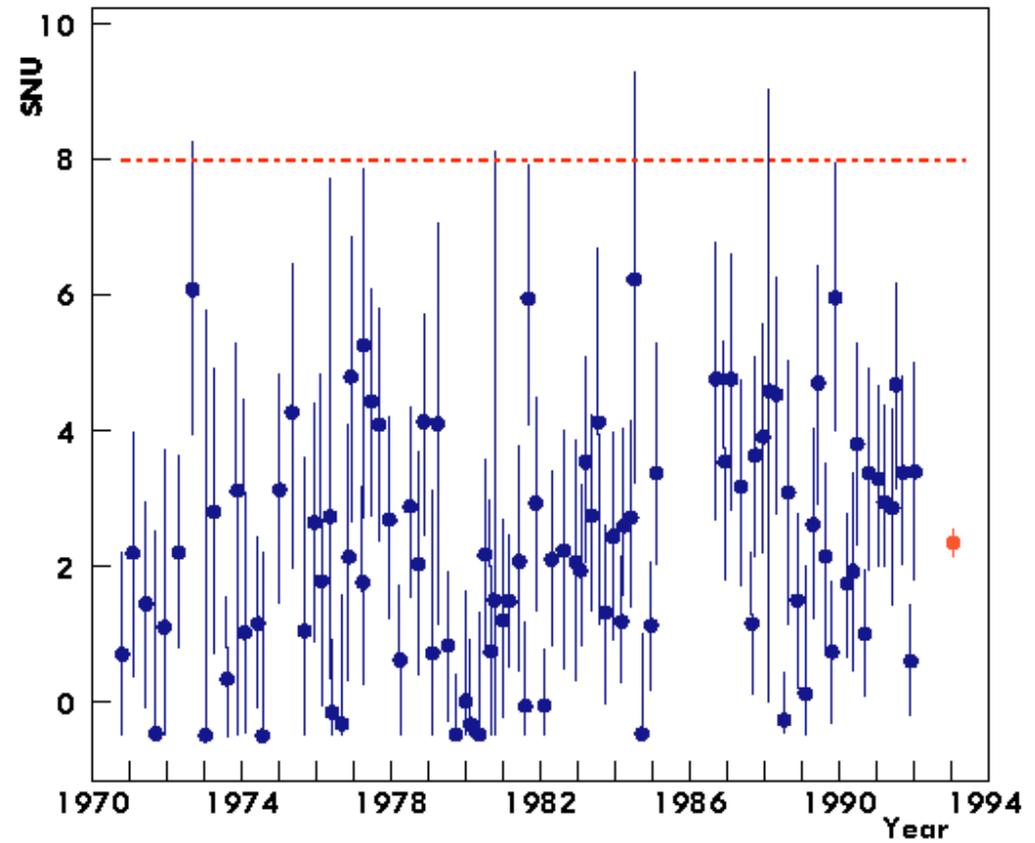
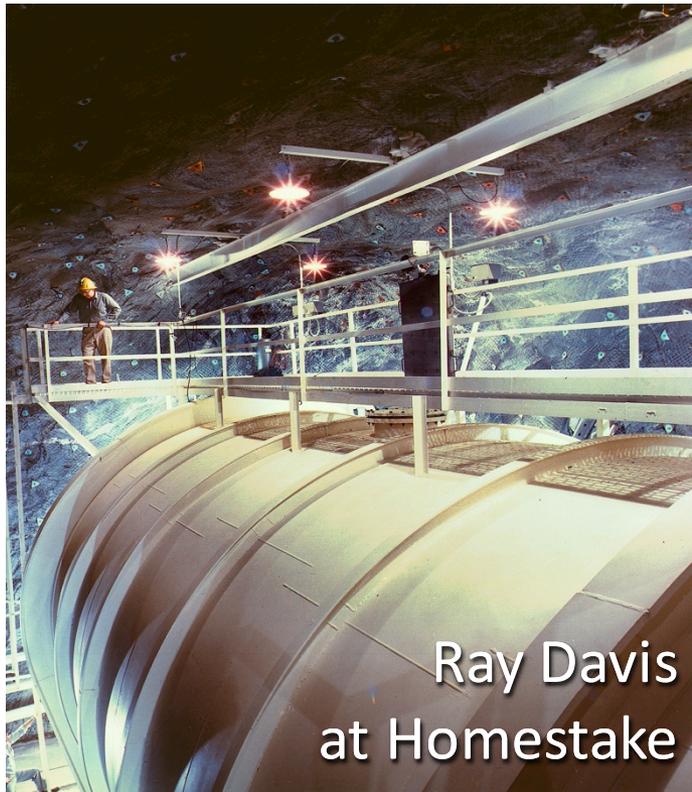
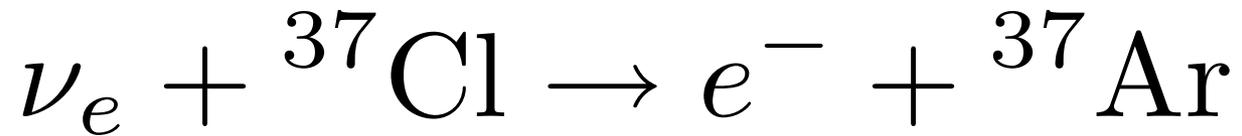


# The Neutrino in the Standard Model

- The standard model includes 3 flavors of massless, neutral neutrinos.
  - Only weak interactions



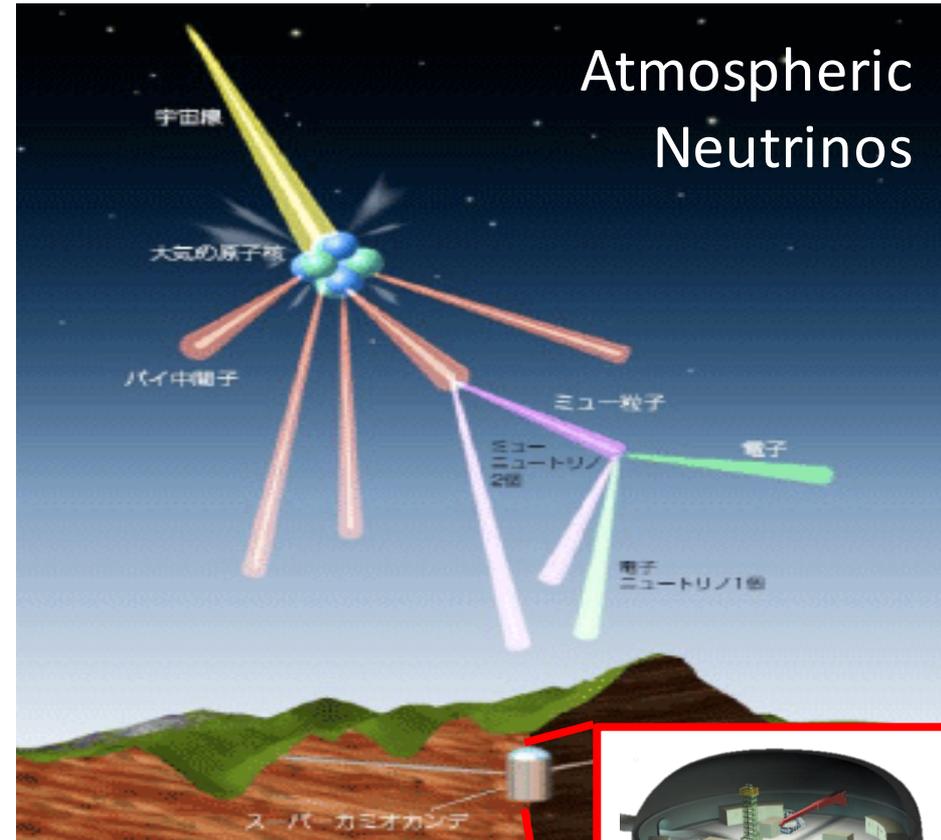
# The Solar Neutrino Problem



1969

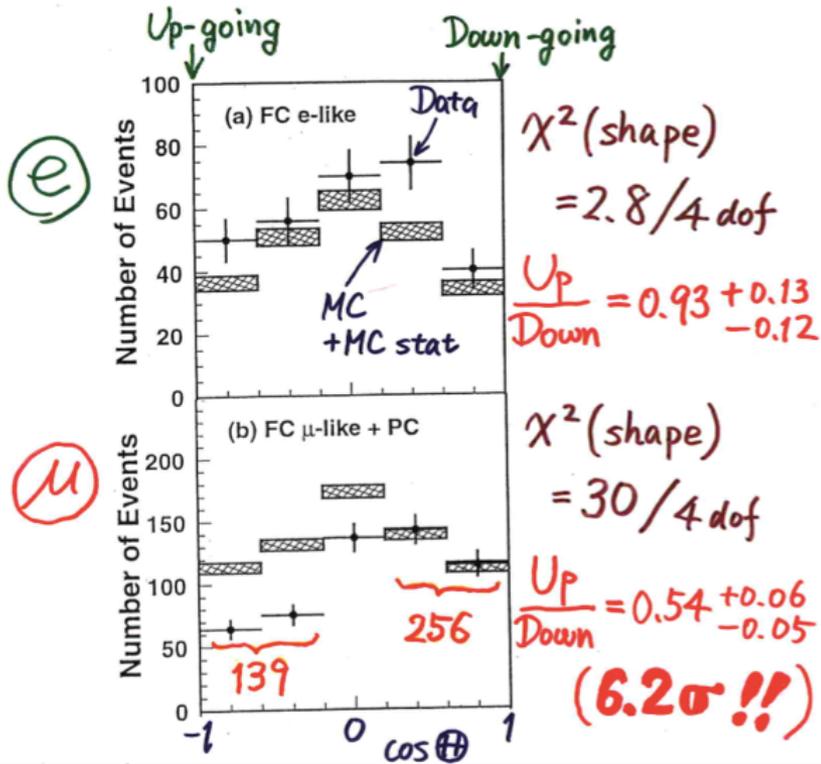
# The Solution: Neutrino Oscillations

Discovered in 1998 by Super-Kamiokande

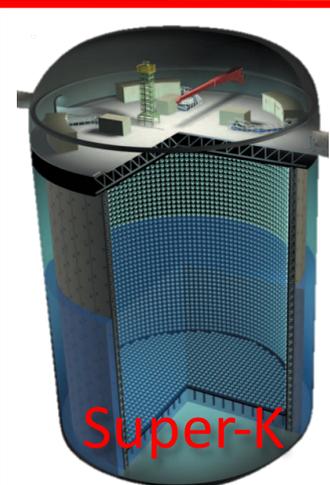


Atmospheric Neutrinos

Zenith angle dependence  
(Multi-GeV)



T. Kajita  
Neutrino 1998



Super-K

# Neutrino Oscillations

- Create in one flavor ( $\nu_\mu$ ), but detect in another ( $\nu_e$ )



# Neutrino Oscillations

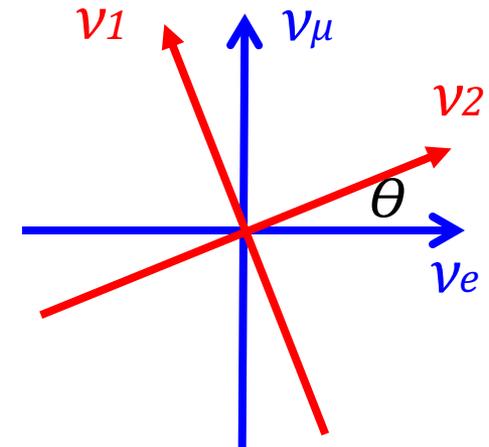
- Create in one flavor ( $\nu_\mu$ ), but detect in another ( $\nu_e$ )



- Each flavor ( $e, \mu$ ) is a superposition of different masses (1, 2)

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

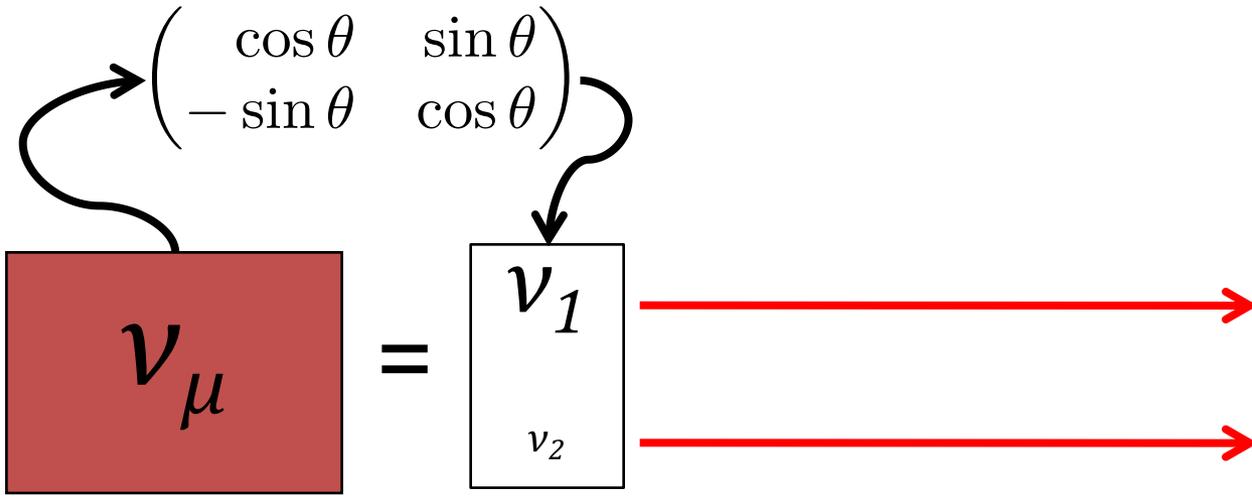
“Mixing Matrix”



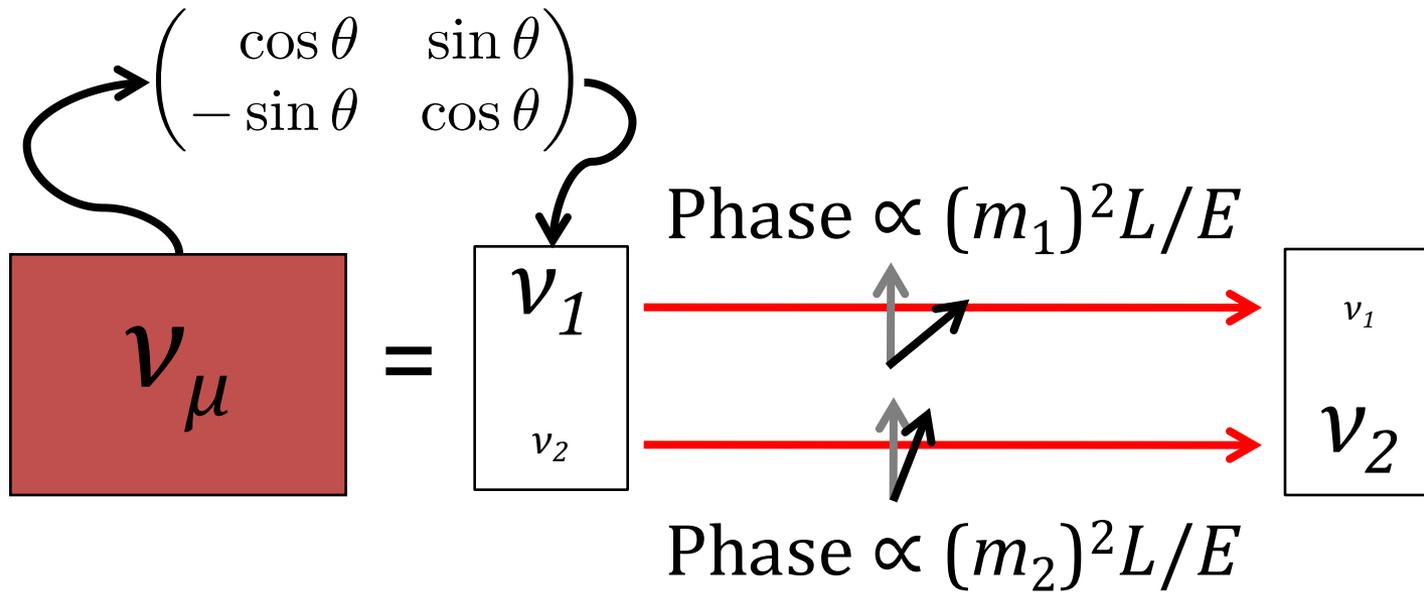
# Neutrino Oscillations



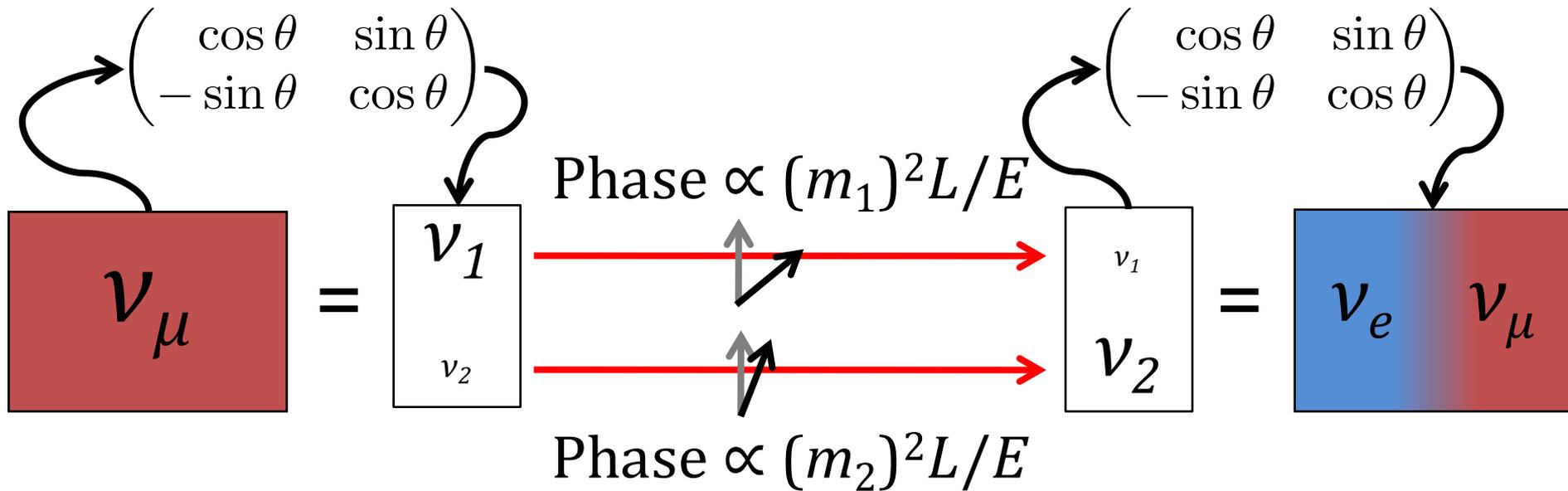
# Neutrino Oscillations



# Neutrino Oscillations

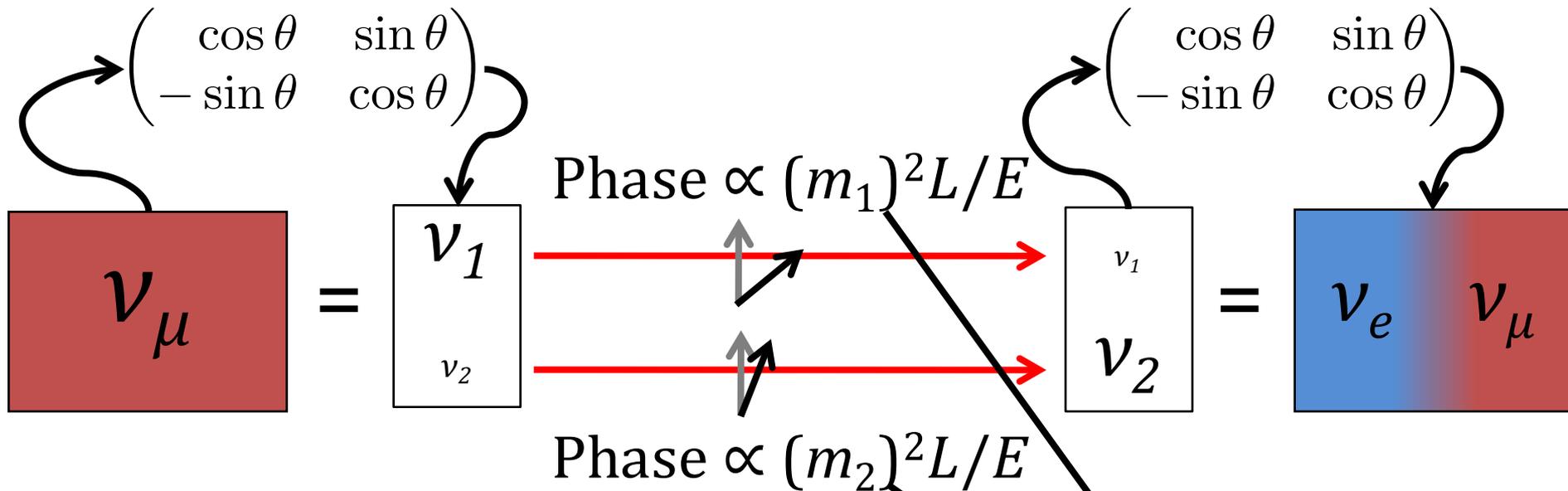


# Neutrino Oscillations



Neutrino oscillations  
require that neutrinos  
have mass!

# Neutrino Oscillations



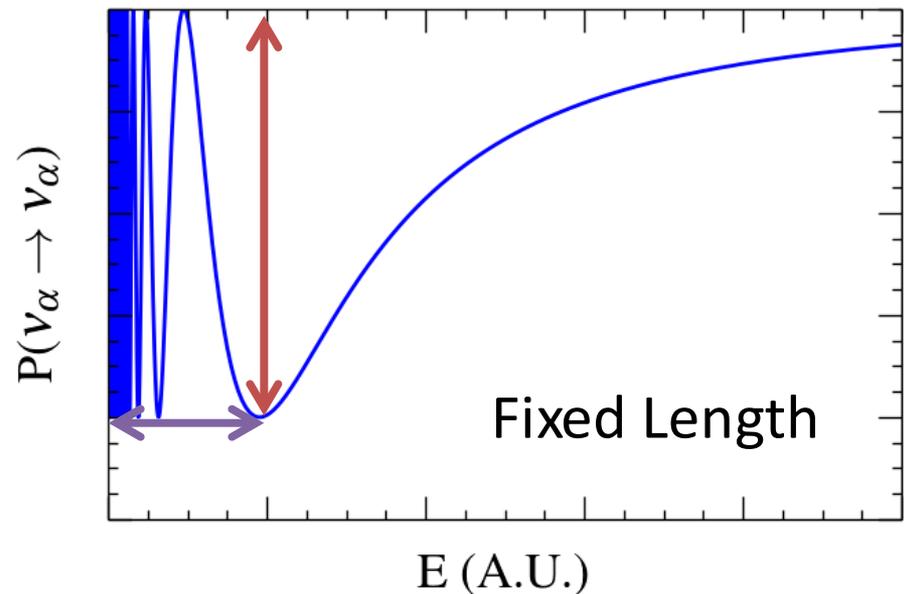
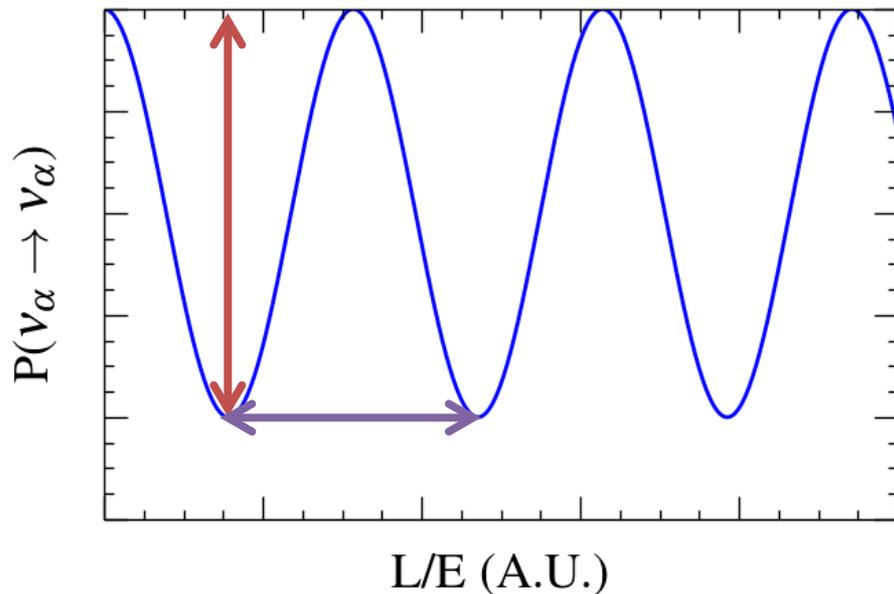
Muon Neutrino Survival Probability

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = 1 - \sin^2(2\theta) \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E}\right)$$

# Neutrino Oscillations

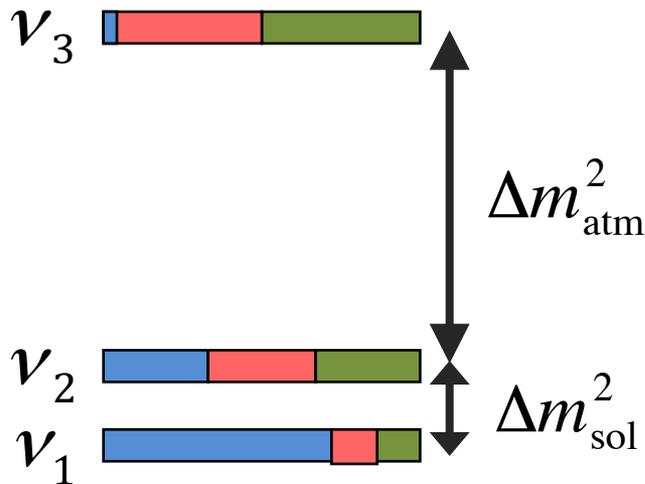
- With only 2 neutrinos, the oscillation formula is simple:

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = 1 - \sin^2(2\theta) \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E}\right)$$



# The PMNS Mixing Matrix

$$\text{Flavor} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix} \text{Mass}$$



Бруно Понтекорво

Pontecorvo

[Sov.Phys.JETP 6:429, 1957](#)

[Sov.Phys.JETP 26:984-988, 1968](#)



Shiroichi Sakata

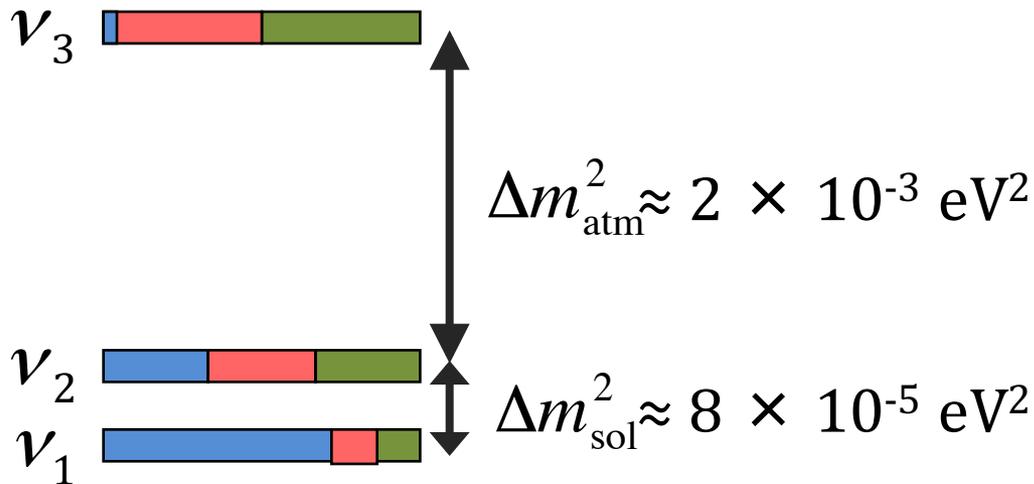
Maki, Nakagawa, Sakata

[Prog.Theor.Phys. 28, 870 \(1962\)](#)

# What We Know

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Flavor} \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{array}{c} \text{atmospheric} \\ \text{accelerator } \nu_\mu \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} \text{short baseline reactor} \\ \text{accelerator } \nu_e \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} \text{solar} \\ \text{long baseline reactor} \end{array} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Mass} \end{array}$$

$$\theta_{23} \approx 45^\circ \qquad \theta_{13} \approx 9^\circ \qquad \theta_{12} \approx 34^\circ$$

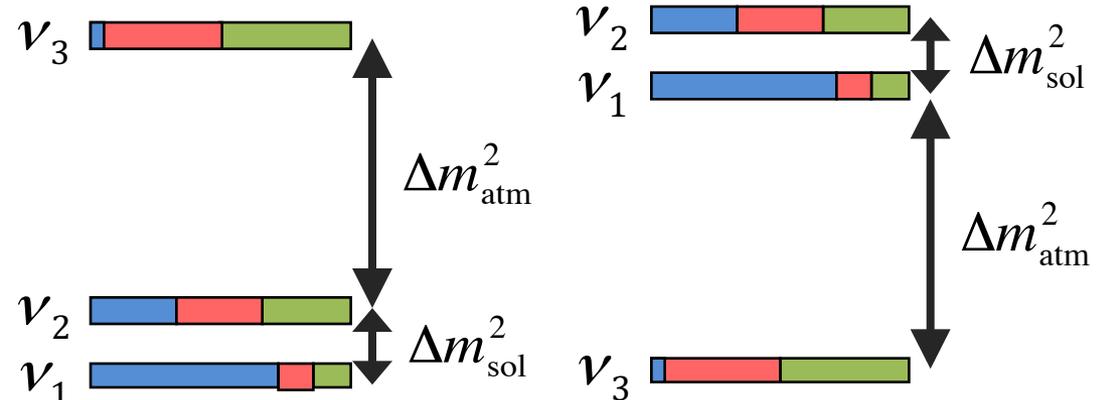


# What We Don't Know

$$\text{Flavor} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix} \text{Mass}$$

atmospheric accelerator  $\nu_\mu$       short baseline reactor accelerator  $\nu_e$       solar long baseline reactor

