

The Telescope in the Ice: Neutrino astronomy at the South Pole

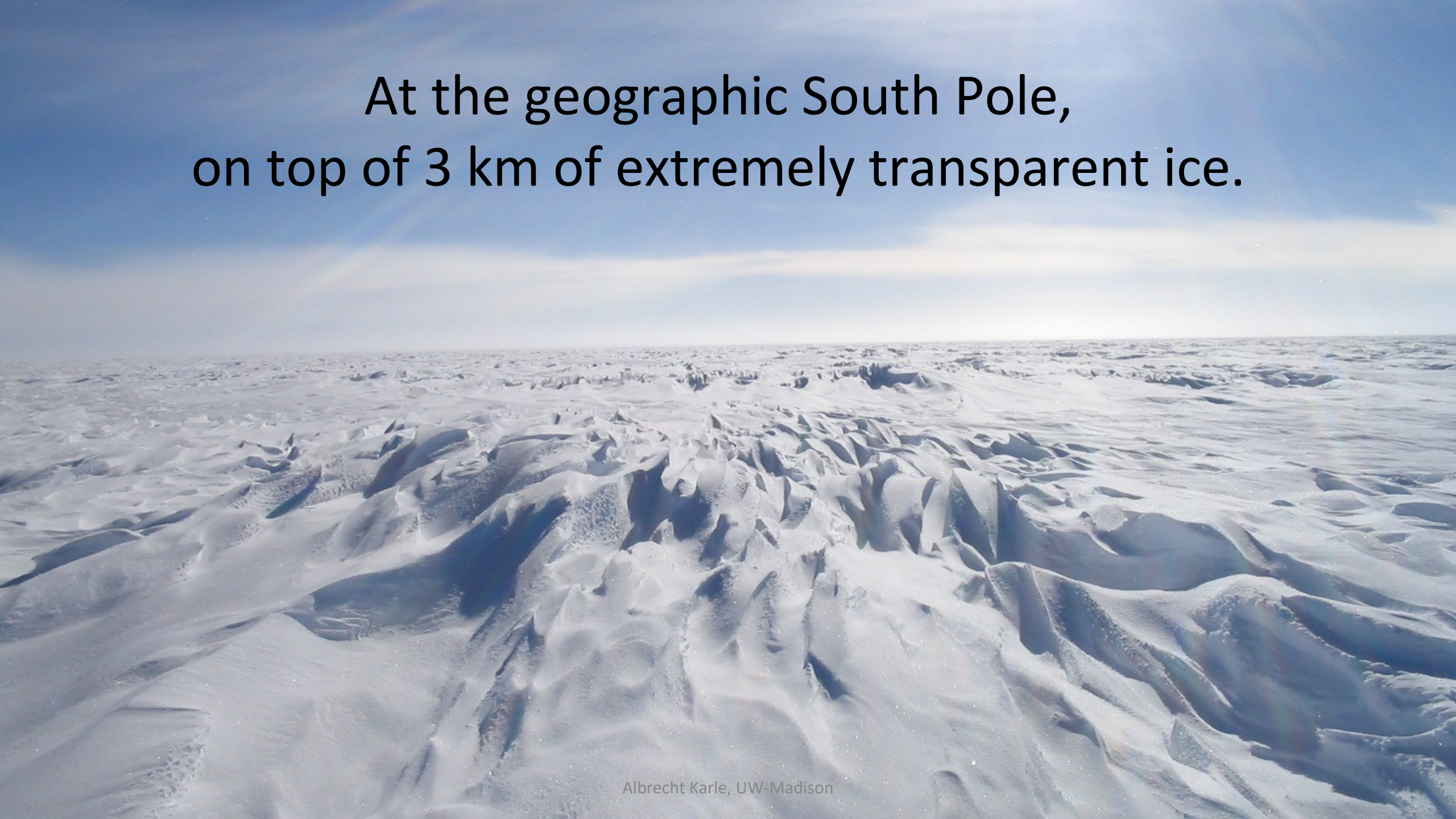
Albrecht Karle

Department of Physics and
Wisconsin IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Chiang Mai University

At the geographic South Pole,
on top of 3 km of extremely transparent ice.



111 years ago

December 14, 1911:
Rould Amundson succeeds
to reach the South Pole



1911/1912:
Victor Hess discovers
Cosmic Rays

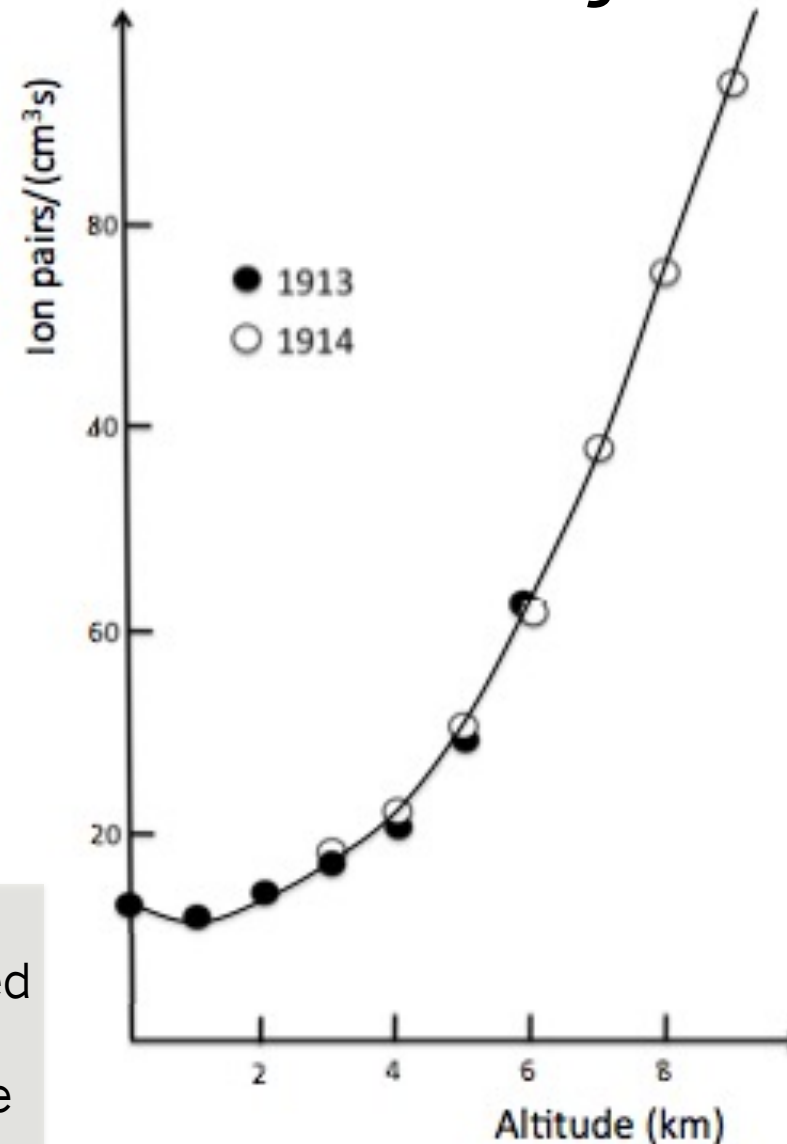


100 years later: The origin of cosmic rays is still not understood
The South Pole has become one of the premier astronomical
laboratories which may give as the clues.

1912 - The discovery of cosmic rays



“The discoveries revealed by the observations here given are best explained by assuming that radiation of great penetrating power enters our atmosphere from the outside” – Victor Hess, 1912

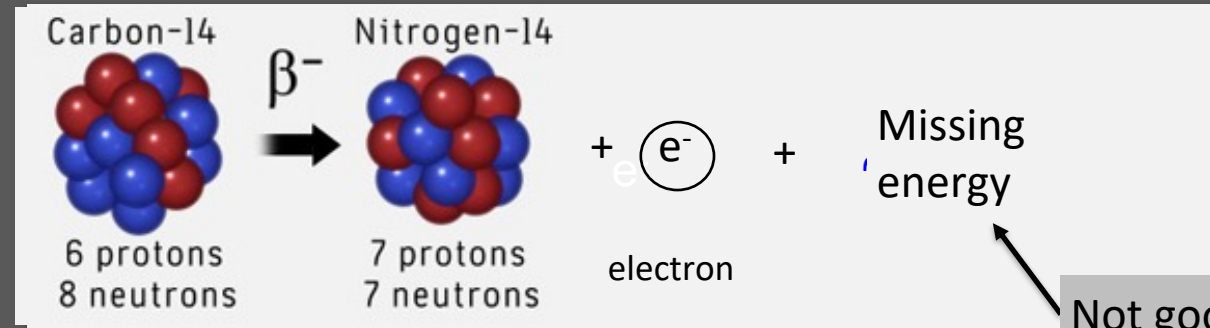


Data from Werner Kolhörster, 1913/14

90 years ago

Radioactive decay:

1930: Experimental data are in severe conflict with theory.



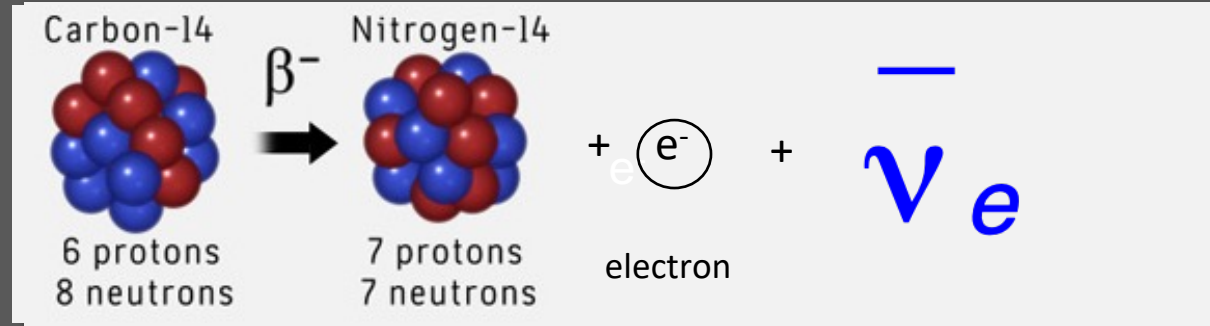
Not good.

That can't be true!
Energy must be conserved

90 years ago

Radioactive decay:

1930: Experimental data are in severe conflict with theory.



Wolfgang Pauli, 1930

*Wolfgang Pauli:
In a „desperate way out“
postulates a new particle,
the neutrino:*

**“I have done a terrible thing, I
have invented a particle that cannot
be detected.”**

1956

It was not so "terrible":
26 years later,
In 1956 the neutrino is
detected.

Researchers Reines and Cowan
placed a detector of 1 m in
size only 10 m near the core
of a nuclear reactor.

10^{16} neutrinos per second would
pass through this detector,
and it was very hard to see just a few.

Reines receives Nobel prize in 1995

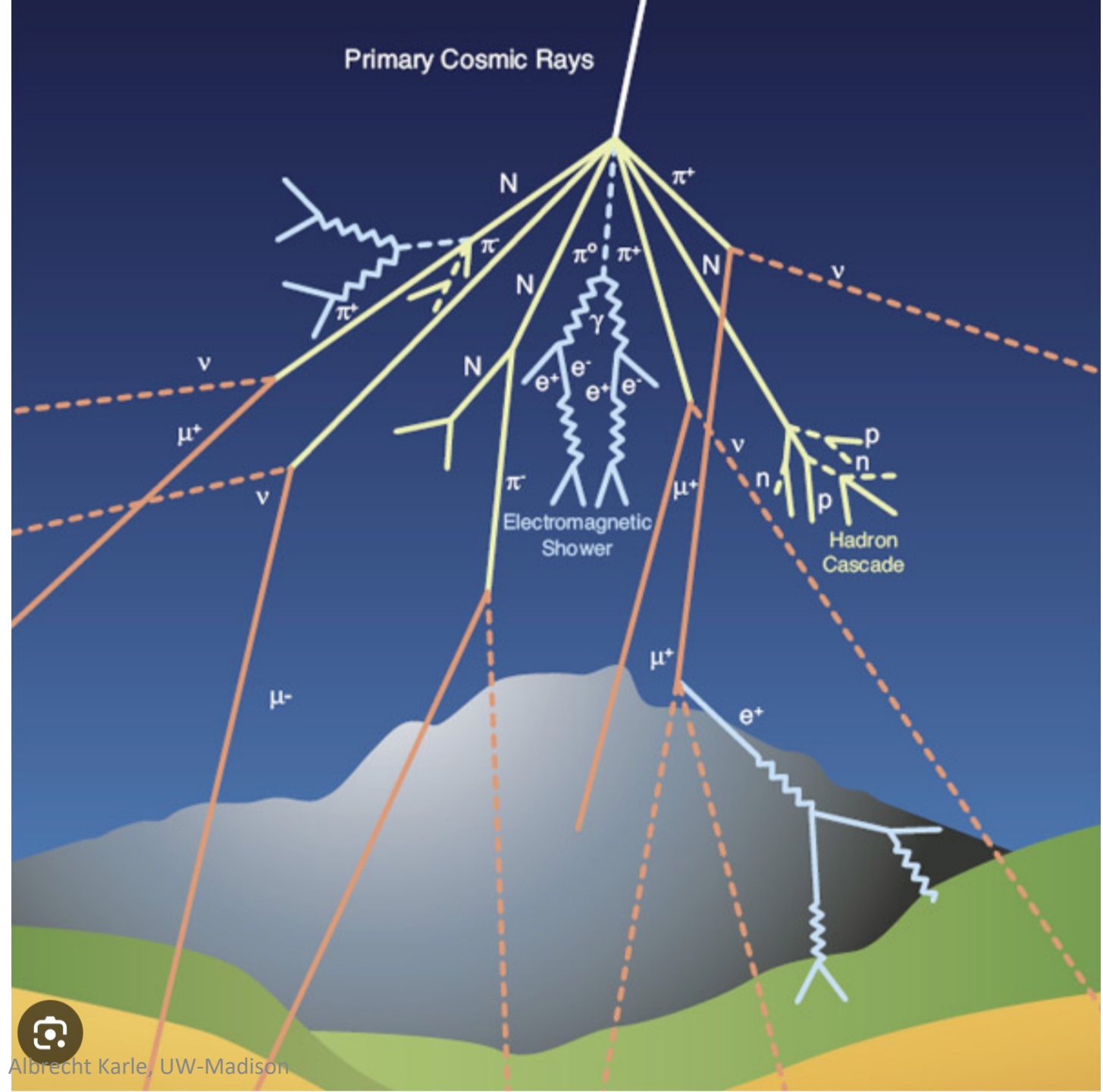


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What are cosmic rays?

Can neutrinos help answer the question?



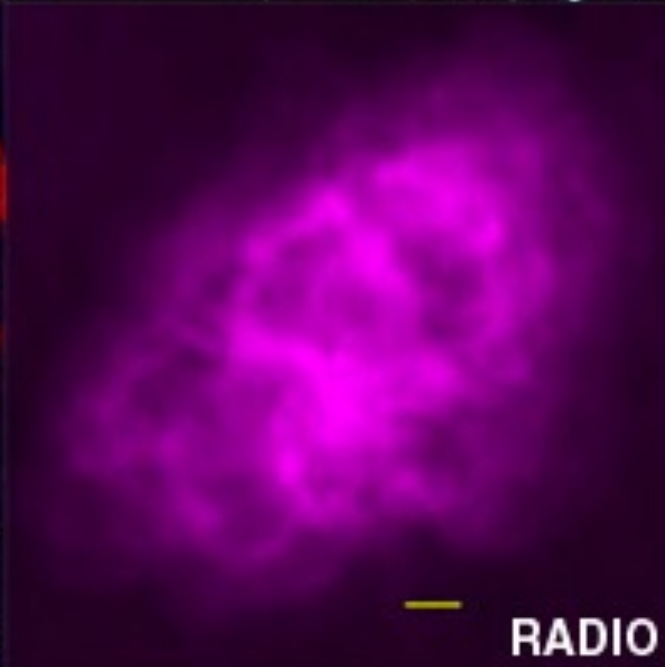
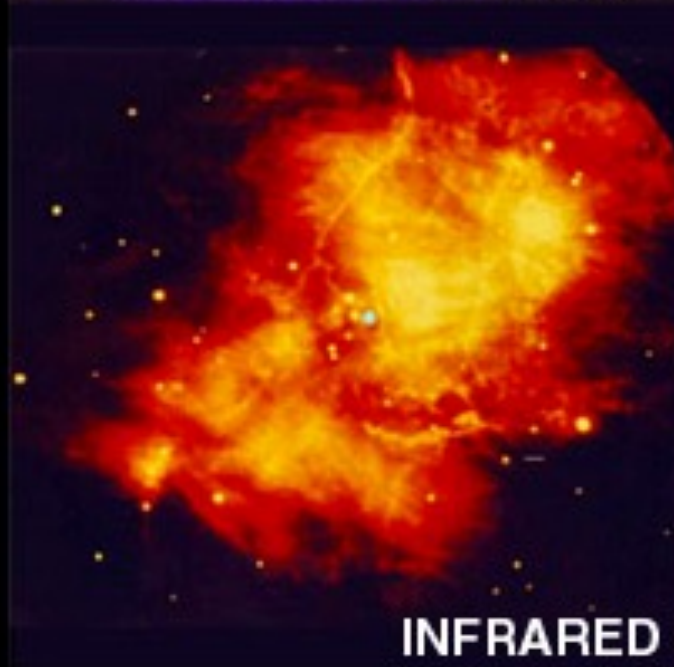
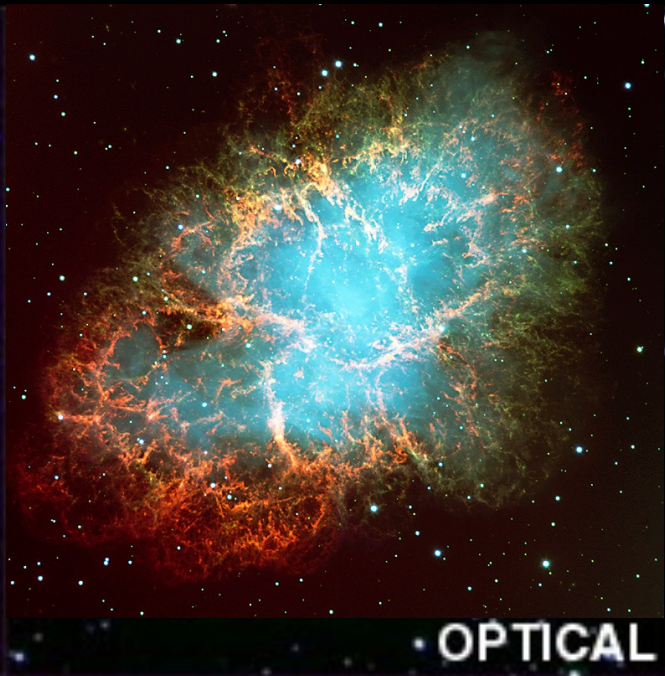
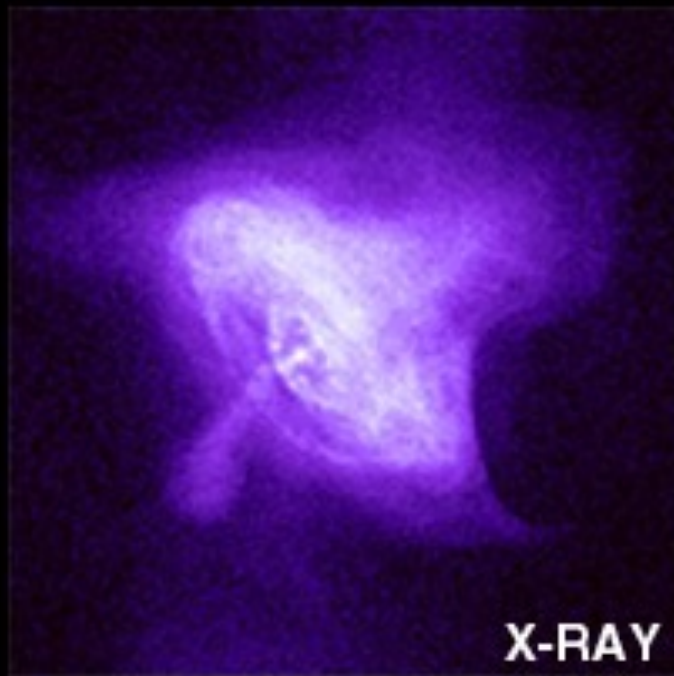
The Crab nebula

A star in our galaxy - the Milky Way - that exploded in 1054.

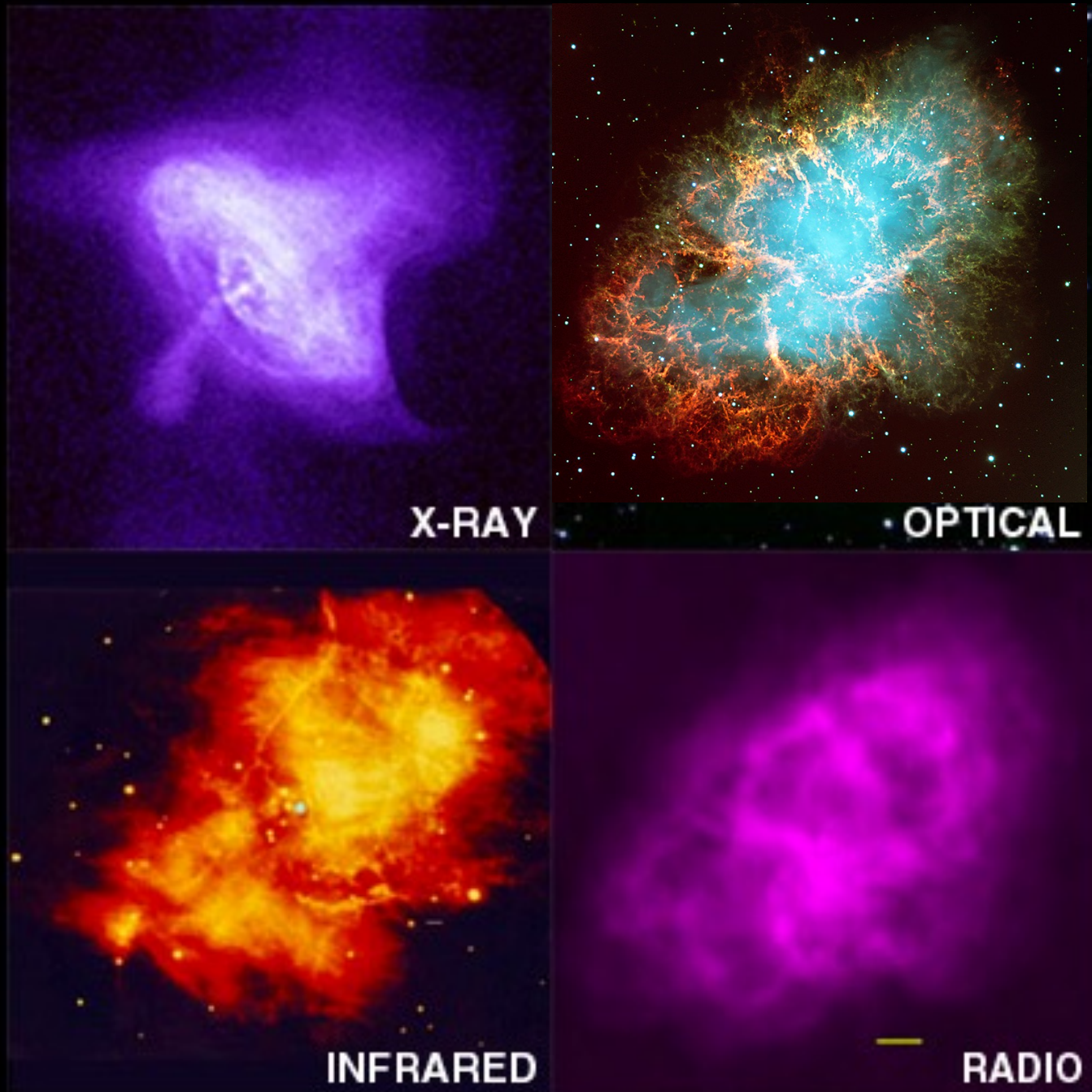
The event was documented by Chinese astronomers.

Today we know this kind of explosion as a “supernova”.





The “Crab” is shown in different wavelengths – all photons.



The “Crab” is shown
in different
wavelengths – all
photons.

Neutrino?

