

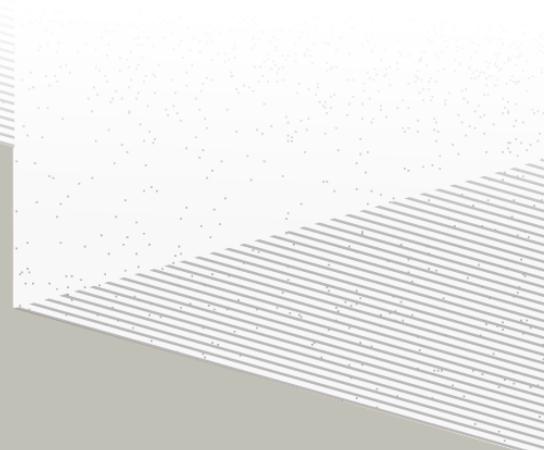
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# THÈSE DE DOCTORAT DE

L'UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES

ÉCOLE DOCTORALE N°596  
*Matière, Molécules, Matériaux*  
Spécialité : *Physique des particules*



Par

**Léonard Imbert**

**Precision measurement of solar neutrino oscillation parameters  
with the JUNO small PMTs system and test of the unitarity of the  
PMNS matrix**

Thèse présentée et soutenue à Nantes, le Too soon and too early at the same time  
Unité de recherche : Laboratoire SUBATECH, UMR 6457

## Rapporteurs avant soutenance :

Someone	Very high position, Somewhere
Someone else	Another high position, Somewhere else

## Composition du Jury :

Président :	Jacques Chirac	French president, France
Examinateurs :	Yoda	Master, Dagobha
Dir. de thèse :	Frédéric Yermia	Professeur, Université de Nantes
Co-dir. de thèse :	Benoit Viaud	Chargé de recherche, CNRS

## Invité(s) :

Victor Lebrin Docteur, CNRS/SUBATECH



# <sup>3</sup> List of Abbreviations

<b>ACU</b>	Automatic Calibration Unit
<b>BDT</b>	Boosted Decision Tree
<b>CD</b>	Central Detector
<b>CLS</b>	Cable Loop System
<b>CNN</b>	Convolutional NN
<b>DNN</b>	Deep NN
<b>FCDNN</b>	Fully Connected Deep NN
<b>GNN</b>	Graph NN
<b>GT</b>	Guiding Tube
<b>IBD</b>	Inverse Beta Decay
<b>IO</b>	Inverse Ordering
<b>JUNO</b>	Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory
<b>LPMT</b>	Large PMT
<b>LS</b>	Liquid Scintillator
<b>MC</b>	Monte Carlo simulation
<b>ML</b>	Machine Learning
<b>NMO</b>	Neutrino Mass Ordering
<b>NN</b>	Neural Network
<b>NO</b>	Normal Ordering
<b>OSIRIS</b>	Online Scintillator Internal Radioactivity Investigation System
<b>PE</b>	Photo Electron
<b>PMT</b>	Photo-Multipliers Tubes
<b>ROV</b>	Remotely Operated under-LS Vehicle
<b>SPMT</b>	Small PMT
<b>TAO</b>	Taishan Antineutrino Observatory
<b>TR Area</b>	Total Reflexion Area
<b>TTS</b>	Time Transit Spread
<b>TT</b>	Top Tracker
<b>WCD</b>	Water Cherenkov Detector



# 4 Contents

5	<b>Contents</b>	1
6	<b>Remerciements</b>	3
7	<b>Introduction</b>	5
8	<b>1 Neutrino physics</b>	7
9	1.1 Standard model . . . . .	7
10	1.1.1 Limits of the standard model . . . . .	7
11	1.2 Historic of the neutrino . . . . .	7
12	1.3 Oscillation . . . . .	7
13	1.3.1 Phenomologies . . . . .	7
14	1.4 Open questions . . . . .	7
15	<b>2 The JUNO experiment</b>	9
16	2.1 Neutrinos physics in JUNO . . . . .	9
17	2.1.1 Reactor neutrino oscillation for NMO and precise measurements . . . . .	10
18	2.1.2 Other physics . . . . .	13
19	2.2 The JUNO detector . . . . .	14
20	2.2.1 Detection principle . . . . .	14
21	2.2.2 Central Detector (CD) . . . . .	16
22	2.2.3 Veto detector . . . . .	18
23	2.3 Calibration strategy . . . . .	19
24	2.3.1 Energy scale calibration . . . . .	19
25	2.3.2 Calibration system . . . . .	20
26	2.4 Satellite detectors . . . . .	20
27	2.4.1 TAO . . . . .	21
28	2.4.2 OSIRIS . . . . .	22
29	2.5 Software . . . . .	22
30	2.6 State of the art of the Offline IBD reconstruction in JUNO . . . . .	23
31	2.6.1 Interaction vertex reconstruction . . . . .	23
32	2.6.2 Energy reconstruction . . . . .	27
33	2.6.3 Machine learning for reconstruction . . . . .	29
34	2.7 JUNO sensitivity to NMO and precise measurements . . . . .	32
35	2.7.1 Theoretical spectrum . . . . .	33
36	2.7.2 Fitting procedure . . . . .	33

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37	2.7.3 Physics results . . . . .	33
38	2.8 Summary . . . . .	34
39	<b>3 Machine learning and Artificial Neural Network</b>	<b>35</b>
40	3.1 Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) . . . . .	35
41	3.2 Artificial Neural Network (NN) . . . . .	36
42	3.2.1 Fully Connected Deep Neural Network (FCDNN) . . . . .	36
43	3.2.2 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) . . . . .	37
44	3.2.3 Graph Neural Network (GNN) . . . . .	37
45	3.2.4 Adversarial Neural Network (ANN) . . . . .	38
46	<b>4 Image recognition for IBD reconstruction with the SPMT system</b>	<b>39</b>
47	4.1 Motivations . . . . .	39
48	4.2 Method and model . . . . .	39
49	4.2.1 Model . . . . .	40
50	4.2.2 Data representation . . . . .	40
51	4.3 Results . . . . .	40
52	4.4 Conclusion . . . . .	40
53	<b>5 Graph representation of JUNO for IBD reconstruction with the LPMT system</b>	<b>41</b>
54	<b>6 Reliability of machine learning methods</b>	<b>43</b>
55	<b>7 Joint fit between the SPMT and LPMT spectra</b>	<b>45</b>
56	<b>8 Conclusion</b>	<b>47</b>
57	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>49</b>

<sup>58</sup> Remerciements



# 59 Introduction



<sup>60</sup> **Chapter 1**

<sup>61</sup> **Neutrino physics**

<sup>62</sup>

*The neutrino, or  $\nu$  for the close friends, a fascinating and invisible particle. Some will say that dark matter also have those property but at least we are pretty confident that neutrinos exists.*

<sup>63</sup> **1.1 Standard model**

<sup>64</sup> **1.1.1 Limits of the standard model**

<sup>65</sup> **1.2 Historic of the neutrino**

<sup>66</sup> **First theories**

<sup>67</sup> **Discovery**

<sup>68</sup> **Milestones and anomalies**

<sup>69</sup> **1.3 Oscillation**

<sup>70</sup> **1.3.1 Phenomologies**

<sup>71</sup> **1.4 Open questions**

Decrire le m  
Regarder th  
Kochebina  
Limite du r  
Interessant,  
les neutrino  
CP ? Pb des



<sup>72</sup> **Chapter 2**

<sup>73</sup> **The JUNO experiment**

<sup>74</sup> “Ave Juno, rosae rosam, et spiritus rex”. It means nothing but I found it in tone.

<sup>75</sup> The first idea of a medium baseline ( $\sim 52$  km) experiment, was explored in 2008 [1] where it was  
<sup>76</sup> demonstrated that the Neutrino Mass Ordering (NMO) could be determined by a medium baseline  
<sup>77</sup> experiment if  $\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) > 0.005$  without the requirements of accurate knowledge of the reactor  
<sup>78</sup> antineutrino spectra and the value of  $\Delta m_{32}^2$ . From this idea is born the Jiangmen Underground  
<sup>79</sup> Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) experiment.

<sup>80</sup> JUNO is a neutrino detection experiment under construction located in China, in Guangdong  
<sup>81</sup> proving, near the city of Kaiping. Its main objectives are the determination of the mass ordering  
<sup>82</sup> at the  $3-4\sigma$  level in 6 years of data taking and the measurement at the sub-percent precision of the  
<sup>83</sup> oscillation parameters  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$ ,  $\Delta m_{32}^2$  and with less precision  $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$ [2].



FIGURE 2.1 – On the left: Location of the JUNO experiment and its reactor sources in southern china. On the right: Aerial view of the experimental site

<sup>84</sup> For this JUNO will measure the electronic anti-neutrinos ( $\bar{\nu}_e$ ) flux coming from the nuclear reactors of Taishan, Yangjiang, for a total power of  $26.6 \text{ GW}_{th}$ , and the Daya Bay power plant to a lesser extent. All of those cores are the second-generation pressurized water reactors CPR1000, which is a derivative of Framatome M310. Details about the power plants characteristics and their expected flux of  $\bar{\nu}_e$  can be found in the table 2.1. The distance of 53 km has been specifically chosen to maximize the disappearance probability of the  $\bar{\nu}_e$ . The data taking is scheduled to start early 2025.

<sup>90</sup> **2.1 Neutrinos physics in JUNO**

<sup>91</sup> Even if the JUNO design detailed in section 2.2 was optimized for the measurement of the NMO,  
<sup>92</sup> its large detection volume, excellent energy resolution and background level and understanding  
<sup>93</sup> make it also an excellent detector to measure the flux coming from other neutrino sources. Thus

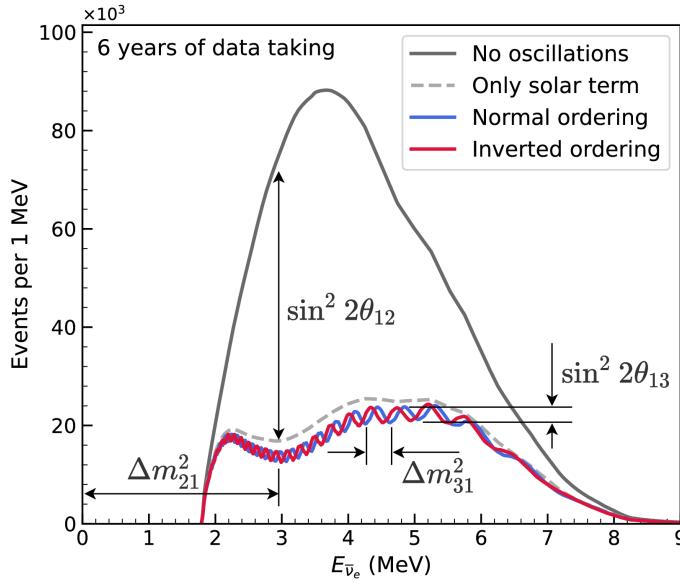


FIGURE 2.2 – Expected number of neutrinos event per MeV in JUNO after 6 years of data taking. The black curve shows the flux if there was no oscillation. The light gray curve shows the oscillation if only the solar terms are taken in account ( $\theta_{12}$ ,  $\Delta m^2_{21}$ ). The blue and red curve shows the spectrum in the case of, respectively, NO and IO. The dependency of the oscillation to the different parameters are schematized by the double sided arrows. We can see the NMO sensitivity by looking at the fine phase shift between the red and the blue curve.

the scientific program of JUNO extends way over reactor antineutrinos. The following section is an overview of the different physics topic JUNO will contribute in the coming years.

### 2.1.1 Reactor neutrino oscillation for NMO and precise measurements

Previous works [1, 3] shows that oscillation parameters and the NMO can be observed by looking at the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  disappearance energy spectrum coming from medium baseline nuclear reactor. This disappearance probability can be expressed as [2] :

$$P(\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{12} c_{13}^4 \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m^2_{21} L}{4E} - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \left[ c_{12}^2 \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m^2_{31} L}{4E} + s_{12}^2 \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m^2_{32} L}{4E} \right]$$

Where  $s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}$ ,  $c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$ ,  $E$  is the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  energy and  $L$  is the baseline. We can see the sensitivity to the NMO in the dependency to  $\Delta m^2_{32}$  and  $\Delta m^2_{31}$  causing a phase shift of the spectrum as we can see in the figure 2.2. By carefully adjusting a theoretical spectrum to the data, one can extract the NMO and the oscillation parameters. The statistic procedure used to adjust the theoretical spectrum is reviewed in more details in the section 2.7. To reach the desired sensitivity, JUNO must meet multiple requirements but most notably:

1. An energy resolution of  $3\% / \sqrt{E(\text{MeV})}$  to be able to distinguish the fine structure of the fast oscillation.
2. An energy precision of 1% in order to not err on the location of the oscillation pattern.
3. A baseline of  $53 \pm 0.5$  km to maximise the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  oscillation probability.
4. At least  $\approx 100,000$  events to limit the spectrum distortion due to statistical uncertainties.

108  **$\bar{\nu}_e$  flux coming from nuclear power plants**

109 To get such high measurements precision, it is necessary to have a very good understanding of  
 110 the sources characteristics. For its NMO and precise measurement studies, JUNO will observe the  
 111 energy spectrum of neutrinos coming from the nuclear power plants Taishan and Yangjiang's cores,  
 112 located at 53 km of the detector to maximise the disappearance probability of the  $\bar{\nu}_e$ .

Reactor	Power (GW <sub>th</sub> )	Baseline (km)	IBD Rate (day <sup>-1</sup> )	Relative Flux (%)
Taishan	9.2	52.71	15.1	32.1
Core 1	4.6	52.77	7.5	16.0
Core 2	4.6	52.64	7.6	16.1
Yangjiang	17.4	52.46	29.0	61.5
Core 1	2.9	52.74	4.8	10.1
Core 2	2.9	52.82	4.7	10.1
Core 3	2.9	52.41	4.8	10.3
Core 4	2.9	52.49	4.8	10.2
Core 5	2.9	52.11	4.9	10.4
Core 6	2.9	52.19	4.9	10.4
Daya Bay	17.4	215	3.0	6.4

TABLE 2.1 – Characteristics of the nuclear power plants observed by JUNO. The IBD rate are estimated from the baselines, the reactors full thermal power, selection efficiency and the current knowledge of the oscillation parameters

113 The  $\bar{\nu}_e$  coming from reactors are emitted from  $\beta$ -decay of unstable fission fragments. The Taishan  
 114 and Yangjiang reactors are Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR), the same type as Daya Bay. In those  
 115 type of reactor more the 99.7 % and  $\bar{\nu}_e$  are produced by the fissions of four fuel isotopes  $^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  
 116  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  and  $^{241}\text{Pu}$ . The neutrino flux per fission of each isotope is determined by the inversion of the  
 117 measured  $\beta$  spectra of fission product [4–8] or by calculation using the nuclear databases [9, 10].

