



# The Super-Kamiokande Experiment

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# The Super-Kamiokande Collaboration

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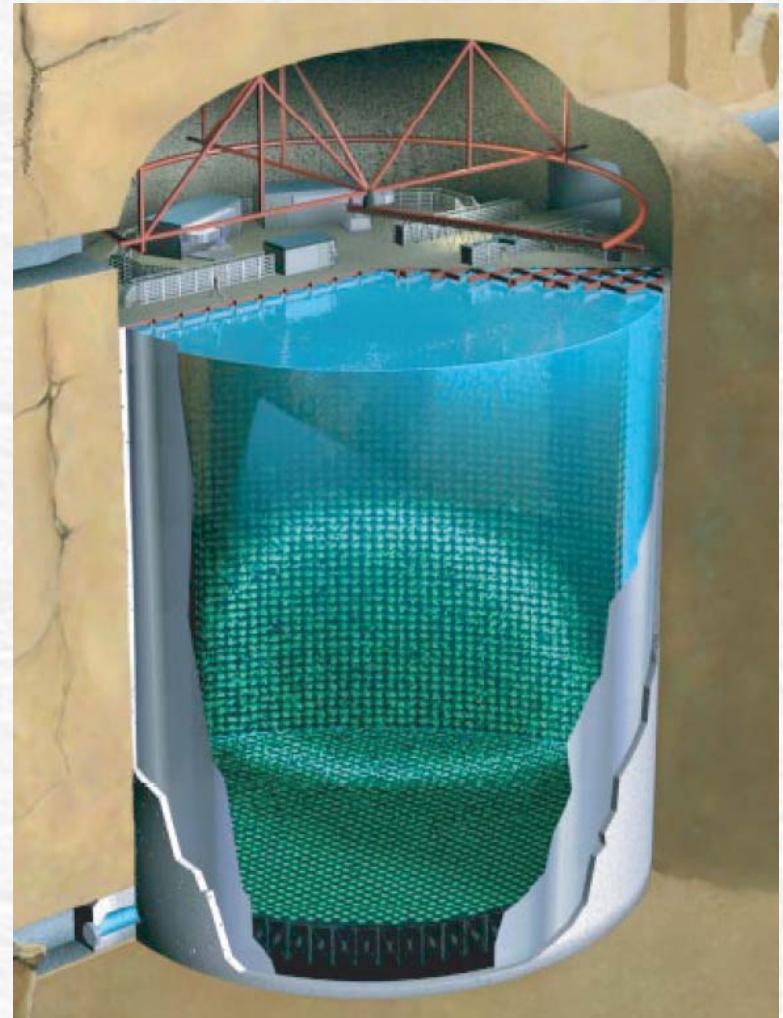
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# Outline

- ✓ History and Introduction
- ✓ How Super-Kamiokande Works
- ✓ Solar Neutrino Results
- ✓ Atmospheric Neutrino Results
- ✓ Proton Decay Results
- ✓ Long-Baseline Experiments and Future

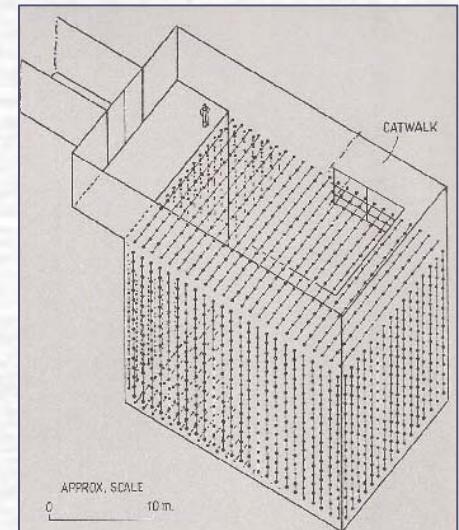
# A Bit of History - IMB

## ▀ Pioneering water Cherenkov detector

- Data-taking 1982-1990
- 8 kton water (3.3 fiducial)
- 2048 5" PMTs (IMB-1)
  - Later upgraded (IMB-2,3)

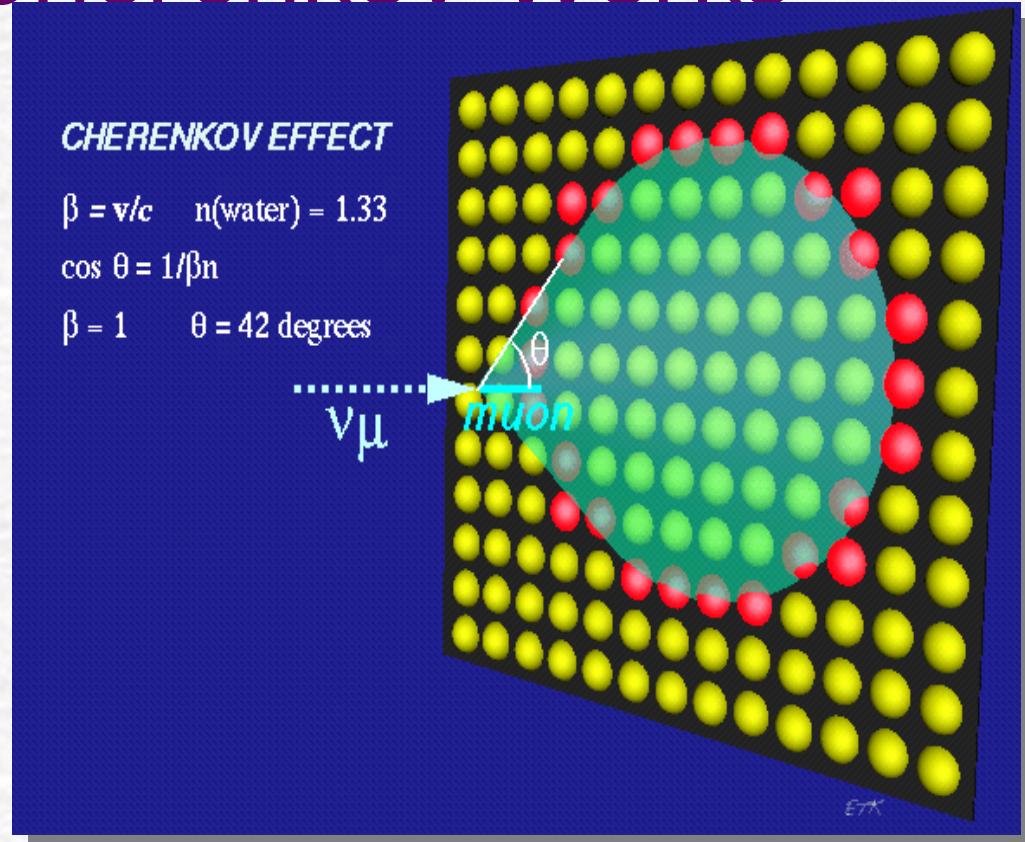
## ▀ Major accomplishments:

- Excluded minimal SU(5) grand-unified theory
- Observation of supernova neutrinos (with Kamiokande)
- Confirmed atmospheric muon-neutrino deficit



# How Water Cherenkov Works

- Cheap target material
- Surface instrumentation
- Vertex from PMT timing
- Direction from ring edge
- Energy from pulse height, range and opening angle
- Particle ID from hit pattern and delayed muon decay signature
- Cherenkov threshold:
  - $\beta > 1/n \sim 0.75$



# Kamiokande

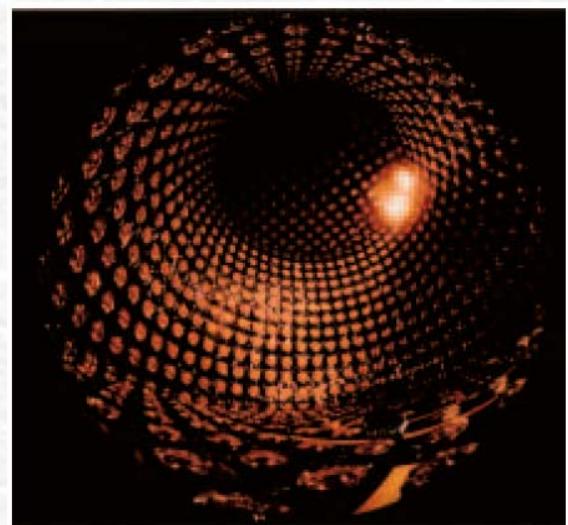
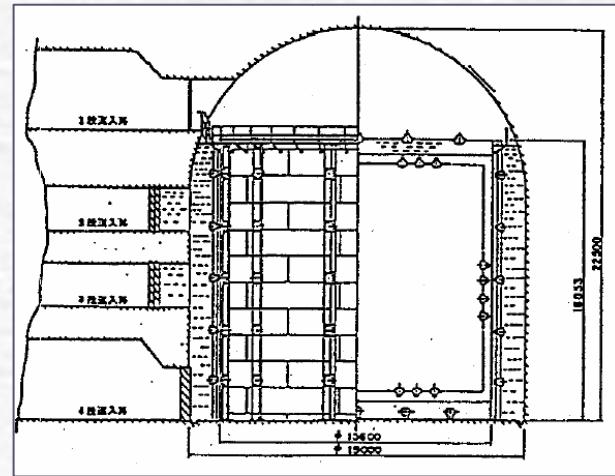
## Second kiloton water Cherenkov detector

- Began data-taking 1983
- Mass ~1 kton
- 20" PMTs, 20% photocathode coverage
  - Compare to ~1% for IMB-1!

## Major accomplishments

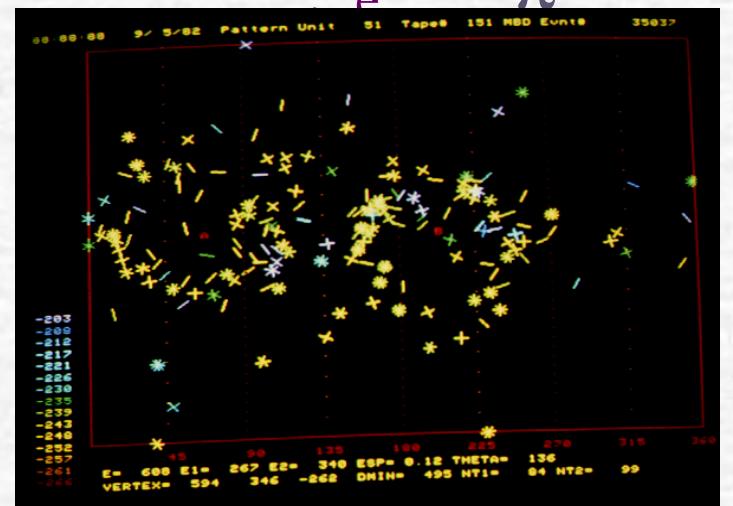
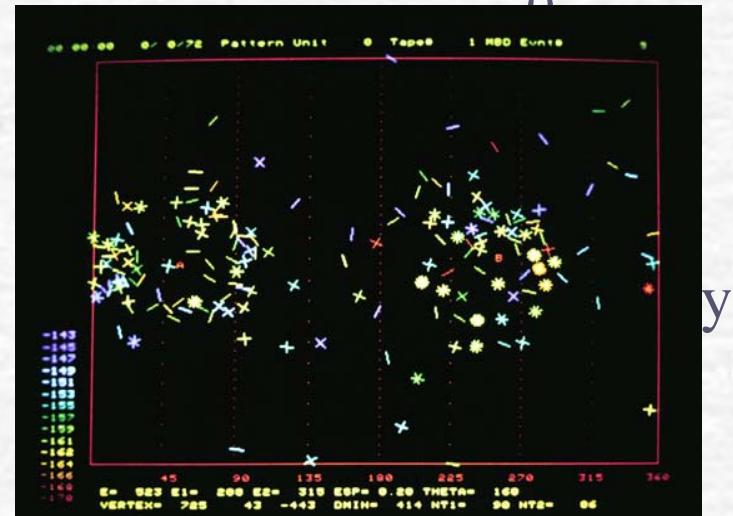
- Observation of neutrinos from SN1987A (with IMB-3)
- First real-time solar neutrino measurements (M. Koshiba 2002 Nobel Prize!)
- First clear evidence for deficit of atmospheric muon neutrinos (confirmed by IMB-3)

## Today, the same tank is used for the KAMLAND experiment



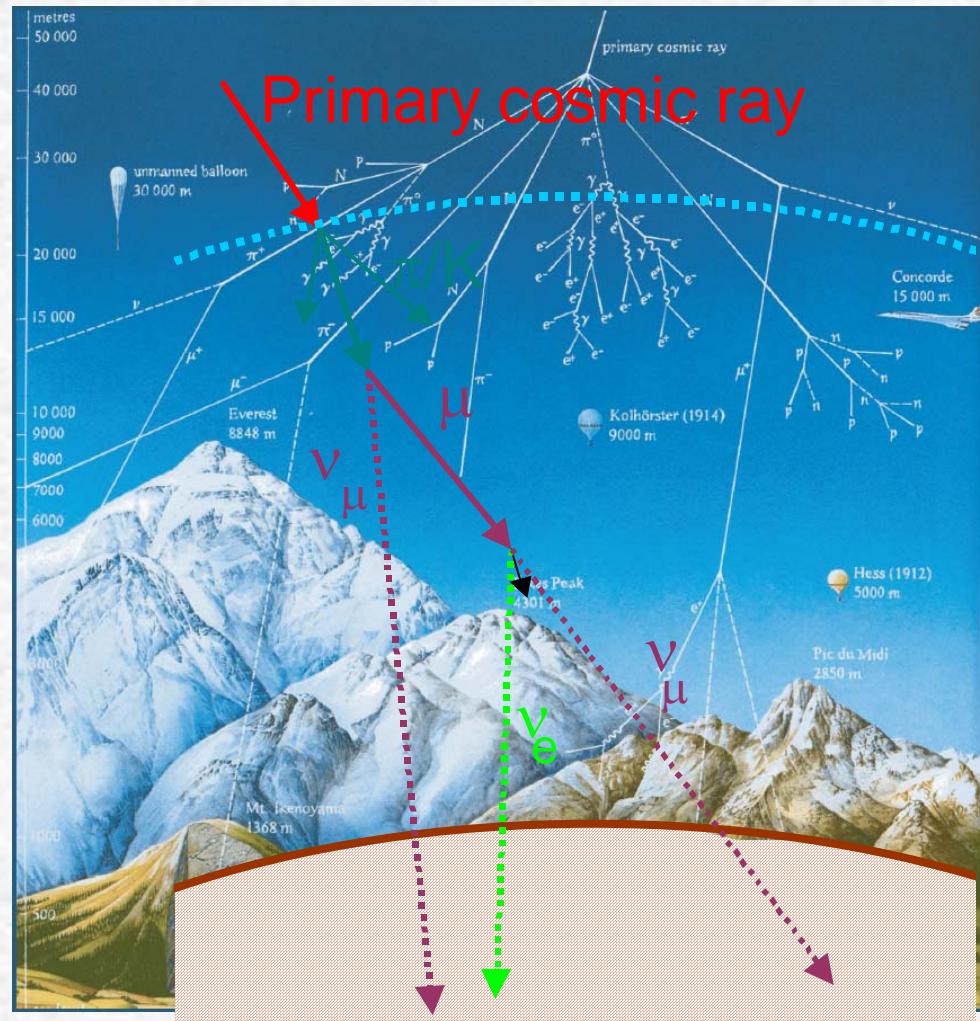
# Proton Decay and Neutrinos

- Generic Prediction of most Grand Unified Theories
  - IMB ruled out simplest theory "SU(5)" in 1982
- Lifetime  $> 10^{33}$  yr!
  - Requires comparable number of protons
  - Colossal (kiloton) detectors
- Neutrino background proved more interesting than the (non-existent) signal!



