Yu.Kudenko Fest INR 05.10.2021

Search for sterile neutrinos at very short baseline reactor experiments

Mikhail Danilov, LPI (Moscow)

Many plots are taken from recent neutrino conferences. Many thanks to authors

v oscillations in 3 generations are well measured

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13} \\ 0 & e^{-i\delta} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\rho} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\sigma} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

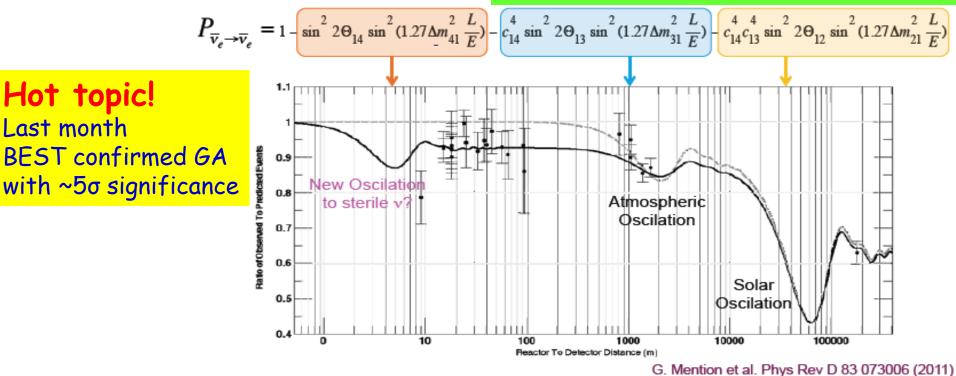
$$\frac{\theta_{23} \sim 45^{\circ}}{\text{Atmospheric}} \qquad \frac{\theta_{13} \sim 8^{\circ}}{\text{Accelerator}} \qquad \frac{\theta_{12} \sim 34^{\circ}}{\text{Solar}}{\text{Reactor}}$$

$$\frac{|\Delta m^{2}_{31}| \sim 2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^{2}}{\Delta m^{2}_{12} \sim 8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^{2}}$$

Z boson width gives N_v(active)=2.9840±0.0082

There are several indications of 4th neutrino

LSND, MiniBoone: $\overline{V}e$ appearance SAGE and GALEX V_e deficit (GA) Reactor \overline{V}_e deficit (RAA) Indication of a sterile neutrino $\Delta m^2 \sim 1 \text{ eV}^2$ $\sin^2 2\theta_{14} \sim 0.1$ => Short range neutrino oscillations

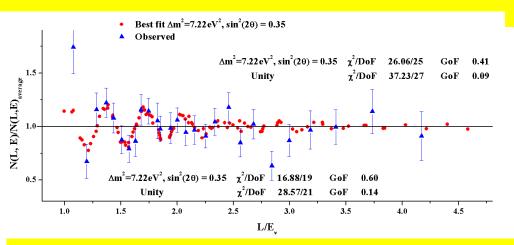


Reactor models are based on ILL measurements of 235U, 239Pu, 241Pu electron spectra.

Recently Kurchatov Inst. Group observed 5.4% smaller ratio of e- yields for 235U/239Pu (arXiv:2103.01684v1). This can explain the RAA!

Recent (2018) indications of sterile neutrinos

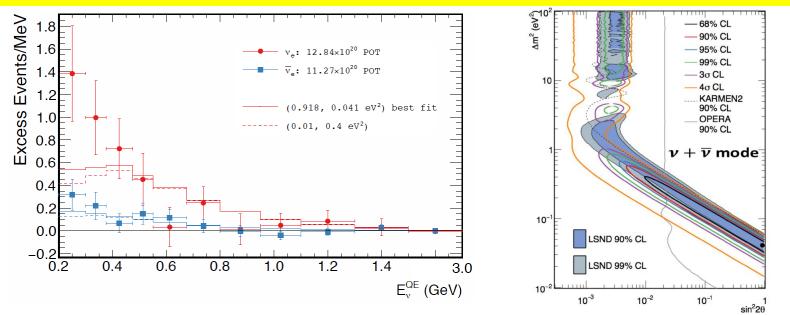
NEUTRINO-4: Δm²~7eV² sin²20~0.35! JETP Lett. 109 (2019) no.4, 213; Arxiv:2005.05301 Phys.Rev.D 104, 032003 (2021)



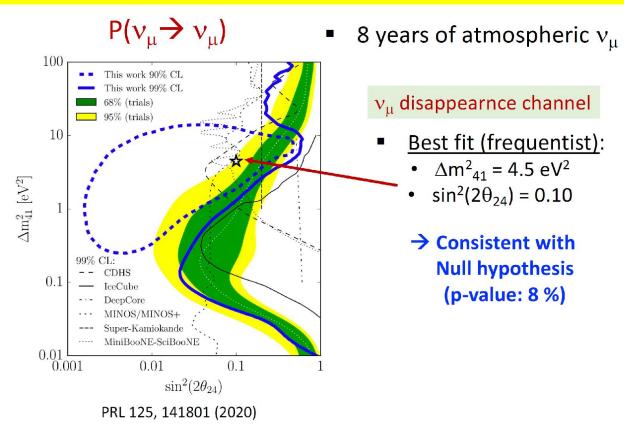
NEUTRINO-4 claimed observation of sterile neutrinos although significance was only 2.80 and there are concerns about validity of the analysis: M.D. J.Phys.Conf.Ser.1390(2019)012049 M.D., N.Skrobova JETP Lett.112,199(2020) C.Giunti et al. Phys.Lett.B 816(2021)136214

4

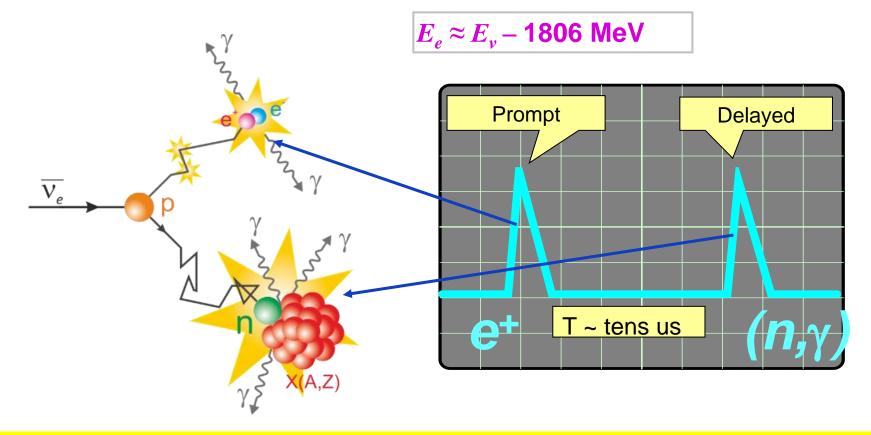
MiniBooNE ve excess of 4.80 (60 with LSND) Phys.Rev.Lett. 121 (2018) no.22, 221801