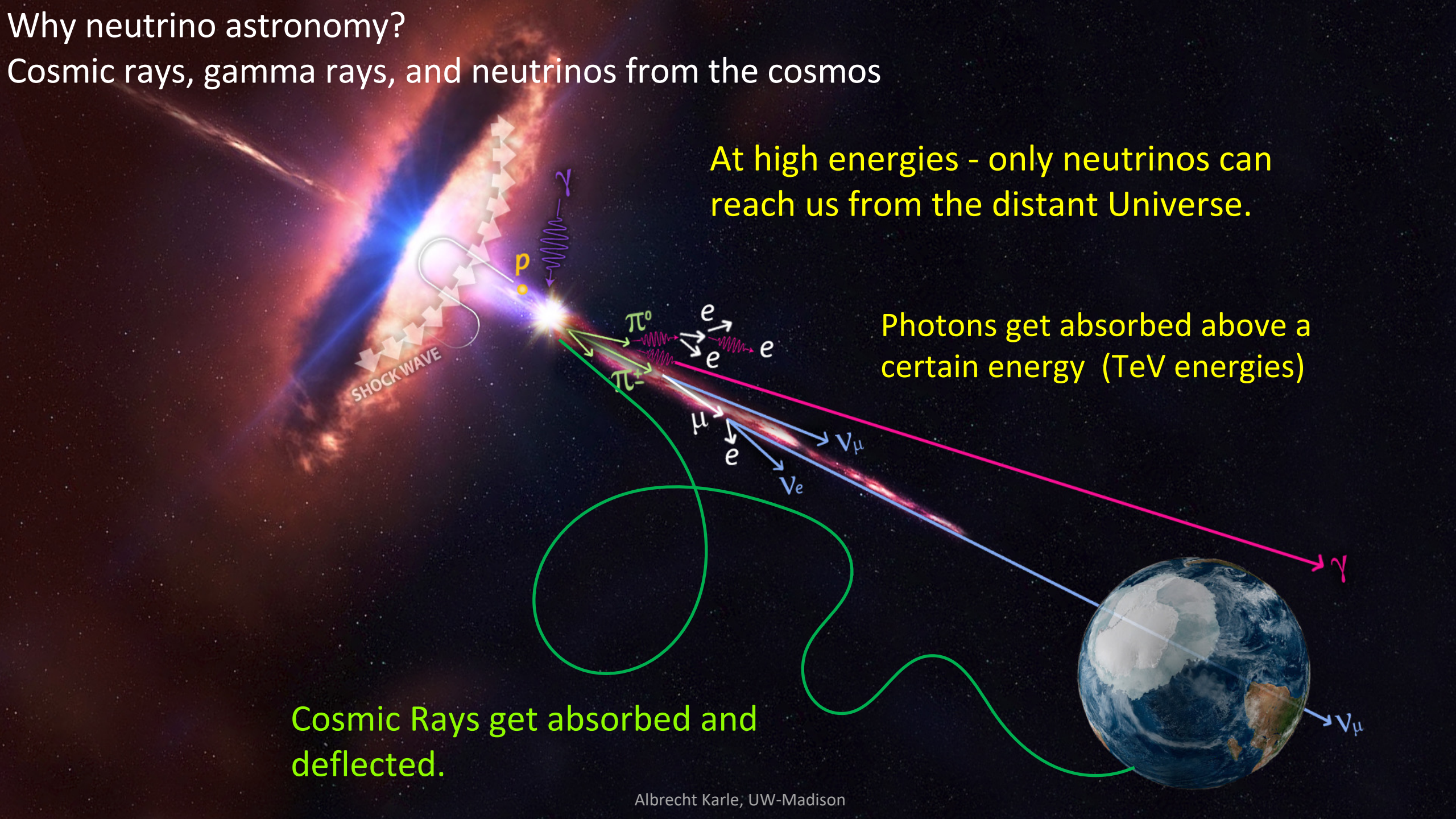
Why neutrino astronomy?

Cosmic rays, gamma rays, and neutrinos from the cosmos

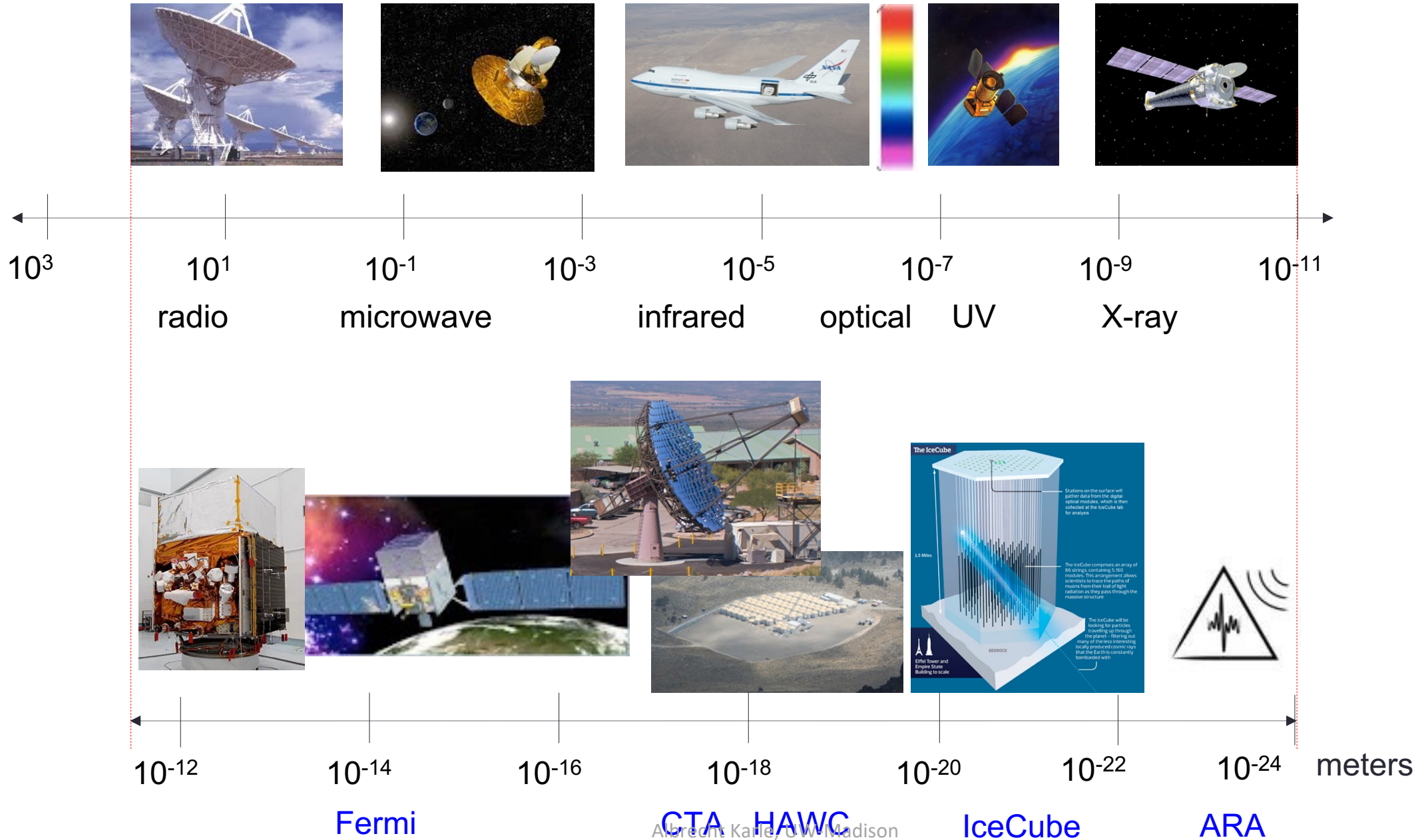
At high energies - only neutrinos can reach us from the distant Universe.

Photons get absorbed above a certain energy (TeV energies)

Cosmic Rays get absorbed and deflected.



Optical Telescopes → Astro-Particle Telescopes

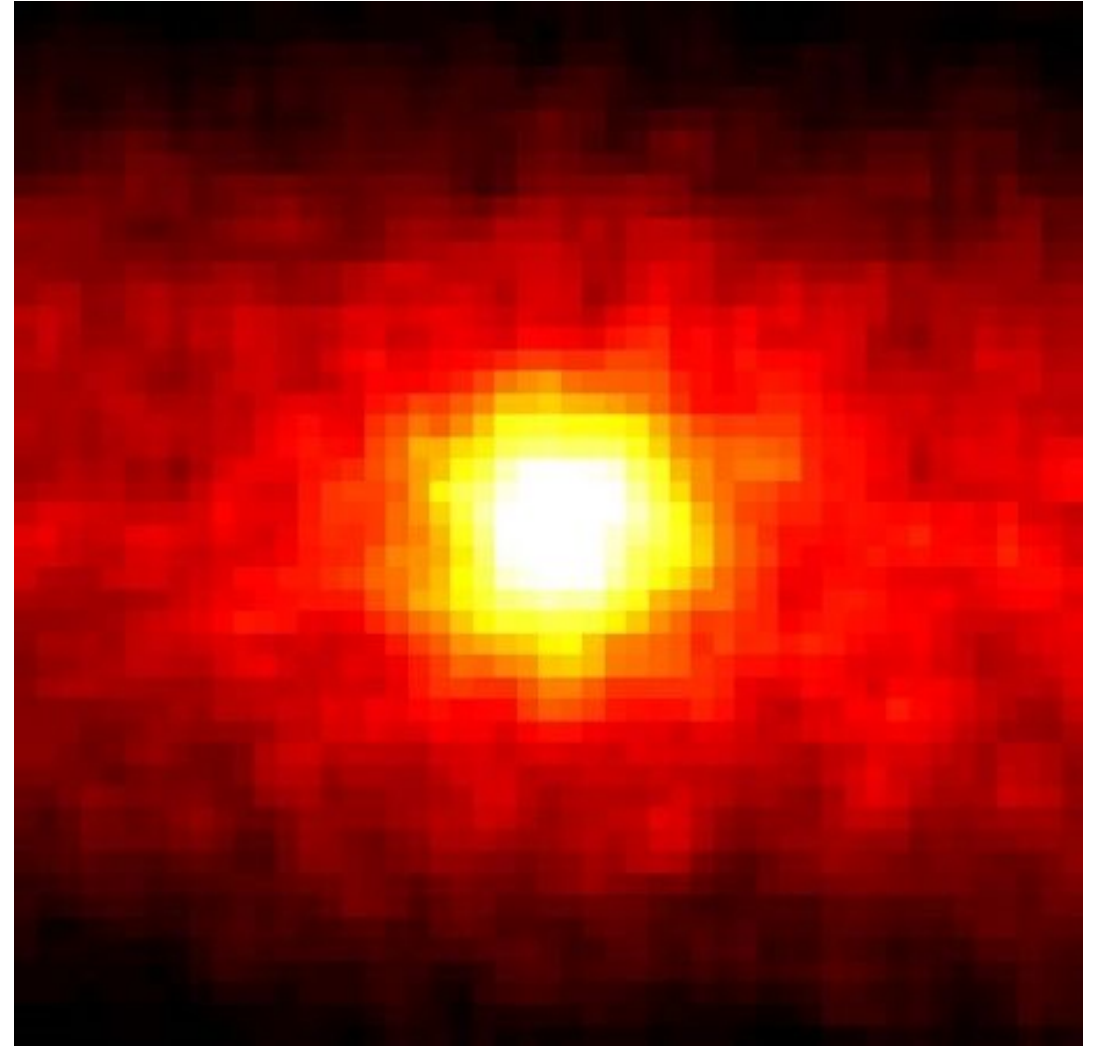


Neutrinos from the sun

- The neutrinos are around us:
 - Sun: about 1 trillion neutrinos from the sun pass your thumb every second!
 - They can pass even through the Earth

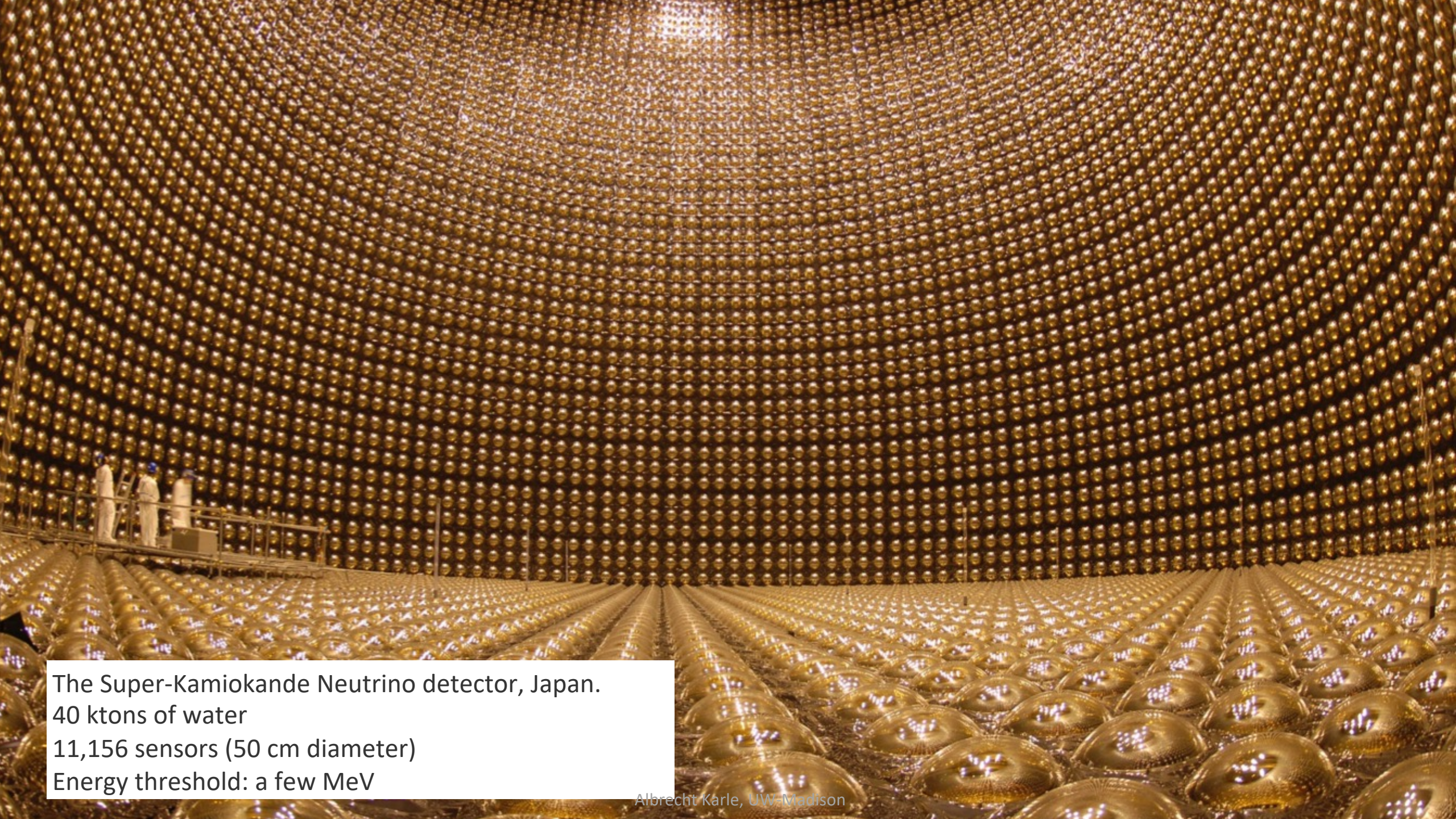
Neutrino image of the
(interior of the) sun.

Low energy neutrinos measured
by the [SuperK](#) underground detector.



Neutrinos are direct evidence of nuclear fusion inside the sun

90°x90°



The Super-Kamiokande Neutrino detector, Japan.
40 ktons of water
11,156 sensors (50 cm diameter)
Energy threshold: a few MeV

Detecting Cosmic Neutrinos?

Event Rates are small.

Neutrinos are very penetrating,
- they don't want to interact.

Theory:

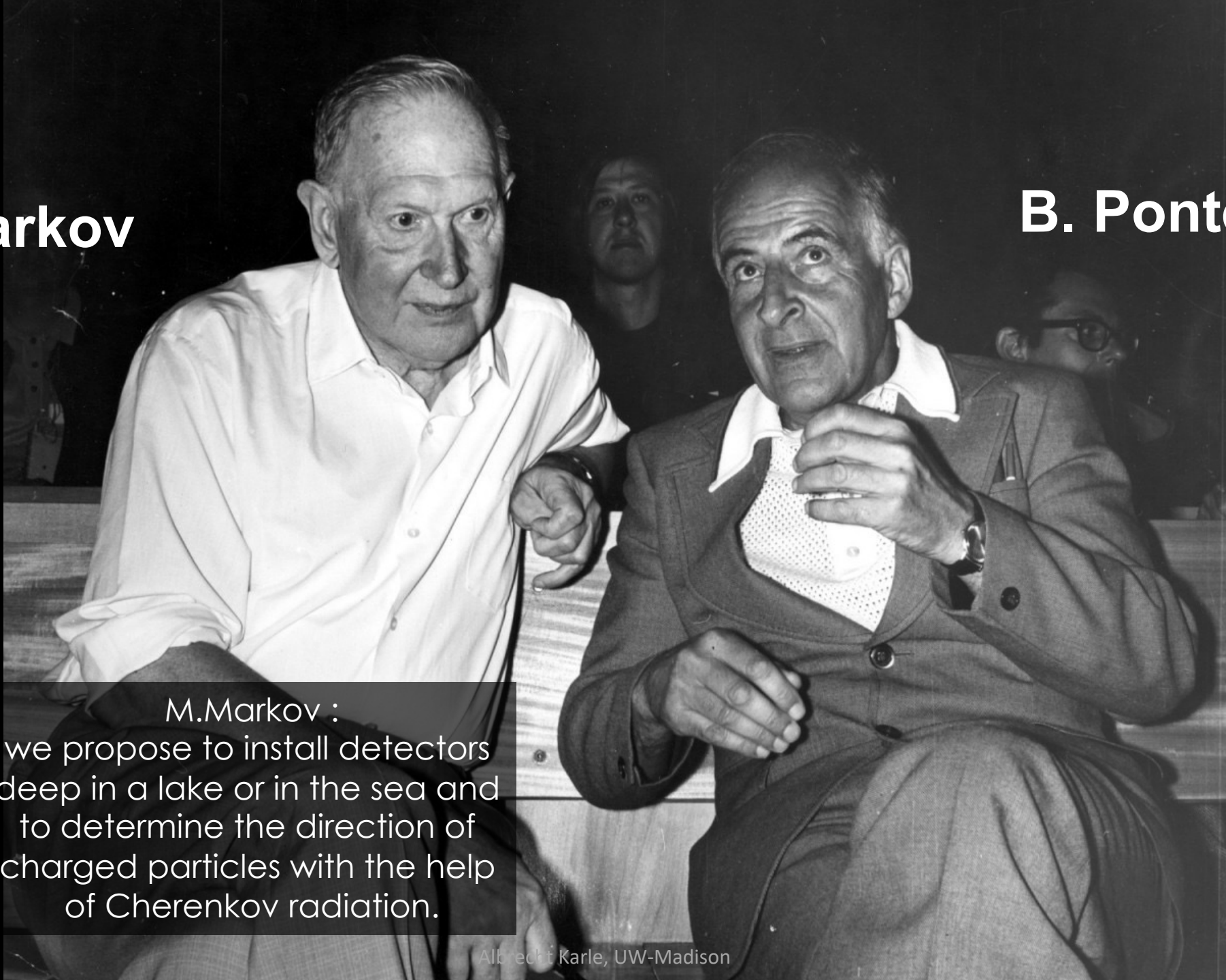
Need a very big detector:

target of 1 billion tons, - 1 km³.

1960

M. Markov

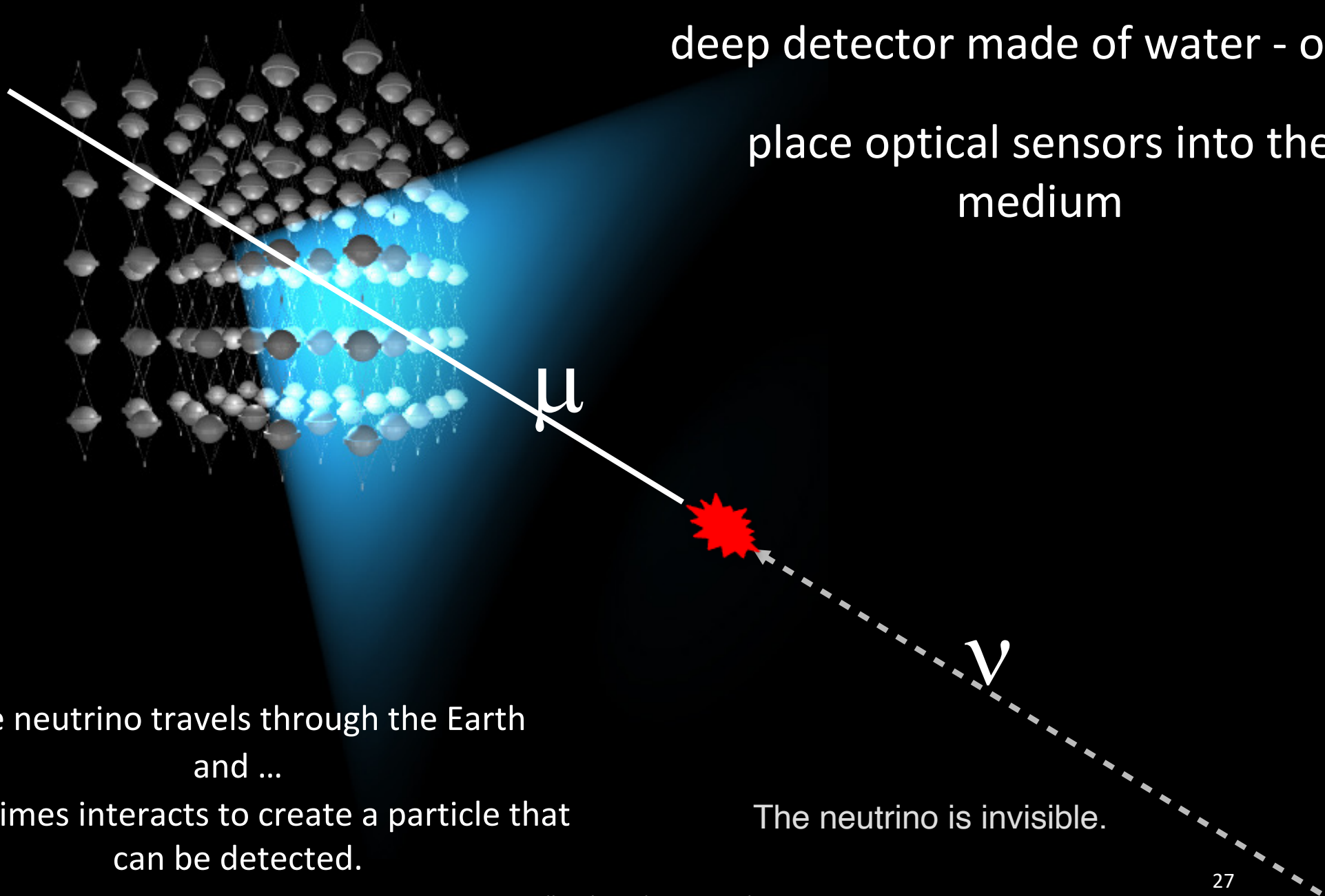
B. Pontecorvo



M. Markov :
we propose to install detectors
deep in a lake or in the sea and
to determine the direction of
charged particles with the help
of Cherenkov radiation.

