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Neutrinos at the LHC

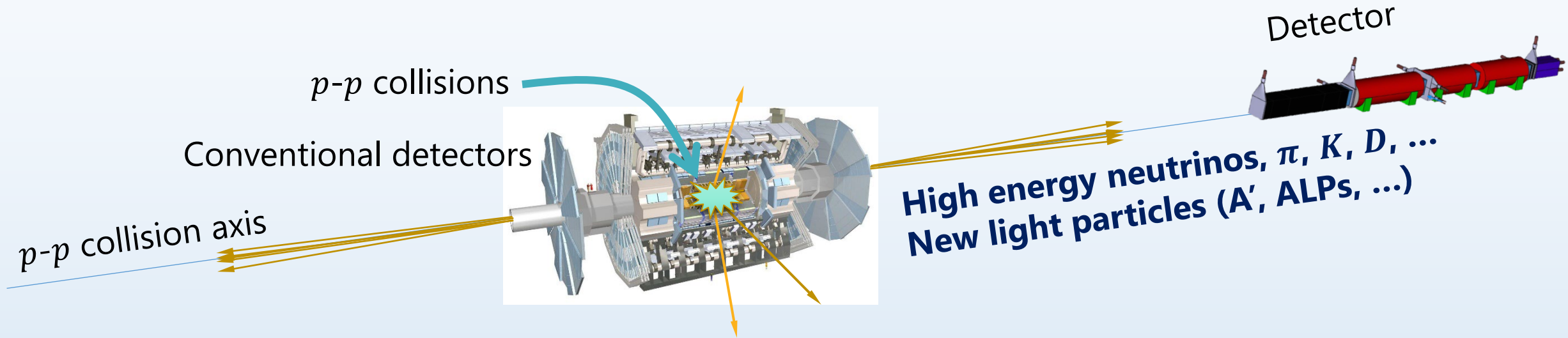
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Neutrino 2026, Irvine, 22-26 June 2026



Neutrinos at the LHC



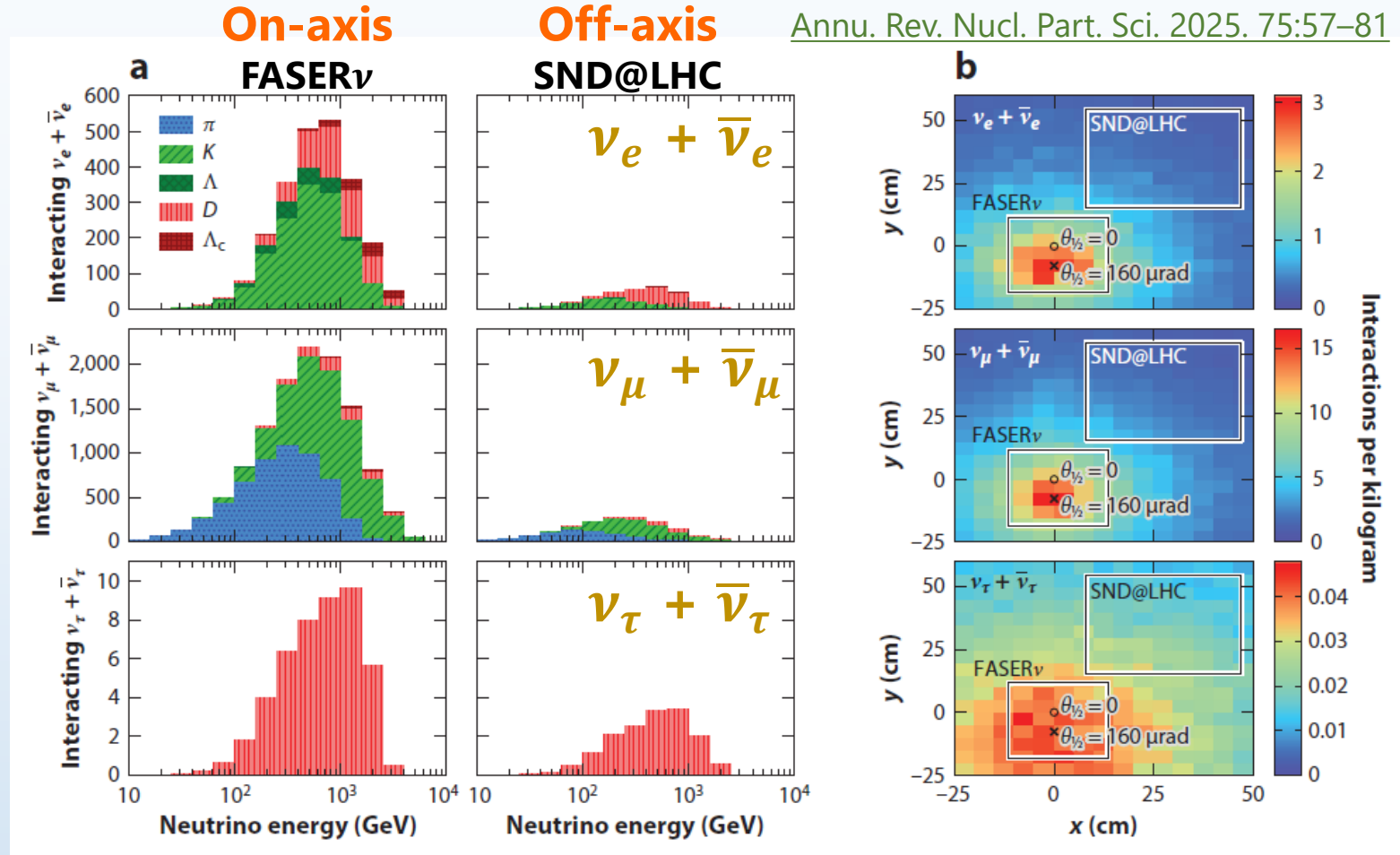
- LHC produces the **highest-energy accelerator neutrinos** (up to the TeV scale).
- Interest in detecting collider neutrinos had already been expressed in the 1980s.
- In 2018, site studies by FASER identified a low-background location ~ 480 m downstream of ATLAS. A small emulsion prototype placed on the collision axis observed neutrino candidates, leading to the proposal of FASER ν .
- Independent studies at other tunnel locations later led to SND@LHC.

Neutrino energy and spatial distributions

- This prediction uses **EPOS-LHC** to simulate the **production of forward light hadrons** and the envelope formed by EPOS-LHC, Sibyll 2.3d, and Qgsjet 2.04 as well as the forward physics tune of Pythia to define an uncertainty band.
- Charm hadron production** is modeled using **Powheg** matched with Pythia 8.3 for parton shower and hadronization, with the uncertainties described by scale variations.
- The expected event rates were estimated using the neutrino interaction cross section implemented in Genie, based on the Bodek–Yang model.

Energy and spatial distributions of interacting neutrinos for 350 fb⁻¹

Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 2025. 75:57–81



Experiments	η coverage	Tungsten target mass [kg]		ν_e	ν_μ	ν_τ
FASER	$\eta > 8.8$	1100	N int E average	2331^{+1227}_{-544} 785 GeV	12014^{+1145}_{-1636} 716 GeV	46^{+77}_{-21} 849 GeV
SND@LHC	$7.2 < \eta < 8.4$	830	N int E average	307^{+307}_{-116} 442 GeV	1694^{+297}_{-549} 357 GeV	15^{+26}_{-7} 596 GeV

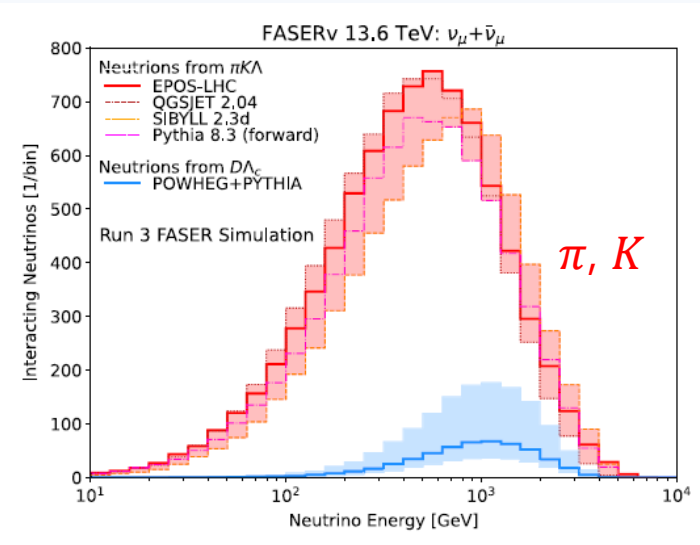
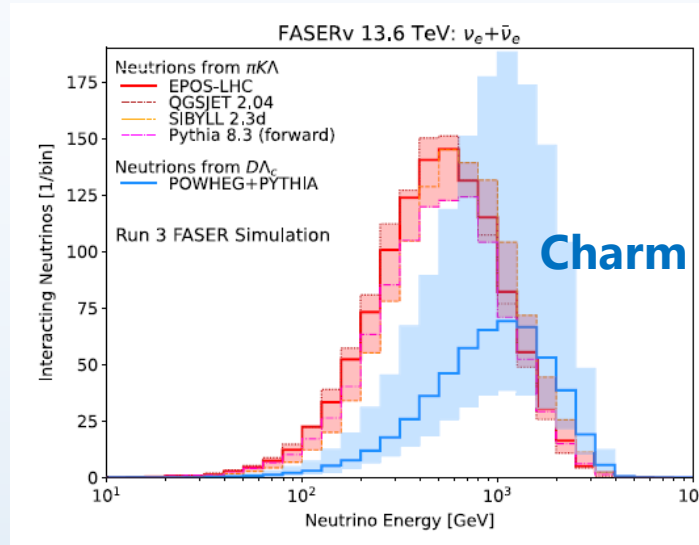
Uncertainties in the flux predictions

The dominant uncertainty in the flux prediction comes from hadron production in the forward region.

[Phys. Rev. D 110, 012009 \(2024\)](#)
 “Neutrino rate predictions for FASER”

$$\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$$

$$\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

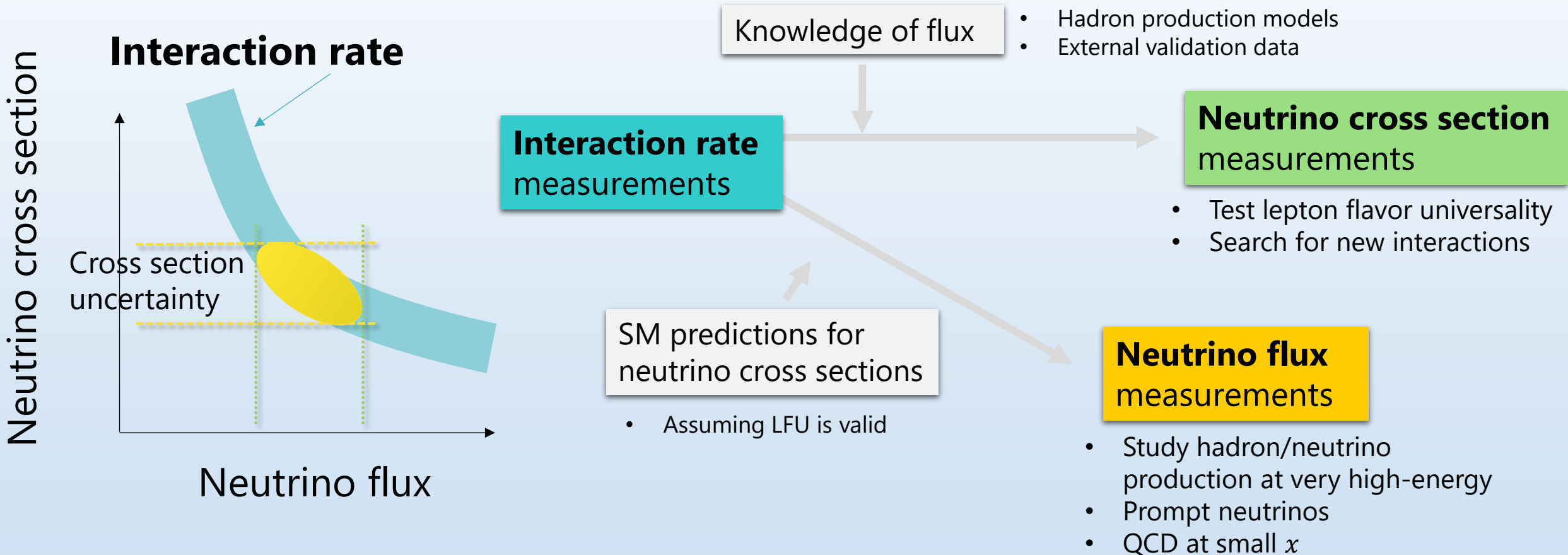


LHC Run 3 with 250 fb⁻¹

LHC Run 4 with 680 fb⁻¹

Generators		FASER ν at Run 3			FASER ν at Run 4		
Light hadrons	Charm hadrons	$\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$	$\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu$	$\nu_\tau + \bar{\nu}_\tau$	$\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$	$\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu$	$\nu_\tau + \bar{\nu}_\tau$
EPOS-LHC	...	1149	7996	...	3382	23054	...
SIBYLL 2.3d	...	1126	7261	...	3404	21532	...
QGSJET 2.04	...	1181	8126	...	3379	22501	...
PYTHIAforward	...	1008	7418	...	2925	20508	...
...	POWHEG Max	1405	1373	76	4264	4068	255
...	POWHEG	527	511	28	1537	1499	91
...	POWHEG Min	294	284	16	853	826	51
Combination		1675 ⁺⁹¹¹ ₋₃₇₂	8507 ⁺⁹⁹² ₋₉₆₂	28 ⁺⁴⁸ ₋₁₂	4919 ⁺²⁷⁴⁸ ₋₁₁₄₁	24553 ⁺²⁵⁶⁸ ₋₃₂₁₉	91 ⁺¹⁶³ ₋₄₁

What can be done from neutrino interaction rate measurements



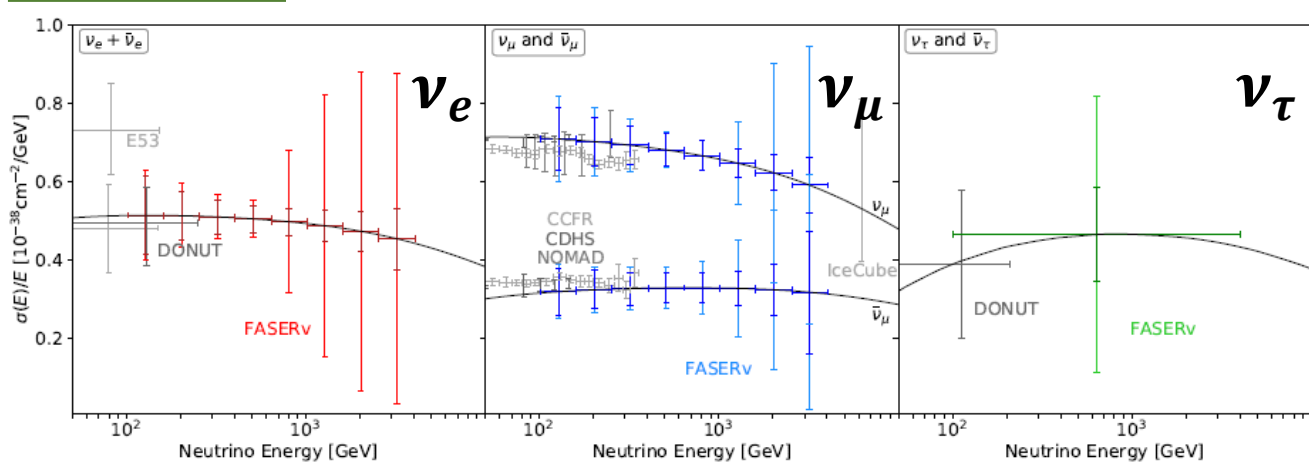
Physics motivation of neutrino interaction measurements

- Direct observation of TeV-energy neutrino interactions for ν_e , ν_μ , and ν_τ
- Measurement of charged-current cross sections at TeV energies for three flavors of neutrinos, and tests of lepton universality
- Neutral-current interaction measurements and searches for non-standard interactions

- Proton and nuclear parton distribution studies to reduce PDF uncertainties

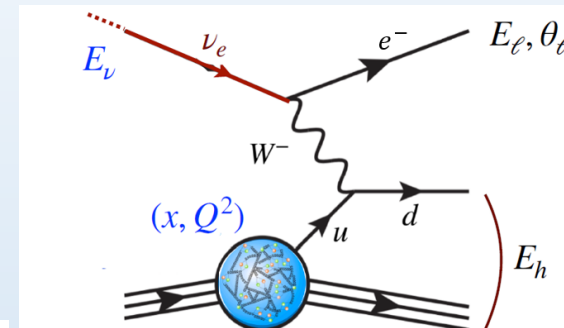
[Eur. Phys. J. C 84 \(2024\) 369, "The LHC as a Neutrino-Ion Collider"](#)

[arXiv:2604.19199](#)



