

Atmospheric neutrino science with the IceCube Neutrino Observatory

Neutrino 2026
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
June 26th, 2026

Presenting on results
published after Neutrino 2024
on behalf of the IceCube Collaboration

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The University of Delaware

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UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

BARTOL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE

IC78

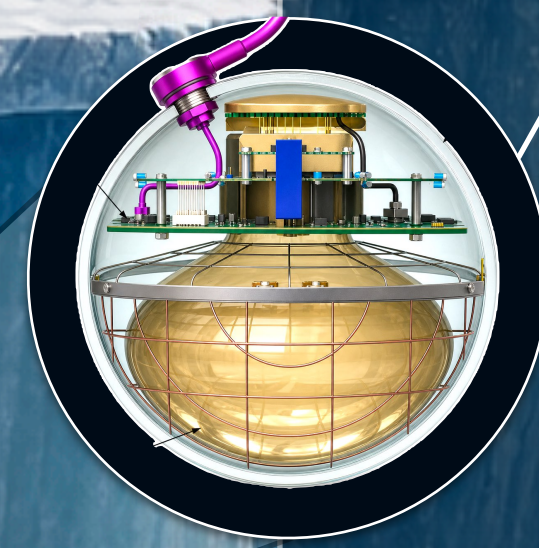
A CUBIC KILOMETER OF CLEAR ANTARCTIC ICE INSTRUMENTED TO DETECT NEUTRINOS

ICETOP
Water Čerenkov surface array
324 DOMs

ICECUBE LABORATOR (ICL)

STRINGS
Vertical holes drilled in the ice in a grid covering 1km²

78 STRINGS
60 DOMs per string
17m vertical spacing
125m horizontal spacing

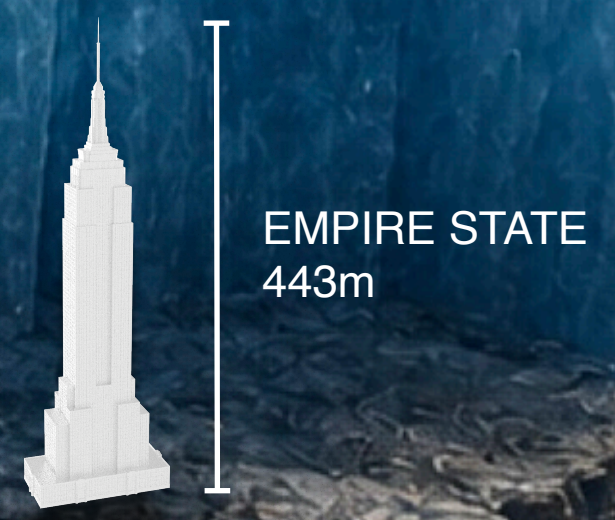


In-Ice Optical Modules

DIGITAL OPTICAL MODULE (DOM)

- Each DOM contains:
- 10" PMT
 - Readout electronics
 - Calibration LEDs
- 5,160 DOMs total

0m
50m
1450m
2450m
2850m
Bedrock



IC86

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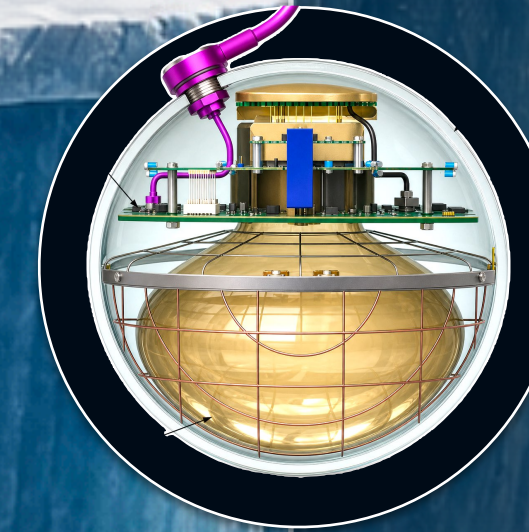
In-Ice Optical Modules

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DEEPCORE Sub-Array

- 8 Optimized strings
- 60 DOMs per string
 - 384 HQE DOMs
 - 96 Standard QE DOMs
- 7m vertical spacing
- 40-70m horizontal spacing



0m
50m

1450m

2450m

2850m
Bedrock

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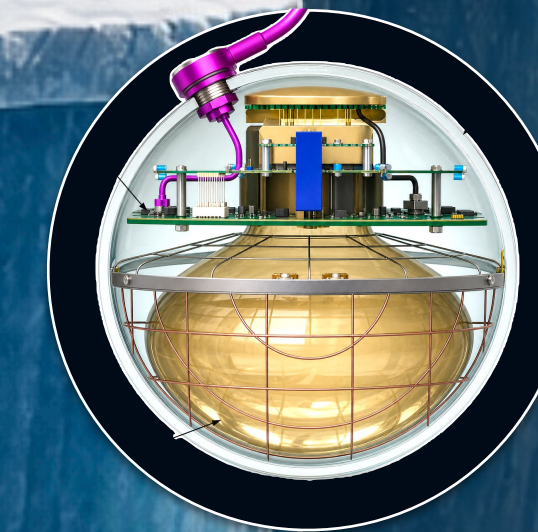
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ICECUBE UPGRADE (ICU)
5 Specialized Strings
~100 OMs per string
+ calibration devices
2.4m vertical spacing

0m
50m
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Bedrock



EMPIRE STATE
443m

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MULTI-PMT DOM (mDOM)

- Each mDOM contains:
- x24 3.15" PMT
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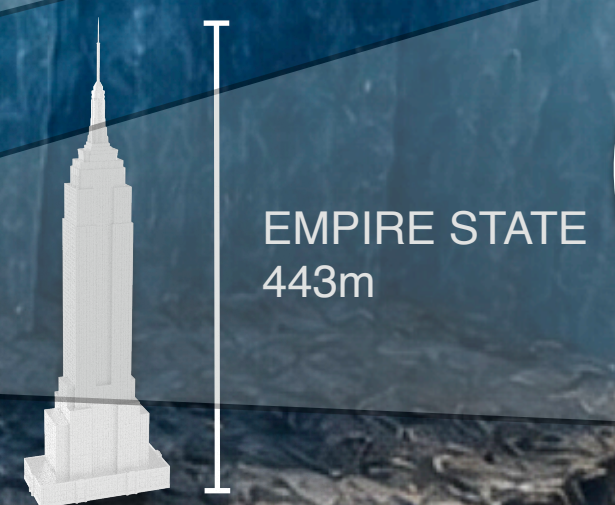
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DUAL SENSORS IN AN ELLIPSOID GLASS FOR GEN2 (D-Egg)

- Each D-Egg contains:
- Two 8" HQE PMT
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- 200 D-Eggs total

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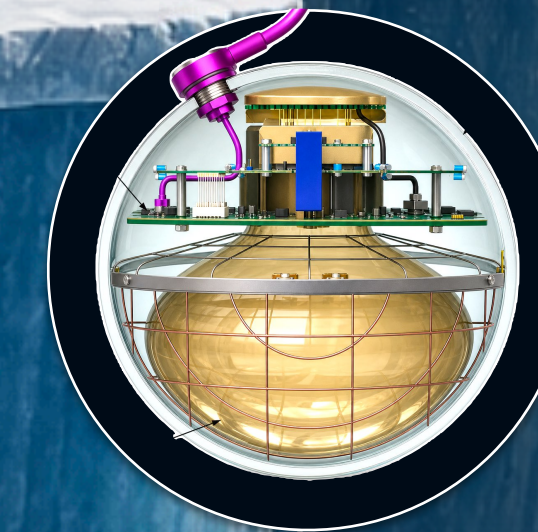
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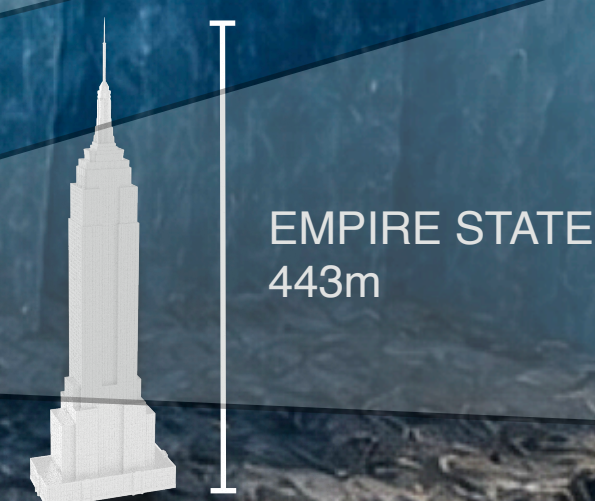
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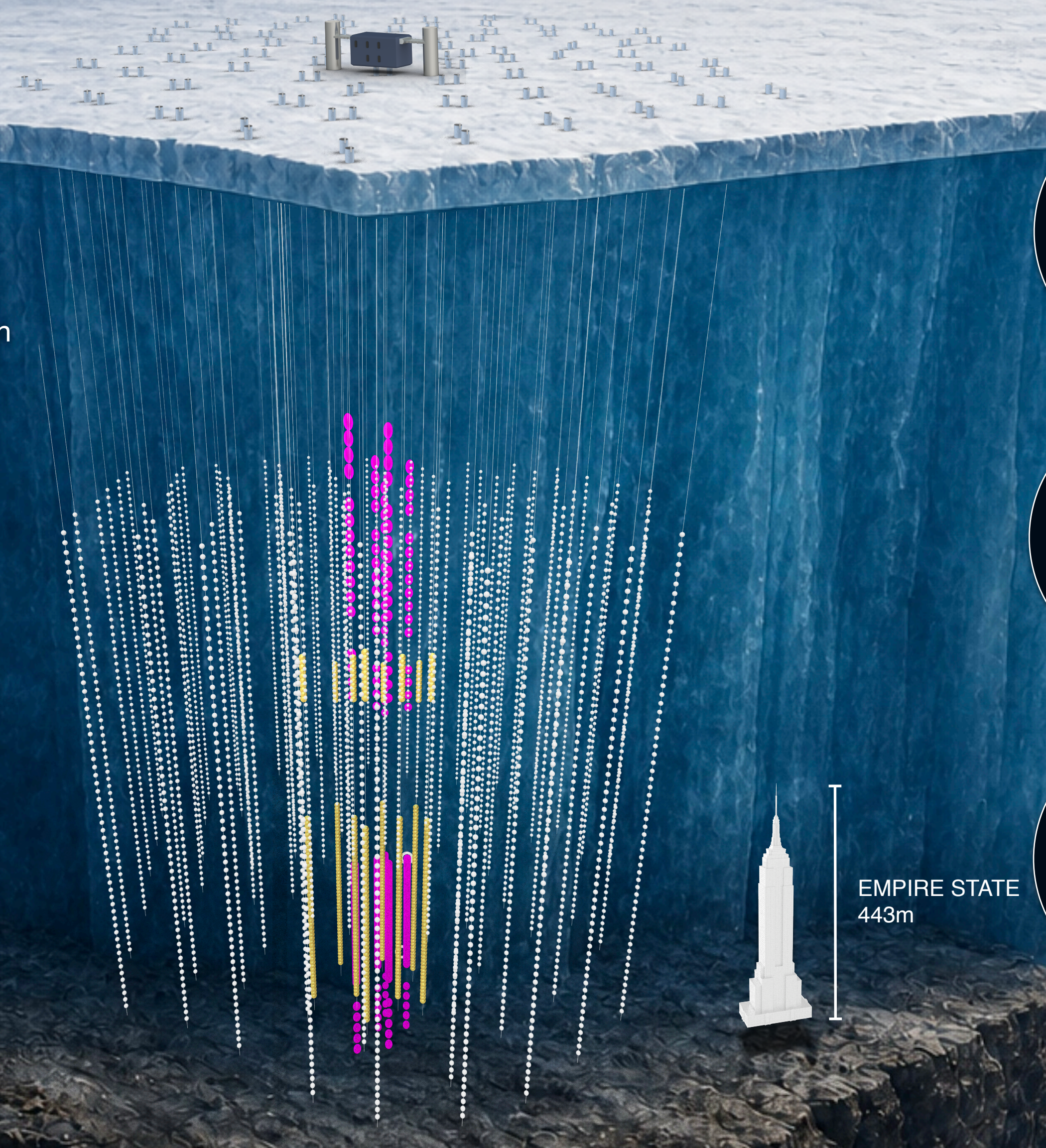
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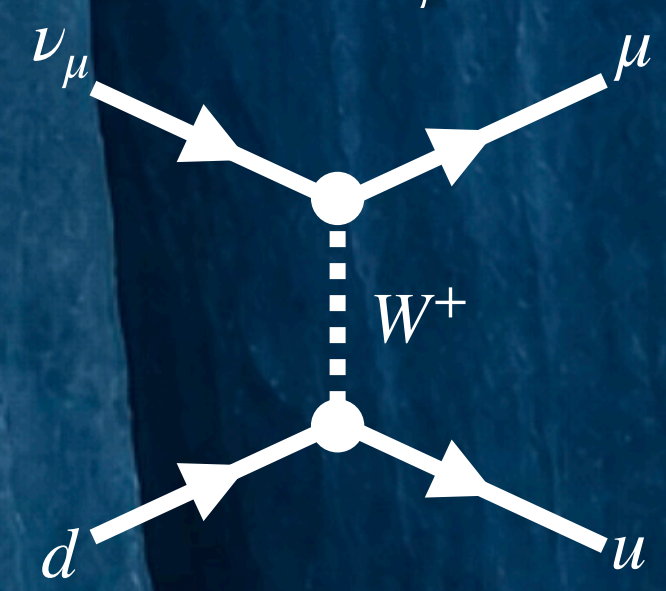
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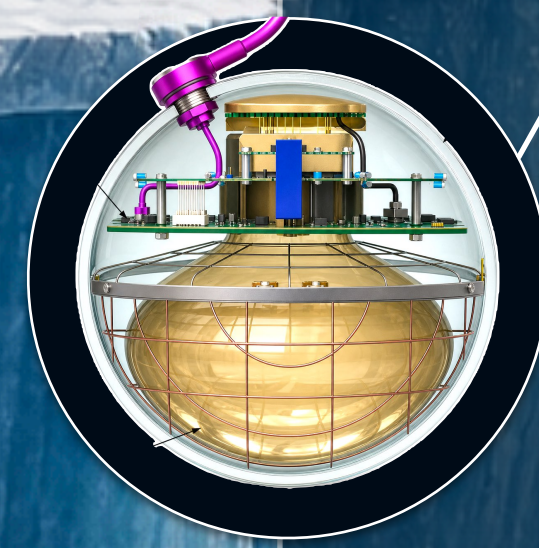
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TRACKS

Charge Current ν_μ Interaction



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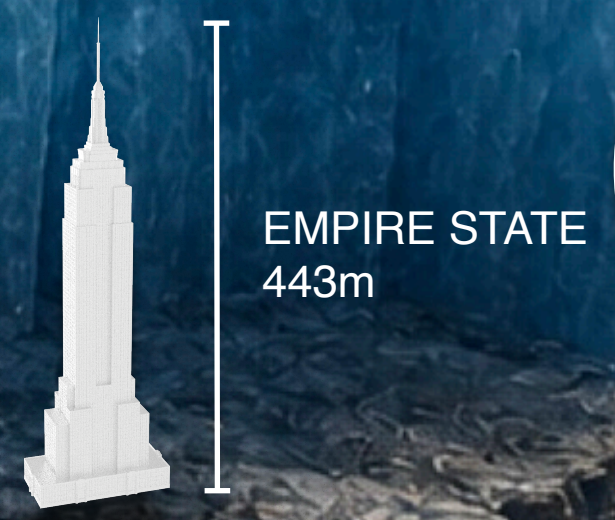
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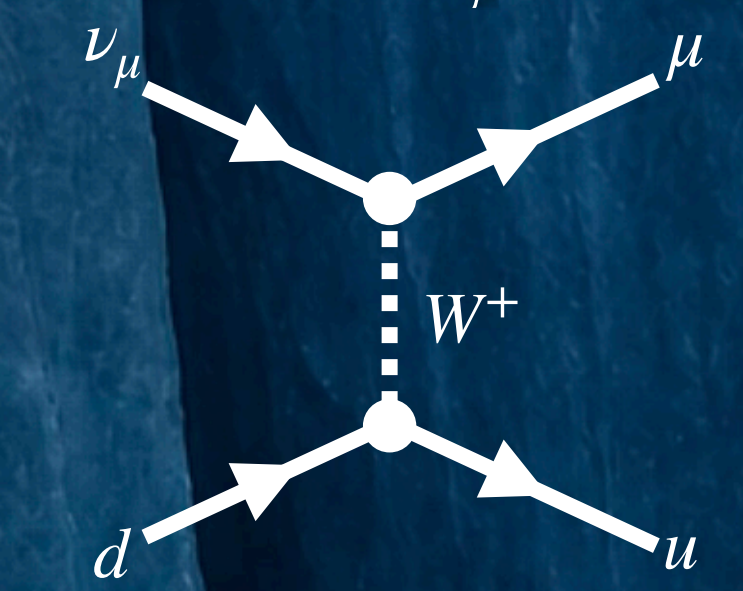


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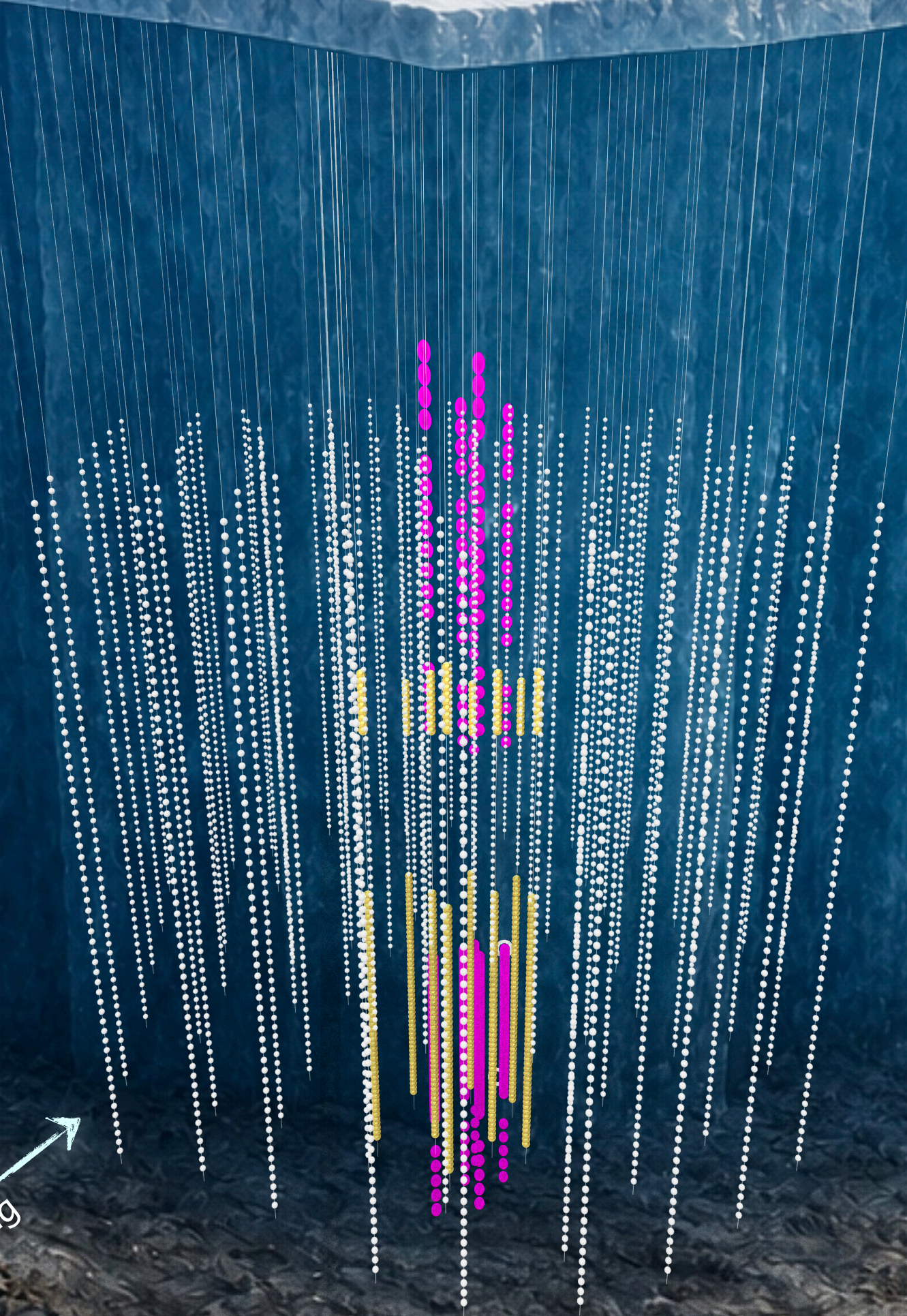


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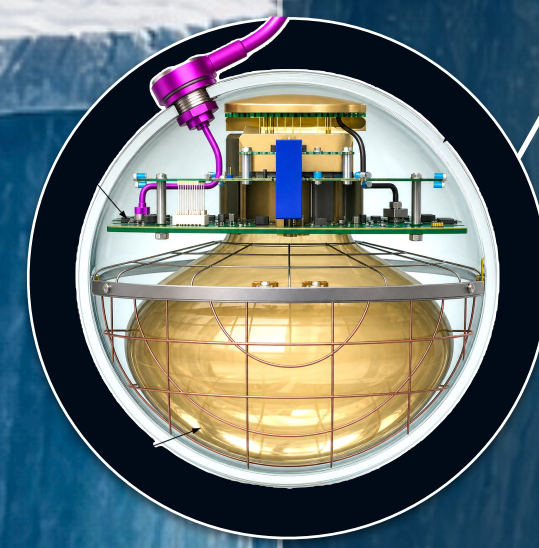
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ν_μ (~1 TeV)
Through-going



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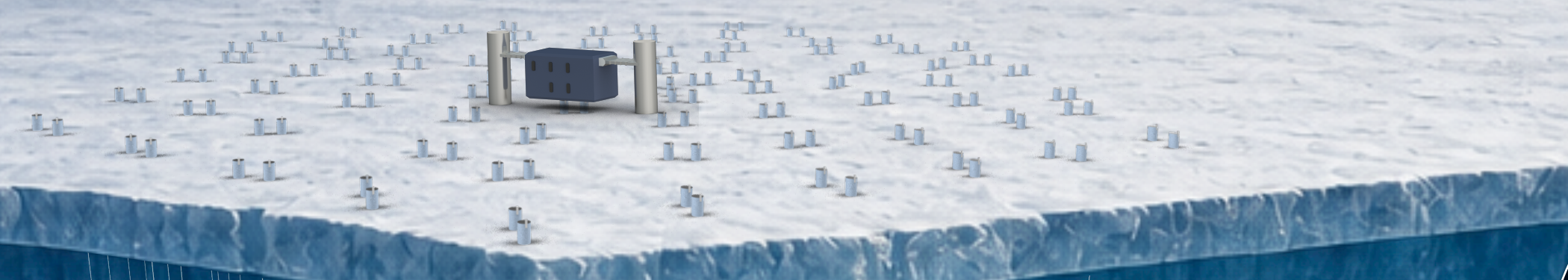


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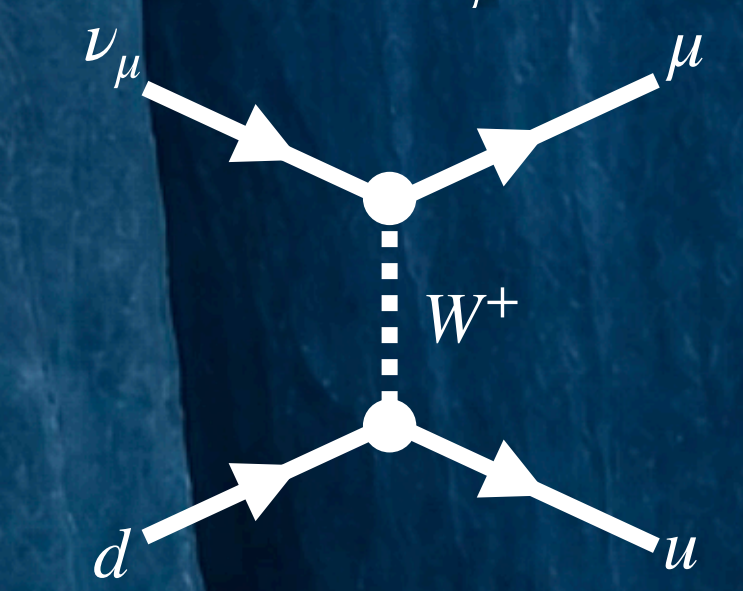
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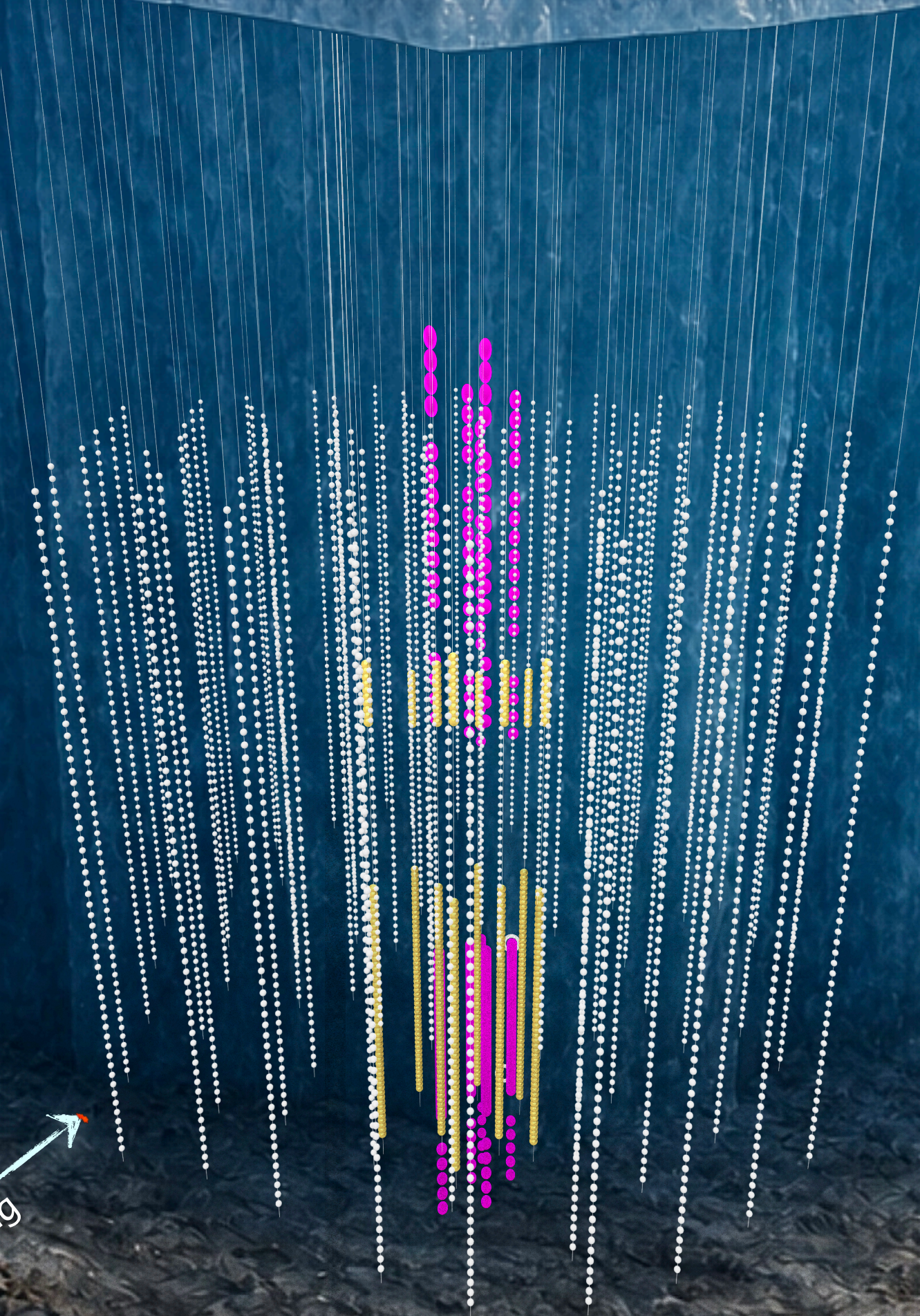


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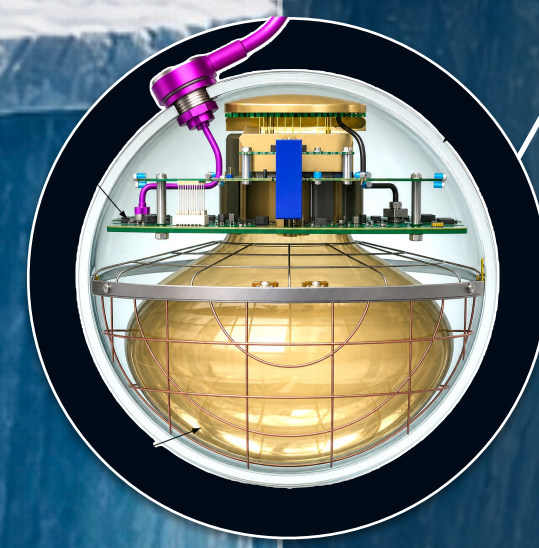
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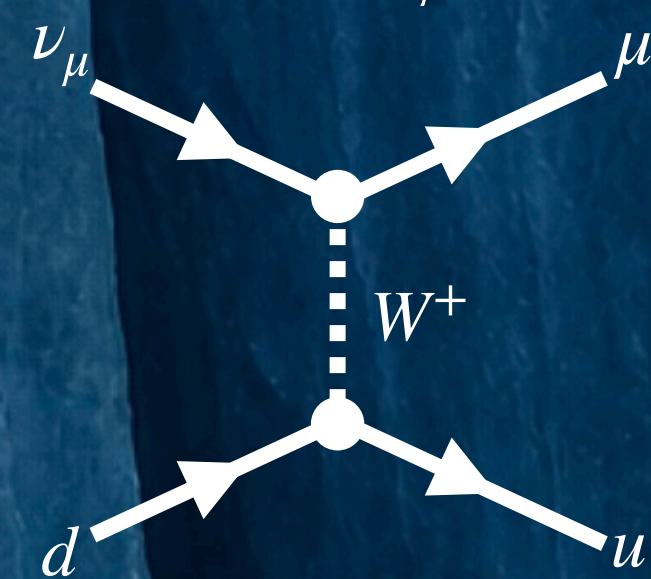
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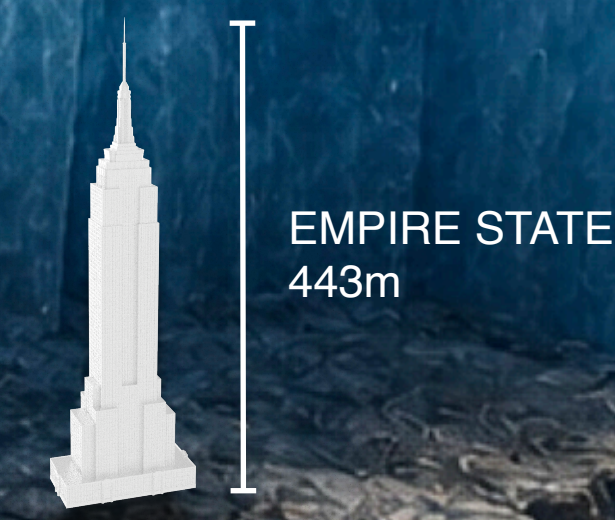
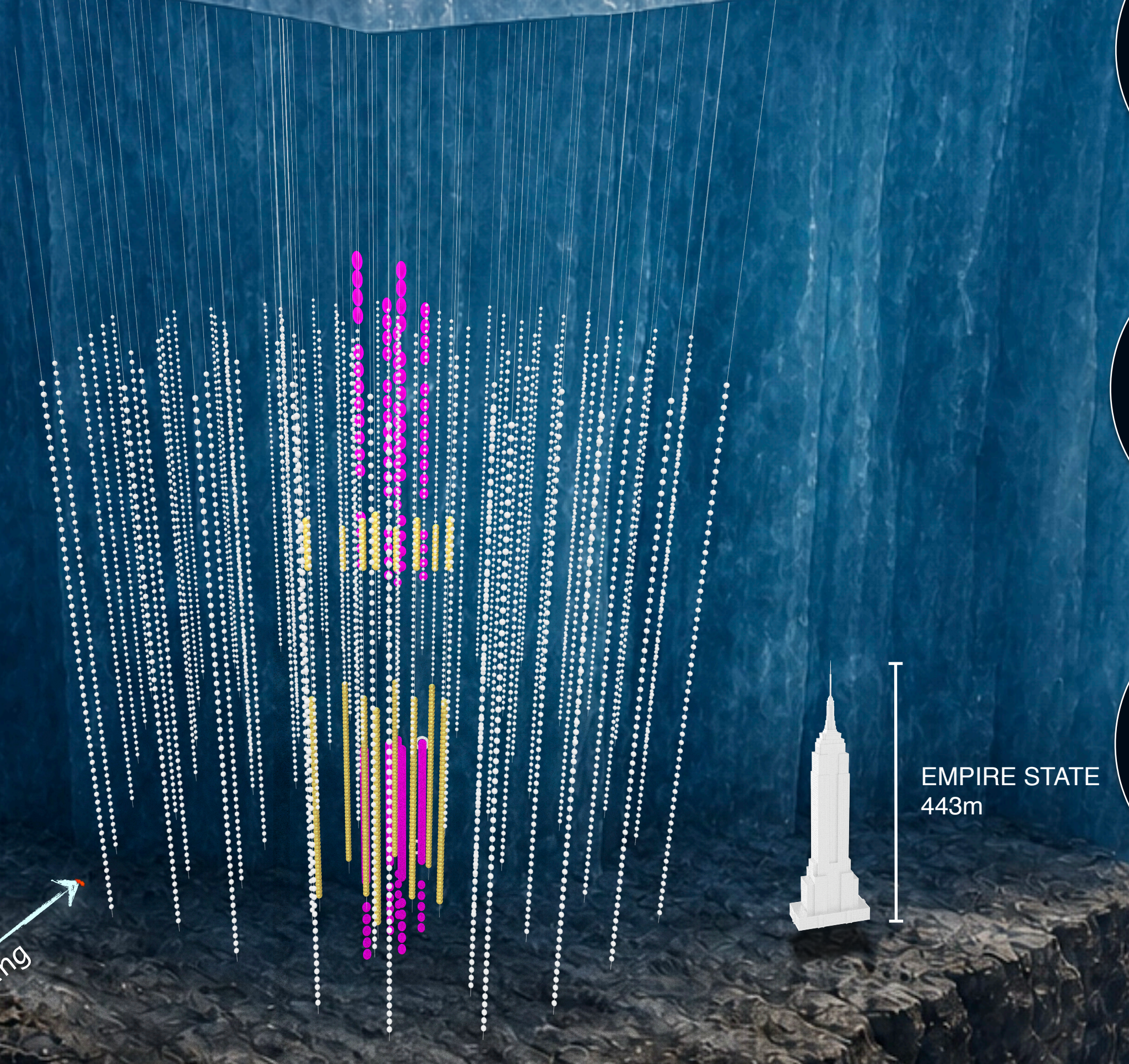


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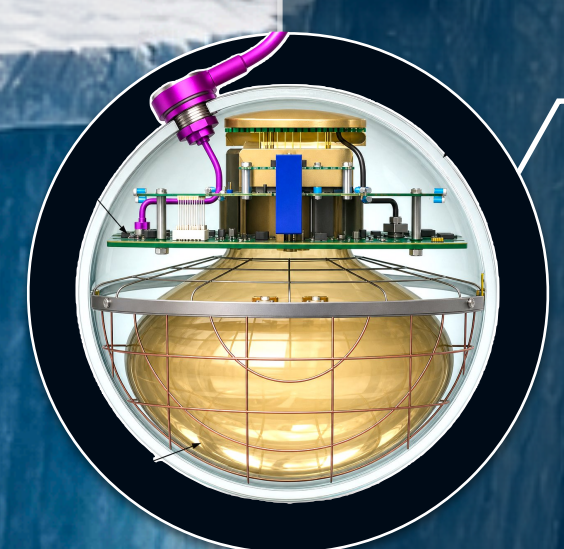
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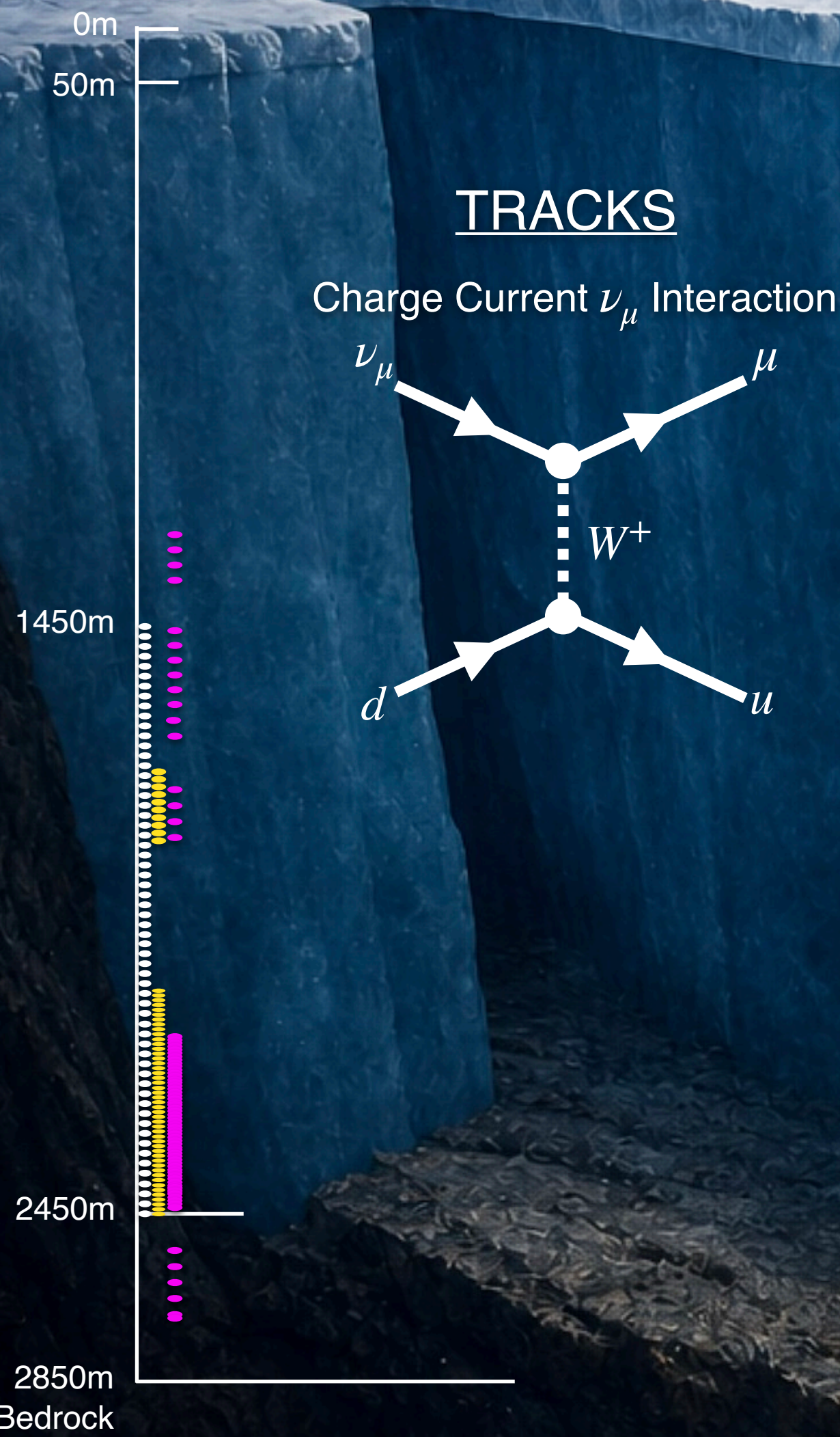
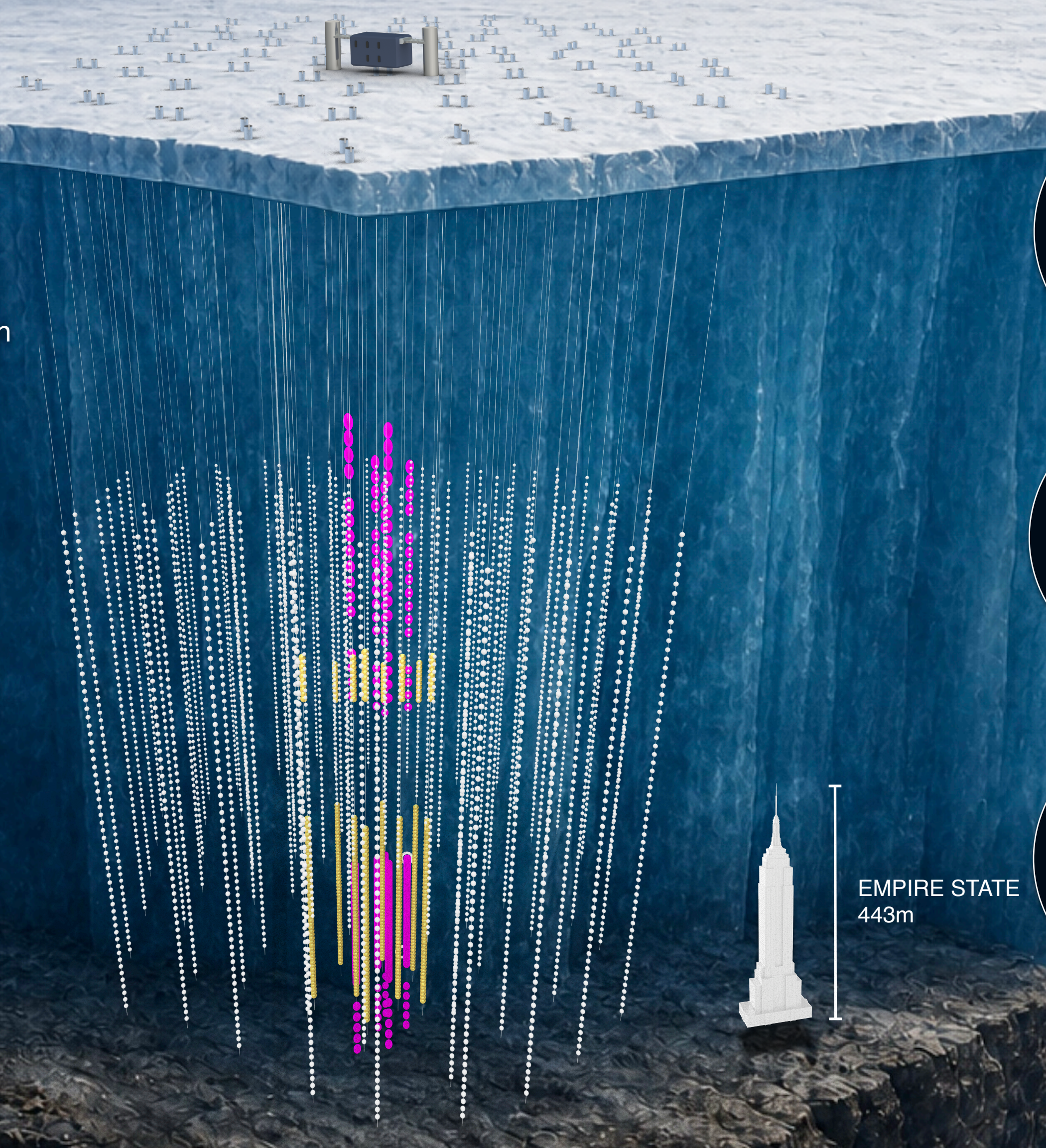


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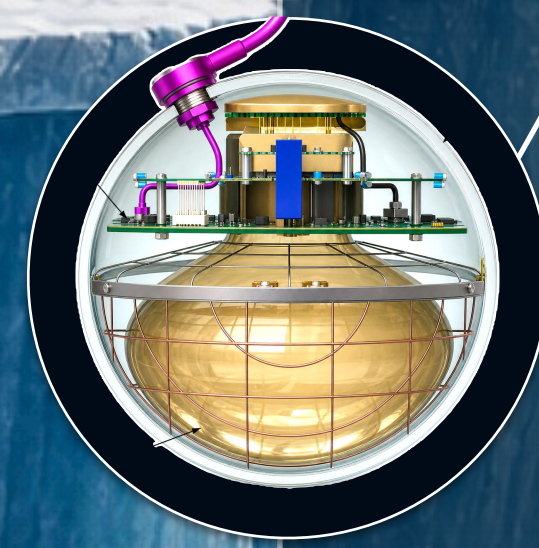
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In-Ice Optical Modules



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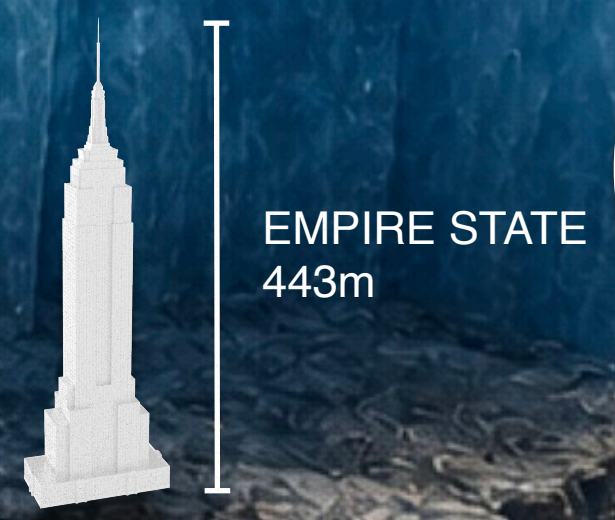


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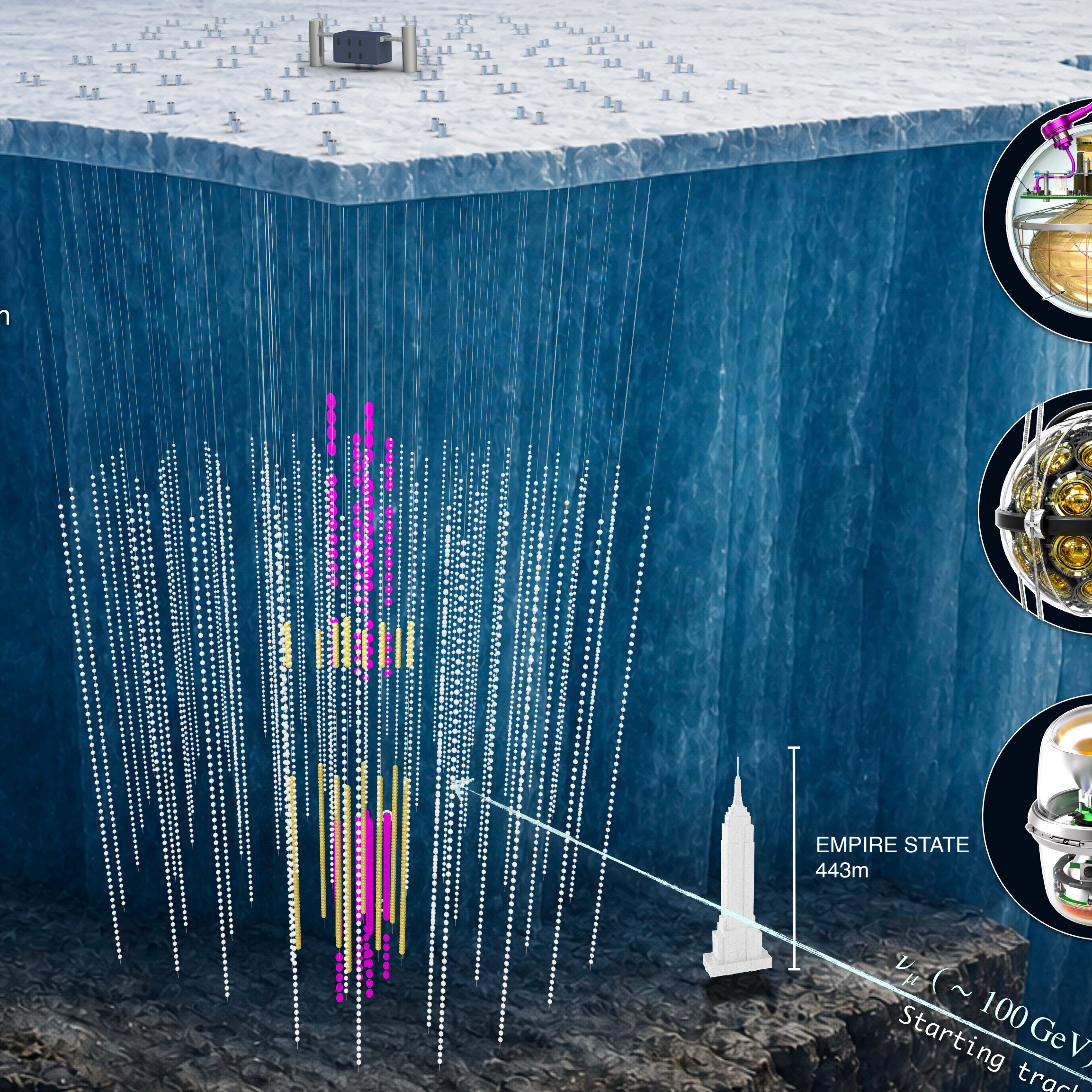
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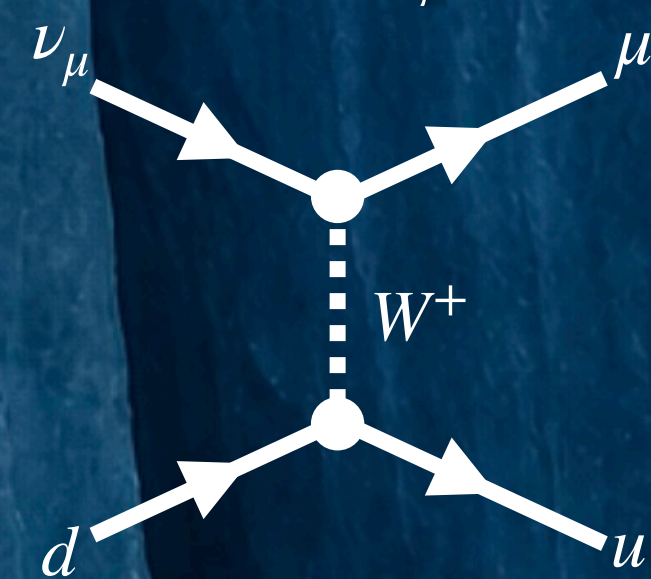


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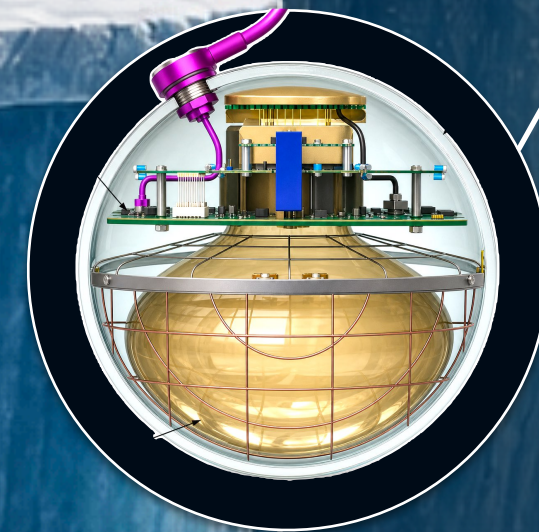
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Charge Current ν_μ Interaction



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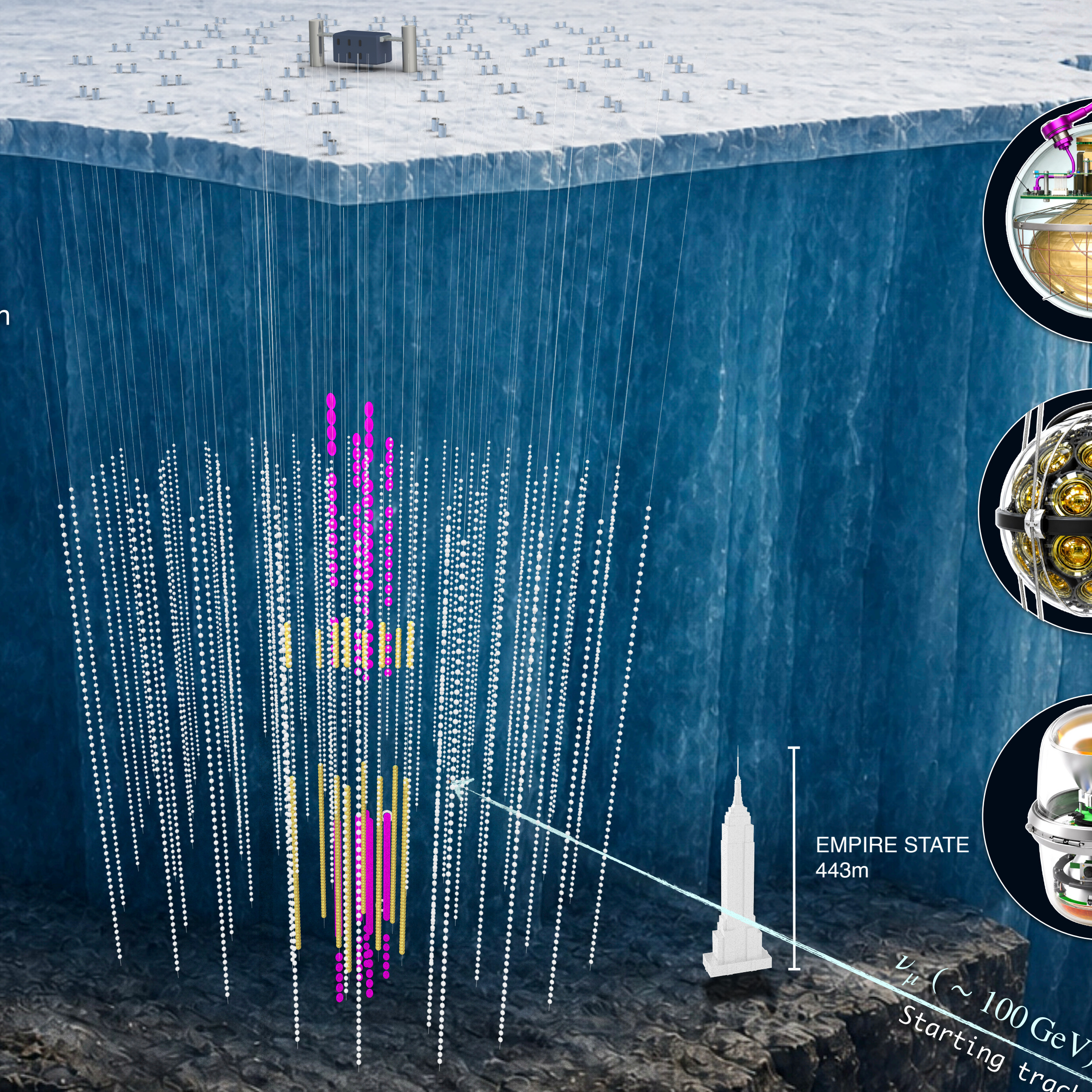
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EMPIRE STATE
443m

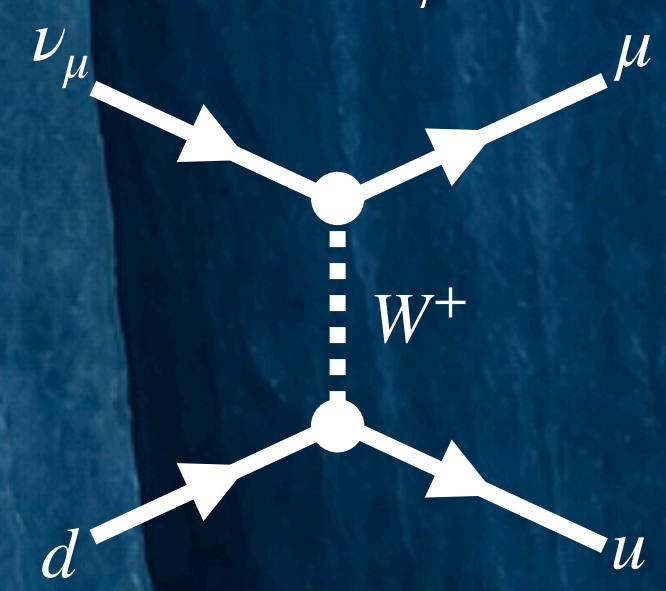
ν_μ (~ 100 GeV)
Starting track

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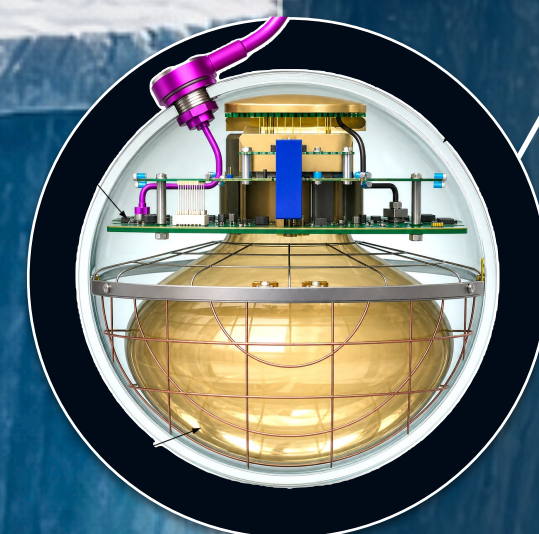
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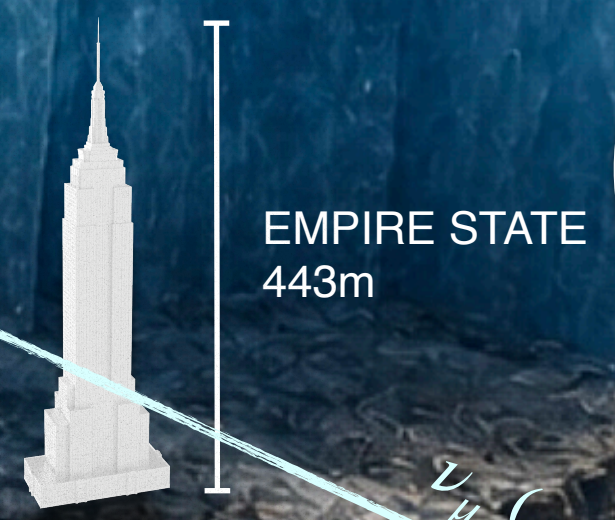
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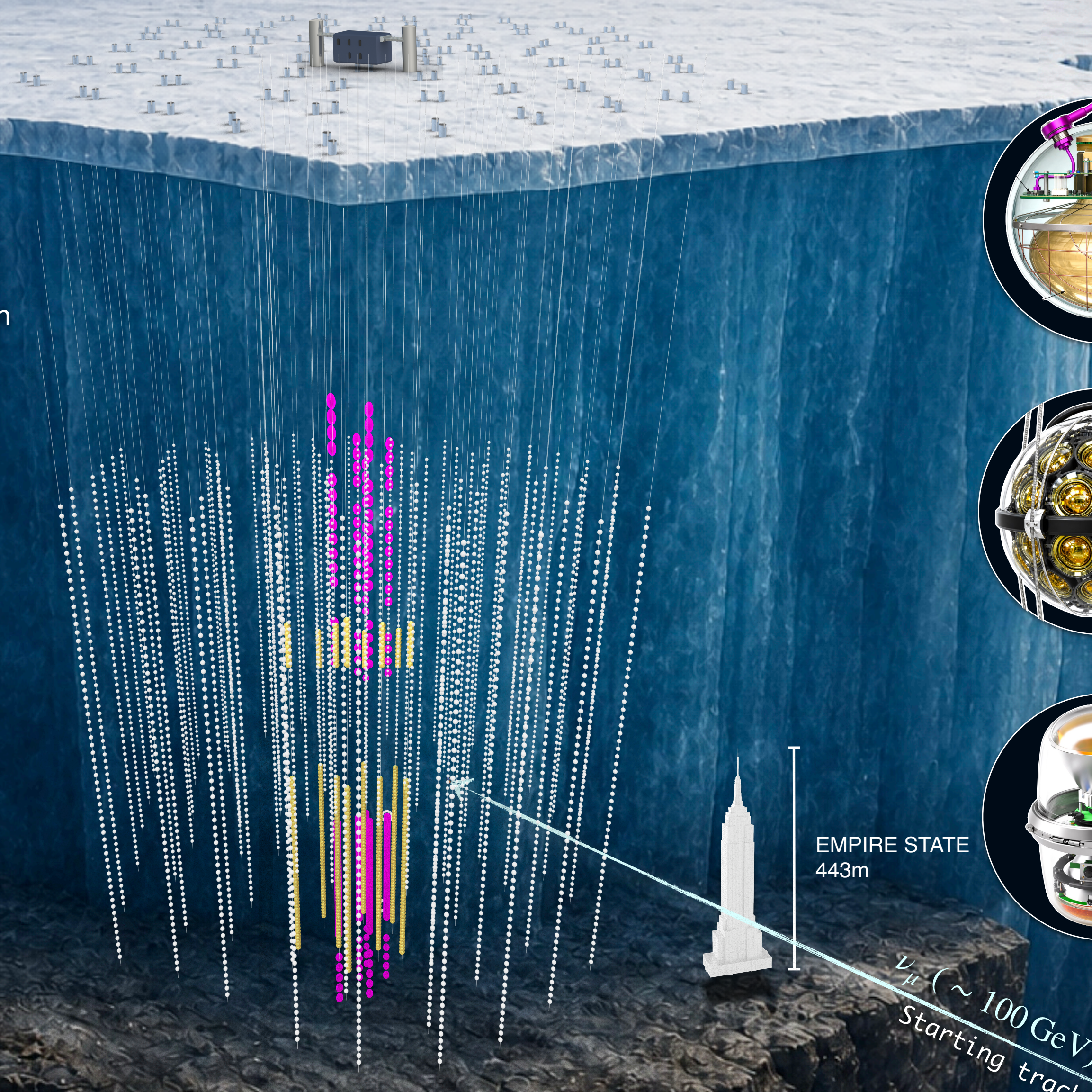
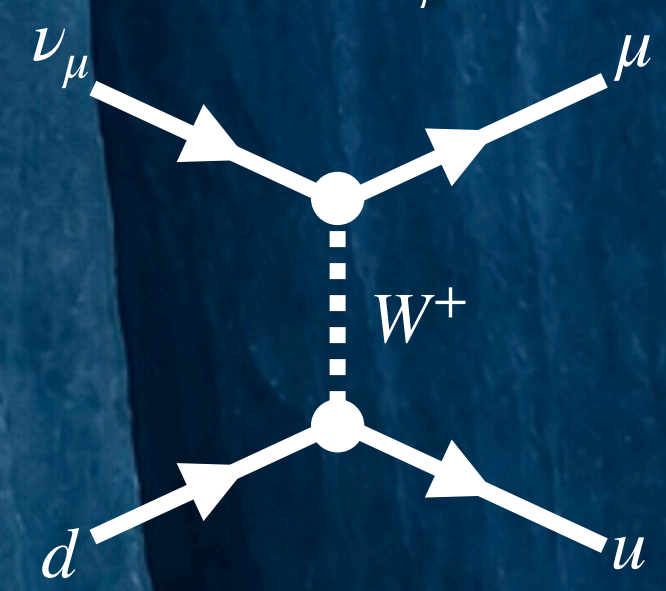
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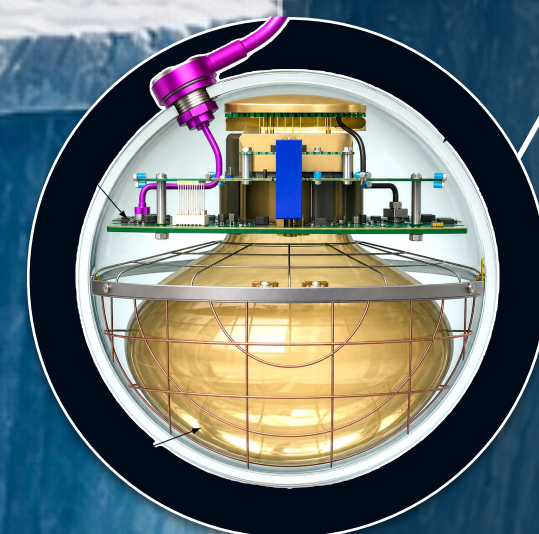
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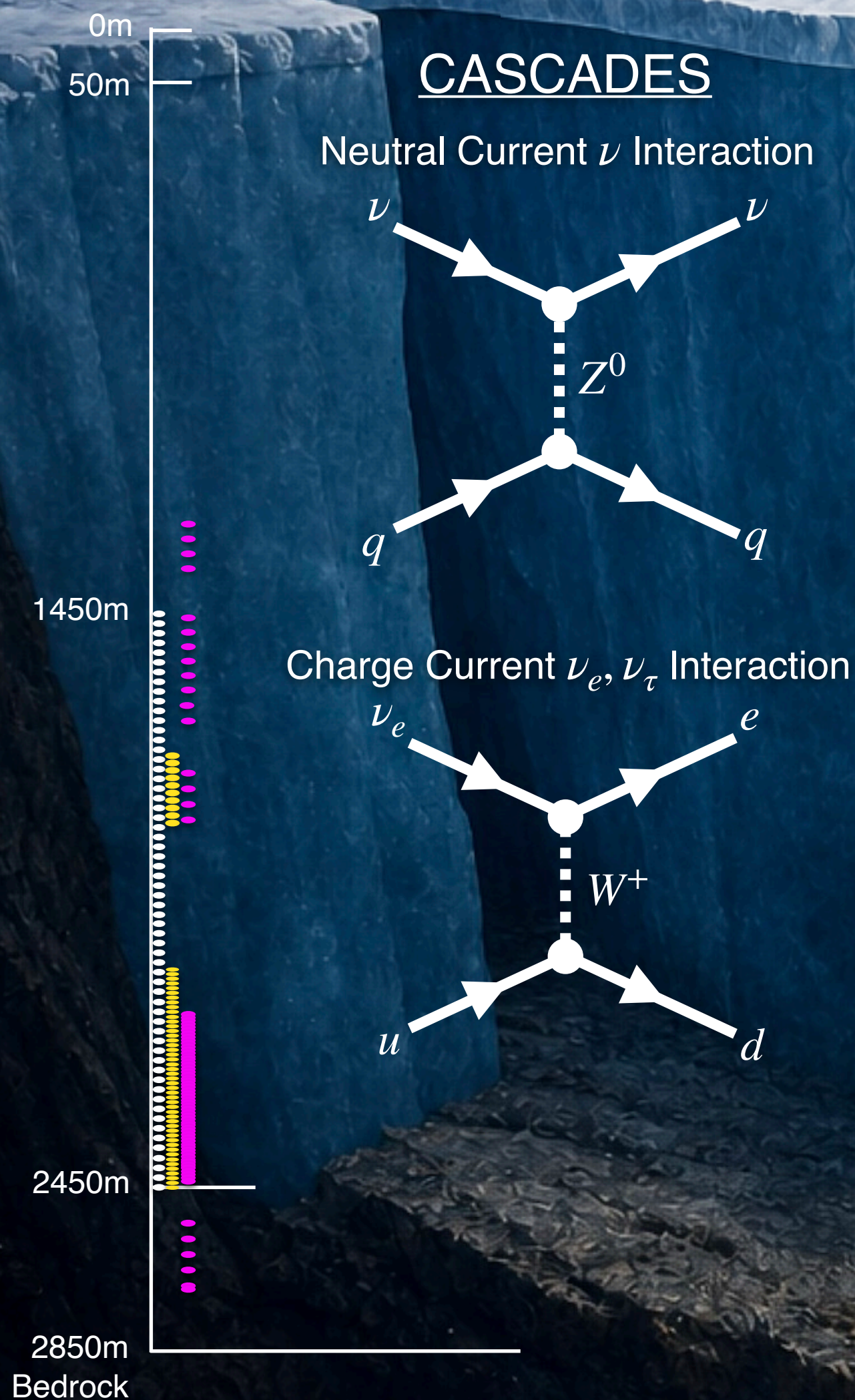
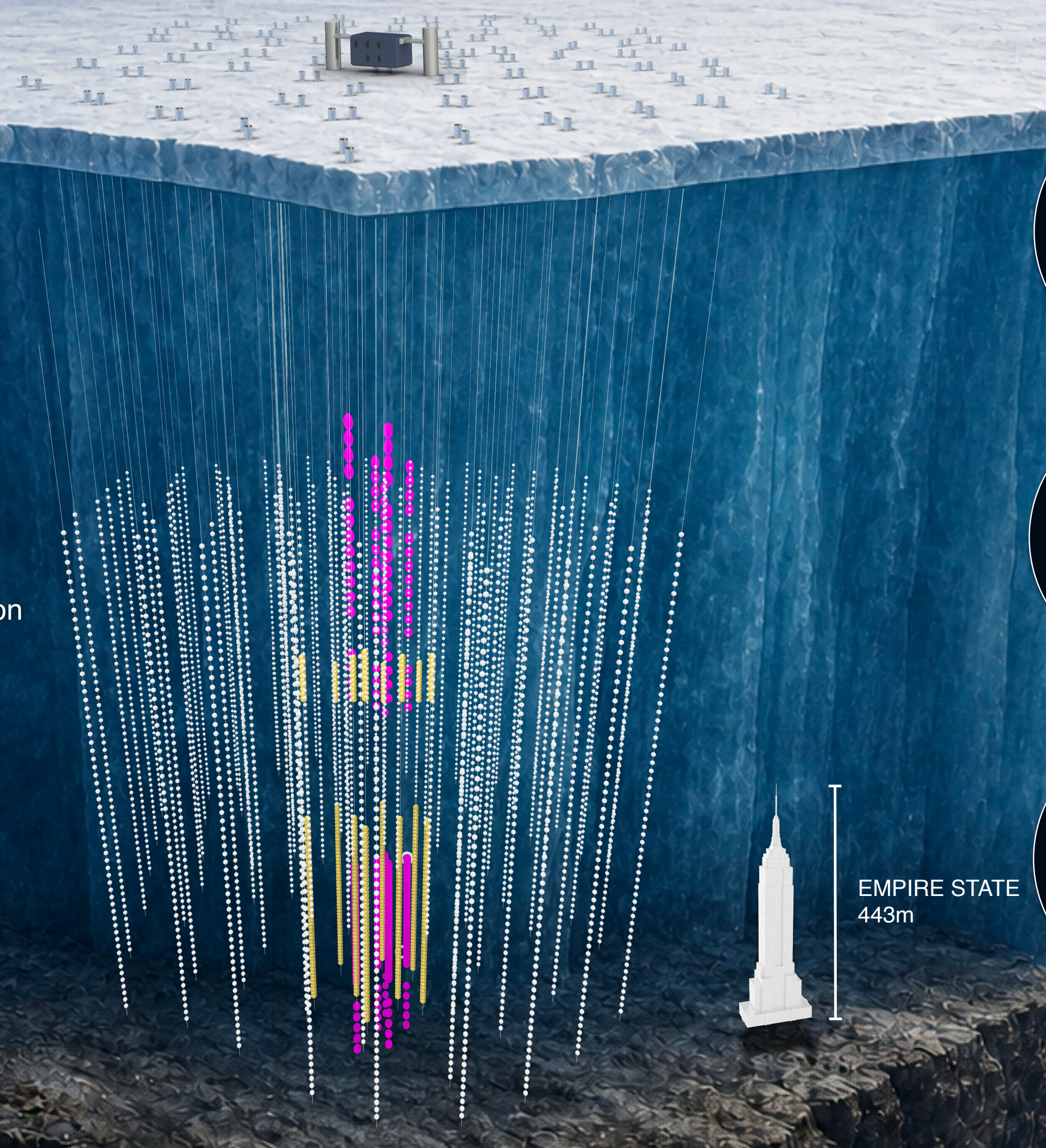
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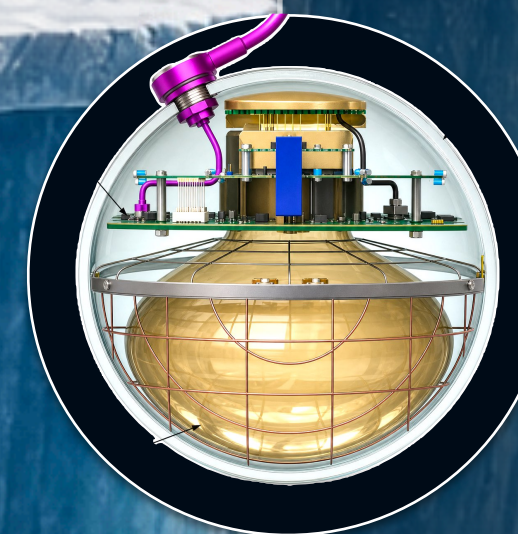
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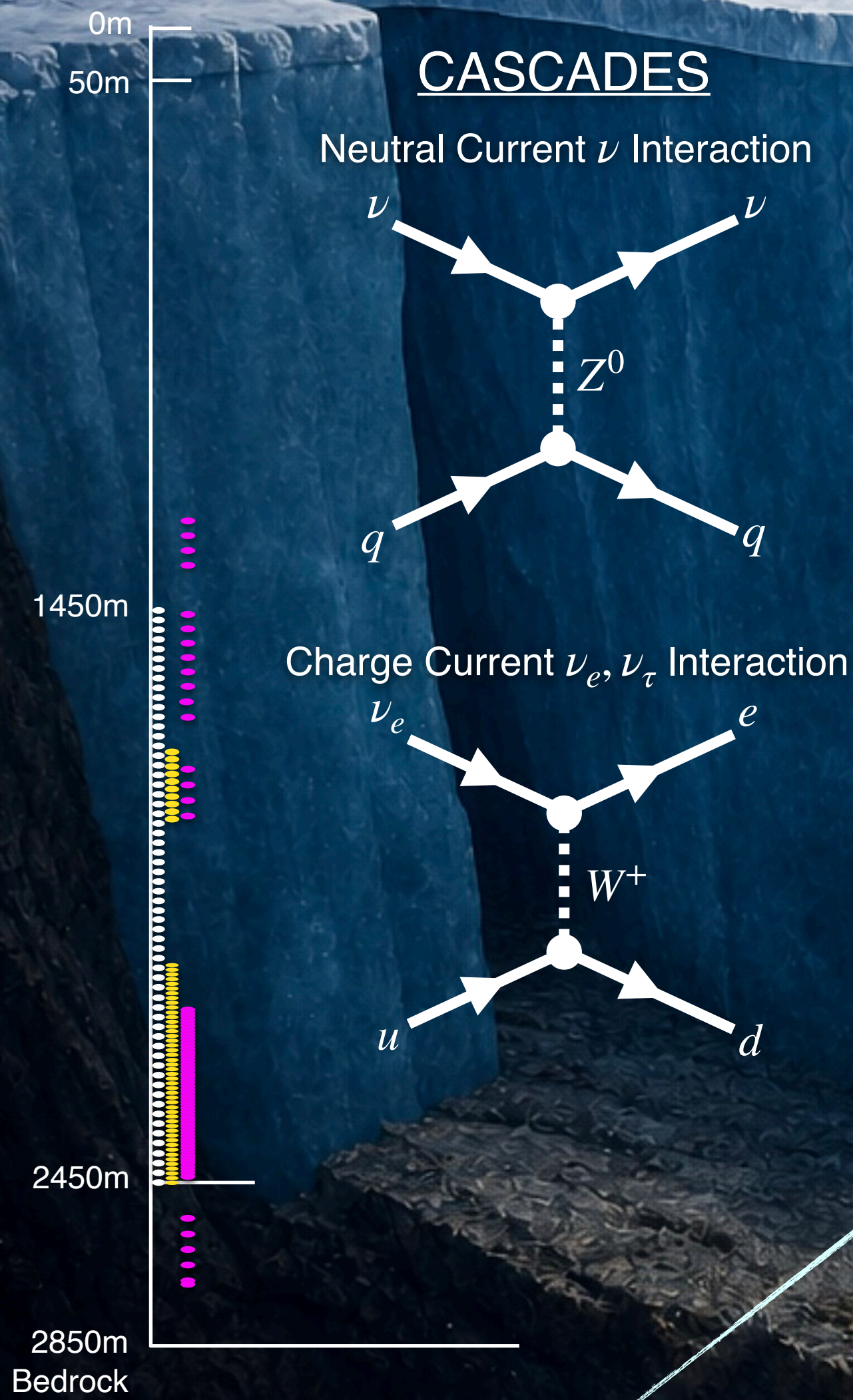
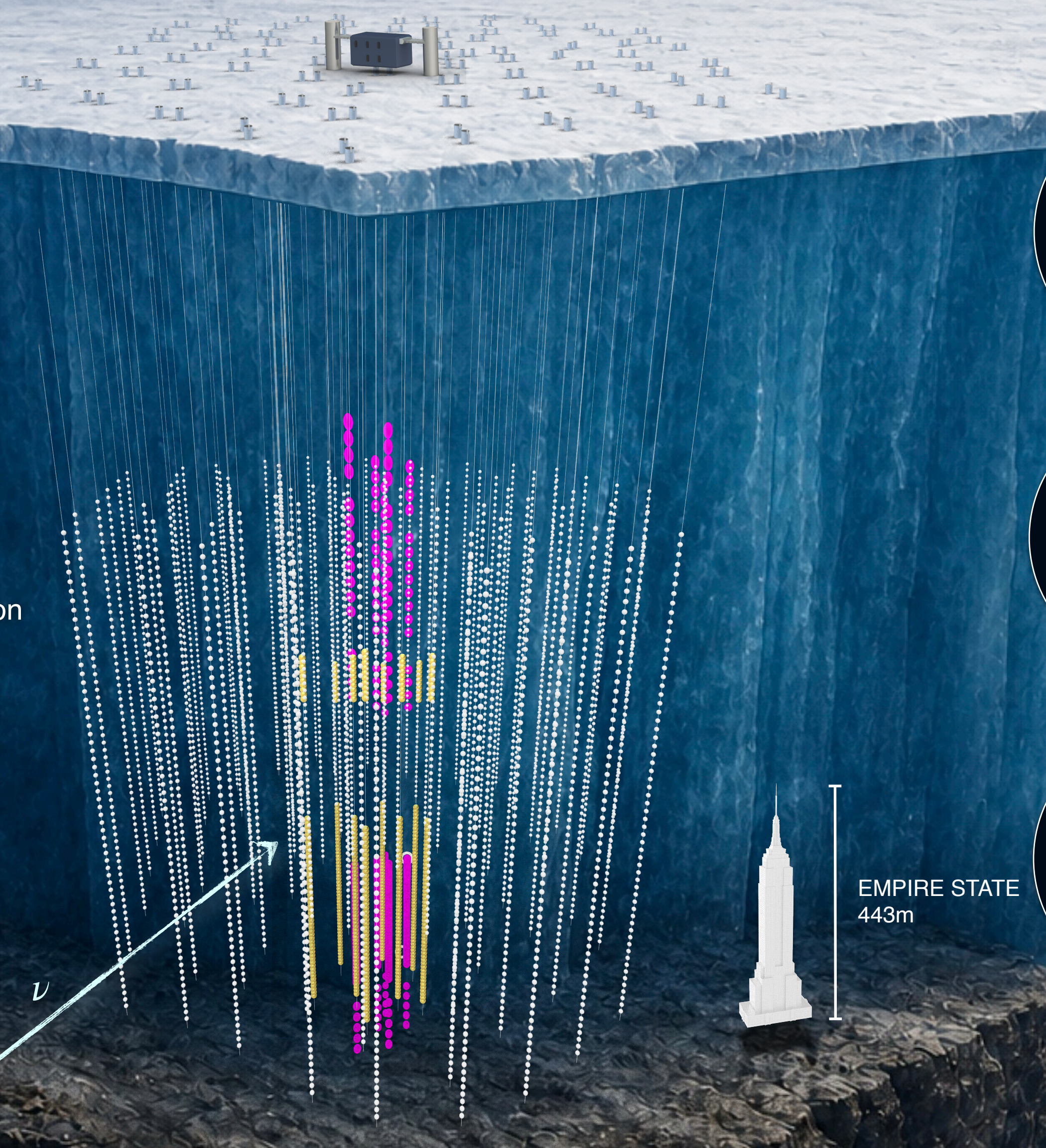
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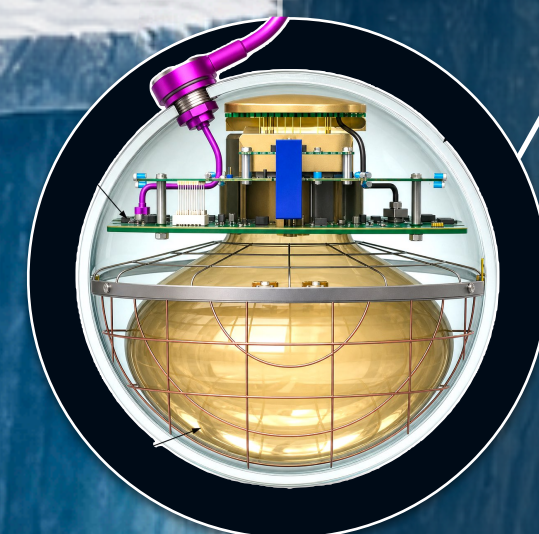
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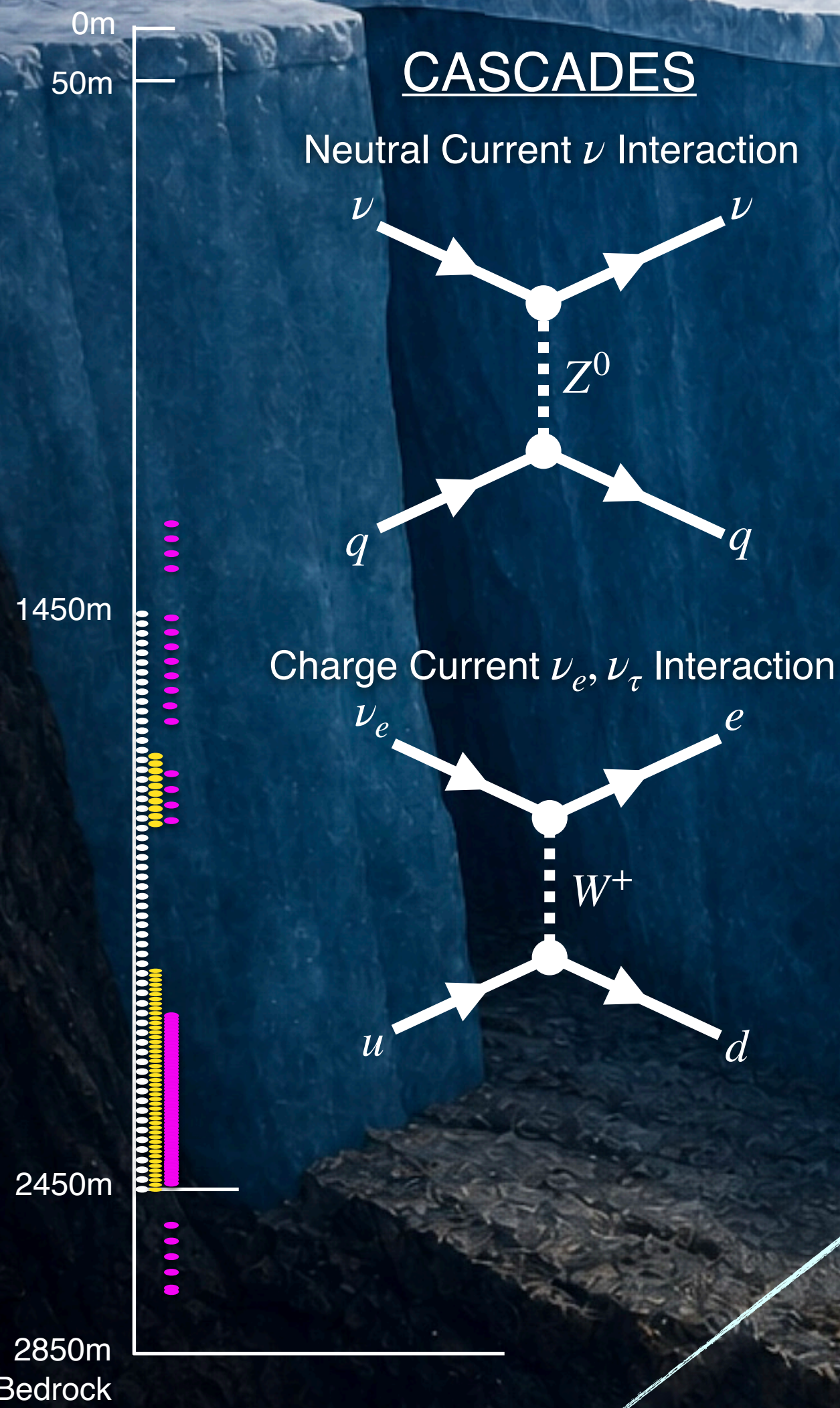
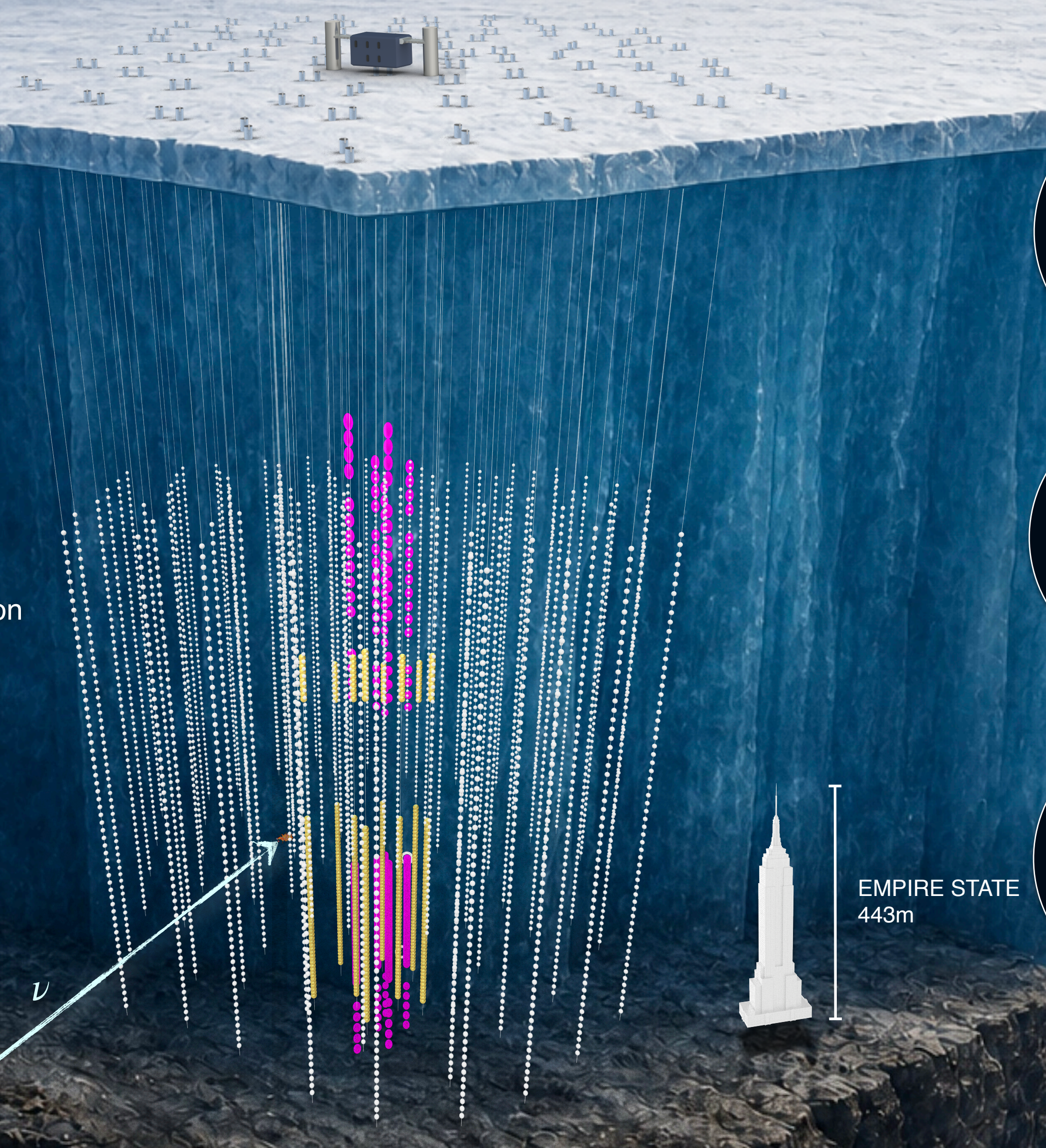
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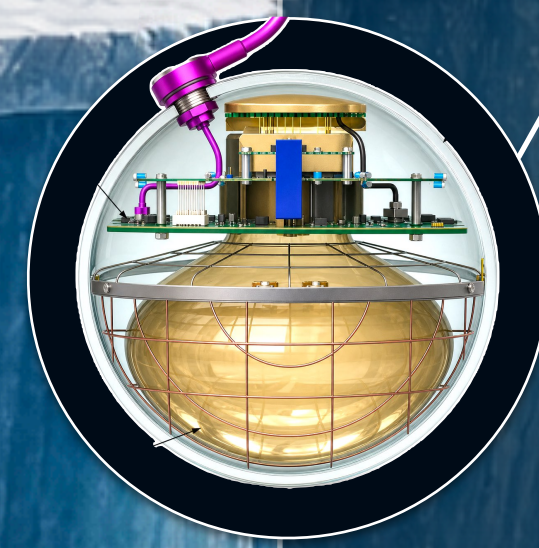
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A CUBIC KILOMETER OF CLEAR ANTARCTIC ICE INSTRUMENTED TO DETECT NEUTRINOS