Very weak indication of v_{μ} disappearance in ICE Cube (but with large Δm^2 as in Neutrino -4)



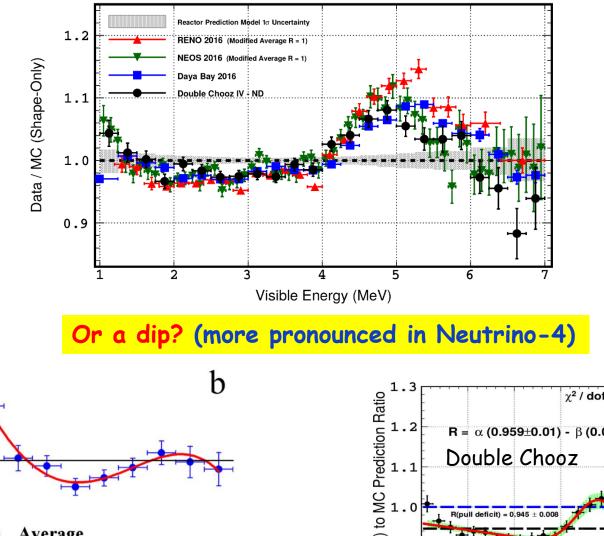
Searches for sterile neutrinos are very exciting Many experiments are searching for sterile neutrinos with m~eV including 9 reactor experiments $\begin{array}{c} \mbox{Antineutrino detection} \\ \mbox{Inverse Beta-Decay (IBD)} & \ensuremath{\bar{\nu}_e} + p \rightarrow e^+ + n \end{array} \end{array}$



Reactor models do not describe well antineutrino spectrum

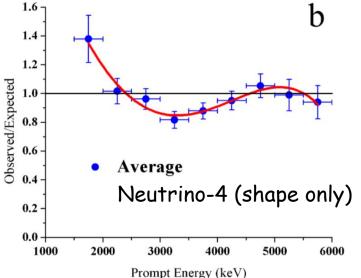
Measurements at one L not sufficient to observe oscillations

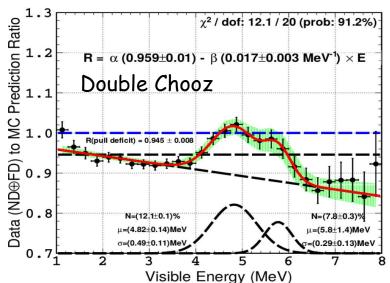
All recent experiments observe a bump at 4-6MeV



T.Bezerra NOW-2018

7





Is Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly Real?

Reactor models are based on ILL measurements of β spectra from 235U, 239Pu, 241Pu n-induced fission isotopes

Recently Kurchatov Inst. Group observed 5.4% smaller ratio of β yields for 235U/239Pu (arXiv:2103.01684v1). This can explain the RAA!

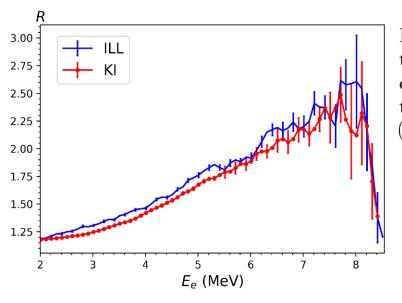


FIG. 1. Ratios $R = {}^{e} S_{5} / {}^{e} S_{9}$ between cumulative β spectra from 235 U and 239 Pu from ILL data [11] (blue) and KI data [10] (red). Total electron energies are given. Only statistical errors are shown.

 $({}^{5}\sigma_{f}/{}^{9}\sigma_{f})_{KI} = 1.45 \pm 0.03$ – 5.4% smaller than ILL

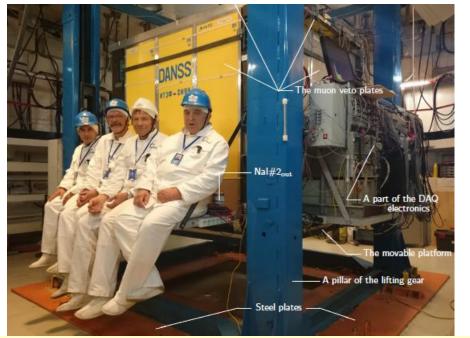
DayaBay and RENO observed smaller 235U flux than in Huber-Mueler model (based on ILL results) $({}^{5}\sigma_{f}/{}^{9}\sigma_{f}) = 1.44 \pm 0.10$ - **5.4% smaller than ILL** (Phys. Rev. Lett. **123**, 111801 and Phys. Rev. Lett. **122**, 232501) **238U contribution should be also reduced since it is** normalized on 235U

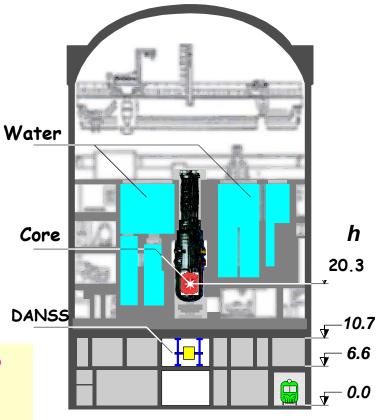
With new values for 235∪ and U238 contribution measured v fluxes agree with predictions → No Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly? – Wait till confirmation of KI results

In any case modern searches for sterile v do not use predictions for absolute v fluxes and predicted shape of the reactor v spectra. Instead relative measurements at different L are studied

Comparison of Very Short Base Line reactor experiments

DANSS at Kalinin NPP collected 5.5M IBD events in 5 years





DANSS is installed on a movable platform under 3.1 GW WWER-1000 reactor

(Core:h=3.7m, Ø=3.1m) at Kalinin NPP.

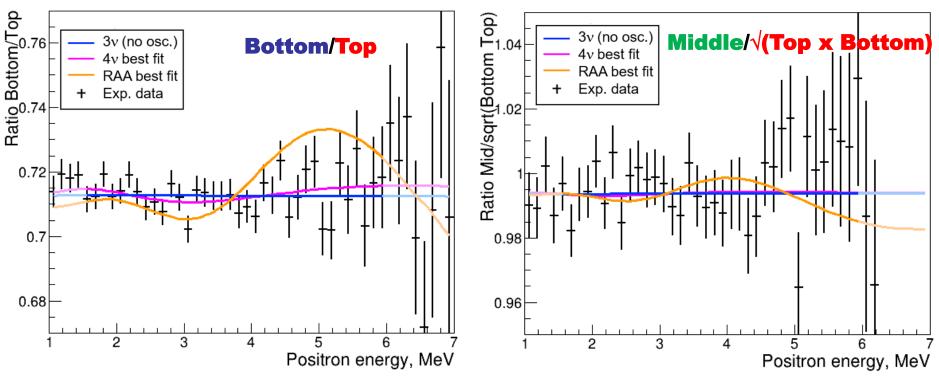
~50 mwe shielding => µ flux reduction ~6! No cosmic neutrons!

