

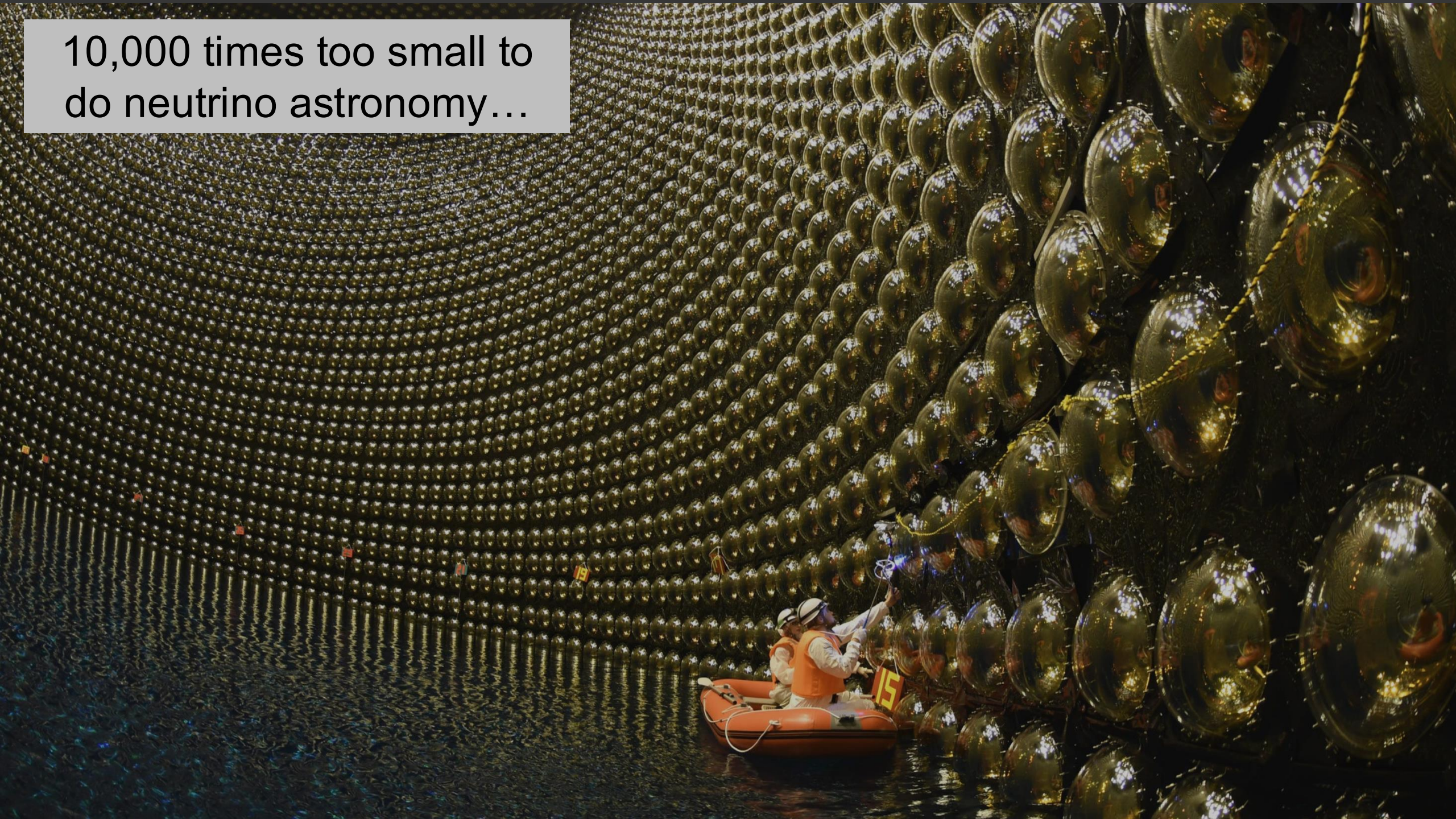
The First Decade of High-Energy Neutrino Astronomy and Neutrino Physics

francis halzen

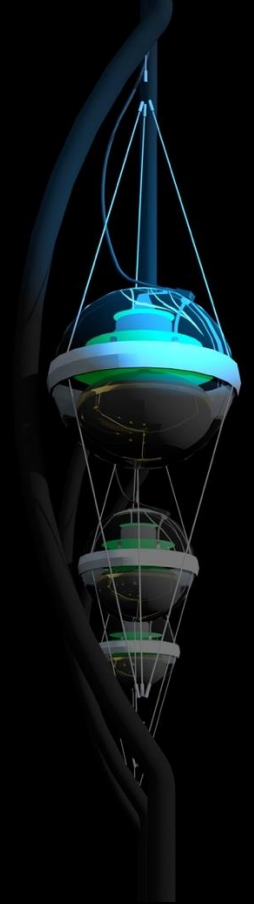
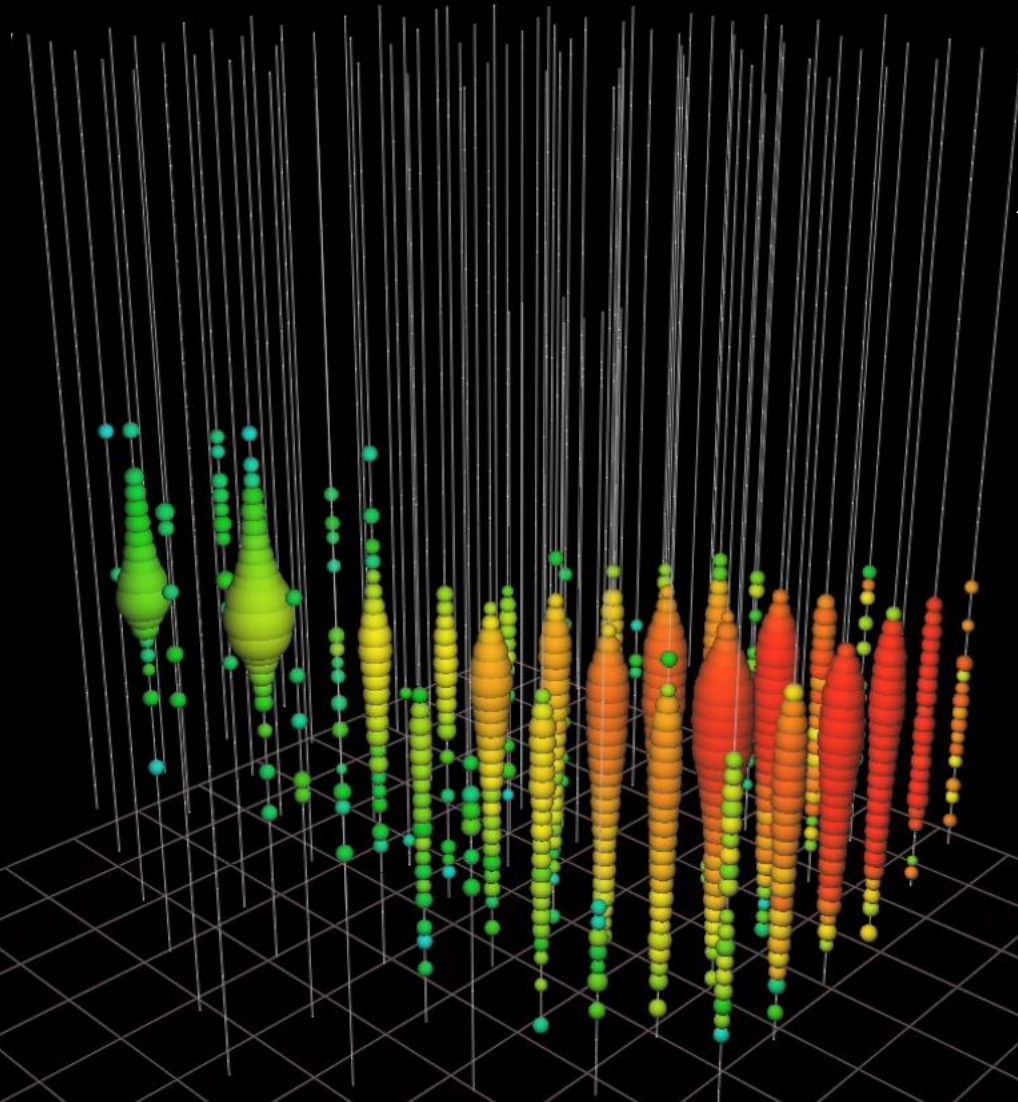
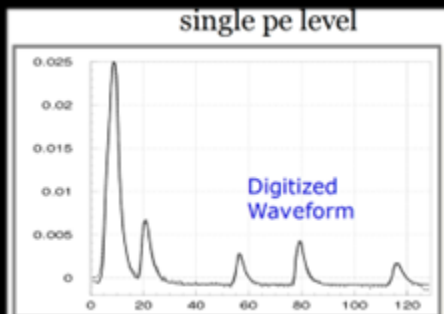
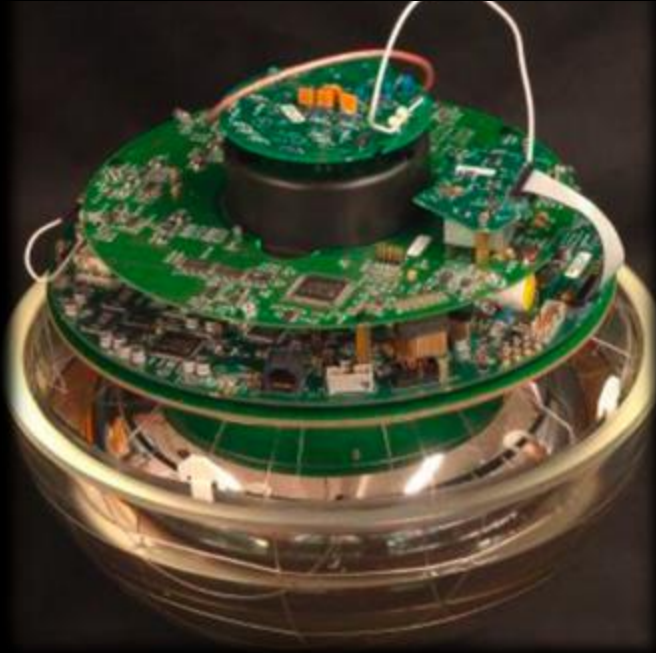


- from discovery to astronomy: there is a lot happening
- the high-energy neutrino sky and the discovery of the first neutrino sources
- KM3NeT: a 220 PeV neutrino!
- neutrino physics at PeV energy

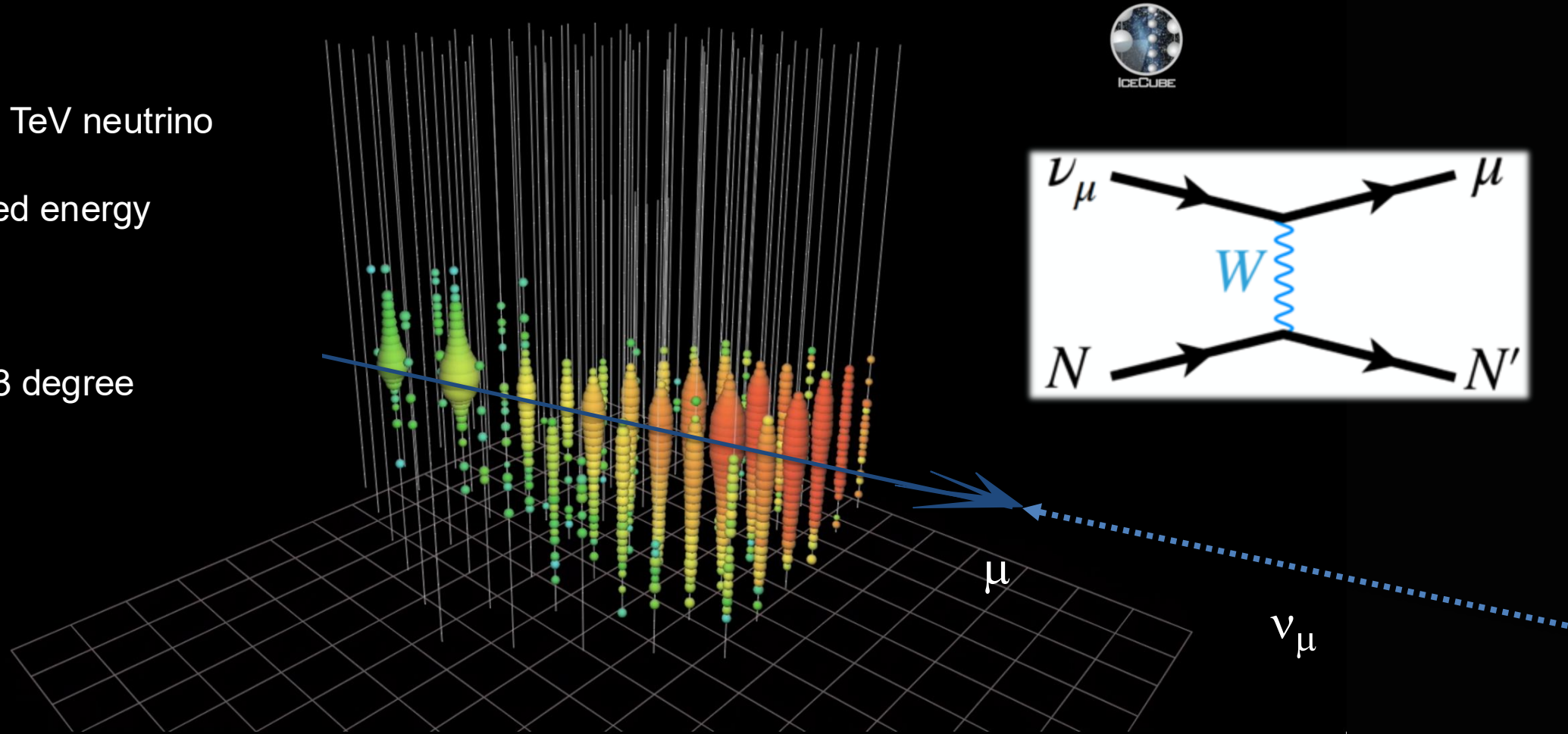
10,000 times too small to
do neutrino astronomy...



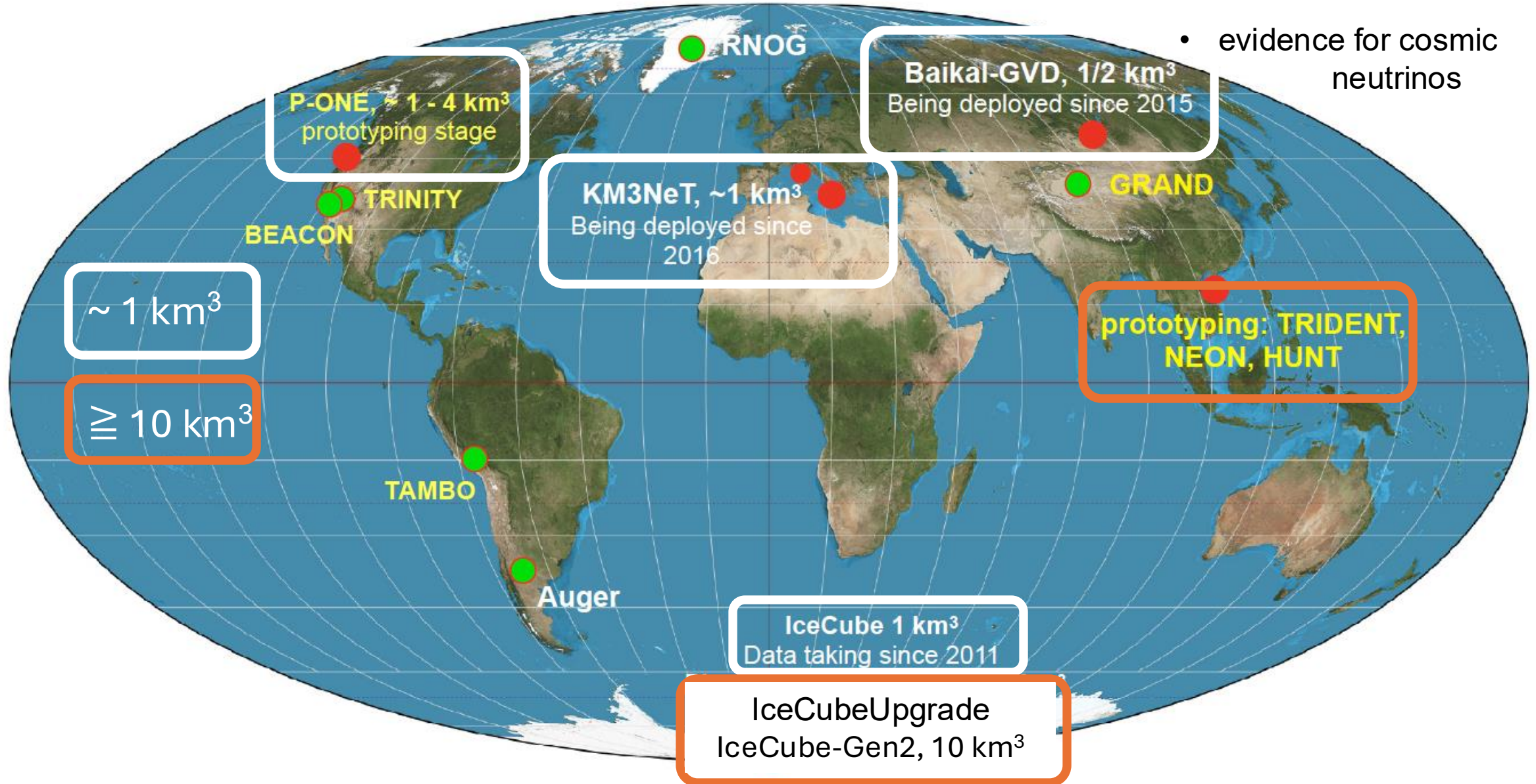
1 km³ of Antarctic ice
instrumented with 5160 PMT
(10inch) below 1450m



- upgoing muon
- produced by 8,700 TeV neutrino
- 2,600 TeV deposited energy
- not atmospheric
- reconstructed < 0.3 degree
- astronomy



- from discovery to astronomy and neutrino physics: rapid progress !

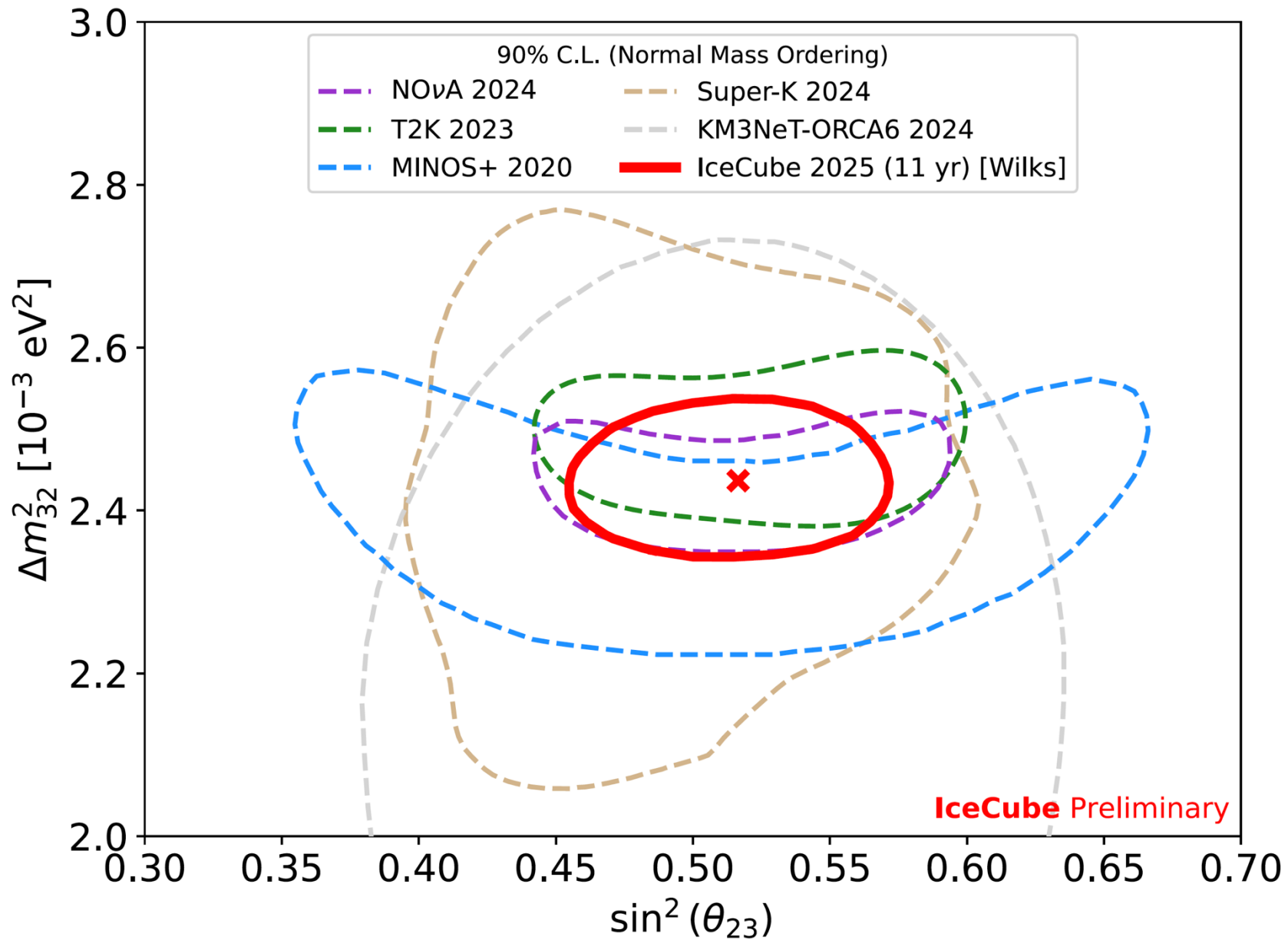


- evidence for cosmic neutrinos

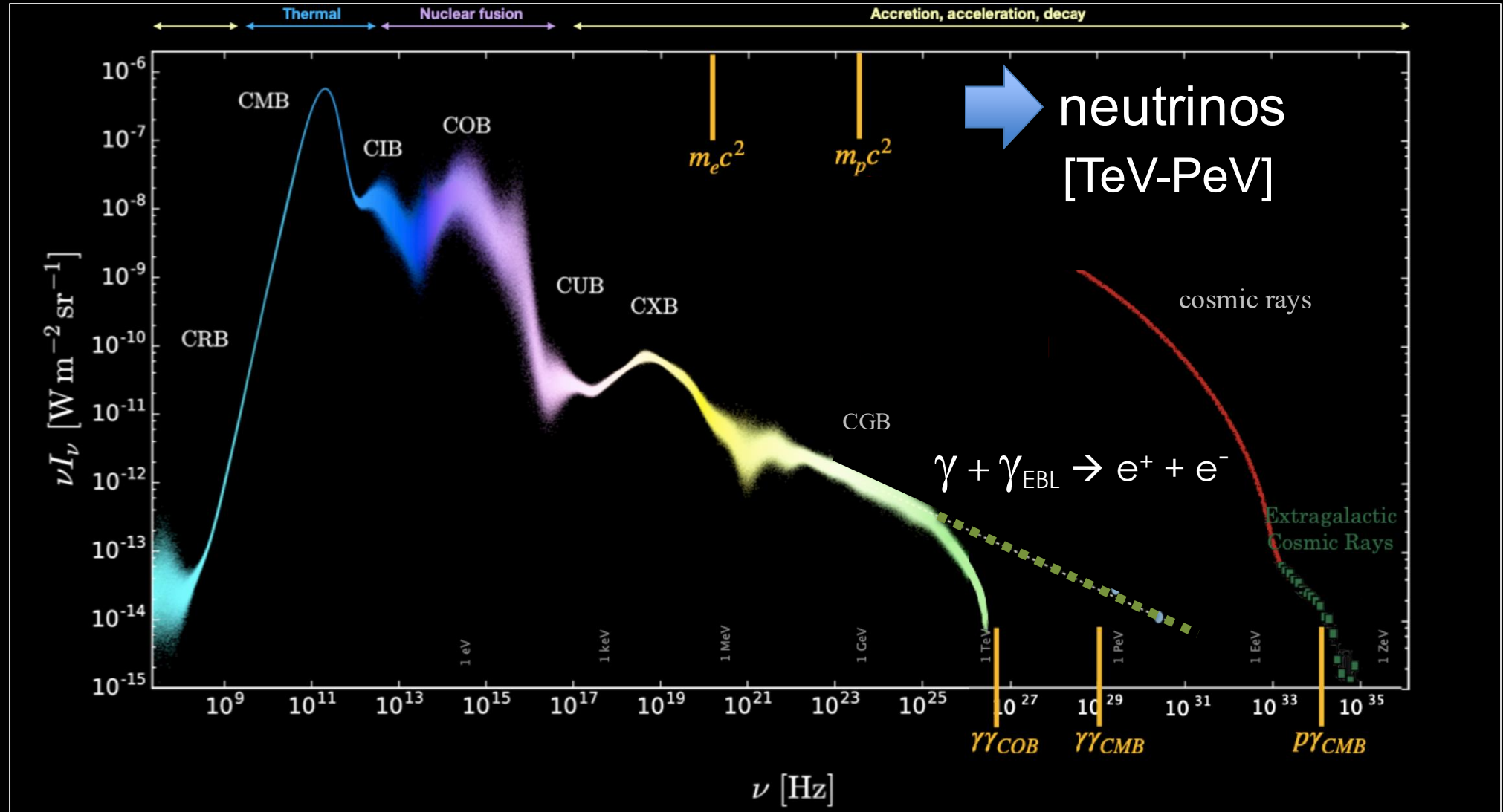
- megaton GeV detectors: IceCube Upgrade, ORCA, HUNT

- EeV detectors

- KM3NeT ORCA
- IceCube Upgrade (December 2025)
- interesting complementarities with JUNO

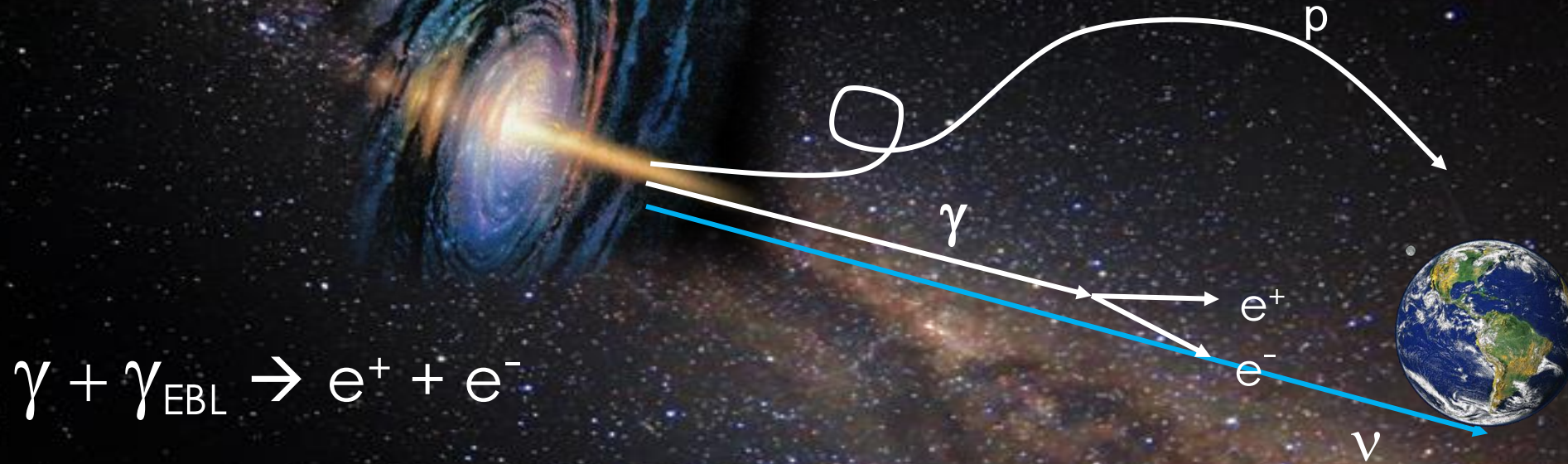


energy in photons in the Universe as a function of their frequency



in the extreme energy universe neutrinos are unique astronomical messengers

the opaque extreme Universe:



$$\gamma + \gamma_{\text{EBL}} \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$$

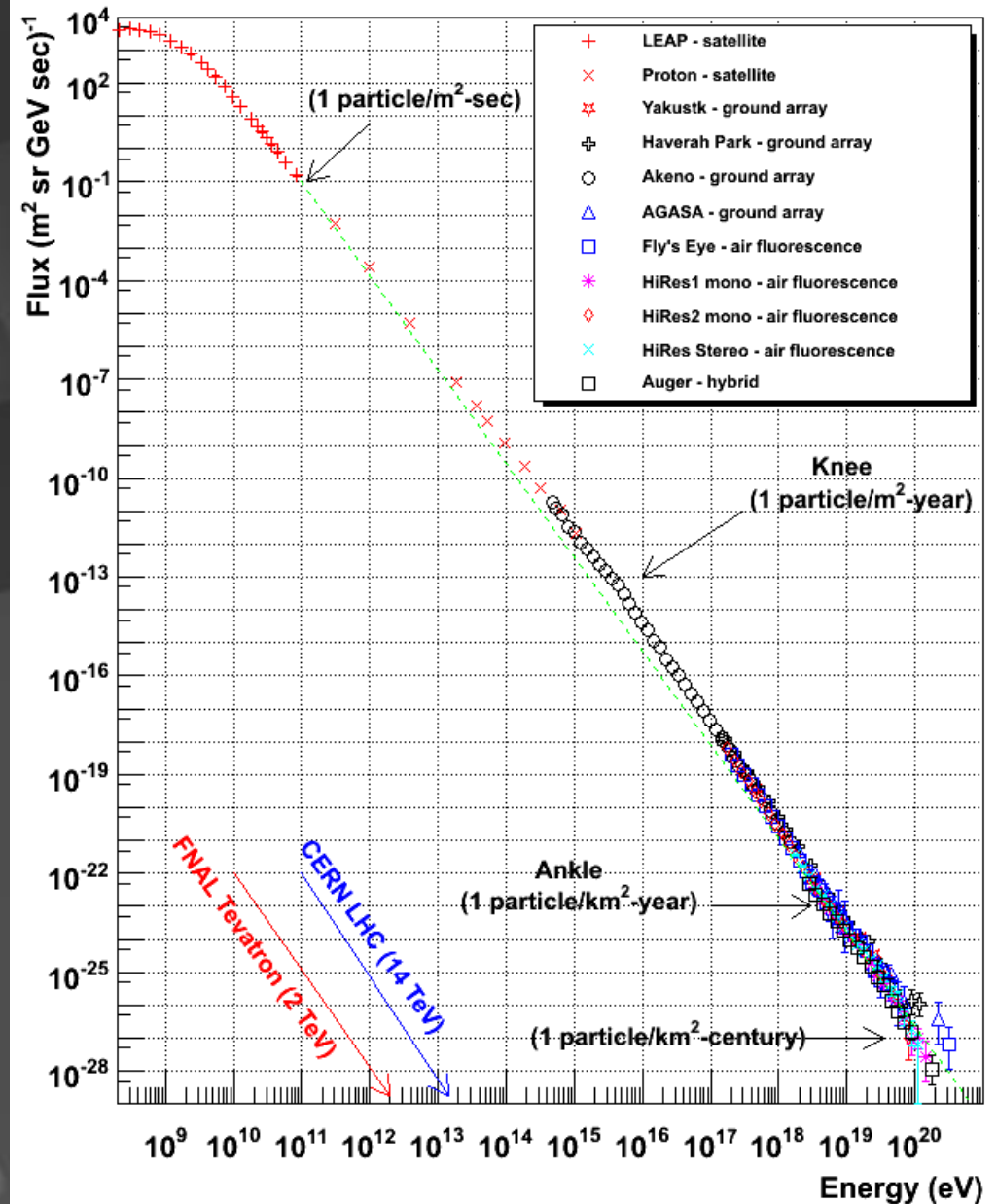
- TeV~ PeV photons interact with extragalactic background light (CMB and higher energy background photons) before reaching our telescopes
- their energy is reprocessed into lower energy photons

cosmic ray challenge

both the energy of the particles and the total *luminosity* of the accelerators are large

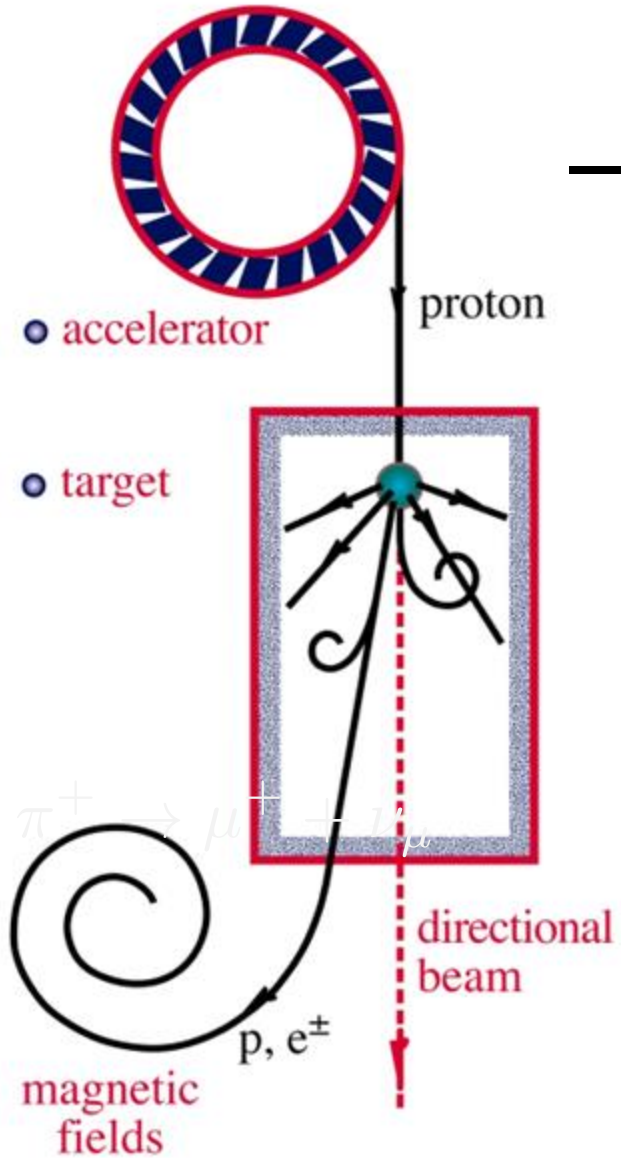
gravitational energy from collapsing object is converted into particle acceleration?

