

超新星背景ニュートリノの発見に 向けた酸素原子核破碎事象の研究

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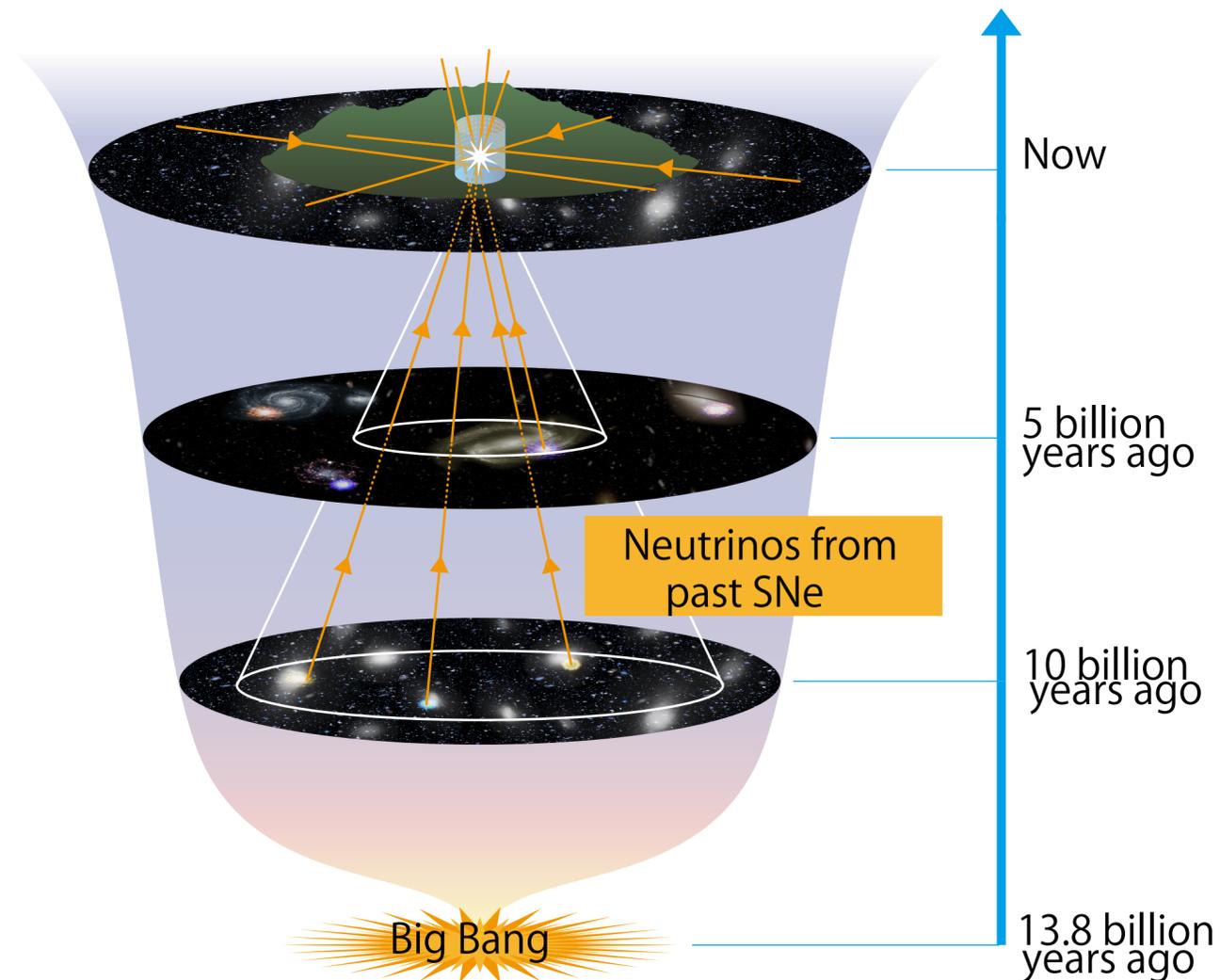


学術変革領域研究 (A) 公募研究 25H02187 (2025~2026年度)
「超新星背景ニュートリノの発見に向けた酸素原子核破碎事象の研究」

Final goal

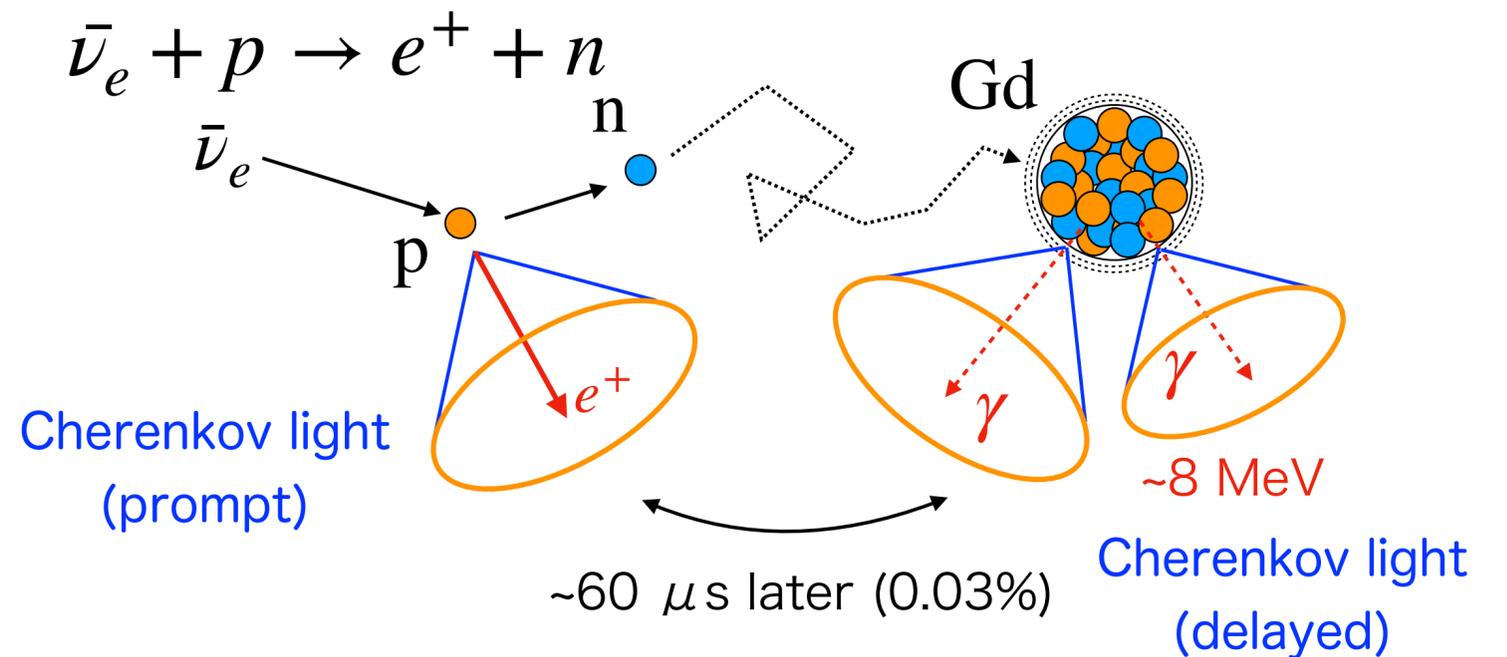
Discovery of the **D**iffuse **S**upernova **N**eutrino **B**ackground

Neutrinos from past Supernovae since the beginning of the universe



How to detect in SK-Gd

Inverse Beta Decay (IBD)



Merit of Gadolinium loading

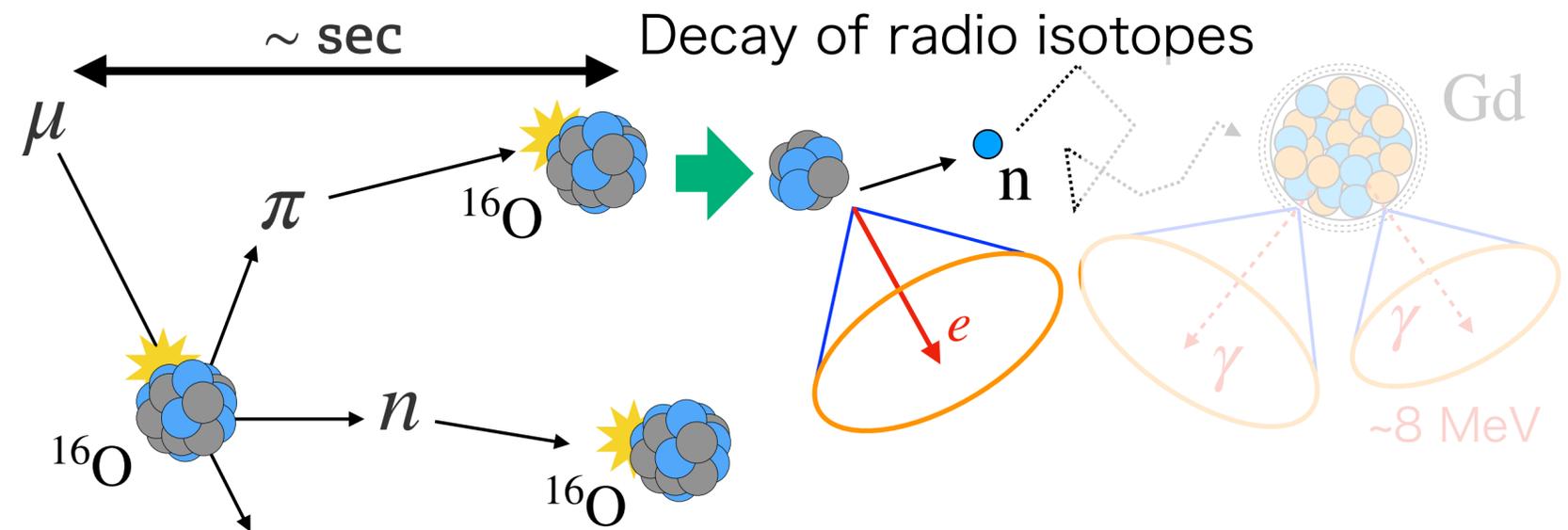
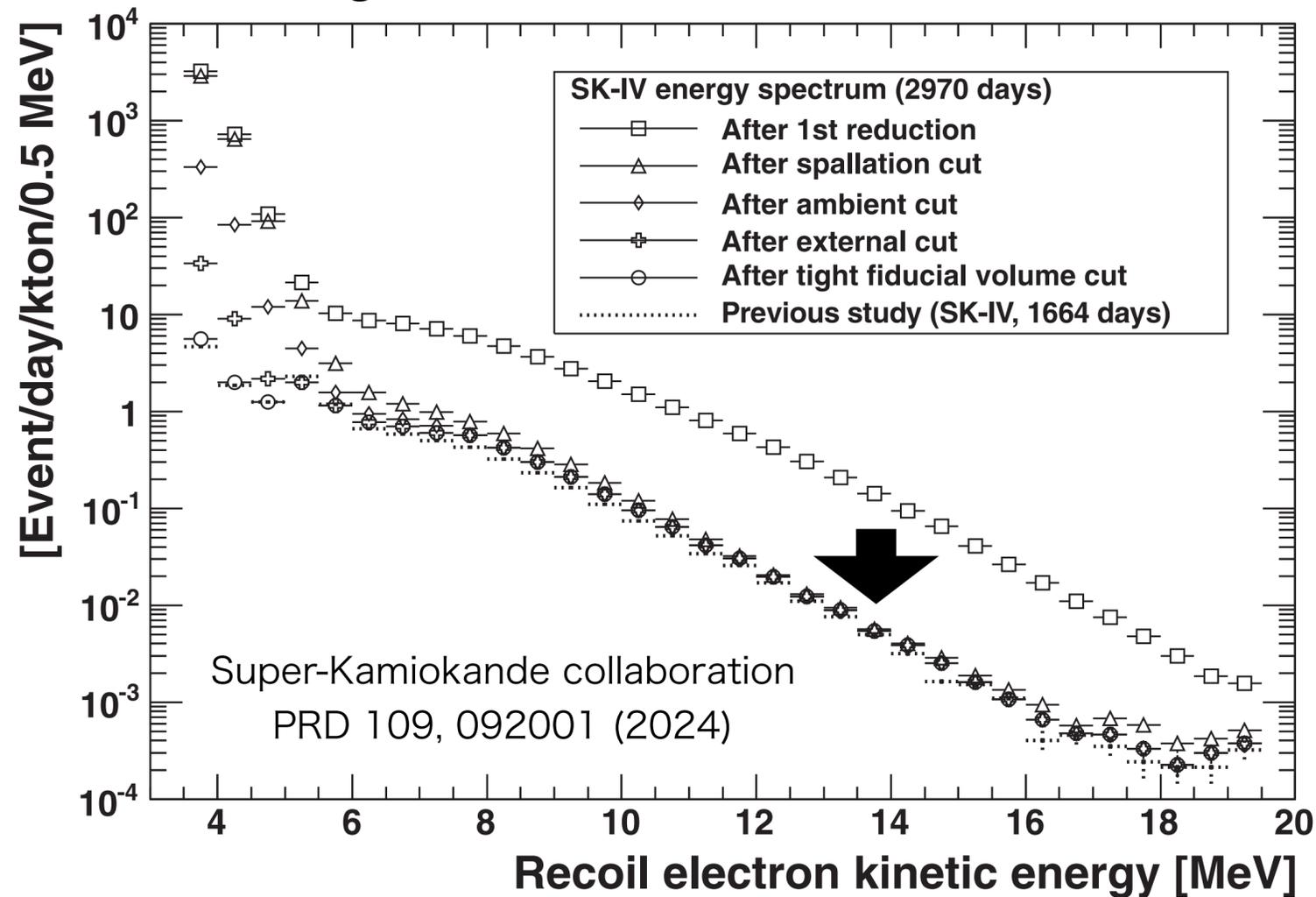
- Large cross section of neutron capture
- Higher energy of gamma emission than pure water