Detector distance from reactor core 10.9-12.9m (center to center) changed 2-3 times a week! 5000 IBD events/day at top detector position Trigger: $\Sigma E(PMT) > 0.5 - 0.7 MeV = > Read 2600$ wave forms (125MHz), look for correlated pairs offline.

Fuel fission fractions: average start and end of campaign [%]

235U	54.1	63.7	44.7
239Pu	33.2	26.6	38.9
238U	7.3	6.8	7.5
241Pu	5.5	2.8	8.5

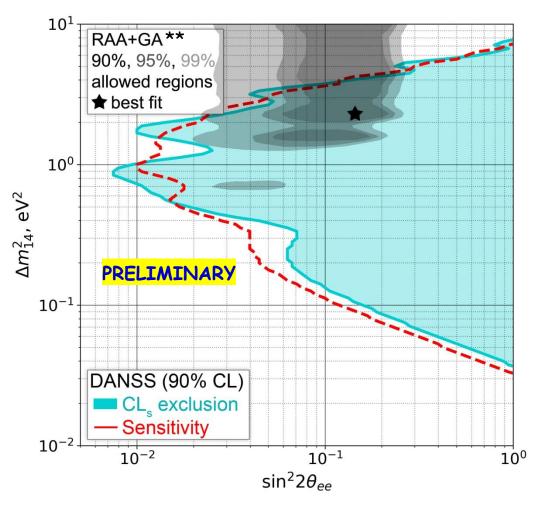
Ratio of positron spectra



- Fit in 1.5-6 MeV range (to be conservative)
- Using current statistics 2016-2020 (~5 million IBD events)
 we see no statistically significant indication of 4v signal:
 ΔX²=-3.2 (< 1.3σ) for 4v hypothesis best point Δm²=1.3 eV², sin²2θ=0.014
- ♦ RAA has been excluded with $\Delta X^2 = 107$.
- RAA was excluded by DANSS with more than 5σ already in 2018 (arXive:1804.04046v1)

The DANSS results

- Exclusion region was calculated using Gaussian CLs method (for e⁺ in 1.5-6 MeV to be conservative),
- New data make limits more smooth in reasonable agreement with sensitivity
- The most stringent limit reaches
 sin²2θ < 8x10⁻³ level (best in the world).
- A very interesting part of 4v parameters is excluded.
- The most probable point of RAA+GA is excluded at 5σ confidence level (already in 2018)



** - G.Mention J.Phys.:Conf.Ser. 408 (2013) 012025

The DANSS upgrade

Main goal: to reach resolution 13%/JEw.r.t. current very modest 34%/JE.

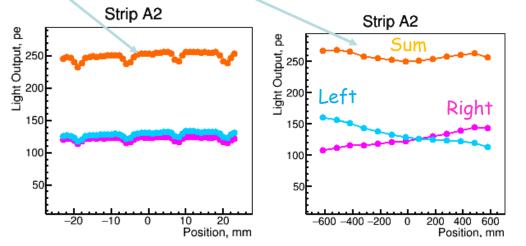
New geometry:

Strips: 2x5x120 cm, 2-side 4SiPM readout Structure: 60 layers x 24 strips: 1.7 m³ Setup uses the same shielding and moving platform.

Gd is in foils between layers. Upgrade will be finished in 2022

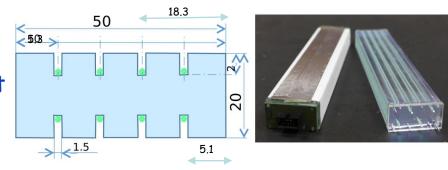
Strip tests at π -beam

Transverse and longitudinal responses are very uniform

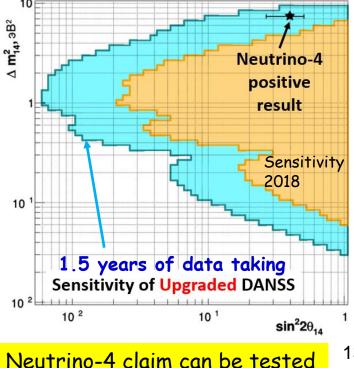


Longitudinal nonuniformity can be further corrected More work on SiPM-WLS fiber connection is needed



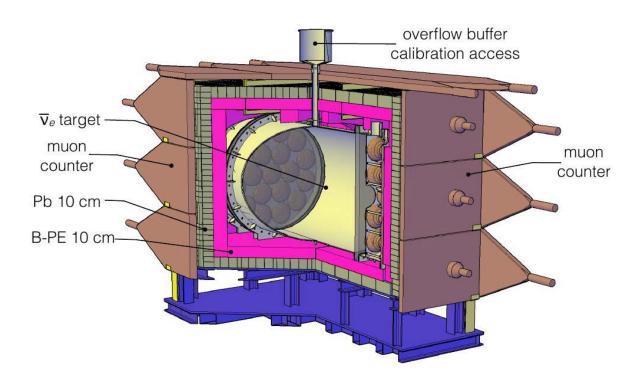


WLS fiber positions were optimized for better uniformity of response



13

NEOS

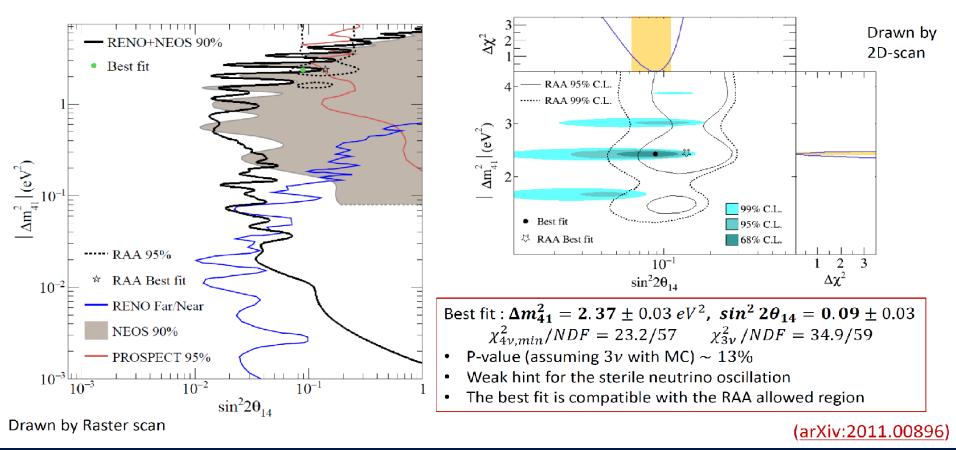


v spectrum normalized to another reactor Collected new data but problems with Gd Recently RENO used NEOS data and measured v flux to improve NEOS limits

