


# Neutrino Astronomy with future neutrino telescopes

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University of Wisconsin-Madison

Neutrino Telescopes  
Venice, October, 2023



*"The past is the cause of the present, and  
the present will be the cause of the future.  
All these are links in the endless chain  
stretching from the finite to the infinite."  
Abraham Lincoln*

..., including the Neutrino telescopes workshops since 1988



# Abstract

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Key-words: Neutrino Telescopes, cosmic neutrinos

In the past decade, IceCube has established cosmic neutrino flux. IceCube has also observed neutrinos from the first extragalactic sources and the Milky Way. These observations set the stage for the next generations of neutrino telescopes worldwide. Multiple large water Cherenkov telescopes of kilometer-scale are being constructed or developed. Even more ambitious telescopes are being proposed and developed at the ten km scale. Multiple initiatives at the  $1000\text{km}^3$  target scale are proposed using radio and Earth-skimming  $\nu_\tau$  approaches at higher energies. I will review the current and future detectors. An order-of-magnitude increase within the next decade is realistic and urgently needed to obtain more sky coverage and increase the sensitivity by order of magnitude.

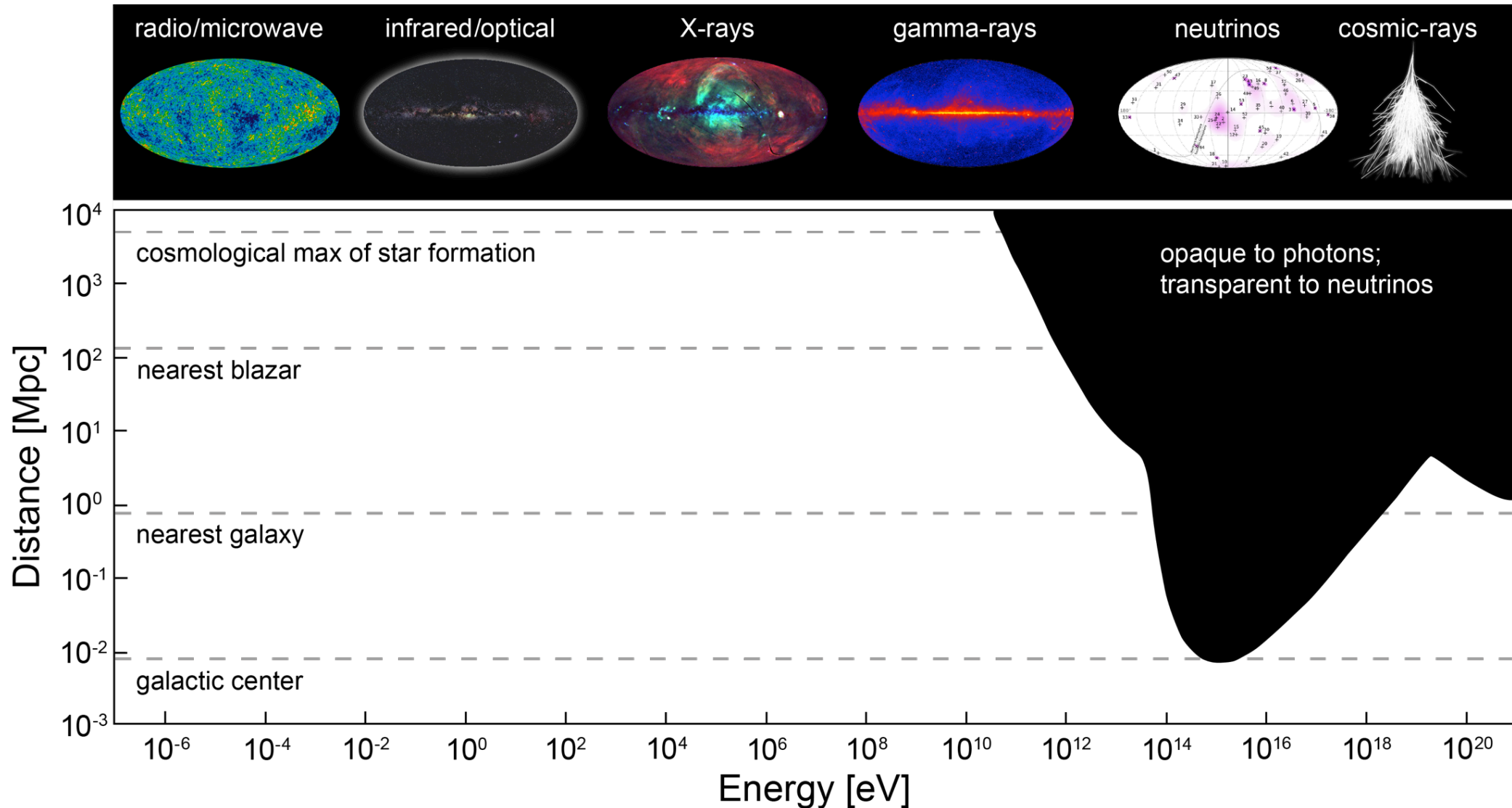


# Outline

- Neutrino astronomy: Today's starting point
- IceCube, IceCube-Gen2
- Review of current and planned projects in optical
- Higher energies
- Outlook



# Pushing the energy frontier in Astronomy with Neutrinos<sup>4</sup>



At high energies: The Universe is opaque to the EM spectrum - ***and sometimes also at lower energies***



# Detecting, discovering Cosmic Neutrinos

## Event Rates are small.

Target size of  $1 \text{ km}^3$  was a long envisioned scale - and it proved to be right to discover cosmic neutrinos.

**Optical Cherenkov** method, proposed early in the 60ies using natural water, and then ice, as target is the pre-eminent method, from GeV to  $>10 \text{ PeV}$ .

At higher energies:  $10^{18}$   
Event rates are anticipated to be as much as  $\sim 1000$  times smaller.

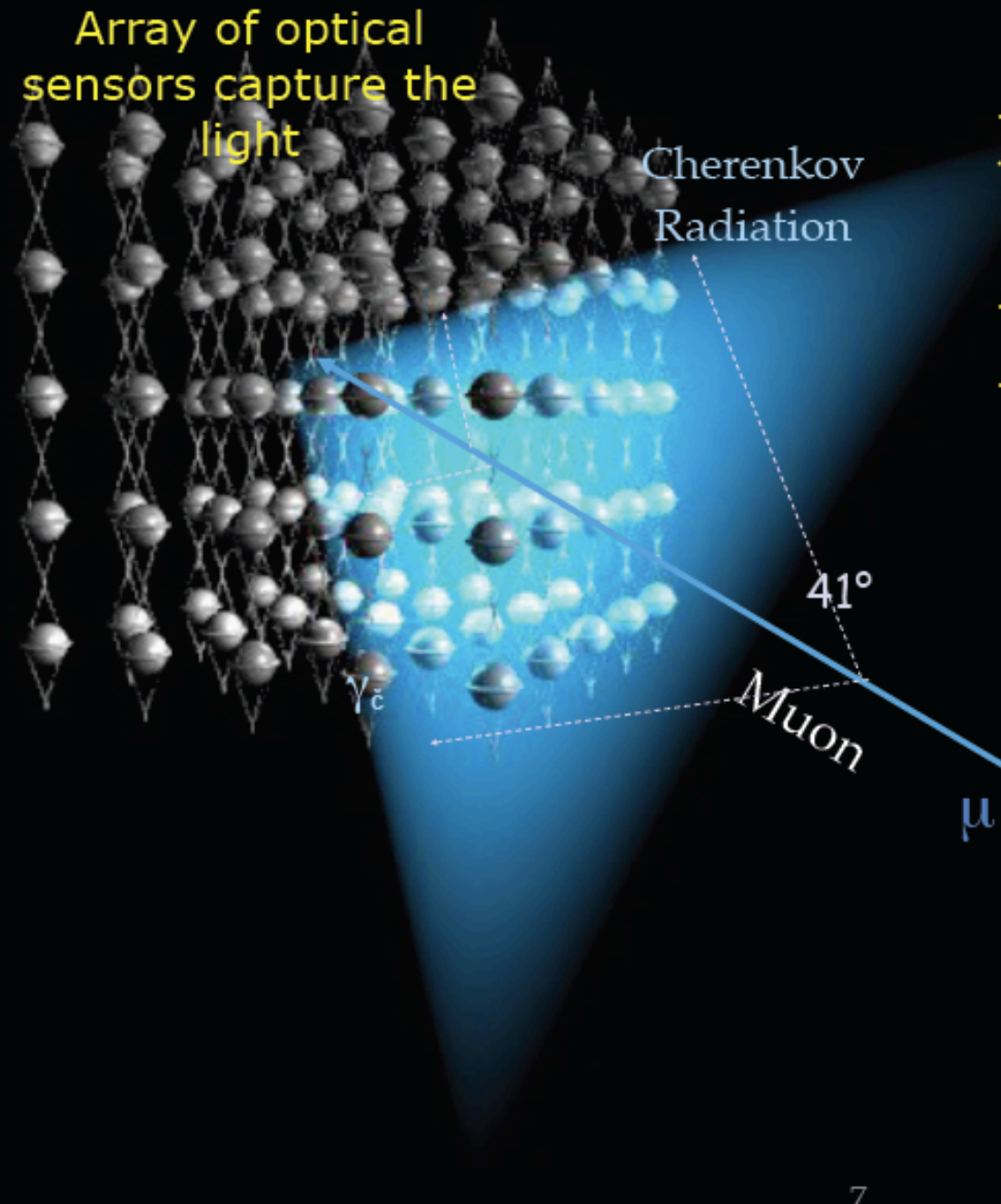
**Need target of order  $1000 \text{ km}^3$**

**Radio detection** of neutrinos is seen as primary method at  $1 \text{ E}18 \text{ eV}$ .

In between,  $10 \text{ PeV}$ : room for  
**air Cherenkov.**



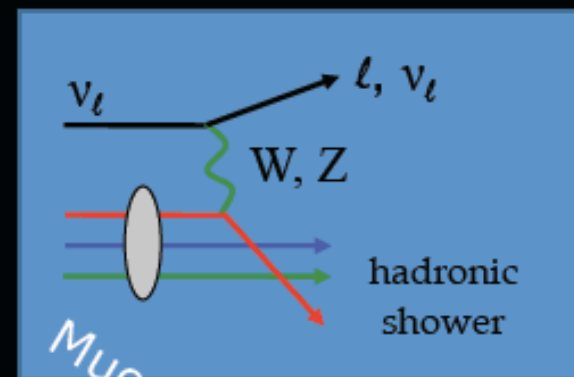
Array of optical  
sensors capture the  
light



Neutrinos interact in or near the detector  
Depending on the interaction a  
lepton (CC) or a shower (NC) is  
produced

○ (km) muons from  $\nu_\mu$

○ (10m) cascades from  $\nu_e, \nu_\tau, \text{NC}$



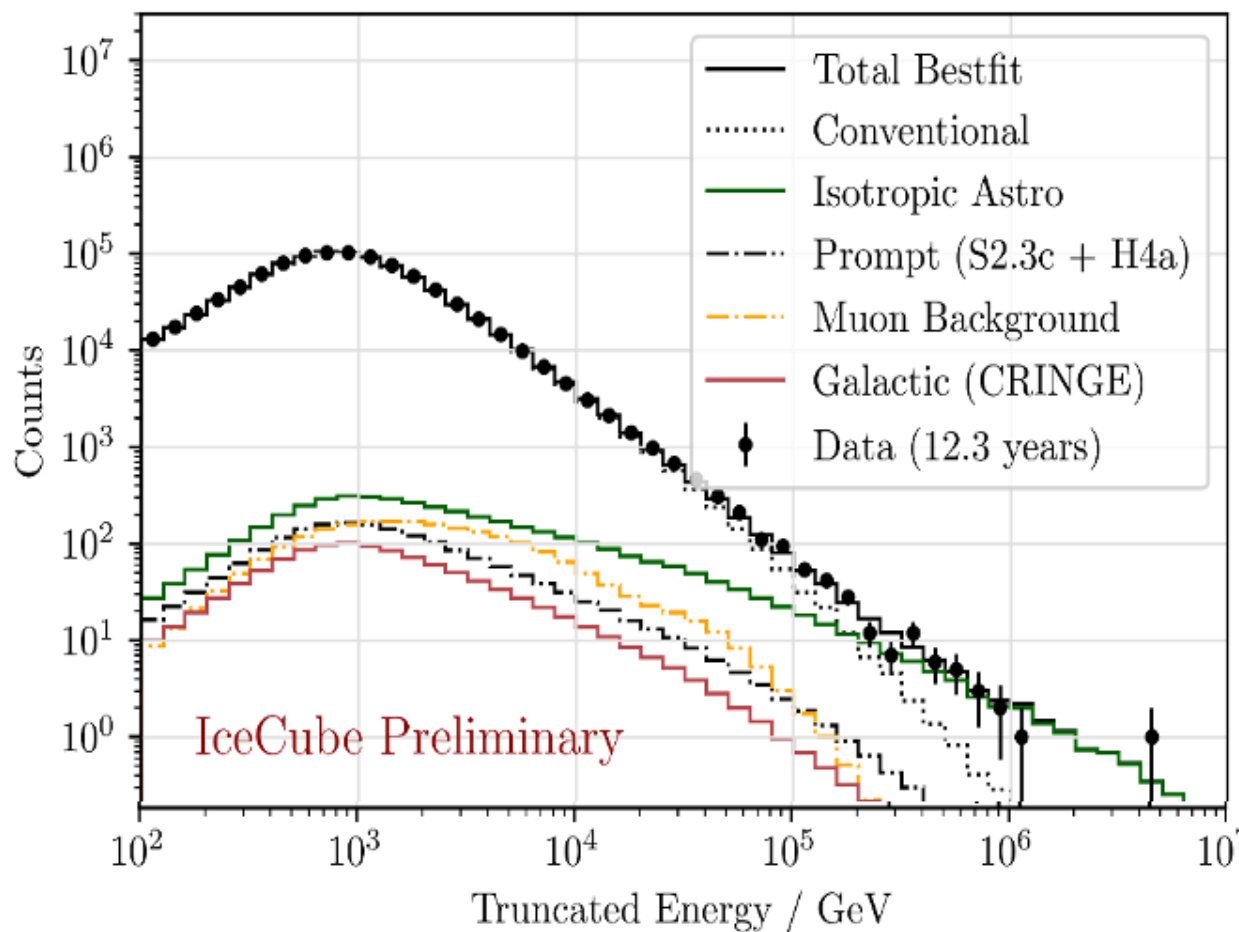
interaction

Muon Neutrino  
 $\nu_\mu$

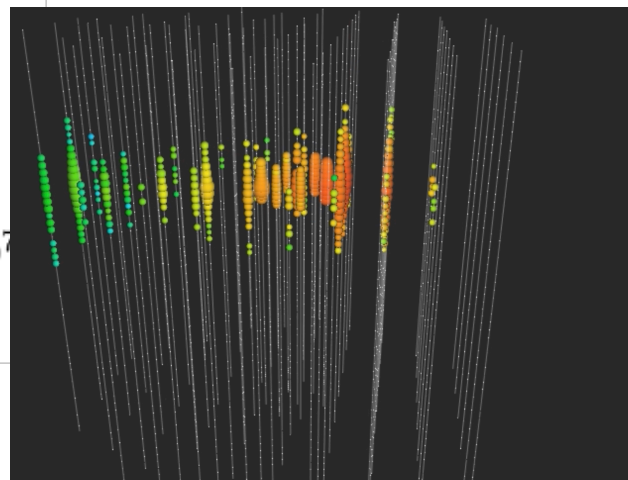
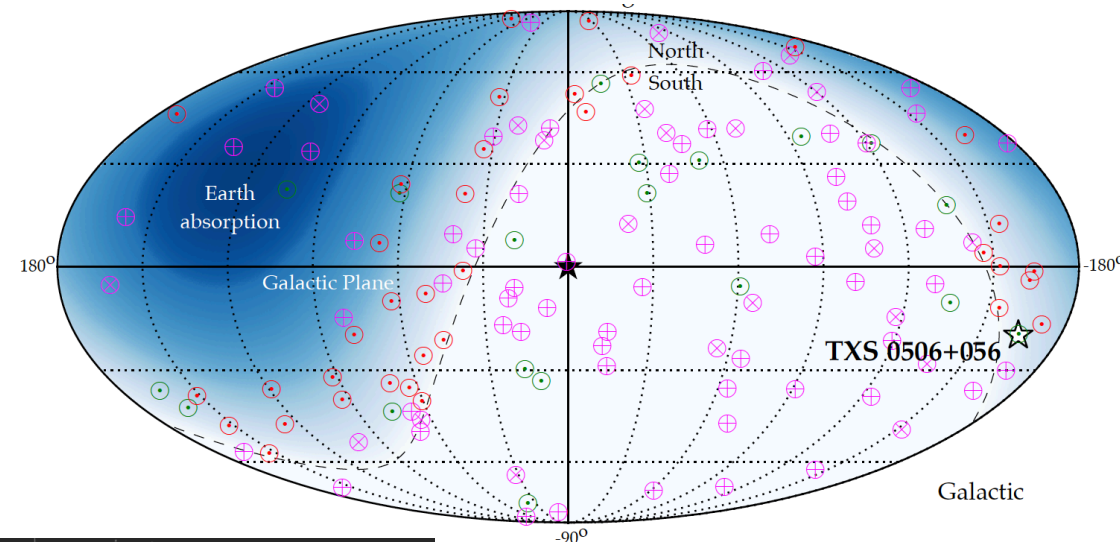


# Today's starting point based on IceCube results

IceCube: Upgoing muons



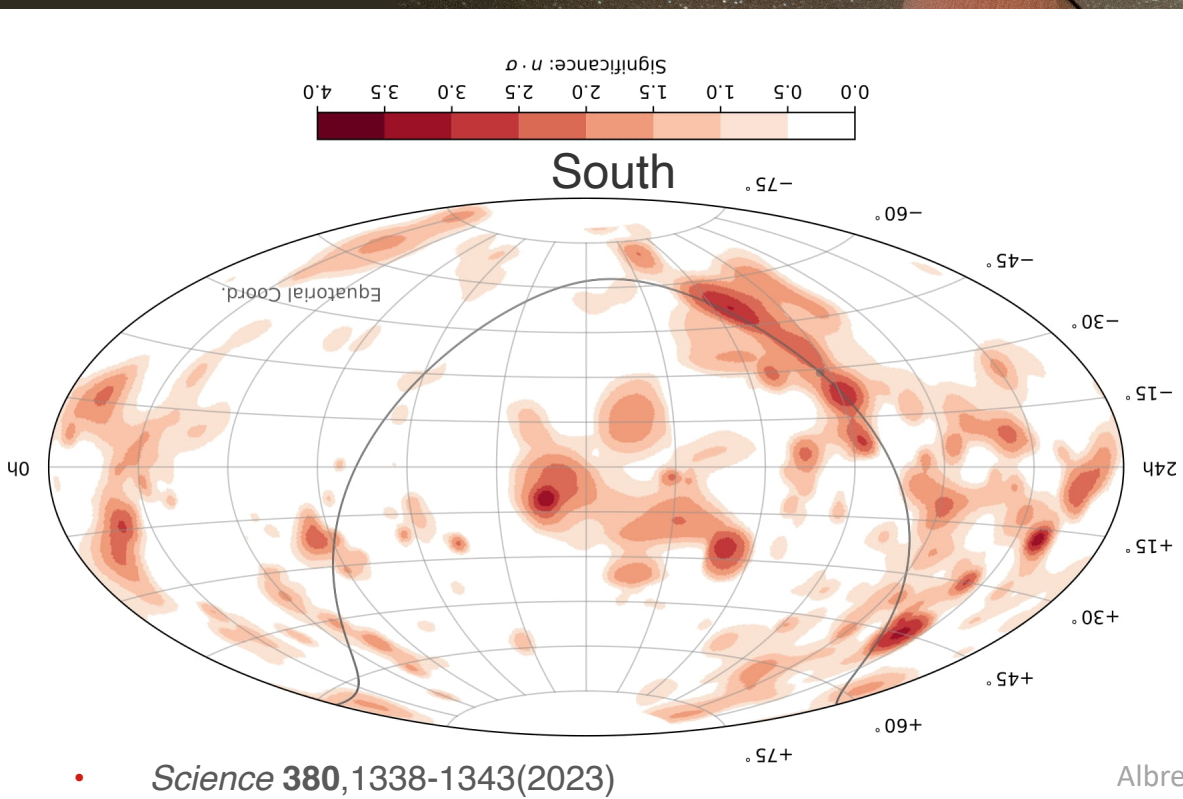
IceCube: HESE events  
(selection of events with contained vertex)



<https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.13878>



# Neutrinos from the Milky Way



Albrecht Karle, UW-Madison

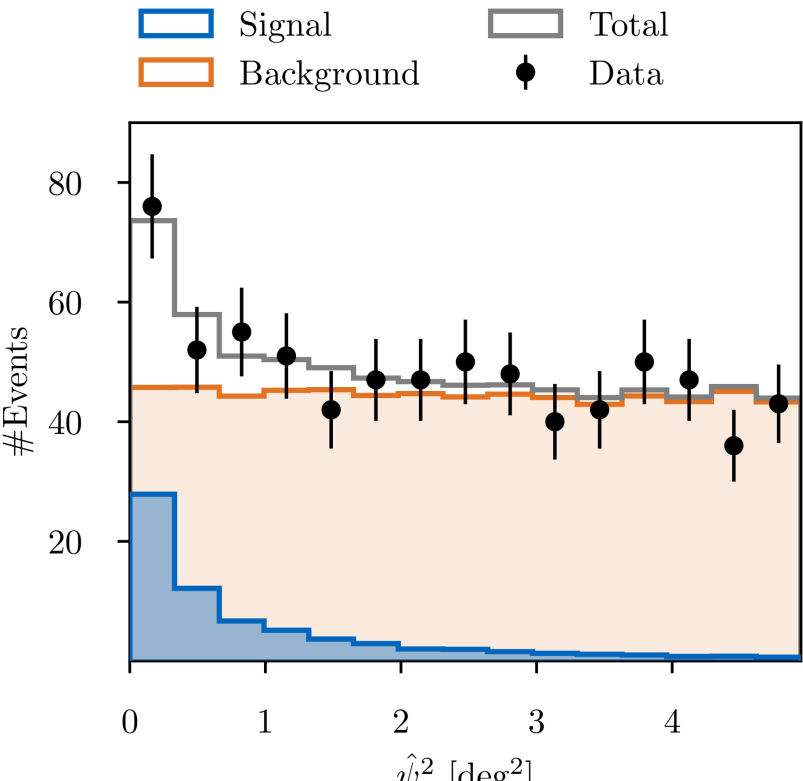
Credit: Yuya Makino, IceCube/NSF



# Neutrinos from the nearby galaxy NGC 1068



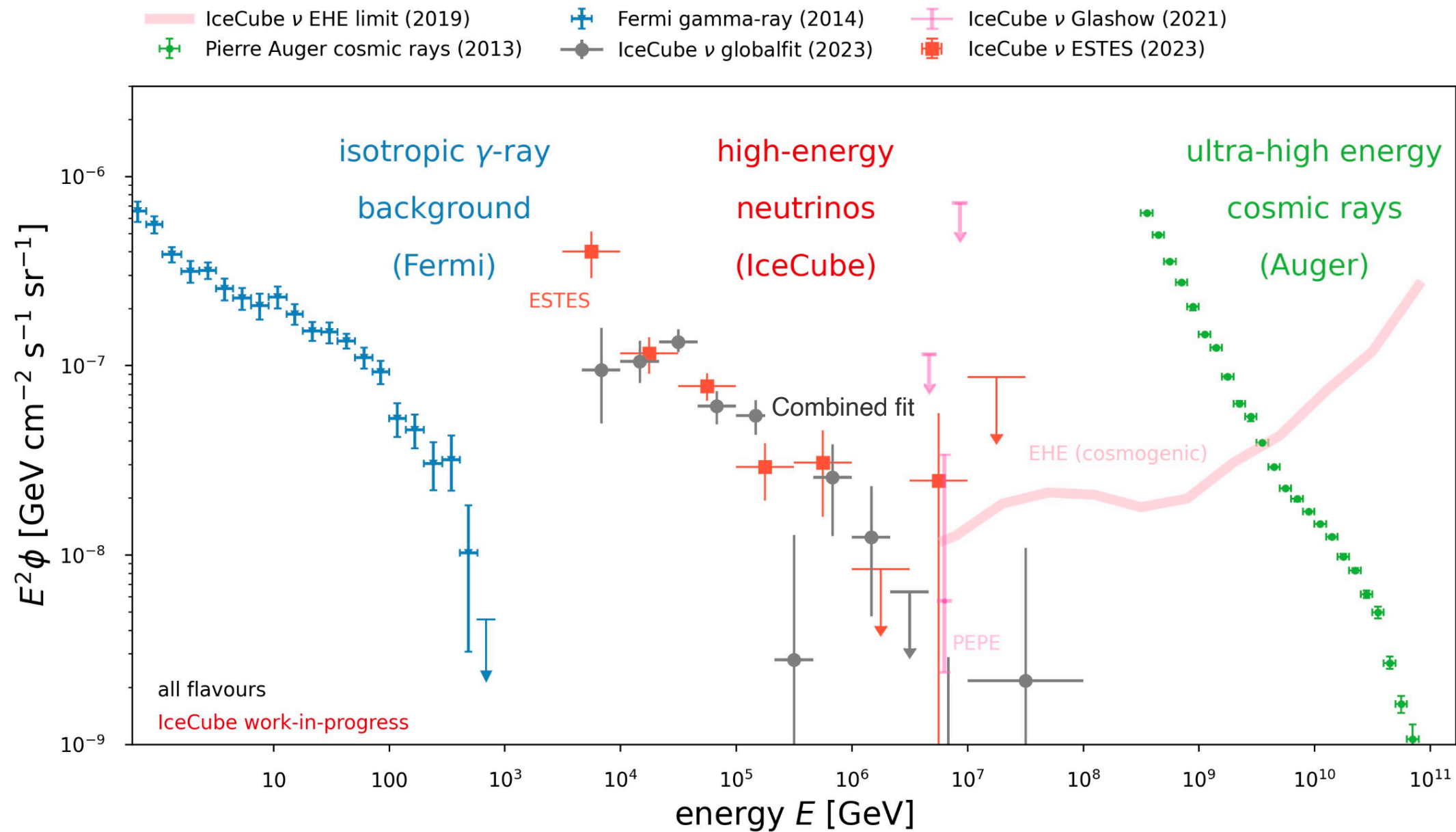
At the NGC 1068 location:  
**Astrophysical neutrino events** =  $79^{+22}_{-20}$   
Spectral index =  $3.2 \pm 0.2$   
Significance 4.2 sigma





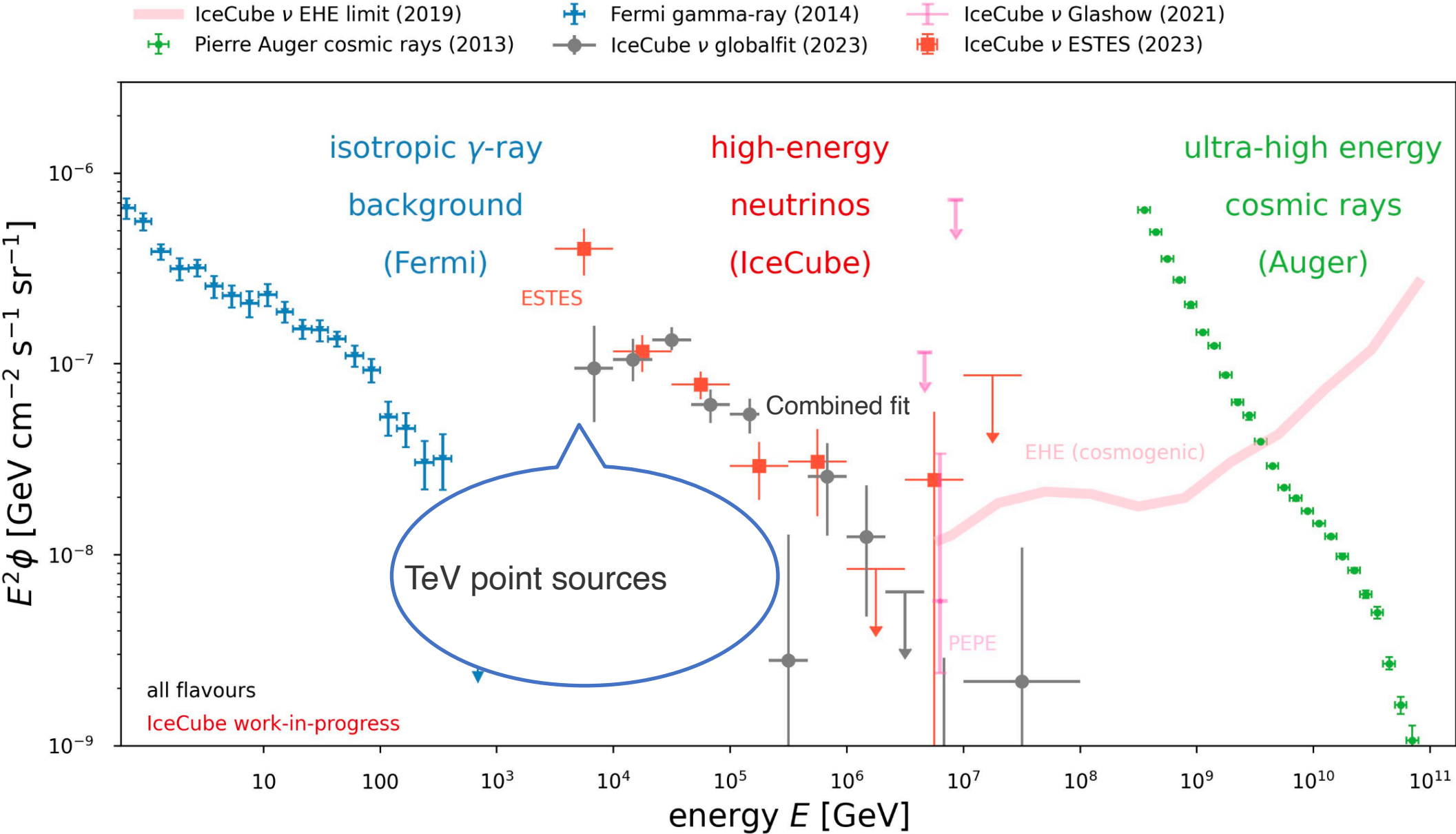
# Multimessenger Astrophysics - a wide energy range, especially for neutrinos