Phase  $\delta_{CP}$ , and potentially CP violation

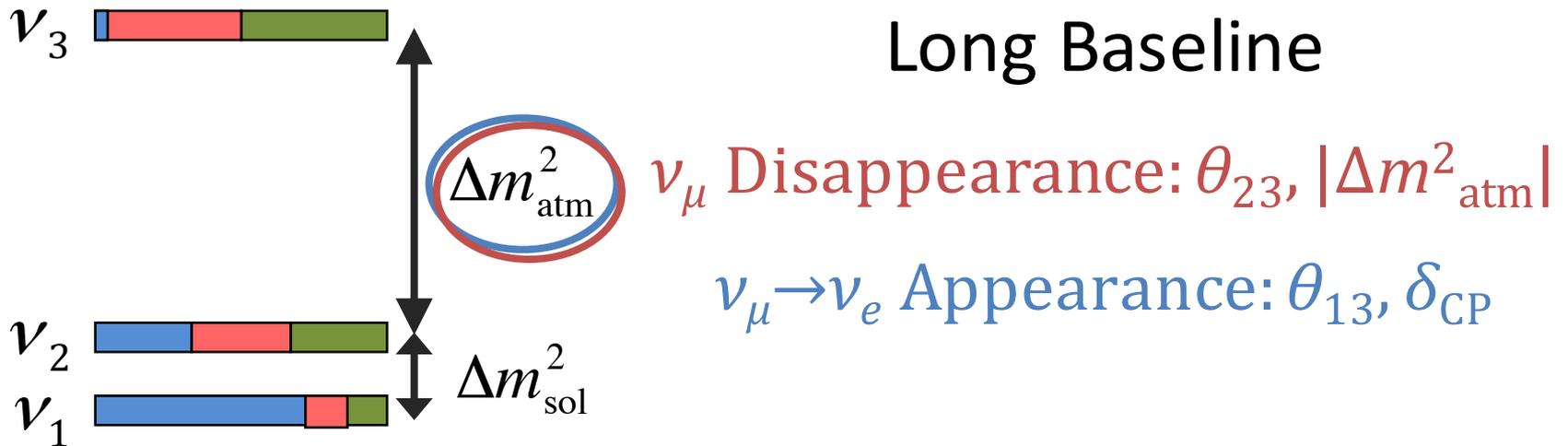


The “mass hierarchy,”  
the sign of the atmospheric  $\Delta m^2$

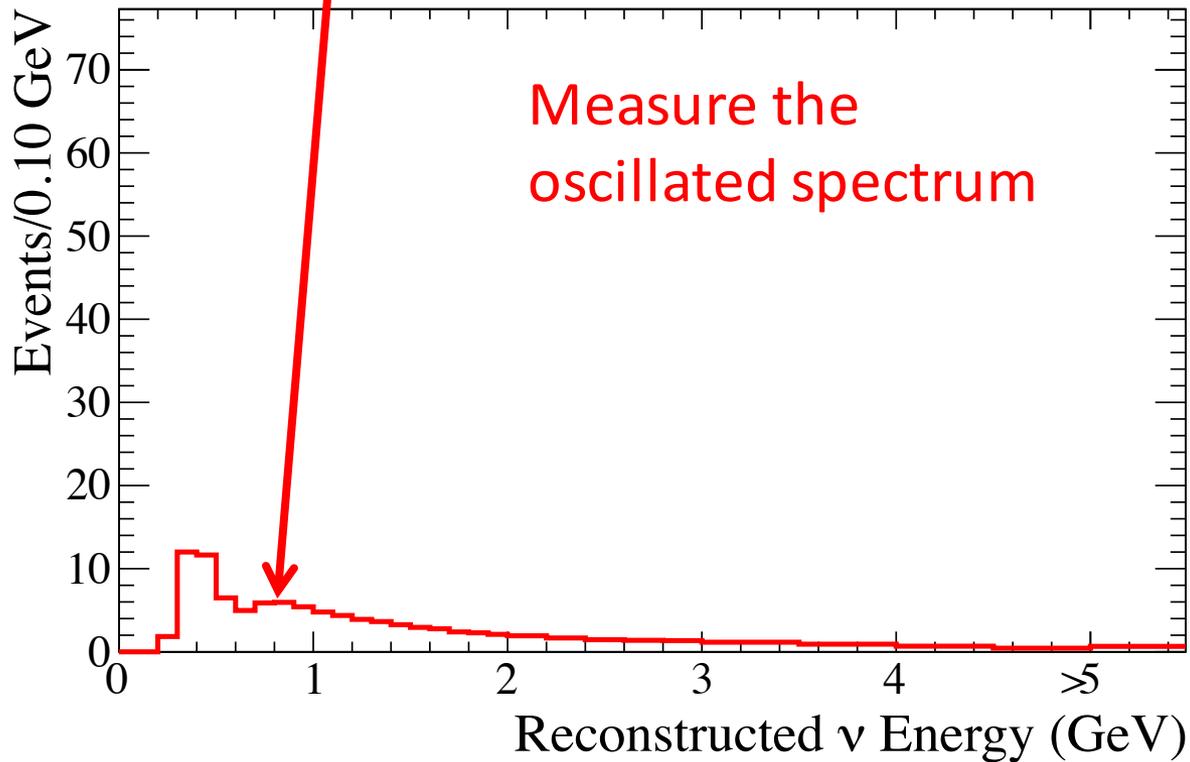
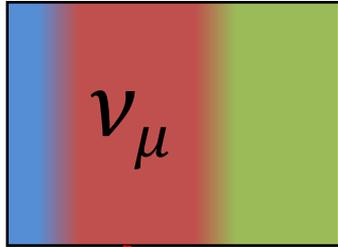
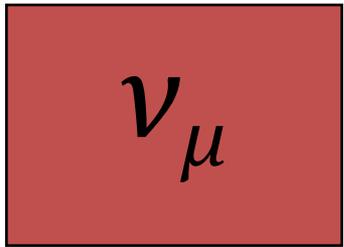
# Oscillation Physics at NOvA

atmospheric      short baseline reactor      solar  
accelerator  $\nu_\mu$       accelerator  $\nu_e$       long baseline reactor

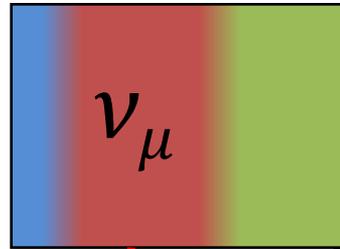
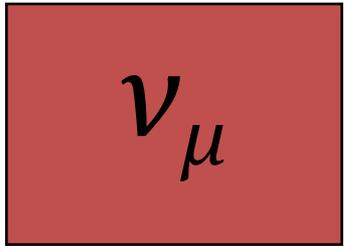
Flavor  $\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$  Mass



# How We Measure Oscillations: Disappearance

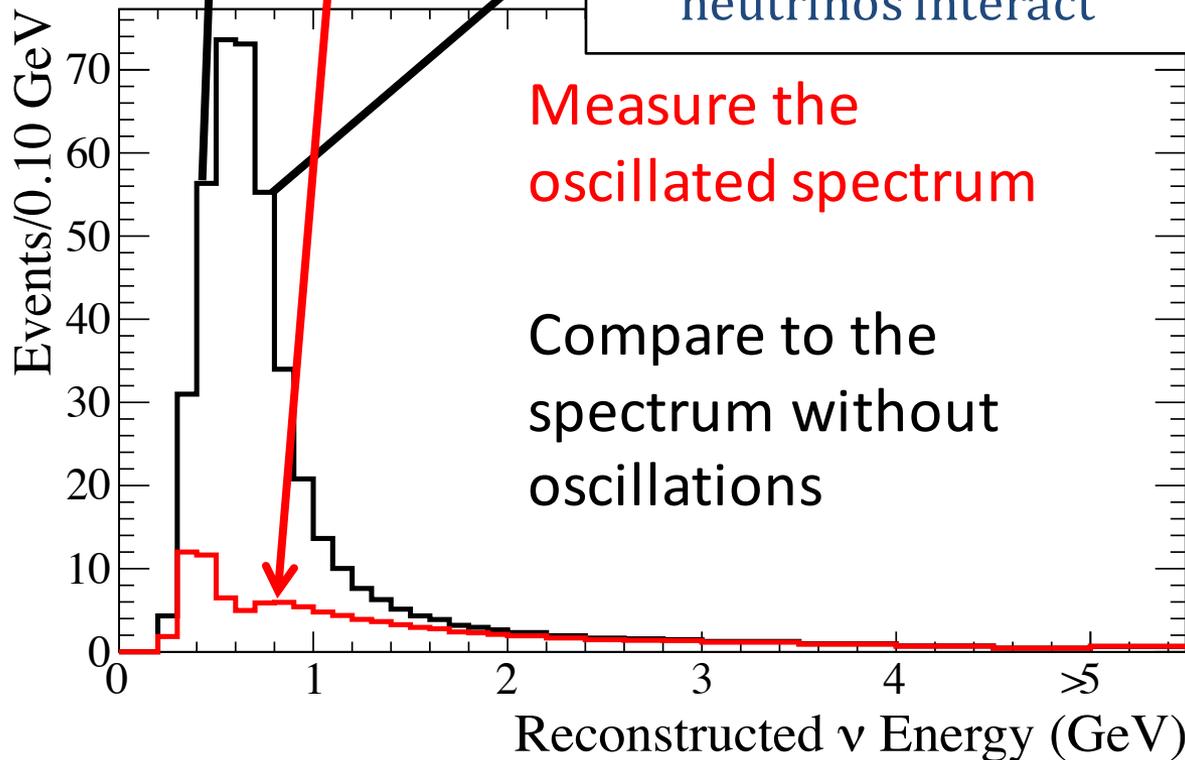


# How We Measure Oscillations: Disappearance

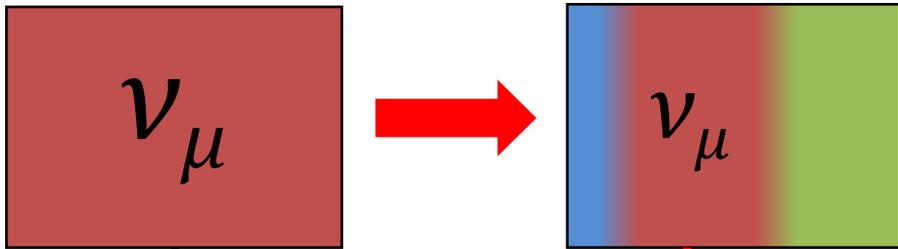


Significant uncertainties in the prediction

- **Flux:** number of neutrinos produced
- **Cross section:** how often the neutrinos interact

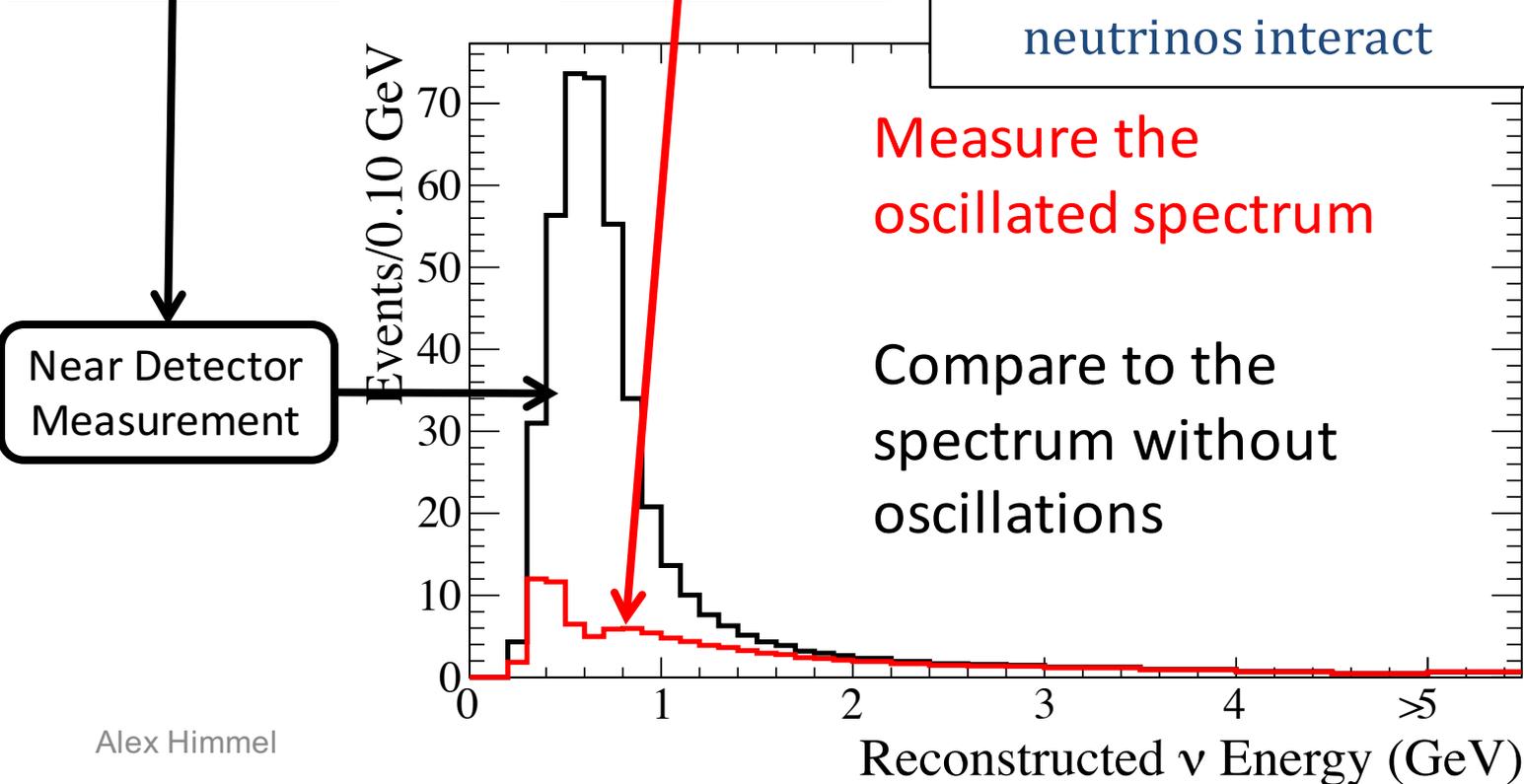


# How We Measure Oscillations: Disappearance



Significant uncertainties in the prediction

- **Flux:** number of neutrinos produced
- **Cross section:** how often the neutrinos interact



# NOvA

## A broad physics scope

Using  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ ,  $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$  ...

- Determine the  $\nu$  mass hierarchy
- Determine the  $\theta_{23}$  octant
- Constrain  $\delta_{CP}$

Using  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$ ,  $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu$  ...

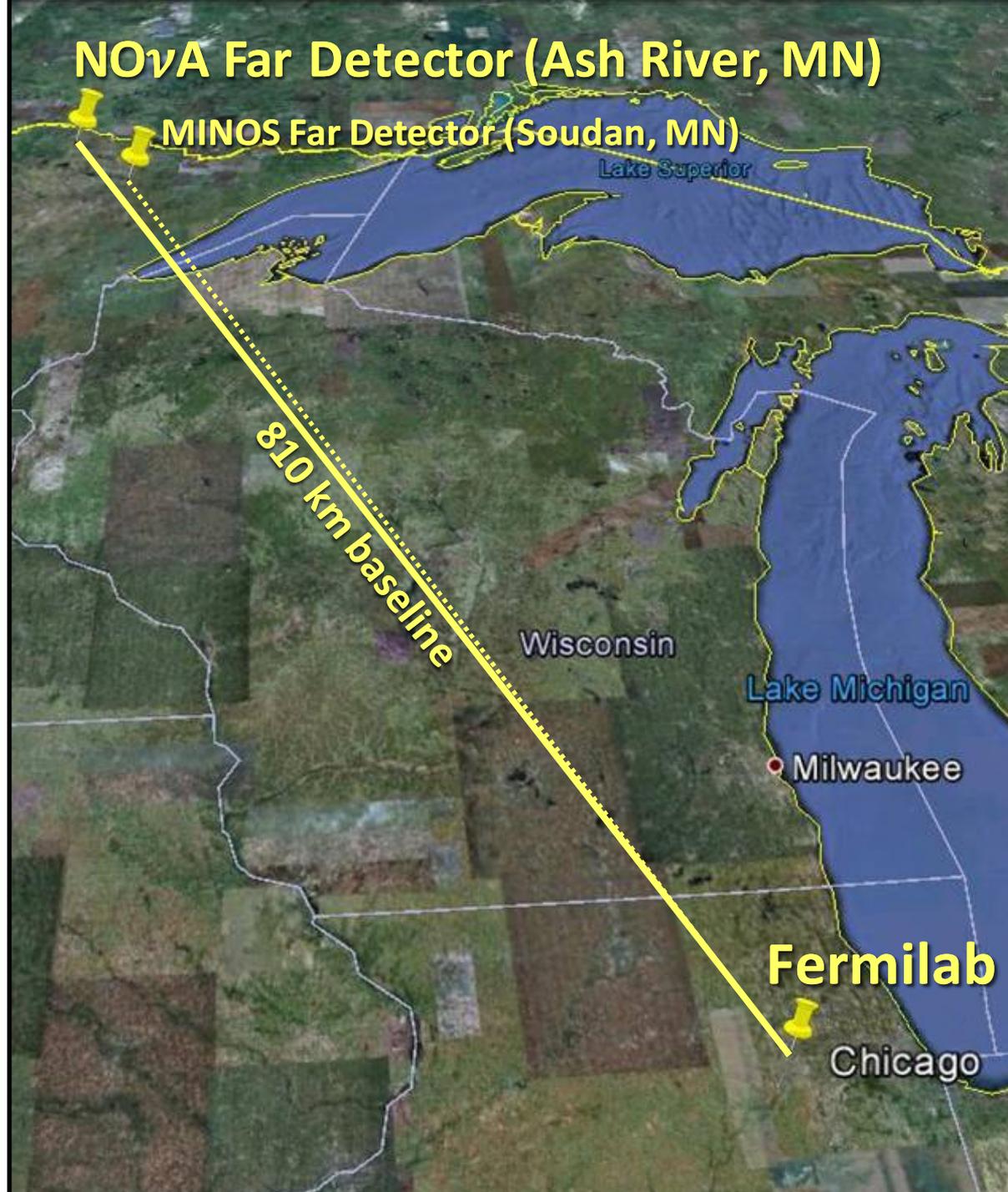
- Precision measurements of  $\sin^2 2\theta_{23}$  and  $\Delta m_{32}^2$ .  
(Exclude  $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$ ?)
- **Over-constrain** the atmos. sector  
(four oscillation channels)

Also ...

- Neutrino cross sections at the NOvA Near Detector
- Sterile neutrinos
- Supernova neutrinos
- Other exotica

## NOvA Far Detector (Ash River, MN)

MINOS Far Detector (Soudan, MN)



810 km baseline

Fermilab

Chicago

Wisconsin

Lake Michigan

Milwaukee

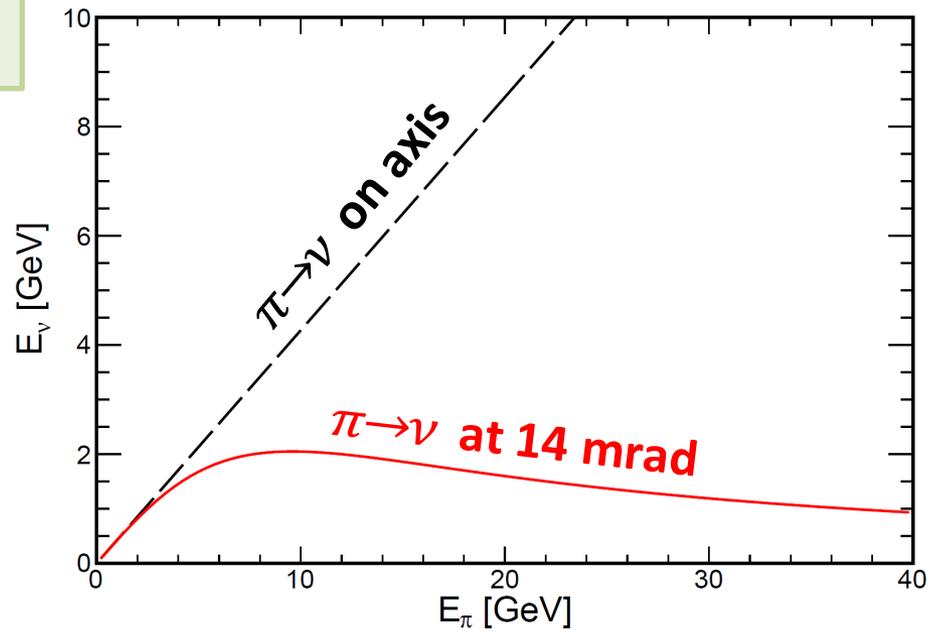
Lake Superior

# NuMI off-axis beam

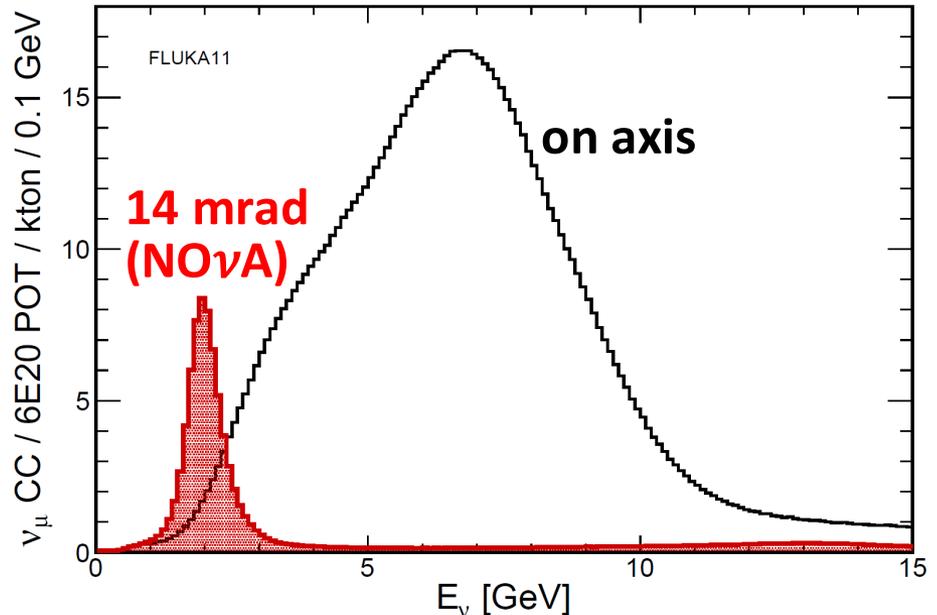
NO $\nu$ A detectors are sited **14 mrad** off the NuMI beam axis

With the **medium-energy NuMI** tune, yields a narrow 2-GeV spectrum at the NO $\nu$ A detectors

→ **Reduces NC and  $\nu_e$  CC backgrounds** in the oscillation analyses while maintaining **high  $\nu_\mu$  flux at 2 GeV**.



NO $\nu$ A Simulation



# Fermilab Neutrino Complex

**NuMI =**

*Neutrinos from the  
Main Injector*

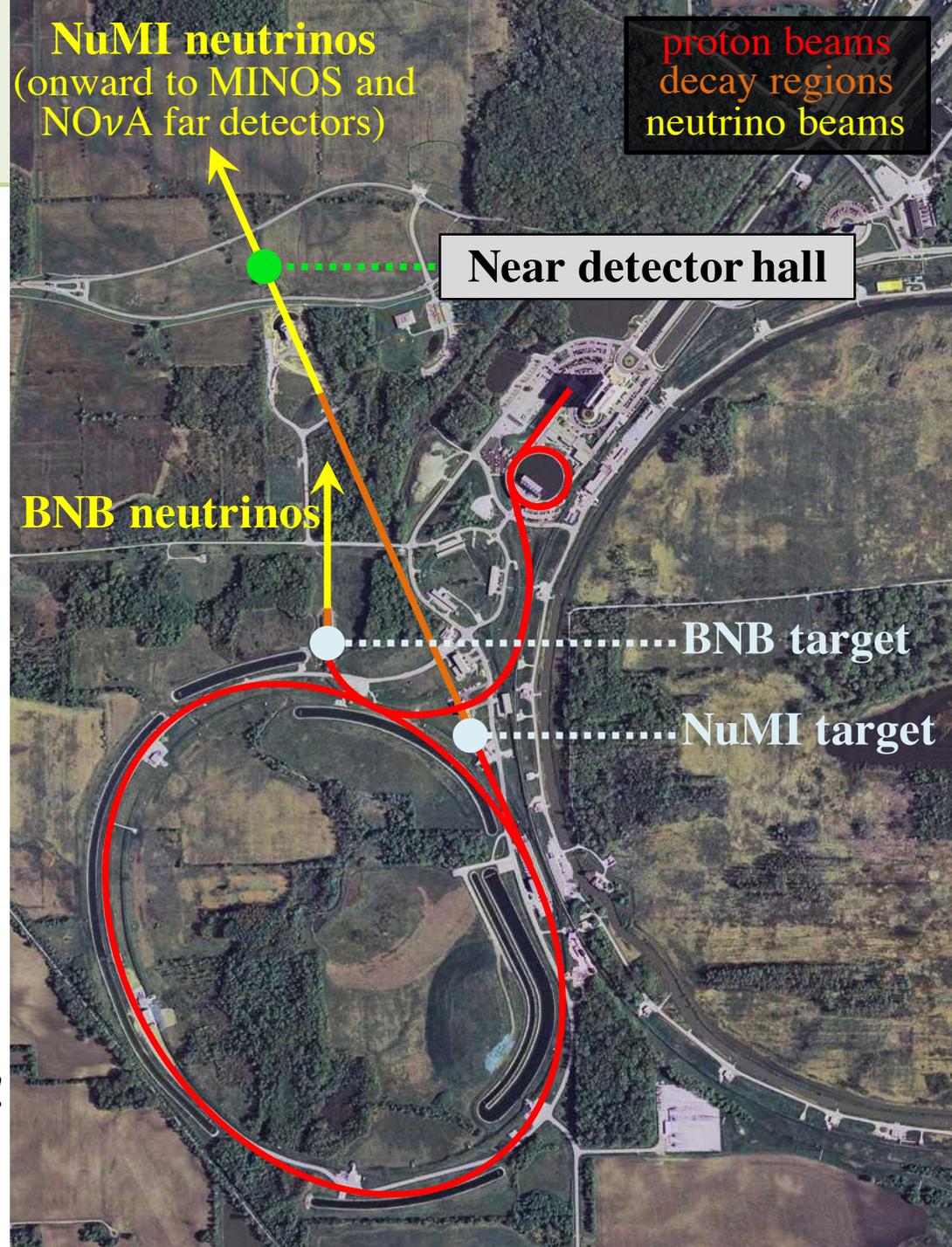
**Long shutdown in 2012–2013**

- Repurpose recycler for injection
- Add associated kickers and instrumentation
- RF, power supply upgrades
- Overhaul of NuMI target station
  - **Major upgrades toward 700 kW operation**

*Since March 2015:*

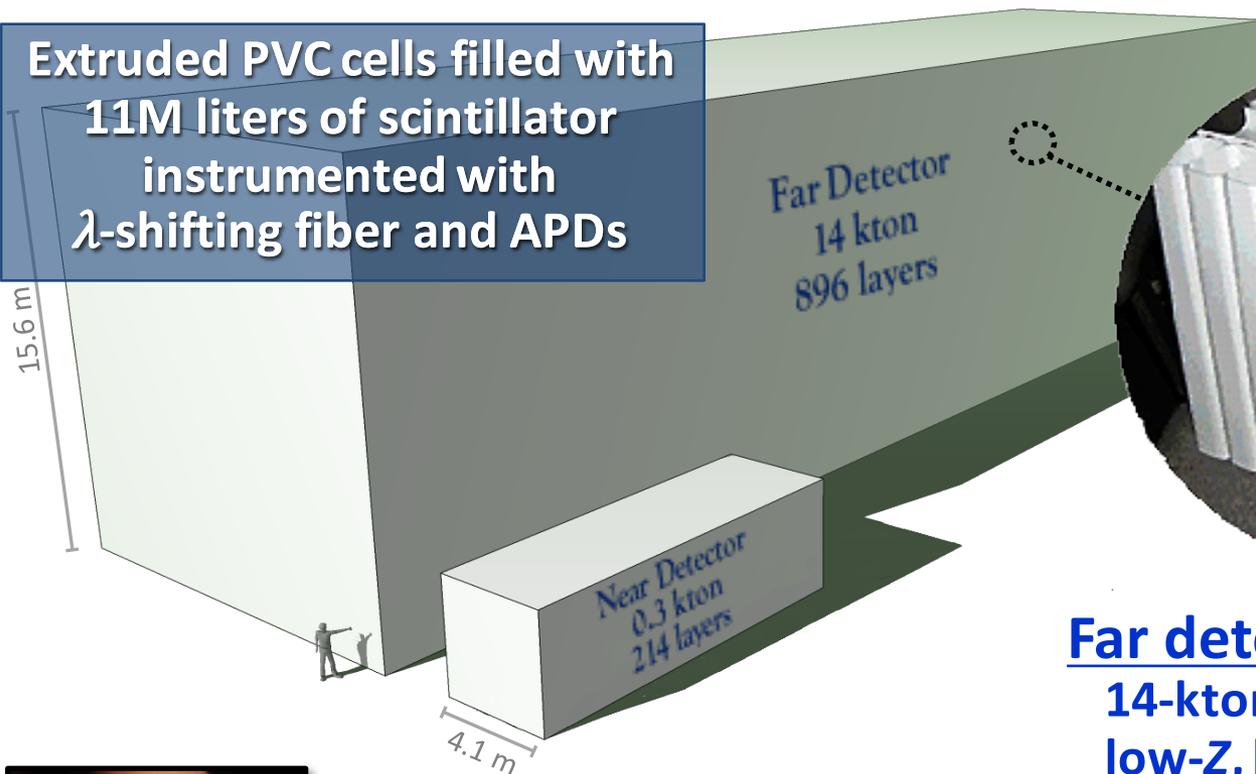
Routine slip-stacking (2+6 batches)  
into recycler, typically ~420 kW

- **Beam power record: 521 kW!**
- **85% uptime!**



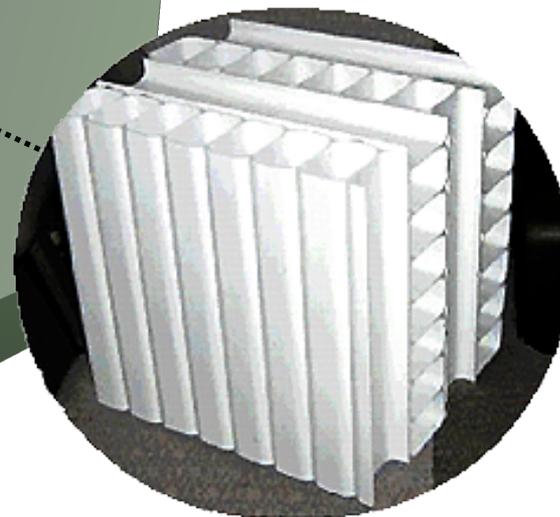
# NO $\nu$ A detectors

Extruded PVC cells filled with  
11M liters of scintillator  
instrumented with  
 $\lambda$ -shifting fiber and APDs



## A NO $\nu$ A cell

To APD



1560 cm

4 cm × 6 cm

### Far detector:

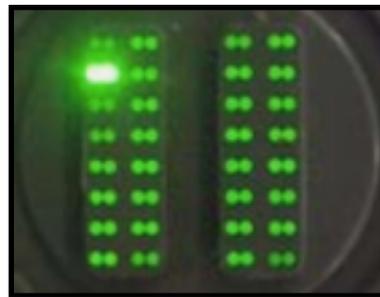
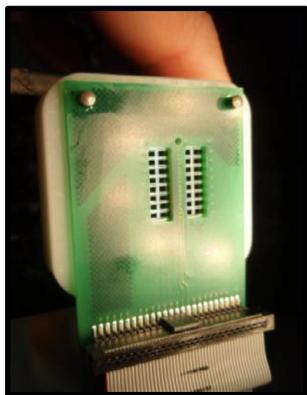
14-kton, fine-grained,  
low-Z, highly-active  
tracking calorimeter  
→ 344,000 channels

