

Tau neutrinos from GeV to EeV

Mauricio Bustamante

Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen

13th CRIS-MAC
Trapani, June 18, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN

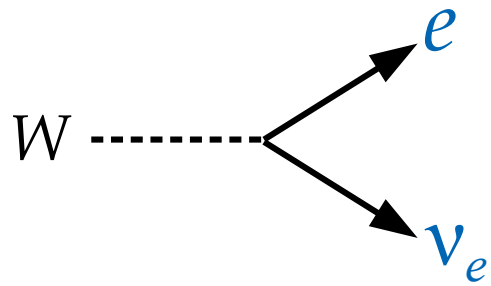


VILLUM FONDEN



electron e ●

electron
neutrino ν_e ●



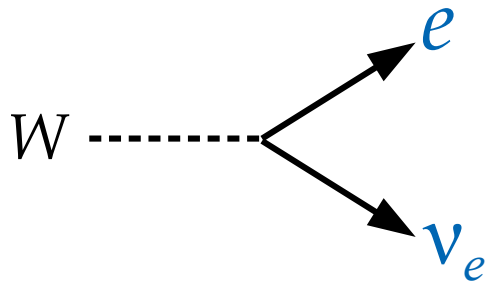
electron e



muon μ



electron
neutrino ν_e

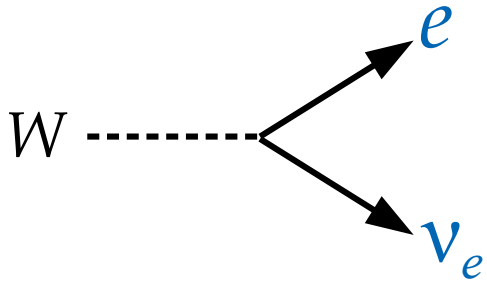


electron e ●

muon μ ●

tau(on) τ ●

electron
neutrino ν_e ●



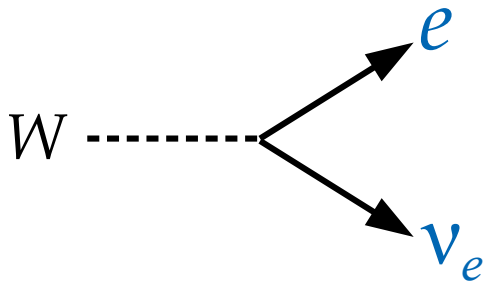
electron e ●

muon μ ●

tau(on) τ ●

$200 \times$ electron mass

electron
neutrino ν_e ●

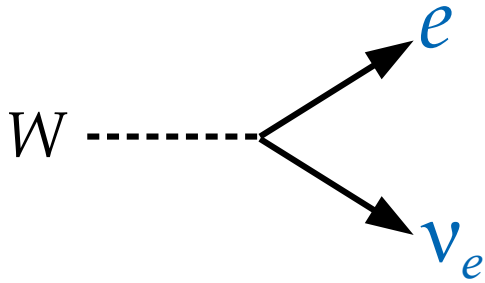


electron e ●

muon μ ●
 $200 \times$ electron mass

tau(on) τ ●
 $3500 \times$ electron mass

electron
neutrino ν_e ●



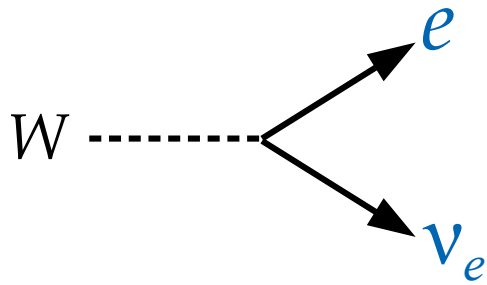
electron e ●

muon μ ●

tau(on) τ ●

electron
neutrino ν_e ●

muon
neutrino ν_μ ●



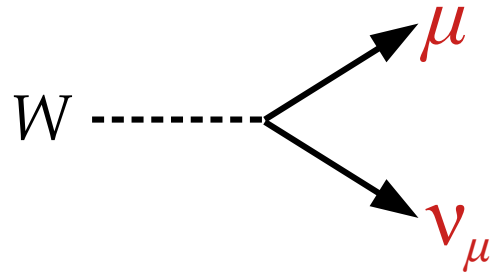
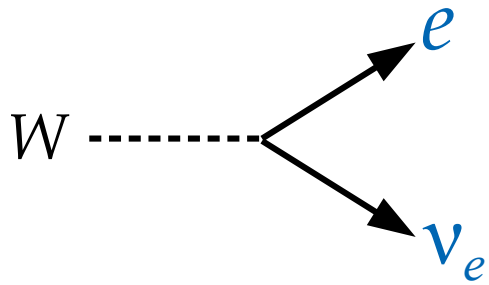
electron e ●

muon μ ●

tau(on) τ ●

electron
neutrino ν_e ●

muon
neutrino ν_μ ●



electron e ●

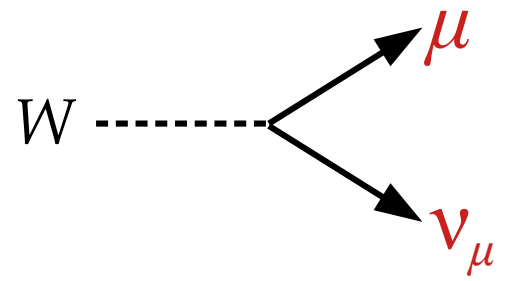
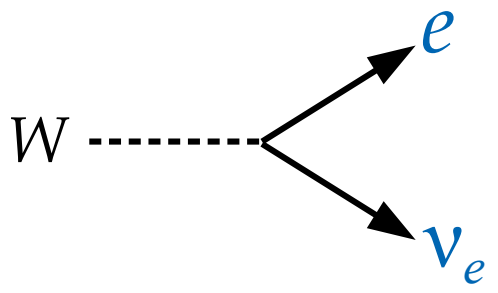
muon μ ●

tau(on) τ ●

electron neutrino ν_e ●

muon neutrino ν_μ ●

tau neutrino ν_τ ●



electron e ●

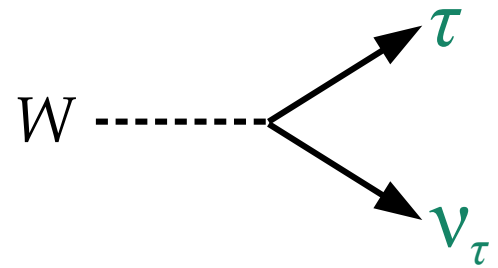
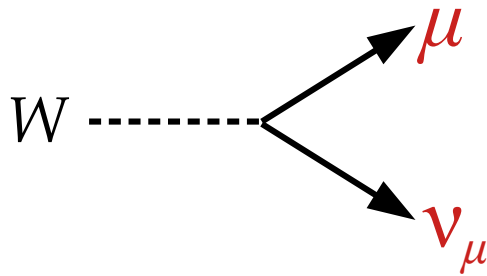
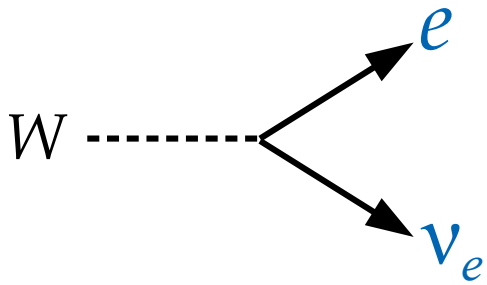
muon μ ●

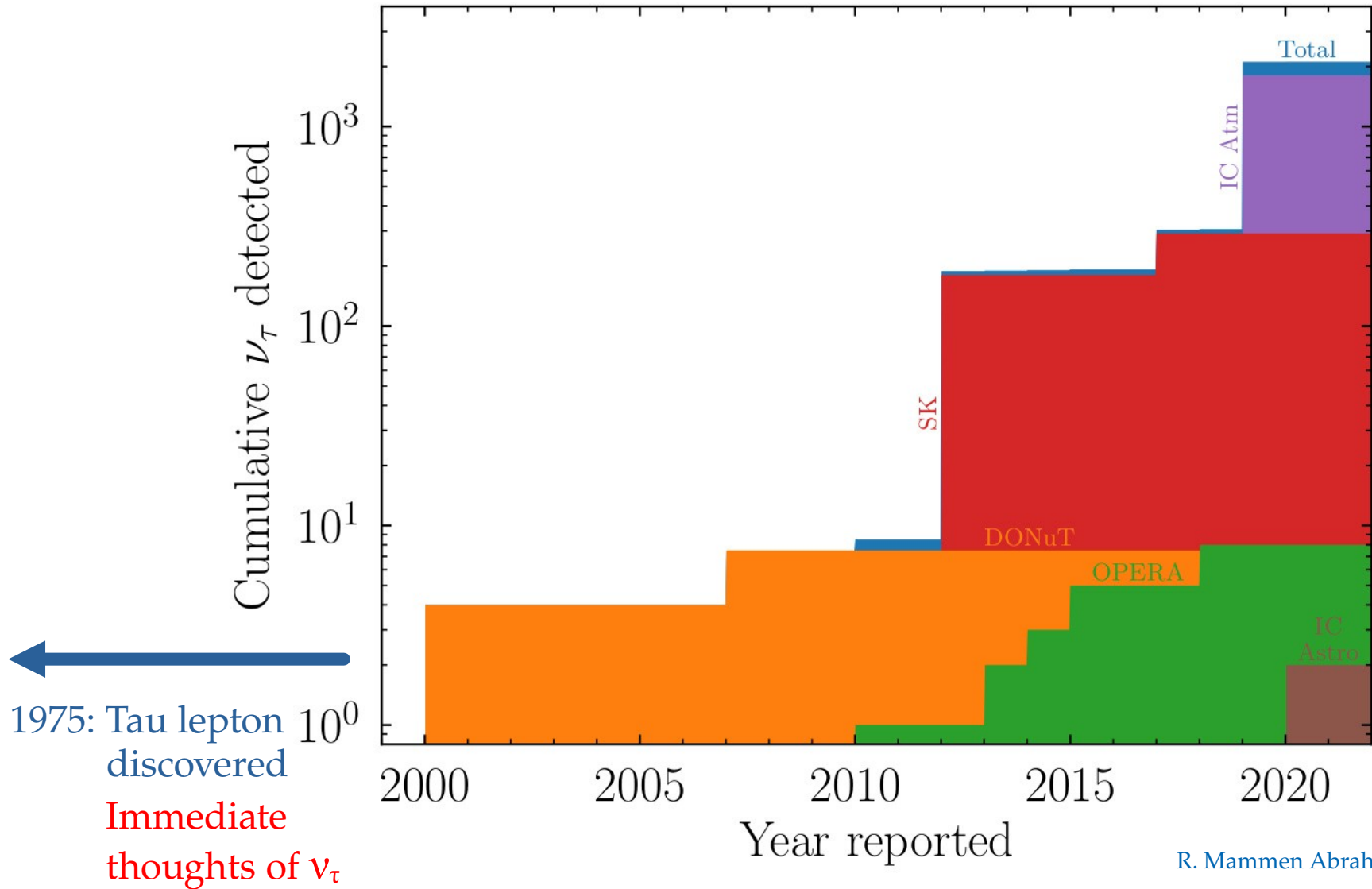
tau(on) τ ●

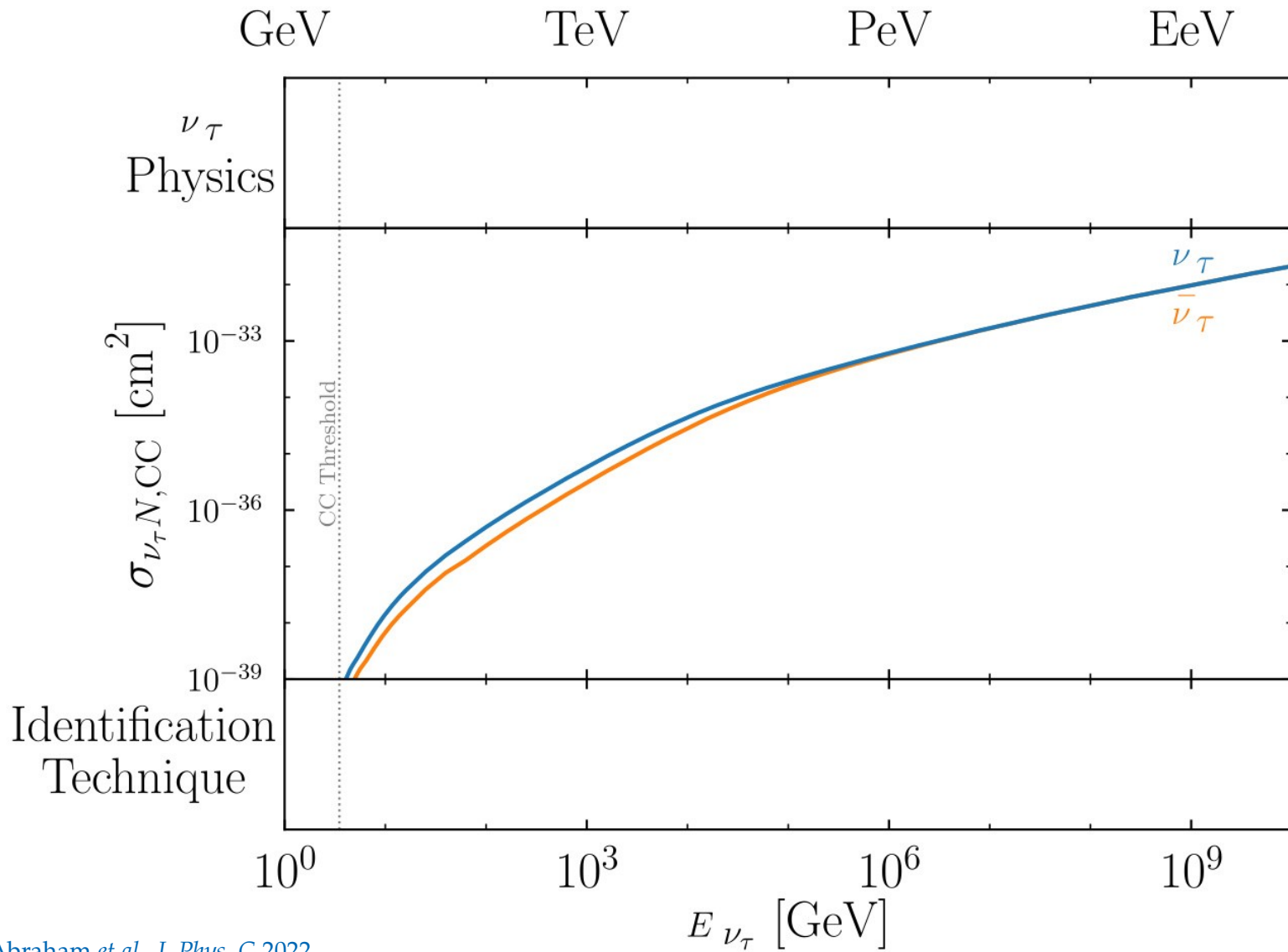
electron
neutrino ν_e ●

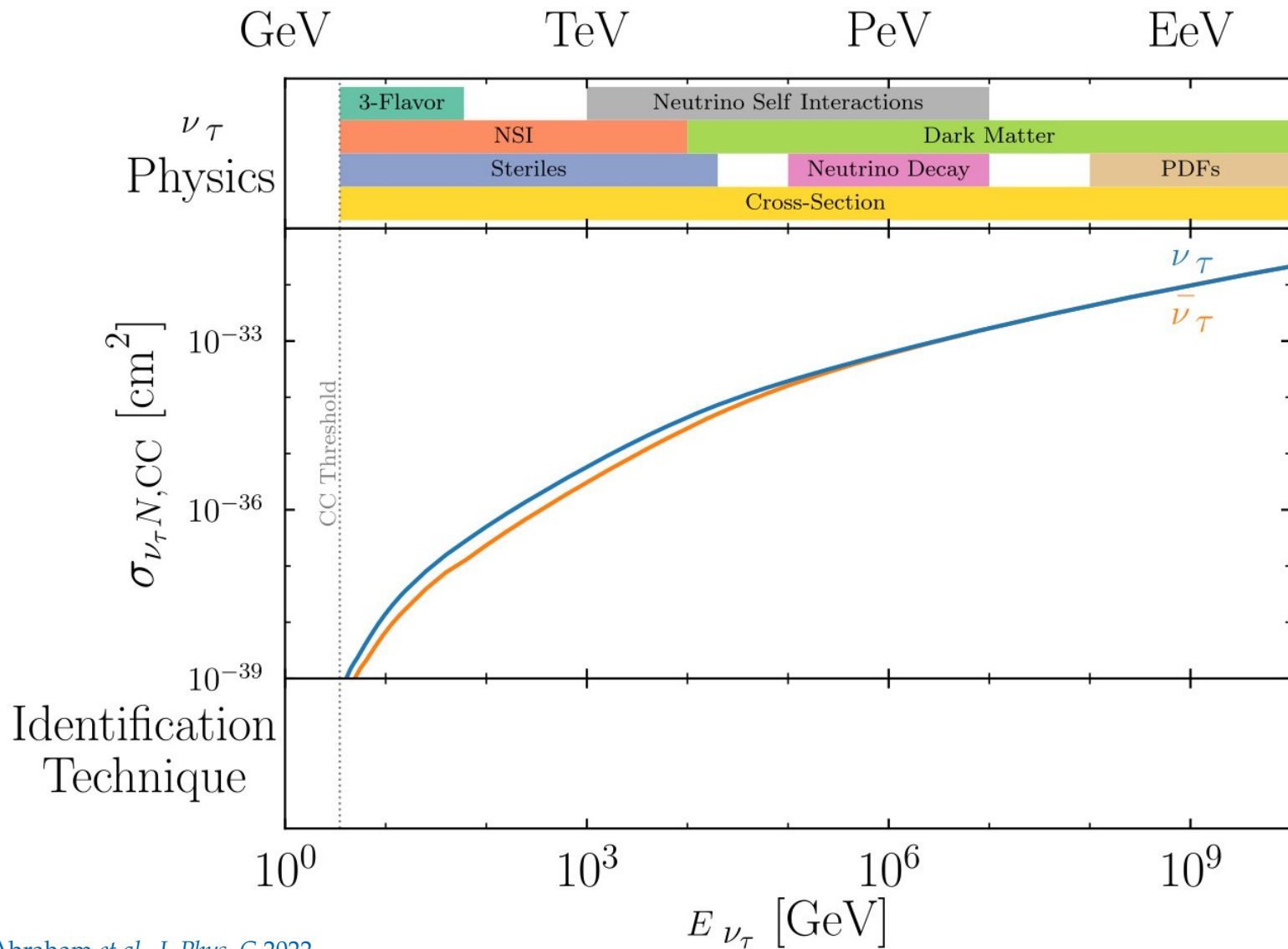
muon
neutrino ν_μ ●

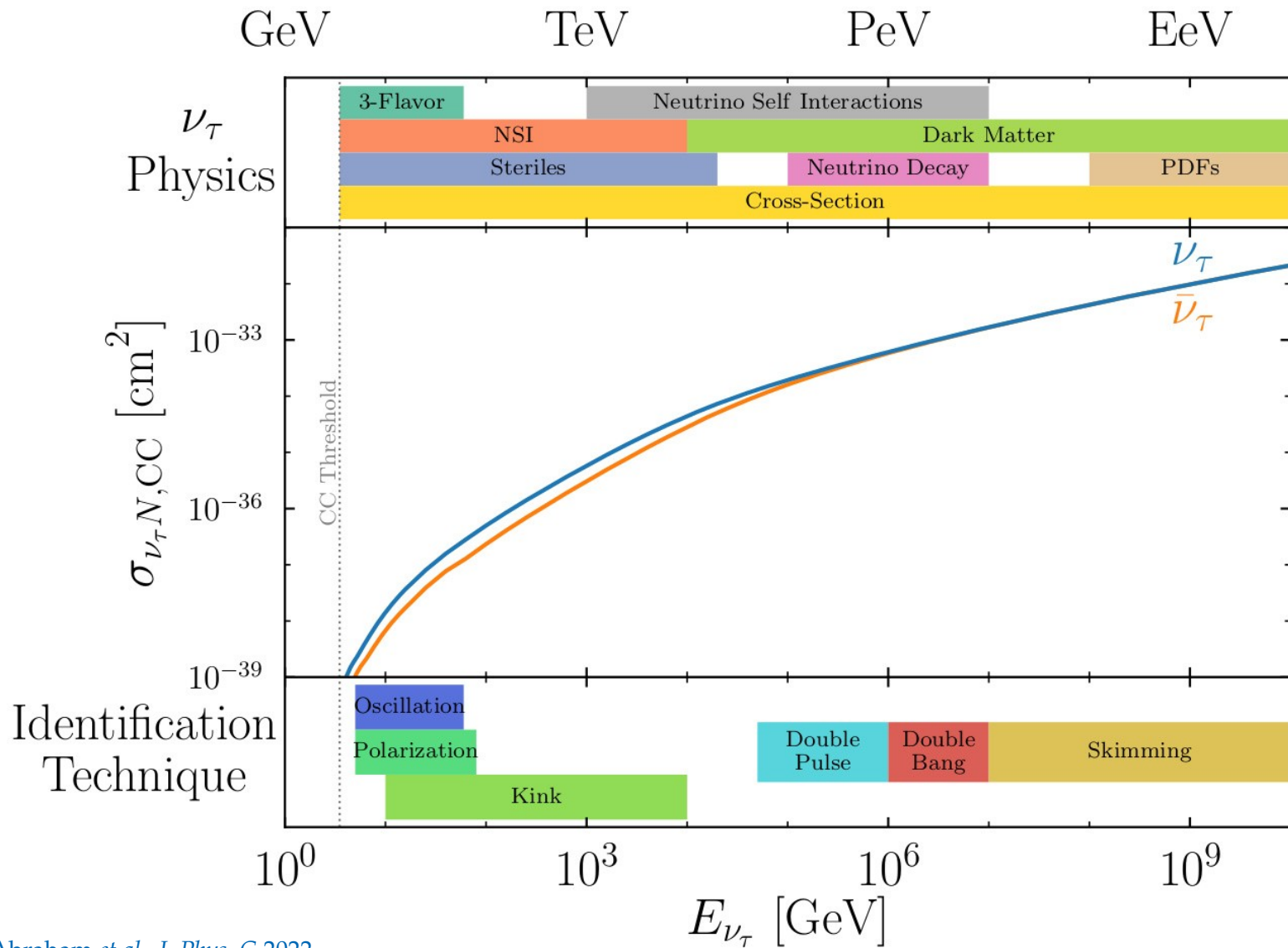
tau
neutrino ν_τ ●











1

Neutrino oscillations is a three-state system (ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ),
but we study them using mainly two (ν_e and ν_μ)

2

The **flavor composition** of high-energy cosmic neutrinos reflects
the physical conditions inside cosmic accelerators

3

At **ultra-high energies** ($> 10^{18}$ eV), ν_τ provide unique detection
opportunities (ν_τ regeneration, Earth-skimming ν_τ)

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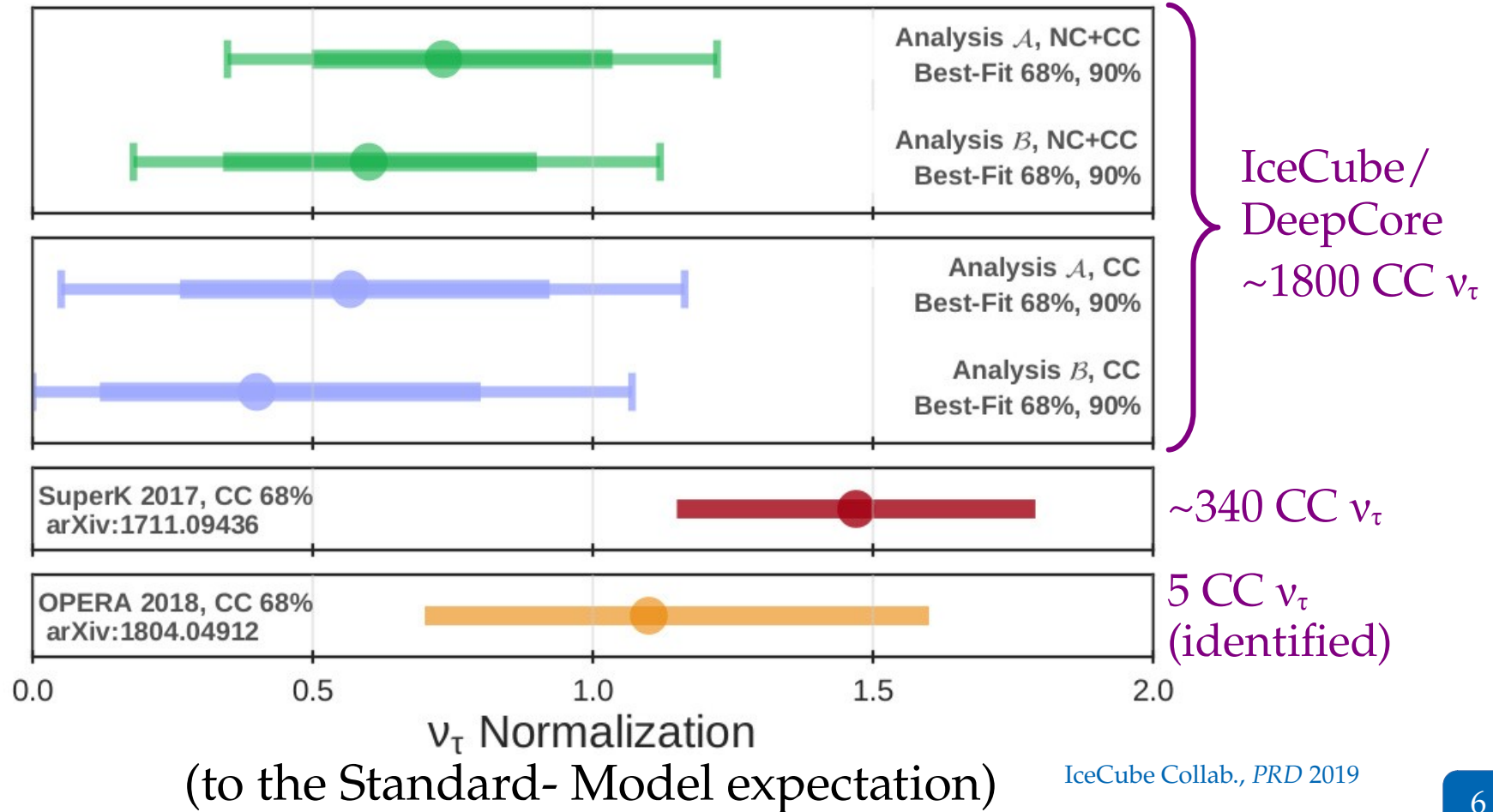
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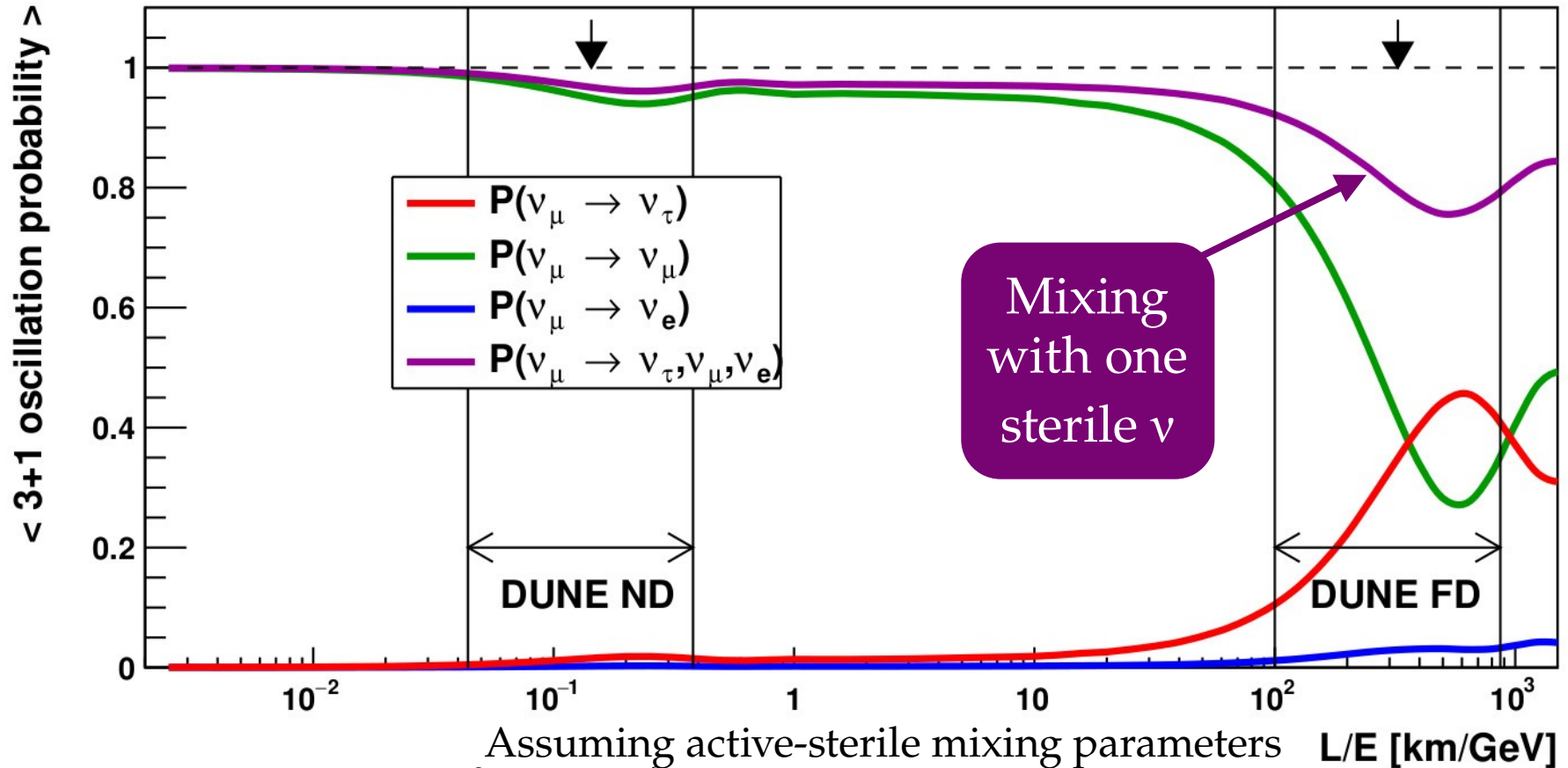
Do GeV ν_τ interact as expected?

Using GeV-scale atmospheric and accelerator ν_τ :



Tau neutrinos can test the three-neutrino paradigm

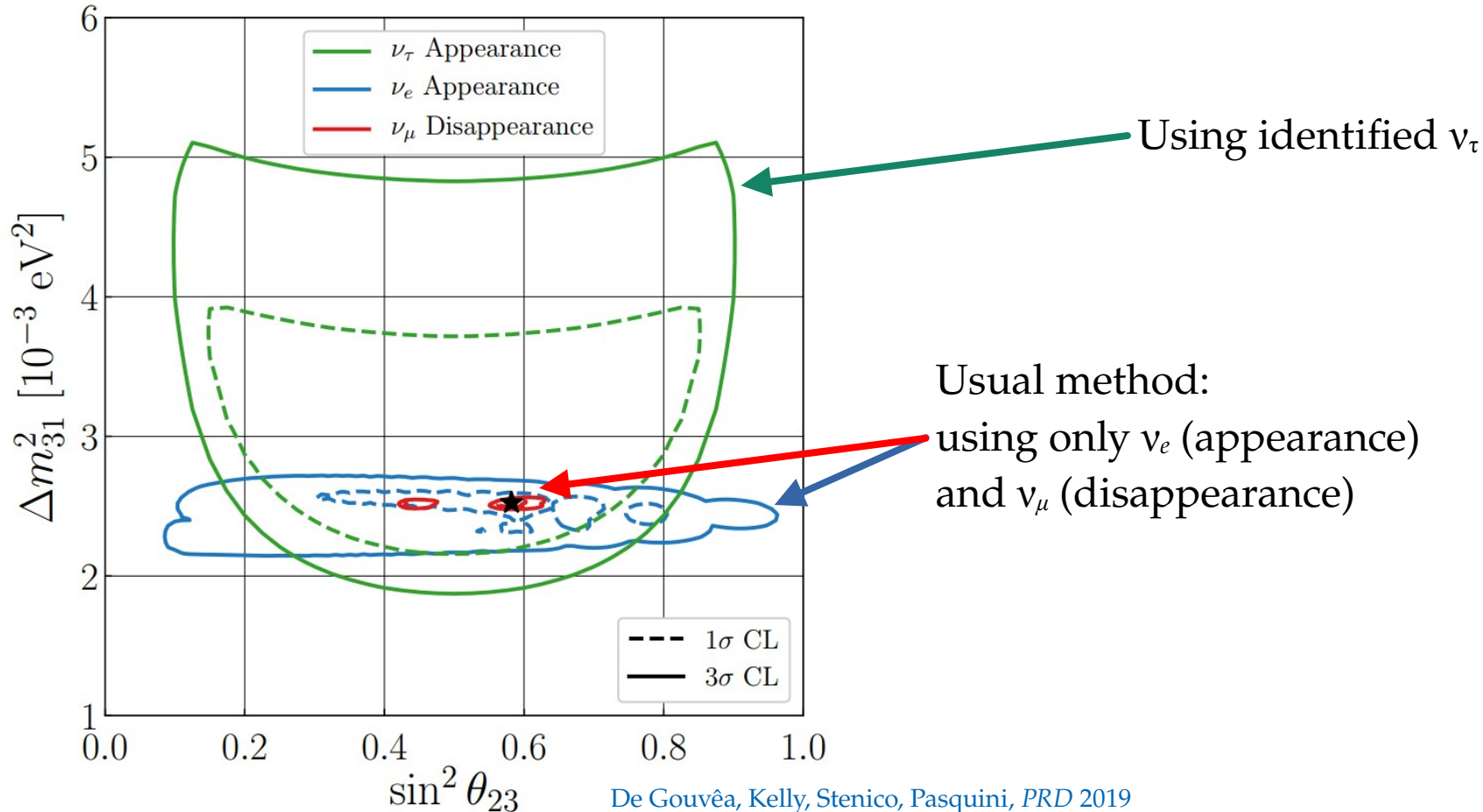
Flavor-transition probabilities change if there are additional, sterile flavors:



$$\Delta m_{41}^2 = 6 \text{ eV}^2, \theta_{14} = 0.2, \theta_{24} = 0.15, \theta_{34} = 0.6, \delta_i = 0$$

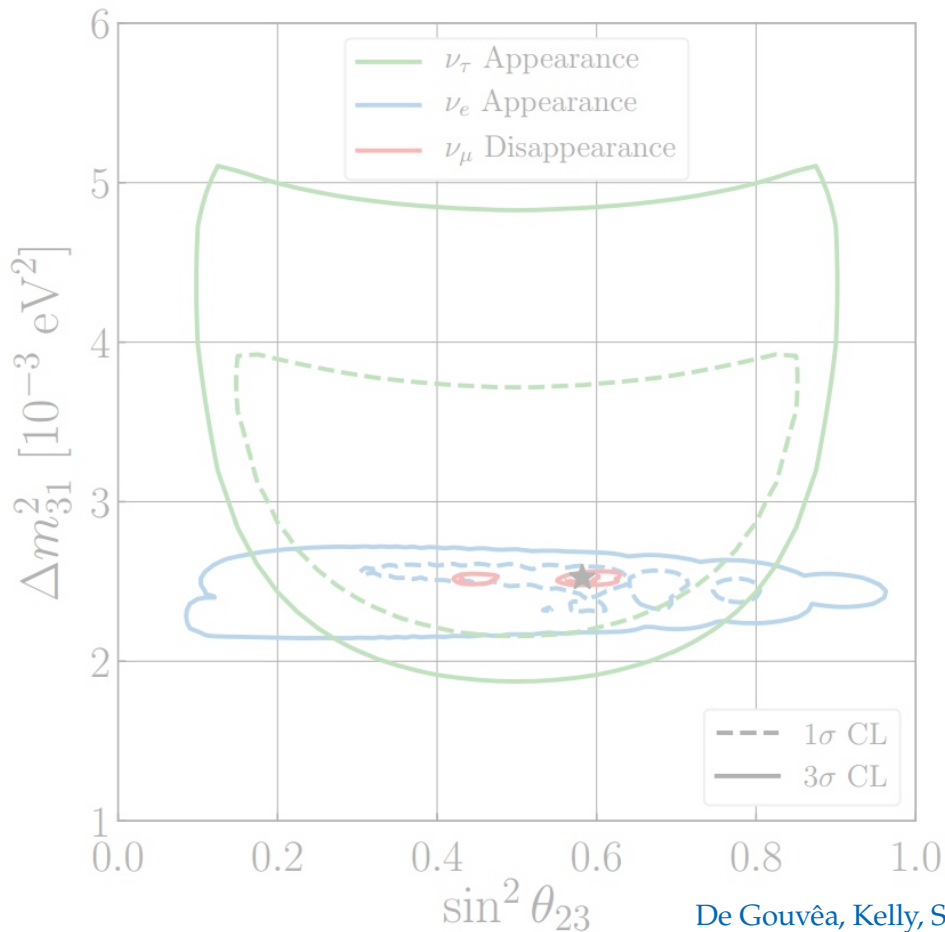
DUNE: identifying many more GeV-scale ν_τ

No improvement to measurements of the neutrino mixing parameters...

