XXVI International Scientific Conference
of Young Scientists and Specialists (AYSS-2022)
Dubna, Russia
24-28 October 2022

Opening a new chapter in neutrino astronomy with Baikal-GVD

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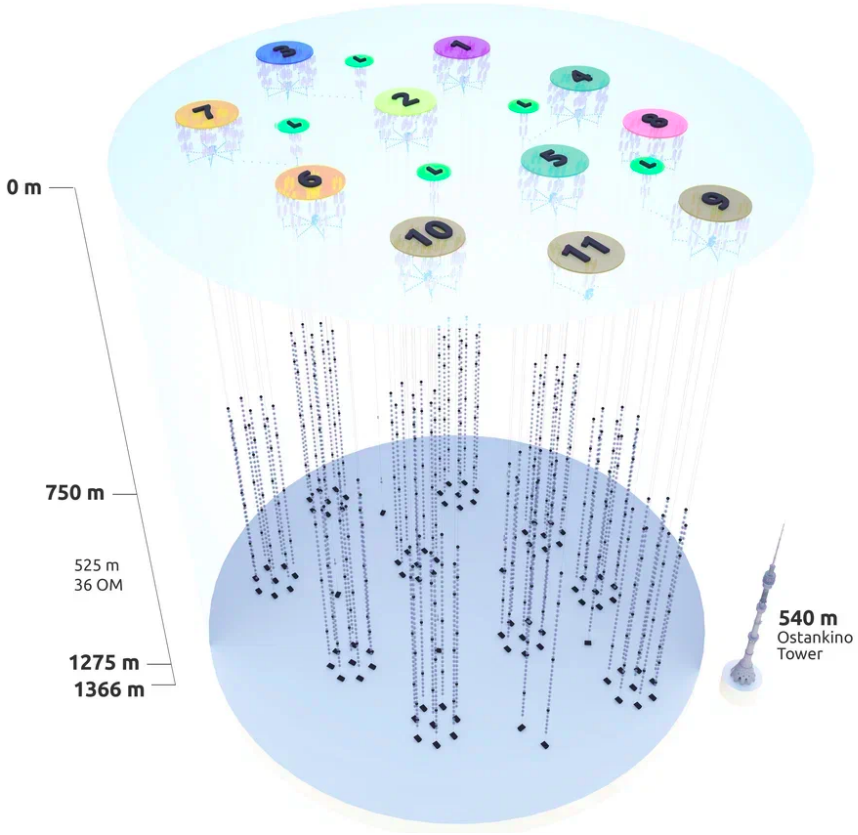
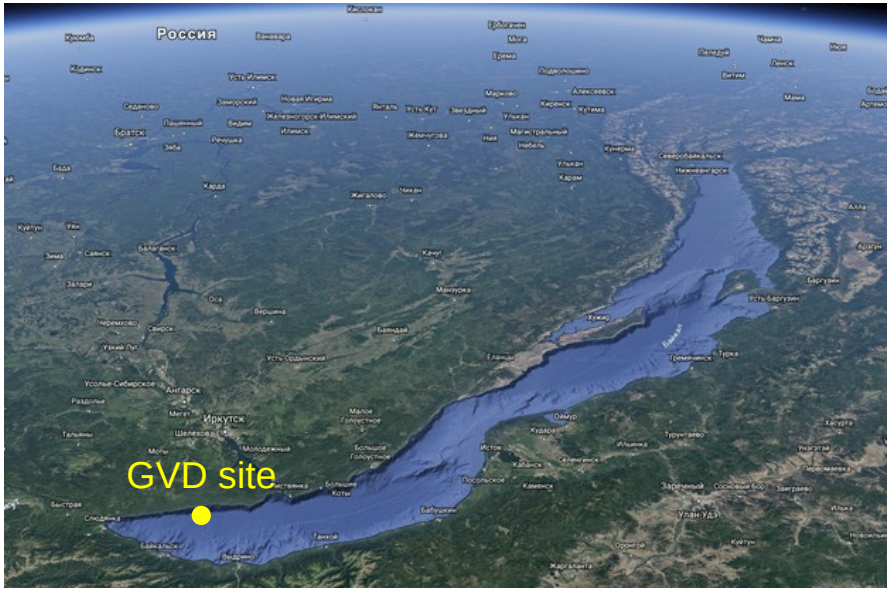
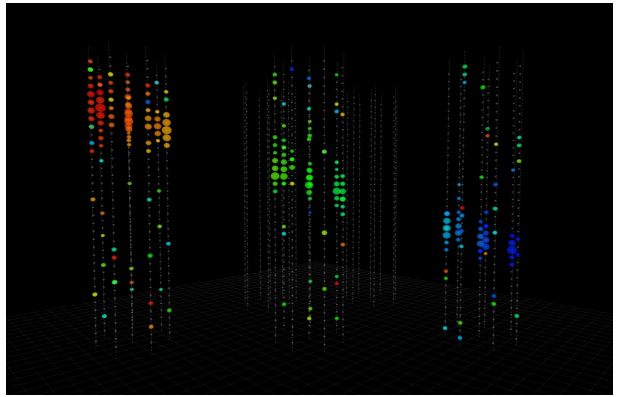
for the Baikal-GVD Collaboration

Baikal-GVD at a glance

GVD = Gigaton Volume Detector







Status as of October 2022:
2964 Optical Modules on 83 strings

Outline

1) Short introduction to High Energy Neutrino Astronomy

2) Baikal-GVD : the telescope systems and construction status

3) Baikal-GVD sensitivity and first results

Part I

A beginner’s guide to High Energy Neutrino Astronomy

Neutrino as astrophysical messenger

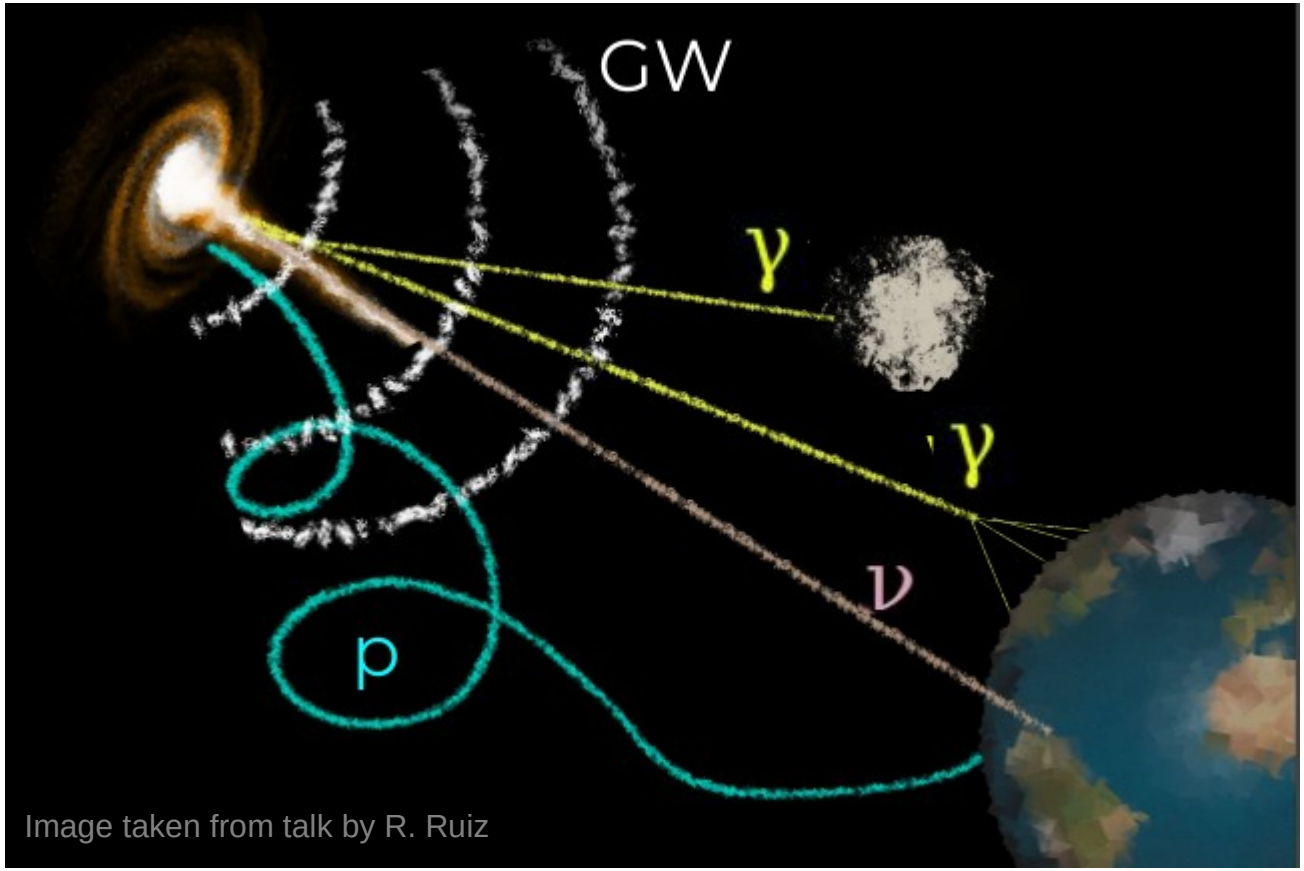
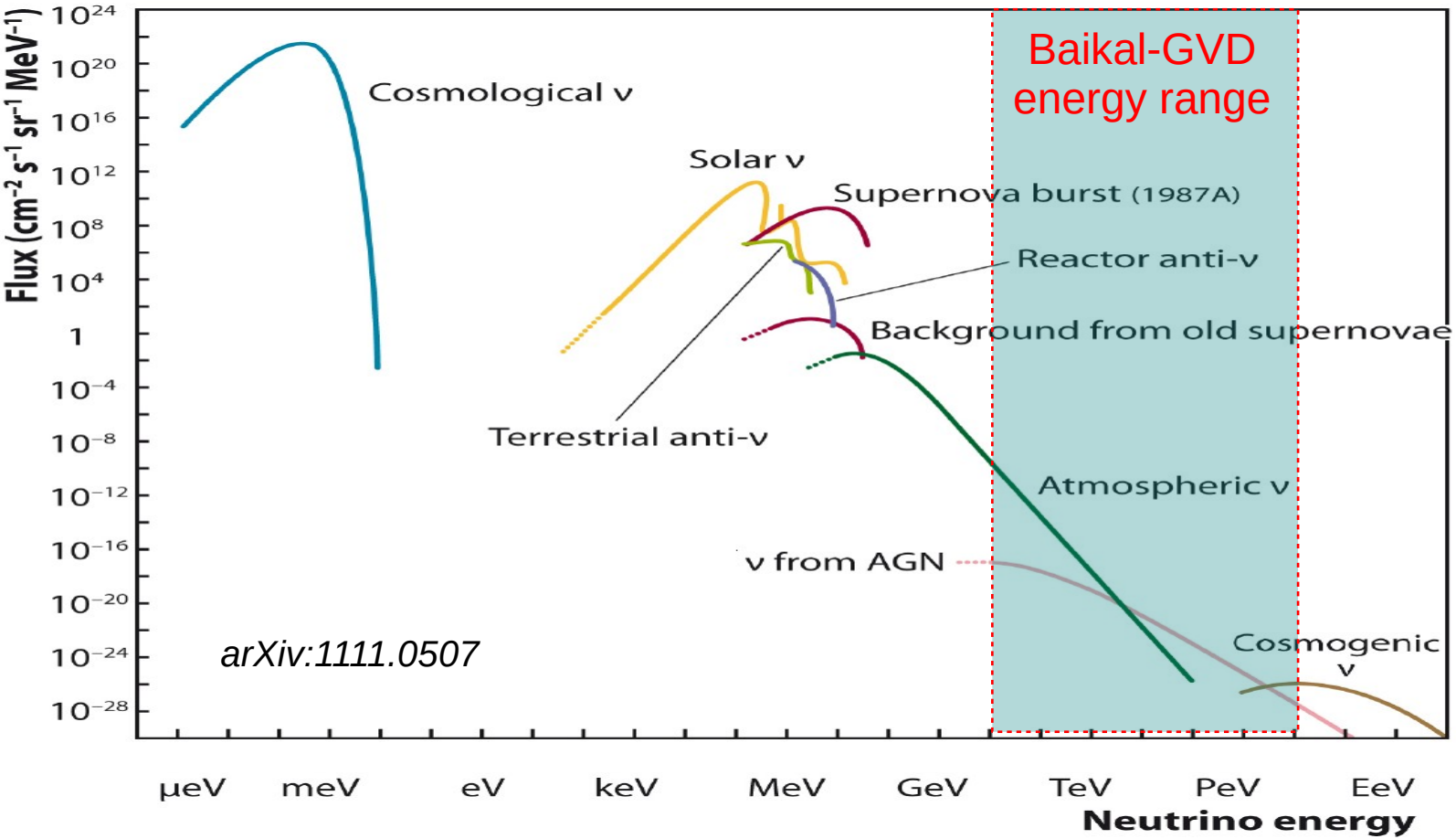


Image taken from talk by R. Ruiz

- Can escape from dense environments
- Travels unimpeded through gas and dust
- Does not interact with CMB and infrared background
- Stable (no decay)
- Not affected by magnetic fields
- Arrival direction points to the source
- High-energy neutrinos trace production and acceleration sites of cosmic rays

Where we are on the energy scale



How to make high energy neutrino

1) Accelerate protons

2) Have them interact with medium or radiation

In photon-reach environments: p γ → π
In proton-reach environments : p p → π

3) Decay pions

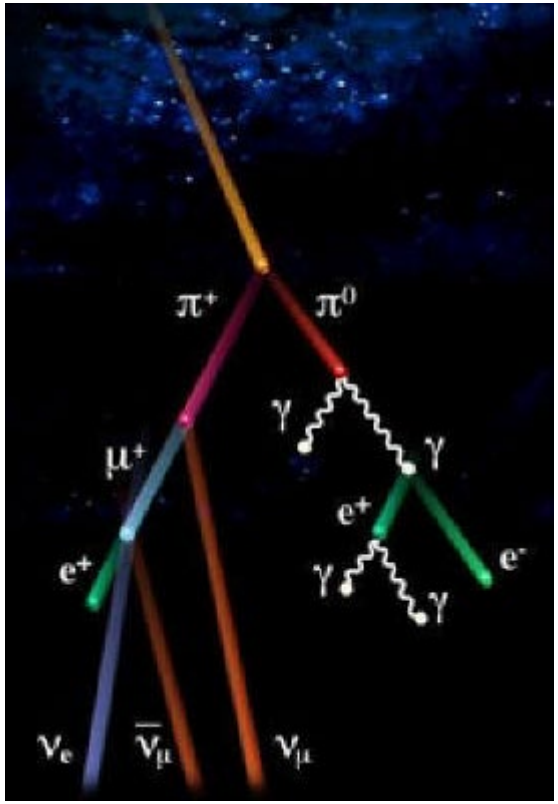
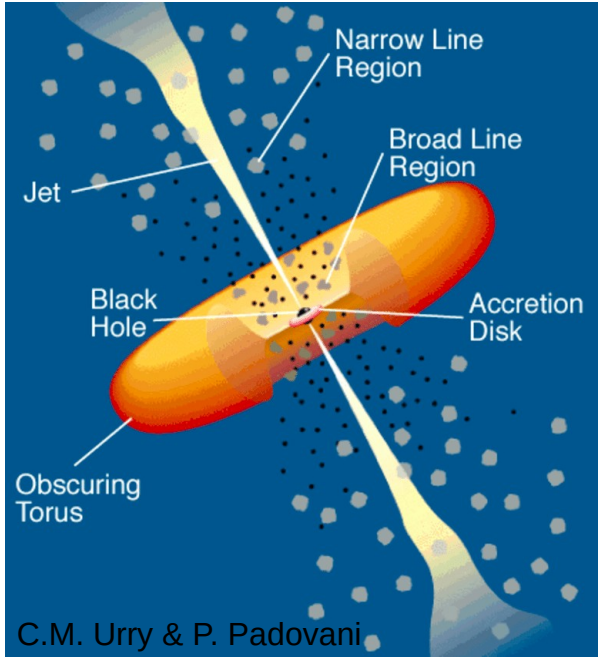
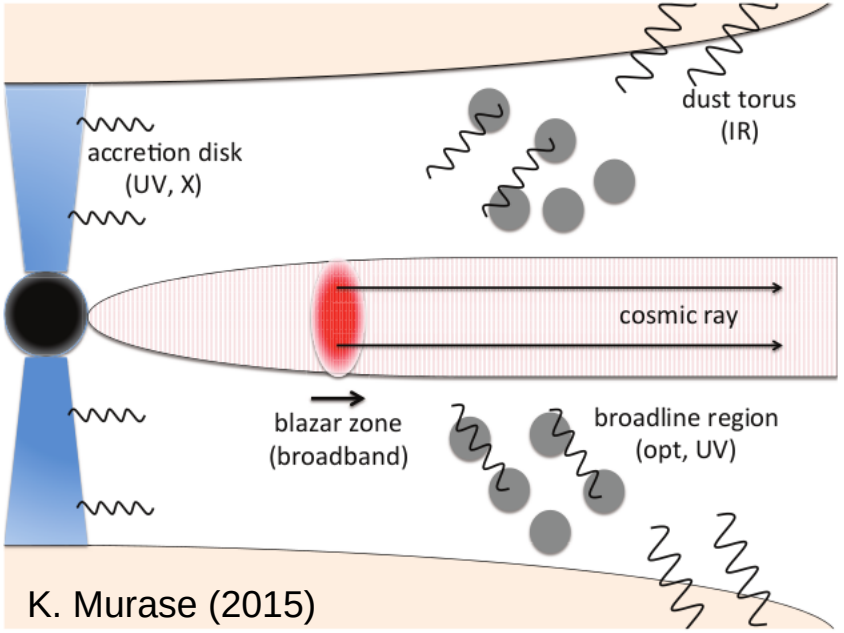


Figure from Relner et al, PRD (2008)

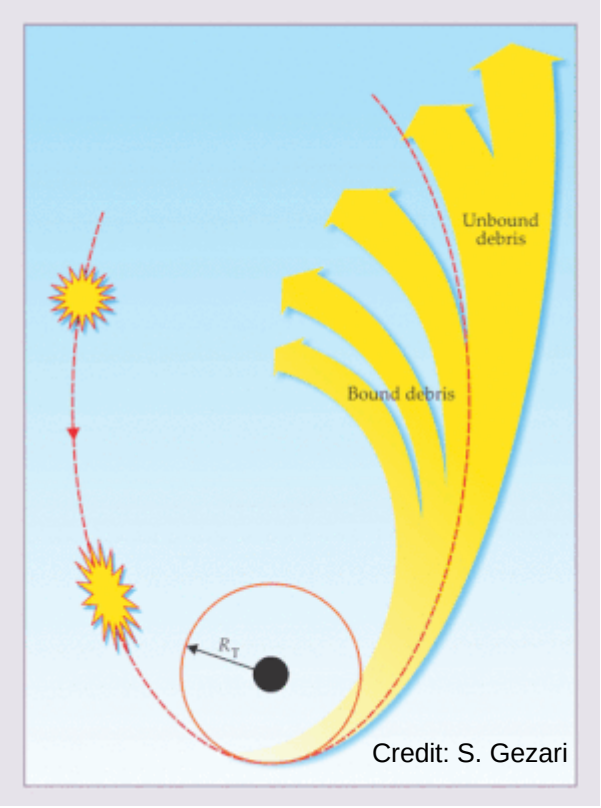
Potential neutrino sources: Active Galactic Nuclei



Example model



Tidal Disruption Events



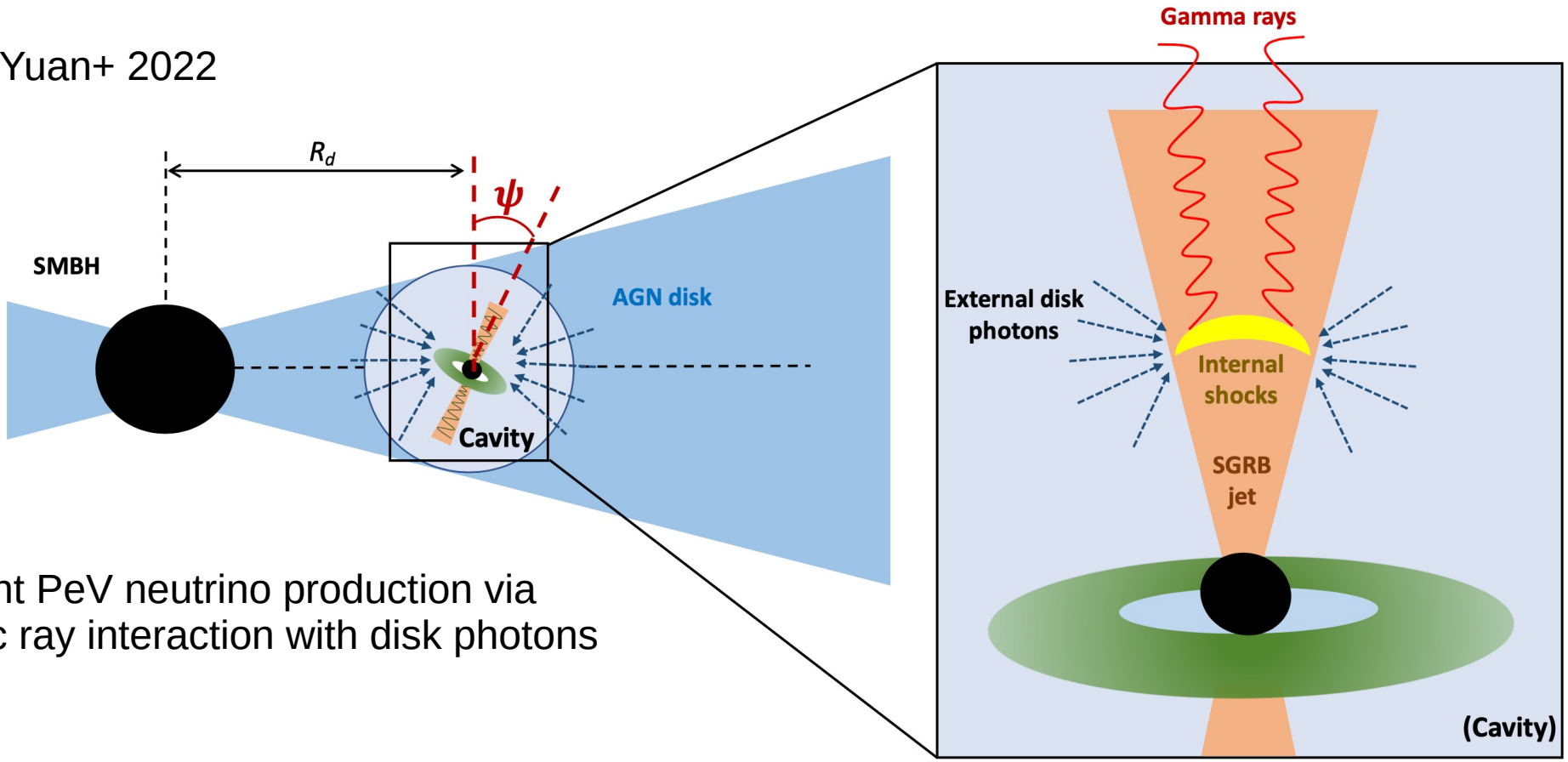
Star disrupted
in gravitational field
of supermassive black hole

R = Rocher limit

Also see *R. Stein et al., Nat. Astron. 5, 510 (2021)*

Neutron star mergers in AGN disks

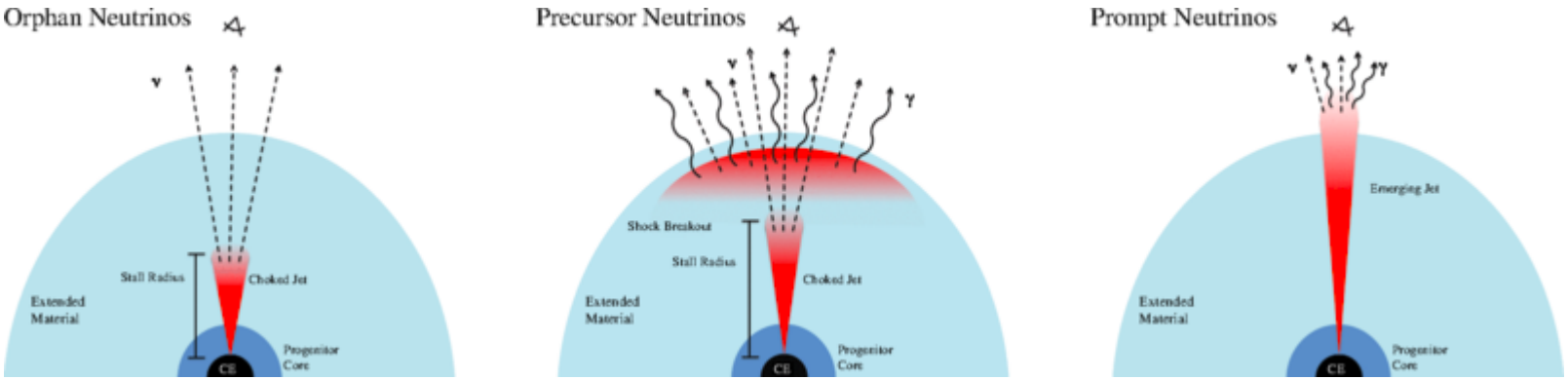
Yuan+ 2022



Efficient PeV neutrino production via cosmic ray interaction with disk photons

Also possible with black hole mergers (Kimura et al., 2021)

GRBs, choked jets (Supernovae)

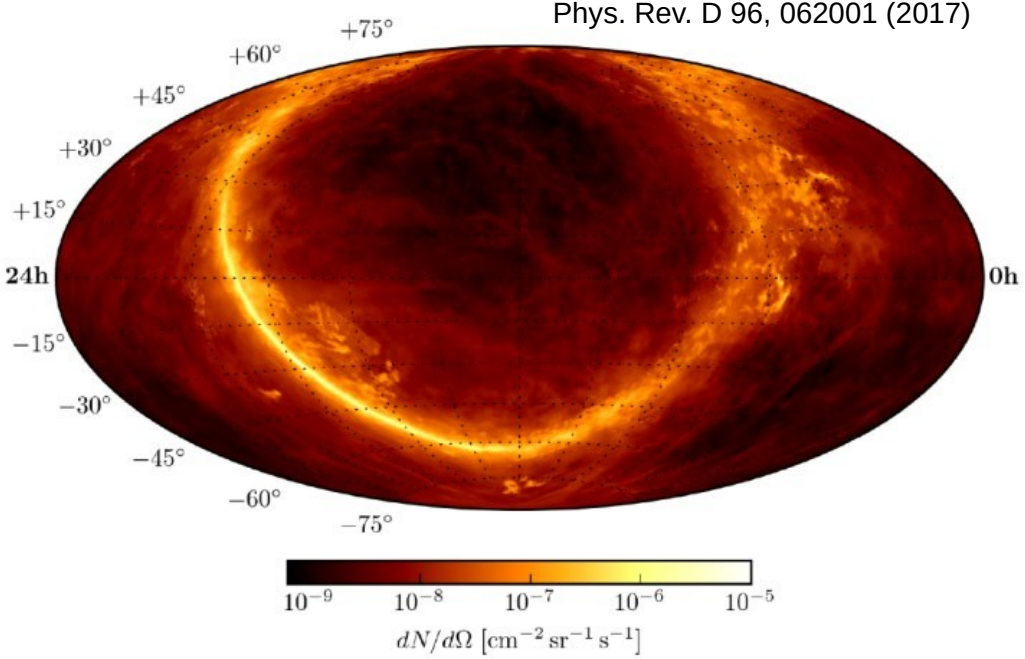


N. Senno, K. Murase, and P. Mészáros (2016)

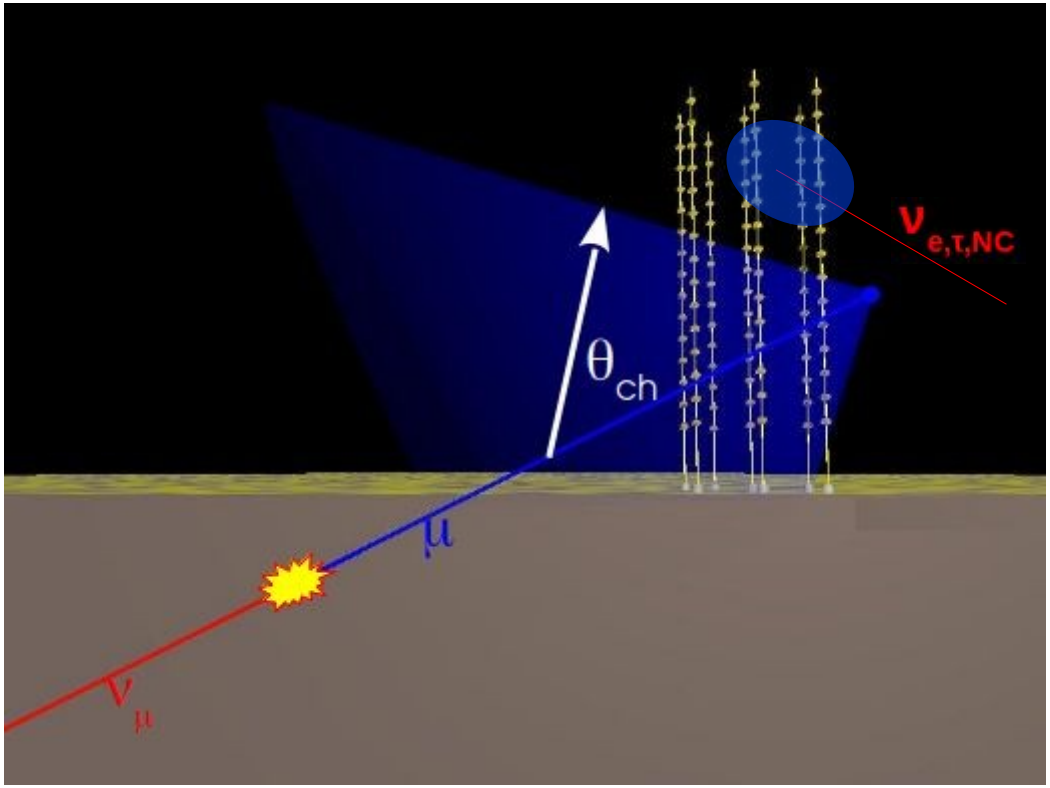
Possible Galactic neutrino sources

- Galactic Ridge / Galactic diffuse
- Supernova Remnants
- Pulsar Wind Nebulae?
- Microquasars
- Binaries
- Novae
- Galactic center

