

# The Hyper-Kamiokande experiment



**Jan Kisiel**  
**Institute of Physics,**  
**University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland**

# Outline

- **Hyper-Kamiokande project:**
  - (1) far detector,
  - (2) near detectors,
  - (3) J-PARC neutrino beam,
  - (4) Intermediate Water Cherenkov Detector (IWCD)
- **Hyper-Kamiokande: physics program**
- **Hyper-Kamiokande: timeline**
- **Polish contribution to Hyper-Kamiokande experiment**
- **Outlook**



# Hyper-Kamiokande

# Hyper-Kamiokande



UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA  
IN KATOWICE

## HK Inner Detector (ID)

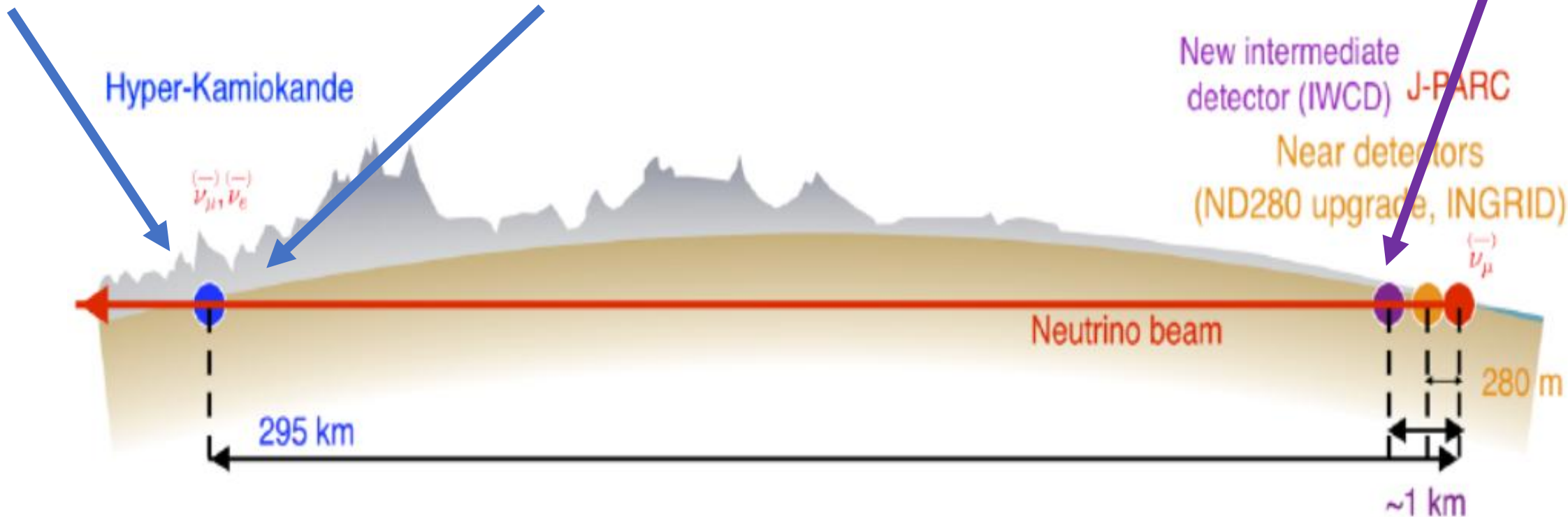
- 20% photocoverage
- ~20000 20" PMTs and
- ~800 multi-PMTs

## HK Outer Detector (OD)

- ~3600 3" PMTs
- mounted on Wave Length Shifter (WLS) plates

## Intermediate Water Cherenkov Detector (IWCD)

- ~400 multi-PMTs



- HK-project:**
- 1) new far water Cherenkov detector (8.4 x Super-Kamiokande)
  - 2) upgraded J-PARC neutrino beam : 0.8 MW (now) → 1.3 MW
  - 3) upgraded ND280 detector (new Super-FGD and High Angle TPCs)
  - 4) new Intermediate Water Cherenkov Detector (IWCD)

Based on Japan's successes with water Cherenkov exp.

- Kamiokande (1983-1996), 3 kton, 20% PMT coverage:

- SN1987a neutrinos,
- $\nu_{atm}$  deficit,
- ...



M. Koshiba  
(for the detection of cosmic neutrinos)

- Super-Kamiokande (1996-...), 50 (22.5 FV) kton, 40% PMT coverage:

- $\nu_{atm}$  and  $\nu_{solar}$  oscillations,
- proton decay,
- far detector for T2K exp.,
- ...



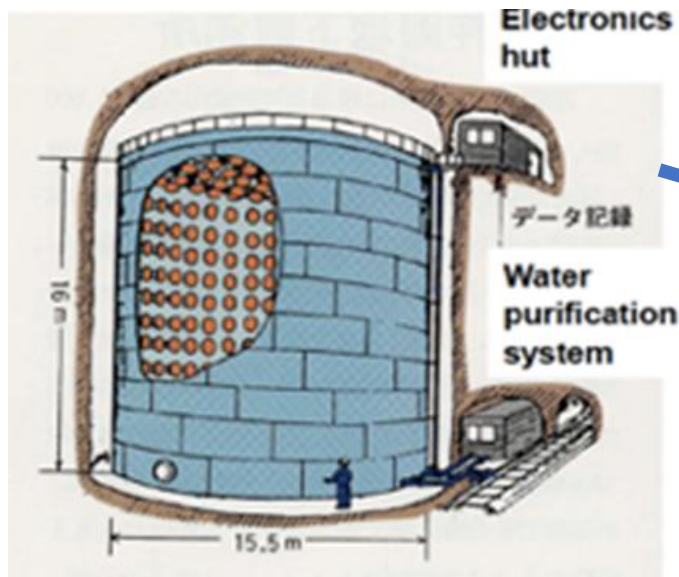
T. Kajita  
(for the discovery of neutrino oscillations)

- Hyper-Kamiokande (2027-...), 258 (188 FV) kton, 20% PMT coverage:

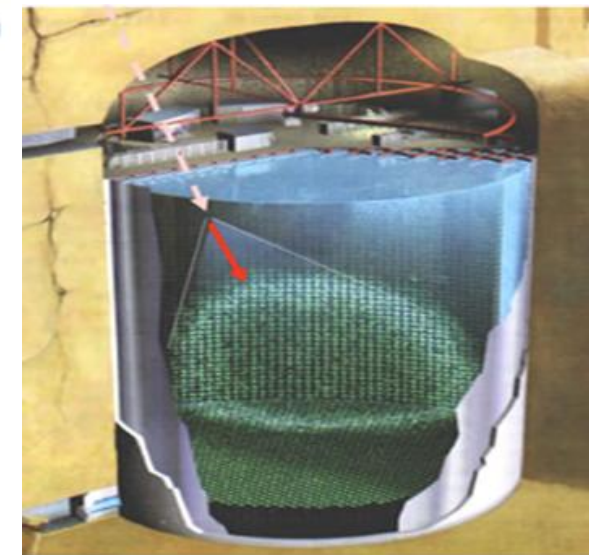
- CP violation: elucidation of the matter dominance in the Universe
- proton decay (most sensitive channel:  $p \rightarrow e^+ + \pi^0$ ):
- neutrino oscillation (beam, atmospheric, solar)
- neutrino mass hierarchy (combined fit of the beam and atmospheric data),
- neutrino astrophysics (supernova, ...),

20.02.2025

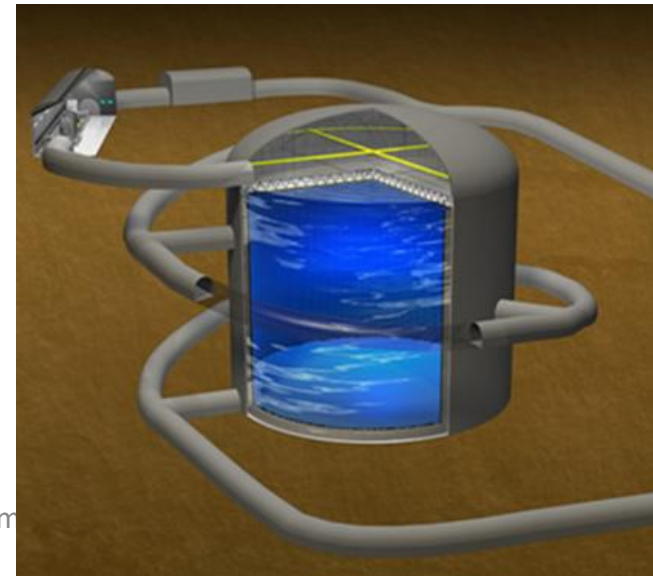
Hyper-Kam



20x

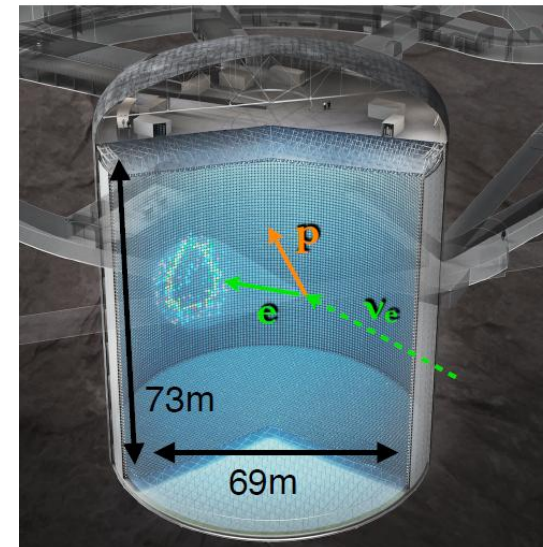


8.4x



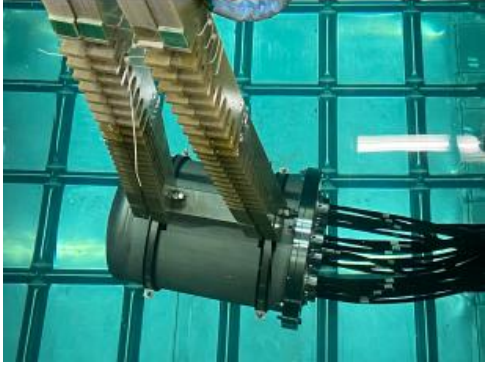


- Water Cherenkov far detector:
  - fiducial volume: ~188 kton, ~8.4 Super-K;
  - the tank bottom: ~8 bars of water pressure.
- Main cavern: the largest ever human-built cavern,

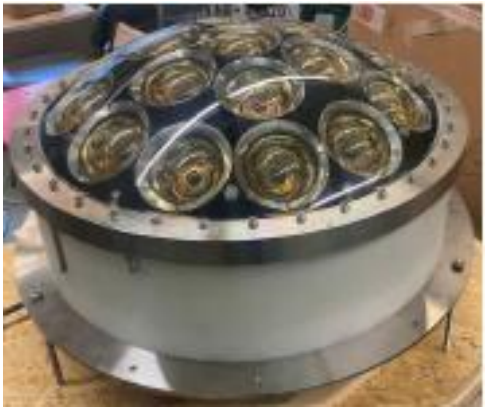


# Hyper-Kamiokande far detector

Measurement of interaction vertex, particle direction and energy;  $e/\mu$  PID with 20k 20" improved PMTs + 800 mPMTs (inner detector) and 3600 3" PMTs mounted at WLS plates (outer detector).



