

Charged Lepton Flavor Violation in Neutrino Telescopes

arXiv:2605.abcde

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with

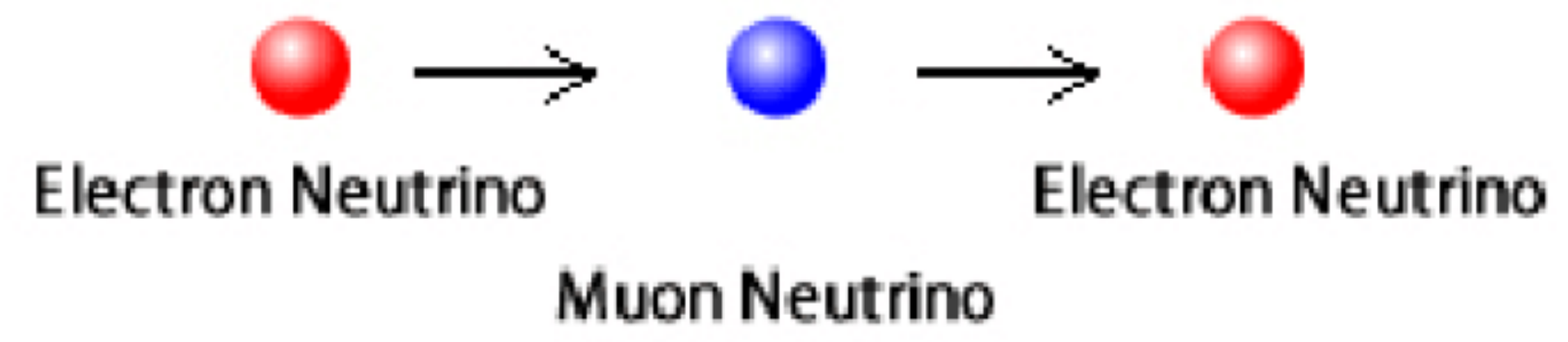
Carlos A. Argüelles (Harvard U.), Bhupal Dev (Washington U. in St. Louis),
Ivan Martinez-Soler (Durham U.) and Manibrata Sen (IIT Bombay)



PHENO 2026
University of Pittsburgh
May 12, 2026

Charged Lepton Flavor Violation (CLFV)

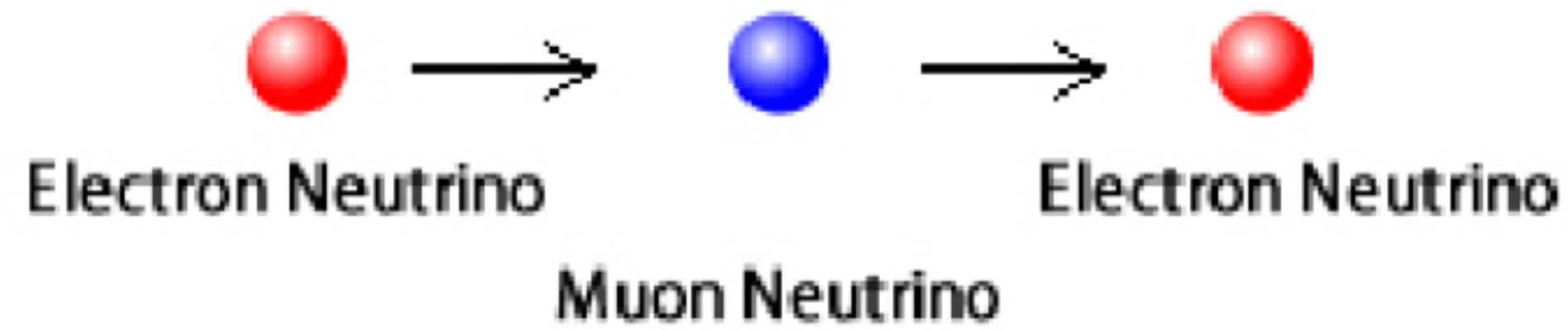
Evidence of LFV



From Super-Kamiokande website

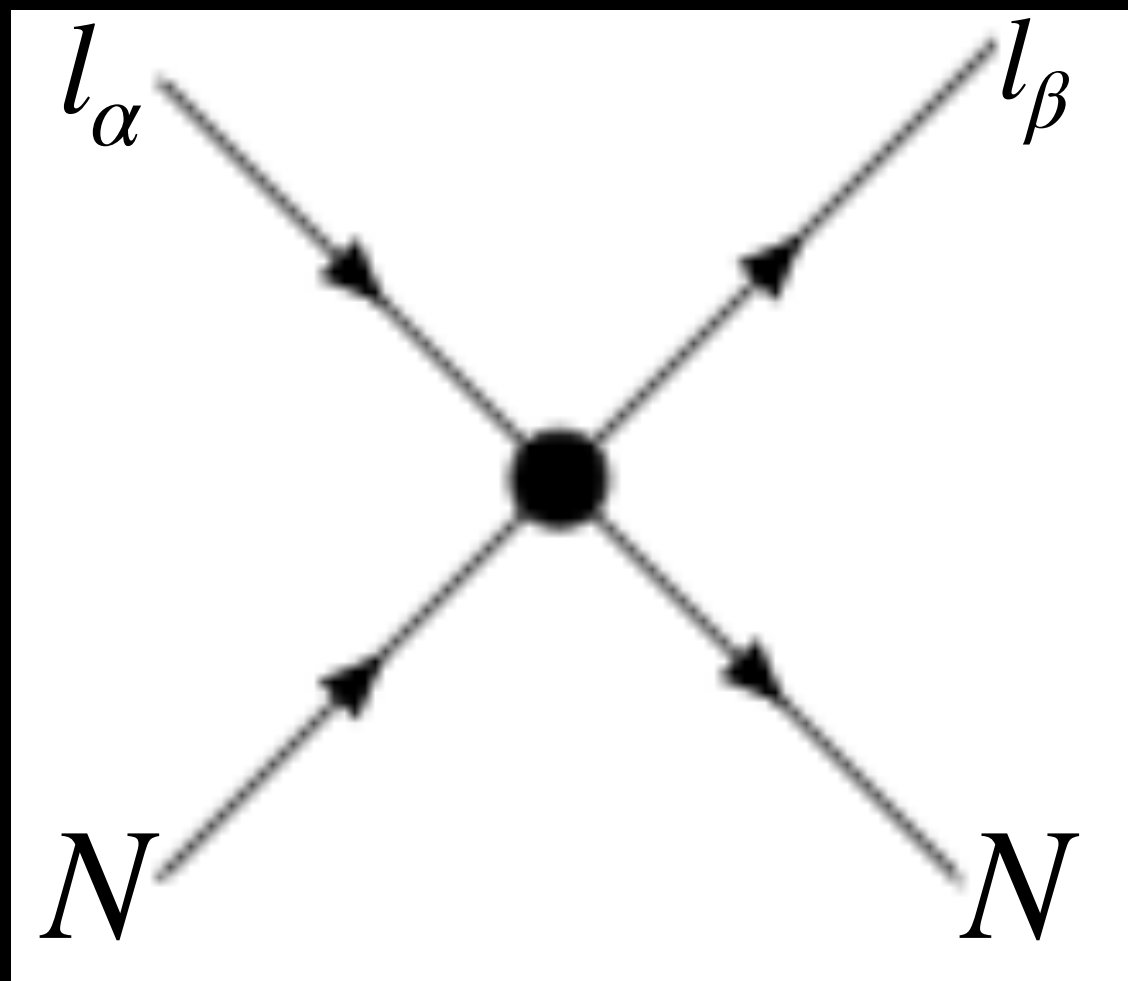
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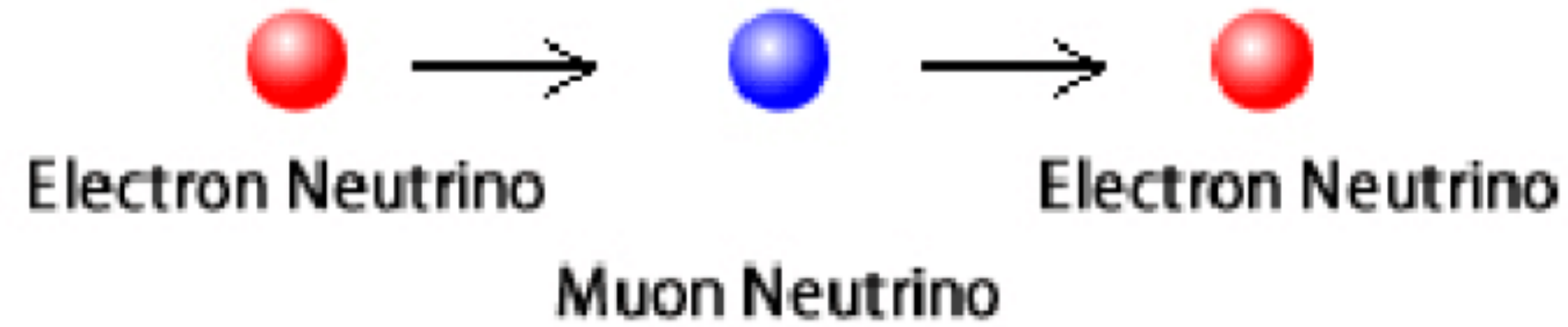
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Can we expect the same in the charged lepton sector?



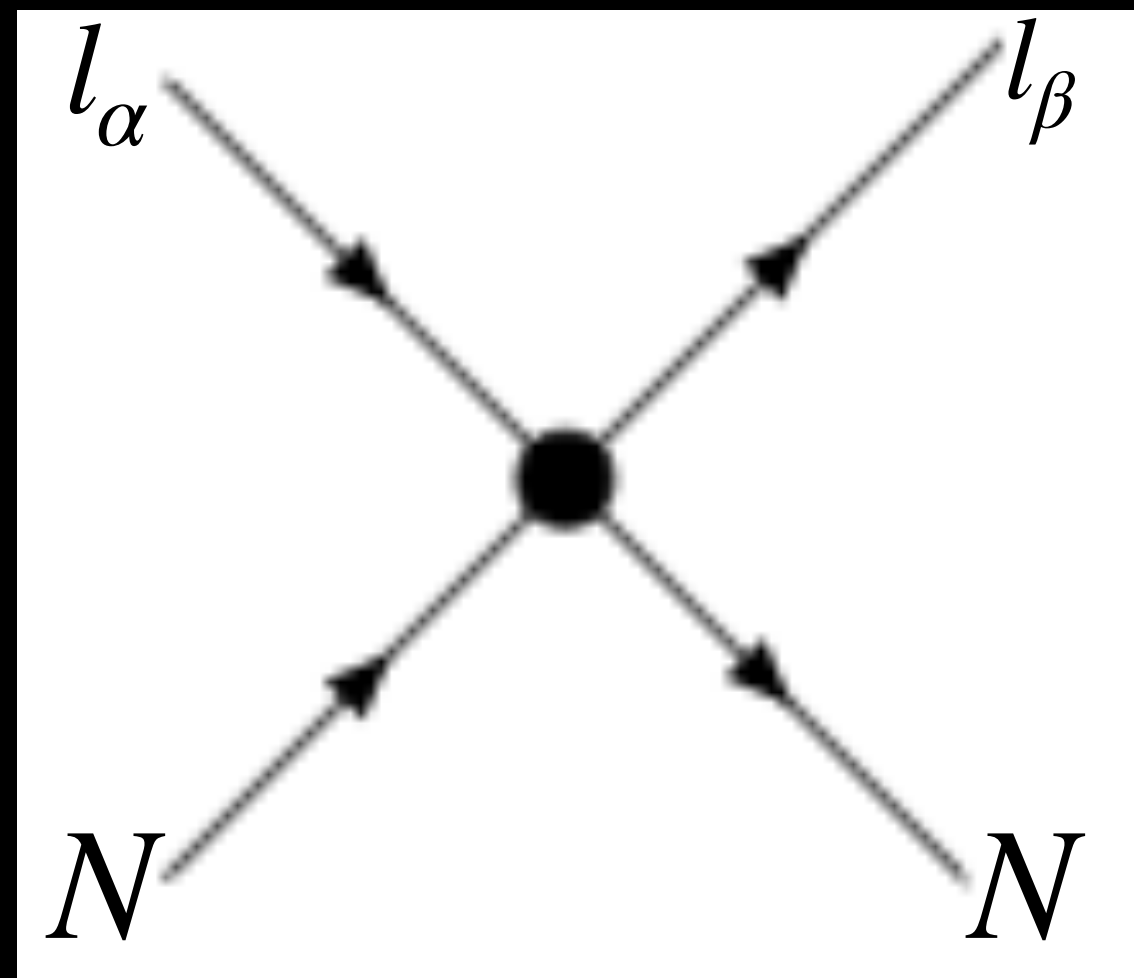
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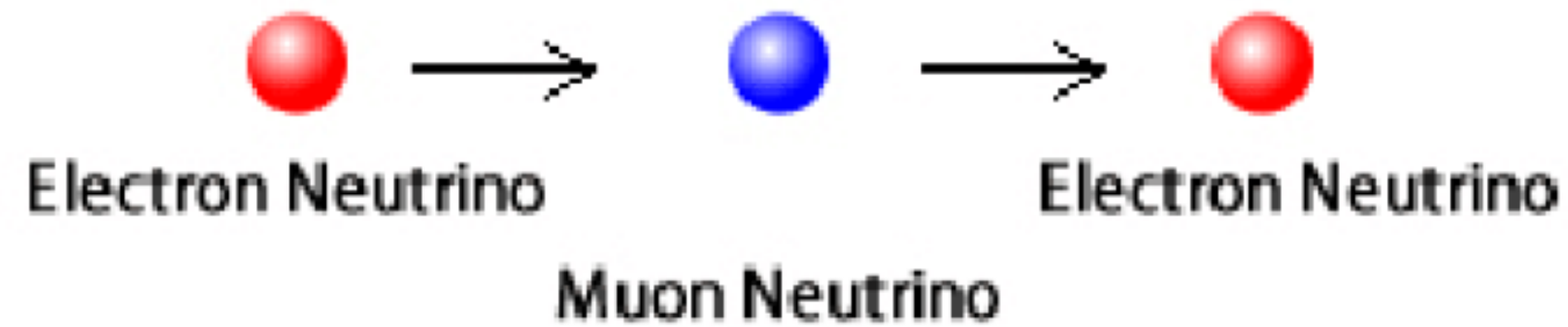
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Detecting CLFV will clearly indicate new physics!!

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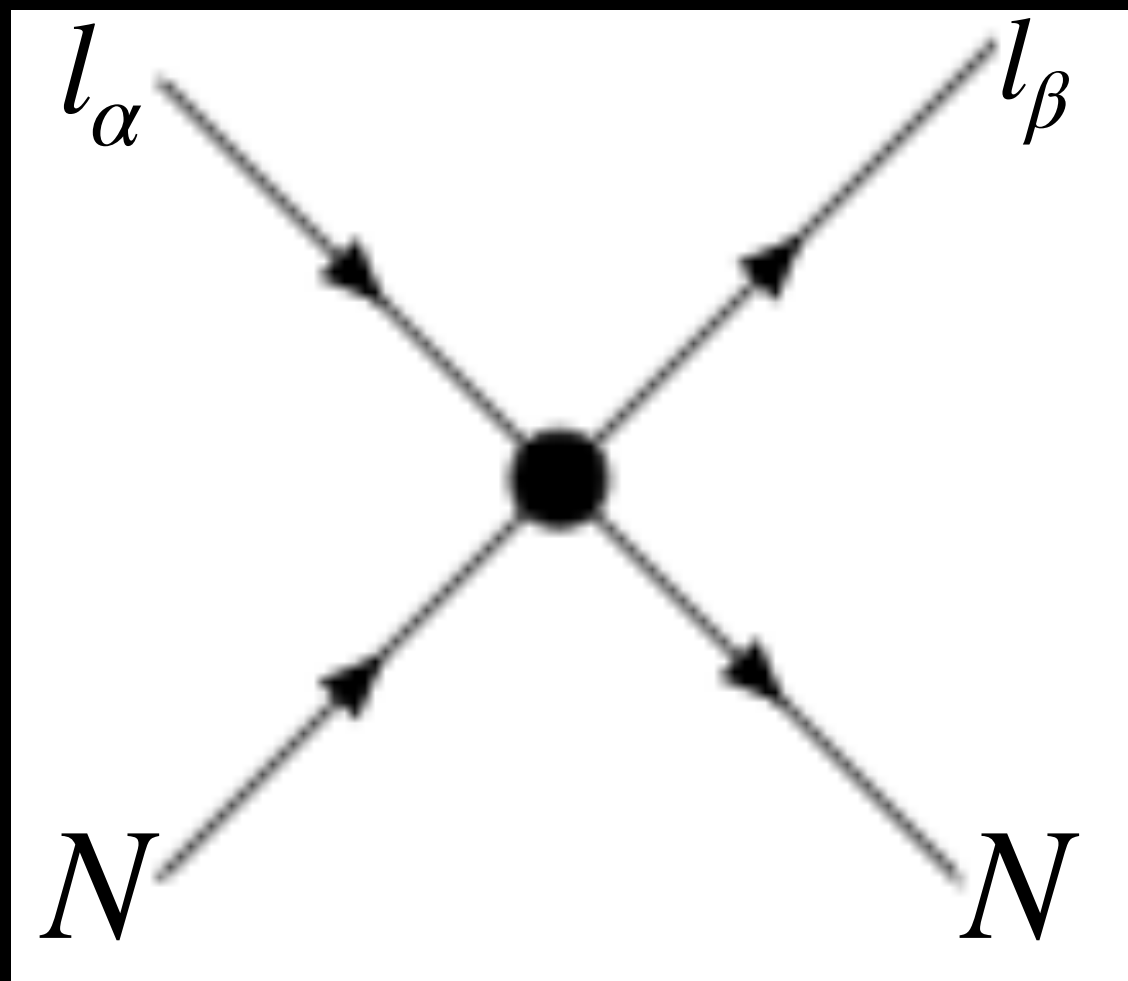