Cosmic Ray Spectra of Various Experiments



ν and γ beams : heaven and earth

cosmic accelerators powered by gravity



**supermassive
black hole**

**nearby
radiation**

$$p + \gamma \rightarrow n + \pi^+$$

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu$$

$$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ + \nu_e + \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

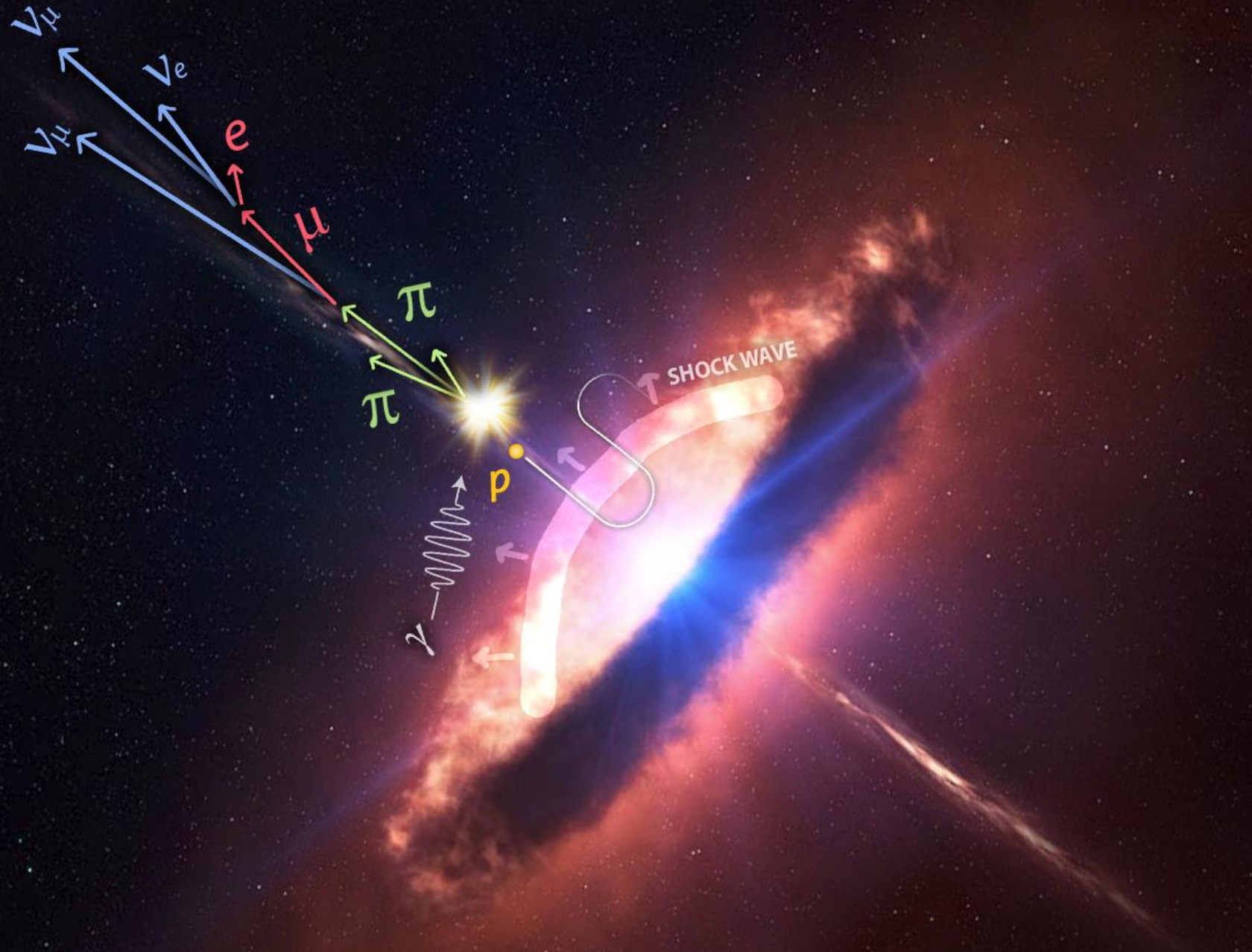
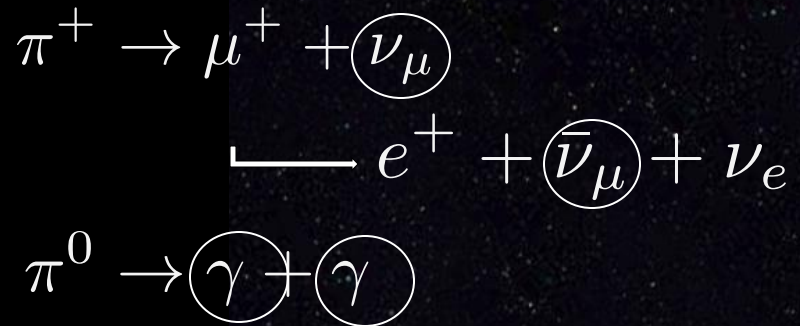
$$\rightarrow p + \pi^0$$

$$\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma$$

cosmic accelerators:

protons accelerated near
a black hole are
submersed in
a target of radiation
and produce pions

neutrino sources track
cosmic ray accelerators

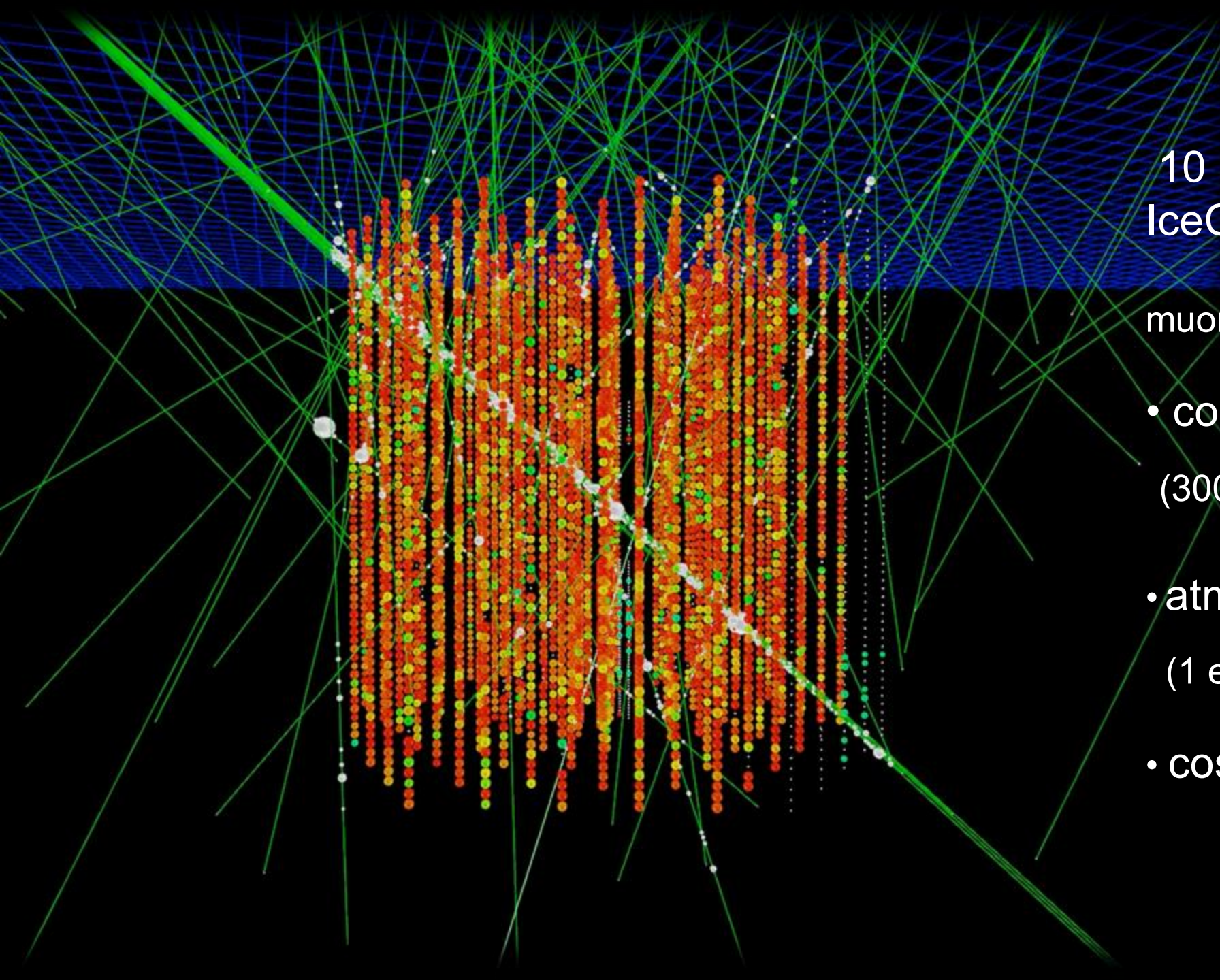


The First Decade of Neutrino Astronomy and Neutrino Physics

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10 msec movie of
IceCube taking data

muons detected per year

- cosmic ray muons $\sim 10^{11}$
(3000 per second)
- atmospheric neutrinos $\sim 10^5$
(1 every 5 minutes)
- cosmic neutrinos ~ 200

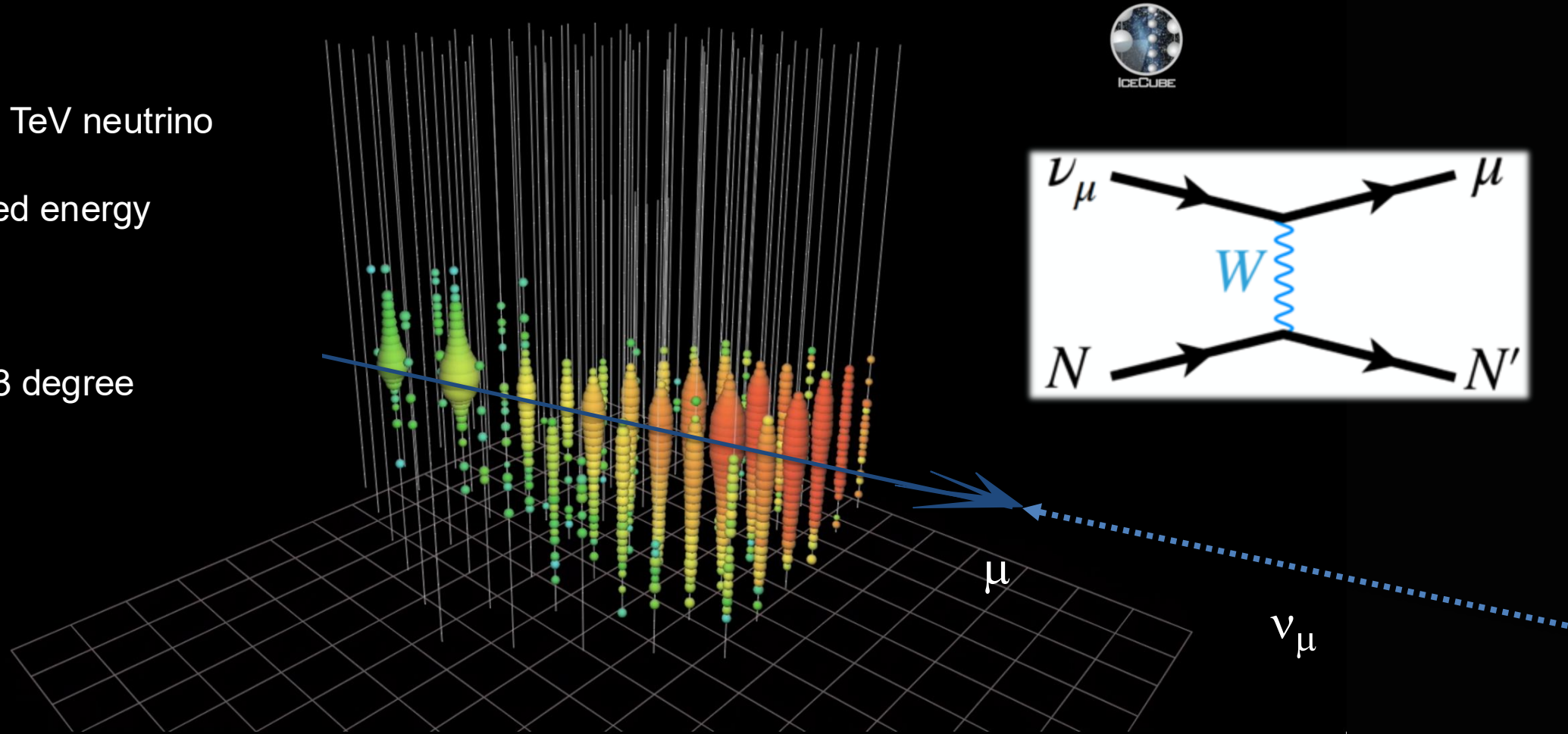
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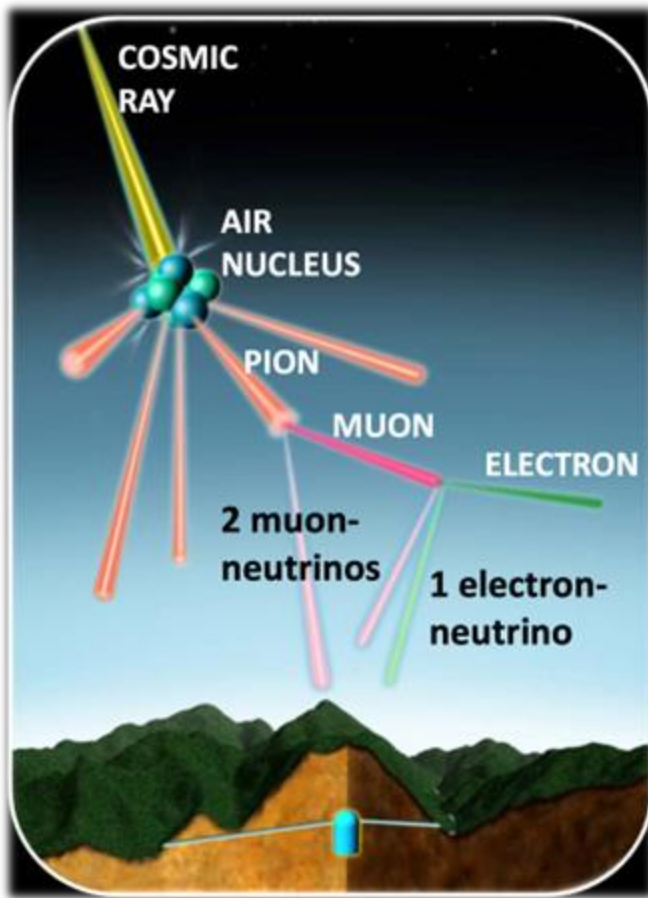


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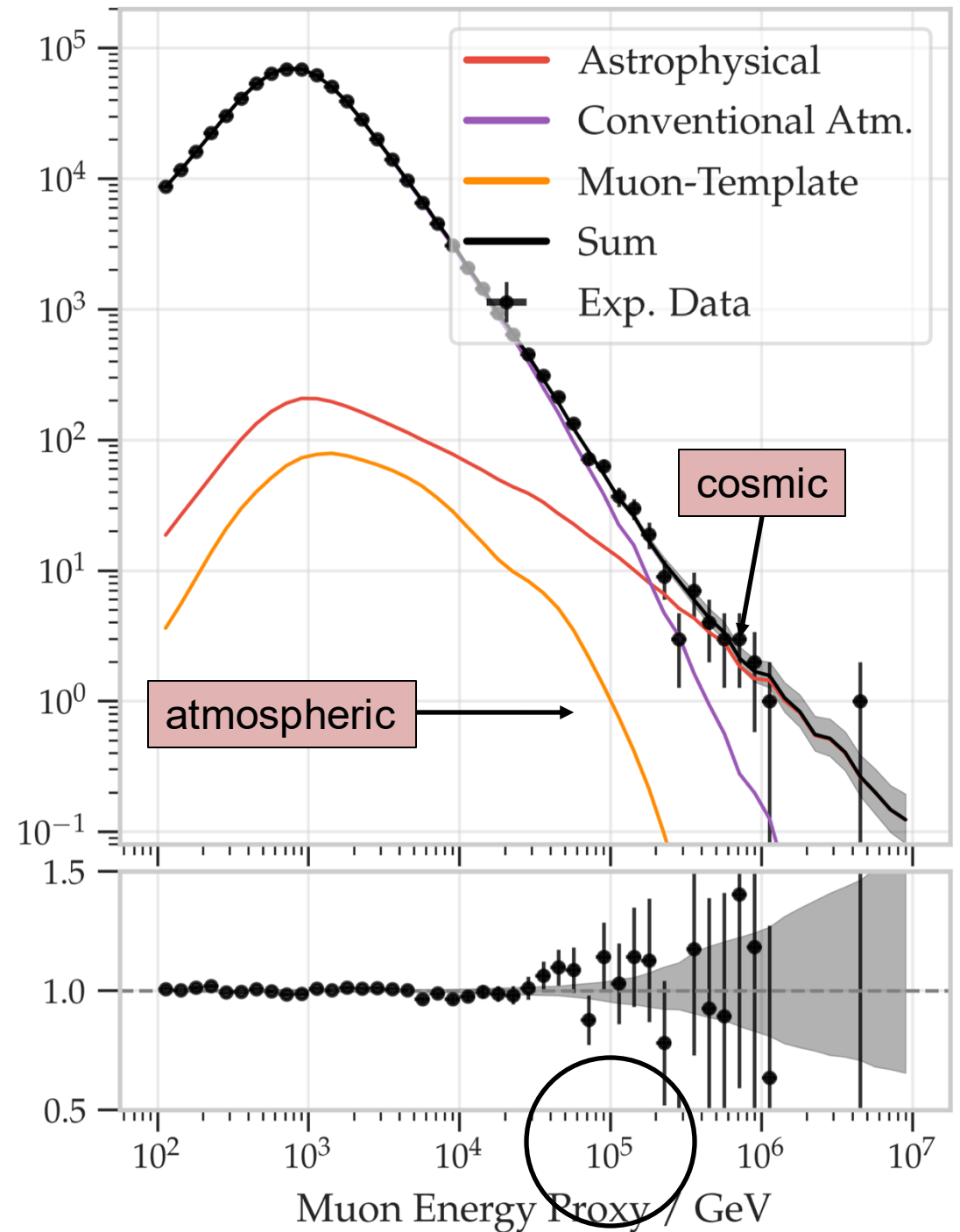
- upgoing muon
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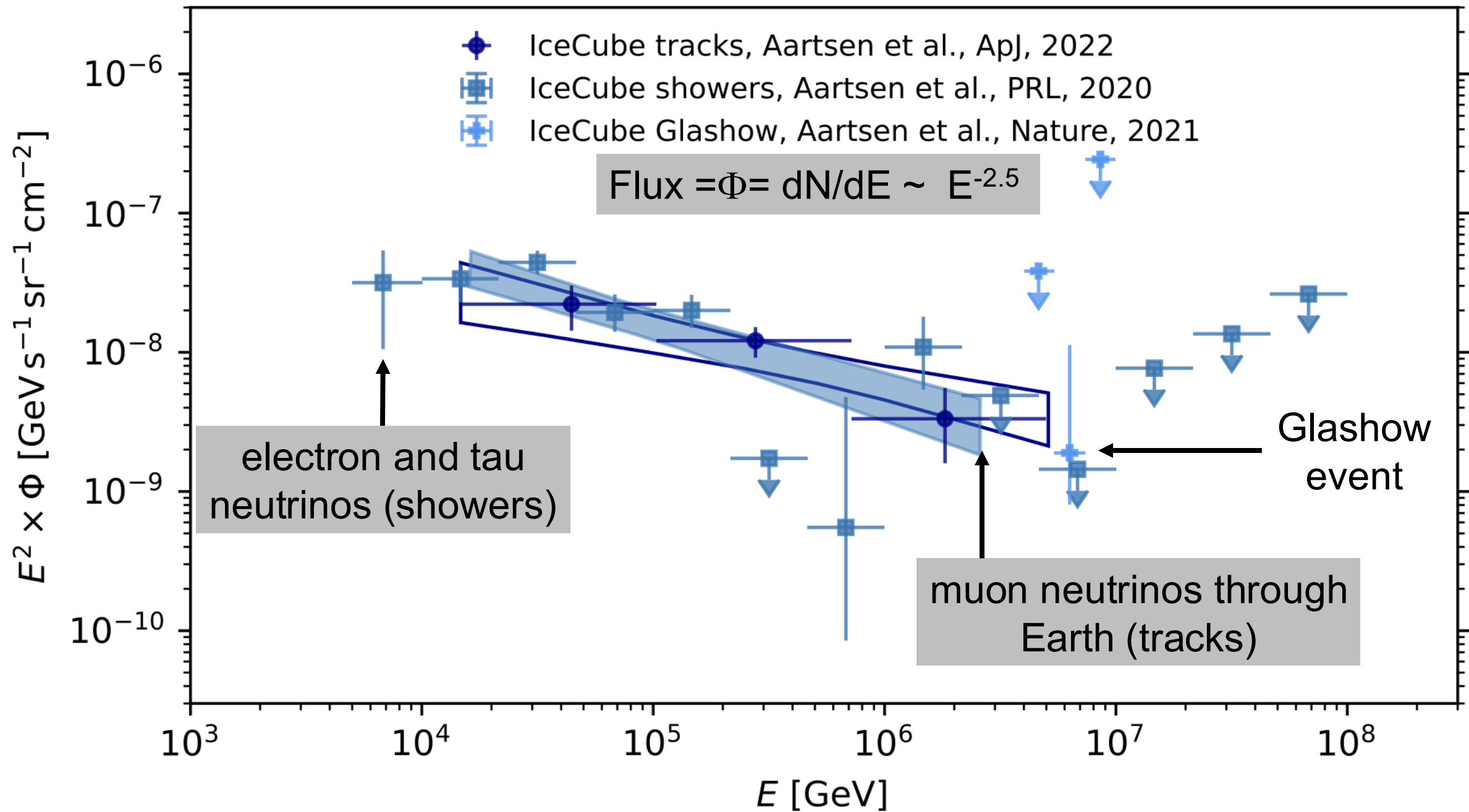
muon neutrino events
[filtered by the Earth]:
atmospheric vs
cosmic



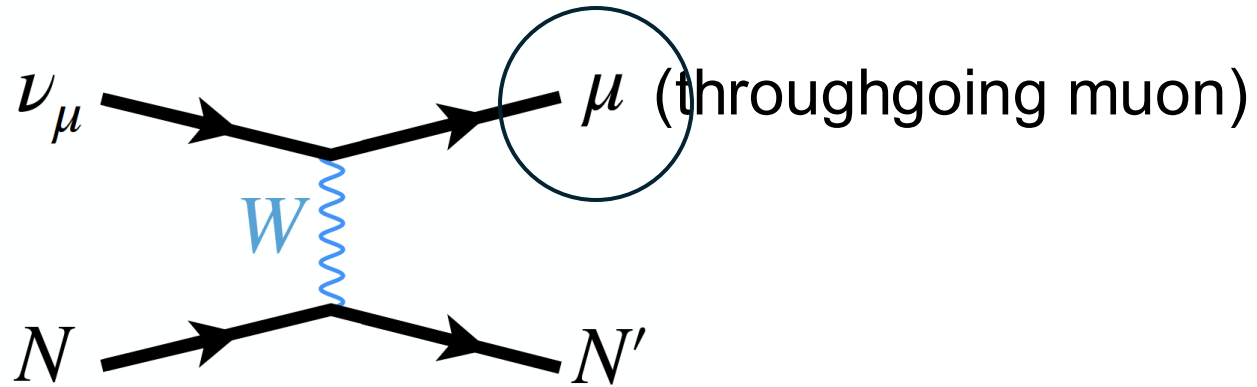
Number of Events



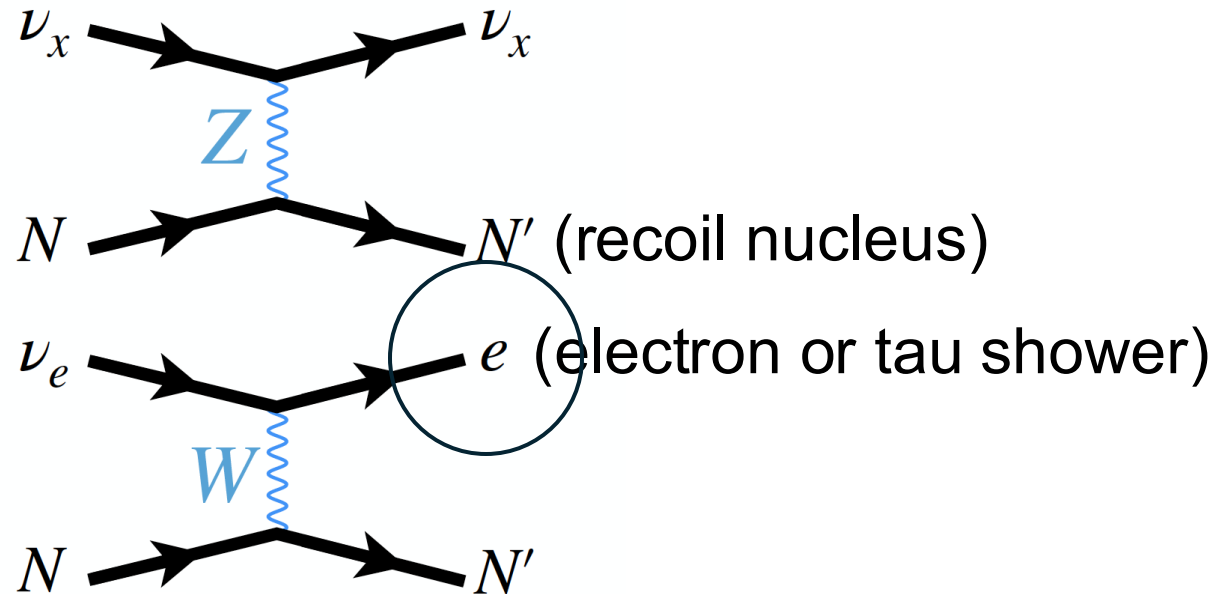
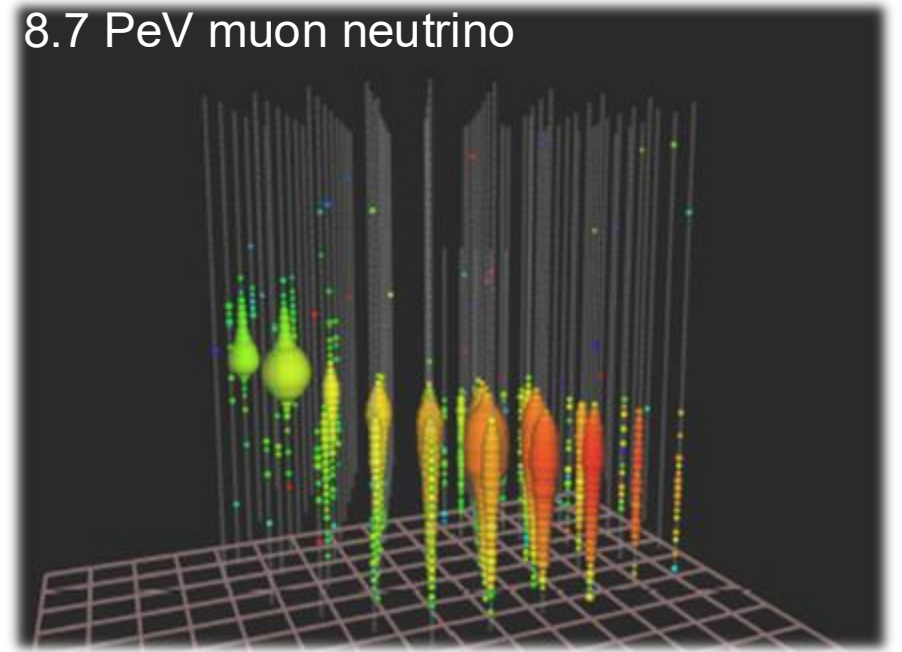
Data/MC



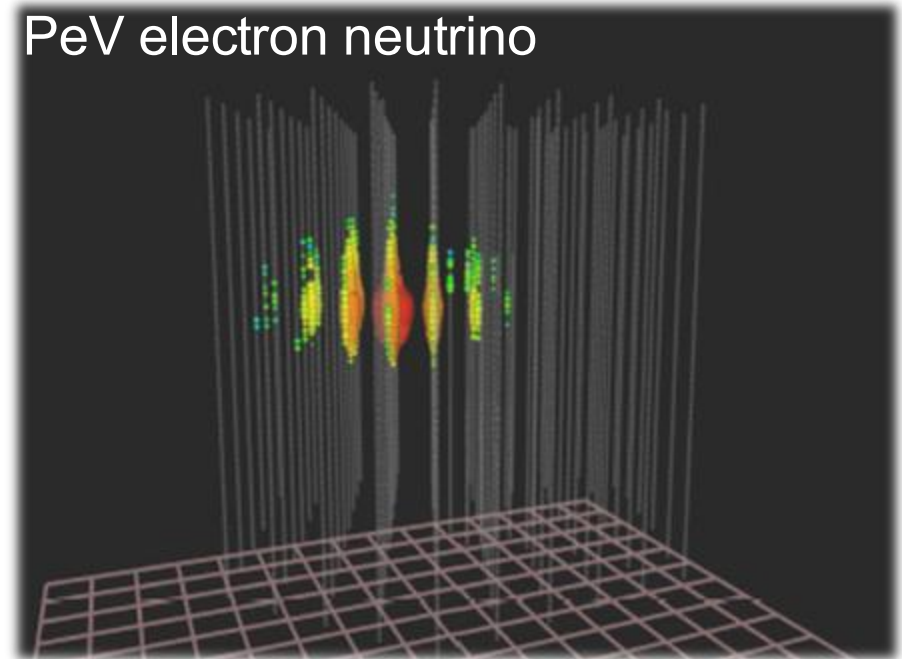
other neutrino flavors



8.7 PeV muon neutrino



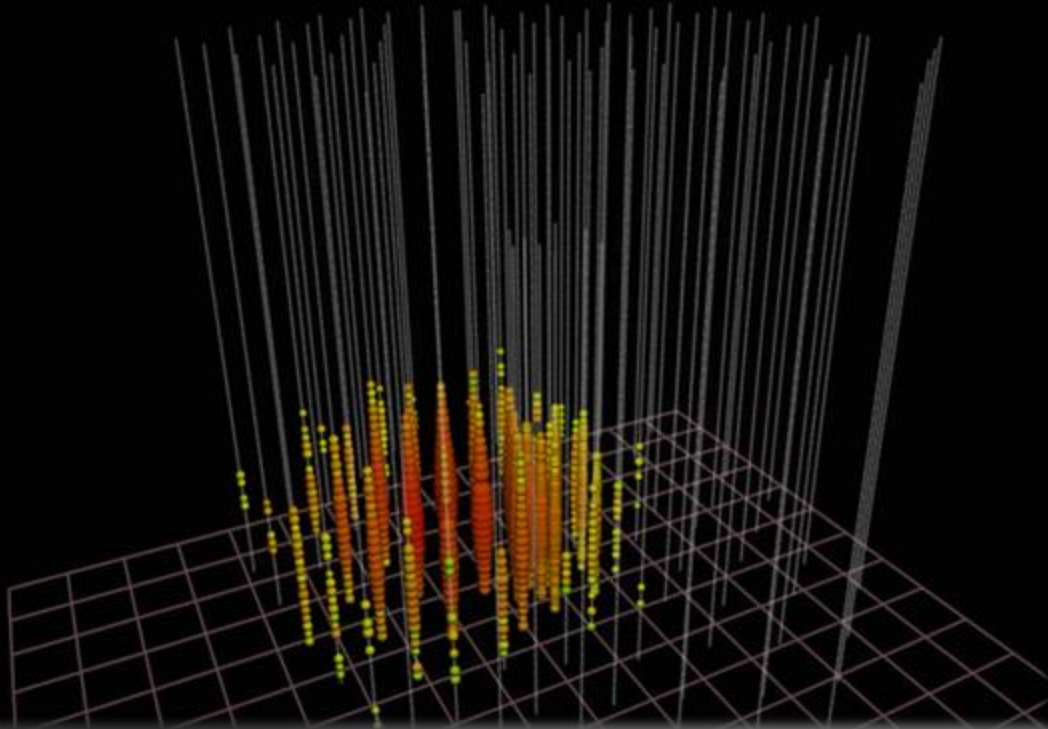
PeV electron neutrino



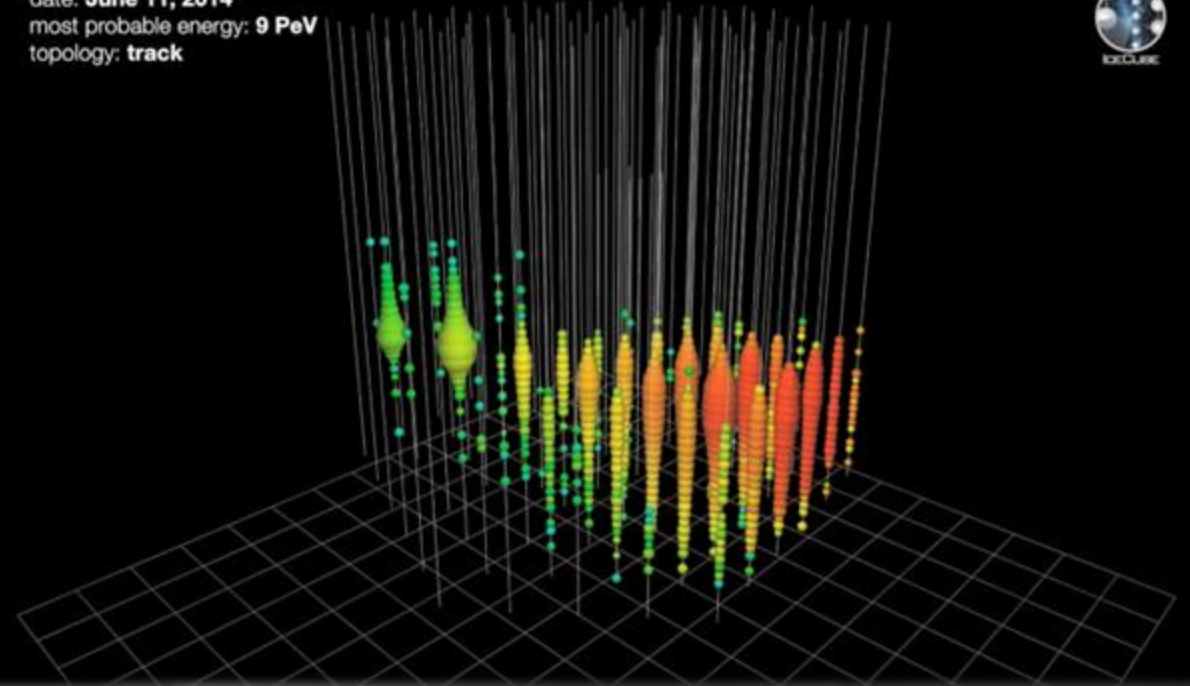
neutrinos interacting
inside the detector

muon neutrinos
filtered by the Earth

15 Jan 2012
13660 ns



date: June 11, 2014
most probable energy: 9 PeV
topology: track



superior total energy
measurement
to 10%, all flavors, all sky

superior angular resolution $< 0.3^\circ$
including systematics

By Cascade Searches

IceCube Collaboration
[PRL 125 121104 \(2020\)](#)

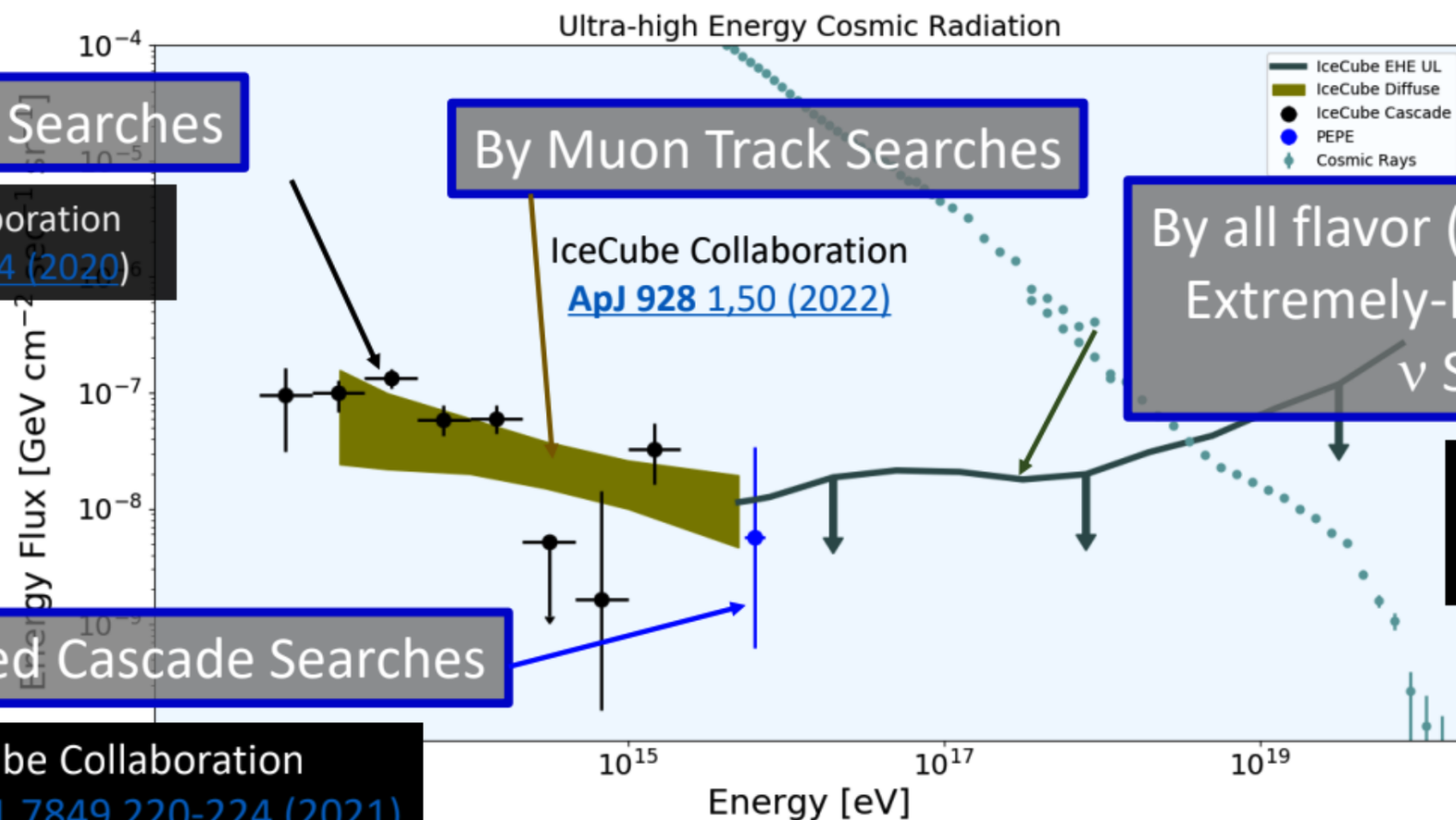
By Muon Track Searches

IceCube Collaboration
[ApJ 928 1,50 \(2022\)](#)

By all flavor (ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ) sensitive
Extremely-High Energy (EHE)
 ν Searches

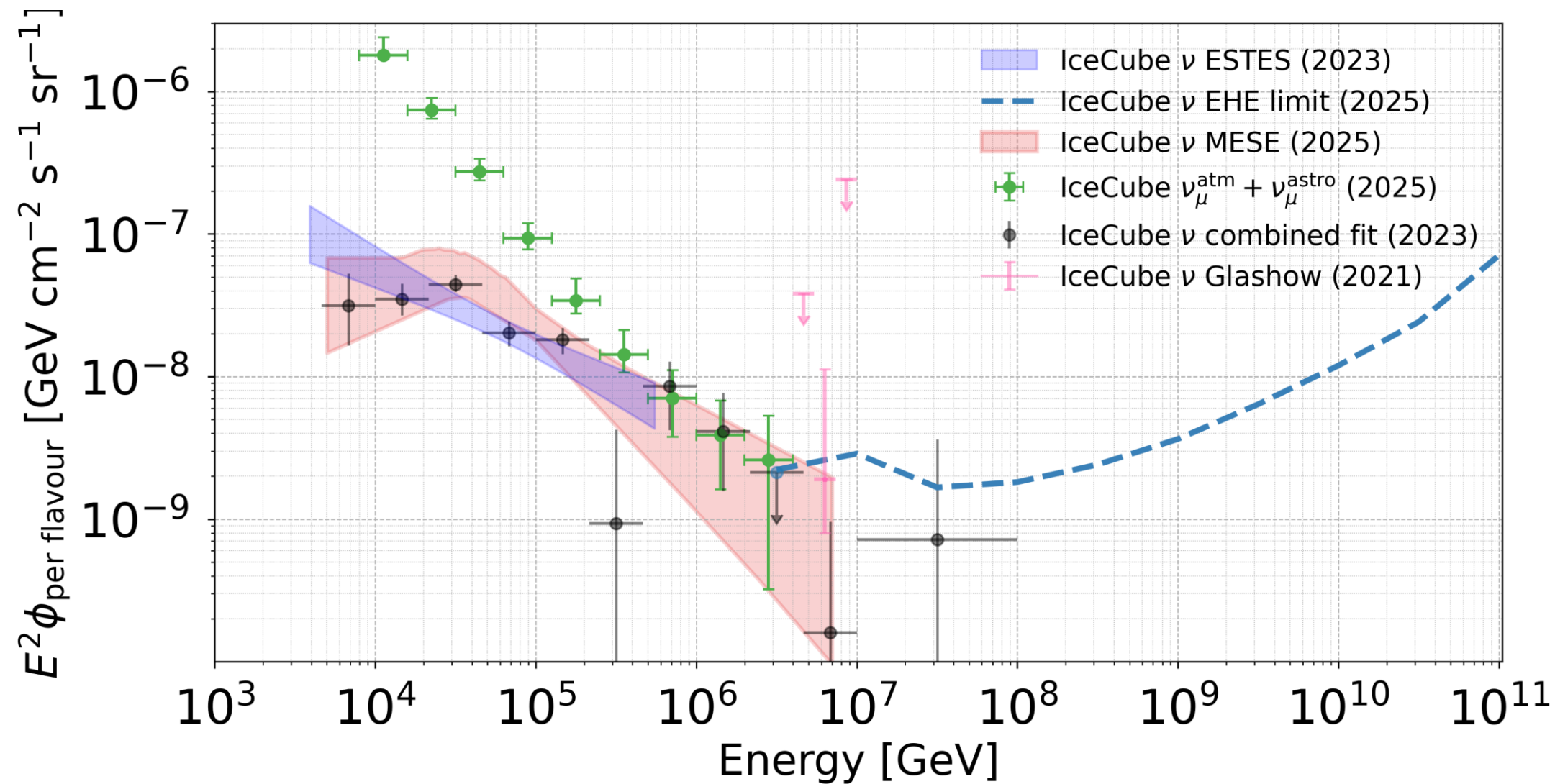
By Uncontained Cascade Searches

IceCube Collaboration
[Nature 591 7849 220-224 \(2021\)](#)

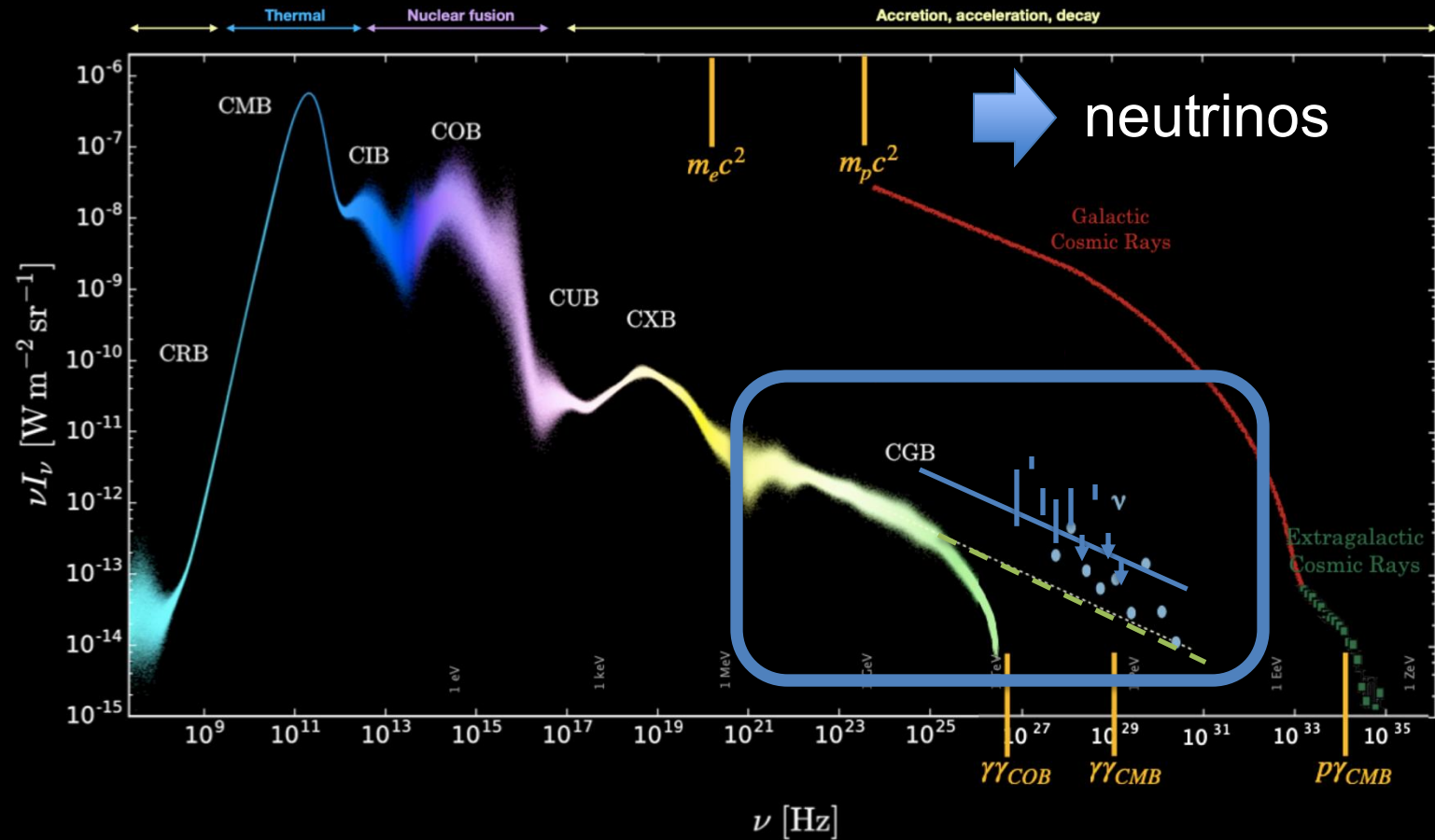


IceCube Collaboration
[PRL 117 241101 \(2016\)](#)
[PRD 98 062003 \(2018\)](#)

structure emerging in the neutrino spectrum?