Spallation event

Serous background for MeV region neutrino in SK/HK

Spallation by cosmic muons

Remaining events after reduction in SK-IV

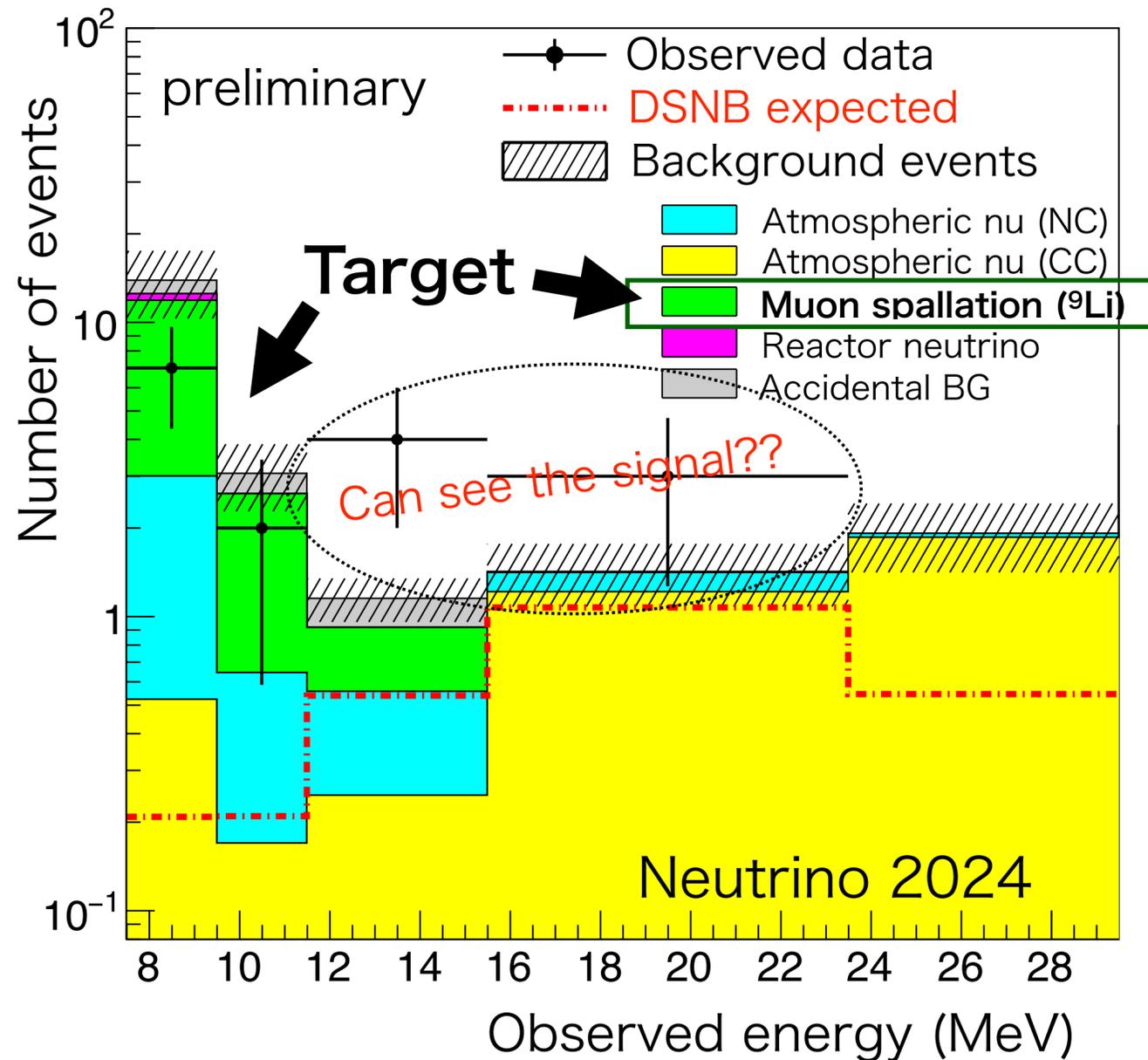


- Reduce $\sim 10^{-2}$ by time-space correlation between muon track and candidate event
- Reduce $\sim 10^{-4}$ by neutron tagging

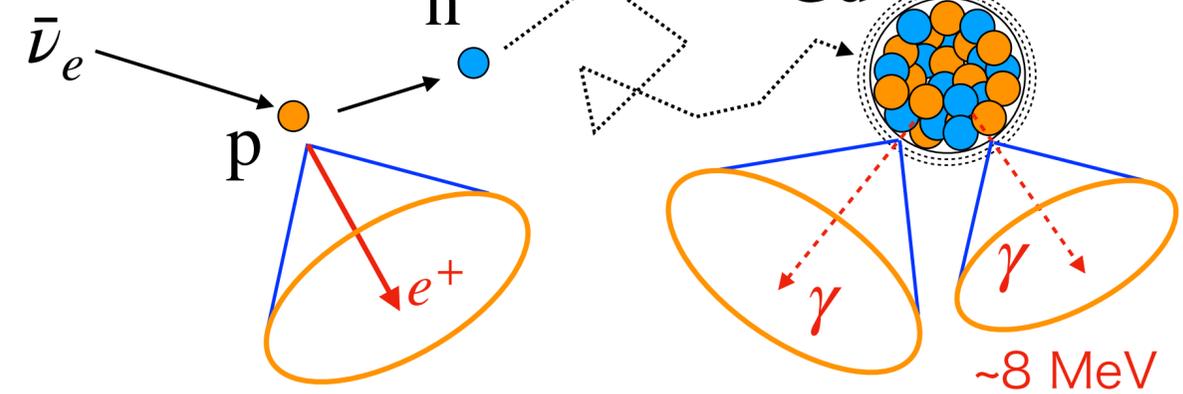
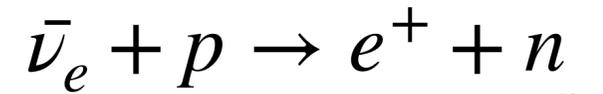
Comparable to the DSNB expectation

Spallation event

Key for DSNB search in lower energy region

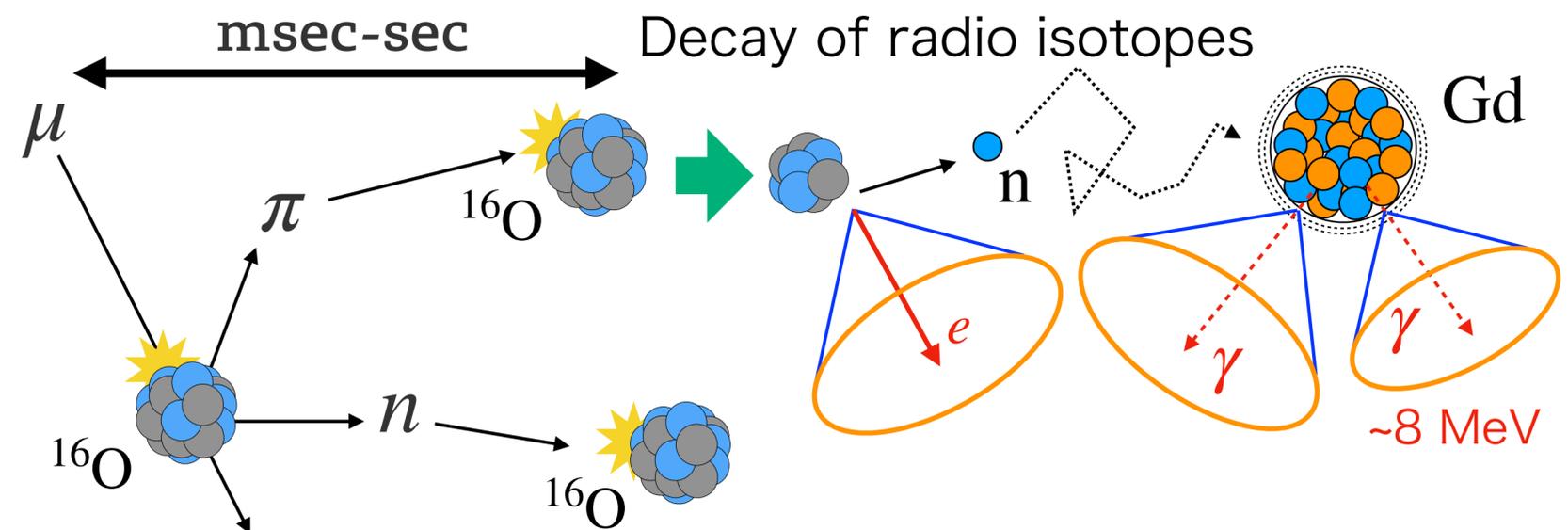


Inverse Beta Decay (IBD)