118 The neutrino flux coming from a reactor at a time  $t$  can be predicted using

$$\phi(E_\nu, t)_r = \frac{W_{th}(t)}{\sum_i f_i(t) e_i} \sum_i f_i(t) S_i(E_\nu) \quad (2.1)$$

119 where  $W_{th}(t)$  is the thermal power of the reactor,  $f_i(t)$  is the fraction fission of the  $i$ th isotope,  $e_i$  its  
 120 thermal energy released in each fission and  $S_i(e_\nu)$  the neutrino flux per fission for this isotope. Using  
 121 this method, the flux uncertainty is expected to be of an order of 2-3 % [11].

122 In addition to those prediction, a satellite experiment named TAO[12] will be setup near the  
 123 reactor core Taishan-1 to measure with an energy resolution of 2% at 1 MeV the neutrino flux coming  
 124 from the core, more details can be found in section 2.4.1. It will help identifying unknown fine  
 125 structure and give more insight on the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  flux coming from this reactor.

126 One the open issue about reactor anti-neutrinos flux is the so-called neutrino anomaly [13], an  
 127 unexpected surplus of neutrino emission in the spectra around 5 MeV. Multiples scientists are trying  
 128 to explain this surplus by advanced recalculation of the nuclei model during beta decay [14, 15] but  
 129 no consensus on this issue has been reached yet.

130 **Background in the neutrinos reactor spectrum**

131 Considering the close reactor neutrinos flux as the main signal, the signals that are considered as  
 132 background are:

- 133 — The geoneutrinos producing background in the 0.511 ~ 2.7 MeV region.
- 134 — The neutrinos coming from the other nuclear reactors around Earth.

135 In addition to all those physics signal, non-neutrinos signal that would mimic an IBD will also be  
 136 present. It is composed of:

- The signal coming from radioactive decay ( $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\beta$ ) from natural radioactive isotopes in the material of the detector.
- Cosmogenic event such as fast neutrons and activated isotopes induced by muons passing through the detector, most notably the spallation on  $^{12}\text{C}$ .
- All those events represent a non-negligible part of the spectrum as shown in figure 2.3.

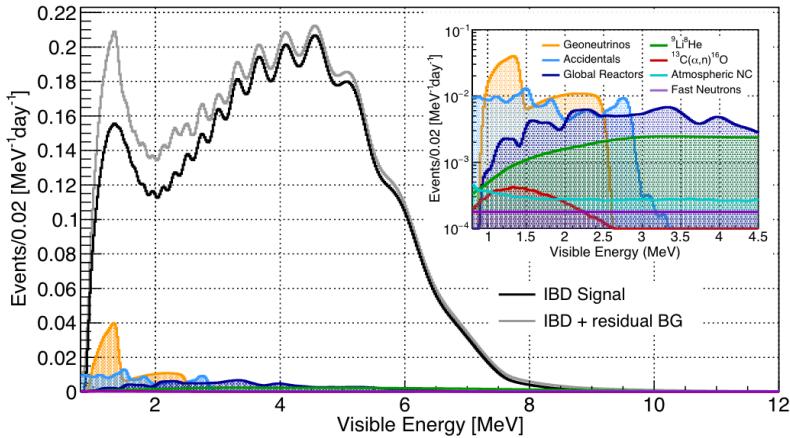


FIGURE 2.3 – Expected visible energy spectrum measured with the LPMT system with (grey) and without (black) backgrounds. The background amount for about 7% of the IBD candidate and are mostly localized below 3 MeV [11]

#### 142 Identification of the mass ordering

143 To identify the mass ordering, we adjust the theoretical neutrino energy spectrum under the  
 144 two hypothesis of NO and IO. Those give us two  $\chi^2$ , respectively  $\chi^2_{NO}$  and  $\chi^2_{IO}$ . By computing the  
 145 difference  $\Delta\chi^2 = \chi^2_{NO} - \chi^2_{IO}$  we can determine the most probable mass ordering and the confidence  
 146 interval: NO if  $\Delta\chi^2 > 0$  and IO if  $\Delta\chi^2 < 0$ . Current studies shows that the expected sensitivity  
 147 the mass ordering would be of  $3.4\sigma$  after 6 years of data taking in nominal setup[2]. More detailed  
 148 explanations about the procedure can be found in the section 2.7.

#### 149 Precise measurement of the oscillations parameters

150 The oscillations parameters  $\theta_{12}$ ,  $\theta_{13}$ ,  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  are free parameters in the fit of the oscillation  
 151 spectrum. The precision on those parameters have been estimated and are shown in table 2.2. Wee  
 152 see that for  $\theta_{12}$ ,  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\Delta m_{31}^2$ , precision at 6 years is better than the reference precision by an order of  
 153 magnitude [11]

	Central Value	PDG 2020	100 days	6 years	20 years
$\Delta m_{31}^2 (\times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2)$	2.5283	$\pm 0.034$ (1.3%)	$\pm 0.021$ (0.8%)	$\pm 0.0047$ (0.2%)	$\pm 0.0029$ (0.1%)
$\Delta m_{21}^2 (\times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2)$	7.53	$\pm 0.18$ (2.4%)	$\pm 0.074$ (1.0%)	$\pm 0.024$ (0.3%)	$\pm 0.017$ (0.2%)
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	0.307	$\pm 0.013$ (4.2%)	$\pm 0.0058$ (1.9%)	$\pm 0.0016$ (0.5%)	$\pm 0.0010$ (0.3%)
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	0.0218	$\pm 0.0007$ (3.2%)	$\pm 0.010$ (47.9%)	$\pm 0.0026$ (12.1%)	$\pm 0.0016$ (7.3%)

TABLE 2.2 – A summary of precision levels fir the oscillation parameters. The reference value (PDG 2020 [16]) is compared with 100 days, 6 years and 20 years of JUNO data taking.

### 2.1.2 Other physics

While the design of JUNO is tailored to measure  $\bar{\nu}_e$  coming from nuclear reactor, JUNO will be able to detect neutrinos coming from other sources thus allowing for a wide range of physics studies as detailed in the table 2.3 and in the following sub-sections.

Research	Expected signal	Energy region	Major backgrounds
Reactor antineutrino	60 IBDs/day	0–12 MeV	Radioactivity, cosmic muon
Supernova burst	5000 IBDs at 10 kpc	0–80 MeV	Negligible
DSNB (w/o PSD)	2300 elastic scattering		
Solar neutrino	2–4 IBDs/year	10–40 MeV	Atmospheric $\nu$
Atmospheric neutrino	hundreds per year for ${}^8\text{B}$	0–16 MeV	Radioactivity
Geoneutrino	hundreds per year	0.1–100 GeV	Negligible
	$\approx 400$ per year	0–3 MeV	Reactor $\nu$

TABLE 2.3 – Detectable neutrino signal in JUNO and the expected signal rates and major background sources

### 158 Geoneutrinos

159 Geoneutrinos designate the antineutrinos coming from the decay of long-lived radioactive  
 160 elements inside the Earth. The 1.8 MeV threshold necessary for the IBD makes it possible to measure  
 161 geoneutrinos from  ${}^{238}\text{U}$  and  ${}^{232}\text{Th}$  decay chains. The studies of geoneutrinos can help refine the Earth  
 162 crust models but is also necessary to characterise their signal, as they are a background to the mass  
 163 ordering and oscillations parameters studies.

### 164 Atmospheric neutrinos

165 Atmospheric neutrinos are neutrinos originating from the decay of  $\pi$  and  $K$  particles that are  
 166 produced in extensive air showers initiated by the interactions of cosmic rays with the Earth atmos-  
 167 phere. Earth is mostly transparent to neutrinos below the PeV energy, thus JUNO will be able to  
 168 see neutrinos coming from all directions. Their baseline range is large (15km  $\sim$  13000km), they can  
 169 have energy between 0.1 GeV and 10 TeV and will contain all neutrino and antineutrinos flavour.  
 170 Their studies is complementary to the reactor antineutrinos and can help refine the constraints on  
 171 the NMO [2].

### 172 Supernovae burst neutrinos

173 Neutrinos are crucial component during all stages of stellar collapse and explosion. Detection  
 174 of neutrinos coming for core collapse supernovae will provide us important informations on the  
 175 mechanisms at play in those events. Thanks to its 20 kt sensible volume, JUNO has excellent capa-  
 176 bilities to detect all flavour of the  $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ MeV})$  postshock neutrinos, and using neutrinos of the  $\mathcal{O}(1$   
 177 MeV) will give informations about the pre-supernovae neutrinos. All those informations will allow  
 178 to disentangle between the multiple hydro-dynamic models that are currently used to describe the  
 179 different stage of core-collapse supernovae.

### 180 Diffuse supernovae neutrinos background

181 Core-collapse supernovae in our galaxy are rare events, but they frequently occur throughout the  
 182 visible Universe sending burst of neutrinos in direction of the Earth. All those events contributes to  
 183 a low background flux of low-energy neutrinos called the Diffuse Supernovae Neutrino Background  
 184 (DSNB). Its flux and spectrum contains informations about the red-shift dependent supernovae rate,

185 the average supernovae neutrino energy and the fraction of black-hole formation in core-collapse supernovae.  
 186 Depending of the DSNB model, we can expect 2-4 IBD events per year in the energy range  
 187 above the reactor  $\bar{\nu}_e$  signal, which is competitive with the current Super-Kamiokande+Gadolinium  
 188 phase [17].

### 189 Beyond standard model neutrinos interactions

190 JUNO will also be able to probe for beyond standard model neutrinos interactions. After the  
 191 main physics topics have been accomplished, JUNO could be upgraded to probe for neutrinoless  
 192 beta decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ). The detection of such event would give critical informations about the nature  
 193 of neutrinos, is it a majorana or a dirac particle. JUNO will also be able to probe for neutrinos that  
 194 would come for the decay or annihilation of Dark Matter inside the sun and neutrinos from putative  
 195 primordial black hole. Through the unitary test of the mixing matrix, JUNO will be able to search  
 196 for light sterile neutrinos. Thanks to JUNO sensitivity, multiple other exotic can be performed on  
 197 neutrino related beyond standard model interactions.

## 198 2.2 The JUNO detector

199 The JUNO detector is a scintillator detector buried 693.35 meters under the ground (1800 meters  
 200 water equivalent). It consist of Central Detector (CD), a water pool and a Top Tracker (TT) as showed  
 201 in figure 2.4a. The CD is an acrylic vessel containing the 20 ktons of Liquid Scintillator (LS). It is  
 202 supported by a stainless steel structure and is immersed in that water pool that is used as shielding  
 203 from external radiation and as a cherenkov detector for the background. The top of the experiment  
 204 is partially covered by the Top Tracker (TT), a plastic scintillator detector which is use to detect the  
 205 atmospheric muons background and is acting as a veto detector.

206 The top of the experiment also host the LS purification system, a water purification system, a  
 207 ventilation system to get rid of the potential radon in the air. The CD is observed by two system of  
 208 Photo-Multipliers Tubes (PMT). They are attached to the steel structure and their electronic readout  
 209 is submersed near them. A third system of PMT is also installed on the structure but are facing  
 210 outward of the CD, instrumenting the water to be cherenkov detector. The CD and the cherenkov  
 211 detector are optically separated by Tyvek sheet. A chimney for LS filling and purification and for  
 212 calibration operations connects the CD to the experimental hall from the top.

213 The CD has been dimensioned to meet the requirements presented in section 2.1.1:

- 214 — Its 20 ktons monolithic LS provide a volume sizeable enough, in combination with the ex-  
 215 pected  $\bar{\nu}_e$  flux, to reach the desired statistic in 6 years. Its monolithic nature also allow for a  
 216 full containment of most of the events, preventing the energy loss in non-instrumented parts  
 217 that would arise from a segmented detector.
- 218 — Its large overburden shield it from most of the atmospheric background that would pollute  
 219 the signal.
- 220 — The localization of the experiment, chosen to maximize the disappearance with a 53km base-  
 221 line and in a region that allow two nuclear power plant to be used as sources.

222 This section cover in details the different components of the detector and the detection systems.

### 223 2.2.1 Detection principle

The CD will detect the neutrino and measure their energy mainly via an Inverse Beta Decay (IBD) interaction with proton mainly from the  $^{12}\text{C}$  and H nucleus in the LS:

$$\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$$

224 Kinematics calculation shows that this interaction has an energy threshold for the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  of  $(m_n + m_e -$   
 225  $m_p) \approx 1.806 \text{ MeV}$  [18] where  $m_\lambda$  is the mass of the  $\lambda$  particle. This threshold make the experiment

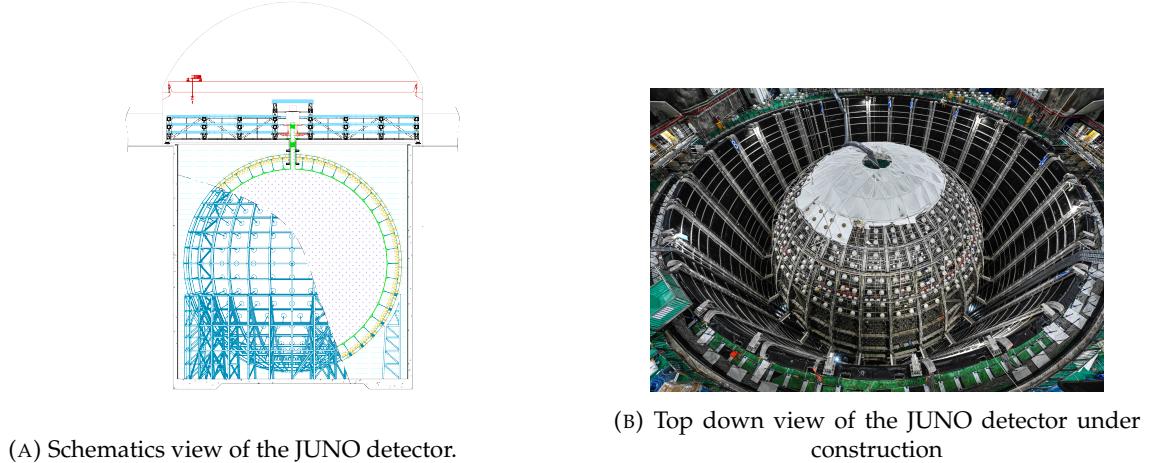


FIGURE 2.4

blind to very low energy neutrinos. The residual energy  $E_\nu - 1.806$  MeV is be distributed as kinetic energy between the positron and the neutron. The energy of the emitted positron  $E_e$  is given by [18]

$$E_e = \frac{(E_\nu - \delta)(1 + \epsilon_\nu) + \epsilon_\nu \cos \theta \sqrt{(E_\nu - \delta)^2 + \kappa m_e^2}}{\kappa} \quad (2.2)$$

where  $\kappa = (1 + \epsilon_\nu)^2 - \epsilon_\nu^2 \cos^2 \theta \approx 1$ ,  $\epsilon_\nu = \frac{E_\nu}{m_p} \ll 1$  and  $\delta = \frac{m_n^2 - m_p^2 - m_e^2}{2m_p} \ll 1$ . We can see from this equation that the positron energy is strongly correlated to the neutrino energy.