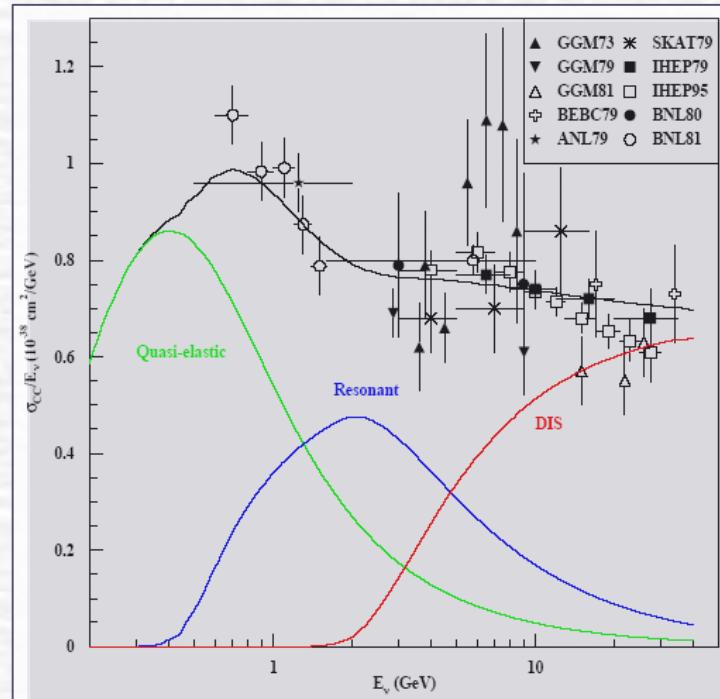
# Atmospheric Neutrinos

- Produced by cosmic-ray proton collisions with the upper atmosphere
  - Power-law ( $\sim E^{-2.7}$ ) energy spectrum
    - Mean energy  $\sim 1$  GeV
  - Neutrinos arrive from all directions
  - Contains muon and electron neutrinos in  $\sim 2:1$  ratio
  - Absolute flux is uncertain to 10-20%



# Neutrino Interactions

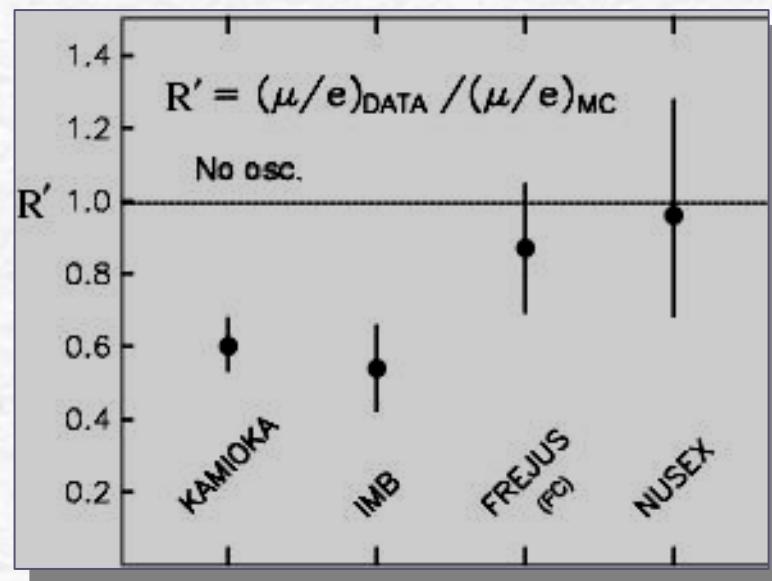
- Neutrino/electron scattering (e.g.  $\nu + e \rightarrow \nu + e$ )
  - Only relevant for lowest (solar) neutrino energies
  - Suppressed by factor  $m_e/m_N \sim 2000$
  - Cross-section for  $\nu_\mu$  and  $\nu_\tau$  about 1/7 that for  $\nu_e$
- Charged-current neutrino-nucleon reactions
  - Produces charged lepton with same flavor as neutrino**
  - Quasi-elastic (e.g.  $\nu + n \rightarrow \ell^- + p$ )
    - Recoil nucleon usually invisible in Cherenkov detector
  - Resonant (e.g.  $\nu + N \rightarrow \ell^- + \Delta; \Delta \rightarrow \pi + N'$ )
    - One or more pions produced in addition to charged lepton
  - Charged-current deep-inelastic scattering (e.g.  $\nu + q \rightarrow \ell^- + q'; q' \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$ )
    - Multiple hadrons produced
  - Total charged-current neutrino-nucleon cross-section rises  $\sim$ linearly with energy
- Neutral-current neutrino-nucleon reactions (e.g.  $\nu + N \rightarrow \nu + X$ )
  - No charged lepton; suppressed by a factor 2-3 compared to charged-current reactions
  - No information about neutrino flavor**



$$\sigma(\nu + N \rightarrow \ell^- + X)/E_\nu$$

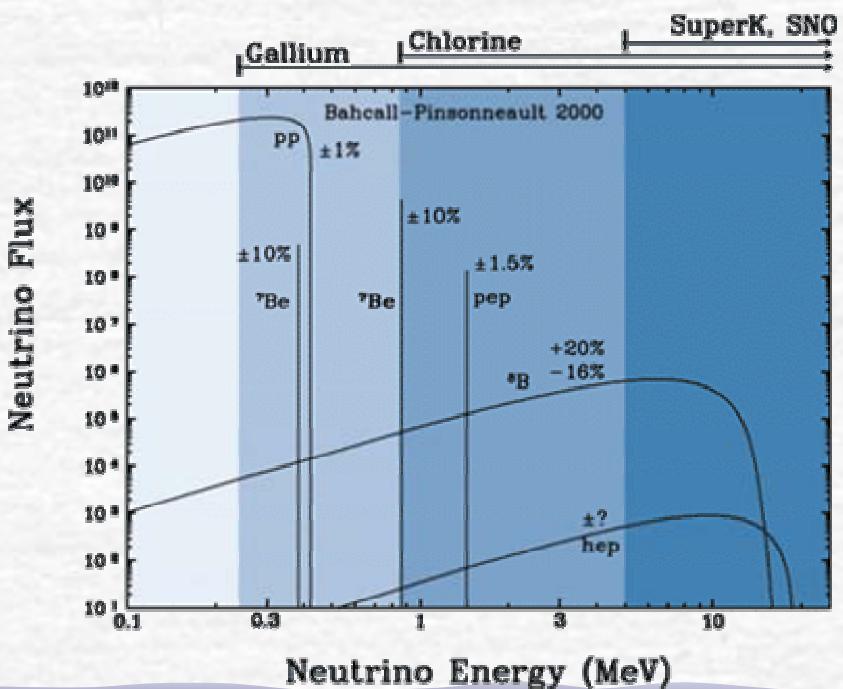
# The Atmospheric Neutrino Problem

- While searching for proton-decay, IMB and Kamiokande accumulated large samples of atmospheric neutrino interactions
- Because most interactions are charged-current quasi-elastic, it was possible to study the flavor composition of the atmospheric neutrino flux
- Both found about 40% fewer  $\nu_\mu$  interactions than expected
  - The “atmospheric neutrino problem”
  - Kamiokande found hints of a dependence on the arrival direction
  - Two smaller detectors found no evidence of a deficit



# Solar Neutrinos

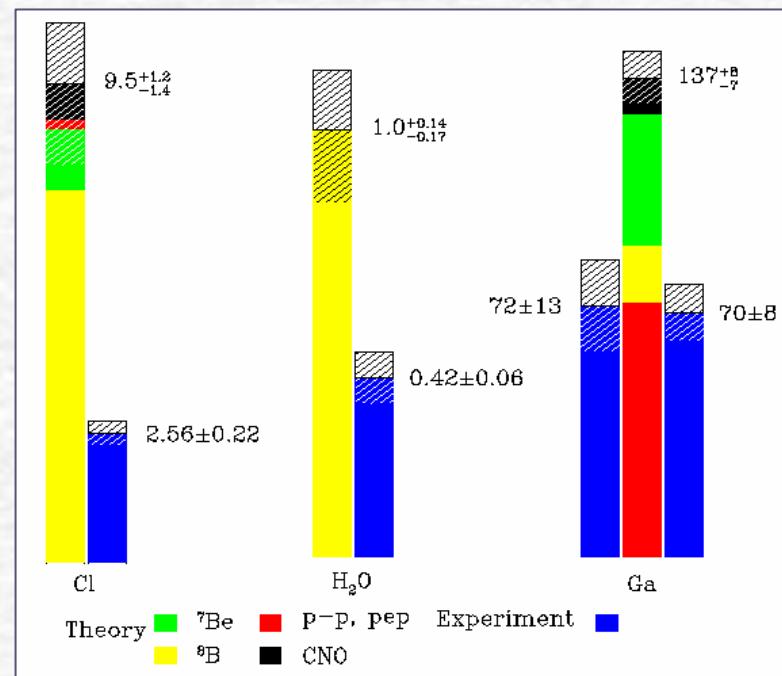
- Fusion reactions in the Sun also produce low-energy electron neutrinos
- A 20-year experiment using a tank of Chlorine found only 1/3 of the expected rate
  - Ray Davis, 2002 Nobel Prize!



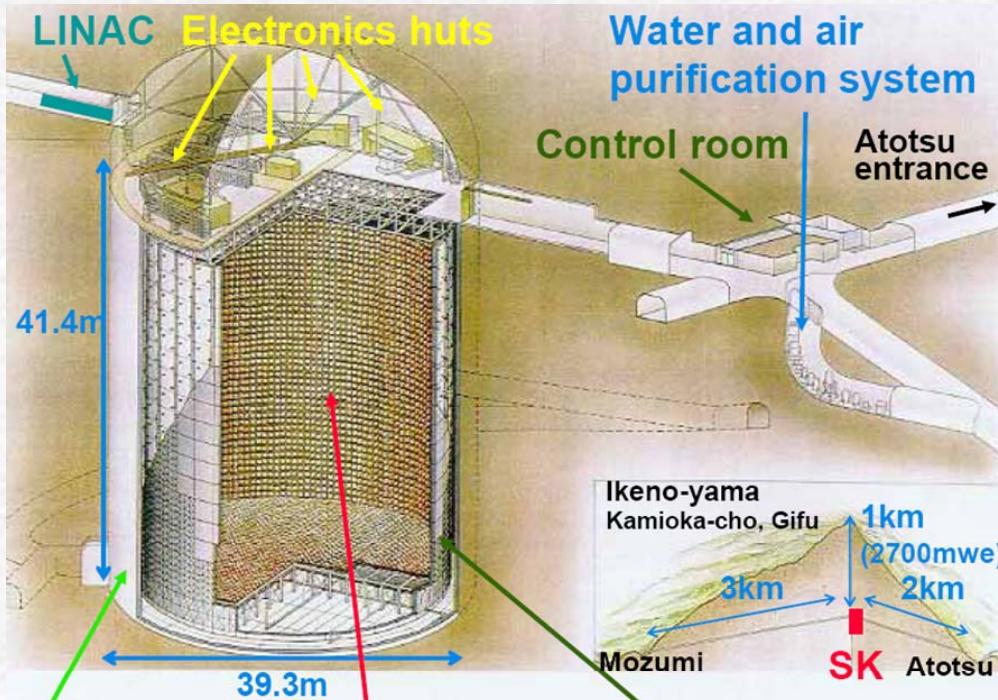
REACTION	TERM. (%)	$\nu$ ENERGY (MeV)
$p + p \rightarrow ^2H + e^+ + \nu_e$	(99.96)	$\leq 0.423$
or		
$p + e^- + p \rightarrow ^2H + \nu_e$	(0.44)	1.445
$^2H + p \rightarrow ^3He + \gamma$	(100)	
$^3He + ^3He \rightarrow \alpha + 2p$	(85)	
or		
$^3He + ^4He \rightarrow ^7Be + \gamma$	(15)	
$^7Be + e^- \rightarrow ^7Li + \nu_e$	(15)	$\begin{cases} 0.863 & 90\% \\ 0.385 & 10\% \end{cases}$
$^7Li + p \rightarrow 2\alpha$		
or		
$^7Be + p \rightarrow ^8B + \gamma$	(0.02)	
$^8B \rightarrow ^8Be^* + e^+ + \nu_e$		< 15
$^8Be^* \rightarrow 2\alpha$		
or		
$^3He + p \rightarrow ^4He + e^+ + \nu_e$	(0.00003)	< 18.8

# The Solar Neutrino Problem

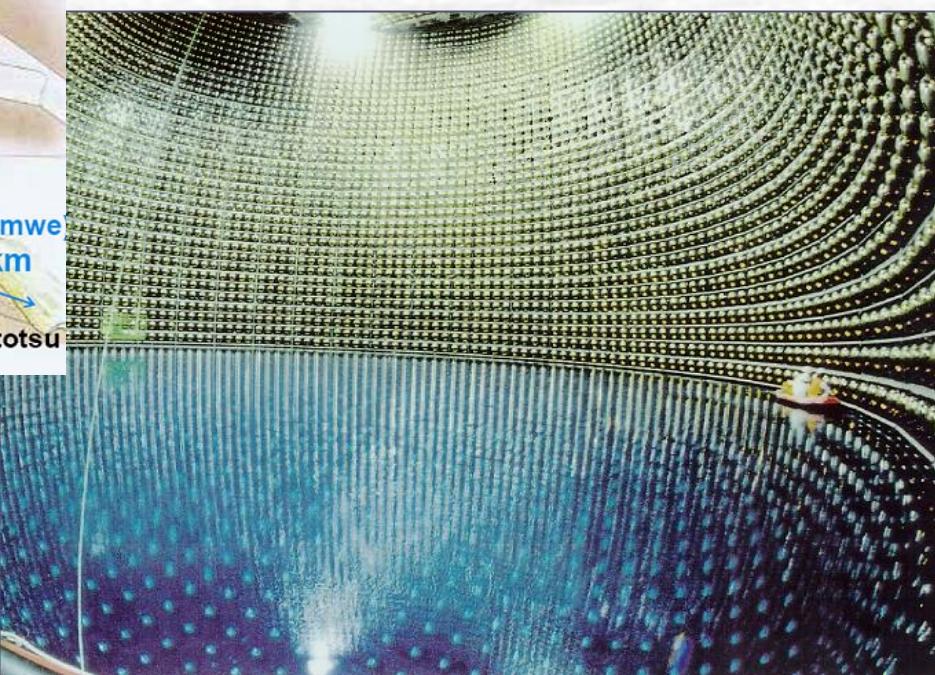
- ▀ Kamiokande, together with two experiments using a Gallium target, confirmed this deficit of solar neutrinos
  - ▀ The “solar neutrino problem”