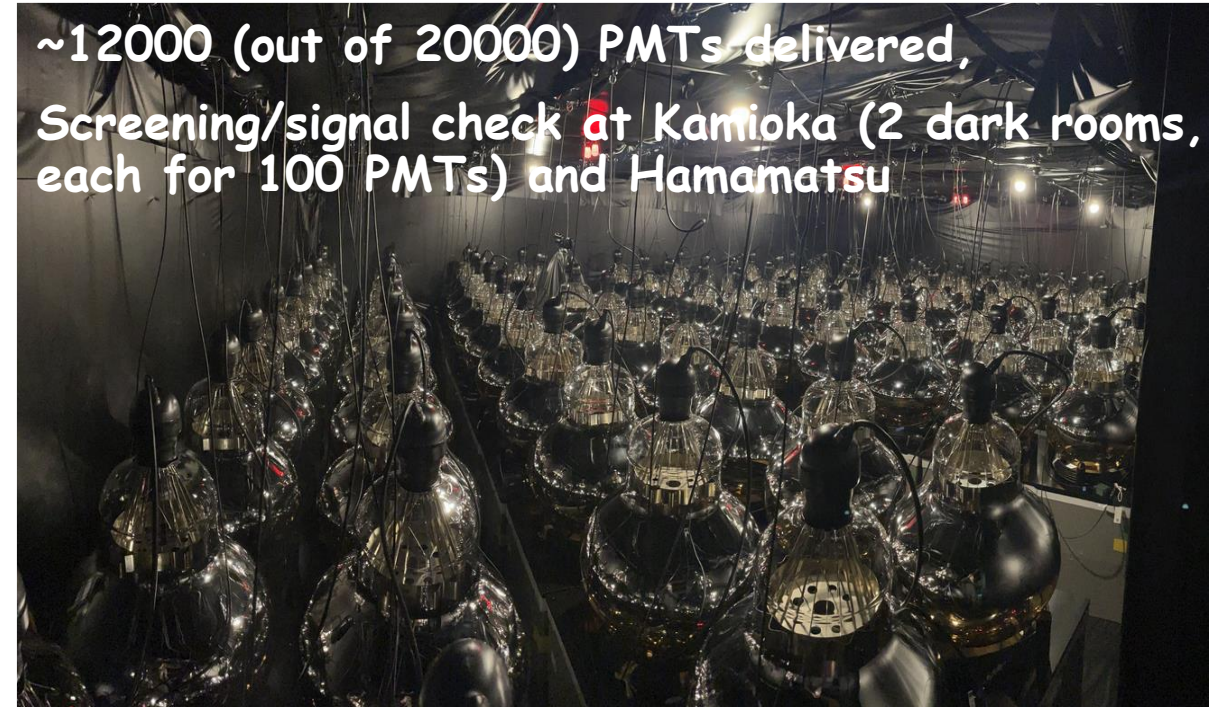
900 electronic modules in underwater pressure vessels (~600 for 20" PMTs only; ~300 hybrid (20" and 3" PMTs)), unlike in SK to avoid signal deterioration by long cables.



Multi-PMT (mPMT) modules: 19x3" PMTs with electronics inside a pressure resistant vessel to improve the Cherenkov rings reconstructions in the detector corners.



Outer detector: 3" PMT attached to wavelength shifting plate to veto cosmic-ray muons.



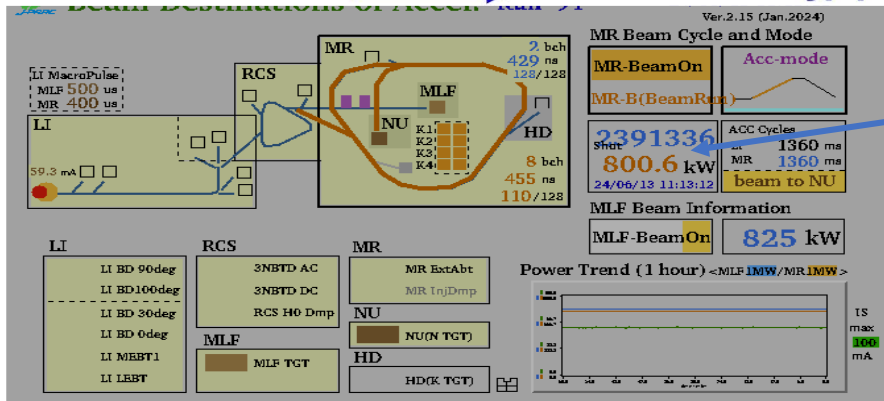
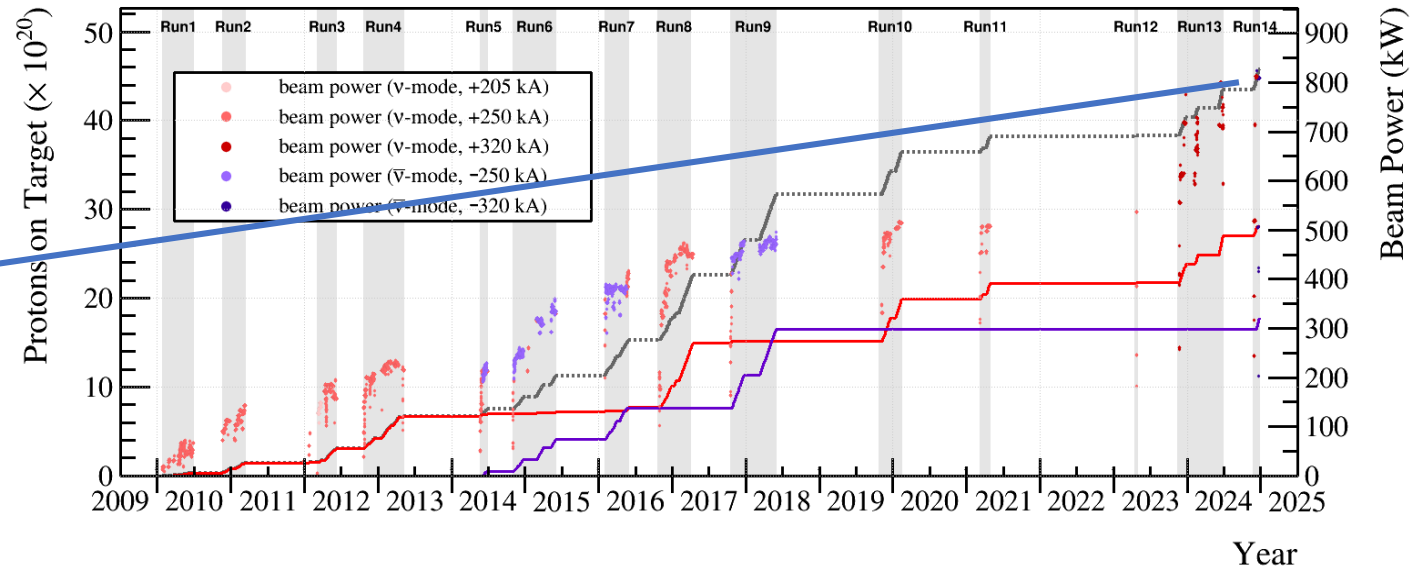
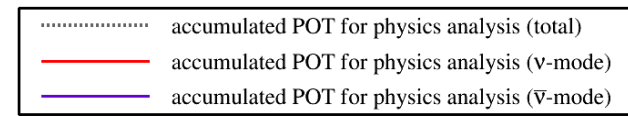
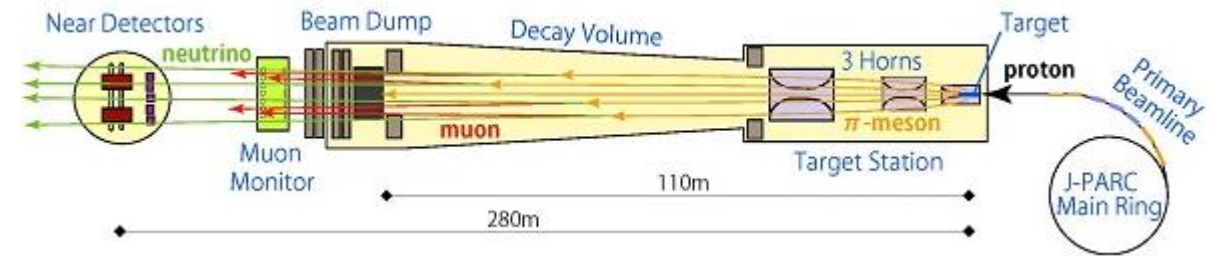
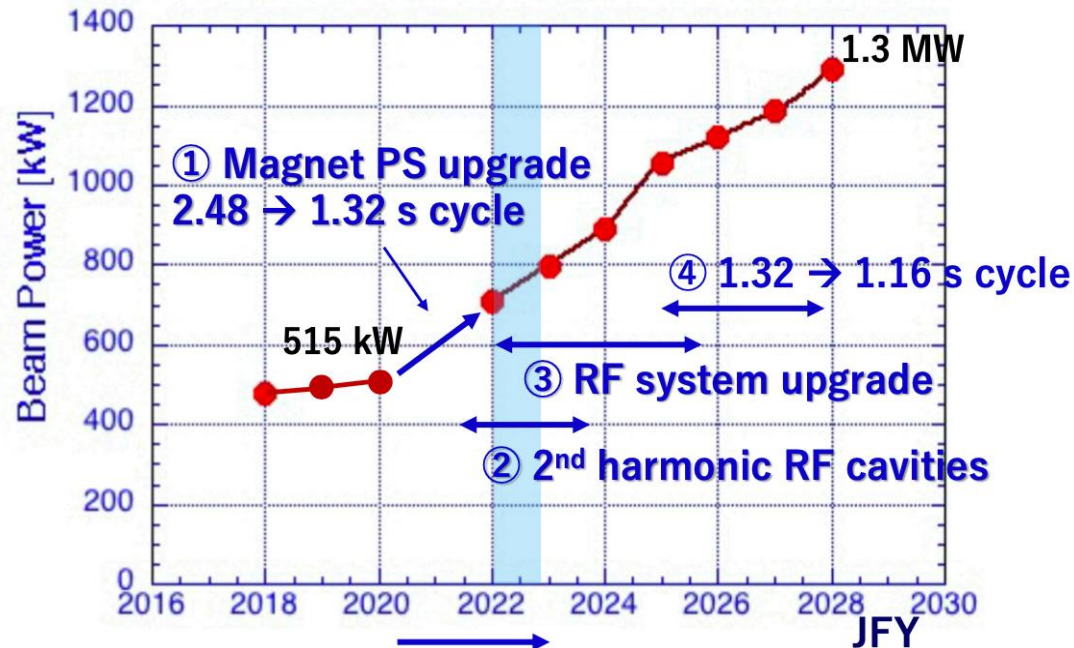
~12000 (out of 20000) PMTs delivered, Screening/signal check at Kamioka (2 dark rooms, each for 100 PMTs) and Hamamatsu