The positron and the neutron will then propagate in the detection medium, the Liquid Scintillator (LS), loosing their kinetic energy by exciting the molecule of the LS (more details in section 2.2.2). Once stopped, the positron will annihilate with an electron from the medium producing two 511 KeV gamma. Those gamma will themselves interact with the LS, exciting it before being absorbed by photoelectrical effect. The neutron will be captured by an hydrogen, emitting a 2.2 MeV gamma in the process. This gamma will also deposit its energy before being absorbed by the LS.

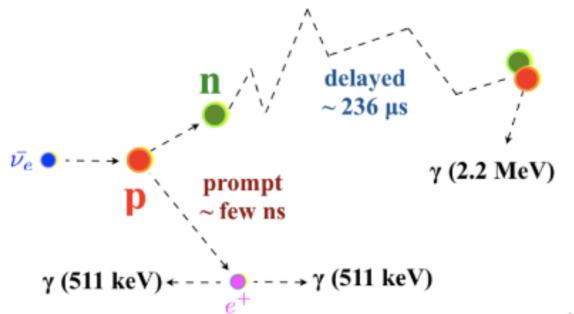


FIGURE 2.5 – Schematics of an IBD interaction in the central detector of JUNO

The scintillation photons have frequency in the UV and will propagate in the LS, being re-absorbed and re-emitted by compton effect before finally be captured by PMTs instrumenting the acrylic sphere. The analog signal of the PMTs digitized by the electronic is the signal of our experiment. The signal produced by the positron is subsequently called the prompt signal, and the signal coming from the neutron the delayed signal. This naming convention come from the fact that the positron will deposit its energy rather quickly (few ns) where the neutron will take a bit more time ( $\sim 236 \mu\text{s}$ ).

## 2.2.2 Central Detector (CD)

The central detector, composed of 20 ktons of Liquid Scintillator (LS), is the main part of JUNO. The LS is contained in a spherical acrylic vessel supported by a stainless steel structure. The CD and its structural support are submerged in a cylindrical water pool of 43.5m diameter and 44m height. We're confident that the water pool provide sufficient buffer protection in every direction against the rock radioactivity.

### Acrylic vessel

The acrylic vessel is a spherical vessel of inner diameter of 35.4 m and a thickness of 120 mm. It is assembled from 265 acrylic panels, thermo bonded together. The acrylic recipes has been carefully tuned with extensive R&D to ensure it does not include plasticizer and anti-UV material that would stop the scintillation photons. Those panels requires to be pure of radioactive materials to not cause background. Current setup where the acrylic panels are molded in cleanrooms of class 10000, let us reach a uranium and thorium contamination of <0.5 ppt. The molding and thermoforming processes is optimized to increase the assemblage transparency in water to >96%. The acrylic vessel is supported by a stainless steel structure via supporting node (fig 2.6). The structure and the nodes are designed to be resilient to natural catastrophic events such as earthquake and can support many times the effective load of the acrylic vessel.

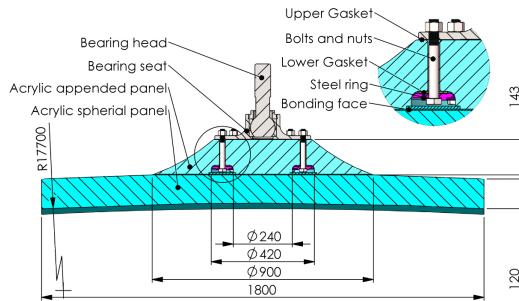


FIGURE 2.6 – Schematics of the supporting node for the acrylic vessel

### Liquid scintillator

The Liquid Scintillator (LS) has a similar recipe as the one used in Daya Bay [19] but without gadolinium doping. It is made of three components, necessary to shift the wavelength of emitted photons to prevent their reabsorption:

1. The detection medium, the *linear alkylbenzene* (LAB). Selected because of its excellent transparency, high flash point, low chemical reactivity and good light yield. Accounting for  $\sim 98\%$  of the LS, it is the main component with which ionizing particles and gamma interact. Charged particles will collide with its electronic cloud transferring energy to the molecules, gamma will interact via compton effect with the electronic cloud before finally be absorbed via photoelectric effect.
2. The second component of the LS is the *2,5-diphenyloxazole* (PPO). A fraction of the excitation energy of the LAB is transferred to the PPO, mainly via non radiative process [20]. The PPO molecules de-excites in the same way, transferring their energy to the bis-MSB. The PPO makes for 1.5 % of the LS.
3. The last component is the *p-bis(o-methylstyryl)-benzene* (bis-MSB). Once excited by the PPO, it will emit photon with an average wavelength of  $\sim 430$  nm (full spectrum in figure 2.7) that can be detected by our photo-multipliers systems. It amount for  $\sim 0.5\%$  of the LS.

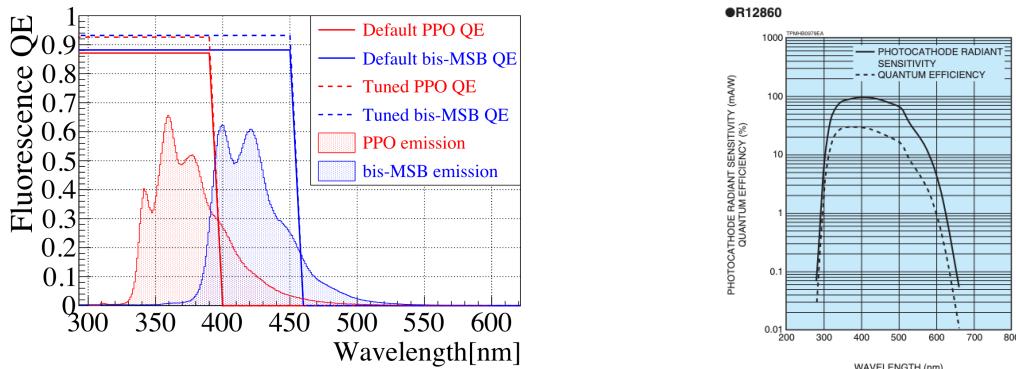


FIGURE 2.7 – On the left: Quantum efficiency (QE) and emission spectrum of the LAB and the bis-MSB [19]. On the right: Sensitivity of the Hamamatsu LPMT depending on the wavelength of the incident photons [21].

This formula has been optimized using dedicated studies with a Daya Bay detector [19, 22] to reach the requirements for the JUNO experiment:

- A light yield / MeV of the amount of  $10^4$  photons to maximize the statistic in the energy measurement.
- An attenuation length comparable to the size of the detector to prevent losing photons during their propagation in the LS. The final attenuation length is 25.8m [23] to compare with the CD diameter of 35.4m.
- Uranium/Thorium radiopurity to prevent background signal. The reactor neutrino program require a contamination fraction  $F < 10^{-15}$  while the solar neutrino program require  $F < 10^{-17}$ .

The LS will frequently be purified and tested in the Online Scintillator Internal Radioactivity Investigation System (OSIRIS) [24] to ensure that the requirements are kept during the lifetime of the experiment, more details to be found in section 2.4.2.

### Large Photo-Multipliers Tubes (PMTs)

The scintillation light produced by the LS is then collected by Photo-Multipliers Tubes (PMT) that transform the incoming photon into an electric signal. As described in figure 2.8, the incident photons interact with the photocathode via photoelectric effect producing an electron called a Photo-Electron (PE). This PE is then focused on the dynodes where the high voltage will allow it to be multiplied. After multiple amplification the resulting charge - in coulomb [C] - is collected by the anode and the resulting electric signal can be digitalized by the readout electronics from which the charge and timing can be extracted.

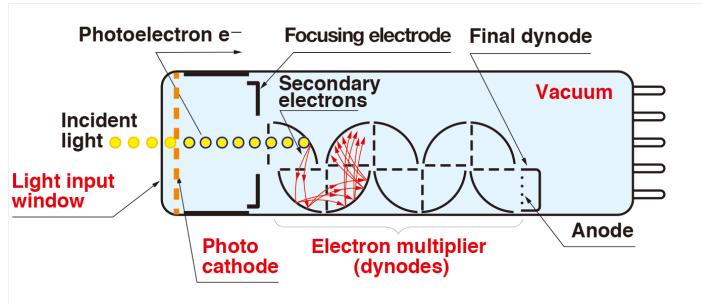


FIGURE 2.8 – Schematic of a PMT

The Large Photo-Multipliers Tubes (LPMT), used in the central detector and in the water pool, are 20-inch (50.8 cm) radius PMTs.  $\sim 5000$  dynode-PMTs [21] were produced by the Hamamatsu<sup>©</sup> company and  $\sim 15000$  Micro-Channel Plate (MCP) [25] by the NNVT<sup>©</sup> company. This system is the one responsible for the energy measurement with a energy resolution of  $3\%/\sqrt{E}$ , resolution necessary for the mass ordering measurement. To reach this precision, the system is composed of 17612 PMTs quasi uniformly distributed over the detector for a coverage of 75.2% reaching  $\sim 1800$  PE/MeV or  $\sim 2.3\%$  resolution due to statistic, leaving  $\sim 0.7\%$  for the systematic uncertainties. They are located outside the acrylic sphere in the water pool facing the center of the detector. To maintain the resolution over the lifetime of the experiment, JUNO require a failure rate  $< 1\%$  over 6 years.

The LPMTs electronic are divided in two parts. One "near", located underwater, in proximity of the LPMT to reduce the cable length between the PMT and early electronic. A second one, outside of the detector that is responsible for higher level analysis before sending the data to the DAQ.

The light yield per MeV induce that a LPMT can collect between 1 and 1000 PE per event, causing non linearity in the PMT response that need to be understood and calibrated, see section 2.3 for more details.

### Small Photo-Multipliers Tubes (SPMTs)

The Small PMT (SPMTs) system is made of 3-inch (7.62 cm) PMTs. They will be used in the CD as a secondary detection system. Those 25600 SPMTs will observe the same events as the LPMTs, thus sharing the physics and detector systematics up until the photon conversion. With a detector coverage of 2.7%, this system will collect  $\sim 43$  PE/MeV for a final energy resolution of  $\sim 17\%$ . This resolution is not enough to measure the NMO,  $\theta_{13}$ ,  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  but will be sufficient to independently measure  $\theta_{12}$  and  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ .

Due to the low PE rate, SPMTs will be running in photo-counting mode in the reactor range and thus will be insensitive to non-linearity effect. Using this property, the intrinsic charge non linearity of the LPMTs can be measured by comparing the PE count in the SPMTs and LPMTs [26]. Also, due to their smaller size and electronics, SPMTs have a better timing resolutions than the LPMTs. At higher energy range, like supernovae events, LPMTs will saturate where SPMTs due to their lower PE collection will to produce a reliable measure of the energy spectrum.

The Data Acquisition System (DAQ) is designed to support the event rate of IBD, background, dark noise and supplementary storage buffers are present in the LPMT electronics to withstand the event rate during supernovae burst.

### 2.2.3 Veto detector

The CD will be bathed in constant background noise coming from numerous sources : the radioactivity from surrounding rock and its own components or from the flux of cosmic muons. This background needs to be rejected to ensure the purity of the IBD spectrum. To prevent a big part of them, JUNO use two veto detector that will tag events as background before CD analysis.

#### Cherenkov in water pool

The Water Cherenkov Detector (WCD) is the instrumentation of the water buffer around the CD. When high speed charged particles will pass through the water, they will produced cherenkov photons. The light will be collected by 2400 MCP LPMTs installed on the outer surface of the CD structure. The muons veto strategy is based on a PMT multiplicity condition. WCD PMTs are grouped in ten zones: 5 in the top, 5 in the bottom. A veto is raised either when more than 19 PMTs are triggered in one zone or when two adjacent zones simultaneously trigger more than 13 PMTs. Using this trigger, we expect to reach a muon detection efficiency of 99.5% while keeping the noise at reasonable level.

342 **Top tracker**

343 The JUNO Top Tracker (TT) is a plastic scintillator detector located on the top of the experiment  
 344 (see figure 2.9). Made from plastic scintillator from OPERA [27] layered horizontally in 3 layers on  
 345 the top of the detector, the TT will be able to detect incoming atmospheric muons. With its coverage,  
 346 about 1/3 of the of all atmospheric muons that passing through the CD will also pass through the 3  
 347 layer of the detector. While it does not cover the majority of the CD, the TT is particularly effective  
 348 to detect muons coming through the filling chimney region which might present difficulties from the  
 other subsystems in some classes of events.

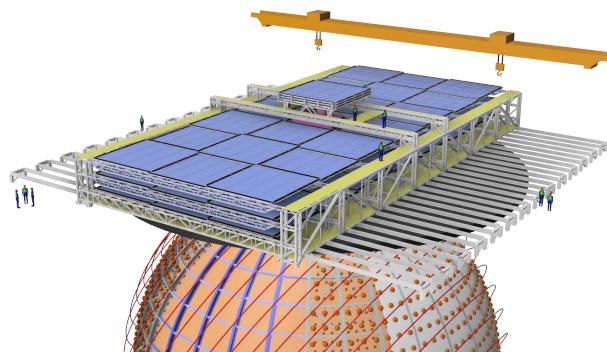


FIGURE 2.9 – The JUNO top tracker

349

350 **2.3 Calibration strategy**

351 The calibration is a crucial part of the JUNO experiment. Because we are looking at civil reactor  
 352 neutrino it might be impossible to run measurement without signal, it would need to shut down  
 353 every reactor from the Taishan and Yangjiang power plants which is realistically impossible. Because  
 354 of this continuous rate, low frequency signal event, we need high frequency, recognisable sources in  
 355 the energy range of interest : [0-12] MeV for the positron signal and 2.2 MeV for the neutron capture.  
 356 It is expected that the CD response will be different depending on the type of particle, due to the  
 357 interaction with LS, the position on the event and the optical response of the acrylic sphere (see  
 358 section 2.6). We also expect a non-linear energy response of the CD due to the LS properties [19] but  
 359 also due to the saturation of the LPMTs system when collecting a large amount of PE [26].