# The Super-Kamiokande Detector



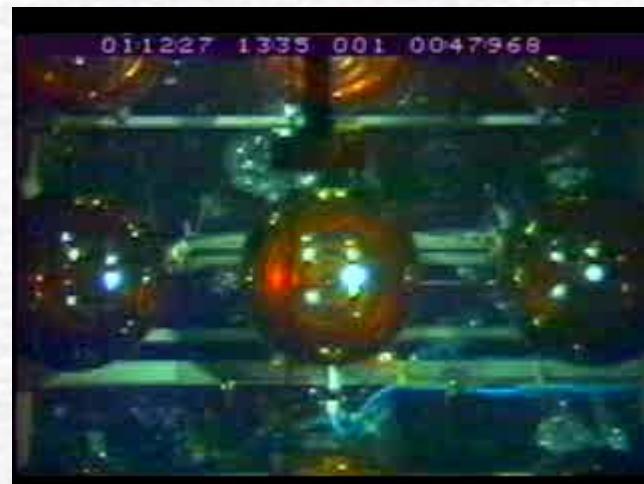
50,000 ton total mass (22,500 ton fiducial)  
Inner detector: 11,186 20" PMTs (40% coverage)  
Outer detector: 1885 8" PMTs (veto)



- In the mid-1990's, Super-Kamiokande was built to study all three puzzles:
  - Nucleon decay
  - Solar neutrinos
  - Atmospheric neutrinos

# Super-Kamiokande Milestones

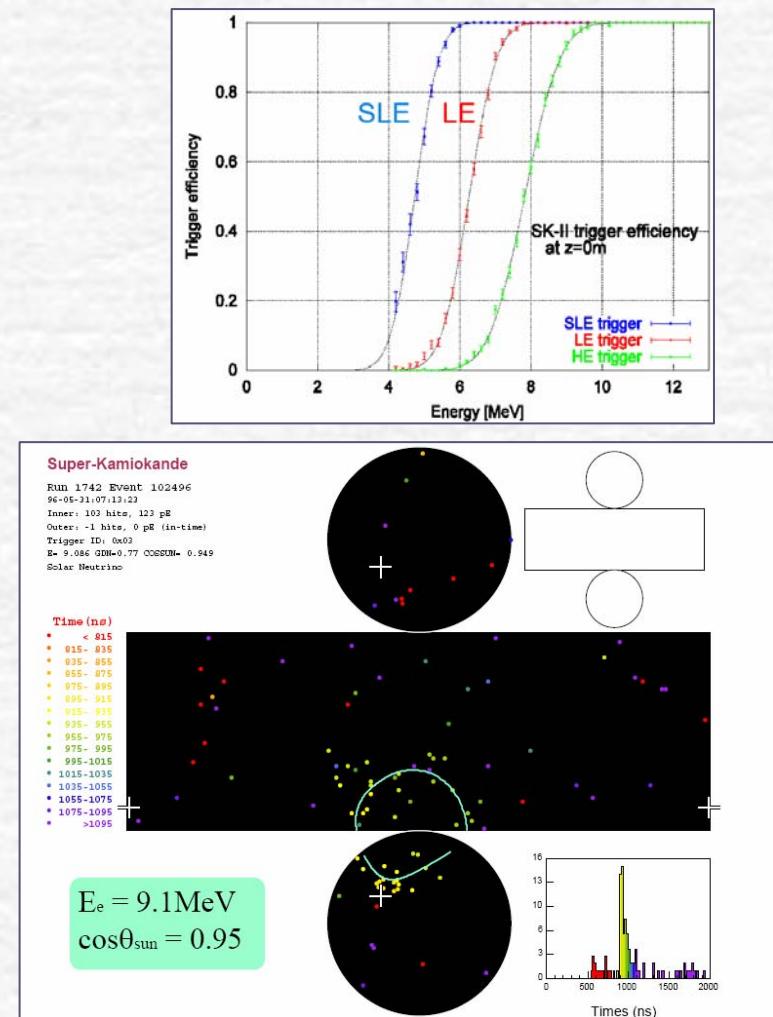
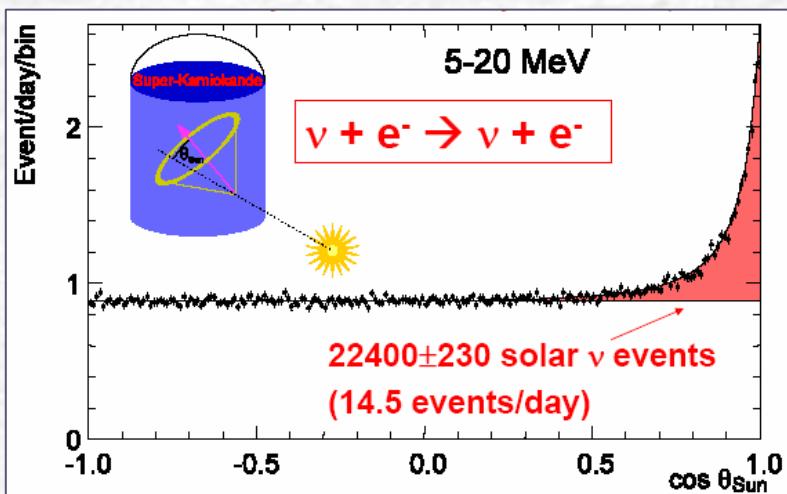
- ✓ April 1996: Data-taking begins
- ✓ June 1998: Evidence for atmospheric oscillation announced
- ✓ Spring 1999: K2K long-baseline experiment begins
- ✓ June 2001: Detector shutdown for PMT maintenance
- ✓ August 2001: Refilling of detector begins
- ✓ November 2001: Implosion disaster; end of SK-I
- ✓ December 2002: SK-II phase begins with half PMT coverage and acrylic housings
- ✓ Summer 2005: K2K long-baseline experiment ends
- ✓ Fall 2005: Restoration of full PMT coverage (SK-III) begins
- ✓ 2008?: Start of T2K long-baseline experiment



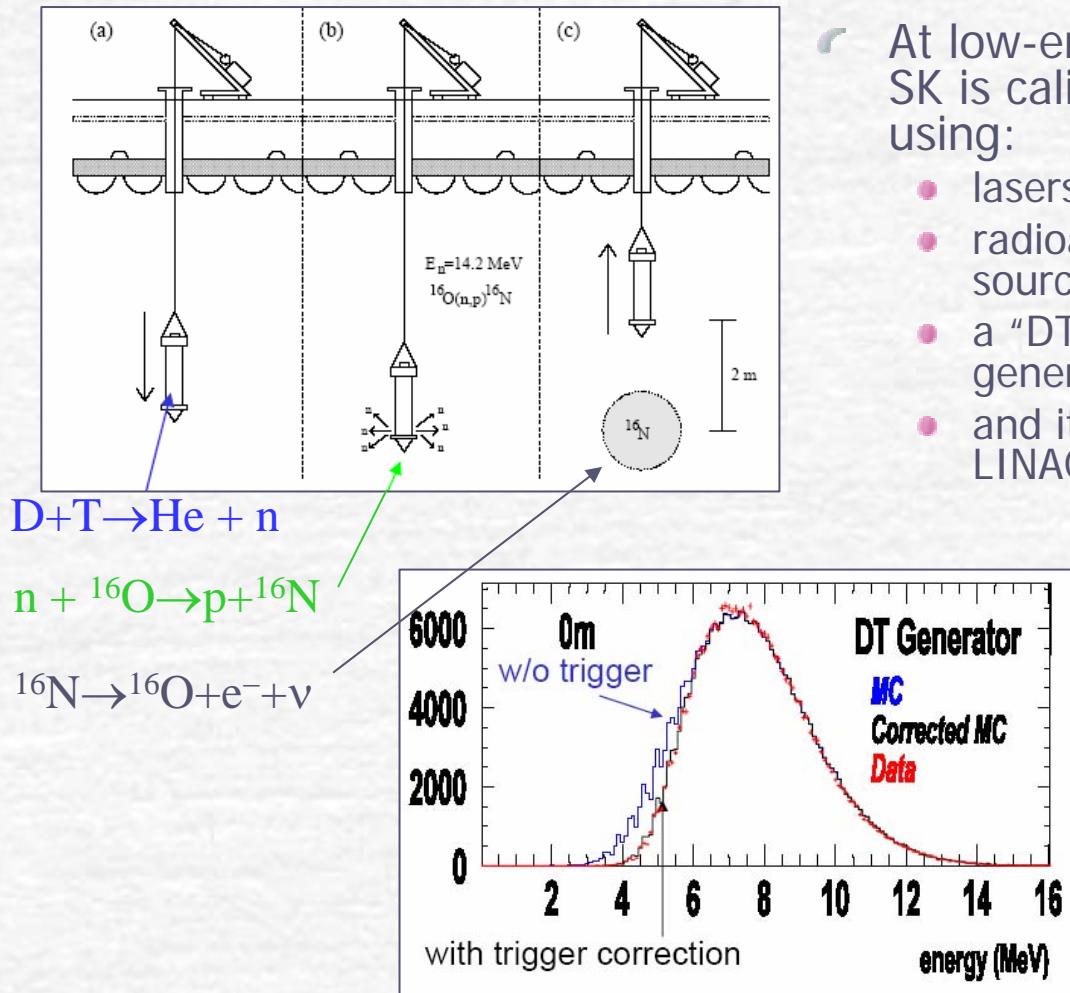
# Solar Neutrino Rate

- SK observes a clear excess of electrons pointing from the direction of the Sun
- Principal solar neutrino backgrounds come from Radon, spallation products, and radioactivity
- Only about 40% of the expected interaction rate is observed:

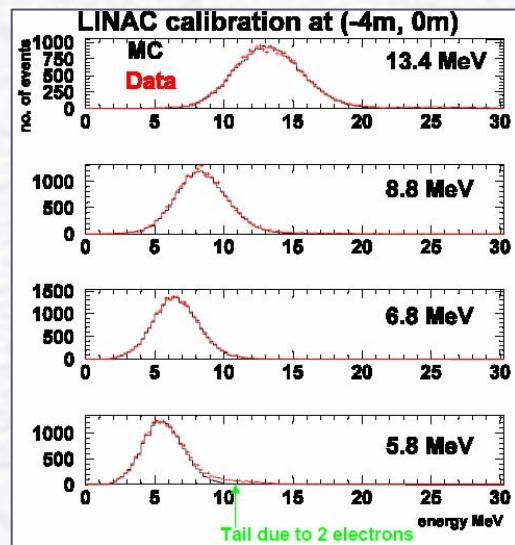
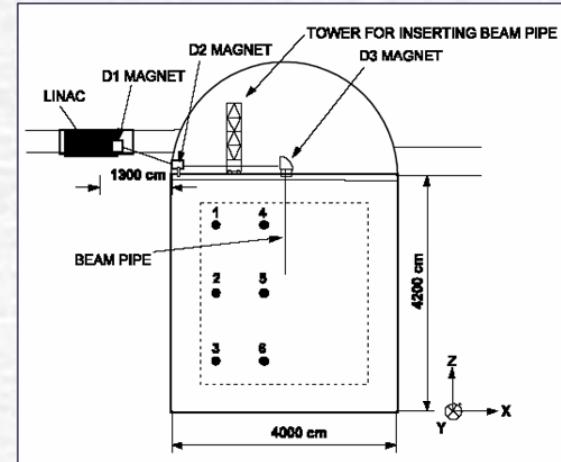
${}^8\text{B}$  flux =  $2.35 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.08$  [ $\times 10^6/\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$ ]  
 Data / SSM<sub>BP2004</sub> =  $0.406 \pm 0.004(\text{stat.}) + 0.014 - 0.013(\text{syst.})$



# Low Energy Calibrations



- At low-energy, SK is calibrated using:
  - lasers,
  - radioactive sources,
  - a “DT” generator,
  - and its own LINAC

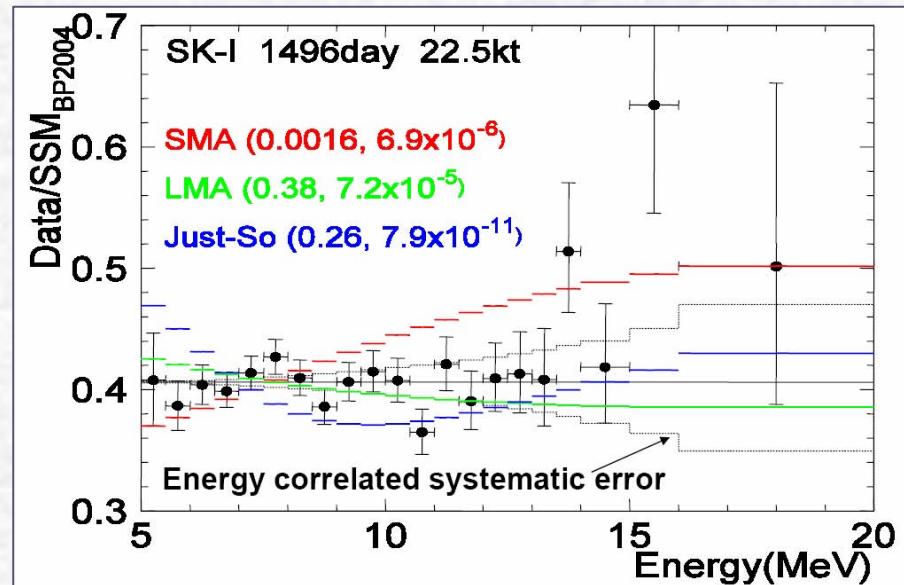


# Probing Solar Neutrino Oscillation

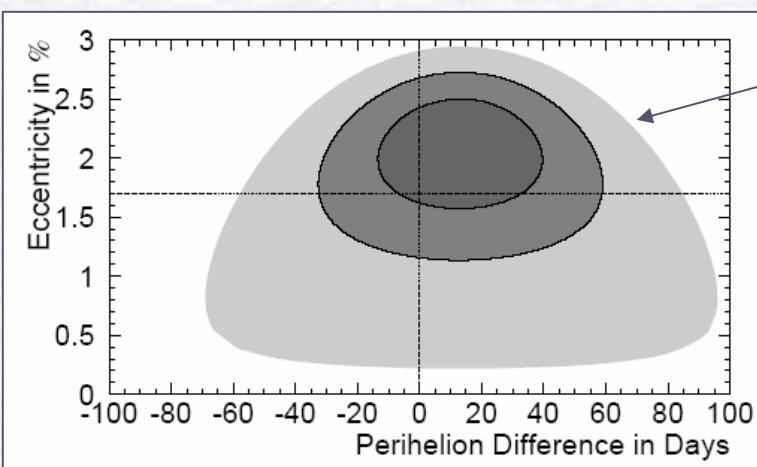
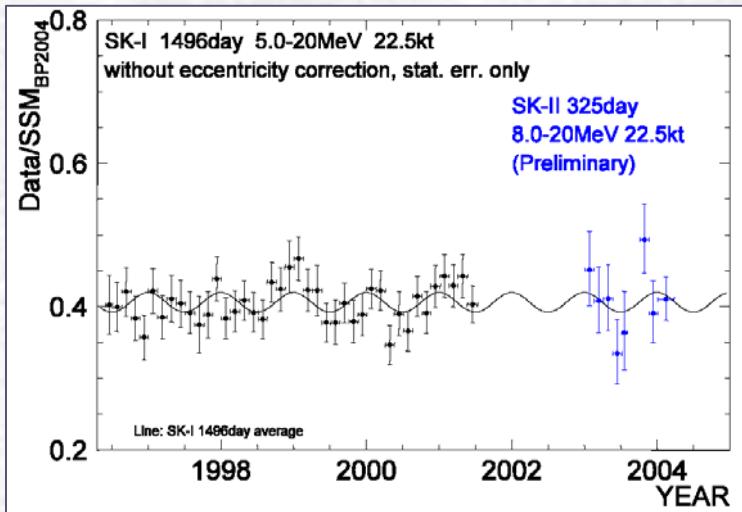
- ➊ If  $\nu_e$  from the Sun oscillate to other flavors, the observed rate will be suppressed because  $\nu_\mu$  and  $\nu_\tau$  have a much smaller cross-section than  $\nu_e$
- ➋ In addition to the rate, SK can look for:
  - Distortions of the neutrino energy spectrum
    - SMA and Vacuum ("Just-So") solutions
  - Day/Night Time Variations
    - Lower part of LMA solution and upper part of LOW solution
  - Seasonal Variations
    - Vacuum solution
- ➌ The predicted  ${}^8\text{B}$  flux from solar models, and/or data from other experiments, can be used as additional constraints

