JINR-ISU summer school Bolshie Koty 11-18 July 2023

## High Energy Neutrino Astronomy Lecture 2

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## Plan

- Neutrino telescope operation principle
- History and current status of the field
- Baikal-GVD detector and first results
- Future prospects

## Neutrino telescopes: how it works

## Neutrino telescope : operation principle



- Large arrays of PMTs in water or ice
- Cherenkov light detected by PMTs
- "Tracks":  $v_{\mu}$  CC
- "Cascades":  $v_e \& v_\tau CC + NC$
- 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 (e.g. <sup>40</sup>K), bioluminescence, chemiluminescence
  - Random low-amplitude hits



## Where we are on the energy scale



## 3 ways to detect astrophysical neutrino signal



Pictures borrowed from talk by R. Ruiz 17 Jul 2023

Neutrino Astronomy history and current status (not including Baikal-GVD)

## Neutrino astronomy: origin

 1960: Kenneth Greisen & Frederick Reines discuss first prospects for large undergound neutrino detectors. Greisen: "As a detector, we propose a large Cherenkov counter, about 15 m in diameter, located in a mine far underground."



- → MeV-GeV neutrino detectors
- 1960: Moisey Markov: "... install detectors deep in a lake or a sea and to determine the direction of charged particles with the help of Cherenkov radiation."
  - $\rightarrow$  high energy neutrino astronomy



## The DUMAND project



In 1987, a 7-PMT test string operated from a vessel near Hawaii and measured the muon intensity as a function of depth.

In Dec 1993, a first of three prepared strings was deployed and linked to shore, but water leaks developed, terminating the communication to shore.

1995 project closed

For details see e.g. arXiv:1903.11481 10 / 57

## Baikal NT-200 and NT-200+



- A. Chudakov, ~1980: proposal to build a neutrino telescope in lake Baikal
- 1981: first shallow-water tests
- 1993-1998: construction of NT-200 (192 PMTs on 8 strings)
- 2005-2006: 3 external strings added  $\rightarrow$  NT-200+







## AMANDA at South pole



- 1988: proposal to build a neutrino telescope in Antarctic ice (F. Halzen)
- 1993-1994: first small array deployed
- 1995-2000: construction
- 677 optical modules on 19 strings
- 2009: detector turned off (superseded by IceCube)

## ANTARES in Mediterranean sea



- > 40 km offshore Toulon, France
- > 2.5 km depth
- > 885 optical modules on 12 strings
- ~ 12 Mton instrumented volume

ANTARES OM: 10" Hamamatsu PMT



- Array completed in 2008
- Dismantled in Feb 2022

## **ANTARES** point-source searches

Some evidence for non-uniform skymap in 10 years of IceCube data  $(3.3\sigma)$ . Mostly resulting from 4 extragalactic source candidates.

No indications for galactic sources.



## Neutrino telescope world map 2023



## IceCube



- Construction started in 2005
- Complete in 2010
- 1 km<sup>3</sup>-scale neutrino detector
- Still fully operational as of 2023

Evidence for High-Energy Extraterrestrial Neutrinos with IceCube (Science 2013, 342, 1242856)

Neutrino emission from the direction of the blazar TXS 0506+056 (Science 2018, 361, 147)

## Diffuse neutrino flux

NEvents arXiv:2001.09520 ۱0<sup>3</sup> astro.  $v_e + v_1$ astro.  $v_{\mu}$ mc sum atm. μ 10<sup>2</sup> conv.  $v_{\mu}$ sr¹) \_\_\_\_ conv. ve prompt  $\sum v$ 10<sup>1</sup> 90% UL <sup>22</sup>dN/dE (GeV cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> 0 <sub>2</sub>-0 data 10<sup>0</sup> 2.0 ũ 15 data/∑ 1.0 0.5 0.0 10<sup>6</sup>  $10^{4}$  $10^{5}$  $10^{3}$  $10^{7}$ 10<sup>-9</sup> E<sub>reco</sub>[GeV] Science 342 (2013)  $[4.1 \sigma]$ PRL 113:101101 (2014) [5.9 σ] PRL 125:121104 (2020) [~10 σ]

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IceCube cascades

The existence of a diffuse neutrino flux is firmly established, but its origin remains unknown



17 / 57

## TXS 0506+056



A blazar (BL Lac) at z= 0.34 (5.7 Gly)