360 **2.3.1 Energy scale calibration**

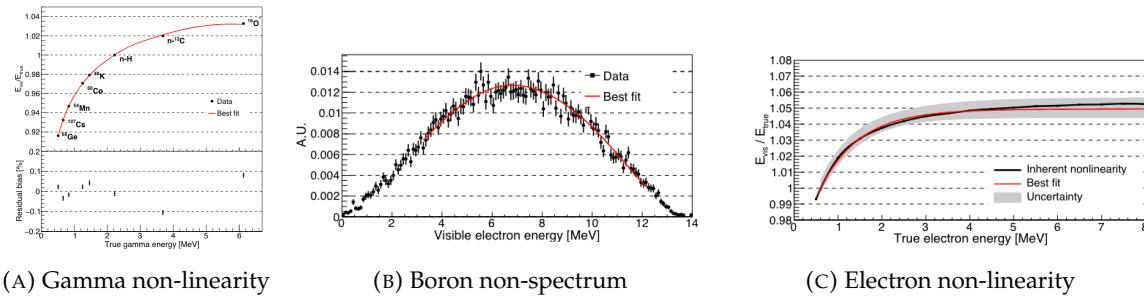
361 While electrons and positrons sources would be ideal, for a large LS detector thin-walled electrons  
 362 or positrons sources could lead to leakage of radionucleides causing radioactive contamination.  
 363 Instead, we consider gamma sources in the range of the prompt energy of IBDs. The sources are  
 364 reported in table 2.4.

365 For the  $^{68}\text{Ge}$  source, it will decay in  $^{68}\text{Ga}$  via electron capture, which will itself  $\beta^+$  decay into  $^{68}\text{Zn}$ .  
 366 The positrons will be absorbed by the enclosure so only the annihilation gamma will be released. In  
 367 addition,  $(\alpha, n)$  sources like  $^{241}\text{Am-Be}$  and  $^{241}\text{Am-}^{13}\text{C}$  are used to provide both high energy gamma  
 368 and neutrons, which will later be captured in the LS producing the 2.2 MeV gamma.

369 From this calibration we call  $E_{\text{vis}}$  the "visible energy" that is reconstructed by our current algo-  
 370 rithms and we compare it to the true energy deposited by the calibration source. The results shown  
 371 in figure 2.10 show the expected response of the detector from calibration sources. The non-linearity  
 372 is clearly visible from the  $E_{\text{vis}}/E_{\text{true}}$  shape. See [28] for more details.

Sources / Processes	Type	Radiation
$^{137}\text{Cs}$	$\gamma$	0.0662 MeV
$^{54}\text{Mn}$	$\gamma$	0.835 MeV
$^{60}\text{Co}$	$\gamma$	$1.173 + 1.333$ MeV
$^{40}\text{K}$	$\gamma$	1.461 MeV
$^{68}\text{Ge}$	$e^+$	annihilation 0.511 + 0.511 MeV
$^{241}\text{Am-Be}$	$n, \gamma$	neutron + 4.43 MeV ( $^{12}\text{C}^*$ )
$^{241}\text{Am-}^{13}\text{C}$	$n, \gamma$	neutron + 6.13 MeV ( $^{16}\text{O}^*$ )
$(n, \gamma)p$	$\gamma$	2.22 MeV
$(n, \gamma)^{12}\text{C}$	$\gamma$	4.94 MeV or 3.68 + 1.26 MeV

TABLE 2.4 – List of sources and their process considered for the energy scale calibration

FIGURE 2.10 – Fitted and simulated non linearity of gamma, electron sources and from the  $^{12}\text{B}$  spectrum. Black points are simulated data. Red curves are the best fits

### 2.3.2 Calibration system

The non-uniformity due to the event position in the detector (more details in section 2.6) will be studied using multiples systems that are schematized in figure 2.11. They allow to position sources at different location in the CD.

- For a one-dimension vertical calibration, the Automatic Calibration Unit (ACU) will be able to deploy multiple radioactive sources or a pulse laser diffuser ball along the central axis of the CD through the top chimney. The source position precision is less than 1cm.
- For off-axis calibration, a calibration source attached to a Cable Loop System (CLS) can be moved on a vertical half-plane by adjusting the length of two connection cable. Two set of CSL will be deployed to provide a 79% effective coverage of a vertical plane.
- A Guiding Tube (GT) will surround the CD to calibrate the non-uniformity of the response at the edge of the detector
- A Remotely Operated under-LS Vehicle (ROV) can be deployed to desired location inside LS for a more precise and comprehensive calibration. The ROV will also be equipped with a camera for inspection of the CD.

The preliminary calibration program is depicted in table 2.5.

## 2.4 Satellite detectors

As introduced in section 2.1.1 and section 2.2.2, the precise knowledge and understanding of the detector condition is crucial for the measurements of the NMO and oscillation parameters. Thus two satellite detectors will be setup to monitor the experiment condition. TAO to monitor and understand the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  flux and spectrum coming from the nuclear reactor and OSIRIS to monitor the LS response.

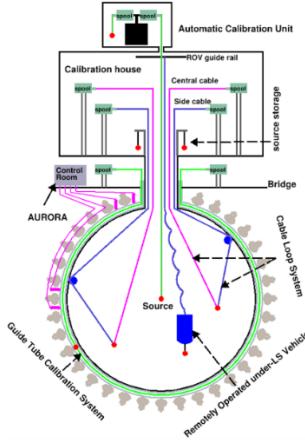


FIGURE 2.11 – Overview of the calibration system

Program	Purpose	System	Duration [min]
Weekly calibration	Neutron (Am-C)	ACU	63
	Laser	ACU	78
Monthly calibration	Neutron (Am-C)	ACU	120
	Laser	ACU	147
	Neutron (Am-C)	CLS	333
	Neutron (Am-C)	GT	73
Comprehensive calibration	Neutron (Am-C)	ACU, CLS and GT	1942
	Neutron (Am-Be)	ACU	75
	Laser	ACU	391
	$^{68}\text{Ge}$	ACU	75
	$^{137}\text{Cs}$	ACU	75
	$^{54}\text{Mn}$	ACU	75
	$^{60}\text{Co}$	ACU	75
	$^{40}\text{K}$	ACU	158

TABLE 2.5 – Calibration program of the JUNO experiment

### 2.4.1 TAO

The Taishan Antineutrino Observatory (TAO) [12, 29] is a ton-level gadolinium doped liquid scintillator detector that will be located near the Taishan-1 reactor. It aim to measure the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  spectrum at very low distance ( $< 30\text{m}$ ) from the reactor to measure a quasi-unoscillated spectrum. TAO also aim to provide a major contribution to the so-called reactor anomaly [13]. Its requirement are to the level of 2 % energy resolution at 1 MeV.

#### Detector

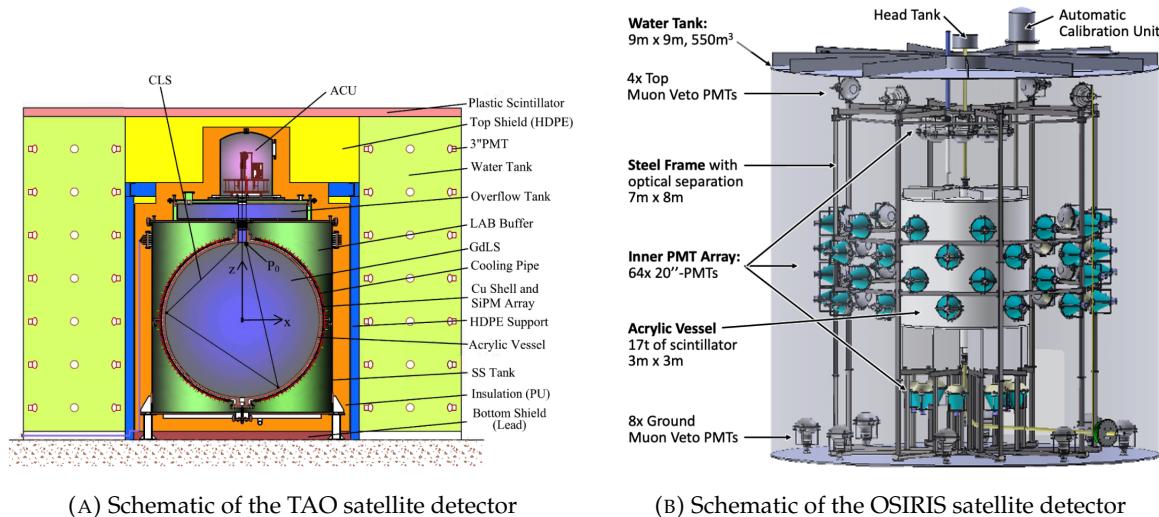
The TAO detector is close, in concept, to the CD of JUNO. It is composed of an acrylic vessel containing 2.8 tons of gadolinium-loaded LS instrumented by an array of silicon photomultipliers (SiPM) reaching a 95% coverage. To efficiently reduce the dark count of those sensors, the detector is cooled to  $-50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The  $\bar{\nu}_e$  will interact with the LS via IBD, producing scintillation light, that will be detected by the SiPMs. From this signal the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  energy and the full spectrum reconstructed. This spectrum will then be used by JUNO to calibrate the unoscillated spectrum, most notably the fission product fraction that impact the rate and shape of the spectrum. A schema of the detector is presented in figure 2.12a.

#### 409 2.4.2 OSIRIS

410 The Online Scintillator Internal Radioactivity Investigation System (OSIRIS) [24] is an ultralow  
 411 background, 20 m<sup>3</sup> LS detector that will be located in JUNO cavern. It aim to monitor the radioactive  
 412 contamination, purity and overall response of the LS before it is injected in JUNO. OSIRIS will be  
 413 located at the end of the purification chain of JUNO, monitoring that the purified LS meet the JUNO  
 414 requirements. The setup is optimized to detect the fast coincidences decay of <sup>214</sup>Bi – <sup>214</sup>Po and  
 415 <sup>212</sup>Bi – <sup>212</sup>Po, indicators of the decay chains of U and Th respectively.

#### 416 Detector

417 OSIRIS is composed of an acrylic vessel that will contains 17t of LS. The LS is instrumented  
 418 by a PMT array of 64 20 inch PMTs on the top and the side of the vessel. To reach the necessary  
 419 background level required by the LS purity measurements, in addition to being 700m underground  
 420 in the experiment cavern, the acrylic vessel is immersed in a tank of ultra pure water. The water is  
 421 itself instrumented by another array of 20 inch PMTs, acting as muon veto. A schema of the detector  
 422 is presented in figure 2.12b.



(A) Schematic of the TAO satellite detector

(B) Schematic of the OSIRIS satellite detector

FIGURE 2.12

#### 423 2.5 Software

424 The simulation, reconstruction and analysis algorithms are all packaged in the JUNO software,  
 425 subsequently called the software. It is composed of multiple components integrated in the SNiPER  
 426 [30] framework:

- 427 — Various primary particles simulators for the different kind of events, background and calibration sources.
- 428 — A Geant4 [31–33] Monte Carlo (MC) simulation containing the detectors geometries, a custom  
 429 optical model for the LS and the supporting structures of the detectors. The Geant4 simulation  
 430 integrate all relevant physics process for JUNO, validated by the collaboration. This step of the  
 431 simulation is commonly called *Detsim* and compute up to the production of photo-electrons  
 432 in the PMTs. The optics properties of the different materials and detector components have  
 433 been measured beforehand to be used to define the material and surfaces in the simulation.

- 435 — An electronic simulation, simulating the response waveform of the PMTs, tracking it through  
436 the digitization process, accounting for effects such as non-linearity, dark noise, Time Transi-  
437 tive Spread (TTS), pre-pulsing, after-pulsing and ringing if the waveform. It's also the step  
438 handling the event triggers and mixing. This step is commonly referenced as *Elecsim*.
- 439 — A waveform reconstruction where the digitized waveform are filtered to remove high-frequency  
440 white noise and then deconvoluted to yield time and charge informations of the photons hits  
441 on the PMTs. This step is commonly referenced as *Calib*.
- 442 — The charge and time informations are used by reconstruction algorithms to reconstruct the  
443 interaction vertex and the deposited energy. This step is commonly reported as *Reco*. See  
444 section 2.6 for more details on the reconstruction.
- 445 — Once the singular events are reconstructed, they go through event pairing and classification  
446 to select IBD events. This step is named Event Classification.
- 447 — The purified signal is then analysed by the analysis framework which depend of the physics  
448 topic of interest.

449 The steps Reco and Event Classification are divided into two category of algorithm. Fast but less  
450 accurate algorithms that are running during the data taking designated as the *Online* algorithms.  
451 Those algorithm are used to take the decision to save the event on tape or to throw it away. More  
452 accurate algorithms that run on batch of events designated *Offline* algorithms. They are used for the  
453 physics analysis. The Offline Reco will be one of the main topic of interest for this thesis.

## 454 2.6 State of the art of the Offline IBD reconstruction in JUNO

455 The main reconstruction method currently run in JUNO is a data-driven method based on a  
456 likelihood maximization [34, 35] using only the LPMTs. The first step is to reconstruct the interaction  
457 vertex from which the energy reconstruction is dependent. It is also necessary for event pairing and  
458 classification.

### 459 2.6.1 Interaction vertex reconstruction

460 To start the likelihood maximization, a rough estimation of the vertex and of the event timing is  
461 needed. We start by estimating the vertex position using a charge based algorithm.

#### 462 Charge based algorithm

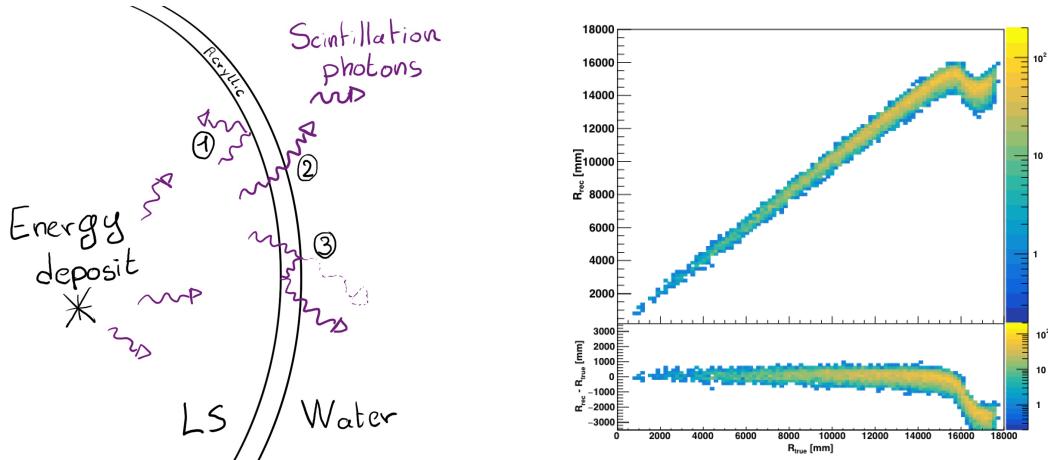
463 The charge-based algorithm is basically base on the charge-weighted average of the PMT position.

$$\vec{r}_{cb} = a \cdot \frac{\sum_i q_i \cdot \vec{r}_i}{\sum_i q_i} \quad (2.3)$$

464 Where  $q_i$  is the reconstructed charge of the pulse of the  $i$ th PMT and  $\vec{r}_i$  is its position.  $\vec{r}_0$  is the  
465 reconstructed interaction position.  $a$  is a scale factor introduced because a weighted average over  
466 a 3D sphere is inherently biased. Using calibration we can estimate  $a \approx 1.3$  [36]. The results in  
467 figure 2.13b shows that the reconstruction is biased from around 15m and further. This is due to the  
468 phenomena called “total reflection area” or TR Area.

