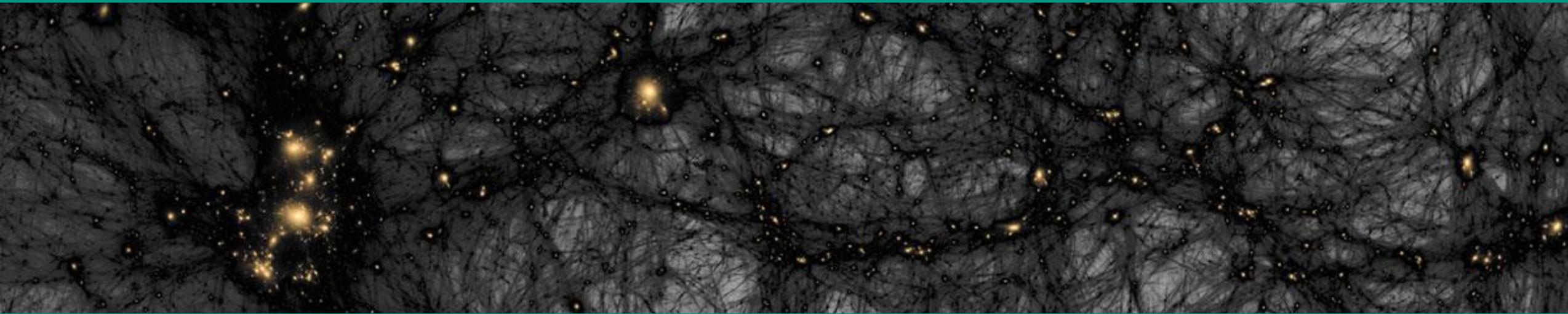


# Astroparticle physics *I* – Dark Matter

Winter term 23/24

Lecture 7

Nov. 22, 2023



# Recap of Lecture 6

## ■ *UHECRs*: modern observations & results at the highest energies

- **hybrid technology** (air fluorescence &  $N_e + N_\mu$ ): *CR* – observatories *PAO* & *TA*
- measurement of **longitudinal distributions** via isotropic emission of  $N_2$
- *UHECR* – **cutoff** at  $E \sim 10^{20} \text{ eV}$ : due to **Hillas** ( $AZ$ ), not *GZK* – resonance ( $p$ )

## ■ *UHE* neutrinos: multi-messengers from afar

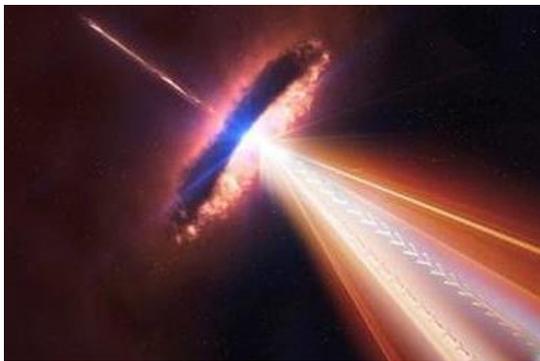
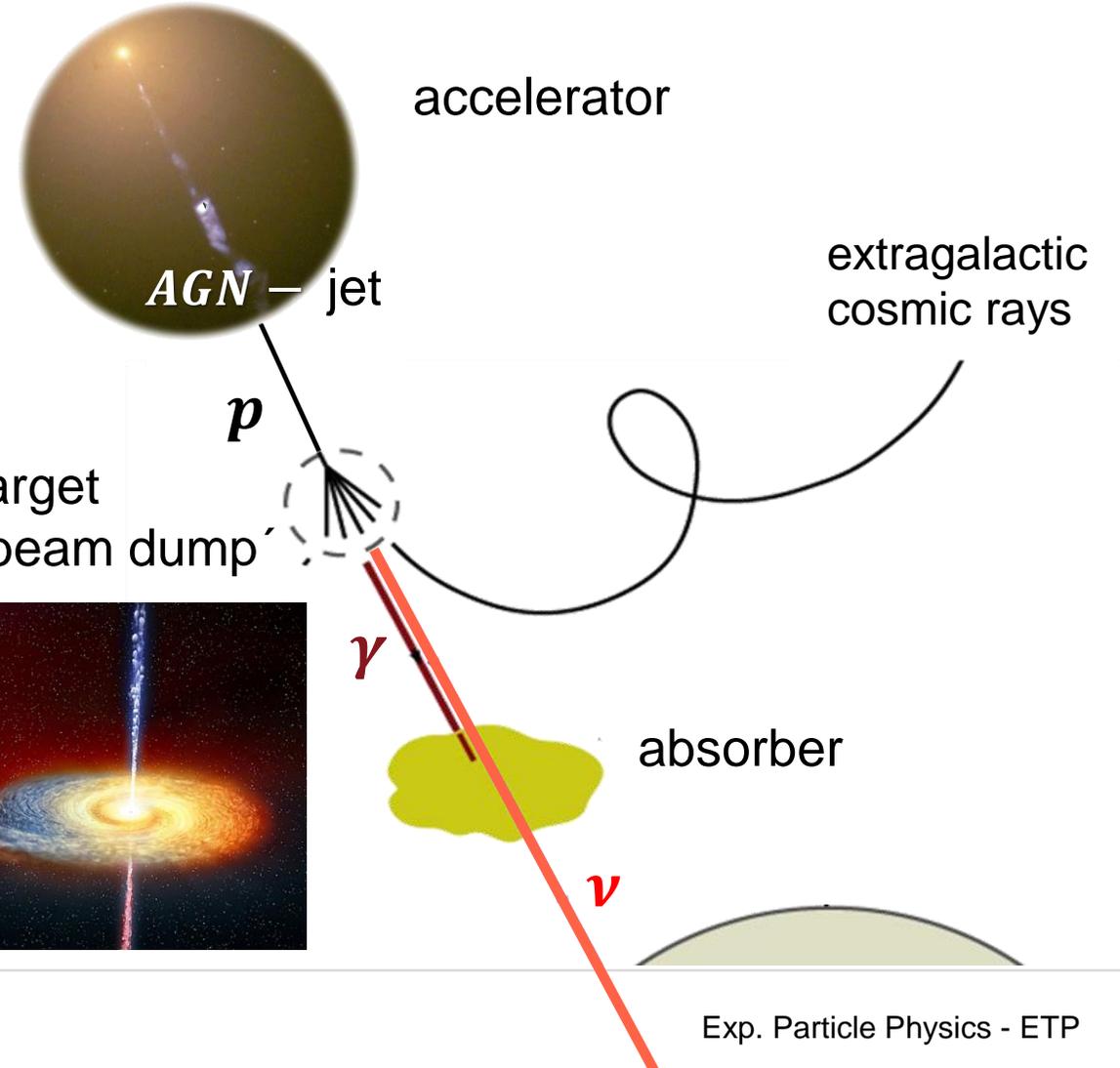
- $\nu$  – **telescopes in-ice / deep-sea**: *PMT* – arrays to detect **Cherenkov light**
- *CC* – reactions of  $\nu_\mu$  at *PeV* – energies:  $\mu$  – **tracks over km** – range
- **properties** of medium (deep-sea water vs. ice) key to particle reconstruction

# *UHE* neutrinos – production mechanisms

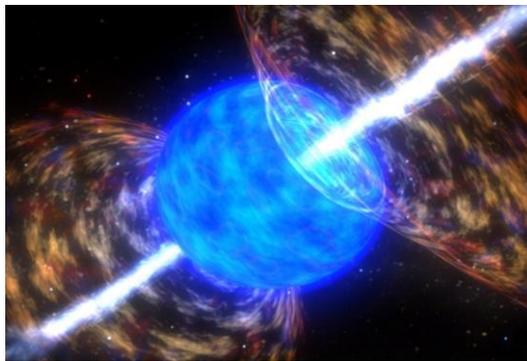
■ expected  $\nu$  – sources at *UHE* scale: transient and/or variable accelerators

- *AGN* jets (active galaxies)
- *GRBs* (gamma ray bursts)
- $\mu$  – quasars (galactic)

*Hillas*  
criterium



Active *G*alactic  
*N*ucleus



Gamma *R*ay *B*urst

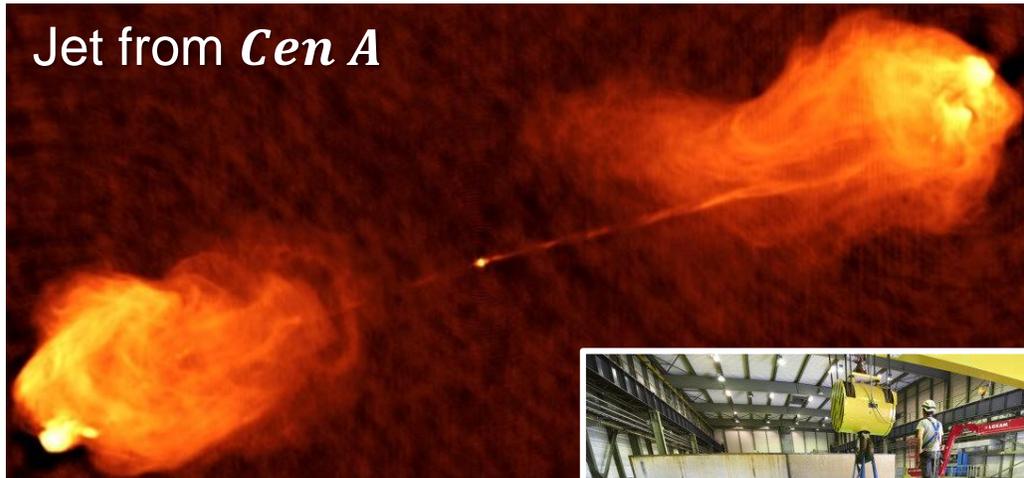
$\mu$  – (micro) quasar in galaxy



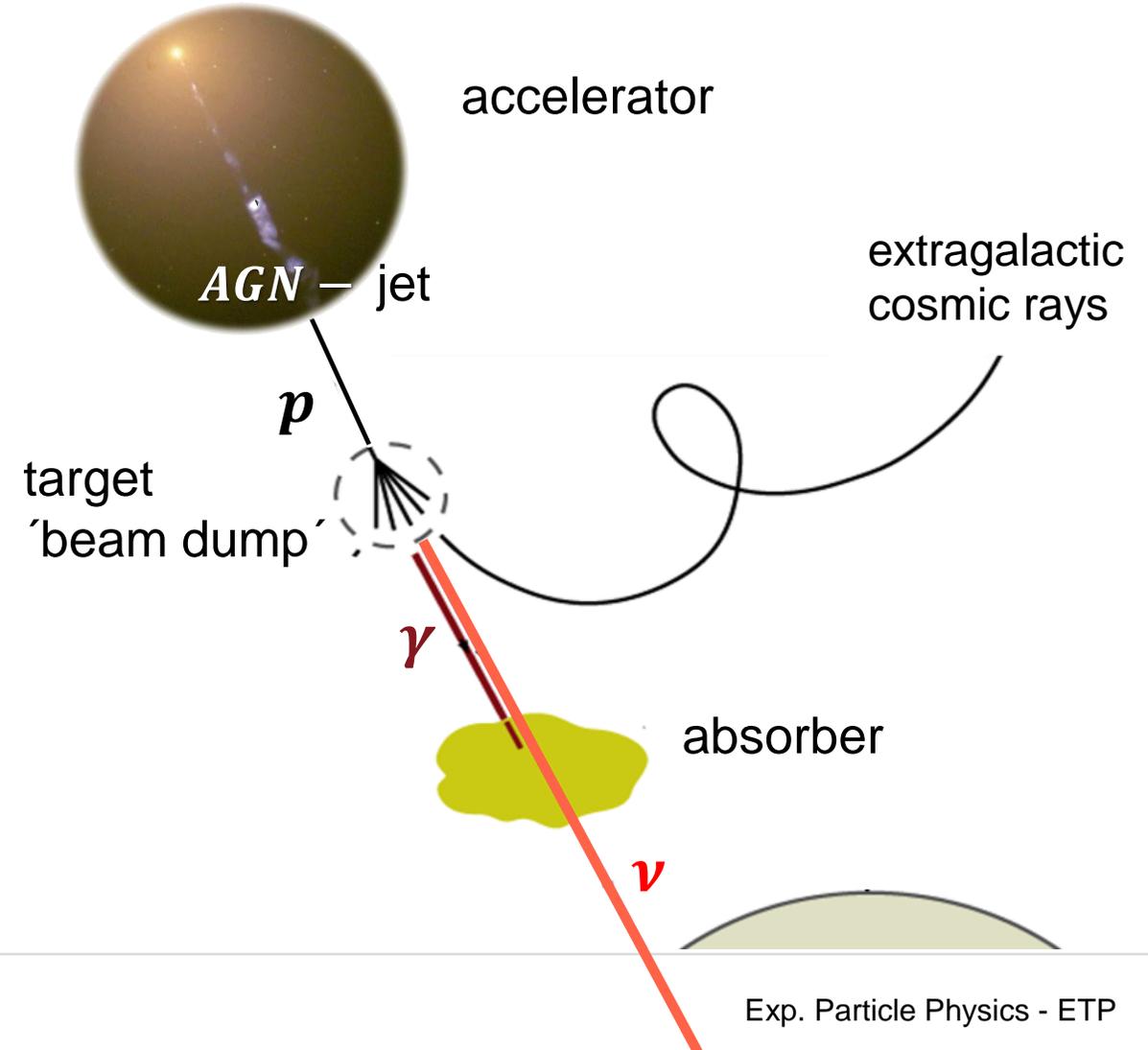
# *UHE* neutrinos – production at target

## ■ neutrino production in the ‘beam dump’ of a **proton accelerator**

- close analogy to terrestrial high–energy proton accelerators



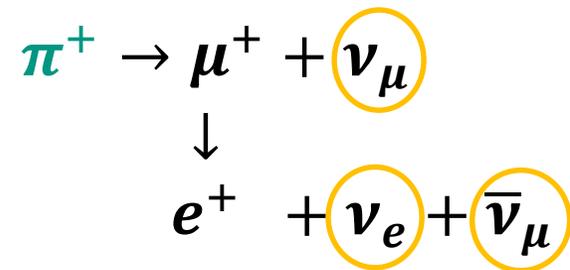
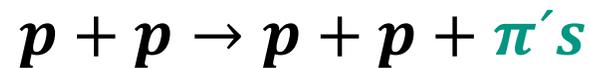
*CERN – SPS*



# *UHE* neutrinos – pion processes at target

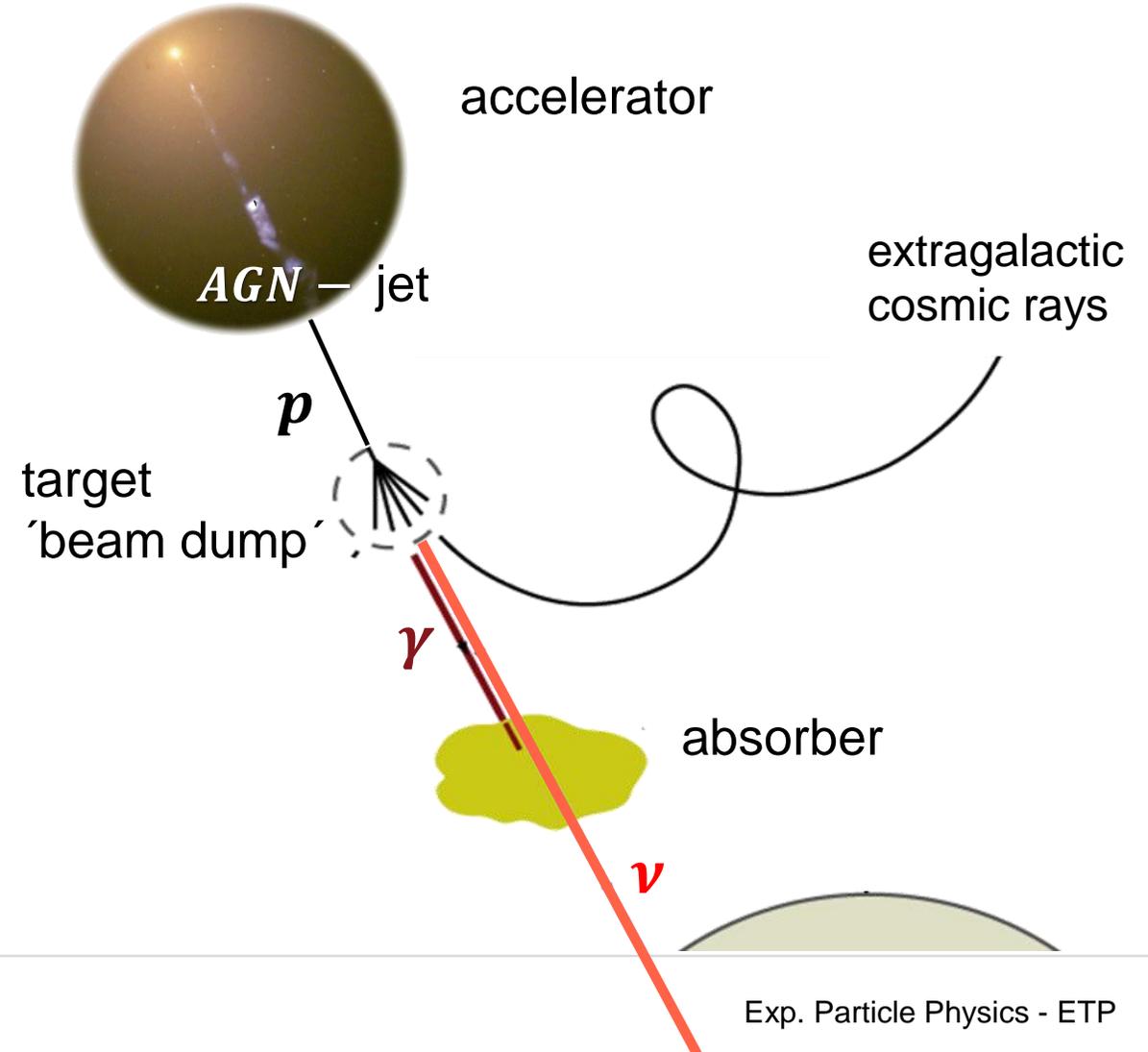
## ■ neutrino production in the ‘beam dump’ of a **proton accelerator**