Cannot distinguish

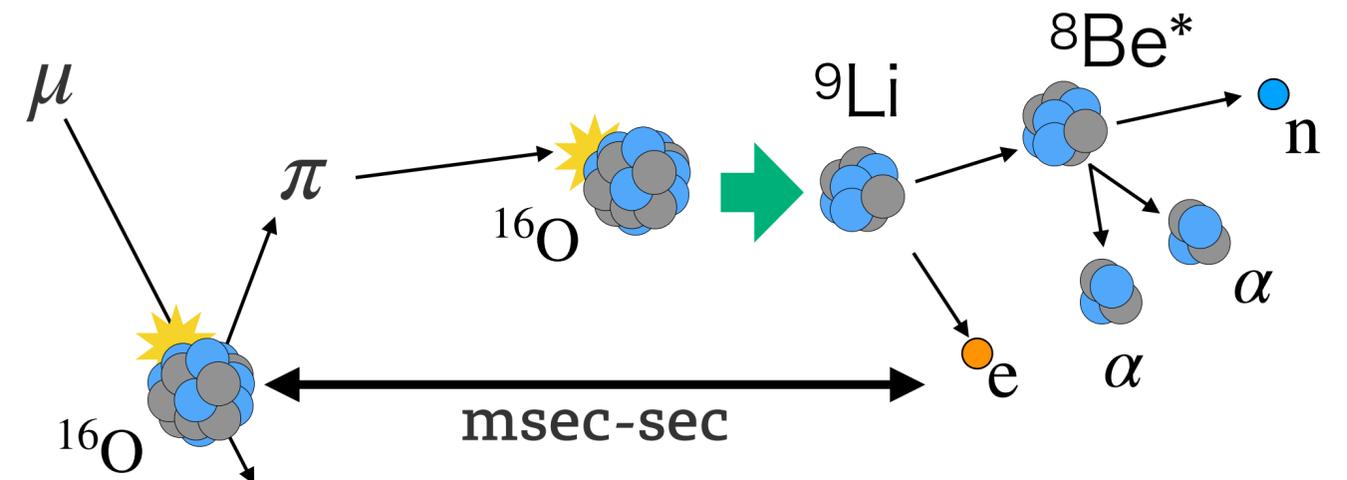
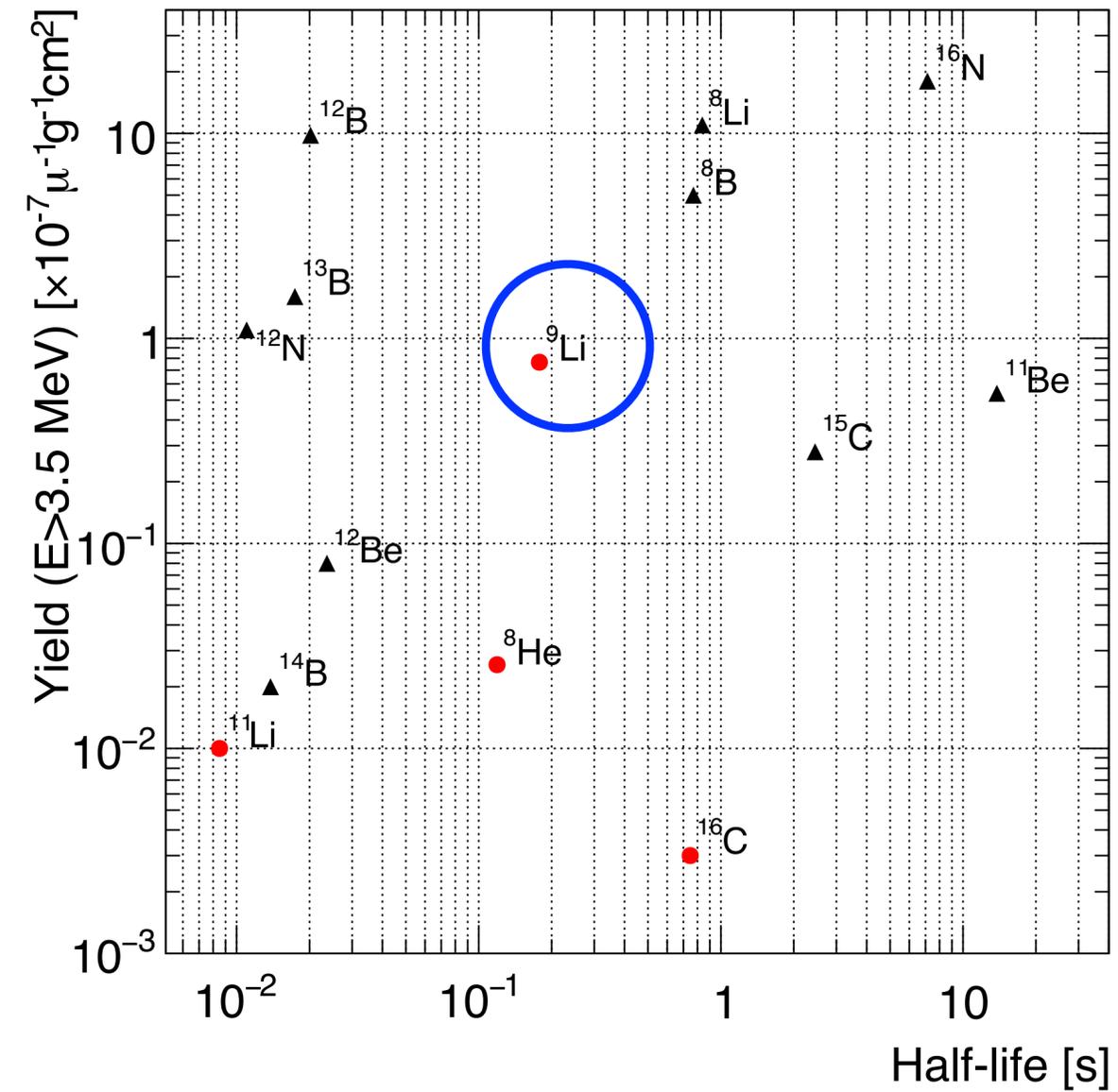
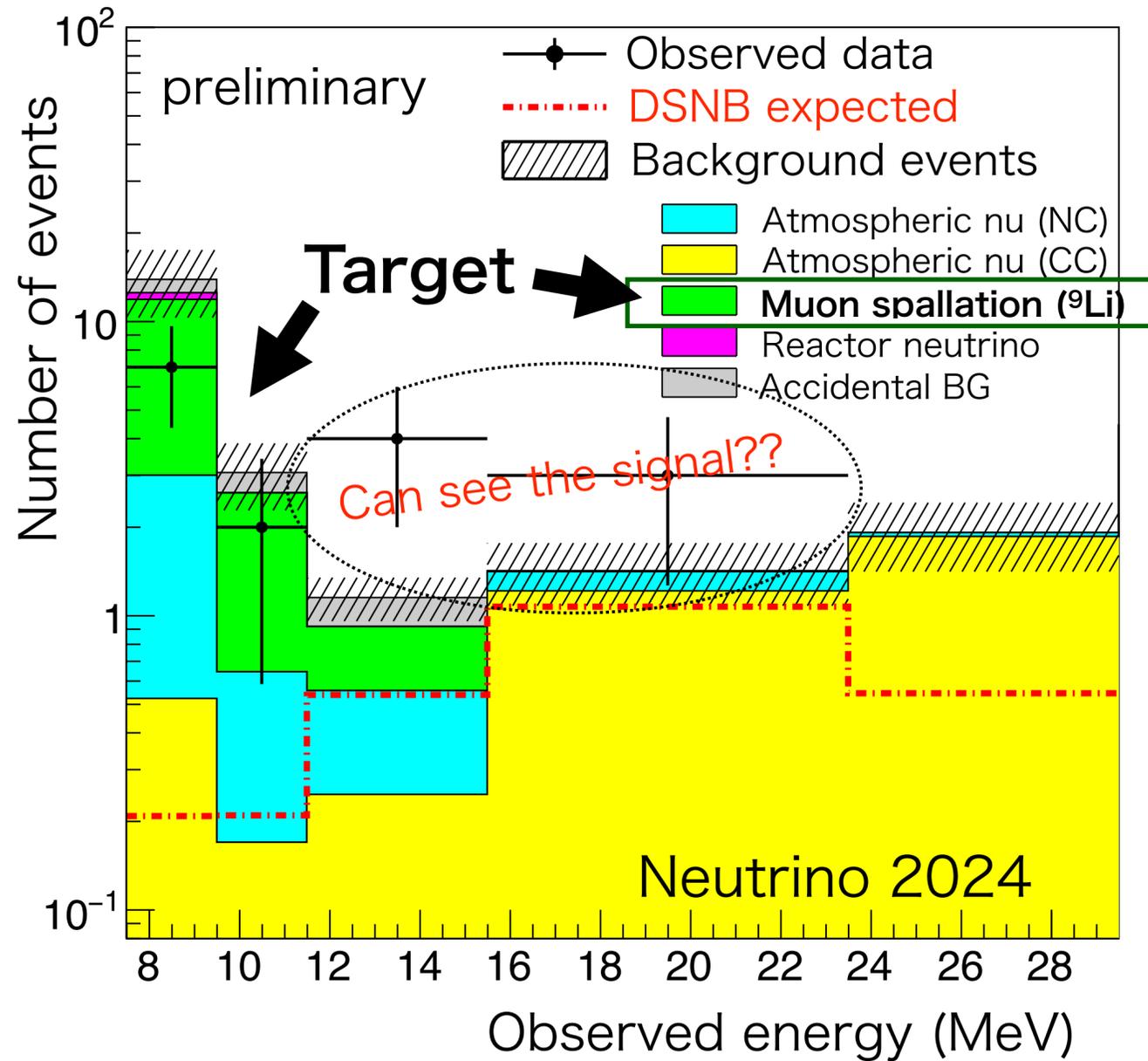
Spallation by cosmic muons



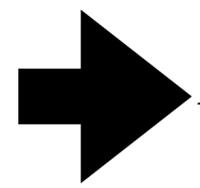
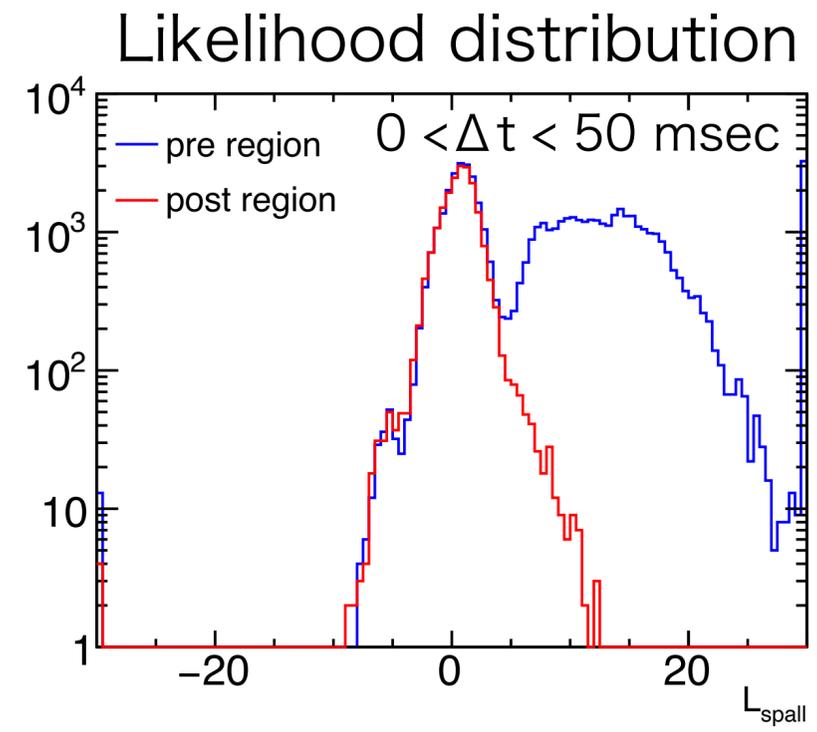
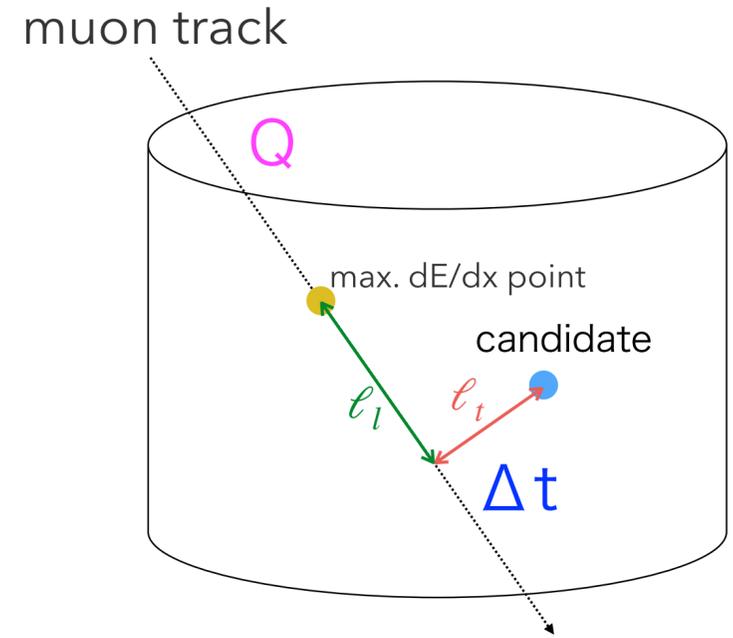
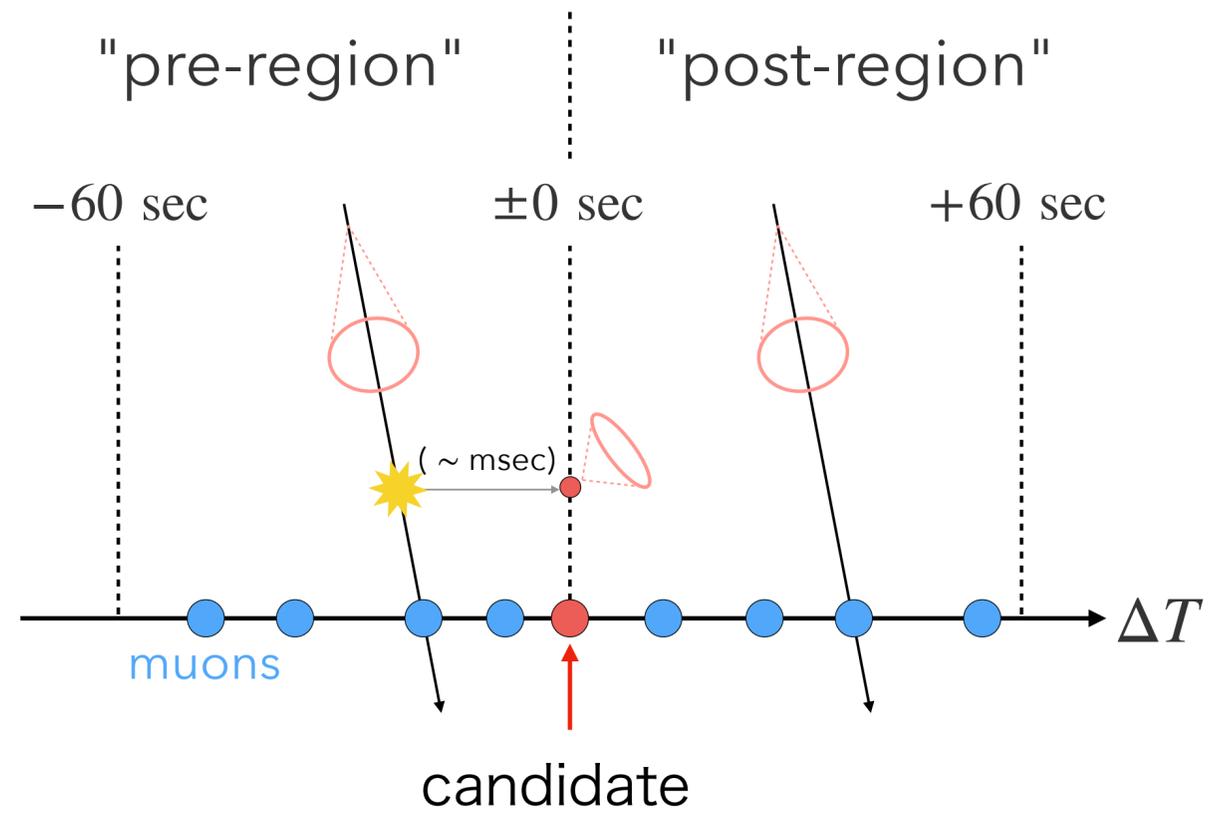
Spallation event

⁹Li (long-lived with neutron)

