XXXI International Conference on
Neutrino Physics and Astrophysics
June 16-22, 2024 Milan, Italy

Open problems in HE neutrino astrophysics

A particle physicist point-of-view

Neutrino 24, Milano

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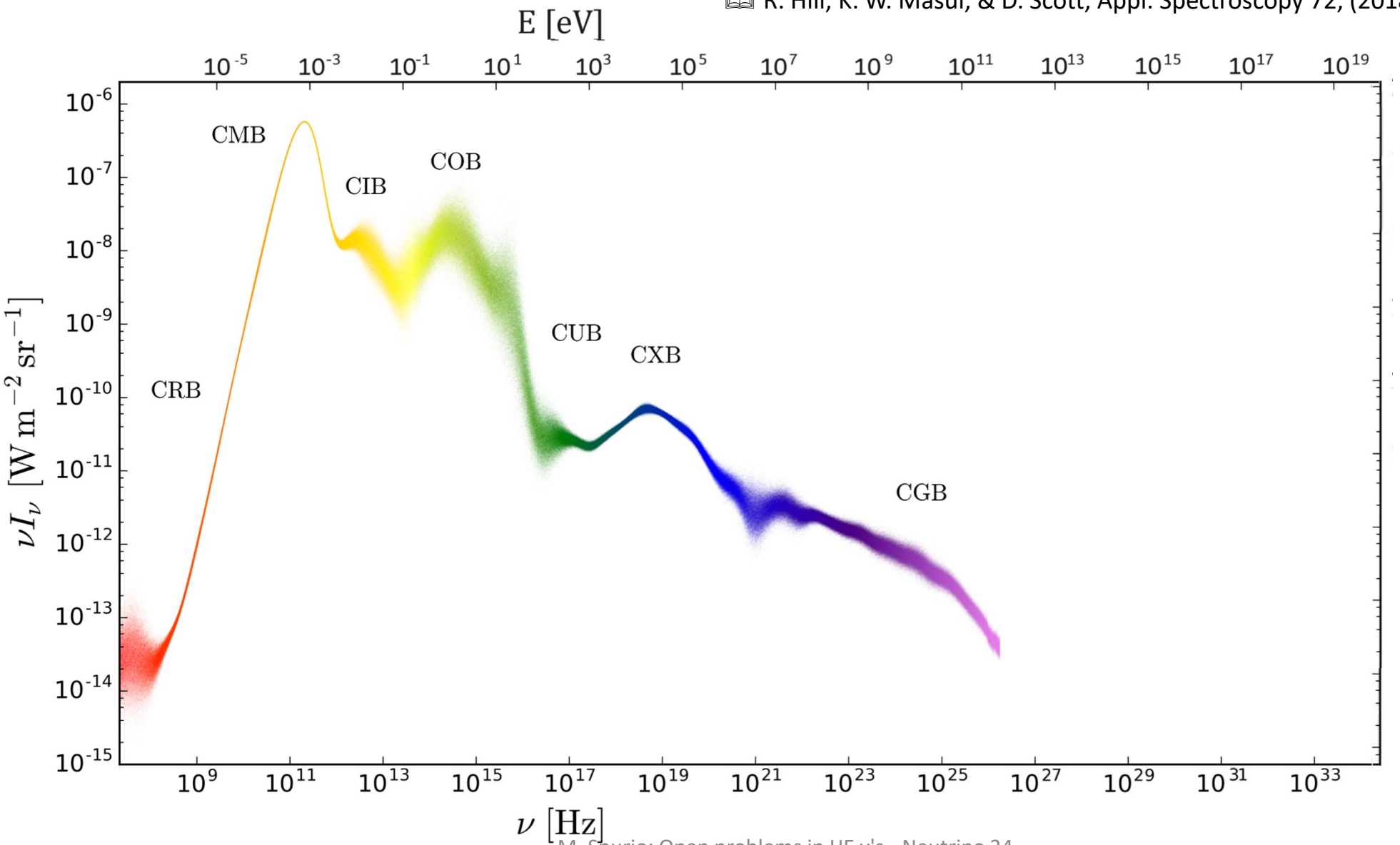
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Energy density of the extragalactic radiation

📖 R. Hill, K. W. Masui, & D. Scott, Appl. Spectroscopy 72, (2018) 663 (adapted)



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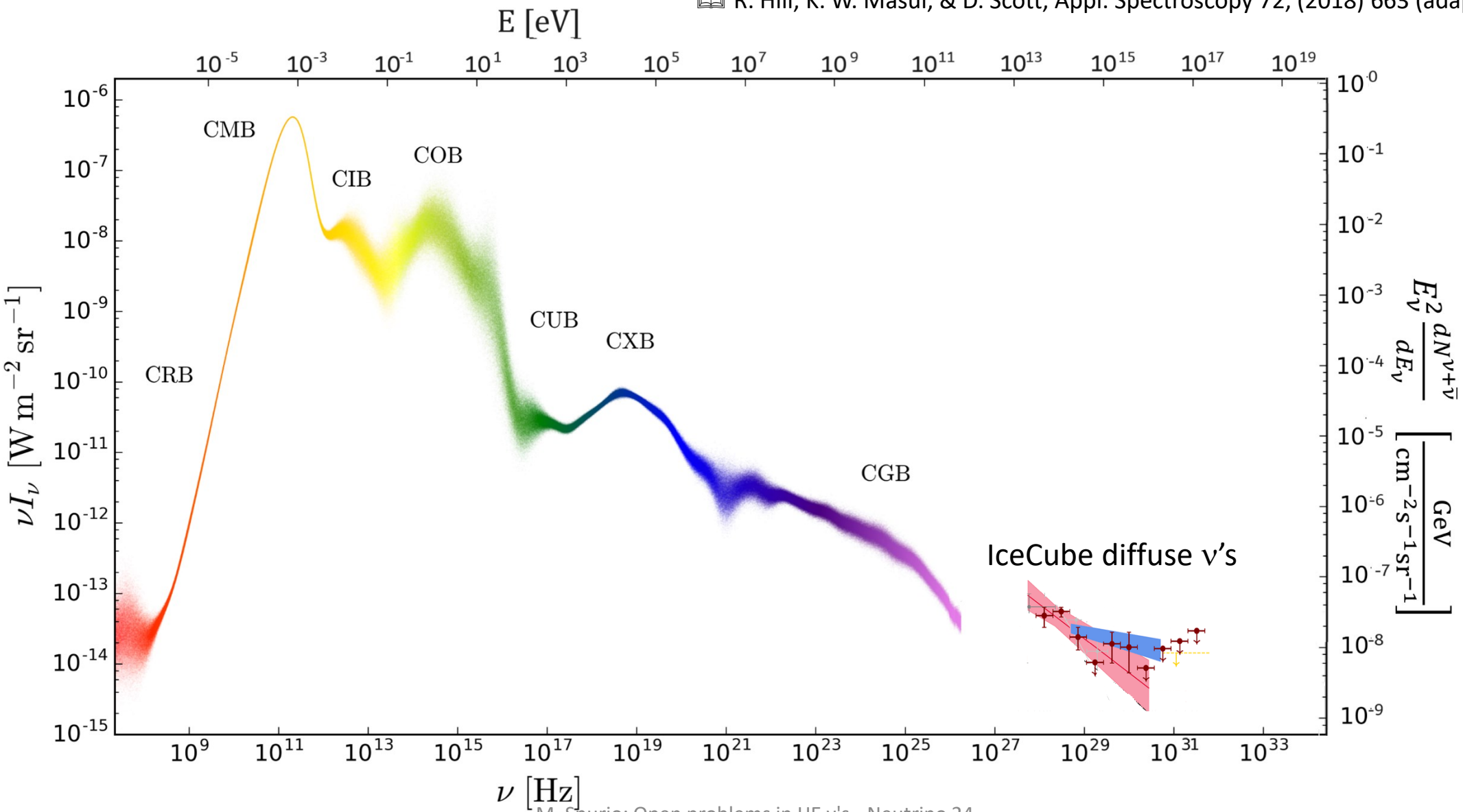
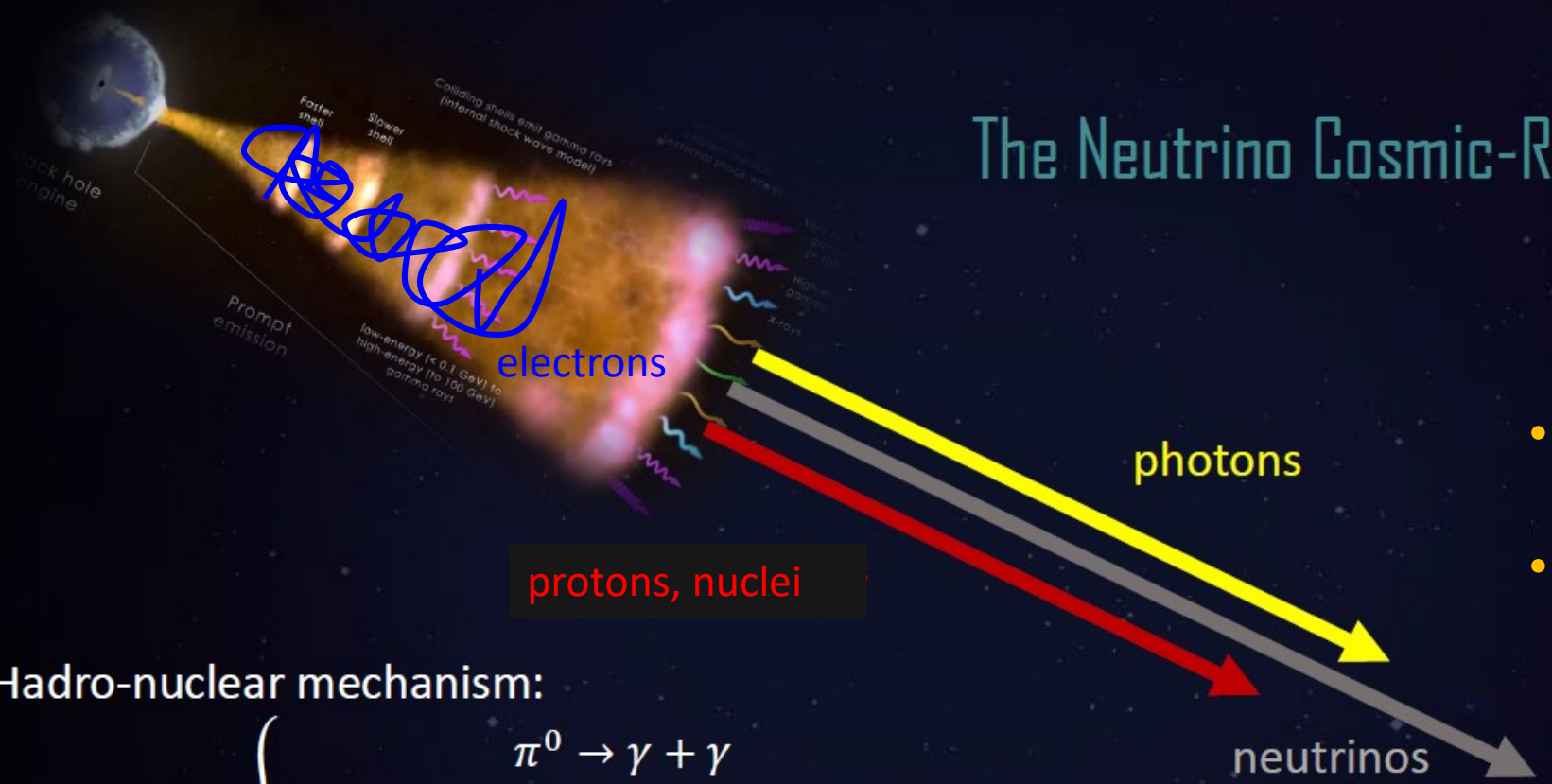


Adapted from M. Taiuti

📖 Palladino+, Universe 2020, 6,30

The Neutrino Cosmic-Ray Connection



- The **leading pion** carries (on average) 1/5 of the proton E_K.
- The 4 light (anti)leptons in $\pi^{\pm}$ decay carries ¼ of its energy:

$$E_\nu \sim \frac{E_\gamma}{2} \sim \frac{E_\pi}{4} \sim \frac{E_p}{20}$$

Hadro-nuclear mechanism:

$$\mathrm{p} + \mathrm{p} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma \\ \pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu \rightarrow e^+ + \boldsymbol{\nu_e} + \boldsymbol{\bar{\nu}_\mu} + \boldsymbol{\nu_\mu} \\ \pi^- \rightarrow \mu^- + \bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow e^- + \boldsymbol{\bar{\nu}_e} + \boldsymbol{\nu_\mu} + \boldsymbol{\bar{\nu}_\mu} \end{cases}$$

Photo-hadronic mechanism:

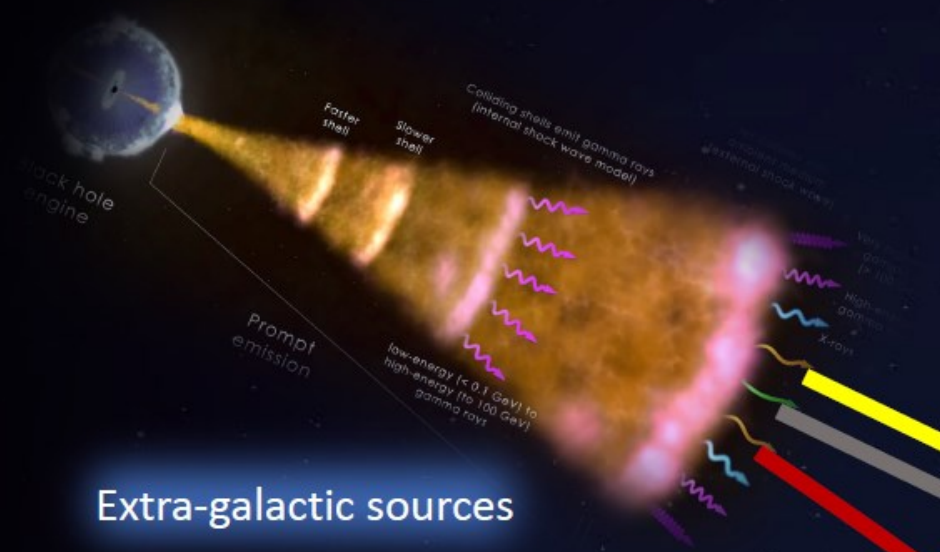
$$\gamma + \mathrm{p} \rightarrow \Delta^+ \rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathrm{p} + \pi^0 \rightarrow \mathrm{p} + \gamma + \gamma \\ \mathrm{n} + \pi^+ \rightarrow \mathrm{n} + \mu^+ + \nu_\mu \rightarrow \mathrm{n} + e^+ + \boldsymbol{\nu_e} + \boldsymbol{\bar{\nu}_\mu} + \boldsymbol{\nu_\mu} \\ \quad \hookrightarrow \mathrm{n} \rightarrow p + e^- + \boldsymbol{\bar{\nu}_e} \end{cases}$$

4 ν/ 2 γ

- The pion carries 1/5 of the proton E_K.
- The same relation among $E_\nu, E_\gamma,$ and E_P energies holds

Adapted from M. Taiuti

The Neutrino Cosmic-Ray Connection



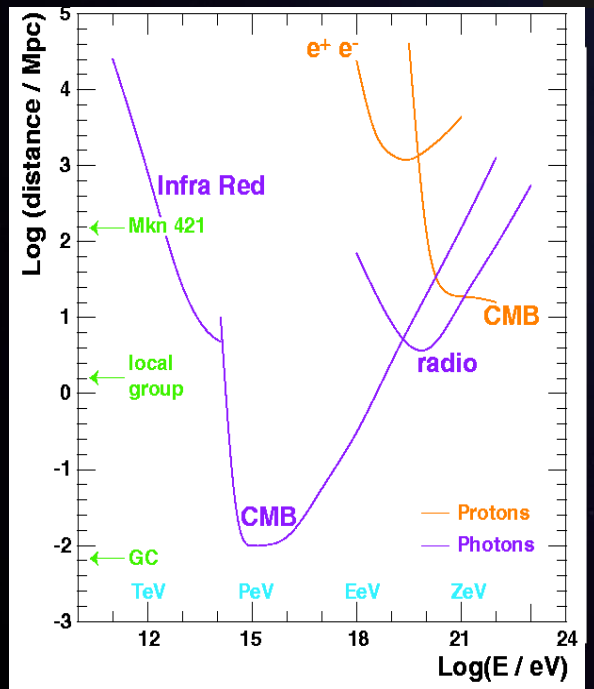
I) Sources may not be γ-ray transparent. In photo-hadronic collisions, the dense target of is also a target for γγ interaction and subsequent cascading