- production & decay of **pions** at high-energy proton accelerators



- **flavour** composition at source:

$$\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau = 1 : 2 : 0$$

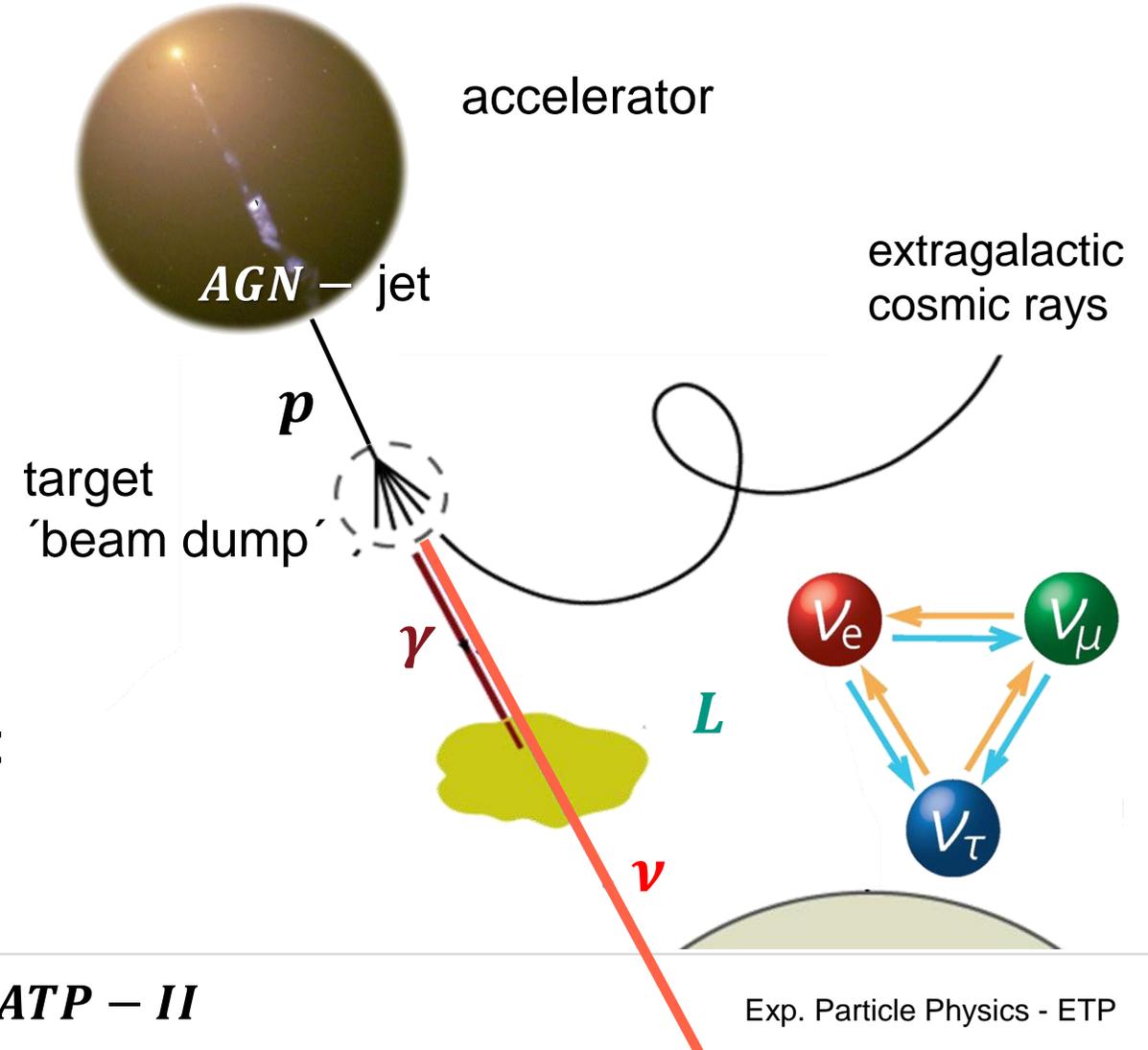


# *UHE* neutrinos – propagation effects

## ■ Neutrino propagation: flavour vs. mass eigenstates

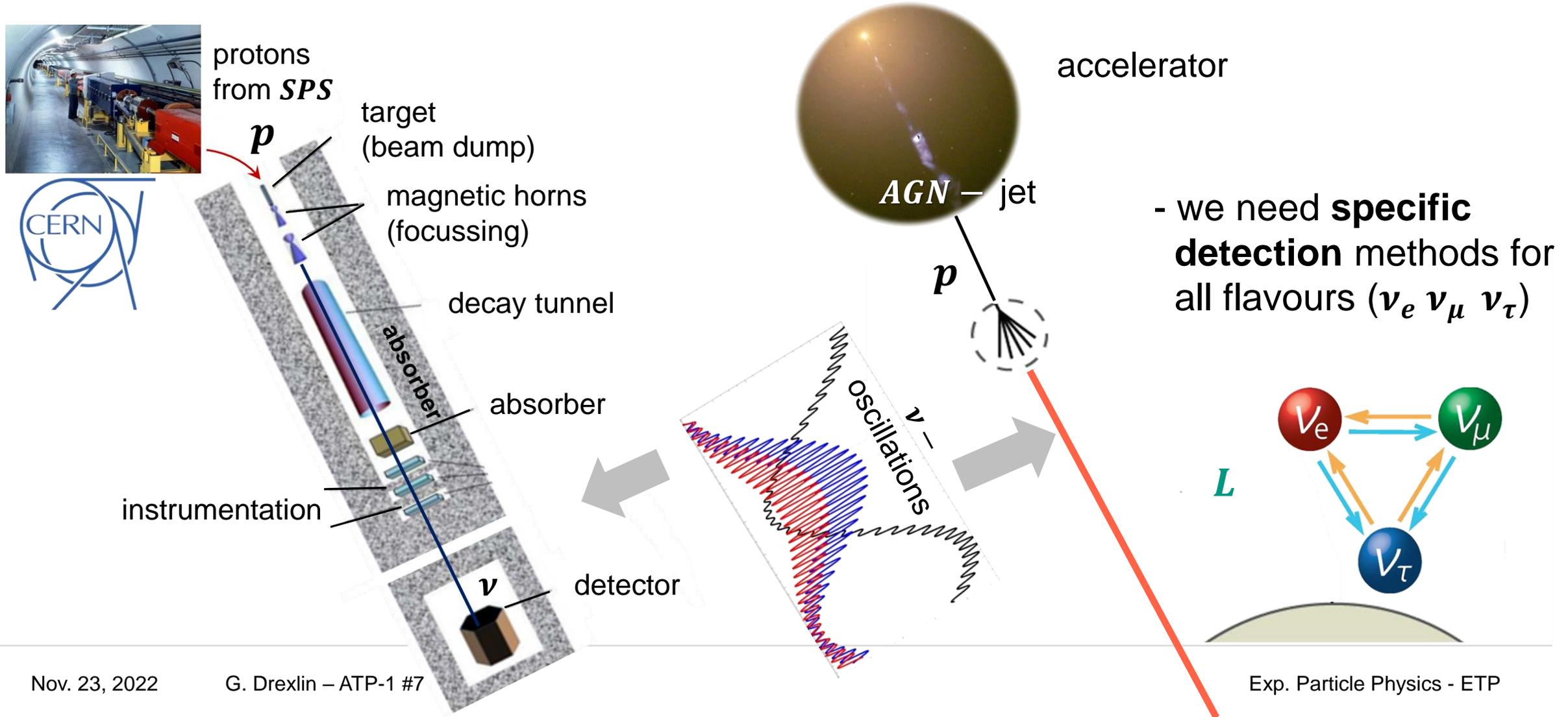
- propagation effects of neutrinos:  
**extremely long baseline  $L$**
- initially,  $\nu$  – **oscillations**  $\nu_i \rightarrow \nu_j$   
are taking place locally ( $\ell_{osc} \ll L$ )\*
- due to **huge  $L$** : **decoherence** of  
neutrino wave packets, thus  
**no further flavour oscillations**
- **flavour** composition here on Earth:

$$\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau = 1 : 1 : 1$$



# Neutrino beams: connecting *ATP* and *TP*

- neutrino beams from  $p$  – accelerators allow to investigate **flavour oscillations**

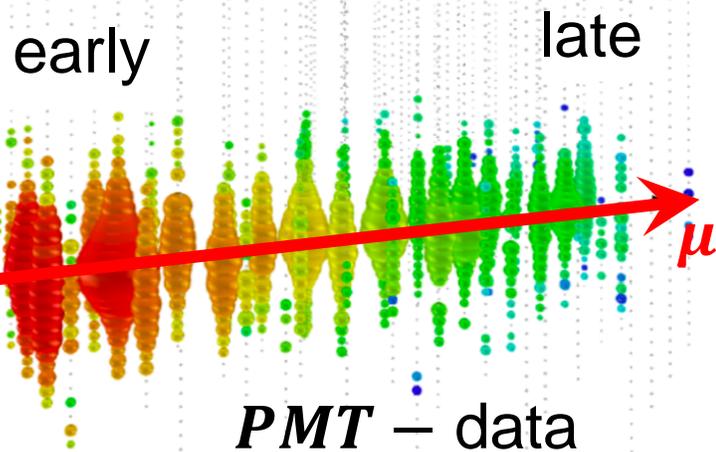


# UHE neutrinos – detection reactions for $\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$

## muon neutrino $\nu_\mu$

- **straight muon** track
- energy–dependent  $R_\mu$

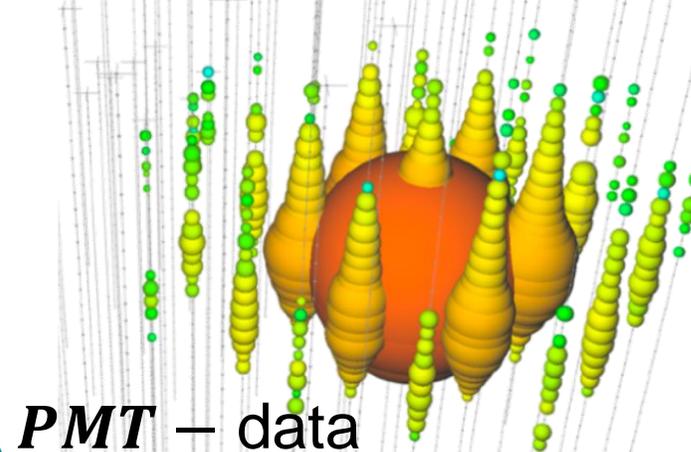
**CC** reaction



## electron neutrino $\nu_e$

- electromagnetic shower (**cascade** signature)
- spherical deposition of  $E$

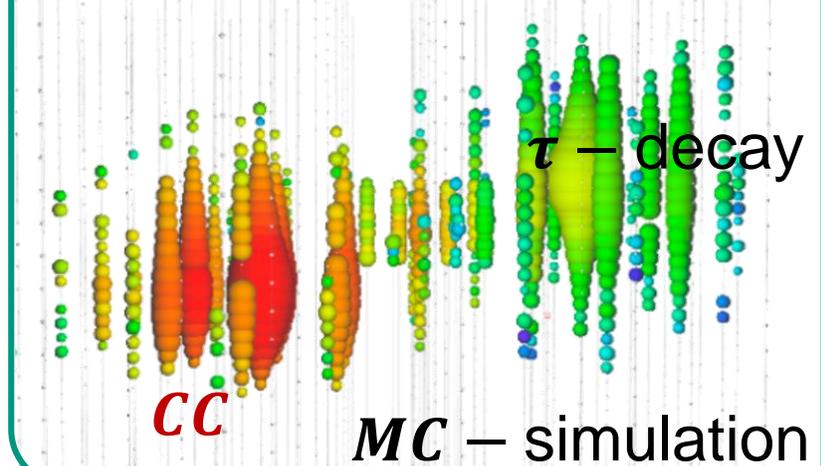
**NC** reaction



## tau neutrino $\nu_\tau$

- ‘**double bang**’ signal from fast  $\tau$  – decay

$\tau$  – decay after **CC** reaction



# UHE Neutrinos – measured flavour composition

## ■ neutrino production: test of our models of production & oscillation

- propagation effects of neutrinos & expected flavour ratio of the source:

$$\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau = 1 : 2 : 0 \quad \bullet$$

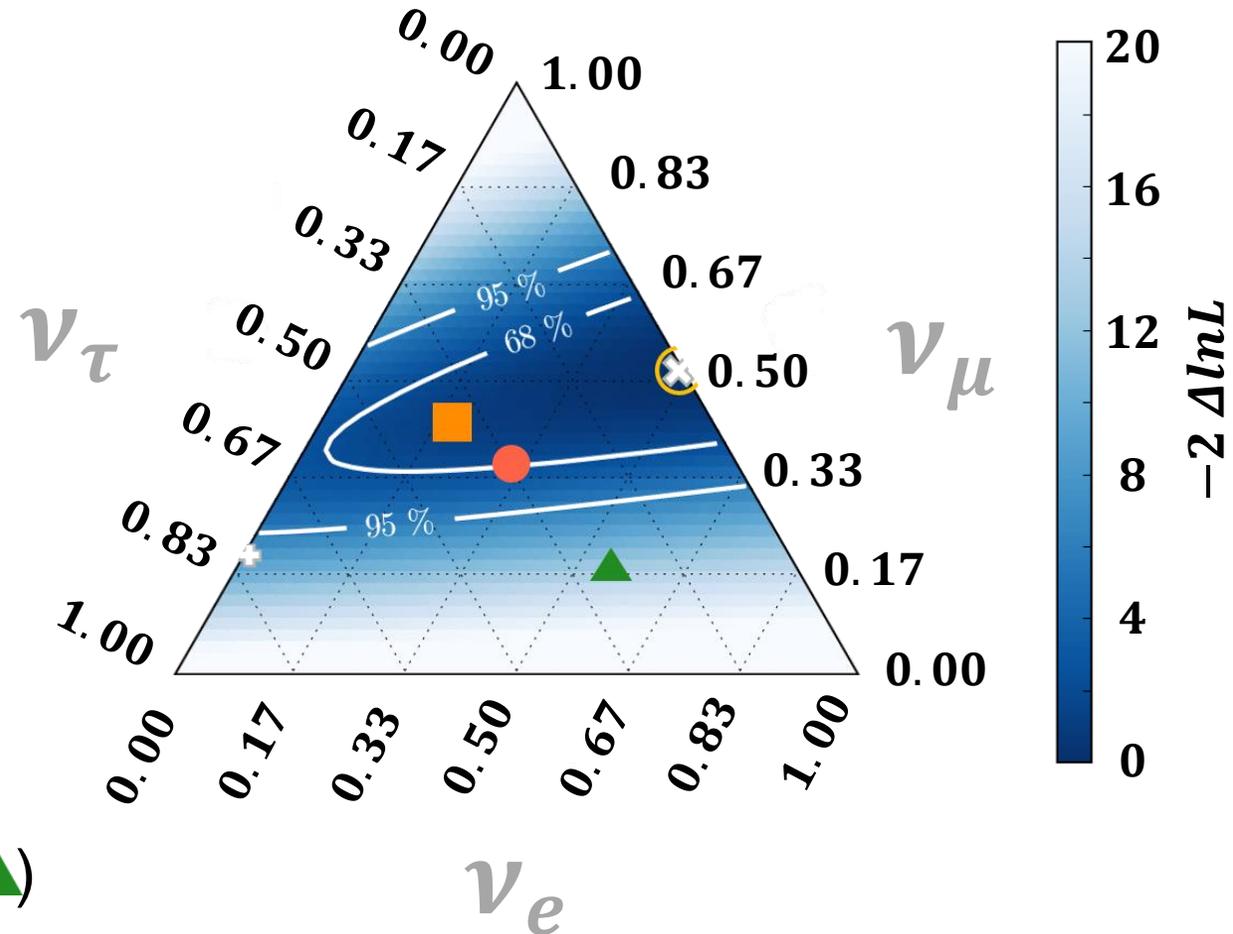
$$\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau = 0 : 1 : 0 \quad \blacksquare$$

$$\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau = 1 : 0 : 0 \quad \blacktriangle$$

- experimental data

⇒ compatible with decay chain  $\bullet$

$\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e$ , but not with  $n$  – decay ( $\blacktriangle$ )



# UHE neutrinos – signal of $\nu_{astro}$ & background

## ■ Atmospheric neutrinos as key background for astrophysical $\nu$ – sources

- we need to separate out *bg*:

$\nu_{atm}$  (isotropic) from  $\nu_{astro}$

⇒ go to highest  $E_\nu > 10^{14} eV$

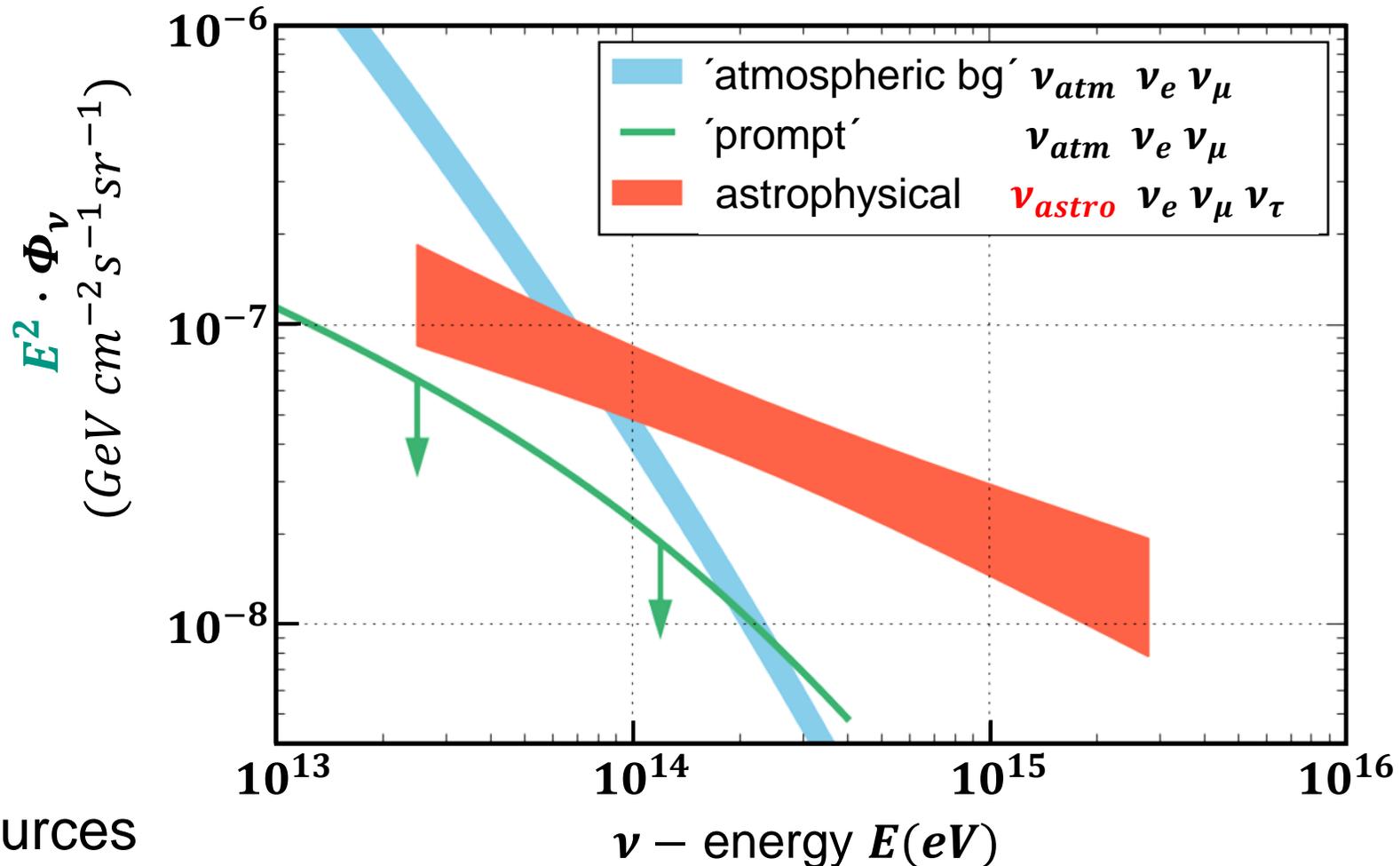


$\nu_{atm}$

from  $4\pi$

$\nu_{astro}$

very few  $\nu$  – sources



# Background sources for astrophysical neutrinos

## ■ atmospheric muons $\mu$ 's & atmospheric $\nu$ 's

### - atmospheric neutrinos:

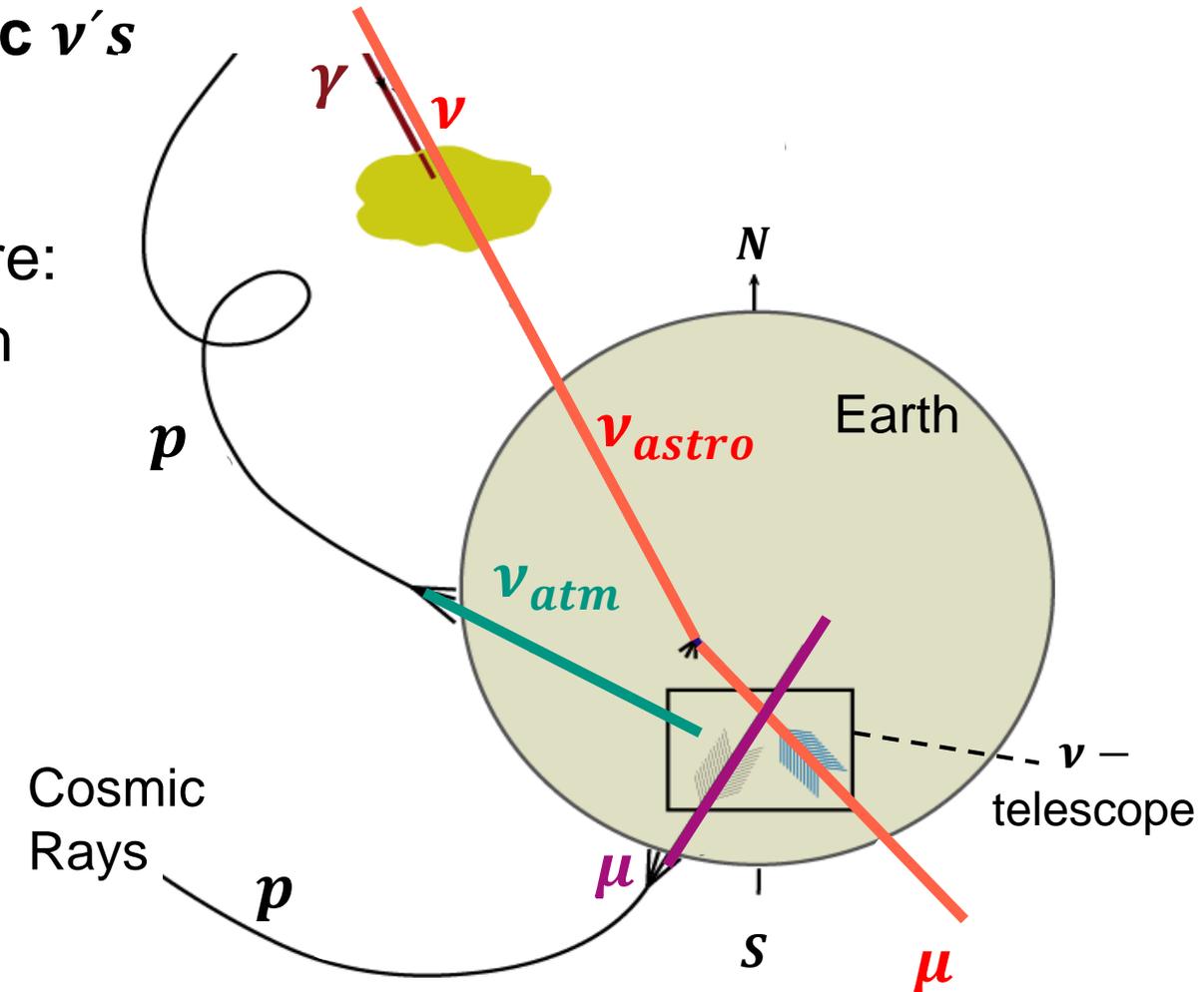
generated by  $CR - p$  in upper atmosphere:  
 $TeV$  – neutrinos can travel through Earth

⇒ isotropic arrival directions

### - muons from air showers

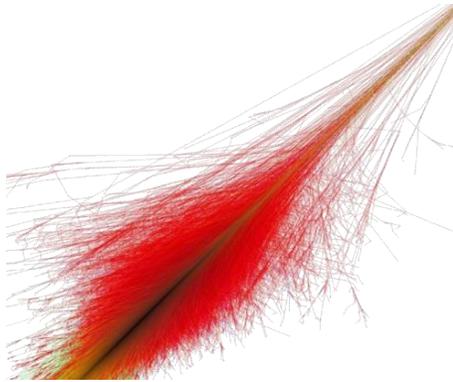
high-energy muons from the atmosphere have  $km$  – scale range in ice & can cross a deep in-ice/under-water  $\nu$  – telescope

⇒ only from 'upper' hemisphere



# Background sources for astrophysical neutrinos

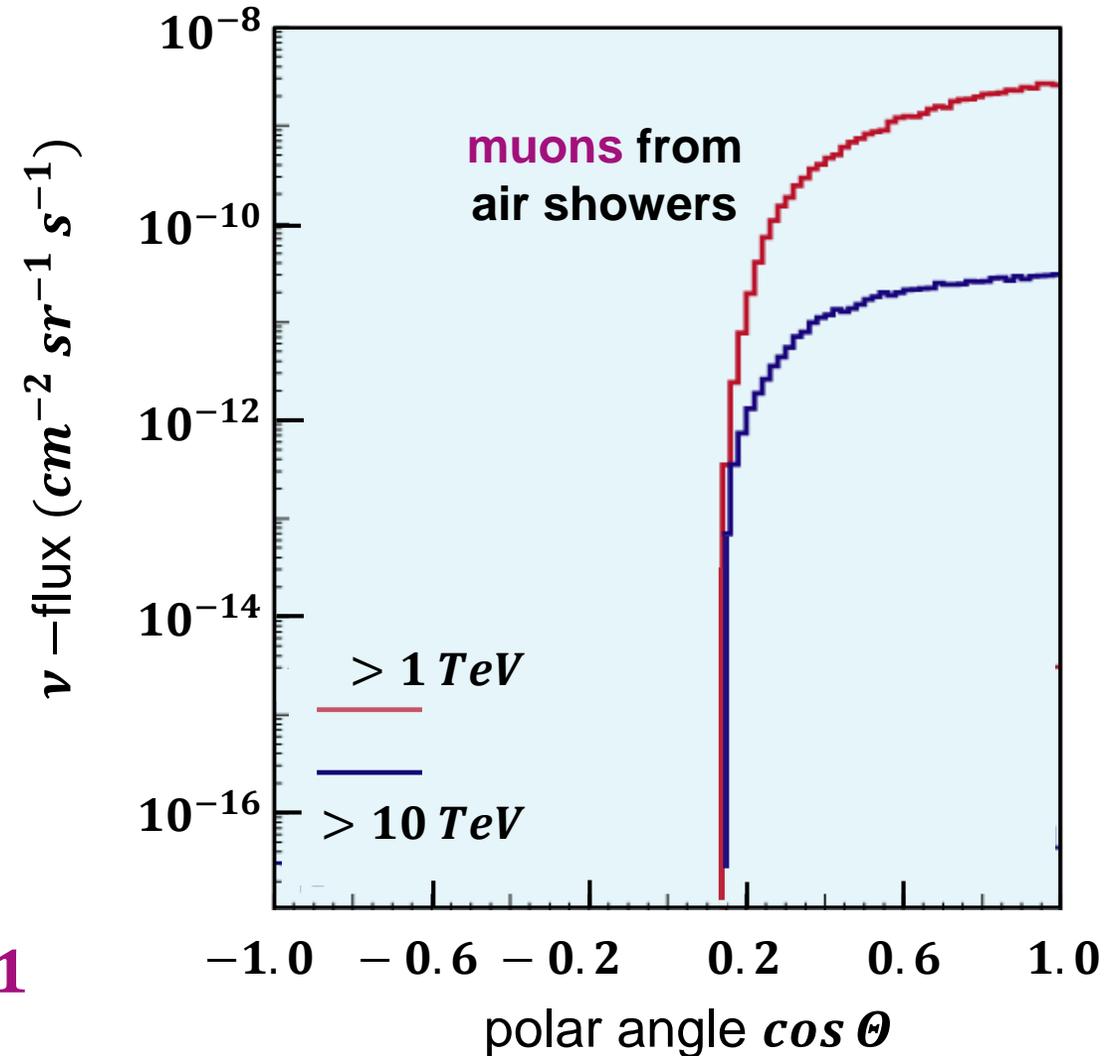
## ■ Background as function of $\Theta$



### - muons from air showers

high-energy muons from the atmosphere have *km* – scale range in ice & can cross a deep in-ice/under-water  $\nu$  – telescope

⇒ only from ‘upper’ hemisphere  $\cos \Theta > 0.1$



# Background sources for astrophysical neutrinos

## ■ Background as function of $\Theta$

### - atmospheric neutrinos:

generated by  $CR - p$  in upper atmosphere:  
*TeV* – neutrinos can travel through Earth

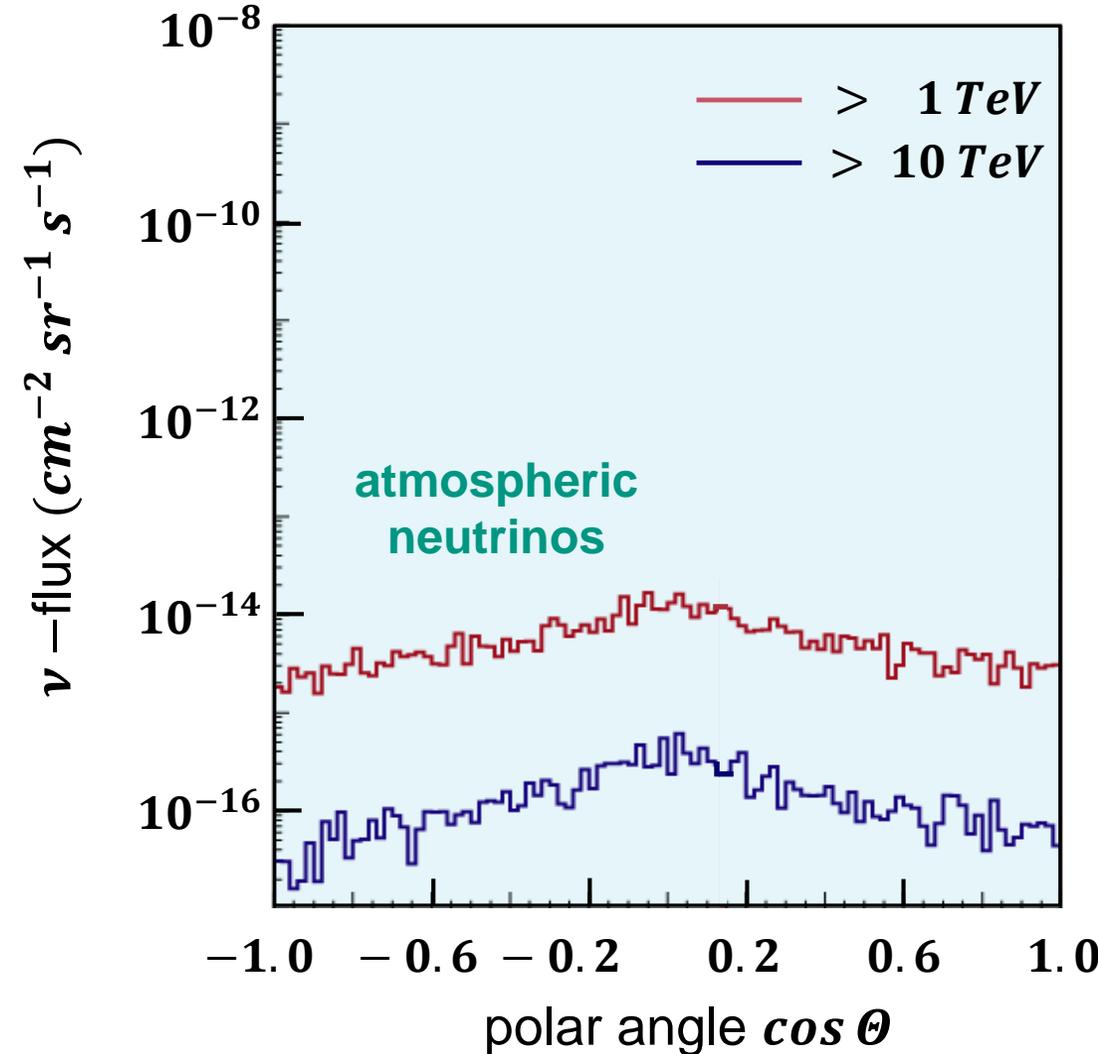
⇒ isotropic arrival directions



$\cos \Theta$  :

-1 (from bottom) ...

+1 (from top)



# Background – penetrating muons

## ■ Instrumenting the ice surface & other *bg* – reduction techniques

- **muons** with the highest energies from an air shower have a **range of several *km*** in ice or water

- **muon range  $R_\mu$**  in ice / water

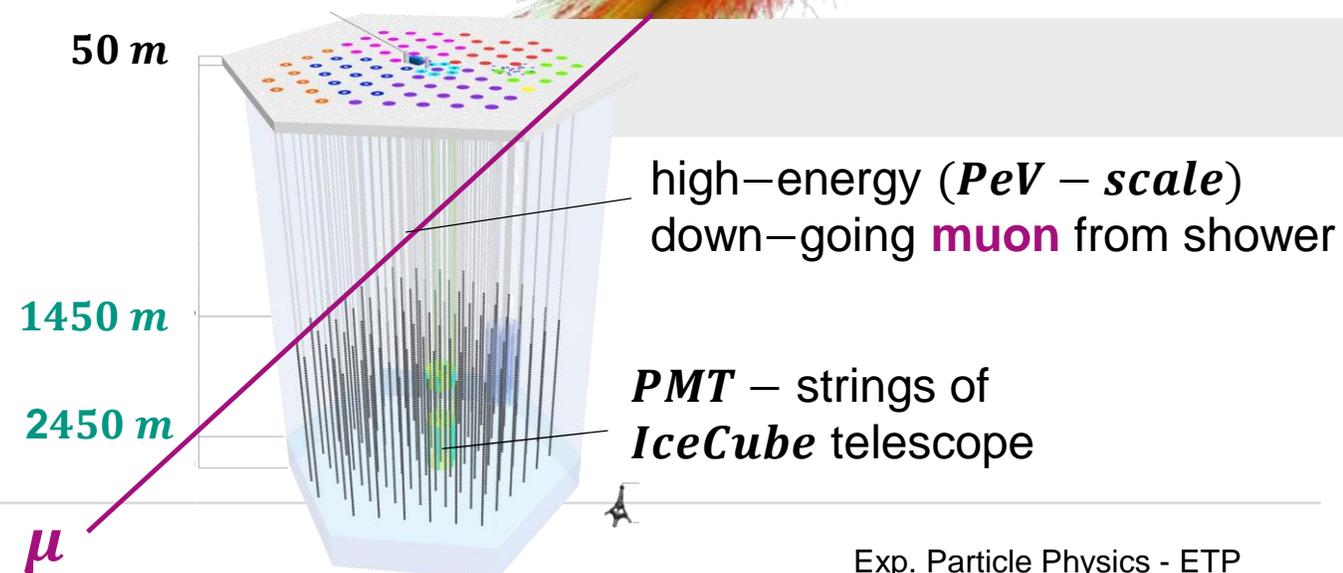
**1 *PeV*:  $R_\mu = 1.7 \text{ km}$**

**10 *PeV*:  $R_\mu = 7 \text{ km}$**

- discrimination:

polar angle  $\theta$

surface detector veto



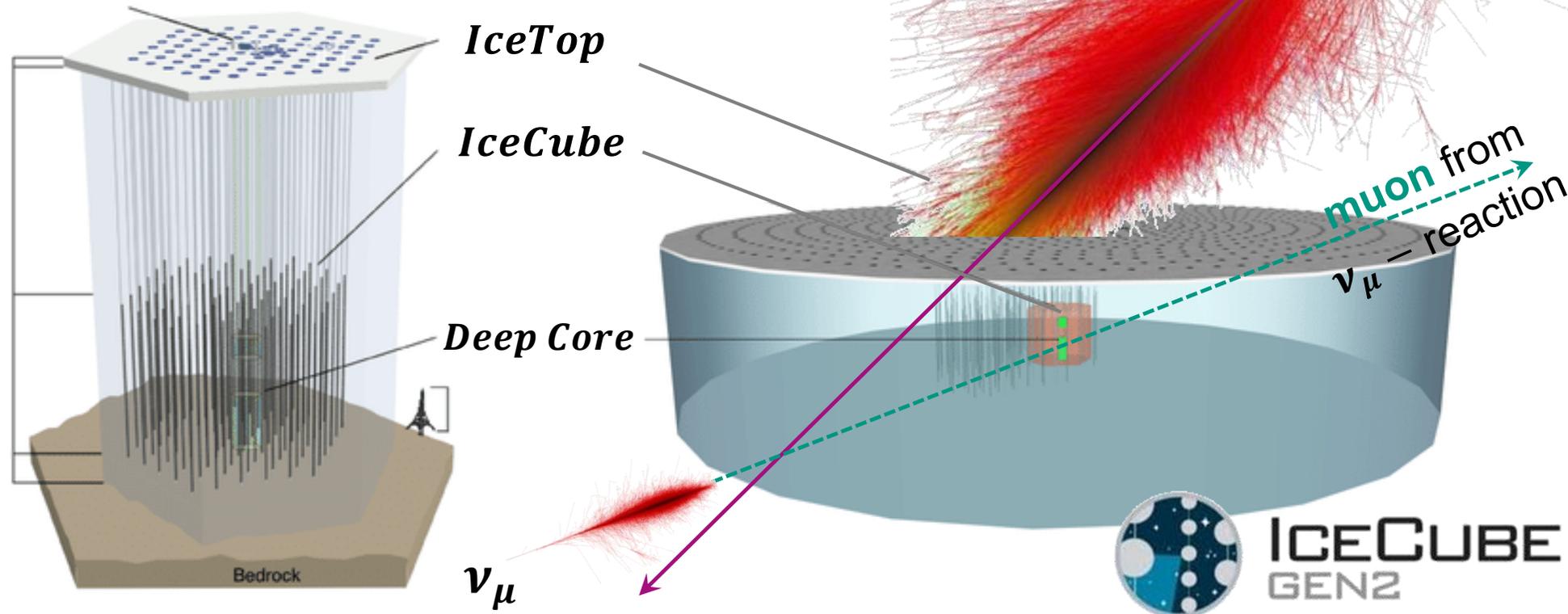
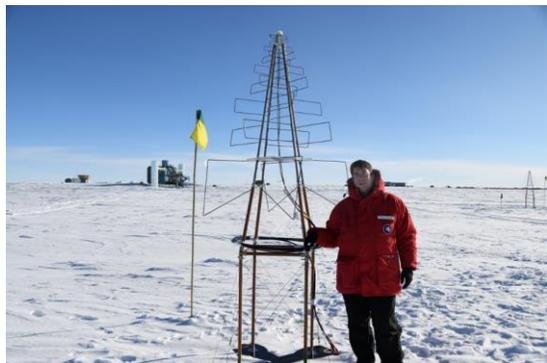
# Background reduction via top *CR* array