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Case I: 6-dimensional EFT operators

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{CLFV}} = \frac{c}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{O}_{6\text{-dim}}$$

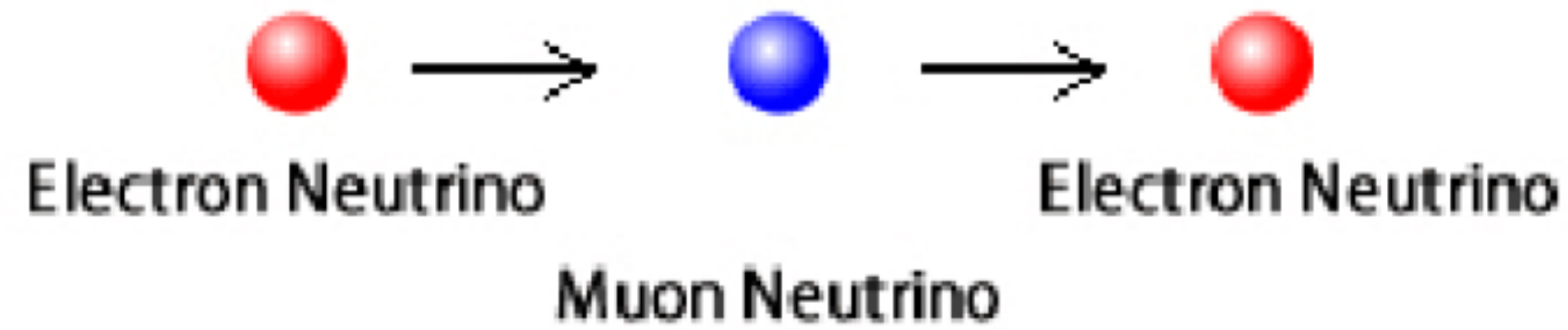
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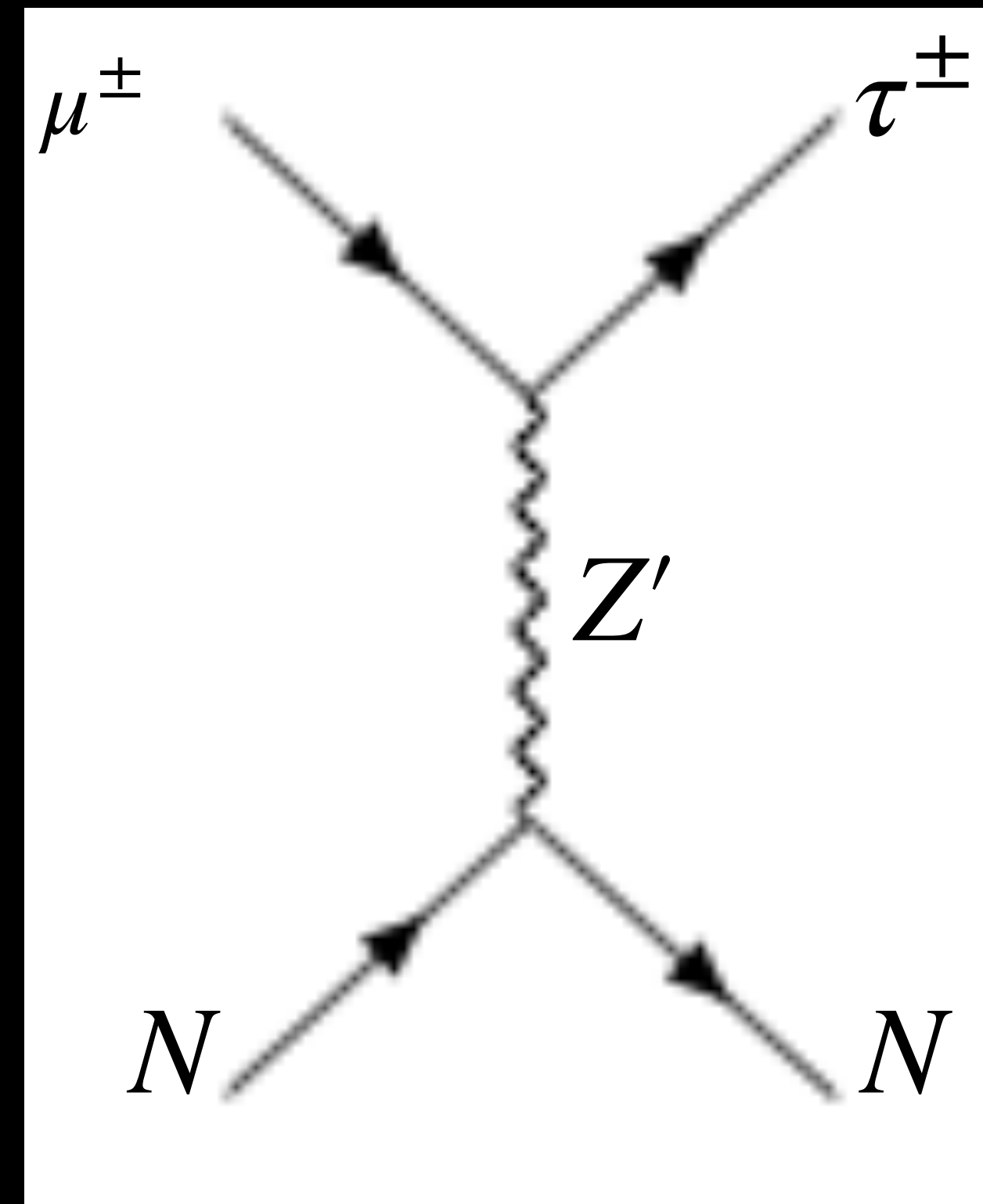
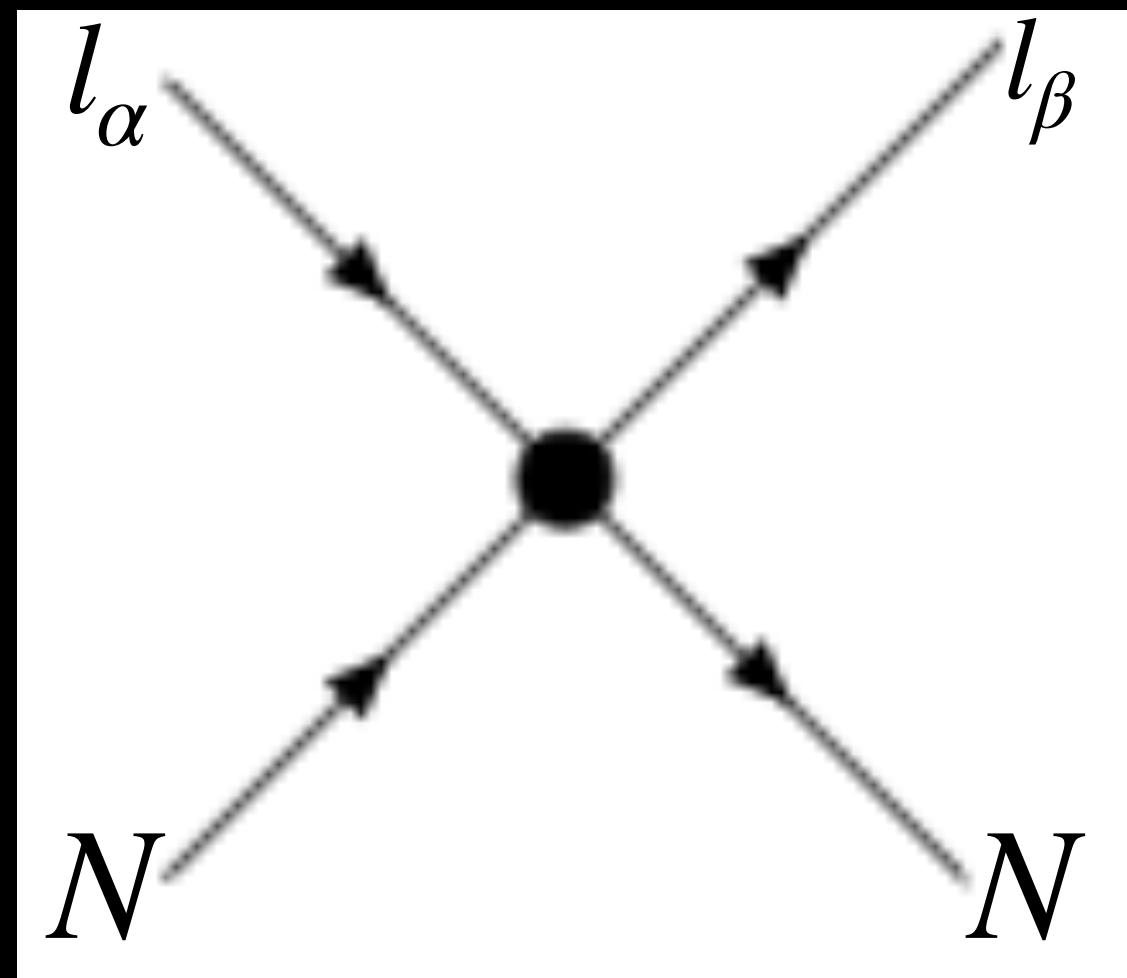
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Case I: 6-dimensional EFT operators

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{CLFV}} = \frac{c}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{Q}_{6\text{-dim}}$$

Case II: CLFV interaction mediated by bosons

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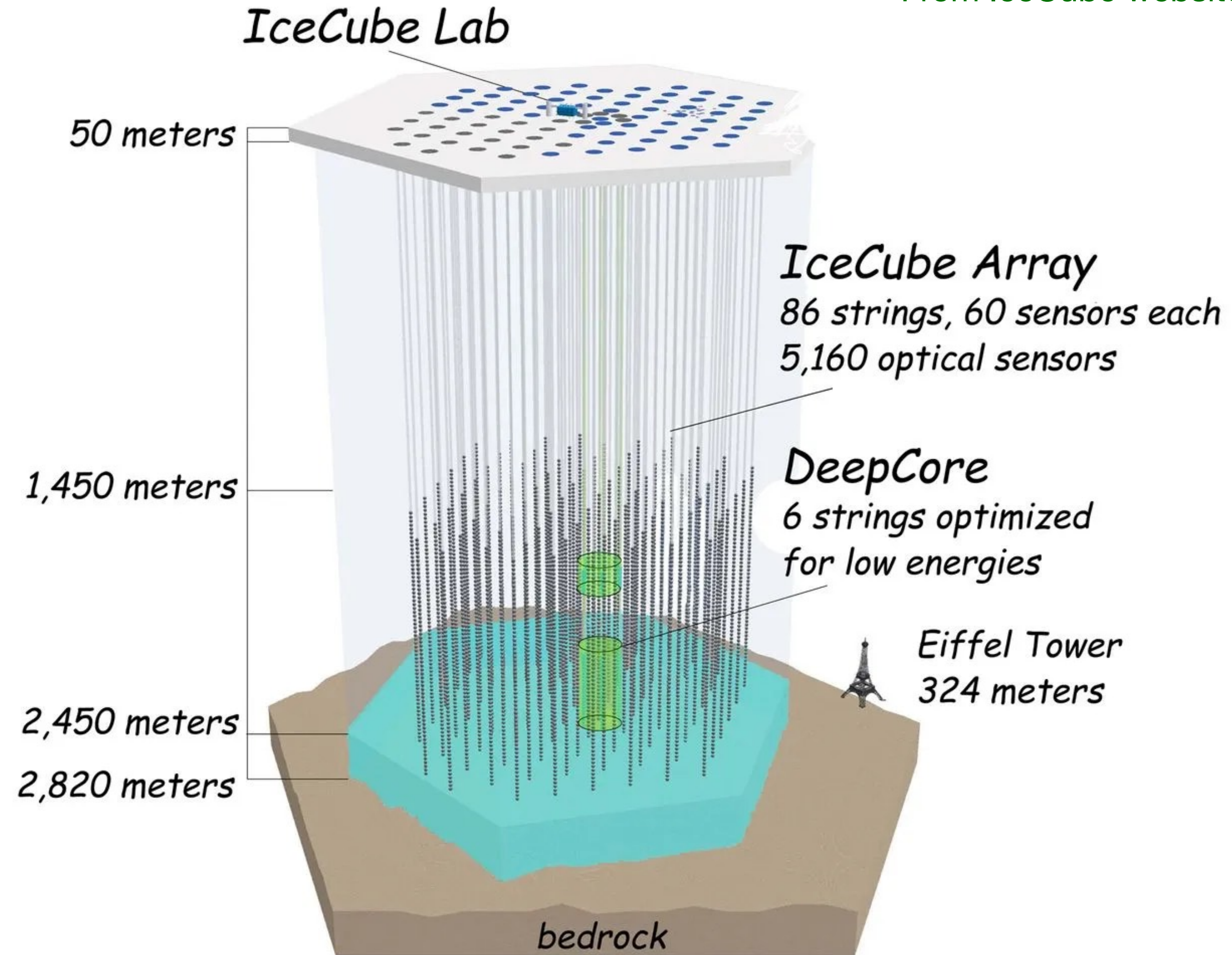