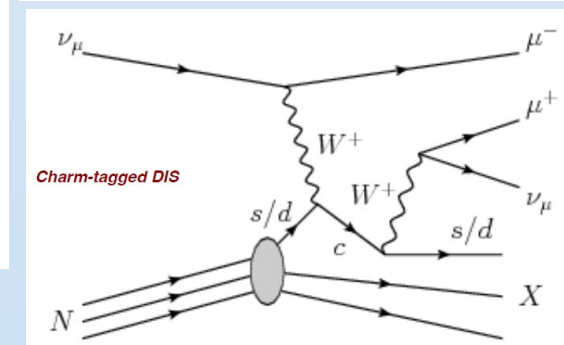
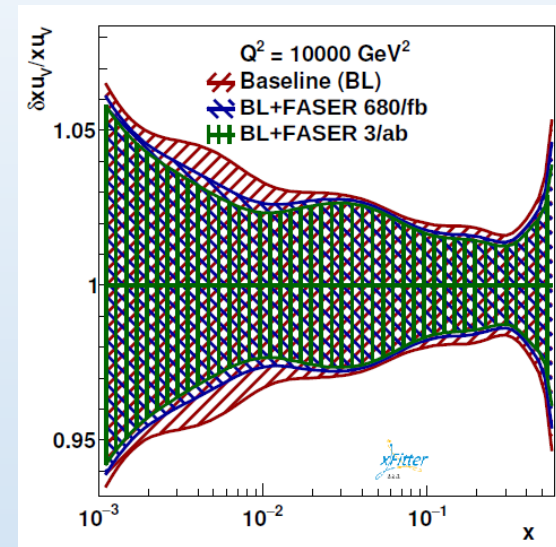
26/6/2026

Tomoko Ariga, Neutrino 2026



$$\sigma_{\nu p \rightarrow e^+ X}(E_\nu) = \tilde{\sigma}_{\nu u \rightarrow d} \otimes u(x, Q^2)$$

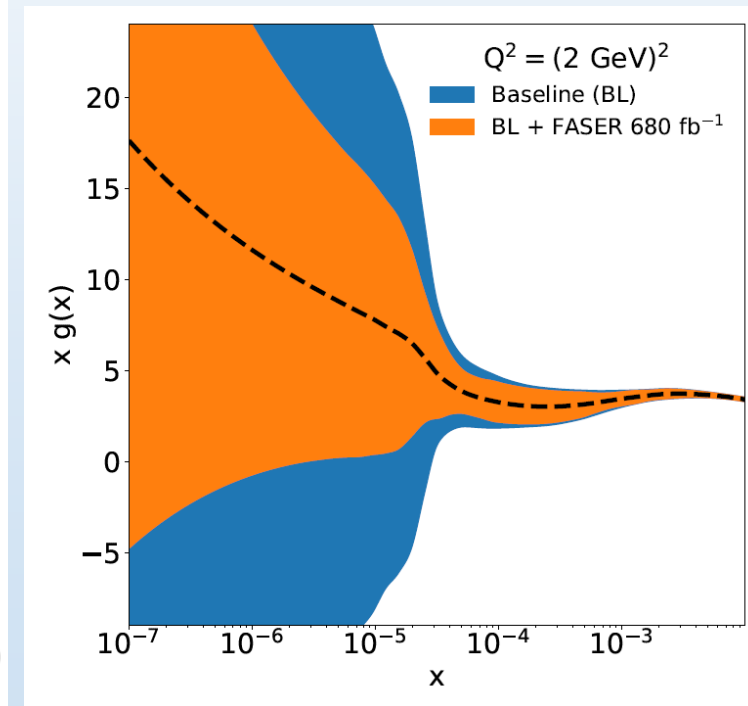
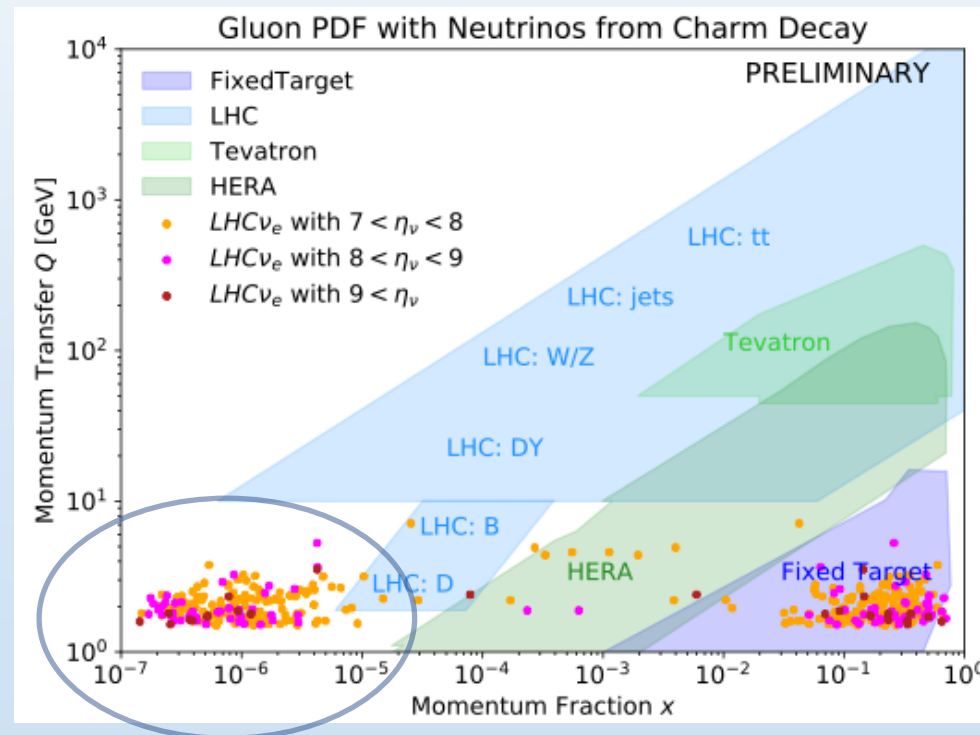
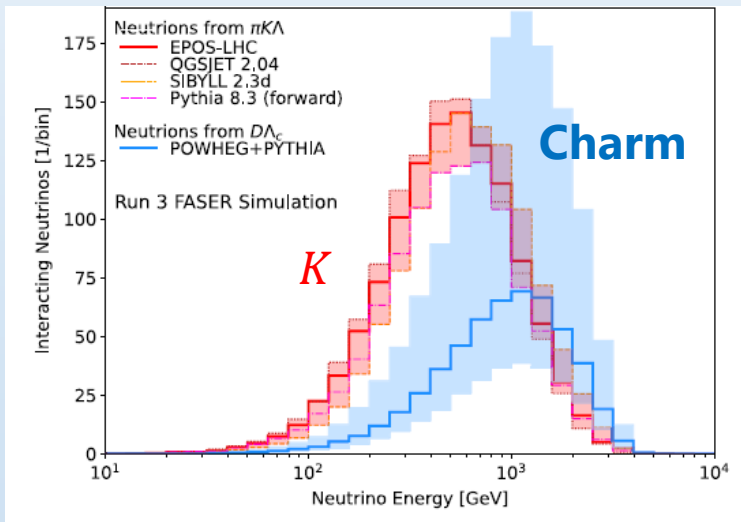
neutrino-proton scattering rate partonic cross-section up-quark content in the proton



Physics motivation of neutrino flux measurements

- Neutrino measurements as a probe of very forward hadron production
- Measurements of LHC neutrinos provide novel input to QCD studies (low- x PDFs, intrinsic charm, saturation) and to astroparticle physics (prompt atmospheric neutrinos, cosmic-ray muon puzzle)

$\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$ at FASER ν

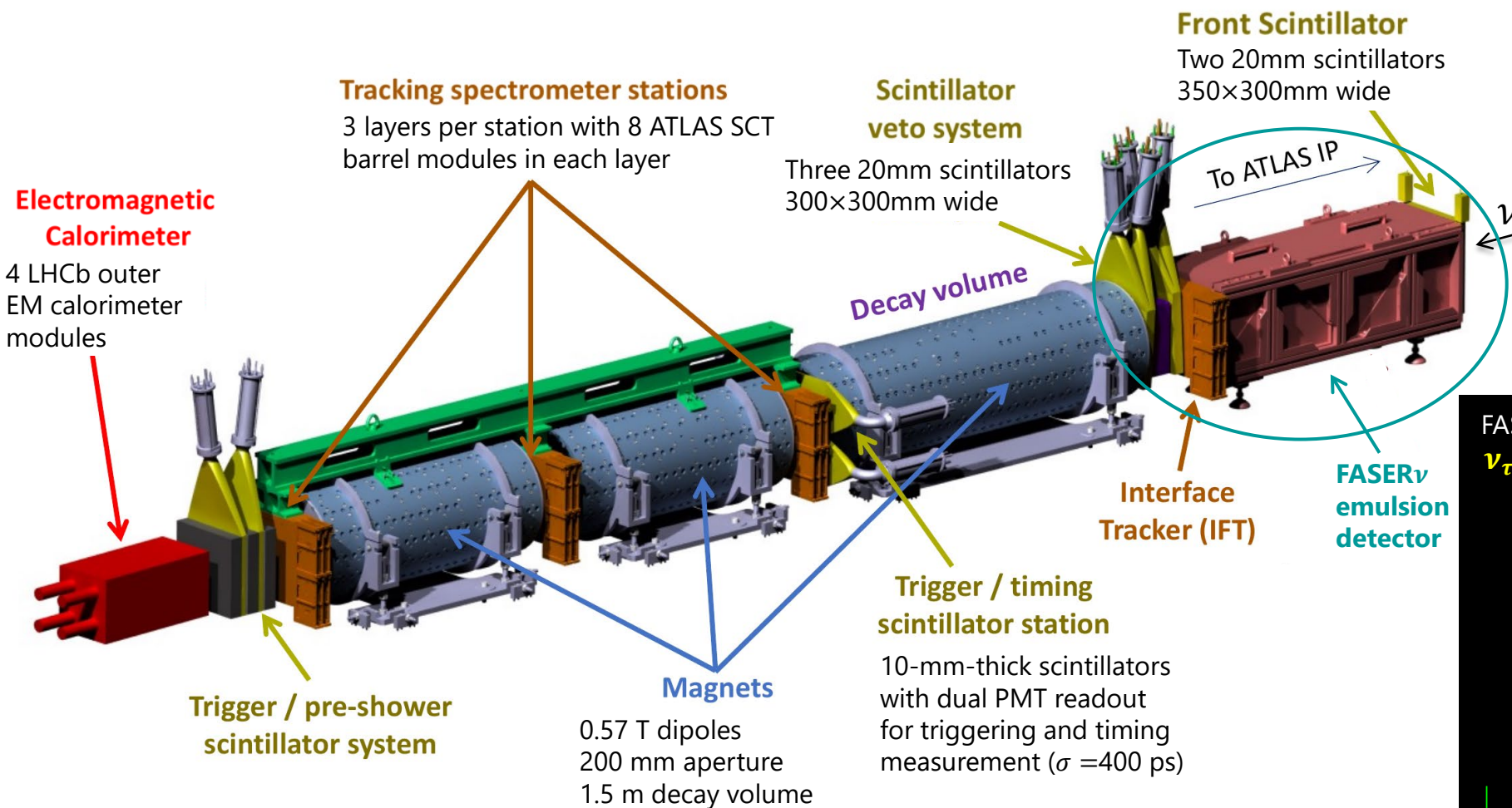
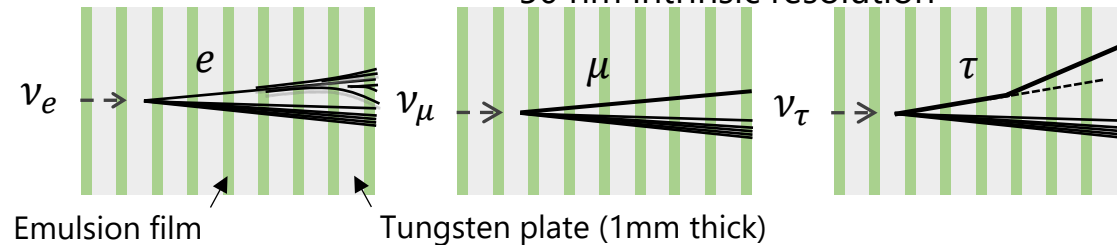


FASER detector

JINST 19 P05066 (2024), The FASER detector

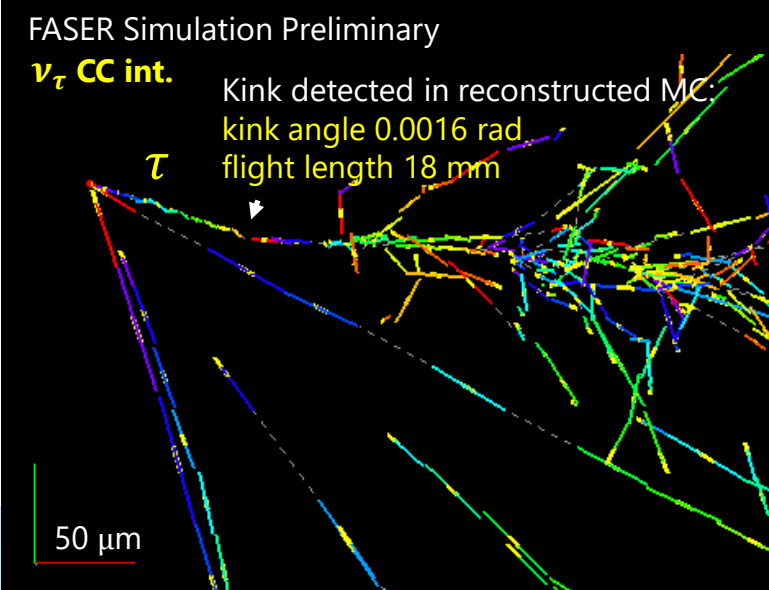
FASER ν detector

Emulsion: 3D tracking device with 50 nm intrinsic resolution



- 1.1-ton detector
- 730 layers of 1.1-mm-thick tungsten + emulsion
- neutrino target + tracking detector ($8\lambda_{int}$)

Capability of identifying three-flavor neutrinos (ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ) with detection of short-lived particles



SND@LHC detector

Veto system

- 2 (2022 - 2023) / 3 (2024 -) scintillator planes
- Tag incoming charged particles

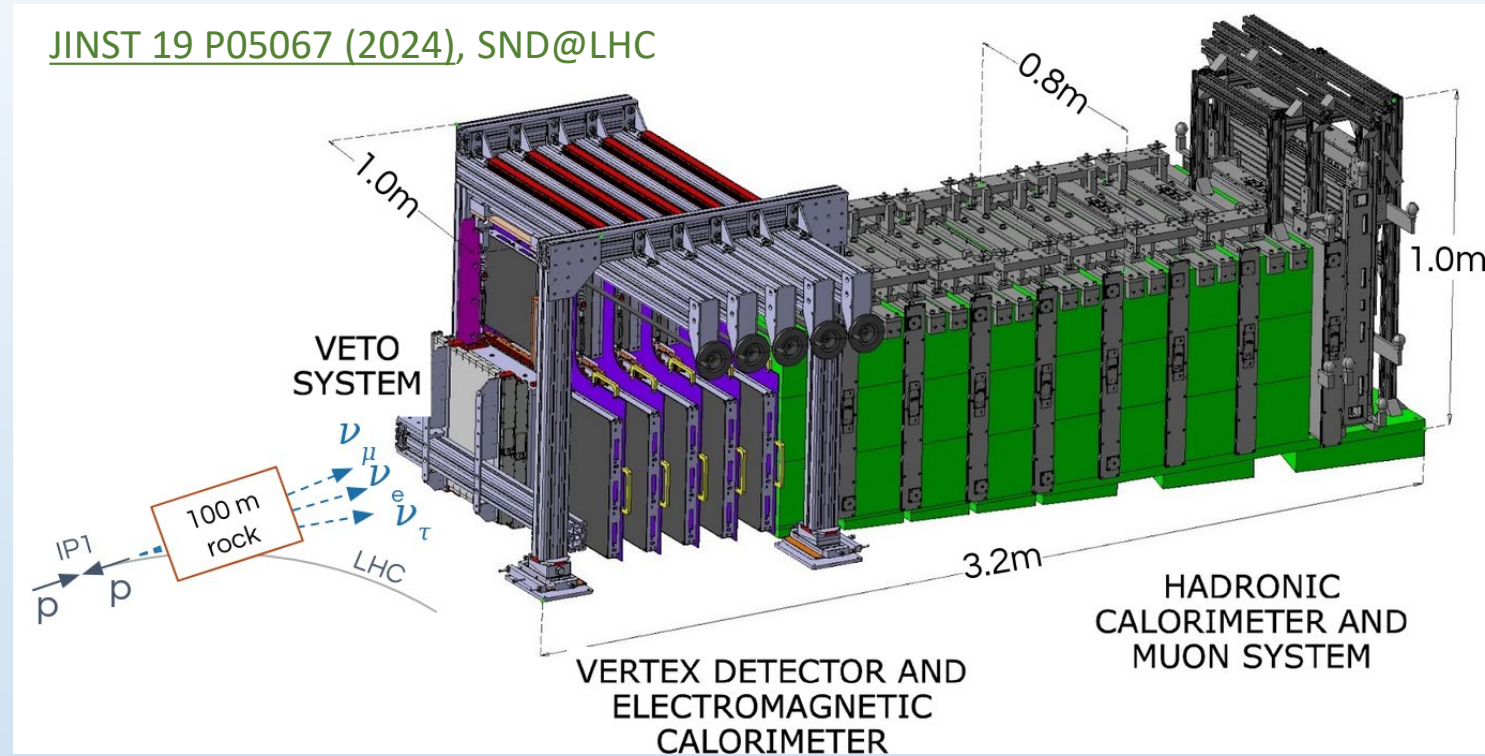
Target, vertex detector and ECal

- 830 kg tungsten target
- Five walls \times 59 emulsion layers + five scintillating fibre stations (SciFi)
- $84X_0$, $3\lambda_{int}$

HCal and muon system

- Eight 20 cm Fe blocks + scintillator planes
- Last 3 planes have finer granularity to track muons
- Drift-tubes installed in 2026
- $9.5\lambda_{int}$

Courtesy of the SND@LHC coll.