### Near detector:

0.3-kton version of  
the same  
→ 20,000 channels

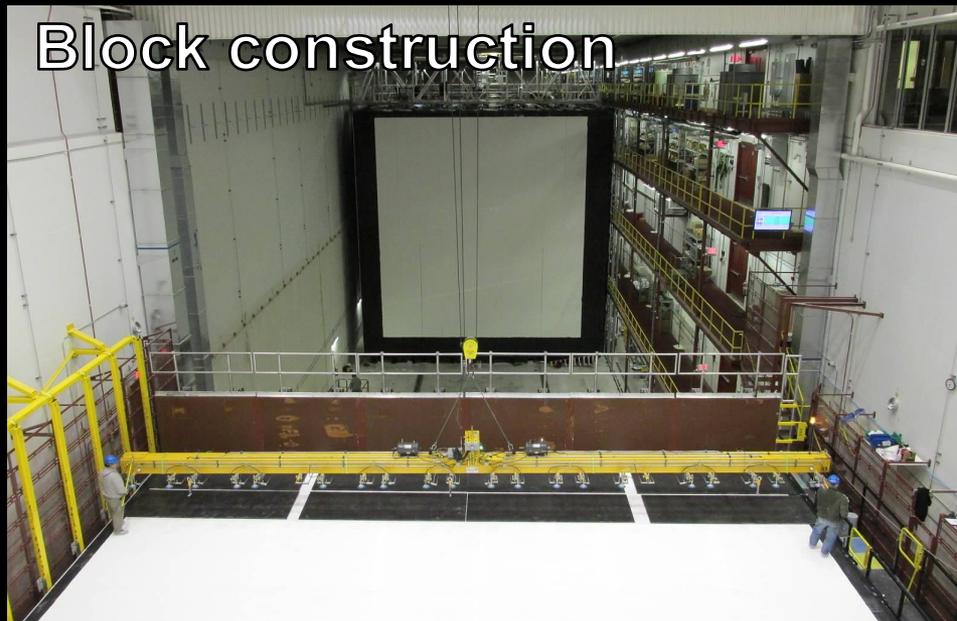
32-pixel APD

Fiber pairs  
from 32 cells





Far Detector site



Block construction

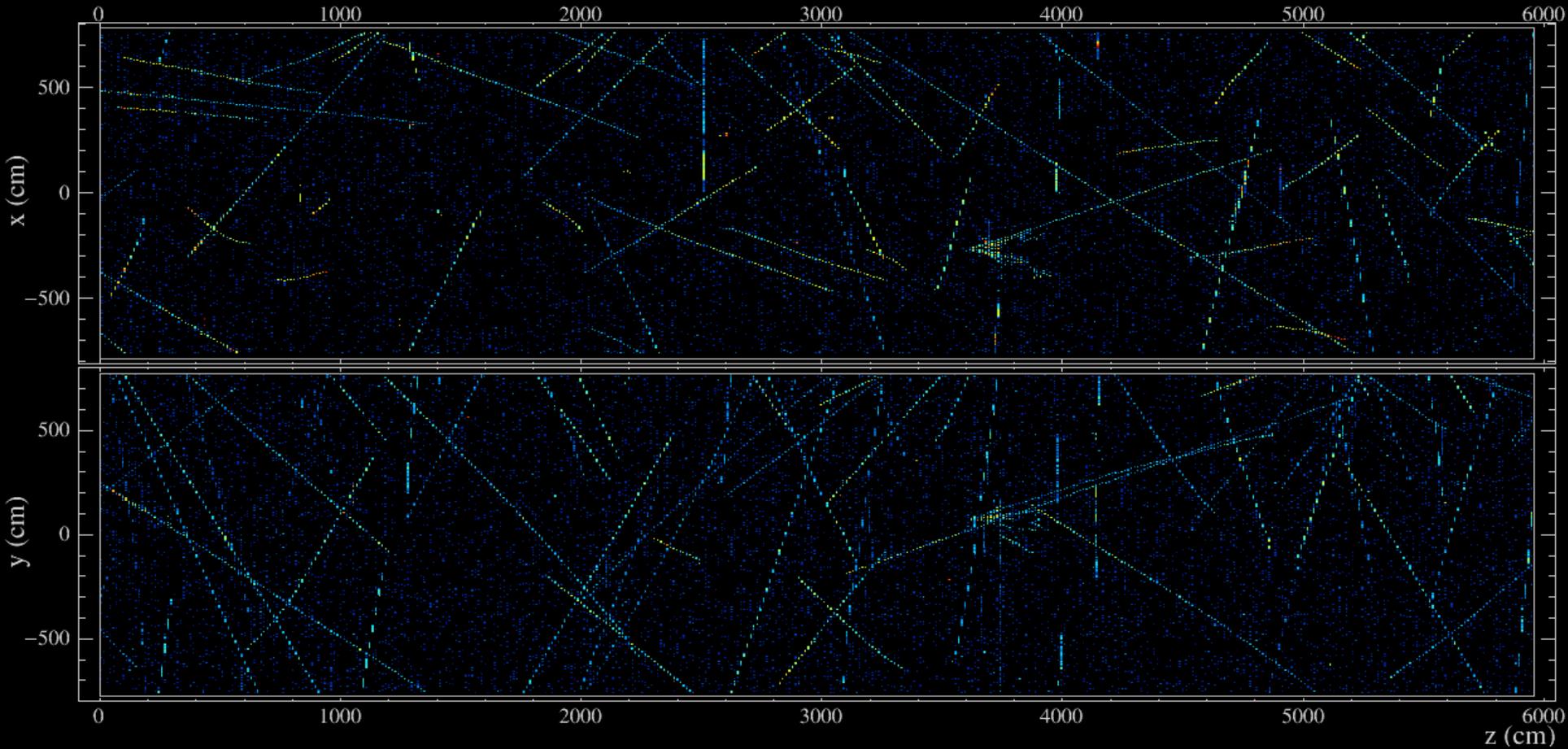


Outfitted Far Detector



Near Detector

# 550 $\mu\text{s}$ exposure of the Far Detector



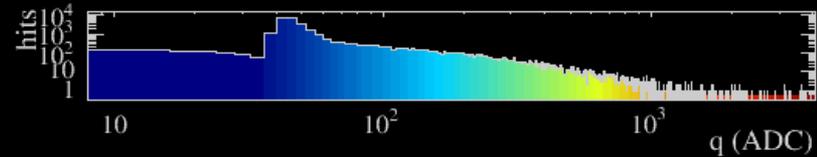
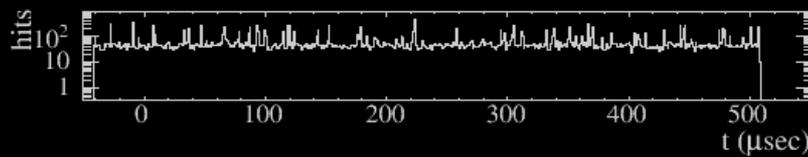
NOvA - FNAL E929

Run: 18620 / 13

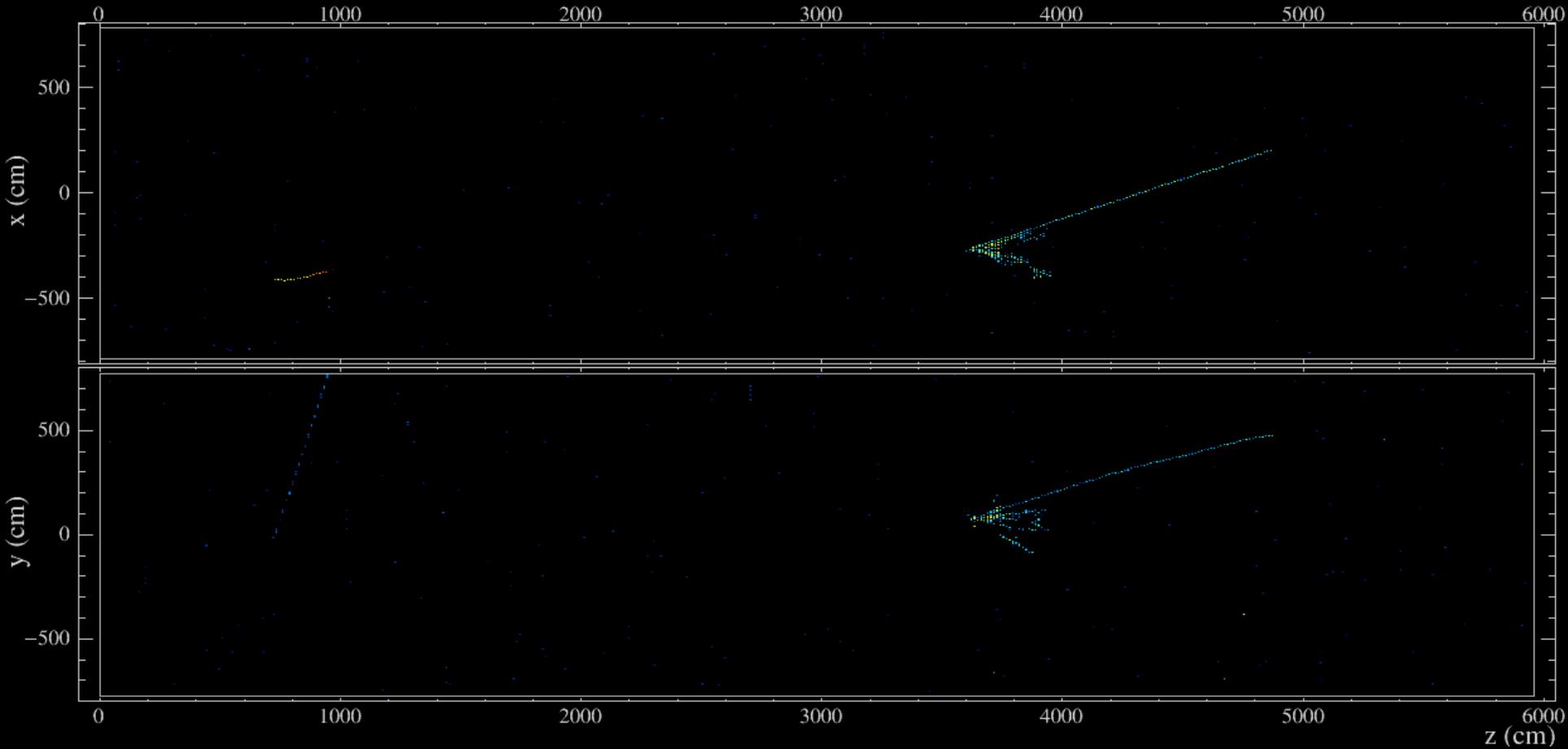
Event: 178402 / --

UTC Fri Jan 9, 2015

00:13:53.087341608



# Time-zoom on 10 $\mu$ s interval during NuMI beam pulse



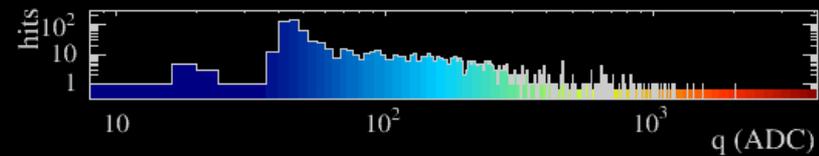
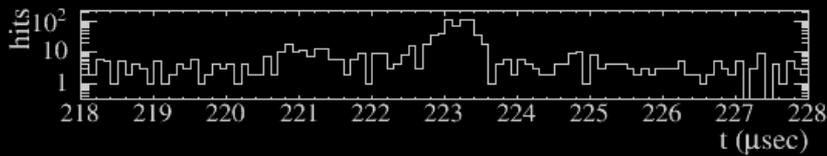
NOvA - FNAL E929

Run: 18620 / 13

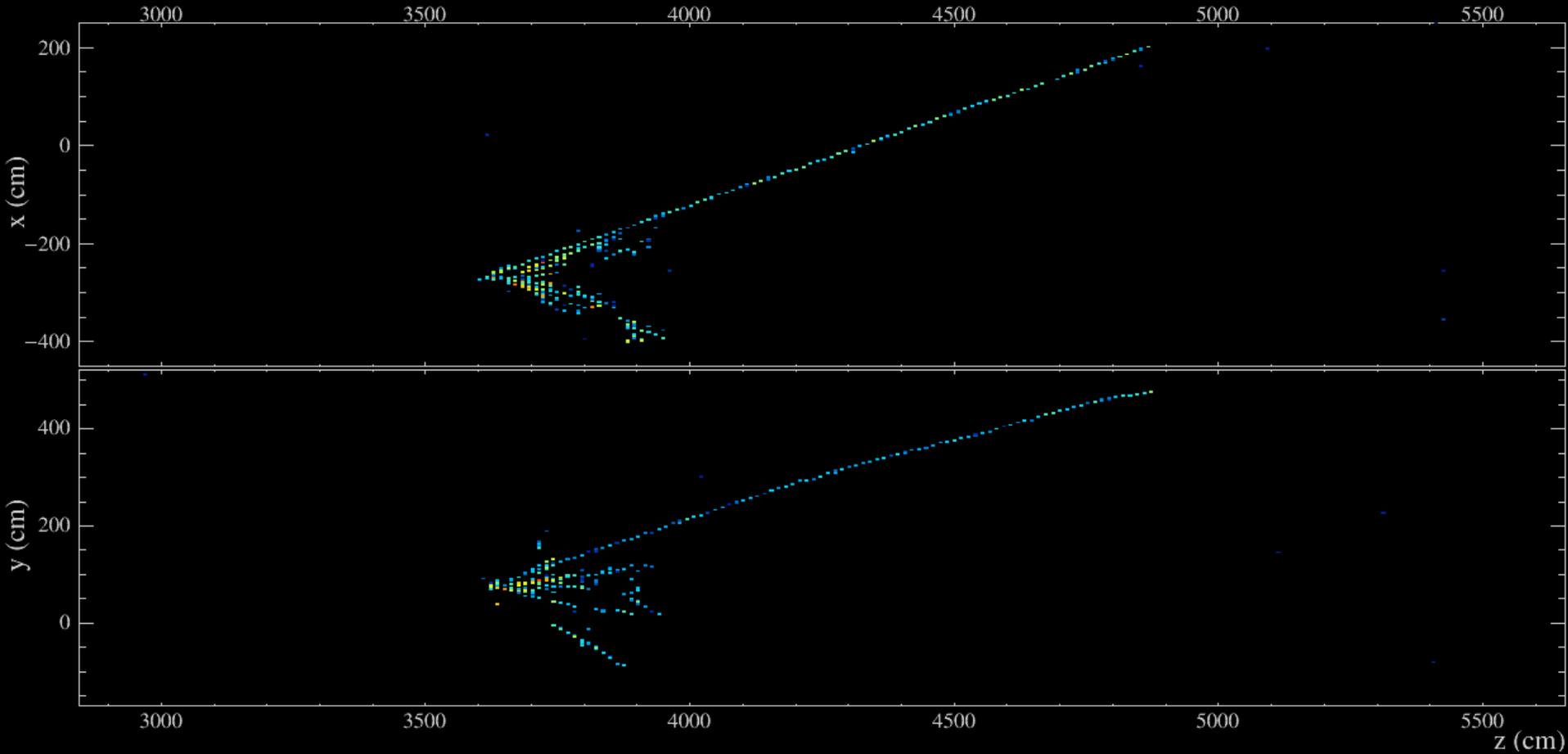
Event: 178402 / --

UTC Fri Jan 9, 2015

00:13:53.087341608



# Close-up of neutrino interaction in the Far Detector



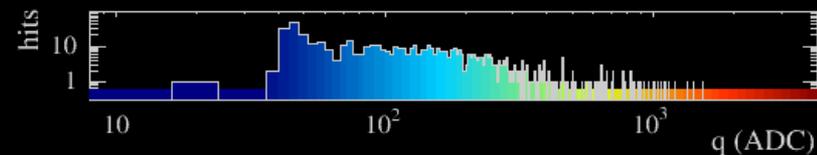
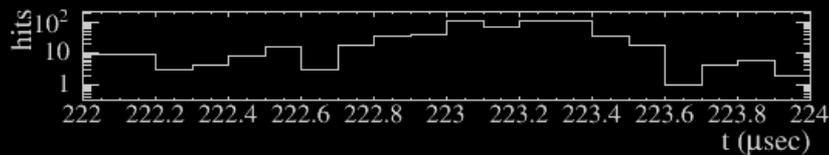
NOvA - FNAL E929

Run: 18620 / 13

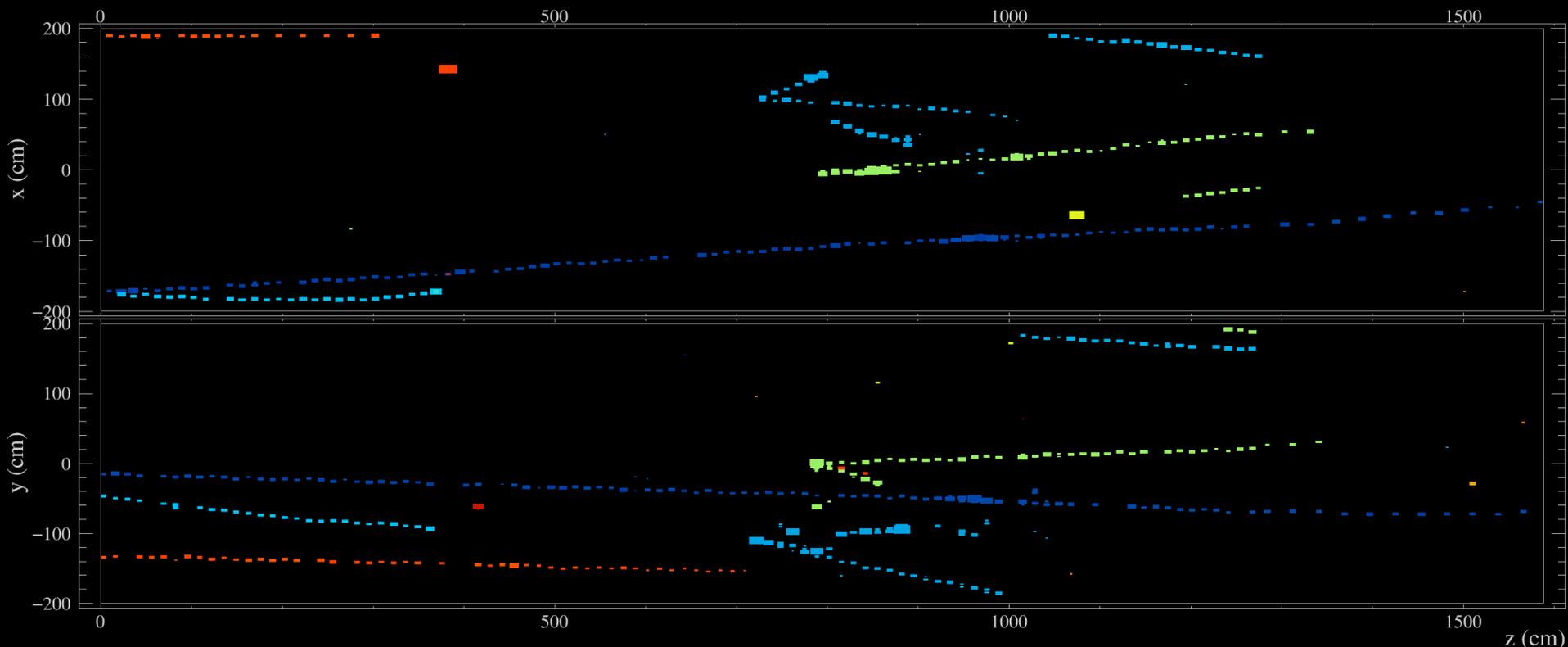
Event: 178402 / --

UTC Fri Jan 9, 2015

00:13:53.087341608



# Near Detector: 10 $\mu$ s of readout during NuMI beam pulse (color $\Rightarrow$ time of hit)



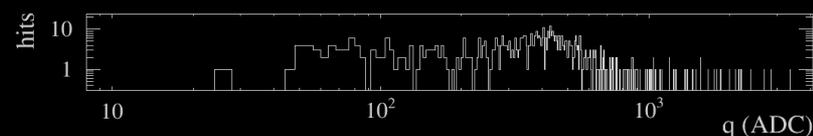
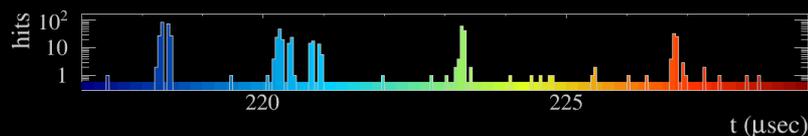
NOvA - FNAL E929

Run: 10407 / 1

Event: 27950 / --

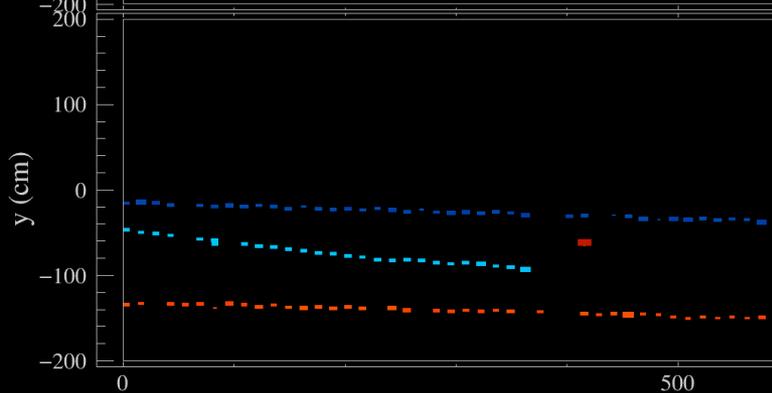
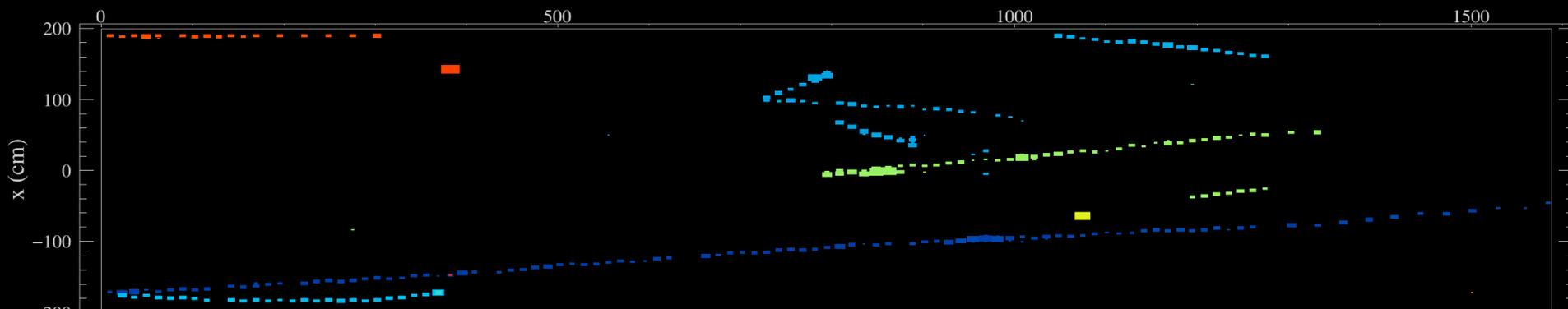
UTC Thu Sep 4, 2014

05:28:44.034495968



# Near Detector: 10 $\mu$ s of readout during NuMI beam pulse

(color  $\Rightarrow$  time of hit)



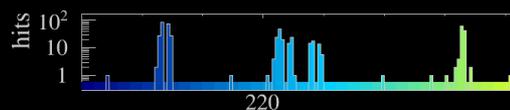
NOvA - FNAL E929

Run: 10407 / 1

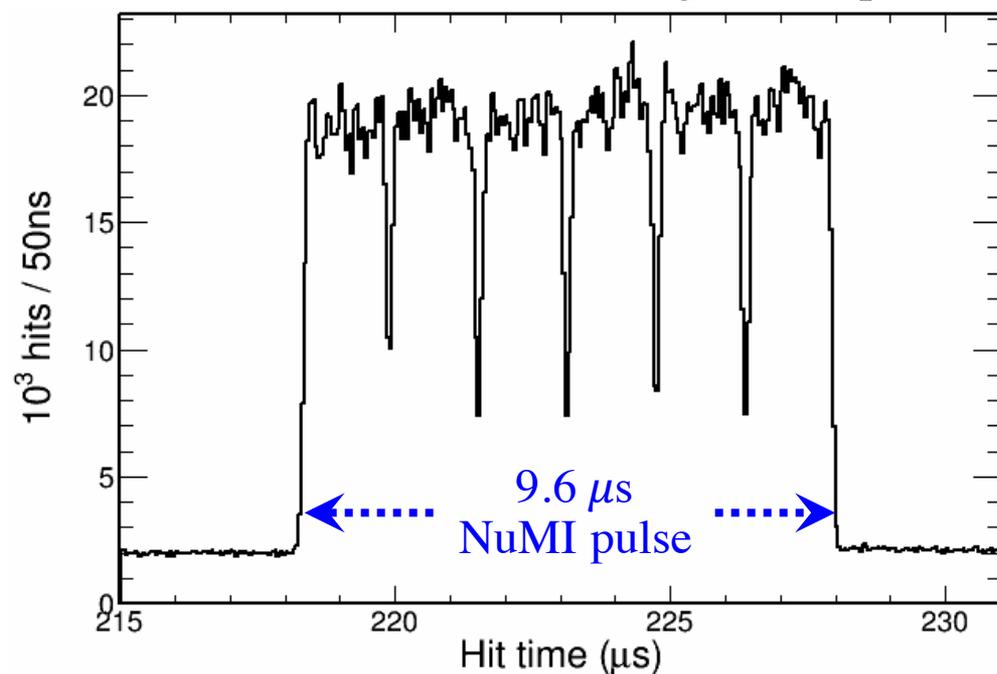
Event: 27950 / --

UTC Thu Sep 4, 2014

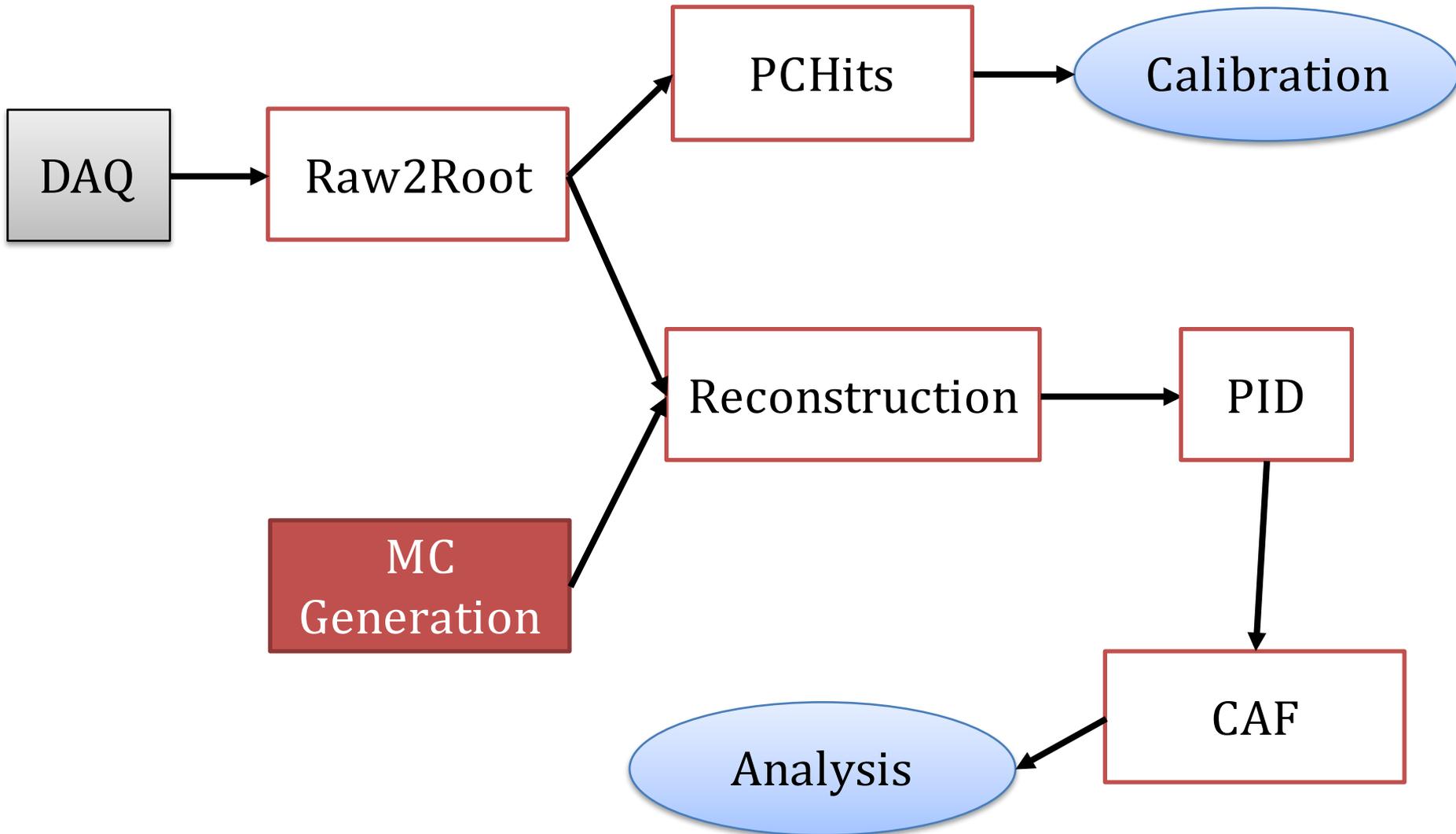
05:28:44.034495968



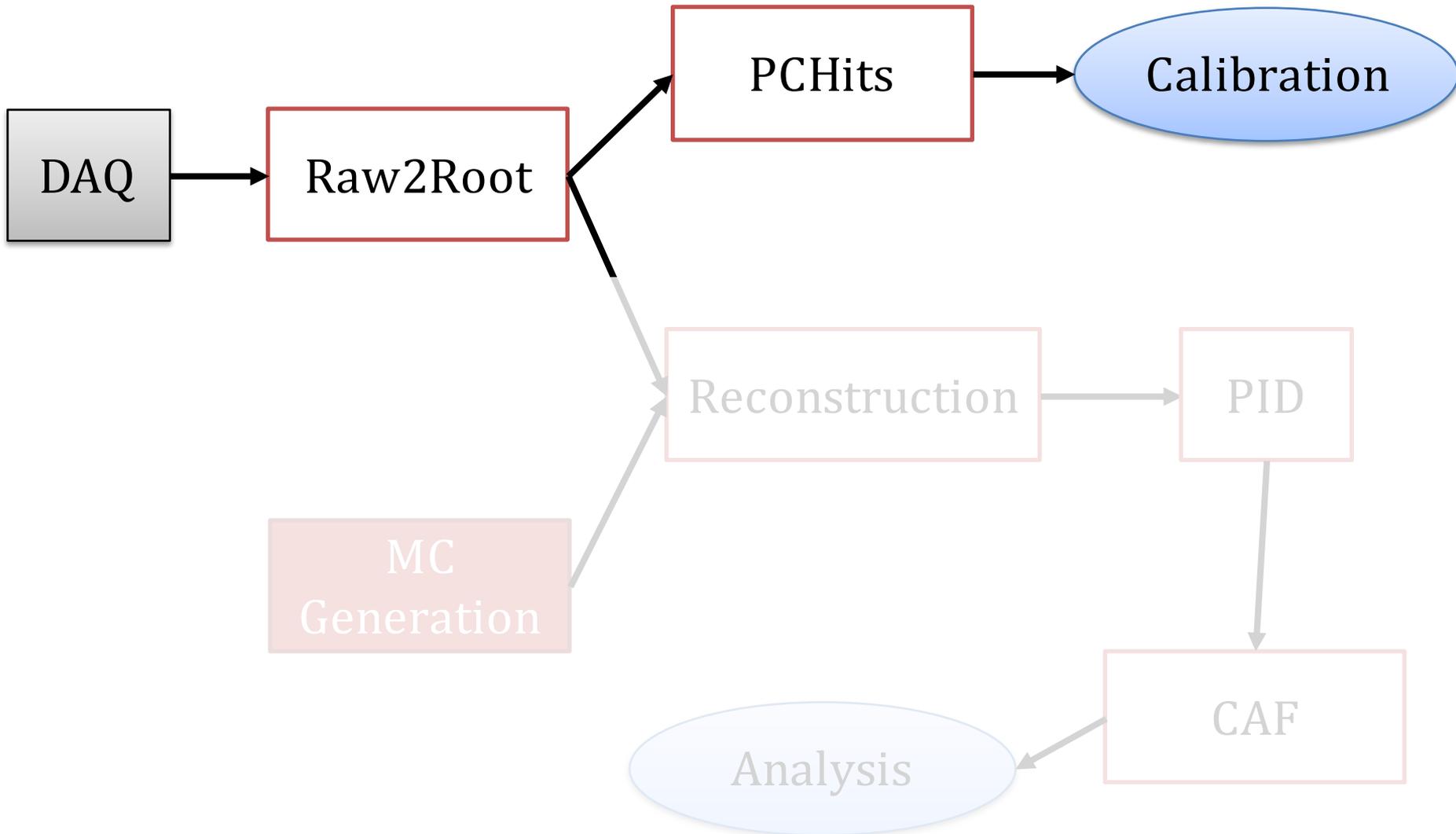
Time of all hits in Near Det during NuMI spills ( $\sim 1$  hr)