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A bit on IceCube

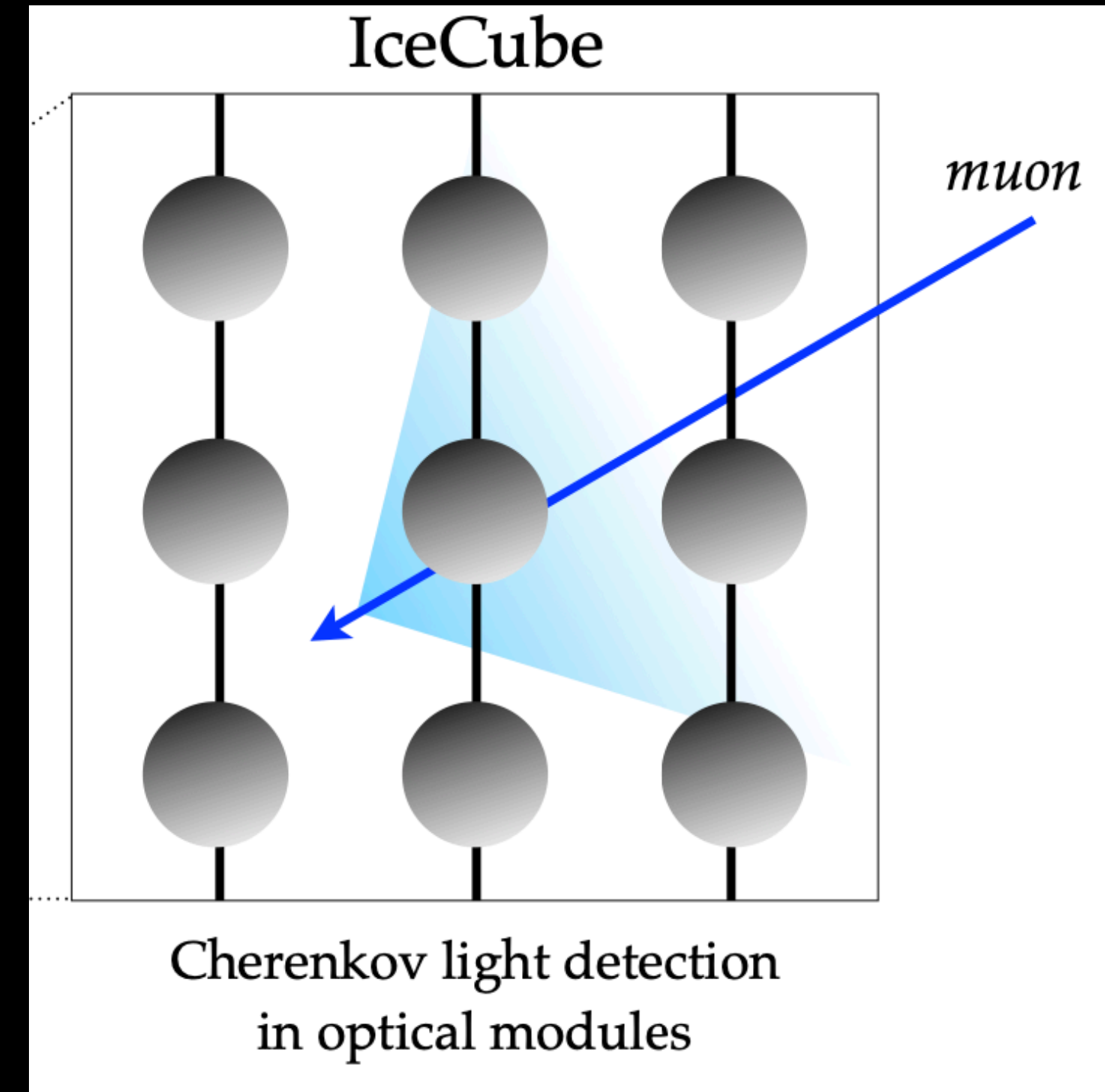
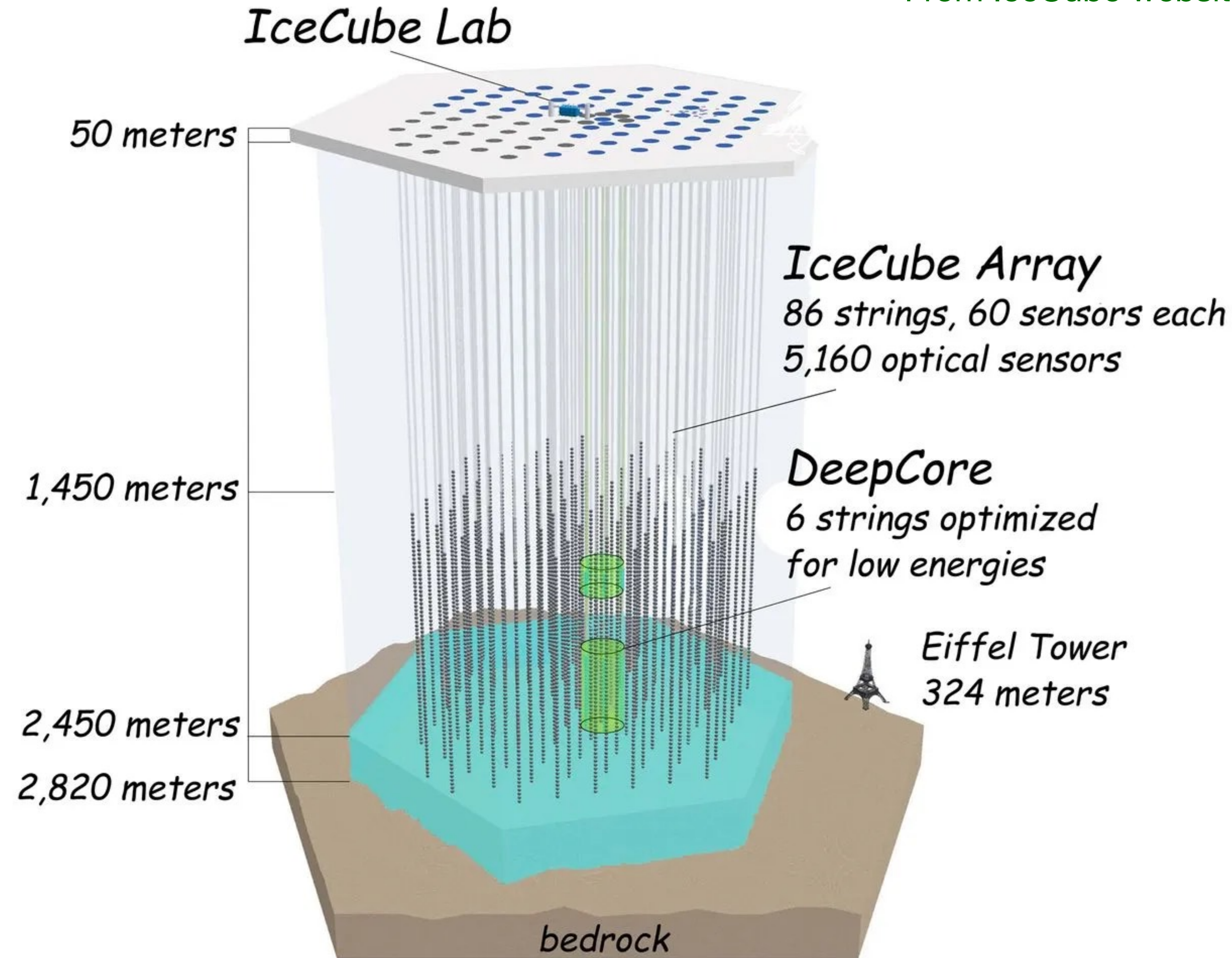
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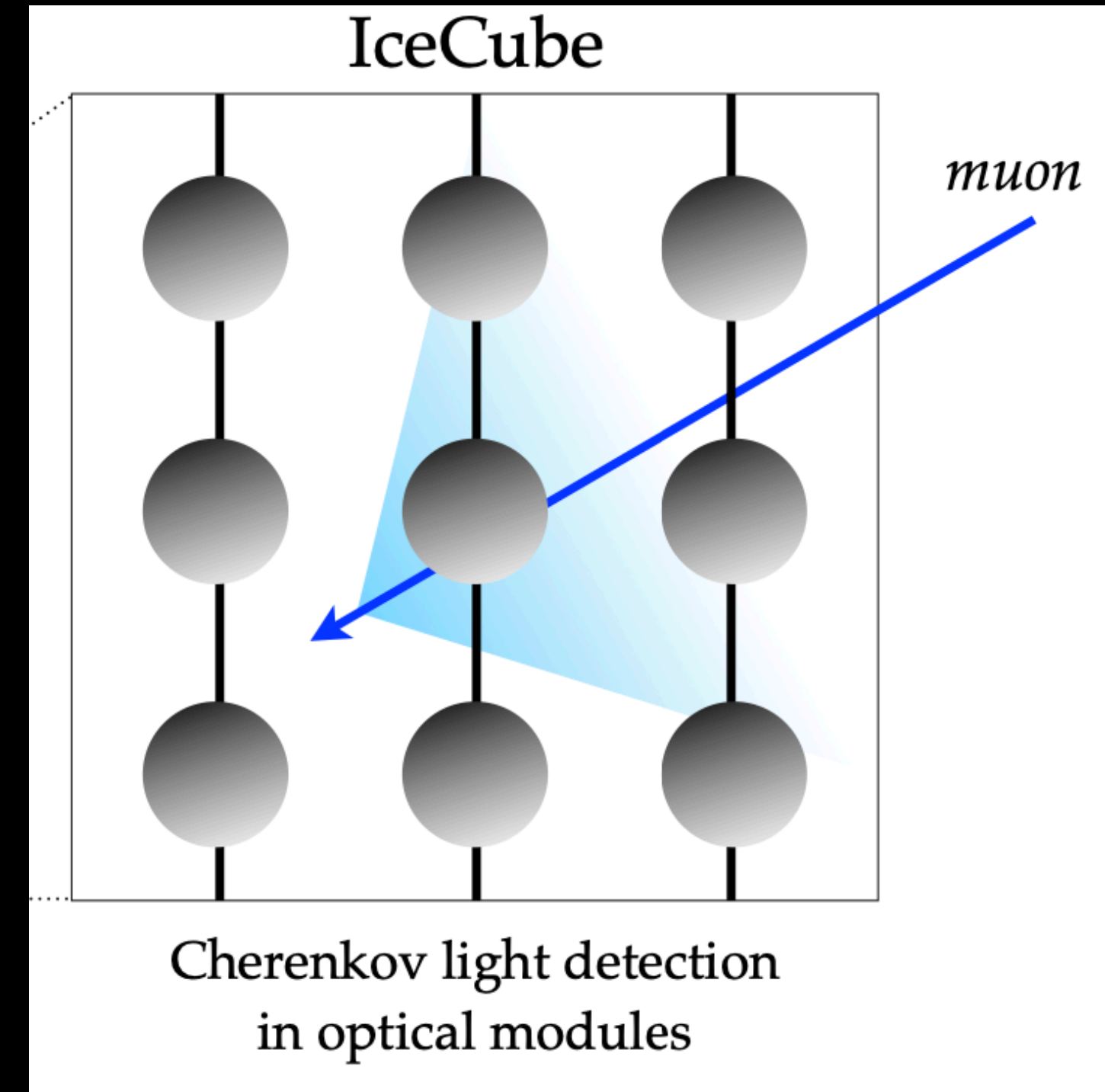
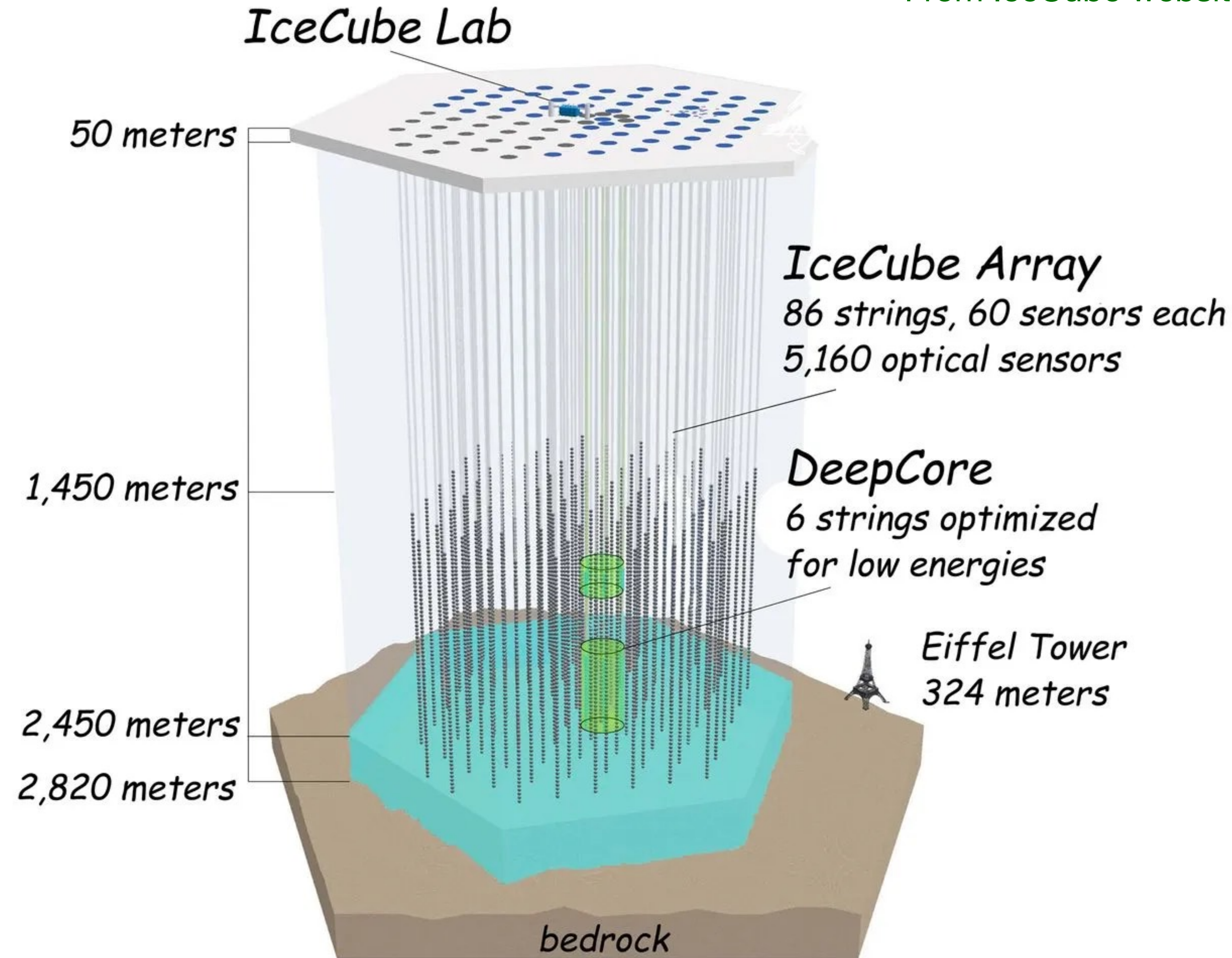
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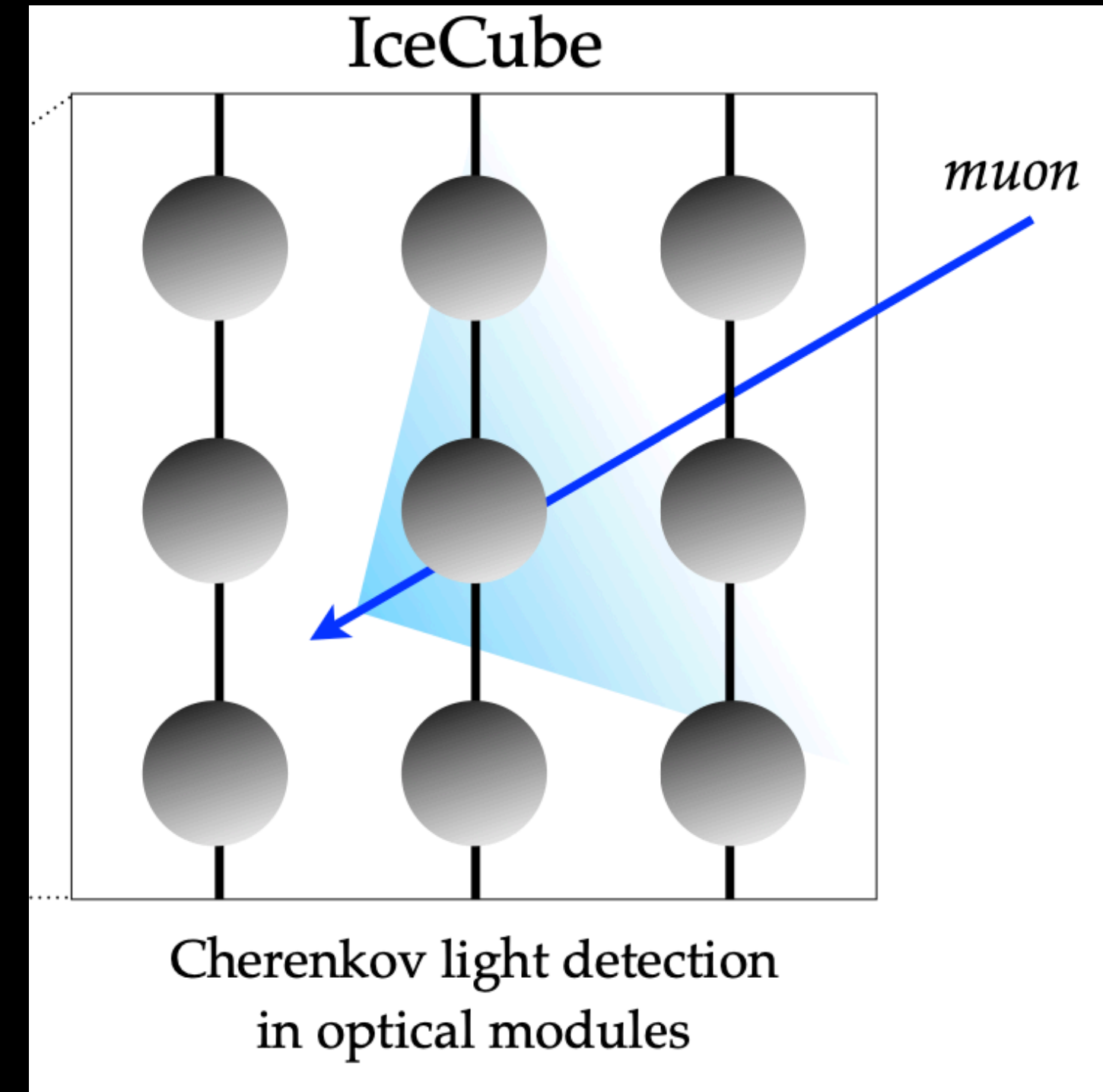
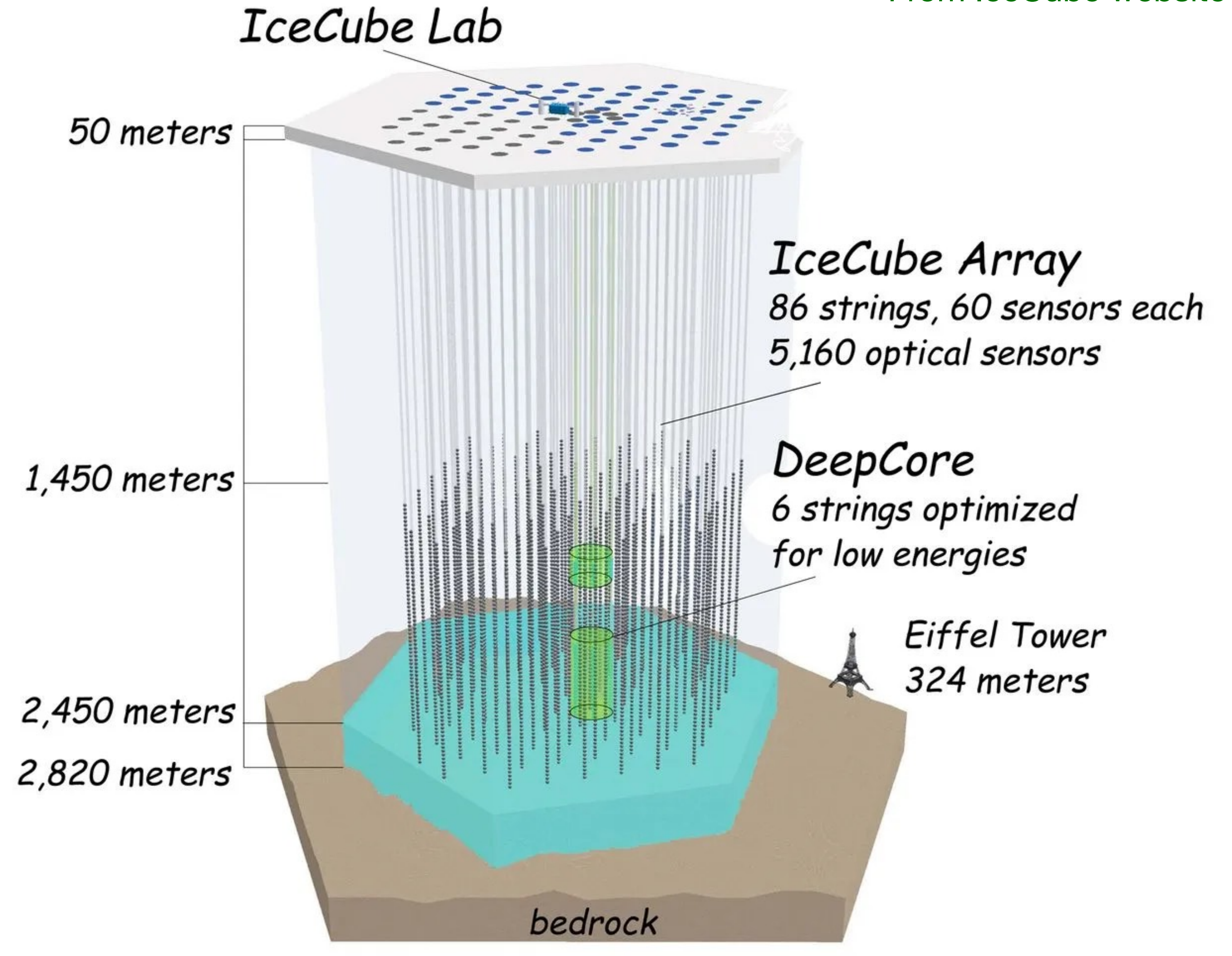
From IceCube website