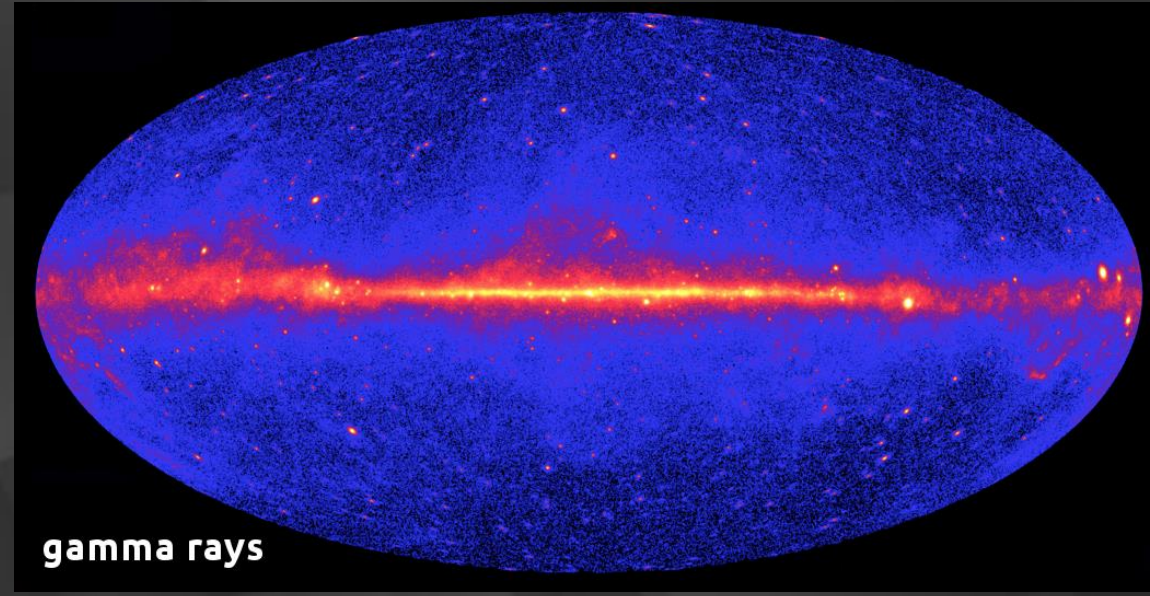
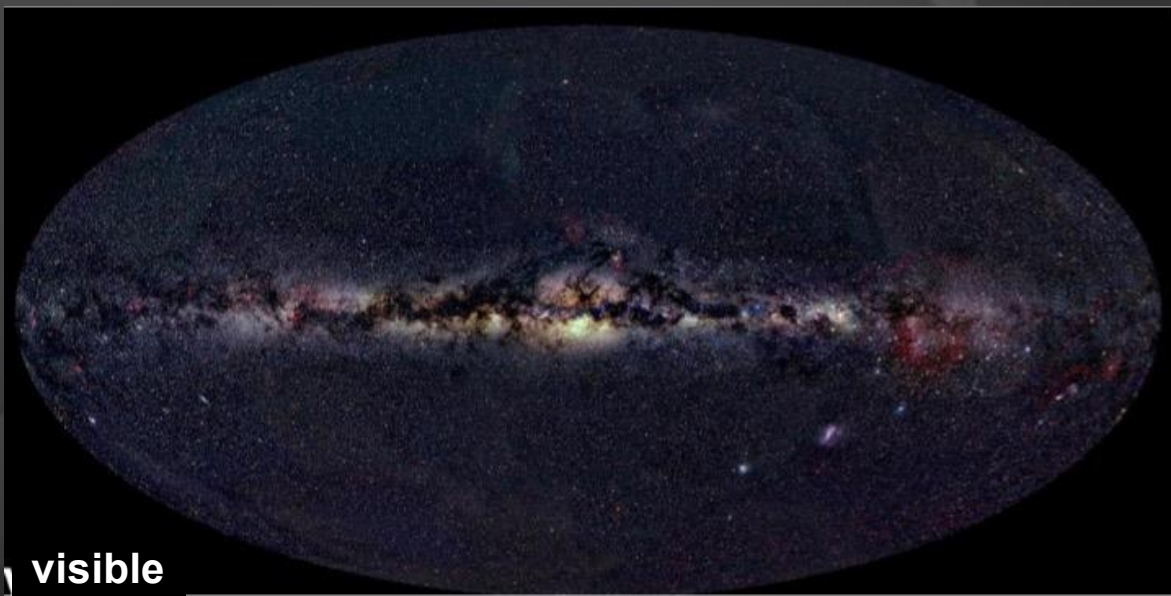
energy density in the Universe as a function of frequency



Fermi NASA gamma-ray satellite

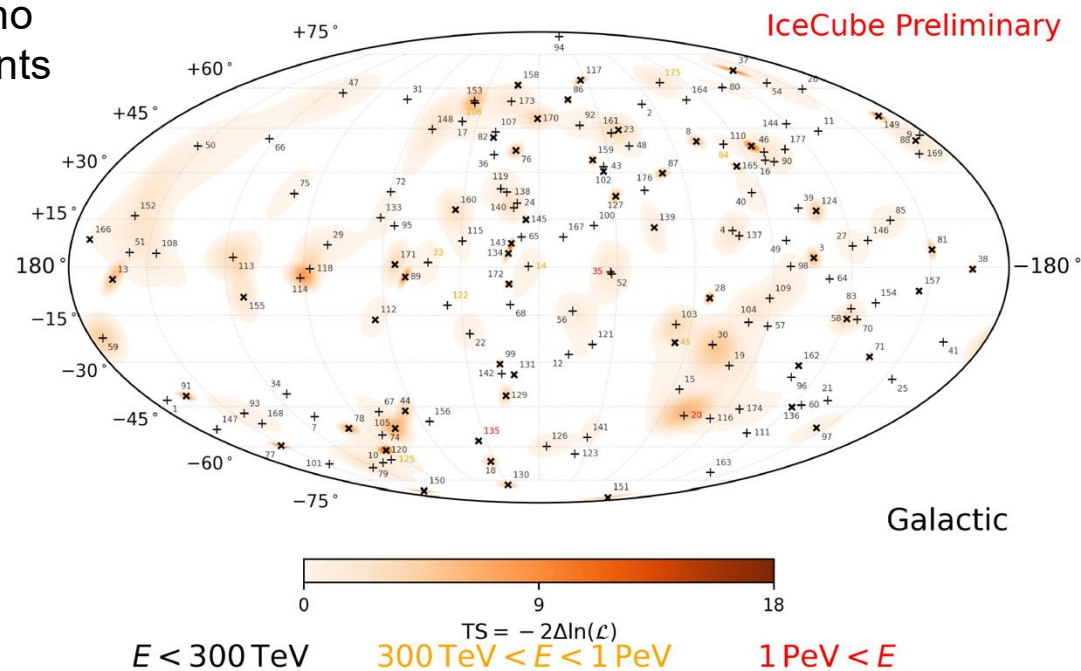


in the extreme universe the energy in neutrinos (and π^0 gamma rays) is larger than the energy in GeV gamma rays observed by Fermi



166 neutrino
starting events

where is the
neutrino Galactic
plane?



by geometry the flux
from your own
Galaxy should
dominate
the diffuse flux from
all other galaxies
combined!

two surprises:

- the large neutrino and associated gamma ray flux
- the Milky Way is not a dominant feature in the neutrino sky (powerful accelerators produce neutrinos in other galaxies that do not exist in our own)

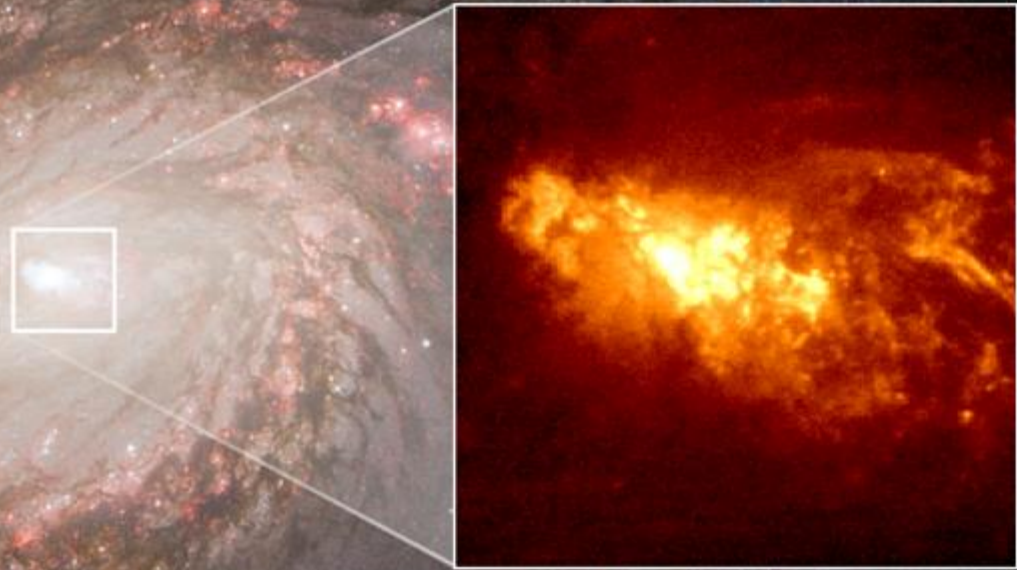
The First Decade of High-Energy Neutrino Astronomy and Neutrino Physics

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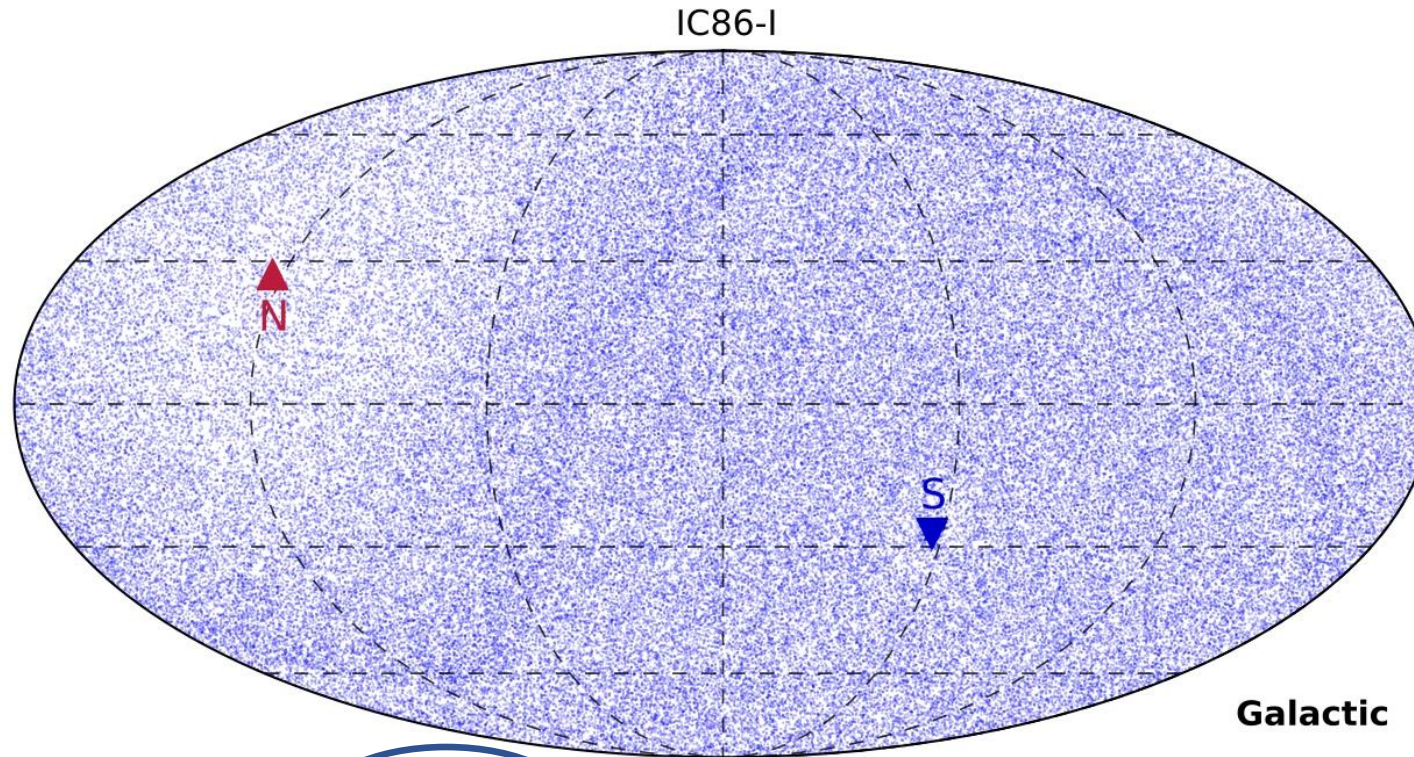
the first cosmic accelerator
in the IceCube neutrino skymap:
the active galaxy NGC 1068



neutrinos originate in the dense core within ~ 10 Schwarzschild radii of the
supermassive black hole

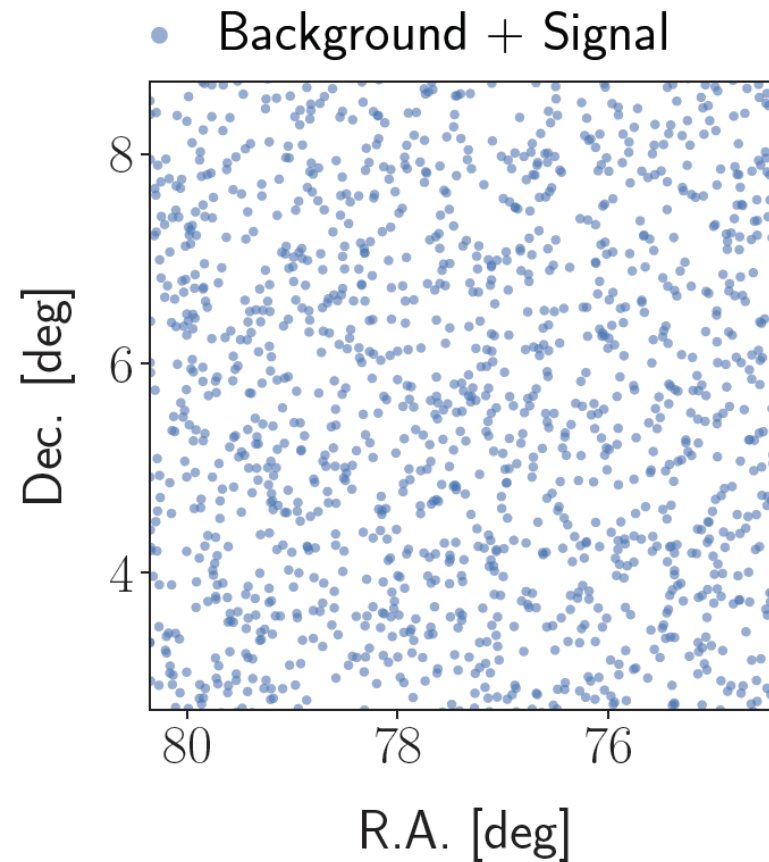
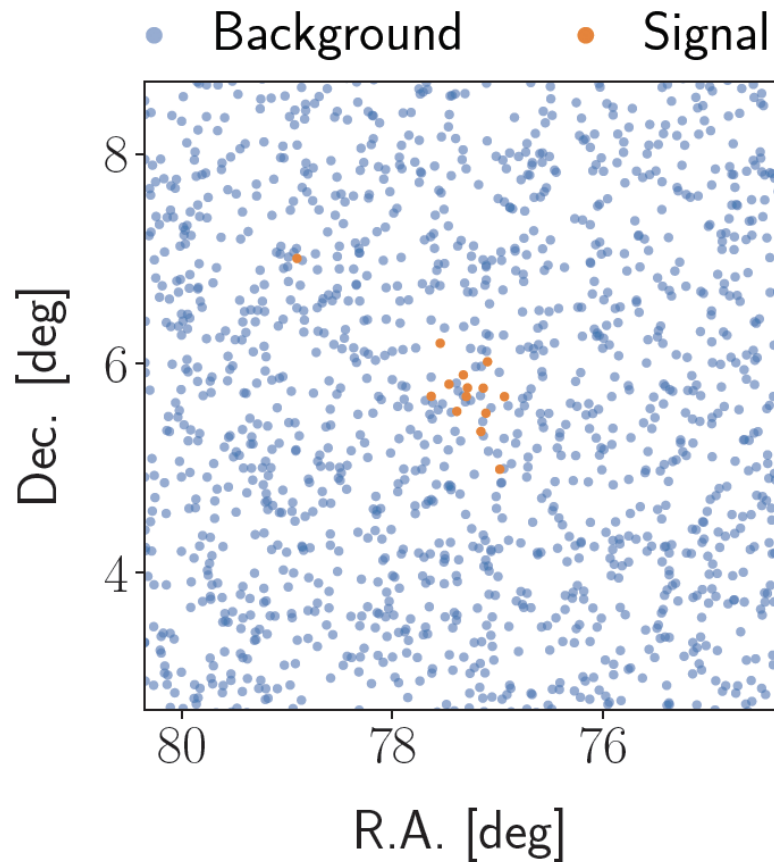
one year of IceCube neutrinos >100 GeV

(reaches neutrino purity of 97% but overwhelmingly atmospheric)

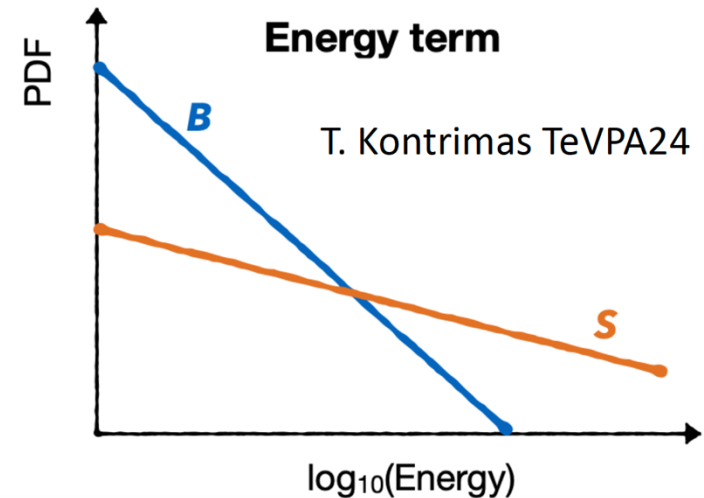
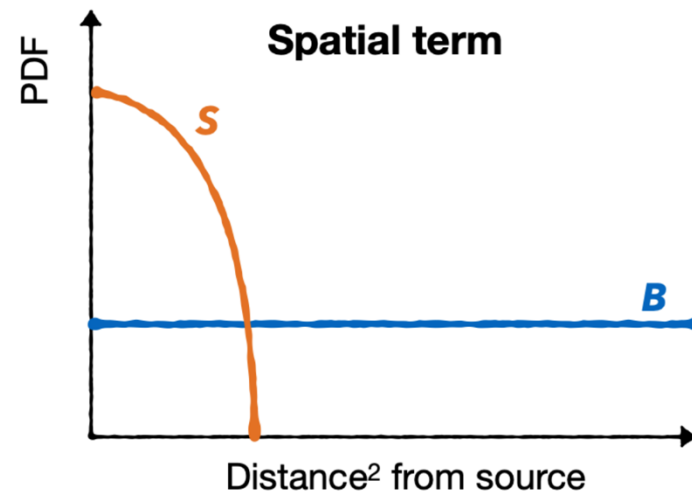


138322 neutrino candidates in one year

~200 cosmic neutrinos

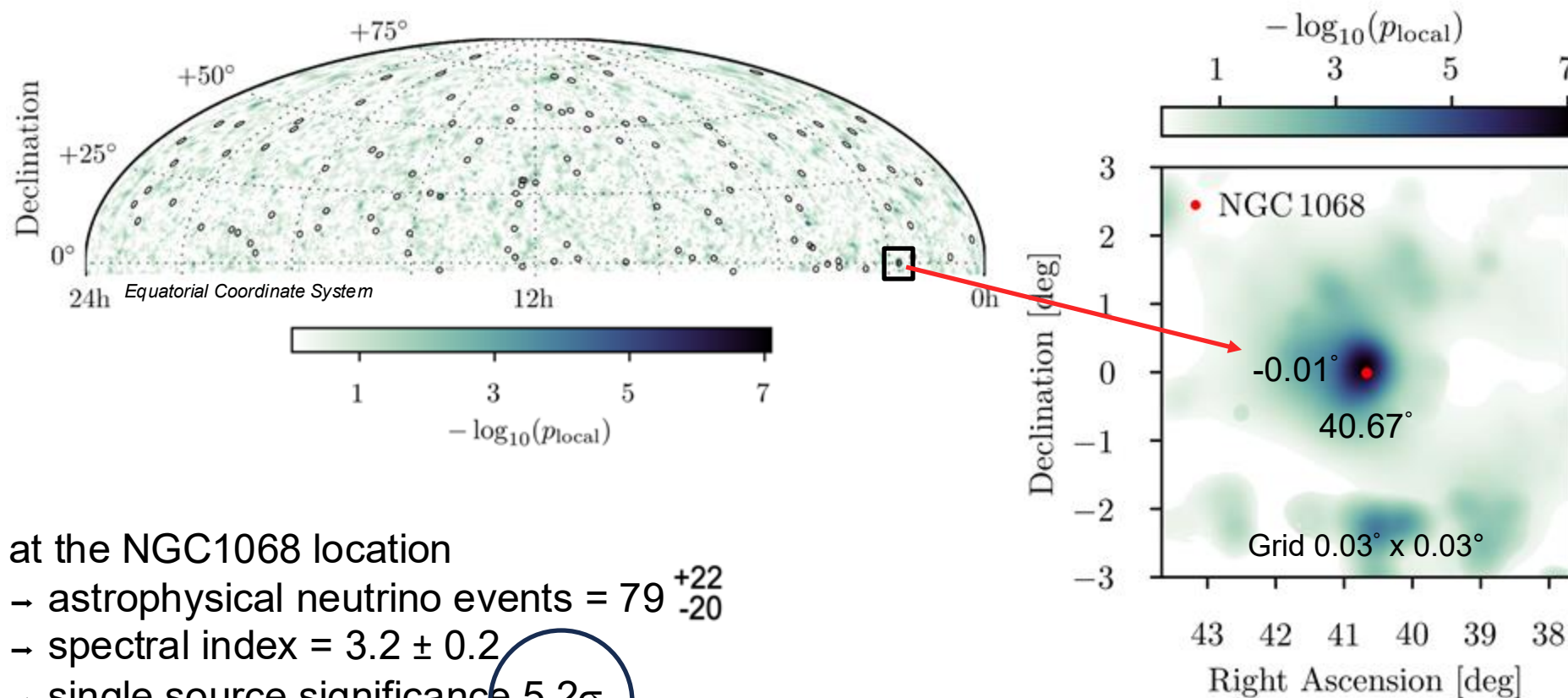


- maximize the (model agnostic) likelihood L at each point in the sky
- usually, add energy term to the signal likelihood S



NGC 1068

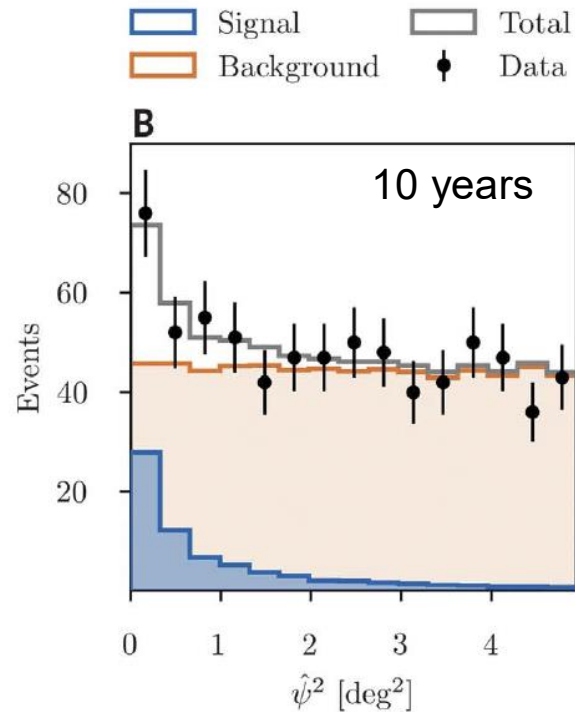
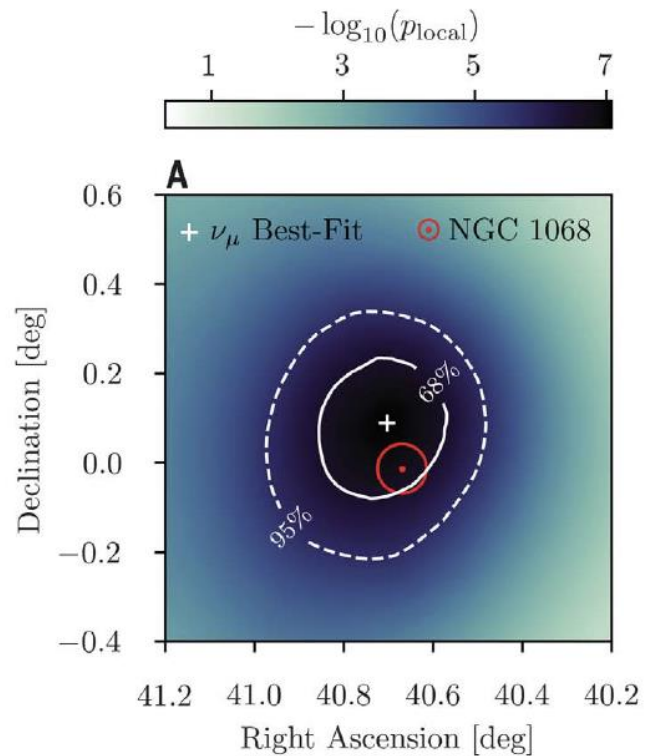
- most significant of 110 preselected sources
- leading hotspot in the neutrino sky



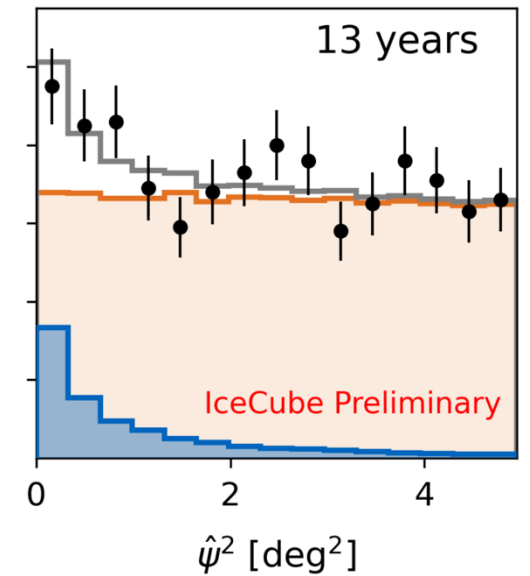
at the NGC1068 location

- astrophysical neutrino events = 79^{+22}_{-20}
- spectral index = 3.2 ± 0.2
- single source significance 5.2σ
- (offset 0.11°)
- 1 in 100,000 scrambled data sets have object $\geq 5.2\sigma = 4.2\sigma$
- p-value $< 10^{-5}$ including all trials

80 high-energy neutrinos
from the direction of the
active galaxy NGC 1068



update:
80 → 100
neutrinos
10 → 13
years



NGC 1068
comes
into focus

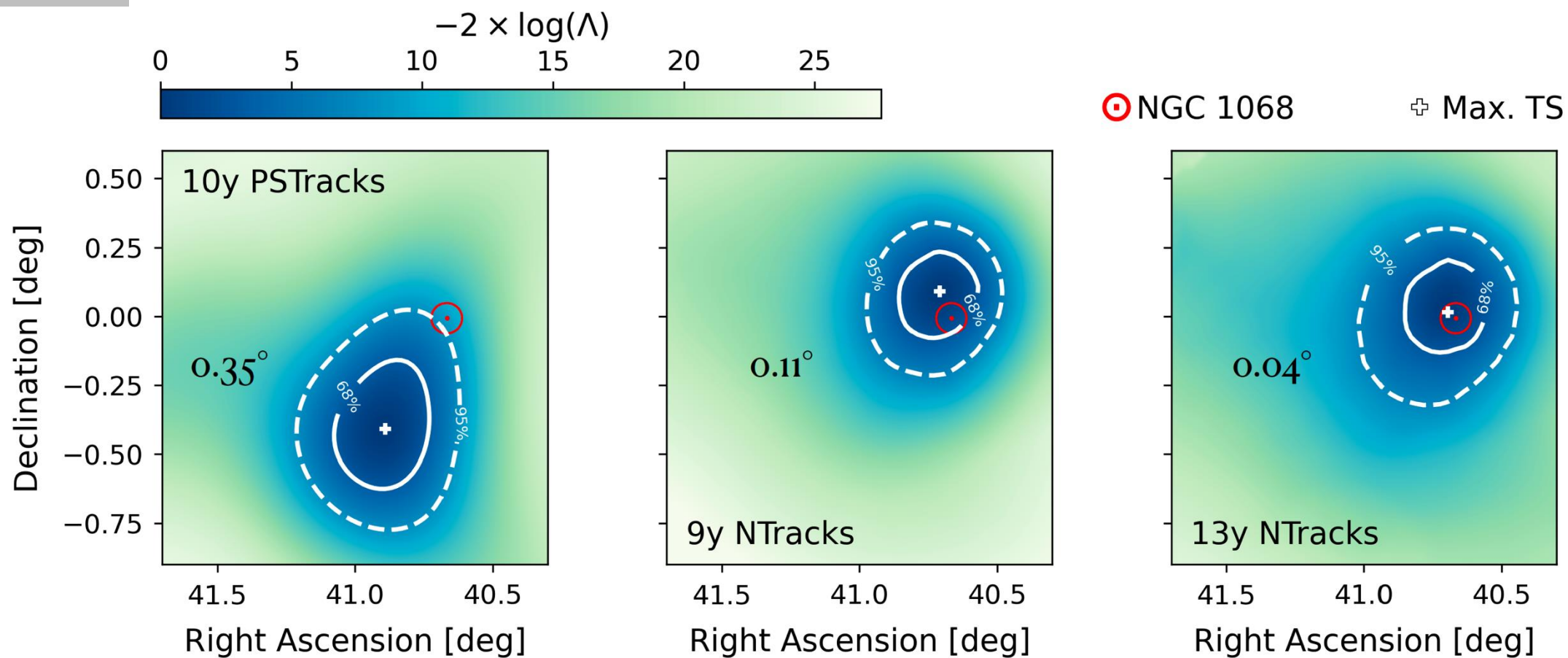
0.35 deg



0.1 deg



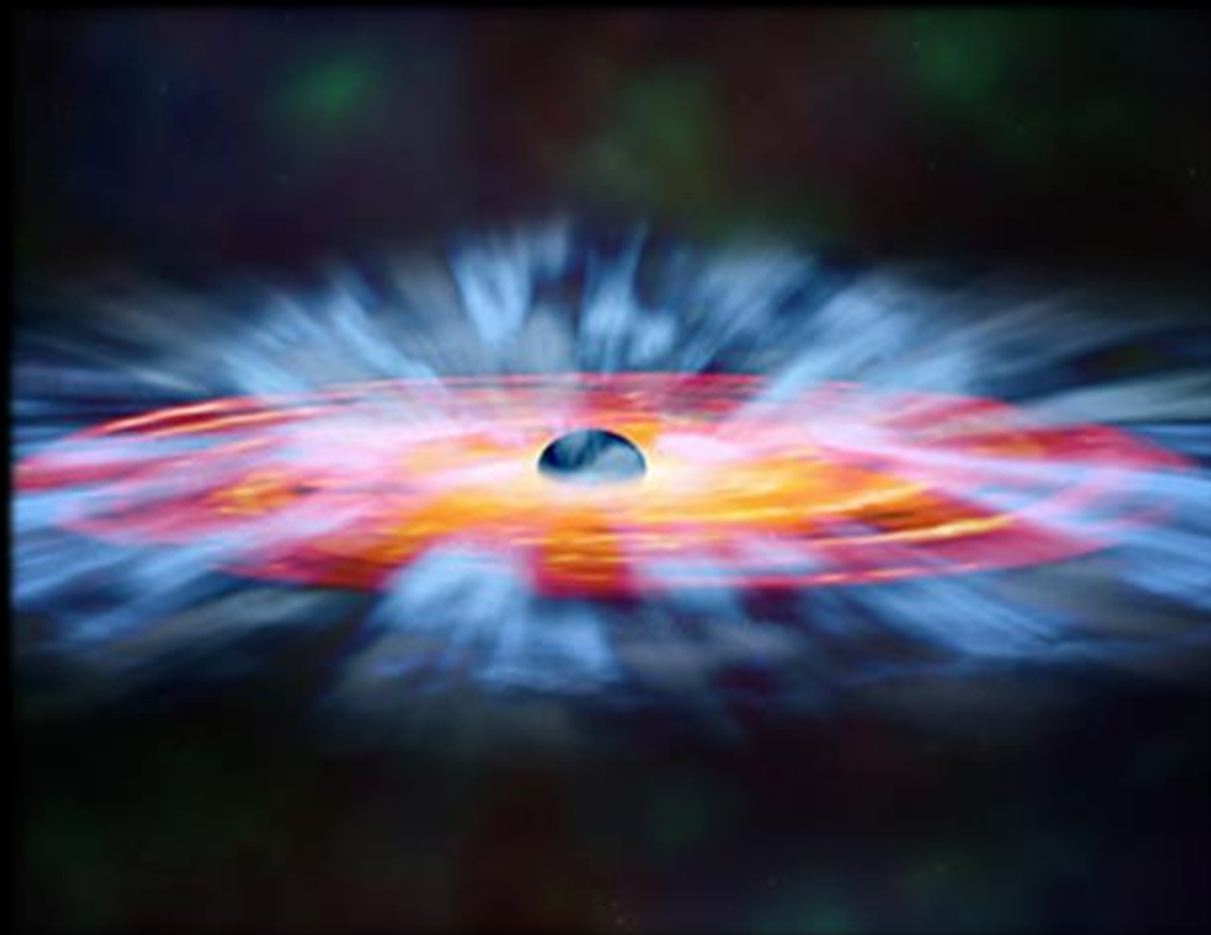
0.04 deg





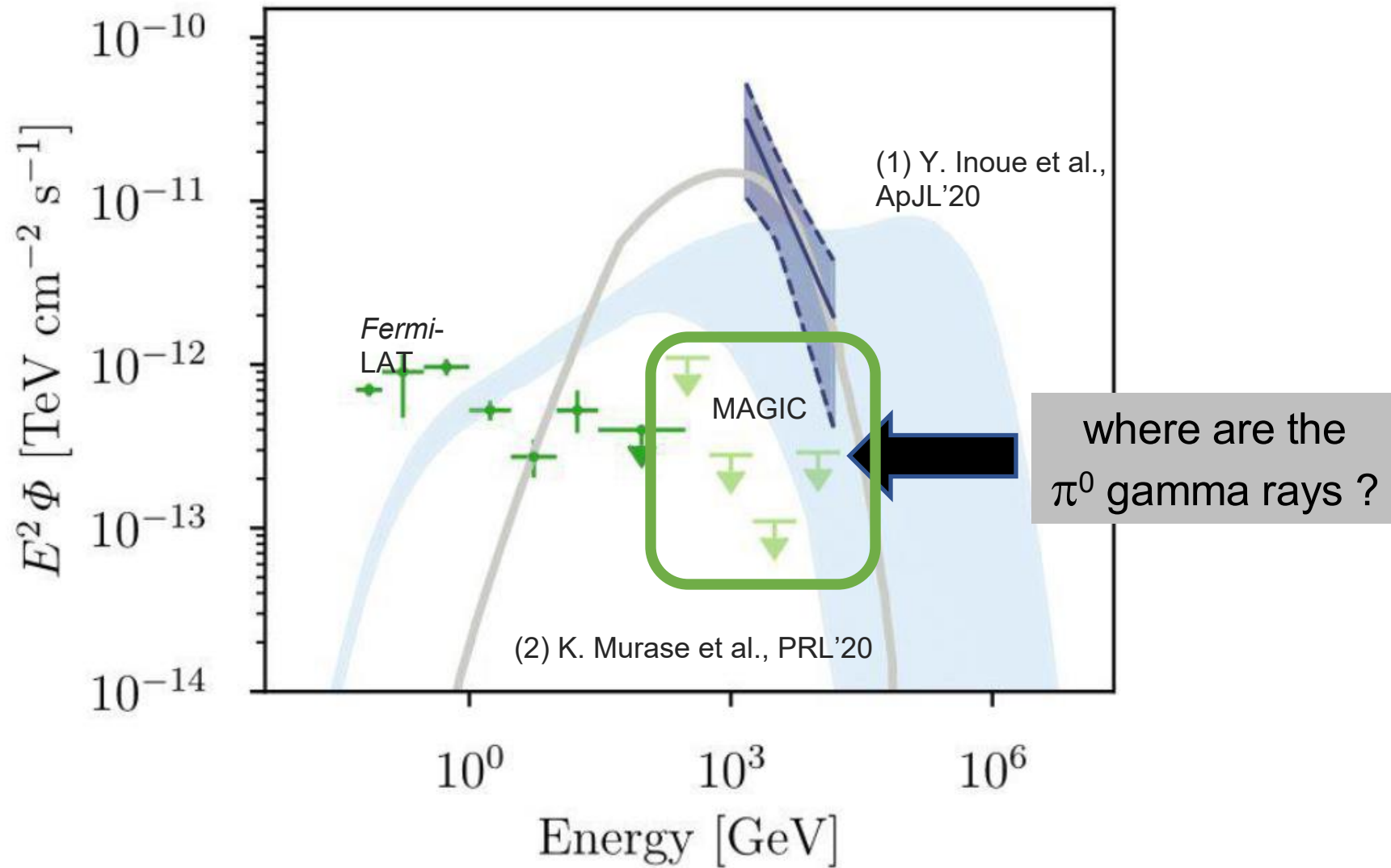
- accelerator(s): electrons and protons are accelerated in the turbulent magnetic fields associated with the accretion disk, in the infall onto the black hole,...