# Nova Production Processing



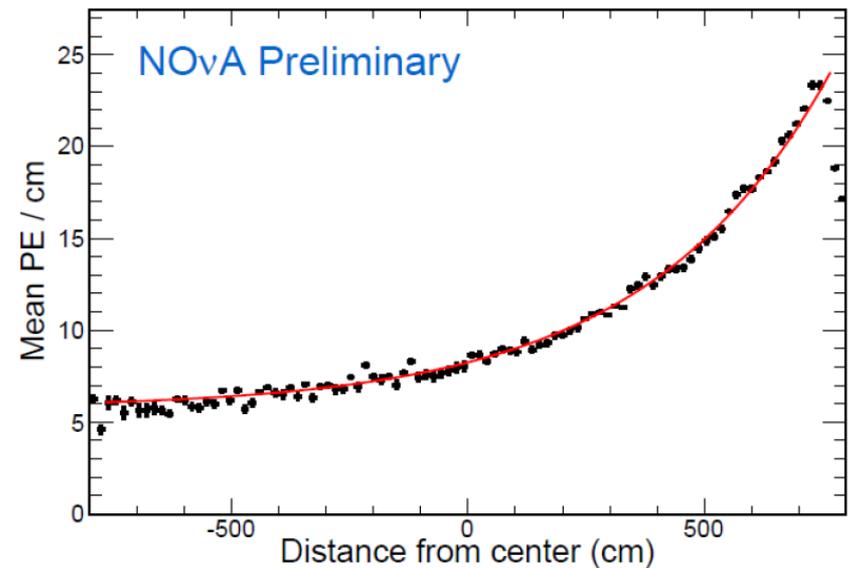
# Nova Production Processing



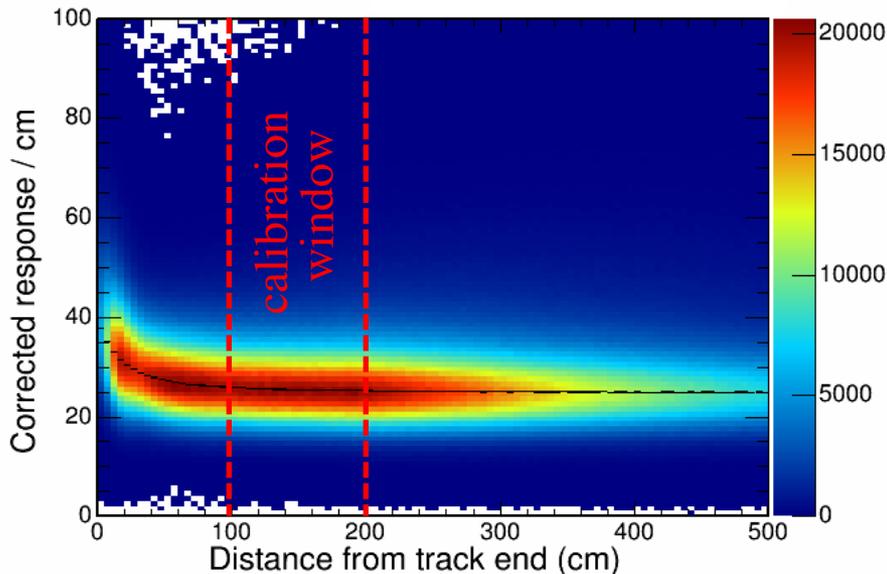
# Calibration

- **Biggest effect** that needs correction is **attenuation** in the WLS fiber  
*Example FD cell* →
- **Stopping muons** provide a standard candle for setting absolute energy scale (*below*)

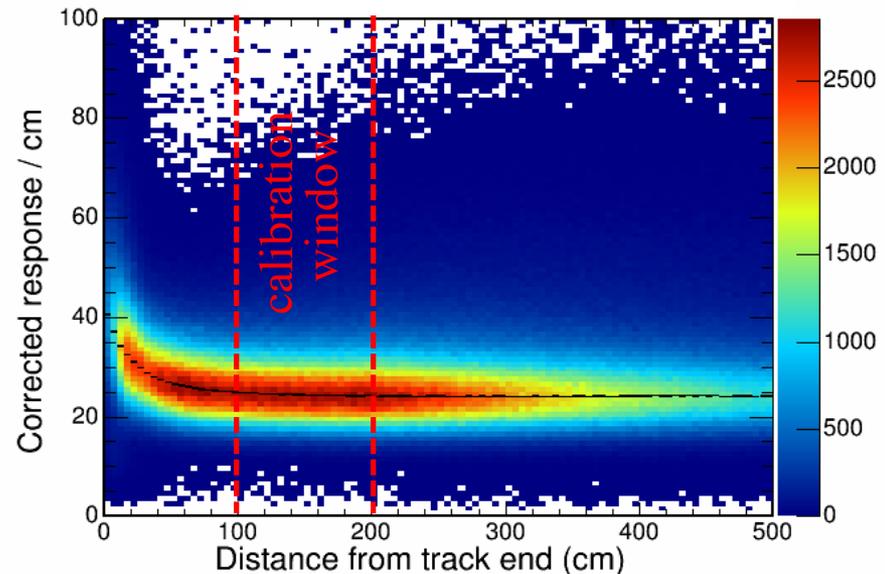
FD cosmic data - plane 84 (horizontal), cell 12



Far Detector Data



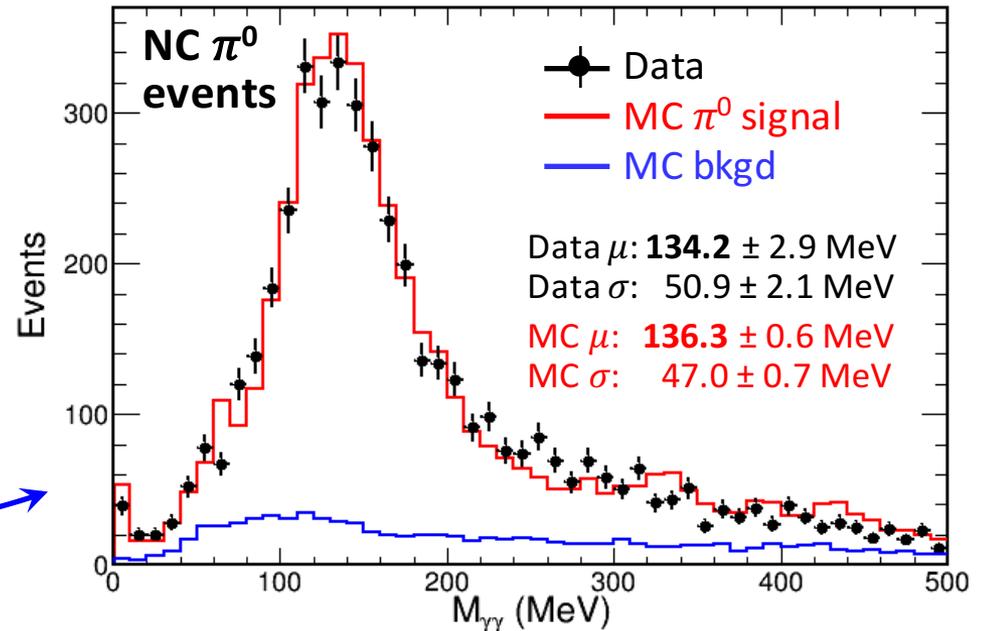
Far Detector Simulation



# Multiple probes of energy scale

## In Near Detector

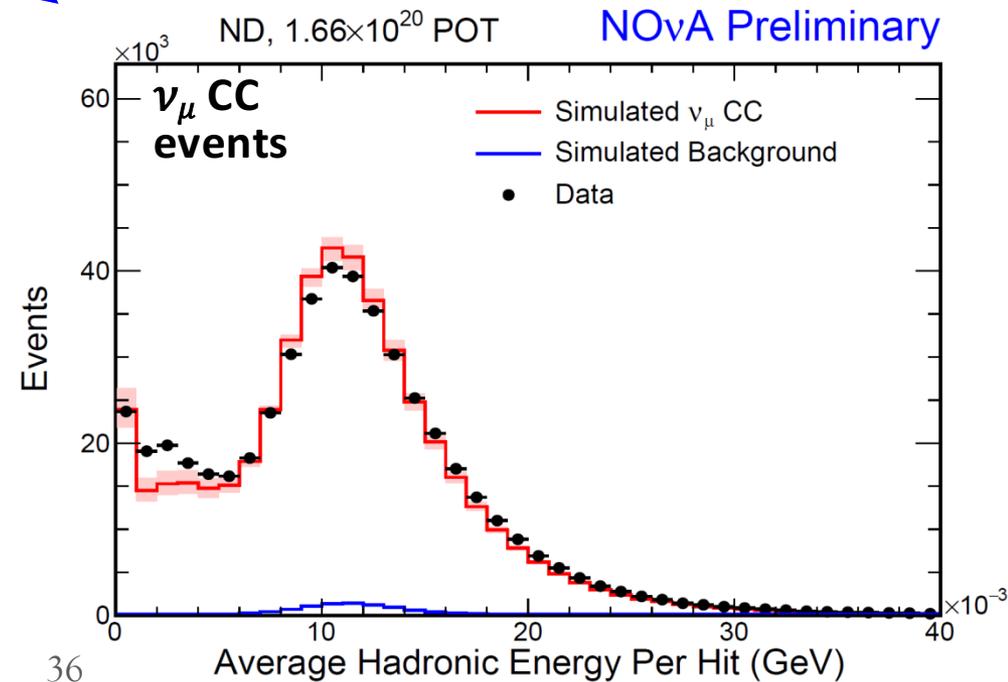
- cosmic  $\mu$   $dE/dx$  [ $\sim$ vertical]
- beam  $\mu$   $dE/dx$  [ $\sim$ horizontal]
- Michel  $e^-$  spectrum
- $\pi^0$  mass
- hadronic shower  $E$ -per-hit



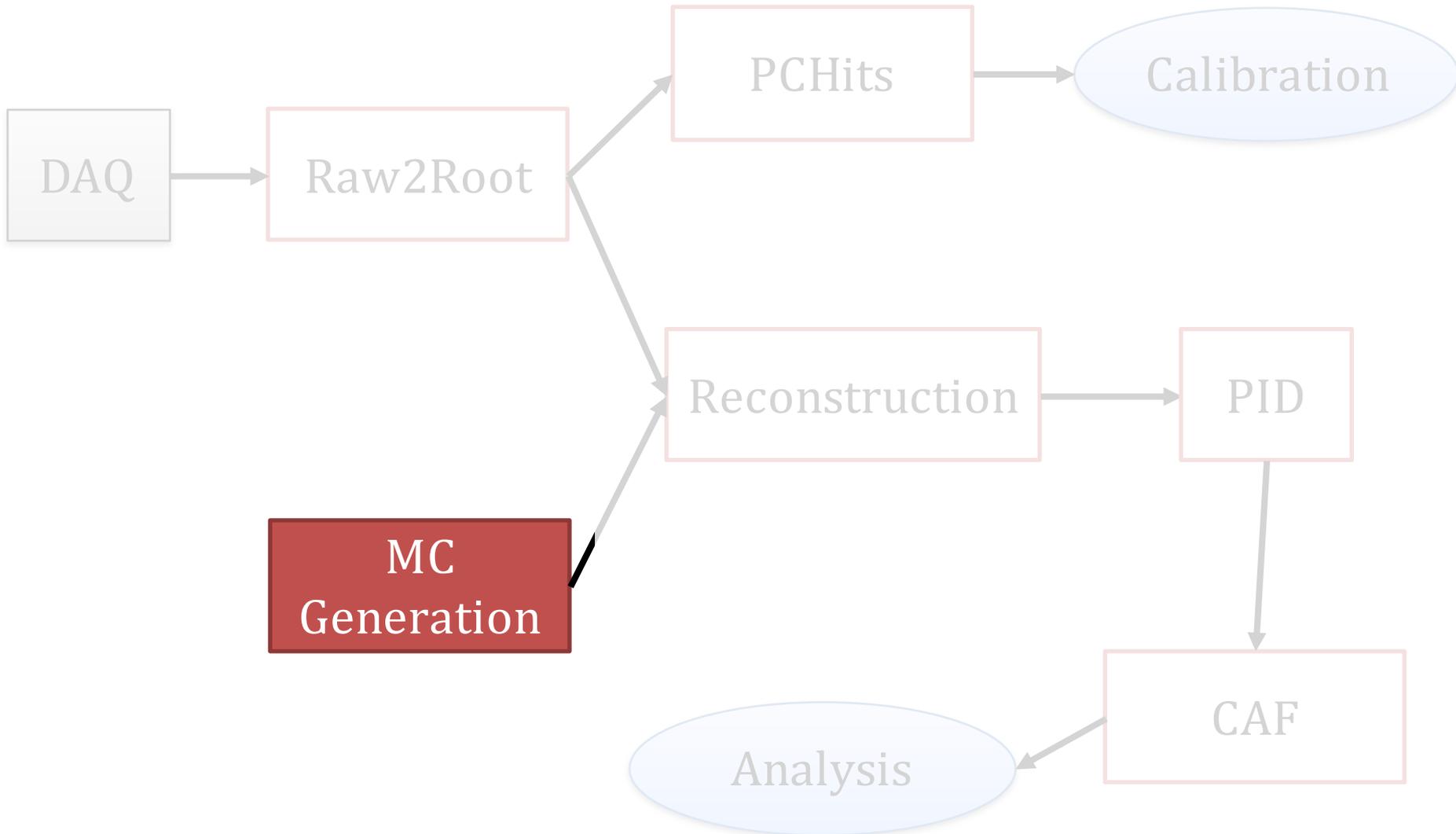
## In Far Detector

- cosmic  $\mu$   $dE/dx$  [ $\sim$ vertical]
- beam  $\mu$   $dE/dx$  [ $\sim$ horizontal]
- Michel  $e^-$  spectrum

**All agree within  $\pm 5\%$**



# Nova Production Processing

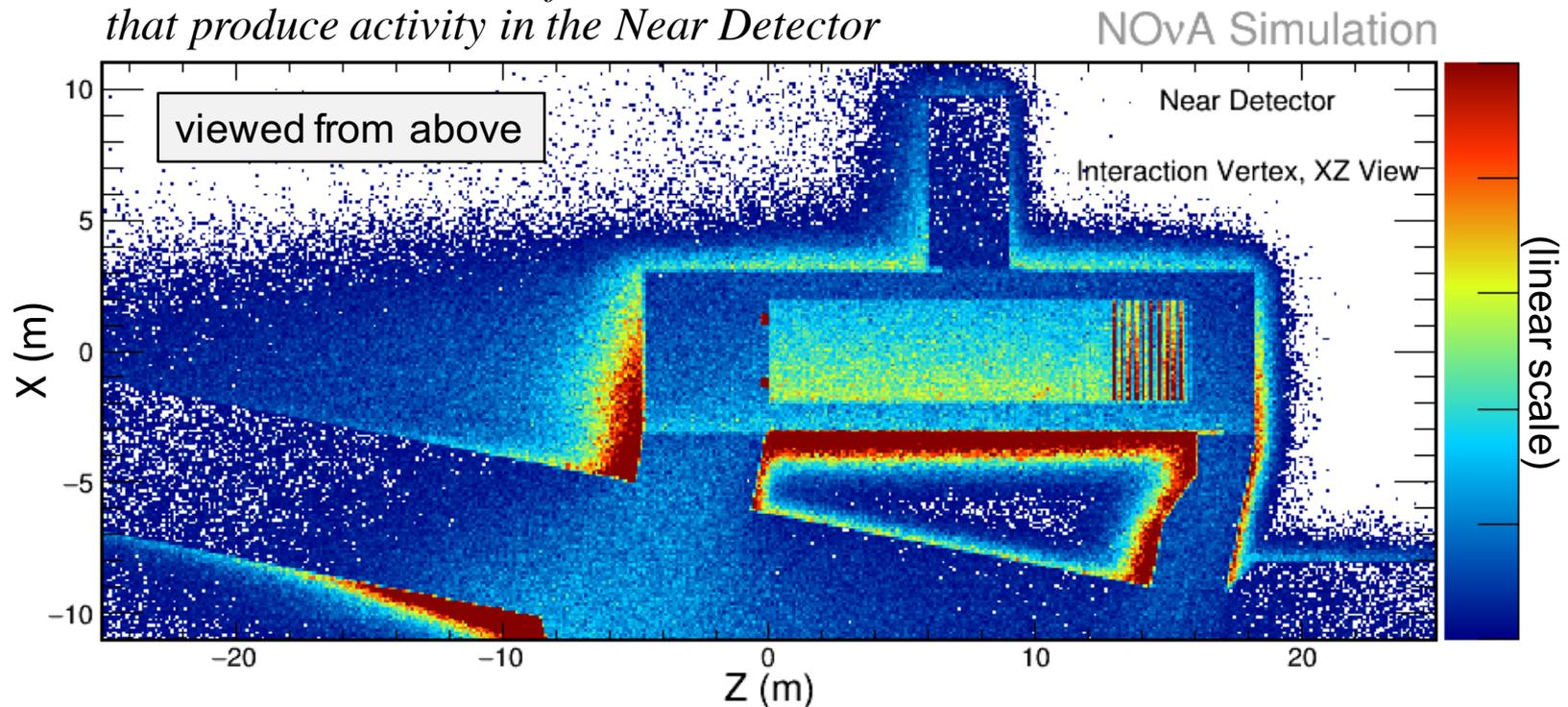


# Simulation

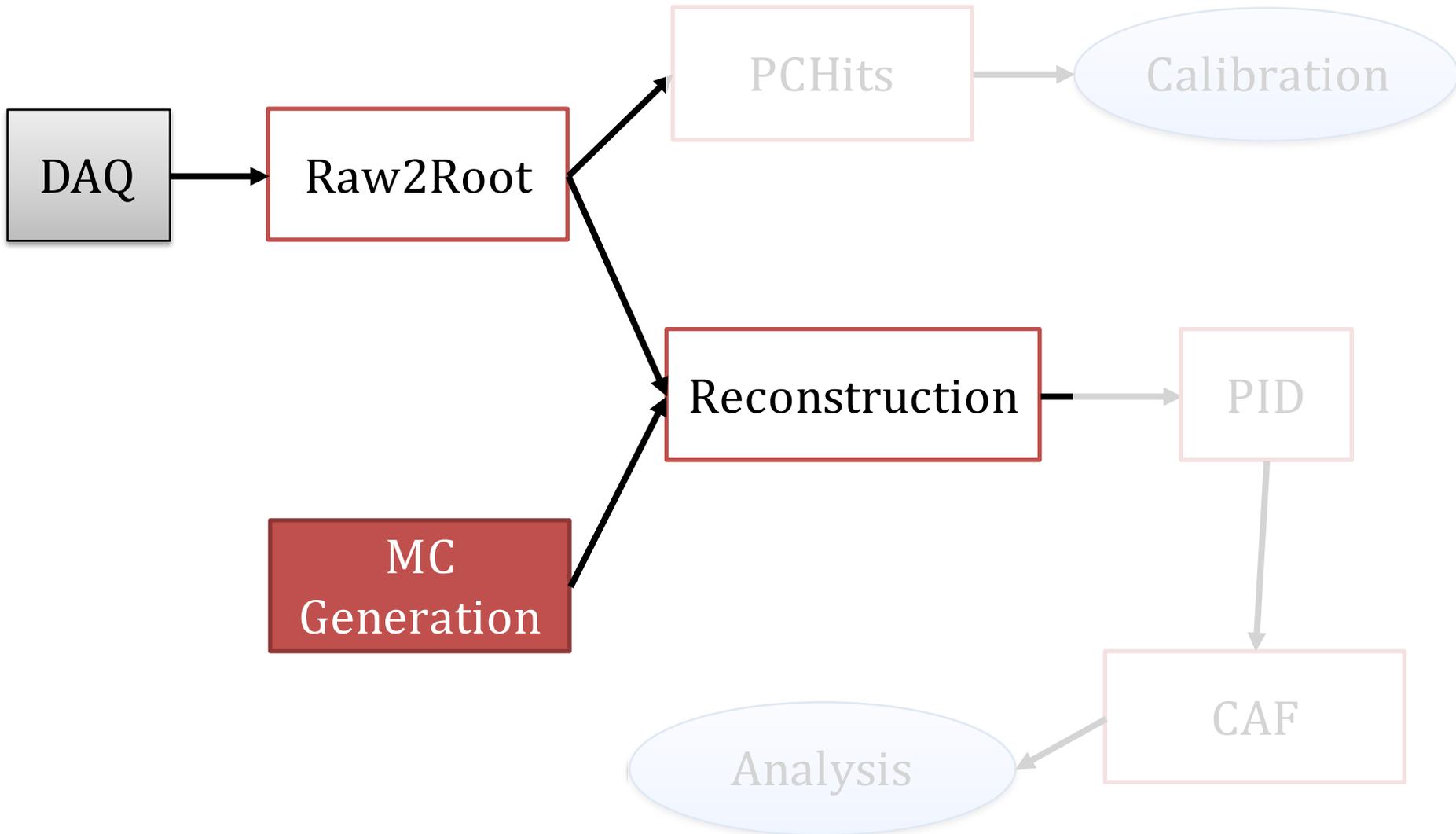
## Highly detailed end-to-end simulation chain

- Beam hadron production, propagation; neutrino flux: **FLUKA/FLUGG**
- Cosmic ray flux: **CRY**
- Neutrino interactions and FSI modeling: **GENIE**
- Detector simulation: **GEANT4**
- Readout electronics and DAQ: **Custom simulation routines**

*Simulation: Locations of neutrino interactions that produce activity in the Near Detector*

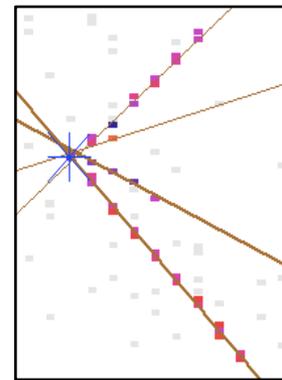
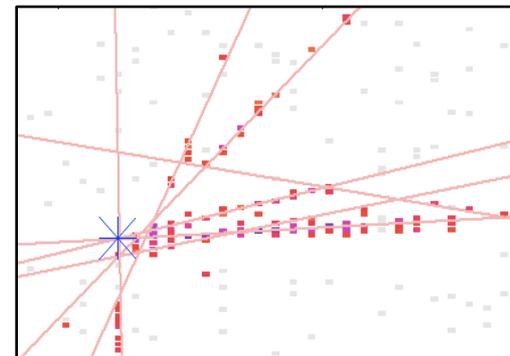
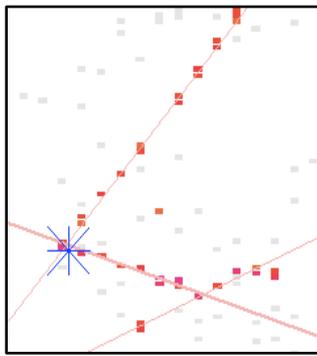


# Nova Production Processing

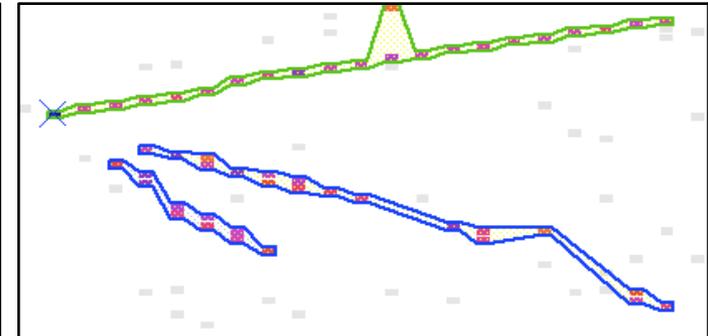
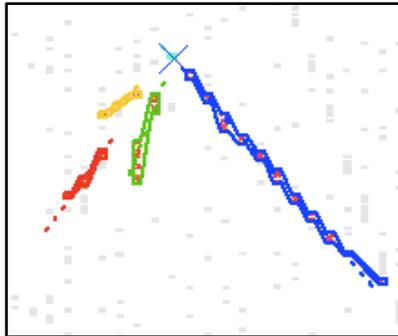


# Reconstruction

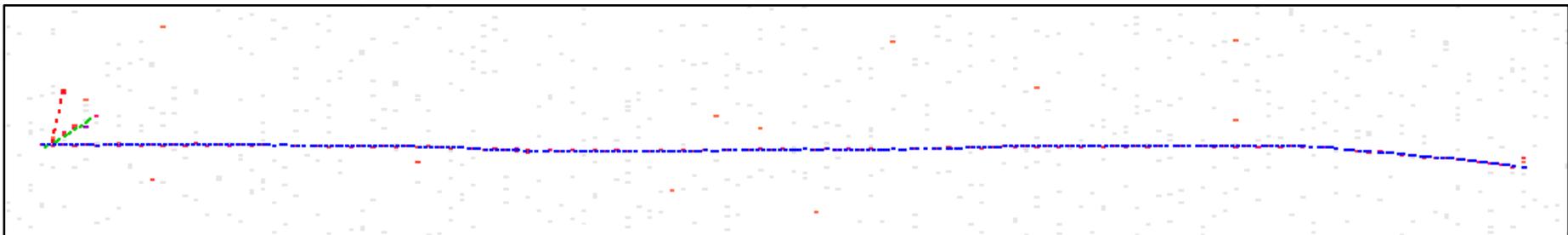
**Vertexing:** Find lines of energy depositions w/ Hough transform  
*CC events: 11 cm resolution*



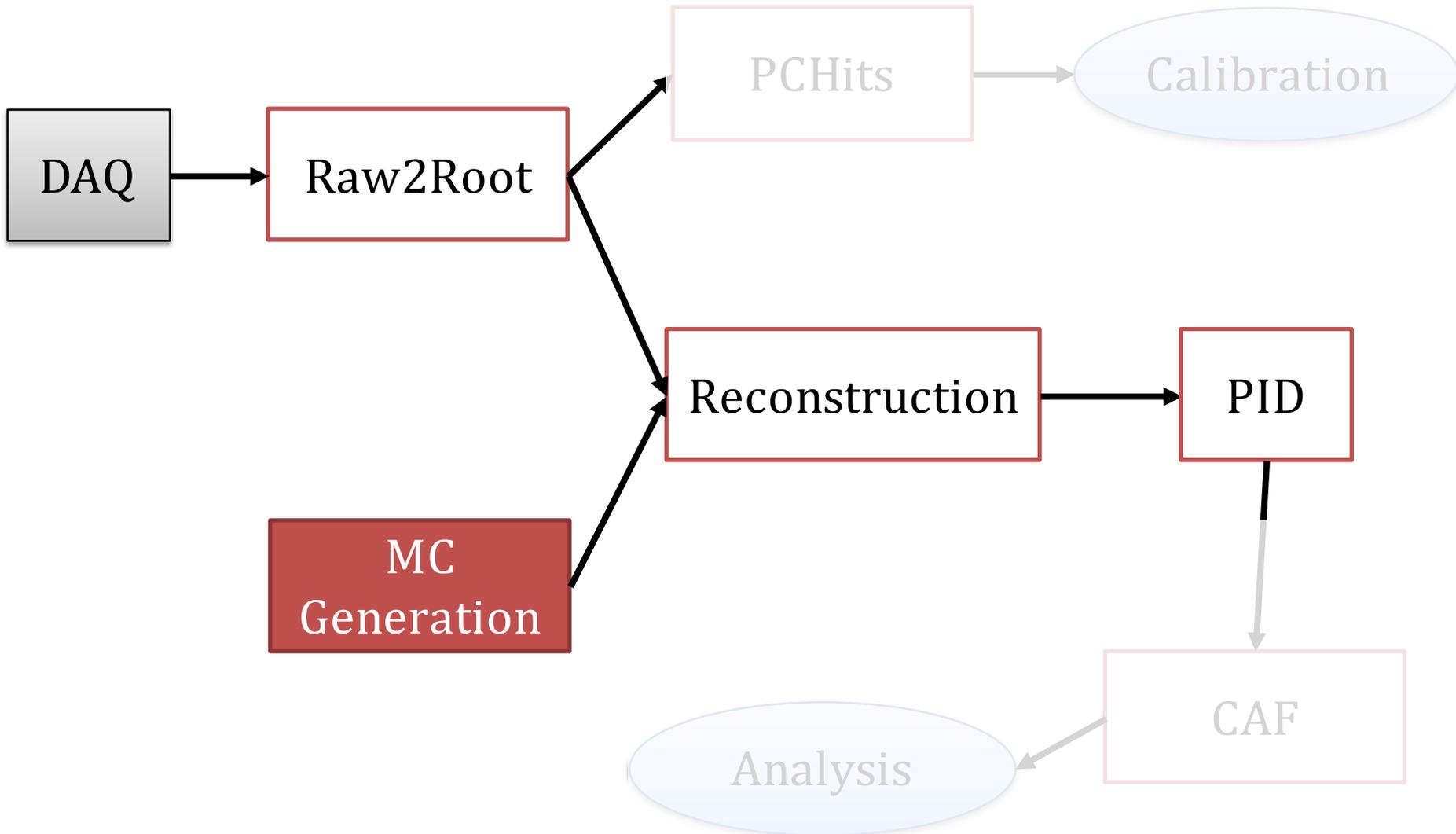
**Clustering:** Find clusters in angular space around vertex.  
Merge views via topology and prong  $dE/dx$



**Tracking:** Trace particle trajectories with **Kalman filter** tracker (below).  
Also have a **cosmic ray tracker**: lightweight, very fast, and useful for large calibration samples and online monitoring tools.