deep detector made of water - or ice

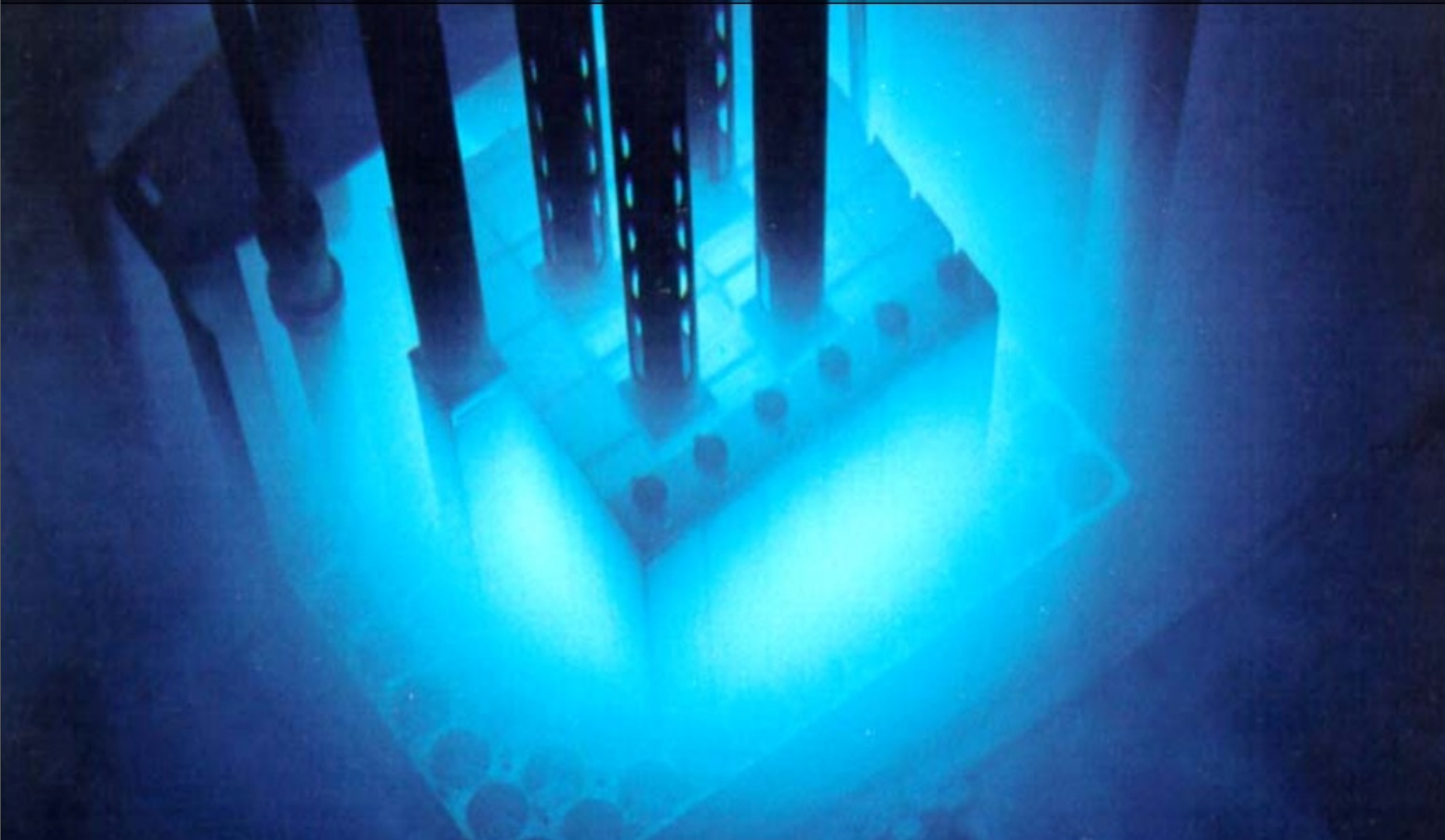
place optical sensors into the
medium



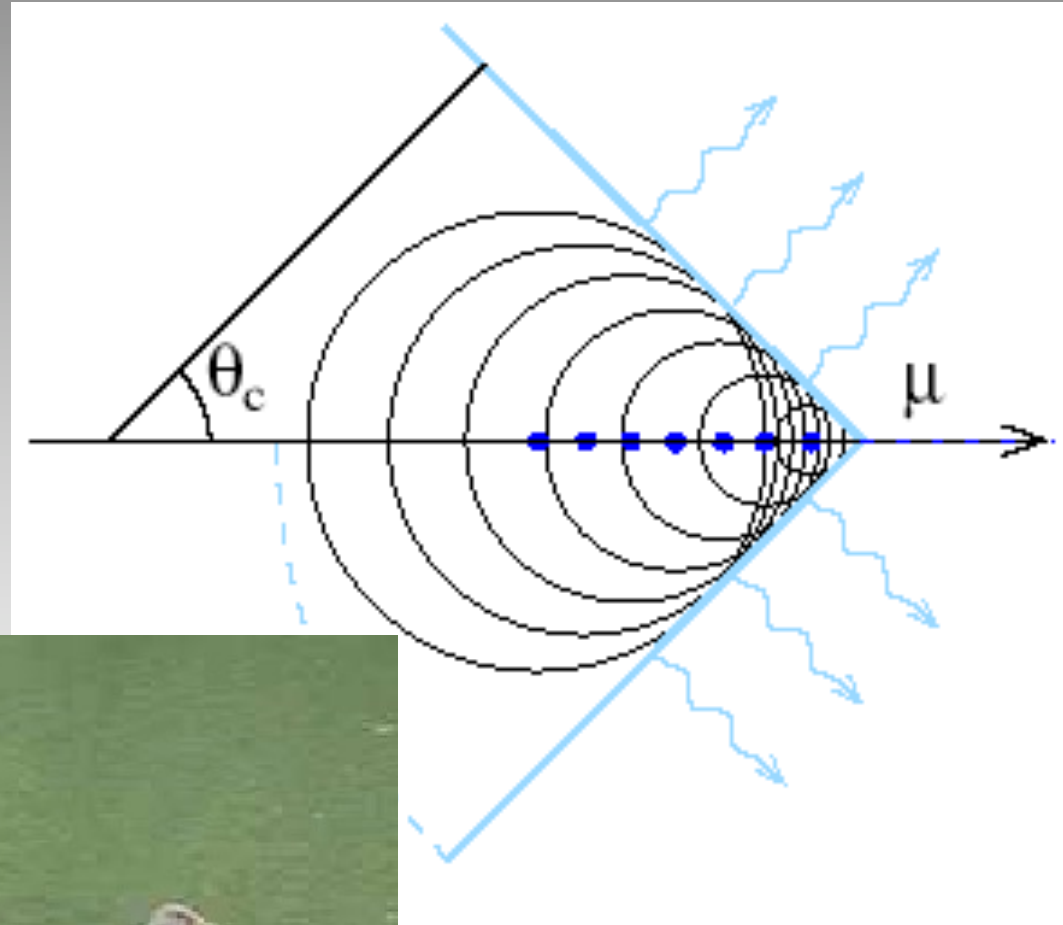
The neutrino travels through the Earth
and ...
sometimes interacts to create a particle that
can be detected.

The neutrino is invisible.

Charged particles (from a nuclear reactor in the picture) produce blue light in water



Cherenkov radiation: muon travels faster than light in ice



Photomultiplier Tube

Principle:

Photoelectric effect
+ electron multiplication

Can detect single photons.

(Moonless nightsky: 10 billion
photons / second m^2)



Observation of high-energy neutrinos using Čerenkov detectors embedded deep in Antarctic ice

E. Andrés^{*}, P. Askebjerg[†], X. Bai[‡], G. Barouch^{*}, S.W. Barwick[§], R. C. Bay^{||}, K.-H. Becker[¶], L. Bergström[†], D. Bertrand[#], D. Bierenbaum[§], A. Biron[□], J. Booth[§], O. Botner^{**}, A. Bouchta[□], M. M. Boyce^{*}, S. Carius^{††}, A. Chen^{*}, D. Chirkin[¶], J. Conrad^{**}, J. Cooley^{*}, C. G. S. Costa[#], D. F. Cowen^{‡‡}, J. Dailing[§], E. Dalberg[†], T. DeYoung^{*}, P. Desiati[□], J.-P. Dewulf[#], P. Doksus^{*}, J. Edsjö[†], P. Ekström[†], B. Erlandsson[†], T. Feser^{§§}, M. Gaug[□], A. Goldschmidt^{||}, A. Goobar[†], L. Gray^{*}, H. Haase[□], A. Hallgren^{**}, F. Halzen^{*}, K. Hanson^{‡‡}, R. Hardtke^{*}, Y. D. He^{||}, M. Hellwig^{§§}, H. Heukenkamp[□], G. C. Hill^{*}, P. O. Hulth[†], S. Hundertmark[§], J. Jacobsen^{||}, V. Kandhadai^{*}, A. Karle^{*}, J. Kim[§], B. Koci^{*}, L. Köpke^{§§}, M. Kowalski[□], H. Leich[□], M. Leuthold[□], P. Lindahl^{††}, I. Liubarsky^{*}, P. Loaiza^{**}, D. M. Lowder^{||}, J. Ludvig^{||}, J. Madsen^{*}, P. Marciniewski^{**}, H. S. Matis^{||}, A. Mihalyi^{‡‡}, T. Mikolajski[□], T. C. Miller[†], Y. Minaeva[†], P. Miocinović^{||}, P. C. Mock[§], R. Morse^{*}, T. Neunhoffer^{§§}, F. M. Newcomer^{‡‡}, P. Niessen[□], D. R. Nygren^{||}, H. Ögelman^{*}, C. Pérez de los Heros^{**}, R. Porrata[§], P. B. Price^{||}, K. Rawlins^{*}, C. Reed[§], W. Rhode[¶], A. Richards^{||}, S. Richter[□], J. Rodriguez Martino[†], P. Romanesko^{*}, D. Ross[§], H. Rubinstein[†], H.-G. Sander^{§§}, T. Scheider^{§§}, T. Schmidt[□], D. Schneider^{*}, E. Schneider[§], R. Schwarz^{*}, A. Silvestri[□], M. Solarz^{||}, G. M. Spiczak[†], C. Spiering[□], N. Starinsky^{*}, D. Steele^{*}, P. Steffen[□], R. G. Stokstad^{||}, O. Streicher[□], Q. Sun[†], I. Taboada^{‡‡}, L. Thollander[†], T. Thon[□], S. Tilav^{*}, N. Usechak[§], M. Vander Donckt[#], C. Walck[†], C. Weinheimer^{§§}, C. H. Wiebusch[□], R. Wischmewski[□], H. Wissing[□], K. Woschnagg^{||}, W. Wu[§], G. Yodh[§] & S. Young[§]

NATURE 2001

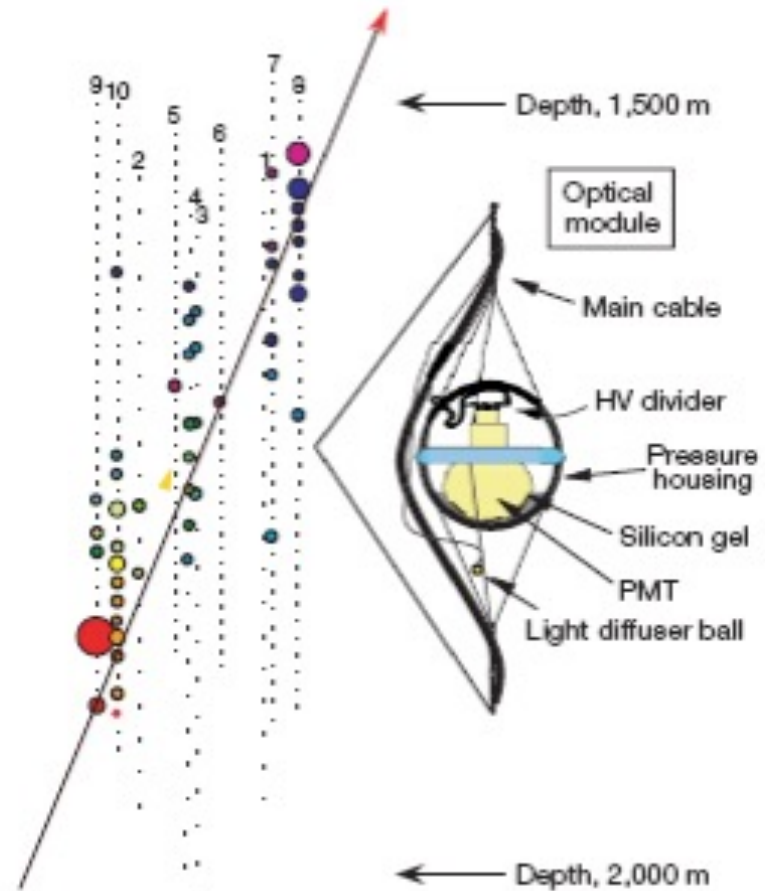
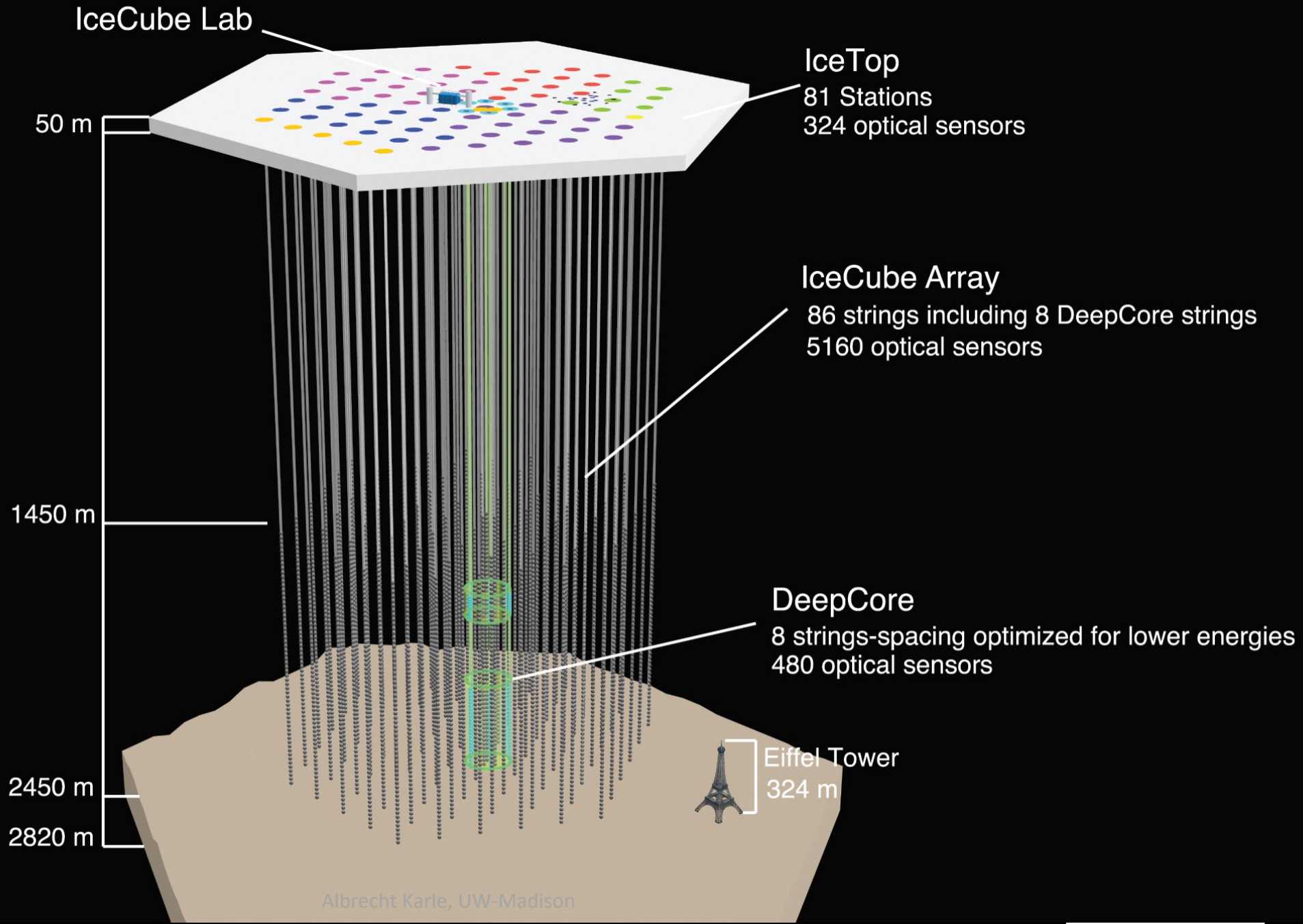
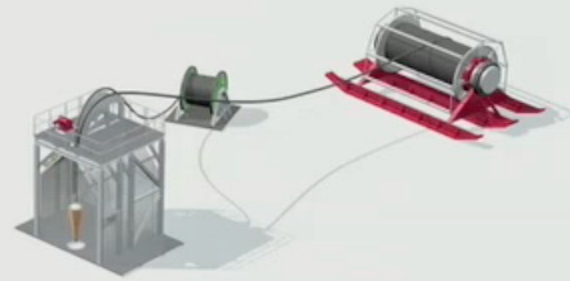


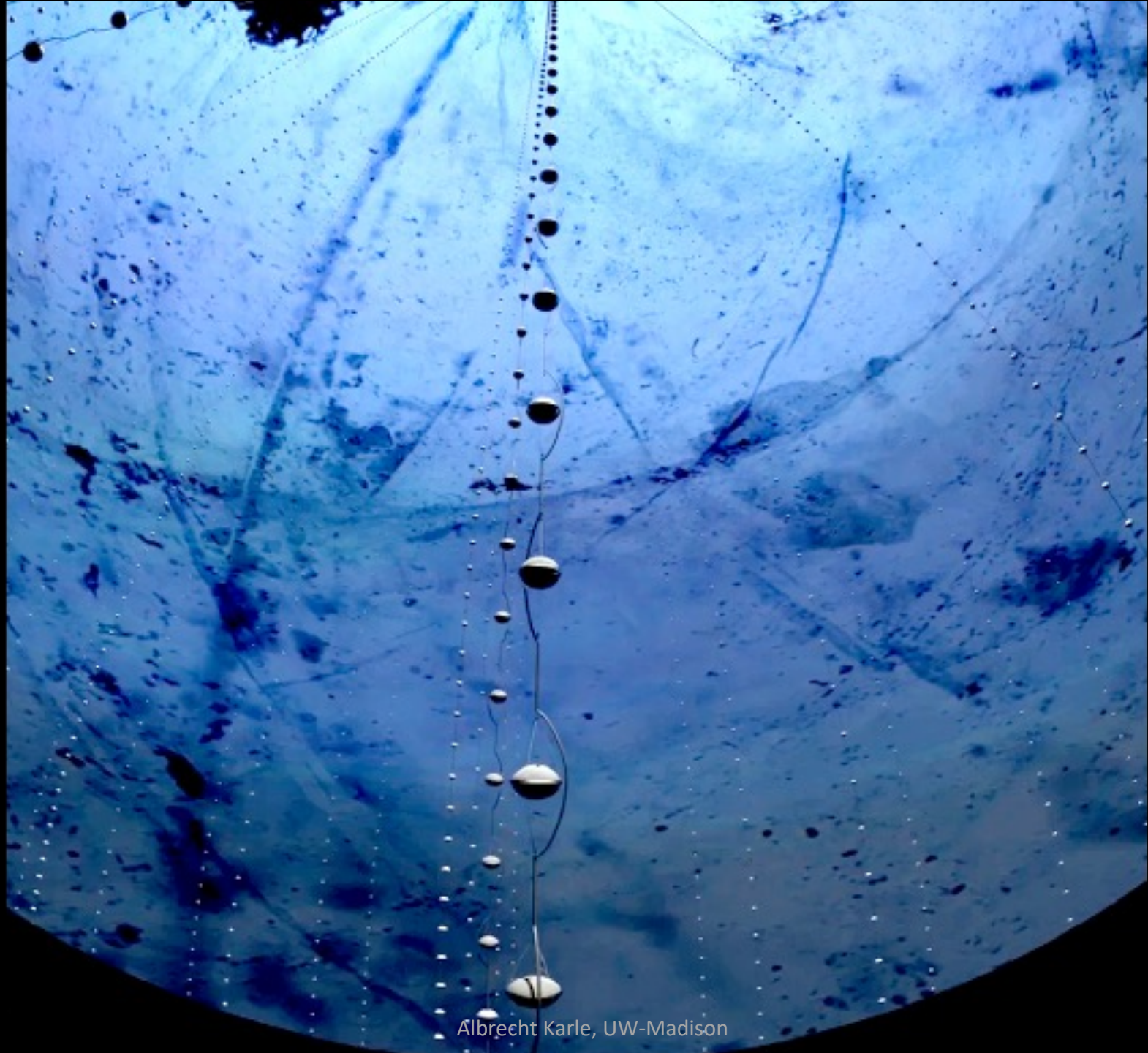
Figure 1 The AMANDA-B10 detector and a schematic diagram of an optical module. Each dot represents an optical module. The modules are separated by 20 m on the inner strings (1 to 4), and by 10 m on the outer strings (5 to 10). The coloured circles show pulses from the photomultipliers for a particular event; the sizes of the circles indicate the amplitudes of the pulses and the colours correspond to the time of a photon's arrival. Earlier times are in red and later ones in blue. The arrow indicates the reconstructed track of the upwardly propagating muon.

IceCube Construction

The IceCube Neutrino Observatory







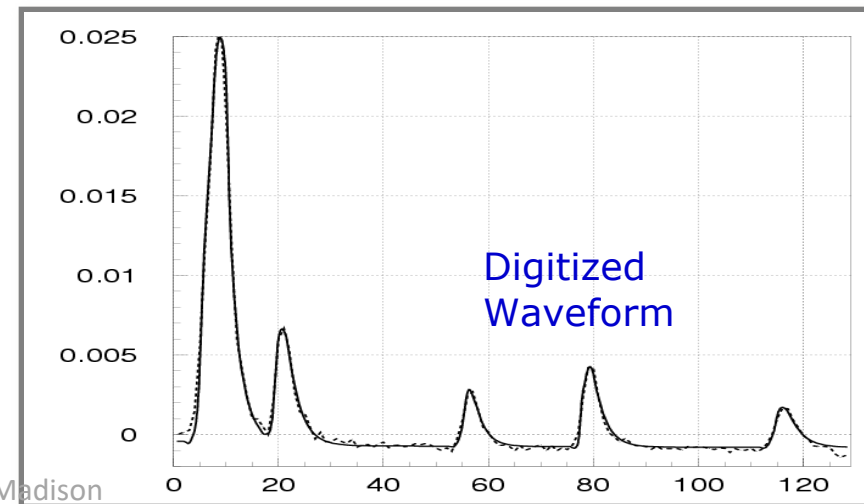
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Digital Optical Module (DOM)

Each sensor is almost an independent detector



Converts the very faint light signals - photons - into electrical signals





Auckland

Christchurch

McMurdo Station

© 2007 Europa Technologies
Image © 2007 NASA
Image © 2007 TerraMetrics

© 2006

Goog



S O U T H E R N O C E A N

S O U T H E R N O C E A N

S O U T H E R N O C E A N

South Orkney Is
Signy (UK)

South
Shelland
Is

Anvers L
Palmer (USA)

Adelaide L
Rothera (UK)

Alexander L

BELLINGSHAUSEN
SEA

90°W

WEDDELL
SEA

KONG HAKON VII HAV

FIMBULISEN

Fimbulsøerne

DRONNING MAUD
LAND

COATS LAND

ENDERBY
LAND

KEMP LAND

MACROBERTSON
LAND

PRINCESS
ELIZABETH
LAND

WILHELM II
LAND

QUEEN MARY
LAND

WILKES
LAND

GEORGE V
LAND

TERRE
ADÉLIE

OATES
LAND

Belény Is

90°E

South Pole

Amundsen-Scott (USA)

McMurdo (USA)

ROSS
ICE
SHELF

MARIE
BYRD
LAND

WEST
ANTARCTICA

ELLSWORTH
LAND

AMUNDSEN
SEA

ROSS SEA

180°

10°S

8°S

7°S

6°S

5°S

4°S

3°S

2°S

1°S

0°

1°S

2°S

3°S

4°S

5°S

6°S

7°S

8°S

9°S

10°S

11°S

12°S

13°S

14°S

15°S

16°S

17°S

18°S

19°S

20°S

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93°S

94°S

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96°S

97°S

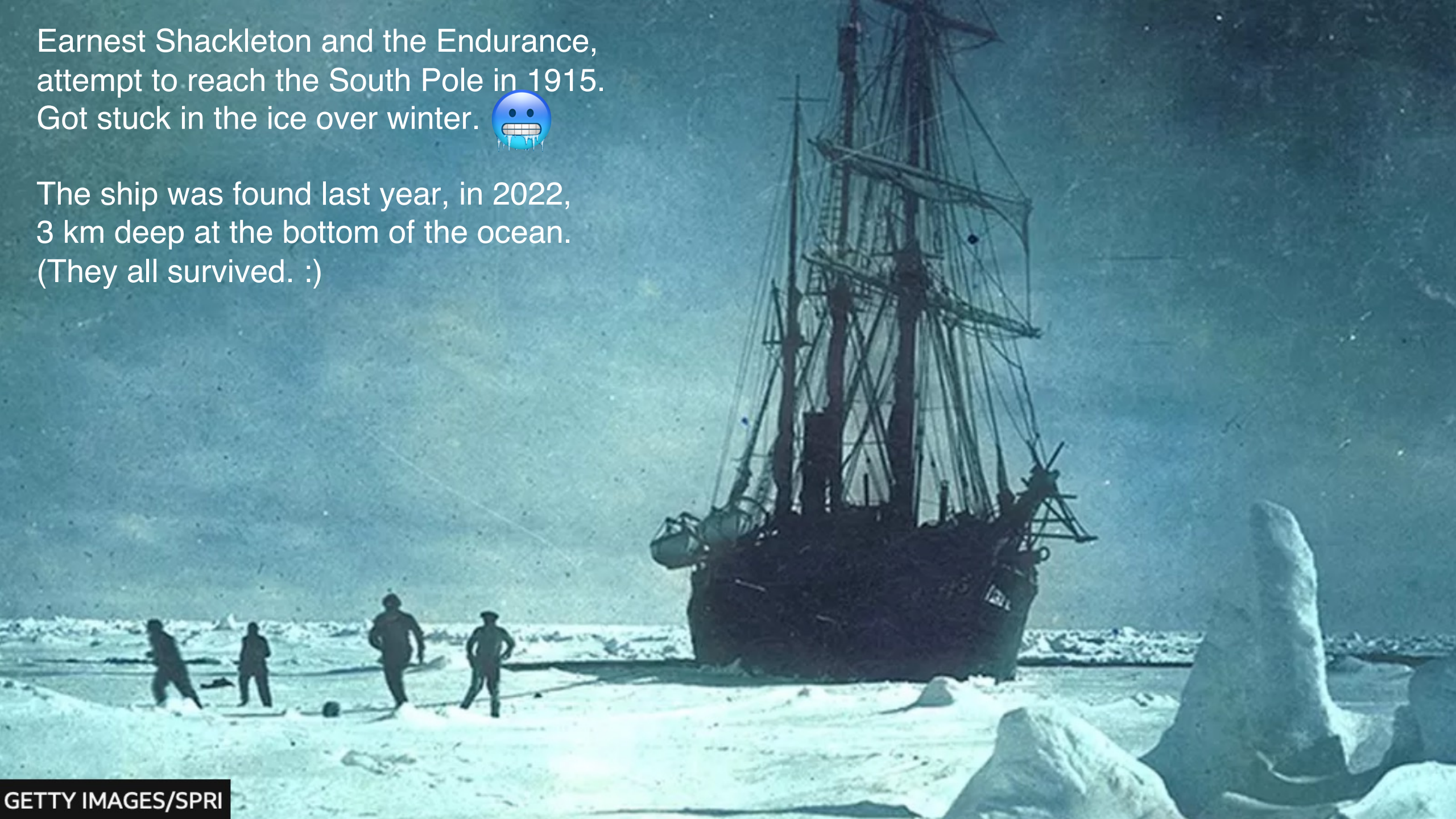
98°S

99°S

100°S

Earnest Shackleton and the Endurance,
attempt to reach the South Pole in 1915.
Got stuck in the ice over winter. 🥶

The ship was found last year, in 2022,
3 km deep at the bottom of the ocean.
(They all survived. :)





Fortunately we
don't need to
travel by ship,
today!