photons

protons, nuclei

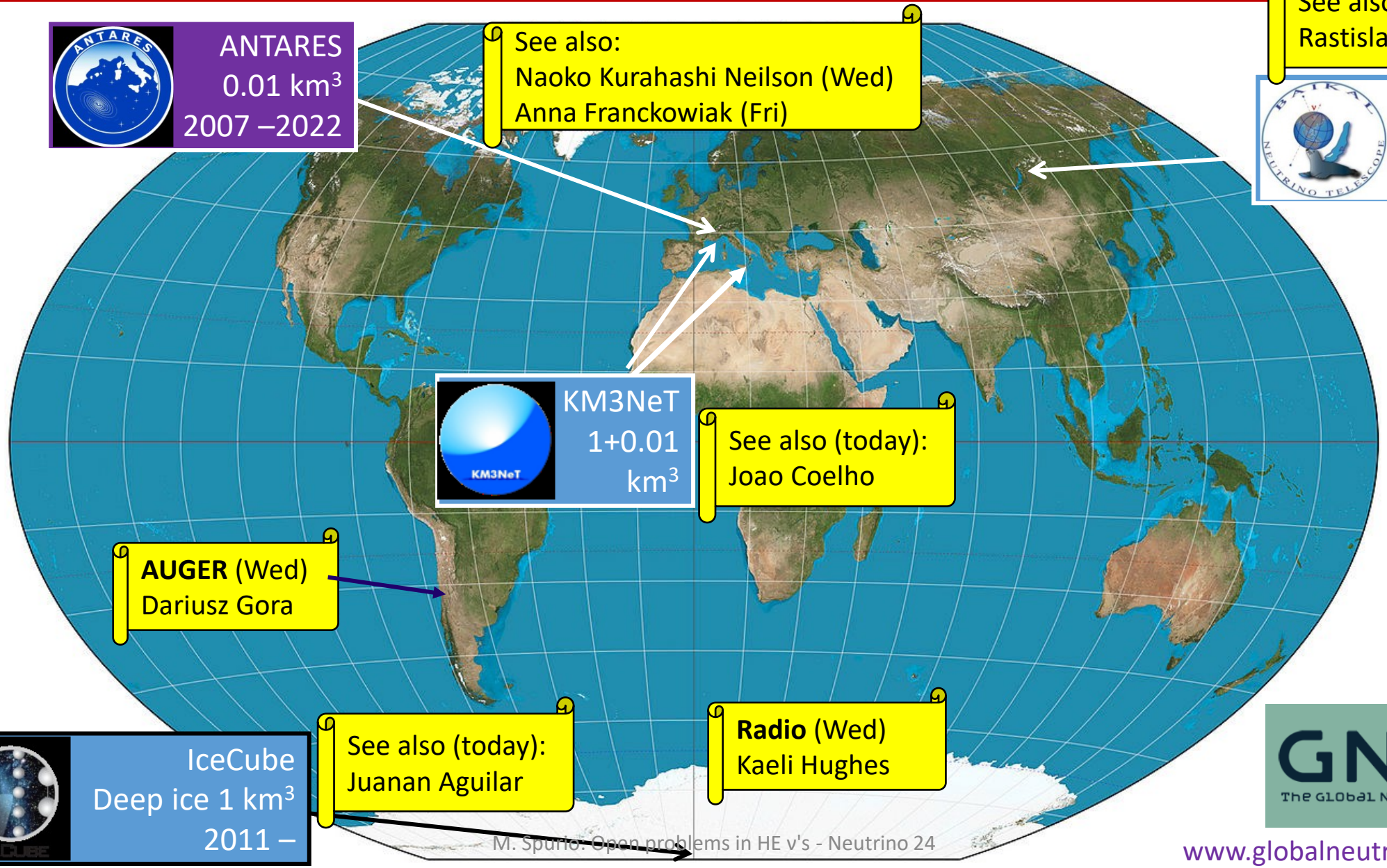
CMB, EBL

neutrinos



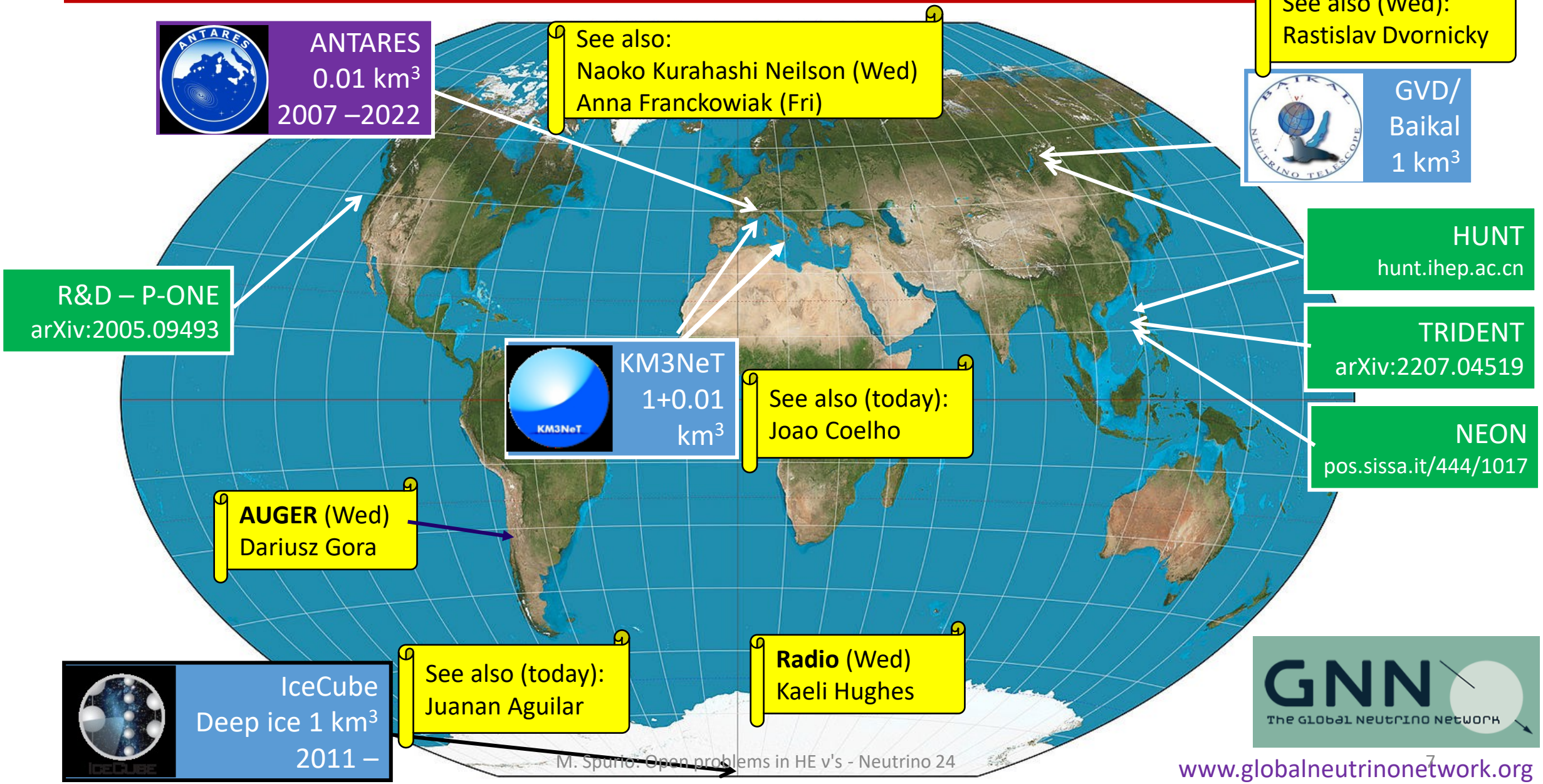
II) If γ-rays escape the source, at $E_\gamma \gtrsim 1$ TeV are strongly attenuated by γγ interaction with the CMB and the Extragalactic Background Light (EBL).

The neutrino telescope world map 202*



www.globalneutrinonetwork.org

The neutrino telescope world map 202*



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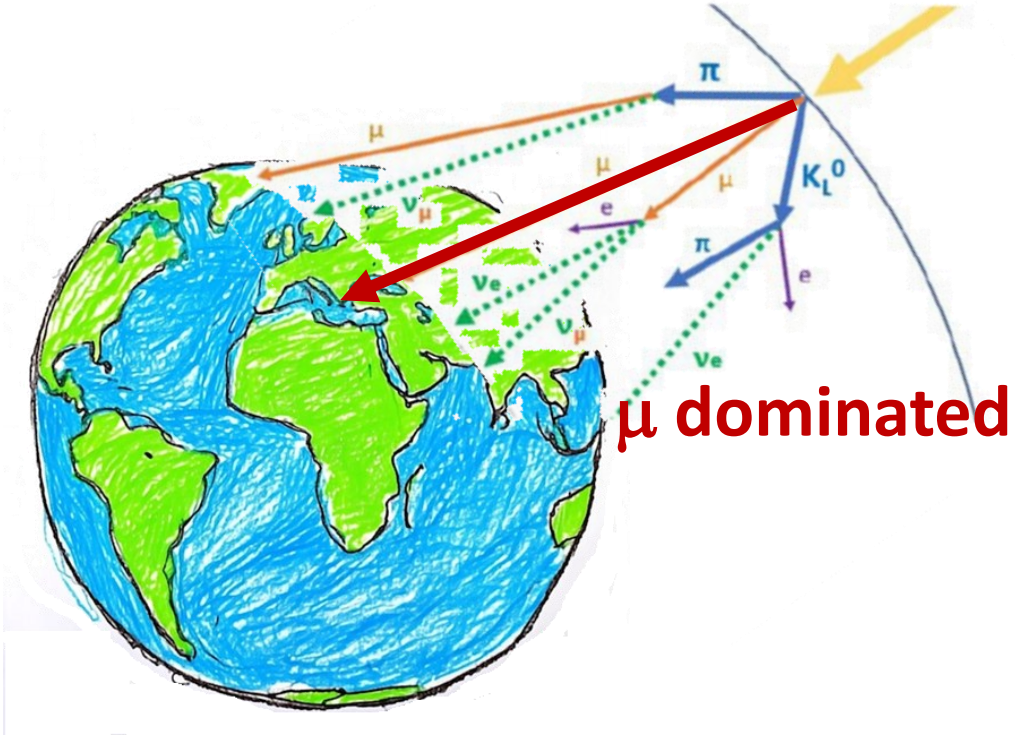
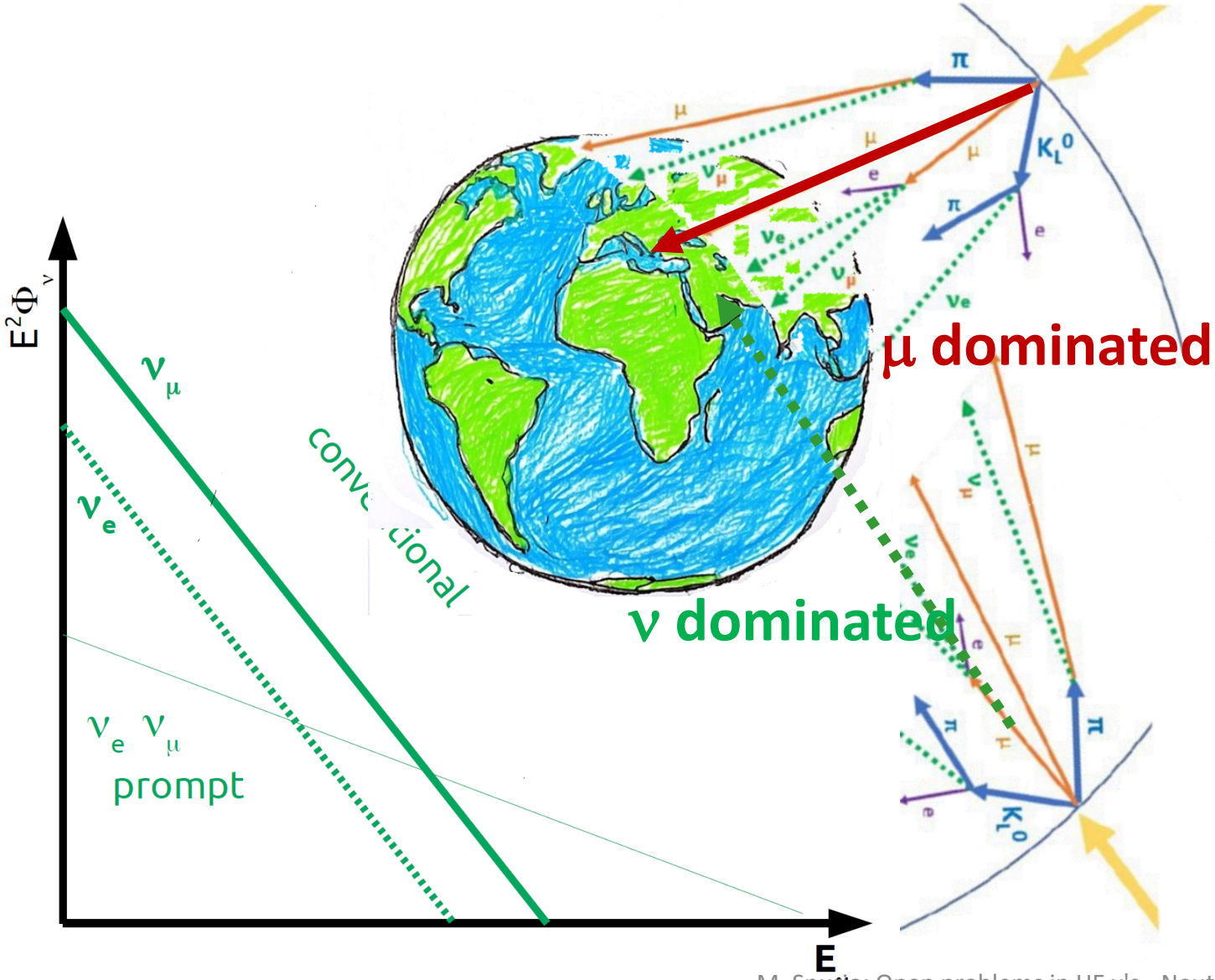
Background of atmospheric μ and ν



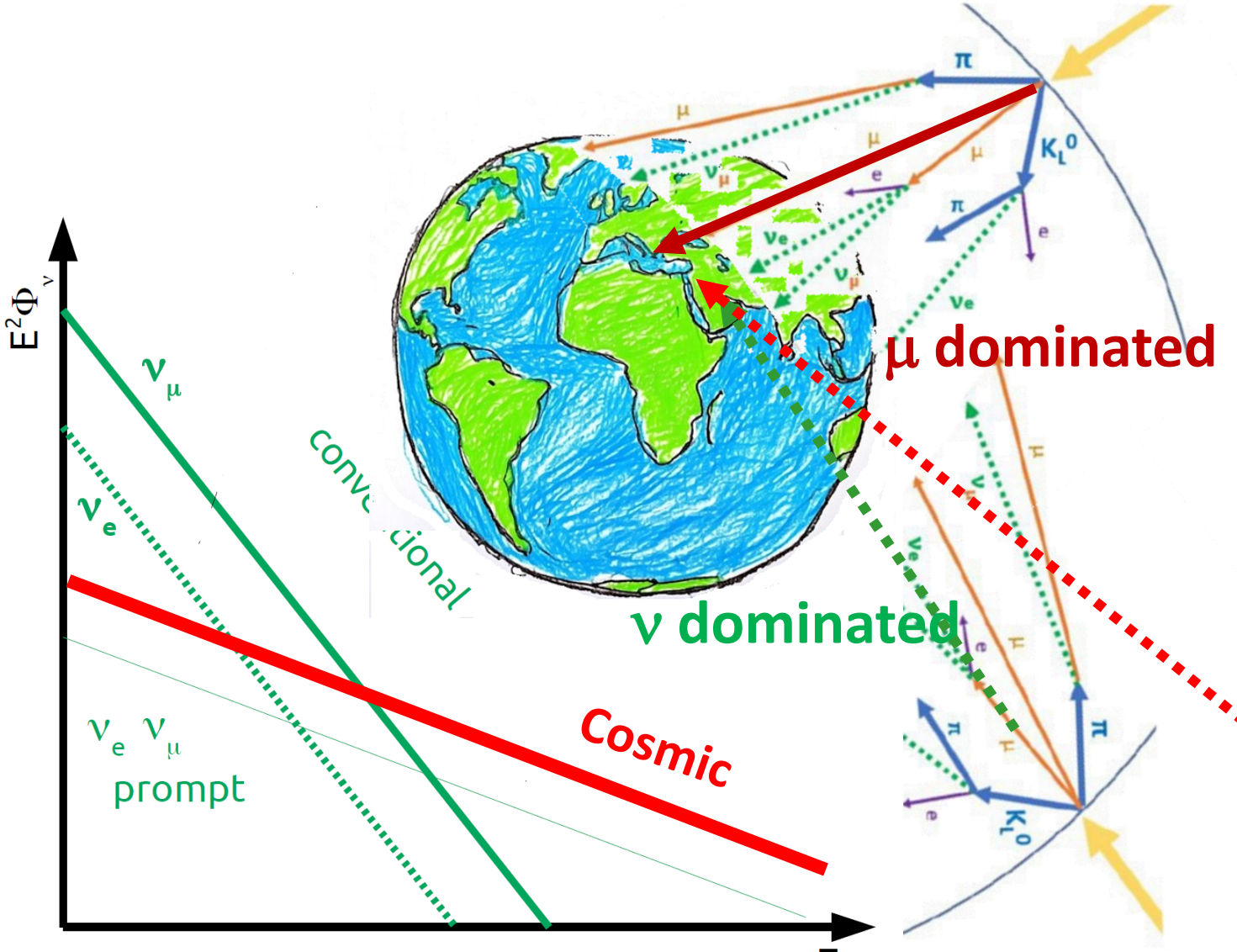
- **Atmospheric μ** dominates the down flux

Background of atmospheric μ and ν



- **Atmospheric μ** dominates the down flux
- **Atmospheric ν** is irreducible background

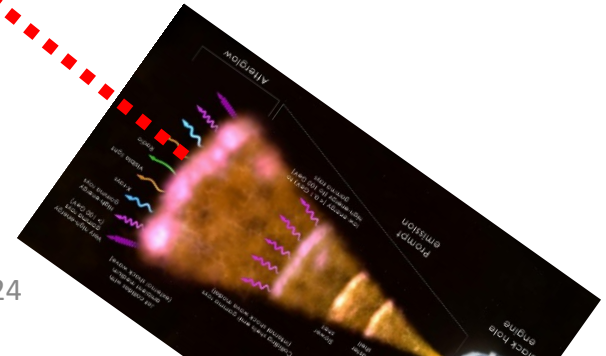
Background of atmospheric μ and ν



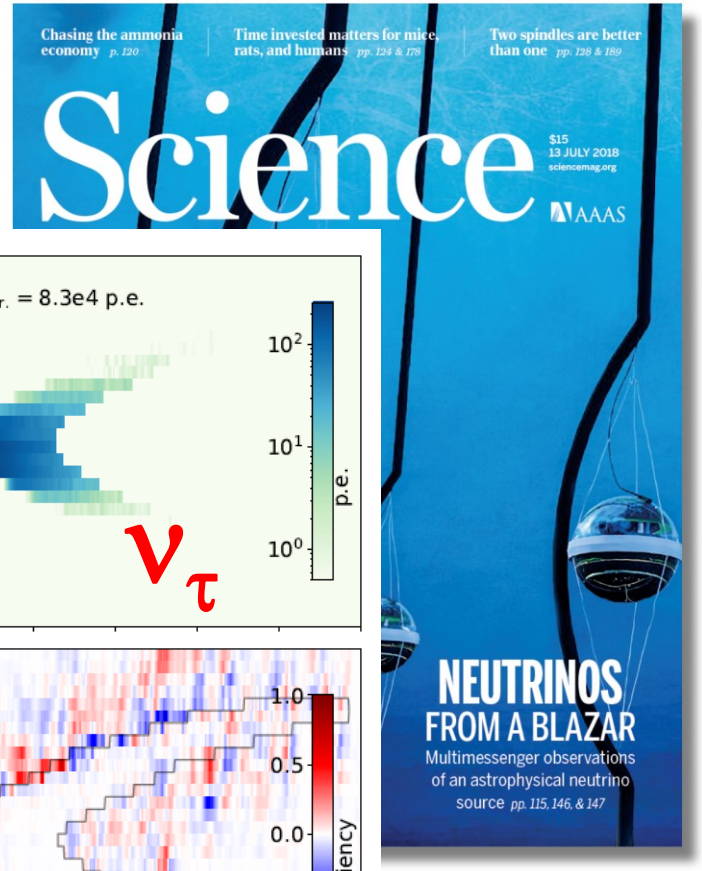
- **Atmospheric μ** dominates the down flux
- **Atmospheric ν** is irreducible background
- HE cosmic neutrino may originate from the **sources** or from CRs interacting during **propagation**.
- Single power-law (SPL) parameterization

$$\Phi_\nu = \Phi_{astro}\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)^{-\gamma}$$

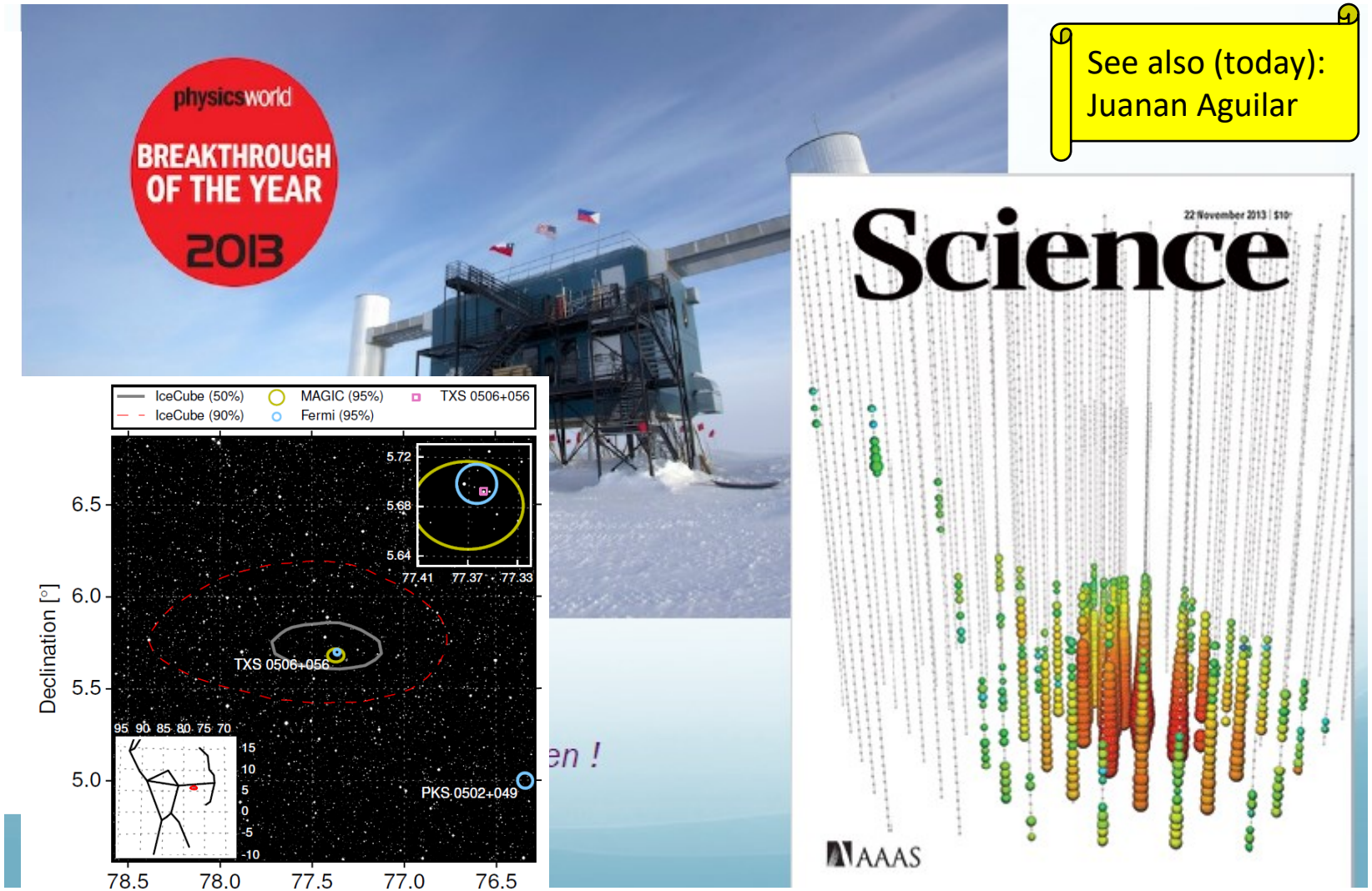
- **Neutrino oscillations:** equipartition between 3 flavors at Earth (if $\pi \rightarrow \nu\mu$).