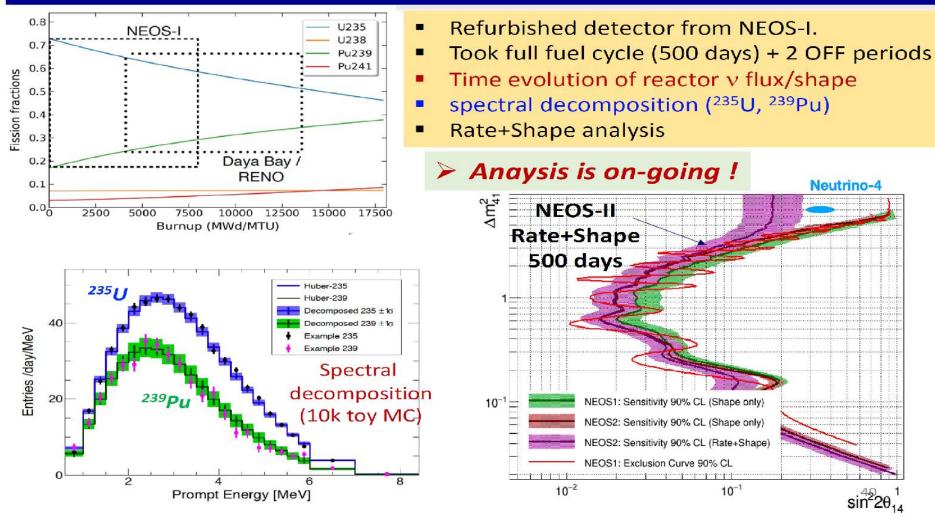
1m³ LS No segmentation $\sigma_{\rm F}/{\rm E}=5\%$ at 1 MeV PSD removes 70% of background Depth 20mwe S/B= 23 Only one L=24m Large core size

d=3.1m h=3.8m Power 2815 MWt; Recently RENO used NEOS data and measured v flux to improve NEOS limits Results are somewhat different from original NEOS paper with DB normalization Best point (ΔM^2 =2.37 eV²) agrees with best point of GA+RAA, But p-value is 13% only because of systematic uncertainties

This point was already excluded by DANSS



NEOS-II (2018 -- 2020)



S.Seo 20th Lomonosov Conference, August 2021

Neutrino-4

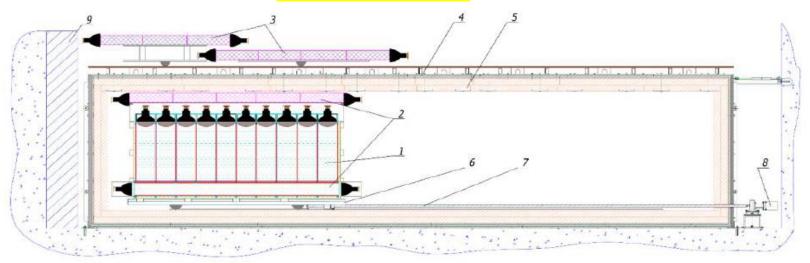


Fig. 1. General scheme of an experimental setup. 1 - detector of reactor antineutrino, 2 - internal active shielding, 3 - external active shielding (umbrella), 4 - steel and lead passive shielding, 5 - borated polyethylene passive shielding, 6 - moveable platform, 7 - feed screw, 8 - step motor, 9 - shielding against fast neutrons from iron shot.



85MW 235U Reactor (42x42x35cm3) 1.8m3 LS detector (5x10 sections) L=6-12m, $\sigma_{\rm E}$ /E~16% at 1MeV ~200ev./day No PSD; 3.5mwe => S/B~0.54 720 days ON 860 days OFF ¹⁷

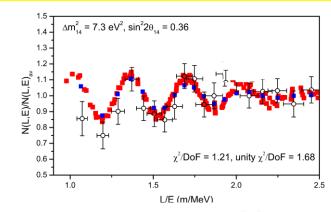
Major Advantages

Compact reactor core with large power Segmented and movable detector Very short distances to core (6-12) m No background from other experiments Model independent analysis

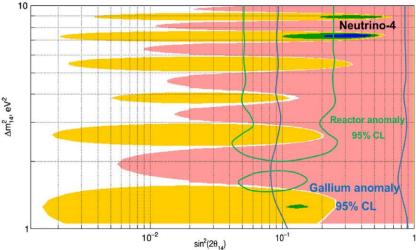
Major Disadvantages

No PSD Small overburden (3.5 mwe) Small S/B=0.54 Modest $\sigma_{\rm E}$ /E=16% at 1 MeV

Indication of oscillations with large $\Delta m^2 \sim 7.3 \pm 1.17 eV^2$ and $sin^2 2\theta = 0.36 \pm 0.12$

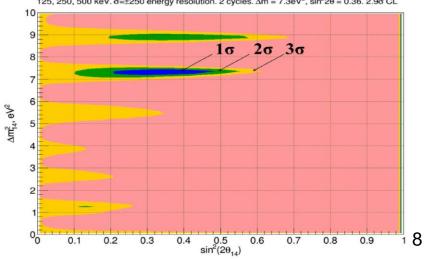


125, 250, 500 keV. σ =±250 energy resolution. 2 cycles. Δm = 7.3eV², sin²2 θ = 0.36. 2.9 σ CL



<mark>Significance 2.7 σ</mark> Phys.Rev.D 104, 032003 (2021)

Comparison with other experiments JETP Lett 112 4, 199 (2020)



125, 250, 500 keV. σ=±250 energy resolution. 2 cycles. Δm = 7.3eV², sin²2θ = 0.36. 2.9σ CL

There are concerns about validity of Neutrino-4 analysis

MD J.Phys.Conf.Ser. 1390 (2019) 1, 012049, MD, N.Skrobova JETP Lett. 112 (2020) 7, 452 C.Giunti Phys.Lett.B 816 (2021) 136214, M.Andriamirado et al. ArXiv:2006.13147, Coloma et al. arXiv:2008.06083V2.

Neutrino-4 replied to these critical comments: JETP Lett.112 p.487, arXive:2006.13639 Neurino-4 addressed recently 2 concerns Phys.RevD 104,032003(2021).This resulted in reduction of significance

1. Concerns about treatment of detector energy resolution:

Neutrino-4 argues that with a big width of the energy bin (500 keV) one should not take into account actual energy resolution (~16% /JE).

