

# Solar neutrinos sensitivity studies: current status

**Davide Basilico**

on behalf of JUNO NuSol analysis group

University of Milan and INFN Milan (Italy)

2022 Oct 24, JUNO EU-AM Meeting (Ferrara)

# Outline

1. **Sensitivity to  ${}^7\text{Be}$ , pep and CNO solar neutrinos**  
→ recap of the technote updates ([docDB#7661](#))
2. **NuSol modulations:**
  - Day-night asymmetry sensitivity studies → updates ([docDB#8899](#))
  - g-modes

## REMINDER

All the results independently **cross-checked** by two groups (**Milano** and **Jülich** or **Munich**).

# NuSol spectroscopy recap of the Technote [docDB#7661](#) updates

Updates introduced wrt the version already approved by the referees (shown also in the July 2022 Collaboration Meeting [docDB#8699](#)):

1. Fixed a bug in the CNO neutrinos PDF
2. New method for the estimation of the relative uncertainties on the neutrinos rate and their error
3. New study related to  $^{13}\text{N}$  and  $^{15}\text{O}$



- $^7\text{Be}$ , *pep* neutrinos: no relevant differences wrt previous results
  - CNO worsened its precision
- but still...

- Short-term: after 1y, JUNO will match the best  $^7\text{Be}$  (but for the worst radiopure scenario) and *pep* results
- Long-term: in optimistic radiopure scenarios, CNO precision improved after 6y + first detection of  $^{13}\text{N}$  and  $^{15}\text{O}$  separately

[docDB#7661](#)

Updated JUNO sensitivity to intermediate energy solar neutrinos,  $^7\text{Be}$ , *pep*, and CNO: results of the two independent analysis performed by Milano and Jülich

Milano group

Davide Basilico<sup>1</sup>, Barbara Caccianiga<sup>1</sup>,  
Federico Ferraro<sup>1</sup>, and Alessandra C. Re<sup>1</sup>

Jülich group

Alexandre Göttel<sup>2,4</sup>, Livia Ludhova<sup>2,4</sup>,  
Anita Meraviglia<sup>3,4</sup>, Luca Pelici<sup>2,4</sup>,  
Apeksha Singhal<sup>2,4</sup>, and Giulio Settanta<sup>2,5</sup>

approved by the internal reviewers



# Looking for solar neutrino modulations

Solar neutrino rate varies in time due to three possible physical motivations:

## Day-night modulations

Driven by the coherent re-generation effect of flavor oscillations

period = 24h

Never observed with high significance, to date

## Annual modulations

Due to eccentricity of the Earth's orbit

period = 1 year

Well-established and consistent with solar origin; absence of an annual modulation rejected at 99.99% C.L.

→ **not interesting here**

## g-Mode modulations

Induced by possible gravitationally driven modes (g-modes) of solar matter

period  $\sim 1 \text{ h} - 10^4 \text{ h}$

Never observed

# Looking for solar neutrino modulations

Solar neutrino rate varies in time due to three possible physical motivations:

## Day-night modulations

Driven by the coherent re-generation effect of flavor oscillations

period = 24h

Never observed with high significance, to date

## g-Mode modulations

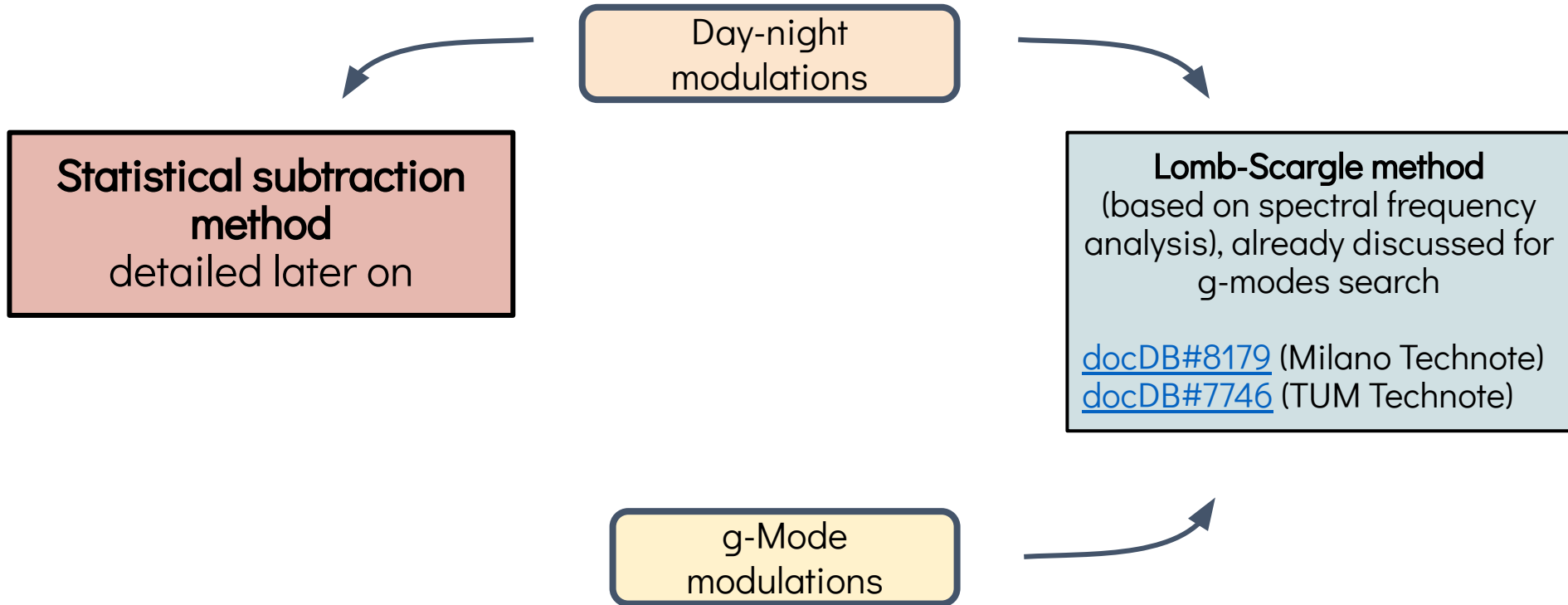
Induced by possible gravitationally driven modes (g-modes) of solar matter