# Nova Production Processing



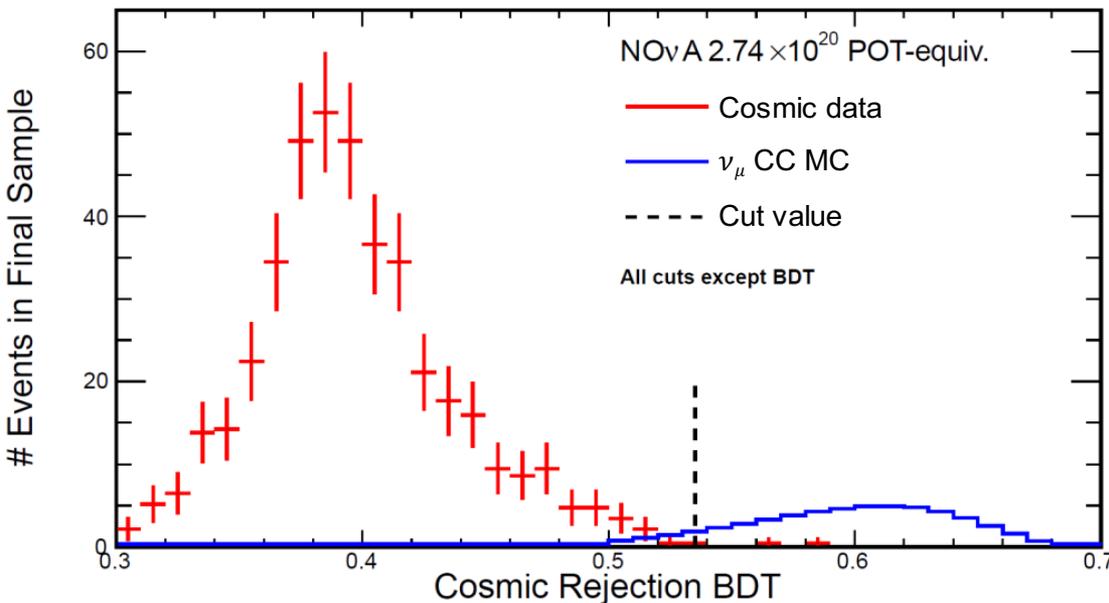
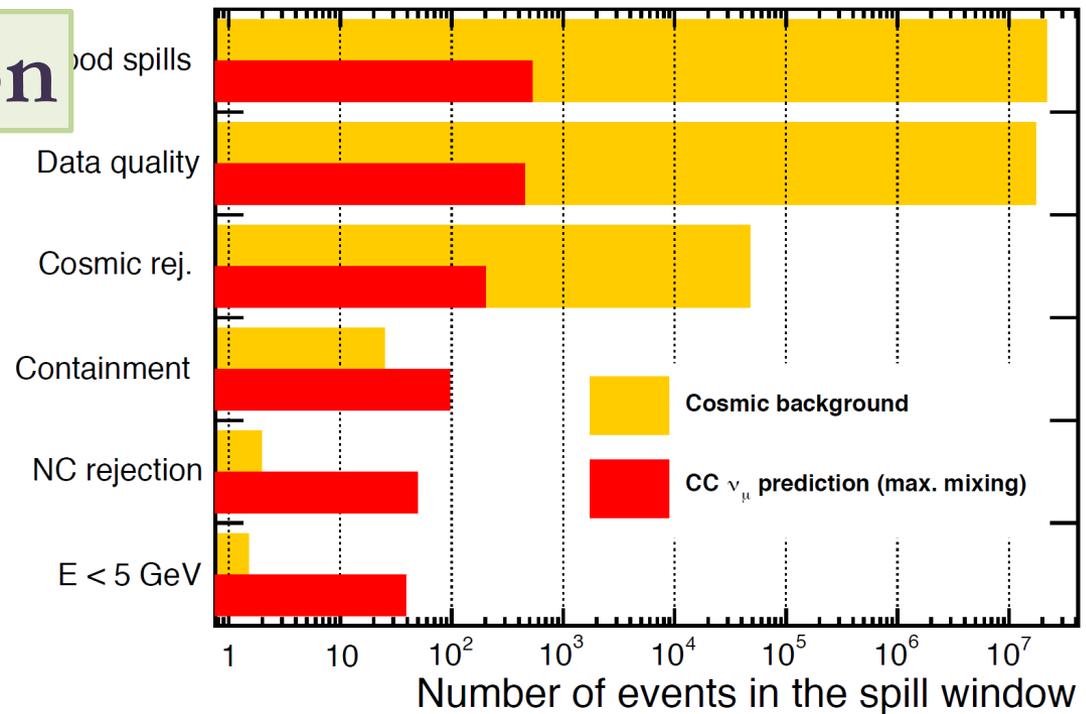
# $\nu_\mu$ Cosmic rejection

Rejection factor from

beam timing:  $10^5$

event topology:  $10^7$  (!)

Final cosmic bkgnd rate  
measured directly with  
beam-off FD data.



← Output of **cosmic rejection decision tree** after all other cuts

Based on reconstructed track direction, position, and length; and energy and number of hits in event

# $\nu_\mu$ CC selection

First, basic containment cuts require a buffer of no cell activity around the event. Then...

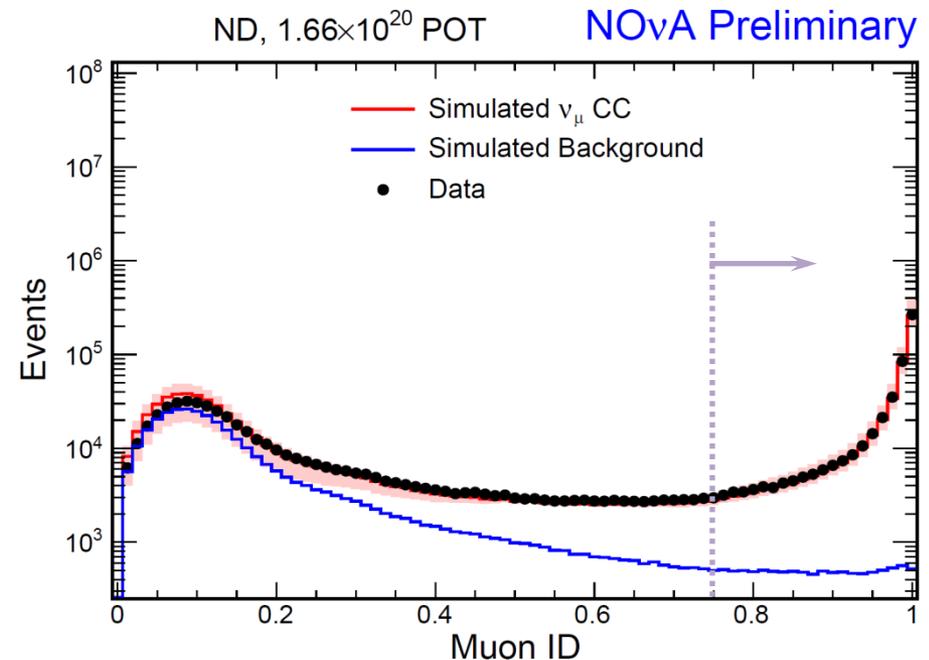
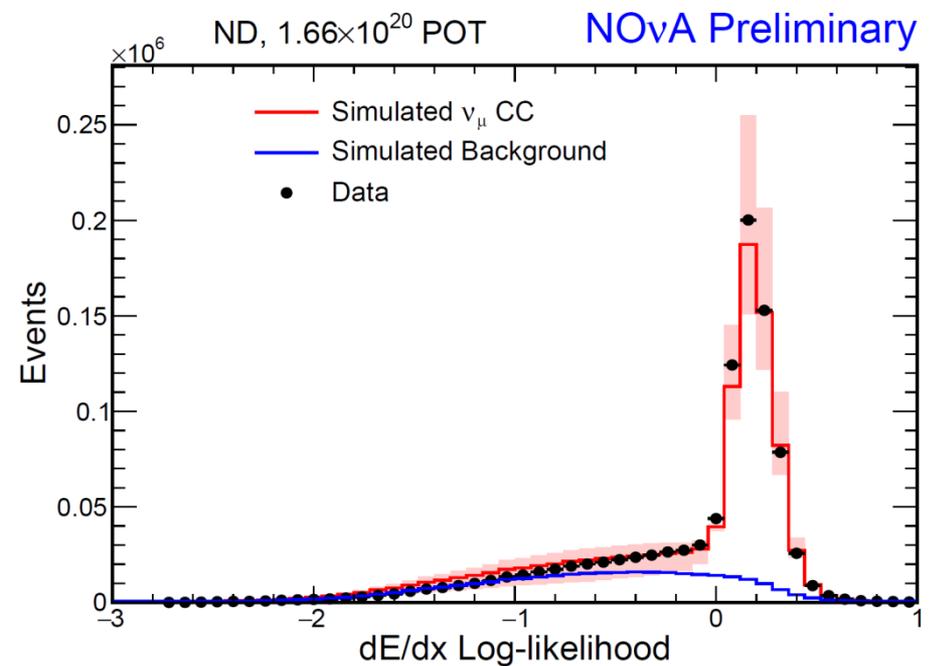
## Muon ID

4-variable  $k$ -nearest-neighbors algorithm used to identify muons.

*Inputs:*

- track length
- $dE/dx$  along track
- scattering along track
- track-only plane fraction

**Keep events with  $\mu$  ID  $> 0.75$**



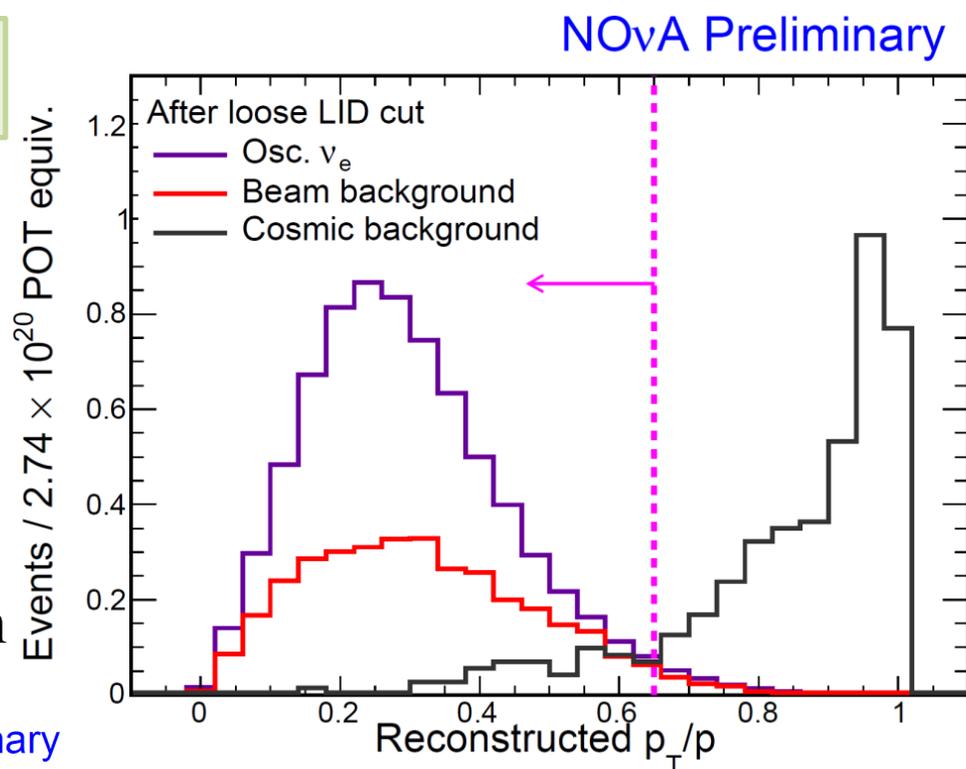
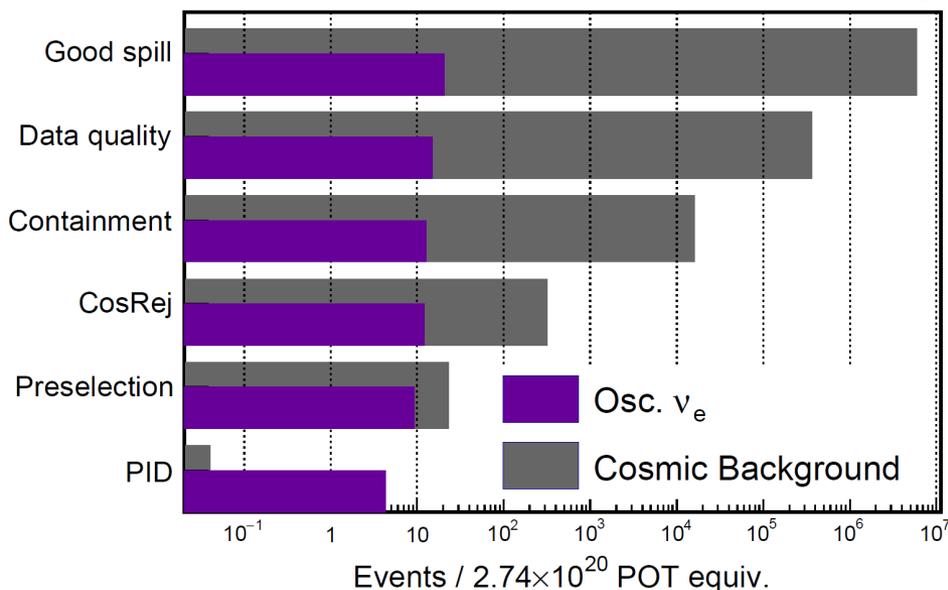
# $\nu_e$ Cosmic rejection

Cut events with large reconstructed  $p_T/p$

*Rejects downward-directed cosmic shower*

The  $\nu_e$  selectors themselves provide a lot of cosmic rejection

NOvA Preliminary



Achieve **1 part in  $\sim 10^8$**  rejection of cosmic ray interactions.

Expected cosmic background:  
**0.06 events**

(measured with beam-off data)

# $\nu_e$ CC event identification

We have developed two independent  $\nu_e$  CC selection algorithms

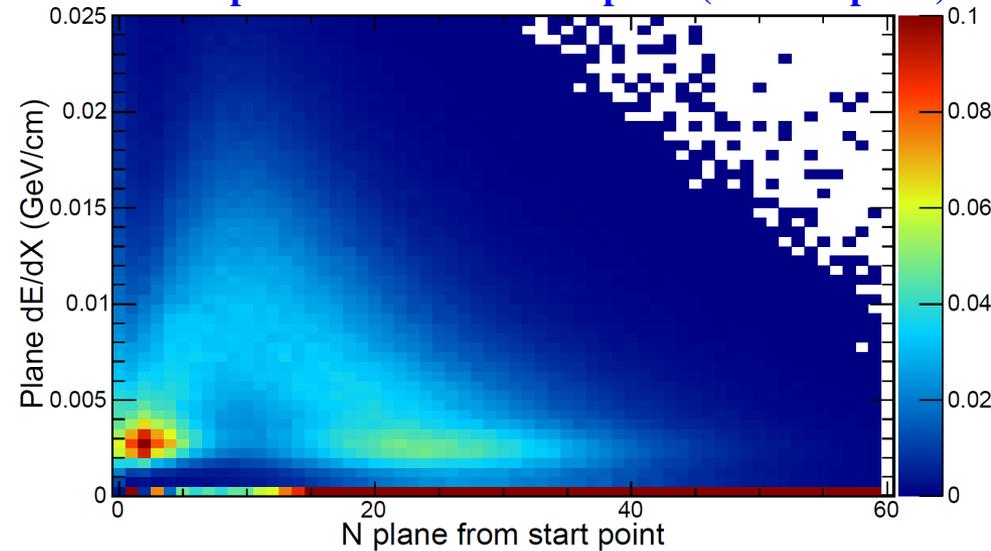
→ *Very different designs*

## LID: Likelihood Identification

$dE/dx$  likelihoods calculated for **longitudinal and transverse slices** of leading shower under multiple particle hypotheses

Likelihoods feed an artificial neural network along with **kinematic and topological info**:  
*e.g.*, energy near vertex, shower angle, vertex-to-shower gap

Color: p.d.f. for  $dE/dx$  in each plane ( $e^-$  assumption)



Likelihoods calculated for each red and yellow region



## LEM: Library Event Matching

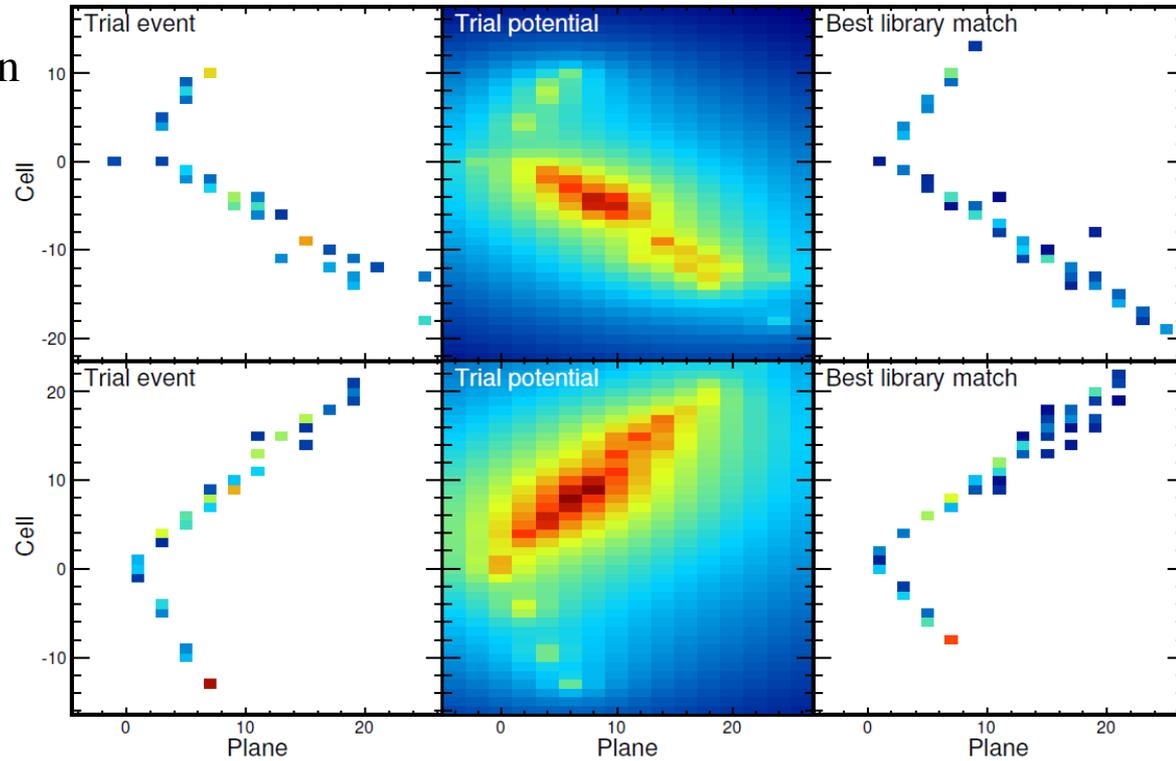
**Spatial pattern** of energy deposition is compared directly to that of  $\sim 10^8$  simulated events (“library”)

Key properties of the **best-matched library events** (*e.g.*, fraction that are signal events) are input into a decision tree to form discriminant

*Left panels: candidate event, both views*

*Right panels: best-matched library event, both views*

*Middle panels: an intermediate step in calculating the match quality*



## LEM: Library Event Matching

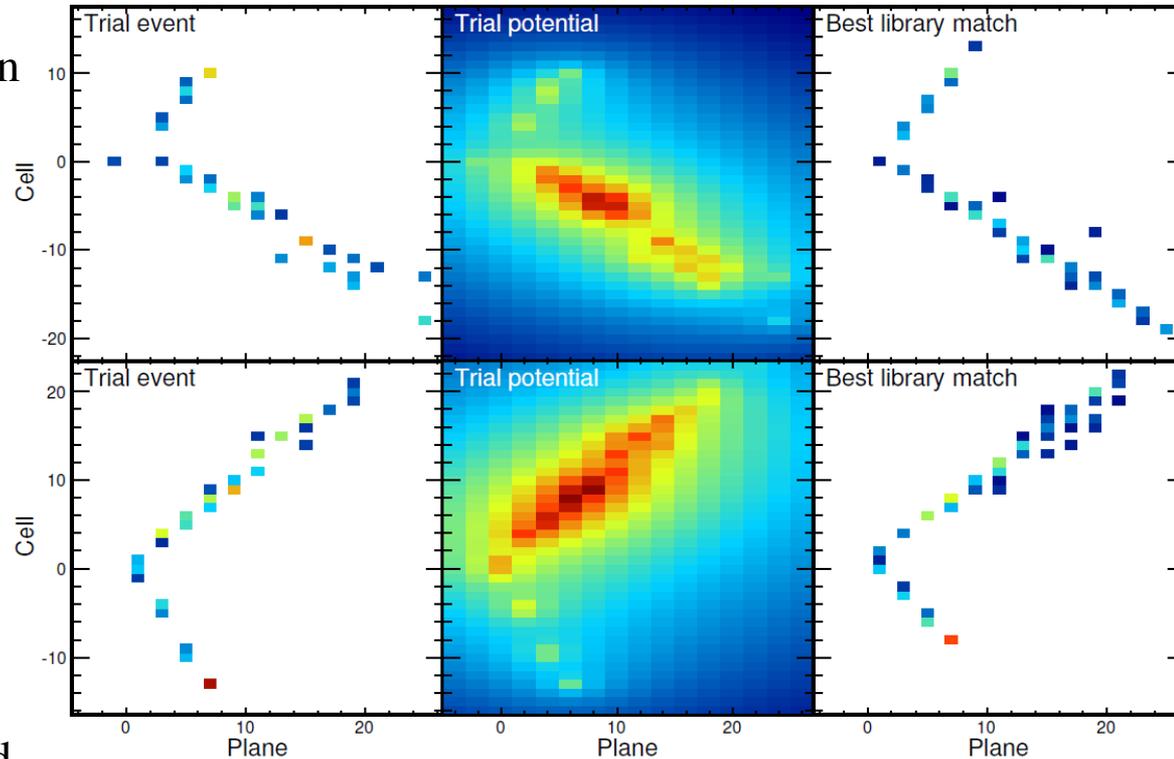
**Spatial pattern** of energy deposition is compared directly to that of  $\sim 10^8$  simulated events (“library”)

Key properties of the **best-matched library events** (*e.g.*, fraction that are signal events) are input into a decision tree to form discriminant

*Left panels: candidate event, both views*

*Right panels: best-matched library event, both views*

*Middle panels: an intermediate step in calculating the match quality*



## LID and LEM sensitivities

**Identical performance** as measured with signal efficiency, sig/bg ratio, systematic uncertainties, and overall sensitivity to  $\nu_e$  appearance and oscillation parameters.

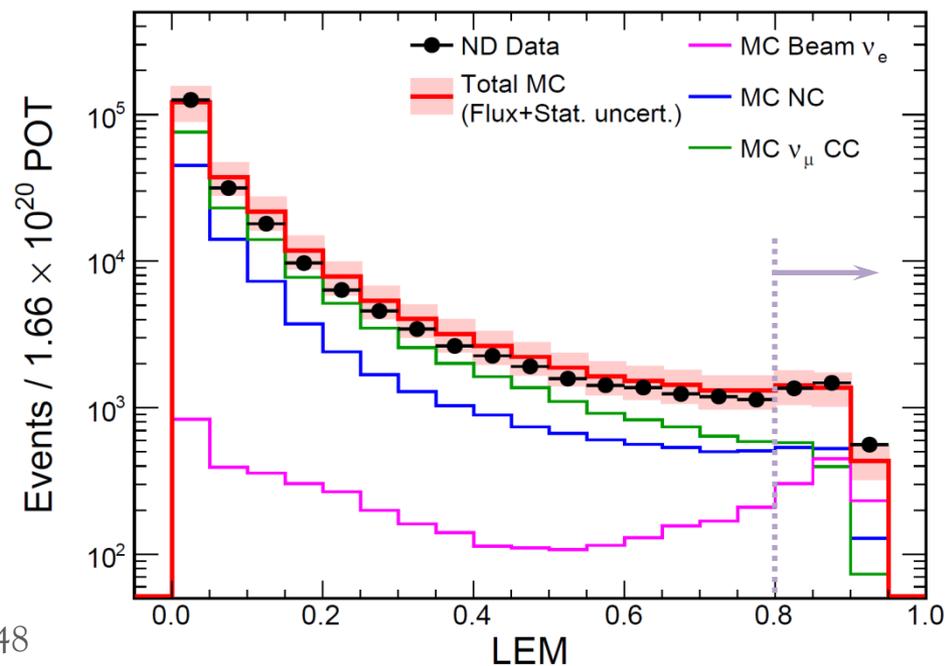
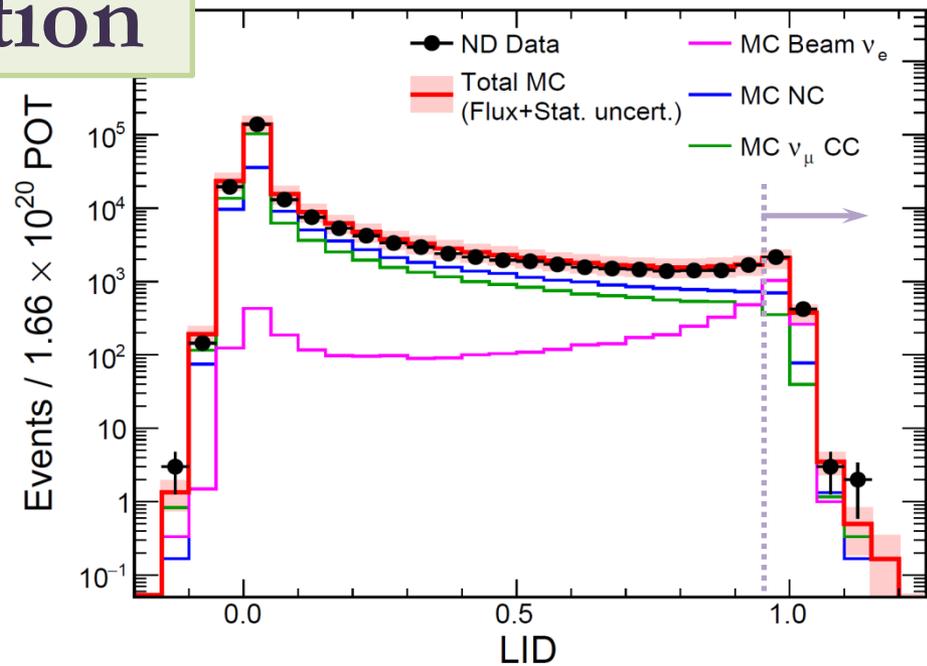
Thus, prior to unblinding, decided to **show both results** and to use the more traditional **LID technique** as the primary result where required.

# $\nu_e$ CC event identification

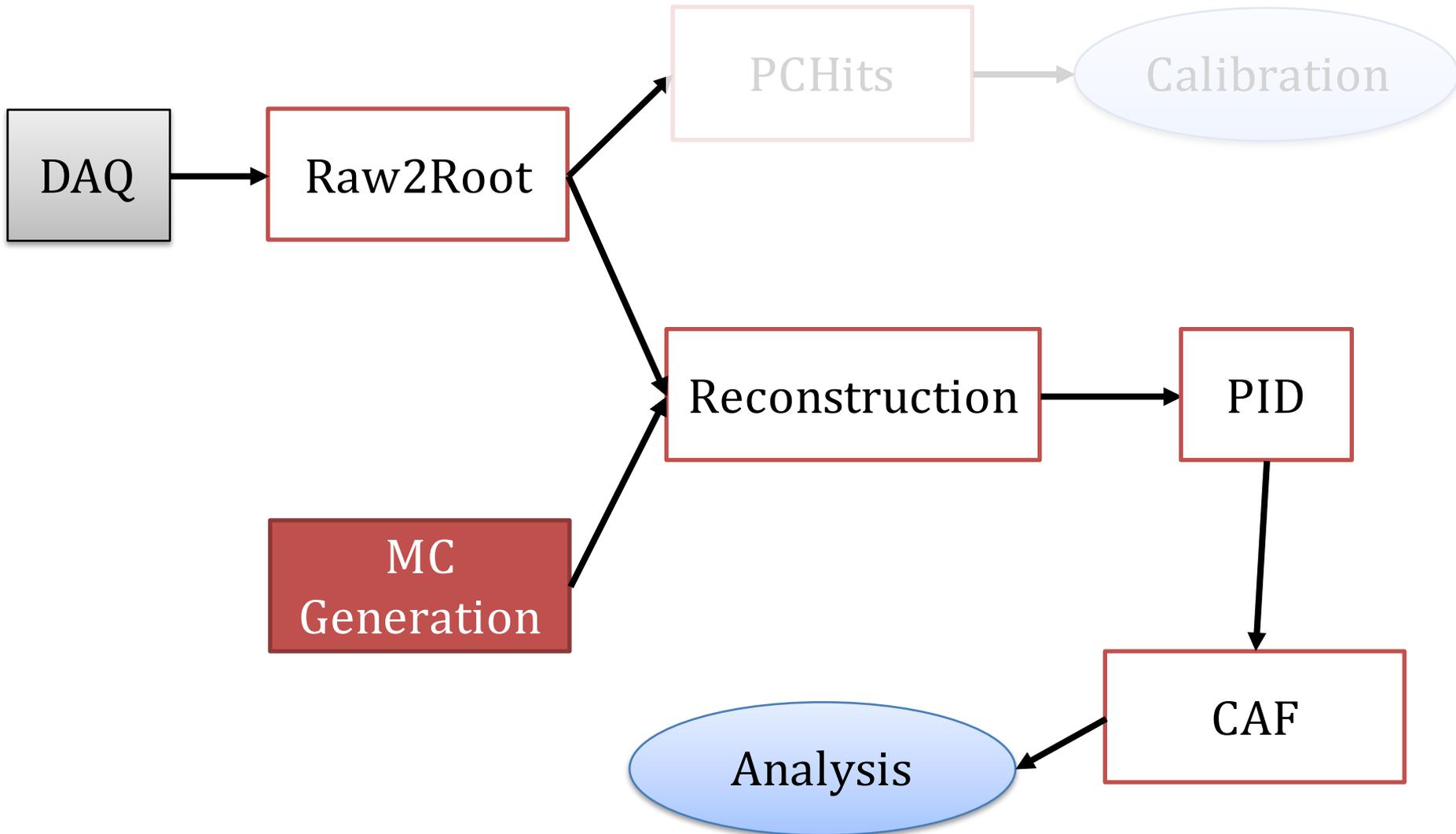
**LID** and **LEM** distributions  
for **ND data** and **simulation**

*all preselection cuts applied*

**Good agreement over full range**

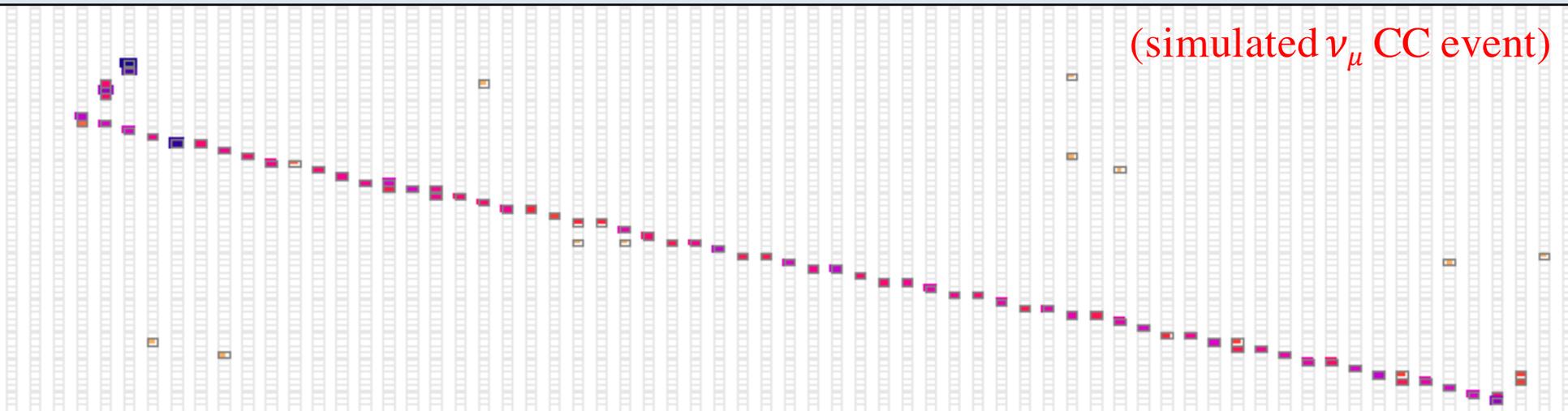


# Nova Production Processing



# $\nu_\mu$ disappearance

- Identify **contained  $\nu_\mu$  CC events** in each detector
- Measure their **energies**
- Extract oscillation information from differences between the **Far and Near energy spectra**