The IceCube discovery of cosmic neutrinos



361 (2018) 6398]



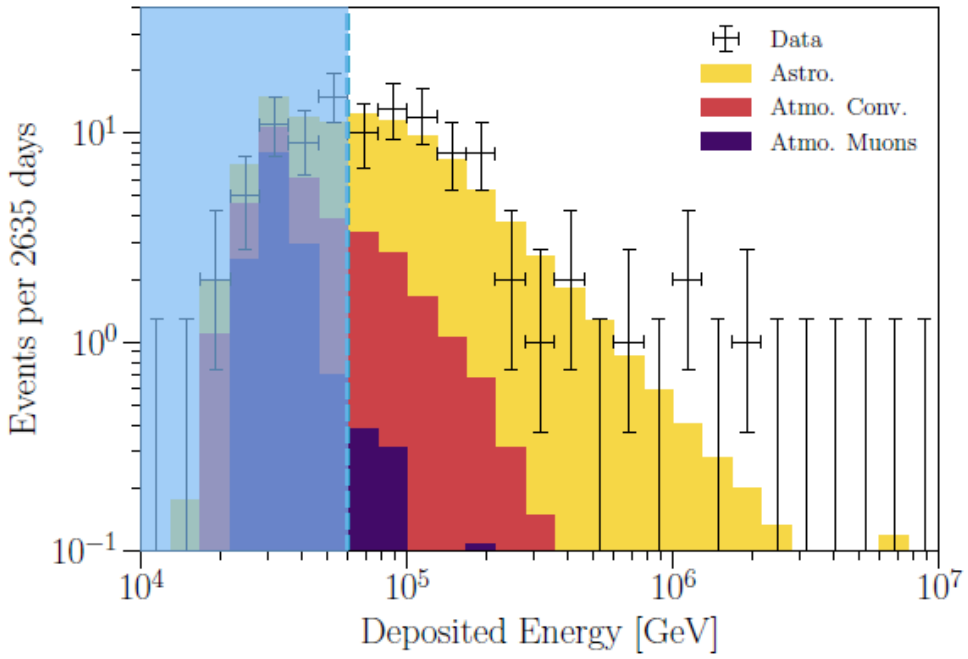
See also (today): Juanan Aguilar

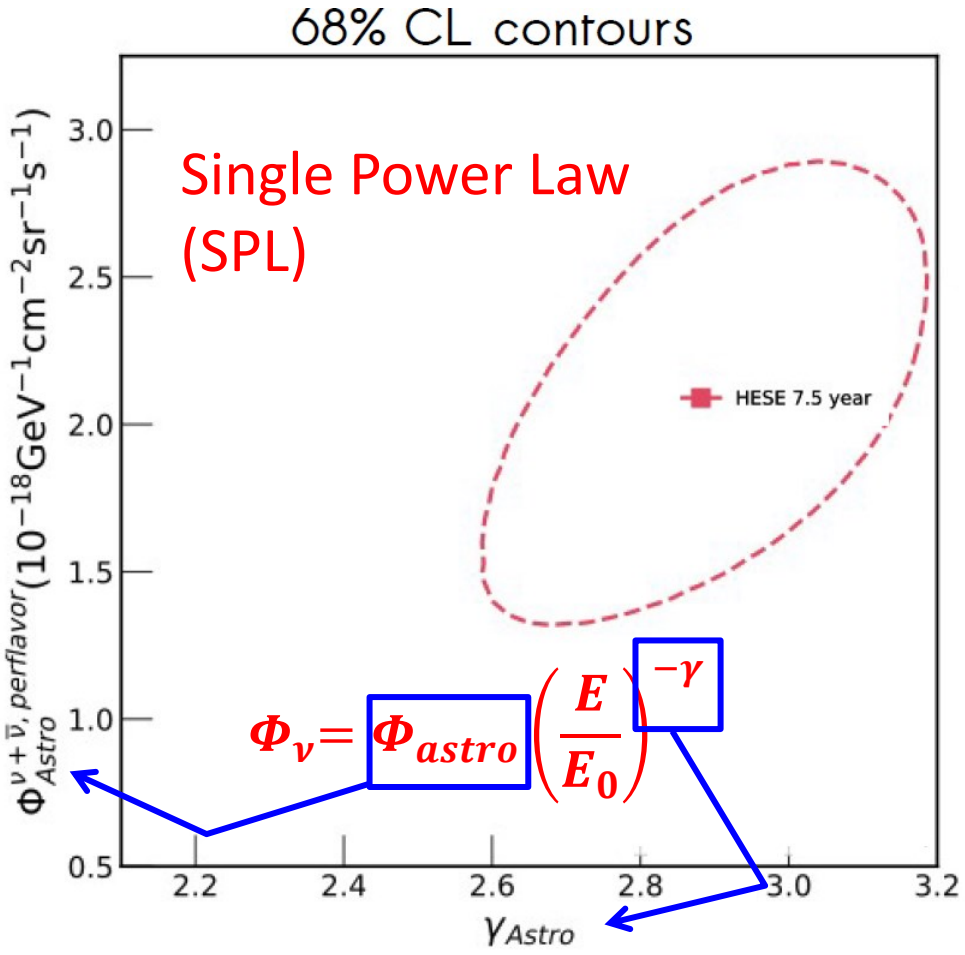
🕮 IceCube arXiv:2403.02516v3

IceCube High Energy Starting Events

IceCube PRD 104 (2021), 022002

- Mostly **cascades** with poor angular resolution (>10°)
- Selection criteria favor events from **Southern sky**
- Excess of events (>60 TeV) w.r.t. atmospheric background.





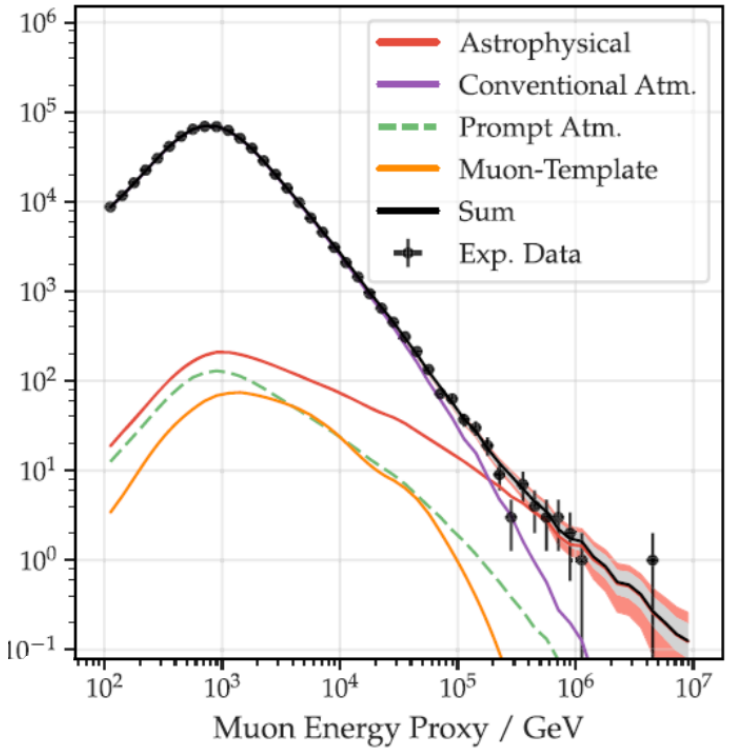
- The astrophysical origin deduced mainly from their high energies
- A SPL assumed to fit the entire energy range, due to the limited statistics.

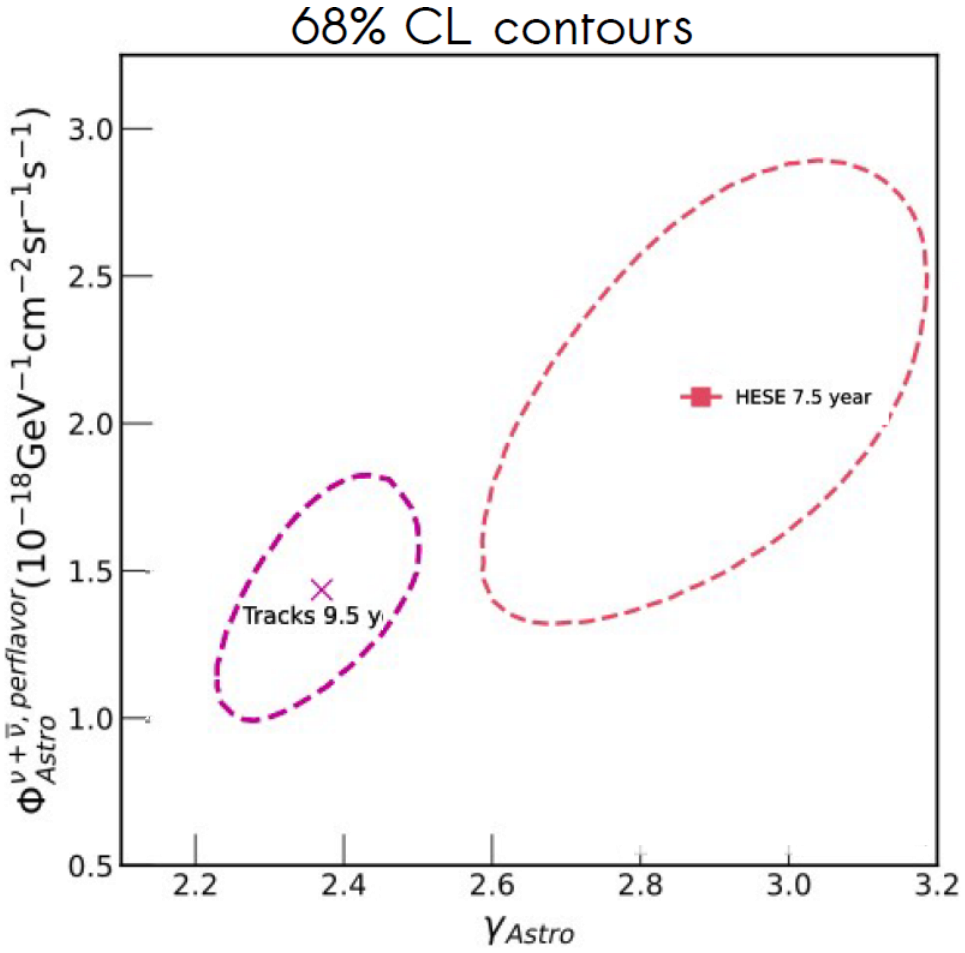
See detail later today:
IceCube (Juanan Aguilar)

Upward throughgoing tracks

IceCube ApJ 928 50 (2022)

- Upgoing tracks by ν_μ interactions, 9.5 y of data→ **Northern sky**
- Relatively poor (good) energy (direction) estimate
- Excess (E>100 TeV) over the expected distribution for background events using an **unfolding method**

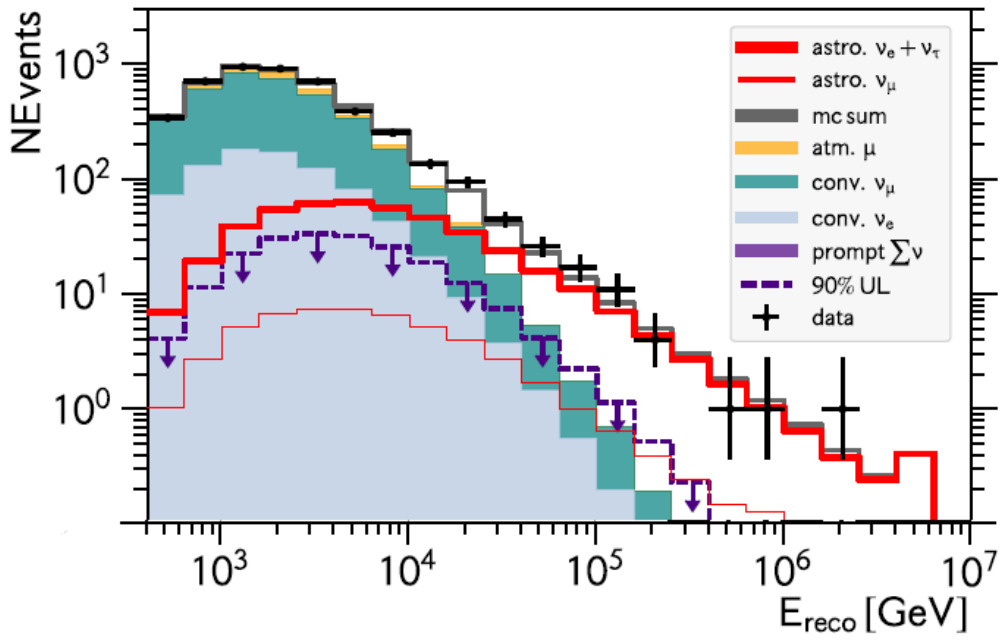


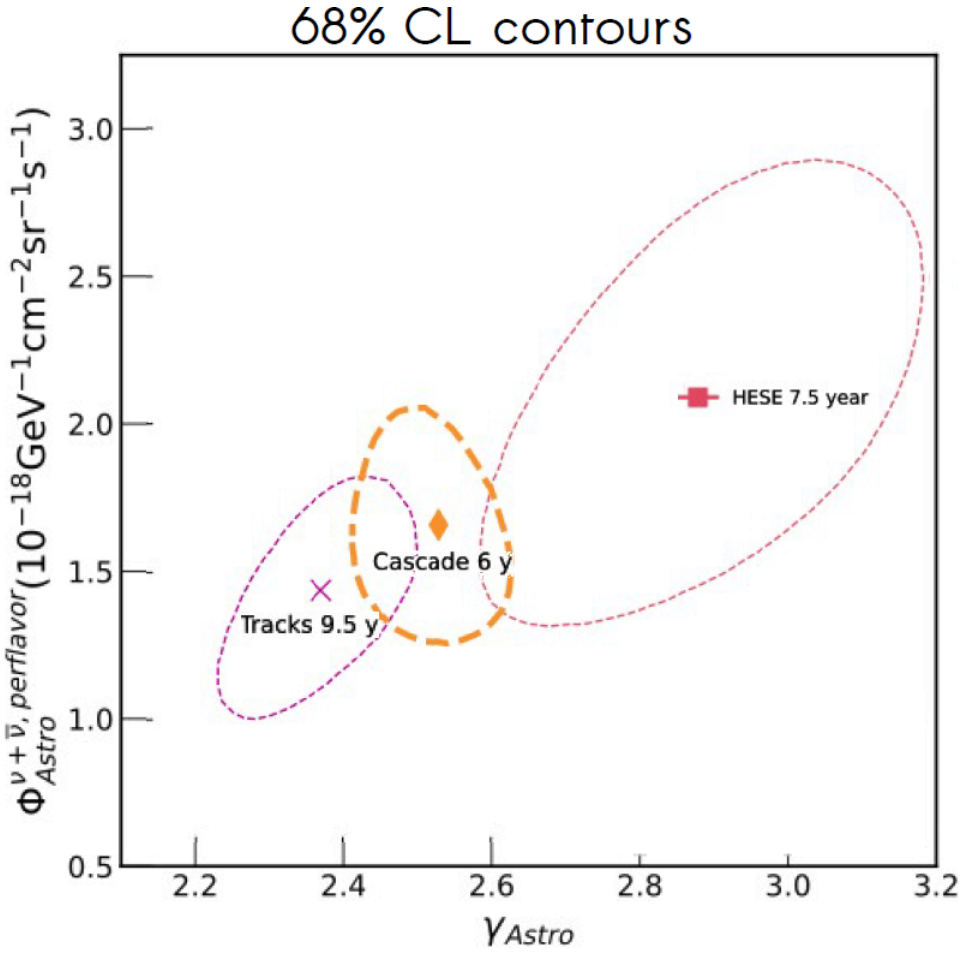


Cascades: ν_e ν_τ CC+NC interactions

IceCube PRL. 125, 121104 (2020)

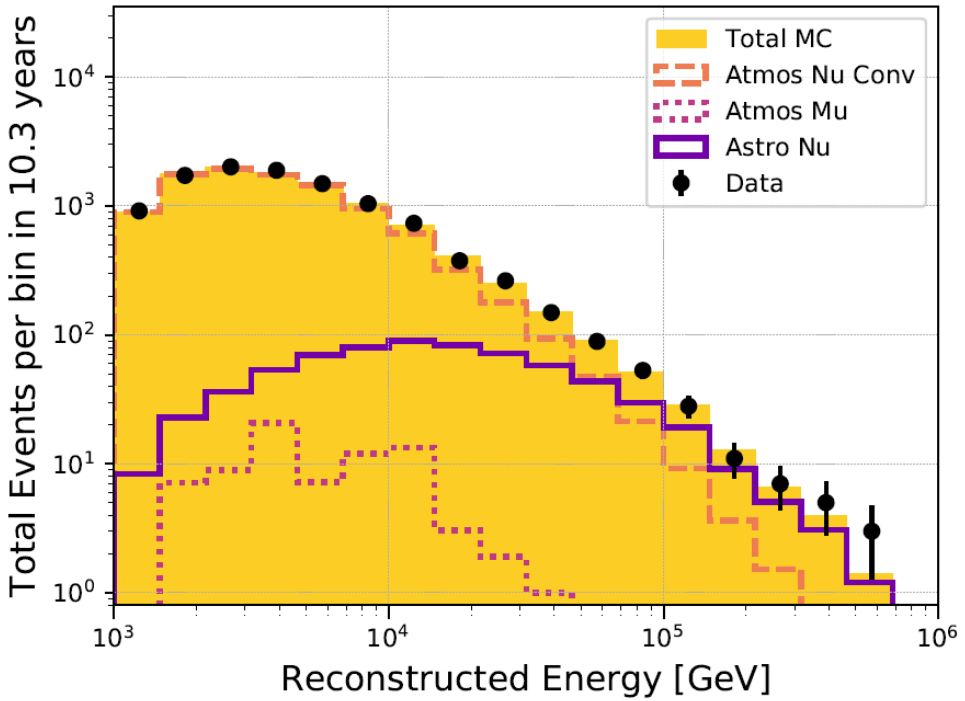
- Showers produced by ν_e **and** ν_τ interactions, 6.0 y of data
- Relatively poor (good) direction (energy) estimate
- Energy range from **16 TeV to 2.6 PeV, all-sky**
- Boosted Decision Tree based rejection of muons

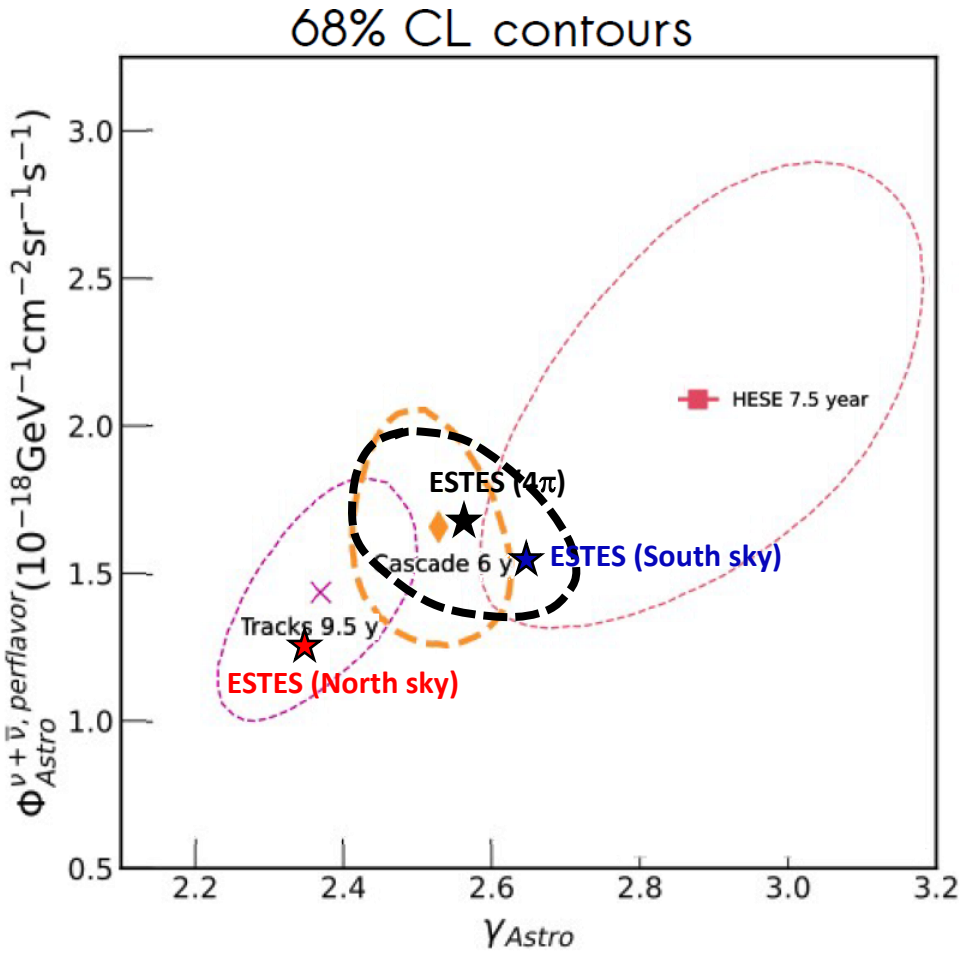




Enhanced Starting Track Events (ESTES) 🕮 IceCube: arXiv:2402.18026

- Selection of **starting tracks (ν_μ CC)** based on a BDT,.
- Energy range from 3 to 500 TeV
- SPL slightly different from North and South sky

