New results for $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ oscillations in MINOS

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Joint Experimental-Theoretical Seminar

FNAL

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Absolute neutrino mass?

Unmeasured, but known **small:**

→ **less than ~0.7 eV**

(sum of ν masses inferred from cosmological observations)

→ **less than ~2 eV**

(direct kinematic measurements of ν_e effective mass)

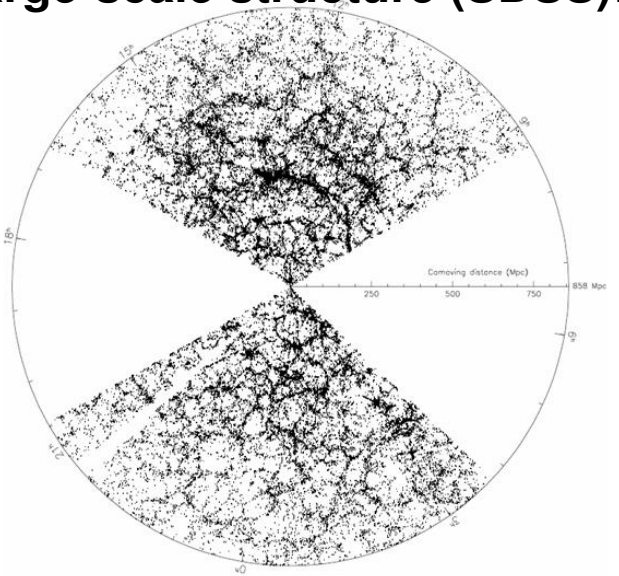
Or, notably: $m_\nu \ll m_{\rm EW}$

"See-saw" mechanism puts the physical neutrino mass at:

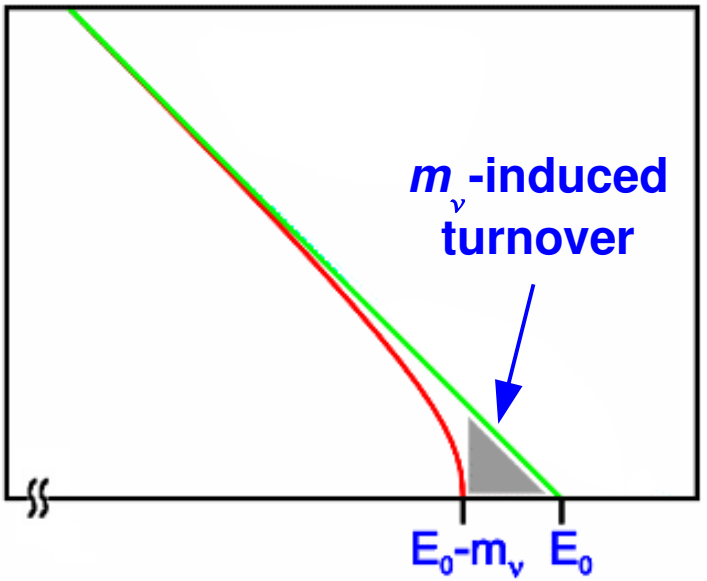
$$m_\nu \sim \frac{m_{\rm EW}^2}{m_{\rm GUT}}$$

Neutrino sector may provide a window to new physics

Large-scale structure (SDSS):



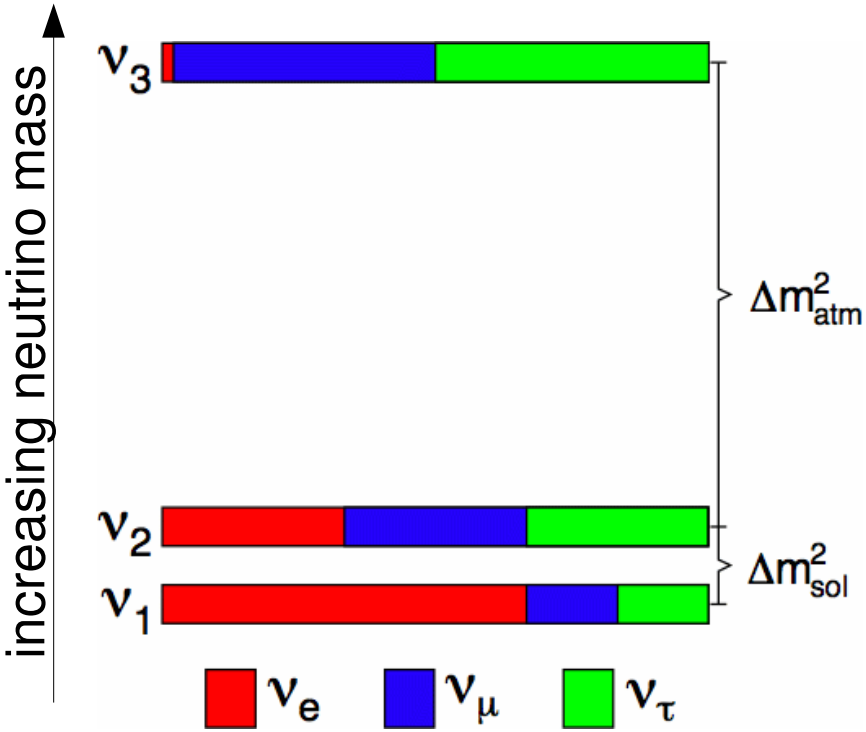
Beta decay endpoint:



Neutrino mixing

mass eigenstates ≠ flavor eigenstates:

$$\underset{\alpha = (e,\mu,\tau)}{|\nu_\alpha\rangle} = \sum_i U^*_{\alpha i} |\nu_i\rangle$$



flavor composition of the neutrino can **change as it propagates:**

$$P(\nu_\alpha \to \nu_\beta) = |\langle \nu_\beta | \nu_\alpha(L) \rangle|^2$$

$$= \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4 \sum_{i>j} \Re(U^*_{\alpha i} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U^*_{\beta j}) \sin^2[1.27 \Delta m^2_{ij} L/E]$$

$$+ 2 \sum_{i>j} \Im(U^*_{\alpha i} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U^*_{\beta j}) \sin^2[2.54 \Delta m^2_{ij} L/E]$$

two-neutrino case: $P(\nu_\alpha \to \nu_\beta) = \sin^2(2\theta) \sin^2(1.27 \Delta m^2 L/E)$

$$\left(1.27,\ 2.54 \text{ in units of } \frac{\text{GeV}c^4}{\text{eV}^2\text{km}}\right)$$

Neutrino mixing

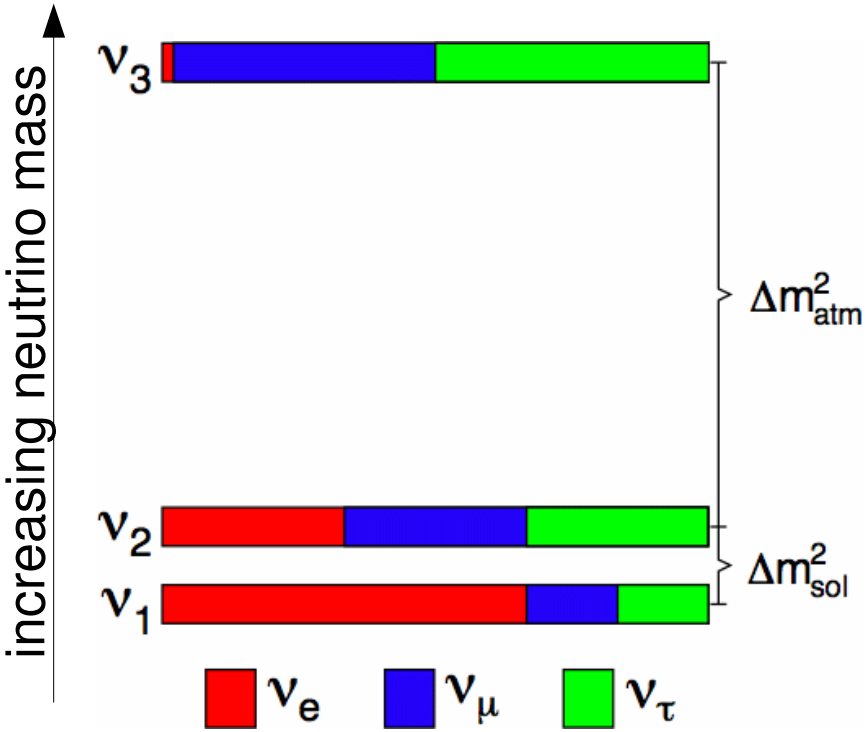
Two oscillation regimes:

- ***solar***, *reactor experiments:*

$$\Delta m^2_{\rm sol} = (7.6 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-5}\ {\rm eV}^2$$

- ***atmospheric***, *accelerator experiments:*

$$\Delta m^2_{\rm atm} = (2.43 \pm 0.13) \times 10^{-3}\ {\rm eV}^2$$



Mixing angles extracted so far...

$$\theta_{12} = 34^\circ \pm 3^\circ$$
$$\theta_{23} = 45^\circ \pm 5^\circ$$
$$\theta_{13} < 11^\circ \quad (90\%\ \text{C.L.})$$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\alpha_1/2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha_2/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Accessible by MINOS | Solar sector | Majorana phases

Many questions

- → Why is θ_{23} near maximal?
- → What is θ_{13} and why is it small?
- → Why so different than quark mixing?
- → Is CP violation is present?
- → Are neutrinos Majorana?
- → What is the hierarchy of neutrino masses?

Quarks:

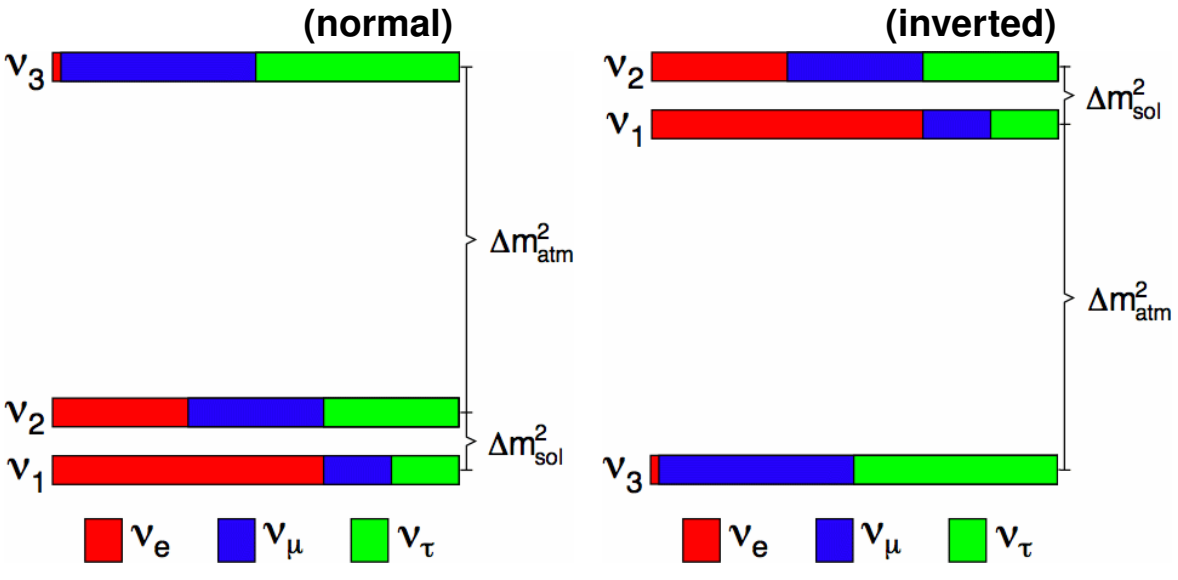
$$U_{\rm CKM} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.2 & 0 \\ 0.2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Neutrinos:

$$U_{\rm MNS} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.6 & 0 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0.7 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}$$

leptogenesis, interpreting CMB & LSS observations, $0\nu\beta\beta$

underlying symmetries, unification implications...



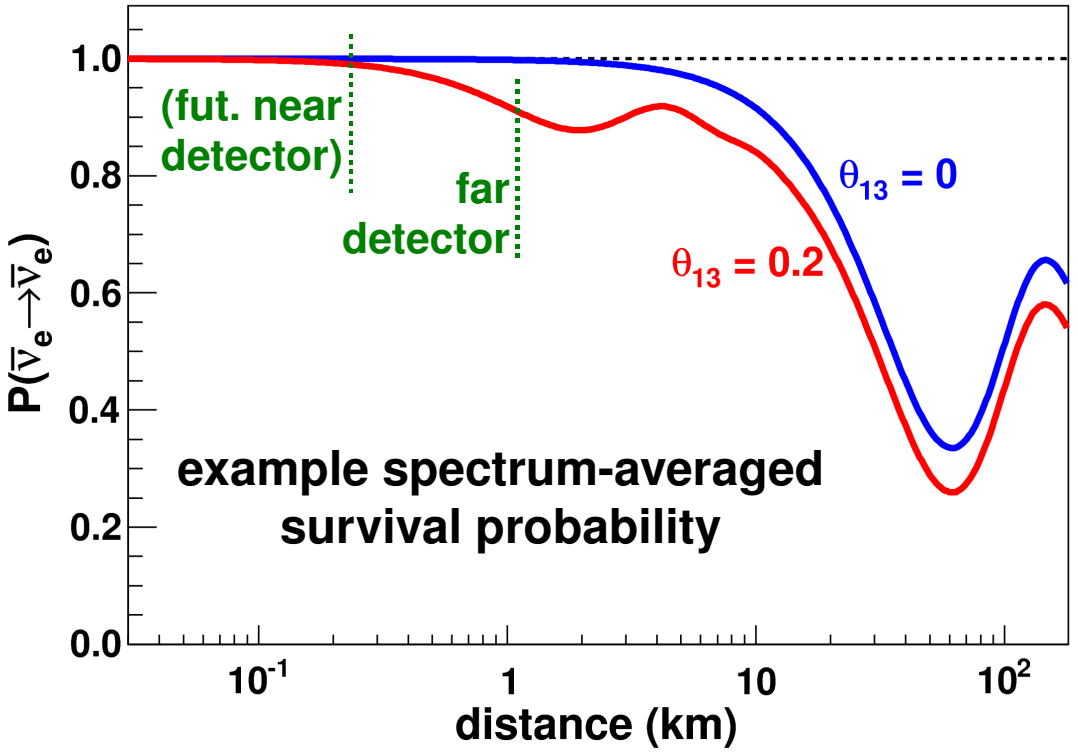
Measuring θ_{13}

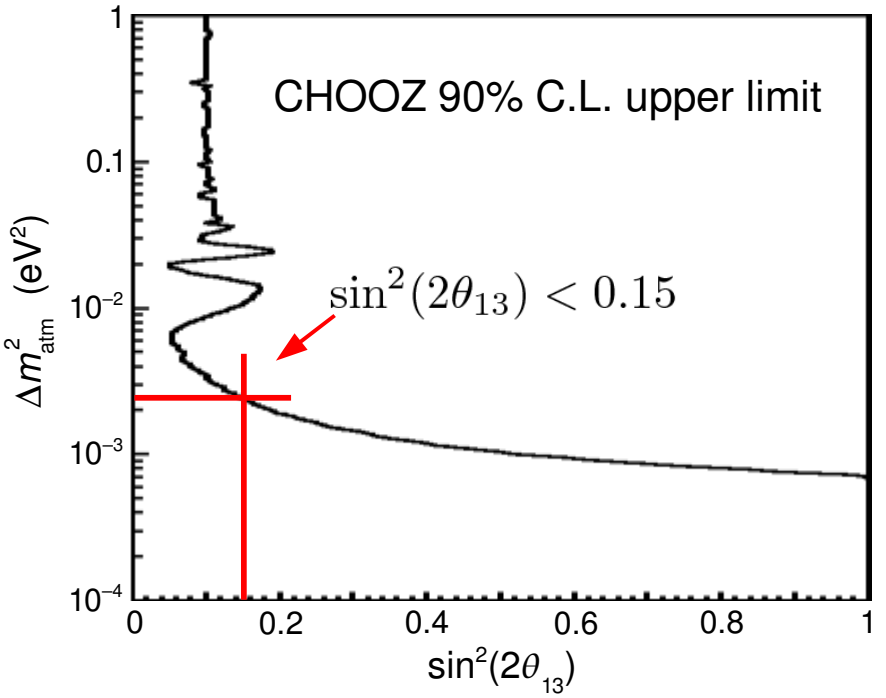
- Need a neutrino source: **accelerators** or **nuclear reactors**
- **CHOOZ reactor experiment** holds best limit
- ***Reactor principle:***

$$P(\bar{\nu}_e \to \bar{\nu}_e) \approx 1 - \sin^2(2\theta_{13}) \sin^2(1.27 \Delta m^2_{\text{atm}} L/E)$$

plus smaller solar term

$L \approx 2$ km **$E \approx 4$ MeV**





Measuring θ_{13}

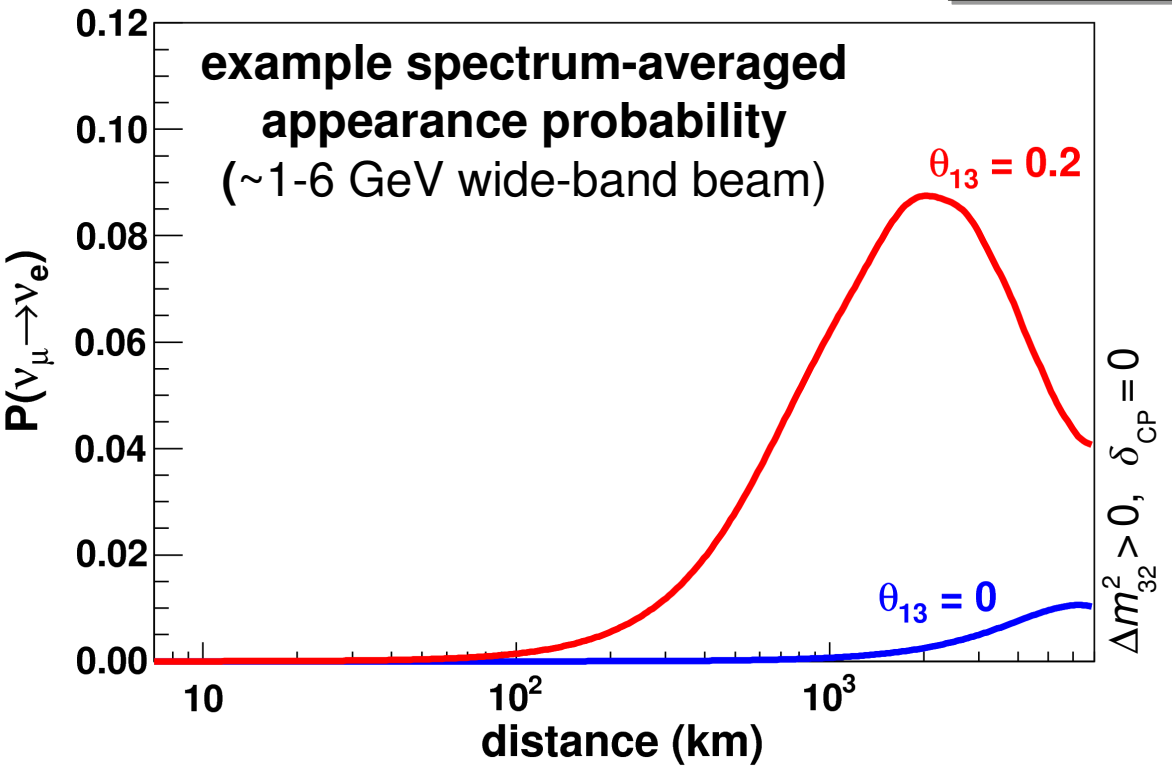
- A conventional **accelerator-based** neutrino source provides ν_μ
- Look for **appearance** of ν_e

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e) \approx$$
$$2\sin^2(2\theta_{13})\sin^2(\theta_{23})\sin^2(1.27\Delta m^2_{\rm atm}L/E)$$

plus ***potentially large modifications*** *(CPv, matter effects)*

250 - 2500 km

0.5 - 5 GeV



Disappearance (reactor):

θ_{13}

Appearance (accelerator):

θ_{13}, θ_{23}, ~~CP~~, sign(Δm^2_{32})

Measuring θ_{13}

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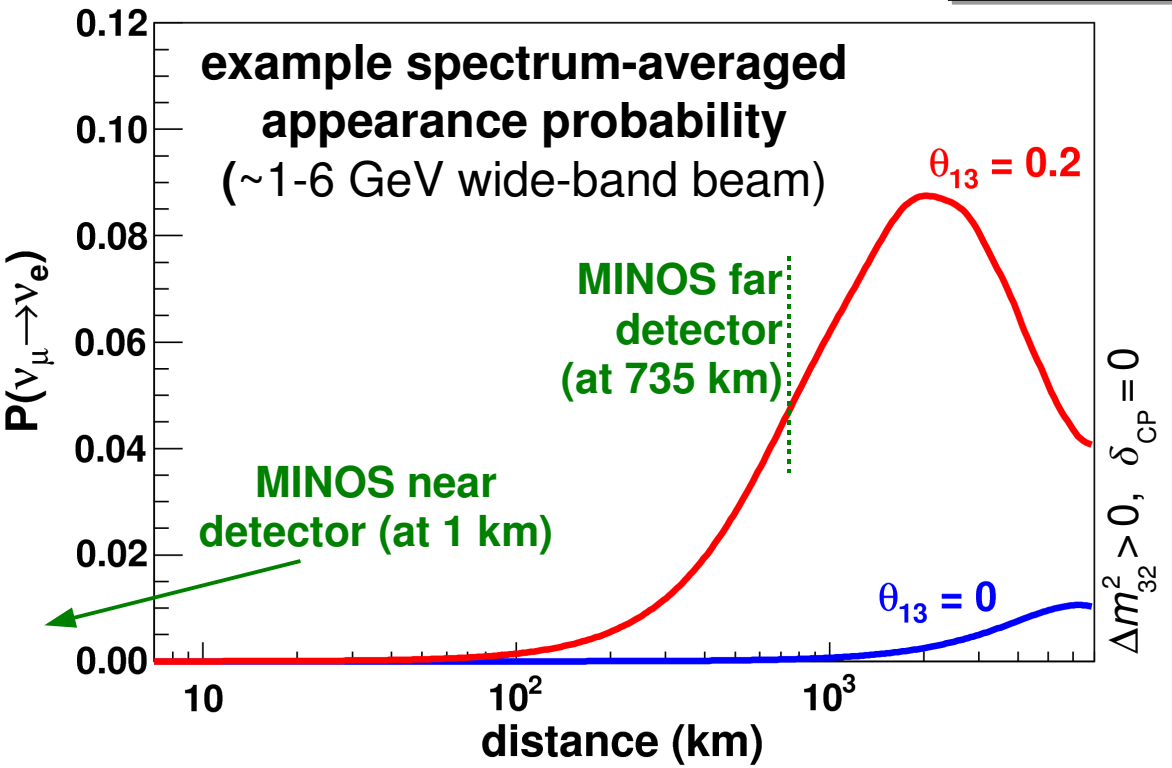