- target: the neutrinos are produced in the optically thick core of plasma emitting X-rays (corona) and dense clouds of hydrogen (protons)



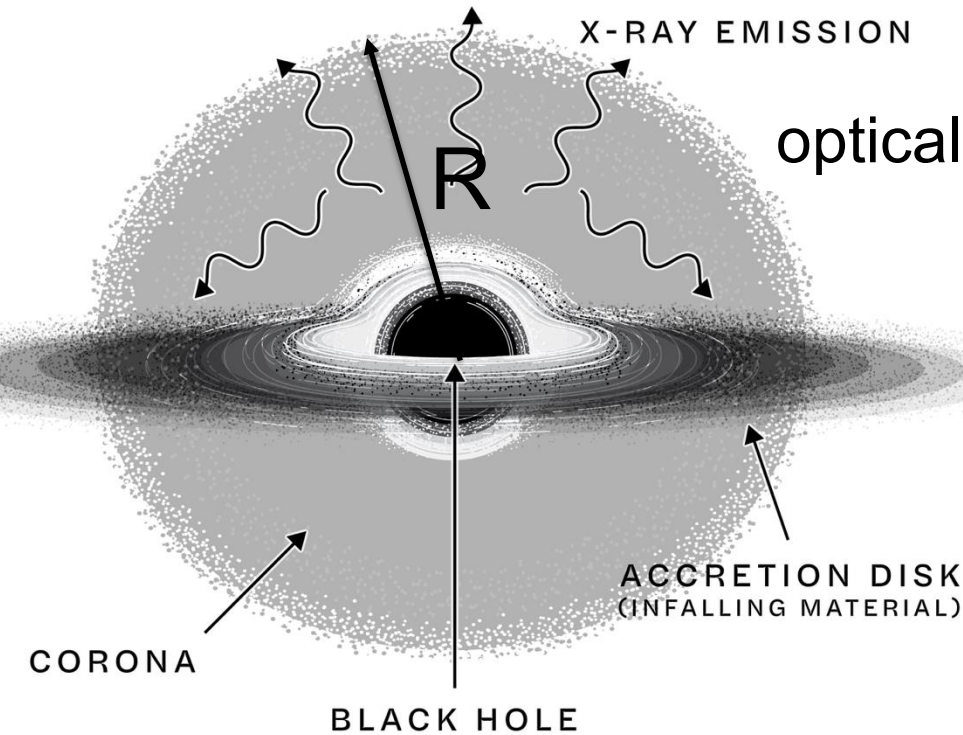
a gamma ray for every neutrino?

NGC 1068: an obscured cosmic accelerator



NGC 1068 core: large optical depth of protons (and π^0 gamma rays) in X-ray corona

[2411.14598](#) [astro-ph.HE]



optical depth $\tau = \text{cross section} \times \text{target density}$

$$\tau_{p\gamma} \sim \sigma_{p\gamma} \frac{1}{R} \frac{L_X}{E_X}$$

← number of target X-rays

↑ size of the target

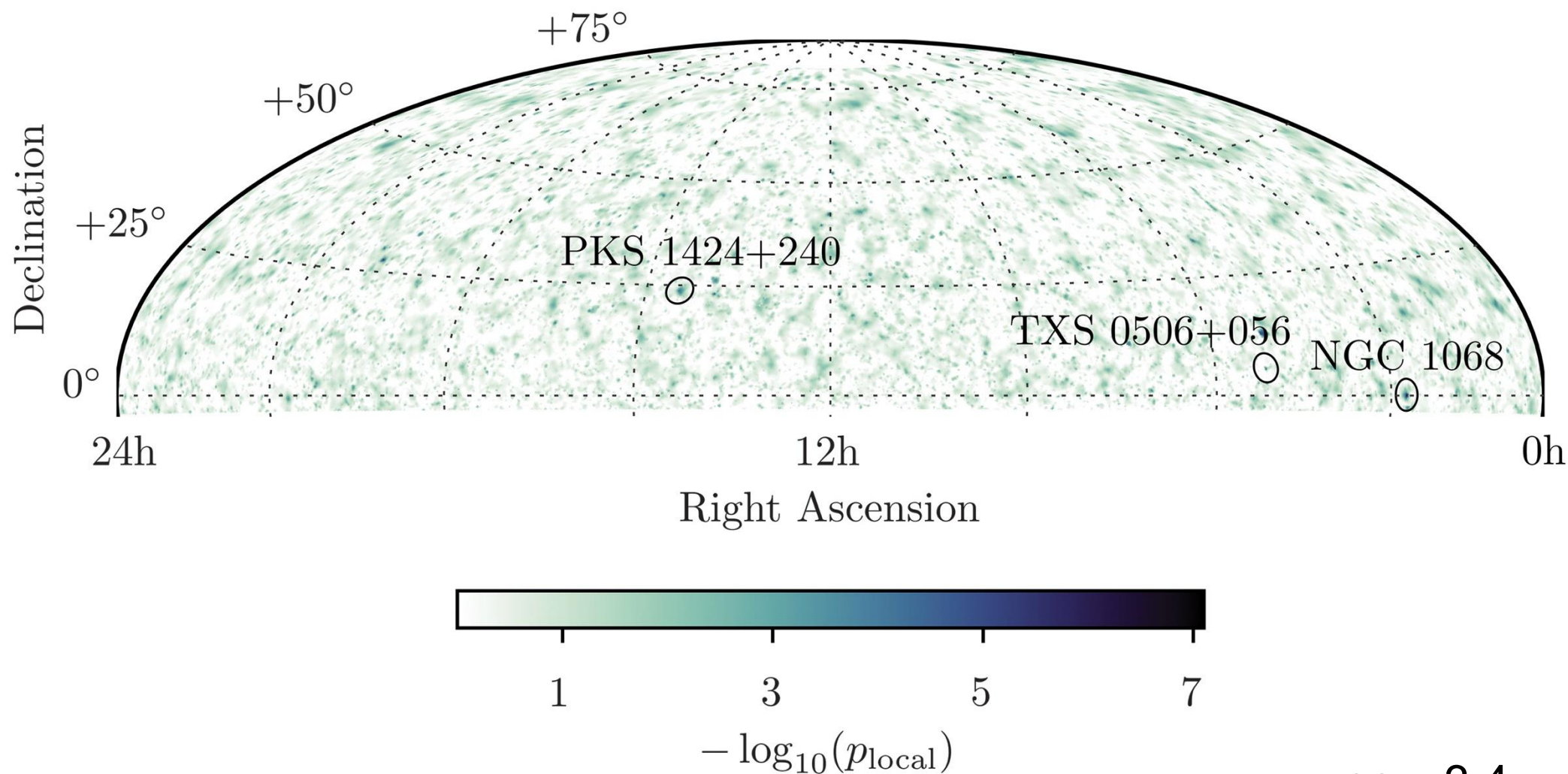
$$E_X = 1 \text{ keV} \quad L_X \sim 10^{43} \text{ ergs}^{-1} \quad M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10^7 \text{ solar masses}$$

$$\tau_{p\gamma} = 0.1 \sim 1 \rightarrow \text{neutrinos produced for } R \sim 10 R_S$$

$$\tau_{\gamma\gamma} \sim [\sigma_{\gamma\gamma}/\sigma_{p\gamma}] \tau_{p\gamma} \sim 10^2 \rightarrow \pi^0 \text{ gamma rays absorbed}$$

neutrinos originate within $R = 10 \sim 10^2$ Schwarzschild radii from the BH

sub-leading sources from binomial analysis
(also the 3 top sources)



now 3.4σ p-value

Optical Observations Reveal Strong Evidence for High Energy Neutrino Progenitor

V.M. Lipunov^{1,2}, V.G. Kornilov^{1,2}, K.Zhirkov¹, E. Gorbovskoy², N.M. Budnev⁴, D.A.H.Buckley³, R. Rebolo⁵, M. Serra-Ricart⁵, R. Podesta^{9,10}, N.Tyurina², O. Gress^{4,2}, Yu.Sergienko⁸, V. Yurkov⁸, A. Gabovich⁸, P.Balanutsa², I.Gorbunov², D.Vlasenko^{1,2}, F.Balakin^{1,2}, V.Topolev¹, A.Pozdnyakov¹, A.Kuznetsov², V.Vladimirov², A. Chasovnikov¹, D. Kuvshinov^{1,2}, V.Grinshpun^{1,2}, E.Minkina^{1,2}, V.B.Petkov⁷, S.I.Svertilov^{2,6}, C. Lopez⁹, F. Podesta⁹, H.Levato¹⁰, A. Tlatov¹¹, B. Van Soelen¹², S. Razzaque¹³, M. Böttcher¹⁴

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY

NEUTRINO ASTROPHYSICS

Multimessenger observations of a flaring blazar coincident with high-energy neutrino IceCube-170922A

The IceCube Collaboration, *Fermi*-LAT, MAGIC, *AGILE*, ASAS-SN, HAWC, H.E.S.S., *INTEGRAL*, Kanata, Kiso, Kapteyn, Liverpool Telescope, Subaru, *Swift*/*NuSTAR*, VERITAS, and VLA/17B-403 teams*†

RESEARCH ARTICLE

NEUTRINO ASTROPHYSICS

Neutrino emission from the direction of the blazar TXS 0506+056 prior to the IceCube-170922A alert

TXS 0506+056 detected in 2017

- multimessenger
- IceCube archival data
- observation of optical flash 2hours after IC170922
- associates the neutrino with the source at the 50σ level

→ 2022 Evidence for Neutrino Emission from NGC 1068
Binomial analysis TXS 0506 and PKS 1420

The emergence of a new class of sources: high X-ray active galaxies

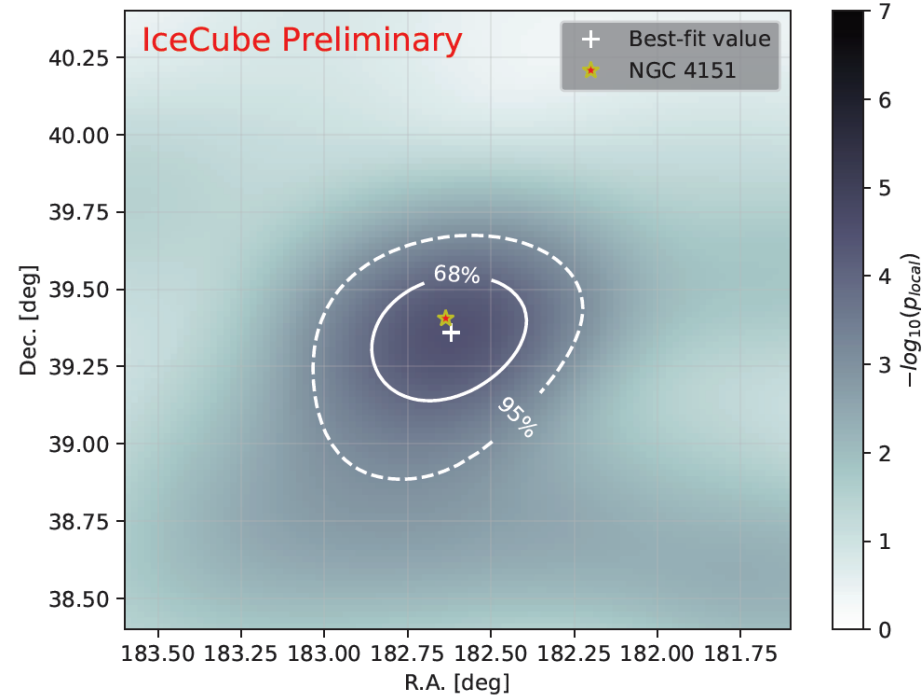
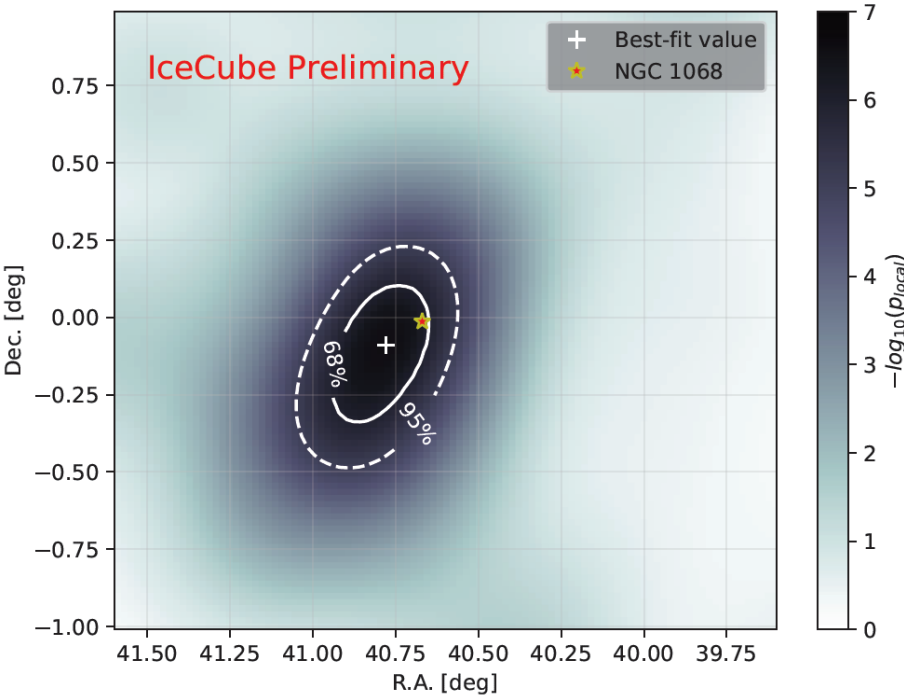
→ 2024: IceCube Search for Neutrino Emission from X-ray Bright Seyfert Galaxies
Northern sky NGC 4151 and CGCG 420-015
arXiv:2406.07601

→ 2024 Search for neutrino emission from hard X-ray AGN with IceCube
NGC 4151
arXiv:2406.06684

→ 2024 Starting event search for Seyfert galaxies
TeVPA 2024
Circinus

→ 2024 Binomial excess from 12 X-ray bright Seyferts (update) TeVPA 2024

more sources ...



- two brightest active galaxies discovered by Seyfert in 1943

NUCLEAR EMISSION IN SPIRAL NEBULAE*

CARL K. SEYFERT†

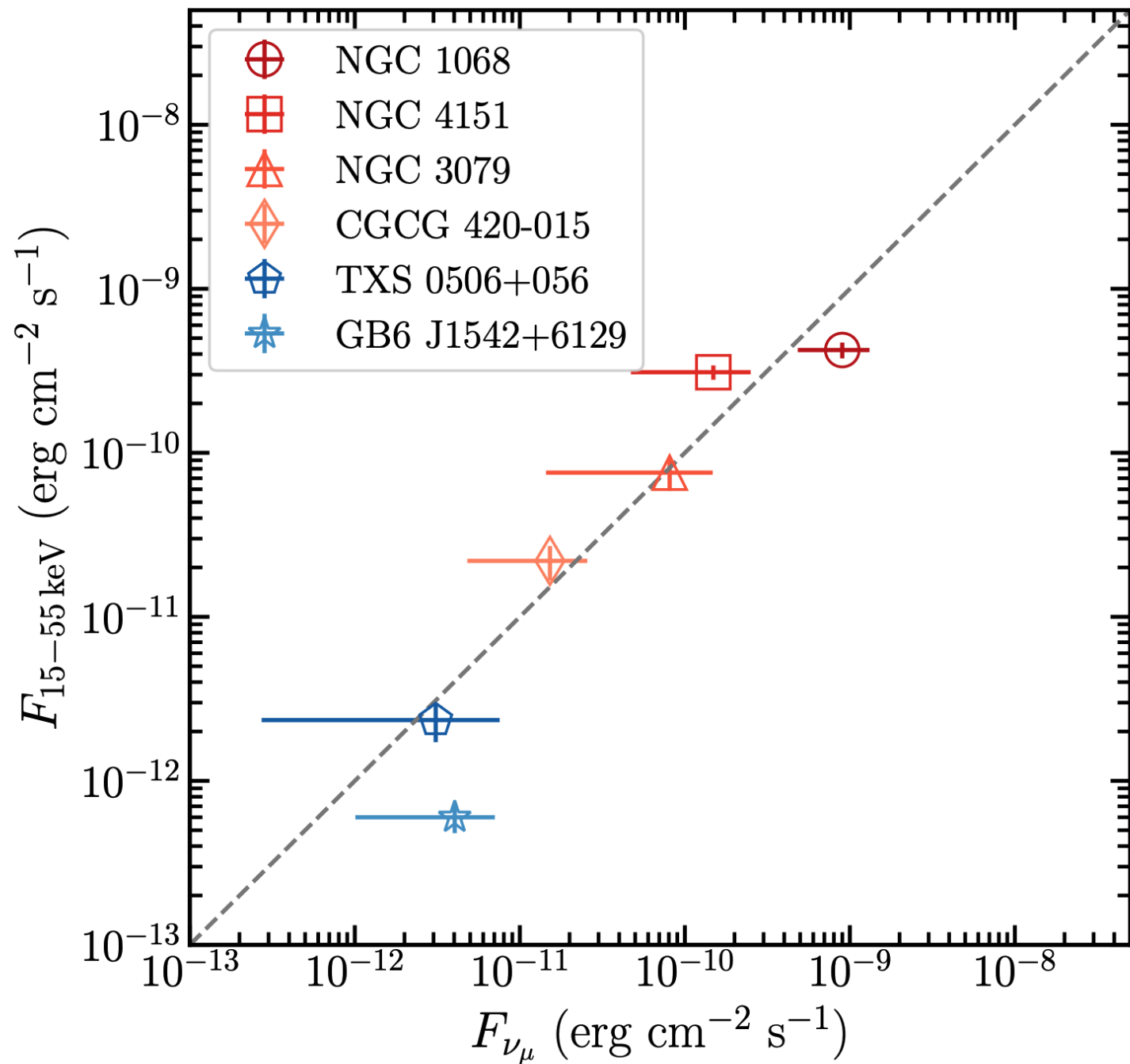
1943

ABSTRACT

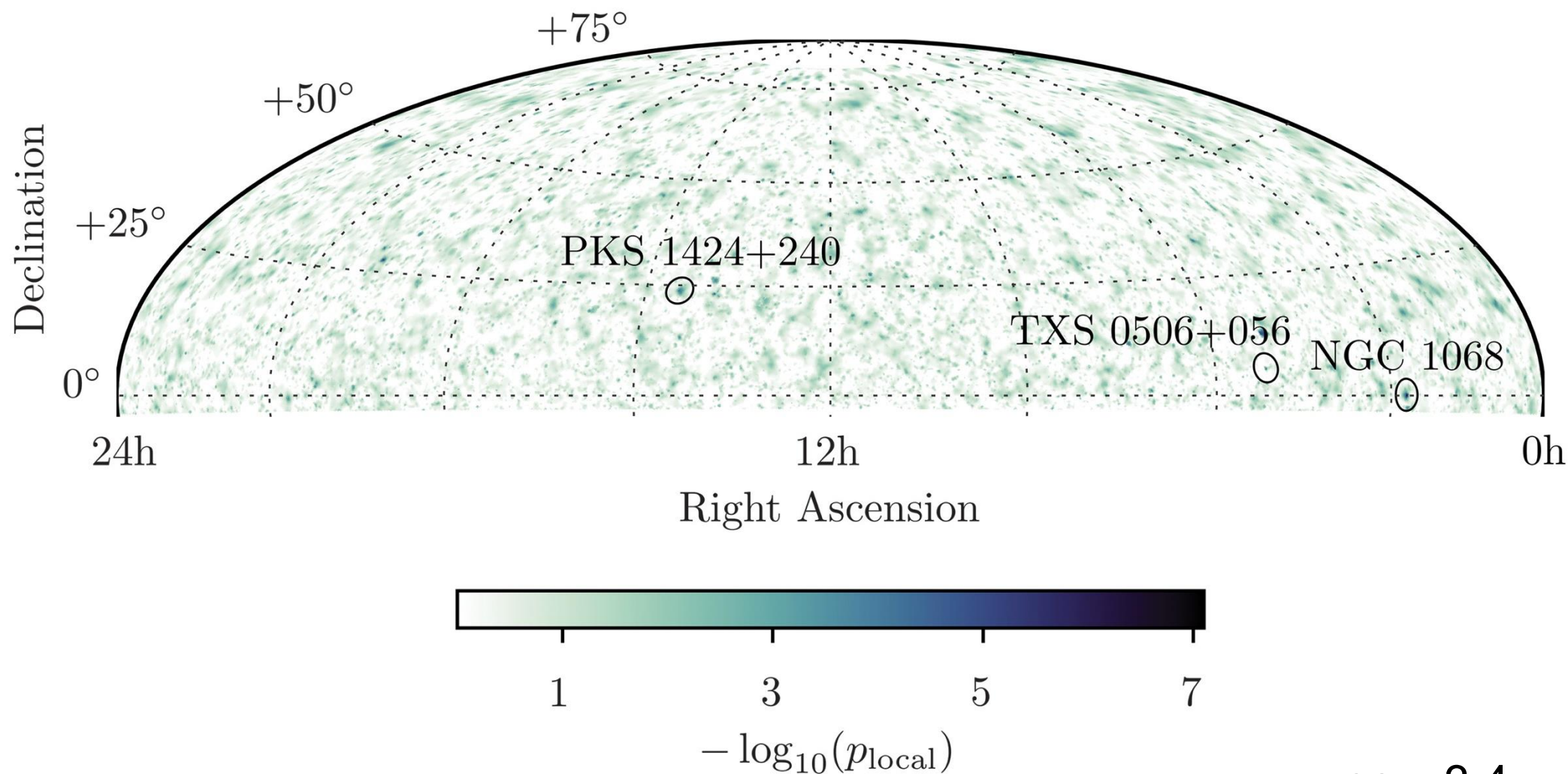
Spectrograms of dispersion 37–200 Å/mm have been obtained of six extragalactic nebulae with high-excitation nuclear emission lines superposed on a normal G-type spectrum. All the stronger emission lines from λ 3727 to λ 6731 found in planetaries like NGC 7027 appear in the spectra of the two brightest spirals observed, NGC 1068 and NGC 4151.



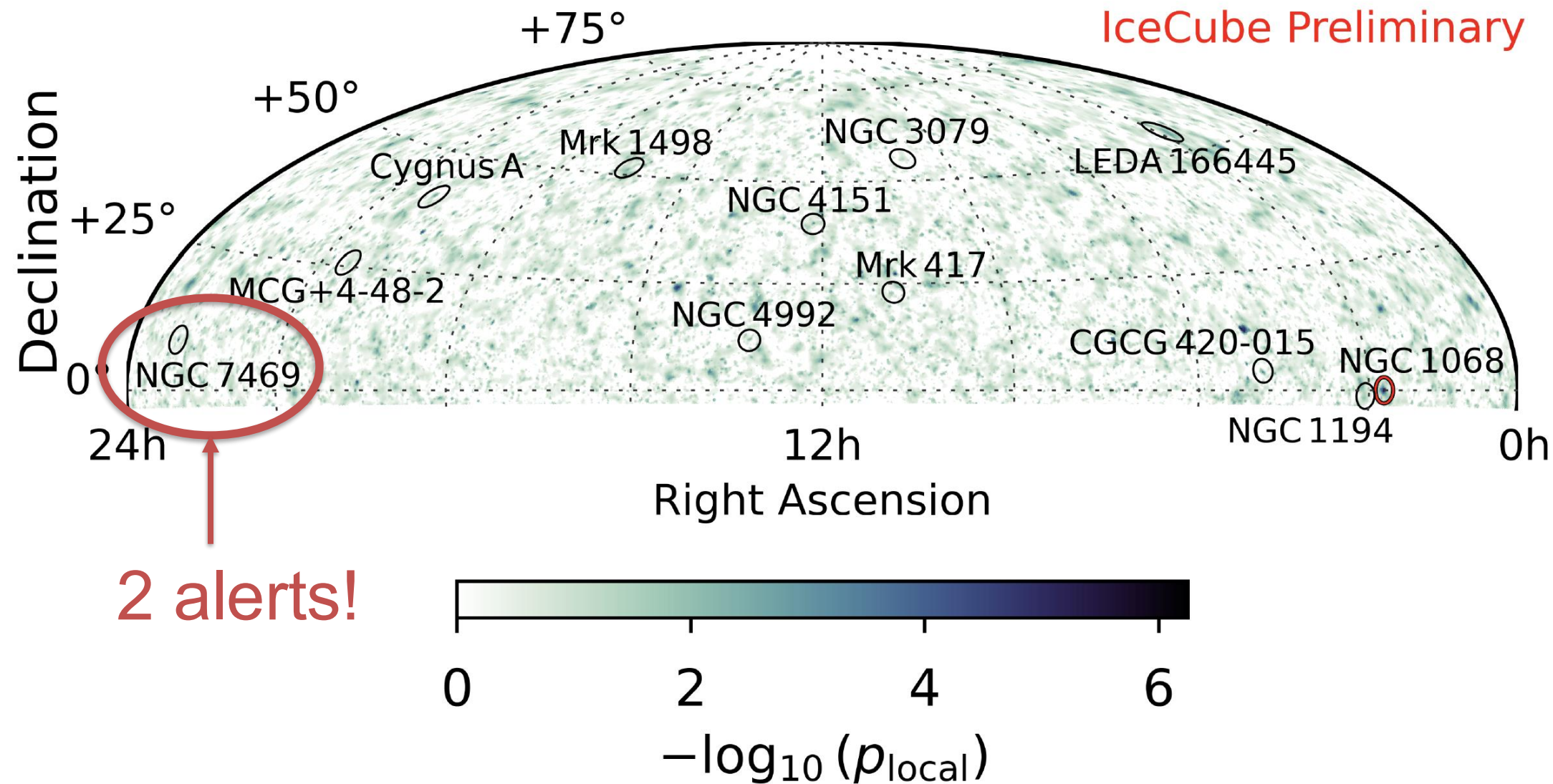
- hint from NGC 1068
- is there a correlation between the X-ray and neutrino flux ?



sub-leading sources from binomial analysis
(also the 3 top sources)

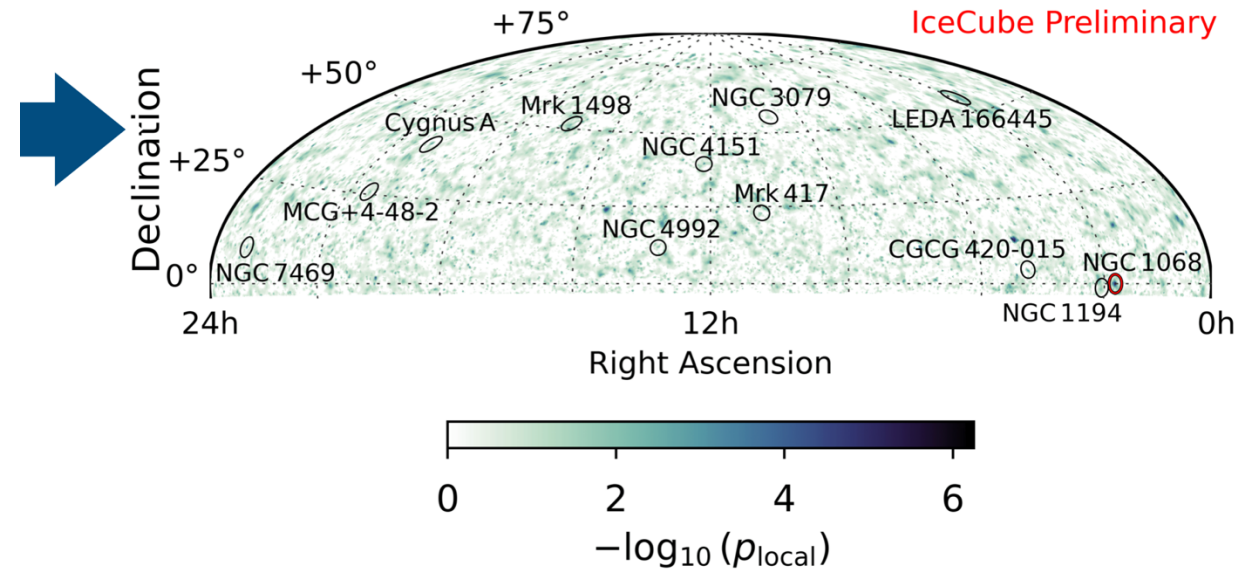
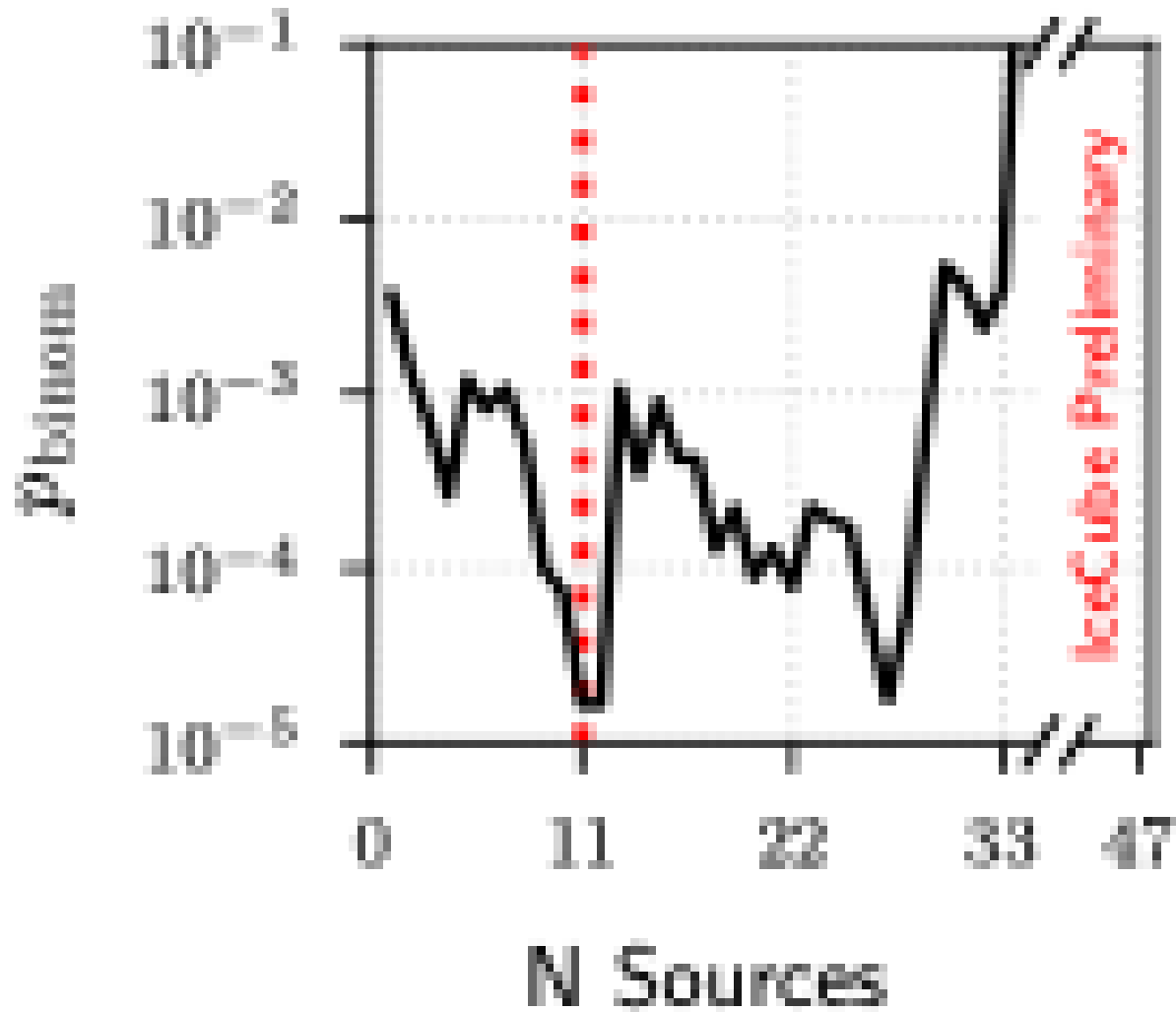


now 3.4σ p-value



binomial test of X-ray bright (non-jetted) active galaxies

Binomial test of non-jetted sources



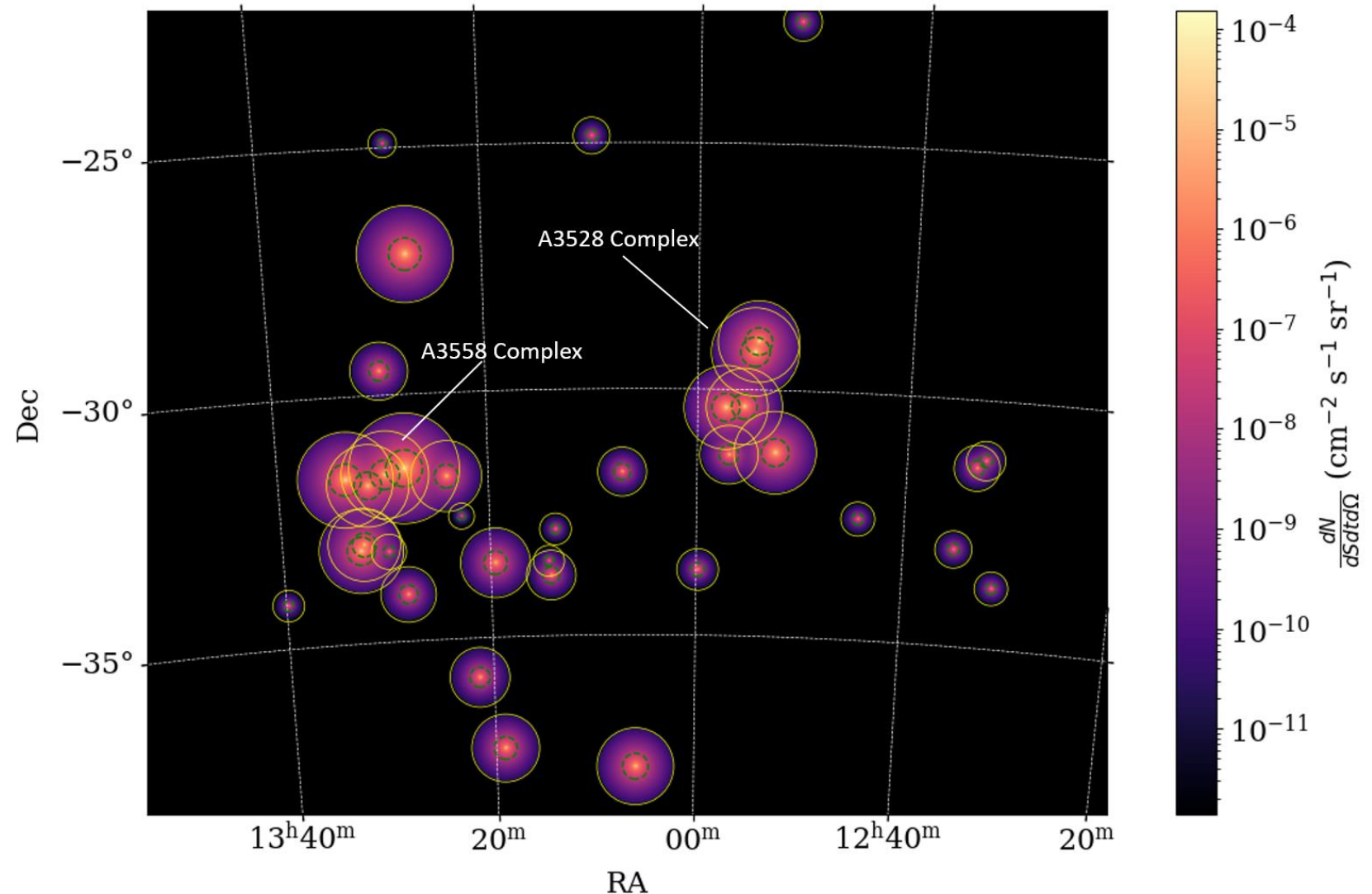
- Binomial Test: Probability of finding a signal from 47 AGNs too weak to be identified individually
- Result: 3.3σ excess for 11 sources (excluding NGC1068)

solution to the extragalactic cosmic ray problem?

clusters of superclusters

- neutrinos produced in individual active galaxies
- higher energy cosmic rays produced over the larger complex à la Hillas
- neutrino fluxes lower because of low target densities of larger scales
- need the next-generation detectors

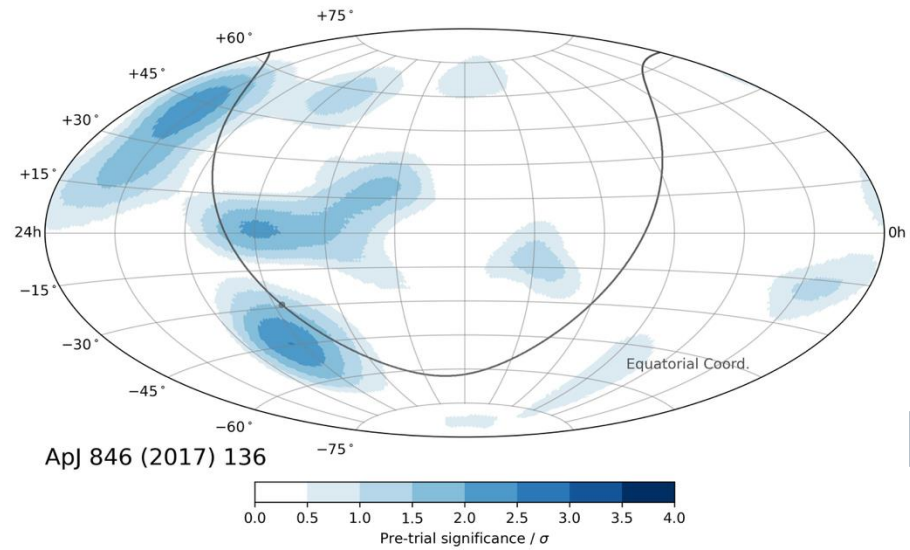
the Shapley cluster of superclusters



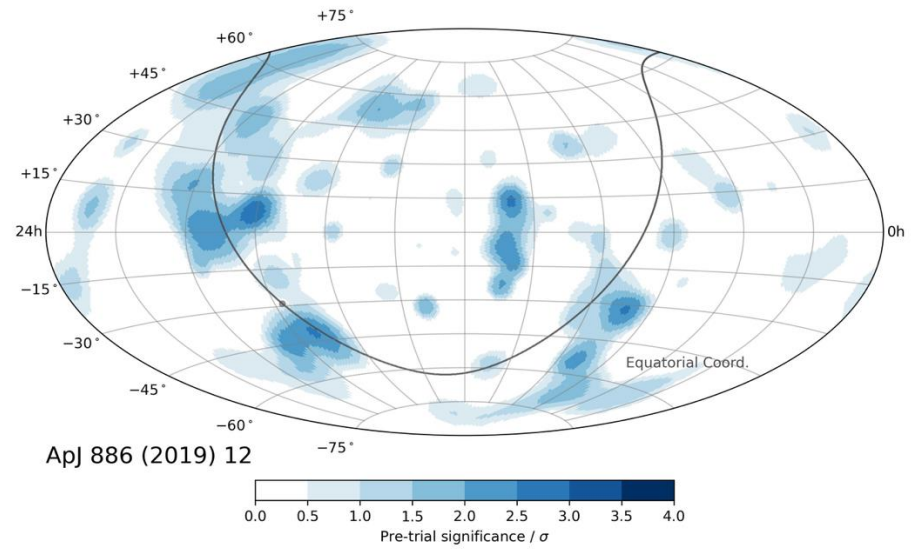
neutrinos from the Galactic plane !