# Energy estimation

**Reconstructed muon track:**

$$\text{length} \Rightarrow E_{\mu}$$

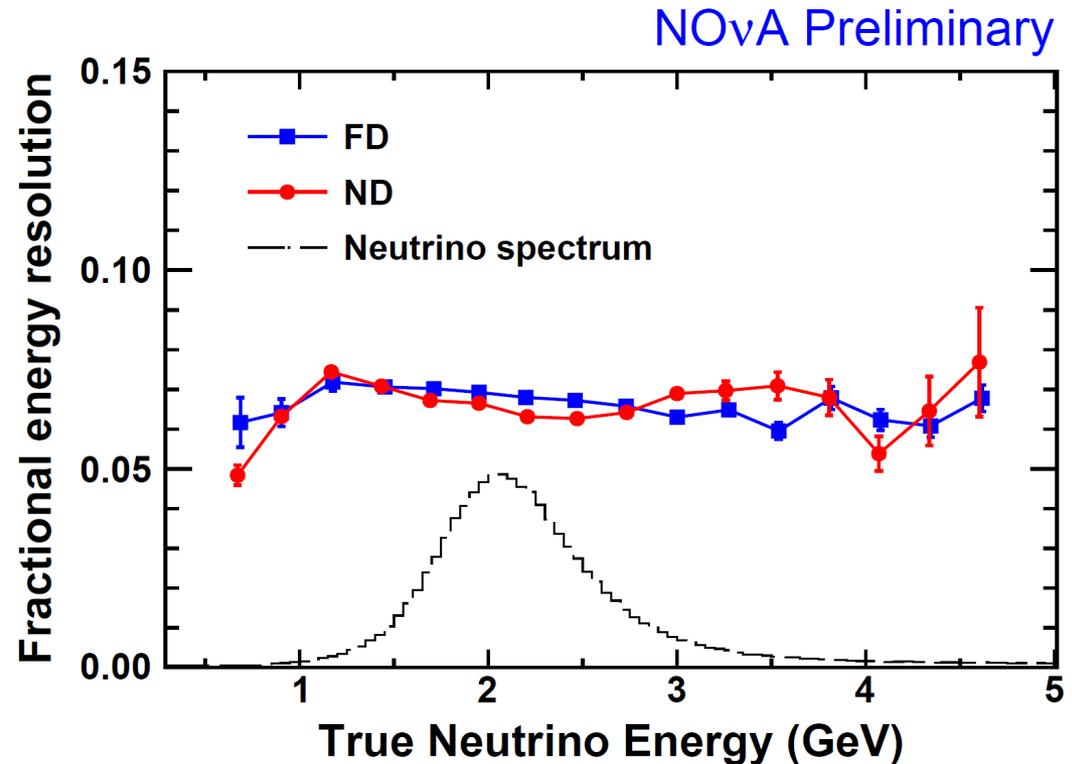
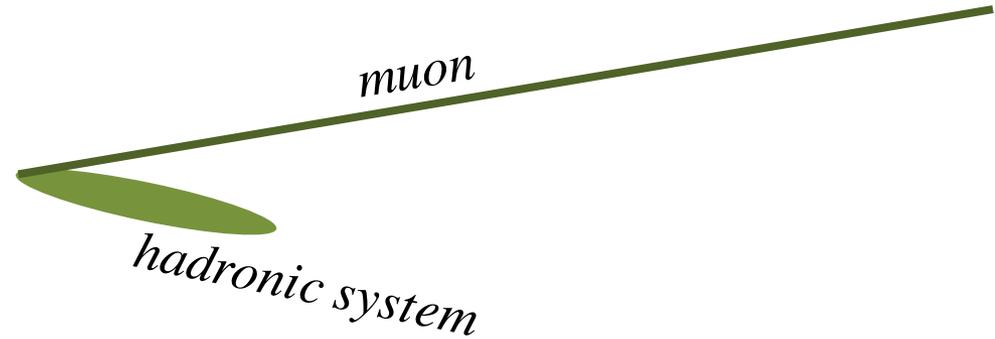
**Hadronic system:**

$$\sum_{\text{cells}} E_{\text{visible}} \Rightarrow E_{\text{had}}$$

**Reconstructed  $\nu_{\mu}$  energy is the sum of these two:**

$$E_{\nu} = E_{\mu} + E_{\text{had}}$$

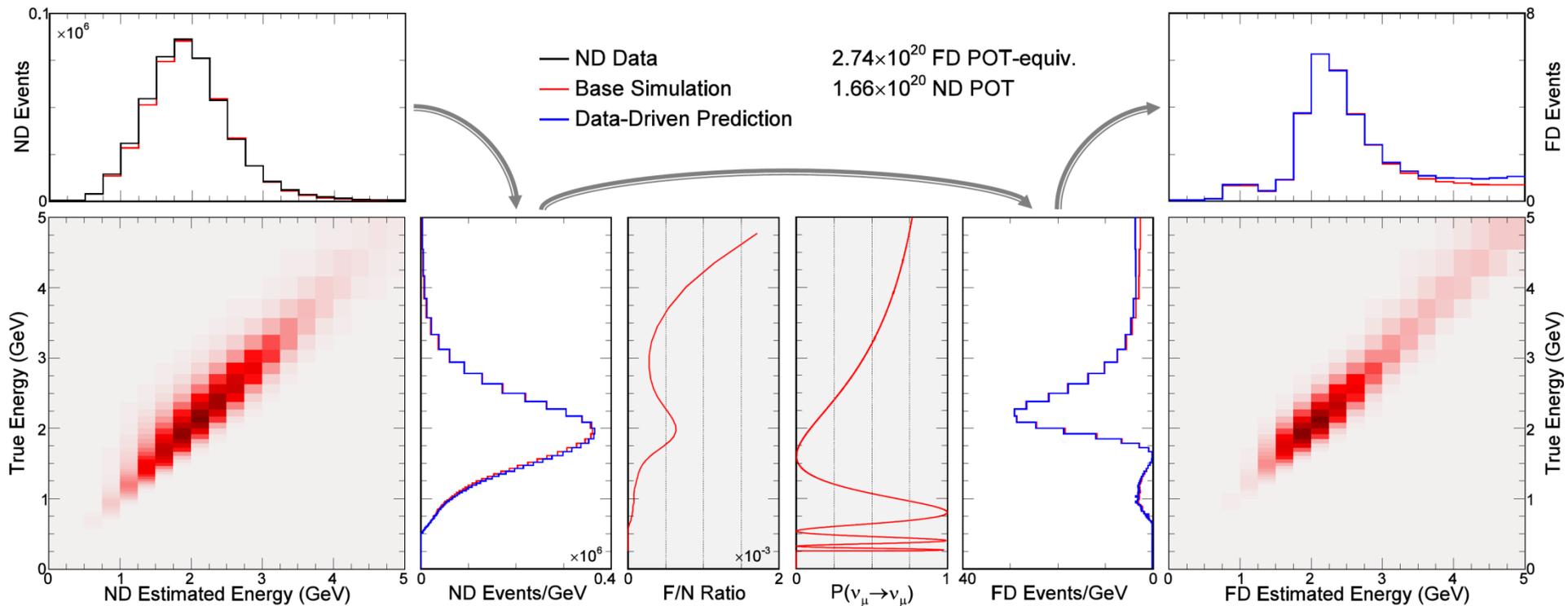
*Energy resolution at beam peak  $\sim 7\%$*



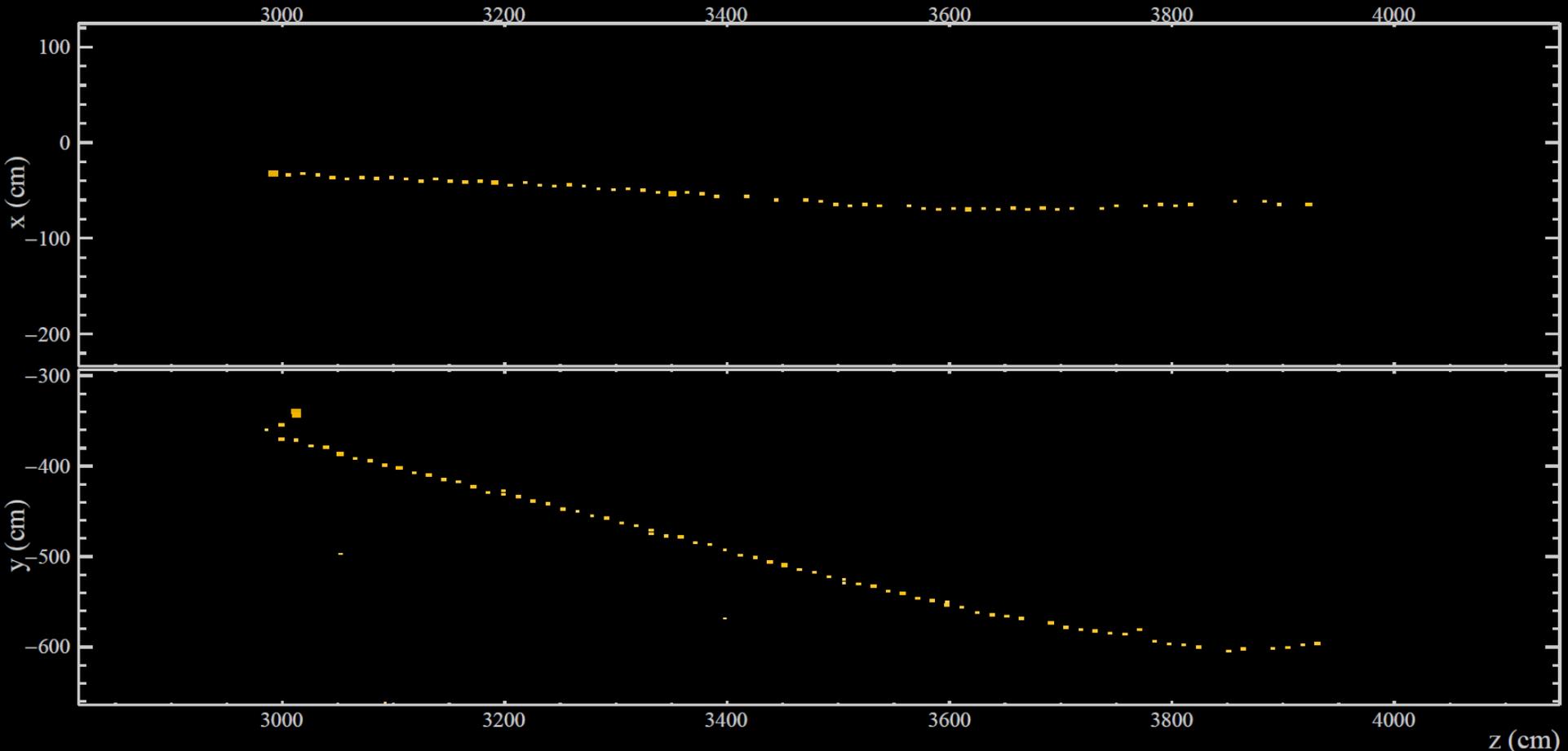
# Far Detector prediction

- (1) Estimate the underlying **true energy distribution** of selected ND events
- (2) Multiply by expected **Far/Near event ratio** and  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$  **oscillation probability** as a function of true energy
- (3) Convert FD true energy distribution into **predicted FD reco energy distribution**

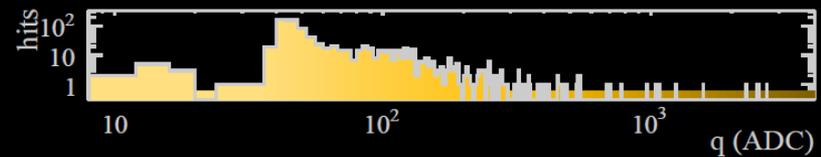
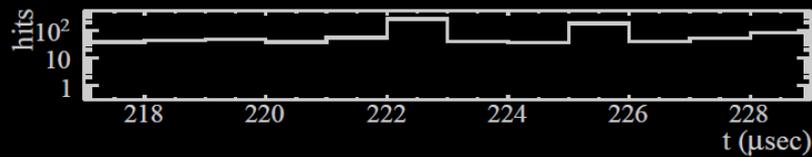
**Systematic uncertainties** assessed by **varying all MC-based steps**



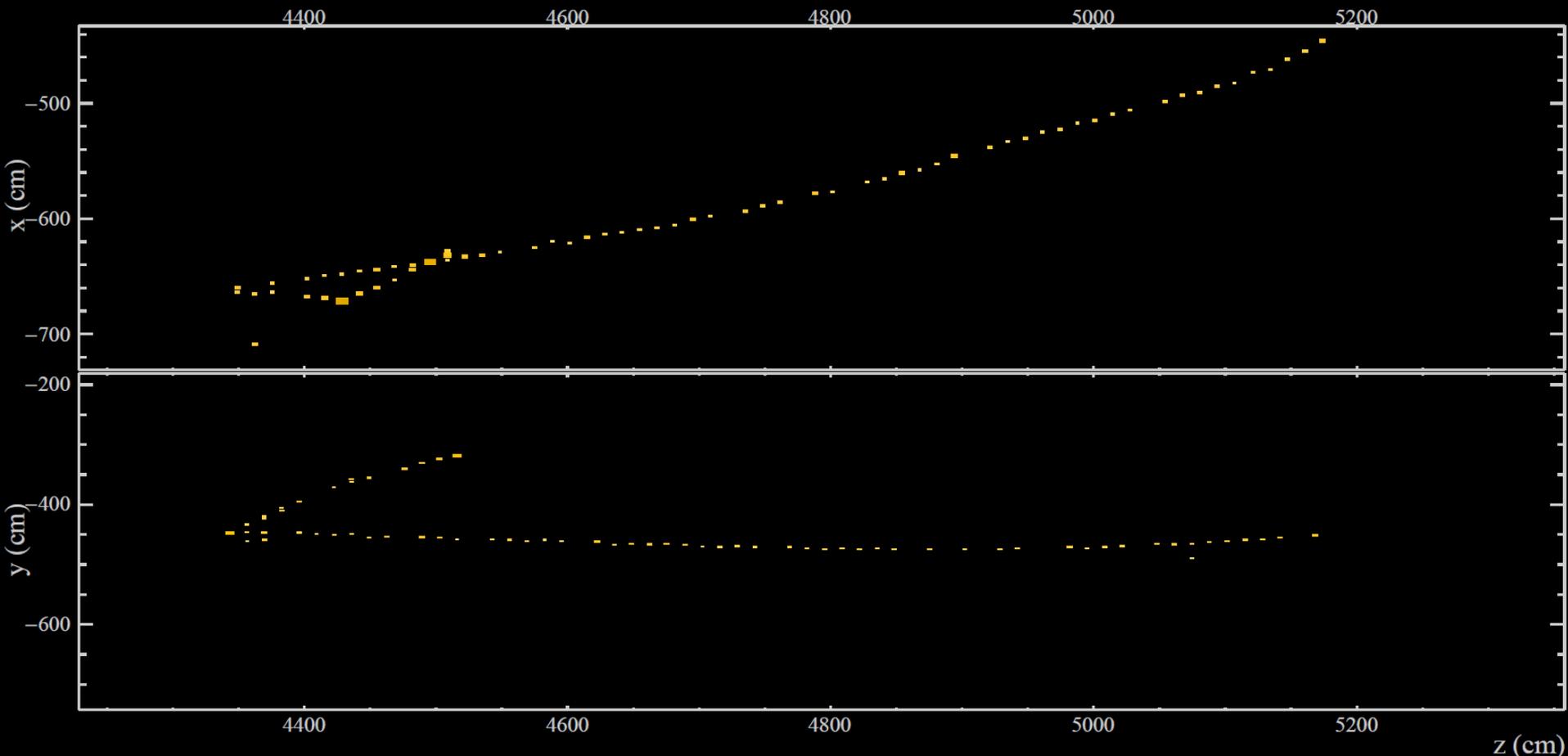
# Far Detector selected $\nu_\mu$ CC candidate



**NOvA - FNAL E929**  
Run: 18756 / 37  
Event: 597960 / --  
UTC Sun Jan 25, 2015  
13:29:18.710709824



# Far Detector selected $\nu_\mu$ CC candidate



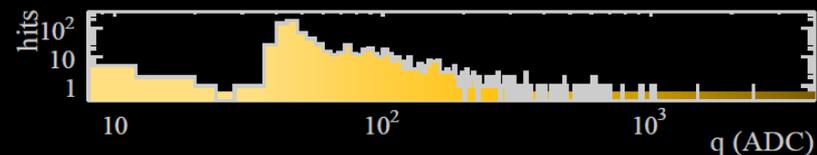
NOvA - FNAL E929

Run: 18791 / 48

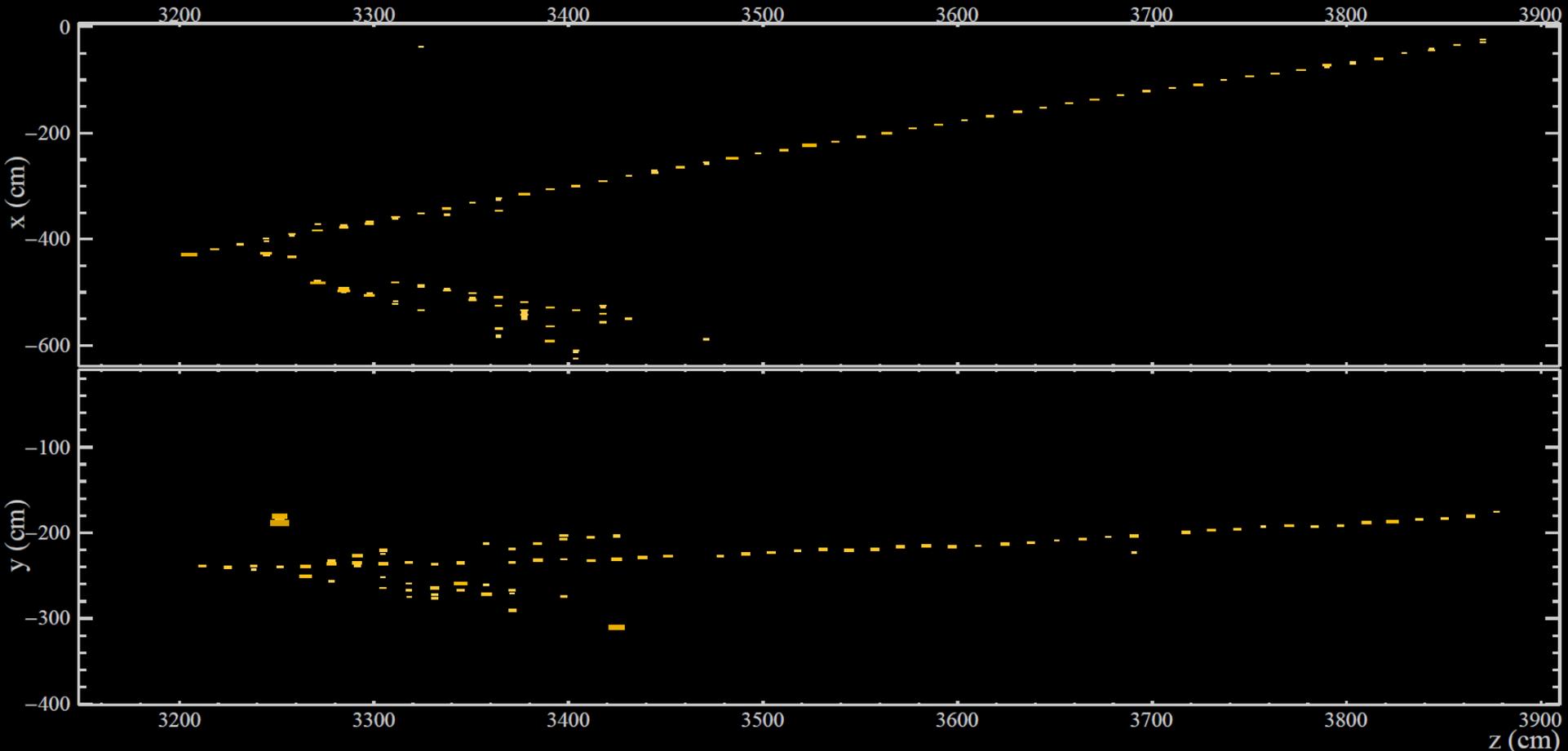
Event: 765587 / --

UTC Fri Jan 30, 2015

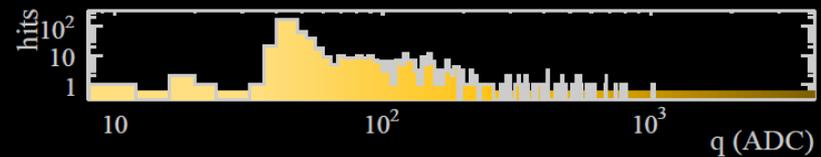
07:19:18.516289184



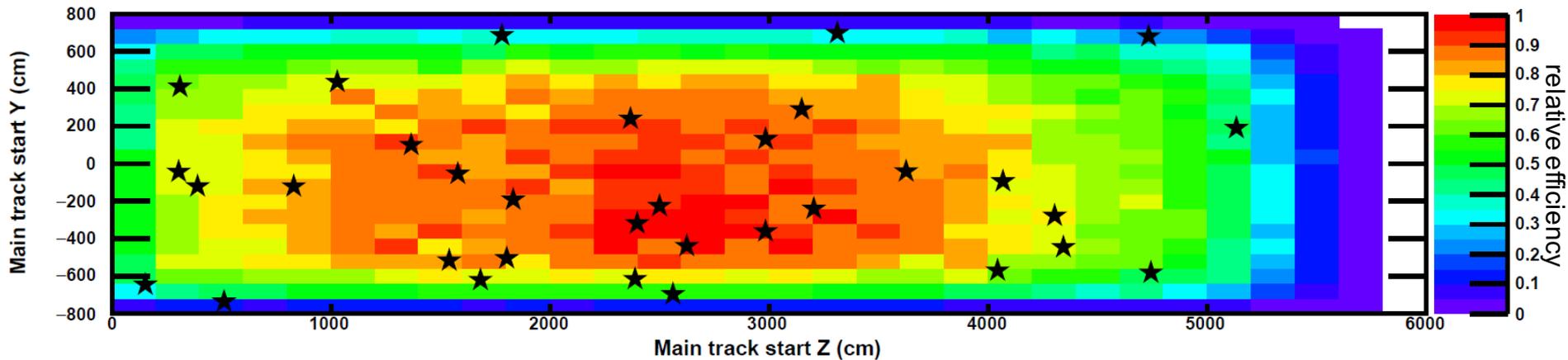
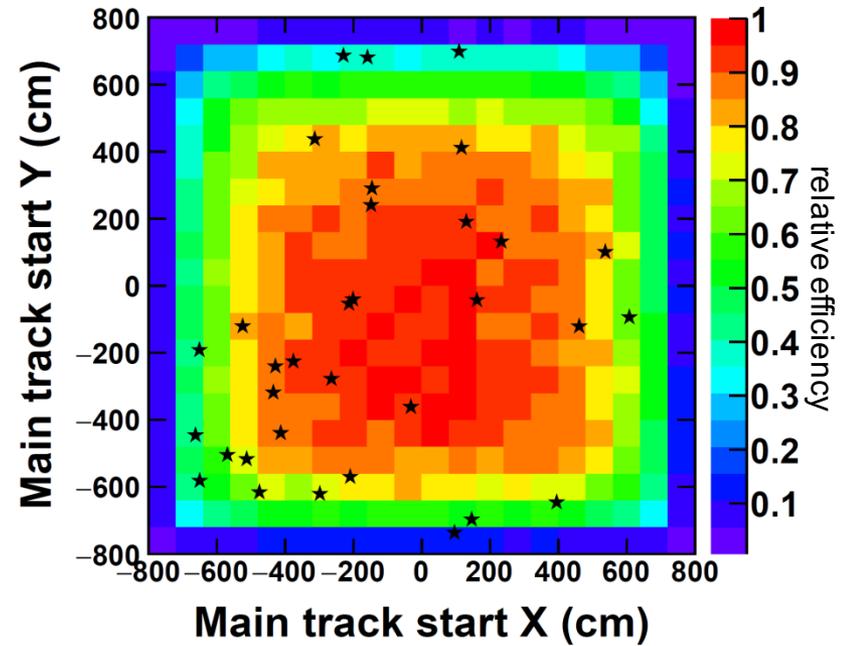
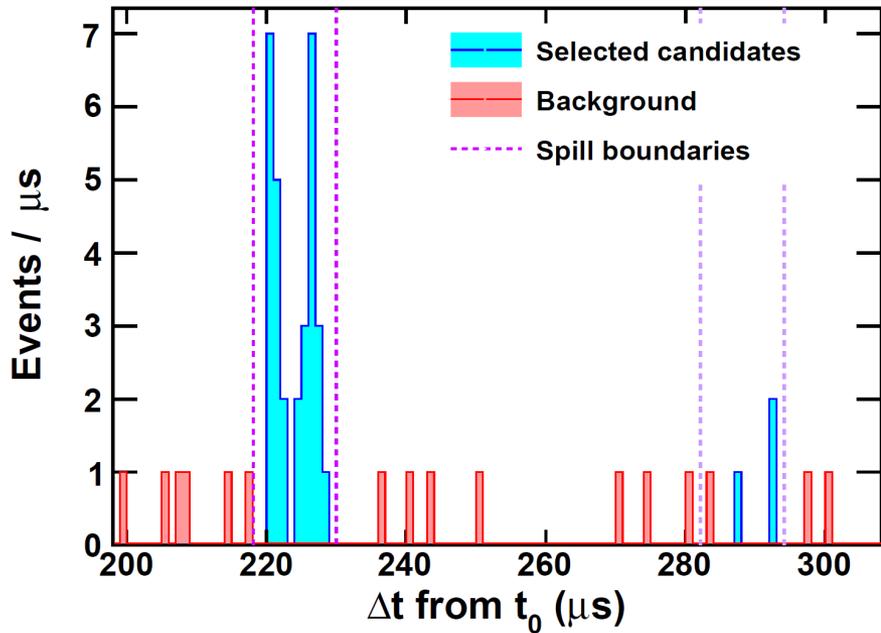
# Far Detector selected $\nu_\mu$ CC candidate



NOVA - FNAL E929  
Run: 19084 / 62  
Event: 908450 / --  
UTC Thu Mar 12, 2015  
04:16:51.818581248



# FD $\nu_\mu$ CC candidates: when and where



Note 1: Second timing window at  $+64 \mu\text{s}$  required for some of the early data

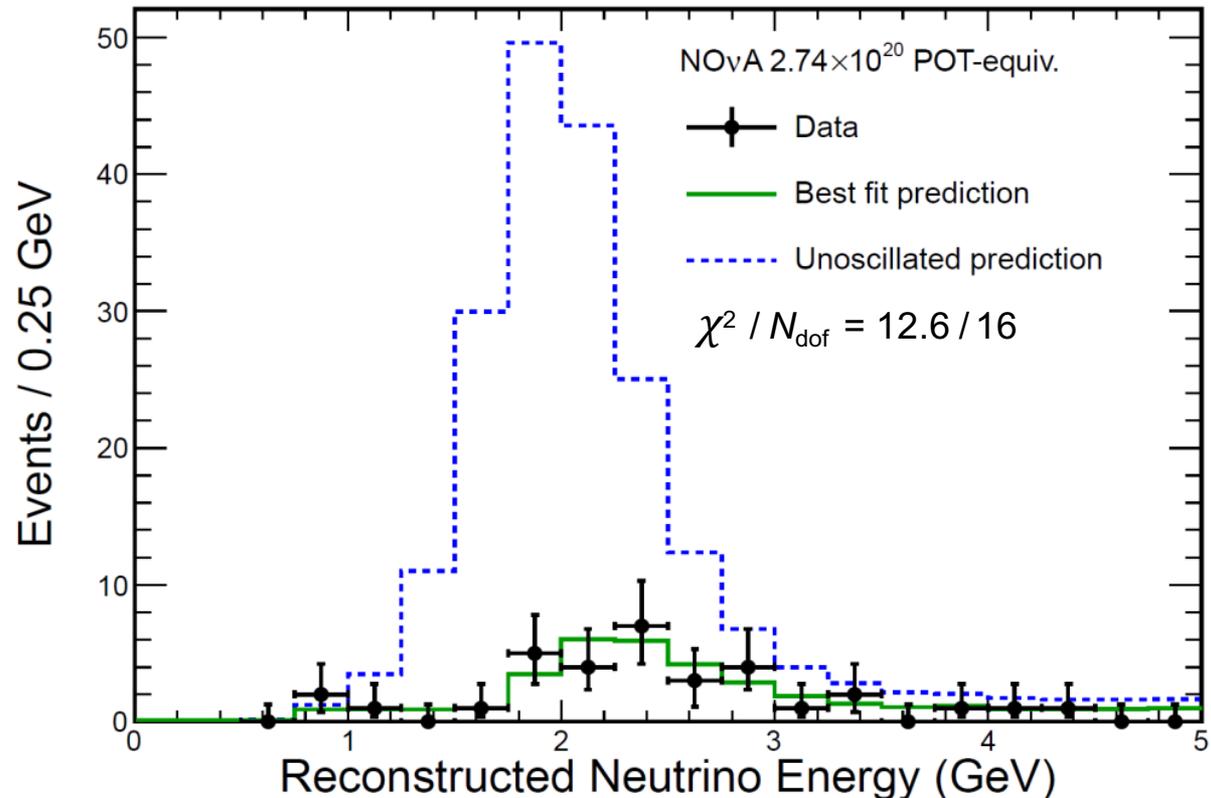
Note 2: Colors show relative efficiency. Not weighted by time variation in detector size.