In-Ice Optical Modules



DIGITAL OPTICAL MODULE (DOM)

- Each DOM contains:
- 10" PMT
 - Readout electronics
 - Calibration LEDs
- 5,160 DOMs total



MULTI-PMT DOM (mDOM)

- Each mDOM contains:
- x24 3.15" PMT
 - Readout electronics
 - x10 flasher LEDs
 - Three cameras
- 288 mDOMs total



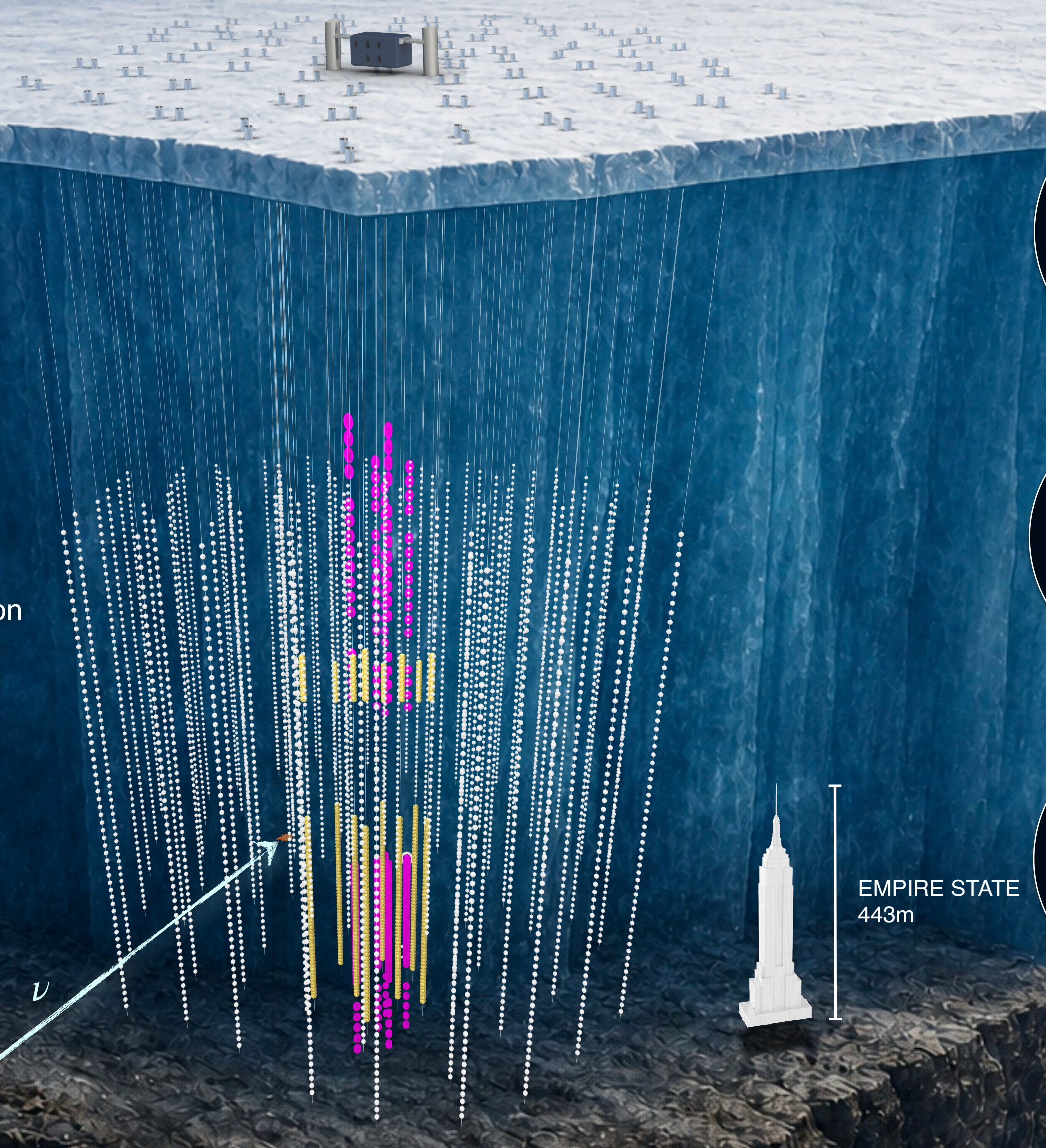
DUAL SENSORS IN AN ELLIPSOID GLASS FOR GEN2 (D-Egg)

- Each D-Egg contains:
- Two 8" HQE PMT
 - Readout electronics
 - x12 UV LEDs
 - Three cameras
- 200 D-Eggs total

+ additional special devices

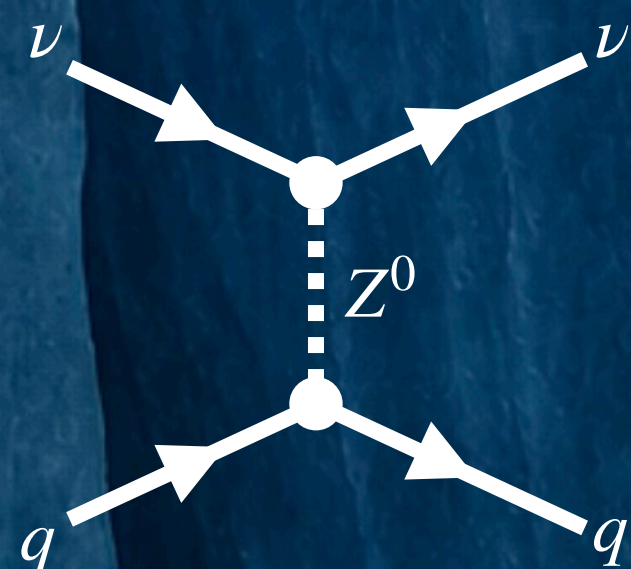


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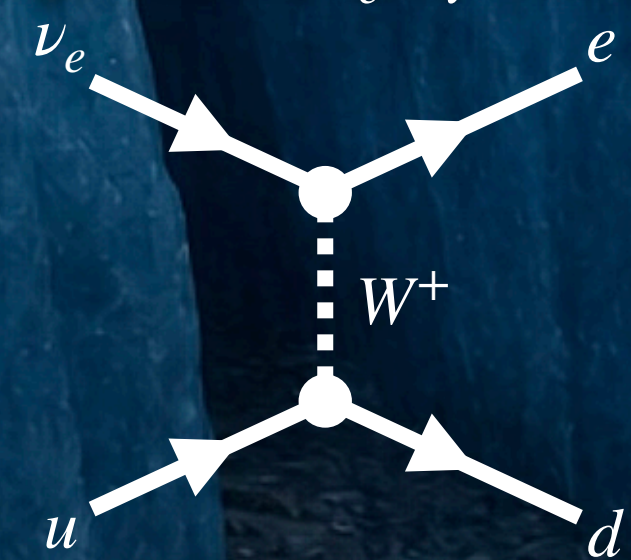


CASCADES

Neutral Current ν Interaction

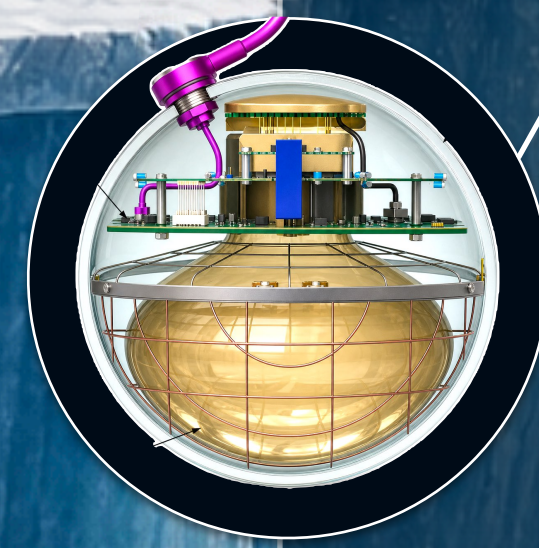


Charge Current ν_e, ν_τ Interaction



0m
50m
1450m
2450m
2850m
Bedrock

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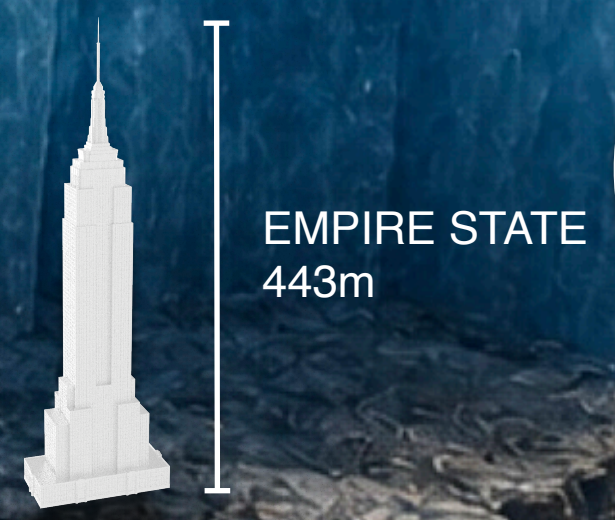
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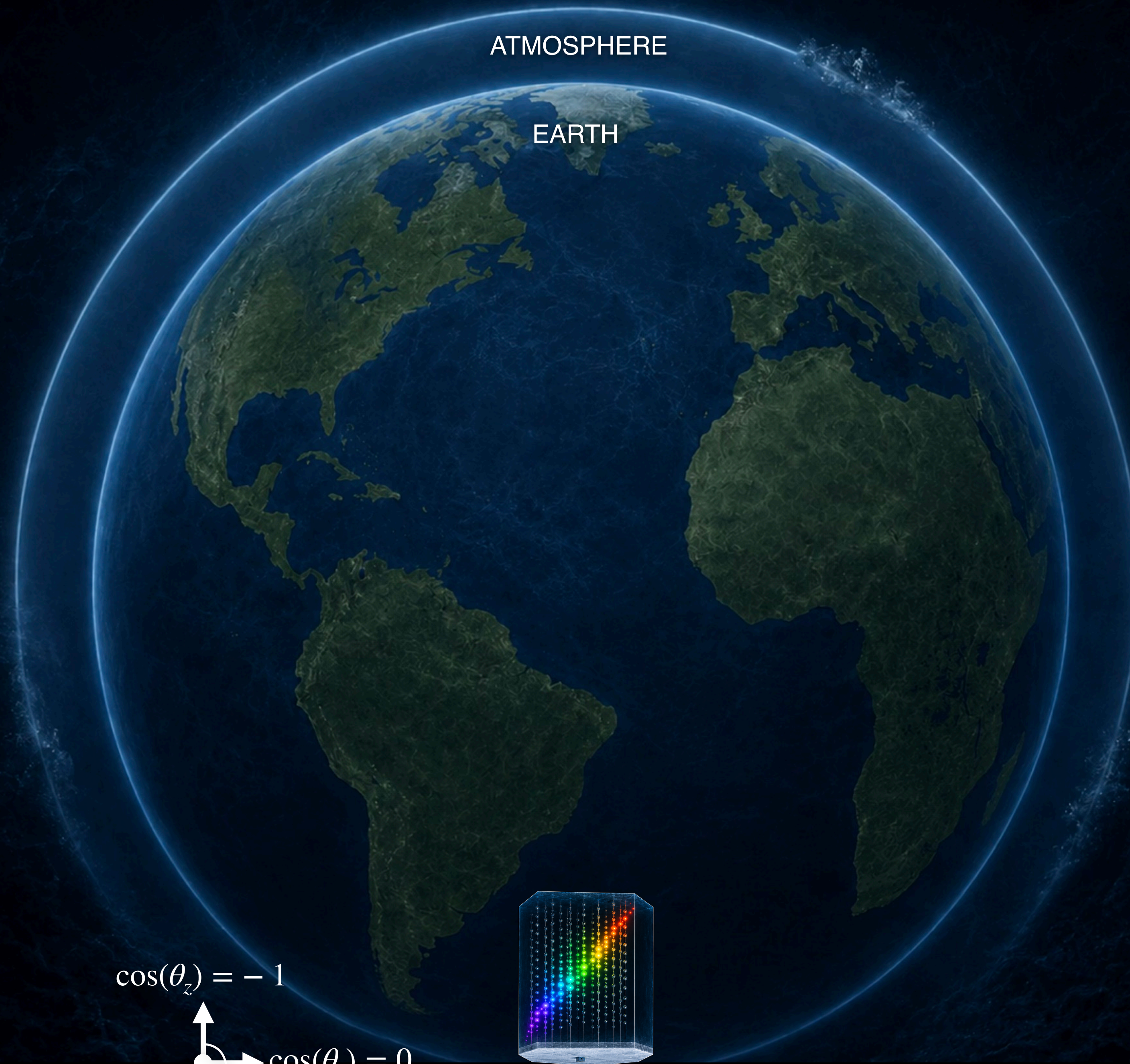
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ATMOSPHERE

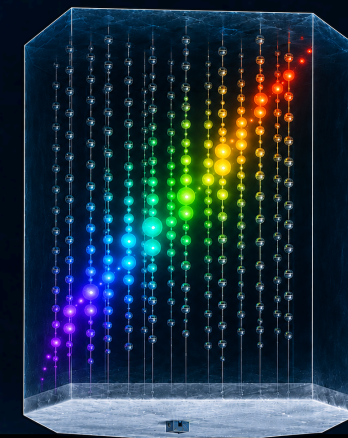
EARTH



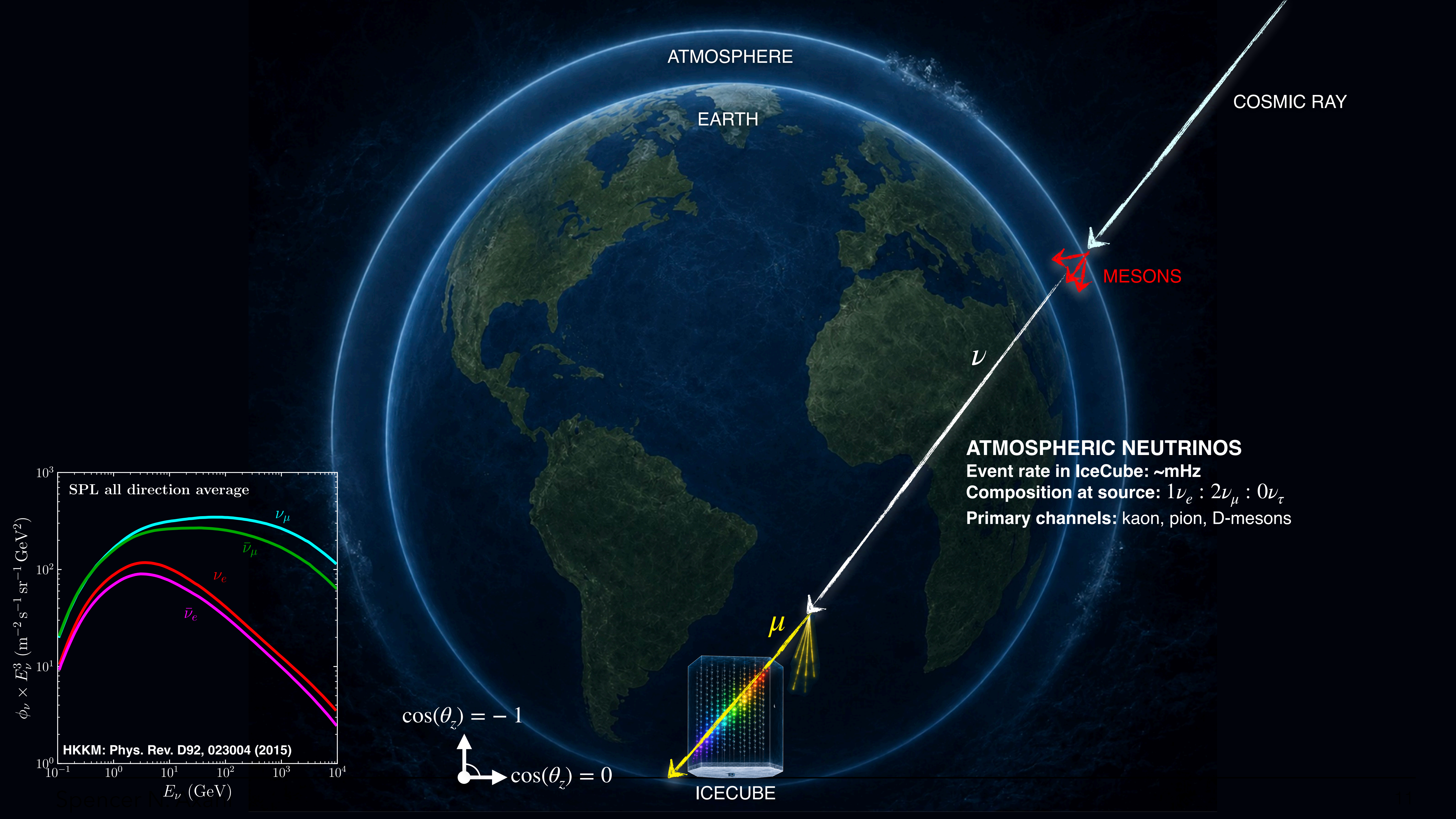
$$\cos(\theta_z) = -1$$



$$\cos(\theta_z) = 0$$



ICECUBE



ATMOSPHERE

EARTH

COSMIC RAY

MESONS

ν

ATMOSPHERIC NEUTRINOS

Event rate in IceCube: \sim mHz

Composition at source: $1\nu_e : 2\nu_\mu : 0\nu_\tau$

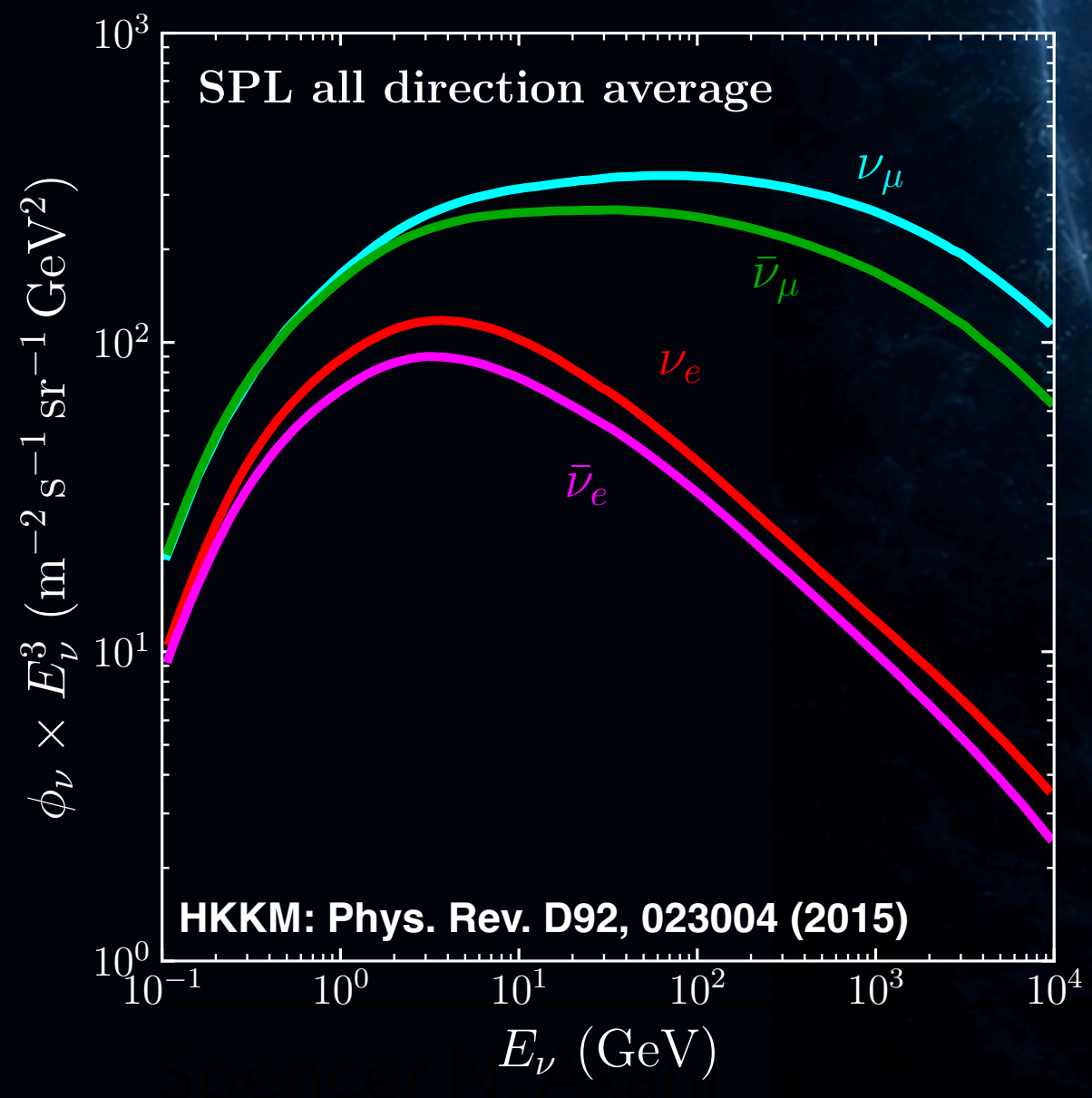
Primary channels: kaon, pion, D-mesons

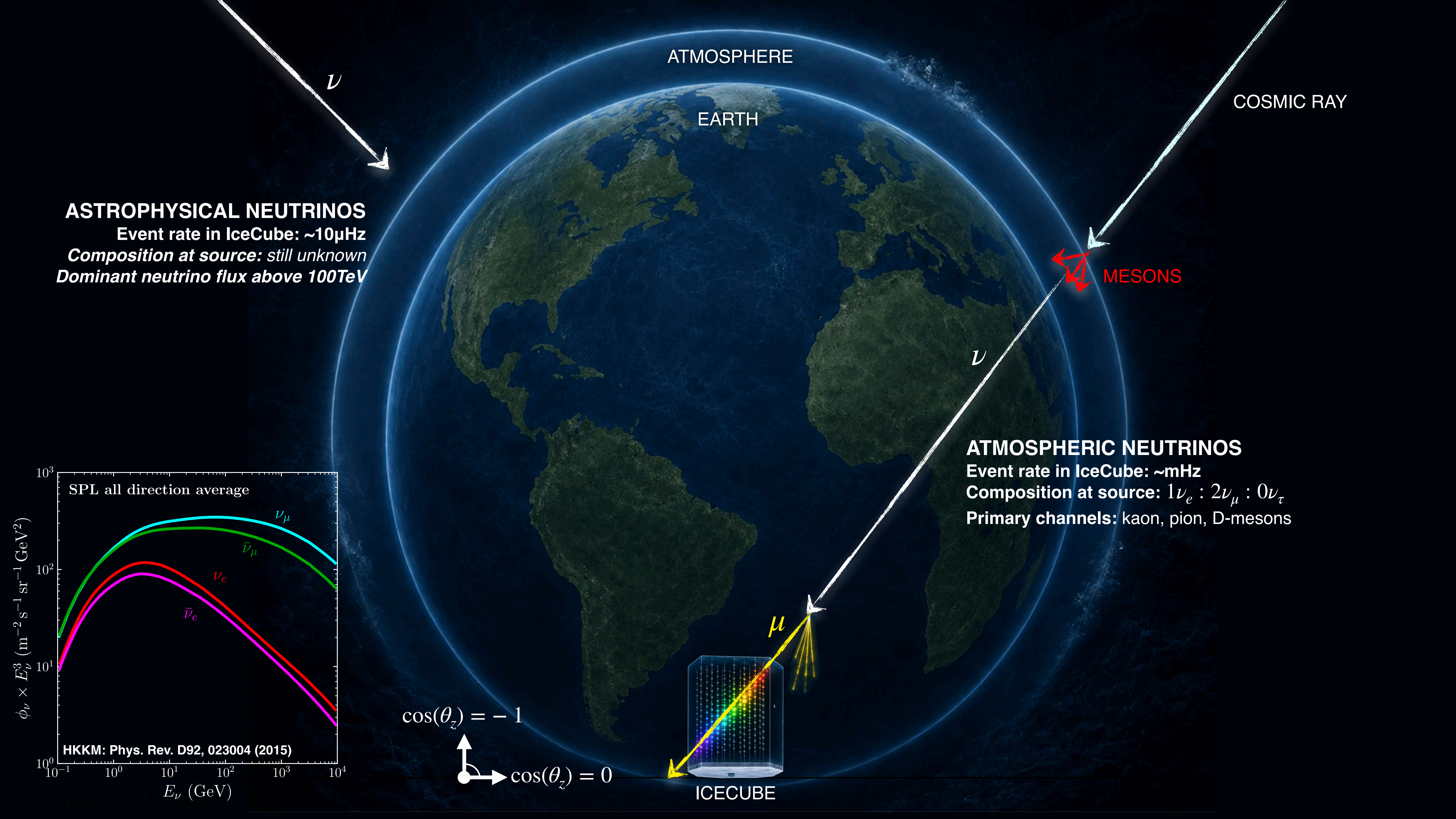
μ

ICECUBE

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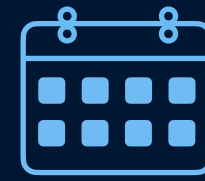
$\cos(\theta_z) = 0$





ASTROPHYSICAL NEUTRINOS

Event rate in IceCube: $\sim 10\mu\text{Hz}$
Composition at source: still unknown
Dominant neutrino flux above 100TeV



SEE PROF.
ALI KHEIRANDISH'S
TALK ON WEDNESDAY



10:15AM

ATMOSPHERE

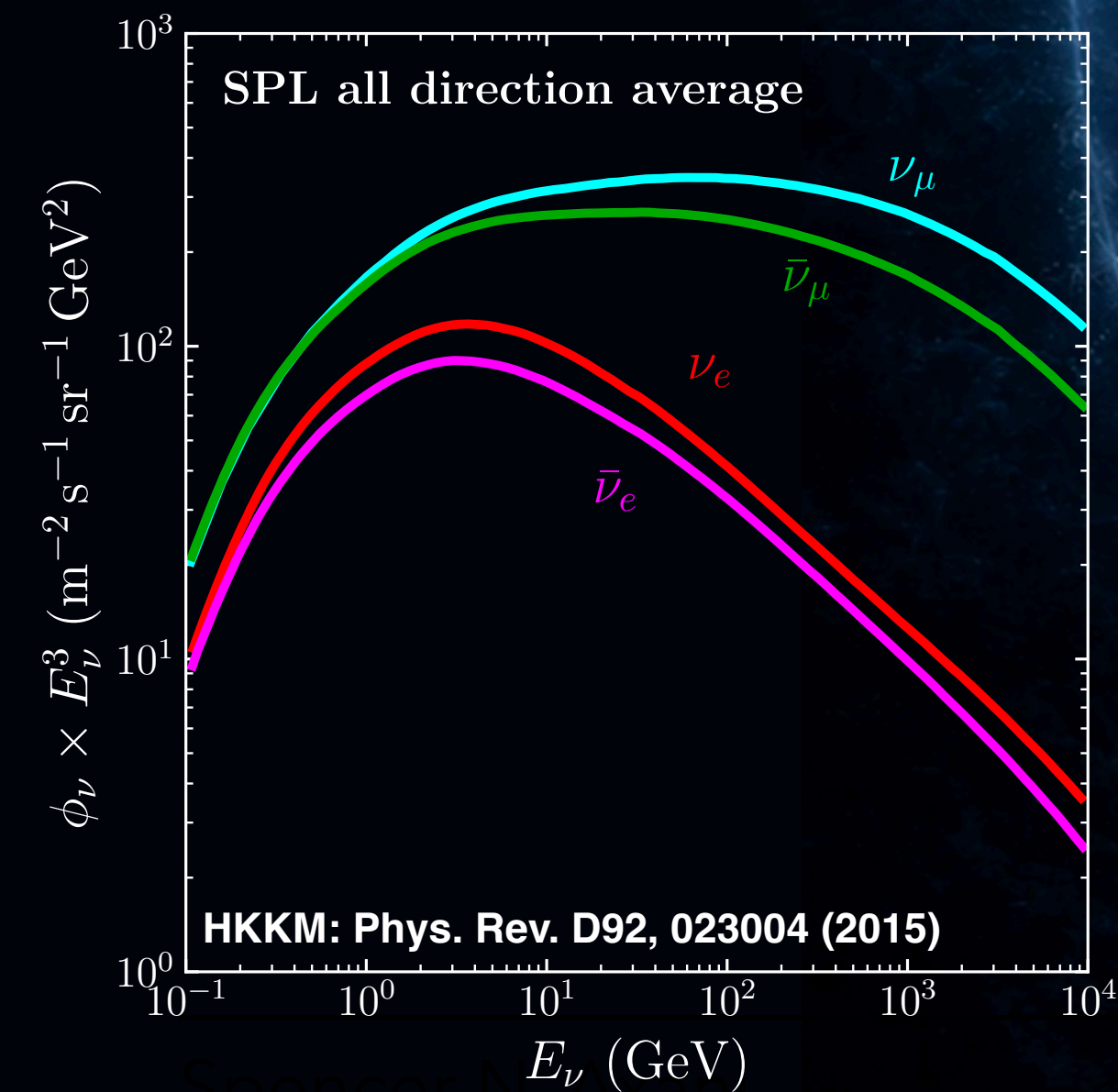
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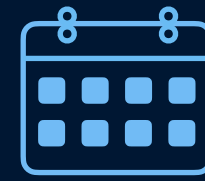


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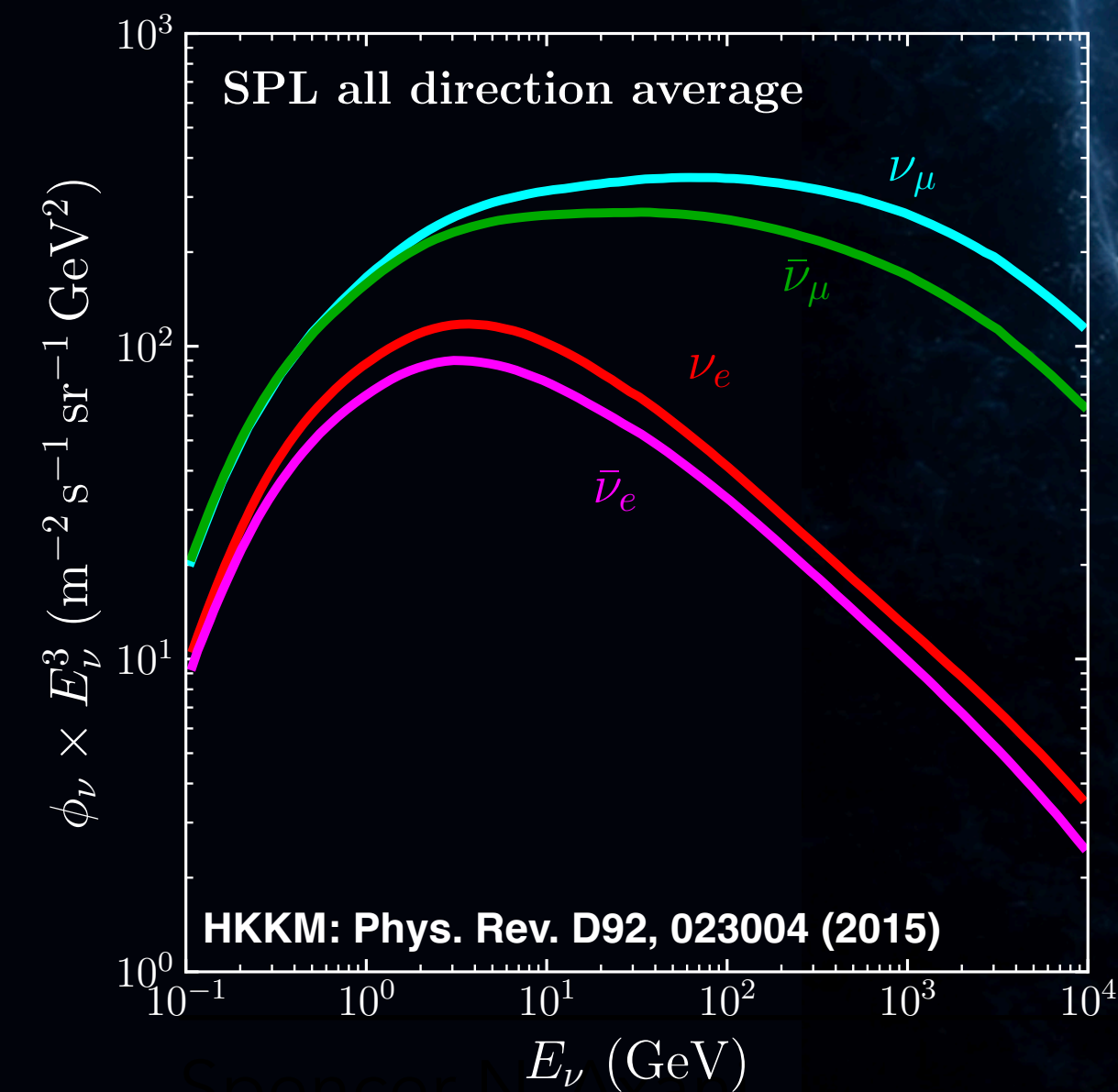
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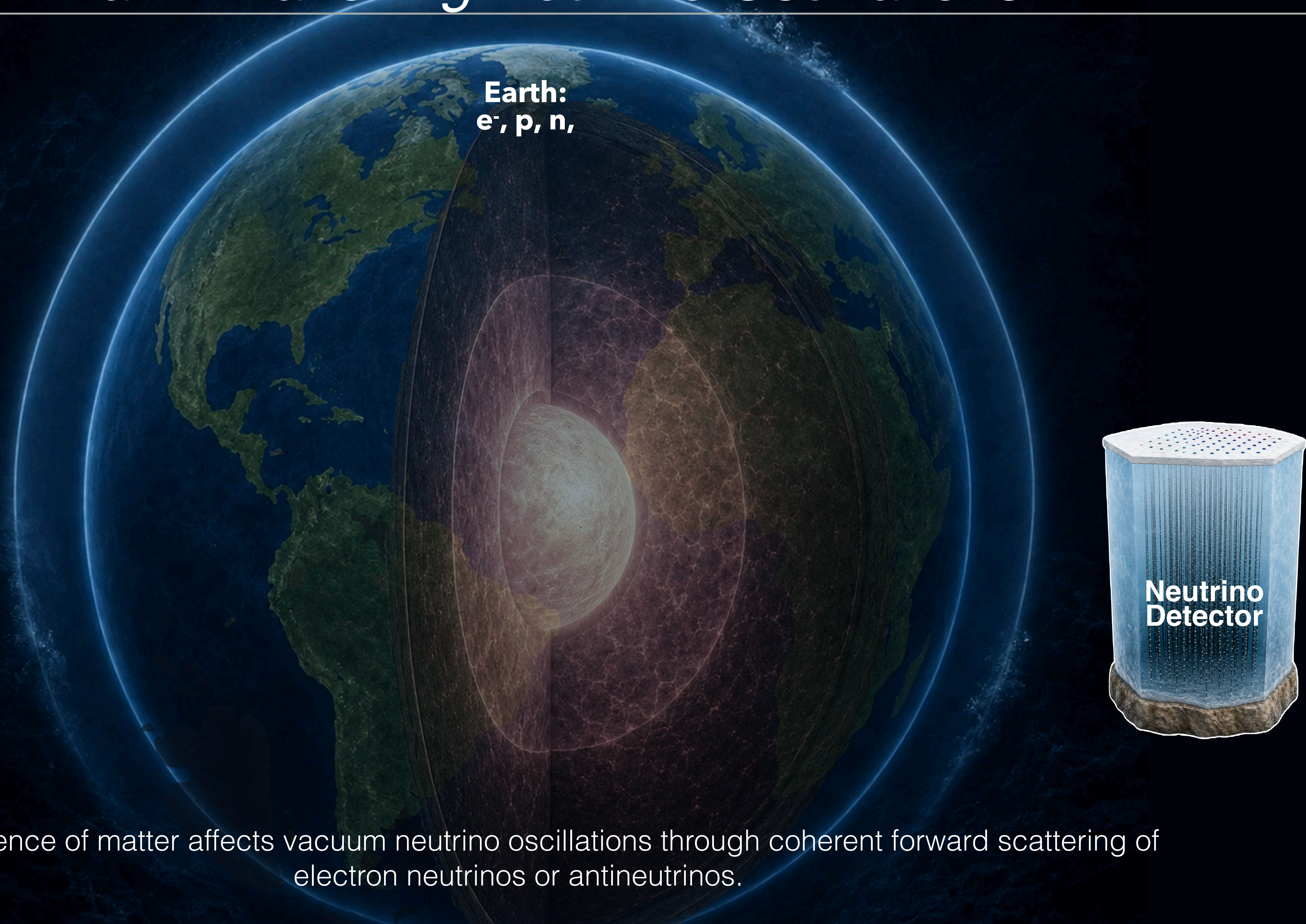
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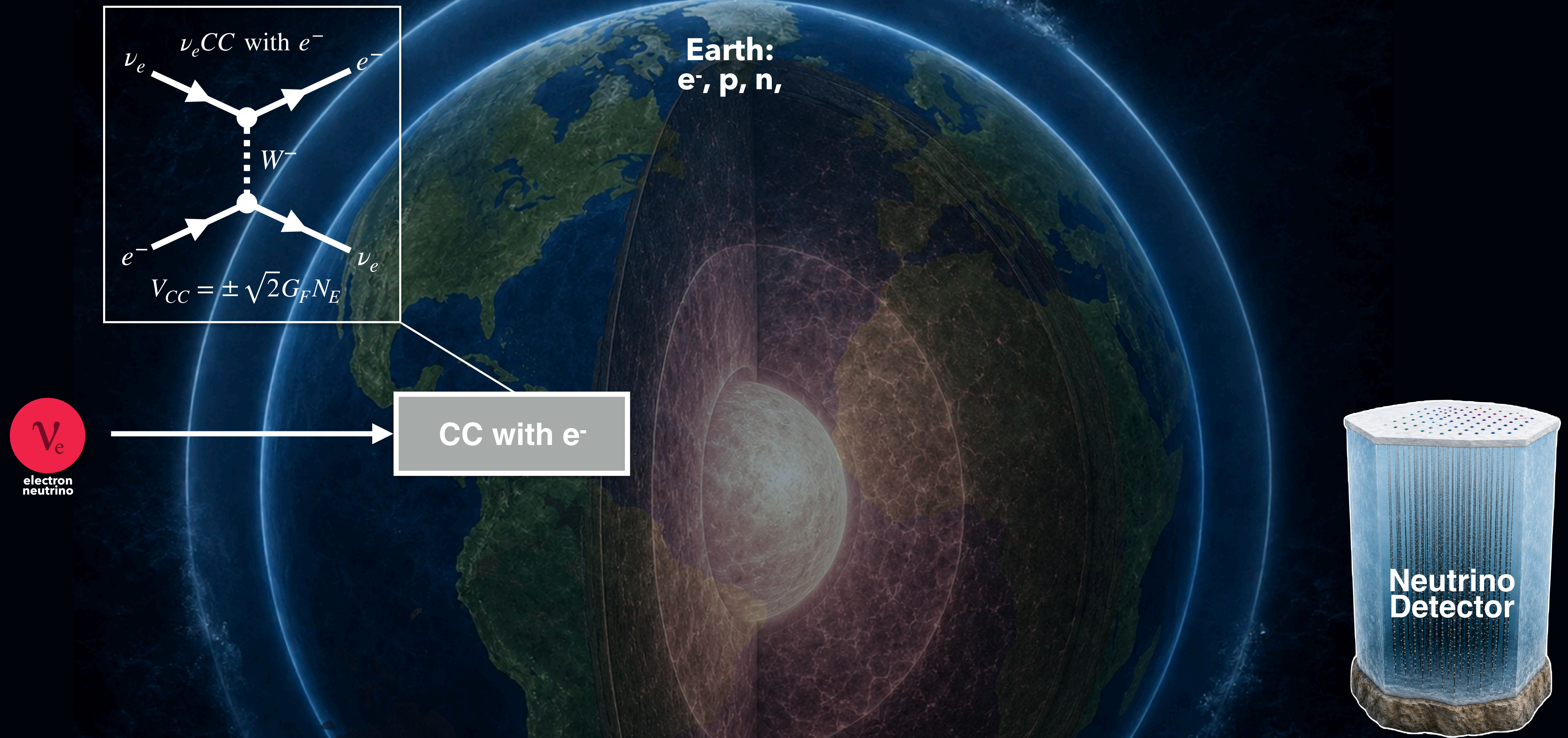
ICECUBE

Earth-Transiting Neutrino Oscillations



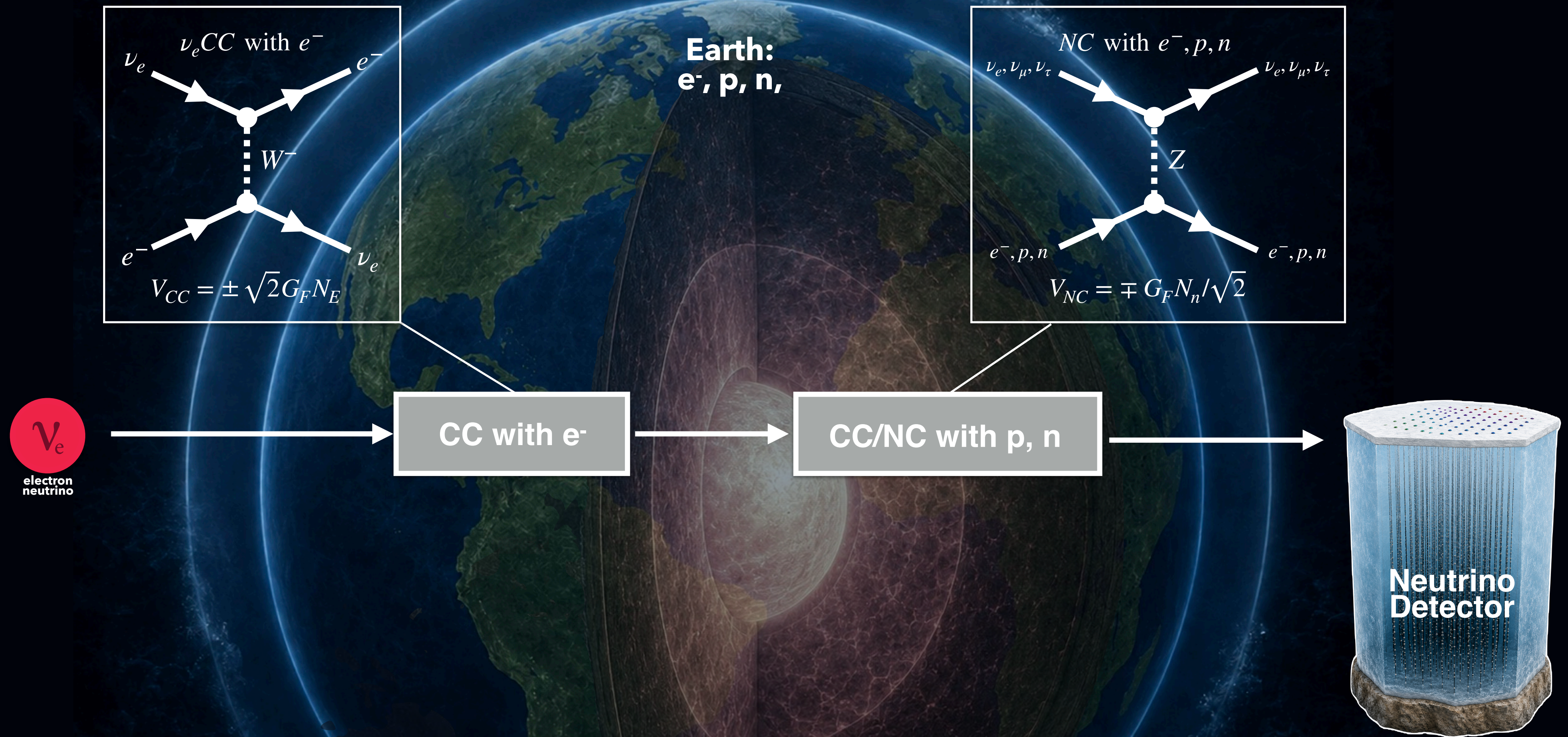
The presence of matter affects vacuum neutrino oscillations through coherent forward scattering of electron neutrinos or antineutrinos.

Earth-Transiting Neutrino Oscillations



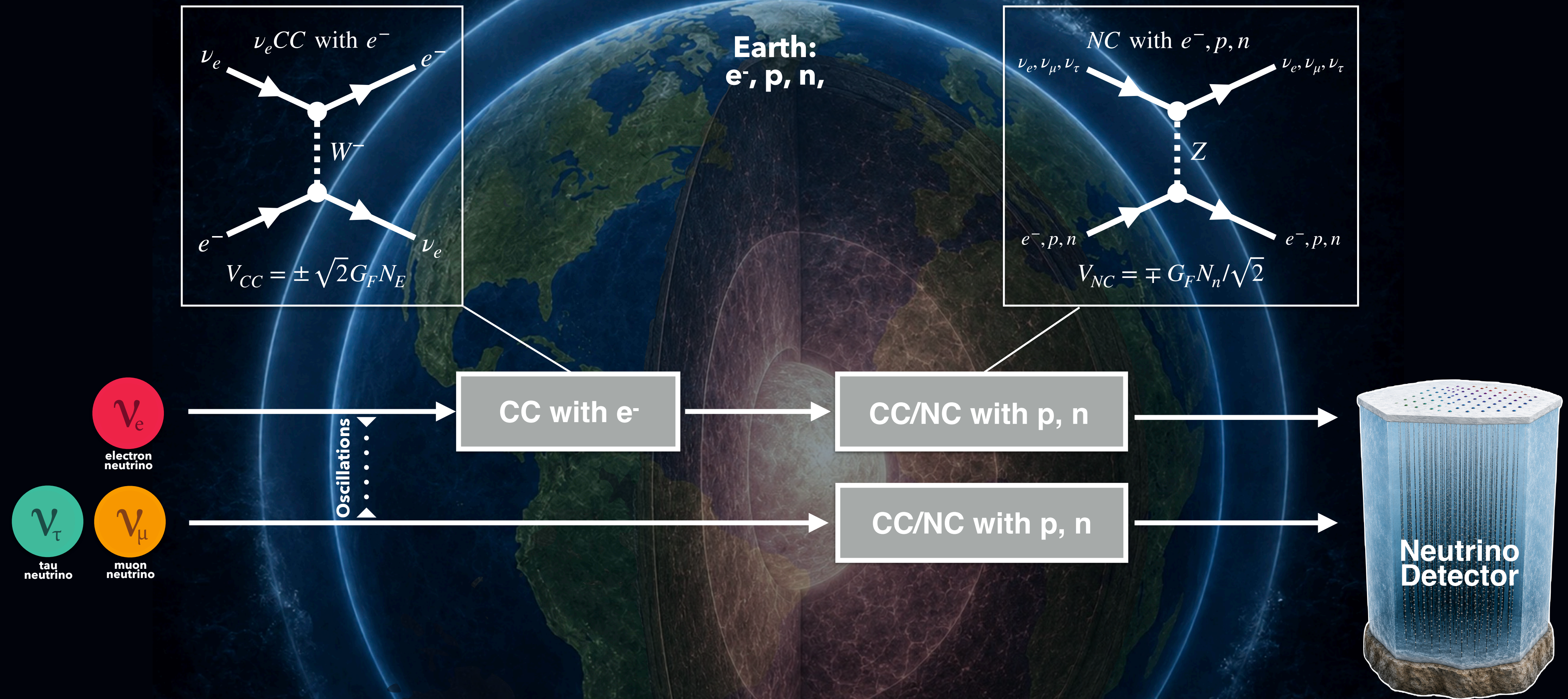
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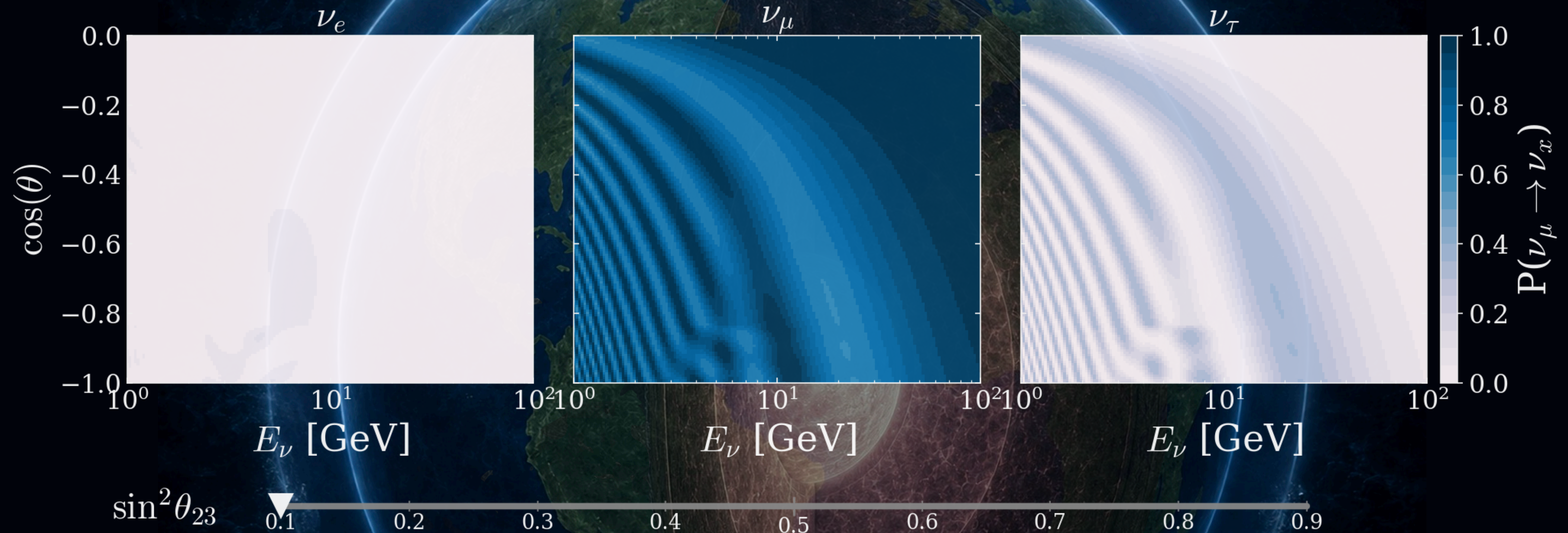
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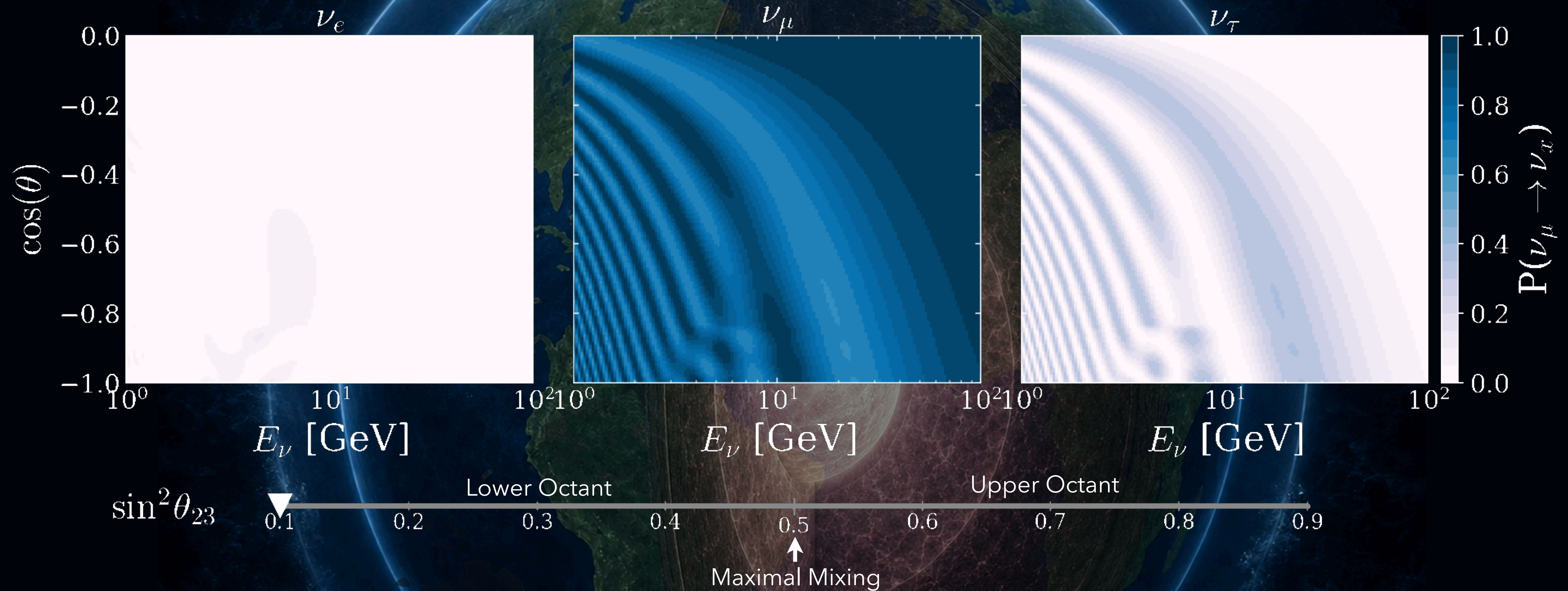
Earth-Transiting Neutrino Oscillations Signature

$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_x)$ oscillogram passing through earth, assuming Normal Ordering (NO): $m_3 > m_2 > m_1$.



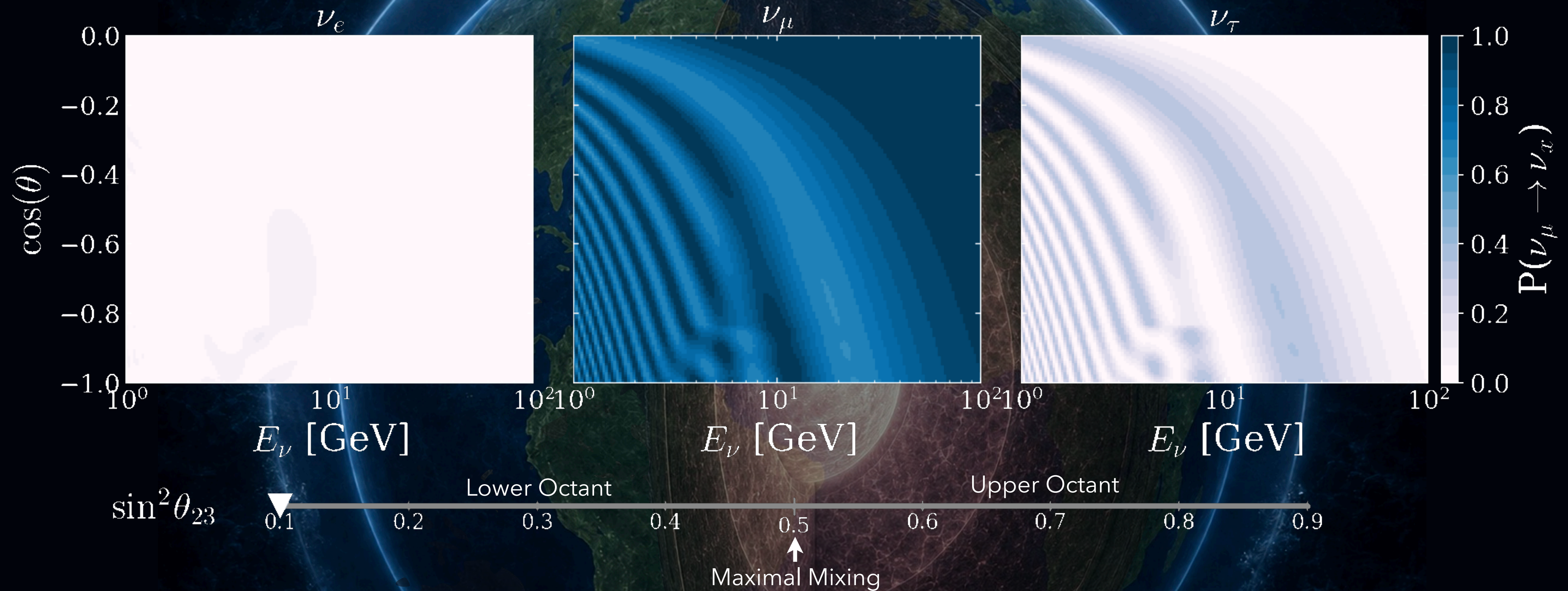
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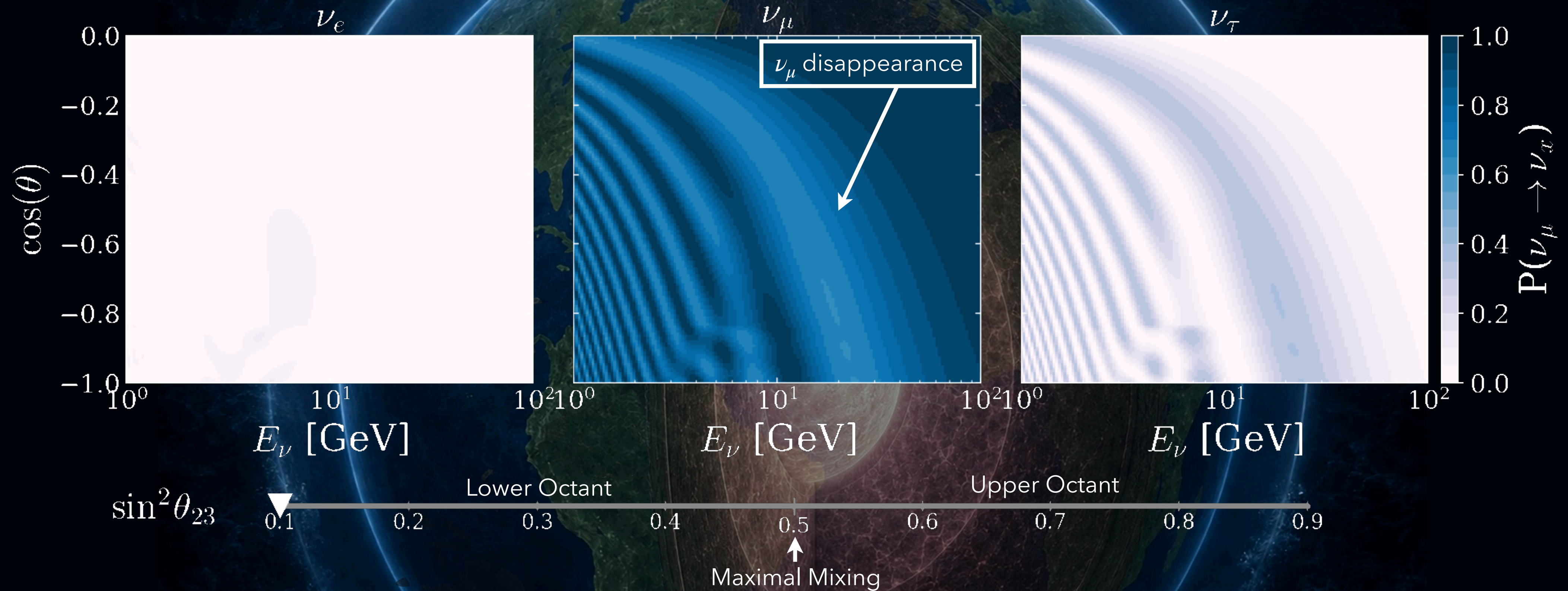
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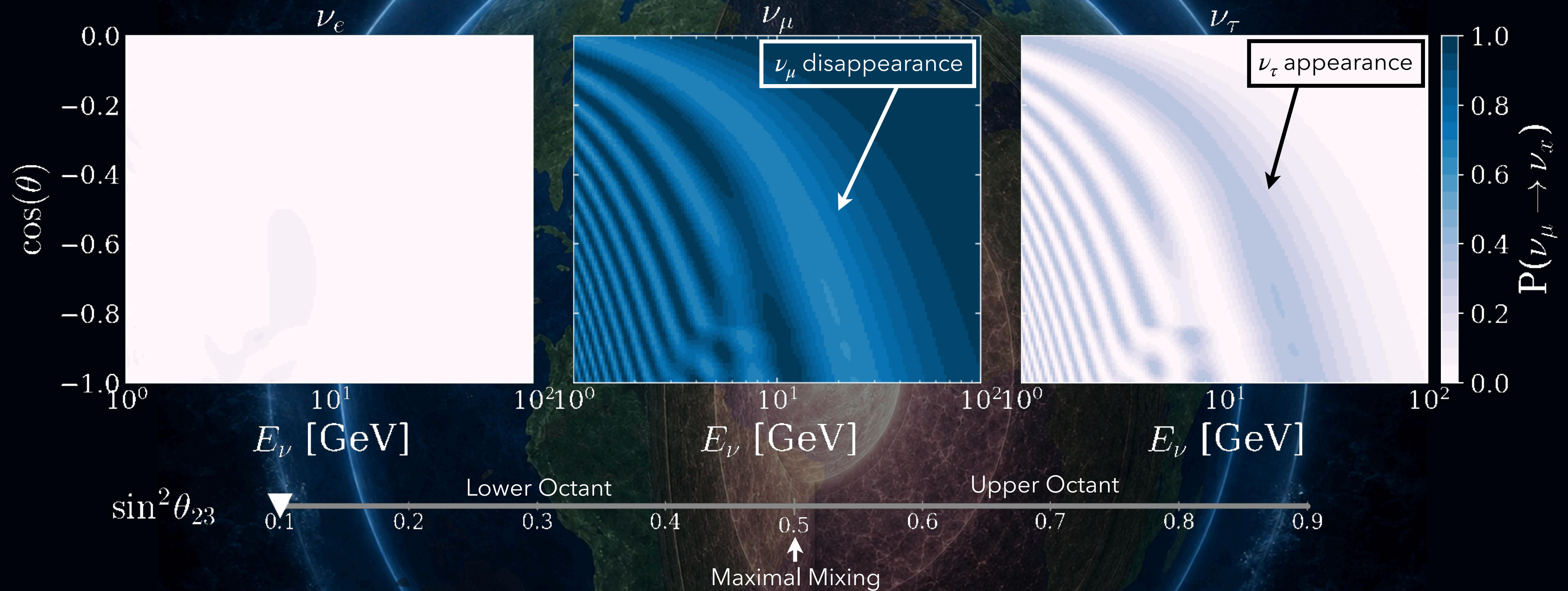
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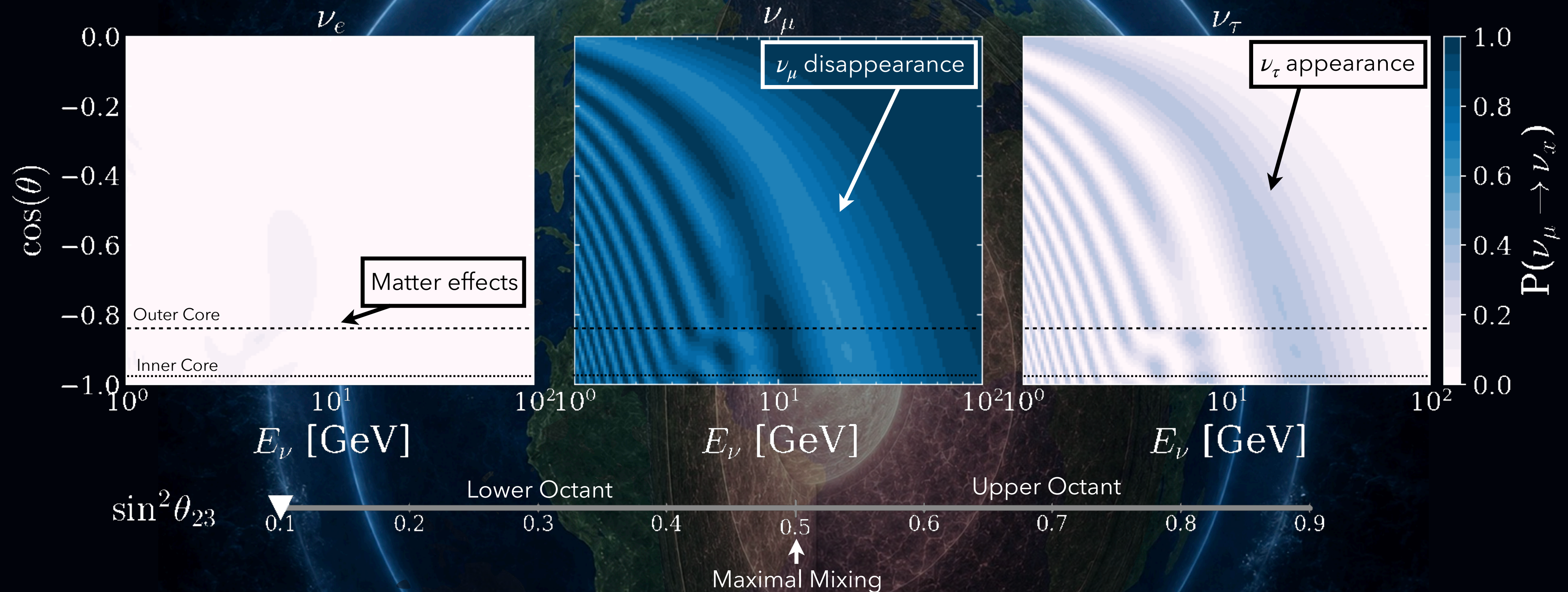
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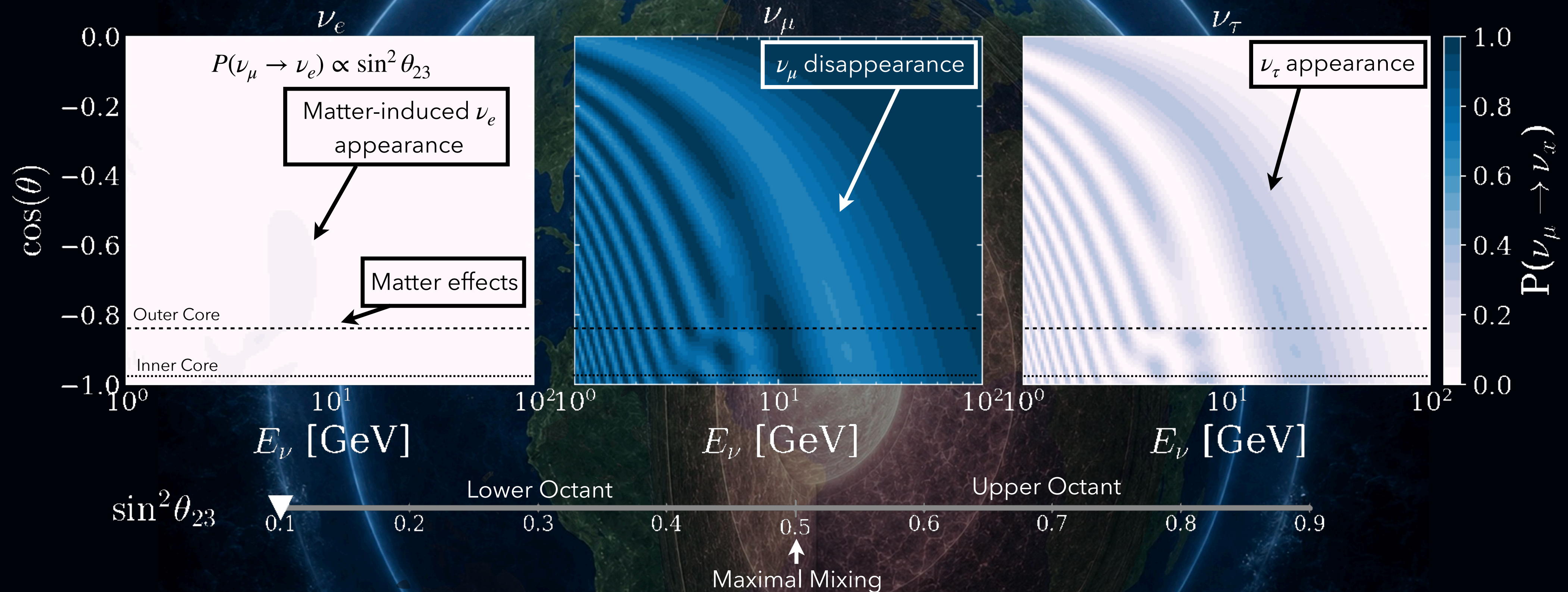
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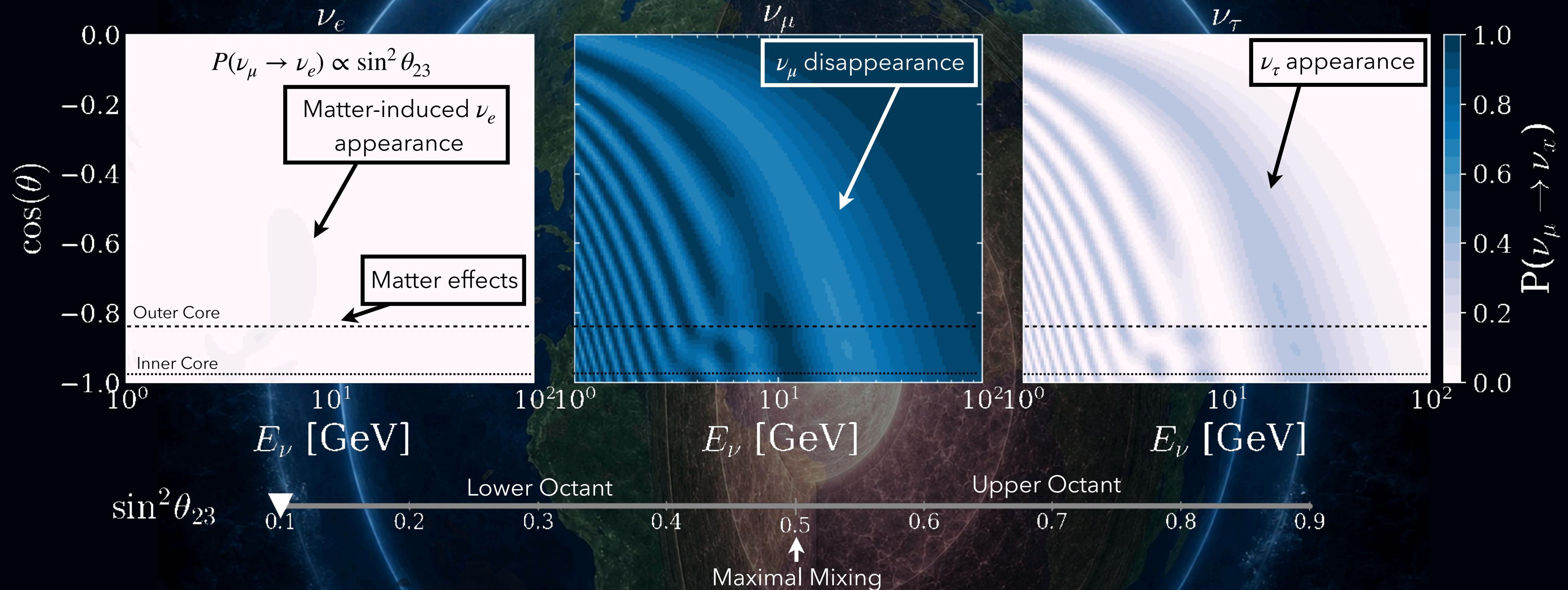
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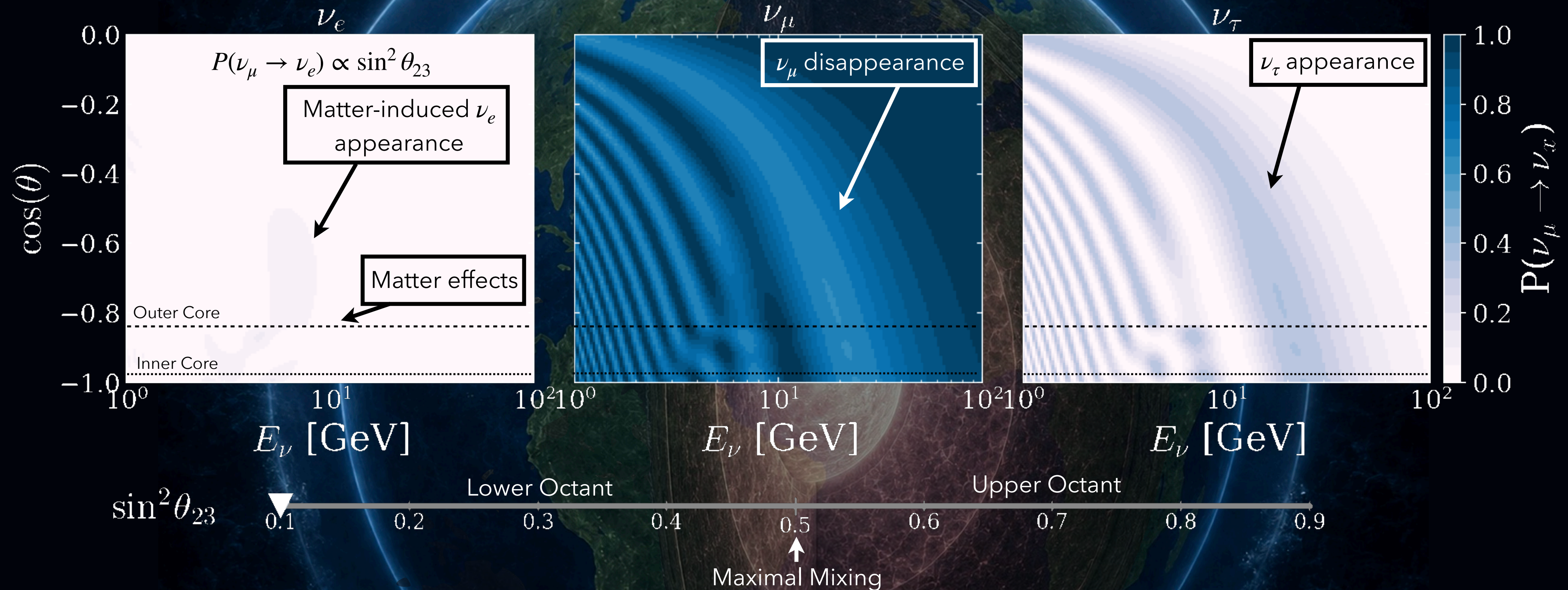
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- For Inverting Ordering (IO): $m_3 < m_2 < m_1$, the matter effect moves into the antineutrino flux.