2017 paper



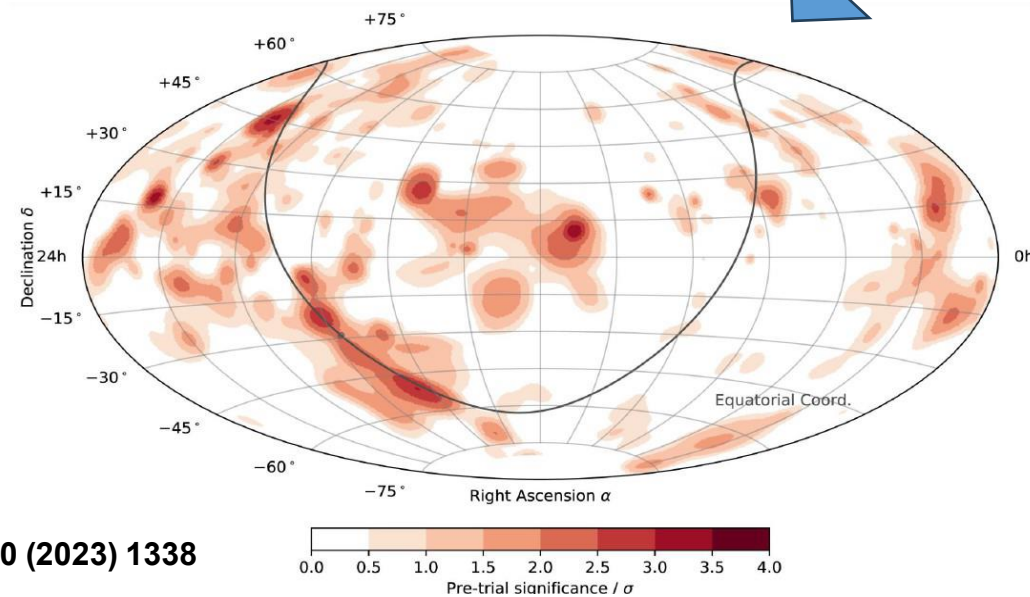
2019 paper



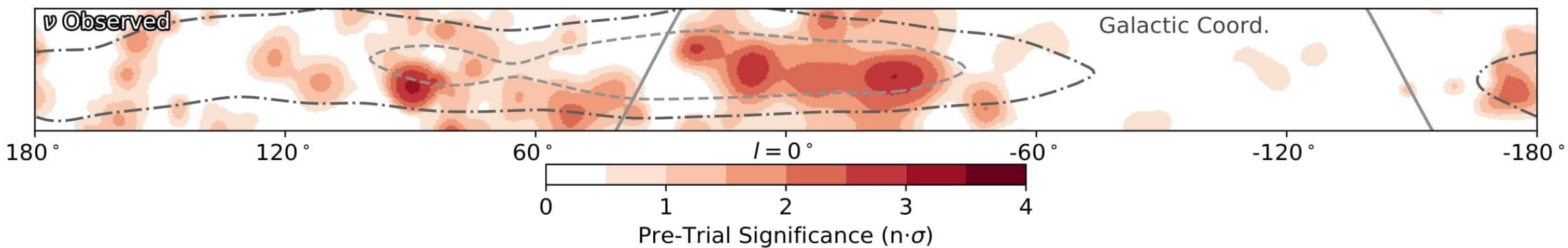
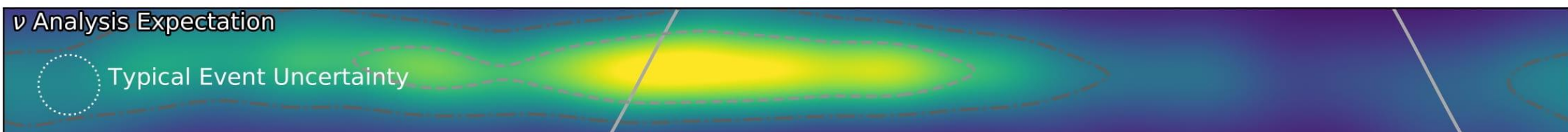
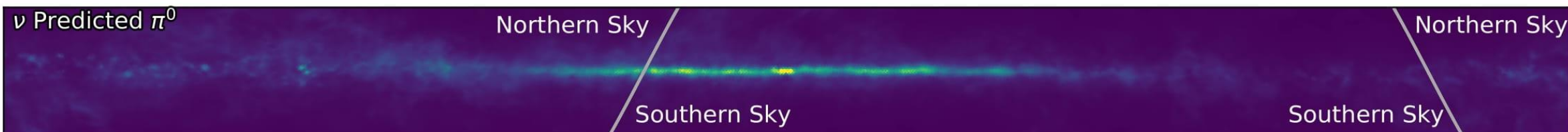
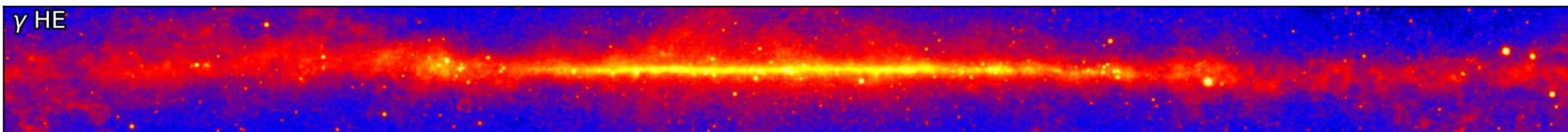
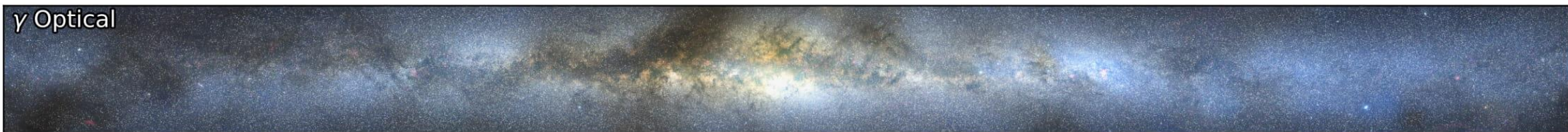
2 years of data
Galactic Plane p-value: 65%

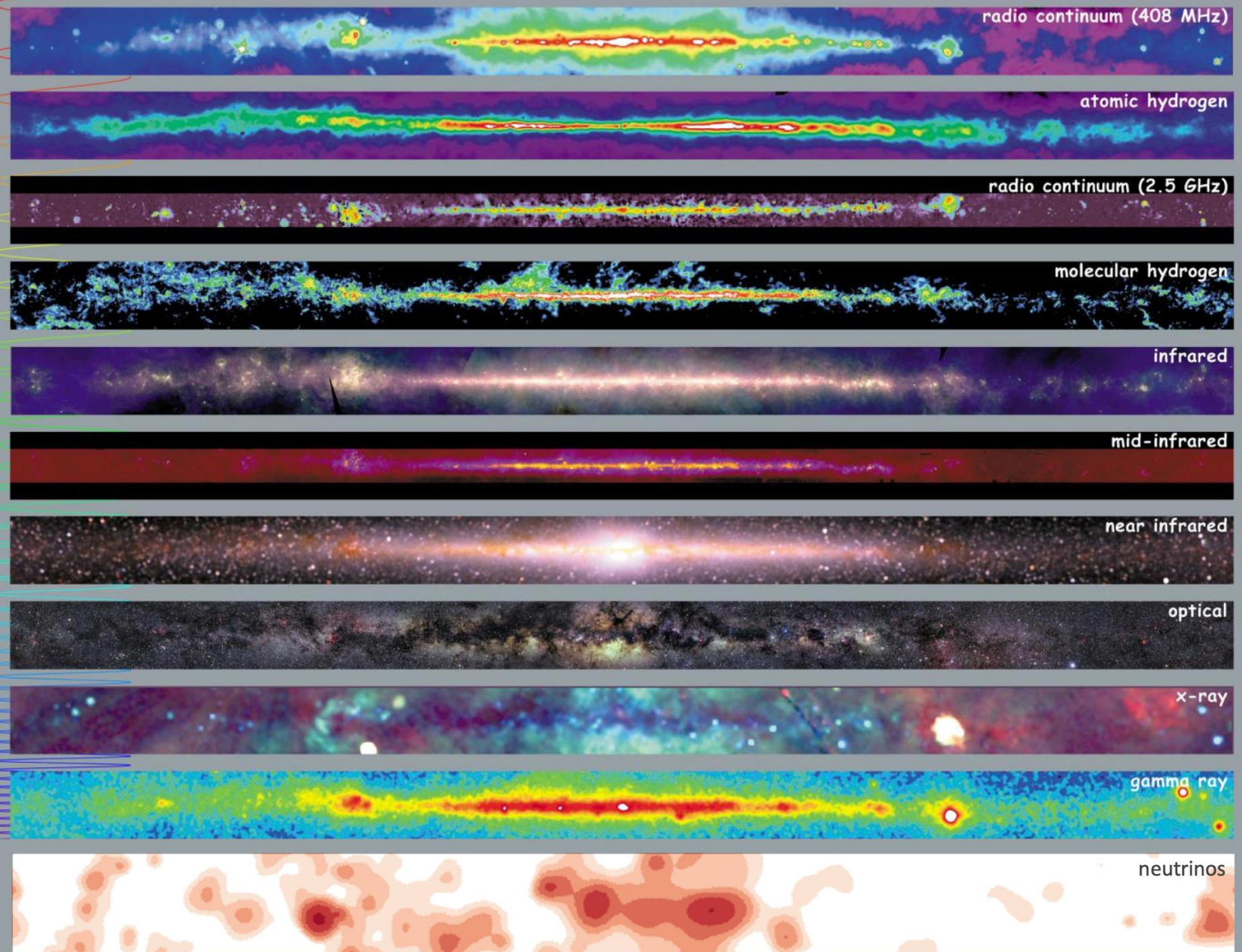
7 years of data
Galactic Plane p-value: 2.1% (2σ)

Science 380 (2023) 1338



- Deep learning improved resolution by 2, sensitivity by 3
- 13 years of data Galactic Plane: 5.7σ post trial (Lepton-Photon 2025, Madison)





<http://adc.gsfc.nasa.gov/mw>

Milky Way viewed in
neutrinos



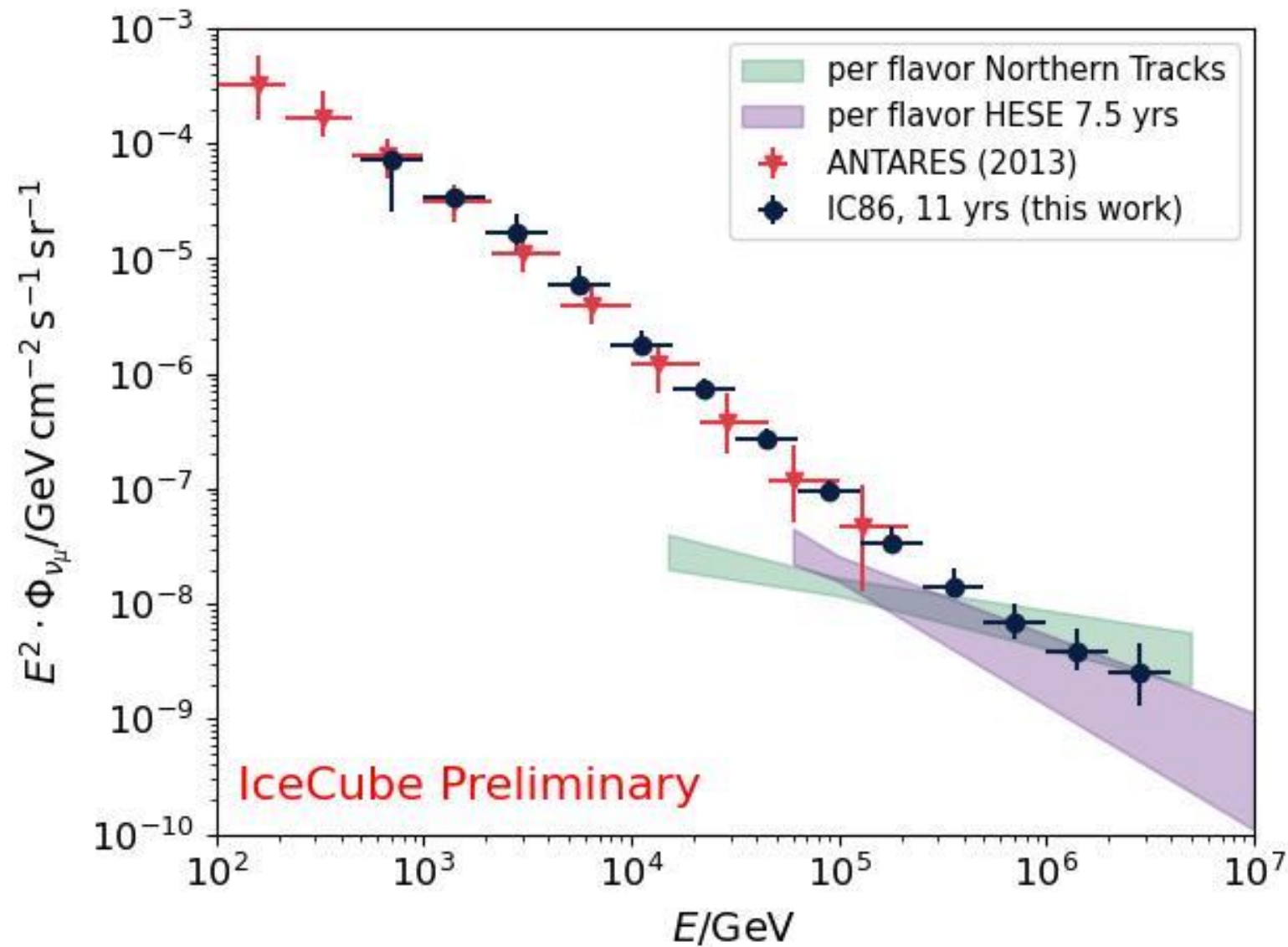
The First Decade of Neutrino Astronomy and Neutrino Physics

francis halzen

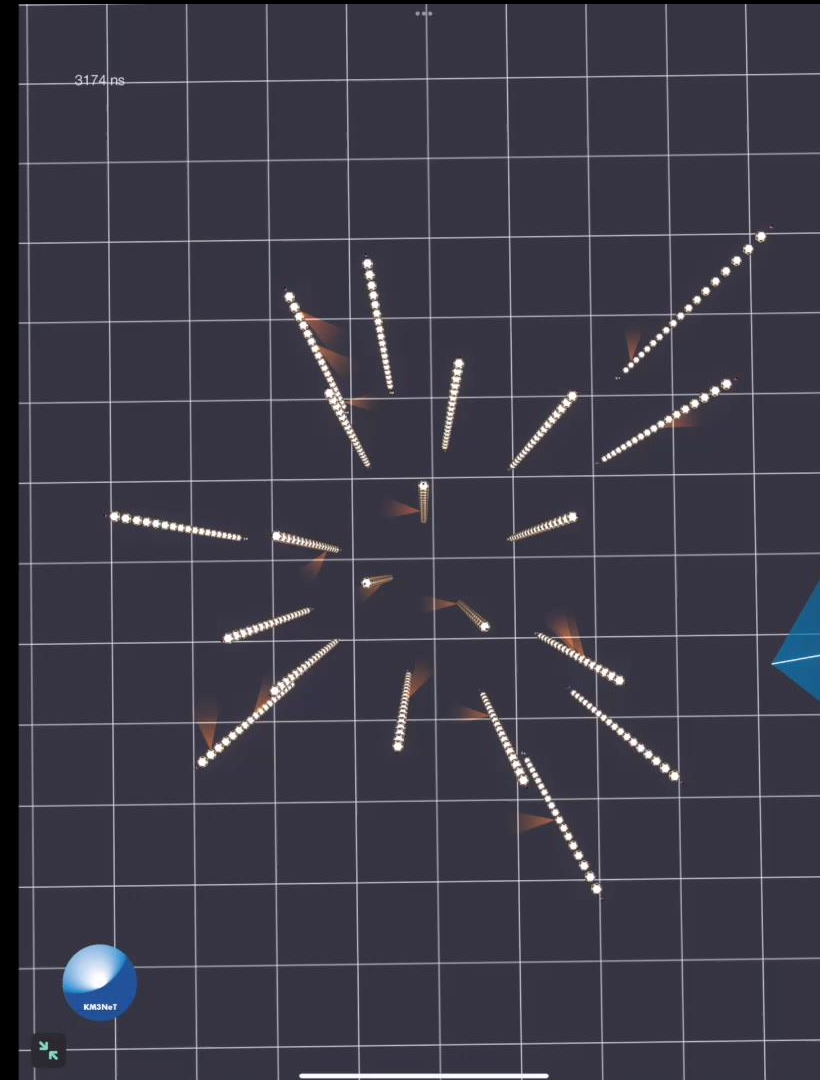
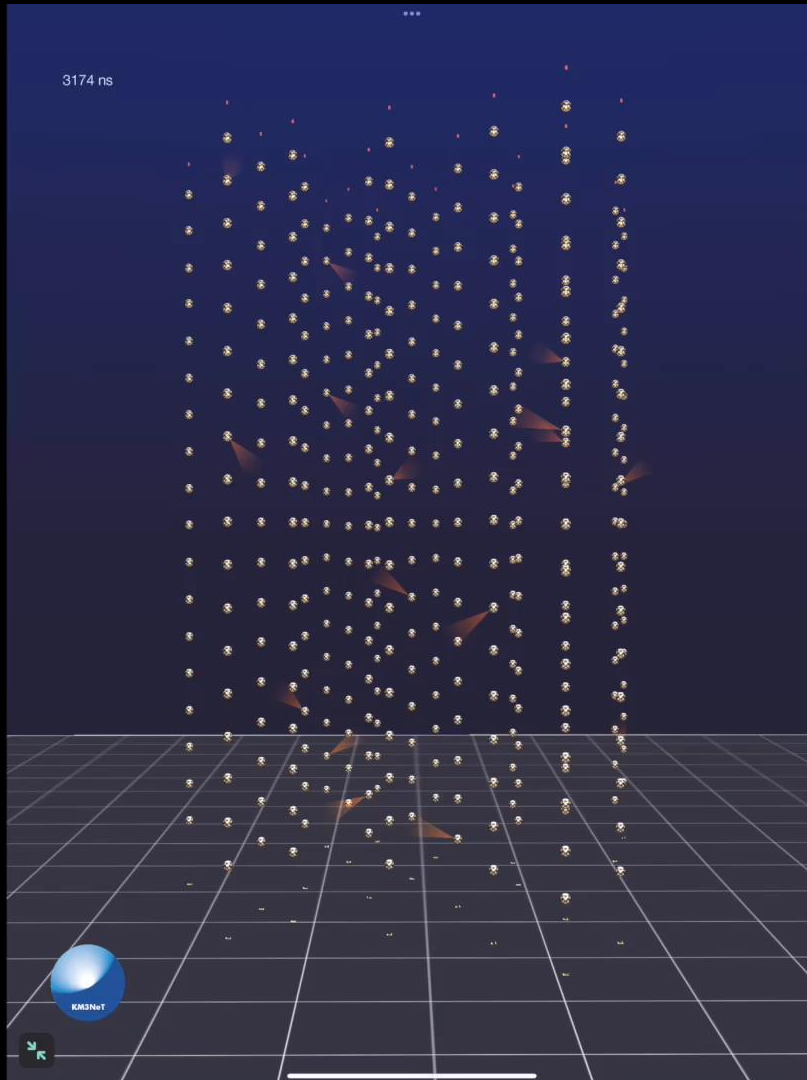


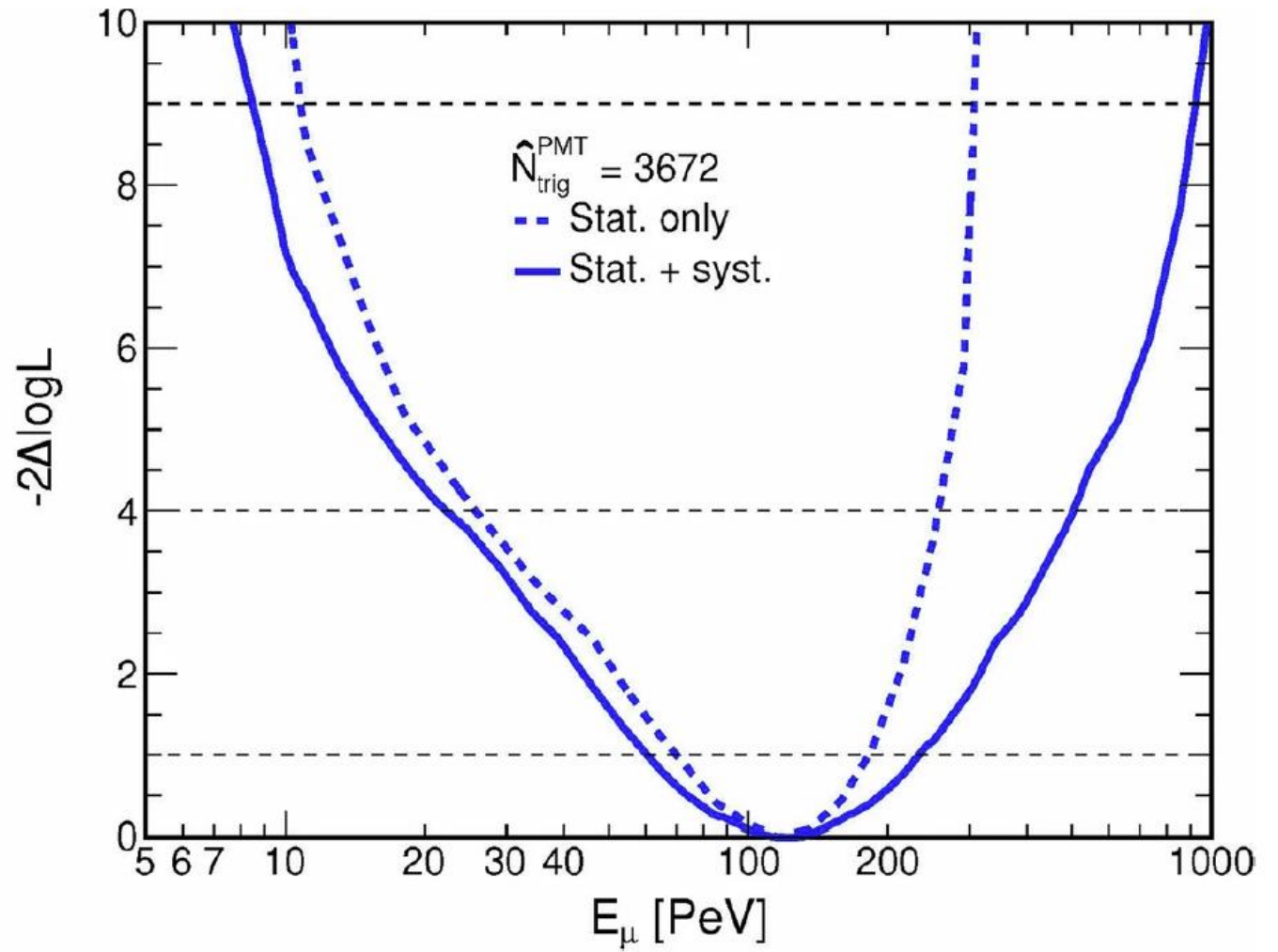
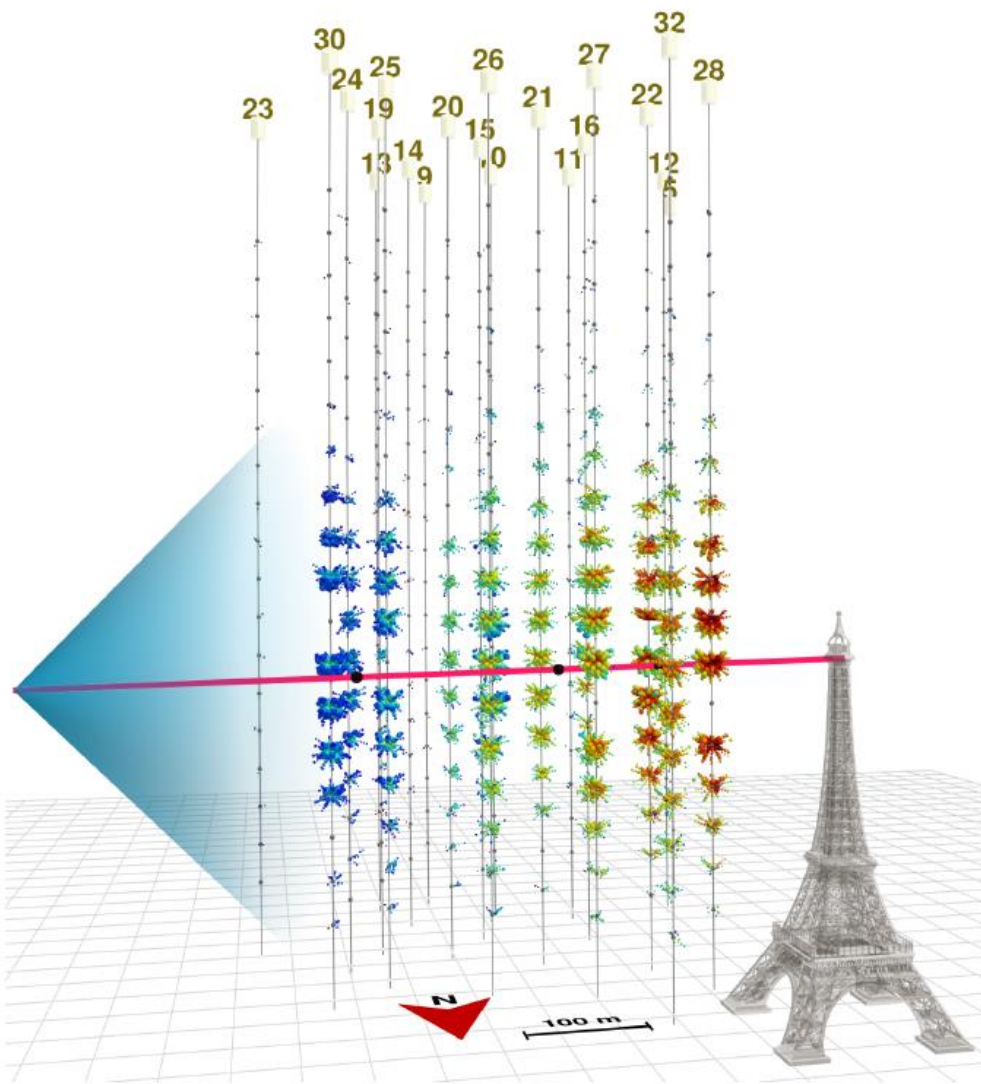
- from discovery to astronomy: there is a lot happening
- the high-energy neutrino sky and the discovery of the first neutrino sources
- **KM3NeT: a 220 PeV neutrino!**
- neutrino physics at PeV energy

techniques mature (and improving) and agree on the muon neutrino spectrum



Uncharted Territory: $E_\nu = 220$ PeV

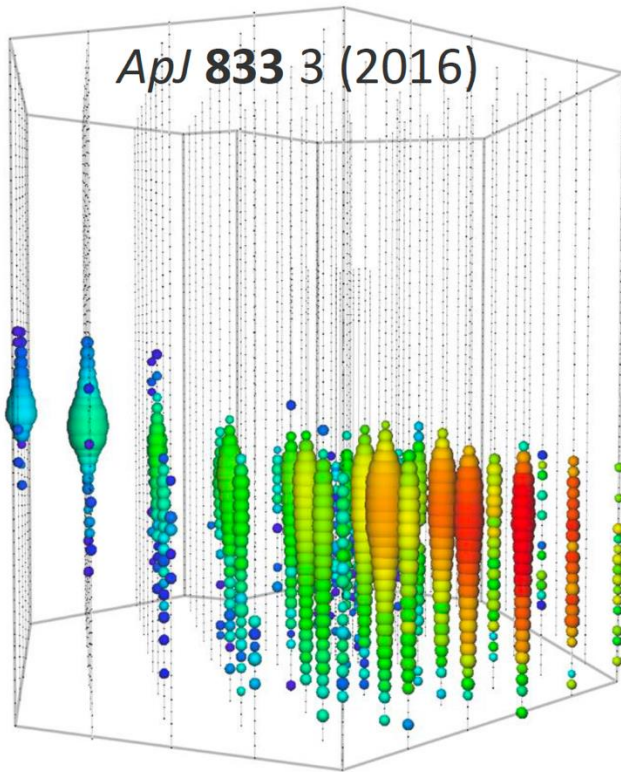




- Expected atmospheric muon contamination @ 100 PeV: $\ll 10^{-10}$ event/year within 2σ reconstructed direction
- Expected rate of atmospheric neutrinos >100 PeV: $\ll (1-5) \times 10^{-5}$ event/year

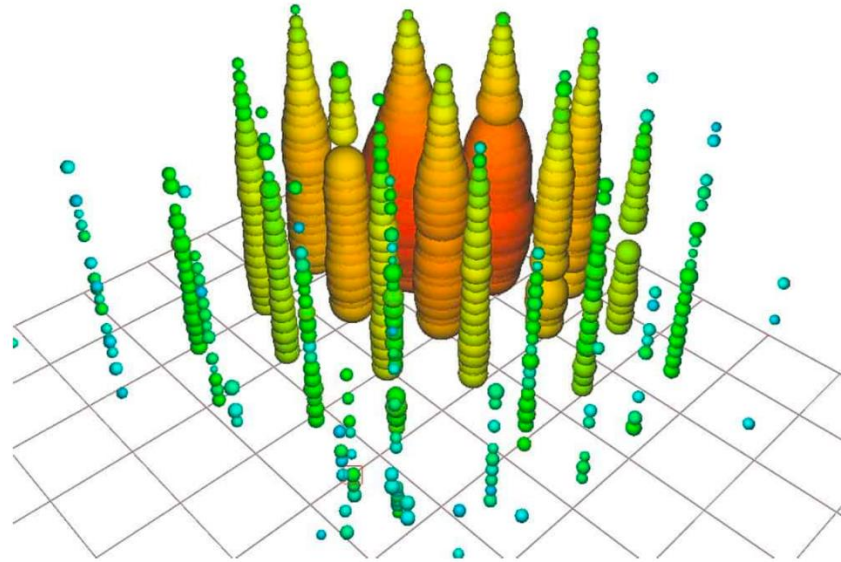
The highest energy neutrinos

- 3 events with neutrino energy > 5 PeV over a decade of data taking

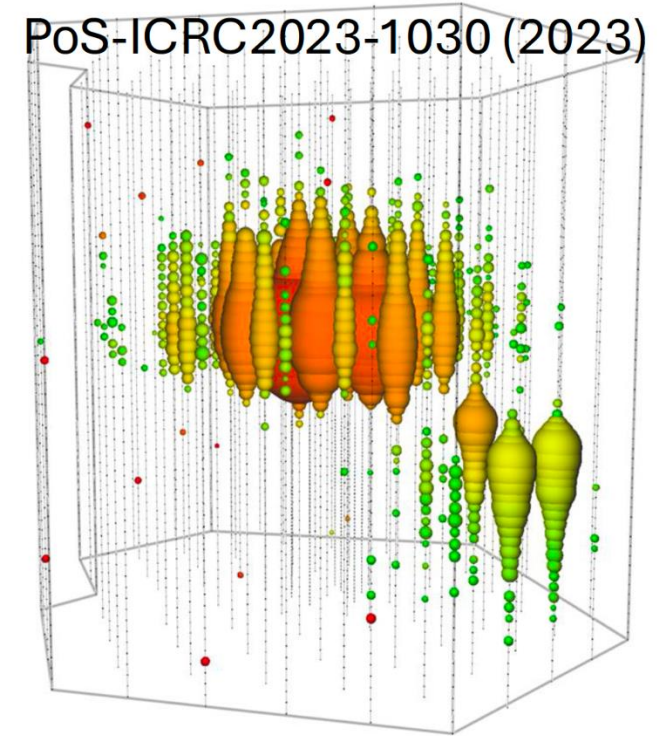


Muon energy: 4.5 ± 1.2 PeV
Nu energy ~ 9 PeV

Nature 591, 220–224 (2021)



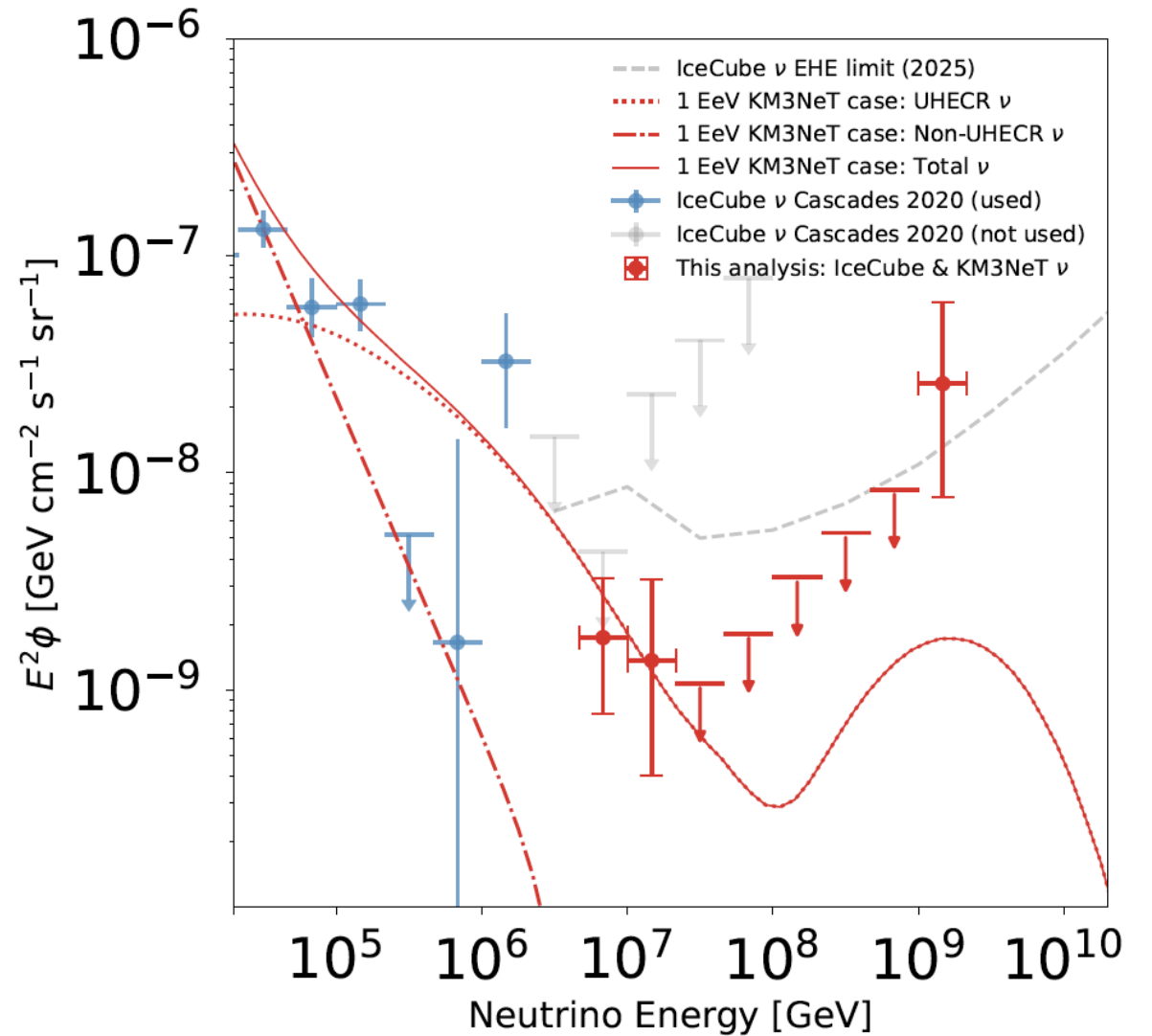
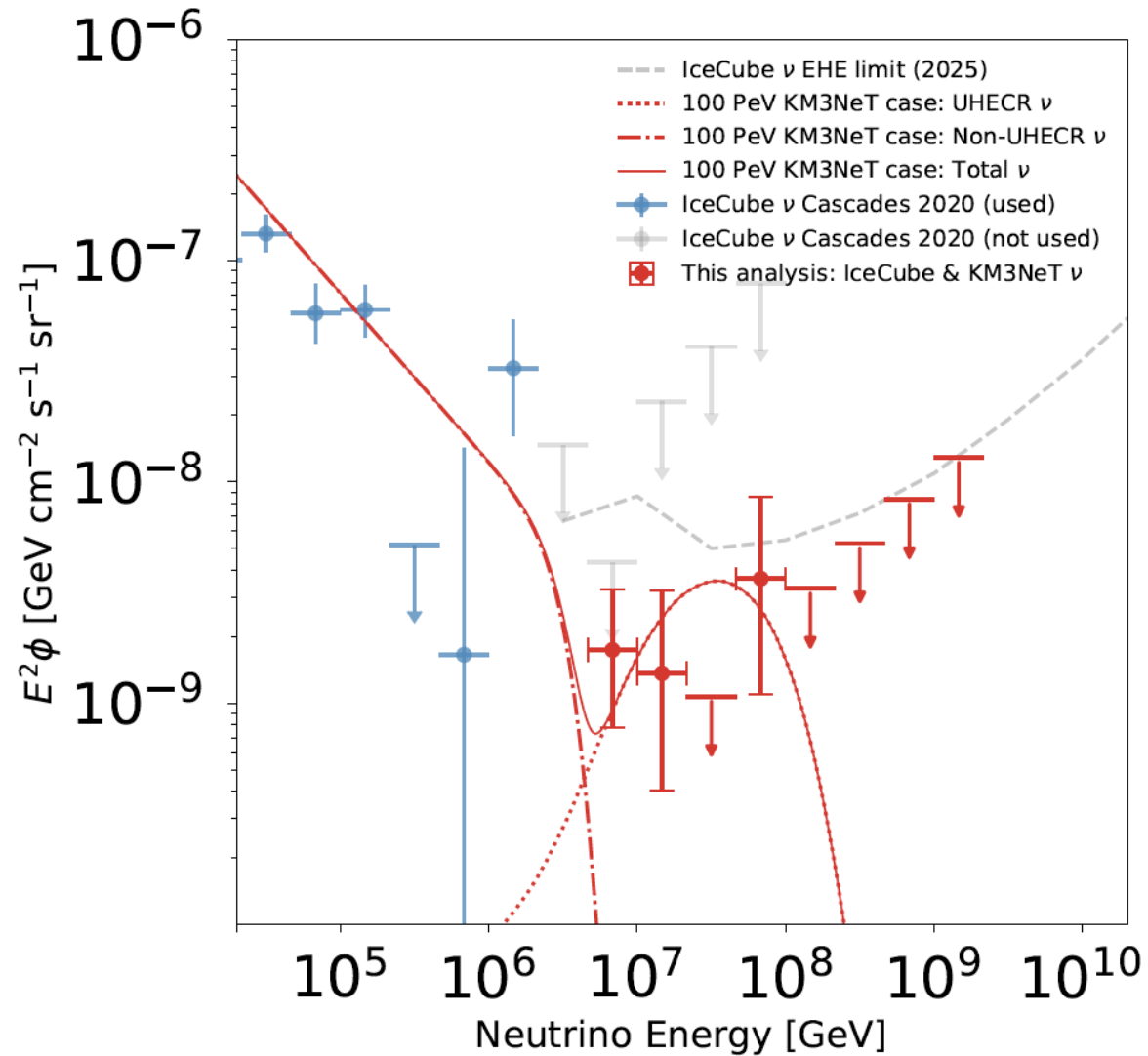
Deposited energy: 6.05 ± 0.72 PeV
Nu energy ~ 6.3 PeV



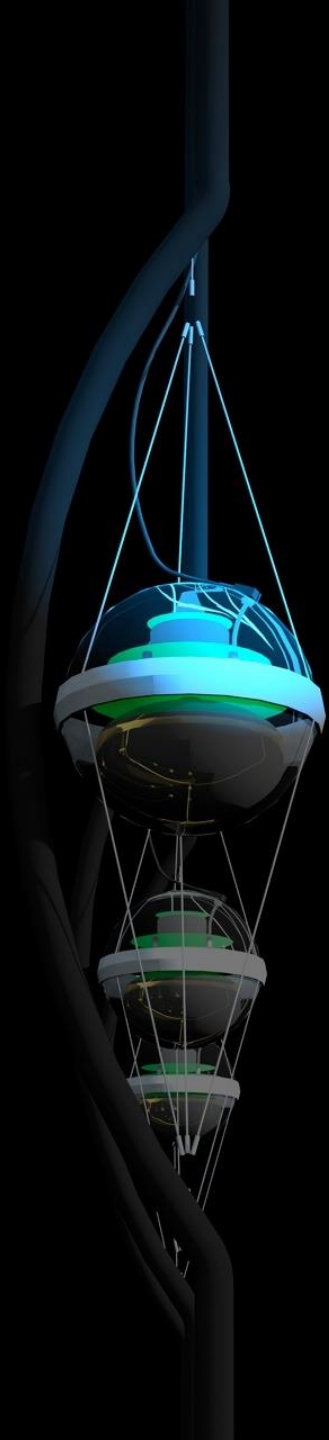
Nu energy $\sim 11.4 \pm 2.5$ PeV

* Also new search using IceTop as veto: 2025 PRD 112, 012022

common fit of KM3NeT event and IceCube events



(Lu Lu, Lepton-Photon 2025, Madison)



neutrino astronomy 2025

- it exists
- more neutrinos, better neutrinos, more telescopes
- closing in on cosmic ray sources a century after their discovery