# FD energy spectrum

NO $\nu$ A Preliminary

**33 events** selected  
in Far Detector  
(0 – 5 GeV)

In the absence of  
oscillations, would  
expect **201 events**  
(including 2.0 beam bkgnd  
and 1.4 cosmic bkgnd)



**Spectrum is well matched by oscillation fit for  $\Delta m_{32}^2$  and  $\theta_{23}$**   
(syst. uncertainties included in fit via nuisance parameters)

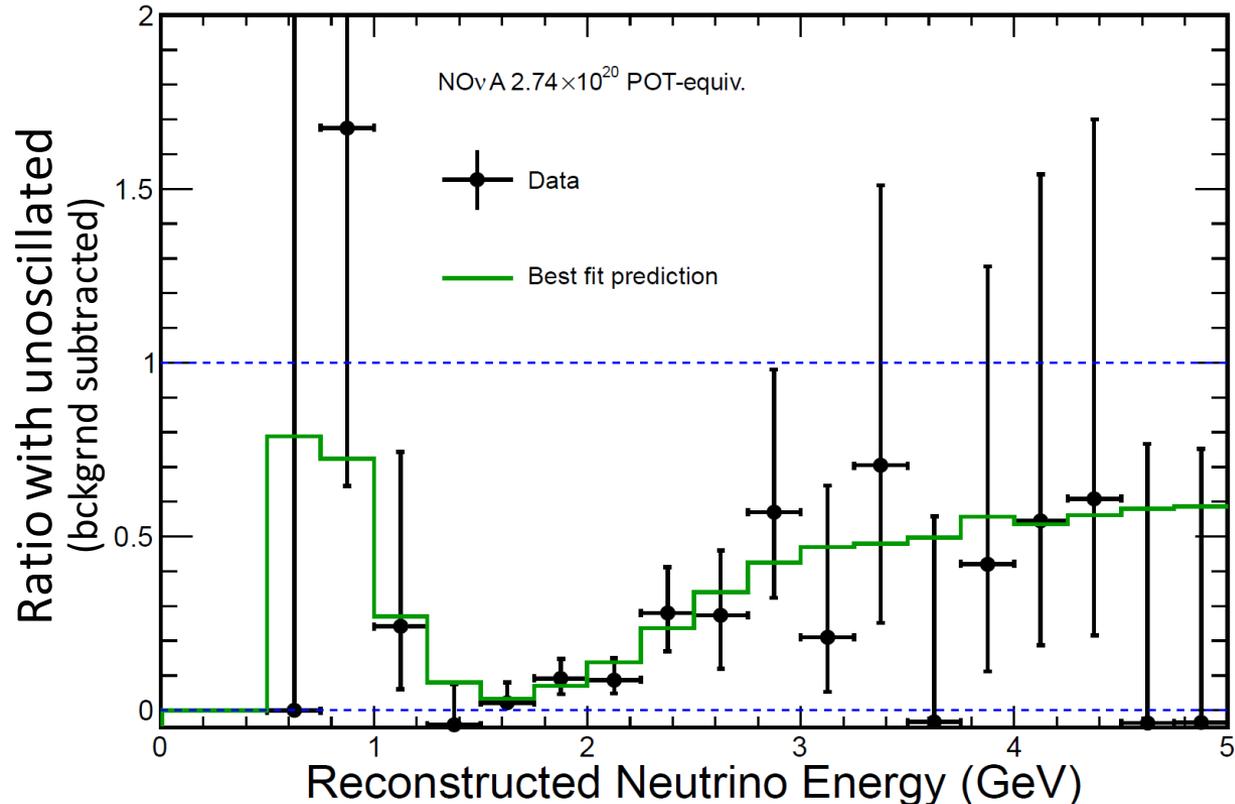
**Clear observation of  $\nu_{\mu}$  disappearance**

# FD energy spectrum

NOvA Preliminary

**33 events** selected  
in Far Detector  
(0 – 5 GeV)

In the absence of  
oscillations, would  
expect **201 events**  
(including 2.0 beam bkgnd  
and 1.4 cosmic bkgnd)



**Spectrum is well matched by oscillation fit for  $\Delta m_{32}^2$  and  $\theta_{23}$**   
(syst. uncertainties included in fit via nuisance parameters)

**Clear observation of  $\nu_{\mu}$  disappearance**

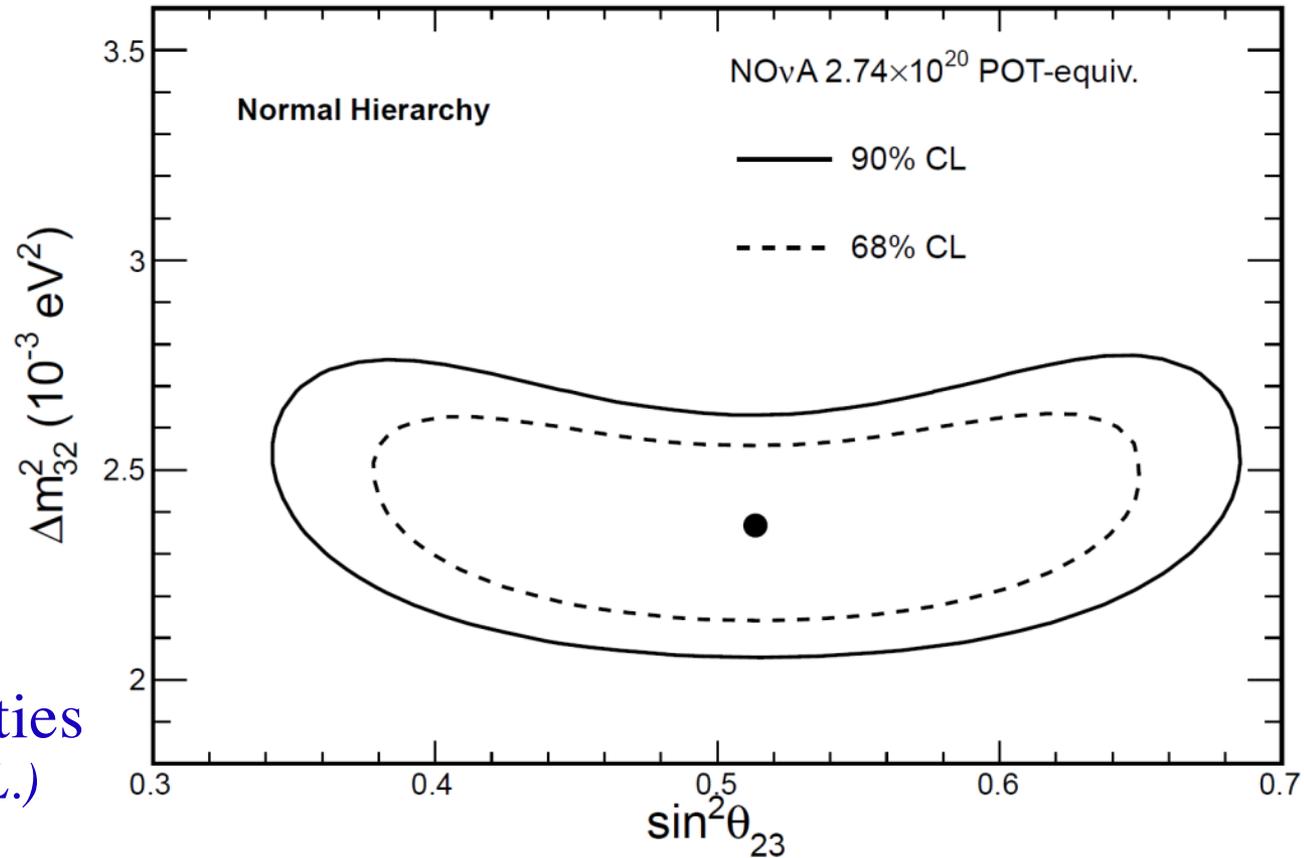
## Fit result

At right:

NO $\nu$ A allowed regions in  $(\Delta m_{32}^2, \sin^2\theta_{23})$  parameter space

Below:

Extracted parameter values and uncertainties  
(1D profiles at 68% C.L.)



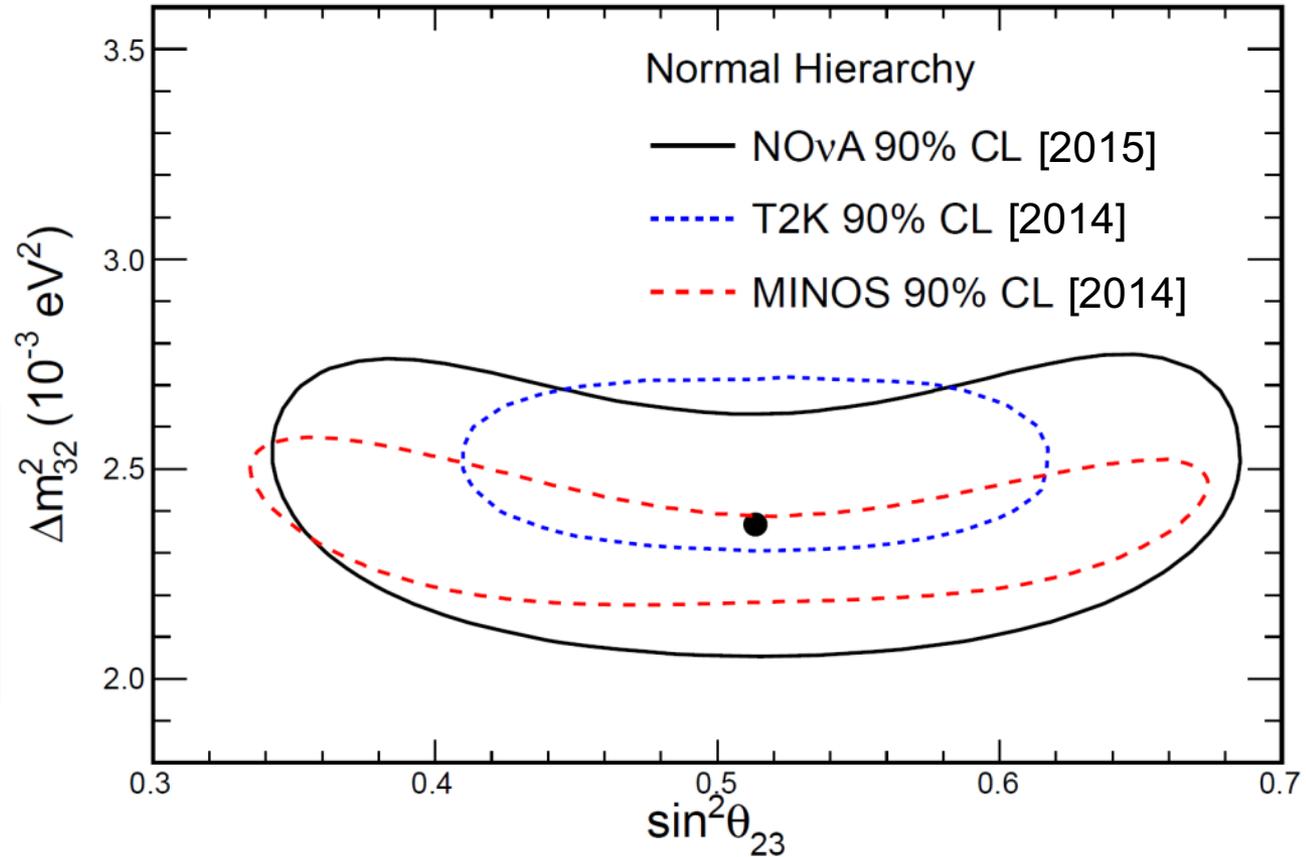
$$\Delta m_{32}^2 = \begin{cases} +2.37^{+0.16}_{-0.15} \text{ [NH]} \\ -2.40^{+0.14}_{-0.17} \text{ [IH]} \end{cases} \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

*6.5% measurement uncertainty*

$$\sin^2(\theta_{23}) = 0.51 \pm 0.10$$

Allowed regions are consistent with MINOS and T2K (shown at right)

NO $\nu$ A sensitivity already compelling with only 7.6% of nominal exposure!



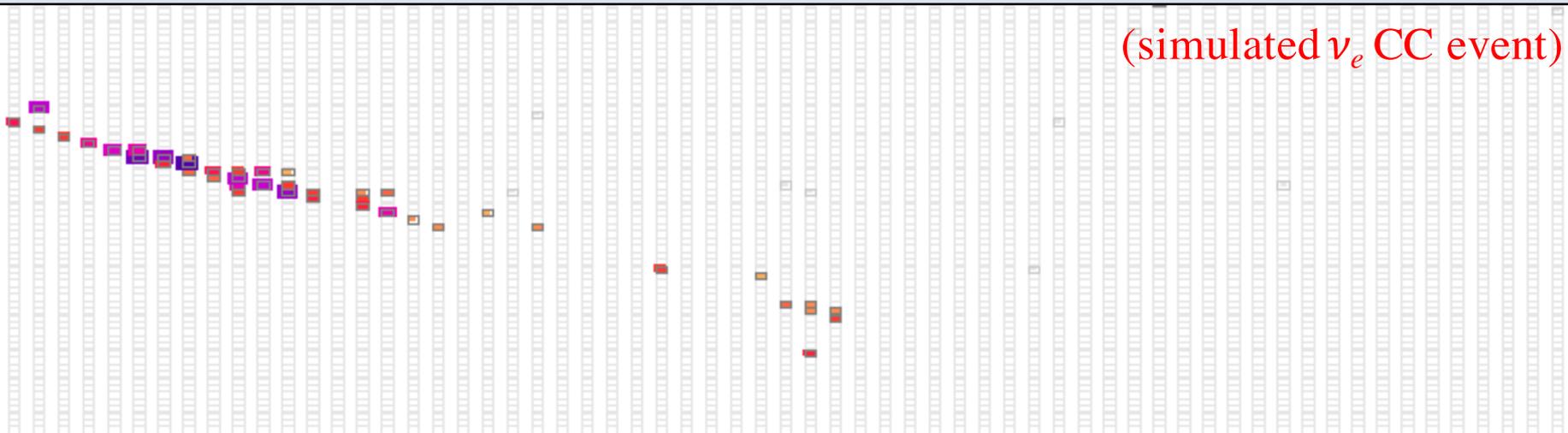
$$\Delta m_{32}^2 = \begin{cases} +2.37^{+0.16}_{-0.15} \text{ [NH]} \\ -2.40^{+0.14}_{-0.17} \text{ [IH]} \end{cases} \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

6.5% measurement uncertainty

$$\sin^2(\theta_{23}) = 0.51 \pm 0.10$$

# $\nu_e$ appearance

- Identify **contained  $\nu_e$  CC candidates** in each detector
- Use Near Det. candidates to **predict beam backgrounds** in the Far Detector
- Interpret any **Far Det. excess** over predicted backgrounds as  $\nu_e$  appearance



# FD predictions with systematic uncertainties indicated

## LID selector

**Background** [ plus few-percent variations depending on osc. pars. ]

**$0.94 \pm 0.09$  events** [ 49%  $\nu_e$  CC, 37% NC ]

**$2.74 \times 10^{20}$**

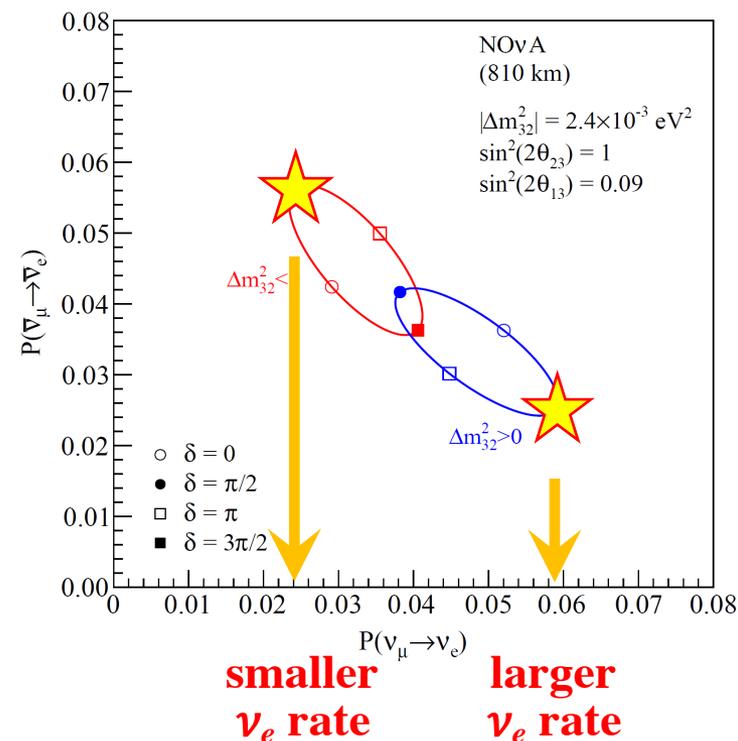
**POT equiv.**

**Signal** [ NH,  $\delta = 3\pi/2$ ,  $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$  ]

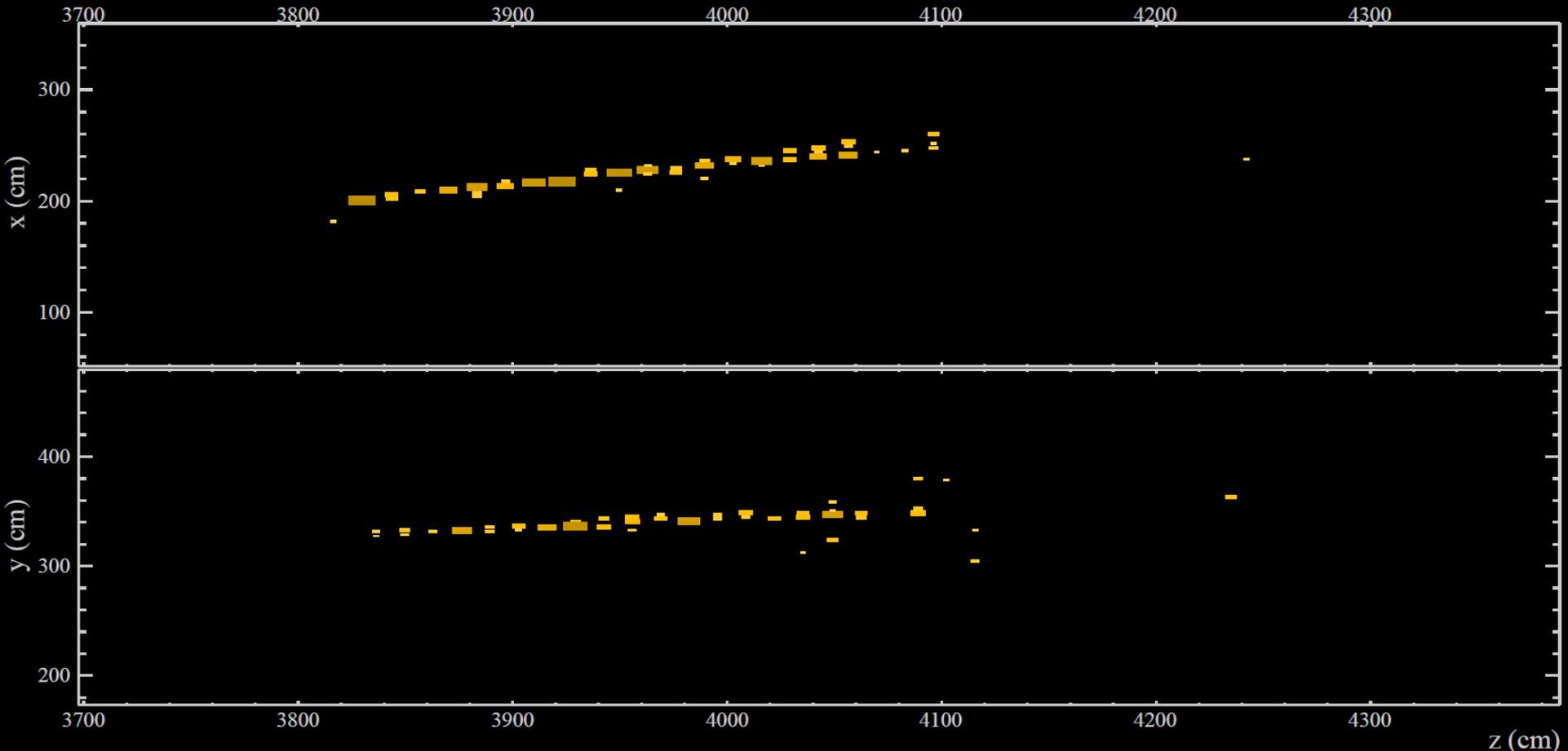
**$5.62 \pm 0.72$  events**

**Signal** [ IH,  $\delta = \pi/2$ ,  $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$  ]

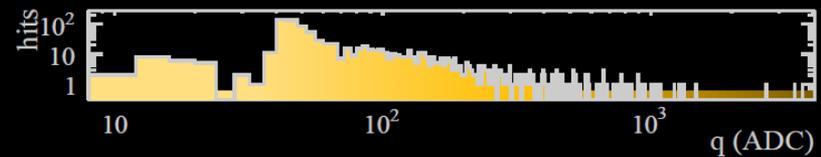
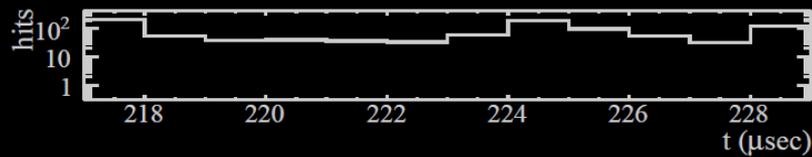
**$2.24 \pm 0.29$  events**



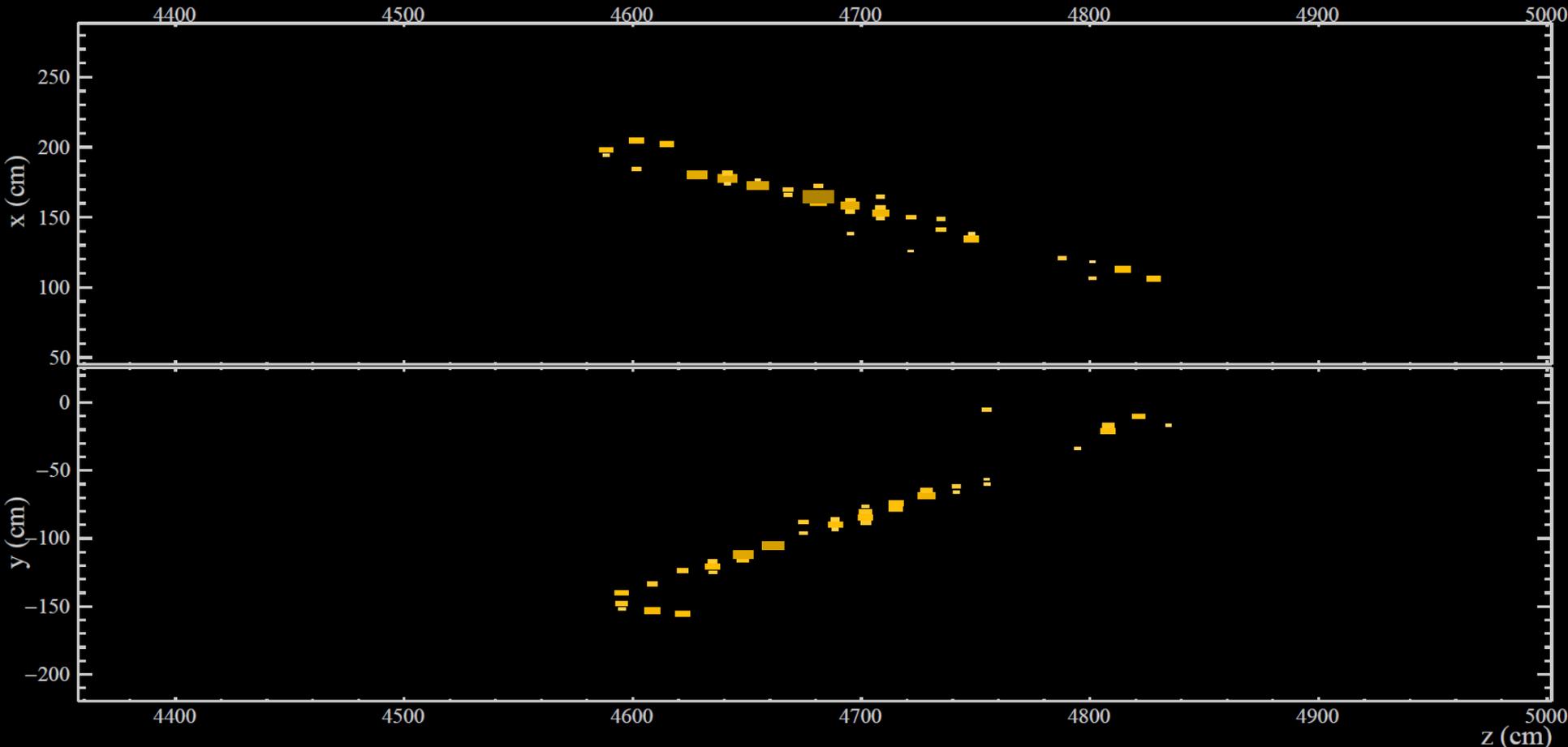
# Far Detector selected $\nu_e$ CC candidate



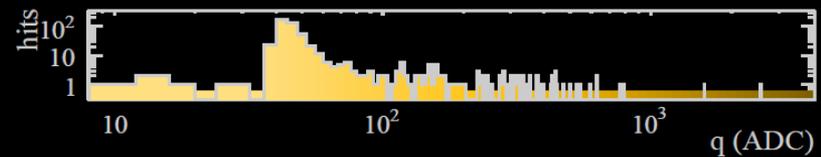
**NOvA - FNAL E929**  
 Run: 17103 / 7  
 Event: 27816 / --  
 UTC Wed Sep 3, 2014  
 10:04:58.572014784



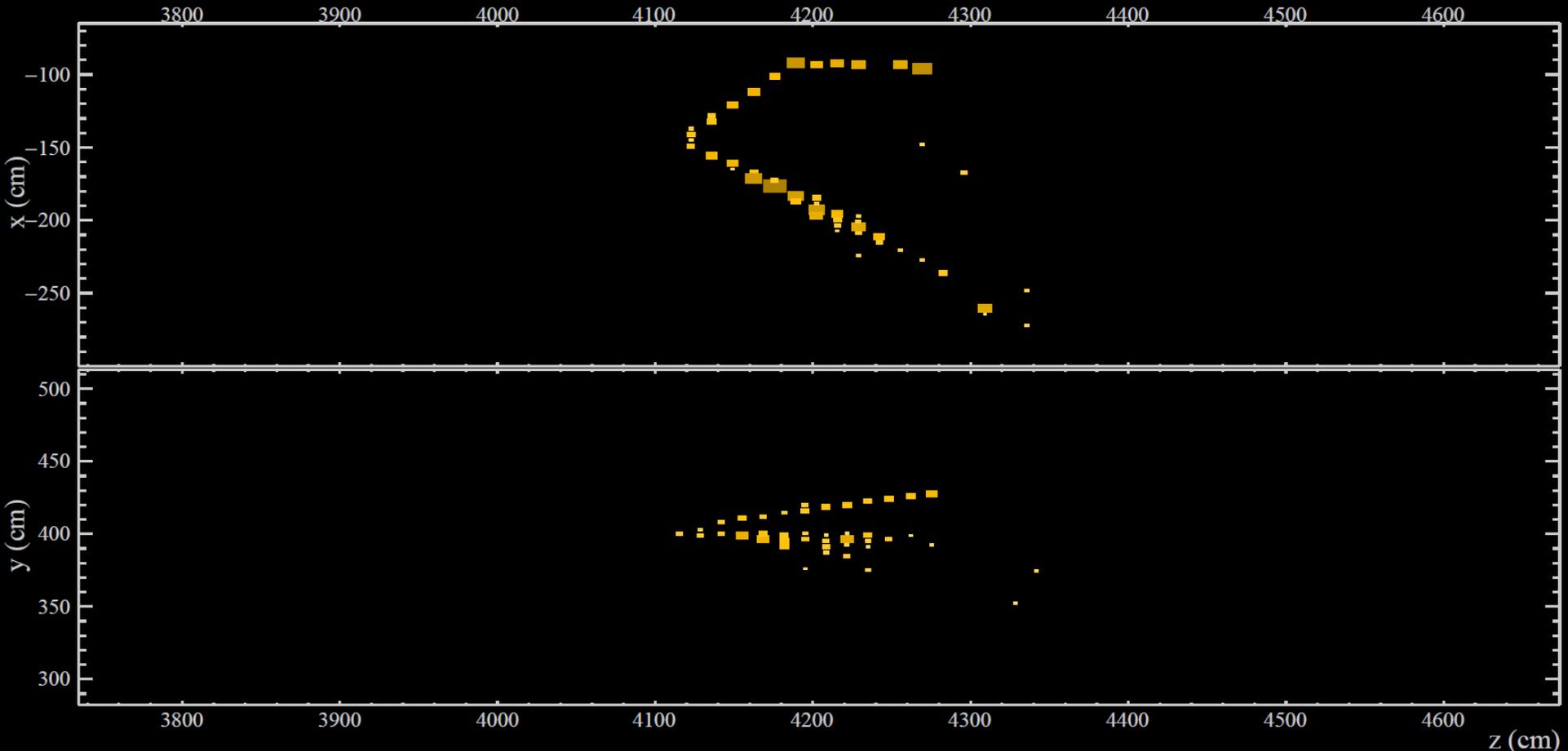
# Far Detector selected $\nu_e$ CC candidate



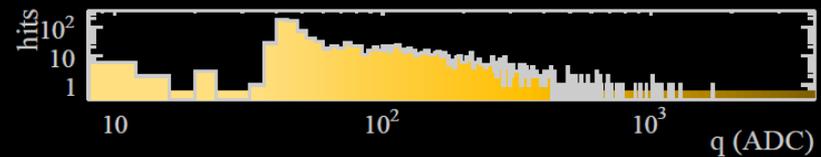
**NOvA - FNAL E929**  
Run: 19165 / 62  
Event: 920415 / --  
UTC Mon Mar 23, 2015  
11:43:54.311669120



# Far Detector selected $\nu_e$ CC candidate



NOVA - FNAL E929  
 Run: 19578 / 5  
 Event: 98069 / --  
 UTC Thu May 14, 2015  
 17:55:39.044985484



# Far Detector selected events

LID: 6  $\nu_e$  candidates

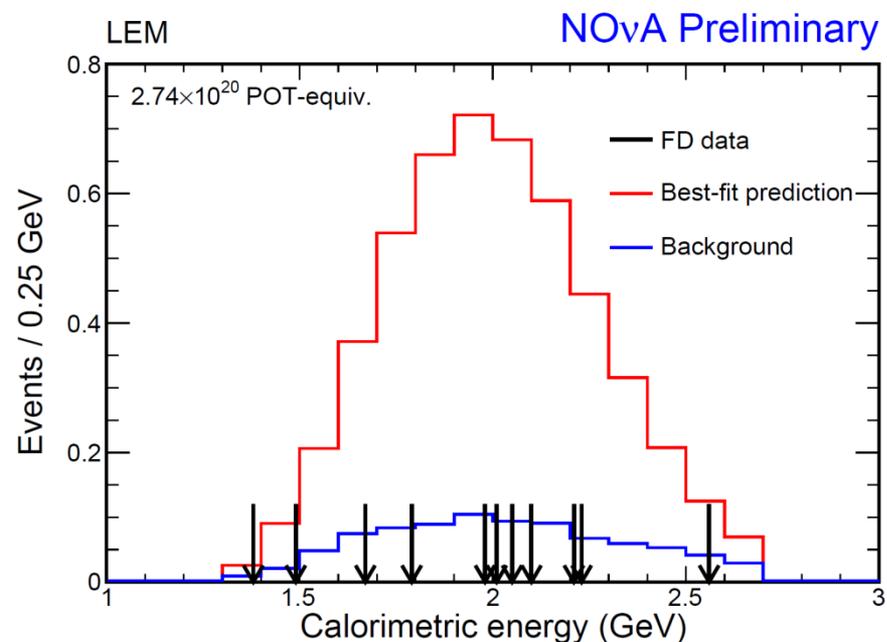
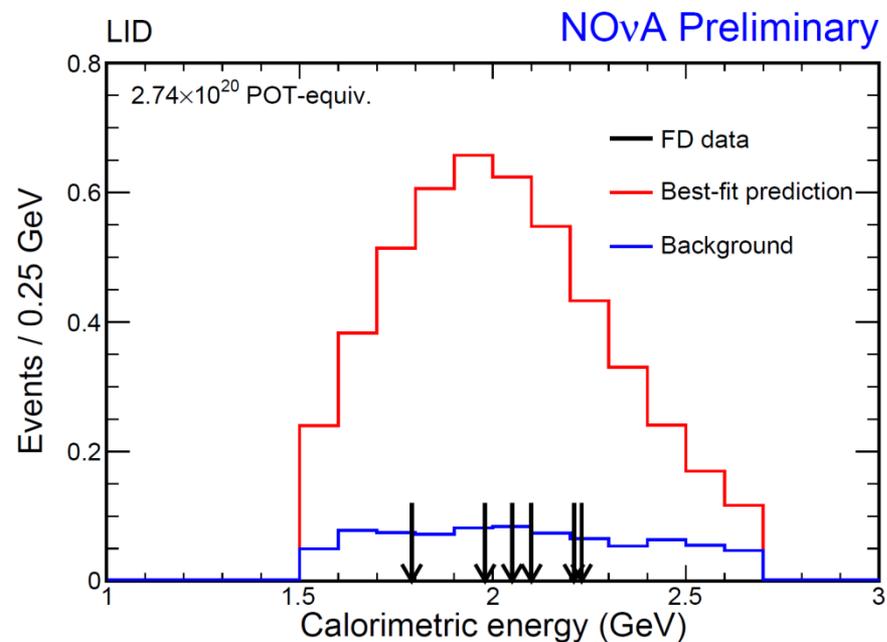
$3.3\sigma$  significance for  $\nu_e$  appearance