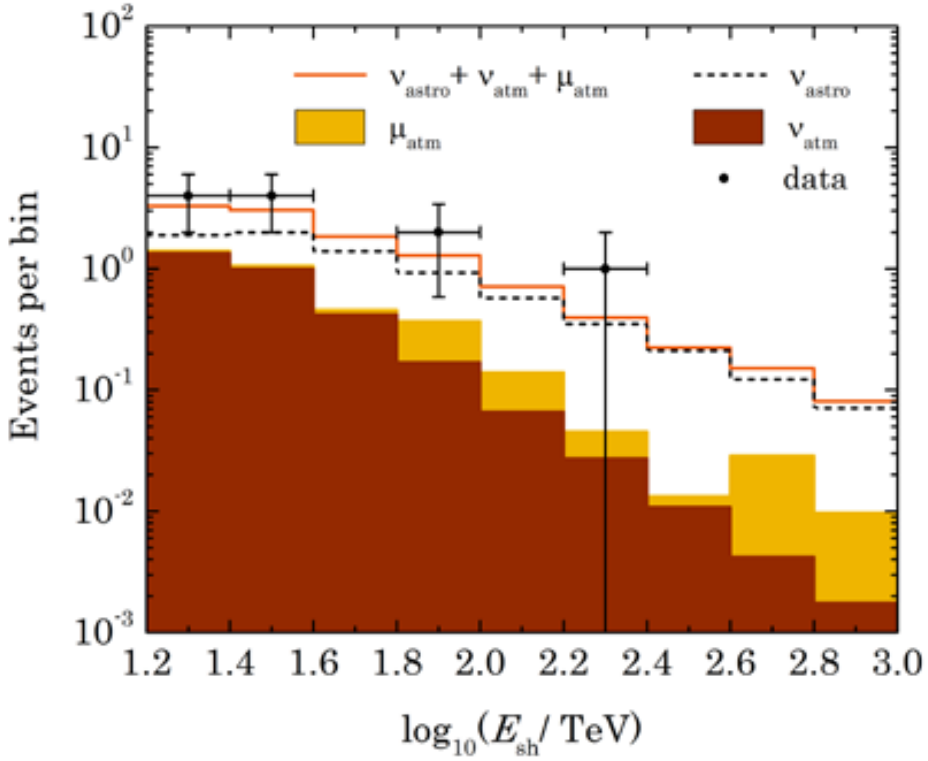


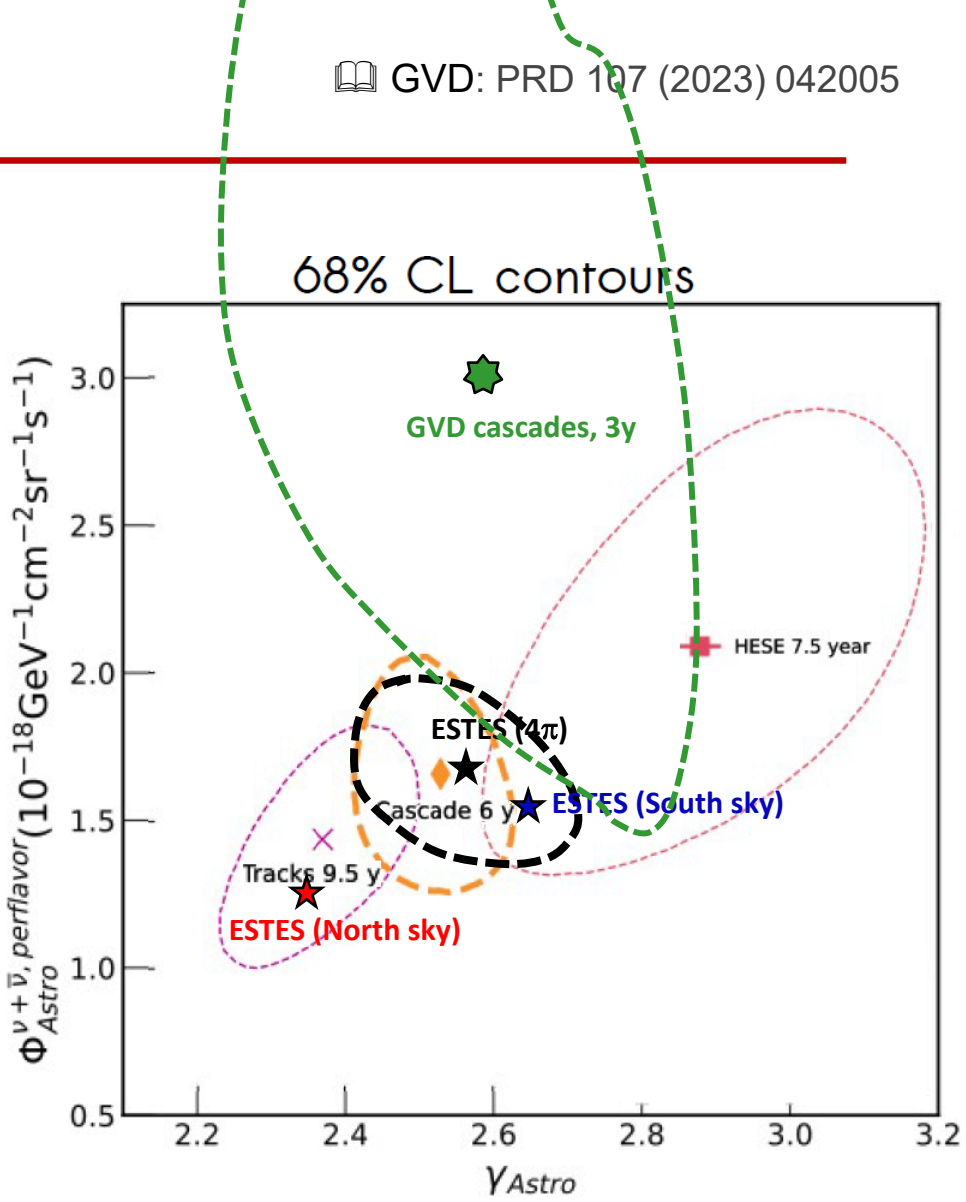


Baikal-GVD cascades

📖 GVD: PRD 107 (2023) 042005

- Selection of **cascades,** events from all sky
- To remove the background of atmospheric muons, upgoing events selected (mostly South sky)
- Excess w.r.t. atmospheric ν's **> 15 TeV**



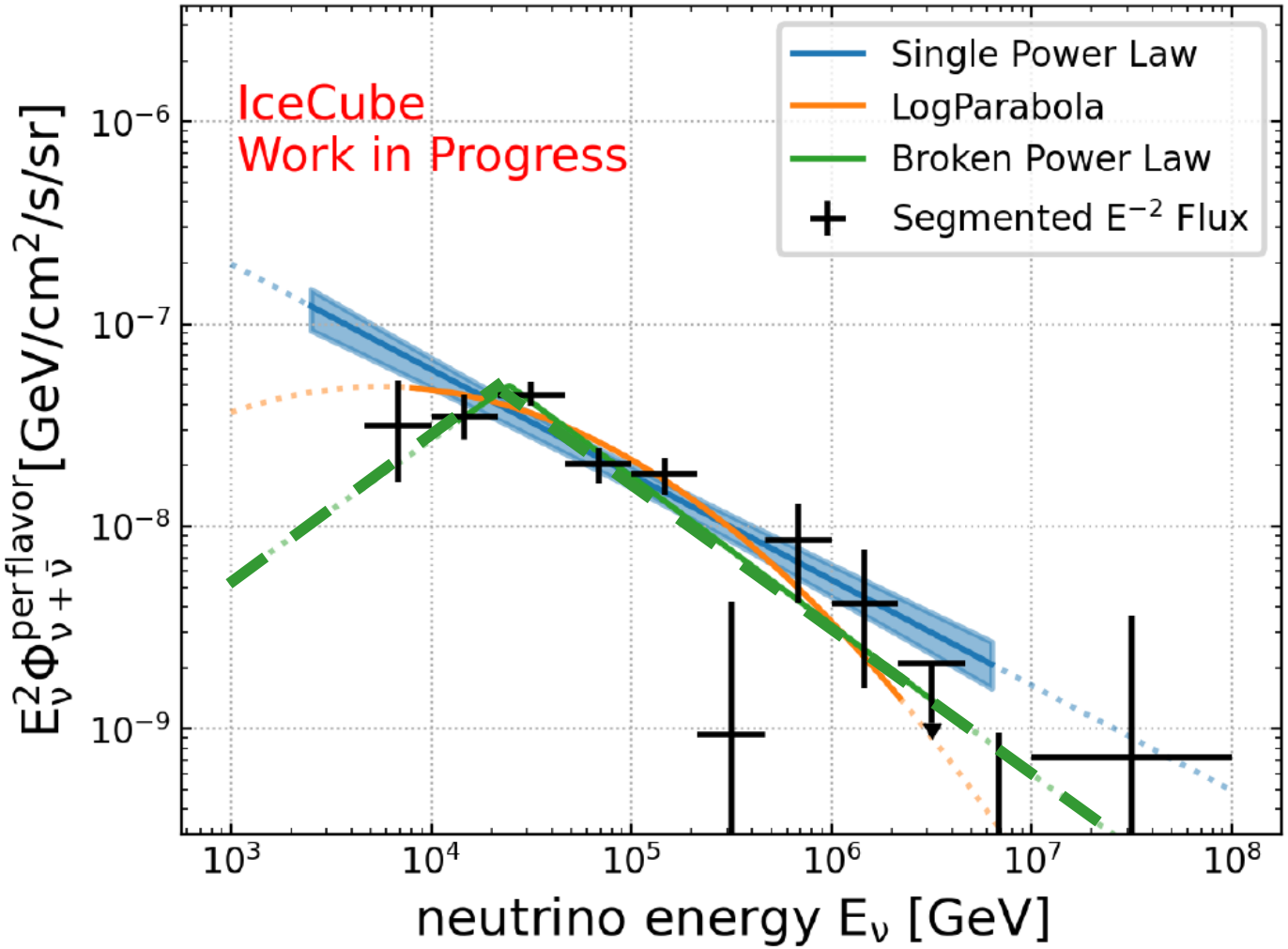


See also (Wed): Rastislav Dvornicky

Diffuse flux: no a Single Power Law

IceCube: PoS(ICRC23)1064
IceCube: arXiv:2402.18026

- No clear agreement with SPL from different samples, in particular below few tens of TeV.
- This could be attributed to:
  - different **energy range** of samples
  - the different **flavor** in the samples;
  - (most) of **Galactic Plane** in South Sky.
- A **segmented fit** of the IceCube data (tracks+ cascades) seems represent data better: **spectral features visible** (between 20-30 TeV)



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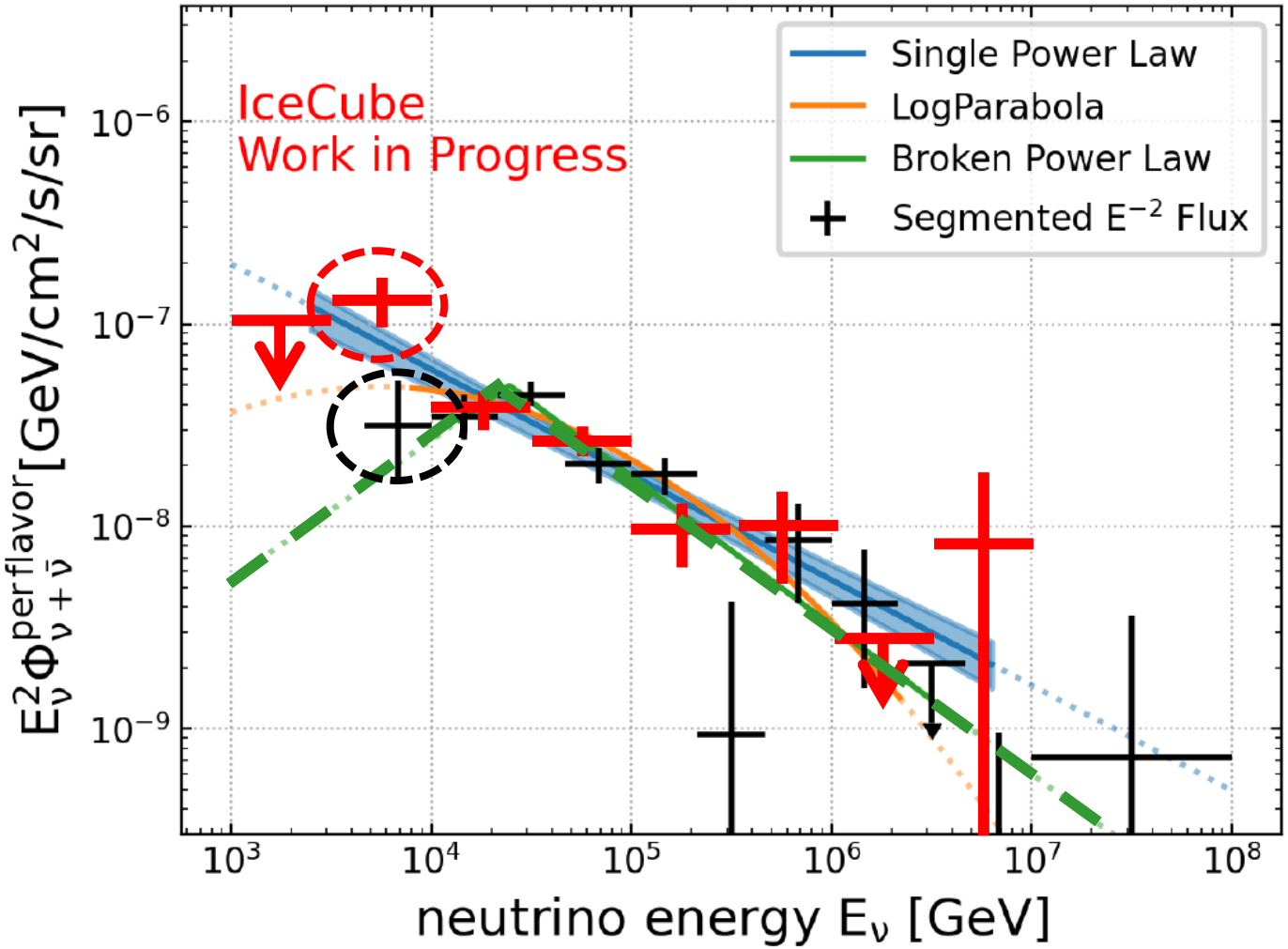
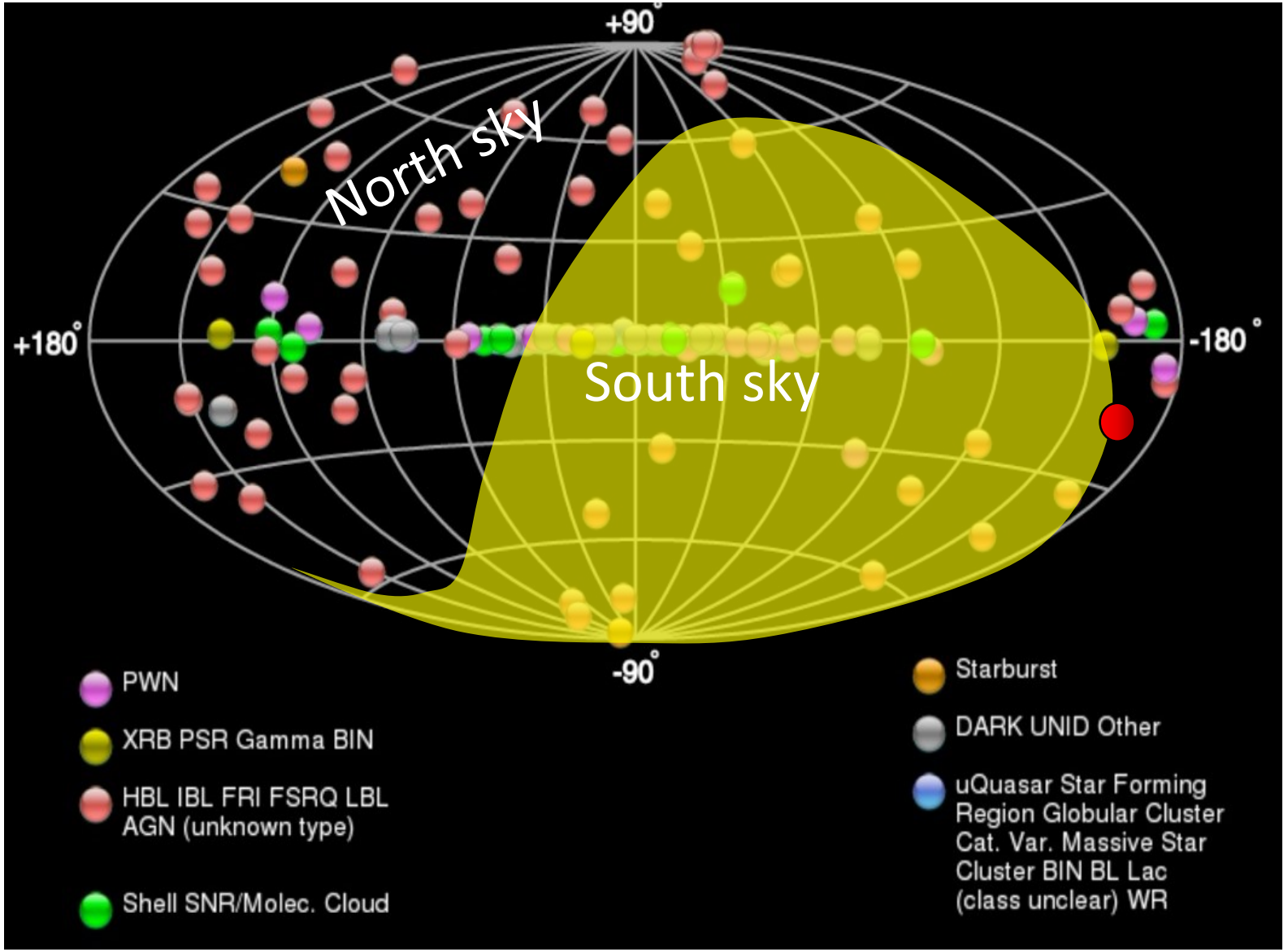
  - (most) of **Galactic Plane** in South Sky.
- A **segmented fit** of the IceCube data (tracks+ cascades) seems represent data better: **spectral features visible** (between 20-30 TeV)
- The **starting tracks sample** (new) agrees with segmented fit above the 30 TeV feature
- ANTARES data also are more compatible with some change of slope at 20-30 TeV. See:

📖 ANTARES Poster L. Fusco (paper in preparation)