Disappearance (reactor):

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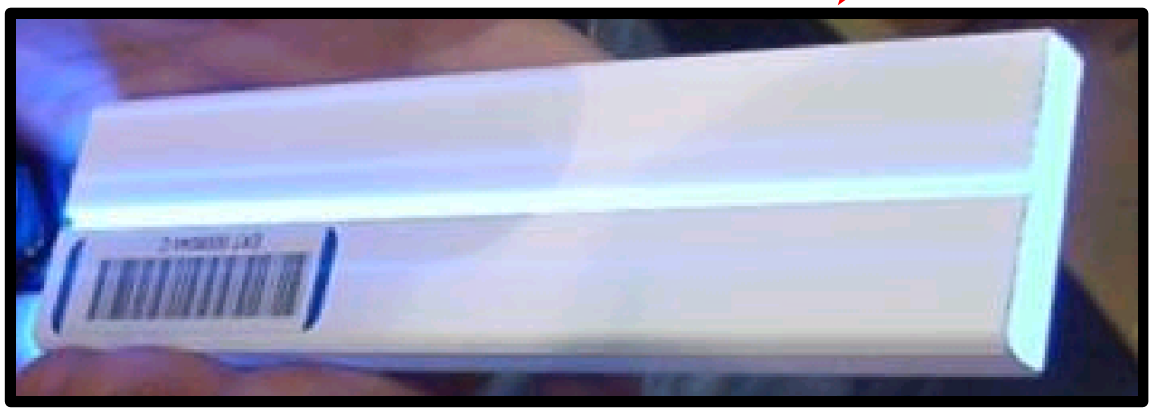
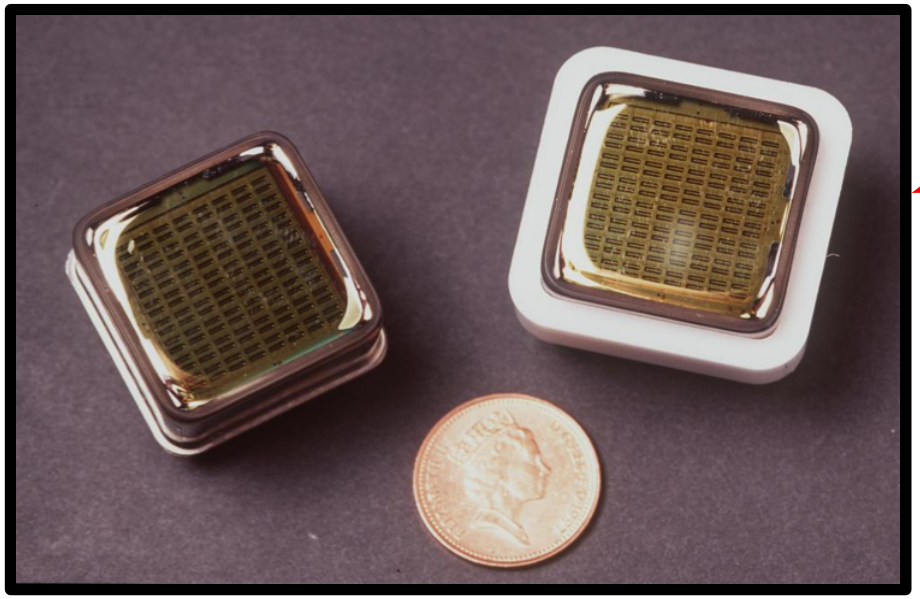
MINOS Detectors

1” steel

Extruded plastic scintillator strips



WLS fibers



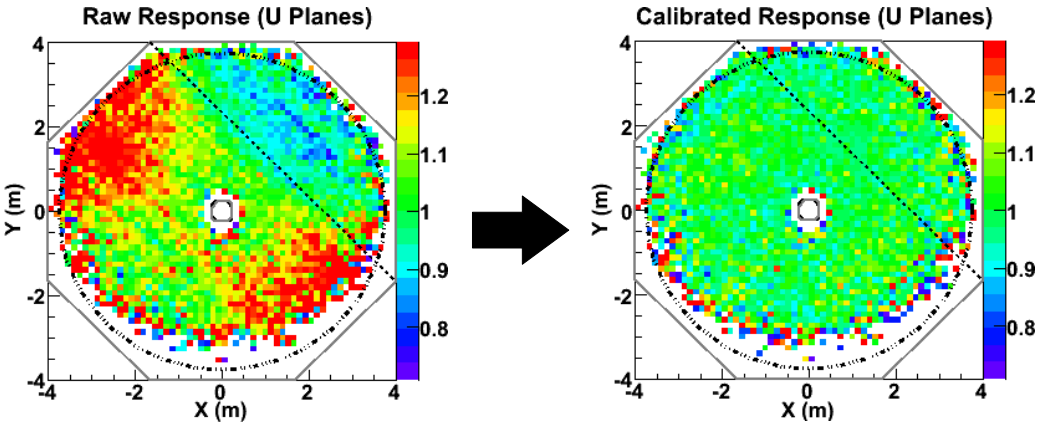
Multi-anode PMT

Calibration

Cosmic ray muons:

measure & remove **spatial variations**

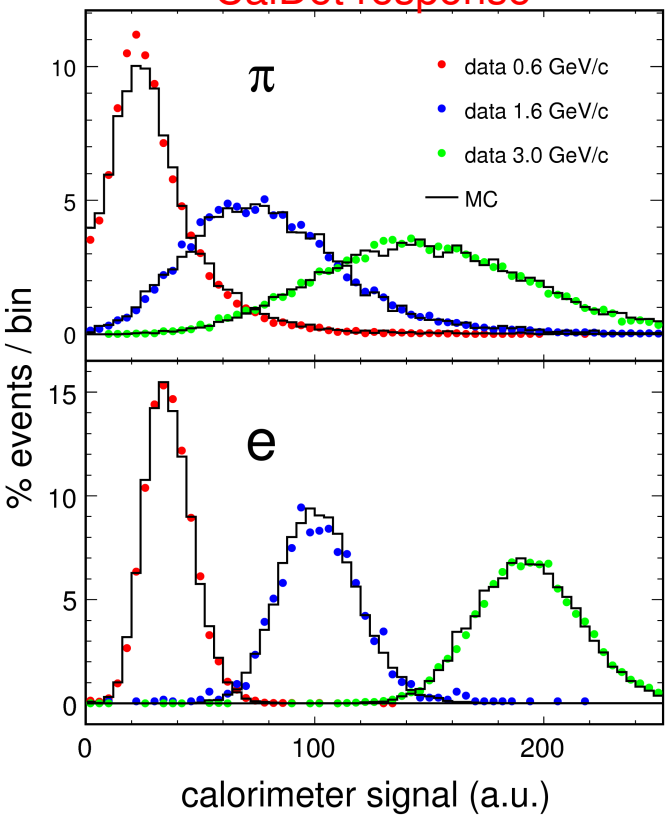
(channel differences, attenuation)



MINOS Calibration Detector (CalDet): *E* scale

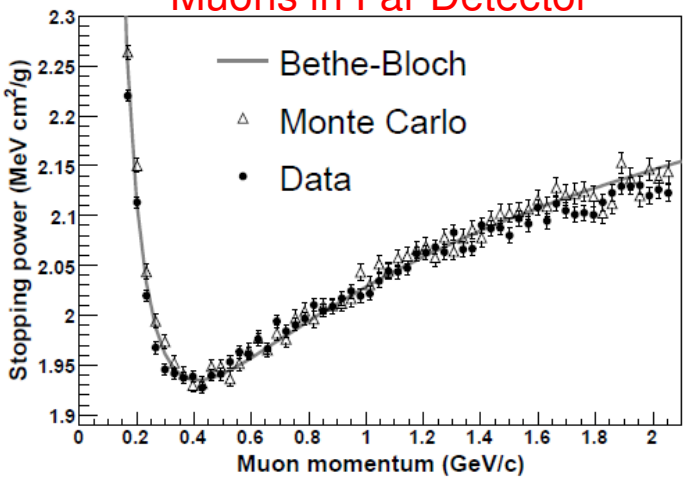
- Exposed to **0.2–10 GeV** *p*, *e*, *μ*, *π* at CERN
- 60 planes, 1 m x 1 m

CalDet response



Everything **tied together** with **stopping muons:**

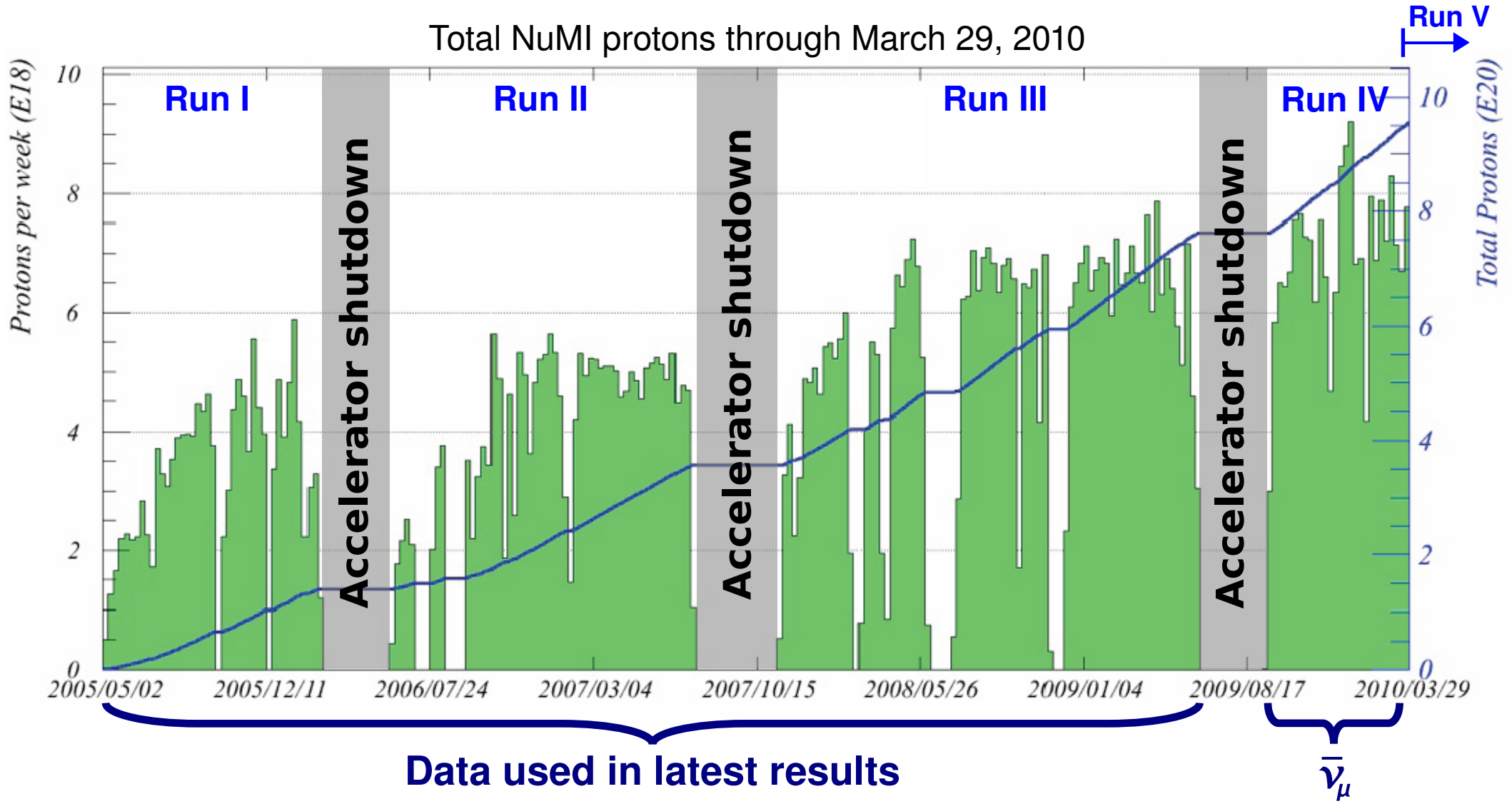
Muons in Far Detector



MINOS calorimetry good to:

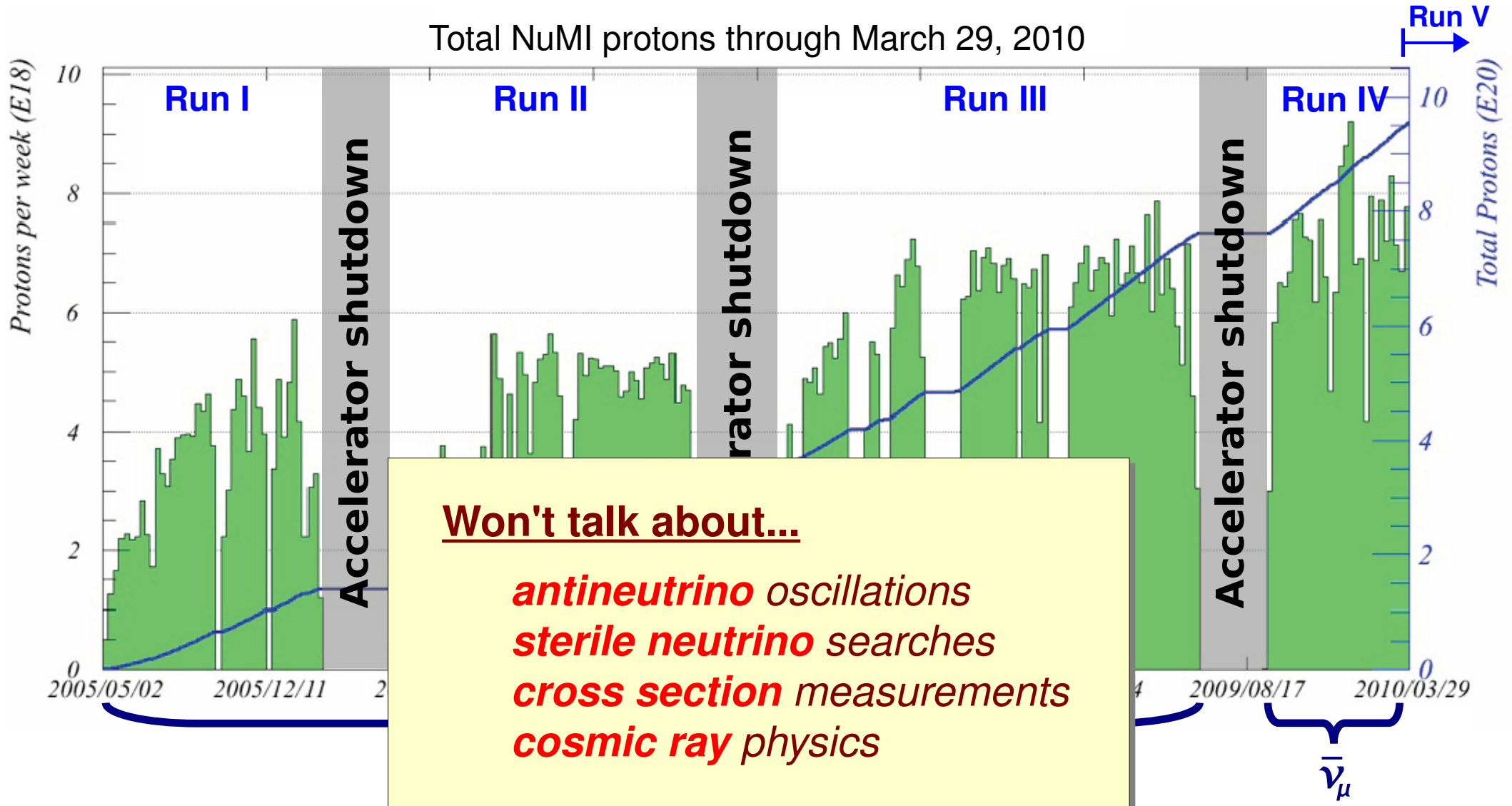
6% (absolute)

2% (relative near/far)



Excellent NuMI intensity over past two years

ν_e **appearance** results through Run III (~**7×10^{20} p.o.t.**)



Excellent NuMI intensity over past two years

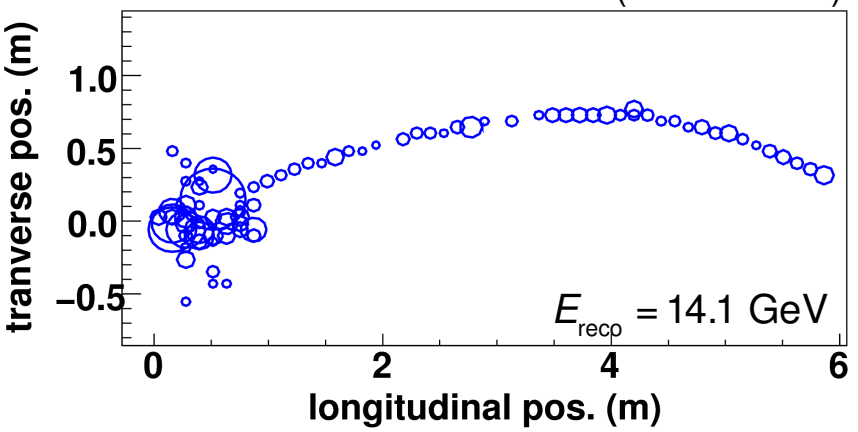
ν_e **appearance** results through Run III (~7×10^{20} **p.o.t.**)

Neutrino events

ν_μ charged current

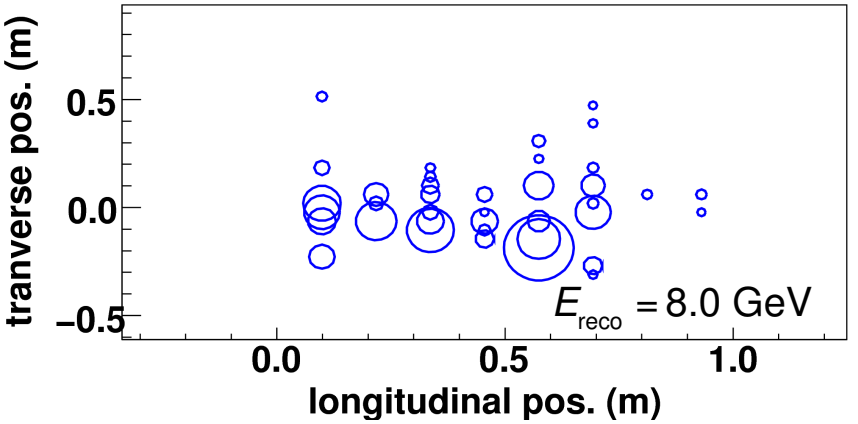
- Clear signature in MINOS: *long track*
- If μ track is very short, event can be mistaken for ν_e CC

(Monte Carlo)



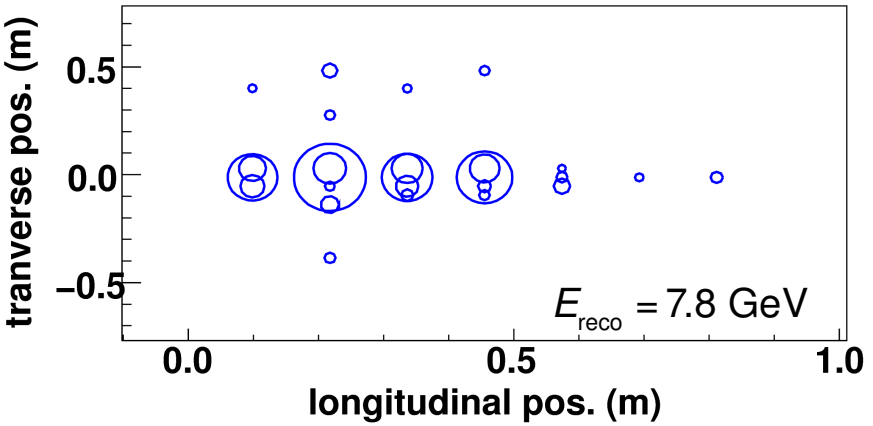
neutral current

- Esp. with π^0, hard to distinguish from ν_e CC
- Energy more transversely distributed



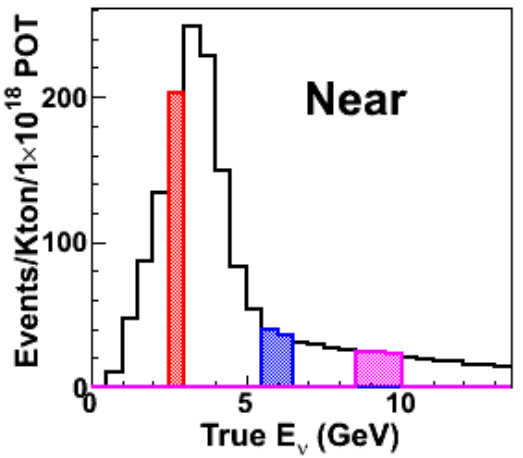
ν_e charged current [signal]