But for the most important region E>5MeV more that 50% of signal goes to neighbor E bins -This is huge effect which can not be neglected! (MD'19,MD&Skrobova'20)

Detailed simulations show that inclusion of E resolution decreases the significance to 2.2σ and moves the best point to $\sin^2(2\Theta ee)=1$, excluded by other measurements (Giunti'21)

Recently (Phys.Rev.D 104, 032003 (2021)) Neutrino-4 studied effects of E resolution

Neutrino-4 says it reduces 2.8σ to 2.5σ (for const resolution σ =250keV)

Background in outermost detector sections is not known (MD'19,MD&Skrobova'20)

Neutrino-4 shows that without these sections significance drops to $\sim 2\sigma$ but does not take it into account in calculations of the significance

3.Wilks theorem used in analysis is not valid(Andriamirado'20 ,MD&Skrobova'20, Coloma'20) Neutrino-4 shows that without this assumption significance drops from 2.9 σ to 2.7σ

4. Averaging the same data with different bins in E has no statistical meaning (MD&Skrobova'20)

The best way to address these concerns is to do experiment sensitive to claimed v_s parameters

Neutrino-4 future plans

Collaboration creates a new much better detector with 2 PMT per section, with pulse shape discrimination of background, with more Gd

Sensitivity of the new detector will be 3 time better

It will start data taking in 2022, initially at the same SM-3 reactor and then will move to the PIK reactor in St. Petersburg

This will be an excellent experiment sensitive to large Δm^2 !

MOTIVATION AND DET PROSPECT

PROSPECT DETECTOR DESIGN

- 154 segments, 119cm x 15cm x 15cm
 - ~25liters per segment, total mass: 4ton
- Thin (1.5mm) reflector panels held in place by 3D-printed support rods

Segmentation enables:

- Calibration access throughout volume
- 2. Position reconstruction (X, Y)
- 3. Event topology ID
- 4. Fiducialization
- Double ended PMT readout for full (X,Y,Z) position reconstruction
- Optimized shielding to reduce cosmogenic backgrounds

Concrete Monolith

PROSPECT

WATER BRICK NEUTRON SHIELD

BORATED POLYETHELYNE

119cm

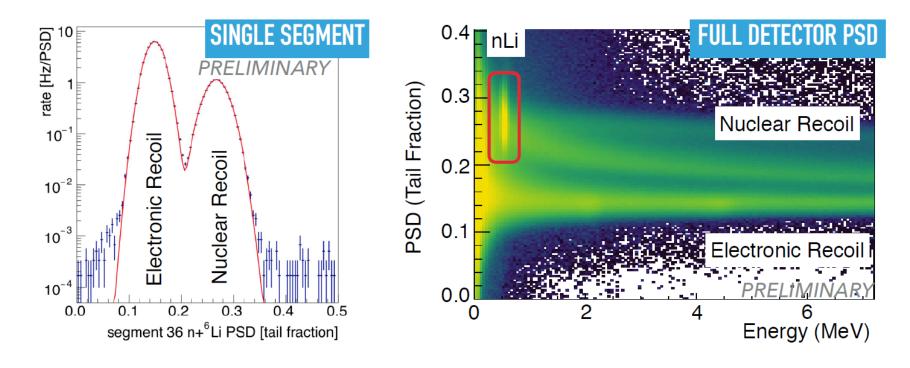
Floor

NEUTRINO 2



CALIBRATION ACCESS

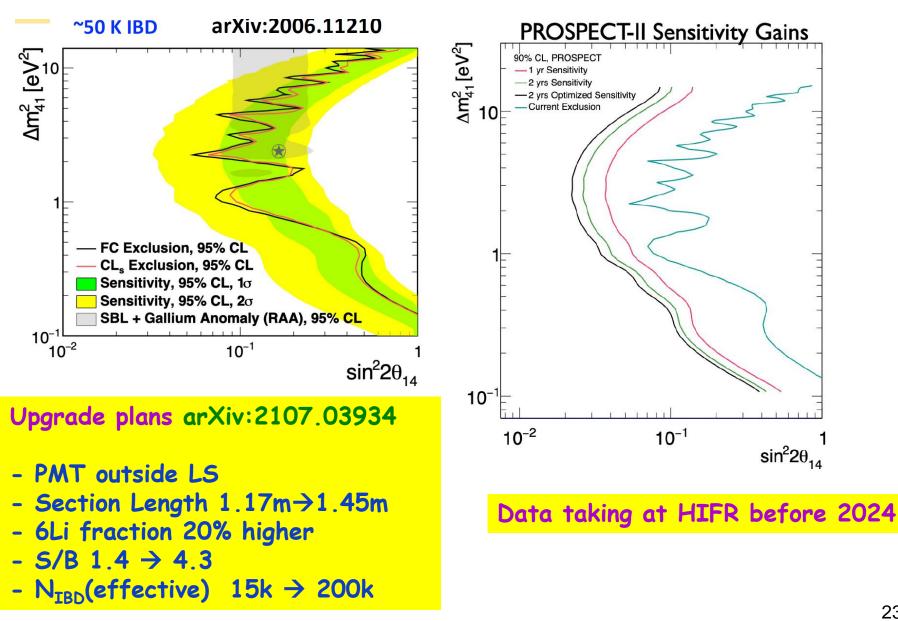
Pulse Shape Discrimination of background



Excellent PSD allows to achieve S/B=1.36 on earth surface Excellent energy resolution of 4.5% at 1 MeV Localized detection of neutrons Elaborate calibration system