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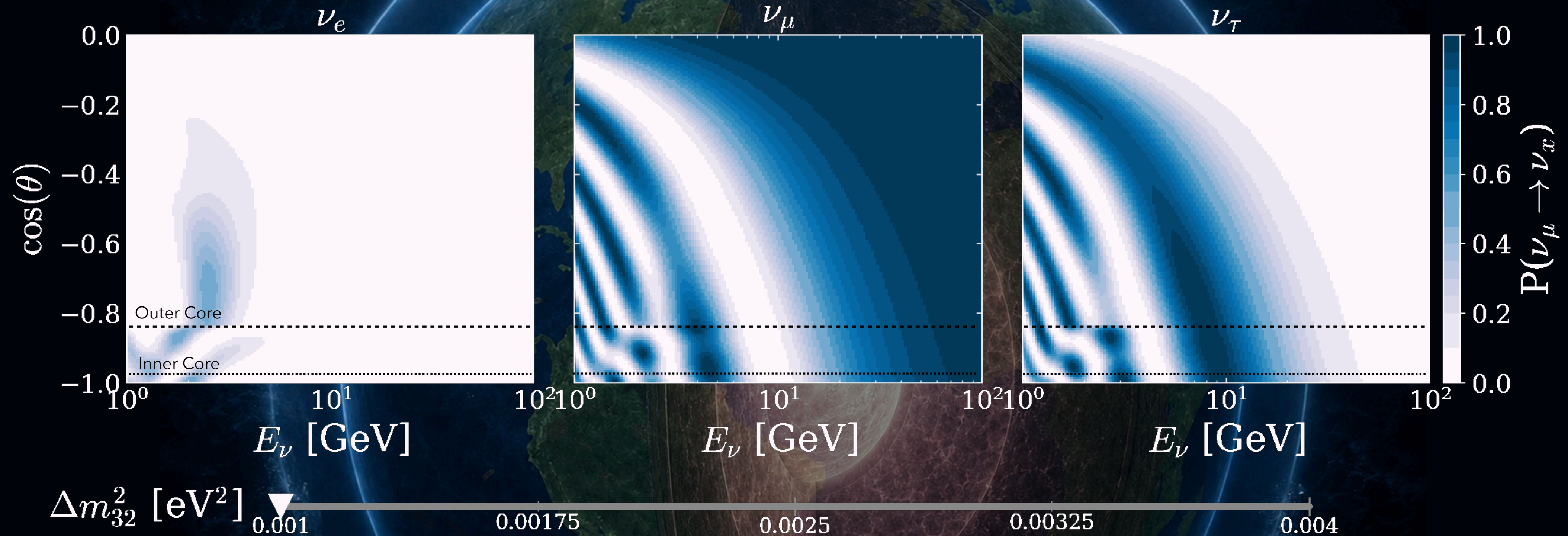
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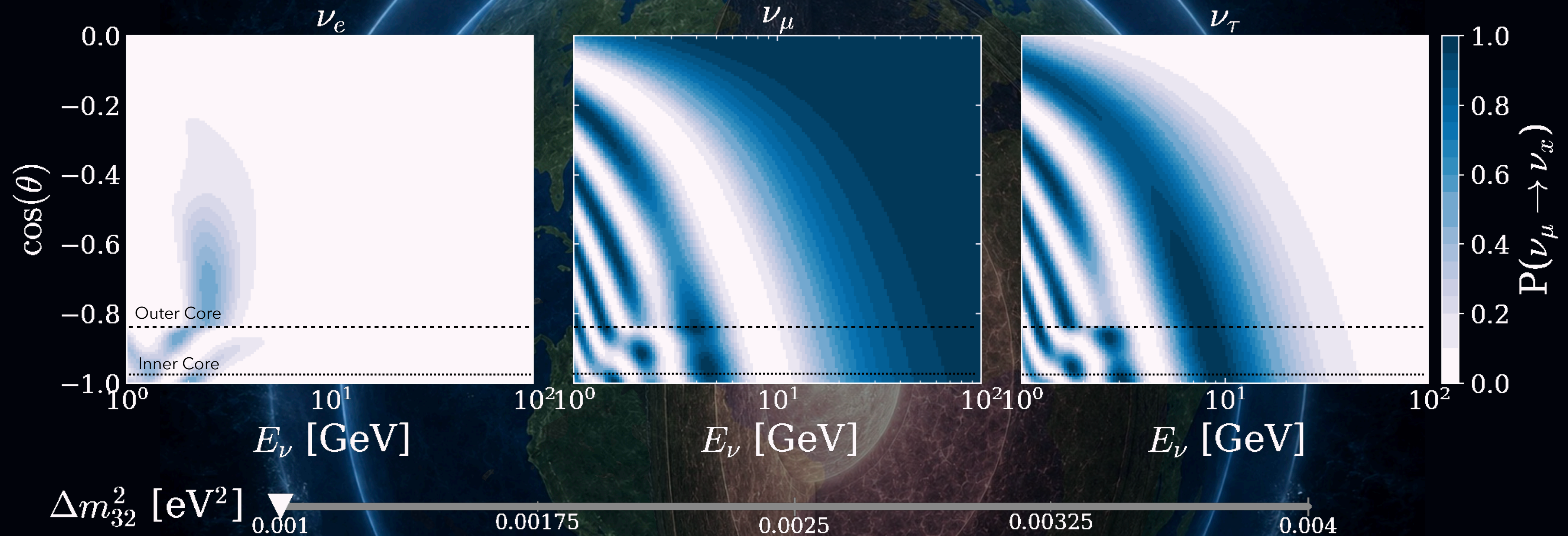
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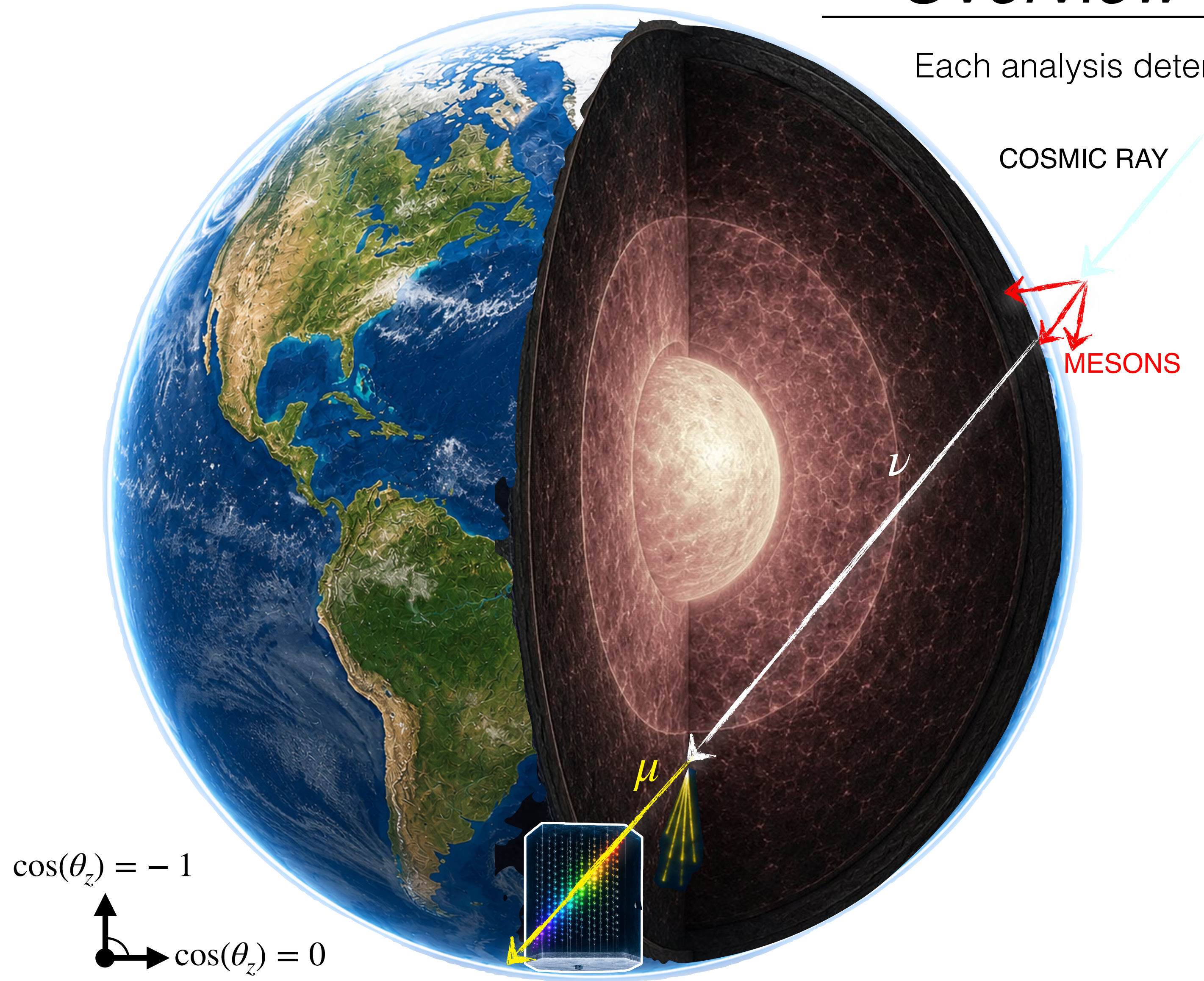
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Overview of systematic uncertainties

Each analysis determines how sensitive it is to:

Conventional ν flux uncertainties

- ν production rates from pions and kaons (DAEMONFLUX [1], BARR)
- Atmospheric density (new IC seasonal variations result in [2])



Careful systematic control through probing multiple baselines (L/E).

[2] Seasonal Variations of the Atmospheric Muon Neutrino: Eur. Phys. J. C 85, 1368 (2025)

[1] DAEMONFLUX: Phys. Rev. D 107, 123037, (2023)

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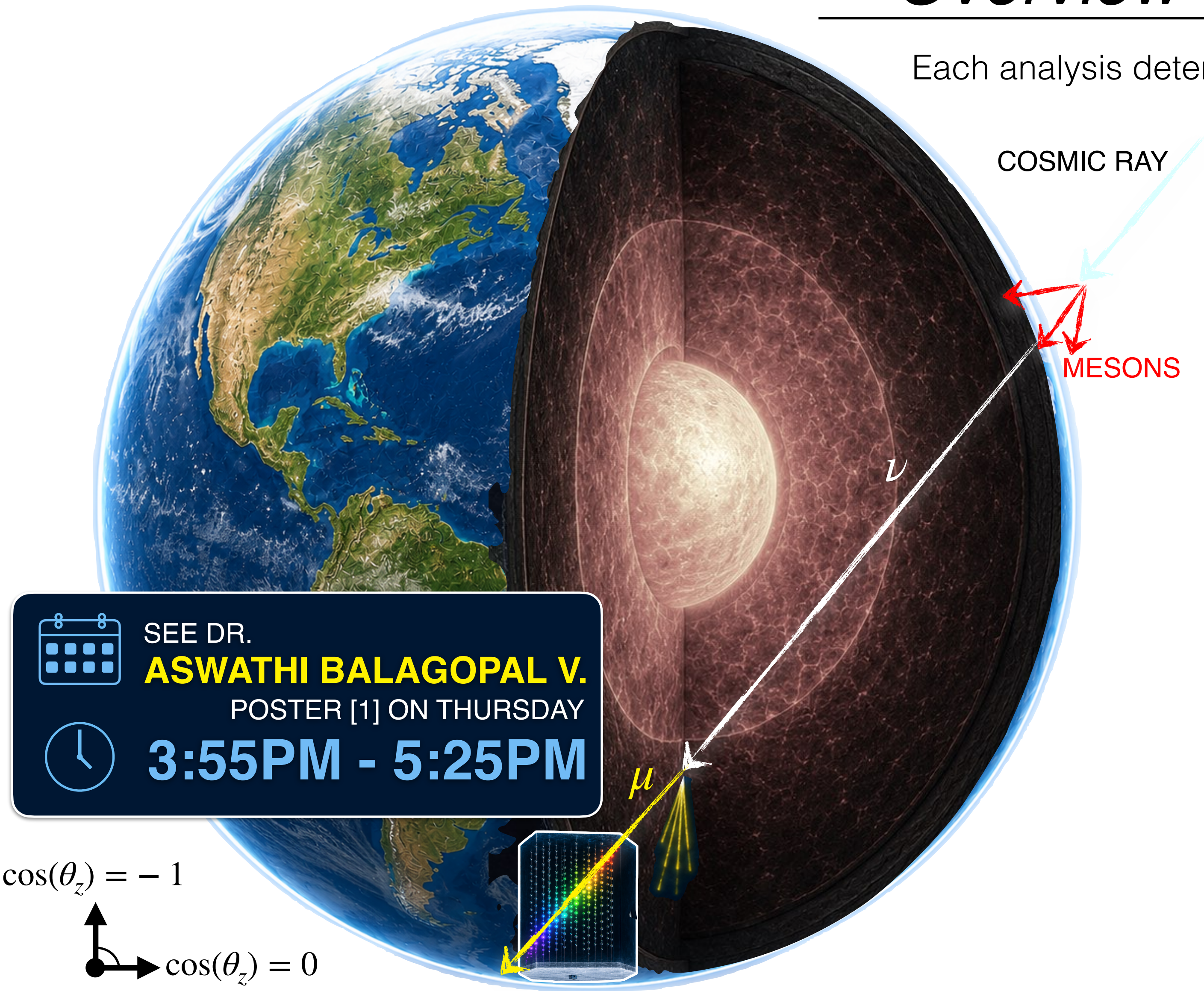
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- Prompt ν component (new constraints from IC published in [4])



SEE DR.
ASWATHI BALAGOPAL V.
 POSTER [1] ON THURSDAY
3:55PM - 5:25PM

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[4] Constraining the Prompt Atmospheric Neutrino Flux: submitted to Eur. Phys.J. C (2026)
 [3] Spectral break in astrophysical neutrinos: Physical review letters 136.12: 121002 (2026)
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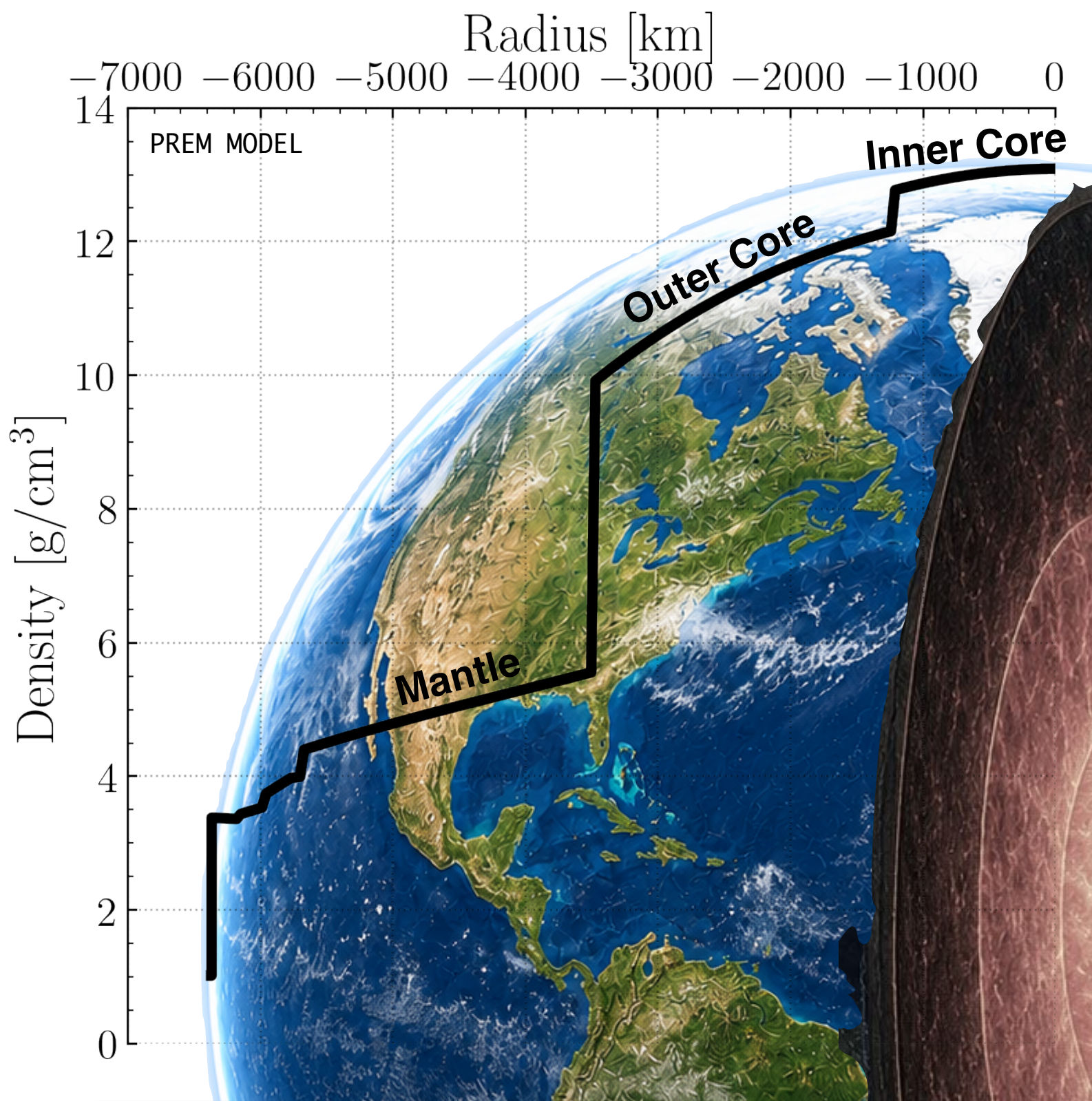
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Cross section uncertainties

- Kaon energy loss in matter (re-interaction rates)
- ν -nucleon cross sections
- Earth density profile, transition zones



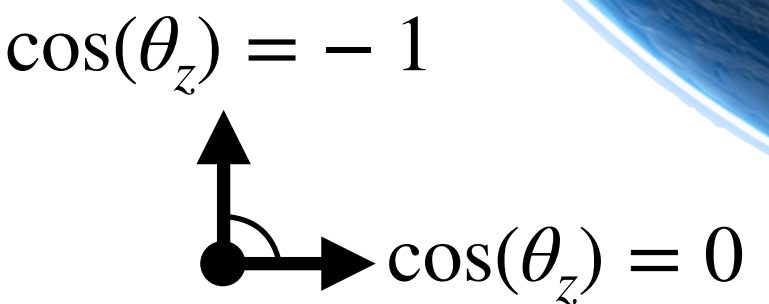
COSMIC RAY

MESONS

ν

μ

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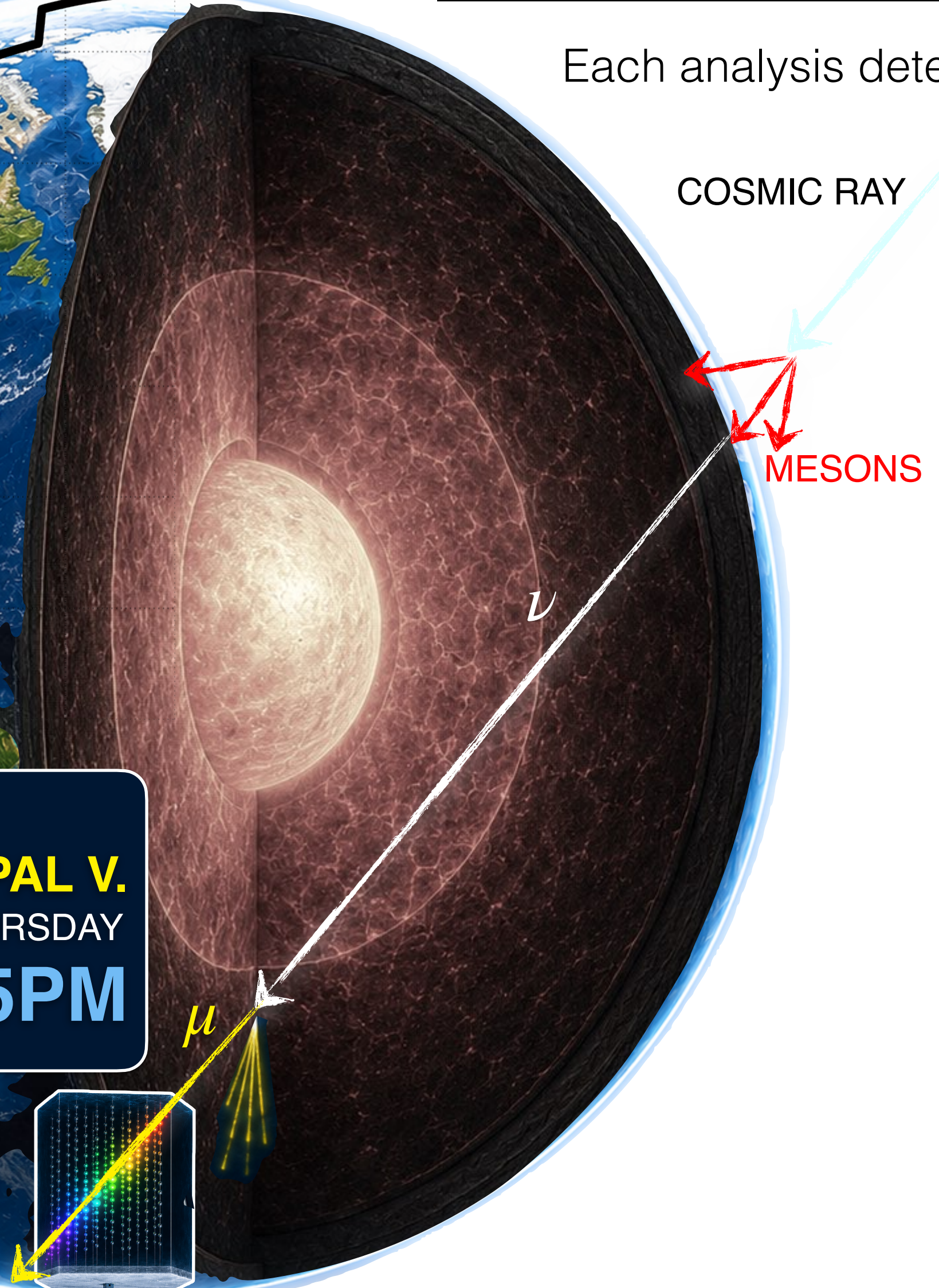
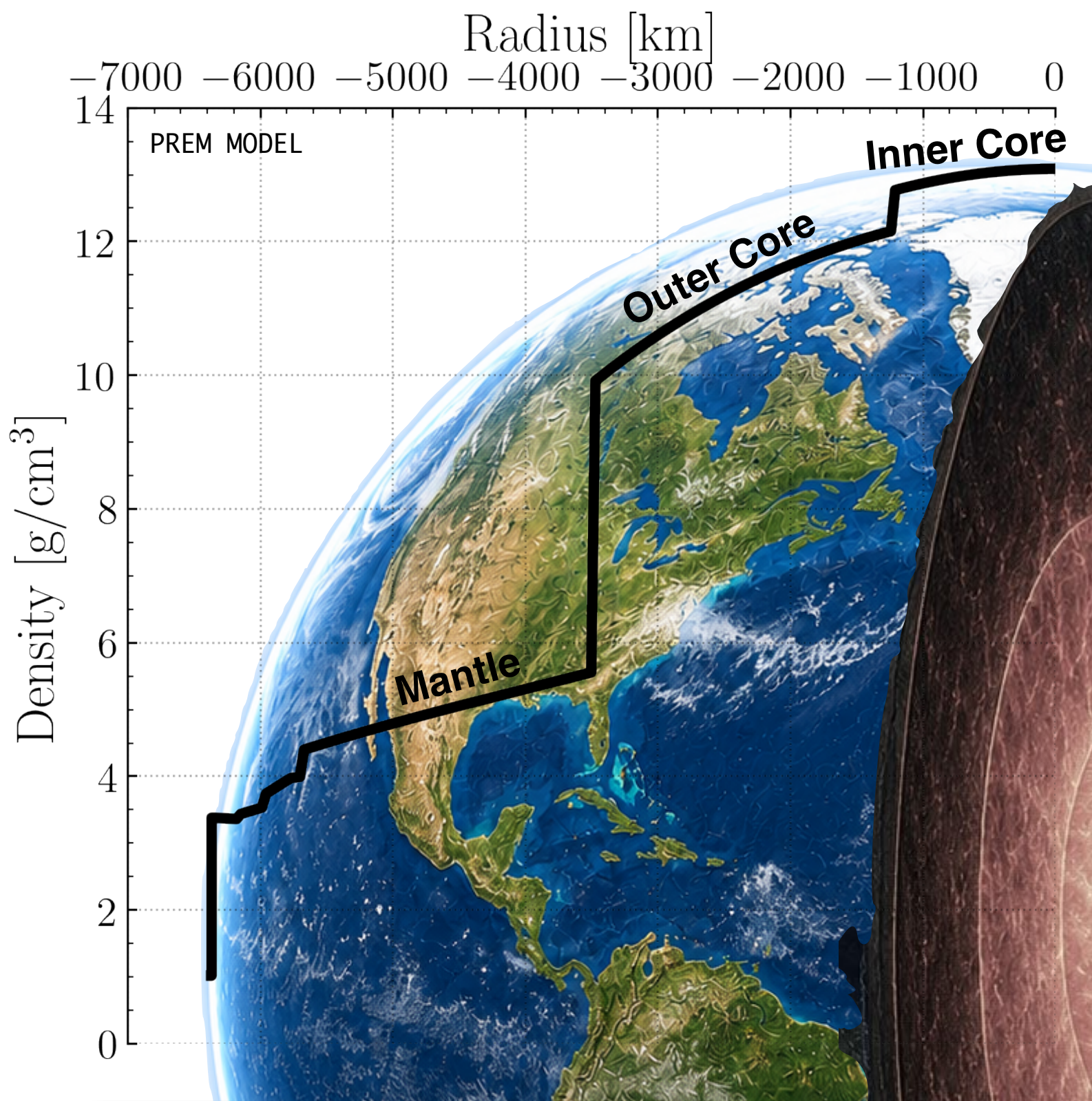
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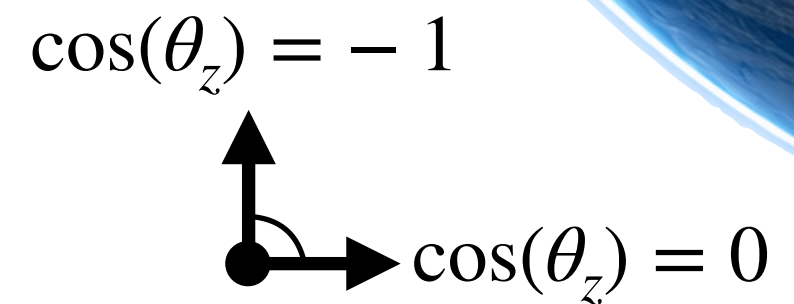
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Detector uncertainties

- Global optical efficiency of the detector
- Photon scattering and absorption in bulk ice and dust
- The optical angular efficiency introduced by the hole ice



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 POSTER [1] ON THURSDAY
3:55PM - 5:25PM

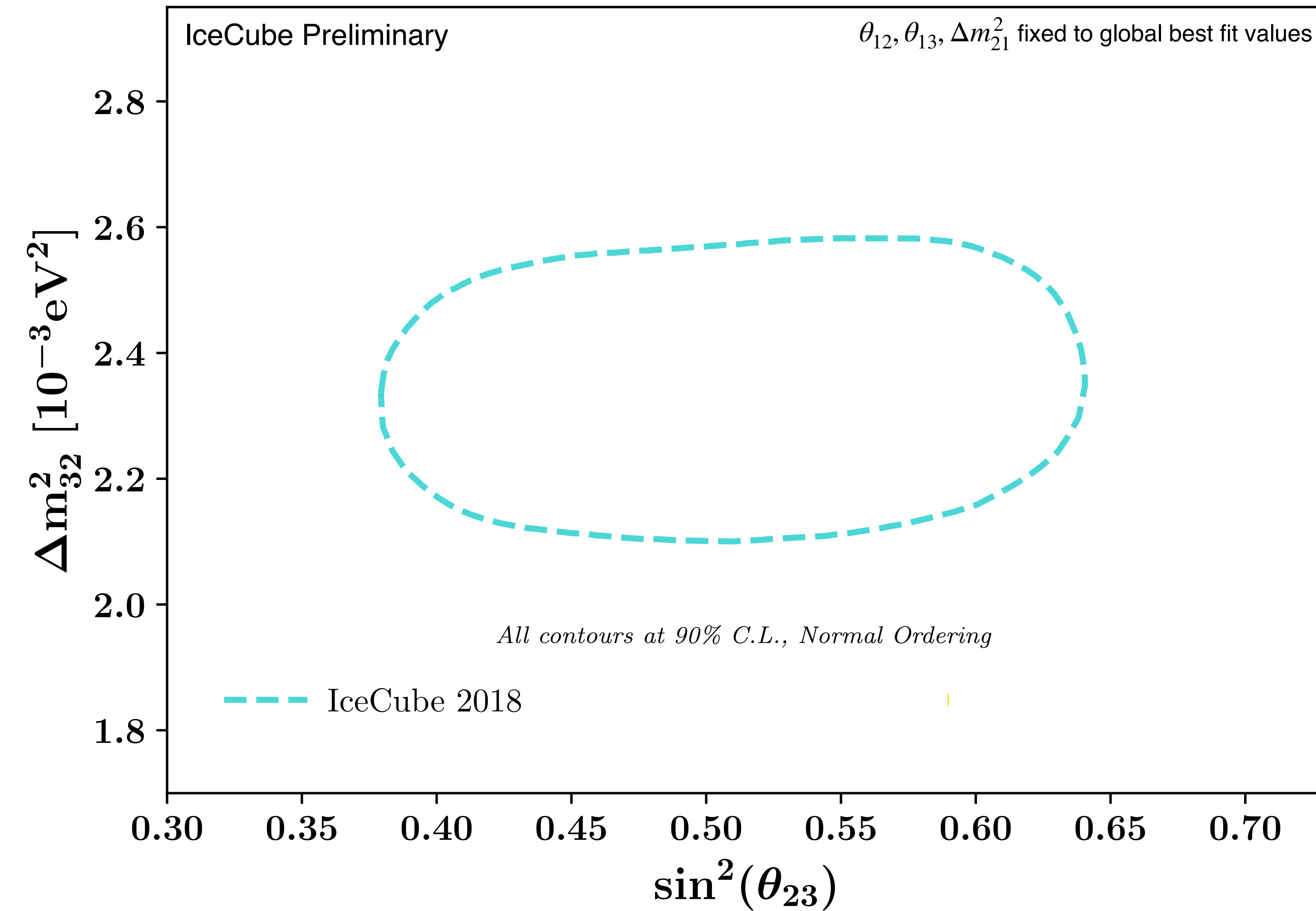


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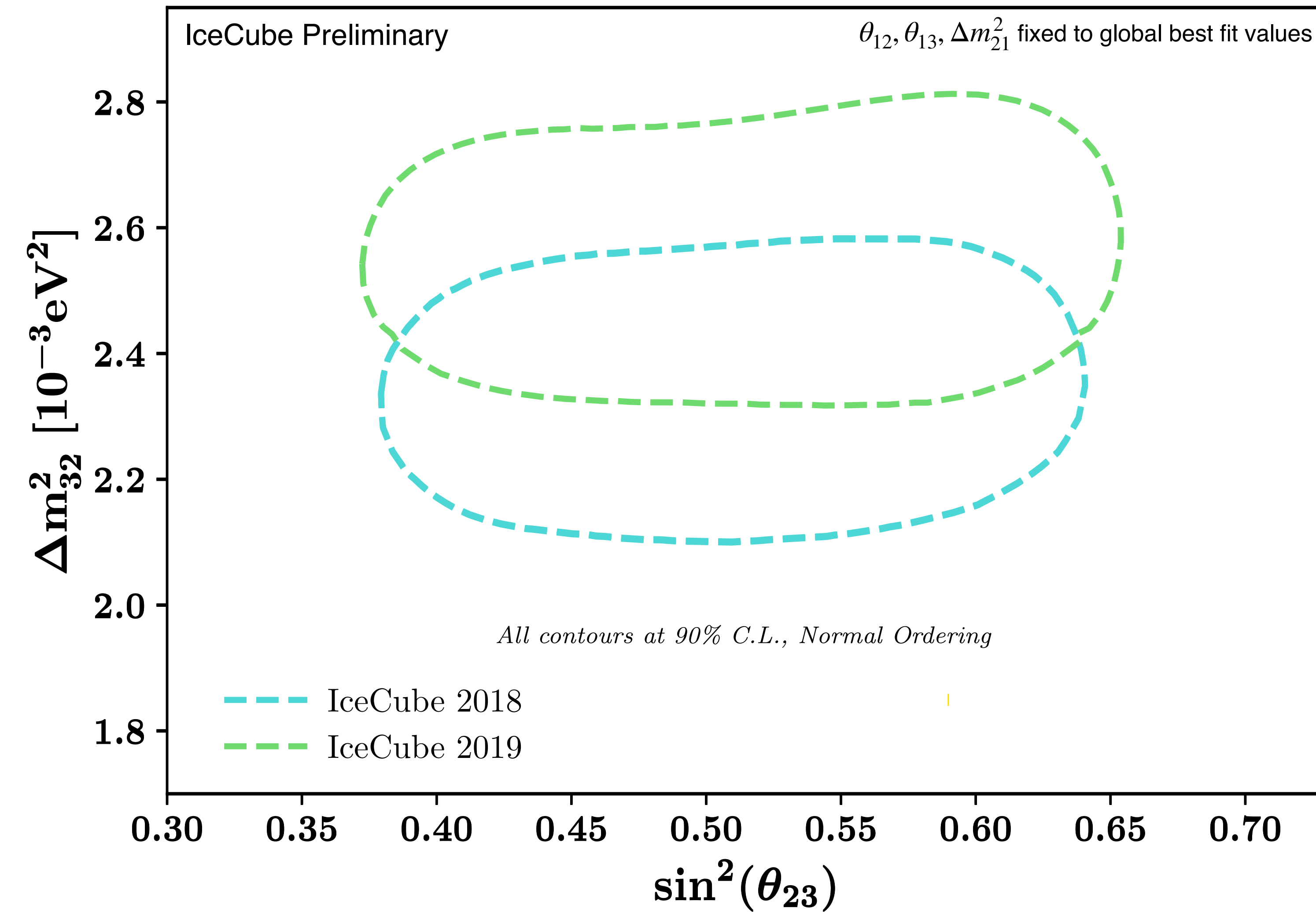


IceCube's ν_μ -disappearance DeepCore results



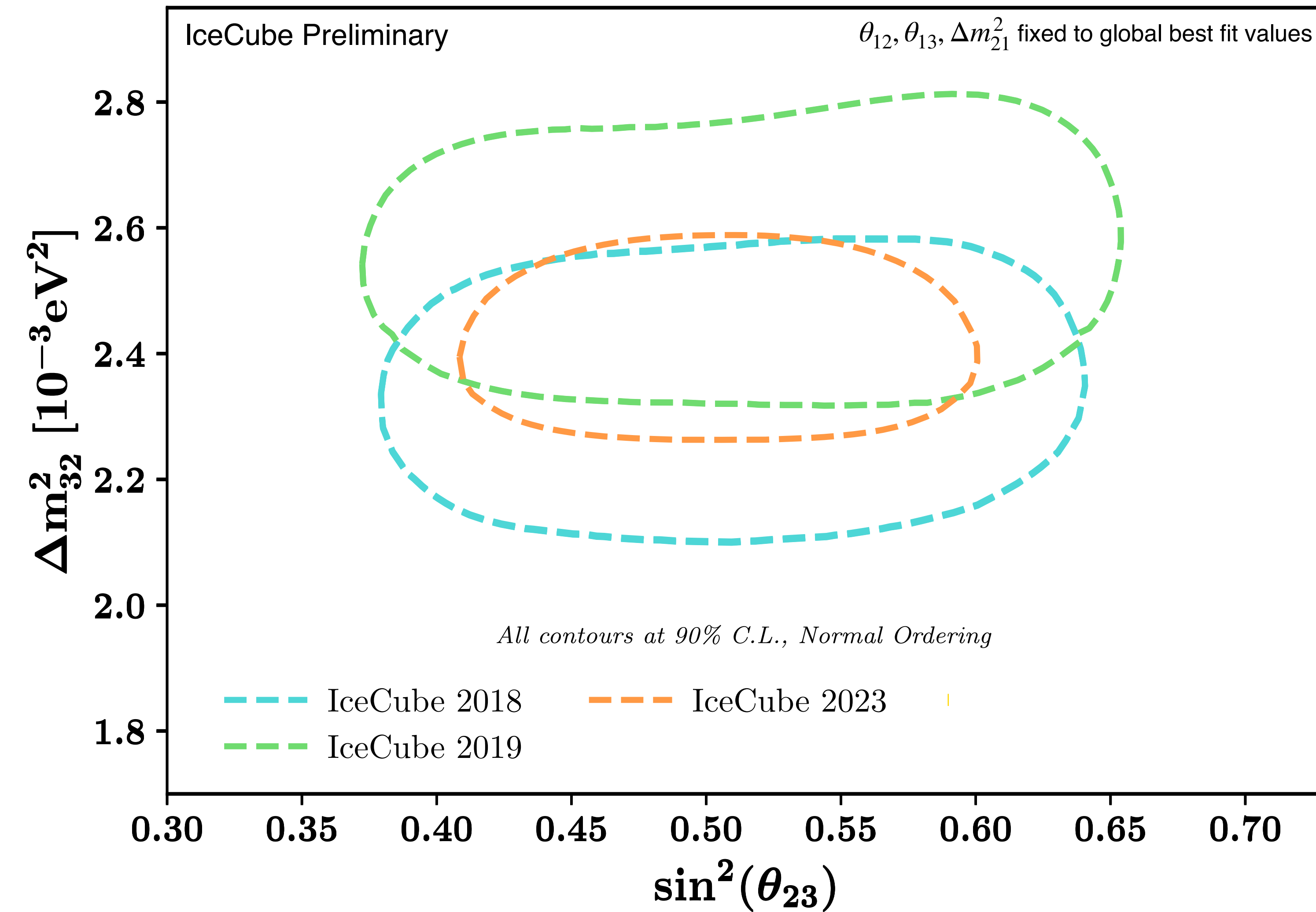
IC 2018 (3y): [Physical review letters 120.7 \(2018\): 071801](#); IC 2019 (3y): [Physical Review D 99.3 \(2019\): 032007](#); IC 2023 (8y) [Physical Review D 108.1 \(2023\) 012014](#); IC 2025 (9.3y): [Physical review letters 134.9 \(2025\): 091801](#).

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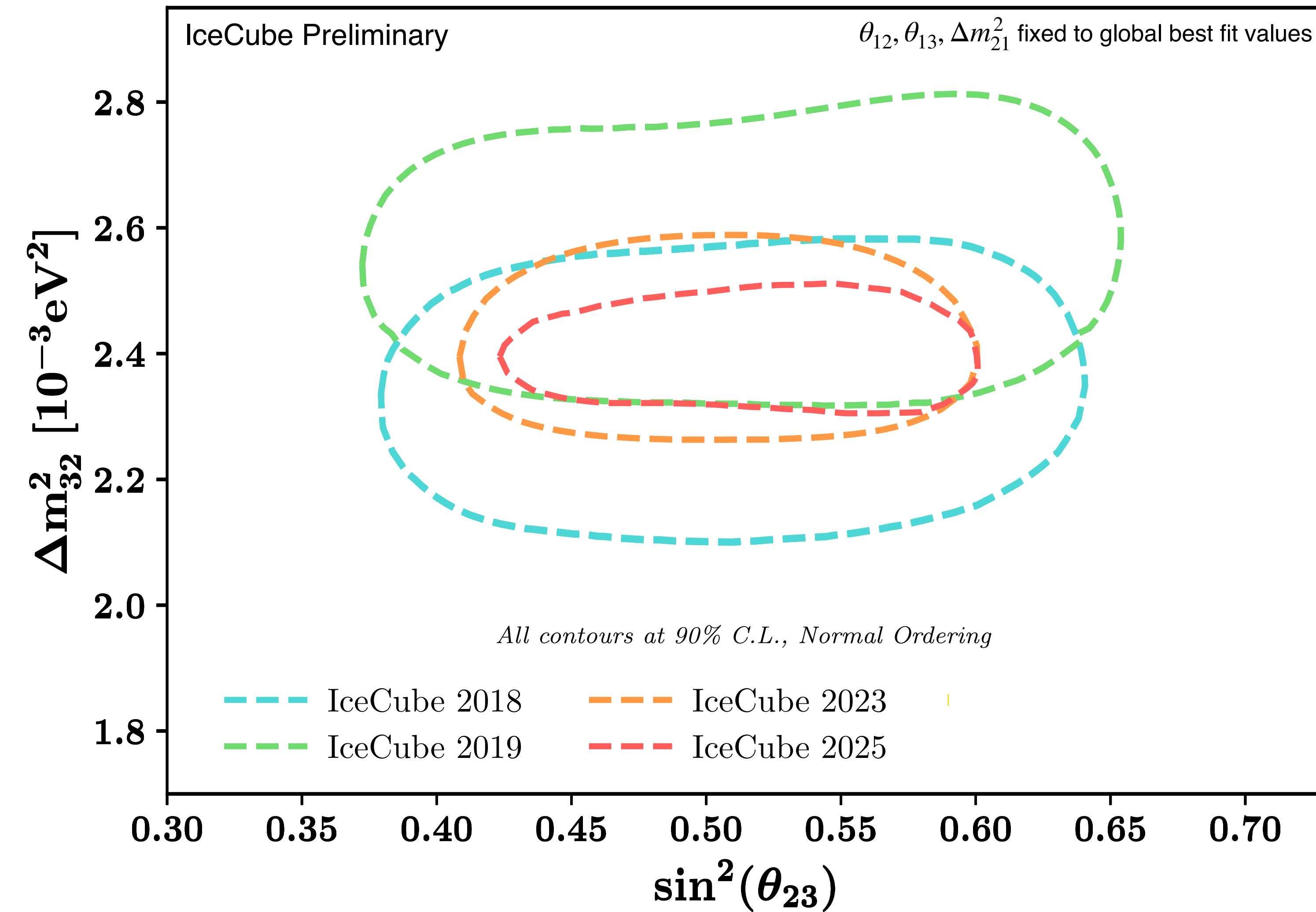
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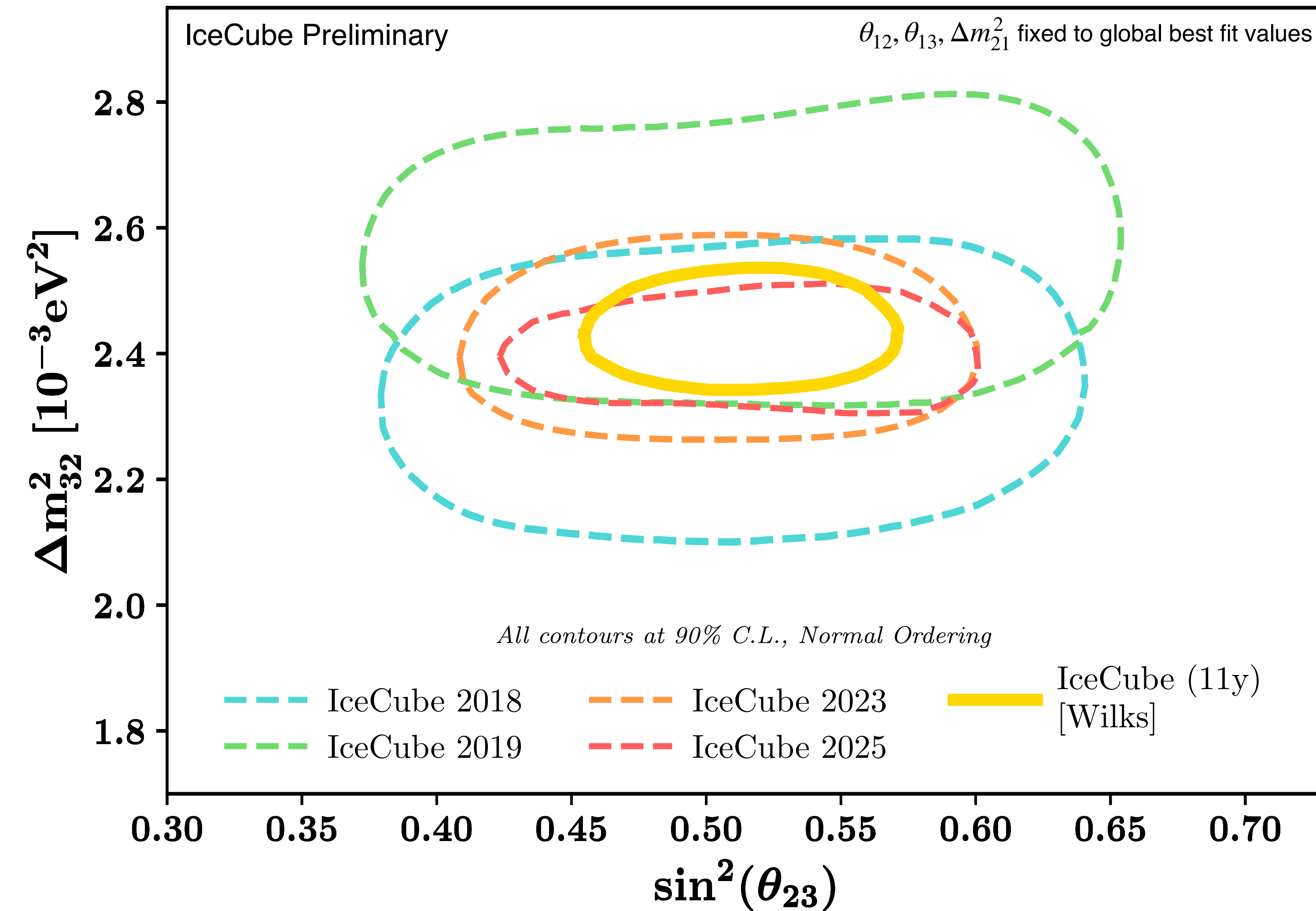
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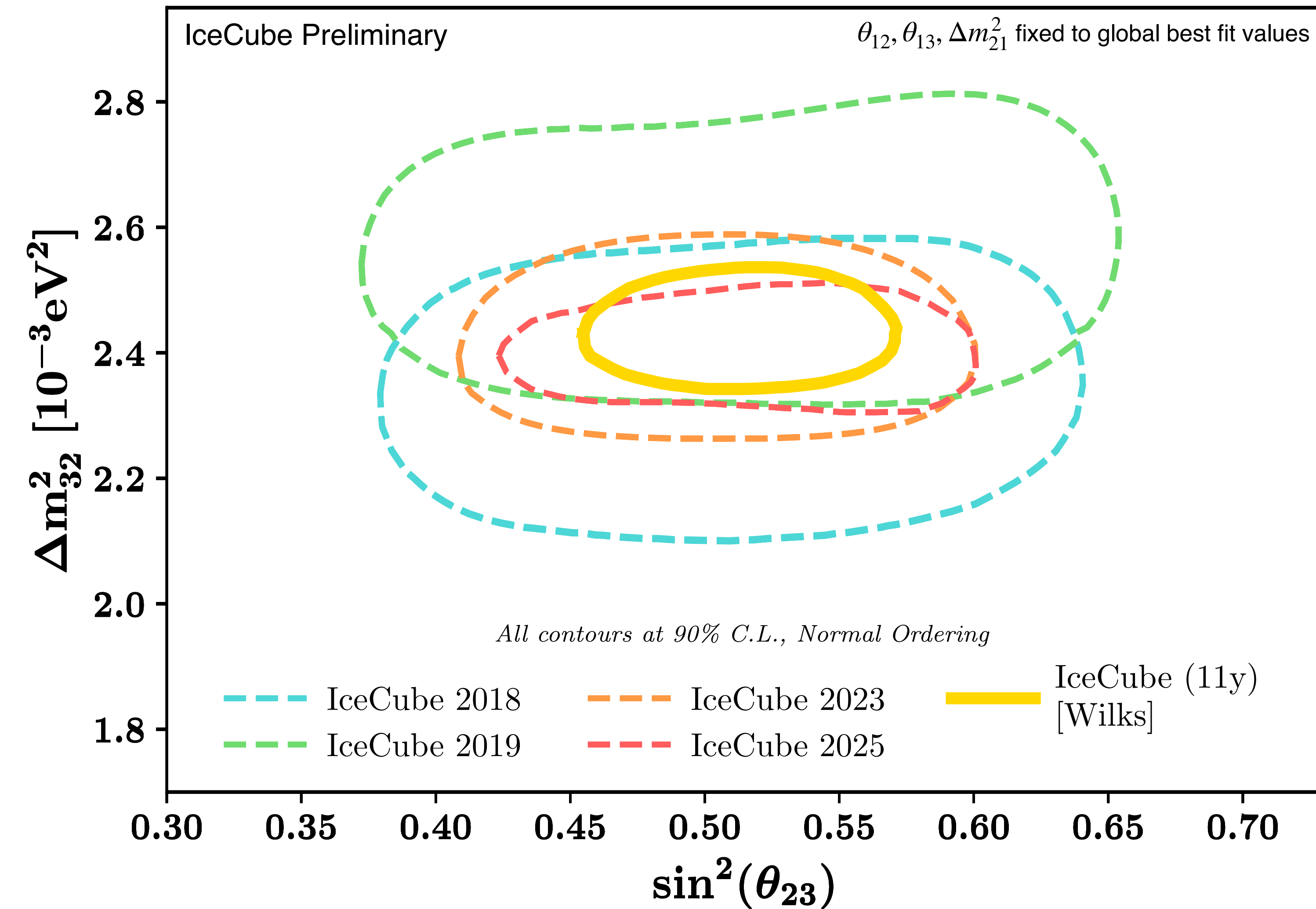
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State-of-the-art GraphNet-based classification and reconstruction with robust classifier extreme gradient boosted decision tree (BDT):

- 11.1 years of data
- Excellent data MC agreement
 - (updated calibration, pulse cleaning, physical processes...)

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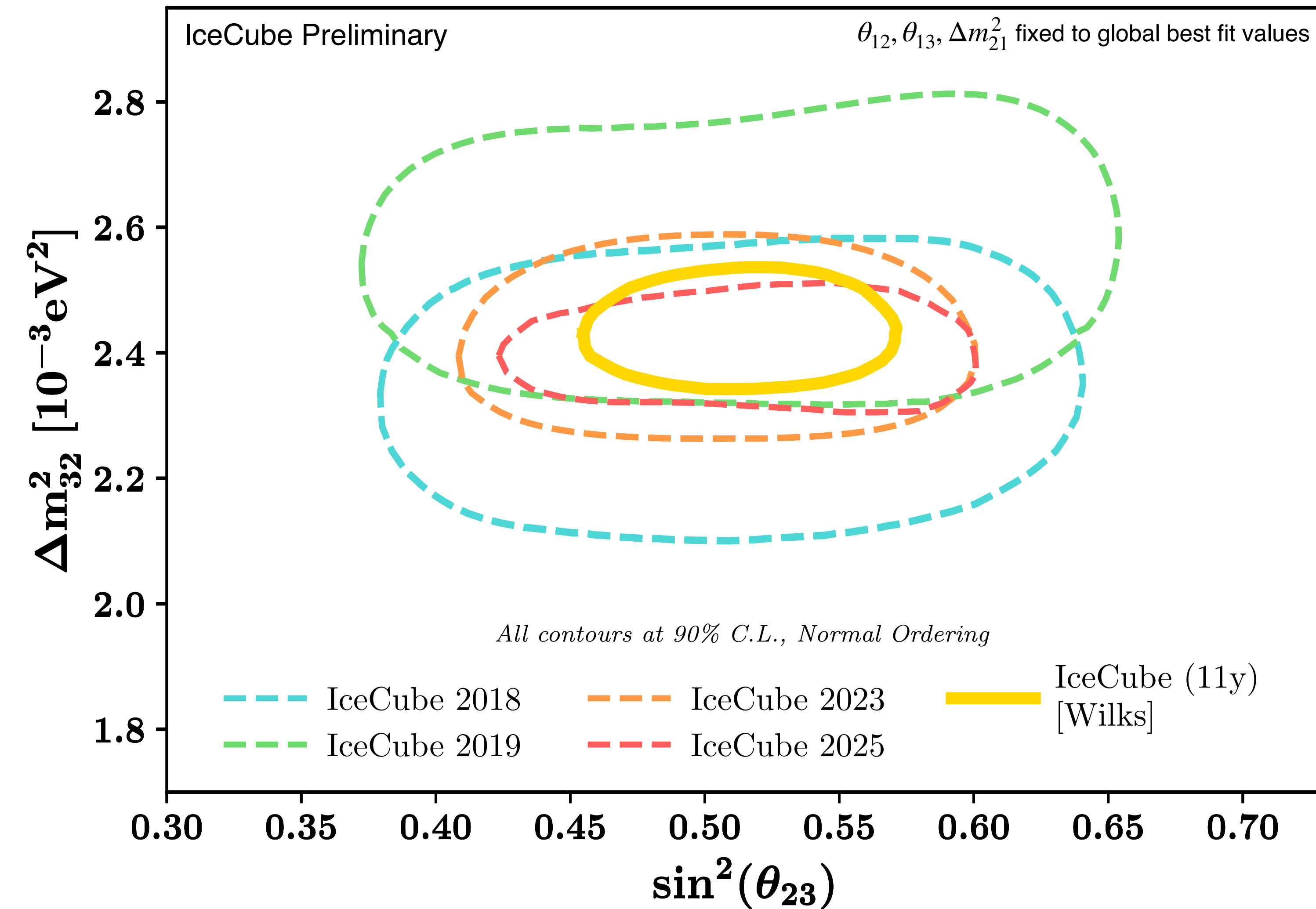
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	Rate [μHz]	Num events [11.1 yr]	% of sample
$\nu_e\text{CC}$	71	$24,822 \pm 56$	22.8
$\nu_\mu\text{CC}$	187	$65,665 \pm 97$	60.4
$\nu_\tau\text{CC}$	16	$5,629 \pm 21$	5.2
$\nu\text{ NC}$	34	$11,912 \pm 39$	11.0
μ_{atm}	2	754 ± 46	0.7
Total	311	$108,784 \pm 129$	100

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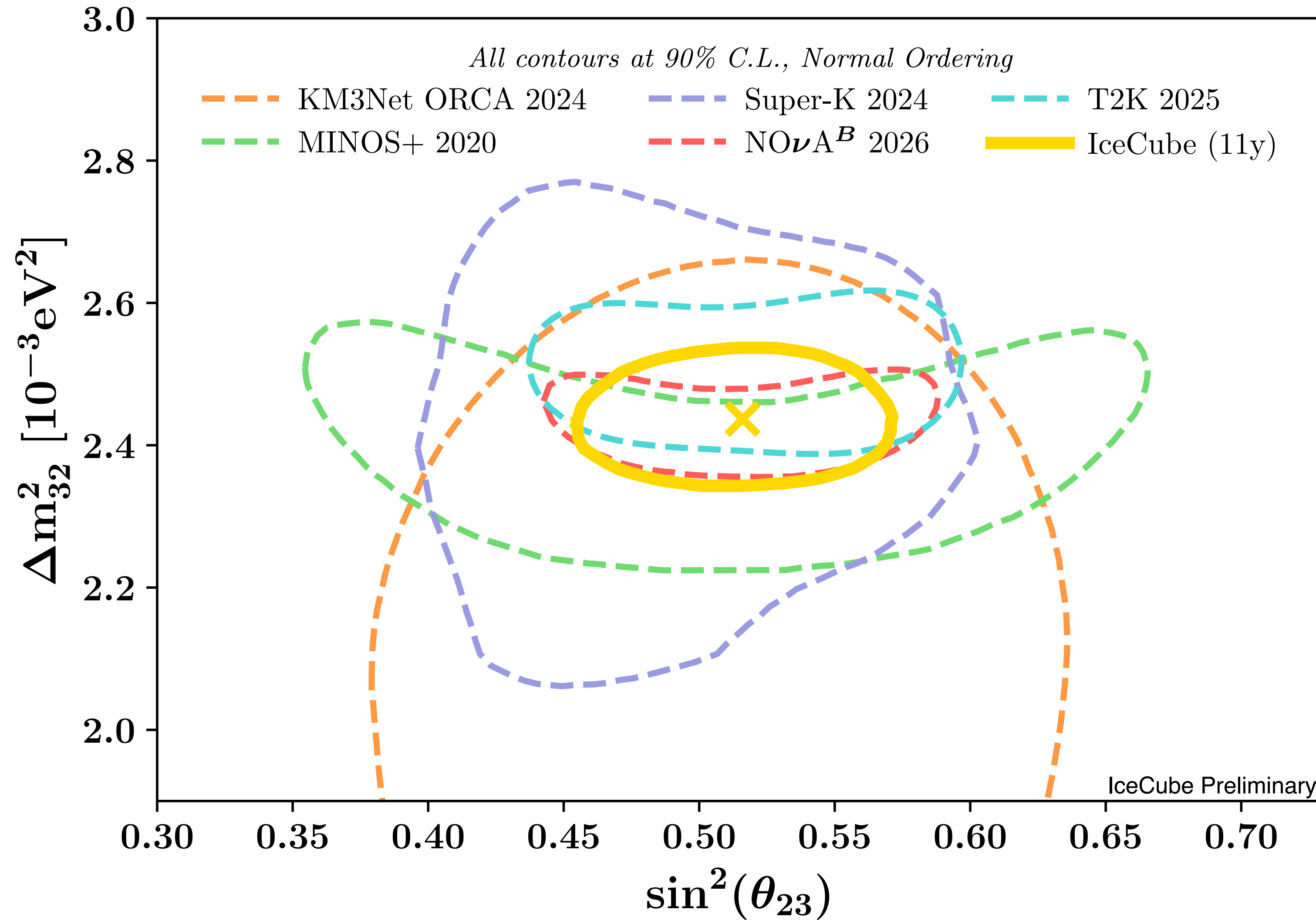
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Result consistent with previous IceCube results.

Feldman Cousins corrections and paper in preparation.

IC 2018 (3y): [Physical review letters 120.7 \(2018\): 071801](#); IC 2019 (3y): [Physical Review D 99.3 \(2019\): 032007](#); IC 2023 (8y) [Physical Review D 108.1 \(2023\) 012014](#); IC 2025 (9.3y): [Physical review letters 134.9 \(2025\): 091801](#).

The ν_μ -disappearance result in context



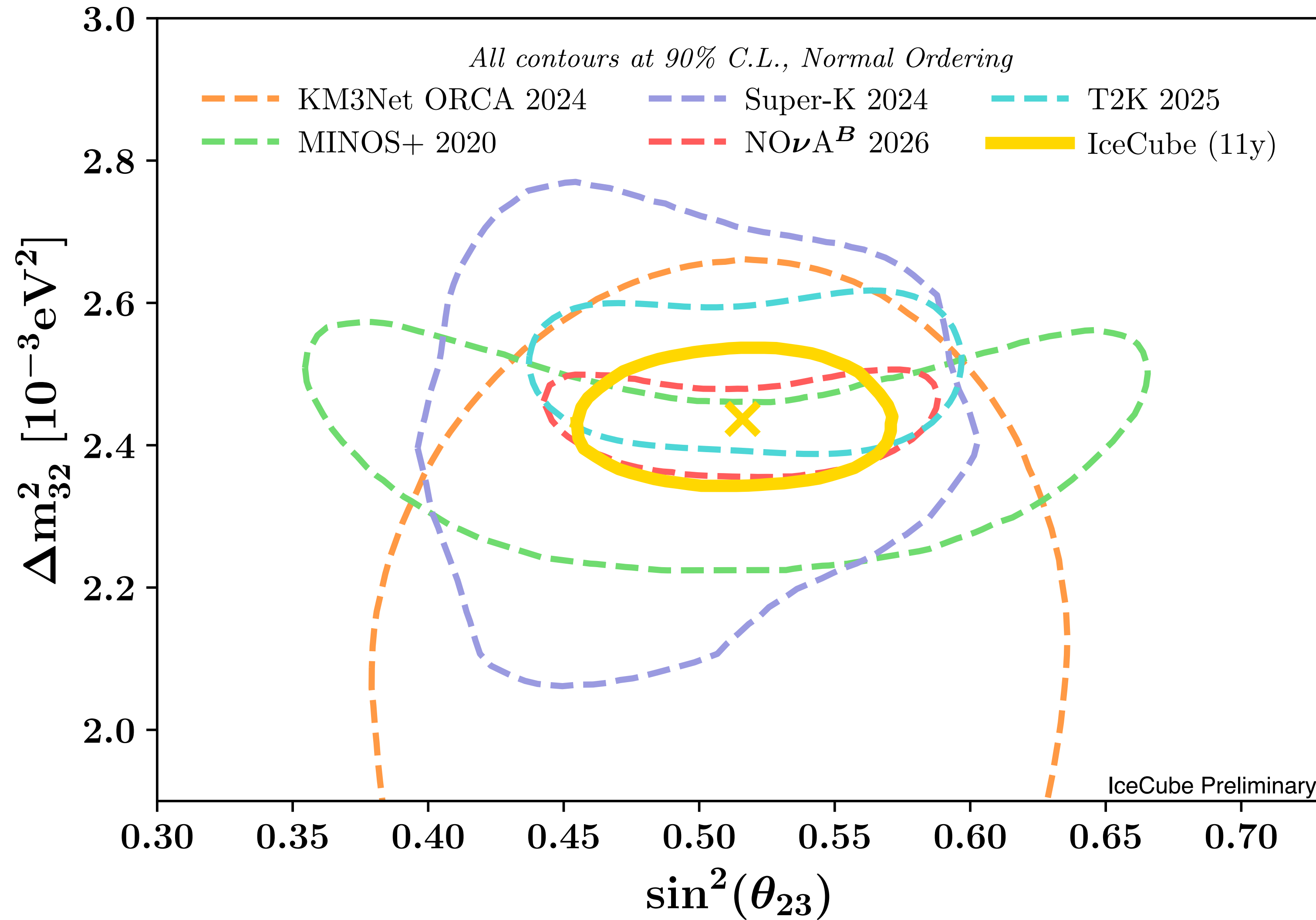
Best Fit:

$$\Delta m_{32}^2 = 2.437^{+0.043}_{-0.048} \times 10^{-3} \text{eV}^2$$

$$\sin^2(\theta_{23}) = 0.516^{+0.024}_{-0.035}$$

KM3Net-ORCA6 (2024): JHEP10(2024)206; MINOS+ (2020): Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 131802; Super-K (2024): Phys. Rev. D 109, 072014; NO ν A^B (2026): Phys. Rev. Lett. 136, 011802; T2K (2025): Phys. Rev. Lett. 135.26: 261801

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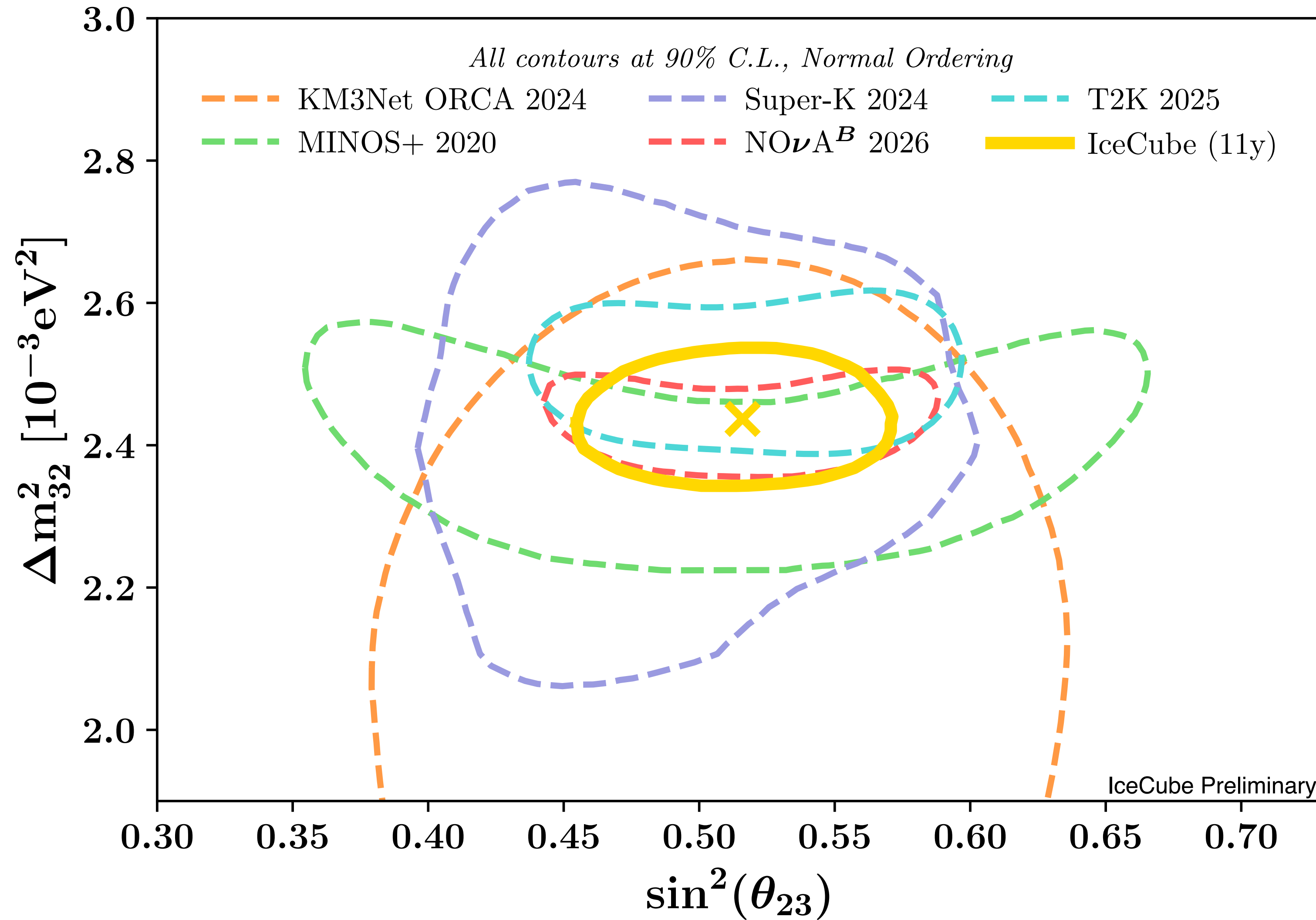
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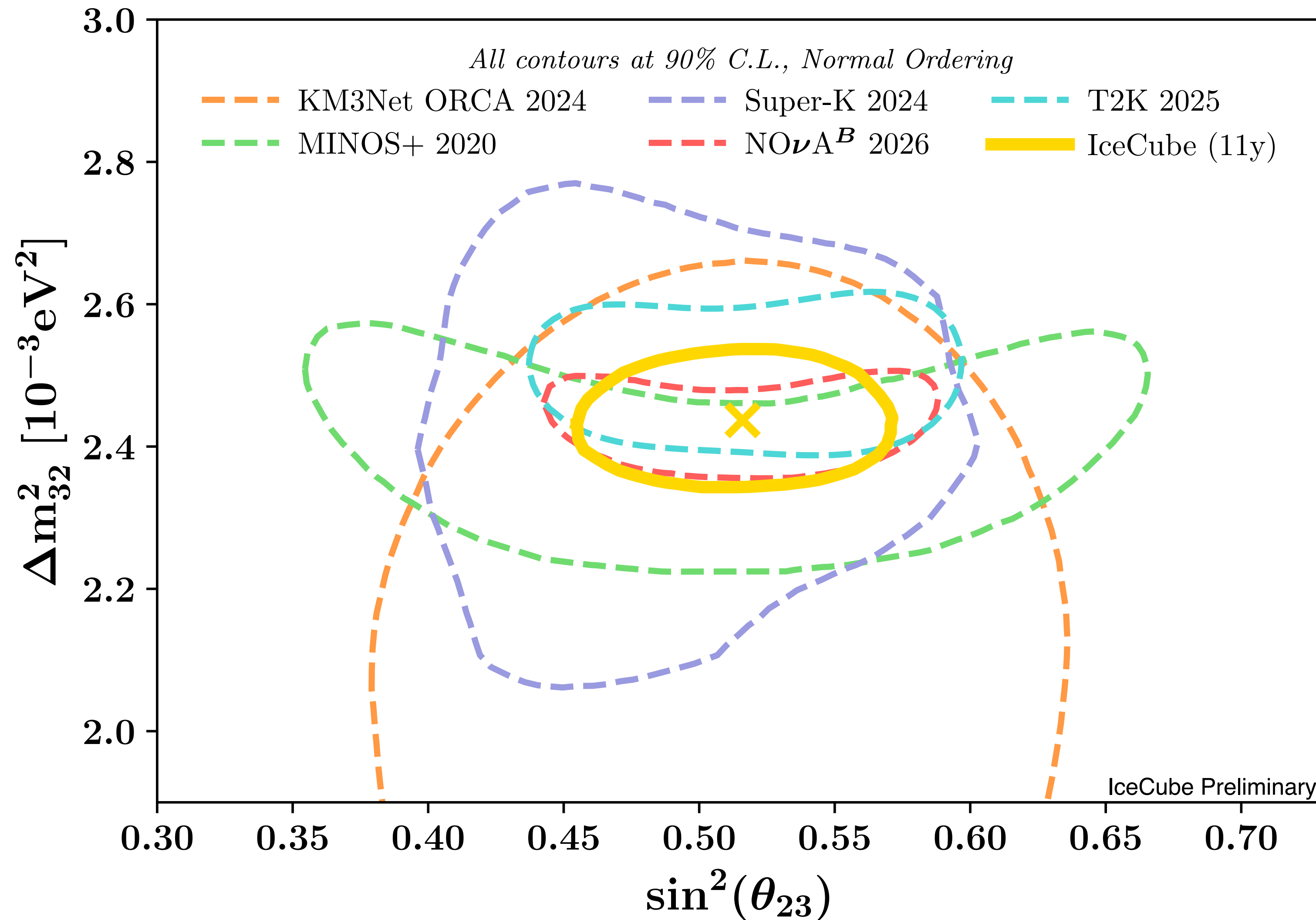
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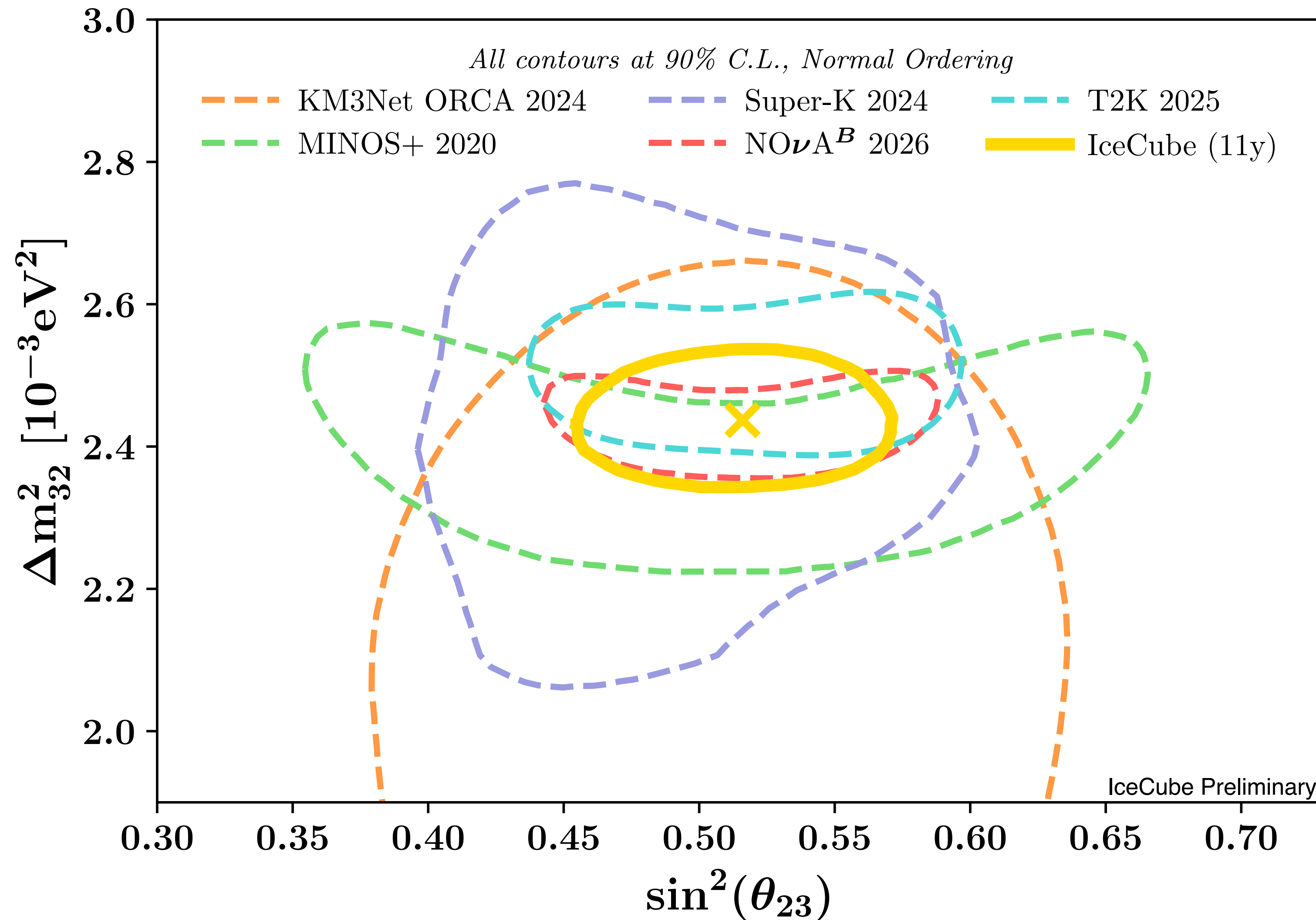
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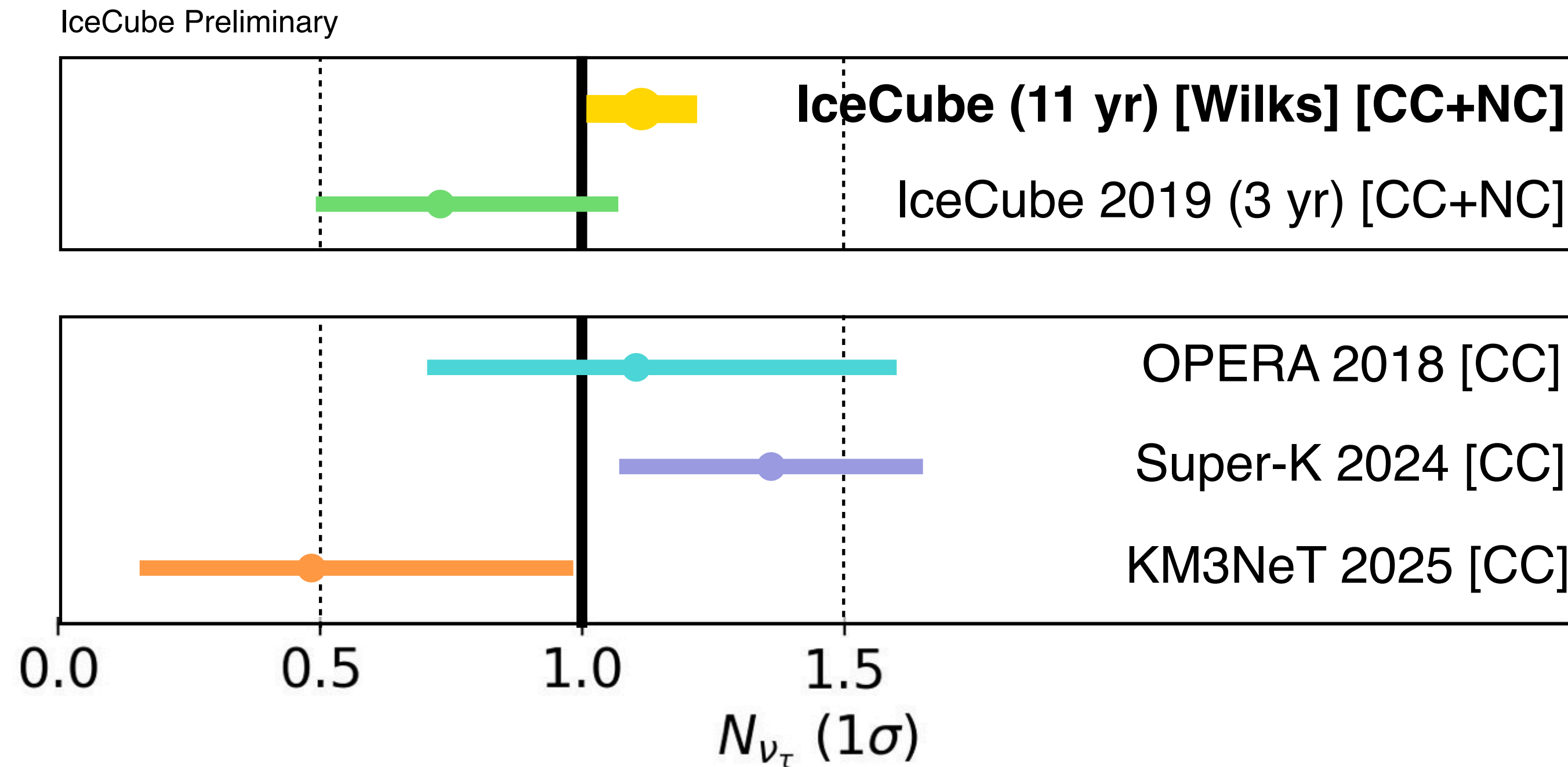
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- Fit shows a slight favor for normal mass ordering.
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 - Consistent with maximal mixing.
- Globally competitive results for both mixing angle and mass squared splitting.

KM3Net-ORCA6 (2024): JHEP10(2024)206; MINOS+ (2020): Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 131802; Super-K (2024): Phys. Rev. D 109, 072014; NO ν A^B (2026): Phys. Rev. Lett. 136, 011802; T2K (2025): Phys. Rev. Lett. 135.26: 261801

The ν_τ -appearance result

At low energies, this analysis searches statistically excess of cascades, at specific energies and zenith angles, indicating ν_τ appearance.



Tau neutrino normalization parameter:

$$N_{\nu_\tau} = \frac{\text{Measured } \nu_\tau \text{ flux}}{\text{SM Expected } \nu_\tau \text{ flux}}$$

- $N_{\nu_\tau} = 1$: Standard Model (SM) 3-flavor oscillations
- $N_{\nu_\tau} = 0$: no tau appearance
- $N_{\nu_\tau} > 1$: Excess ν_τ appearance

Simultaneous fit oscillations and systematic parameters to the binned energy-zenith distribution.