Point Sources: catalog of TeV γ-rays

http://tevcat.uchicago.edu/



Today: 336 objets

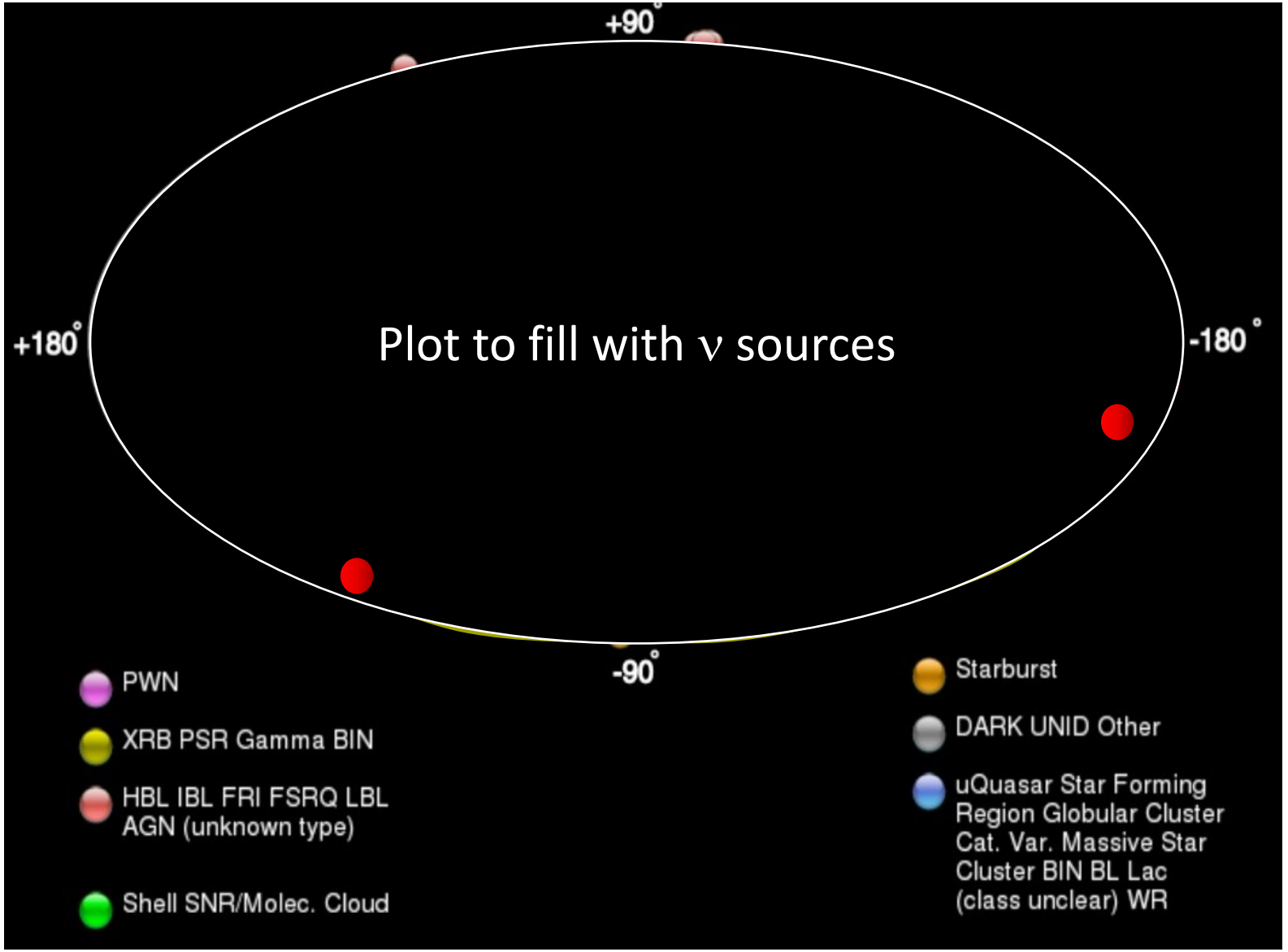
- 94 Galactic (<15 kpc)

Out of the Galactic Plane: AGN

- 8 AGN with 0.5<z<1
- 18 AGN with 0.2<z<0.5
- 28 AGN with 0.1<z<0.2
- 23 AGN with 0.001<z<0.1
- 7 GRBs (transient)

- ***Blazars*** *are powerful AGN with relativistic jets directed at the Earth.*
- *Not all blazars are γ-ray sources, but they constitute the dominant population*
- ***Seyfert*** *are visible galaxies with active nuclei (unusually bright core regions).*

Point Sources: catalog of neutrinos

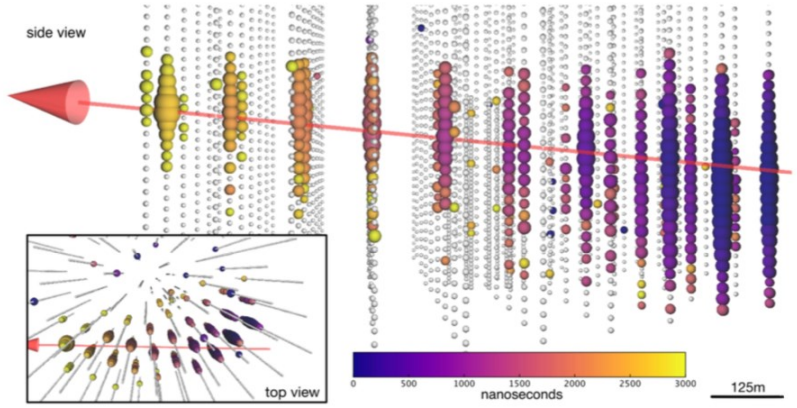


Today: 2 objets

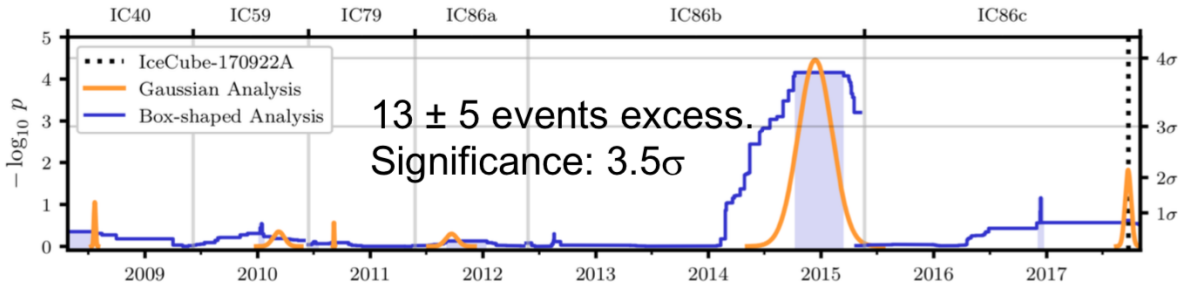
ν_μ from the blazar TXS 0506+056 (I)

IceCube:Science 361 (2018)eaat1378
IceCube:Science 361 (2018)eaat2890

Sept. 22, 2017:
A neutrino in coincidence with a blazar flare



2014-2015: A (orphan) neutrino flare found from the same object in historical data



Science 361 (2018) no. 6398, eaat2890

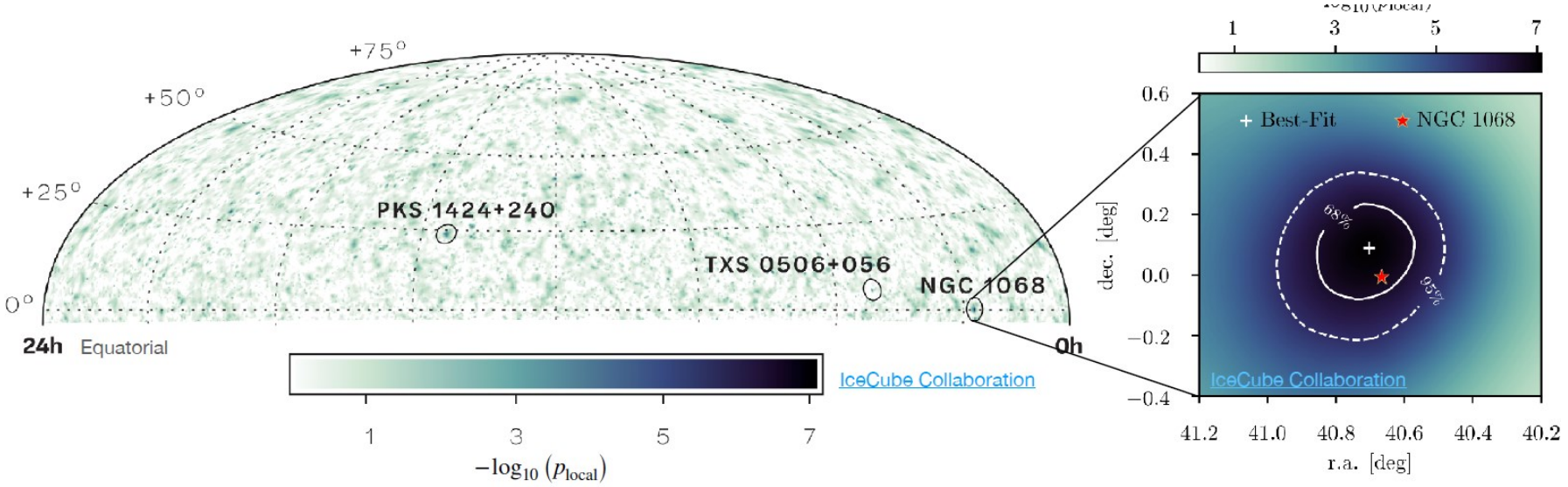
- An **electromagnetic follow-up** campaign followed the IC ν_μ event (angular resolution < 1°)
- **FERMI-LAT** and **MAGIC** observations indicate that this event correlate with the blazar (BL Lac object or FSRQ?) TXS 0506+056 at redshift z=0.3365

- After the coincident event, a ν-flare but without associated γ–rays found in **archival IceCube data**.
- A further analysis of archival IceCube data revealed a precedent ν burst with excess of **(13±5)** events.
- No significant EM flaring activity during the ν burst

- Two potential ν flares of very different nature
- Not simple theoretical interpretation

IceCube 2π sr sky survey

IceCube:DOI 10.1126/science.abg3395 (2022)

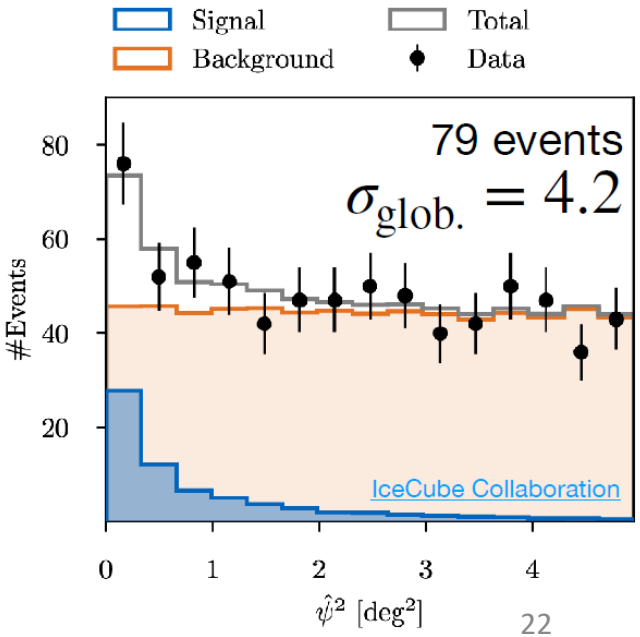


NGC-1068

- Neutrino candidates vs. (angular distance)^2 from source.
- **79±22** events in excess

- **110 selected sources**. Found 3 sources with > 3σ pre-trial.
- Use of up-going muon tracks
- The astrophysical origin of the ν excess deduced mainly from directional clustering, not from their high energies

- NGC 1068 (M77), close AGN (**10 Mpc**), not TeV γ-rays
- TXS 0506+056, z=0.336 (**1.8 Gpc**), γ-rays from 80 to 400 GeV
- PKS 1424+240, z=?



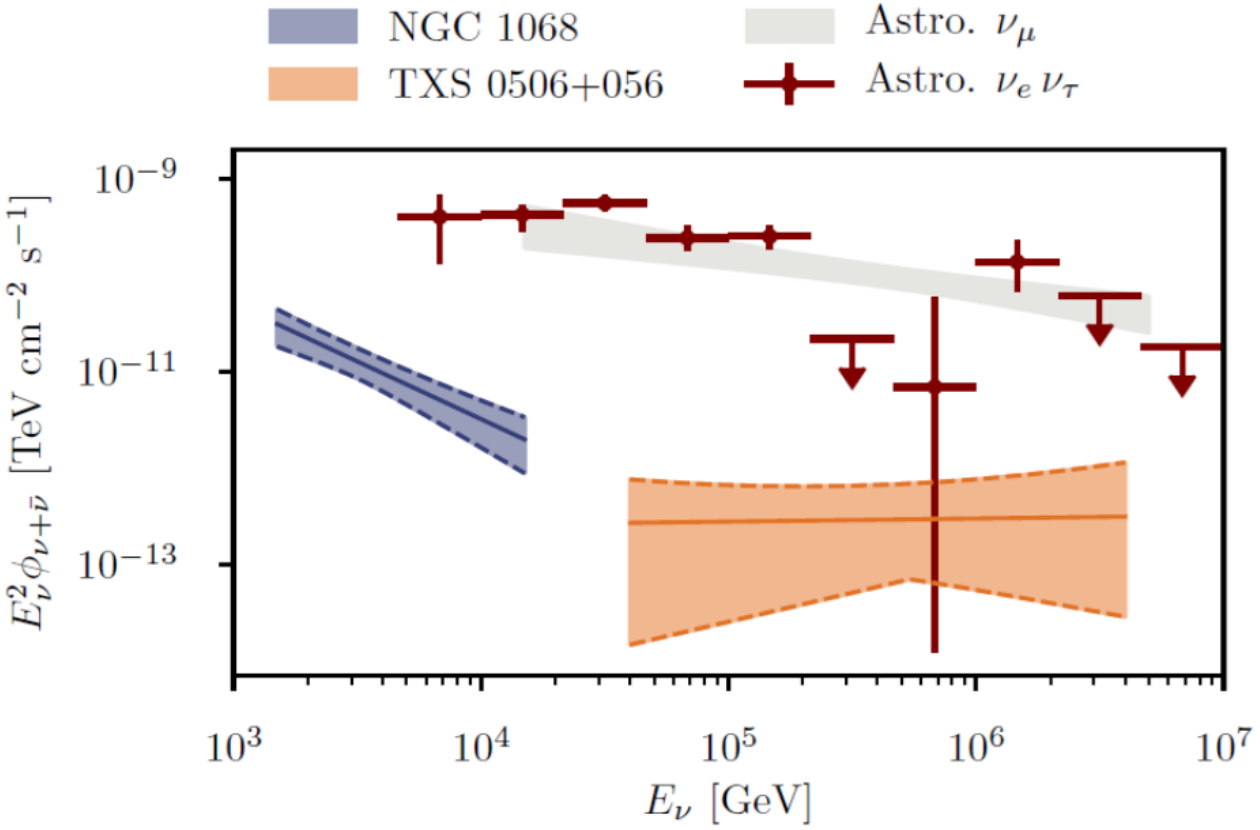
Results of neutrino sky map

IceCube:DOI 10.1126/science.abg3395 (2022)

- **NGC 1068:** neutrino energies in a range not well measured with the diffuse flux.
- Best-fit spectral index of γ = 3.2±0.2, softer than the diffuse flux

- **TXS 0506+056** is >100 times farther away than the near NGC 1068: there are at least **two populations of neutrino sources** that differ in luminosity by orders of magnitude.

- The TXS 0506+056 time-integrated emission in 10 y has pre-trial of 3.5 σ (i.e. n_s=5).
- The *Science 2018* result provided evidence for transient emission with n_s = **13±5** in 6 months.



Spectral Energy Distribution of IC diffuse flux and of NGC and TXS sources.

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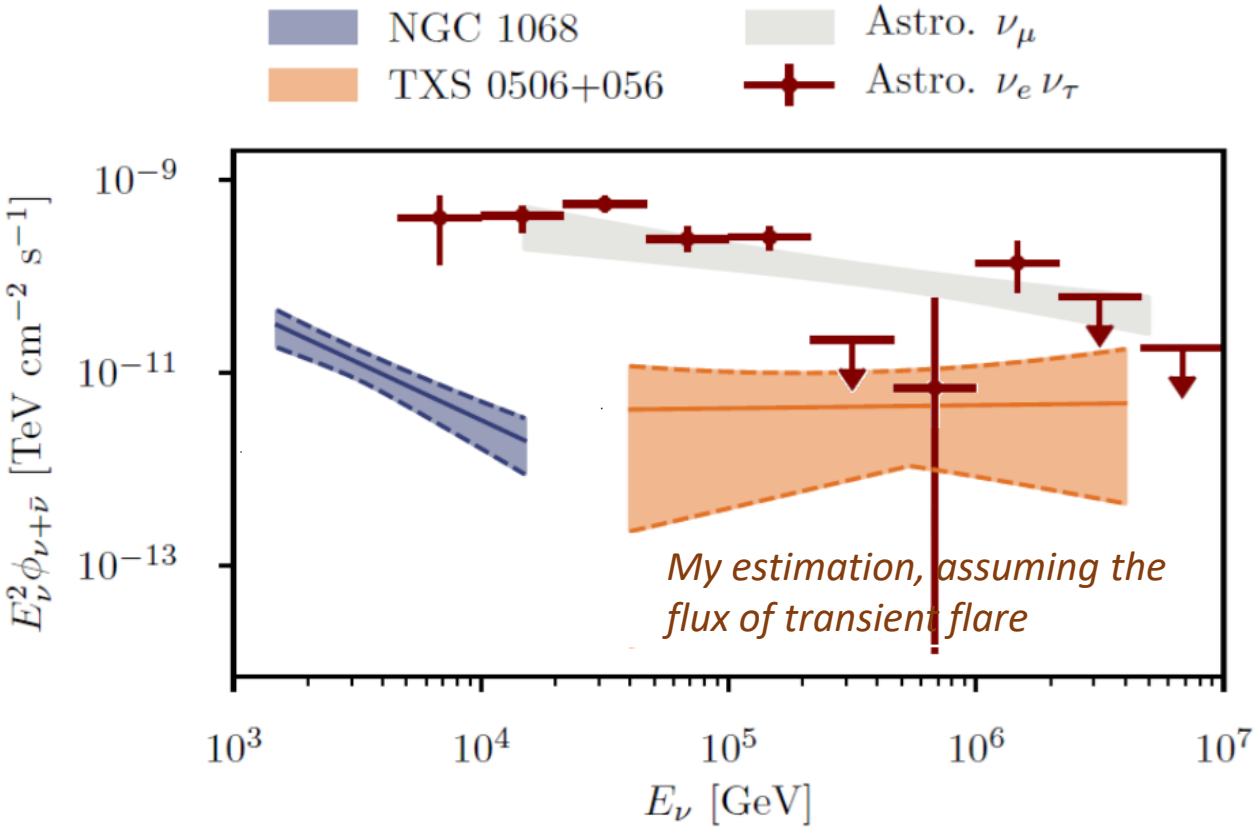
- If the TXS 0506+056 findings are both corrects, the population of HE (100 TeV range) ν's could be significantly influenced by transients



Spectral Energy Distribution of IC diffuse flux and of NGC and TXS sources.