**CREW CHIEF
MSGT DORISKI**

WARNING
WITH CREW MEMBERS ABOARD THIS
DOOR WILL BE CLOSED AND OPENED
FROM THE INSIDE ONLY

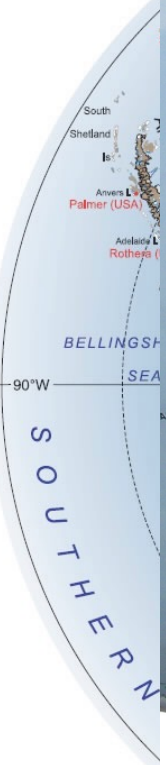
CAUTION
ONLY ONE PERSON AT A TIME
ON THESE STEPS

LOCK

UNLOCK

TSGT HO
SSGT K

ALBRECHT KARLE



Key

Ice-free rock
Ice sheet
Ice shelf



At South Pole



South Pole facts:

Temperatures around -76°F / -60°C
for most of the winter

One of the driest place on earth

9300ft / 2834m above sea level

Isolated from February to October



Construction

South Pole 10m Telescope

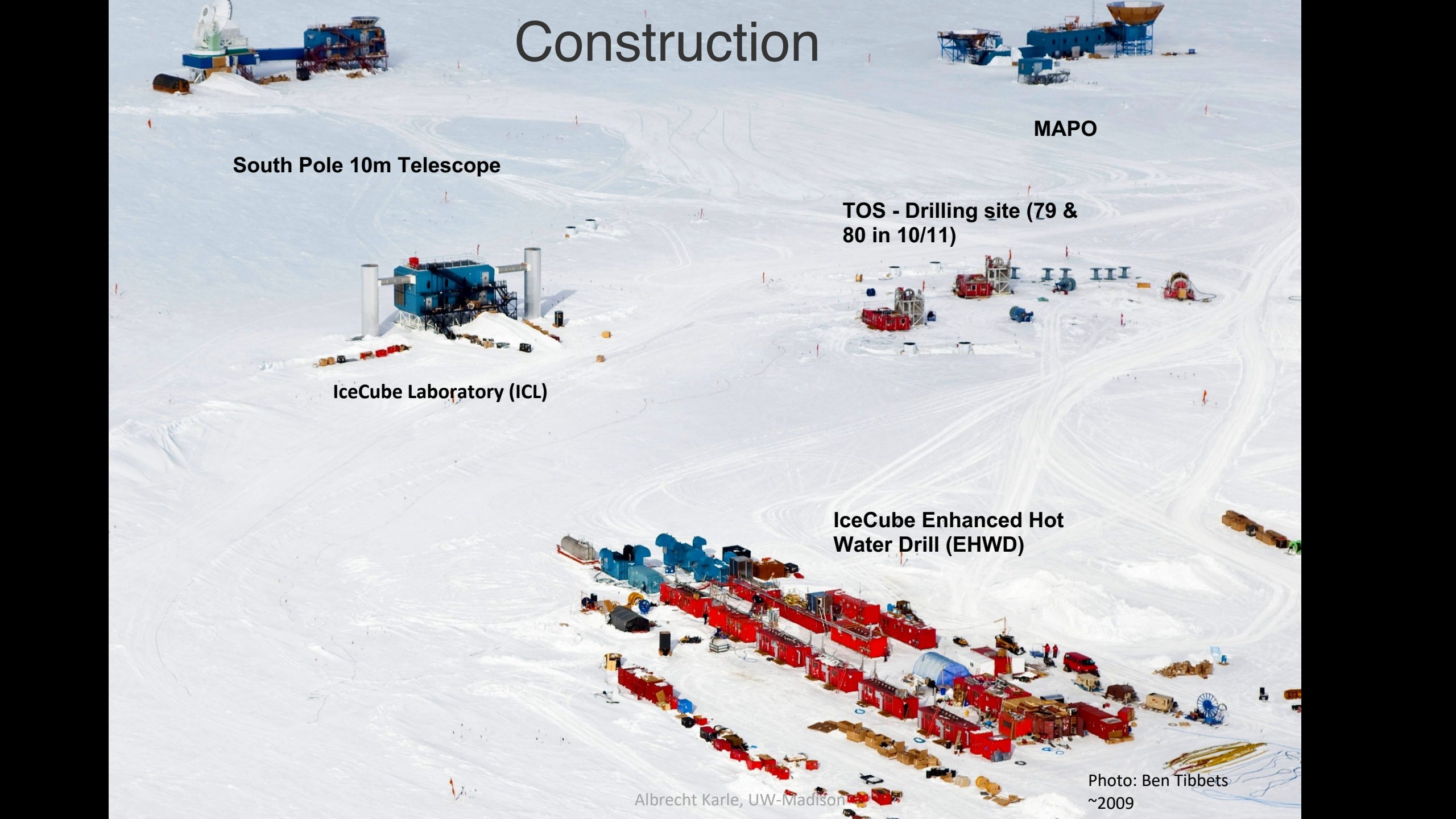
MAPO

TOS - Drilling site (79 & 80 in 10/11)

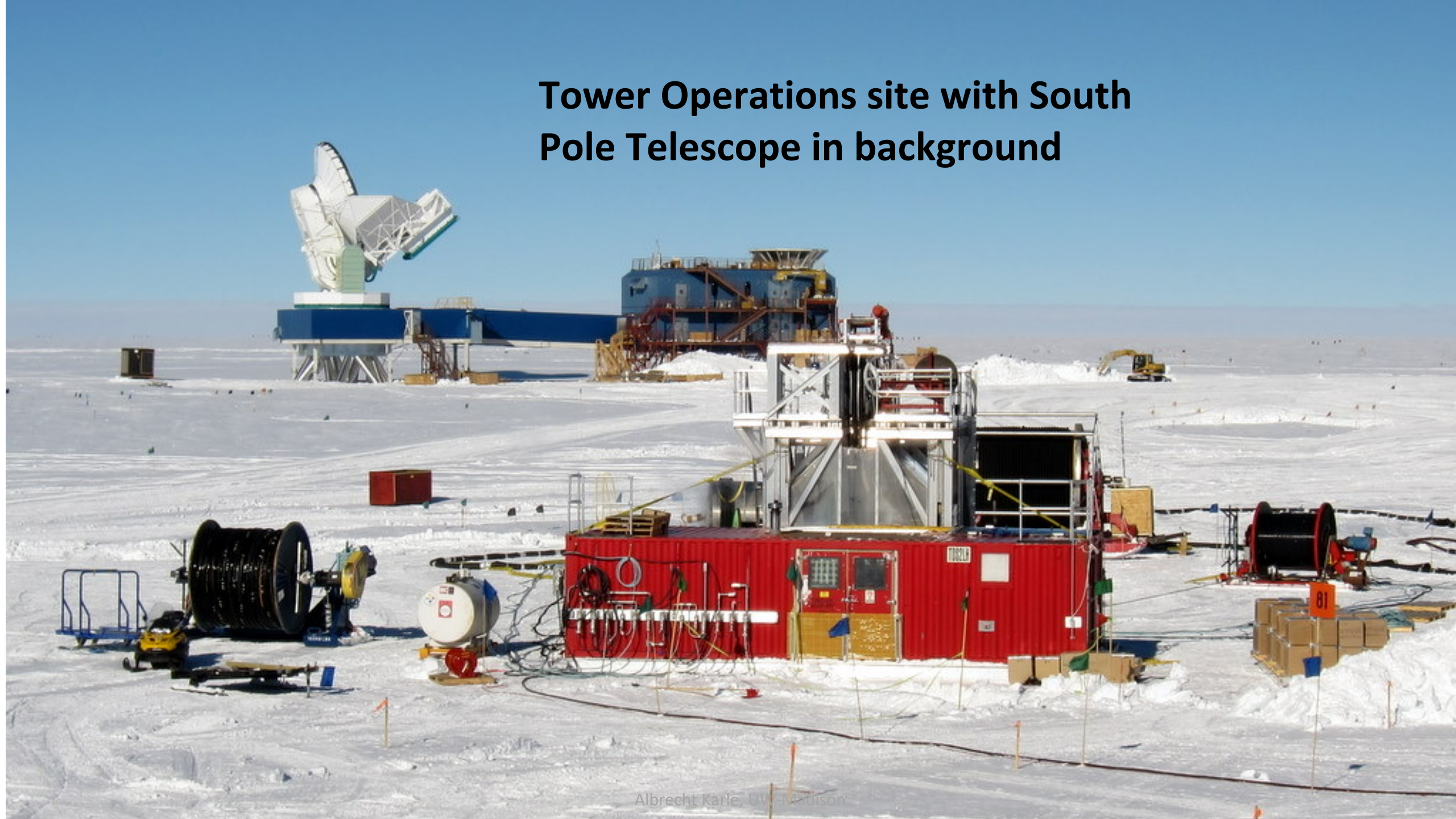
IceCube Laboratory (ICL)

IceCube Enhanced Hot Water Drill (EHWD)

Photo: Ben Tibbets
~2009



Tower Operations site with South Pole Telescope in background



... not always easy



Albrecht Karle, UW-Madison

5160 sensors are
deployed to a depth
between 1500 and
2500m.





The last sensor gets a signature.

S/N PA1.2688

RELI 4/13

Thomas Pus ff 12/2010

Ryot

John SVEN

LAS DON

Gary Hill

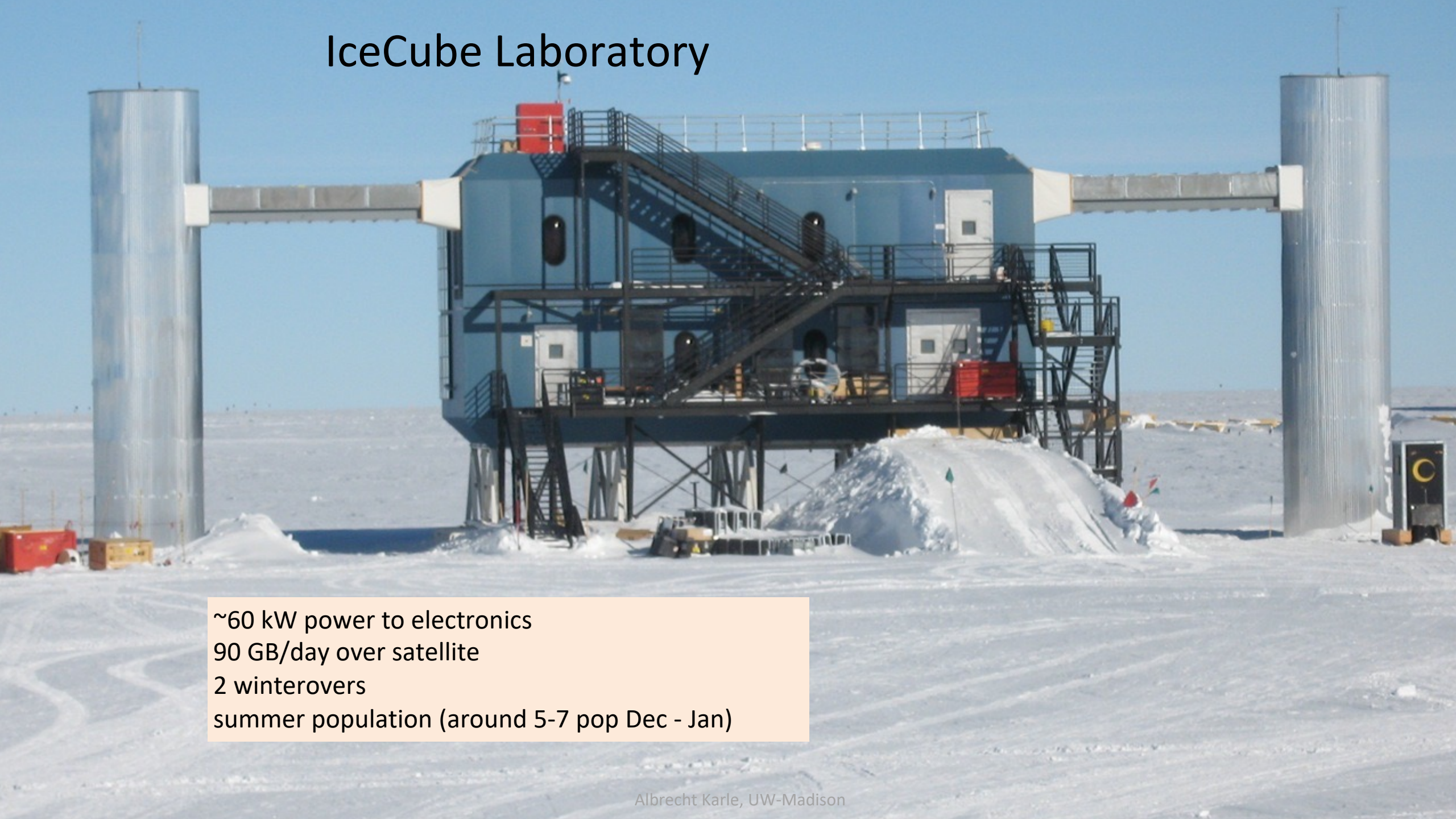
Albrecht Kala

Ben Stock

Jim Hagen



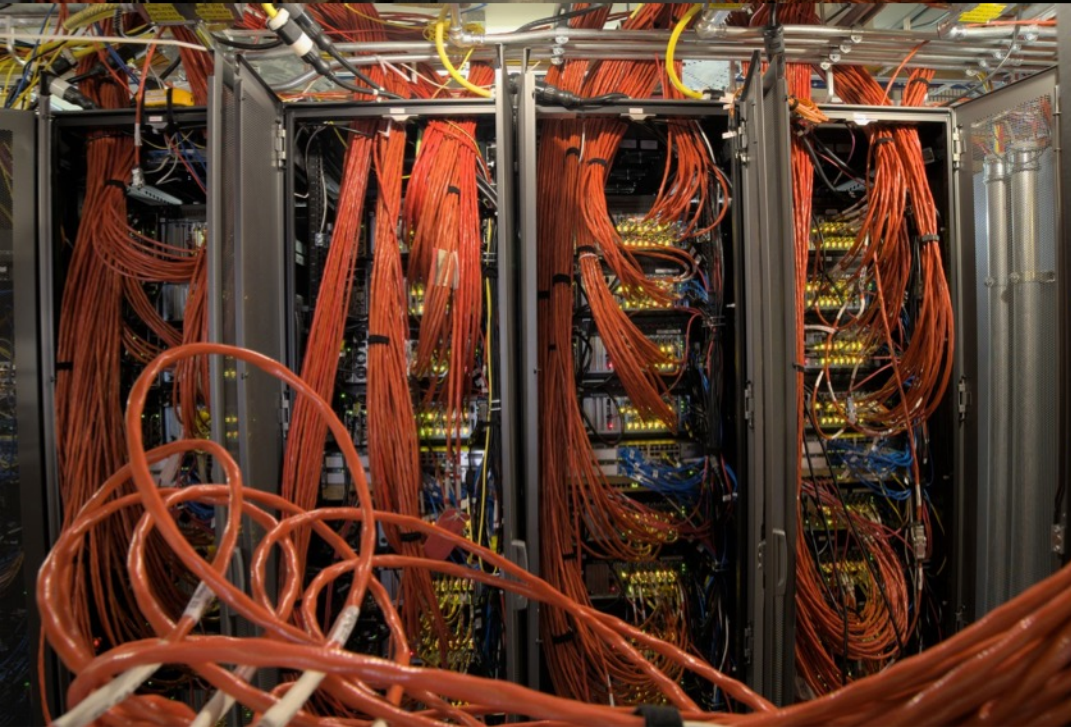
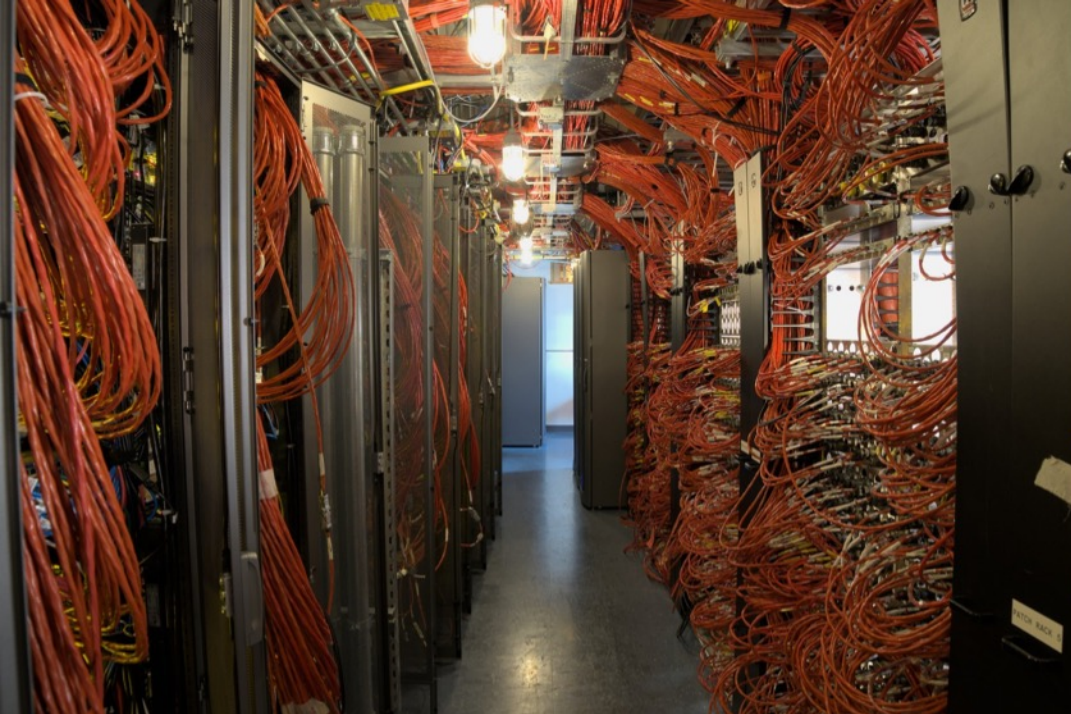
IceCube Laboratory



~60 kW power to electronics
90 GB/day over satellite
2 winterovers
summer population (around 5-7 pop Dec - Jan)



Albrecht Karle, UW-Madison



ICL server room

(IceCube Lab)



- ~200 machines
- Power the sensors and receive the data
- Send 10% of the 1TB/day of produced data via satellite
- Alert other experiments in case of interesting event detection (high energy, supernova)


From Detector,


to Data,

to Science ...

THE ICECUBE COLLABORATION

 **AUSTRALIA**
University of Adelaide

 **BELGIUM**
UCLouvain
Université libre de Bruxelles
Universiteit Gent
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

 **CANADA**
Queen's University
University of Alberta–Edmonton

 **DENMARK**
University of Copenhagen


 **GERMANY**
Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron
ECAP, Universität Erlangen–Nürnberg
Humboldt–Universität zu Berlin
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
RWTH Aachen University
Technische Universität Dortmund
Technische Universität München
Universität Mainz
Universität Wuppertal
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität
Münster


 **ITALY**
University of Padova

 **JAPAN**
Chiba University

 **NEW ZEALAND**
University of Canterbury

 **SOUTH KOREA**
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 **SWEDEN**
Stockholms universitet
Uppsala universitet

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 **TAIWAN**
Academia Sinica

 **UNITED KINGDOM**
University of Oxford

 **UNITED STATES**
Clark Atlanta University
Columbia University
Drexel University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
Loyola University Chicago
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mercer University

Michigan State University
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
South Dakota School of Mines
and Technology
Southern University
and A&M College
Stony Brook University
University of Alabama
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of Delaware
University of Kansas

University of Maryland
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Rochester
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Utah
University of Wisconsin–Madison
University of Wisconsin–River Falls
Yale University

Chiang Mai
University (Prof.
Waraporn) is
Associate Member
of IceCube since
2021.