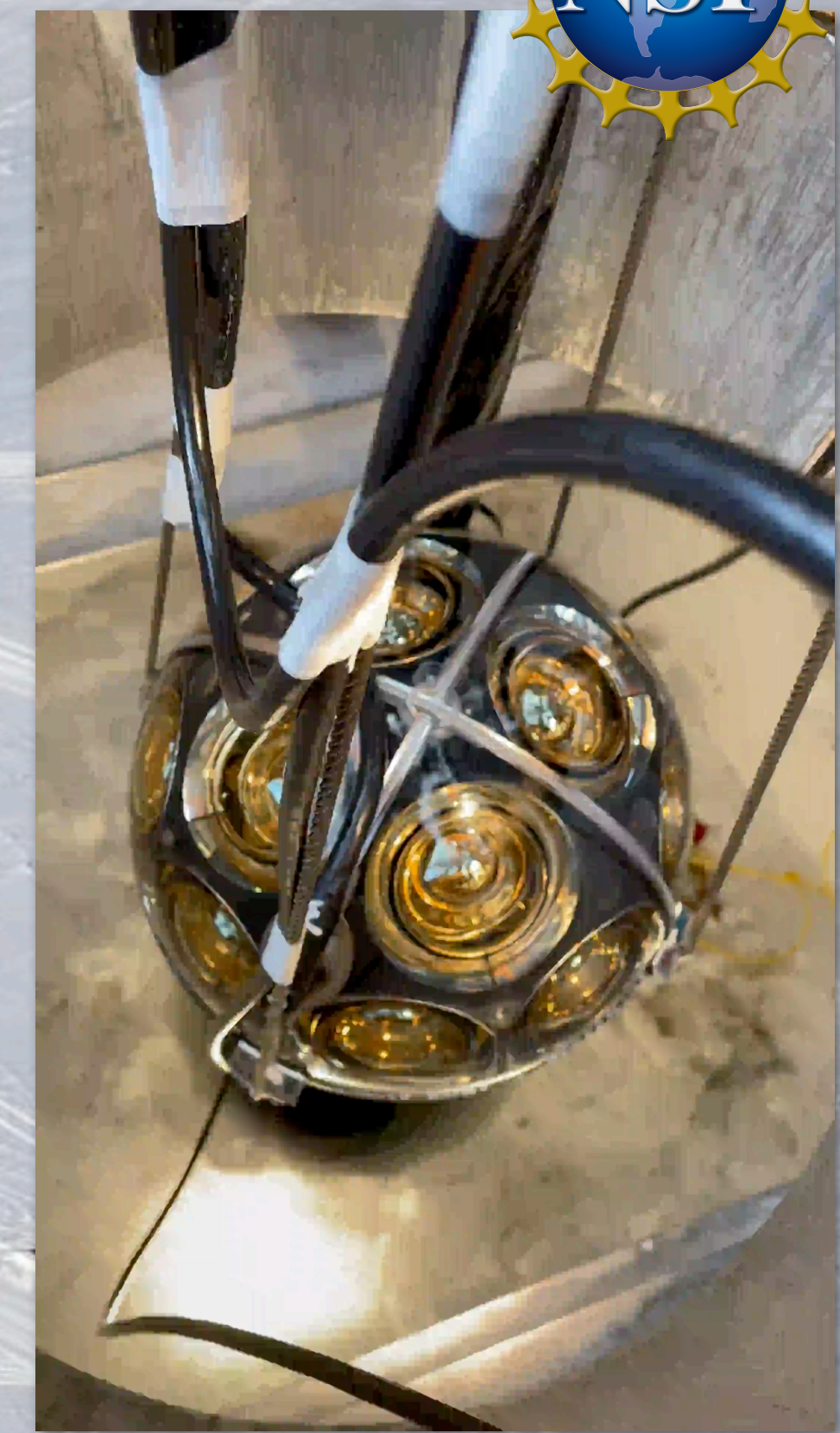
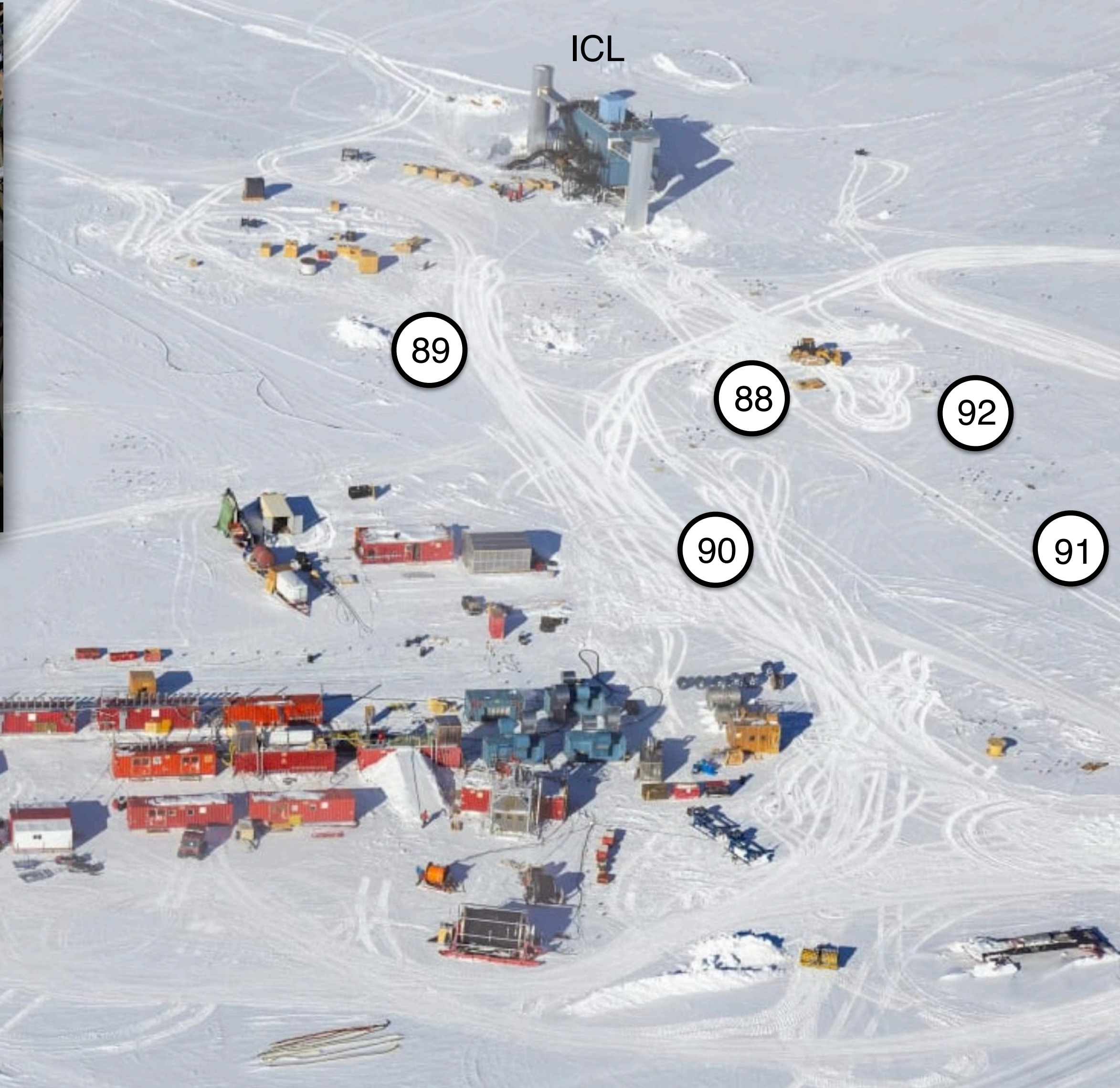
Best Fit:

$$N_{\nu_\tau} = 1.11^{+0.11}_{-0.10} (+9.5\% / -9.4\%)$$

- Tau polarization
- Resonant production
- Geant4 branching ratio fix

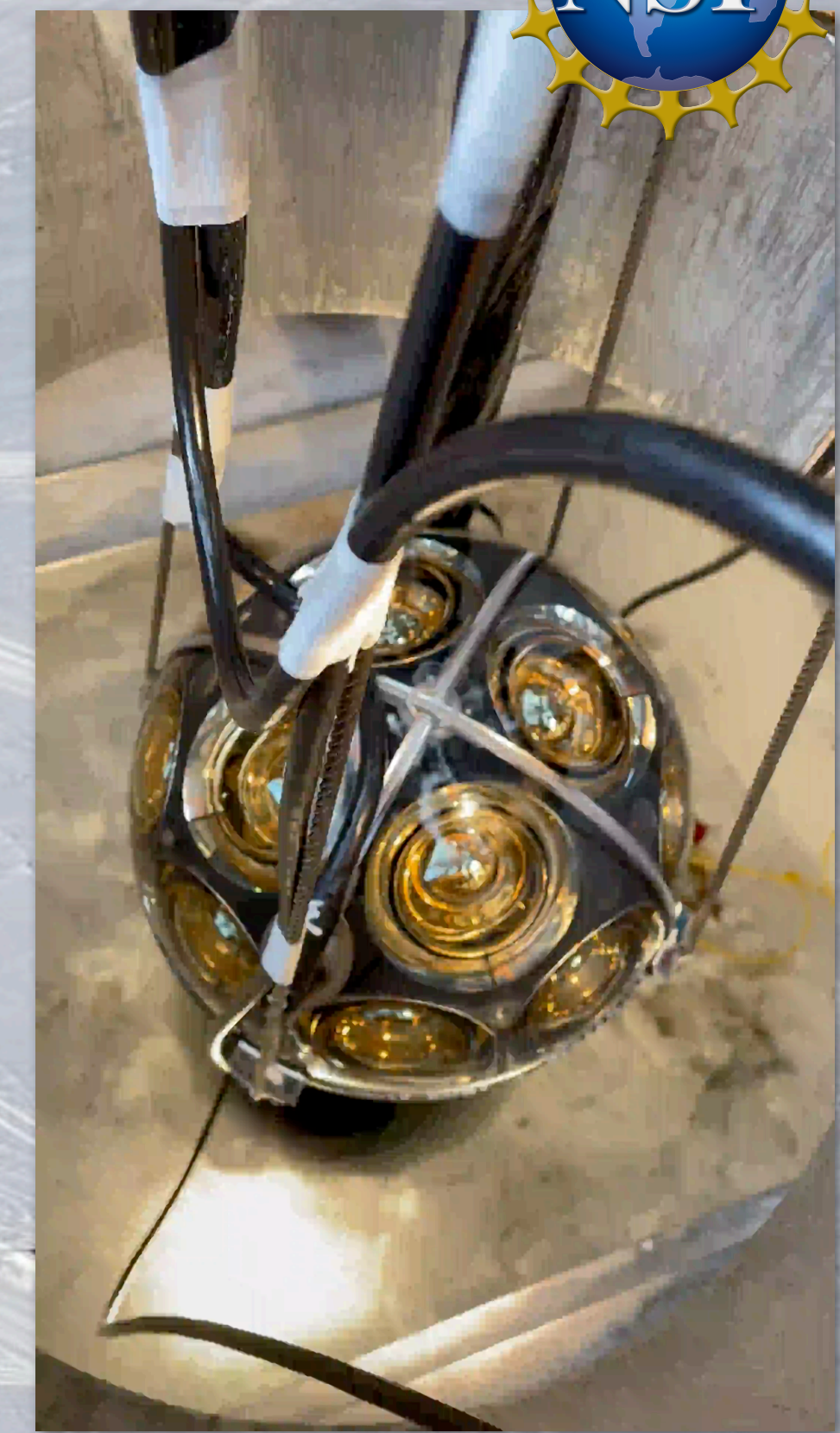
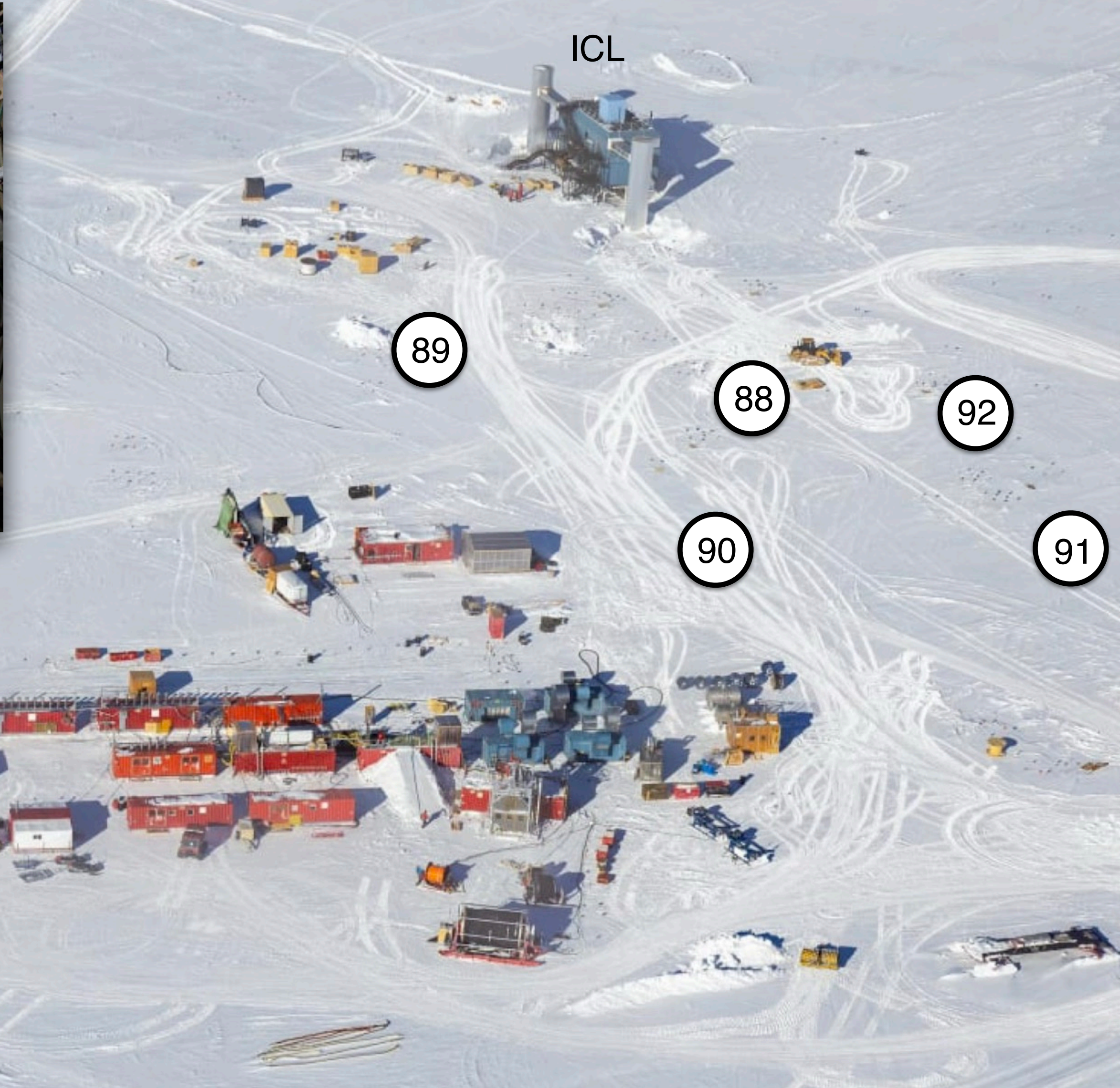
Consistent with Standard Model 3-flavor oscillation at $\sim 1\sigma$

Where do we go from here? IceCube got an Upgrade!



We have 5 new strings installed in the 2025/2026 season!

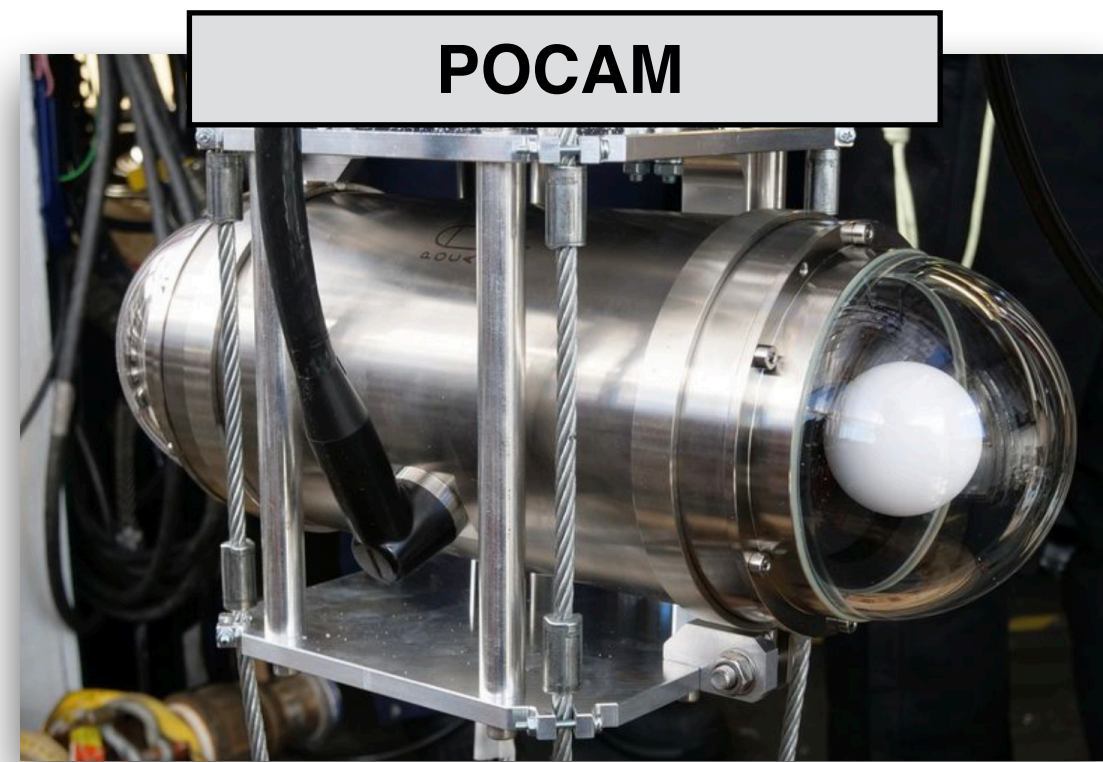
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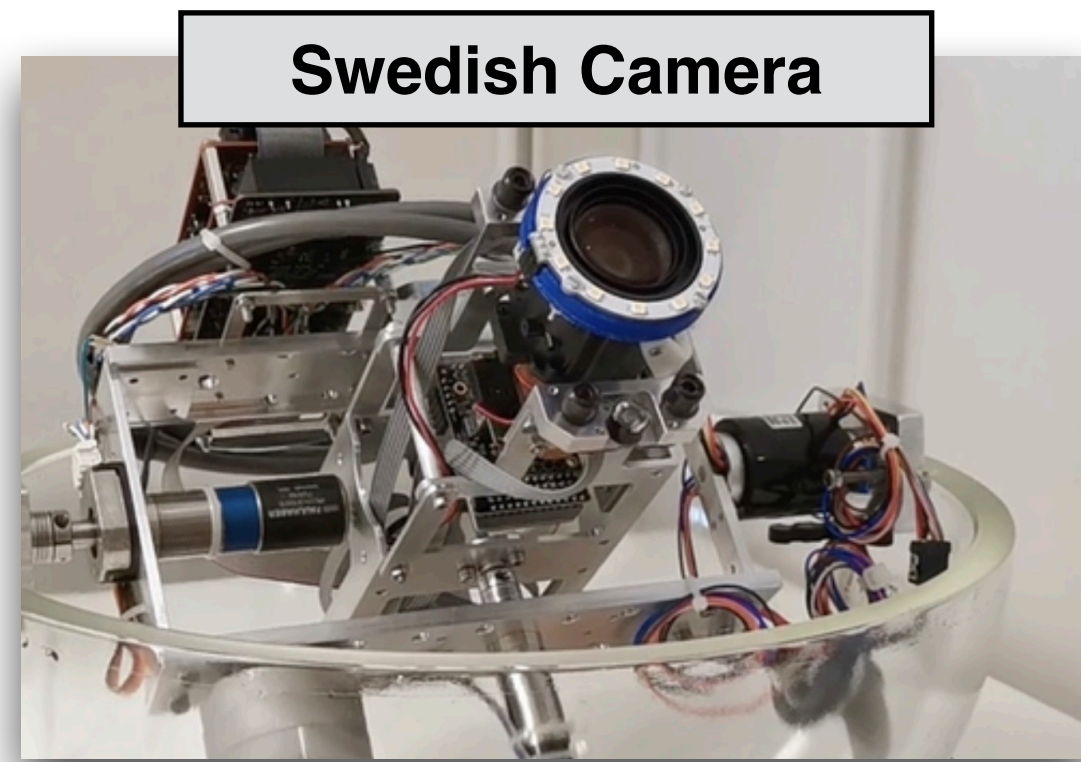
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IceCube Upgrade (ICU) new calibration devices

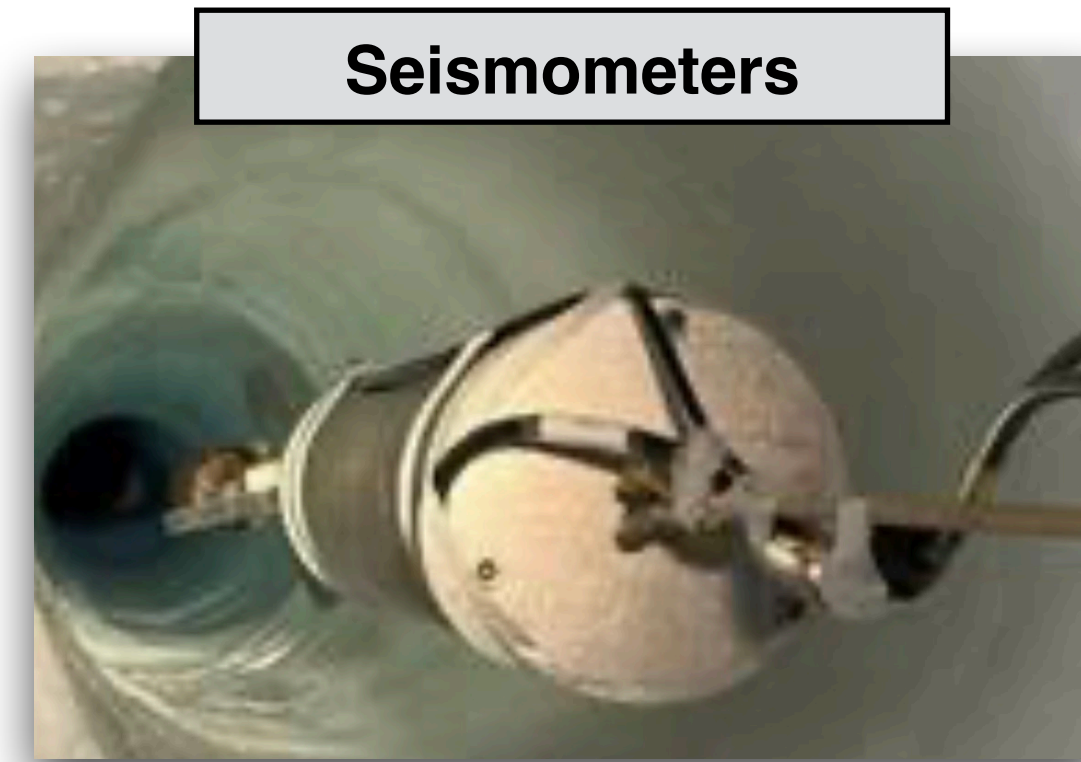
New calibration devices will improve our understanding of the Antarctic ice, **enabling IceCube to reanalyze more than 12 years of data** with enhanced detector modeling, reduced systematic uncertainties, and improved physics sensitivity.



POCAM



Swedish Camera



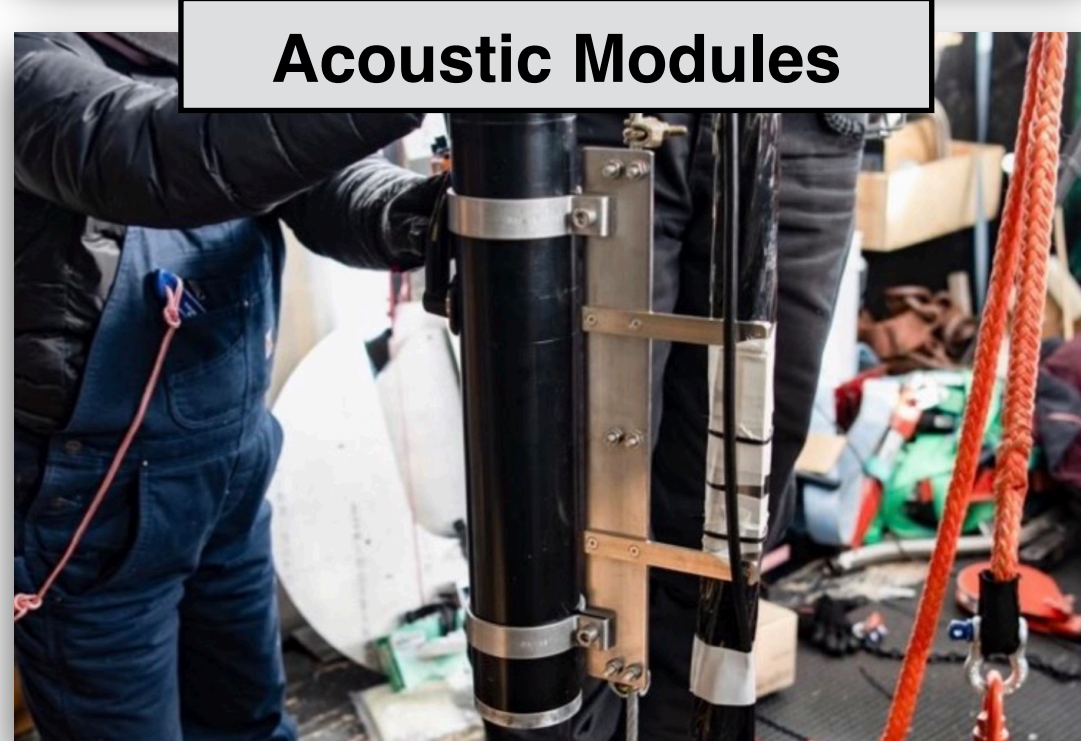
Seismometers



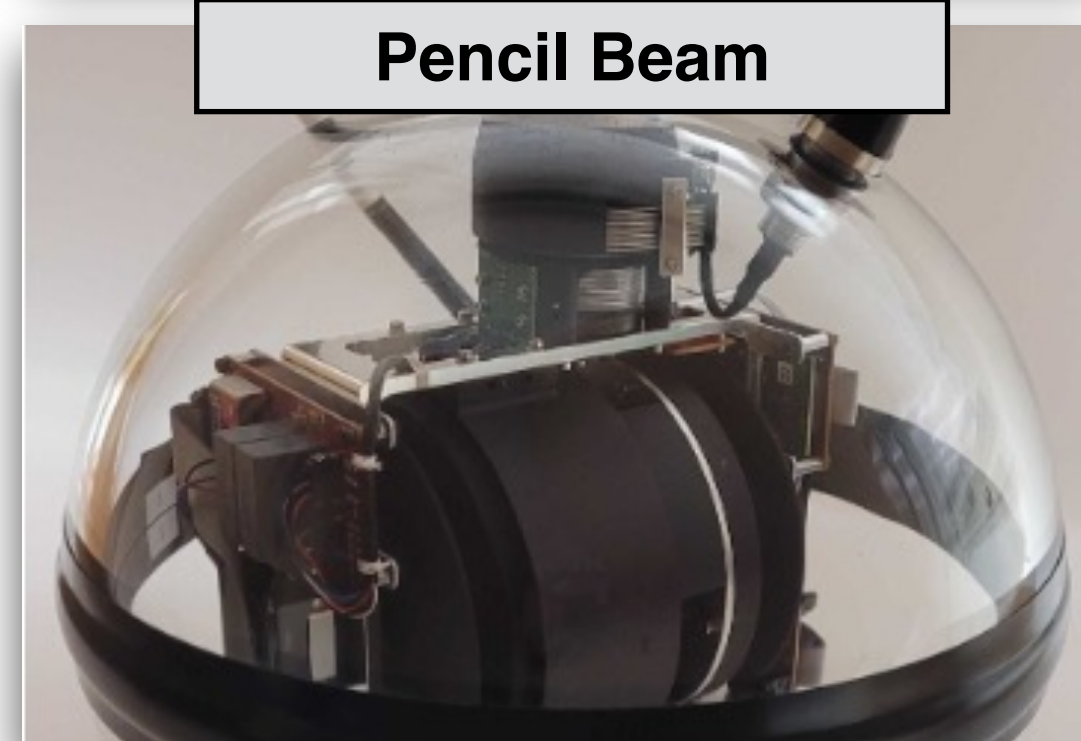
LOM Logger



Upgraded Camera System



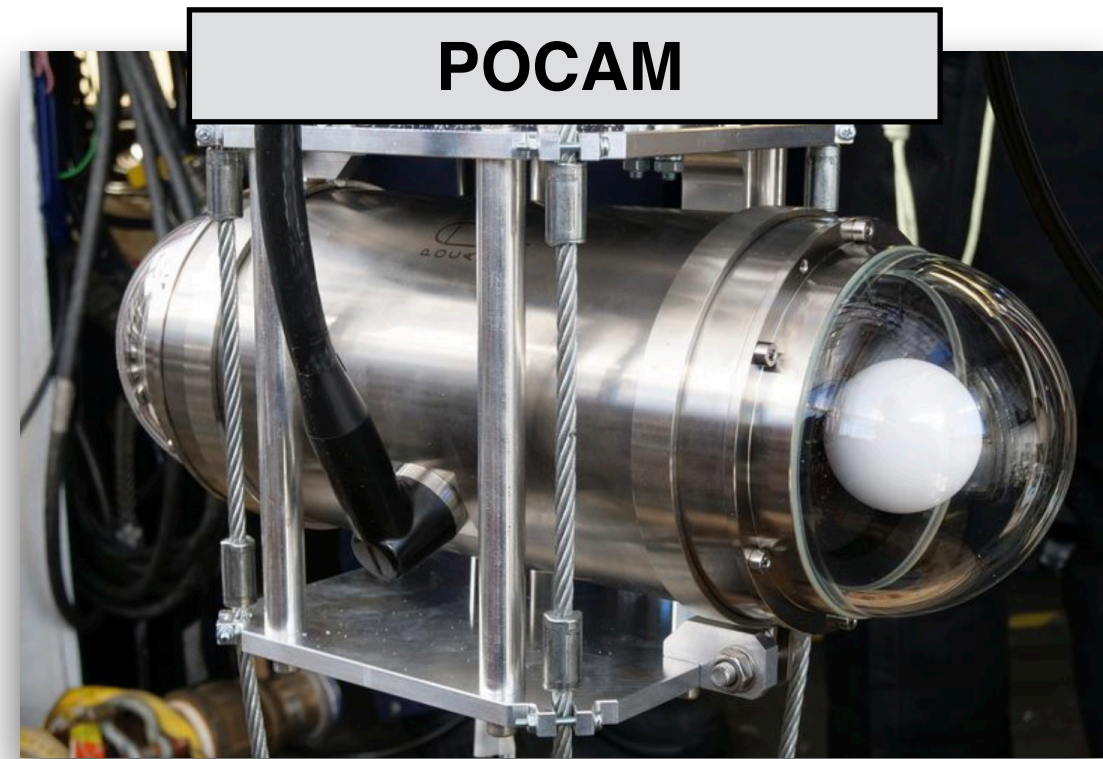
Acoustic Modules



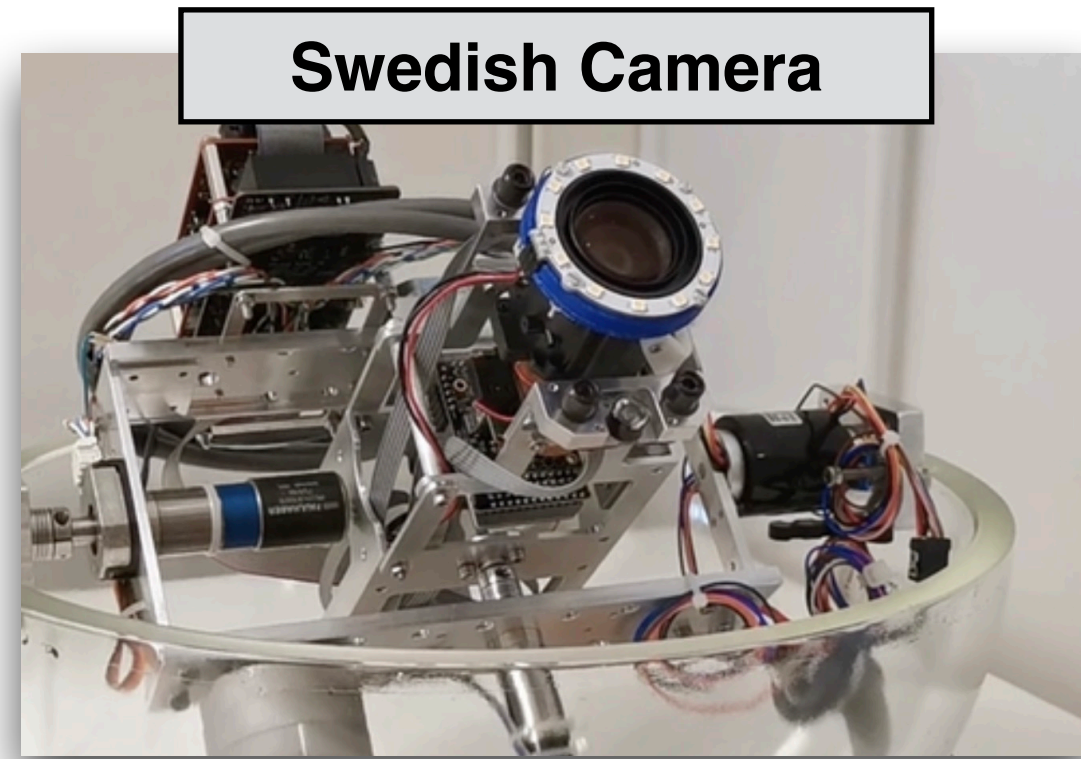
Pencil Beam

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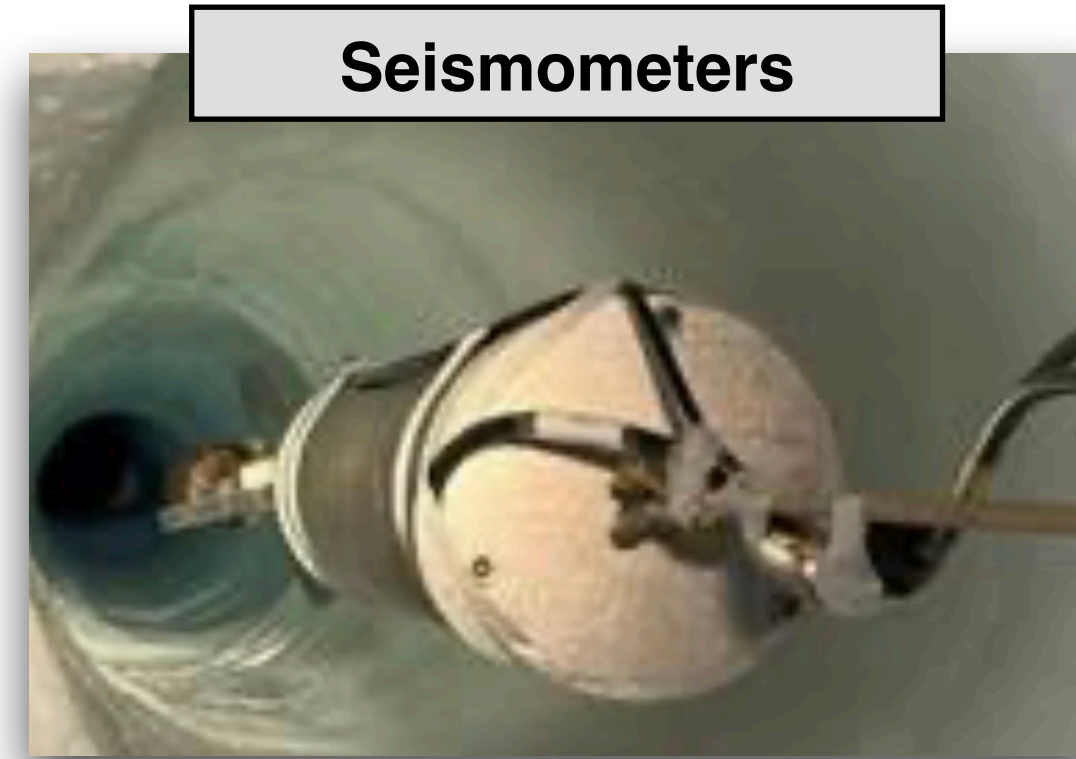
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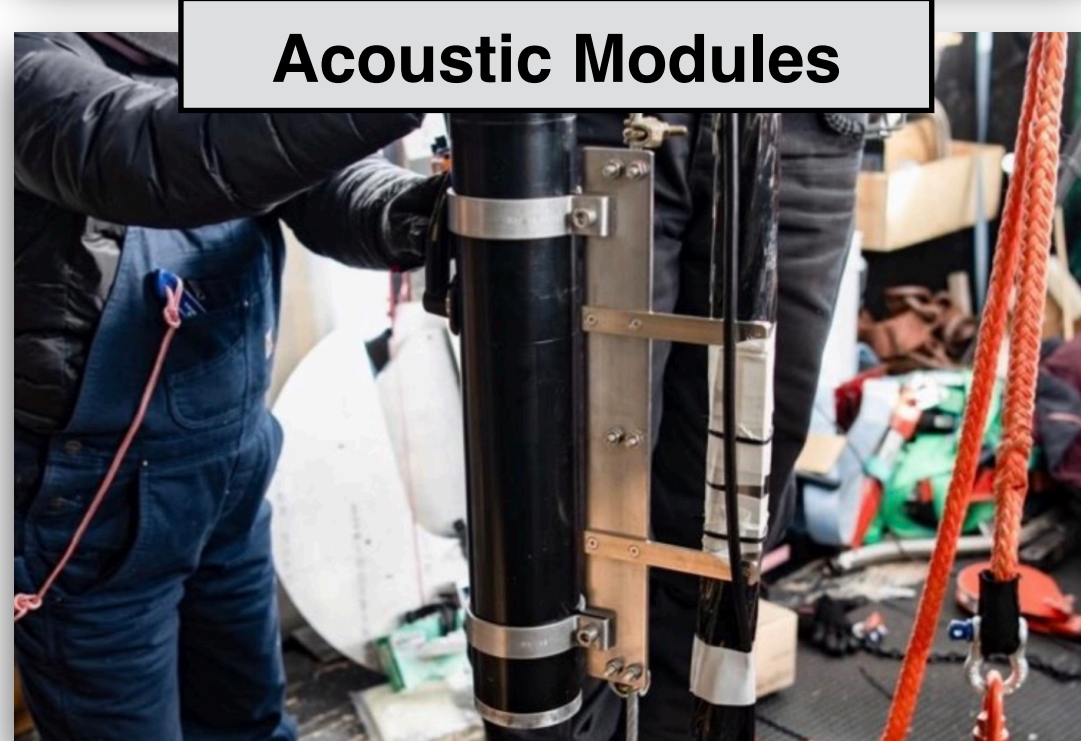
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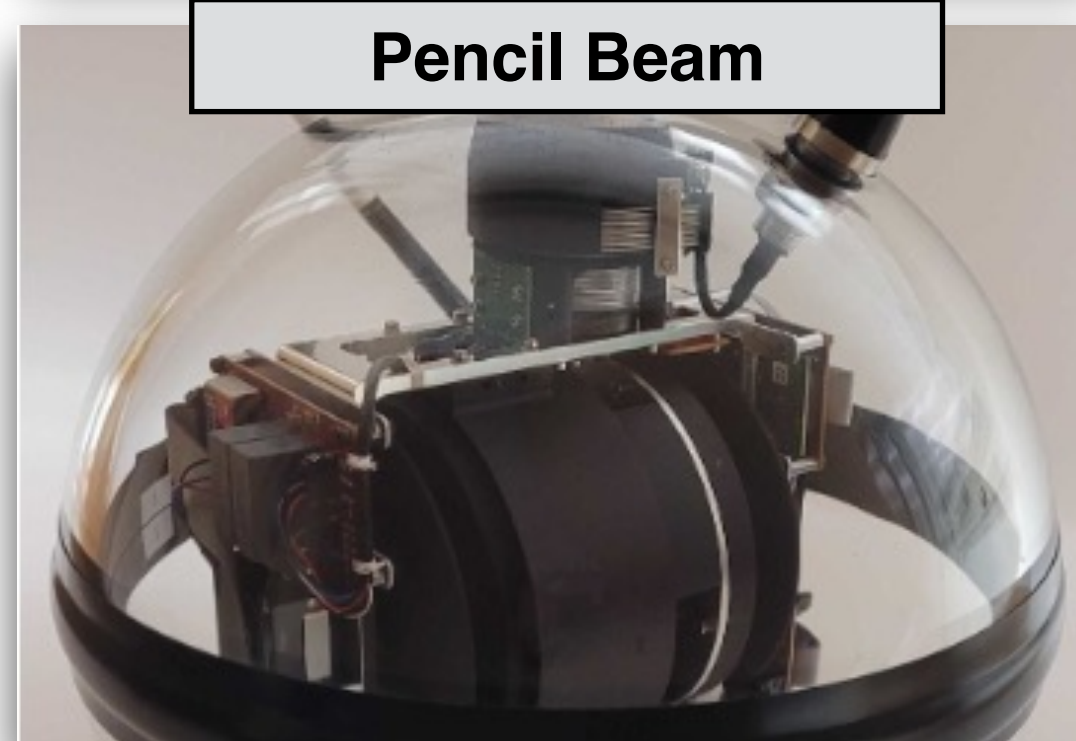
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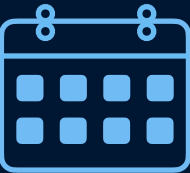

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Acoustic Modules

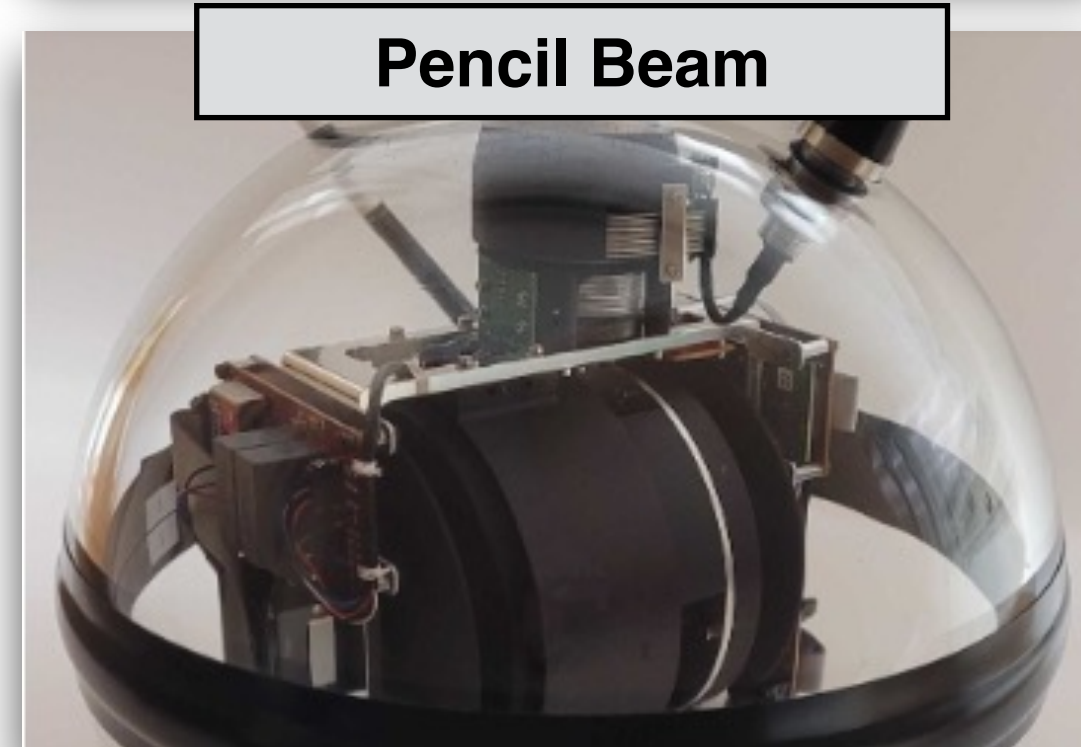
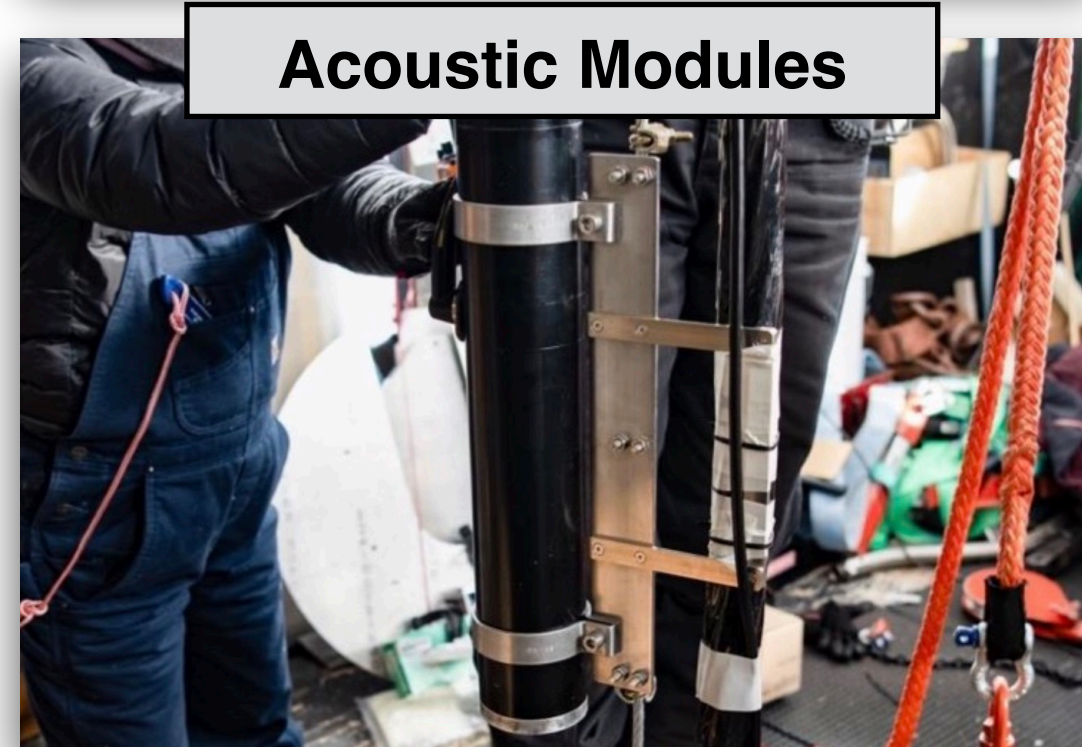
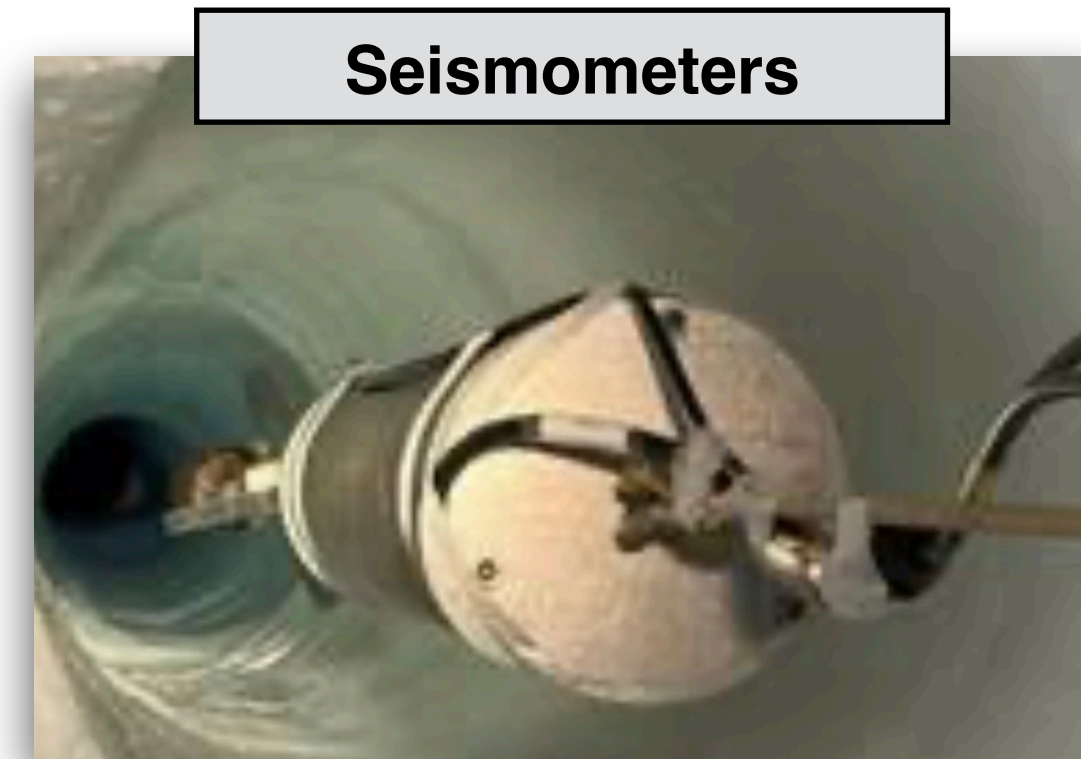
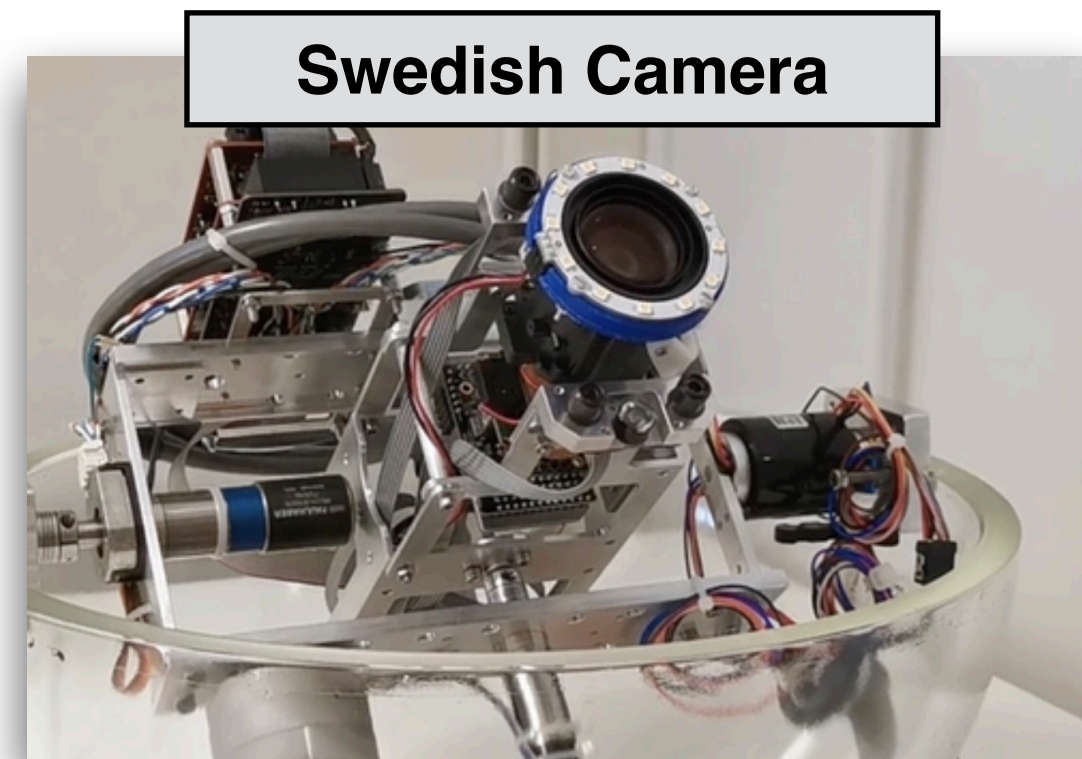
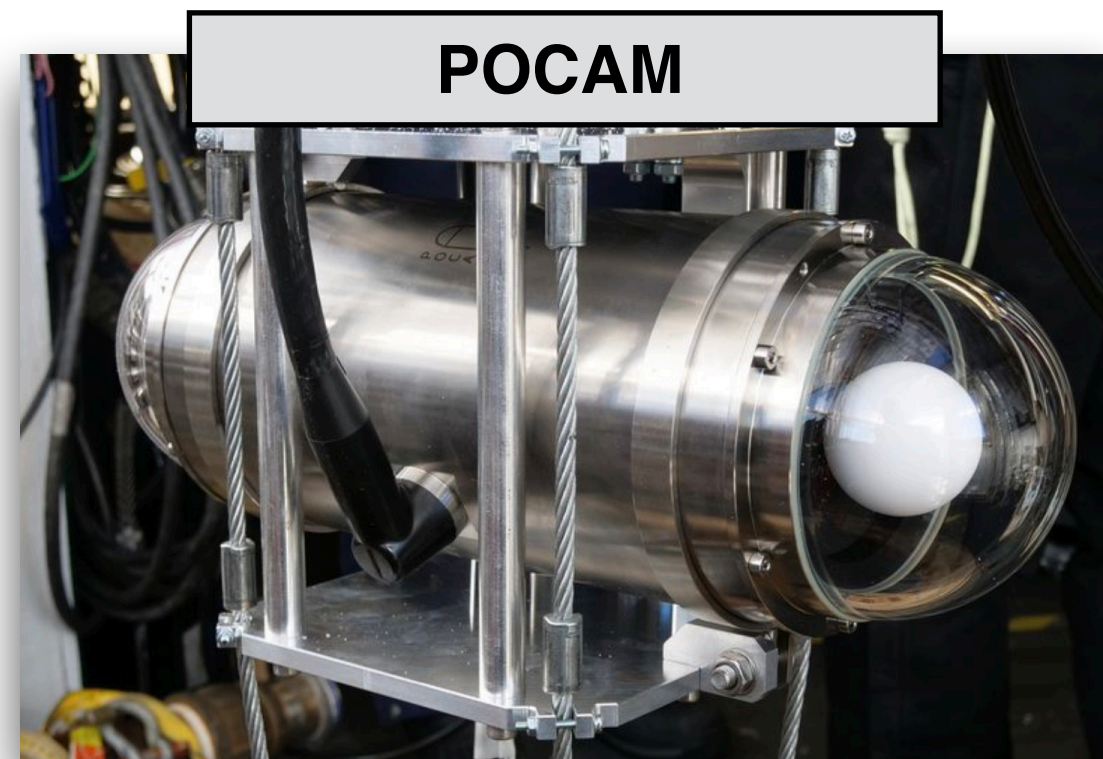


Pencil Beam

 SEE PROF. **CARSTEN ROTT**
POSTER ON TUESDAY
 **4:10PM - 5:40PM**

IceCube Upgrade (ICU) new calibration devices

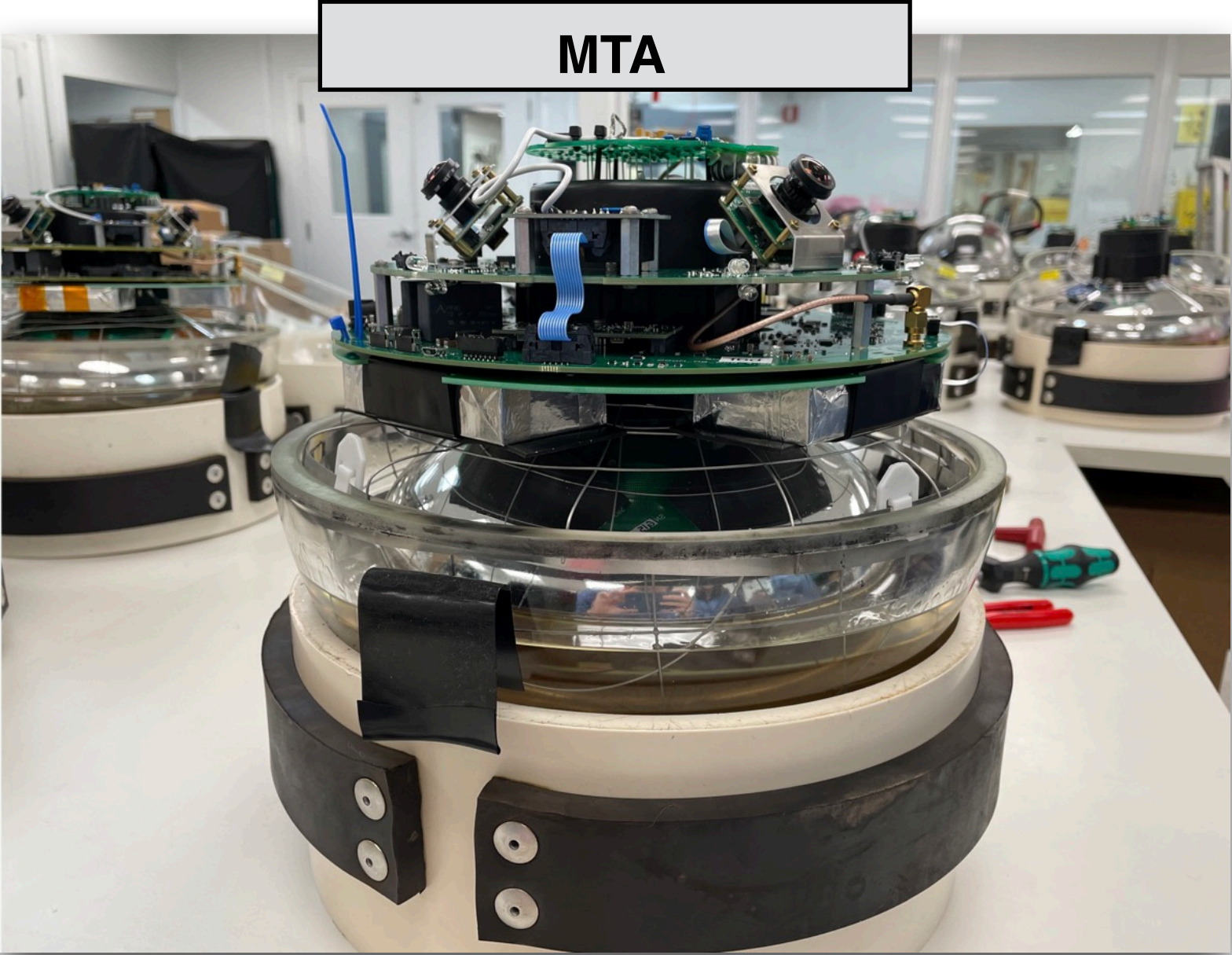
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SEE DR.
JORGE TORRES
POSTER ON TUESDAY
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IceCube Upgrade (ICU) specialty optical devices

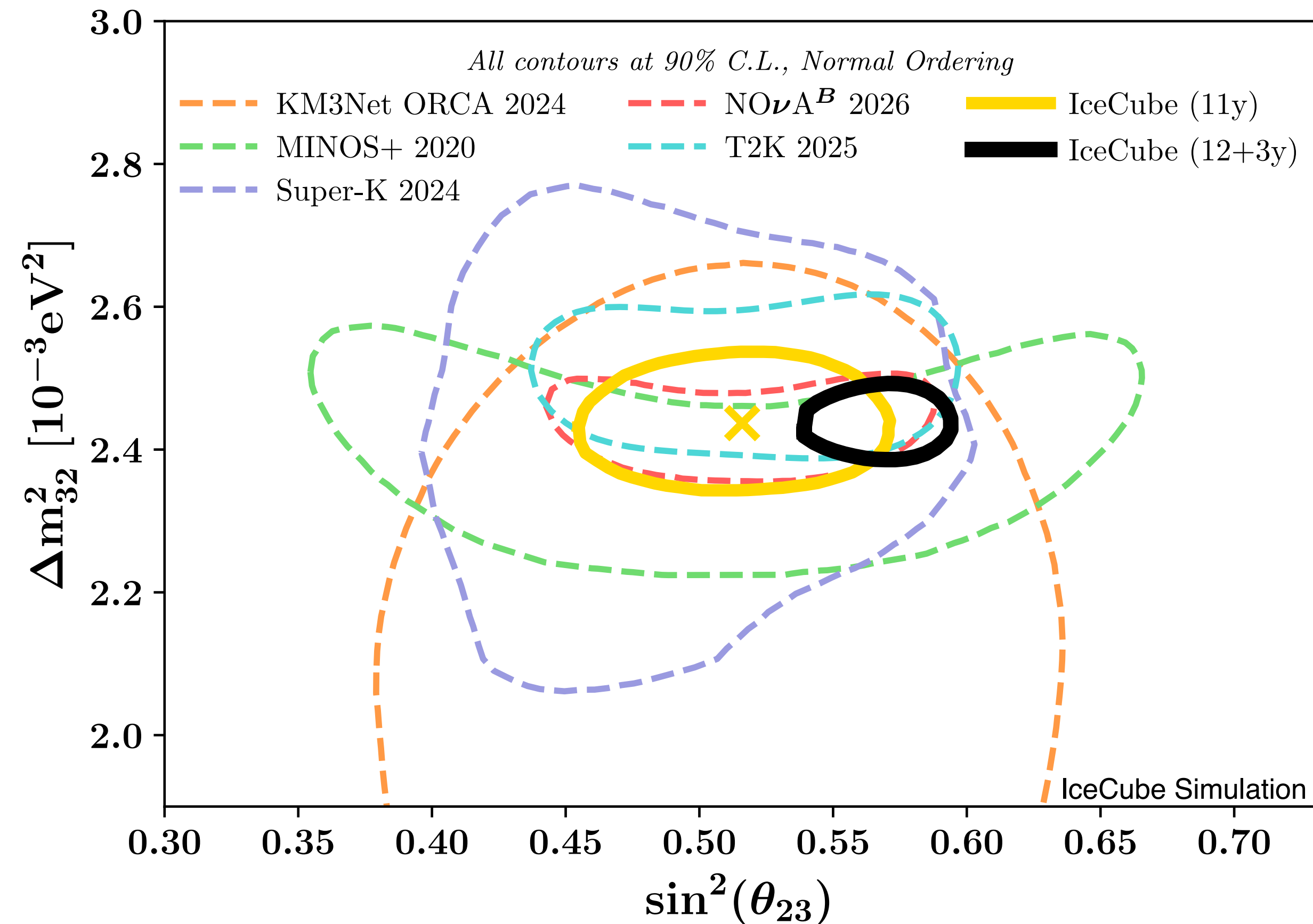


We've also deployed various new types of photon collection devices as prototypes for IceCube Gen2.



The IceCube Upgrade: Sensitivities

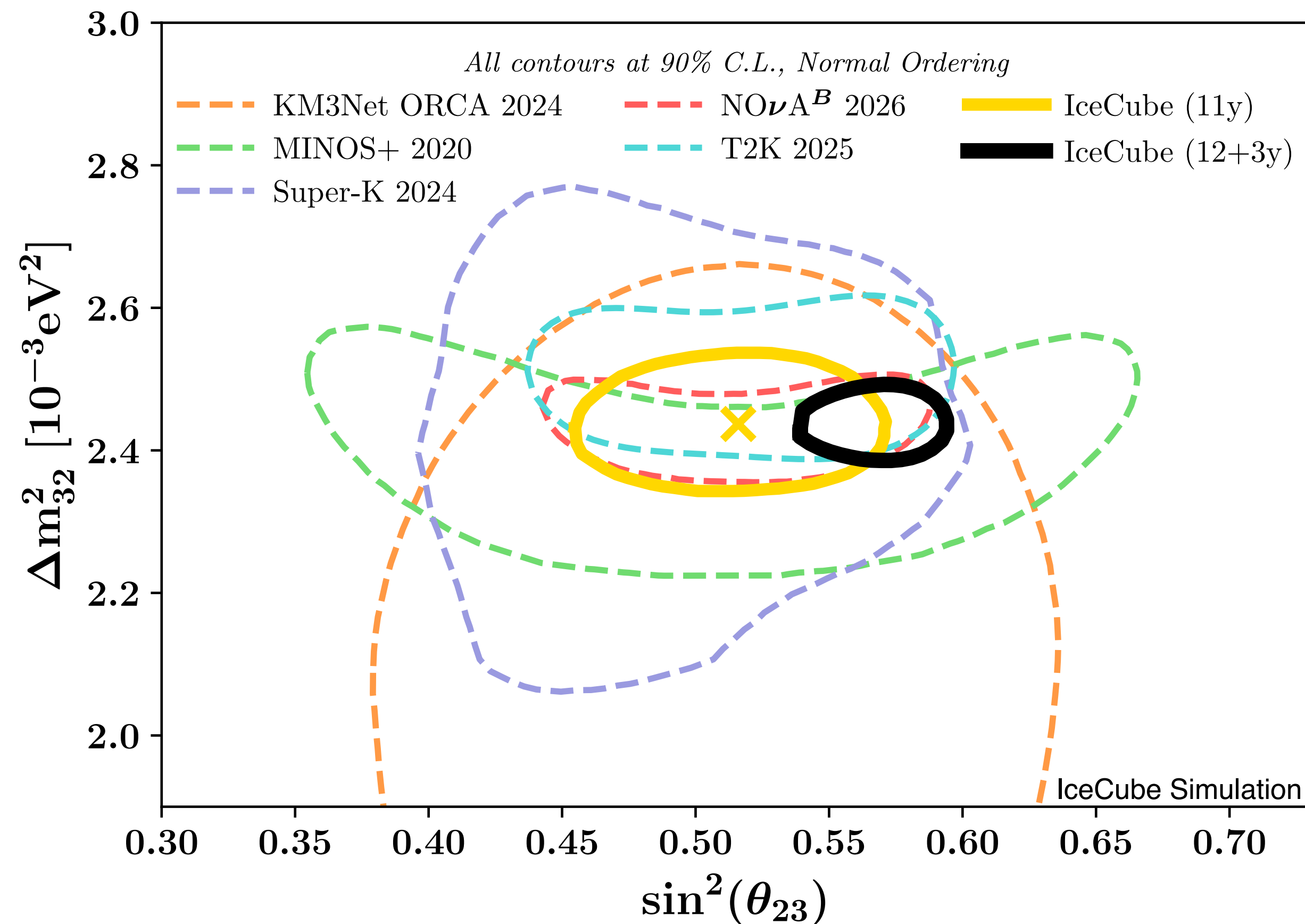
Significant improvement to sensitivity to Δm_{32}^2 and θ_{23} ,
and θ_{23} octant.



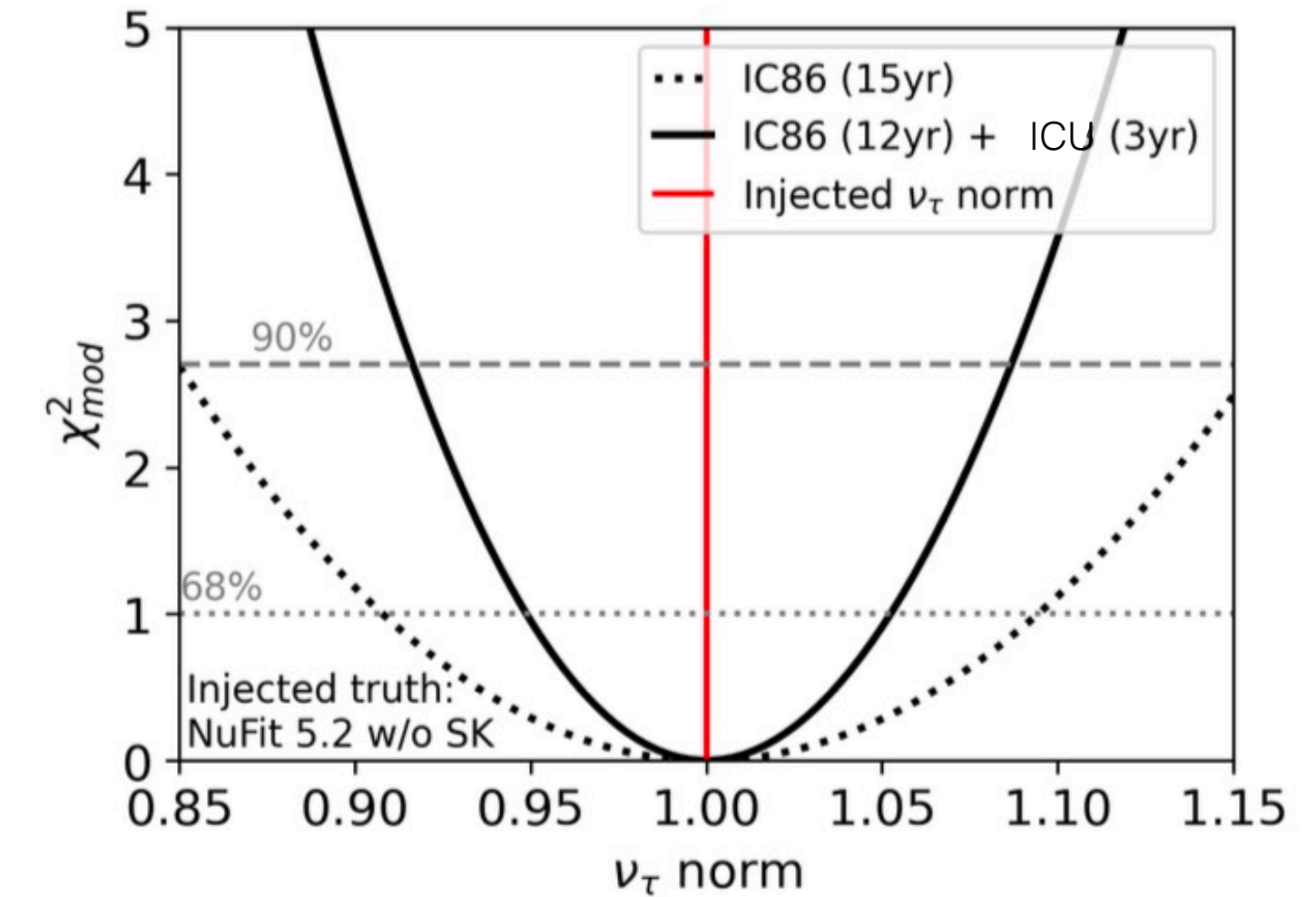
ICU Potential: [Phys. Rev. D 113, 072009 \(2026\)](#), Injected truth: NuFit 5.2 w/o SK
Simulation performed assuming IC93: 12y DeepCore + 3y ICU configuration.

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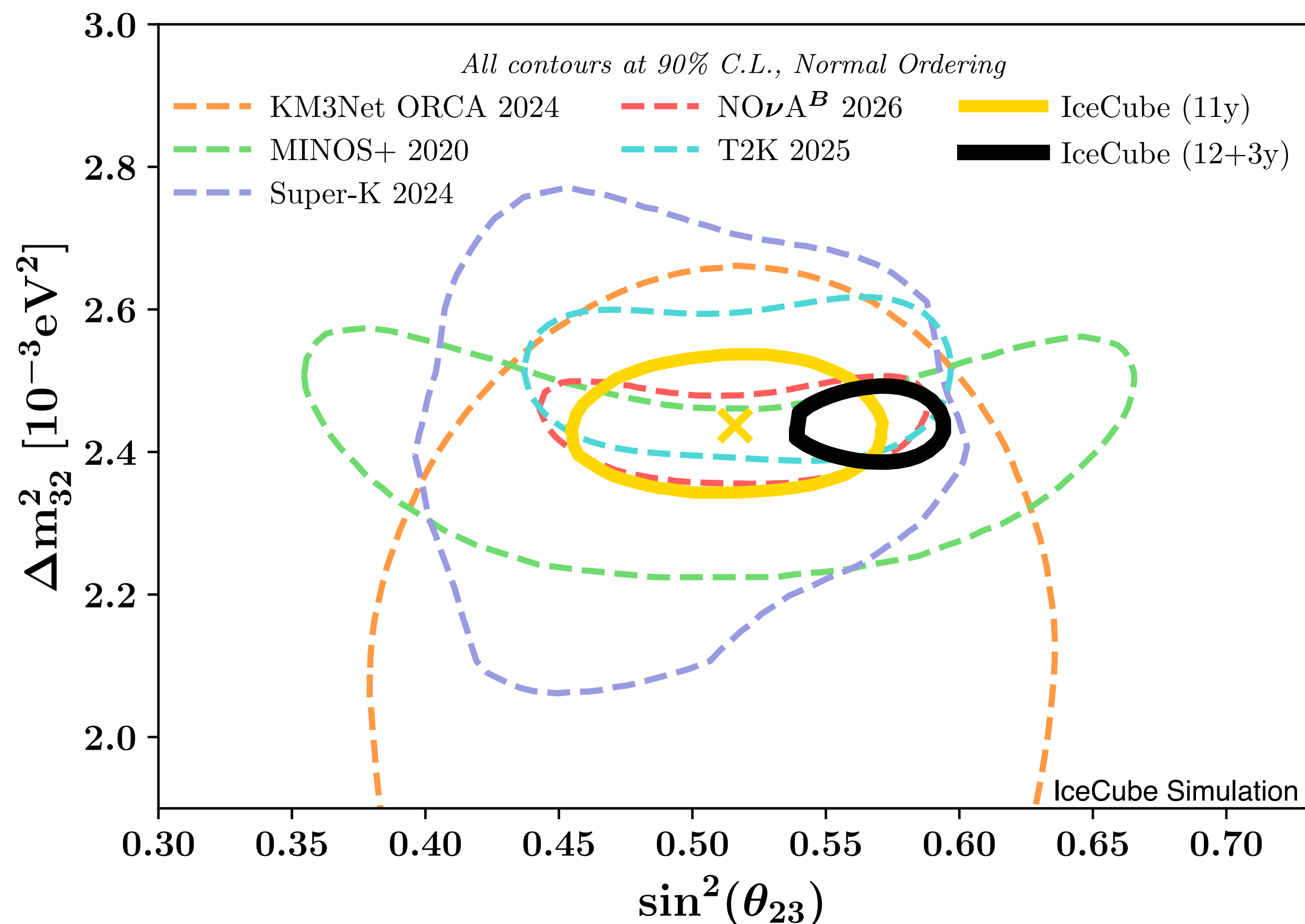
$\pm 5\%$ precision on ν_τ normalization after 3 years.



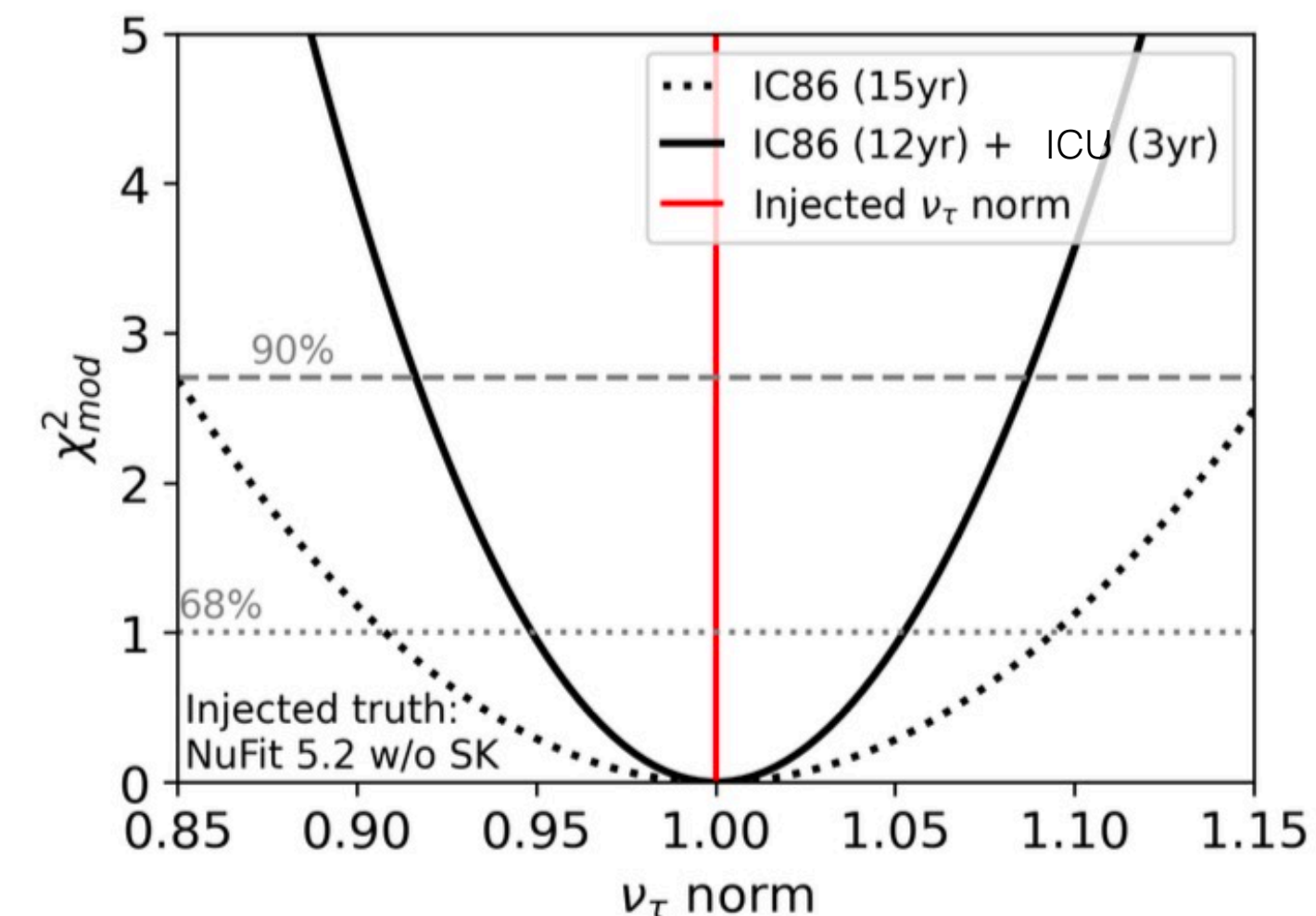
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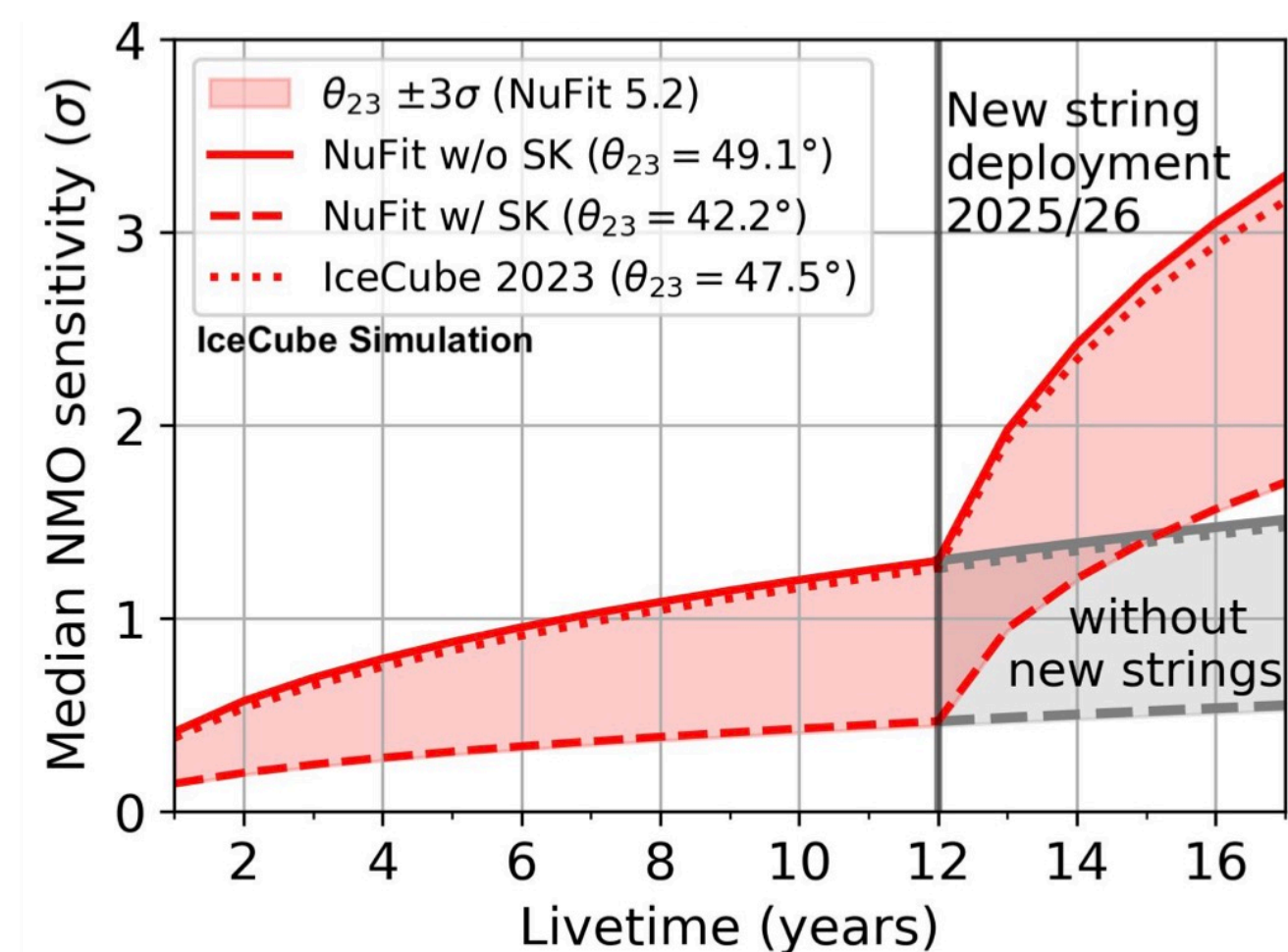
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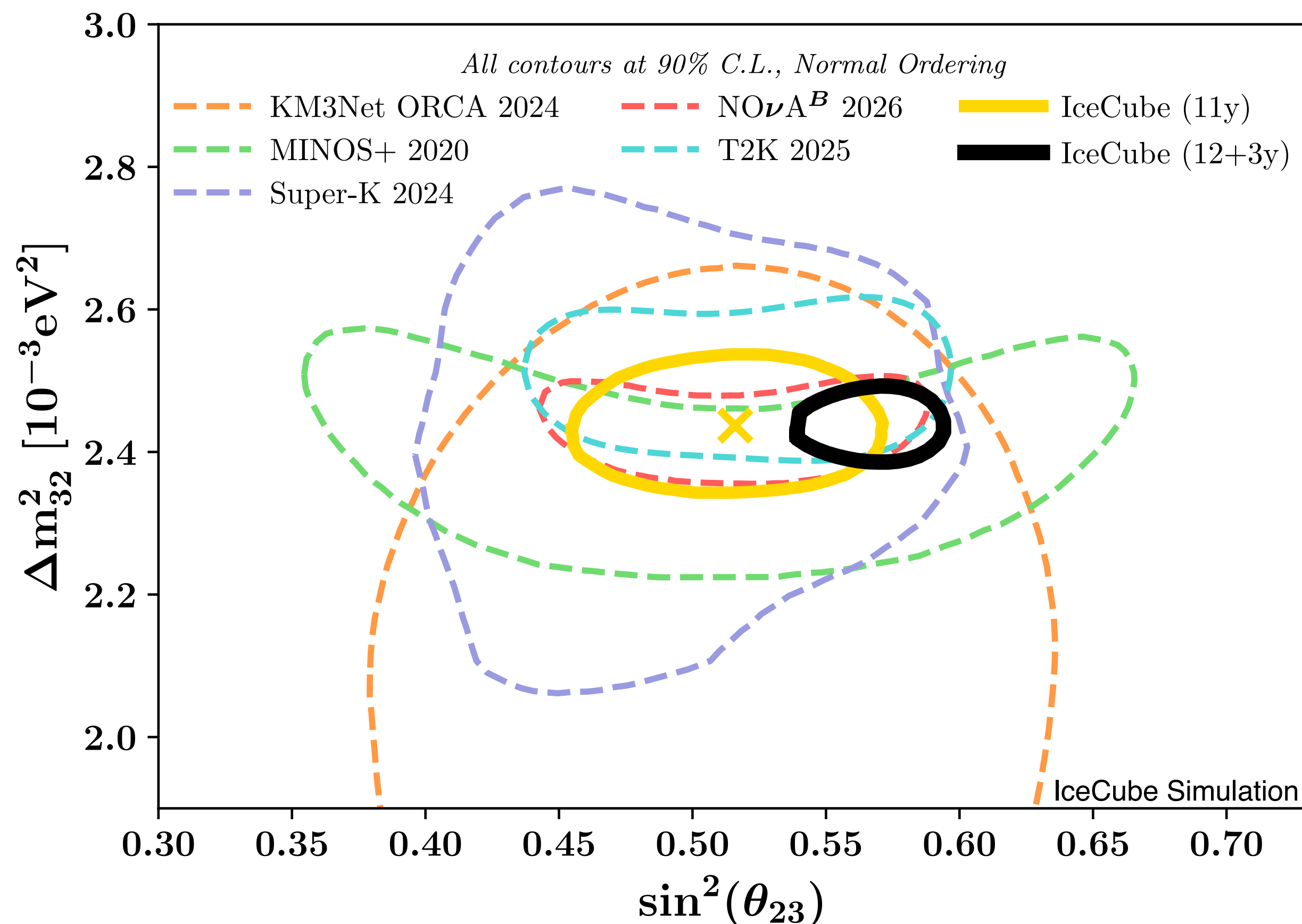
$\sim 1.5\text{-}2.5\sigma$ sensitivity to neutrino mass ordering after 3 years.