10

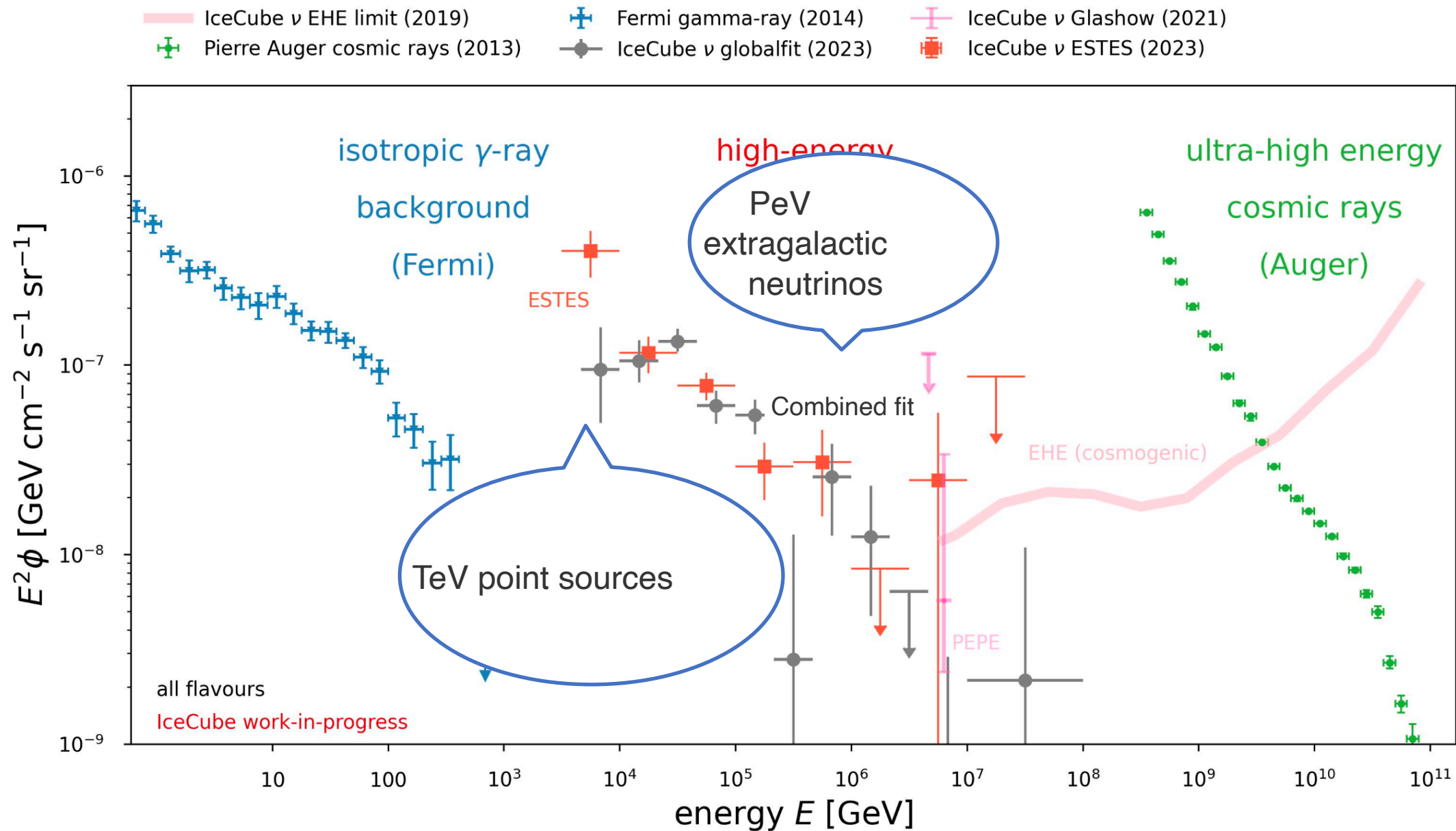


# Multimessenger Astrophysics - a wide energy range, especially for neutrinos

11

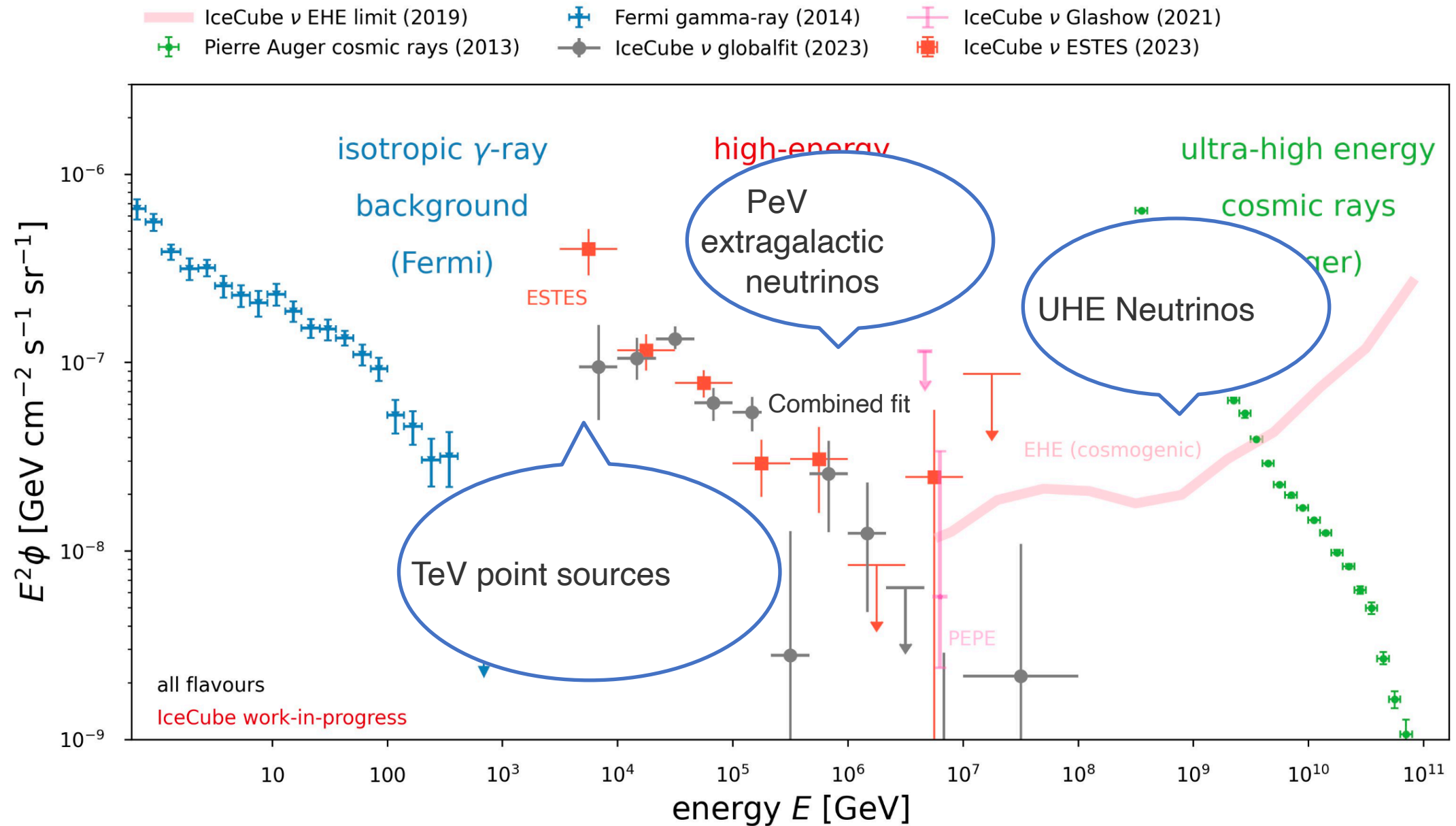


# Multimessenger Astrophysics - a wide energy range, especially for neutrinos

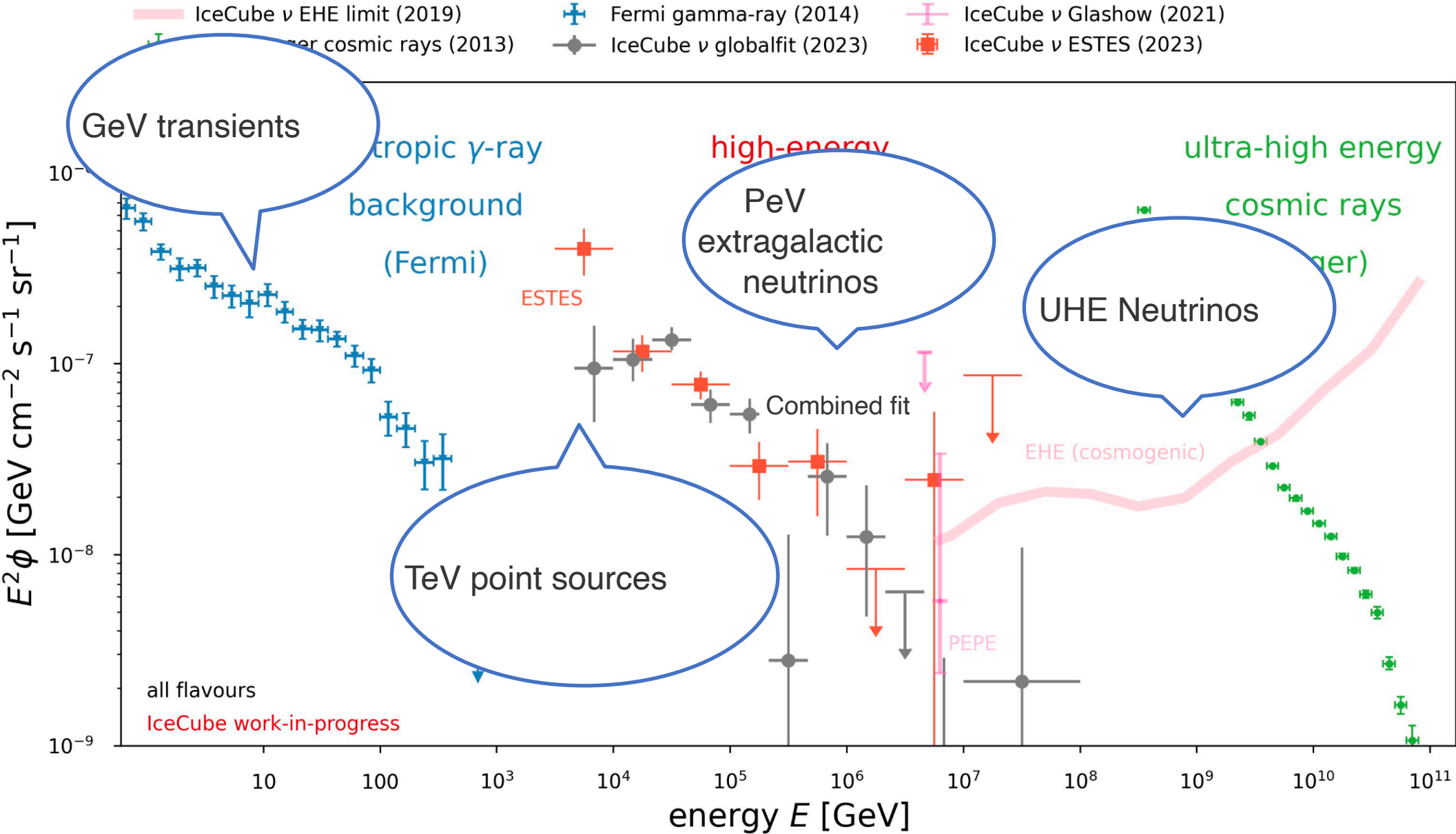




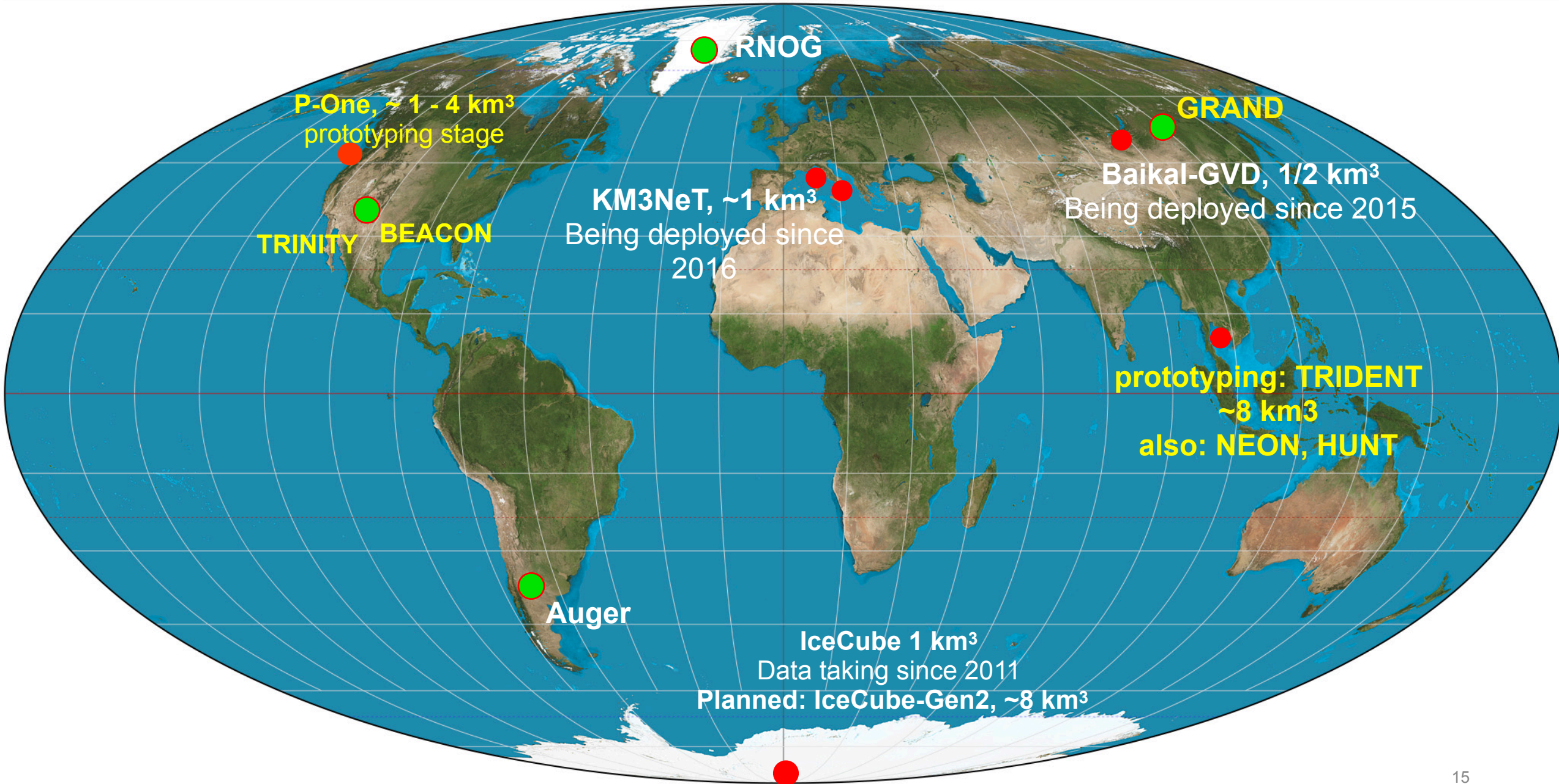
# Multimessenger Astrophysics - a wide energy range, especially for neutrinos



# Multimessenger Astrophysics - a wide energy range, especially for neutrinos



# The Global Neutrino Telescope Landscape



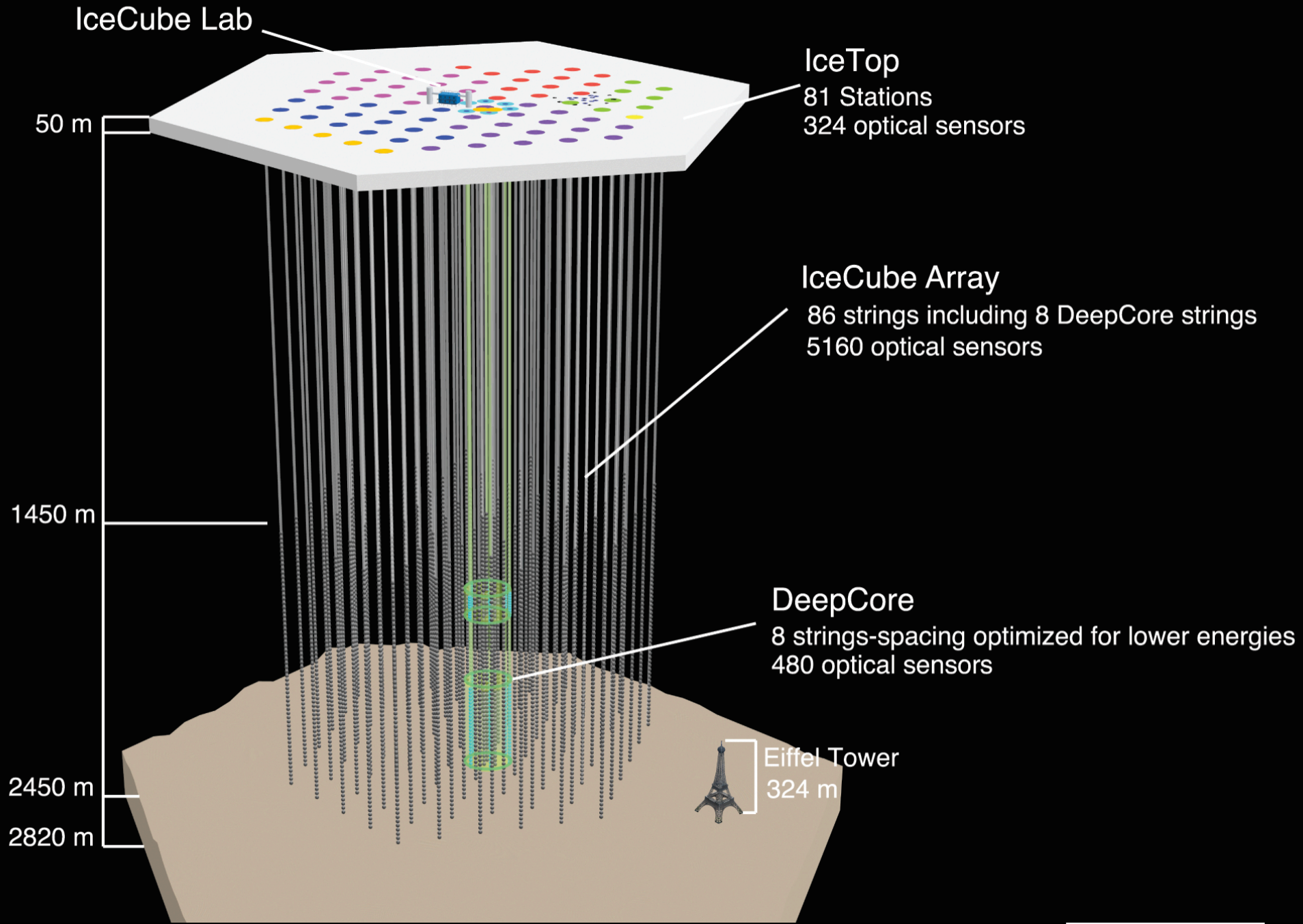


# Outline

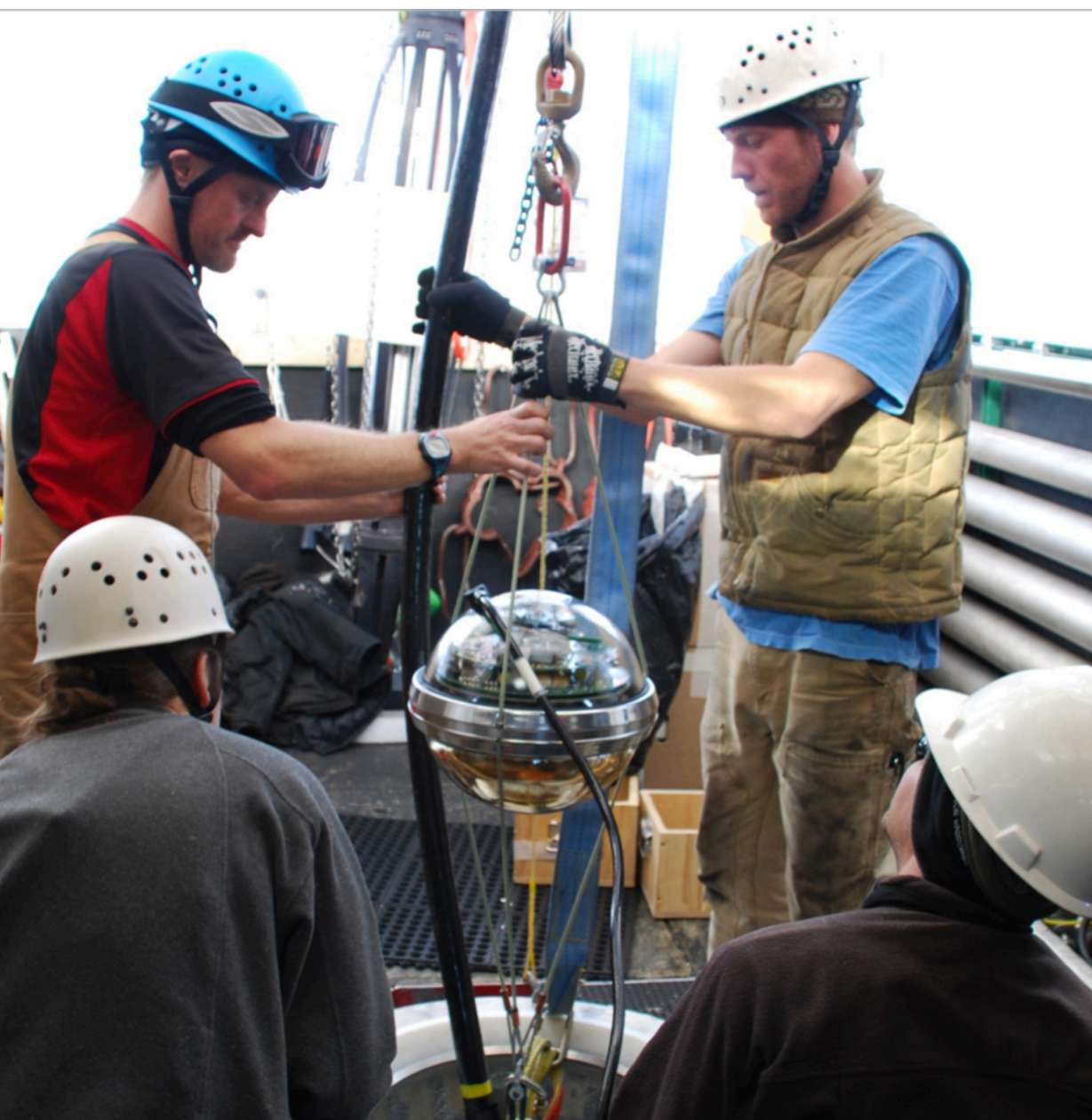
- Neutrino astronomy: The starting point
- **IceCube, IceCube-Gen2**
- Review of current and planned projects optical
- Higher energies
- Outlook

# The IceCube Neutrino Observatory

Instrumented volume:  
 $\sim 1 \text{ km}^3$



# IceCube



**Optical sensors are extremely stable**

**Only 6 sensors were lost out of 5000  
in the last 10 years.**

**A good foundation for use in**  
—> IceCube-Upgrade and  
—> IceCube-Gen2.



# The IceCube-Upgrade

In progress

Scope:

Add 7 new strings, 700 sensors.

PMT coverage (density): 10x DeepCore

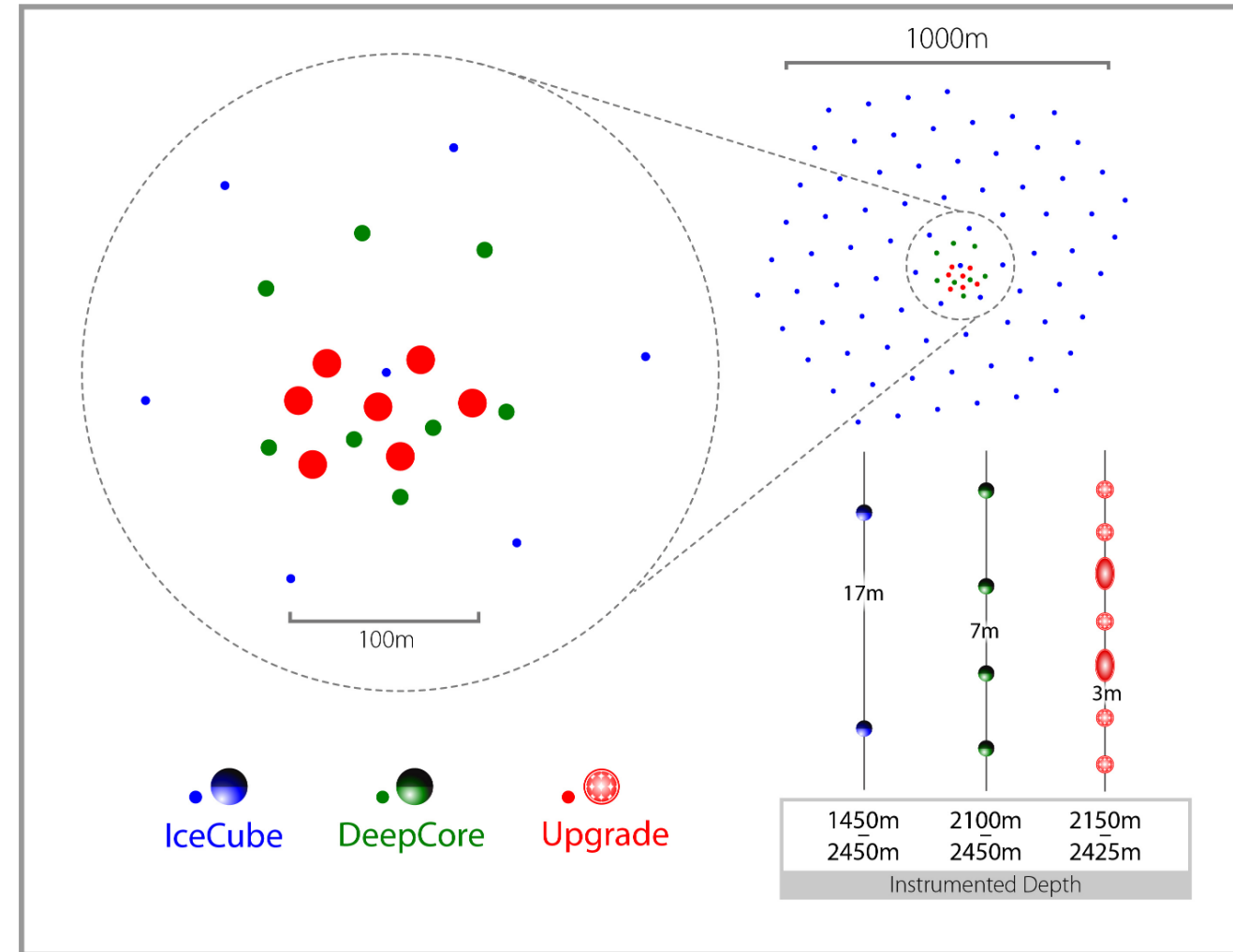
Instrumented volume: 2 Mt

Energy threshold:  $\sim 1$  GeV

IceCube rejects muons to  $<1\%$  of atmospheric neutrino rate.

Goals:

- Neutrino properties
- Improved calibration
- Phase 1 of Gen2



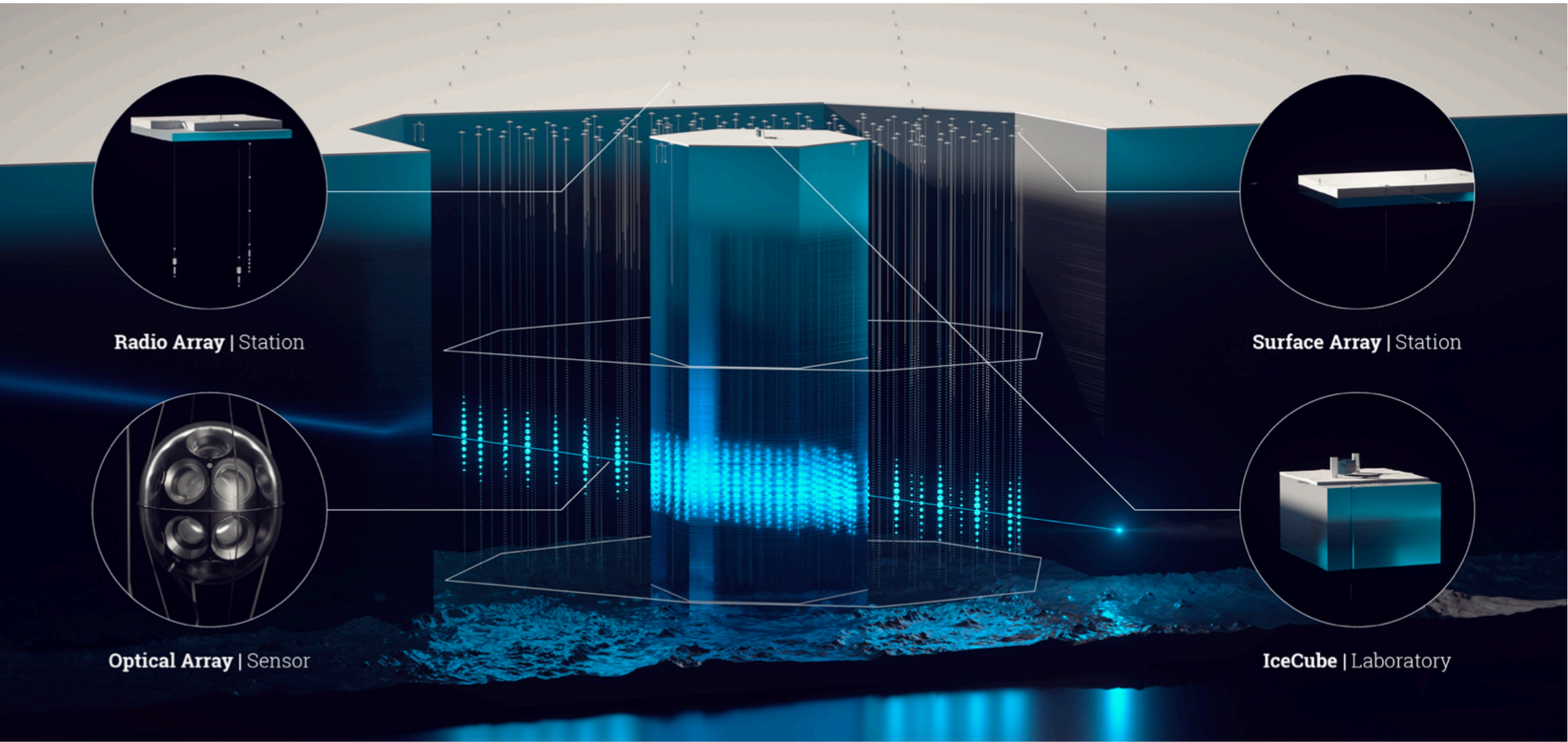
**Installation: 2025/26 South Pole season.**

# IceCube-Gen2

IceCube released a Technical Design Report

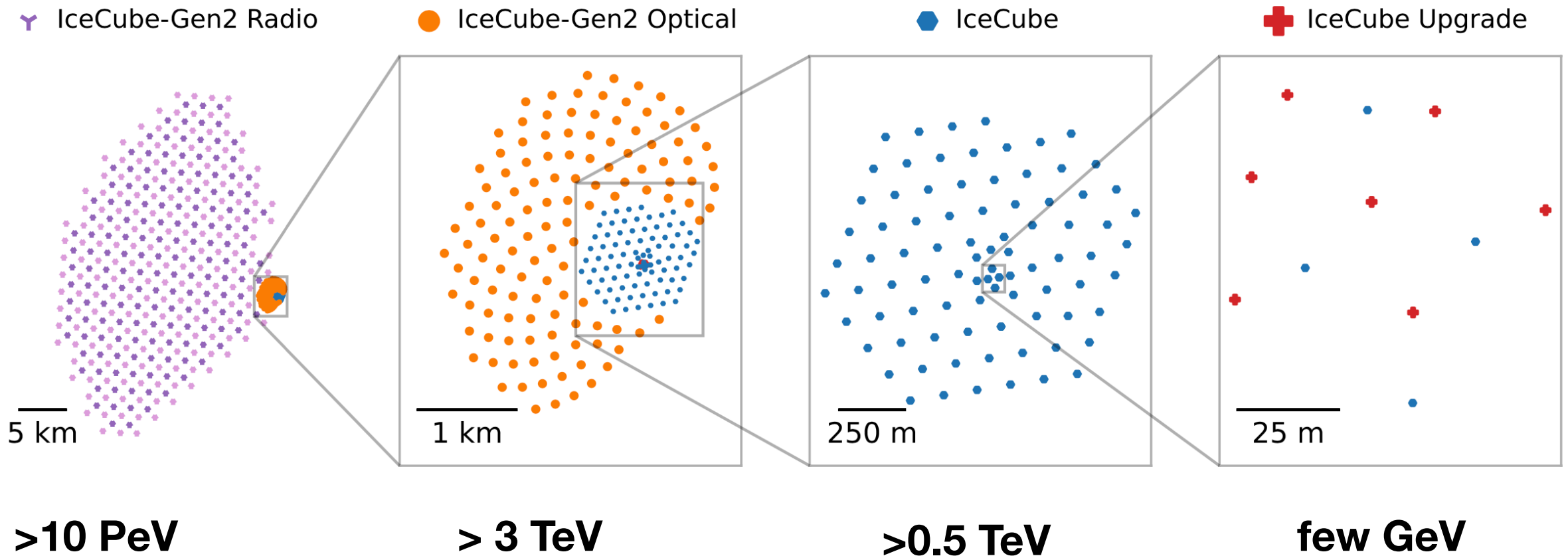
<https://icecube-gen2.wisc.edu/science/publications/tdr/>

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# IceCube and IceCube-Gen2 — scales and energie ranges

21



deployment in Dec. 2025



# Scope: 1. The Optical Cherenkov Array

The main detector component.

Surface Area:  $\sim 6.5 \text{ km}^2$  (0.9)

Instrumented depth: 1.26 km (1.0)

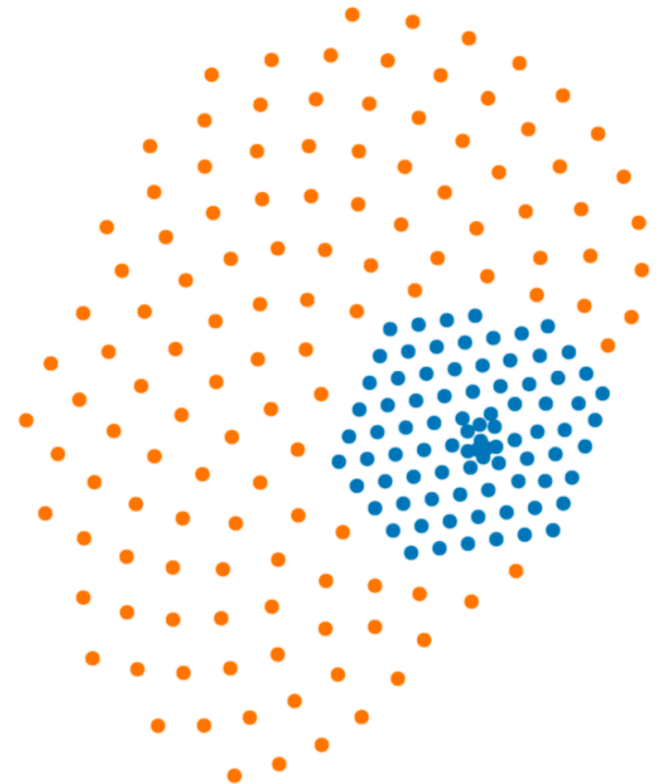
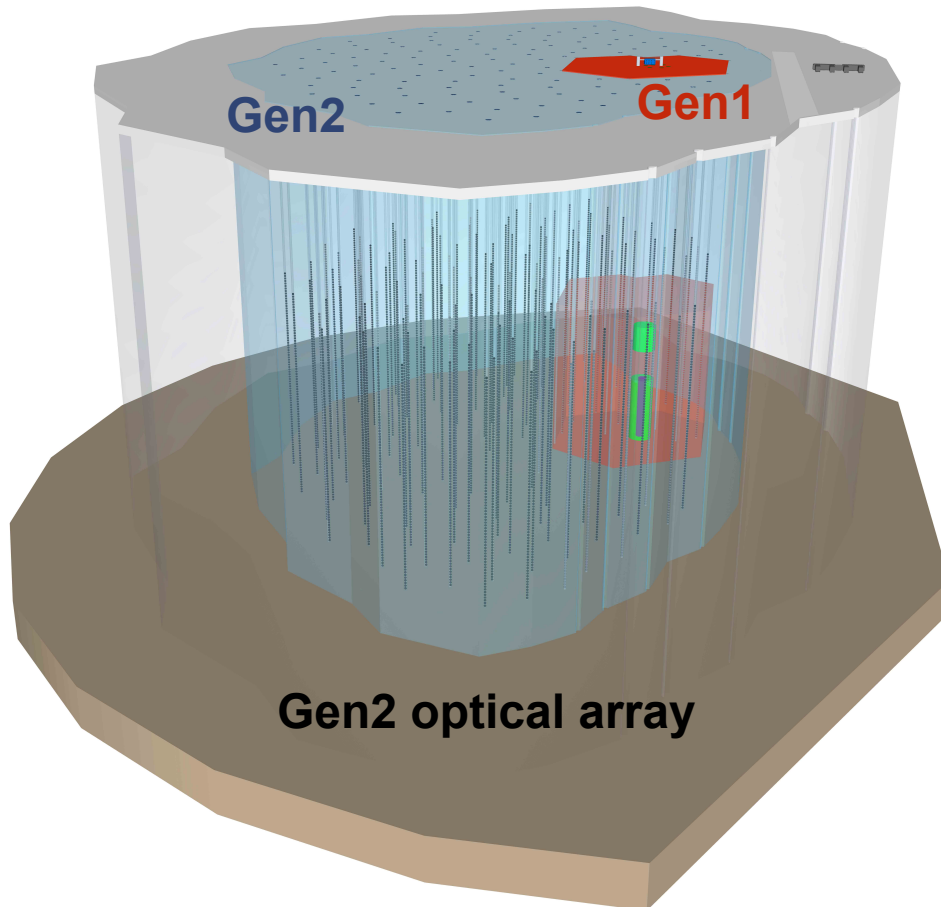
Instrumented Volume:  $8 \text{ km}^3$