FUNDING AGENCIES

Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FRS-FNRS)
Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen
(FWO-Vlaanderen)

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
German Research Foundation (DFG)
Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY)

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation
Swedish Polar Research Secretariat

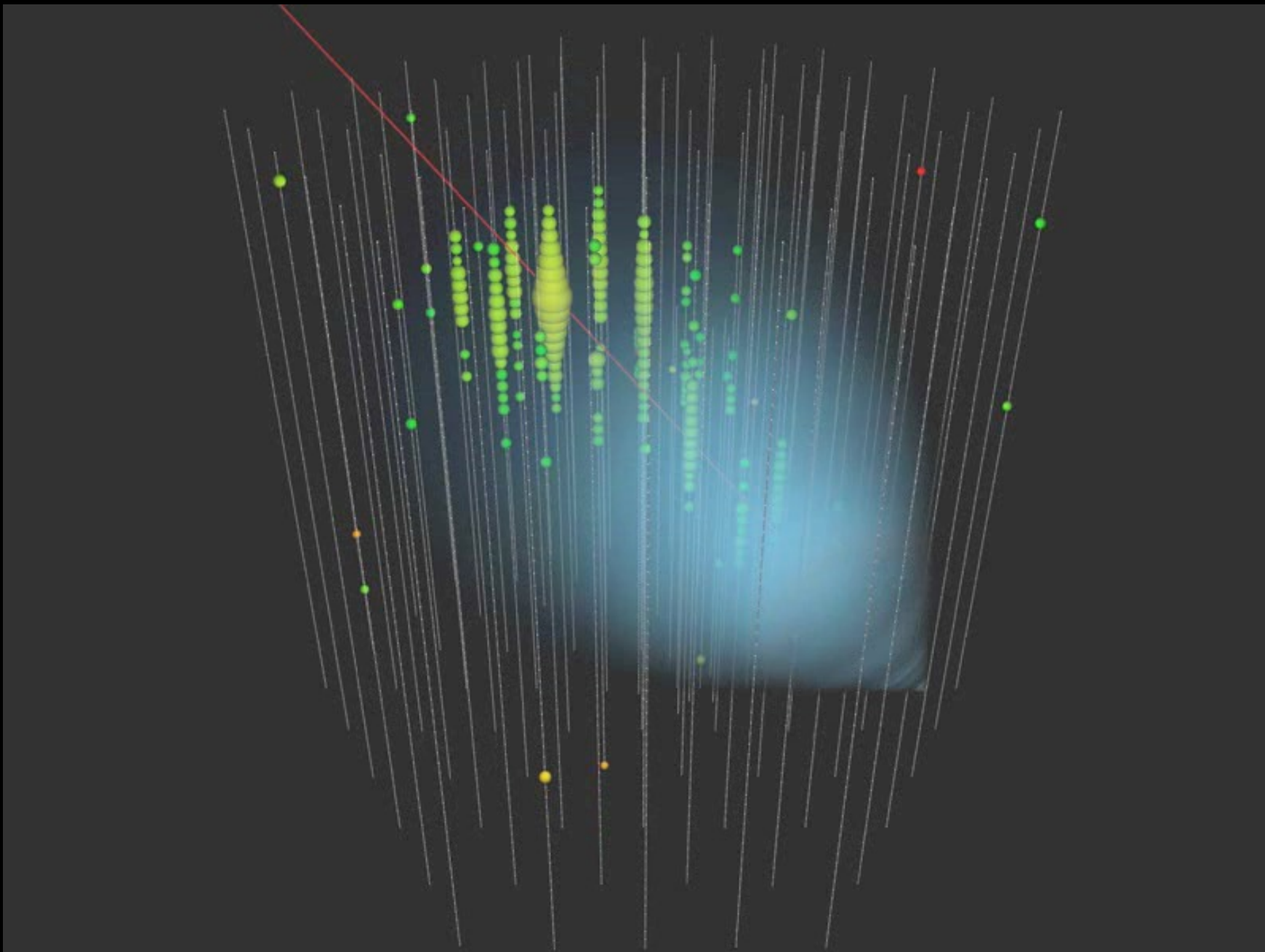
The Swedish Research Council (VR)
University of Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF)
US National Science Foundation (NSF)

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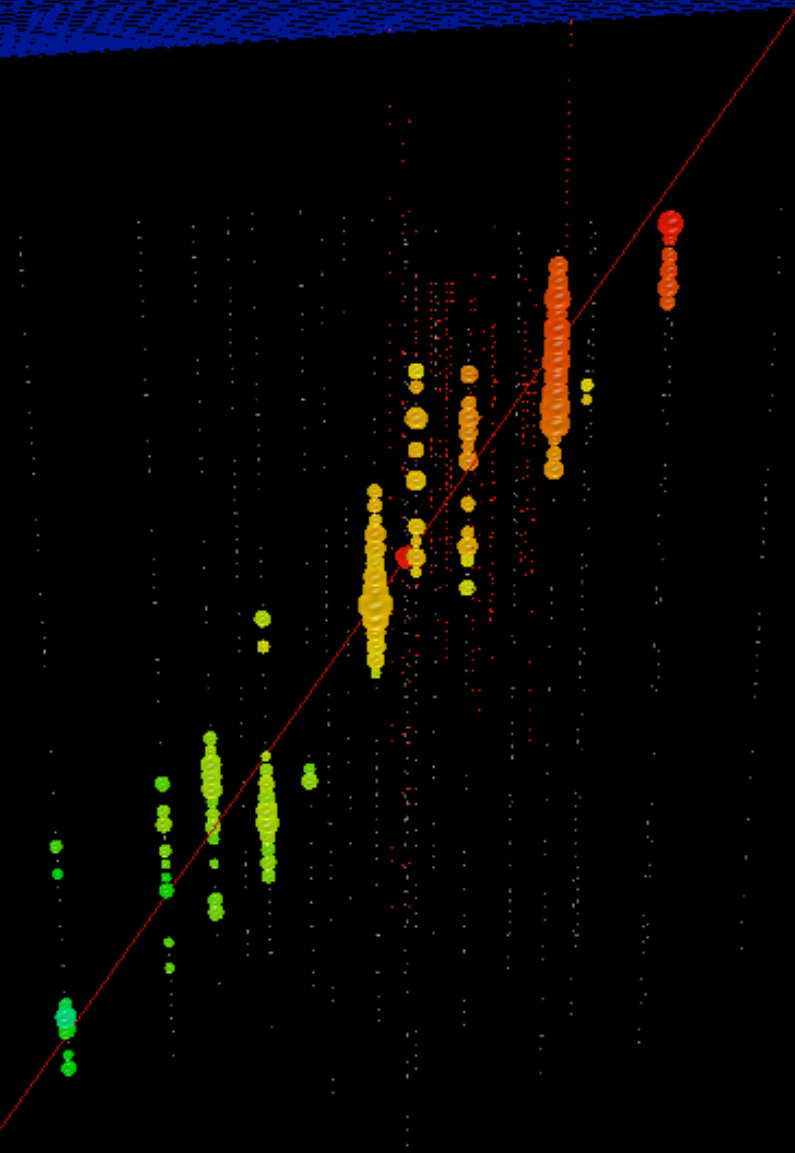
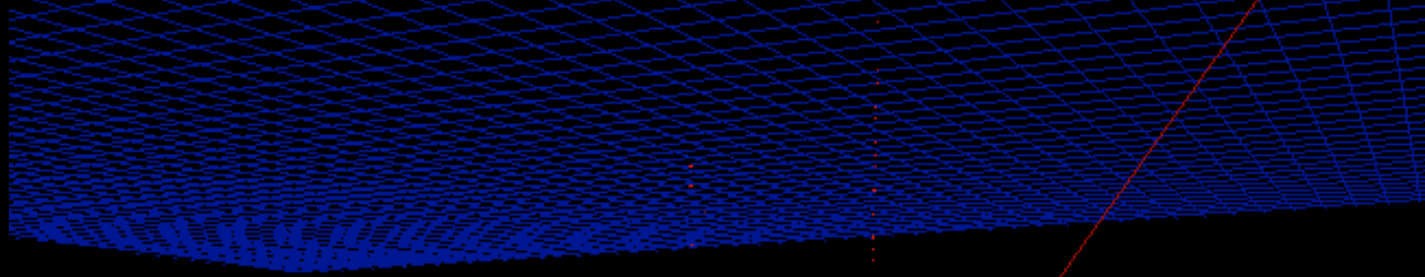
icecube.wisc.edu





muon track: color is time; number of photons is energy

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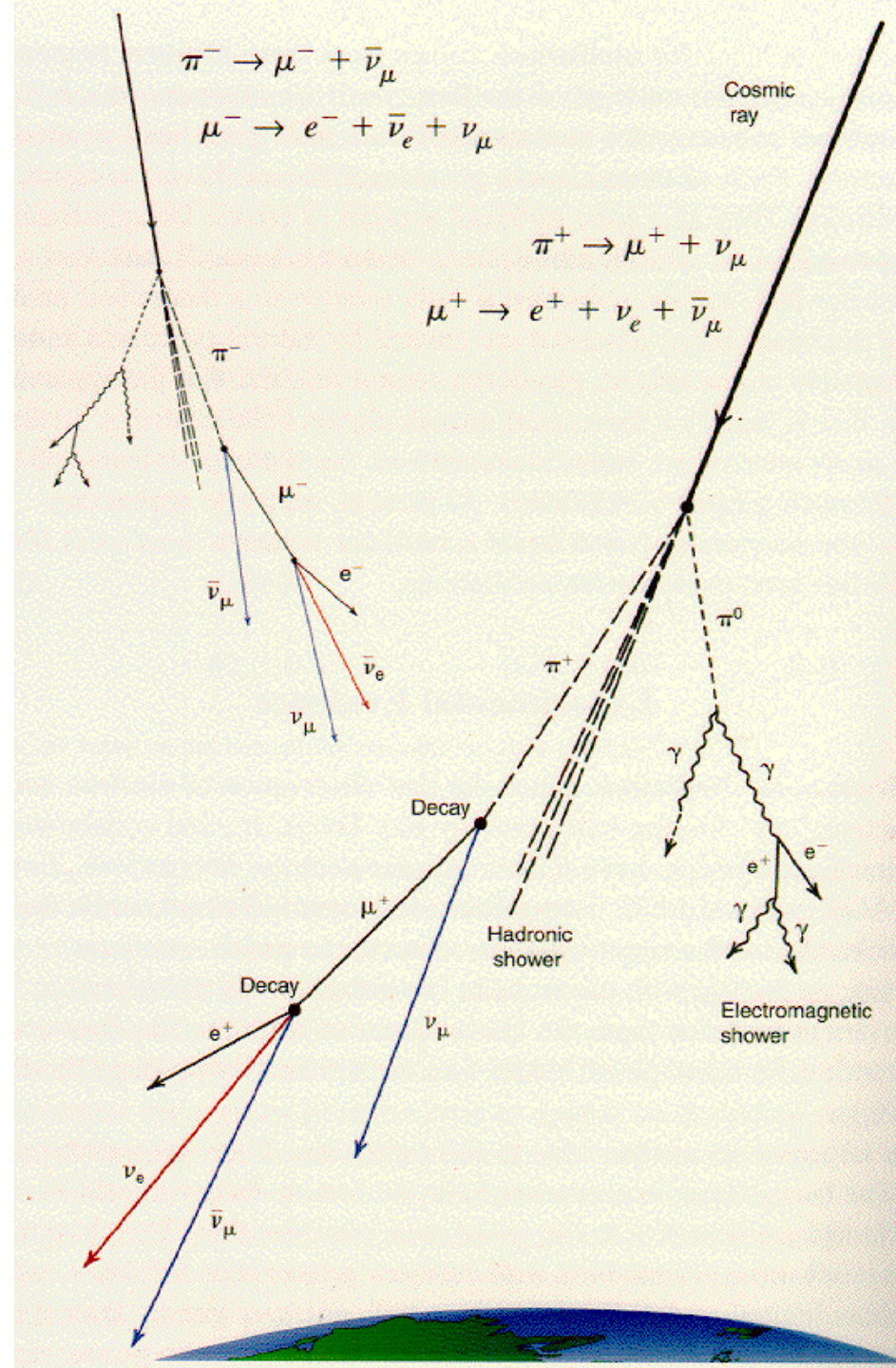
background:
downgoing cosmic
ray muons

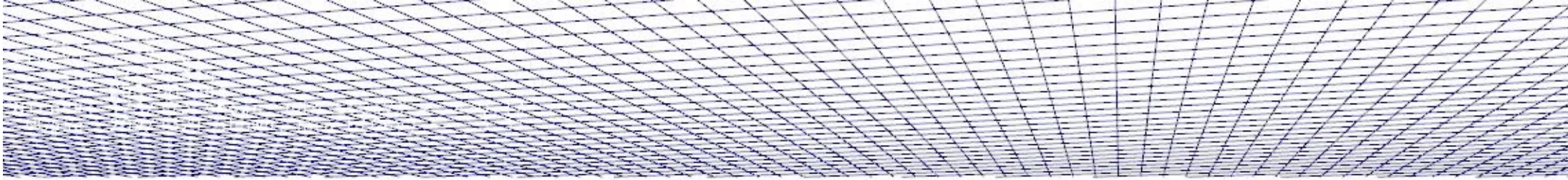
signal:
upgoing muons
initiated by
Neutrinos

Neutrinos and cosmic rays in the atmosphere

a constant rain of muons and neutrinos is produced by cosmic rays crashing into the atmosphere

IceCube measures 200 billion “events” (mostly muons)/year and 50,000 neutrinos/year generated by the rain of cosmic rays hitting the Earth.





Simulation: 1 ms of μ 's and noise

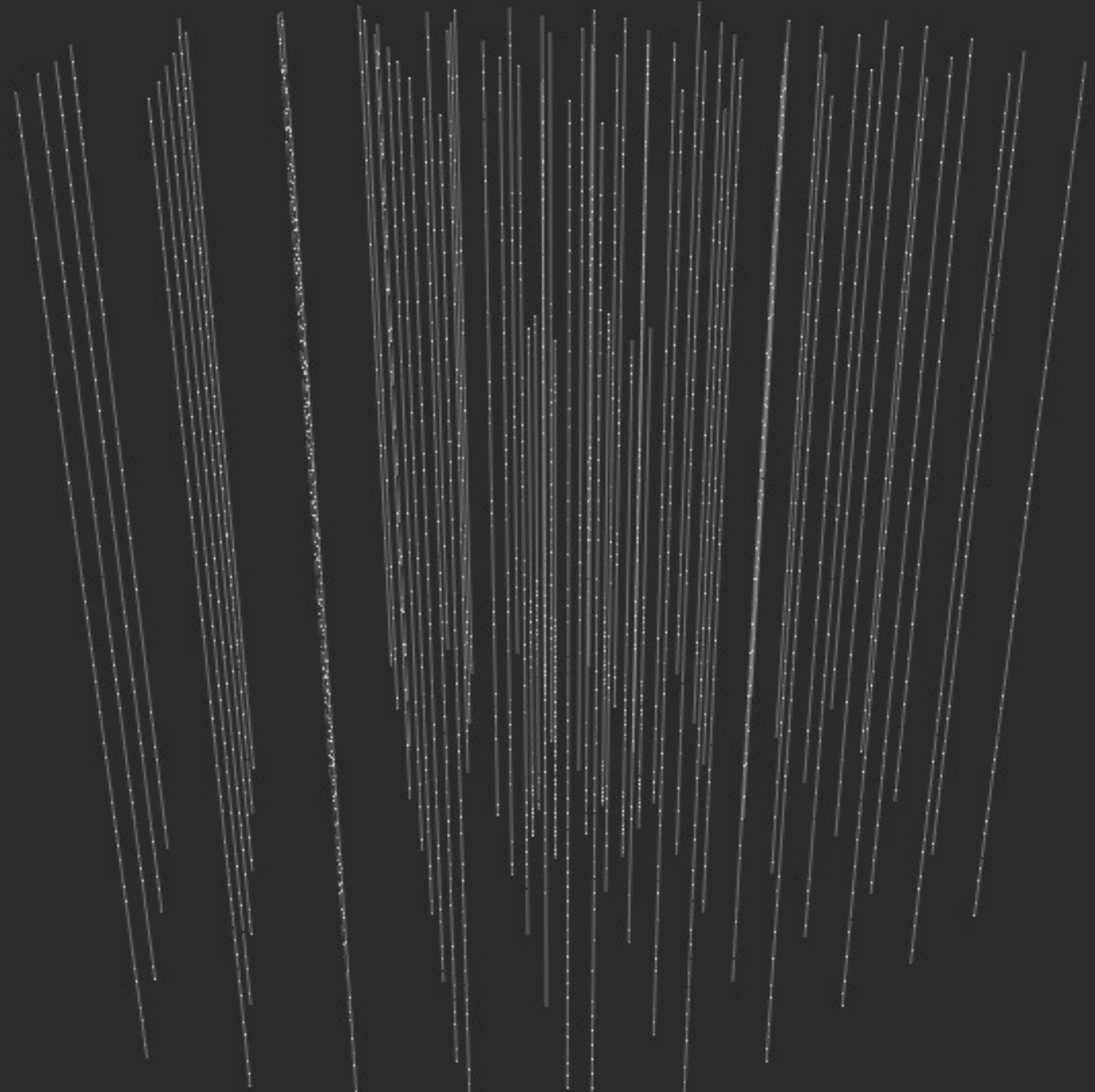


Trigger rate: 3000 particles per second (muons)
Shown are also muons that will not form a trigger
noise rate: only 300 photoelectrons/s (at -30°C)

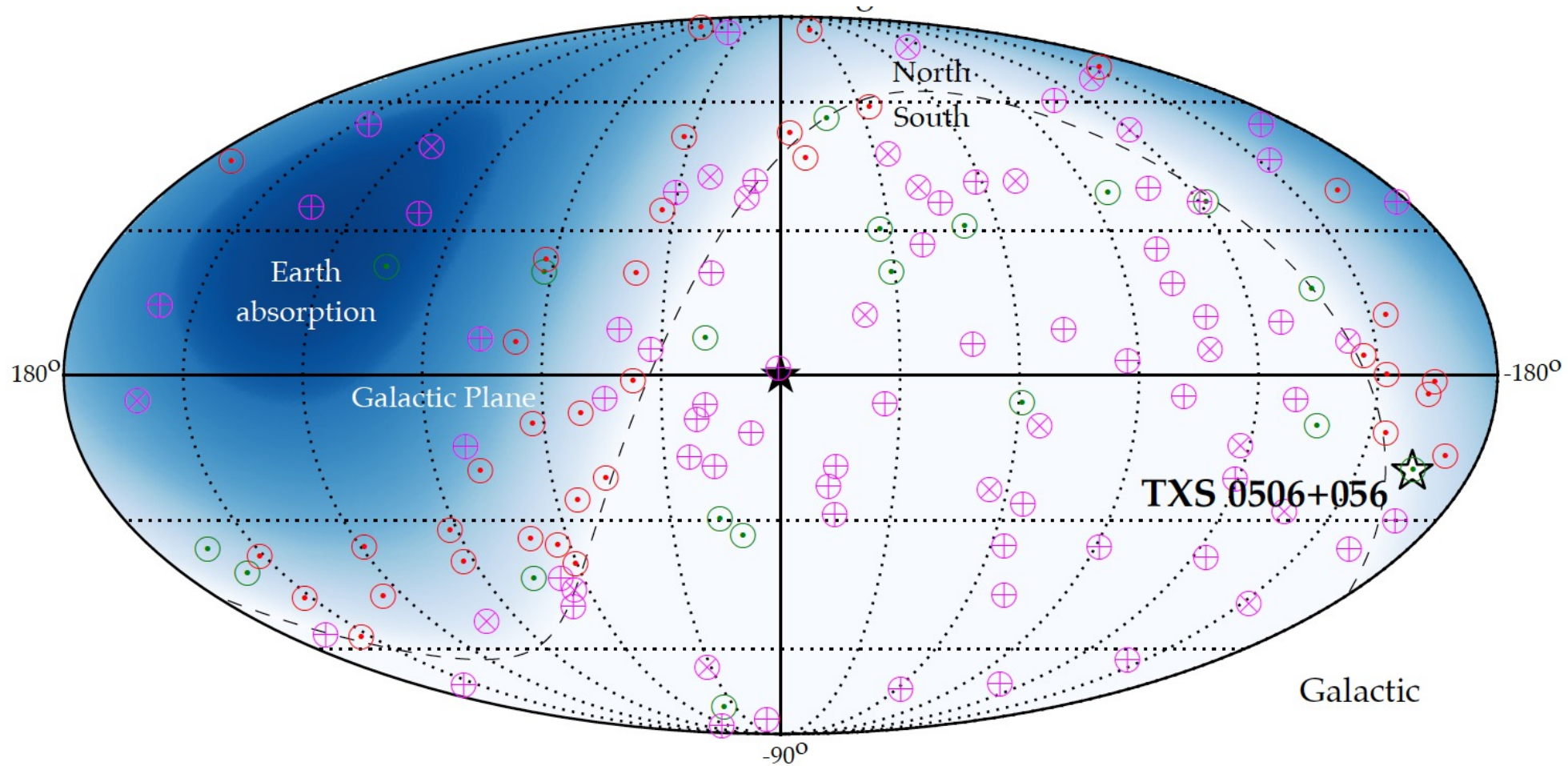
“Dr. Strangepork”

Deposited energy: 71 TeV
= 7.1×10^{13} eV

Neutrino interaction inside the detector.



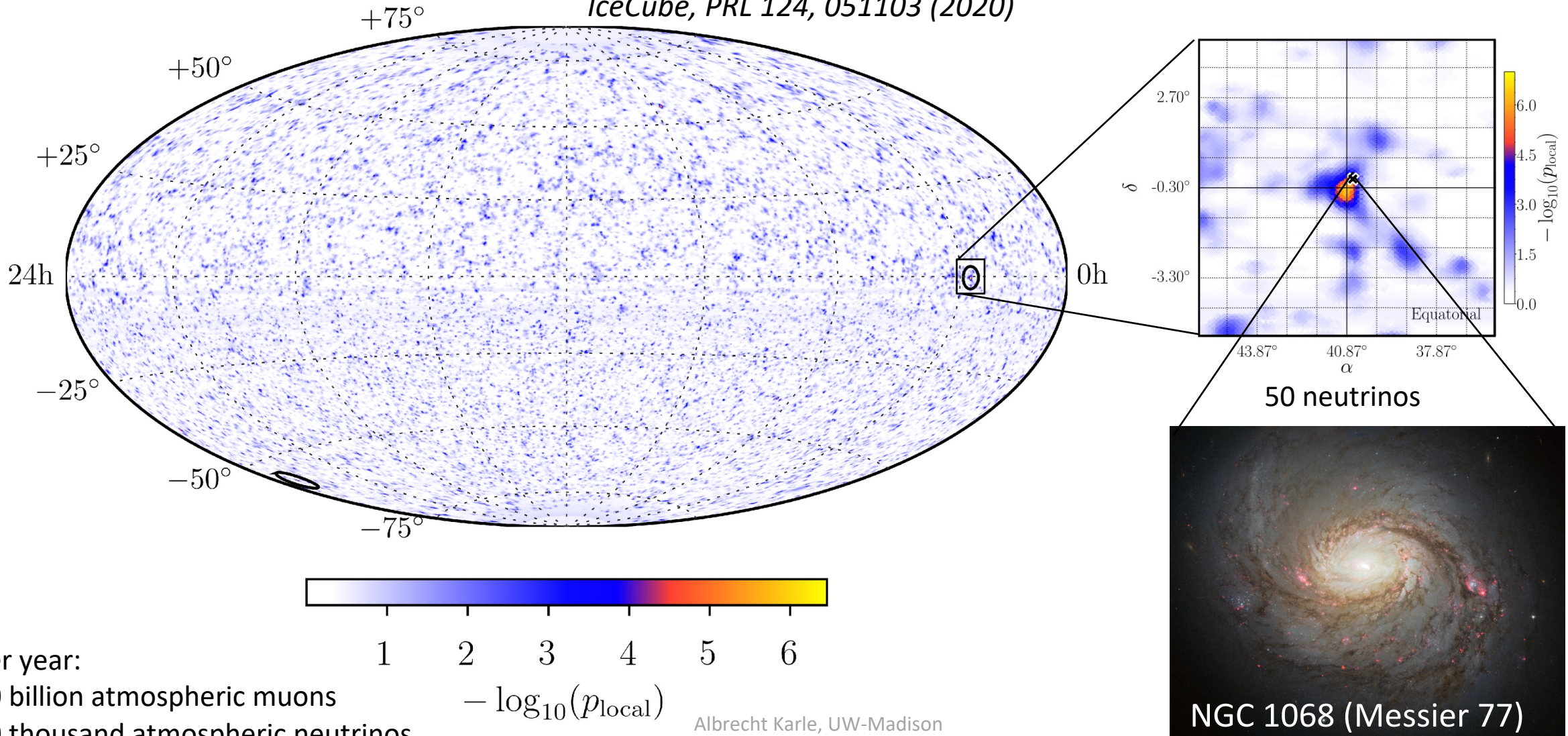
10 years of IceCube: The high energy neutrino sky



High energy events only (> 100 TeV)

2020 skymap: Most significant position on sky consistent with the location of a nearby galaxy (2.9σ)

IceCube, PRL 124, 051103 (2020)



Two years later: With better calibration and a little more statistics:

Science Magazine — Nov. 4, 2022

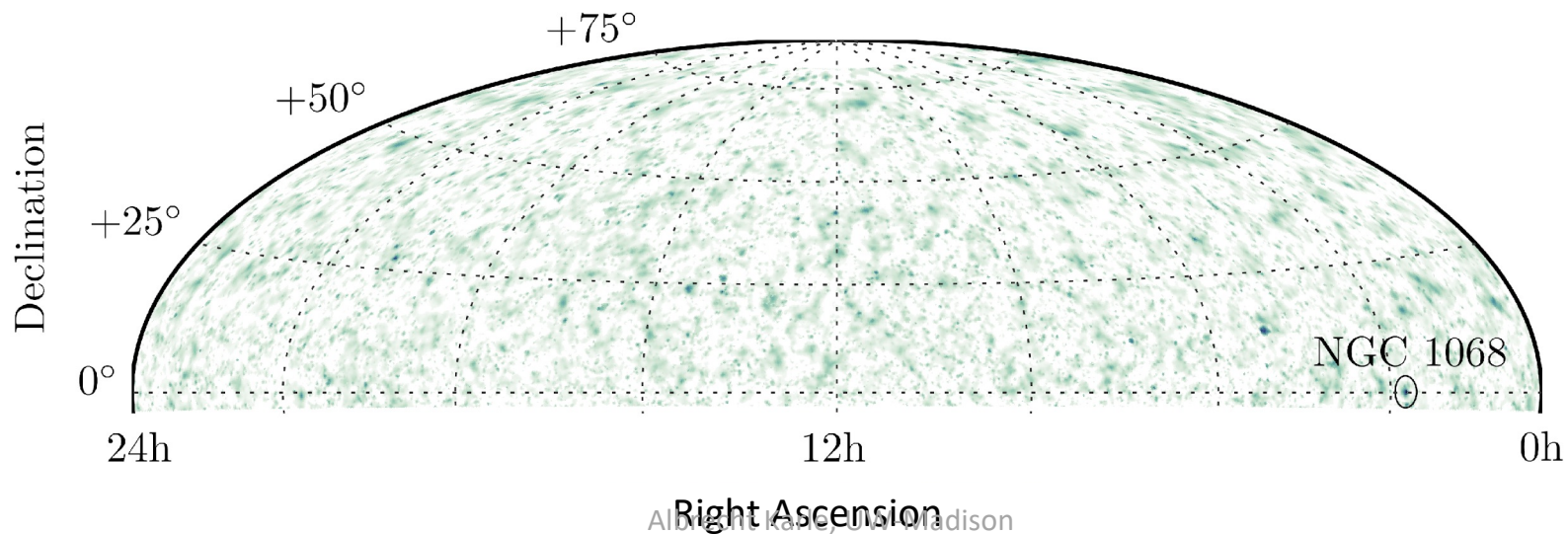
RESEARCH

RESEARCH ARTICLE

NEUTRINO ASTROPHYSICS

Evidence for neutrino emission from the nearby active galaxy NGC 1068

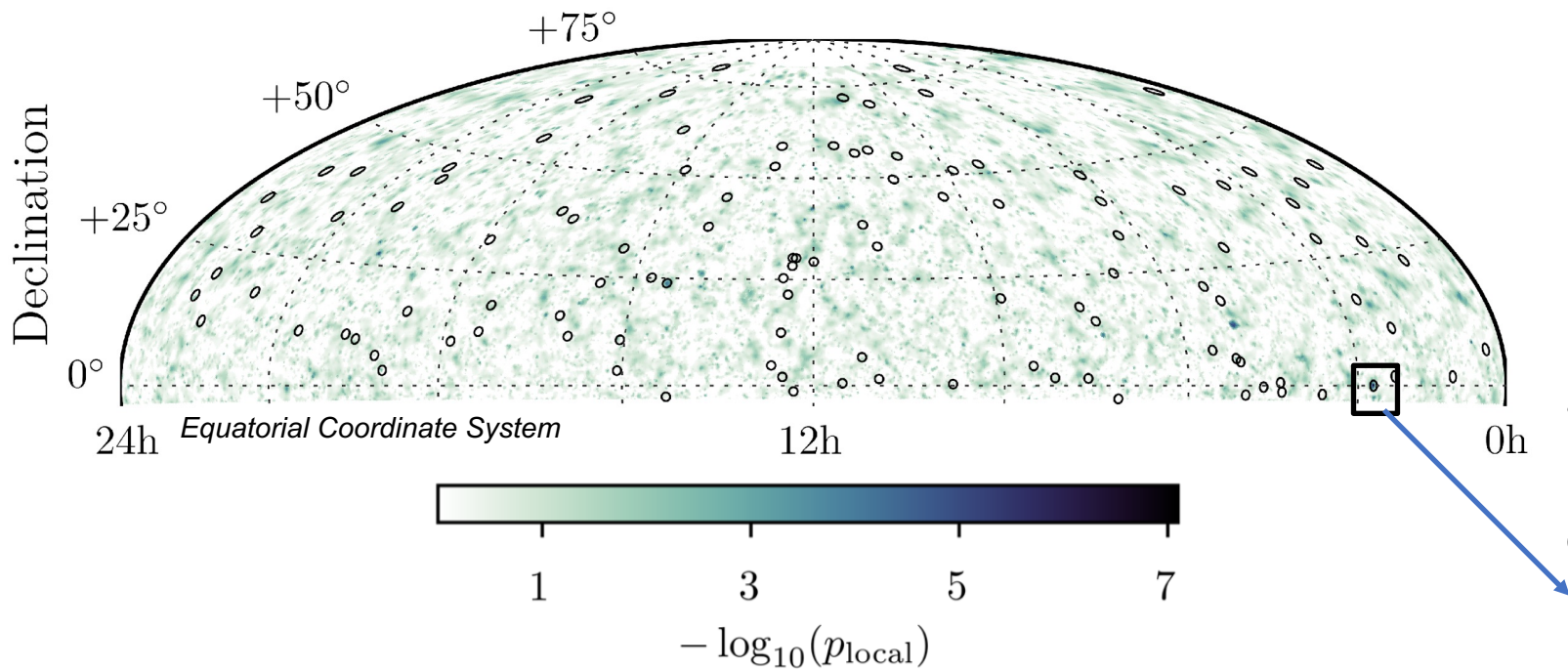
IceCube Collaboration*†



Evidence for neutrino emission from the nearby active galaxy NGC 1068 (M 77)

Science — Nov. 4, 2022

Analysis with improved calibrations



At the NGC 1068 location:

Astrophysical neutrino events = 79 $^{+22}_{-20}$

Out of a total of 1 trillion events (10^{12}).

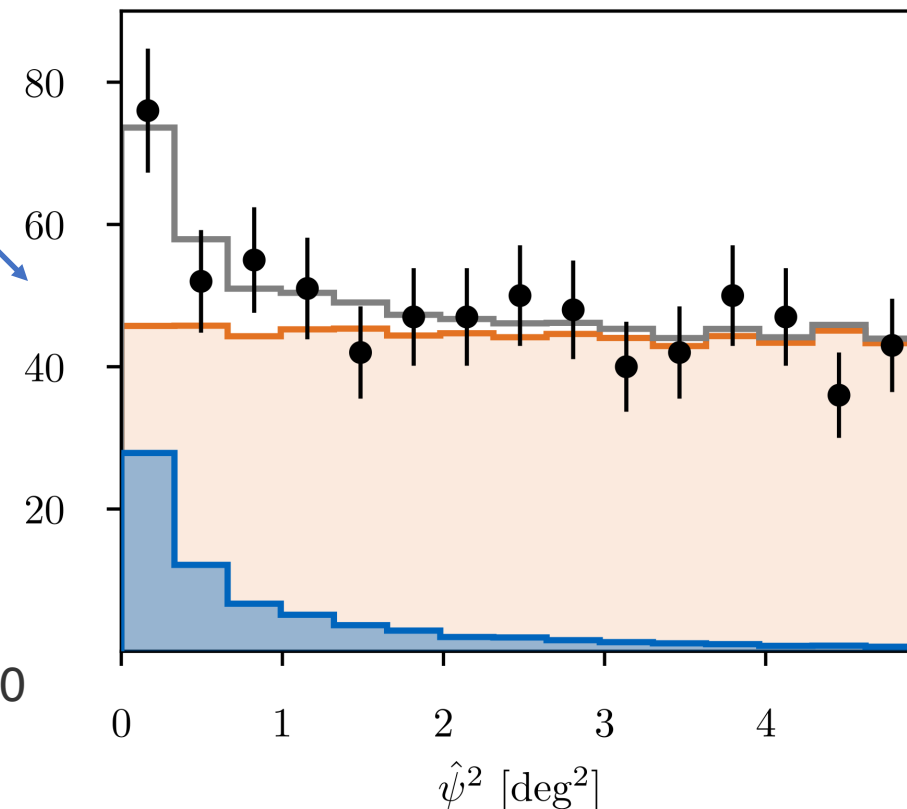
Spectral index = 3.2 ± 0.2

... significance **4.2 σ**

p-value: 1:100,000
(what is this?)

Albrecht Karle, UW-Madison

Signal Total
Background Data



What is NGC 1068?

A galaxy with a massive black hole in the center.

Distance: 50 million light years

Number of stars: of order 100 billion

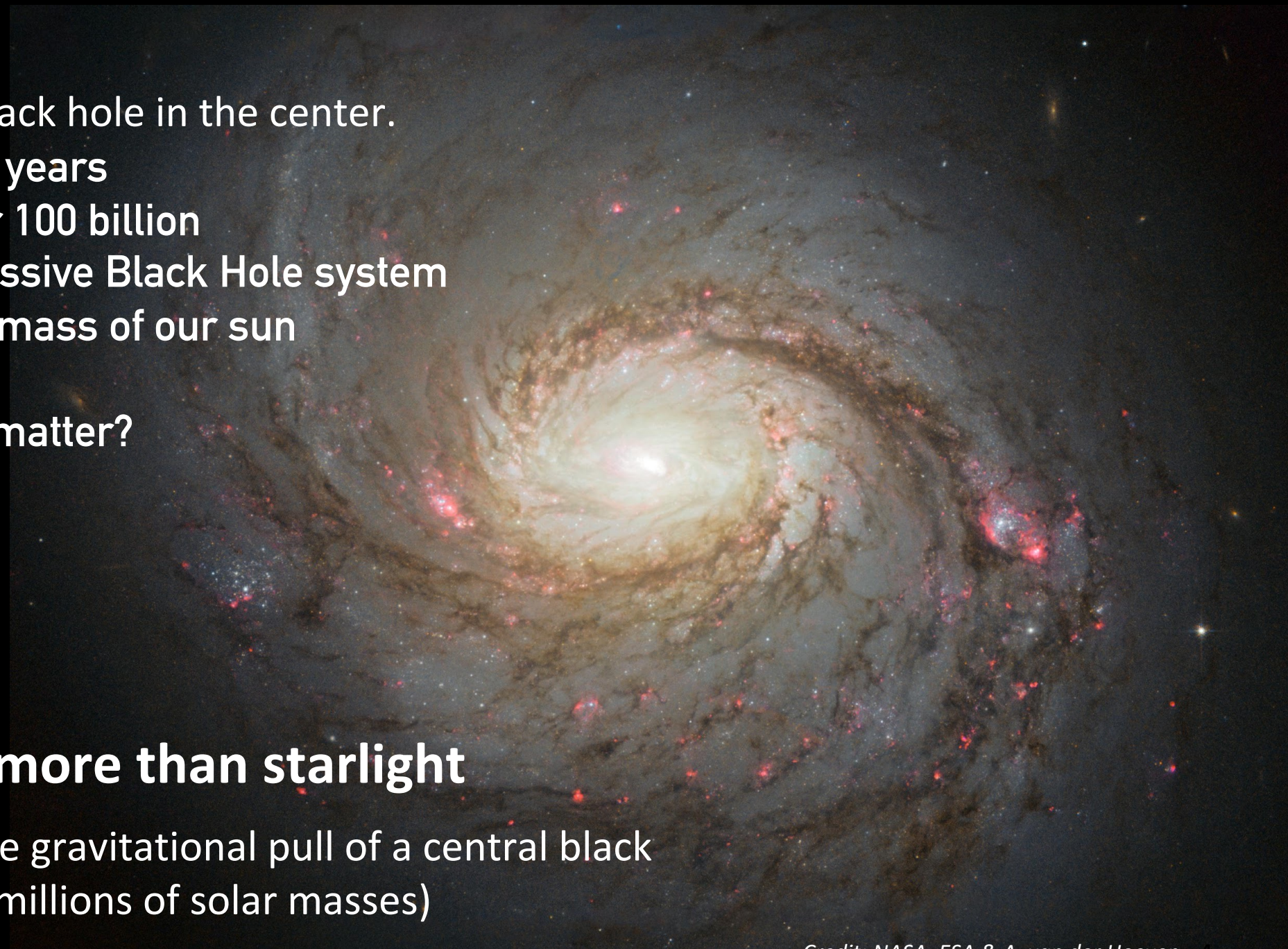
In the center: A super massive Black Hole system

~20 million times the mass of our sun

Why does the black hole matter?

Galaxies: much more than starlight

Emission powered by a the gravitational pull of a central black hole (tens of millions of solar masses)



NGC 1068



(insert: artist conception)

NGC 1068: The black hole region is obscured by dust.

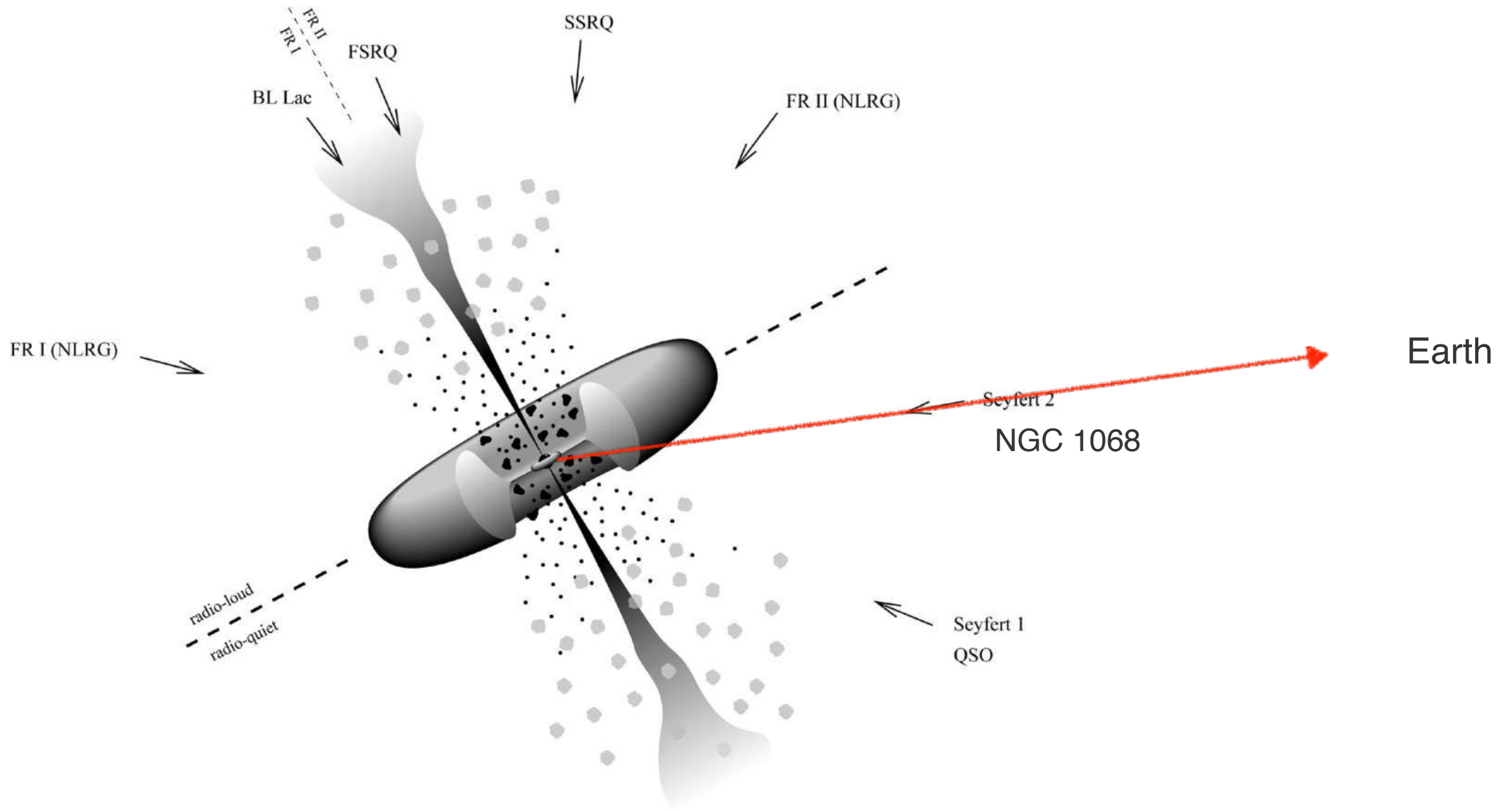
Optical image



Infrared image confirms dust cloud surrounding black hole
(Neutrinos don't care about dust.)



Rosas et al., [Nature](#), volume 602, pages, 403–407 (2022)



How are neutrinos produced in non-jetted AGNs?

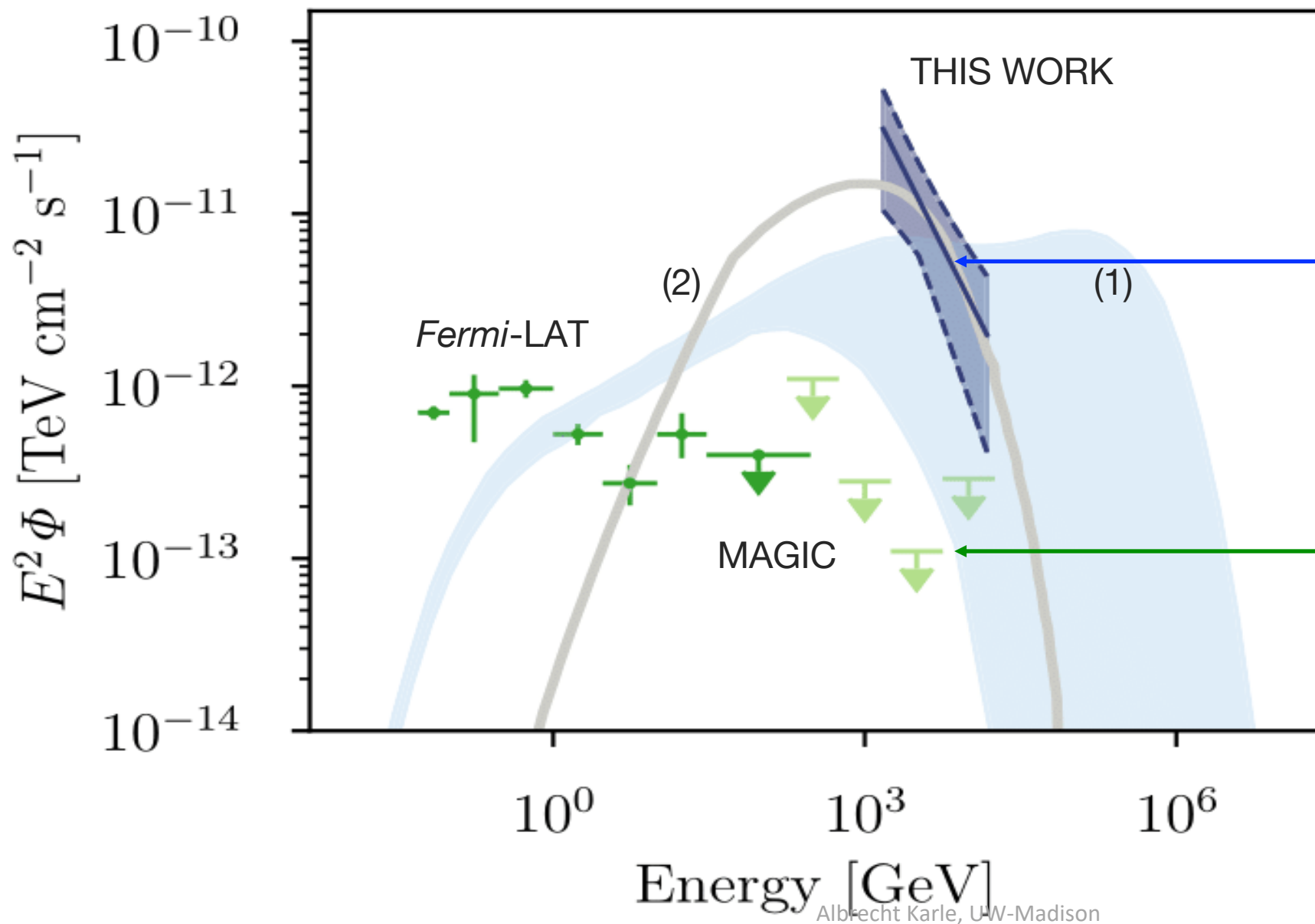
We conclude that active galactic nuclei are powerful sources for accelerating particles to cosmic ray energies. The bulk of metagalactic cosmic rays is likely to originate, in particular, in the Virgo supercluster. NGC 4151 and NGC 1068 are likely to be "local" metagalactic cosmic rays, including the ultra-high energy ($E \gtrsim 10^{19}$ eV) and the density of photons in the immediate vicinity may be too high (Blumenthal, 1970) to permit the acceleration of protons beyond $\sim 10^{14}$ eV, (except by beaming processes). The highest energy protons hence are accelerated somewhat farther out, or else by beaming (Lovelace, 1976). Gamma rays from the ergosphere of a black hole are degraded at energies above ~ 1 MeV, and from a spinar, above ~ 1 GeV. Neutrinos are not thus affected and would provide information on very high energy particles in active galactic nuclei.

R. Silberberg and M. M. Shapiro

Laboratory for Cosmic Ray Physics
Naval Research Laboratory
Washington, D.C. 20375

1982

Gamma Rays (photons) and Neutrinos



We know that neutrinos and gamma rays are produced together

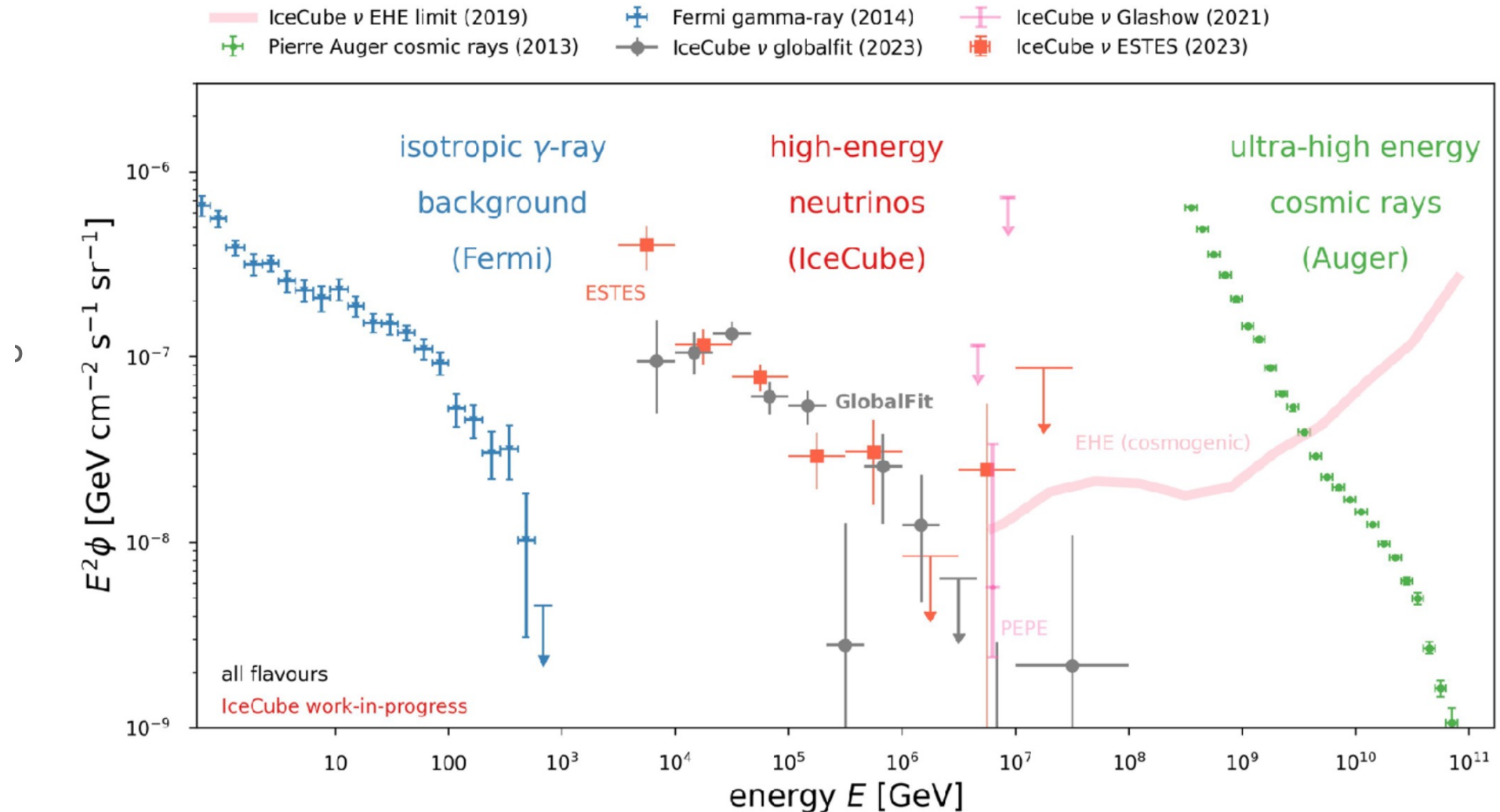
Neutrinos are coming out

Gamma rays are missing - and it is not a surprise.