THE ICECUBE COLLABORATION



Australia 1

1

UNITED KINGDOM 1



UNITED STATES 25

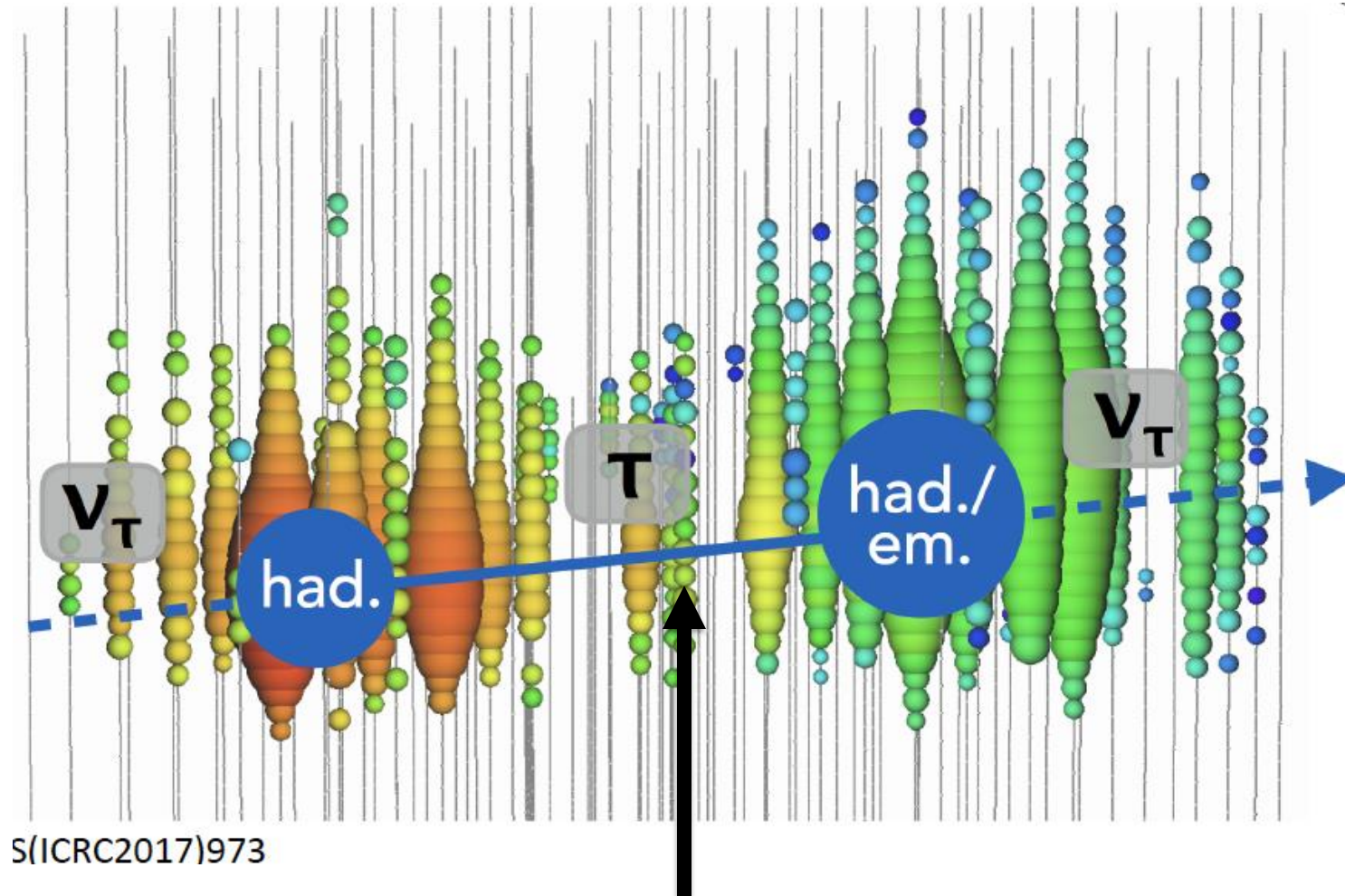
The First Decade of Neutrino Astronomy and Neutrino Physics

francis halzen



- from discovery to astronomy: there is a lot happening
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- KM3NeT: a 220 PeV neutrino!
- neutrino physics at PeV energy

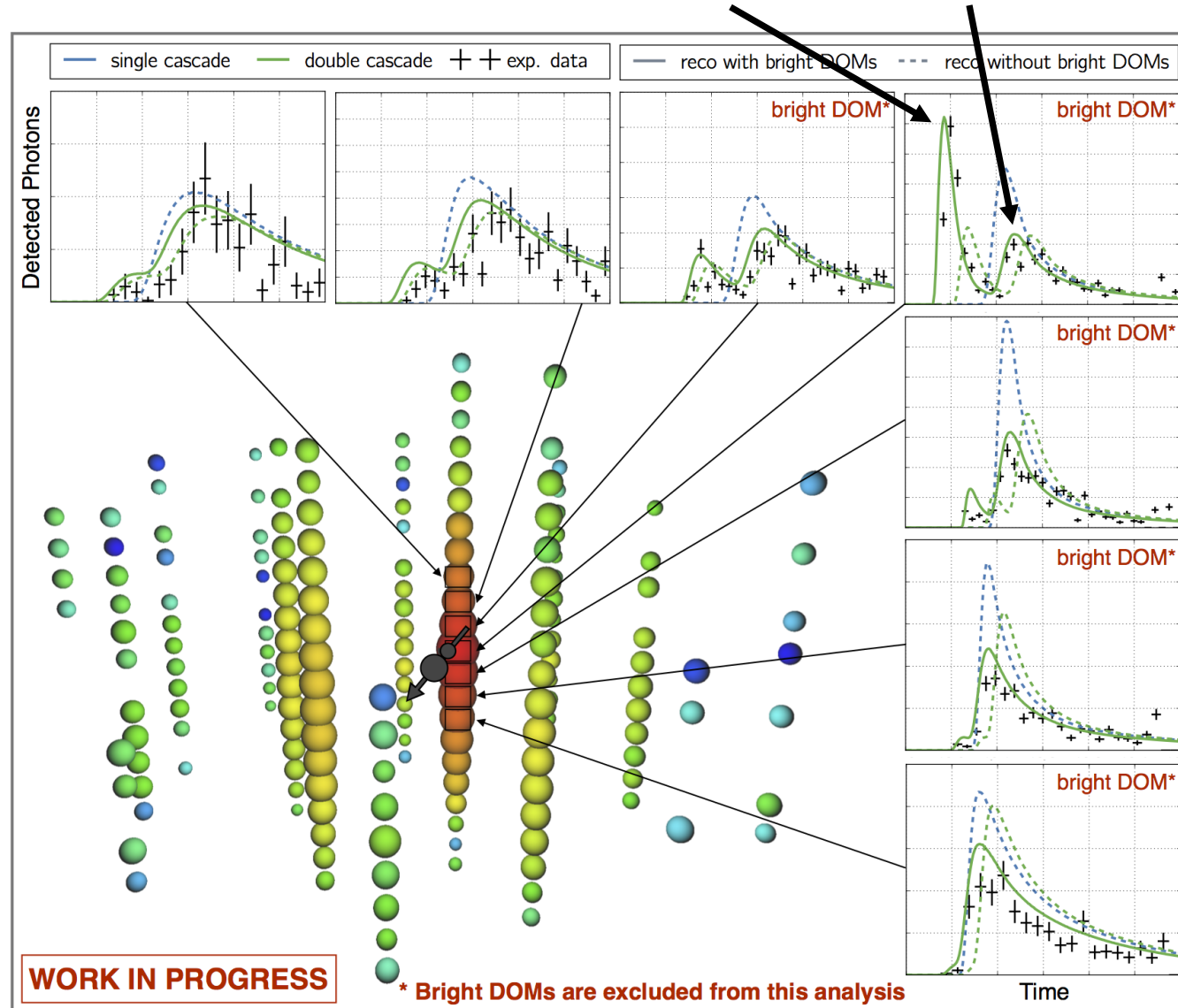
tau neutrino production and decay



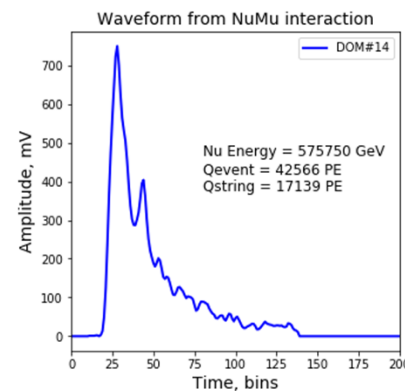
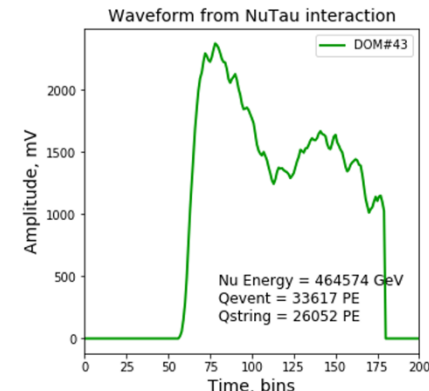
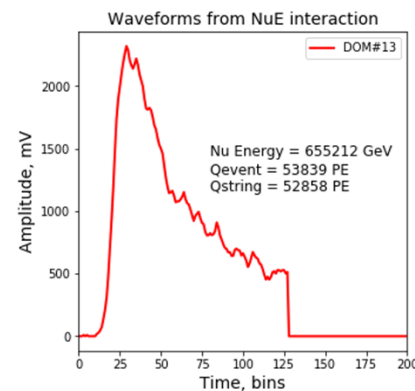
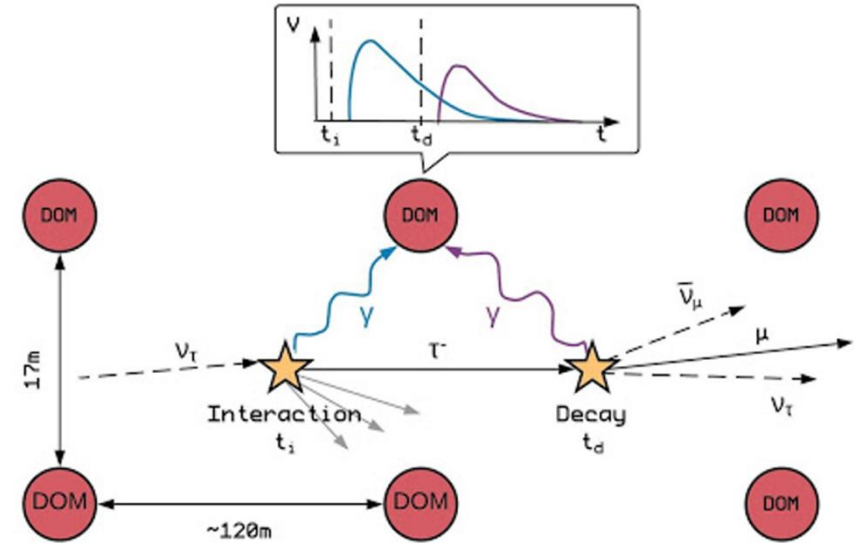
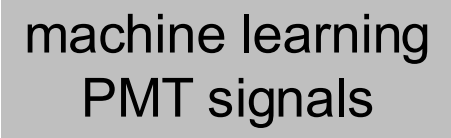
tau decay length:
 $\gamma c \tau = 50\text{m per PeV}$

a cosmic tau neutrino with 17m lifetime

light from nutau interaction and tau decay



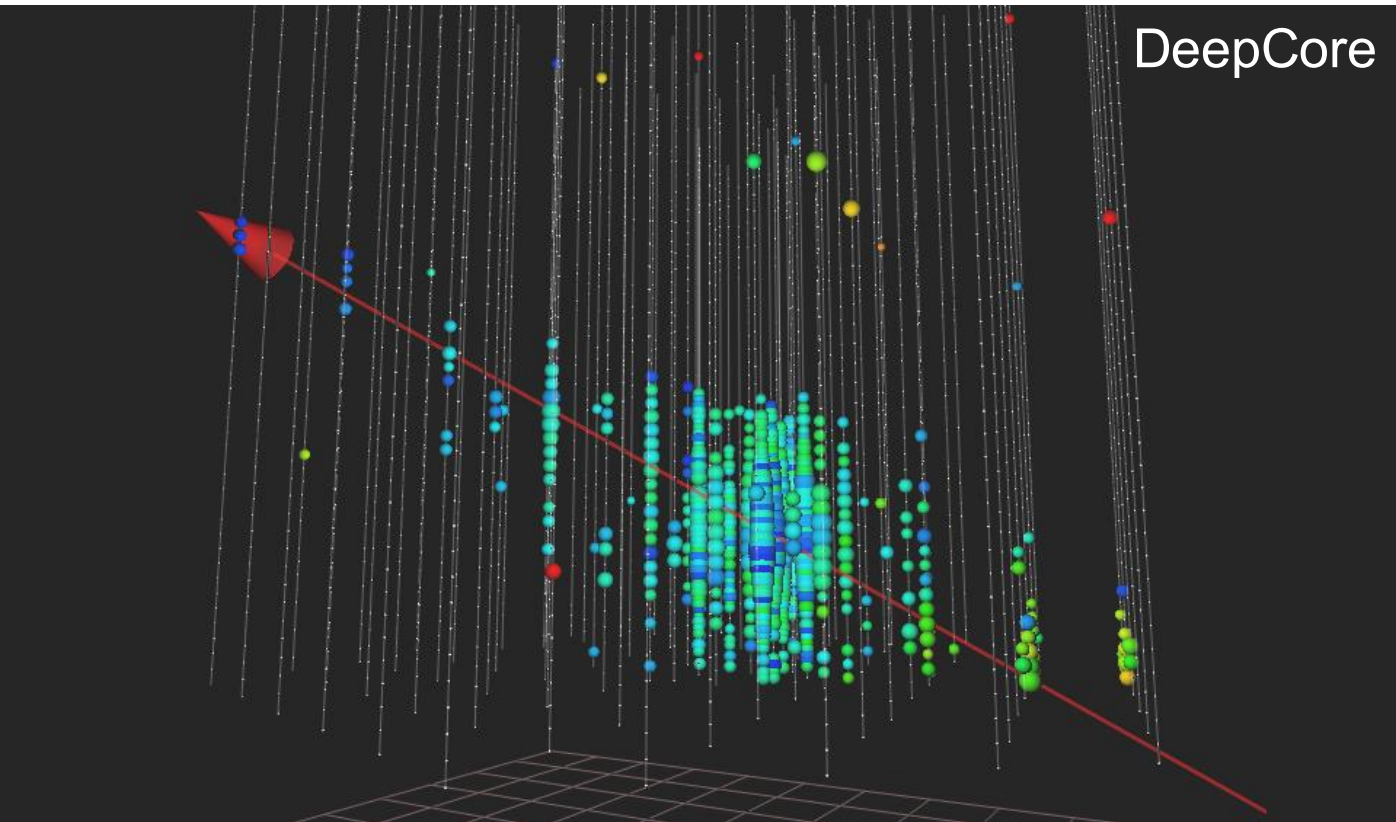
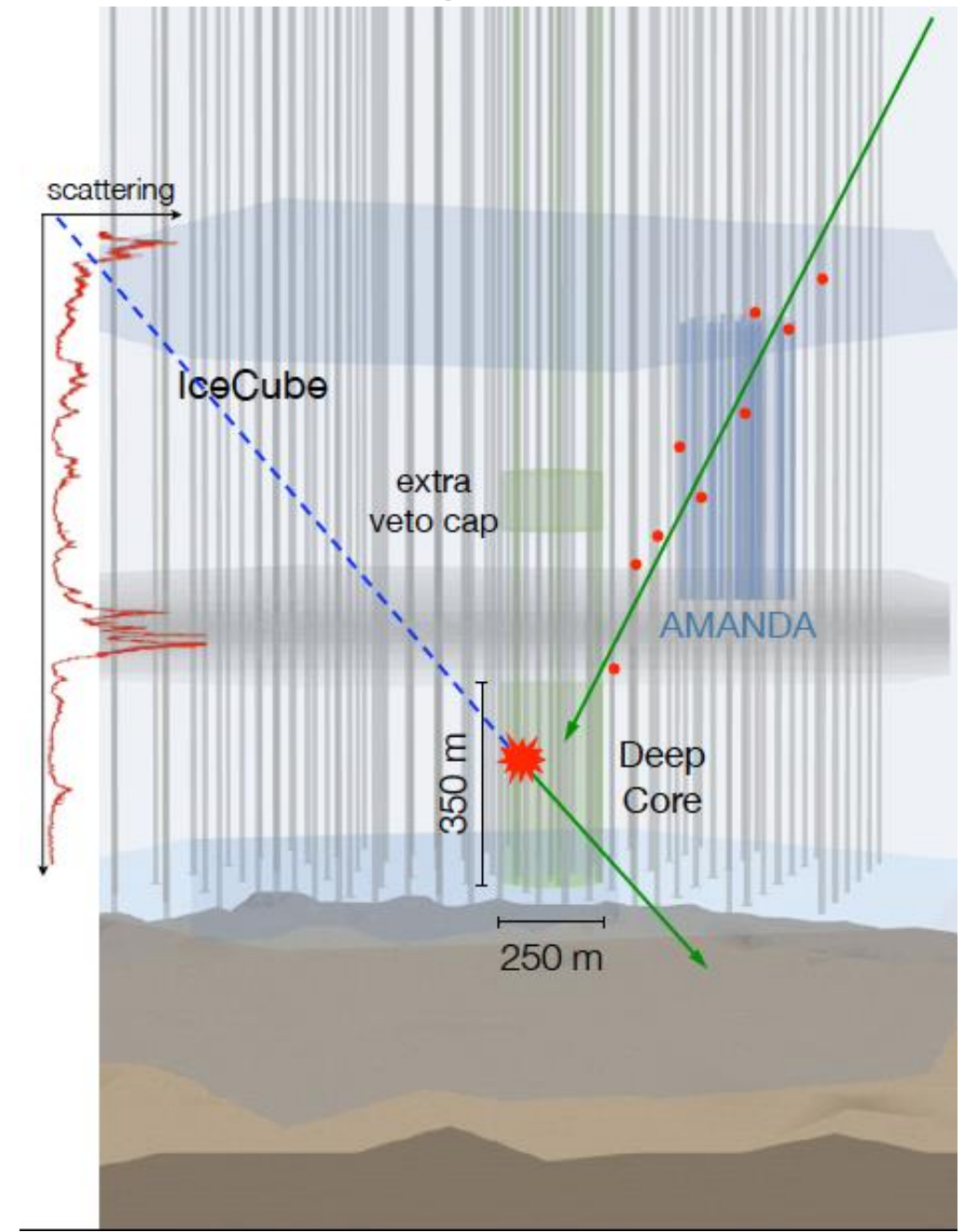
- starting events
(medium energy)



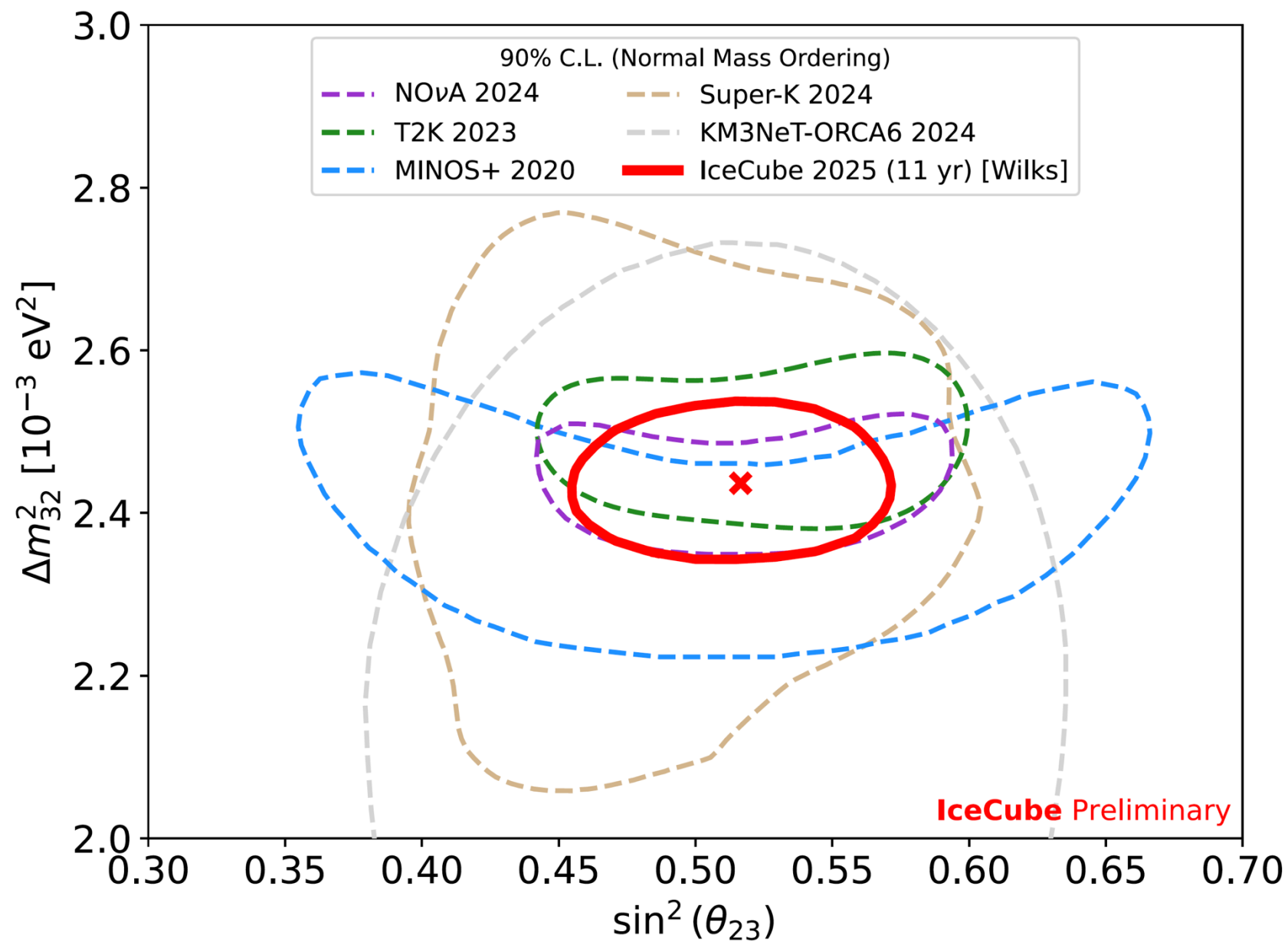
one million atmospheric neutrinos:

- threshold 100 TeV \rightarrow 5 GeV
- > 2 megaton detector
- near 25 GeV energy nearly all muon neutrinos reappear as tau neutrinos. We measure both!

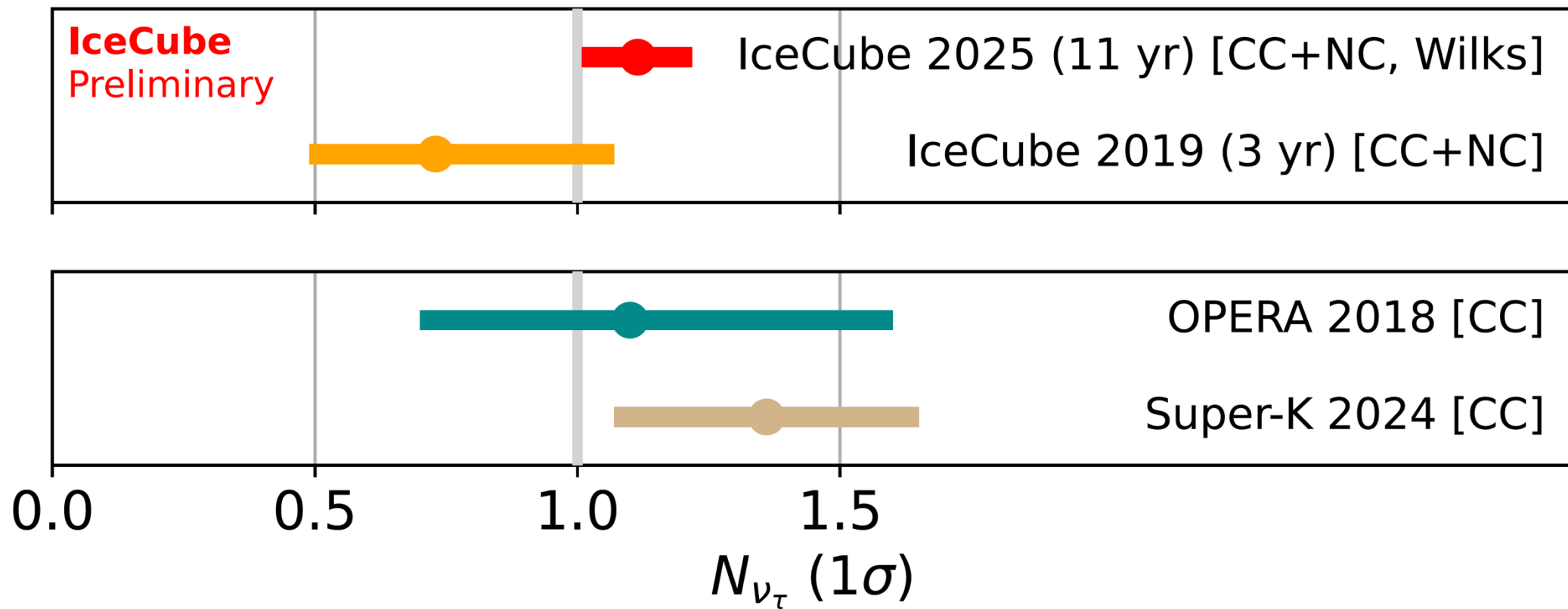
IceCube veto: less background than SNOLAB



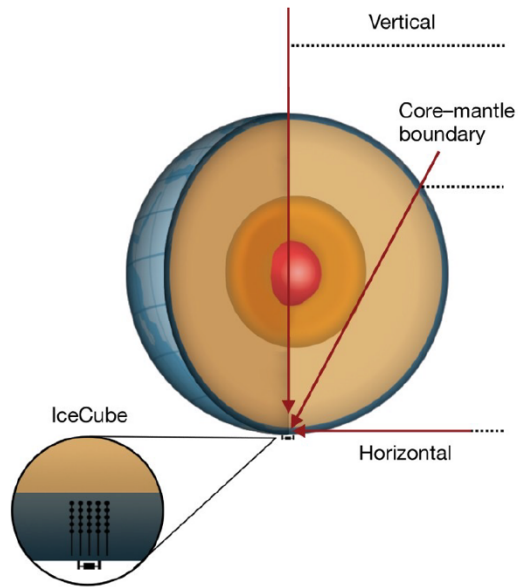
KM3NeT ORCA
and
IceCubeUpgrade
soon



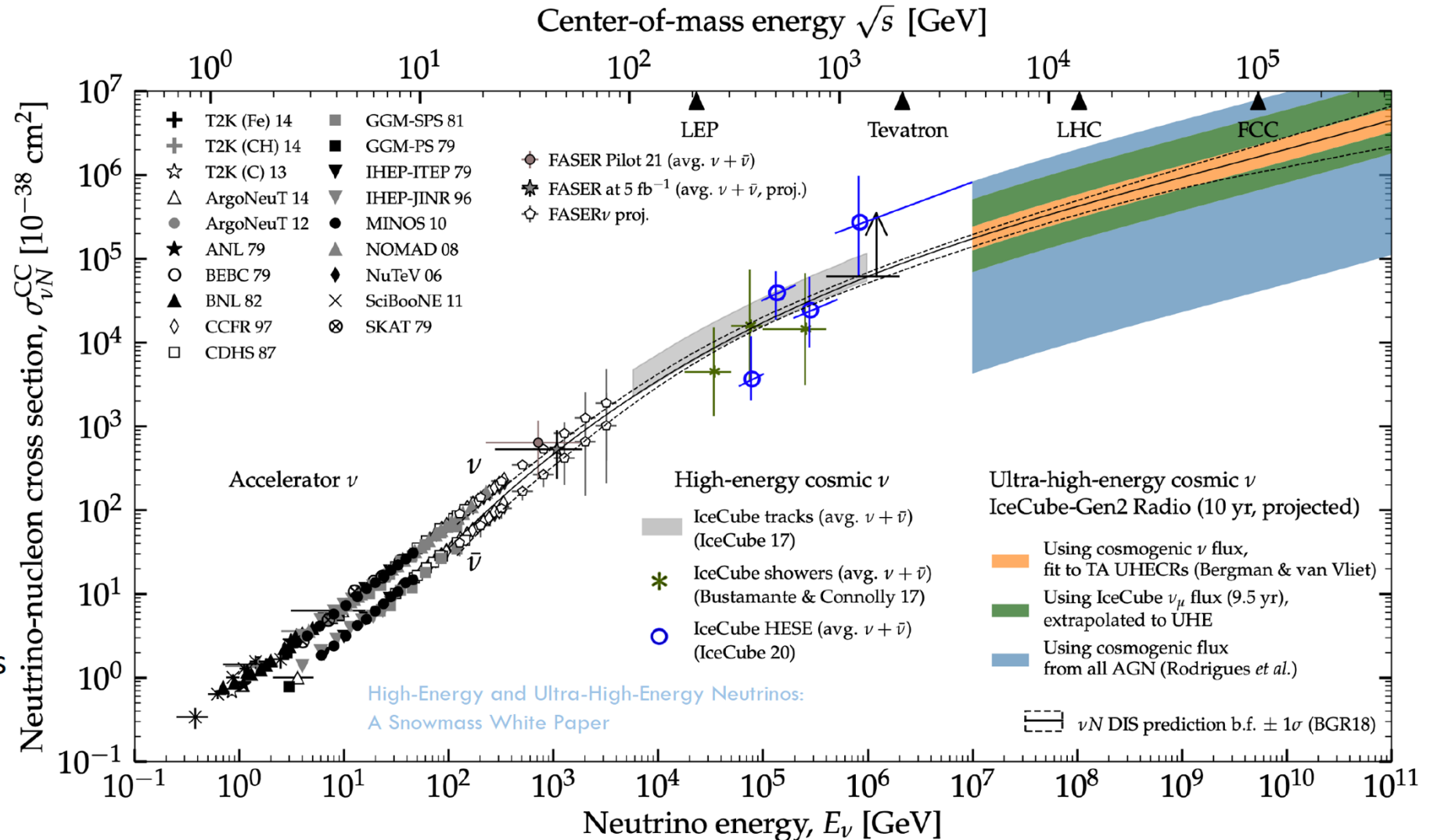
NUFACT 2025



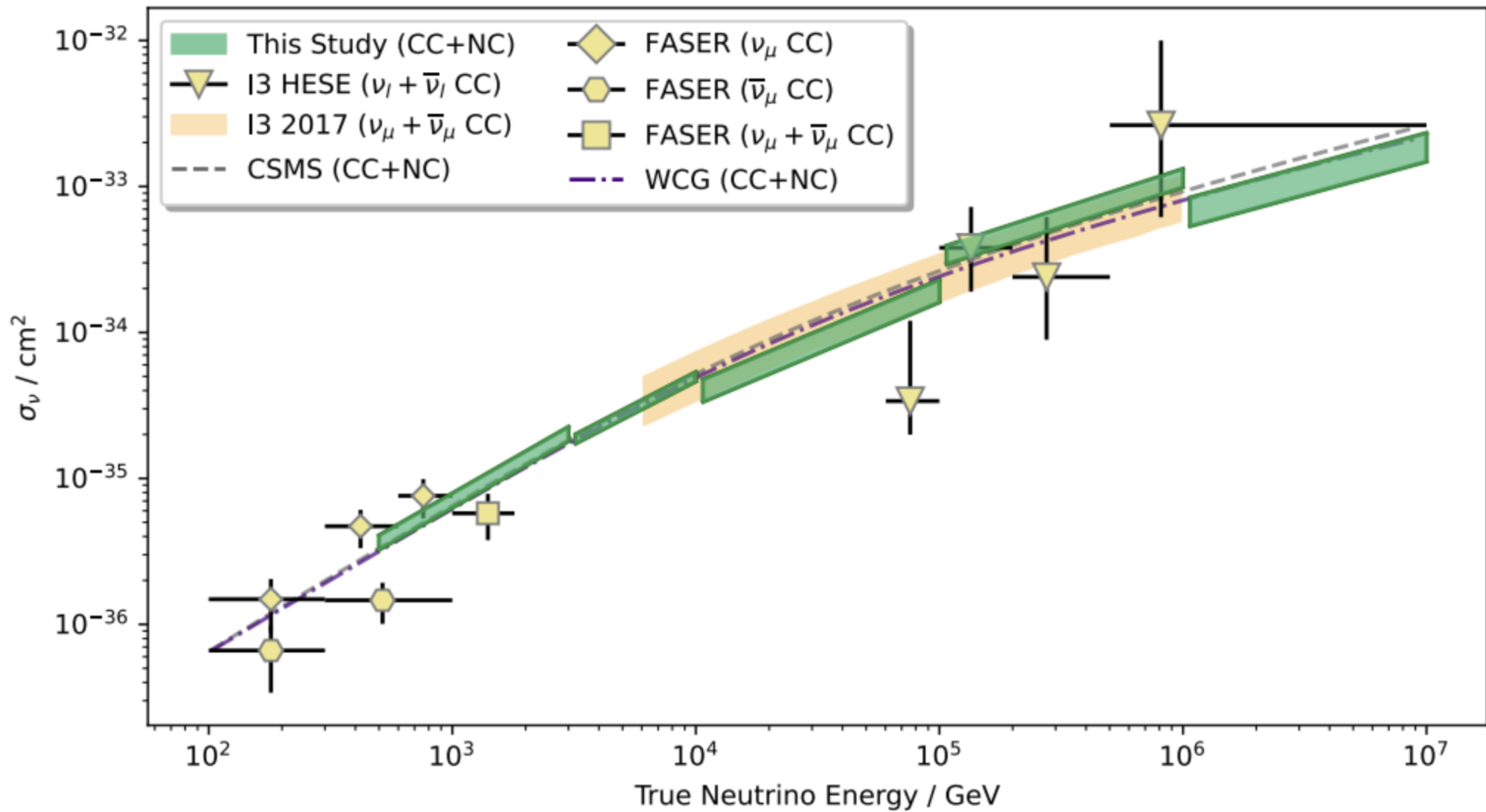
CROSS SECTION WITH EARTH AS THE TARGET



Extending x-section measurements to energies beyond Earth-based accelerators



also dark matter, BSM physics, supernova watch,...glaciology



Space-time foam

← ν, γ

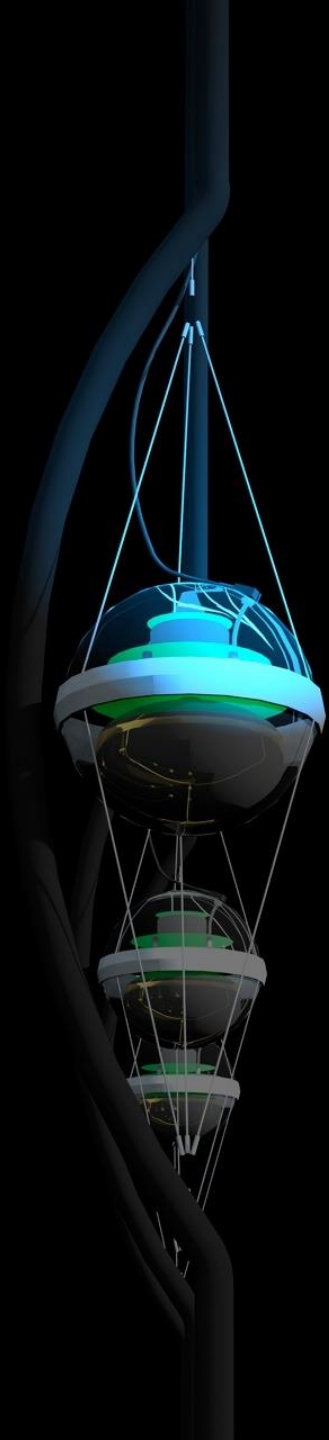
- quantized space: quantum fluctuations of space-time when geometry is activated
- oscillations as interferometer sensing quantum fluctuations
- the effects are small but become observable for high energies and long distances

$$E^2 = p^2 + m^2 \pm E^2 \left(\frac{E}{M_{QG}} \right)^n \pm \dots$$

so far standard oscillations prevail
with no evidence for decoherence
even after probing $M_{QG} > M_{Planck}$

[2308.00105 [hep-ex]]





neutrino astronomy 2025

- it exists
- more neutrinos, better neutrinos, more telescopes
- closing in on cosmic ray sources a century after their discovery
- Galactic PeVatrons