Phys. Rev. D 96, 062001 (2017)



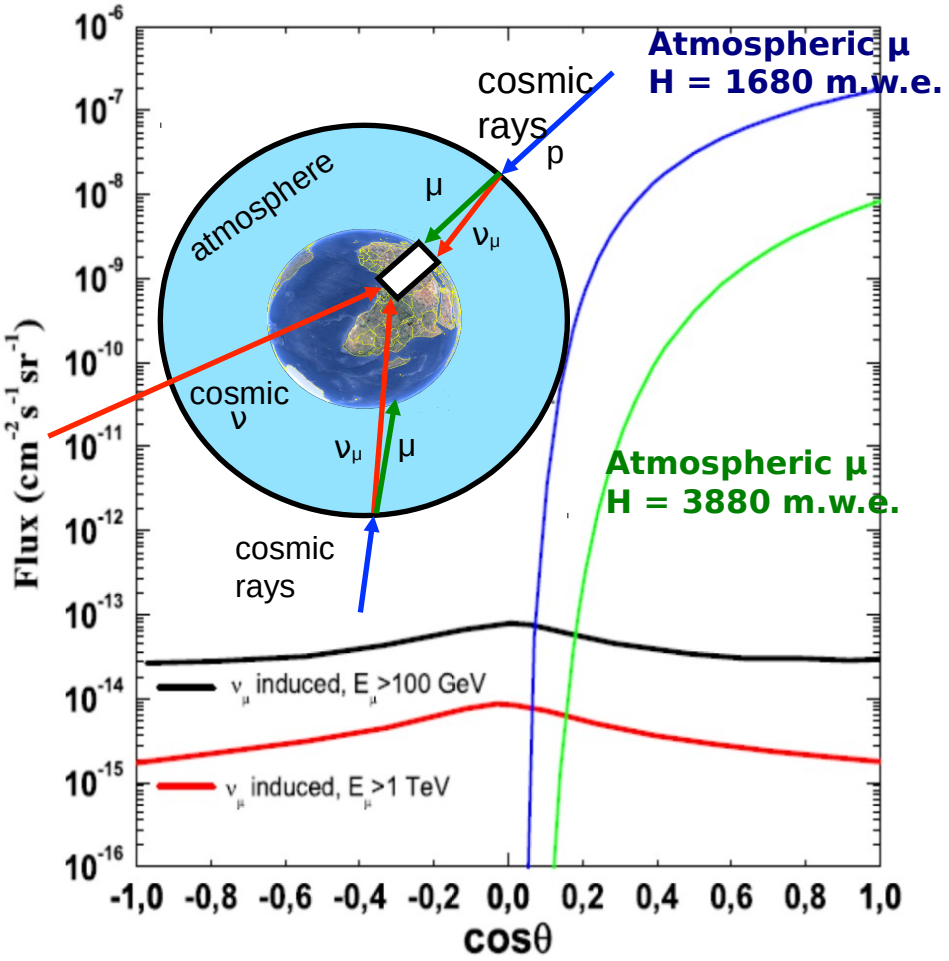
Neutrino telescope : how it works



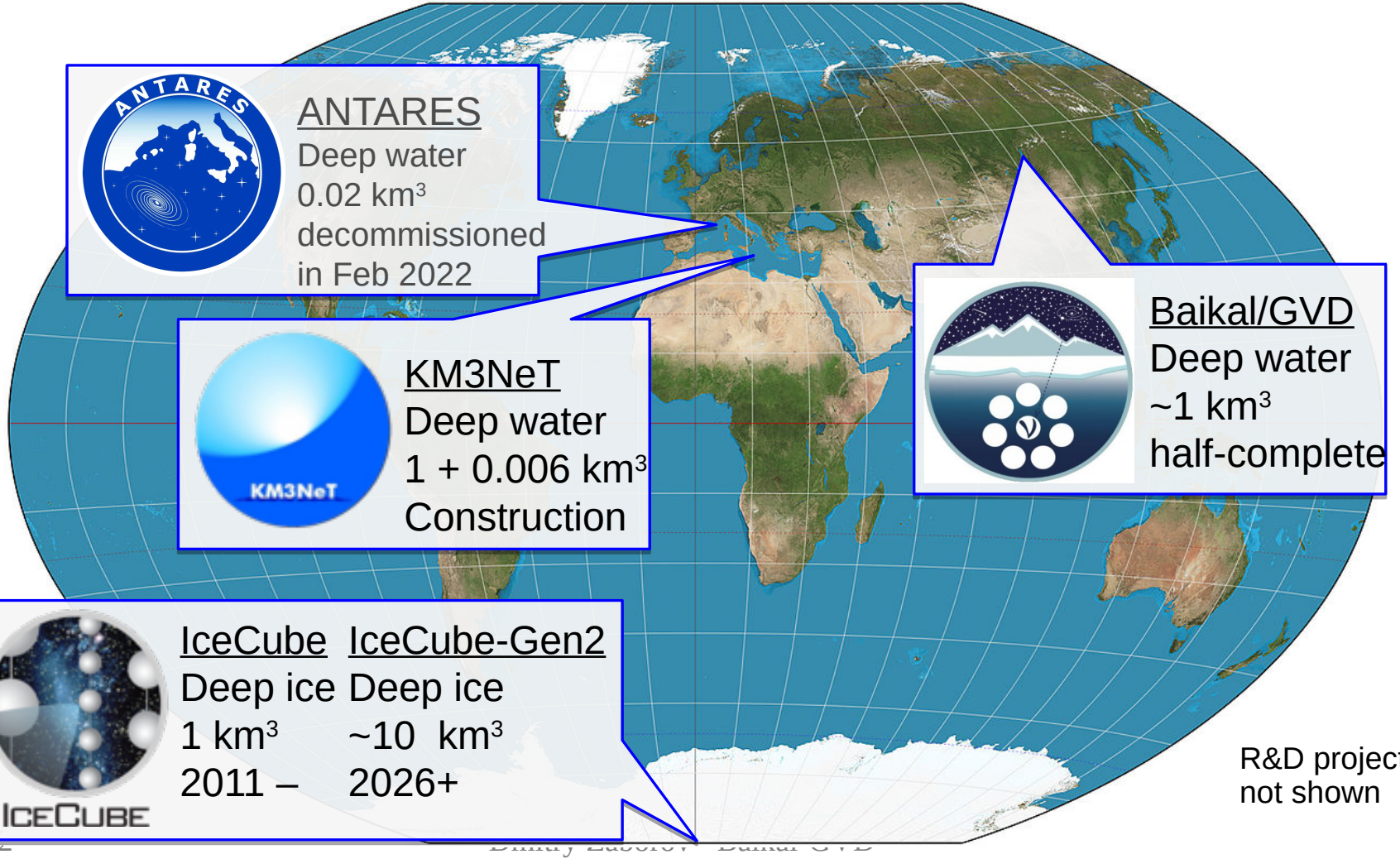
- Large arrays of PMTs in water or ice
- Cherenkov light detected by PMTs
- “Tracks”: ν_μ CC
- “Cascades”: ν_e & ν_τ CC + NC
- Direction reconstructed from hit positions and times
- Energy reconstructed from hit charges

Backgrounds

- Atmospheric neutrinos
  - All-sky, soft spectrum
  - For downgoing events, atmospheric muons can be used as veto (at very high energy)
- Atmospheric muons
  - Downgoing only (Earth acts as filter)
- Environmental background light: natural radioactivity (^{40}K), bioluminescence, chemiluminescence
  - Limits low energy sensitivity



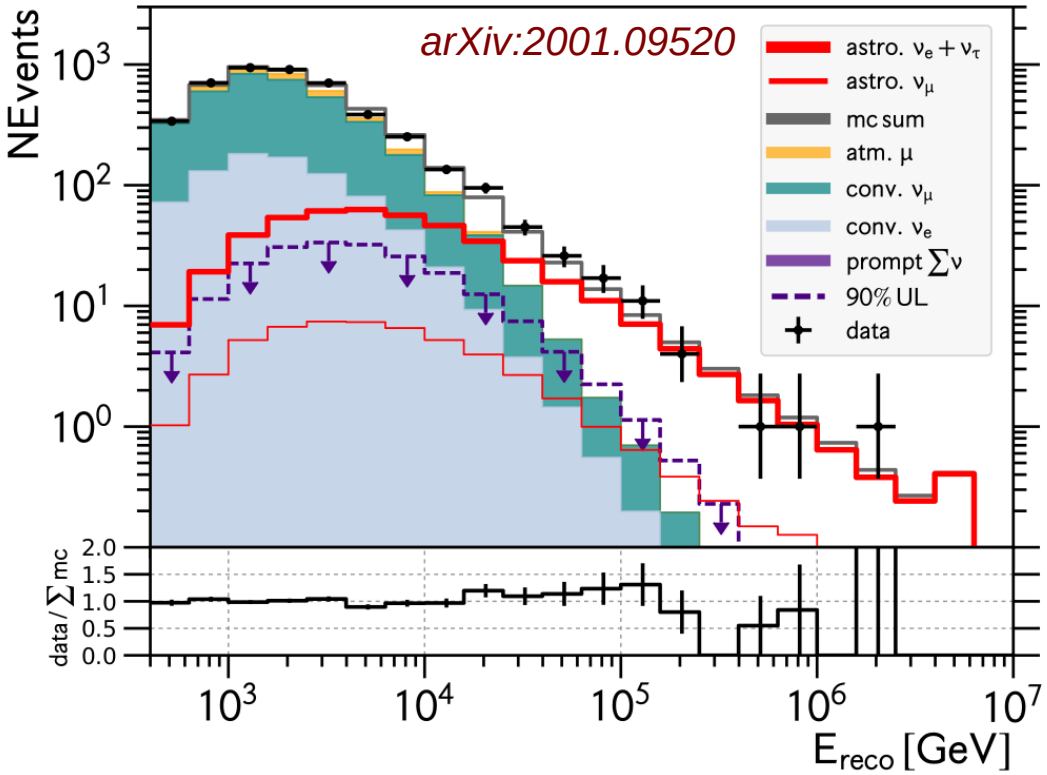
Neutrino telescope world map 2022



R&D projects
not shown

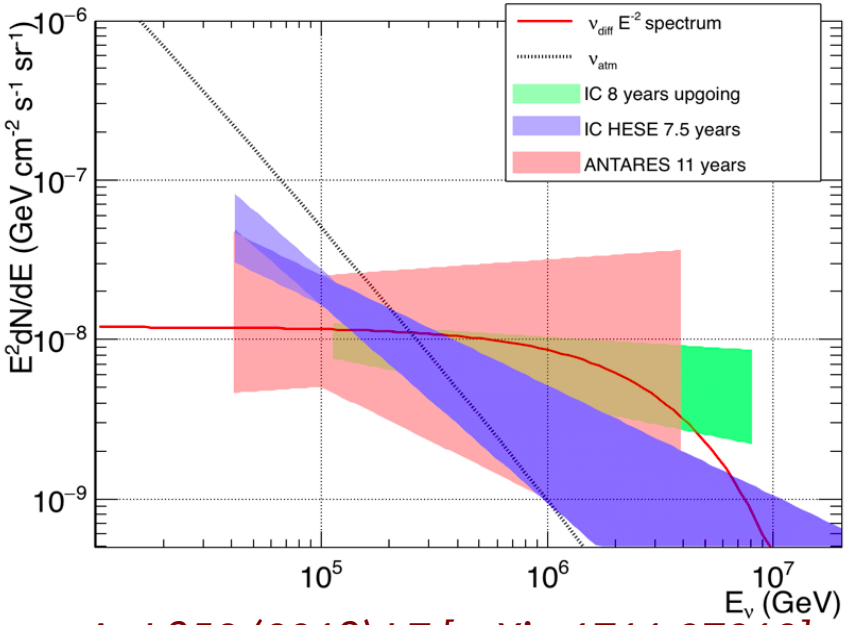
Diffuse neutrino flux

IceCube cascades



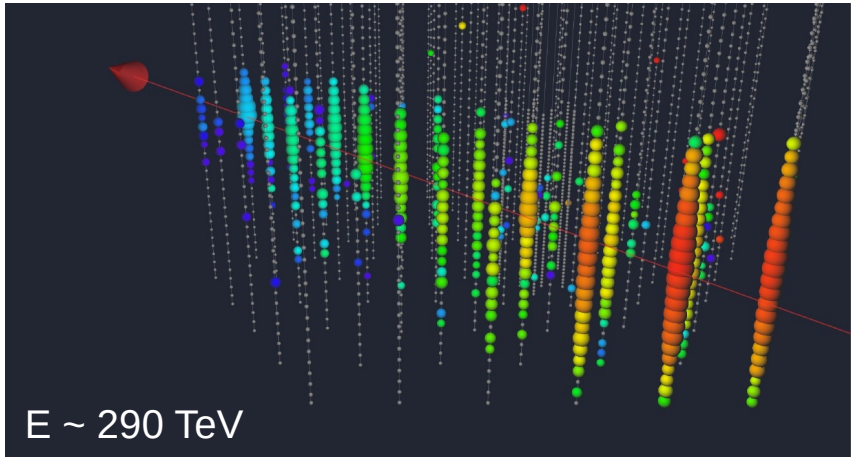
Science 342 (2013) [4.1 σ]
PRL 113:101101 (2014) [5.9 σ]
PRL 125:121104 (2020) [~10 σ]

While the existence of a diffuse neutrino flux is firmly established, its origin remains unknown



ApJ 853 (2018) L7 [arXiv:1711.07212]
D. Samtleben, Neutrino 2020

TXS 0506+056

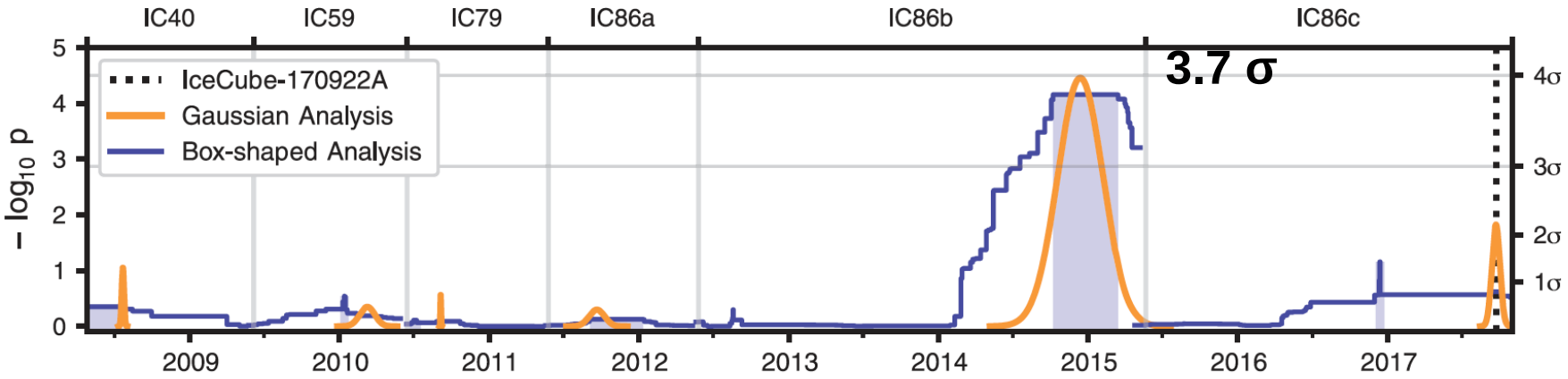


High-energy IceCube ν coincident with a γ-ray flare from the blazar TXS 0506+056 (Sep 22, 2017)

Science 361,147–151 (2018)

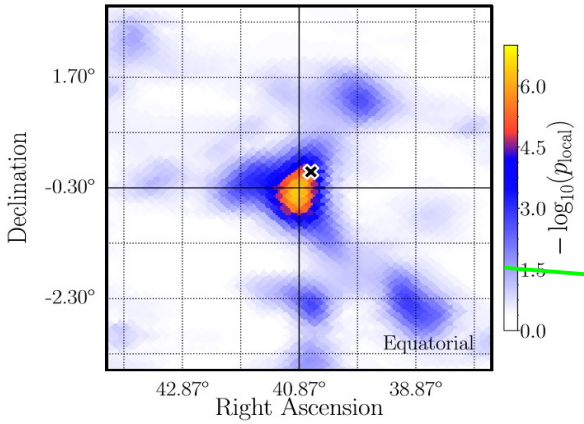
Another, neutrino-only flare found in earlier IceCube data

A. Albert et al., ApJL 863, L30 (2018)

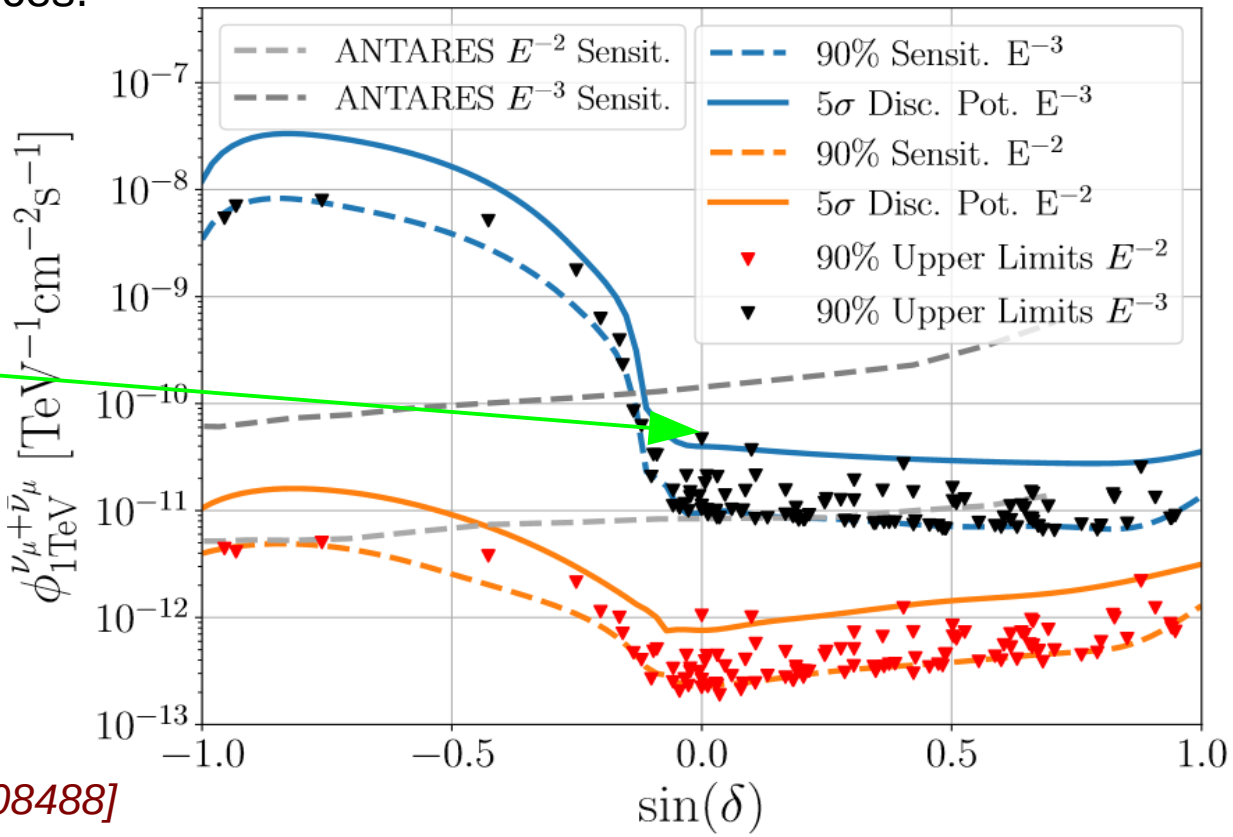


Point-source searches

Some evidence for non-uniform skymap in 10 years of IceCube data (3.3σ).
Mostly resulting from 4 extragalactic source candidates.
No indications for galactic sources.



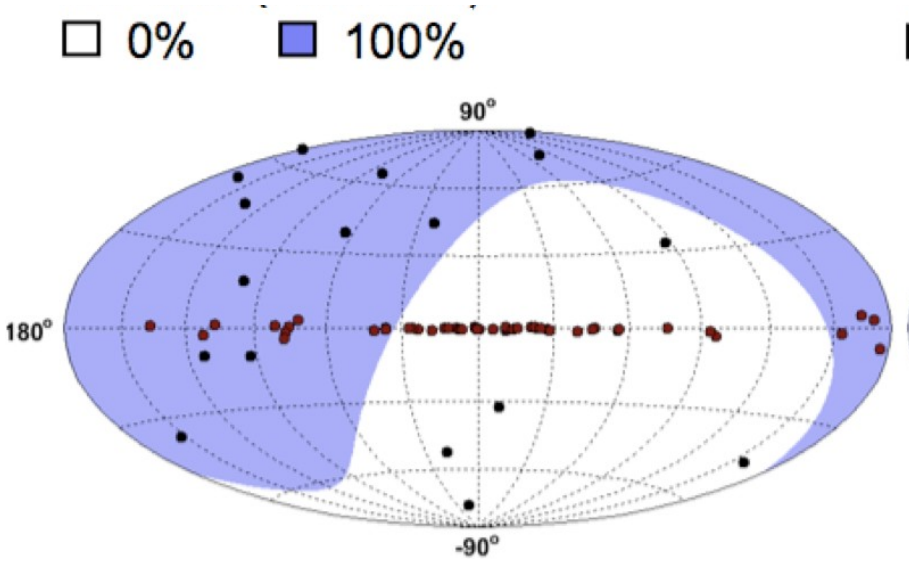
Strongest excess
(2.6 σ post trial) close to
galaxy NGC 1068 (cross)



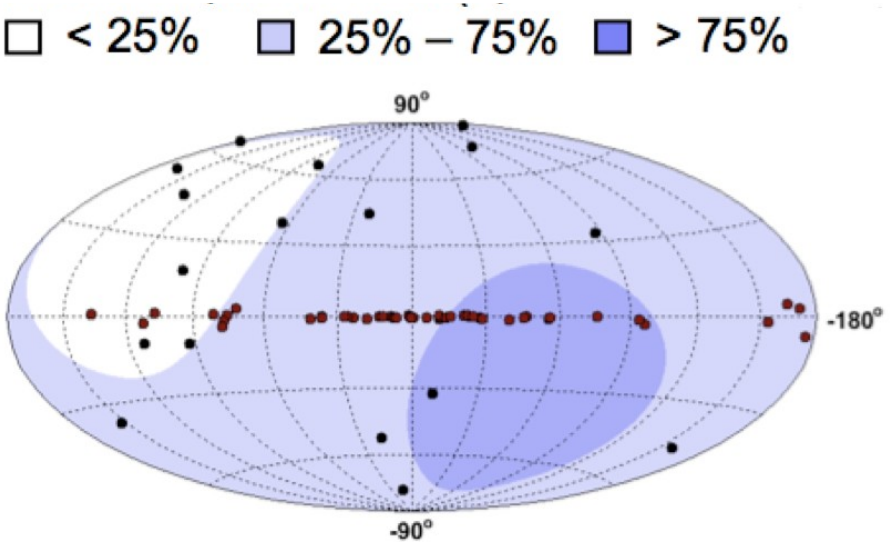
PRL 124, 051103 (2020) [arXiv:1910.08488]

Sky visibility with upgoing tracks

South Pole (IceCube)



Northern hemisphere
(Mediterranean)



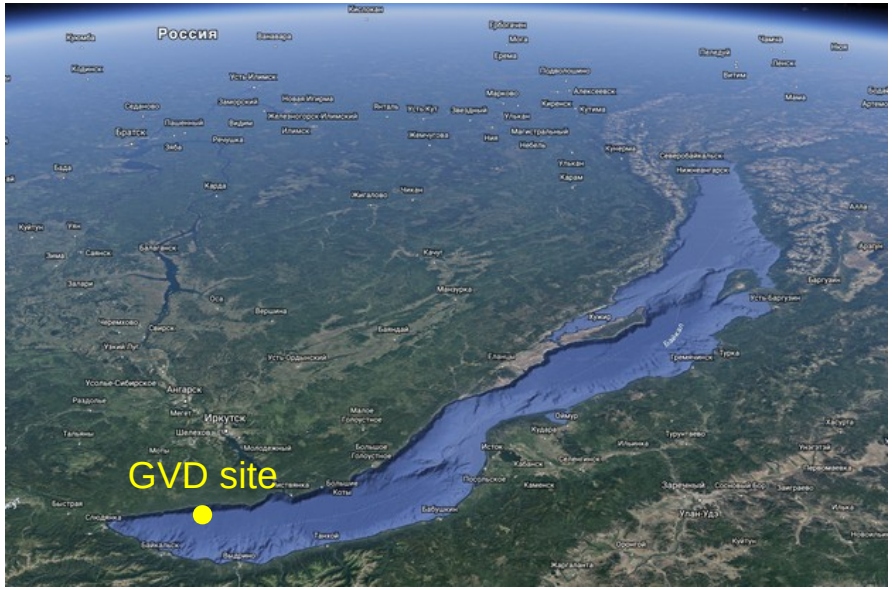
Complementary sky coverage

Galactic center better viewed from Northern hemisphere (through the Earth)