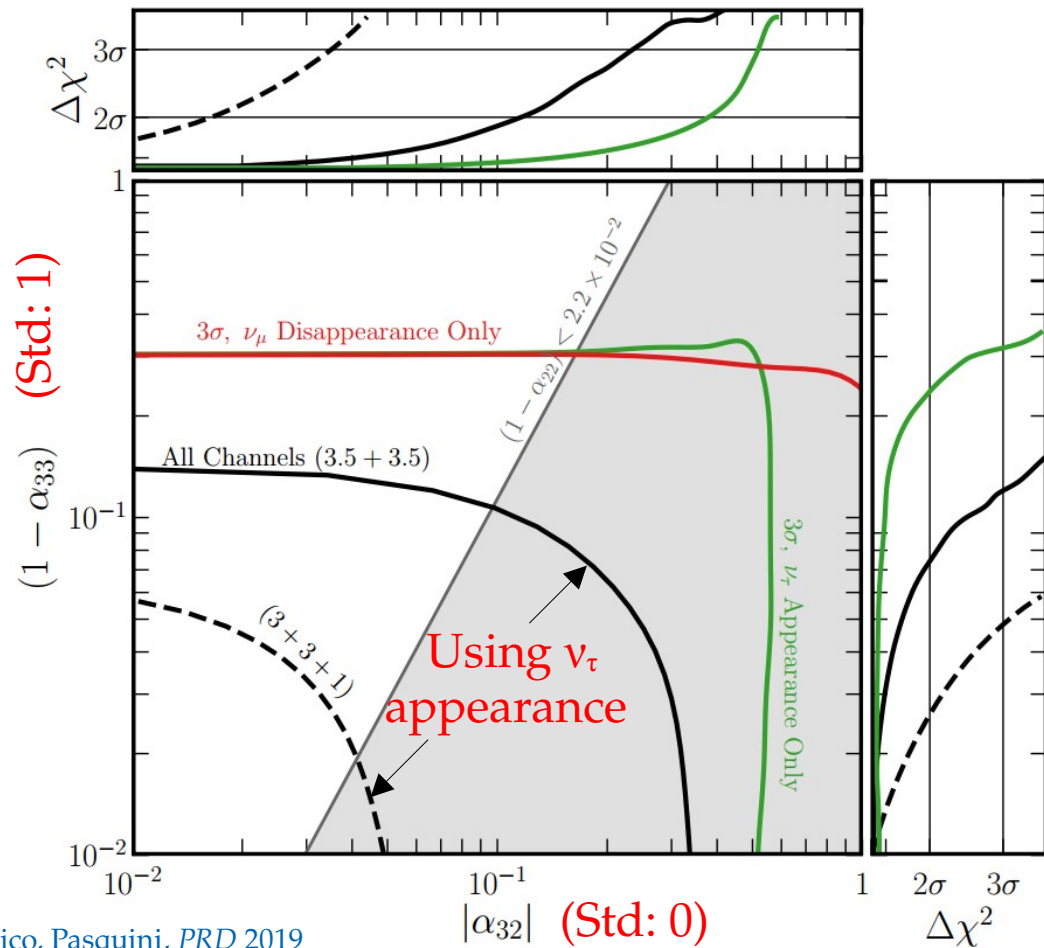


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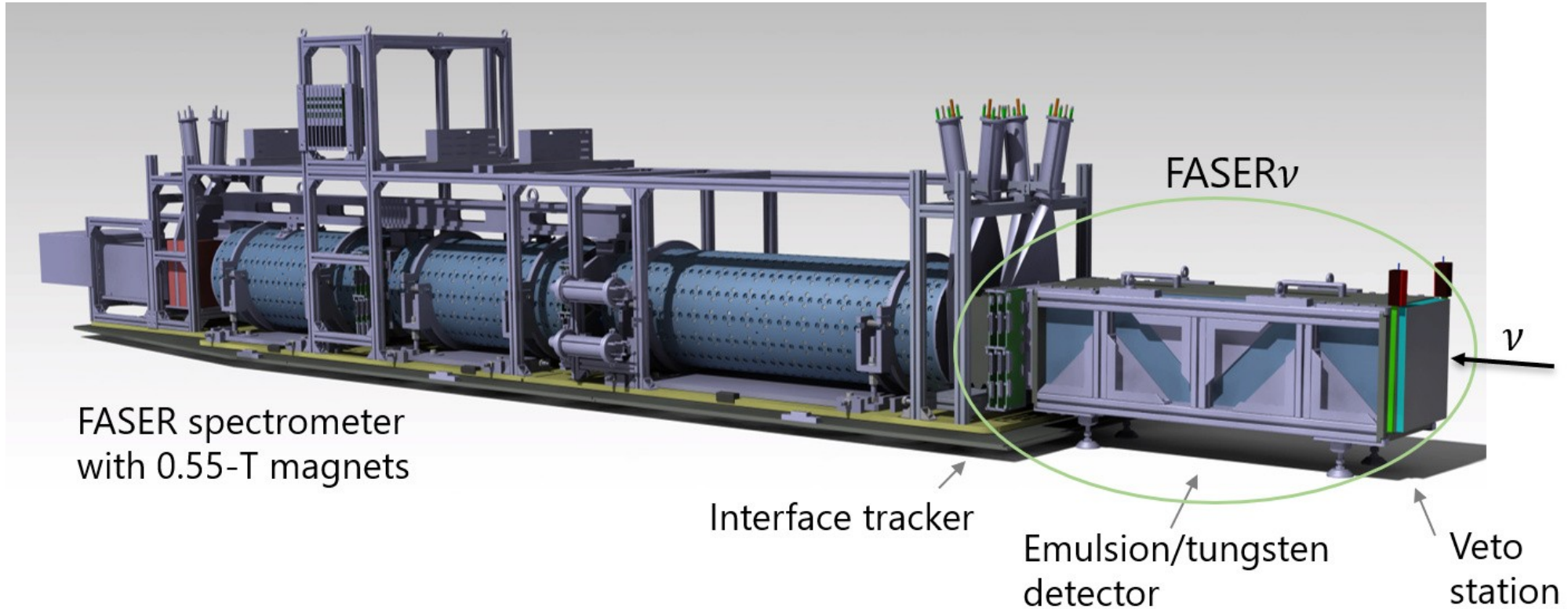


... but improved testing of the 3v paradigm

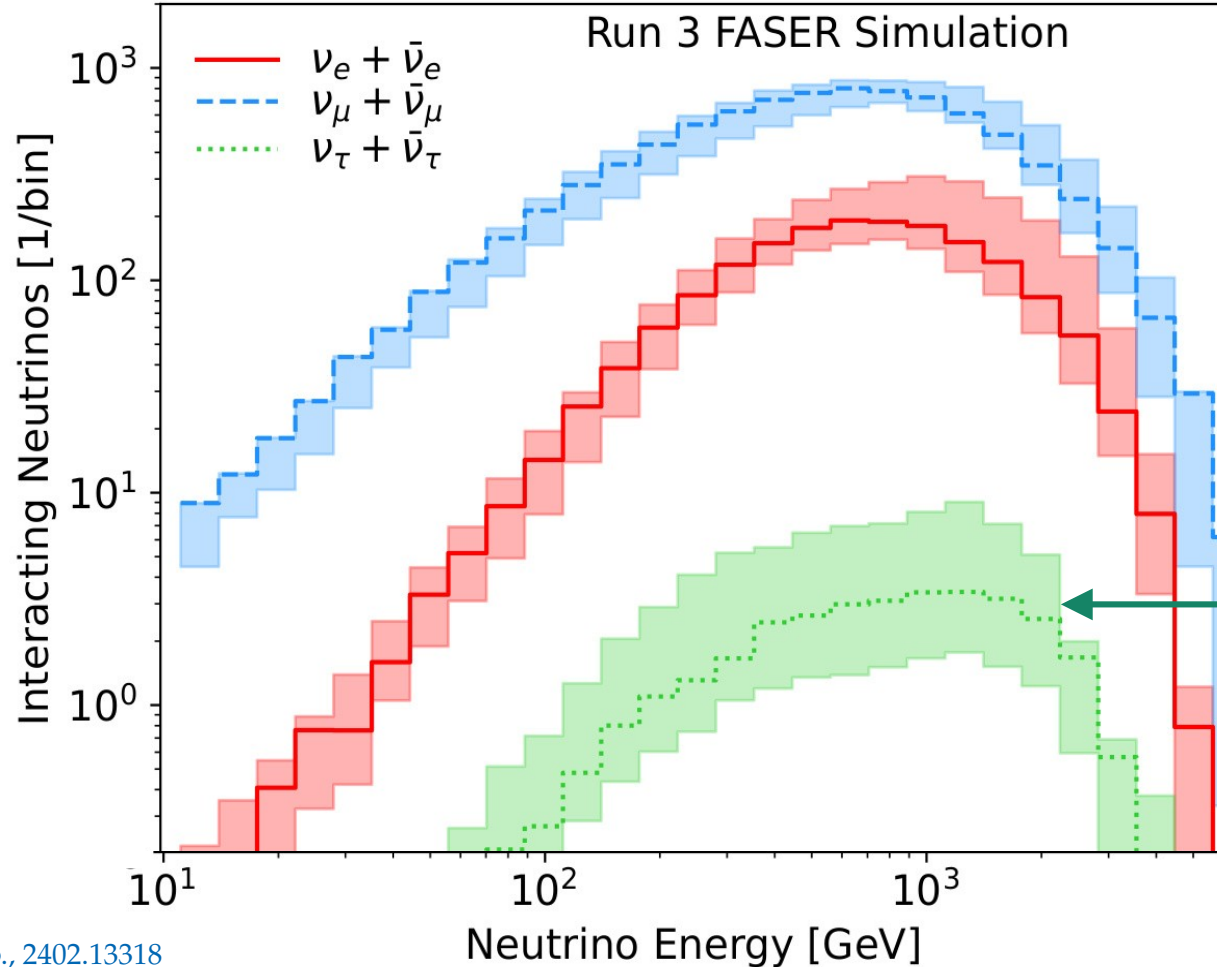


The intermediate energy range: TeV-scale ν_τ

Place a neutrino detector on the path of the LHC beam:



The intermediate energy range: TeV-scale ν_τ



20–100 tagged ν_τ
during LHC Run 3

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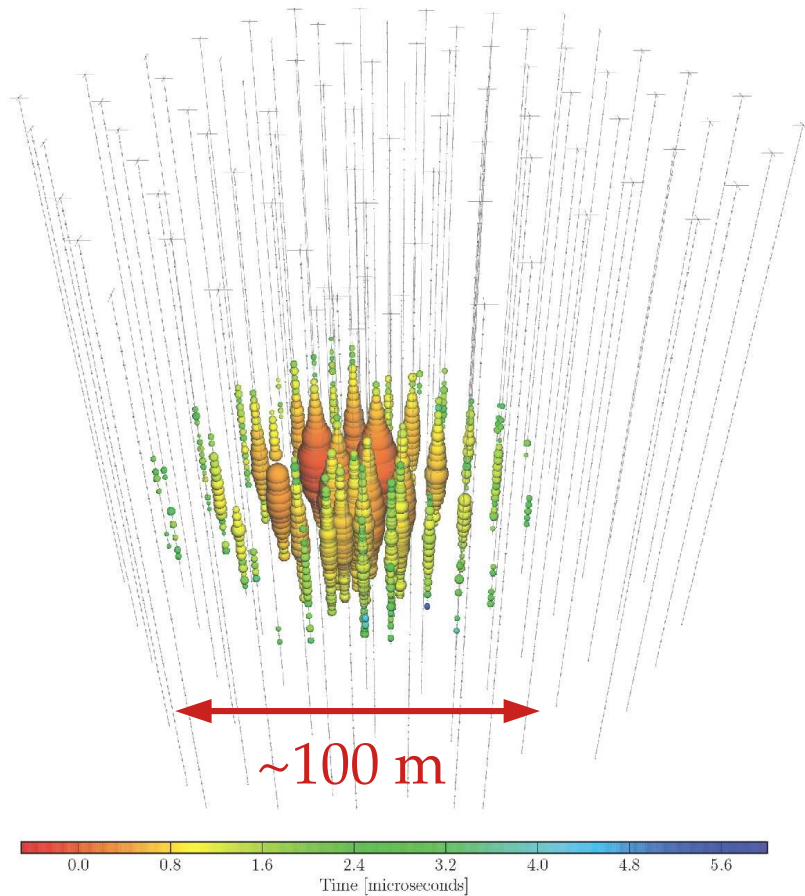
2

The **flavor composition** of high-energy cosmic neutrinos reflects
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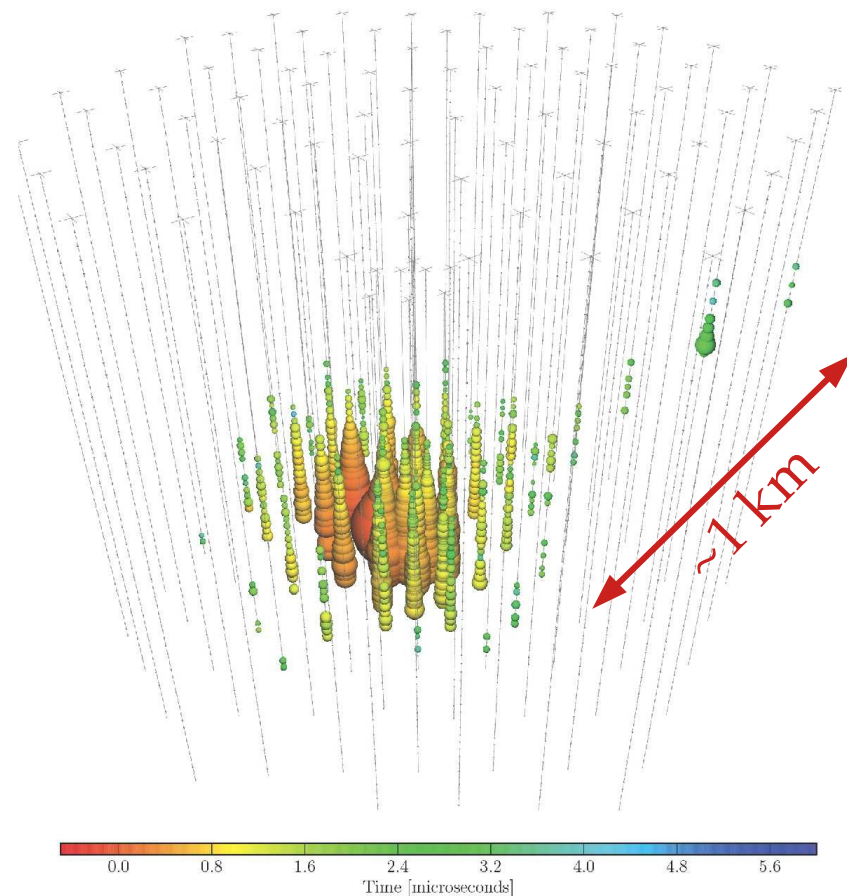
3

At **ultra-high energies** ($> 10^{18}$ EeV), ν_τ provide unique detection
opportunities (ν_τ regeneration, Earth-skimming ν_τ)

Shower (mainly from ν_e and ν_τ)

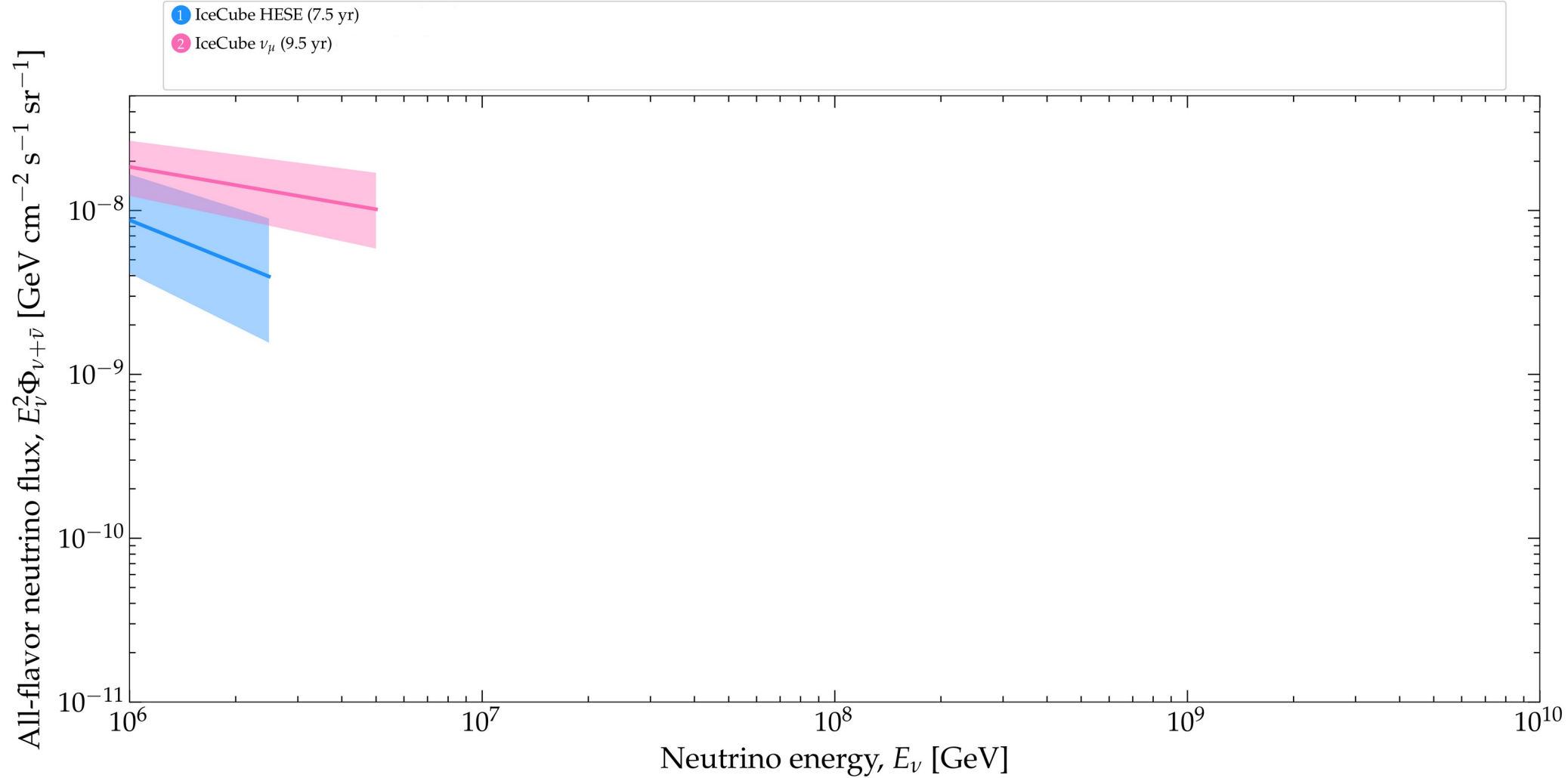


Track (mainly from ν_μ)



Poor angular resolution: $\sim 10^\circ$

Angular resolution: $< 1^\circ$



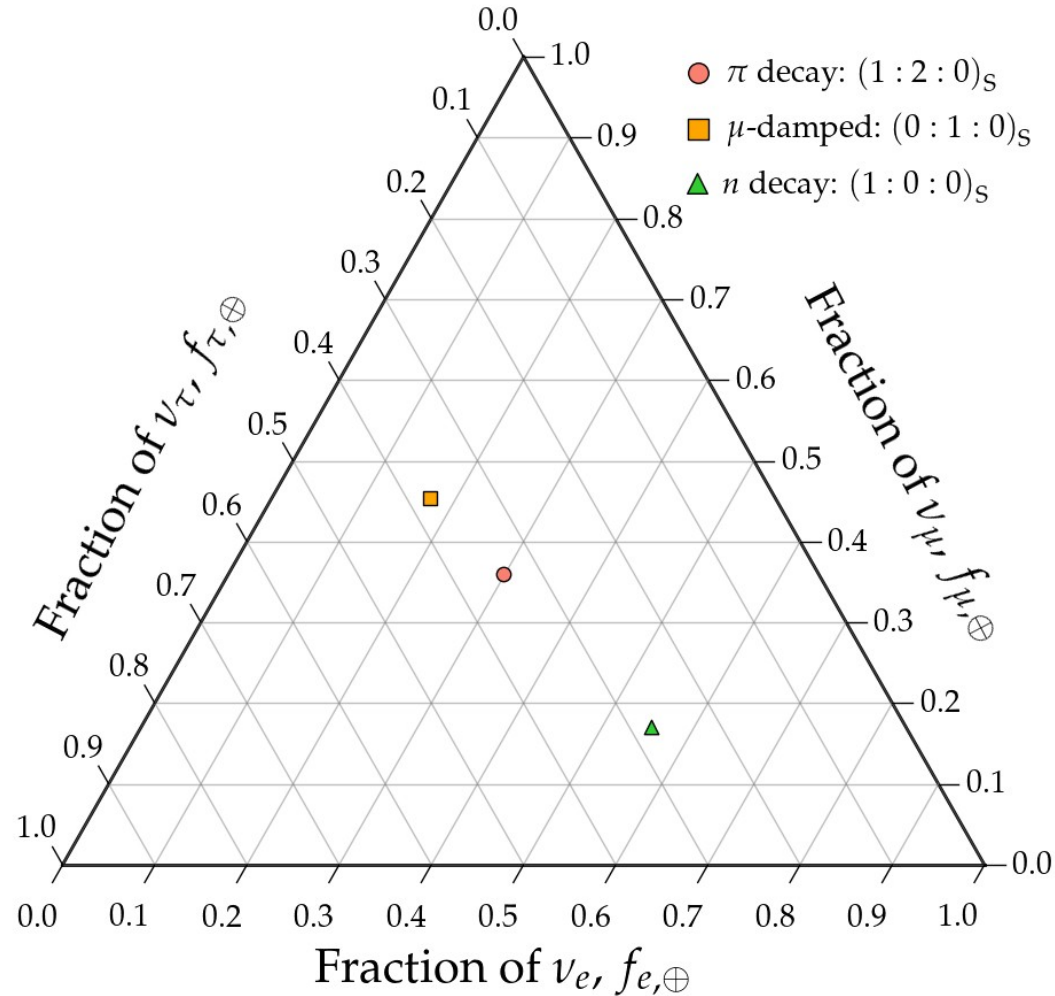
Measuring flavor composition: 2015–2020

IceCube Collab., *EPJC* 2022

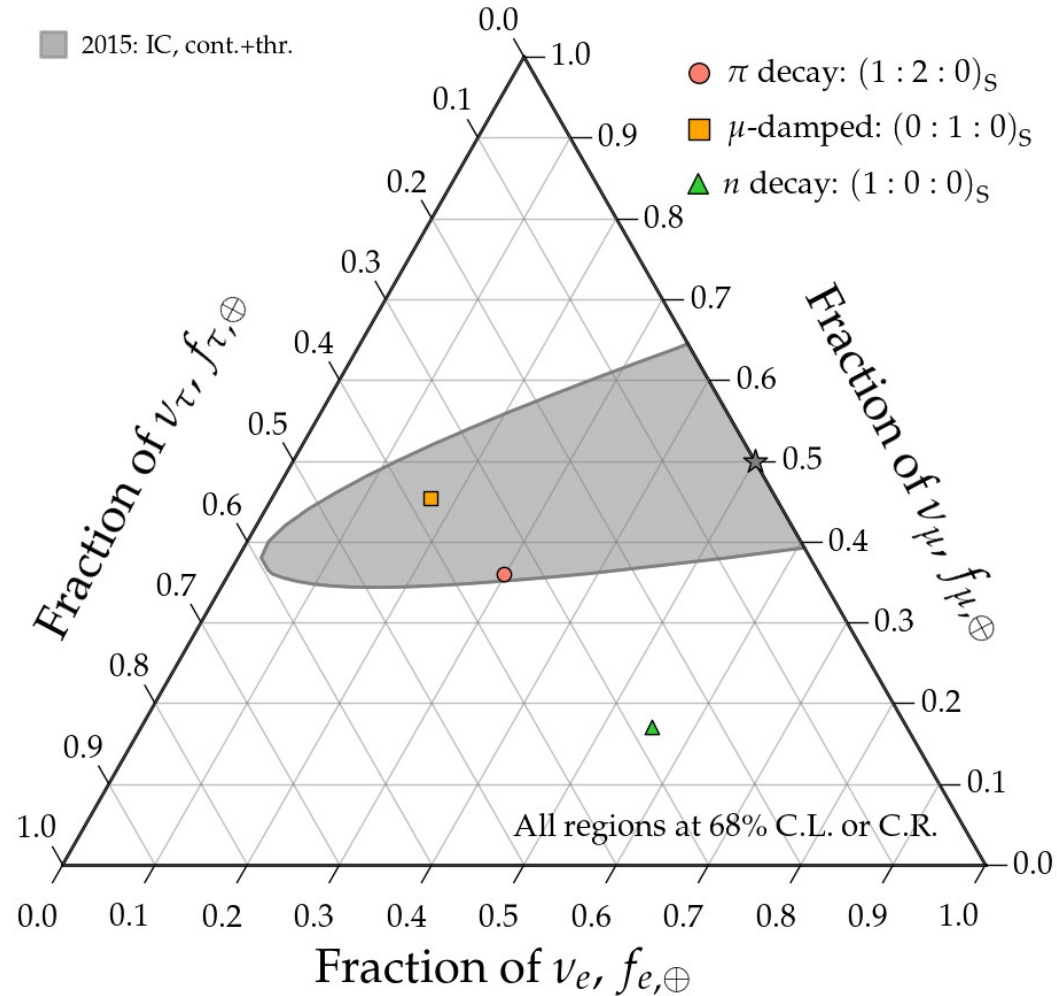
IceCube Collab., *PRD* 2019

IceCube Collab., *ApJ* 2015

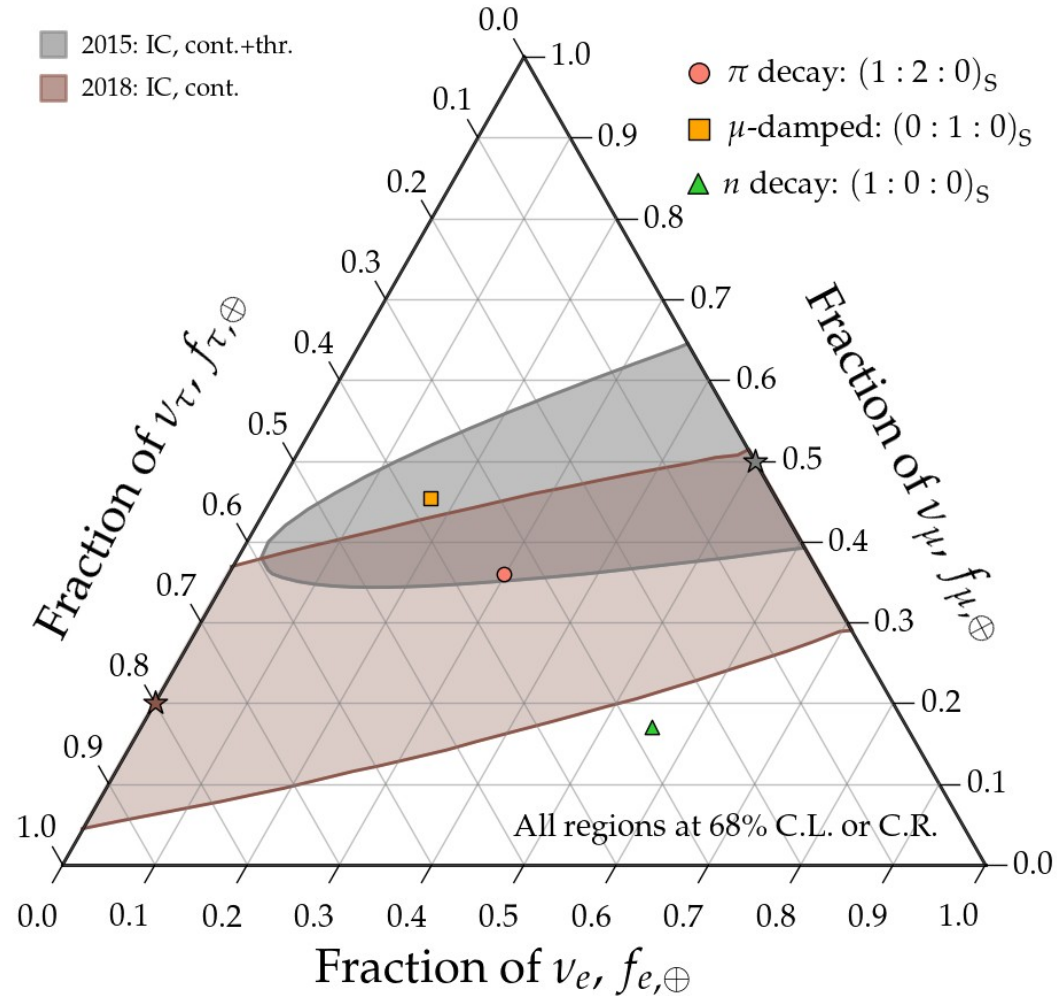
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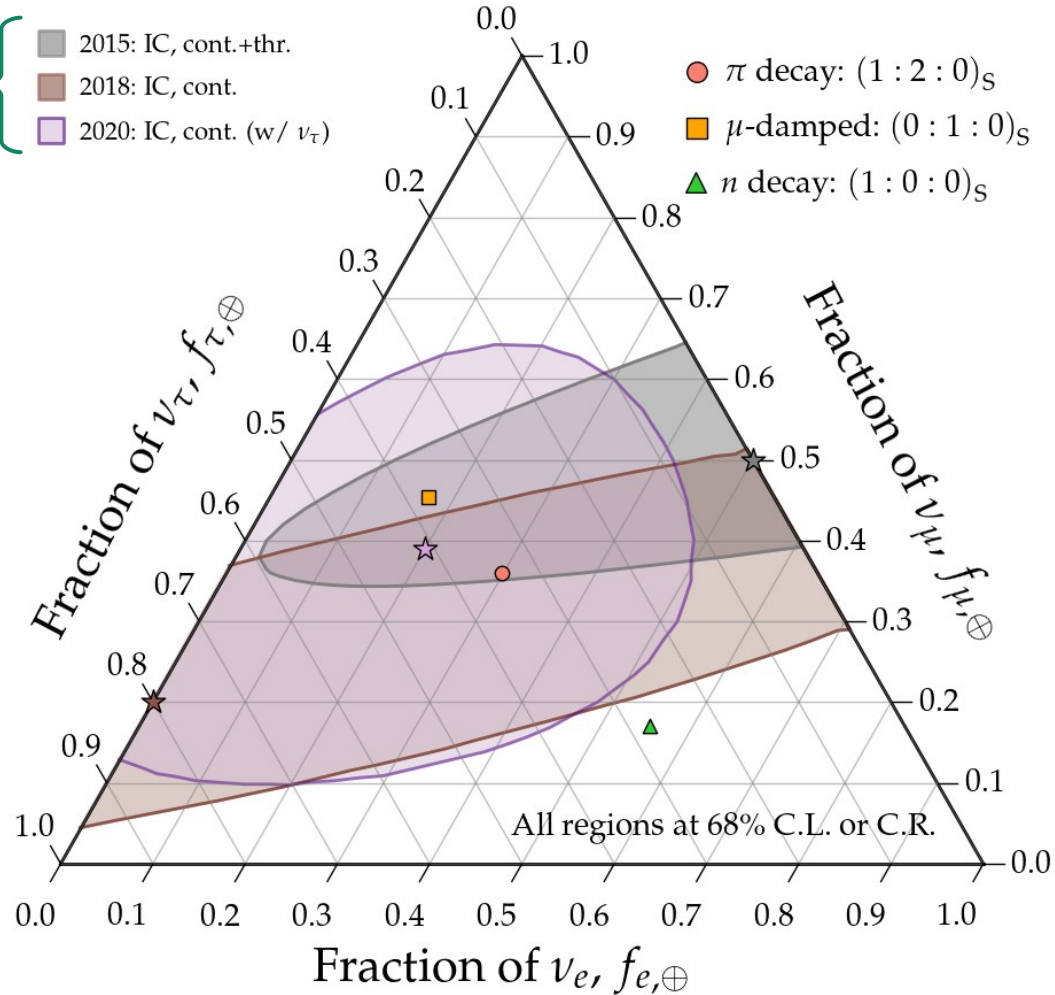


Measuring flavor composition: 2015–2020

Based on
real data

- 2015: IC, cont.+thr.
- 2018: IC, cont.
- 2020: IC, cont. (w/ ν_τ)

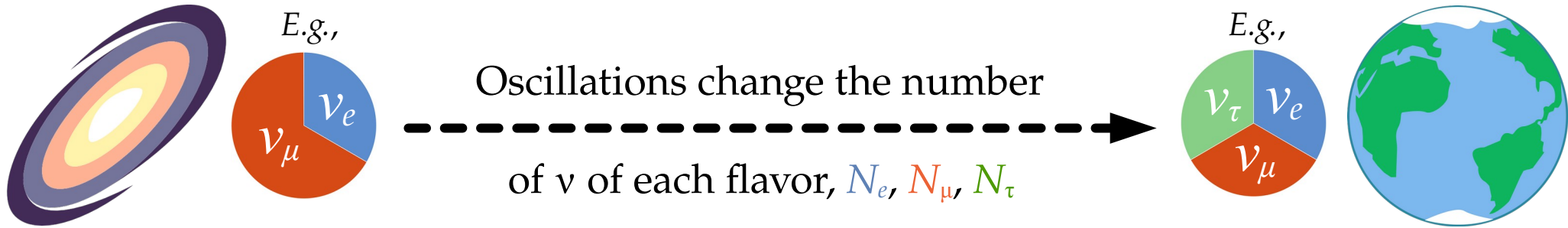
- π decay: $(1 : 2 : 0)_S$
- μ -damped: $(0 : 1 : 0)_S$
- ▲ n decay: $(1 : 0 : 0)_S$



Astrophysical sources

Earth

Up to a few Gpc



Different production mechanisms yield different flavor ratios:

$$(f_{e,S}, f_{\mu,S}, f_{\tau,S}) \equiv (N_{e,S}, N_{\mu,S}, N_{\tau,S}) / N_{\text{tot}}$$

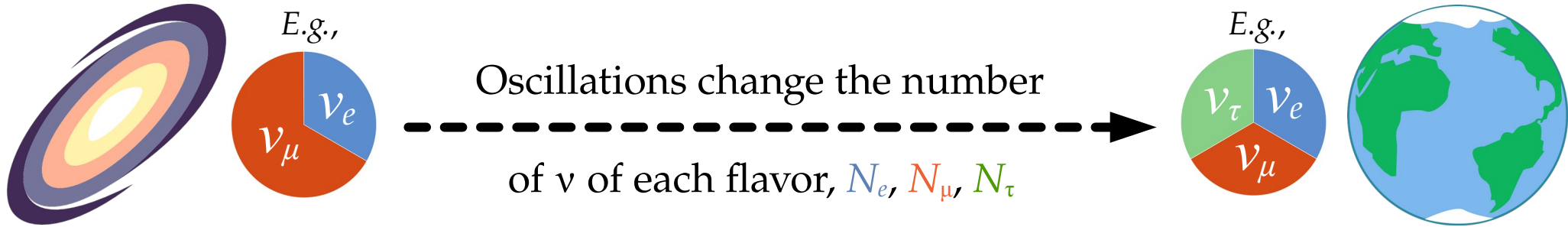
Flavor ratios at Earth ($\alpha = e, \mu, \tau$):

$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} P_{\nu_\beta \rightarrow \nu_\alpha} f_{\beta,S}$$

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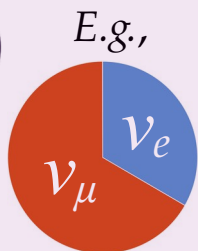
$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} P_{\nu\beta \rightarrow \nu\alpha} f_{\beta,S}$$

Standard oscillations
or
new physics

From sources to Earth: we learn what to expect when measuring $f_{\alpha,\oplus}$



Sources



$(f_{e,S}, f_{\mu,S}, f_{\tau,S})$

Oscillations

$(\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{CP})$



Earth



$(f_{e,\oplus}, f_{\mu,\oplus}, f_{\tau,\oplus})$

One likely TeV–PeV ν production scenario:

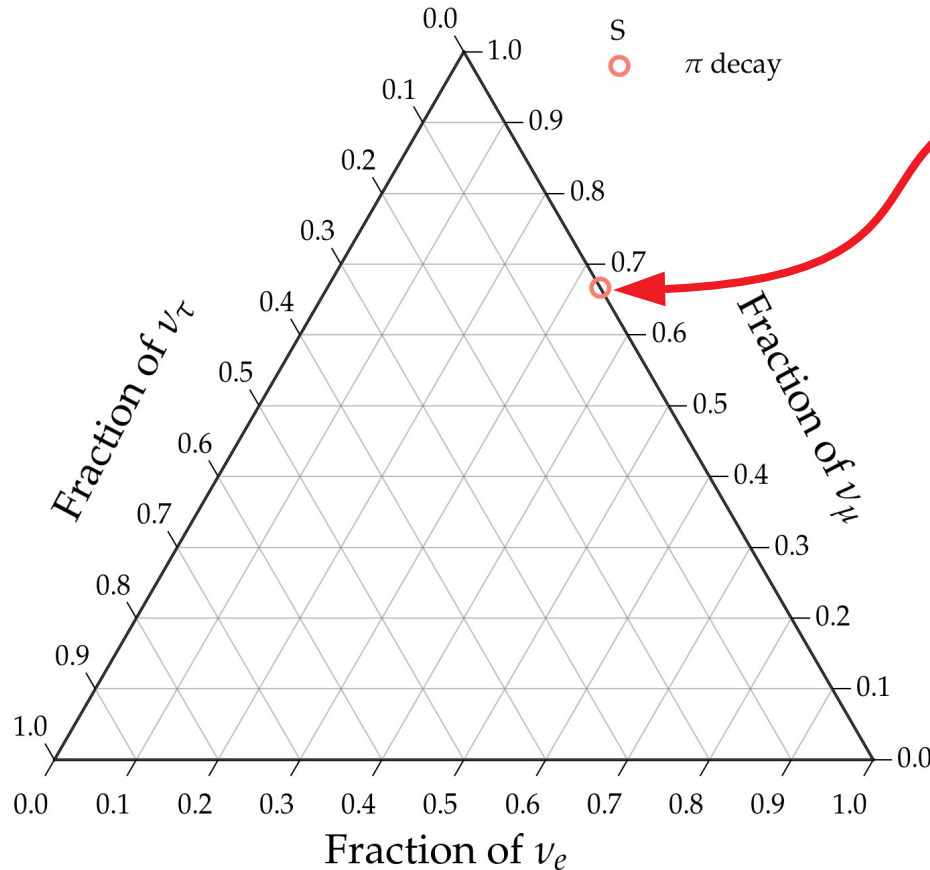
$$p + \gamma \rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu \quad \text{followed by} \quad \mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ + \nu_e + \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

Full π decay chain

$$(1/3:2/3:0)_S$$

Note: ν and $\bar{\nu}$ are (so far) indistinguishable
in neutrino telescopes

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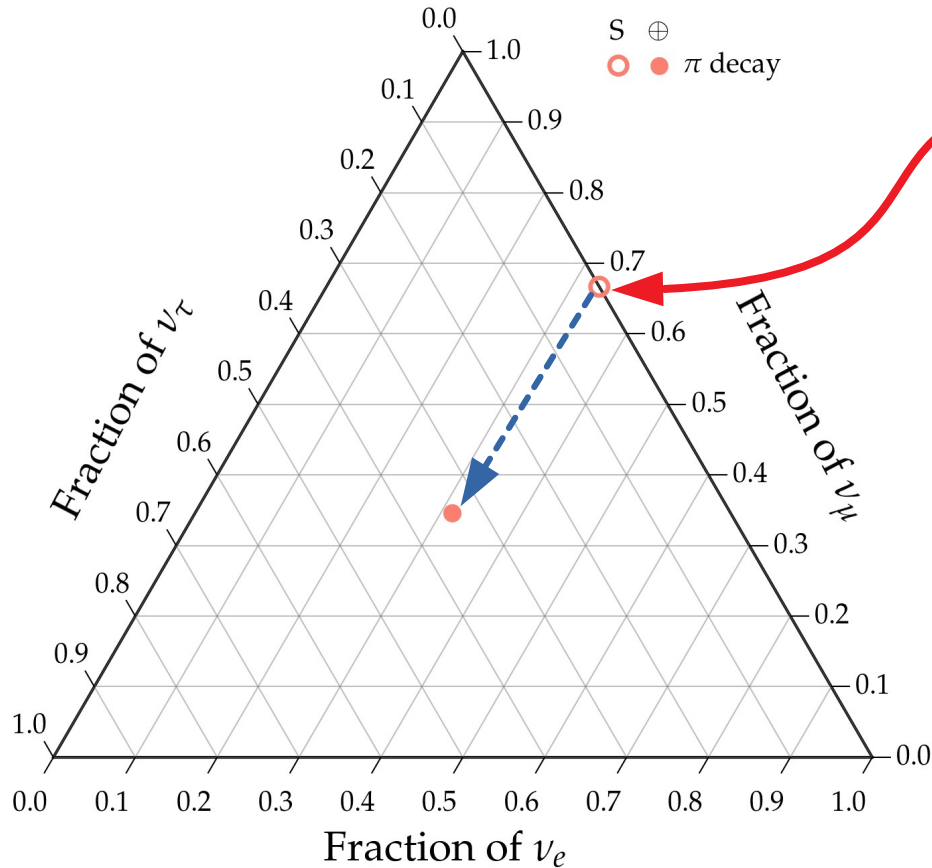