469 As depicted in the figure 2.13a the optical photons, given that they have a sufficiently large  
470 incidence angle, can be deviated of their trajectories when passing through the interfaces LS-acrylic  
471 and water-acrylic due to the optical index difference. This cause photons to be lost or to be detected  
472 by PMT further than anticipated if we consider their rectilinear trajectories. This cause the charge  
473 barycenter the be located closer to the center than the event really is.

474 It is to be noted that charge based algorithm, in addition to be biased near the edge of the detector,  
475 does not provide any information about the timing of the event. Therefore, a time based algorithm  
476 needs to be introduced to provide initial values.



(A) Illustration of the different optical photons reflection scenarios. 1 is the reflection of the photon at the interface LS-acrylic or acrylic-water. 2 is the transmission of the photons through the interfaces. 3 is the conduction of the photon in the acrylic.

(B) Heatmap of  $R_{rec}$  and  $R_{rec} - R_{true}$  as a function of  $R_{true}$  for 4MeV prompt signals uniformly distributed in the detector calculated by the charge based algorithm

FIGURE 2.13

#### 477 Time based algorithm

478 The time based algorithm use the distribution of the time of flight corrections  $\Delta t$  (Eq 2.4) of an  
479 event to reconstruct its vertex and  $t_0$ . It follow the following iterations:

- 480 1. Use the charge based algorithm to get an initial vertex to start the iteration.
- 481 2. Calculate the time of flight correction for the  $i$ th PMT using

$$\Delta t_i(j) = t_i - \text{tof}_i(j) \quad (2.4)$$

482 where  $j$  is the iteration step,  $t_i$  is the timing of the  $i$ th PMT, and  $\text{tof}_i$  is the time-of-flight of the  
483 photon considering an rectilinear trajectory and an effective velocity in the LS and water (see  
484 [36] for detailed description of this effective velocity). Plot the  $\Delta t$  distribution and label the  
485 peak position as  $\Delta t^{\text{peak}}$  (see fig 2.14a).

- 486 3. Calculate a correction vector  $\vec{\delta}[\vec{r}(j)]$  as

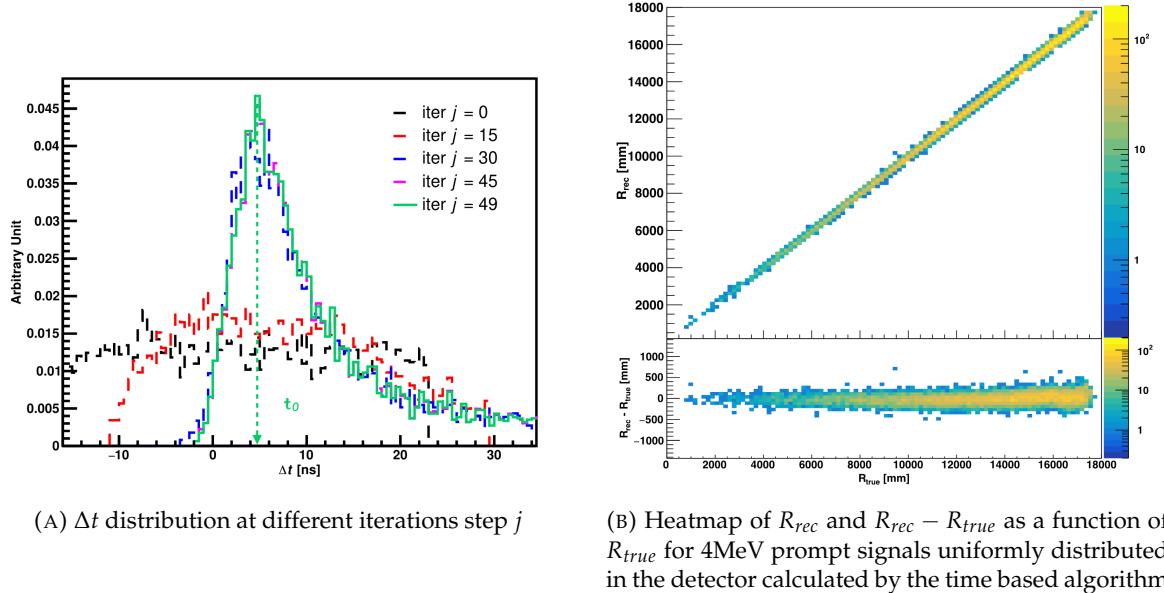
$$\vec{\delta}[\vec{r}(j)] = \frac{\sum_i \left( \frac{\Delta t_i(j) - \Delta t^{\text{peak}}(j)}{\text{tof}_i(j)} \right) \cdot (\vec{r}_0(j) - \vec{r}_i)}{N^{\text{peak}}(j)} \quad (2.5)$$

487 where  $\vec{r}_0$  is the vertex position at the beginning of this iteration,  $\vec{r}_i$  is the position of the  $i$ th  
488 PMT. To minimize the effect of scattering, dark noise and reflection, only the pulse happening  
489 in a time window (-10 ns, +5 ns) around  $\Delta t^{\text{peak}}$  are considered.  $N^{\text{peak}}$  is the number of PE  
490 collected in this time-window.

- 491 4. if  $|\vec{\delta}[\vec{r}(j)]| < 1\text{mm}$  or  $j \geq 100$ , stop the iteration. Otherwise  $\vec{r}_0(j+1) = \vec{r}_0(j) + \vec{\delta}[\vec{r}(j)]$  and go to  
492 step 2.

493 However because the earliest arrival time is used,  $t_i$  is related to the number photoelectrons  $N_i^{\text{pe}}$   
494 detected by the PMT [37–39]. To reduce bias in the vertex reconstruction, the following equation is  
495 used to correct  $t_i$  into  $t'_i$ :

$$t'_i = t_i - p_0 / \sqrt{N_i^{\text{pe}}} - p_1 - p_2 / N_i^{\text{pe}} \quad (2.6)$$

(A)  $\Delta t$  distribution at different iterations step  $j$ (B) Heatmap of  $R_{rec}$  and  $R_{rec} - R_{true}$  as a function of  $R_{true}$  for 4MeV prompt signals uniformly distributed in the detector calculated by the time based algorithm

496     The parameters  $(p_0, p_1, p_2)$  were optimized to  $(9.42, 0.74, -4.60)$  for Hamamatsu PMTs and  $(41.31,$   
 497      $-12.04, -20.02)$  for NNVT PMTs [36]. The results presented in figure 2.14b shows that the time based  
 498     algorithm provide a more accurate vertex and is unbiased even in the TR area. This results  $(\vec{r}_0, t_0)$  is  
 499     used as initial value for the likelihood algorithm.

## 500 Time likelihood algorithm

501     The time likelihood algorithm use the residual time expressed as follow

$$502 \quad t_{res}^i(\vec{r}_0, t_0) = t_i - tof_i - t_0 \quad (2.7)$$

503     In a first order approximation, the scintillator time response Probability Density Function (PDF)  
 504     can be described as the emission time profile of the scintillation photons, the Time Transit Spread  
 (TTS) and the dark noise of the PMTs. The emission time profile  $f(t_{res})$  is described like

$$505 \quad f(t_{res}) = \sum_k \frac{\rho_k}{\tau_k} e^{-\frac{t_{res}}{\tau_k}}, \sum_k \rho_k = 1 \quad (2.8)$$

506     as the sum of the  $k$  component that emit light in the LS each one characterised by it's decay time  $\tau_k$   
 and intensity fraction  $\rho_k$ . The TTS component is expressed as a gaussian convolution

$$507 \quad g(t_{res}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(t_{res}-\nu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \cdot f(t_{res}) \quad (2.9)$$

508     where  $\sigma$  is the TTS of PMTs and  $\nu$  is the average transit time. The dark noise is not correlated with any  
 509     physical events and considered as constant rate over the time window considered  $T$ . By normalizing  
 the dark noise probability  $\epsilon(t_{res})$  as  $\int_T \epsilon(t_{res}) dt_{res} = \epsilon_{dn}$ , it can be integrated in the PDF as

$$510 \quad p(t_{res}) = (1 - \epsilon_{dn}) \cdot g(t_{res}) + \epsilon(t_{res}) \quad (2.10)$$

510     The distribution of the residual time  $t_{res}$  of an event can then be compared to  $p(t_{res})$  and the best

511 fitting vertex  $\vec{r}_0$  and  $t_0$  can be chosen by minimizing

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{r}_0, t_0) = -\ln \left( \prod_i p(t_{\text{res}}^i) \right) \quad (2.11)$$

512 The parameter of Eq. 2.10 can be measured experimentally. The results shown in figure 2.15  
 513 used PDF from monte carlo simulation. The results shows that  $R_{\text{rec}} - R_{\text{true}}$  is biased depending  
 514 on the energy. While this could be corrected using calibration, another algorithm based on charge  
 515 likelihood was developed to correct this problem.

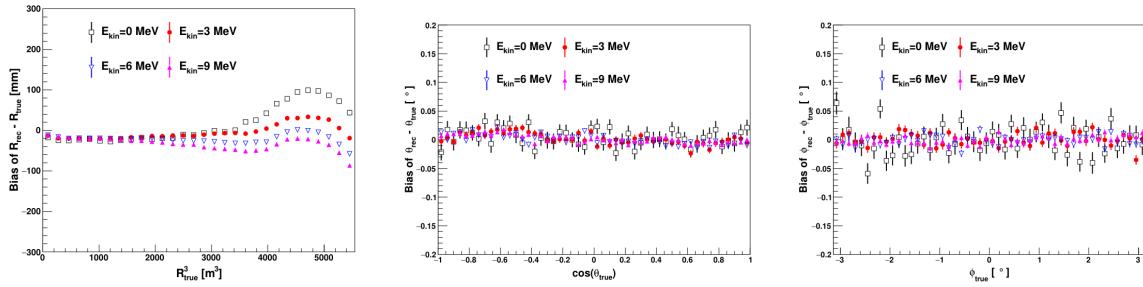


FIGURE 2.15 – Bias of the reconstructed radius  $R$  (left),  $\theta$  (middle) and  $\phi$  (right) for multiple energies by the time likelihood algorithm

### 516 Charge likelihood algorithm

517 Similarly to the time likelihood algorithms that use a timing PDF, the charge likelihood algorithm  
 518 use a PE PDF for each PMT depending on the energy and position of the event. With  $\mu(\vec{r}_0, E)$  the  
 519 mean expected number of PE detected by each PMT, the probability to observe  $N_{pe}$  in a PMT follow  
 520 a Poisson distribution. Thus

521 — The probability to observe no hit ( $N_{pe} = 0$ ) in the  $j$ th PMT is  $P_{\text{nohit}}^j(\vec{r}_0, E) = e^{-\mu_j}$

522 — The probability to observe  $N_{pe} \neq 0$  in the  $i$ th PMT is  $P_{\text{hit}}^i(\vec{r}_0, E) = \frac{\mu^{N_{pe}^i} e^{-\mu_i}}{N_{pe}^i!}$

523 Therefore, the probability to observe a specific hit pattern can be expressed as

$$P(\vec{r}_0, E) = \prod_j P_{\text{nohit}}^j(\vec{r}_0, E) \cdot \prod_i P_{\text{hit}}^i(\vec{r}_0, E) \quad (2.12)$$

524 The best fit values of  $\vec{R}_0$  and  $E$  can then be calculated by minimizing the negative log-likelihood

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{r}_0, E) = -\ln(P(\vec{r}_0, E)) \quad (2.13)$$

525 In principle,  $\mu_i(\vec{r}_0, E)$  could be expressed

$$\mu_i(\vec{r}_0, E) = Y \cdot \frac{\Omega(\vec{r}_0, r_i)}{4\pi} \cdot \epsilon_i \cdot f(\theta_i) \cdot e^{-\sum_m \frac{d_m}{\zeta_m}} \cdot E + \delta_i \quad (2.14)$$

526 where  $Y$  is the energy scale factor,  $\Omega(\vec{r}_0, r_i)$  is the solid angle of the  $i$ th PMT,  $\epsilon_i$  is its detection  
 527 efficiency,  $f(\theta_i)$  its angular response,  $\zeta_m$  is the attenuation length in the materials and  $\delta_i$  the expected  
 528 number of dark noise.

529 However Eq. 2.14 assume that the scintillation light yield is linear with energy and describe  
 530 poorly the contribution of indirect light, shadow effect due to the supporting structure and the  
 531 total reflection effects. The solution is to use data driven methods to produce the pdf by using the  
 532 calibrations sources and position described in section 2.3. In the results presented in figures 2.16, the  
 533 PDF was produced using MC simulation and 29 specific calibrations position [36] along the Z-axis

of the detector. We see that the charge likelihood algorithm show little bias in the TR area and a

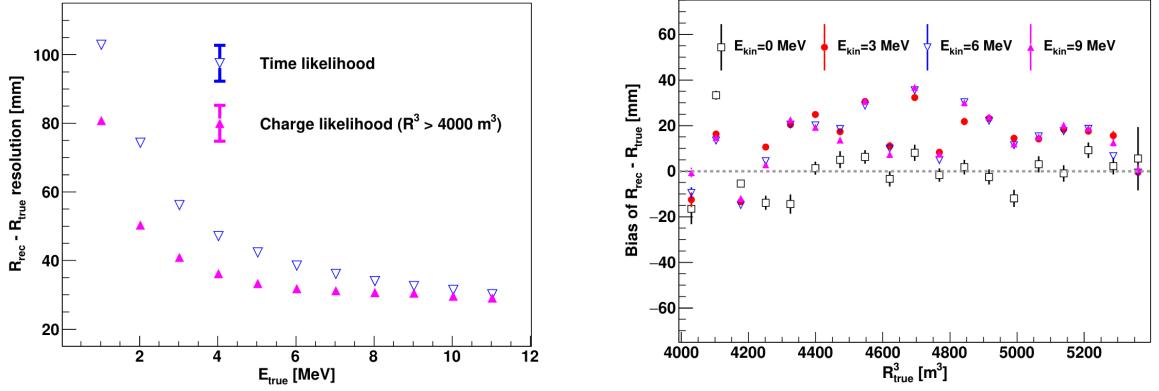


FIGURE 2.16 – On the left: Resolution of the reconstructed  $R$  as a function of the energy in the TR area ( $R^3 > 4000 \text{ m}^3 \equiv R > 16 \text{ m}$ ) by the charge and time likelihood algorithms. On the right: Bias of the reconstructed  $R$  in the TR area for different energies by the charge likelihood algorithm

better resolution than the time likelihood. The figure 2.17 shows the radial resolution of the different algorithm presented for this section, we can see the refinement at each step and that the charge likelihood yield the best results.