Part II

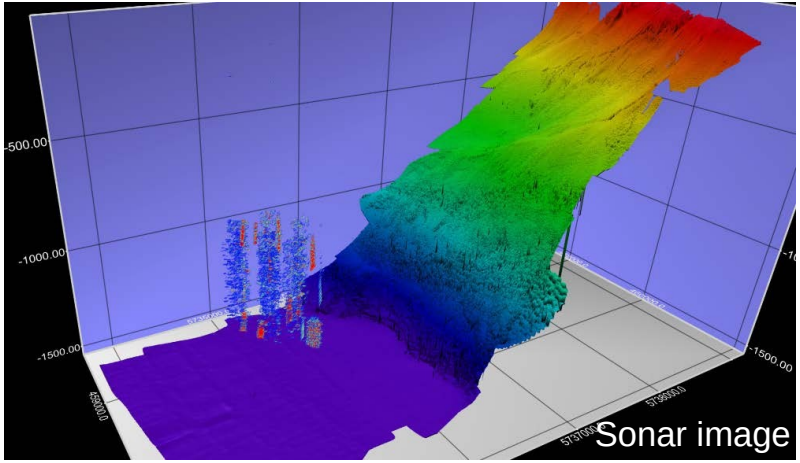
Baikal-GVD

Baikal-GVD site

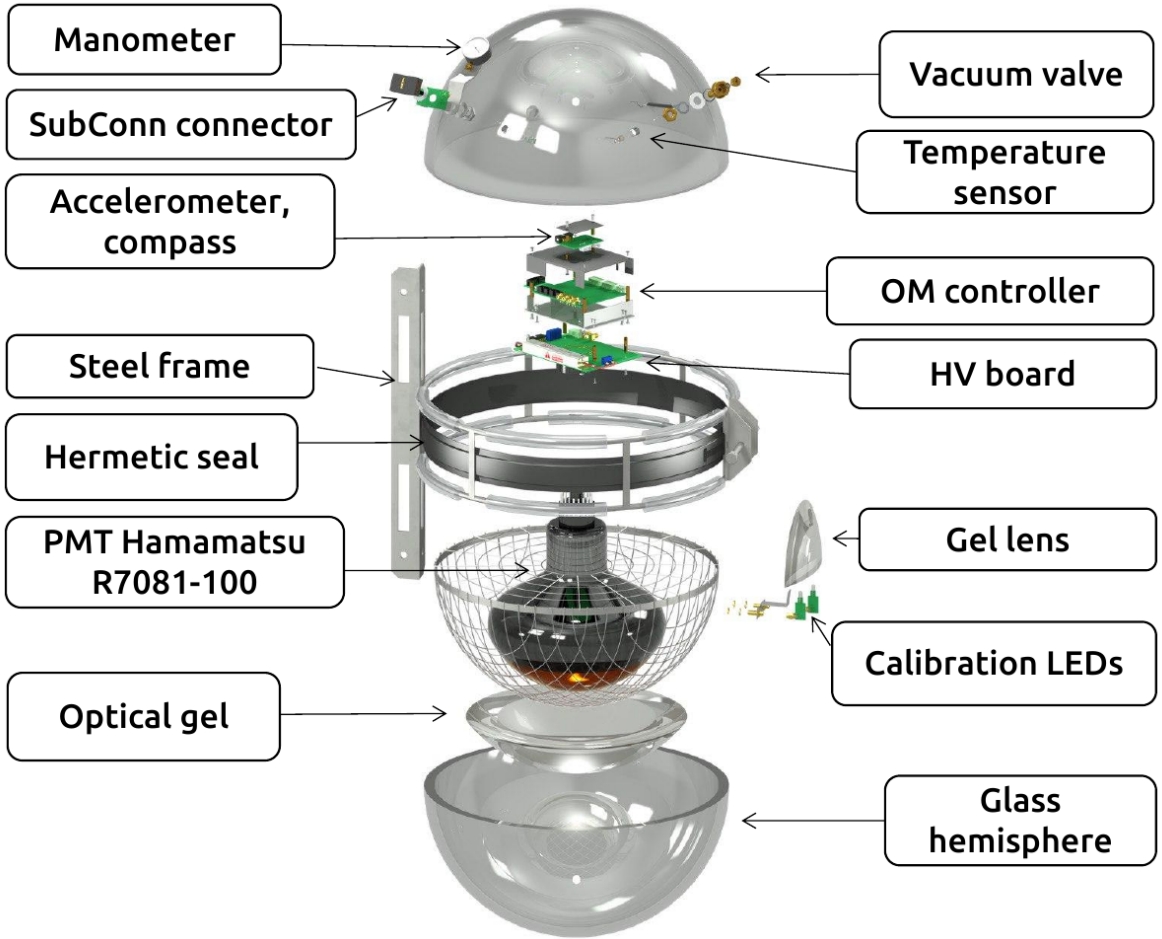


- 51° 46’ N 104° 24’ E
- Southern basin of Lake Baikal
- ~ 4 km away from shore
- Flat area at depths 1366 – 1367 m
- Stable ice cover for 6–8 weeks in February – April: detector deployment & maintenance

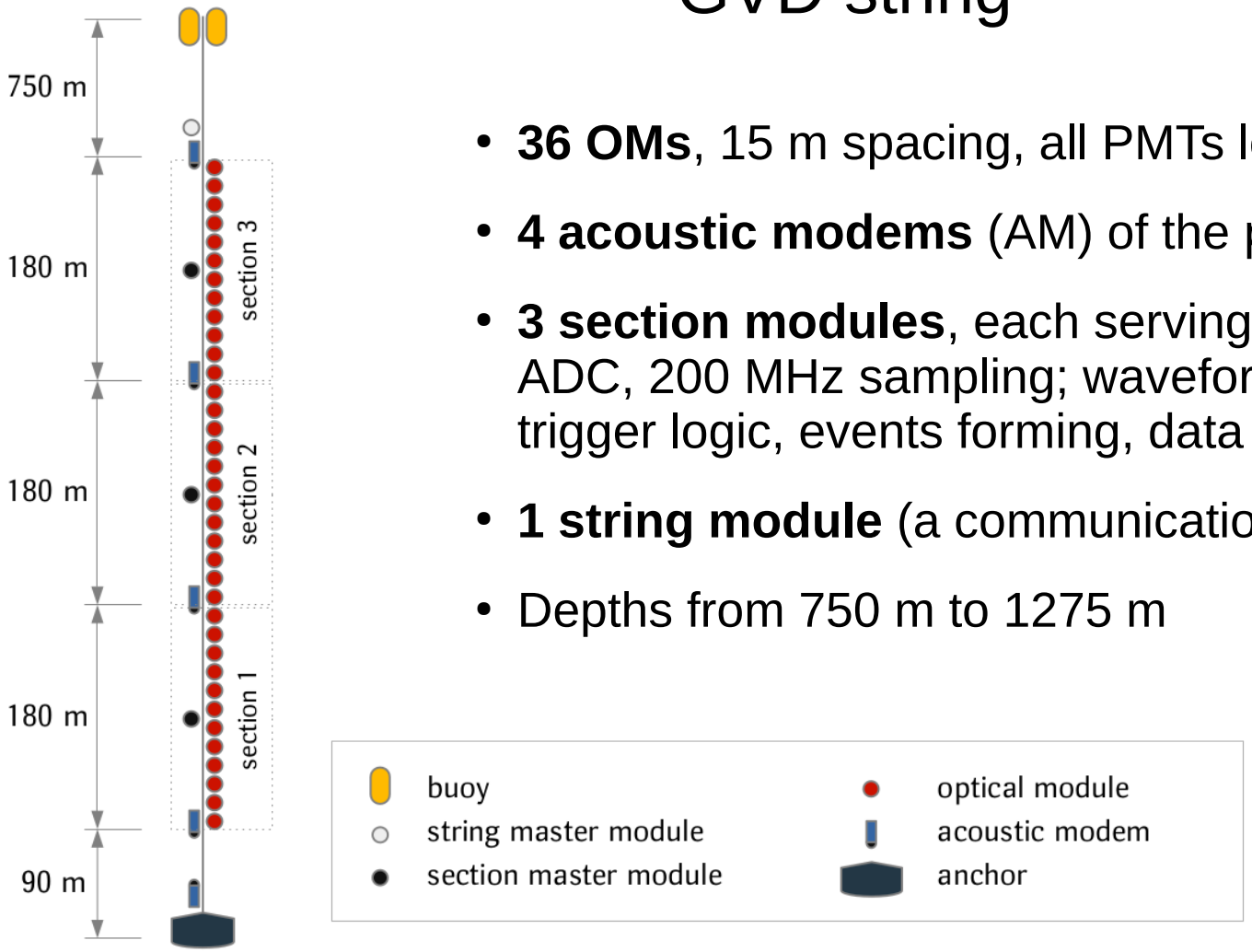
- High water transparency
  - ✔ Absorption length: 22 m
  - ✔ Scattering length: 30 – 50 m (L_{eff} ≈ 480 m)
- Moderately low optical background: 15–40 kHz (PMT R7081-100 ∅10”)



Baikal-GVD optical module

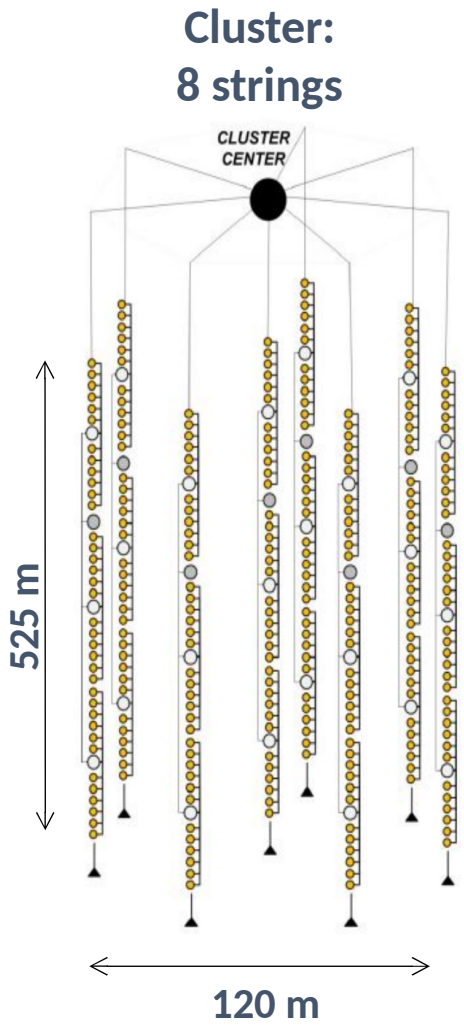


GVD string



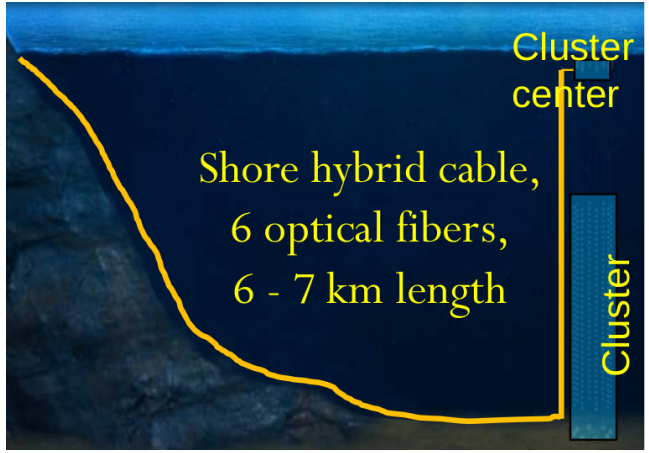
- **36 OMs**, 15 m spacing, all PMTs look downward
- **4 acoustic modems** (AM) of the positioning system
- **3 section modules**, each serving 12 OMs (12-channel ADC, 200 MHz sampling; waveform measurement + trigger logic, events forming, data filtration)
- **1 string module** (a communication hub)
- Depths from 750 m to 1275 m

GVD cluster



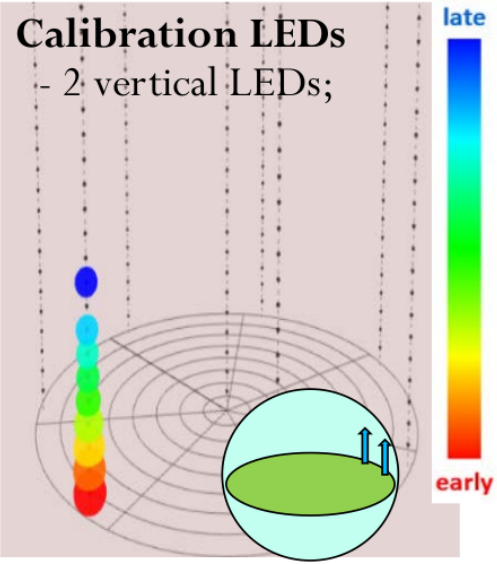
Cluster

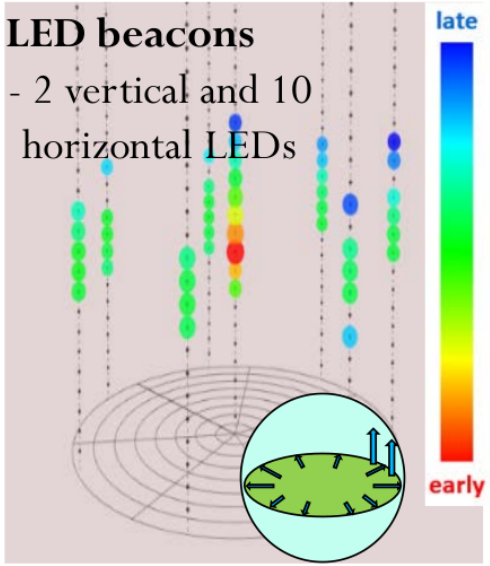
- 8 strings (288 OMs)
- 60 m step between strings
- Central electronics (power, trigger, data transmission) located at 30 m depth
- Hardware trigger: 4 p.e. + 1.5 p.e. on adjacent OMs in 100 ns window
- Inter-section synchronisation by common trigger (~ 2 ns accuracy)
- Internal network: shDSL Ethernet extenders 5.7 Mbit
- Connection to shore: Ethernet / optic fiber



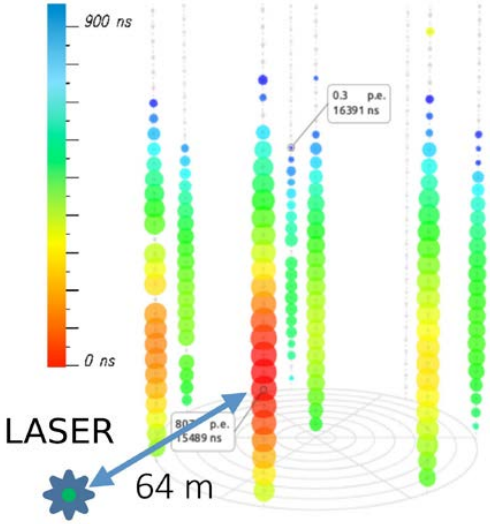
Calibration devices

- Section calibration: 2 LEDs in each OM, 470 nm, 1 - 10^8 ph., 5 ns
- String calibration: LED beacons in 12 OMs of the cluster
- Cluster calibration: 2 lasers per station, 532 nm, 10^{12} - 10^{15} ph., 1 ns

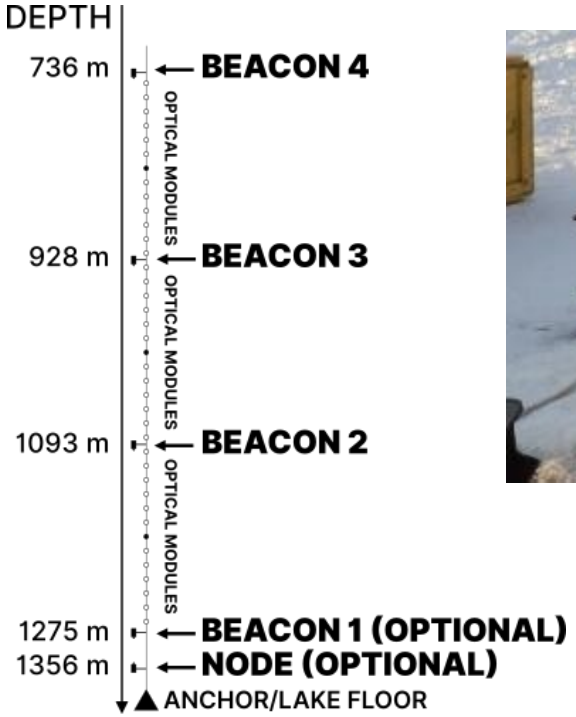


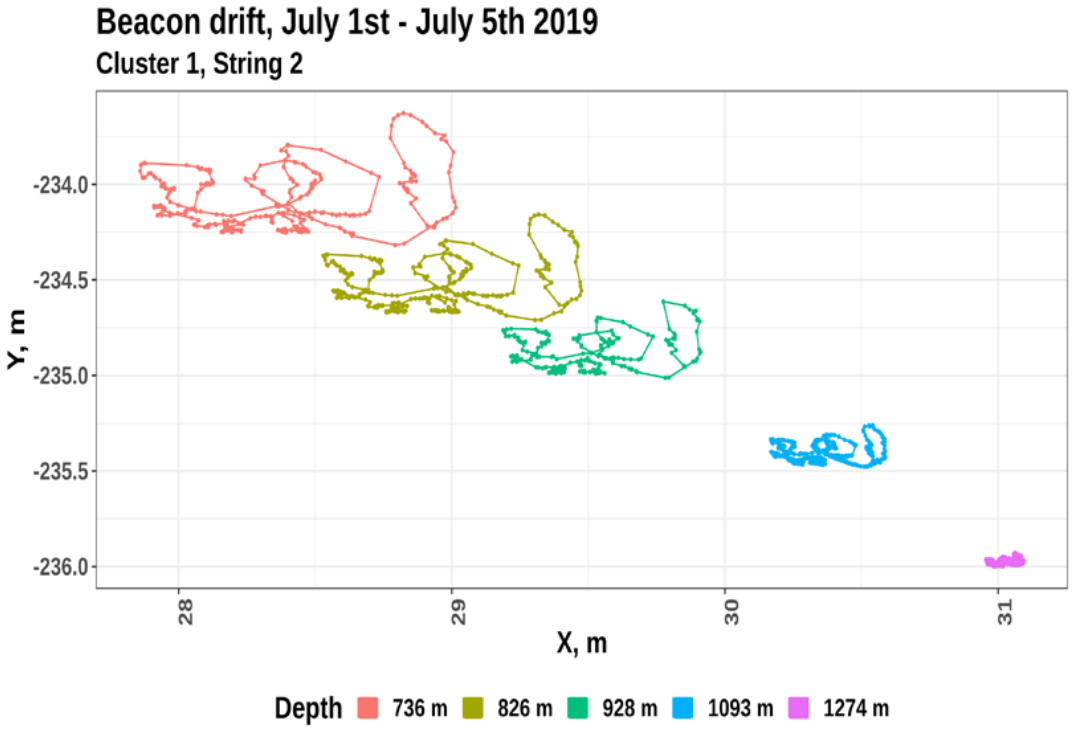


Calibration accuracy ~2 ns



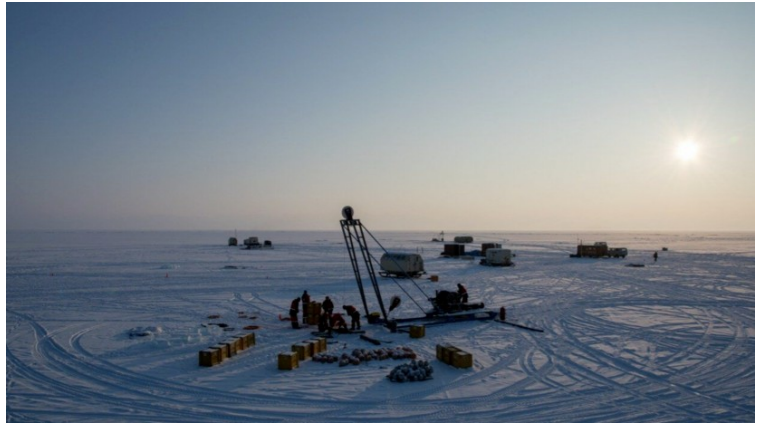
Acoustic positioning





OM drift can reach tens of meters, depending on season and elevation
String geometry monitored with acoustic modems (4 AMs per string)
OM coordinates are obtained by interpolating AM coordinates, accuracy ~ 20 cm

Deployment

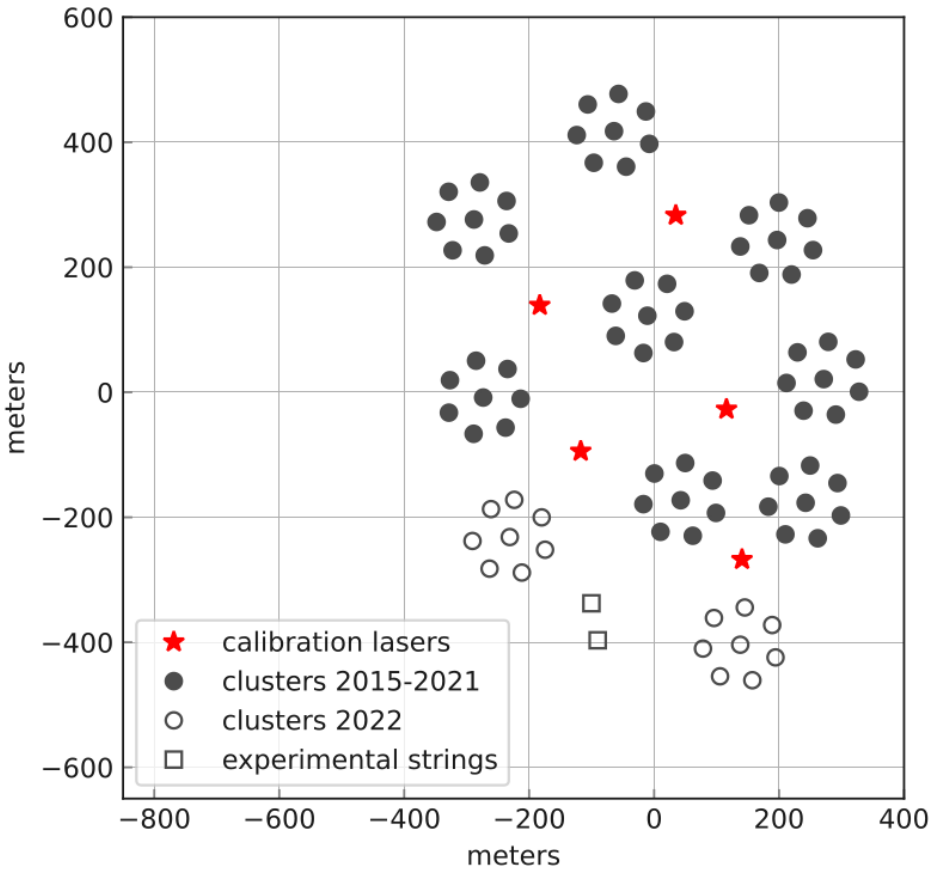


Expedition 2022

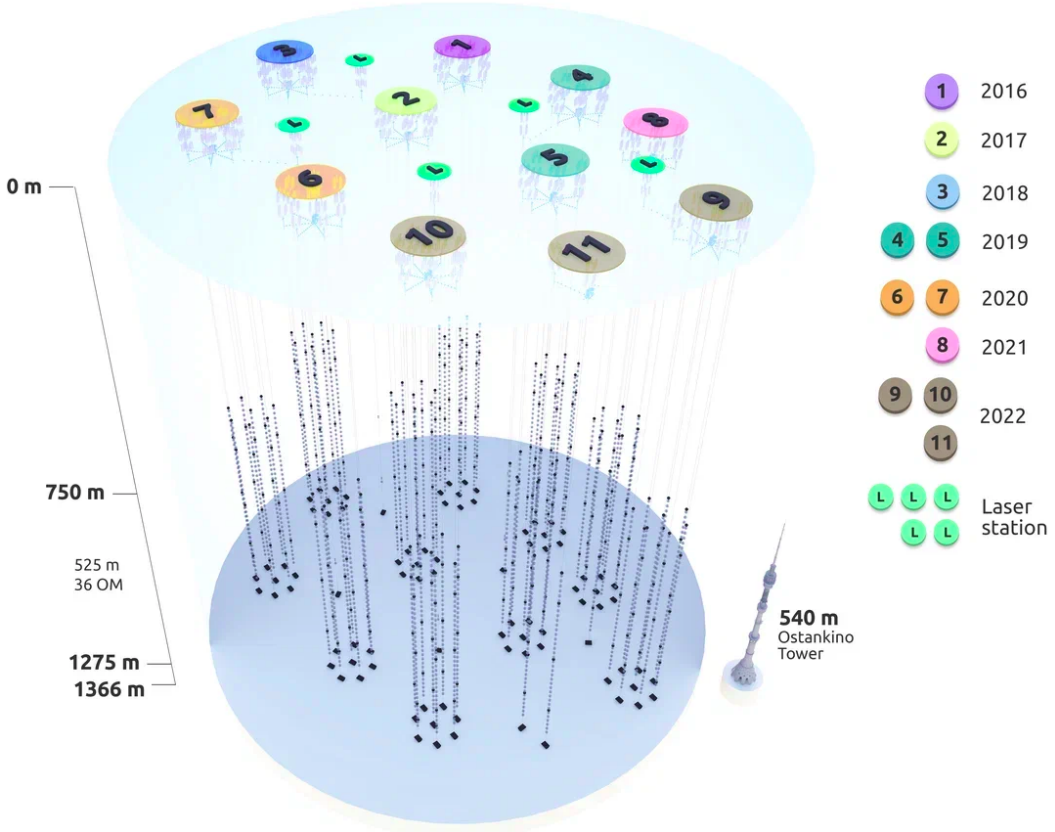
Installed equipment:

- Two new clusters (16 strings)
- 2 “experimental” strings using fiber optic technology for data transmission
- 1 additional inter-cluster string (36 OM + laser)
- 1 laser station

+ scheduled maintenance of previously installed equipment



Baikal-GVD construction status 2022 and schedule



10 clusters + 1 special string (laser+36 OM)
+ 2 experimental strings + 4 laser stations

Deployment schedule

Year	Number of clusters	Number of strings	Number of OMs
2016	1	8	288
2017	2	16	576
2018	3	24	864
2019	5	40	1440
2020	7	56	2016
2021	8	64	2304
2022	**10**	**80 + 3**	**2880 + 84**
2023	12	96	3456
2024	14	112	4032

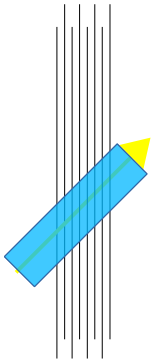
Eff. volume 2022: ~ 0.5 km^3 (cascades, E > 100 TeV)

Часть III

Baikal-GVD projected performance and first results

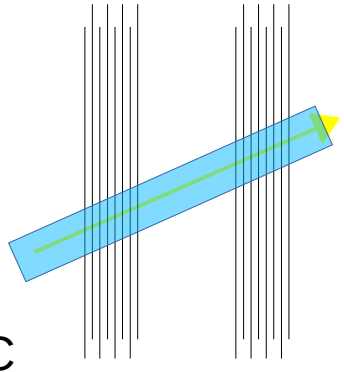
Event types

Single-cluster tracks



- Low energy threshold
- Optimal sensitivity to nearly vertical tracks
- 90% of recorded track events

Multi-cluster tracks

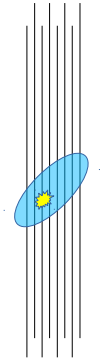


- Moderately low energy threshold
- Optimal sensitivity to inclined tracks
- 10% of recorded track events

ν_μ CC

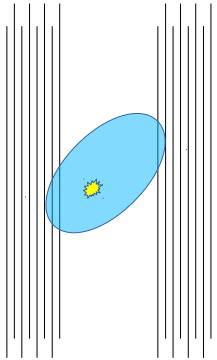
NC, ν_e ν_τ CC

Single-cluster cascades



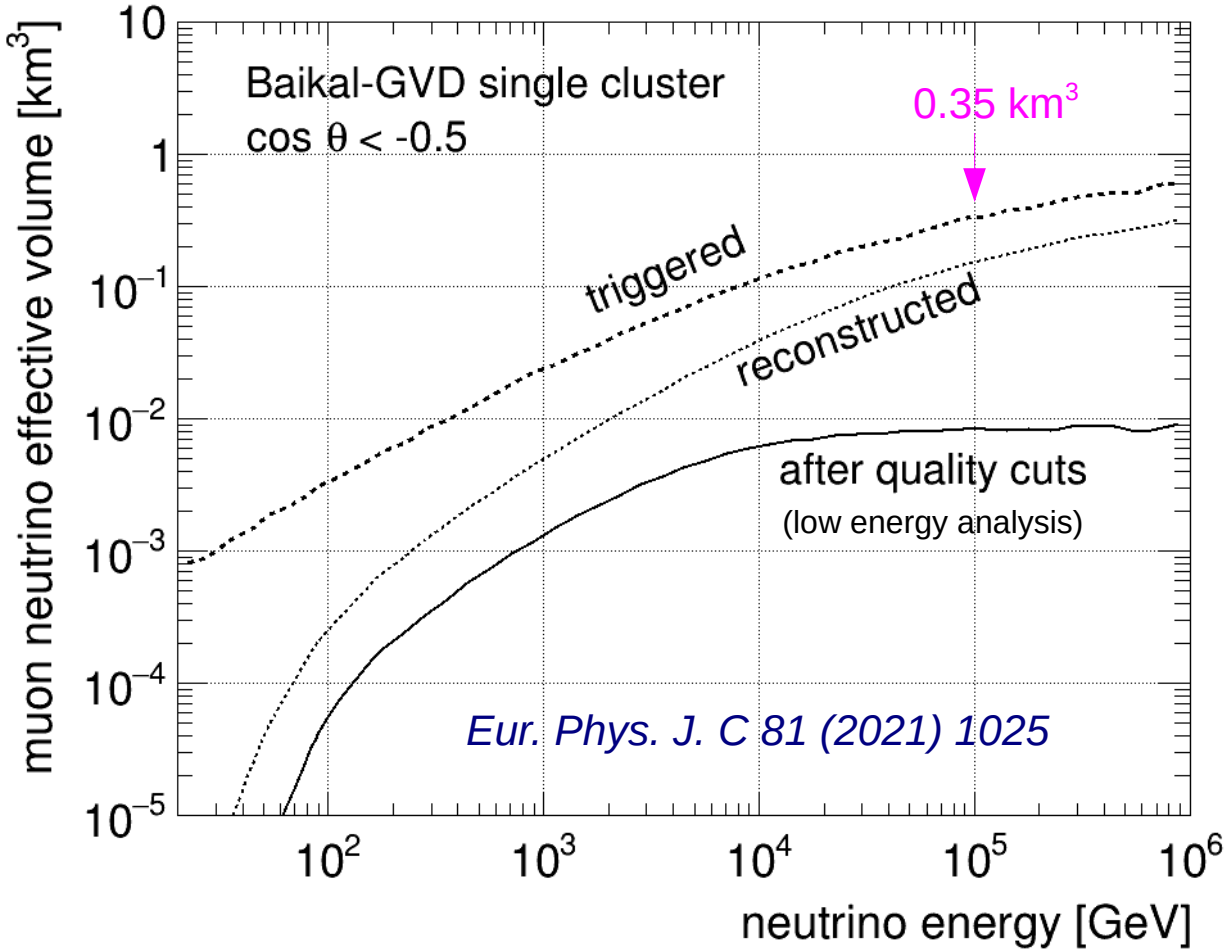
- High energy threshold
- Good energy resolution
- Relatively rare events