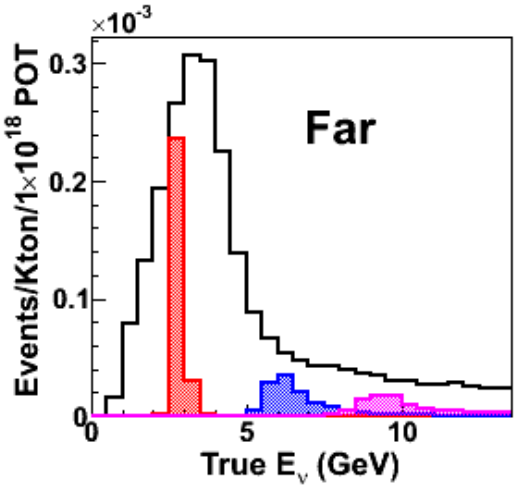
- ν_e is small component of initial flux
- Electron leaves characteristic deposition pattern (**compact shower**)



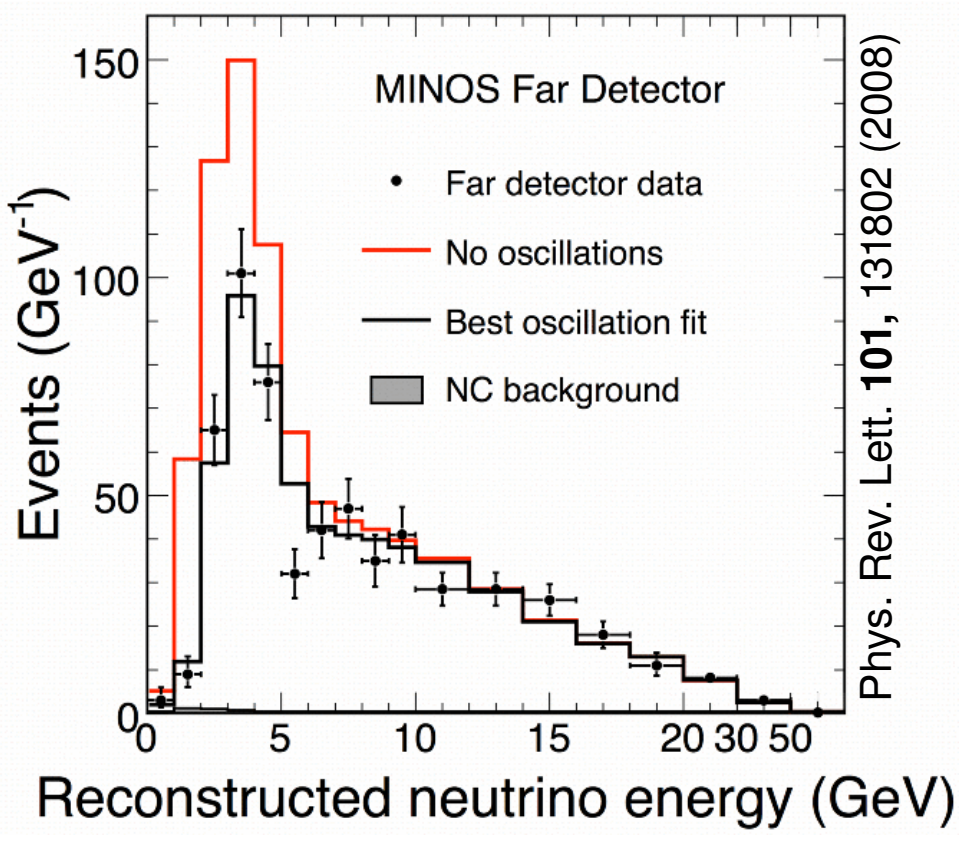
First, ν_μ survival

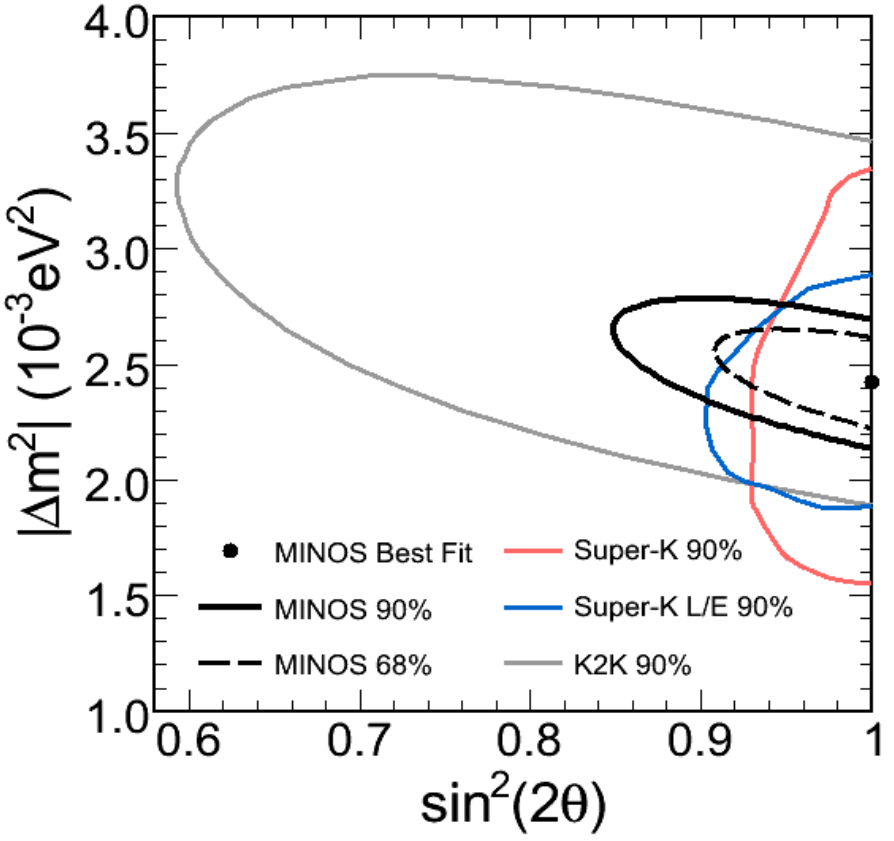
- Measure ν_μ **CC interactions** in the **near detector**
- **Transport** observed spectrum to create far detector **prediction**





- **Energy-dependent deficit** in far detector data ⇒ θ_{23}, $|\Delta m^2_{32}|$



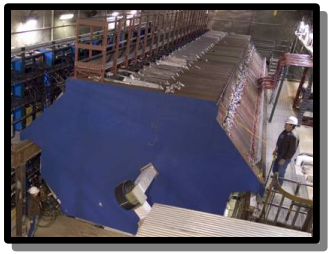


ν_e appearance

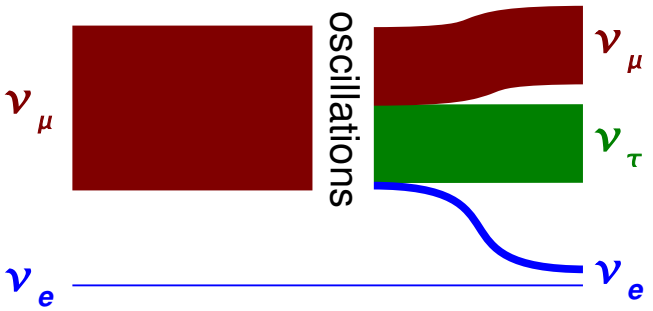
→ *travel 735 km* →

98.7% ν_μ
1.3% ν_e
(and $\bar{\nu}$)

near detector



millions of ν events



far detector

thousands of ν events

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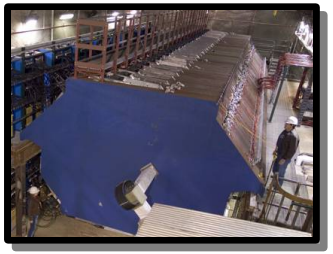
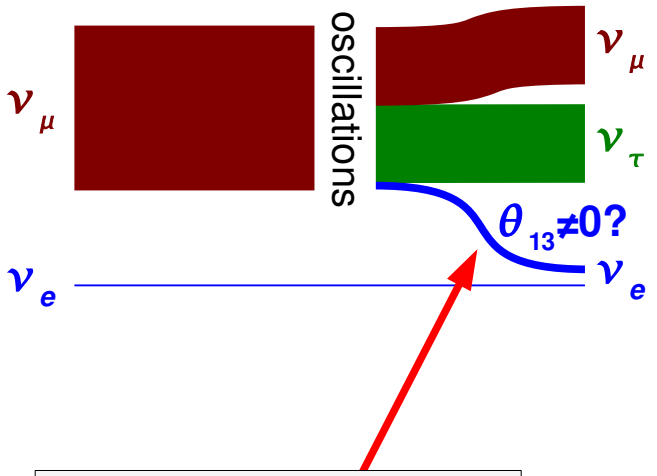


millions of ν events



far detector

thousands of ν events

Looking for this!

ν_e appearance

→ travel 735 km →

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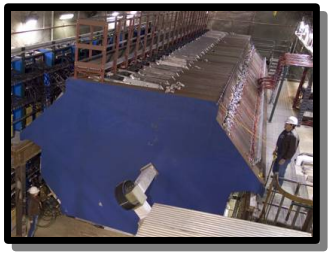
near detector



millions of ν events

apply ν_e selection

thousands of ν_e candidates

far detector

thousands of ν events

apply ν_e selection

FD data!

ν_e appearance

→ travel 735 km →

near detector

98.7% ν_μ
1.3% ν_e
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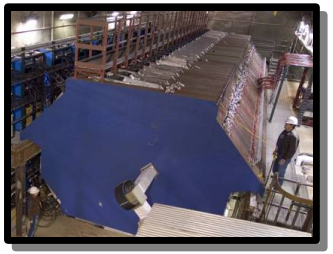


millions of
ν events

far detector

thousands of
ν events

apply ν_e selection

thousands of
ν_e candidates

apply ν_e selection

FD
data!

decompose
the sample

measured background components:

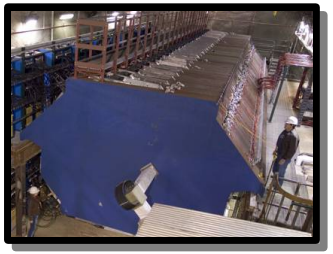
ν_x NC
ν_μ CC
ν_e CC

ν_e appearance

→ travel 735 km →

near detector

98.7% ν_μ
1.3% ν_e
(and $\bar{\nu}$)



oscillations

ν_μ → ν_μ
ν_μ → ν_τ
$\theta_{13} \neq 0$?
ν_e → ν_e

far detector

millions of ν events

thousands of ν events

apply ν_e selection

apply ν_e selection

FD data!

thousands of ν_e candidates

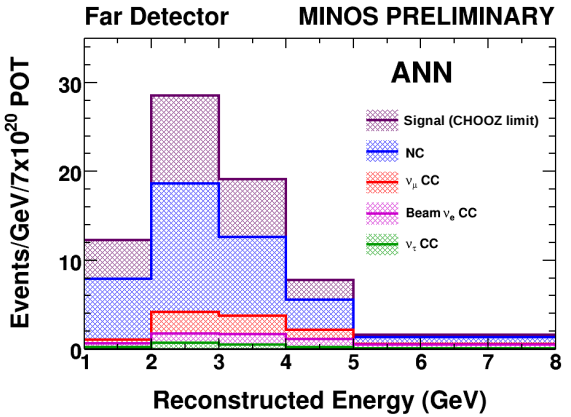
decompose the sample

measured background components:

ν_x NC
ν_μ CC
ν_e CC

predict FD bkgnd.

FD prediction!



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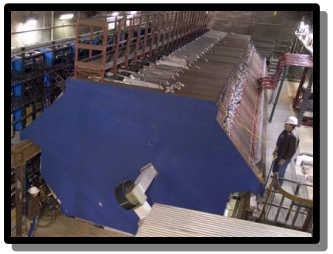


oscillations

ν_μ → ν_μ
ν_μ → ν_τ
$\theta_{13} \neq 0$?
ν_e → ν_e

far detector

millions of ν events

thousands of ν events

apply ν_e selection

apply ν_e selection

FD data!

thousands of ν_e candidates

Compare

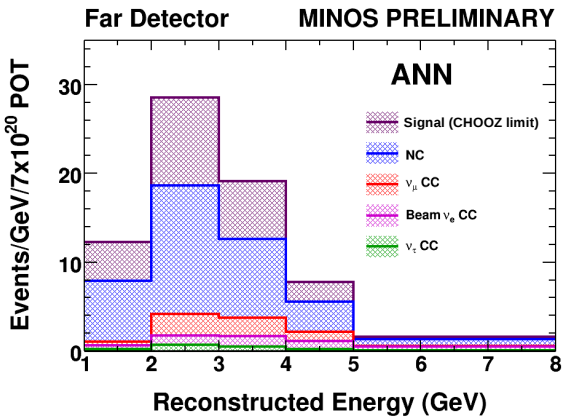
FD prediction!

decompose the sample

measured background components:

ν_x NC
ν_μ CC
ν_e CC

predict FD bkgnd.

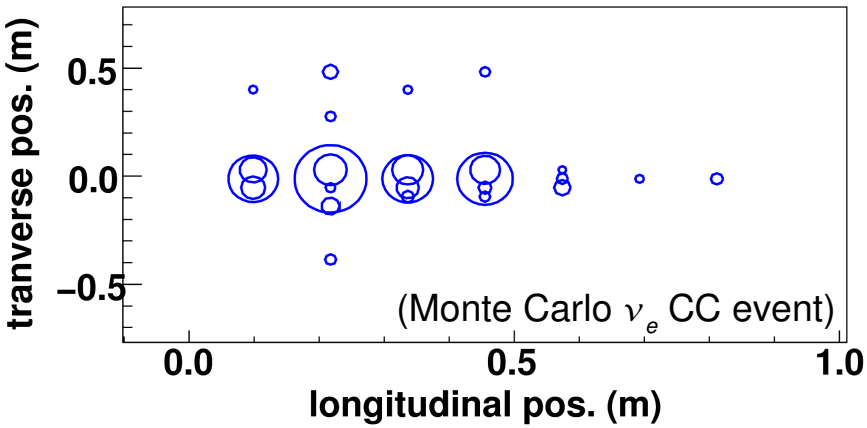


Preliminary cuts

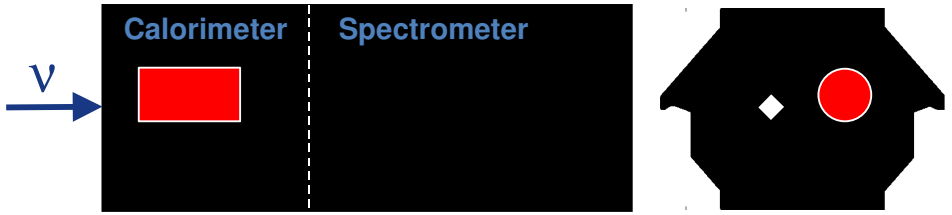
- Selecting ν_e **CC candidates**: *start with some* ***preliminary cuts****...*

1. Cleanly contained event vertex

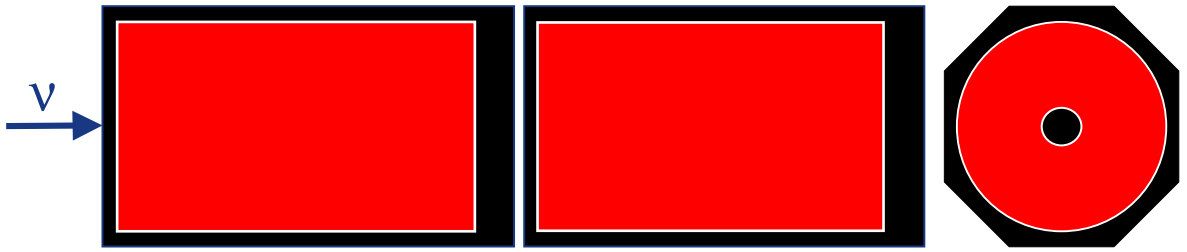
- Tell-tale tracks can be seen
- Ensure reasonable calorimetry



Near det.



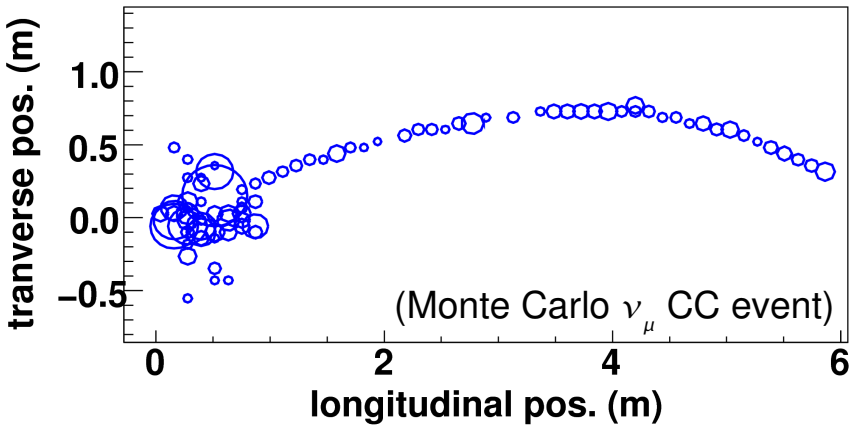
Far det.

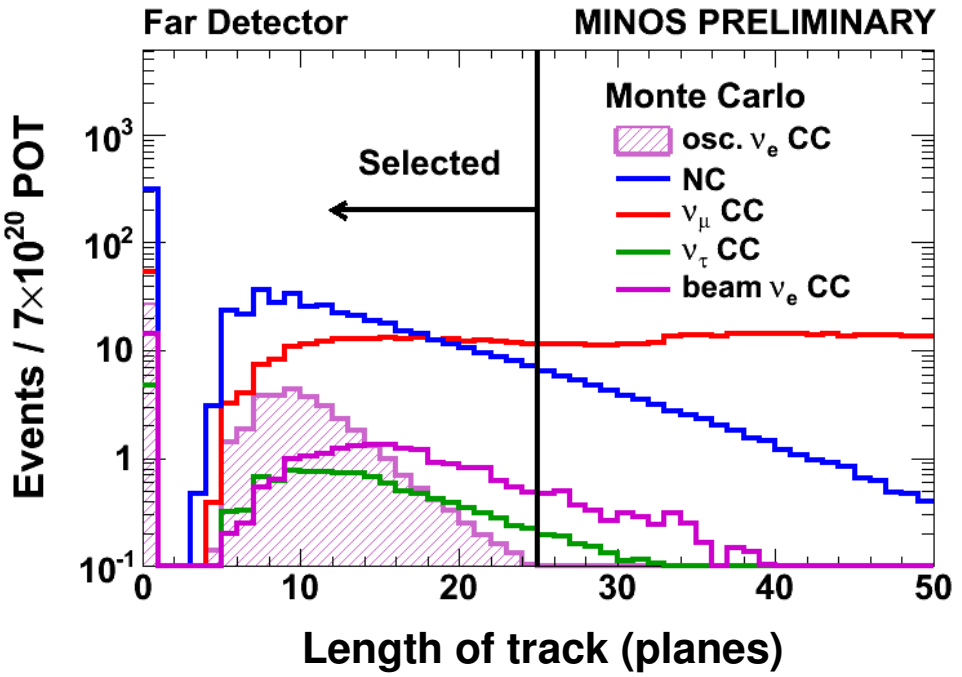


Fiducial regions in red

2. No long tracks

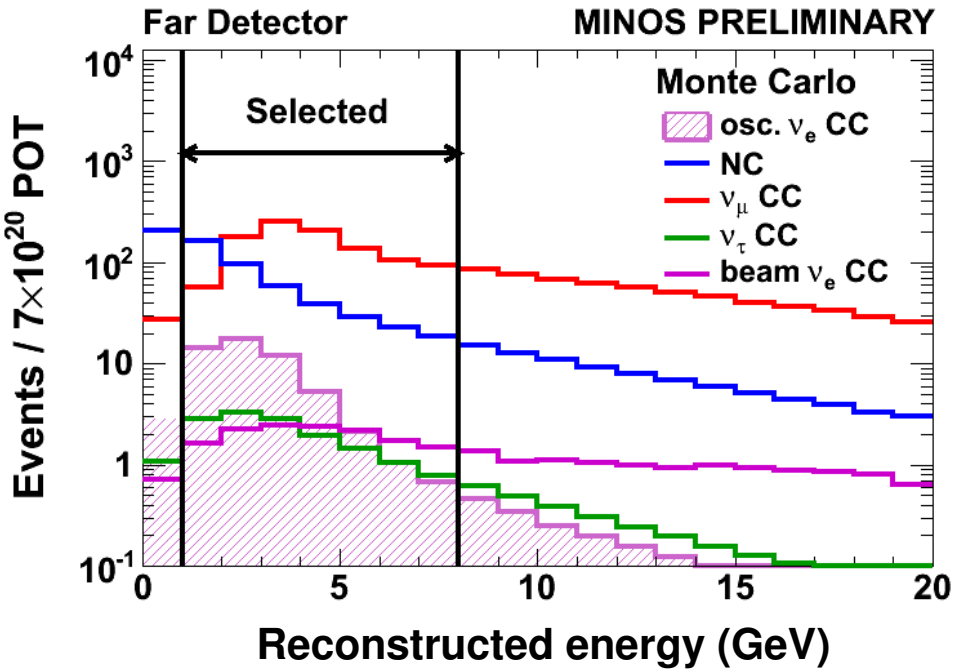
- Removes majority of ν_μ CC events



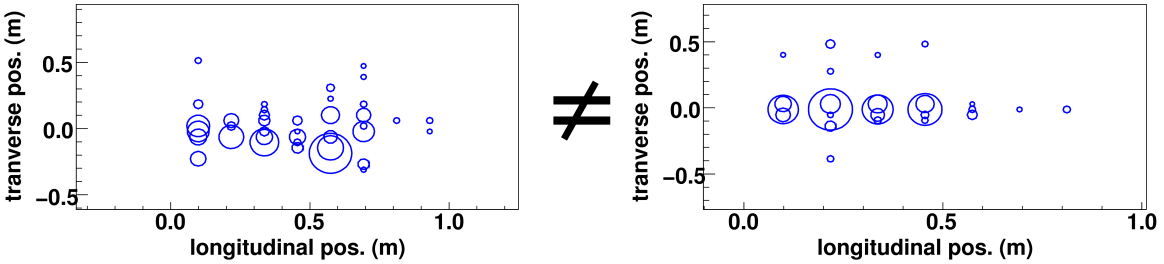


3. Appropriate energy

- No signal expected above 8 GeV
- Minimal signal and lots of NC background below 1 GeV