Order of magnitude increase

9600 optical sensors

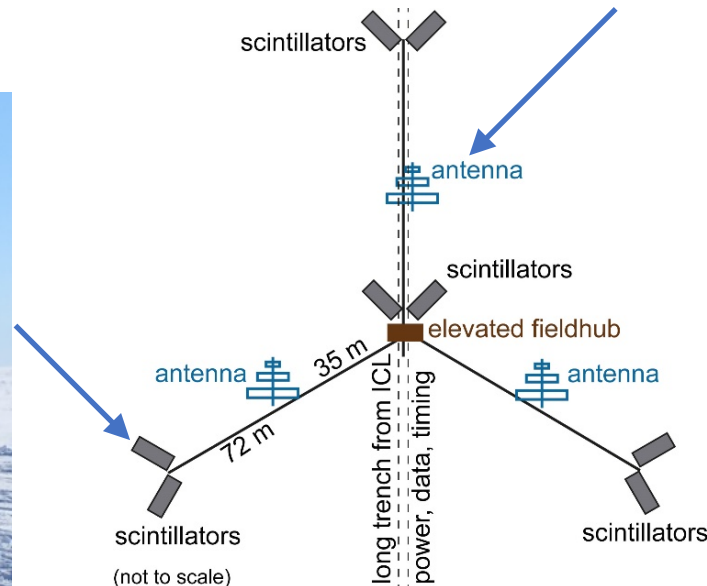
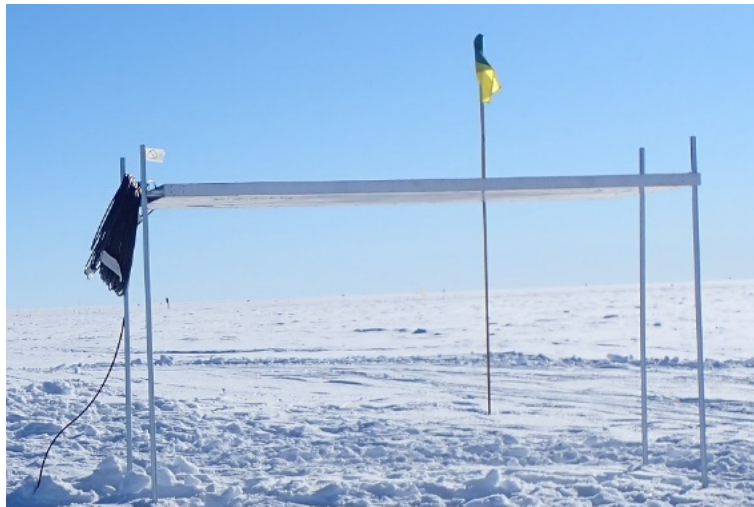
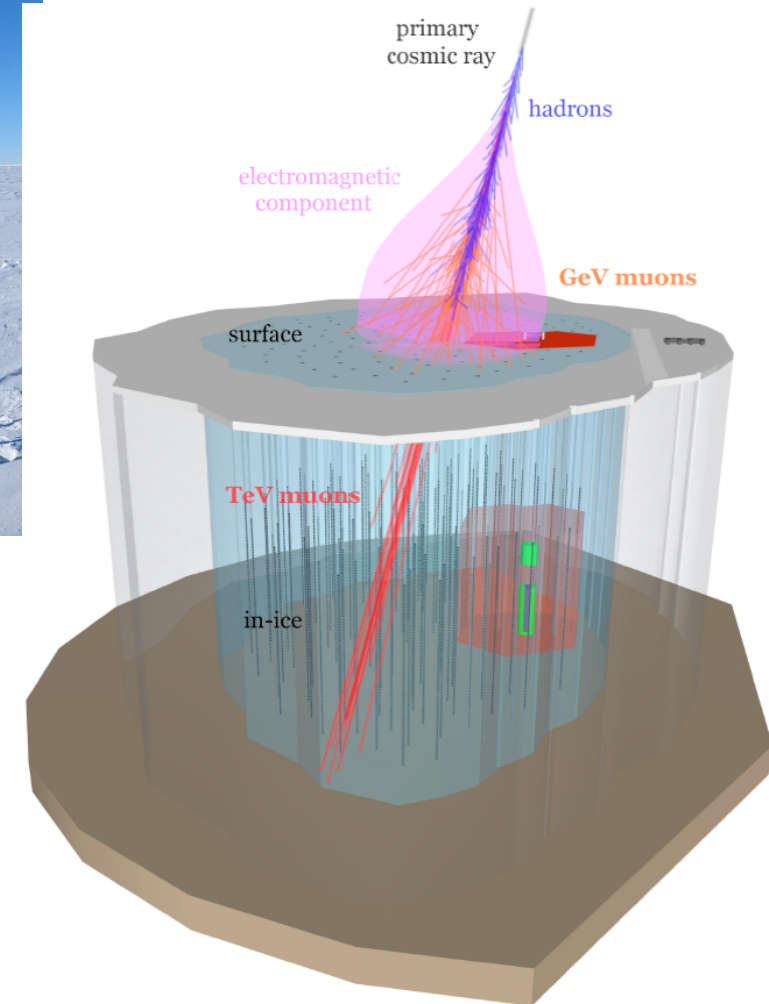
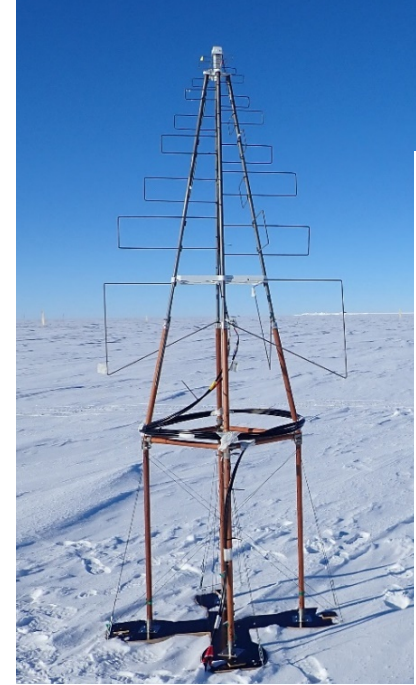
—> 8 x Photon detection area

120 strings



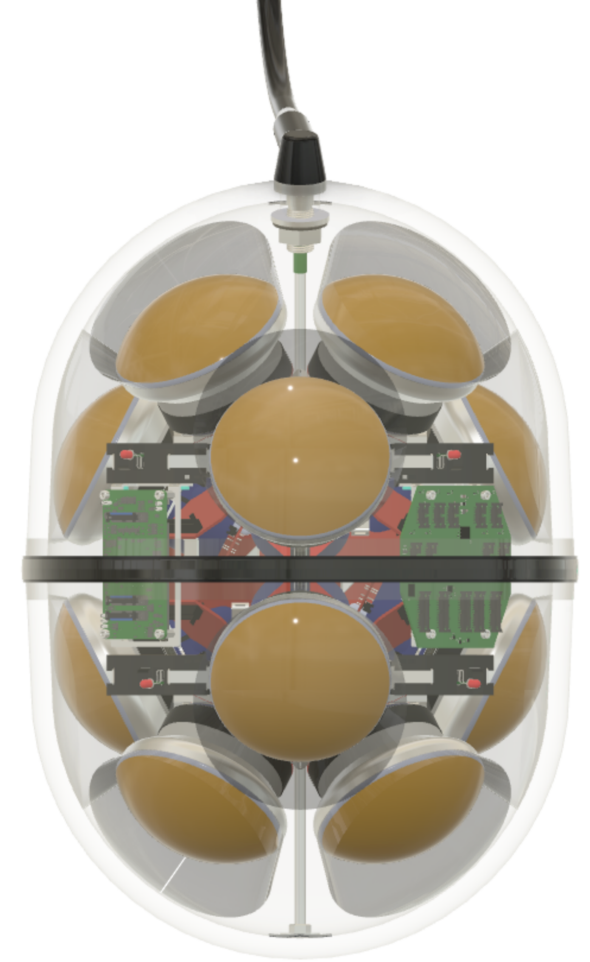
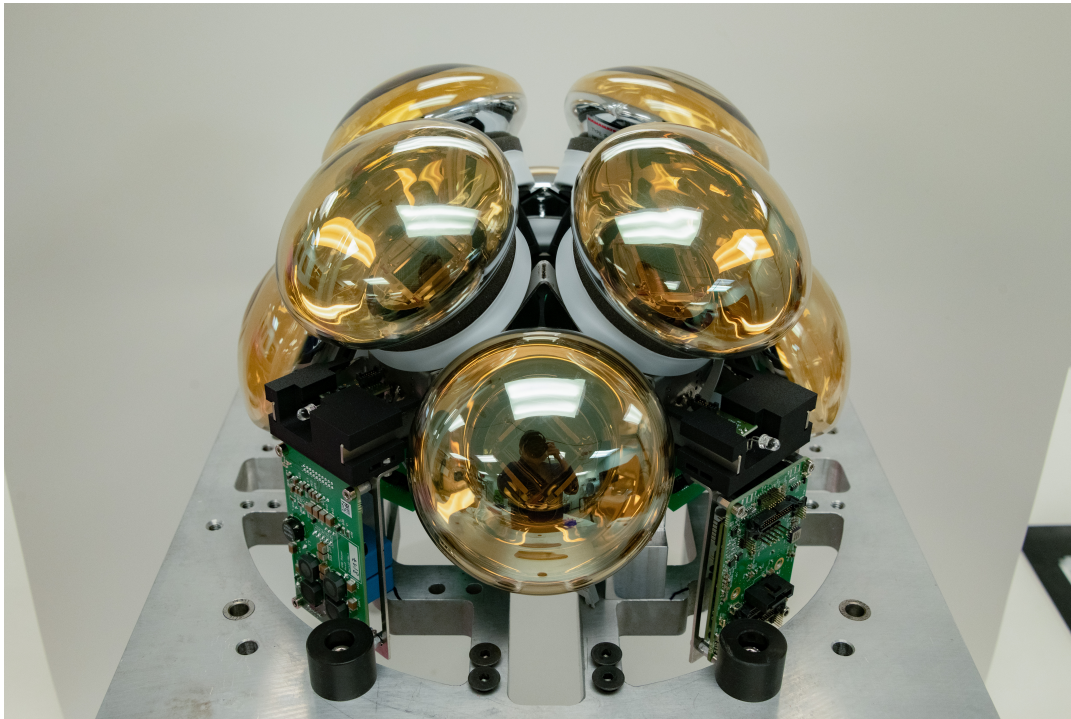
# Scope: 2. The Surface Array

- Veto for larger and purer sample of PeV neutrino candidates
- High accuracy for cosmic rays in the PeV to EeV region
  - particle physics in air showers
  - cosmic-ray astrophysics



# Sensor and Electronics

- **MDOM concept**
- **4-inch PMTs developed for IceCube-Gen2**  
(Hamamatsu and NNVT)
- **4 x sensitivity**
- **100 times dynamic range**
- **Less power ( $<5\text{W}/\text{DOM}$ )**



16 or 18 x 4 inch PMT  
Diameter: 31 cm

12 modules will be deployed with  
the Upgrade



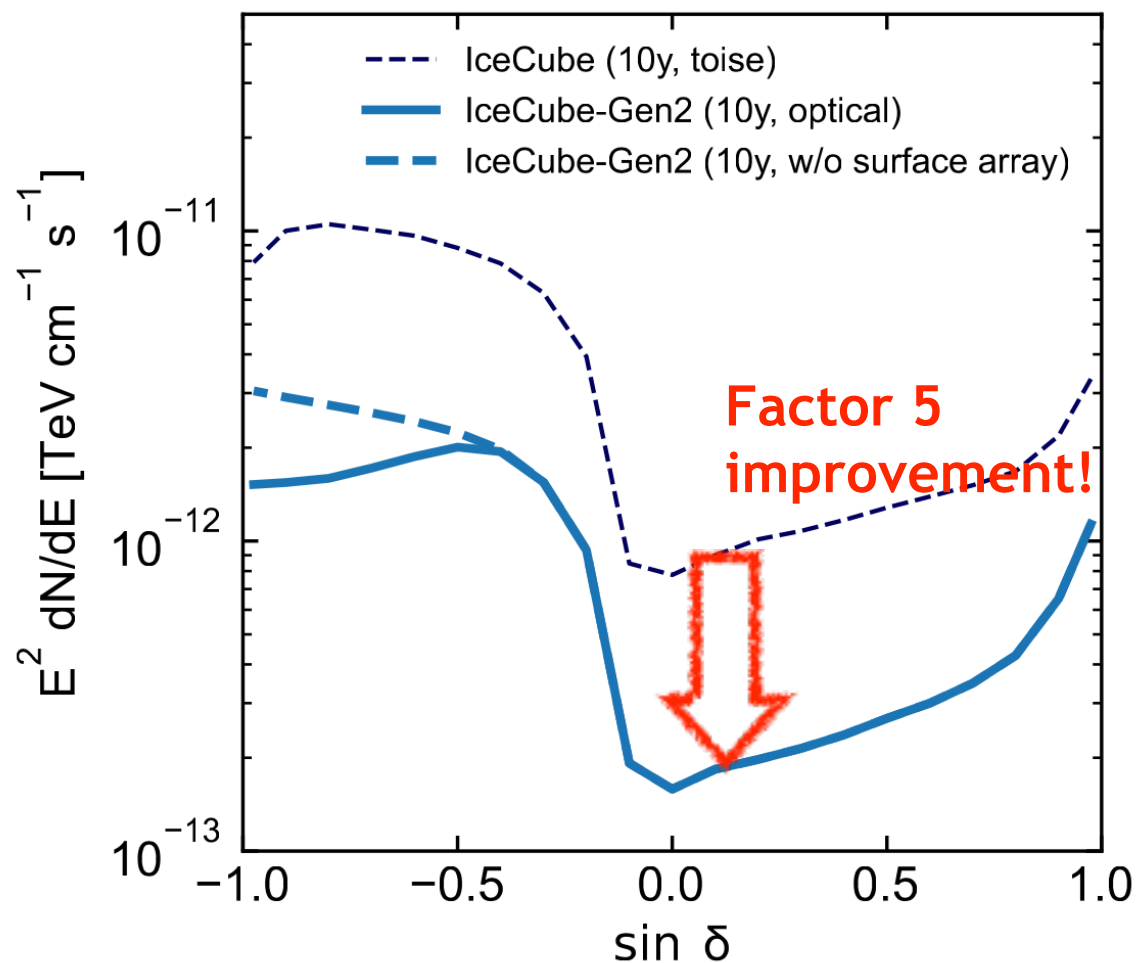
# IceCube-Gen2 sensitivity: Point sources

Sensitivity to  $E^{-2}$  flux of point sources

Angular resolution

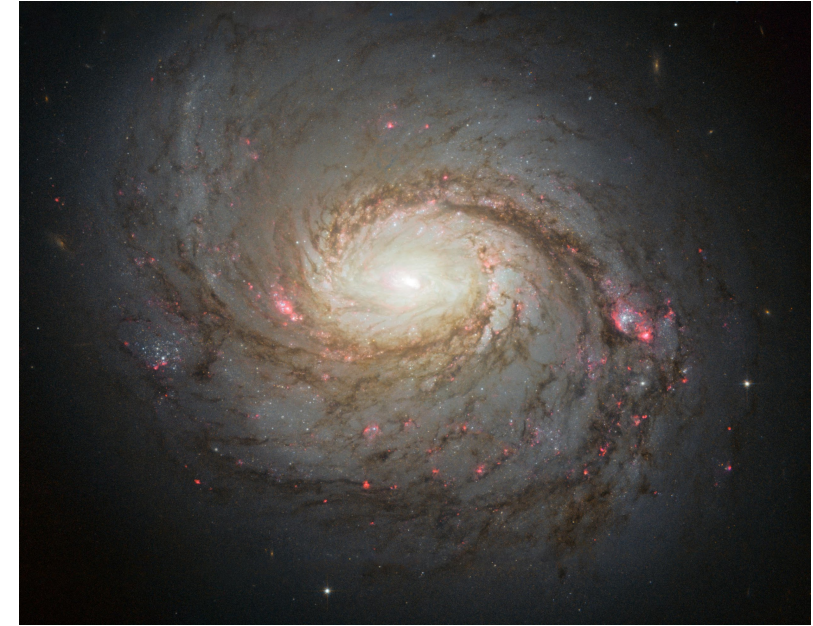
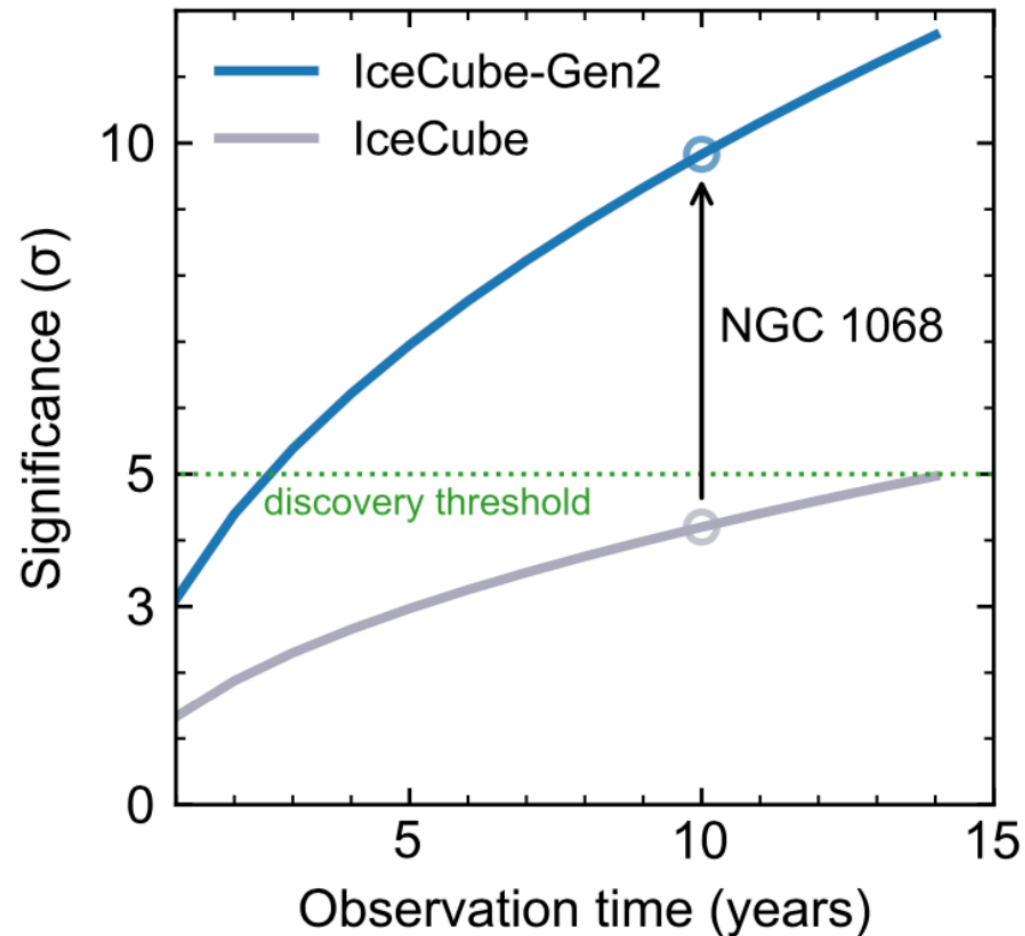
$\nu_\mu$ :  $0.2^\circ$

Cascades 100TeV:  $3^\circ$



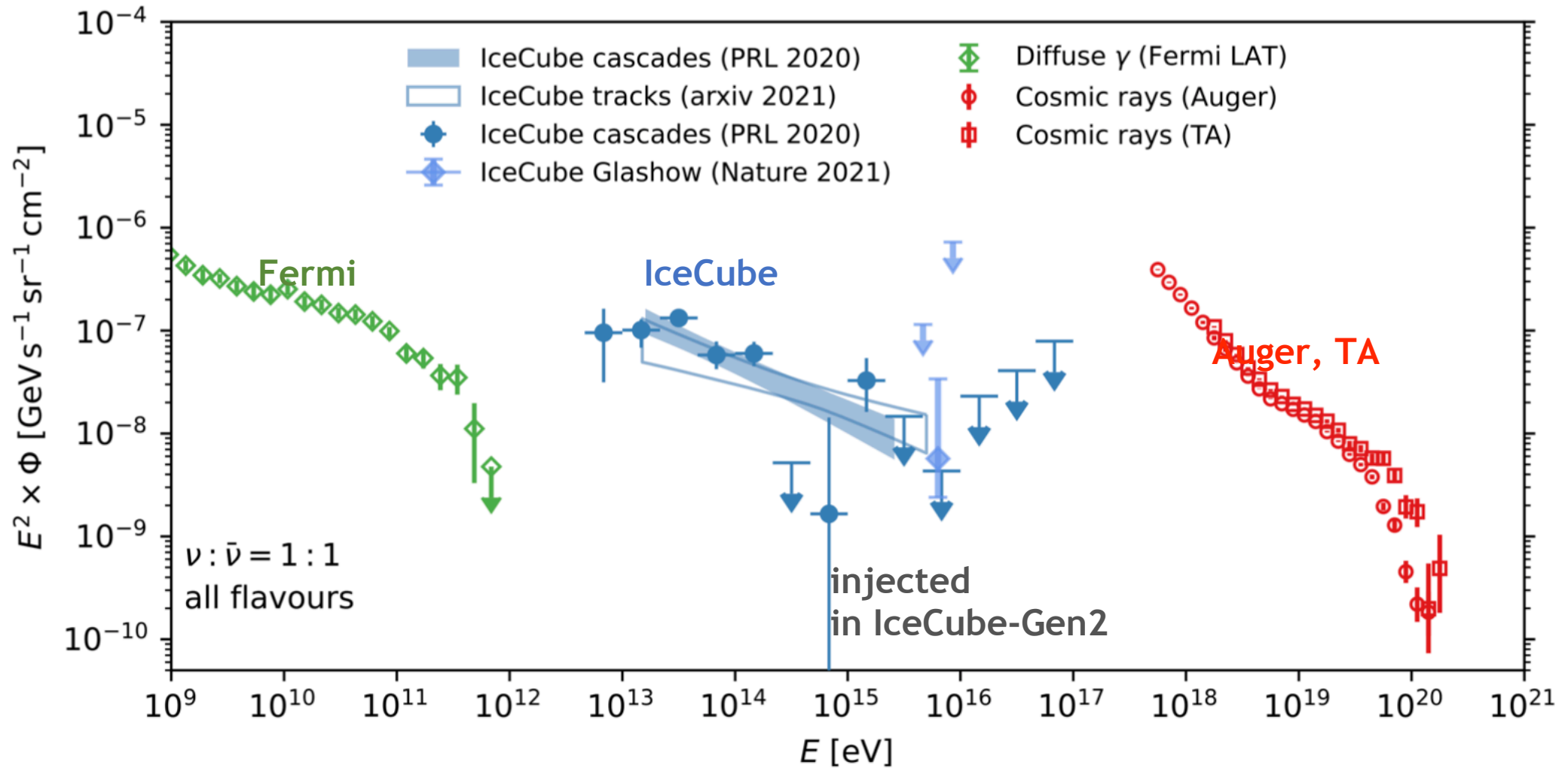
# How would NGC 1068 look in IceCube-Gen2?

*5 sigma in < 2 years  
10 sigma in 10 years.*



# Understanding cosmic particle acceleration through multimessenger observation

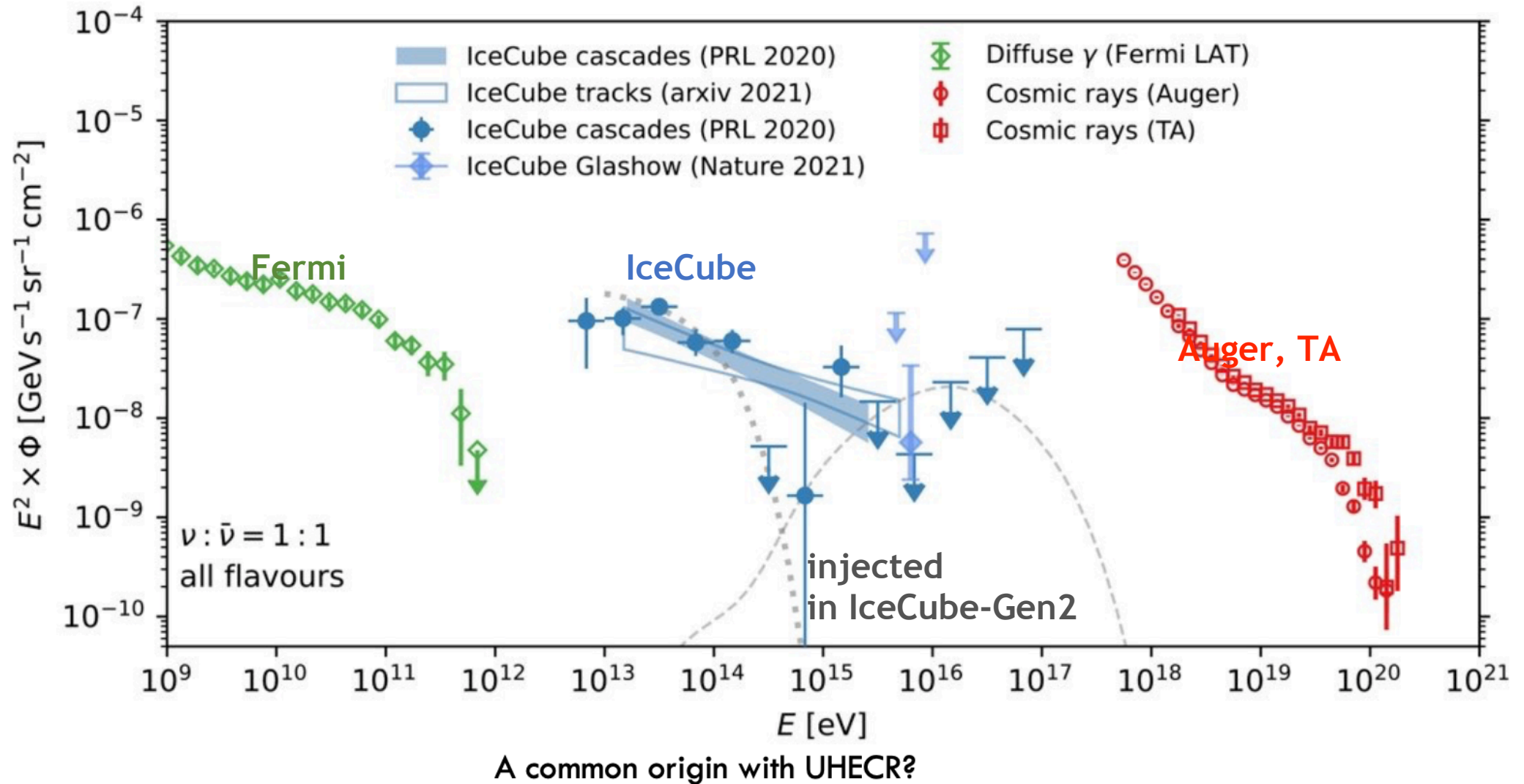
27





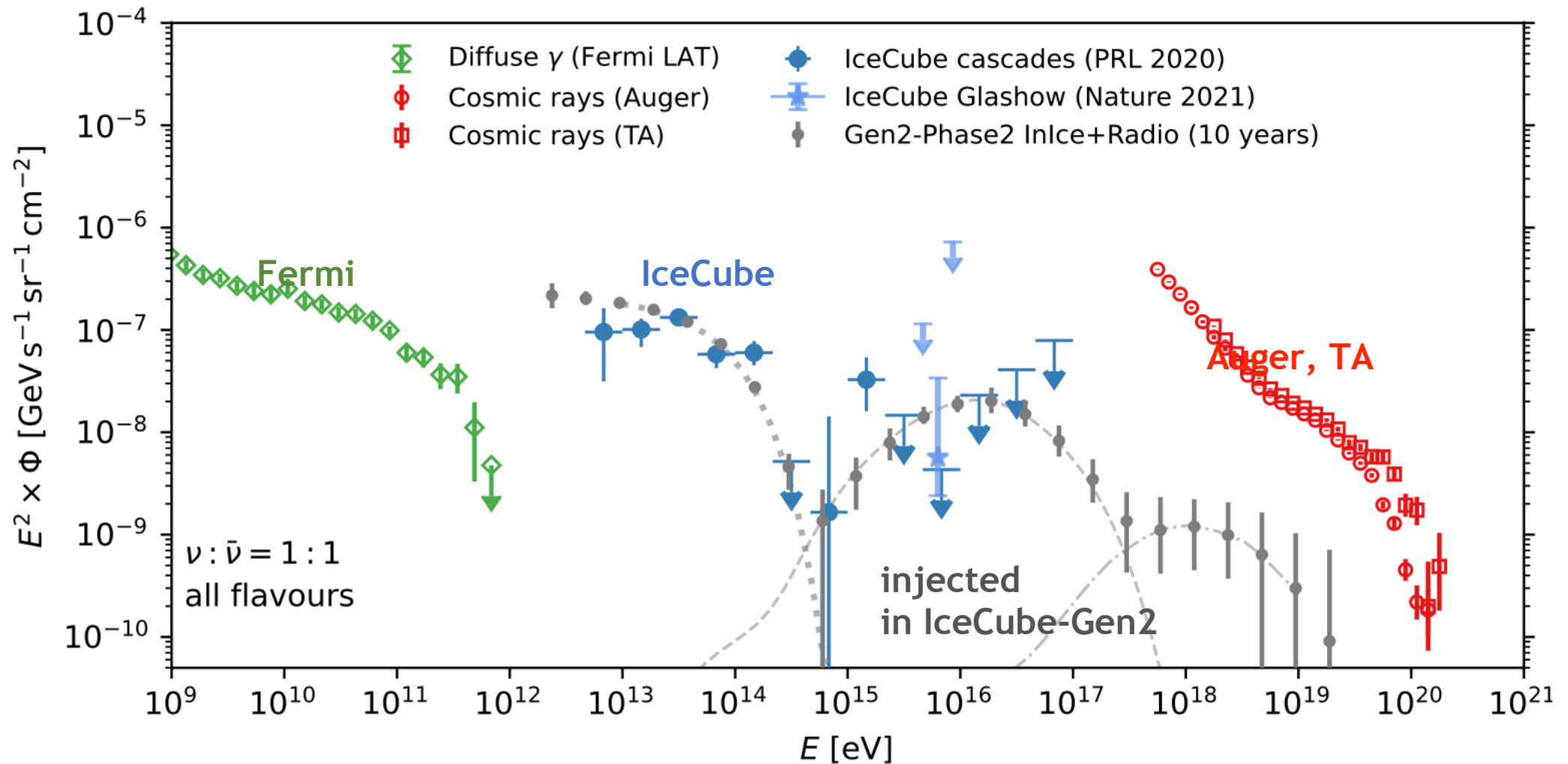
# Understanding cosmic particle acceleration through multimessenger observation

28

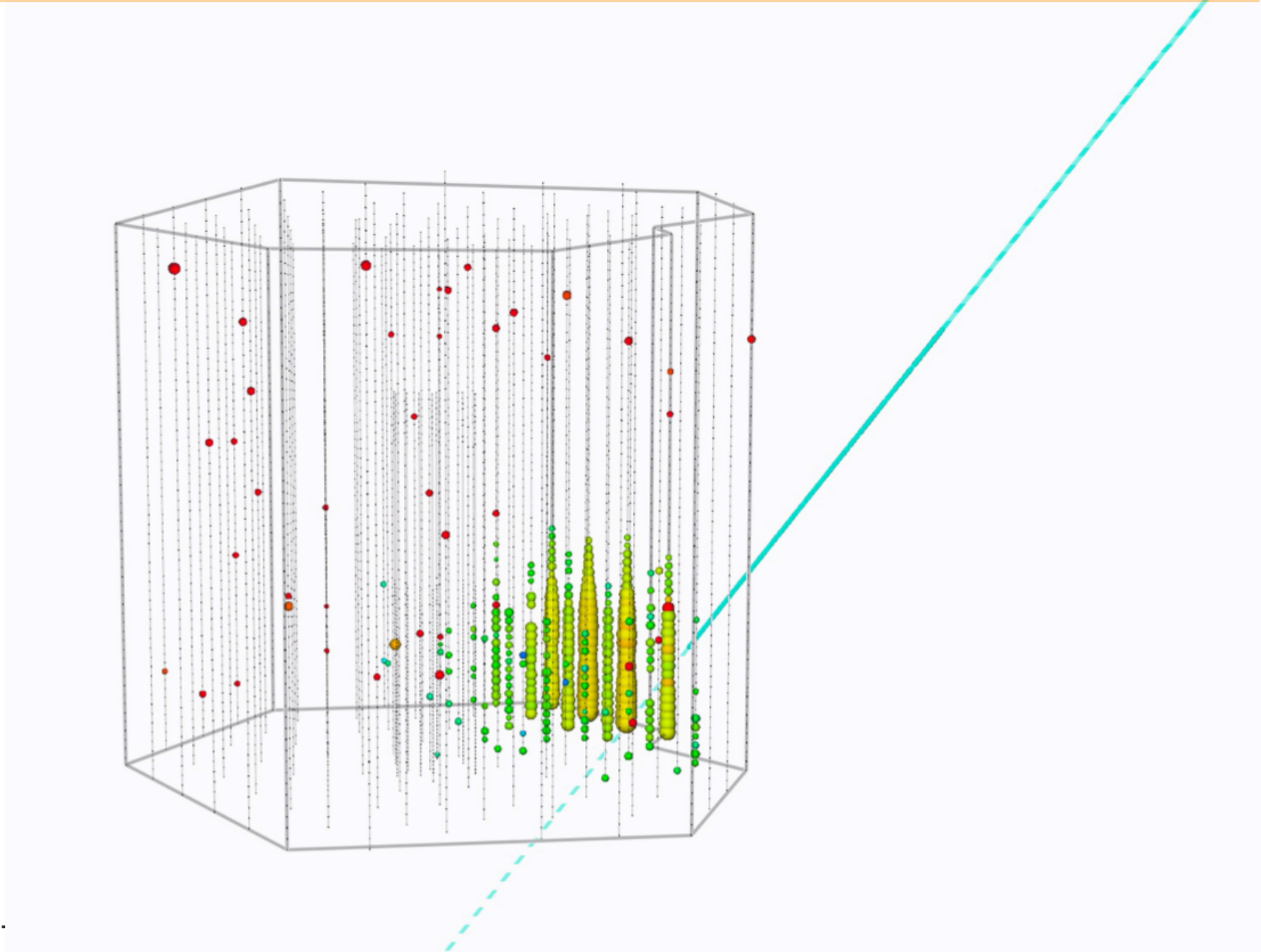


# Understanding cosmic particle acceleration through multimessenger observation

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# A simulated event in IceCube - what is it?