HK 20" PMTs: twice better performance (photodetection efficiency, charge and time resolutions) than SK PMTs; confirmed with 136 installed in the SK during 2018 refurbishment; data for long term stability tests in real HK conditions.



# Upgrade of J-PARC proton beam intensity

- Continuous increase: from 0.5 MW (2019) to 1.3 MW (2028); already 0.8 MW in 2024.
- Cycle time: 2.48 s  $\rightarrow$  1.16 s; protons per pulse:  $2.6 \times 10^{14} \rightarrow 3.3 \times 10^{14}$ ; beam optics improvement.
- J-PARC neutrino beam will be used by T2K until the start of HK.

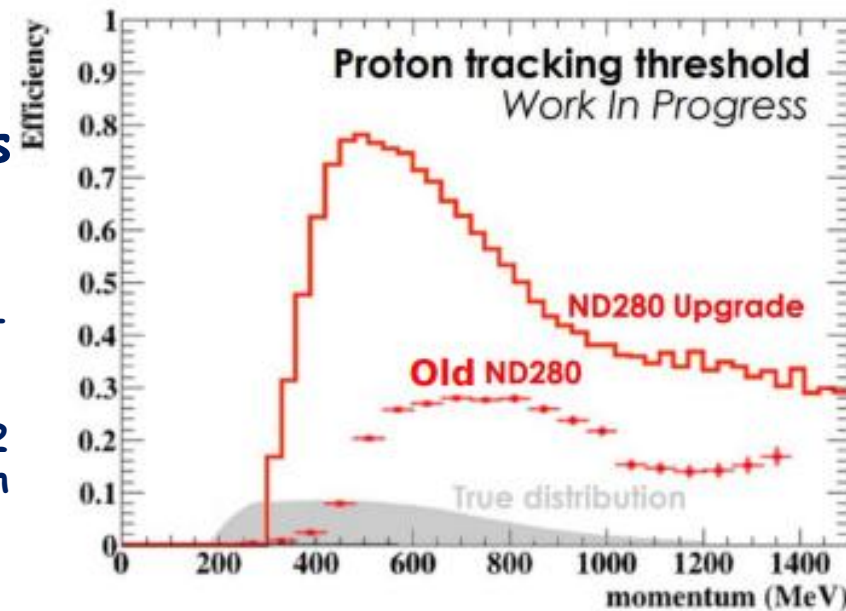




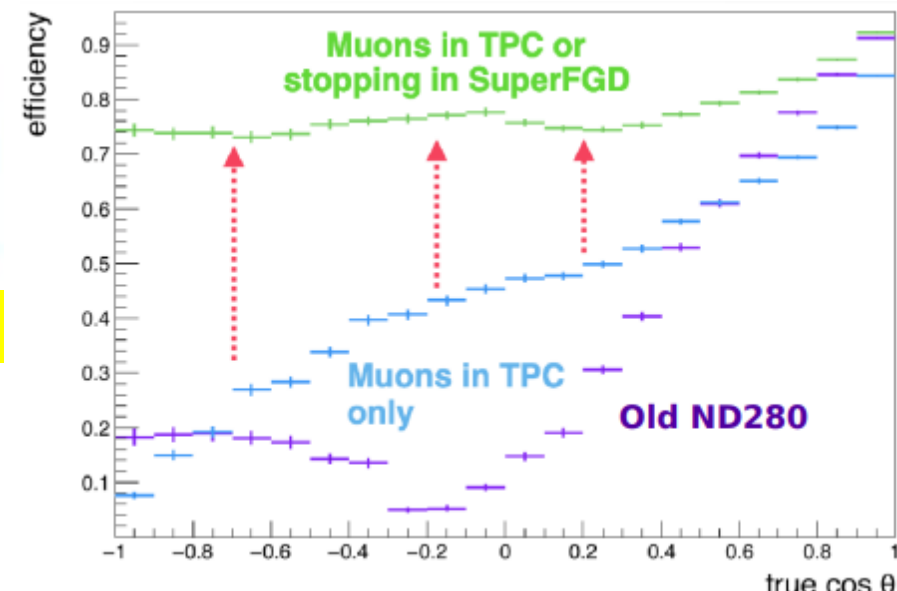
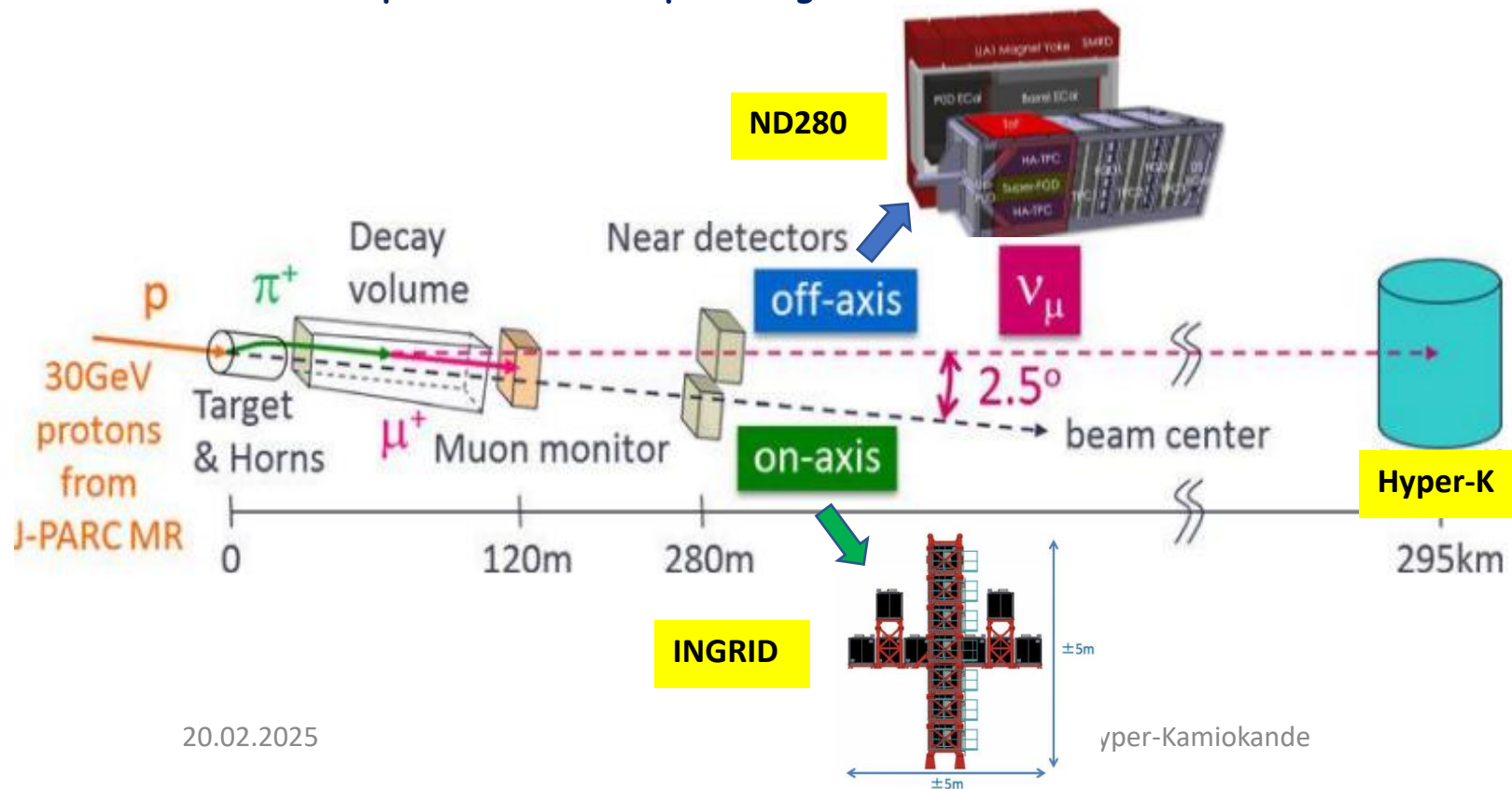
# The near detectors at 280m

Near detectors: used to understand neutrino beam/interactions (before oscillations) and control systematics.

- INGRID: on-axis detector to monitor neutrino beam stability and profile.
- ND280: 2.5 off-axis magnetized tracker to measure neutrino interactions (cross-sections) and energy spectrum before oscillations occur. Recently upgraded with: SuperFGD - 2M 1cm<sup>3</sup> optically isolated plastic scintillator cubes for 3D track reconstruction - significant improvement in backward angles, also 2 tons target; 2 horizontal gaseous Ar TPCs with central cathode with 1m drift distance; ToF with 6 scintillator planes with 150 ps timing resolution for PID.