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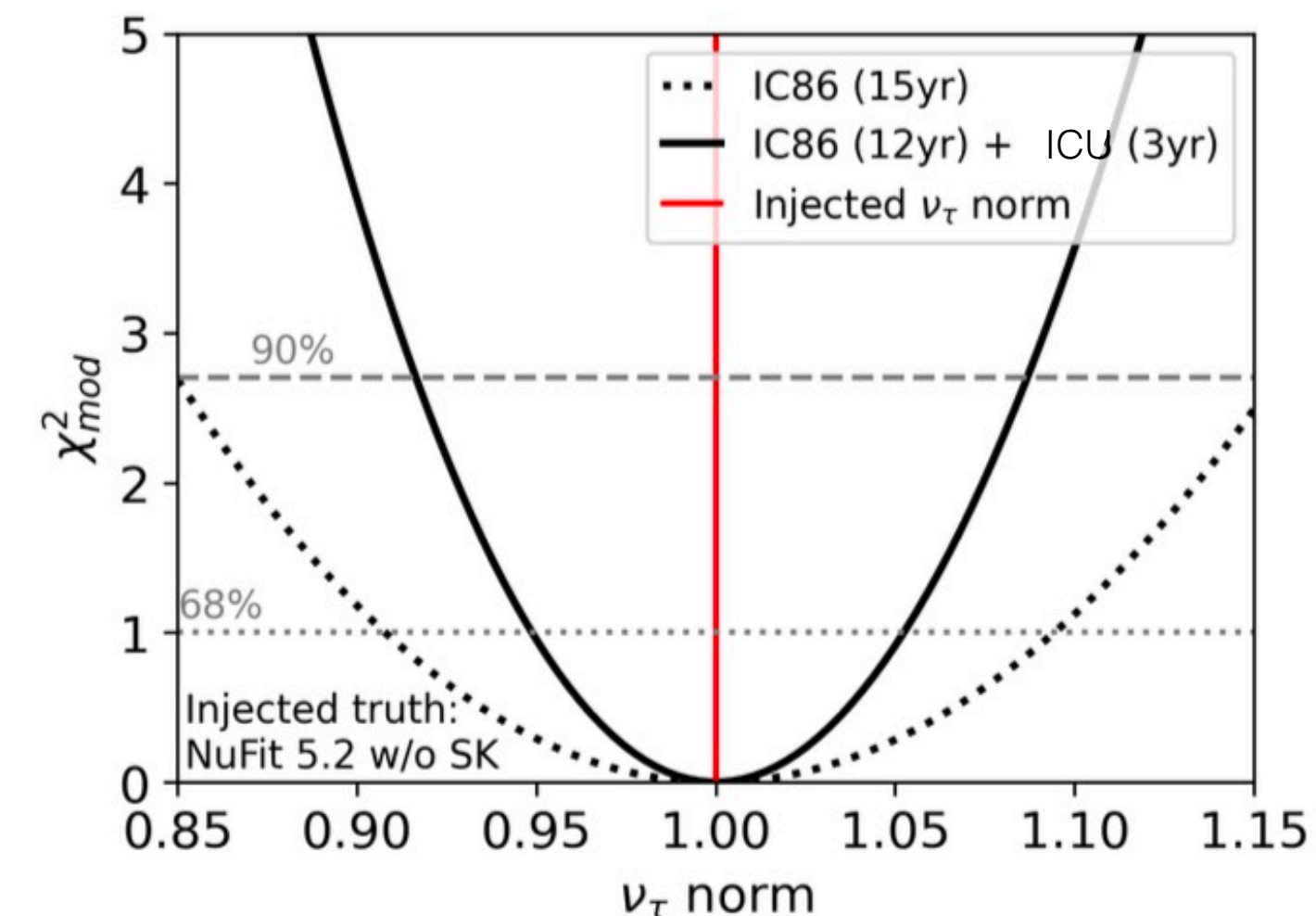
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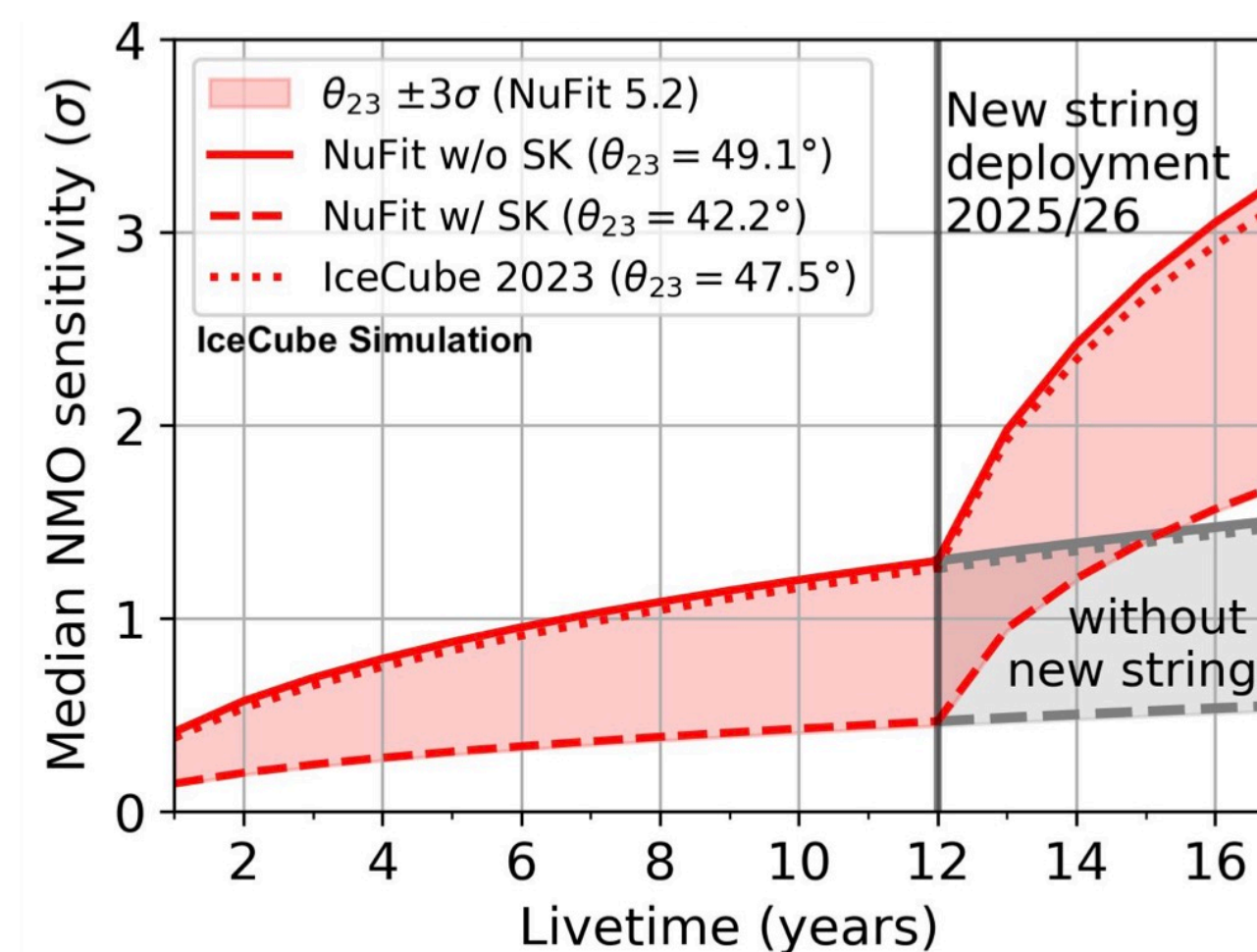
In addition to expanding our understanding of the ice to help with multi-messenger astrophysics.

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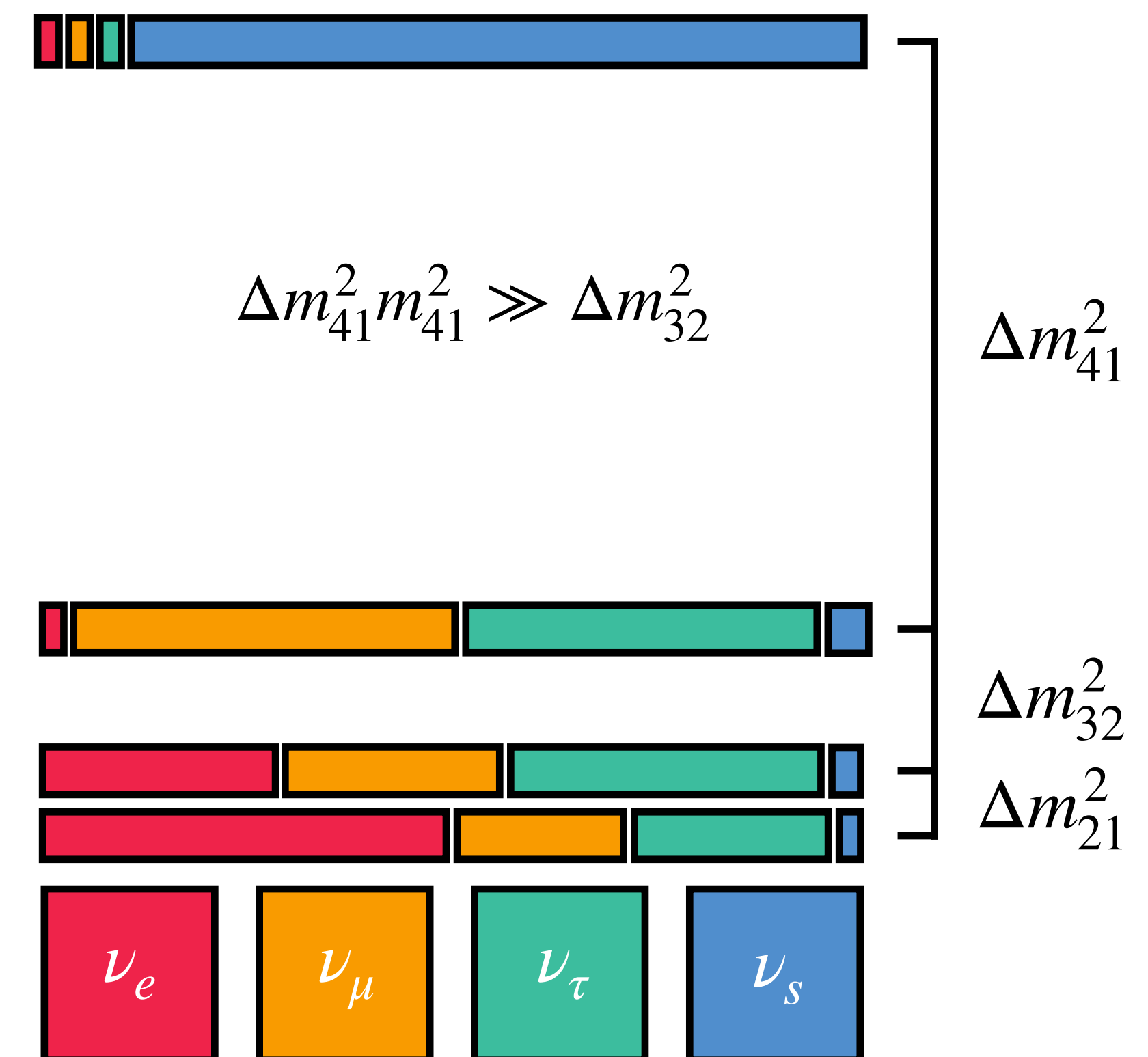


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Moving into the TeV: the 3+1 sterile neutrinos model

Anomalies observed in ν_e -appearance and -disappearance experiments have motivated the introduction of an additional eV-scale neutrino state. IceCube probes sterile neutrino oscillations using fundamentally different systematic uncertainties, baselines, and energy ranges than short-baseline experiments, providing a highly complementary test of sterile neutrino models.

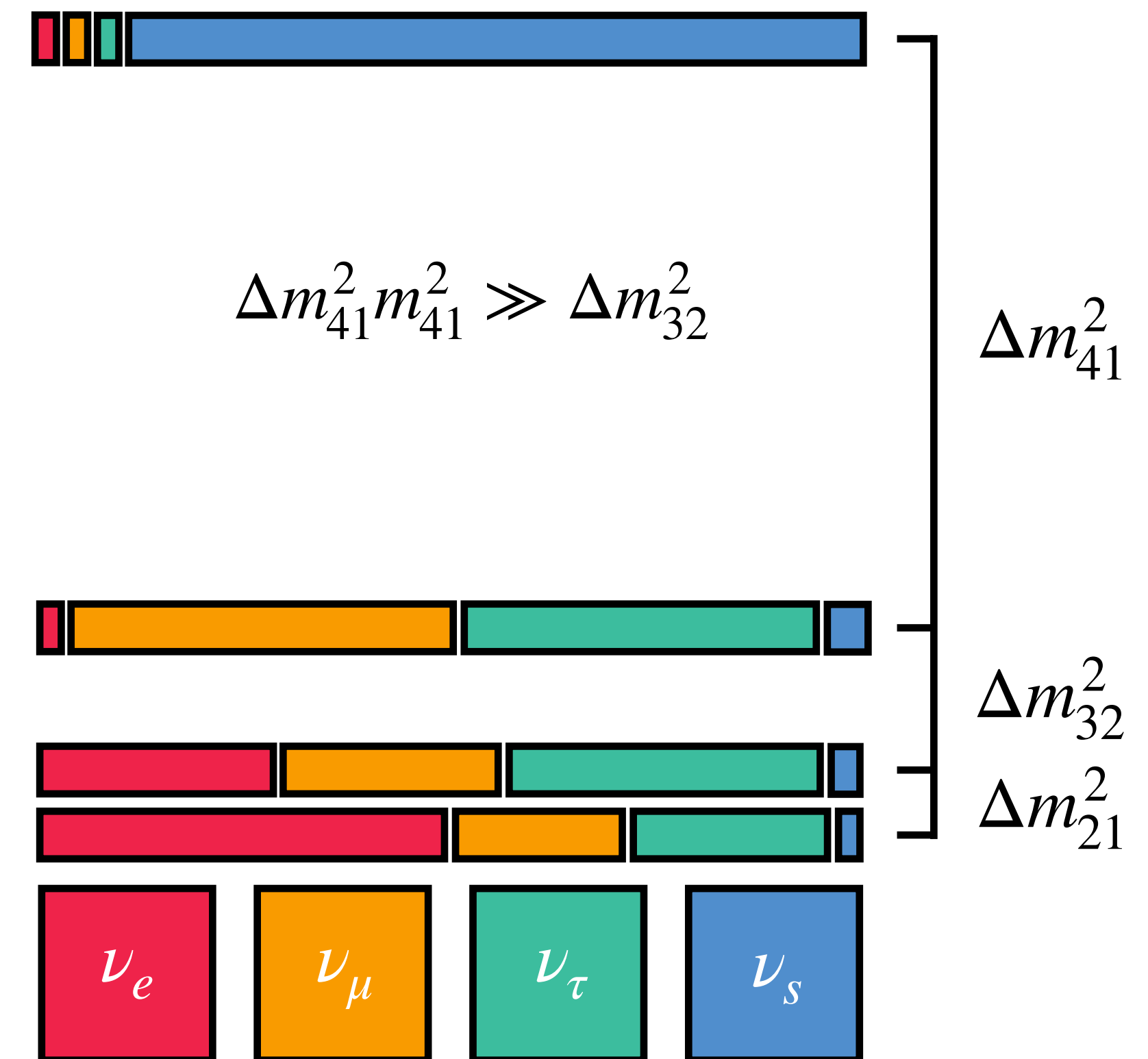


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Flavor states U_{3+1} Mass states

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \\ \nu_s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} & U_{e4} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} & U_{\mu4} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} & U_{\tau4} \\ U_{s1} & U_{s2} & U_{s3} & U_{s4} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \\ \nu_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

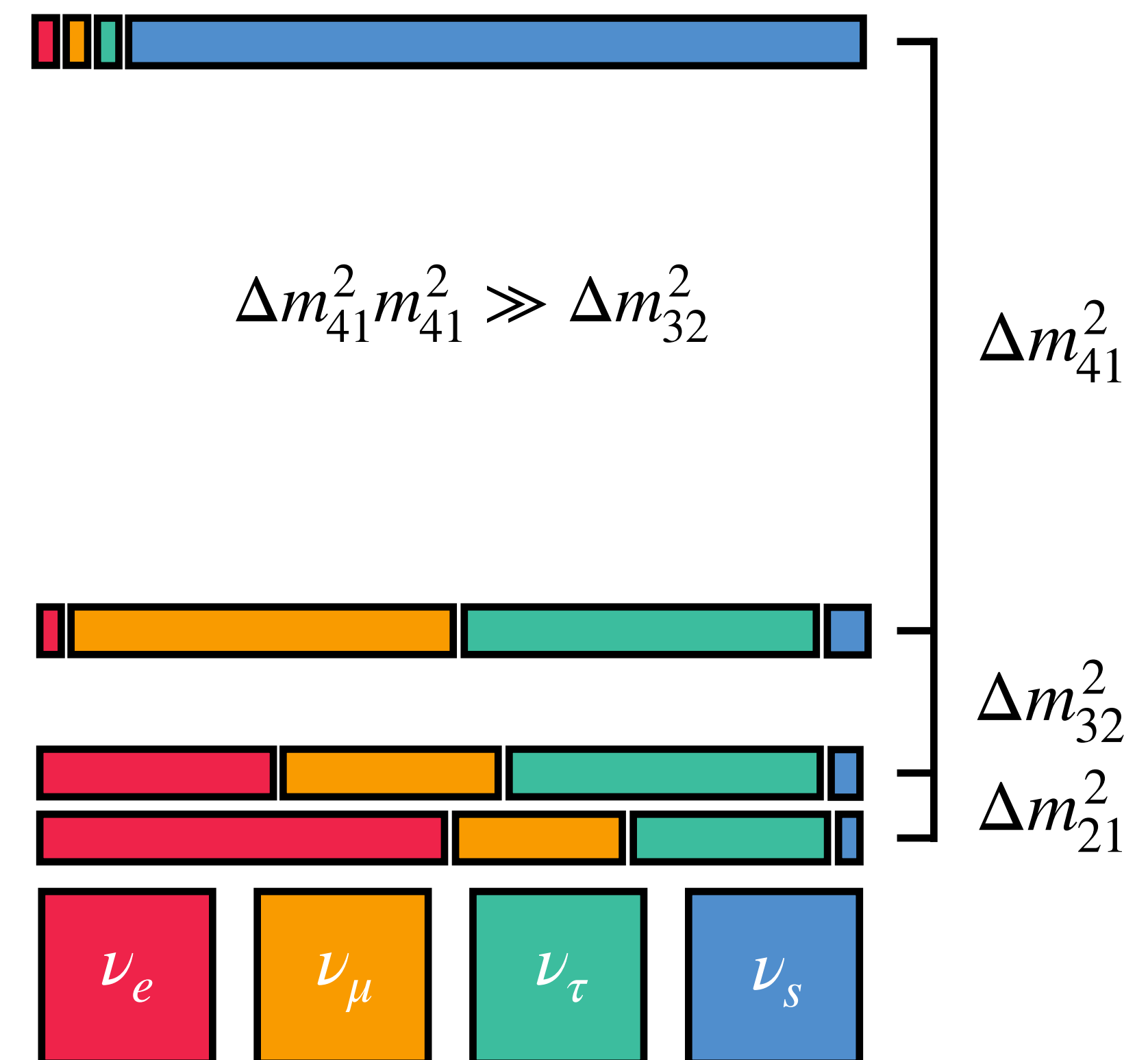


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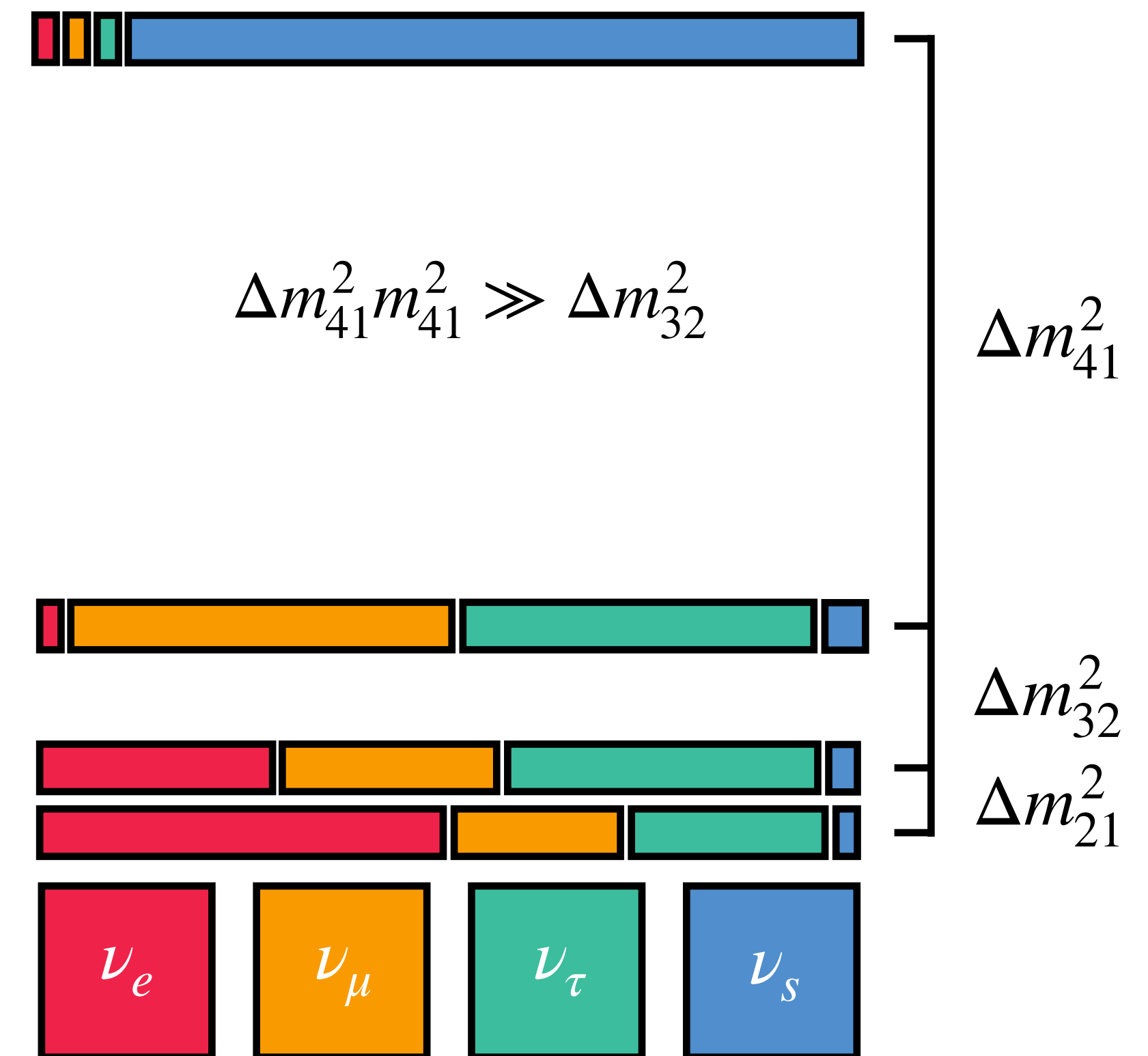


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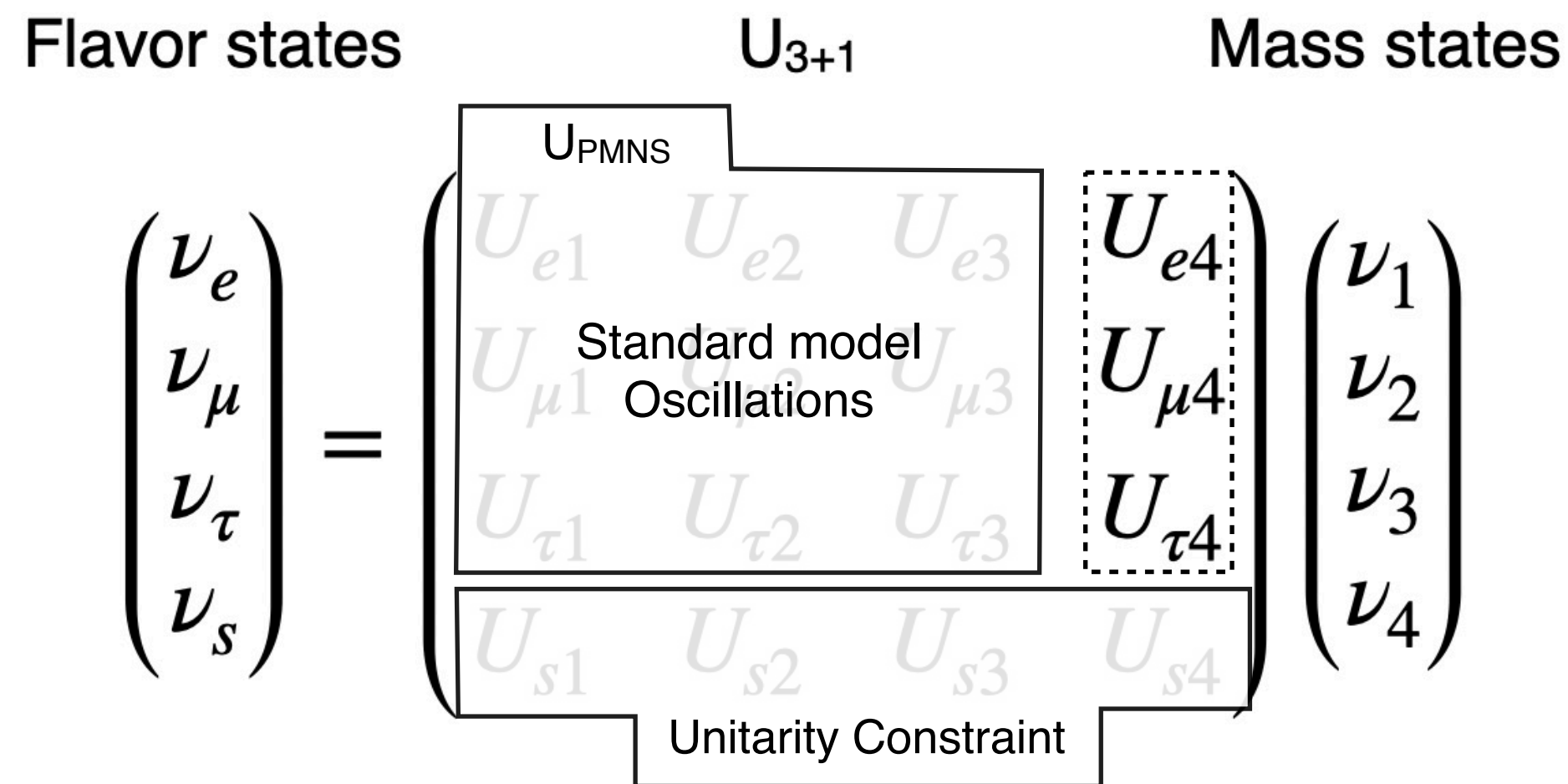
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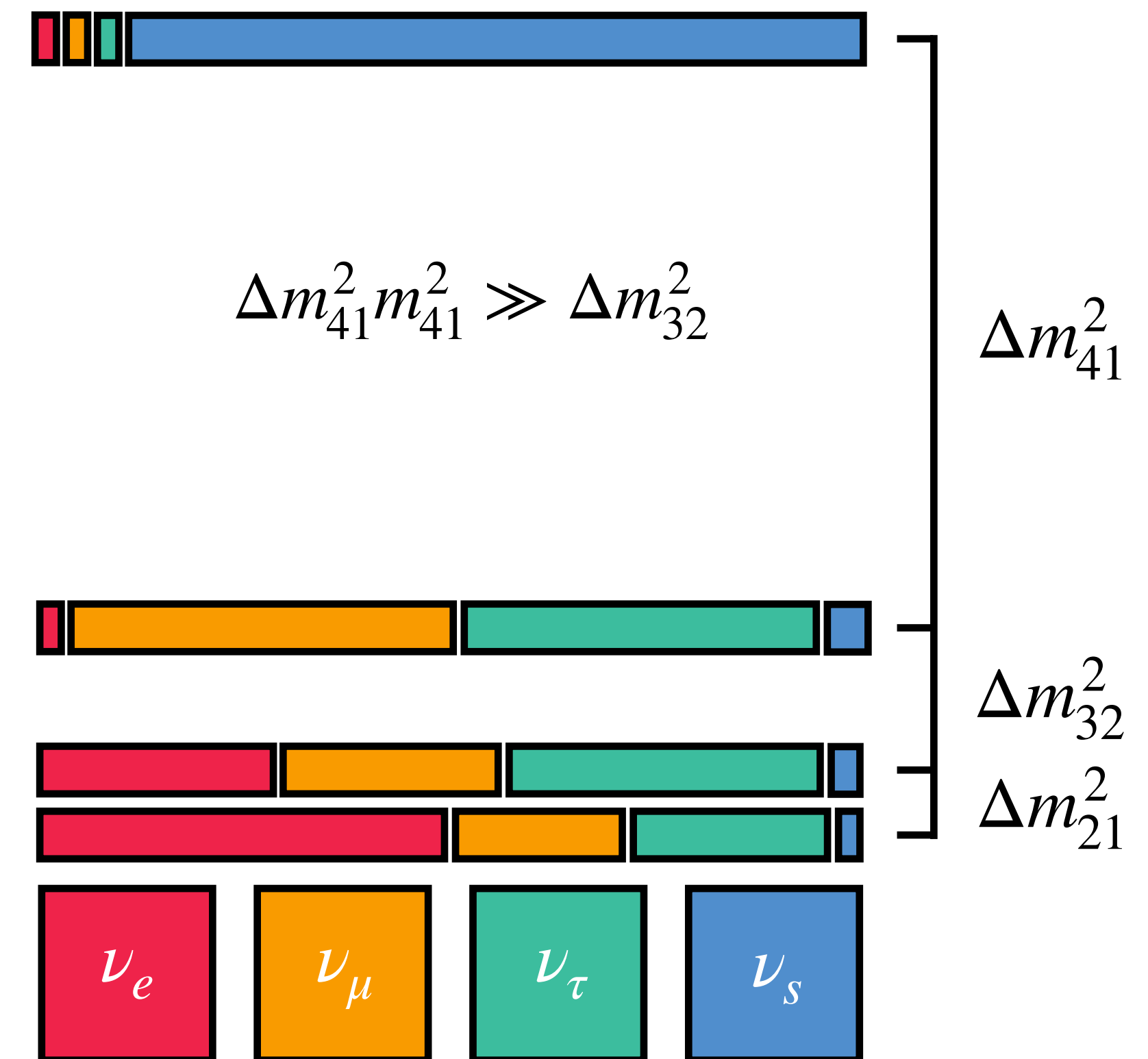


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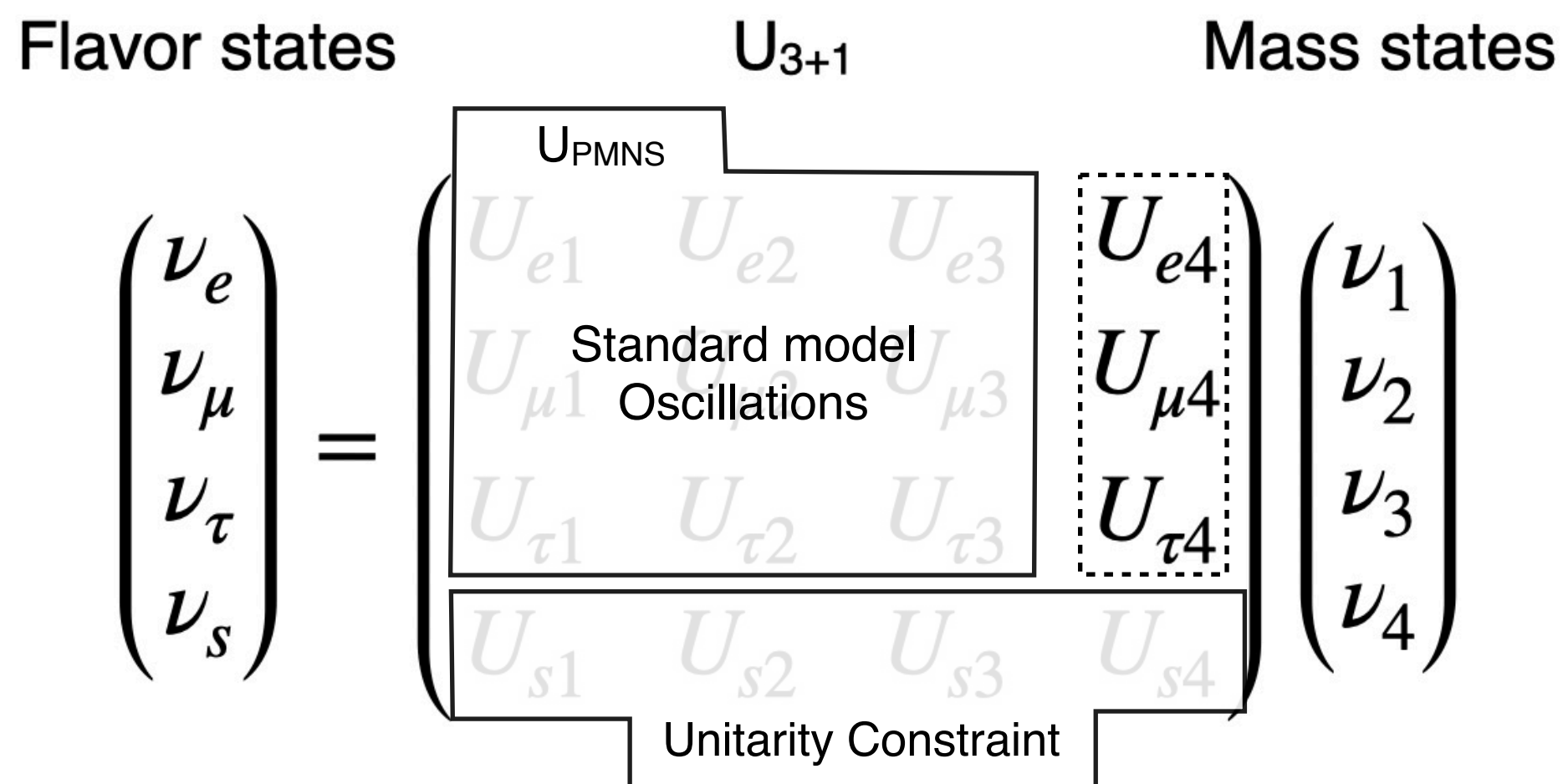


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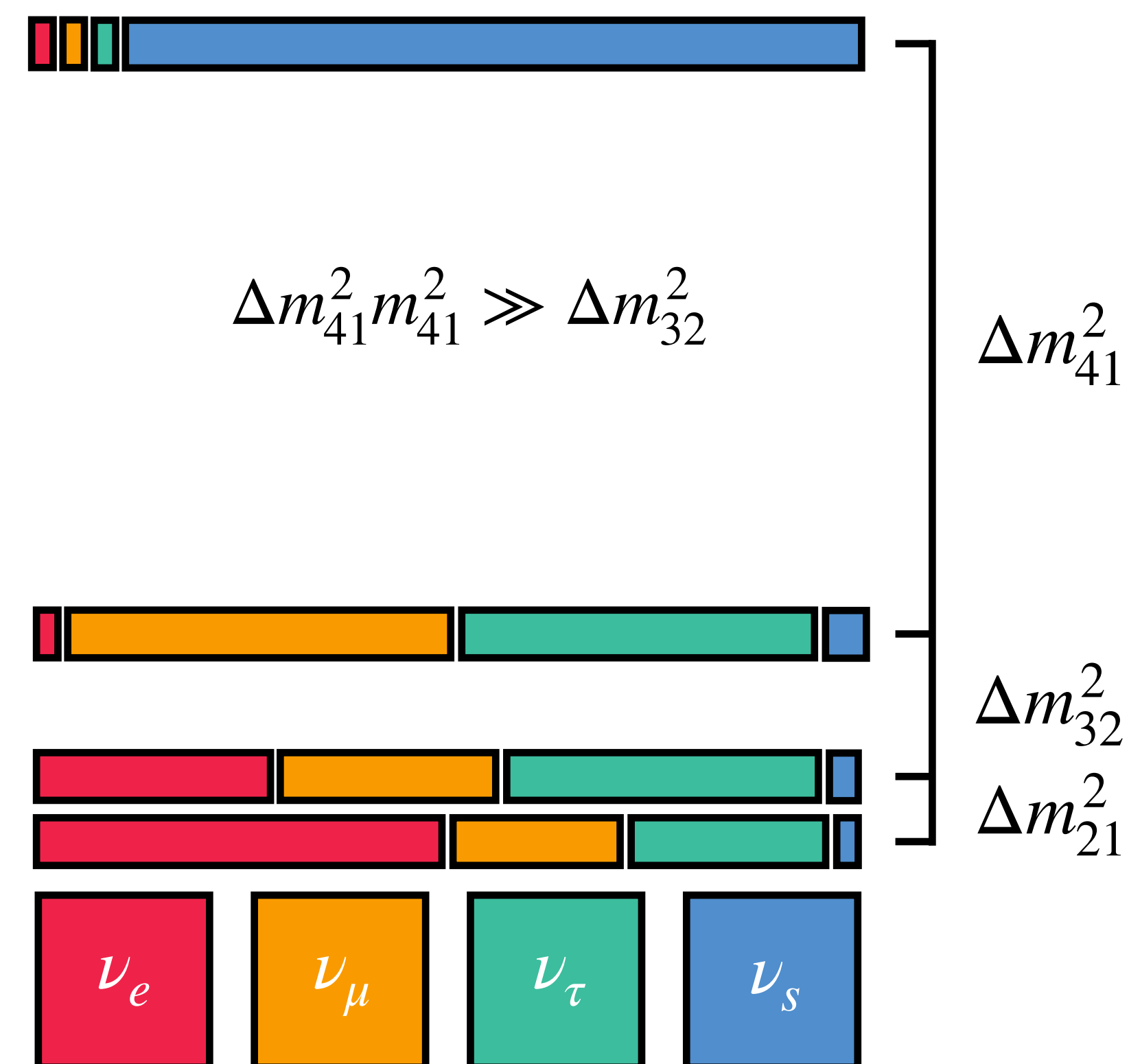
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Minimal ν_e contribution.
Does not impact result.

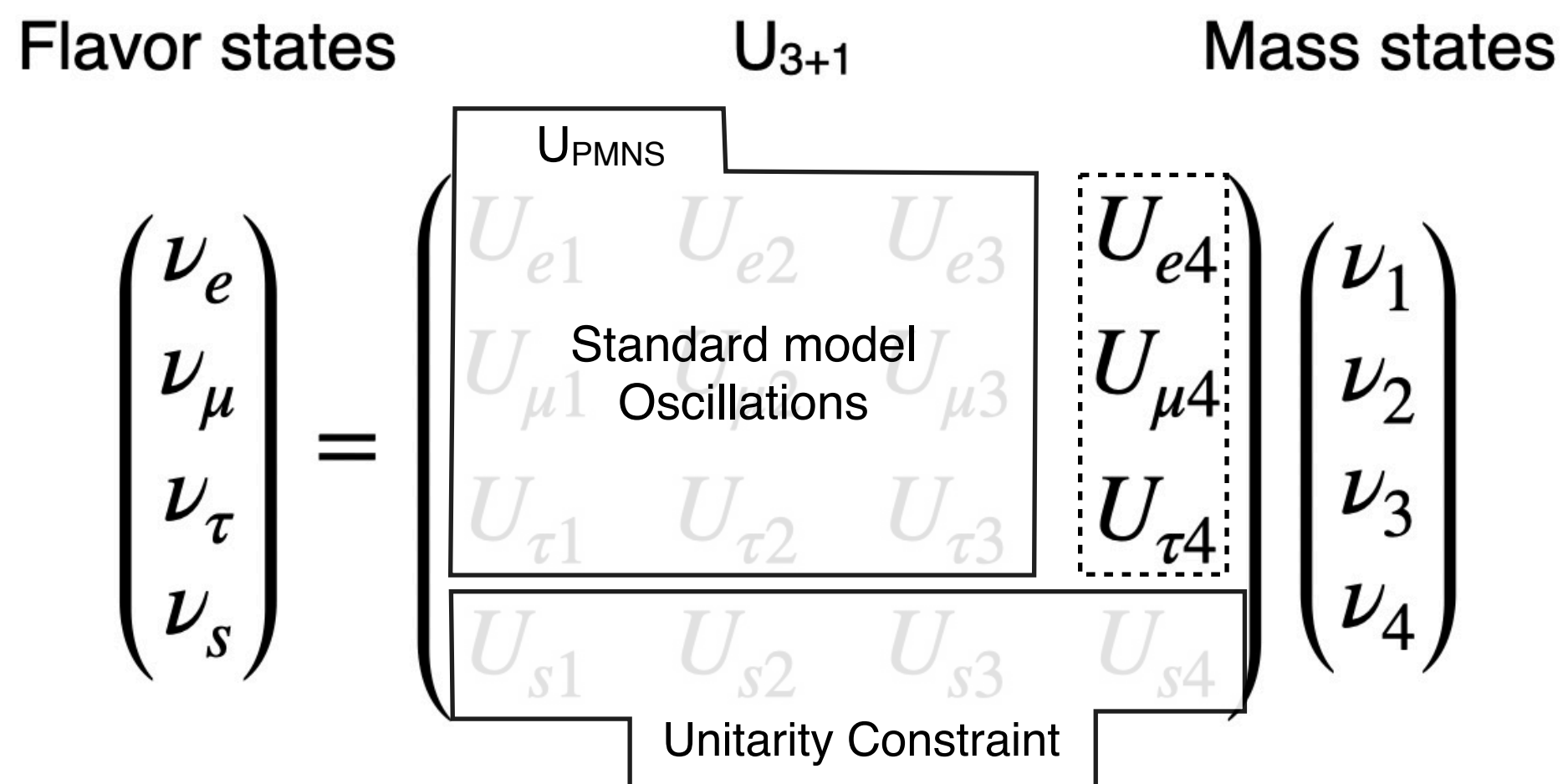
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Moving into the TeV: the 3+1 sterile neutrinos model

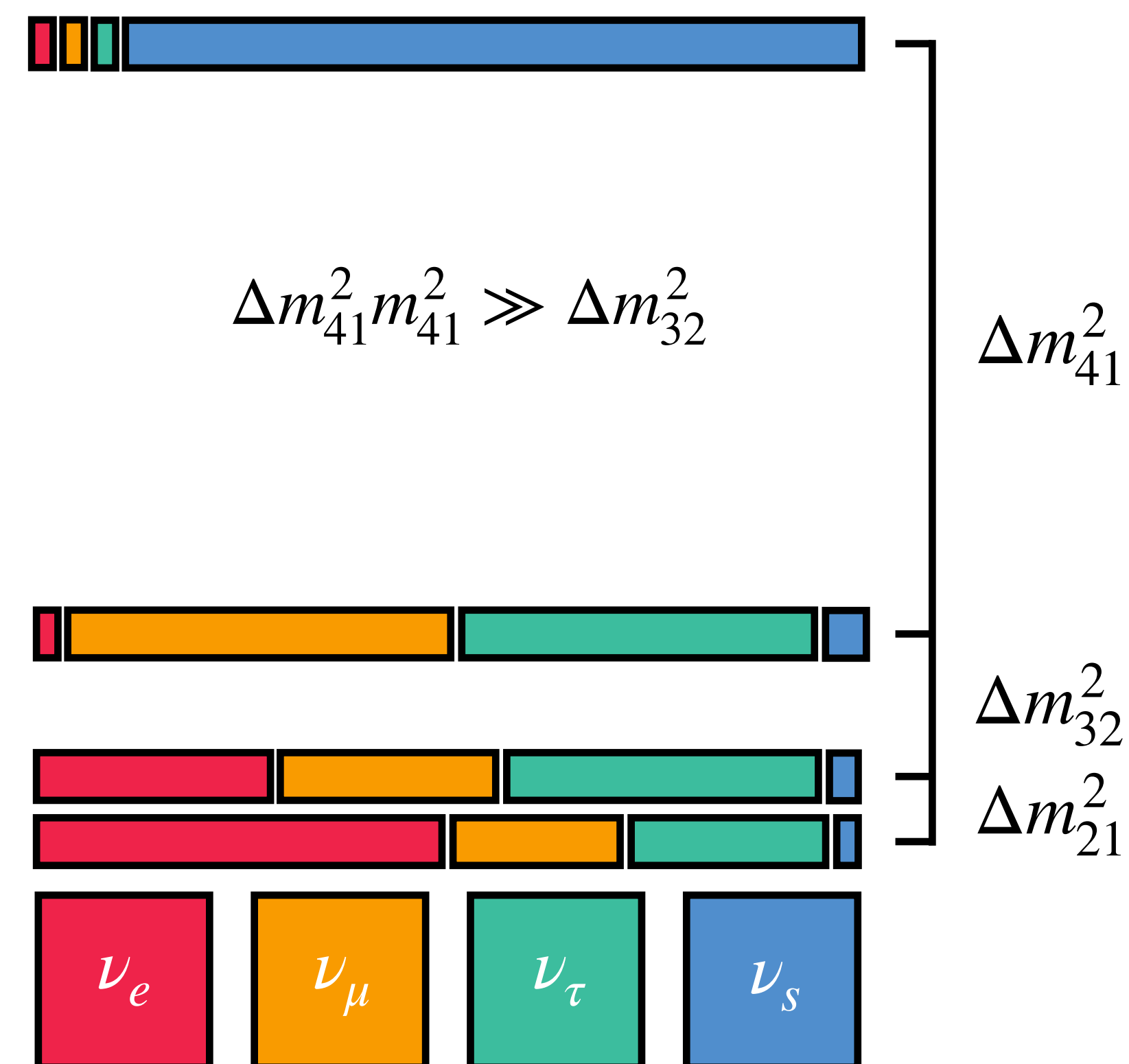
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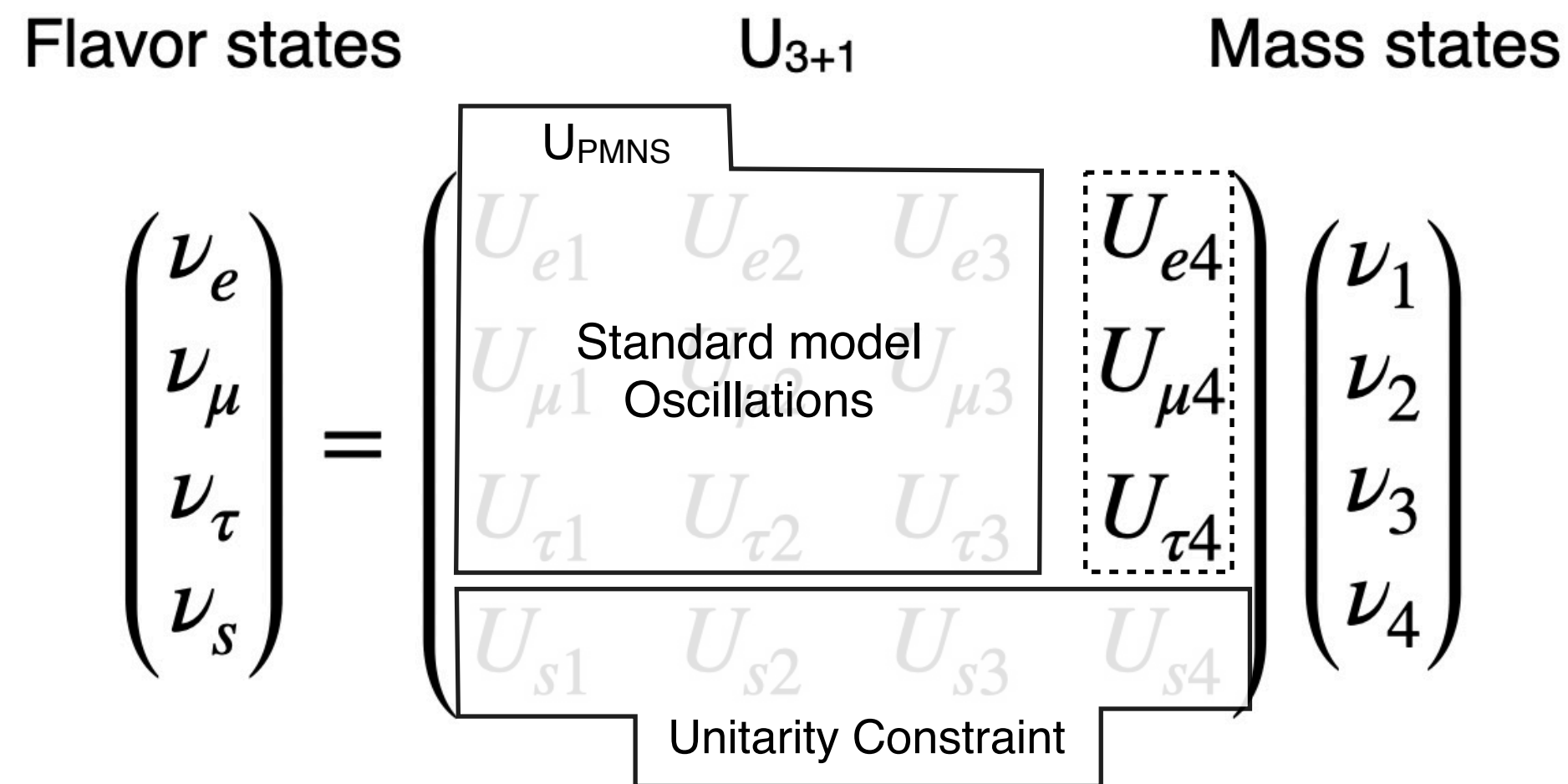
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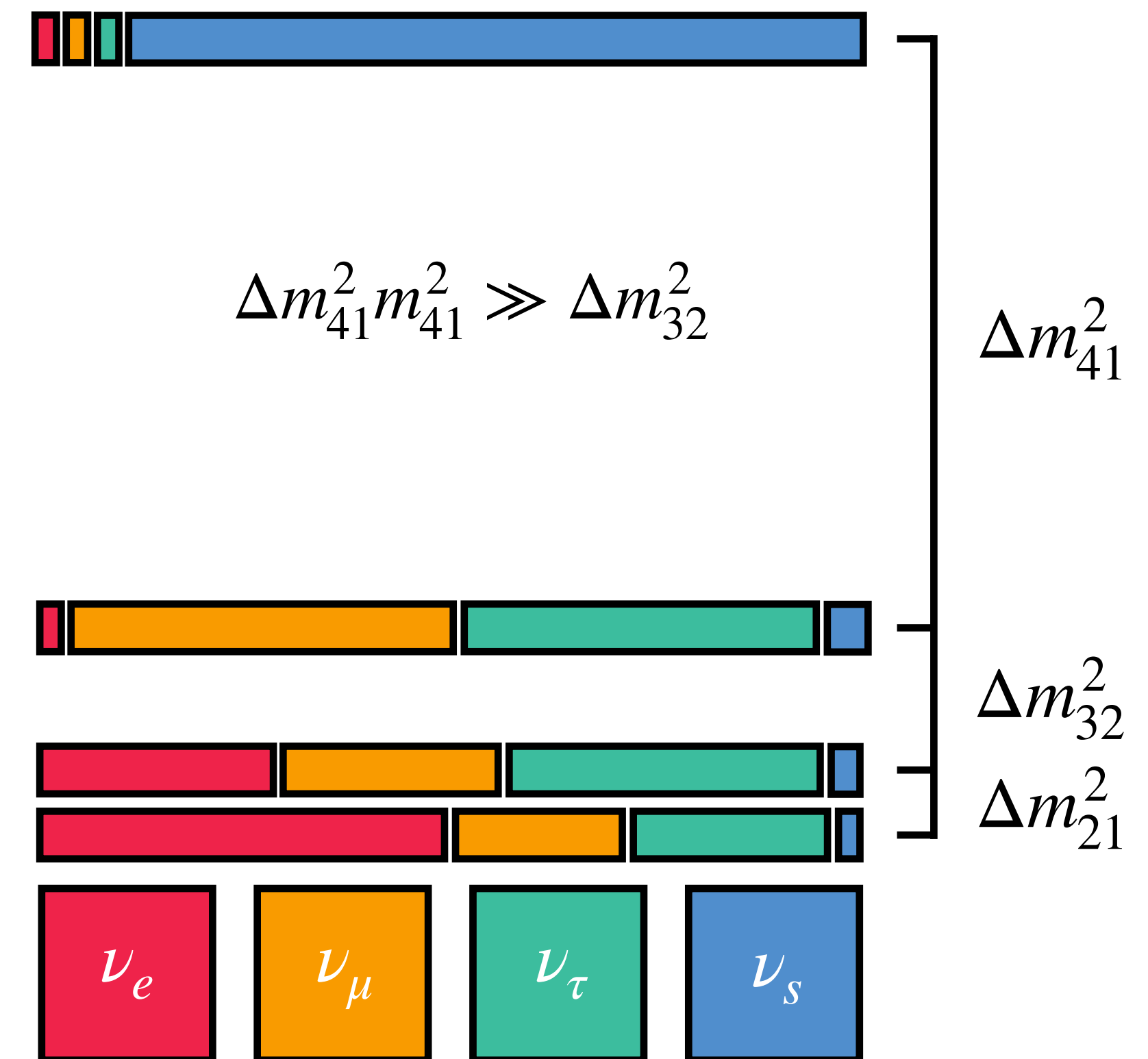
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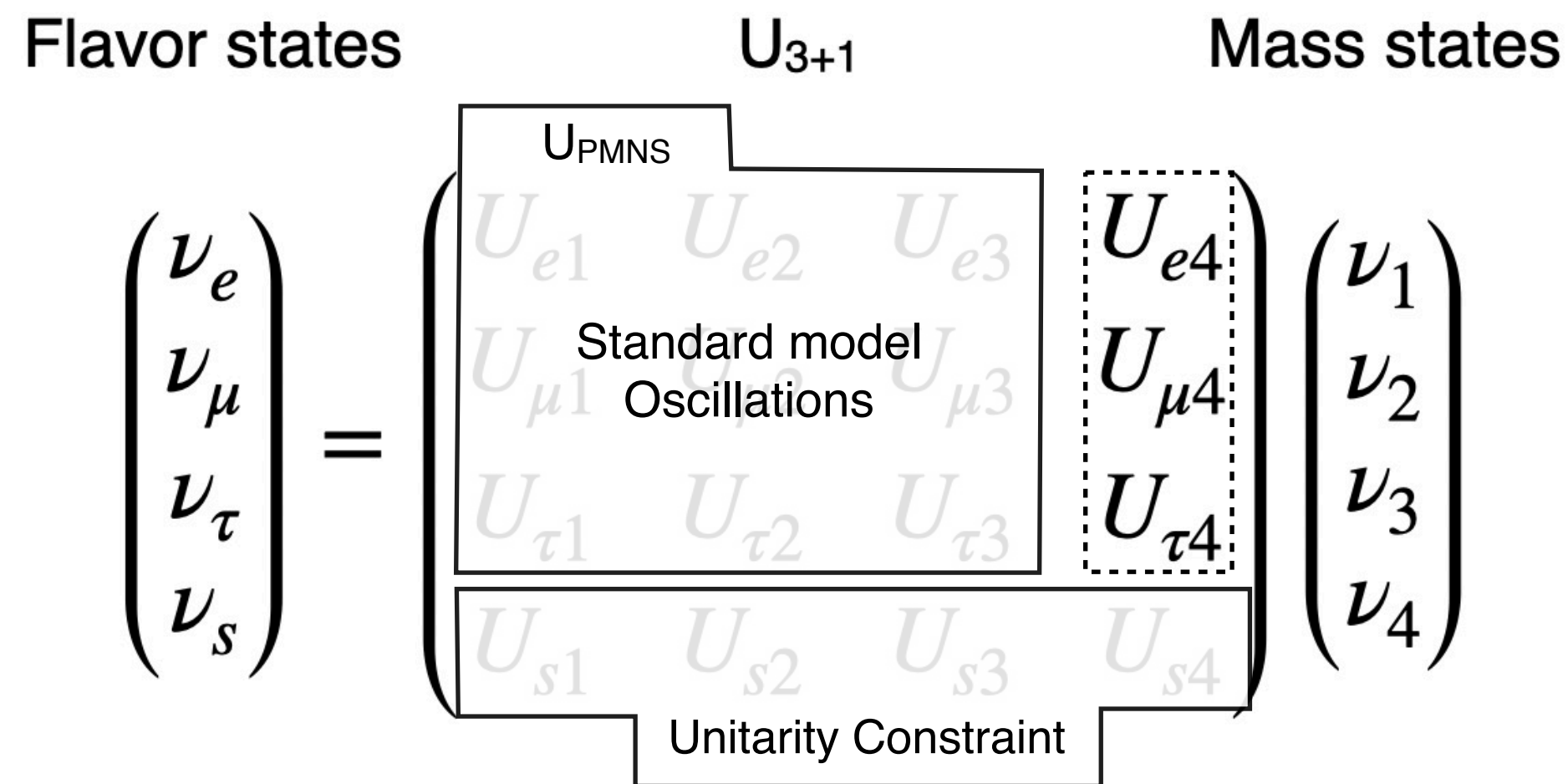


CP-violating phases are either marginalized over, or fixed to zero.

Parameters of interest: $\Delta m_{41}^2, \theta_{24}, \theta_{34}$

Moving into the TeV: the 3+1 sterile neutrinos model

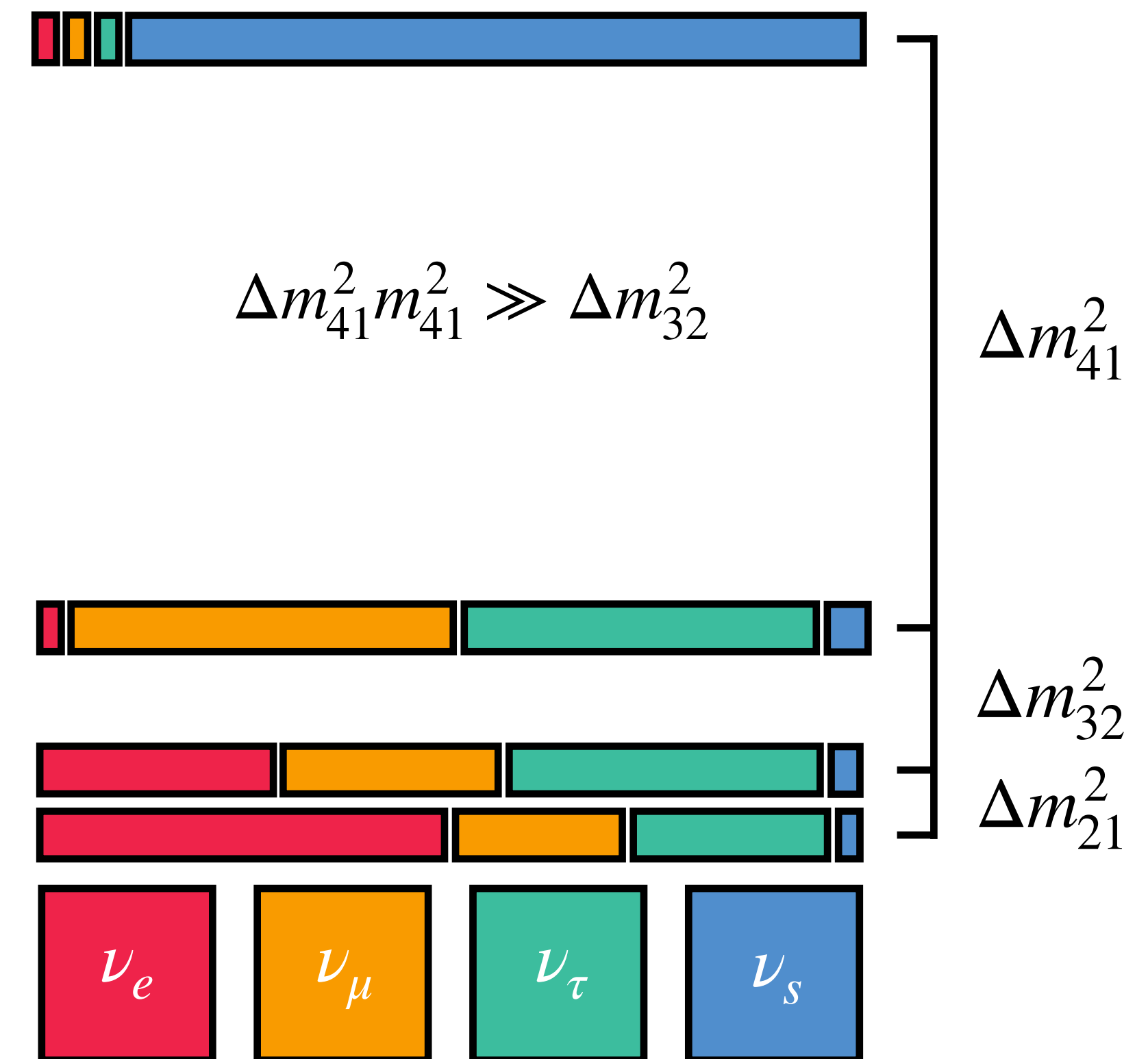
Anomalies observed in ν_e -appearance and -disappearance experiments have motivated the introduction of an additional eV-scale neutrino state. IceCube probes sterile neutrino oscillations using fundamentally different systematic uncertainties, baselines, and energy ranges than short-baseline experiments, providing a highly complementary test of sterile neutrino models.



Minimal ν_e contribution.
Does not impact result.

$$\begin{aligned} |U_{e4}|^2 &= \sin^2(\theta_{14}) \\ |U_{\mu4}|^2 &= \sin^2(\theta_{24}) \cdot \cos^2(\theta_{14}) \\ |U_{\tau4}|^2 &= \sin^2(\theta_{34}) \cdot \cos^2(\theta_{24}) \cdot \cos^2(\theta_{14}) \end{aligned}$$

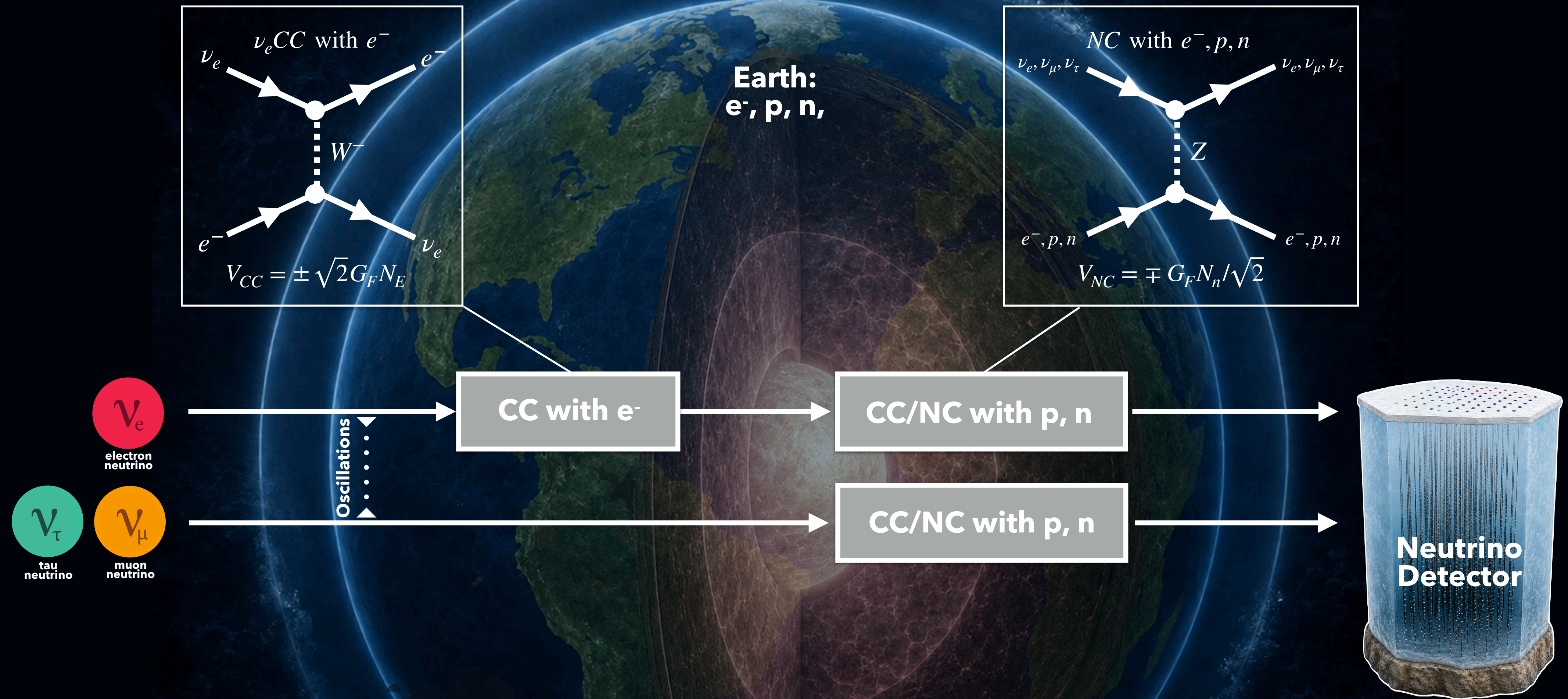
Small θ_{14} , removes
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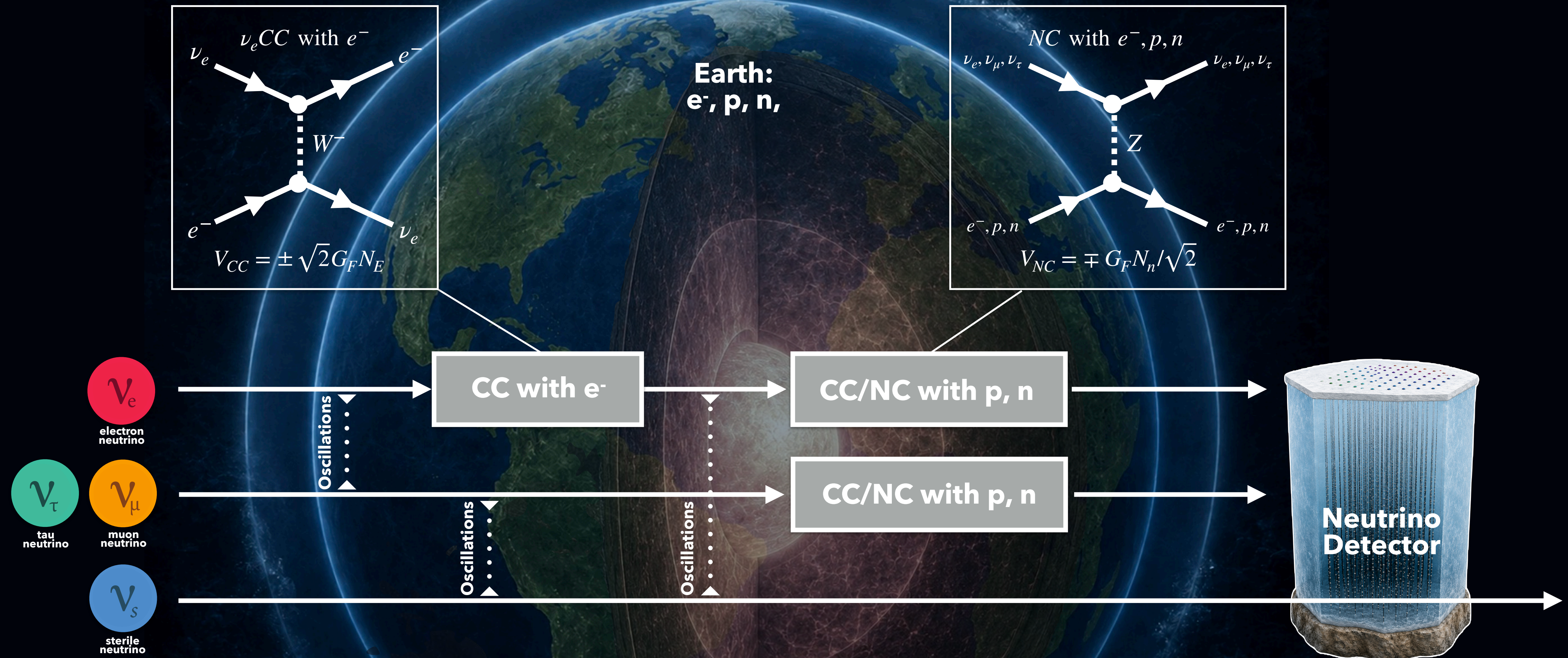
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Earth-transiting neutrino oscillations with the ν_s state



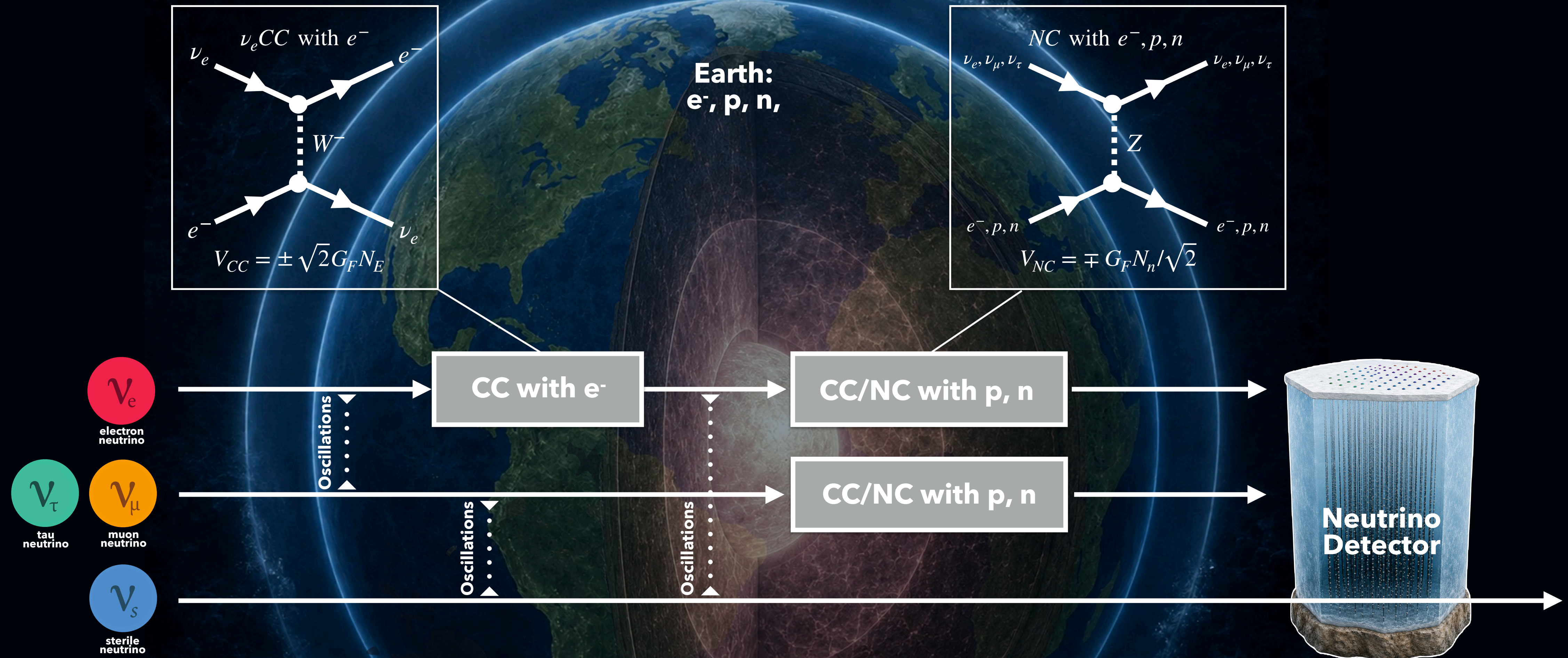
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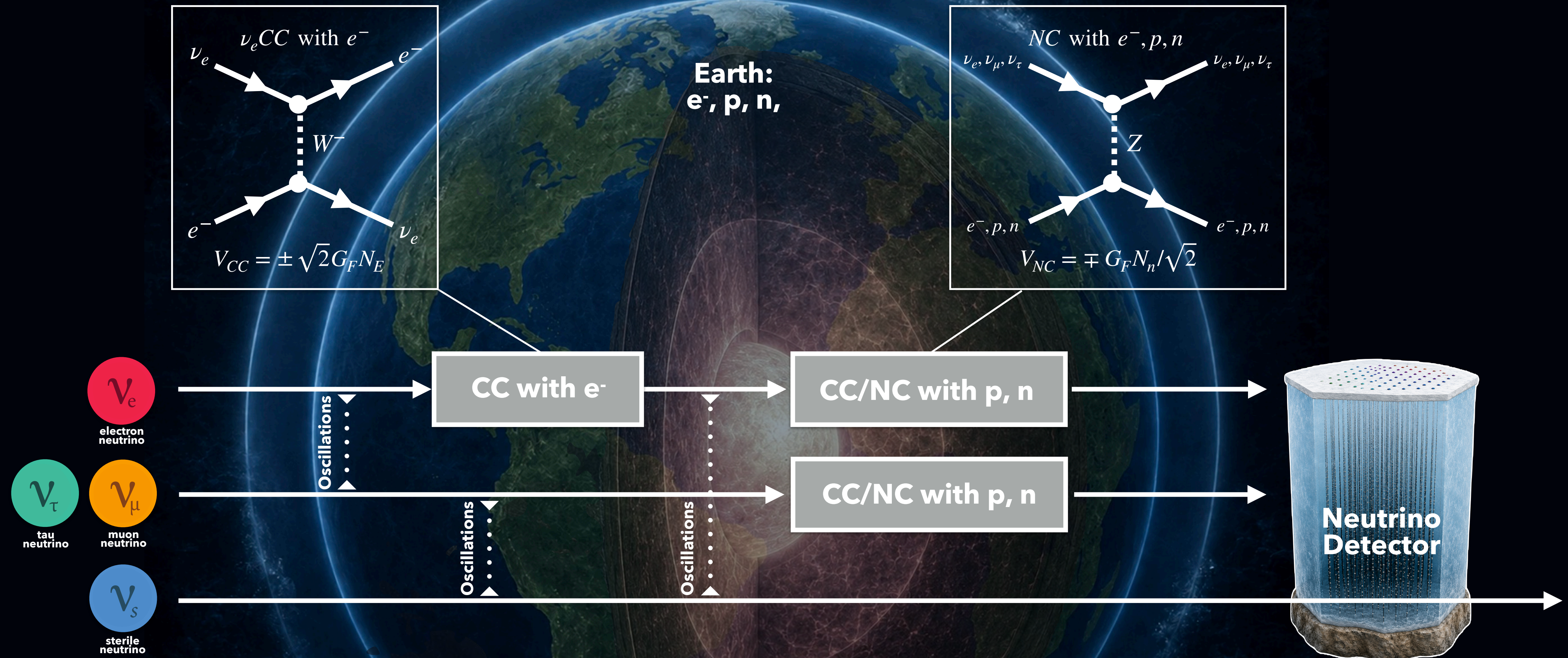
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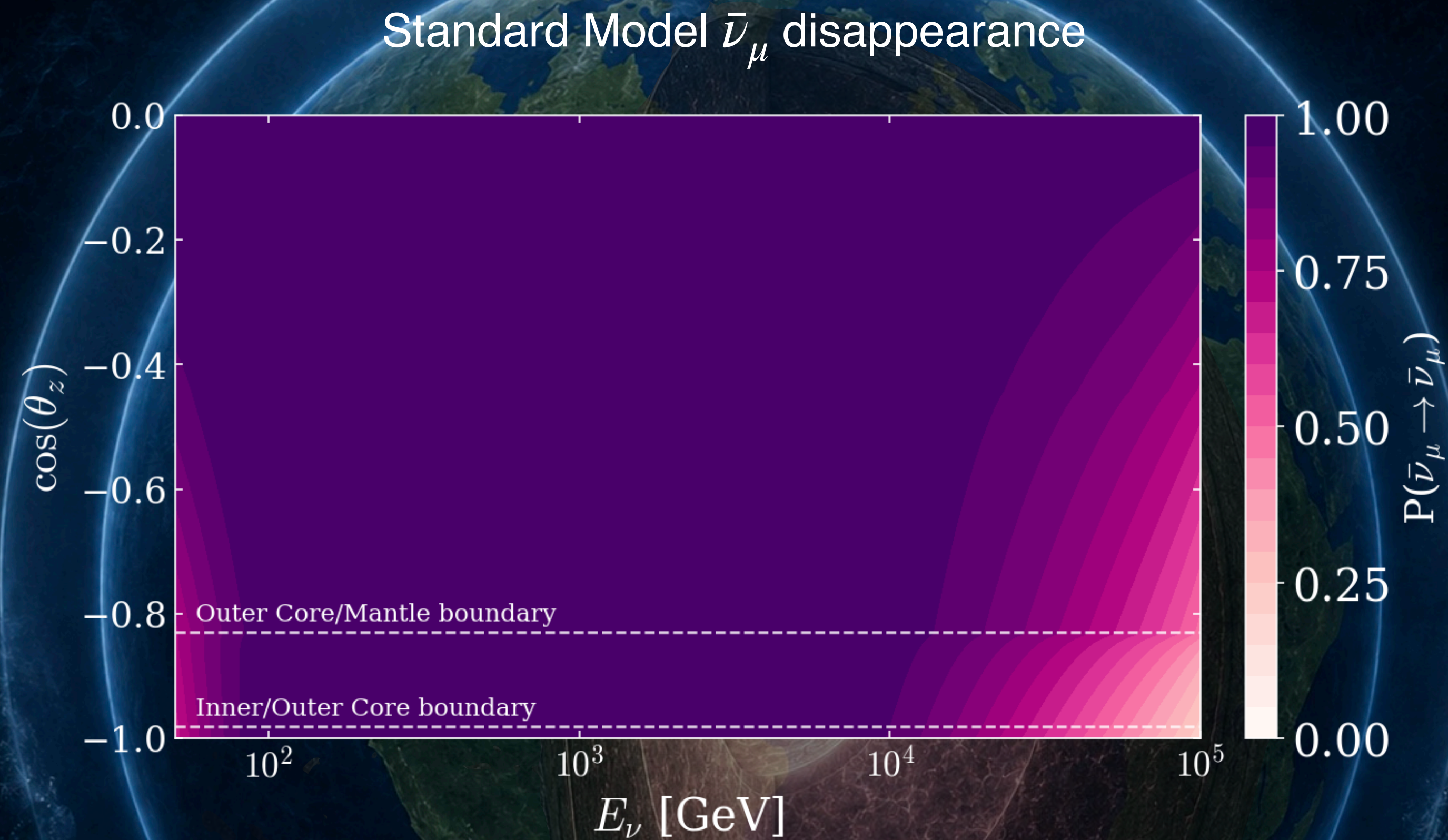