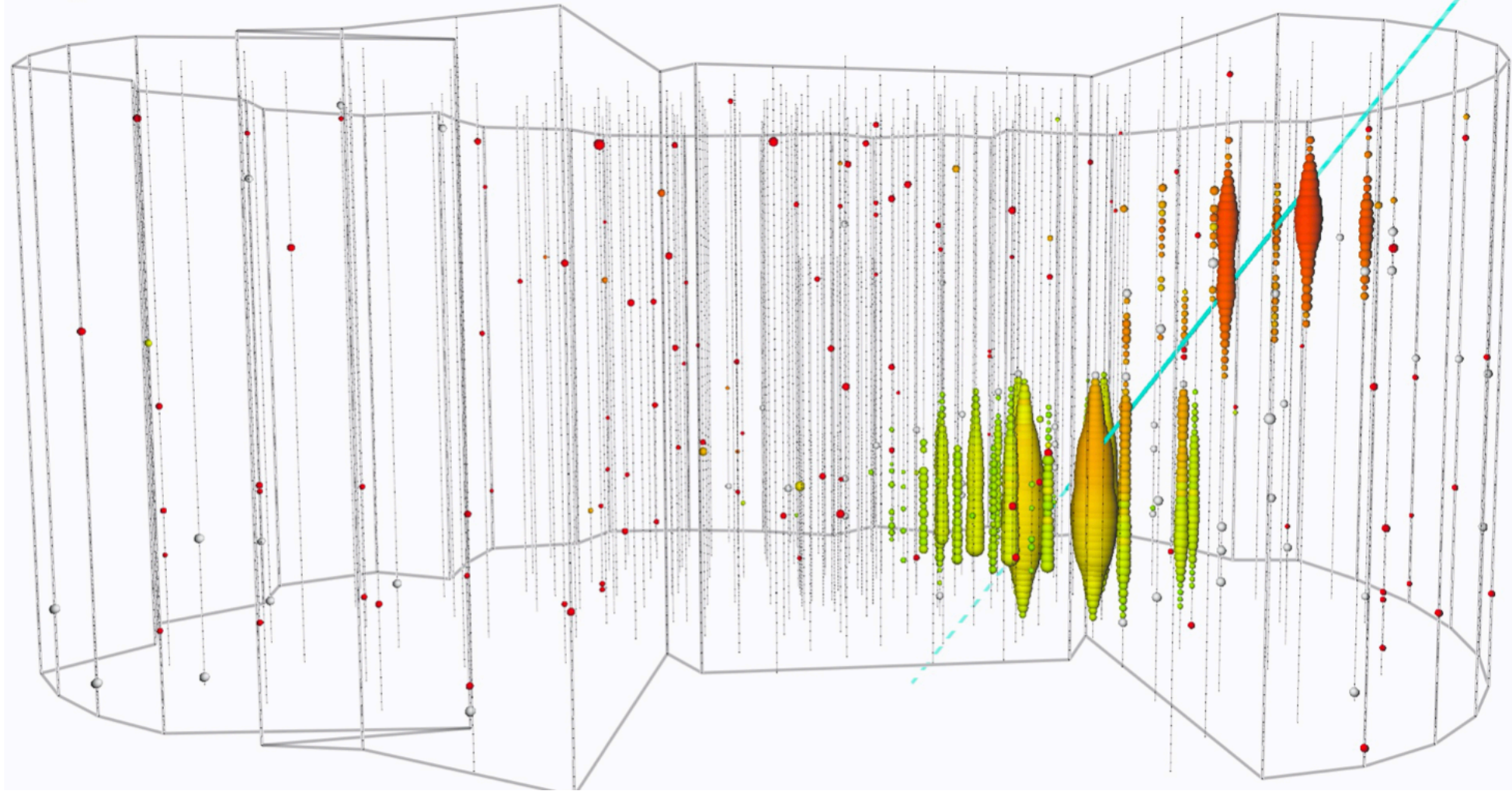
Currently: have ~2 events at the 100



# The same event in IceCube-Gen2

31

Size - Contained Volume matters.



Currently: have ~2 events at the 100 TeV energy scale

credit.: Lu Lu, IceCube

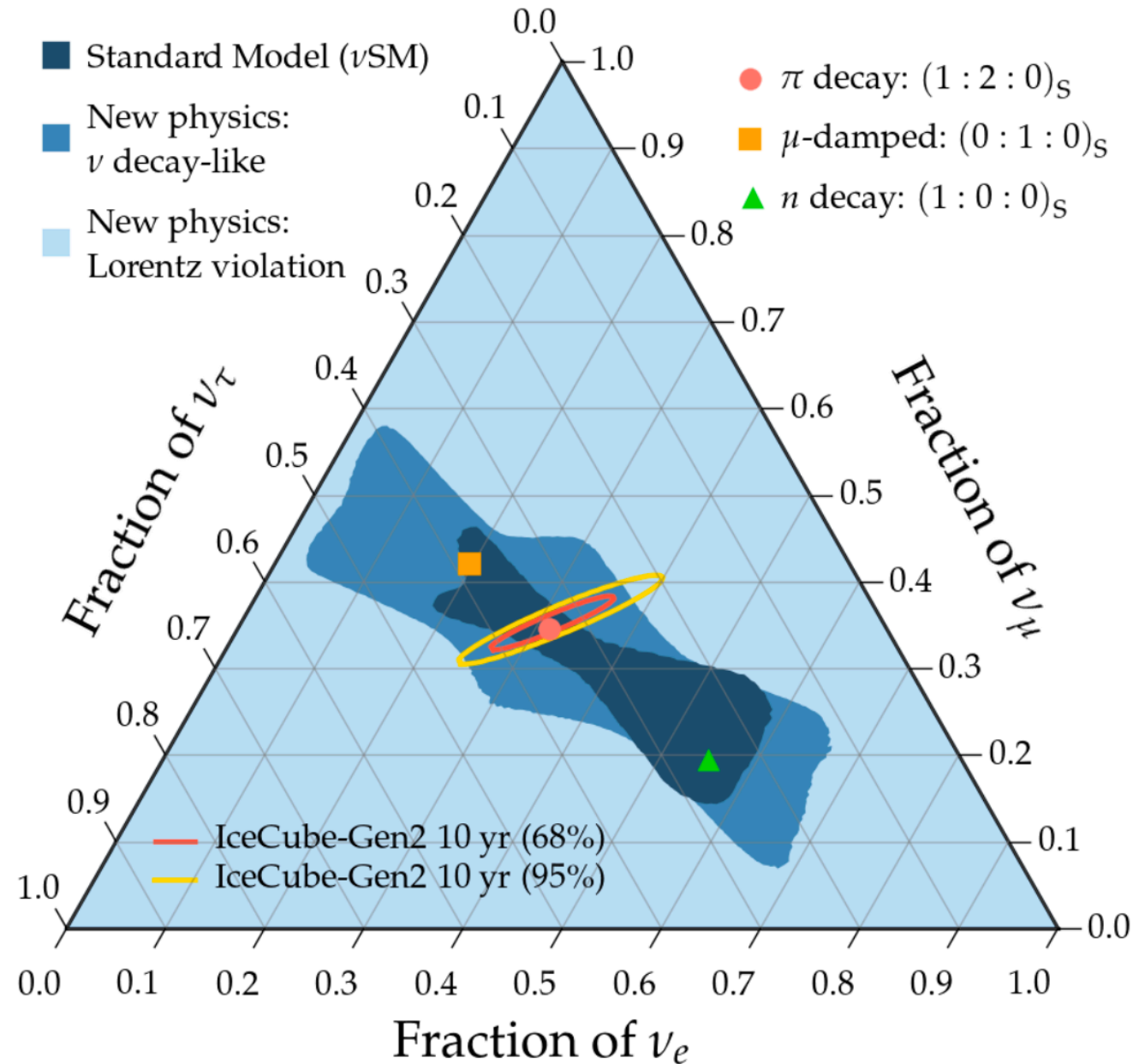
# IceCube-Gen2: Flavor ratio $\longleftrightarrow$ BSM

## Particle ID

Oscillations of PeV  
neutrinos over  
cosmic distances:

- understanding sources
- BSM Physics

—> Mauricio Bustamante's talk.

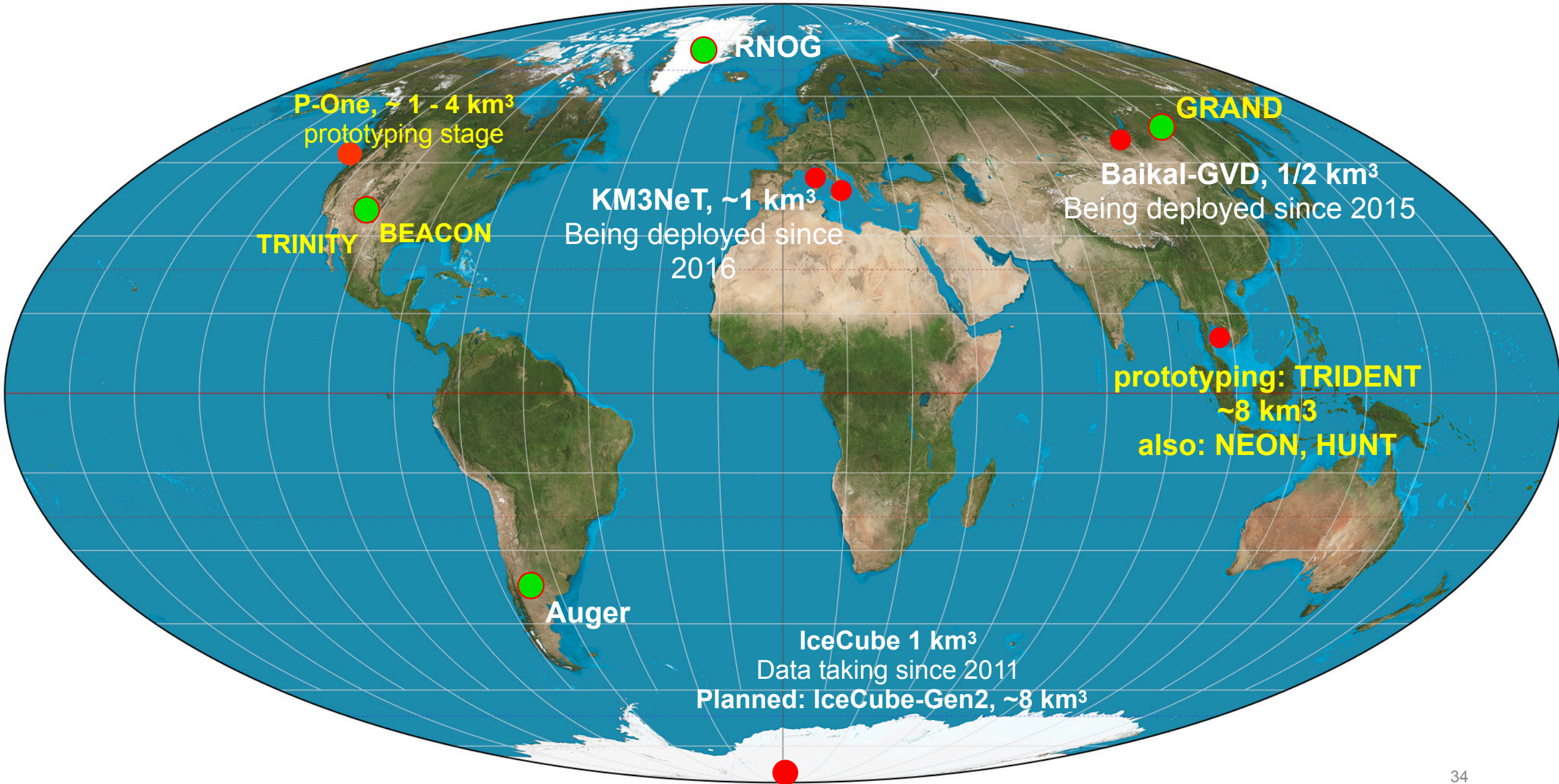


# Outline

- Neutrino astronomy: The starting point
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- **Review of (other) current and planned projects optical**
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# The Global Neutrino Telescope Landscape



# KM3NeT

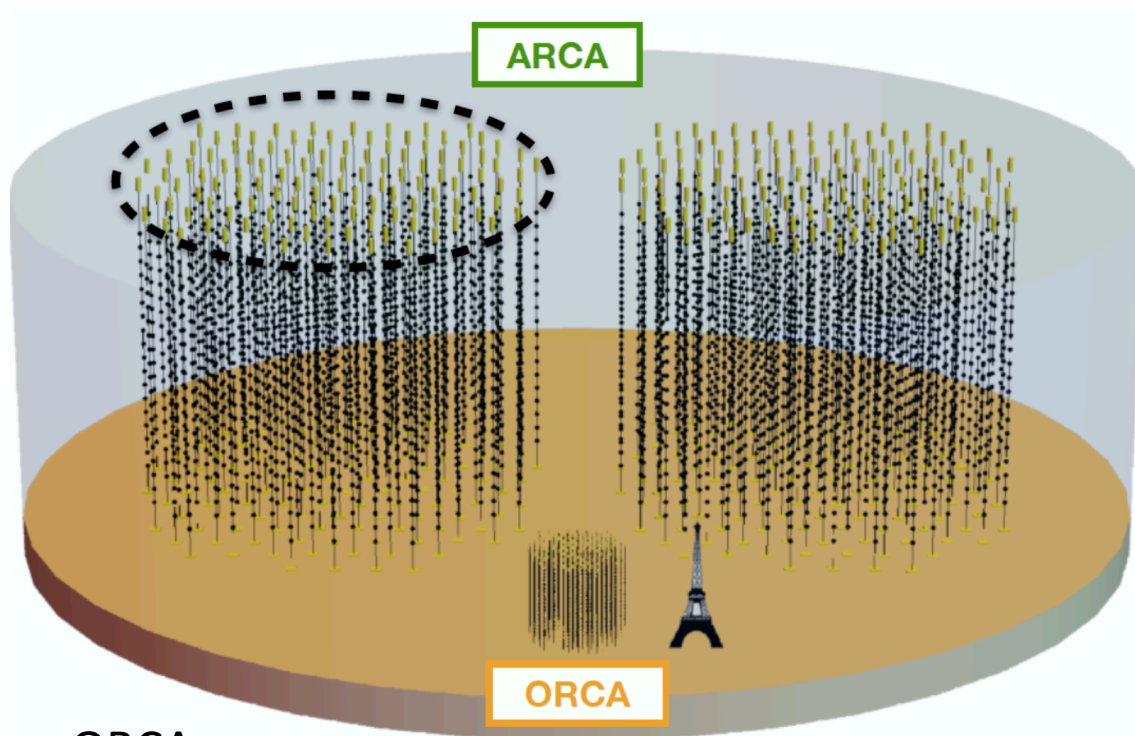
## ARCA

100 km from Sicily

Instr. Mass:  $2 \times 0.5$  Gt

1 Block:

**115 strings** (detection units)  
each with **18 optical sensors**



## ORCA

40 km from Toulon, France

Instr. mass: 5-8 Mtons

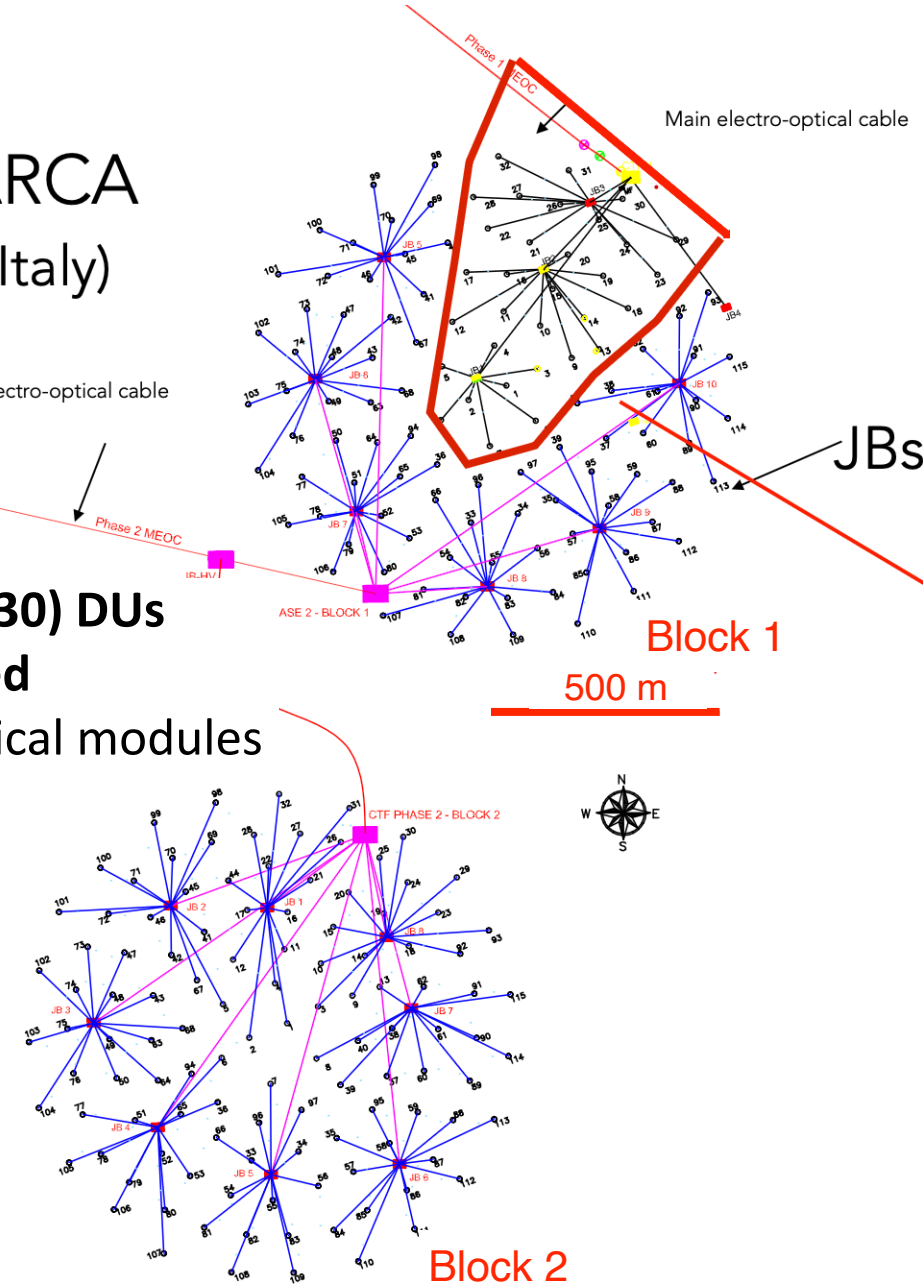
status: 11 of 115 DUs deployed



## ARCA (Italy)

Main electro-optical cable

**28 (of 230) DUs**  
**deployed**  
504 optical modules

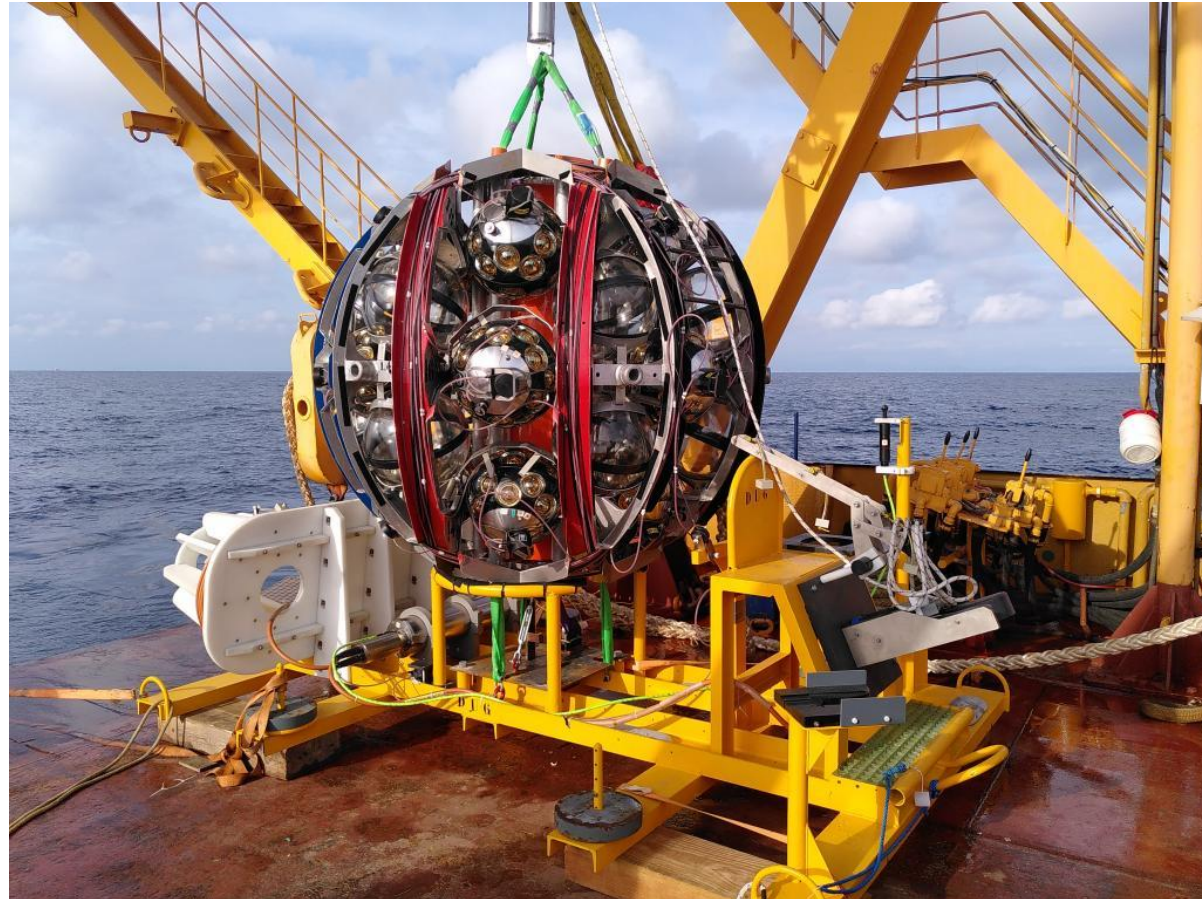




# KM3NeT - Optical Sensor and construction



- Unique deployment scheme from a vessel:  
A sphere of spheres.



- 31 3-inch PMTs in 17-inch glass sphere (cathode area  $\sim 3 \times 10$ -inch PMTs)
- Pioneered the concept of multi-PMT modules, with directional information: directionality, cost.

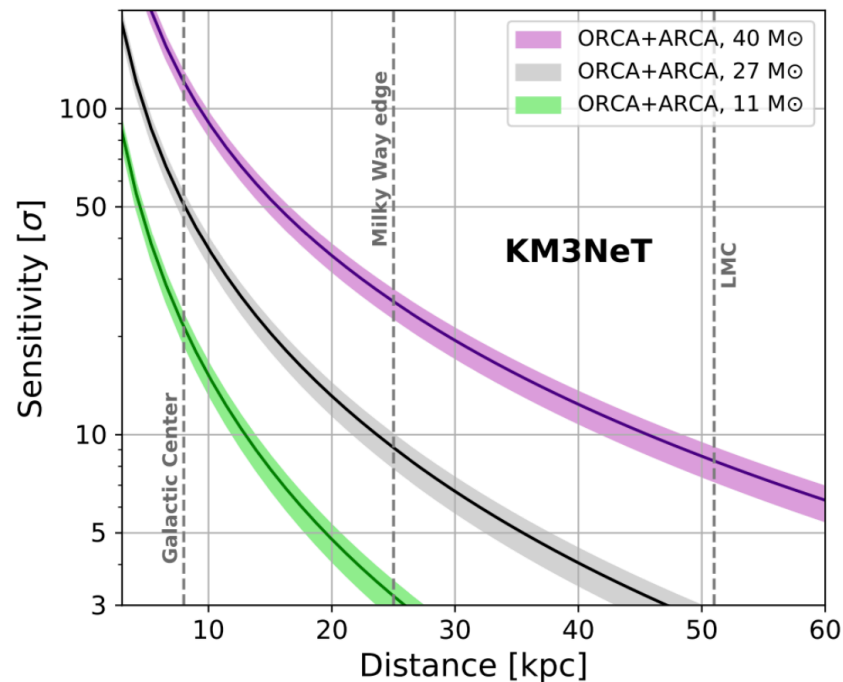




# KM3NeT - Optical Sensor and construction

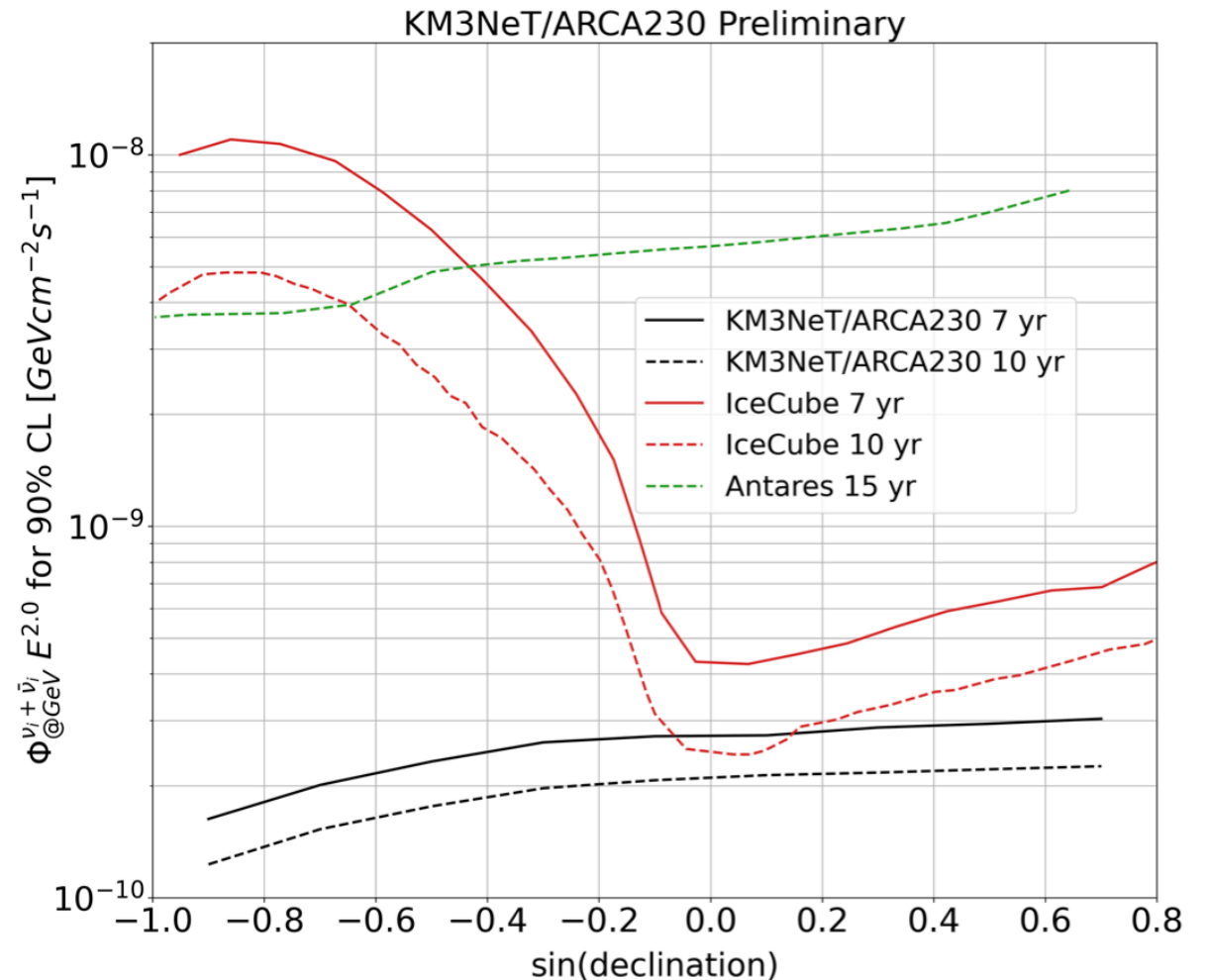
- A milestone on Supernova detection in water

Demonstration of multi-PMT potential to reject noise from sea water.



>5 $\sigma$  for ARCA+ORCA for 27 $M_\odot$  at a distance <35kpc

- Projected sensitivity to  $E^{-2}$  point sources



# Baikal GVD

- Lake Baikal, Siberia
- Deployment in March/April from ice cover
- Clusters with 8 strings, each with 36 10" PMTs

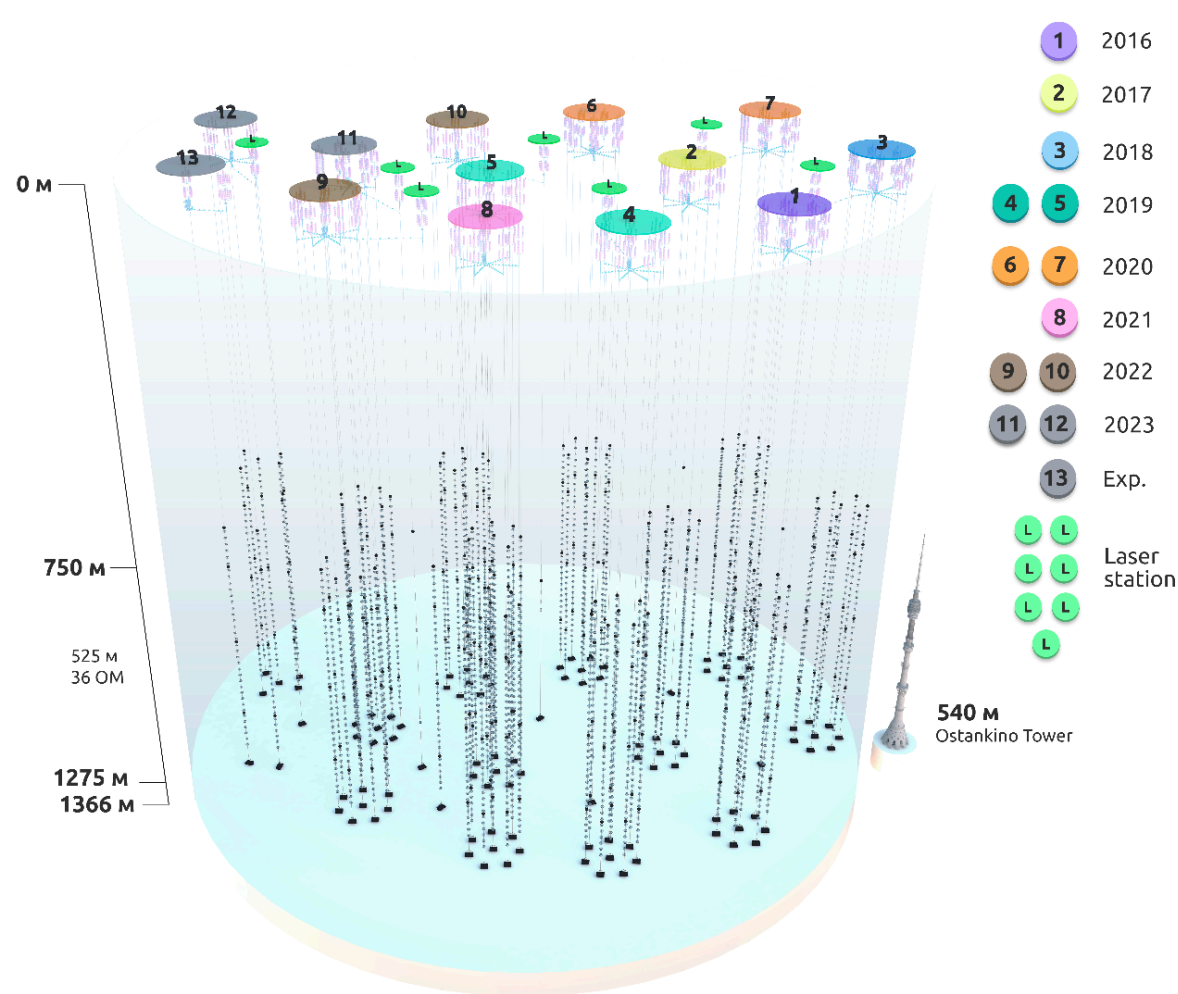




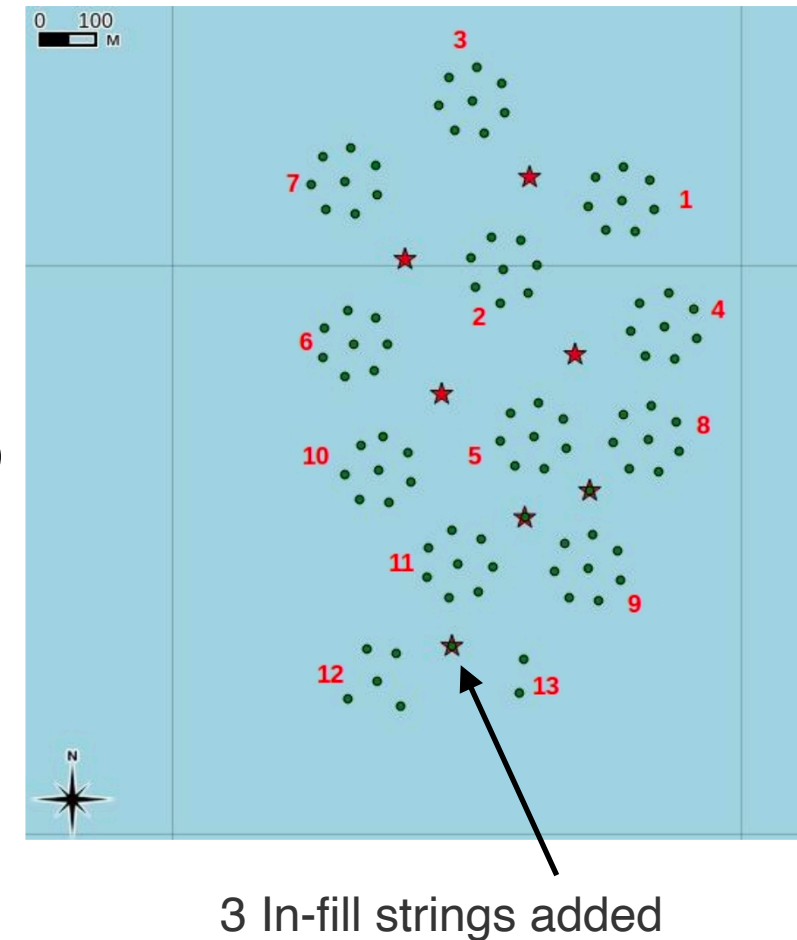
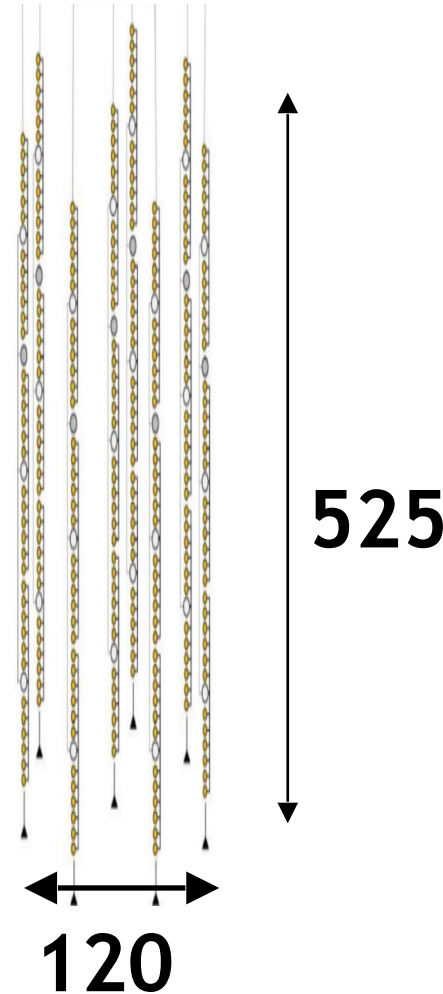
# Baikal GVD - in construction

18 Clusters of 8 strings with 36 sensors each

Instrumented volume:  $\sim 1/2 \text{ km}^3$



In construction since 2015.  
**Status fall 2022:**  
**12 of 18 stations deployed**