Proton tagging threshold: lowered

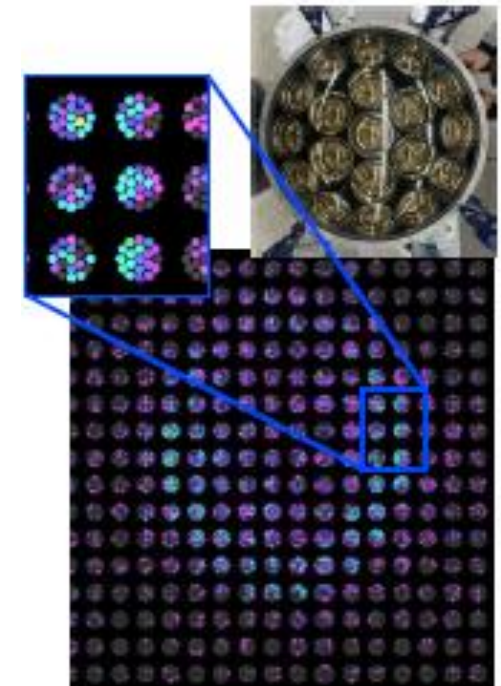
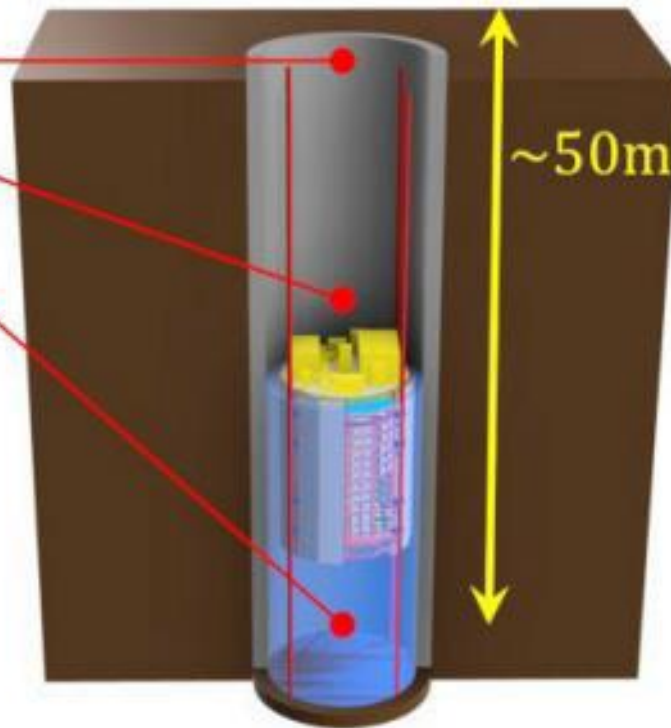
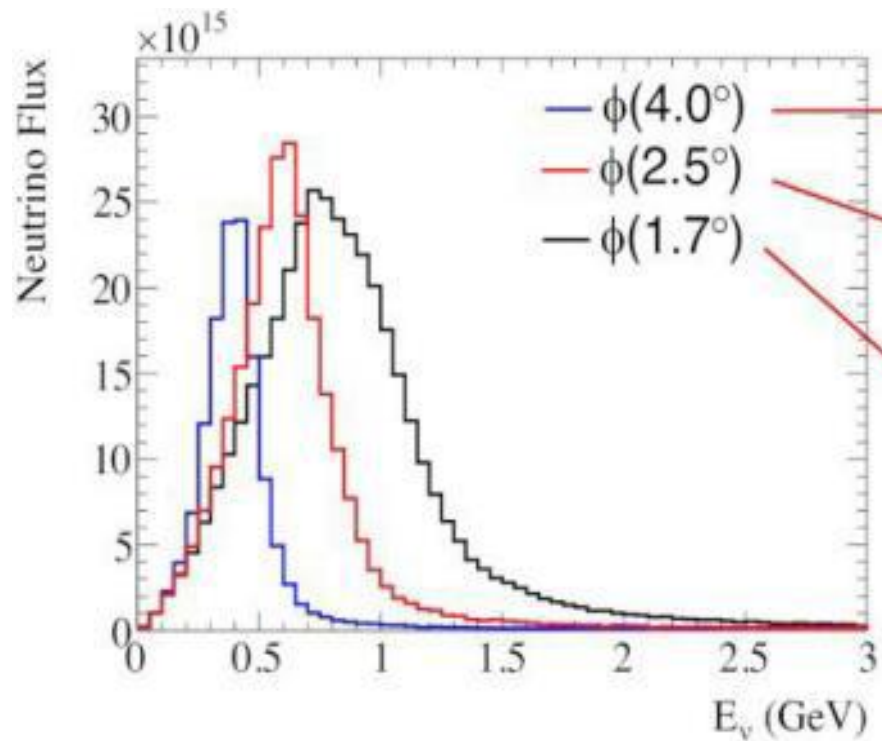