Muon flux studies in the LHC forward region

- Muons are the dominant background in the forward region.
- Muon flux depends on LHC optics and beam conditions.

FASER

	μ flux [$\times 10^4/\text{cm}^2/\text{fb}^{-1}$]
Data (2022, emulsion)	$1.39^{+0.05}_{-0.07}$
MC (2022, BDSIM, preliminary)	1.53 ± 0.07

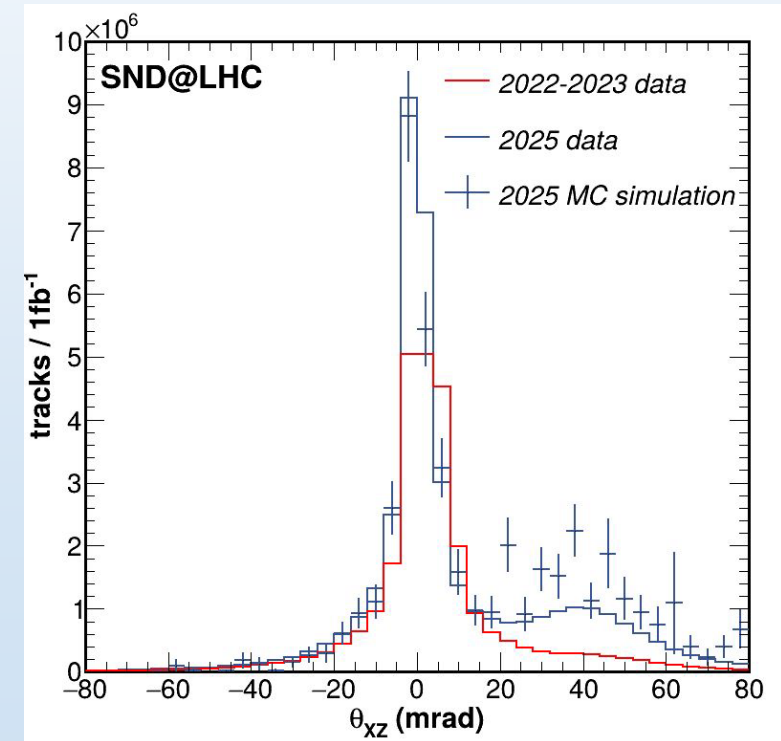
Fiducial region: $|x|, |y| < 5$ cm from the FASER magnet center; $\tan\theta < 0.01$

SND@LHC

[Eur. Phys. J. C \(2024\) 84](#) and [arXiv:2602.23412](#)

	μ flux [$\times 10^4/\text{cm}^2/\text{fb}^{-1}$]
Data (2022)	2.06 ± 0.12
MC (2022)	1.60 ± 0.19
Data (2023)	1.90 ± 0.04
MC (2023)	1.67 ± 0.05
Data (2024)	3.74 ± 0.06
MC (2024)	3.34 ± 0.12
Data (2025)	2.48 ± 0.04
MC (2025)	3.13 ± 0.14

Muon angular distributions depend on LHC configuration

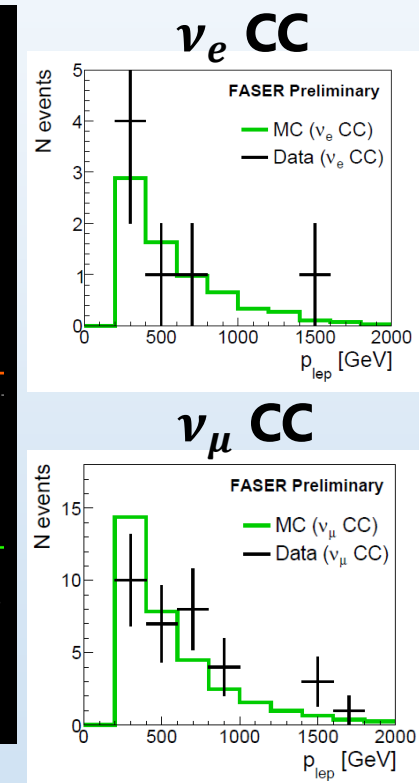
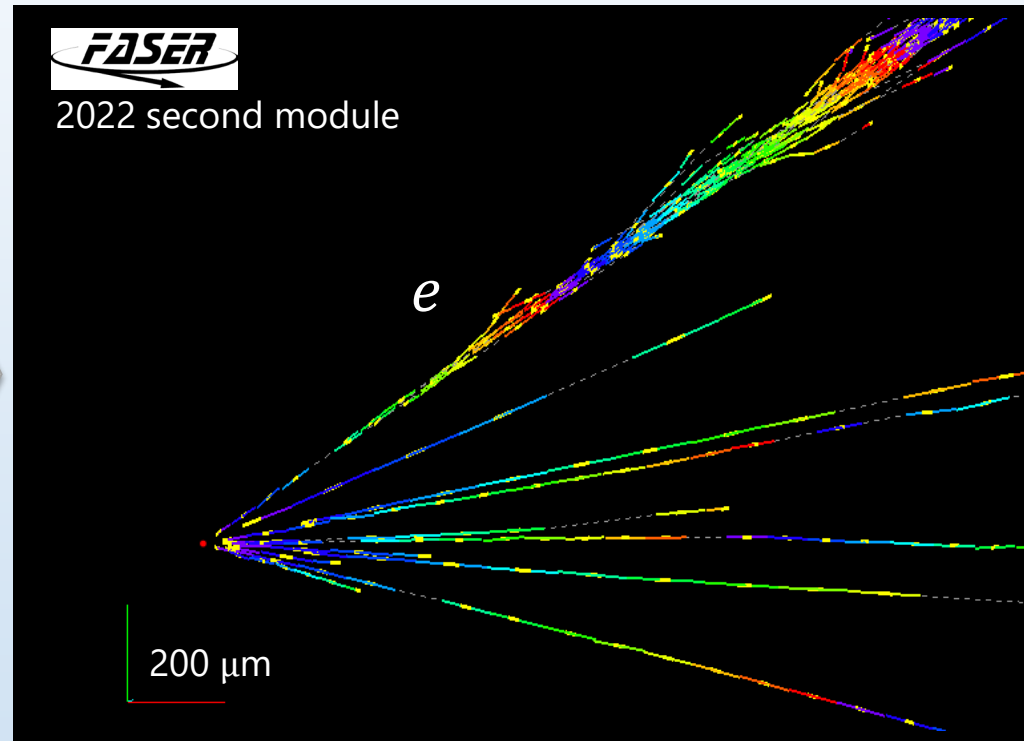
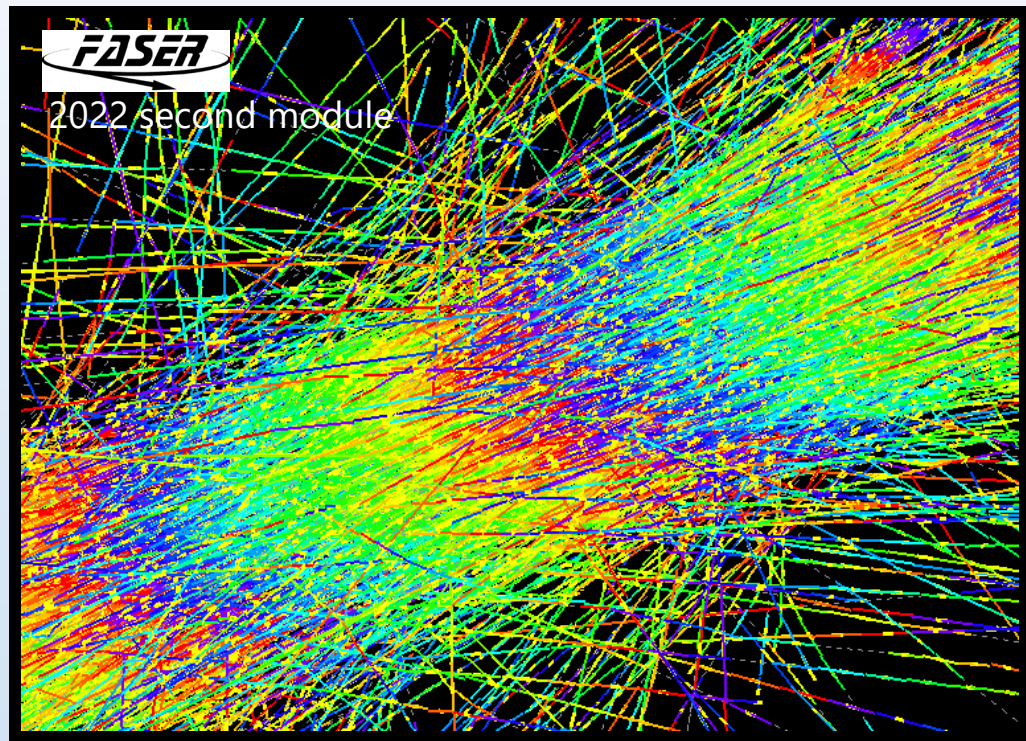


Neutrino interactions detected among the muon background

ν_e CC candidate event
with muon background tracks

Neutrino interactions can be identified
despite background muon tracks

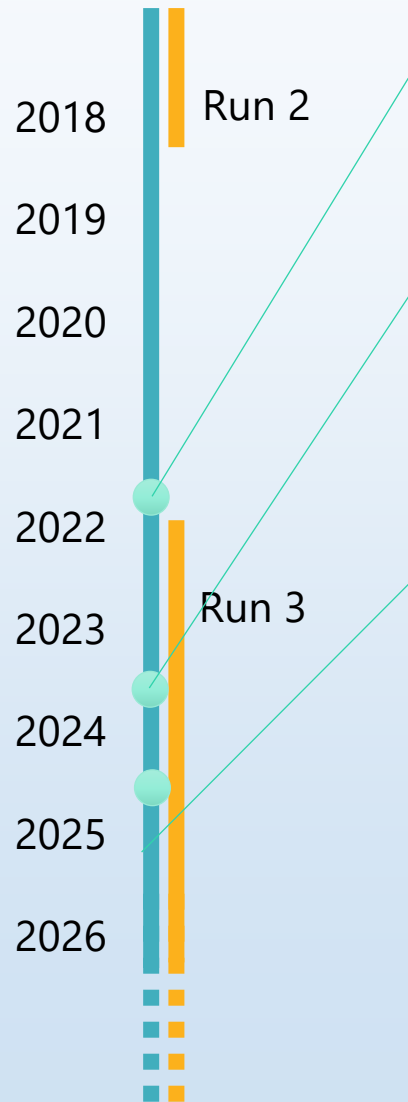
Data–MC agreement for
selected ν candidates



Event reconstruction details: [JINST 20 P12018 \(2025\)](#)
Momentum measurement of charged particles: [arXiv:2602.17575](#)
EM shower reconstruction: [arXiv:2606.18517](#)

Results with LHC neutrinos

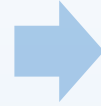
This talk will emphasize results published after Neutrino 2024



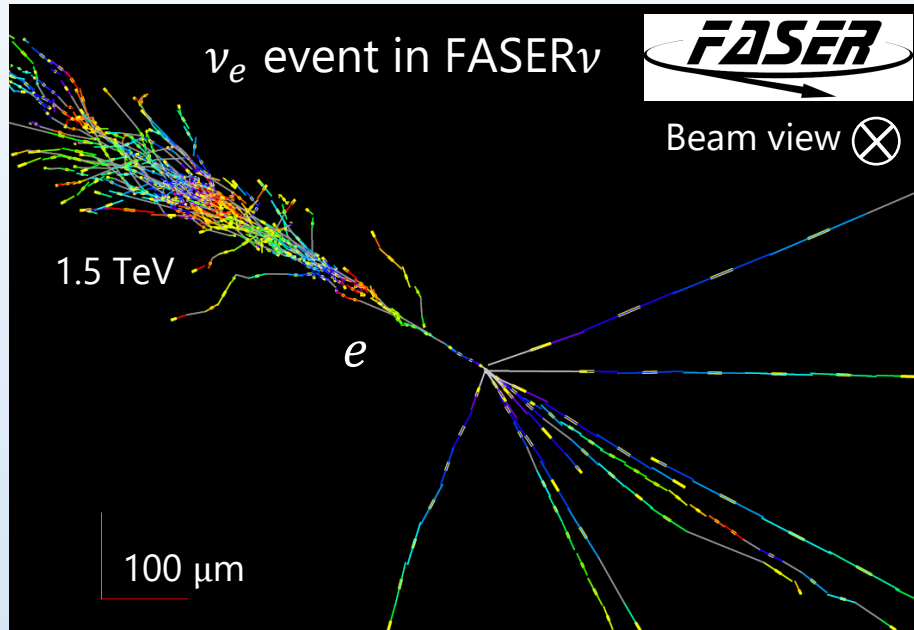
- **First neutrino candidate events** with Run 2 data
 - FASER Collaboration, [Phys. Rev. D 104, L091101](#) (Nov. 2021)
- **First ν_μ detection** with 2022 data
 - FASER Collaboration, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, 031801](#) (July 2023)
 - SND@LHC Collaboration, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, 031802](#) (July 2023)
- **First ν_e detection & First ν_e, ν_μ cross sections at TeV energies**
 - FASER Collaboration, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 021802](#) (July 2024)
- Muon Neutrino Interaction Cross Section and Flux as a Function of Energy
 - FASER Collaboration, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 134, 211801](#) (May 2025)
- Observation of neutrino interactions without final-state muons (0μ)
 - SND@LHC Collaboration, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 134, 231802](#) (June 2025)

First ν_e and ν_μ cross section measurements at TeV energies

- Preliminary results reported in Neutrino 2024 and published after that: [Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 021802 \(2024\)](#), (Selected for PRL Collection of the Year 2024)



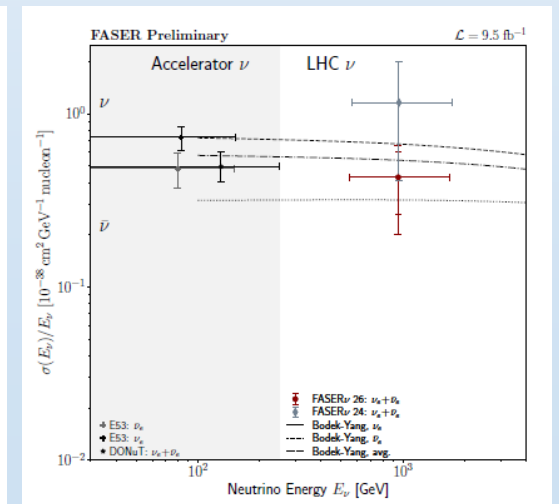
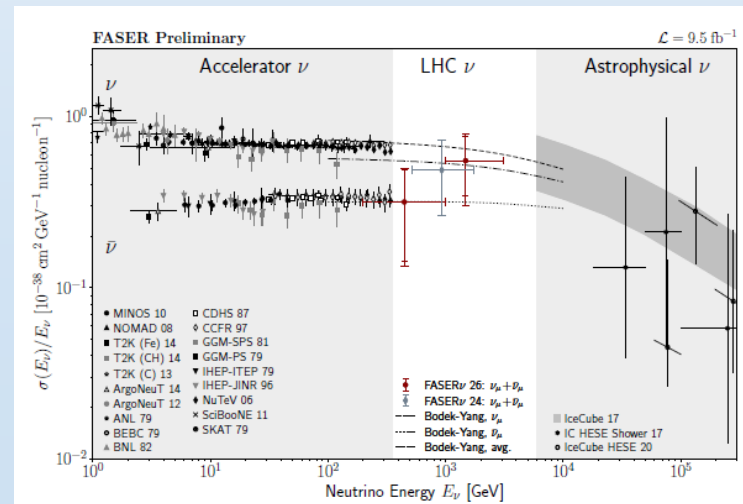
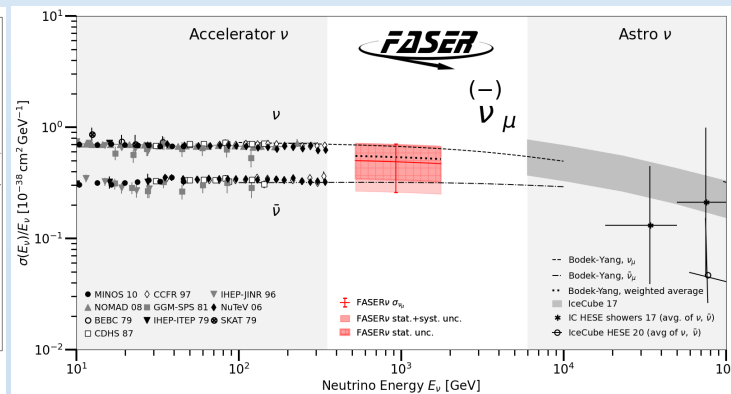
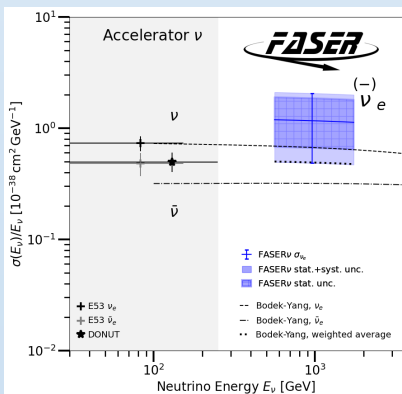
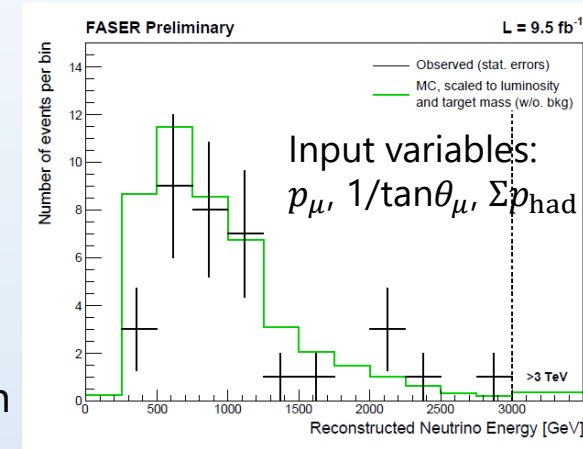
- Updated emulsion analysis (2022 module 9.5 fb⁻¹): target mass 129 kg → 681 kg
- Neutrino energy reconstruction introduced.