# Solar Neutrino Energy Spectrum

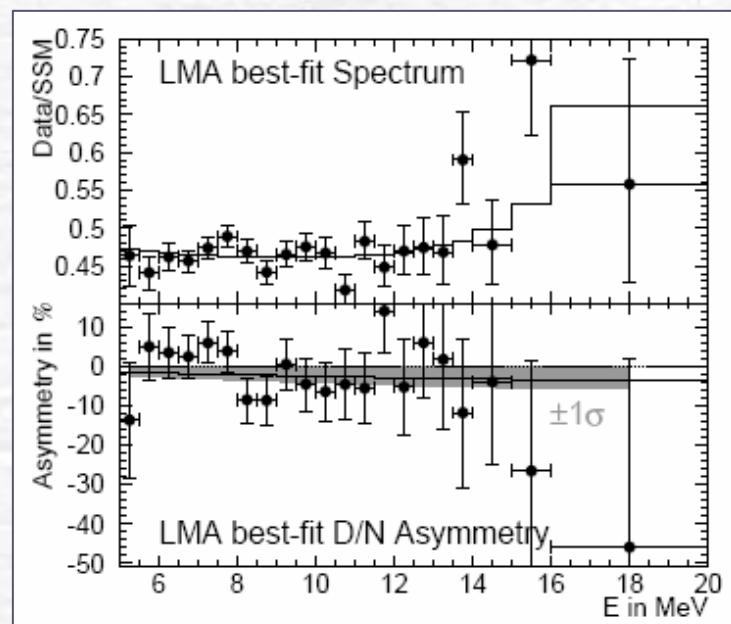
- Absence of large spectral distortions allowed Super-K to rule out the SMA and "Just-So" (Vacuum) at 95% confidence level solutions prior to the results from SNO and KAMLAND
  - SK data alone allows only solutions with large mixing



# Solar Neutrino Time Variation

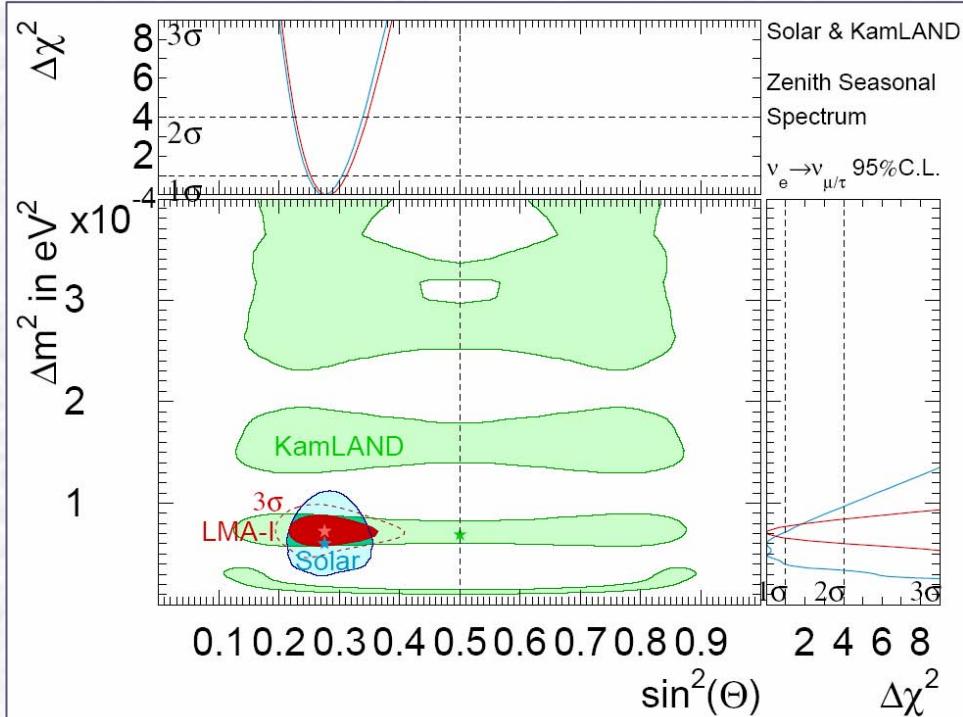
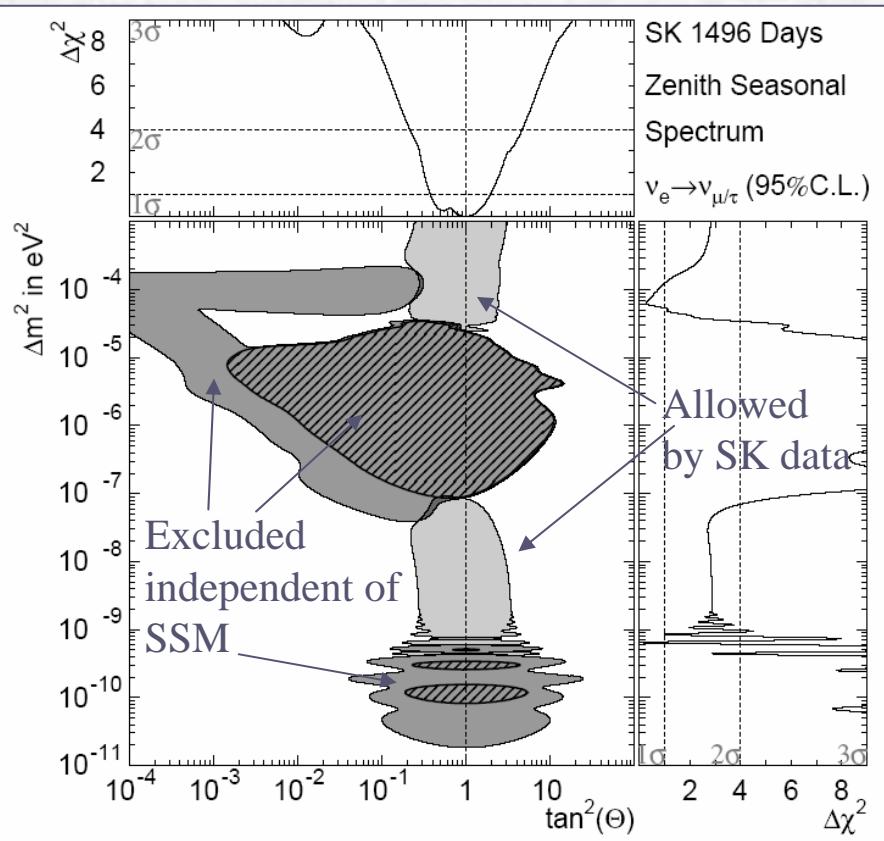


- Absence of seasonal variation (apart from  $1/r^2$  variation due to eccentricity of the Earth's orbit) also excludes the "Just-So" region
- Day/Night variation is also consistent with zero, excluding a significant portion of the LMA solution



$$A_{DN} = -1.8 \pm 1.6 \quad {}^{+1.3\%}_{-1.2\%}$$

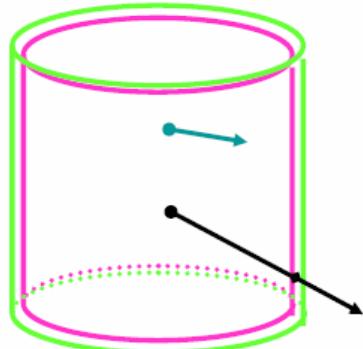
# Summary of Solar Neutrinos



Combining Solar neutrino and KAMLAND results

# Atmospheric Neutrinos in Super-K

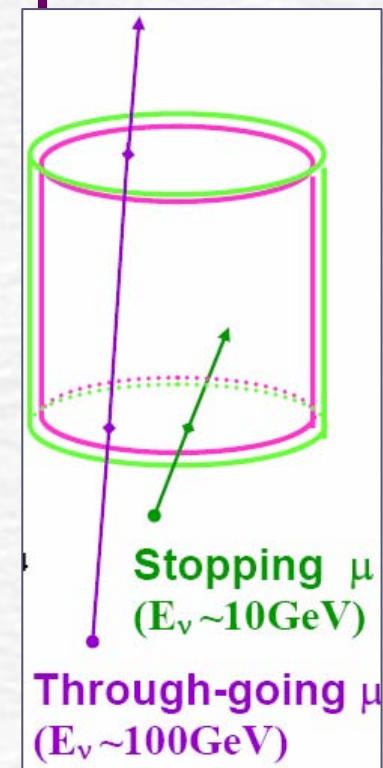
**Fully Contained (FC) ( $E_\nu \sim 1\text{GeV}$ )**



**Partially Contained (PC) ( $E_\nu \sim 10\text{GeV}$ )**

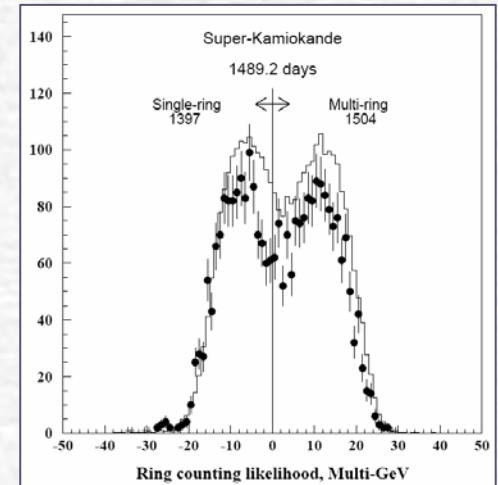
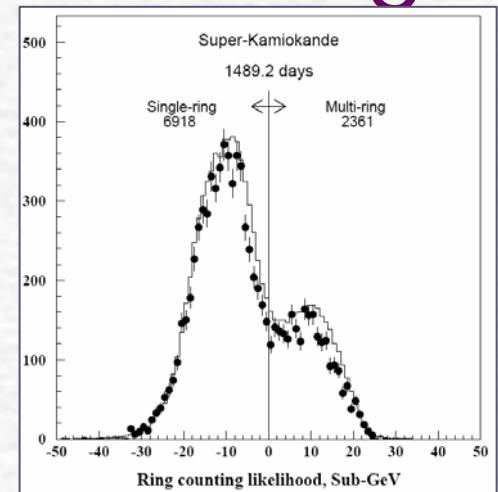
- Atmospheric neutrino data is classified by topology and energy into a variety of categories
- About 80% of the total atmospheric data sample is used in the oscillation analysis

	DATA	MC	C.C. Purity
Sub-GeV 1-ring e-like	3353	2978.8	88.0%
Multi-GeV 1-ring e-like	746	680.5	82.6%
Sub-GeV 1-ring $\mu$ -like	3227	4212.8	94.5%
Sub-GeV Multiring $\mu$ -like	208	322.6	90.5%
Multi-GeV 1-ring $\mu$ -like	651	899.9	99.4%
Multi-GeV Multiring $\mu$ -like	439	711.9	95.0%
Partially Contained $\mu$	647	1034.5	97.3%
Stopping Upward $\mu$	417.7	721.4	~100%
Throughgoing Upward $\mu$	1841.6	1684.4	~100%



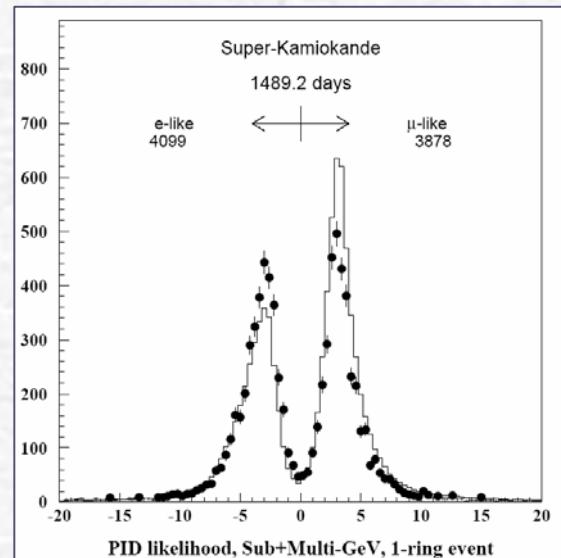
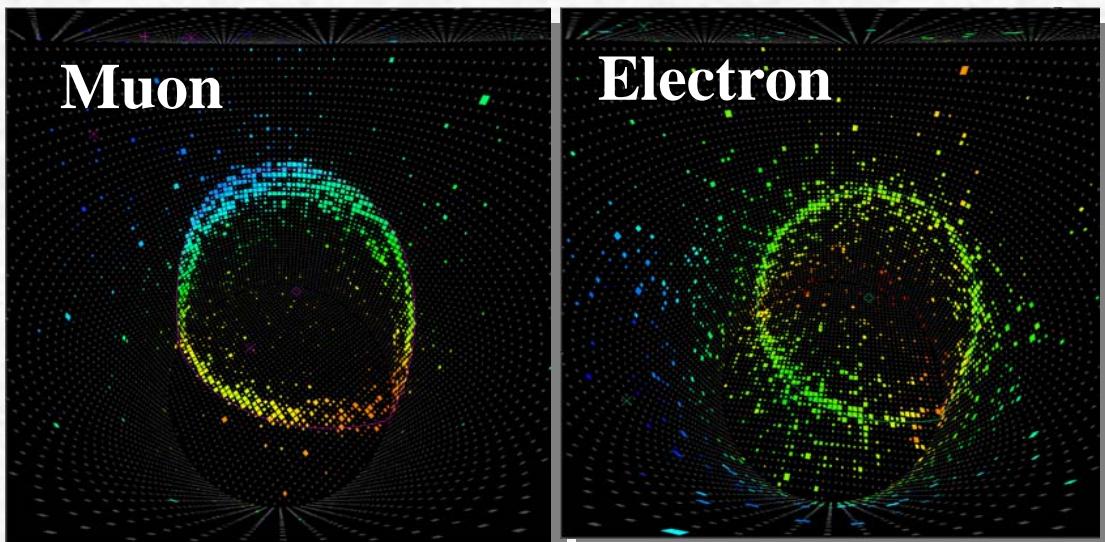
# Data Reduction and Ring Counting