Unfortunately 42% of 154 modules do not work properly due to PMT

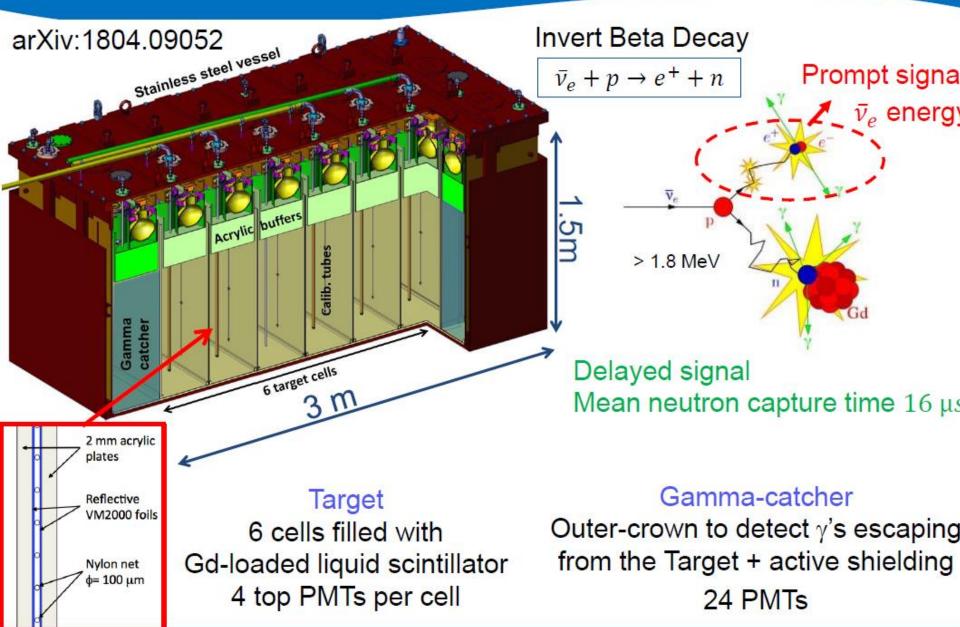
PROSPECT results and prospects



The STEREO detector

Data taking is finished

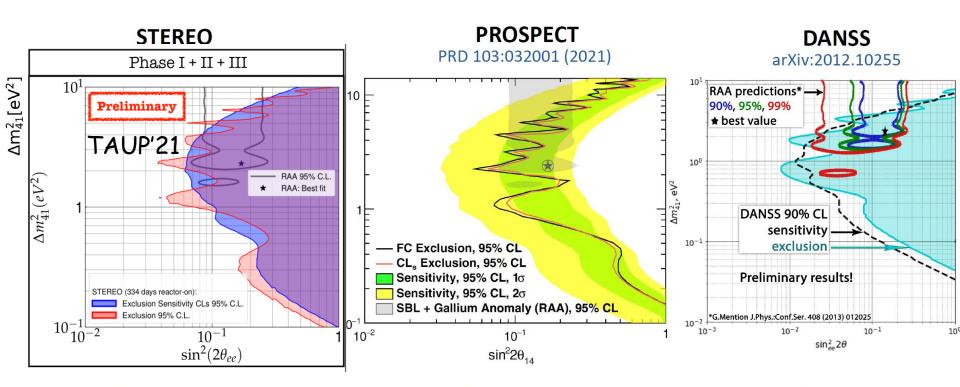
3



Neutrino 2018 - Heidelberg



Jacob Lamblin, LPSC Grenoble



RAA best-fit excluded > 4σ CL

RAA best-fit excluded > 95% CL R

RAA best-fit excluded > 5σ

DANSS limits are much stronger at 1-2 eV² but Prospect and Stereo are better for large masses

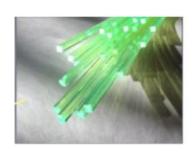
Some tension with Neutrino-4 result



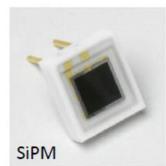
PVT _

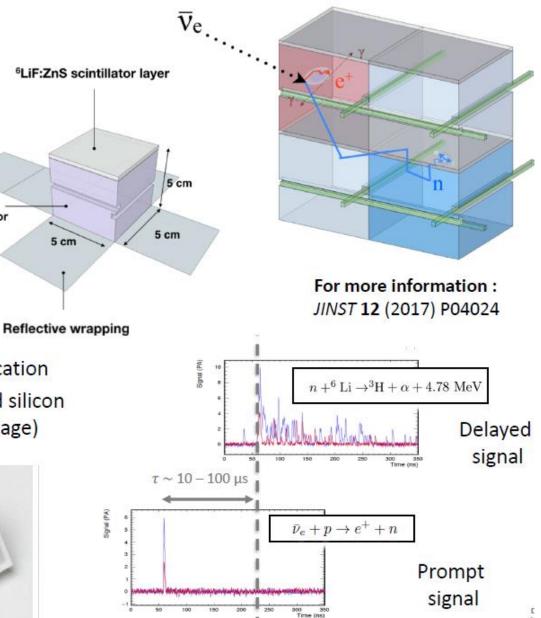


5 × 5 × 5 cm³ PVT cubes – Non-flammable scintillator Cubes are optically separated using Tyvek wraps ⁶LiF:ZnS(Ag) screens for neutron identification Light collected through optical fibers and silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs require low-voltage)



Squared BCF-91A fiber





Good pulse shape discrimination of background (# peaks over thresh) In-situ measurements of neutron detection efficiency

Major Advantages

Compact reactor core with large power Highly segmented detector -> 3D recons. Very short distances to core (6-9) m Good PSD of background -> S/B~3 Localized detection of neutrons Elaborate calibration system

With a complicated ML signal separation SoLid finally managed to observe IBD events.

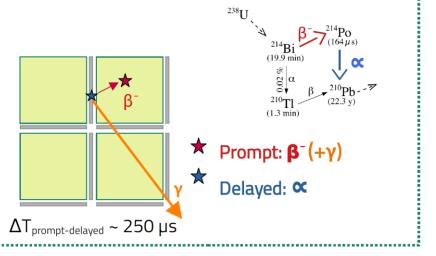
No physics results so far

Major problems

Modest $\sigma_E/E=14\%$ at 1 MeV Calibration challenge - 12800 cubes Large background!

BiPo background

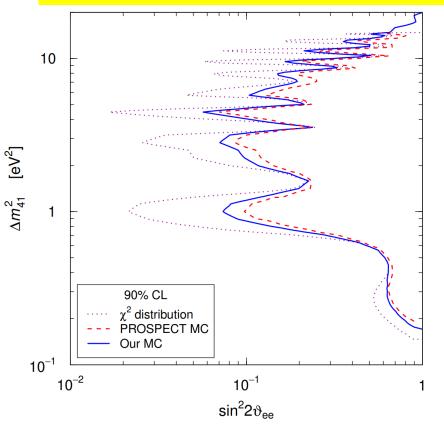
Internal radioactivity from ZnS layers contamination External Radon decay.



Comparison of experiments

		DANSS	NEOS	v - 4	PROSPECT	SoLid	STEREO
Power [M	IVVt]	3100	2815	90	85	50-80	58
Core size	e [cm]	∞=3200 h=3700	∞=3100 h=3800	42x42 h=35	∞=51 h=44	∞=50 h=90	∞=40 h=80
Overburd [mwe]	en	50	20	3.5	<1	10	15
Distance	[m]	10.9-12.9 Movable	24	6-12 Movable	7-9	6-9	9-11
IBD even	ts/day	5000	1965	200	750	~450	400
PSD/ Rea	adout	- / 3D	+/ 1D	- / 2D	+/3D	+/3D	+ / 2D
S/B		58	23	0.54	1.36	?	0.9
σ _E /E [%] at 1 MeV		33	5	16	4.5	14	9
Red – good Black– bad							28

MC estimates give smaller significance than X² with 2dof C.Giunti arXiv:2004.07577