period  $\sim 1 \text{ h} - 10^4 \text{ h}$

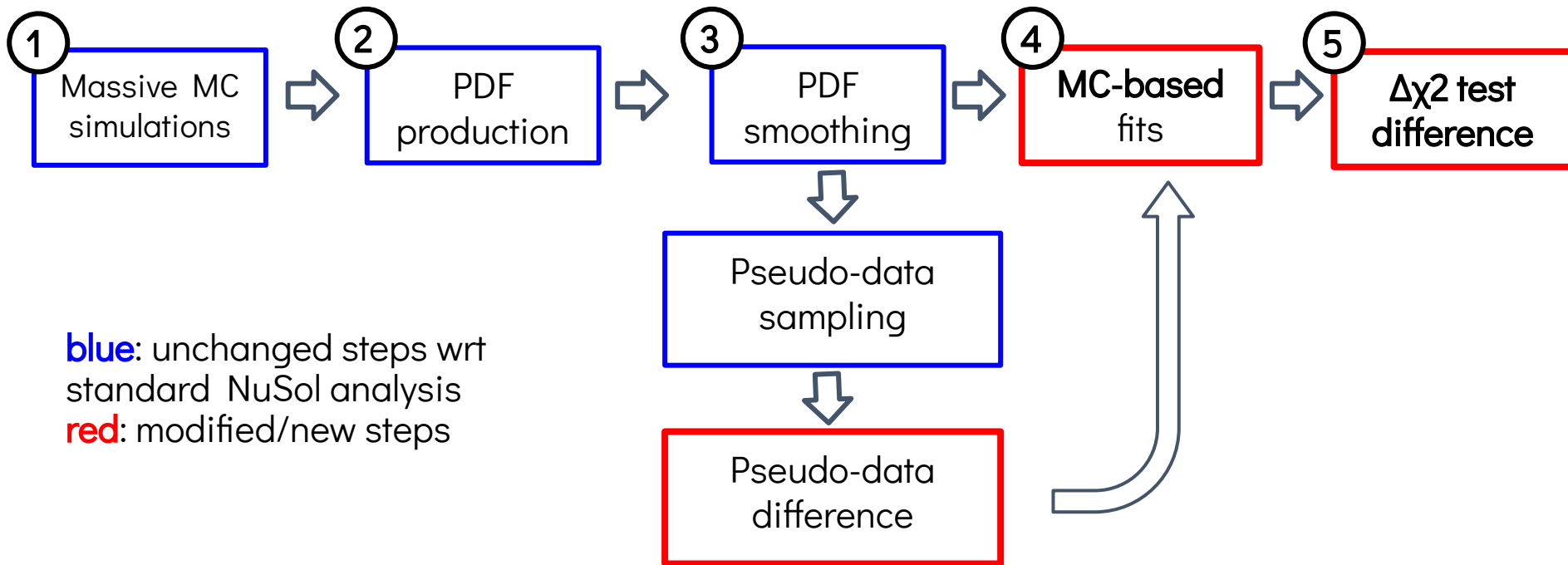
Never observed

# NuSol modulations (7Be, pep, CNO)

## two analysis methods



# Day-night modulations: analysis flow



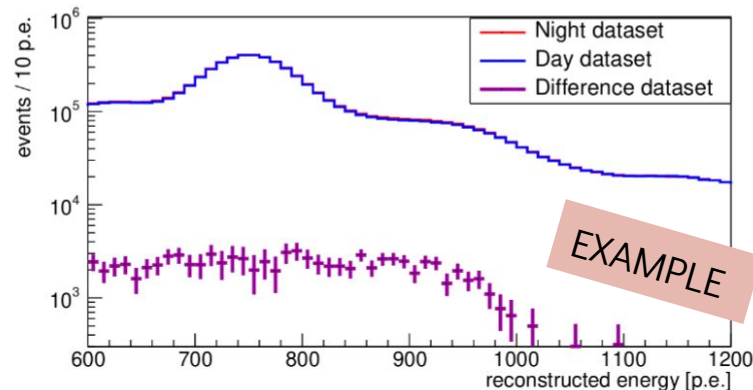
# Dataset generation

The generation is based on the assumption that **only the  ${}^7\text{Be}$  rate is expected to vary between day and night**

The day-night asymmetry  $A_{\text{DN}}$  is defined as:

$$A_{\text{DN}} = \frac{\Delta R}{\langle R \rangle} = 2 \frac{R_{\text{Be}}^N - R_{\text{Be}}^D}{R_{\text{Be}}^N + R_{\text{Be}}^D} \implies R_{\text{Be}}^N = \frac{2 + A_{\text{DN}}}{2 - A_{\text{DN}}} R_{\text{Be}}^D$$

- Expected  $A_{\text{DN}}$  for Be7:  $\sim 0.1\%$   
[J. N. Bahcall et al., JHEP 04 (2002), 007;]
- Borexino best result [Phys.Lett.B 707 (2012) 22-26]:  
 $A_{\text{DN}}$  precision  $\sim 1.2\%$
- Some “non-standard” scenarios proposed by many Beyond the Standard Model theories expect  $A_{\text{DN}} > 0.1\%$



R. Plestid, Phys. Rev. D 104, 075027, “Luminous solar neutrinos. i. dipole portals.”

R. Plestid, Phys. Rev. D 104, 075028, “Luminous solar neutrinos. ii. mass-mixing portals.”

V. Brdar, J. Kopp, J. Liu, P. Prass, and X.P. Wang, Phys. Rev. D 97, 043001, Fuzzy dark matter and nonstandard neutrino interactions.

V. Brdar, A. Greljo, J. Kopp, and T. Opferkuch, JCAP01 (2021) 039, The neutrino magnetic moment portal: cosmology, astrophysics, and direct detection.



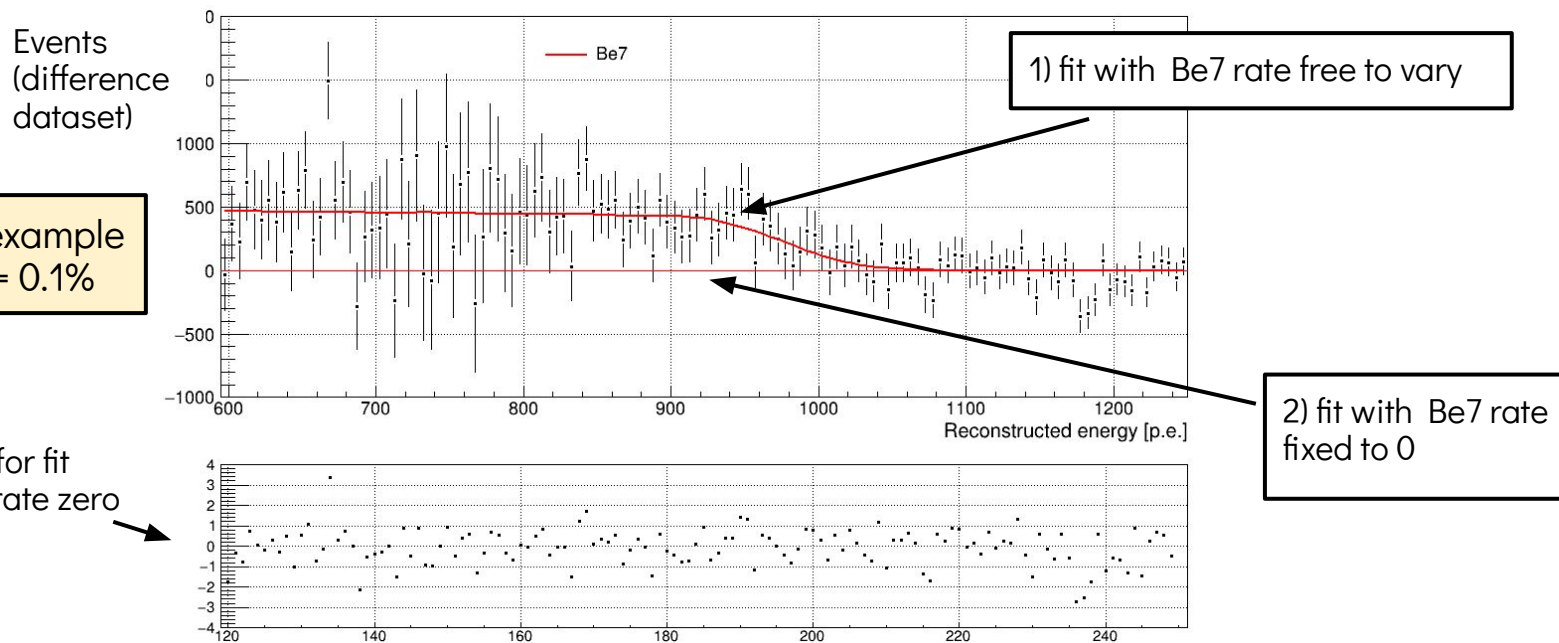
# Spectral fit of “difference dataset”