High-energy IceCube  $\nu$  coincident with a  $\gamma$ -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)



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## NGC 1068



- NGC 1068 is a nearby active galaxy (Seyfert II)
- NGC 1068 is also known as a "starburst" galaxy
- 14.4 Mpc (47 Mly) from Earth
- Detected at 4.2 σ with 10 yr of IceCube data

Science 378, 6619, 538-543 (2022)

# Galactic Diffuse neutrino flux observed by IceCube NEW!



Science, 380 (6652)

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# Baikal-GVD GVD = Gigaton Volume Detector



Status as of July 2023: 3456 Optical Modules on 96 strings

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21 / 57

## KM3NeT – ARCA (under construction)



Volume : 1 km<sup>3</sup>

2 x 115 strings 18 DOMs / string 31 PMTs / DOM Total: 128 000 PMTs (3")

Vertical spacing: 36 m Horizontal spacing: 90 m Mediterranean sea, 80 km offshore Sicily Depth 3500 m

#### **Digital Optical Module**



- 31 x 3" PMTs
- PMT HV
- LED & piezo
- FPGA readout
  - DWDM photocathode area similar to a 17" PMT
- ✓ Uniform angular coverage
- Directional information
- Digital photon counting
- All data to shore

Optical background (mainly  $^{40}$ K): 5-10 kHz  $^{22}/57$ 

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36 m

## KM3NeT - ARCA & ORCA



80 km offshore Sycily (Italy) 1 km3 Main goal: neutrino astronomy



40 km offshore France 6 Mt (0.006 km<sup>3</sup>) Main goal: neutrino mass ordering

## KM3NeT - ARCA : current status

#### 21 detection units operational out of 230 planned



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## KM3NeT - ORCA : current status 8 Detection Units deployed (out of 115 planned)

First results on neutrino oscillations already public



## Sky visibility with upgoing tracks



#### Complementary sky coverage

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

## Water/Ice optical properties

	Light absorption length	Effective light scattering length	Journal ref.
Antarctic ice (IceCube)	16-270 m	5-100 m	doi:10.1016/ j.nima.2013.01.054
Lake Baikal	24 m	~ 480 m	doi:10.1016/ j.nima.2012.06.035
Mediterranean sea	≈ 60 m	~ 260 m	doi:10.1016/ j.astropartphys.2004.11. 006
	Limits low energy performance. Limits how sparse	Limits angular resolution	

17 Jul 2023

the detector can be.

## **Baikal-GVD**

## Baikal-GVD site



- High water transparency
  - Absorption length: 22 m
  - ✓ Scattering length:  $30 50 \text{ m} (\text{L}_{\text{eff}} \approx 480 \text{ m})$
- Moderately low optical background: 15–40 kHz (PMT R7081-100 Ø10")

- 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



## 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<sup>8</sup> ph., 5 ns
- String calibration: LED beacons in 12 OMs of the cluster
- Cluster calibration: 2 lasers per station, 532 nm, 10<sup>12</sup> 10<sup>15</sup> ph., 1 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









## Status 2023 (end of the expedition)

- 12 regular clusters
- 96 strings
- 3456 Optical Modules

- + 2 "experimental" strings using fiber optic technology for data transmission
- + additional inter-cluster strings with lasers


## Baikal-GVD 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
- Best angular resolution

#### Single-cluster cascades

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

#### NC, $\nu_e \nu_{\tau} CC$



#### Multi-cluster cascades

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

## Neutrino effective volume for tracks (one GVD cluster)



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## Expected performance for tracks

Angular resolution



(TeV) Balkal-GVD MC, preliminary Etrue 102 10 10<sup>2</sup> 10 Erec (TeV)

Energy reconstruction

Improvements expected from likelihoodbased reconstruction (under development) energy resolution ~ factor 3 at E ~ 100 TeV ( $\pm$ 34% containment band)

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G. Safronov @ ICRC 2021
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## 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)



Median energy of this sample  $\approx 500 \text{ GeV}$ 

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

## Single-cluster tracks: a BDT-enhanced $\chi^2$ -based analysis



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17 Jul 2023

43 / 57



17 Jul 2023

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## Multi-cluster track events



## 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 • 10<sup>-6</sup> F<sup>-2.46</sup> GeV<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup>