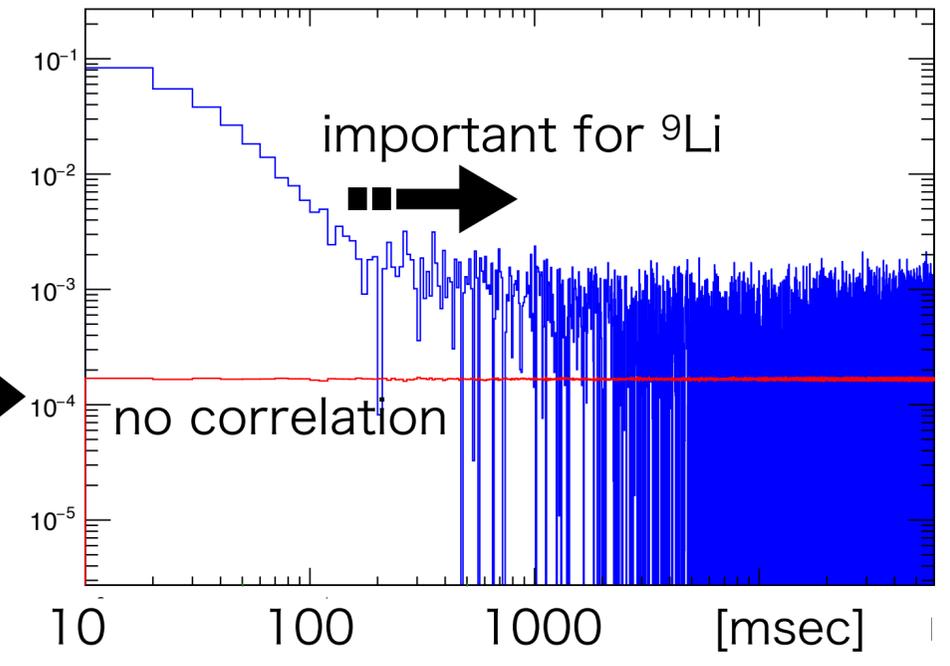
Spallation by cosmic muons



How to remove Data driven method



Time difference between muon and candidate



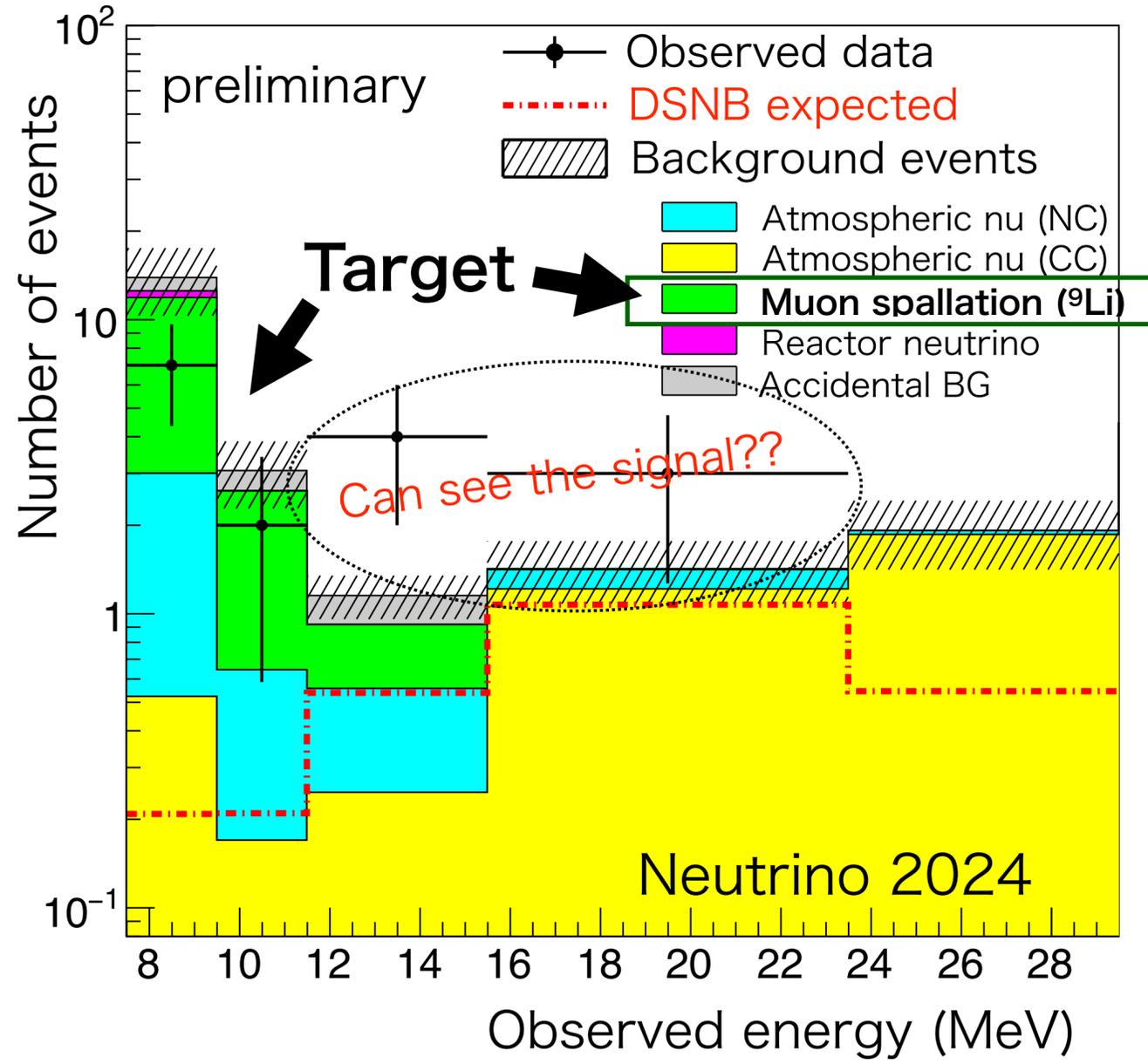
Sample with long time difference, which is important for ${}^9\text{Li}$, is insufficient.. It makes large uncertainty

Why not MC driven?

No reliable hadron simulations based on the experiment that produce long-lived (on the order of milliseconds) radioisotopes such as ${}^9\text{Li}$ (beta decay with neutron) by pion oxygen spallation. -> **WCTE**

Spallation event

⁹Li (long-lived with neutron)

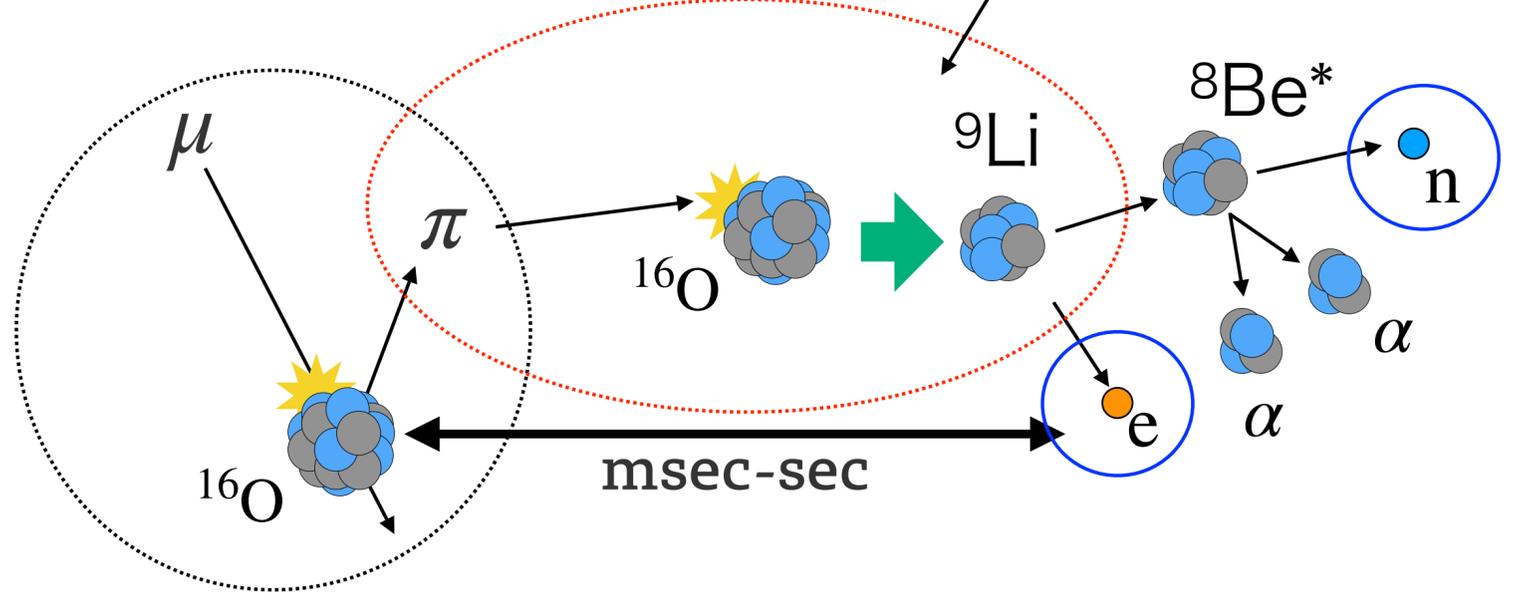


Isotope	Y_i in water	Expected [13]
¹² B	$11.7 \pm 0.1 \pm 0.6$	12
¹² N	$1.6 \pm 0.1 \pm 0.1$	1.3
¹⁶ N	$23.4 \pm 1.9 \pm 1.7$	18
¹¹ Be	<10.0	0.81
⁹ Li w/o n-tag	$0.5 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.2$	1.9
⁹ Li w/ n-tag	$0.51 \pm 0.07 \pm 0.09$	1.9
⁸ He/ ⁹ C	<0.9	1.1
⁸ Li/ ⁸ B,	$4.9 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.2$	18.8
¹⁵ C	<3.9	0.82

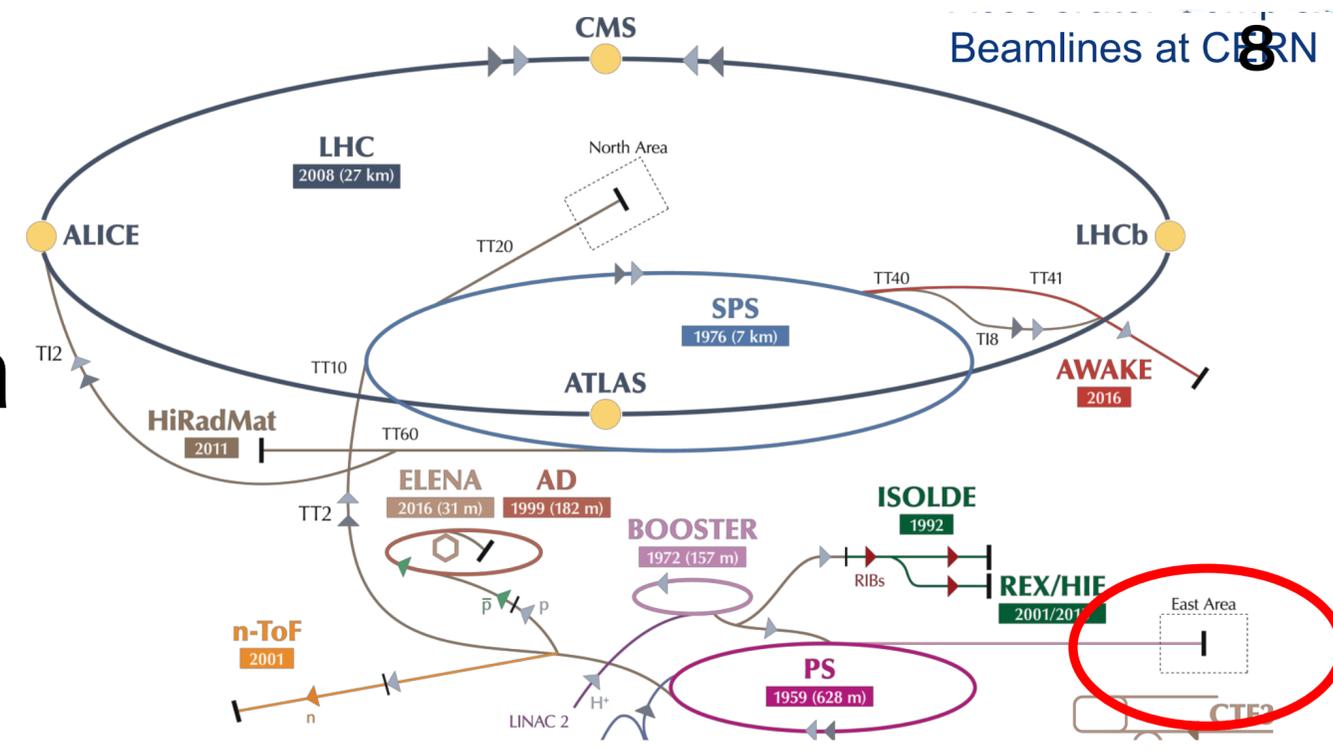
$10^{-7} \mu^{-1} g^{-1} cm^2$.