EXAMPLE

The only free parameter is Be7 rate. For each Difference datasets, two fits are performed:

1. Be7 rate left free to vary  $\rightarrow \chi^2(\text{Be7 rate free})$
2. Be7 rate fixed to zero  $\rightarrow \chi^2(\text{Be7 rate} = 0)$

The difference of  $\chi^2$  s is calculated to estimate the significance to possible asymmetries



# Spectral fit of “difference dataset”

The only free parameter is Be7 rate. For each Difference datasets, two fits are performed:

1. Be7 rate left free to vary  $\rightarrow \chi^2(\text{Be7 rate free})$
2. Be7 rate fixed to zero  $\rightarrow \chi^2(\text{Be7 rate} = 0)$

The difference of  $\chi^2$  s is calculated to estimate the significance to possible asymmetries

## “Standard” binary hypothesis test, with $\Delta\chi^2$ as test statistics

For each configuration (radiopurity scenario and data-taking time), and fixing  $A_{\text{DN}}$  value, the dataset generation and fitting procedure is performed twice:

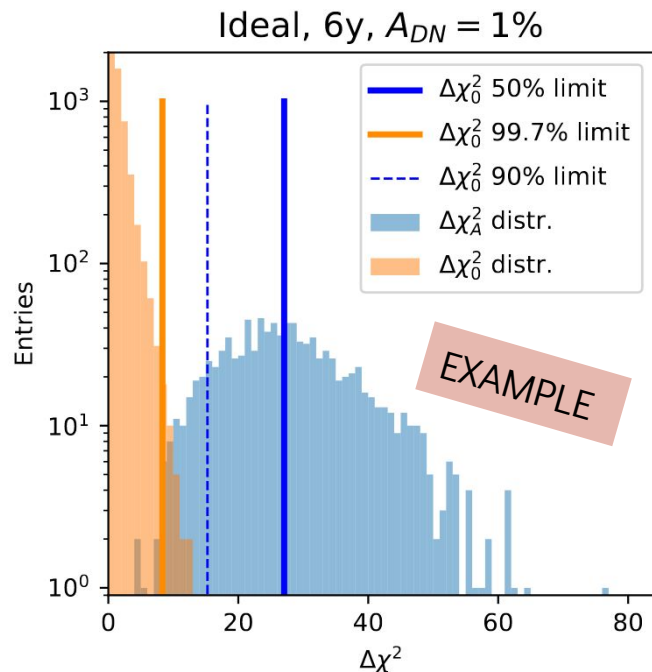
- “Modulated dataset”: injecting  $A_{\text{DN}} > 0$   $\rightarrow$  extracting  $\Delta\chi^2_A$
- “White noise dataset”: without injecting  $A_{\text{DN}}$  (that is,  $A_{\text{DN}}=0$ )  $\rightarrow$  extracting  $\Delta\chi^2_0$

# $\Delta\chi^2$ distributions (example)

The dataset generation and fitting procedure is performed twice:

- “Modulated dataset”: once injecting  $A_{\text{DN}} > 0$
- “White noise dataset”: once without injecting  $A_{\text{DN}}$  (that is,  $A_{\text{DN}}=0$ )

→ extracting  $\Delta\chi^2_A$   
→ extracting  $\Delta\chi^2_0$



We build two  $\Delta\chi^2$  histograms repeating the procedure  $10^4$  times (dataset generation → fitting twice → evaluating  $\Delta\chi^2$ )

The sensitivity to DN is defined by “minimum detectable  $A_{\text{DN}}$ ”: lowest amplitude (=  $A_{\text{DN}}$ ) that can be detected at  $3\sigma$  with 50 % probability

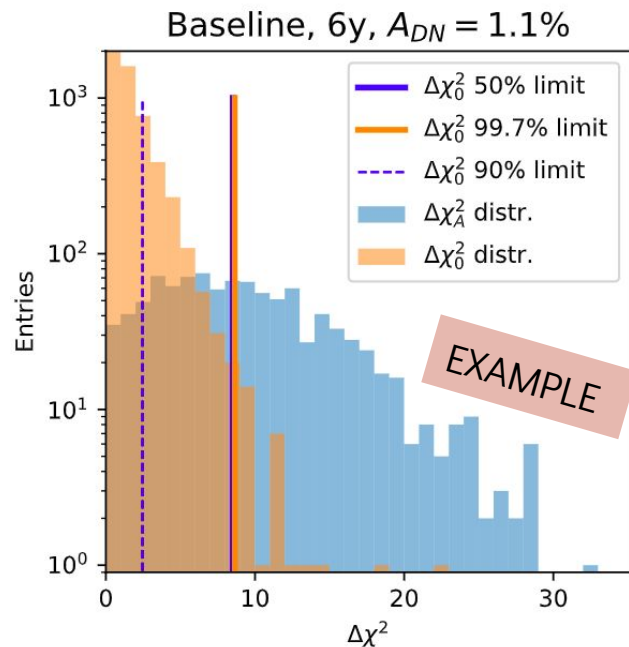
→ C.L. 50% for modulated dataset and C.L. 99.7% (that is  $3\sigma$ ) for WN dataset are constructed, marked by the vertical solid lines

# $\Delta\chi^2$ distributions (example)

The dataset generation and fitting procedure is performed twice:

- “Modulated dataset”: once injecting  $A_{\text{DN}} > 0$
- “White noise dataset”: once without injecting  $A_{\text{DN}}$  (that is,  $A_{\text{DN}}=0$ )

→ extracting  $\Delta\chi^2_A$   
→ extracting  $\Delta\chi^2_0$



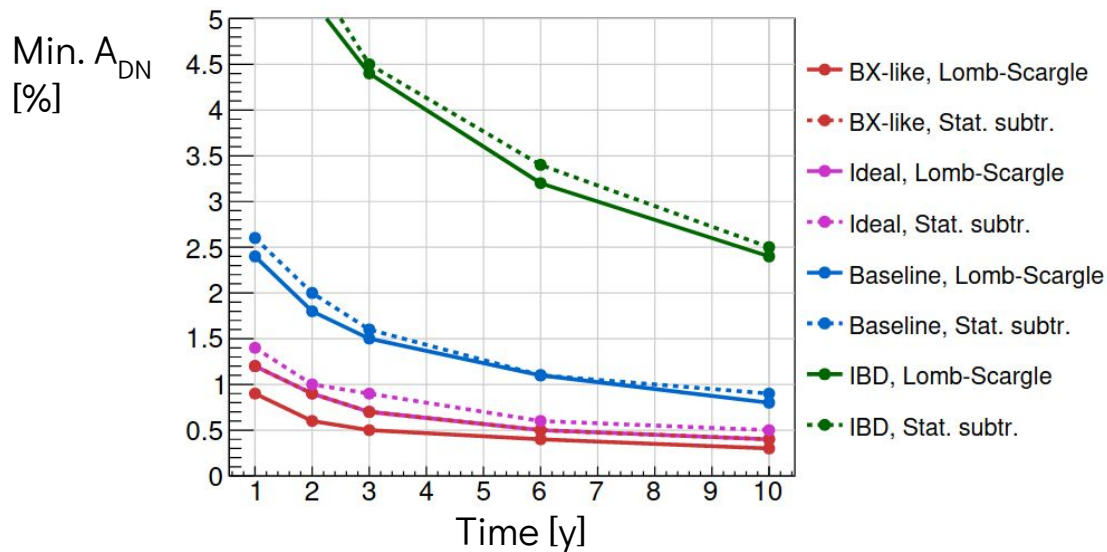
We build two  $\Delta\chi^2$  histograms repeating the procedure  $10^4$  times (dataset generation → fitting twice → evaluating  $\Delta\chi^2$ )