## ■ Instrumenting the ice surface: *IceTop* – array

- *IceTop* array can veto *PeV* – muons from air showers



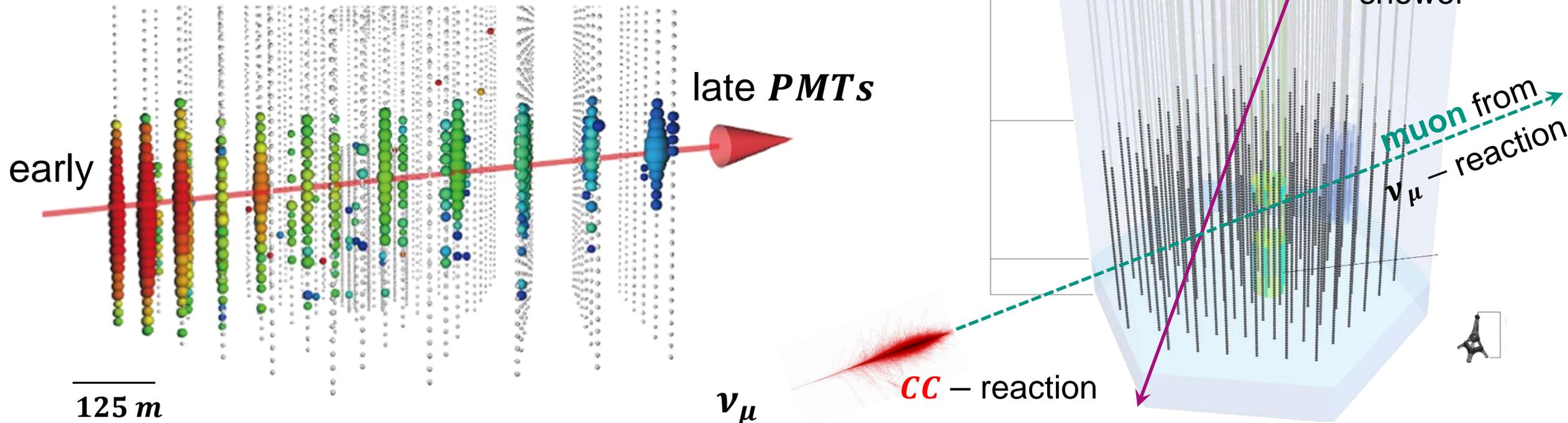
study / veto of showers



# *UHE* neutrinos – timing of *PMTs* for $\cos \Theta$

## ■ Main discrimination via observed polar angle $\Theta$

- timing of *PMTs* allows to reconstruct the **muon** track via the Cherenkov light cone



# Properties of atmospheric neutrinos

## ■ Atmospheric neutrinos: production in upper atmosphere

- energies: typical on  $GeV$  – scale  
**dominant up to  $\sim 10^{14} eV$  ( $0.1 PeV$ )**

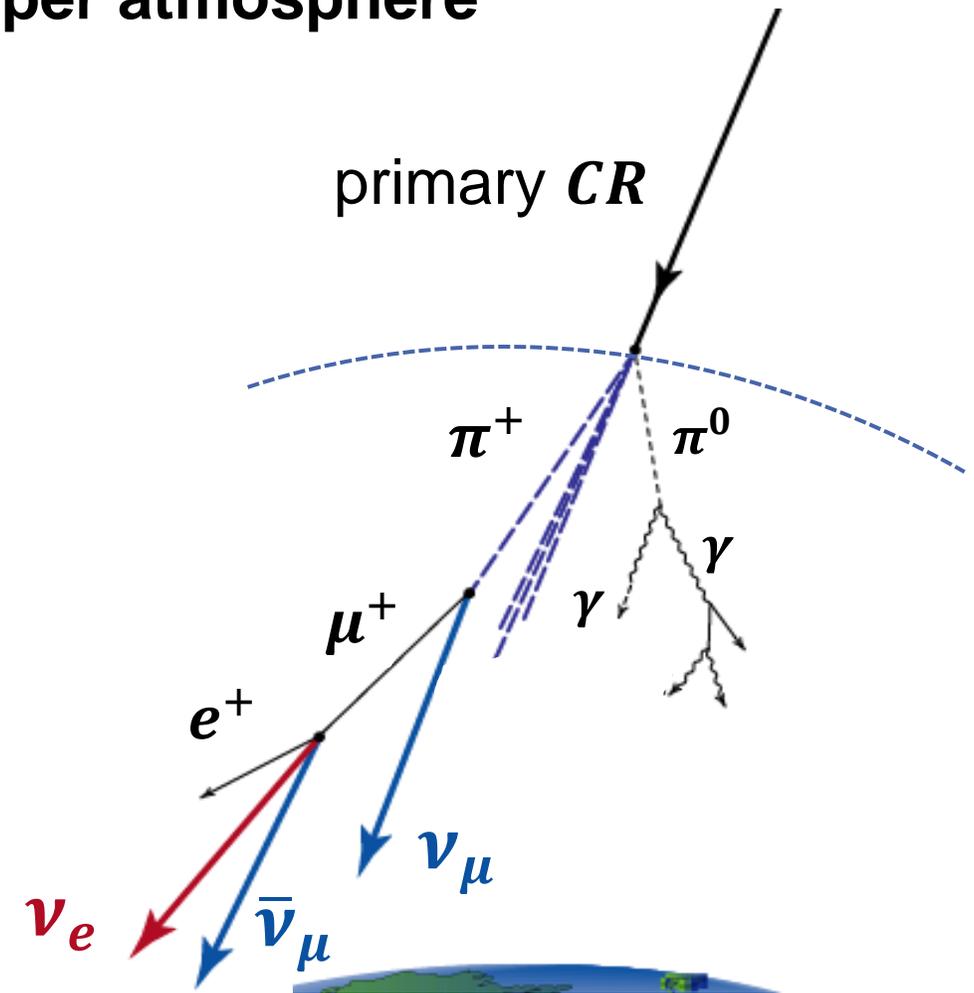
- maximum flux and **power–law**:

$\Phi_{max}$  at  $E_\nu = 0.25 GeV$

at higher energies:  $\Phi_\nu \sim E^{-2.7}$

- integral flux:

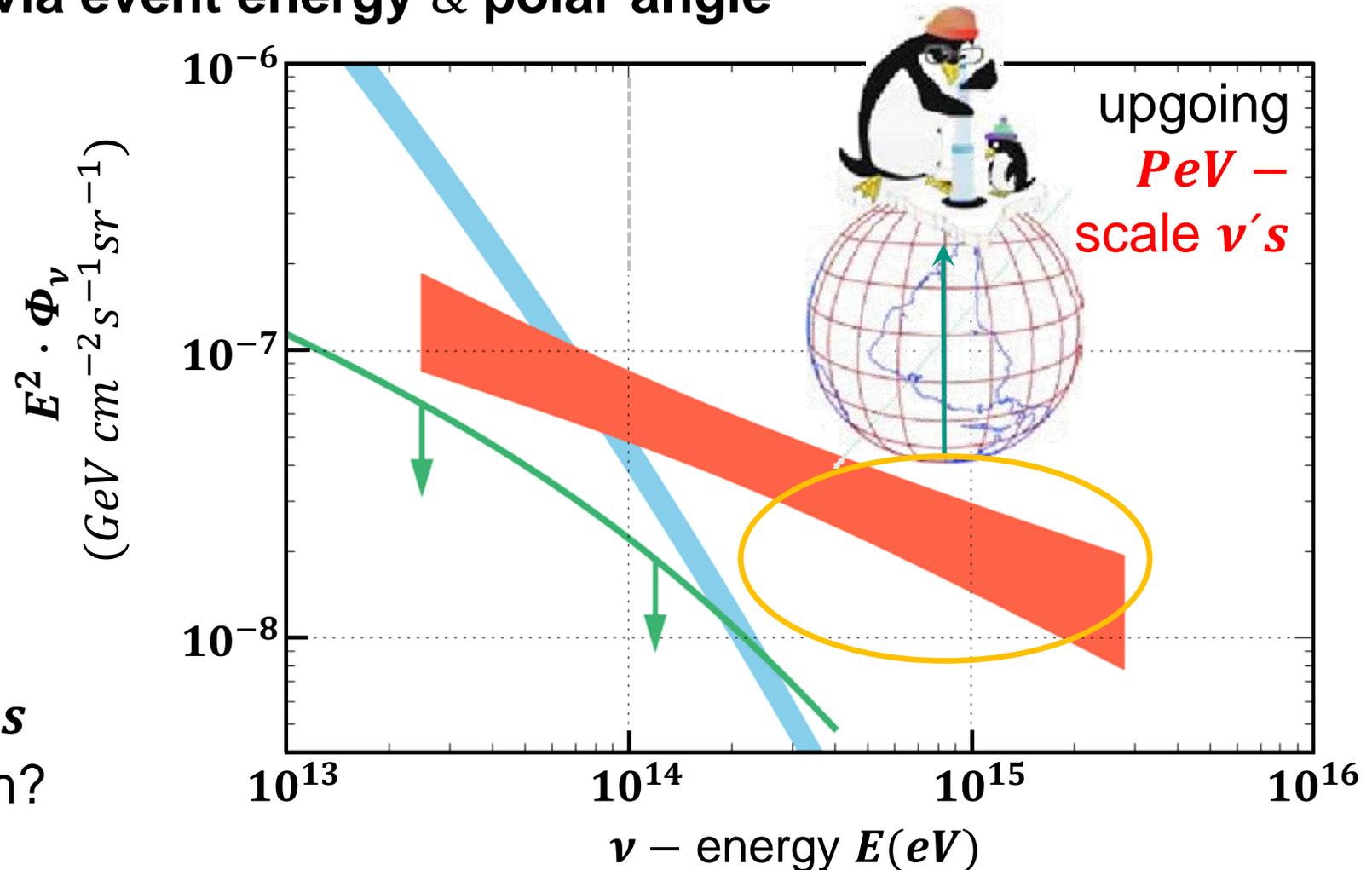
$\Phi_\nu \sim 1 cm^{-2} s^{-1}$  at sea level



# *UHE* neutrinos from astrophysical sources & *bg*

## ■ Discrimination of $\nu_{astro}$ via event energy & polar angle

- **astrophysical neutrinos** dominate event rate at energies  $> 10^{14} eV$
- up-going neutrinos at *PeV* – scale have to cross & propagate through the Earth: is this possible?
- **cross-section** of *UHE* –  $\nu$ 's in mantle / iron-core of Earth?



# *UHE* neutrinos – Earth starts to become opaque !

## ■ Deep–inelastic scattering processes of *UHE* – $\nu$ 's inside the Earth limit field of view & observable sources for $\nu$ – telescopes

-  $\nu$  – cross section increases linearly  $\sigma_\nu \sim E_\nu$

$$E_\nu = 100 \text{ TeV} \Rightarrow \sigma_\nu = 10^{-7} \text{ mbarn}$$

$\Rightarrow$  at  $E_\nu \sim 100 \text{ TeV}$  (0.1 PeV):

Earth starts to become **opaque** for *UHE* –  $\nu$ 's

- **transmission probabilities**  $P(E_\nu)$  for *UHE* –  $\nu$ 's  
after travel **distance**  $d$ :

$$P(E_\nu) = e^{-(d/\lambda_\nu)}$$

mean free path  $\lambda_\nu$  :

$$(1/\lambda_\nu) = \rho_{Earth} \cdot N_A \cdot \sigma_\nu$$

$\rho_{Earth}$



# Existing & planned $\nu$ – telescopes: global overview

## ■ Status

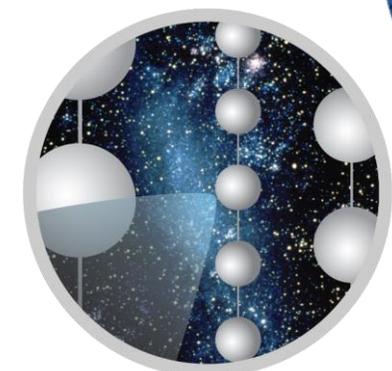


P – ONE  
Pacific  
few  $\text{km}^3$   
planned...

IceCube – Gen2  
South Pole  
1  $\text{km}^3$  | ~ 8  $\text{km}^3$   
2011 ... | ~ 2032