- Fully-contained events are selected by requiring no activity in the outer detector
- Partially-contained and upward-muon events are selected by reconstructing the vertex and direction
- Contained events are required to originate at least 2m from the walls
  - Vertex resolution is about 25 cm
- A maximum likelihood algorithm automatically identifies Cherenkov rings



# Particle Identification

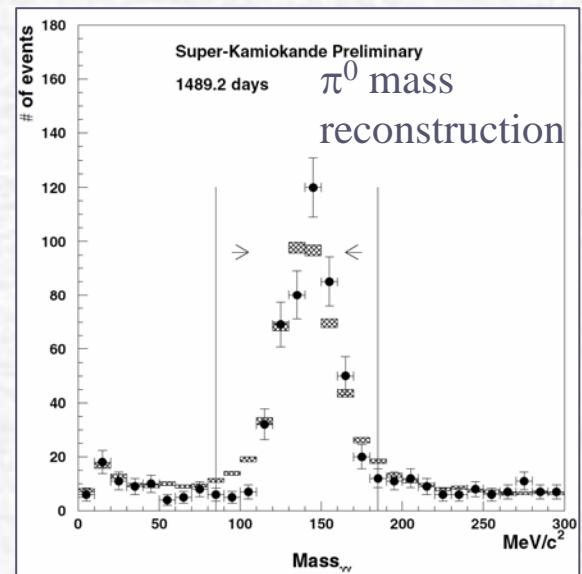
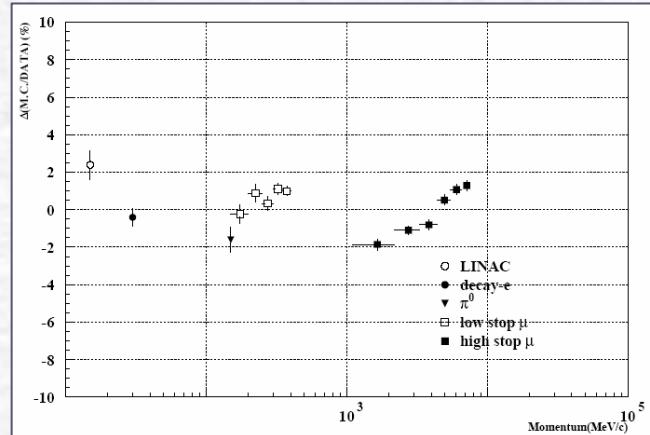
- Single-ring events are identified as e-like or  $\mu$ -like, based on the geometry of the Cherenkov cone
  - e-like events shower
  - $\mu$ -like events have a sharp ring edge



- Particle ID performance can be tested on cosmic-ray muons, muon-decay electrons,  $\pi^0$ . It has also been verified in a test beam

# High-Energy Calibration

- For high-energy events, the energy scale is calibrated using:
  - Through-going cosmic-ray muons
  - Stopping cosmic-ray muons
  - Electrons from muon decay
  - Reconstructed  $\pi^0$  from neutral-current interactions
- The energy scale for all types of events agrees to within about 2%

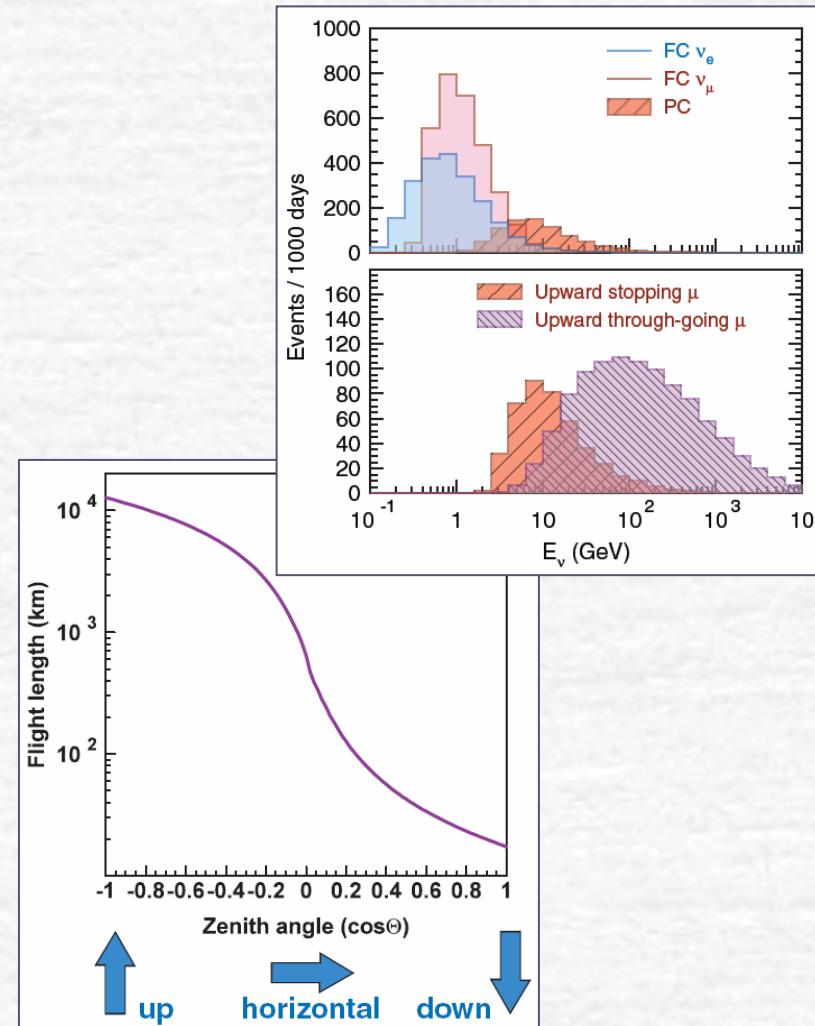


# Atmospheric Neutrino Oscillation

- In the simplest, two-flavor, oscillation case, the survival probability depends on  $\Delta m^2 \times L/E_\nu$

- The various atmospheric neutrino sub-samples span a range of five decades in neutrino energy  $E_\nu$ 
  - From  $\sim 100$  MeV to  $10$  TeV
- Depending on the neutrino's arrival direction,  $L$  spans a range of three decades
  - From  $\sim 15$  km to  $13000$  km

- Broad  $\Delta m^2$  sensitivity



# Two-Flavor Oscillation Analysis

- We study  $\sin^2 2\theta$  and  $\Delta m^2$  by binning our real and simulated data in  $\cos\theta_z$  and  $p$ , then minimizing  $\chi^2$  to find the best-fit values
- Since there are many sources of systematic uncertainty, we also include many "systematic" terms in the  $\chi^2$ 
  - If some combination of systematic effects can account for the features of the data, oscillation will not be necessary

*number of  $p, \Theta$  bins*

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{180} \frac{\left( N_i^{obs} - N_i^{exp} \left( 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{39} f_j^i \cdot \varepsilon_j \right) \right)^2}{\sigma_i^2} + \sum_{j=1}^{38} \left( \frac{\varepsilon_j}{\sigma_j} \right)^2$$

*number of sys. effects (normalization is free)*

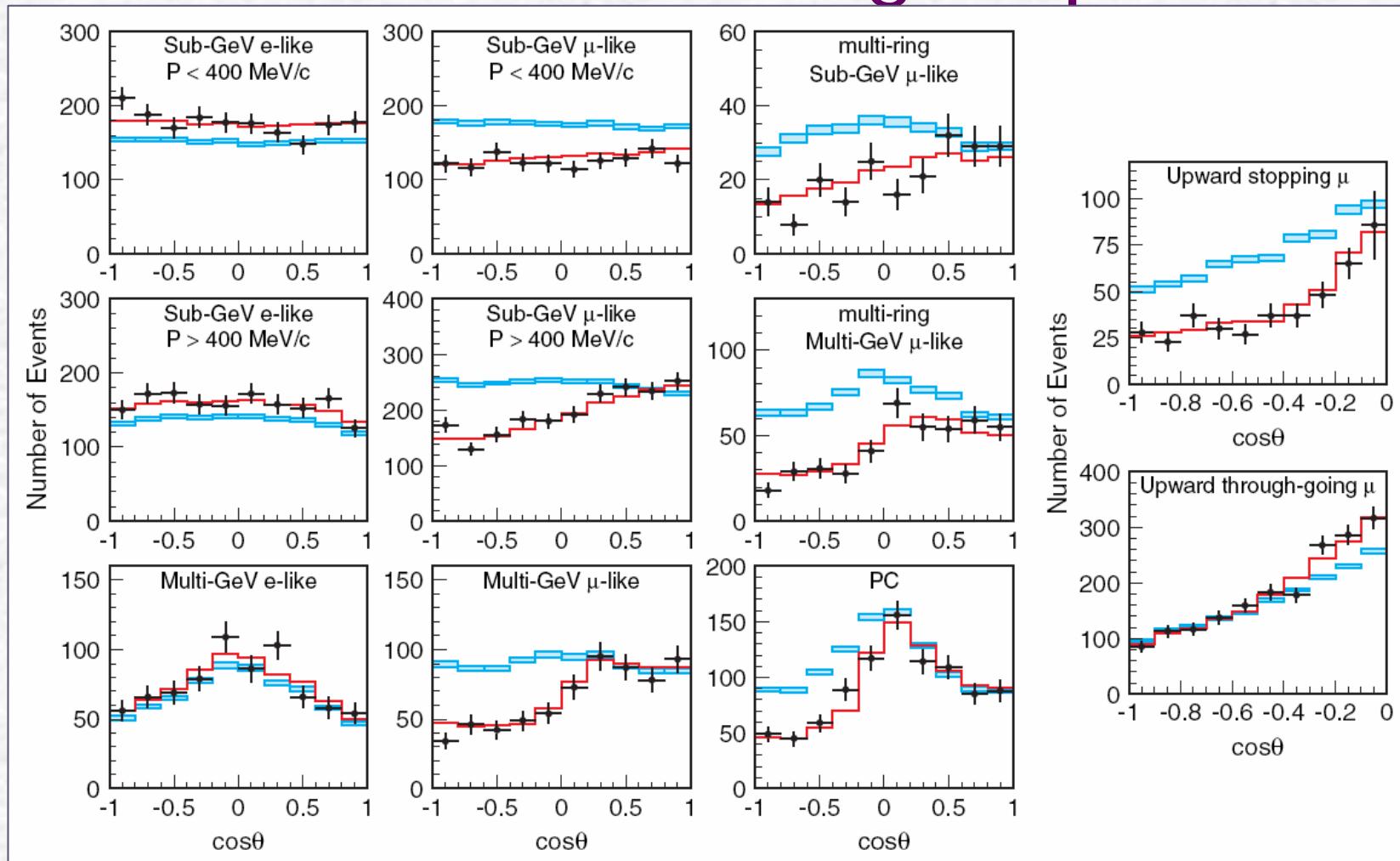
$N_i^{exp} = N_i^0 \cdot P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) \cdot \left( 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{39} f_j^i \cdot \varepsilon_j \right)$

*solve set of linear equations:*

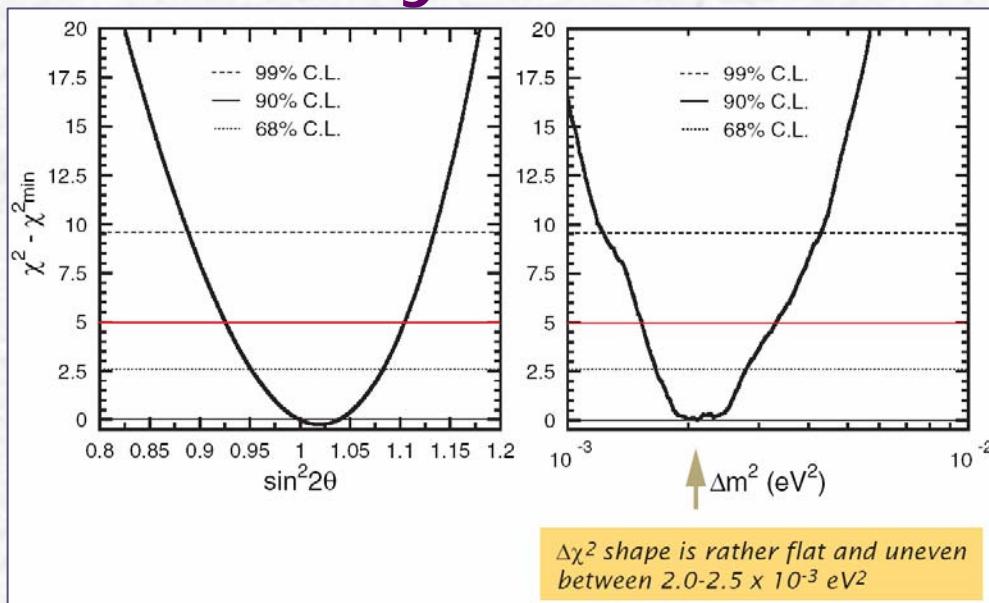
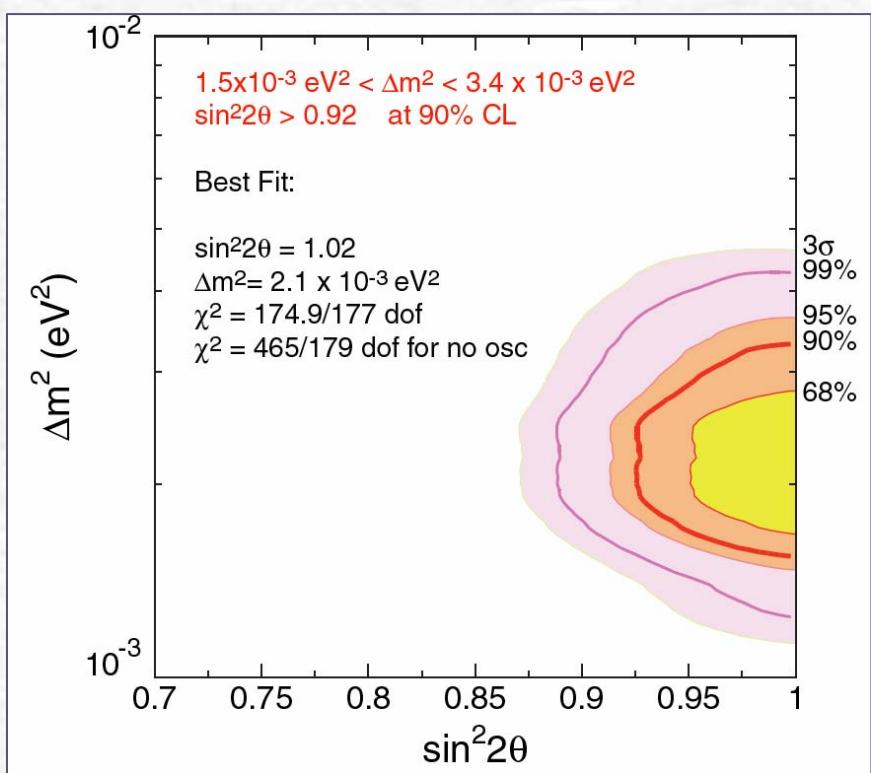
$$\sum_{j=1}^{38} \left[ \frac{1}{\sigma_j^2} \delta_{jk} + \sum_{i=1}^{180} \left( \frac{N_i^{exp} \cdot N_i^{exp} \cdot f_j^i \cdot f_k^i}{\sigma_i^2} \right) \right] \cdot \varepsilon_k = \sum_{i=1}^{180} \frac{(N_i^{obs} - N_i^{exp}) \cdot N_i^{exp} \cdot f_k^i}{\sigma_i^2}$$