We'll measure this in WCTE

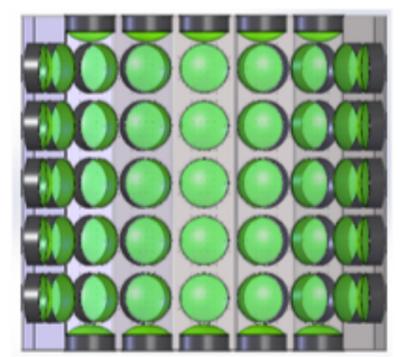
$$X[\mu \rightarrow \pi] * Y[\pi \rightarrow {}^9Li]$$



WCTE Prototype IWCD in CERN test beam at East Area



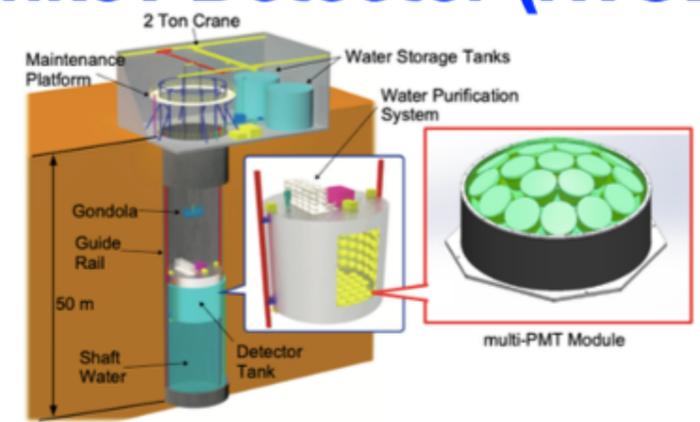
Water Cherenkov Test Experiment



4 m tall x 4 m diameter
In charged particle test
beam
~100 photosensor units

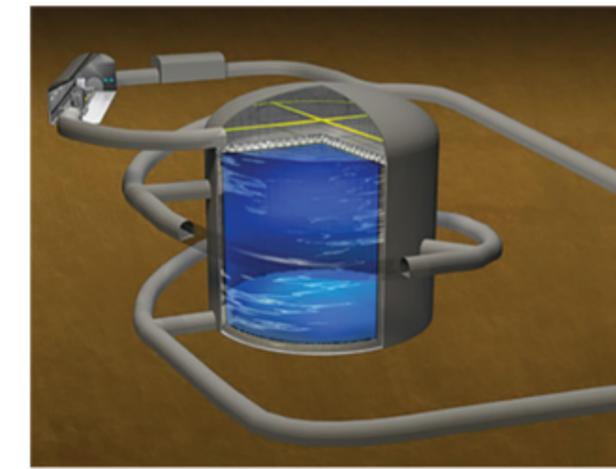


Intermediate Water Cherenkov Detector (IWCD)



8 m tall x 10 m diameter
In J-PARC neutrino beam
~480 photosensor units

Hyper-K

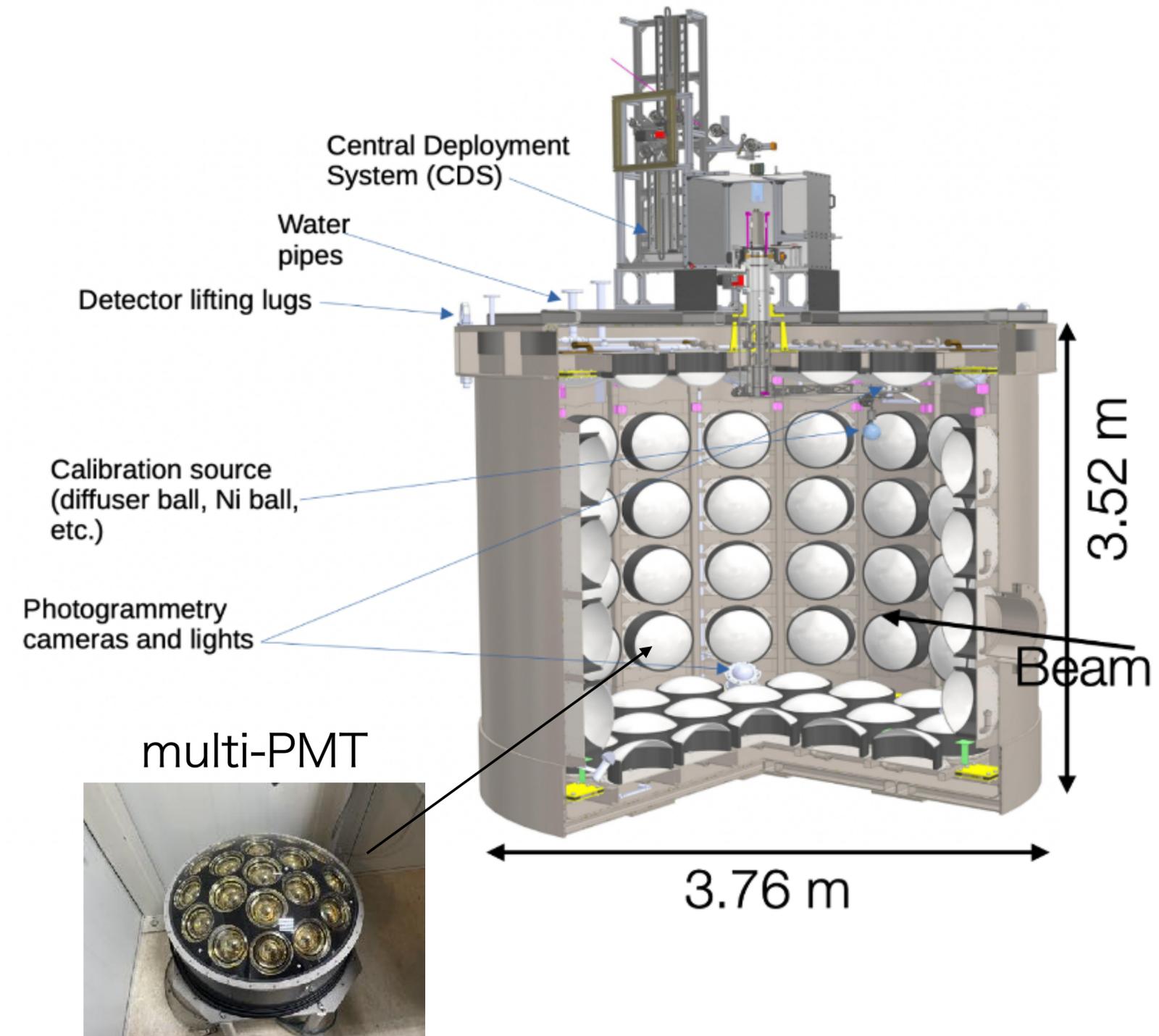


71 m tall x 68 m diameter
295 km from J-PARC
neutrino source
>20,000 photosensor units

WCTE

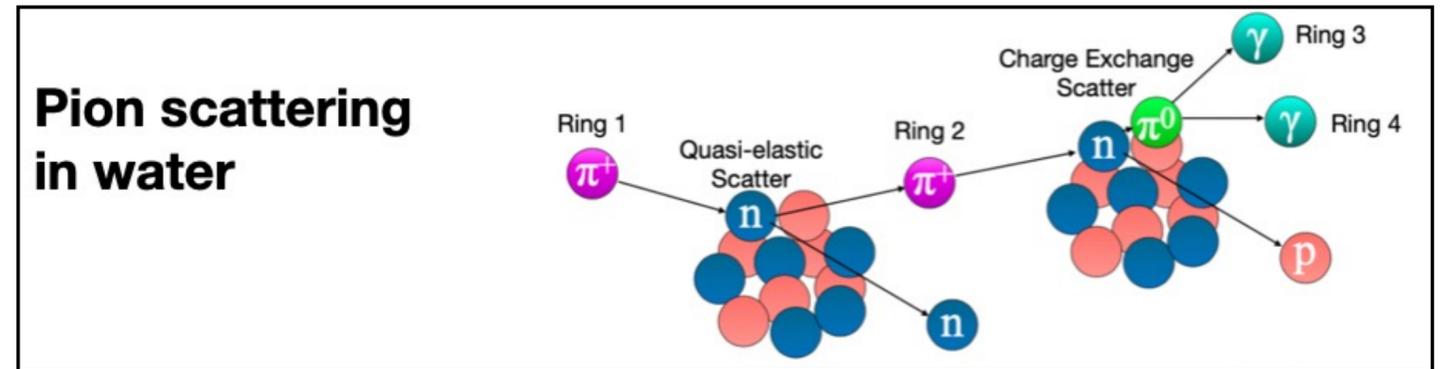
Water Cherenkov Test Experiment at CERN

- 30 ton water Cherenkov detector
- Instrumented with 97 multi-PMTs
- Instrumented with calibration systems
- Receive from T9 beam line in East Area
 - Interested in e , π , μ , p , γ in the 0.2-1.2 GeV/c range
- Operation modes with pure water and loading of $Gd_2(SO_4)_3$
- Operated in 2024 and 2025.



WCTE

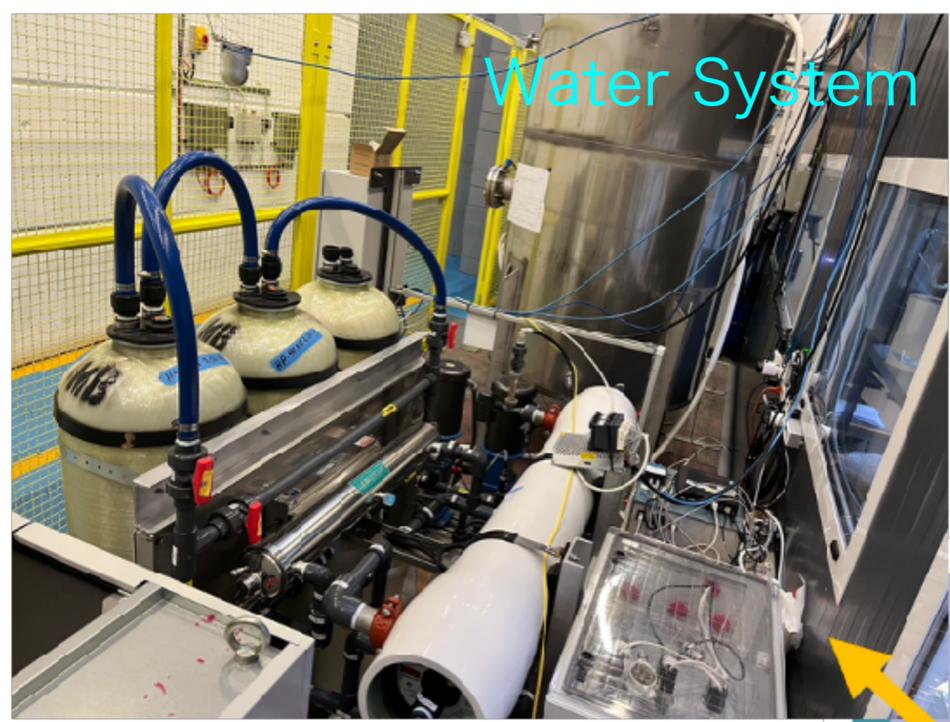
Physics motivation



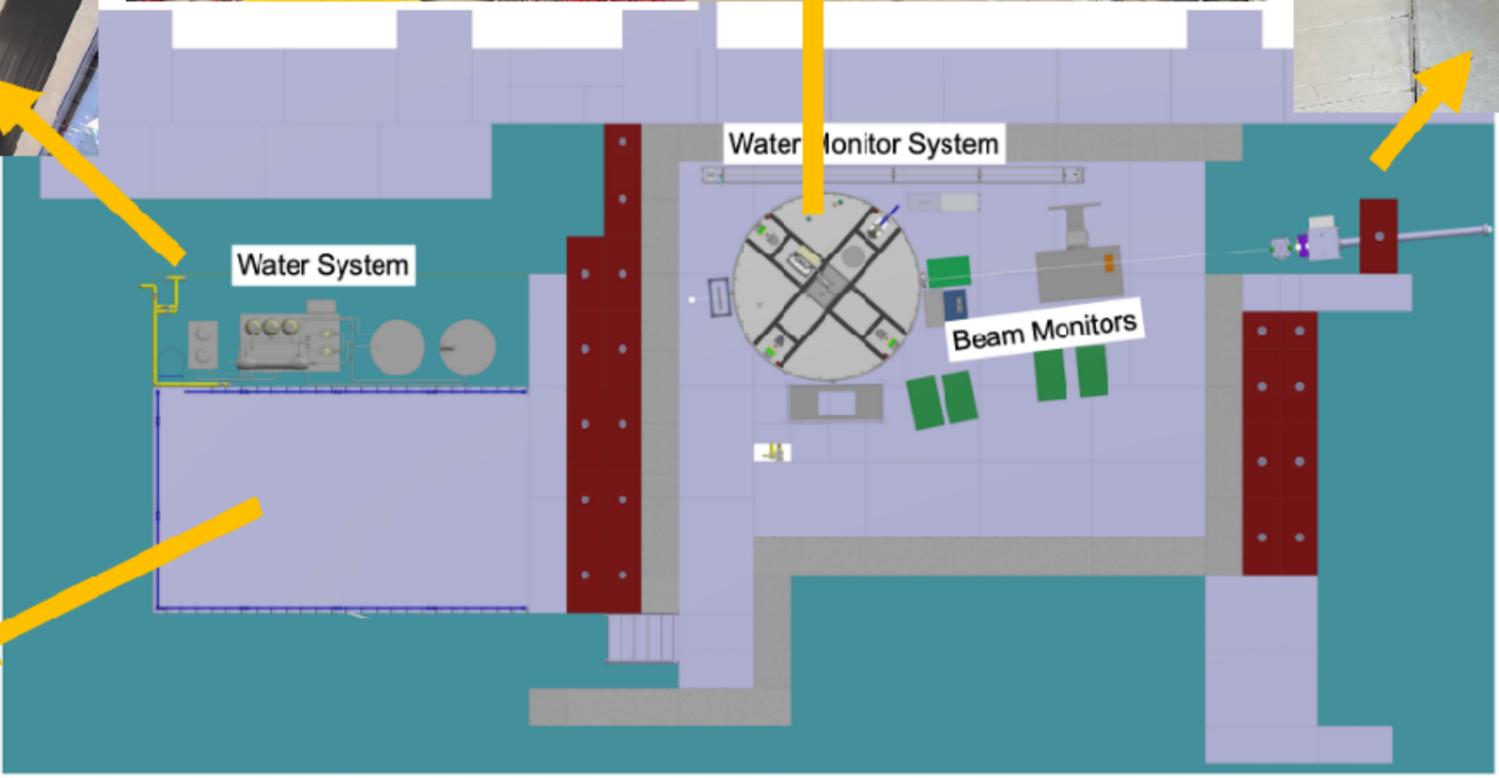
- Pions of $\sim 500\text{MeV}/c$ or less are produced in neutrino interactions - we aim to study their hadronic scattering in water and apply data in T2K, SK and HK
- Particle identification is critical for selection muon or electron neutrino candidates - will be studied in WCTE with same photosensors to be used IWCD
- Neutron detection is avenue for neutrino/antineutrino separation in SK-Gd - will measure important effect of secondary neutron production
- Neutrino interactions producing gammas are dominant background for electron neutrinos - will study capability to separate gamma and electron/positron events
- Large samples of leptons and gammas in WCTE can be used to study scattering processes on nuclei that are related to neutrino-nucleus scattering
- ${}^9\text{Li}$ is background for DSNB searches and may be produced by pions produced in muon-induced hadronic showers - measure ${}^9\text{Li}$ production