(1) Y. Inoue et al., ApJL'20

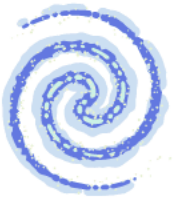
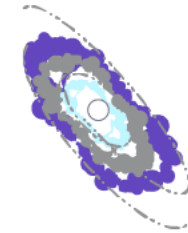
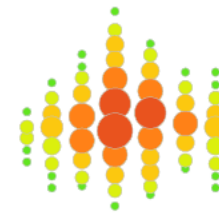
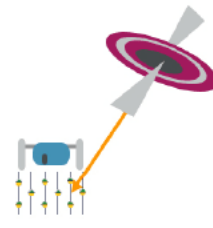
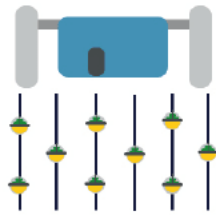
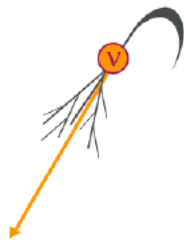
(2) K. Murase et al., PRL'20

Neutrinos and cosmic rays over the entire sky: they carry similar total energy in the Universe



IceCube is pushing towards lower energies, where systematics and backgrounds become increasingly important. Interpretation and significance of low-energy “tension” between ESTES and “GlobalFit” is unclear.

A History of Neutrino Astronomy in Antarctica



1988

Telescope in the Ice Envisioned

2000

AMANDA Completed

2001

Atmospheric Neutrinos Detected

2011

IceCube Completed

2013

Astrophysical Neutrinos Discovered

2018

First Source TXS 0506+056 Identified

2021

Glashow Resonance Neutrino Identified

2022

Second Source NGC 1068 Identified

2023

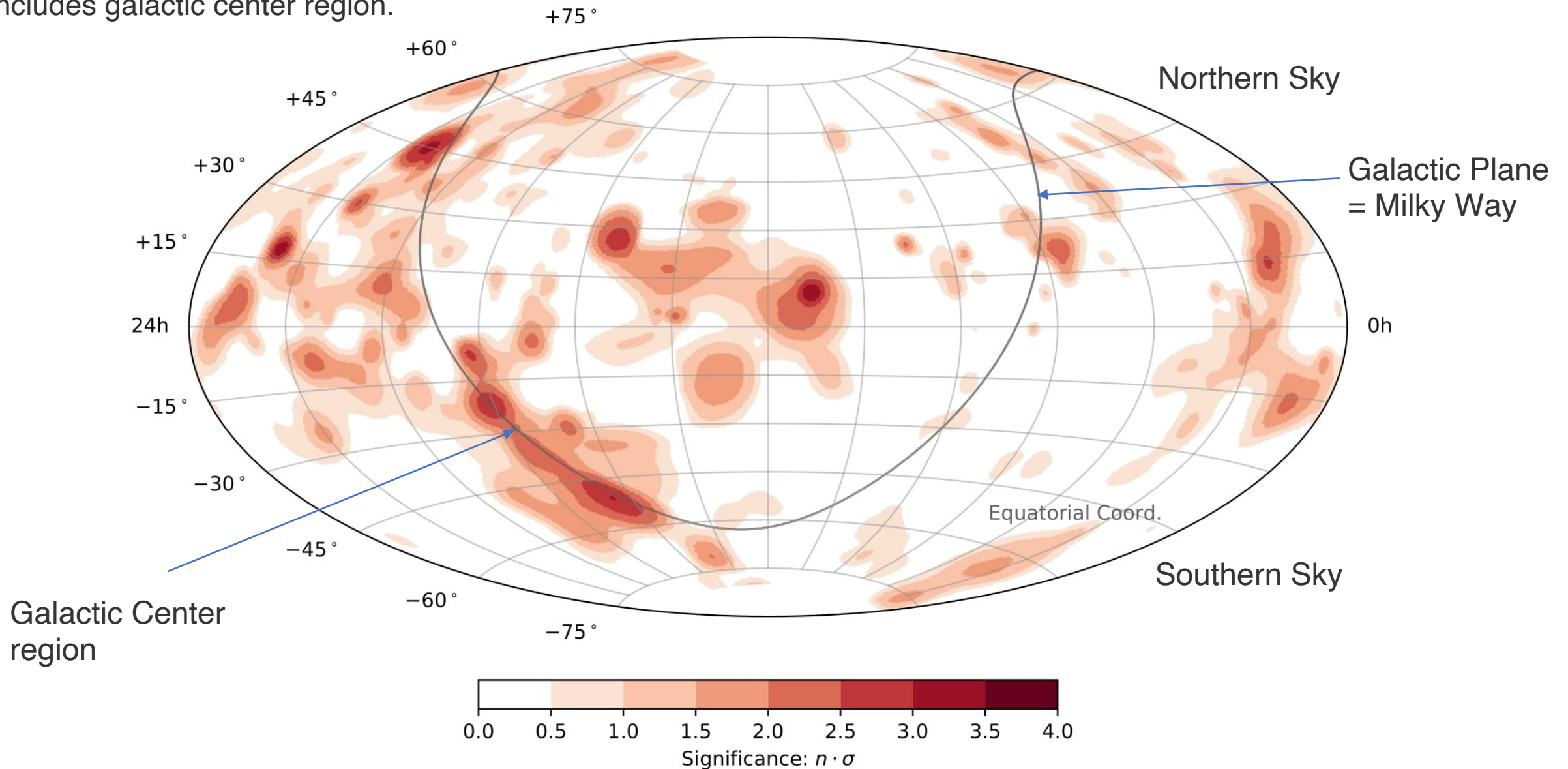
Third Source Milky Way Identified

Neutrinos from the Milky Way



IceCube Skymap of neutrinos optimized for the search for extended sources.

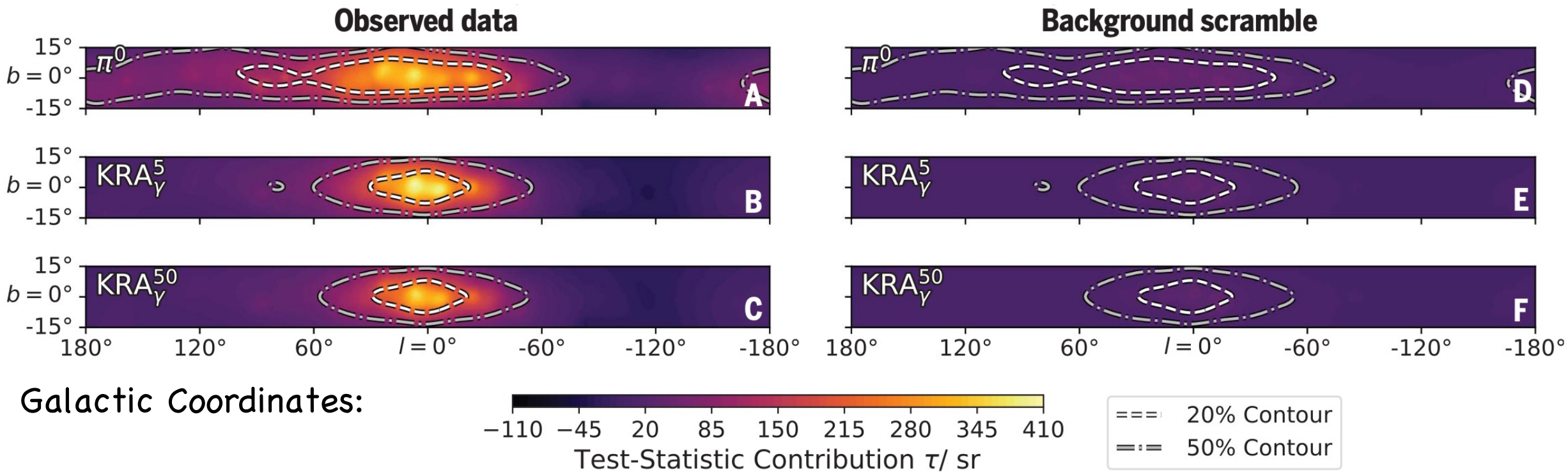
Features: Low background, high sensitivity in the Southern hemisphere, includes galactic center region.

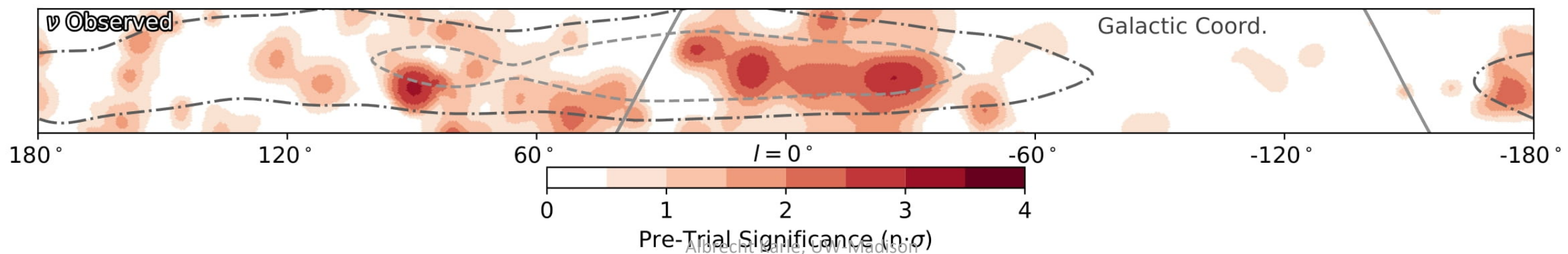
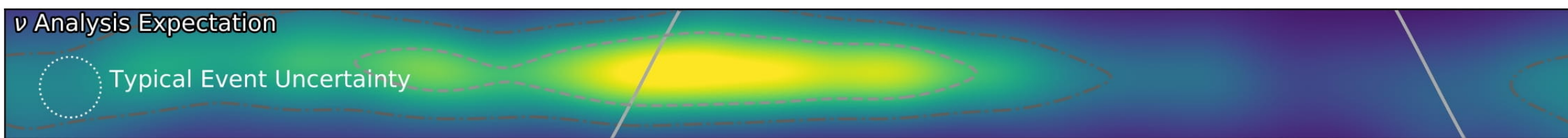
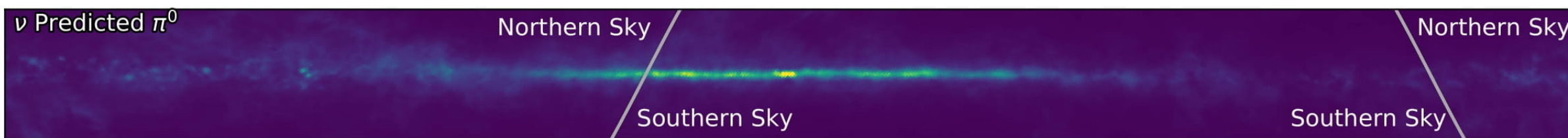
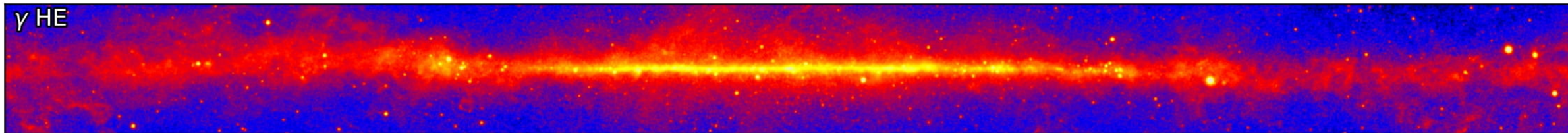
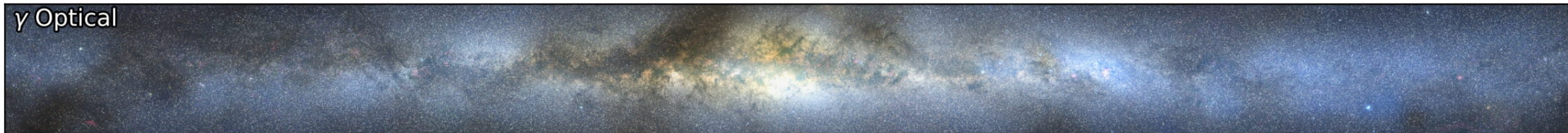


Neutrinos from the Milky Way

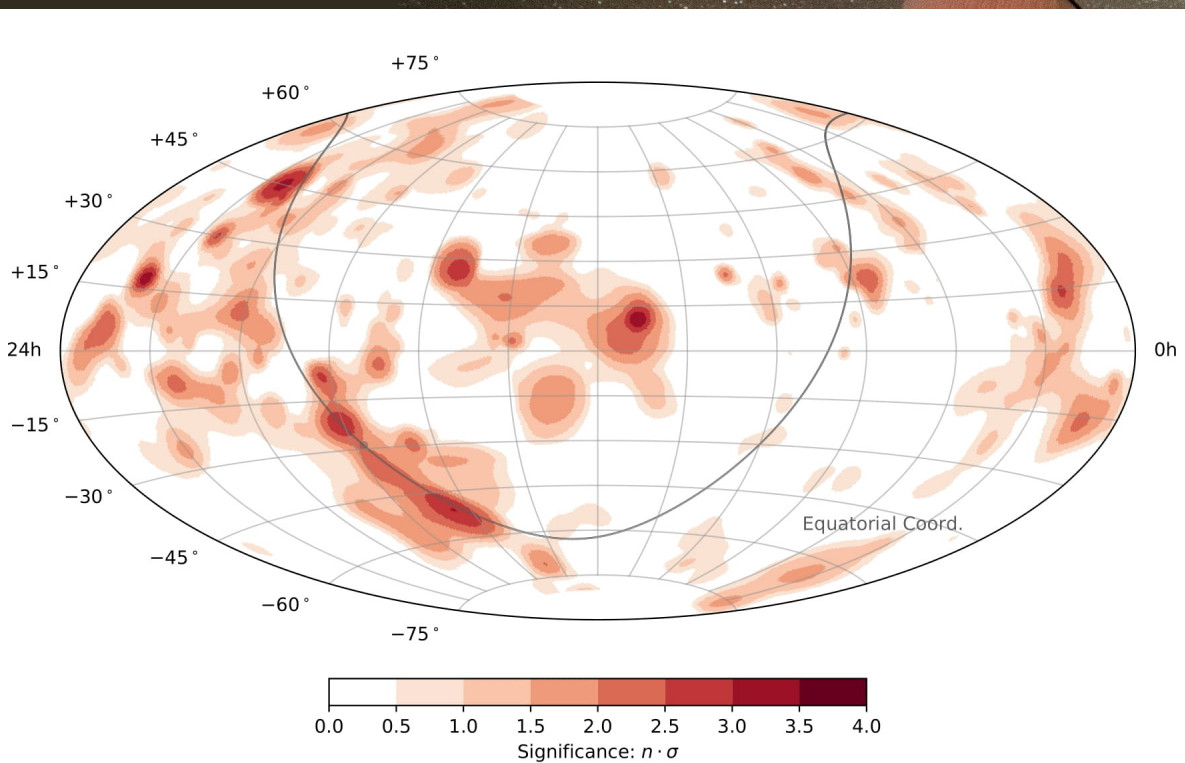
Significant observation: 4.3 sigma

Testing different Models for neutrino emission.

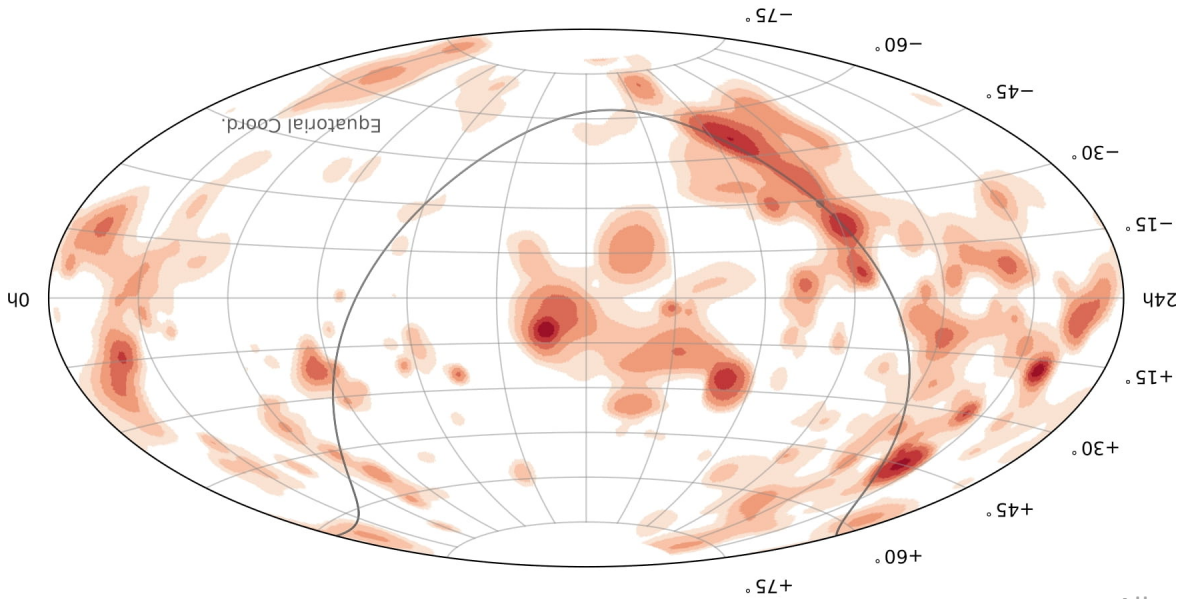
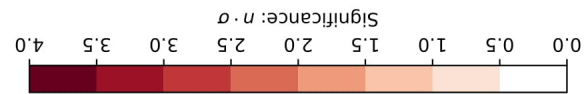




Neutrinos from the Milky Way



Neutrinos from the Milky Way



Future Plans ...

The IceCube-Upgrade

In progress

Scope:

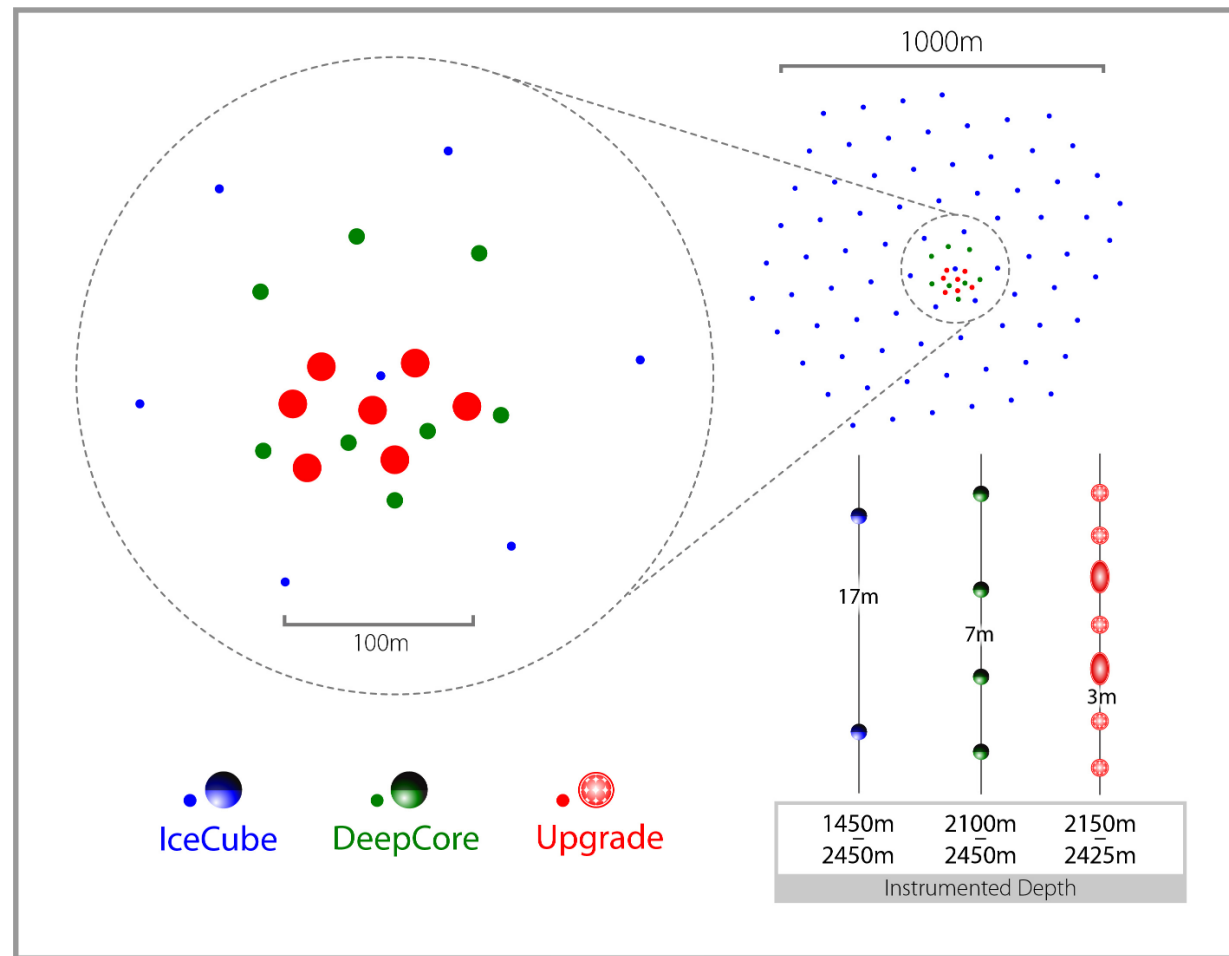
Add 7 new strings, 700 sensors, densely packed in the center of IceCube.

Instrumented volume: 2 Mt

Energy threshold: ~ 1 GeV

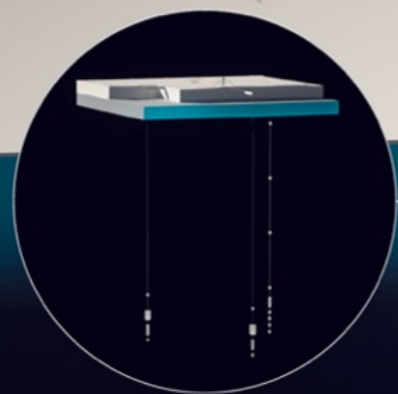
Science goals:

- Fundamental neutrino properties
- Improved calibration
- R&D, new instruments.

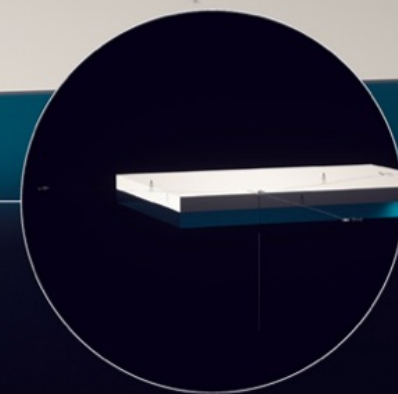


Installation: 2025/26 South Pole season.