IceCube (or any such neutrino experiment like Gen2 & HUNT) can be a hub of these ν -induced muons & hence can be used to look for CLFV.

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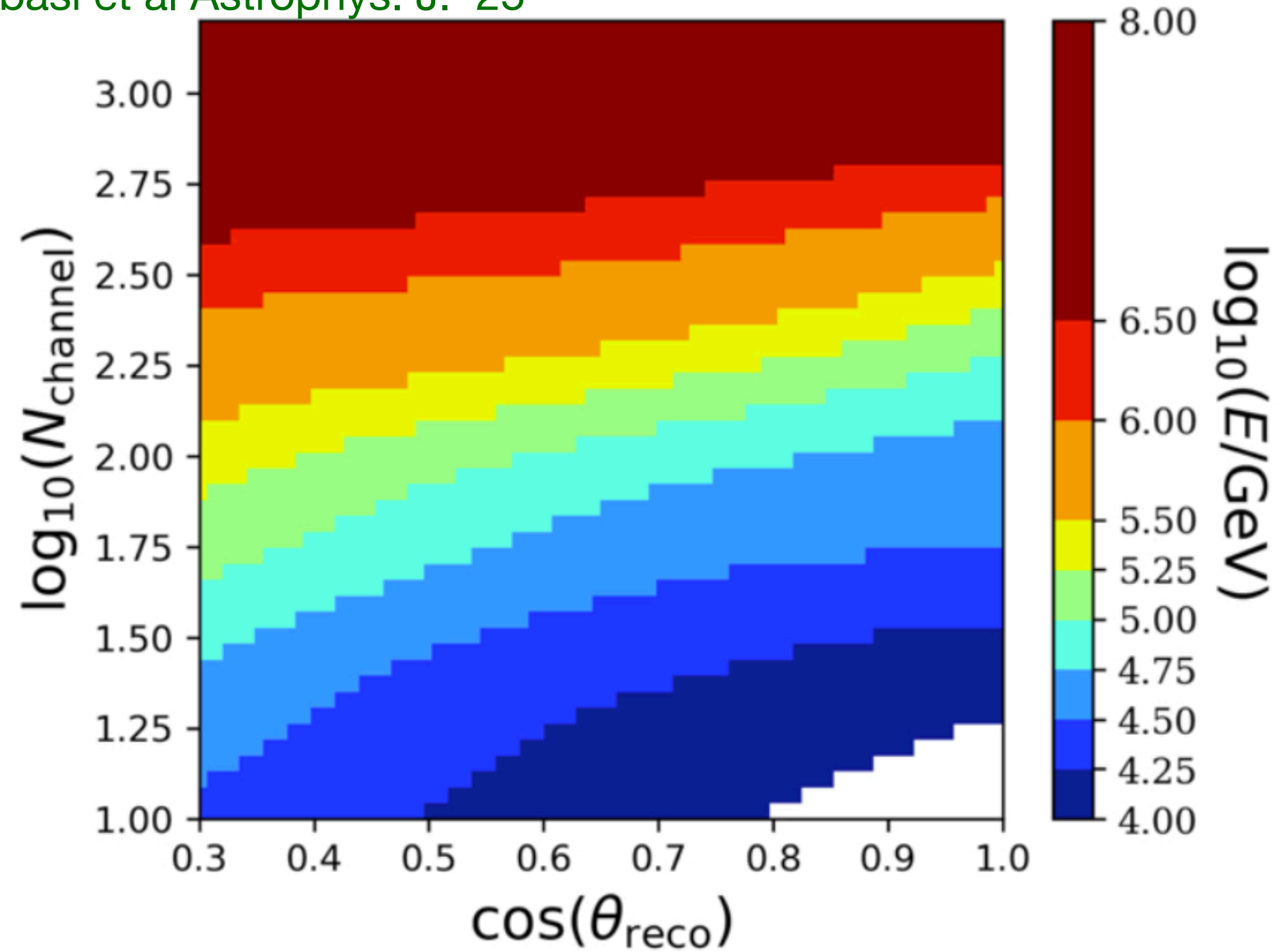
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Motivation!!

IceCube Data Analysis (without CLFV)

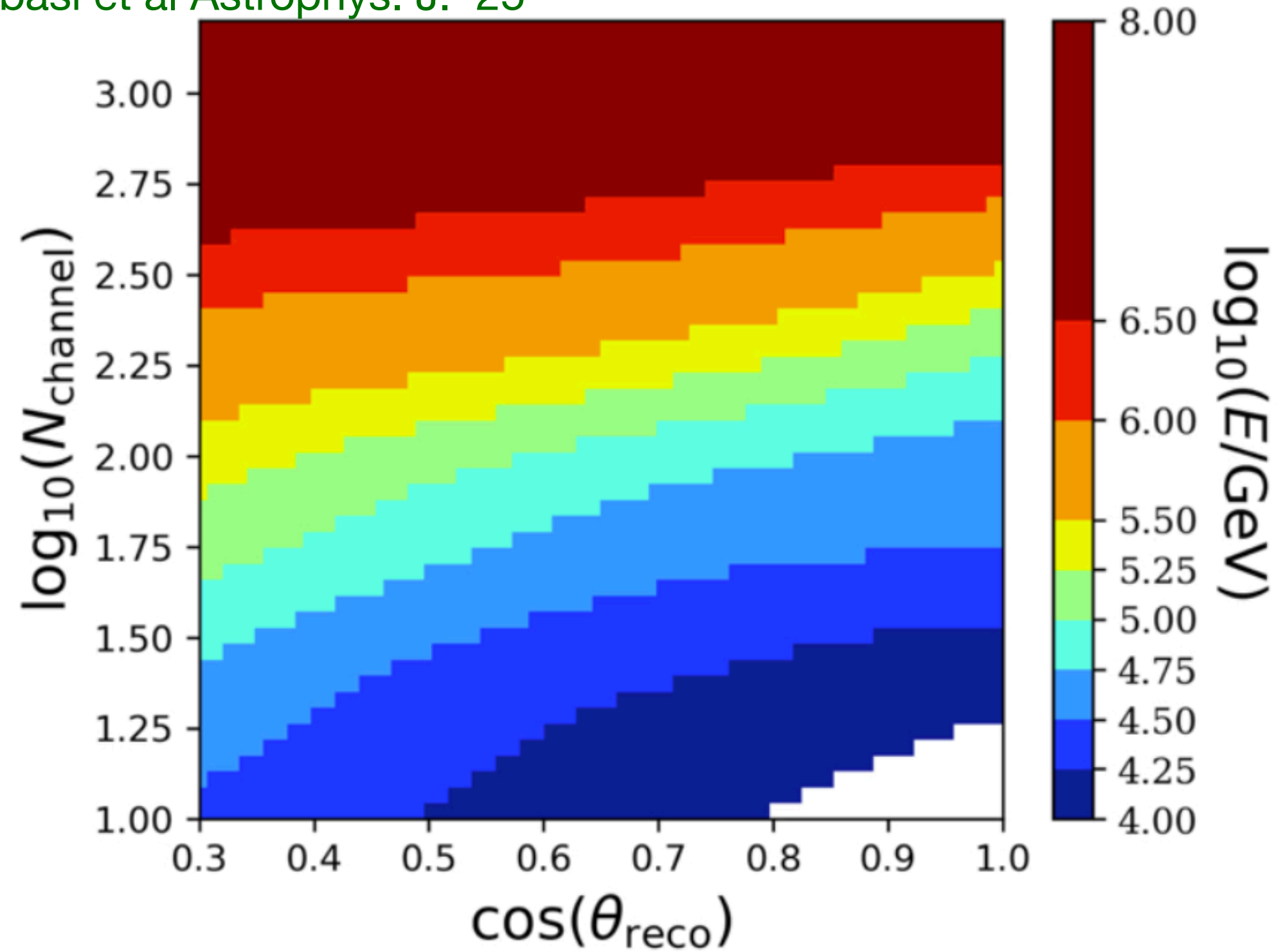
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Abbasi et al *Astrophys. J.* '25



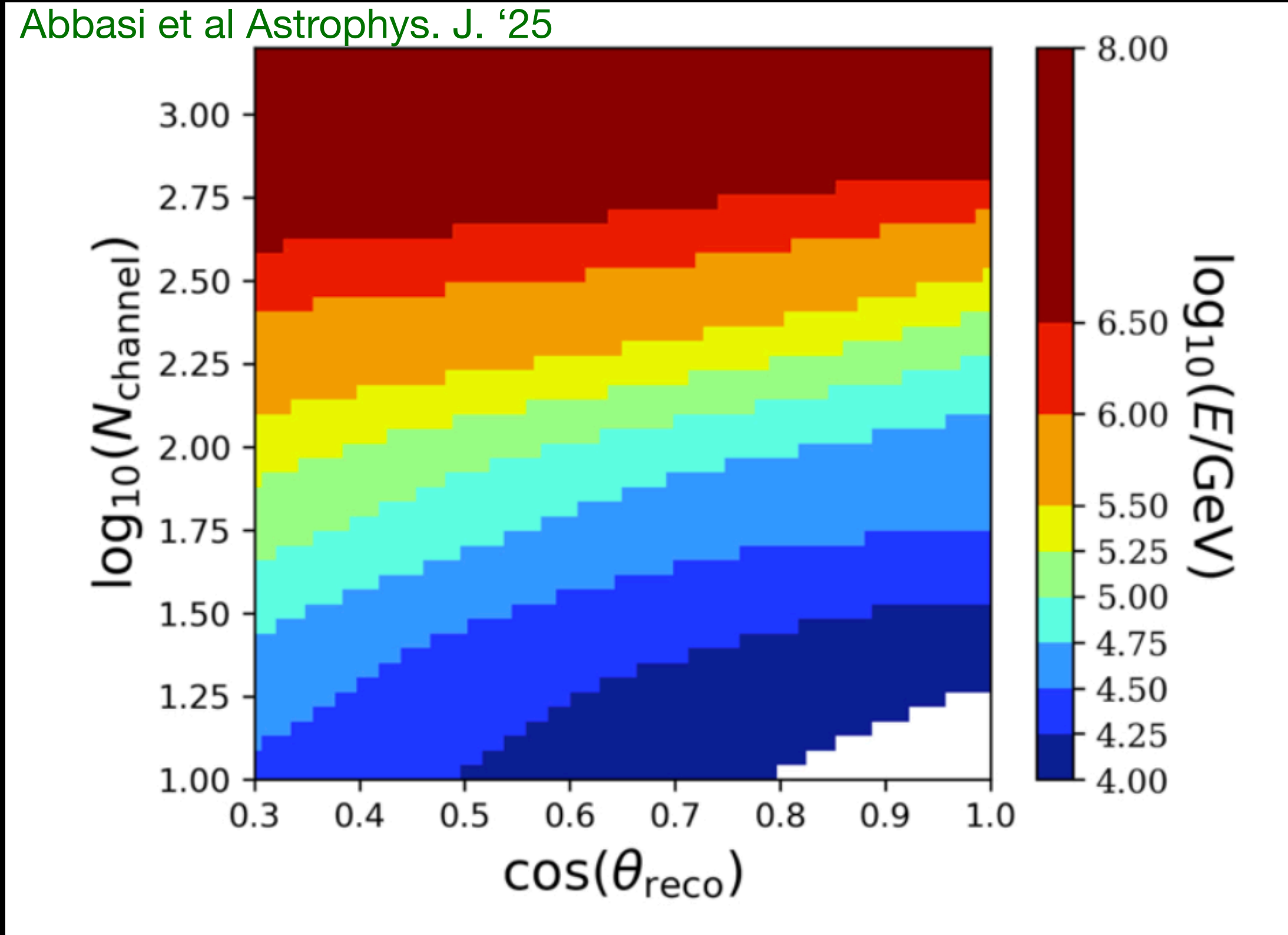
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$$N_{\mu}(E_i) = \int_{E_{\min}}^{E_{\max}} dE \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta \frac{d^2 N_{\mu}(E)}{dE d\cos\theta}(E, E_i)$$

IceCube Data Analysis (without CLFV)



Energy, E_i (TeV)	$N_{\text{events}} (\times 10^9)$
13	330.40
24	197.15
42	89.74
67	22.17
130	6.32
240	2.13
470	1.0147
1500	0.1019
5300	0.0128

**792 billion events
in total**

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Mean free path of CLFV interaction

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- Muons lose energy in their propagation via ionization, bremsstrahlung, electron-pair production and nuclear interactions.

$$\frac{dE_{\mu}}{dx} = -a - bE_{\mu}$$

IceCube Data Analysis (with CLFV)

Taking care of muons' energy loss

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Including
 τ -detection
efficiency