Origin of the (diffuse) extragalactic ν's

For a recent review: see the **377 refs** in
📖 Fiorillo, Universe 2024, 10, 149

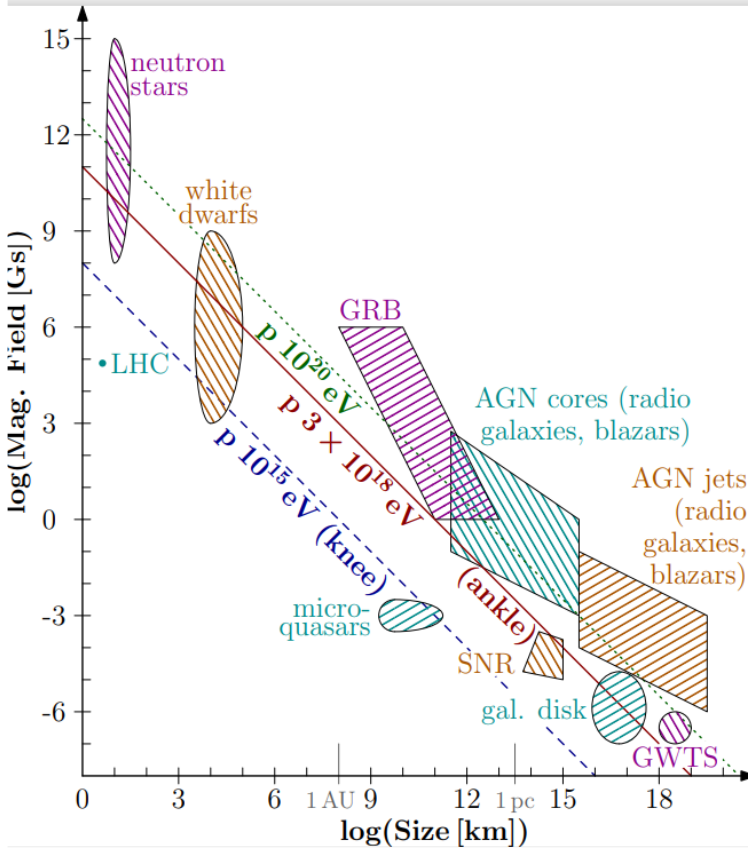
To identify ν sources, different strategies are adopted in IceCube, ANTARES, Baikal-GVD and KM3NeT:

- searches for multiplets of events from close directions in the sky
- searches for temporal and spatial correlations with transients
- cross-correlation of ν angular distribution with catalogs
- the analysis of the neutrino angular power spectrum

Sources candidates

- AGNs jets: about 1-10% of the AGNs. Blazars=jets towards the Earth. **TXS 0506+056**
- AGNs cores (Seyfert,…): ν produced in an optically thick region that absorbs γ–rays. **NGC 1068**
- GRBs (or choked/low-luminosity GRBs)
- Starburst galaxies
- Tidal Disruption Events (TDEs)
- Clusters of galaxies
- Galaxy & Galaxy Cluster mergers
- Beyond the Standard Model (BSM)
- …

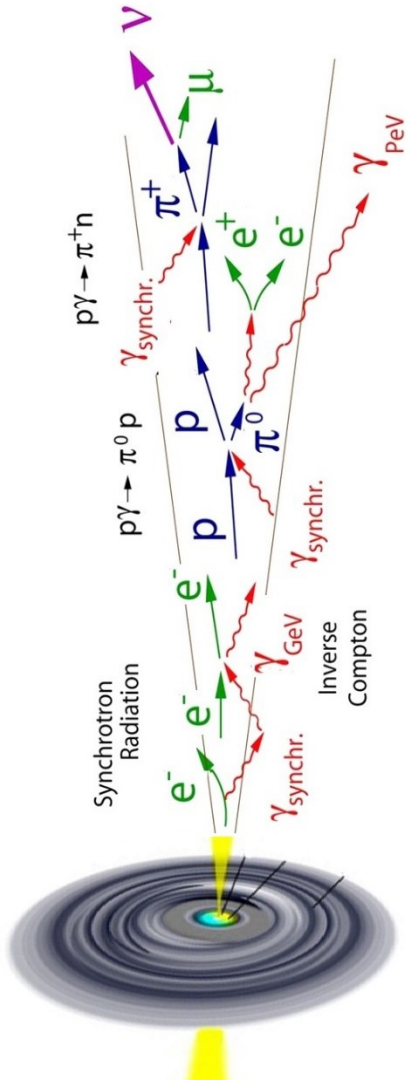
📖 Becker Tjus, Merten, Phys. Rep. 872 (2020) 1



Open problems with the identification of sources

- Public catalogues have also been used by many authors in >>377 refs
- Positive correlations (also >3σ) between ν and selected catalogues have disappeared or significantly reduced after a new release of ν candidates appears.
- The ν catalogs released by Collaborations are “work in progress” as they can be improved in the future
- The accuracy of reconstruction of the ν properties is limited by systematics: new refined statistical analysis, improved reconstruction/ calibration can lead to a significant improvements in ν direction/energy.
- The reduction of “>3σ” is true also for the TXS 0506+056 burst (arXiv:2307.14559)
- Analysis of data of independent experiments, with uncorrelated systematic errors, could be recommended to reduce incorrect associations

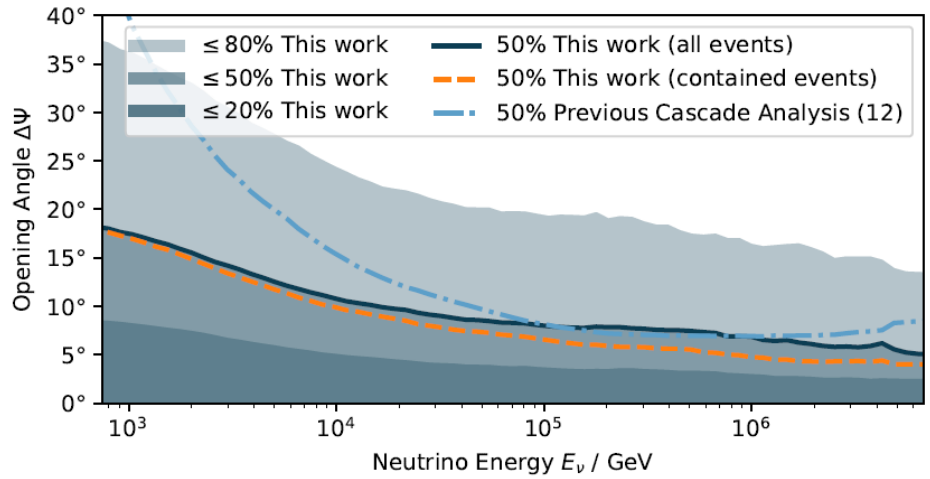
- **Warning for young researchers**: the machine learning involves a training dataset with characteristics based on MC simulations can be affected by the medium properties (water is more homogeneous that ice, but it needs calibrations)



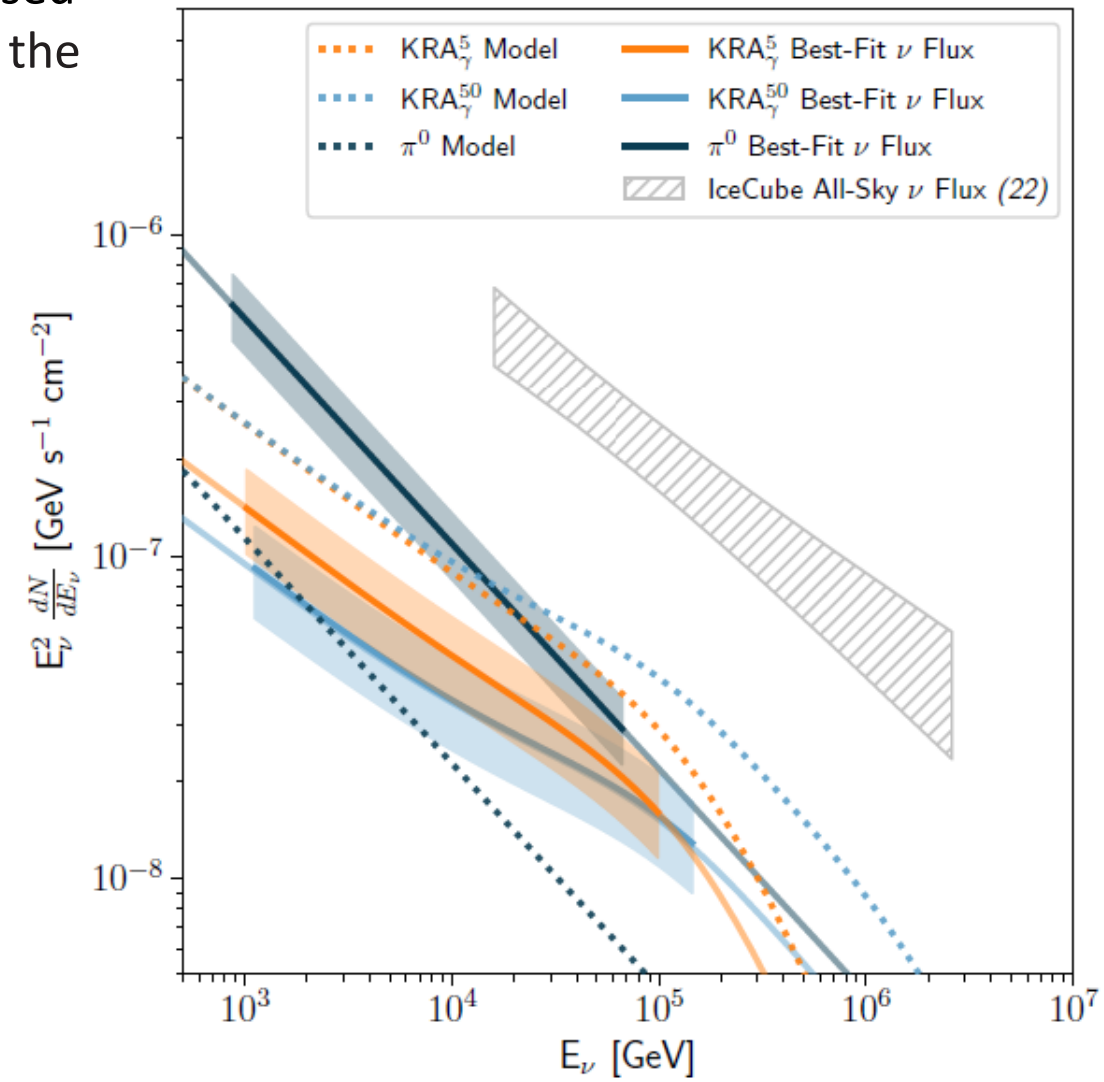
The Galaxy is not a neutrino desert

IceCube: DOI: 10.1126/science.adc9818

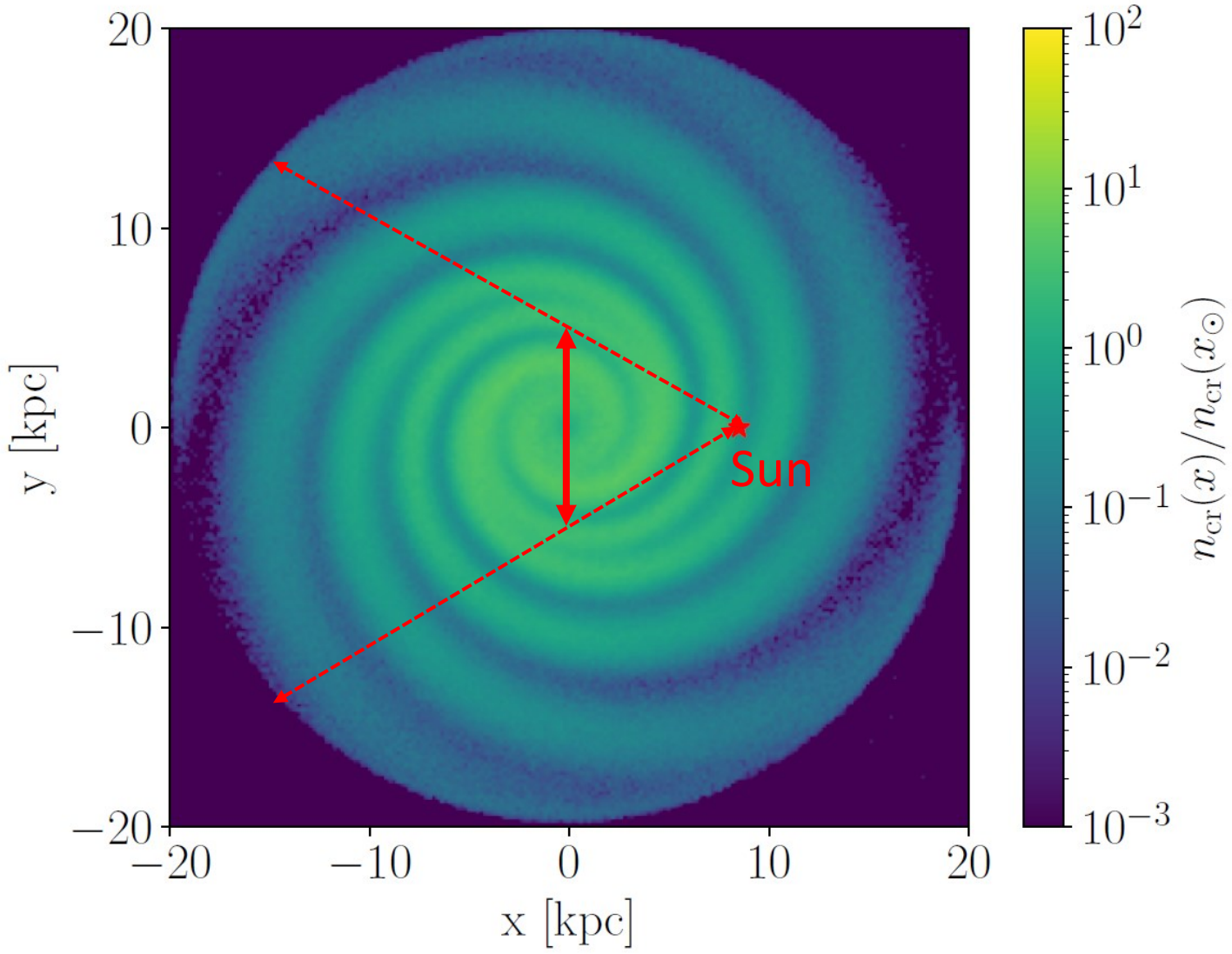
- IceCube compared three diffuse emission models (based on ν production associated with CRs and γ-rays) from the Galactic plane to a background-only hypothesis
- Cascades with poor angular precision

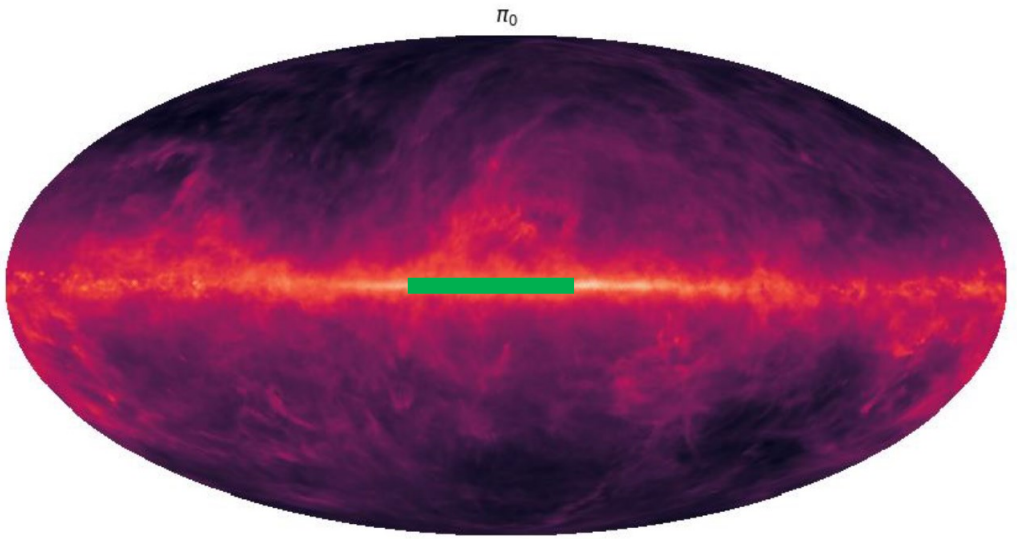


- Model-dependent result, due to the impossibility to evaluate the background using data.
- Three *results* produced on the **flux integrated over the whole sky**: a factor of x 4-6 difference @1 TeV.



The Galactic ridge





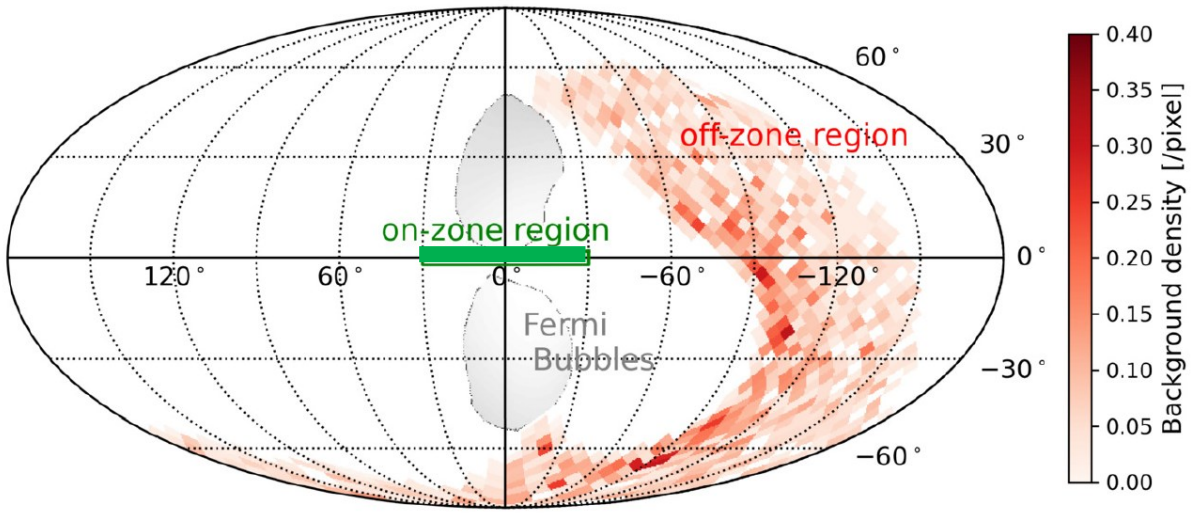
Most of the signal from the Galactic Ridge |b|<2° and |l|<30°= $\frac{1}{172} \times 4\pi$ sr

Each model yields a different signal contribution in this region

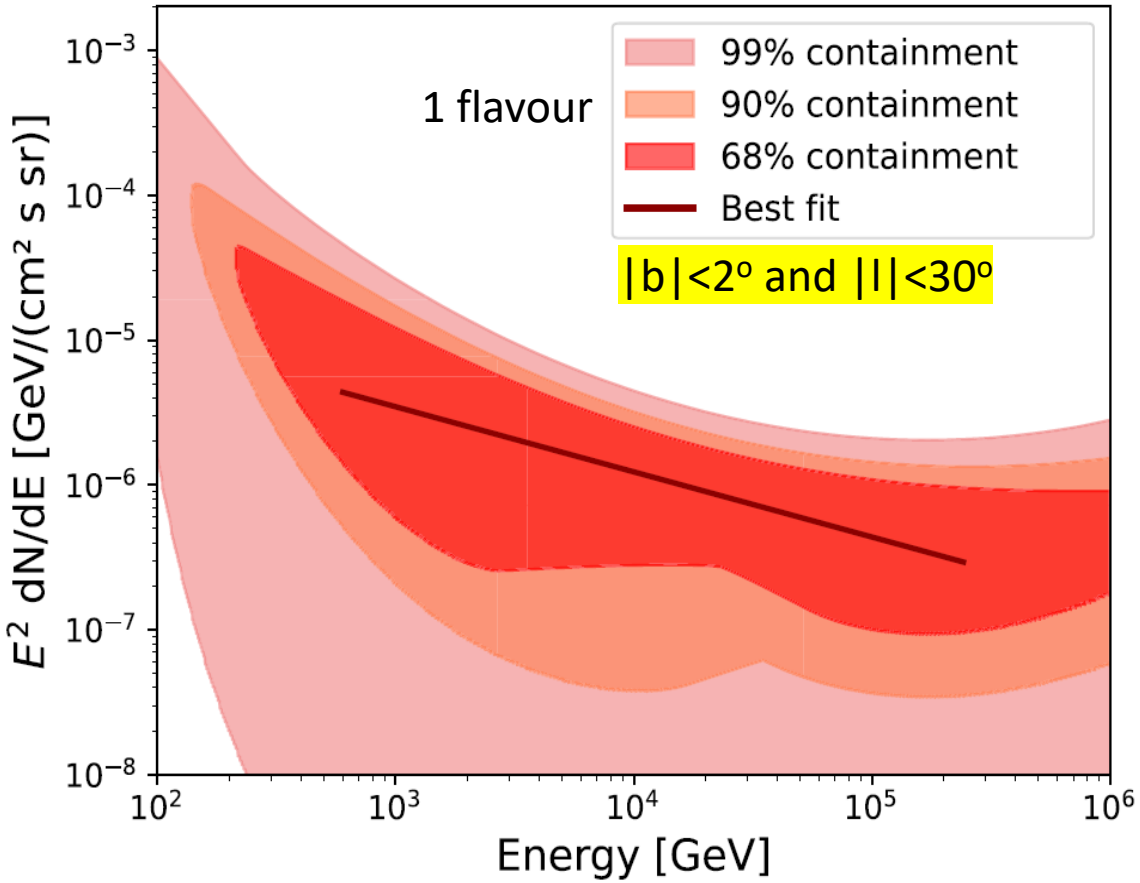
- 12% of the total signal by π^0 model
- 30%-40% in the KRAγ .