THE ICECUBE COLLABORATION



Australia 1

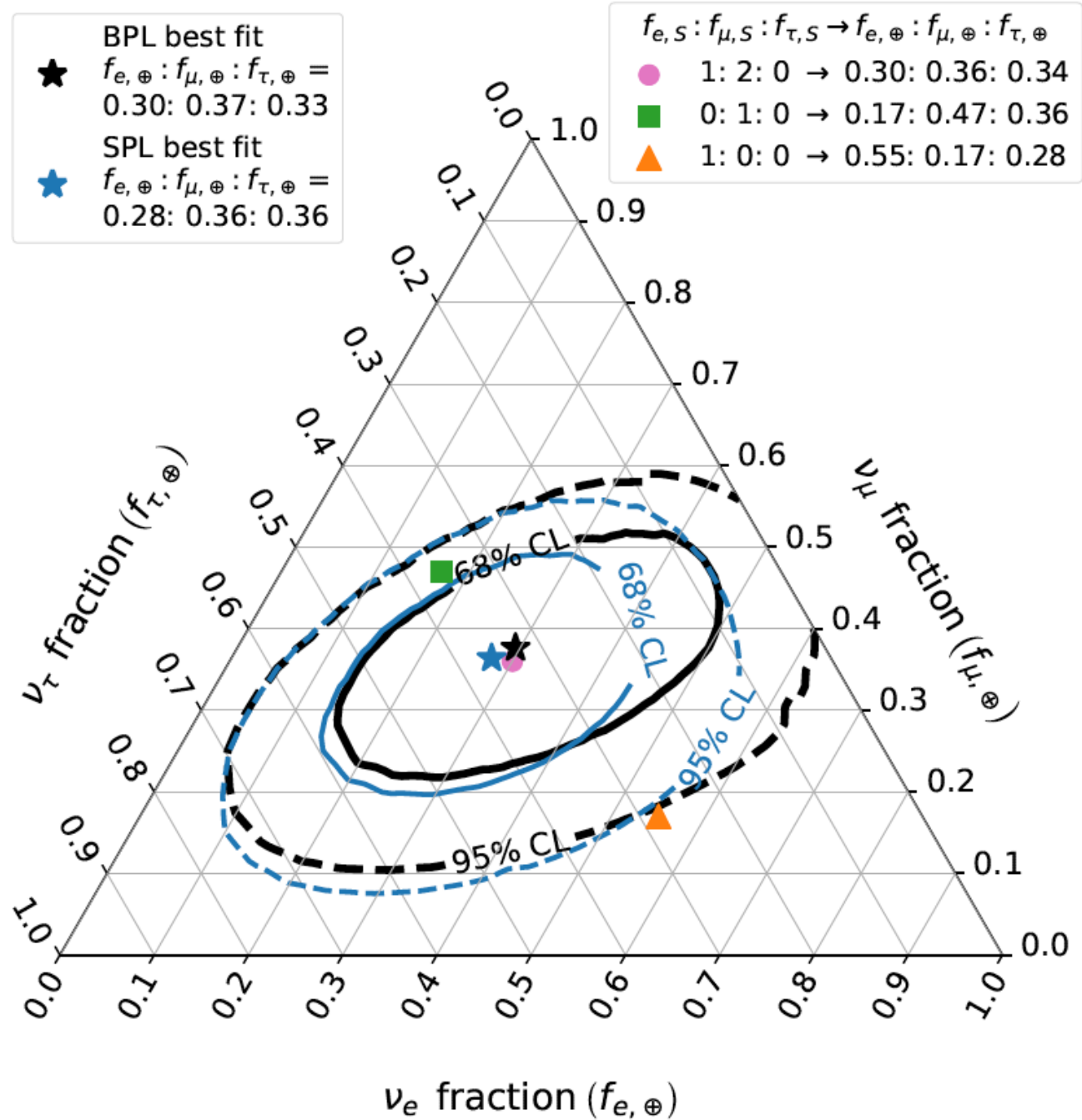
1

UNITED KINGDOM 1

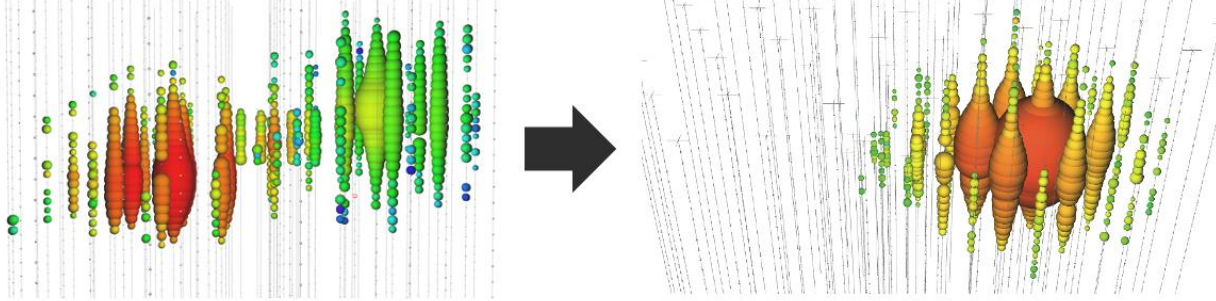


UNITED STATES 25

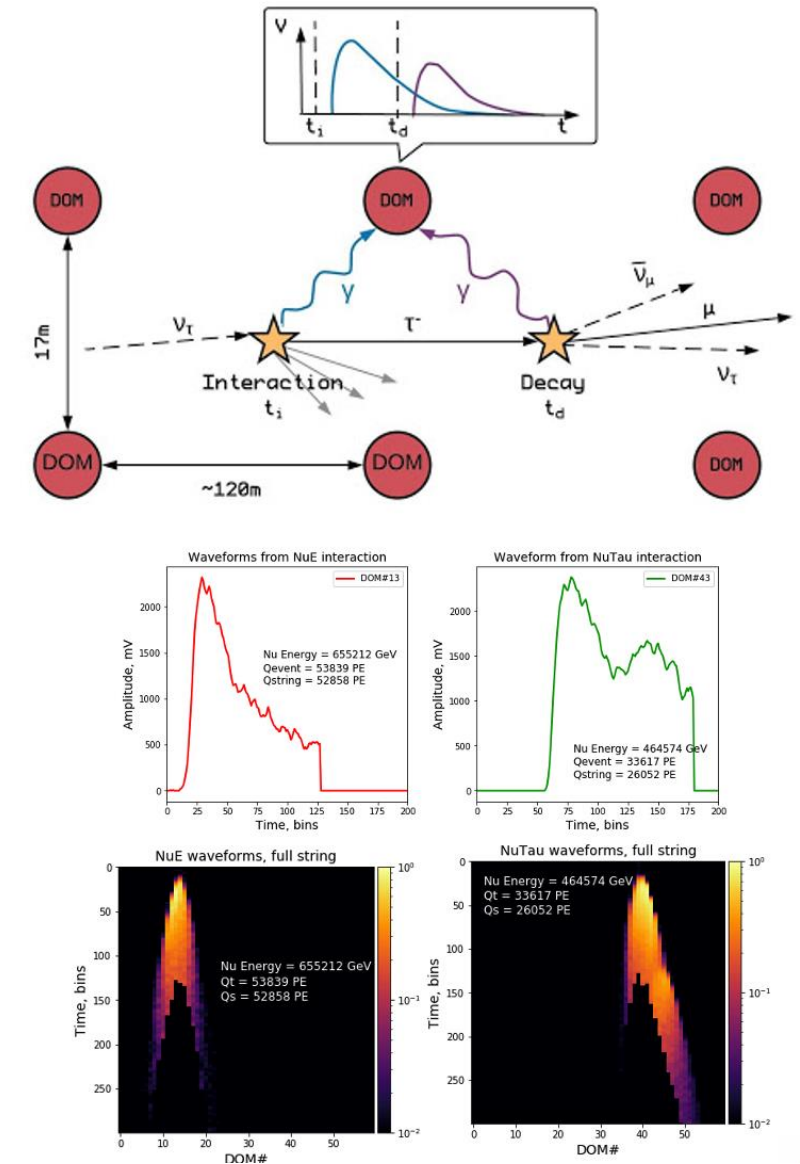
overflow sides



Astrophysical Tau Neutrino Search

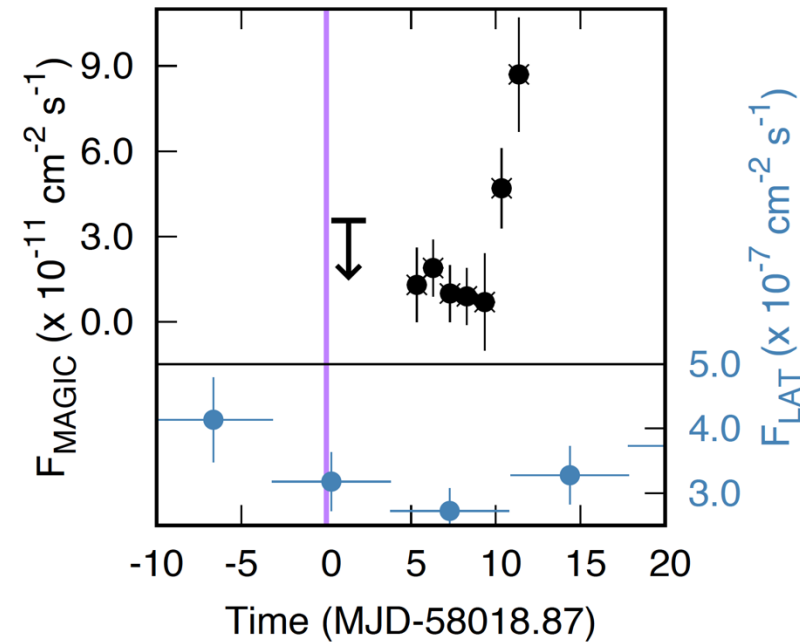
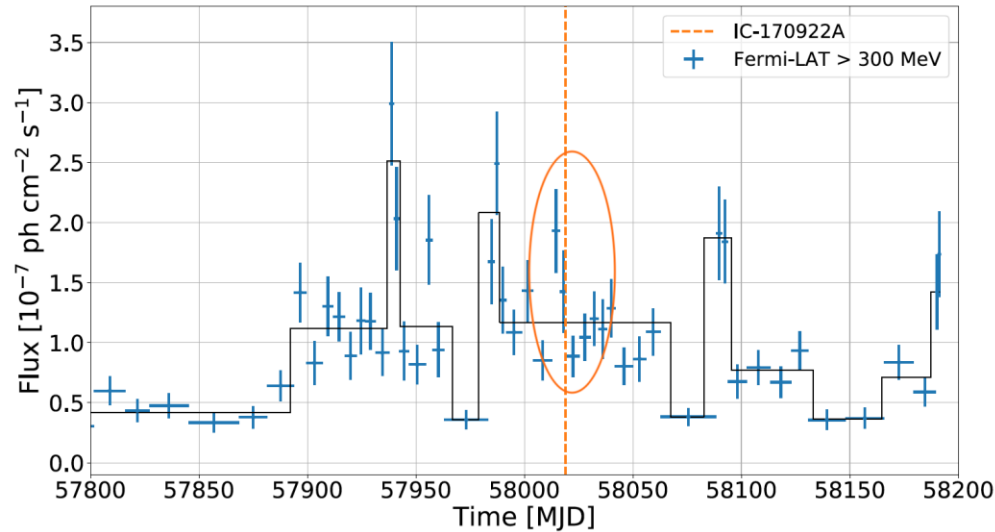


- TeV – O(1) PeV Tau neutrinos look like Electron neutrinos due to sparse instrumentation
- Differentiation by shape of waveform in a given module, i.e. two waveforms in the same module offset by a certain quantity
- Create an image (2D histogram) of the charge distribution in time along a string
- CNN used to find the subtle difference in waveform shapes



→ Standard Model: 8 expected on a background of 1 and 7 found for a flavor ratio 1:1:1

gamma rays in 2017 at the time the neutrino is produced ?
a few ~ 10 GeV photons and not much else, consistent with
an obscured source, not a blazar



- MAGIC, HESS and VERITAS: no TeV gamma rays at the time the neutrino was produced
- MAGIC: onset of the TeV flux 5 days after IC170922
- confirmed by MASTER: the blazar switches from the “off” to “on” state 2 hours after the neutrino

MASTER

robotic network

optical observations

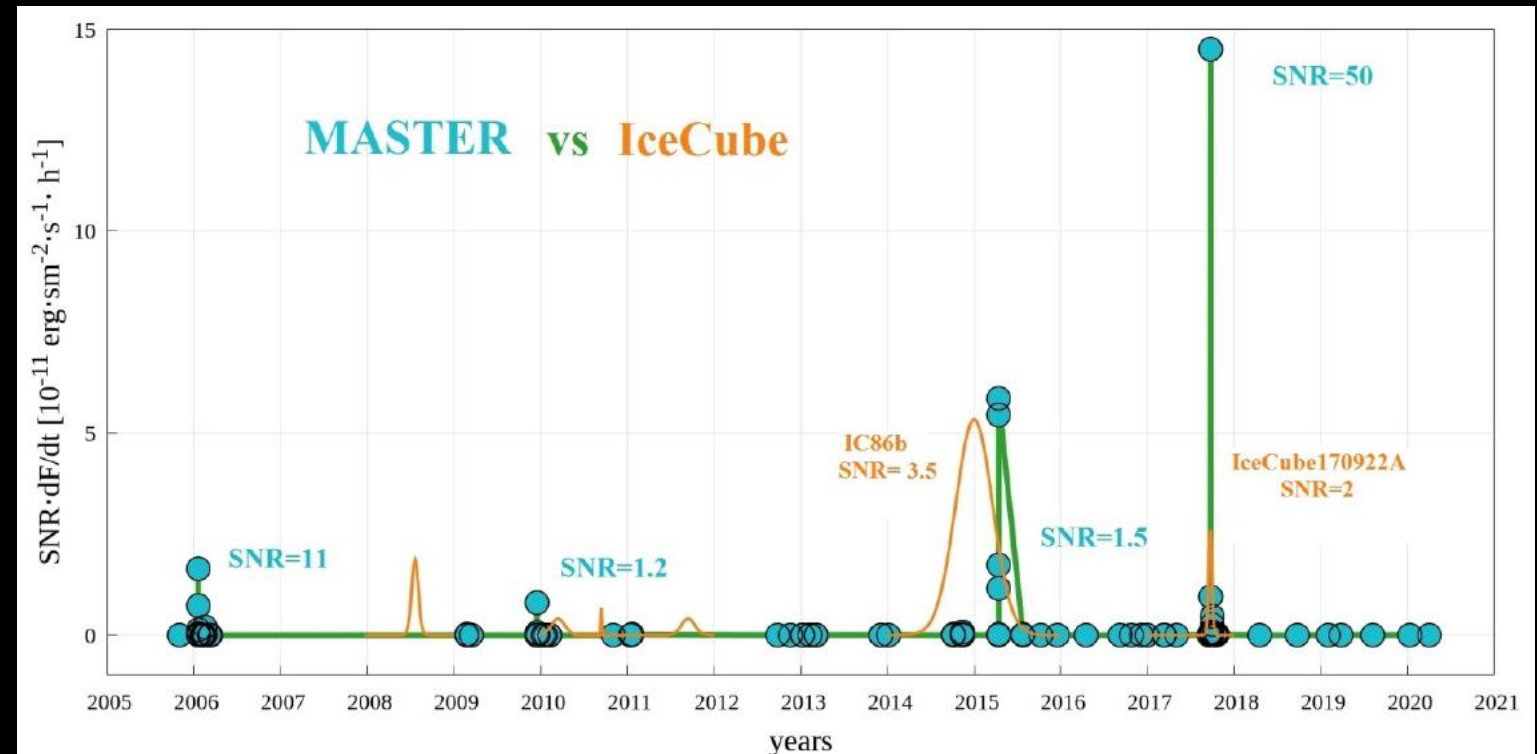
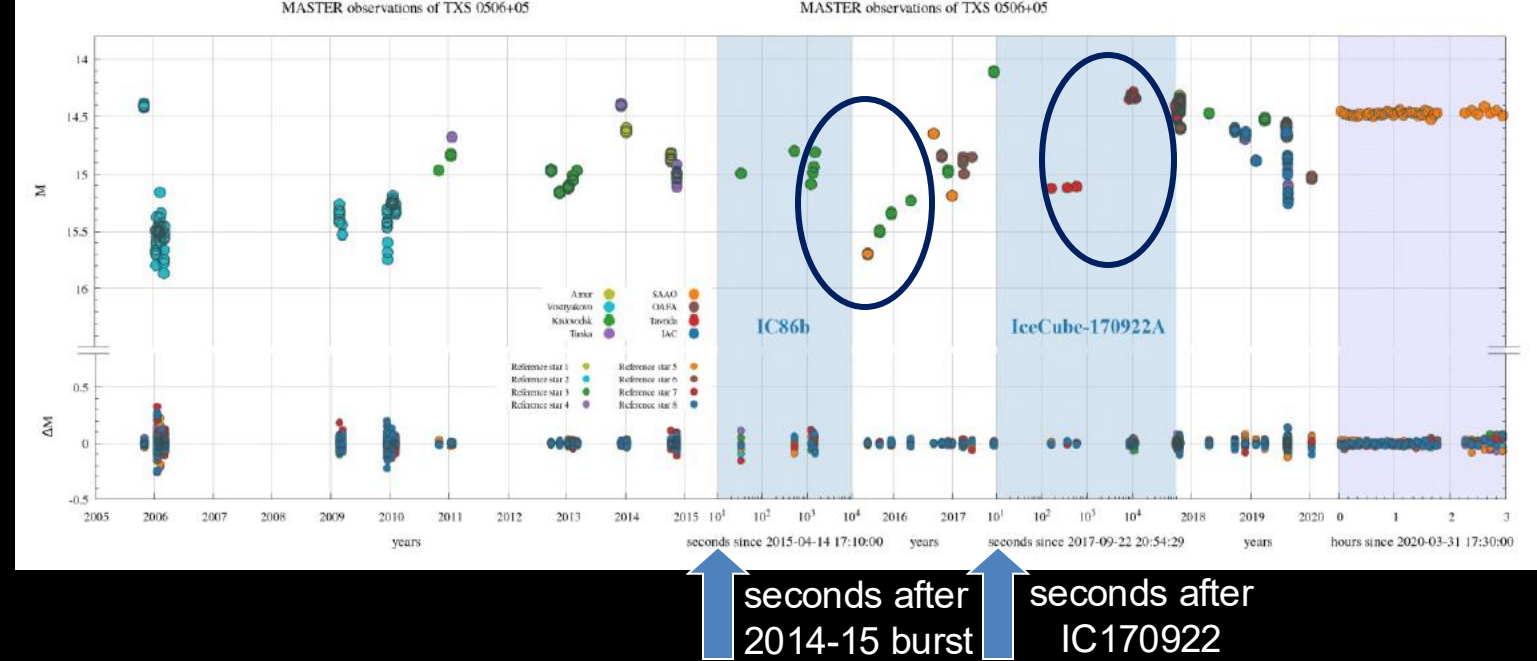
TXS 0506+056

since 2005

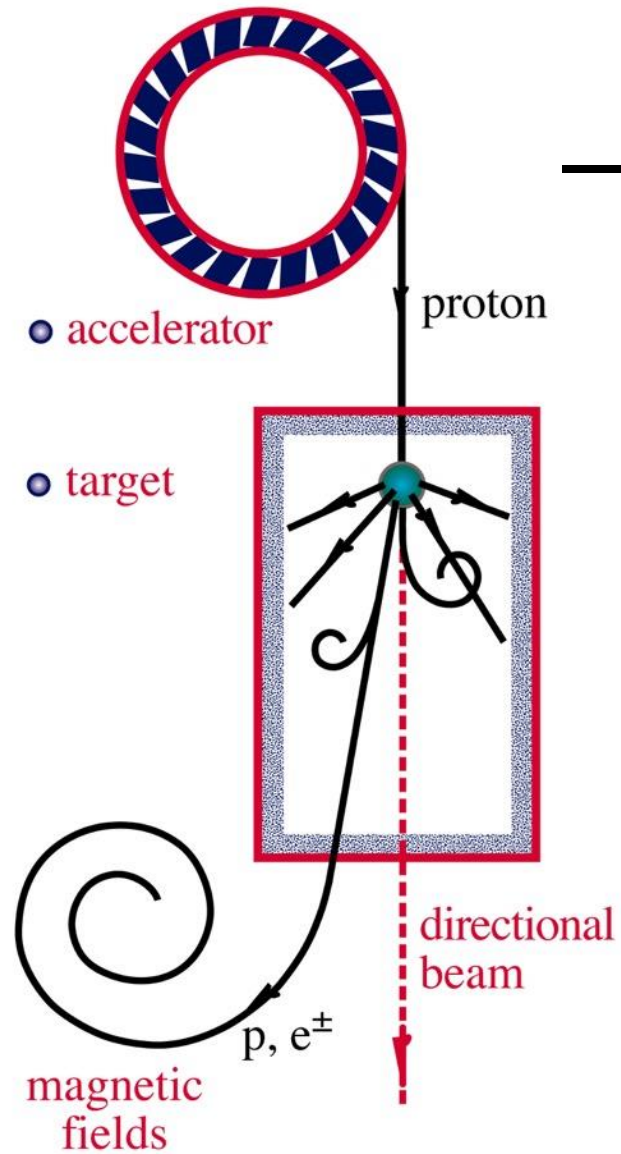
blue panels:
expanded time axis
years \rightarrow seconds

time variation of flux
times
signal-to-noise

hour-scale
variability of the
source after
neutrino emission



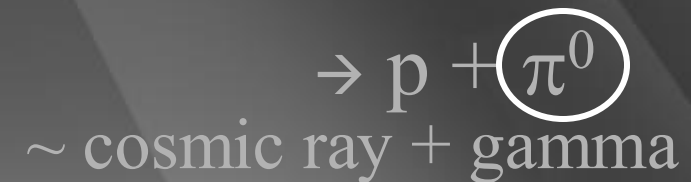
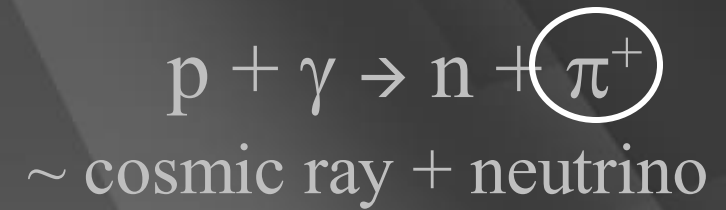
ν and γ beams : heaven and earth



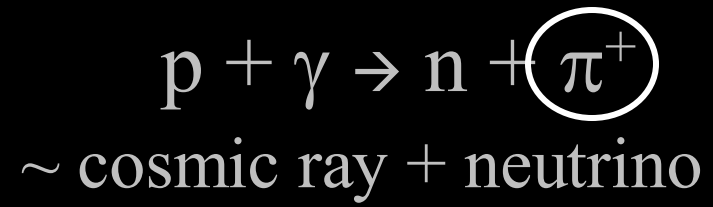
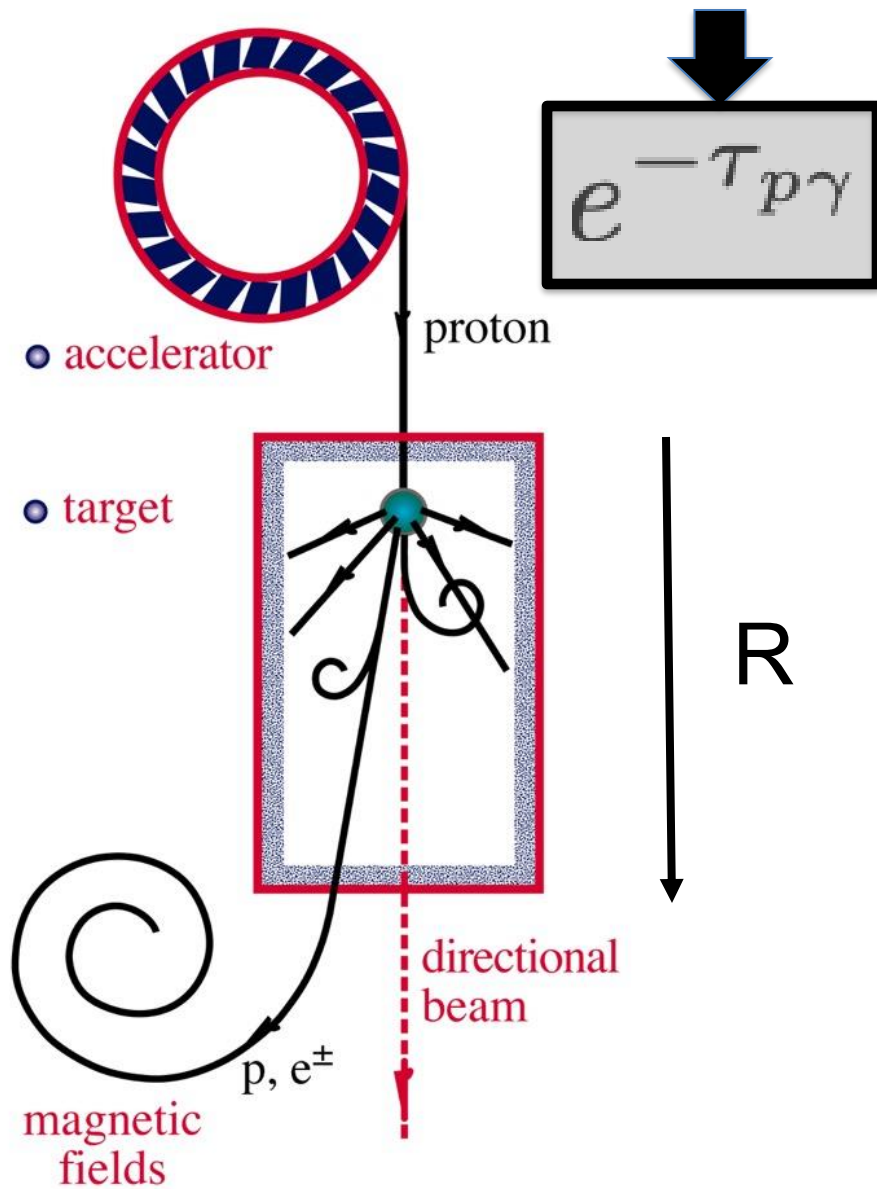
where are the gamma rays from π^0 ?

pionic gamma rays lose energy in the target that produces the neutrinos

$$\tau_{\gamma\gamma} \simeq 10^3 \tau_{p\gamma}$$



ν and γ beams : protons on target

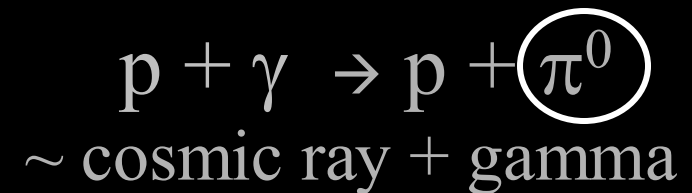


- optical depth τ = cross section x target density

$$\tau_{p\gamma} \sim \sigma_{p\gamma} n_{p\gamma} \sim \sigma_{p\gamma} \frac{1}{R} \frac{L_\gamma}{E_\gamma}$$

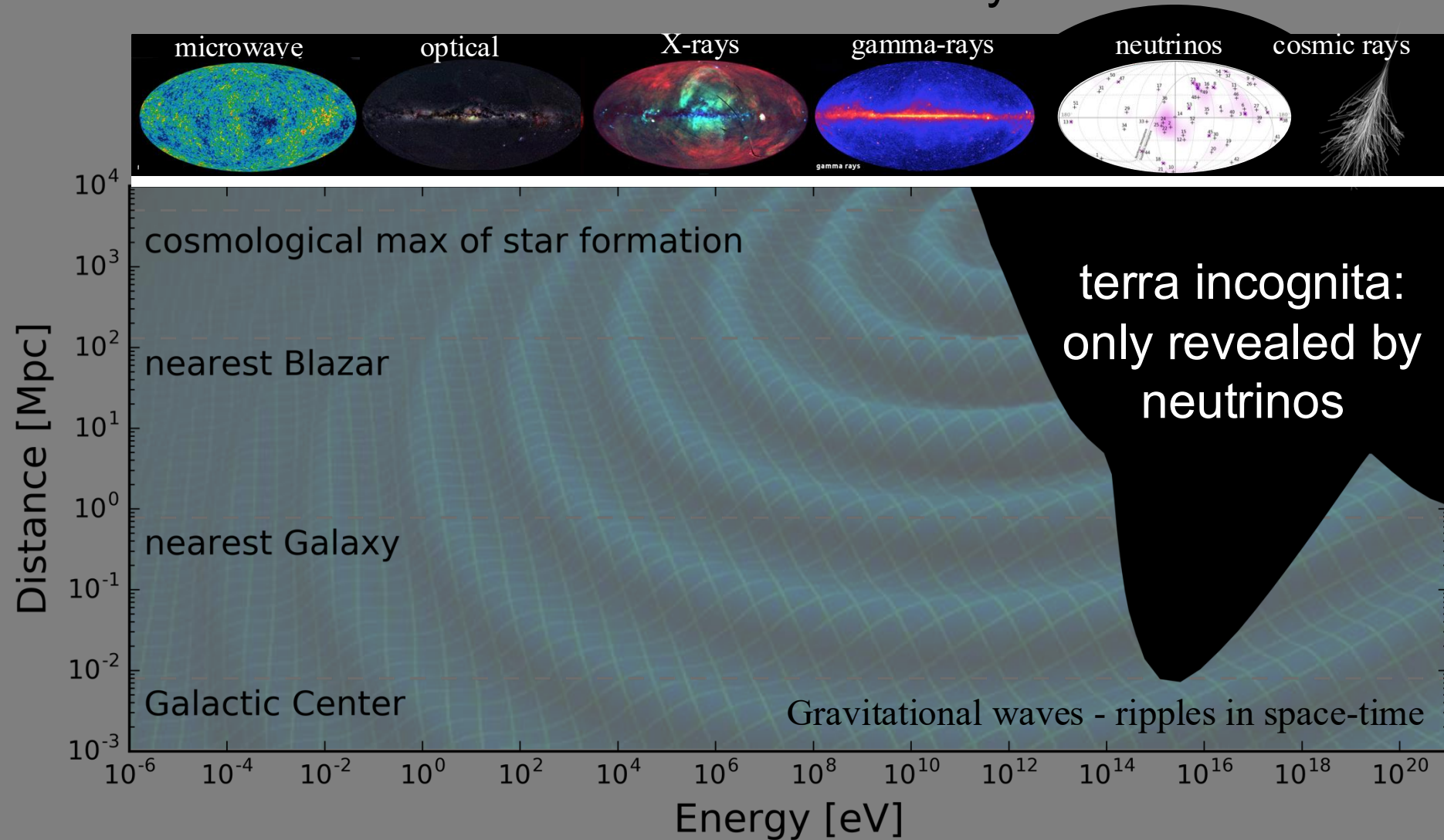
$e^{-\tau_{p\gamma}}$ $\tau_{p\gamma} \sim \sigma_{p\gamma} \frac{1}{R} \frac{L_x}{E_x}$

- pionic gamma rays are absorbed in the target that produces the neutrinos



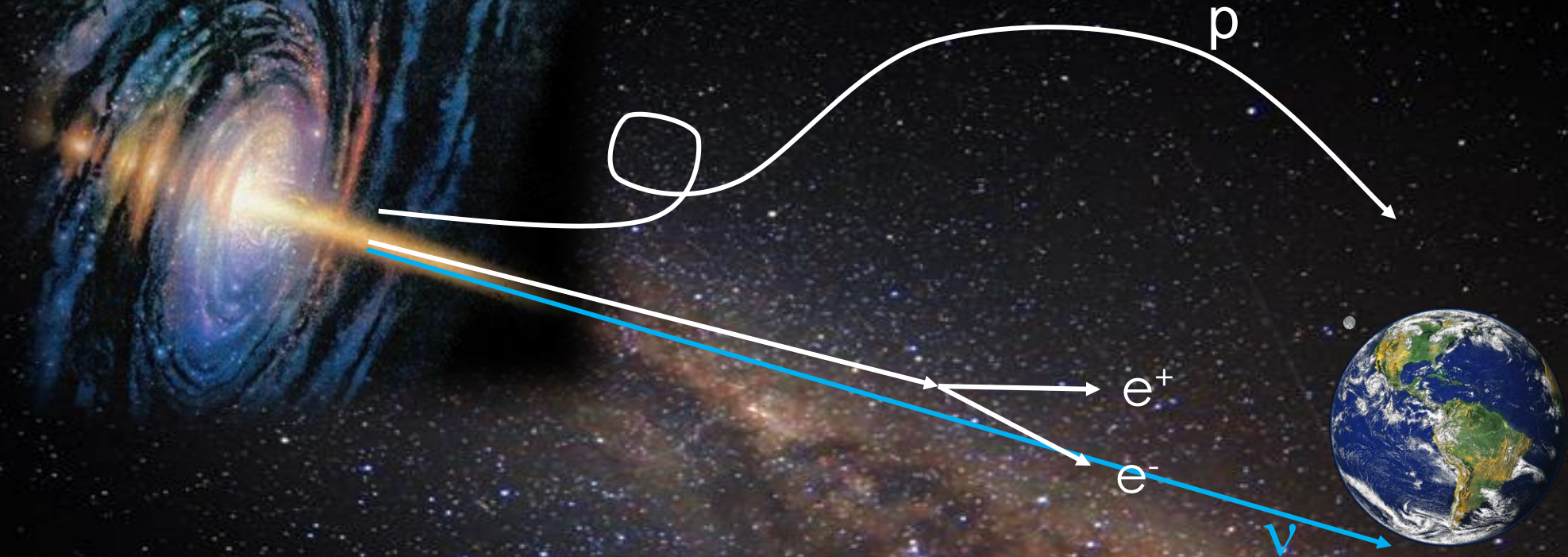
$$\tau_{\gamma\gamma} \simeq 10^3 \tau_{p\gamma}$$

highest energy “radiation” from the Universe: neutrinos and cosmic rays



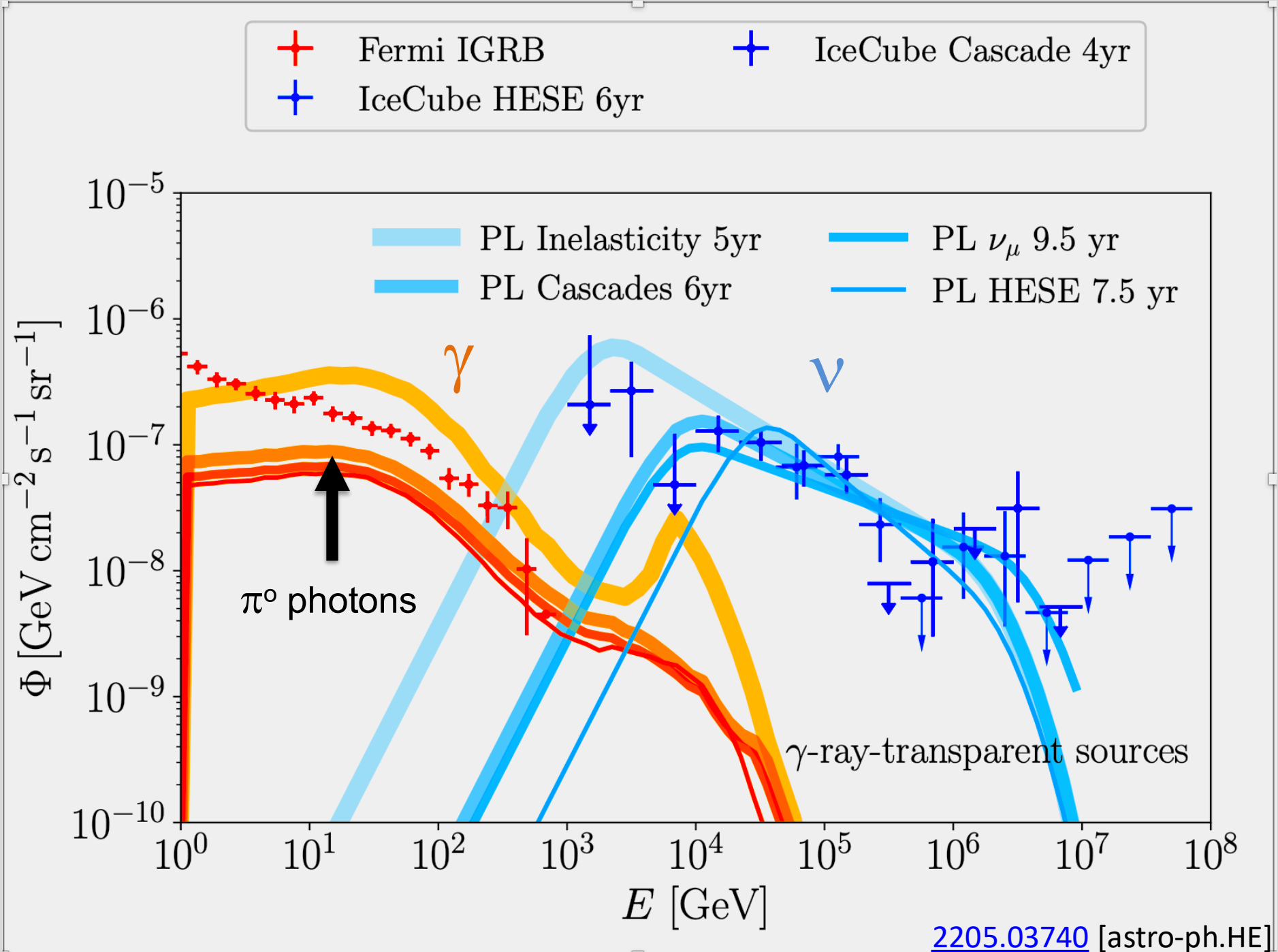
Universe beyond our Galaxy is opaque to gamma rays

neutrinos: perfect messengers



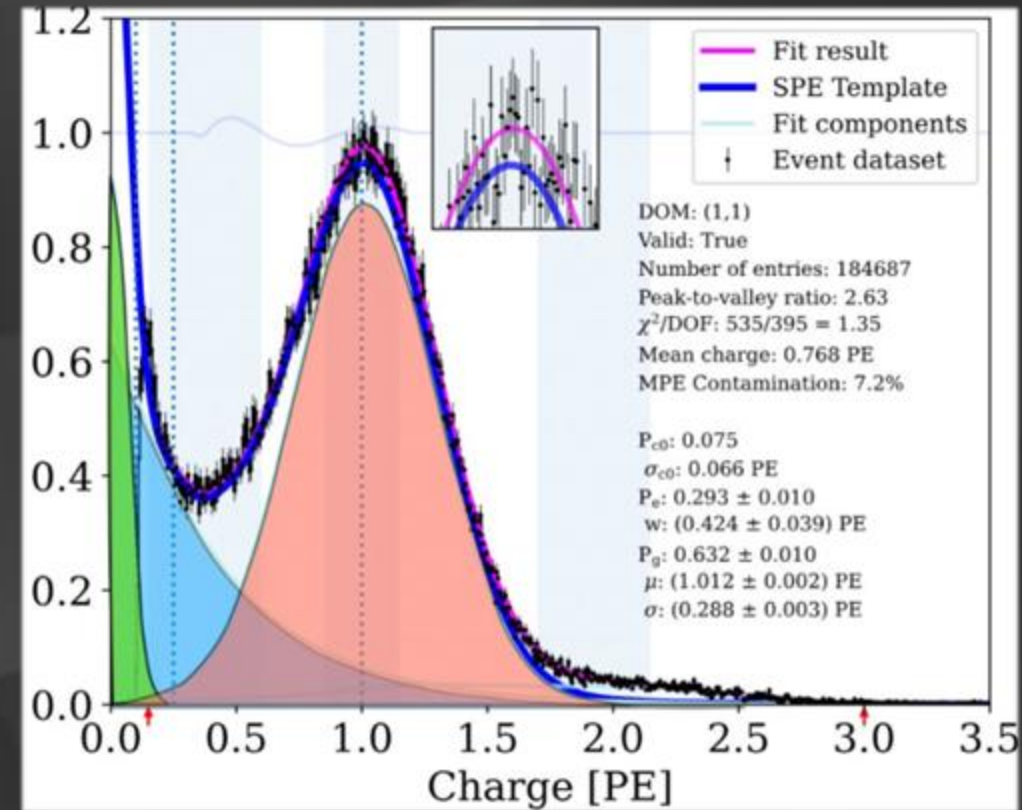
- electrically neutral
- massless (in this talk)
- like a photon but weakly interacting
- track cosmic ray sources
- ... but difficult to detect

- gamma rays from neutral pions lose energy in the sources
- they emerge below Fermi threshold

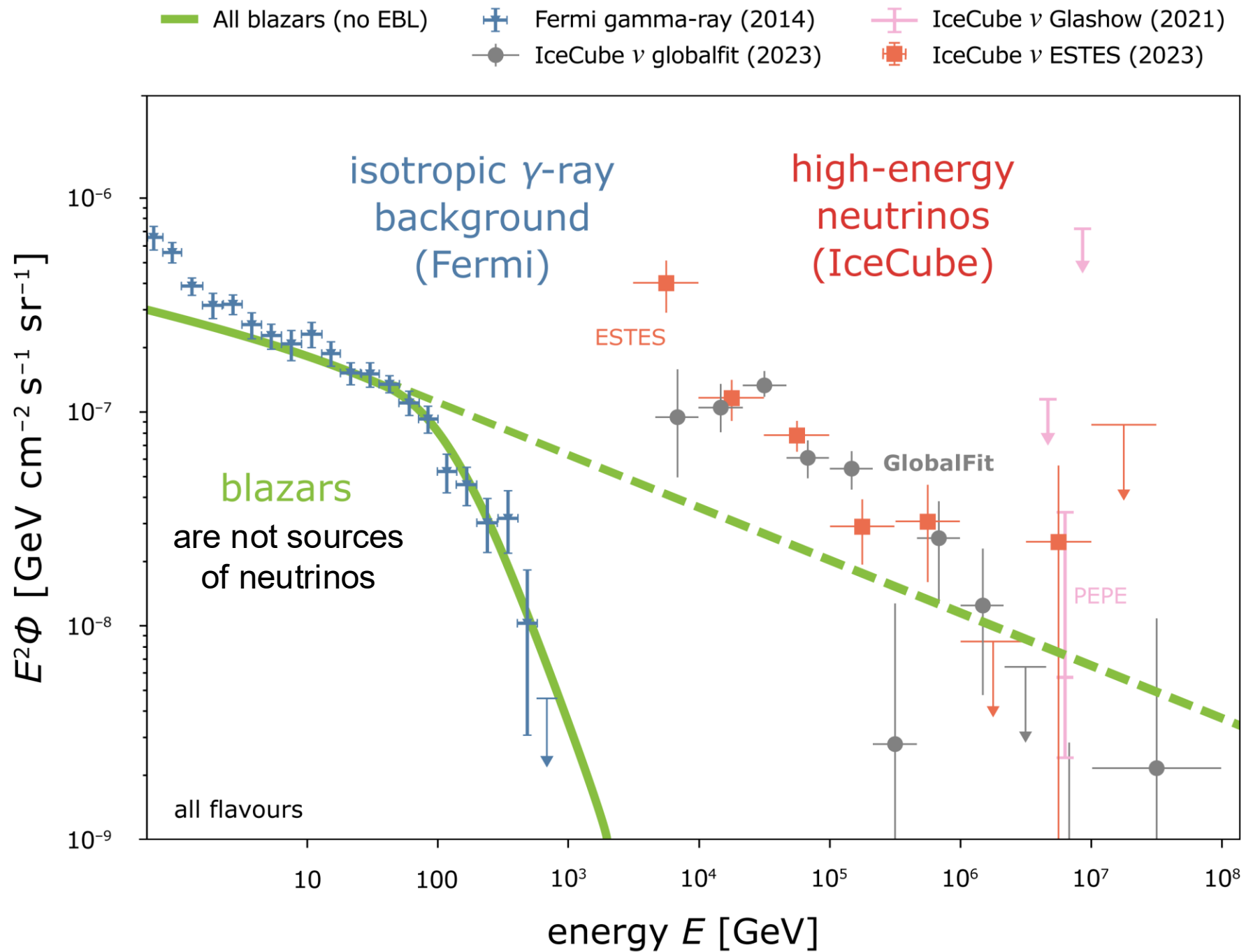


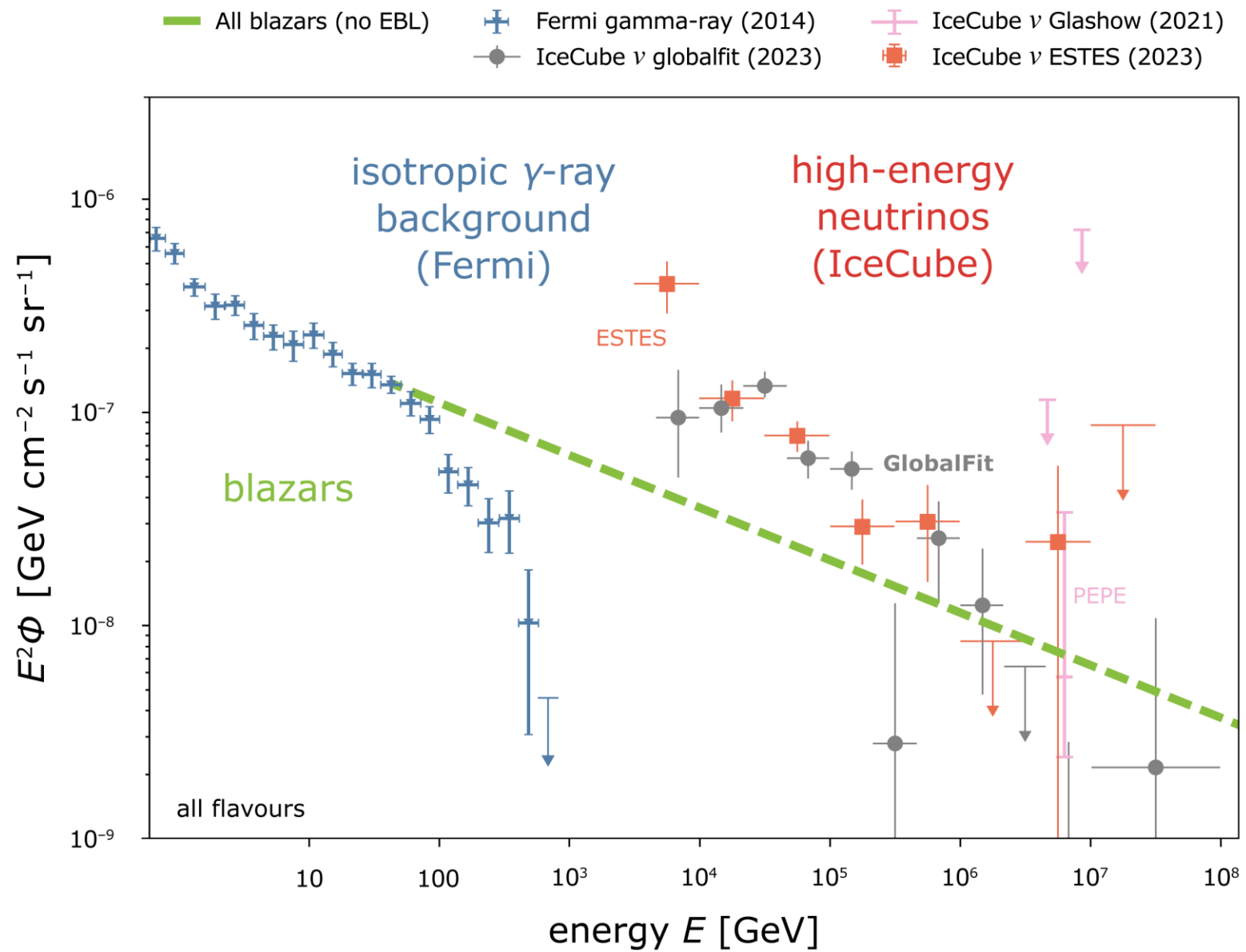
→ crash program to upgrade the performance of IceCube

- improved detector geometry
- each photomultiplier calibrated individually
- improved characterization of the optics of the ice
- improved muon angular resolution and energy reconstruction using machine learning
- point spread function consistent with simulation or, we were partially blind
- ...