CERN-FASER-CONF-2026-002

	ν_e CC	ν_μ CC
Expected signal	$7.7^{+6.3}_{-2.5}$	$40.0^{+14.5}_{-9.7}$
Expected background	$0.13^{+0.08}_{-0.05}$	$1.17^{+0.62}_{-0.40}$
Observed events	7	33

About 4% of the Run 3 data published so far. More than 20× larger statistics expected with the full dataset and efficiency improvements.



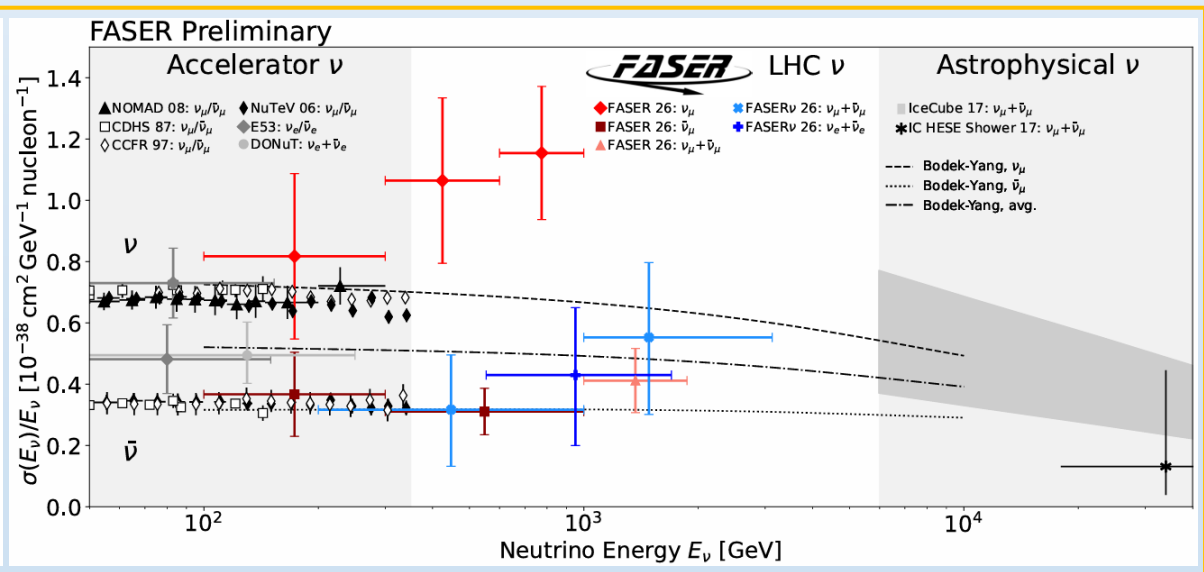
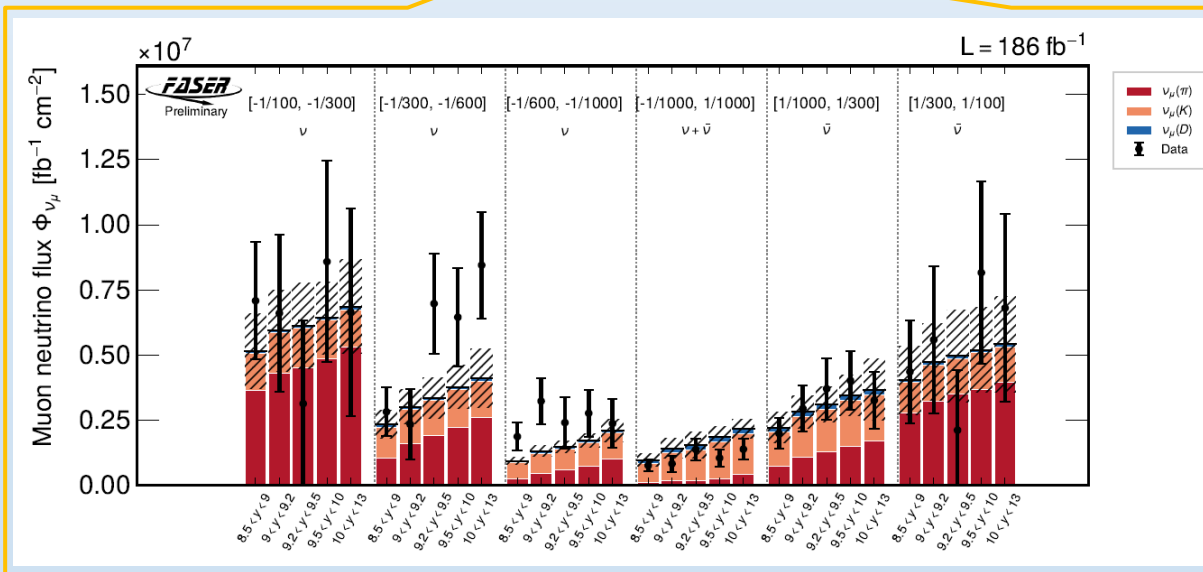
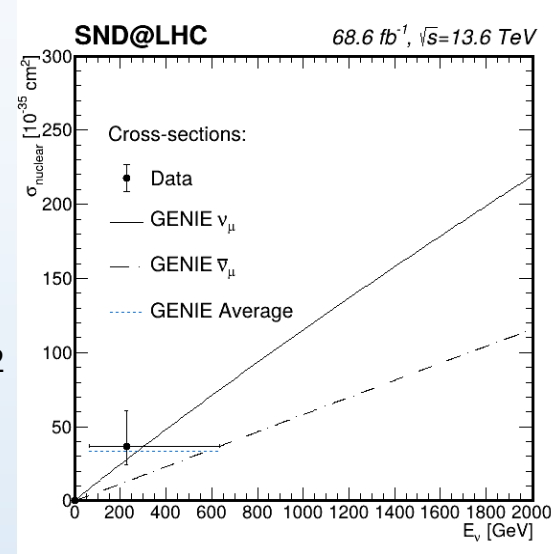
Measurement of ν_μ flux and cross sections with electronic detectors

FASER ([Phys. Rev. Lett. 134, 211801 \(2025\)](#) and [CERN-FASER-CONF-2026-005](#)):

- Integrated luminosity of $(186 \pm 4) \text{ fb}^{-1}$
- $766.8 \pm 29.6 \nu_\mu$ CC events are identified, with backgrounds subtracted
- **First measurement separating ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ as functions of energy and rapidity**

SND@LHC ([arXiv:2606.14669](#)):

- Integrated luminosity of 68.6 fb^{-1}
- 31 ν_μ CC candidates against an expected background of 5.0 ± 1.1 events
- $\sigma(\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu)$ on tungsten = $(37^{+24}_{-12}) \times 10^{-35} \text{ cm}^2$ (median $E_\nu = 228 \text{ GeV}$)



Observation of ν_e interactions in the calorimeter at FASER

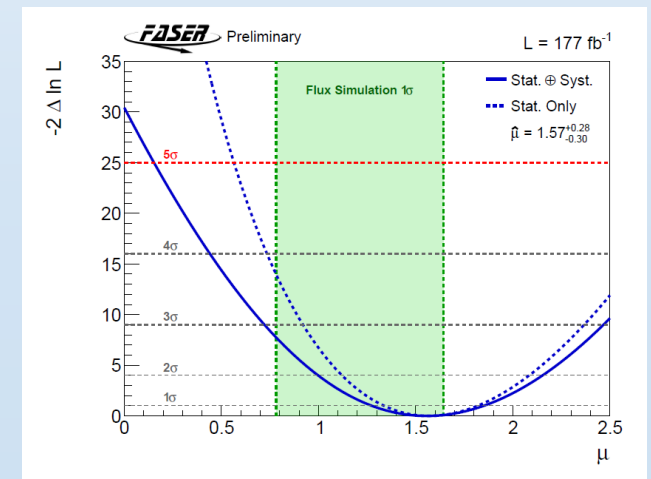
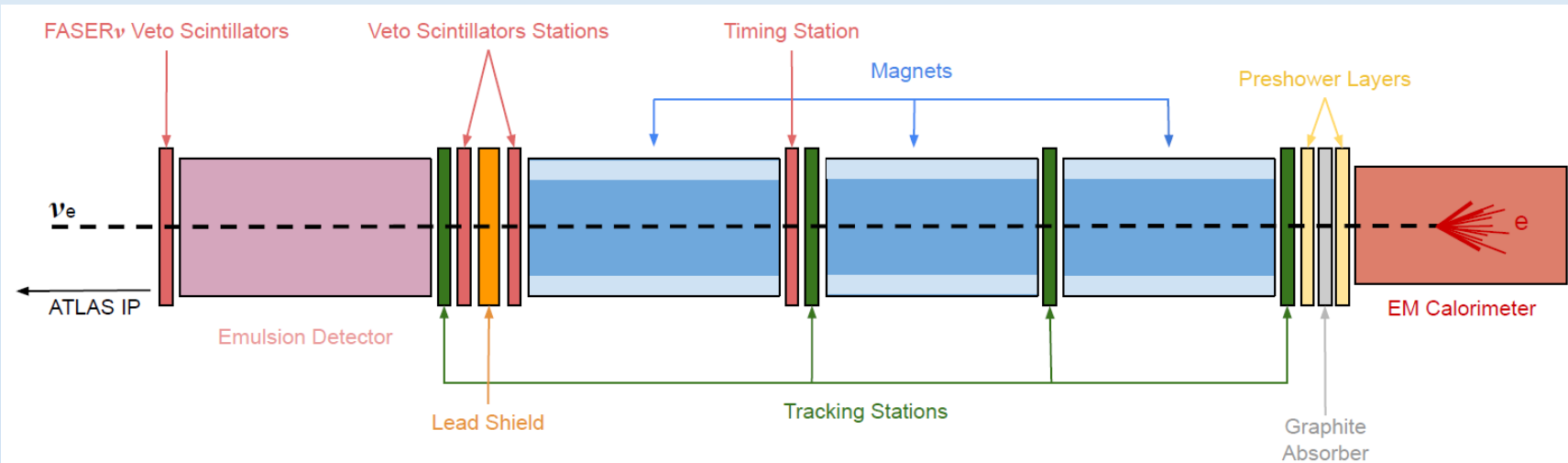
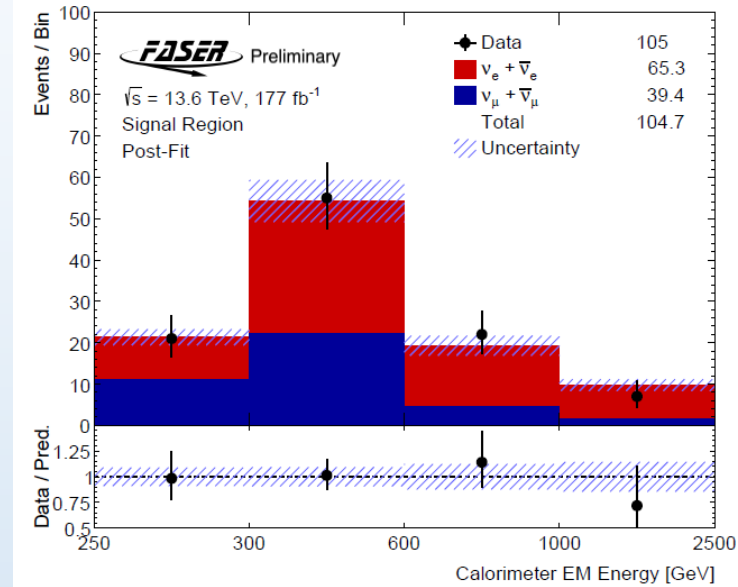
ν_e interactions selected using electromagnetic energy deposits in the calorimeter

- Selection targets ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_e$ CC and NC interactions
- Event selection: no upstream activity + large downstream EM energy deposit
- Dominant ν_μ background constrained using upstream measurements

Results (177 fb⁻¹ analyzed, 2022-2024):

- 105 candidates observed
- Best-fit ν_e signal: 65 ± 12 events
- Highest energy candidate: 2.1 TeV calorimeter energy deposit
- Background-only hypothesis rejected at 5.5σ (4.6σ expected)

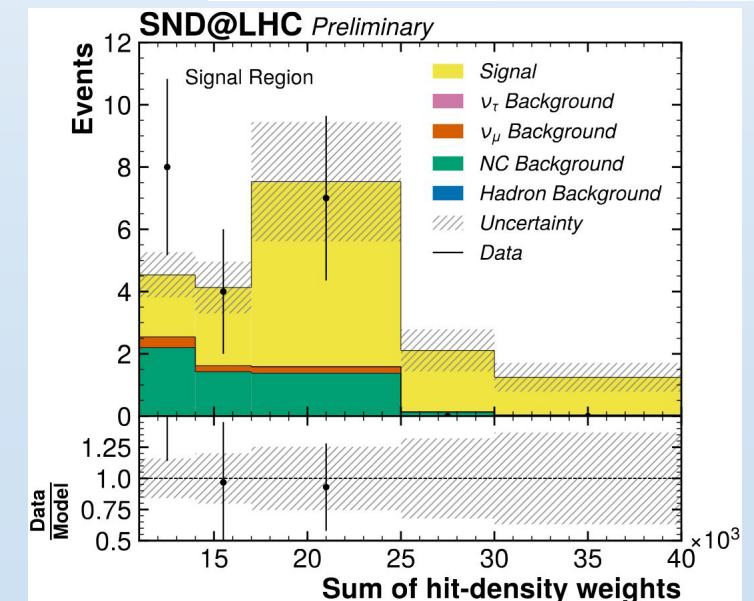
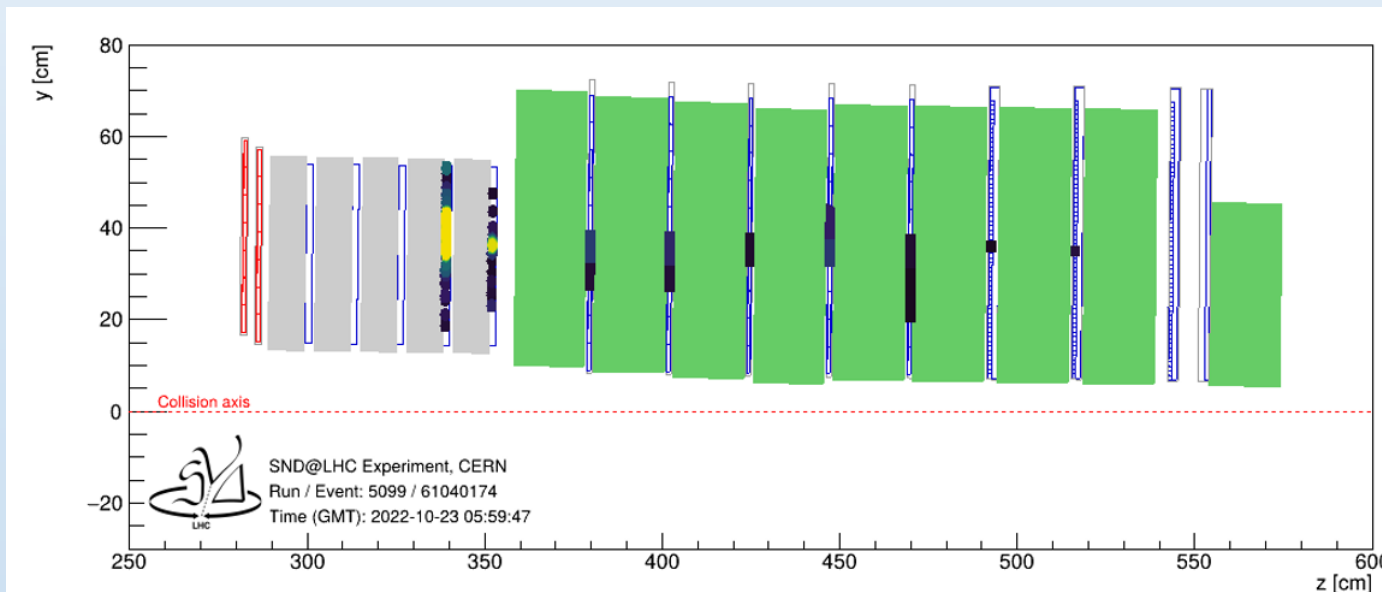
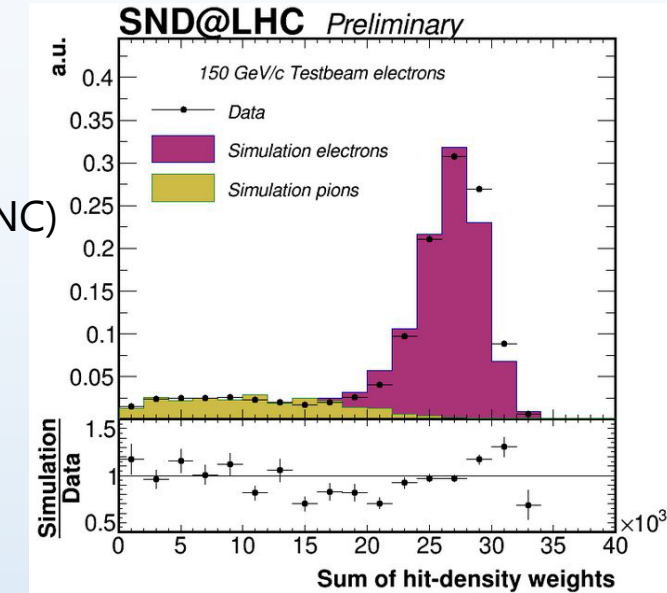
CERN-FASER-CONF-2026-004



Neutrino interactions without final-state muons in electronic detectors at SND

Courtesy of the SND@LHC coll.