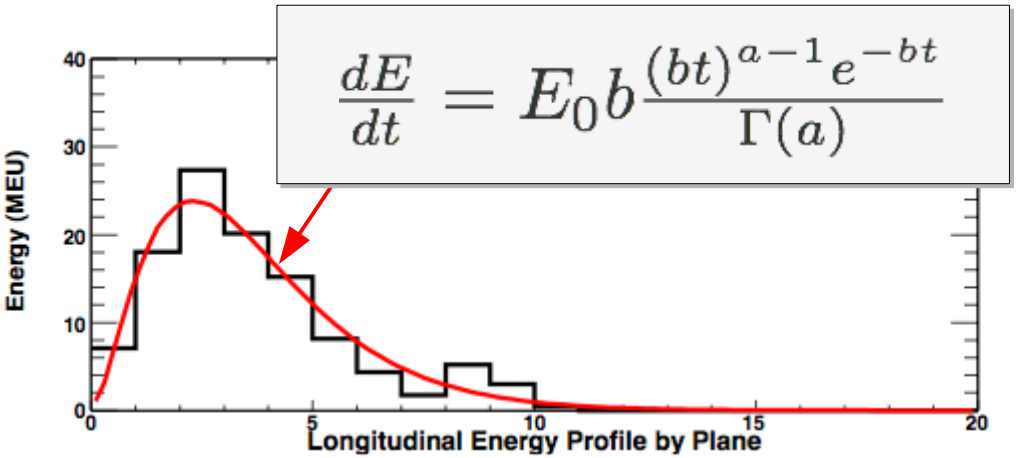


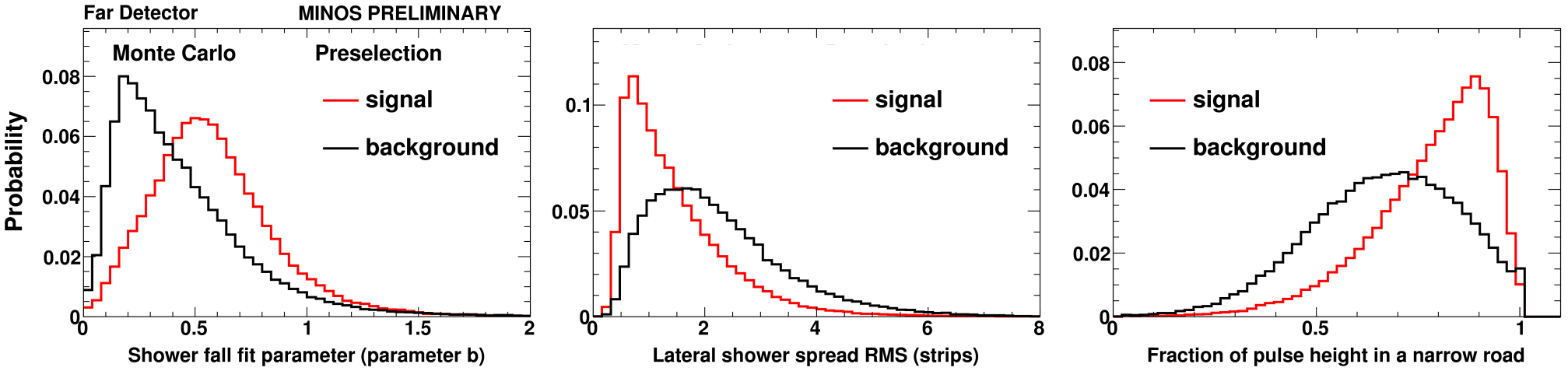
Shower identification



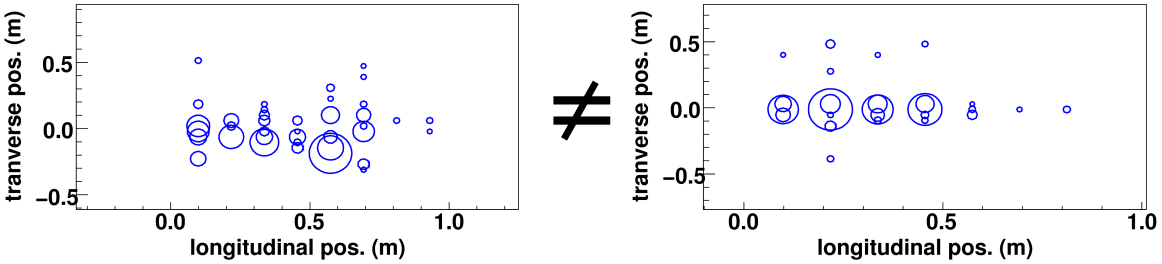
- Classify shower topology with an **ANN**
- 11 discriminant variables derived from longitudinal and transverse **profiles of energy deposition**
- *Examples:* shower fall off (parameter *b*), shower width metrics

Example EM shower profile





Shower identification



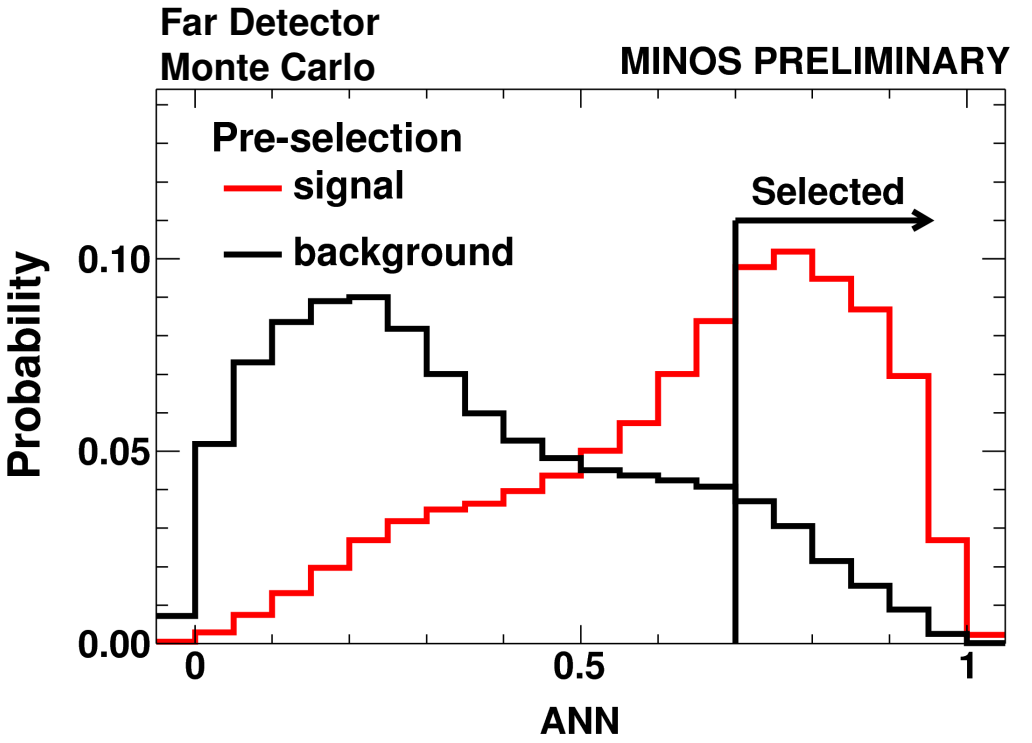
- Classify shower topology with an **ANN**
- 11 discriminant variables derived from longitudinal and transverse **profiles of energy deposition**
- *Examples:* shower fall off (parameter *b*), shower width metrics

Selection efficiencies (presel.+ANN):

***signal* 42%**

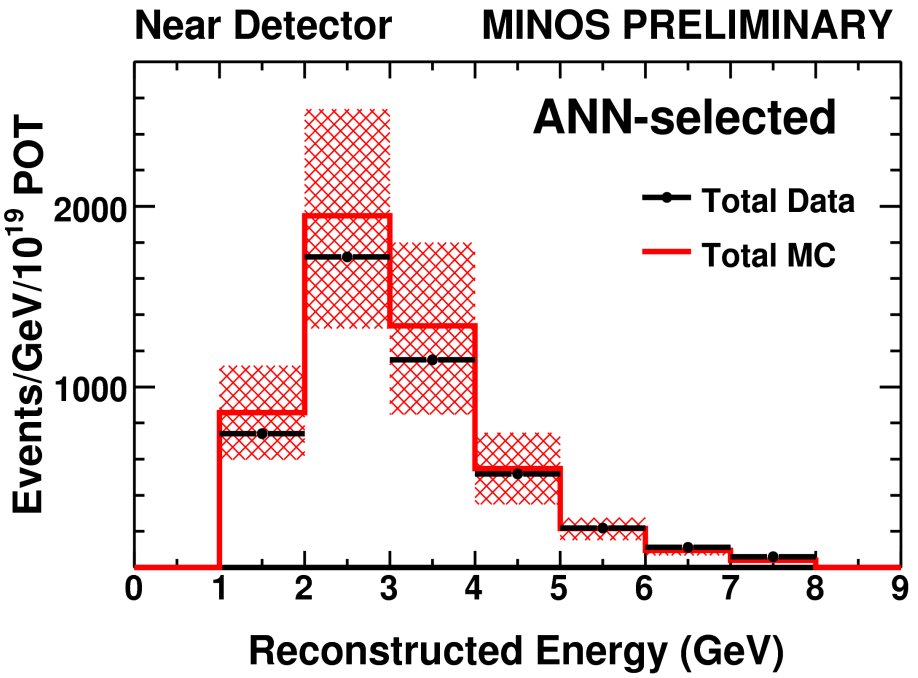
***NC* 5.4%**
***CC* 0.4%**
} ***(i.e., mis-ID rates)***

Resulting ANN discriminant:



Near detector events

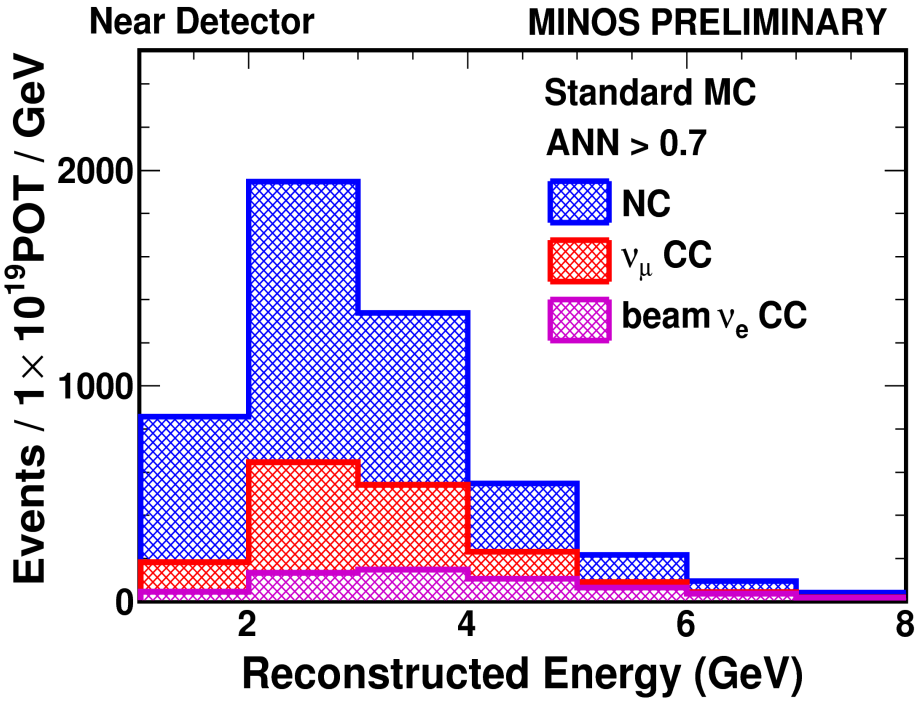
ν_e candidates in the **near detector** (ANN selection)



- Data and MC differ by up to 15%, but...
- ... are consistent given the large hadronic model uncertainties (*red error band*)

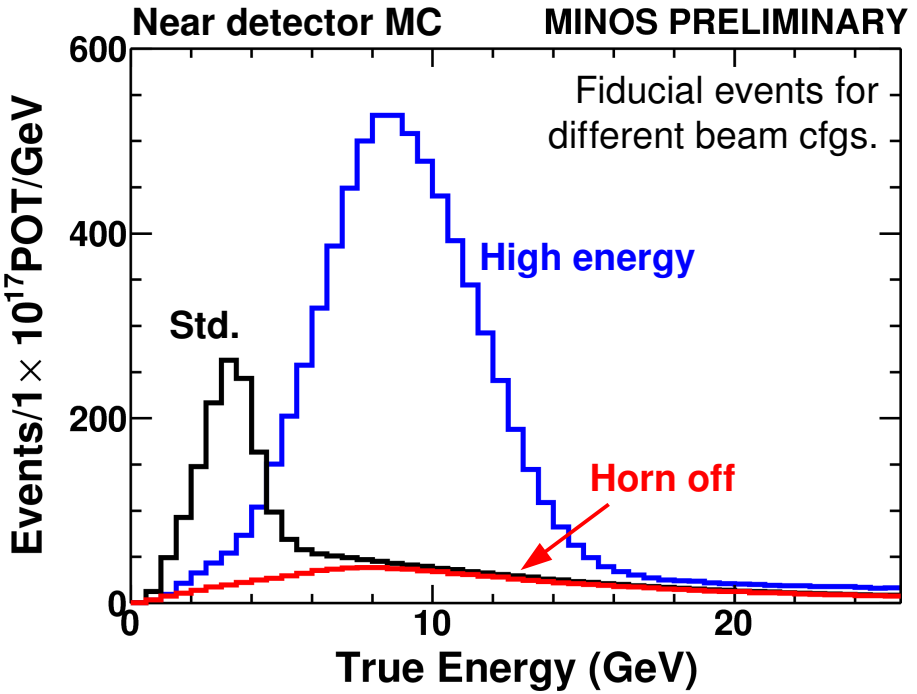
We need not rely on the simulation of the primary backgrounds *(neither raw production nor selection efficiencies)*

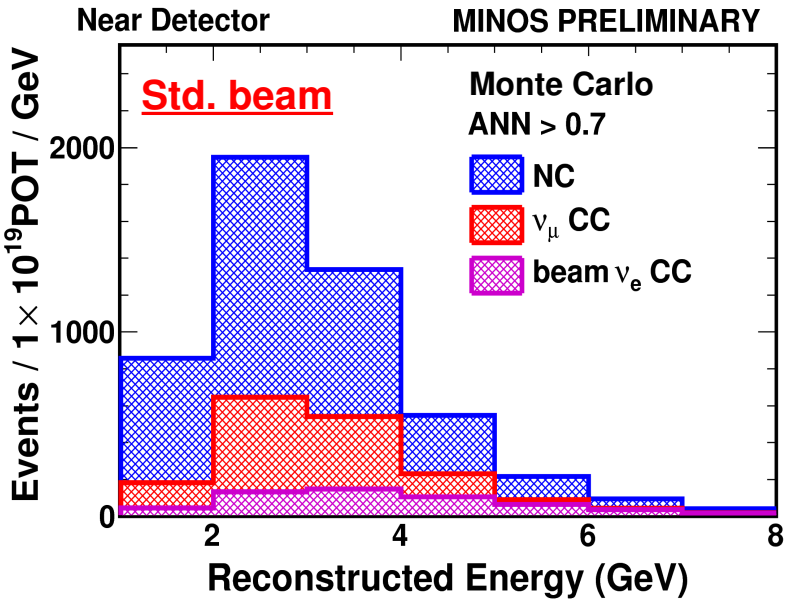
- Observed **near** detector rate is converted to a **far** detector prediction



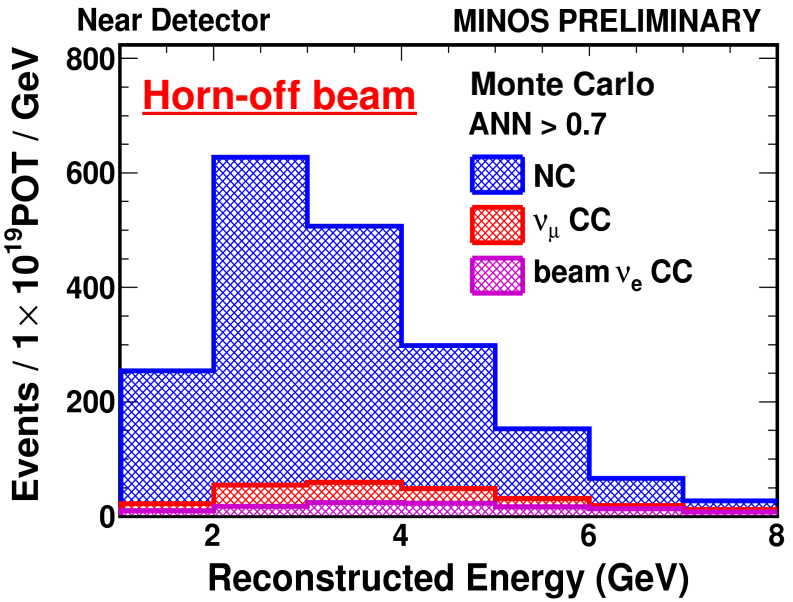
Background decomposition

- Transport of **CC components** to far det. requires application of $P_{\text{osc}}(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_x)$
- Could use MC to estimate fraction of background that is ν_μ and ν_e CC
- *Better:* **measure NC, CC components** by adjusting horn focusing, modifying NC / CC fraction

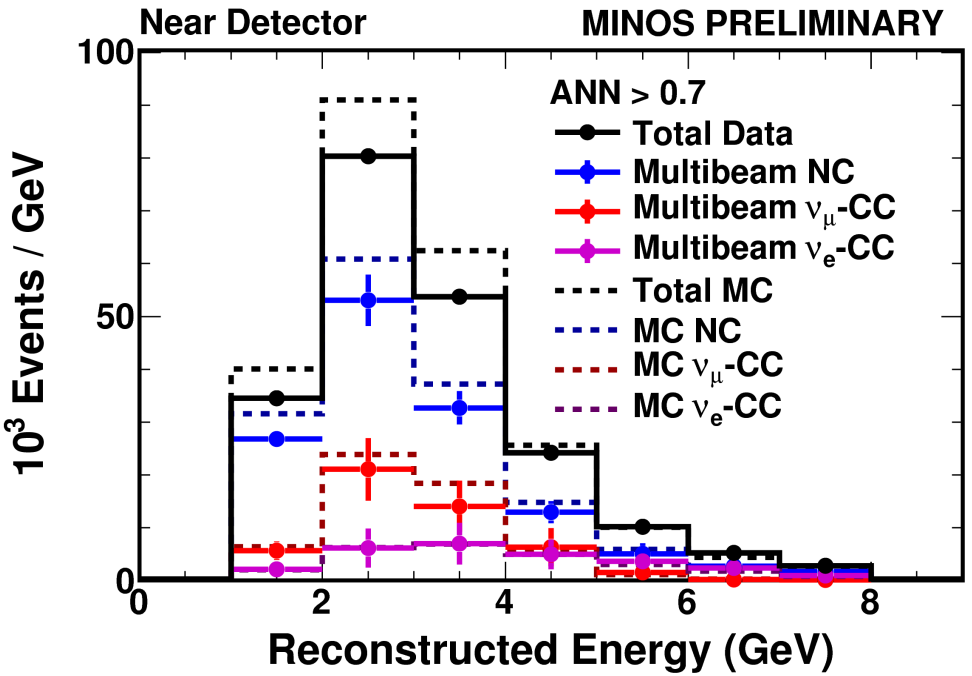




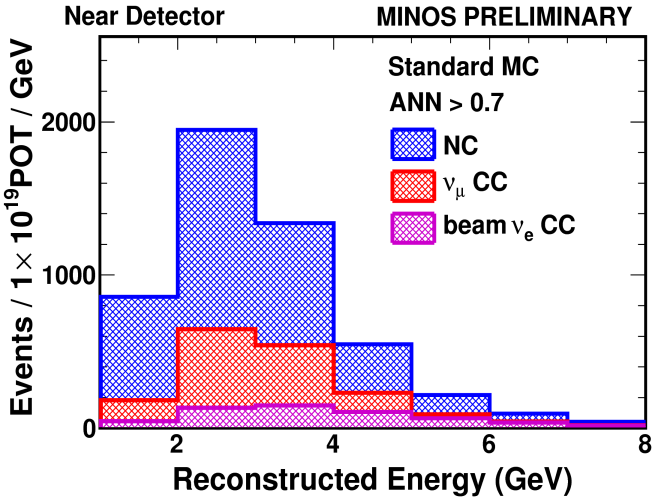
Turn off focusing horn



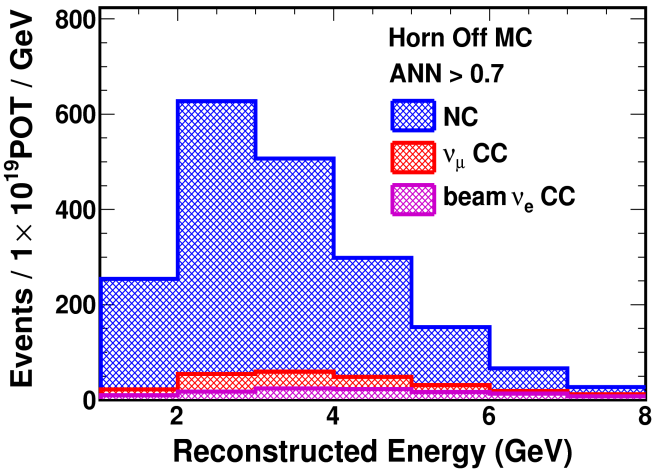
- *Approximately...*
  - **horn-off** and **high-*E*** ⇒ **NC**
  - **tuned MC** ⇒ ν_e **CC**
  - **unitarity** ⇒ ν_μ **CC**
- *Actually...*
  - Solve the full **linear system**
    (3 beam configurations and 3 background components)
  - ...with injected MC ν_e **constraint**