Water Cherenkov Detector

WCTE Setup overview



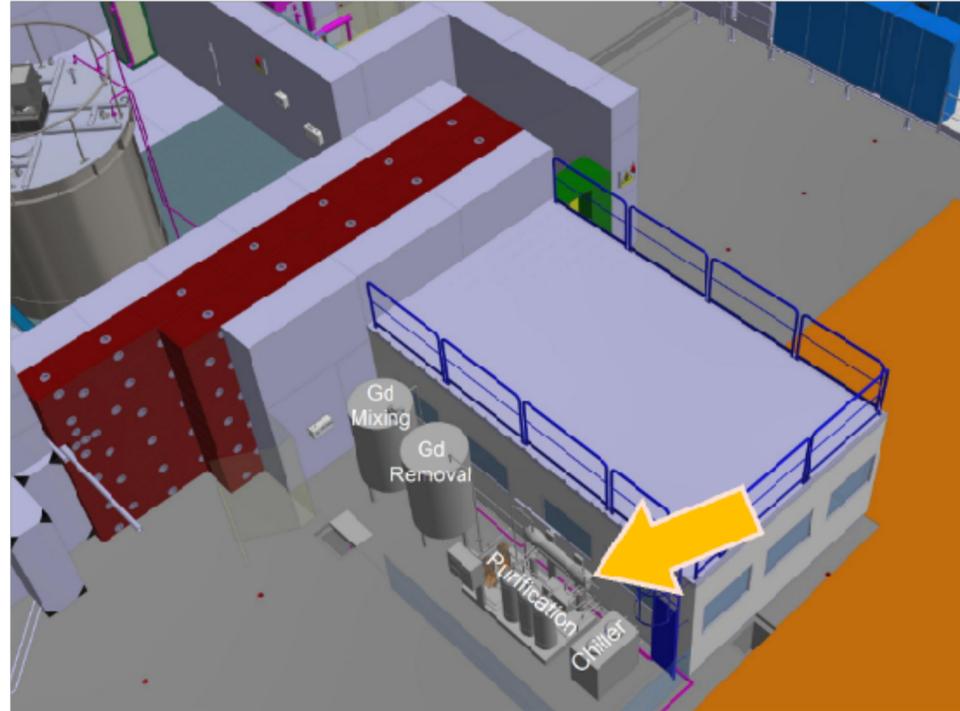
Beam Line



WCTE

Water system

K.Hamaguchi (Okayama) joined the final setting work Jan.20~Feb.11, 2025



水システム

フィルター、
イオン交換樹脂、
UV 殺菌装置、
チラー を搭載

流量 2t/hr

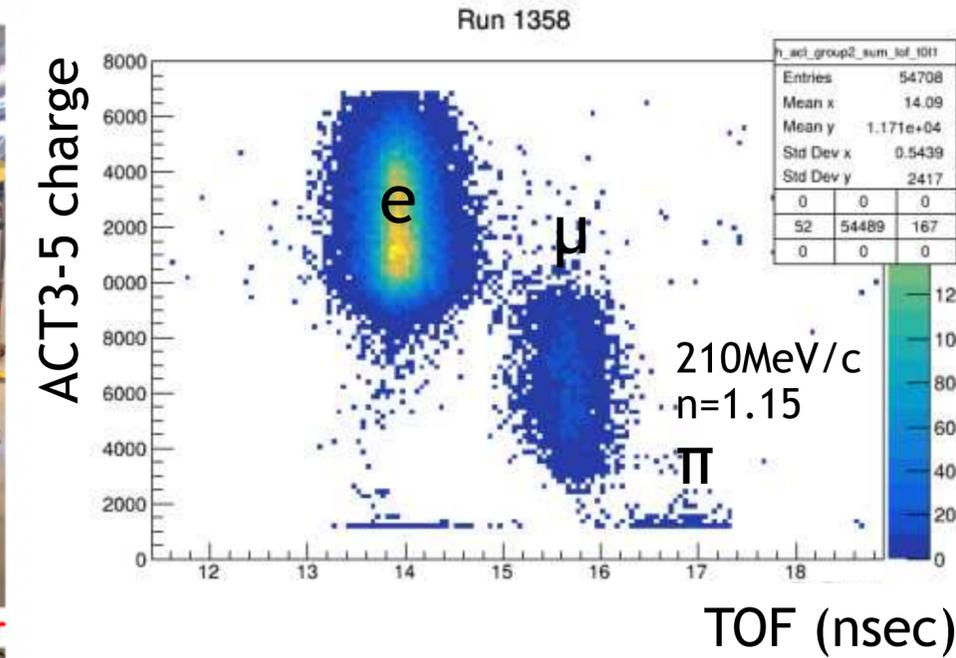
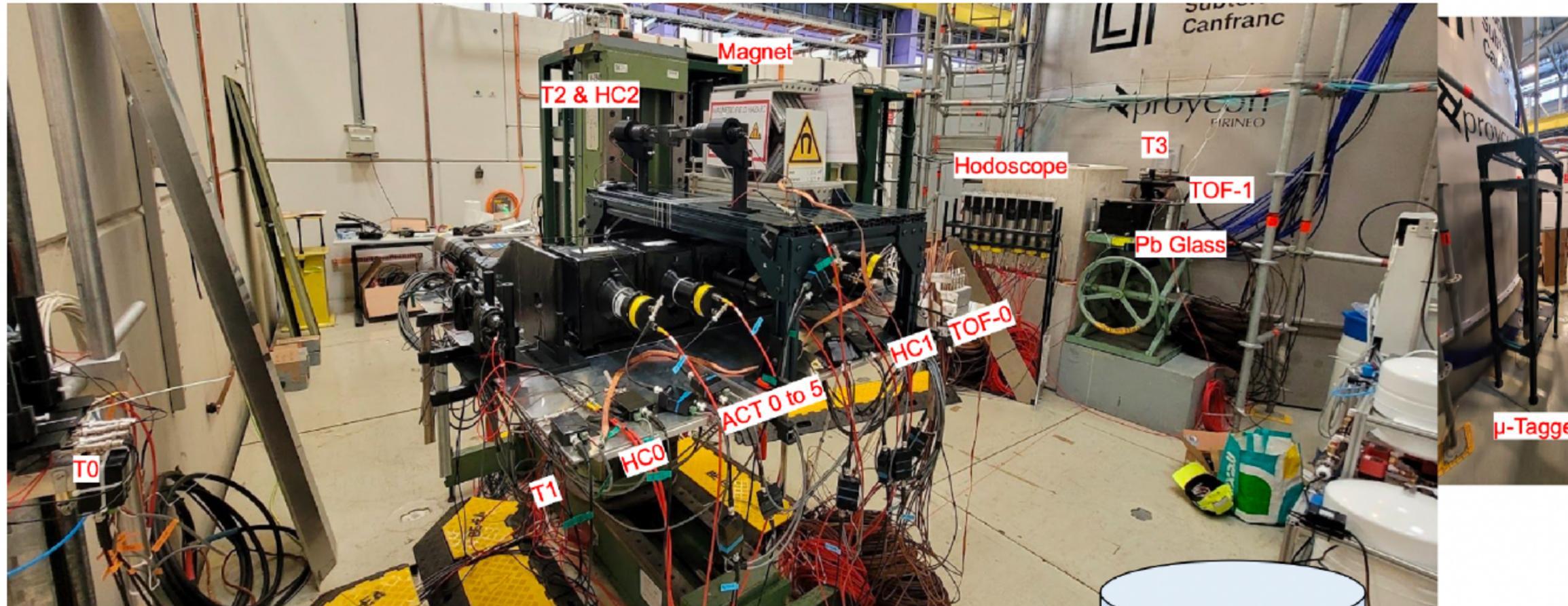
Gd濃度を下げずに
不純物を取り除く



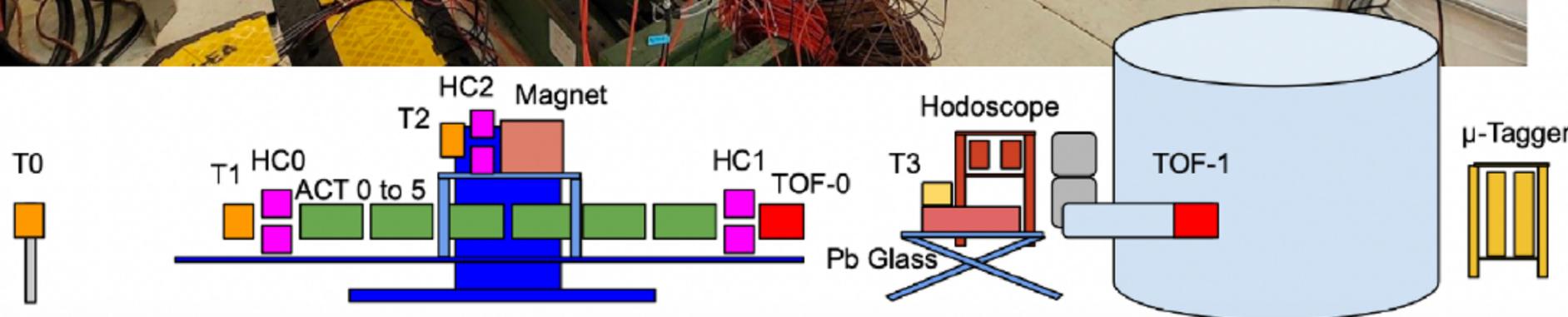
WCTE

Beam monitors

very preliminary!



Good Particle Identification!
 using combination of time-of-flight (TOF) and aerogel Cherenkov threshold (ACT) monitors

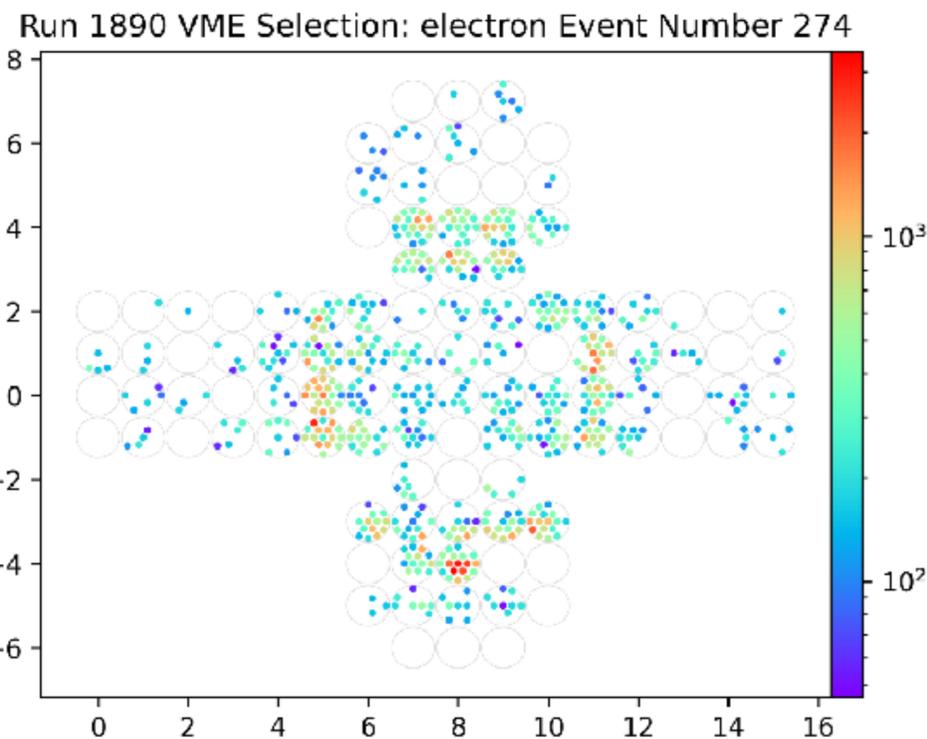


WCTE

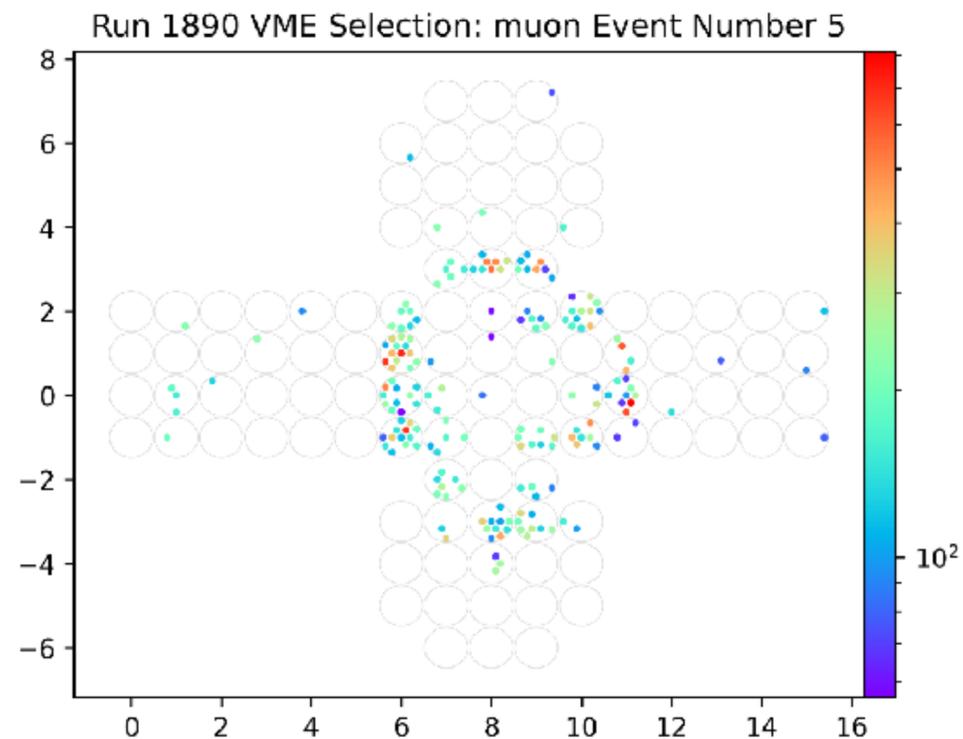
Event display

very preliminary!