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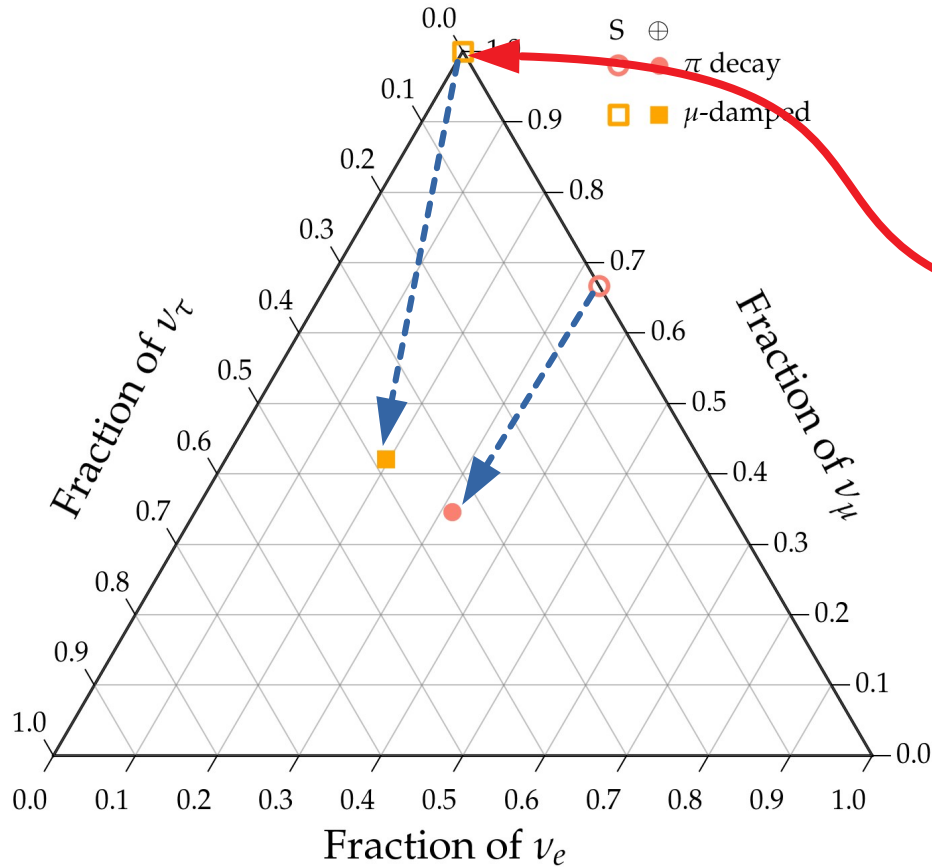


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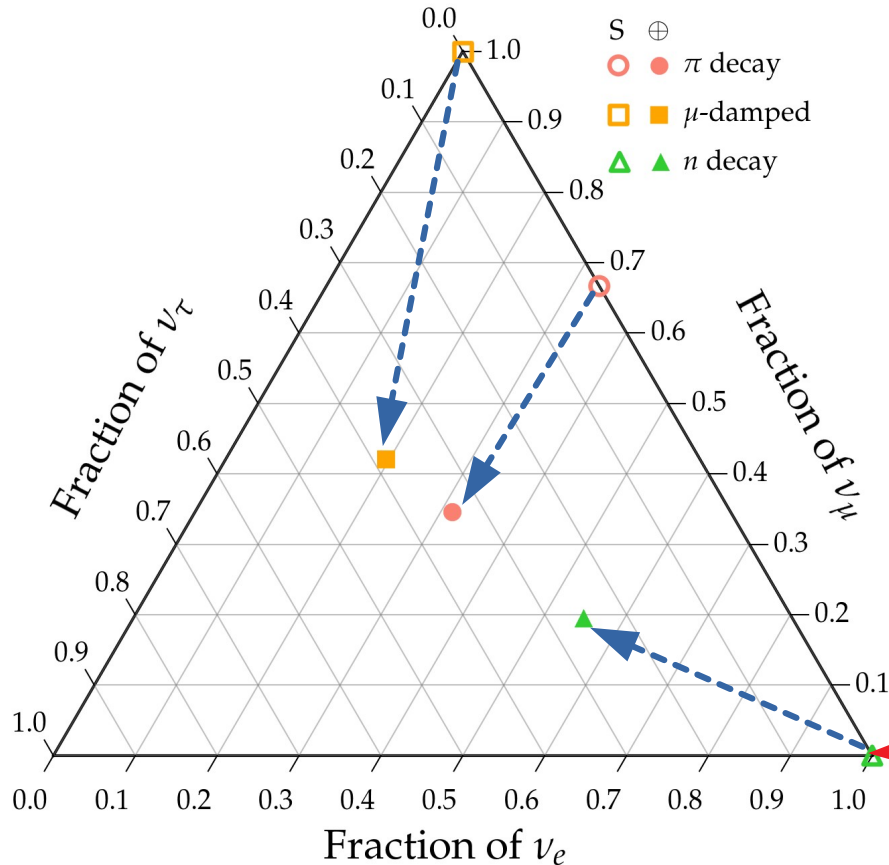
$(1/3:2/3:0)_S$

Muon damped

$(0:1:0)_S$

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Full π decay chain

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Neutron decay

$(1:0:0)_S$

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New physics in flavor composition

Use the flavor sensitivity to test new physics:

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Reviews:

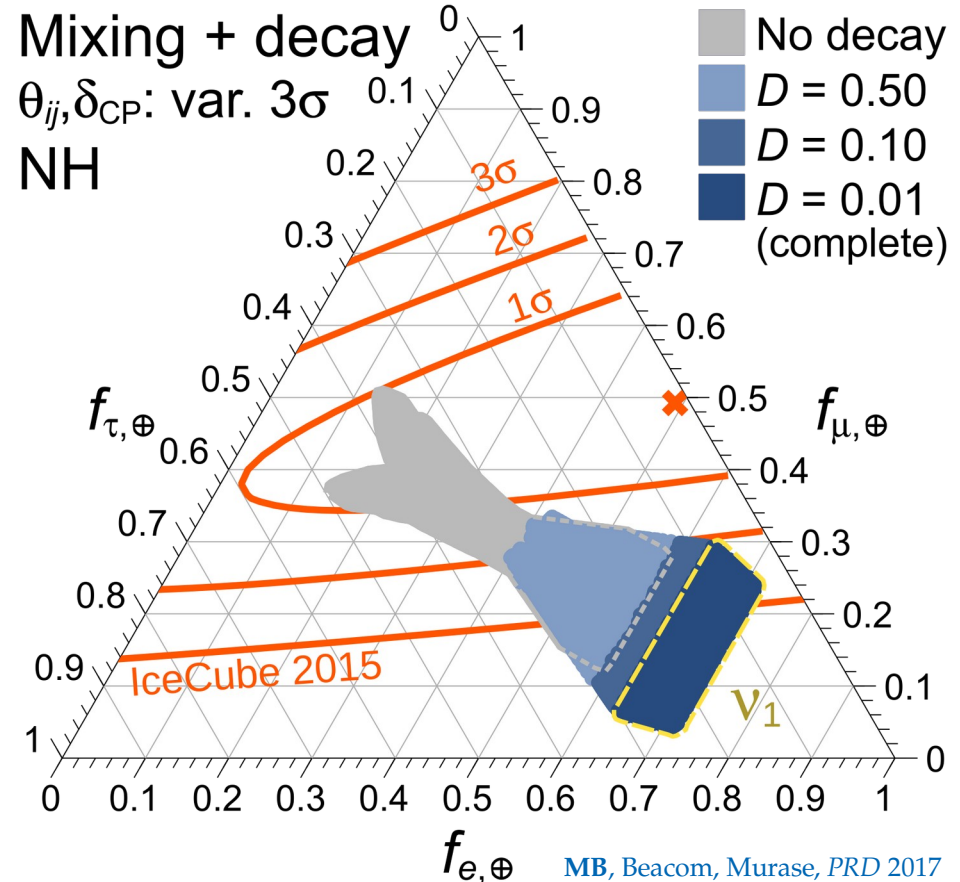
Argüelles *et al.* (inc. **MB**), *EPJC* 2023; Mehta & Winter, *JCAP* 2011; Rasmussen *et al.*, *PRD* 2017

New physics in flavor composition

Use the flavor sensitivity to test new physics:

► Neutrino decay

[Beacom *et al.*, *PRL* 2003; Baerwald, MB, Winter, *JCAP* 2010;
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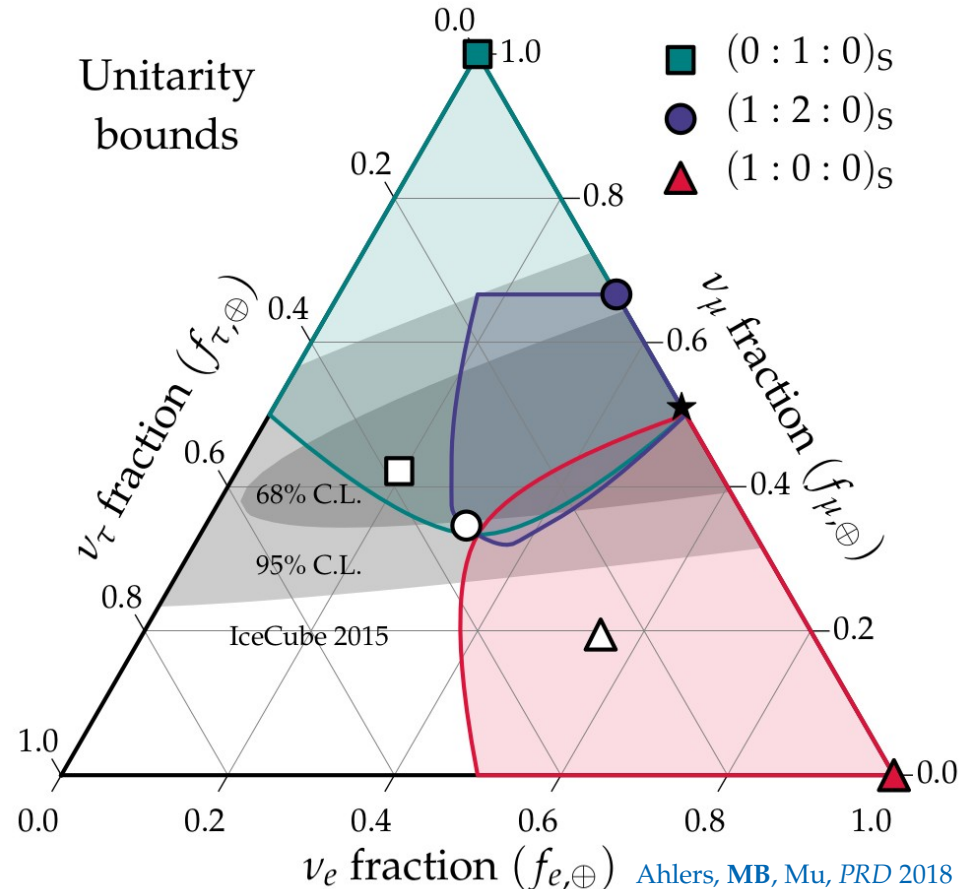
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► Tests of unitarity at high energy

[Xu, He, Rodejohann, *JCAP* 2014; Ahlers, **MB**, Mu, *PRD* 2018;
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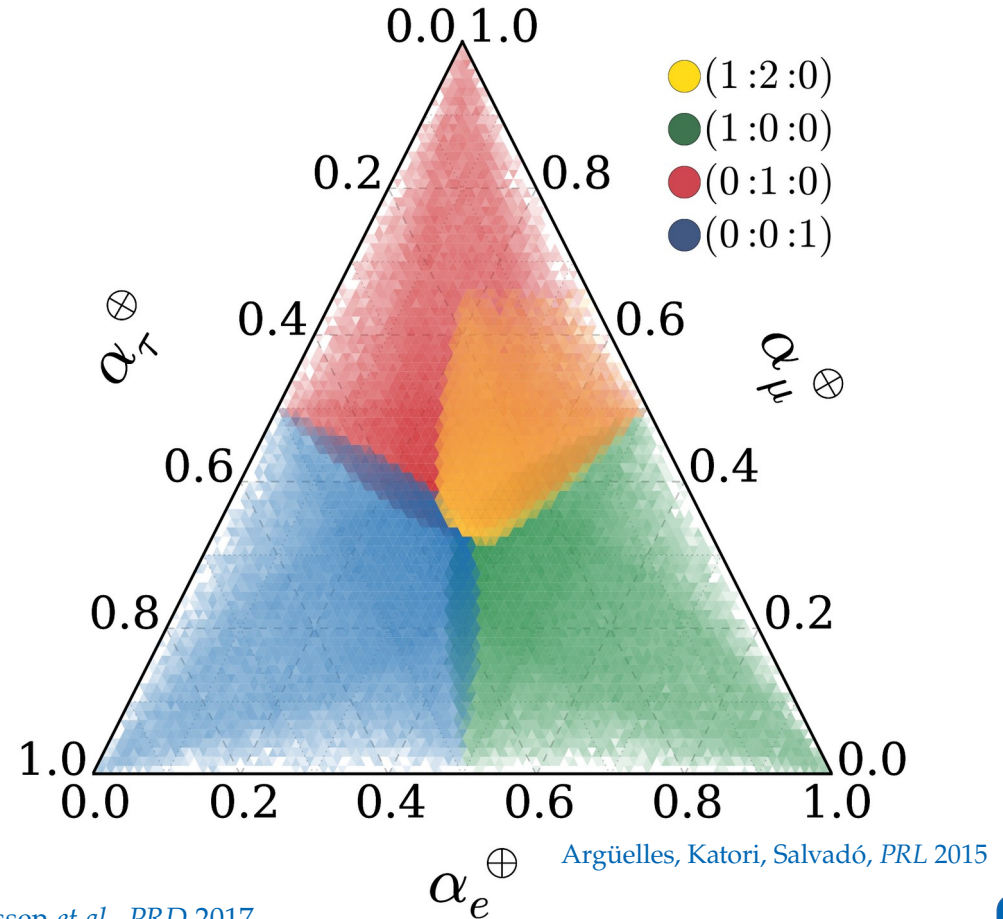
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► Lorentz- and CPT-invariance violation

[Barenboim & Quigg, *PRD* 2003; **MB**, Gago, Peña-Garay, *JHEP* 2010;
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► Non-standard interactions

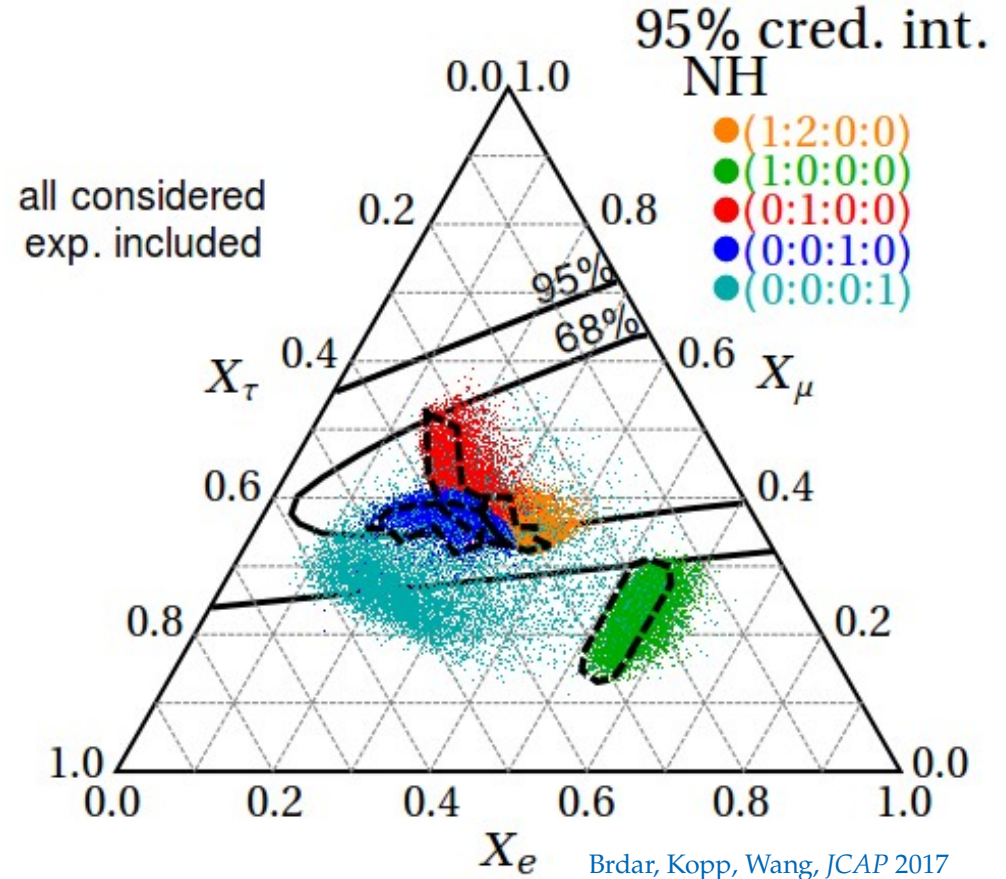
[González-García *et al.*, *Astropart. Phys.* 2016;
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► Active-sterile ν mixing

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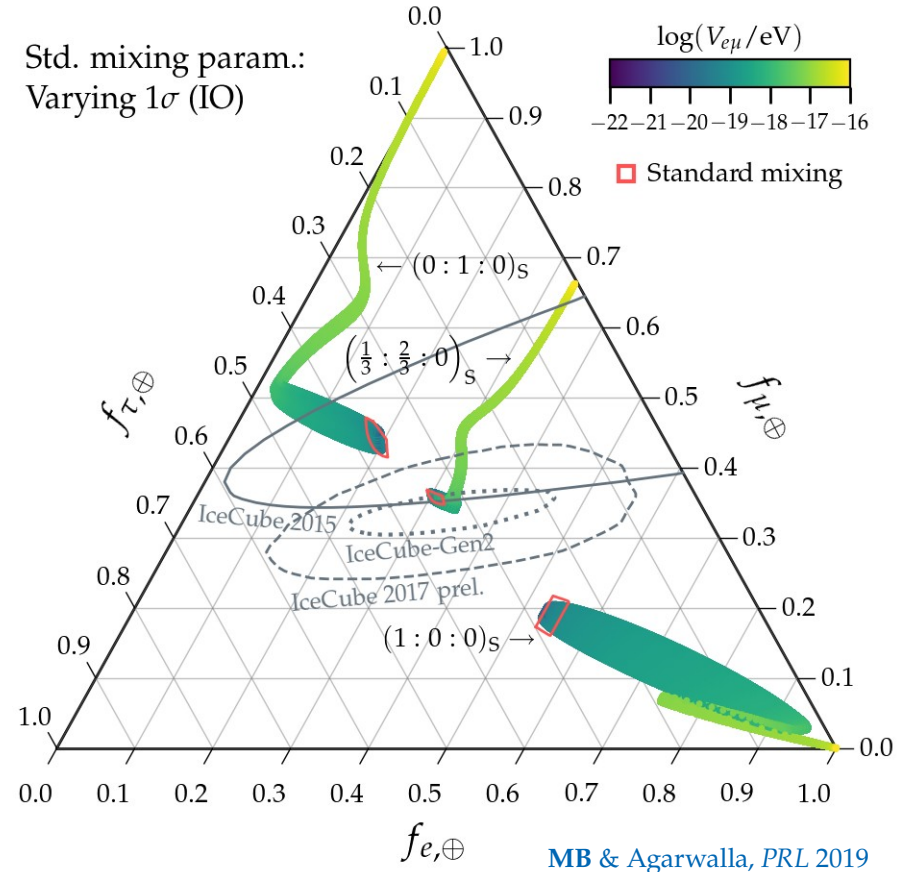
[Aeikens *et al.*, *JCAP* 2015; Brdar, Kopp, Wang, *JCAP* 2017;
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► Long-range $e\nu$ interactions

[**MB** & Agarwalla, *PRL* 2019]

Reviews:

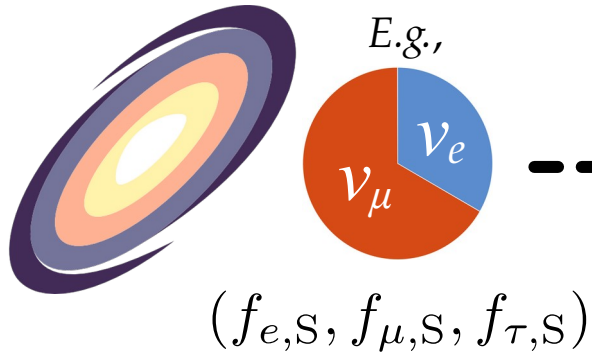
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From sources to Earth: we learn what to expect when measuring $f_{\alpha,\oplus}$



Sources

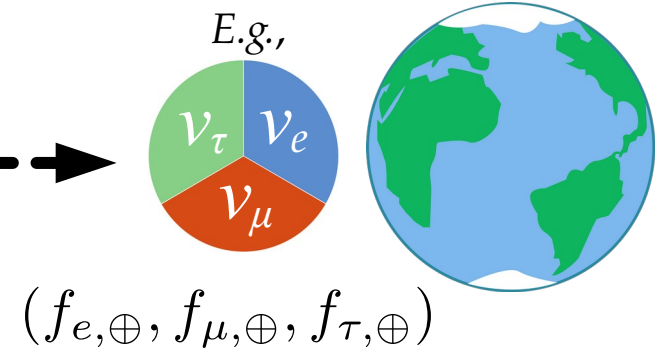


Oscillations



$(\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{CP})$

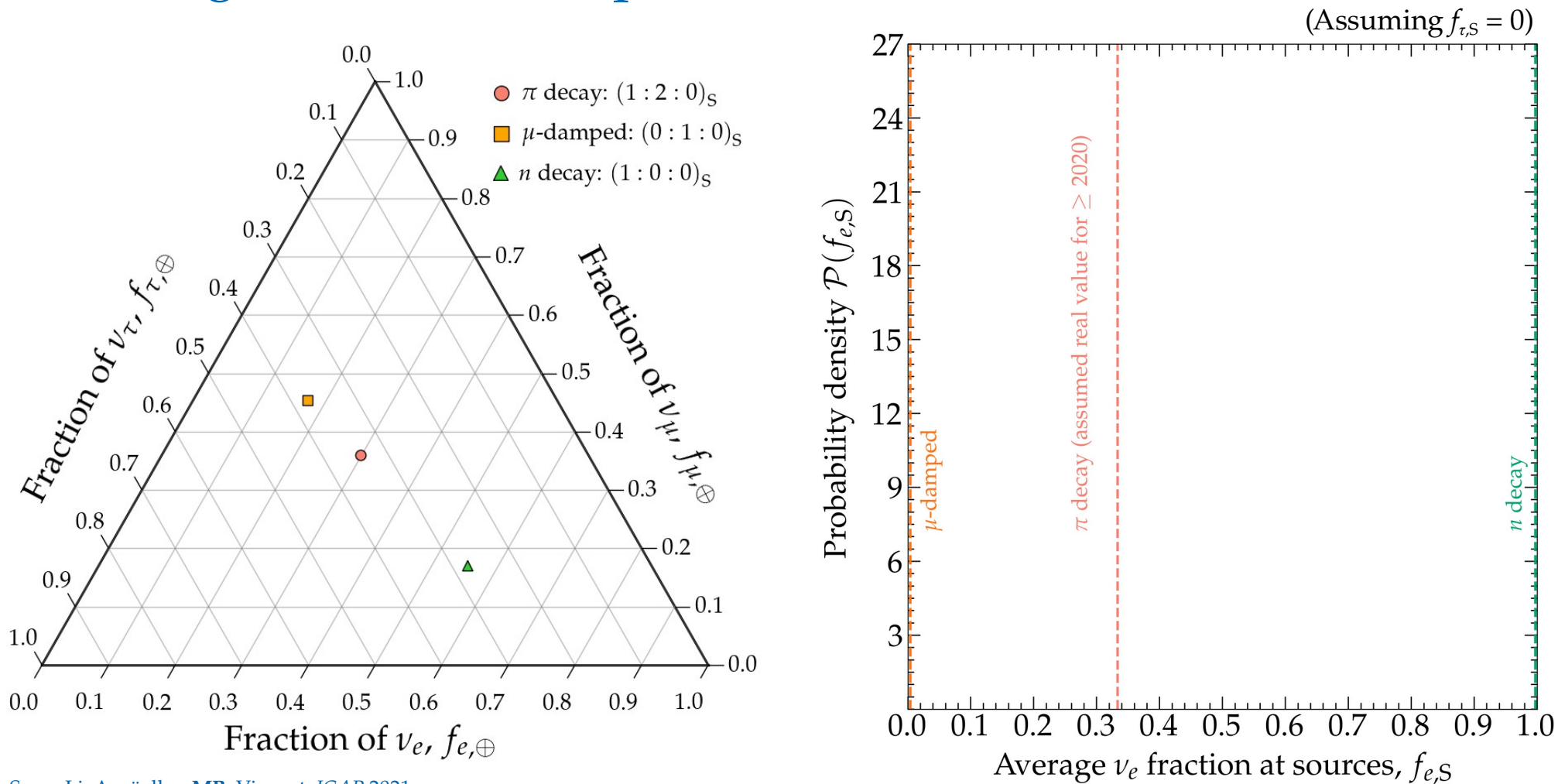
Earth



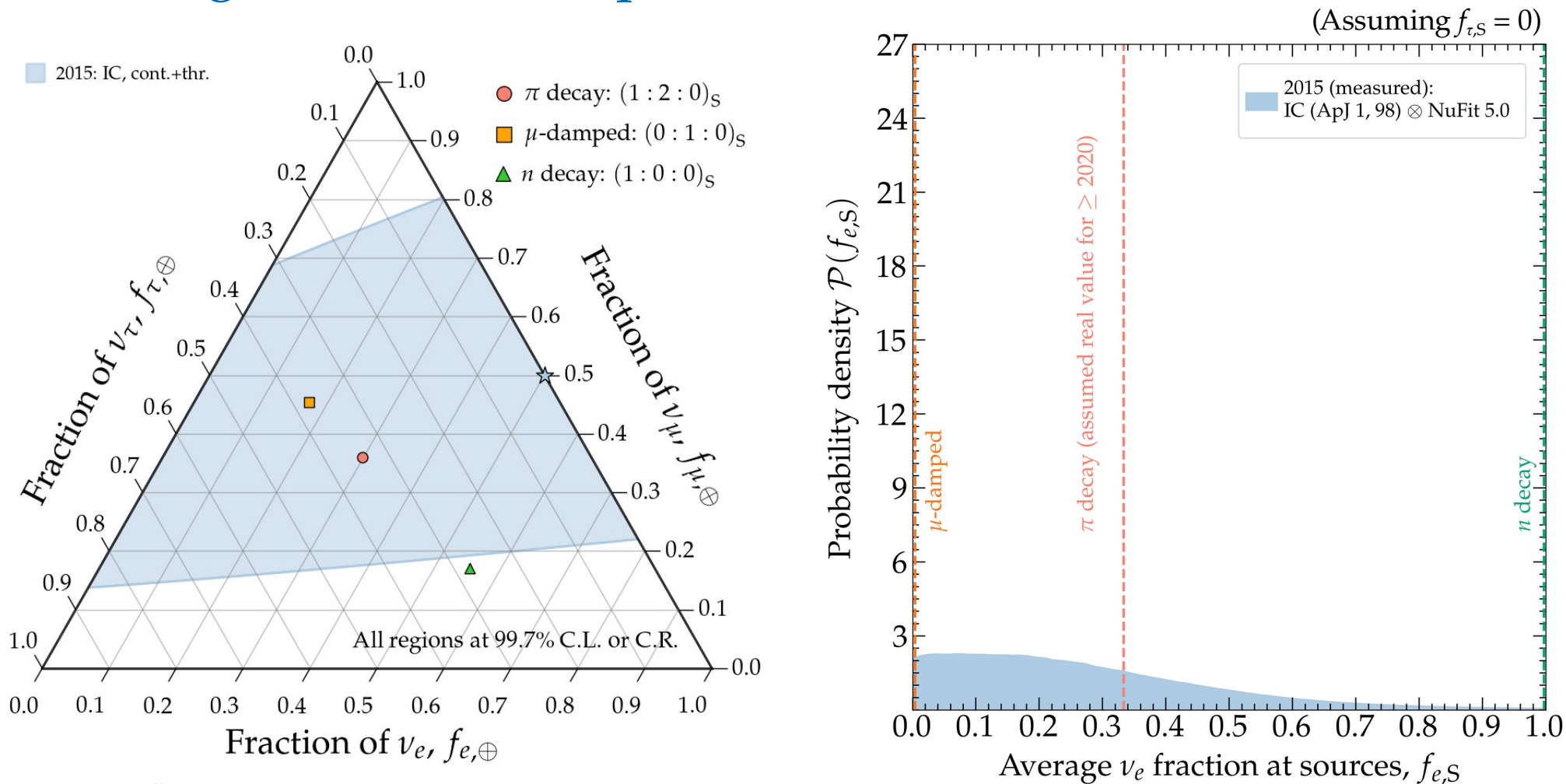
From Earth to sources: we let the data teach us about $f_{\alpha,S}$

Inferring the flavor composition at the sources

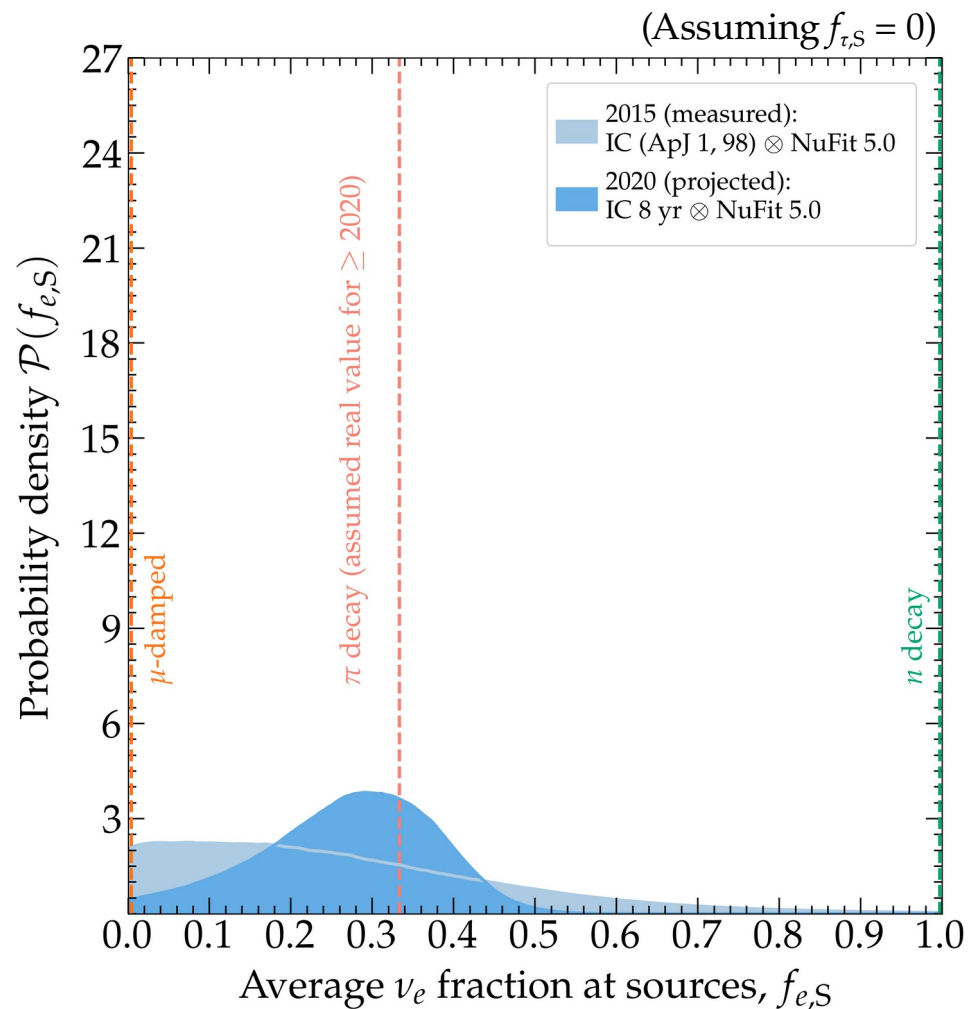
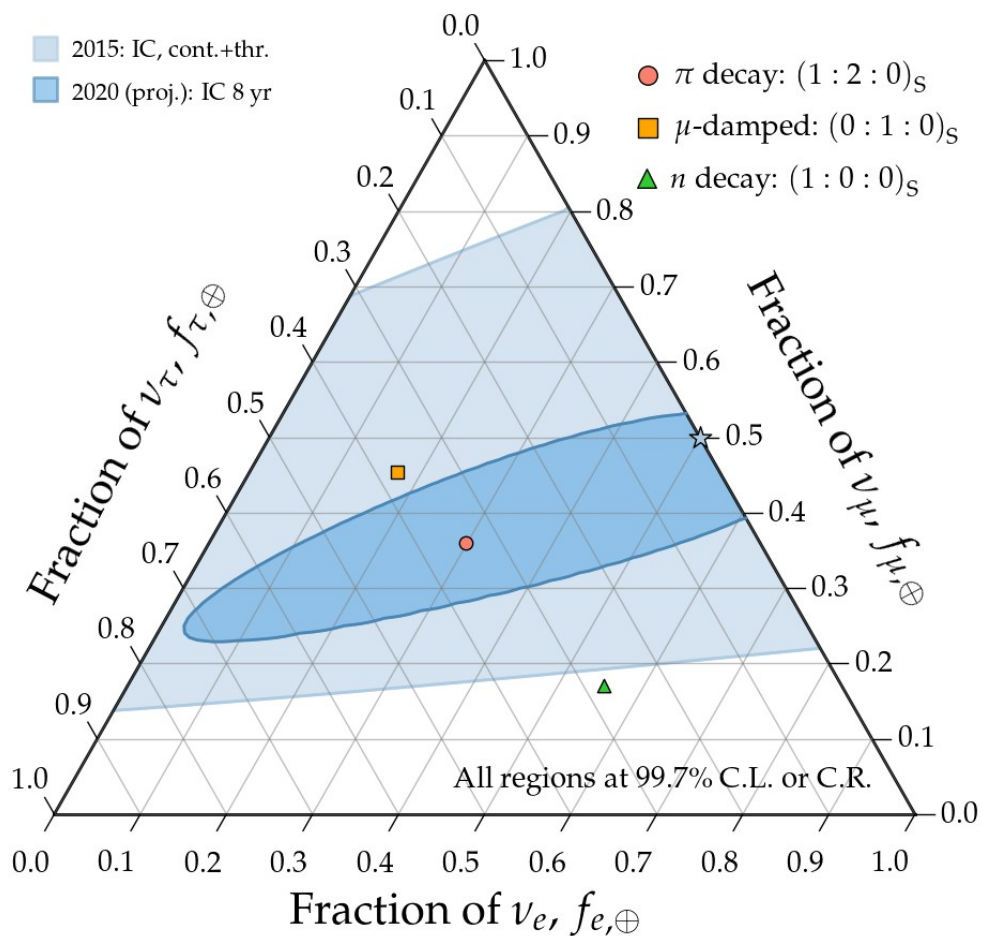
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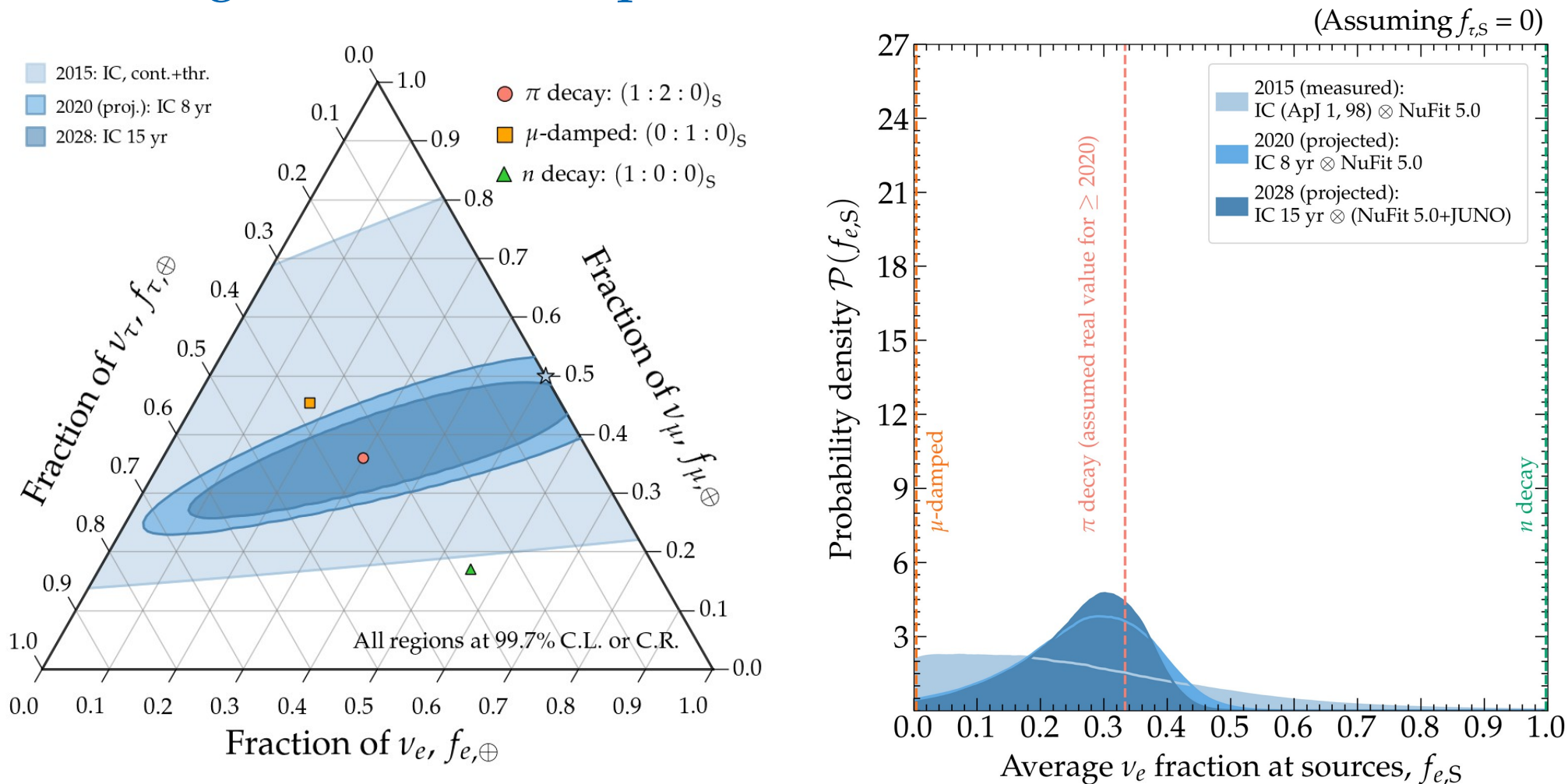
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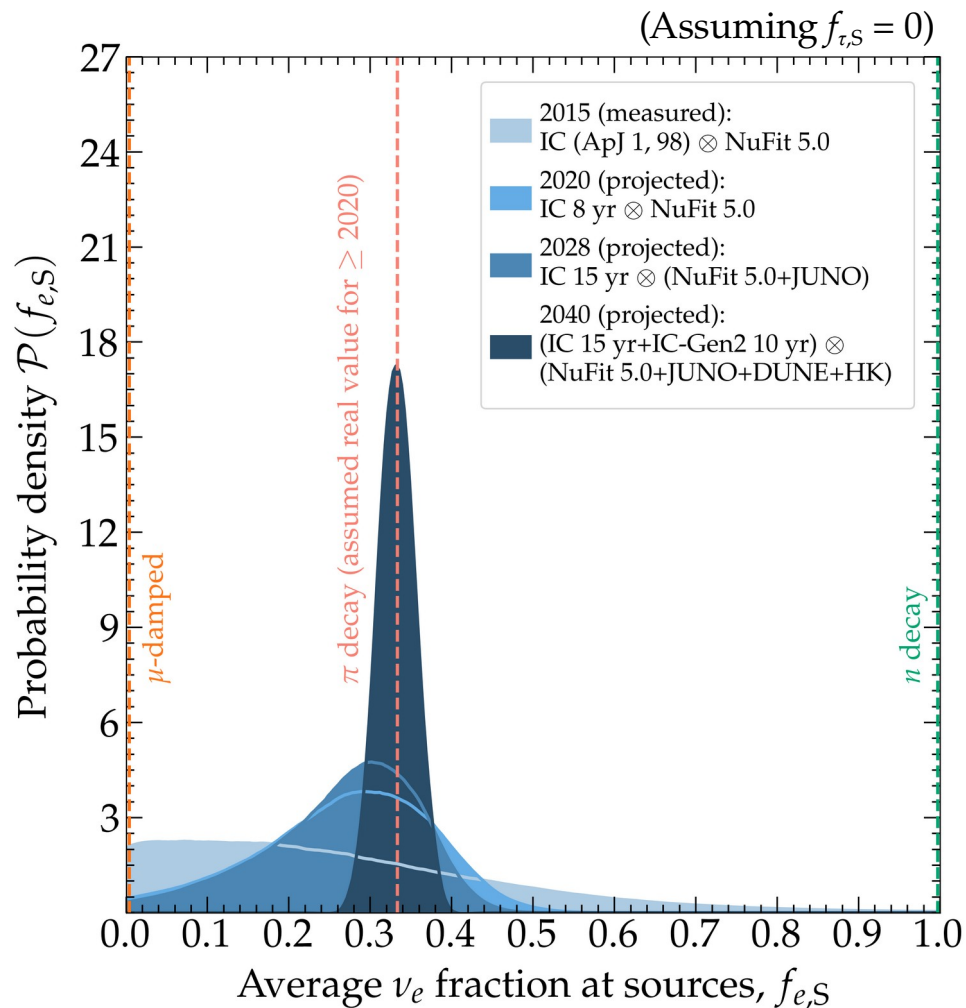
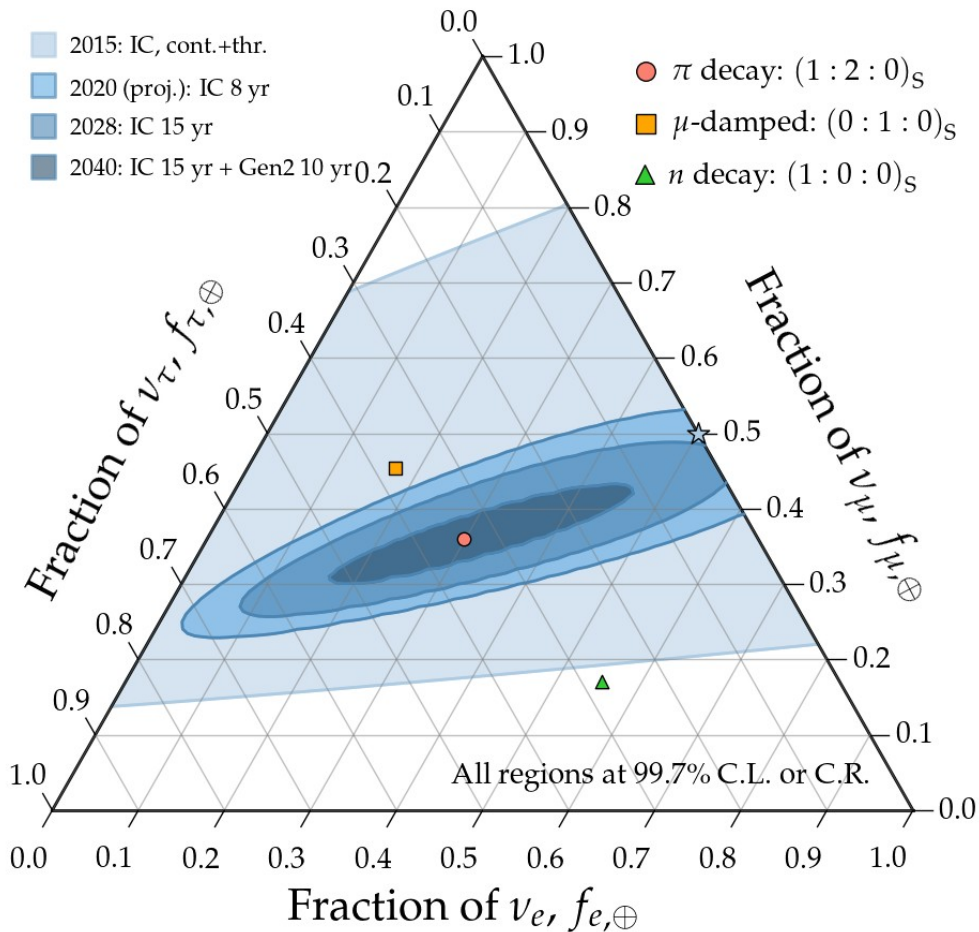
Inferring the flavor composition at the sources