- Observation of events without final-state muons (0μ) with 2022-203 data
 - Presented at Neutrino 2024 and published after that: [Phys. Rev. Lett. 134 \(2025\) 231802](#)
 - 9 events observed over 0.32 ± 0.06 expected background (signal dominated by ν_e CC and NC)
- ν_e candidate results (Preliminary)
 - Binned likelihood analysis on the summed hit density in the target
 - 19 events observed (13 ± 5 signal, 6 ± 1 background expected)
 - Significance: 2.7σ (binned), 3.6σ (unbinned)
 - Evidence for ν_e interactions in electronic detector data



First search for neutrino-induced charm production with FASER ν

- First search using the first FASER ν Run-3 dataset (9.5 fb⁻¹, 2022 first module):

[CERN-FASER-CONF-2026-003](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2826003)

Motivations

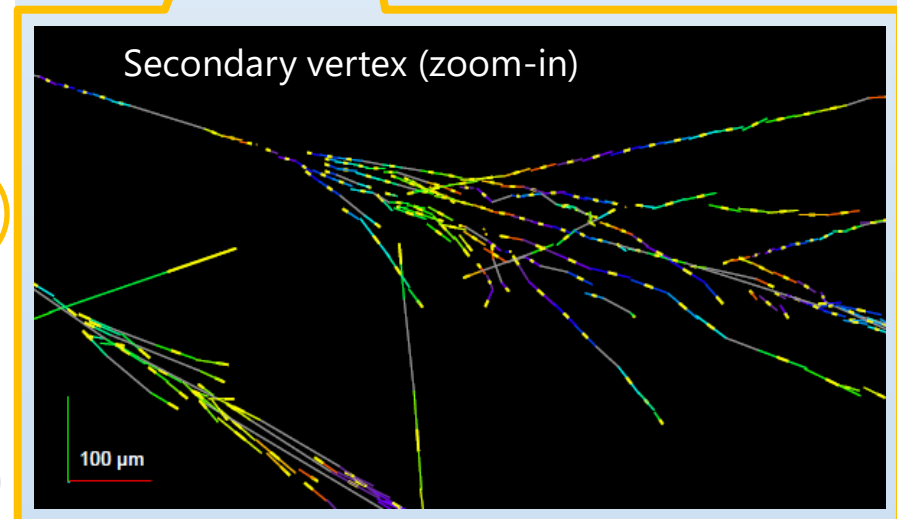
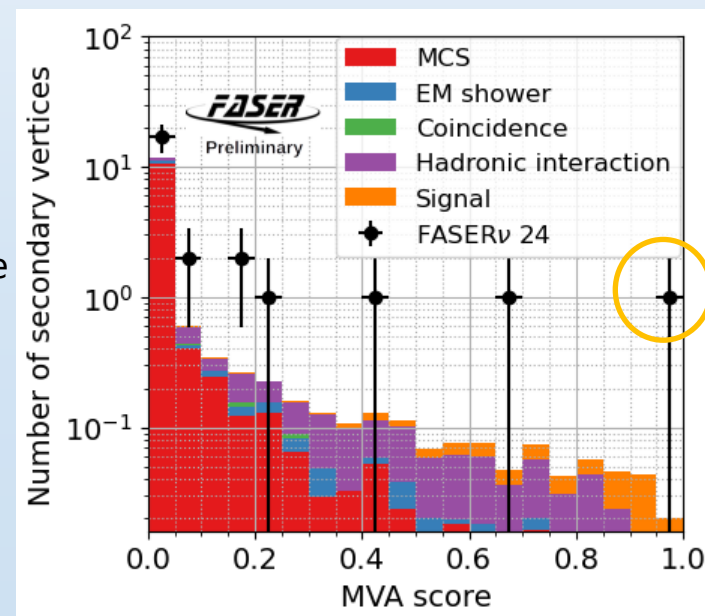
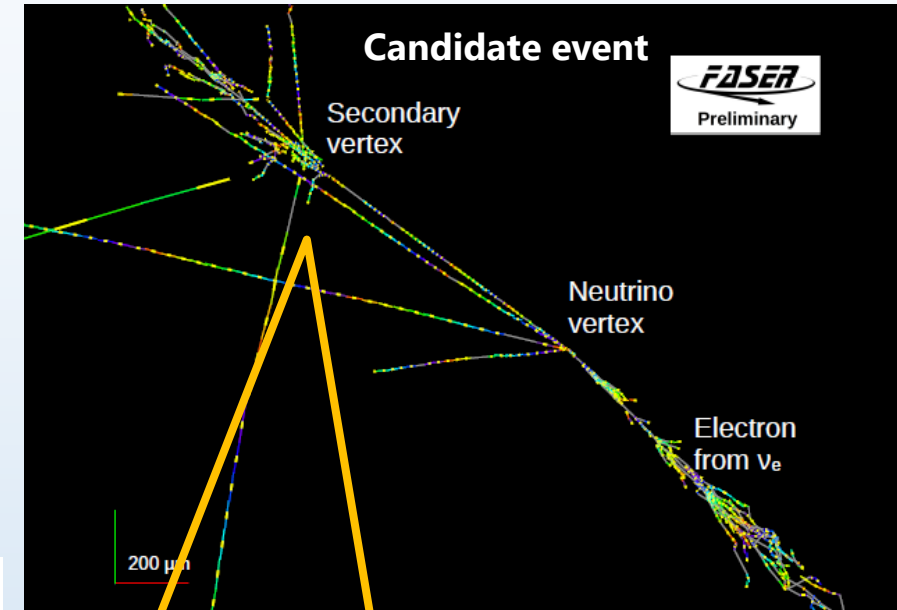
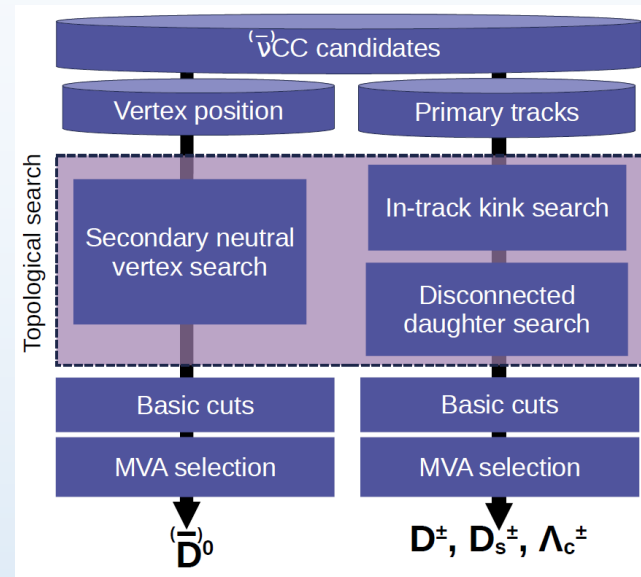
- First search for charm hadrons in TeV-scale neutrino interactions
- Access to strange PDFs and charm production
- Path toward first ν_e -induced charm measurements and lepton universality tests
- Important milestone toward ν_τ searches

Analysis strategy

- Search for charged charm decays using secondary vertices in emulsion
- Kinematic selection followed by an interpretable ML classifier

Status

- 40 neutrino candidates analyzed
- Data and simulation broadly agree; selected charm candidates under investigation



Other BSM searches: Dark photons

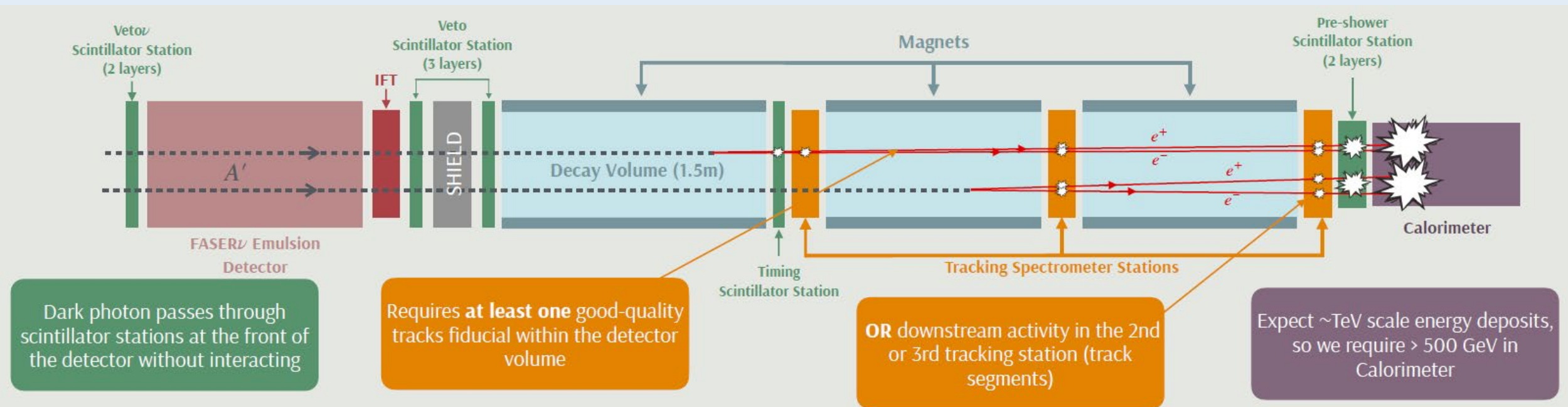
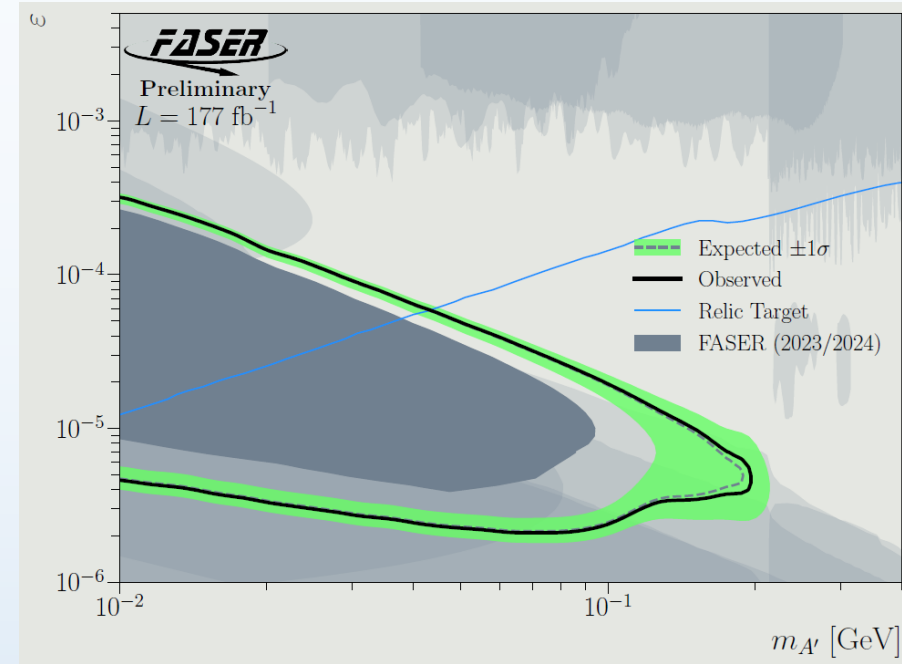
Search for dark photons decaying into e^+e^- using 2022-2024 data

Previous result: [Phys. Lett. B 848, 138378 \(2024\)](#)

- 27 fb⁻¹ of data collected in 2022

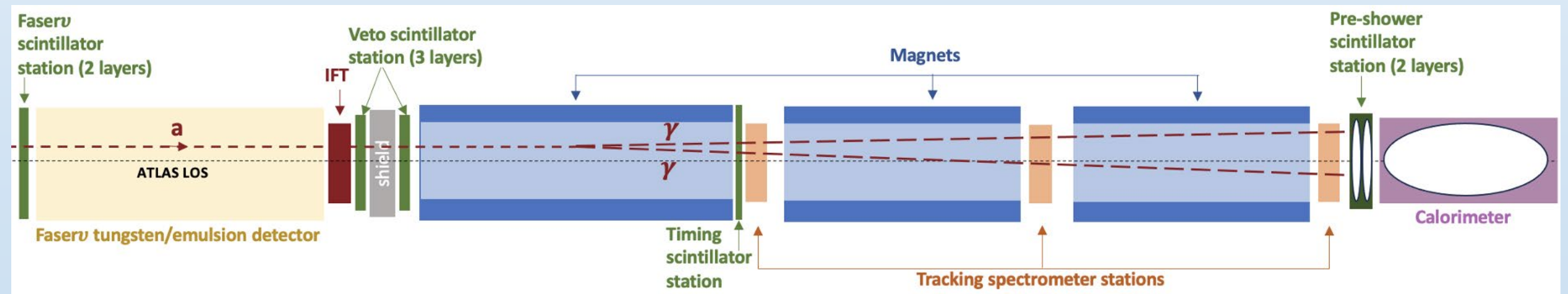
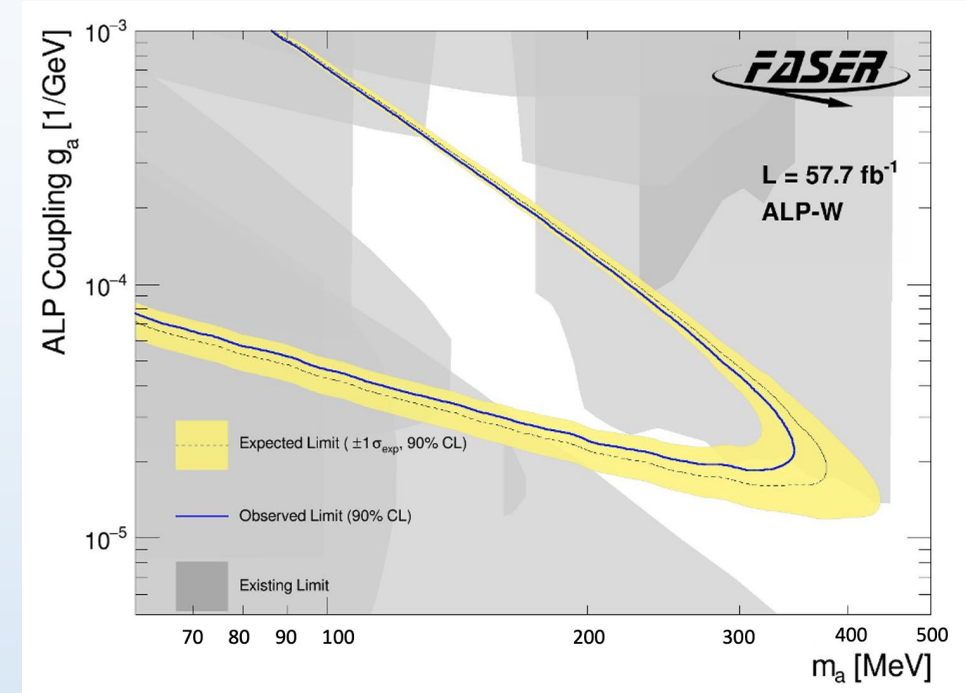
Updated result: [CERN-FASER-CONF-2026-001](#)

- Improved signal selection strategy (2.5x better acceptance)
- 2022, 2023, 2024 data (>6x more data)



Other BSM searches: Axion-like-particles

- First FASER search for a light, long-lived particle decaying into a pair of photons (2022-2023, 57.7 fb⁻¹): [JHEP01, 199 \(2025\)](#)
- Signature: high-energy EM deposits + no veto activity
- 1 observed (0.44±0.39 expected background from neutrino interactions)
- World-leading constraints in previously unexplored parameter space



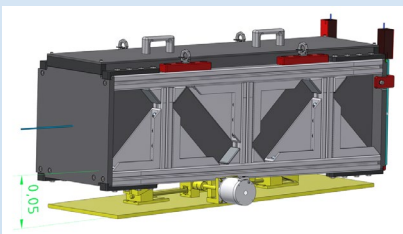
Prospects for HL-LHC

- LHC Run 3 has been completed with successful operation and first physics results from both FASER and SND@LHC.
- Both collaborations are preparing upgrades and extended neutrino programs for LHC Run 4.
- The available space at FASER and SND@LHC is limited; The Forward Physics Facility (FPF) has been proposed to expand the forward physics reach at the HL-LHC, including neutrino and LLP programs.
- Additional concepts based on surface- and lake-based detectors have also been discussed.