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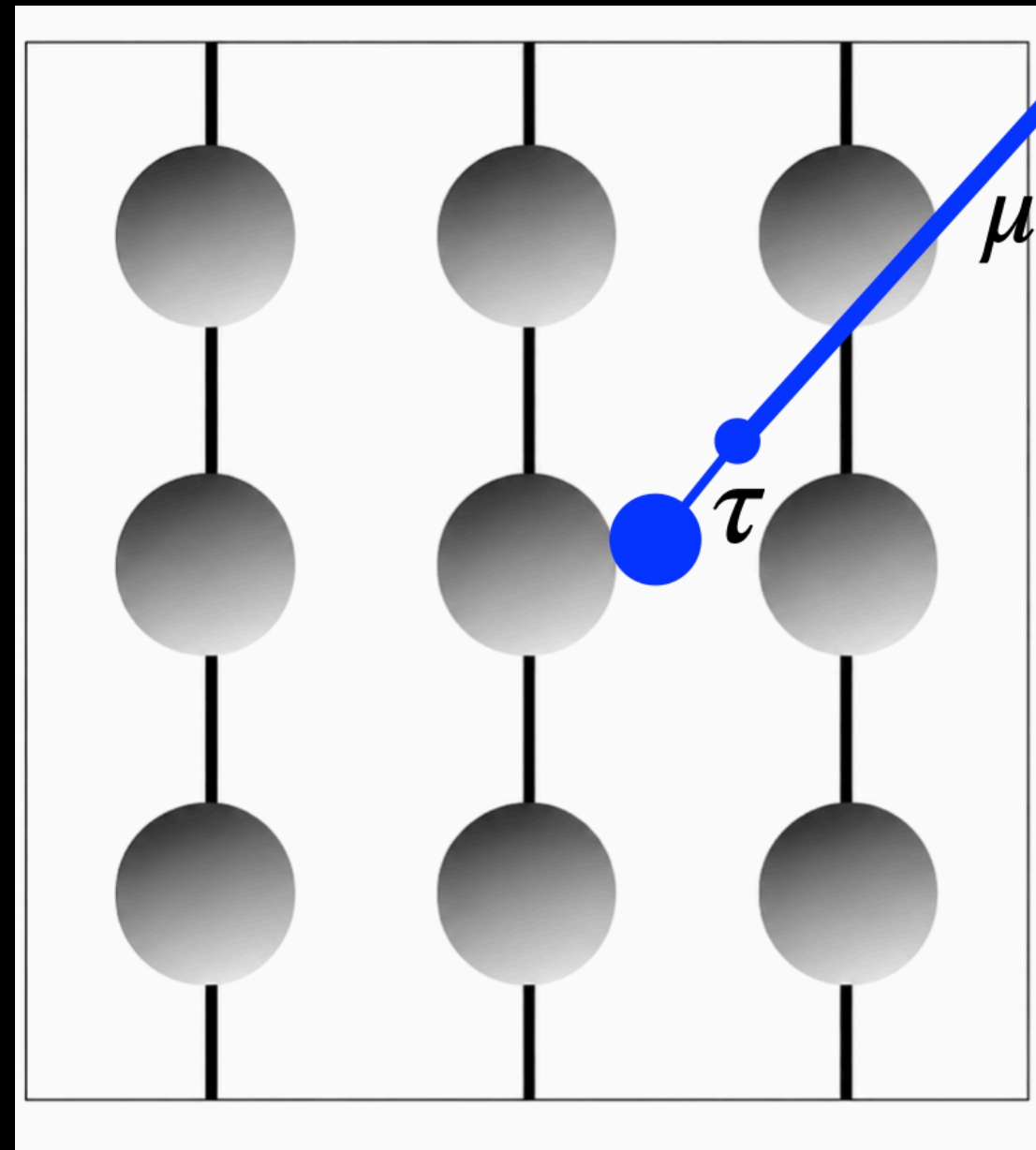
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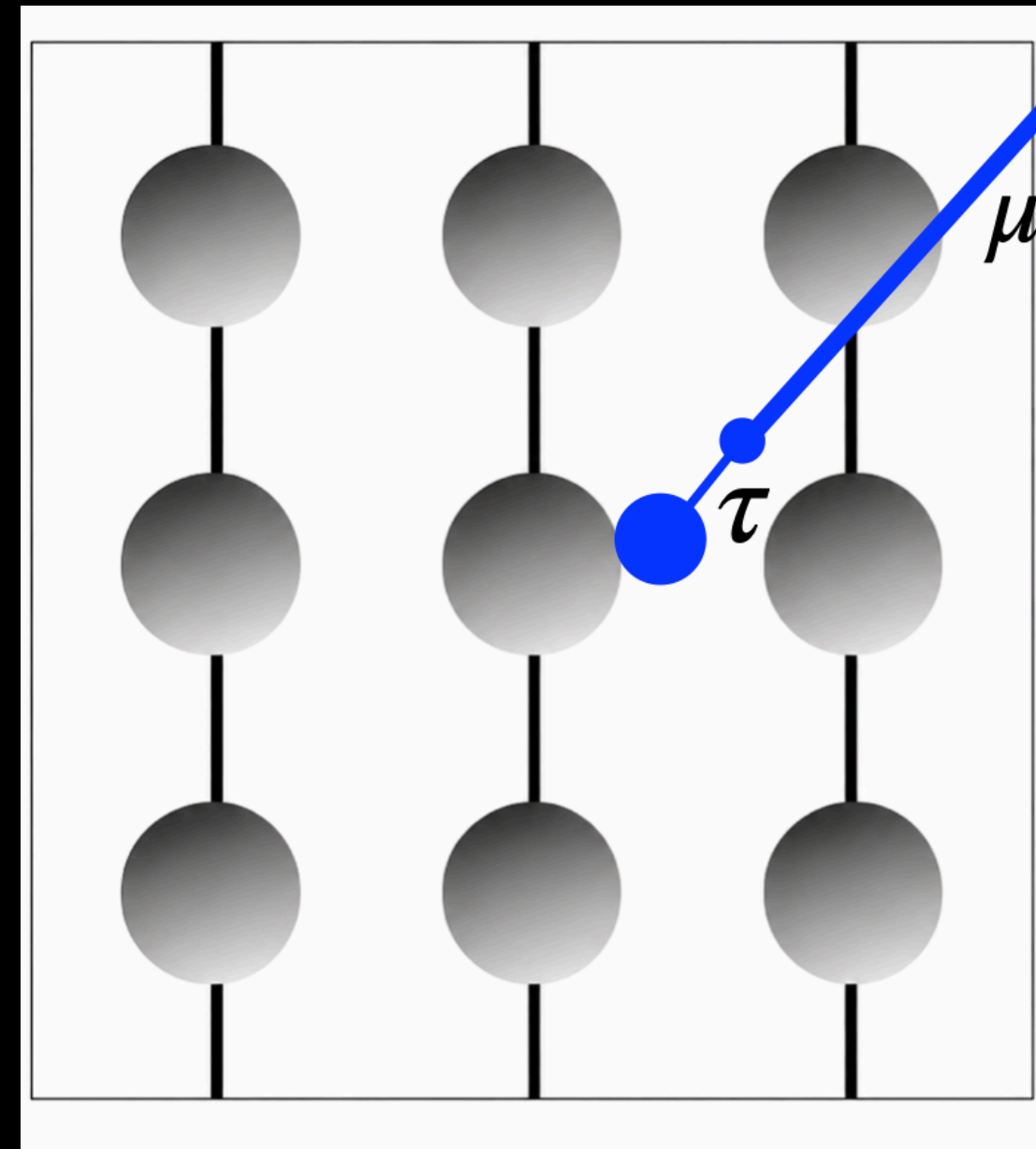
Background Analysis

Signal we are looking for:

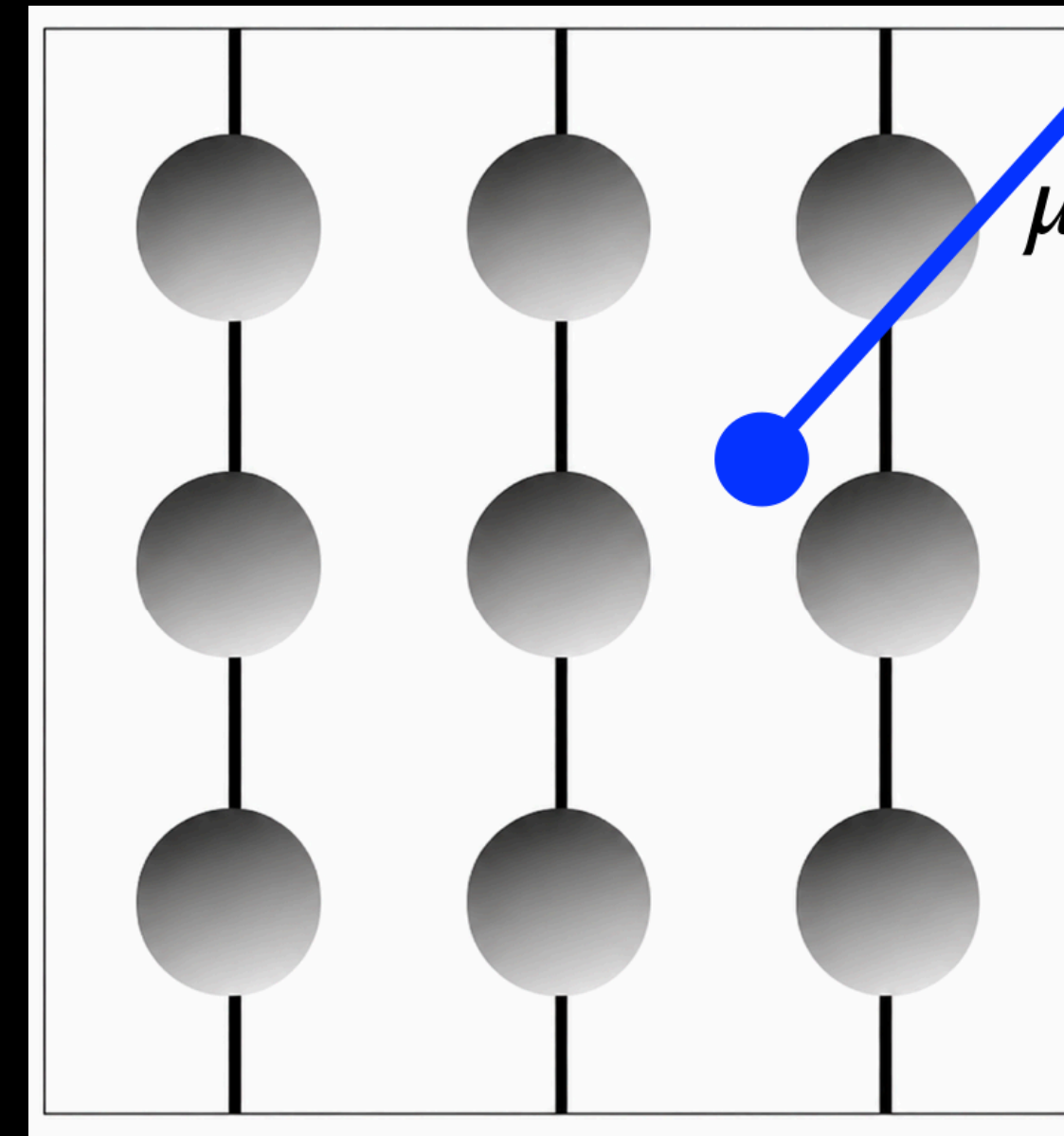


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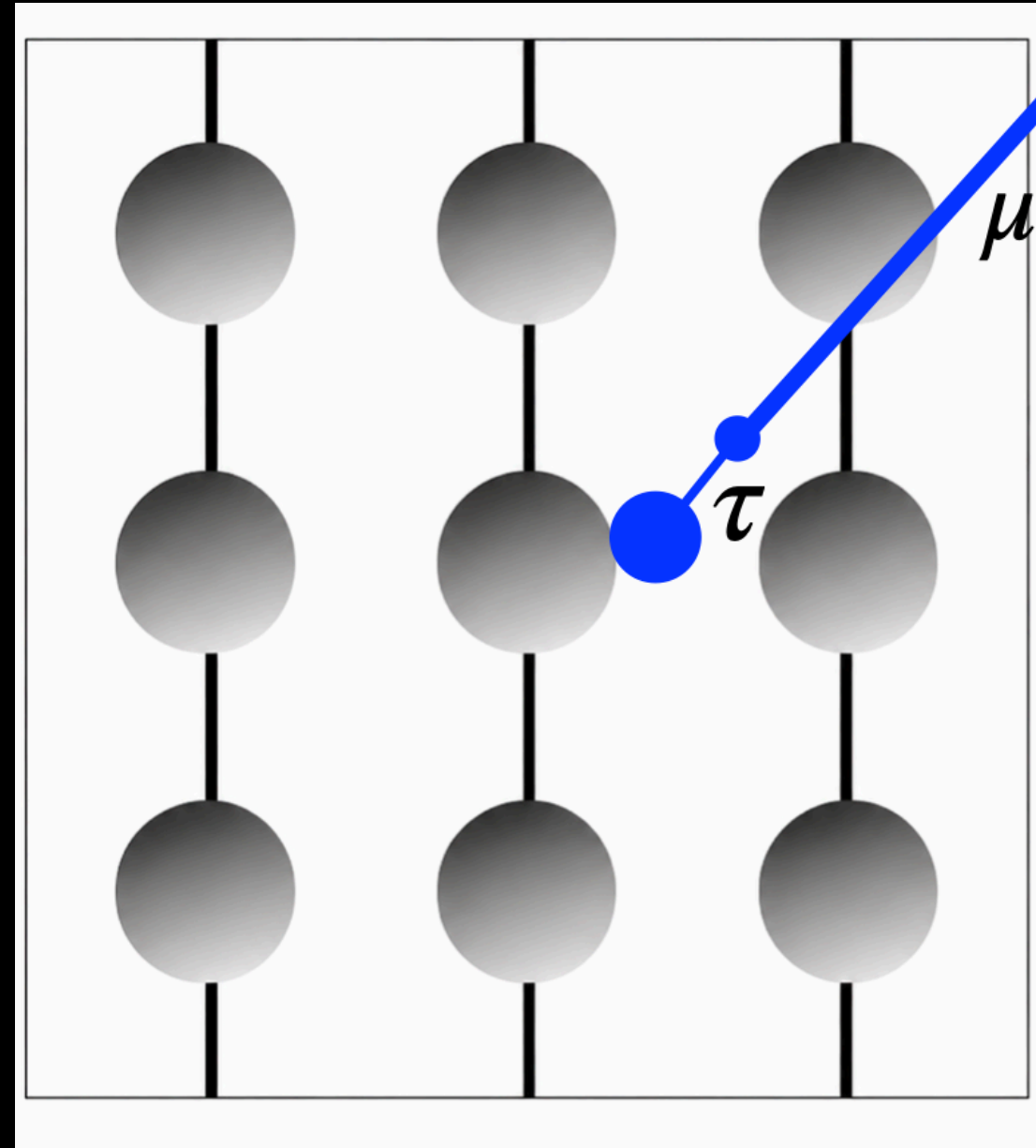


Possible strong background:

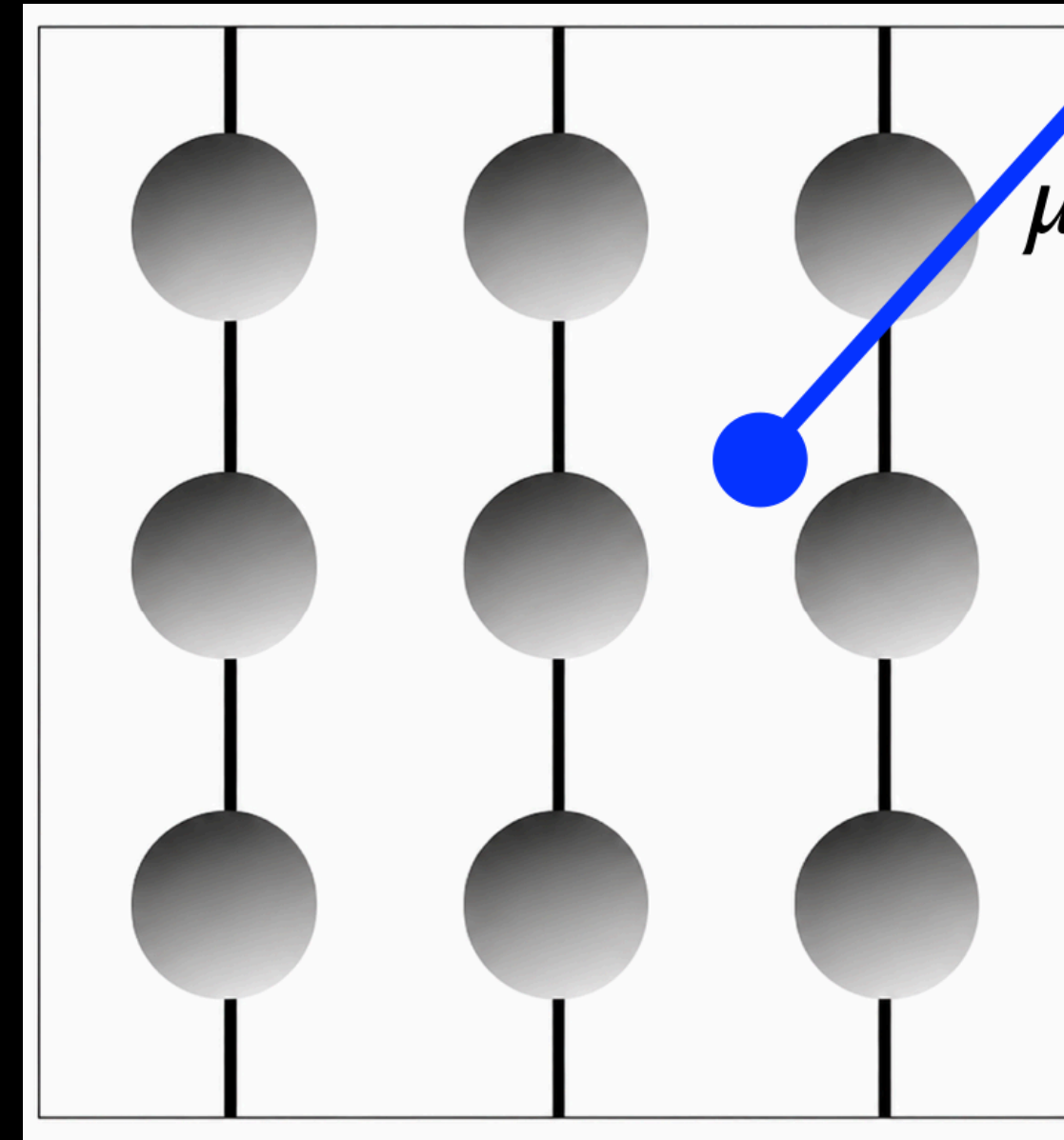


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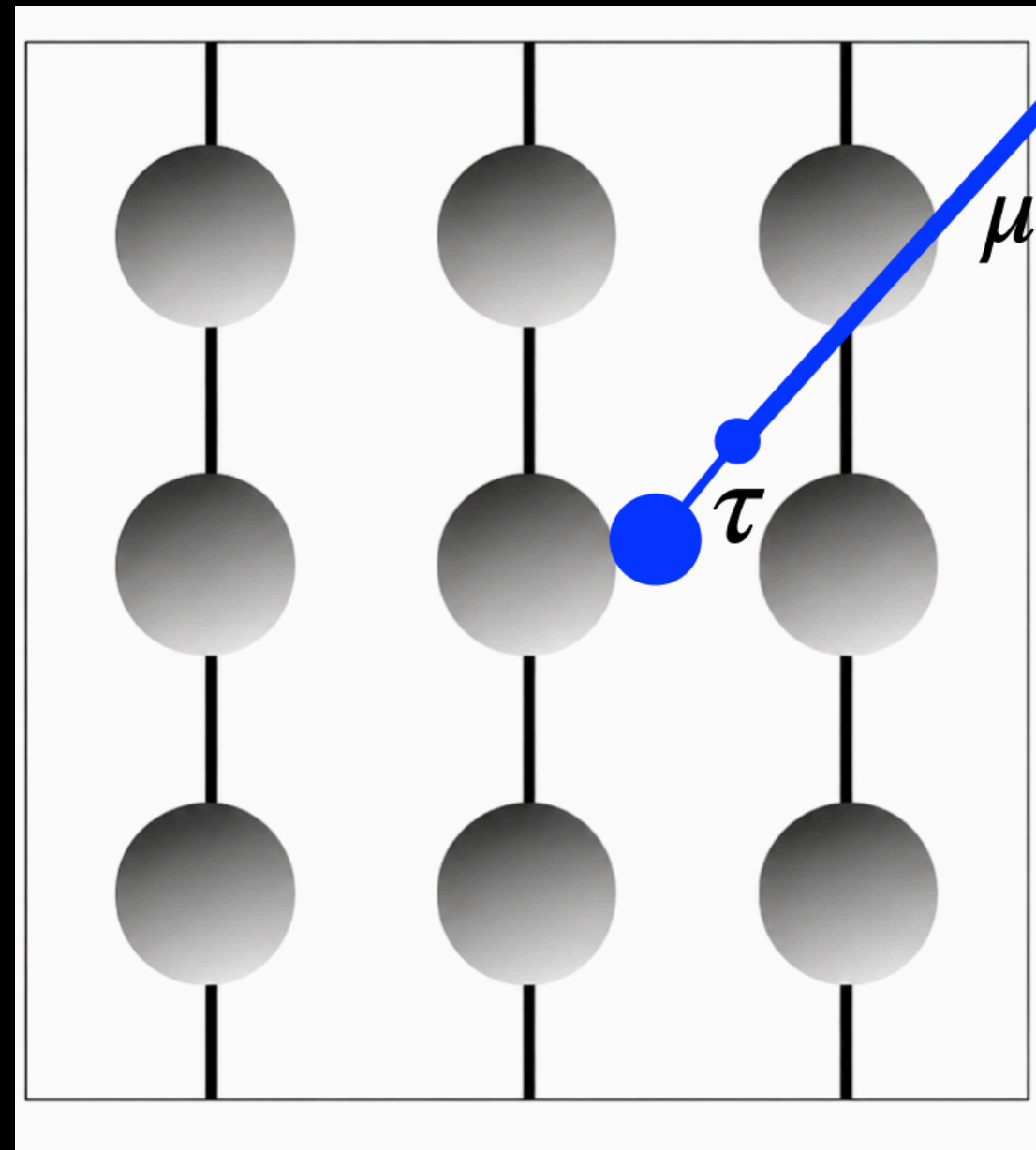
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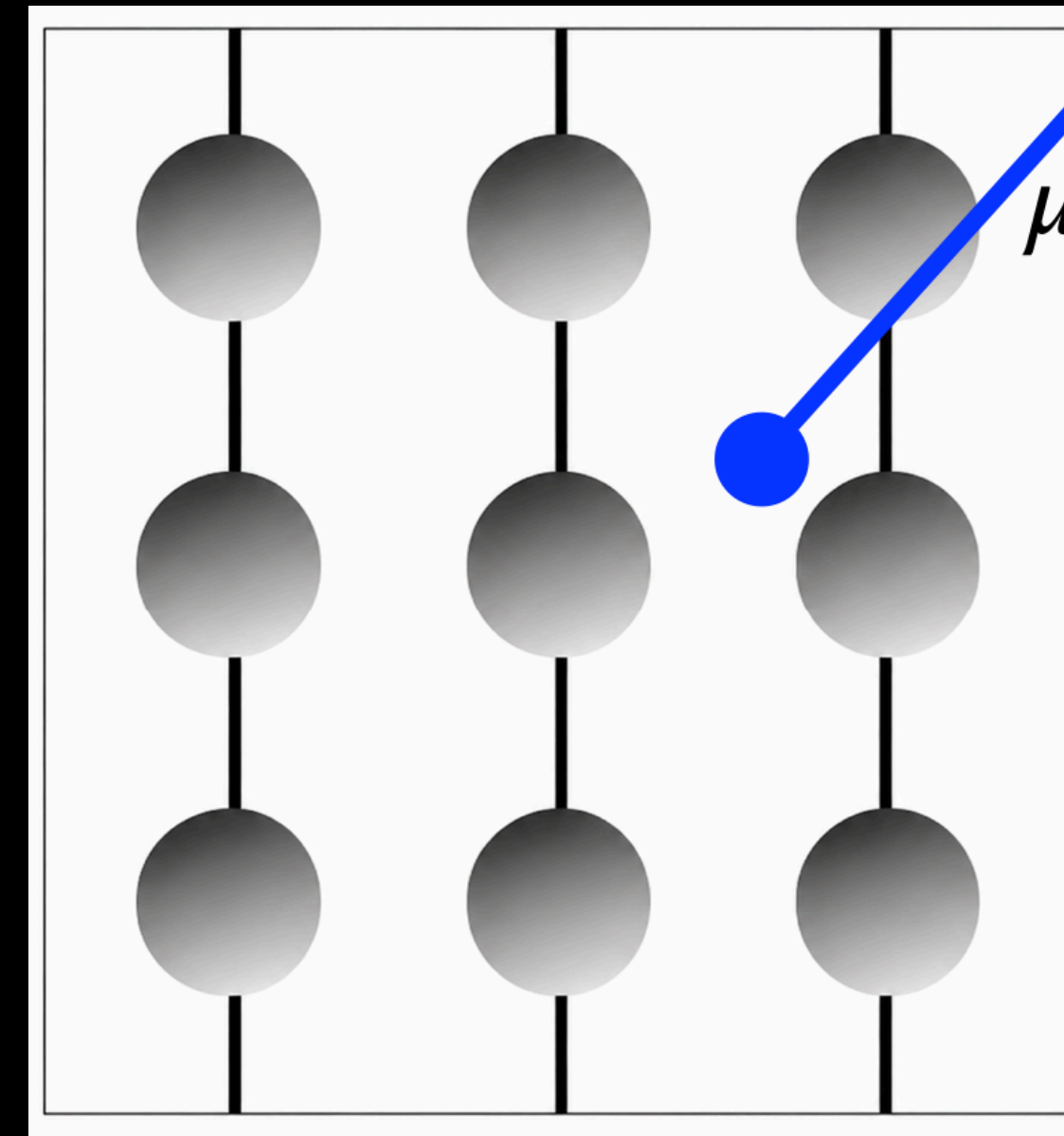
Background can be simulated:

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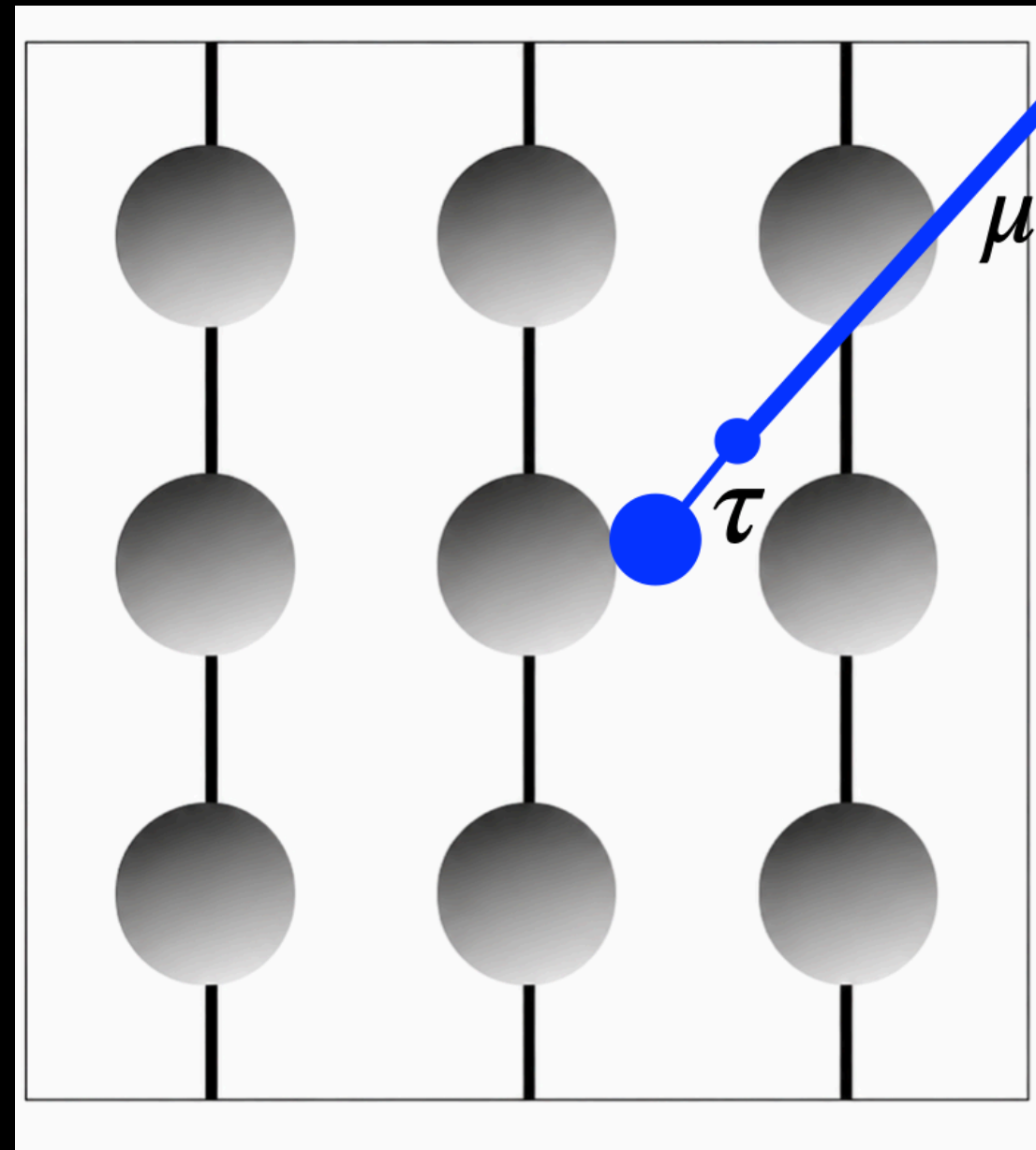


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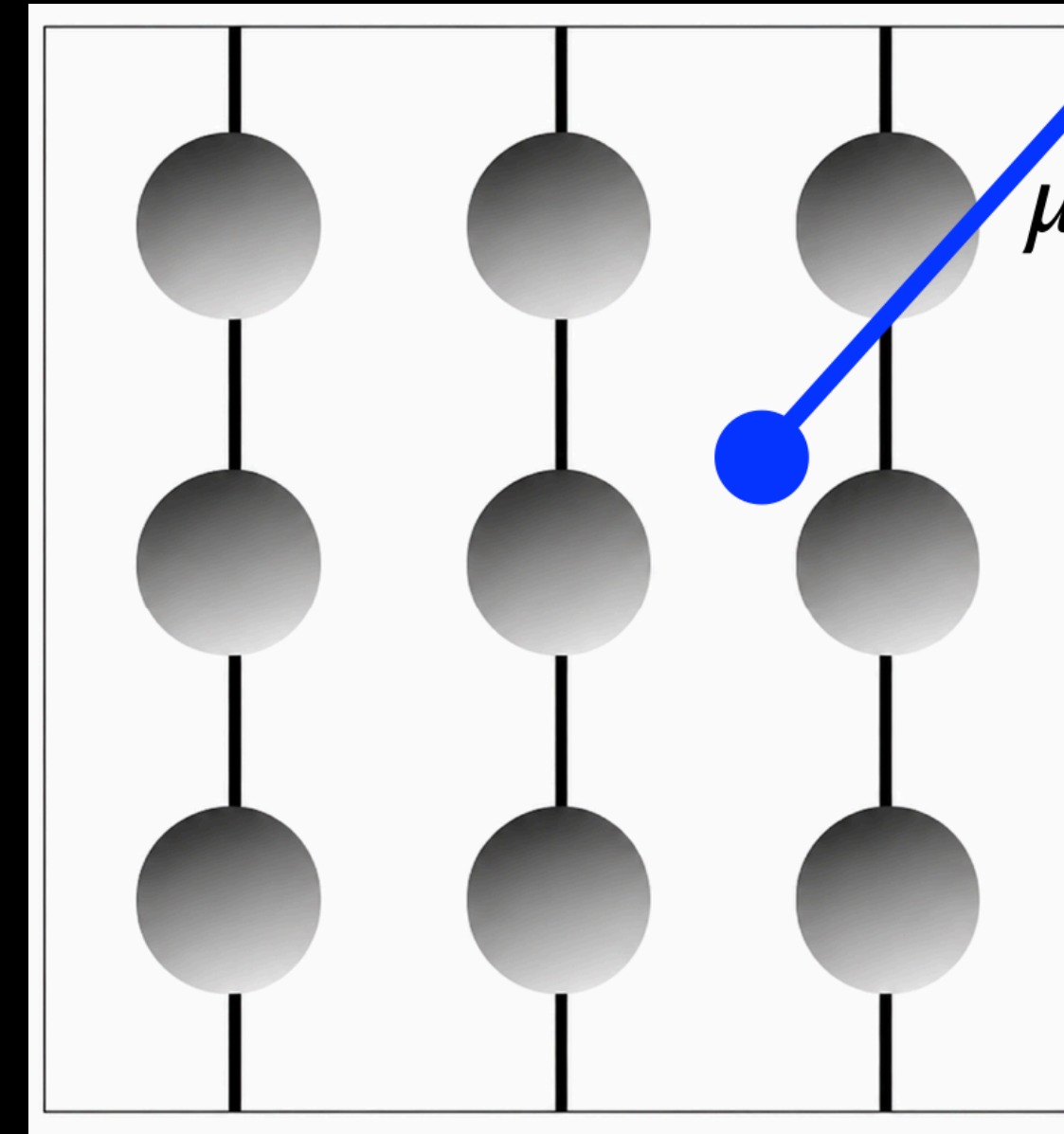
- Muon loses 90% of its energy in its interaction inside the detector.