Multi-cluster cascades



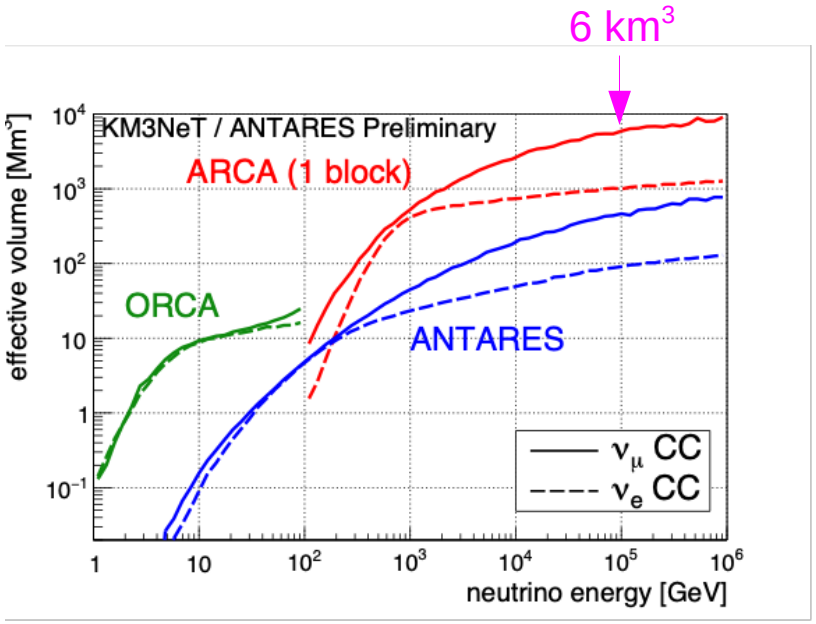
- Very high energy threshold
- Excellent energy resolution
- Very rare events

Neutrino effective volume for tracks (one GVD cluster)



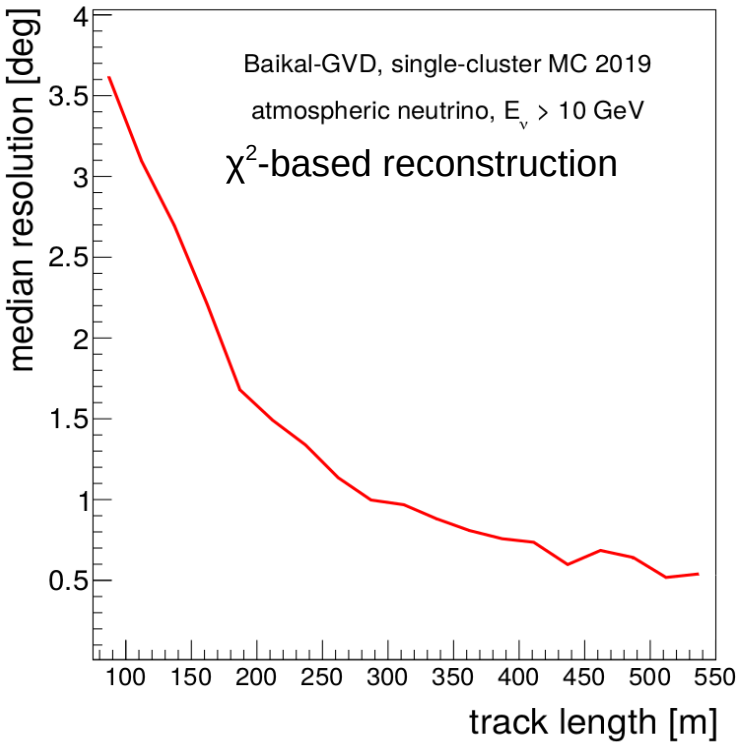
Energy threshold ~ 200 GeV (higher than in ANTARES)

Fully efficient at E > 100 TeV



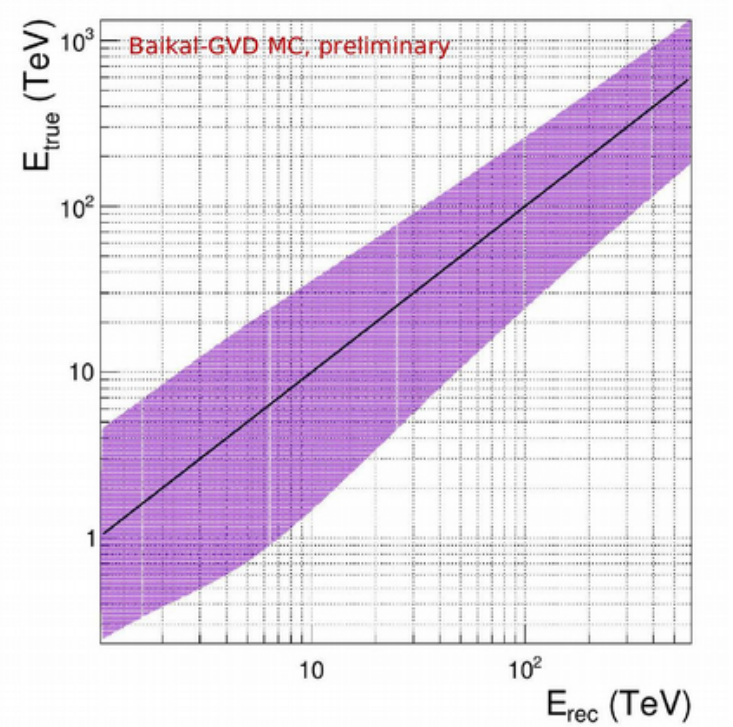
Expected performance for tracks

Angular resolution



Improvements expected from likelihood-based reconstruction (under development)

Energy reconstruction

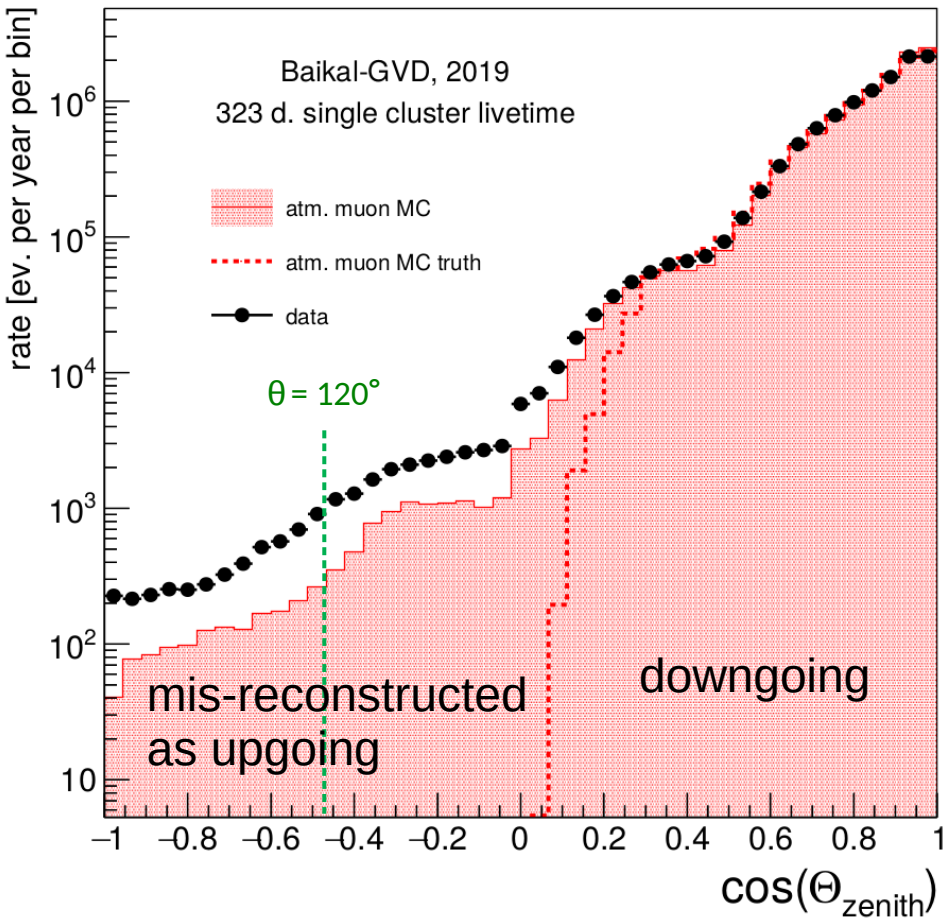


energy resolution ~ factor 3 at E ~ 100 TeV (±34% containment band)

G. Safronov @ ICRC 2021

Atmospheric muons with Baikal-GVD (single cluster)

Before quality cuts



Data taken between Apr 1 and Jun 30, 2019 with 5 clusters

~ 9 800 000 events reconstructed with at least 8 hits on at least 2 strings

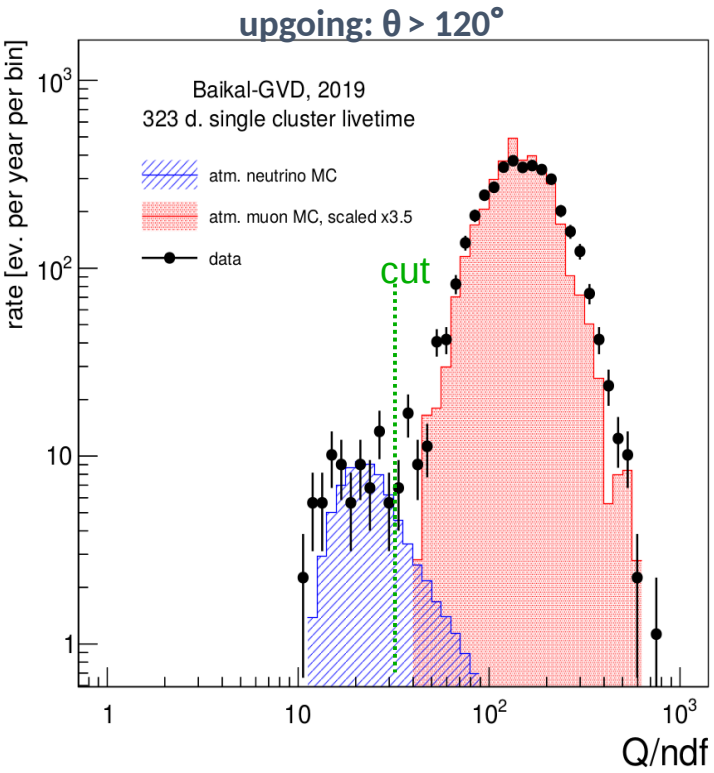
Good agreement for cos(zenith) > 0.2

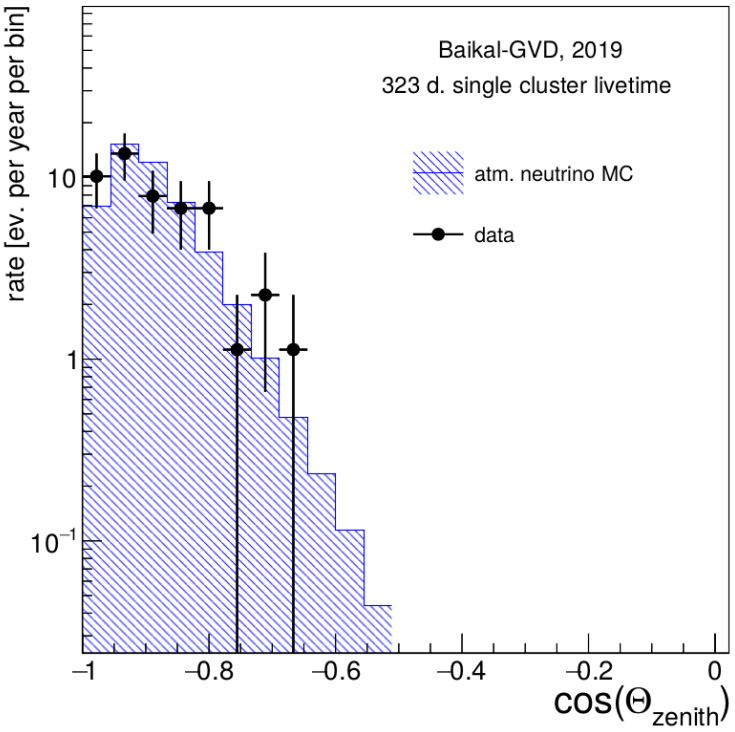
MC underpredicts the rate of misreconstructed events in the upgoing region by a factor of 3.5 (under study)

NB: most of these events are muon bundles (average multiplicity ~ 10)

Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 1025

Atmospheric neutrinos with Baikal-GVD (single cluster)





MC expected: 43.6

- atm. neutrino : 43.6
- atm. muons: < ~ 1

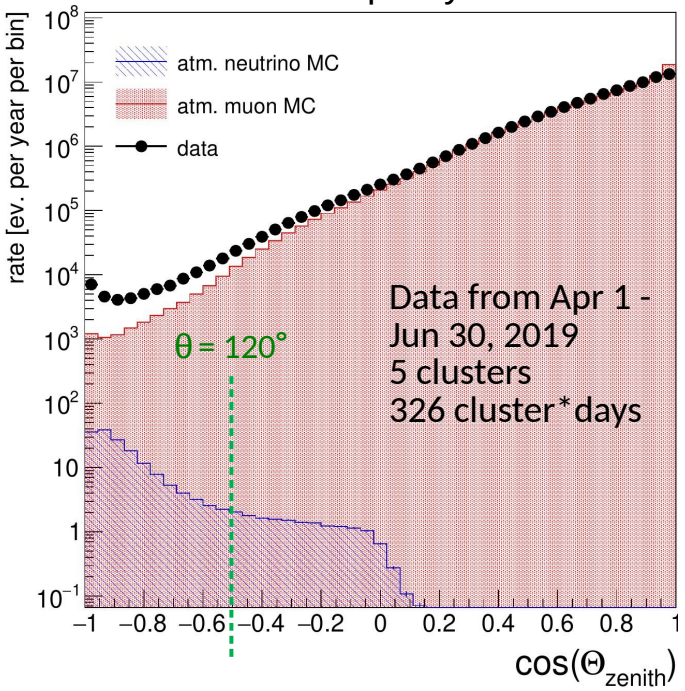
Observed events: 44

Median energy of this sample ≈ 500 GeV

Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 1025

Single-cluster tracks: a BDT-enhanced χ^2-based analysis

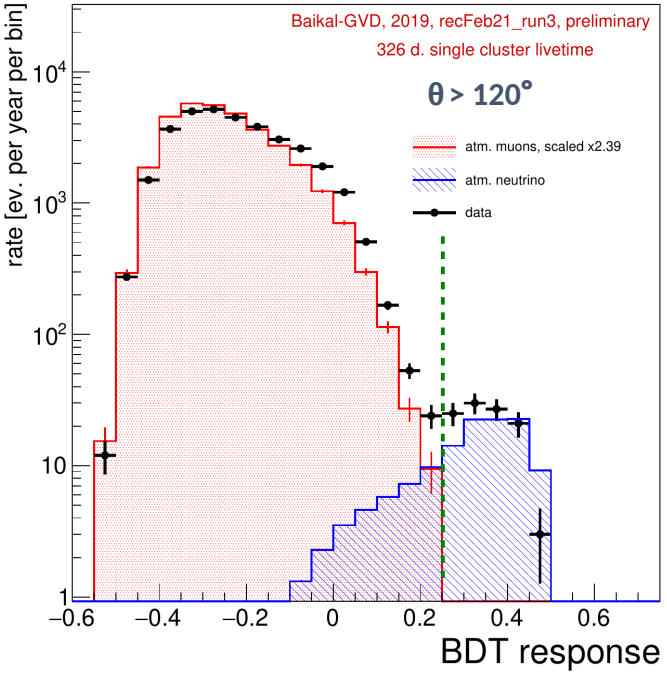
Before quality cuts



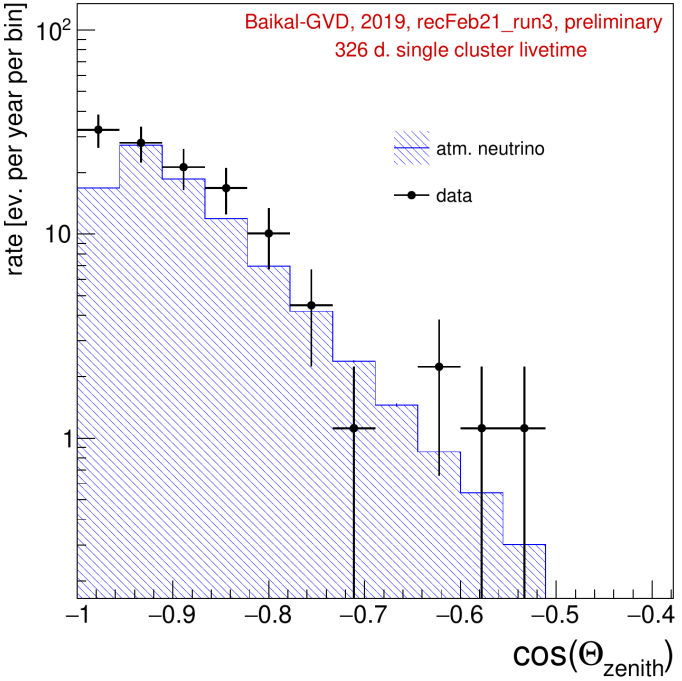
mis-reconstructed & upgoing

downgoing

Near-horizon directions to be covered with a multi-cluster analysis



After quality cuts

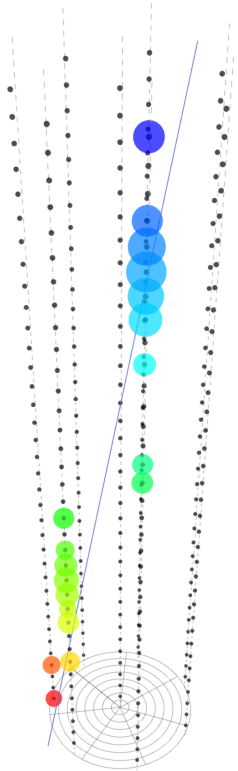


G. Safronov, Neutrino 2022
PoS-ICRC2021-1063
Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 1025

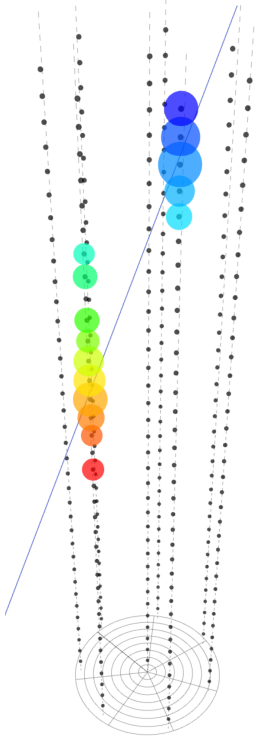
MC expected: 81.2
Observed events: 106

data-MC discrepancies under study

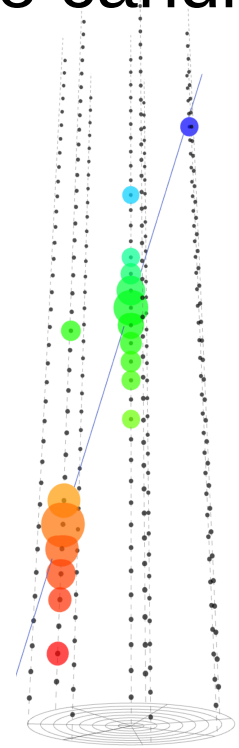
Track-like neutrino candidate events



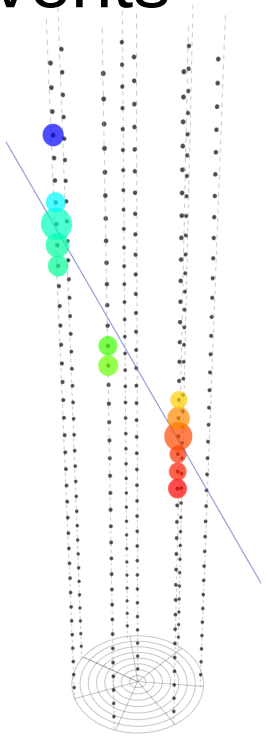
cluster 3, run 122
evt. 1549343
θ_{zenith} = 169.78°
$N_{strings}$ = 3
N_{hits} = 19



cluster 1, run 157
evt. 1414137
θ_{zenith} = 161.78°
$N_{strings}$ = 2
N_{hits} = 15

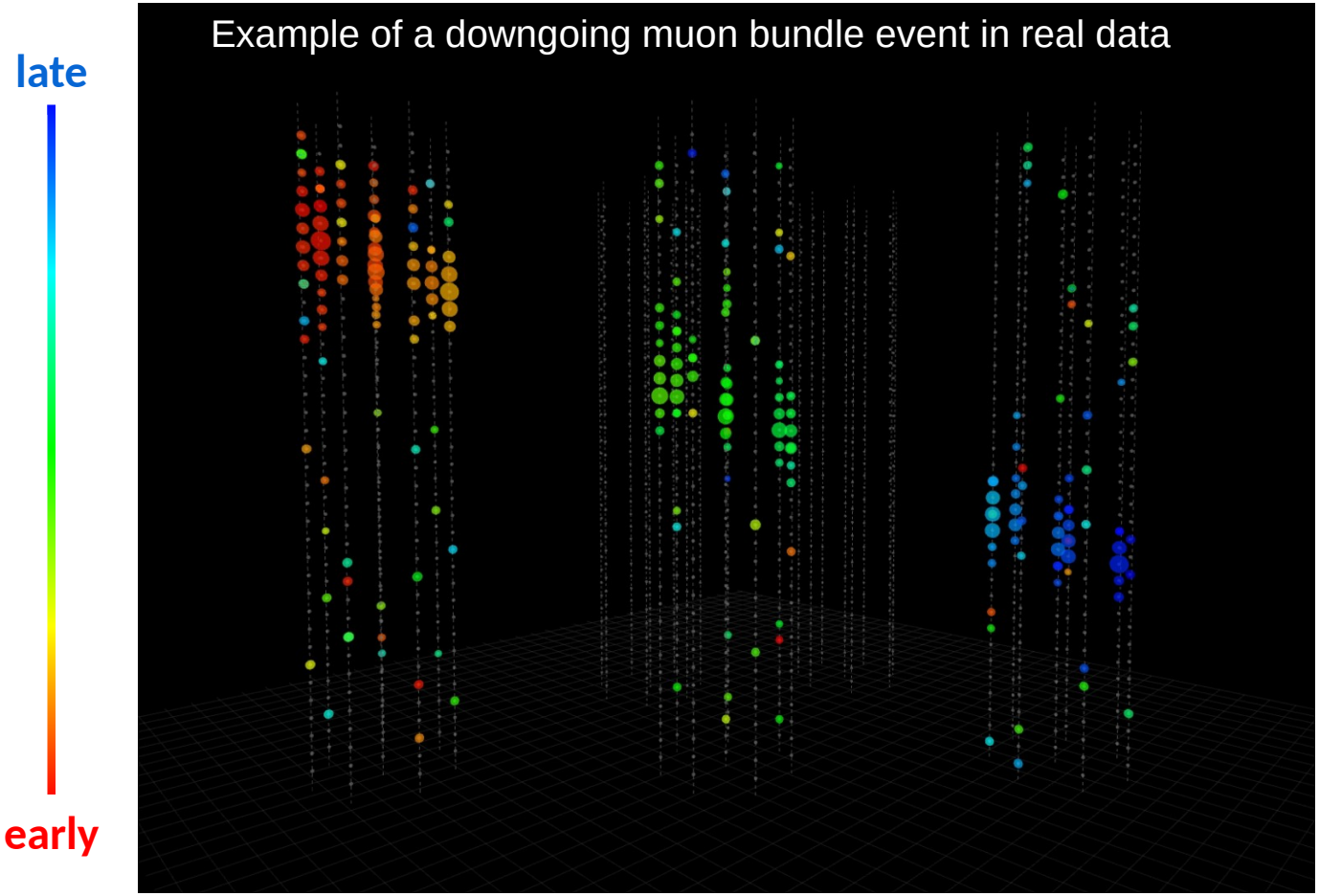


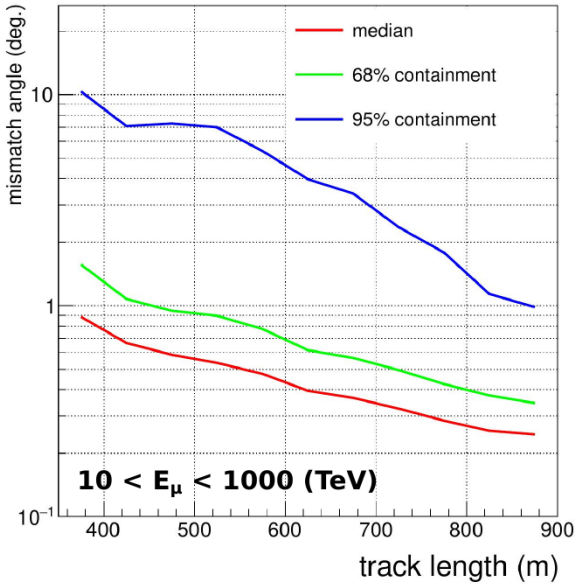
cluster 4, run 99
evt. 438088
θ_{zenith} = 162.22°
$N_{strings}$ = 3
N_{hits} = 18



cluster 5, run 162
evt. 1939721
θ_{zenith} = 148.07°
$N_{strings}$ = 3
N_{hits} = 13

Multi-cluster track events





Median energy ~ 4 TeV

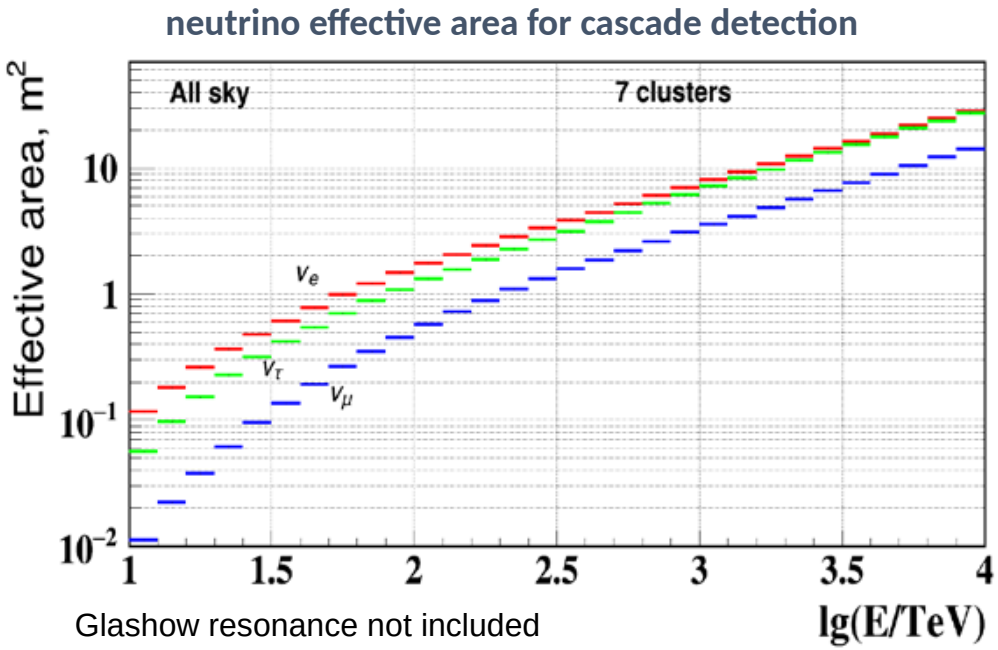
Work in progress !