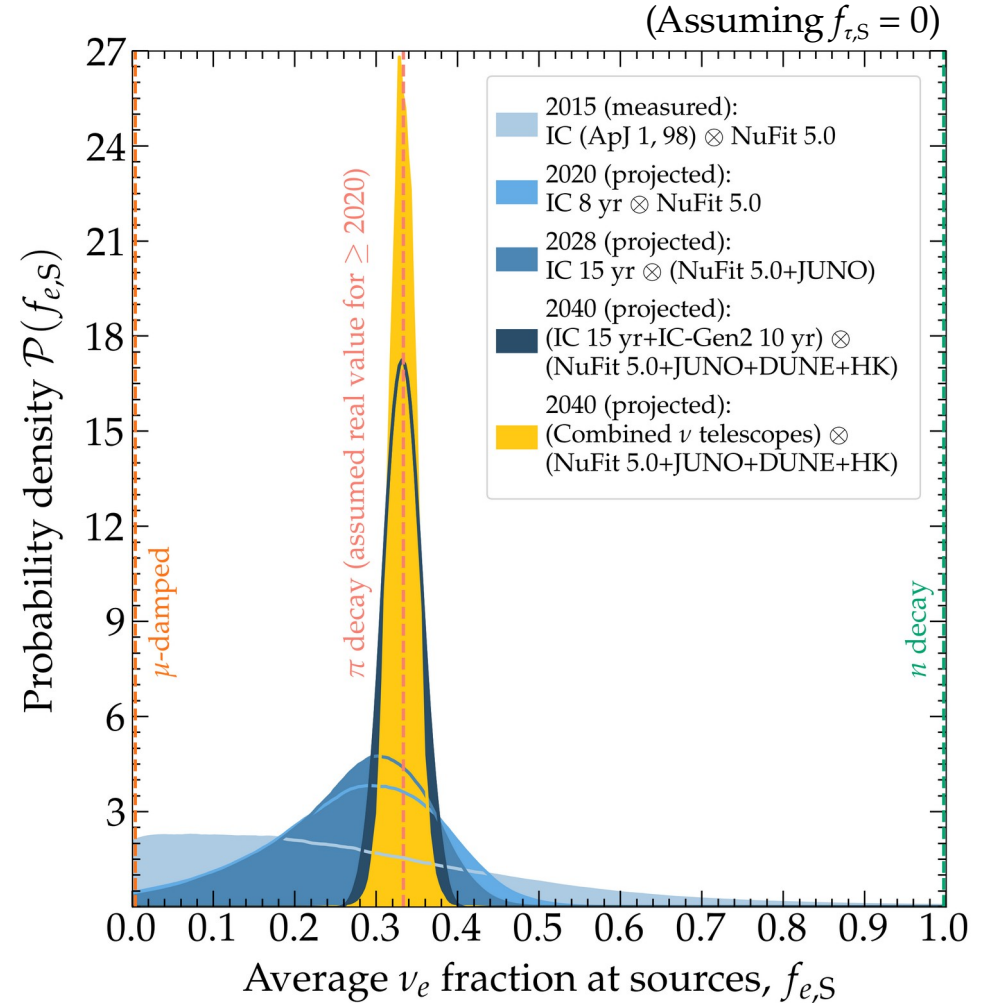
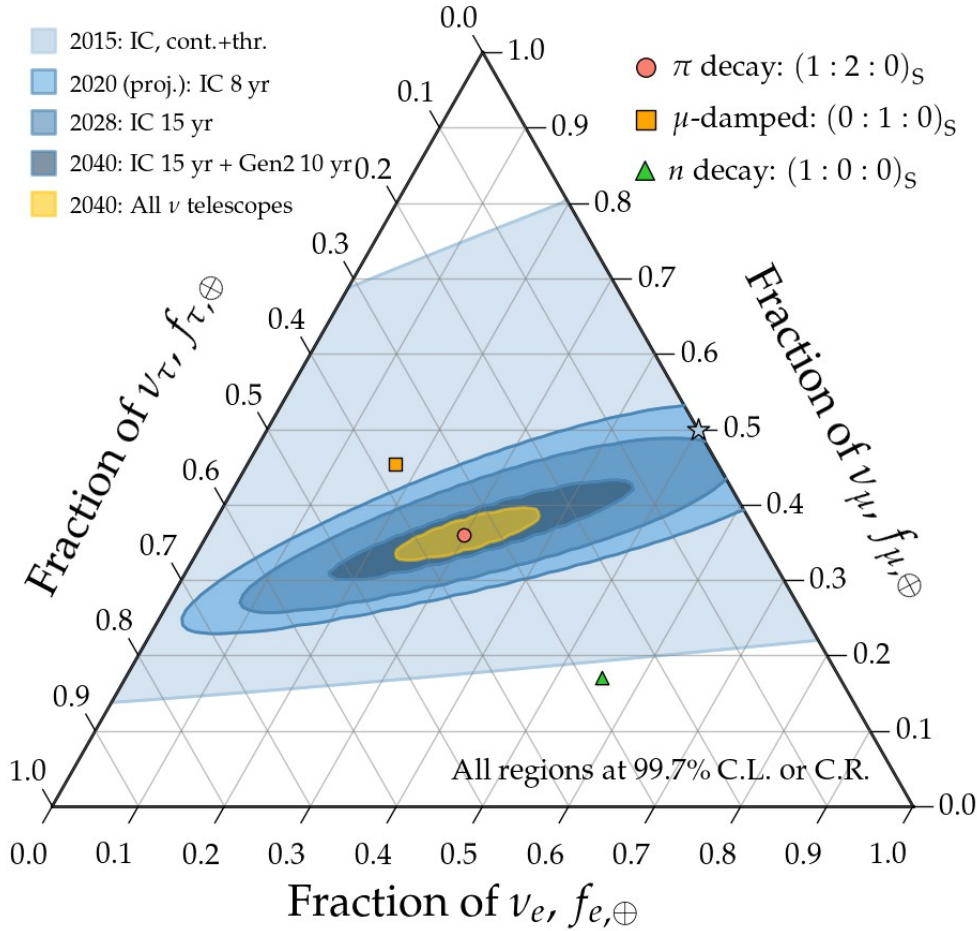
Inferring the flavor composition at the sources



Inferring the flavor composition at the sources



Inferring the flavor composition at the sources



1

Neutrino oscillations is a three-state system (ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ),
but we study them using mainly two (ν_e and ν_μ)

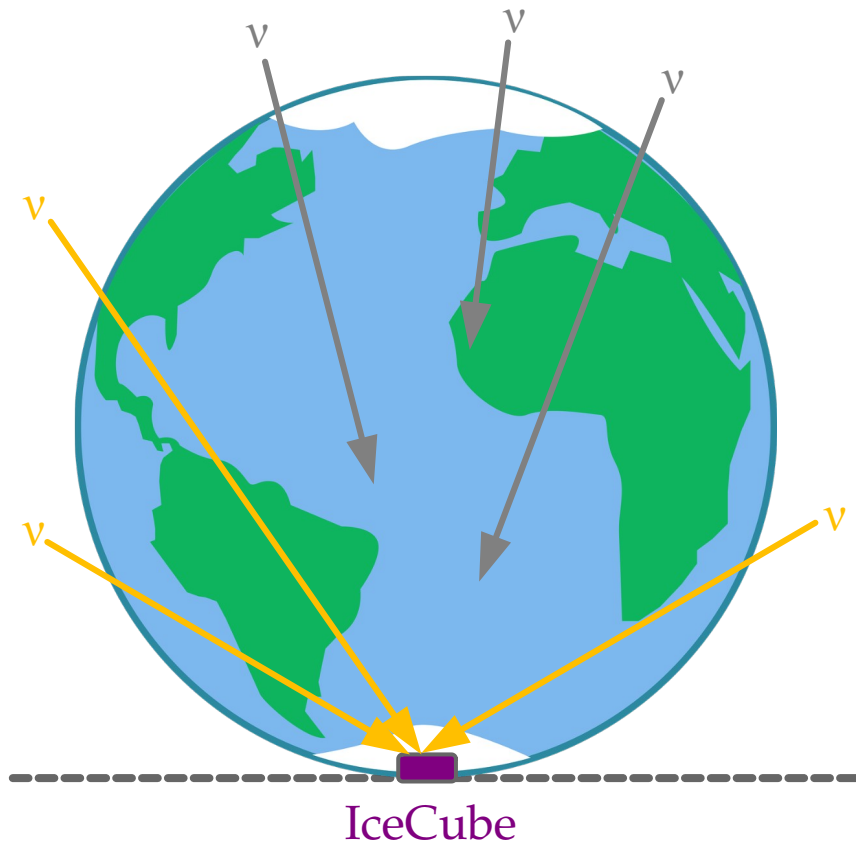
2

The **flavor composition** of high-energy cosmic neutrinos reflects
the physical conditions inside cosmic accelerators

3

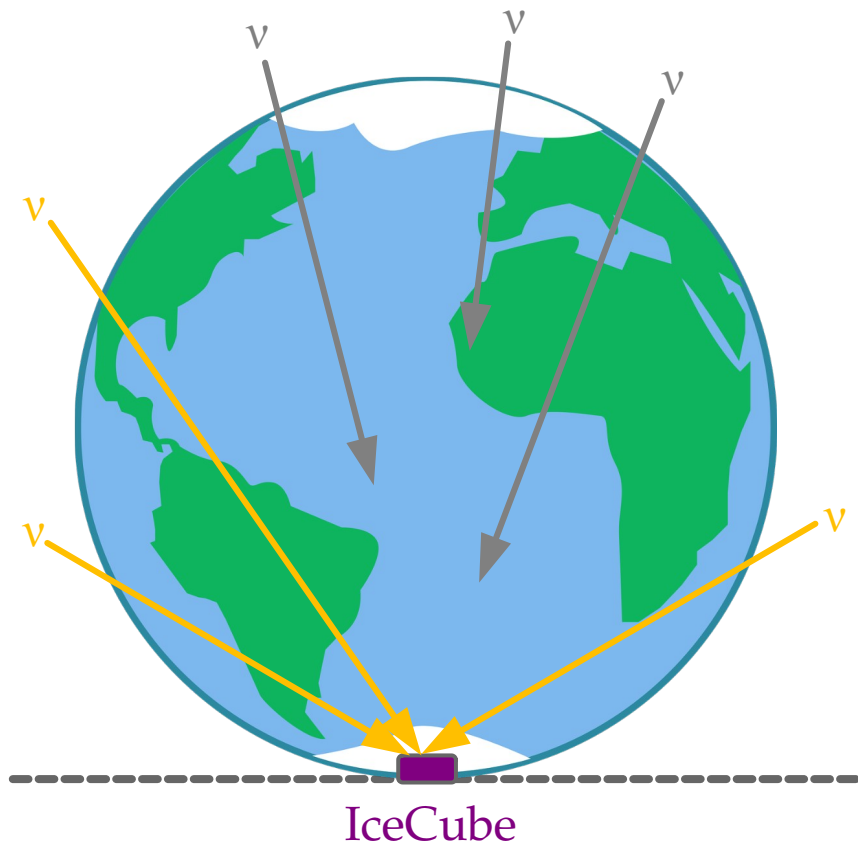
At **ultra-high energies** ($> 10^{18}$ EeV), ν_τ provide unique detection
opportunities (ν_τ regeneration, Earth-skimming ν_τ)

TeV–PeV:



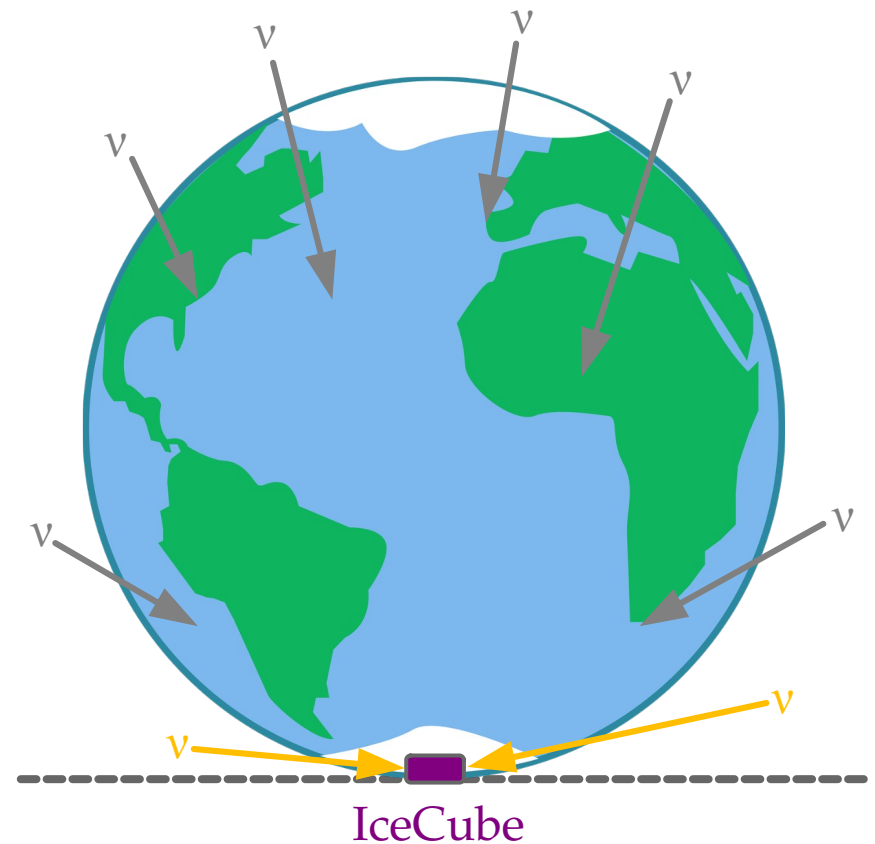
Earth is *almost fully* opaque,
some upgoing ν still make it through

TeV–PeV:

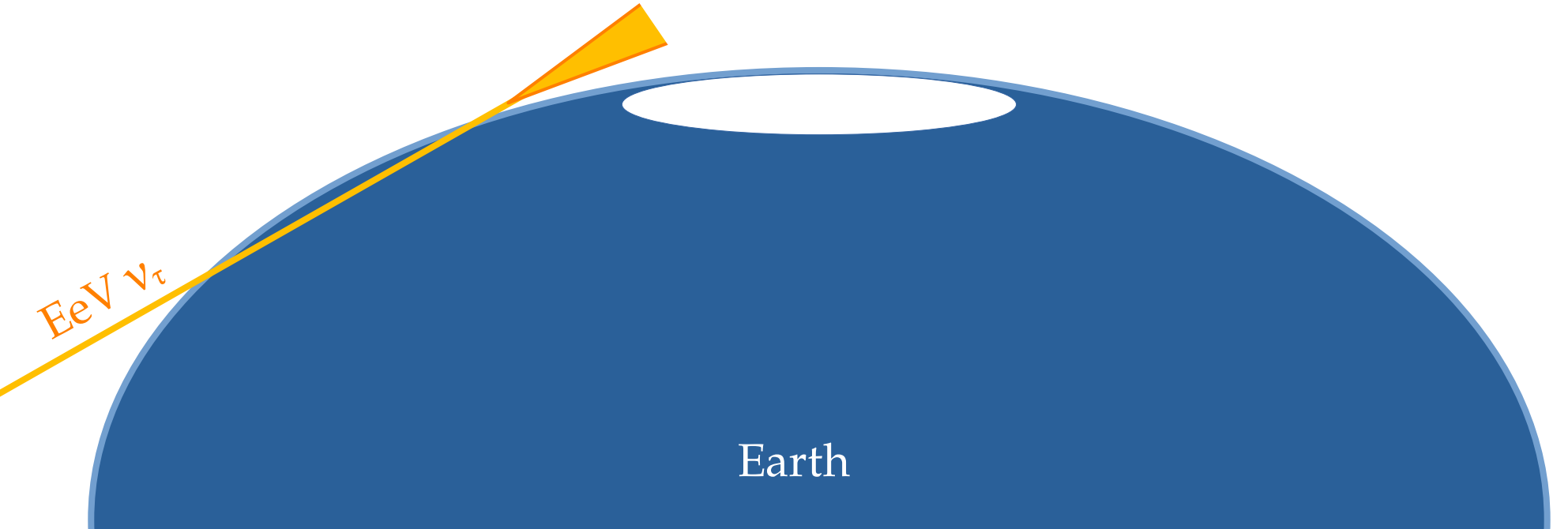


Earth is *almost fully* opaque,
some upgoing ν still make it through

> 100 PeV:

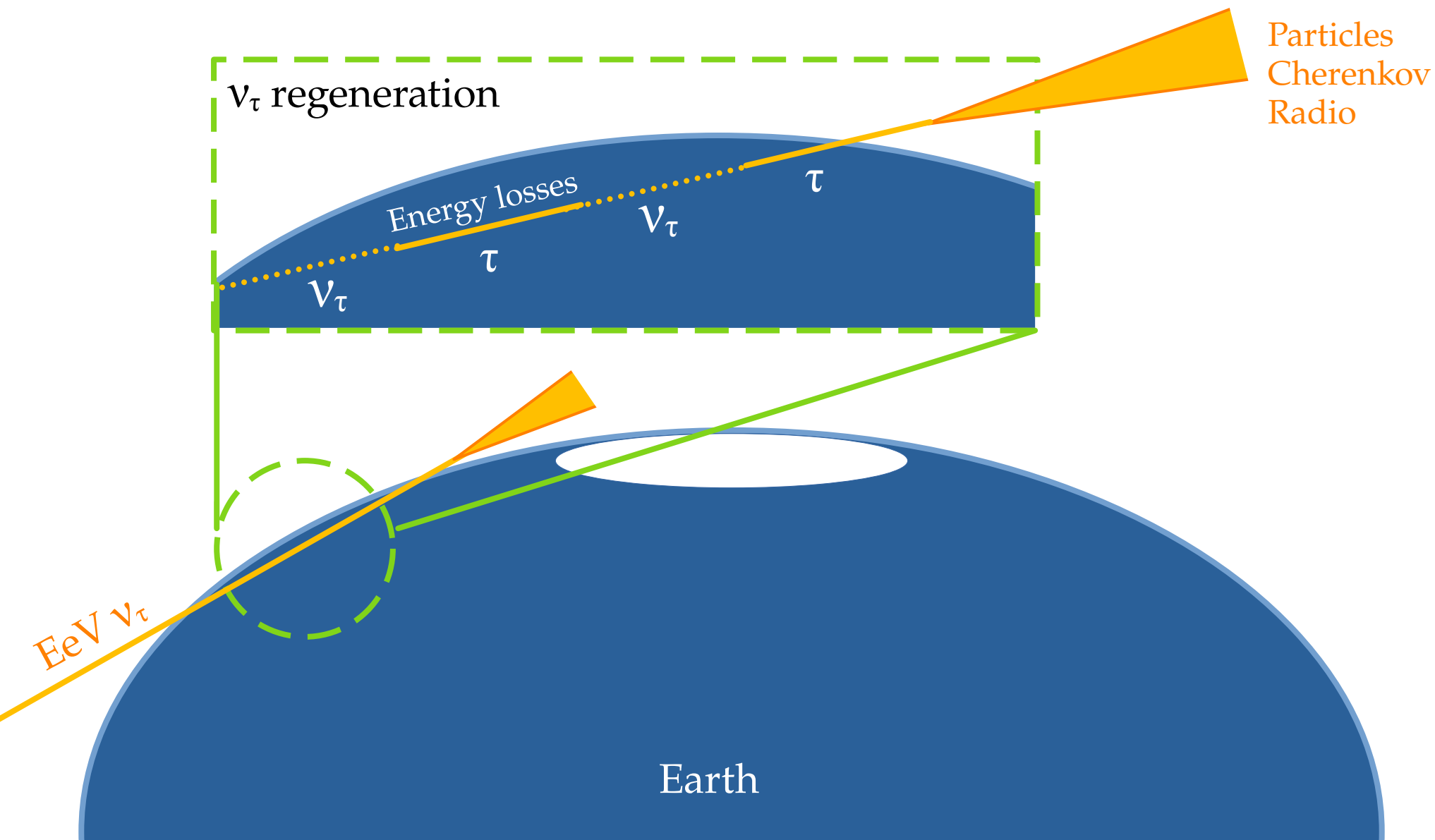


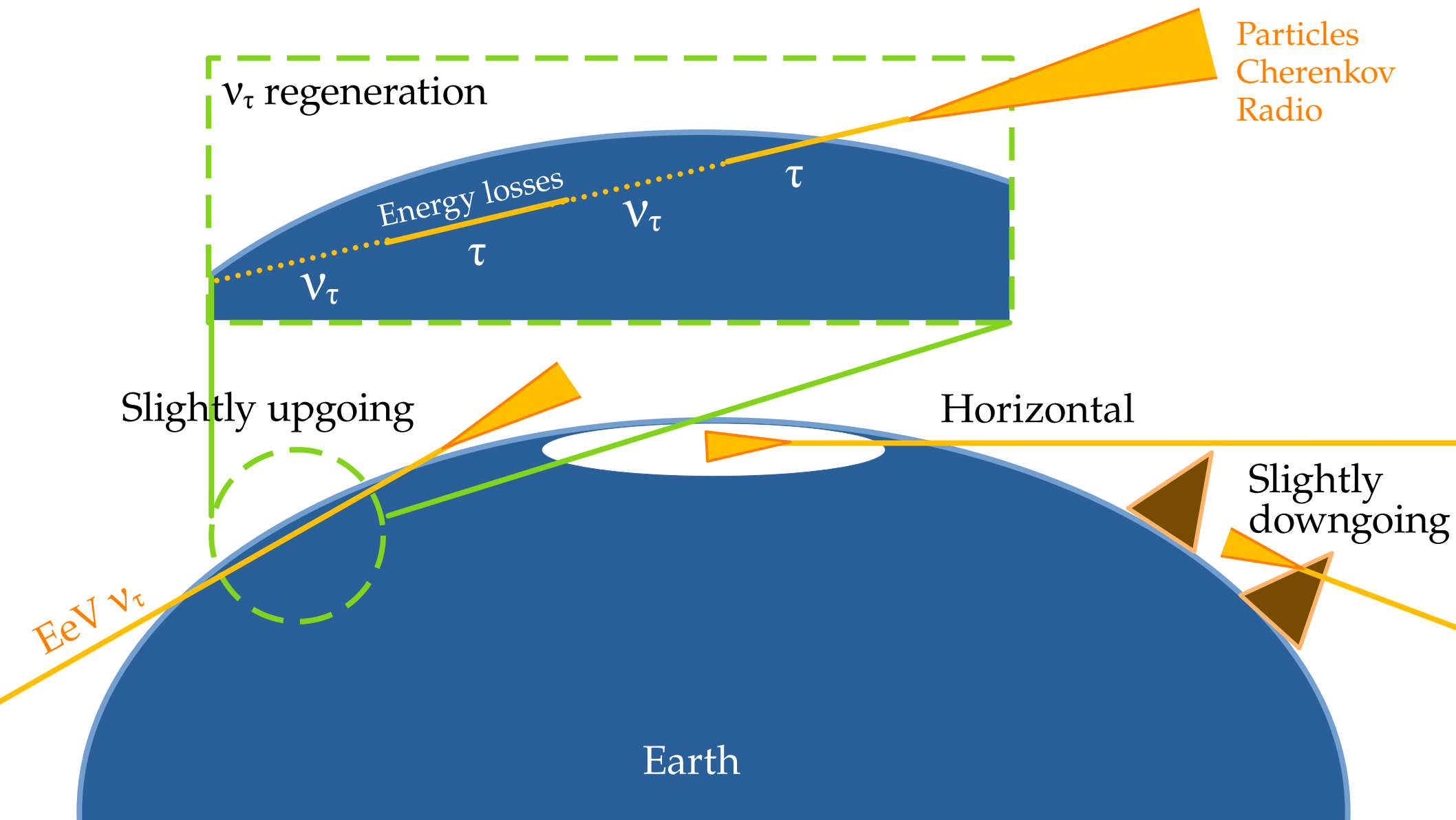
Earth is *completely* opaque,
but horizontal ν still make it through