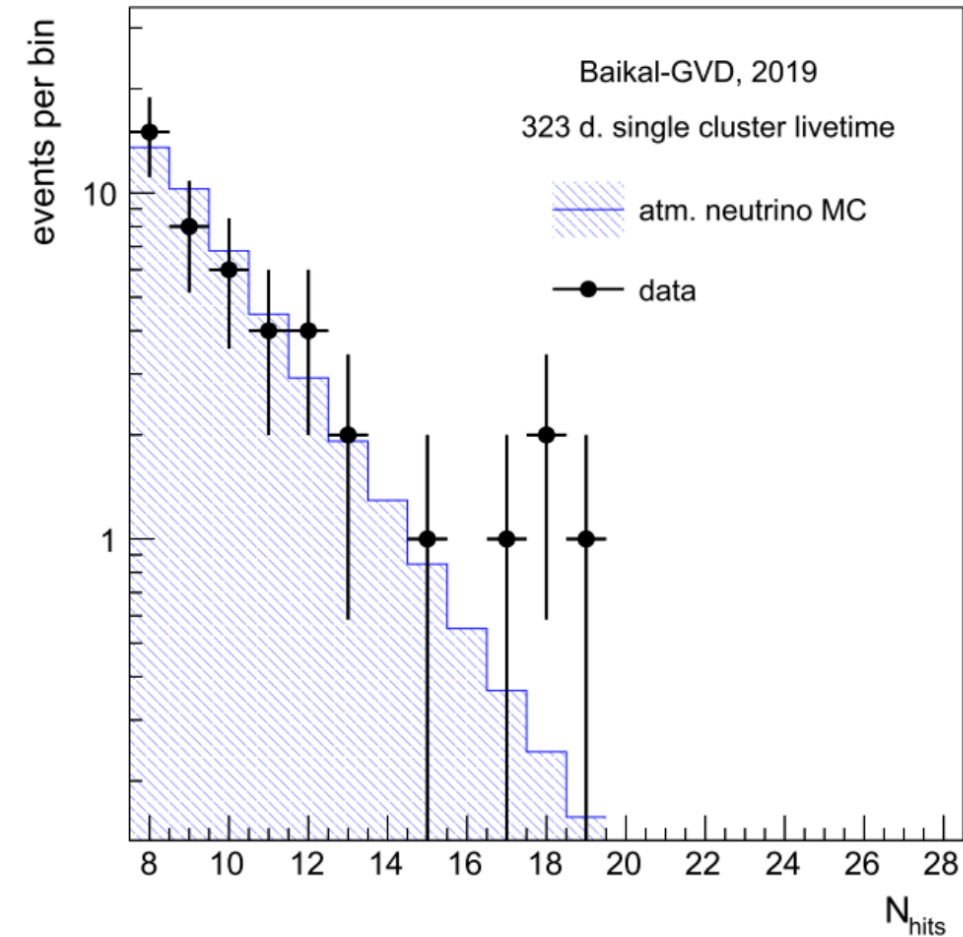




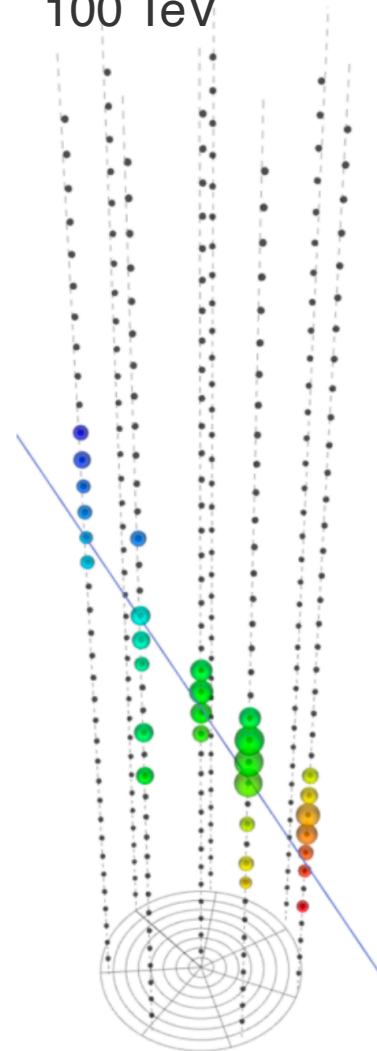
# Baikal GVD - data

Reject background at 3 sigma

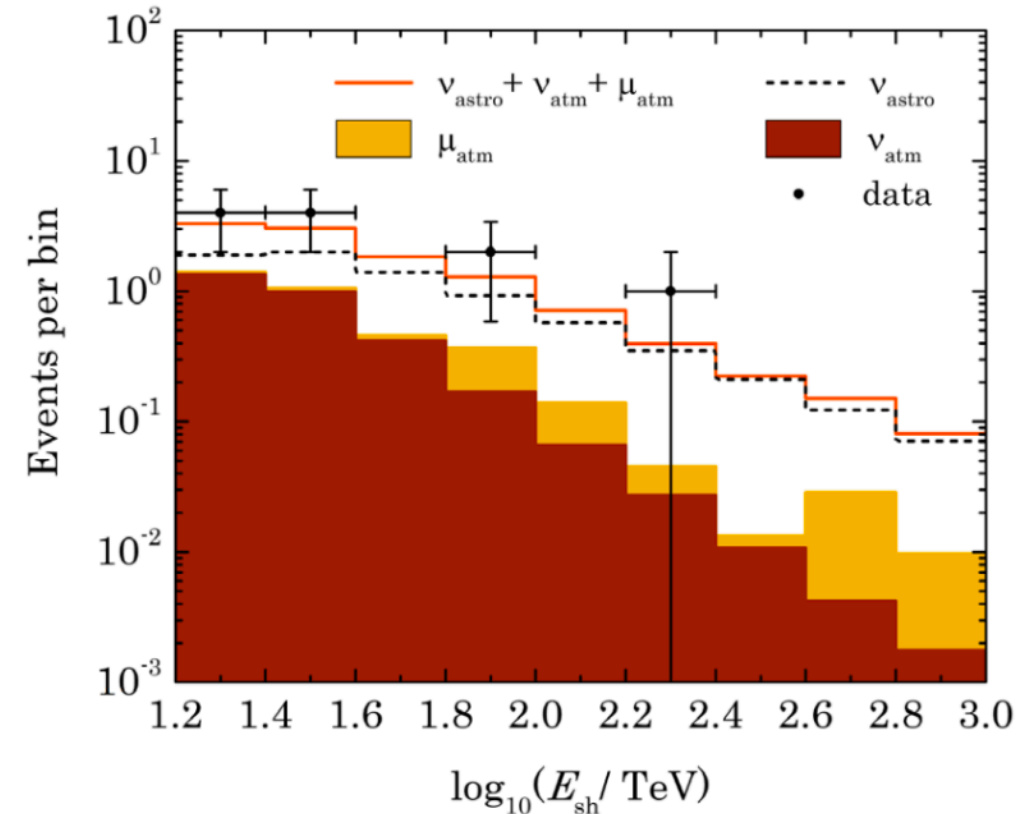
Upgoing muon distribution vs MC



Upgoing muon,  
100 TeV



Upgoing cascade events  
with astrophysical  
component.



# P-ONE (Pacific Ocean Neutrino Experiment)

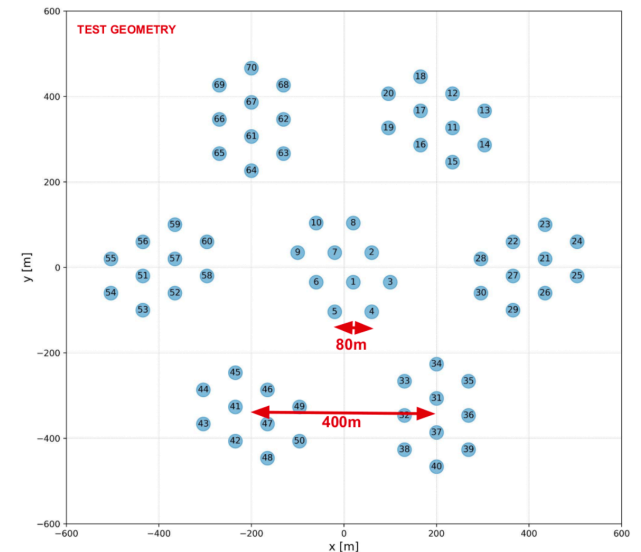
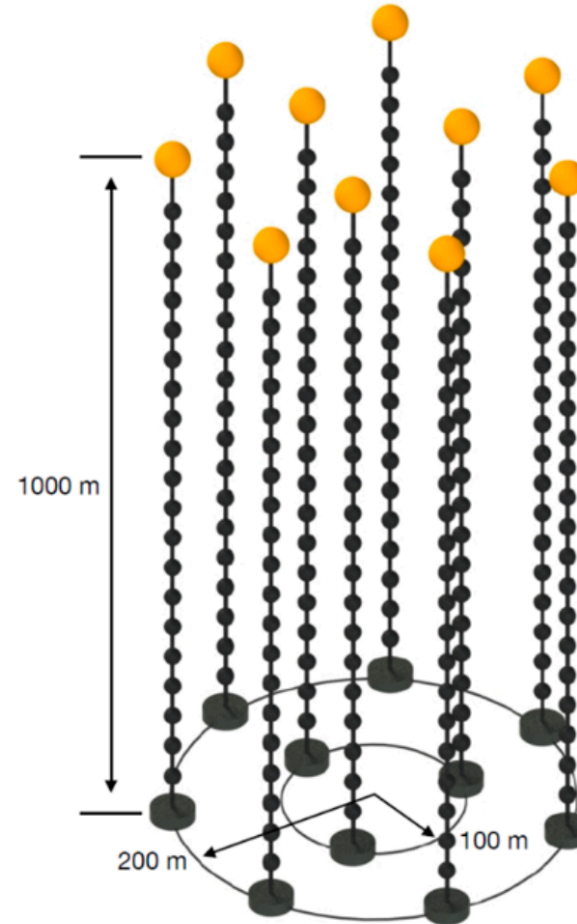
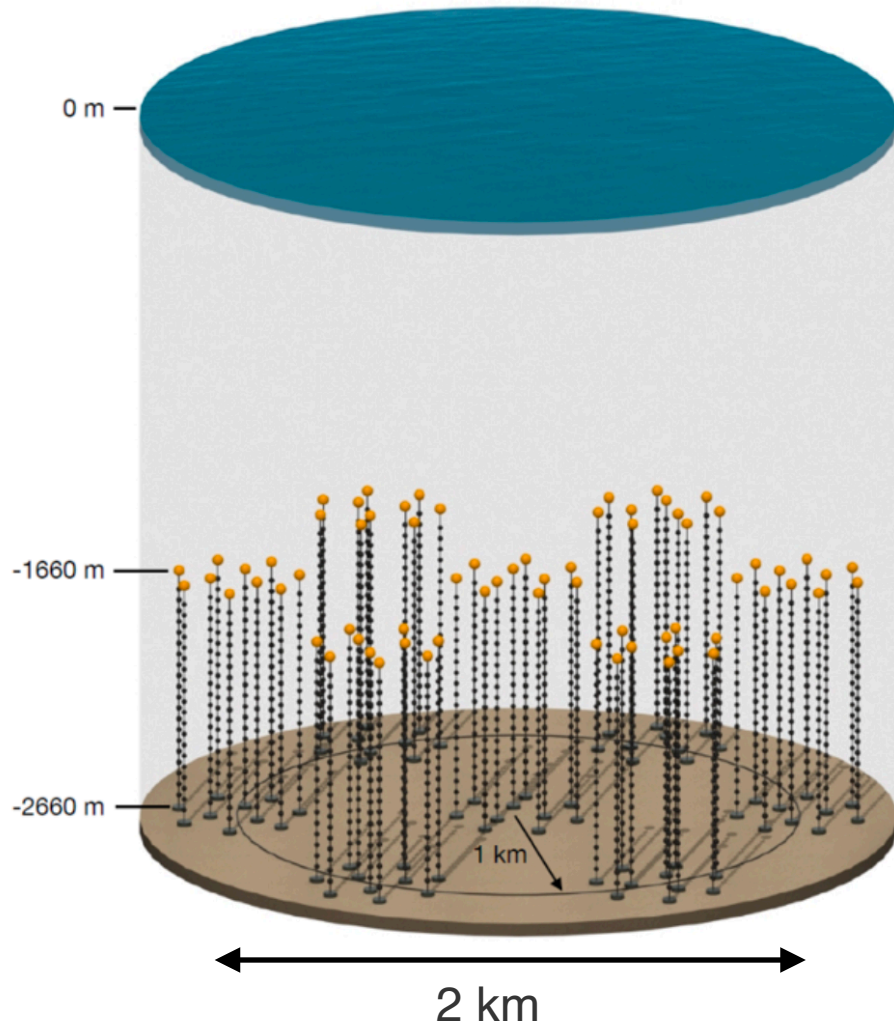
Proposed project in R&D and prototyping phase

## Conceptual Design:

7 clusters x 10 strings x 20 DOMs  
total: 70 strings, 1400 sensors

diameter, height  
(prel.): 400m, 1 km

Targeted energy range:  
> 10 TeV





# P-ONE

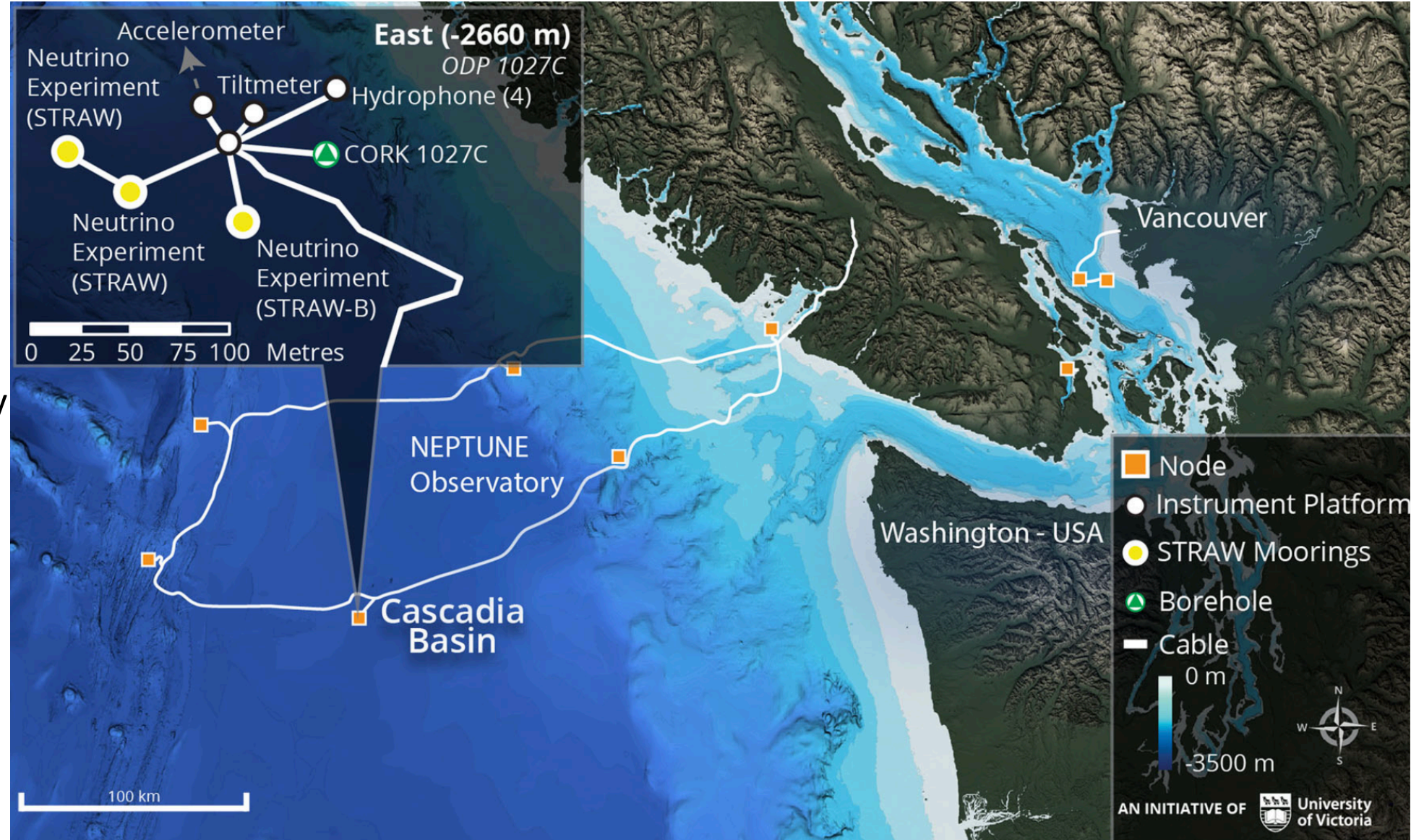
Proposed project in R&D and prototyping phase

Location: Pacific Ocean  
near Vancouver

Depth: 2600m

Logistical support  
infrastructure:

Interface, anchoring and  
deployment operation by  
ONC (Ocean Network  
Canada)





# P-ONE

- Completed 2 pathfinder missions (STRAW)
- P-ONE-1 - one string - in 2024
- P-ONE demonstration cluster 2024-2027 (funded)

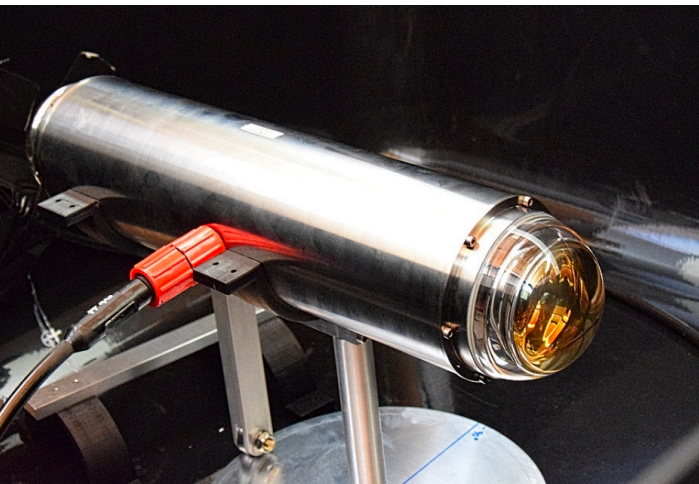
Elise Resconi writes:

“We are progressing on the hardware and will be ready in 2025 with a first deployment (this is realistic).”

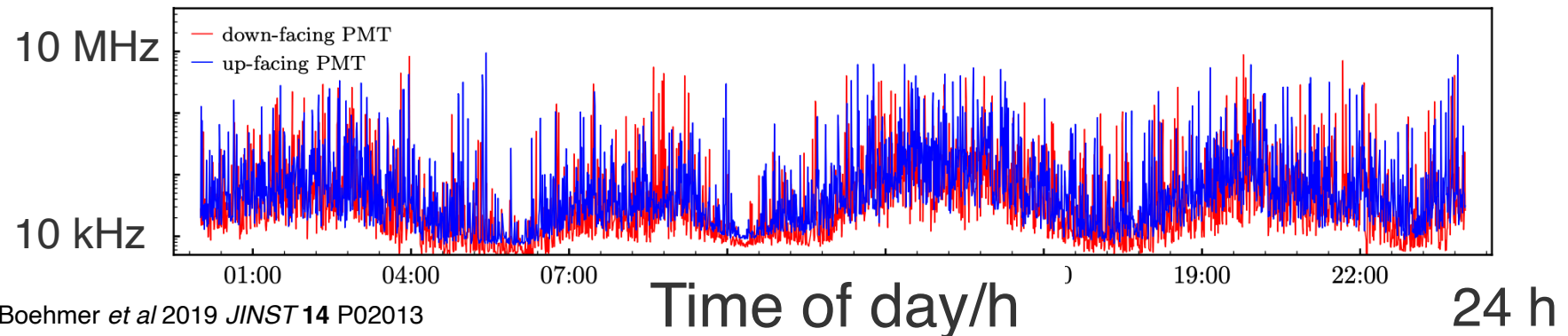
Attenuation length reported as **~28m** (at 450nm) comparable to other sites.

[The European Physical Journal C](#)

volume 81, Article number: 1071 (2021)



Noise rate in a 3 inch PMT



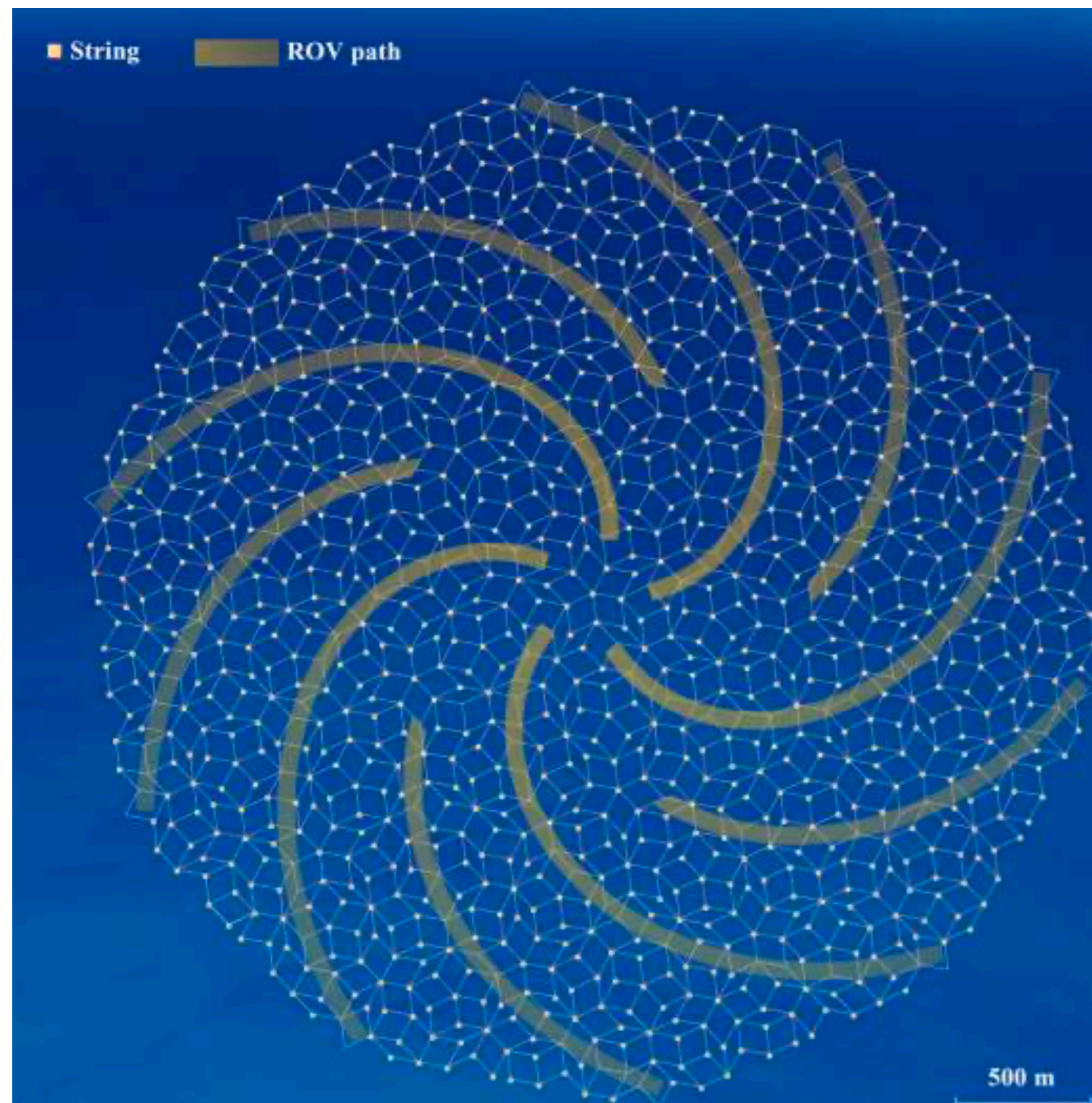
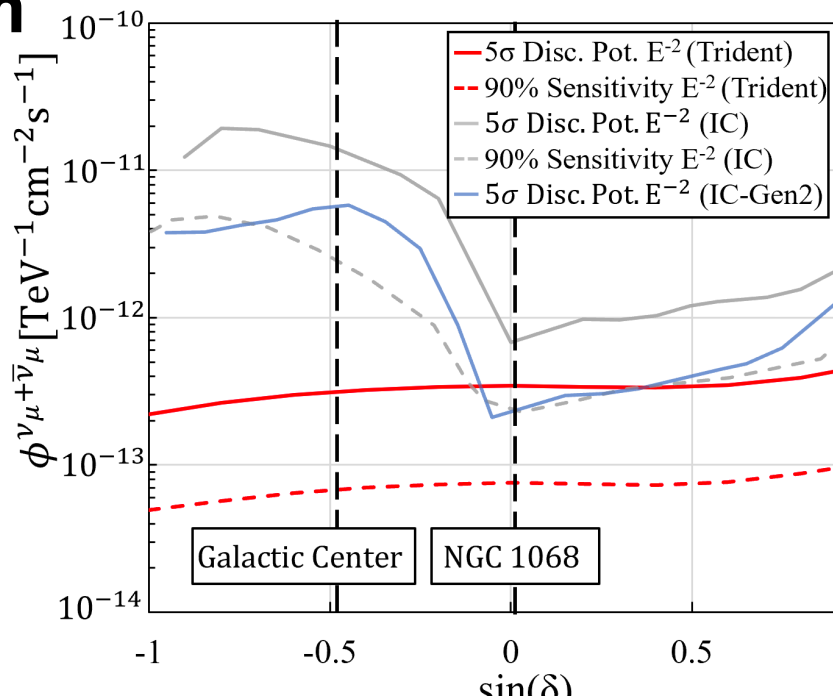
M. Boehmer *et al* 2019 *JINST* 14 P02013

Proposed project in R&D and prototyping phase

*Nature Astronomy* (2023). 10.1038/s41550-023-02087-6

Scope:

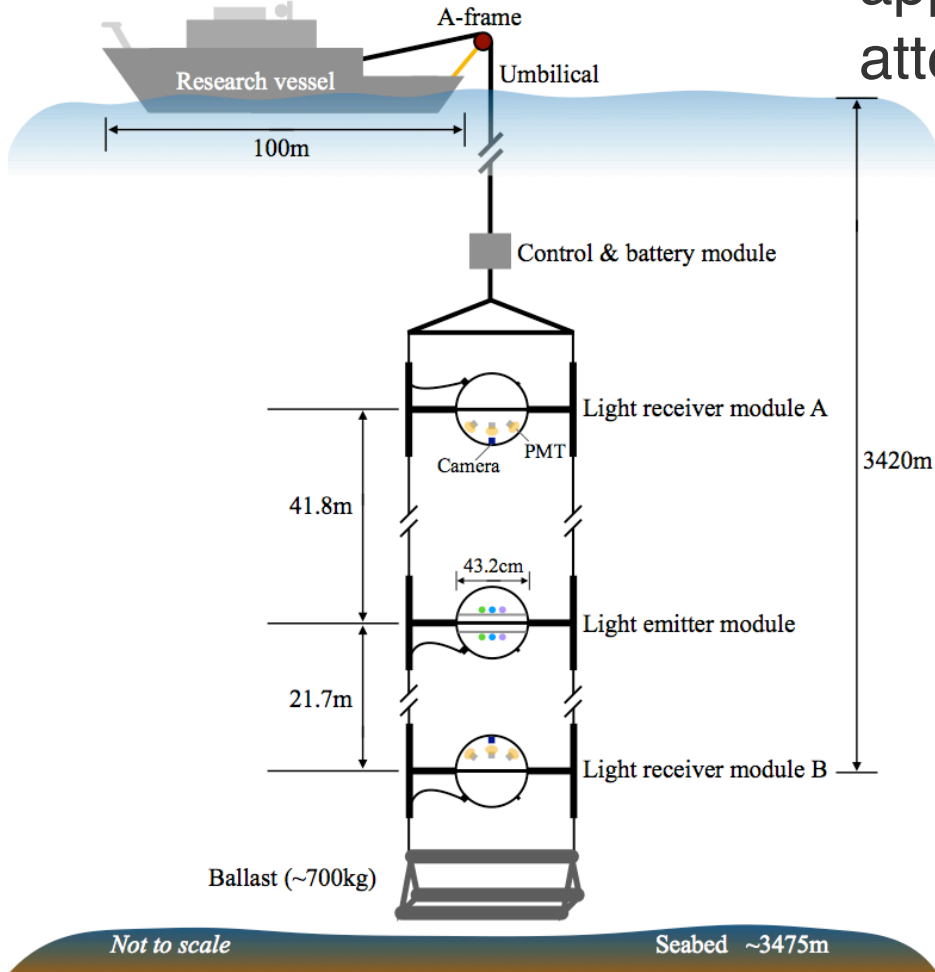
- **1211 strings**
- 30 hDOMs per string
- **7.5 km<sup>3</sup>** (=10 km<sup>2</sup> x 750m)
- Location: South China Sea
- Depth: **3475m**





# TRIDENT: Exploration

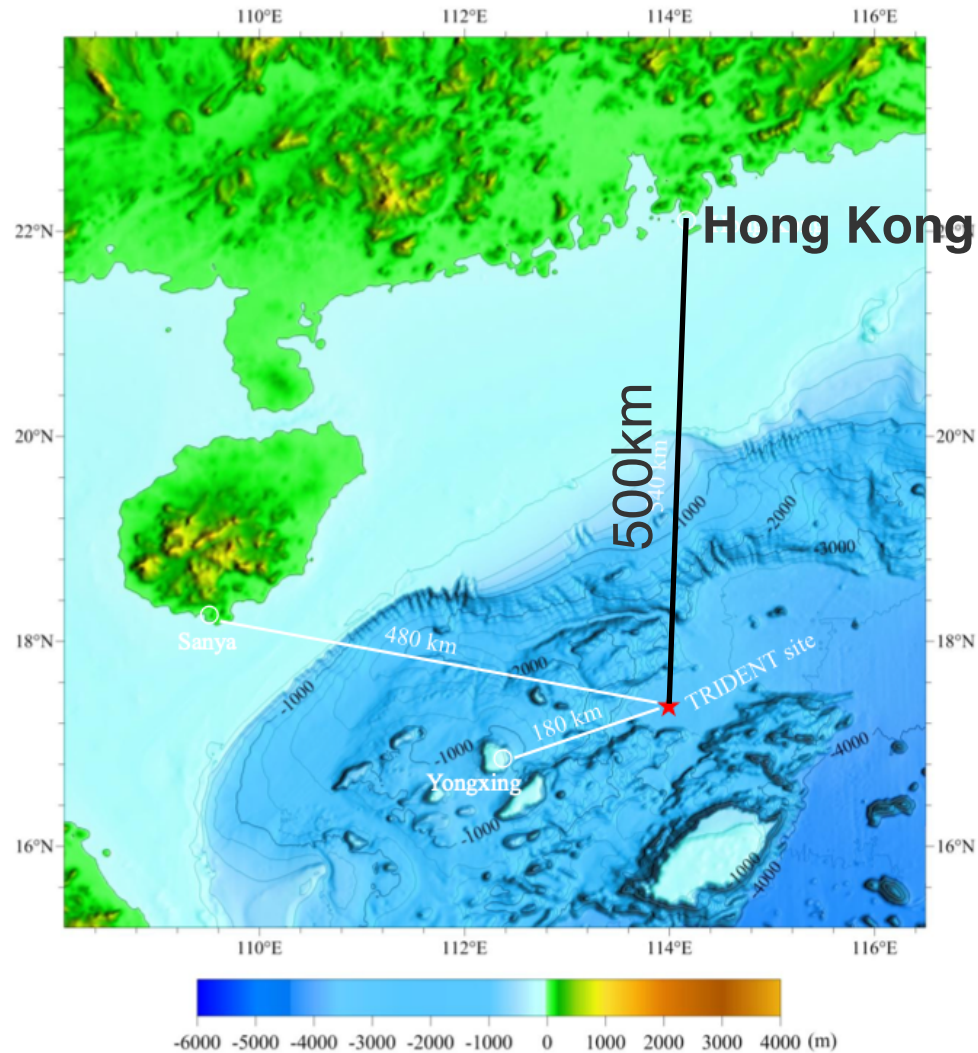
Optical properties,  
appear reasonable:  
attenuation: 20 - 30 m