Cascade analysis : effective area and rates

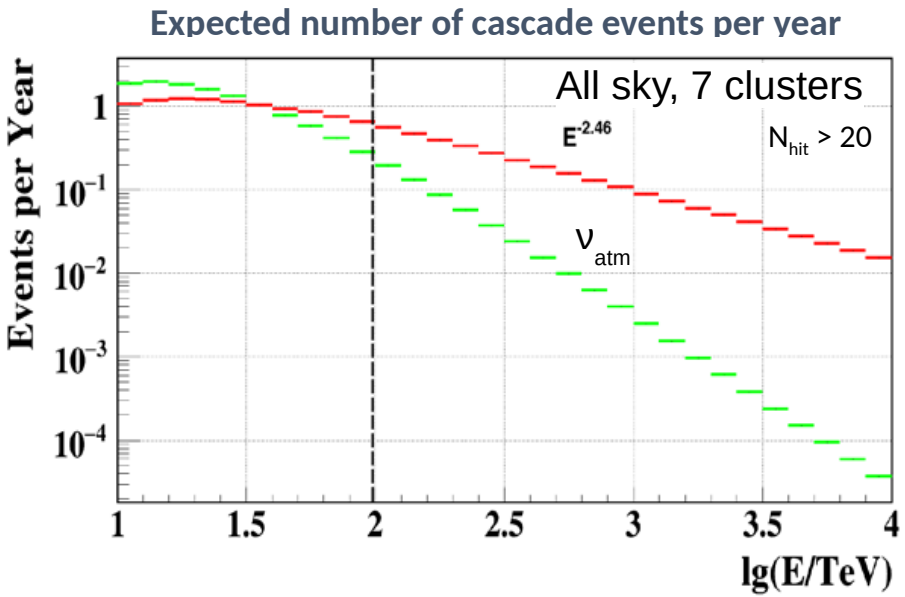
Analysis sensitive to all-flavour CC and NC interactions over the whole sky

Assumption for astrophysical neutrino energy spectrum (IceCube fit):

$4.1 \cdot 10^{-6}\ E^{-2.46}\ GeV^{-1}\ cm^{-2}\ s^{-1}\ sr^{-1}$



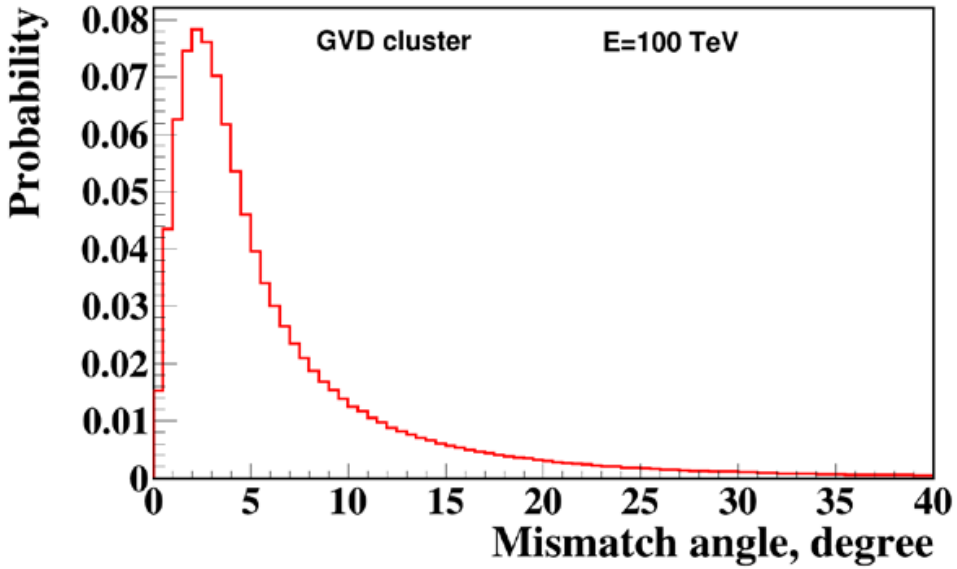
Glashow resonance not included

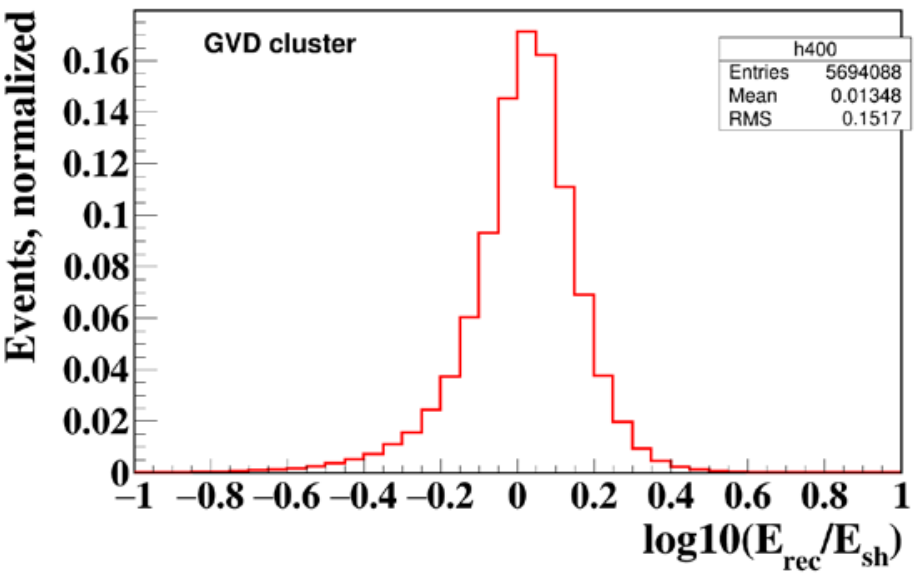


Effective volume for E > 100 TeV ~ **0.35 km³**

3–4 ev/yr with E_{sh} >100 TeV for 7 clusters

Cascade analysis performance





Directional resolution for cascades:
median mismatch angle ~ 4.5°

Energy resolution : δE/E ~ 30%

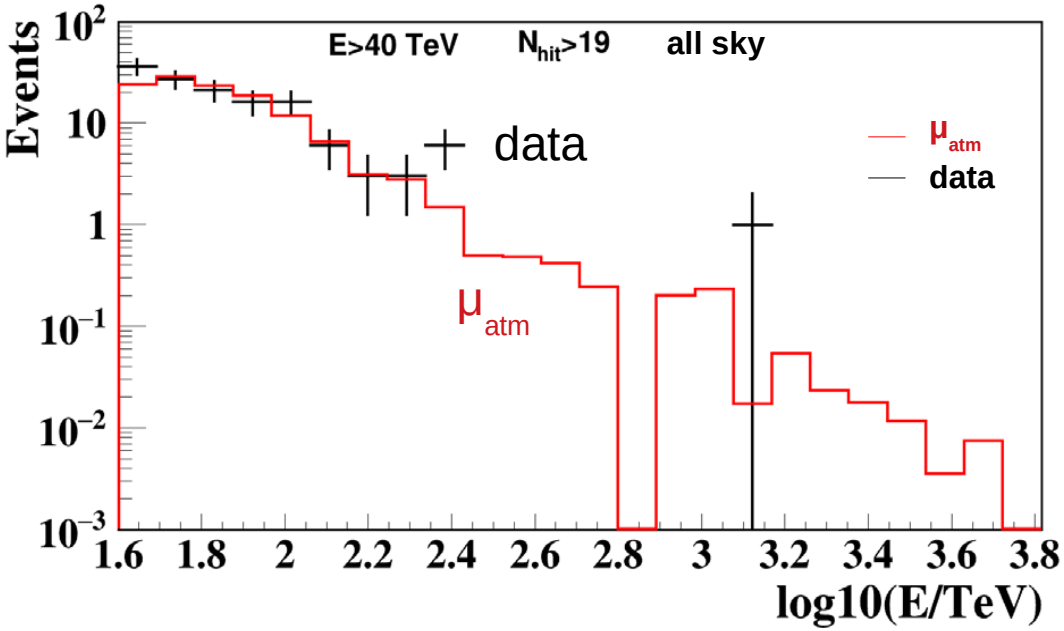
Cascade analysis : data and MC

Preliminary

Data from 2018-2021, livetime: 5522 days single-cluster equivalent

MC atmospheric muons - Corsika 7.74, Sybill 2.3c, protons, E_p >100 TeV

MC atmospheric neutrinos – L.Volkova (1980)



135 events with E > 40 TeV
23 events with E > 100 TeV

JETP, 134 (2022) 399

All-sky search for HE cascades

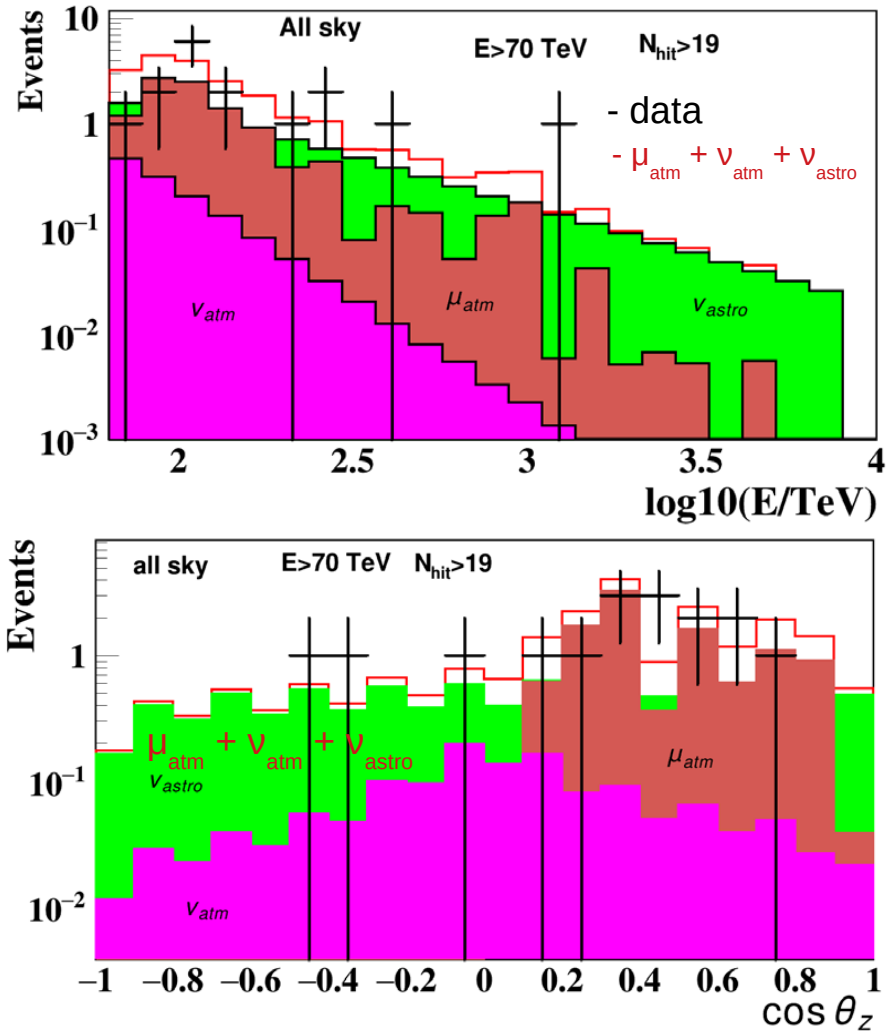
Preliminary!

Additional selection requirements:
(N_{Type_2} = 0, E_{rec} ≥ 70 TeV) or
(N_{Type_2} = 1, E_{rec} ≥ 100 TeV)
N_{Type_2} is number of hits in time interval where hits from muons are expected

Expected:
8.7 events from atm. muons
0.8 events from atm. neutrinos
7.8 events for IceCube's $E^{-2.46}$ astrophysical flux

Found in real data: 16 events

Probability for the background-only hypothesis (stat. errors only)
P-value = 0.033 (2.13 σ)



Search for upward moving events

Preliminary!

Additional selection requirements:

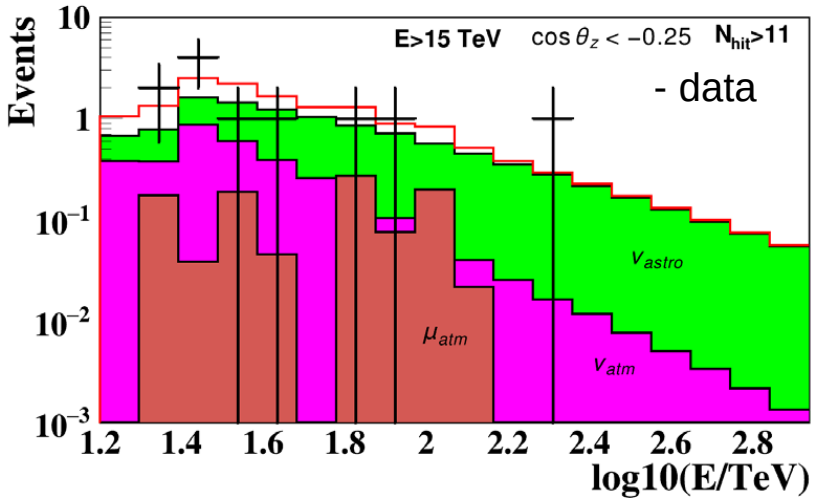
$E > 15$ TeV & $N_{hit} > 11$ & $\cos\theta_z < -0.25$

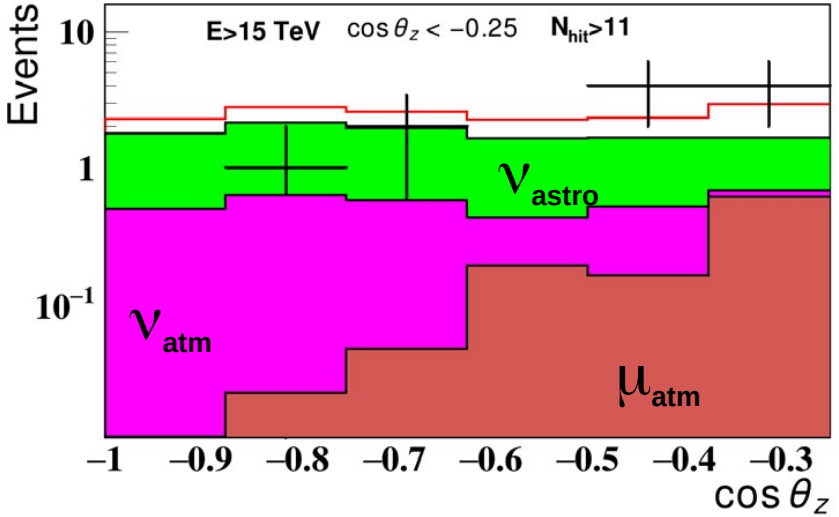
Expected:
0.95 events from atm. muons
3 events from atm. neutrinos
10 events for IceCube's $E^{-2.46}$ astrophysical flux

Found in data: 11 events

The "no diffuse flux" hypothesis is rejected with

P-value = 0.00268 (3σ)

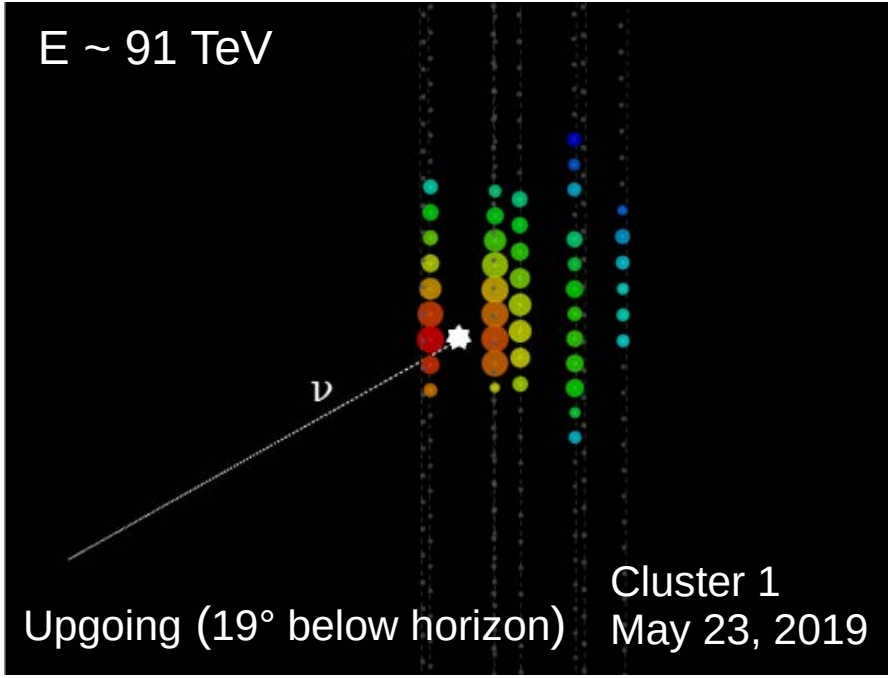




Upward-going cascade #1

Preliminary

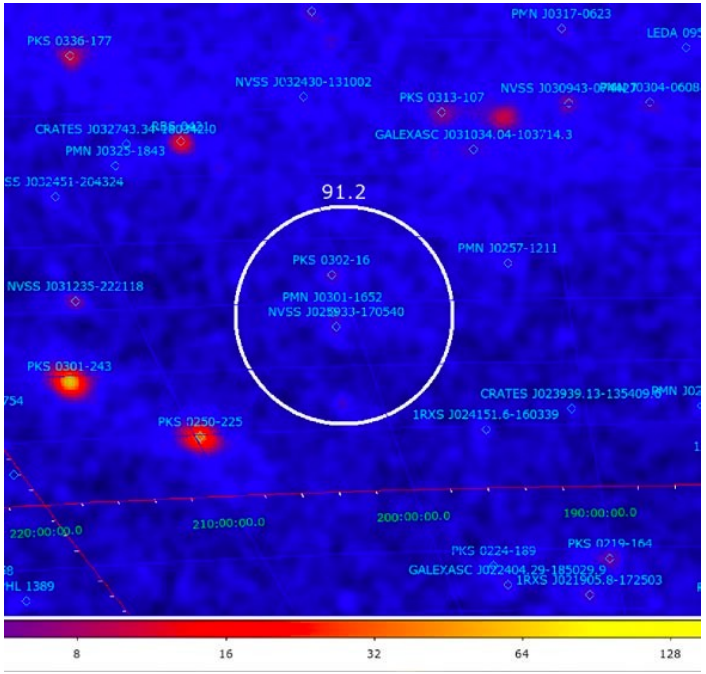
GVD2019_1_114_N



Contained event (50 m off central string)

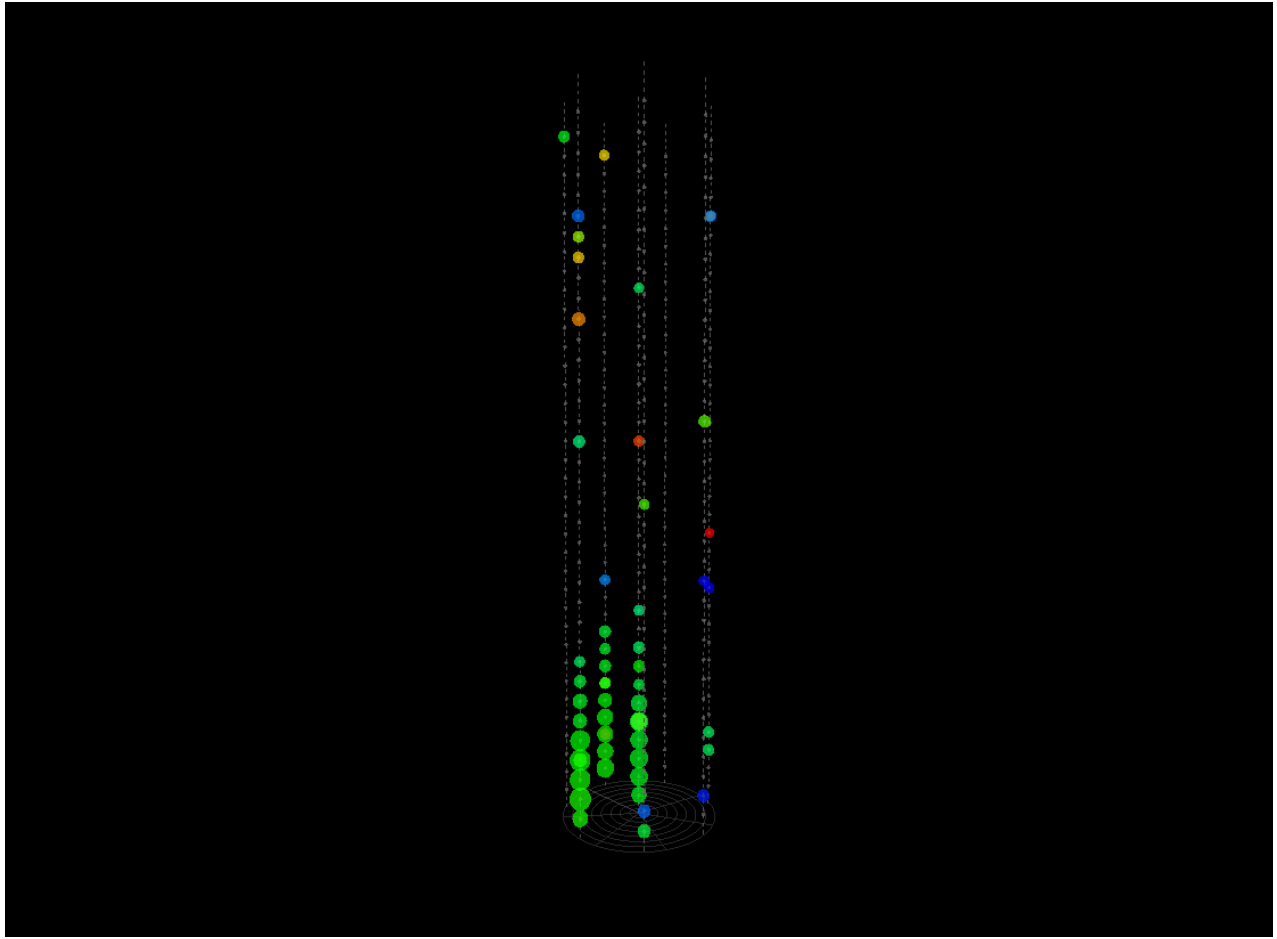
Excellent candidate for a neutrino event of astrophysical origin

Sky plot of γ-ray sources
(credit: D.Semikoz, A.Neronov)



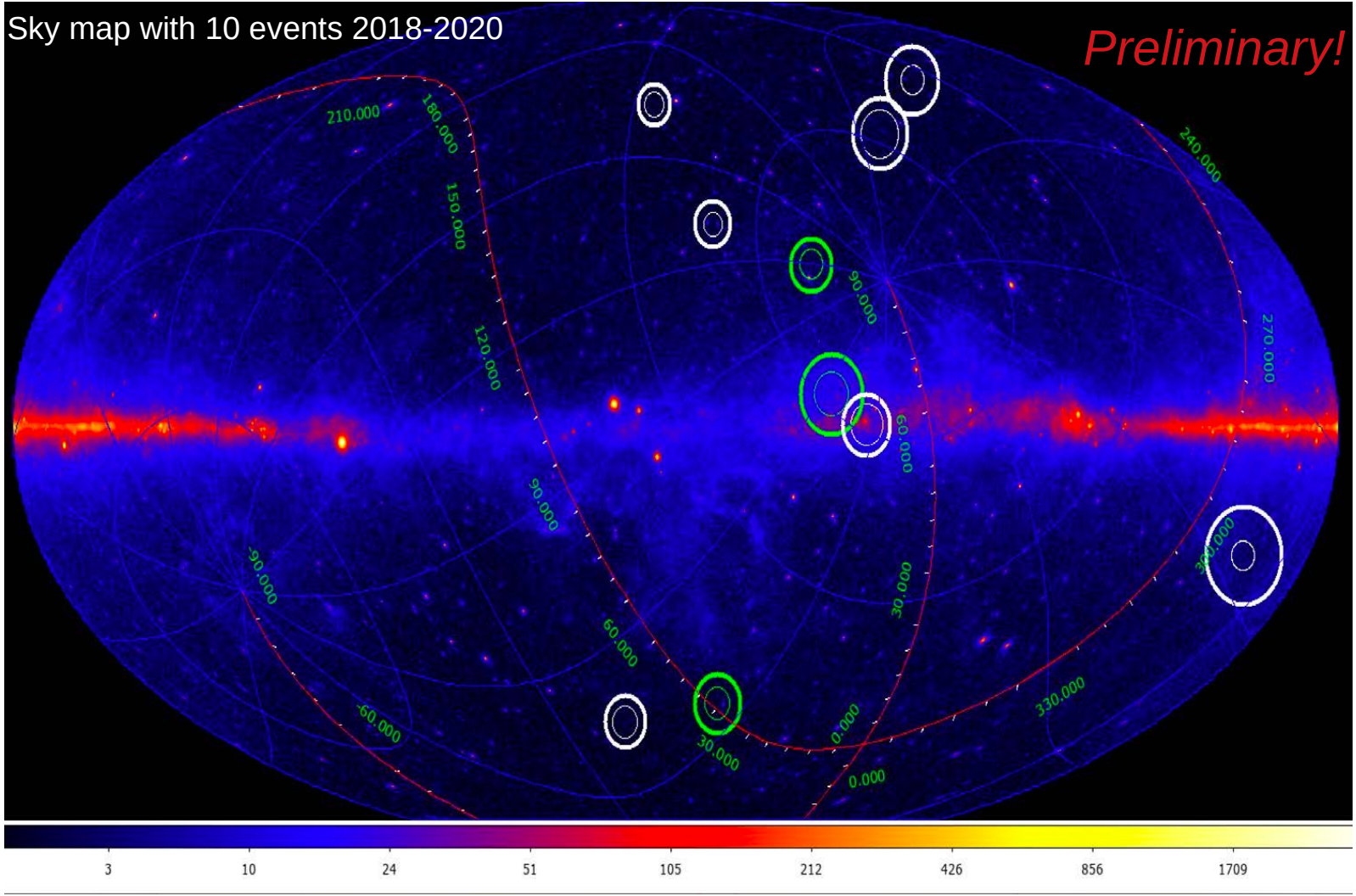
known sources in 3 degree circle:
PKS 0302-16 : unknown type of source
PMN J0301-1652 : unknown type of source

Upward-going cascade #2



Energy E = 224 TeV (±30%);
distance from central string
r = 70 m;
Zenith angle = 115°

Ten most prominent cascade events (downgoing+upgoing)



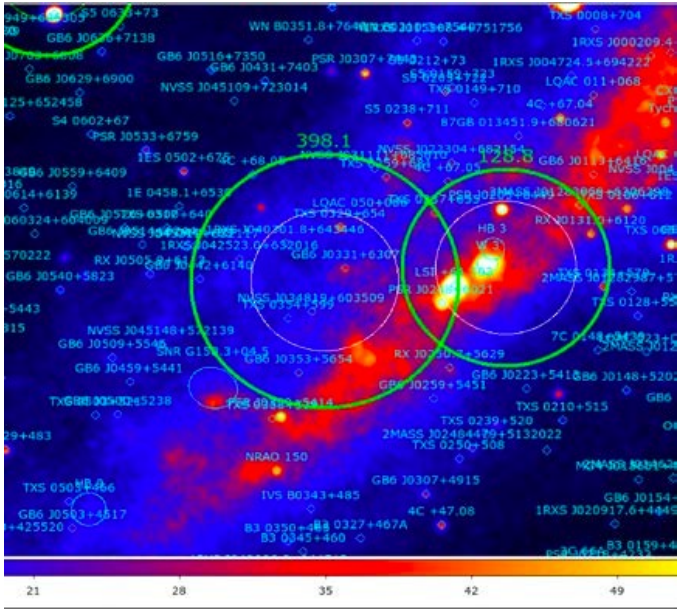
Background image: Fermi LAT

Green circles: Baikal-GVD events 2018 (50% and 90% C.L. regions)