The sensitivity to DN is defined by “minimum detectable  $A_{\text{DN}}$ ”: lowest amplitude (=  $A_{\text{DN}}$ ) that can be detected at  $3\sigma$  with 50 % probability

→ C.L. 50% for modulated dataset and C.L. 99.7% (that is  $3\sigma$ ) for WN dataset are constructed, marked by the vertical solid lines

We choose the minimum detectable asymmetry as the one which gives rise to the overlapping of the blue and orange solid lines

# Minimum detectable $A_{\text{DN}}$ vs exposure



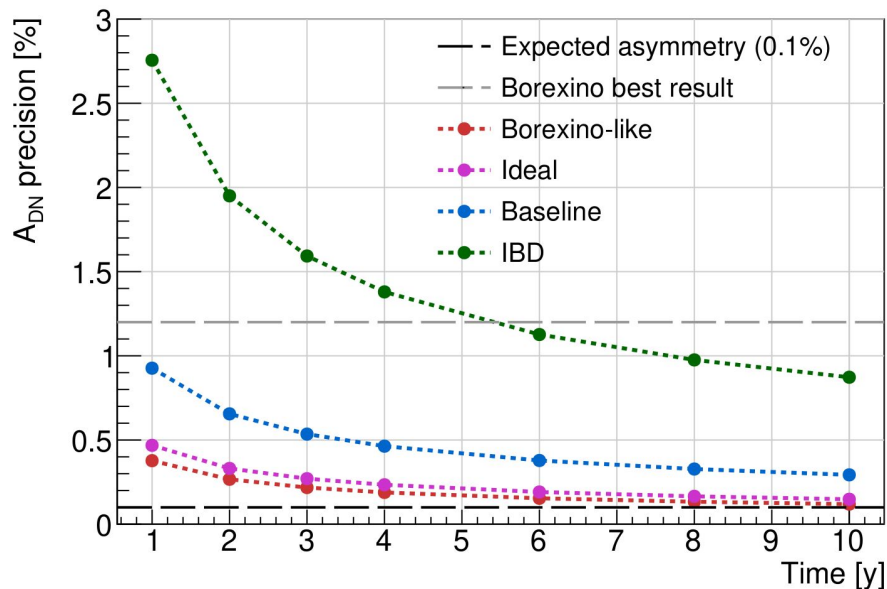
Min detectable  $A_{\text{DN}}$  after 10y

Scenario	Lomb Sc.	Stat. Sub.
BX-like	0.3%	0.4%
Ideal	0.4%	0.5%
Baseline	0.8%	0.9%
IBD	2.4%	2.5%

- Performances: two methods almost equivalent. **Lomb-Scargle** slightly better especially for long data takings
- **Able to probe  $A_{\text{DN}}$  values never reached before**
- Unfortunately, **unable to reach the  $A_{\text{DN}} = 0.1\%$**  expected by SSM+oscillations

# Injecting $A_{\text{DN}} = 0.1\%$ : reconstructed $A_{\text{DN}}$ precision

Precision on  $A_{\text{DN}}$  as a function of the data-taking time, when  $A_{\text{DN}} = 0.1\%$  (expected value) is injected



Even only after 1y JUNO will be able to improve the Borexino  $A_{\text{DN}}$  precision in the **Borexino-like, ideal** and **baseline** radiopurity scenarios. For the **IBD** one, ~6 years are needed.

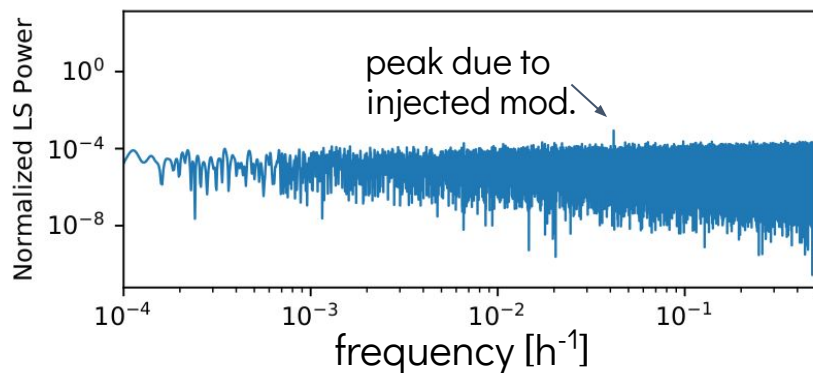
In a nutshell, JUNO will be able to highly **improve the current Borexino  $A_{\text{DN}}$  precision (factor ~5 in Bx-like or Ideal scenarios)**

# gModes: Lomb-Scargle analysis

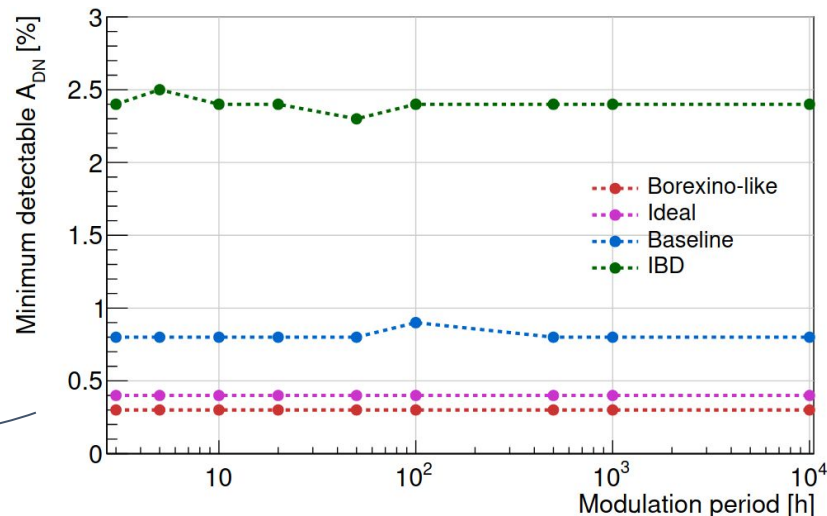
Lomb-Scargle: extension of the Fourier Transform to treat data-sets not evenly distributed in time

We don't know a-priori the period  $T$  of the modulation

Frequency periodogram (example, Ideal 10Y ADN=0.2%)



Min detectable  $A_{\text{DN}}$  ( $3\sigma$ ) after 10y



Sensitivity doesn't significantly depend on  $T$   
→ **same results of the Day-Night analysis with LS method**

# Analysis status: a summary

1. **Sensitivity to 7Be, pep and CNO solar neutrinos** (Milano, Jülich): **technote** approved ([docDB#7661](#))
2. **Modulations:**
  - Sensitivity to **day-night** asymmetry (Milano, Jülich): **technote** approved ([docDB#8899](#))
  - Sensitivity to **g-modes**: **technotes** previously approved ([docDB#7746](#) and [docDB#8179](#))

**Analysis entirely approved by the internal reviewers!**



The studies will flow into the “**JUNO sensitivity to 7Be, pep and CNO solar neutrinos**” paper.