Baikal – GVD  
Lake Baikal  
~ 1  $\text{km}^3$   
in progress

KM3NeT  
Mediterranean  
~ 5  $\text{km}^3$   
in progress

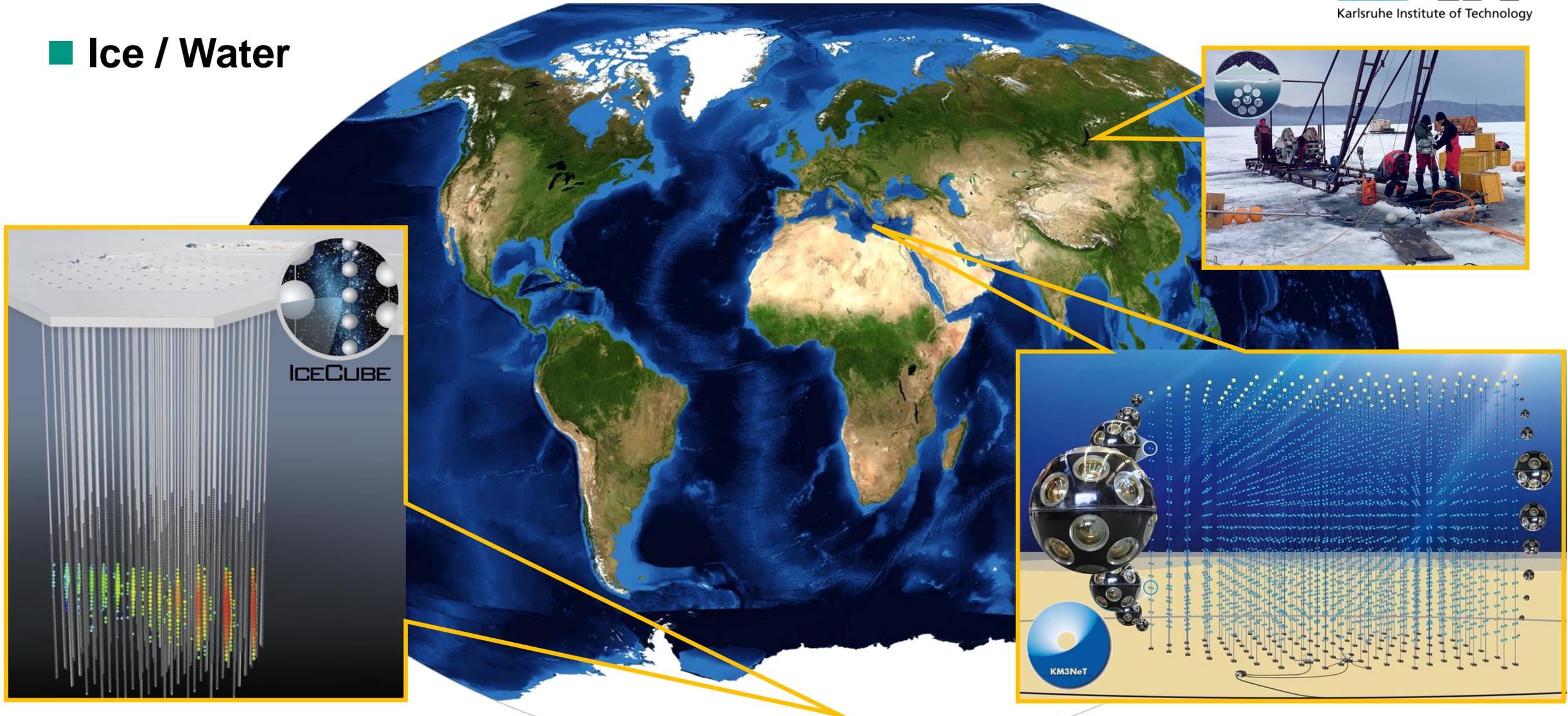


ICECUBE



# Existing & planned $\nu$ – telescopes: global overview

## ■ Ice / Water

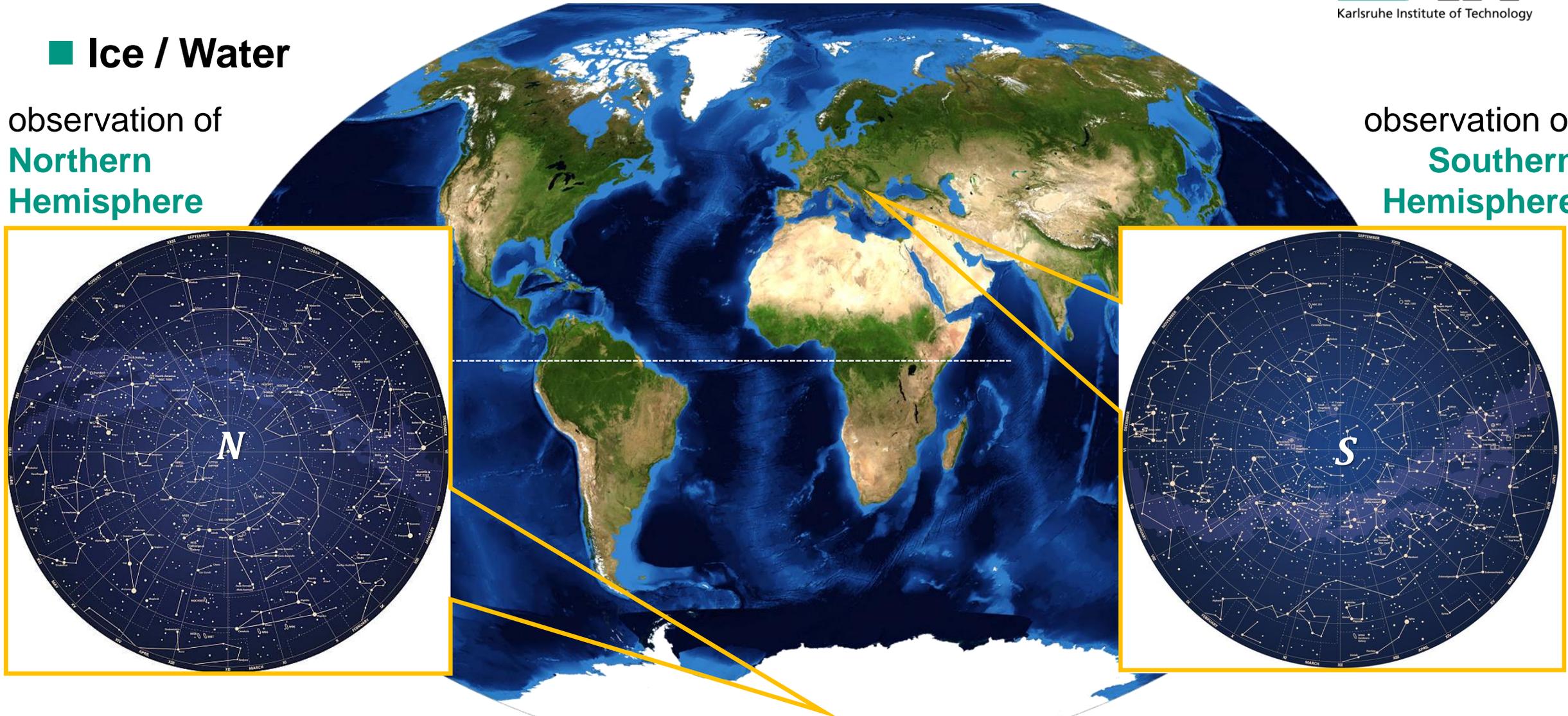


# Existing & planned $\nu$ – telescopes: sky overview

## ■ Ice / Water

observation of  
**Northern  
Hemisphere**

observation of  
**Southern  
Hemisphere**



# Neutrino Telescopes – *KM3NeT*

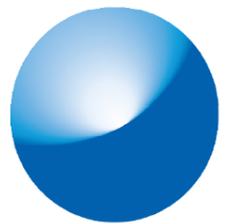
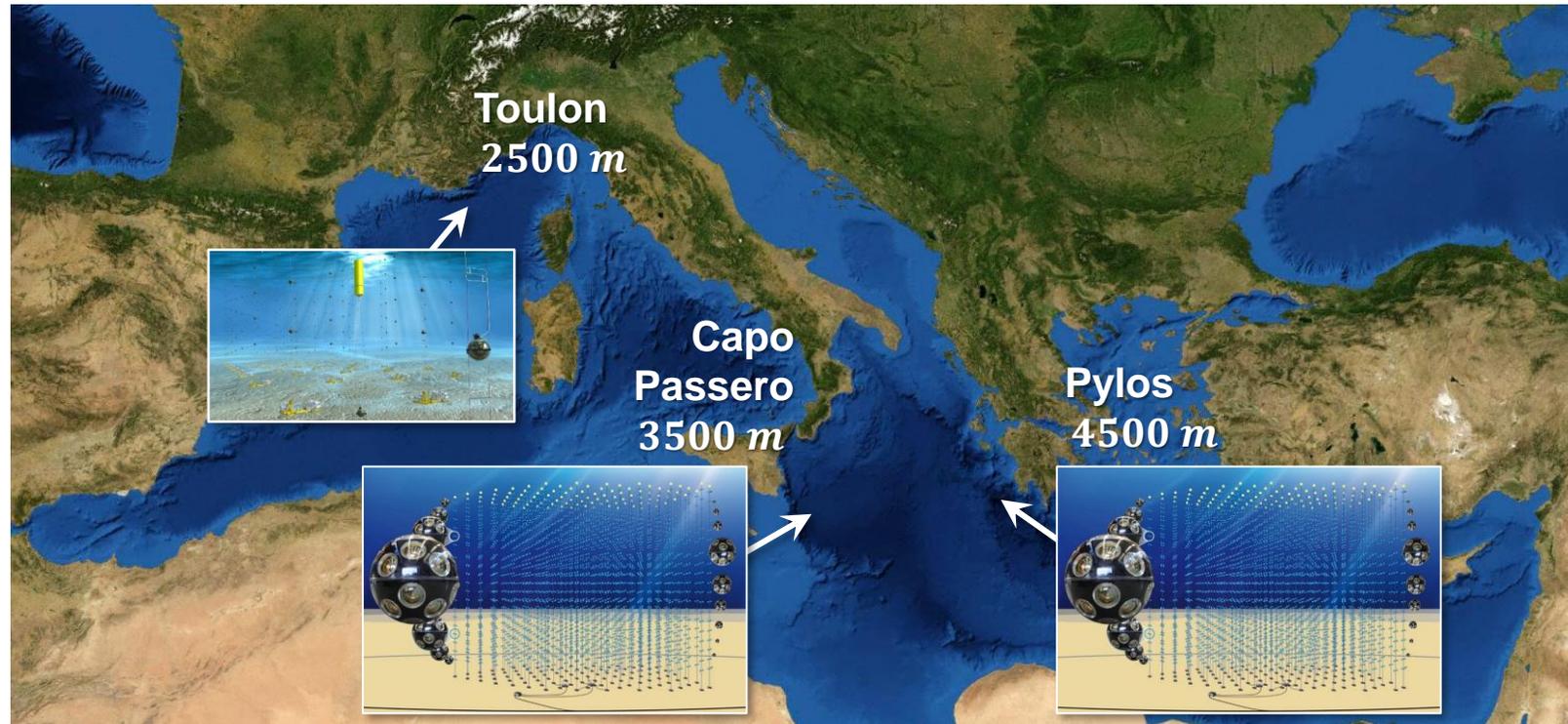
## ■ Detecting astrophysical & atmospheric $\nu$ 's at different sites in the deep Mediterranean Sea: a European project

- European consortium for a  $V \sim 5 \text{ km}^3$  deep-sea  $\nu$  – observatory



~ 200 M€ cost estimate

- ongoing construction works since 2012 (!)



**KM3NeT**

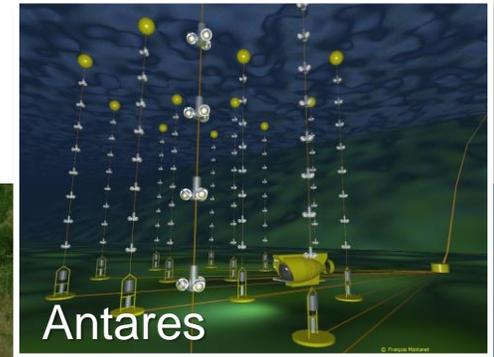
# Neutrino Telescopes – *KM3NeT*

## ■ Detecting astrophysical & atmospheric $\nu$ 's at different sites in the deep Mediterranean Sea: a European project

- *KM3NeT*: the successor to *Antares*, *Nemo* & *Nestor*

- *R&D*\* works on many new technologies: *PMTs*, deployment, signal read-out

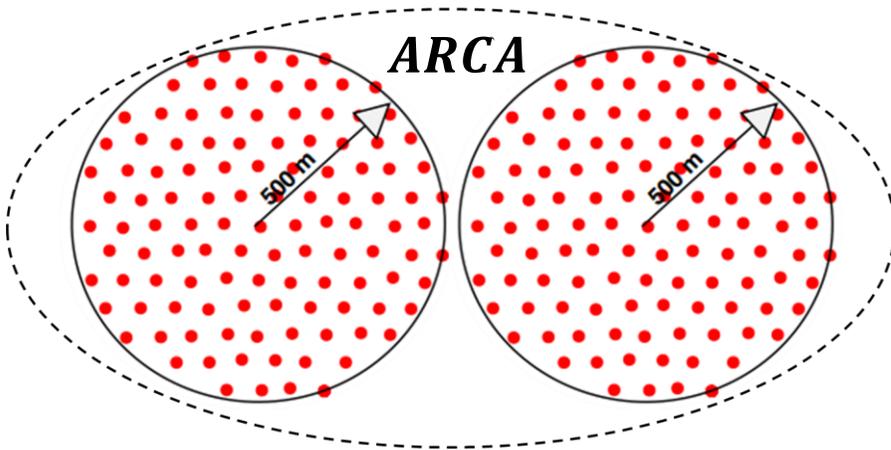
- historically: three deep-sea sites:



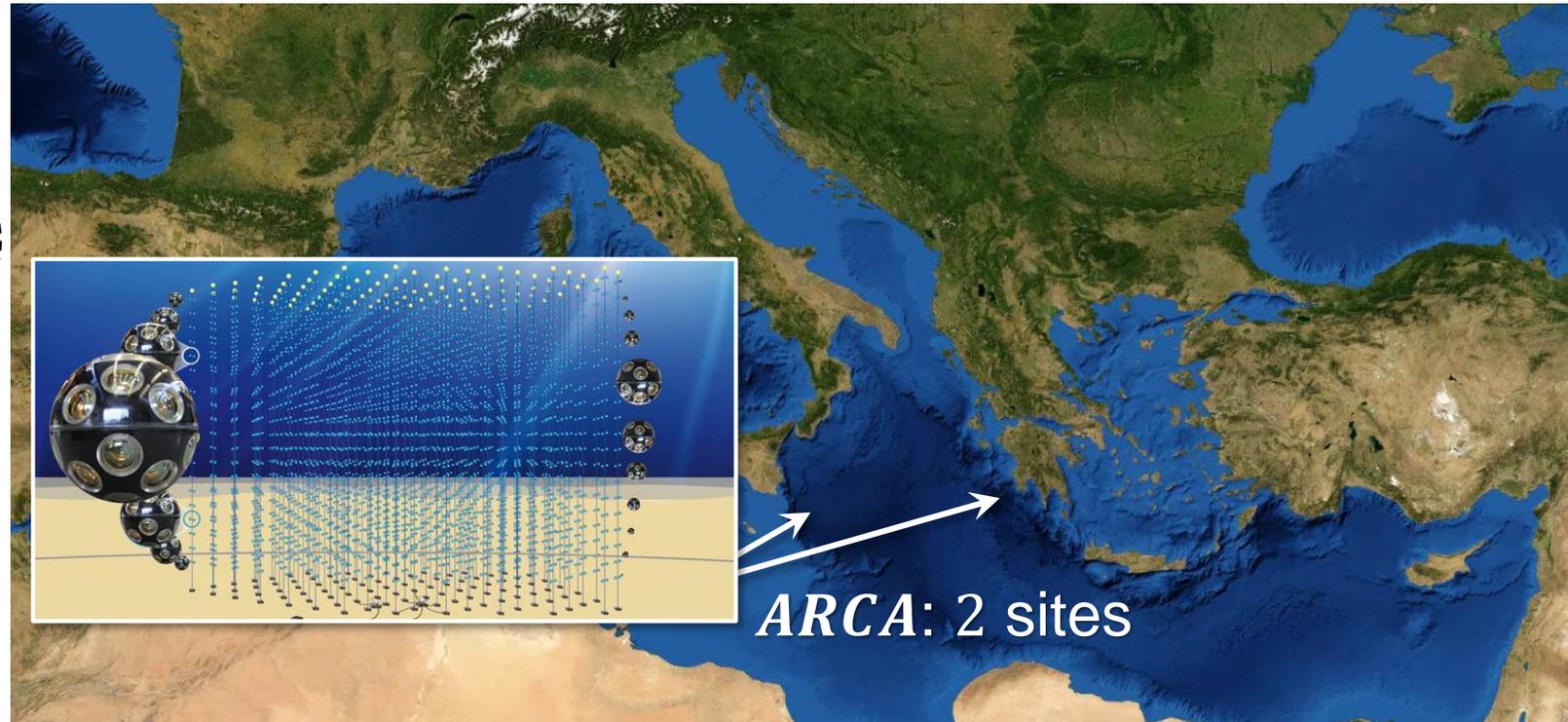
# Neutrino Telescopes – *ARCA* & *ORCA*

## ■ *KM3NeT* subsystems: *ARCA* (2 sites) & *ORCA* (1 site)

- *ARCA*: **A**stroparticle **R**esearch with **C**osmics in the **A**byss – hunting **astrophysical neutrino sources** with a large array



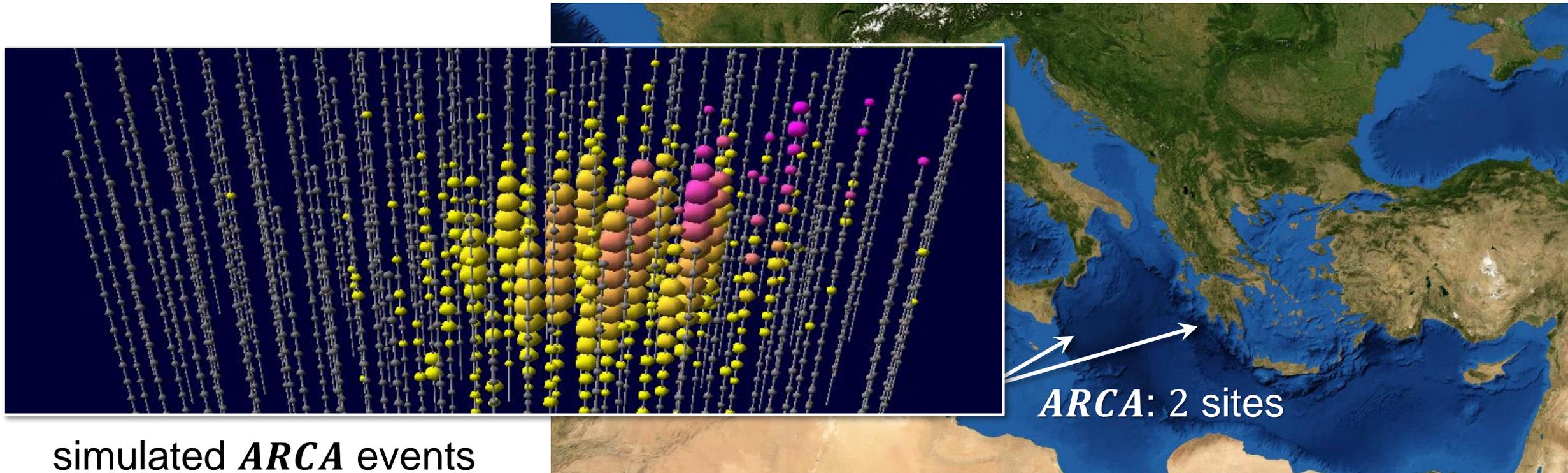
2 neutrino telescopes for  
*TeV ... PeV* astrophys.  $\nu$ 's



# Neutrino Telescopes – *ARCA* & *ORCA*

## ■ *KM3NeT* subsystems: *ARCA* (2 sites) & *ORCA* (1 site)

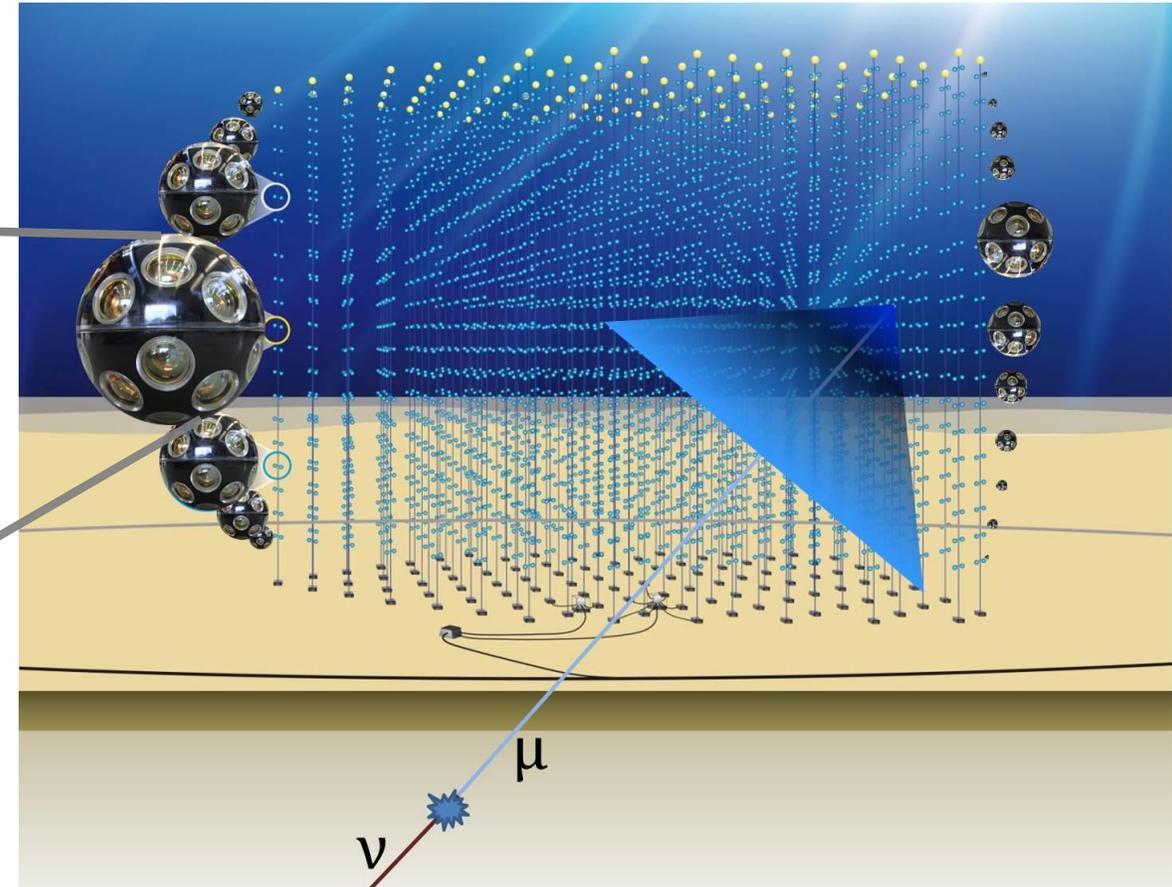
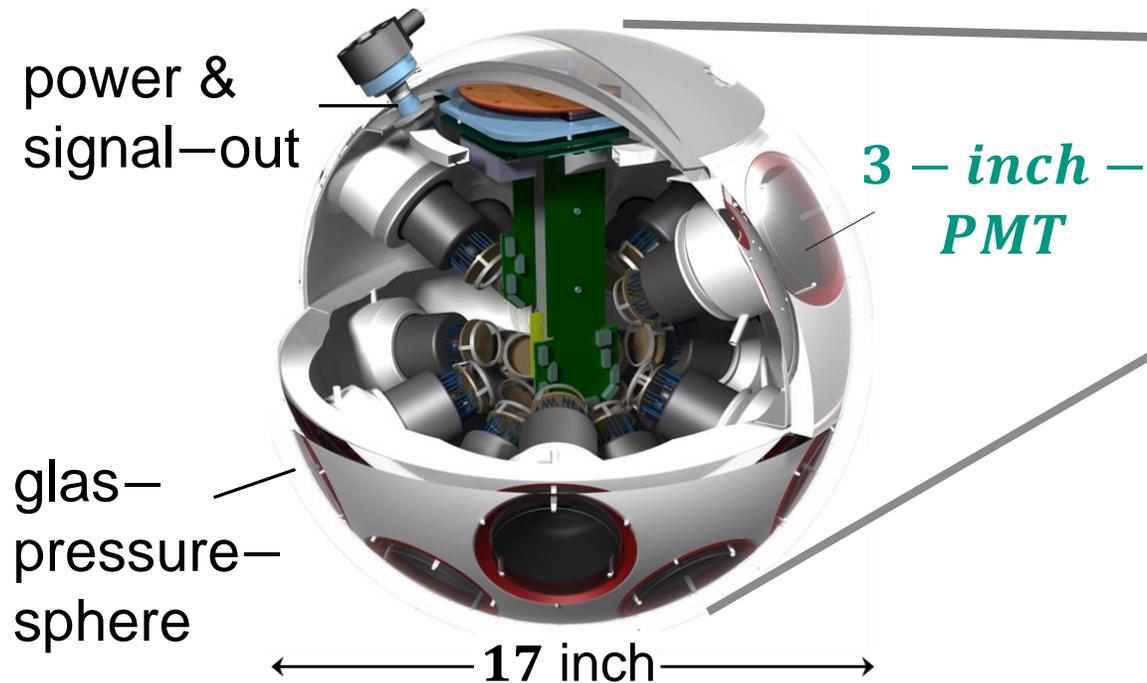
- *ARCA*: **A**stroparticle **R**esearch with **C**osmics in the **A**byss – hunting **astrophysical neutrino sources** with a large array



# KM3NeT – ARCA design

■ *PMT* – arrays based on novel concept of *Digital Optical Modules*\*

- *DOMs* ( $\phi = 17$  inch) instrumented with 31 3 – inch *PMTs* for light detection