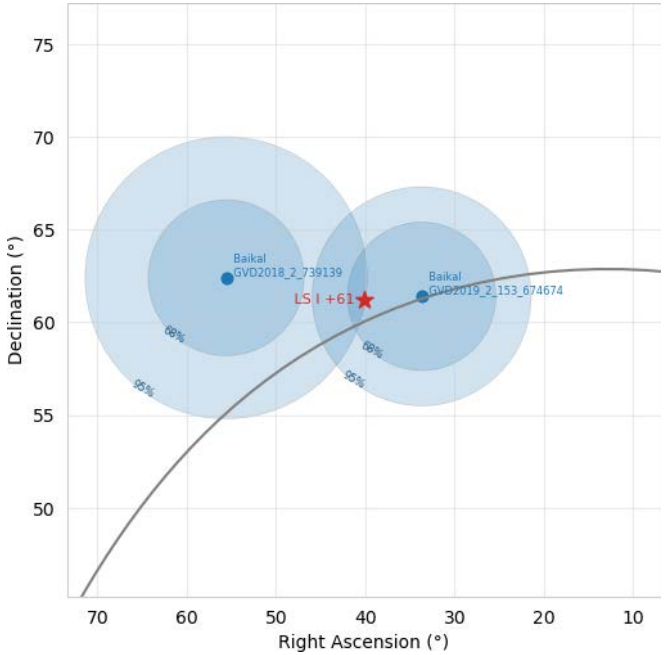
White circles: Baikal-GVD events 2019-2020

Event doublet near Galactic plane *Preliminary*

Sky map of Fermi sources



LSI +61 303 and the two Baikal-GVD events



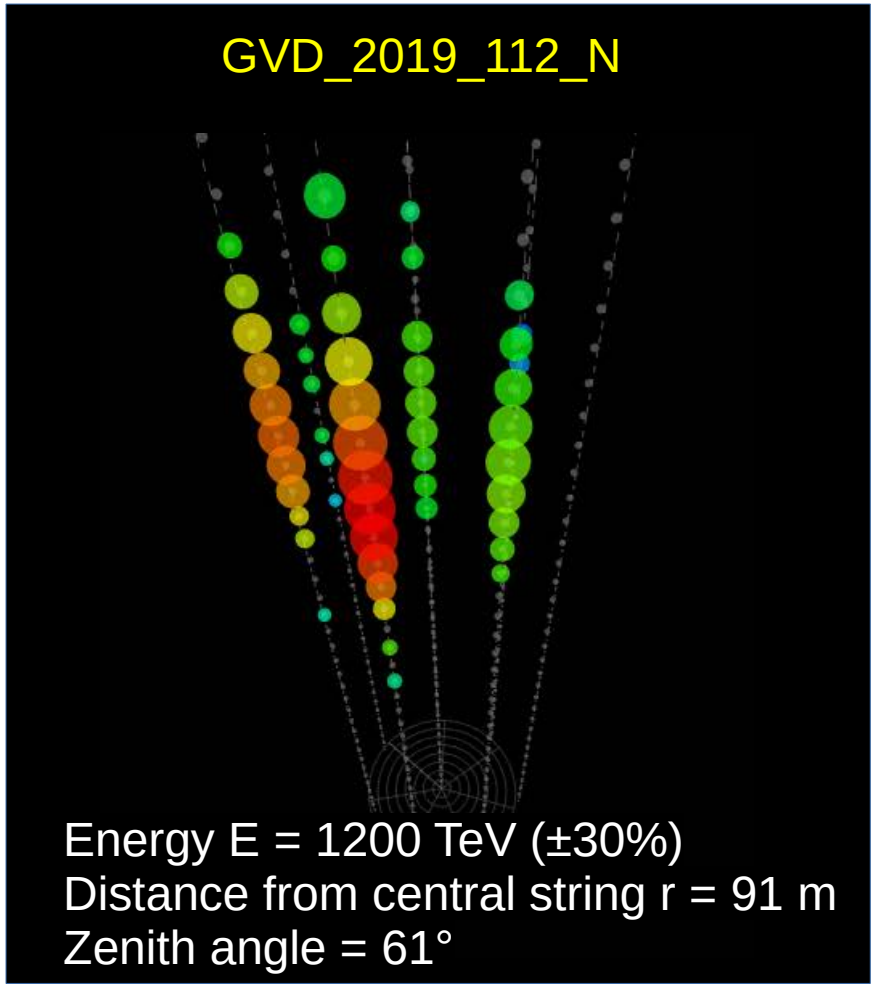
LSI +61 303 – γ-ray microquasar

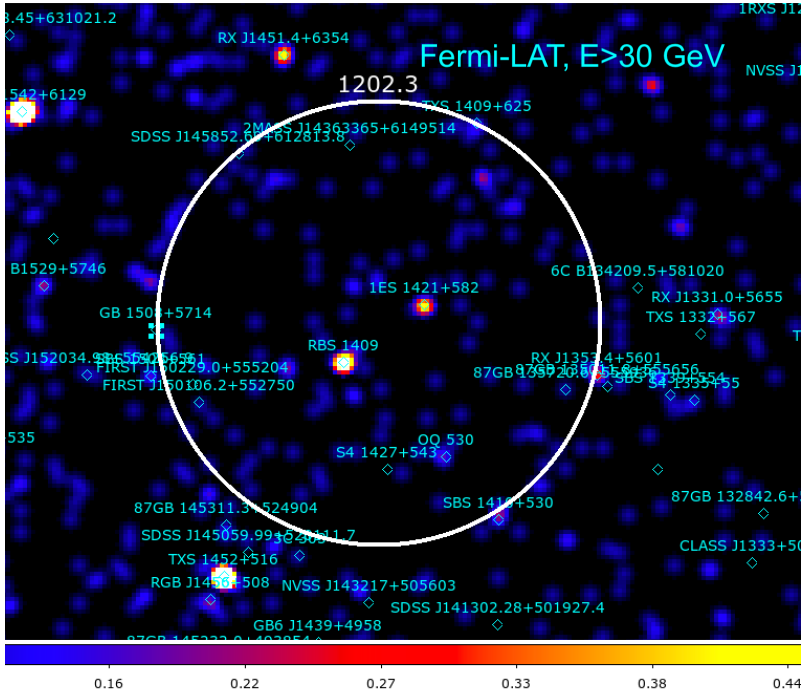
3.1° from GVD_2019_153_N and 7.4° from GVD_2018_656_N (both are downgoing events)

Using the PSFs of all 10 events, the chance probability to observe such a doublet near LSI +61 303 was estimated as 0.007 (2.7 σ) [not corrected for the “look elsewhere effect”]

A 1 PeV cascade event (downgoing)

Preliminary





Fermi sources in 5° circle:
RBS 1409 BL Lac z=unknown
1ES 1421+582 z=unknown
both with hard spectrum

GVD follow up of ANTARES alerts

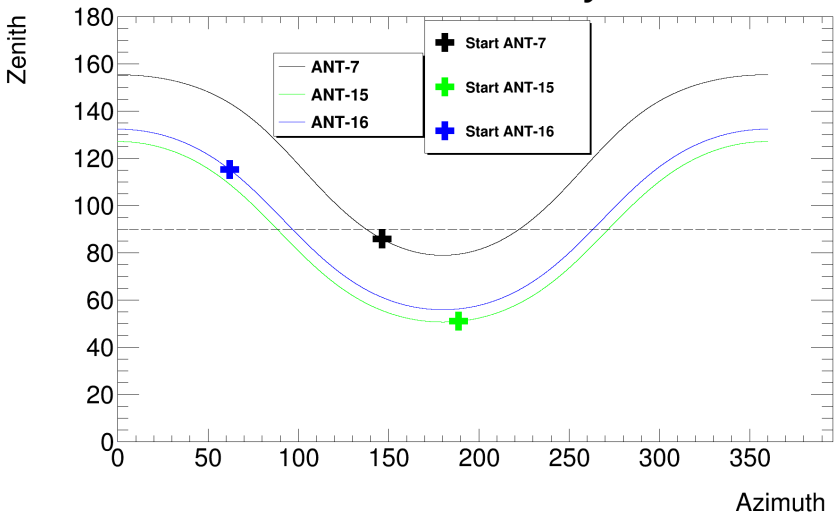
Following ANTARES upgoing μ alerts (<E> = 7 TeV)
Time windows: ±500 sec, ±1 hour and ±1 day
Both upgoing and downgoing cascades are looked for

Since Dec 2018, 60 alerts have been analysed

3 potentially interesting events

ANT alert	GVD cluster	$T-T_{alert}$, hours	Energy, TeV
A7	3	+20.8	13.5
A7	3	-23.2	**158**
A7	2	-3.2	2.9
A15	2	+20.4	3.0
A15	3	-0.64	3.98
A16	2	-18.7	3.99
A16	4	-14.35	3.89

Source visibility



No prompt coincidence in time and direction was found

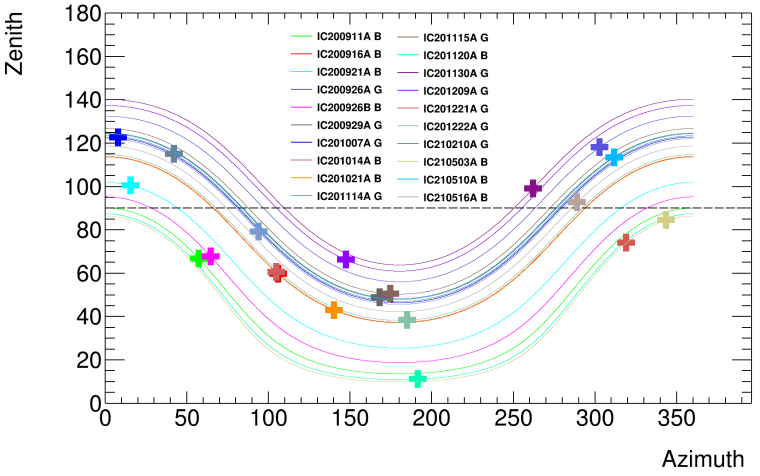
O. Suvorova et al. @ Neutrino 2022
O. Suvorova and A.Garre @ ICRC 2021

GVD follow up of IceCube alerts

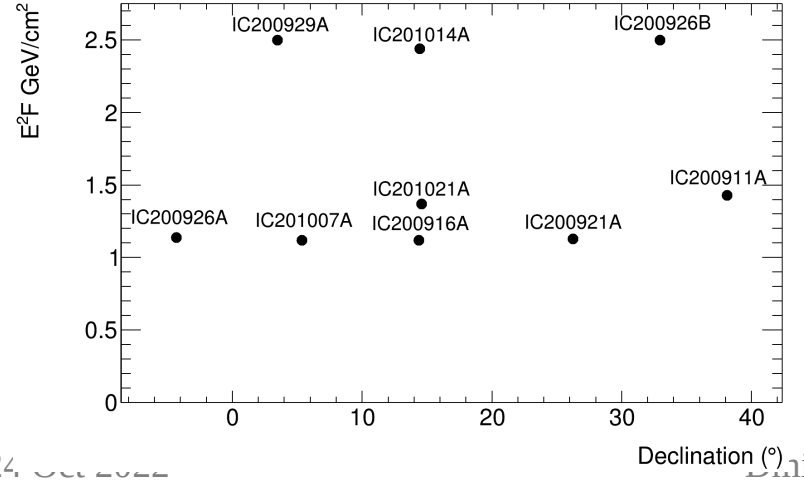
Since Sep 2020, following IC alerts (GCN / upgoing muons)

No statistically significant coincidence was found in this analysis, except possibly IceCube-211208A (see next slide)

90% upper limits derived for E-2 spectrum, equal fluence in all flavors, for E 1 TeV – 10 PeV and ±12 hr interval



Baikal-GVD upper limits



A.D. Avrorin et al., Astronomy Letters, Vol.47, N 2, 114 (2021)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1134/S1063773721020018

V.Y. Dik et al., JINST 16 (2021) C11008

https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-0221/16/11/C11008

Baikal-GVD follow up of IceCube-211208A / PKS 0735+17

Dec 8, 2021 20:02: IceCube “Astrotrack Bronze” neutrino event in vicinity of bright blazar PKS 0735+17

Active state of PKS 0735+17 reported in optical (MASTER), HE gamma-rays (Fermi LAT), X-rays (Swift XRT) and radio

Baikal-GVD found a downward-going (30° above horizon) **cascade-like event 4 hr after** the IceCube event
5.30° from the best-fit direction of IceCube-211208A
4.68° from PKS 0735+17

E ≈ 43 TeV
PSF 50% (68%) containment radius = 5.5 deg (8.1 deg)

Pre-trial p-value = 0.0044 (2.85 σ) [24 hr, 5.5 deg cone]

Trial factor ~ 40 (total number of IceCube alerts analyzed)

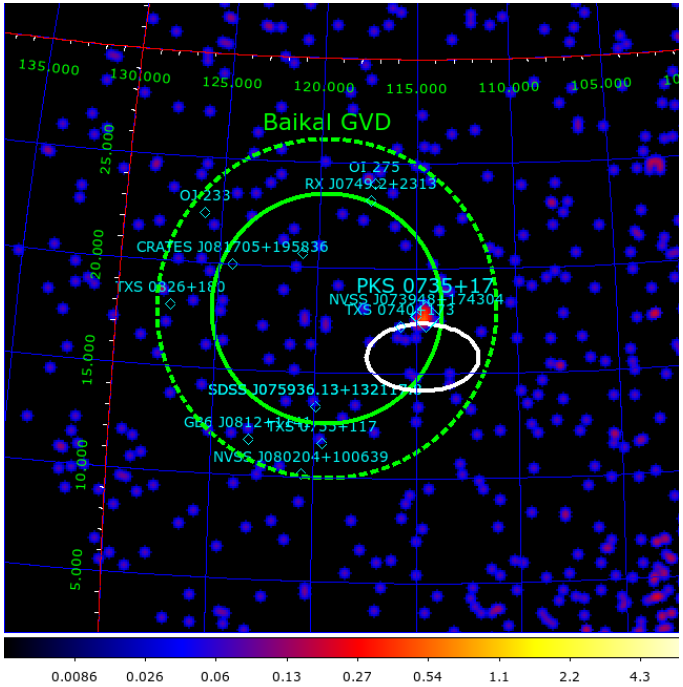


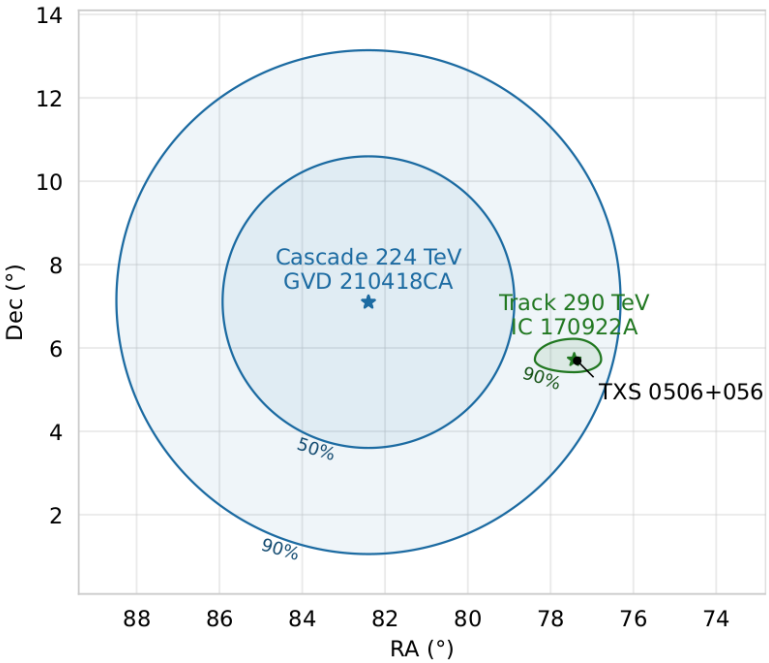
Image by D.Semikoz & A.Neronov

ATeL 15112

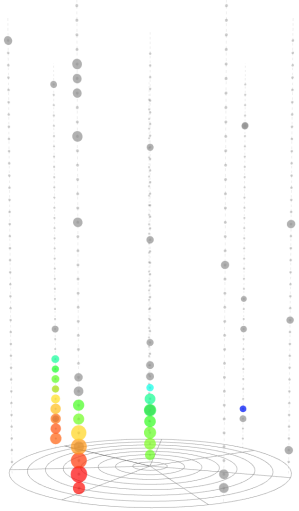
Also see N. Sahakyan et al., arXiv:2204.05060

A high energy neutrino from the direction of TXS 0506+056

Analysis of data collected between April 2018 and March 2022 yields a sample of 11 high quality cascade-like neutrino candidate events, one of which lies within 90% error circle from TXS 0506+056



GVD210418CA



MJD = 59322.94855324
Zenith = 115°
RA, Dec = 82.4°, 7.1°
E = 224±75 TeV

This event is probably of astrophysical origin (signalness = 97%)

The chance probability for such an association to occur randomly due to the background is p = 0.0074

arXiv:2210.01650

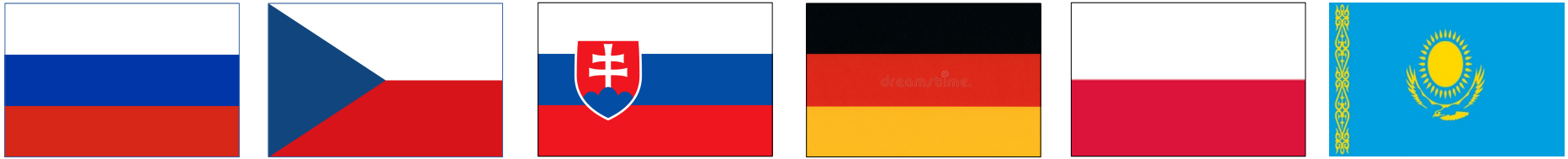
Conclusion

- Baikal-GVD is a new neutrino telescope under construction in Lake Baikal
  - Volume already approaching 0.5 km^3
  - Angular resolution better than 1° for tracks and better than 5° for cascades
  - Sky coverage complementary to IceCube
- The IceCube's diffuse neutrino flux is confirmed by Baikal-GVD with a 3σ significance
- Hints of possible new neutrino sources are accumulating

Backup slides

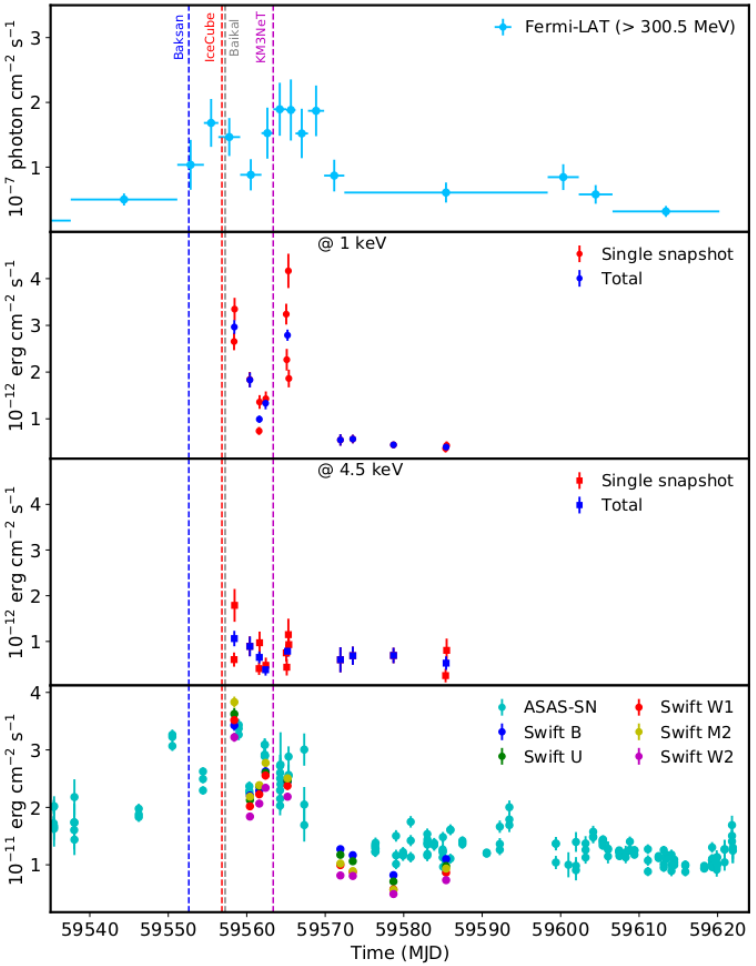
Baikal-GVD collaboration (as of Feb 2022)

11 organisations from 6 countries, ~70 collaboration members

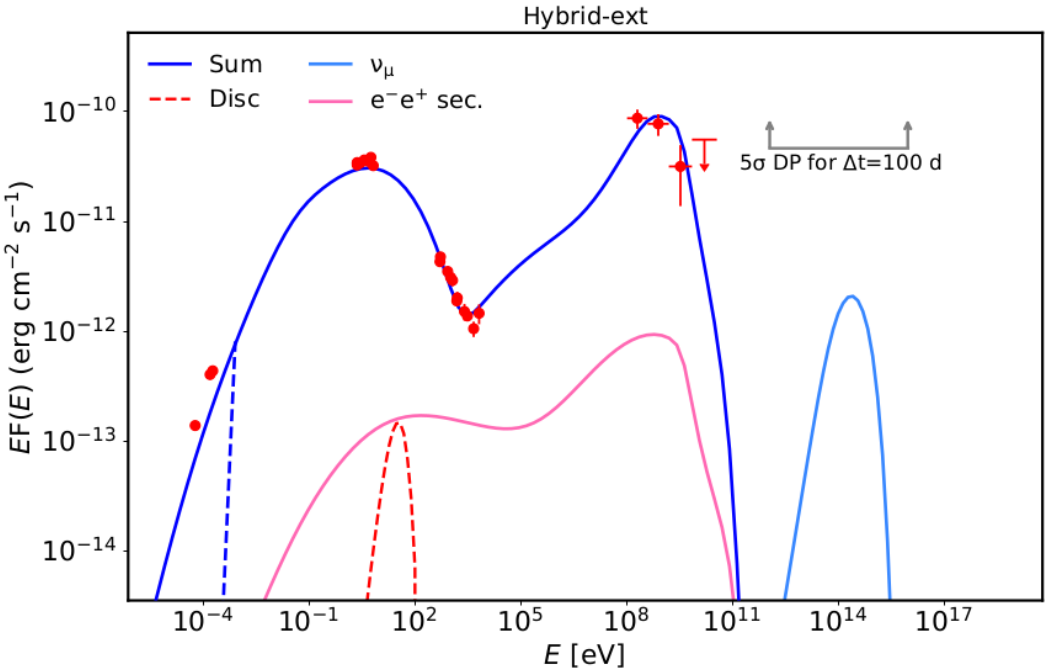


- Institute for Nuclear Research RAS (Moscow)
- Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (Dubna)
- Irkutsk State University (Irkutsk)
- Skobeltsyn Institute for Nuclear Physics MSU (Moscow)
- Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University (Nizhny Novgorod)
- Saint-Petersburg State Marine Technical University (Saint-Petersburg)
- Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics, Czech Technical University (Prague, Czech Republic)
- EvoLogics (Berlin, Germany)
- Comenius University (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- Krakow Institute for Nuclear Research (Krakow, Poland)
- Institute of Nuclear Physics (Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan)

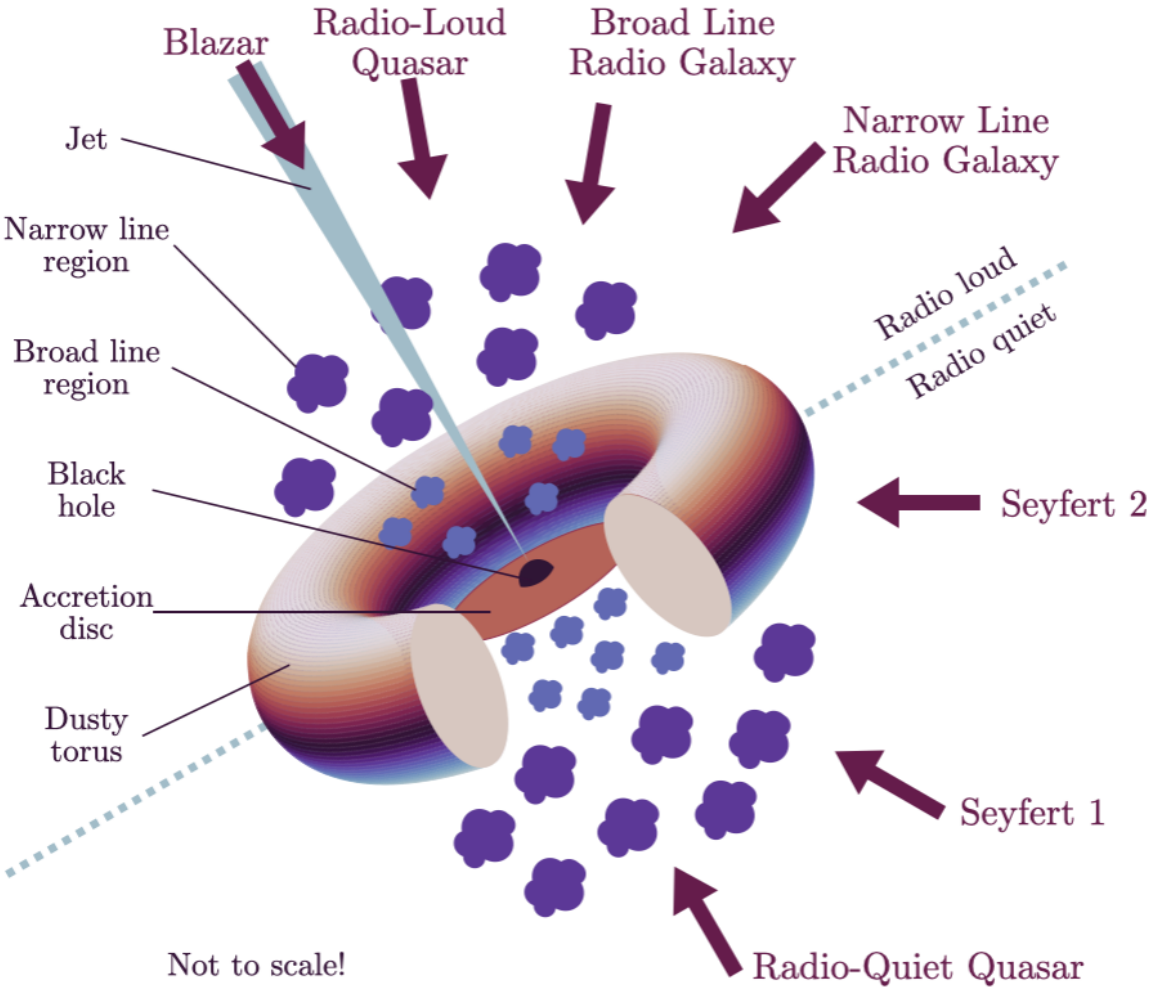
PKS 0735+17 : a neutrino-emitting blazar?



N. Sahakyan et al., arXiv:2204.05060



A model with PeV protons interacting with an external UV photon field predicts ~ 0.067 muon and antimuon neutrinos over the observed 3-week flare.



Emma Alexander

AGN origin of the diffuse neutrino flux?