Writing is under finalization. It will be circulated to the Publication Committee soon (~weeks)



# NuSol paper

## JUNO sensitivity to ${}^7\text{Be}$ , *pep*, and CNO solar neutrinos

### JUNO Collaboration

**Abstract.** The Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO), the first multi-kton liquid scintillator detector under construction in China, will have a unique potential to perform a real-time measurement of solar neutrinos well below the few MeV threshold typical for Water Cherenkov detectors. JUNO large target mass and excellent energy resolution are pre-requisites for reaching unprecedented levels of precision. In this paper, we provide estimation of the JUNO sensitivity to  ${}^7\text{Be}$ , *pep*, and CNO solar neutrinos that can be obtained via a spectral analysis above the 0.45 MeV threshold. This study is performed assuming different scenarios of the liquid scintillator radio-purity, ranging from the most optimistic one corresponding to the radiopurity levels obtained by the Borexino experiment, up to the minimum requirements needed to perform the neutrino mass ordering program with reactor antineutrinos - the main goal of JUNO.

**[preliminary]**

17	Contents	
18	1 JUNO experiment	3
19	2 Solar neutrinos	4
20	2.1 Solar neutrinos production and propagation	4
21	2.2 Solar neutrinos detection in JUNO	6
22	3 Backgrounds	6
23	3.1 Internal backgrounds	7
24	3.2 External backgrounds	10
25	3.3 Cosmogenic backgrounds	10
26	3.3.1 Identification of ${}^{11}\text{C}$ : the TFC algorithm	10
27	3.4 Background from reactor anti-neutrinos	11
28	4 Strategy and methods for solar neutrino spectroscopy	11
29	4.1 Production of reference energy distribution (PDFs)	12
30	4.2 Toy dataset generation	12
31	4.3 Multivariate fit	13
32	5 Results on sensitivity	14
33	5.1 Sensitivity on ${}^7\text{Be}$ neutrinos	15
34	5.2 Sensitivity on <i>pep</i> neutrinos	16
35	5.3 Sensitivity on CNO neutrinos	19
36	5.4 Sensitivity results on ${}^{13}\text{N}$ and ${}^{15}\text{O}$ neutrinos	21
37	6 Periodic modulations of the ${}^7\text{Be}$ neutrino rates	23
38	6.1 Sensitivity to solar neutrino day-night asymmetry	24
39	6.2 Sensitivity to g-modes	27
40	7 Conclusions	27

# Conclusions

- **NuSol spectroscopy results updated**
  - No substantial change in  ${}^7\text{Be}$ , pep, CNO fluxes sensitivity
- **Sensitivity to the  ${}^7\text{Be}$  rate neutrinos day-night asymmetry:**
  - JUNO will improve Borexino result in 1 year for each radiopurity scenarios but the worst one, but not confident regarding a  $A_{\text{DN}}=0.1\%$  detection
  - Probing some “non-standard” scenarios proposed by many BSM theories<sup>1</sup>
- **Analysis status:**
  - thoroughly cross-checked independently
  - entirely reviewed and internally approved
- **Paper writing is going to be finalized, will be circulated to the collaboration in weeks**

Thanks!

# Backup

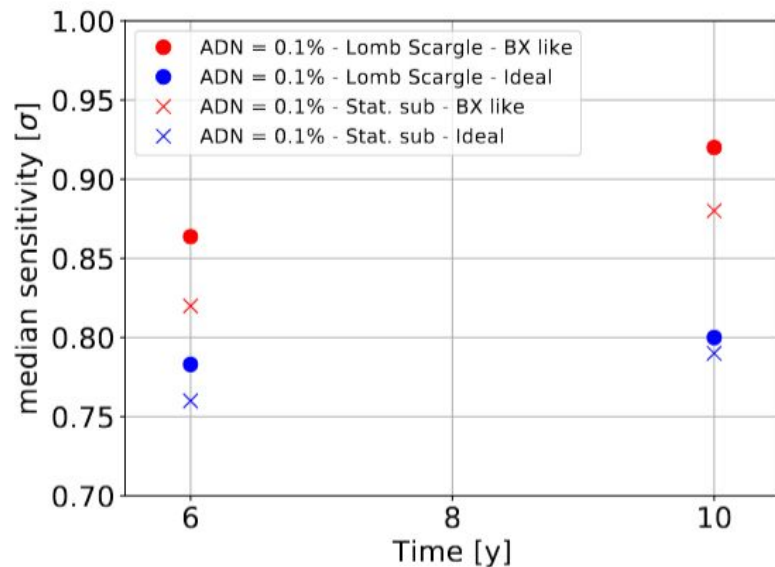
# Minimum detectable $A_{\text{DN}}$ vs exposure

EXAMPLES

Time [y]	Borexino-like		Ideal		Baseline	
	Min. $A_{\text{DN}}$ Milano	Min. $A_{\text{DN}}$ Jülich	Min. $A_{\text{DN}}$ Milano	Min. $A_{\text{DN}}$ Jülich	Min. $A_{\text{DN}}$ Milano	Min. $A_{\text{DN}}$ Jülich
1y	1.2%	1.1%	1.4%	1.4%	2.6%	2.7%
6y	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%	1.1%
10y	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	0.9%

They differ at <0.1% level: **very  
good agreement**

# Injecting $A_{\text{DN}} = 0.1\%$ : median sensitivity



Median discovery significance injecting  $A_{\text{DN}} = 0.1\%$  for the **Borexino-like** and **Ideal** scenarios, as a function of time.

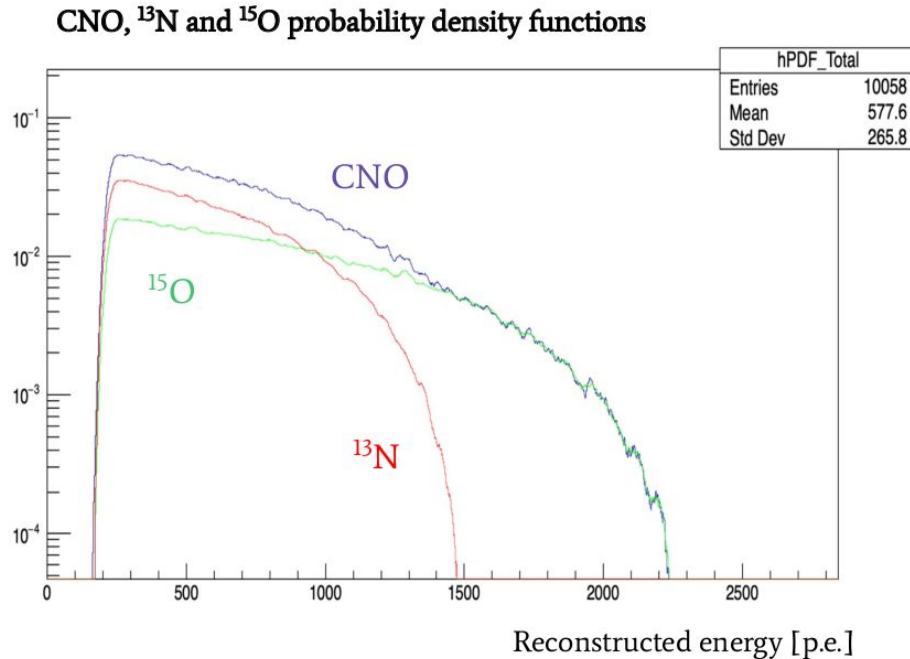
× → statistical subtraction method

● → Lomb-Scargle method

In both cases, JUNO will have a significance lower than  $1\sigma$  for a  $A_{\text{DN}} = 0.1\%$  detection even after 10 years of data-taking time