## Cascade analysis performance



median mismatch angle ~ 4.5°

Energy resolution :  $\delta E/E \sim 30\%$ 

## Cascade analysis : data and MC

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

Preliminary

## Search for upward moving cascade events

https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.107.042005

Additional selection requirements:

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

Expected:

0.95 events from atm. muons
3 events from atm. neutrinos
10 events for IceCube's E<sup>-2.46</sup> astrophysical flux

Found in data: 11 events

The "no diffuse flux" hypothesis is rejected with

P-value = 0.00268 (3σ)



 $\cos \theta$ 

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## 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 rino Astronomy 50 / 57

## 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



LS I +61 303 and the two Baikal-GVD events

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  $\sigma$ ) [not corrected for the "look elsewhere effect"]

# A 1 PeV cascade event (downgoing) Preliminary

#### GVD\_2019\_112\_N





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

## 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

 $E \approx 43 \text{ TeV}$ PSF 50% (68%) containment radius = 5.5 deg (8.1 deg)

Pre-trial p-value = 0.0044 (2.85  $\sigma$ ) [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

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## 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



arXiv:2210.01650

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

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## Prospects

- IceCube: plan to build ~8 km<sup>3</sup> optical array and a ~500 km<sup>3</sup> radio array
- KM3NeT: finish construction
- Baikal-GVD: discussions on for further detector extensions (10 km<sup>3</sup>?)







## Conclusion

- Three 1 km<sup>3</sup> neutrino telescopes operate or under construction: IceCube, KM3NeT, and Baikal-GVD
- Discoveries so far:
  - All-sky diffuse flux
  - Galactic diffuse flux (4.5  $\sigma$ )
  - two sources >3  $\sigma$  : TXS 0506 & NGC 1068
- Baikal-GVD is entering the game

## **Backup slides**

## KM3NeT ARCA & ORCA





	String spacing (m)	OM spacing (m)	Depth (m)	Instrumente d mass (Mt)	N strings
ORCA	23	6	2450	8	115
ARCA	90	36	3400	1000	230

- 18 DOMs/string
- 31 PMTs/DOM

# ARCA - angular resolution

Showers



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

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# 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



 $sin(\delta)$ 

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## Baikal-GVD construction status 2022 and schedule





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

Eff. volume 2022: ~  $0.5 \text{ km}^3$  (cascades, E > 100 TeV)

## 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

63 / 57

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## Water optical properties



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## 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)

## All-sky search for HE cascades

https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.107.042005

Additional selection requirements:

 $(N_{Type_2} = 0, E_{rec} \ge 70 \text{ TeV}) \text{ or}$  $(N_{Type_2} = 1, E_{rec} \ge 100 \text{ TeV})$  $N_{Type_2}$  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<sup>-2.46</sup> astrophysical flux

Found in real data: 16 events

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

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## Diffuse neutrino flux



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1

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2.2

Cascades, South Cascades, North  $(\phi_{prompt} = 0)$ 

2.4

2.6

2.8

3.0

Yastro

······ Cascades, North

## Track reconstruction with a $\chi^2$ -based algorithm



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## Neutrino effective area for tracks : one GVD cluster



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## 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



## Reconstructed energy for tracks

#### Example plot for a set of neutrino candidate events



- dE/dx energy estimator -
- Works for E > 1 TeV

see talk by

 Largest measured energy in cutbased low-energy neutrino candidate sample:

G. Safronov at ICRC 2021



cluster 1, run 84 evt. 473478  $\theta = 165.5^{\circ}$ N<sub>strings</sub> = 3 N<sub>hits</sub> = 10

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71 / 57

### Cascade analysis angular resolution


### Selected events (2018-2020)

Preliminary

	E, TeV	θ <sub>z,</sub> 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

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## Upward-going cascade #2



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

### 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



76 / 57

# Radio-loud blazars – promising neutrino sources (2) GVD2020\_3\_175\_N

### radio-bright blazars nearby





#### Light curves of J1938-1749 measured by OVRO



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## GVD follow up of ANTARES alerts

Following ANTARES upgoing  $\mu$  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 <sub>alert</sub> , 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



No prompt coincidence in time and direction was found

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

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## 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  $\,1\,\text{TeV}-10\,\text{PeV}$  and  $\pm12\,\text{hr}$  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

## PKS 0735+17 : a neutrino-emitting blazar?





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

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## AGN origin of the diffuse neutrino flux?



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]

**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.

## Neutrino absorption in the Earth



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82 / 57