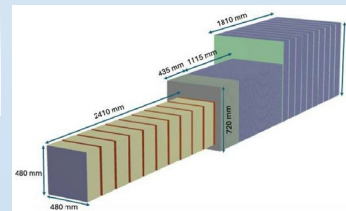
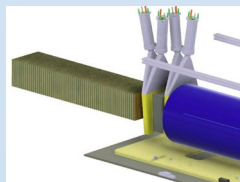
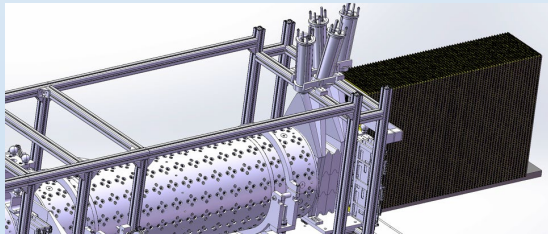
Upgrade for LHC Run 4: FASER and SND@LHC

FASER

- Continue the neutrino program with complementary detector concepts
- Main direction: on-axis neutrino detector
 - combine the proven FASER ν emulsion approach with an on-axis electronic detector
 - overlap with the FASER spectrometer for muon momentum and charge measurements
- Additional off-axis option under study
- Technical proposal to LHCC planned for Sep 2026



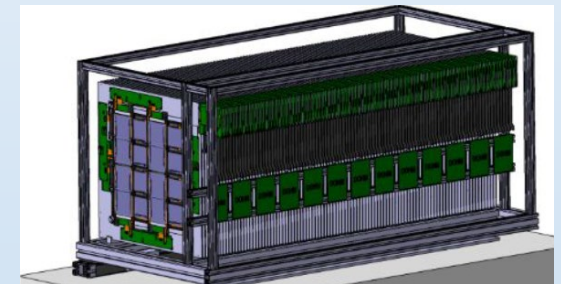
26/6/2026



Tomoko Ariga, Neutrino 2026

SND@LHC

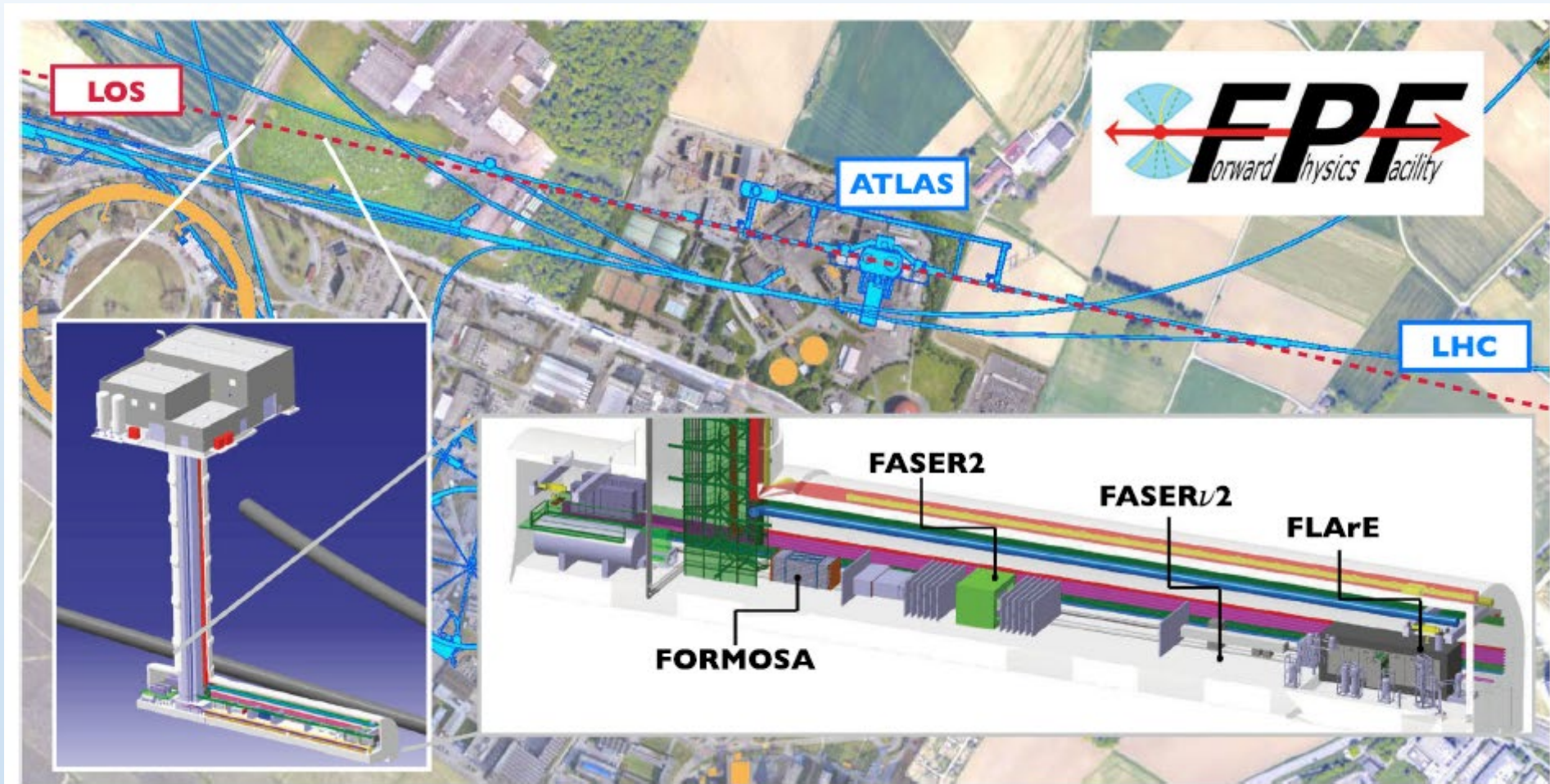
- Continue the off-axis neutrino program
- Detector upgrade for higher HL-LHC rates
 - target replaced with silicon strip tracking
- Magnetized calorimeter foreseen
 - muon momentum and charge measurements
 - separation of neutrinos and anti-neutrinos



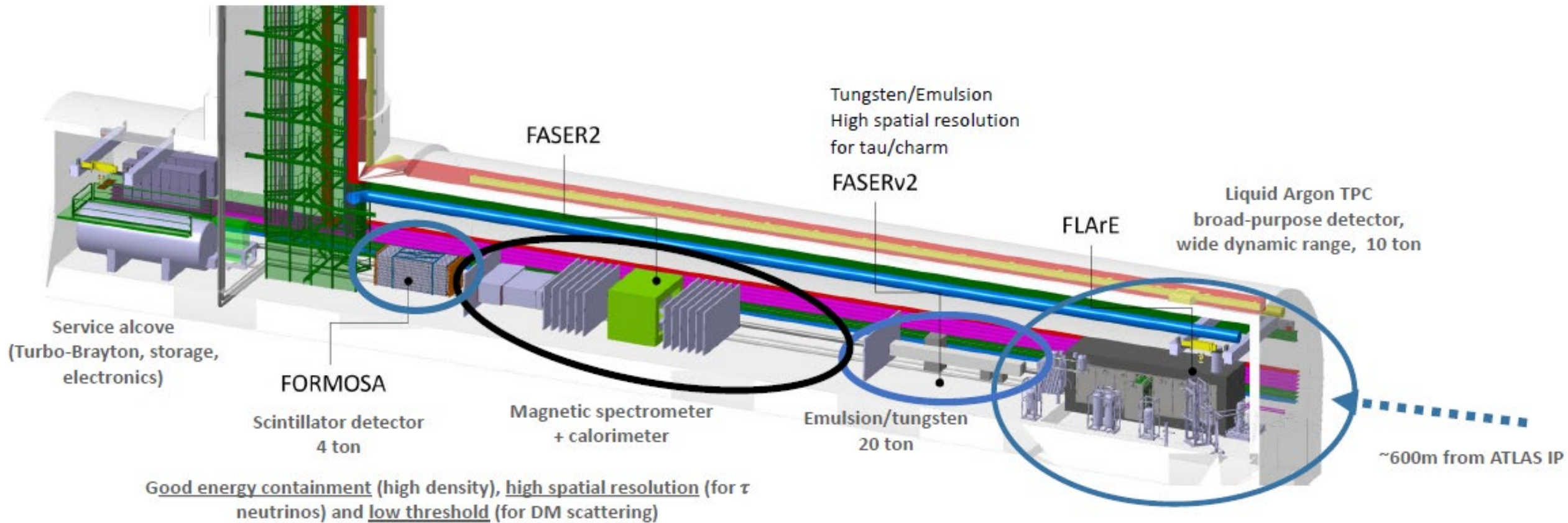
Extended neutrino measurements at the TeV scale with increased statistics

Forward Physics Facility (FPF)

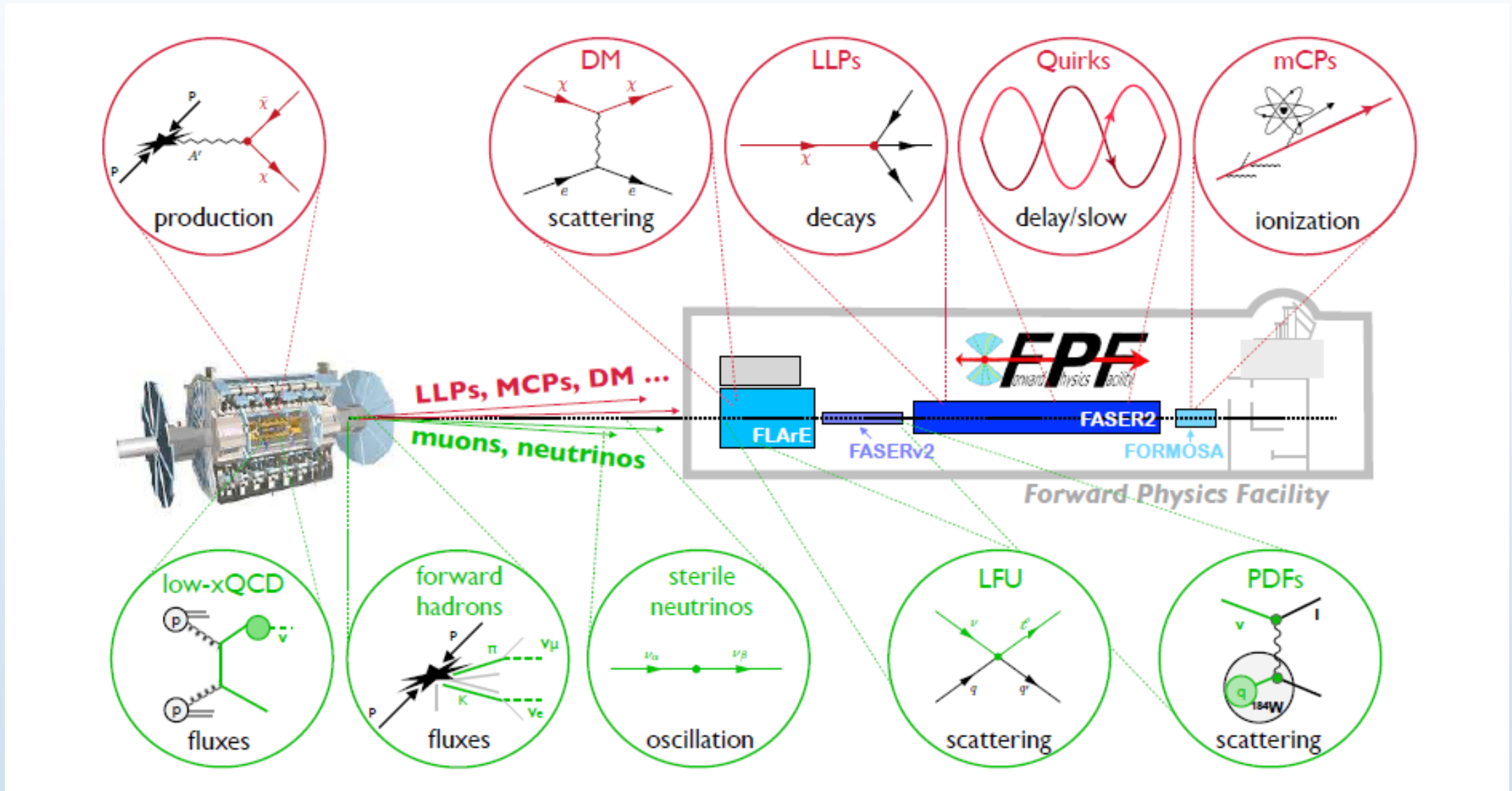
- Proposed facility for an expanded forward neutrino and LLP program at the HL-LHC
- 627-702 m from the ATLAS IP
- 75 m long and 12 m wide
- [Eur. Phys. J. C 85:430 \(2025\)](#), "Scientific program for the Forward Physics Facility"
- [Nucl. Phys. B 1026, 117398 \(2026\)](#), "The forward physics facility: Physics opportunities and conceptual design"



FPF experiments



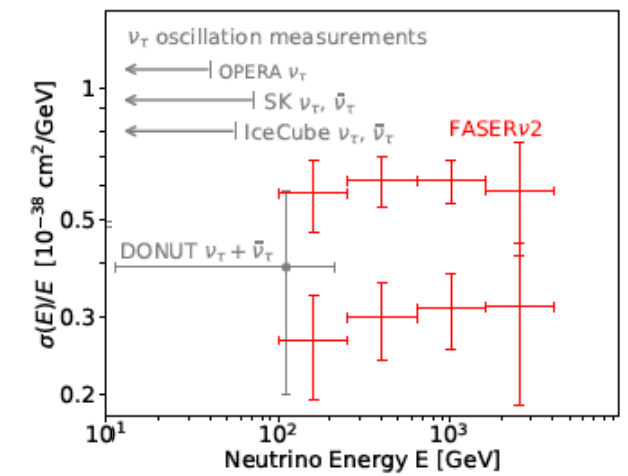
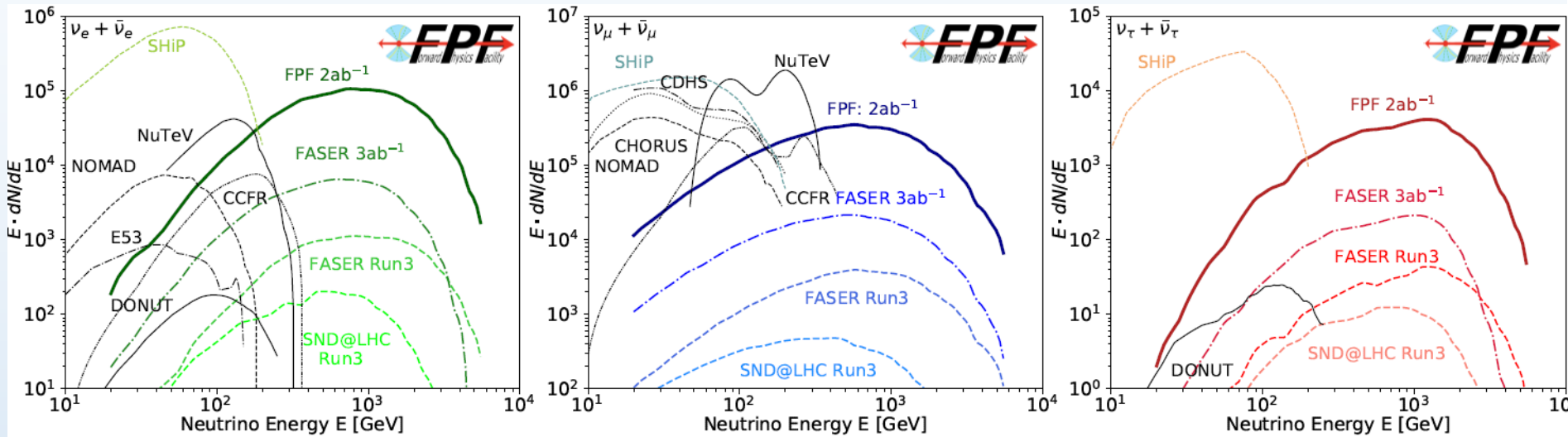
New particle searches and neutrino measurements at the FPF



Neutrino physics case at the FPF (1)

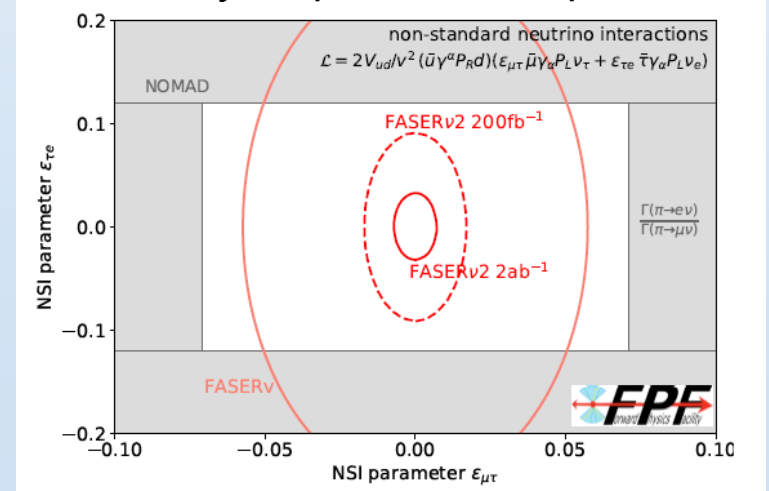
Expected data set

$\sim 10^6 \nu_\mu$, $\sim 10^5 \nu_e$, $\sim 10^4 \nu_\tau$ interactions from HL-LHC