*fractional change in predicted event rate due to variation in systematic parameter  $\varepsilon$*

# Best-Fit Zenith Angle Spectra



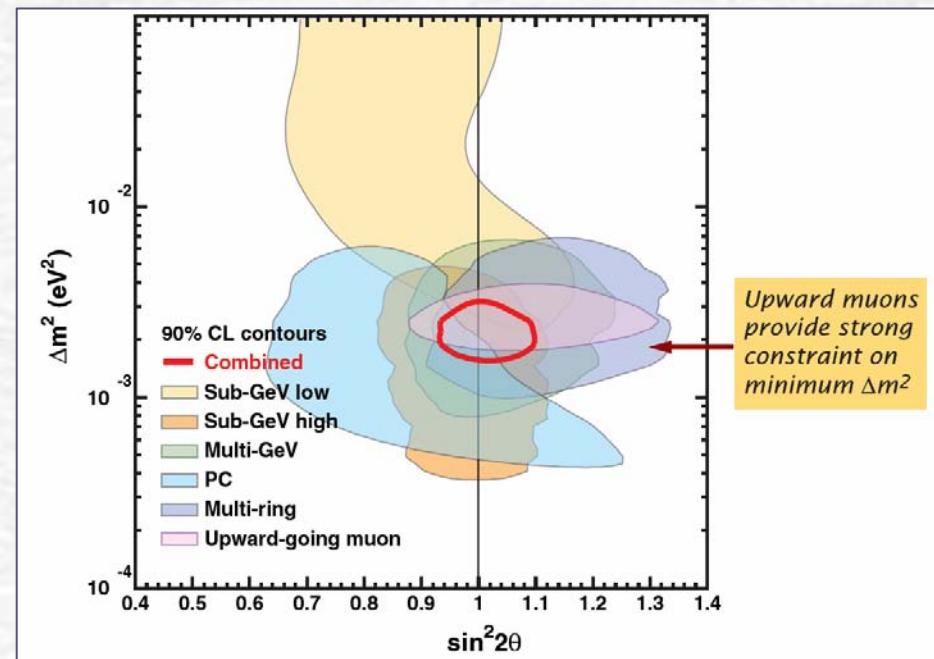
# Combined Oscillation Analysis Results



- Two-flavor  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  oscillation gives an excellent fit to the data
- Even allowing for systematic uncertainties, the no-oscillation hypothesis is statistically ruled out

# Atmospheric Neutrino Sub-Samples

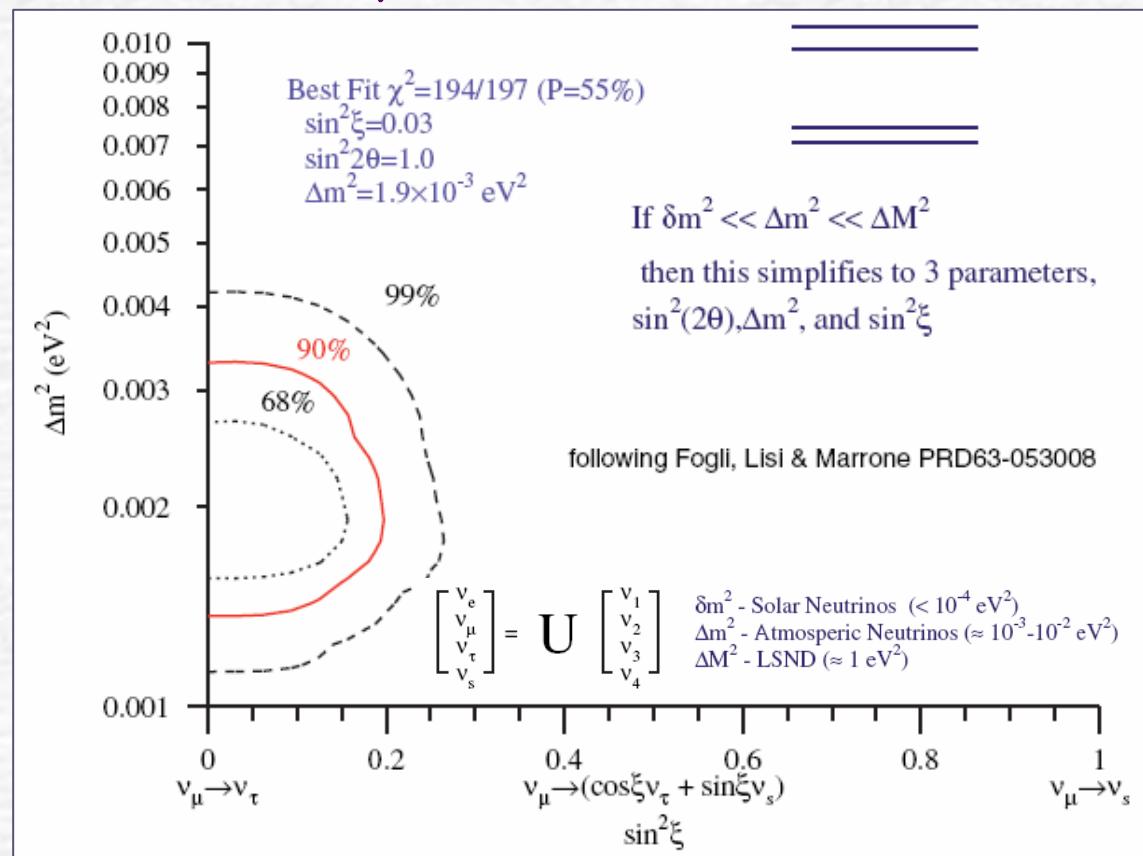
- Each sub-sample looks at different ranges of neutrino energy, so they individually allow quite different regions
- All sub-samples are consistent with the global best-fit region



# $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ and/or $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_{\text{sterile}}$ ?

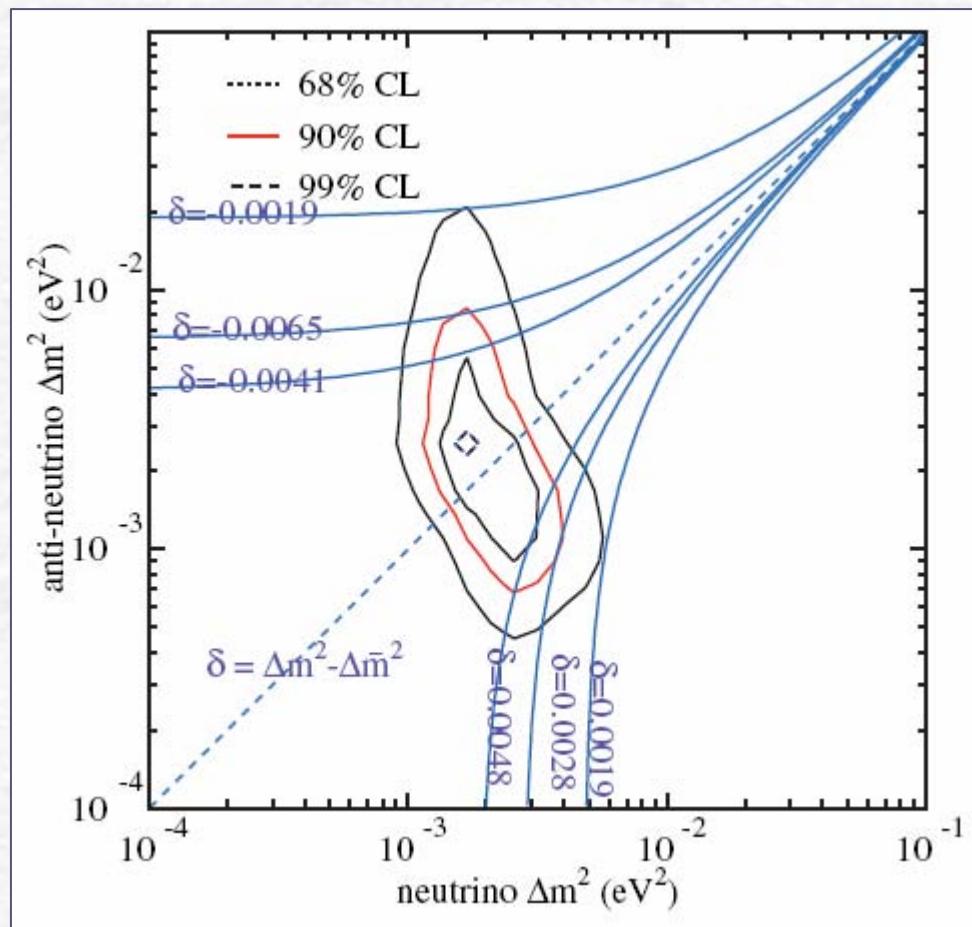
Matter effects discriminate between oscillation into active and sterile neutrinos

- Only a small admixture of sterile neutrino oscillation is allowed

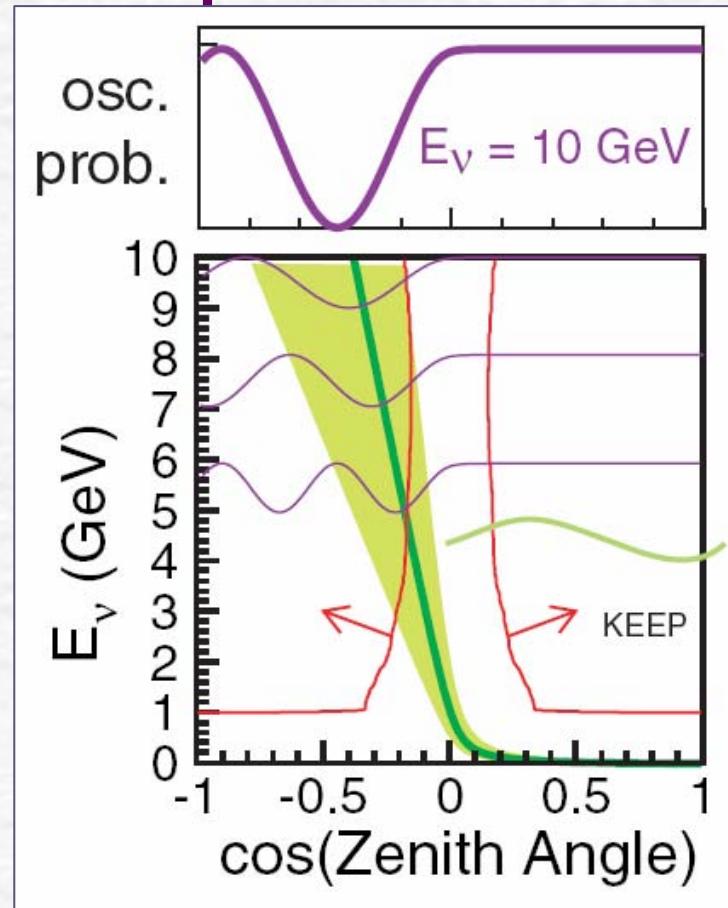
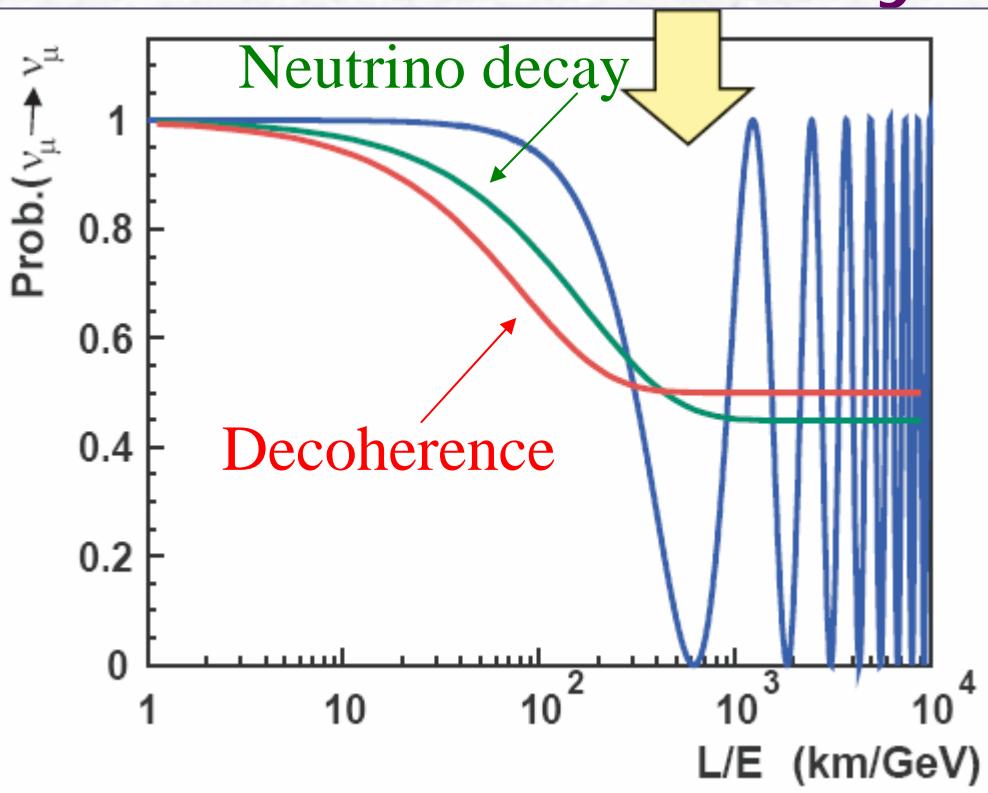