DANSS, NEOS, PROSPECT, Bugey-3 data

Significance of the best point (Δm²=1.3 eV² , sin²2θ=0.026) is 1.8 σ only

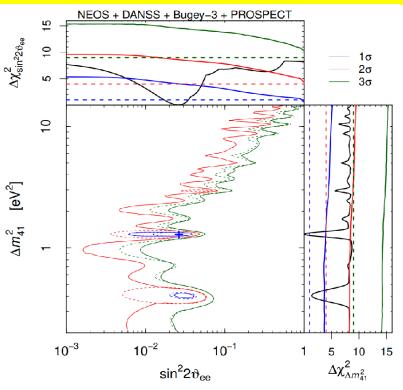


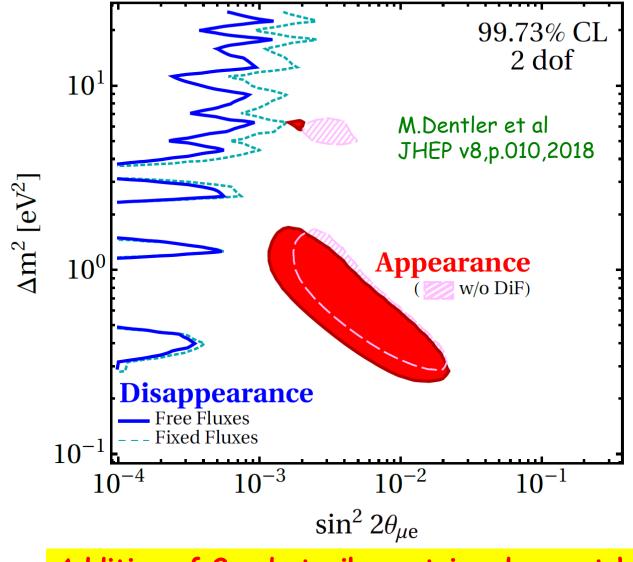
FIG. 3. Contours of the 1σ (blue), 2σ (red), and 3σ (green) allowed regions in the $(\sin^2 2\vartheta_{ee}, \Delta m_{41}^2)$ plane obtained with the combined analysis of the data of the four reactor spectralratio experiments NEOS [12], DANSS [14], Bugey-3 [26], and PROSPECT [27]. The solid lines represent the contours obtained with our Monte Carlo evaluation of the distribution of $\Delta \chi^2$, and the dashed lines depict the contours obtained assuming the χ^2 distribution. Also shown are the marginal $\Delta \chi^{2}$'s (black) for $\sin^2 2\vartheta_{ee}$ and Δm_{41}^2 , together with the $\Delta \chi^2$ values corresponding to 1σ (blue), 2σ (red), and 3σ (green) obtained with the χ^2 distribution (dashed) and our Monte Carlo (solid). The blue cross indicates the best-fit point.

Very strong limits on Vµ disappearance

$$P_{\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\alpha}}^{\text{SBL}} \simeq 1 - \sin^{2} 2\vartheta_{\alpha\alpha} \sin^{2} \left(\frac{\Delta m_{41}^{2}L}{4E}\right) \qquad \sin^{2} 2\vartheta_{\alpha\alpha} = 4|U_{\alpha4}|^{2}(1 - |U_{\alpha4}|^{2})$$

 $\sin^2 2\vartheta_{e\mu} = 4|U_{e4}|^2|U_{\mu4}|^2 \simeq \frac{1}{4}\sin^2 2\vartheta_{ee}\sin^2 2\vartheta_{\mu\mu}$ 30

Appearance and disappearance experiments are not compatible (assuming validity of Wilk's Theorem)



Addition of 2-nd sterile neutrino does not help

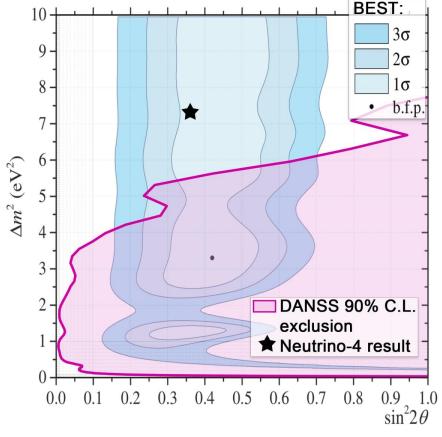
Cosmological data strongly disfavor a sterile neutrino on $\sim 1 \ {\rm eV}$ mass-scale

However there are models that can accommodate such v

For example in a model with additional pseudoscalar a neutrino on ~ 1 eV mass-scale is allowed (M.Archidiacono etal., arXiv: 2006.12885). Moreover, this model alleviates tension between different H_0 measurements.

Combined fit with SBL reactor experiments gives $m_s = 1.14 \text{ eV}$

BEST confirmed GA with $\sim 5\sigma$



 $R_{in}=0791\pm0.05 \qquad R_{out}=0.766\pm0.05$ $R_{out}/R_{in}=0.97\pm0.07 \text{ consistent with 1}$ $Results \text{ can be explained by } v_s \text{ with } Sin^2(2\Theta)\sim0.4 \text{ and } \Delta m^2>1eV^2$ $\Delta m^2<5 \text{ eV}^2 \text{ was already excluded by DANSS}$

But Neutrino-4 Sin²(2 Θ)=0.36 ±0.12 agrees perfectly with the BEST results

BEST Sin²(2 Θ) preferred region is in tension with limits ~0.2 based on reactor v flux measurements

Searches for sterile neutrinos is a very exciting field!

Summary

Two new indications of sterile neutrinos in 2018: MiniBooNE and NEUTRINO-4. BEST confirms GA with 5 σ (2021). Results consistent with Neutrino-4! However sterile neutrinos can not explain simultaneously appearance and disappearance results Strong limits on sterile neutrino parameters were obtained by DANSS and NEOS. PROSPECT and STEREO extended limits to higher Δm^2

Significance of sterile neutrinos in VSBL reactor experiments (w/o Neutrino-4) is $\sim 2\sigma$ only

Reactor neutrino spectrum predictions are still quite uncertain 5 MeV bump not understood. Measured X-section for 235U is 5% smaller than in H-M model

New measurements of beta spectra from 235U and 239Pu at KI give 5% smaller ratio than ILL results ->smaller X-section for 235U --> RAA becomes weaker

New results with increased sensitivity are expected in near future from DANSS, NEOS-II, NEUTRINO-4, PROSPECT, SOLID and

Дорогой Юрий Григорьевич! Поздравляем с юбилеем!