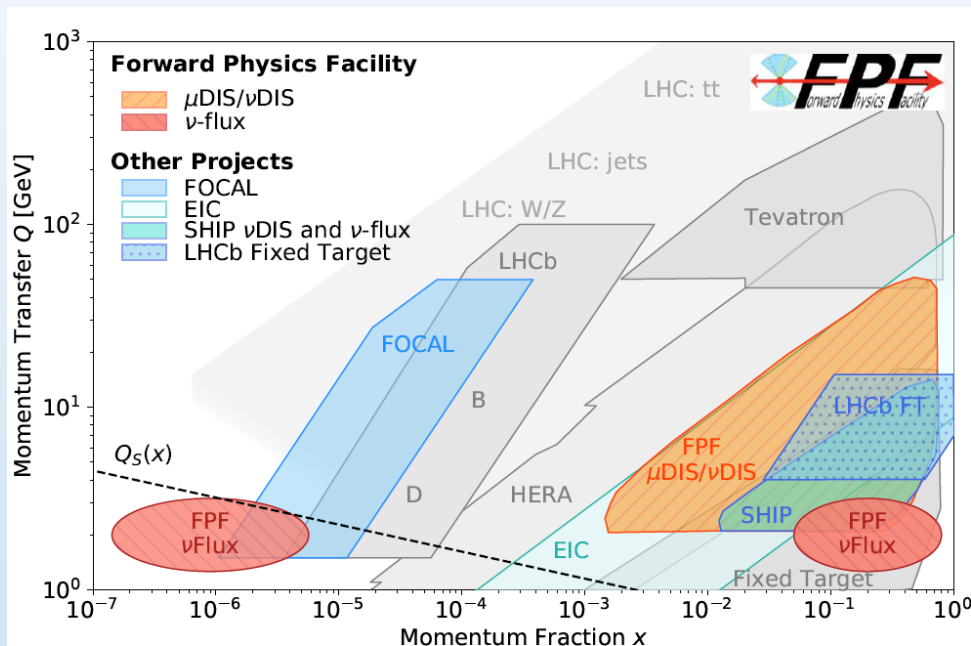


Name	Detector			CC Interactions		
	Mass	Luminosity	Rapidity	$\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$	$\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu$	$\nu_\tau + \bar{\nu}_\tau$
FASERν at Run 3	1.1 t	350 fb ⁻¹	$\eta > 8.8$	2.3k	12k	40
SND@LHC at Run 3	0.8 t	350 fb ⁻¹	$7.2 < \eta < 8.4$	300	1.5k	12
FASERν / FASER at HL-LHC	1.1 t	3 ab ⁻¹	$\eta > 8.8$	19k	102k	360
SND@HL-LHC	1.3 t	3 ab ⁻¹	$6.9 < \eta < 7.6$	2.9k	15k	143
FASERν2 at FPF	20 t	2 ab ⁻¹	$\eta > 8.5$	127k	647k	2.3k
FLArE at FPF	10 t	2 ab ⁻¹	$\eta > 7.5$	34.7k	167k	1.0k
FLArE HCAL at FPF	41 t	2 ab ⁻¹	$\eta > 6.5$	34.0k	180k	1.5k
FASER2 veto at FPF	0.9 t	2 ab ⁻¹	$\eta > 6.7$	1.6k	6.8k	54

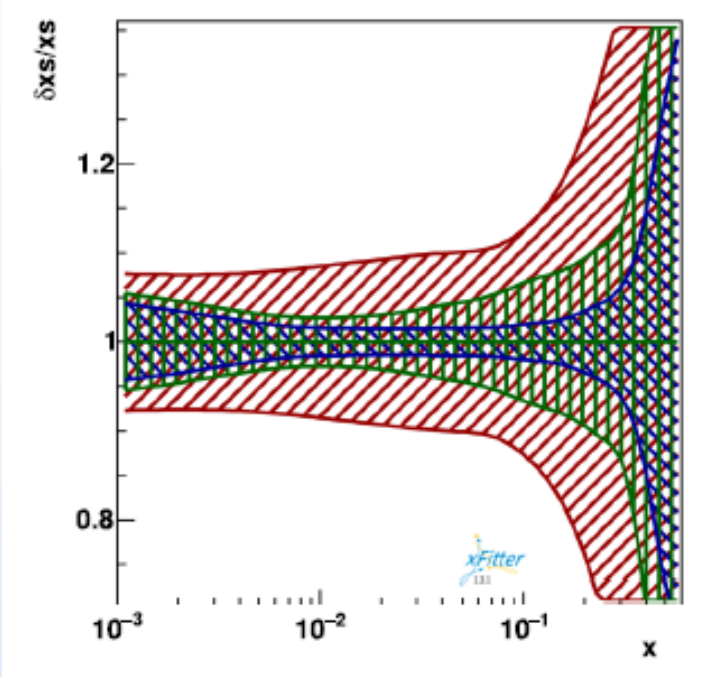
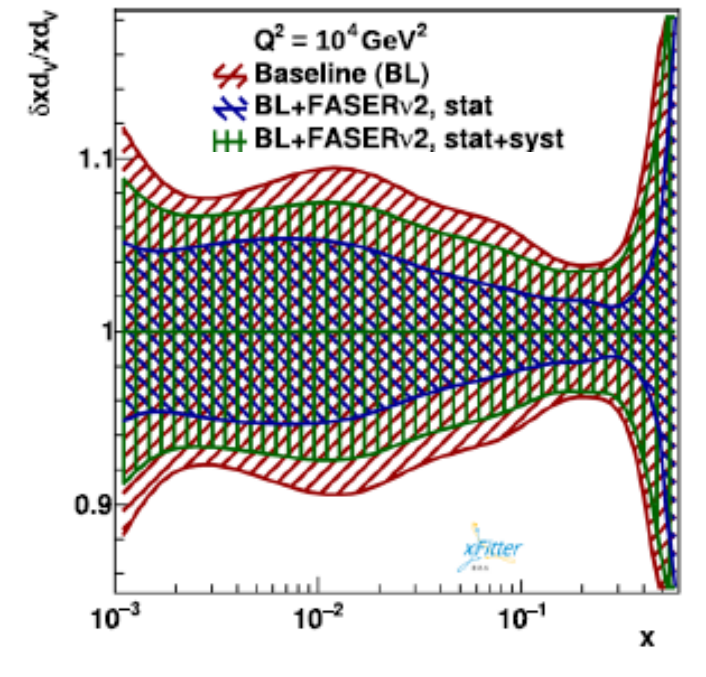
Sensitivity to probe NSI operators



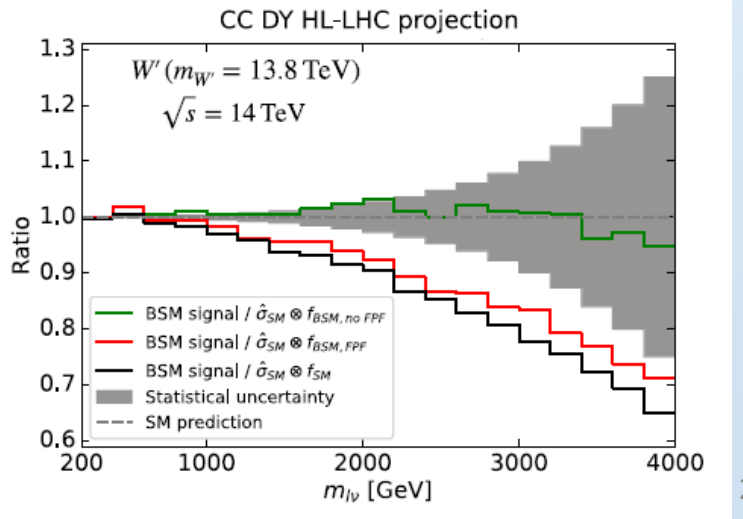
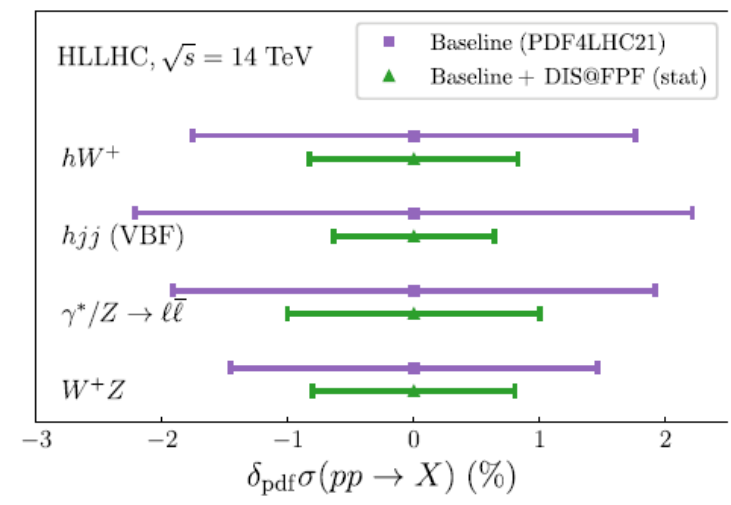
Neutrino physics case at the FPF (2)



PDF uncertainties for the down valence quark and strangeness PDFs
[Eur. Phys. J. C 84 \(2024\) 369, "The LHC as a Neutrino-Ion Collider"](#)



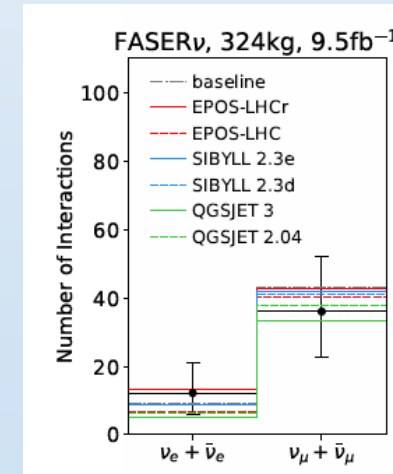
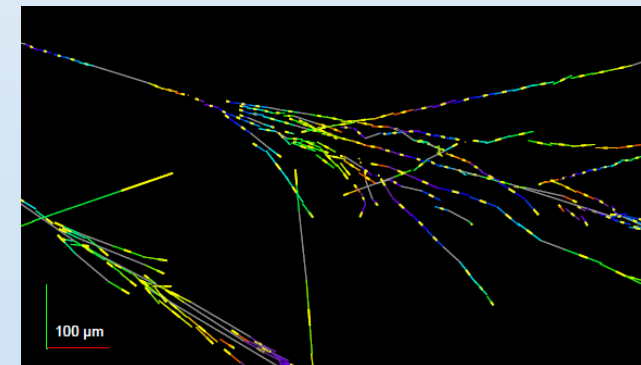
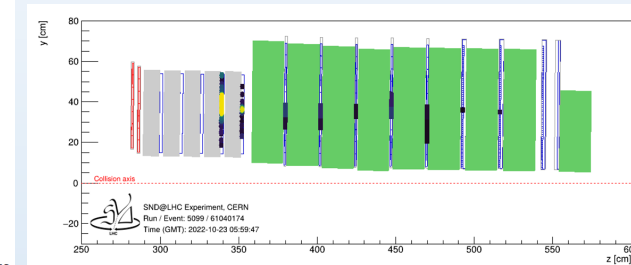
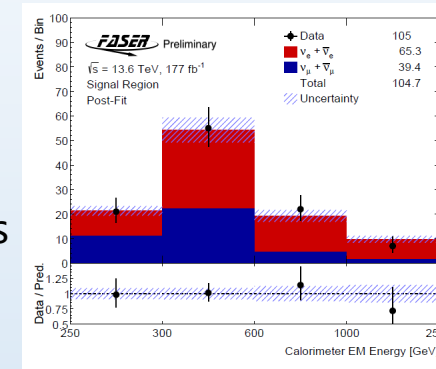
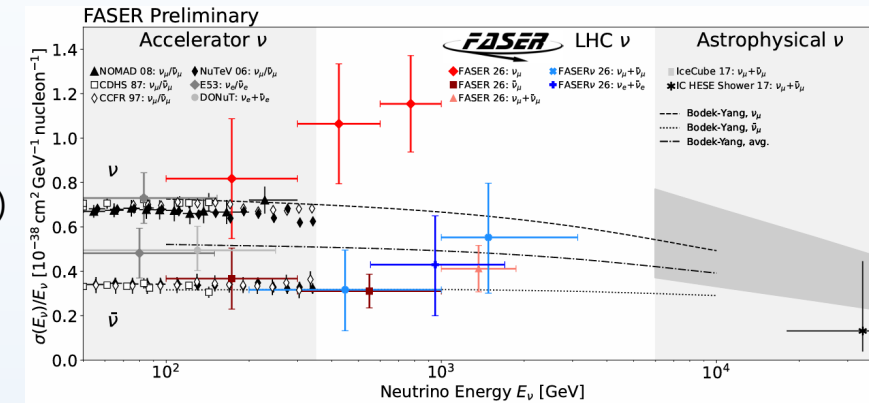
[Eur. Phys. J. C 85:430 \(2025\), "Scientific program for the Forward Physics Facility"](#)



Summary and outlook

The LHC provides the highest-energy accelerator neutrinos (up to the TeV scale)

- Experiments at the LHC
 - FASERν ($\eta > 8.8$) and SND@LHC ($7.2 < \eta < 8.4$) installed during LS2
 - Data taking completed in Run 3 (2022-2026)
- Key results
 - First direct detection of collider neutrinos (ν_μ, ν_e)
 - First measurements of ν_e and ν_μ CC cross sections at TeV energies
 - Energy-dependent ν_μ cross section and flux
 - First charm search in TeV neutrino interactions
- Physics impact
 - Tests of lepton universality at TeV scale
 - Inputs to hadron production and PDF studies
 - Relevance to astroparticle physics
- Future prospects
 - Detector upgrades for LHC Run 4
 - Forward Physics Facility (FPF) proposed for a larger-scale HL-LHC neutrino program



Related posters at Neutrino 2026

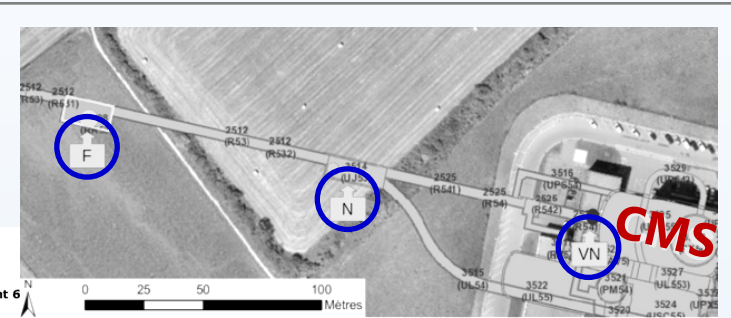
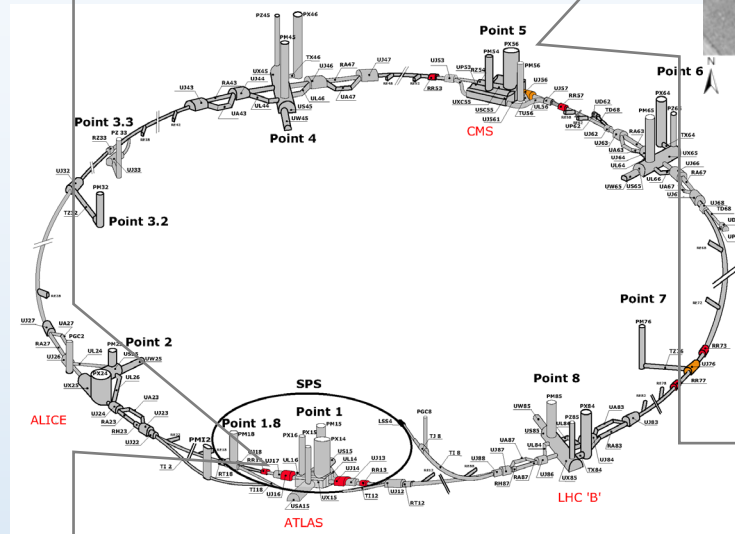
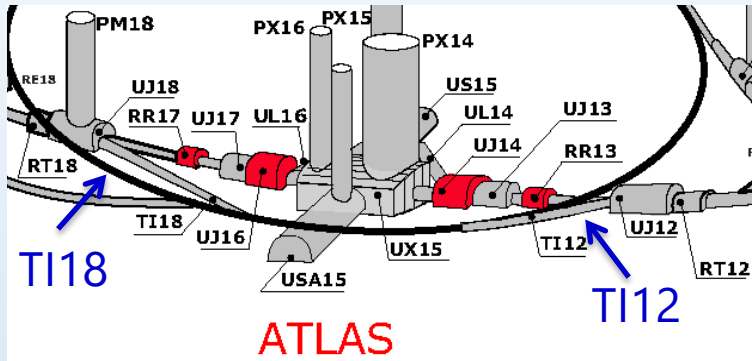
- **Poster 170:** Neutrino cross section measurements and momentum reconstruction with the FASER ν detector (Haruhi Fujimori)
- **Poster 121:** First search for charm production in LHC neutrino interactions in the FASER ν detector (Simon Thor)
- **Poster 122:** Studying Electron Neutrino at the LHC with FASER's Electronic Detectors (Lawson Michael Mccoy)
- **Poster 40:** Toward foundation models for neutrino interactions with multimodal masked autoencoder pretraining (Fabio Cufino)
- **Poster 221:** FLArE: Forward Liquid Argon Experiment at the Forward Physics Facility (Matteo Vicenzi)
- **Poster 103:** Anti-Electron Neutrinos at High-Energy Neutrino Experiments: Identification Strategies and Physics Potential (Toni Makela)
- **Poster 317:** Lake- and Surface-Based Detectors for Forward Neutrino Physics (Nicholas Kamp)

More details can be found in these dedicated poster contributions.