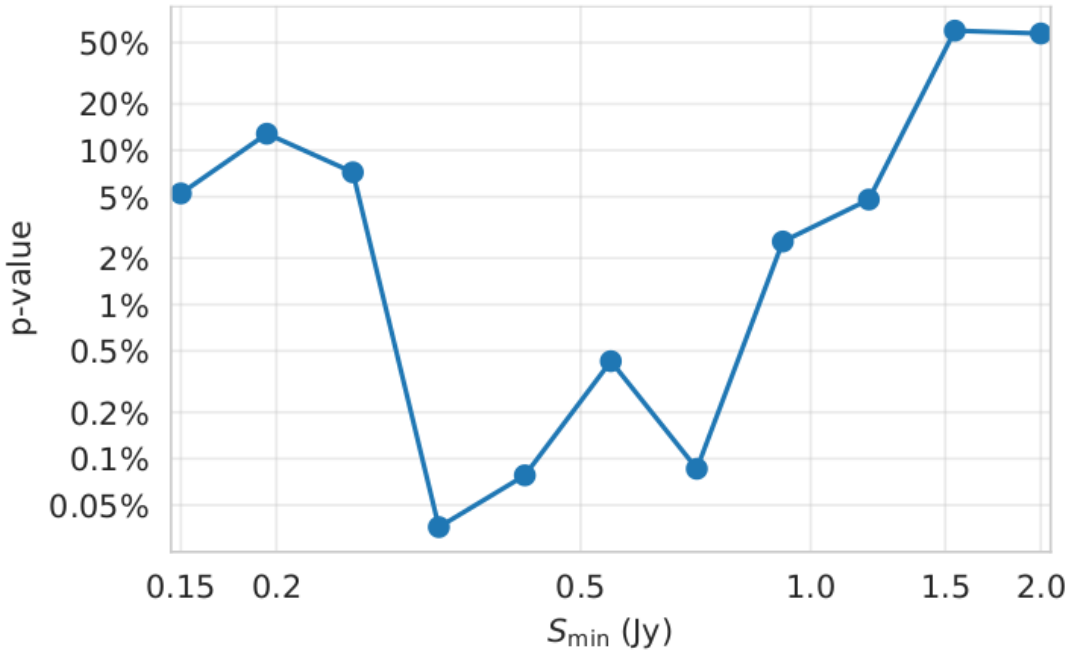
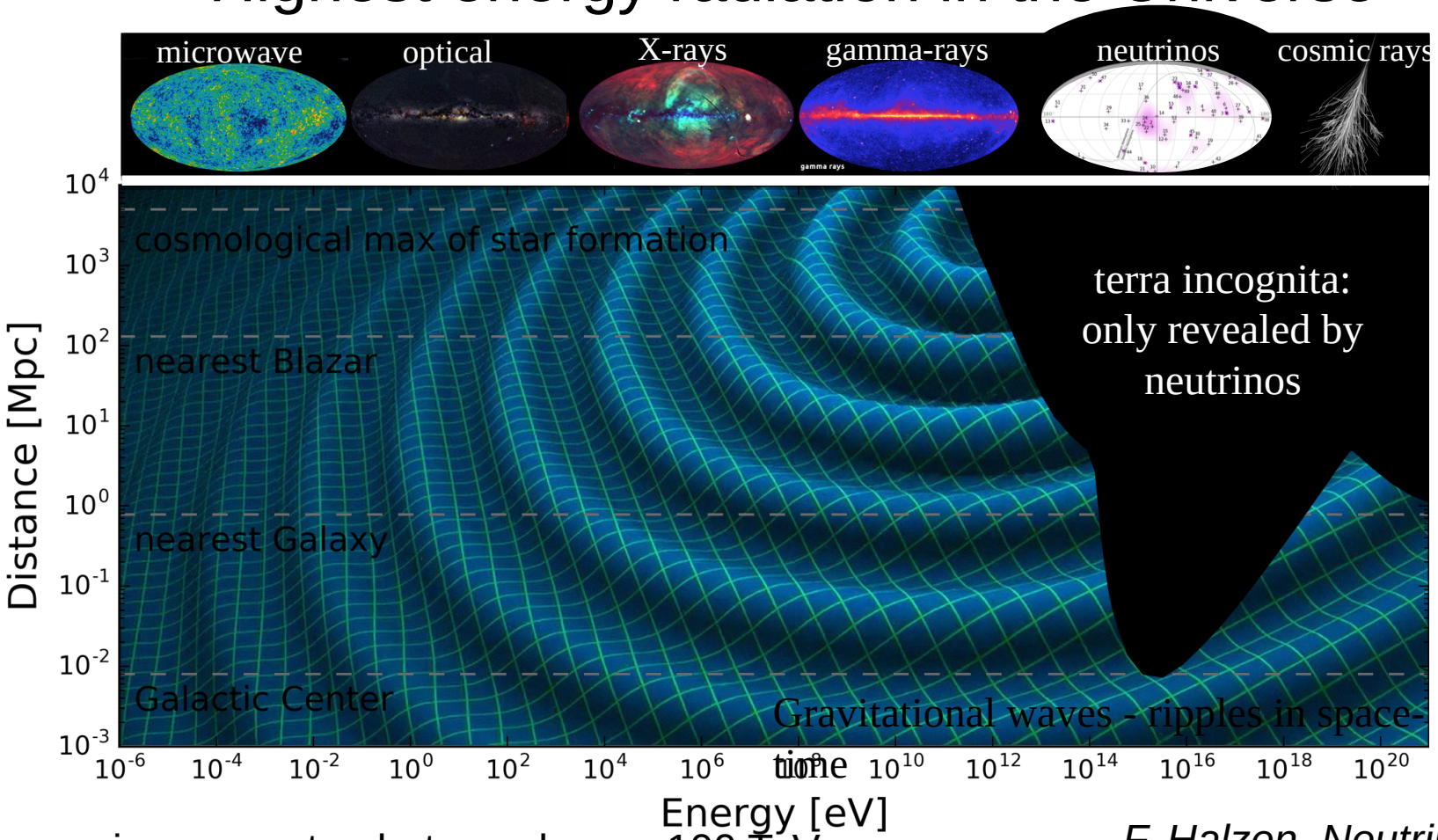


Figure 2. Pre-trial p-values for a range of VLBI flux density cutoffs. The threshold values S_{min} split the interval 0.15-2 Jy into ten parts uniformly in log-scale. The lowest p-value of $4 \cdot 10^{-4}$ is attained for the threshold of 0.33 Jy.

A. Plavin, Y. Kovalev,
Yu. Kovalev, S. Troitsky:
Directional association of TeV to PeV astrophysical neutrinos with active galaxies hosting compact radio jets,
ApJ 908 (2021) 157
[arXiv:2009.08914]

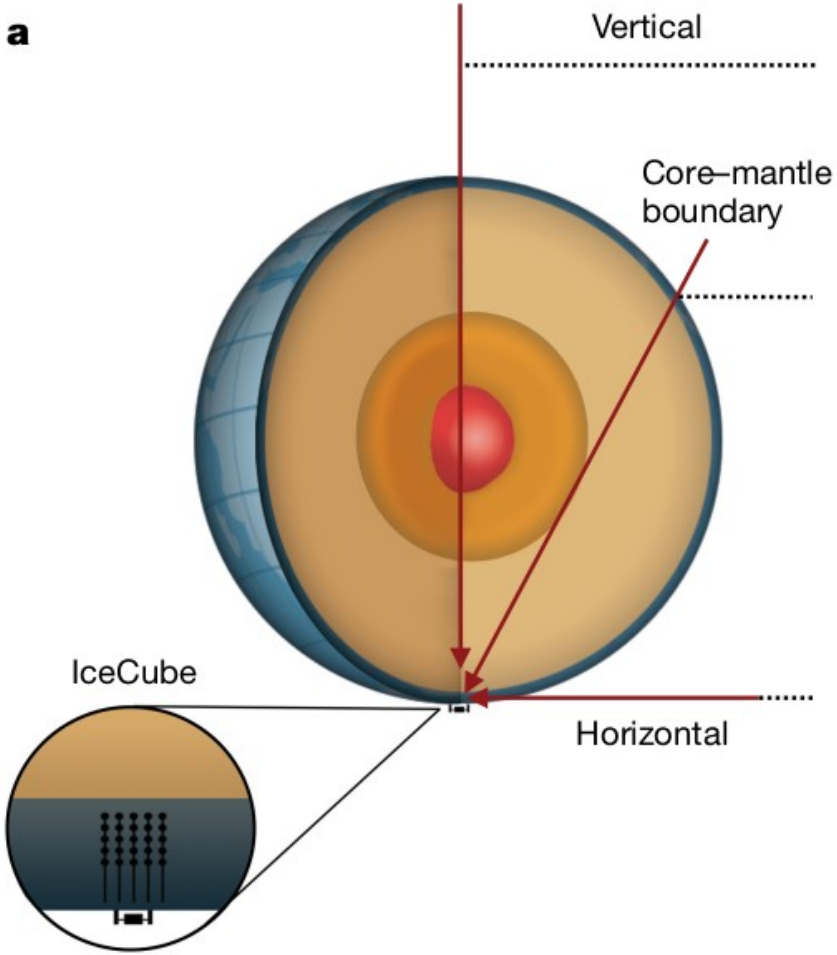
Highest energy radiation in the Universe

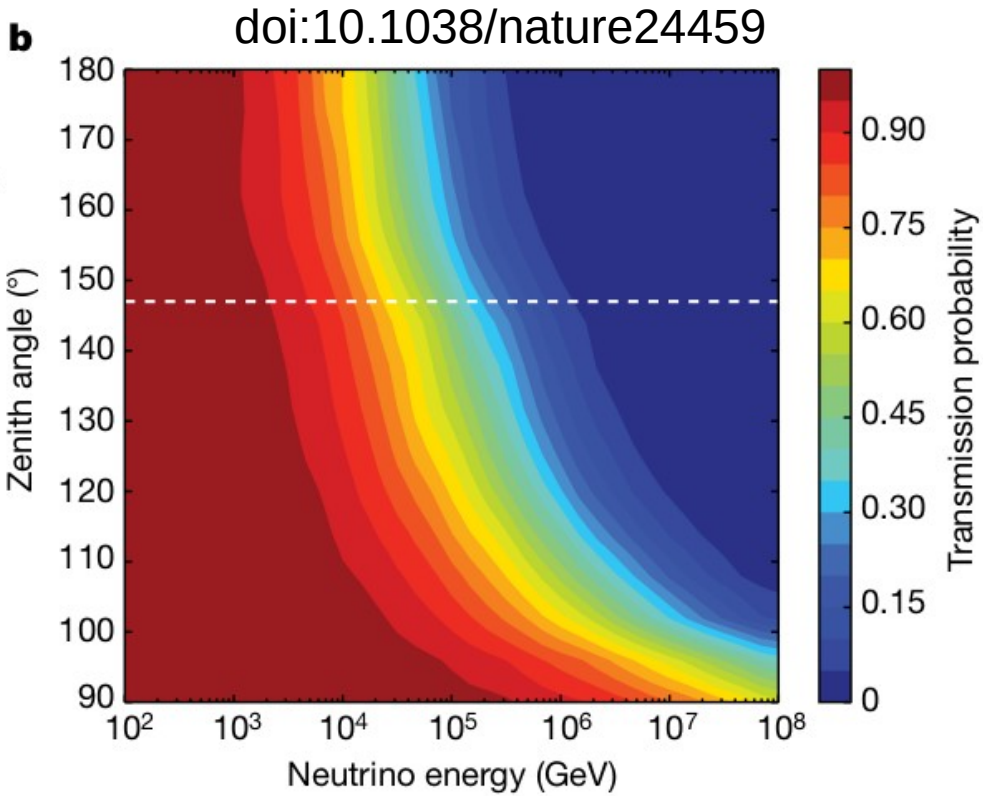


Universe is opaque to photons above ~100 TeV energy
(due to interactions on CMB and EBL photons)

F. Halzen, Neutrino 2020

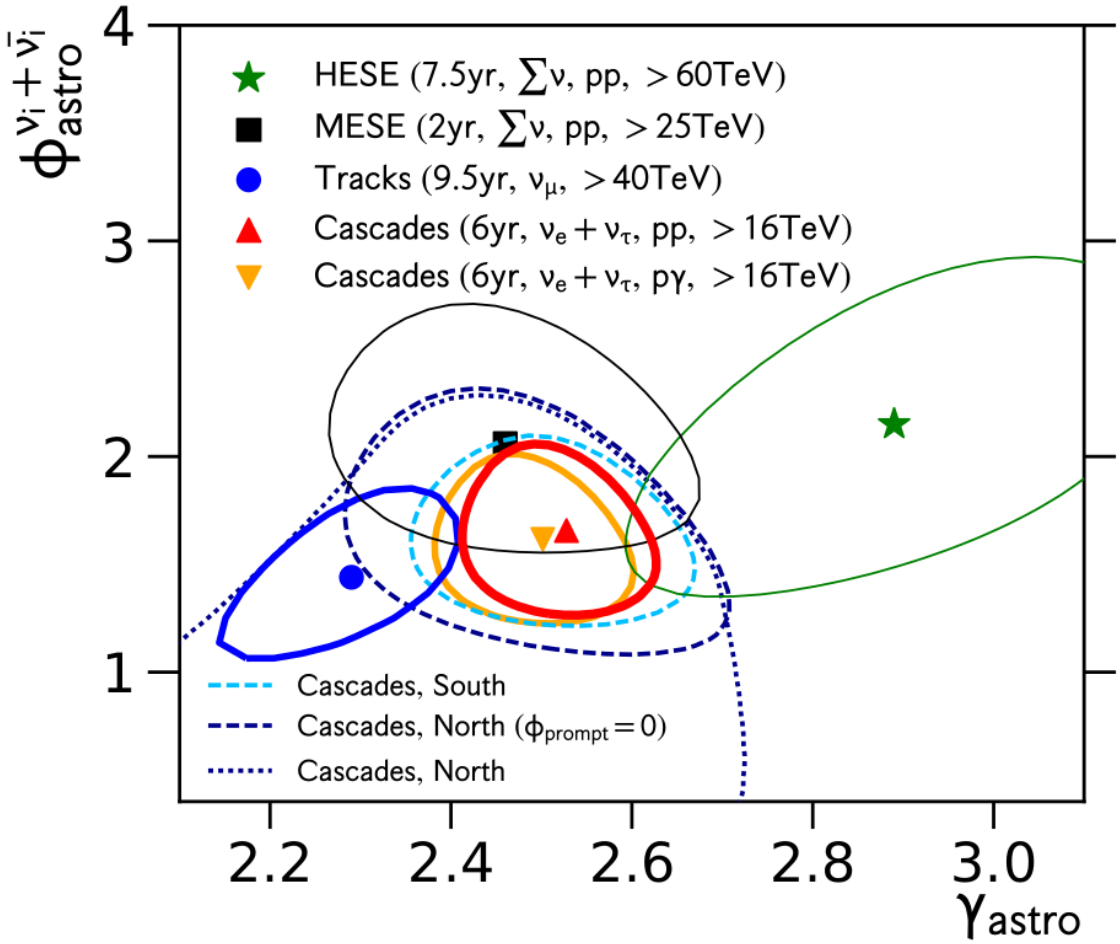
Neutrino absorption in the Earth





doi:10.1038/nature24459

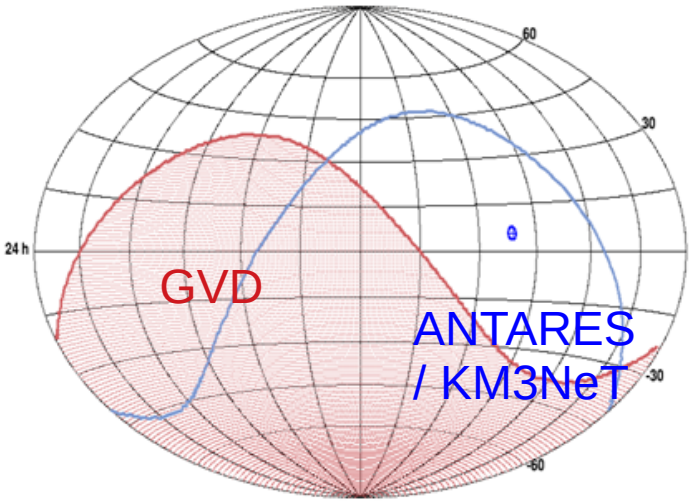
Diffuse neutrino flux

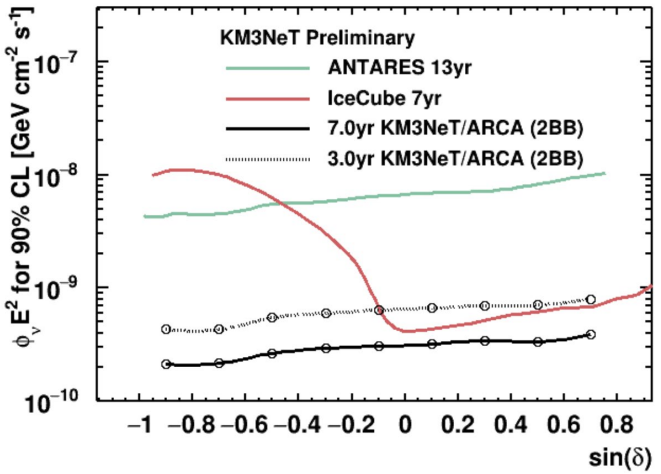


Why two neutrino telescopes in the North

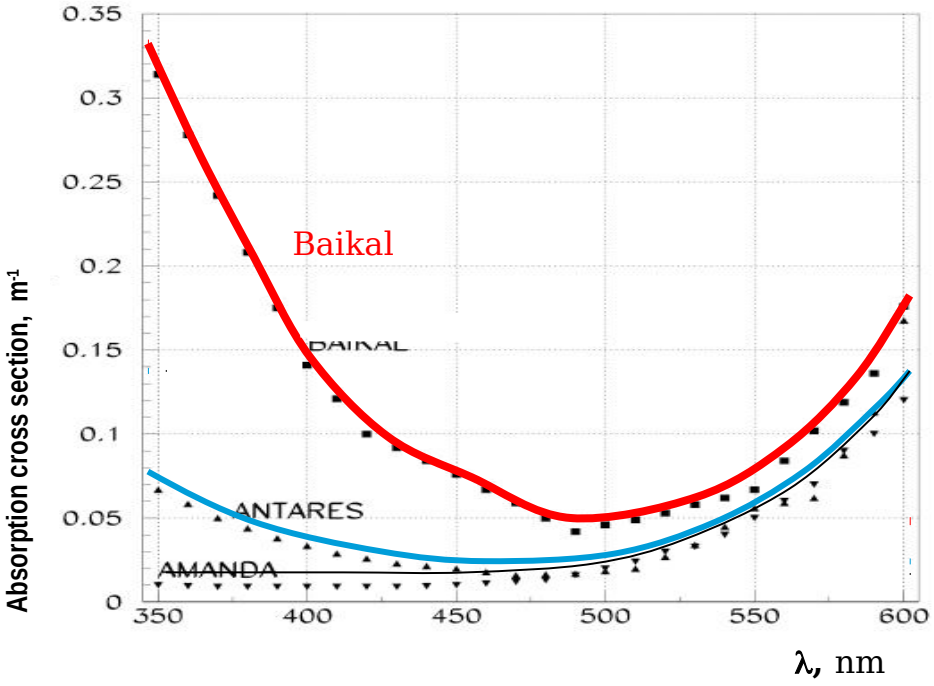
- Improved all-sky coverage
  - important for short transients
- Sensitivities add up
  - neutrino astronomy is still limited by low statistics
- Optimize local funding opportunities
  - Funding opportunities often come with geographic restrictions

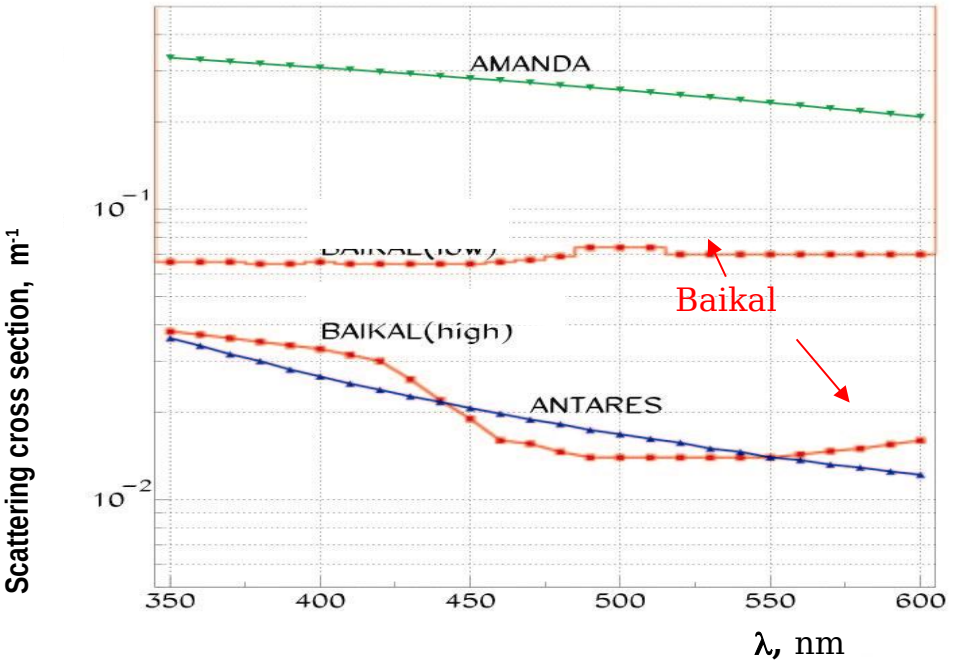
TXS0506+056: IC170922A *S. A. Garre et al.*



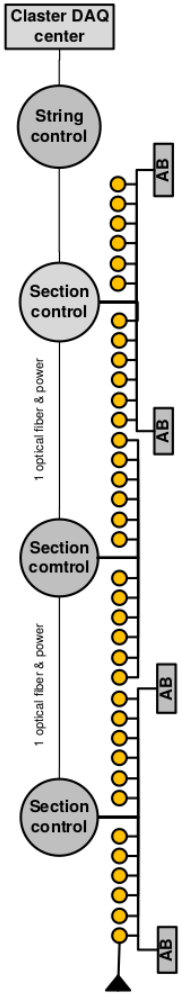


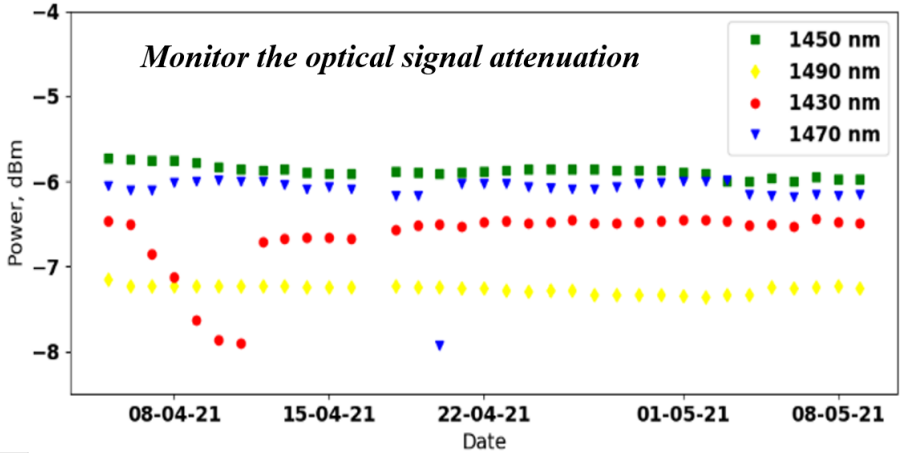
Water optical properties





Experimental string with optic fiber DAQ





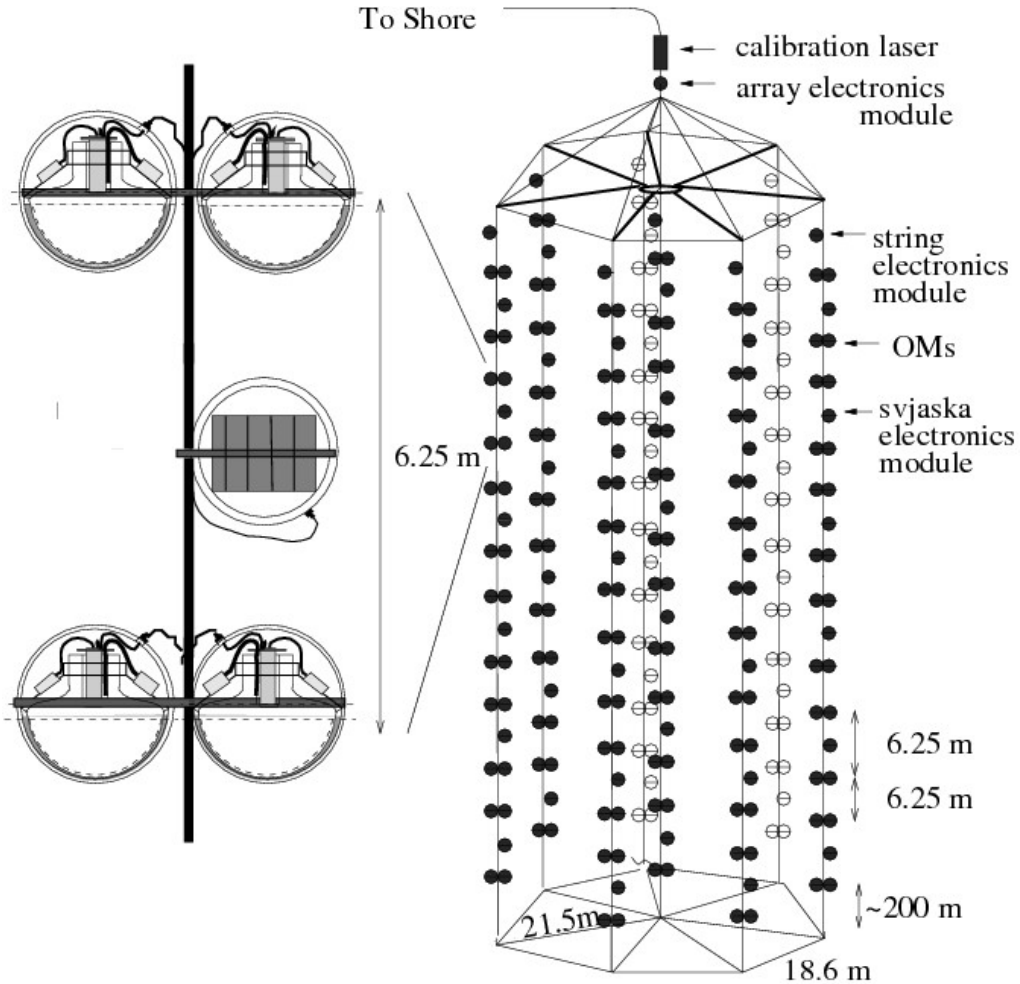
Developing technological solutions for second stage of Baikal-GVD deployment (2024+)

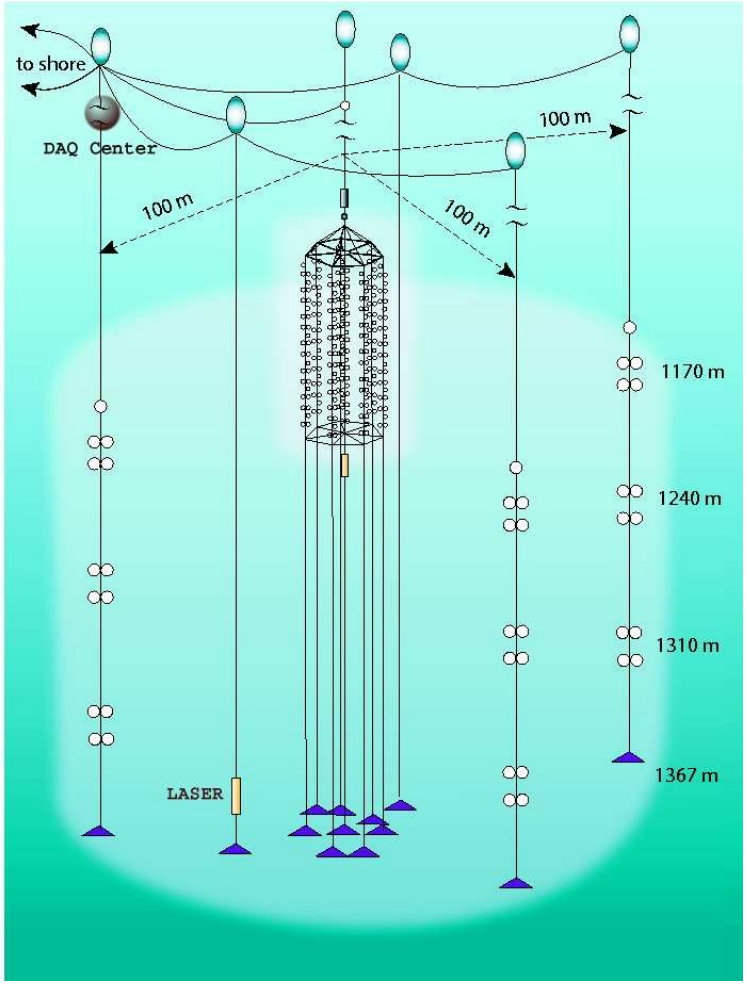
Advantages:

- flexible trigger conditions
- Improved neutrino detection efficiency
- Improved timing accuracy