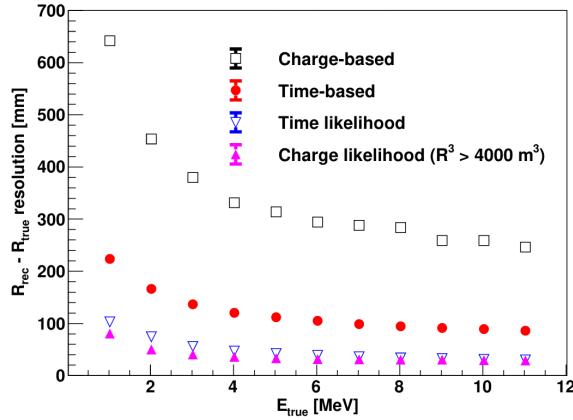


FIGURE 2.17 – Radial resolution of the different vertex reconstruction algorithms as a function of the energy

The charge based likelihood algorithms already give some information on the energy as Eq. 2.13 is minimized but the energy can be further refined as shown in the next section.

## 2.6.2 Energy reconstruction

As explained in section 2.1.1, energy resolution is crucial for the NMO and oscillation parameters measurements. Thus the energy reconstruction algorithm should take into consideration as much detector effect as possible. The following method is a data driven method based on calibration samples inspired by the charge likelihood algorithm described above [40].

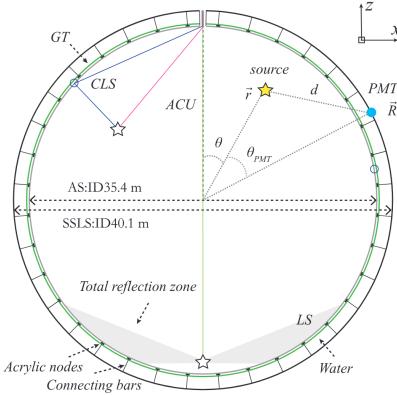


FIGURE 2.18 – Definition of the variables used in the energy reconstruction

### 545 Charge estimation

546 The most important element in the energy reconstruction is  $\mu_i(\vec{r}_0, E)$  described in Eq. 2.14. For  
 547 realistic cases, we also need to take into account the electronics effect that were omitted in the  
 548 previous section. Those effect will cause a charge smearing due to the uncertainties in the  $N_{pe}$   
 549 reconstruction. Thus we define  $\hat{\mu}^L(\vec{r}_0, E)$  which is the expected  $N_{pe}/E$  in the whole detector for an  
 550 event with visible energy  $E_{vis}$  and position  $\vec{r}_0$ . The position of the event and PMTs are now defined  
 551 using  $(r, \theta, \theta_{pmt})$  as defined in figure 2.18.

$$\hat{\mu}(r, \theta, \theta_{pmt}, E_{vis}) = \frac{1}{E_{vis}} \frac{1}{M} \sum_i^M \frac{\bar{q}_i - \mu_i^D}{DE_i}, \quad \mu_i^D = DNR_i \cdot L \quad (2.15)$$

552 where  $i$  runs over the PMTs with the same  $\theta_{pmt}$ ,  $DE_i$  is the detection efficiency of the  $i$ th PMT.  $\mu_i^D$   
 553 is the expected number of dark noise photoelectrons in the time window  $L$ . The time window have  
 554 been optimized to  $L = 280$  ns [40].  $\bar{q}_i$  is the average recorded photoelectrons in the time window  
 555 and  $\bar{Q}_i$  is the expected average charge for 1 photoelectron. The  $N_{pe}$  map is constructed following the  
 556 procedure described in [35].

### 557 Time estimation

558 The second important observable is the hit time of photons that was previously defined in Eq.  
 559 2.7. It is here refined as

$$t_r = t_h - \text{tof} - t_0 = t_{LS} + t_{TT} \quad (2.16)$$

560 where  $t_h$  is the time of hit,  $t_{LS}$  is the scintillation time and  $t_{TT}$  the transit time of PMTs that is described  
 561 by a gaussian

$$t_{TT} = \mathcal{N}(\bar{\mu}_{TT} + t_d, \sigma_{TT}) \quad (2.17)$$

562 where  $\bar{\mu}_{TT}$  is the mean transit time in PMTs,  $\sigma_{TT}$  is the Transit Time Spread (TTS) of the PMTs and  $t_d$   
 563 is the delay time in the electronics. The effective refraction index of the LS is also corrected to take  
 564 into account the propagation distance in the detector.

565 The timing PDF  $P_T(t_r | r, d, \mu_l, \mu_d, k)$  can now be generated using calibration sources [40]. This PDF  
 566 describe the probability that the residual time of the first photon hit is in  $[t_r, t_r + \delta]$  with  $r$  the radius  
 567 of the event vertex,  $d = |\vec{r} - \vec{r}_{PMT}|$  the propagation distance,  $\mu_l$  and  $\mu_d$  the expected number of PE  
 568 and dark noise in the electronic reading window and  $k$  is the detected number of PE.

569 Now let denote  $f(t, r, d)$  the probability density function of "photoelectron hit a time t" for an

570 event happening at  $r$  where the photons traveled the distance  $d$  in the LS

$$F(t, r, d) = \int_t^L f(t', r, d) dt' \quad (2.18)$$

571 Based on the PDF for one photon  $k = 1$ , one can define

$$P_T^l(t|k = n) = I_n^l [f_l(t) F_l^{n-1}(t)] \quad (2.19)$$

572 where the indicator  $l$  means that the photons comes from the LS and  $I_n^l$  a normalisation factor. To this  
573 pdf we add the probability to have photons coming from the dark noise indicated by the indicator  $d$   
574 using

$$f_d(t) = 1/L, F_d(t) = 1 - \frac{t}{L} \quad (2.20)$$

575 and so for the case where only one photon is detected by the PMT ( $k = 1$ )

$$P_T(t|\mu_l, \mu_d, k = 1) = I_1[P(1, \mu_l)P(0, \mu_d)f_l(t) + P(0, \mu_l)P(1, \mu_d)f_d(t)] \quad (2.21)$$

576 where  $P(k_\alpha, \mu_\alpha)$  is the Poisson probability to detect  $k_\alpha$  PE from  $\alpha \in \{l, d\}$  with the condition  $k_l + k_d =$   
577  $k$ .

578 Now that we have the individual timing and charge probability we can construct the charge  
579 likelihood referred as QMLE:

$$\mathcal{L}(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N | \vec{r}, E_{vis}) = \prod_{j \in \text{unfired}} e^{-\mu_j} \prod_{i \in \text{fired}} \left( \sum_{k=1}^K P_Q(q_i|k) \cdot P(k, \mu_i) \right) \quad (2.22)$$

580 where  $\mu_i = E_{vis}\hat{\mu}_i^L + \mu_i^D$  and  $P(k, \mu_i)$  is the Poisson probability of observing  $k$  PE.  $P_Q(q_i|k)$  is the  
581 charge pdf for  $k$  PE. And we can also construct the time likelihood referred as TMLE:

$$\mathcal{L}(t_{1,r}, t_{2,r}, \dots, t_{N,r} | \vec{r}, t_0) = \prod_{i \in \text{hit}} \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K P_T(t_{i,r}|r, d, \mu_i^l, \mu_i^d, k) \cdot P(k, \mu_i^l + \mu_i^d)}{\sum_{k=1}^K P(k, \mu_i^l + \mu_i^d)} \quad (2.23)$$

582 where  $K$  is cut to 20 PE and hit is the set of hits satisfying  $-100 < t_{i,r} < 500$  ns.

583 Merging those two likelihood give the charge-time likelihood QTMLLE

$$\mathcal{L}(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N; t_{1,r}, t_{2,r}, \dots, t_{N,r} | \vec{r}, t_0, E_{vis}) = \mathcal{L}(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N | \vec{r}, E_{vis}) \cdot \mathcal{L}(t_{1,r}, t_{2,r}, \dots, t_{N,r} | \vec{r}, t_0) \quad (2.24)$$

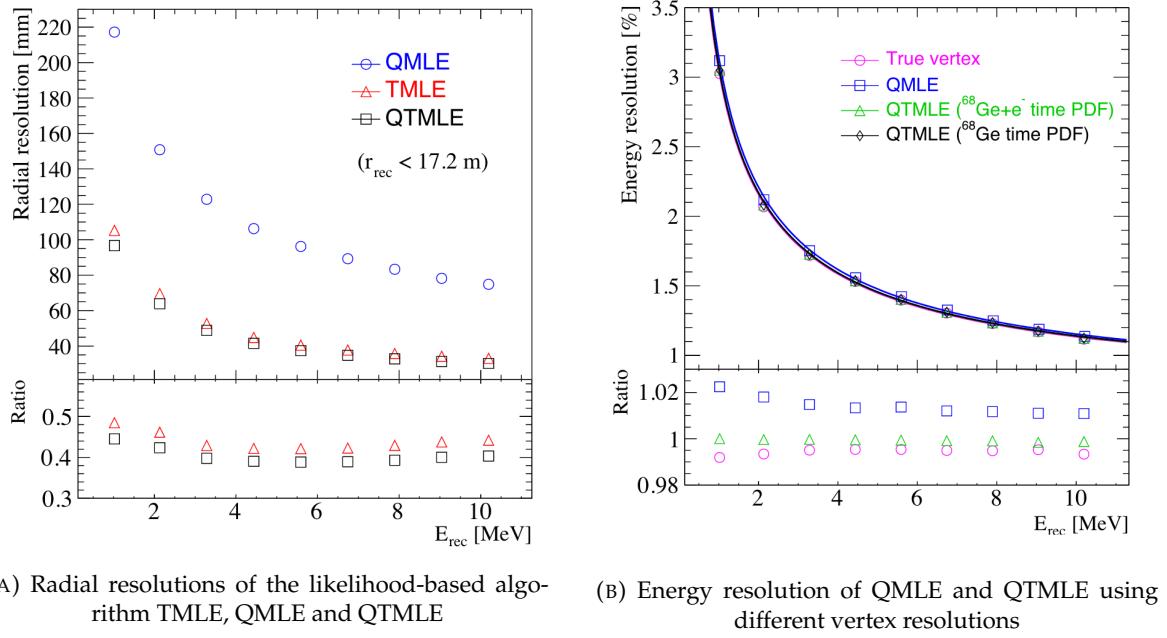
584 The radial and energy resolutions of the different likelihood are presented in figure 2.19 (from  
585 [40]). We can see the improvement of adding the time information to the vertex reconstruction and  
586 that an increase in vertex precision can bring improvement in the energy resolution, especially at low  
587 energies.

588 Data driven methods prove to be performant in the energy and vertex reconstruction given that  
589 we have enough calibrations sources to produce the PDF. In the next section, we'll see another type  
590 of data-driven method based on machine learning.

### 591 2.6.3 Machine learning for reconstruction

592 Machine learning (ML) is family of data-driven algorithms that are inferring behavior and results  
593 from a training dataset. A overview of methods and detailed explanation of the Neural Network  
594 (NN) subfamily can be found in Chapter 3.

595 The power of ML is the ability to model complex response to a specific problem. In JUNO  
596 the reconstruction problematic can be expressed as follow: knowing that each PMT, large or small,  
597 detected a given number of PE  $Q$  at a given time  $t$  and their position is  $x, y, z$  where did the energy



(A) Radial resolutions of the likelihood-based algorithm TMLE, QMLE and QTMLLE

(B) Energy resolution of QMLE and QTMLLE using different vertex resolutions

FIGURE 2.19

598 was deposited and how much energy was it, modeling a function that naively goes:

$$\mathbb{R}^{5 \times N_{\text{pmt}}} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^4 \quad (2.25)$$

599 It is worth pointing that while this is already a lot in informations, this is not the rawest representation  
600 of the experiment. We could indeed replace the charge and time by the waveform in the time  
601 window of the event but that would lead to an input representation size that would exceed our  
602 computational limits. Also, due to those computational limits, most of the ML algorithm reduce this  
603 input phase space either by structurally encoding the information (pictures, graph), by aggregating  
604 it (mean, variance, ...) or by exploiting invariance and equivariance of the experiment (rotational  
605 invariance due to the sphericity, ...).

606 For machine learning to converge to performant algorithm, a large dataset exploring all the phase  
607 space of interest is needed. For the following studies, data from the monte carlo simulation presented  
608 in section 2.5 are used for training. When the detector will be finished calibrations sources will be  
609 complementarily be used.

## 610 Boosted Decision Tree (BDT)

611 On of the most classic ML method used in physics in last years is the Boosted Decision Tree (see  
612 chapter 3.1). They have been explored for vertex reconstruction [41] et for energy reconstruction [41,  
613 42].

614 For vertex and energy reconstruction a BDT was developed using the aggregated informations  
615 presented in 2.6.

616 Its reconstruction performances are presented in figure 2.21.

617 A second and more advanced BDT, subsequently named BDTE, that only reconstruct energy use  
618 a different set of features [42]. They are presented in the table 2.7

Parameter	description
$nHits$	Total number of hits
$x_{cc}, y_{cc}, z_{cc}, R_{cc}$	Coordinates of the center of charge
$ht_{mean}, ht_{std}$	Hit time mean and standard deviation

TABLE 2.6 – Features used by the BDT for vertex reconstruction

AccumCharge	$ht_{5\% - 2\%}$
$R_{cht}$	$pe_{mean}$
$z_{cc}$	$J_{cht}$
$pe_{std}$	$\phi_{cc}$
nPMTs	$ht_{35\% - 30\%}$
$ht_{kurtosis}$	$ht_{20\% - 15\%}$
$ht_{25\% - 20\%}$	$pe_{35\%}$
$R_{cc}$	$ht_{30\% - 25\%}$

TABLE 2.7 – Features used by the BDTE algorithm.  $pe$  and  $ht$  reference the charge and hit-time distribution respectively and the percentages are the quantiles of those distributions.  $cht$  and  $cc$  reference the barycenters of hit time and charge respectively

### 619 Neural Network (NN)

620 The physics have shown a rising for Neural Network (NN) in the past years for event reconstruction,  
 621 notably in the neutrino community [43–46]. Three type of neural networks have explored for  
 622 event reconstruction in JUNO Deep Neural Network (DNN), Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)  
 623 and Graph Network (GNN). More explanation about those neural network can be found in chapter  
 624 3.