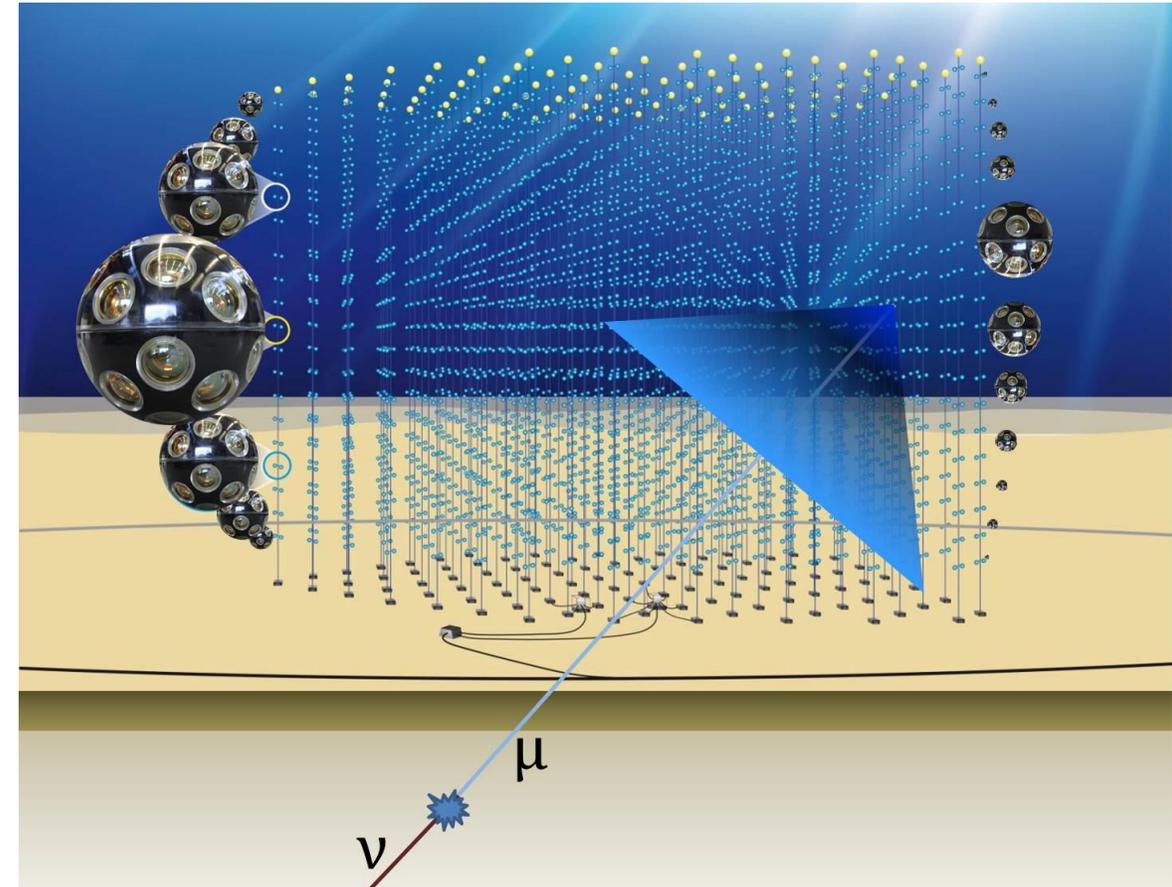
# KM3NeT – ARCA design & status

## ■ ARCA is hunting for $\nu$ – point sources with energies on the $PeV$ – scale

- initial design: full scale size with **600 strings**
- present design:  **$2 \times 115$  strings** (each with **18 *DOM*** units)
- strings spaced at  $d = 90\text{ m}$ , each with length  $l = 650\text{ m}$
- status (10/2023): **28 units are deployed** (start was in **2015**) with **504 *DOMs*** deployed therein
- ongoing data–taking



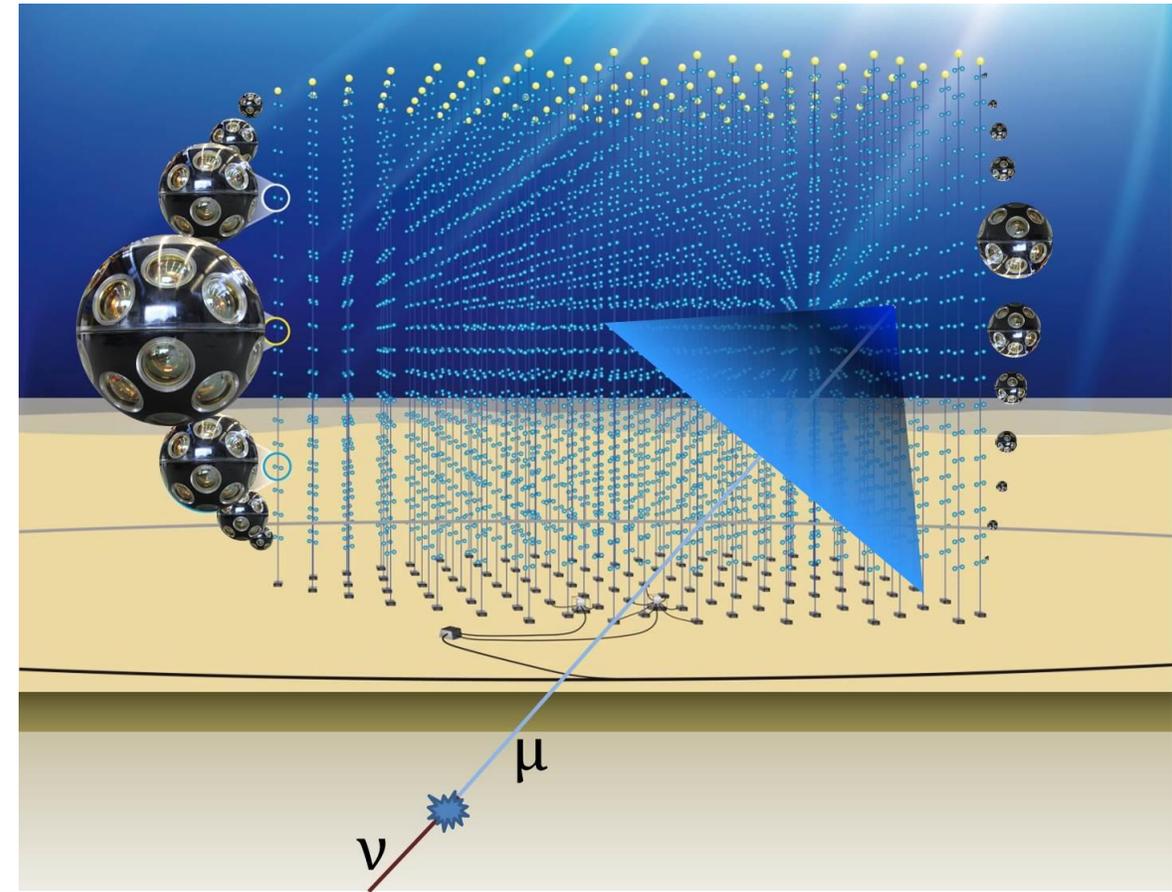
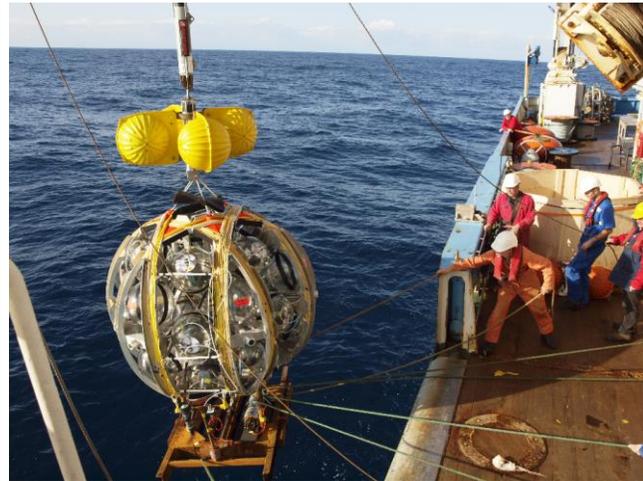
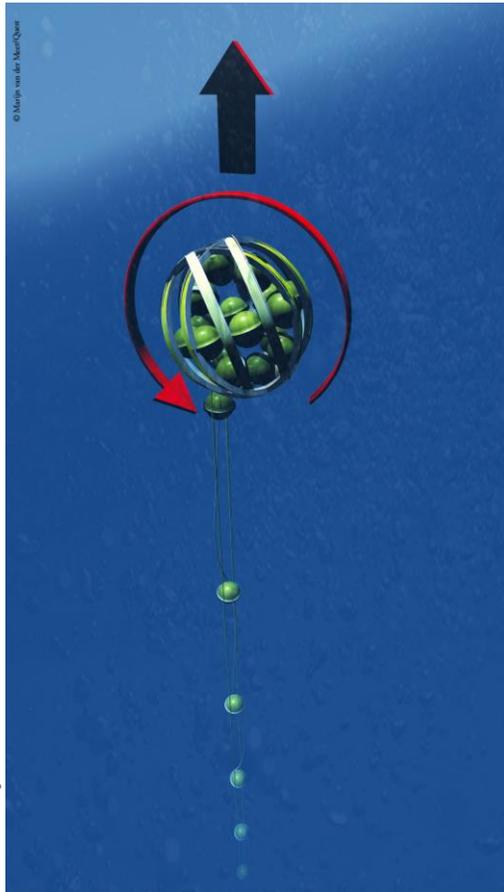
a string



# KM3NeT – ARCA deployment

- ARCA strings deployed in specific campaigns with sea-going vessel

Q: Marijn van der Meer/Quest



# Topical: Interesting article on *KM3NeT*

## ■ A 'deep dive' into the Mediterranean's dark abyss

# NEUTRINOS OUT OF THE BLUE

More than 17,000 photomultipliers for KM3NeT are already transmitting data from the Mediterranean seabed, opening a new vista on the neutrino's properties. Paschal Coyle, Antoine Kouchner and Gwenhaël De Wasseige take a deep dive.

In the dark abysses of the Mediterranean Sea, what promises to be the world's largest neutrino telescope, KM3NeT, is rapidly taking shape. Using transparent seawater as the detection medium, its large three-dimensional arrays of photosensors will instrument a volume of more than one cubic kilometre and detect the faint Cherenkov light induced by the passage of charged particles produced in nearby neutrino interactions. The main physics goals of KM3NeT are to detect high-energy cosmic neutrinos and identify their astrophysical origins, as well as to study the fundamental properties of the neutrino itself.

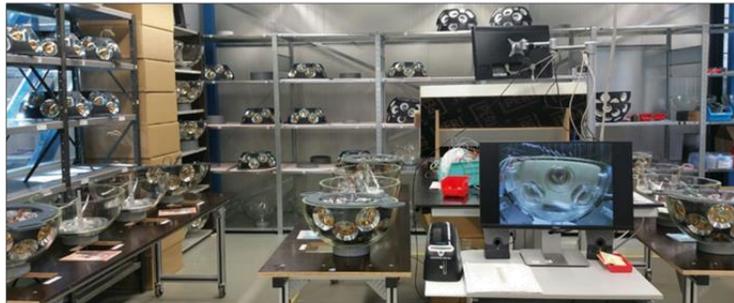
KM3NeT (the Cubic Kilometre Neutrino Telescope) is the successor to the ANTARES neutrino telescope, which operated continuously from 2008 and has recently been decommissioned (see "The ANTARES legacy" panel, p32). KM3NeT comprises two detectors: ARCA (Astroparticle Research with Cosmics in the Abyss), located at a depth of 3500 m offshore from Sicily, and ORCA (Oscillation Research with Cosmics in the Abyss), located at a depth of 2450 m offshore from southern France. ARCA is a sparse detector of about 1 km<sup>3</sup> that is optimised for the detection of TeV–PeV neutrinos, while ORCA is a 7 Mt-dense detector optimised for sub-TeV neutrinos. The KM3NeT collaboration comprises more than 250 scientists from 16 countries.

The key technology is the digital optical module (DOM) – a pressure-resistant glass sphere hosting 31 three-inch photomultiplier tubes, various calibration devices and the readout electronics (see "Modular" image). A total of 18 DOMs are hosted on a single detection line, and the lines are anchored to the seafloor and held taut by a submerged buoy. The ORCA detector will comprise around 100 lines and the ARCA detector will have twice as many. The bases of the lines are connected via cables on the seafloor to junction boxes, from which electro-optical cables many tens of kilometres long bring the data to shore along optical fibres. Information on every single photon is transmitted to the shore stations, where trigger algorithms are applied to select interesting events for offline analysis.

From the light pattern recorded by the DOMs, the energy and the direction of a neutrino can be estimated. Furthermore, the neutrino flavour can also be distinguished; muon neutrino charged-current (CC) interactions produce an extended track-like signature (see "Subsea shower" image) whereas electron- and tau-neutrino CC interactions, as well as neutral-current interactions, produce more compact shower-like events. By selecting up-going neutrinos, i.e. those that have travelled from the other side of Earth, the large background from down-going



**First descent** One of the KM3NeT lines bundled up before being unwound and lowered into position.



**Modular** The assembly room for the KM3NeT optical modules, with a photo of the first prototype module visible as a screen saver.

atmospheric muons can be rejected and a clean sample of neutrinos obtained.

The first KM3NeT detection line was connected in 2016 and currently a total of 32 lines are operating at the two sites. The first science results with these partial detectors have already been obtained.

### Fundamental neutrino properties

Sixty-six years after their discovery, neutrinos remain the most mysterious of the fermions. As they whiz through the universe, barely interacting with any other particles, they have the unique ability to oscillate between their three different types or flavours (electron, muon and tau). The observation of neutrino oscillations in the late 1990s implies that neutrinos have a non-zero mass, contrary to the Standard Model expectation. Understanding the origin and order of the neutrino masses could therefore unlock a path to new physics. Numerous neutrino experiments around the world are closing in on the neutrino's properties, using both artificial (accelerator and reactor) and natural (atmospheric and extraterrestrial) neutrino sources.

The KM3NeT/ORCA array is optimised for the detection of atmospheric neutrinos, produced when cosmic rays strike atomic nuclei at an altitude of around 15 km. Such interactions produce a cascade of particles on Earth's surface, mostly pions and kaons, which decay to neutrinos capable of traversing the entire planet. About two thirds of these are muon neutrinos and antineutrinos, and the remainder are electron neutrinos and antineutrinos.

Measuring the directions and energies of the detected atmospheric neutrinos allows the oscillatory behaviour of neutrinos to be studied, and thus elements of the leptonic "PMNS" mixing matrix to be determined. The measured direction is used as a proxy for the distance the atmospheric neutrino has travelled through Earth between its points of production and detection. First preliminary results with six ORCA lines and one year of data clearly show the expected disappearance of muon neutrinos with increasing baseline/energy. The corresponding constraints on  $\theta_{13}$  (the mixing angle between the  $m_1$  and  $m_3$  states) and  $\Delta m_{21}^2$  (the mass difference of the squared masses) already start to be competitive with multi-year results from the current long-baseline accelerator experiments (see "Physics debut" figure, p33).

A longer-term physics goal of KM3NeT is to determine the neutrino mass ordering, i.e. whether the third neutrino

**HOT TOPIC**

**Sixty-six years after their discovery, neutrinos remain the most mysterious of the fermions**



**CERN COURIER**  
November/December 2022 cerncourier.com Reporting on international high-energy physics

**NEUTRINOS OUT OF THE BLUE**

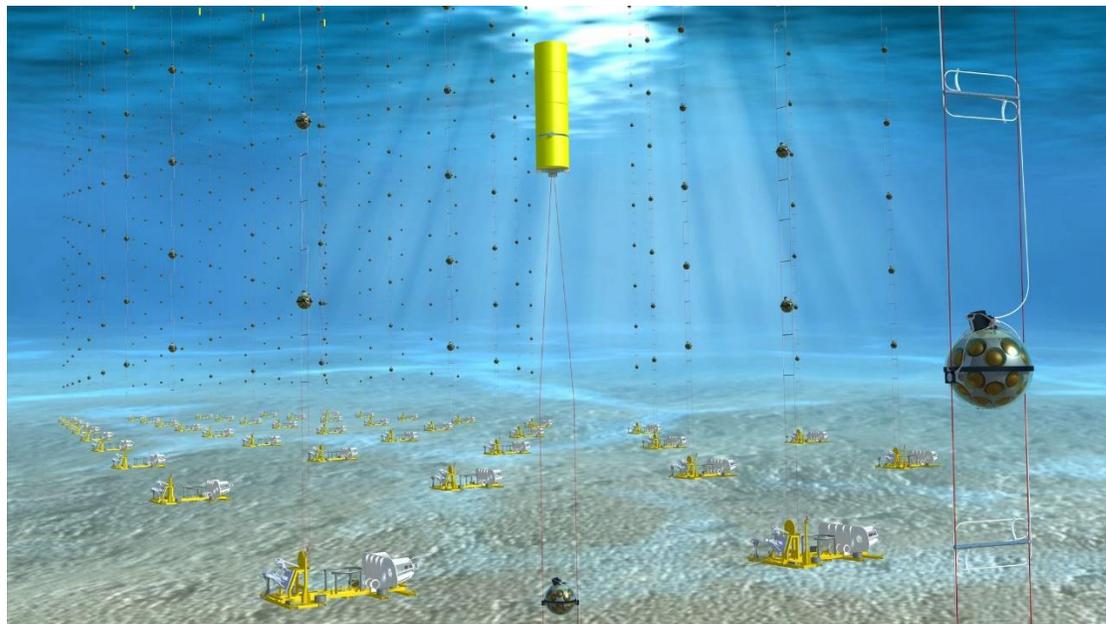
HL-LHC civil engineering complete  
Snowmass: the full report  
Taking plasma accelerators to market

# *KM3NeT – ORCA: study of $\nu$ – oscillations*



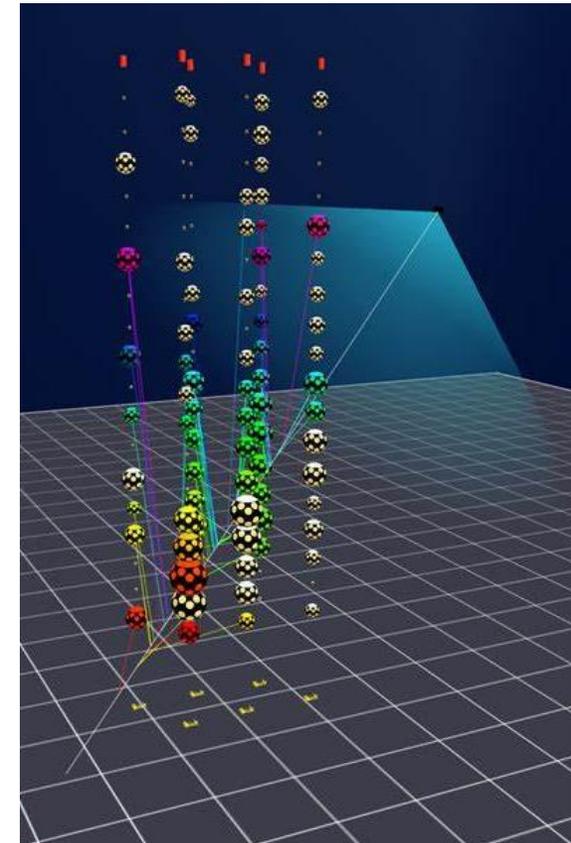
■ *KM3NeT* subsystems: *ARCA* (2 sites) & *ORCA* (1 site)