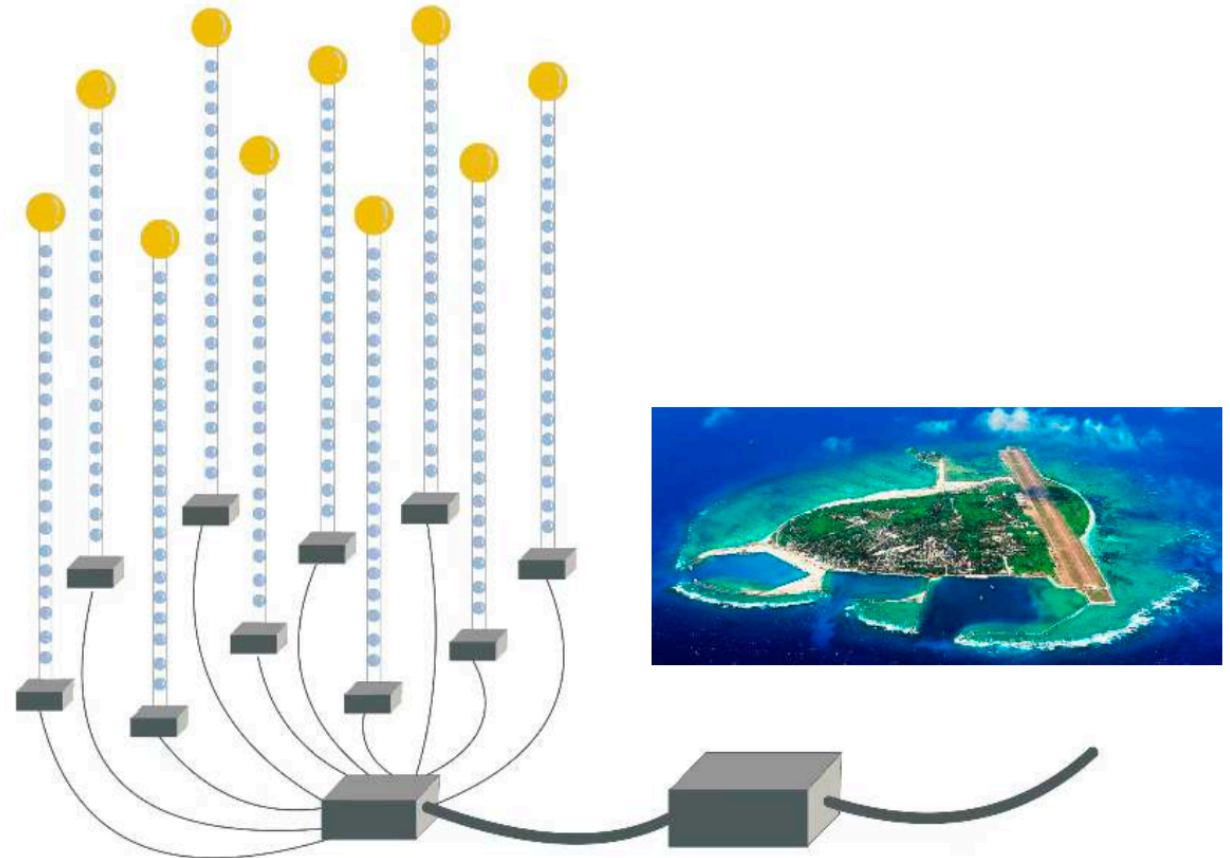


# TRIDENT:

Location: South China Sea



Phase 1 project 2022-2026: in progress  
10 strings + deep sea cable



# HUNT - H stands for Huge

Huge underwater NT

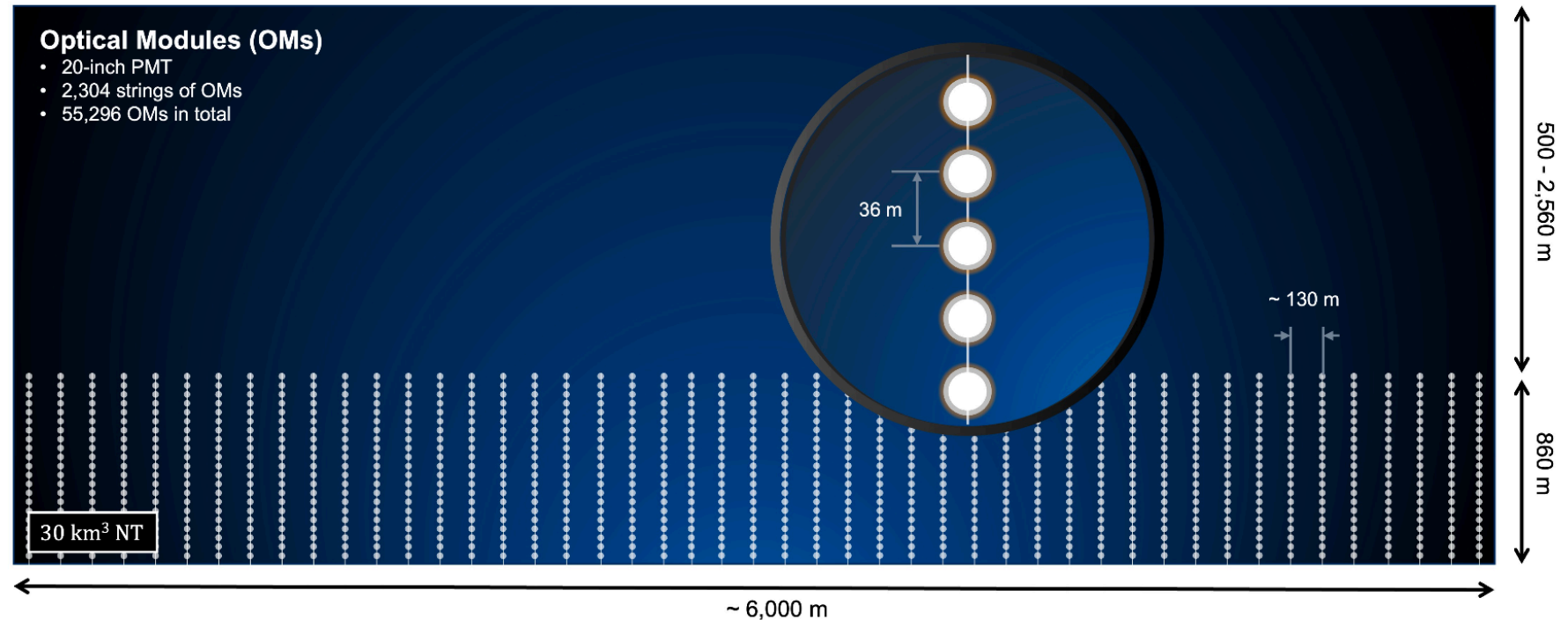
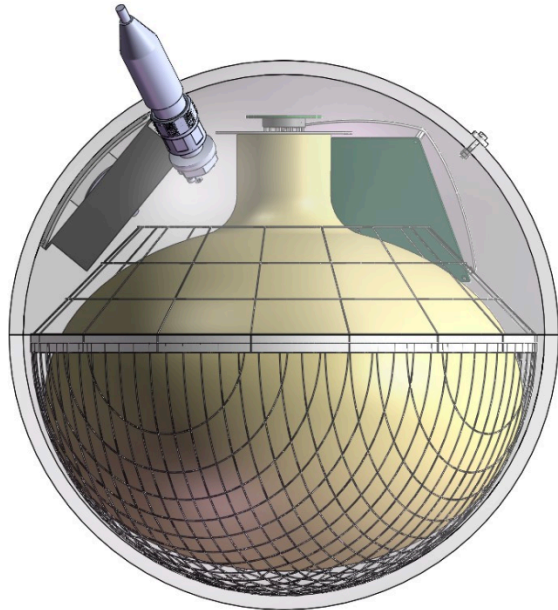
Outline presented at the ICRC

55,000 PMT of 50 cm diameter

2304 strings of 24 PMTs, 860m long

Instrumented volume  $30 \text{ km}^2$

Location: in consideration: Baikal or somewhere  
South China Sea  
prototype string in Lake Baikal planned



# NEON

Several contributions to ICRC

South China Sea

Instrumented volume:  $\sim 1 \text{ km}^3$

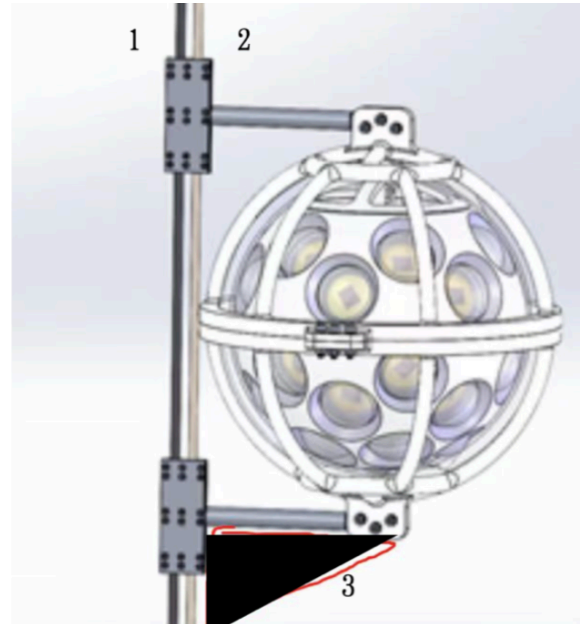
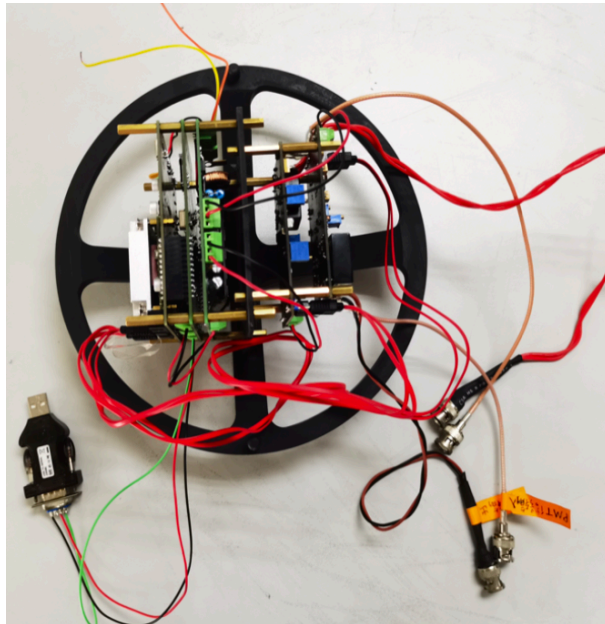
Location:

South China Sea TBD

Simulation studies

Hardware R&D

presented at ICRC





# Neutrino telescopes at various stages

There is a lot going on!

(proposed) Detector	Instr. Volume / km <sup>3</sup>	Modules /#PMT x size (inch) (DOM size*)	Snapshot at 100 TeV energy		Status
			Effective area nu-mu [m <sup>2</sup> ]	Ang. resolution [deg]	
IceCube	1	80*60=5000 (1ref)	100	~0.3	2011 comp.
Baikal GVD	~0.4	144*36=5184 (1)		~0.1	60%
KM3NeT ARCA	~1	230*18=4140 (3p)	100	~0.1	12% (accel)
P-ONE	1 (cluster volume) 3 (envelope vol.)	70*20=1400 (3p)		~0.1	prototype
IceCube Gen2	8	120*80=9600 (4p)	~300	~0.2	design
TRIDENT	7.5	1200*30=3600 (~3p)	~700	~0.1	prototype
NEON	1	TBD			R&D
HUNT	30	2300*24=55000* (4)			R&D

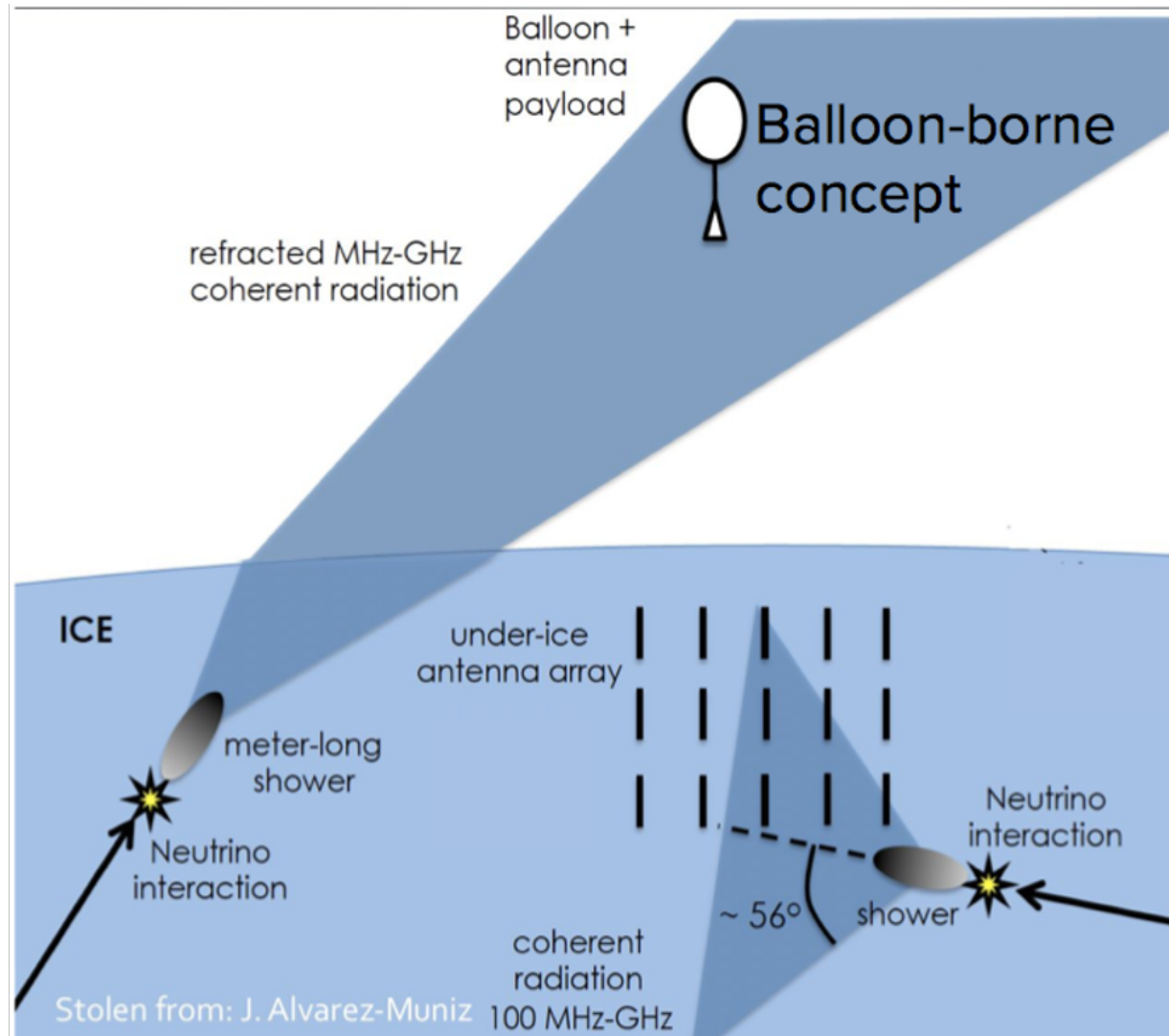
# Outline

- Neutrino astronomy: The starting point
- IceCube, IceCube-Gen2
- Review of (other) current and planned projects  
optical
- **Ultra High Energies**
- Outlook

# Using massive ice sheets as target for radio detection

Askaryan: coherent radio transient from high energy cascade at Cherenkov angle

Signal grows with energy<sup>2</sup>



## ANITA:

Higher energy threshold due to larger distance to interaction

**next → PUEO**

impressive improvement by phased array triggering  
Threshold ~ 1000 PeV

**In-ice, Lower energy threshold: 30 PeV**

Pioneering:

RICE: South Pole (coldest → best ice)

ARIANNA: Moore's Bay

**Askaryan Radio Array: South Pole - still running**

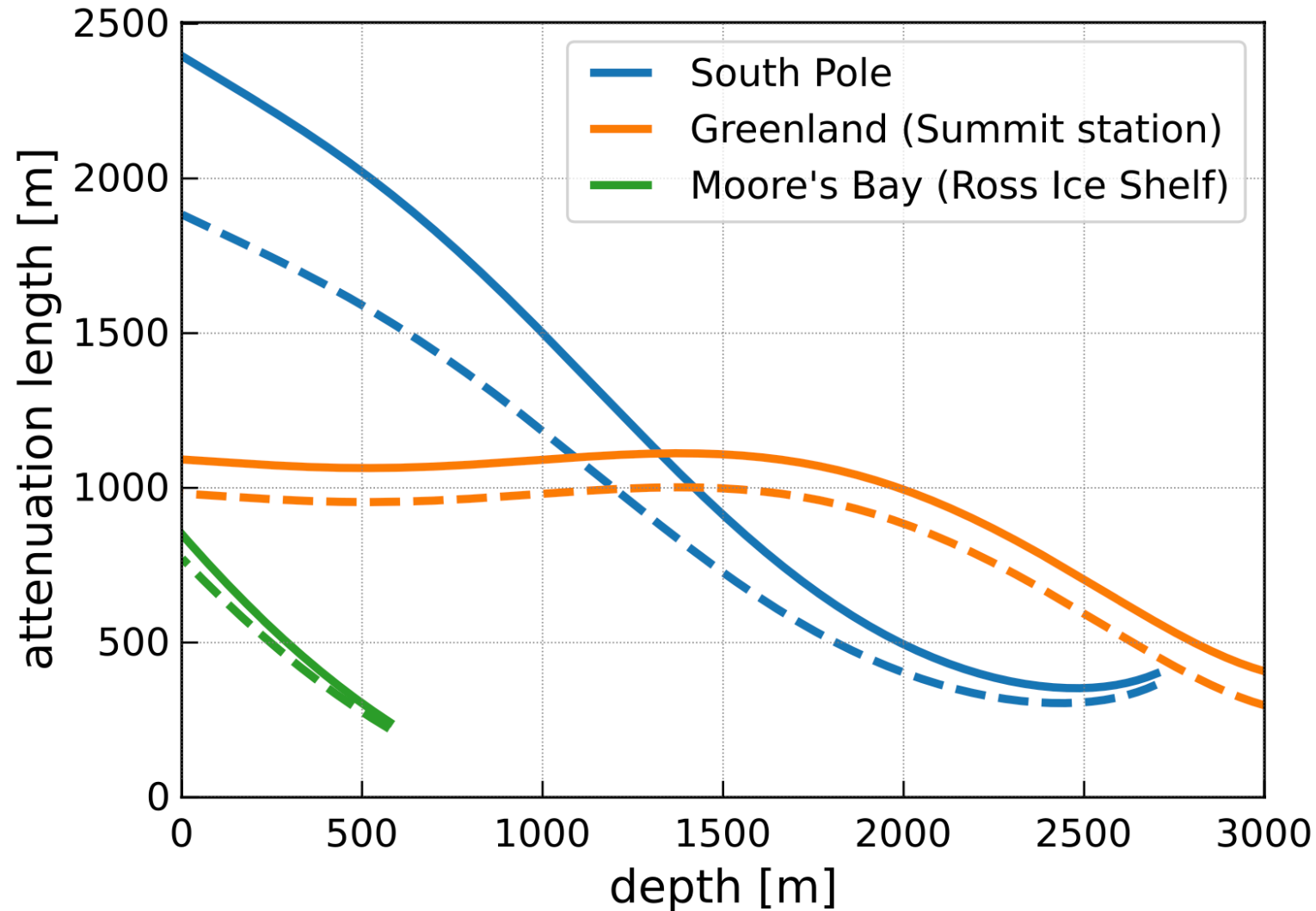
**RNO-G: Greenland**

seen also as 'Phase 1' for Gen2 Radio



# Using massive ice sheets as target for radio detection

## Attenuation length vs Depth



Strong function of temperature.

South Pole is the coldest ice  
(-55degC at the top)

# Using massive ice sheets as target for radio detection

Requirement: a lot of ice

- South Pole
- Ross Ice Shelf (coast of Antarctica)
- Greenland



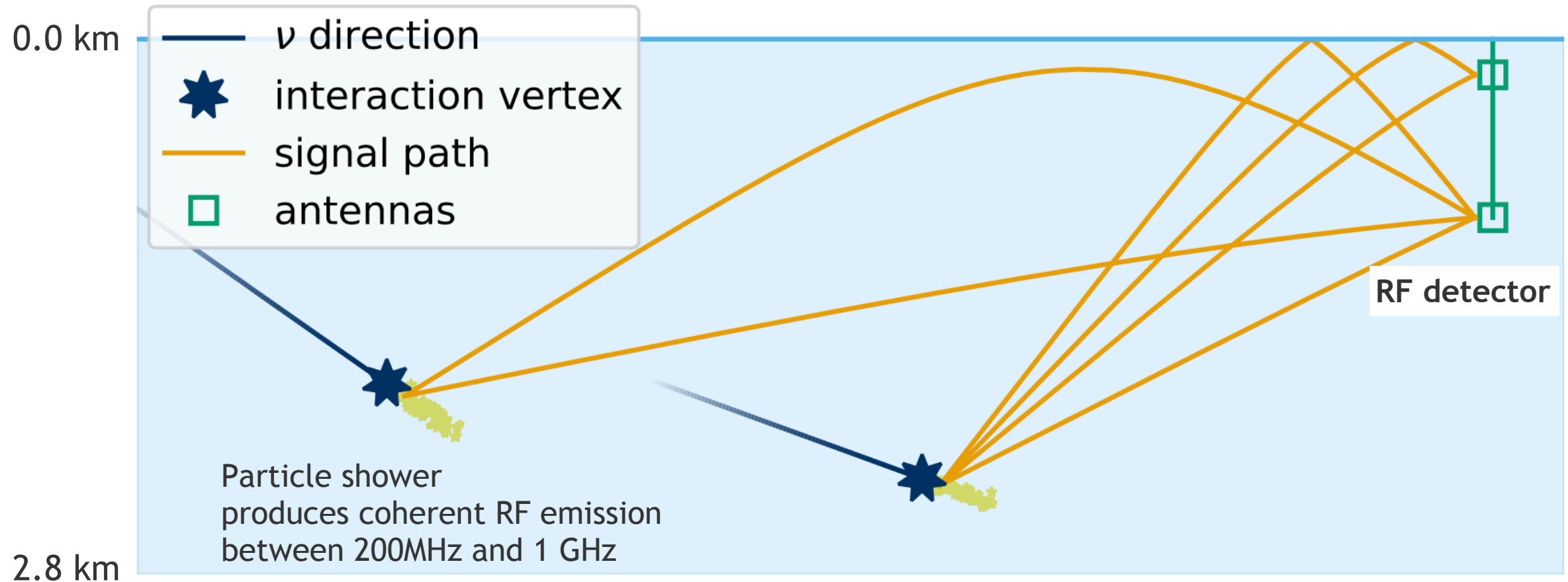
Greenland



Antarctica

# Using massive ice sheets as target

Askaryan: coherent radio transient from high energy cascade at Cherenkov angle  
Signal grows with energy<sup>2</sup>

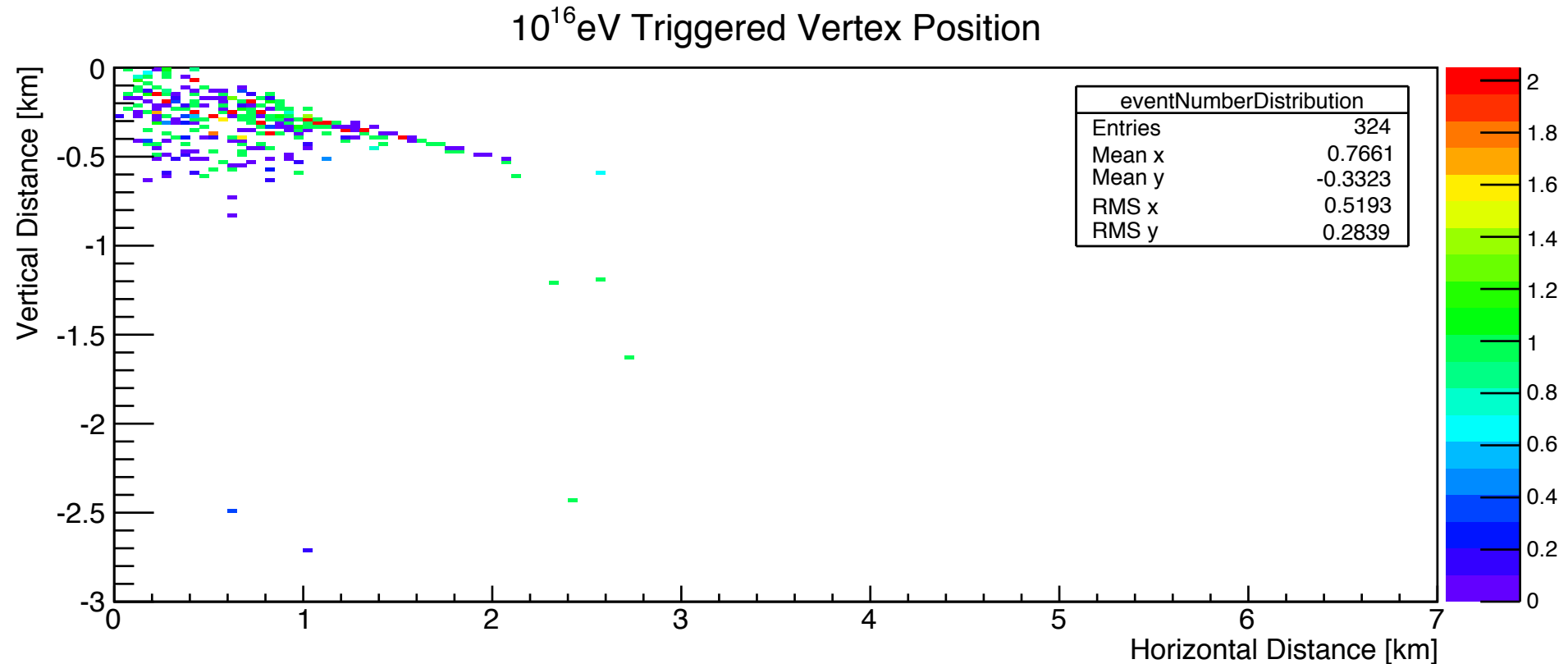




# Radio detection: Visibility of neutrinos with ARA station.

Simulated events triggering  
ARA station at 200m

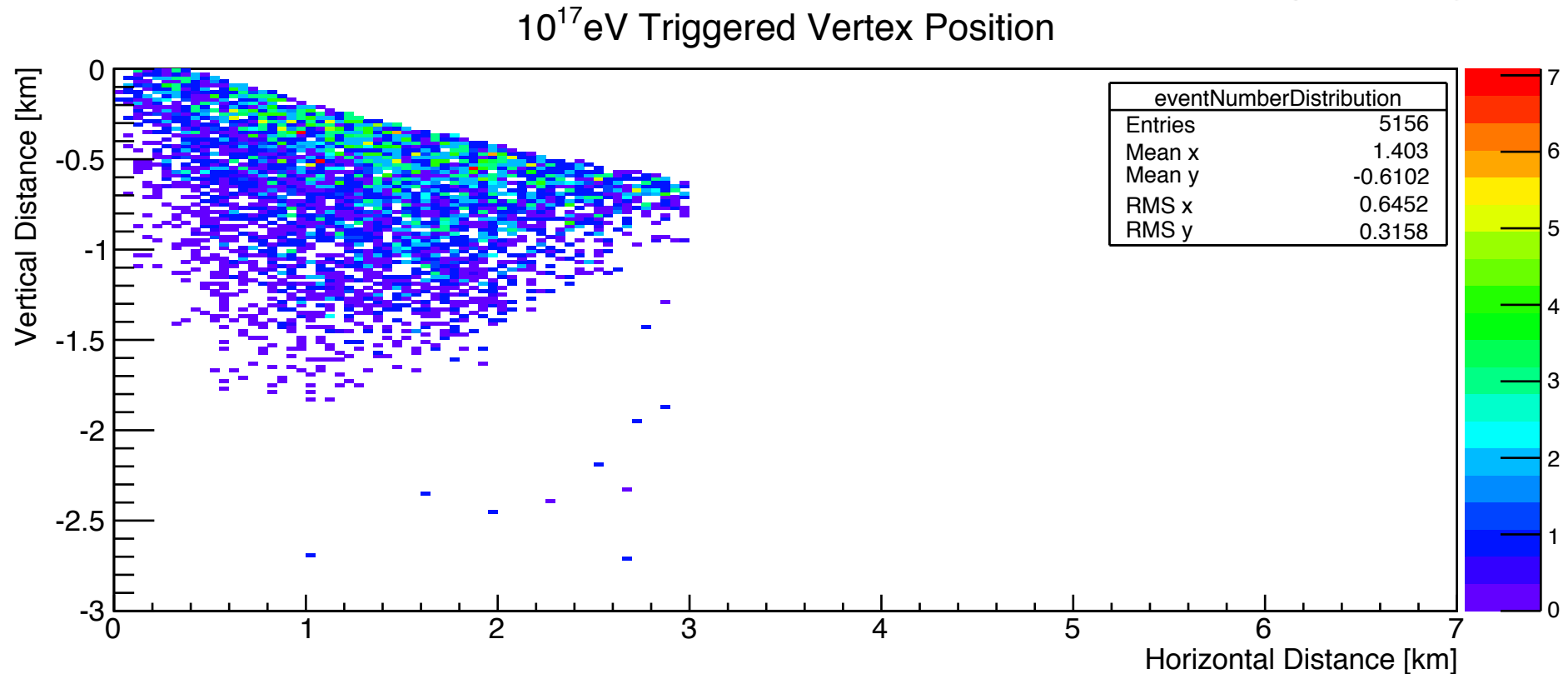
$10^{16}$  eV



# Depth and effective volume at South Pole.

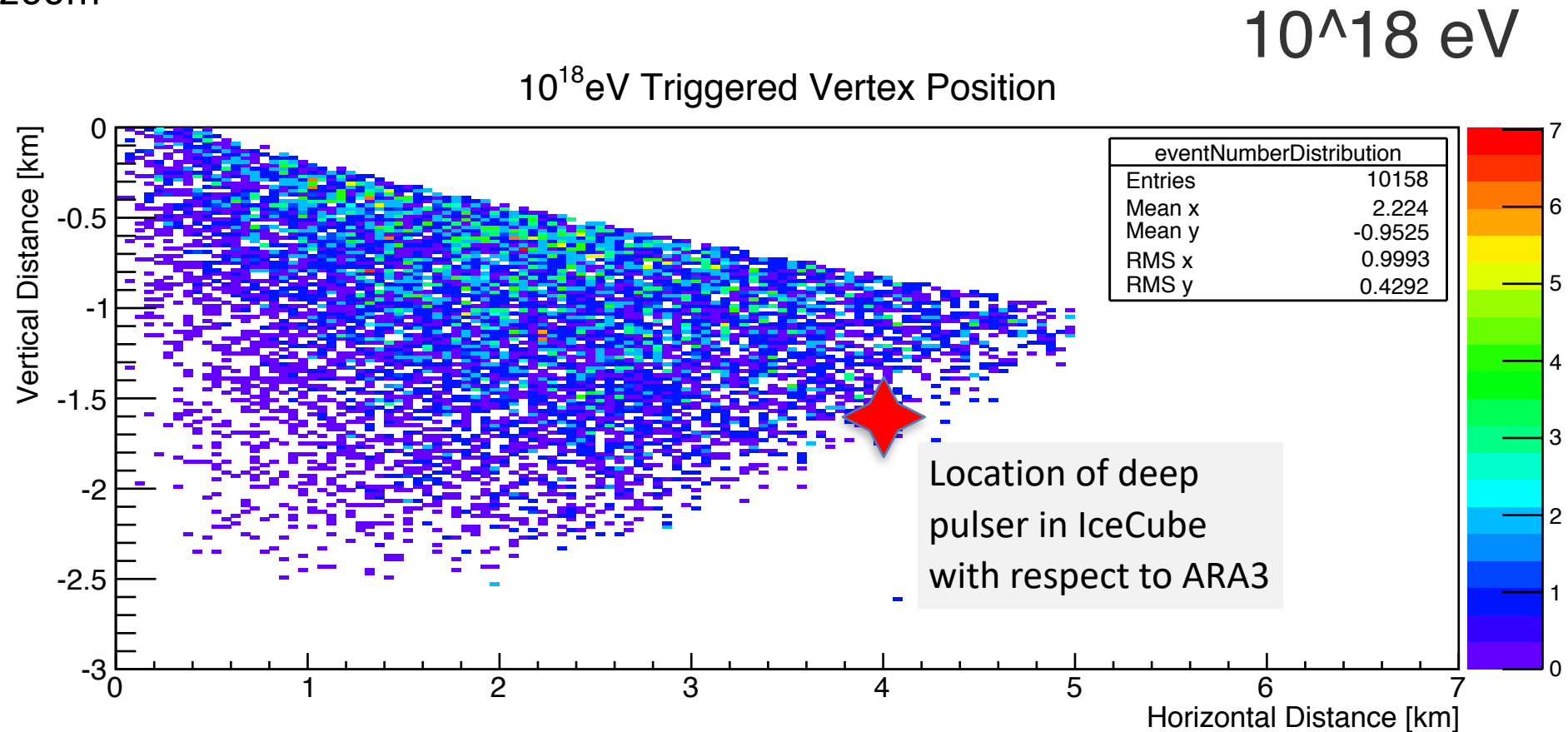
Simulated neutrino events triggering  
ARA station at 200m

$10^{17}$  eV



# Depth and effective volume at South Pole.

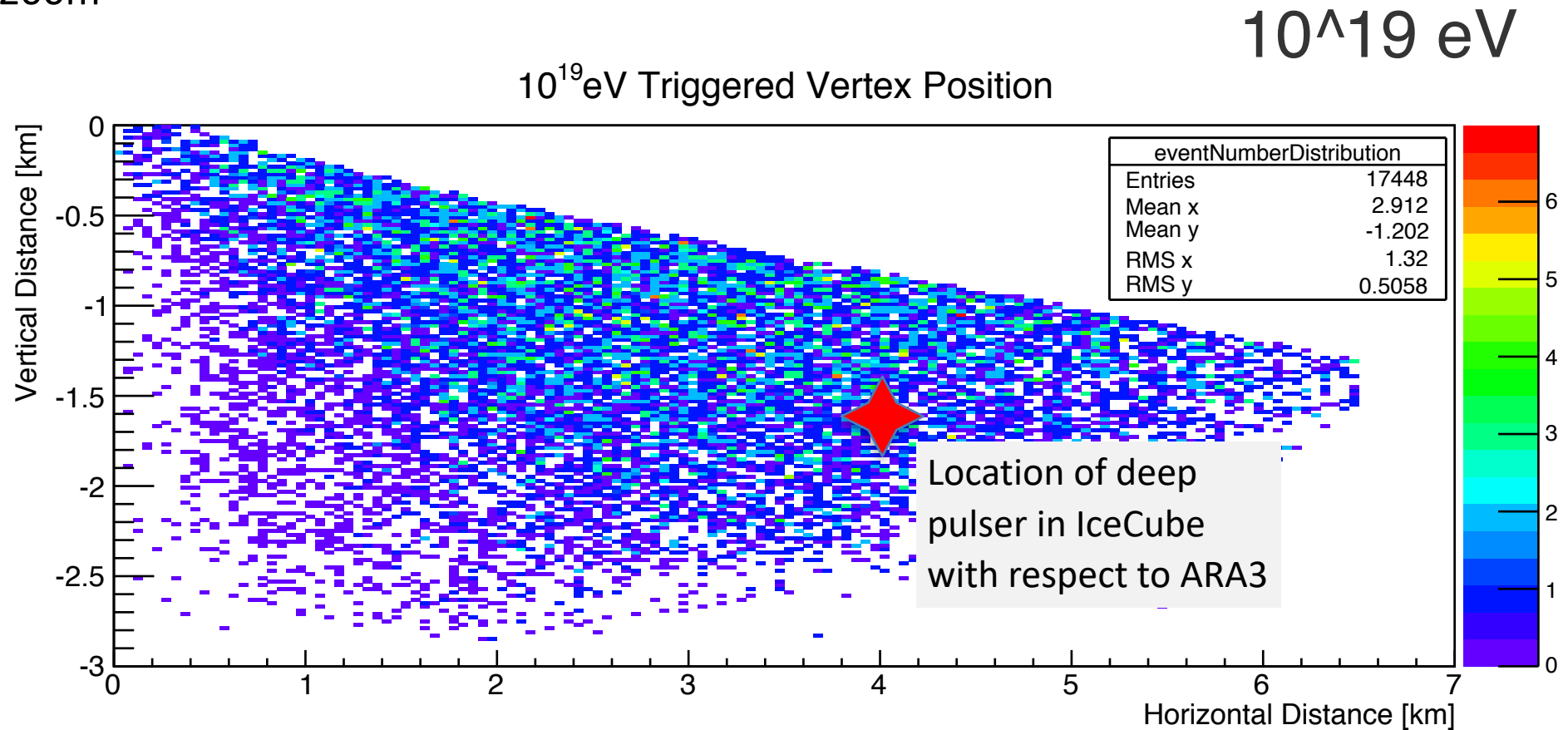
Simulated neutrino events triggering  
ARA station at 200m