Backup

Site investigation in 2018

FASER measured backgrounds in the tunnels **TI18** and **TI12**, located 480 m from the ATLAS IP.



Another group (later leading to XSEN and SND@LHC) investigated the background around CMS

- VN: Q1 at 25 m
- N: UJ53, UJ57 at 90, 120 m
- F: RR53 at 240 m

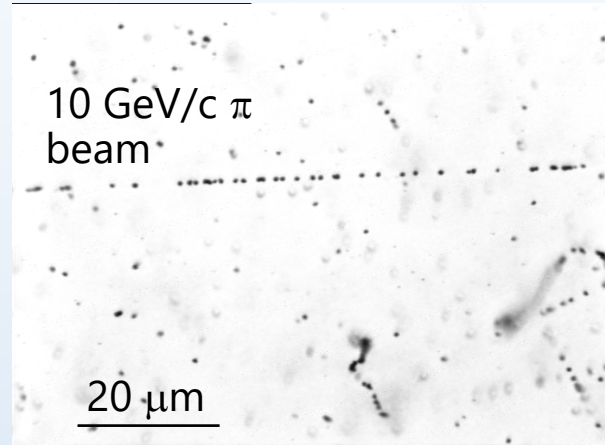
- **FASER** was proposed in 2018.
- **Small emulsion prototype was installed** on the LHC collision axis, measured backgrounds and provided first neutrino candidates. Dedicated neutrino detector **FASERν** was added to FASER.

- Another group investigated possible neutrino detector sites in the LHC tunnel, which led to the XSEN proposal.
- Later merged with SHiP's SND proponents to form **SND@LHC**.

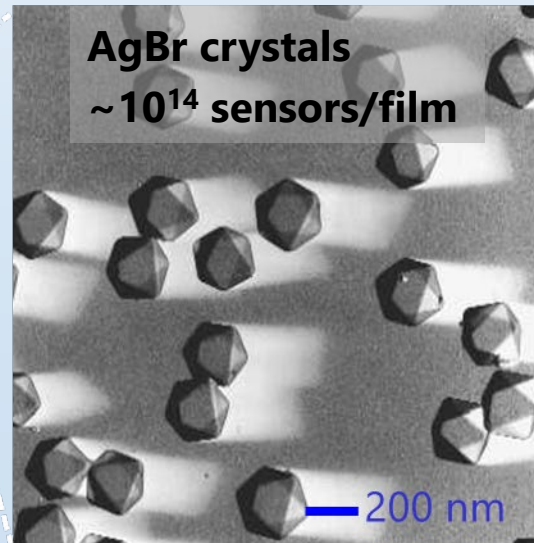
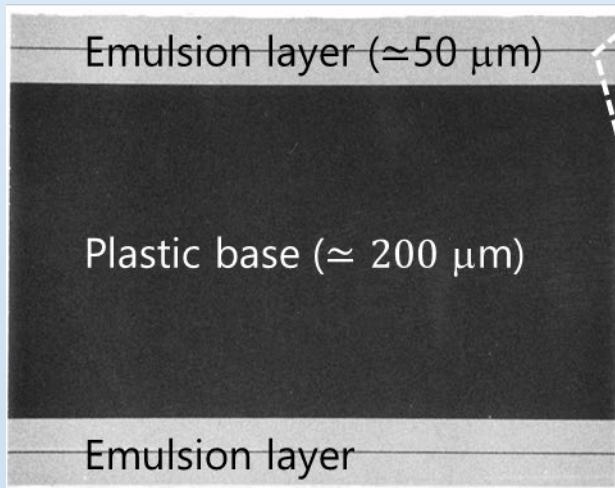
Emulsion Detector: Principle and Applications

3D tracking device with ~ 50 nm position resolution:
Charged particles leave tracks as a sequence of silver grains

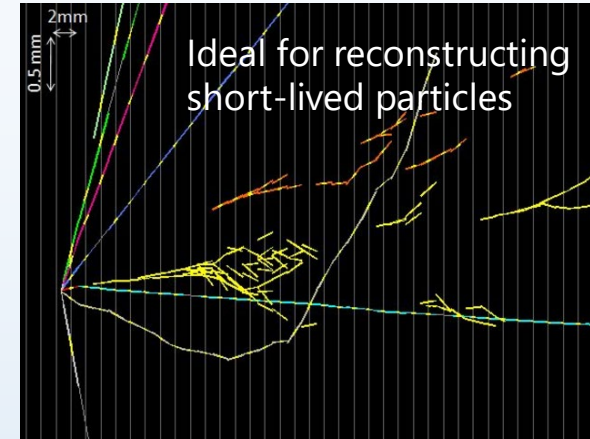
Emulsion film



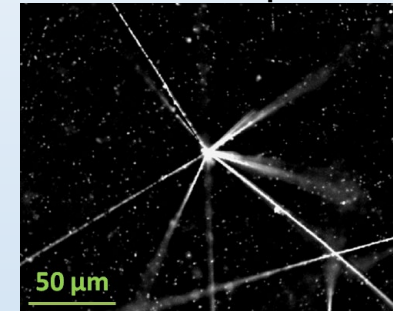
Cross-sectional view



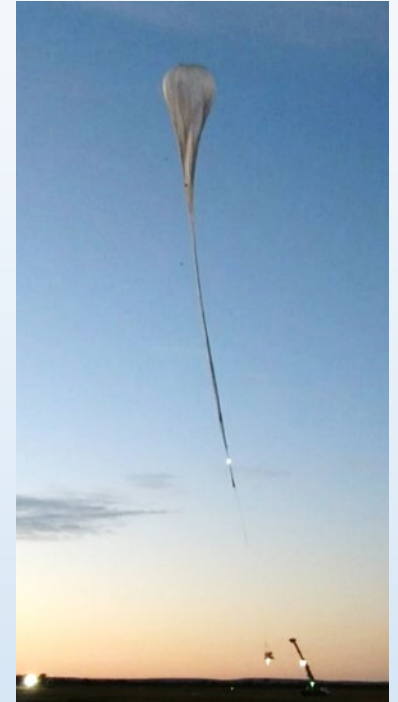
Neutrino experiments



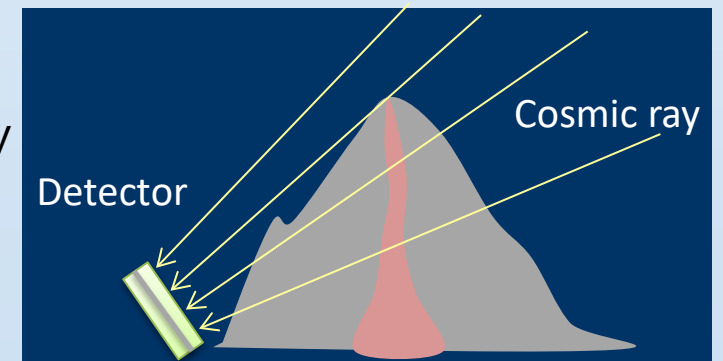
Antimatter experiments



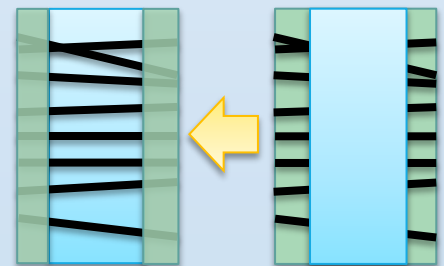
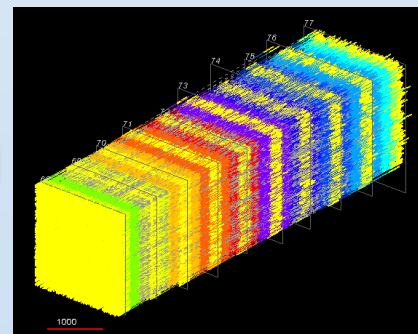
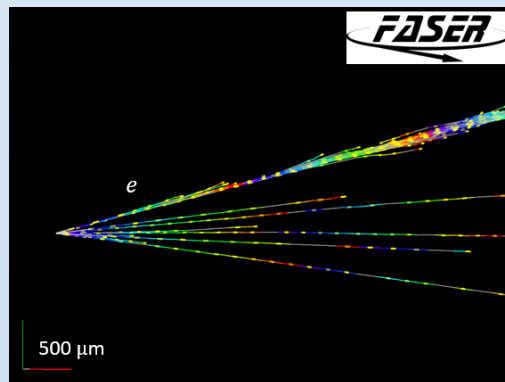
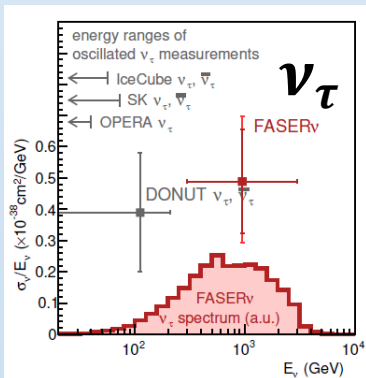
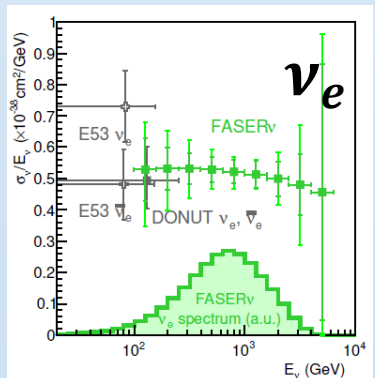
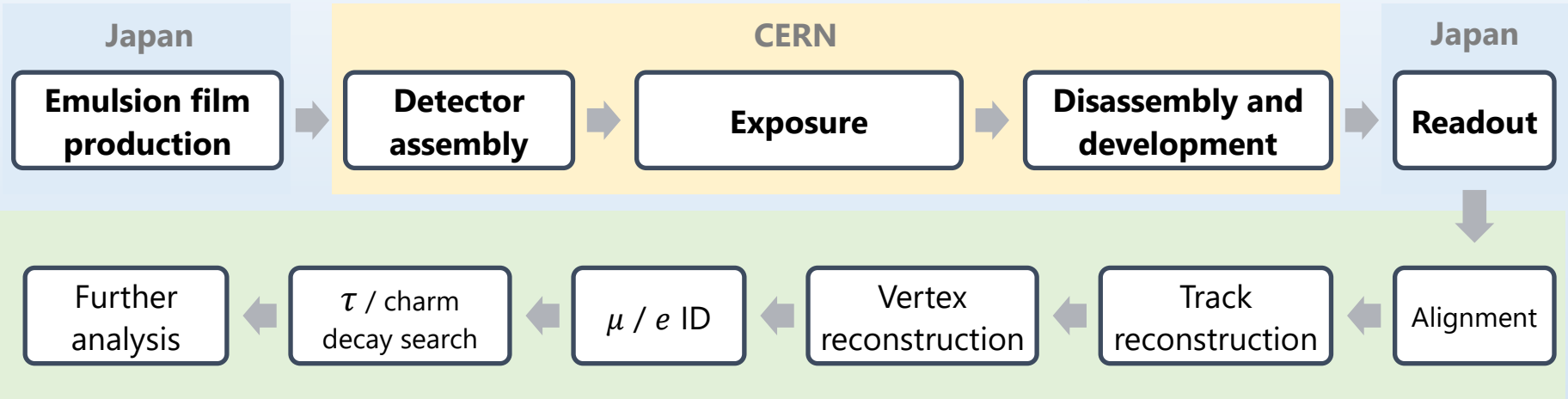
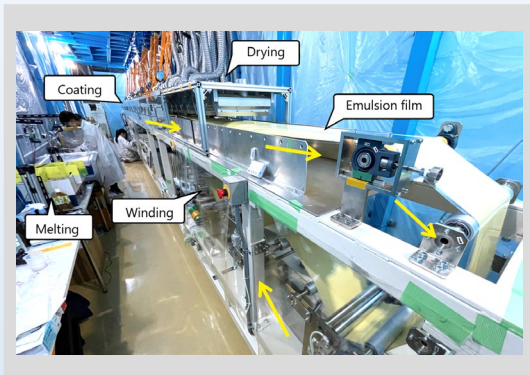
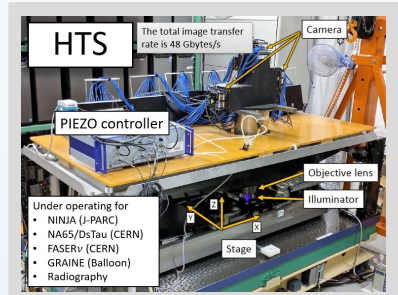
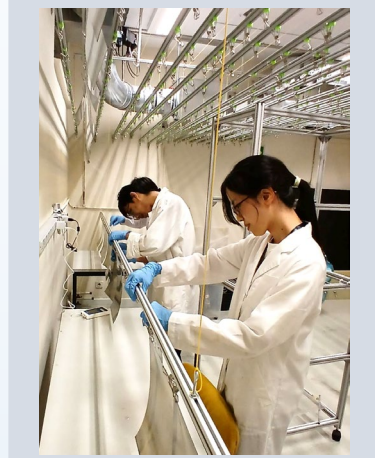
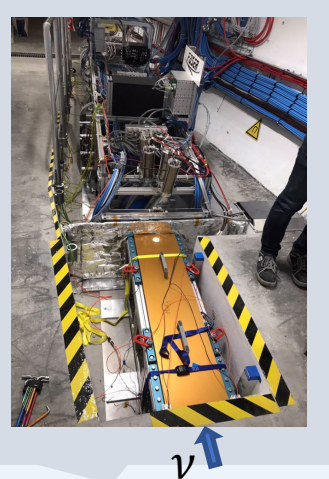
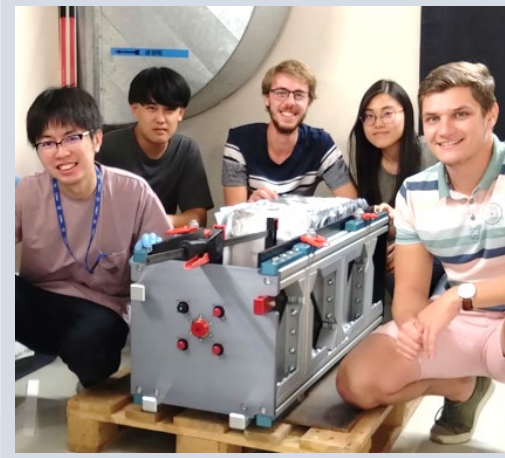
Gamma-ray telescope



Muon radiography

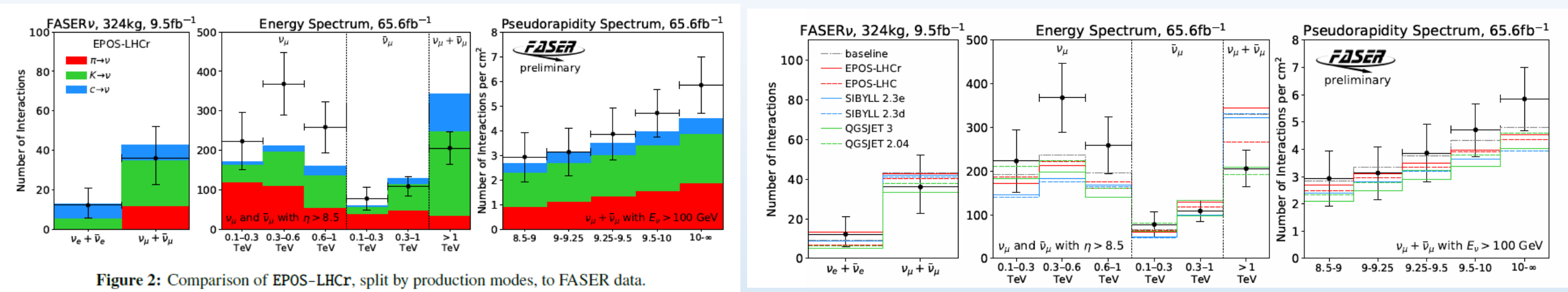


FASER ν workflow



Comparison with predictions from recent hadronic interaction model

arXiv:2507.23552
CERN-FASER-CONF-2025-004



- The predictions are generally consistent with the measured fluxes from FASER, although some discrepancies appear in certain energy bins.
- More precise flux measurements with additional data will follow soon, enabling validation of pion, kaon, and charm meson production with finer energy binning, reduced uncertainties, and multi-differential analyses.

Additional Surface- and Lake-Based Concepts (Location and Flux)

Surface-level LHC neutrino opportunities:

[JHEP07, 270 \(2025\)](#)

IP/Side	luminosity	distance	relative flux	comment
IP1W	3000 fb^{-1}	26.9 km	0.1	in Jura mountains
IP1E	3000 fb^{-1}	183 km	0.0025	very far
IP5W	3000 fb^{-1}	18.7 km	0.25	in Jura mountains
IP5L	3000 fb^{-1}	9 km	1	in Lake Geneva
IP5E	3000 fb^{-1}	166 km	0.0029	very far
IP8L	$300\text{--}600 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	26 km	0.0125–0.025	in Lake Geneva
IP8S	$300\text{--}600 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	24.6 km	0.0133–0.0266	in Jura mountains
FASER/SND	3000 fb^{-1}	480 m	351	TI12/TI18
FPF	3000 fb^{-1}	620 m	210	purpose-built cavern

Lake- and Surface-Based Detectors for Forward Neutrino Physics: [Phys. Rev. D 113, 052002 \(2026\)](#)