So, JUNO will probably not be able to detect  $A_{\text{DN}} = 0.1\%$ , but **what is the minimum detectable  $A_{\text{DN}}$ ?** (see next slide)

# Recap of the Technote [docDB#7661](#) updates (under review)



- Due to a mistake, the previous PDF considered the CNO as if it is only composed by  $^{15}\text{O}$ , while the  $^{13}\text{N}$  contribution was not present.
- $^{15}\text{O}$  is easier to identify wrt  $^{13}\text{N}$
- Once creating the CNO PDF with the correct mixture of  $^{13}\text{N}$  and  $^{15}\text{O}$ , this impacts relevantly on the analysis



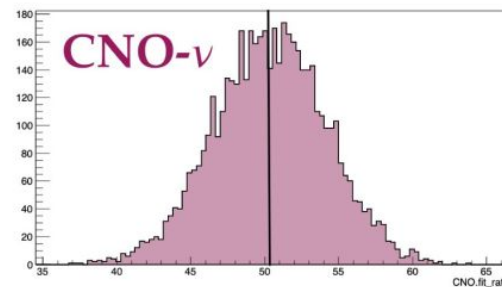
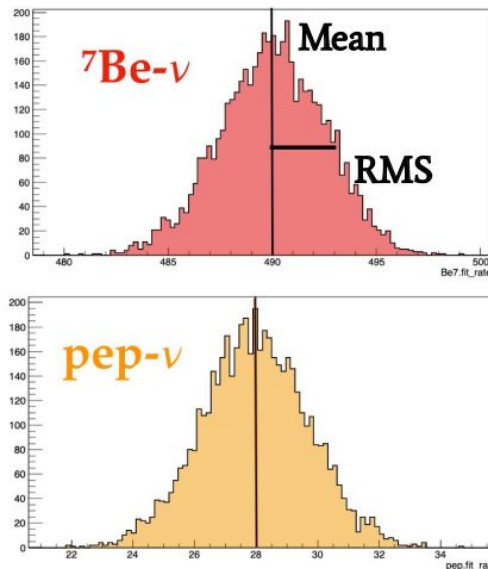
the CNO precision is worsened  
and the *pep* precision is  
improved

# Recap of the Technote [docDB#7661](#) updates (under review)

## Before...

We extracted the neutrinos sensitivity as **RMS / Mean of the reconstructed rate distributions**, while we did NOT consider the error on these uncertainties

Example of reconstructed rate distributions

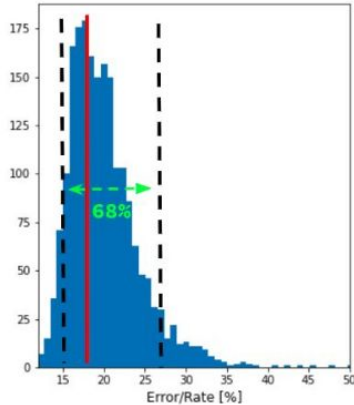


Events  
Rate [cpd/kton]



# Recap of the Technote [docDB#7661](#) updates (under review)

**Now...** → new and more robust method to calculate both the average uncertainty and its error

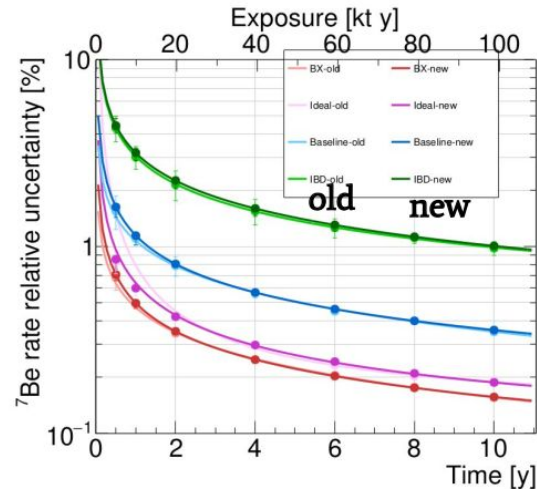


- For each species, we build the distribution of  $\text{Error}_i/\text{Rate}_i$ , where  $i = 1, \dots, 10^4$  is the index of the single fit
- We then extract the following quantities:
  - average uncertainty as the median of this distribution
  - left and right errors on the uncertainty as the distance between the median itself and the 68% C.L.

By doing so,

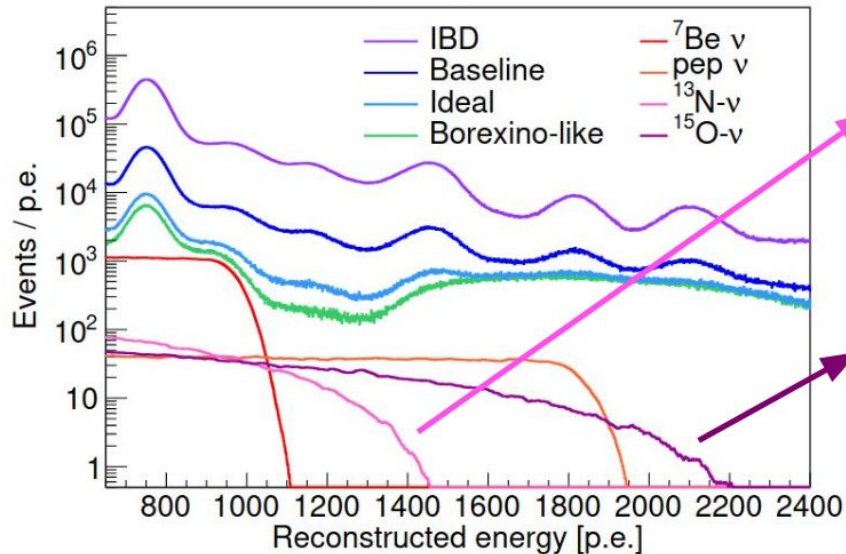
- we take into account possible correlations among the species
- the best values don't change significantly wrt the previous method

example



# Recap of the Technote [docDB#7661](#) updates (under review)

- **possible first detection ever**, allowed by the huge JUNO statistics
- only for the two most radiopure scenarios
- astrophysical importance to infer the direct C and N abundances in the Sun