# Depth and effective volume at South Pole.

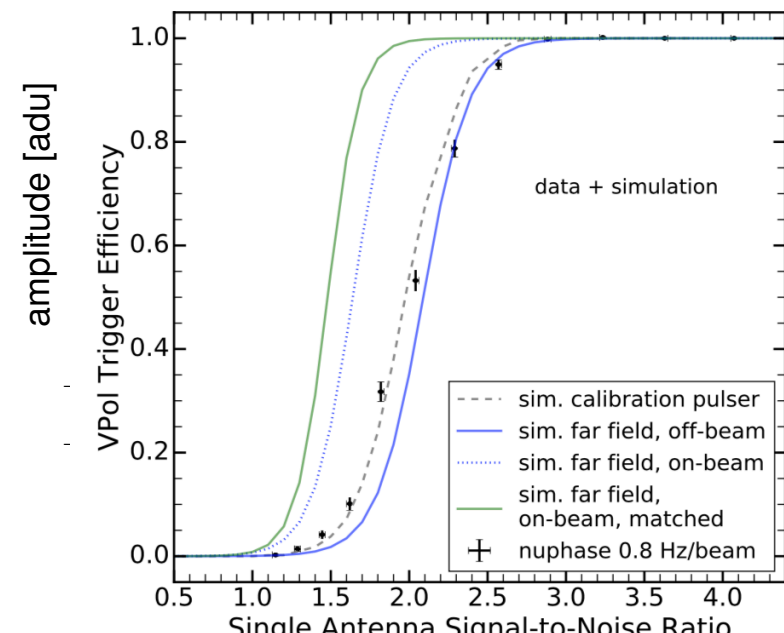
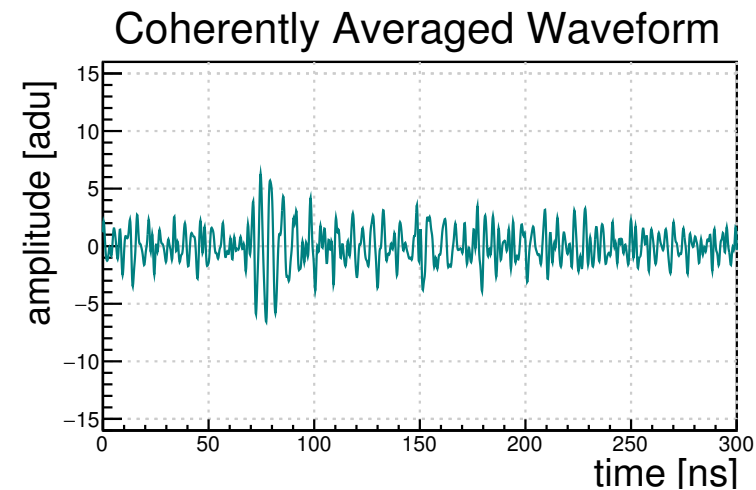
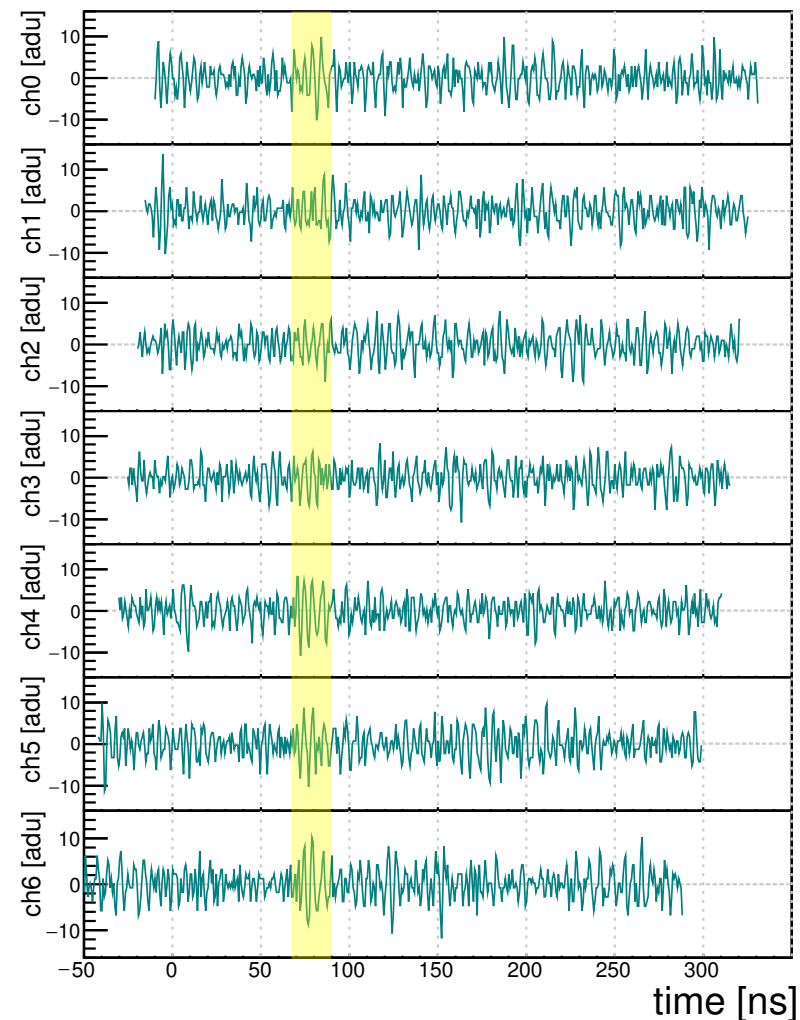
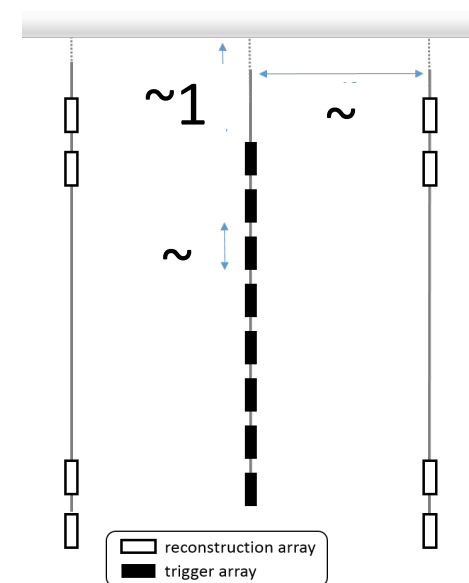
Simulated neutrino events triggering  
ARA station at 200m



# ARA station 5: Lowering trigger threshold with Phased Array of Antennas

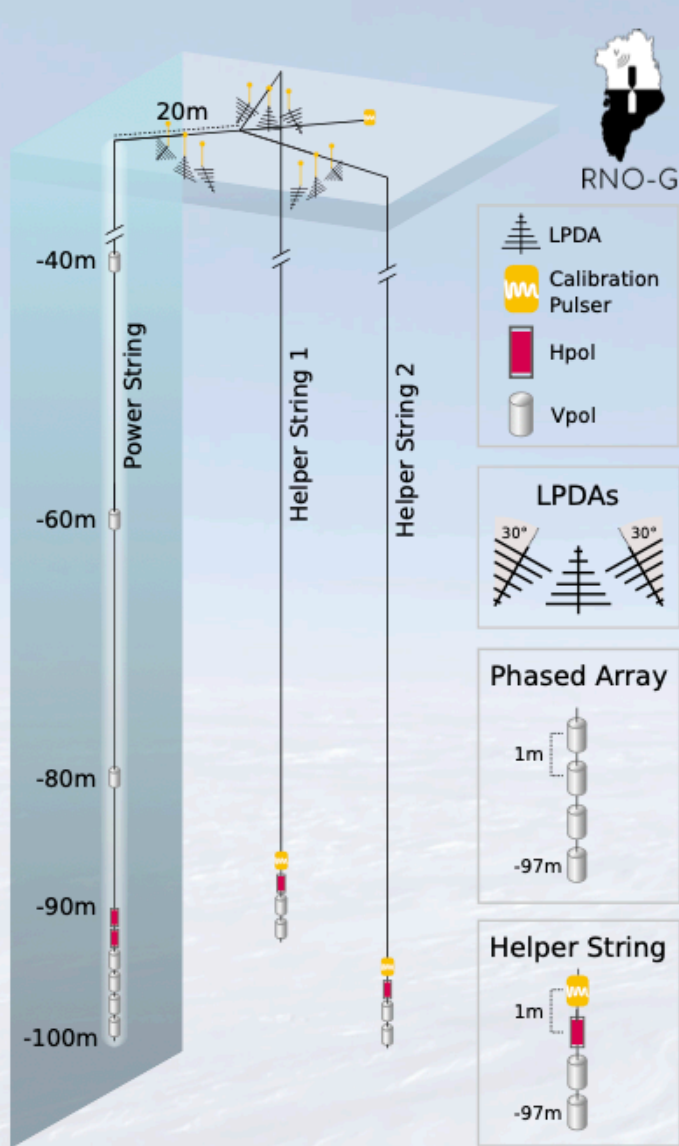
Spearheaded by Abby Vieregg et al.

Factor of  $\sim 2$   
increase in  
effective  
volume,  
event rates.

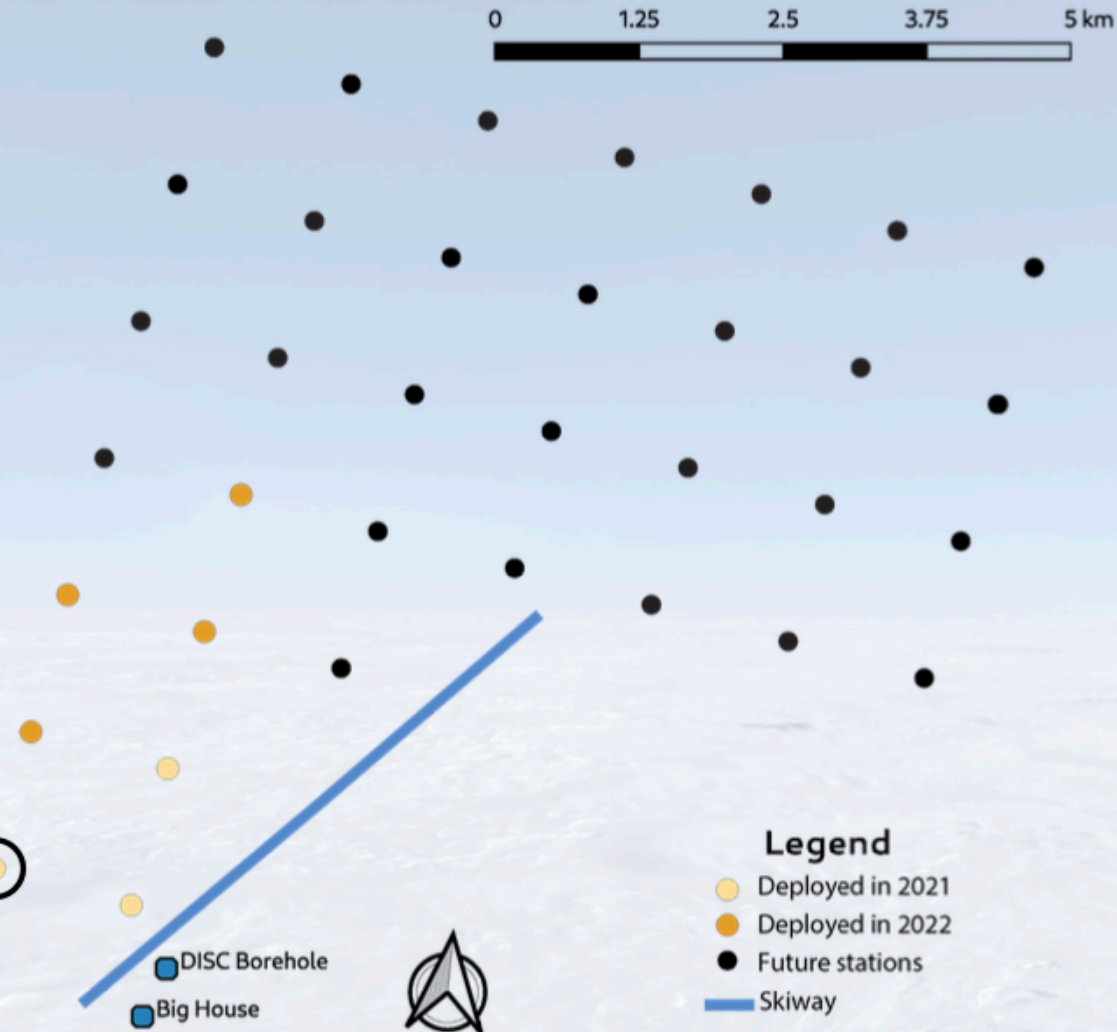


# RNO-G: Radio Neutrino Observatory - Greenland

## Hybrid station with 24 antennas



## 35 stations on 1.25 km grid



—>. Talks by  
Delia Tosi and  
Felix Schlüter

RNO-G: implements  
lessons learned from  
ARA, ARIANNA,  
Phased Array.

7 stations built,  
continued  
construction in the  
next several years.



# RNO-G: Radio Neutrino Observatory - Greenland

**Challenge:** Reliable and fast drilling

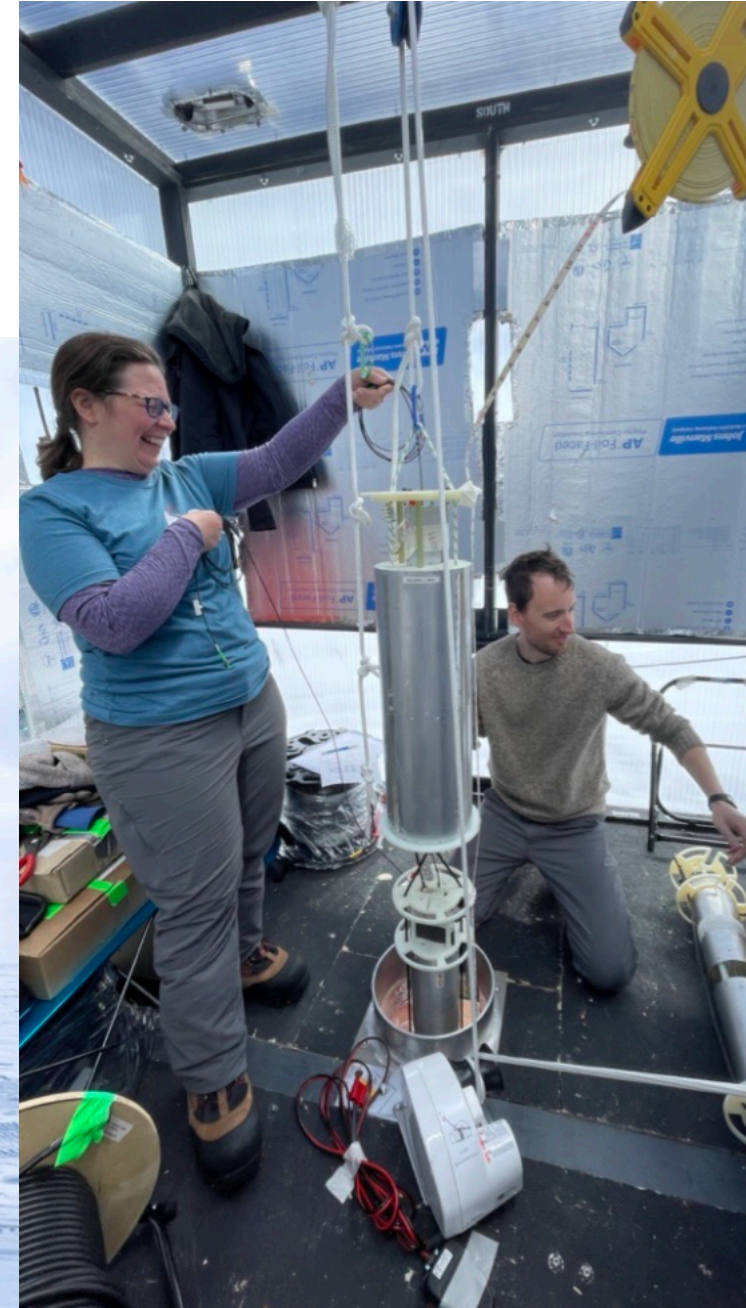
Drilling determines the schedule

Deployed 3 and 4 stations in past seasons (3 holes, 100m, per season)

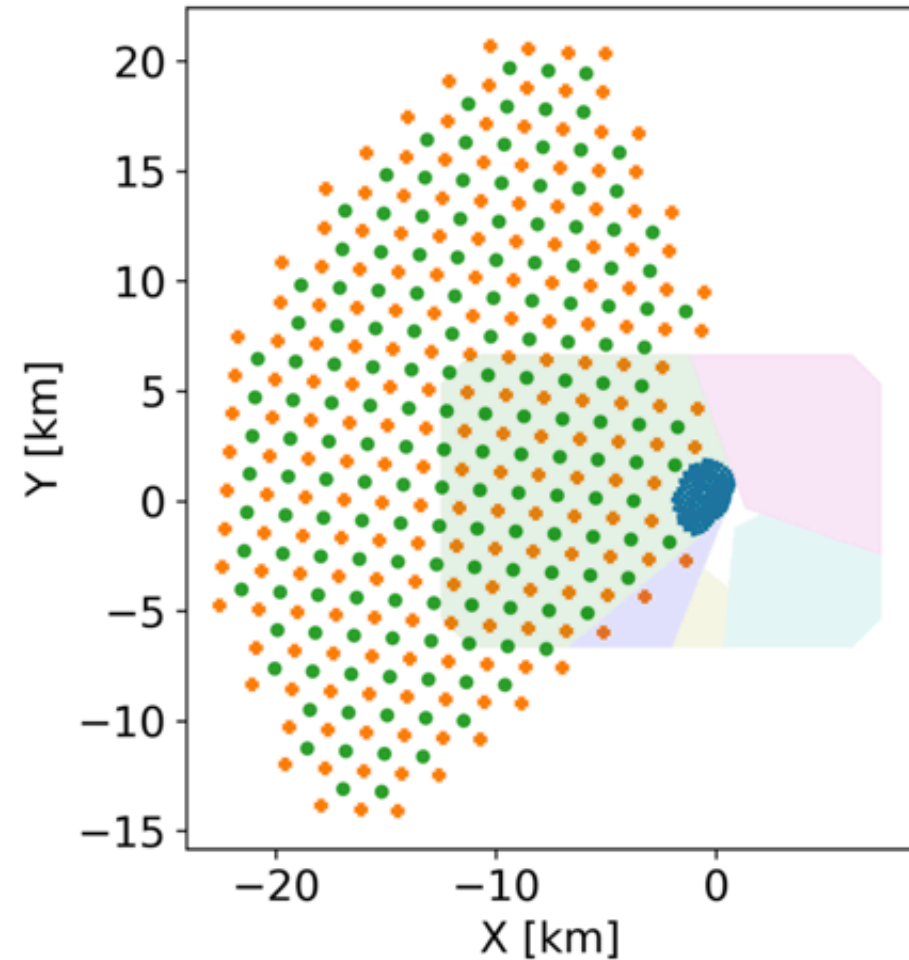
Team is hoping build one station in 3 days.

Sometimes bad weather.

RNO-G will provide important input for Gen2 Radio.



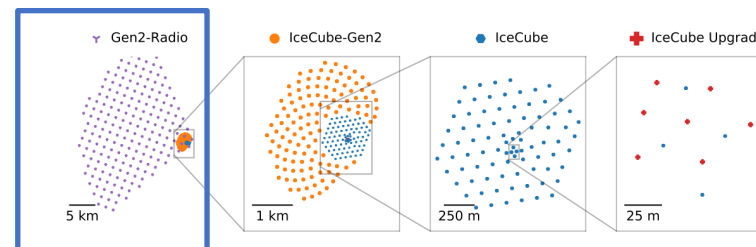
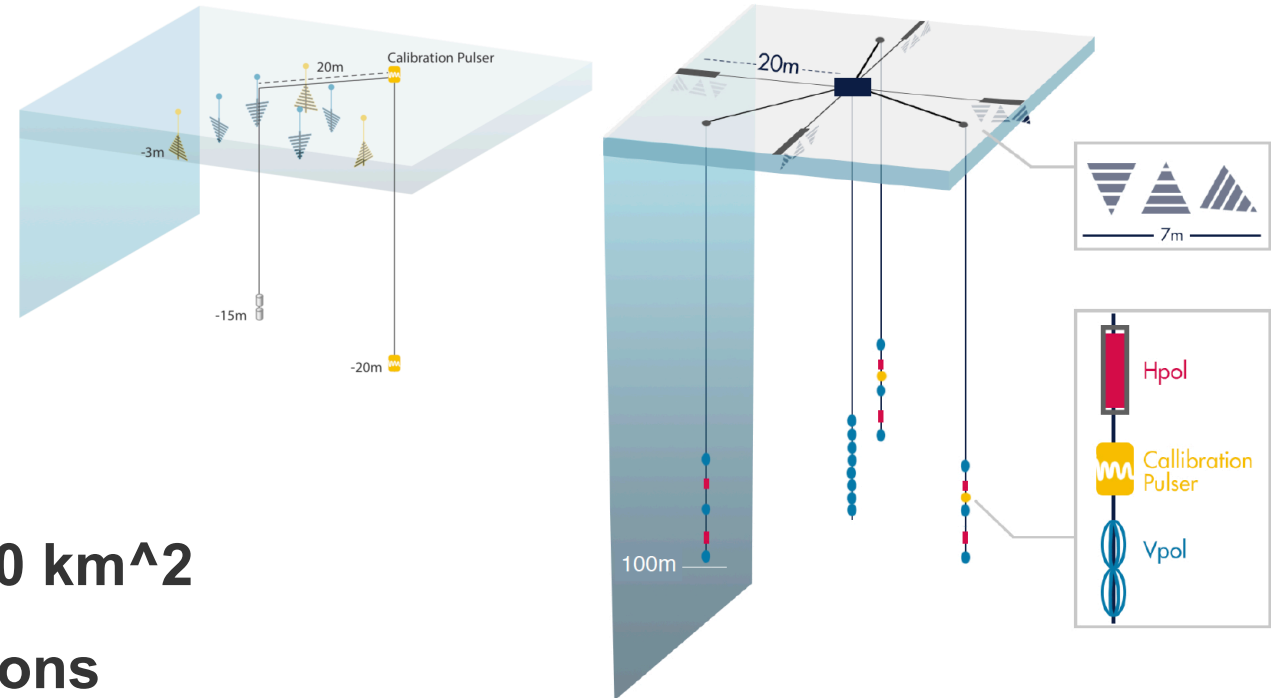
# The IceCube-Gen2: the radio array



**Area: 500 km<sup>2</sup>**

**300 stations**

**1000 km<sup>3</sup> of ice volume**

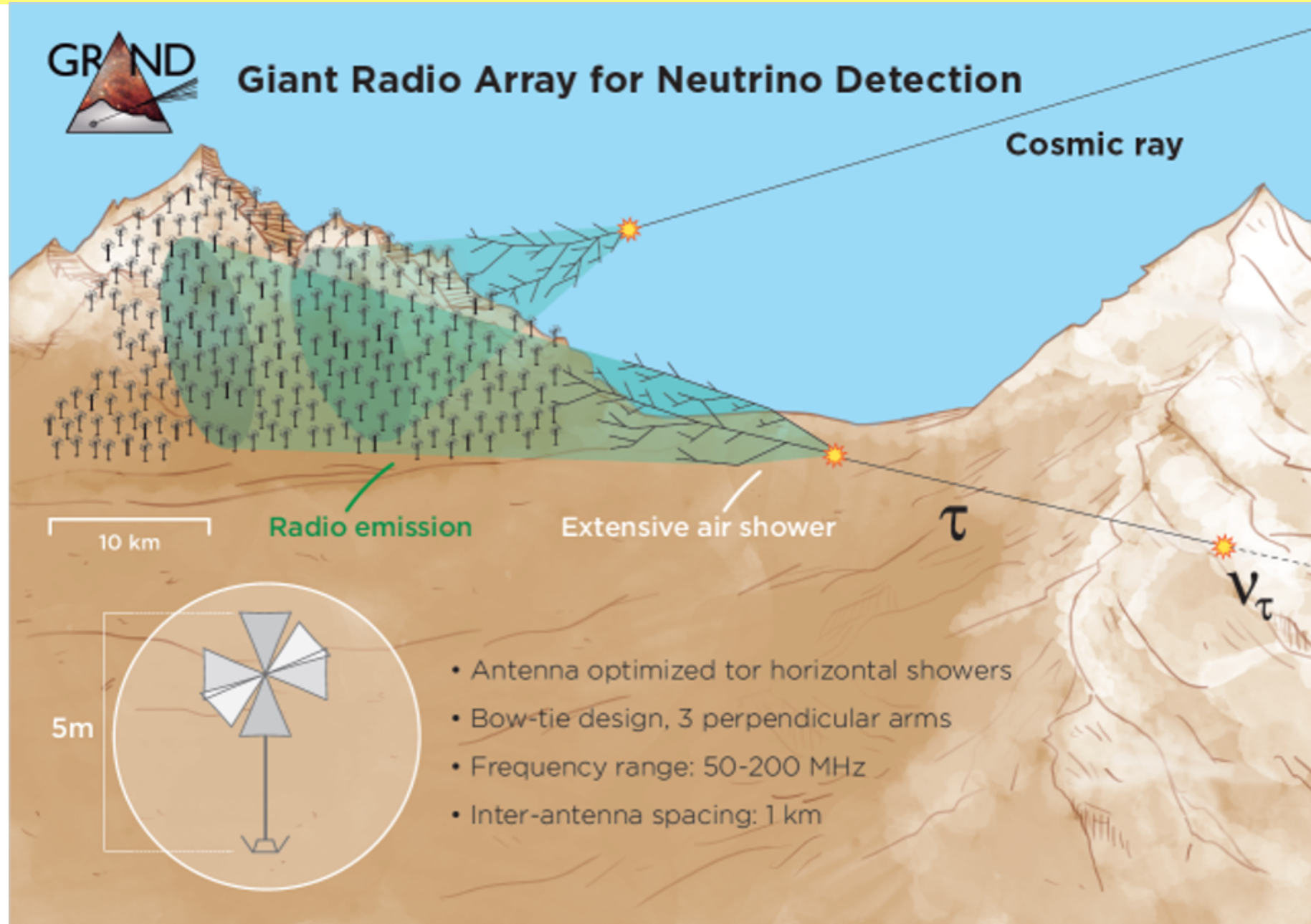


Heritage: ANITA (Antarctica from balloon), [ARA](#) (South Pole), RNO-G (Greenland)



# GRAND: 200,000 antennas for horizontal taus

proposed





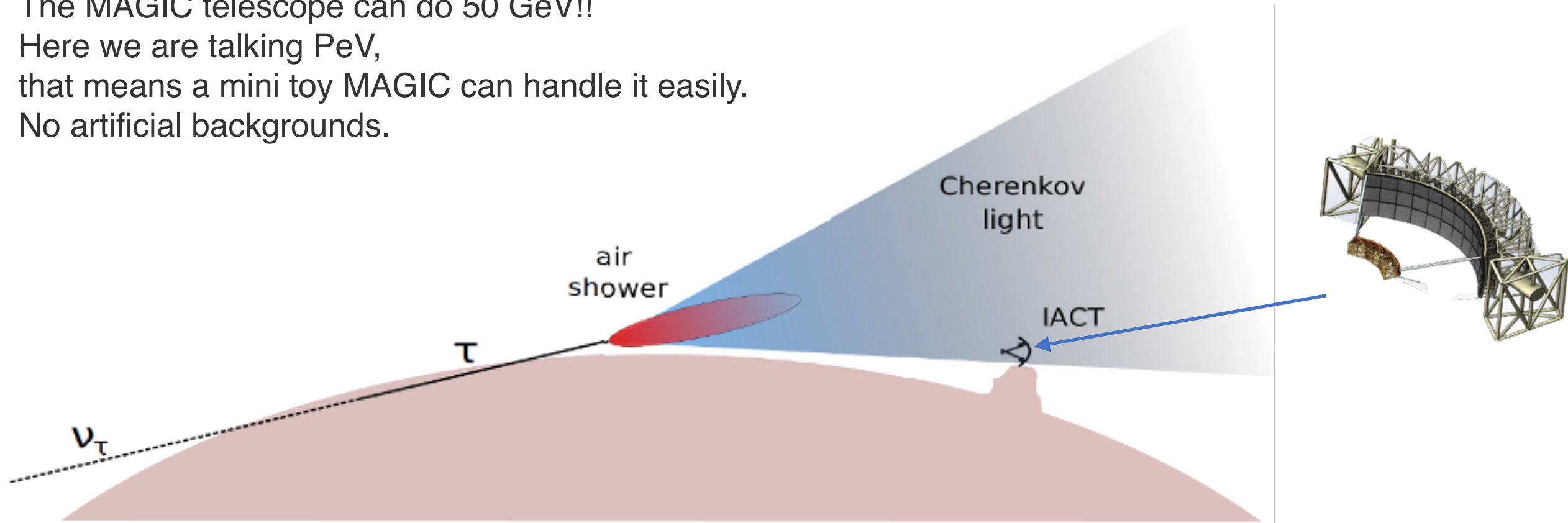
# Trinity: View upward taus mountain with Cherenkov telescope

see talk by Michele Doro

Advantage:  
Low Energy threshold for emerging tau neutrinos

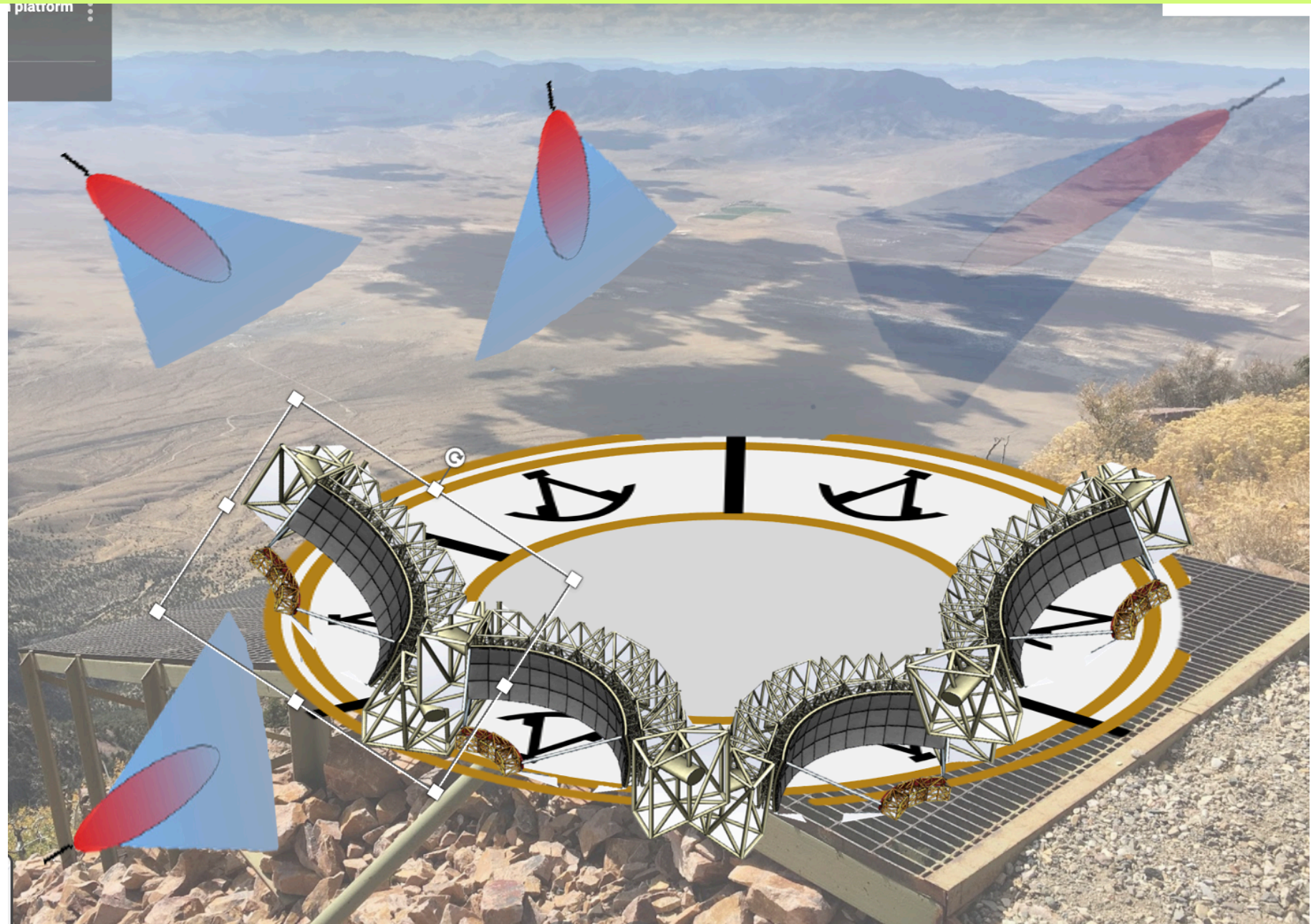
Nepomuk Otte

For ref.:  
The MAGIC telescope can do 50 GeV!!  
Here we are talking PeV,  
that means a mini toy MAGIC can handle it easily.  
No artificial backgrounds.