625 The CNN are using 2D projection of the detector representing it as an image with two channel,  
 626 one for the charge  $Q$  and one for the time  $t$ . The position of the PMTs is structurally encoded in the  
 627 pixel containing the information of this PMT. In [41], the pixel is chosen based on a transformation  
 628 of  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  coordinates to the 2D plane and rounded to the nearest pixel. A sufficiently large image  
 629 has been chosen to prevent two PMT to be located in the same pixel. An example of this projection  
 630 can be found in figure 2.20. The performances of the CNN can be found in figure 2.21.

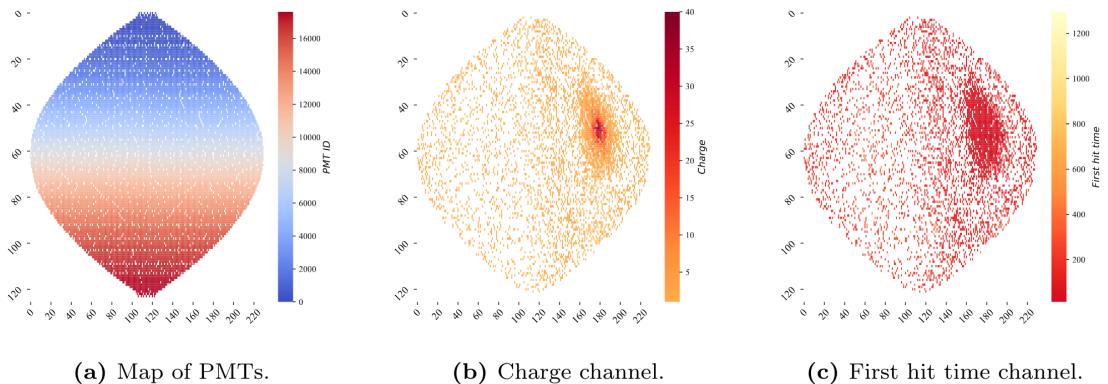


FIGURE 2.20 – Projection of the LPMTs in JUNO on a 2D plane. (a) Show the distribution of all PMTs and (b) and (c) are example of what the charge and time channel looks like respectively

631 Using 2D have the upside of encoding a large part of the informations structurally but loose  
 632 the rotational invariance of the detector. It also give undefined information to the neural network

(what is a pixel without PMT ? What should be its charge and time ?), cause deformation in the representation of the detector (sides of projection) and loose topological informations.

One of the way to present structurally the sphericity of JUNO to a NN is to use a graph: A collection of objects  $V$  called nodes and relations  $E$  called edges, each relation associated to a couple  $v_1, v_2$  forming the graph  $G(E, V)$ . Nodes and edges can hold informations or features. In [41] the nodes, are geometrical region of the detector as defined by the HealPix [47]. The features of the nodes are aggregated informations from the PMTs it contains. The edges contains geographic informations of the nodes relative positions.

This data representation has the advantages to keep the topology of the detector intact. It also permit the use of rotational invariant algorithms for the NN, thus taking advantage of the symmetries of the detector.

The neural network then process the graph using Chebyshev Convolutions [48]. The performances of the GNN are presented in figure 2.21.

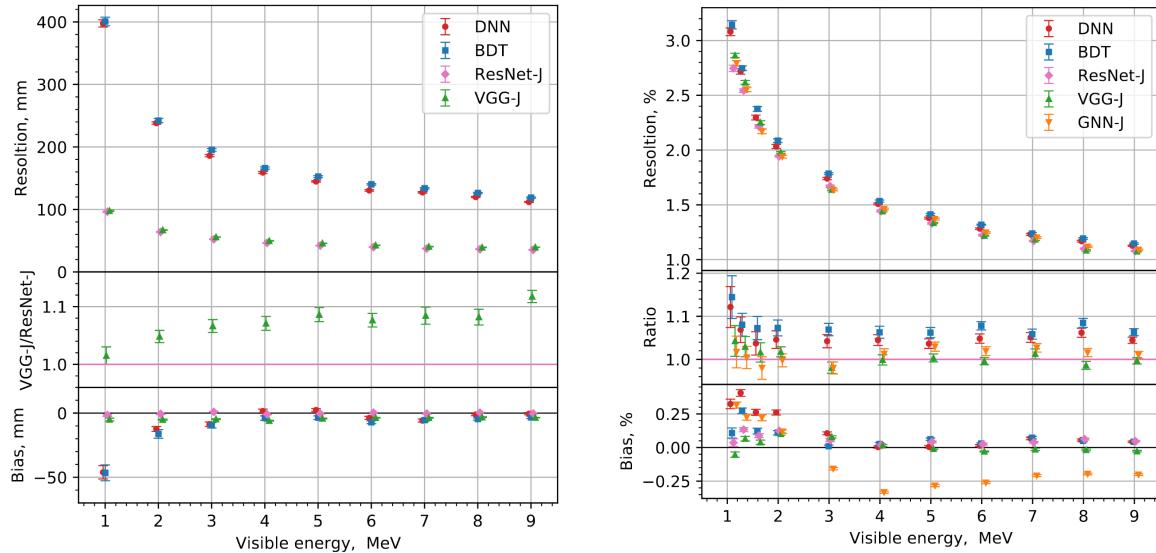


FIGURE 2.21 – Radial (left) and energy (right) resolutions of different ML algorithms.  
The results presented here are from [41]. DNN is a deep neural network, BDT is a BDT,  
ResNet-J and VGG-J are CNN and GNN-J is a GNN.

Overall ML algorithms show similar performances as classical algorithms in term of energy reconstructions with the more complex structure CNN and GNN showing better performances than BDT and DNN. For vertex reconstruction, the BDT and DNN show poor performance while CNN are on the level of the classical algorithms.

## 2.7 JUNO sensitivity to NMO and precise measurements

Now that the event have been reconstructed, selected and that the non-IBD background have been rejected, we have access to the measured energy flux from JUNO. We consider two spectra, the one measured by the LPMT system and the one measured by the SPMT system. This give rise to three possible analysis: A LPMT only analysis, a SPMT only analysis and a joint analysis. This joint analysis is the subject of the chapter 7 of this thesis.

The following details about JUNO measurement is common to the three analysis. The details and specific of the joint analysis are detailed in chapter 7.

### 658 2.7.1 Theoretical spectrum

659 To extract the oscillation parameters and the NMO from the measured spectrum, it is compared  
 660 to a theoretical spectrum. This theoretical spectrum is produced based on the theory of the three  
 661 flavour oscillation (see section 1.3), the measurements of the calibration and satellite experiments  
 662 and Monte Carlo simulation:

- 663 — The absolute flux and the fission product fraction calibrated by TAO.
- 664 — The estimation of the neutrinos flux from other sources, such as the geoneutrinos, by theoret-  
ical model.
- 665 — The computed cross-section of  $\bar{\nu}_e$  and the LS.
- 666 — The estimation of mislabelled event, such as fast neutron events from cosmic muons, using  
Monte Carlo simulation.
- 667 — The measured bias and resolution of the LPMT and SPMT system by the calibration.
- 668 — The time dependent reactor parameters (age of fuel, instantaneous power of the reactors, etc...)

669 These systematics parameters come with their uncertainties that need to be taken into account by  
 670 the fitting framework. This theoretical spectrum will, in the end, depend of the oscillation parameters  
 671 of interest  $\theta_{13}, \theta_{12}, \Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{31}^2$ . Noise parameters can be included in the parameters spectrum such  
 672 as the earth density  $\rho$  between the power plants and JUNO.

### 675 2.7.2 Fitting procedure

676 The theoretical and measured spectra are represented as two histograms depending on the en-  
 677 ergy. The theoretical spectrum is adjusted with the data using a  $\chi^2$  minimization where  $\chi^2$  is naively  
 678 defined as

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{(N_{th}^i - N_{data}^i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} \quad (2.26)$$

679 where  $N_{th}^i$  is the number event in the  $i$ th bin of the theoretical spectrum,  $N_{data}^i$  is the number of event  
 680 in the  $i$ th bin of the measured spectrum and  $\sigma_i$  is the uncertainty of this bin. Two classic statistic test  
 681 exist Pearson and Neyman where the difference is the estimation of  $\sigma_i$  parameters.

682 This  $\sigma_i$  is composed of the systematics uncertainties discussed above but also from the statistic  
 683 uncertainty of the spectrum. Considering a Poisson process, the statistic uncertainty is estimated  
 684 as  $\sigma_{stat}^i = \sqrt{N^i}$ . In a Pearson test,  $N^i \equiv N_{th}^i$  whereas in a Neyman test  $N^i \equiv N_{data}^i$ . Under the  
 685 assumption that the content of each bin follow a Gaussian distribution (a Poisson with high enough  
 686 statistic), the two test are equivalent. But studies on Monte Carlo spectrum showed that the Pearson  
 687 and Neyman statistic are biased in opposite direction. It is easily visible where, for the same data,  
 688 Pearson will prefer a higher  $N_{th}^i$  to reduce the ration  $\frac{1}{N_{th}^i}$  whereas Neyman will prefer a lower  $N_{th}^i$  to  
 689 reduce the  $(N_{th}^i - N_{data}^i)$  term.

690 This problematic can be circumvented by summing the two test, yielding the CNP statistic test  
 691 and/or by adding a term

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{(N_{th}^i - N_{data}^i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} - \ln |\mathbf{V}| \quad (2.27)$$

692 where  $V$  is the covariance matrix of the theoretical spectrum yielding the PearsonV and CNPV  
 693 statistic test.

694 The  $\chi^2$  is minimized by exploring the parameter phase space via gradient descent.

### 695 2.7.3 Physics results

696 The oscillation parameters are directly extracted from the minimization procedure and the error  
 697 can be estimated directly from the procedure. For the NMO, the data are fitted under the two  
 698 assumption of NO and IO. The difference in  $\chi^2$  give us the preferred ordering and the significance  
 699 of our test. Latest studies show that the precision on oscillation parameters after six year of data

taking will be of 0.2%, 0.3%, 0.5% and 12.1% for  $\Delta m_{31}^2$ ,  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$  and  $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$  respectively [11].  
The expected sensitivity to mass ordering is  $3\sigma$  after 6 years [49].

## 702 2.8 Summary

JUNO is one the biggest new generation neutrino experiment. Its goal, the measurements of oscillation parameters with unprecedented precision and an NMO preference at the 3 sigma confidence level, needs an in depth knowledge and understanding of the detector and the physics at hand. The characterisation and calibration of the detector are of the utmost importance and the understanding of the detector response in its resolution and bias is capital to be able to correctly carry the high precision physics analysis of the neutrino oscillation.

In this thesis, I explore the usage of data-driven reconstruction methods to validate and optimize the reconstruction of IBD events in JUNO in the chapters 4, 5 and 6 and the usage of the dual calorimetry in the detection of possible mis-modelisation in the theoretical spectrum 7.

<sup>712</sup> **Chapter 3**

<sup>713</sup> **Machine learning and Artificial  
Neural Network**

<sup>715</sup>

*"I have the shape of a human being and organs equivalent to those of a human being. My organs, in fact, are identical to some of those in a prosthetized human being. I have contributed artistically, literally, and scientifically to human culture as much as any human being now alive. What more can one ask?"*

*Isaac Asimov, The Complete Robot*

<sup>716</sup> Machine Learning (ML) and more specifically Neural Network (NN) are a family of data-driven  
<sup>717</sup> algorithm. They are used to model complex distribution from a finite dataset to extract a gener-  
<sup>718</sup> alist behavior where they learn, adapt their intrinsic parameters, interactively by computing the  
<sup>719</sup> performance or *loss* on those dataset. They take advantage of simple microscopic operation such  
<sup>720</sup> as *if condition*, non-continuous but differentiable function like *ReLU*. Through optimizer and the  
<sup>721</sup> combination of those microscopic operation, they can yield complex and precise behavior.

<sup>722</sup> They are now widely used in a wide variety of domain including natural language processing,  
<sup>723</sup> computer vision, speech recognition and, the subject of this thesis, scientific studies.

<sup>724</sup> They are now widely used in particle physics, either as the main algorithm or as secondary  
<sup>725</sup> algorithm, for event reconstruction, event classification, waveform reconstruction, etc... Domains  
<sup>726</sup> where the underlying physic and detector process is complex and highly dimensional. Physicists  
<sup>727</sup> have traditionally used algorithms where simplification or assumption were made (a good example  
<sup>728</sup> is the algorithm presented in section 2.6) machine learning could refine and take into account those  
<sup>729</sup> effects, providing that they have enough data and computing power, thus the appeal for physicist.

<sup>730</sup> This chapter present an overview of the different kind of machine learning methods and neural  
<sup>731</sup> networks that will be discussed in this thesis.

<sup>732</sup> **3.1 Boosted Decision Tree (BDT)**

<sup>733</sup> One of the most classic machine learning algorithm used in particle physics is Boosted Decision  
<sup>734</sup> Tree [50] (or more recently Gradient Boosting Machine [51]). The principle of BDT is fairly simple  
<sup>735</sup> : Based on a set of observables, a serie of decisions, represented as node in a tree, are taken by the  
<sup>736</sup> algorithm. Each decision point, or node, takes its decision based on a set of trainable parameters  
<sup>737</sup> leading to a subtree of decision. The process is repeated until it reach the final node, yielding the  
<sup>738</sup> prediction. A simplistic example is given in figure 3.1.

<sup>739</sup> The training procedure follow a simple score reward procedure. During the training phase the  
<sup>740</sup> prediction of the BDT is compared to a known truth about the data. The score is then used to  
<sup>741</sup> backpropagate corrections to the parameters of the tree. Modern BDT use gradient boosting where  
<sup>742</sup> the gradient of the loss is calculated for each of the BDT parameters. Following the gradient descent,  
<sup>743</sup> we can reach the, hopefully, global minima of the loss for our set of parameters.