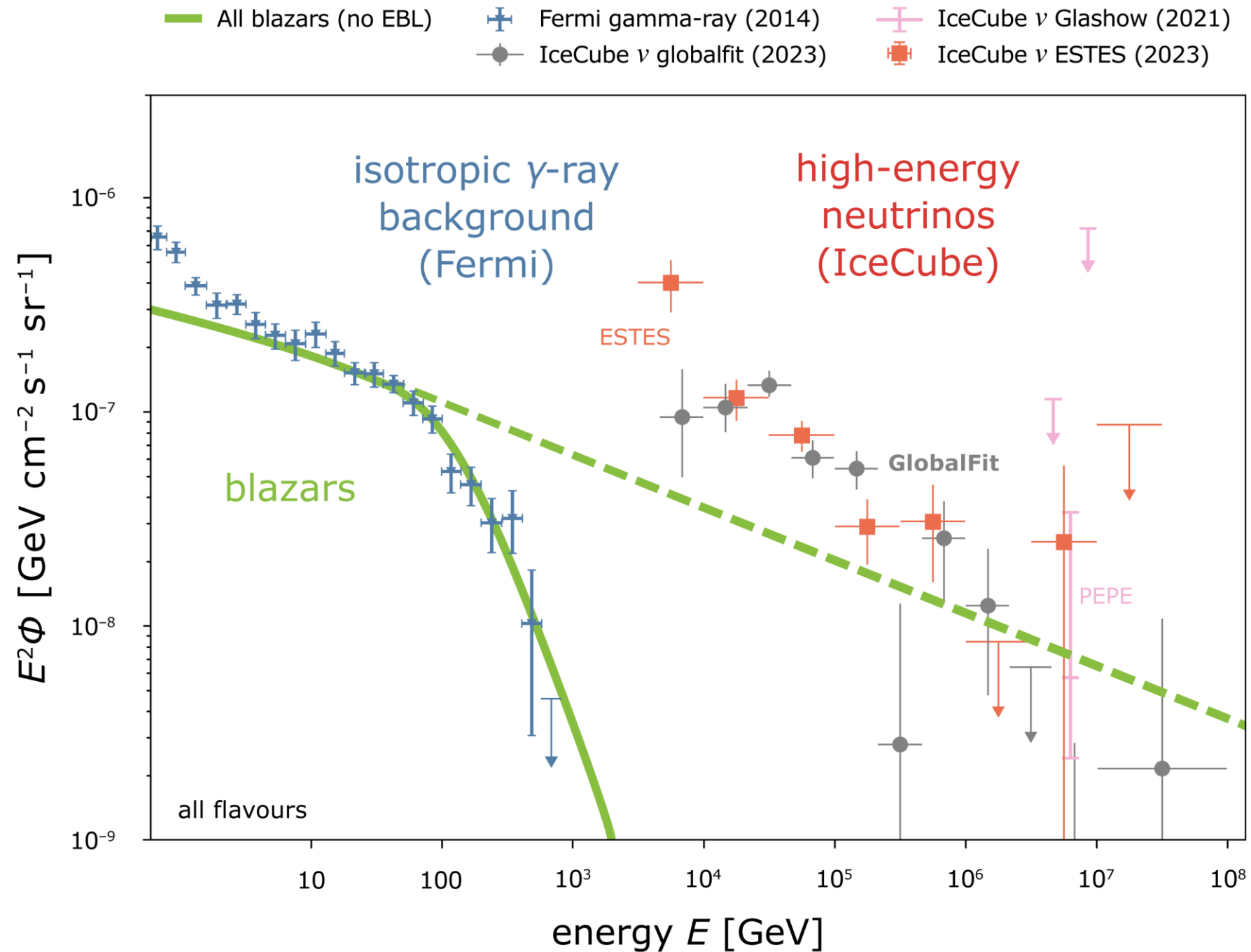
→ applied to 10 years of archival data (pass 2), data unblinded, result ...





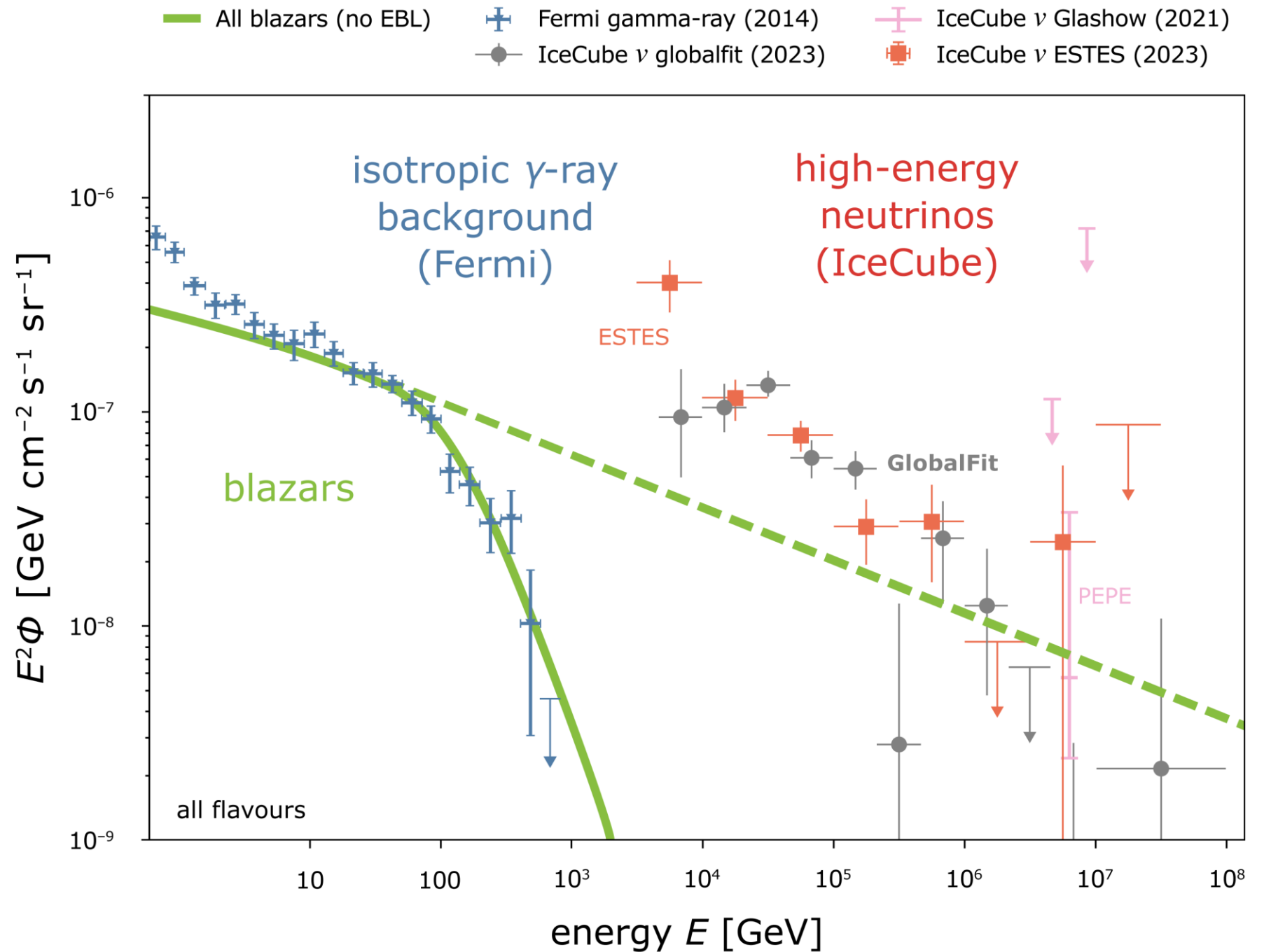
NASA Fermi satellite
does not observe the
gamma rays that
accompany IceCube
neutrinos

they appear at MeV
energies or below



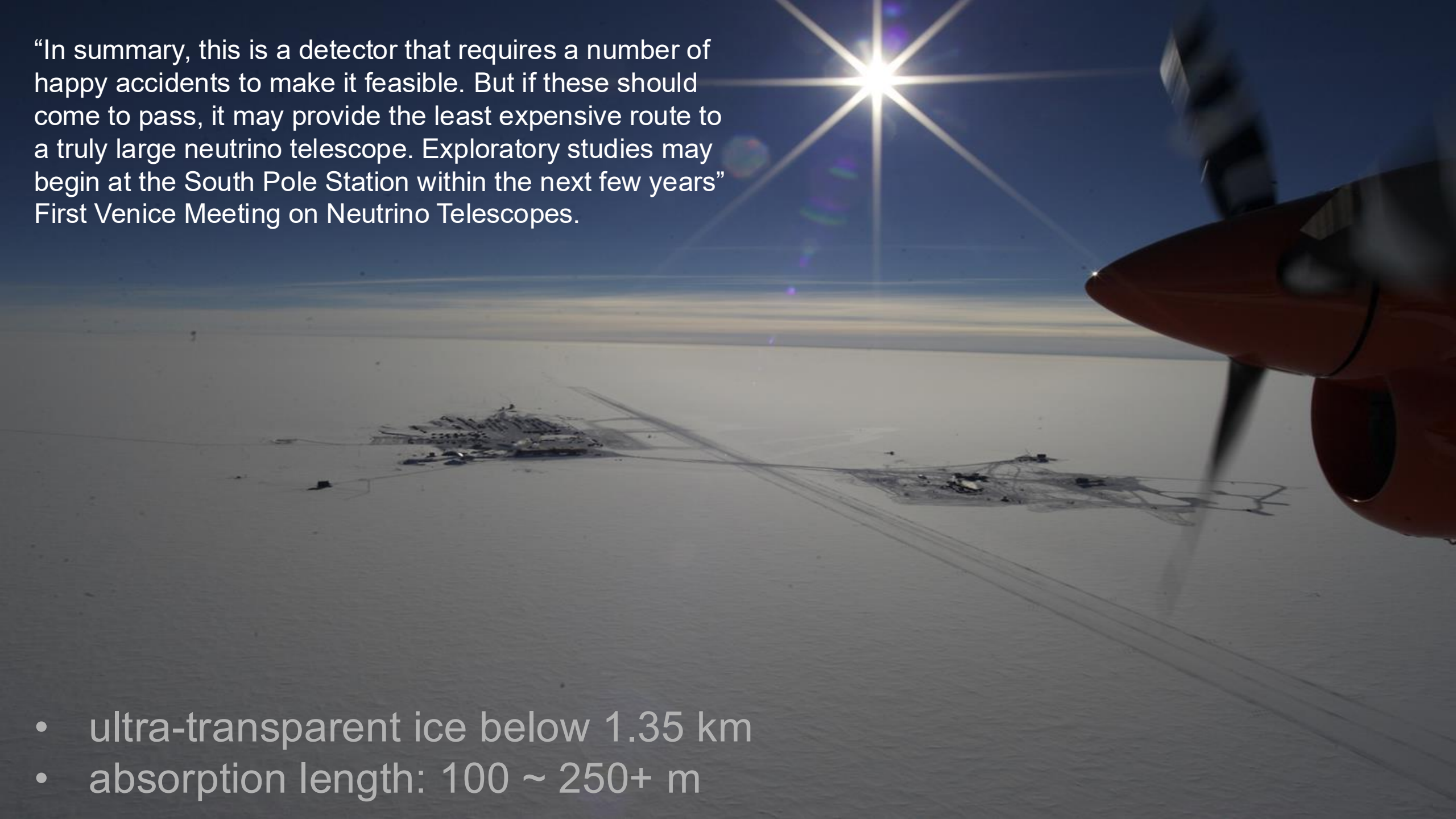
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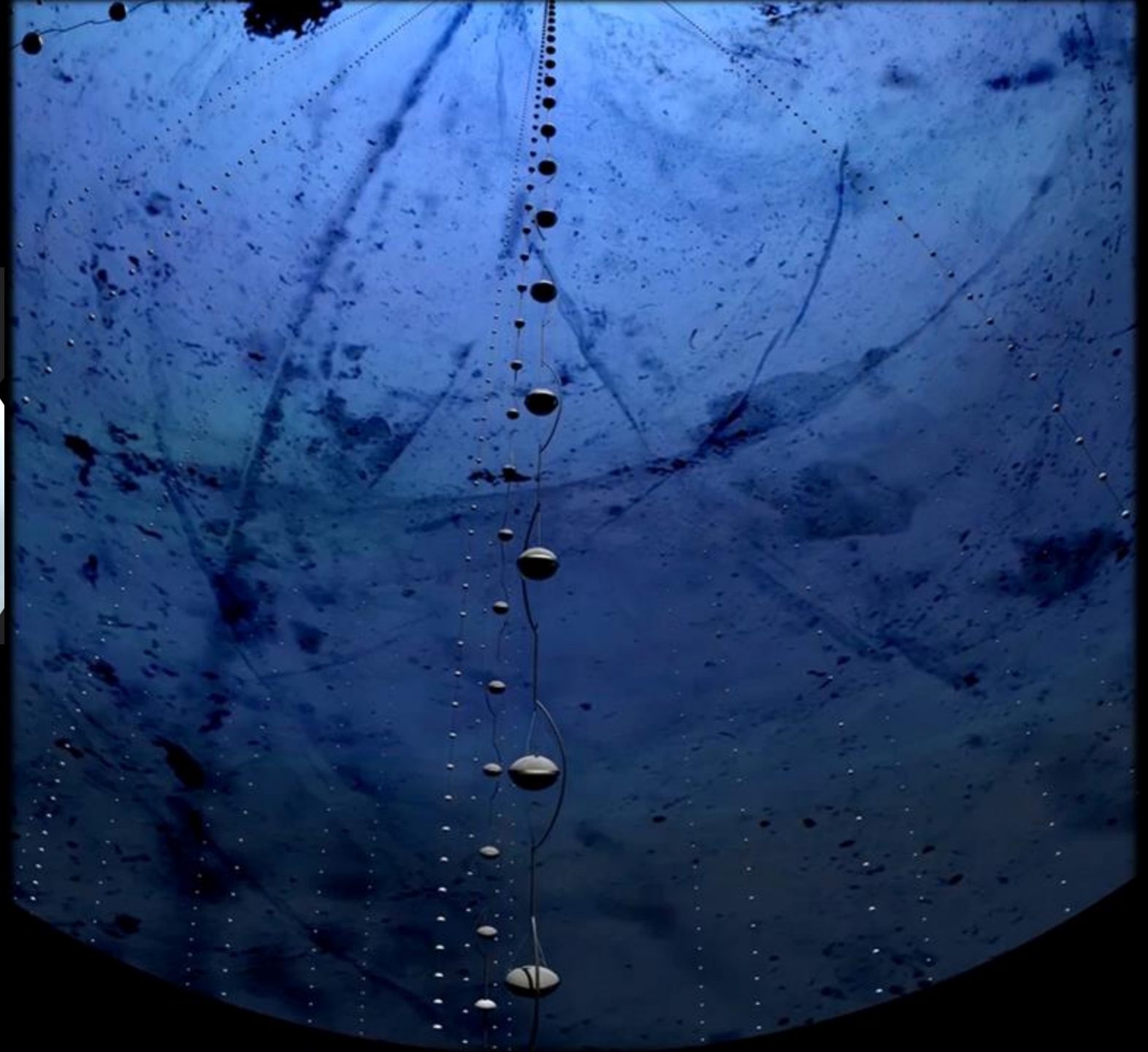
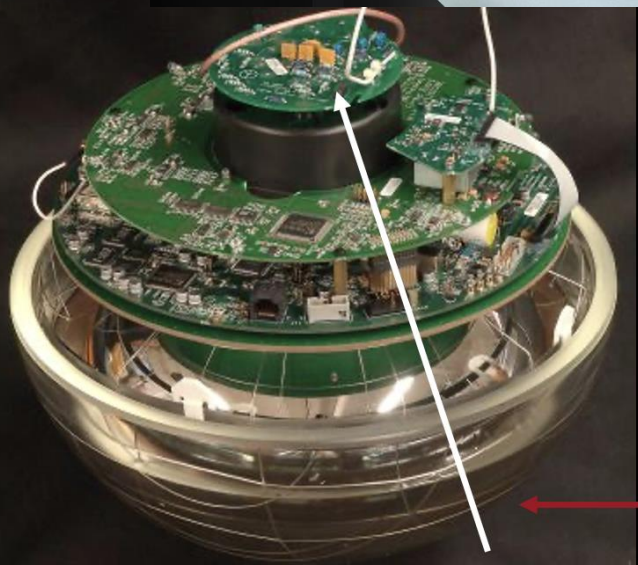
“In summary, this is a detector that requires a number of happy accidents to make it feasible. But if these should come to pass, it may provide the least expensive route to a truly large neutrino telescope. Exploratory studies may begin at the South Pole Station within the next few years”
First Venice Meeting on Neutrino Telescopes.

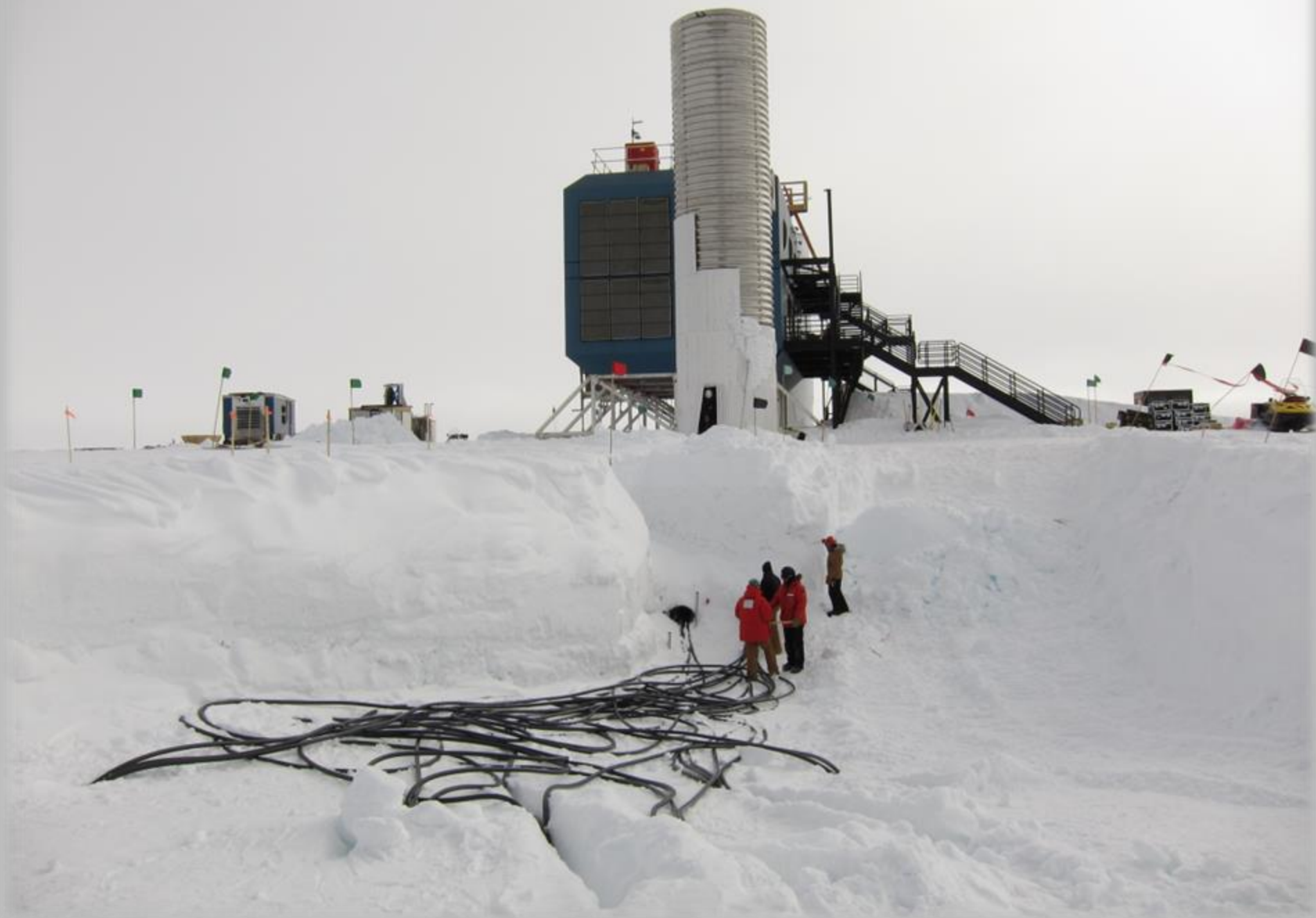
- ultra-transparent ice below 1.35 km
- absorption length: 100 ~ 250+ m



IceCube:

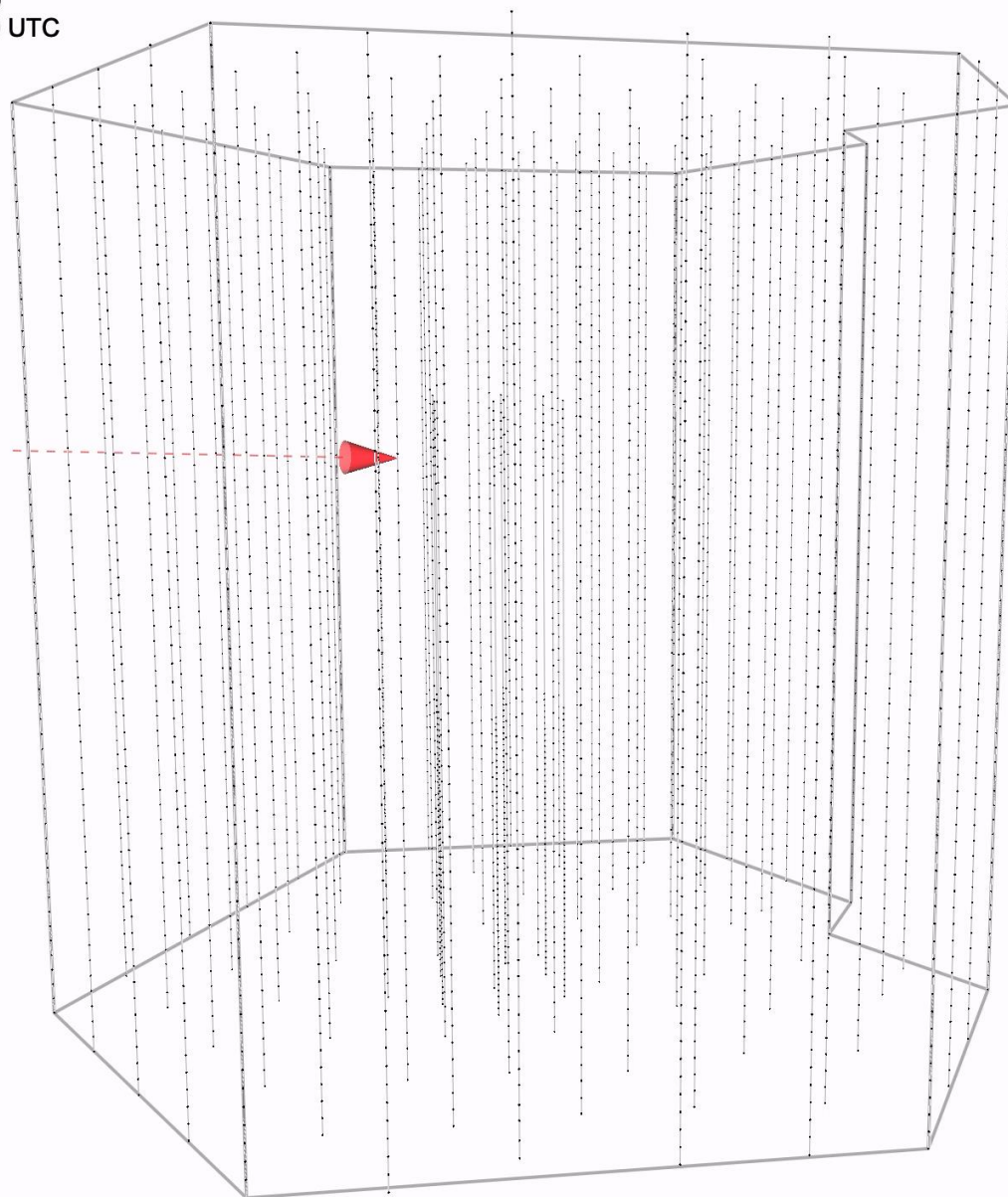
5160 10-inch photomultipliers,
60 per string on 86 strings,
instrument one km³ of
Antarctic ice between
1.4 and 2.4 km depth
as a Cherenkov detector



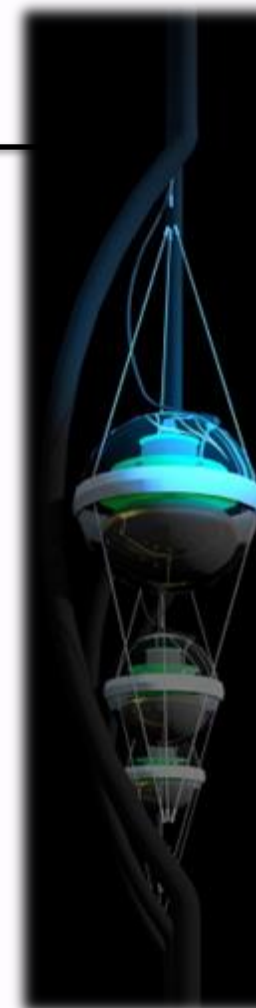




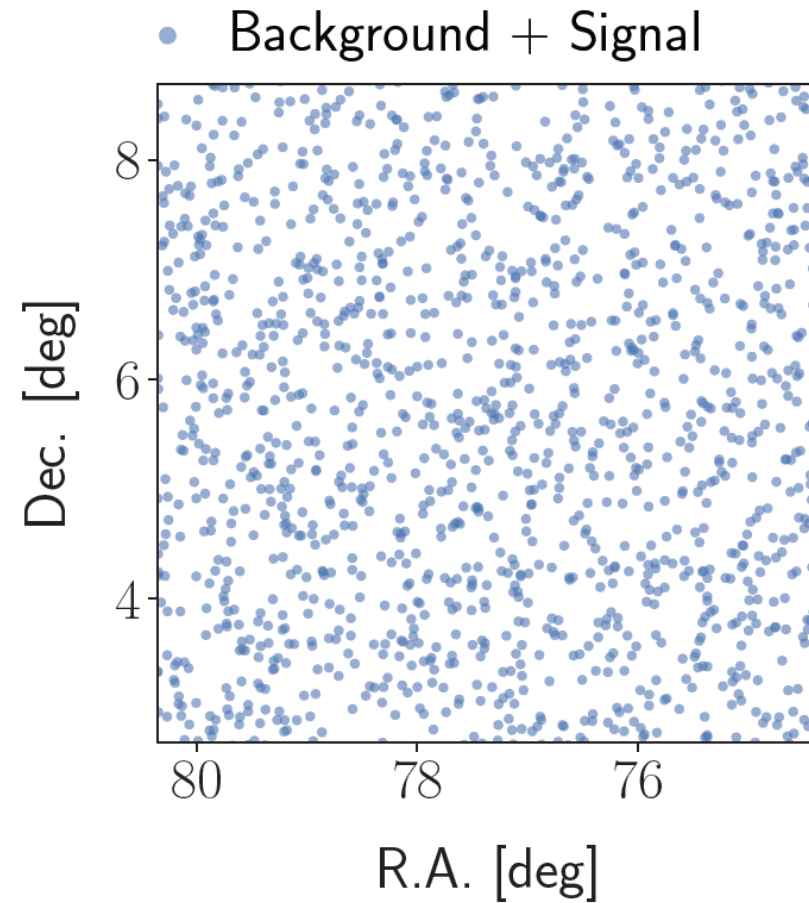
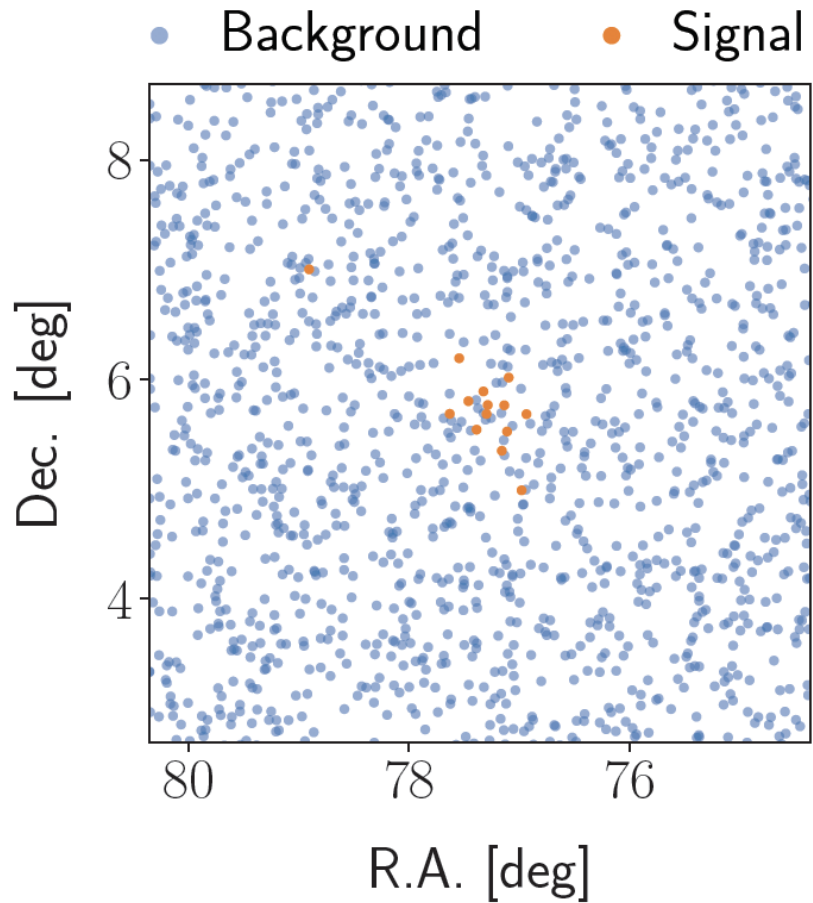
Event 116876/63208734-0
Time 2010-11-12 13:14:20 UTC
Duration 26942.1 ns



strings of
optical
sensors



a muon speeds through
the ice leaving a trail of
blue light which reveals
its direction and the dir-
rection of the neutrino



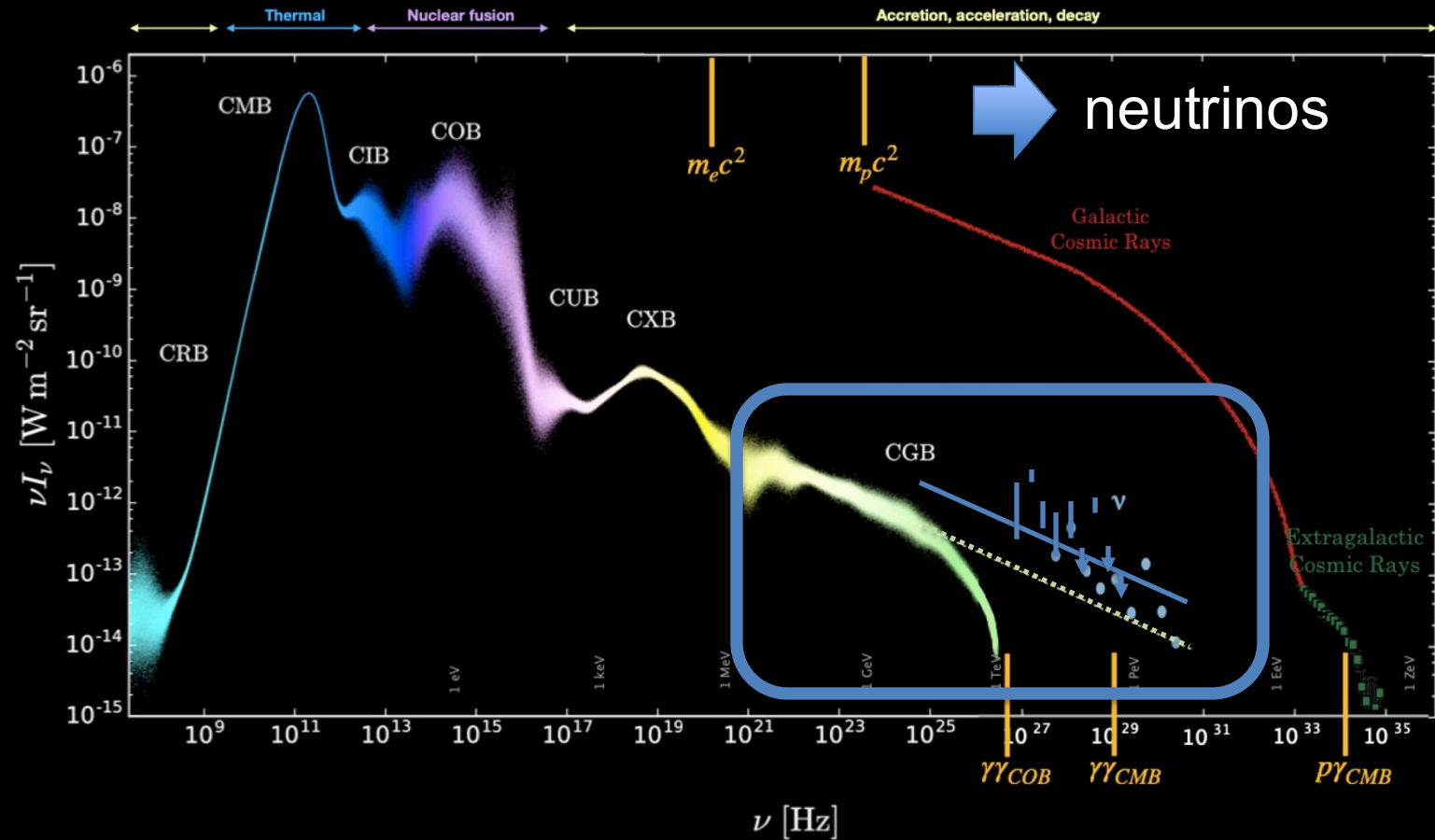
- maximize the (model agnostic) likelihood L at each point in the sky
- usually, add energy term to the signal likelihood S

$$L(n_s, x_s, \gamma) = \prod_i^{events} \left(\frac{n_s}{N} S_i(|x_i - x_s|, \sigma_i, E_i, \gamma) + \frac{N - n_s}{N} B_i(\delta_i, E_i) \right)$$

↓

$$S_i(|\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_s|, \sigma_i) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_i^2} \exp\left(-\frac{|\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_s|^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right)$$

energy in the Universe as a function of color of the light



in the extreme universe the energy in neutrinos is larger than the energy in gamma rays observed in the GeV energy range