*At right:*  
Calorimetric energy

LEM: 11  $\nu_e$  candidates

$5.5\sigma$  significance for  $\nu_e$  appearance

*(All 6 LID events present in LEM set)*

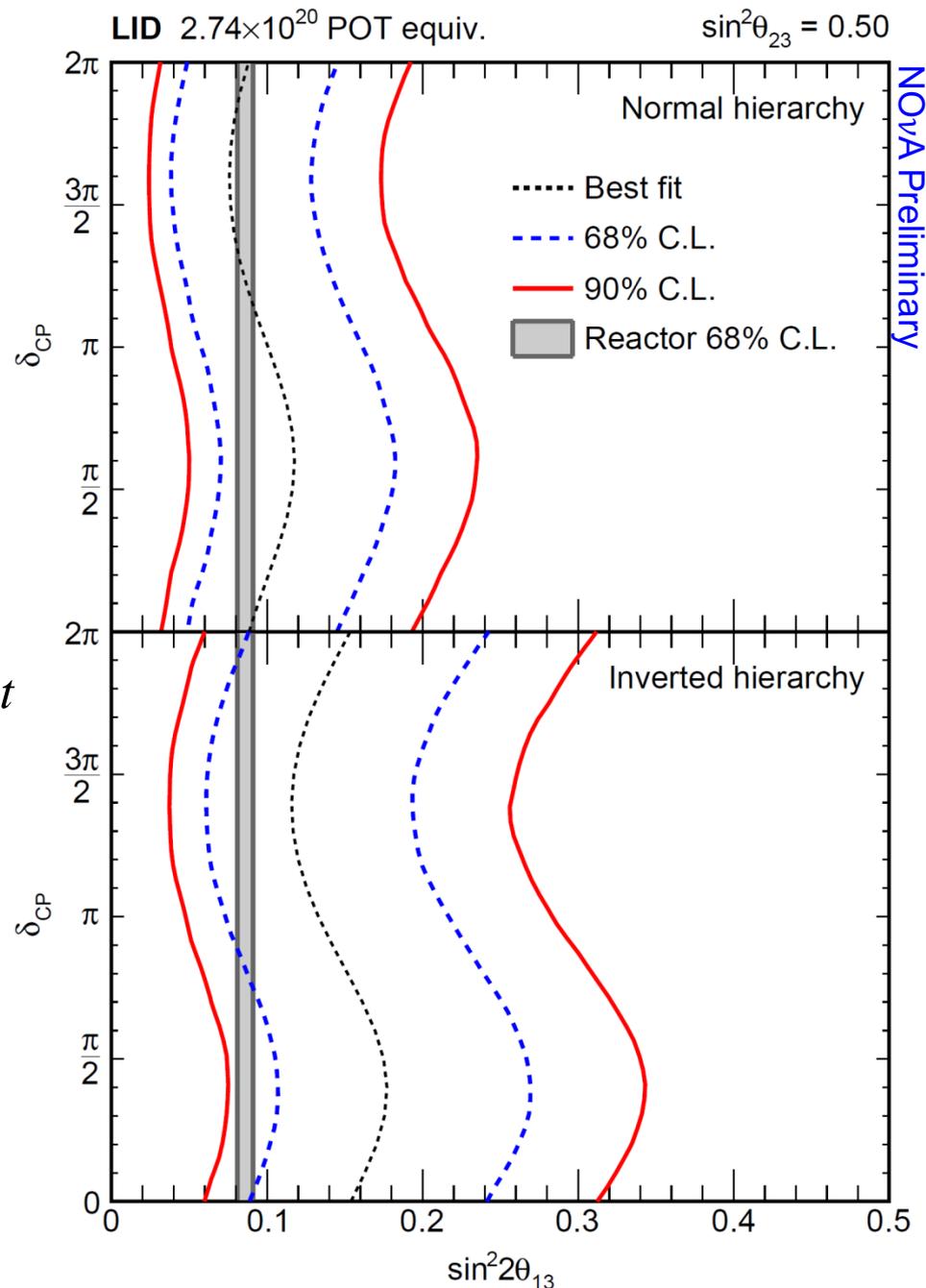


# Result using LID selector

FD selection: **6  $\nu_e$  candidates**

For  $(\delta_{CP}, \sin^2 2\theta_{13})$  allowed regions

- Feldman-Cousins procedure applied
- solar osc. parameters varied
- $\Delta m_{32}^2$  varied by *new NOvA measurement*
- $\sin^2 \theta_{23} = 0.5$



# Result using LID selector

Applying **global reactor constraint** of  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.086 \pm 0.005$

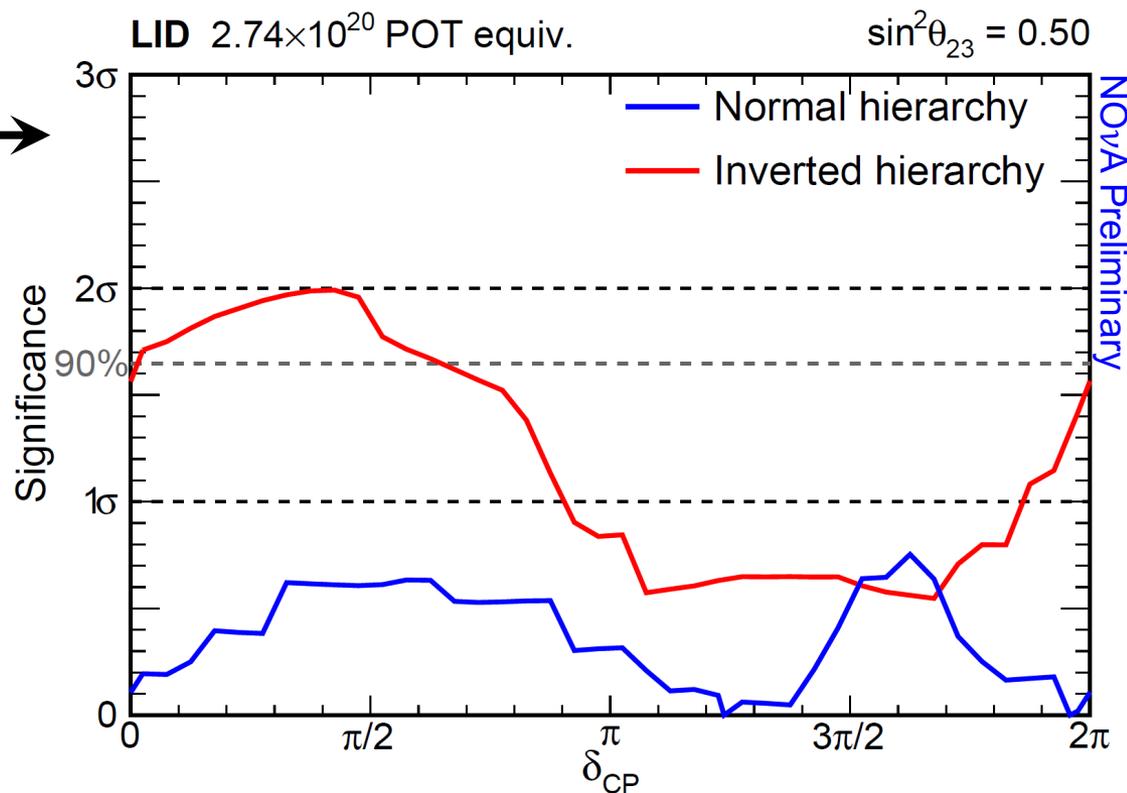
- Again apply Feldman-Cousins procedure to interpret  $-2\Delta\log L$   
*Note: noticeable deviations from simple interpretation expected in this case*  
[e.g., Elevant and Schwetz, arxiv:1506.07685]

Other assumptions for  $\sin^2\theta_{23}$  shown in backup

Converted into significance →  
[ steps due to discrete nature  
of counting expt. ]

For all  $\sin^2\theta_{23}$  in [ 0.4, 0.6 ]

**IH** for  $\delta \in [ 0, 0.8\pi ]$  is  
mildly disfavored ( $>1\sigma$ )



# Summary

With  $2.74 \times 10^{20}$  POT-equiv. exposure...

$$\Delta m_{32}^2 = \begin{cases} +2.37^{+0.16}_{-0.15} & \text{[NH]} \\ -2.40^{+0.14}_{-0.17} & \text{[IH]} \end{cases} \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

$$\sin^2(\theta_{23}) = 0.51 \pm 0.10$$

- $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$  { • Unambiguous  $\nu_\mu$  disappearance signature
- **6.5%** measurement of atm. mass splitting, and  $\theta_{23}$  measurement consistent with **maximal mixing**
- $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  { •  $\nu_e$  appearance signal at **3.3 $\sigma$**  for primary  $\nu_e$  selector, **5.5 $\sigma$**  for secondary selector.
- At max. mixing, **disfavor IH** for  $\delta \in [0, 0.6\pi]$  at 90% C.L. w/ primary selector. With secondary selector, further **preference for NH**.

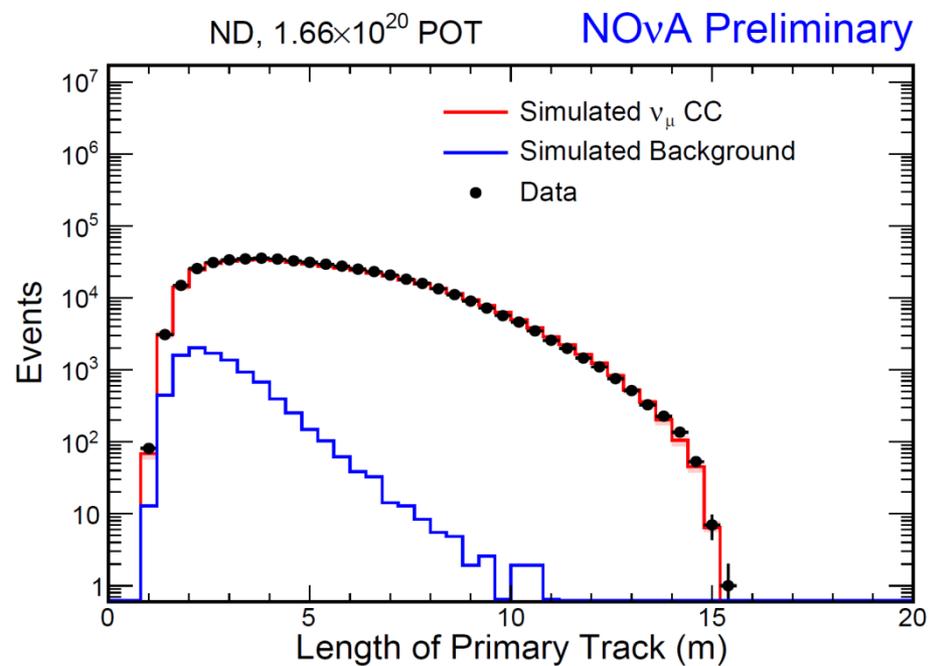
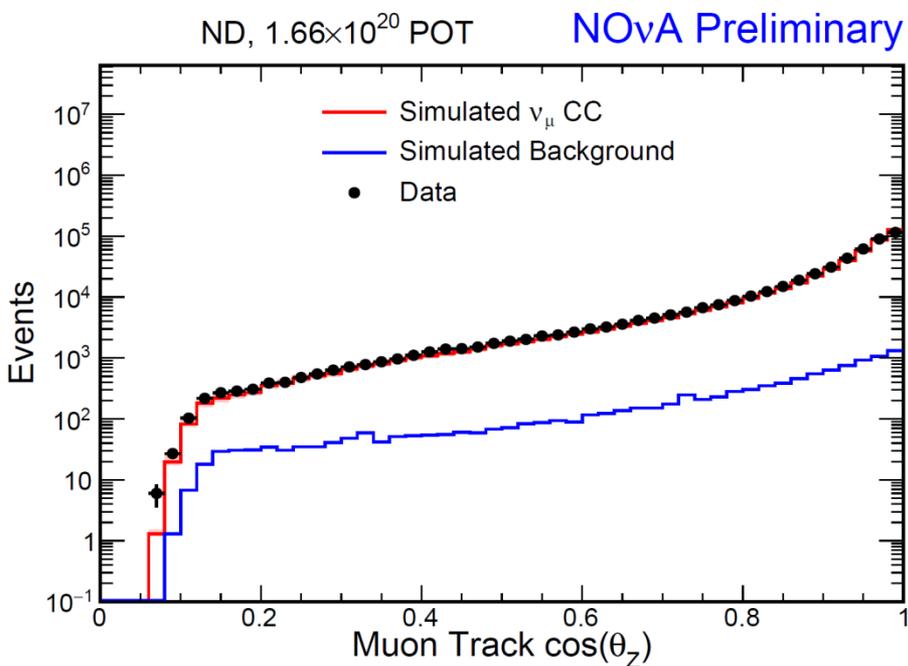
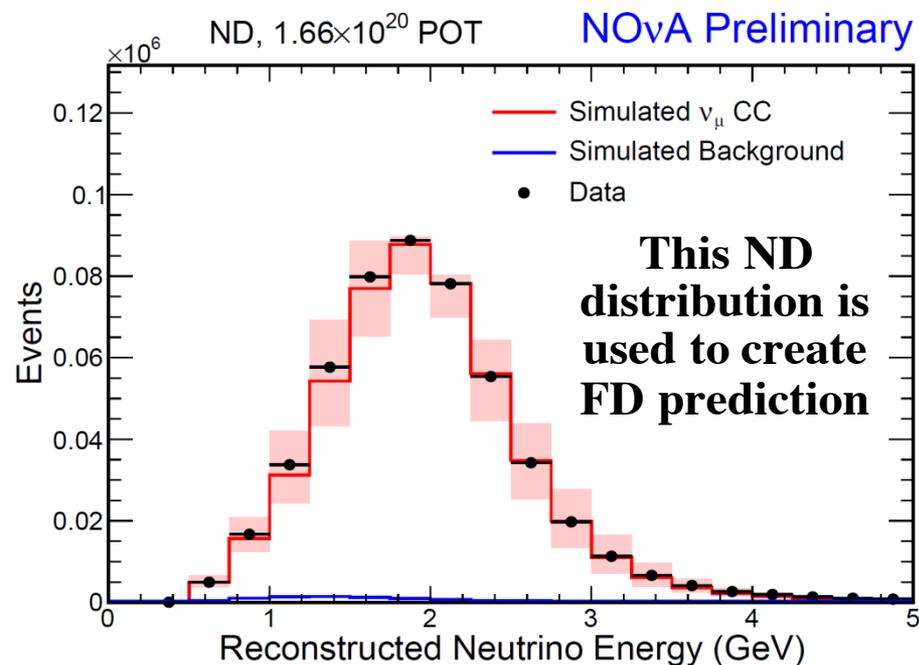
Above results obtained with 7.6% of baseline NO $\nu$ A exposure.  
**Much more to come!**



# Backup Slides

# Kinematic variables in Near Det. after all cuts

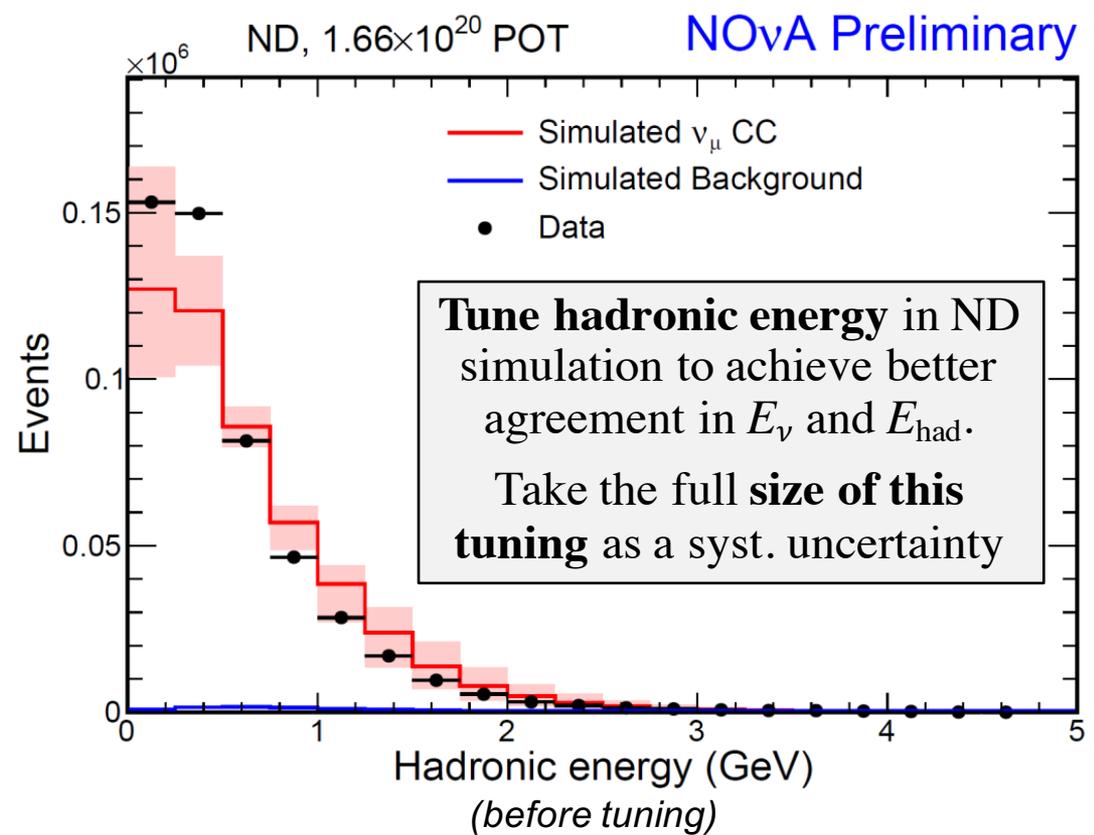
→ *Sample purity in ND = 98%*



# Systematics

Most of our systematic uncertainties have **relatively little influence** on the result

**Hadronic energy** syst. is one with a noticeable effect  $\rightarrow$   
(*impact reduced by ND-to-FD prediction procedure*)



## Uncertainties assessed

- Hadronic energy  
(21%, *~equiv. to 6% on  $E_\nu$* )
- Neutrino flux  
(NA49 + *beam transport model*)
- Absolute, relative normalization  
(1%, 2%)
- Neutrino interactions  
(*GENIE / Intranuke model*)
- NC and  $\nu_\tau$  CC background rate  
(100% each)
- Multiple calibration and light-level systematics  
(*Hit energy, fiber attenuation, threshold effects*)
- Oscillation parameter uncertainties  
(*current world knowledge*)

# FD predictions with systematic uncertainties indicated

## LEM selector

**Background** [ plus few-percent variations depending on osc. pars. ]

**$1.00 \pm 0.11$  events** [ 46%  $\nu_e$  CC, 40% NC ]

**$2.74 \times 10^{20}$   
POT equiv.**

**Signal** [ NH,  $\delta = 3\pi/2$ ,  $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$  ]

**$5.91 \pm 0.65$  events**

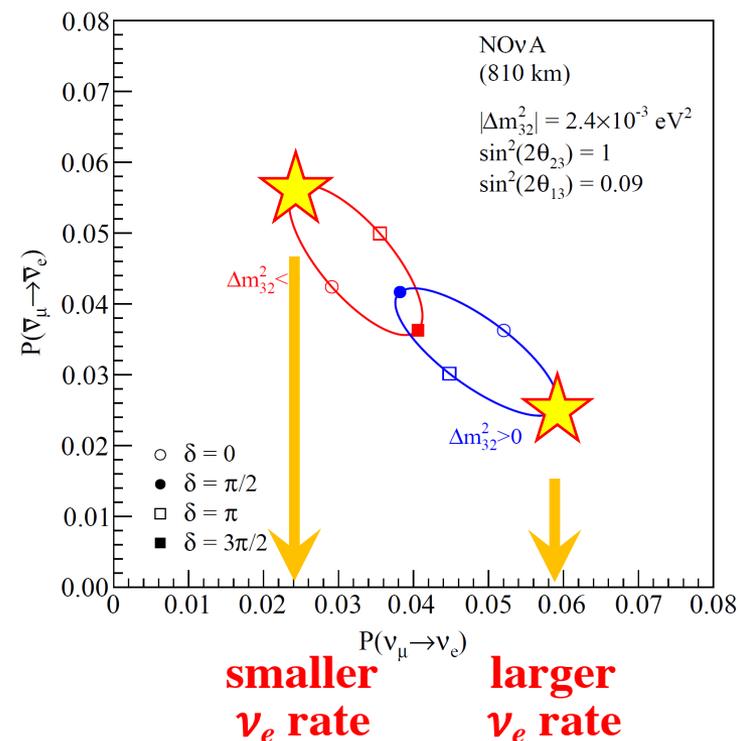
**Signal** [ IH,  $\delta = \pi/2$ ,  $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$  ]

**$2.34 \pm 0.26$  events**

*Aside:* Before unblinding, **two sidebands checks** –

- (1) Near-PID (LID/LEM) sideband, and
- (2) High-energy sideband

Results of both were **well within expectations.**



# Far Detector selected events

LID: 6  $\nu_e$  candidates

$3.3\sigma$  significance for  $\nu_e$  appearance

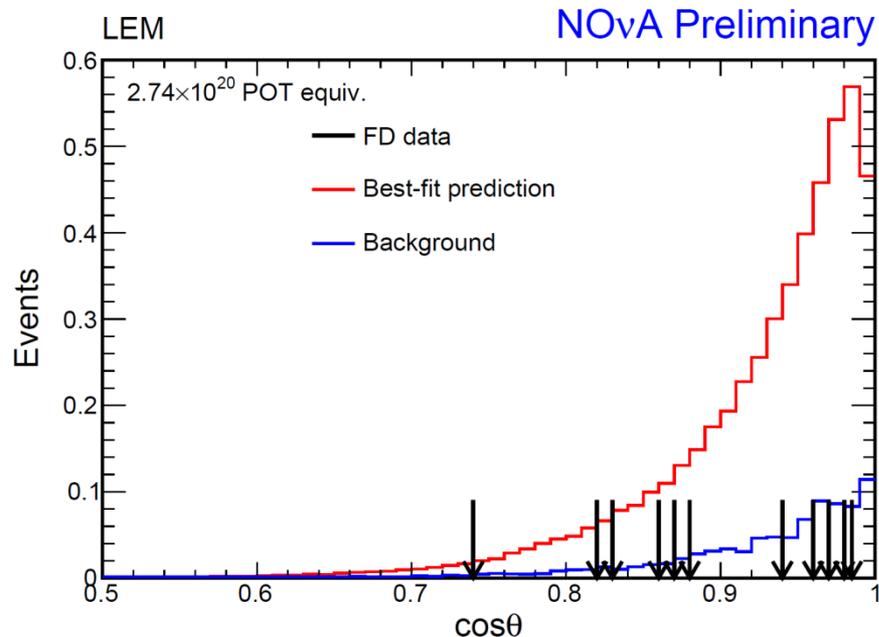
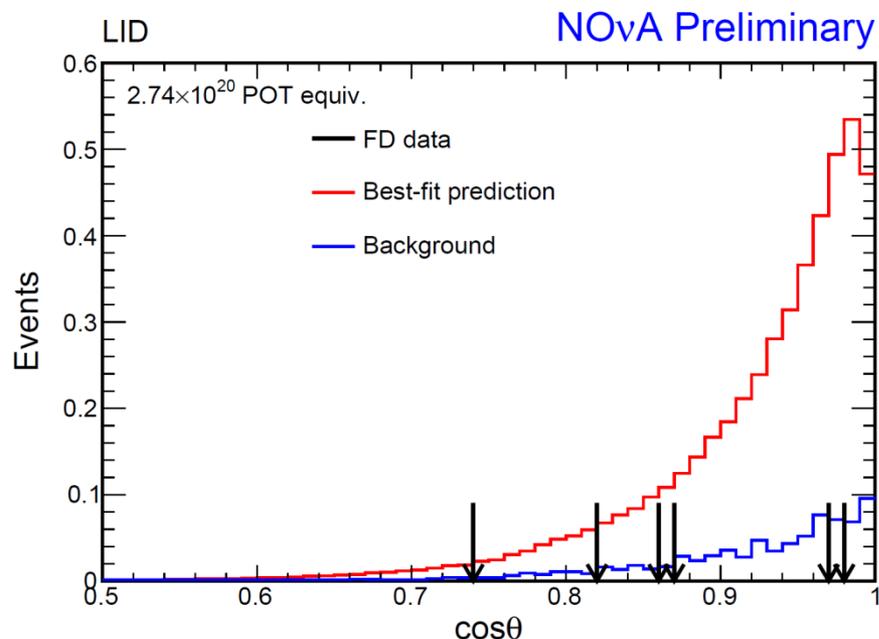
*At right:*

Reconstructed direction  
of leading shower

LEM: 11  $\nu_e$  candidates

$5.5\sigma$  significance for  $\nu_e$  appearance

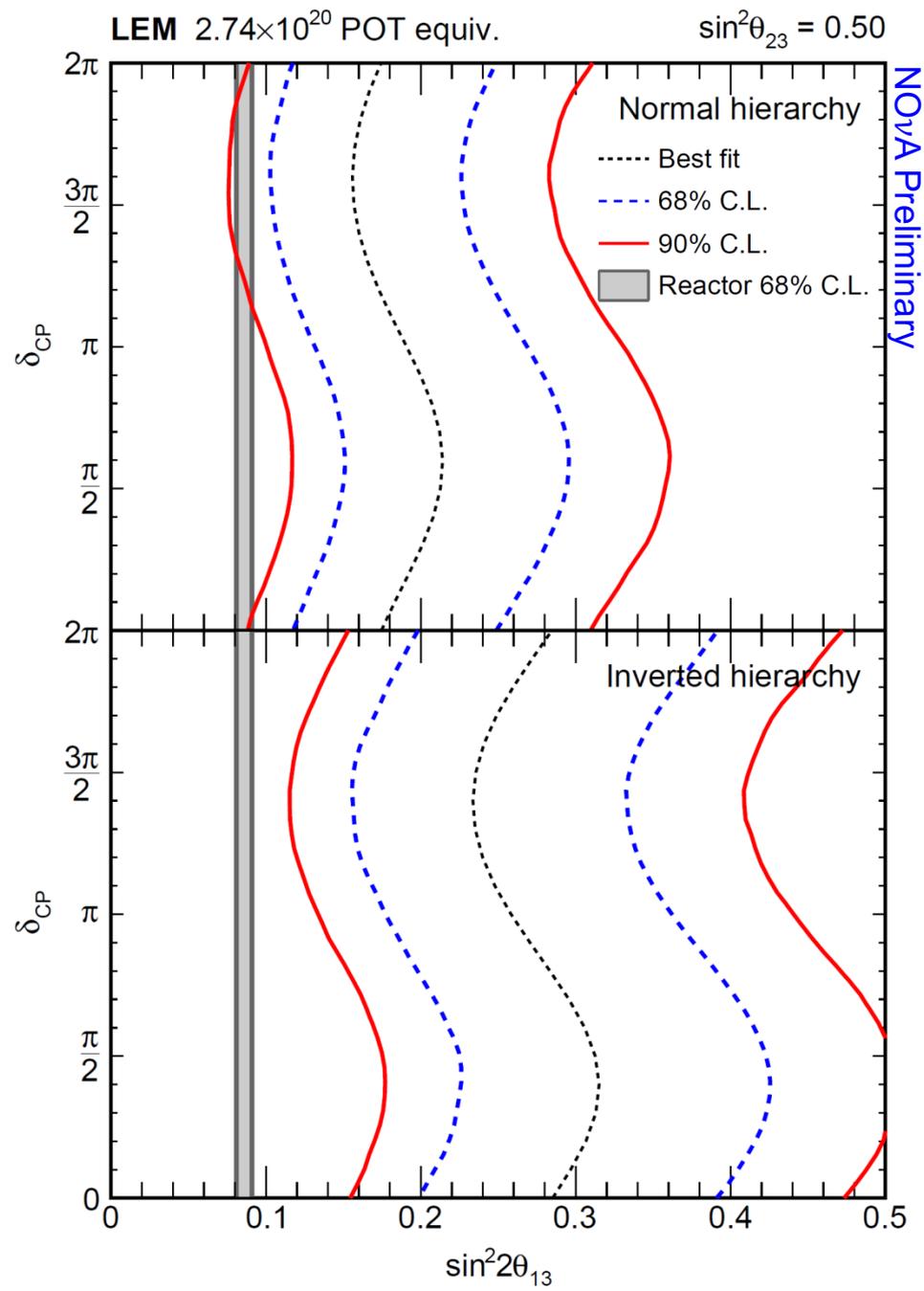
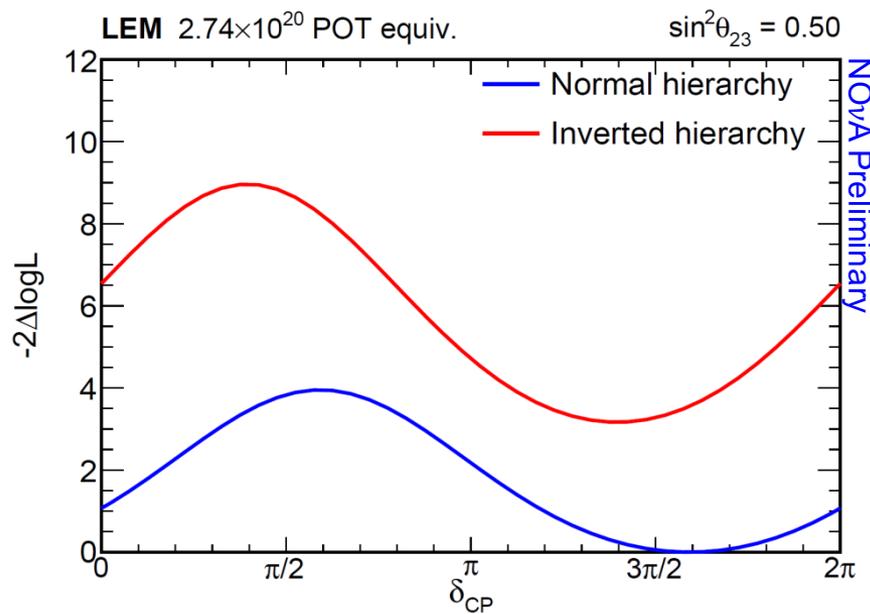
(All 6 LID events present in LEM set)



# Result using LEM selector

FD selection: 11  $\nu_e$  candidates

*Below: With reactor constraint applied*  
(significance on next page)



# Result using LEM selector

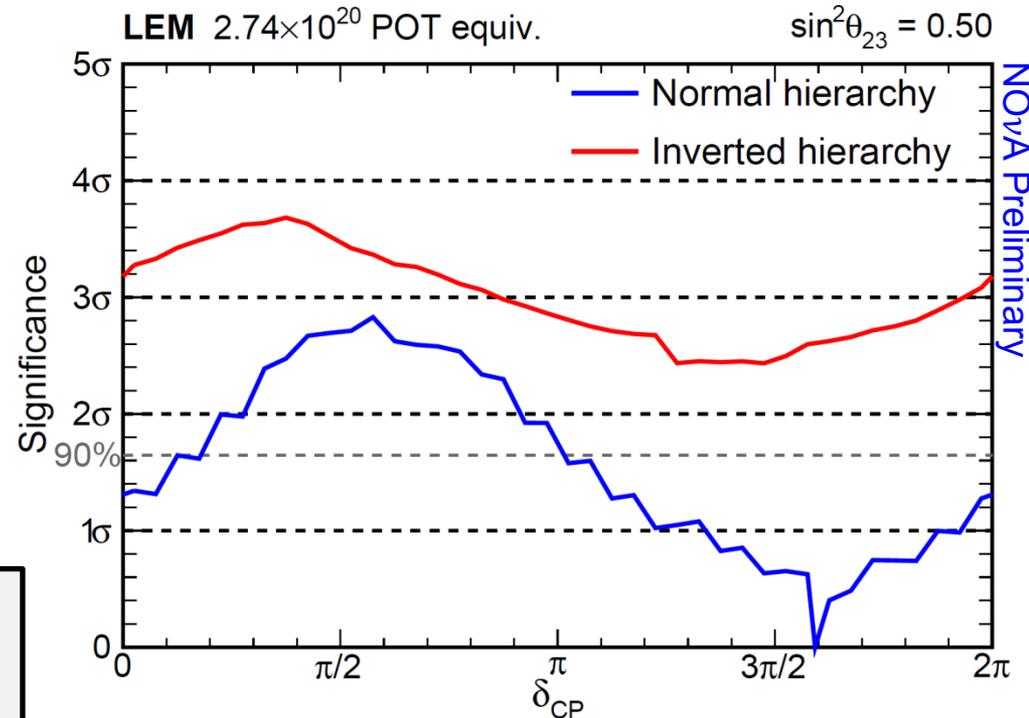
For all  $\sin^2\theta_{23}$  in [ 0.4, 0.6 ]

**IH** is disfavored at  $>2.2\sigma$

**NH** for  $\delta \in [ 0, \pi ]$  is mildly disfavored ( $>1\sigma$ )

## LID, LEM Consistency

- Both prefer **normal hierarchy**
- Both prefer  $\delta$  near  $3\pi/2$
- Given expected correlations, the observed event counts yield a reasonable **mutual p-value of 10%**.



The specific point **IH,  $\delta=\pi/2$**  is disfavored at

**$1.6\sigma$  [LID],  $3.2\sigma$  [LEM]**

for all  $\sin^2\theta_{23}$  in [ 0.4, 0.6 ]