ANTARES as a «telescope»

📖 ANTARES: PLB841 (2023) 137951
📖 ANTARES PoS(ICRC2023)1084/1103



- Robust and model-independent measurement (**On-Off method)** possible due to the Earth rotation
- Use upgoing track-like events (better direction)
- Observed a 2.2σ excess from signal region



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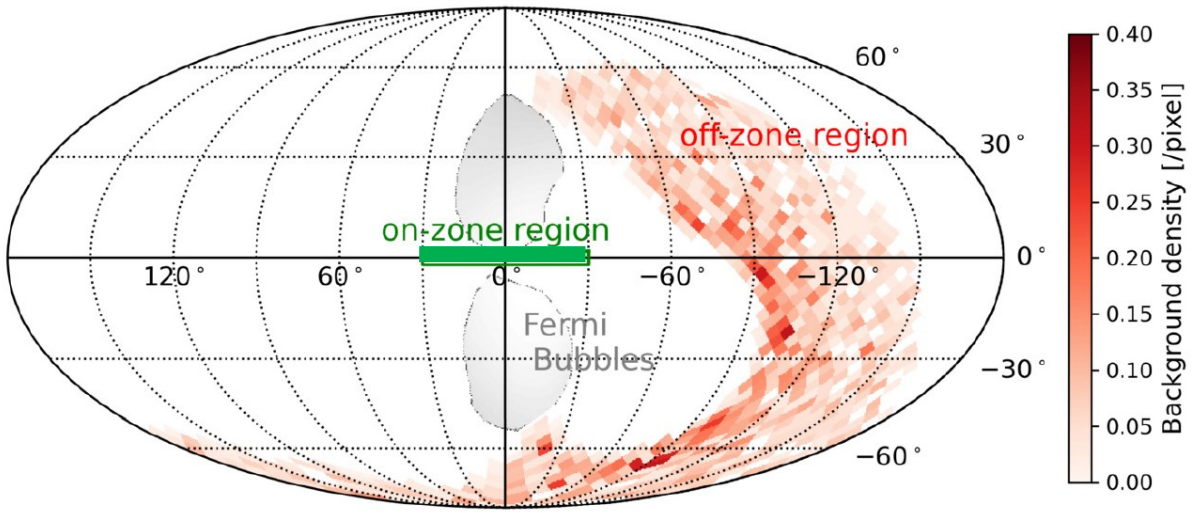

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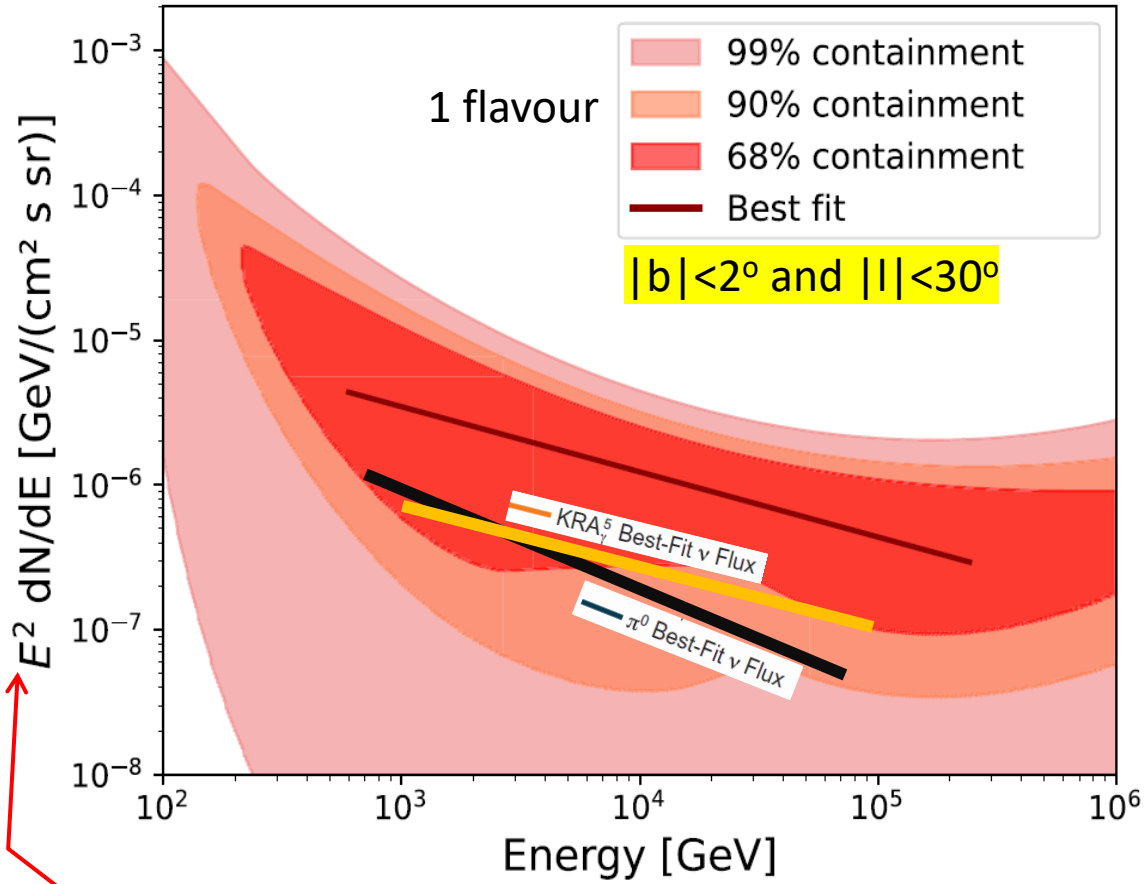
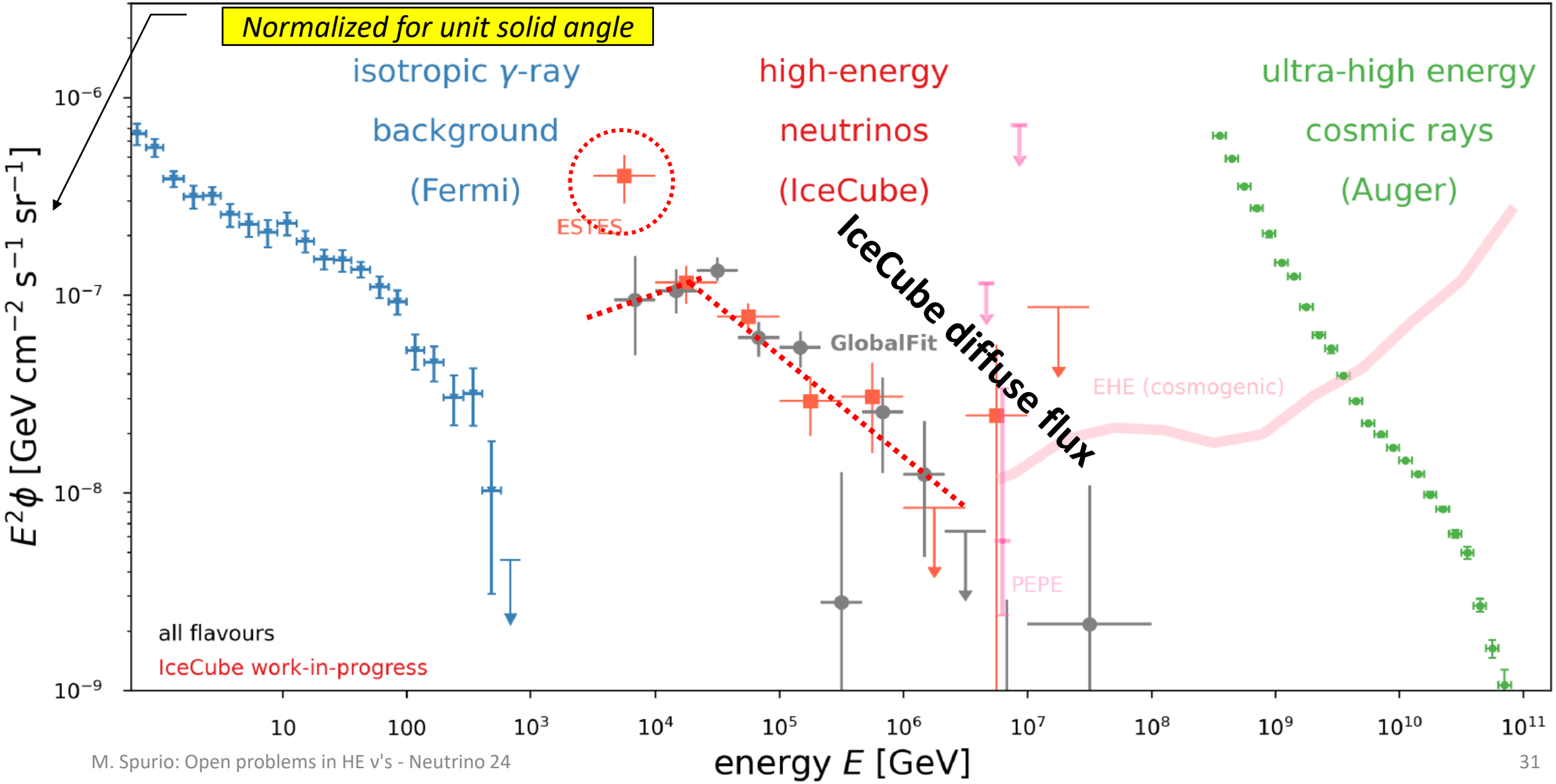
- IceCube signal from the Ridge (ϵ_{ridge} model-dependent)



$$\Phi_{ridge}(\mathrm{GeV\ cm^{-2}s^{-1}sr^{-1}}) = \Phi_{all\ sky} \cdot \epsilon_{ridge}/\Delta\Omega$$

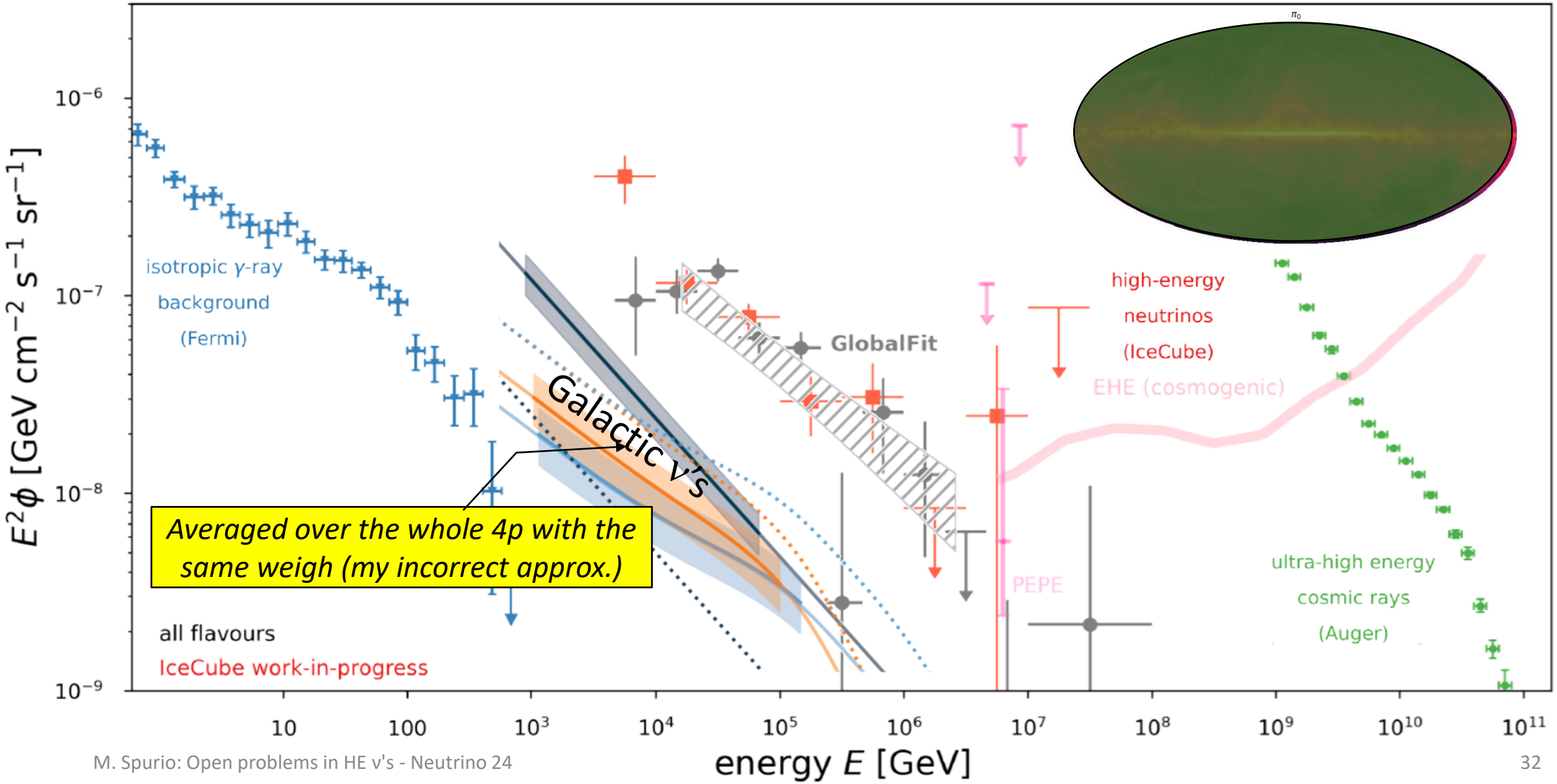
Galactic and extragalactic neutrinos (I)

📖 IceCube: PoS(ICRC2023)017



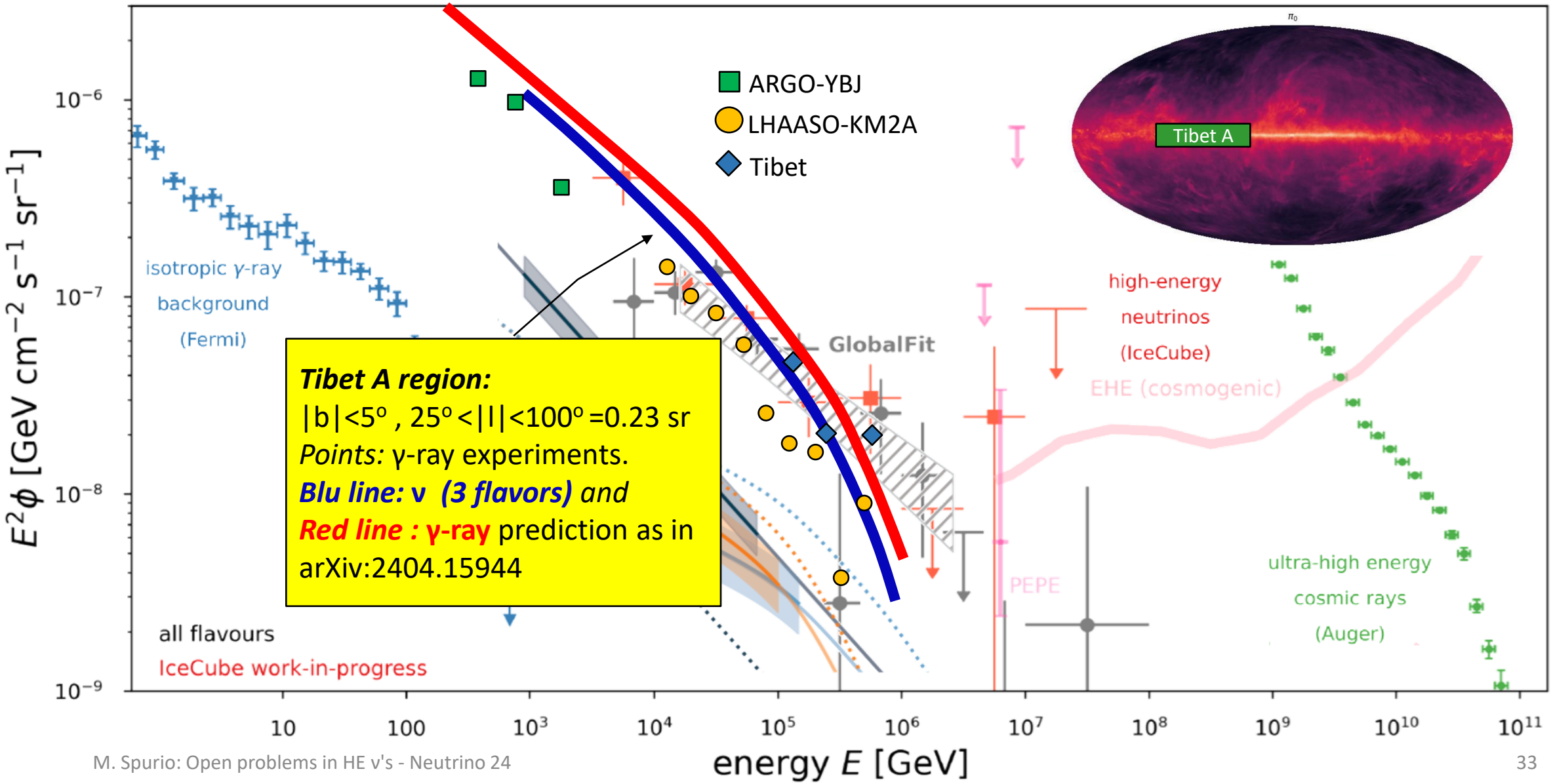
Galactic and extragalactic neutrinos (II)

📖 IceCube: PoS(ICRC2023)017
📖 IceCube: science.adc9818



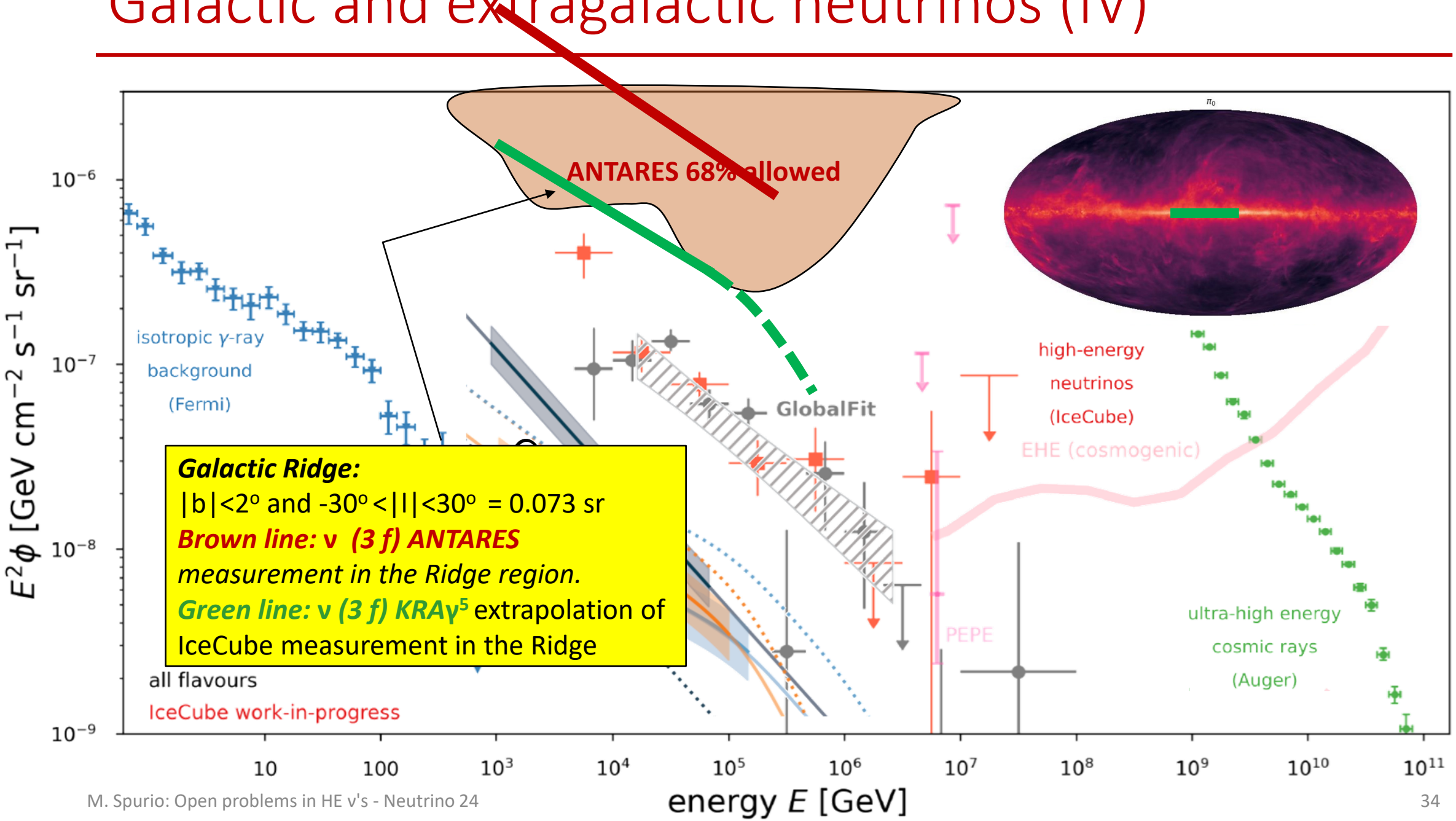
Galactic and extragalactic neutrinos (III)

IceCube: PoS(ICRC2023)017
Fang, Halzen-arXiv:2404.15944



Tibet A region:
$|b|<5^o$, $25^o<|l|<100^o$ =0.23 sr
Points: γ-ray experiments.
Blu line: ν (3 flavors) *and*
Red line : γ-ray prediction as in arXiv:2404.15944