- *ORCA*: *O*scillation *R*esearch with *C*osmics in the *A*byss



goal: study of **oscillation processes**  
of atmospheric  $\nu$ 's

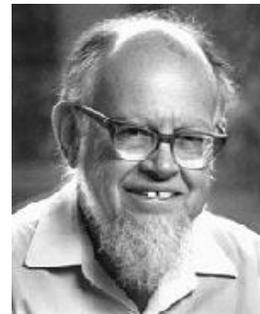
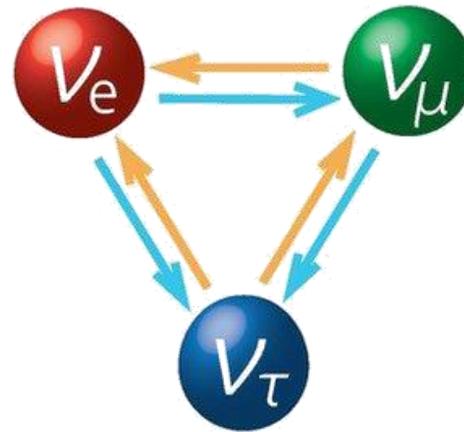
- *ORCA* full scale:  
115 strings ( $\ell = 150\text{ m}$ ,  
each with 18 *DOMs*)
- *DOMs* with much finer  
spacing (*GeV* scale)
- at a depth  $d = 2.5\text{ km}$
- status (as of 3/2023):  
14 strings deployed



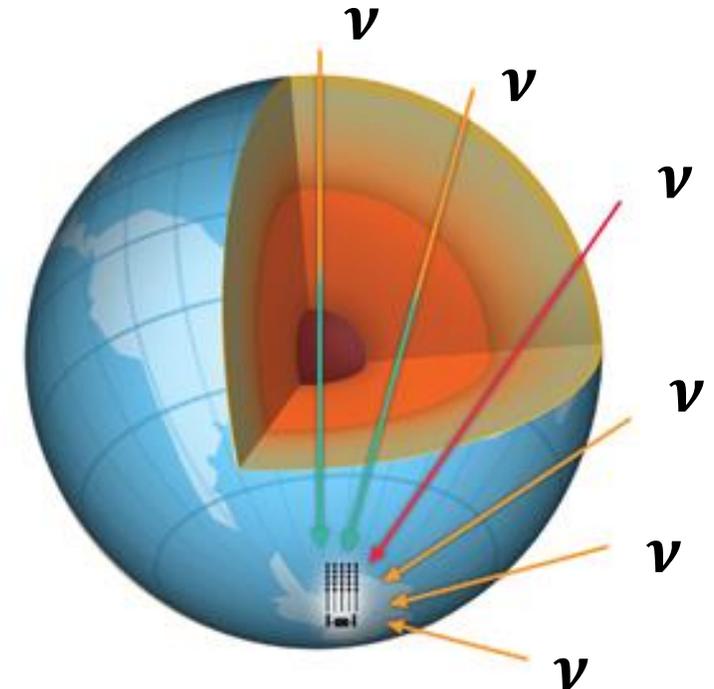
# *KM3NeT – ORCA*: study of $\nu$ – oscillations

## ■ *ORCA* key target: investigate the mass hierarchy of neutrinos

- *ORCA* investigates **low–energy atmospheric neutrinos** at the *GeV* – scale
- atmospheric neutrinos do **oscillate\***! (Nobel prize)
- $\nu_{atm}$  are propagating in the matter of the Earth: **matter–induced effects** (*MSW effect*)



*L. Wolfenstein*



flight paths of atmospheric  $\nu$ 's

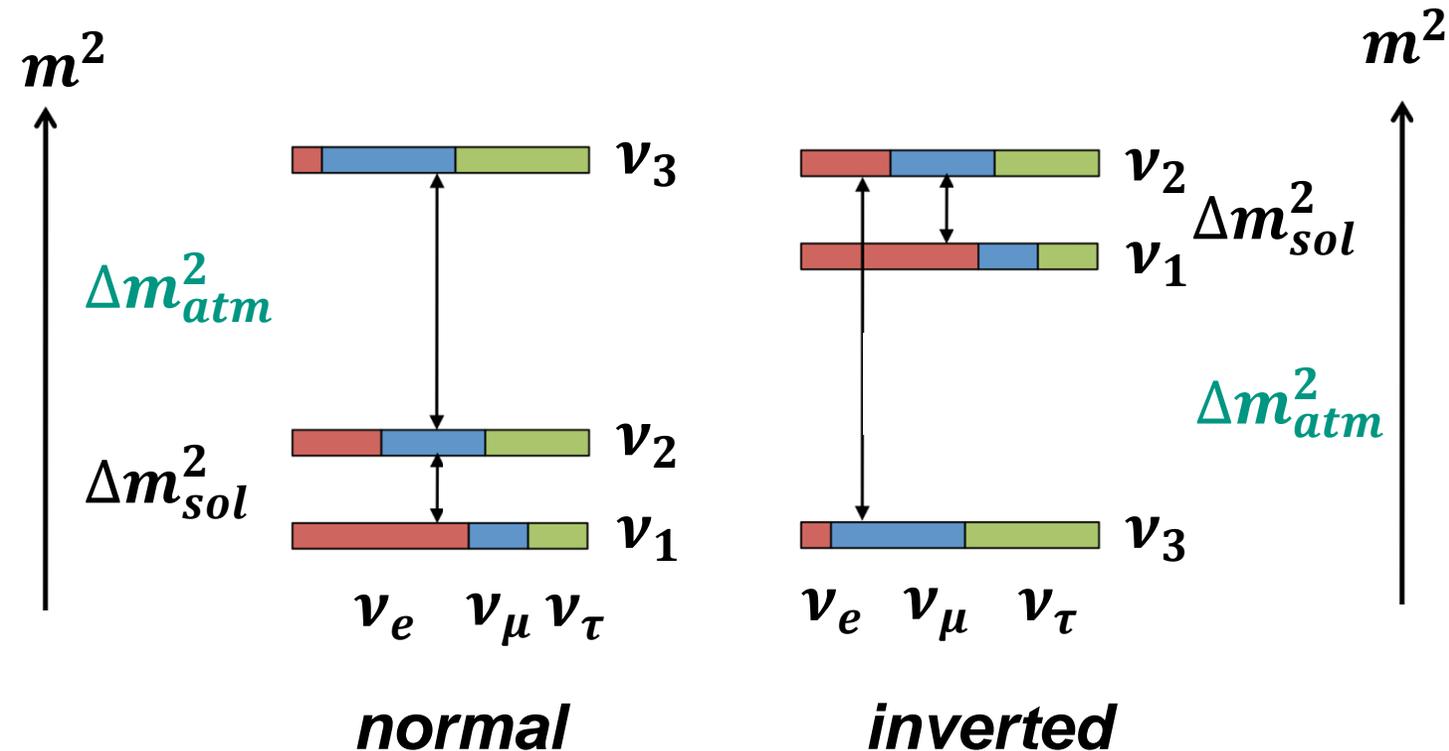
# KM3NeT – ORCA: studying $\nu$ – oscillations

## ■ ORCA key target: investigate the mass hierarchy of neutrinos

- ORCA investigates **low–energy atmospheric neutrinos** at the *GeV* – scale

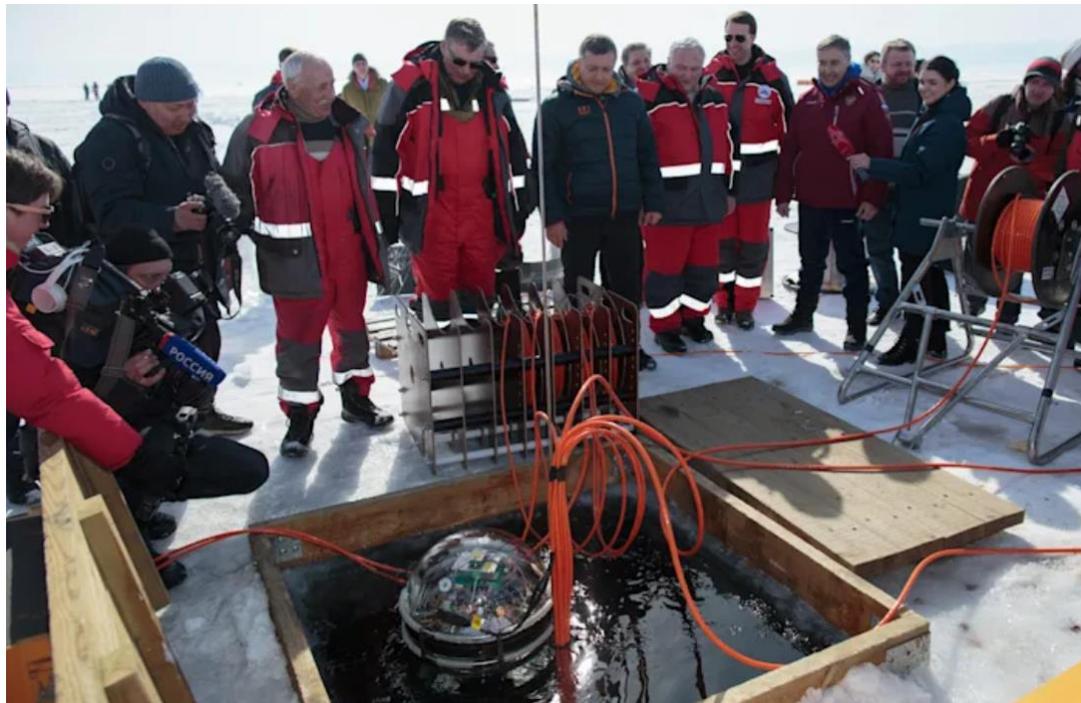
- atmospheric neutrinos **oscillate** at scale  $\Delta m_{atm}^2$

-  $\nu_{atm}$  may allow to determine the  $\nu$  – **mass hierarchy**:  
what is the correct ordering of mass eigenstates  $\nu_i$ ?  
**normal / inverted** scheme?

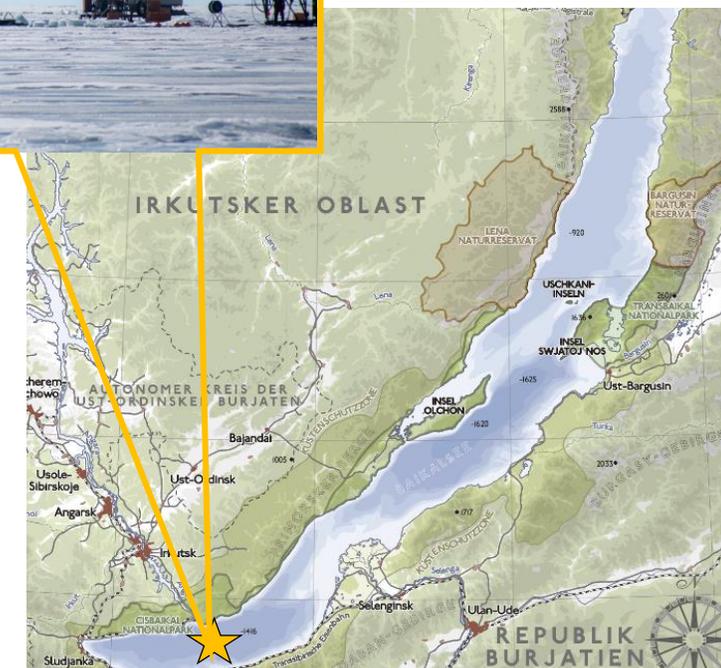


# $\nu$ – Telescope *Lake Baikal*

- deep-sea experiment in the deepest lake on Earth: *Baikal*
- pioneering neutrino telescope '*Lake Baikal*' in the 80s/90s



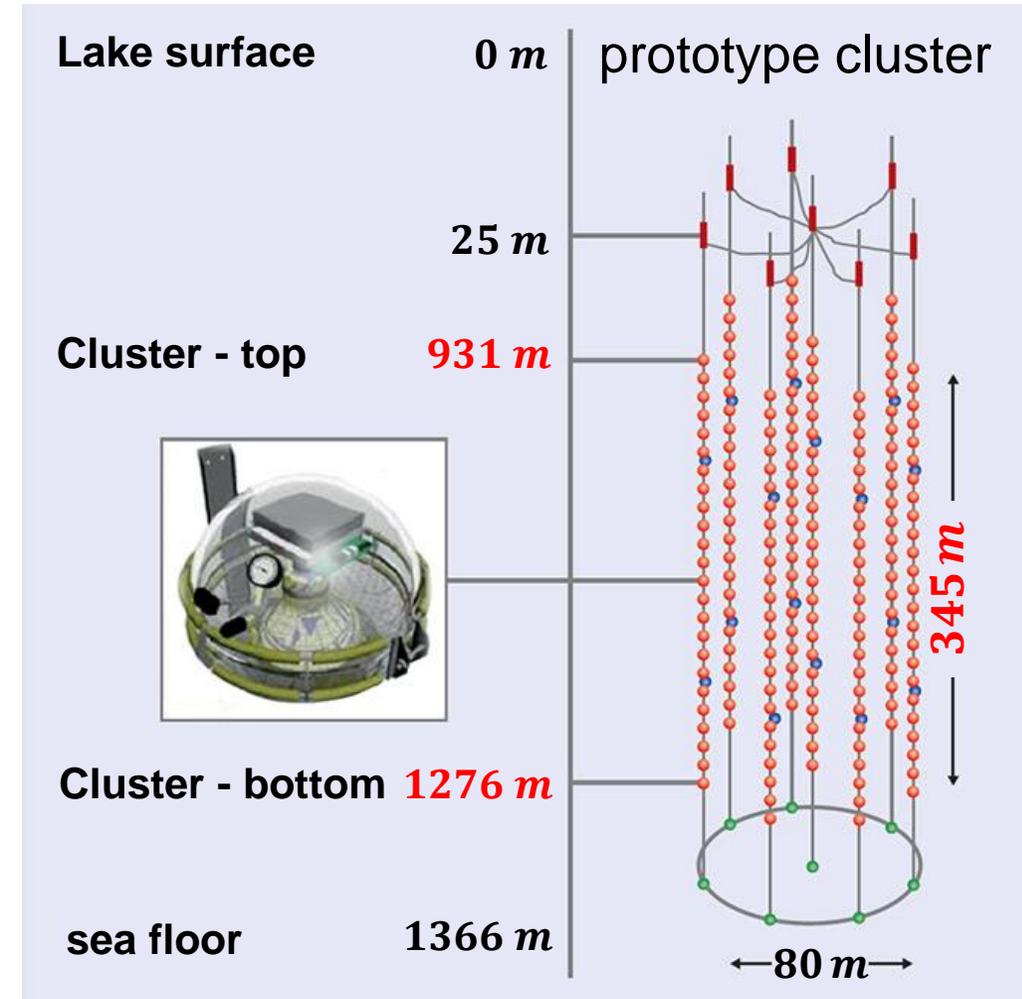
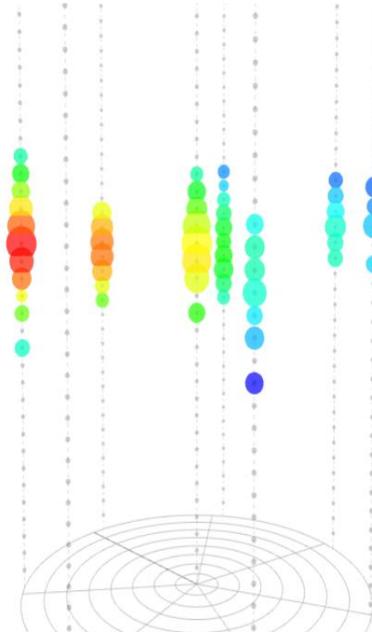
#StandWithUkraine



# Baikal – Gigaton $\nu$ Volume Detector ( $GVD$ )

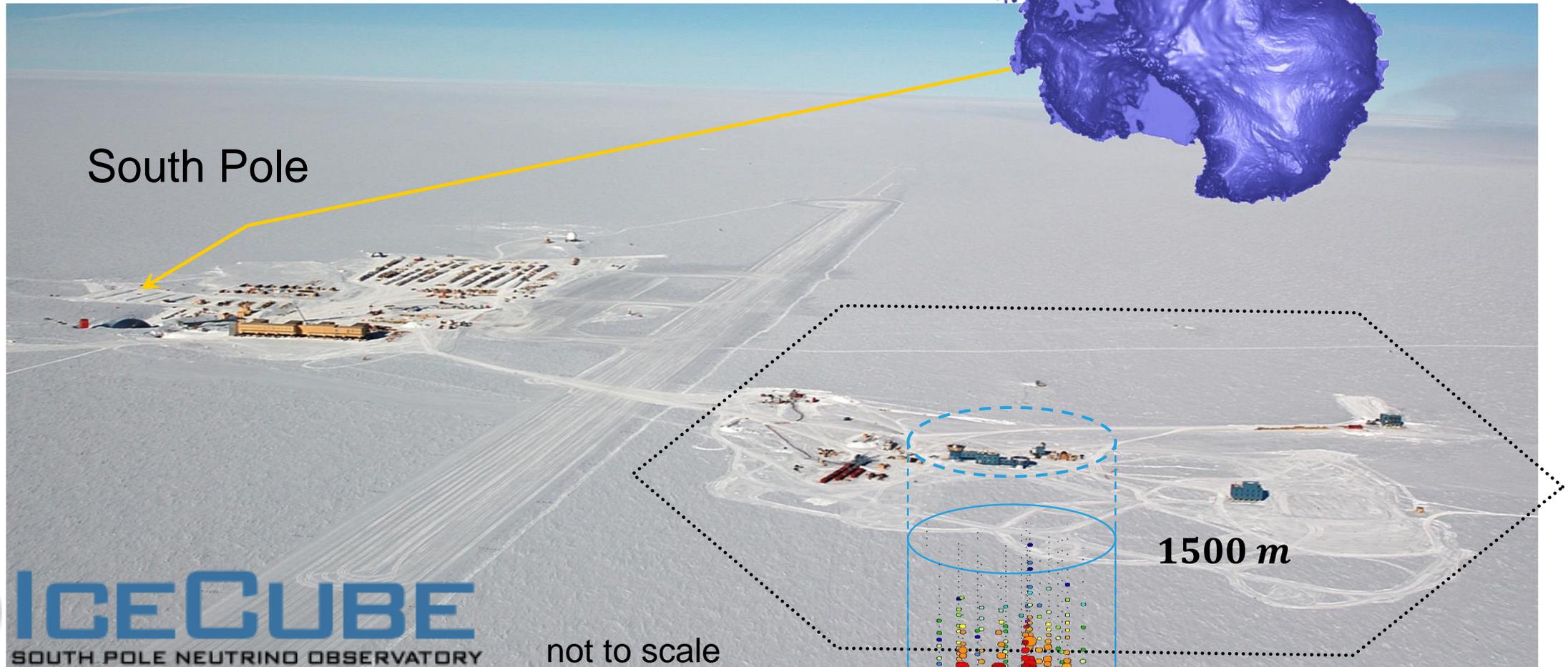
## ■ Extending an existing $\nu$ – telescope at Lake Baikal

- largest  $\nu$  – telescope in Northern Hemisphere
- full-scale extension to  $1 \text{ km}^3$  in progress
- present (9/2023) status  $GVD - I$  ready ( $V \sim 0.5 \text{ km}^3$ )
- 12 clusters in operation