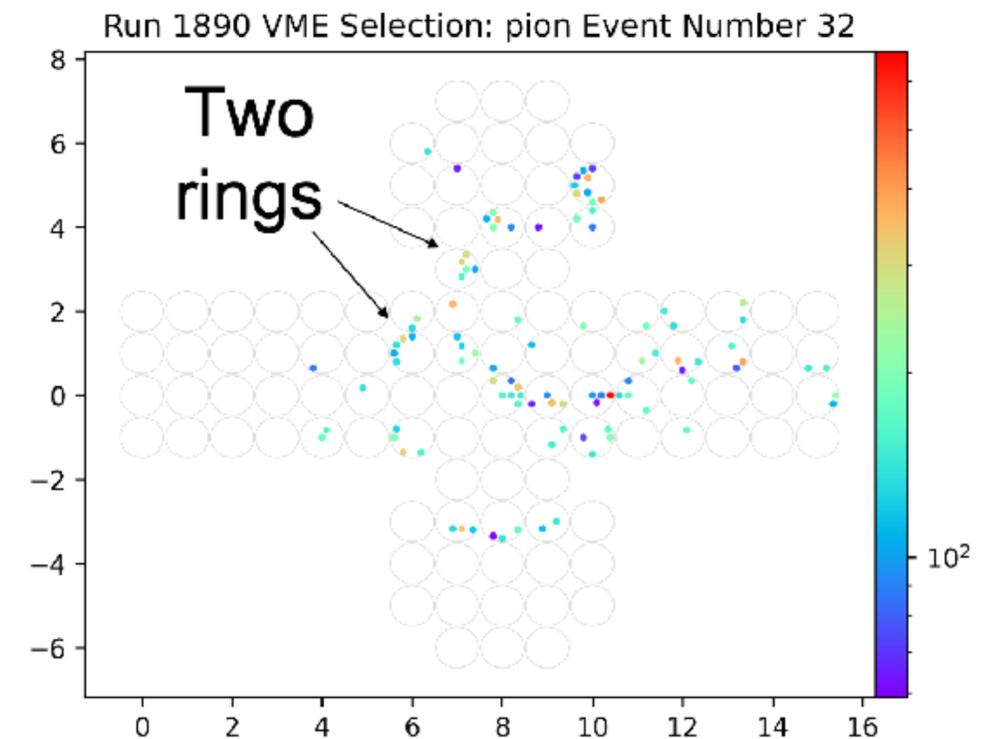
Electron 250 MeV/c



Muon 250 MeV/c



Pion 250 MeV/c

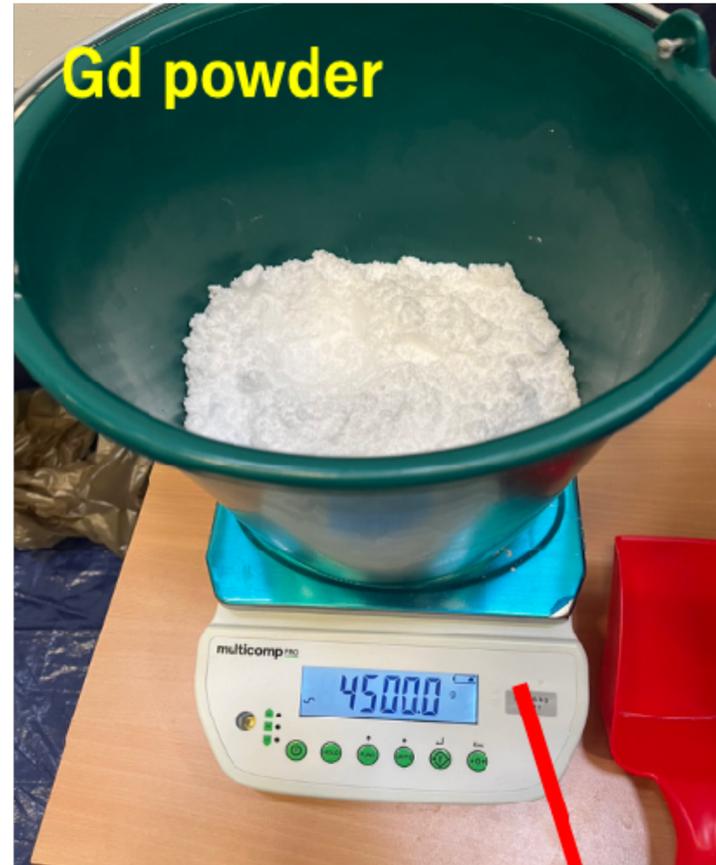


- Using beam monitor data, we can select electron, muon and pion-like event
- See expected patterns for Cherenkov rings, including events consistent with pion hadronic scattering

WCTE Gadolinium loading

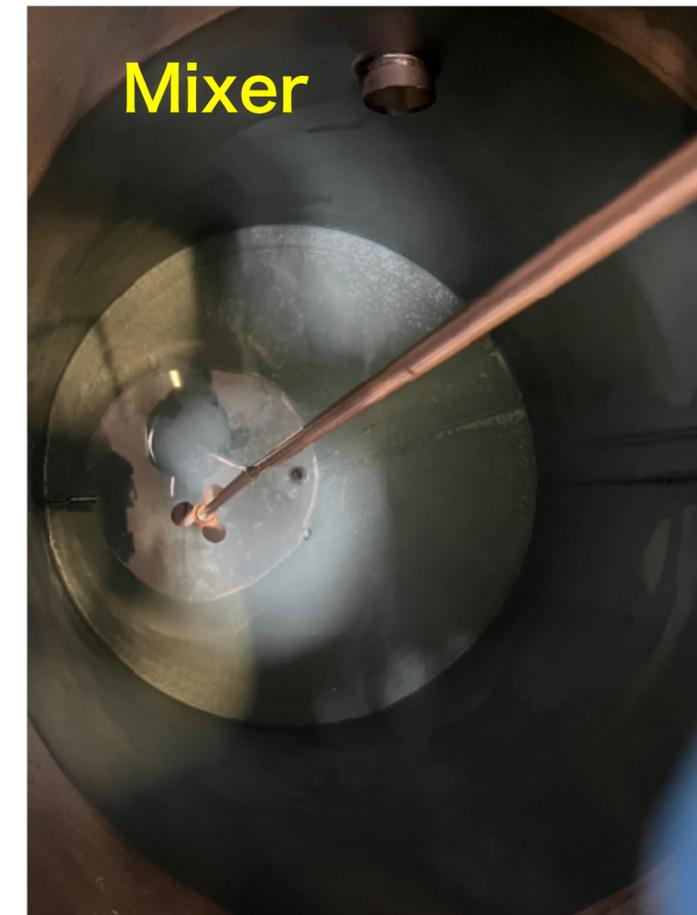
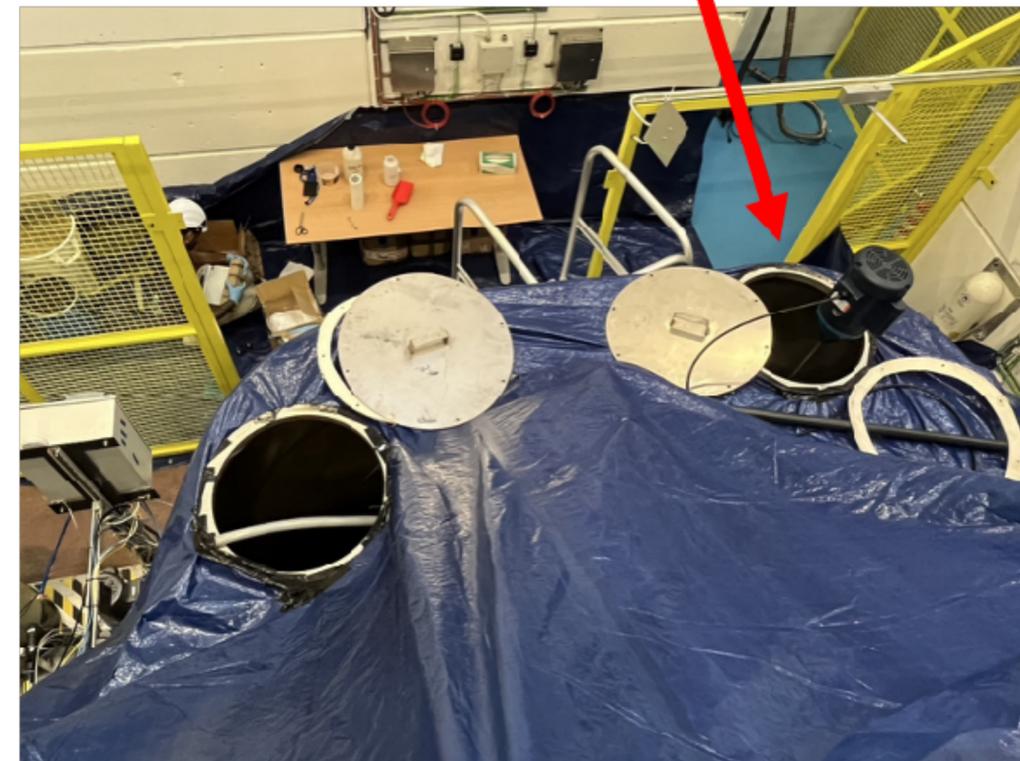
Completed on May 23.
(~ 2 days work)

- Move 1.4m³ of water from the detector into the Gd mixing tank
- Measure between 0.5 and 10kg of Gd₂(SO₄)₃
- Add the Gd₂(SO₄)₃ to the mixing tank
- Turn on the mixer and mix for 1-2 hours
- When Gd₂(SO₄)₃ is dissolved, move Gd loaded water back into the WCTE detector