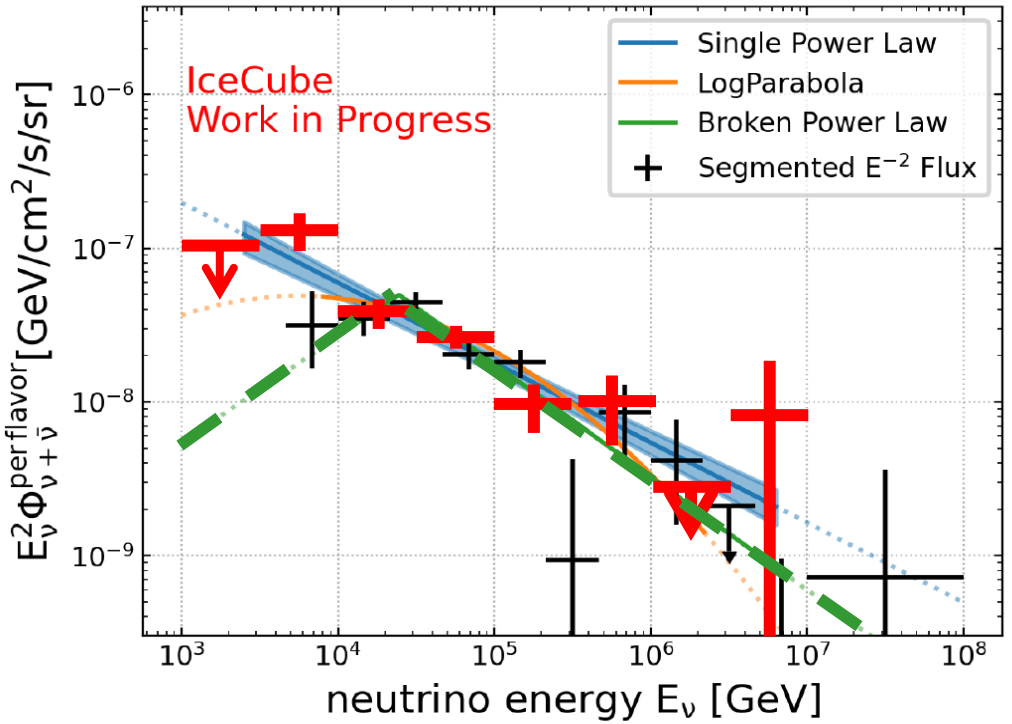
Galactic and extragalactic neutrinos (IV)



Galactic Ridge:
$|b|<2^o$ and $-30^o<|l|<30^o$ = 0.073 sr
Brown line: ν (3 f) ANTARES *measurement in the Ridge region.*
Green line: ν (3 f) KRAγ[5] extrapolation of IceCube measurement in the Ridge

Conclusions

- A **diffuse flux of cosmic ν's** firmly established by IceCube. A simple power law seems not represent all data samples. Good news, i.e.: statistics increases
- Below few tens of TeV, small tension in the data. Still insufficient precision/sensitivity



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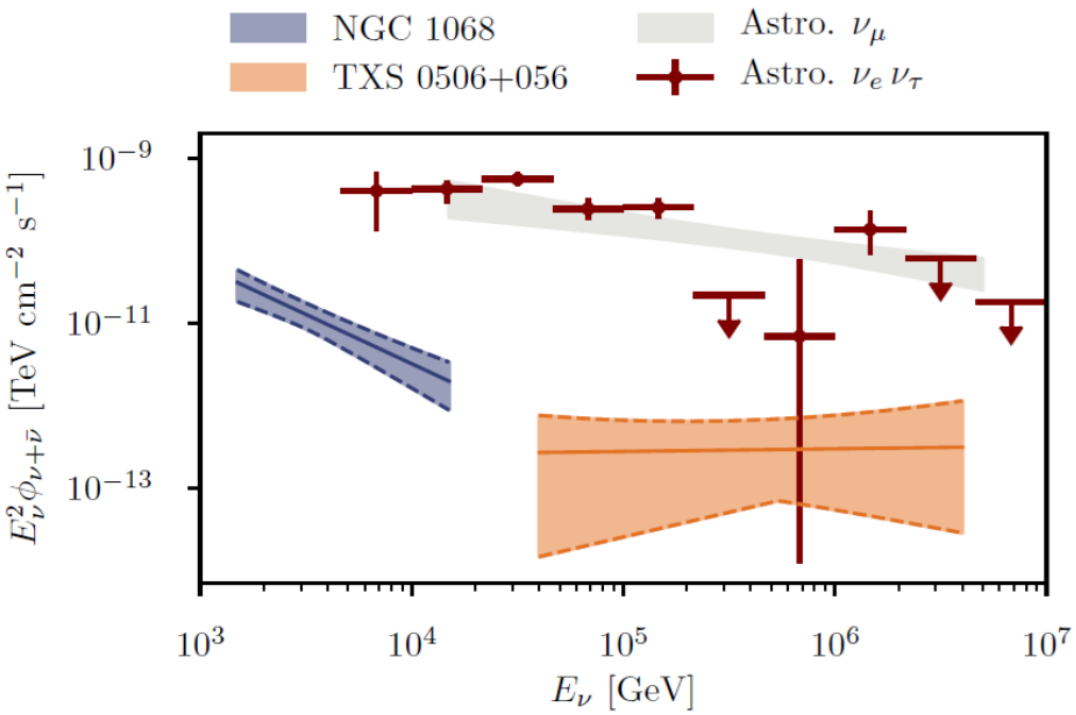

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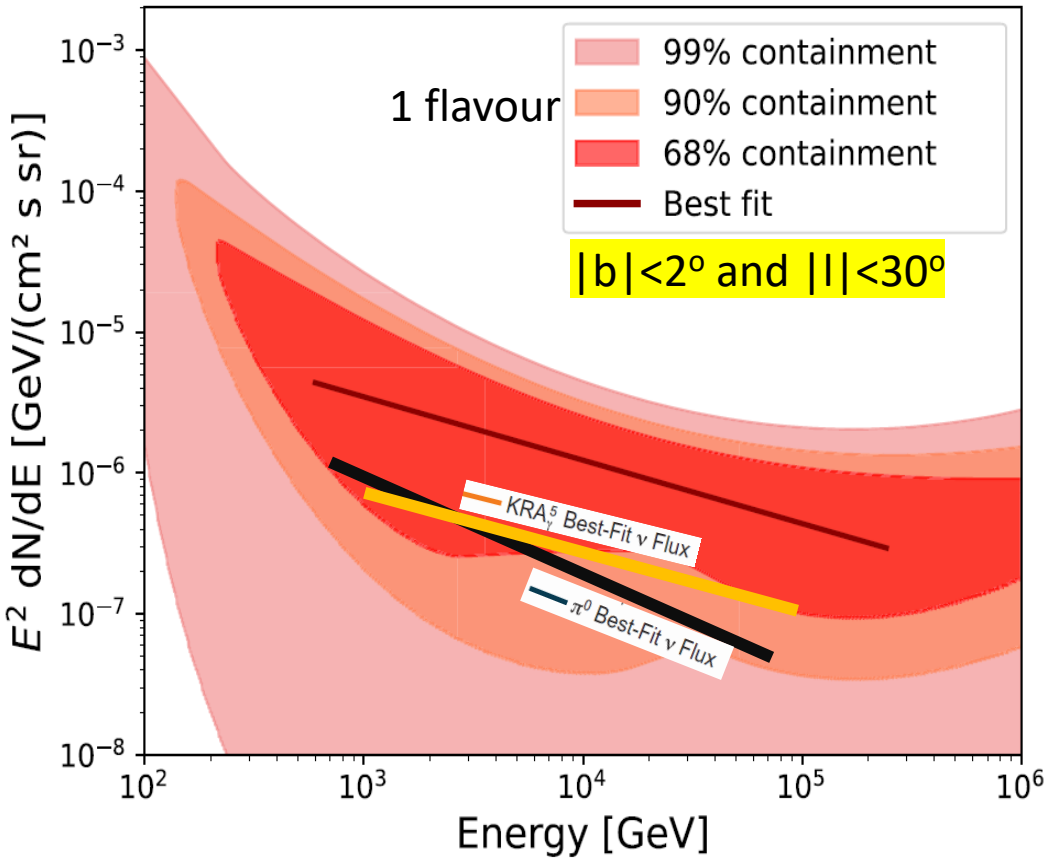

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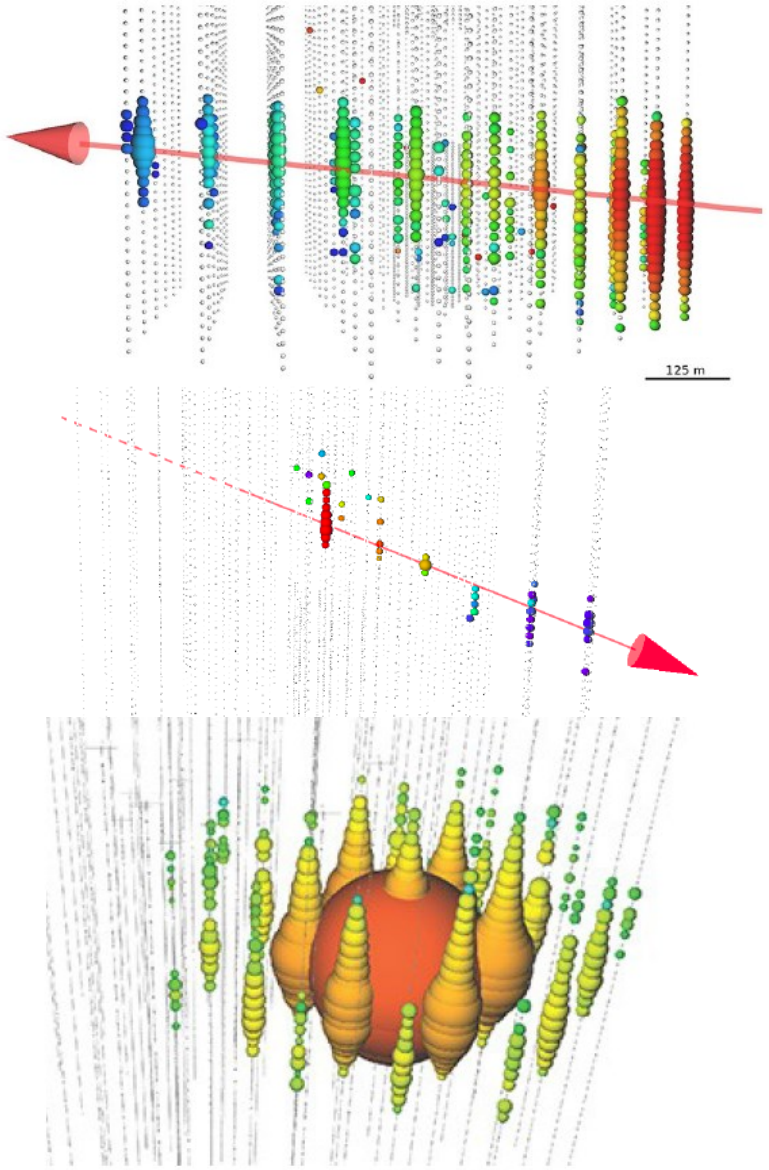
- The ongoing activities (IceCube, KM3NeT, Baikal-GVD) and in the future IceCube Gen2 and (may be) other telescopes in the North will contribute to clarify these fundamental aspects for HE astrophysics

Spares

Neutrino event topologies

Real IceCube events



Tracks ($\nu_\mu + N \rightarrow \mu + X$)

- Good angular resolution 0.1°-1°
- Vertex can be outside the detector
  - Muon range in water/ice >5 km @ E_μ>1 TeV
- Challenging energy estimation

- Vertex inside the detector (**starting tracks**)
  - Use of self-veto

Cascades or Showers ($\nu_e + N \rightarrow e + X$ + N.C.)

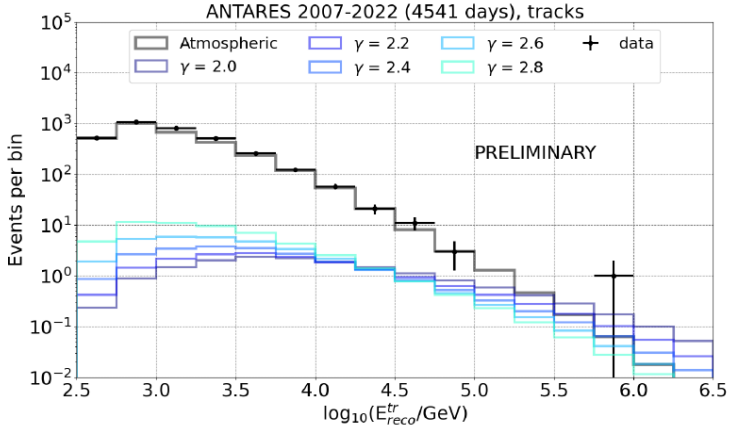
- Vertex inside the detector
  - EM cascade develops in 10 m in water
- Fully active calorimeter
  - better E determination
- Limited angular resolution (few to 15°)
- All flavors for NC

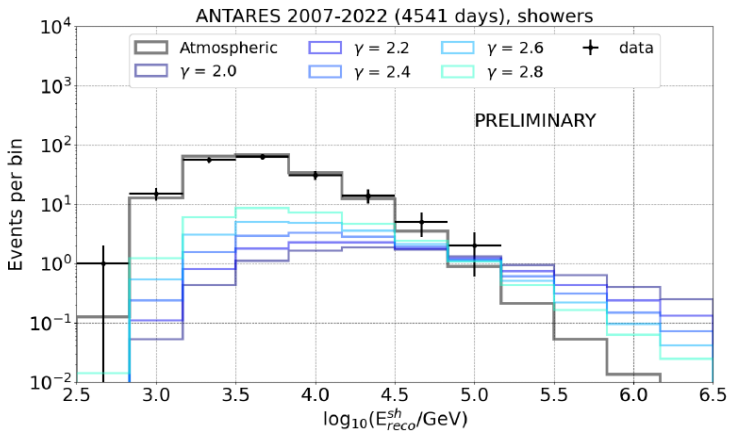
Warning: some event properties (energy, direction,…) depends on medium (sea or lake water, ice)

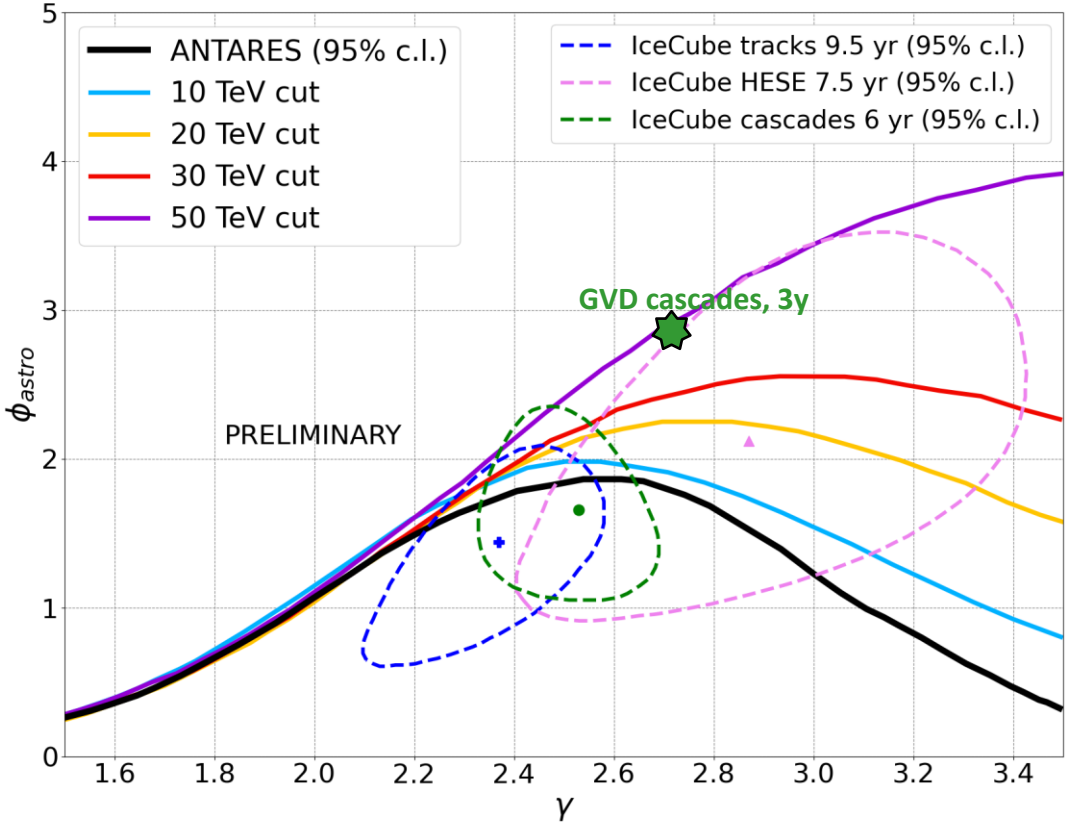
ANTARES tracks+cascades

📖 ANTARES Poster L. Fusco (paper in preparation)

- **Upward-going** tracks and showers (mostly from the South sky) collected over 4541 days
- Analysis mostly sensible in the 1-30 TeV visible energy. Small sensitivity above 100 TeV
- The SPL extension of the HESE below 10 TeV excluded with a 99.7% probability. Soft-spectra solutions become admissible (within the 95% posterior probability) only if a hard cut-off in the 10–20 TeV region.

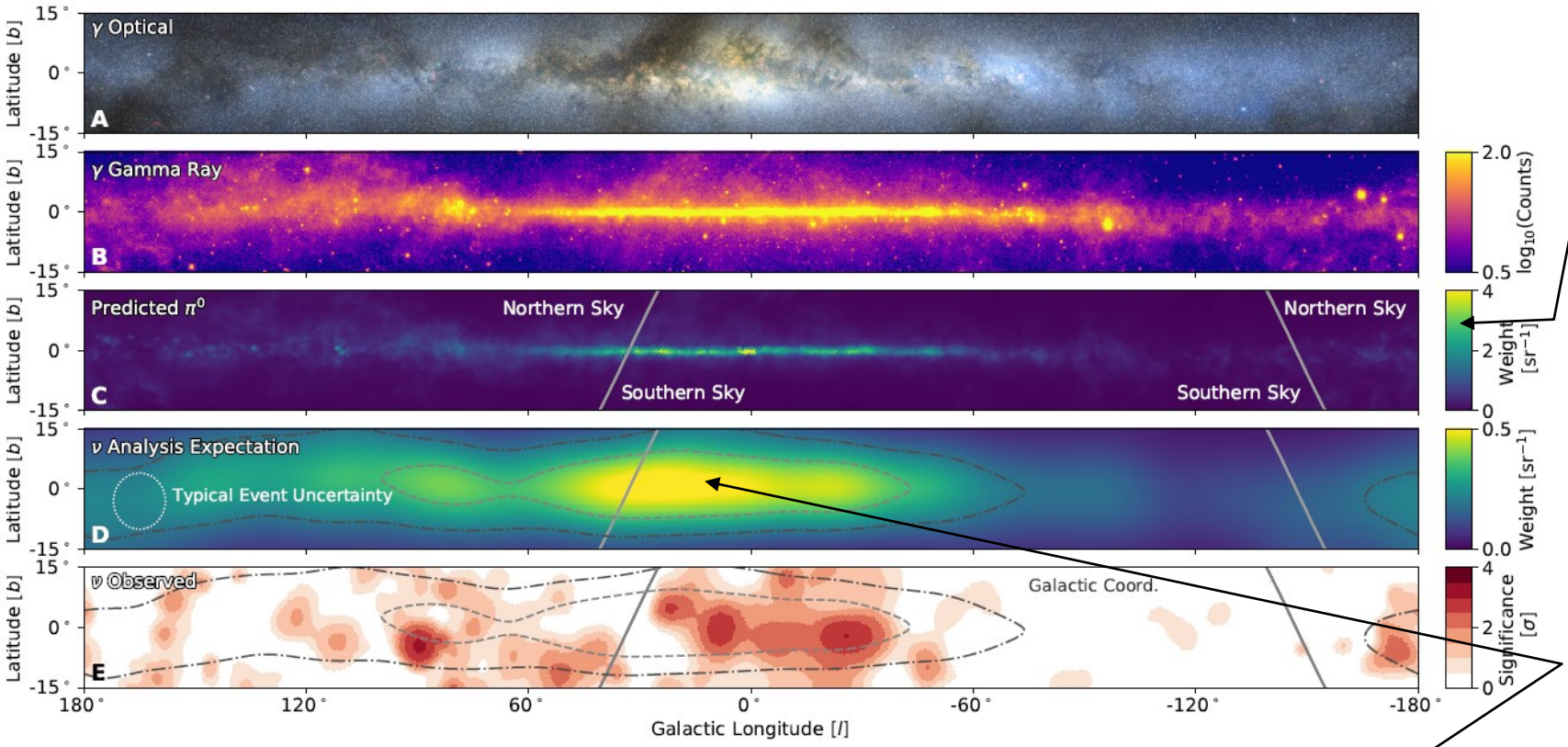






The Galaxy is not a neutrino desert

IceCube: DOI: 10.1126/science.adc9818



The model predictions depend on:

- *distribution and emission spectrum of cosmic-ray (CR) sources in the Galaxy,*
- *the properties of CR diffusion in the interstellar medium,*
- *the spatial distribution of target gas.*

- *Each neutrino emission model converted to a spatial template and convolved with the detector acceptance and the angular uncertainty, to produce a specific spatial PDF*