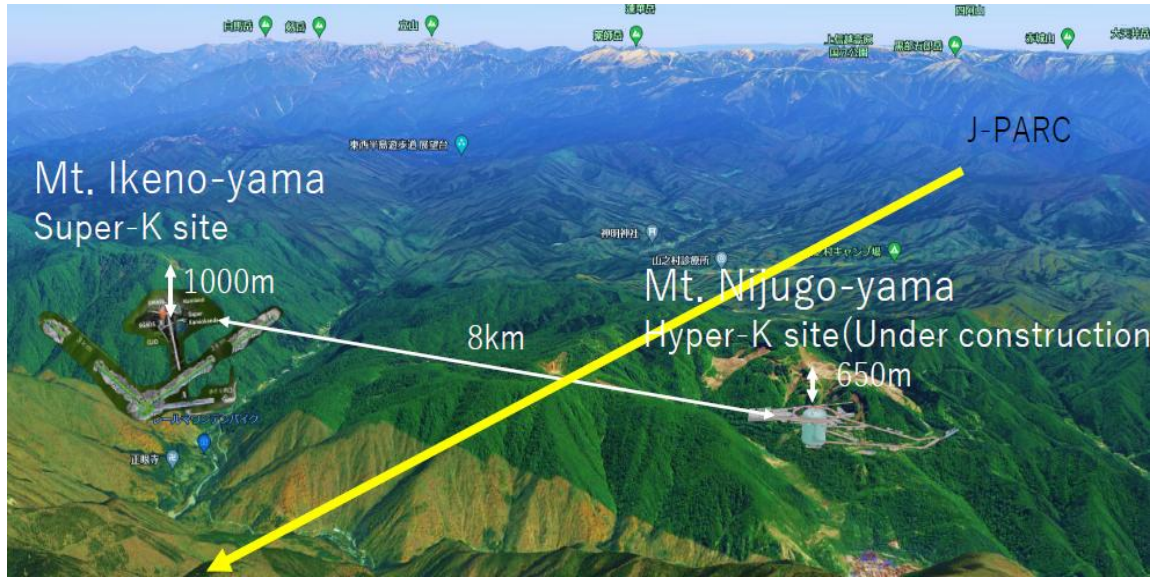
Muon angular acceptance: improved



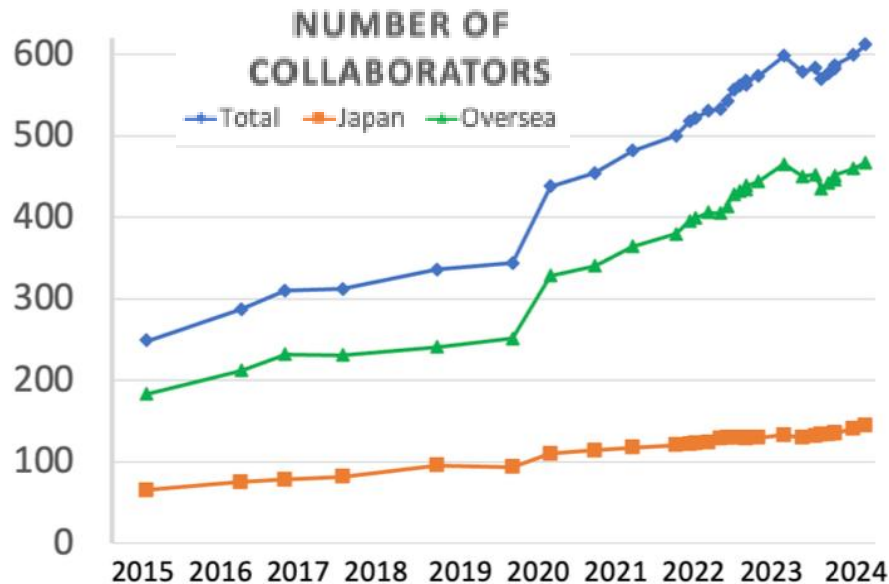


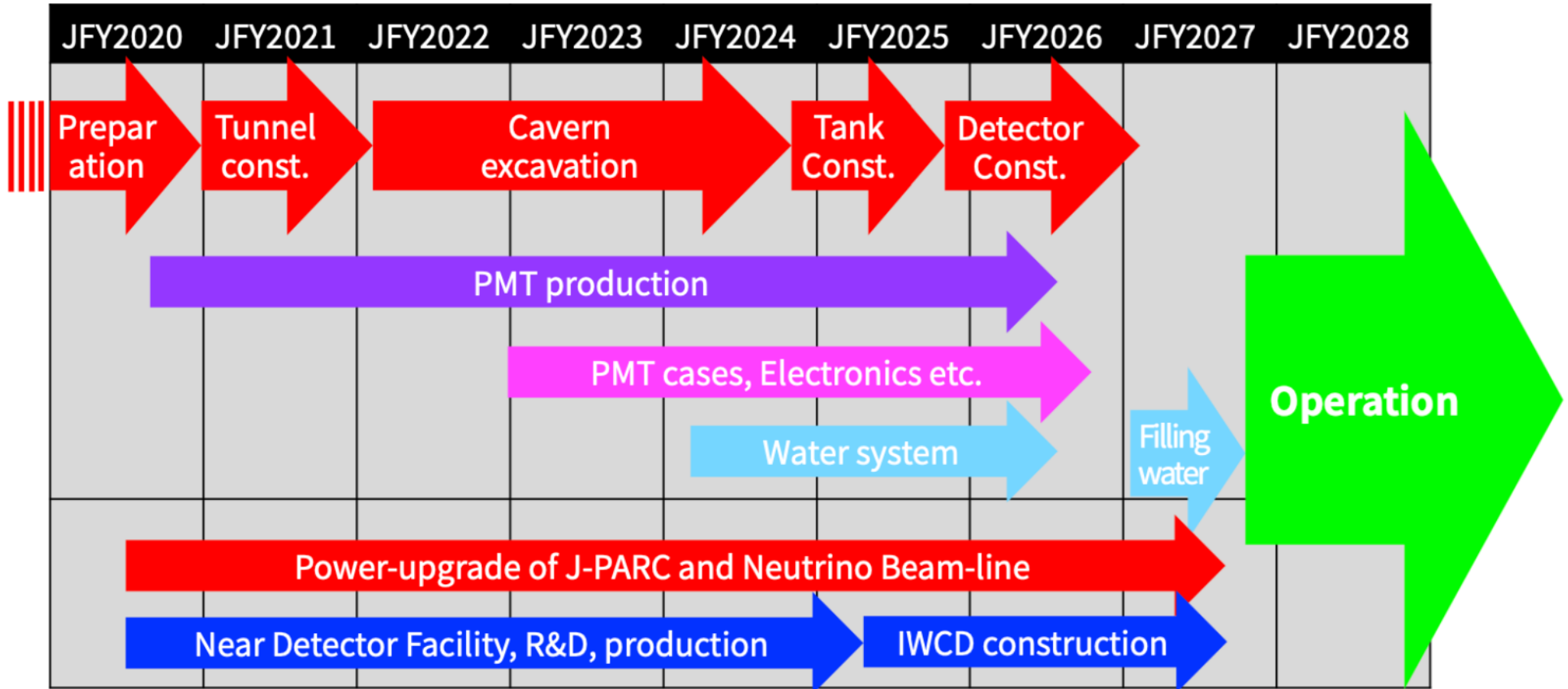
- Measurement of  $\frac{\sigma(\nu_e)}{\sigma(\bar{\nu}_e)} / \frac{\sigma(\nu_\mu)}{\sigma(\bar{\nu}_\mu)}$  with  $\sim 3\%$  accuracy at 600 MeV to improve  $\delta_{CP}$  sensitivity significantly. Oscillated neutrino energy spectrum at HK will differ from that at IWCD.
- A linear combination of the results for different off-axis angles will allow to reconstruct the neutrino energy corresponding to an almost monochromatic neutrino spectrum without neutrino interaction models.
- New, vertically movable detector with 400 mPMTs inside 50m (height)  $\times$  10m (diameter) water tank, 830m away from the beam source. Facility construction (pit excavation) starts summer 2025.





- 6 continents, 22 countries, 106 institutions, ~650 people as of December 2024; ~75% non-Japanese; continuously growing.
- Far detector: Univ. of Tokyo.
- Beam and near detectors: KEK/J-PARC.
- Strong Polish contribution, >30 members;
  - NCBJ,
  - UW,
  - WUT,
  - CAMK,
  - UWr,
  - AGH,
  - UJ,
  - IFJ PAN,
  - UŚ.



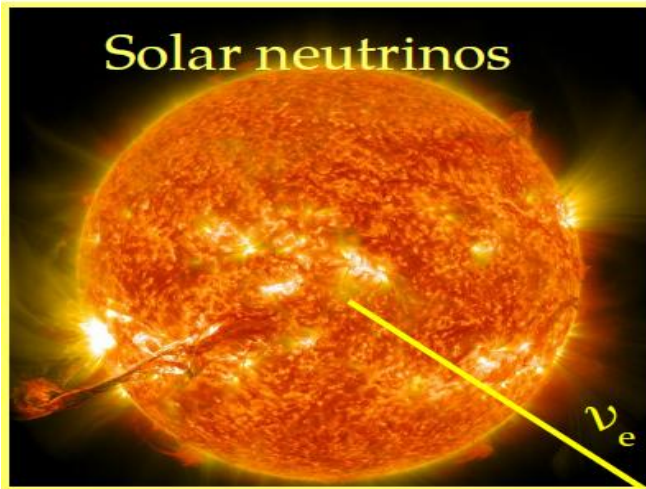


- Construction phase extended (6 months) due to the changes of the structure of the detector top.
- May 2027: start of the water filling.
- December 2027: start of the detector operation.

## Physics case

### Proton decay

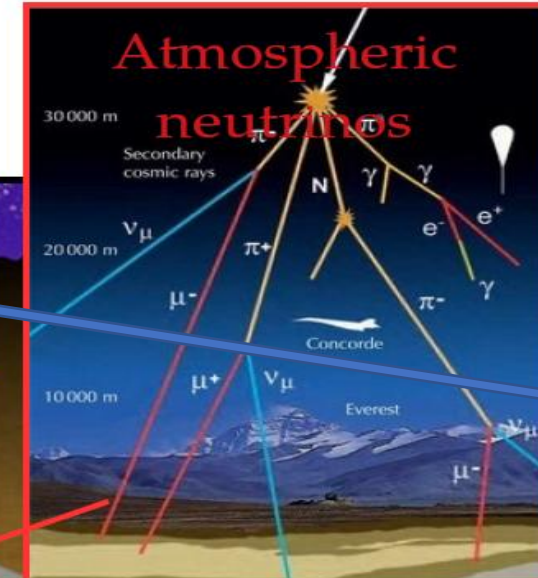
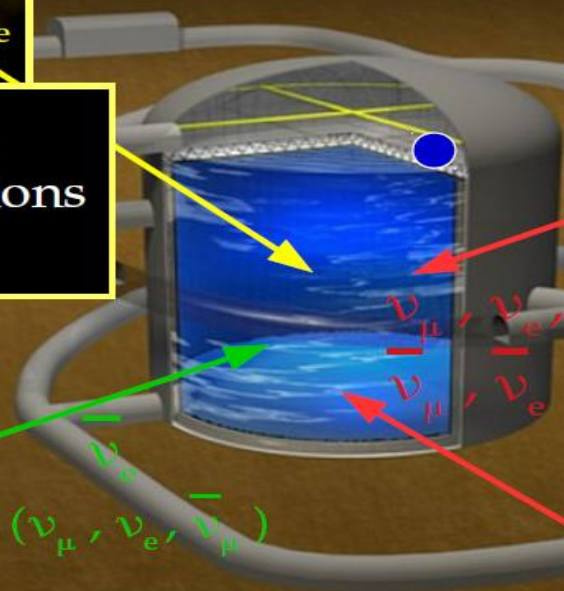
Probe Grand Unified Theories through p-decay (world best sensitivity)



- MSW effect in the Sun
- Non-standard interactions in the Sun.

### Supernovae neutrinos

- Direct SN $\nu$  : Constrains SN models.
- Relic SN $\nu$  : Constrains cosmic star formation history



- Observe CP violation for leptons at  $5\sigma$
- Precise measurement of  $\delta_{CP}$ .
- High sensitivity to  $\nu$  mass ordering.



(this talk)

B. Quilain, Conf. of the 2 infinities, Kyoto, 2023

Unitary, Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata (PMNS) matrix describes the mixing between neutrino flavor and mass eigenstates:

$$\begin{matrix} \text{flavor} \\ \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{atmospheric/accelerator} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & C_{23} & S_{23} \\ 0 & -S_{23} & C_{23} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{accelerator/reactor} \\ \begin{pmatrix} C_{13} & 0 & S_{13} e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -S_{13} e^{-i\delta} & 0 & C_{13} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{solar/reactor} \\ \begin{pmatrix} C_{12} & S_{12} & 0 \\ -S_{12} & C_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{mass} \\ \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_{ij} &= \sin(\theta_{ij}) \\ C_{ij} &= \cos(\theta_{ij}) \end{aligned}$$

In the three flavor model there are 6 parameters to be measured:

2 differences of mass in quadrature, 3 mixing angles and 1 CP phase (for Dirac neutrinos)

Current values, PDG2024

$$\sin^2 \theta_{13} = 0.0219 \pm 0.007$$

$$\sin^2 \theta_{12} = 0.307^{+0.013}_{-0.012}$$

$$\Delta m_{21}^2 = 7.53 \pm 0.18 \times 10^{-5} eV^2$$

Normal mass ordering

$$\Delta m_{32}^2 = 2.455 \pm 0.028 \times 10^{-3} eV^2$$

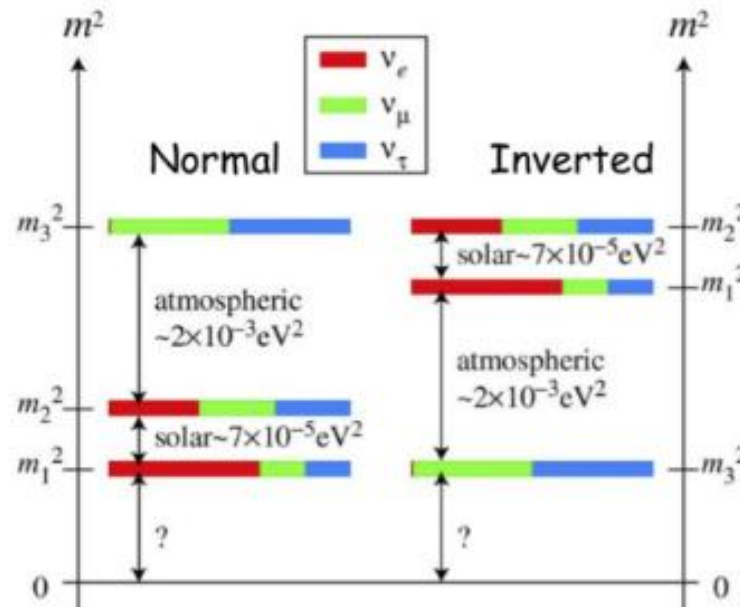
$$\sin^2 \theta_{23} = 0.558^{+0.015}_{-0.021}$$