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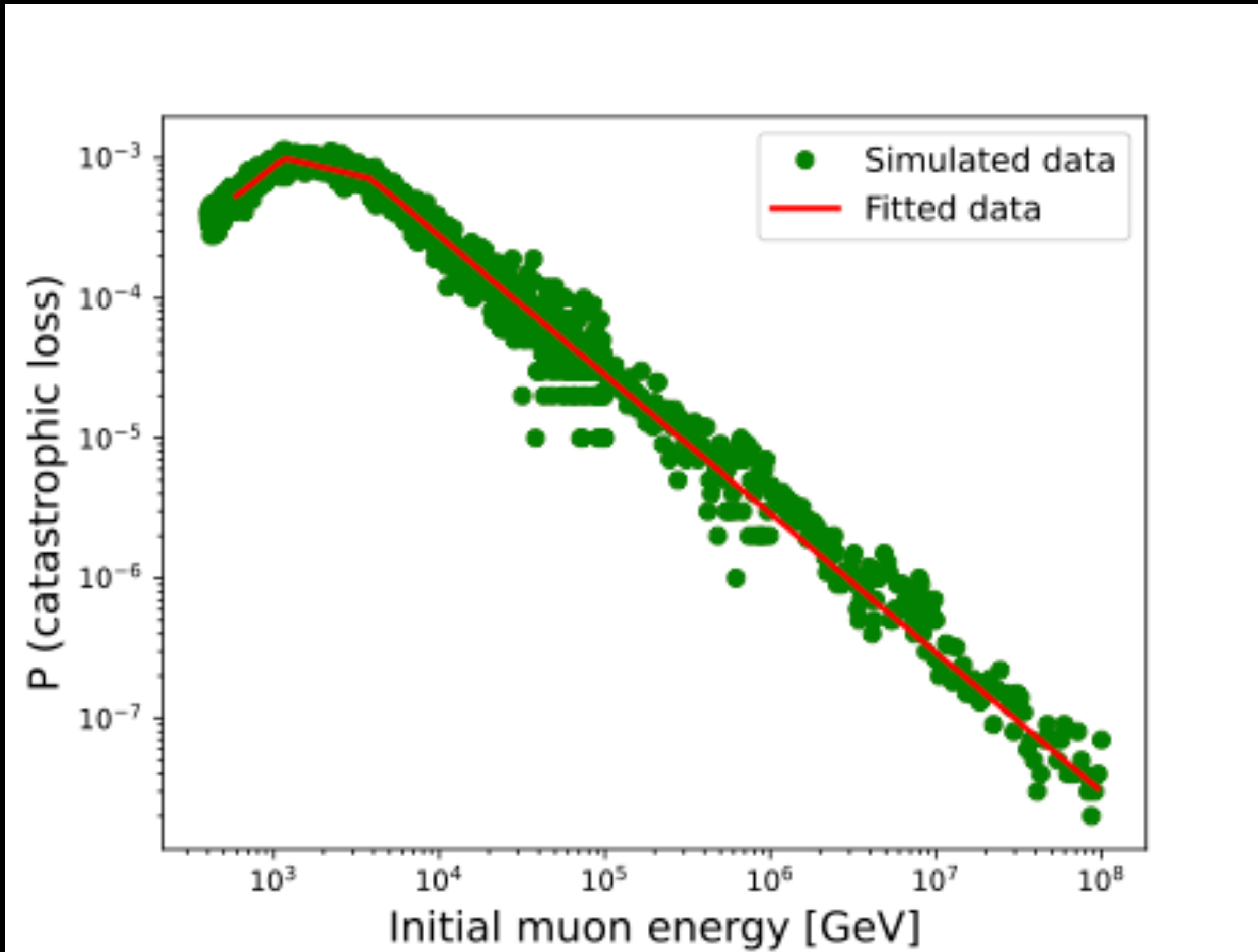
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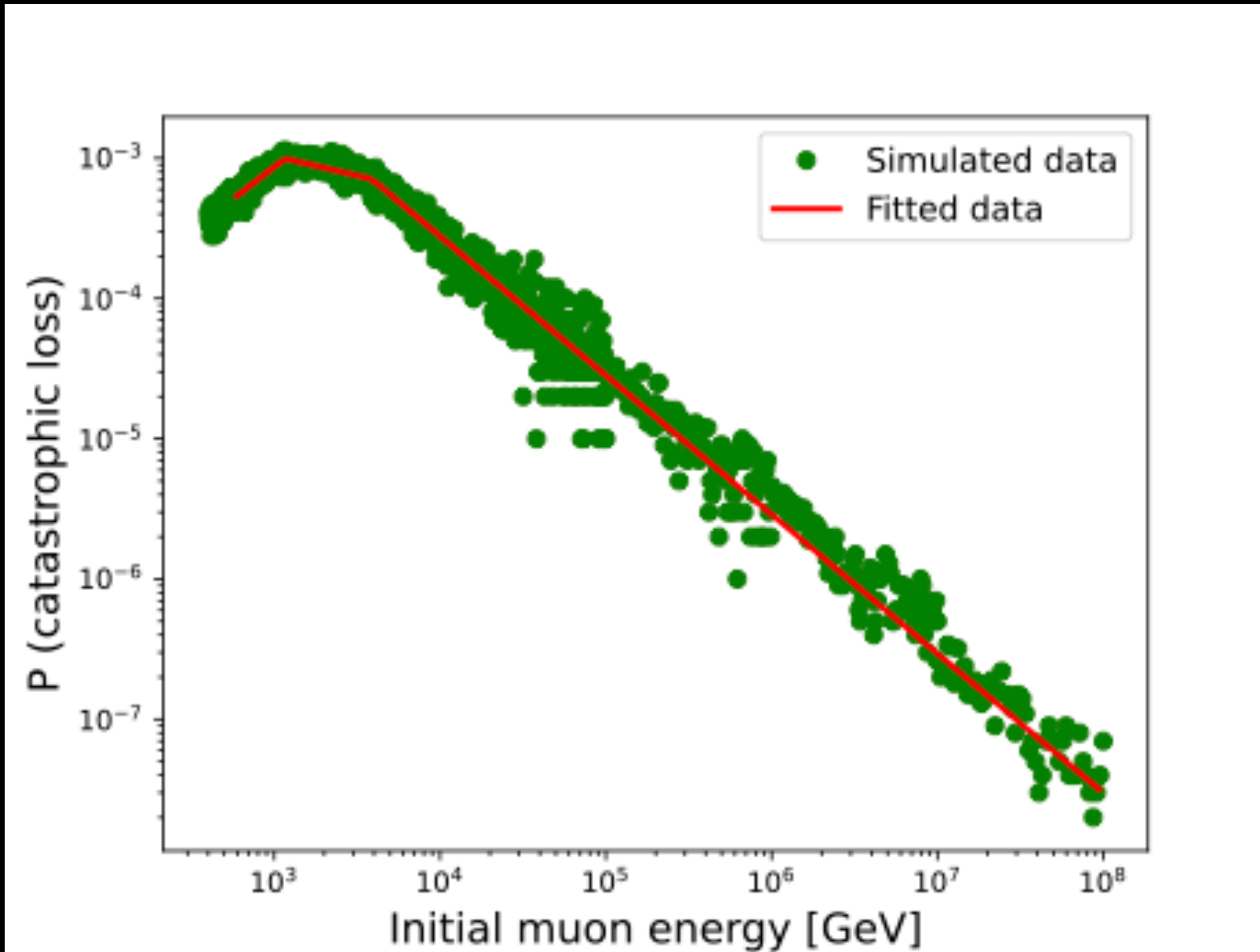
Background can be simulated:

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- Residual muon energy is below 100 GeV.

Background Analysis



Background Analysis

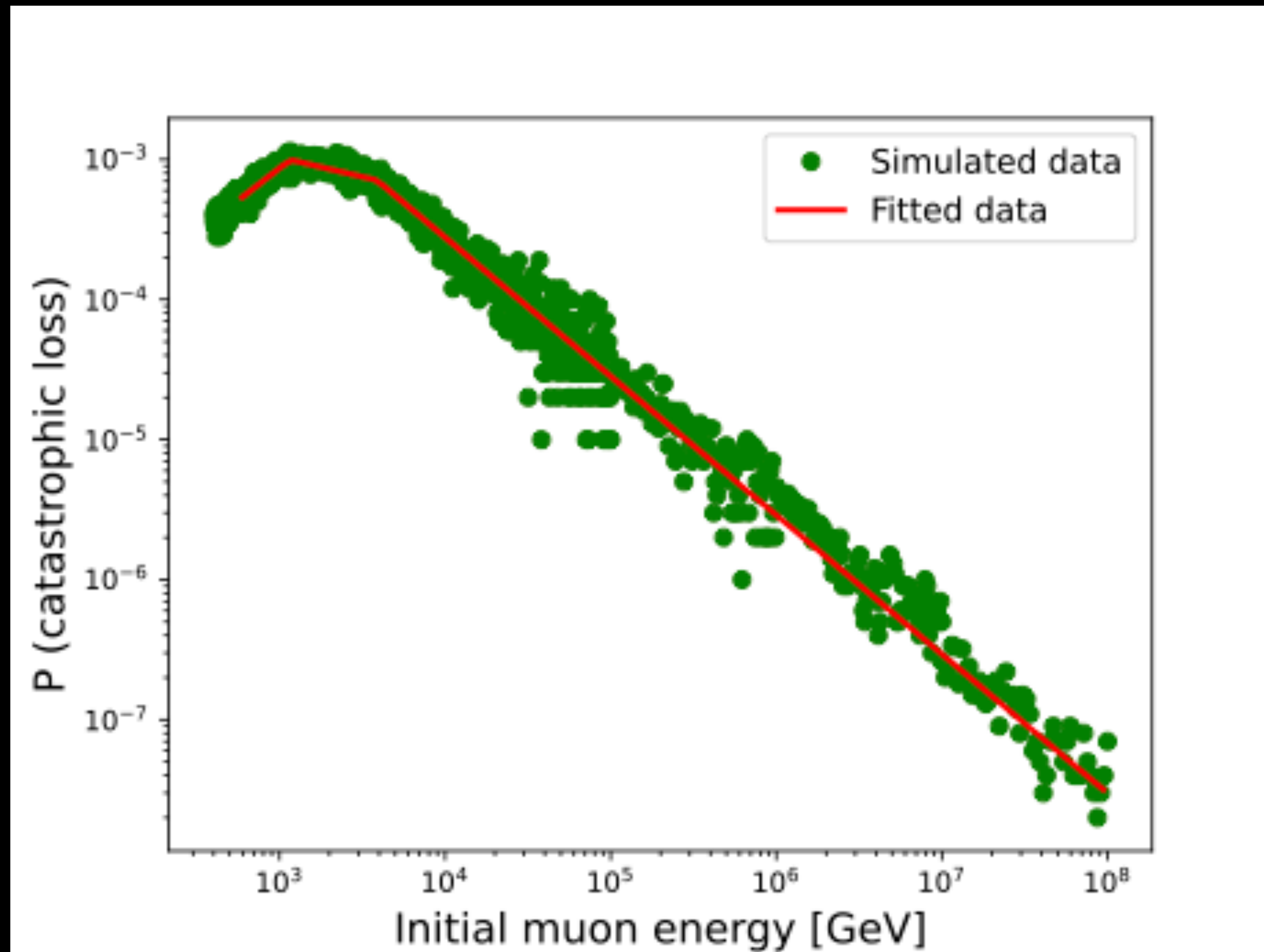


Data simulated using PROPOSAL

[Alameddine et al Comput. Phys. Commun. '24]

Fitted with a broken power law

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Constraint on Λ from EFT operators

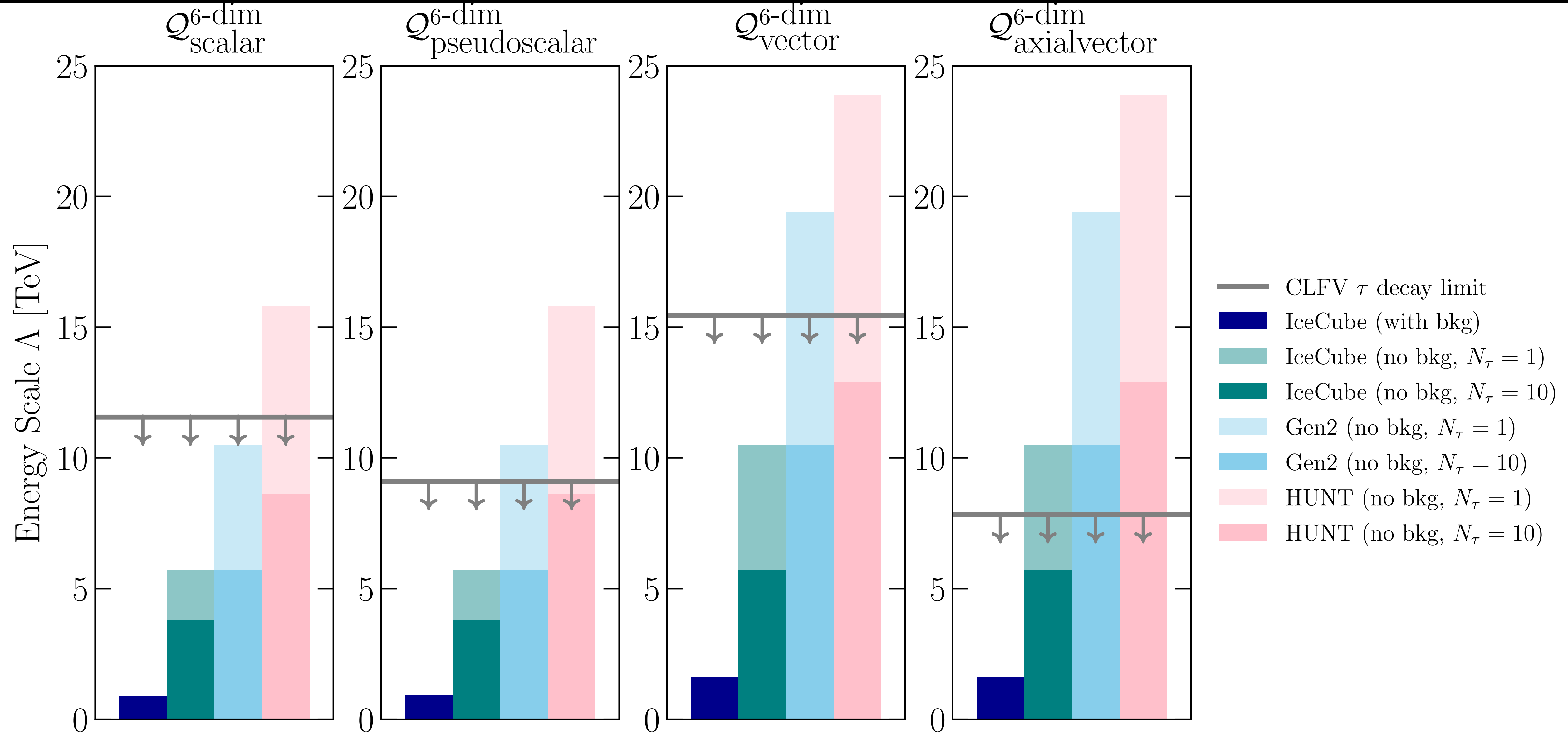
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7

$$Q^{6\text{-dim}} = (\bar{\mu}\Gamma\tau)(\bar{q}\Gamma q) \quad \Gamma = 1 \text{ (scalar), } \gamma^5 \text{ (pseudoscalar), } \gamma^\alpha \text{ (vector) \& } \gamma^\alpha\gamma^5 \text{ (axial vector)}$$