See poster by V. Aynutdinov @ ICRC 2021

Baikal NT-200 and NT-200+





Track reconstruction with a χ^2-based algorithm

Initial hit selection

↓

Track prefit

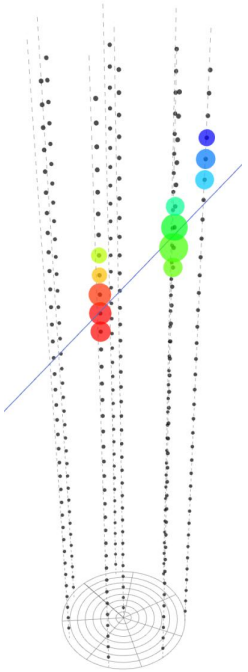
↓

Refined hit selection

↓

Main track fit

Using vector sum



Minimize quality function

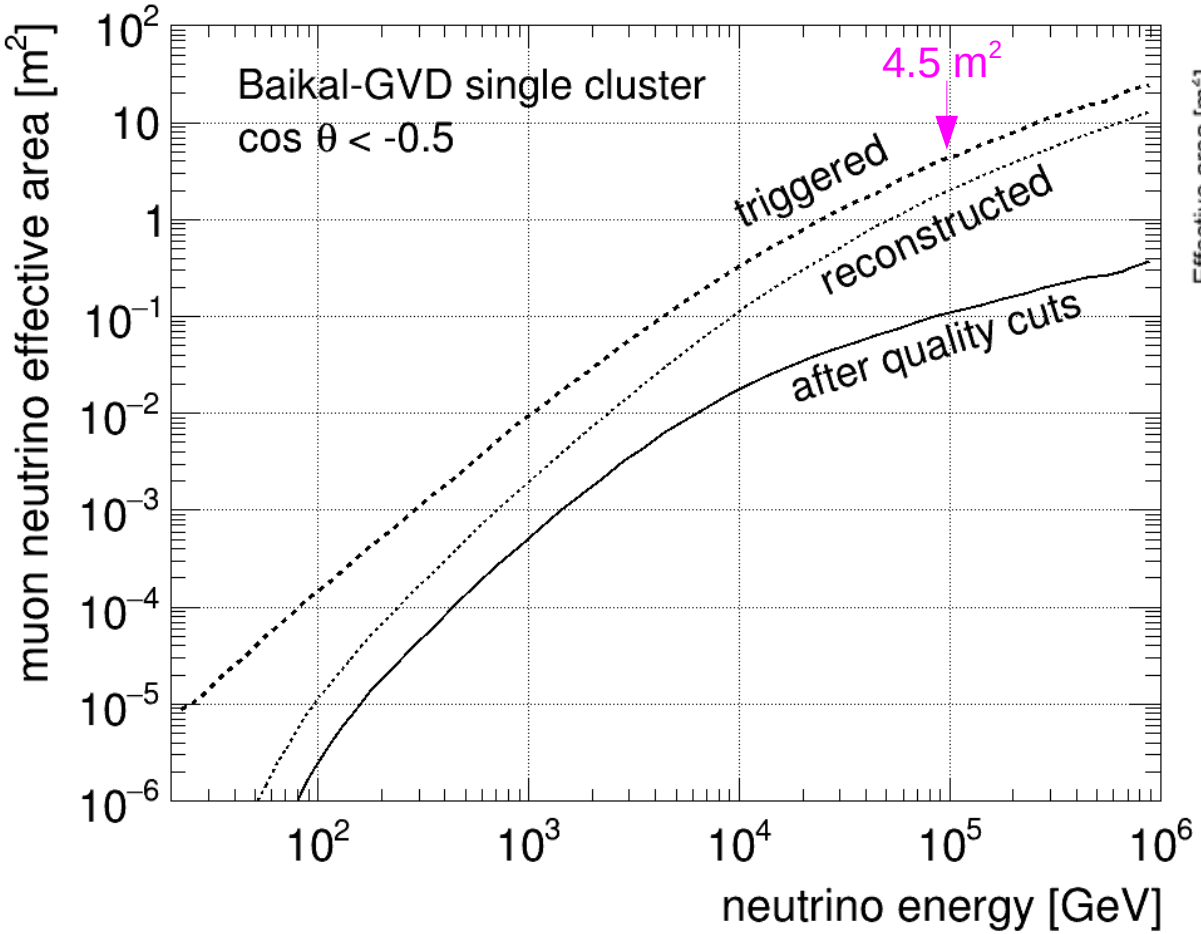
$$Q = \chi^2(t) + f(q, r)$$

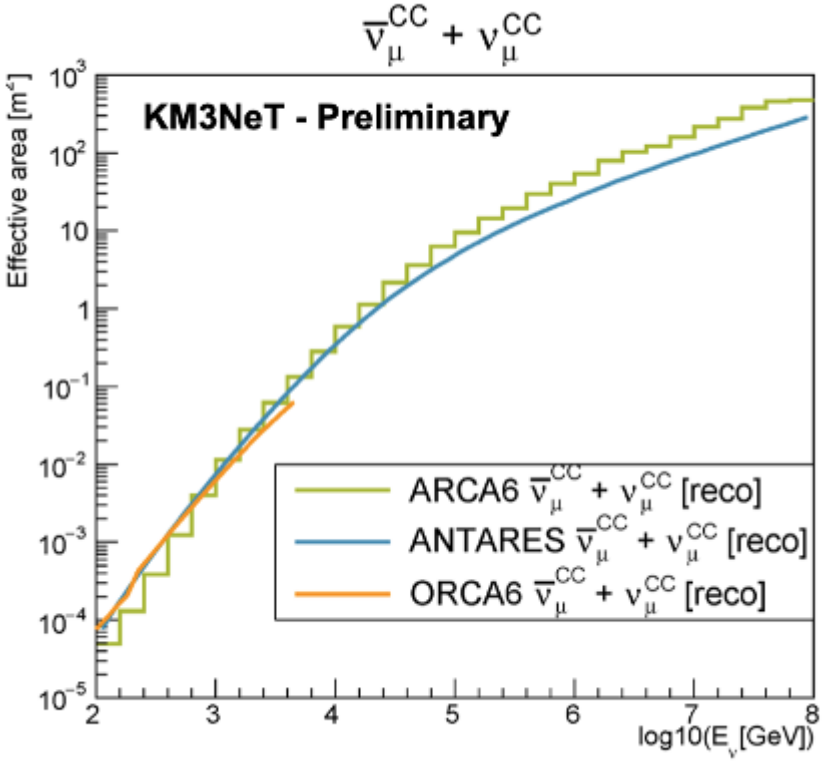
Time residuals

Hit charge and distance

See talk by G. Safronov at ICRC 2021

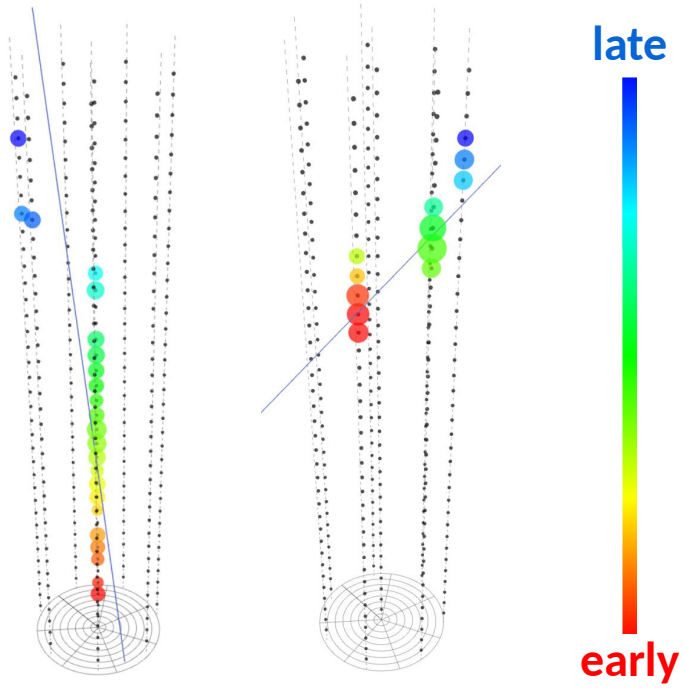
Neutrino effective area for tracks : one GVD cluster





Track reco : ongoing improvements

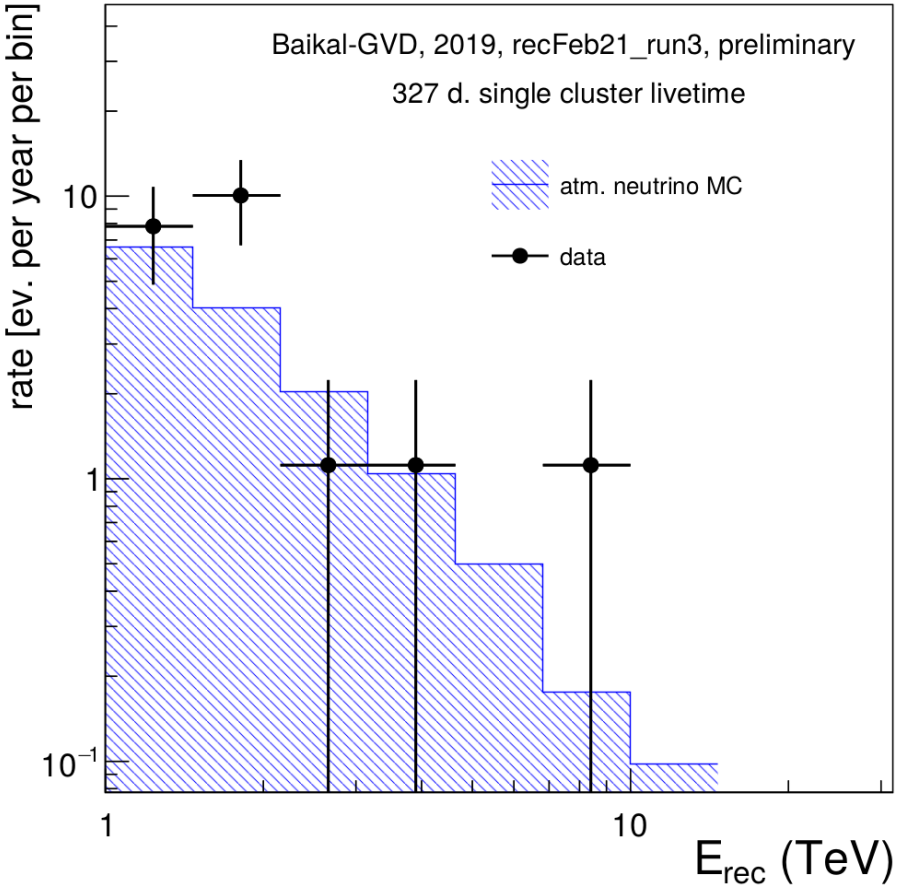
- Event selection with BDT
  → G. Safronov @ ICRC 2021
- Improved hit selection using clique search → A. Avrorin & B. Shaybonov @ ICRC 2021
- Likelihood fitter
- Machine learning techniques
- ...



E_{rec} = 28 TeV

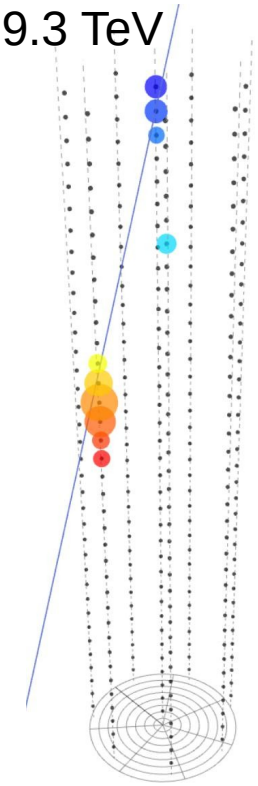
Reconstructed energy for tracks

Example plot for a set of neutrino candidate events



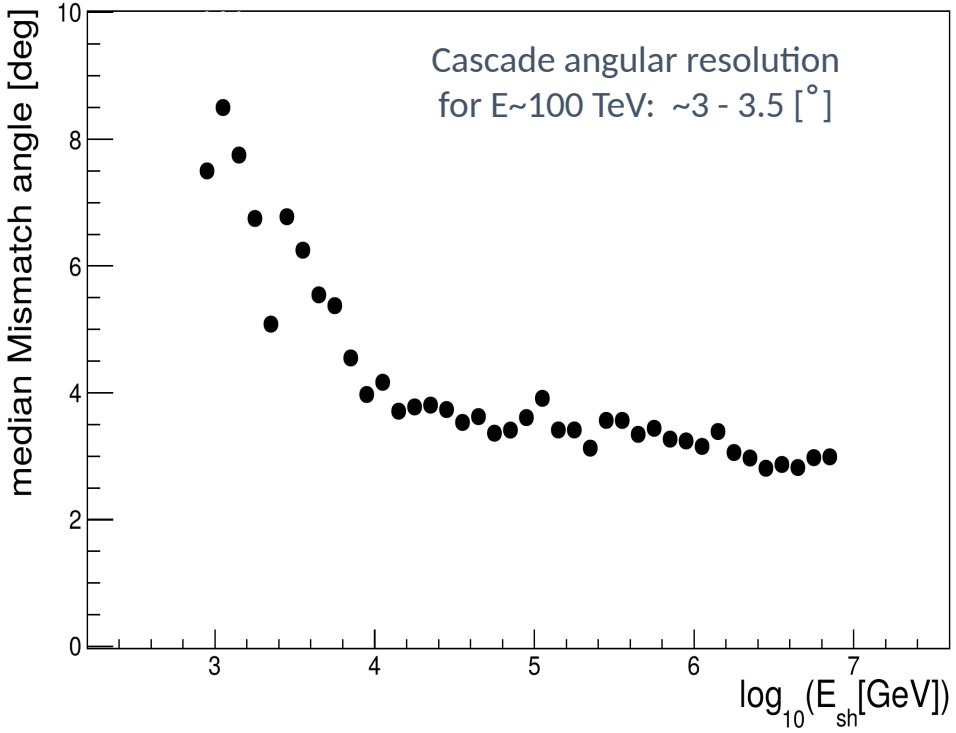
- dE/dx energy estimator -
- Works for E > 1 TeV
- Largest measured energy in cut-based low-energy neutrino candidate sample:

see talk by G. Safronov at ICRC 2021



cluster 1, run 84
evt. 473478
θ = 165.5°
$N_{strings}$ = 3
N_{hits} = 10

Cascade analysis angular resolution



Selected events (2018-2020)

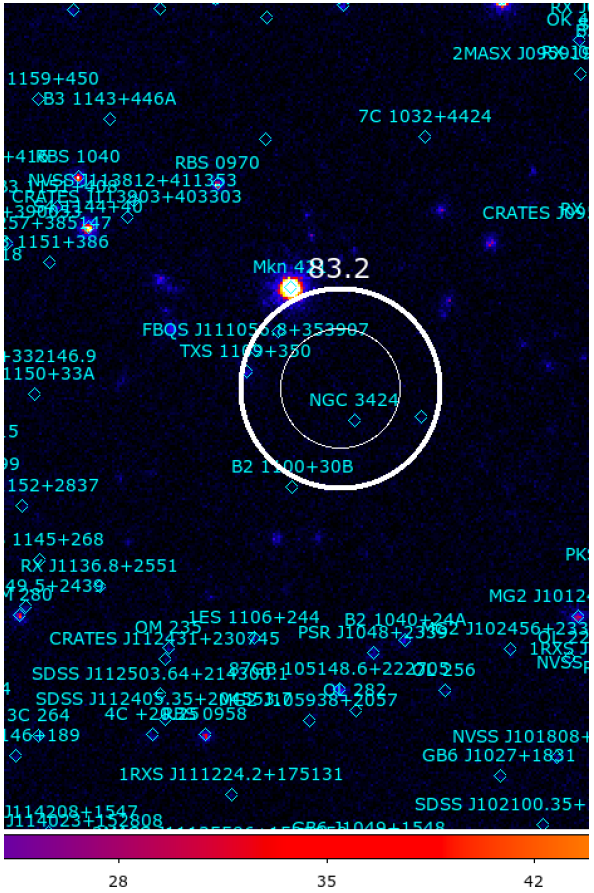
Preliminary

	E, TeV	θ_z, degree	φ, degree	R.A.	Dec
GVD2018_354_N	105	37	331	118.2	72.5
GVD2018_383_N	115	73	112	35.4	1.1
GVD2018_656_N	398	64	347	55.6	62.4
GVD2019_112_N	1200	61	329	217.7	57.6
GVD2019_114_N	91	109	92	45.1	-16.7
GVD2019_663_N	83	50	276	163.6	34.2
GVD2019_153_N	129	50	321	33.7	61.4
GVD2020_175_N	110	71	185	295.3	-18.9
GVD2020_332_N	74	92	9	223.0	35.4
GVD2020_399_N	246	57	49	131.9	50.2

Another event of potential interest

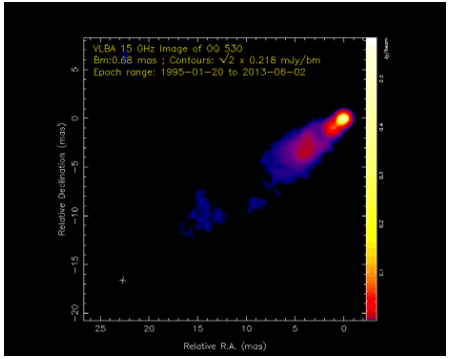
GVD_2019_663

Mrk 421 just outside the error circle



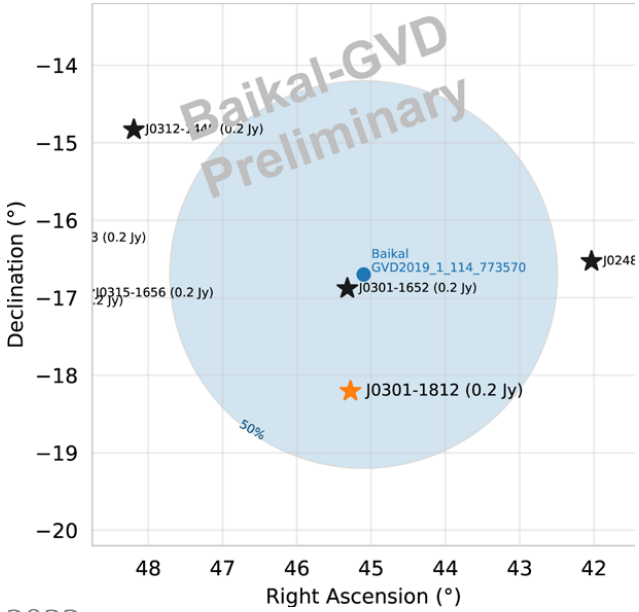
Radio-loud blazars – promising neutrino sources

Motivated by
A. Plavin et al., ApJ 894, 101 (2020)
A. Plavin et al., ApJ 908, 157 (2021)

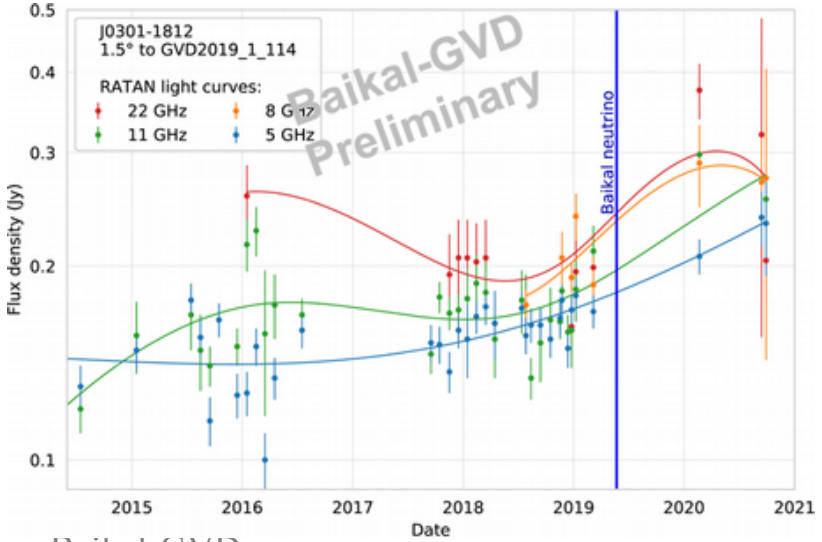


GVD2019_1_114_N

radio-bright blazars nearby



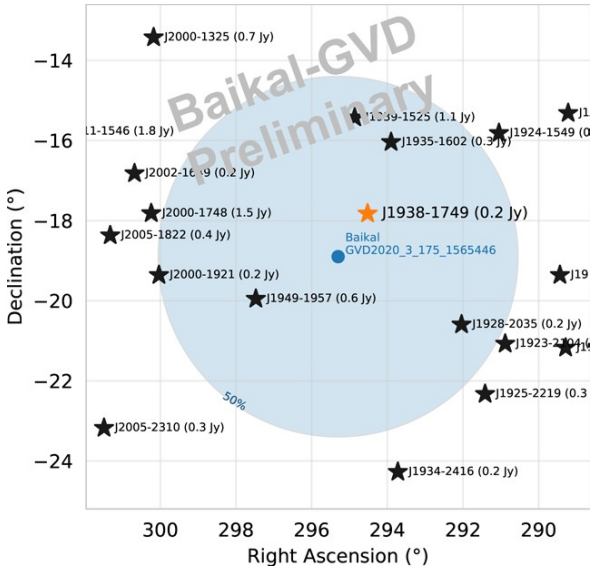
Light curves of J0301-1812 measured by RATAN-600

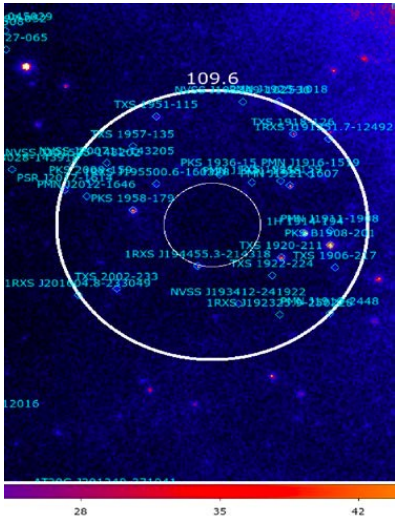


Radio-loud blazars – promising neutrino sources (2)

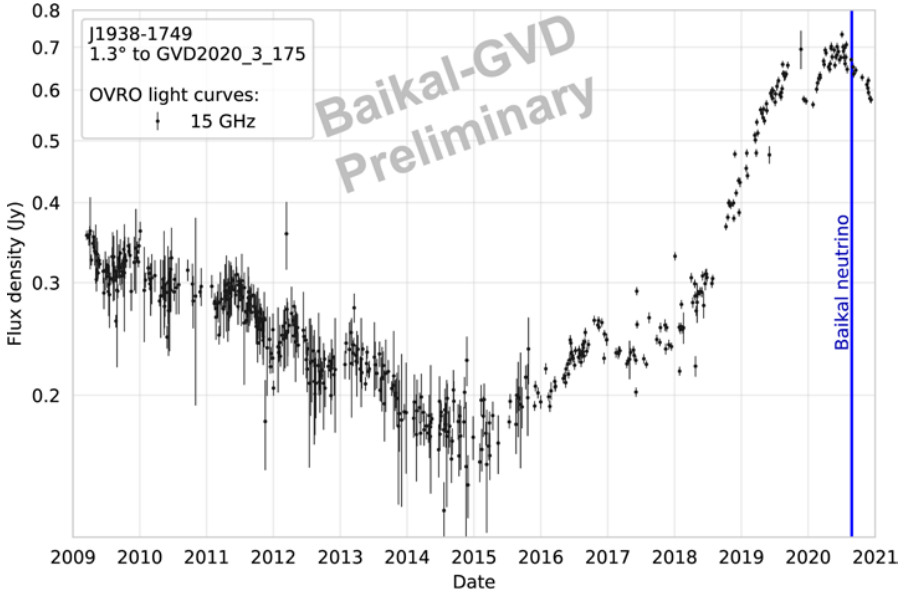
GVD2020_3_175_N

radio-bright blazars nearby



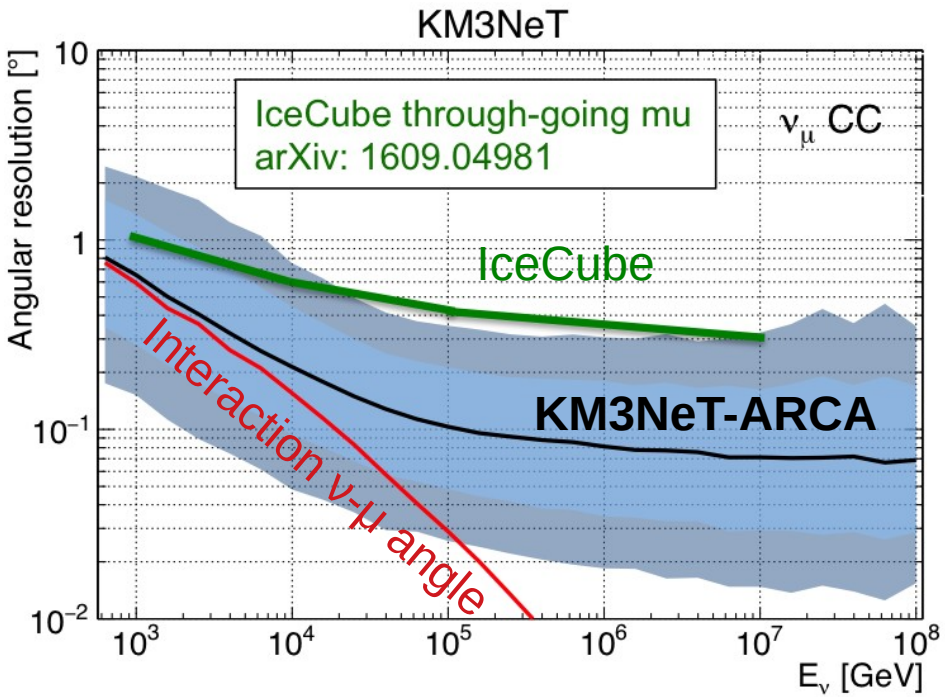


Light curves of J1938-1749 measured by OVRO

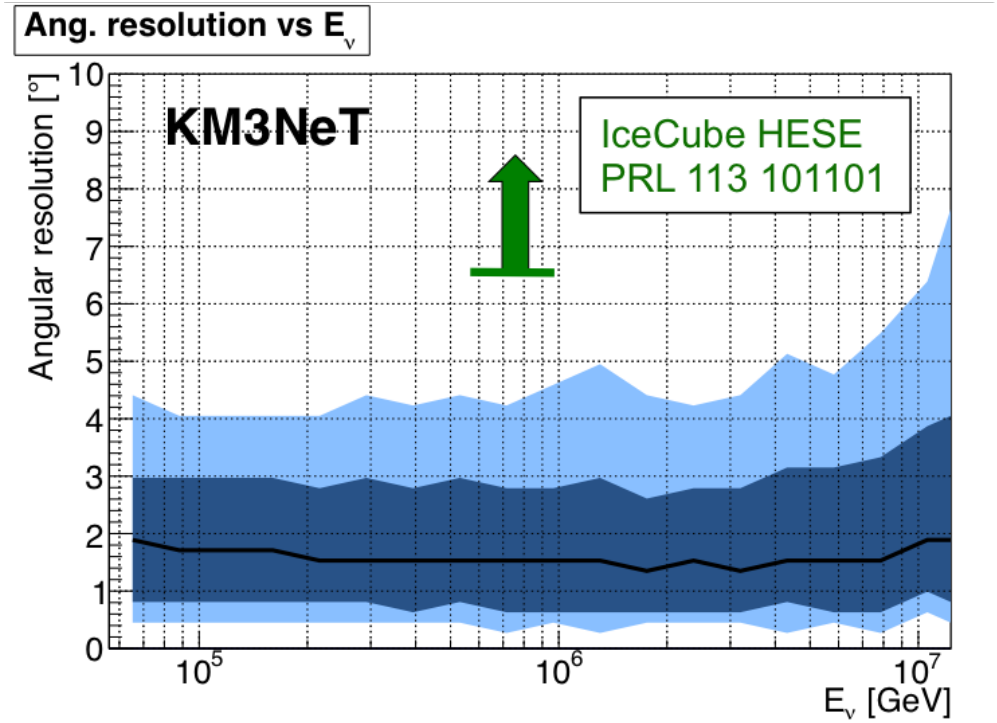


ARCA - angular resolution

Tracks



Showers



~ 0.1° angular resolution for tracks (E>100 TeV); ~ 2° for showers