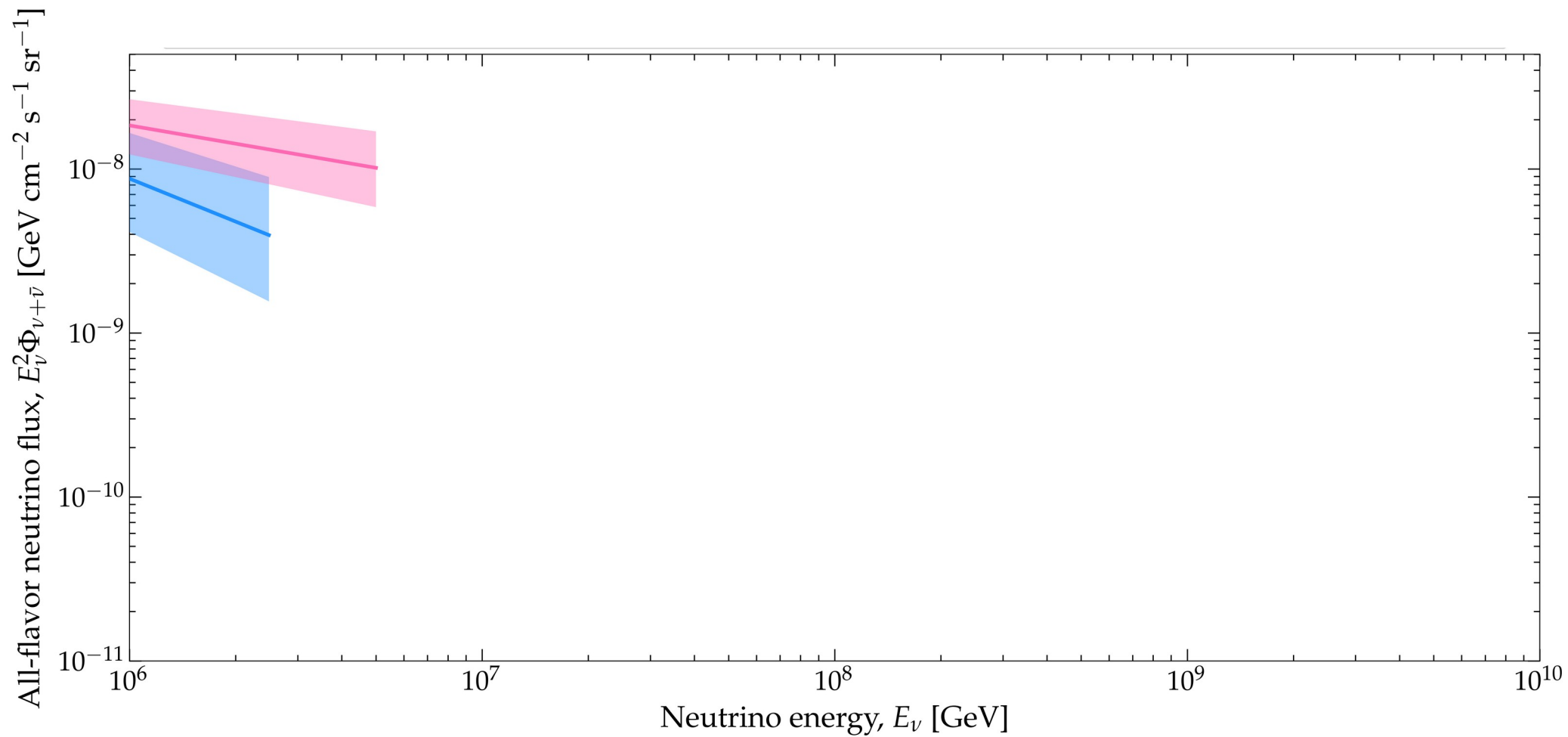


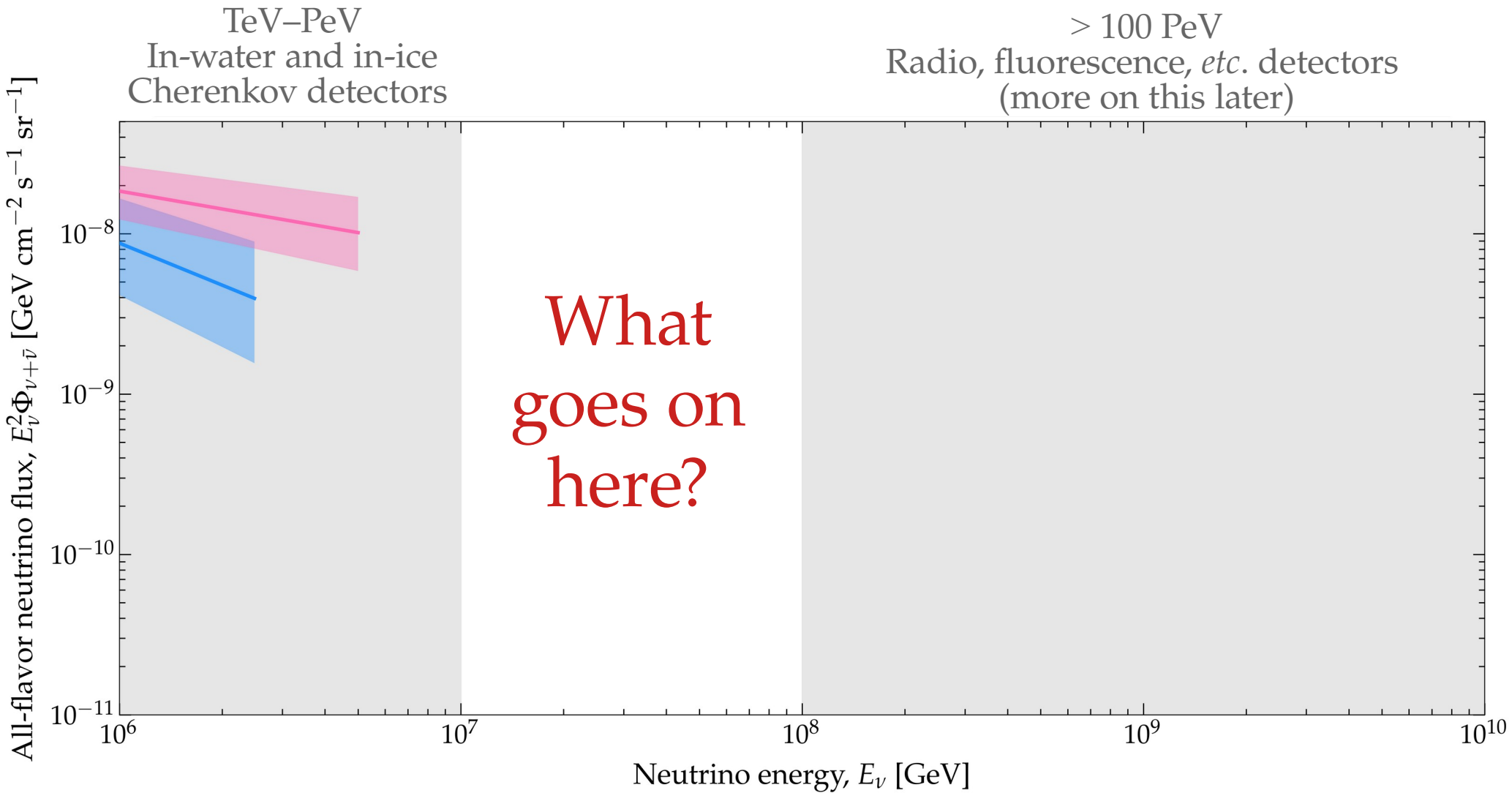
$EeV \nu_\tau$

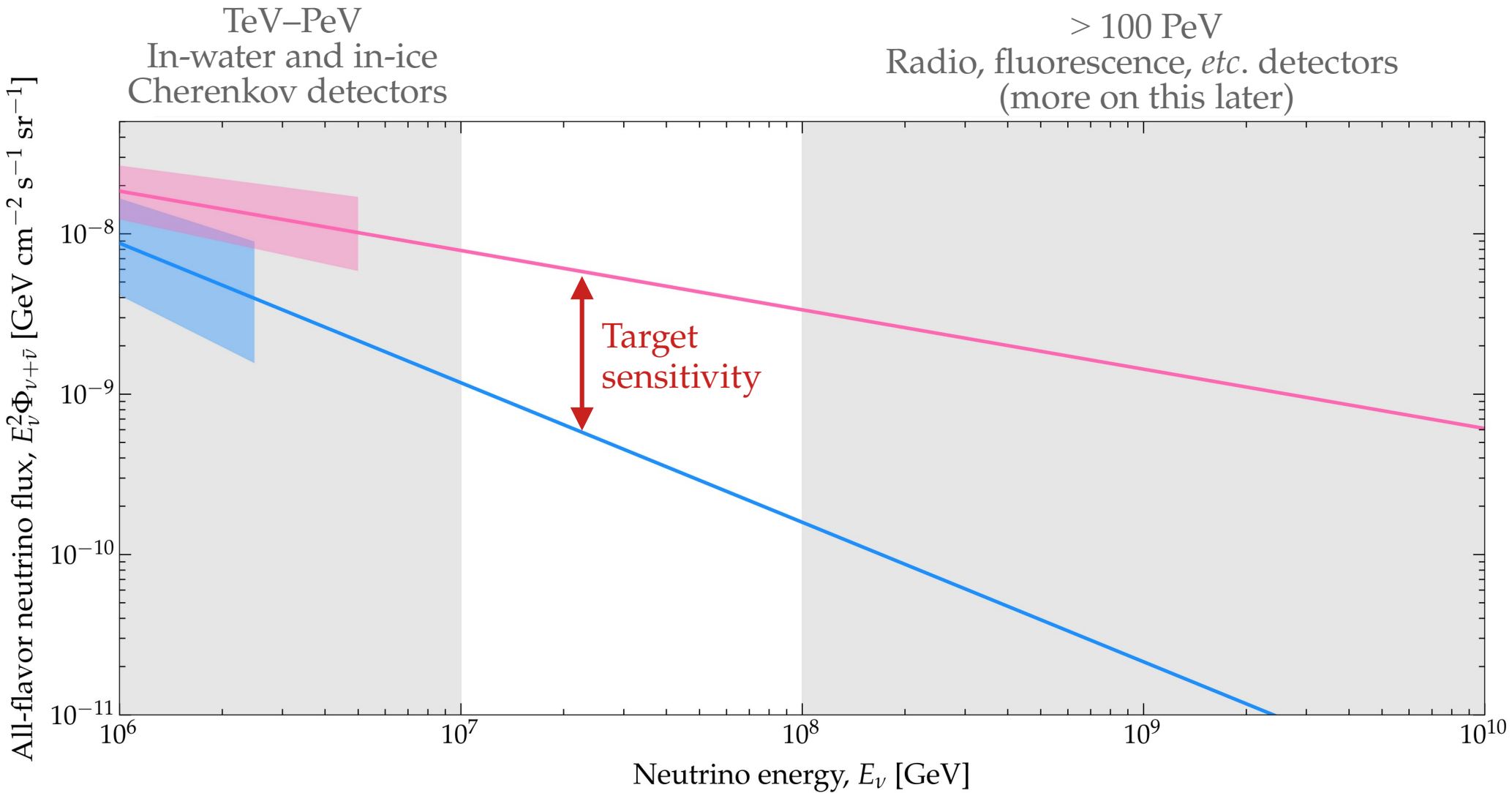
Earth





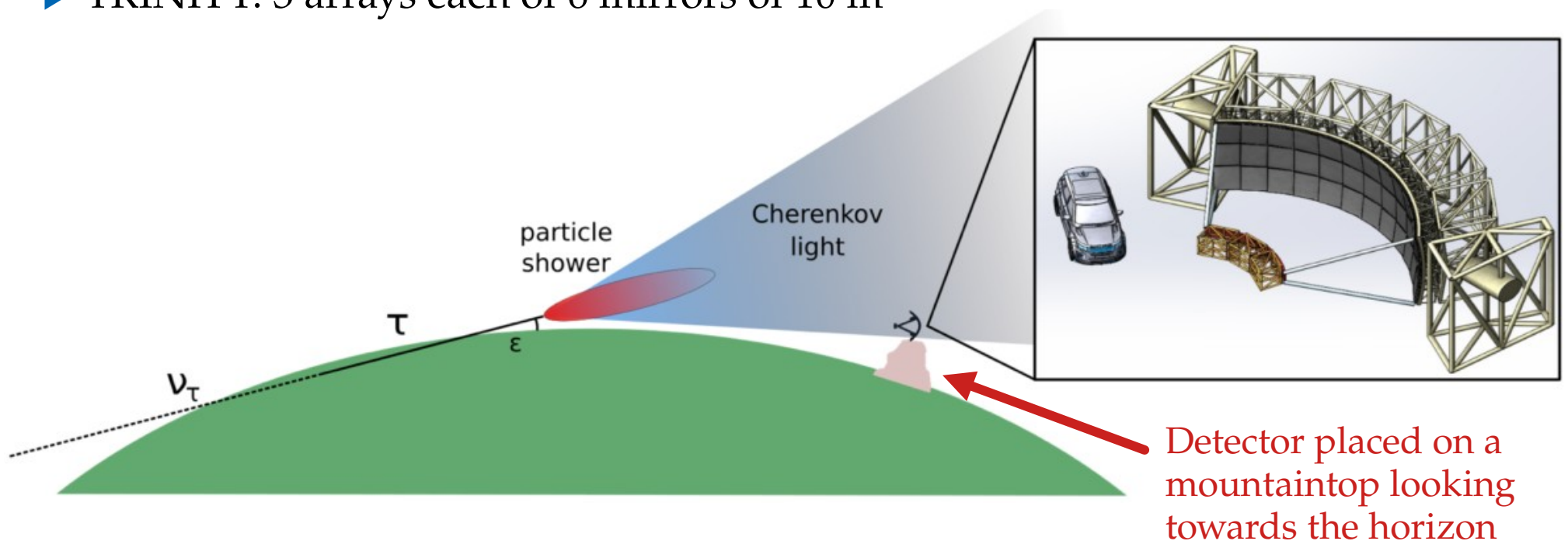






TRINITY — Detecting Cherenkov light

- ▶ Atmospheric Cherenkov imaging applied to PeV neutrinos
- ▶ Pioneered by MAGIC (pointing at Atlantic), ASHRA, and NTA (Mauna Kea)
- ▶ TRINITY: 3 arrays each of 6 mirrors of 10 m²



TAMBO — Detecting particles

AIR SHOWER:

3 – 10 KM LENGTH
200 M DIAMETER

DECAY

τ

RANGE:
50 M – 5 KM

ROCK

> 4 KM SHIELDING FROM
BACKGROUND MUONS

ν_{τ}

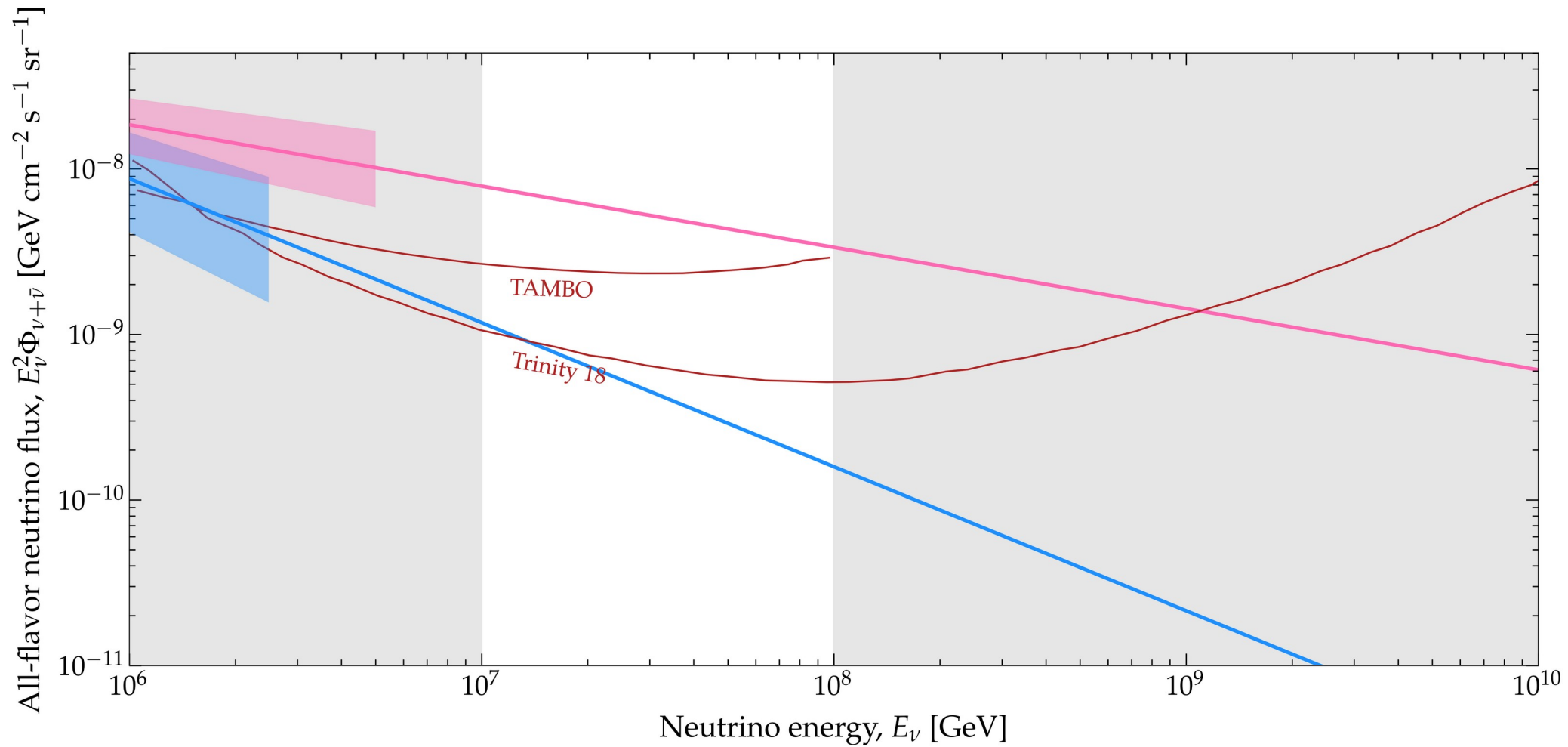
CHARGED-CURRENT
INTERACTION

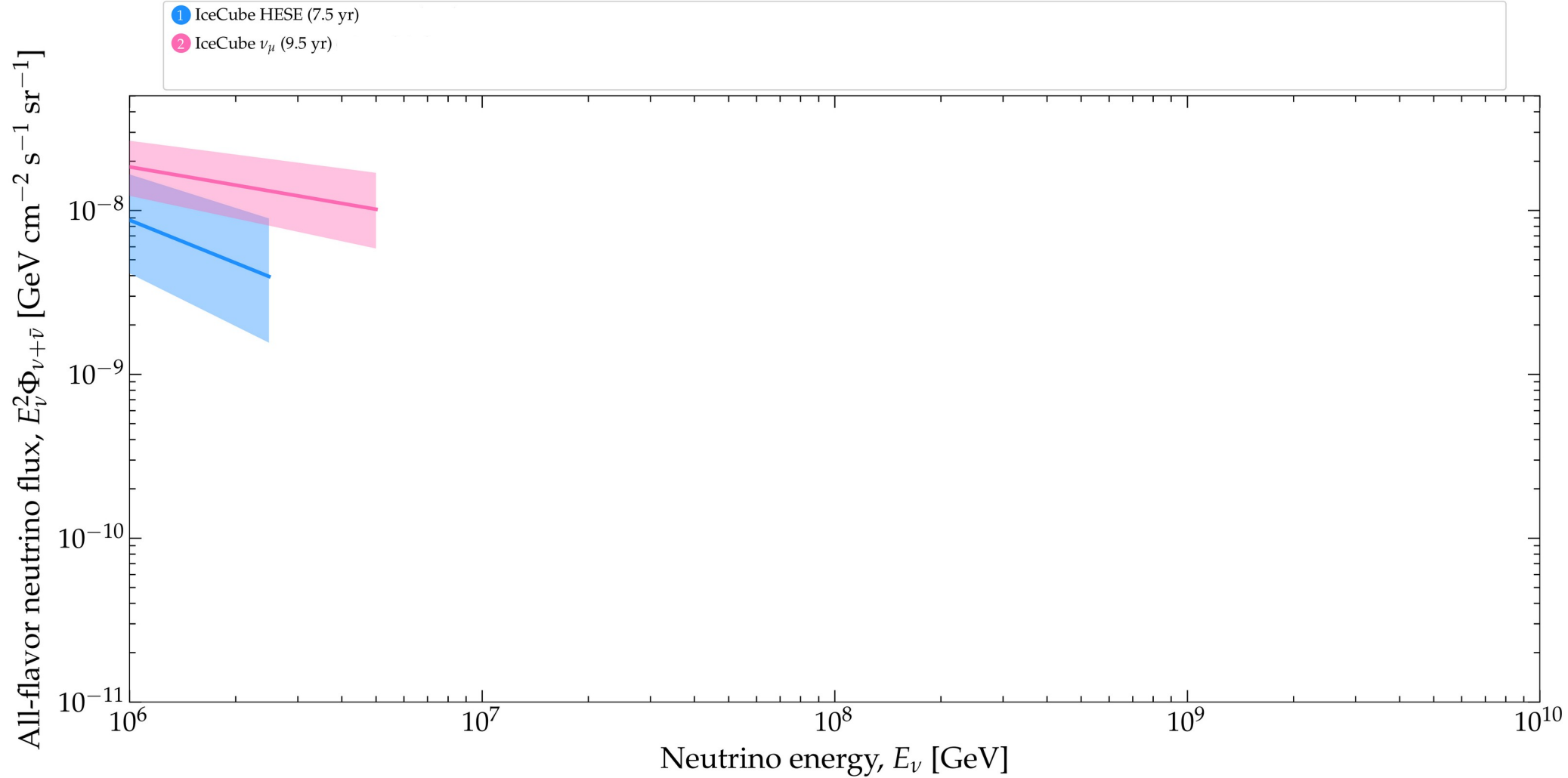
~100 M
SEPARATION

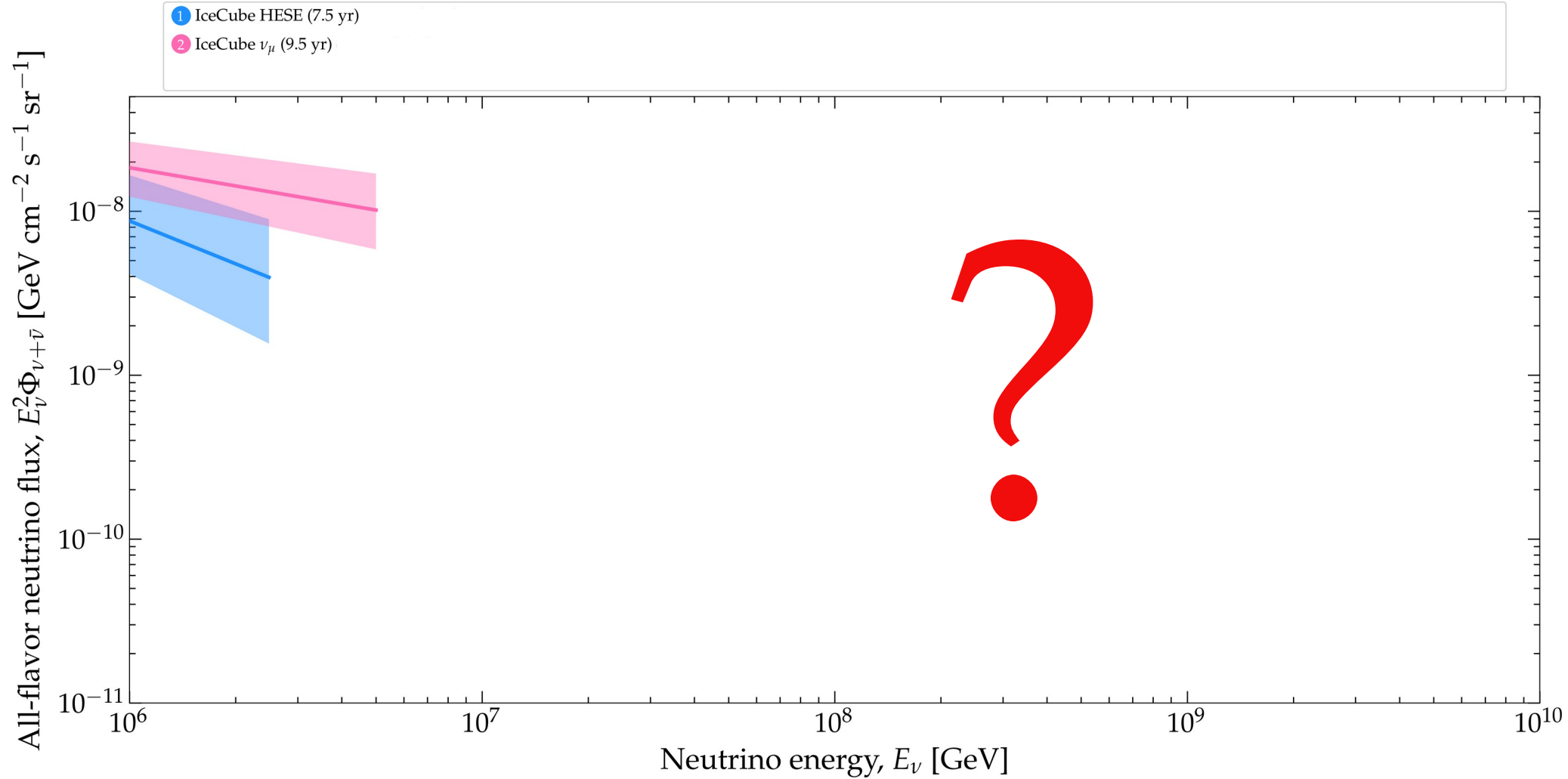
AIR-SHOWER
DETECTOR ARRAY

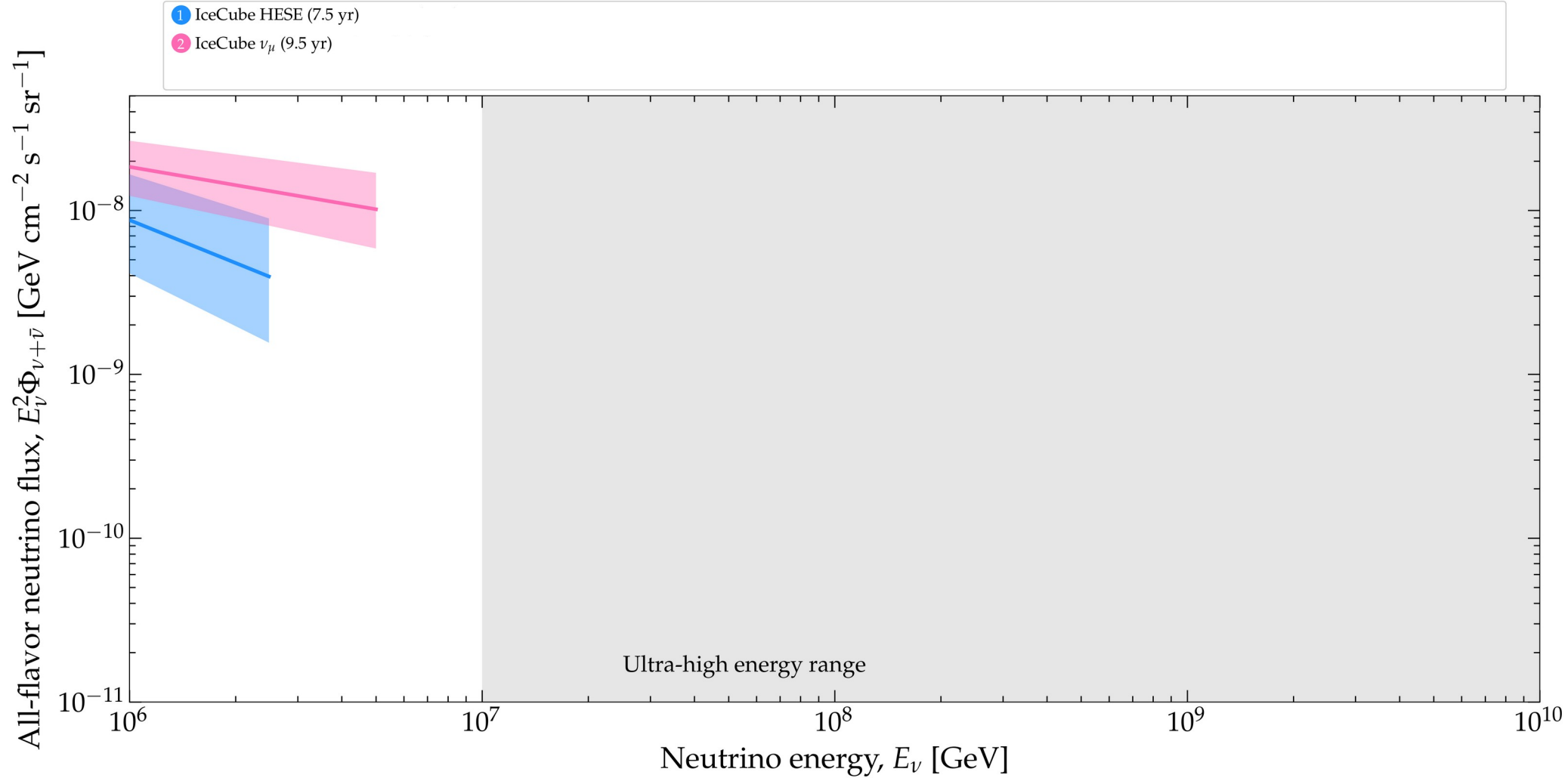
~M³ EACH

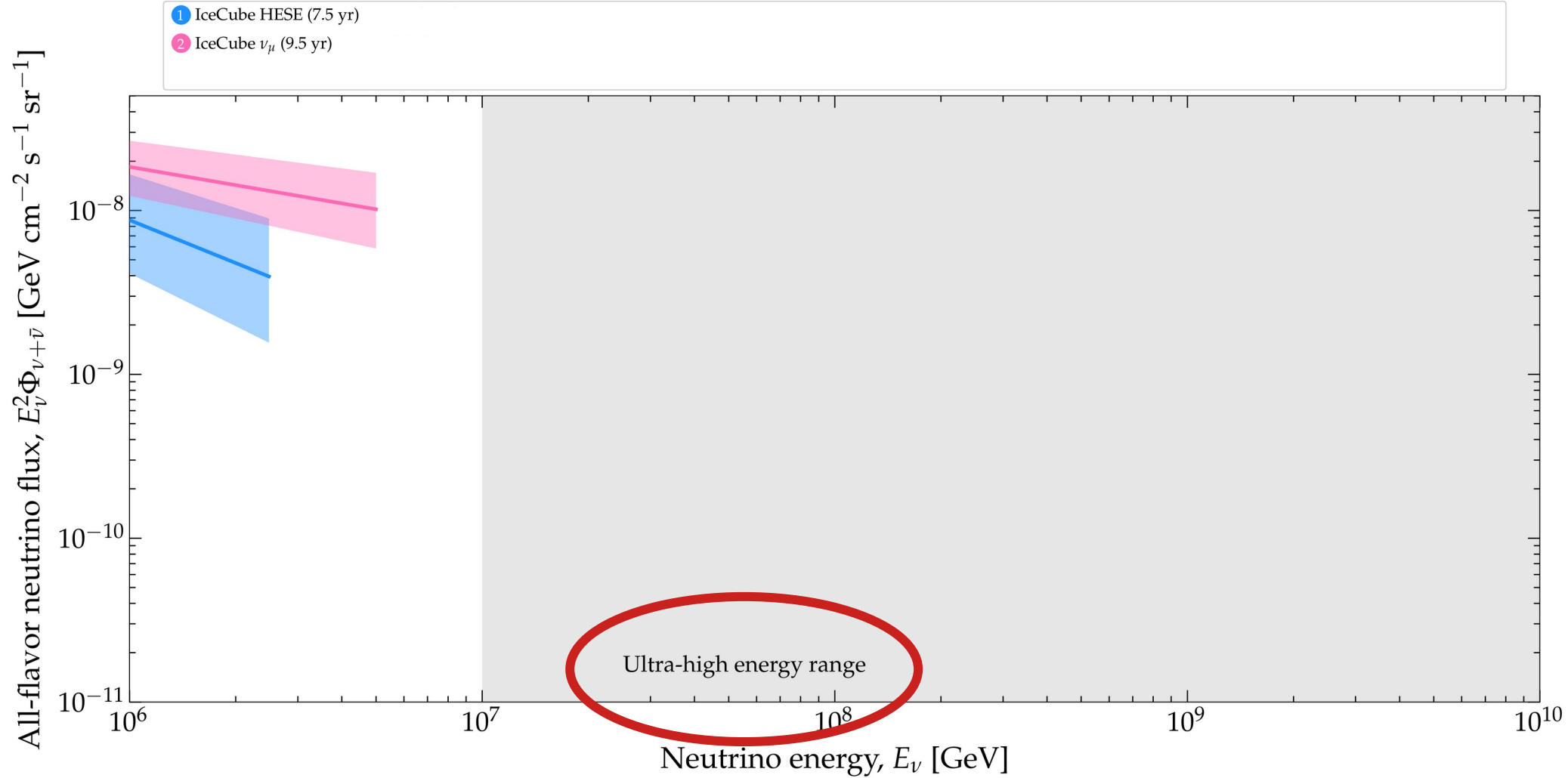
DEEP VALLEY

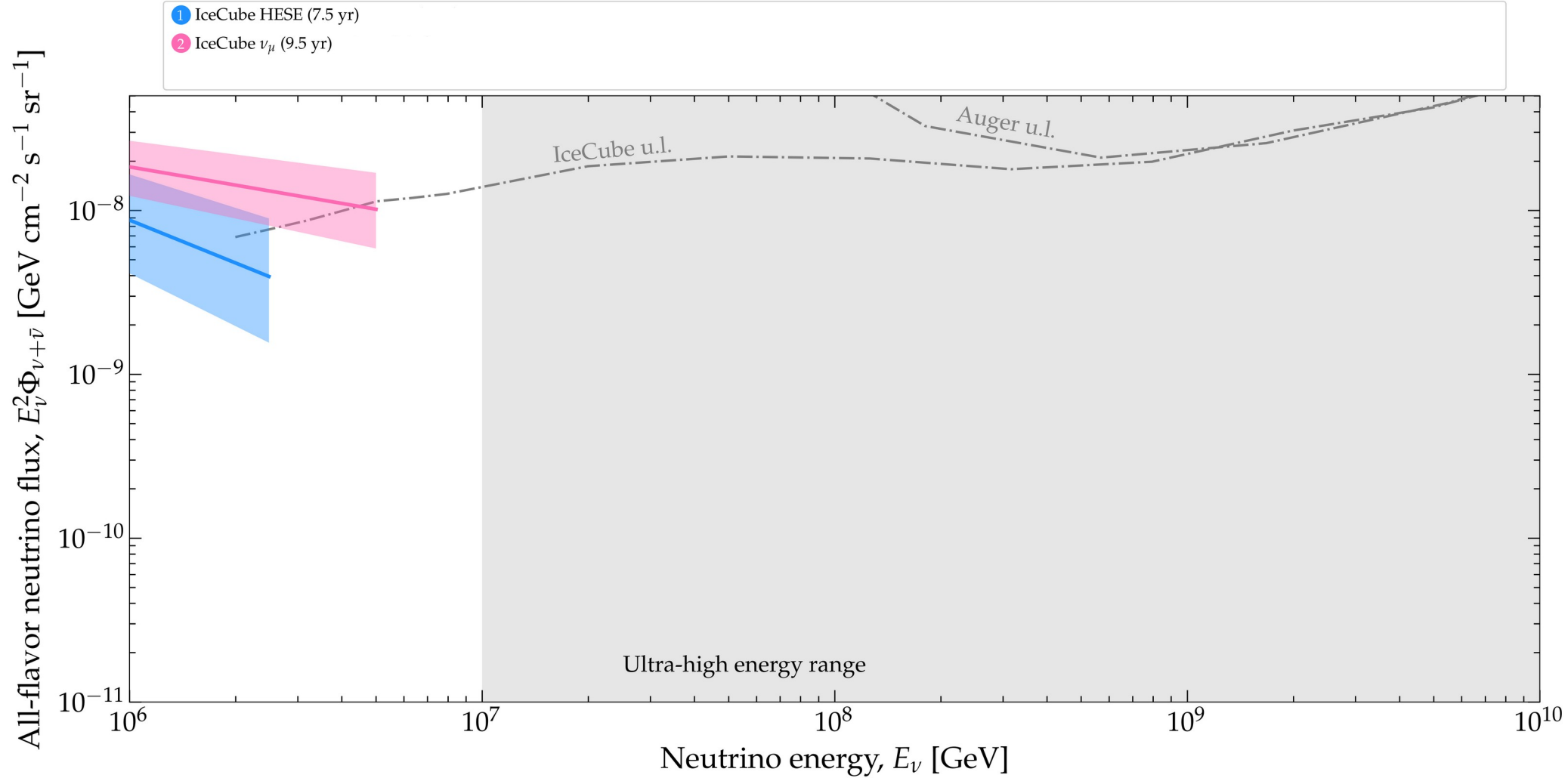


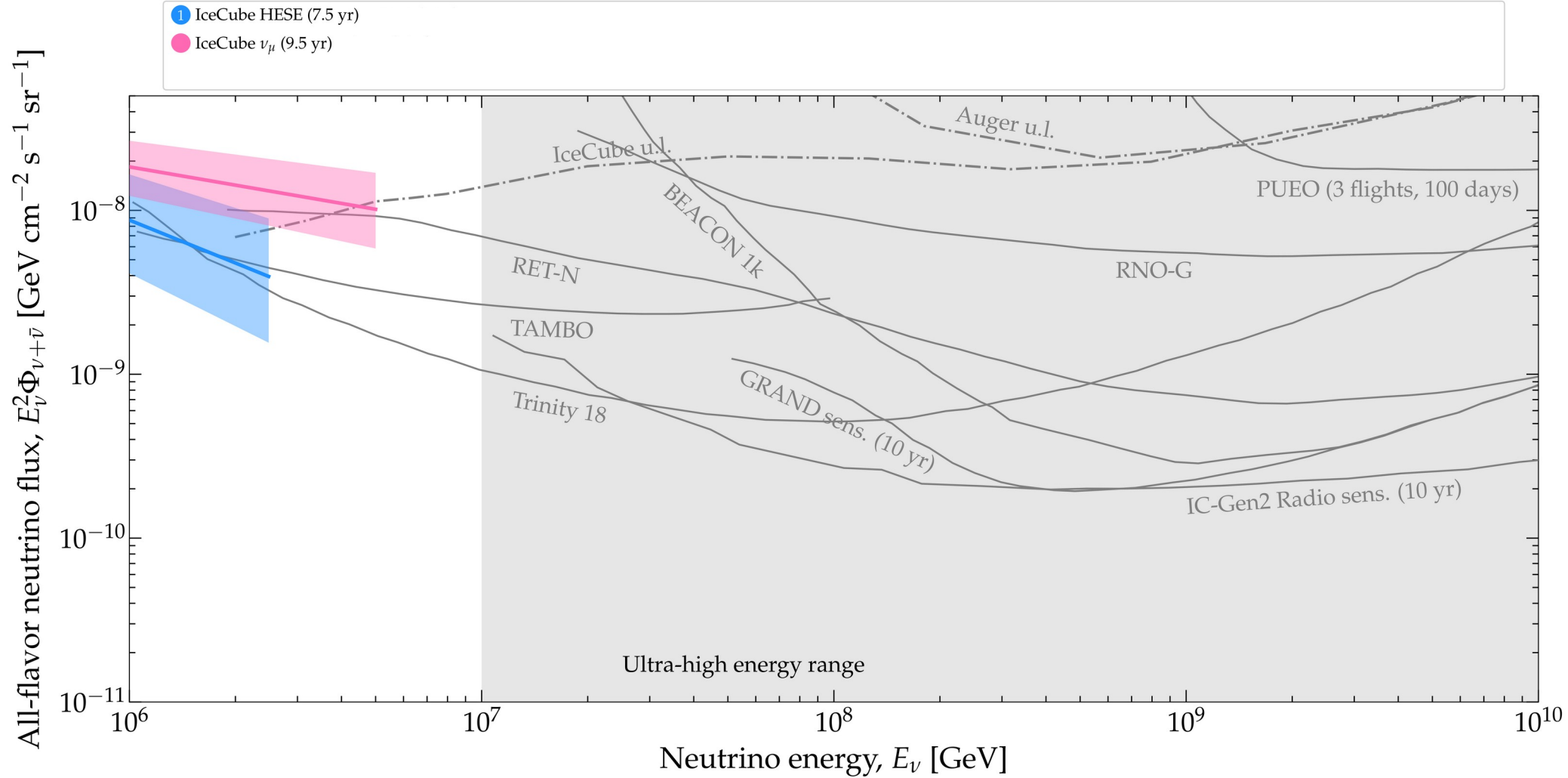


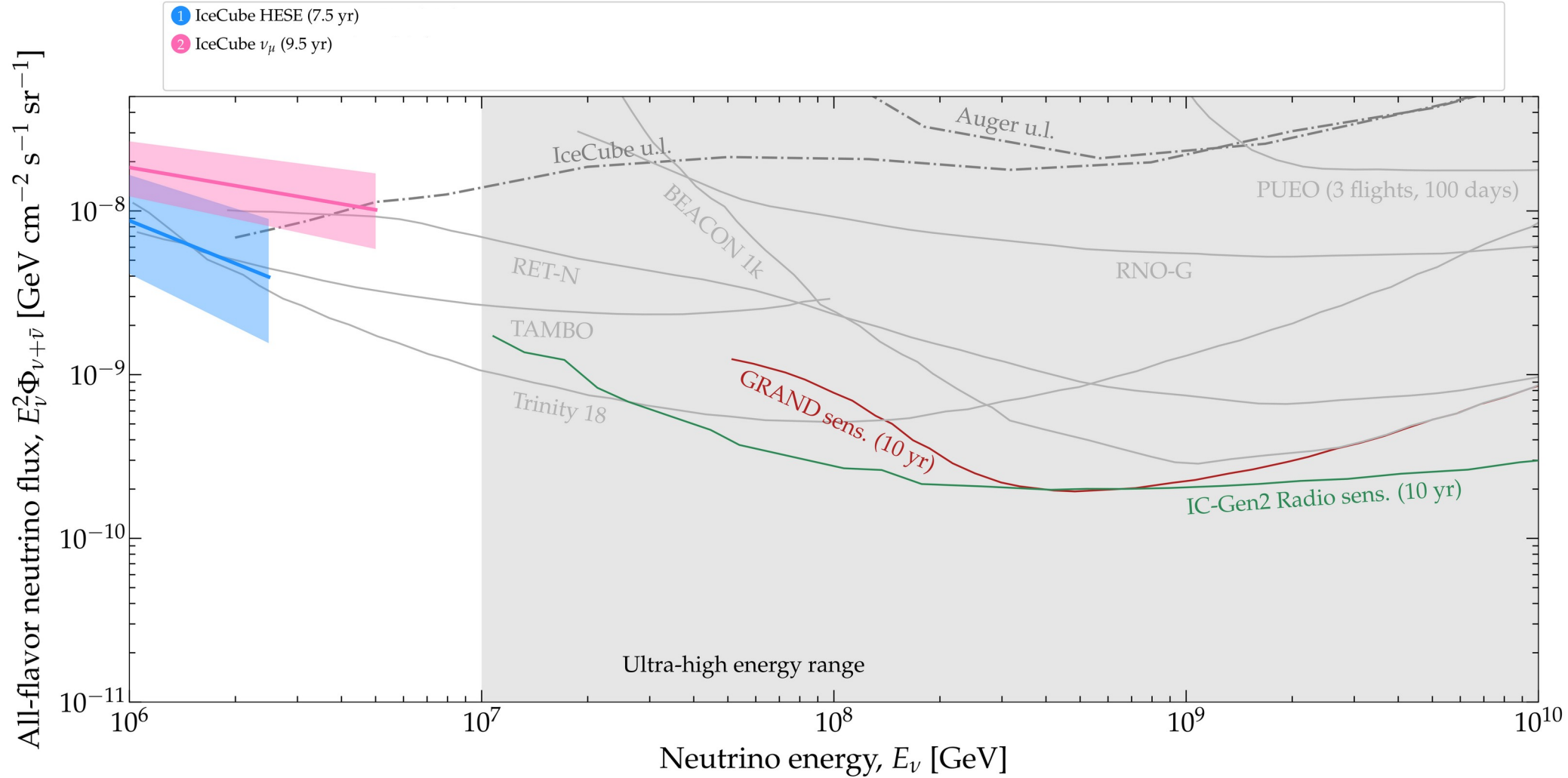


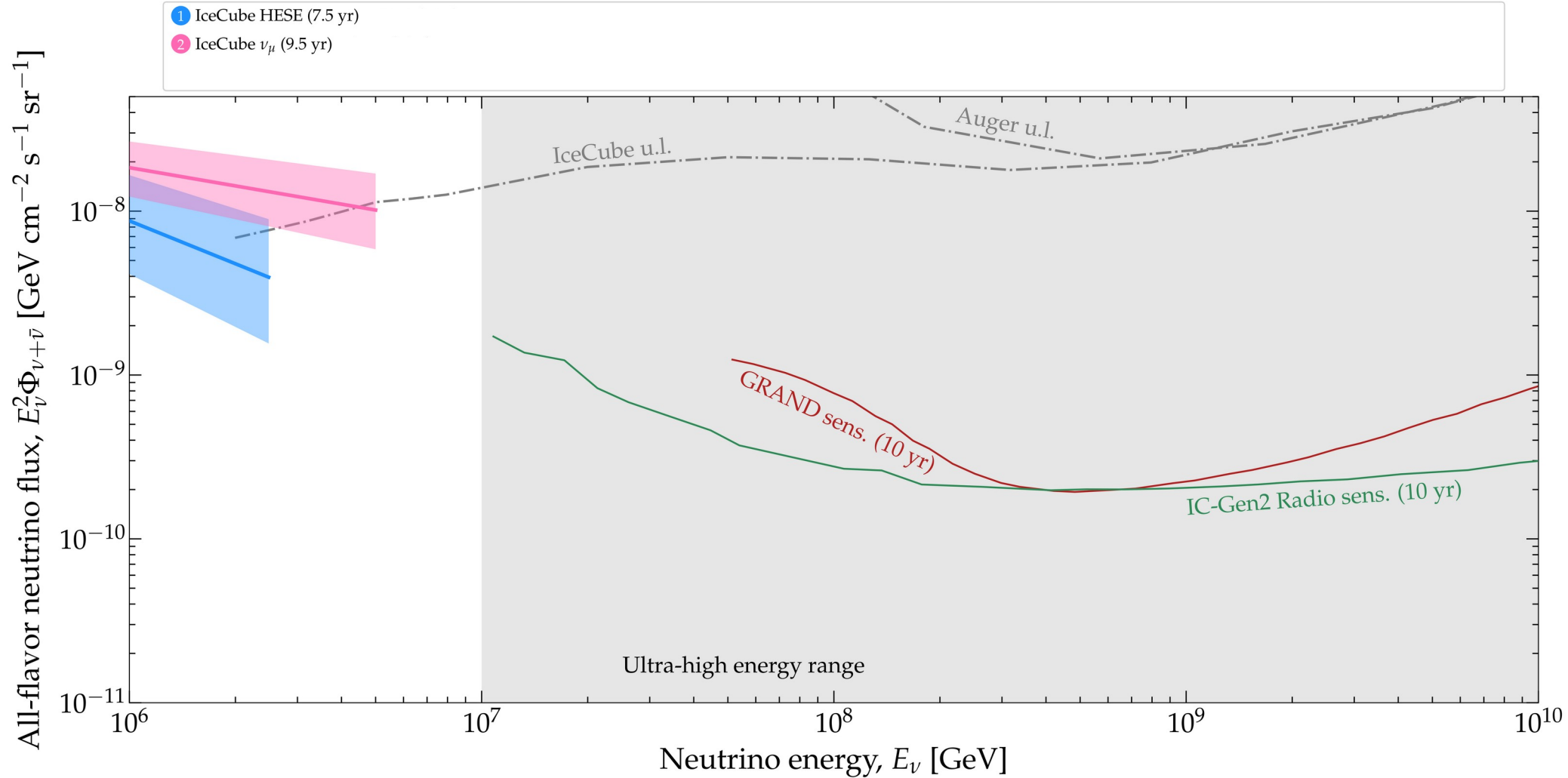


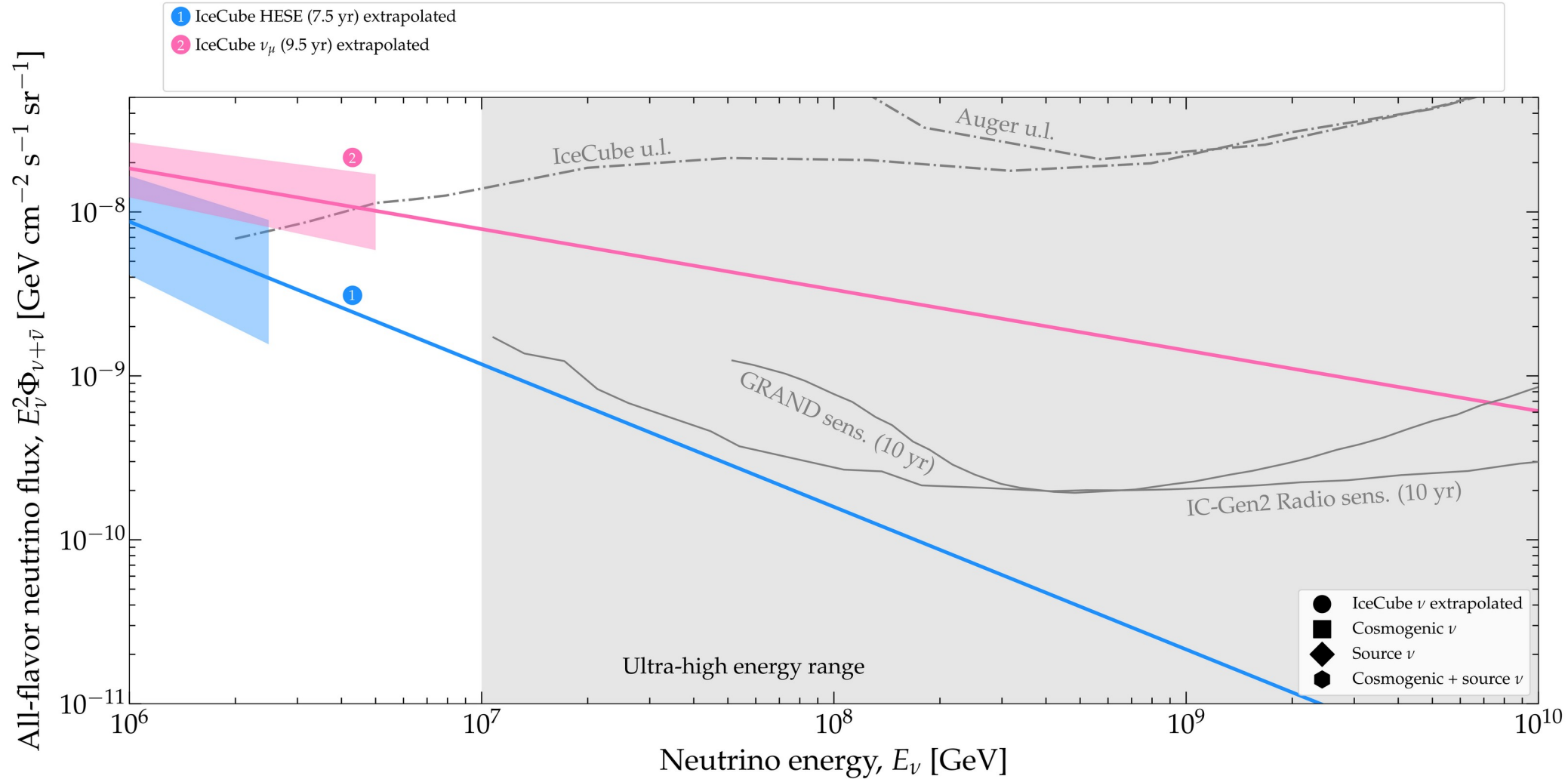


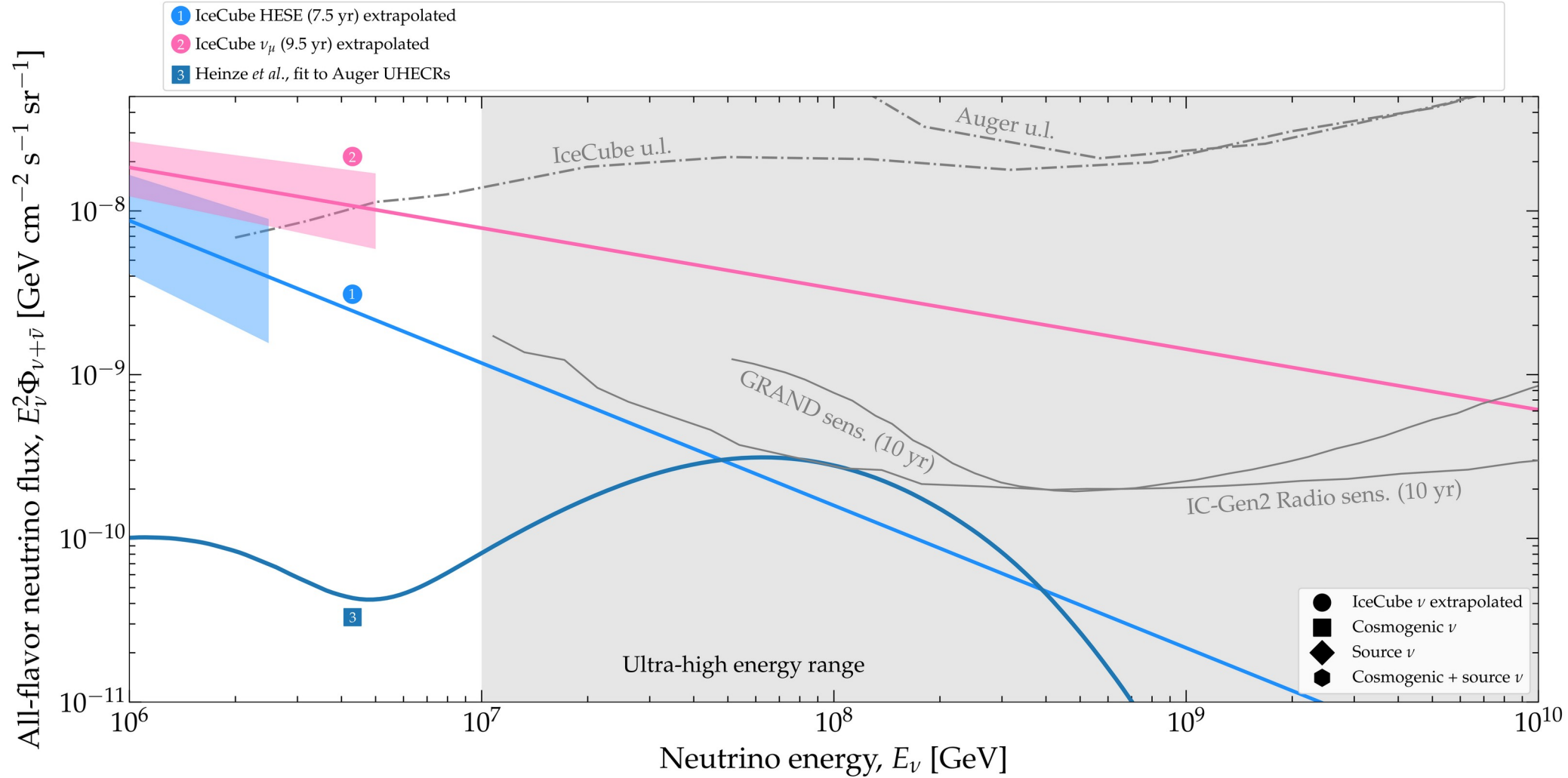


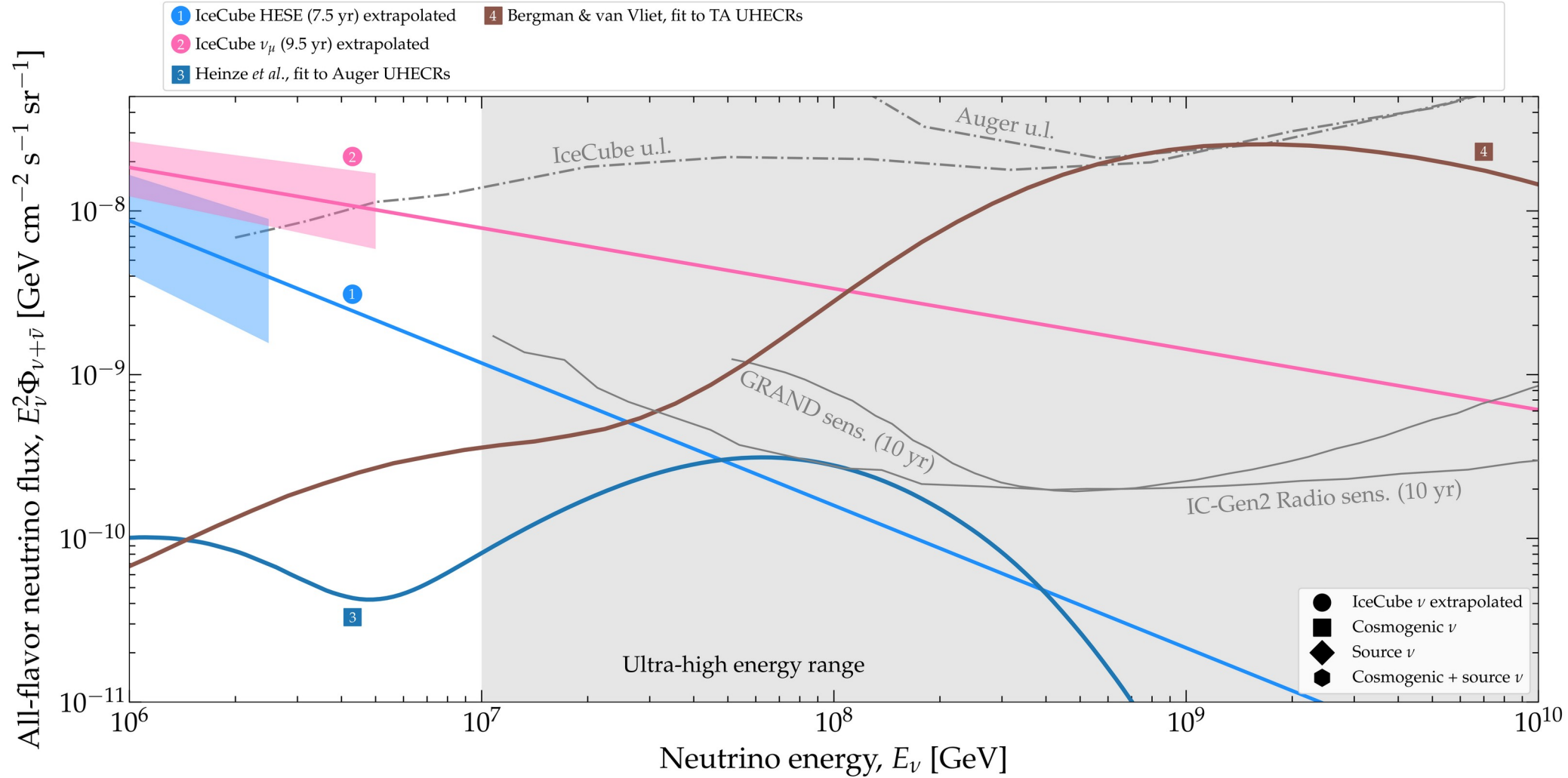






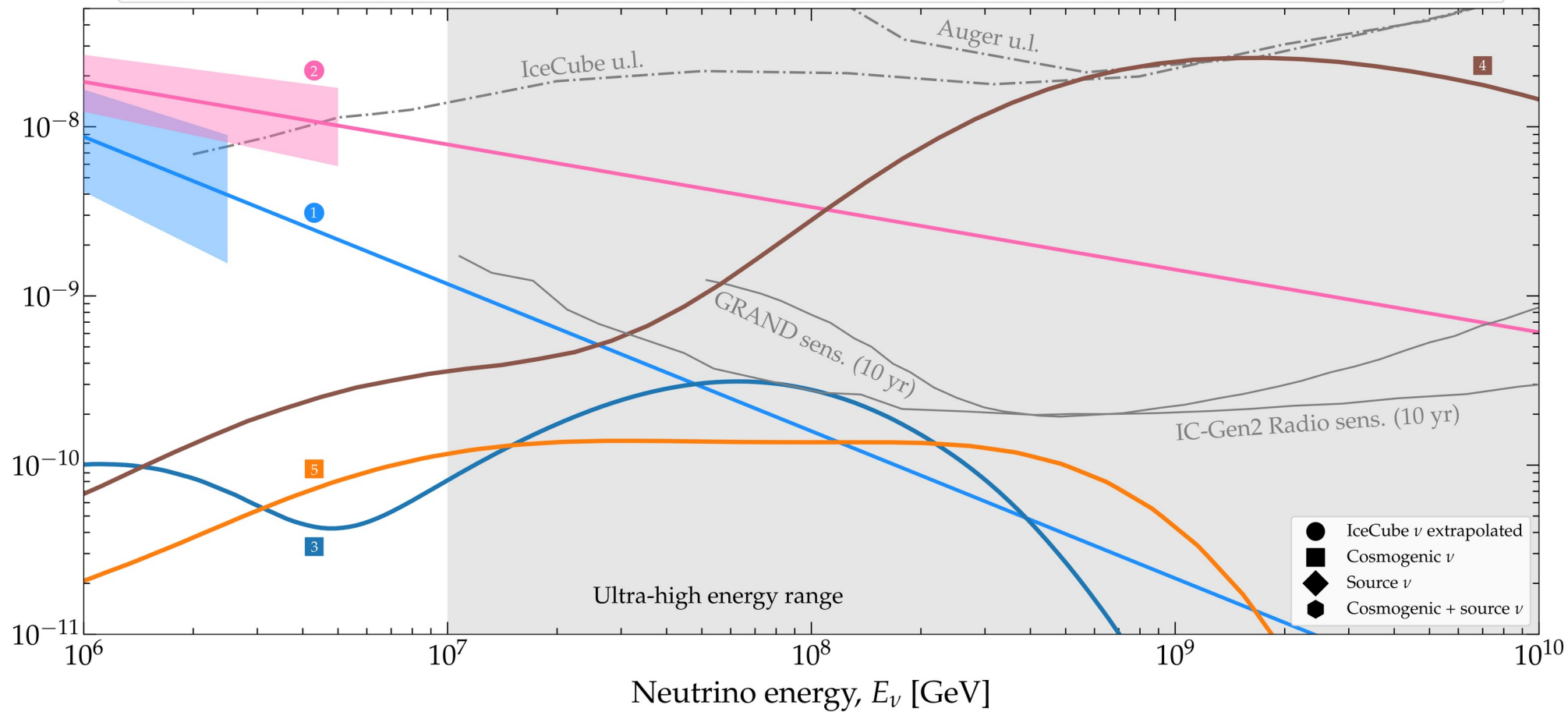






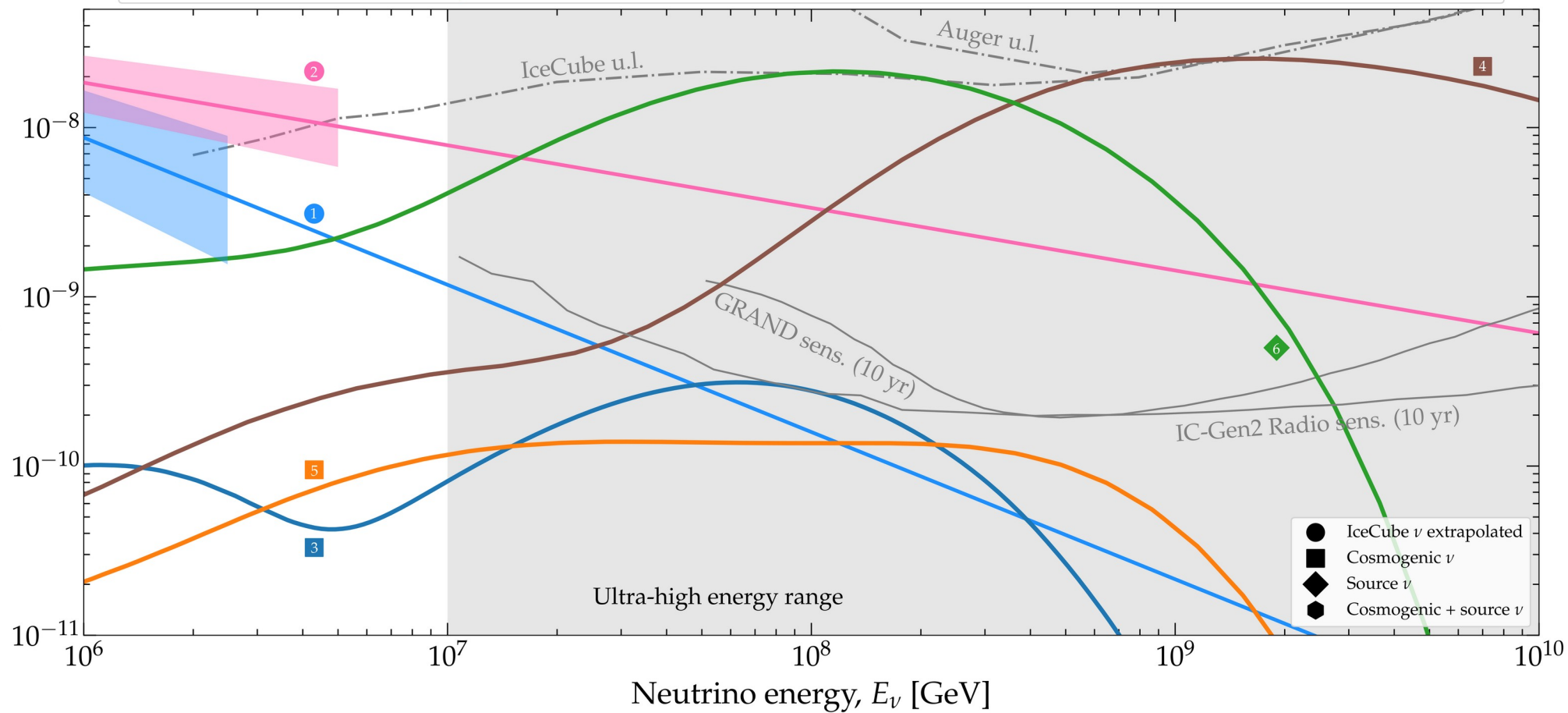
All-flavor neutrino flux, $E_\nu^2 \Phi_{\nu+\bar{\nu}}$ [$\text{GeV cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$]

- 1 IceCube HESE (7.5 yr) extrapolated
- 2 IceCube ν_μ (9.5 yr) extrapolated
- 3 Heinze *et al.*, fit to Auger UHECRs
- 4 Bergman & van Vliet, fit to TA UHECRs
- 5 Rodrigues *et al.*, all AGN



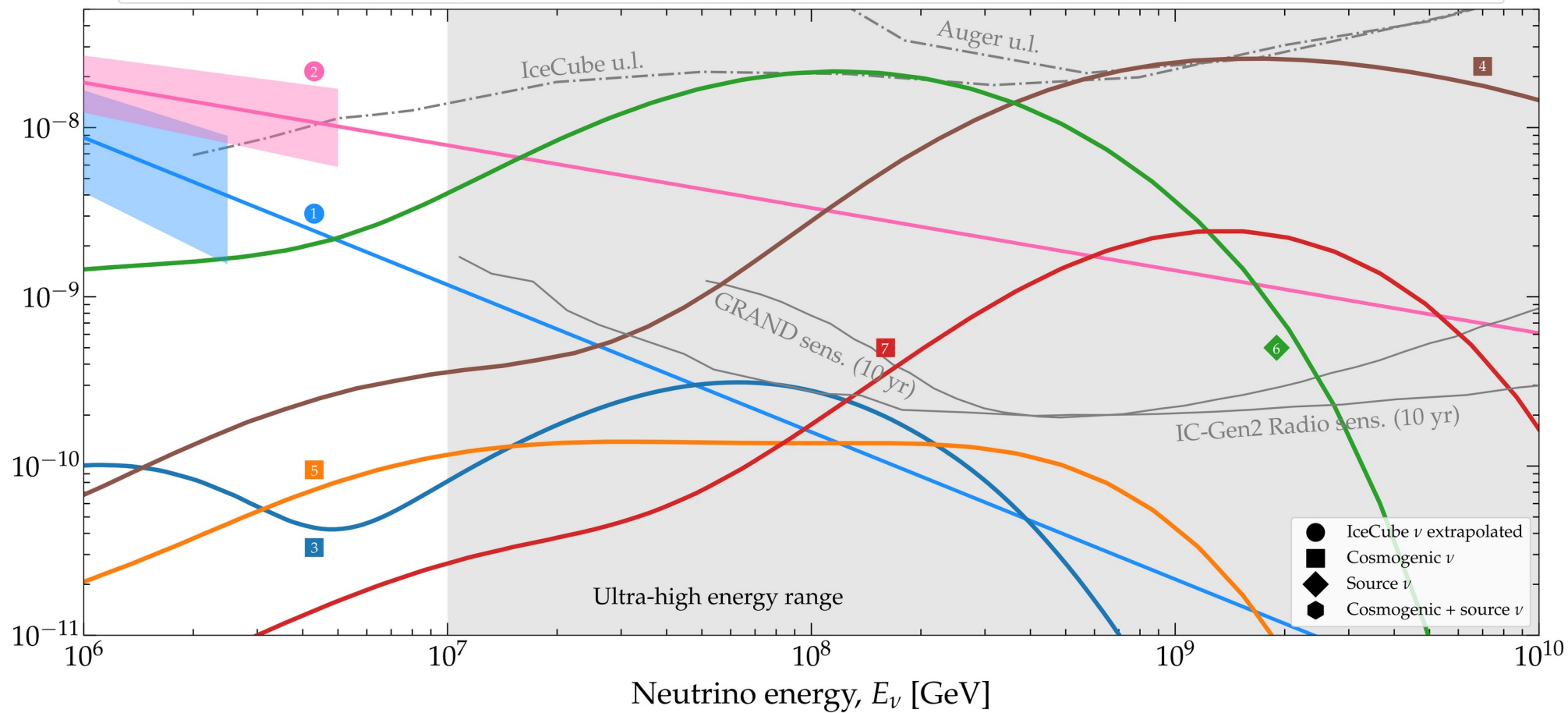
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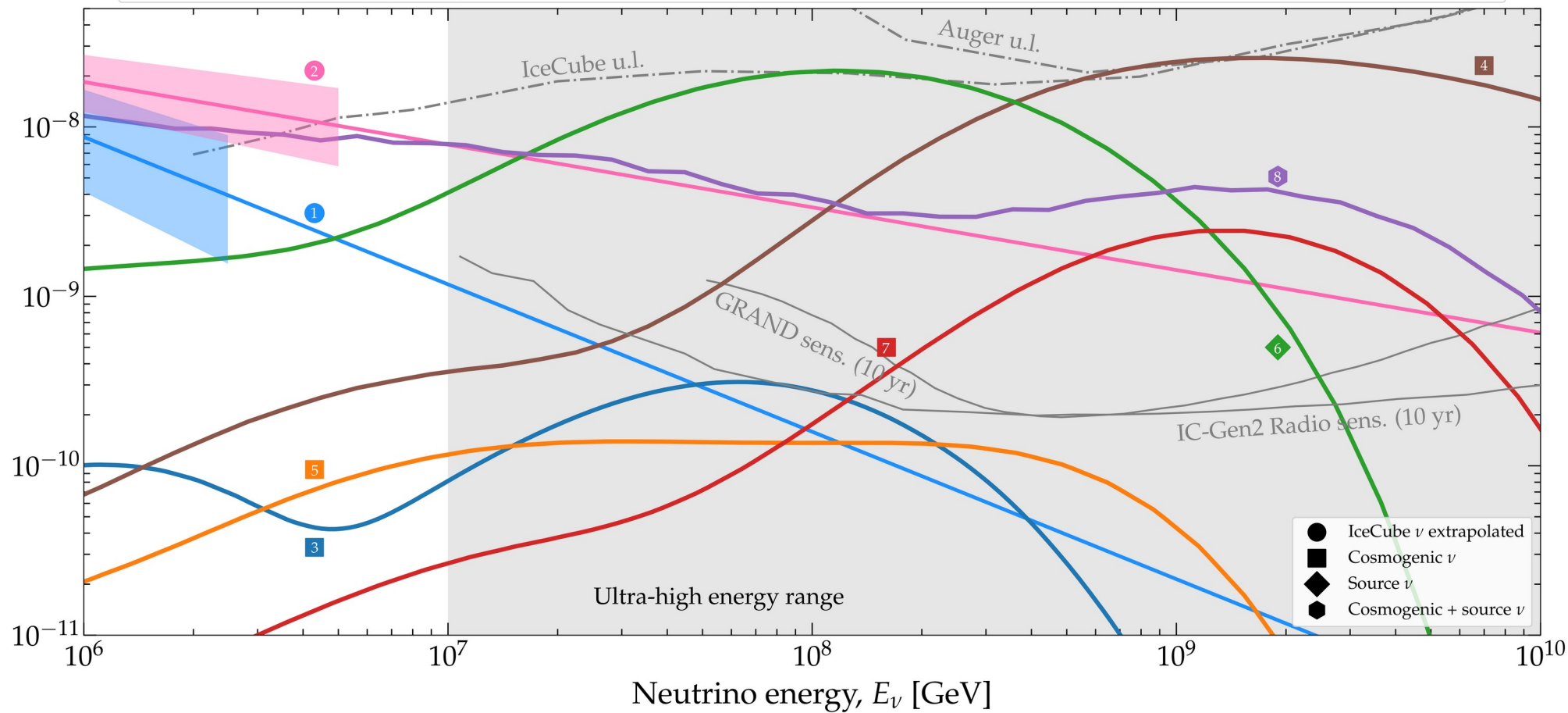
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- 7 Rodrigues *et al.*, HL BL Lacs



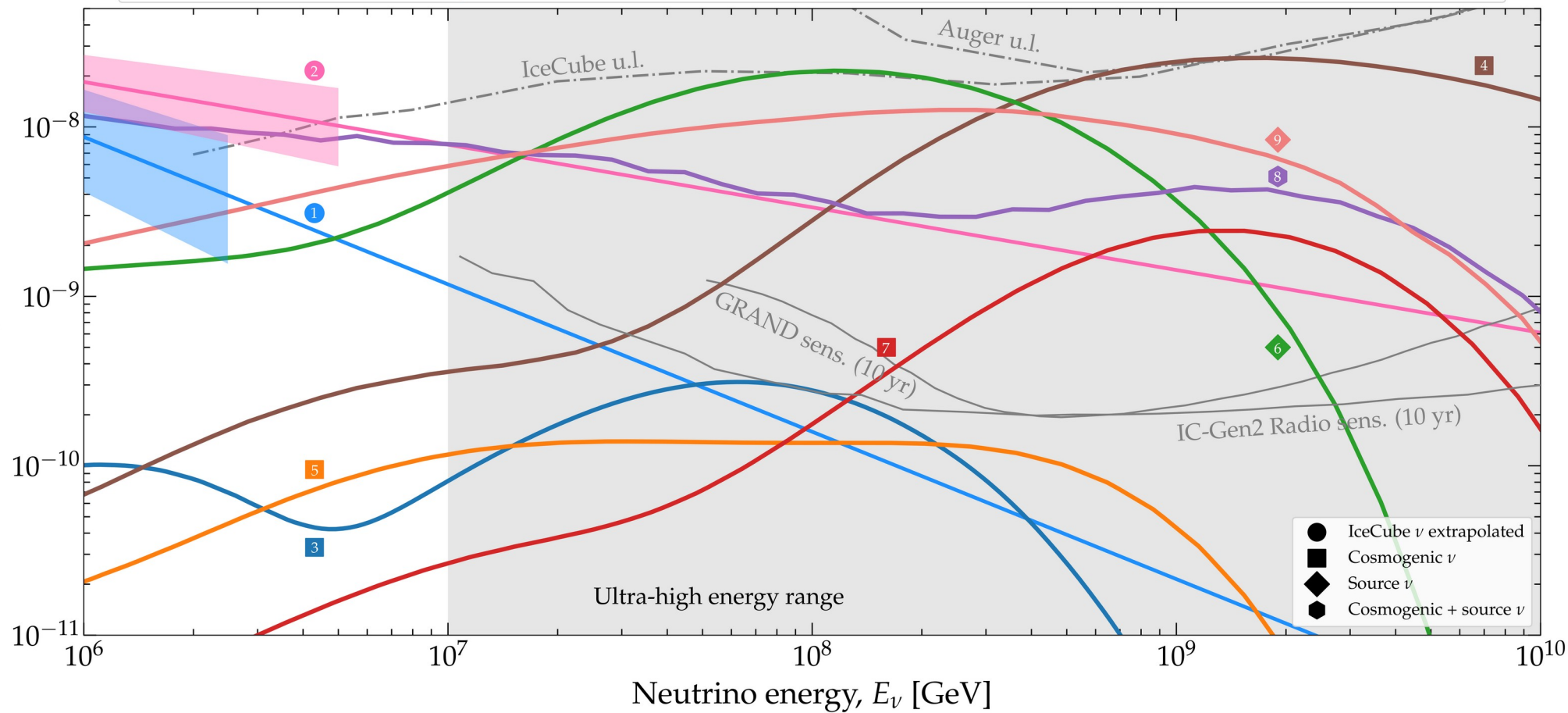
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- 8 Fang & Murase, cosmic-ray reservoirs



All-flavor neutrino flux, $E_\nu^2 \Phi_{\nu+\bar{\nu}}$ [$\text{GeV cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$]

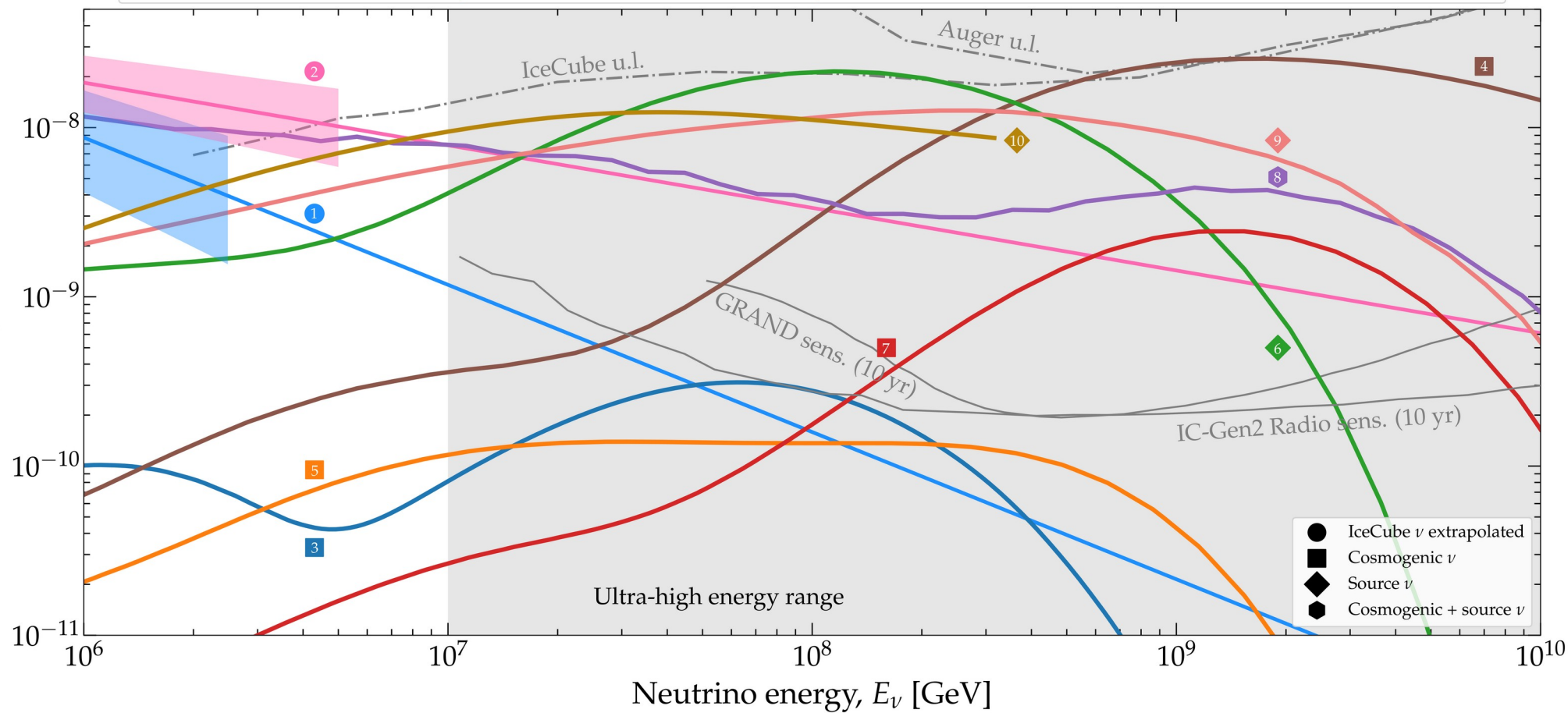
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- 9 Fang *et al.*, newborn pulsars



- IceCube ν extrapolated
- Cosmogenic ν
- ◆ Source ν
- Cosmogenic + source ν

All-flavor neutrino flux, $E_\nu^2 \Phi_{\nu+\bar{\nu}}$ [$\text{GeV cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$]