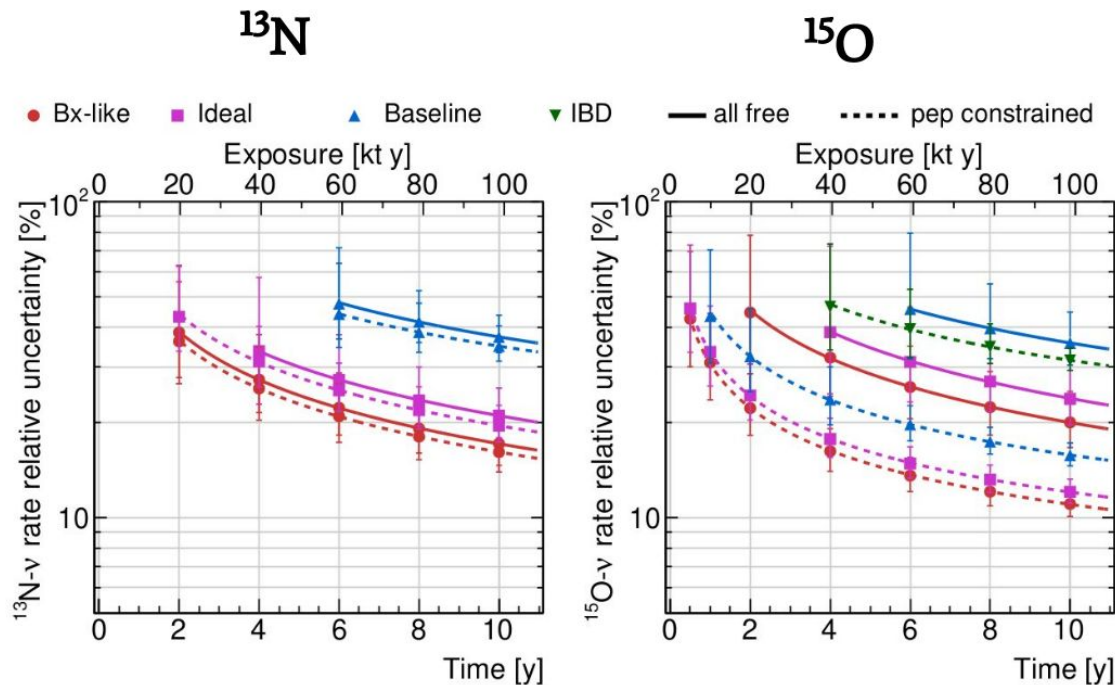
## $^{13}\text{N}$ neutrinos:

- lower Q-value, **lower s/b ratio**
- less anti-correlation with *pep*

## $^{15}\text{O}$ neutrinos:

- **strong anti-correlation** with *pep* due to shape similarity, lower rate
- **degeneracy can be broken** via *pep* constraint

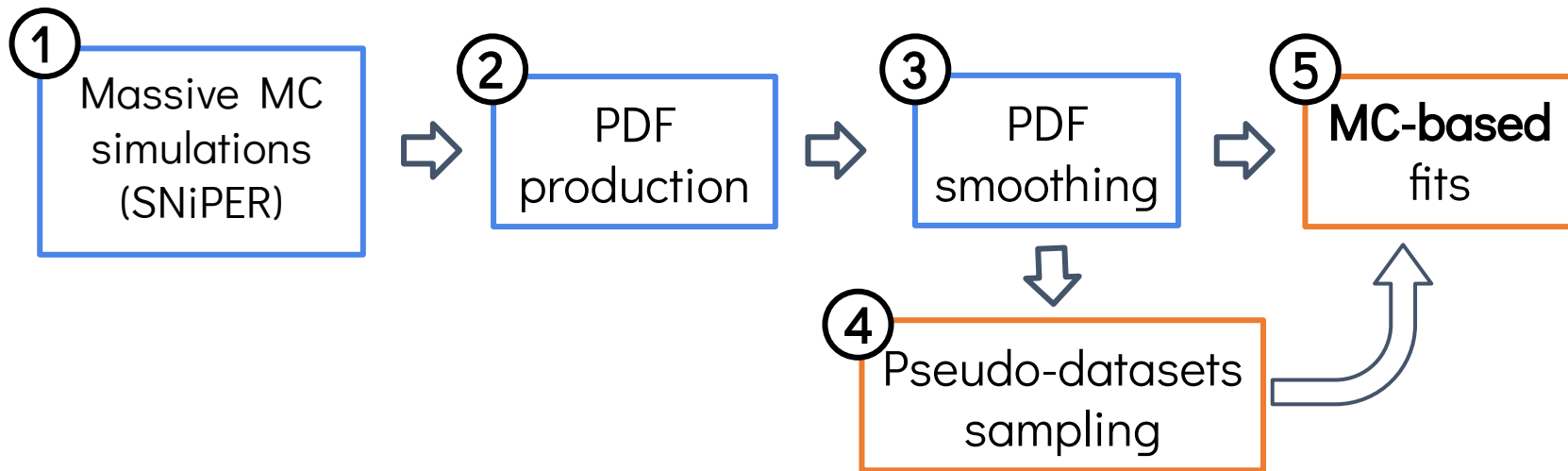
# Recap of the Technote [docDB#7661](#) updates (under review)



*pep* constraint (dashed) does not help significantly

*pep* constraint (dashed) improves significantly

# Sensitivity studies work-flow



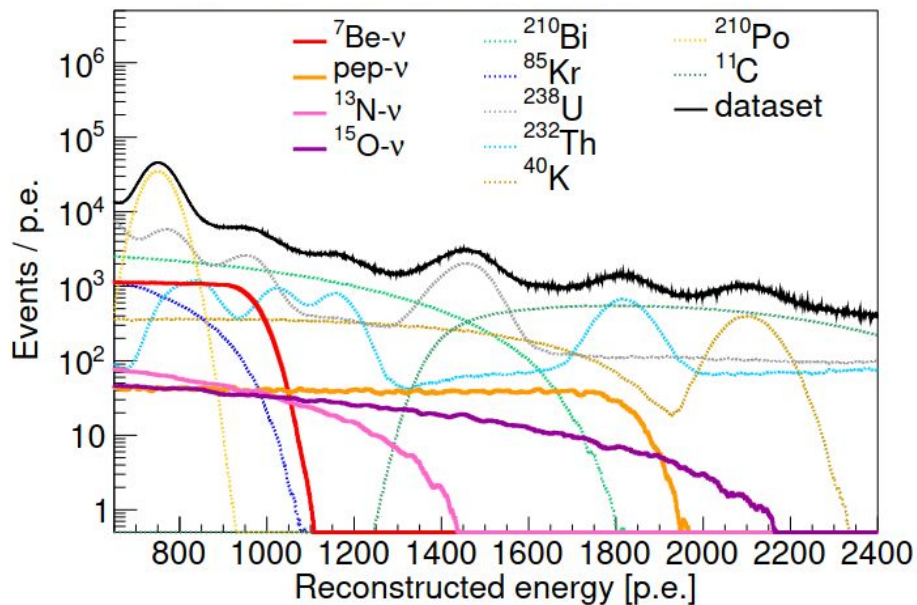
1, 2, 3: common ground

4, 5: independent software frameworks from Milano and Juelich (**MUST** and **JUST** tools)

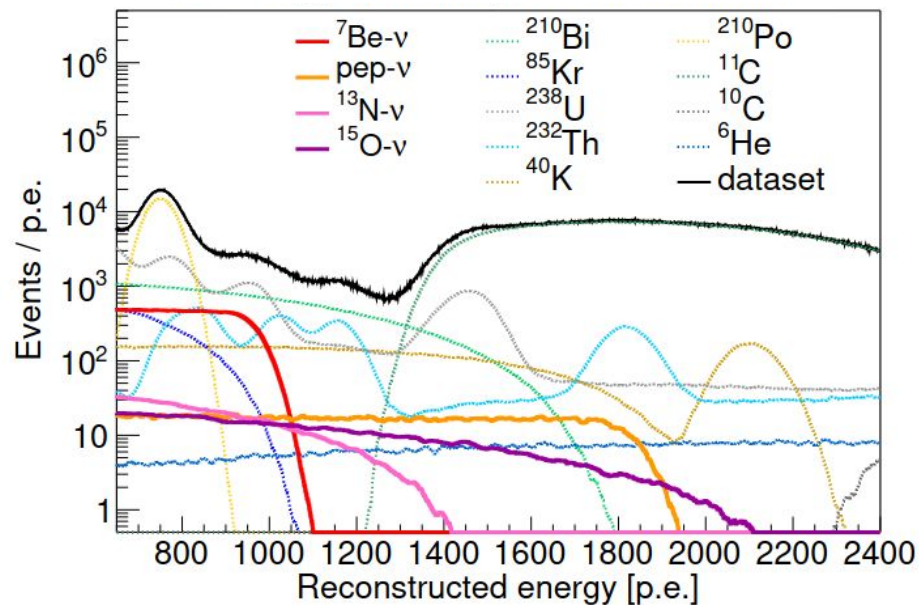
Milano nUsol Sensitivity Tool  
Juelich nUsol Sensitivity Tool