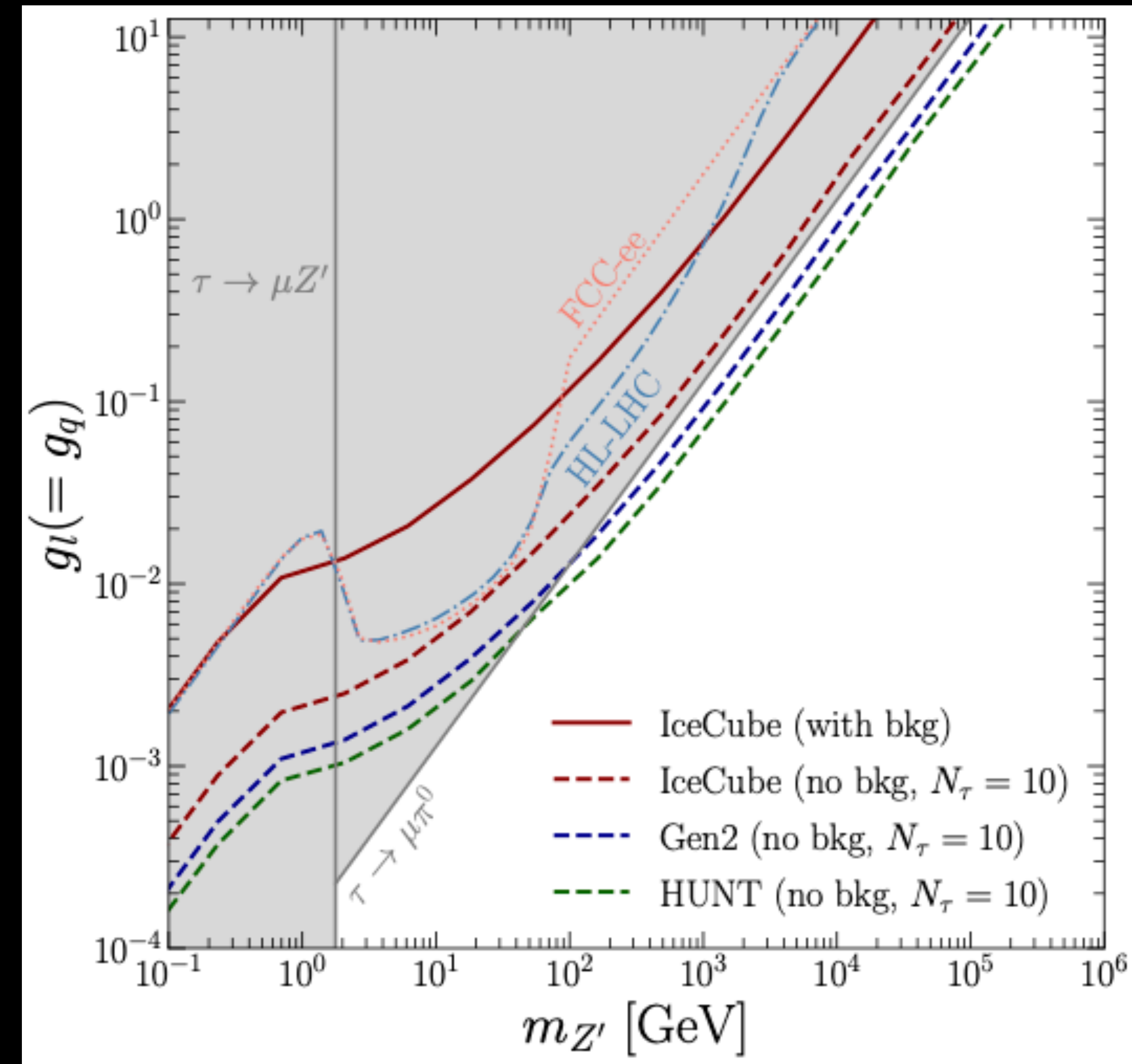
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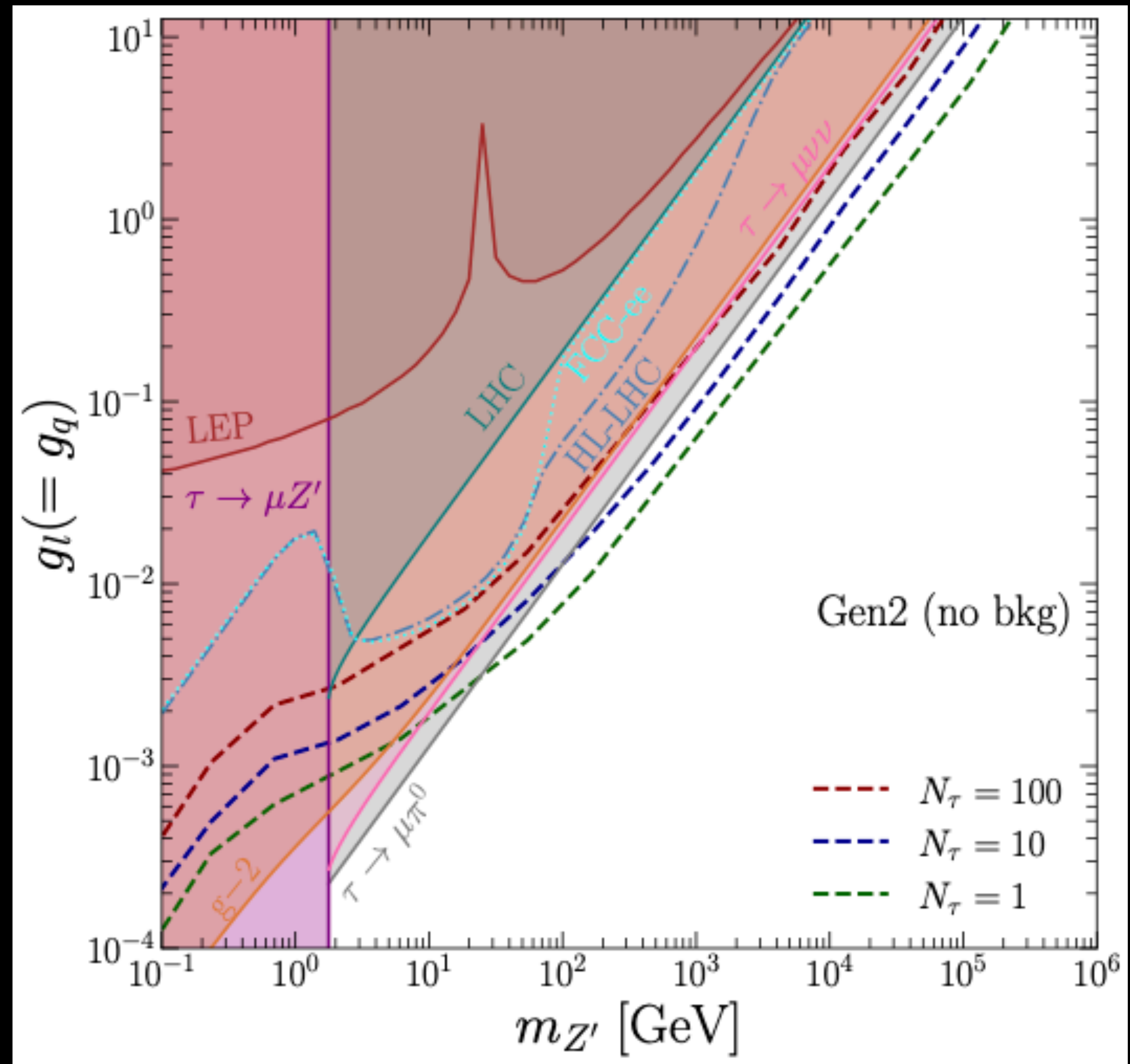
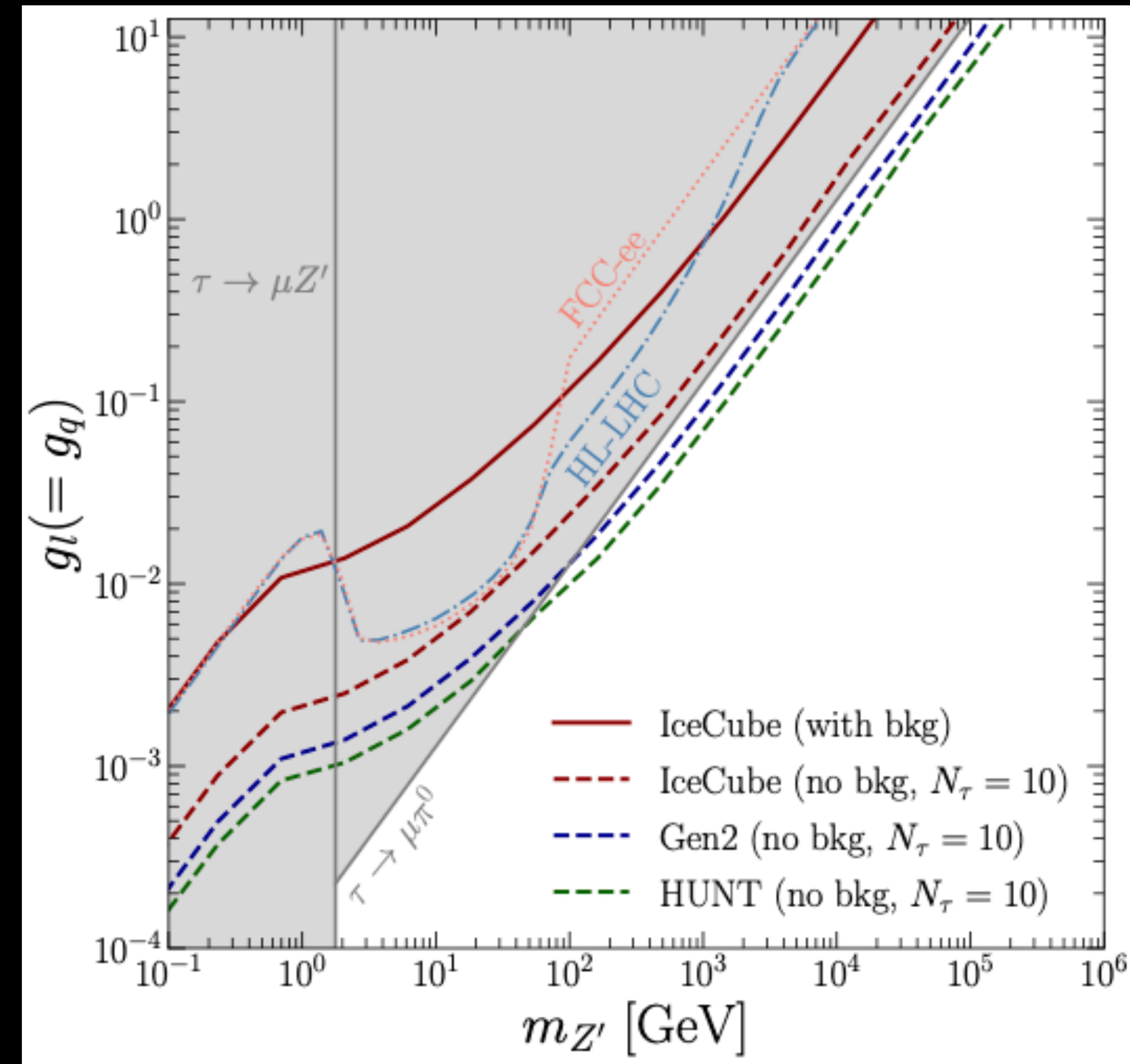


Constraint on Z' mass-coupling parameter space

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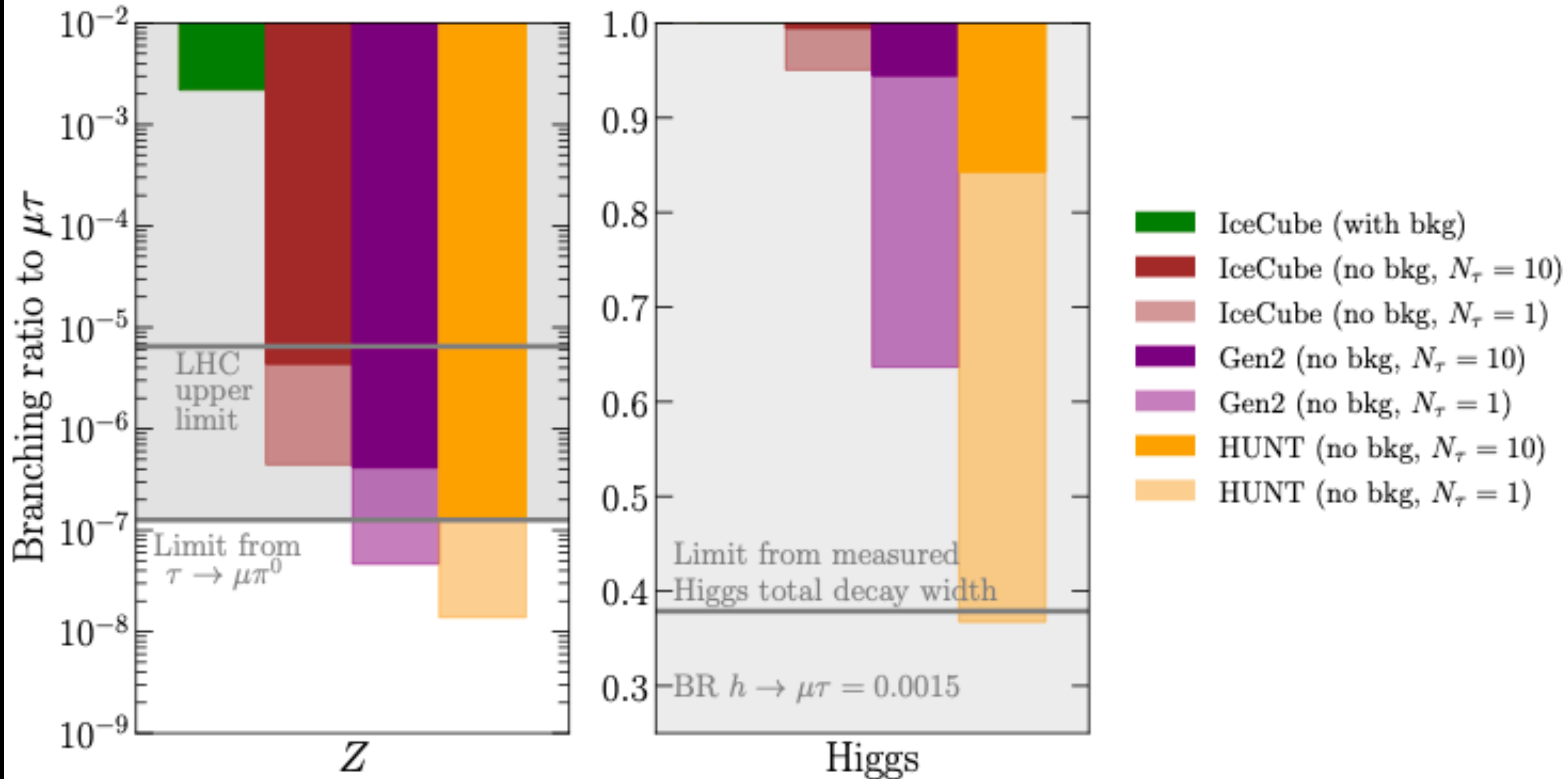


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Constraint on $\mu\tau$ Decay of Z and Higgs

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Thank you!

References for Experimental Inputs

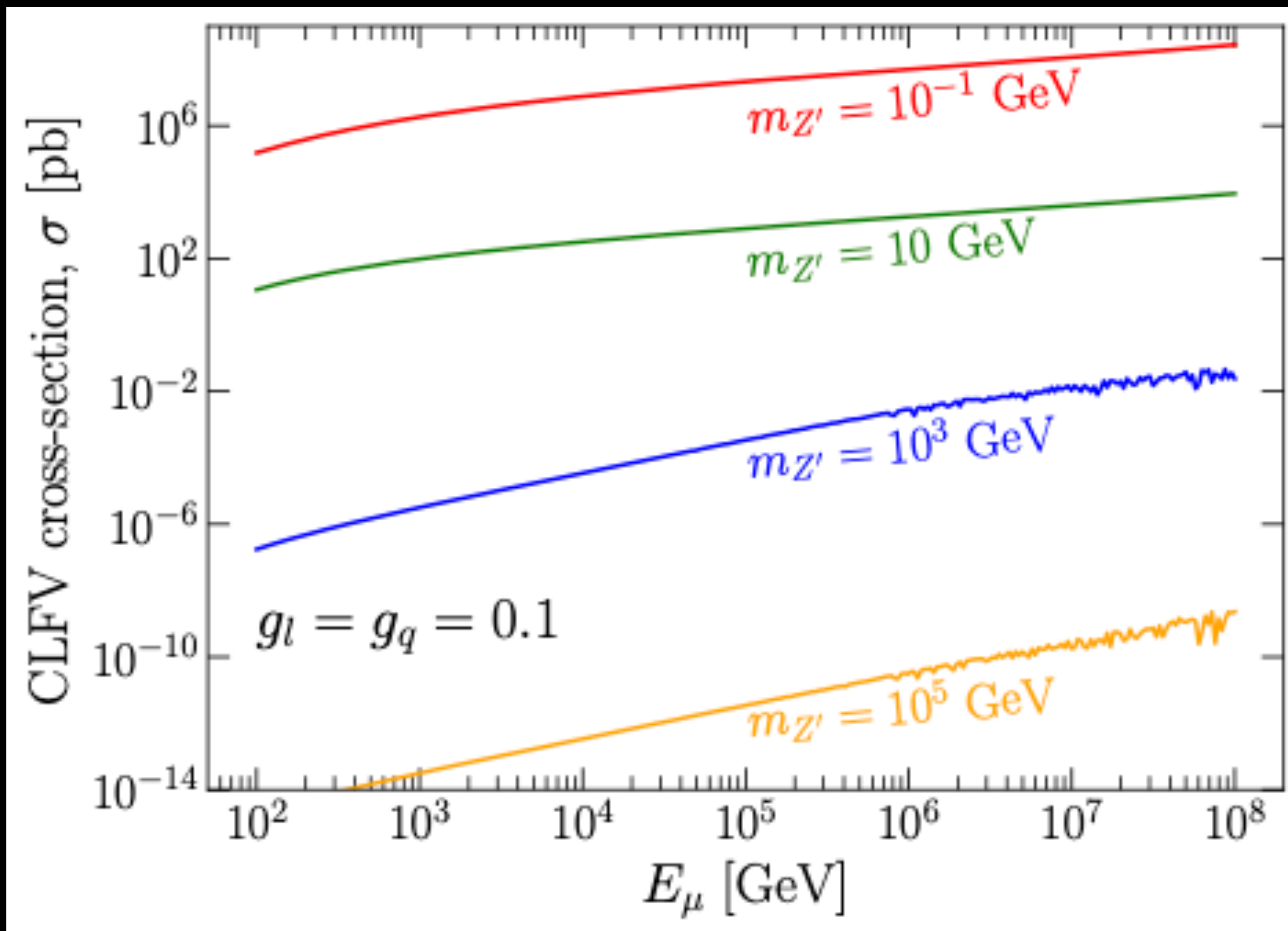
- Uno et al. (JHEP '25) [<https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.22195>]
- Adachi et al. (JHEP '24) [<https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.14625>]
- Aad et al. (PLB '24) [<https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.12902>]
- Aguillard et al. (PRD '24) [<https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.15410>]
- Aad et al. (PRL '22) [<https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.12491>]
- Sirunyan et al. (PRD '21) [<https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.03007>]
- Hayrapetyan et al. [<https://arxiv.org/abs/2601.05168>]

Backup Slides

	1	γ^5	γ^α	$\gamma^\alpha \gamma^5$
Dominant CLFV process	$\tau \rightarrow \mu \pi^+ \pi^-$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu \pi^0$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu \rho$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu \pi^0$
Upper Limit on Branching Ratio	2.1×10^{-8}	1.1×10^{-7}	1.7×10^{-8}	1.1×10^{-7}
Lower limit on Λ	11.56 TeV	9.6 TeV	11.57 TeV	7.85 TeV

Upper limits on branching ratio taken from PDG'24

Backup Slides



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