# IceCube observatory at the South Pole

- Operated at the Amundsen–Scott station

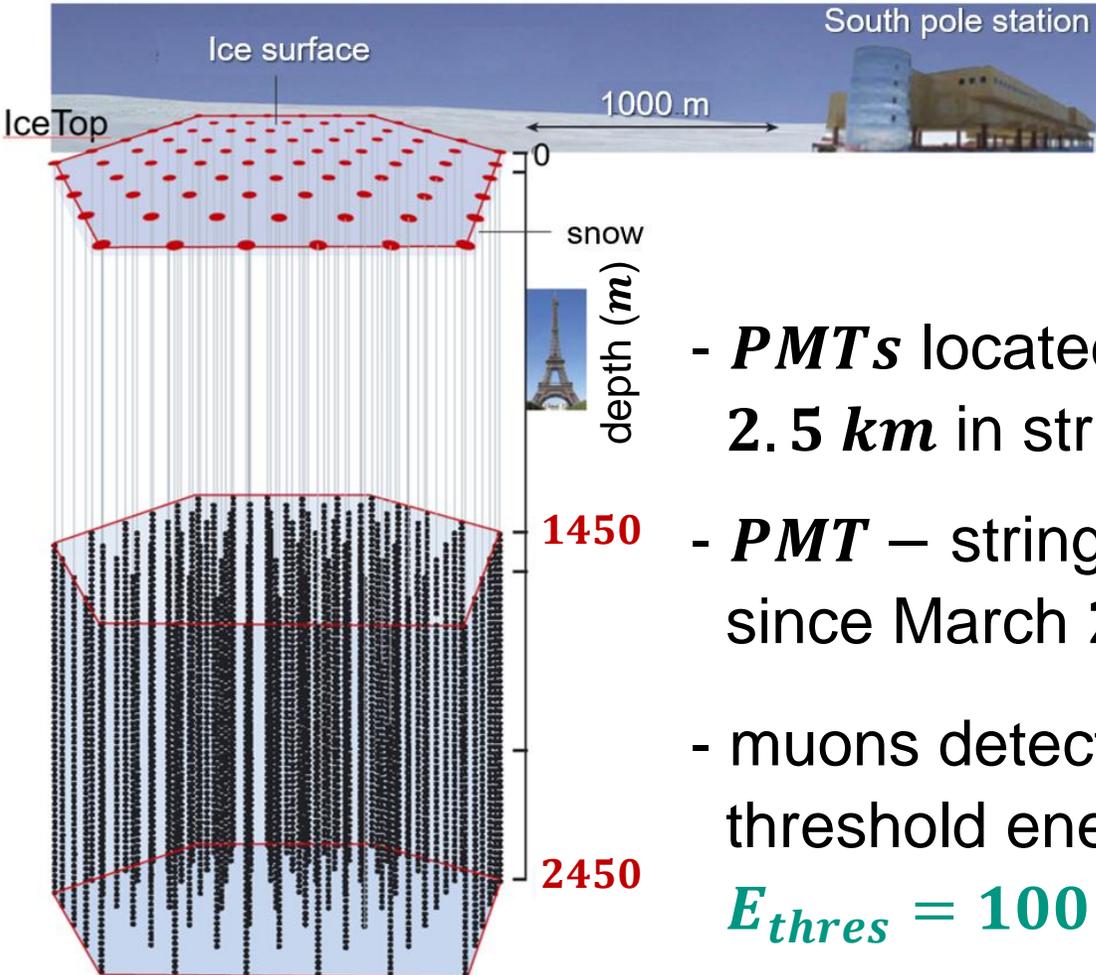


# IceCube observatory at the South Pole

## ■ Design of a very large in-ice neutrino telescope

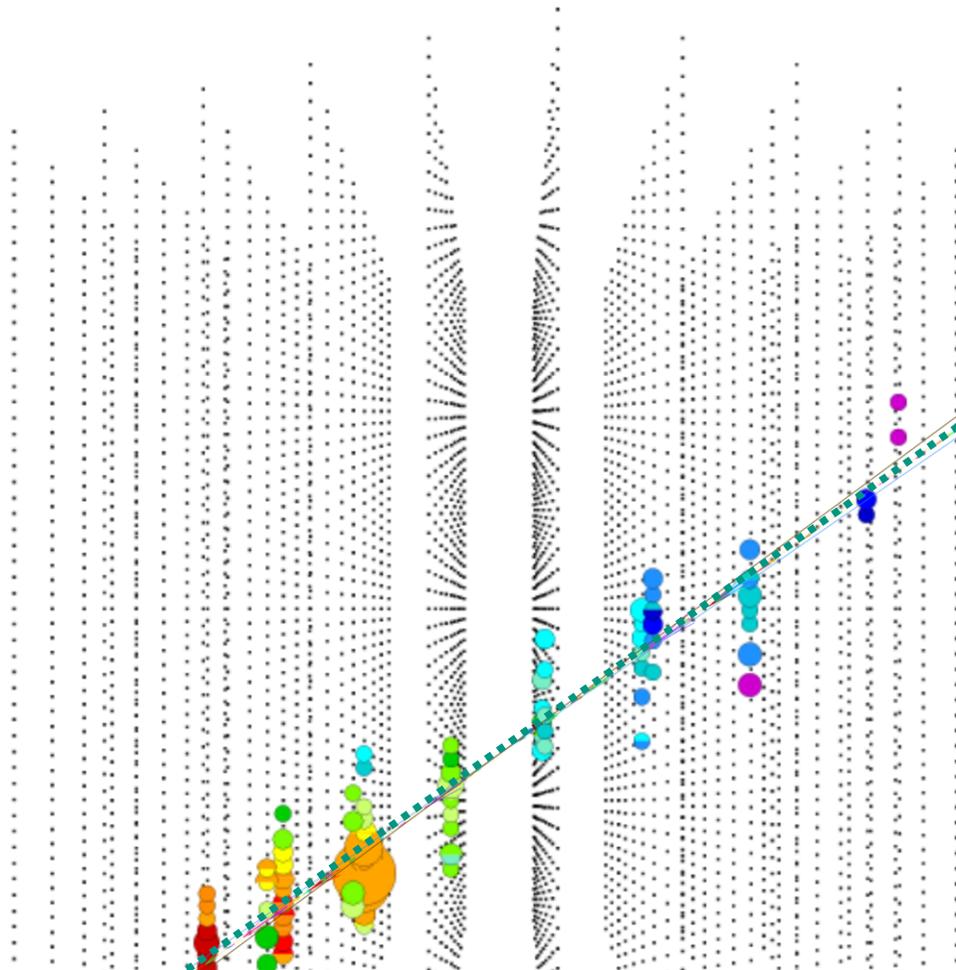
- 4800 *PMTs* distributed over volume  
 $V = 1 \text{ km}^3$  with 80 *PMT* strings

- *PMTs* located at  $d = 1.5 \dots 2.5 \text{ km}$  in strings of  $1 \text{ km}$
- *PMT* – strings fully deployed since March 2010
- muons detected above threshold energy  
 $E_{thres} = 100 \text{ GeV}$



# IceCube observatory: design features

## ■ Detecting tracks with *PMT* strings



South Pole station

50 m

IceTop

1450 m

2450 m

2820 m

*PMT*  
array



# IceCube observatory: design features

## ■ DOM design for in-ice operation

- has to withstand  $P = 200 \text{ atm}$

South Pole station

50 m

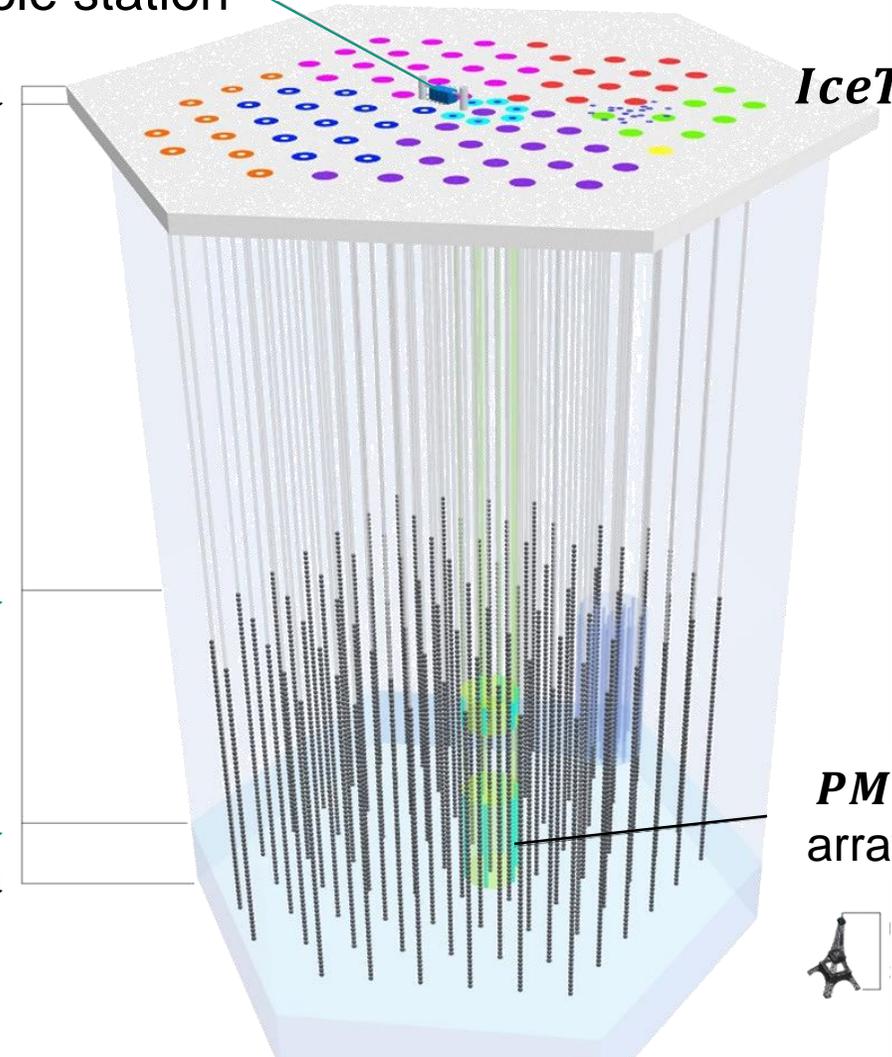
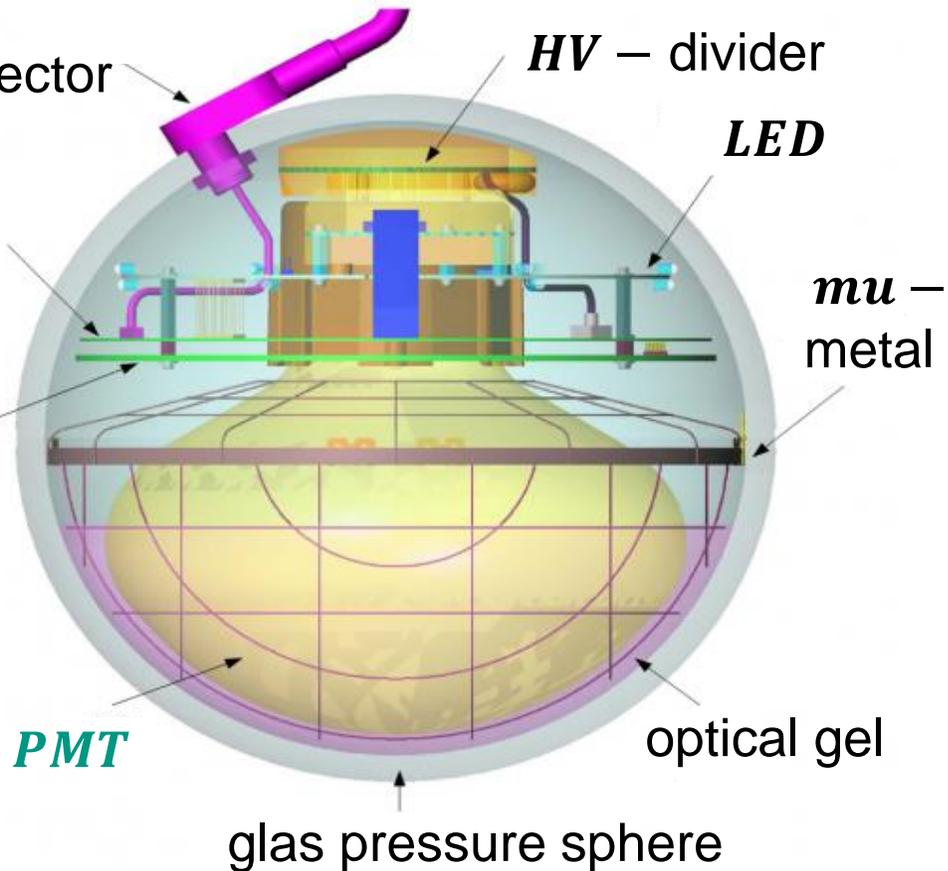
IceTop

1450 m

2450 m

2820 m

PMT array

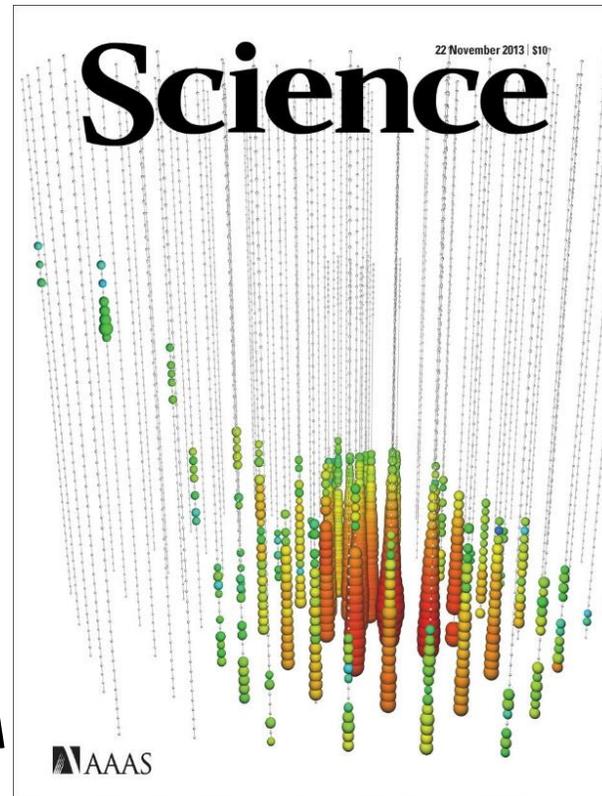


# IceCube Observatory: initial observations

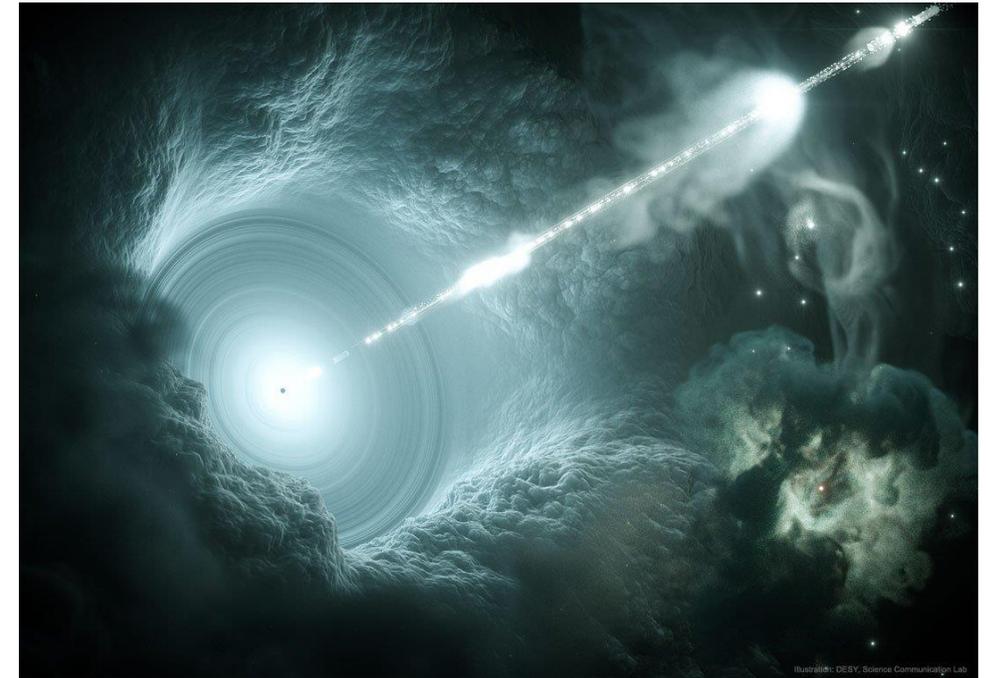
## ■ Astrophysical neutrinos: an extragalactic source is observed!

- origin: from galaxy *PKS 1424 – 418*:  
flare state in a **blazar**

- a very energetic event ('**Big Bird**')  
observed in 2013:  
 $E(\nu_\mu) = 250 \text{ TeV}!$



Big Bird

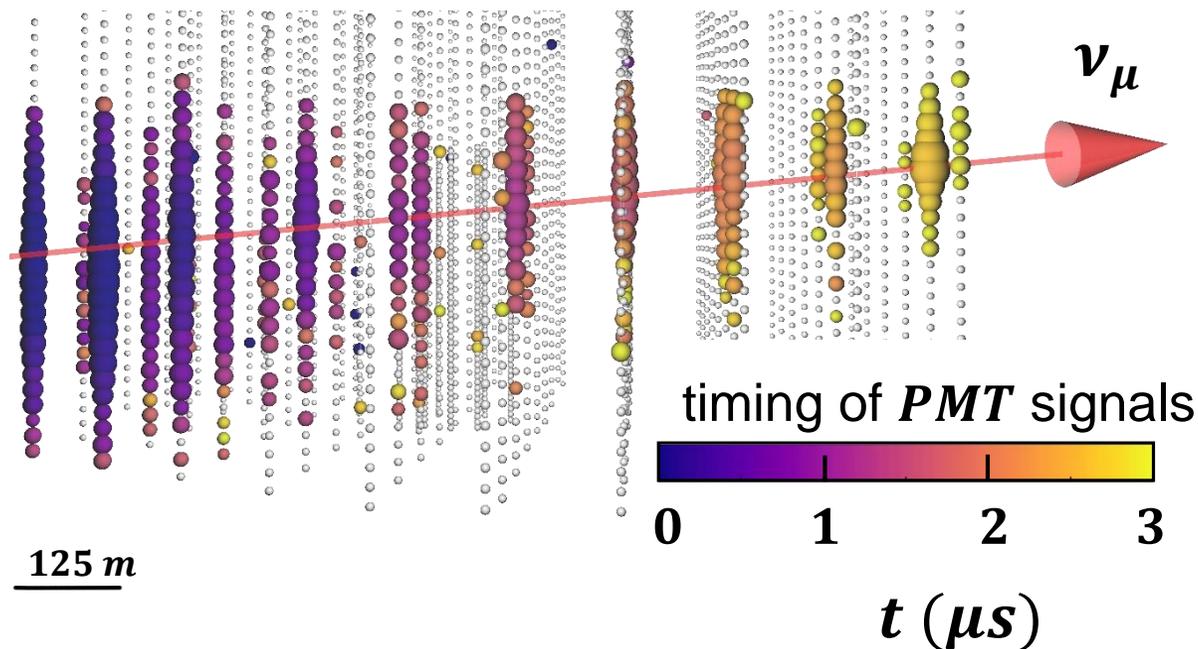


blazar *PKS 1424 – 418*

# IceCube Observatory: initial observations

- Astrophysical neutrinos: an energetic  $\nu$  from an AGN – source in a flare state (enhanced emission of gamma rays)

- AGN was in a very active phase: more  $\nu$ 's !
- muon direction directly points back to blazar



blazar *PKS 1424 – 418*

# IceCube Observatory: $\nu$ – events *Ernie* & *Bert*

■ Astrophysical  $\nu$ 's now at the *PeV* – scale: cascade (*NC*) events