# Subtracted/Tagged spectra (Baseline scenario)

Baseline Subtracted spectrum  
(Depleted in  $^{11}\text{C}$ )



Baseline Tagged spectrum  
(More populated by  $^{11}\text{C}$ )



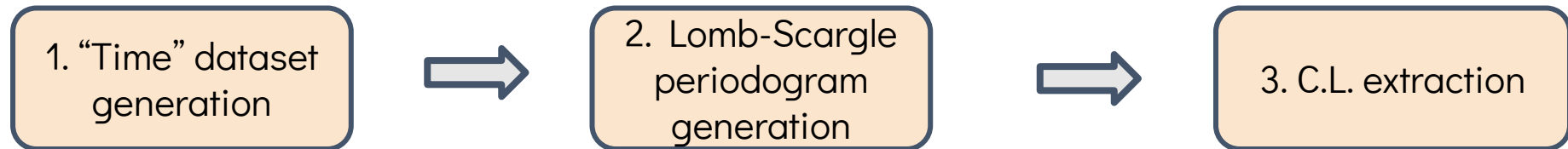
# g-Mode modulations - Summary

What is the JUNO sensitivity to  $\gtrsim$  hour period neutrino modulations with ~% level amplitude?

→ physical input: gravitationally driven modes (“g-Modes”) mainly driven by the buoyancy force

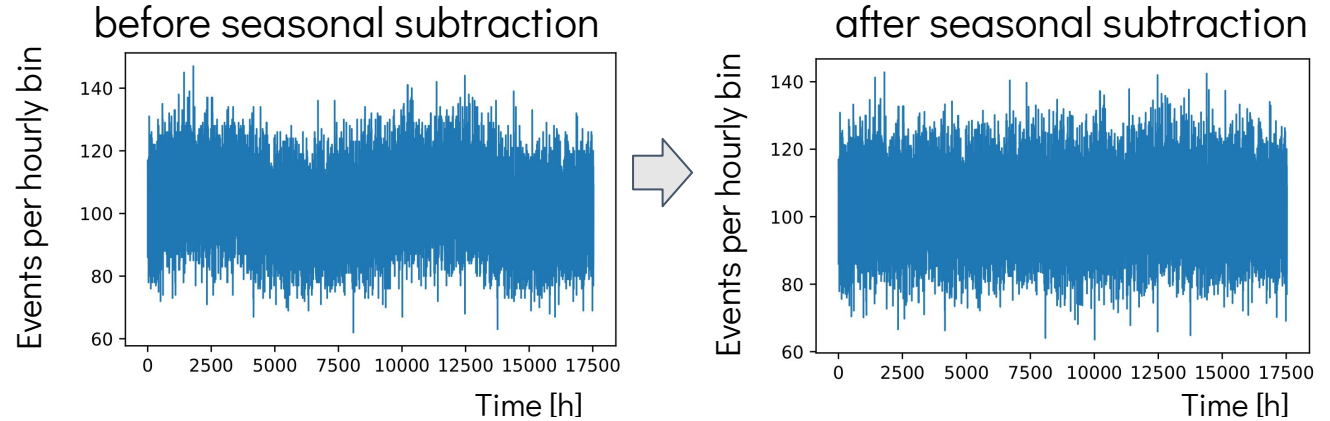
→ references: g-modes [[Apporchaux et al 2010](#)], influence of g-modes on solar neutrino flux [[Bahcall and Kumar 1993](#)]

Work performed independently by two groups: TUM ([docDB#7746-v3](#)) and Milano (this slides)

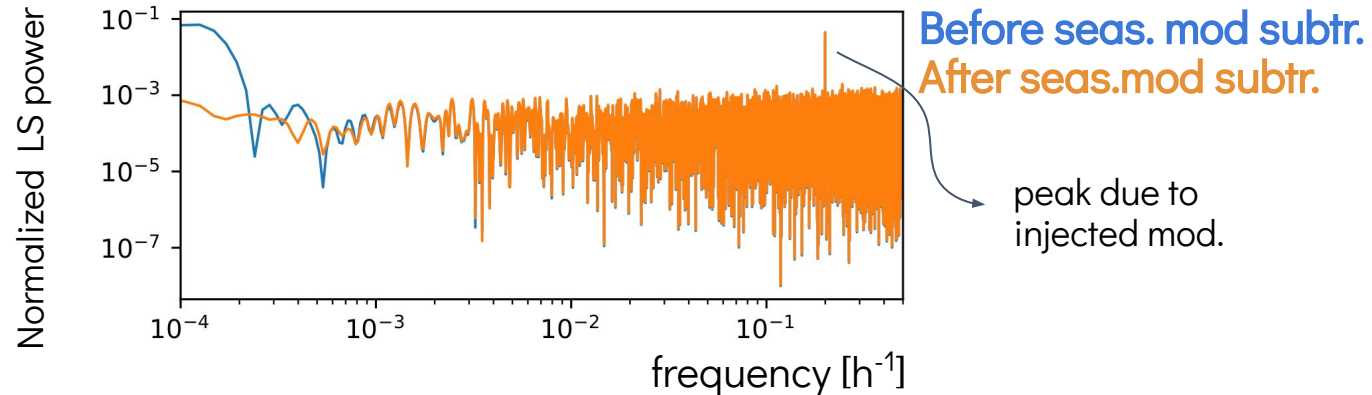


# Analysis workflow

1. “Time” dataset generation



2. Lomb-Scargle periodogram generation



# Analysis workflow

## 1. “Time” dataset generation

**Based on MC PDFs used for the Be7, pep, CNO sensitivity analysis**

Three radiopurity scenarios: Ideal, Baseline, IBD

→ three optimized energy ROIs (in p.e.)

### Inputs:

- Neutrino events in ROI (separately Be7, pep, CNO)
- Background events in ROI  
( $\alpha$  are supposed to be 100% excluded thanks to  $\alpha/\square$  discrimination)
- Modulation amplitudes:  $A_{\text{seasonal}} = 6.7\%$      $A_{\text{daynight}} = 0.5\%$      $A_{\text{gMode}}$
- Modulation periods:  $T_{\text{seasonal}} = 1 \text{ y}$      $T_{\text{daynight}} = 1 \text{ d}$      $T_{\text{gMode}}$

Two datasets are created:

### 1) **Dataset w/modulations:**

- including events as a function of time
- [technicality] removing the seasonal modulation part  
(this is done since seasonal modulation is well known - not of interest of this analysis - and its removal is essential to make the LS algorithm working)

### 2) **White Noise:** without modulations



# Analysis workflow

## 3. C.L. extraction

We construct the histograms of LS power evaluated at gMode frequency, for dataset and WN ( $10^4$  entries each one)

The sensitivity defines the relative amplitude of a periodic modulation inside of the solar Be7+pep+CNO signal that can be detected at  $3\sigma$  with 90 % probability → **C.L. 90% for dataset** and **C.L. 99.7% for WN** are constructed