Inverted mass ordering

$$\Delta m_{32}^2 = -2.529 \pm 0.029 \times 10^{-3} eV^2$$

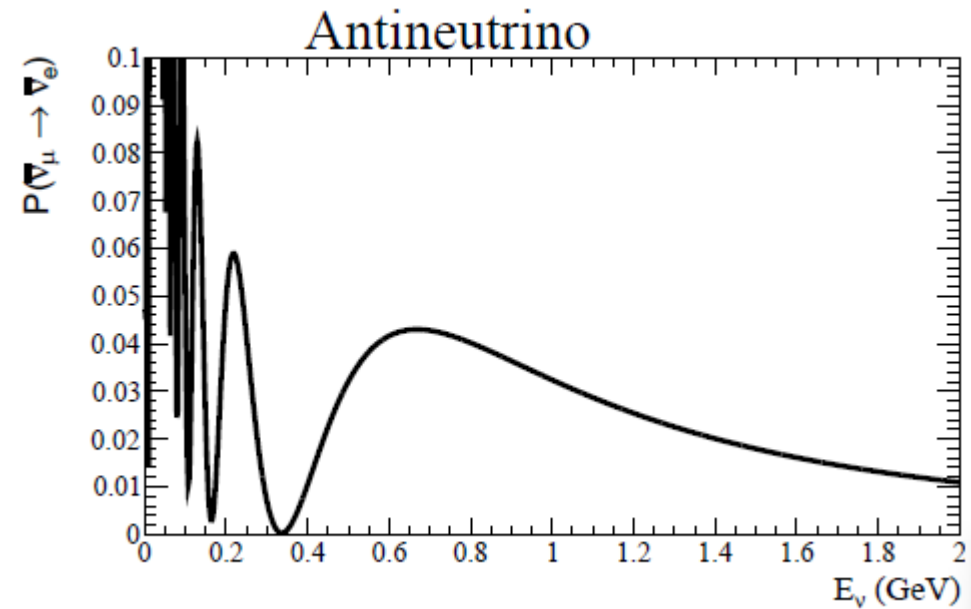
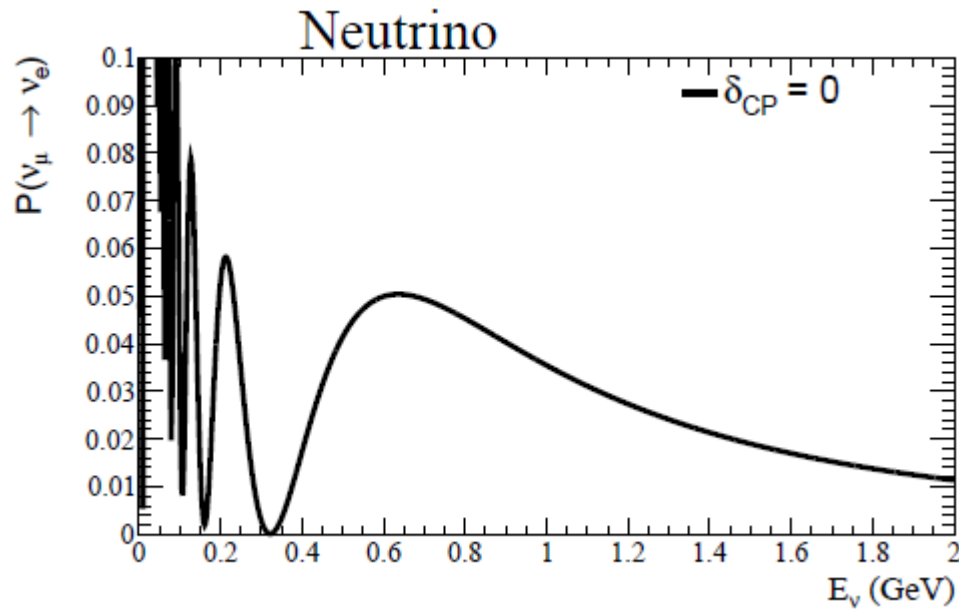
$$\sin^2 \theta_{23} = 0.553^{+0.016}_{-0.024}$$

20.02.2025

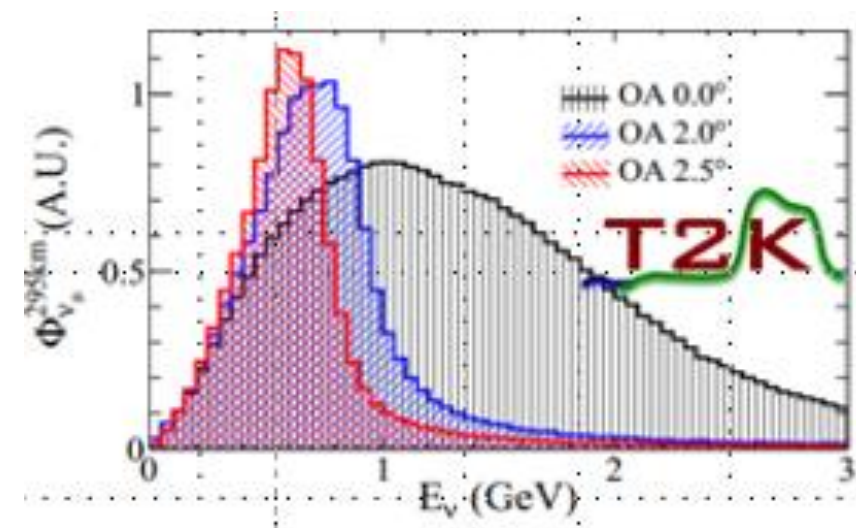


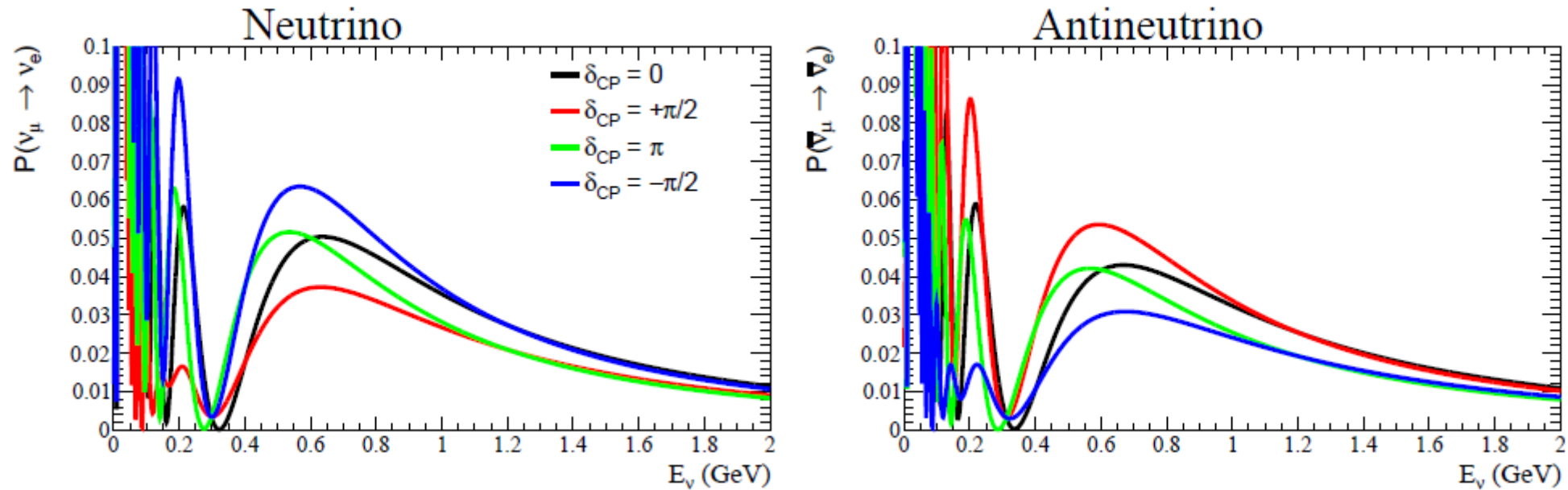
Open questions:

- CPV ( $\delta_{CP}$  phase, difference in  $\nu_\mu/\bar{\nu}_\mu$  oscillations)
- mass ordering
- $\Theta_{23} > 45^\circ$  or  $\Theta_{23} < 45^\circ$  or  $\Theta_{23} = 45^\circ$



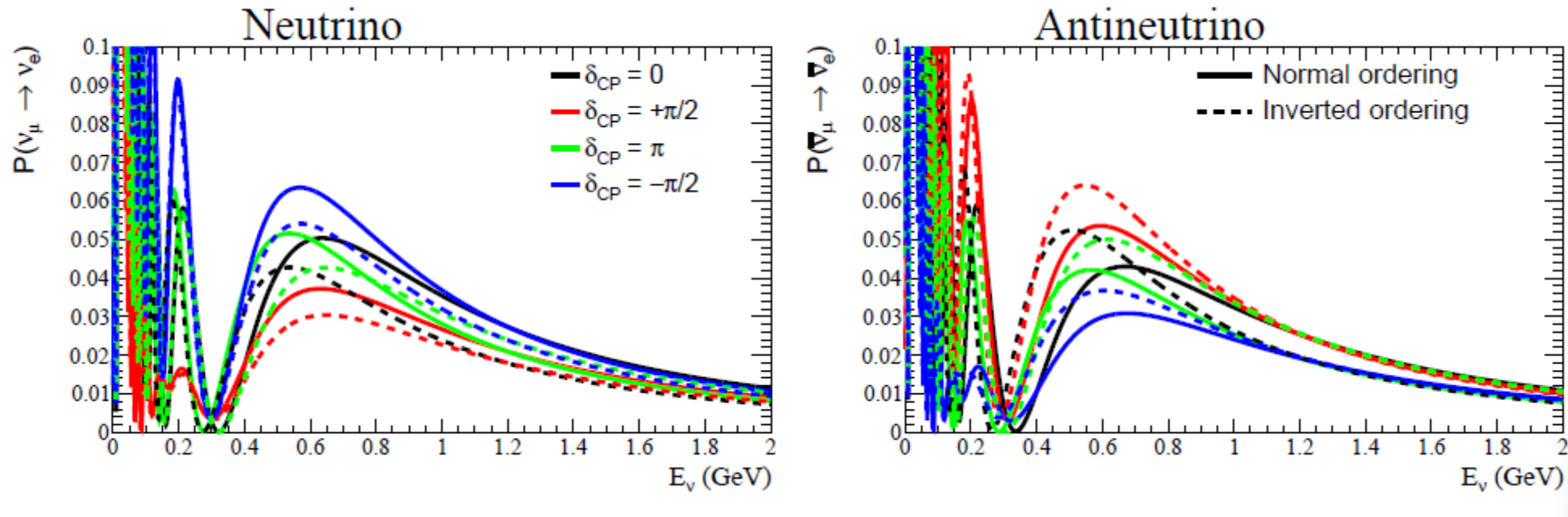
- J-PARC neutrino and antineutrino off-axis beam fluxes peak at  $\sim 0.6$  GeV, currently used by T2K; from 2027 by Hyper-K.