# Exotic Explanations

- ✓ LSND can be reconciled with solar and atmospheric mixing if CPT symmetry is violated
  - Neutrinos and anti-neutrinos have different masses
- ✓ Our data strongly disfavors this scenario

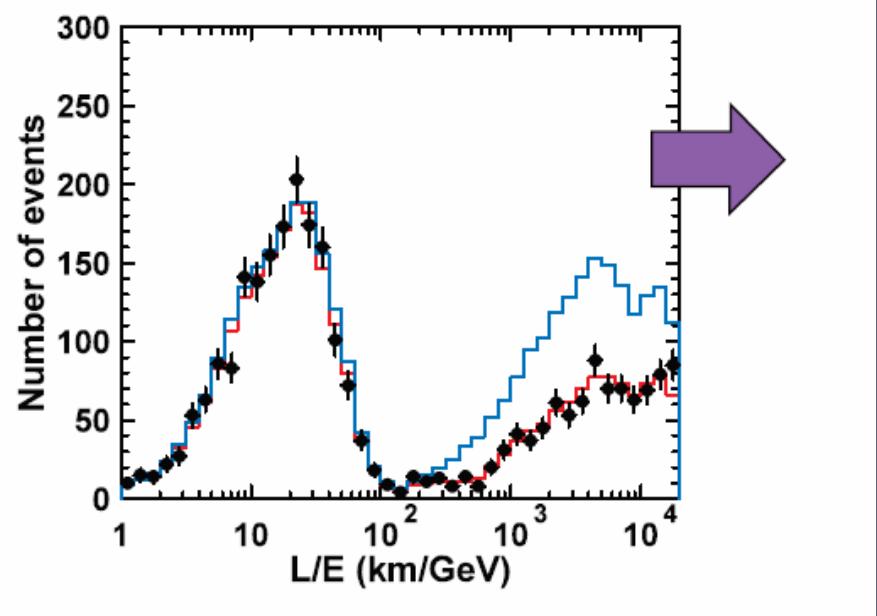


# Search Oscillatory L/E dependence

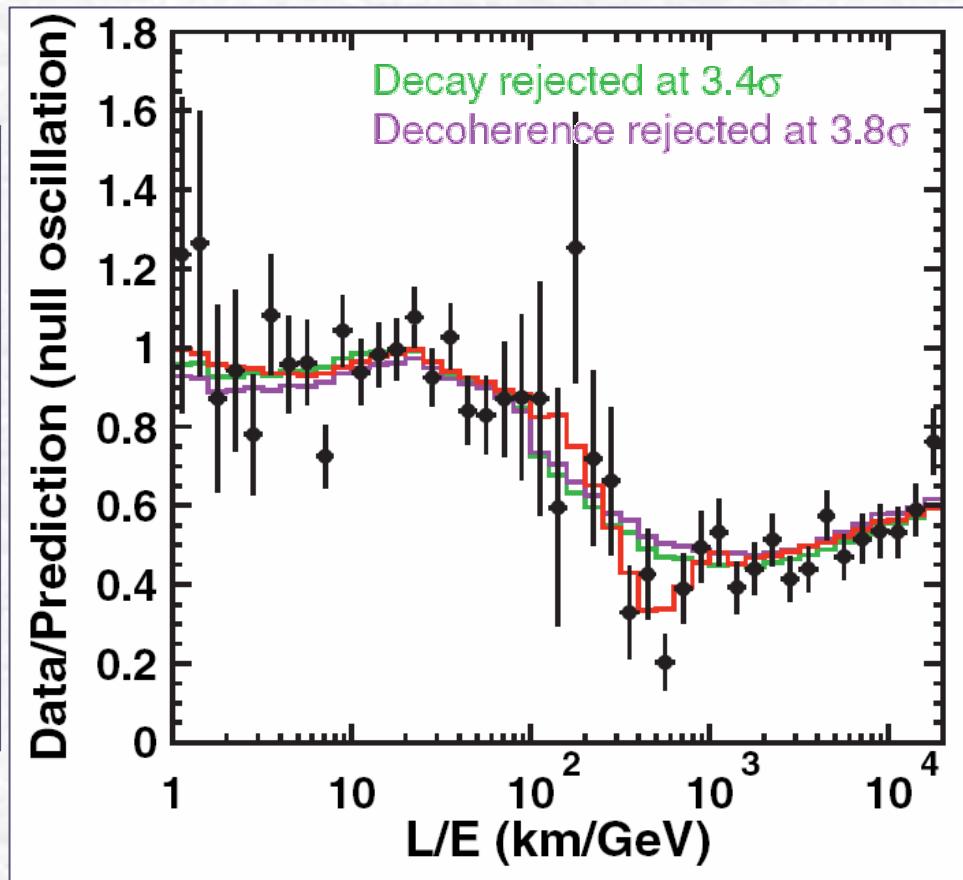


- Search for direct oscillatory dependence on  $L/E$  requires using a high- $L/E$  resolution sub-sample

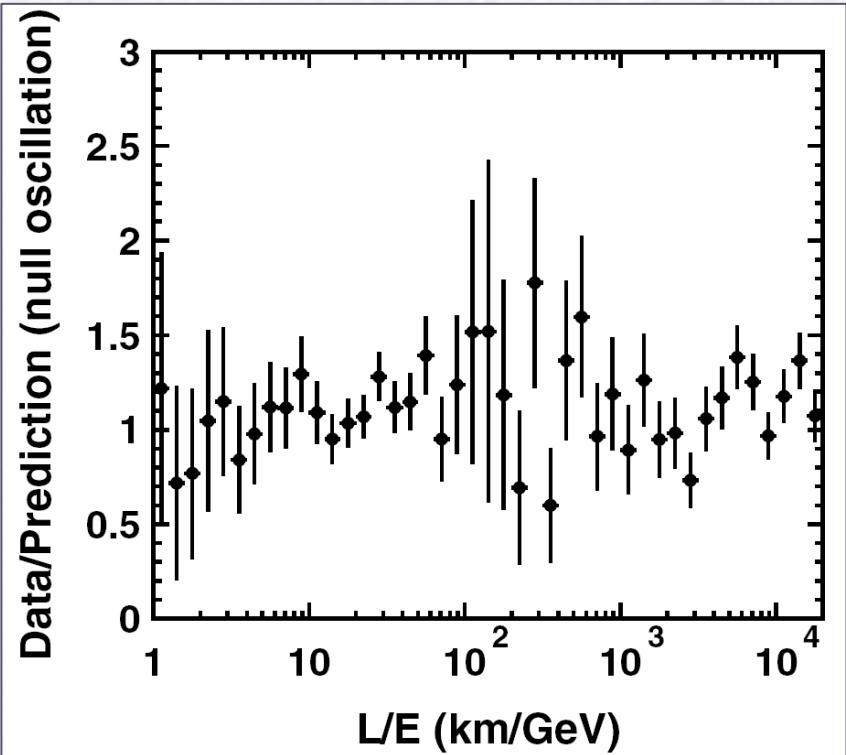
# "Direct" Evidence for Oscillation



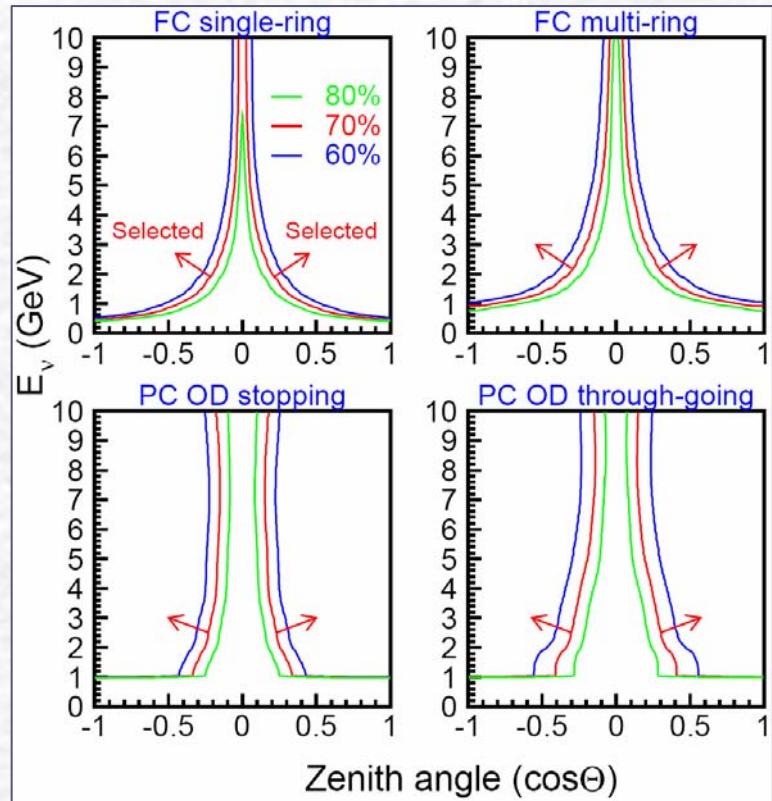
High  $L/E$ -resolution  $\mu$ -like  
data sample



# Checks on L/E Analysis



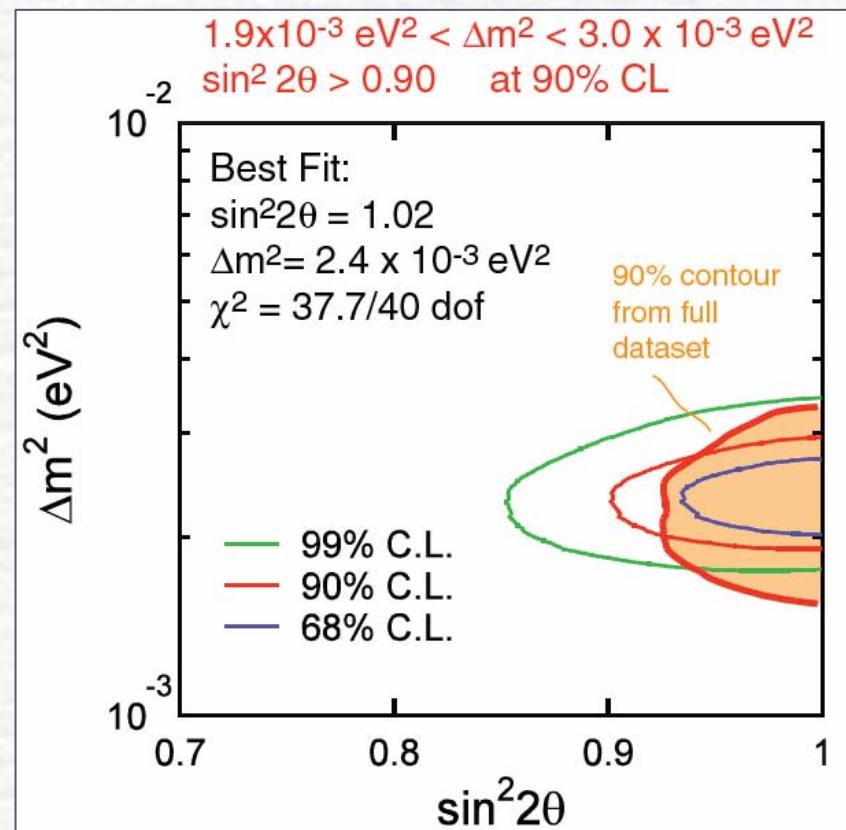
No “dip” seen in high-L/E resolution e-like data



Vary the L/E resolution cut from 60-80%

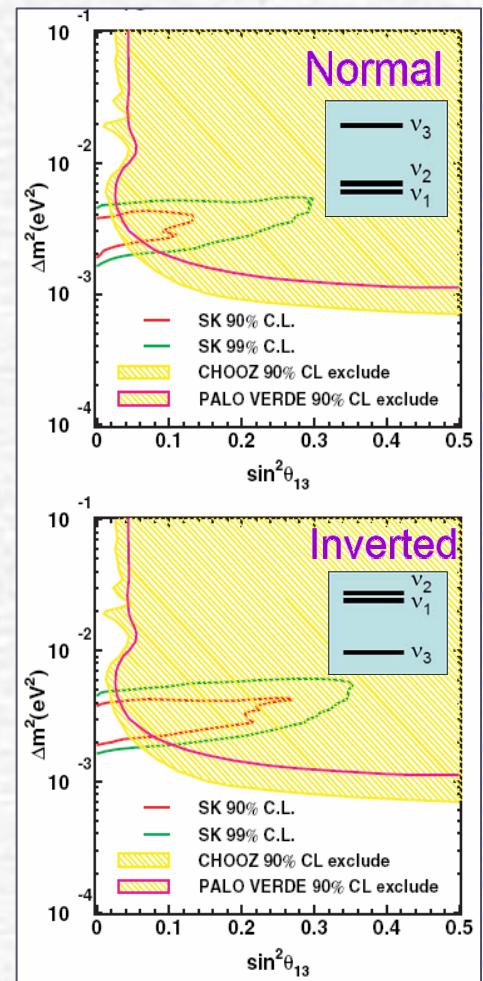
# L/E Analysis Results

- ✓ A fit to the high-L/E resolution sample gives results consistent with the global (non-L/E) analysis
  - Note samples are not independent
  - Slightly better constraint on minimum value of  $\Delta m^2$



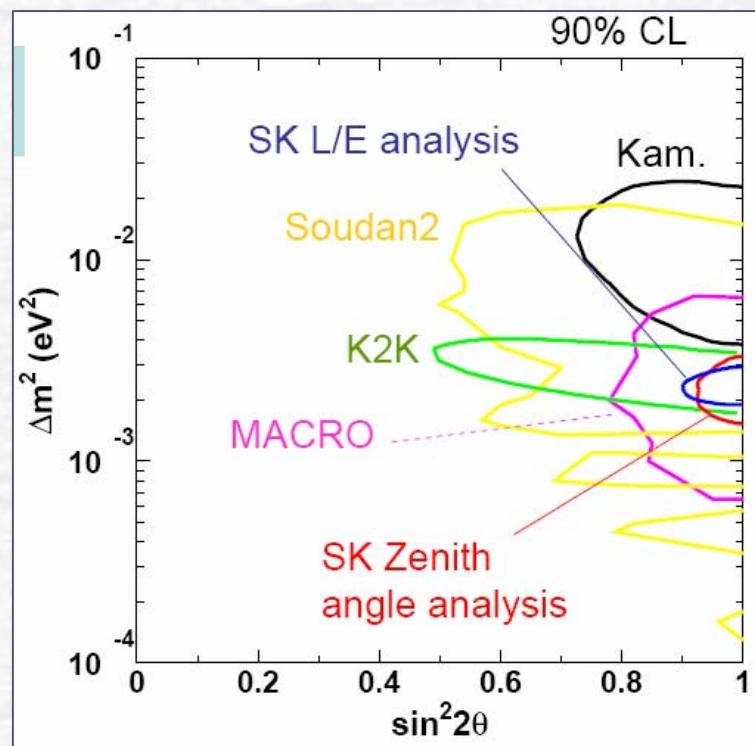
# Three-Flavor Analysis

- We can also do a full three-flavor oscillation analysis, and search for  $\nu_e$  appearance
  - Indicator of non-zero  $\theta_{13}$
- Our current limits do not improve on those set by the CHOOZ experiment