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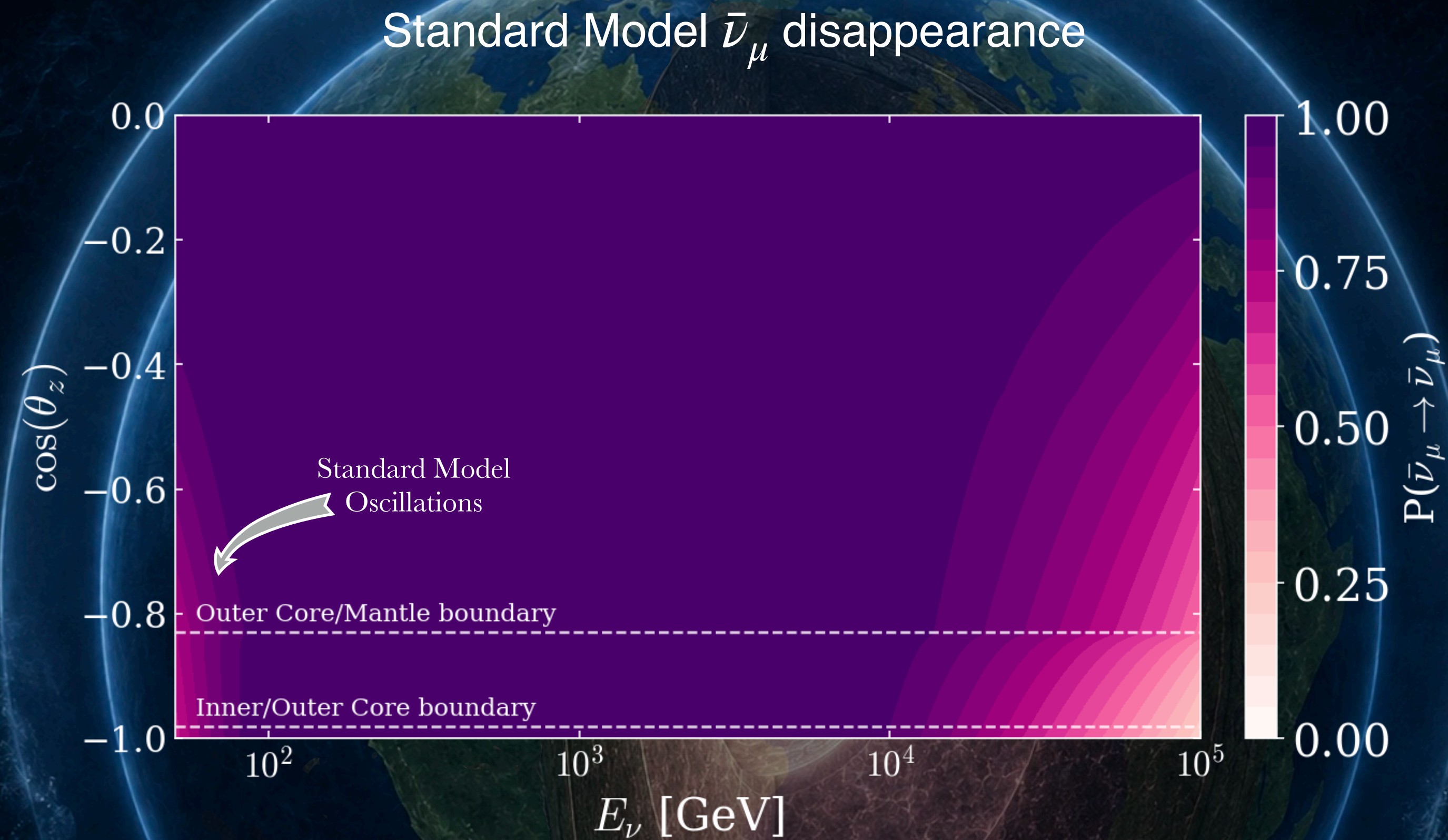
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$$E_\nu^{\text{res}} = \pm \frac{\cos(2\theta) \cdot \Delta m^2}{\sqrt{2} G_F N_{\text{nuc}}}$$

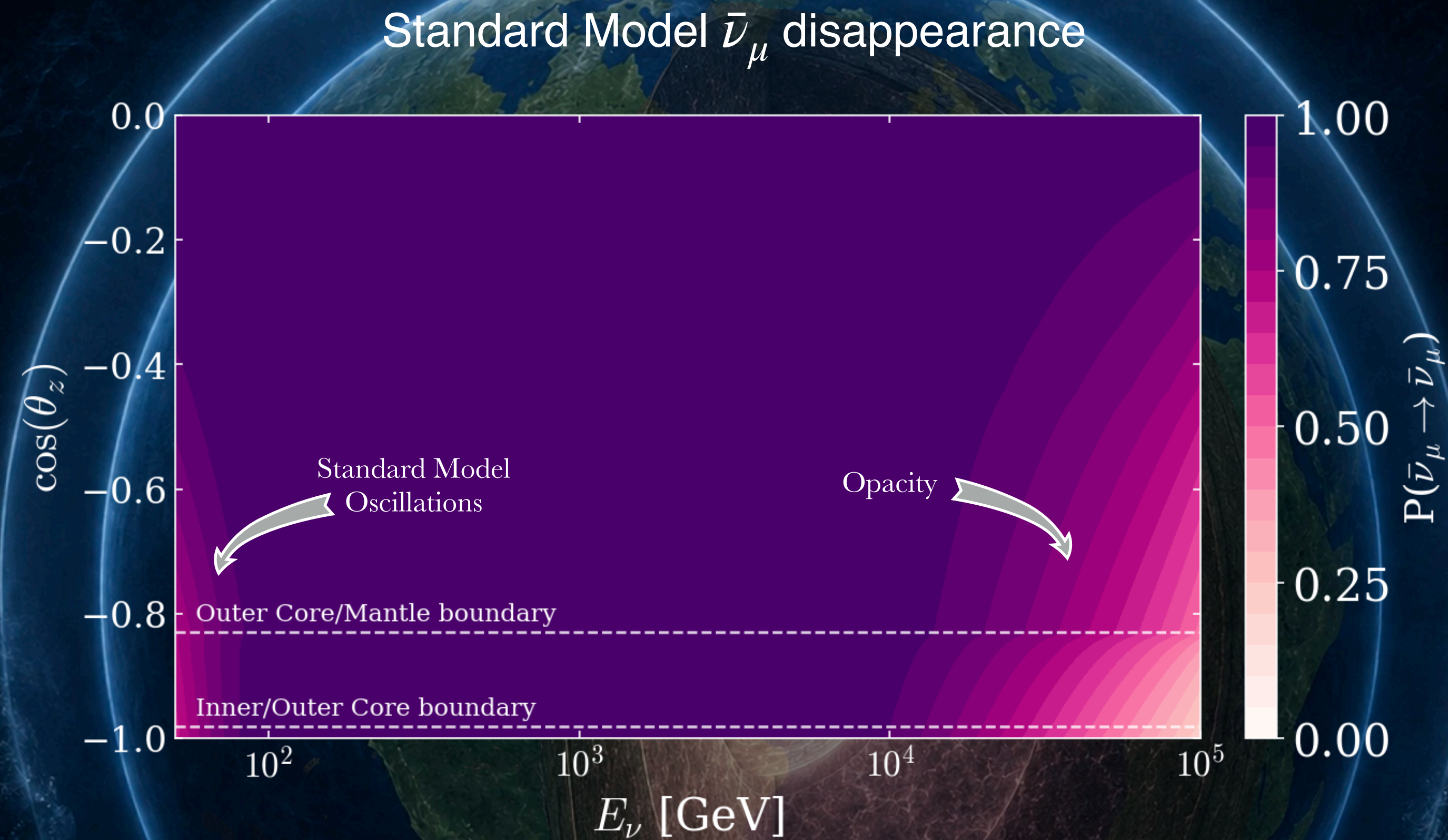
3+1 Sterile Neutrino oscillatory signatures



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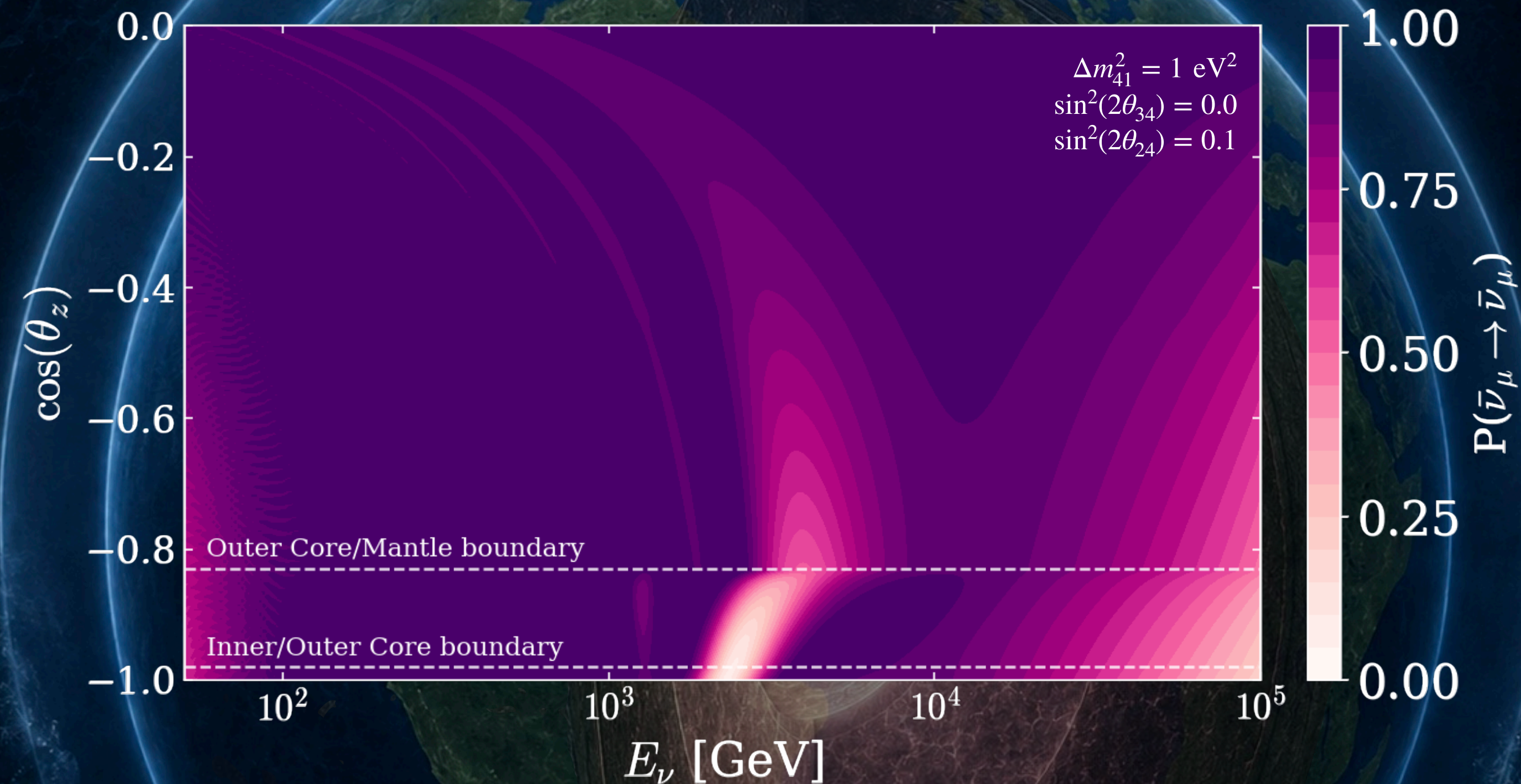


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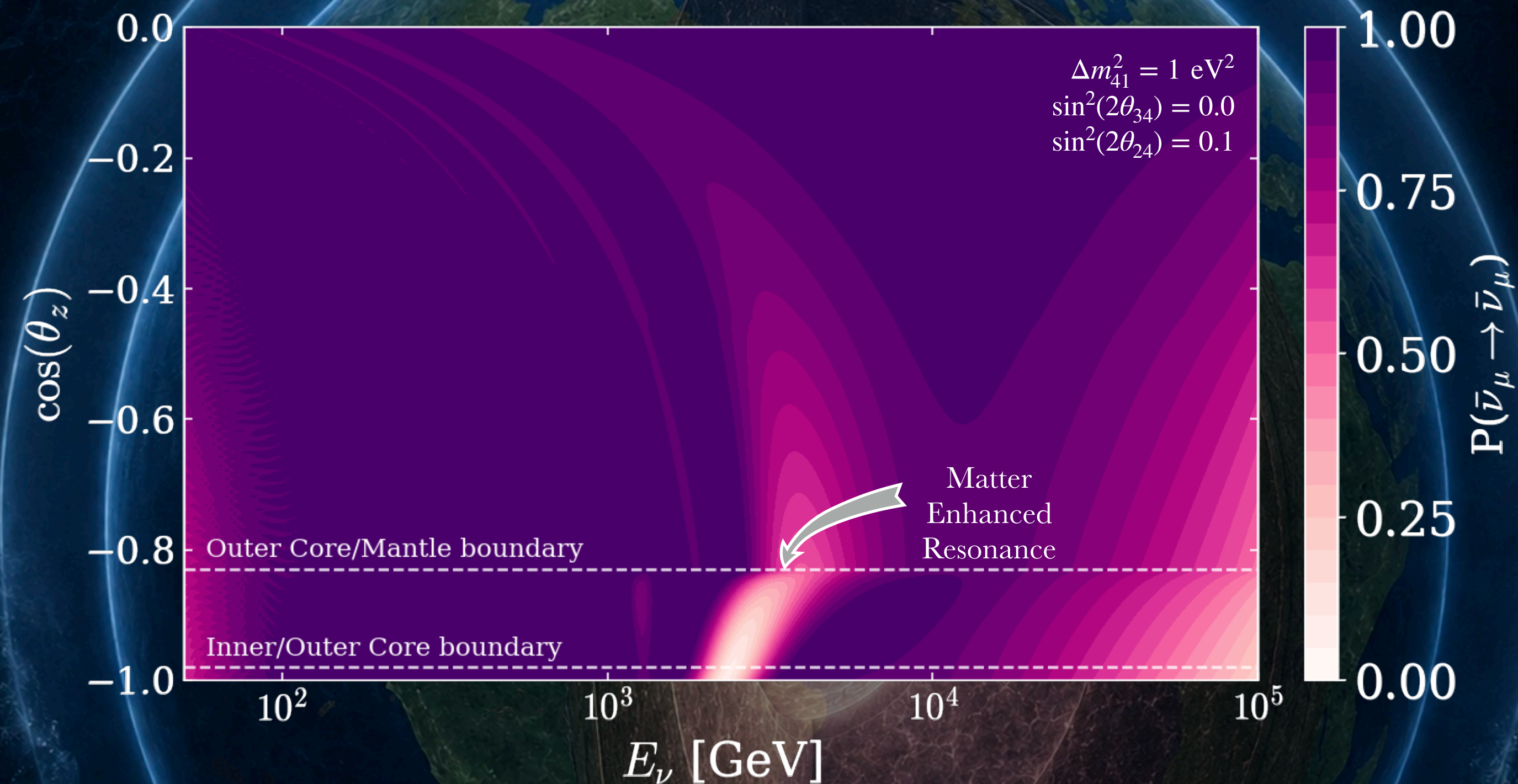
$P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu)$ resonant disappearance at TeV energies with 3+1 sterile model.



- Sterile-neutrino signatures appear as additional distortions.
- Small mixing ranges can introduce large oscillations through resonances.

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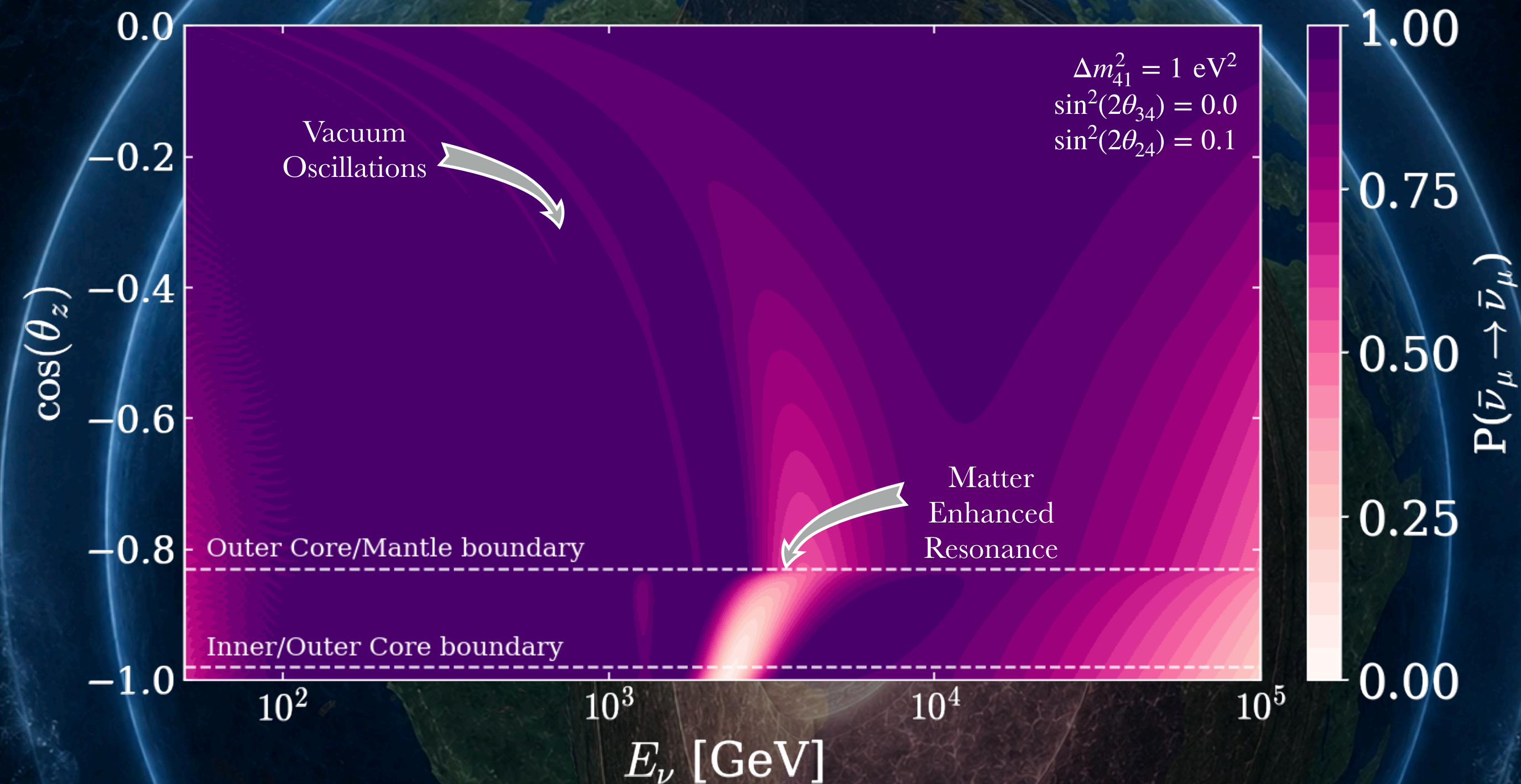
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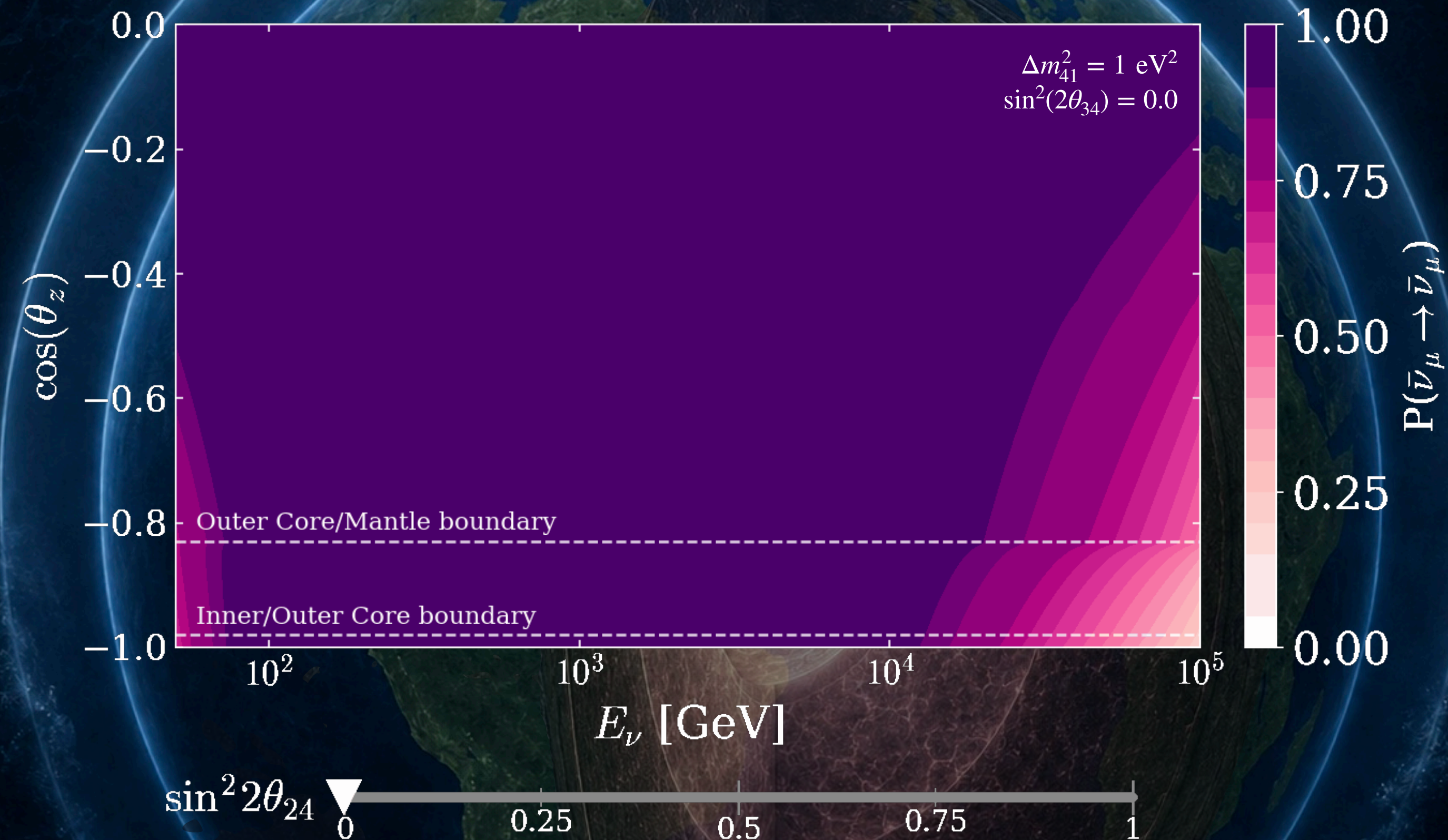
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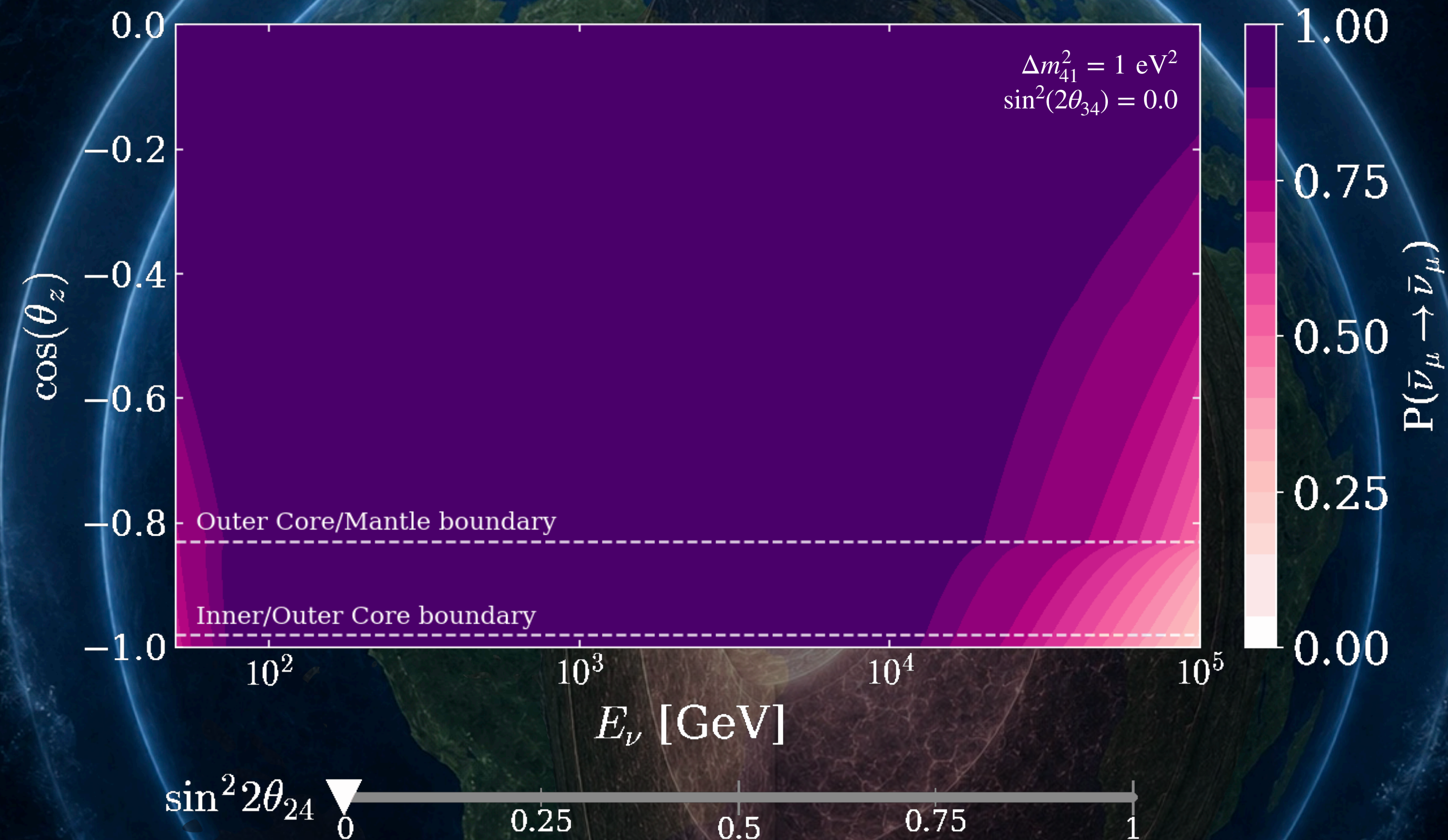
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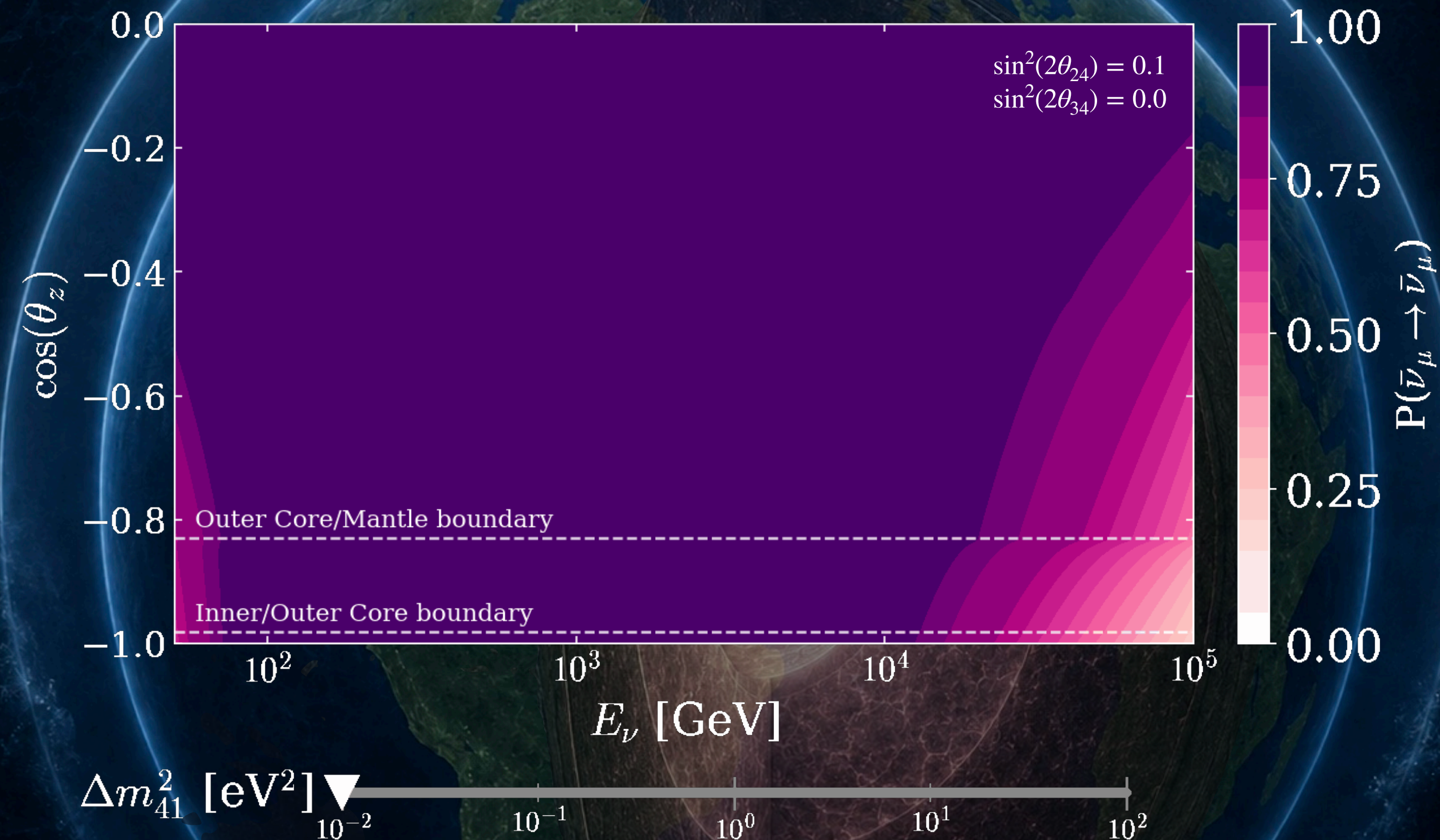
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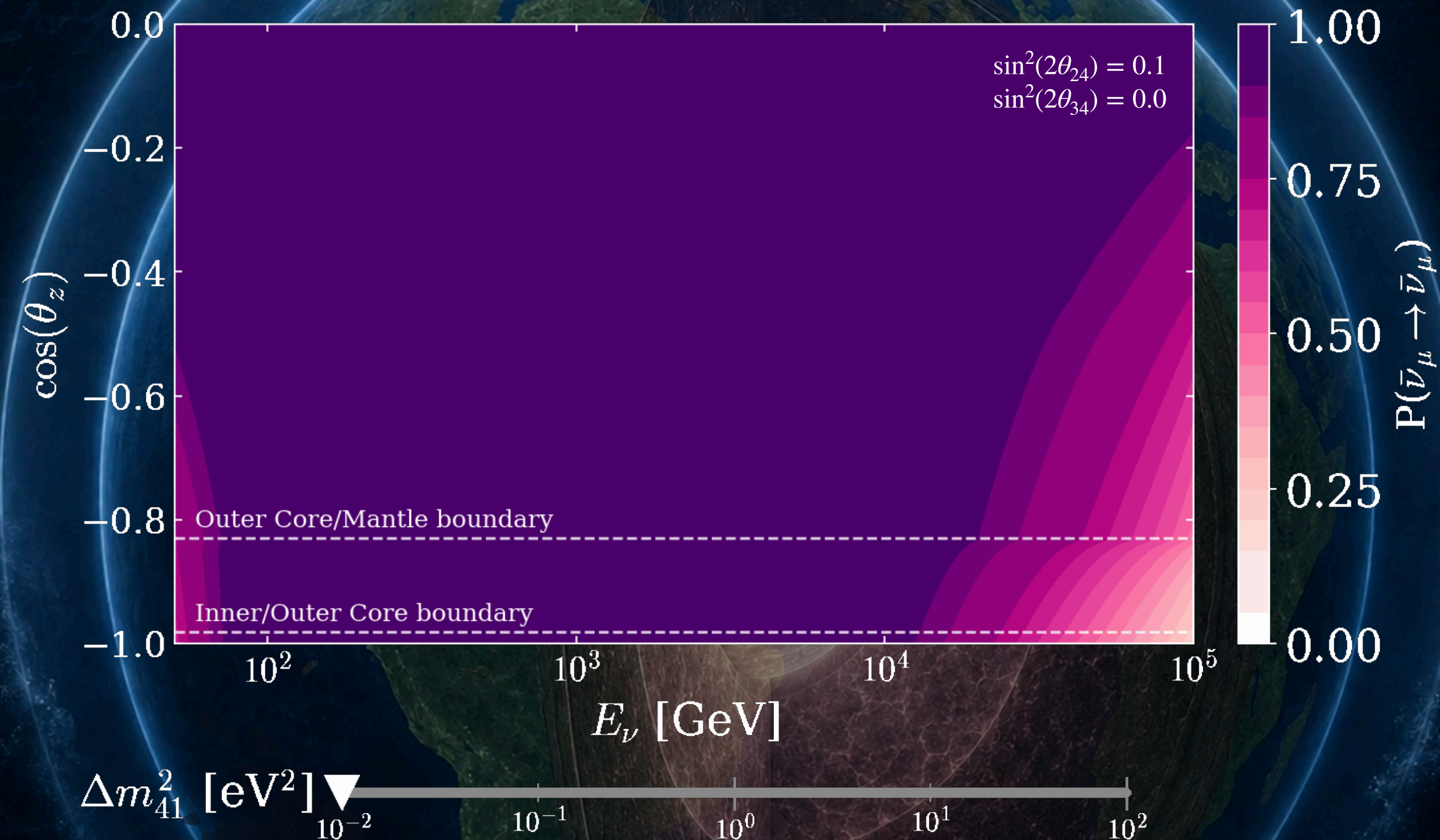
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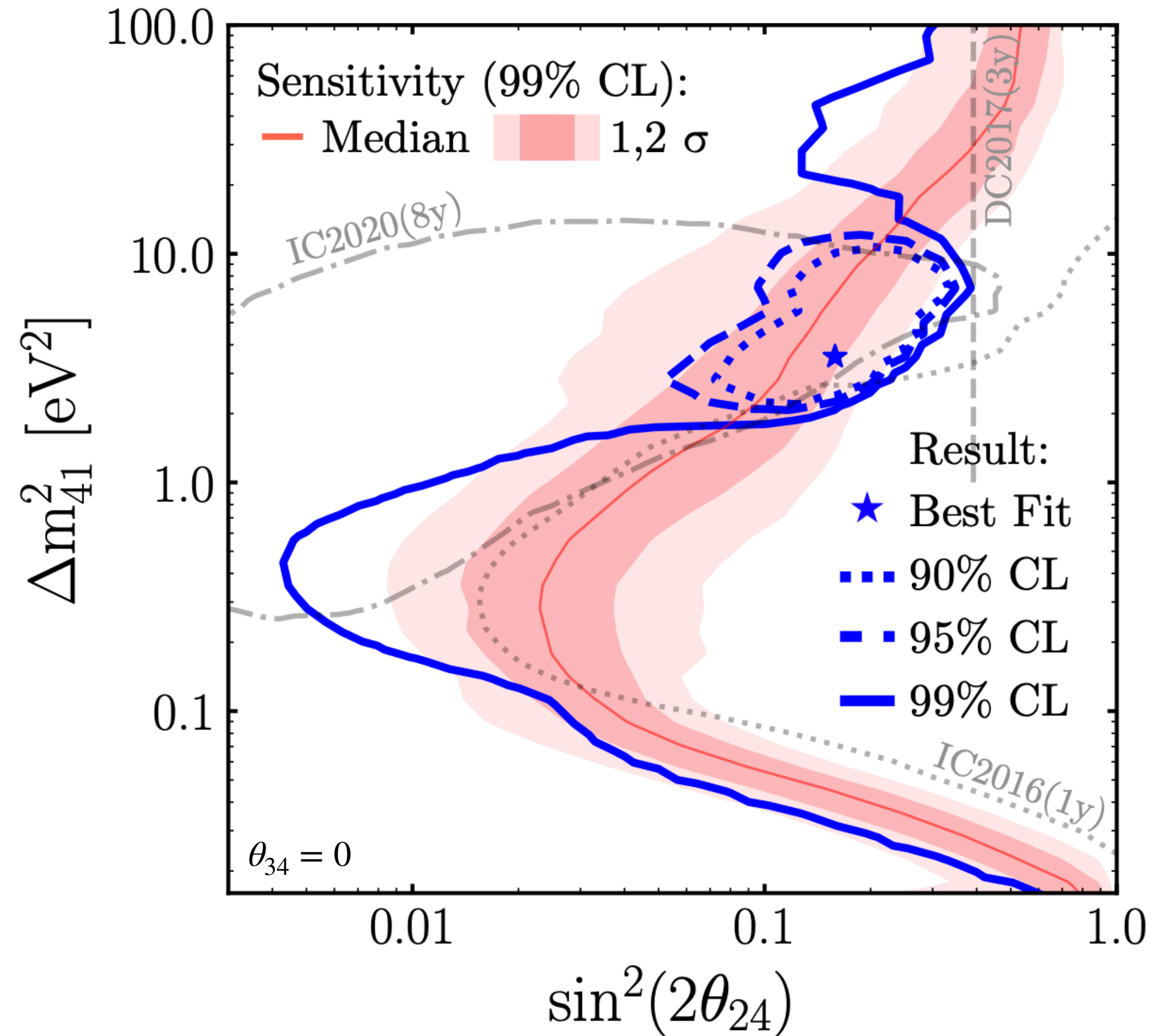
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The high-energy 3+1 sterile neutrino result

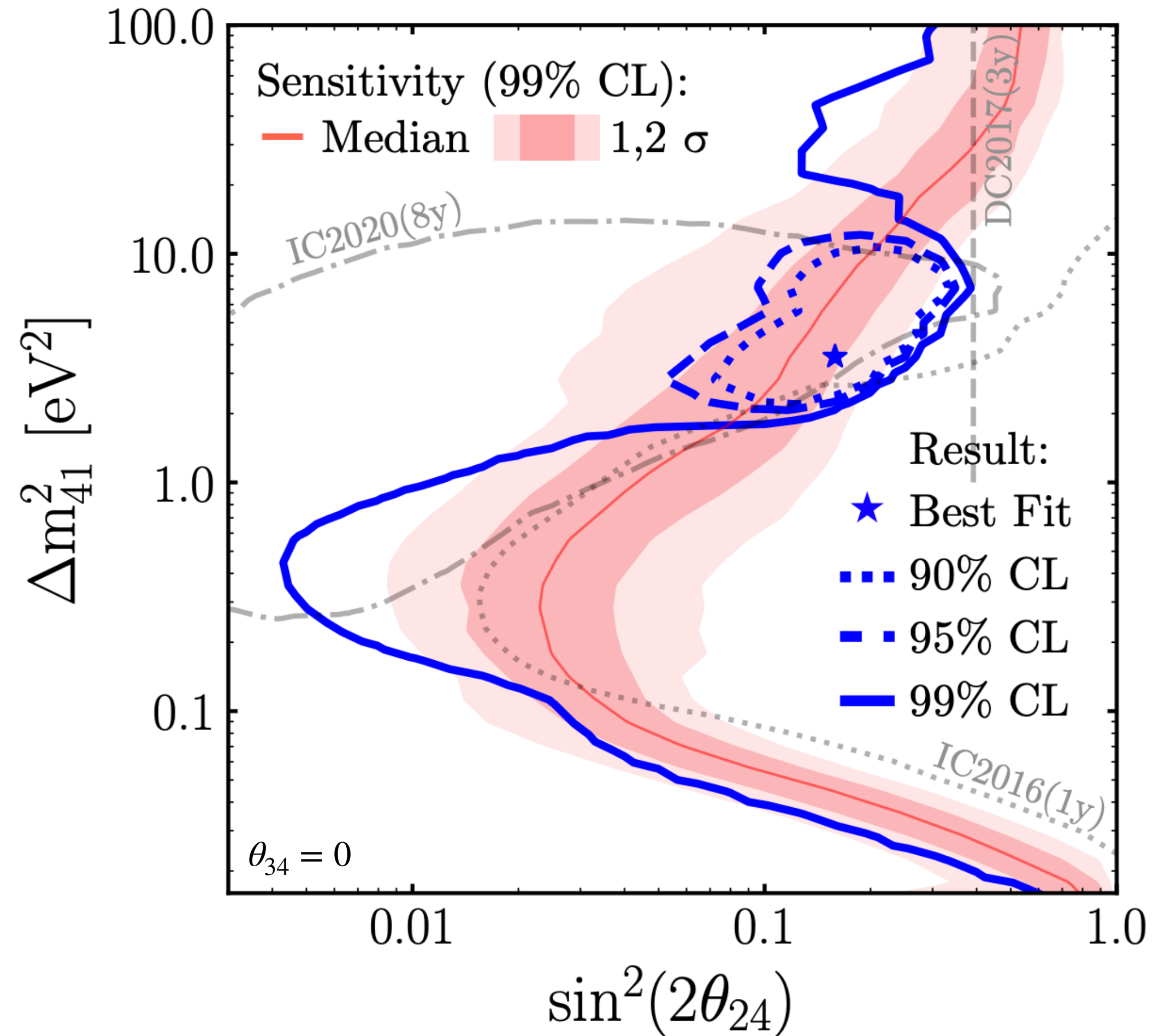
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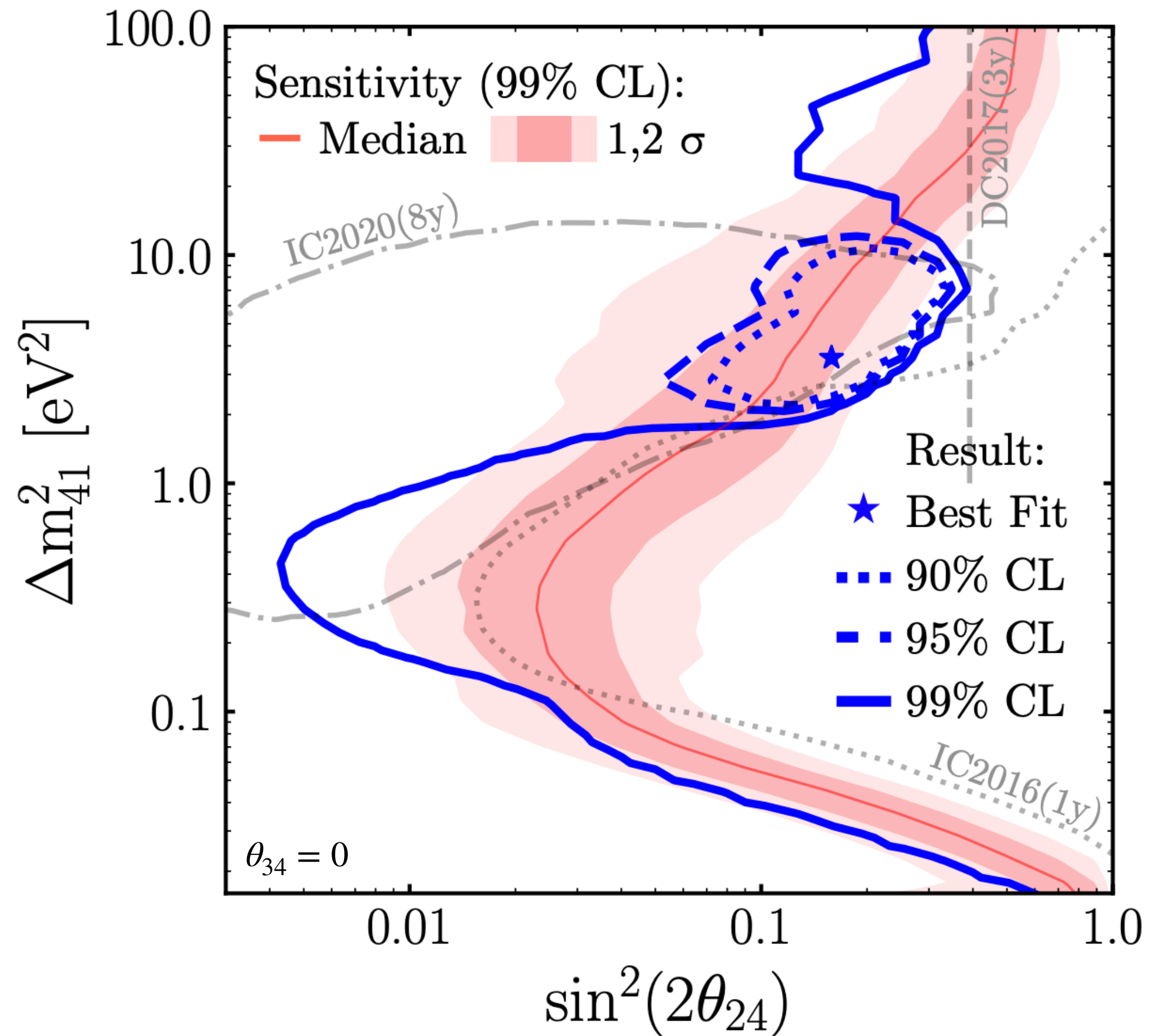


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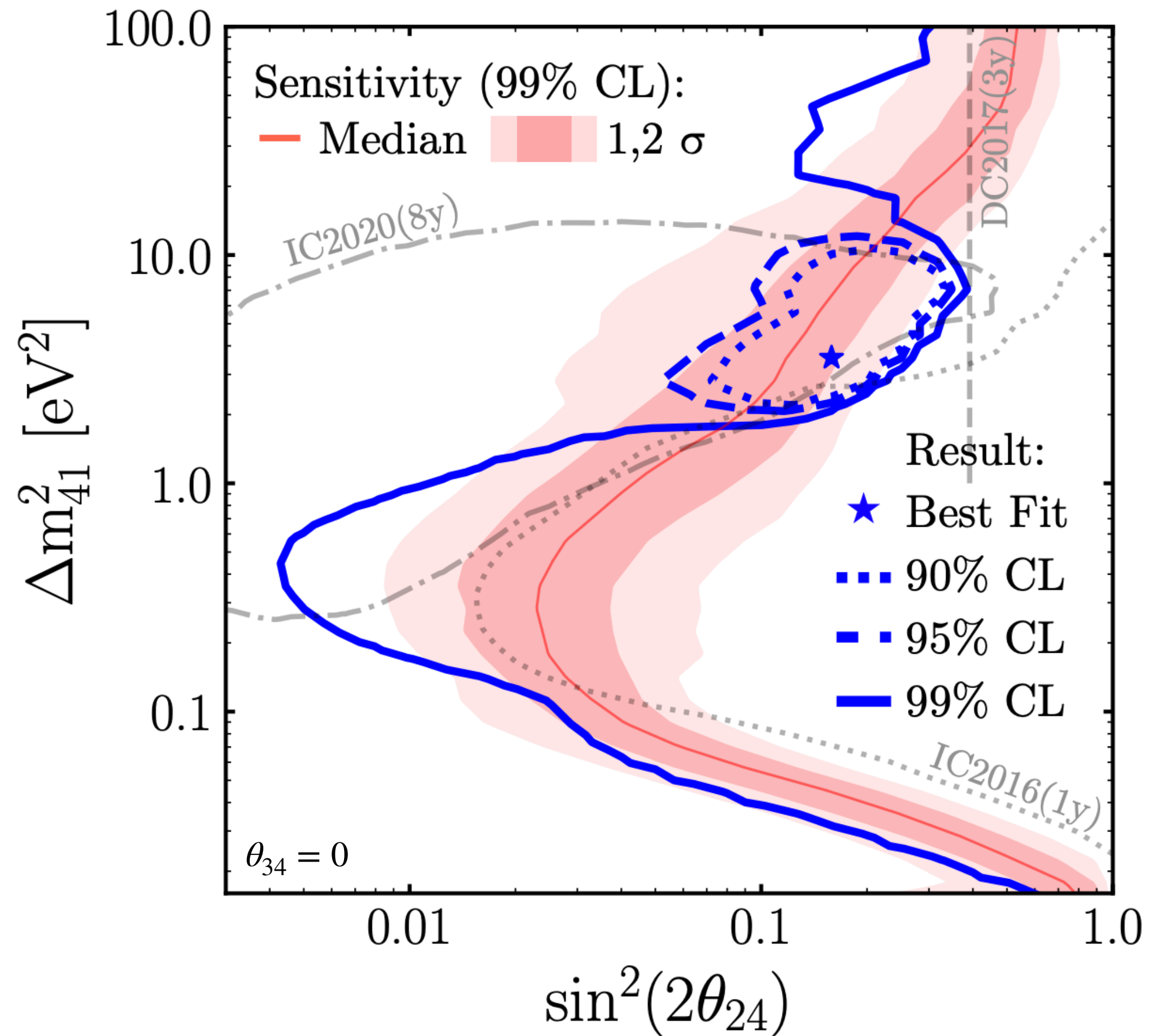


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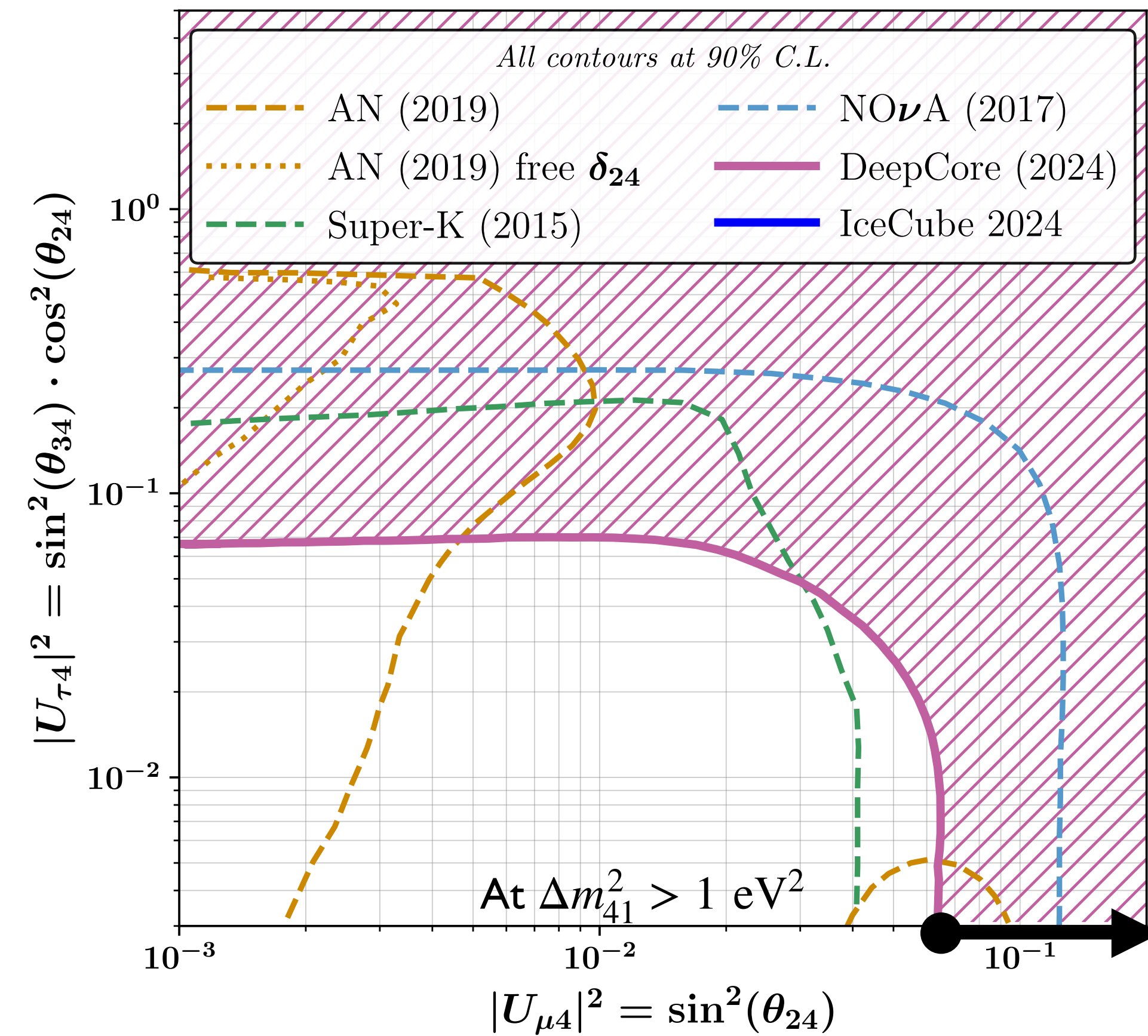
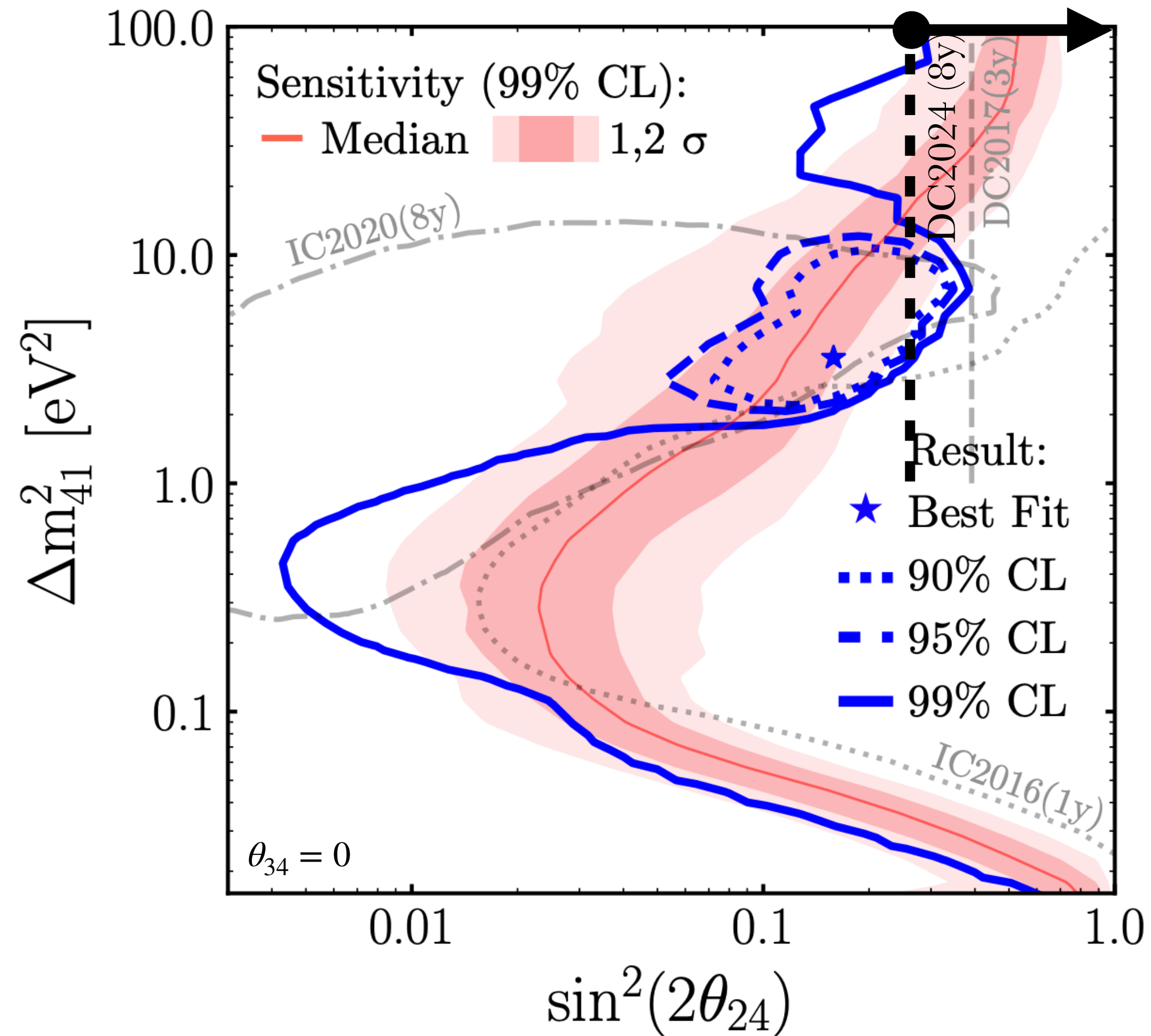
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[1] 3+1 IceCube: Phys. Rev. Lett. 133.20 (2024): 201804

SEE
MILES GARCIA'S
POSTER ON TUESDAY
4:10PM - 5:40PM

The low-energy DeepCore result

Consistent results between low-energy DeepCore [2] ($\Delta m_{41}^2 > 1 \text{ eV}^2$) and high-energy result [3].



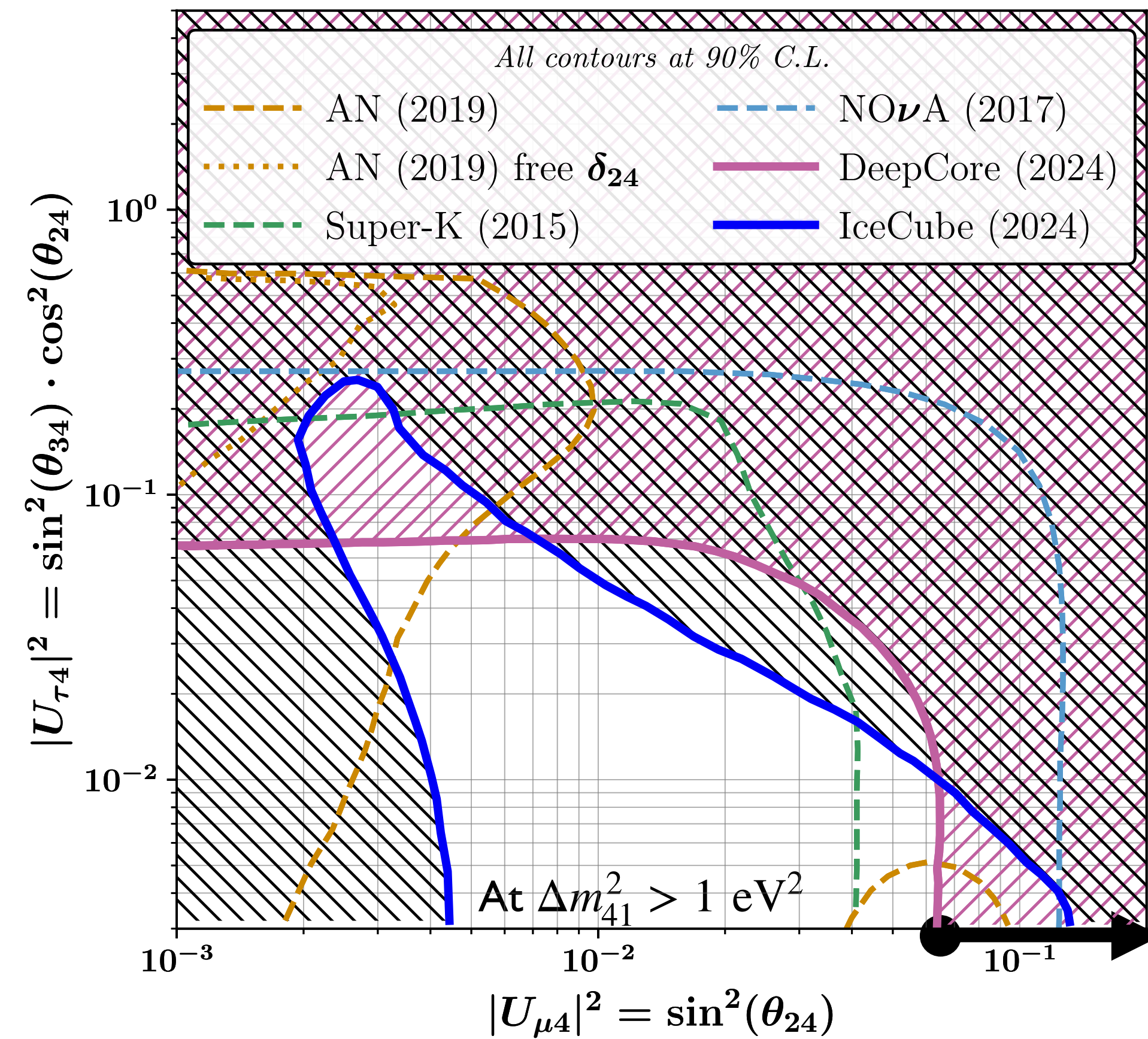
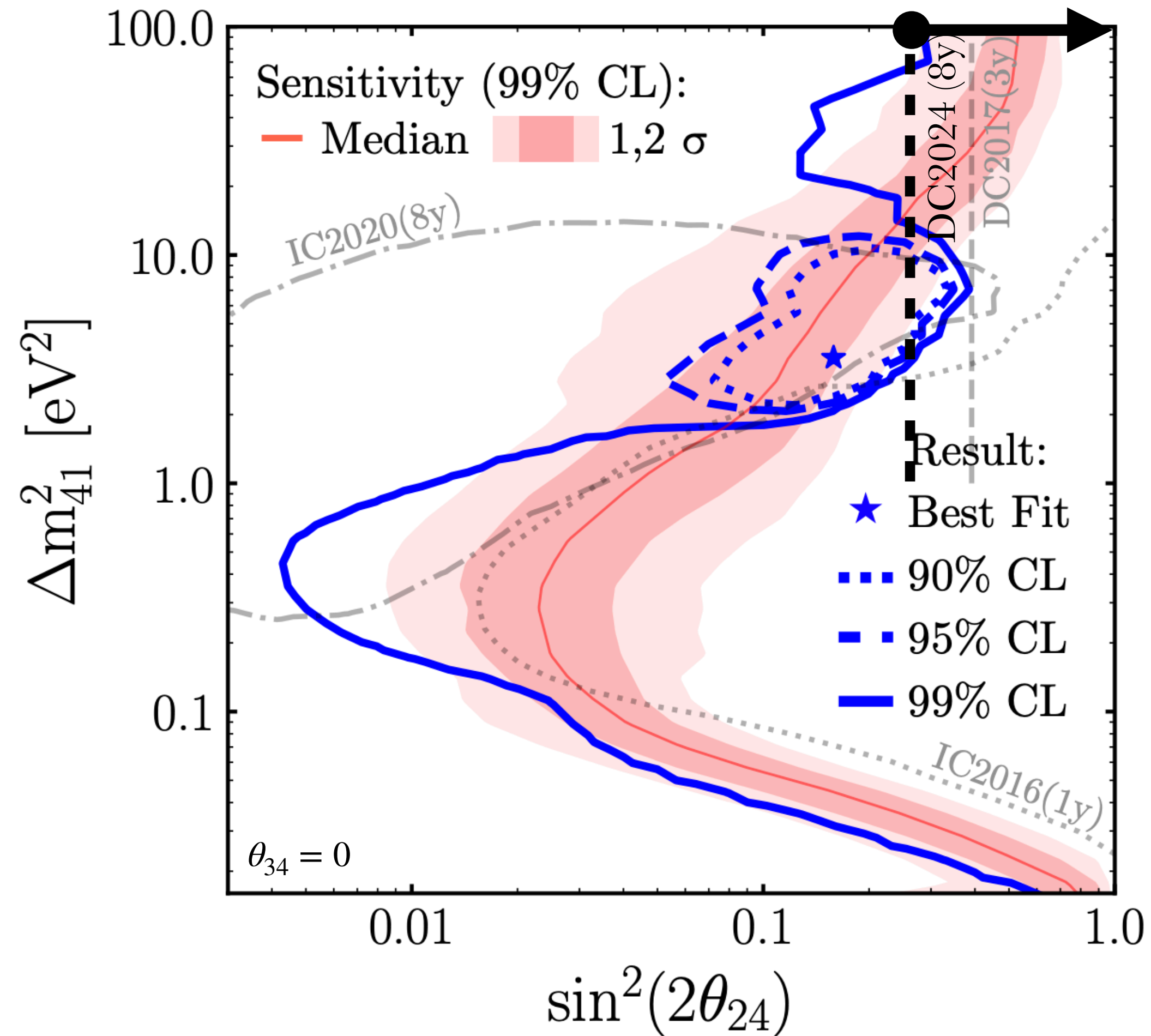
[1] 3+1 IceCube: Phys. Rev. Lett. 133.20 (2024): 201804

[3] 3+1 high Δm^2 IceCube: Phys. Lett. B 858 (2024): 139077

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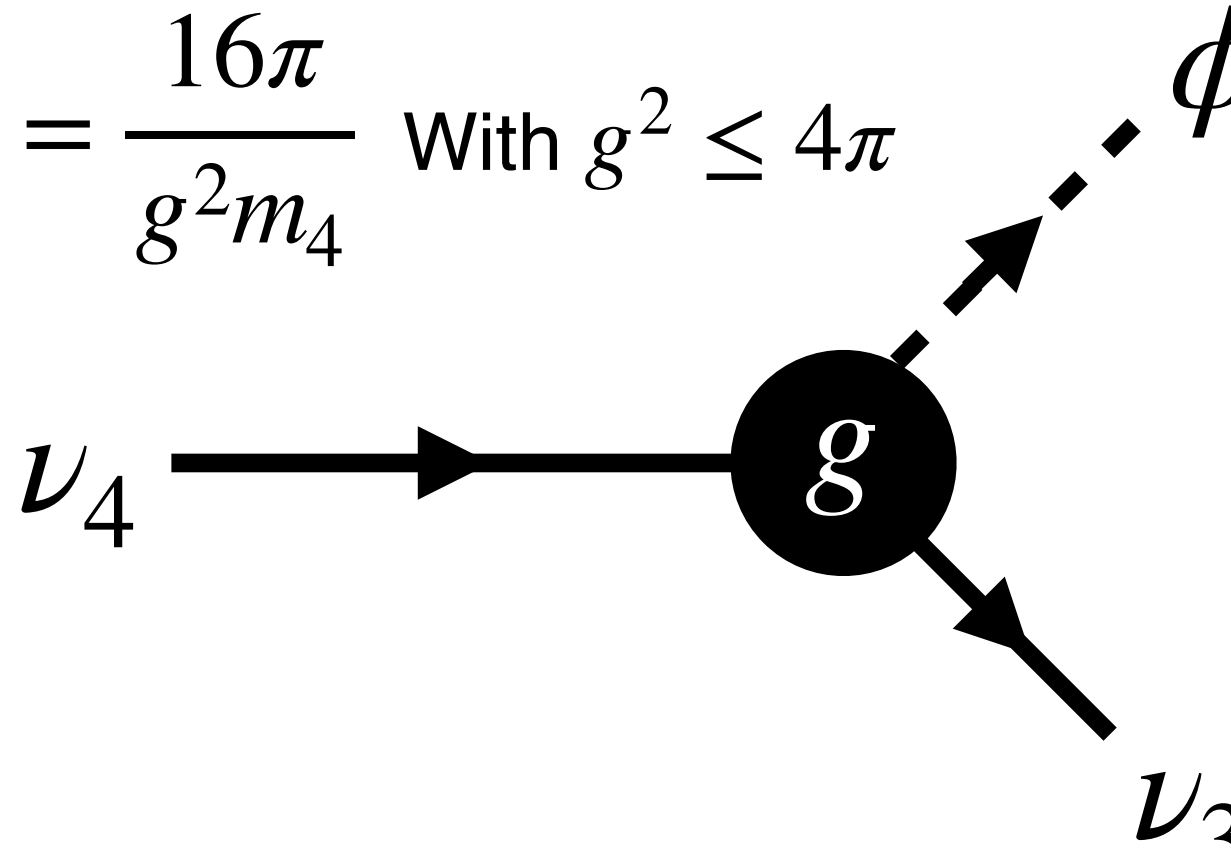
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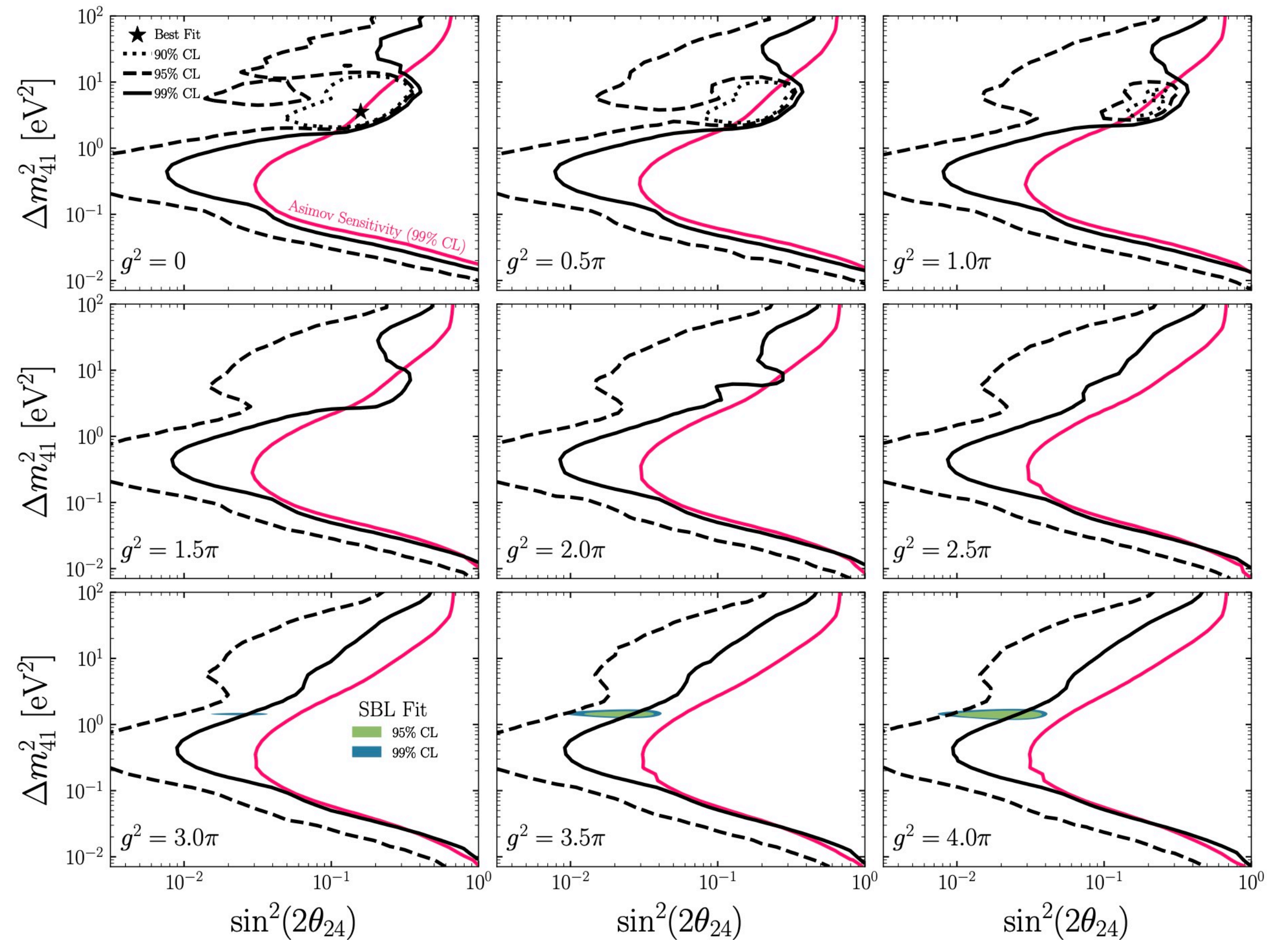
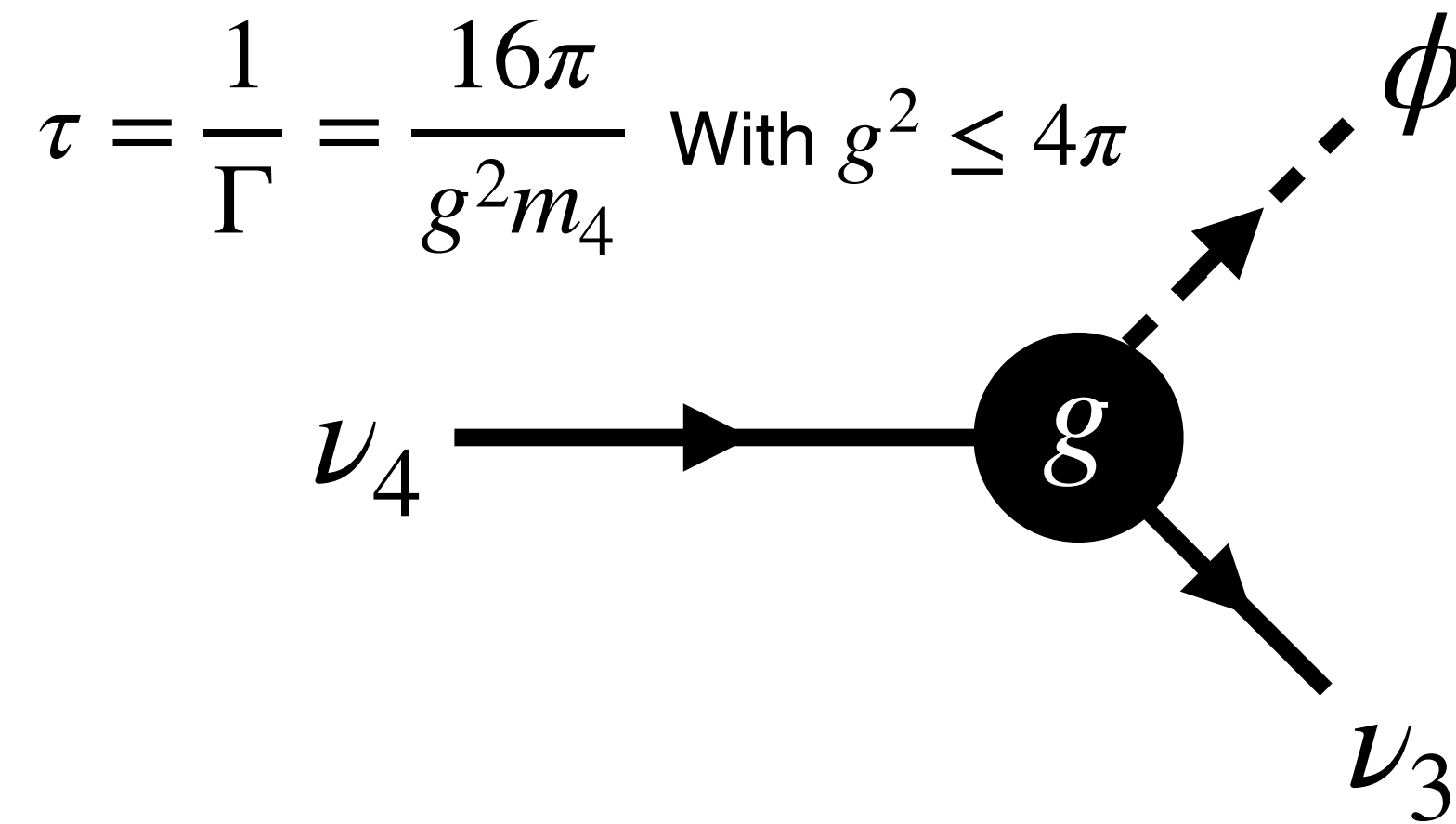
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$$\tau = \frac{1}{\Gamma} = \frac{16\pi}{g^2 m_4} \quad \text{With } g^2 \leq 4\pi$$


The diagram shows a central black circle labeled 'g'. A solid black arrow labeled ν_4 enters the circle from the left. Two arrows exit the circle: a solid black arrow labeled ν_3 exits downwards and to the right, and a dashed black arrow labeled ϕ exits upwards and to the right.