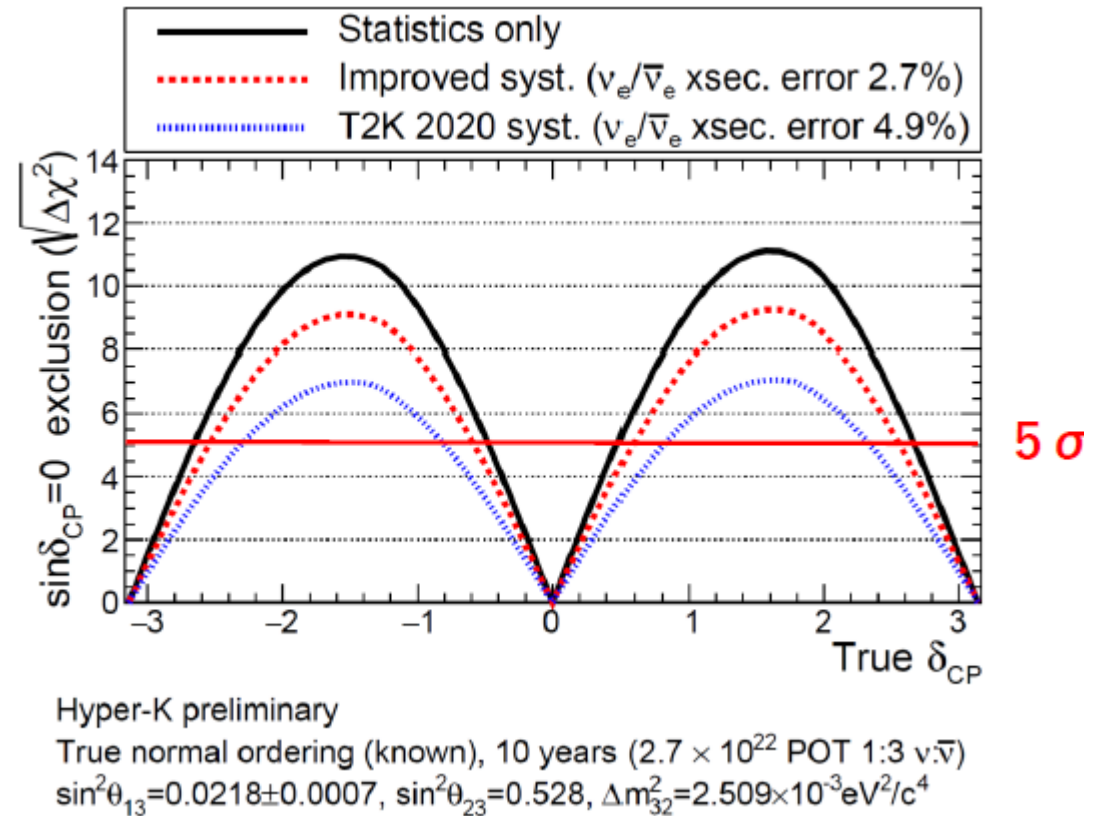
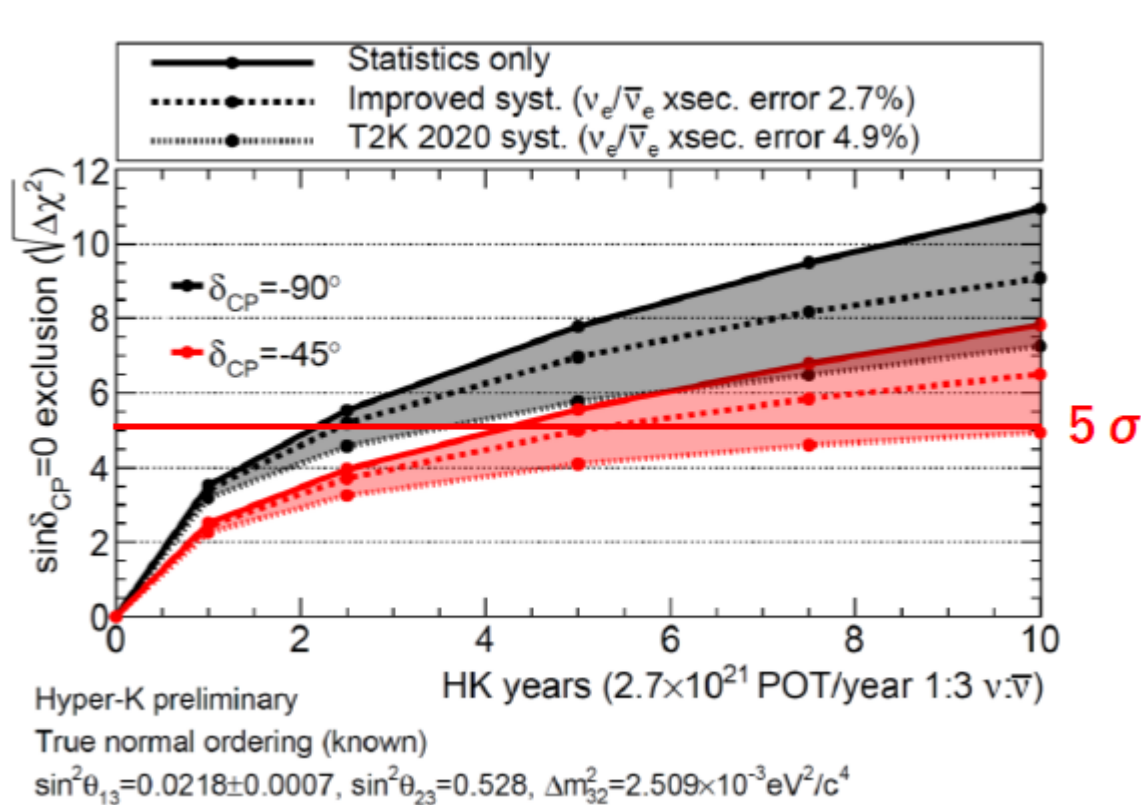
- J-PARC neutrino and antineutrino beam fluxes peak at  $\sim 0.6$  GeV
- For  $\delta_{CP} = -\pi/2$ :  $\nu_e(\bar{\nu}_e)$  appearance enhanced (suppressed)
- Expected number of events (10 years,  $\delta_{CP} = 0^\circ$ ,  $\nu : \bar{\nu} = 1:3$ ;  $2.7 \times 10^{22}$  POT):

Neutrino beam; $\mu$ -like ring	$\sim 8800$
Antineutrino beam; $\mu$ -like ring	$\sim 12000$
Neutrino beam; e-like ring	$\sim 2100$
Antineutrino beam; e-like ring	$\sim 1800$



- J-PARC neutrino and antineutrino beam fluxes peaks at  $\sim 0.6$  GeV
- For  $\delta_{CP} = -\pi/2$ :  $\nu_e(\bar{\nu}_e)$  appearance enhanced (suppressed)
- Unknown neutrino mass ordering makes  $\delta_{CP}$  measurement more complicated, but ...
- Neutrino mass ordering may be resolved with HK atmospheric neutrino data (later in this talk)
- First hint for CPV from T2K exp. (Nature 580 (2020) 339, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2177-0> )





- CPV discovery ( $5\sigma$ ) in 10 years, with known MO for  $\sim 60\%$  depending of the  $\delta_{CP}$  true value.
- $\delta_{CP}$  resolutions:  $20^\circ$  if  $\delta_{CP} = -\frac{\pi}{2}$ ;  $6^\circ$  if  $\delta_{CP} = 0^\circ$
- If NO and  $\delta_{CP} = -\frac{\pi}{2}$  : exclusion of CP conservation in 3-5 years, depending on systematics.

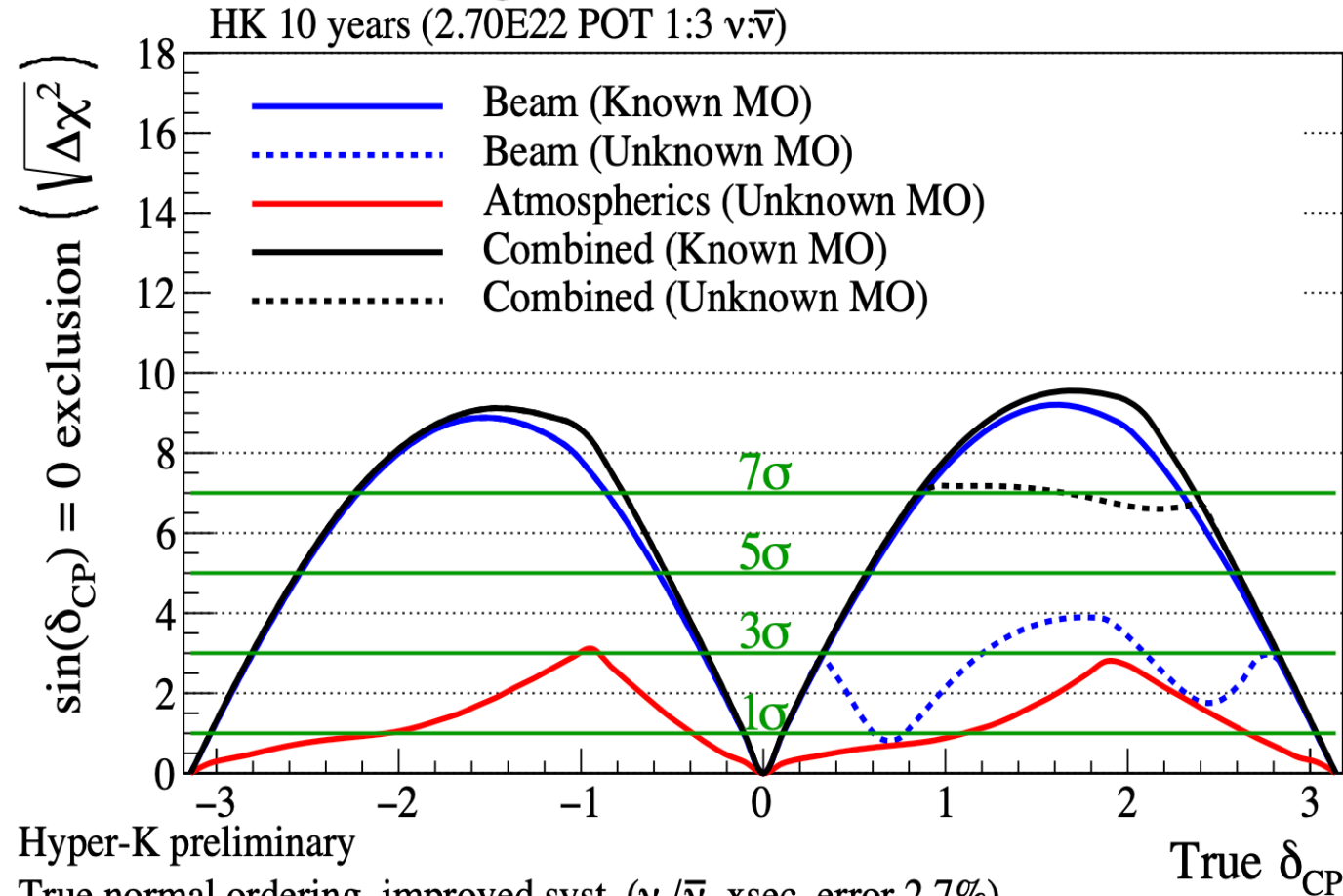
So far, known mass ordering assumed. If unknown - degeneracies degrade  $\delta_{CP}$  sensitivity, which can be resolved with atmospheric neutrinos (next slide).