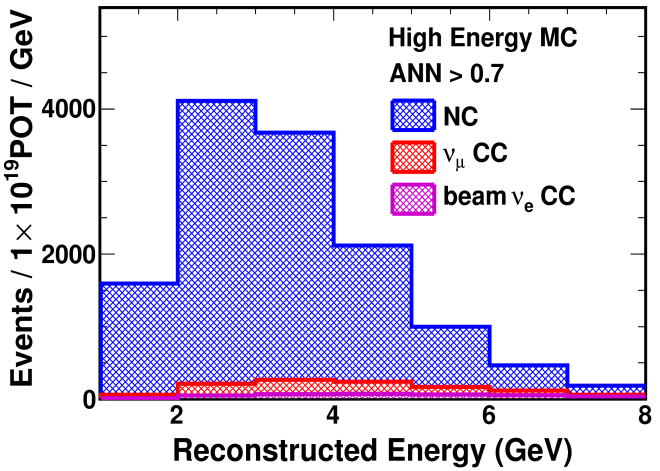
Standard



Horn off



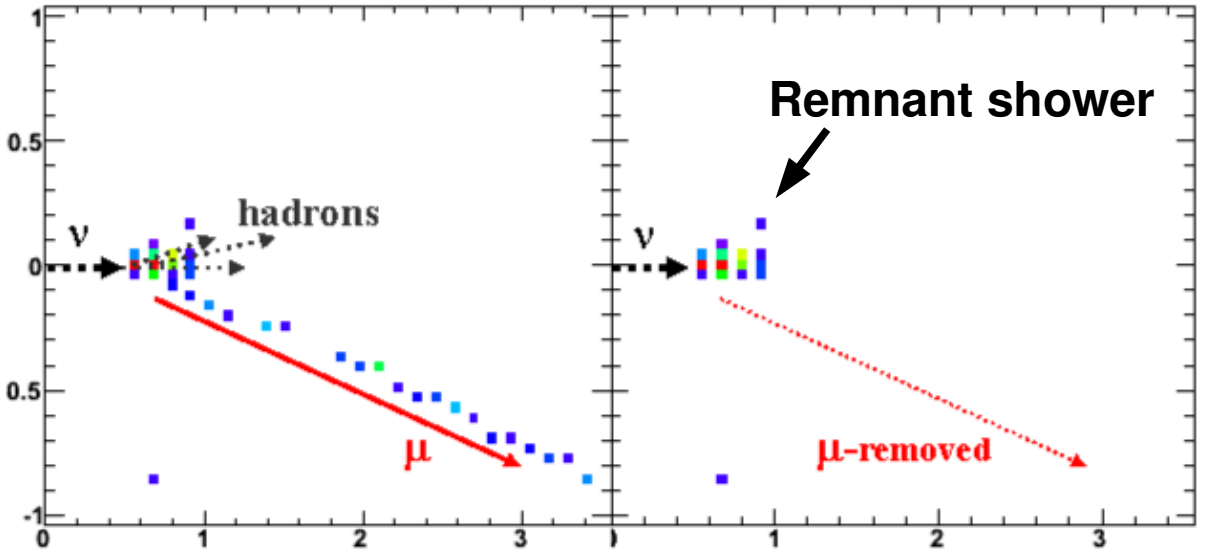
High energy



A cross check...

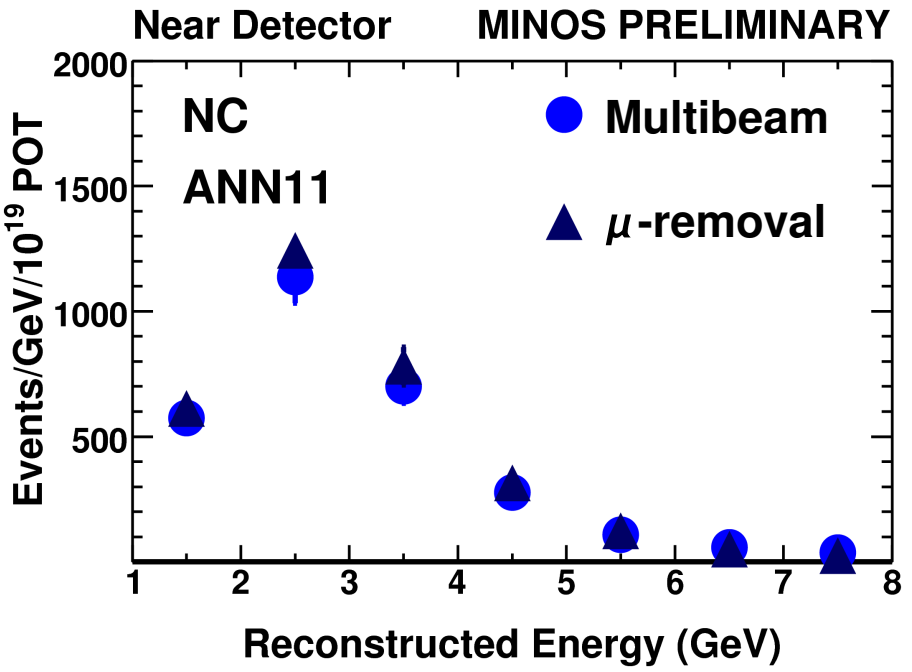
Alternatively

Use **mock NC events** to measure **NC acceptance**



Remove the hits from μ tracks in ν_μ CC events

Apply ν_e selection to the remnants (*mock NC events*)



Data/MC ratio with mock NC events
⇒ **correction** for real NC events

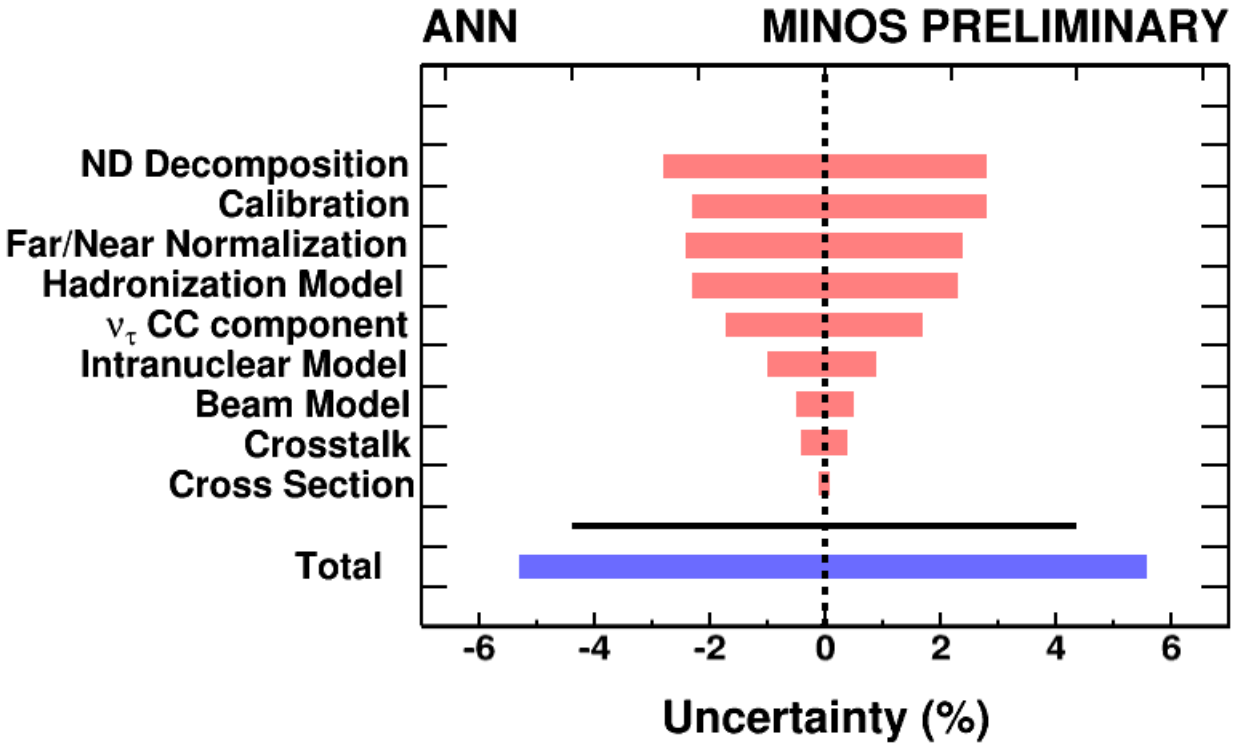
Resulting "measured" NC component agrees between the two methods

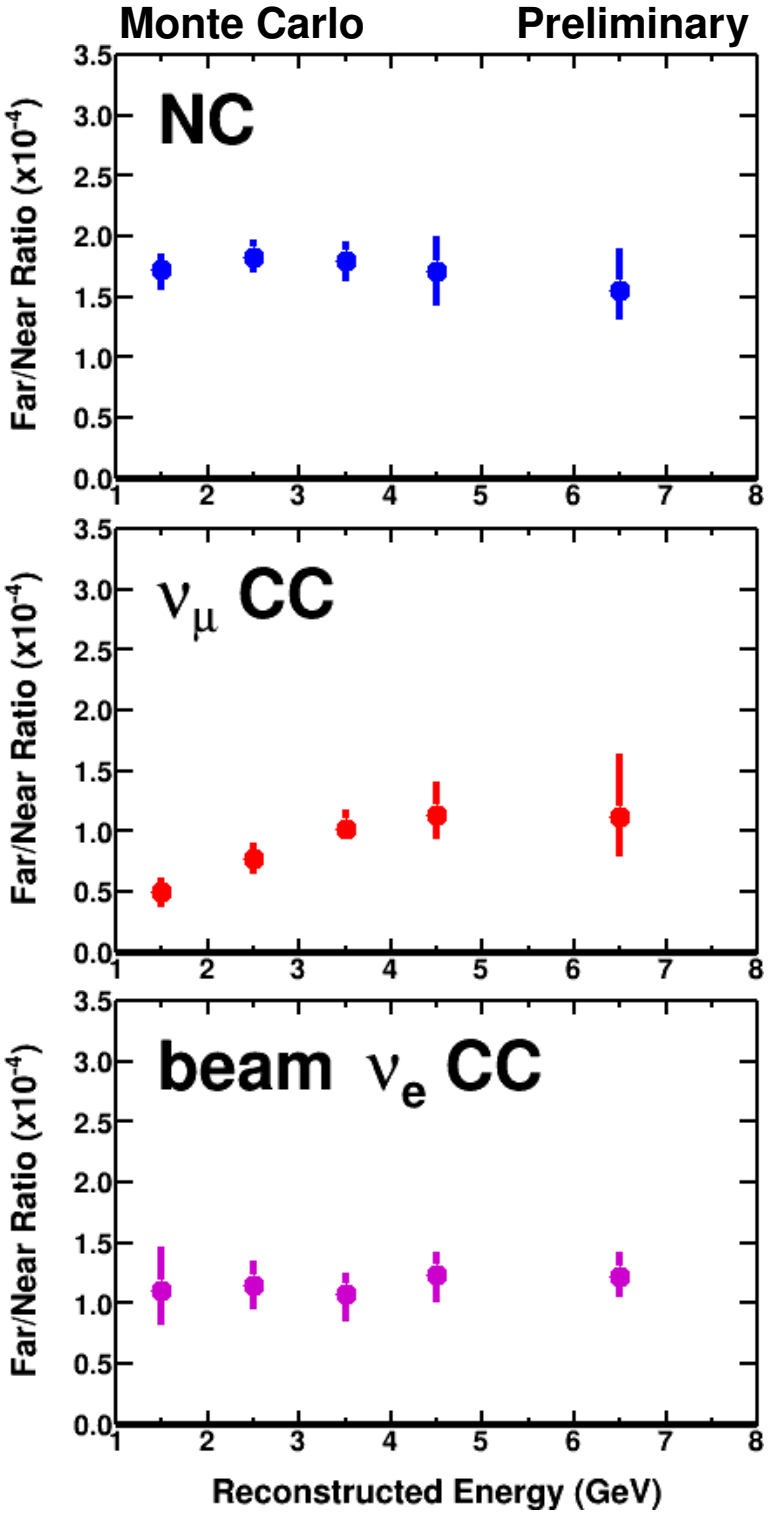
From near data to far prediction

Far/near ratios in bins of energy →

Detector differences lead to systematic errors in **far/near ratio**

attenuation, readout (single vs. double), PMT design, crosstalk, ...





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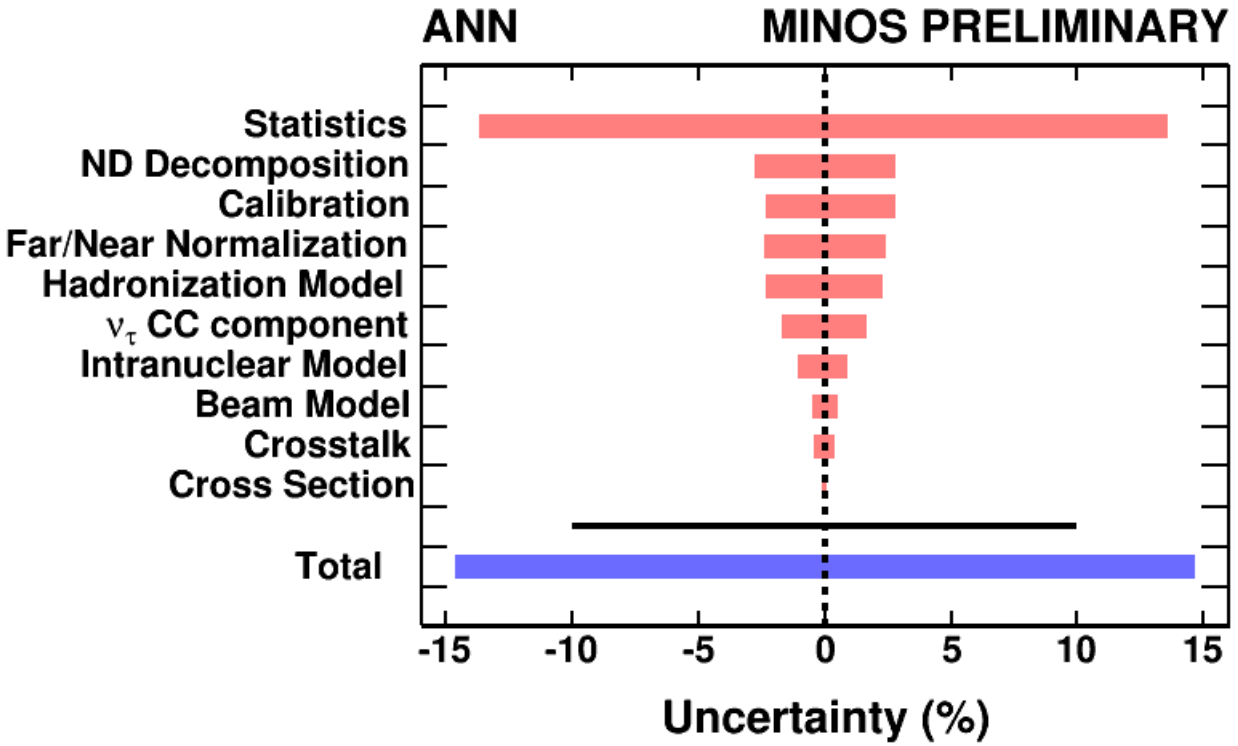
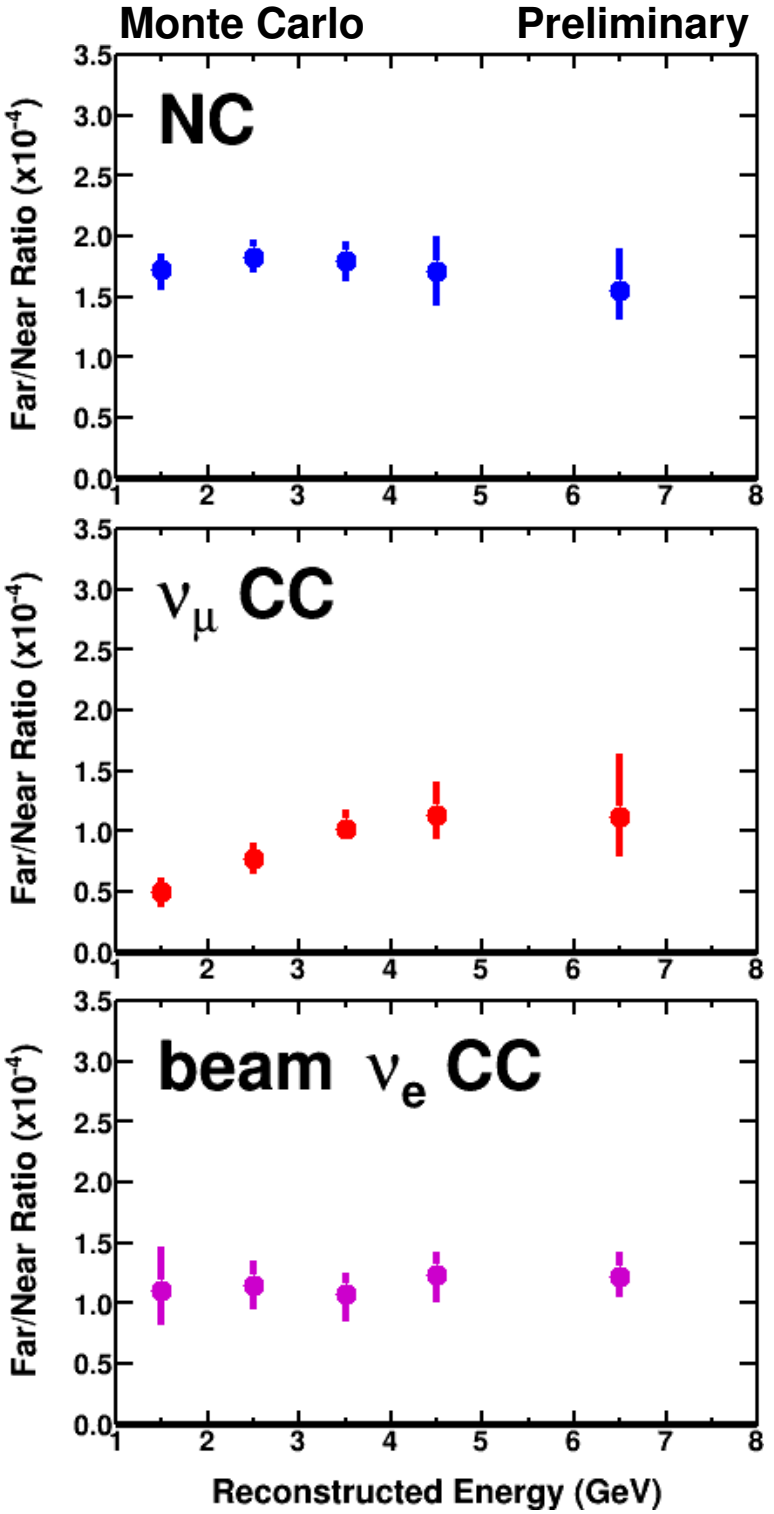
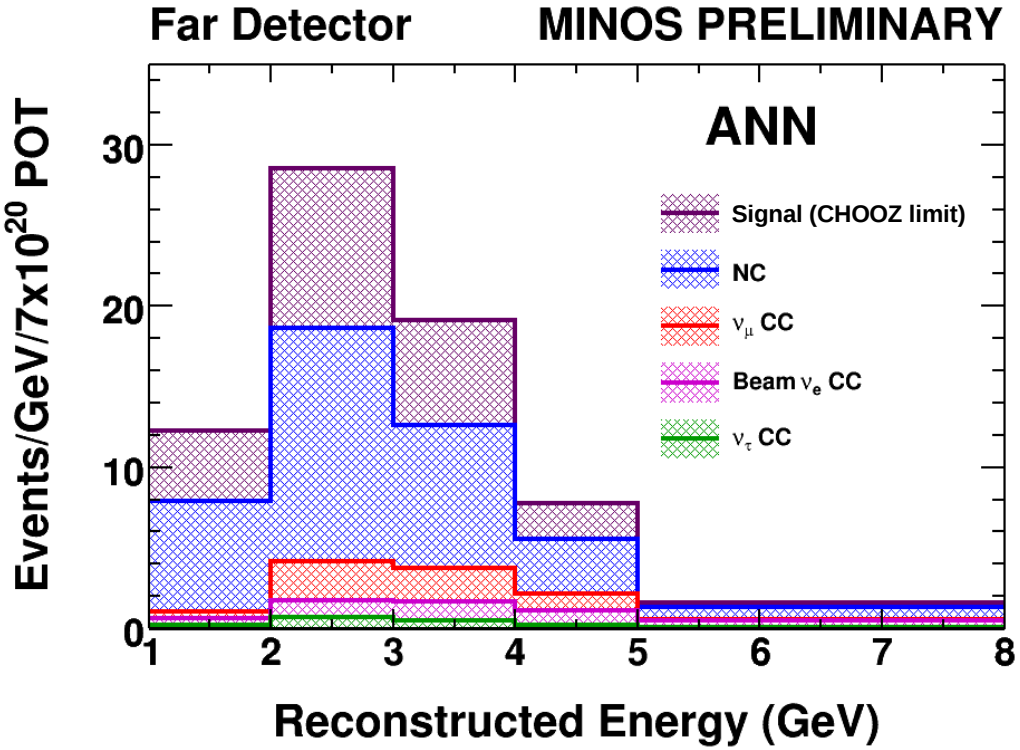




Far detector prediction

Small ν_τ **CC** background (*from* $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ *oscillations)* estimated from the Monte Carlo

(with knowledge of ν_μ disappearance)