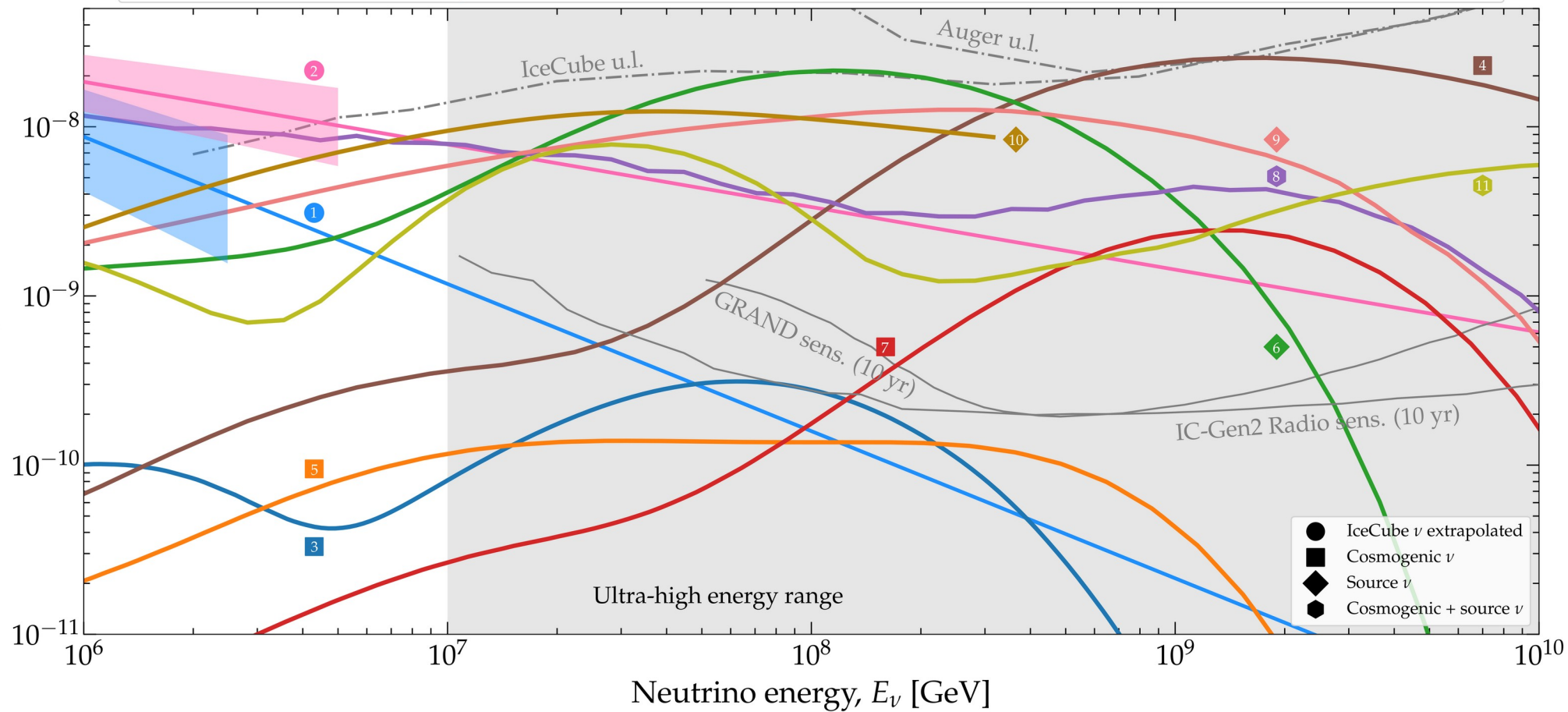
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- IceCube ν extrapolated
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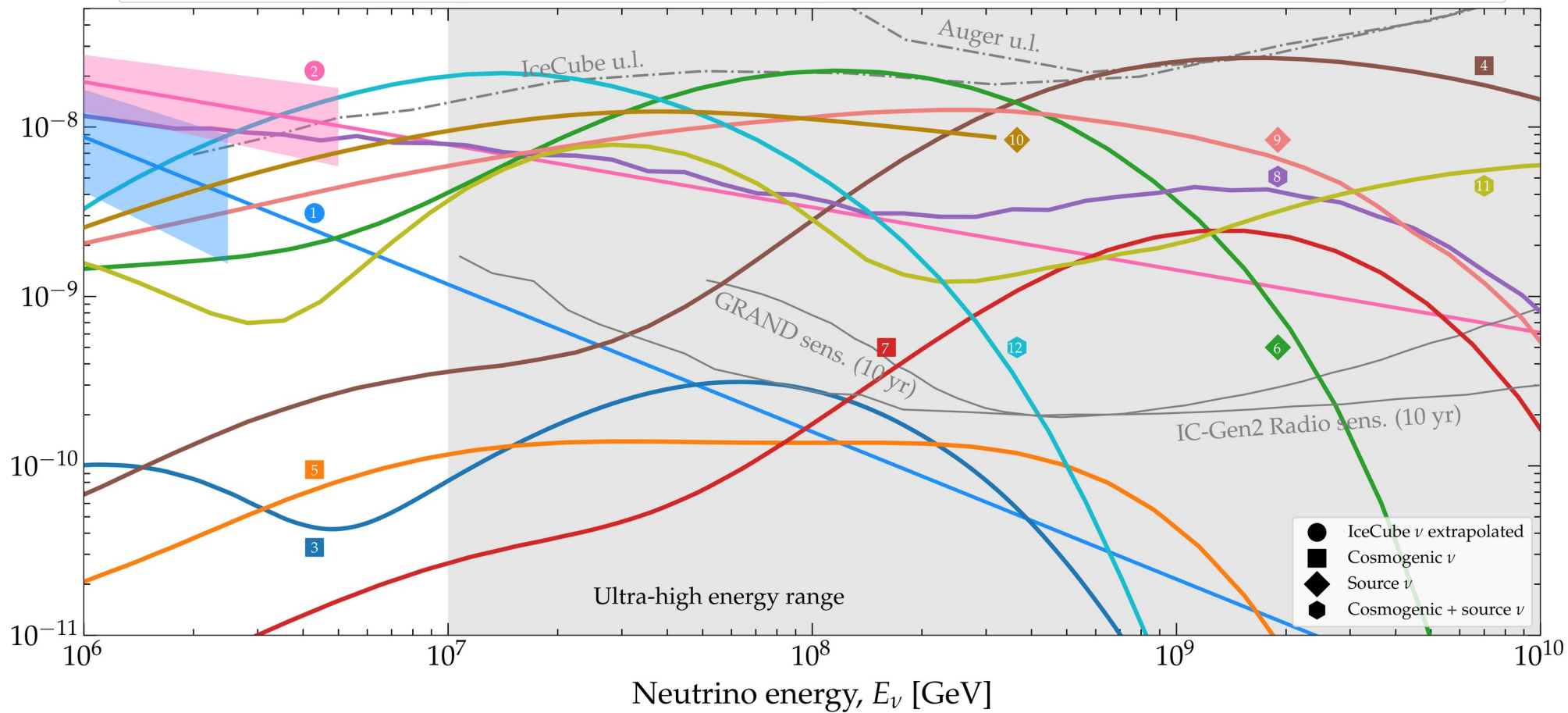
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- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
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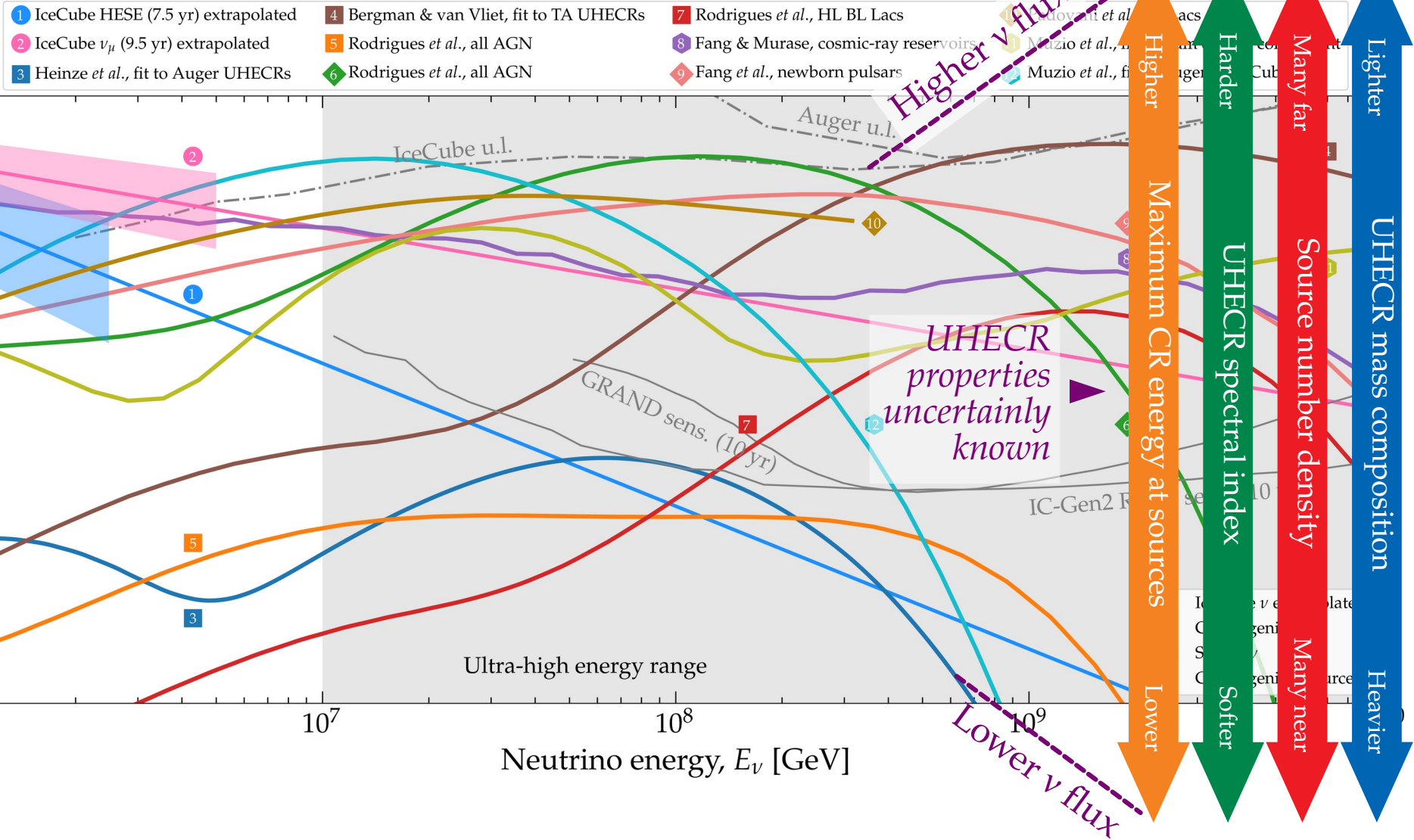
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- IceCube ν extrapolated
- Cosmogenic ν
- ◆ Source ν
- Cosmogenic + source ν

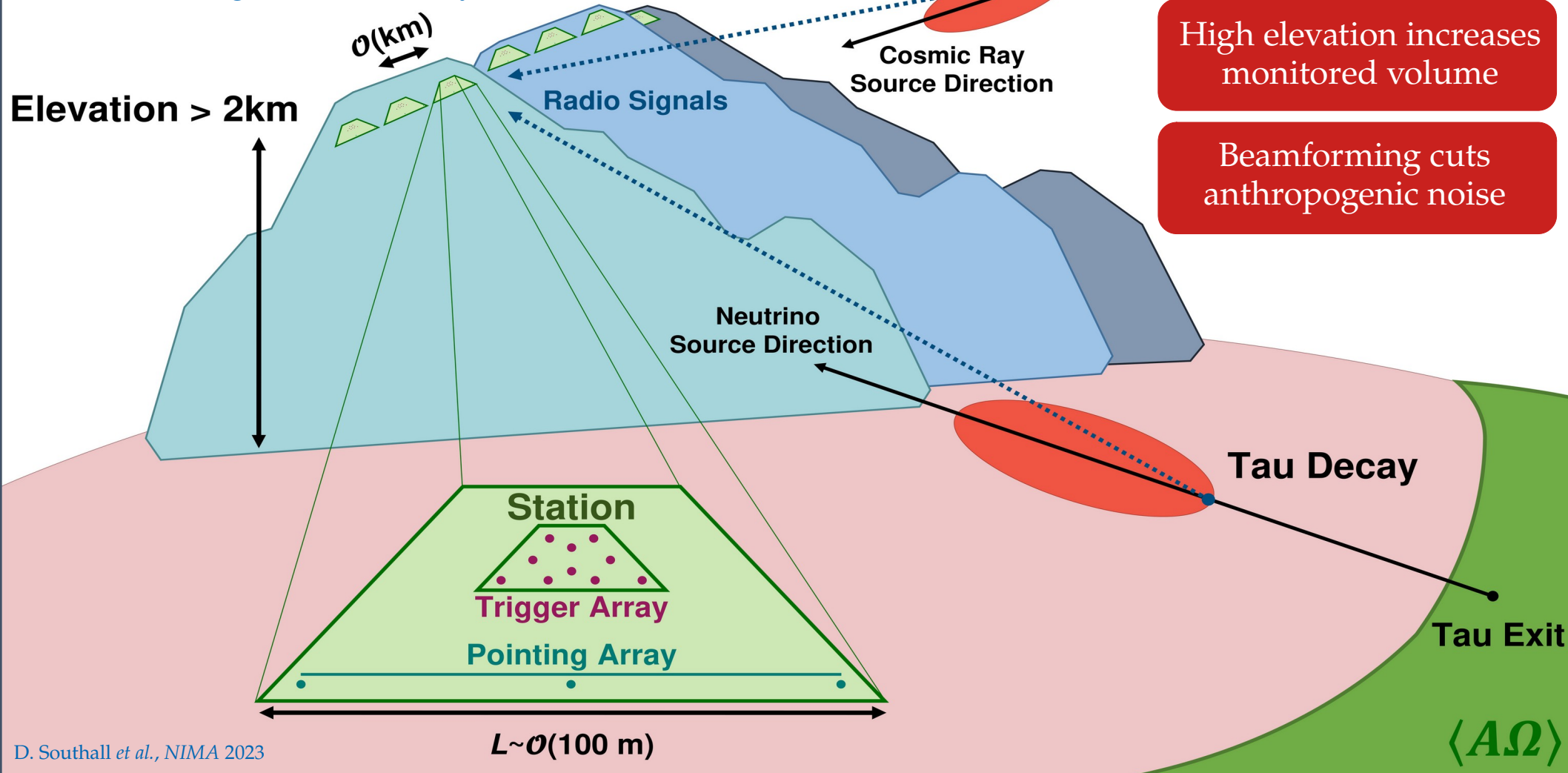
All-flavor neutrino flux, $E_\nu^2 \Phi_{\nu+\bar{\nu}}$ [$\text{GeV cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$]

Neutrino energy, E_ν [GeV]



BEACON

Beam forming Elevated Array for COsmic Neutrinos

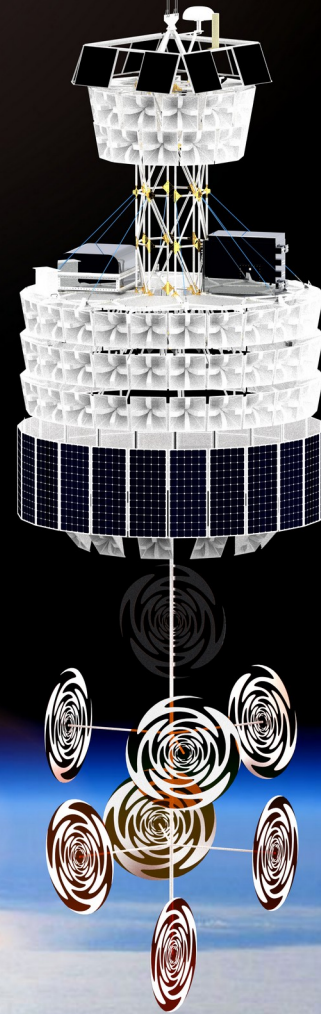


PUEO

Payload for Ultrahigh Energy Observations

30-day flight above Antarctica

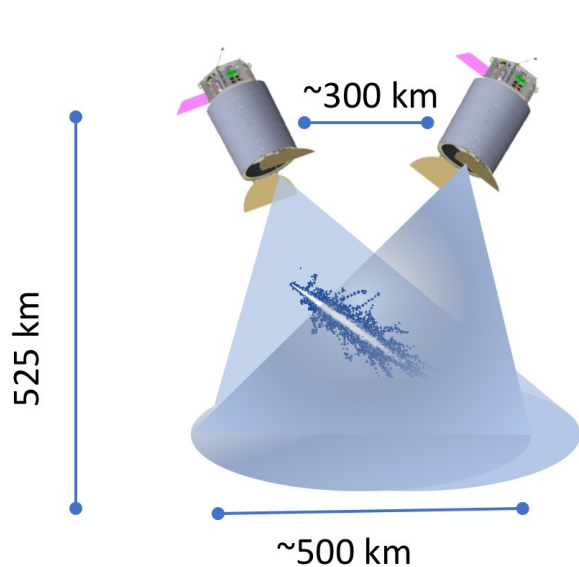
Builds on earlier ANITA I-IV flights



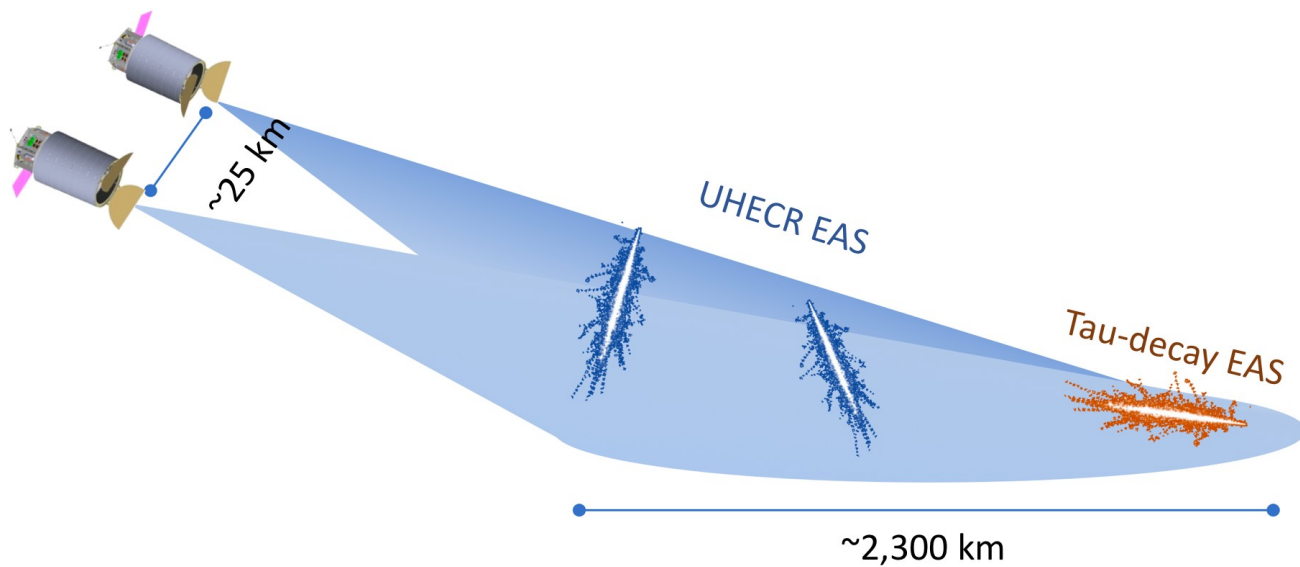
POEMMA: Probe of Extreme Multi-Messenger Astrophysics

Observing fluorescence
and Cherenkov radiation from space
using twin satellites

Fluorescence
POEMMA-Stereo



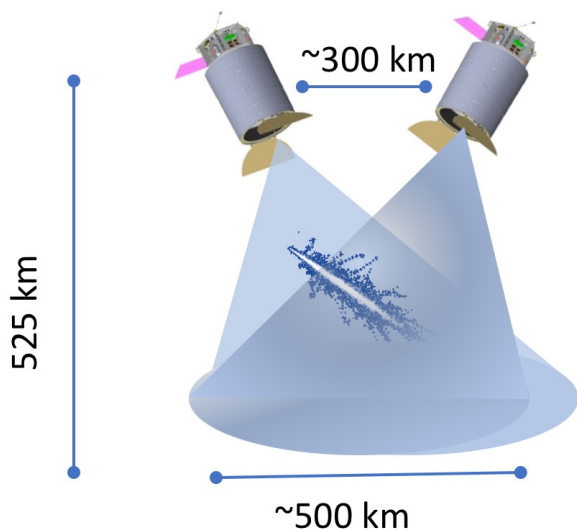
Cherenkov radiation
POEMMA-Limb



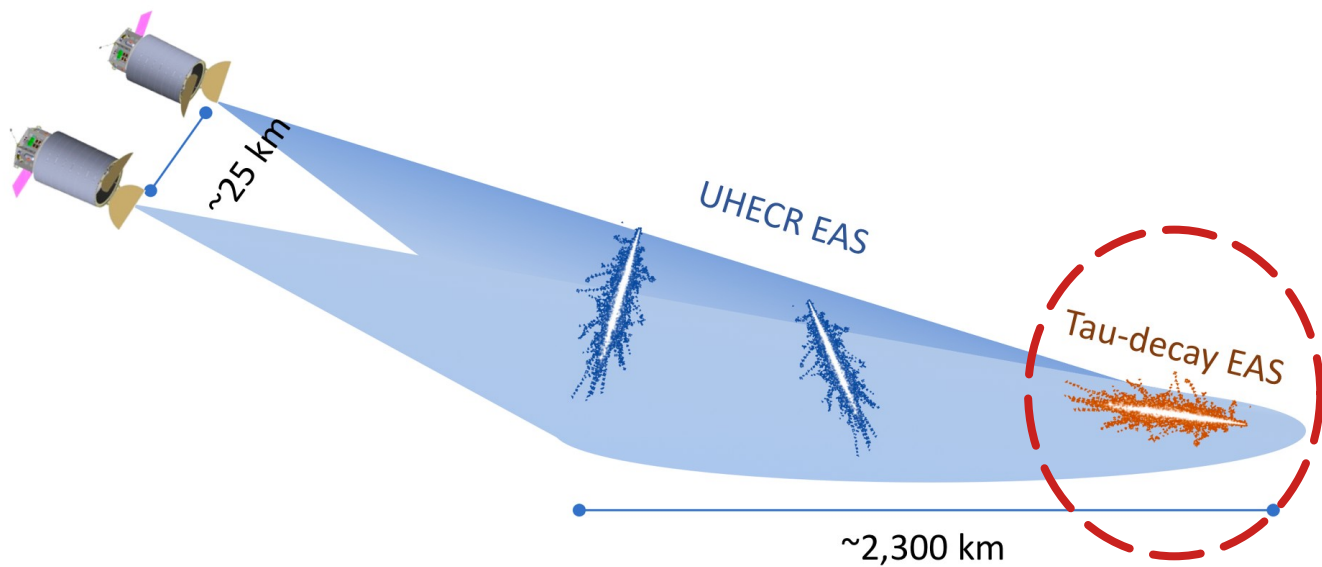
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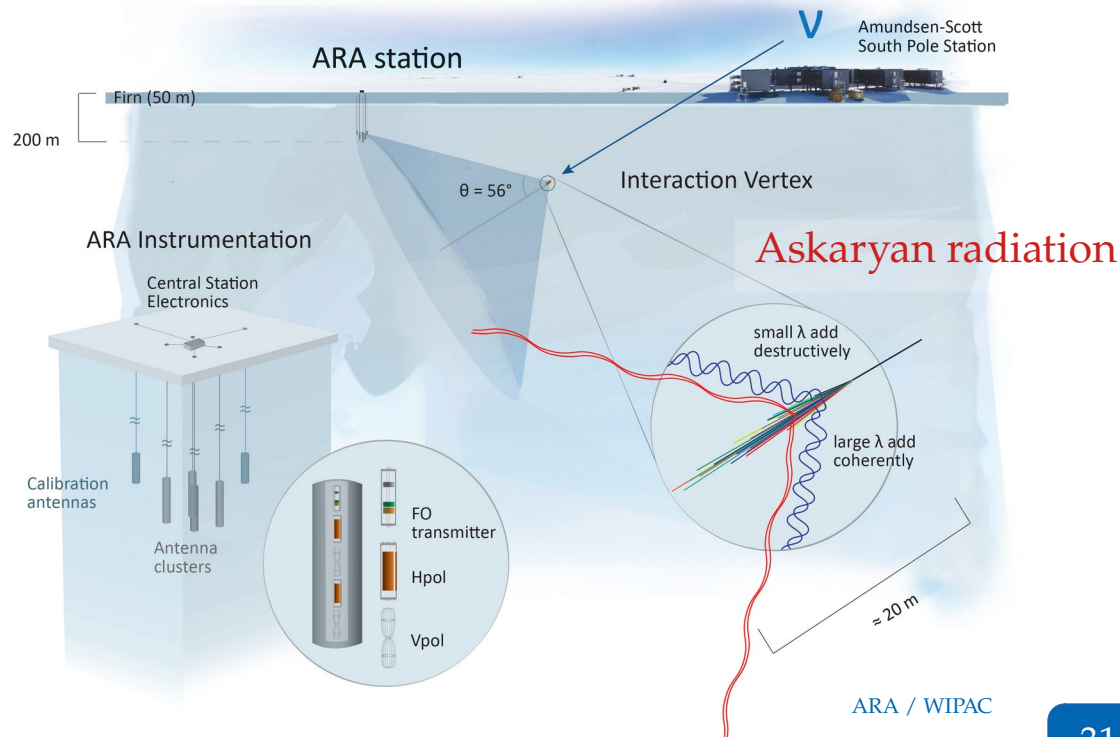
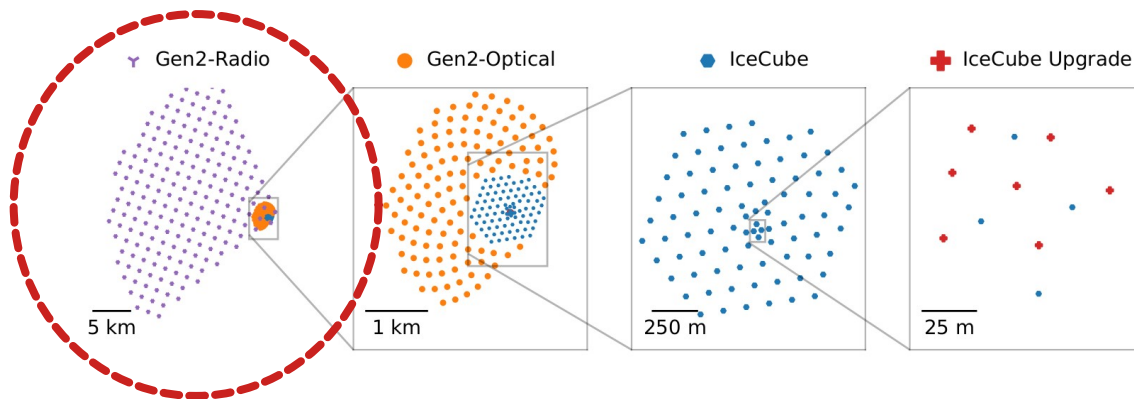
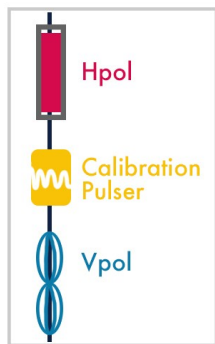
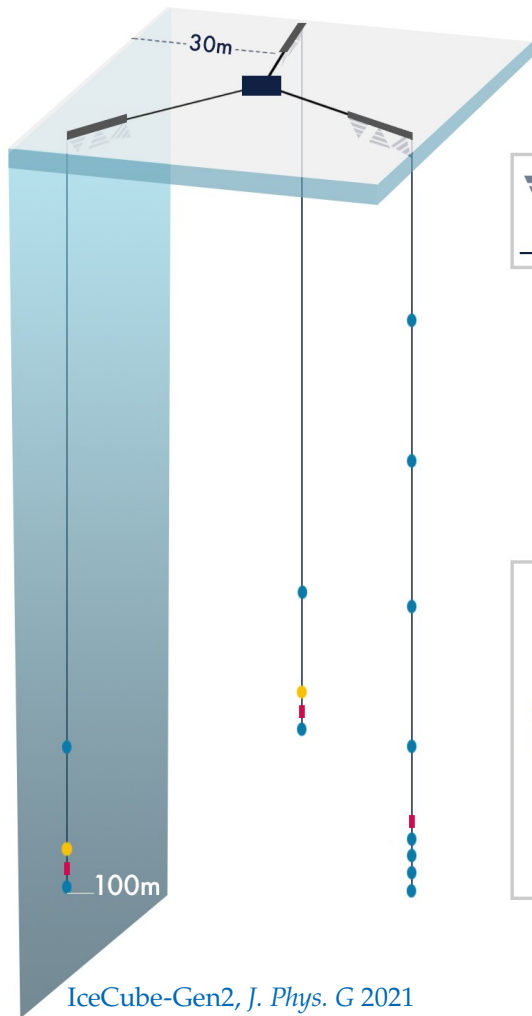
Fluorescence
POEMMA-Stereo



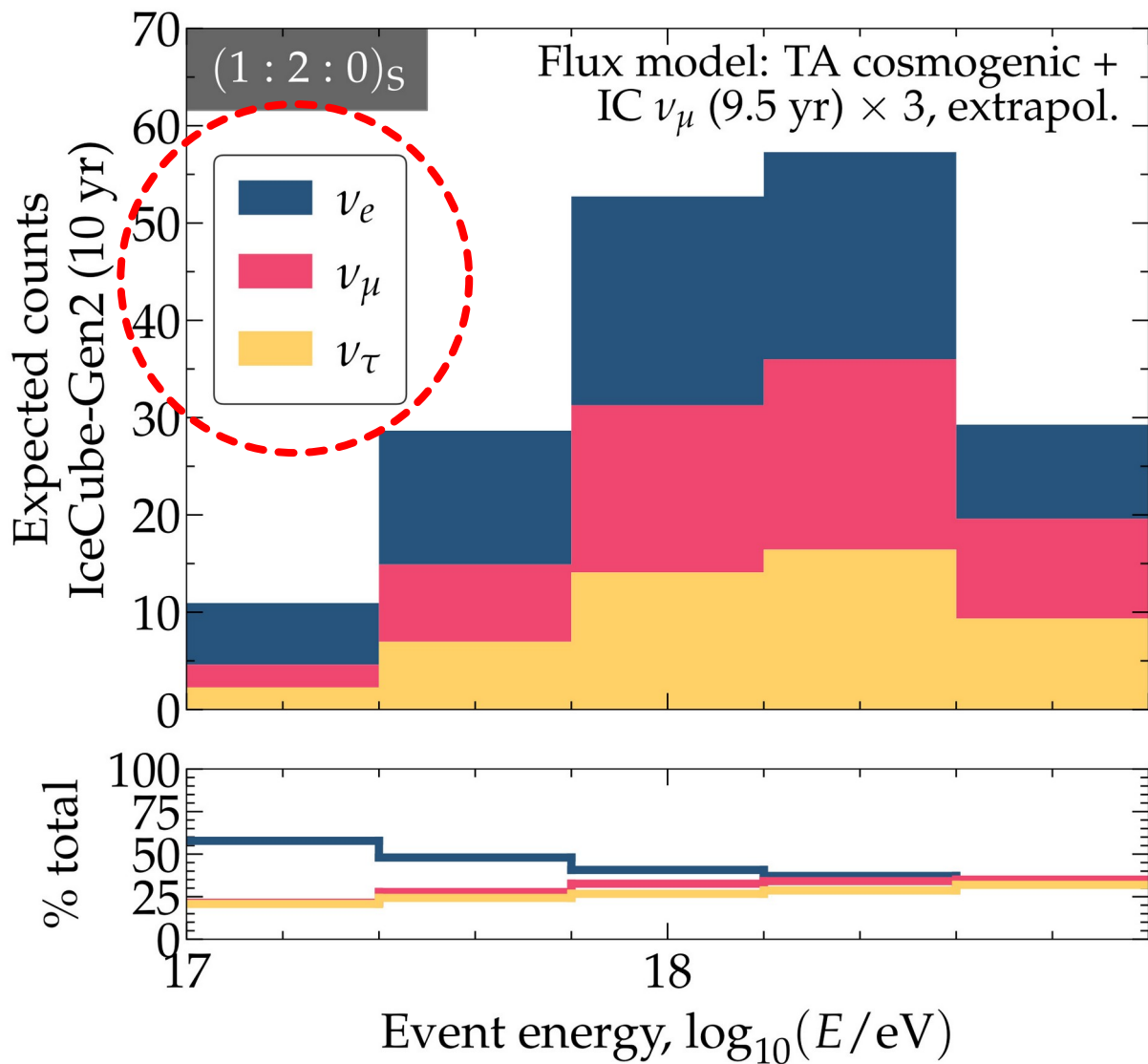
Cherenkov radiation
POEMMA-Limb



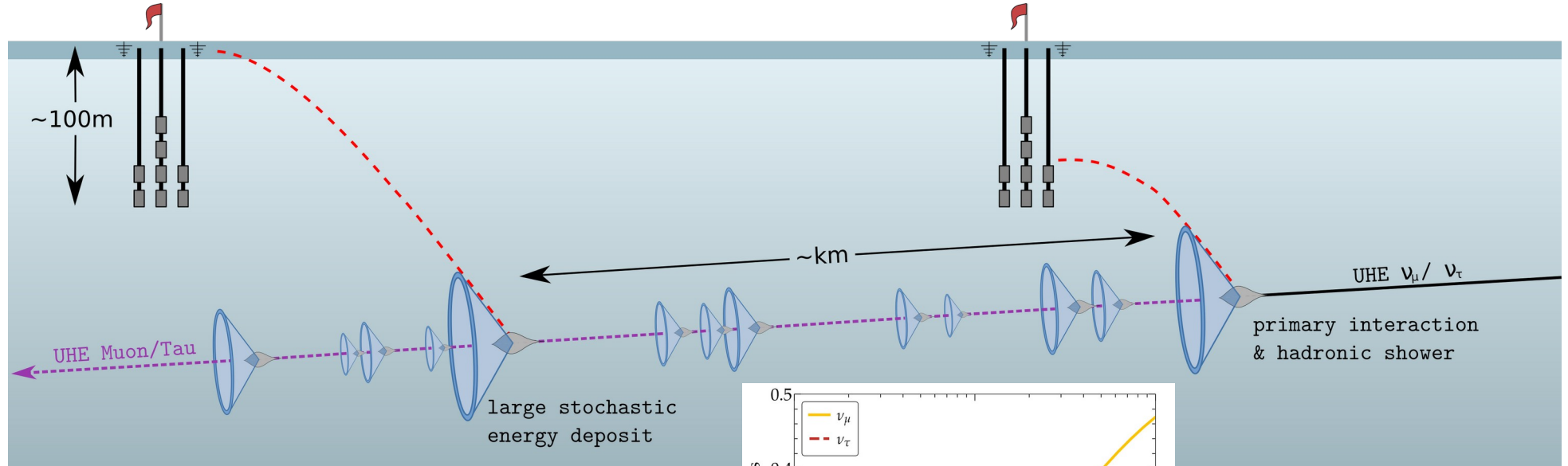
IceCube-Gen2 Radio



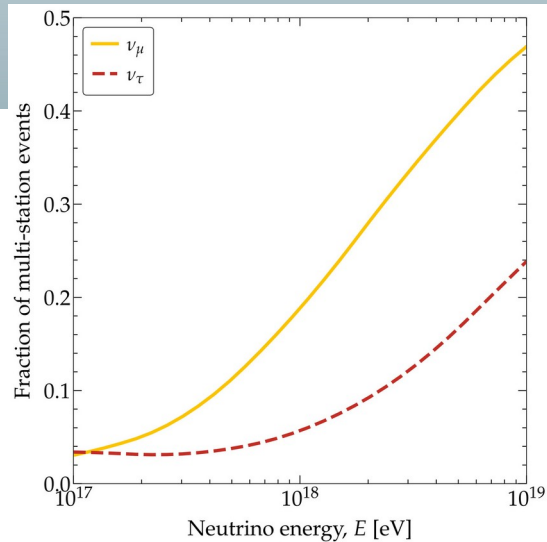
The radio array of Gen2 is sensitive to all flavors



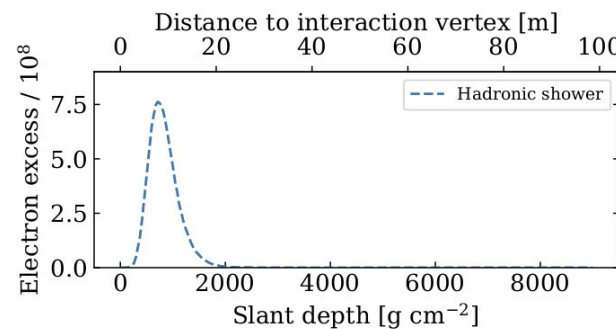
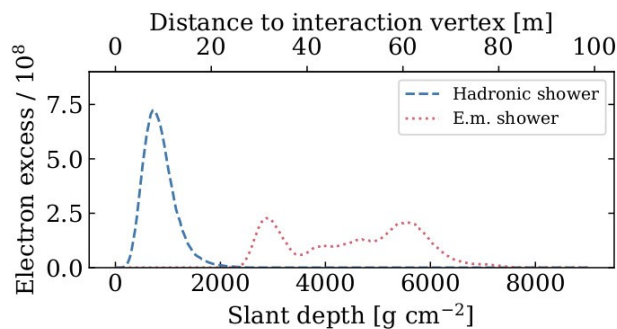
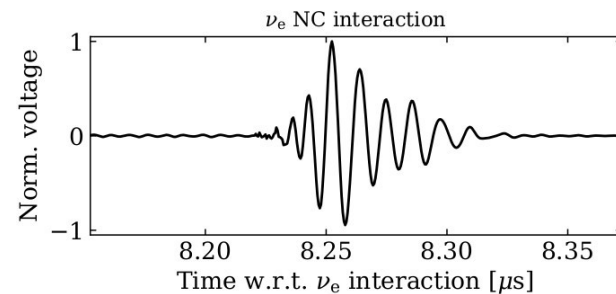
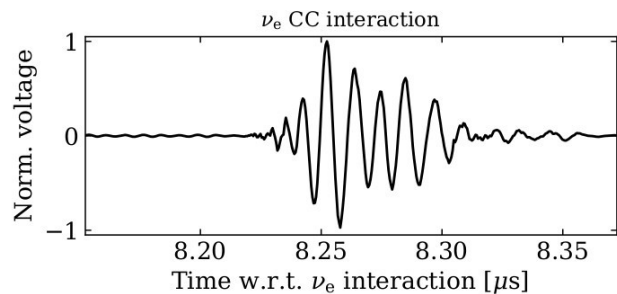
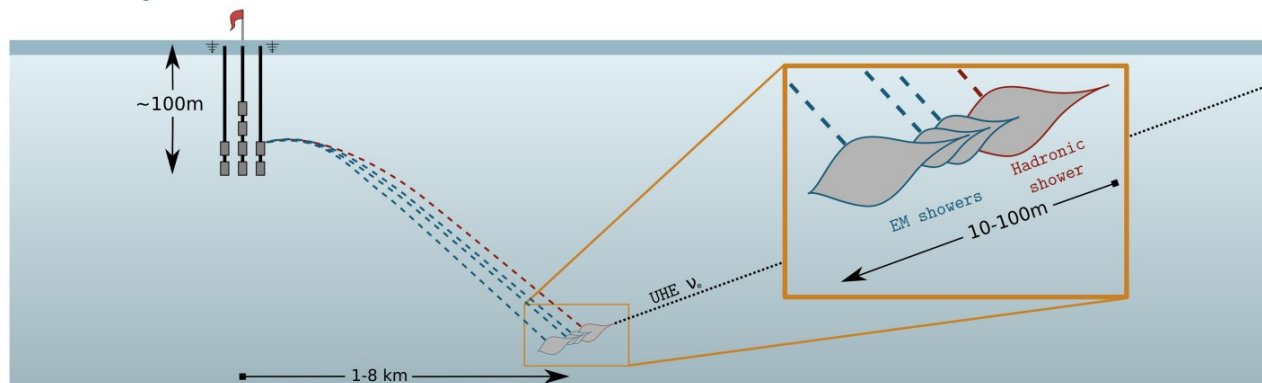
Multi-shower events from $\nu_\mu + \nu_\tau$ in IceCube-Gen2 (radio)



Coleman, Ericsson, MB, Glaser, 2402.02432

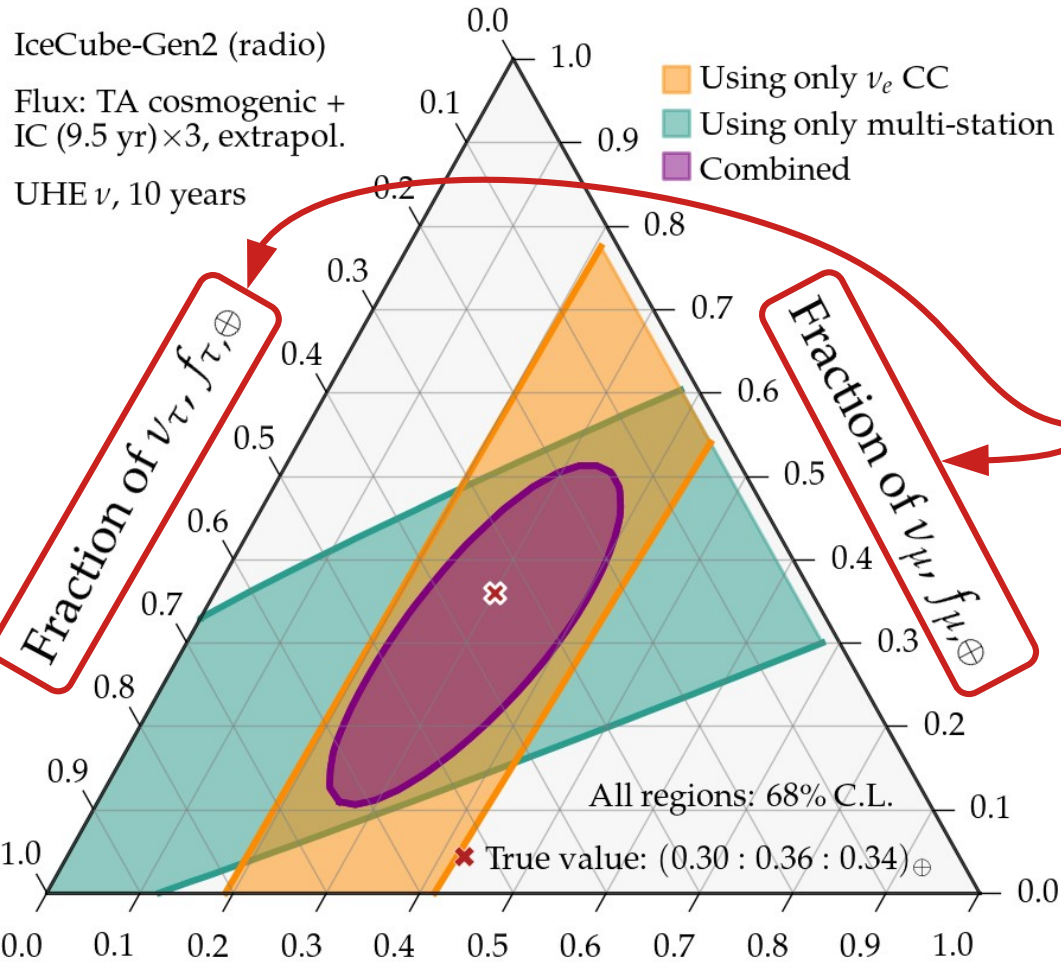


Multi-shower ν_e CC interactions in IceCube-Gen2 (radio)