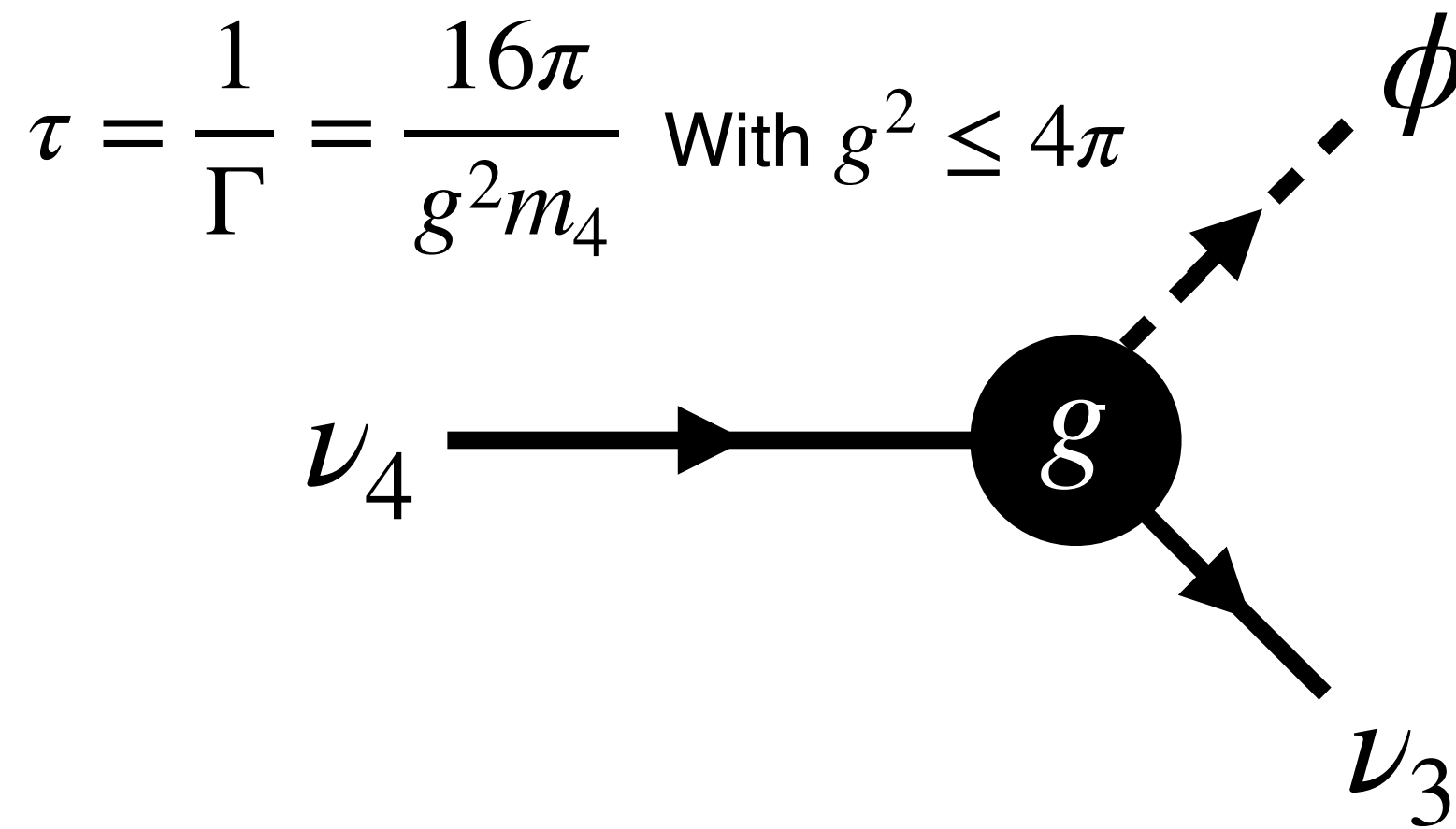
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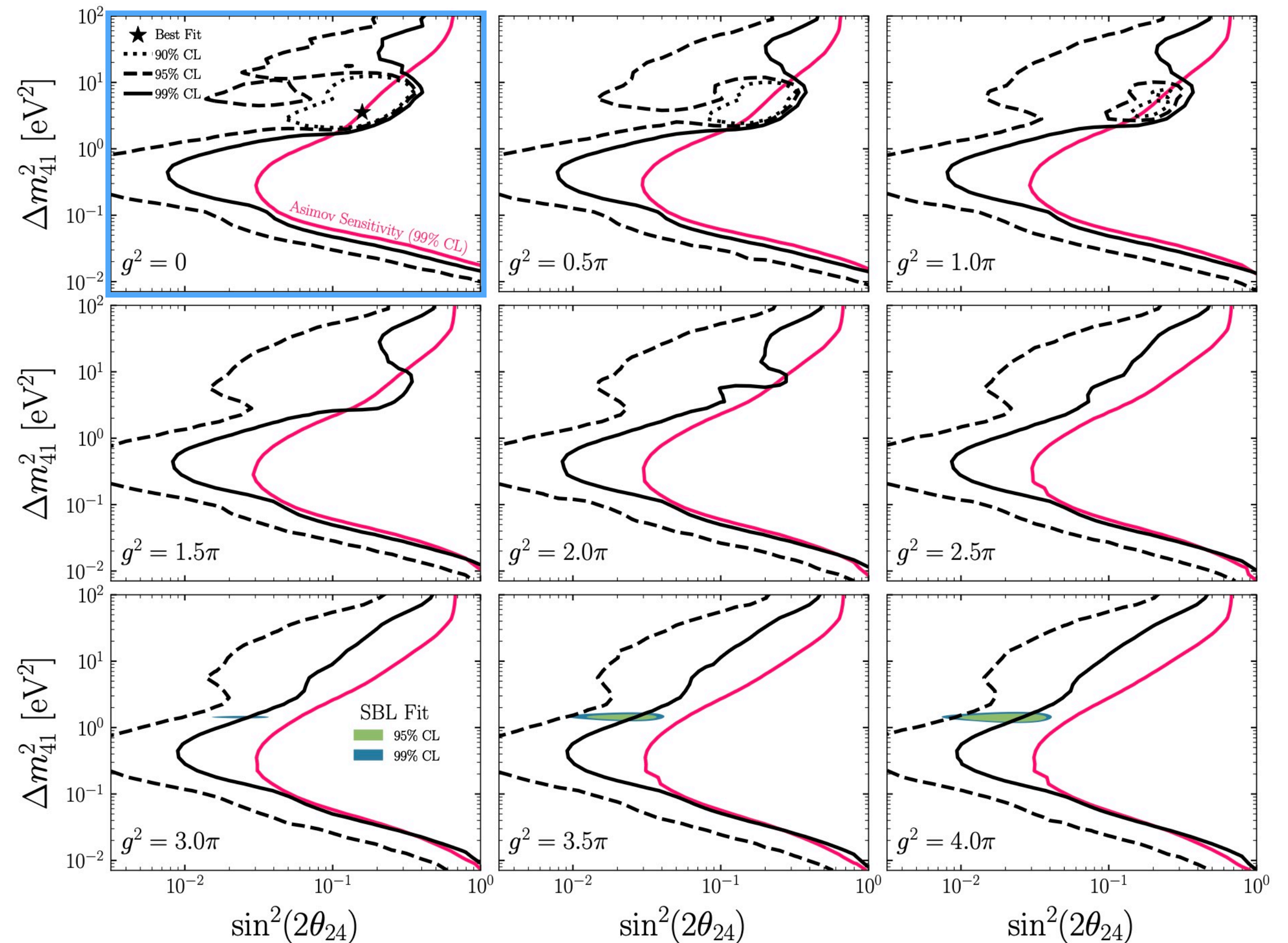
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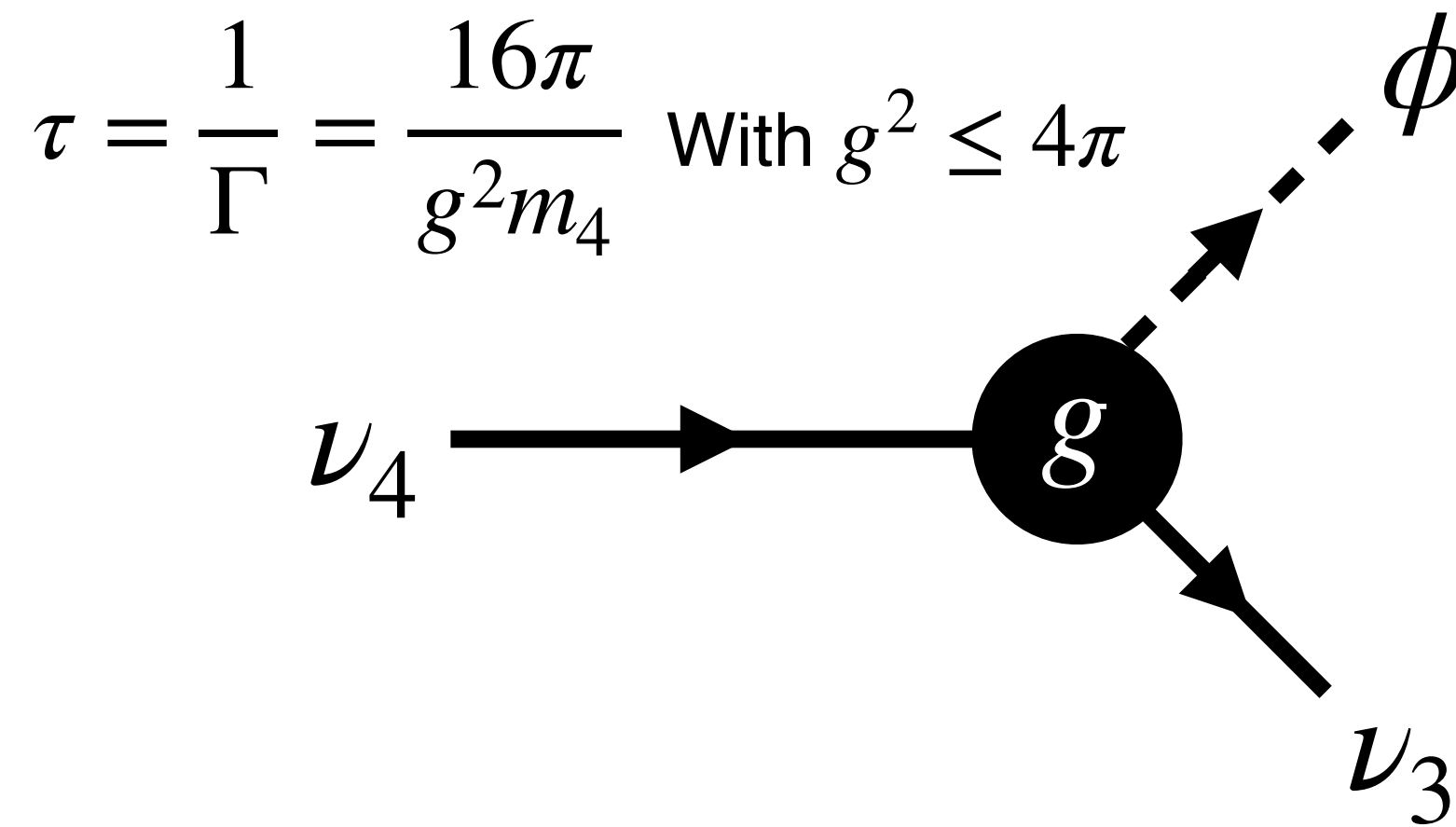
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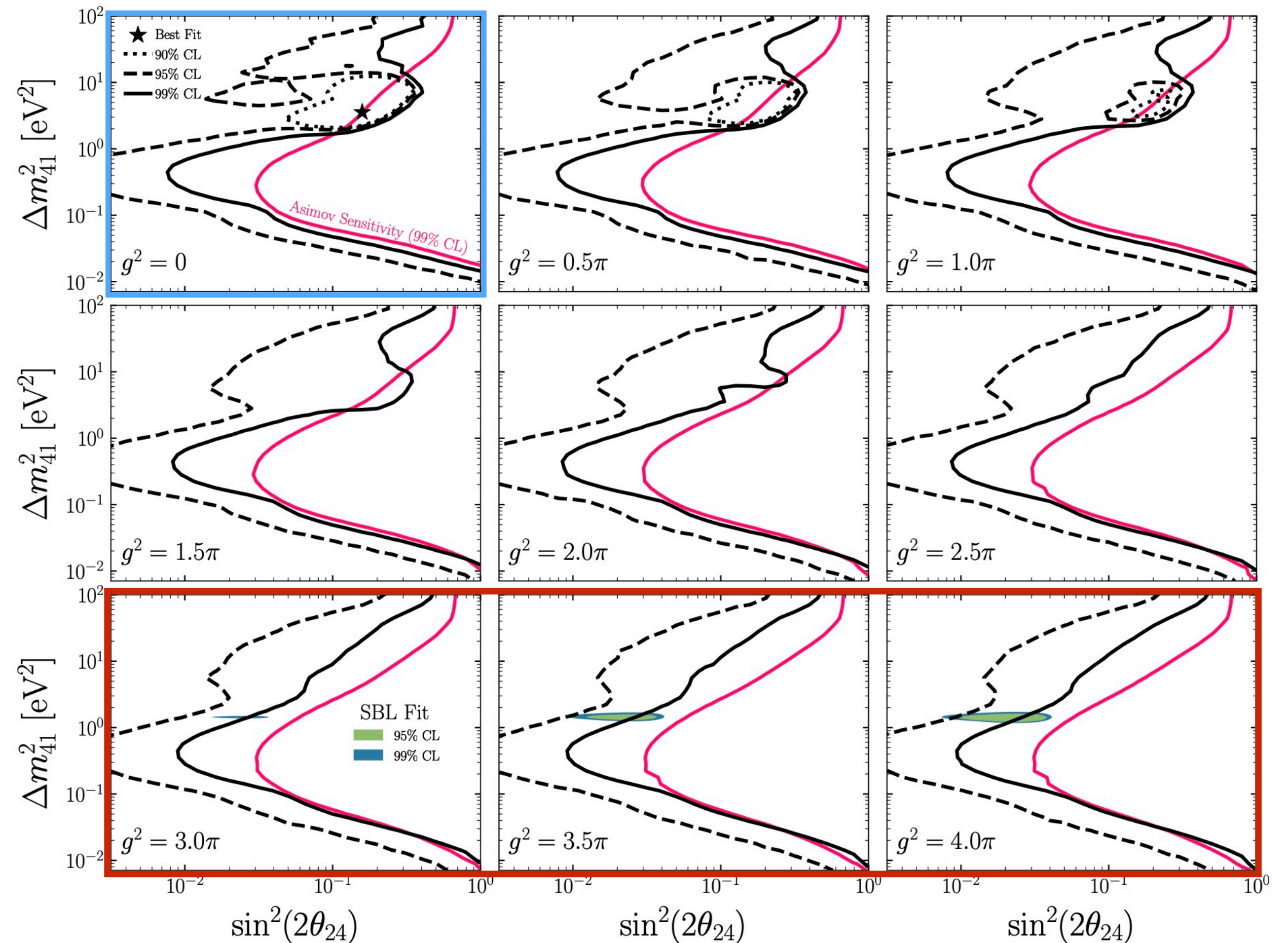
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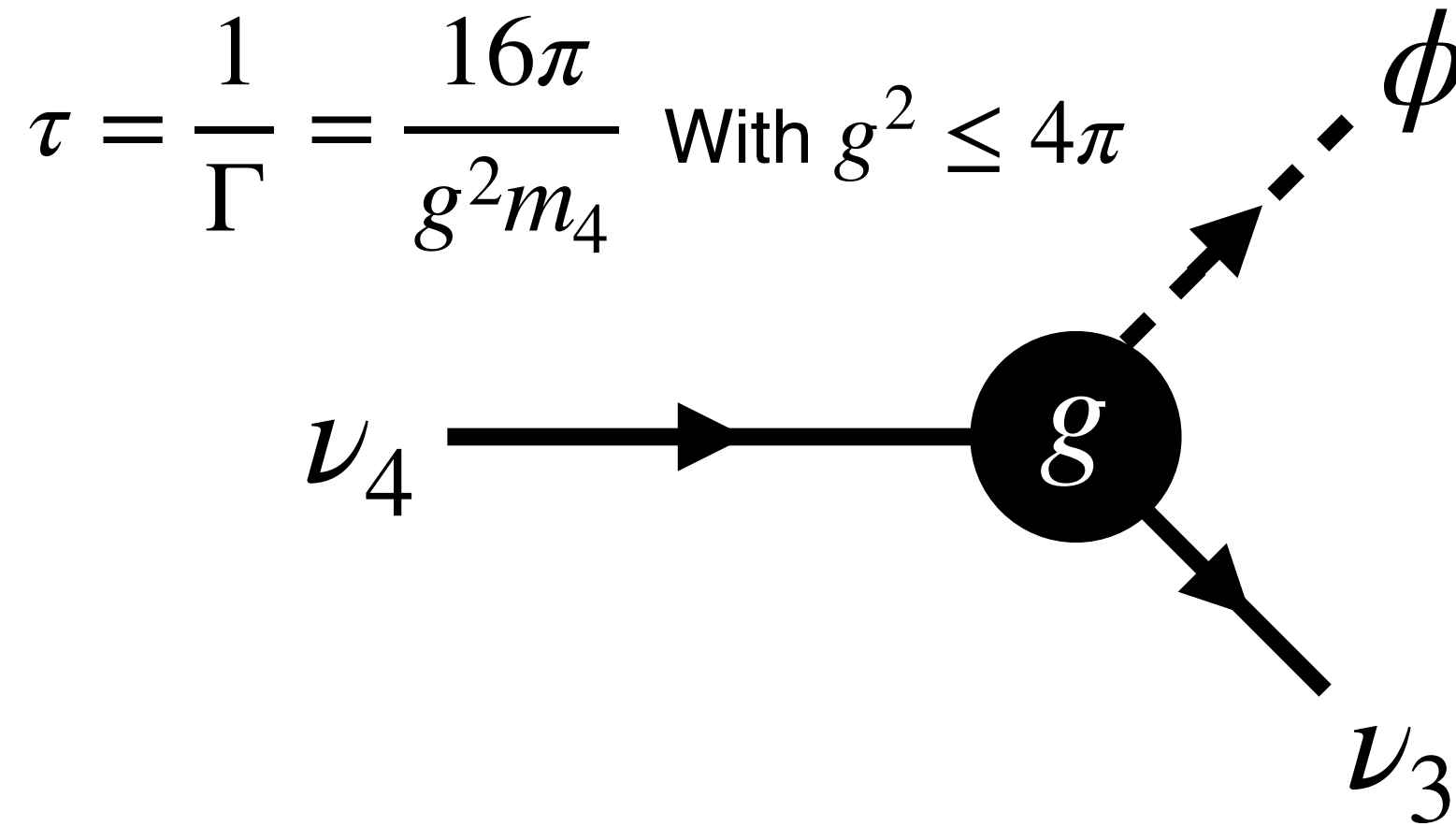
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[1] Where are we with light sterile neutrinos? *Physics Reports* 884 (2020): 1-59

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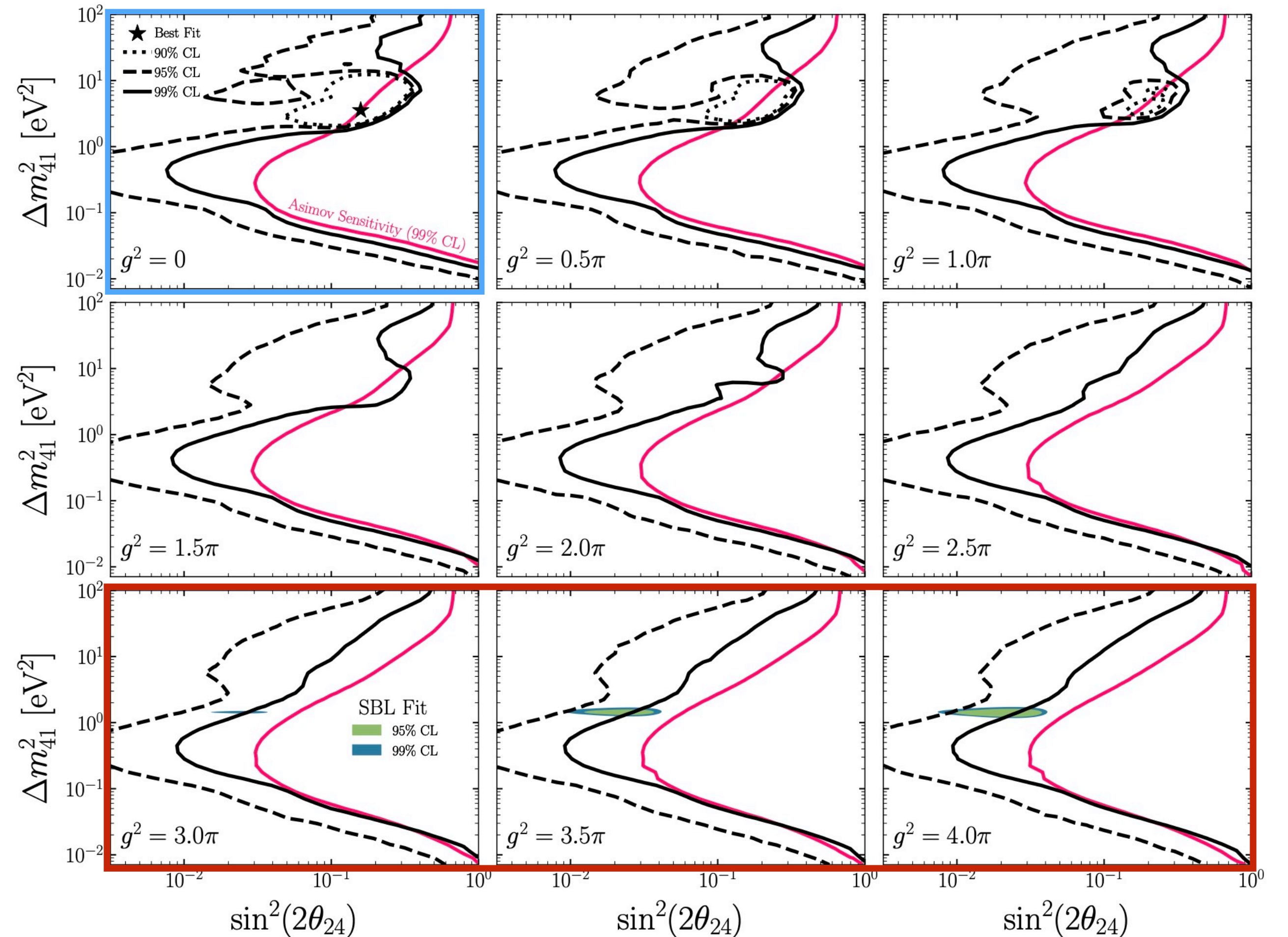
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Neutrino tomography: mapping the Earth's interior

High energy (>TeV) neutrino attenuation can be used to map the Earth's interior density profile

Goal: Observe macroscopic object using the weak force: the “weak mass.”



GRAVITY

Measures total mass, not how it is distributed.



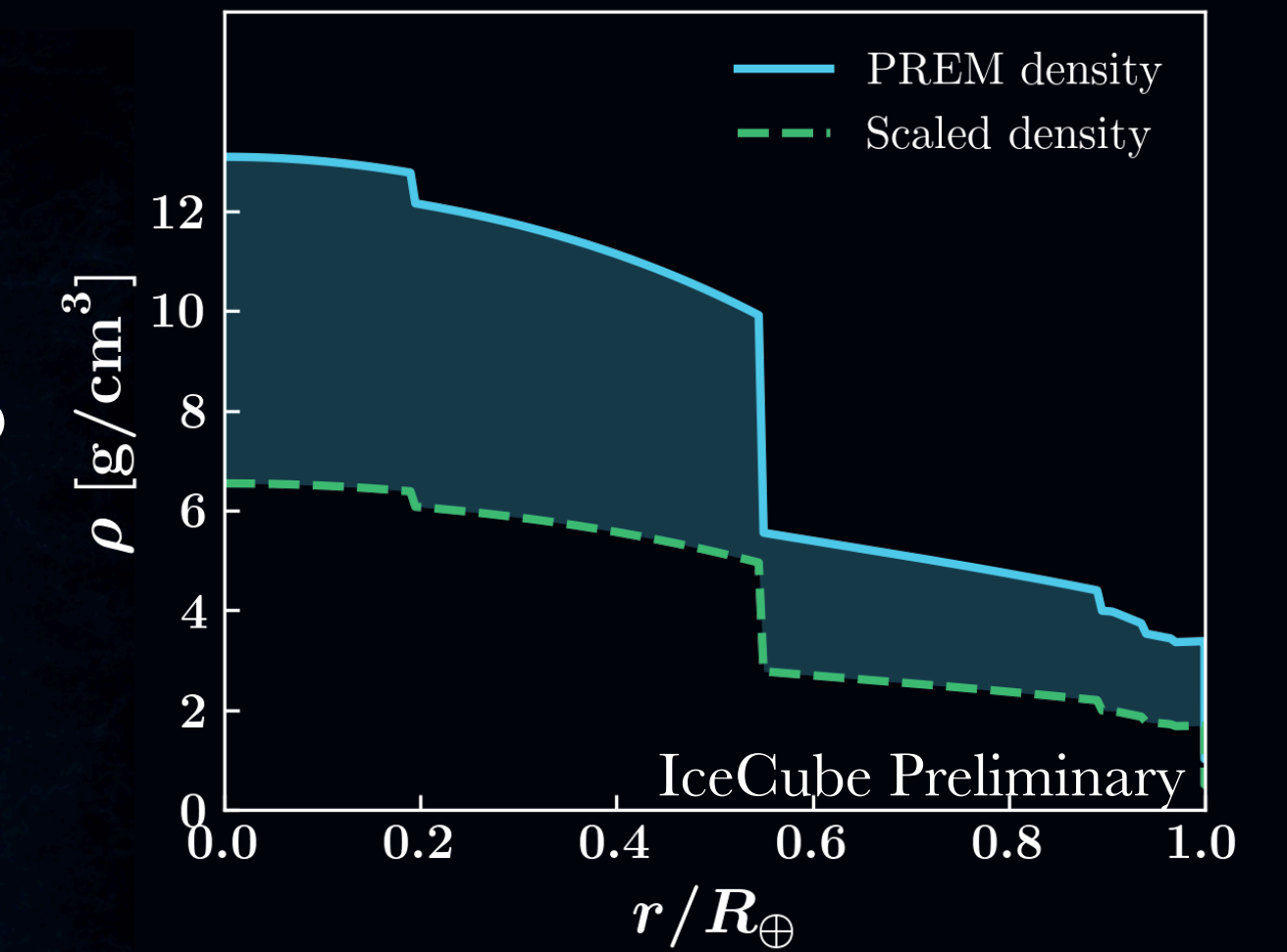
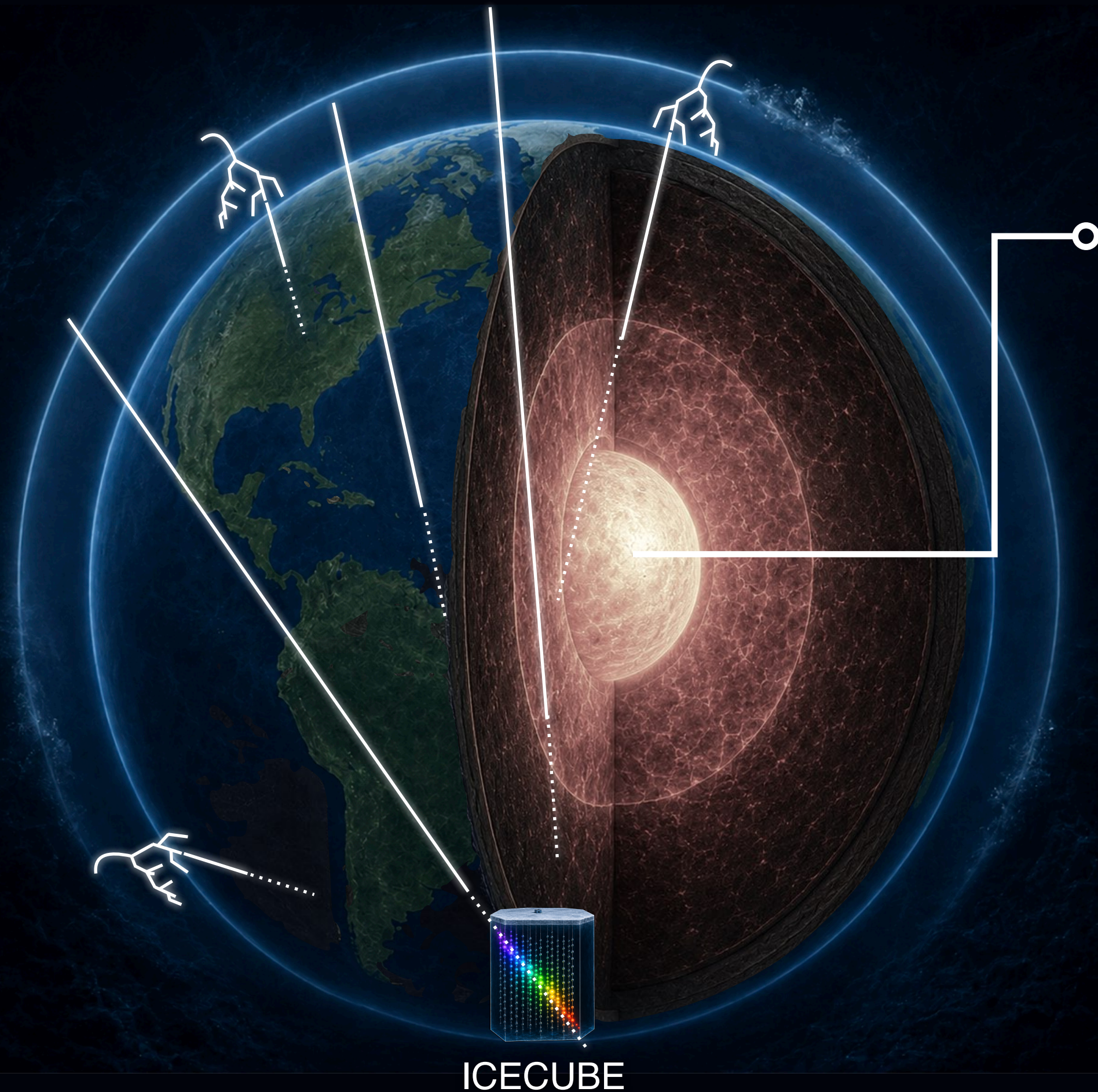
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Sensitive to elastic properties, not density alone.



GEOMAGNETISM

Probes core dynamics, not static structure.



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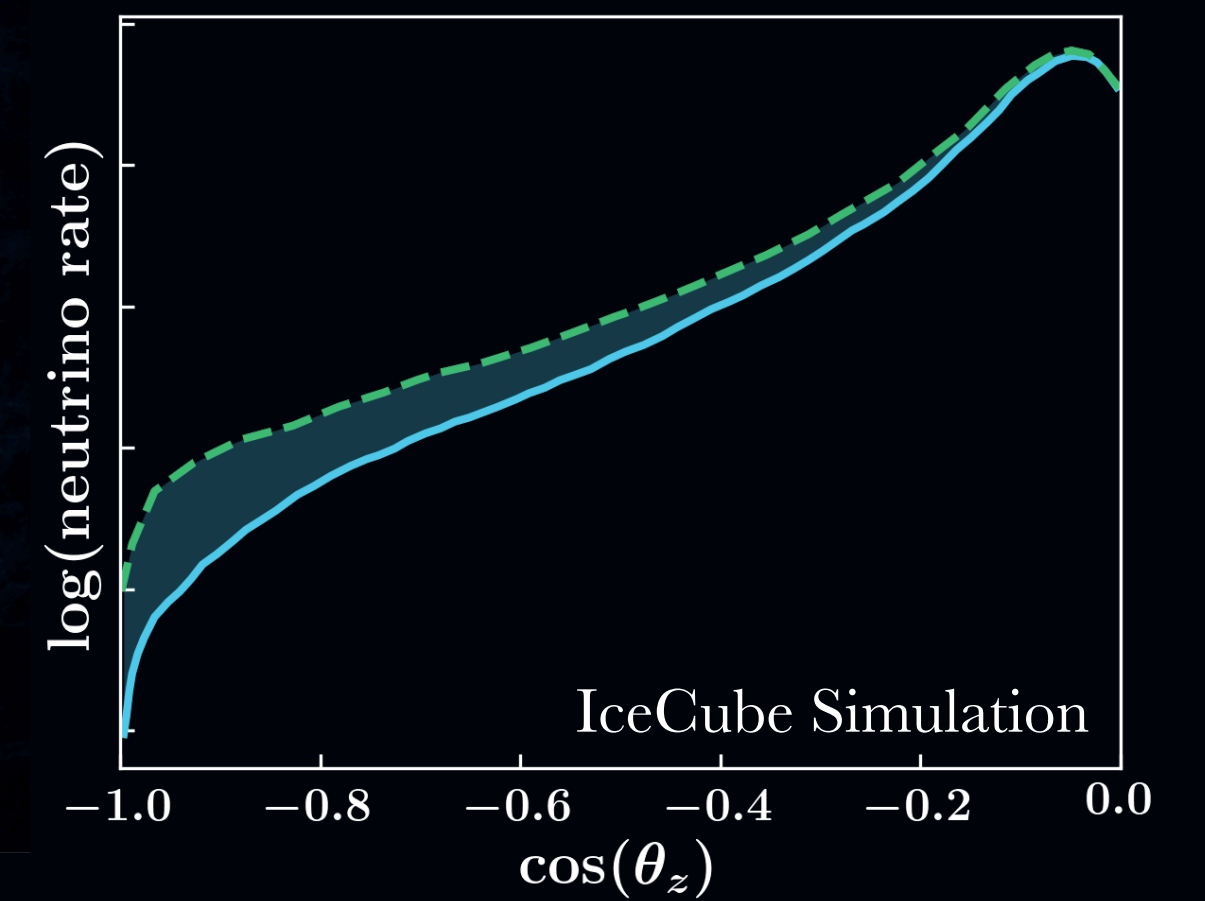
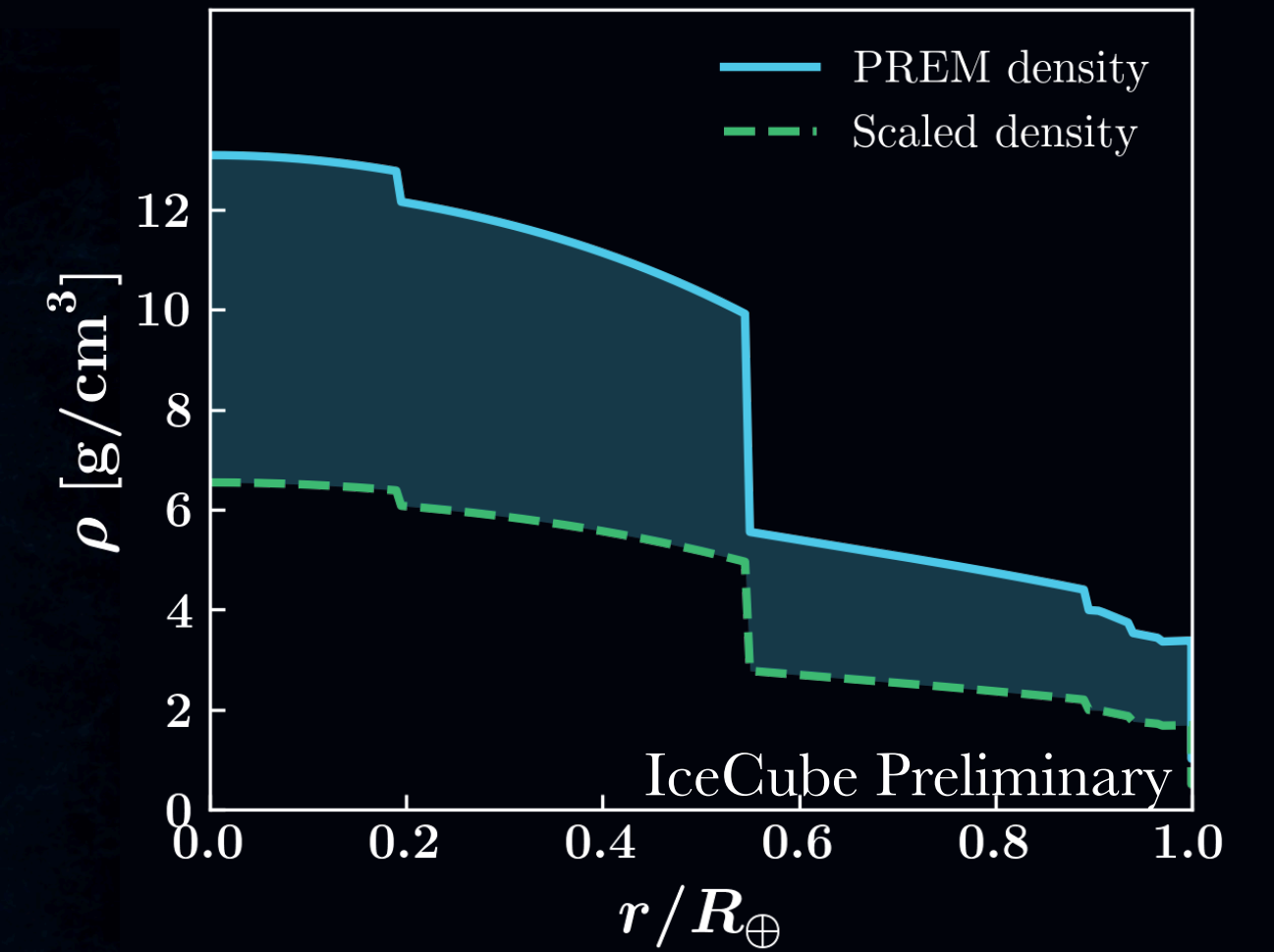
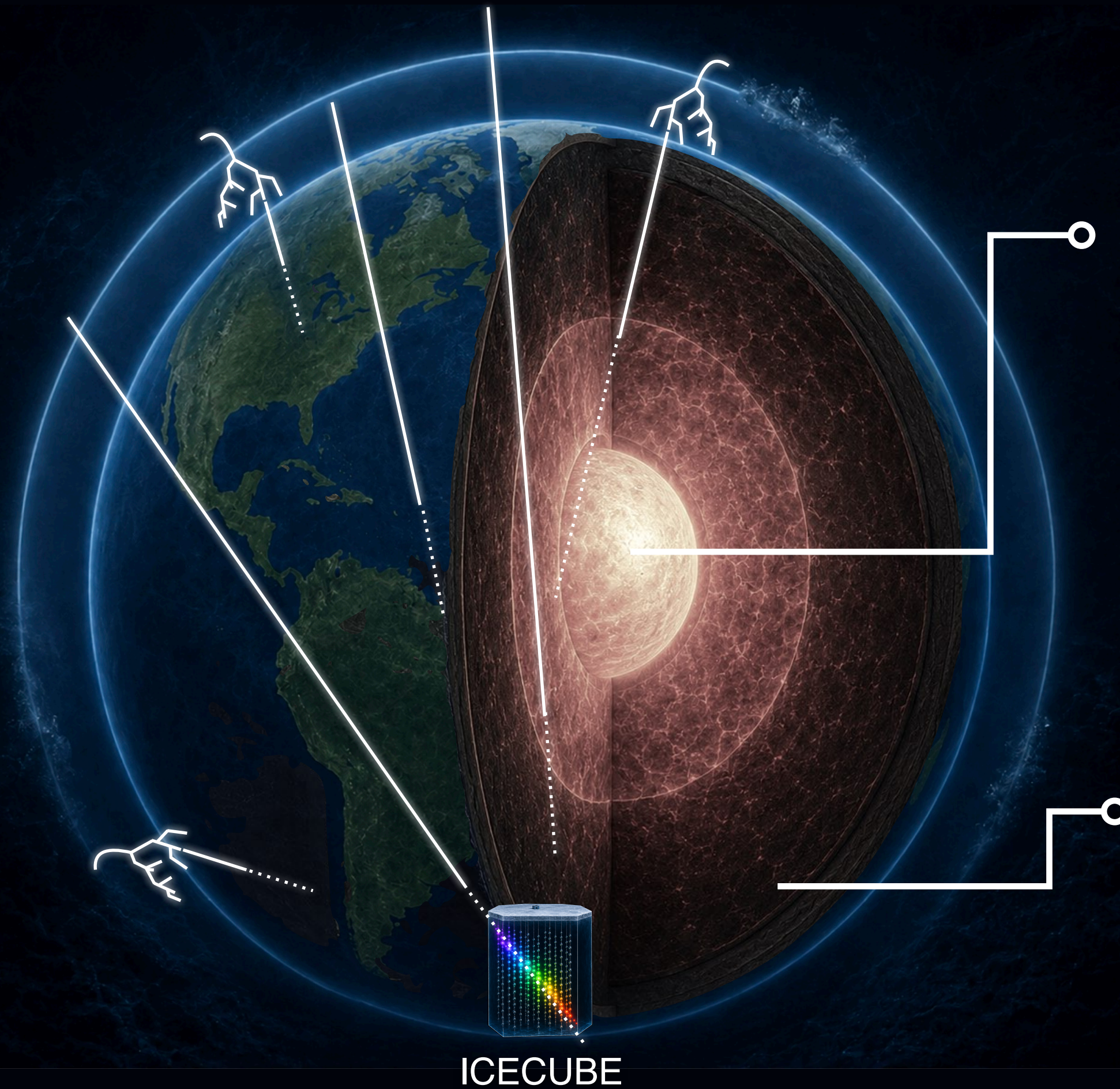


Image adapted from Jack Pairin

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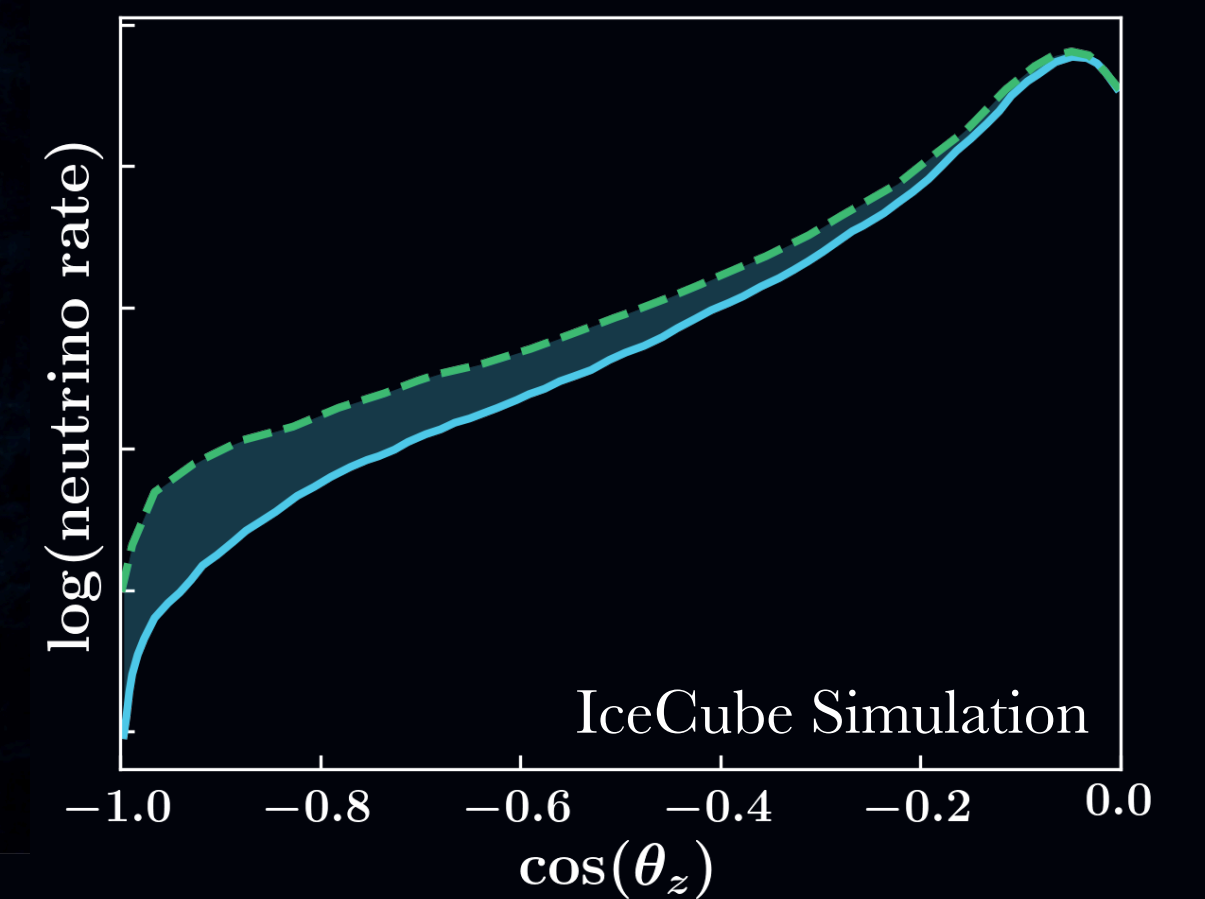
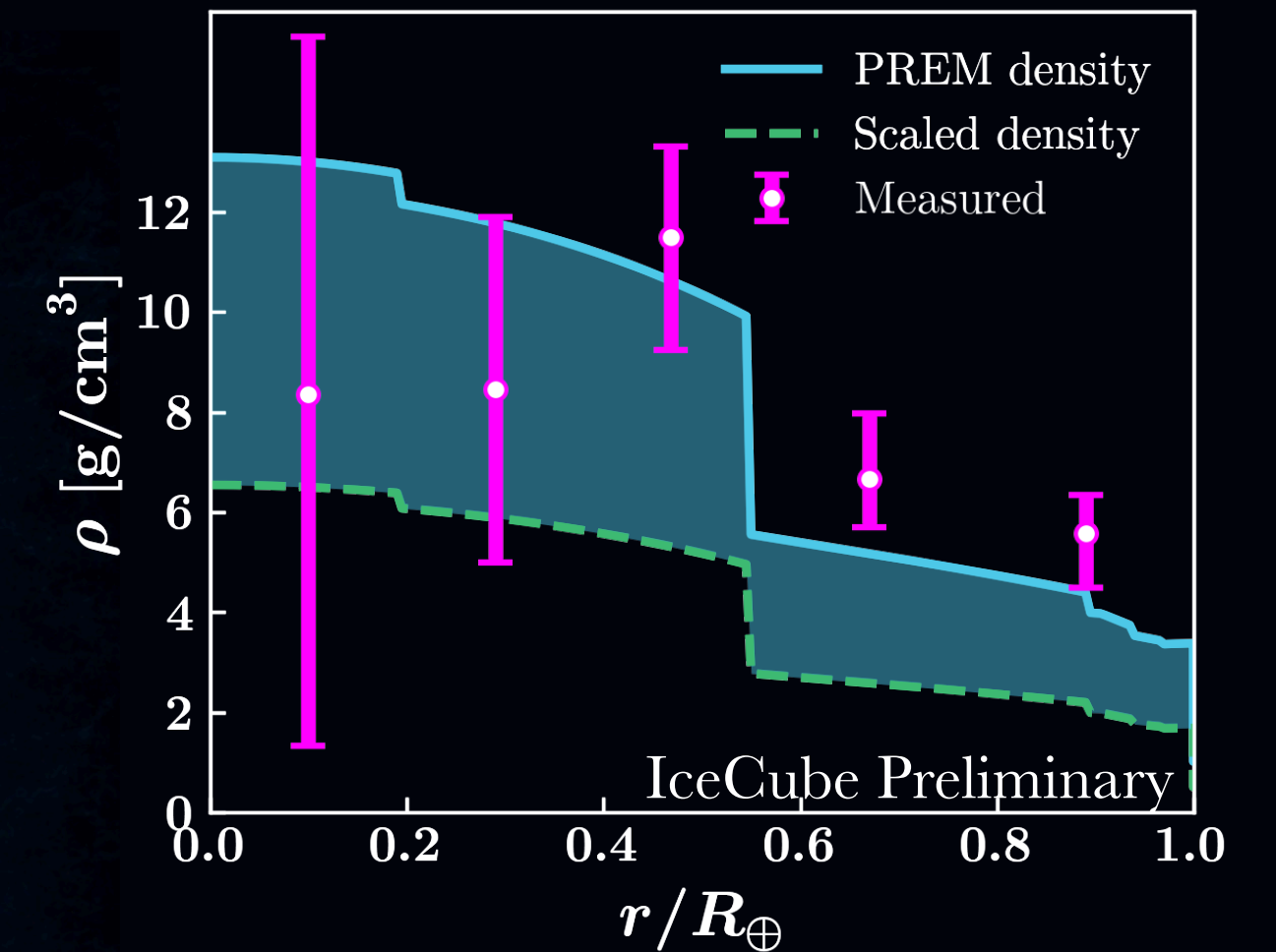
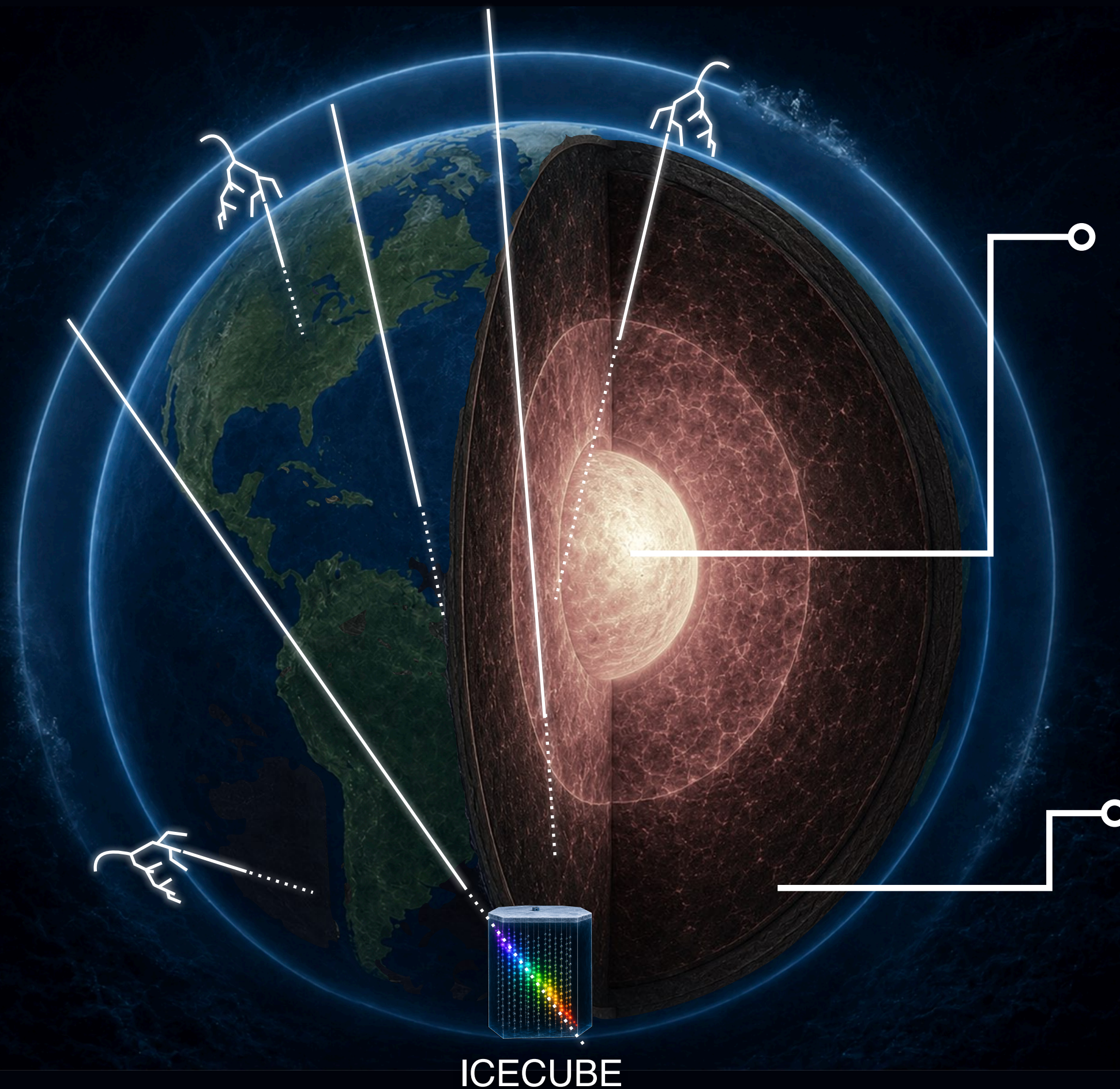
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From the resulting density posteriors, we derive the Earth's mass and polar moment of inertia, found to be consistent with PREM and gravitational determination. Paper under collaboration review.

Image adapted from Jack Pairin

Summary and Outlook

Neutrino telescopes have proven to be a unique and powerful tool for particle physics.



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Thanks for your attention!

meV

keV

GeV

PeV

eV

MeV

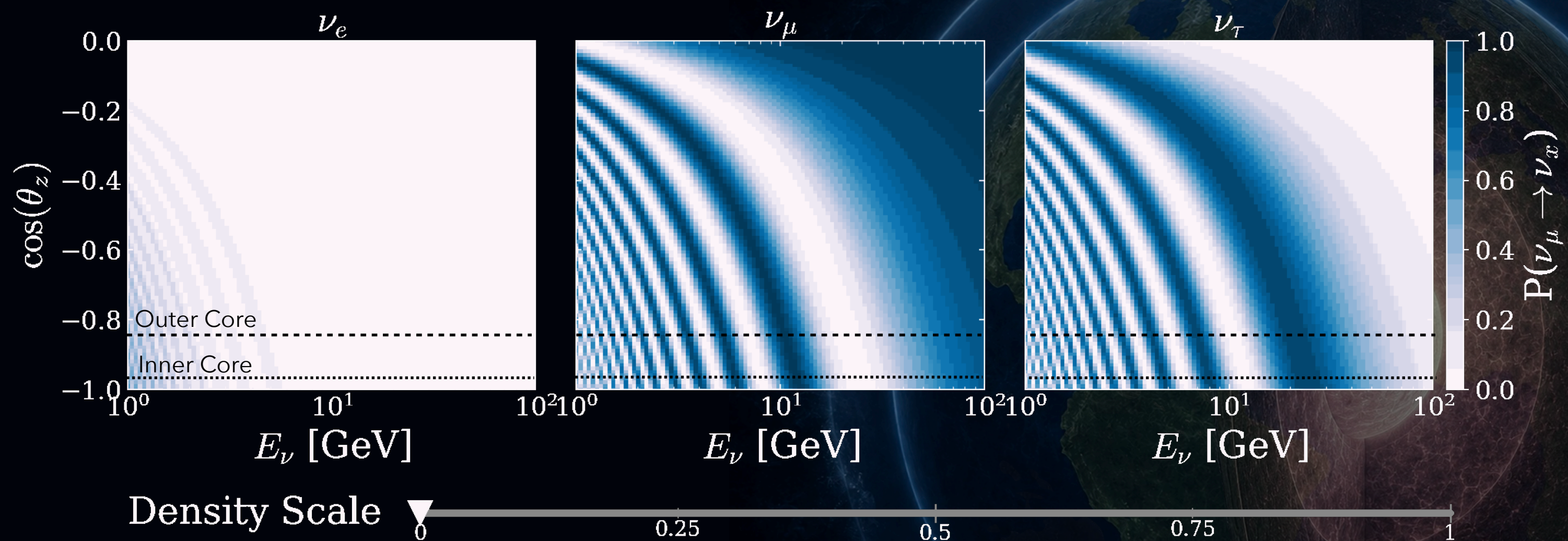
TeV



Neutrino tomography: mapping the Earth's interior

Low energy (<100GeV) neutrino oscillation used to measure the Earth's mass

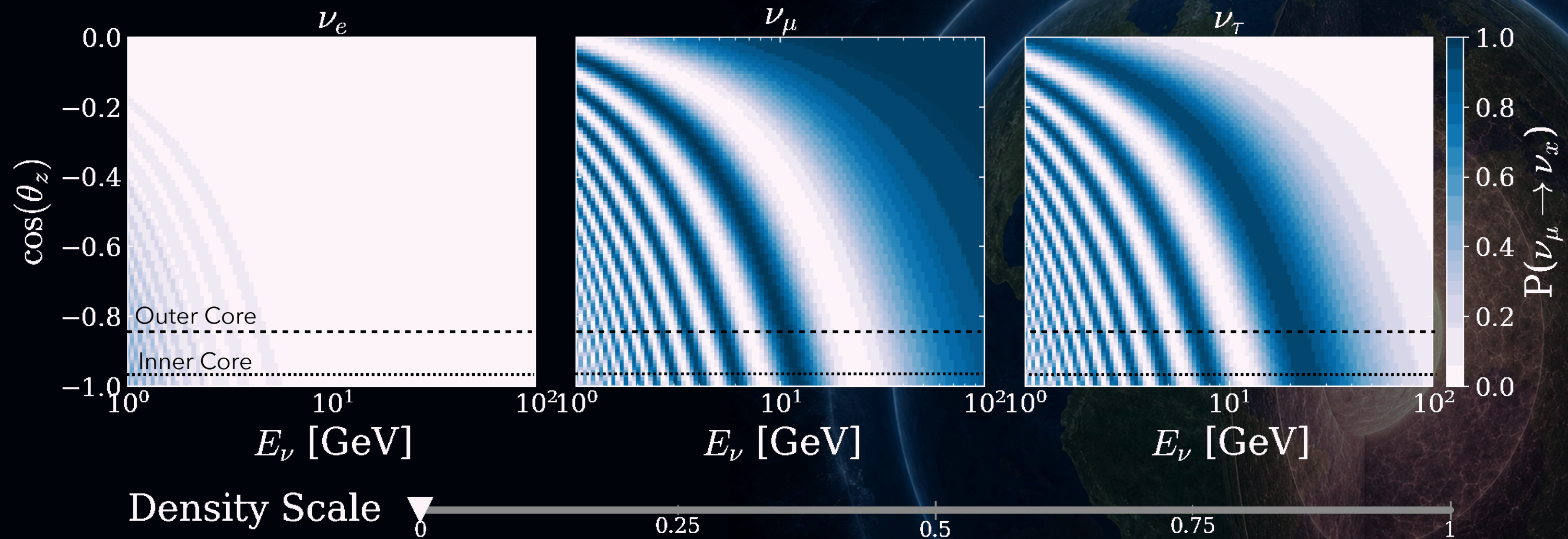
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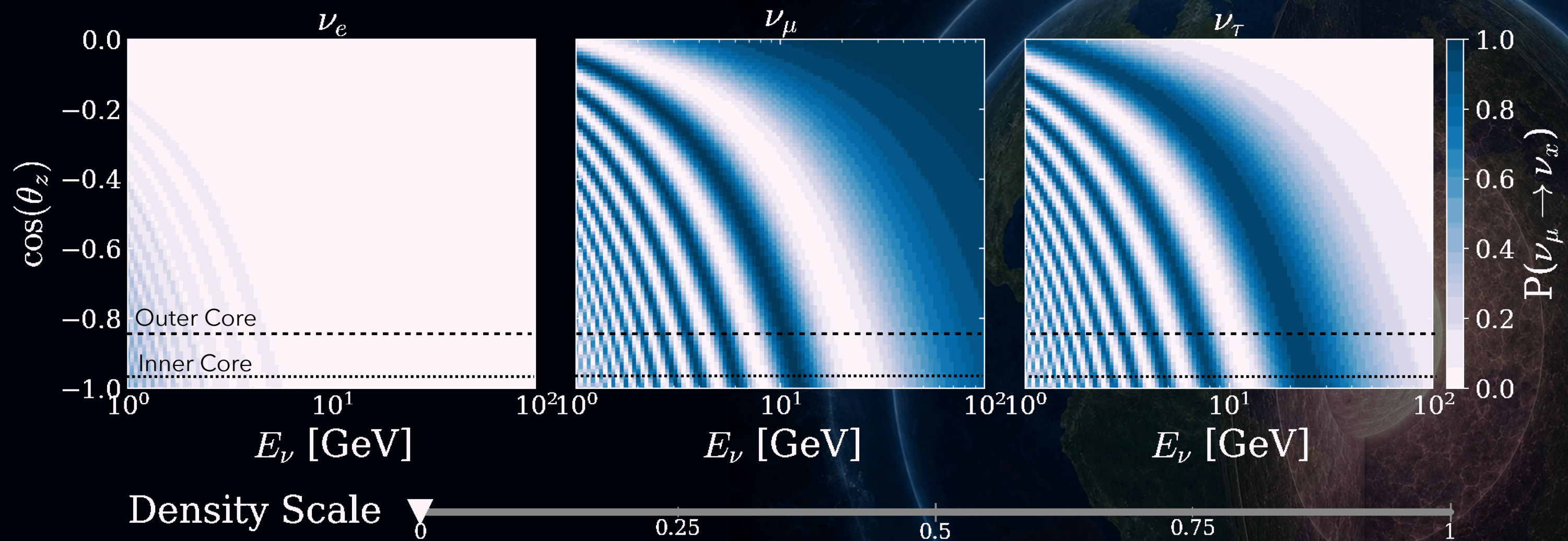
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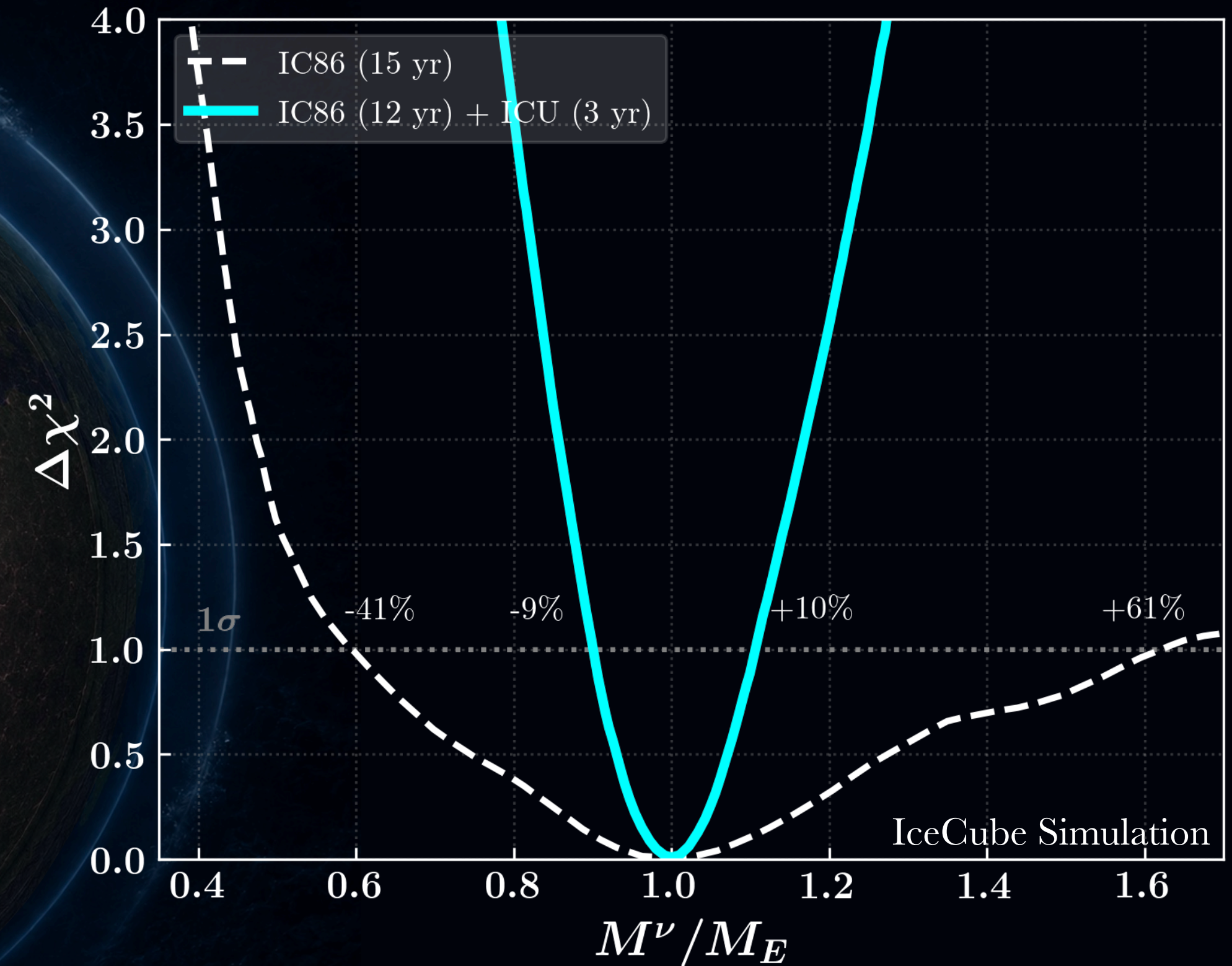
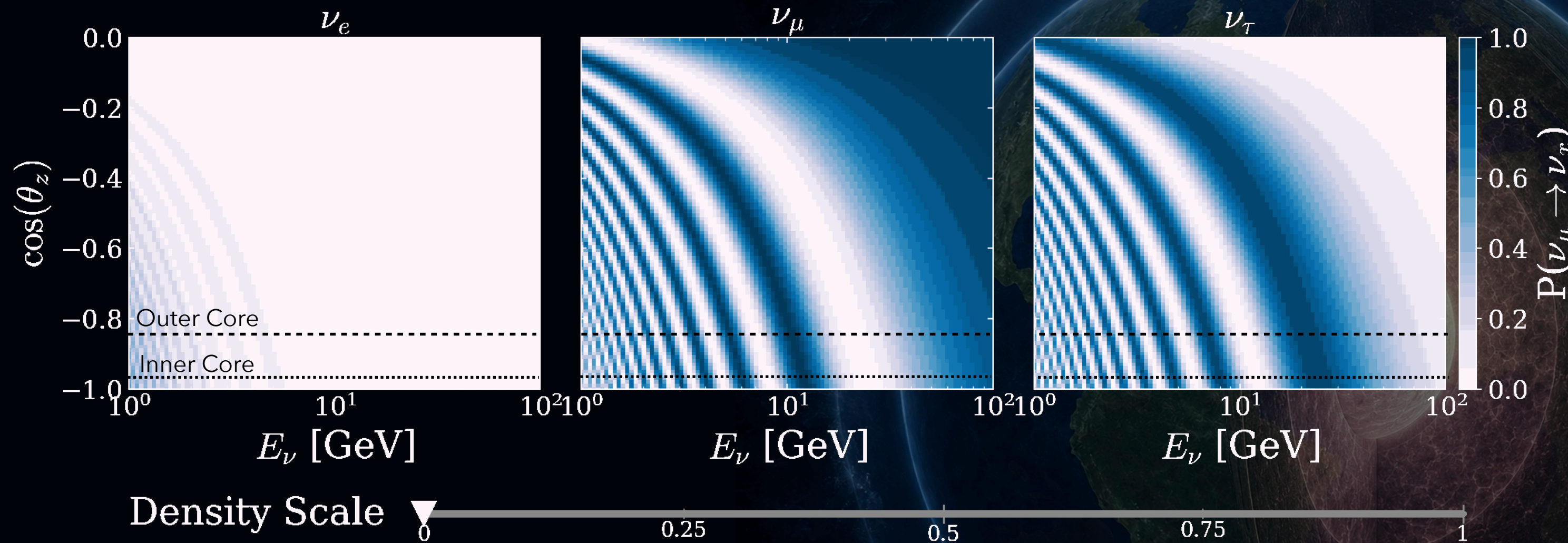


The IceCube Upgrade (IC86 (12y) + ICU (3y)) will be able to reject vacuum only oscillation hypothesis at the 3 - 5 σ significance.

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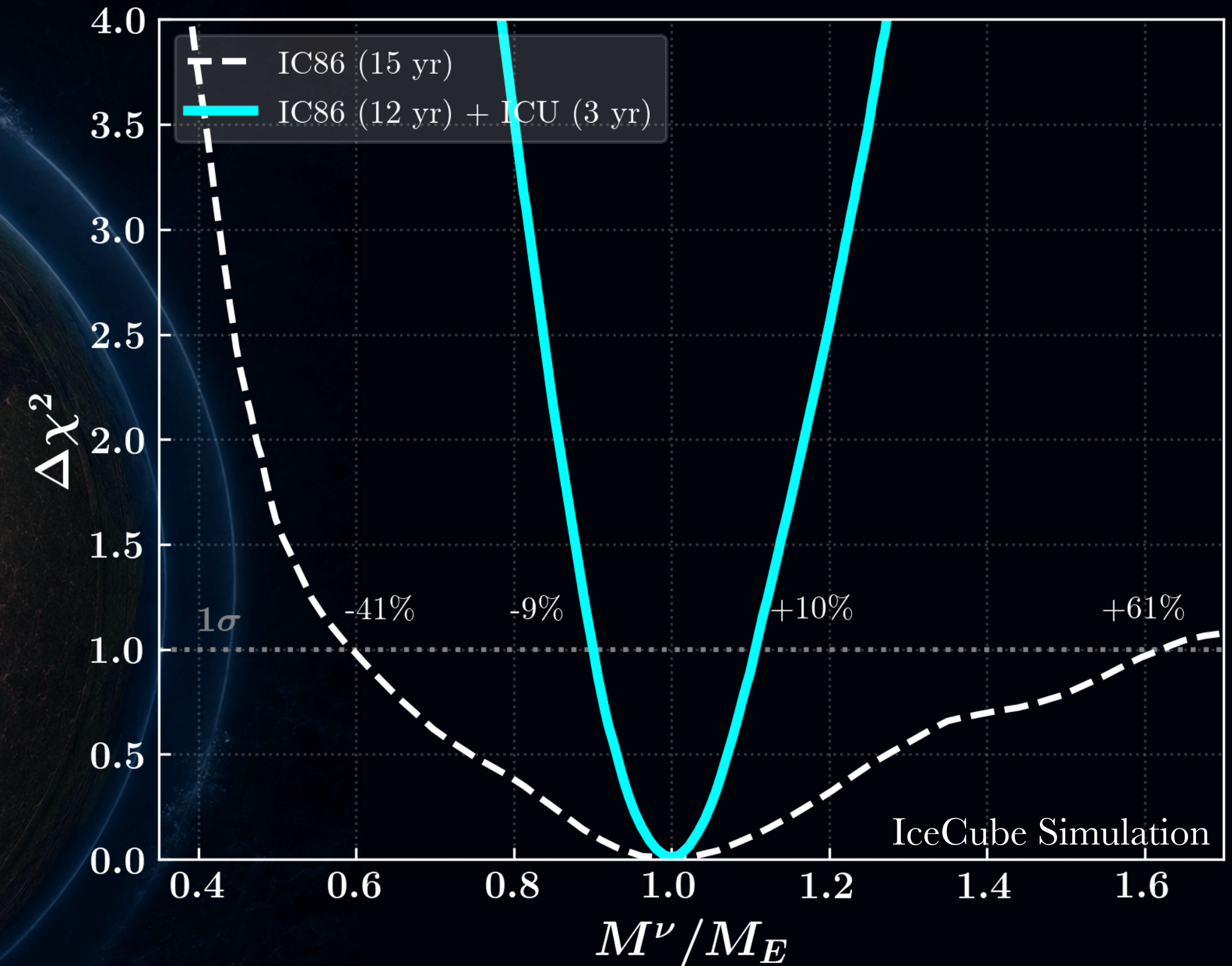
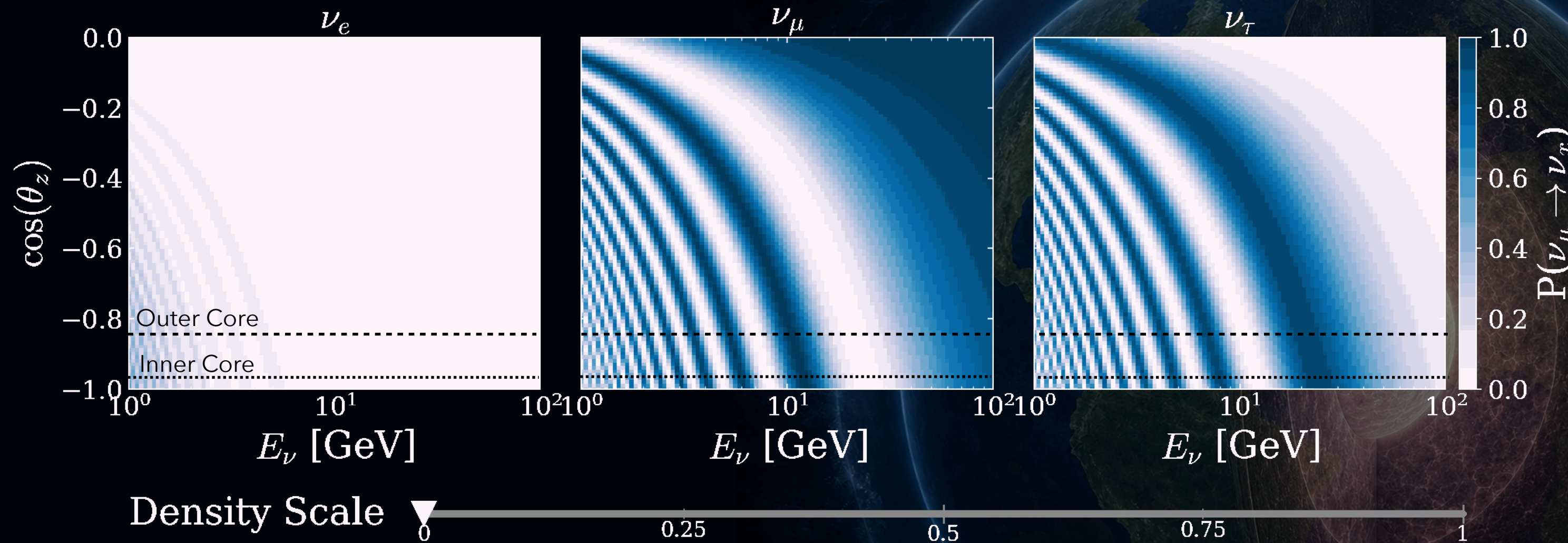
The IceCube Upgrade (IC86 (12y) + ICU (3y)) will be able to reject vacuum only oscillation hypothesis at the 3 - 5 σ significance.

As well as to measure the mass of the Earth to +/-10%, using the Weak Force. Paper under collaboration review.

Neutrino tomography: mapping the Earth's interior

Low energy (<100GeV) neutrino oscillation used to measure the Earth's mass

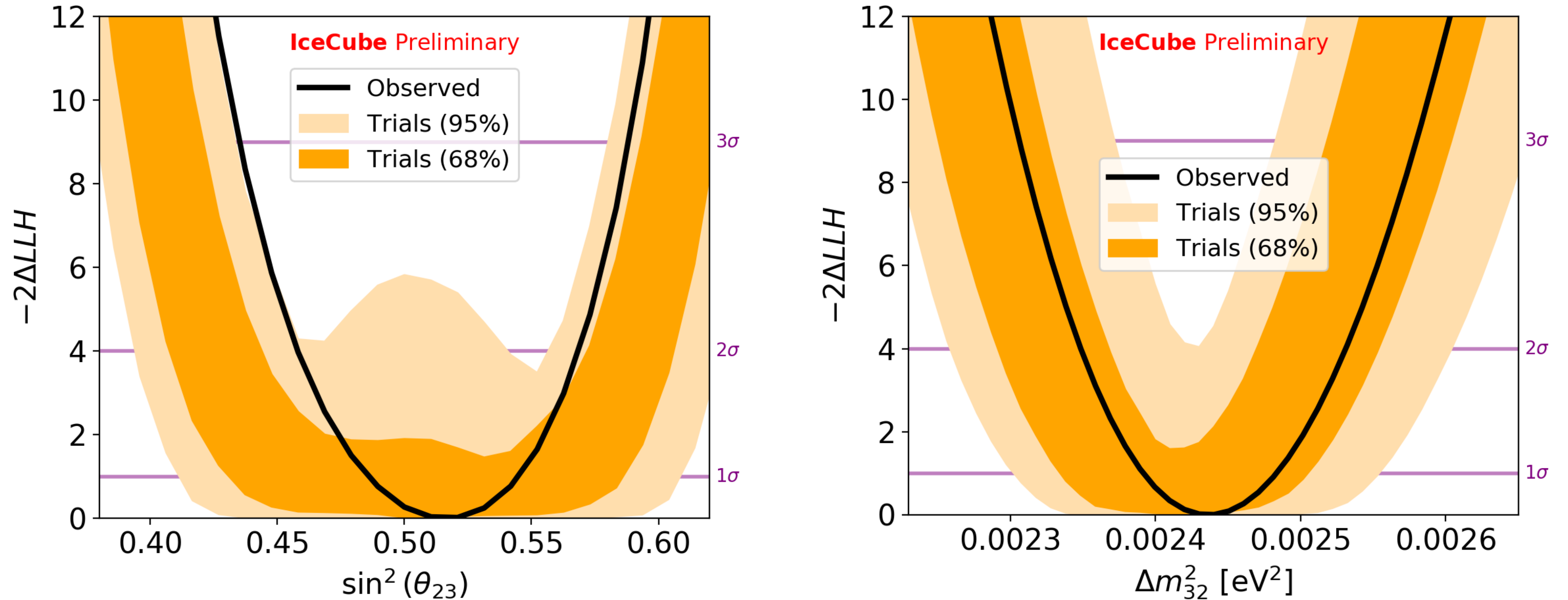
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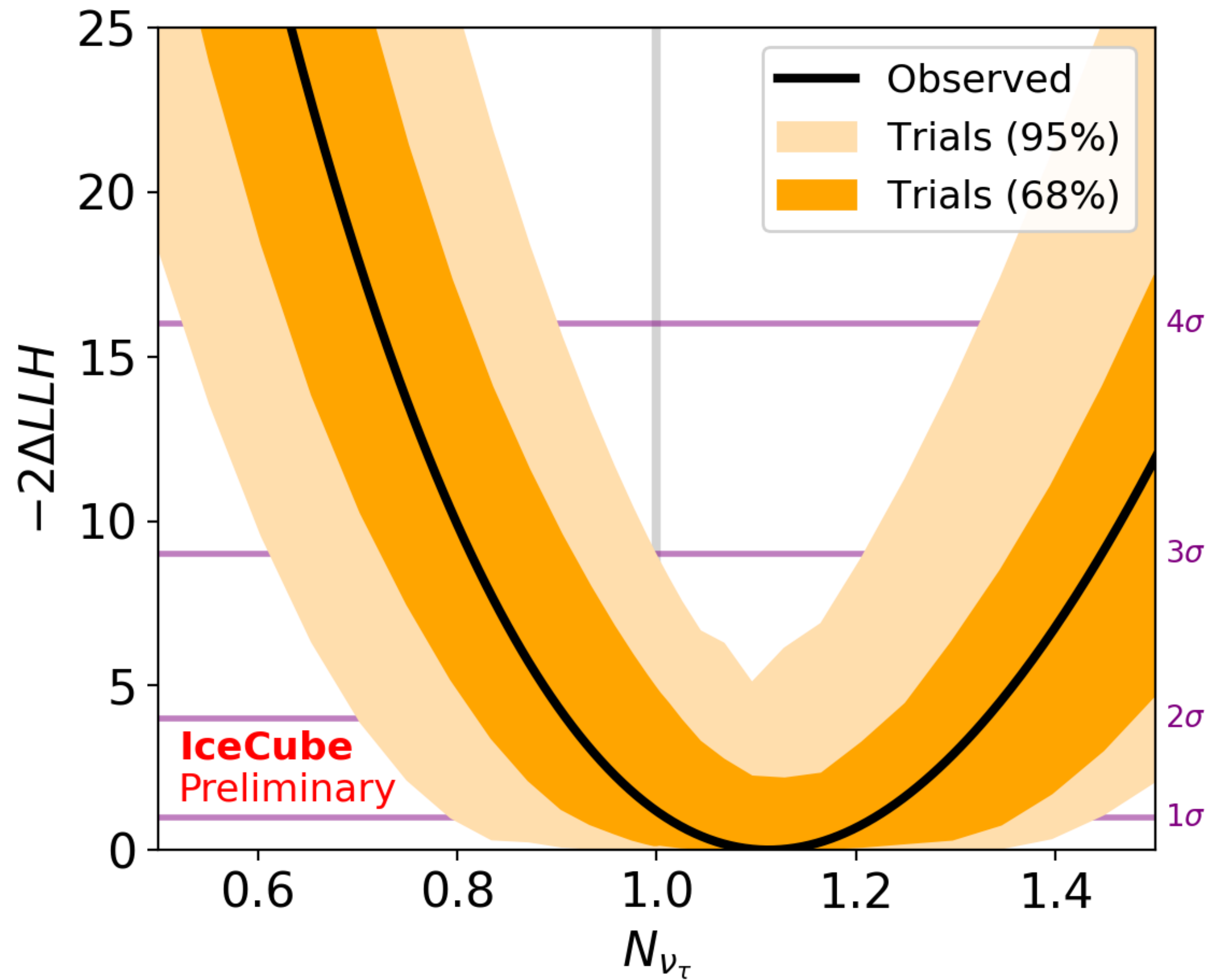
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11y ν_μ -disappearance Brazil Bands



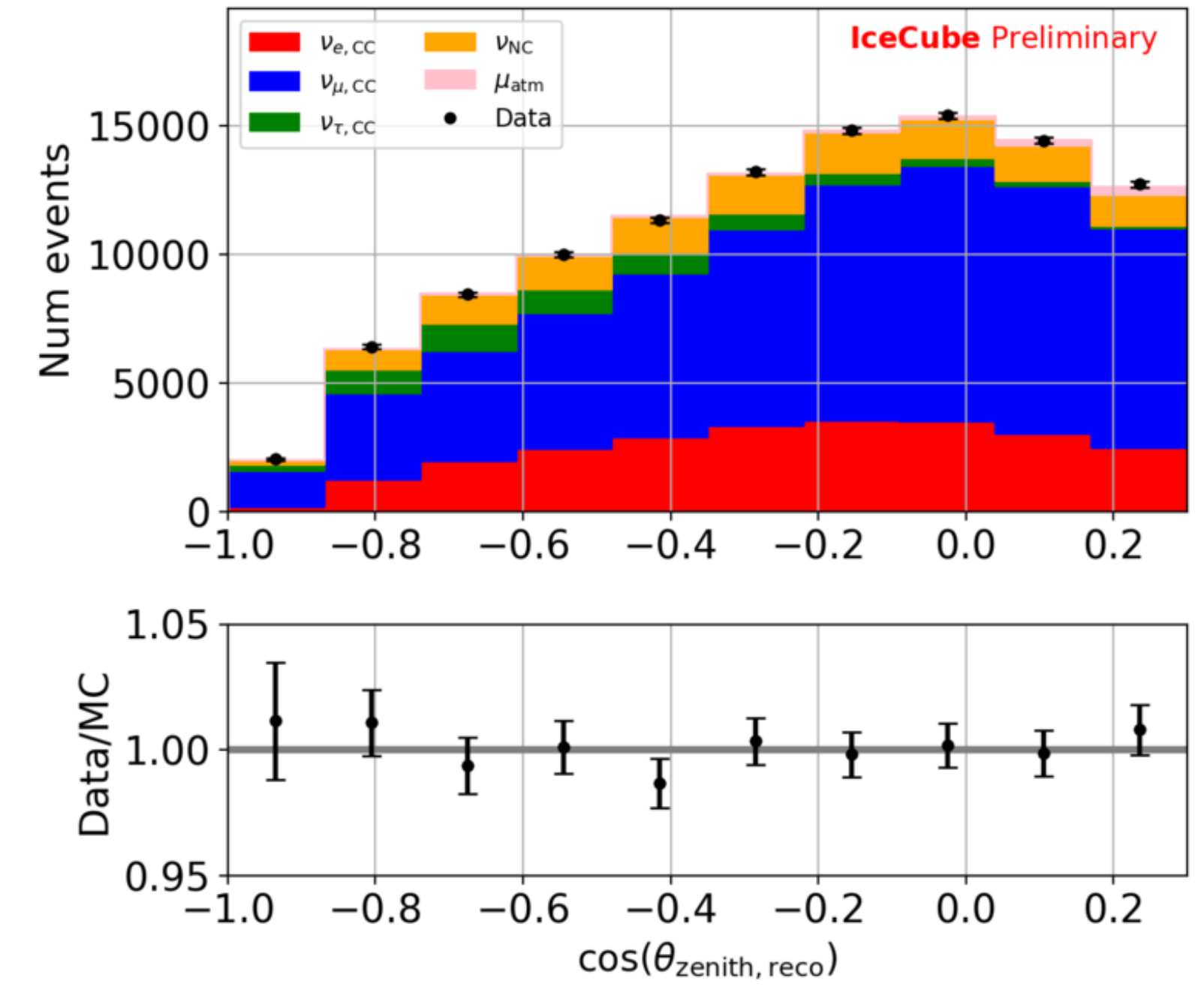
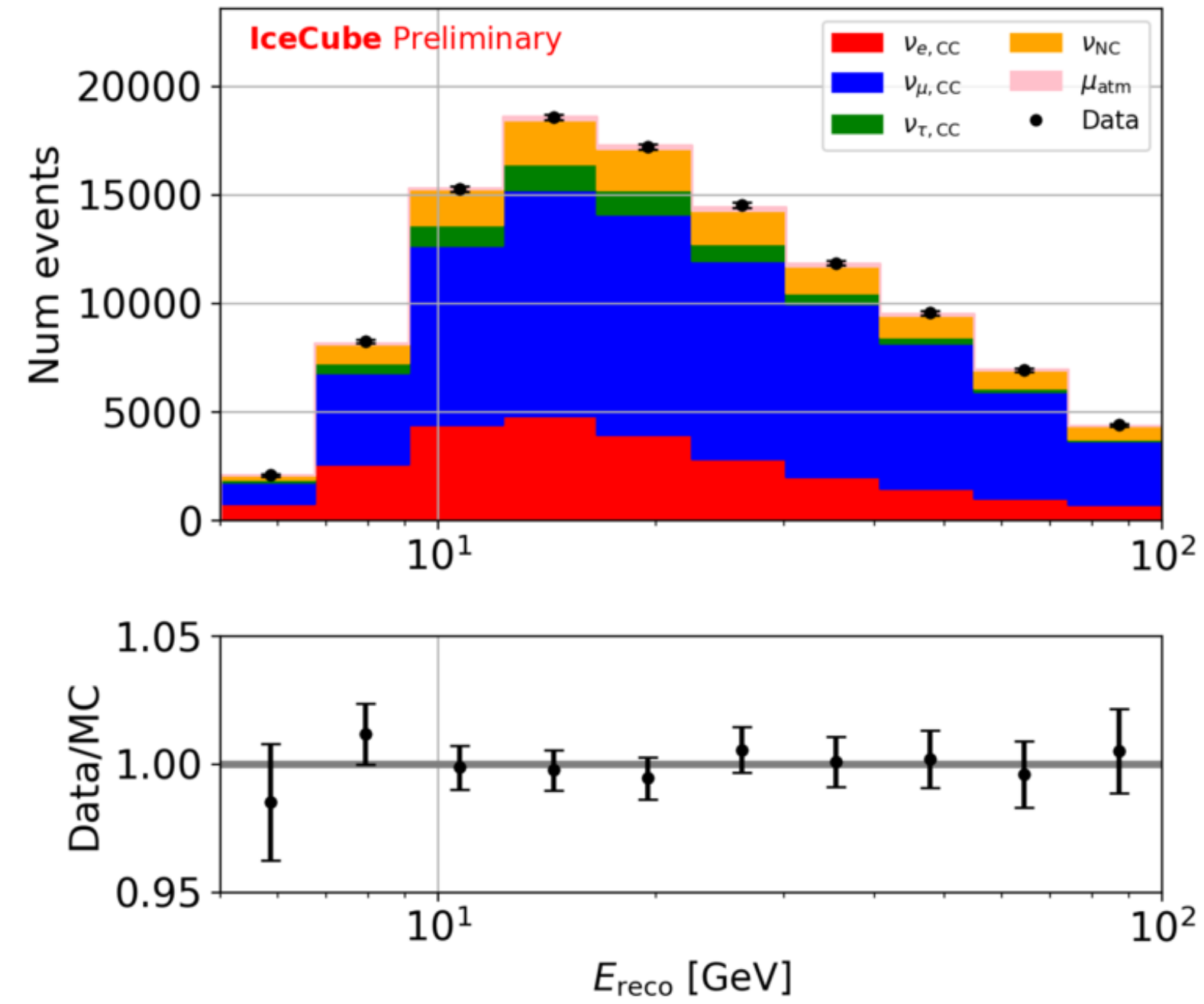
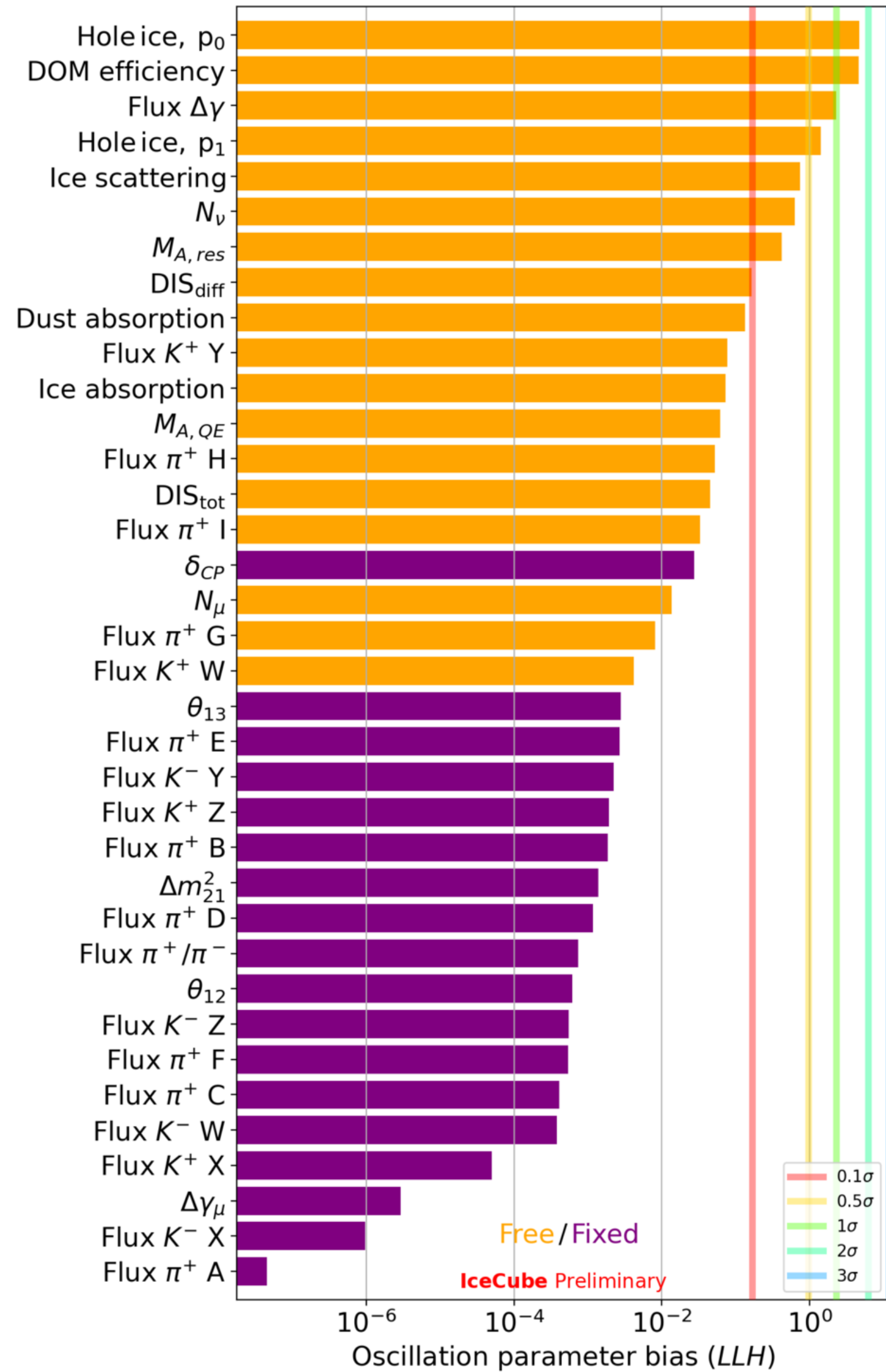
Test stat profile for the mixing angle (from a 1D scan), a subset of the ν_μ disappearance result. The Brazil band (generated from pseudodata trials at the best fit point) is included for comparison.