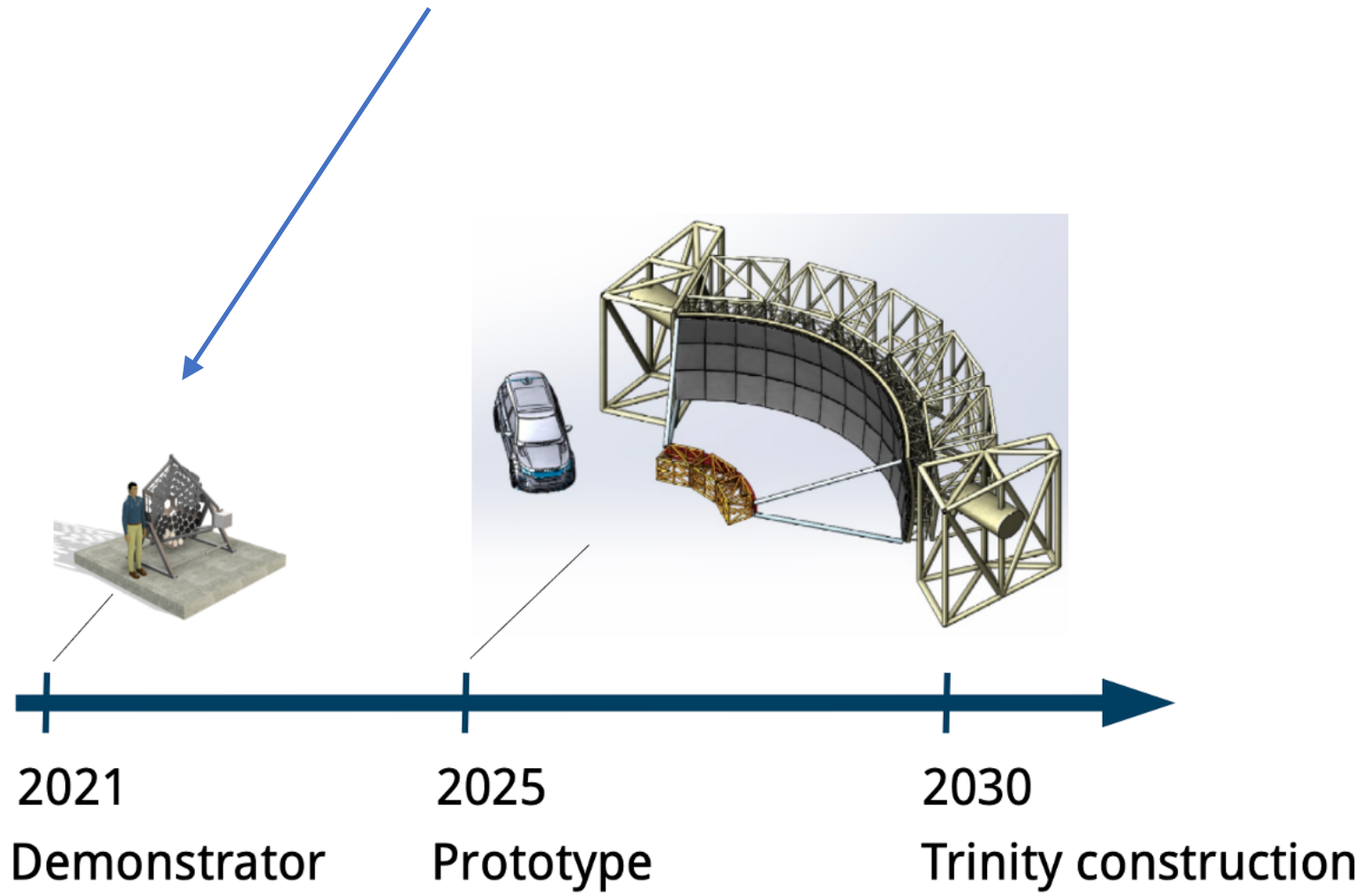
# Trinity: View upward taus mountain with Cherenkov telescope

proposed



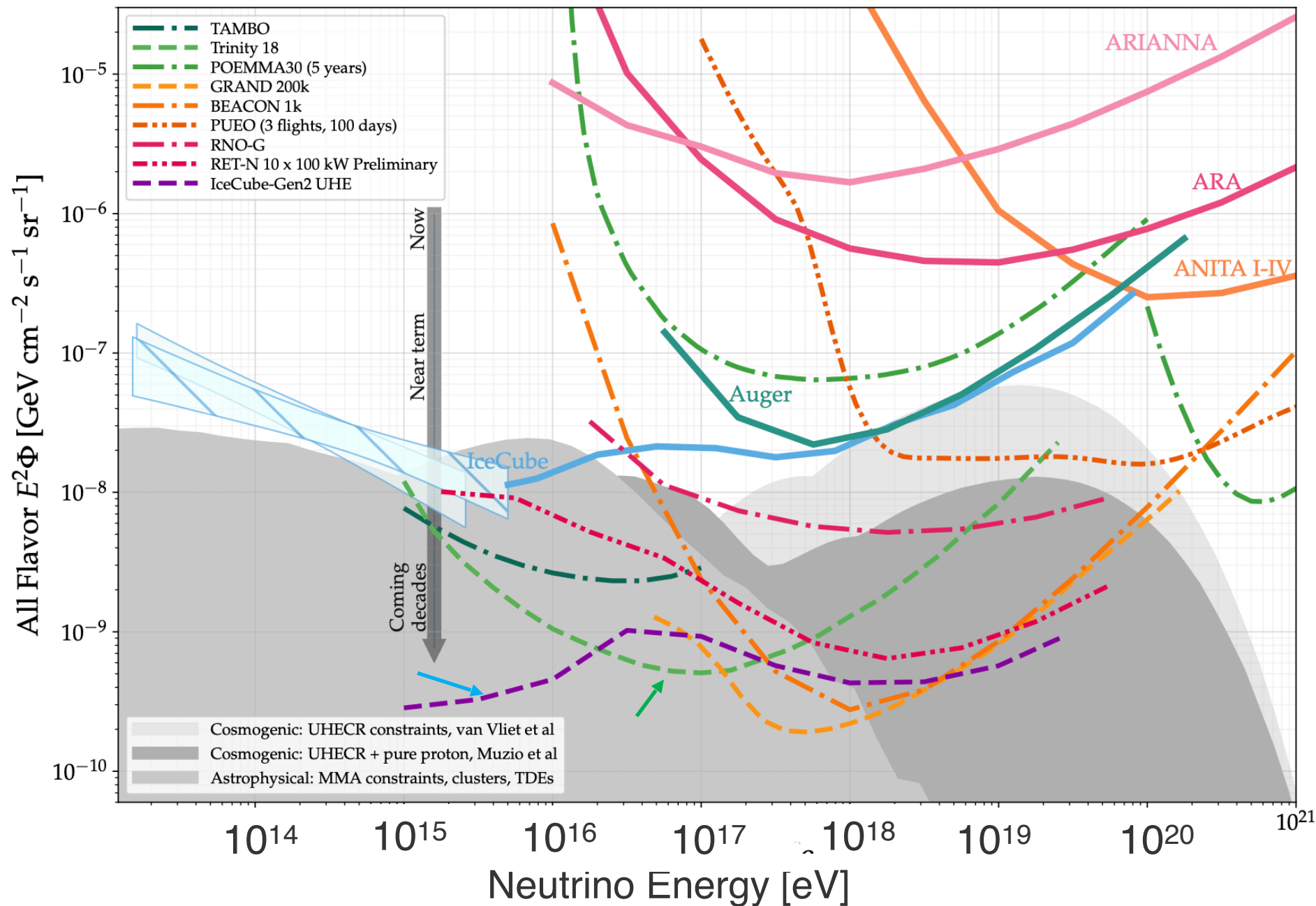
# Trinity: View upward taus mountain with Cherenkov telescope

— In early R&D phase





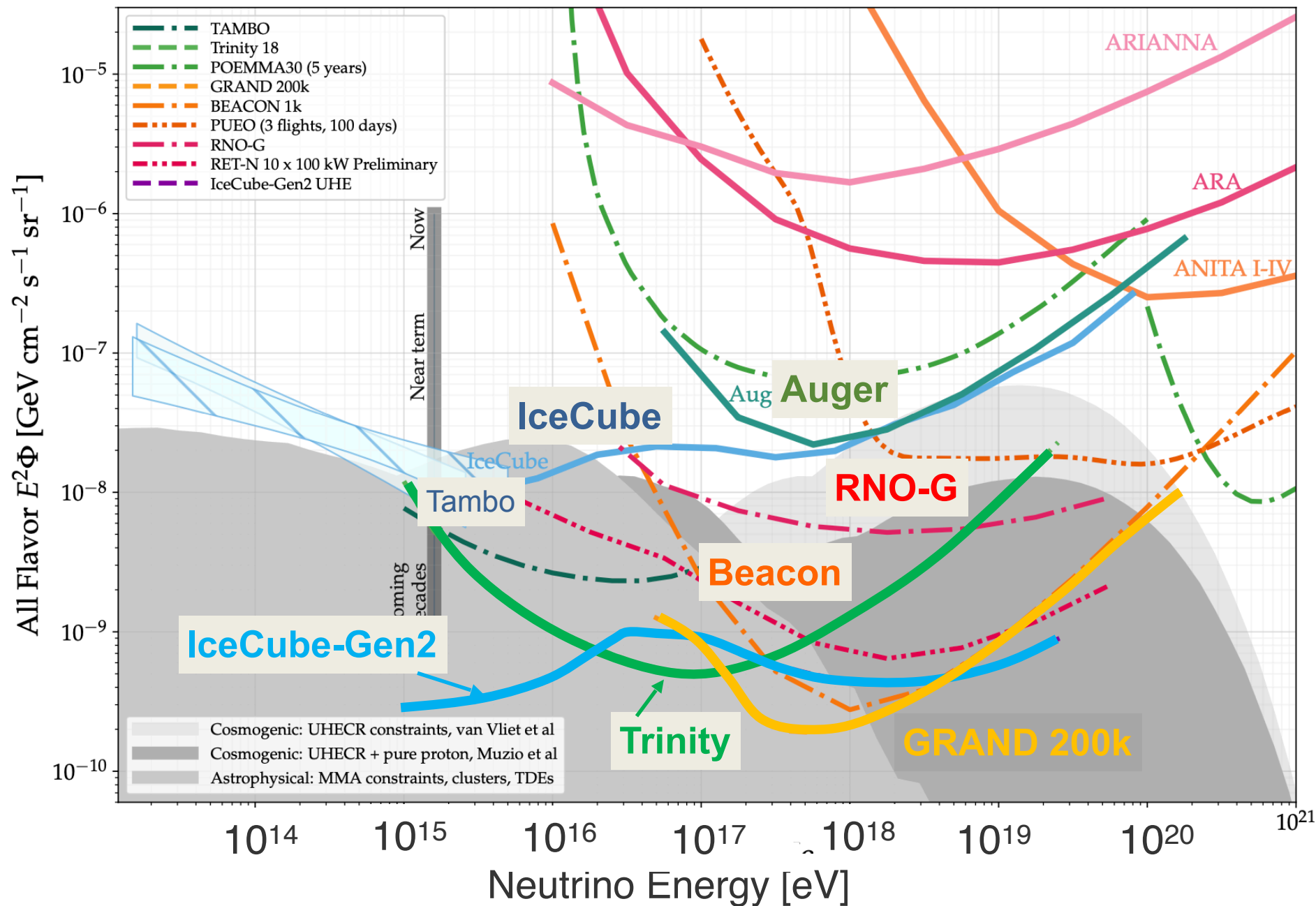
# Ultra High Energies: Sensitivities



High-Energy and  
Ultra-High-  
Energy  
Neutrinos: A  
**Snowmass**  
**White Paper**

[https://arxiv.org/  
abs/2203.08096](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.08096)

# Ultra High Energies: Sensitivities



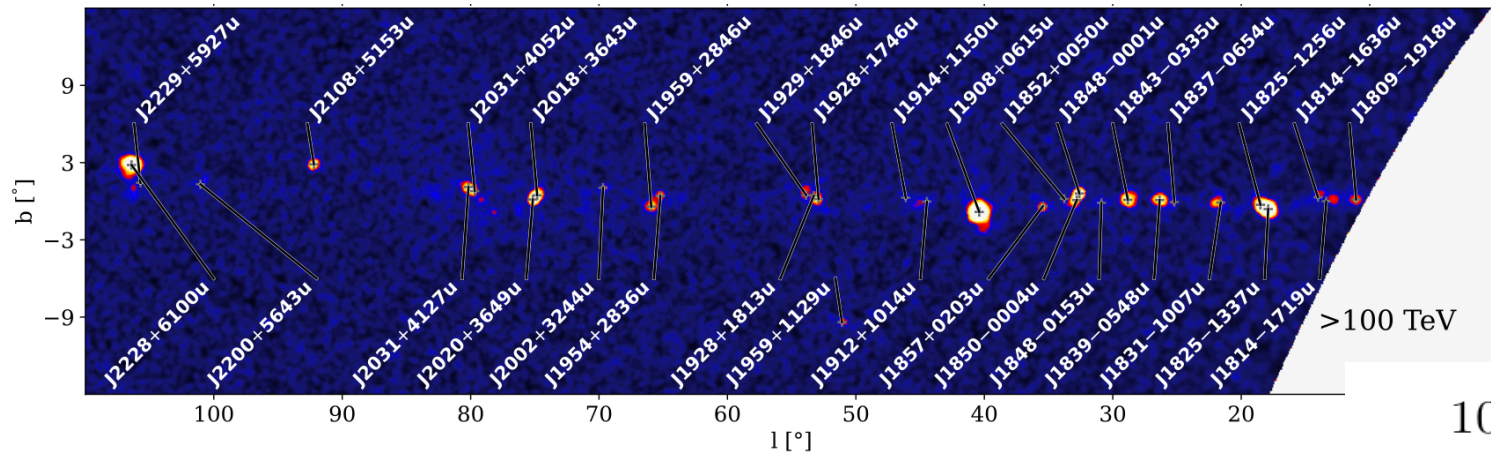
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# Outline

- Neutrino astronomy: The starting point
- IceCube, IceCube-Gen2
- Review of (other) current and planned projects  
optical
- Ultra High Energies
- **Outlook**

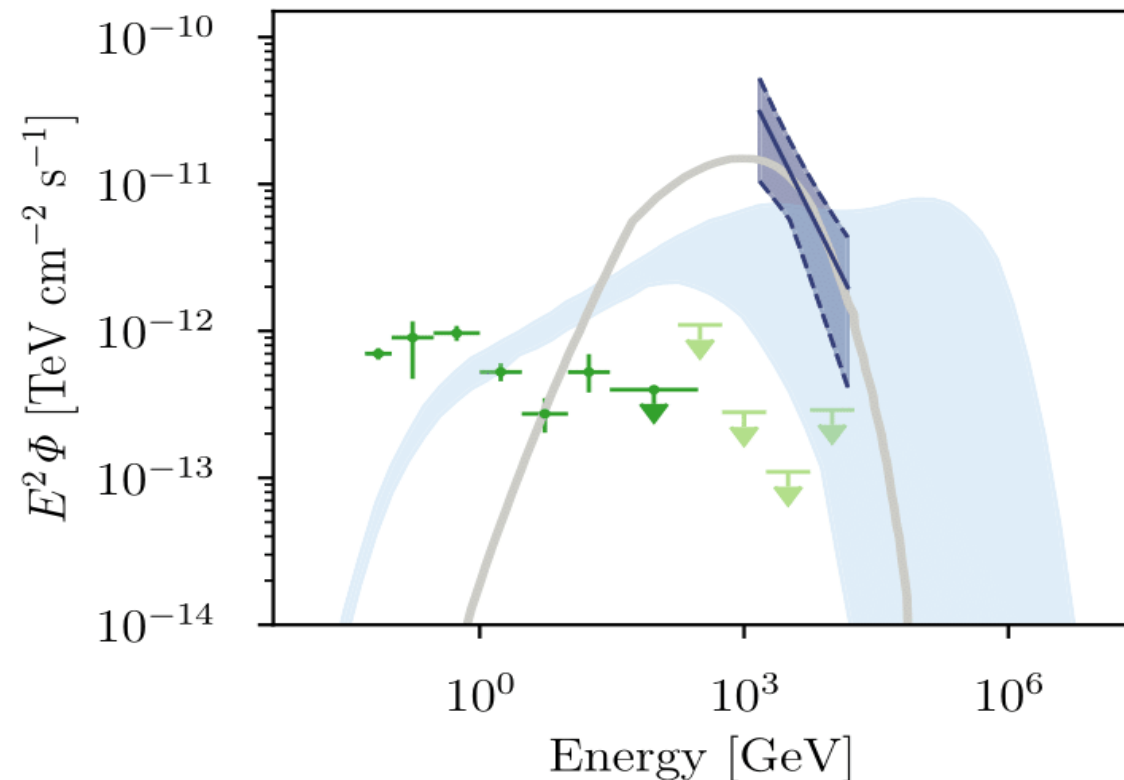




LHAASO: 43 sources exhibit clear UHE emission, with significance above  $4\sigma$  at  $E > 100$  TeV

—> We need Neutrinos to access cosmic ray accelerators!

NGC 1068 not seen in high energy Gamma Rays.



- High energy Neutrino astronomy has entered a new era
  - From discovery to astroparticle physics and astronomy
  - ICRC had more than 150 papers on neutrino telescopes
- Several detectors are advancing in construction:
  - Baikal and KM3Net, RNO-G, ...
- New and ambitious projects:
  - P-ONE, IceCube-Gen2, TRIDENT, HUNT

Order of magnitude increase in discovery potential.

Will also allow to characterize the energy spectrum of NGC 1068

(Low energies as important as high energies)

Neutrinos play growing role in Multimessenger Astrophysics

Can't rely on gamma rays to find cosmic ray accelerators.

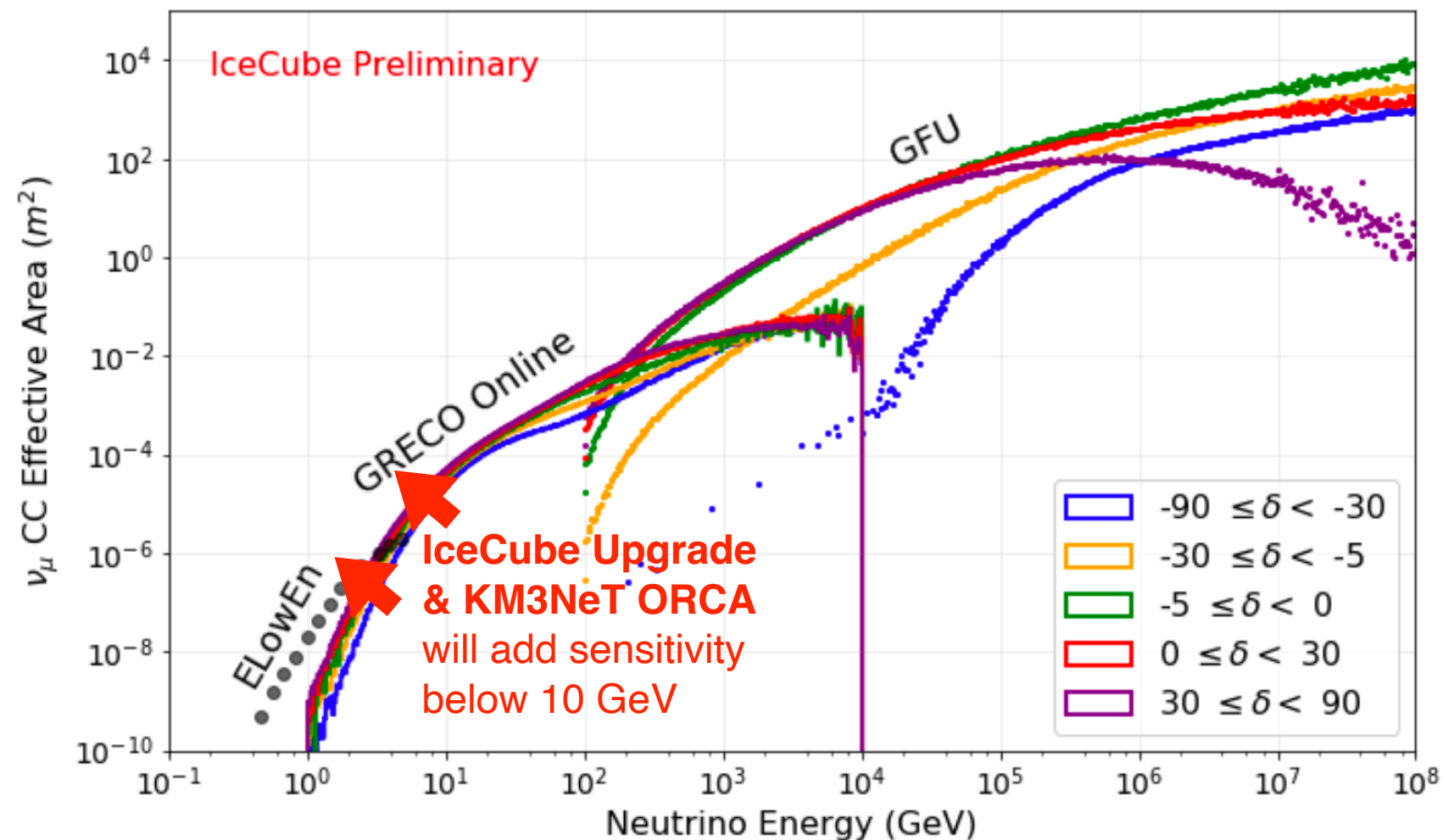
# Backups



# Lowest energies: GeV Neutrinos for transient sources MMA

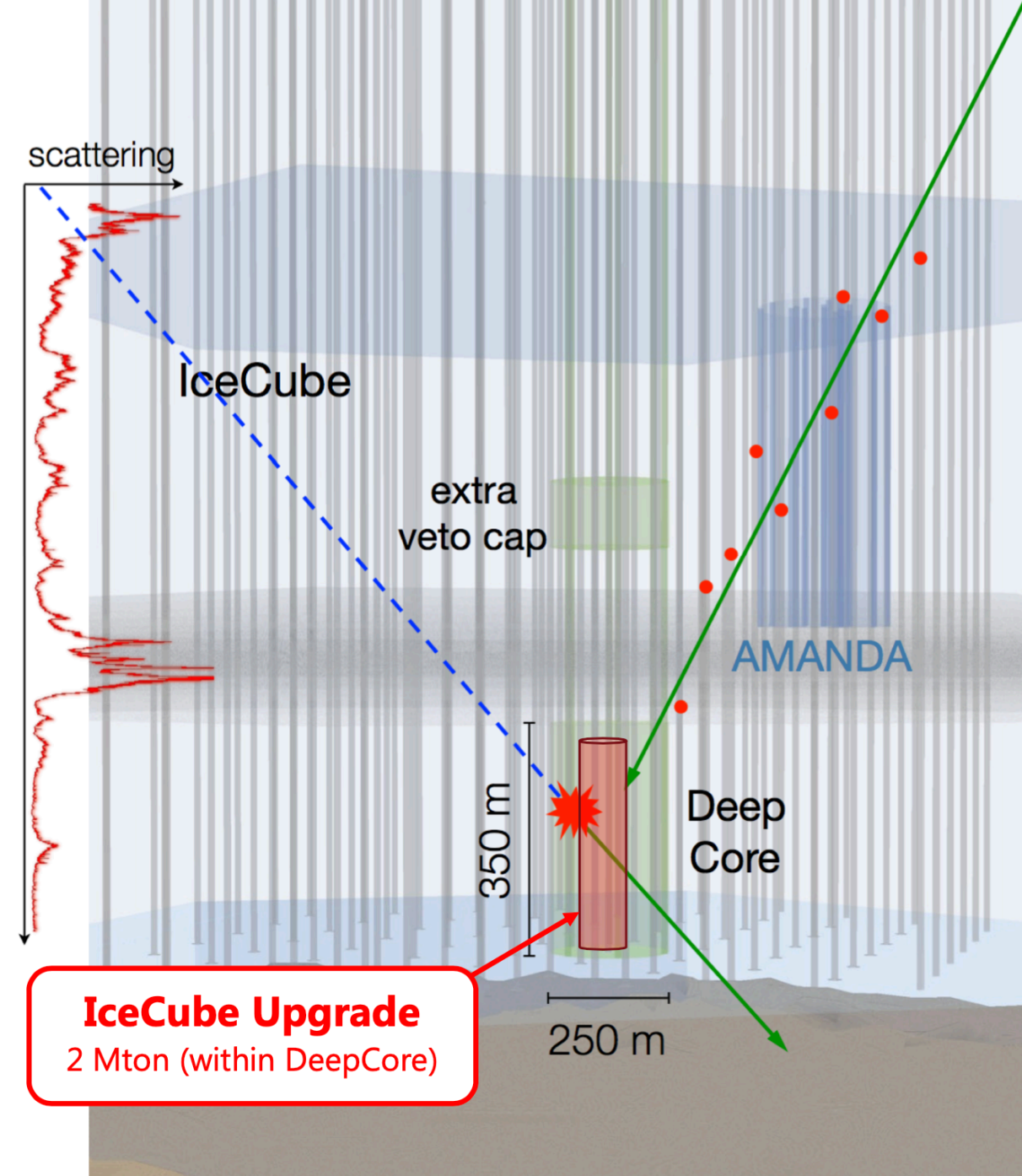
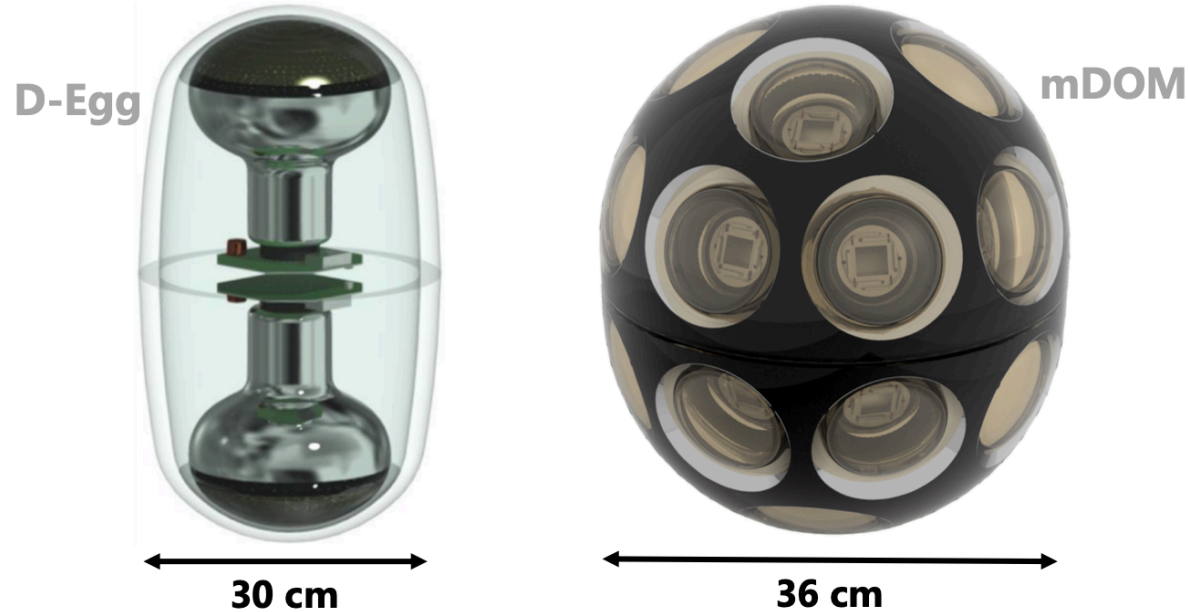
## IceCube Upgrade and KM3NeT ORCA

will dramatically improve sensitivity from 1 - 30 GeV  
(essentially BG free for short transients.)



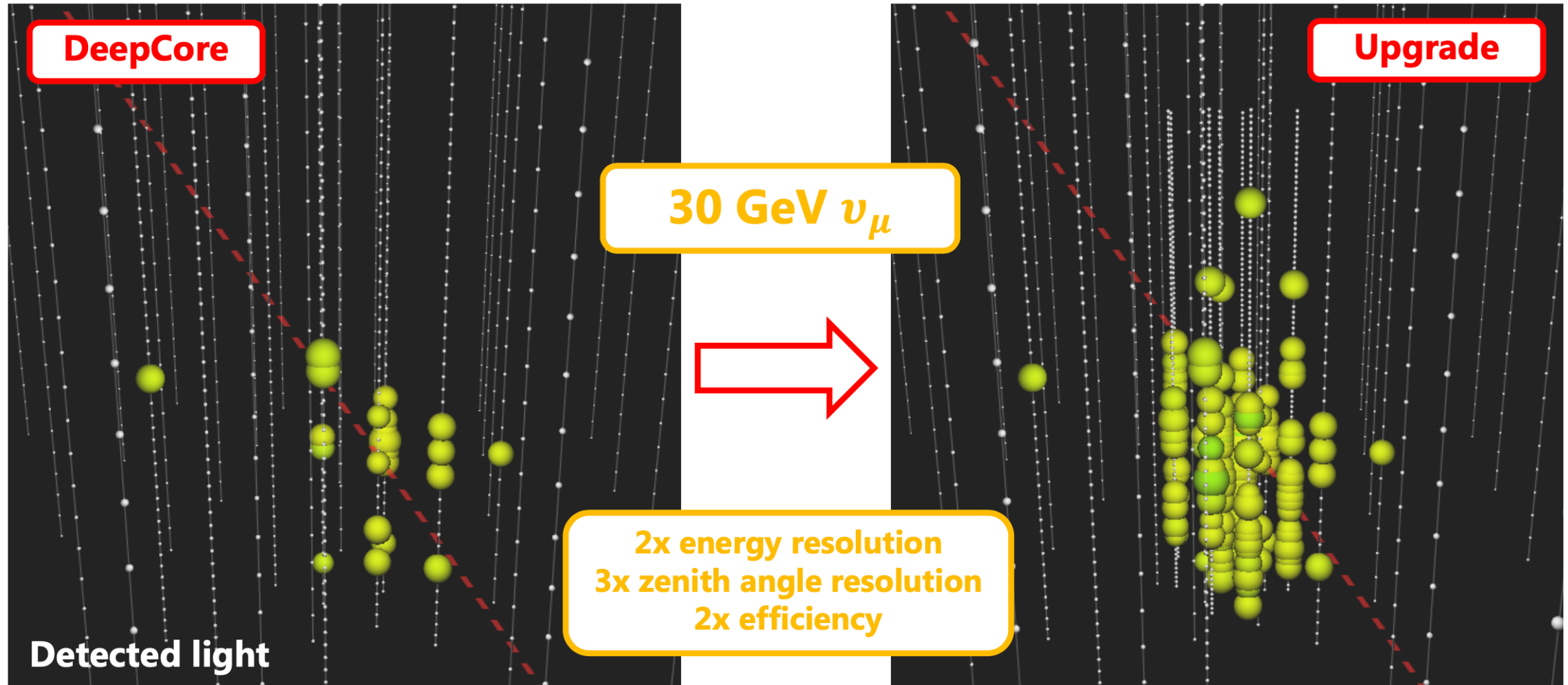
# The IceCube Upgrade

- **Low-energy extension to IceCube**
  - Deployment in **2025/6**
  - **Drop threshold to 1 GeV**
- 700 multi-PMT sensors
- Improved detector/ice calibration



# IceCube Upgrade: Increased photocathode density

- **Dense instrumentation** in 2 Mton core
  - Large increase in photocathode density → sensitive down to **~1 GeV neutrinos**



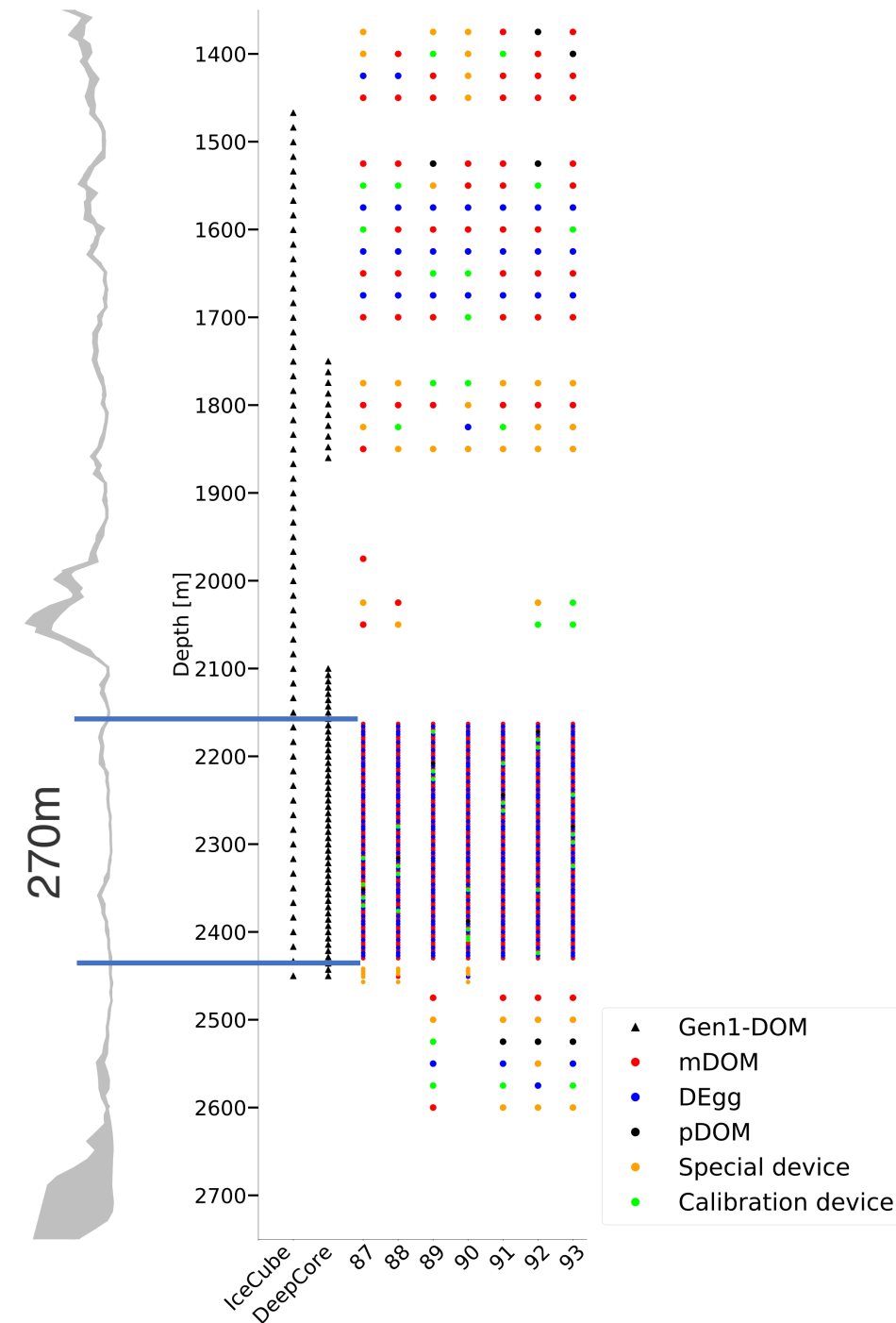
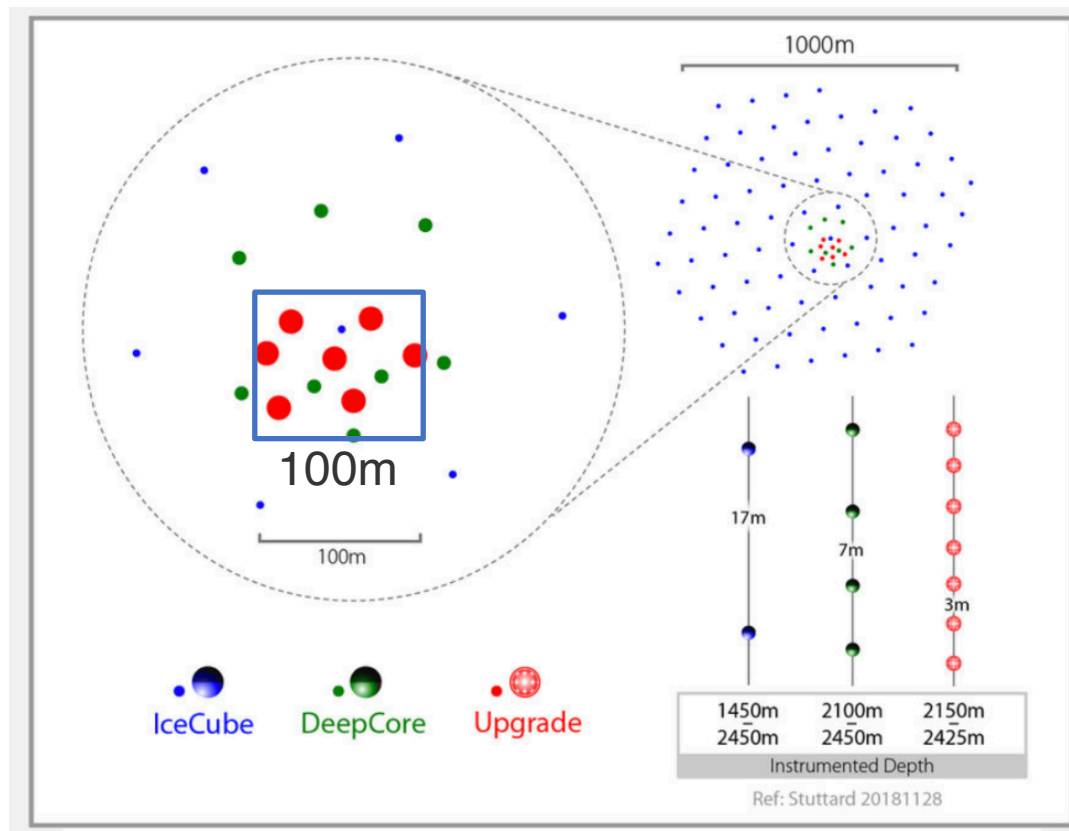


# The IceCube Upgrade

Seven strings, densely instrumented.

Instrumented volume: 2.7 Mt

700 DOMs in clearest ice.



# IceCube-Gen2 sensitivity: Point sources

77