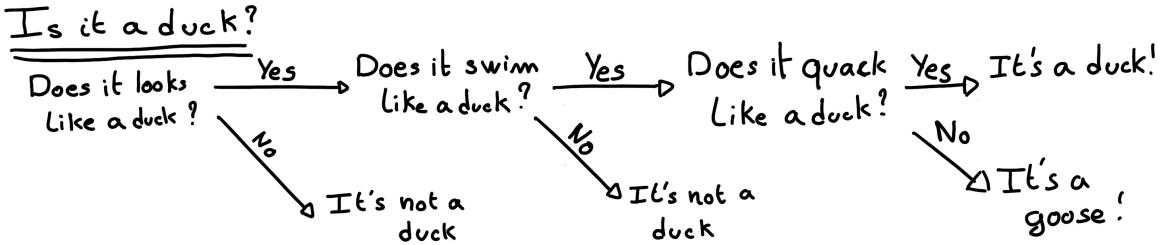


FIGURE 3.1 – Example of a BDT that determine if the given object is a duck

## 3.2 Artificial Neural Network (NN)

One other big family of machine learning algorithm is the artificial Neural Networks (NN). The idea of developing automates which component mimic, in a simplistic way, the behavior of biological neurons emerge in 1959 with the paper “*What the Frog’s Eye Tells the Frog’s Brain*” [52]. They develop an automate where each component possess an *activation function*. Each one of those component then transmit it’s information to the other following a certain efficiency or *weight*. Those works influenced scientist and notably Frank Rosenblatt who published in 1958 what is considered the first neural network model the perceptron [53].

Modern neural network still nowadays use the neuron metaphor to represent neural network, but approach them as a graph where the nodes are neurons possessing an activation function and edges holding the weights between those nodes. Most of the modern neural network work with the principle of neurons layers. For example the most basic, fully connected set of layer is a set where each layers possessing the same activation function  $F$  and the connection between two layers as a tensor  $T_j^i$  where  $i$  is the index of the precedent layer and  $j$  the index of the next layer. The propagation from the layer  $I$  to  $J$  is then described as

$$J_j = F_j(T_j^i I_i + B_j) \quad (3.1)$$

where the learning parameters are the tensor  $T_j^i$  and the bias tensor  $B_j$ . This is the fundamental component of the Fully Connected Deep NN (FCDNN) family presented in section 3.2.1. Most of the modern neural network use gradient descent to optimize their parameters, i.e. the gradient of the parameter  $\theta$  in respect of the loss function  $\mathcal{L}$  is subtracted to it

$$\theta_{i+1} = \theta_i - \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \mathcal{L}} \quad (3.2)$$

$i$  being the training iteration index. This needs the expression of  $\mathcal{L}$  dependent of  $\theta$  to be differentiable, thus the layer and their activation function also need to be differentiable. This simple gradient descent, designated as Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD), can be completed with first and second order momentum like with the Adam optimizer [54].

This description of neural networks as layer introduced the principle of *depth* and *width*, the number of layers in the NN and the number of neurons in each layer respectively.

### 3.2.1 Fully Connected Deep Neural Network (FCDNN)

Fully Connected Deep Neural Network (FCDNN) architecture is the natural evolution of the Perceptron. The input data is represented as a first order tensor  $I_j$  and then fed forward to multiple fully connected layers (Eq 3.1) as presented in the figure 3.2a. Most of the time, the classic ReLU function

$$\text{ReLU}(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3.3)$$

774 as activation function. Prelu and Sigmoid are also popular choices

$$775 \quad \text{Sigmoid}(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \quad (3.4) \quad \text{PReLU}(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ \alpha x & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3.5)$$

776 The reasoning behind ReLU and PReLU is that with enough of them, you can mimic any continuous  
 777 function as illustrated in figure 3.2b. Sigmoid is more used in case of classification, its behavior  
 778 going hand in hand with the Cross Entropy loss function used in classification problems.

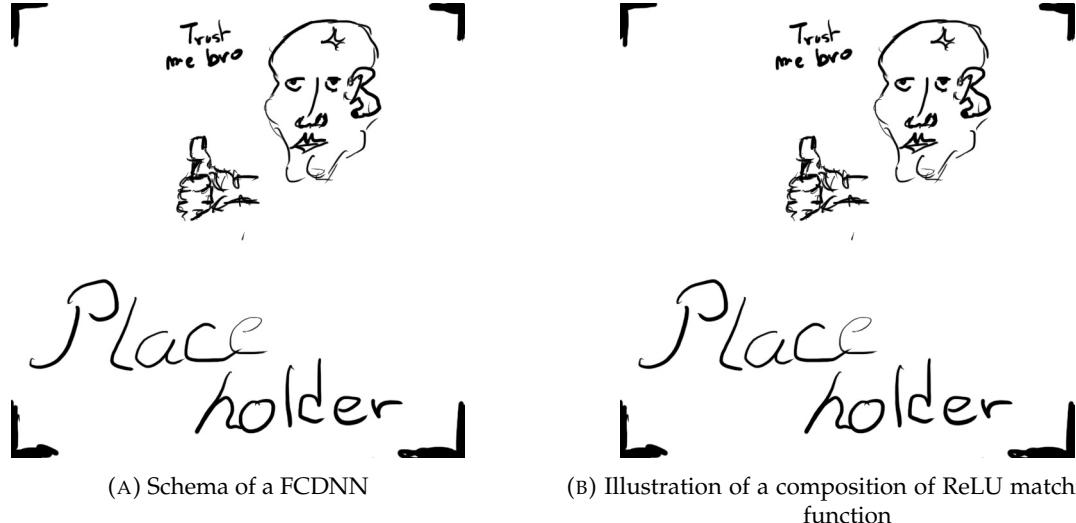


FIGURE 3.2

779 Due to its simplicity, FCDNN are also used as basic pieces for more complex architecture such as  
 780 the CNN and GNN that will be presented in the next section.

### 781 3.2.2 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

782 Convolutional Neural Networks are a family of neural networks that use discrete convolution  
 783 filters to process the input data. They have the advantage to be translation invariant by construction,  
 784 this mean that they are capable of detecting oriented features independently of their location on  
 785 the image. The learning parameters are located in the filters, the network thus learn the optimal  
 786 filters extract the desired feature. 2D CNN, where the filters are second order tensors that span  
 787 over third order tensors, are commonly used in image recognition [55] in classification or regression  
 788 problematics.

789 The convolution layers are commonly chained [56], reducing the input dimension while increasing  
 790 the number of filters. The idea behind is that the first layers will process local informations and  
 791 the latest layers will process more global informations. To try to preserve the amount of information,  
 792 we tend double the numbers of filters for each division of the input data. The results of the conve-  
 793 lution filters is commonly then flattened and feed to a smaller FCDNN which will process the filters  
 794 results to yield the desired output.

### 795 3.2.3 Graph Neural Network (GNN)

796 Graph neural network is a family of neural network where the data is represented as a graph  
 797  $G(\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{E})$  composed of vertex or node  $n \in \mathcal{N}$  and edges  $e \in \mathcal{E}$ . The edges are associated to two nodes  
 798  $(u, v) \in N^2$ , “connecting” them. The node and the edges can hold features, commonly represented as  
 799 vector  $n \in \mathbb{R}^{k_n}, e \in \mathbb{R}^{k_e}$ . We can thus define a graph using two tensors  $A_{\mathcal{E}}^{ij}$  the adjacency tensors that



FIGURE 3.3 – Illustration of a CNN convolution filter

hold the features  $e$  of the edge connecting the node  $i$  and  $j$  and the tensor  $N_v^i$  that hold the features  $v$  of a node  $i$ .

To efficiently manipulate such object we need to structurally encode their property in the neural network architecture: each node is equivalent (as opposite to ordered data in a vector), each node has a set of neighbours, ... One of this method is the message passing algorithm presented historically in “Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry” [57]. In this algorithm with each layer of message passing a new set of features is computed for each node following

$$n_i^{k+1} = \phi_u(n_i^k, \square_j \phi_m(n_j^k, n_j^k, e_{ij}^k)); n_j \in \mathcal{N}'_i \quad (3.6)$$

where  $\phi_u$  is a differentiable update function,  $\square_j$  is a differentiable update function and  $\phi_m$  is a differentiable message function.  $\mathcal{N}'_i$  is the set of neighbours of  $n_i$ , i.e. the nodes  $n_j$  from which it exist an edge  $e_{i,j} \rightarrow (n_i, n_j)$ .  $k$  is the layer on which the message passing algorithm is applied.  $\square$  need also a few other property if we want to keep the graph property, most notably the permutational invariance of its parameters (example: mean, std, sum, ...).

The edges features can also be updated, either by directly taking the results of  $\phi_m$  or by using another message function  $\phi_e$ .

Message passing is a very generic way of describing the process of GNN and it can be specialized for convolutional filtering [48], diffusion [58] and many other specific operation. GNN are used in a wide variety of application such as regression problematics, node classification, edge classification, node and edge prediction, ...

It is a very versatile but complex tool.

### 3.2.4 Adversarial Neural Network (ANN)

The adversarial machine learning, Adversarial Neural Networks (ANN) in the case of neural network, is a family of unsupervised machine learning algorithms where the learning algorithm (generator) is competing against another algorithm (discriminator). Taking the example of Generative Adversarial Networks, concept initially developed by Goodfellow et al. [59], the discriminator goal is to discriminate between data coming from a reference dataset and data produced by the generator. The generator goal, on the other hand, is to produce data that the discriminator would not be able to differentiate from data from the reference dataset. The expression of duality between the two models is represented in the loss where, at least a part of it, is driven by the results of the discriminator.

829 **Chapter 4**

830 **Image recognition for IBD  
831 reconstruction with the SPMT system**

832 As explained in chapter 2, JUNO is an experiment composed of two systems, the Large Photo  
833 Tube Multiplier (LPMT) and the Small Photo Multiplier Tubes (SPMT). Both of the system observe the  
834 same physics event inside of the same medium but they differ in their photo-coverage, respectively  
835 75.2% and 2.7%, their dynamic range, a thousands versus a few dozen, and their back-end electronics  
836 (see section 2.2.2).

837 Due to their differences they are complementary and their strength and weakness. One important  
838 point the difference in expected resolution, the LPMT system outperform largely the SPMT system  
839 but is subject to effects such as saturation [28] that could bias the reconstruction, effect that the SPMT  
840 system is impervious to. Also, due to the dynamic range of the LPMT, in case of high energy and  
841 high density event such as core-collapse supernova, the LPMT system could saturate and the lack of  
842 photo-coverage become a benefit.

843 Thus it is important to have reconstruction and analysis combined but also dedicated to each  
844 system, taking into account the specificity. The subject of this work is to propose a machine learning  
845 algorithm for the SPMT reconstruction based on Convolutional Neural Network (CNN).

846 **4.1 Motivations**

847 As explained in chapter 3, Machine Learning (ML) algorithms shine when modeling complex  
848 distribution from a given dataset. In our case, we have access to complete monte-carlo simulation of  
849 our detector to produce arbitrary large datasets that could represent multiple years of data taking.  
850 Also, due to the nature of monte-carlo simulation we have access to exact truth of the modelled event  
851 like the position, energy and nature of the particle.

852 One of expectation when using data-driven, and so, machine learning algorithm is that the algo-  
853 rithm will be able to use the entirety of the raw information, preventing any loss in precision due to  
854 miss-modeling or simplification of the underlying physic process.

855 Another algorithm was developed in the collaboration for energy and vertex reconstruction [60]  
856 and will serve as a performance reference in this work. The two methods will also be studied event  
857 by event to try to understand and unveil coherence or incoherence between their performances.

858 **4.2 Method and model**

859 One of simplest way to look at JUNO data is to consider the detector as an array of geometrically  
860 distributed sensors on a sphere. Their repartition is almost homogeneous, on this sphere surface  
861 providing an almost equal amount of information per unit surface on this sphere. One kind of data  
862 representation that is ordered, presenting the same property as a plane is the image, which is a  
863 bounded discrete euclidian plane.

Using this representation we can arrange the SPMTs on this plane while keeping most of the neighbouring informations. The pros and cons of this representation is detailed in section 4.2.2.

The most common approach in machine learning for image processing and image recognition is the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN). It is widely used in research and industry [56, 61–63] due to its strengths (see section 3.2.2) and has proven its relevance in image processing.

### 4.2.1 Model

The architecture we use is derived from the VGG-16 architecture [56] illustrated in figure 4.1

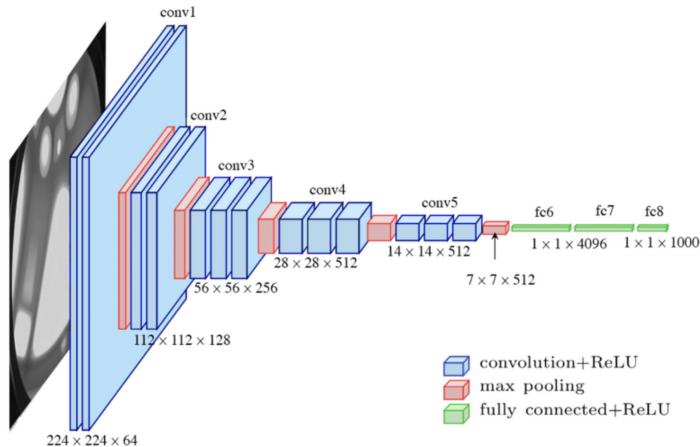


FIGURE 4.1 – Graphic representation of the VGG-16 architecture, presenting the different kind of layer composing the architecture.

$N_{blocks}$	2, 3, 4
$N_{channels}$	32, 64, 128
FCNN configuration	$2 * 1024$ $2 * 2048 + 2 * 1024$ $3 * 2048 + 3 * 512$ $2 * 4096$
Loss	$E + V, E_r + V_r$

### 4.2.2 Data representation

## 4.3 Results

- Comparison with victor results
- More details when I'll look into the retrained data
- Discuss of the differences
- Discuss of the principle of error decorrelation
  - Possible improvements
  - Combining algorithms
  - Average sum

## 4.4 Conclusion

Introduction next chapter

<sup>882</sup> **Chapter 5**

<sup>883</sup> **Graph representation of JUNO for IBD  
reconstruction with the LPMT system**

<sup>884</sup>



<sup>885</sup> **Chapter 6**<sup>886</sup> **Reliability of machine learning  
methods**  
<sup>887</sup>

*"Psychohistory was the quintessence of sociology; it was the science of human behavior reduced to mathematical equations. The individual human being is unpredictable, but the reactions of human mobs, Seldon found, could be treated statistically"*

*Isaac Asimov, Second Foundation*



<sup>889</sup> **Chapter 7**

<sup>890</sup> **Joint fit between the SPMT and LPMT  
spectra**



<sup>892</sup> **Chapter 8**

<sup>893</sup> **Conclusion**



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