- Atmospheric neutrinos: wide energy range (0.1-10<sup>3</sup> GeV) & long baseline (10-13000 km) → sensitivity to matter ordering
- Atmospheric neutrinos while penetrating Earth are affected by the mass effect which is sensitive to the neutrino mass ordering:
  - Normal ordering:  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  is enhanced
  - Inverted ordering:  $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$  is enhanced
- Comparison between neutrino and anti-neutrino oscillation can help to resolve neutrino mass hierarchy.

	$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	Atmospheric neutrino	Atm + Beam
Mass ordering	0.40	2.2 $\sigma$	→ 3.8 $\sigma$
	0.60	4.9 $\sigma$	→ 6.2 $\sigma$
$\theta_{23}$ octant	0.45	2.2 $\sigma$	→ 6.2 $\sigma$
	0.55	1.6 $\sigma$	→ 3.6 $\sigma$

10 years with 1.3MW, normal mass ordering is assumed

## True Normal Ordering



Hyper-K preliminary

True normal ordering, improved syst. ( $\nu_e/\bar{\nu}_e$  xsec. error 2.7%)

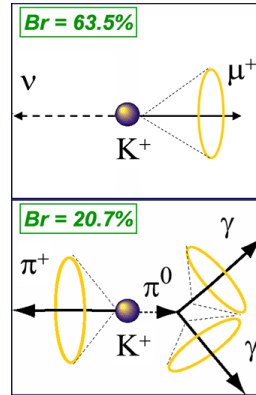
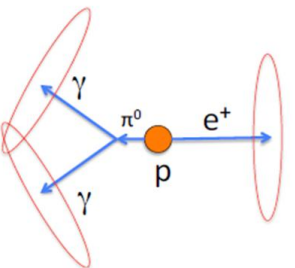
$\sin^2(\theta_{13})=0.0218$   $\sin^2(\theta_{23})=0.528$   $|\Delta m_{32}^2|=2.509 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2/c^4$

**Mass ordering and octant: 4 – 6 $\sigma$  (10 years)**

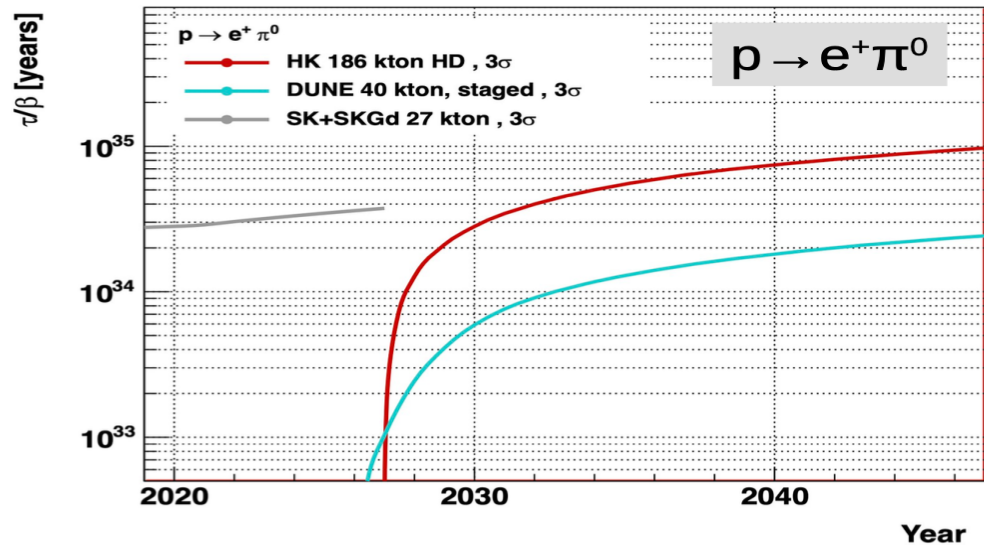
# HK: search for proton decay

Proton (nucleon) decay is predicted by many Grand Unified Theories.

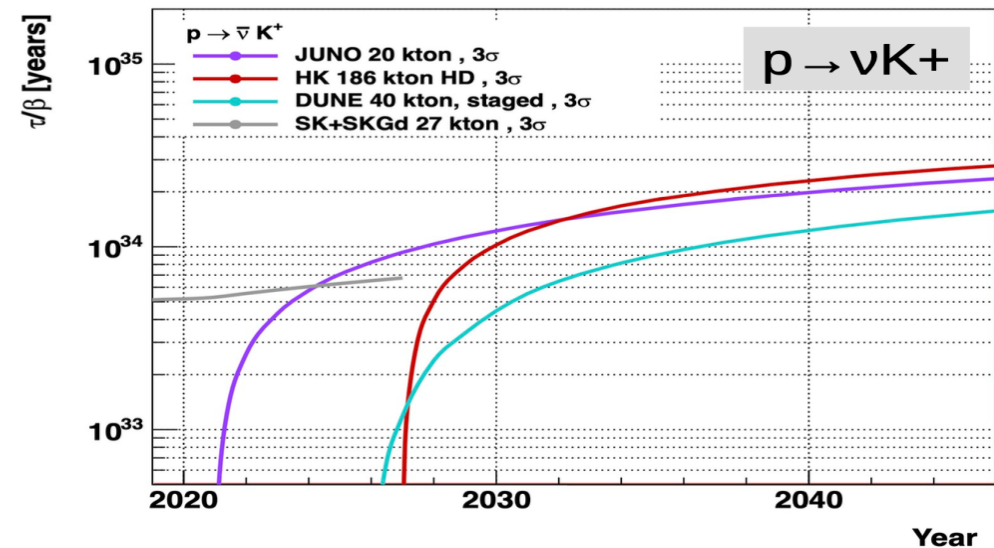
- Back-to-back EM showers, final state fully reconstructed.
- Compelling evidence: invariant proton mass.
- Efficiency of  $\sim 45\%$ , dominated by nuclear absorption of  $\pi^0$ .



- $K^+$  is below Cherenkov threshold (not visible)
- $K^+$  identified/reconstructed via its decays:
  - $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu$  (BR=64%): monochromatic (236 MeV) muon.
  - or search for  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^+$  decay (BR=21%):  $\pi^0$  momentum  $\sim 205$  MeV/c and opposite to  $\pi^+$ .



$\sim 6 \times 10^{34}$  years:  $3\sigma$  sensitivity,  
10 years



$\sim 2 \times 10^{34}$  years:  $3\sigma$  sensitivity,  
10 years



- NCBJ, CAMK, WUT, UW, IFJ PAN, UJ, AGH, UW, UŚ
- Design and construction of multi-PMT for the far (HK) and intermediate detector (IWCD)
- Design of data concentration modules and low-voltage power supply modules for underwater electronics
- Design, production and installation of electron linear accelerator, with the deployment and beam steering systems
- WCTE (Water Cherenkov Test Experiment at CERN) – 40 ton detector as a test for HK technologies: construction, tests, installation of multiPMTs, DAQ, front-end electronics, participation in the detector installation, calibration, data taking and analysis
- Work on neutrino interaction models with implementation in the NuWro event generator
- Cosmic and beam-related backgrounds simulation
- Participation in large-scale Monte Carlo samples production
- Participation in 20" PMT quality checks
- Development of analysis/software tools for oscillation/cross section studies with HK data
- Project management: EB membership, chairs of Electronic group and Speakers Board, Publication Board membership

- **Hyper-Kamiokande is the next generation neutrino experiment in Japan:**
  - New, huge, 260 kton water Cherenkov far detector,
  - Upgraded to 1.3 MW J-PARC neutrino beam,
  - Upgraded near detectors,
  - New Intermediate Water Cherenkov detector.
- **Wide and ambitious Hyper-Kamiokande physics program is based on detection of neutrinos from various sources (J-PARC beam, atmospheric, supernova, relic, ...), including proton decay searches.**
- **Construction started 2020 is ongoing; beginning of operation in 2027.**

Physics	Parameter	Sensitivity
J-PARC beam neutrinos (1.3 MW; 10 years)	$\delta_{CP}$	$7^\circ - 20^\circ$
	CPV coverage: $3\sigma$ ( $5\sigma$ )	76% (58%)
	$\sin^2\theta_{23}$ (uncertainty for 0.5)	$\pm 0.017$
J-PARC beam neutrinos + atmospheric (10 years)	Mass ordering	$> 3.8\sigma$
	Octant determination, $3\sigma$	$ \theta_{23} - 45^\circ  > 2^\circ$
Solar neutrinos (10 years)	Day/Night: from 0 (from KL)	$8\sigma$ ( $4\sigma$ )
	Upturn	$> 3\sigma$
Supernova neutrinos	10 kpc burst	54k – 90k events
	Relic neutrinos	$\sim 70$ in 10 years
Proton decay (20 years)	Lifetime ( $3\sigma$ ): $e^+\pi^0$	$1 \times 10^{35}$ years
	Lifetime ( $3\sigma$ ): $\nu K^+$	$3 \times 10^{34}$ years