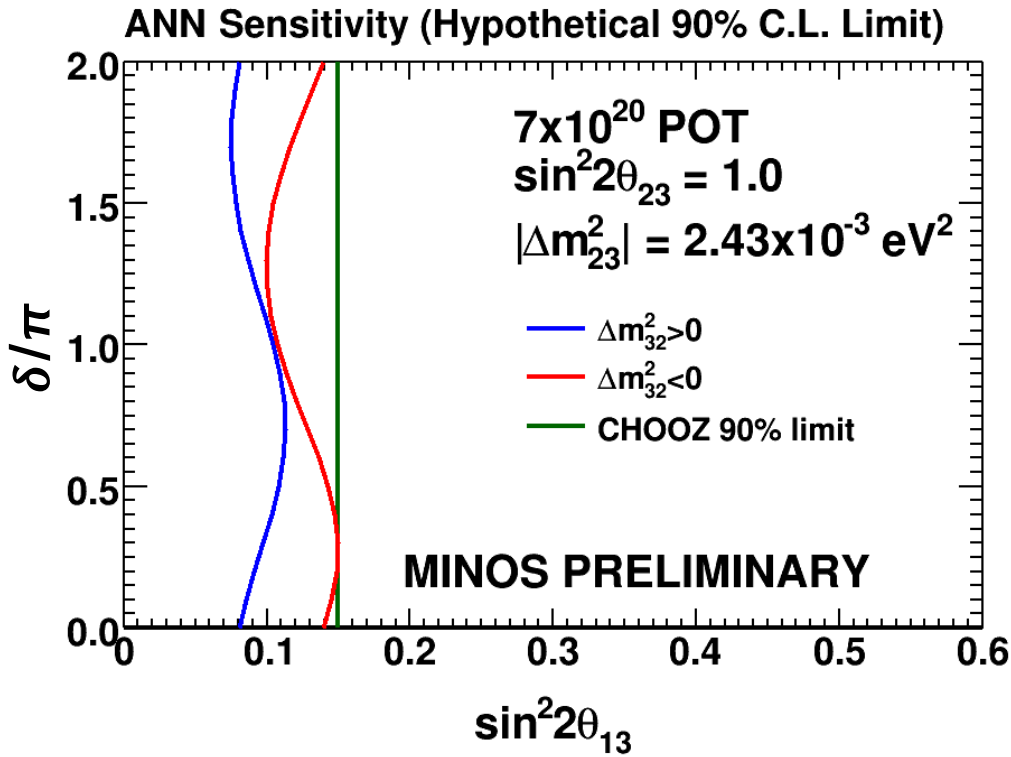


7x10^{20} p.o.t. predicted event counts:

Backgrounds:		**Signal (CHOOZ limit):**	
Total	**49.1**	ν_e **CC**	**24**
NC	35.8		
ν_μ CC	6.3	*(stat. + syst. error on*	
ν_e CC	5.0	*total BG is 7.4 events)*	
ν_τ CC	2.0		

Signal: $\Delta m^2_{32} = 2.43\text{x}10^{-3}$ eV^2 $\quad \sin^2(2\theta_{23}) = 1.0$

$\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) = 0.15$ $\quad \delta_{CP} = 0$



Blind analysis checks

Check of the analysis – *invert the cut*

*Perform **the full analysis** with one modification:*

→ **invert the cut** on the ν_e discriminant: **ANN<0.5** rather than **ANN>0.7**

Expected events for ANN<0.5

For **$\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) = 0$**

Total	**314**
NC	186
ν_μ CC	117
ν_e CC	5
ν_τ CC	6

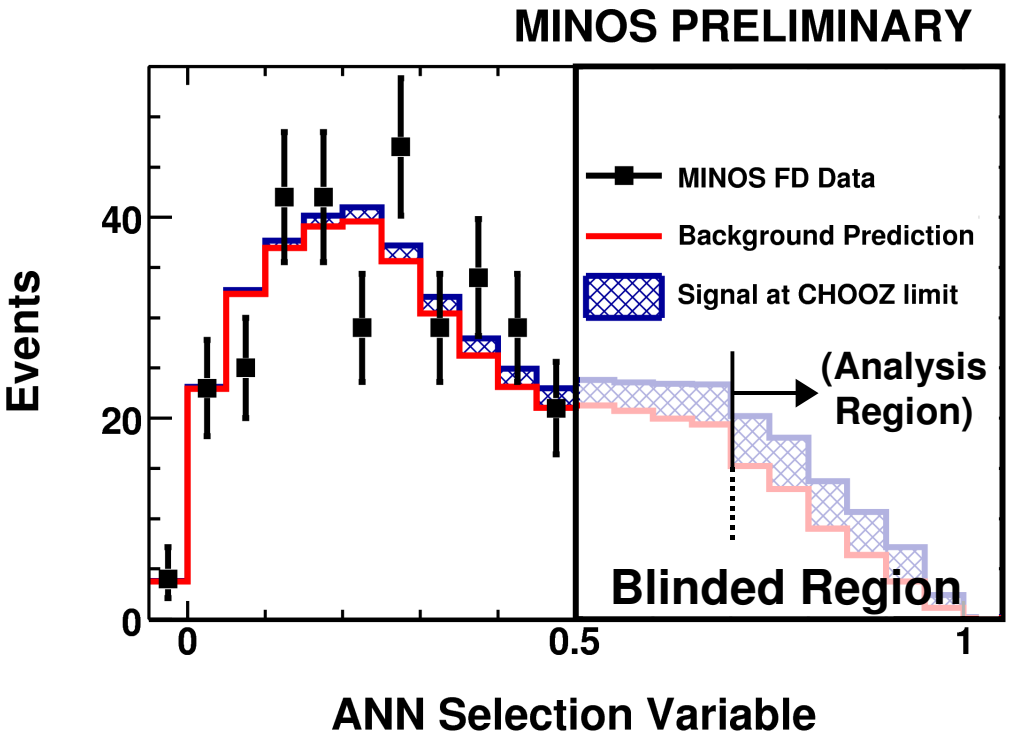
For **$\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) = 0.15$**

Total	**314 + 13**

Observed for ANN<0.5:

327 events

(0.75σ excess if $\sin^2(2\theta_{13})=0$)



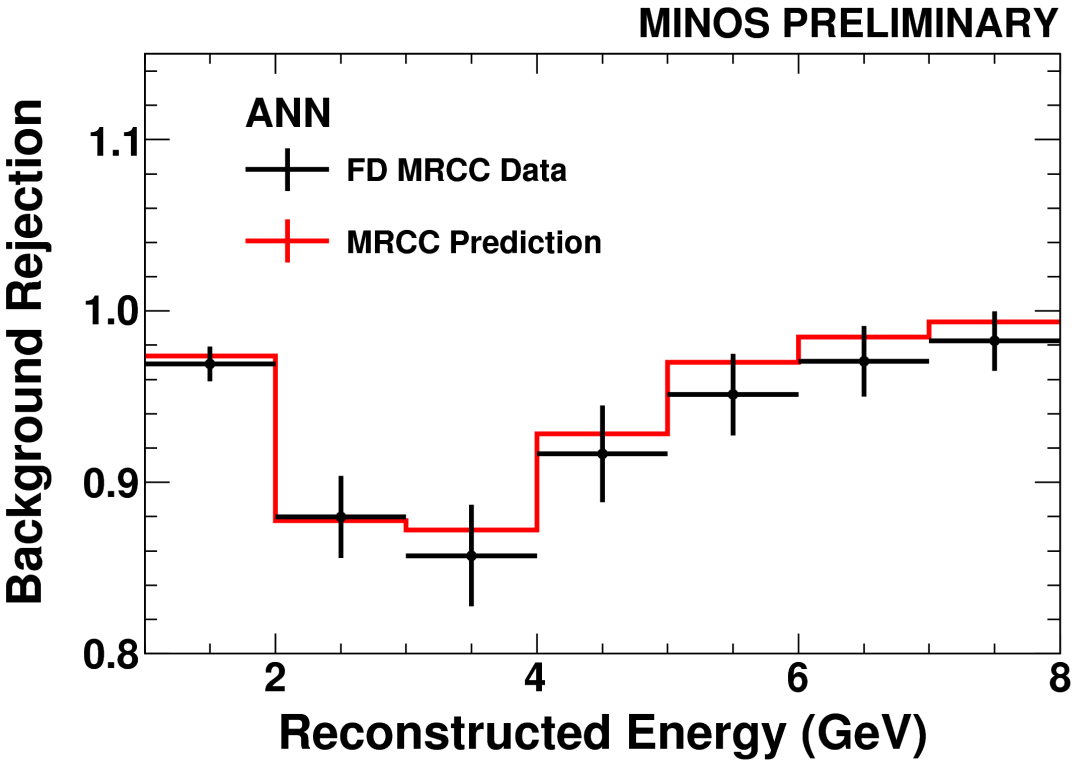
(uncertainty in this test) ≈ 0.4×(uncertainty in main analysis)

Check of the analysis – *verify NC shower mis-ID*

Revisit the **muon-removed events** *(mock NC events)*

→ *Measure **selection efficiency** for these showers in **Far Detector data***
→ *Compare with **Near-Detector-driven** prediction*

Predicted and **measured efficiencies** (vs. energy) **agree**



Mis-ID rate for μ-removed events:

data: (7.2 ± 0.9)%

pred: (6.42 ± 0.05)%

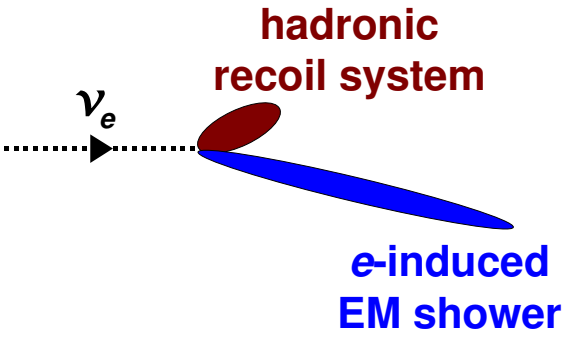
[stat. errors only]

⇒ compatible at 0.86σ

(uncertainty in this test) ≈ (uncertainty in main analysis)

Check of the analysis – *verify signal efficiency*

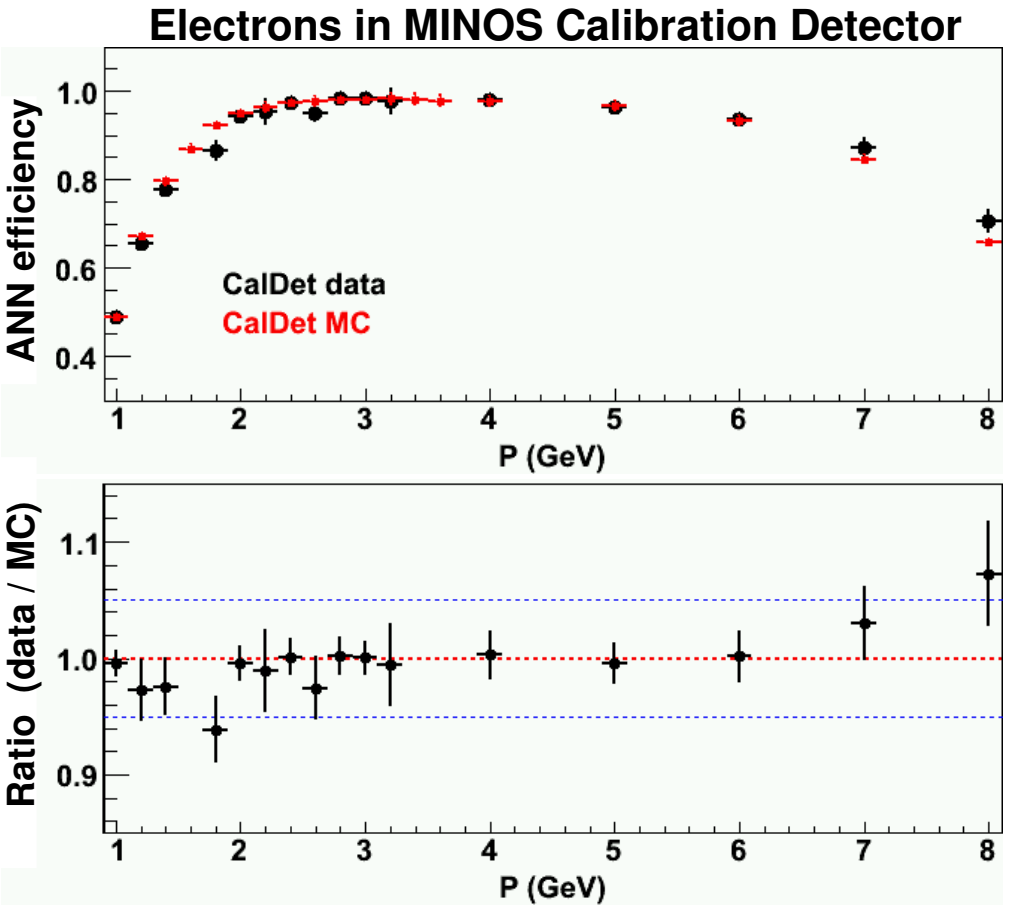
ν_e CC events: **EM shower** + **hadronic shower**



1st: Test selection on **pure EM showers** from **CalDet**

*Efficiency understood to **better than 3%***

Apply a systematic error based on the limits of this comparison



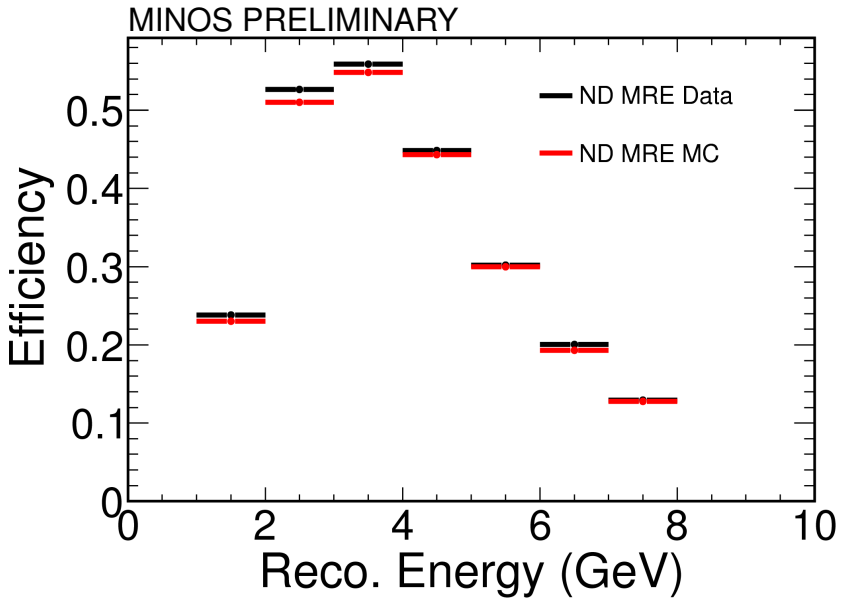
2nd: Test importance of **hadronic shower** modeling:

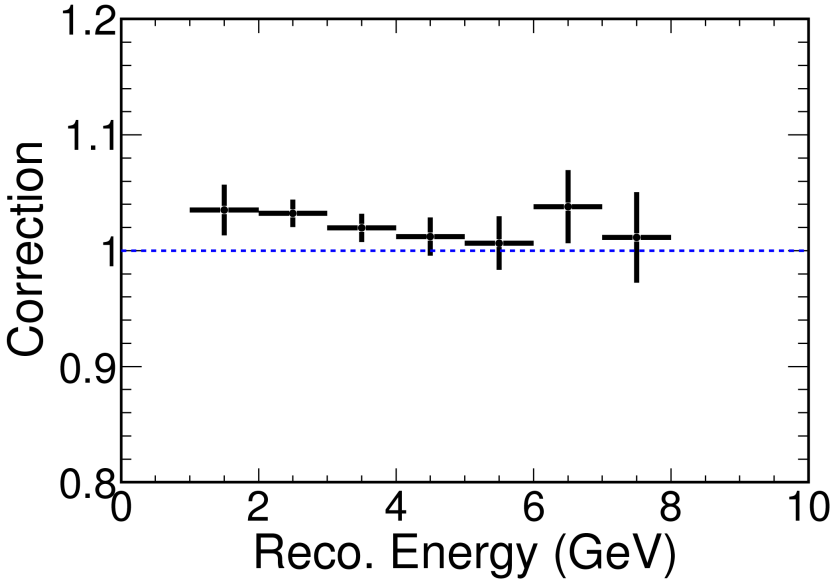
→ *use **μ-removed sample** to get **hadronic showers** from data or MC*

Data *or* MC

Apply ν_e selection to the "merged" events...

Small efficiency difference (~3%) taken as a correction





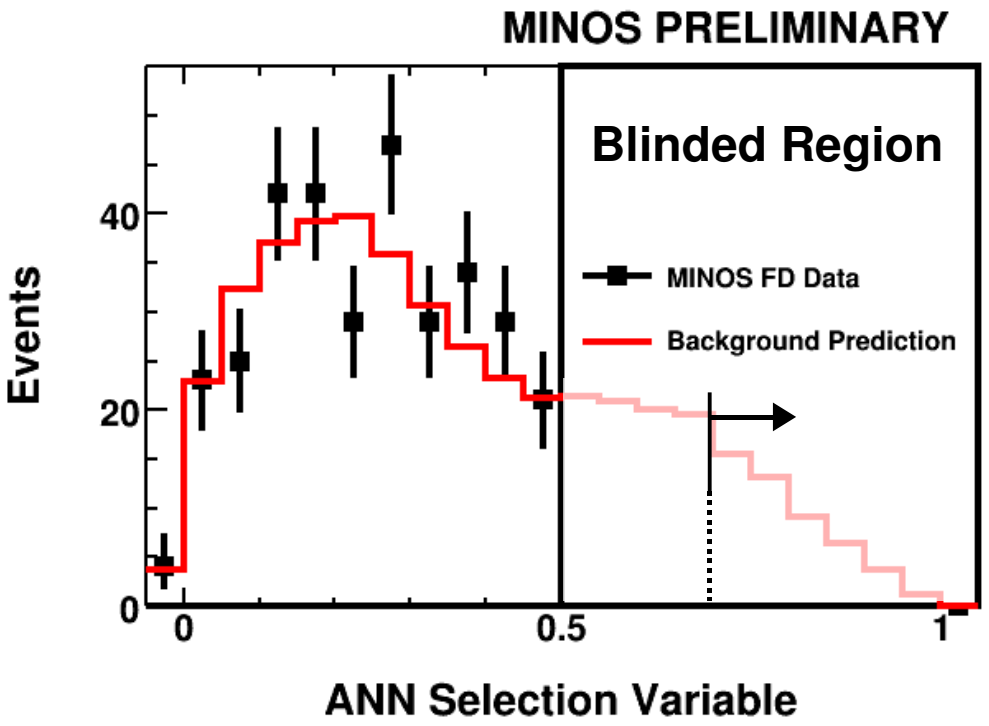
Results

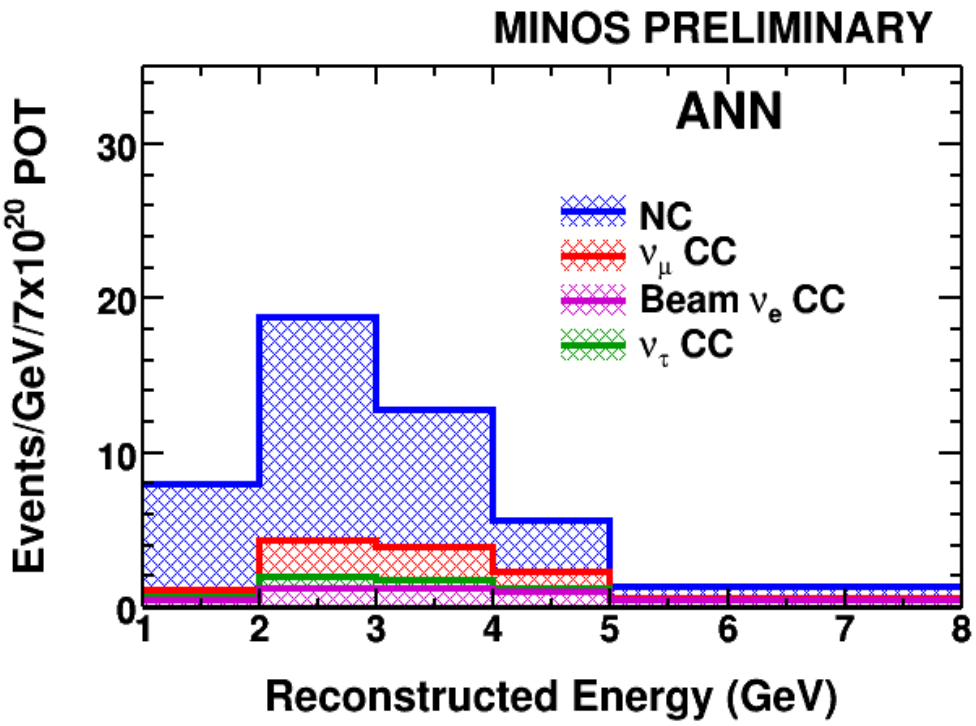
ν_e appearance result

With 7×10^{20} protons on the NuMI target

ν_e charged current candidate events:

background expectation: **49.1 ± 7.0(stat.) ± 2.7(syst.)**





ν_e appearance result

With 7×10^{20} protons on the NuMI target

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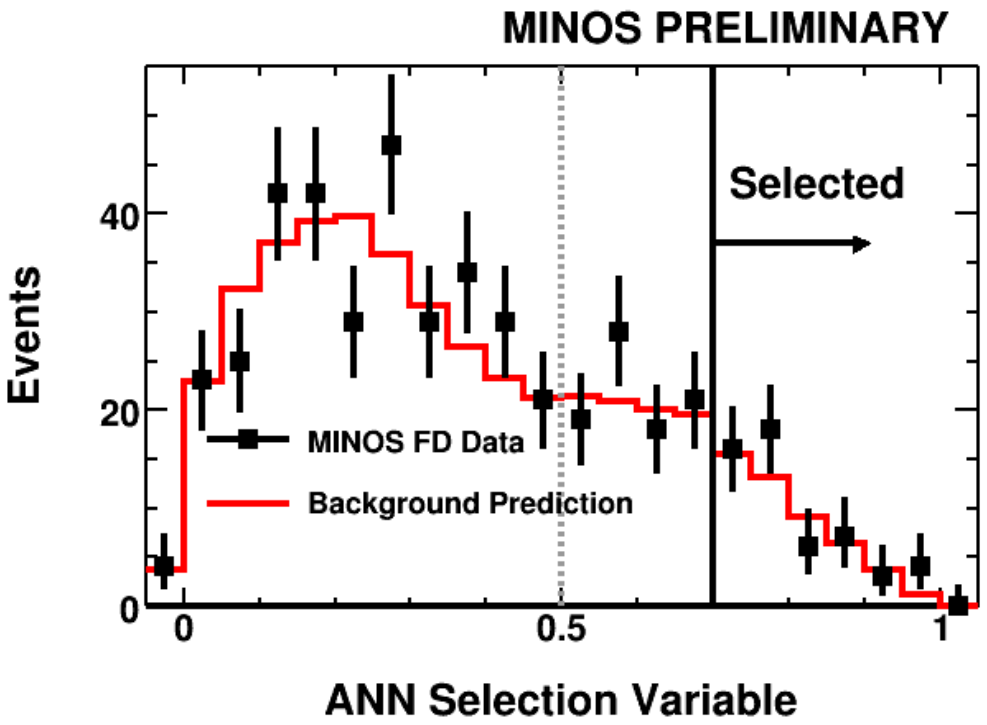
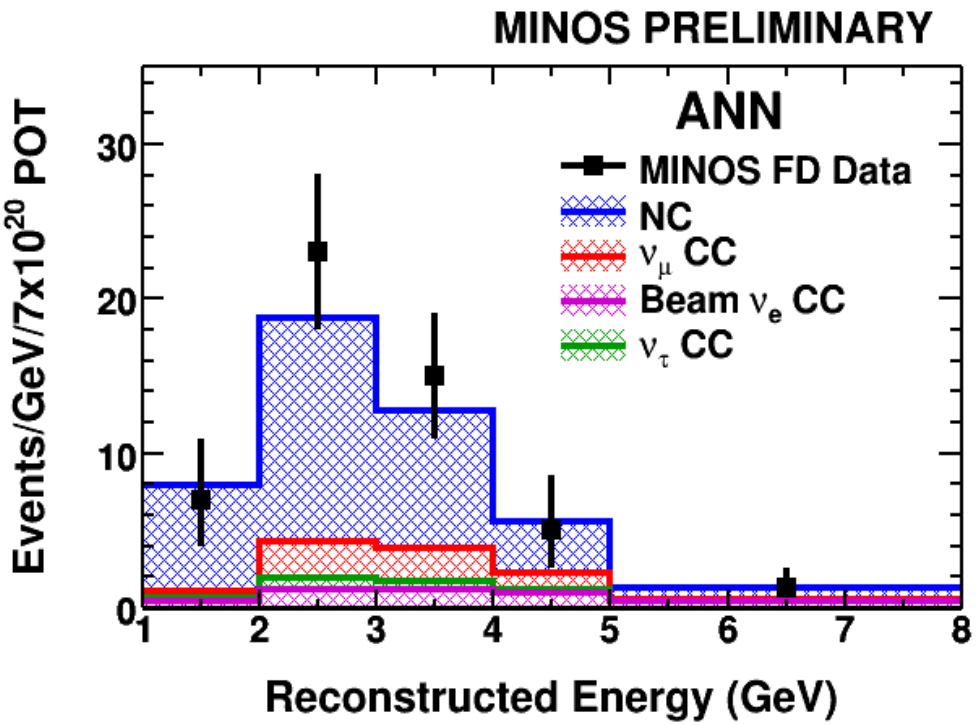
observed: **54**

(0.7σ excess)





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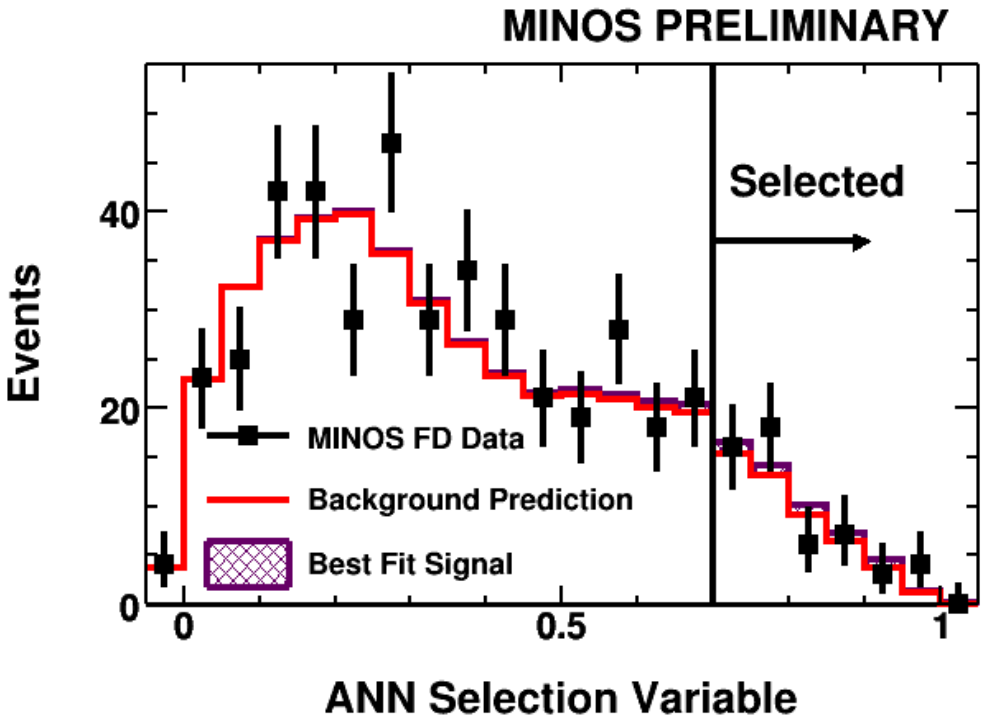
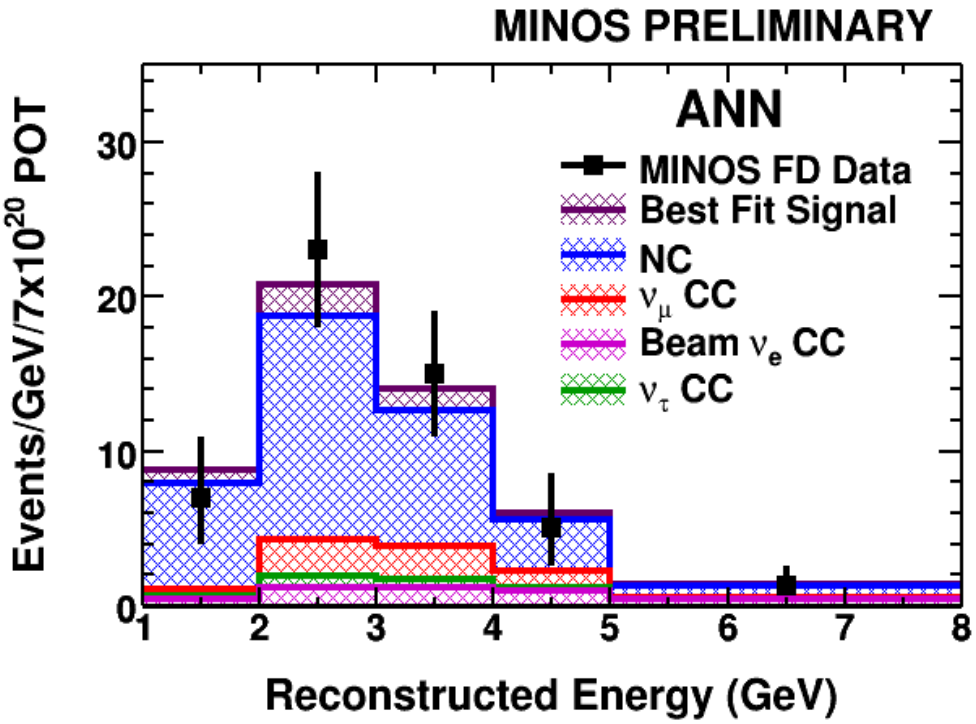
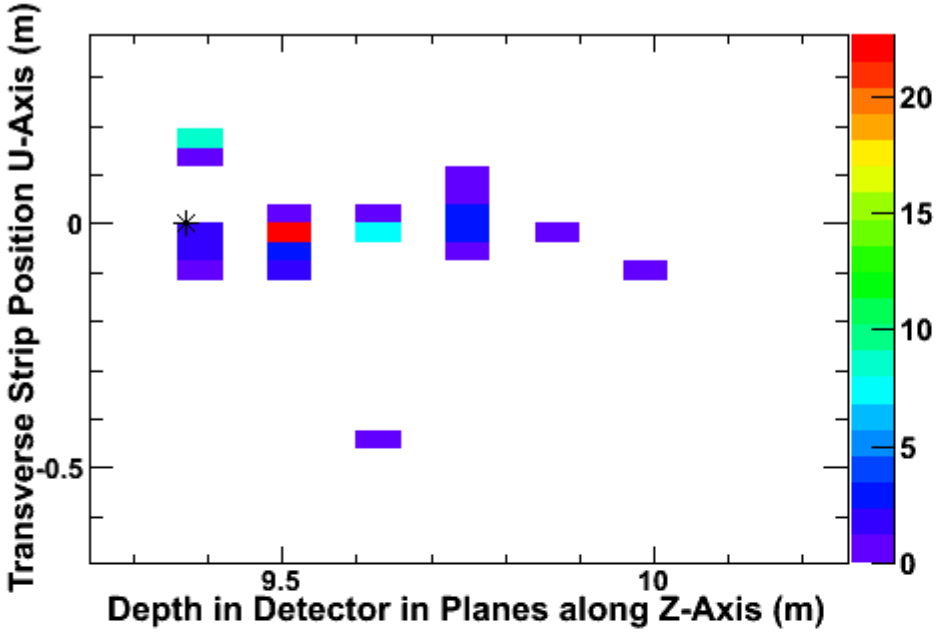
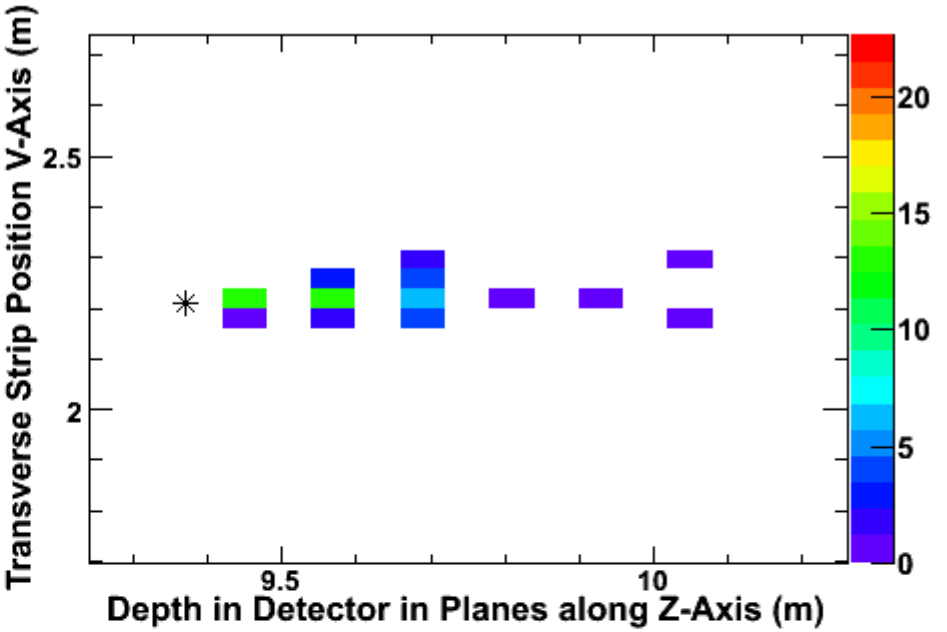
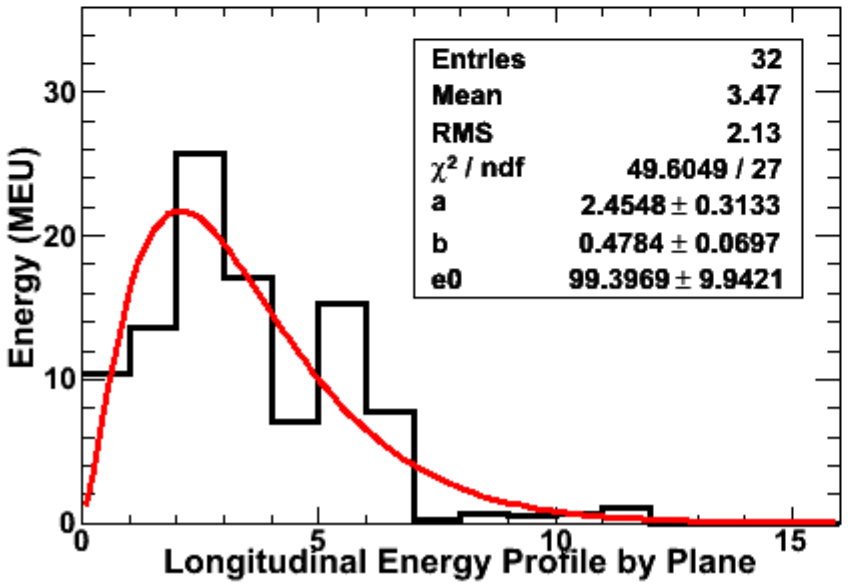


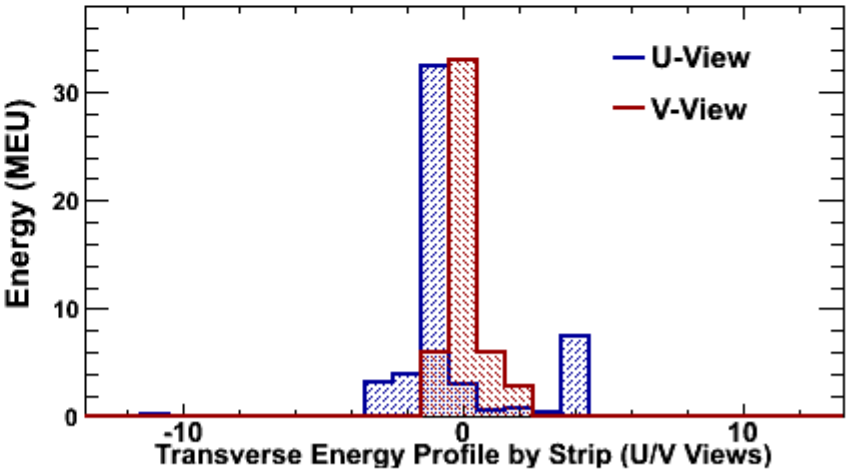


ν_e CC candidate event in the far detector...





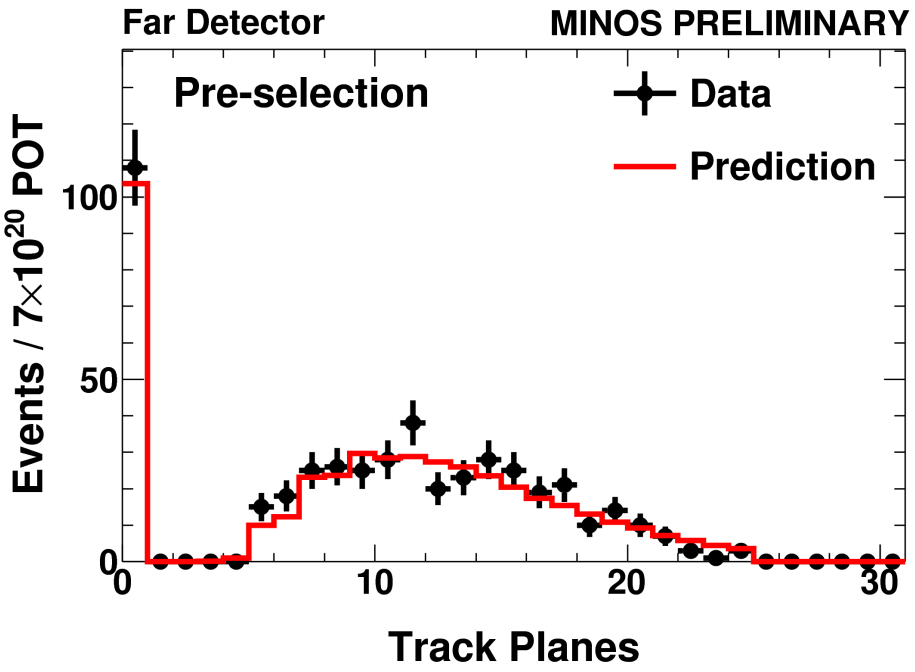


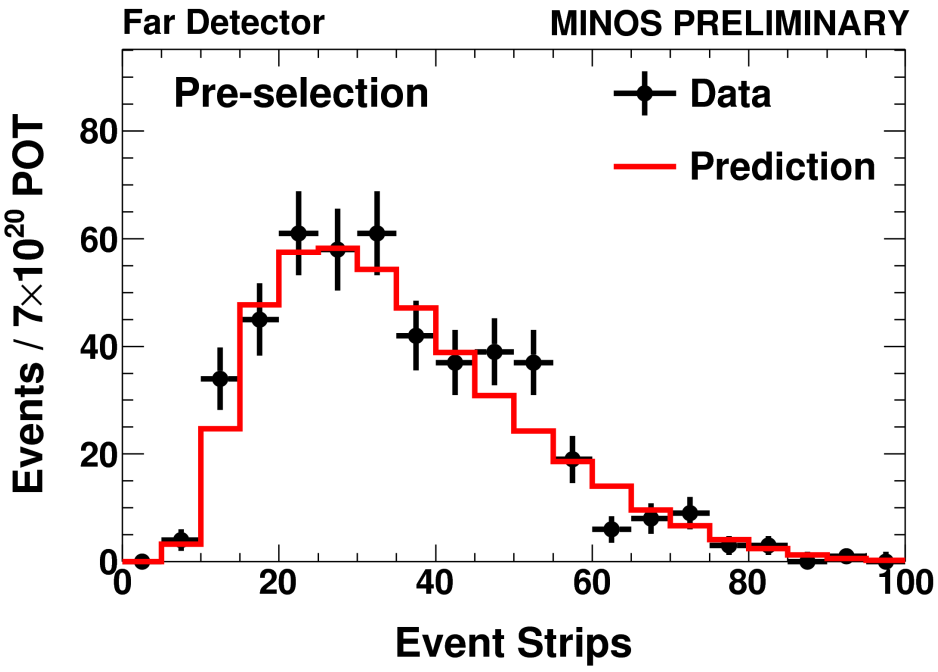


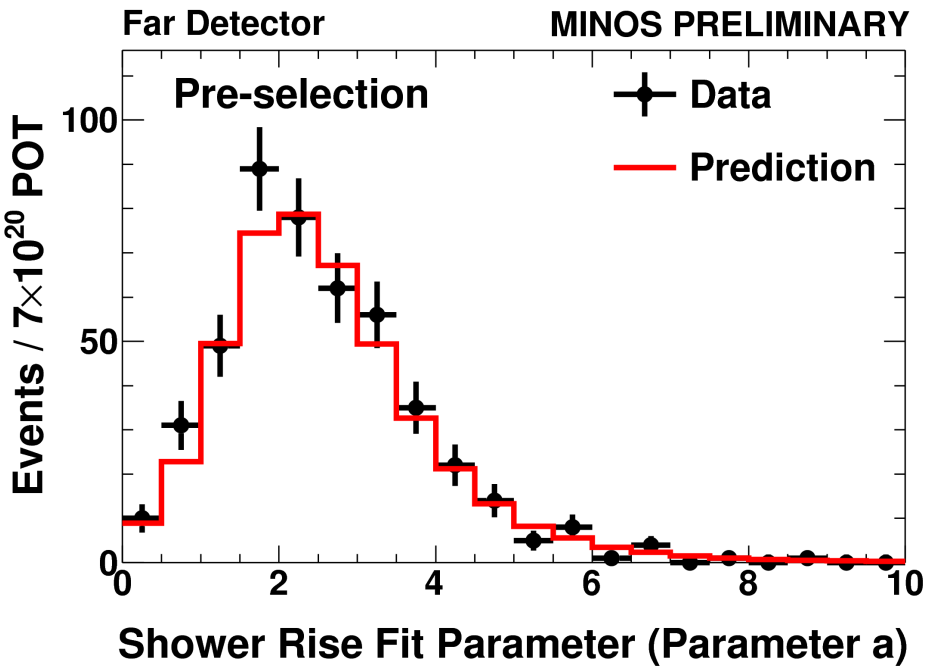
FD RUN = 43563
EVENT ID = 95374
Reco. Energy = 4.35 GeV

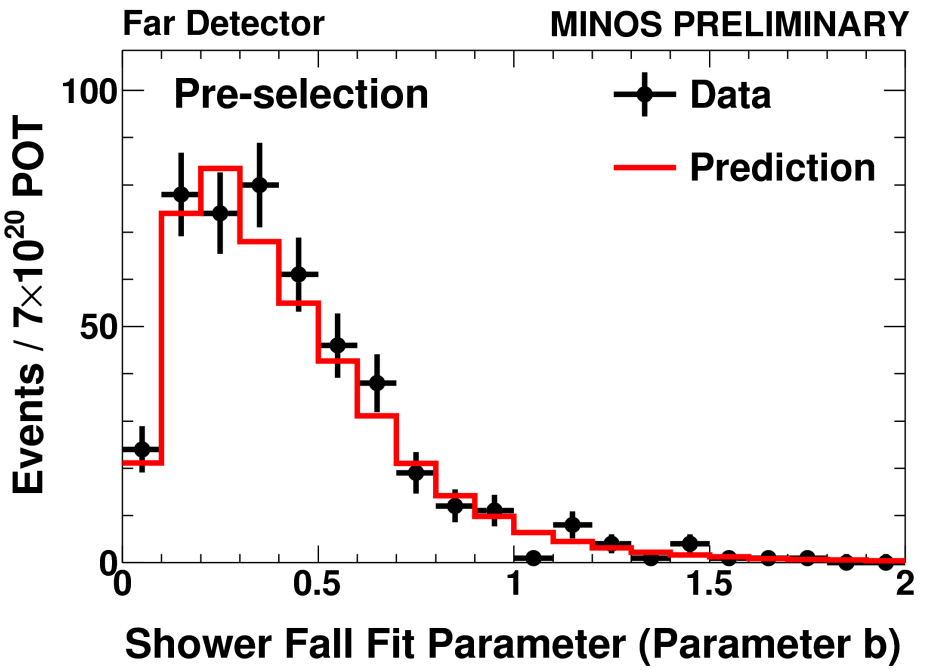
ANN11 PID = 0.81
PAR PID = 0.85
ANN14 PID = 0.86