Coleman, Ericsson, MB, Glaser, 2402.02432

IceCube-Gen2 (radio) alone might measure flavor



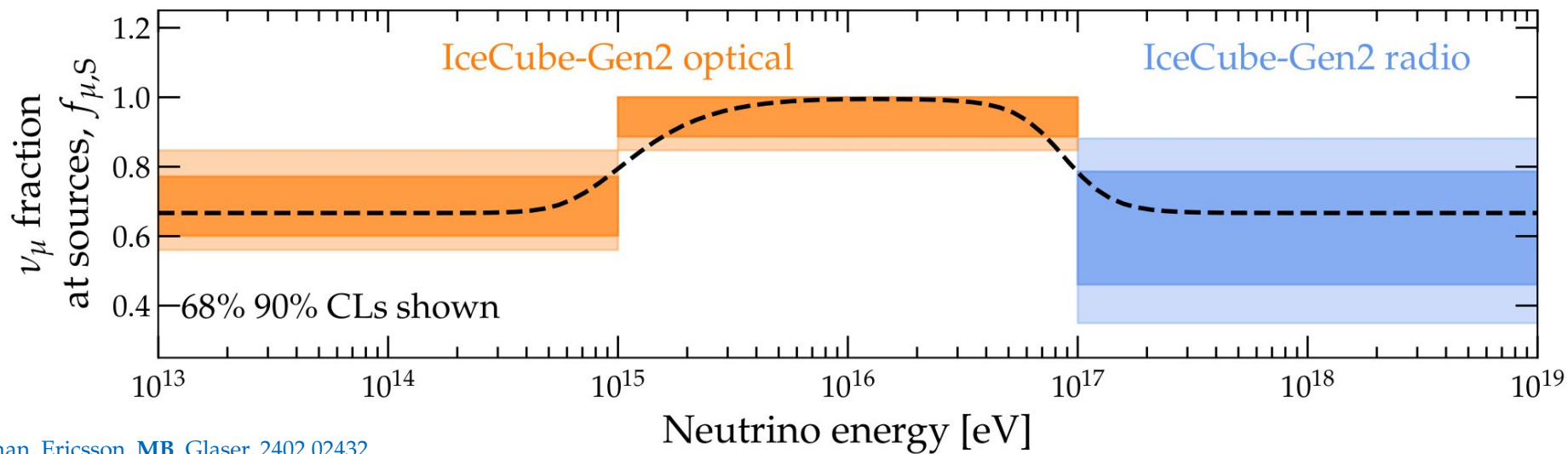
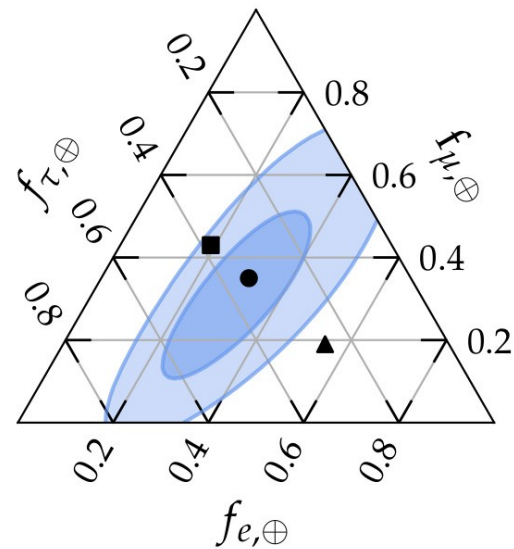
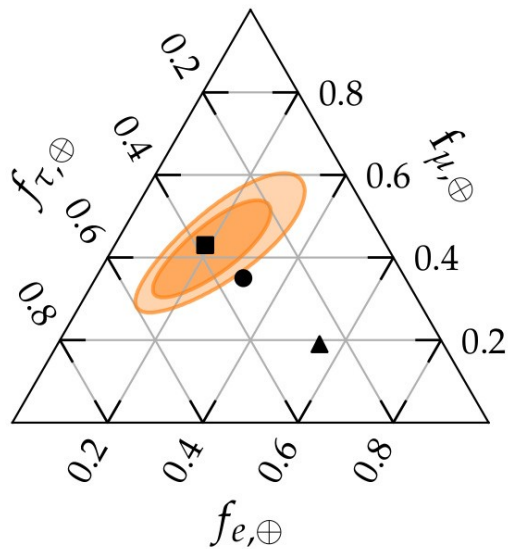
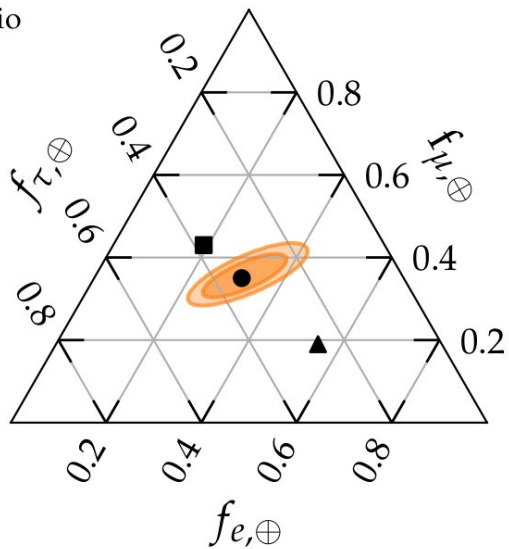
Fraction of ν_e
 Showers are elongated due to the LPM effect

Fraction of $\nu_\mu + \nu_\tau$
 Secondary muons and tauons create multiple showers (hit >1 radio station)

Fraction of $\nu_e, f_{e,\oplus}$

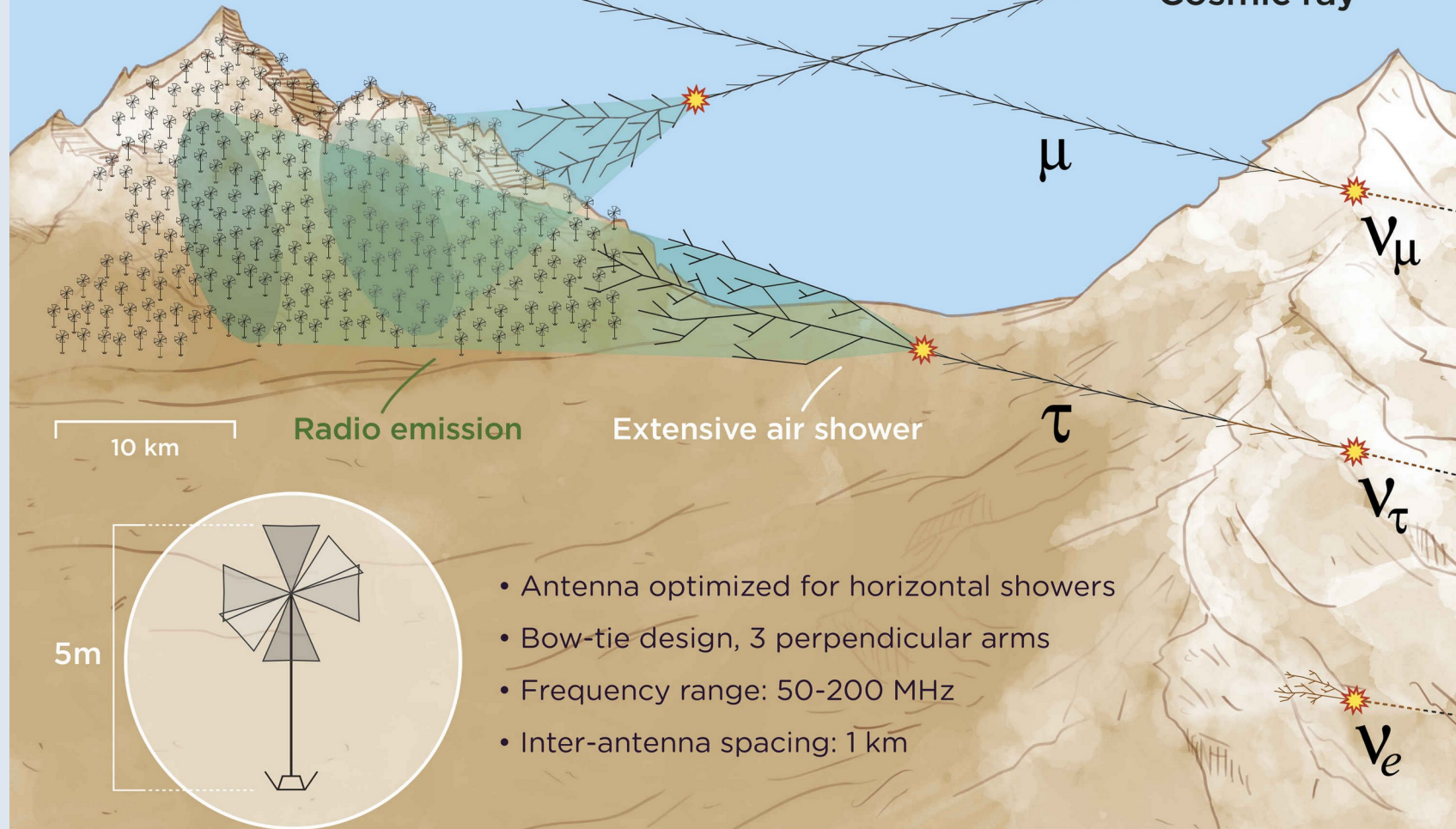
Flavor ratio
at sources

- 1:2:0
- 0:1:0
- ▲ 1:0:0





Giant Radio Array for Neutrino Detection



- Antenna optimized for horizontal showers
- Bow-tie design, 3 perpendicular arms
- Frequency range: 50-200 MHz
- Inter-antenna spacing: 1 km

GRAND Proto300@China



HUAWEI P40 Pro 5G
Ultra Vision LEICA Joint Camera

GRAND@Nançay

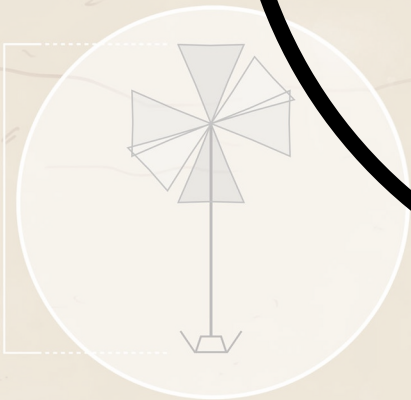


GRAND@Auger



10 km

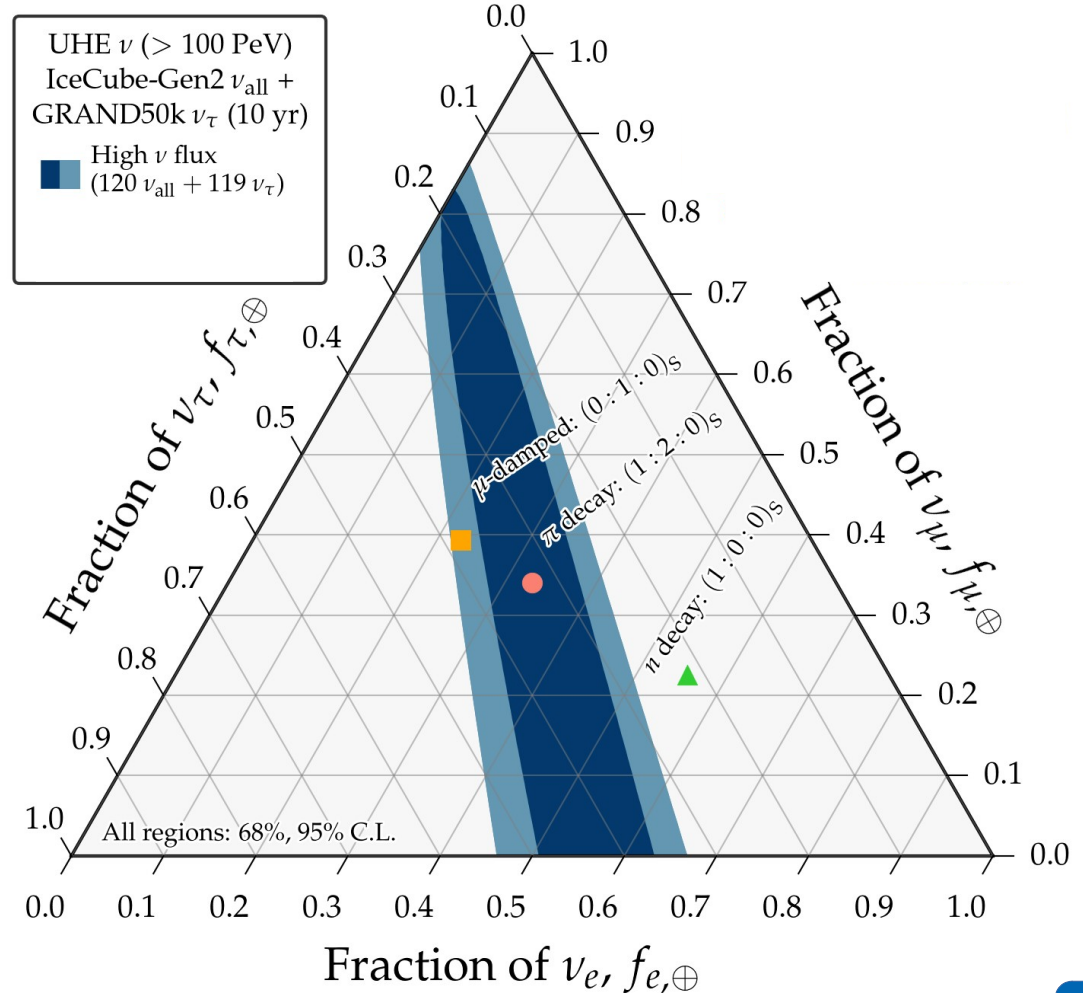
5m



Manufacturing UHE flavor sensitivity with two detectors

What if future UHE radio-detection neutrino telescopes cannot see flavor?

Then we combine two of detectors:

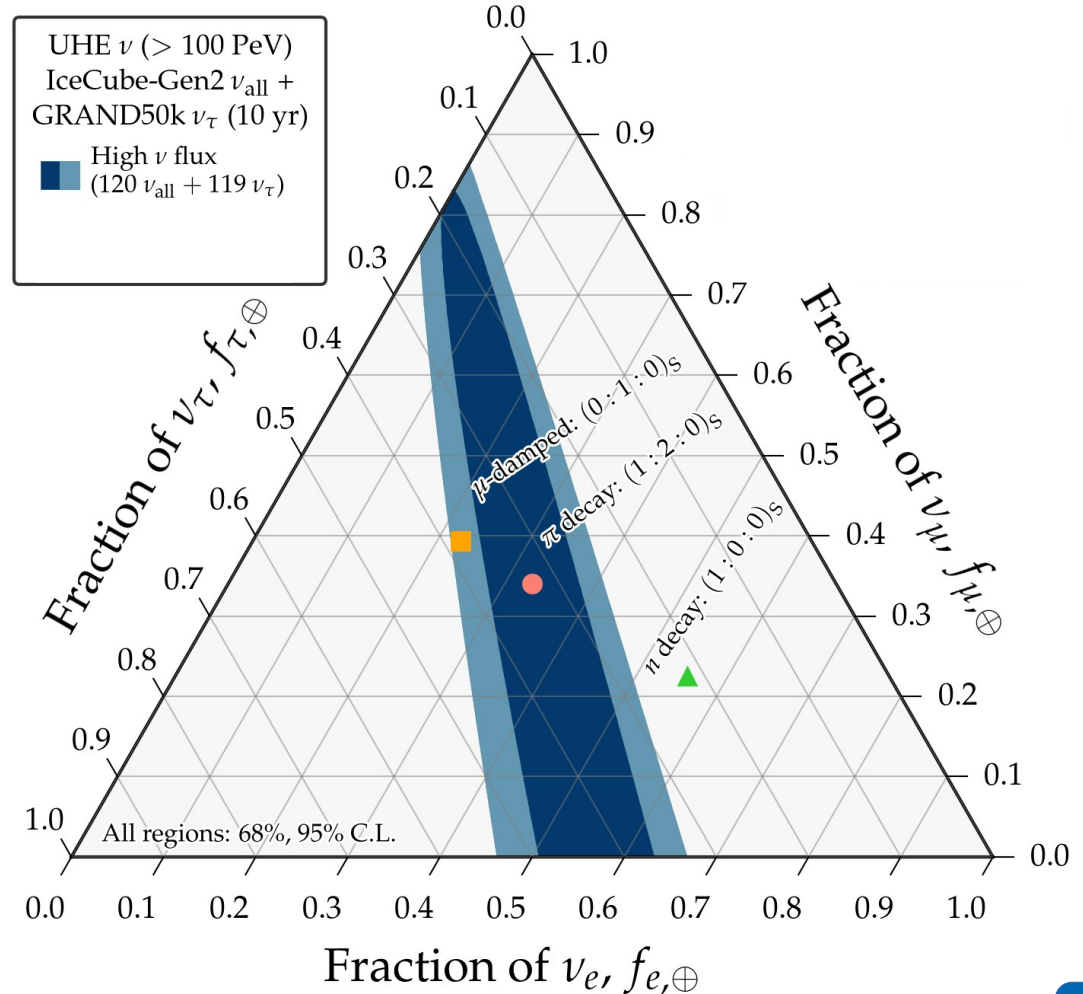


Manufacturing UHE flavor sensitivity with two detectors

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indistinct detection of all flavors
by IceCube-Gen2 (radio)



Manufacturing UHE flavor sensitivity with two detectors

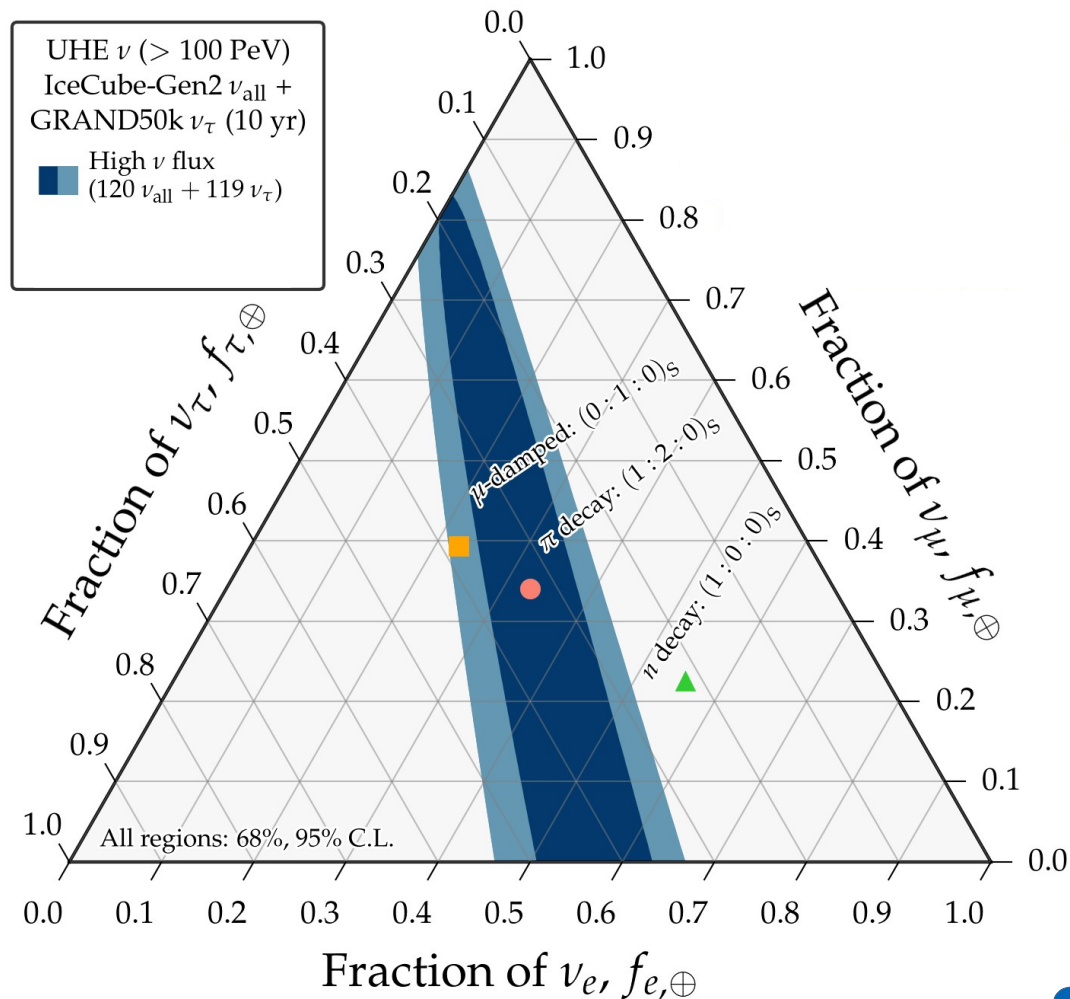
What if future UHE radio-detection neutrino telescopes cannot see flavor?

Then we combine two of detectors:

indistinct detection of all flavors
by IceCube-Gen2 (radio)

+

predominant detection of ν_τ
by GRAND



Manufacturing UHE flavor sensitivity with two detectors

What if future UHE radio-detection neutrino telescopes cannot see flavor?

Then we combine two of detectors:

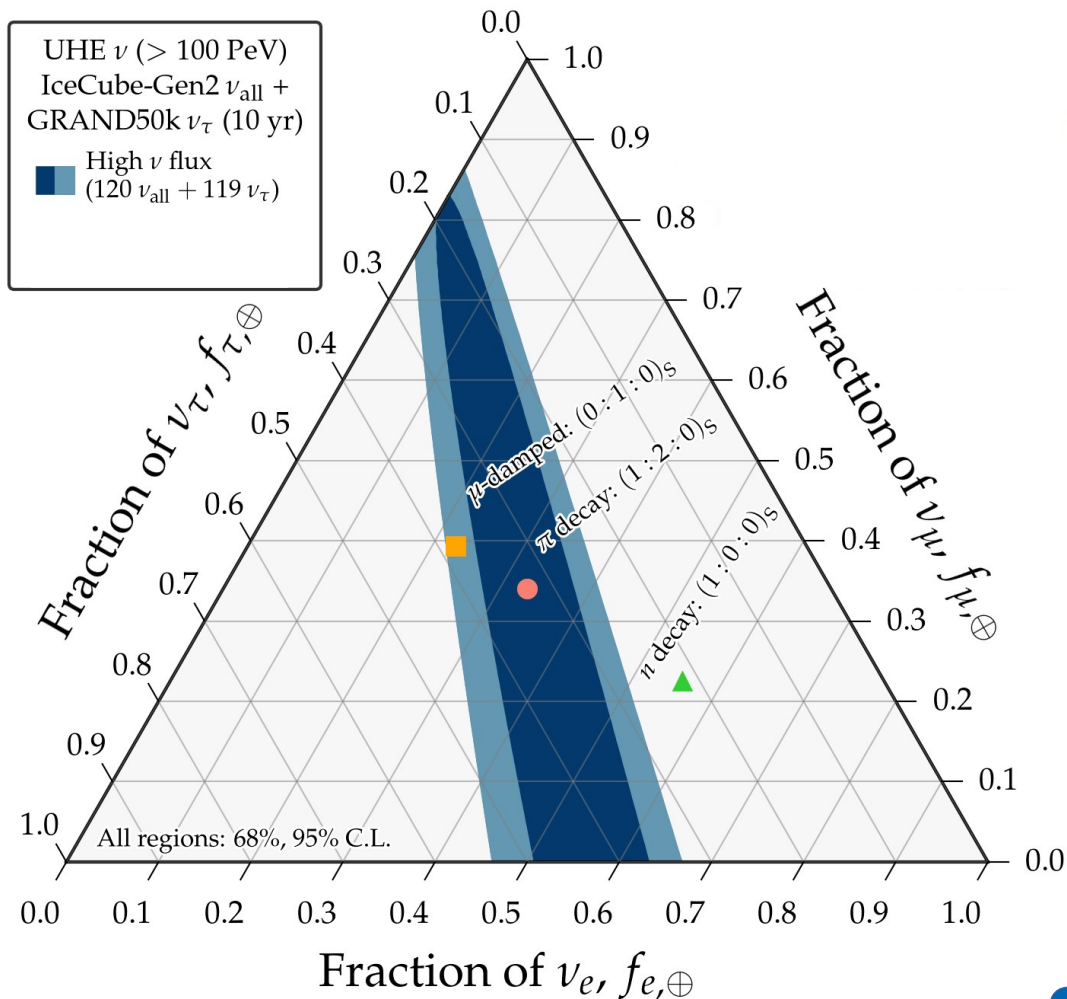
indistinct detection of all flavors
by IceCube-Gen2 (radio)

+

predominant detection of ν_τ
by GRAND

=

sensitivity to the fraction of UHE ν_τ



Manufacturing UHE flavor sensitivity with two detectors

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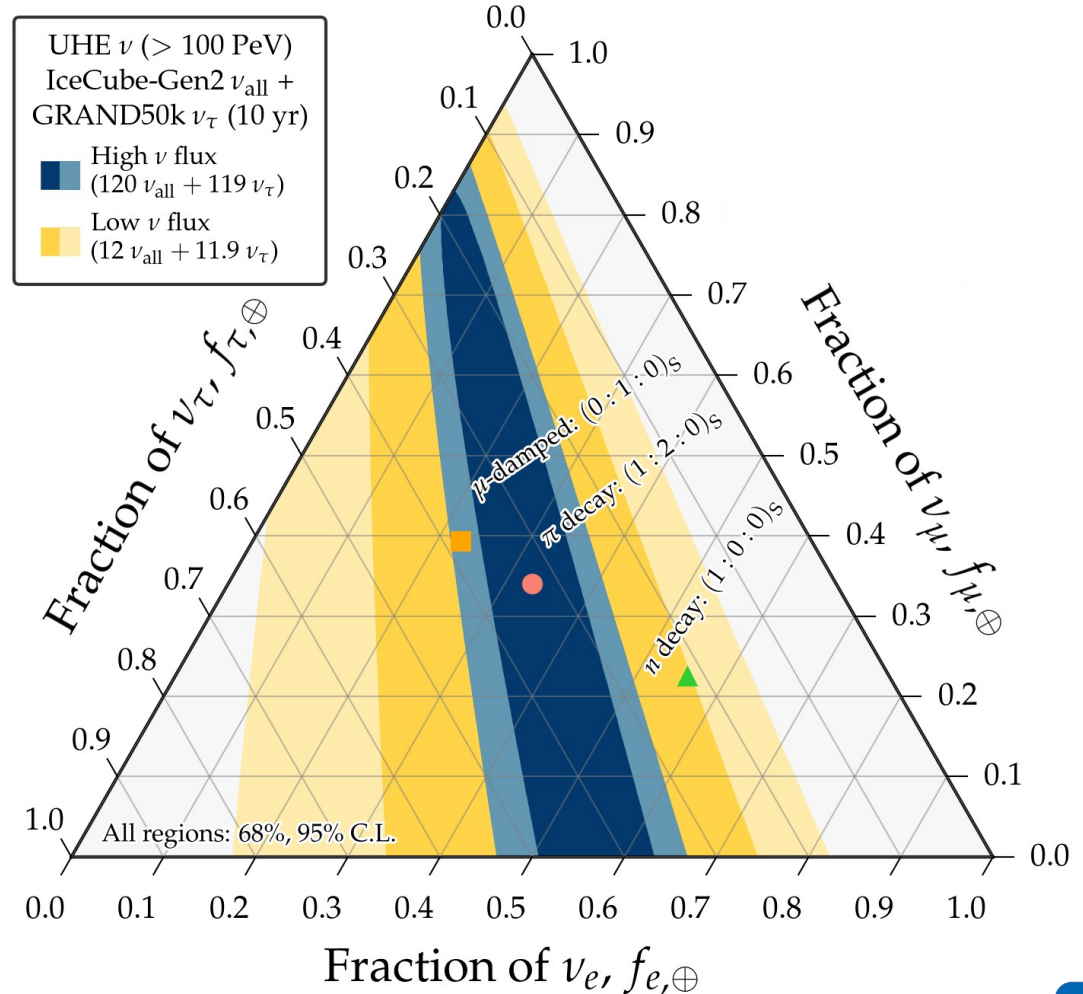
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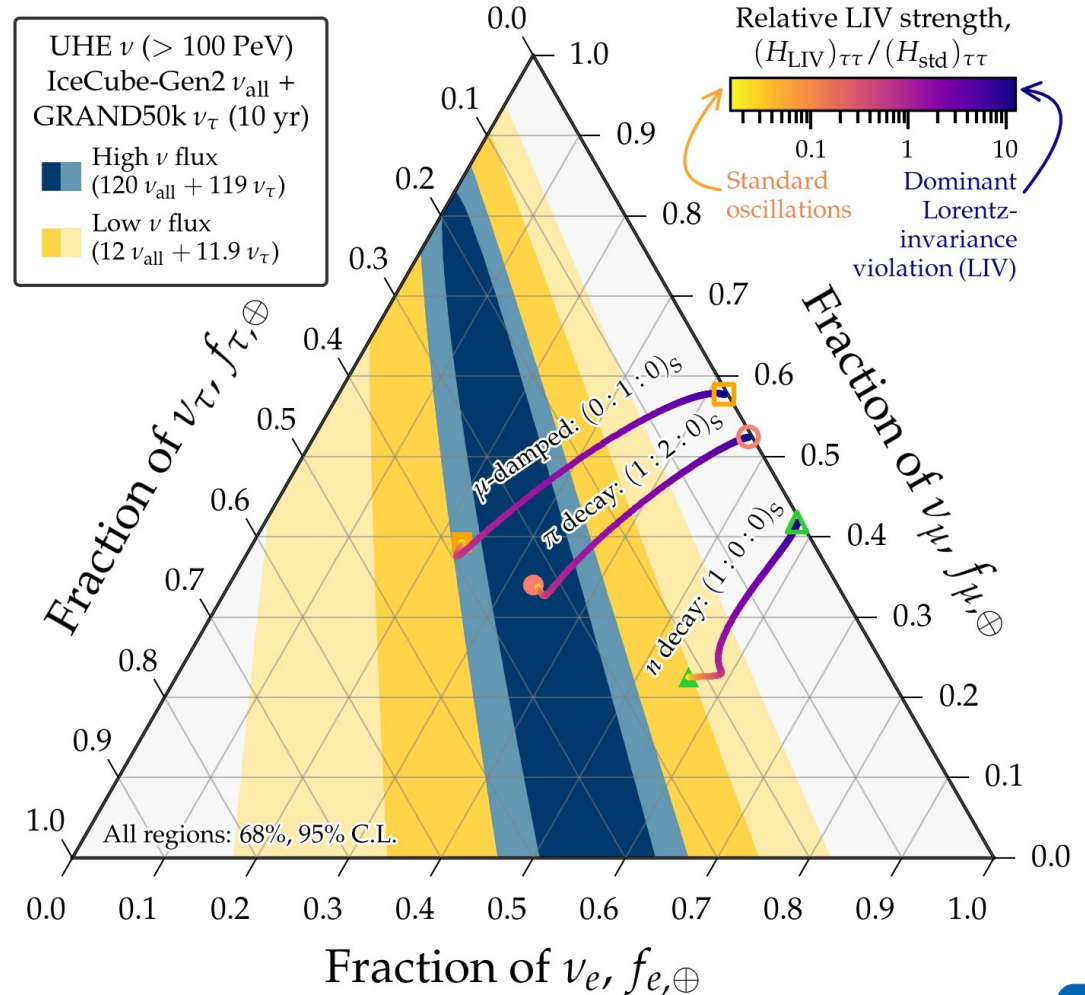
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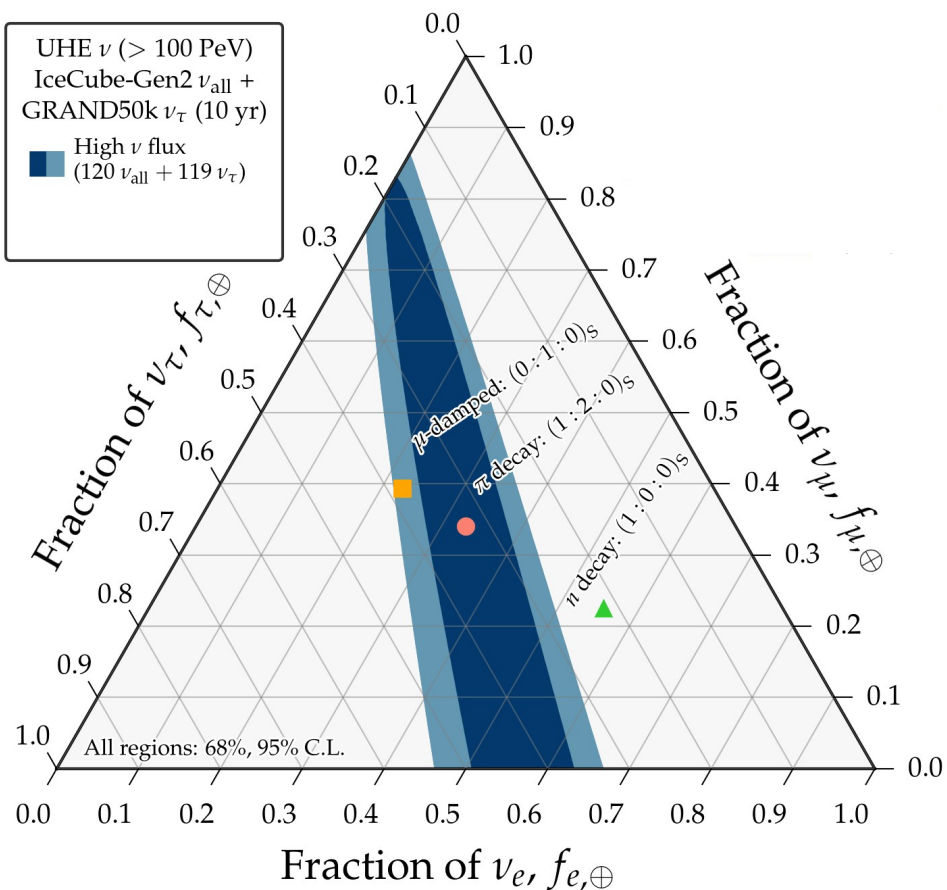
sensitivity to the fraction of UHE ν_τ



Accessing the full UHE flavor information

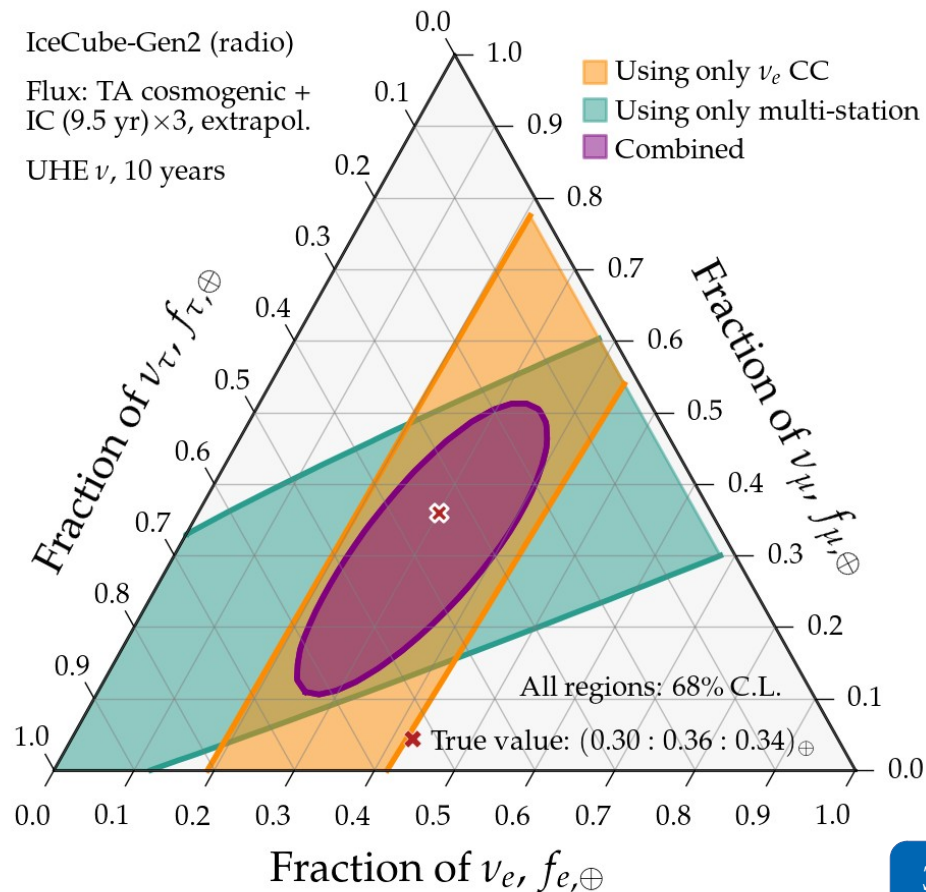
IceCube-Gen2 (no flavor-id) + GRAND:

Access to ν_τ fraction



IceCube-Gen2 (with flavor-id):

Access to ν_e fraction and $\nu_\mu + \nu_\tau$ fraction



1

Neutrino oscillations is a three-state system (ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ),
but we study them using mainly two (ν_e and ν_μ)

2

The **flavor composition** of high-energy cosmic neutrinos reflects
the physical conditions inside cosmic accelerators

3

At **ultra-high energies** ($> 10^{18}$ EeV), ν_τ provide unique detection
opportunities (ν_τ regeneration, Earth-skimming ν_τ)

Thanks!