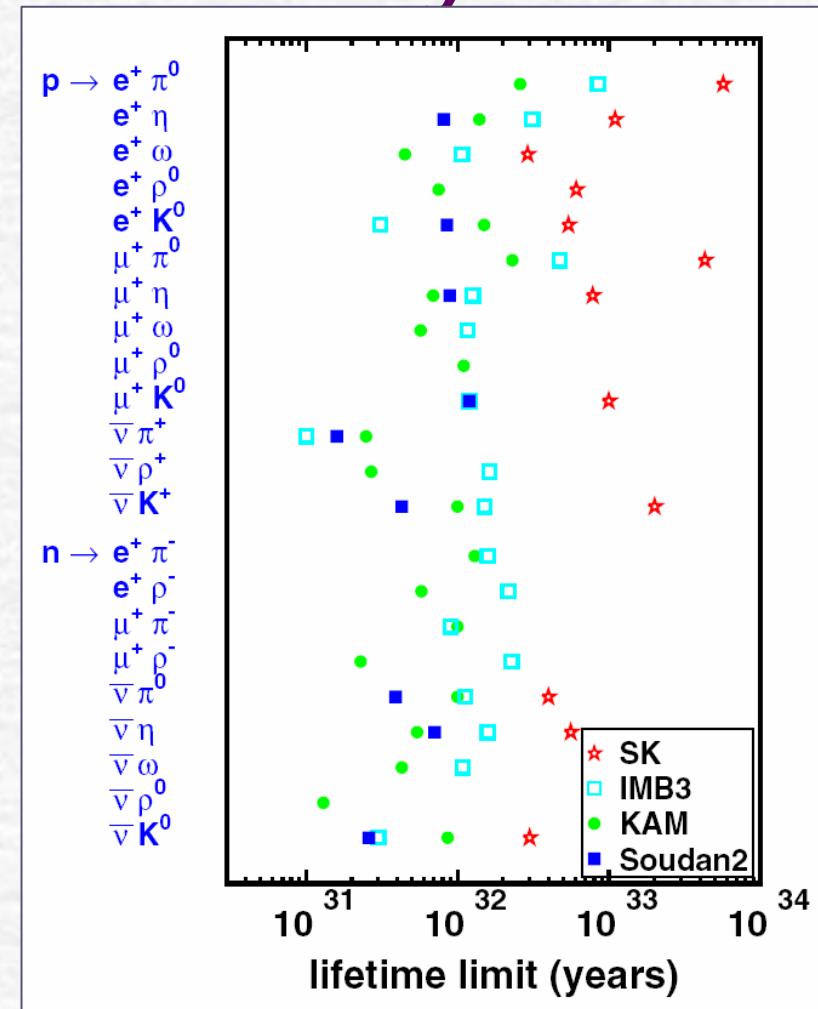
# Atmospheric Neutrino Summary

Super-K atmospheric neutrino data show strong evidence for  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  oscillation, with near-maximal mixing and  $\Delta m^2_{23} \sim (2\text{-}3) \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$

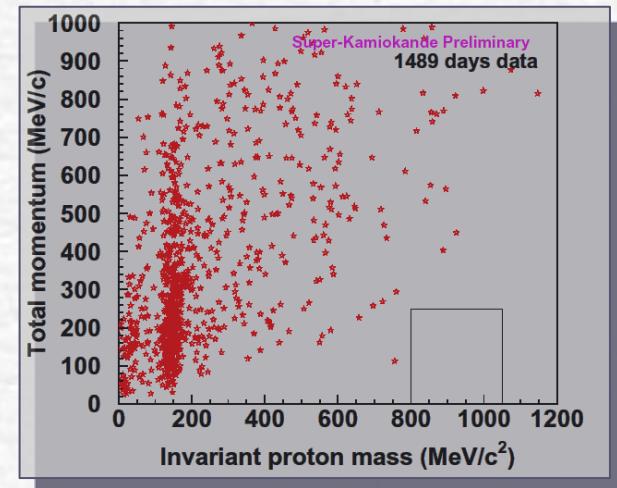
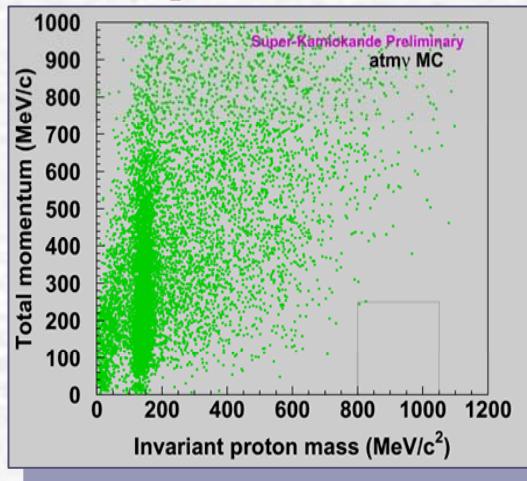
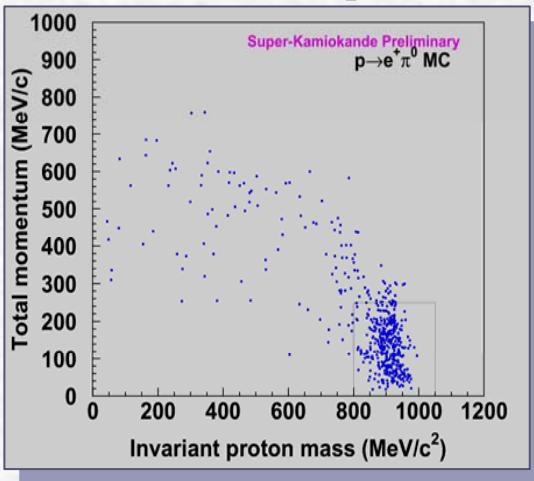


# Search for Proton Decay

- Proton decay remains a high priority, as no known symmetry requires the proton to be stable
  - No evidence of a nucleon decay signal has appeared
  - SuperK has set limits on a wide range of possible decay modes



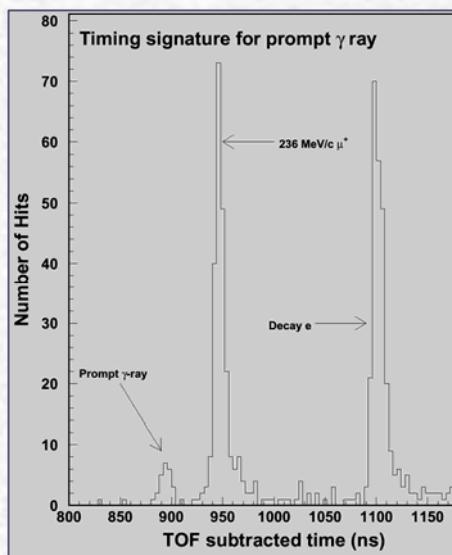
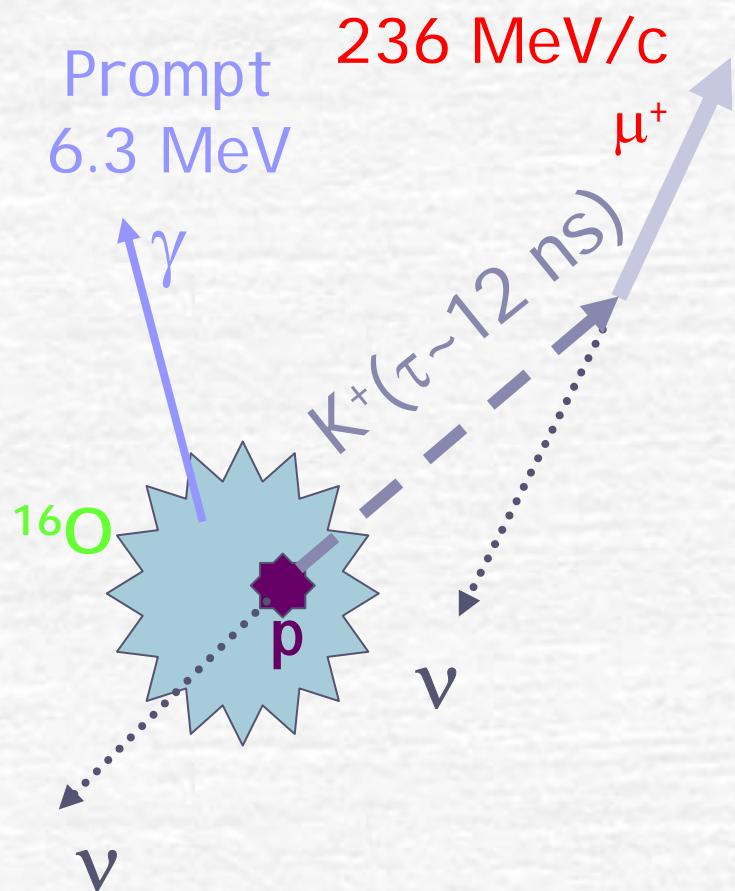
# SuperK I: $p \rightarrow e^+ \pi^0$ Results



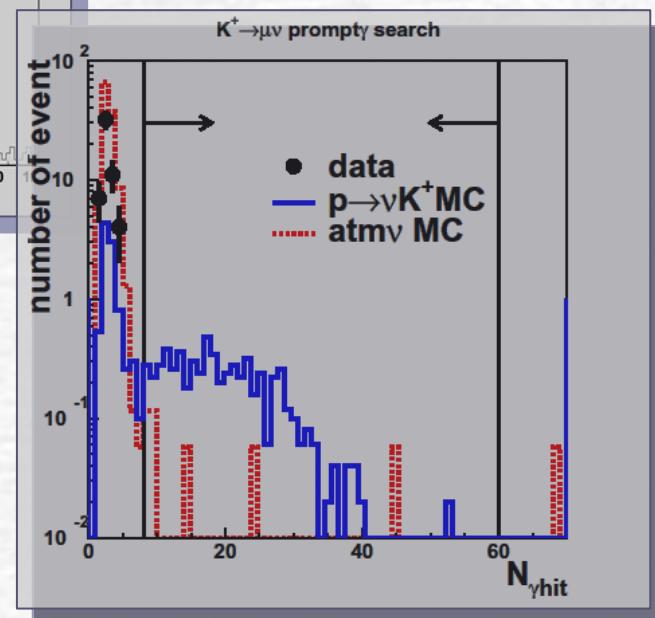
- Require 2-3 showering rings, 0  $\mu \rightarrow e$
- $\pi^0$  mass cut if 3 rings
- Overall Detection Efficiency: 43%
- No candidates
- $\tau/\beta > 5.7 \times 10^{33}$  yrs (90% CL)

SuperK I:  
1489 days = 0.091 Mty

# SuperK I: $^{16}\text{O} \rightarrow ^{15}\text{N}^* + \nu\text{K}^+ (\text{K}^+ \rightarrow \mu^+\nu)$



No candidates



# SuperK I: $p \rightarrow \nu K^+$ Summary

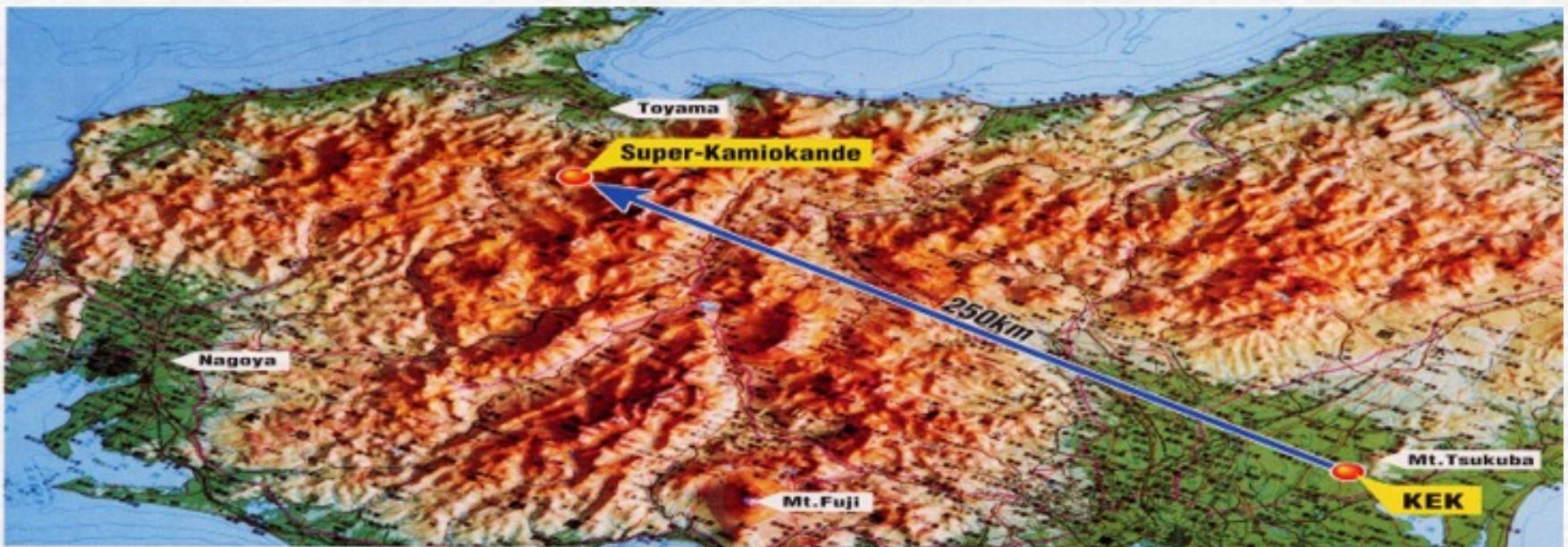
mode	efficiency	background	data	limit ( $10^{32}$ yr)
prompt $\gamma$	8.8→8.7%	0.5 → 0.3	0	11.5
spectrum fit	33%	---	---	5.5
$\pi^+ \pi^0$	6.8→ 6.5%	1.7→ 0.9	1 → 0	5.9 → 8.6

Combined Limit:  $1.6 \rightarrow 2.0 \times 10^{33}$  years

# Particle Astrophysics

- ➊ Diverse studies of particle astrophysics, including:
  - Supernova watch
  - Search for relic supernova neutrinos
  - Search for neutrinos from gamma-ray bursts
  - Searches for point-sources of neutrinos
  - Searches for neutrinos from dark-matter (WIMP) annihilation in the Sun and Earth

# The K2K Long-Baseline Experiment



# The Future: T2K Long-baseline

- ☛ Use 0.75 MW, 50-GeV proton synchrotron for 295km neutrino beam to Super-K
- ☛ Factor 20 improvement in  $\theta_{13}$  sensitivity over CHOOZ
- ☛ Measure  $\sin^2 2\theta_{23}$  to 1%
- ☛ Measure  $\Delta m_{23}^2$  to few %
- ☛ CPV search in phase 2