Event shapes in the far detector: *Data and expectations match*

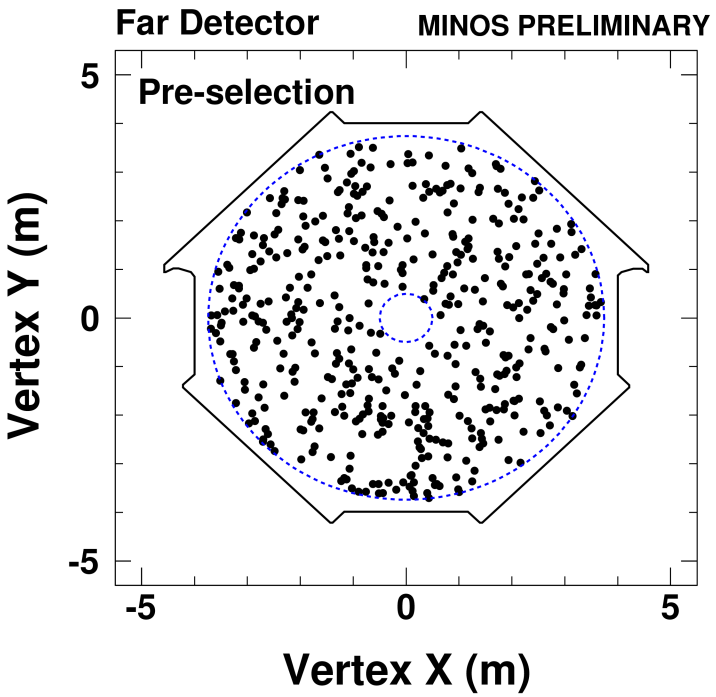


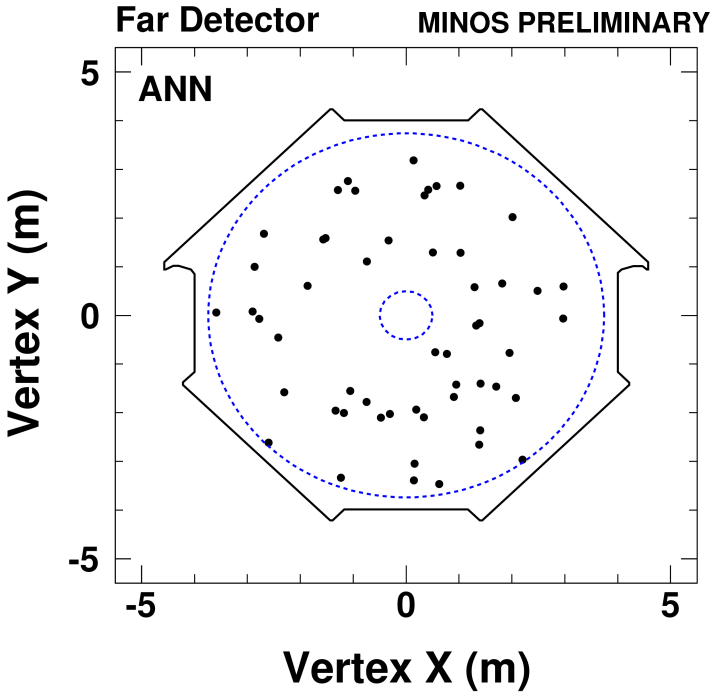


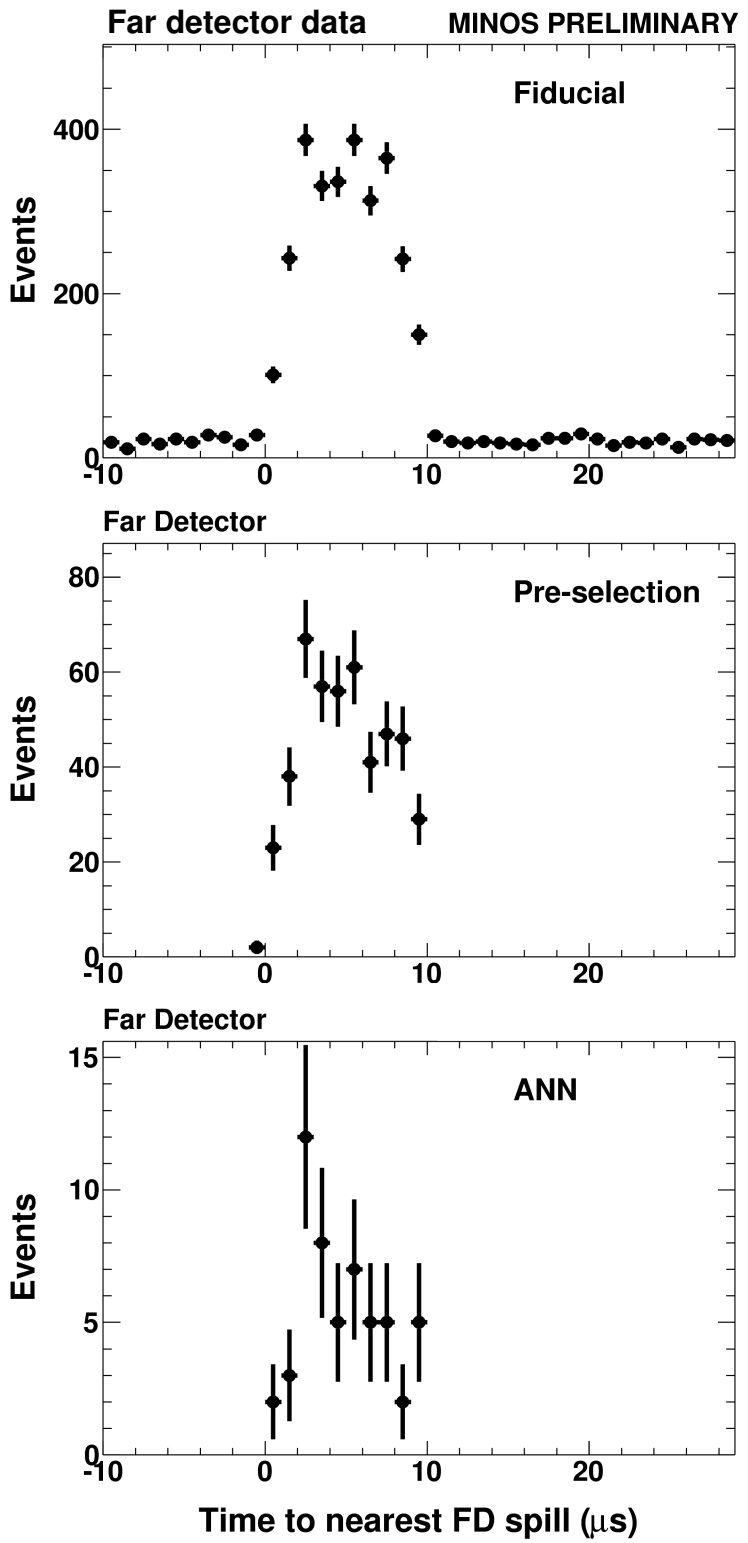




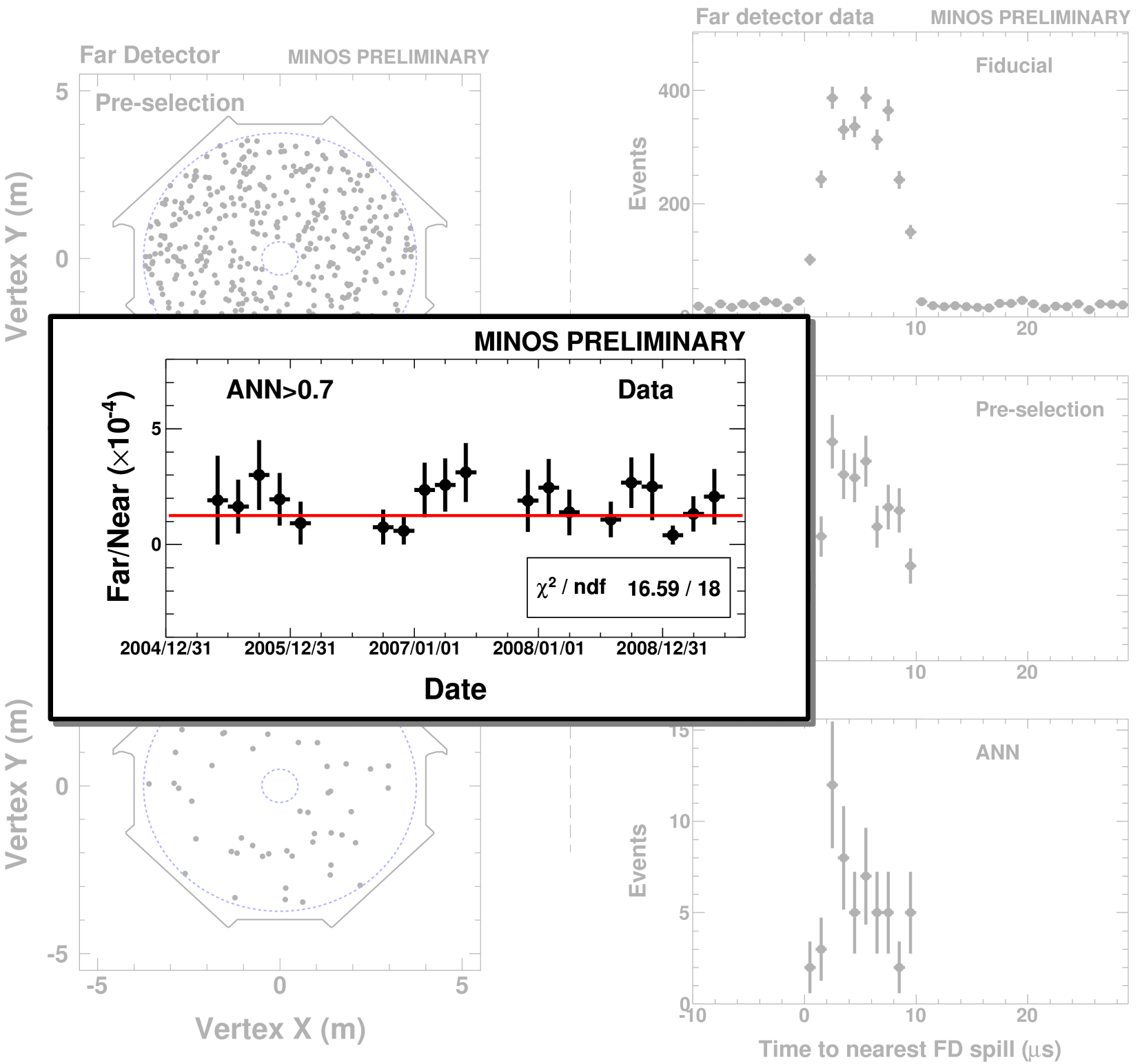
Positions
and **times**
of events







Positions and **times** of events

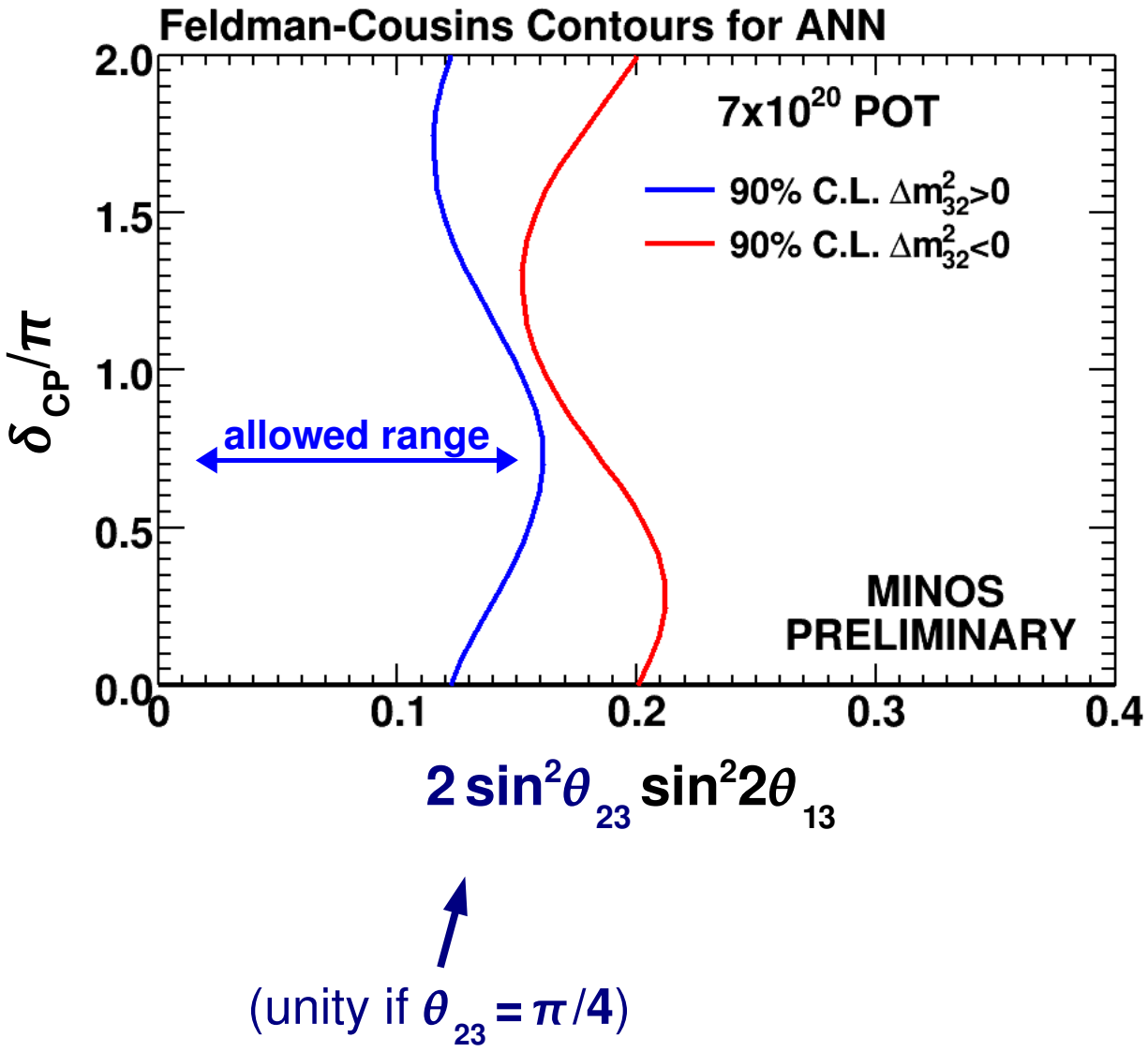


Oscillation interpretation of the data

$\sin^2(2\theta_{13})$ allowed range depends on **CP-phase δ** and **mass hierarchy** [sign(Δm^2)]

90% C.L. allowed ranges →

(other oscillation parameters taken with current experimental uncertainties)



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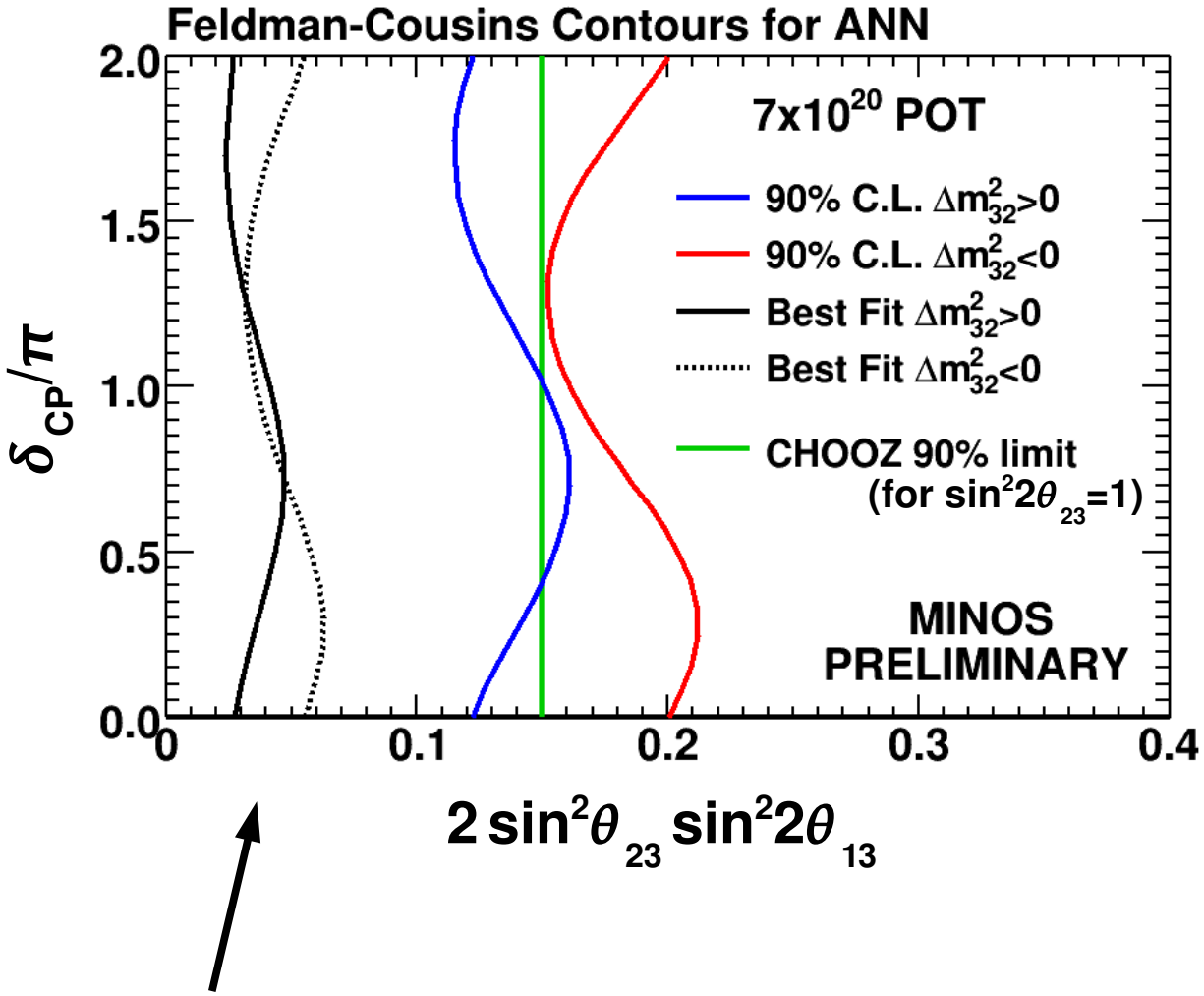


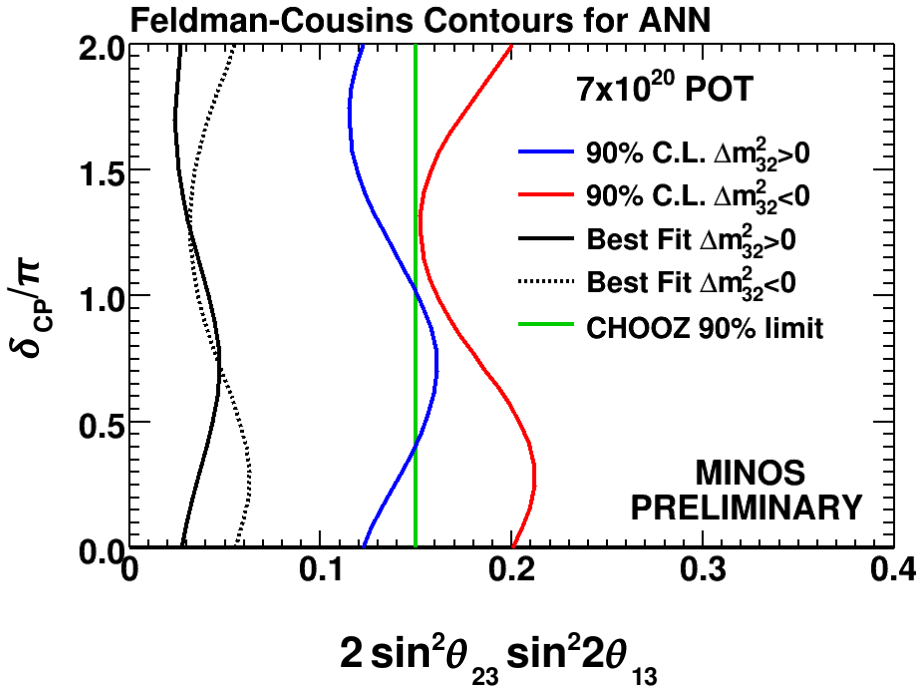
MINOS best-fit [**black curves**] along with CHOOZ upper limit (for $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$) [**green line**].

Summary

- **No significant excess of candidate ν_e CC events:**

  expected bg: **49.1 ± 7.0$_{stat}$ ± 2.7$_{syst}$**

  events obs'd: **54**



- **Consistent results obtained with two additional event selectors** *(not shown here)*

Representative 90% C.L. limits: *put* $\delta_{CP}=0$, $\theta_{23}=\pi/4$

normal hier. ⇒ $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} < 0.12$

inverted hier. ⇒ $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} < 0.20$

- ***For the near future:***

  additional **neutrino data** and **significant new analysis techniques**

  ⇒ **potentially large sensitivity gains**

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