Gd₂(SO₄)₃ : 20kg

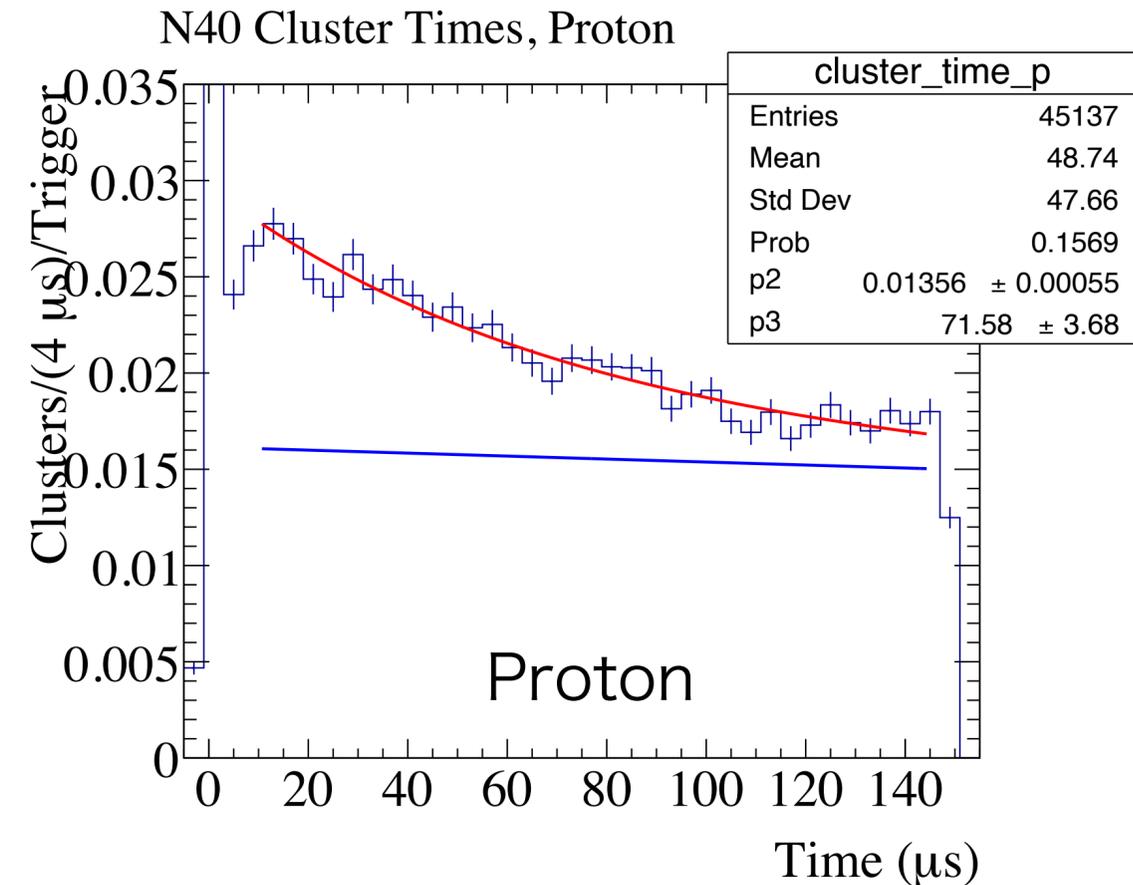
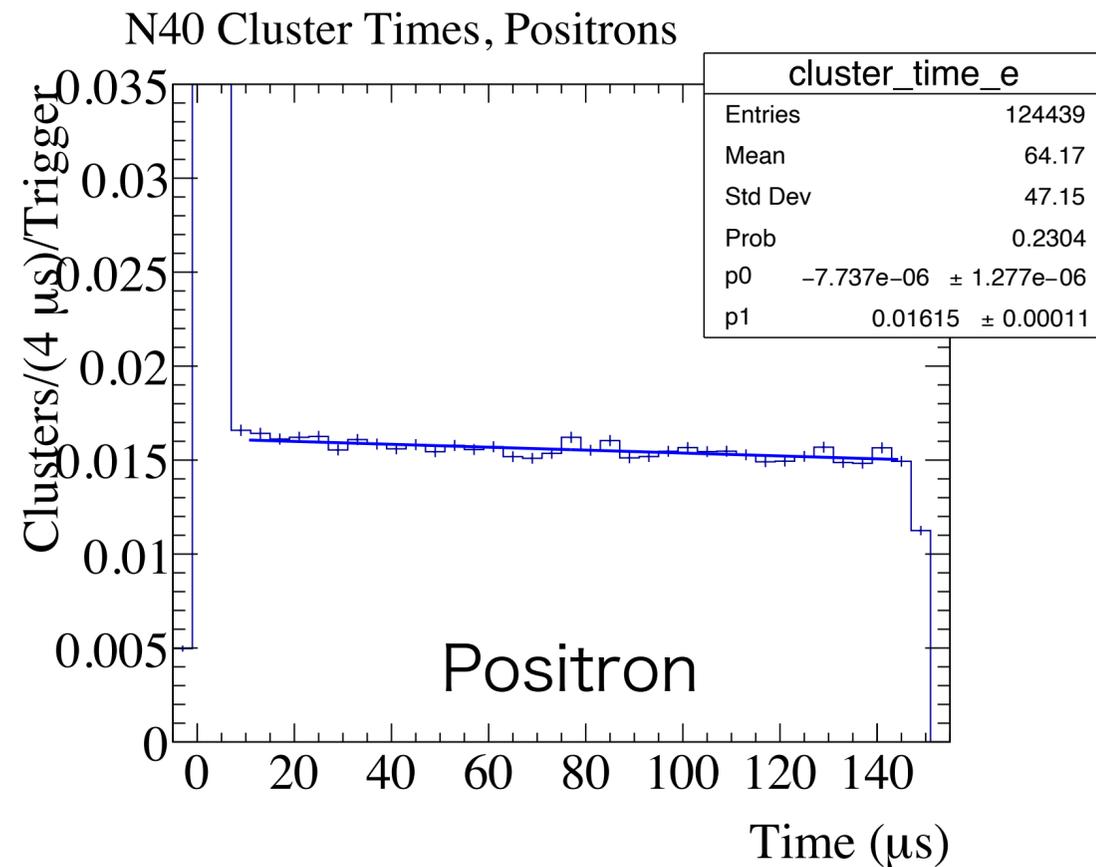
Gd concentration : 0.03% (same as SK-Gd)



WCTE

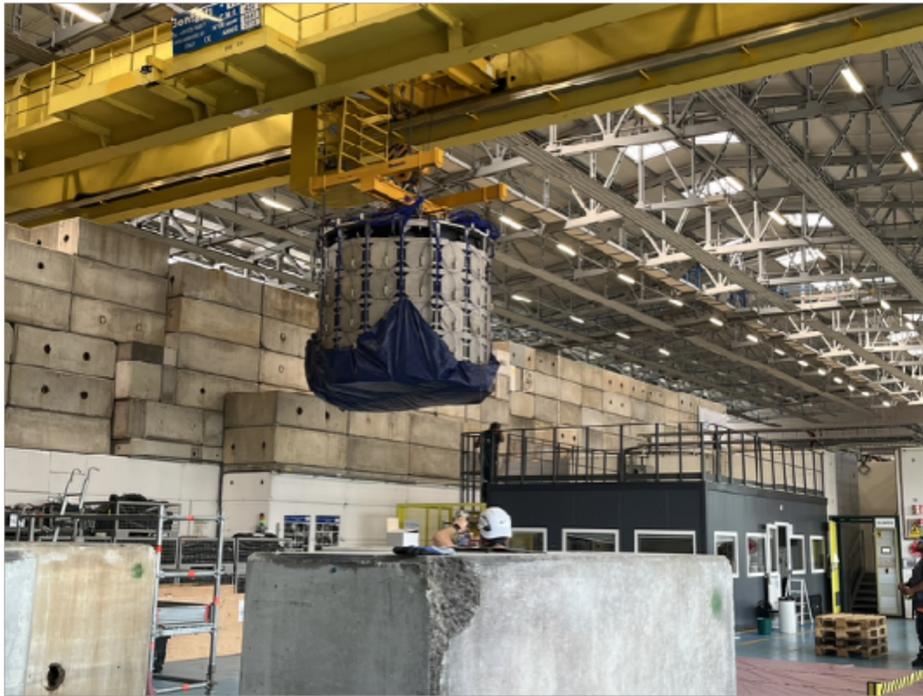
Indication of neutron signal

very preliminary!



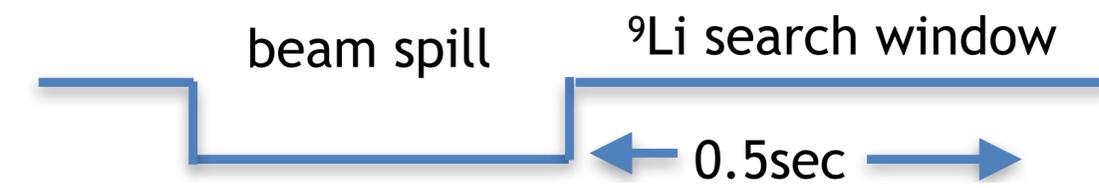
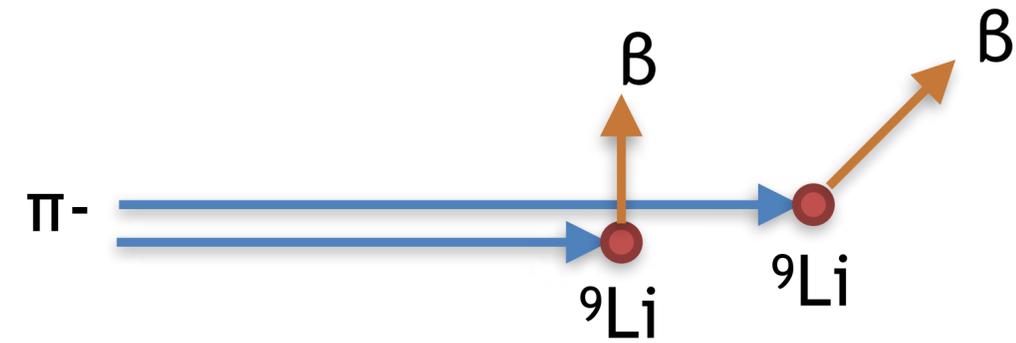
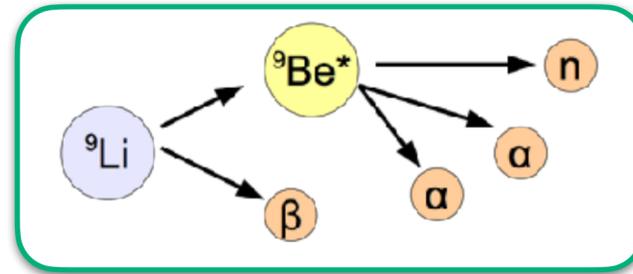
- Investigate 1000MeV data, looking at hit clusters with $10 \leq N_{\text{hits}} \leq 30$
- Fit proton sample with background model from positrons and exponential function
- Clear excess in proton events, best fit with time constant (capture time) of $72 \pm 4 \mu s$
- Integral of fitted exponential gives 0.24 neutrons per proton

WCTE Decommissioning

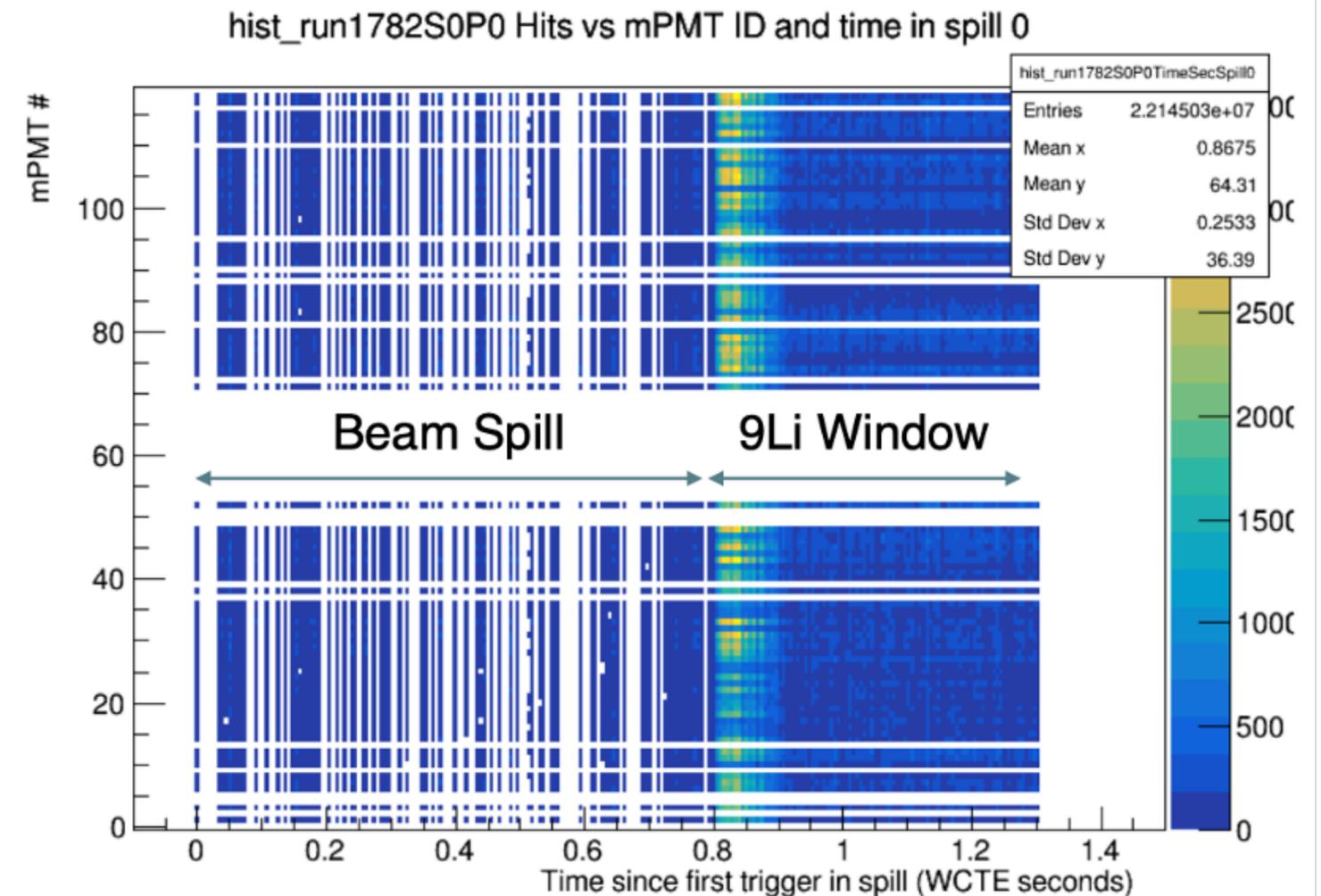


WCTE

^9Li production study



- Beta decay ($\tau = 0.26\text{sec.}$) with neutron (49.5%)
- ^9Li decay vertex provides pion interaction point
- More data being taken with Gd loading for neutron tagging
- Prepared a continuous trigger that runs after end of spill to collect data 0.5 sec of data after each spill
- We've taken ~4days of 260, 280, 300, 320, 340, 360MeV/c π^- data
- Start data analysis.



Status and the next toward understanding spallation

- First look at the pure water data of pion beam in 9Li window. Please see the Hamaguchi-san's poster.
- Next, going to the Gd loading data. Neutron tagging is essential. This will be the same method as SK-Gd. Please see the Nishigami-san's poster.
- Tune the hadron interaction model based on this experiment, it will be installed to the SK-Gd analysis.
- In future, hope to understand overall spallation mechanism using high energy muon beam (>10 GeV).

Stay tuned!