11y ν_τ -appearance Brazil Bands



Test stat profile for the nutau appearance result. The Brazil band (generated from pseudodata trials at the best fit point) is included for comparison.

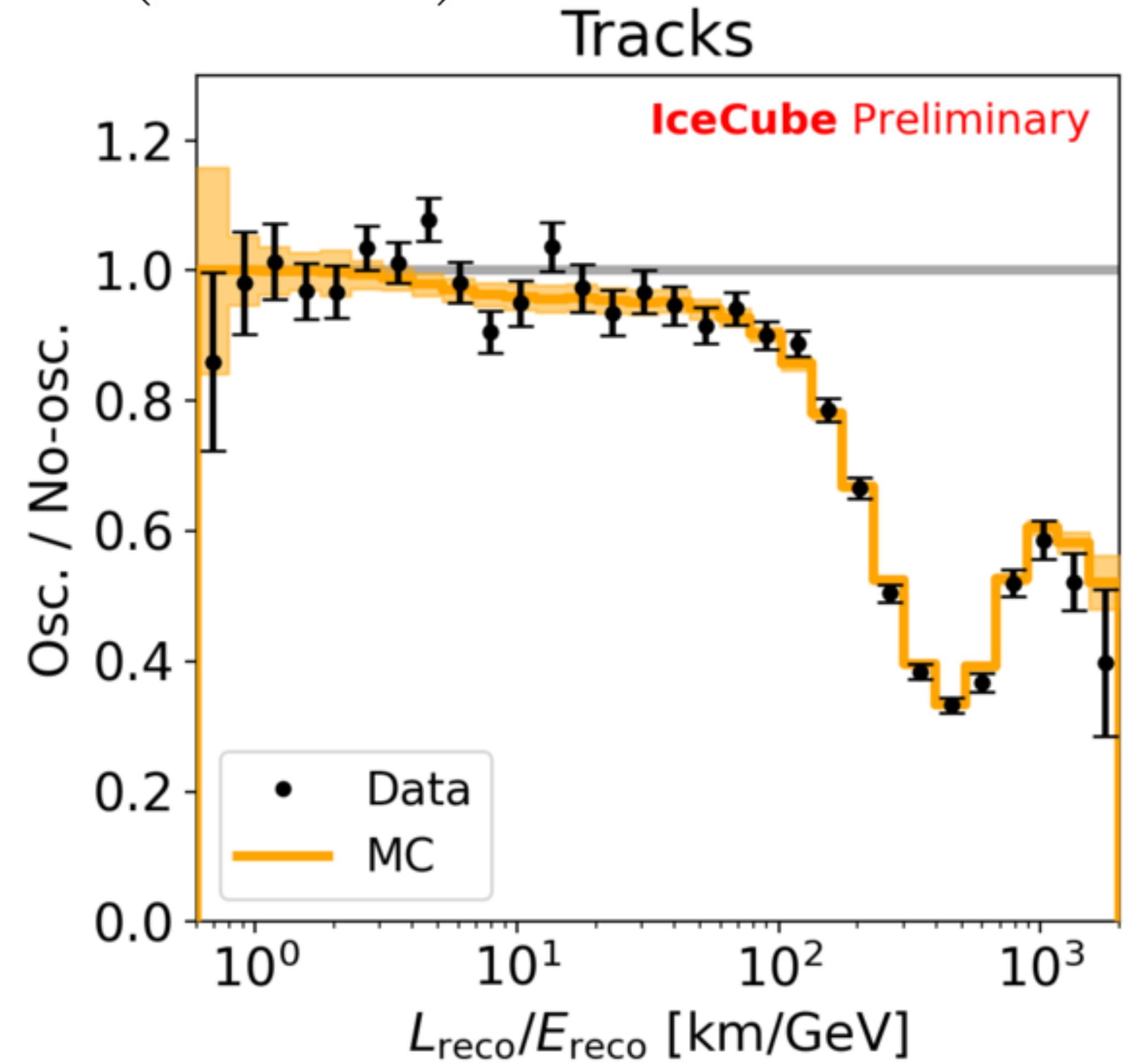
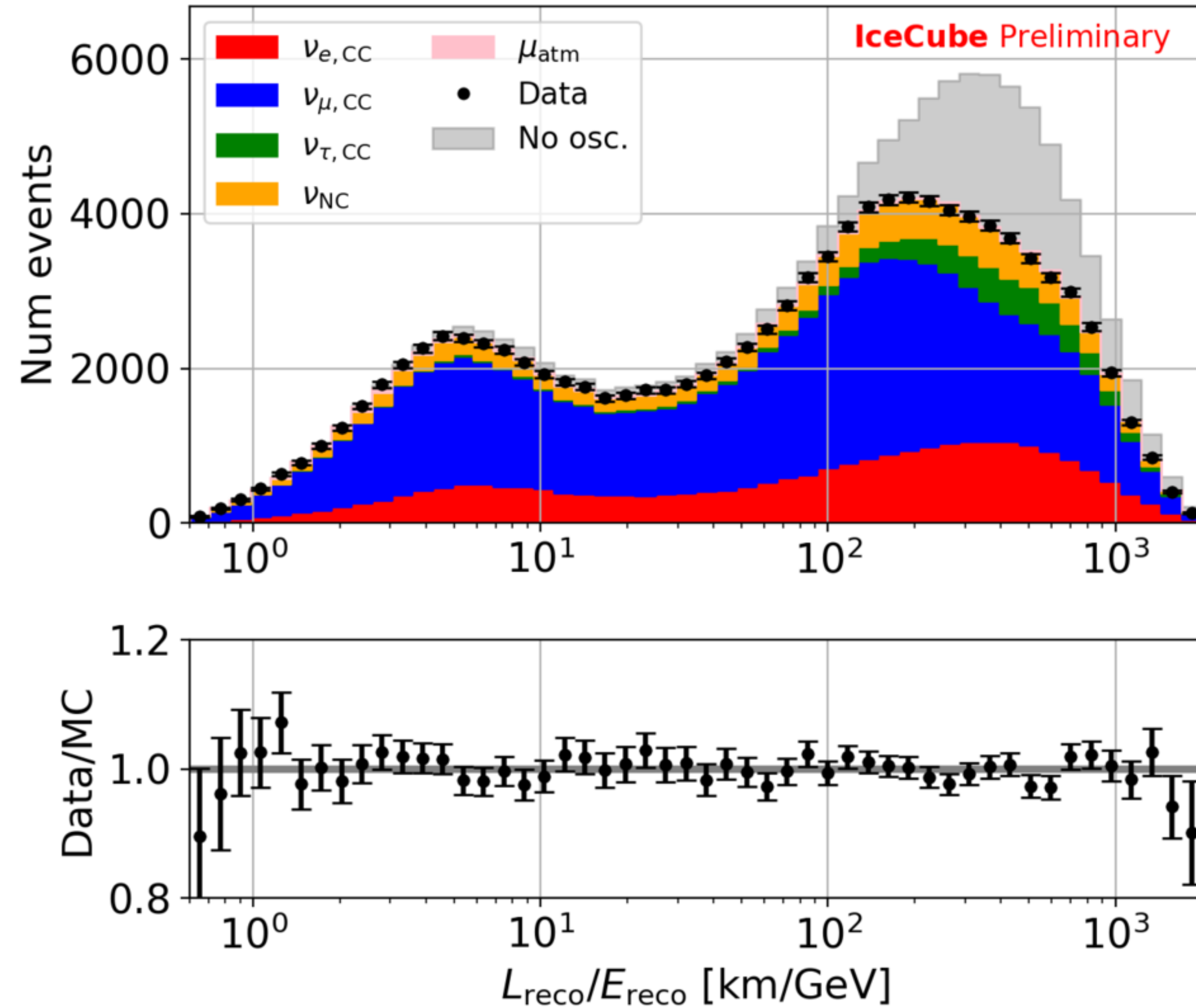
11y dataset



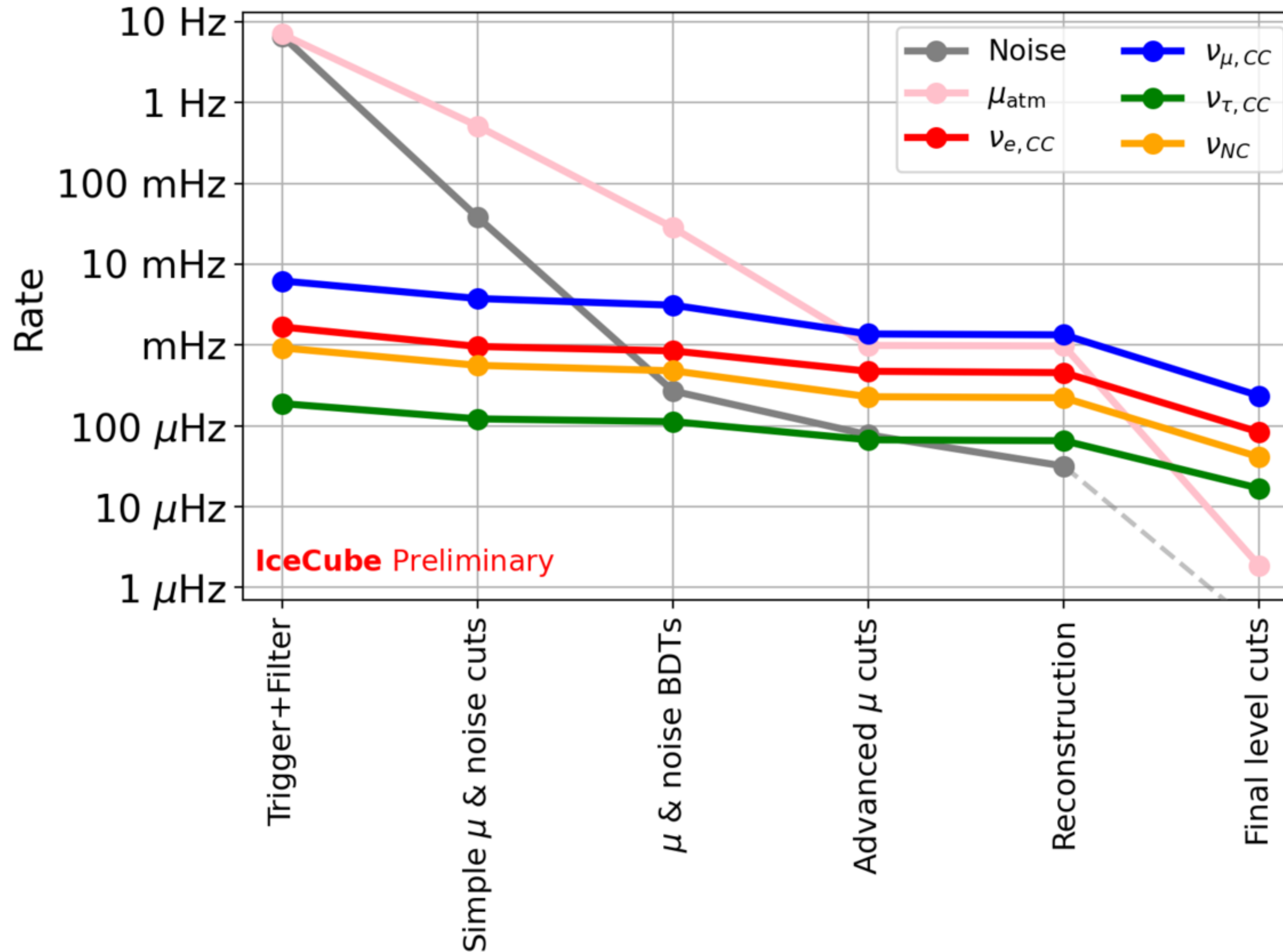
Good data/MC agreement over full space.

11y dataset

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) \approx 1 - \sin^2(2\theta_{23}) \sin^2\left(1.27 \frac{\Delta m_{32}^2 L}{E}\right)$$



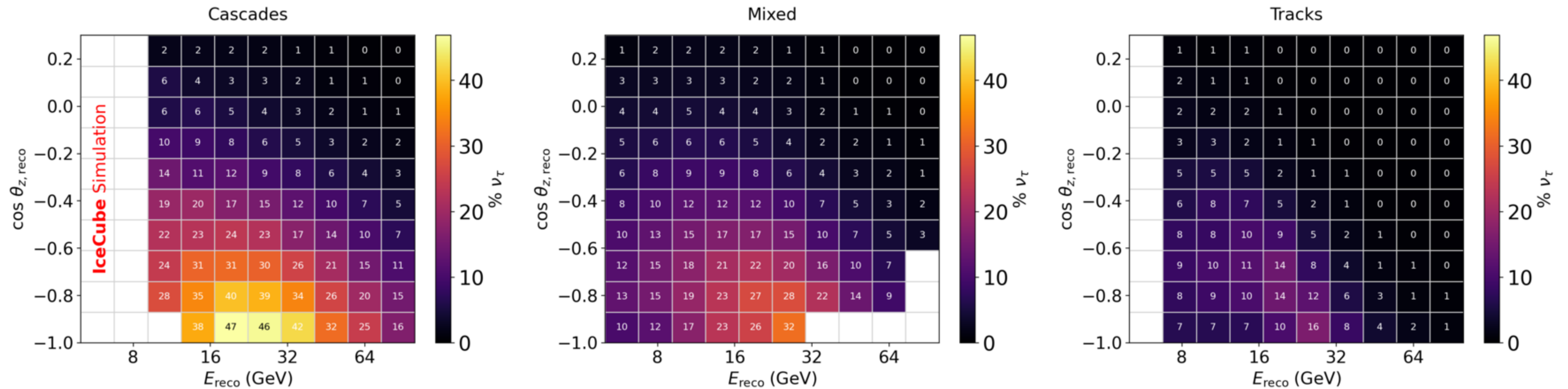
11y dataset



Event rate vs processing level. The dashed line for the final level for noise events indicates that this last stage only represents an estimate of the upper limit, since no MC events remain.

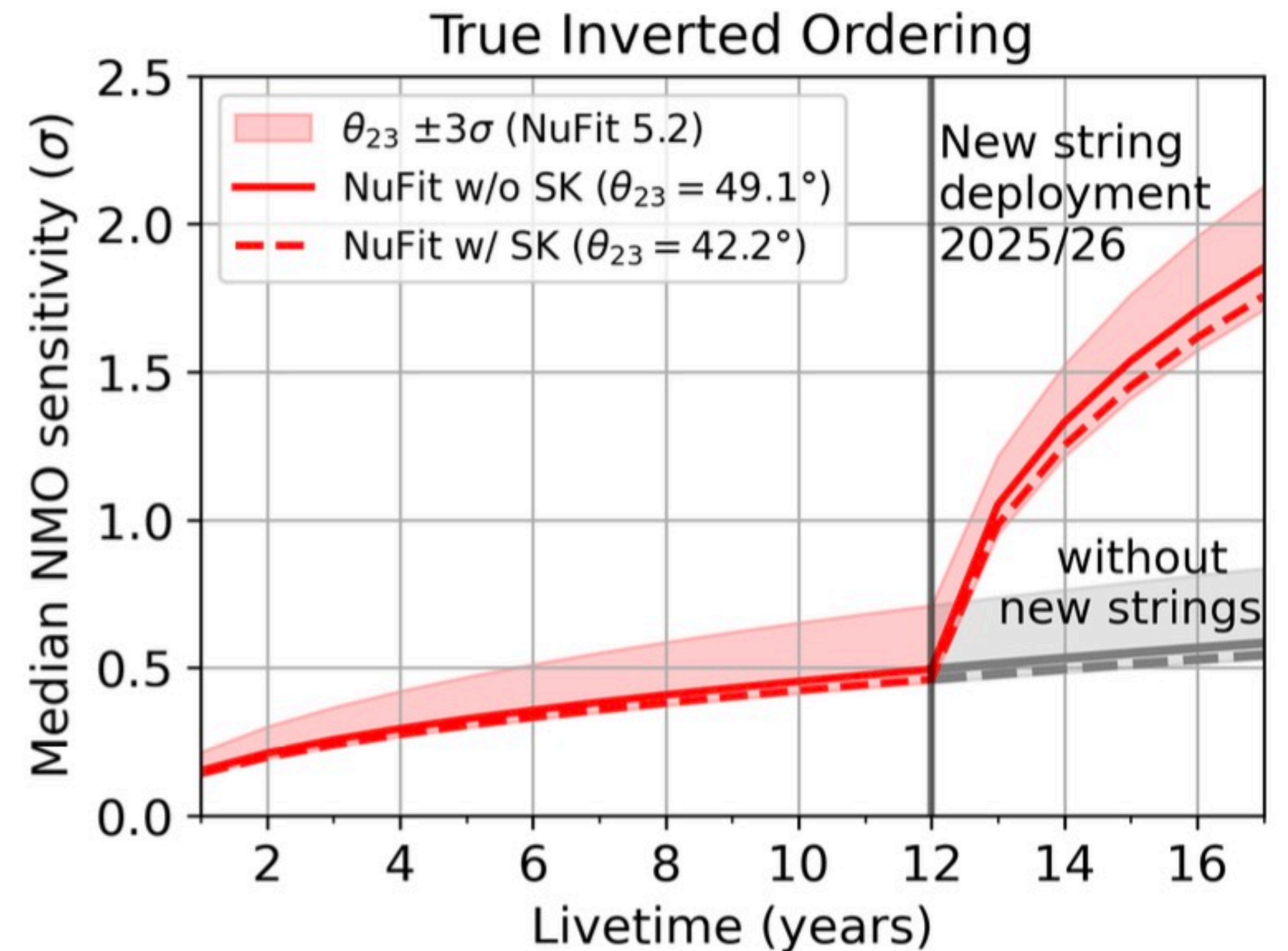
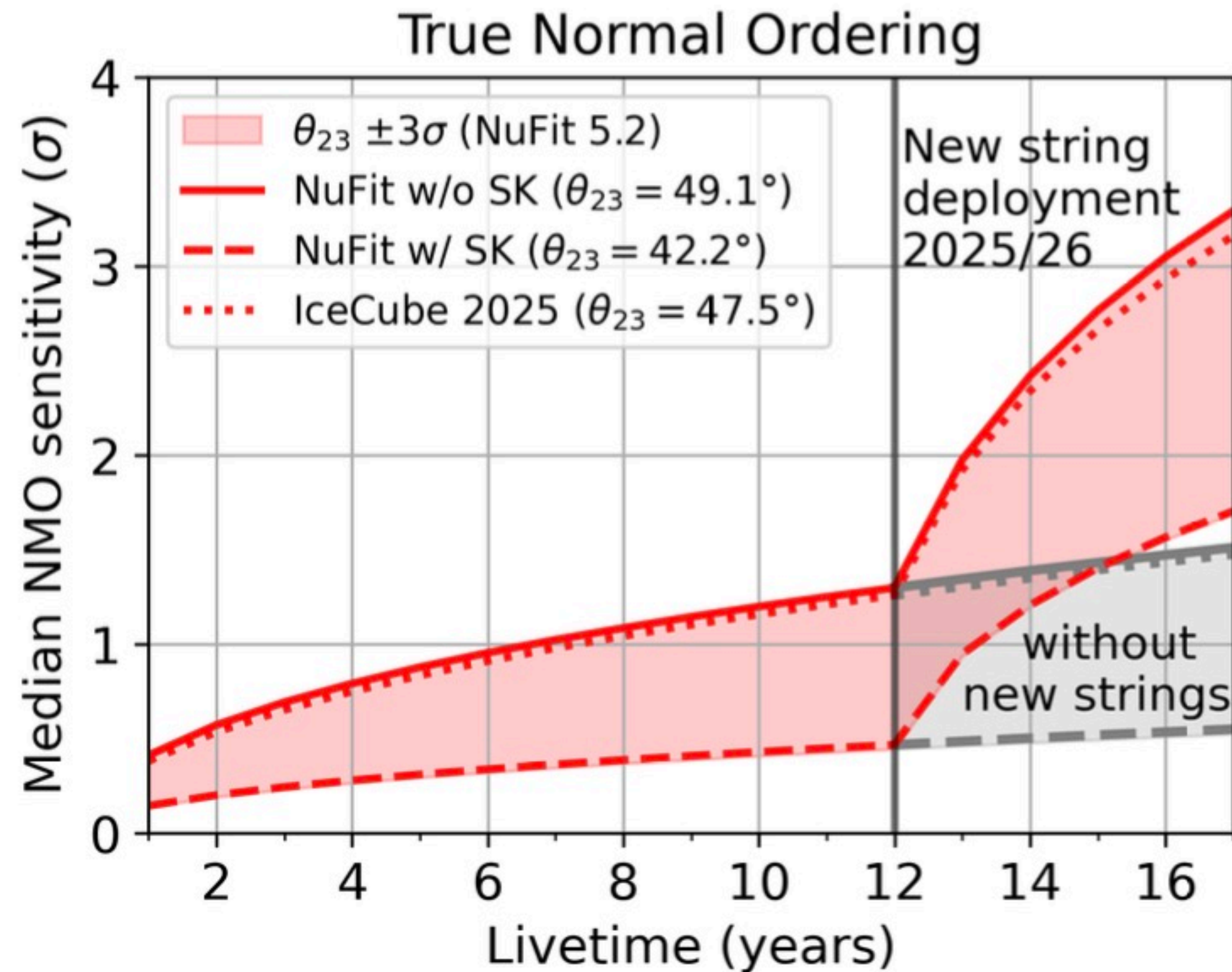
Overall, approx 5% of neutrino events are retained by final level, with the rest being removed by quality cuts or as false positives in background cuts.

11y ν_τ -appearance expectation

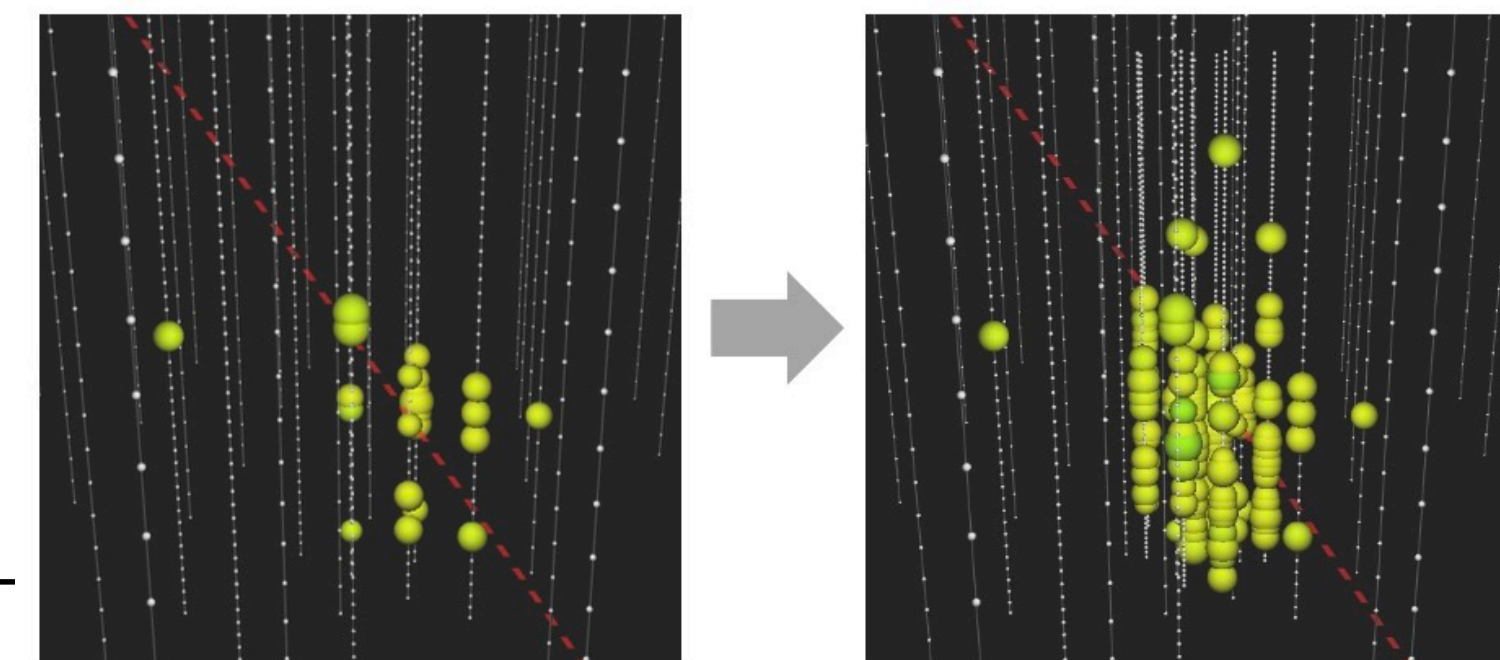


nutau appearance oscillation signal in the analysis binning, showing the nutau percentage of each bin (at the best fit point of the analysis). The signal is strongest in the cascade bin.

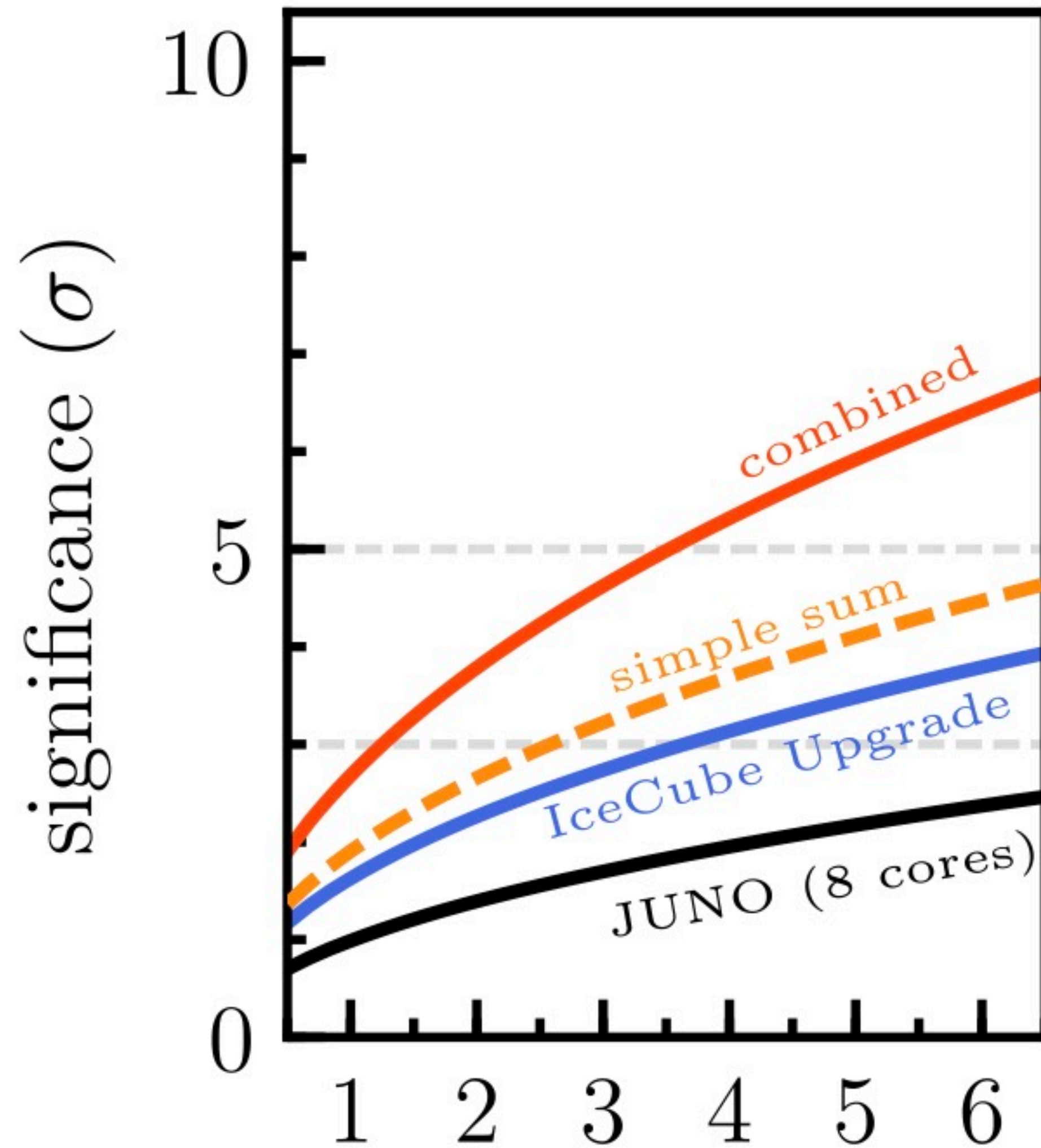
ICU mass ordering sensitivity



Sensitivity to Mass Ordering depends strongly on θ_{23}



ICU + JUNO combined mass ordering sensitivity

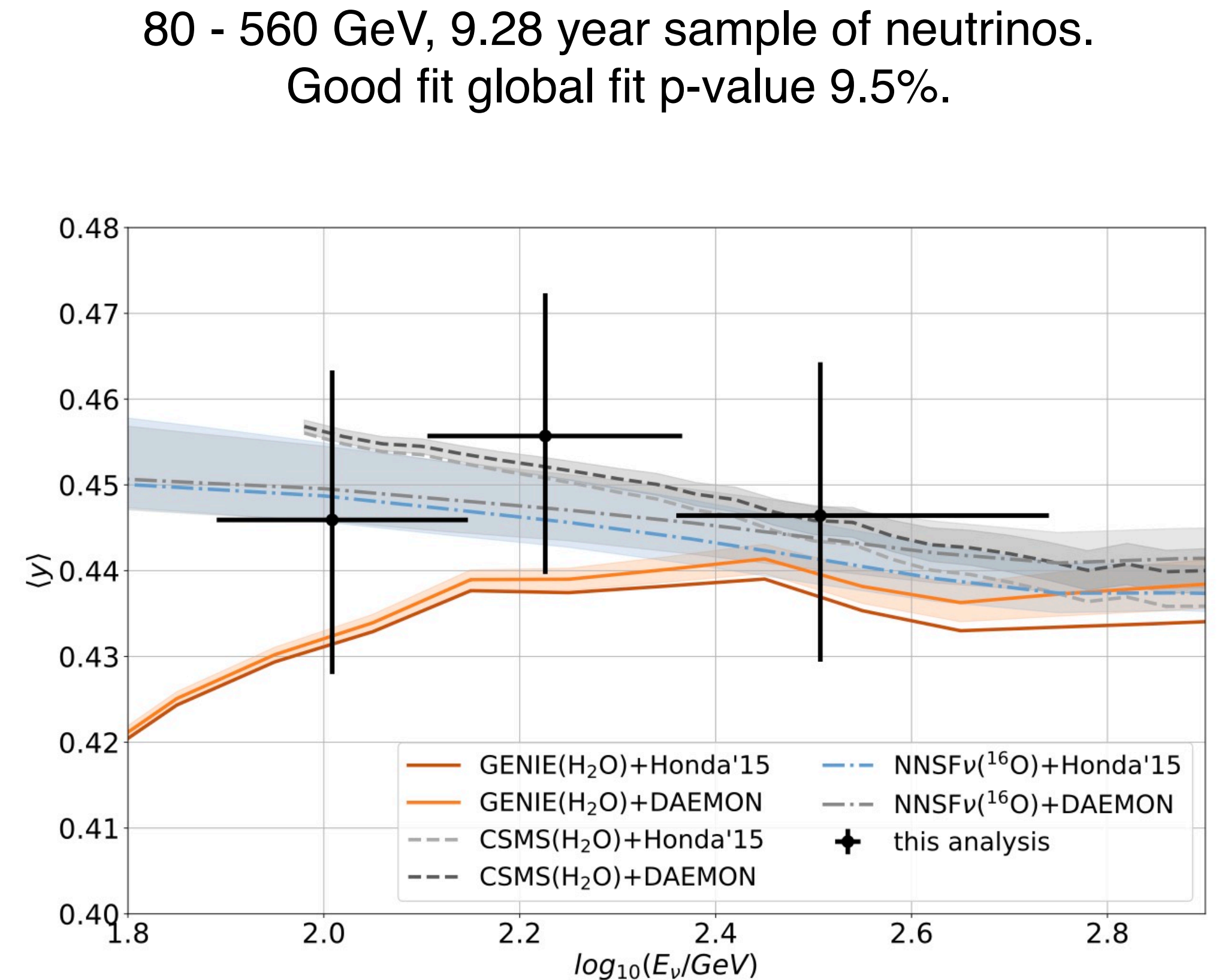
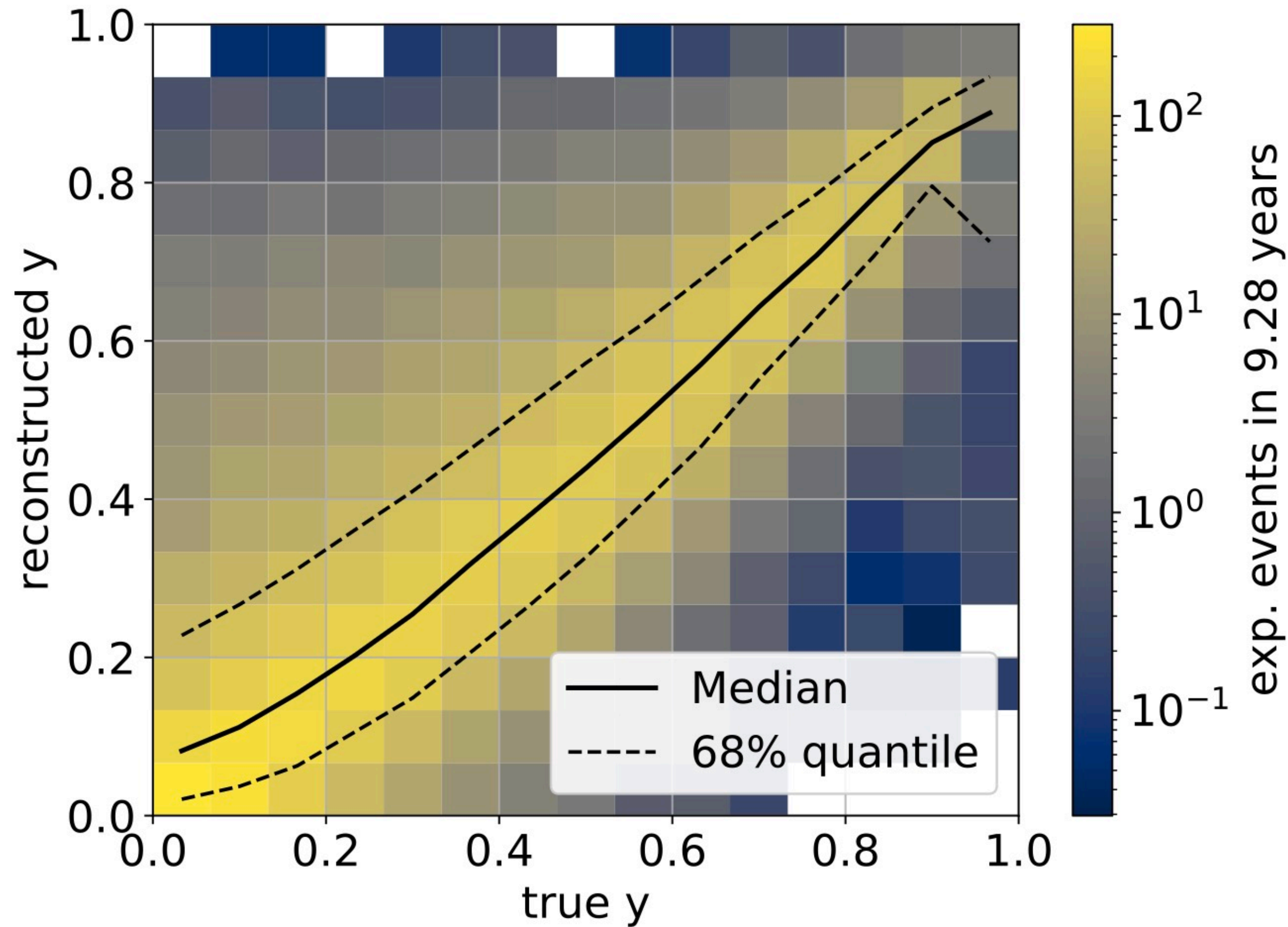


Synergy from combined ICU + JUNO, is expected to hit 5sigma.

PHYS. REV. D 101, 032006 (2020)

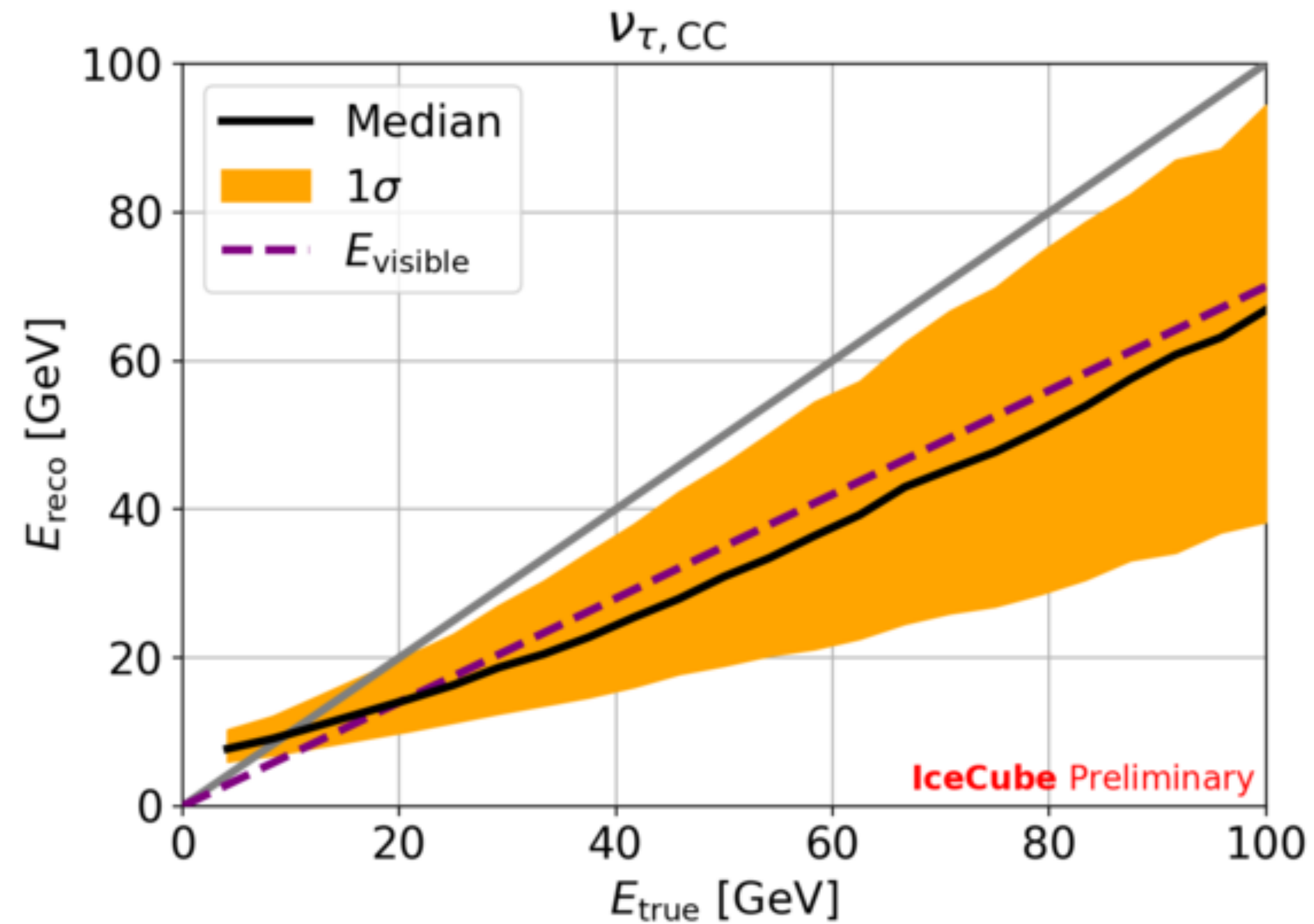
The combined fit works because JUNO and IceCube prefer different values of the effective atmospheric mass splitting when forced into the wrong ordering. The resulting inconsistency creates a strong ΔX^2 synergy that greatly enhances mass-ordering sensitivity.

Inelasticity measurement of $\nu_\mu CC$ events



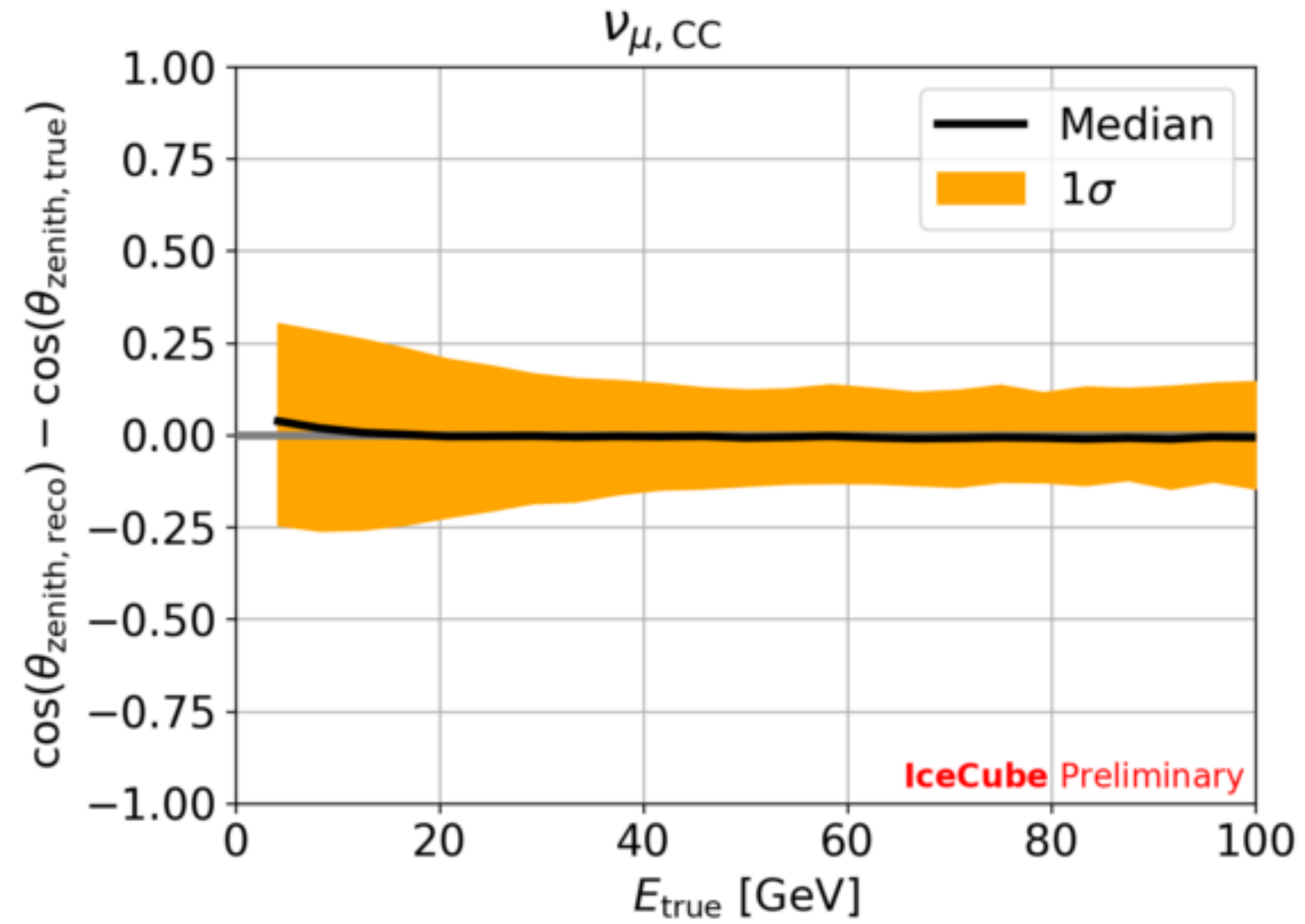
Measurement of inelasticity: PRD 111, 112001 (2025)

11y ν_τ -appearance expectation



Energy reconstruction resolution for contained nutau CC events. The average expected visible energy is also shown (differs from true energy due to final state neutrinos).

11y ν_τ -appearance expectation

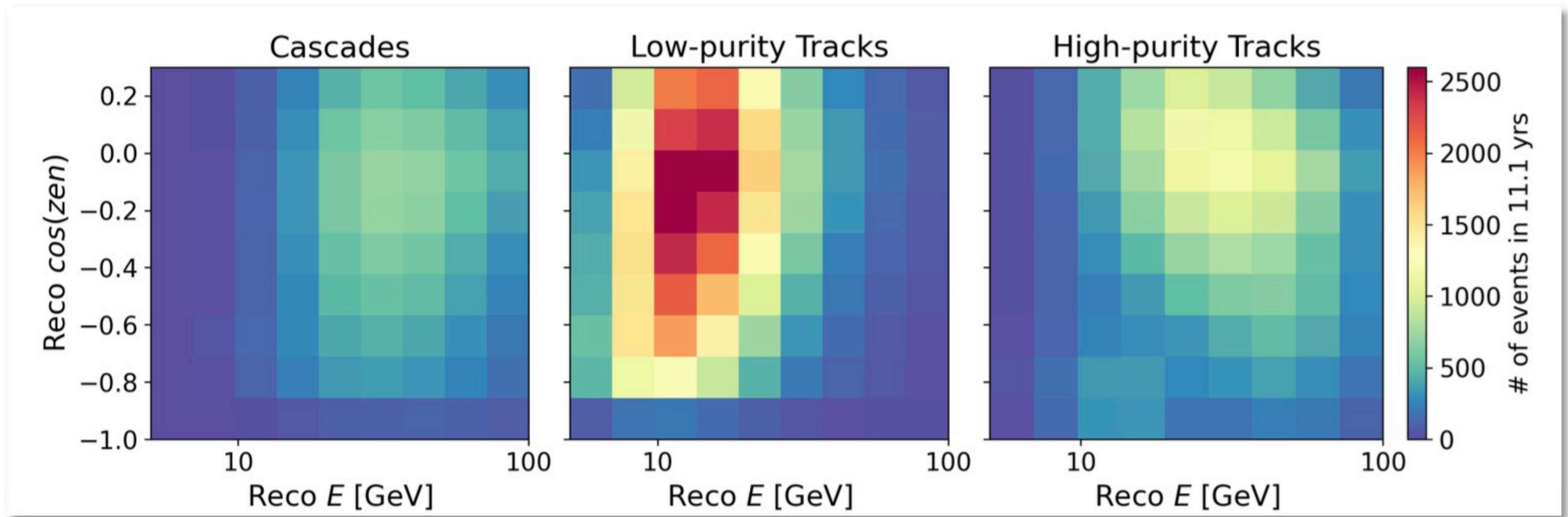


cos(zenith) reconstruction resolution for contained numu CC events.

11y expectation

>100,000 events and >99% neutrino purity

- Reconstructed energies: 5-100 GeV
- Events are binned in energy, $\cos(\text{zenith})$, and PID (particle/fluxor identification)
- Parameters are varied in simulation to change the shapes of these templates



Event selection and Monte Carlo expectation

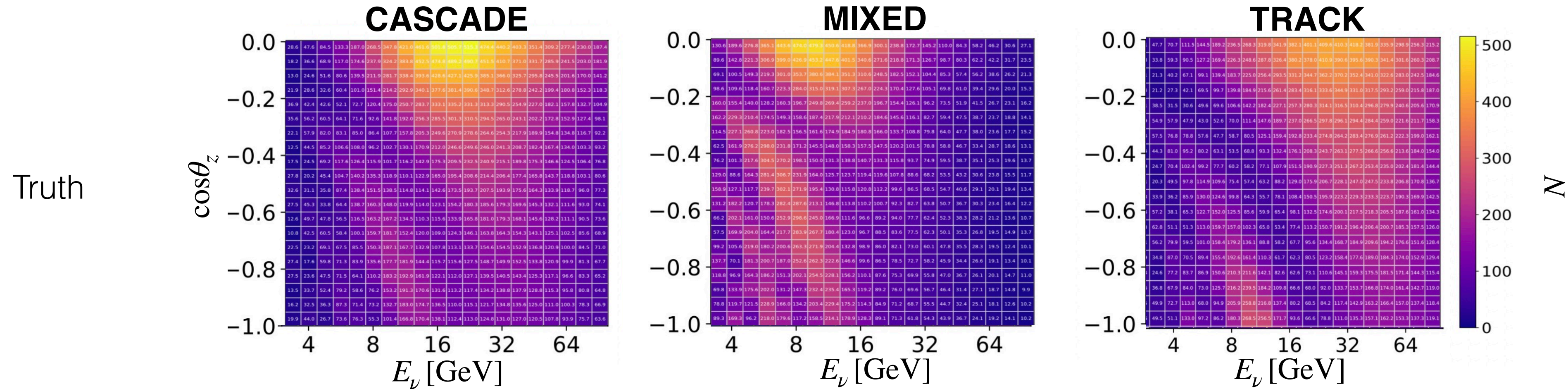
Event selection conceptual description:

- 1) Collaboration filtering and data calibration/cleaning
- 2) Cosmic-ray background reduction by six orders of magnitude (Boosted decision tree (BDT) or straight cuts)
- 3) Classification (differentiation between cascades, mixed, tracks)
- 4) reconstruct (energy, zenith, interaction point, inelasticity (see new IC result in [1]))

Event selection and Monte Carlo expectation

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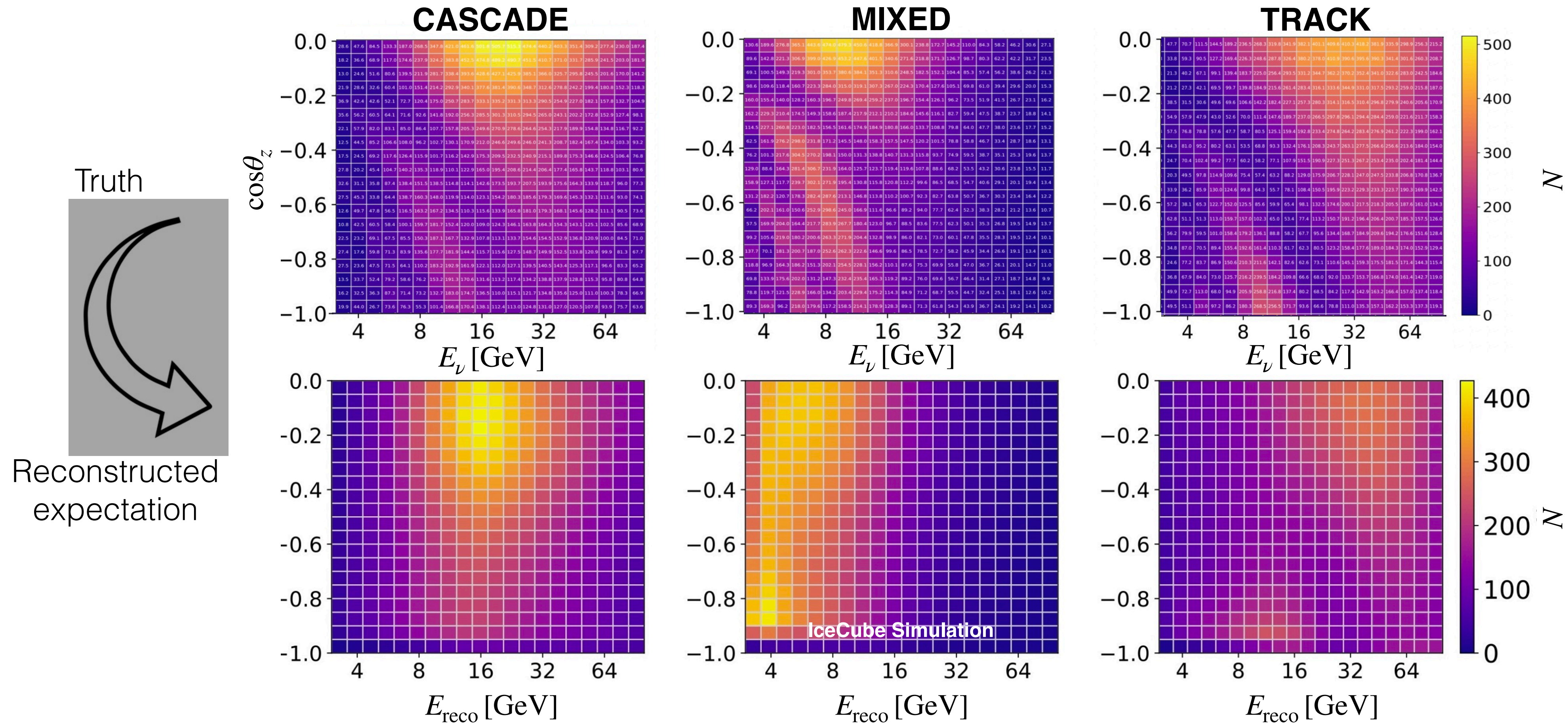
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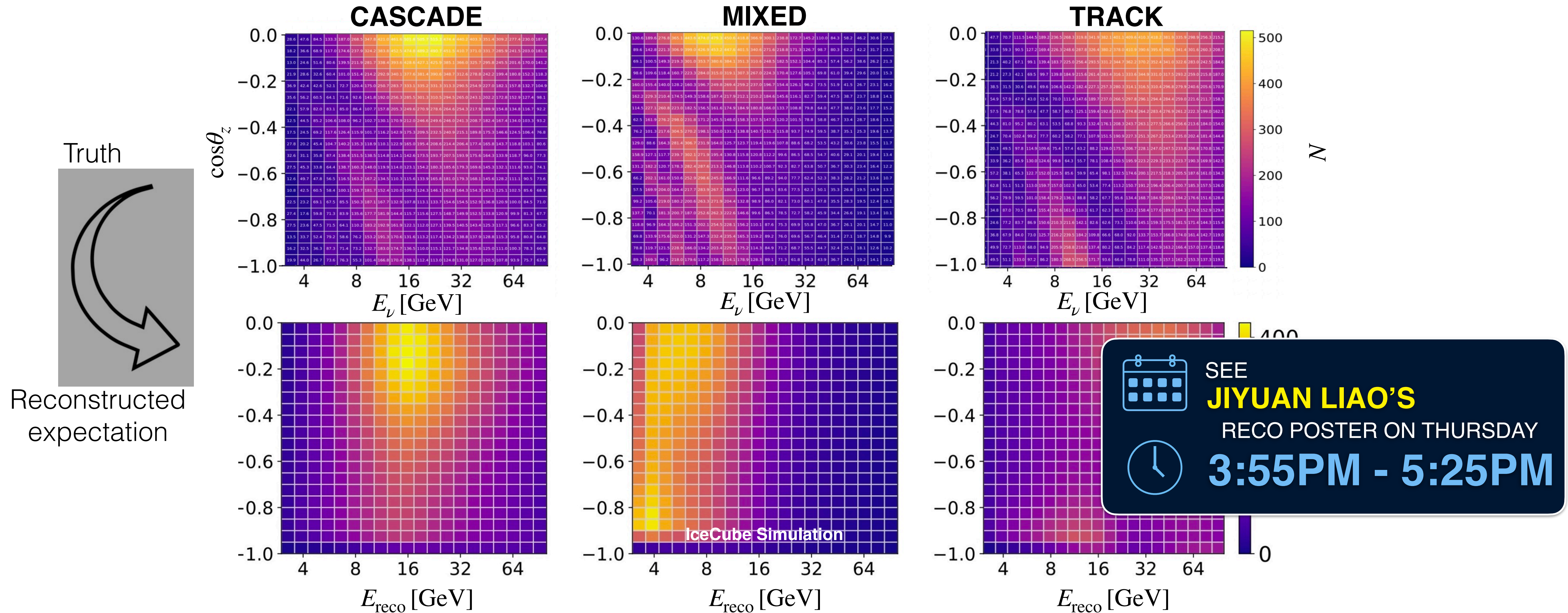
Plots from Maria Veronica Prado Rodriguez Thesis

[1] Inelasticity measurement: Physical Review D 111.11 (2025): 112001

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Plots from Maria Veronica Prado Rodriguez Thesis

[1] Inelasticity measurement: Physical Review D 111.11 (2025): 112001

The fitting procedure

- Binned Poisson Log Likelihood (LLH) calculated for physics hypothesis point ($\vec{\Theta}$), while profiling over nuisance parameters.
- Compare LLH at each hypothesis point to best fit point.
- Nuisance parameters implemented as 3D splines with gaussian or flat priors introduced in the LLH as a penalization term.
- Confidence intervals generated using Wilks' theorem.
 - Feldman-Cousins spot checks to ensure coverage, or full correction calculation after unblinding.

$$LLH_{\vec{\Theta}} = \sum_{i \in \text{bins}} \text{Log}_{10} \left(\frac{n_i^{n_o} e^{-n_i}}{n_o!} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in \text{syst}} \frac{(\hat{s}_j - s_j)^2}{\sigma_j^2}$$

Observation → n_i MC Expectation → n_o

Prior central value ↓ \hat{s}_j Prior width ← σ_j^2

Binned Poisson Likelihood Gaussian Priors for continuous nuisance parameters



Computer physics communications (2026): 110195



Nucl.Instrum.Meth.A 977 (2020) 164332)

Test statistic may incorporate finite MC statistics (Journal of High Energy Physics 2019.6 (2019): 30)

$$TS := 2\Delta LLH = 2(LLH_{\vec{\Theta}} - LLH_{BF})$$

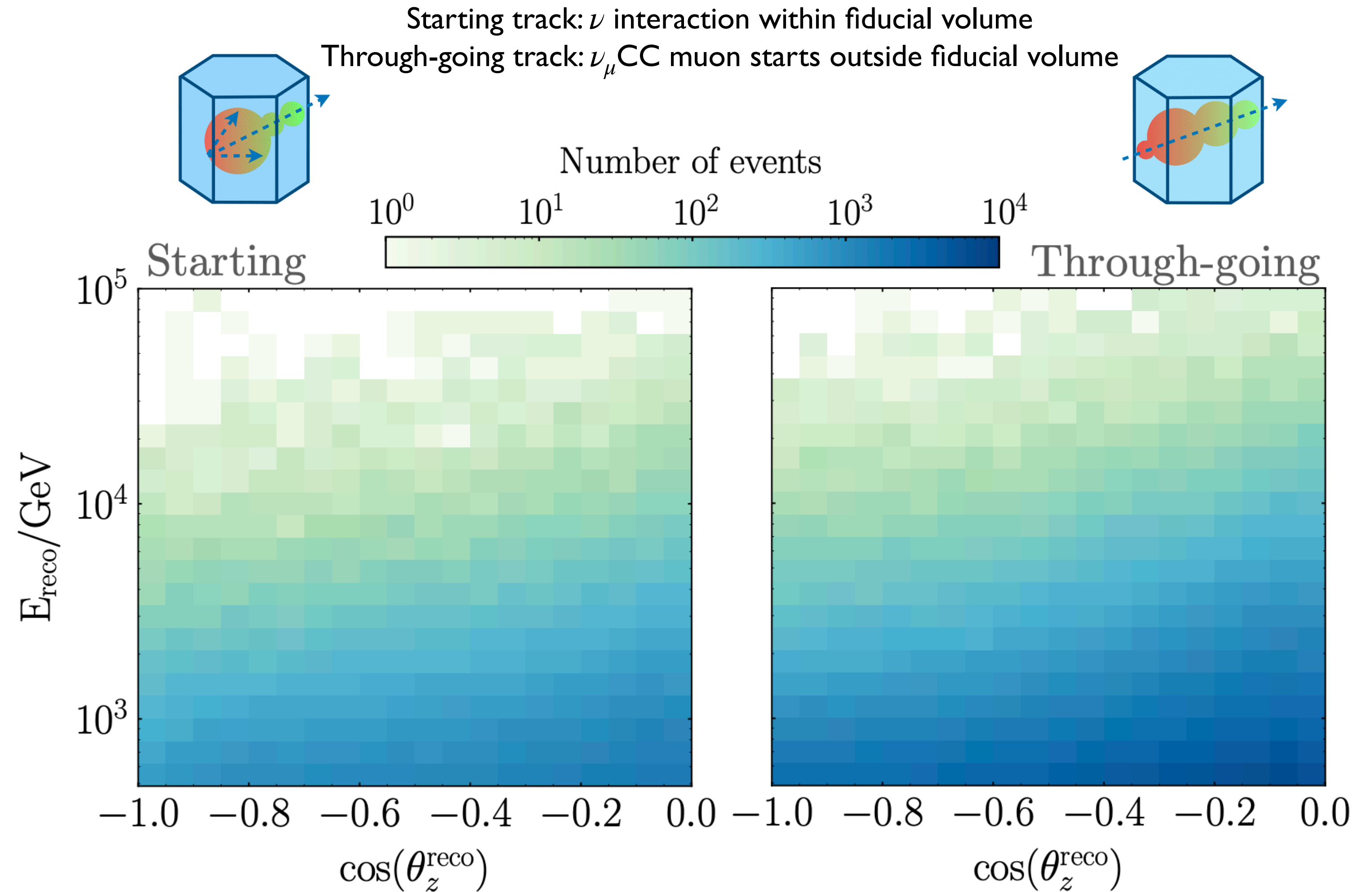
The high-energy sterile neutrino search

- Use dataset of up-going ν_μ tracks. High purity, high statistics, improved directional reconstruction

Component	Starting	Through-going
Conv. ν_μ CC	90,757.1	260,692.9
Non-conv. ν_μ CC	709.8	4,000.2
All ν_e	0.5	0.2
All ν	60.0	258.0
μ_{atm}	2.3	4.2
Total MC	91,529.7	264,955.5
Data	93,762	274,309

- Most recent dataset consists of 368,071 events 10.7 years of data, with neutrinos between 0.5 and 100 TeV
- Machine learning used to improve energy resolution as well as remove background (skimming muons, cascades), leading to 99.9% purity.

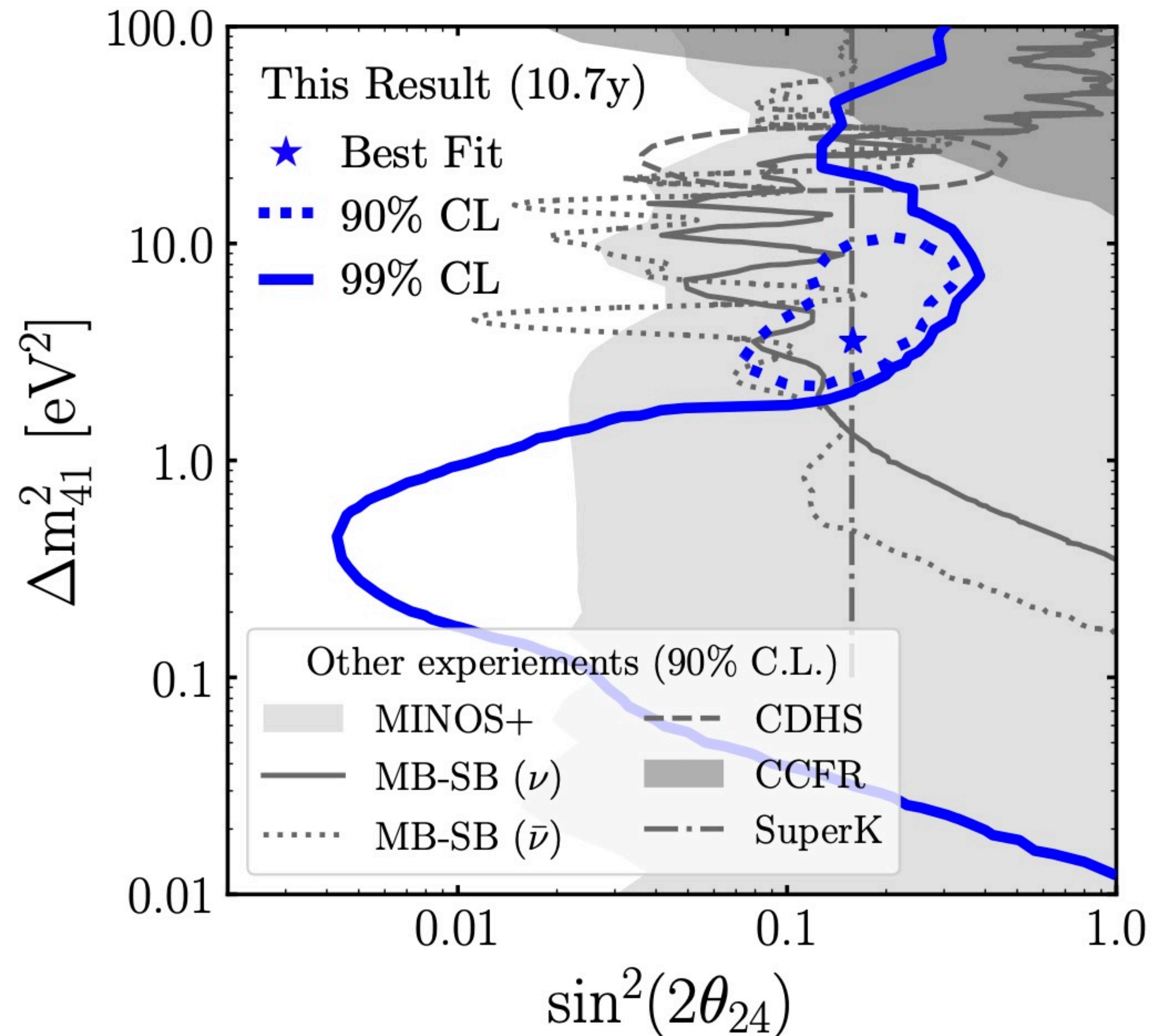
- SnowStorm ice model systematic treatment[2]



[1] Phys. Rev. Lett. 133.20 (2024): 201804

[2] Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics 2019.10 (2019): 048-048

The high-energy 3+1 sterile neutrino result



- World leading exclusion at the 99% C.L. between:

$$0.1 \text{eV}^2 < \Delta m_{41}^2 < 1.0 \text{eV}^2$$

- Best fit point and closed 90% C.L. contour is disfavored by other ν_μ -disappearance experiments.

(**SciBooNE, MiniBooNE**) Phys.Rev. D 85, 032007 (2012),
 (**MINOS+**) Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 091803(2019),
 (**MiniBooNE, SciBooNE**) Phys. Rev. D 86, 052009 (2012),
 (**Super-Kamiokande**) Phys. Rev. D 91, 052019 (2015),
 (**CCFR**) Phys. Rept. 884, 1 (2020))

Neutrino - Antineutrino ratio

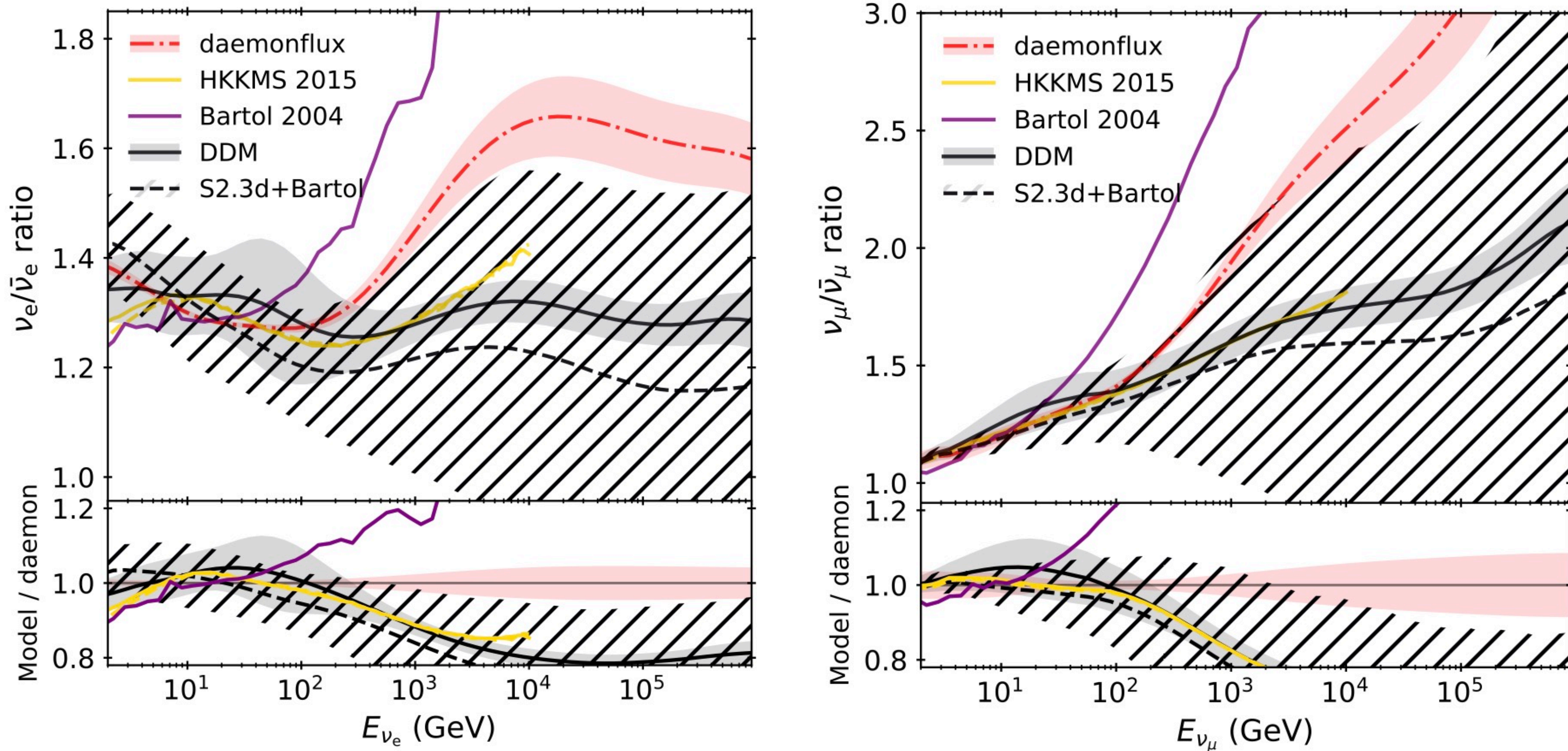
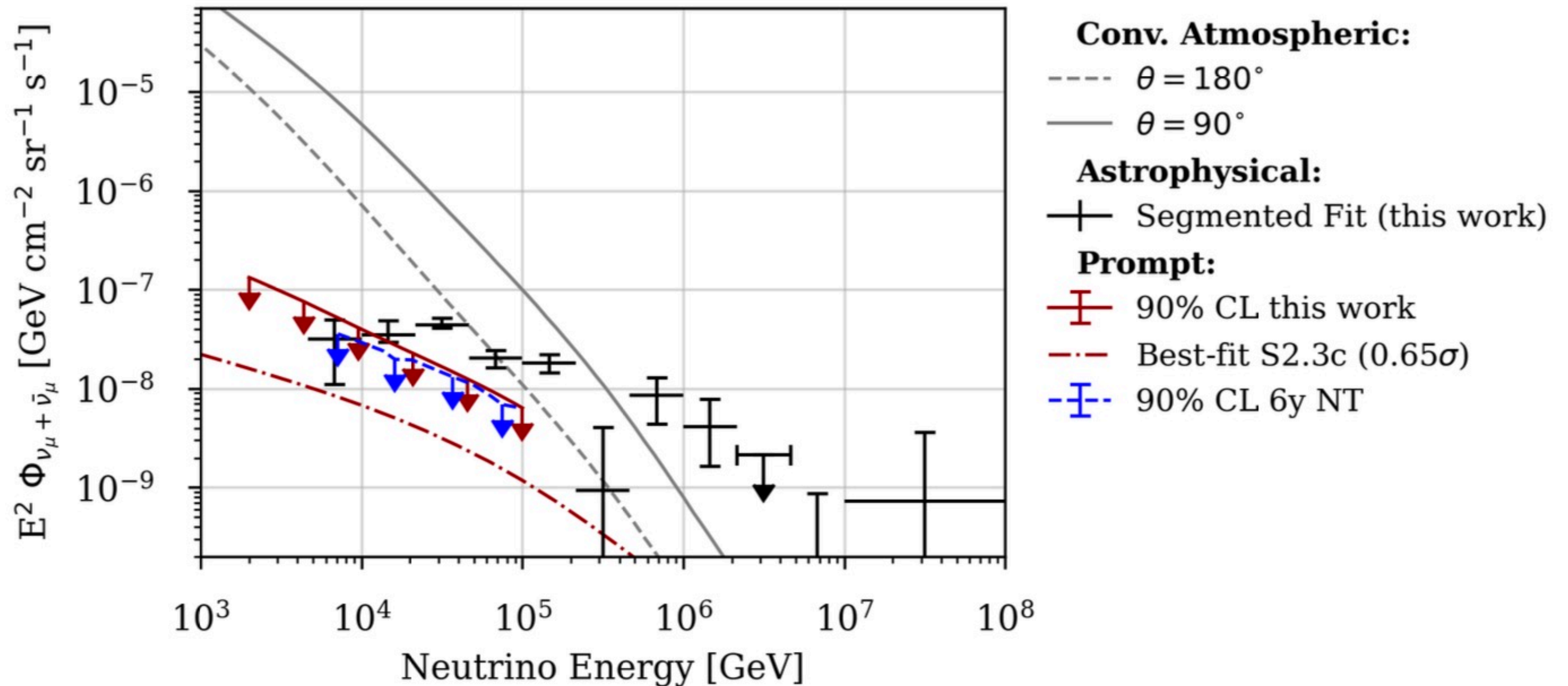


FIG. 16. Neutrino-antineutrino ratios for the conventional, zenith-averaged atmospheric neutrino flux. The uncertainties are computed as described in [24].

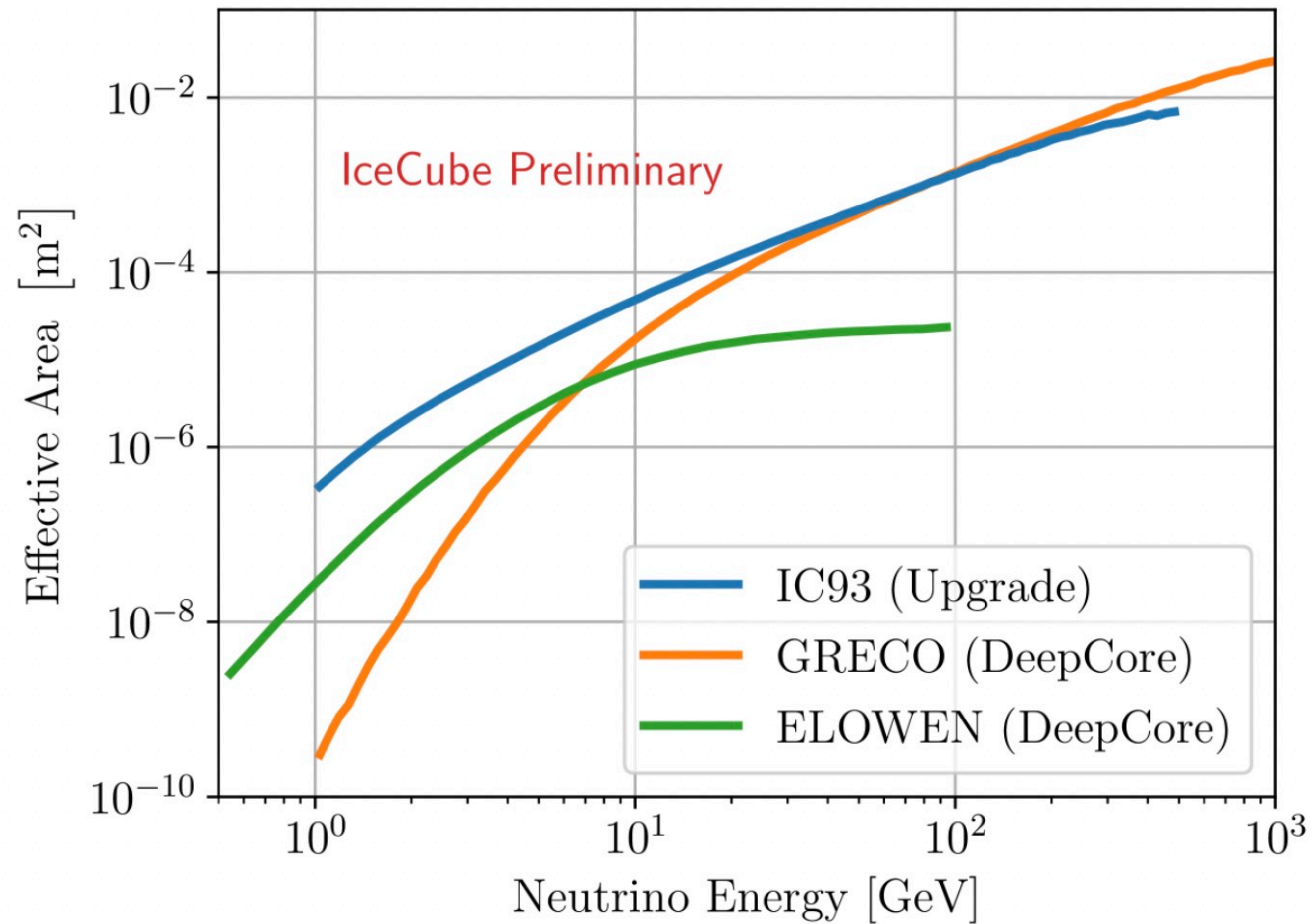
Physical Review D 107.12 (2023): 123037.

Prompt neutrino component, new results



The limit on the prompt atmospheric neutrino flux (in dark red) compared to the previous 6-year NT-limit (blue dashed line). The best-fit prompt flux is also shown, the fitted segmented astrophysical flux in black, and the conventional atmospheric neutrino flux as a gray line.

Prompt neutrino component, new results



Sky-averaged, all flavor, effective area of the IC93 sample in comparison to the existing DeepCore event selections.

arXiv preprint arXiv:2507.16050 (2025)