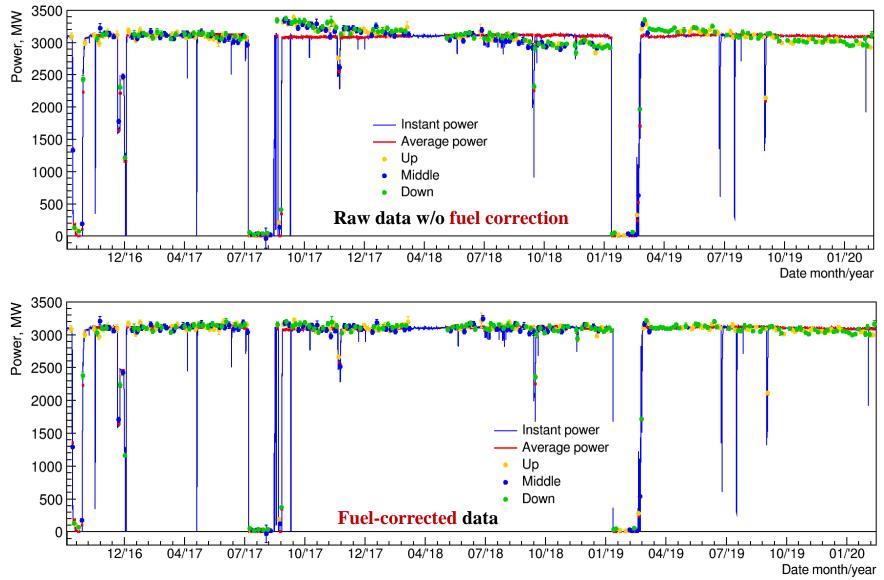
Бонсай приехал прямо из Японии

Группа ФИАН

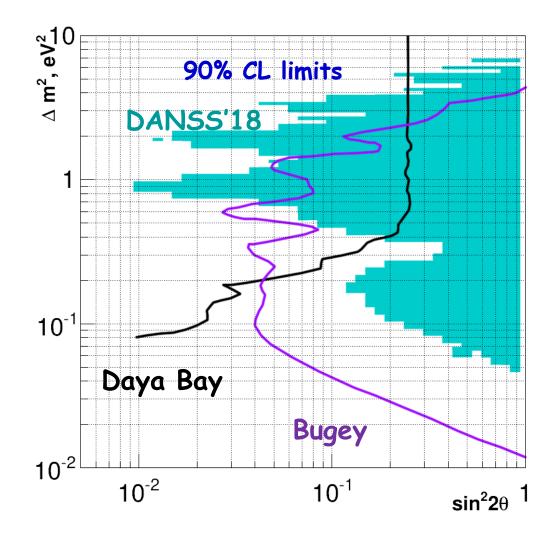
Backup slides

Sensitivity to fuel evolution

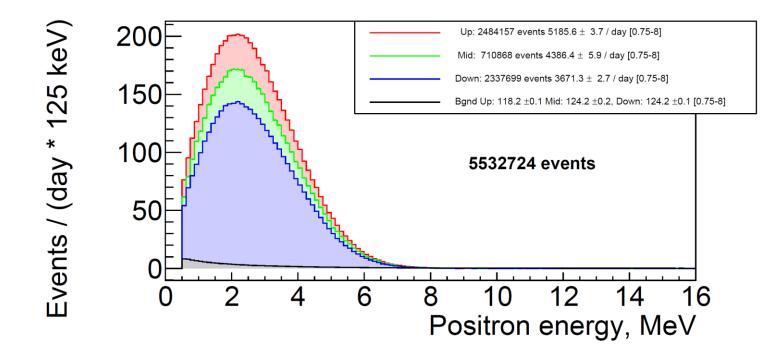
Top – Middle – Bottom data with and without fuel evolution correction



Comparison with experiments based on spectra ratio at different distances measured with identical detectors



Positron spectrum of IBD-signal



- ✤ ~5000 events/day in detector fiducial volume (78% of full volume) at 'Top' position.
- Cosmic background ~1.7% (Top position, E: 1.5-6MeV). Signal/Background >50!
- Continuous detector calibration with cosmic muons
- Very modest energy resolution of ~33% at 1 MeV
- Very large size of the reactor core (\overline 3.1m, h=3.7m)
- → Smearing of the oscillation pattern

Daya Bay observed smaller 235U Xsection than Huber model

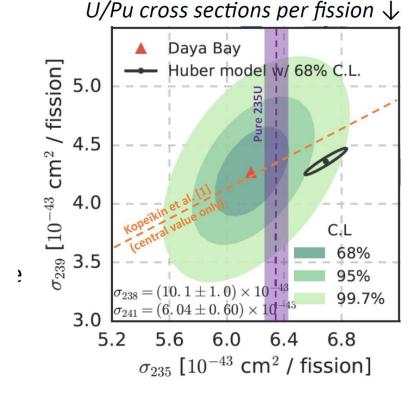
STEREO also observed smaller Xsection for pure 235U fuel

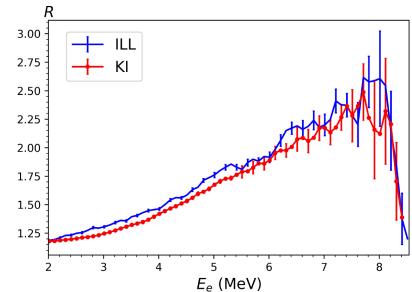
Kopeikin et al. remeasured recently ratio of cumulative beta spectra for 235U/239Pu and obtained 1.054 times smaller value than ILL (arXiv:2103.01684)

This leads to a smaller value of 235U antineutrino X-section (6.27+-0.13) in agreement with Daya Bay and STEREO

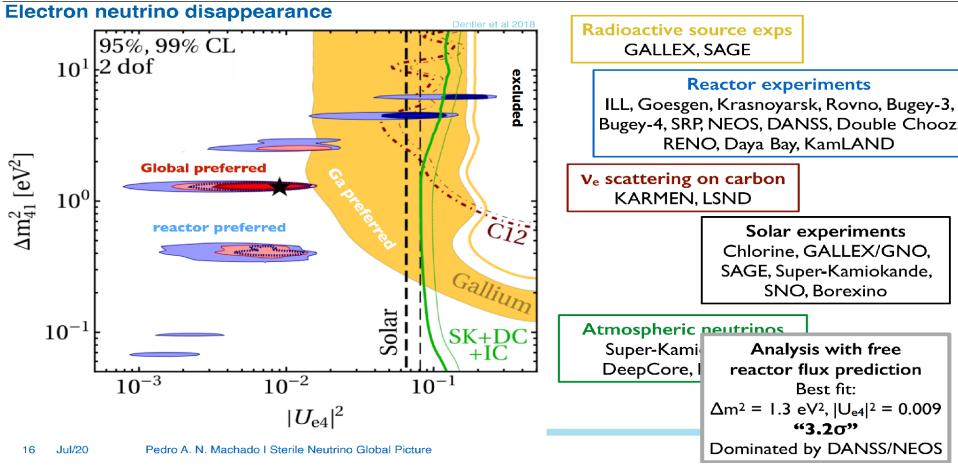
RAA becomes weaker

Modern experiments do not use absolute flux predictions





Global fit of disappearance data without Neutrino-4 (M.Dentler et al JHEP v8,p.010,2018)



Assumes χ^2 distribution with 2 dof and old DANSS data (1year) With 5 years of DANSS data significance of best point ($\Delta m^2=1.3 \text{ eV}^2$, sin²2 $\theta=0.014$) is only ~ 1.3 σ