The big vision: IceCube-Gen2



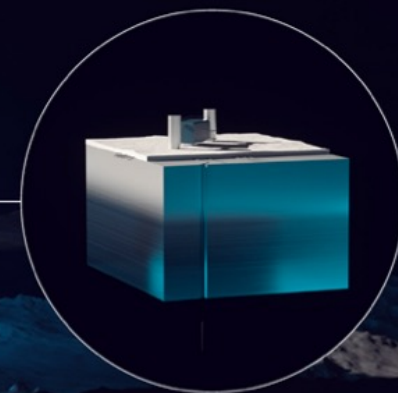
Radio Array | Station



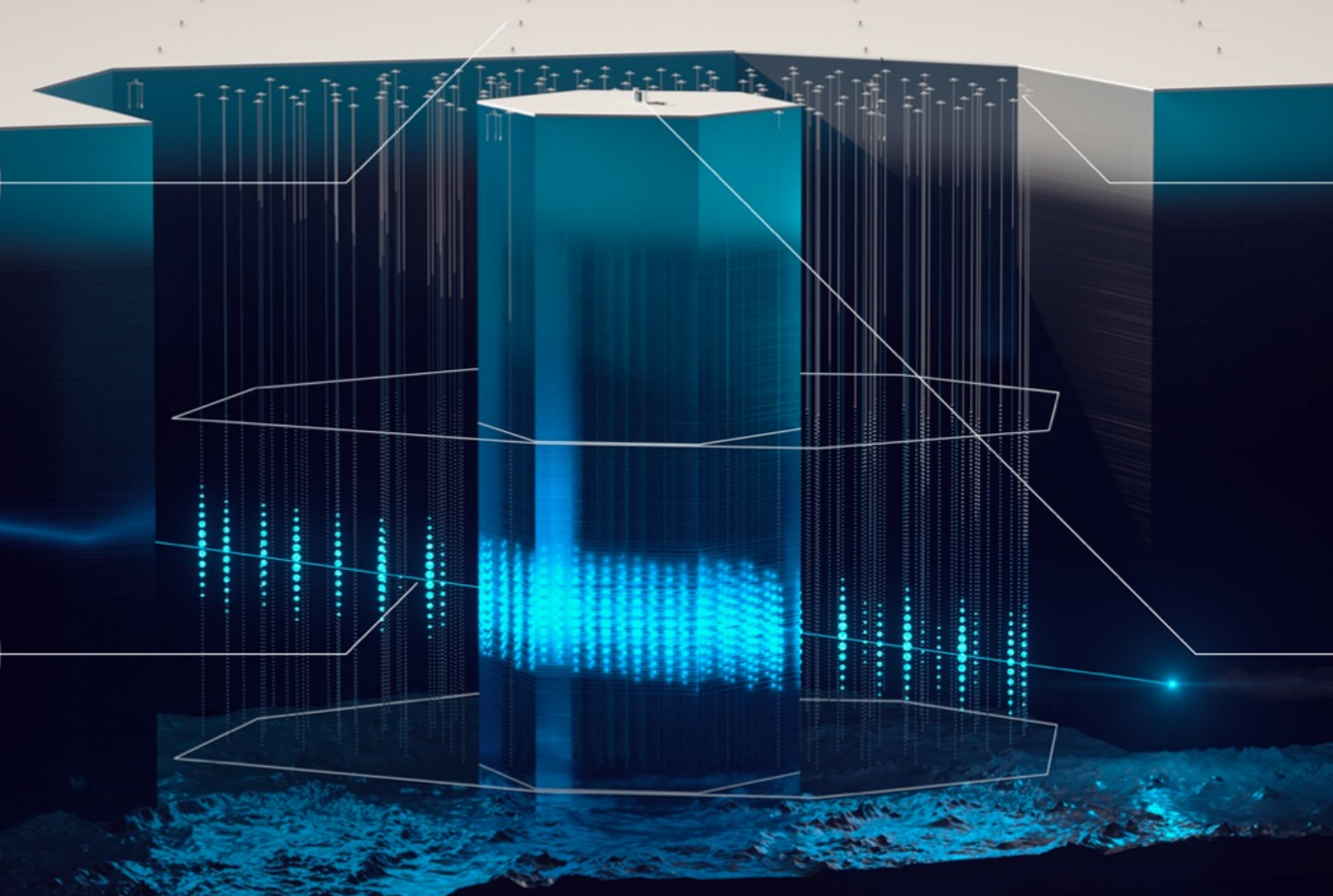
Surface Array | Station



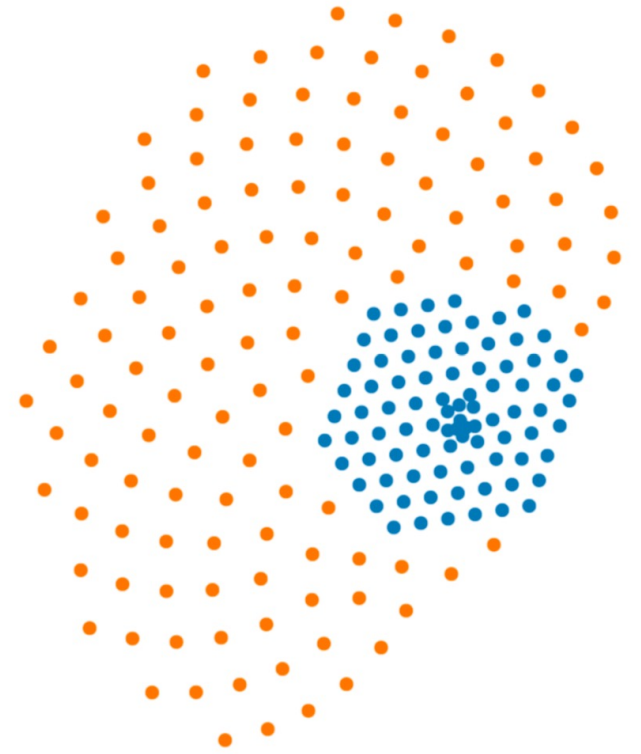
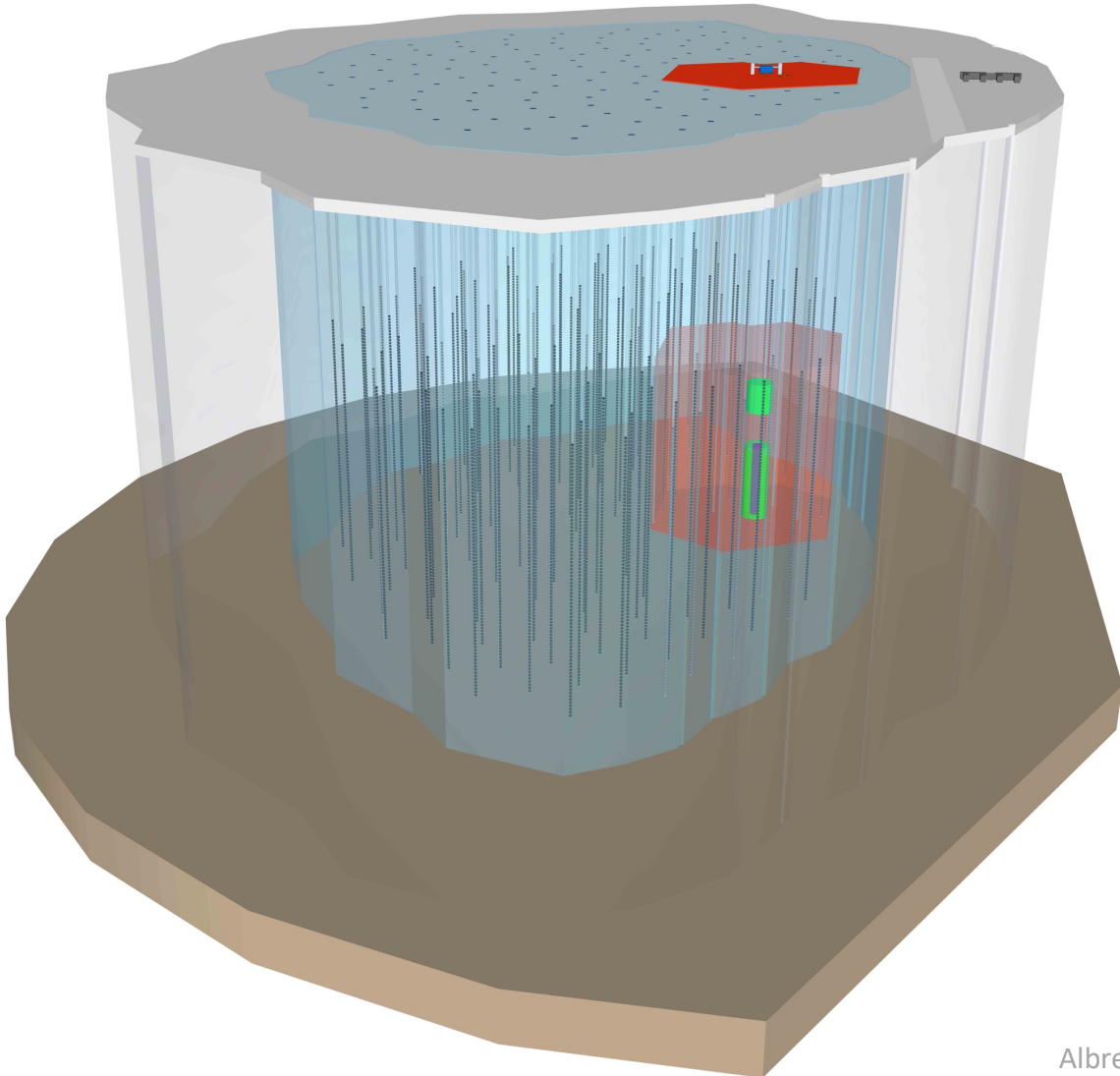
Optical Array | Sensor



IceCube | Laboratory



IceCube-Gen2: the optical array



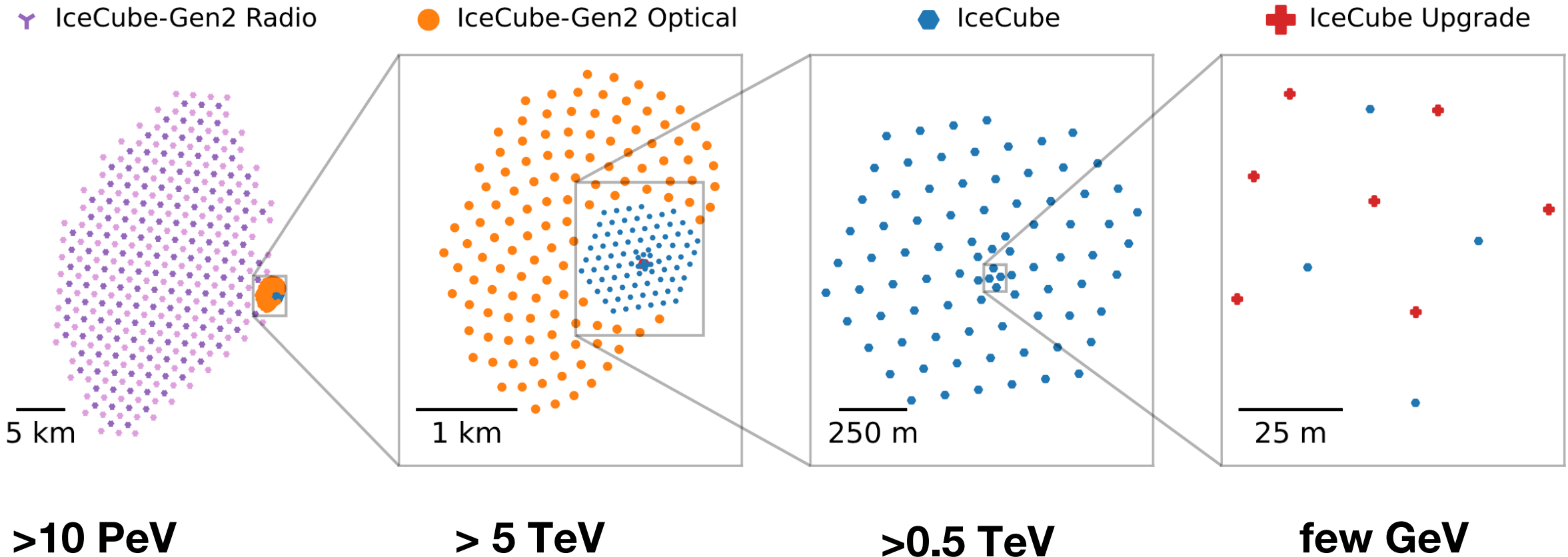
Surface Area: $\sim 6.5 \text{ km}^2$ (0.9)
Instrumented depth: 1.26 km (1.0)

Instrumented Volume: 8 km^3

Order of magnitude increase

9600 optical sensors
120 strings

IceCube and IceCube-Gen2 — scales and energie ranges



Summary

Neutrinos give us new insights to the high energy Universe.

IceCube has discovered cosmic neutrinos and also the first sources of neutrinos.

One is a supermassive black hole not too far away.

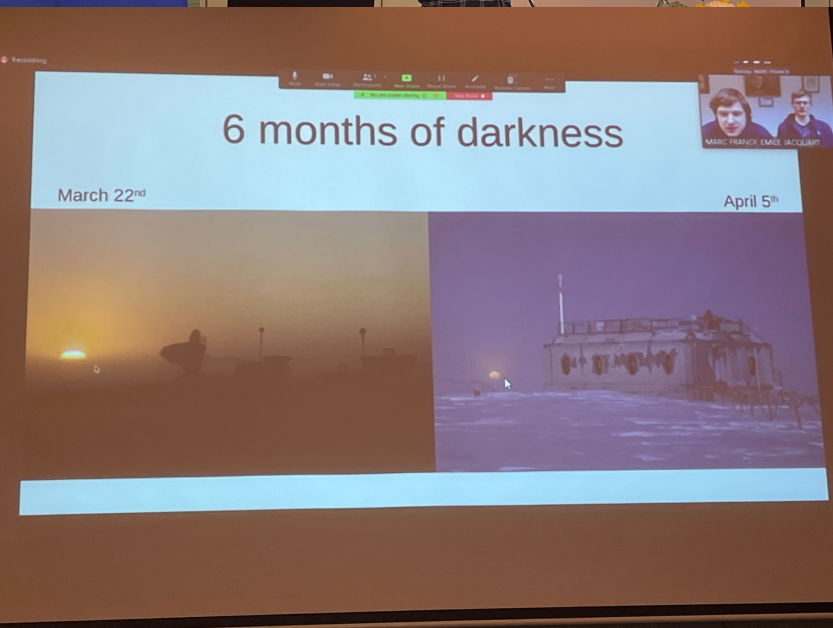
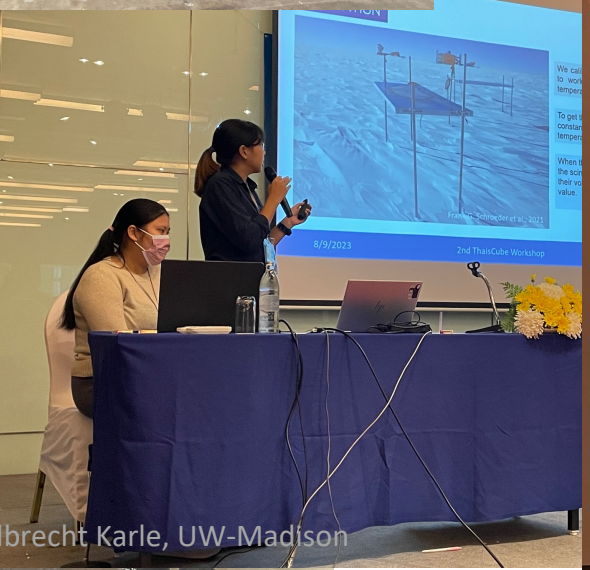
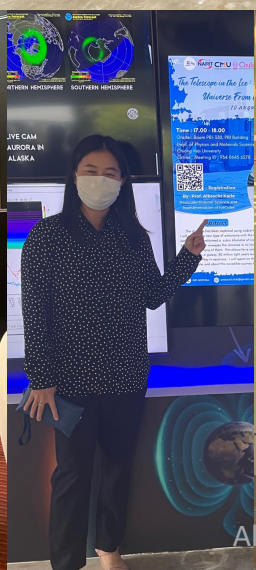
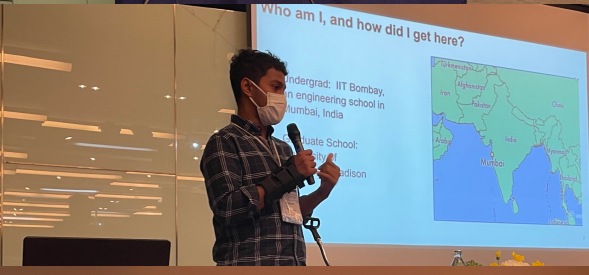
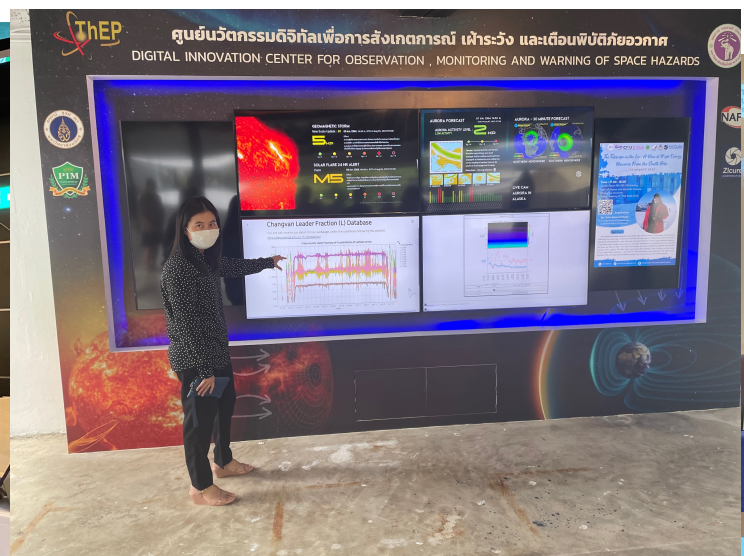
We also have seen the Milky Way - much closer to home.

One more step to understand our place in the Universe.

There are many more things IceCube can do which I leave out today.

Neutrino astronomy has just started. There is much more to do in the future.

Thank you very much to our hosts, Prof. Fhon Waraporn and her team, who came for a research visit to Madison this summer. I and the other three visitors from IceCube are enjoying to support the ThaisCube Workshop. Thank you also to Chiang Mai University for the support of our scientific collaboration.



Albrecht Karle, UW-Madison

From the South Pole
to the Milky Way

- the journey continues ...



Thank you and
greetings from the penguins!



Questions?

Neutrinos from the Milky Way

Possible origins for the neutrinos from the Milky Way:

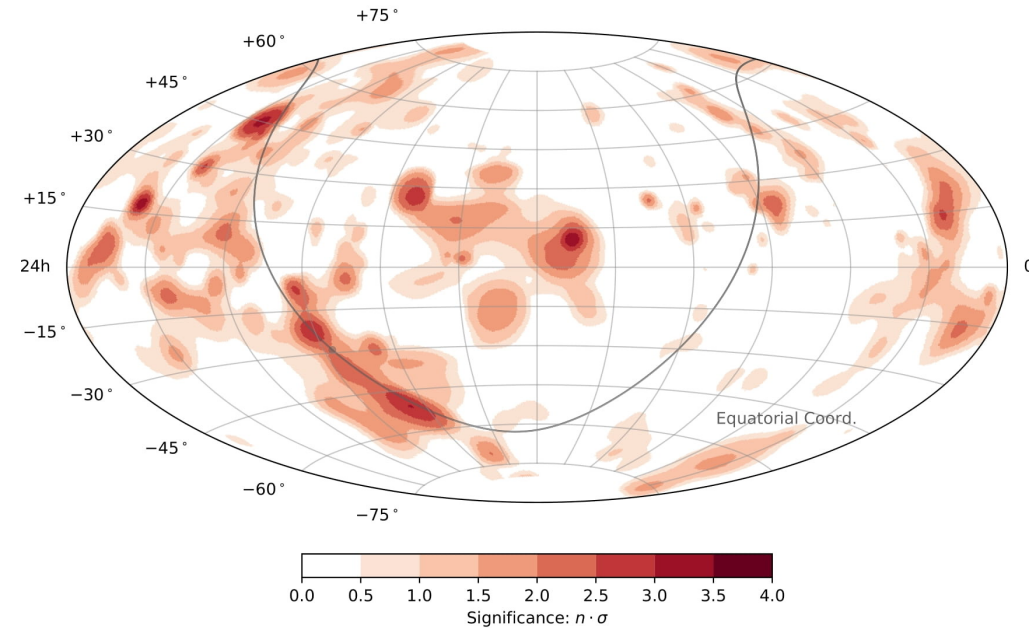
1.) Cosmic Rays collide with other particles in the Milky Way.

There is not much interstellar matter or radiation, but there is some.

Remember what energetic protons do when they collide

2.) Galactic particle accelerators produce direct signals when the protons hit a target, eg dust or radiation.

Need more data and analysis to give the answer.



IceCube-Gen2: A wide-band observatory

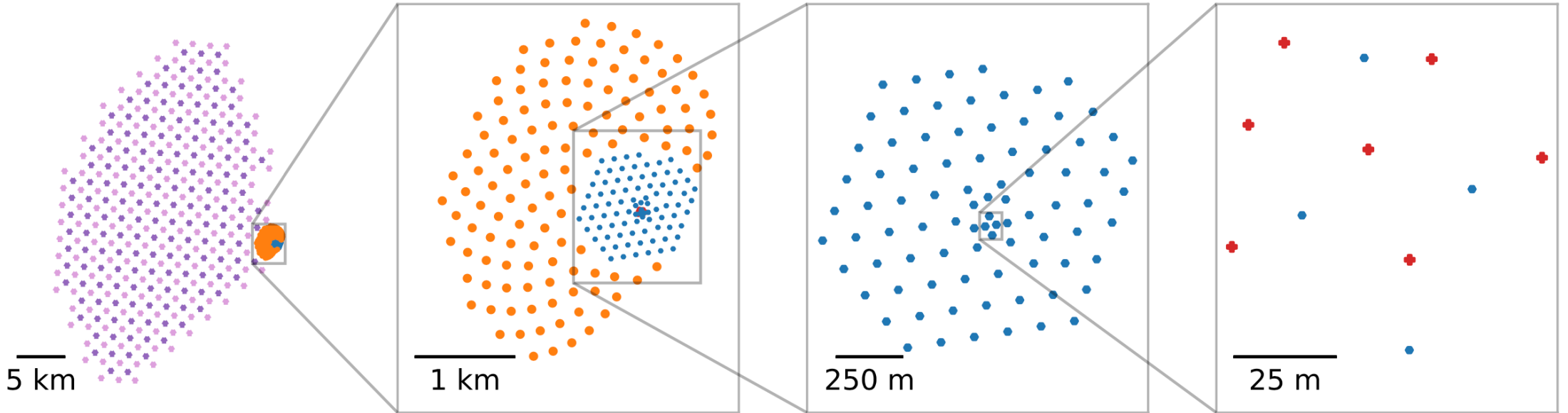
Optimizing scales for leading sensitivity from 10^9 to 10^{20} eV

⌵ IceCube-Gen2 Radio

● IceCube-Gen2 Optical

● IceCube

⊕ IceCube Upgrade



>30 PeV

> 3 TeV

>0.5 TeV

> GeV

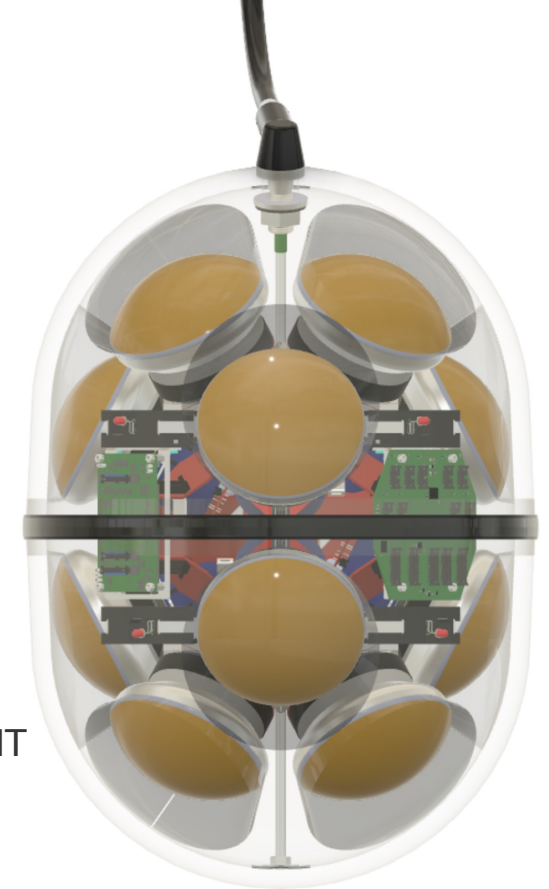
completed in 2011

under construction,
deployment in Dec. 2025

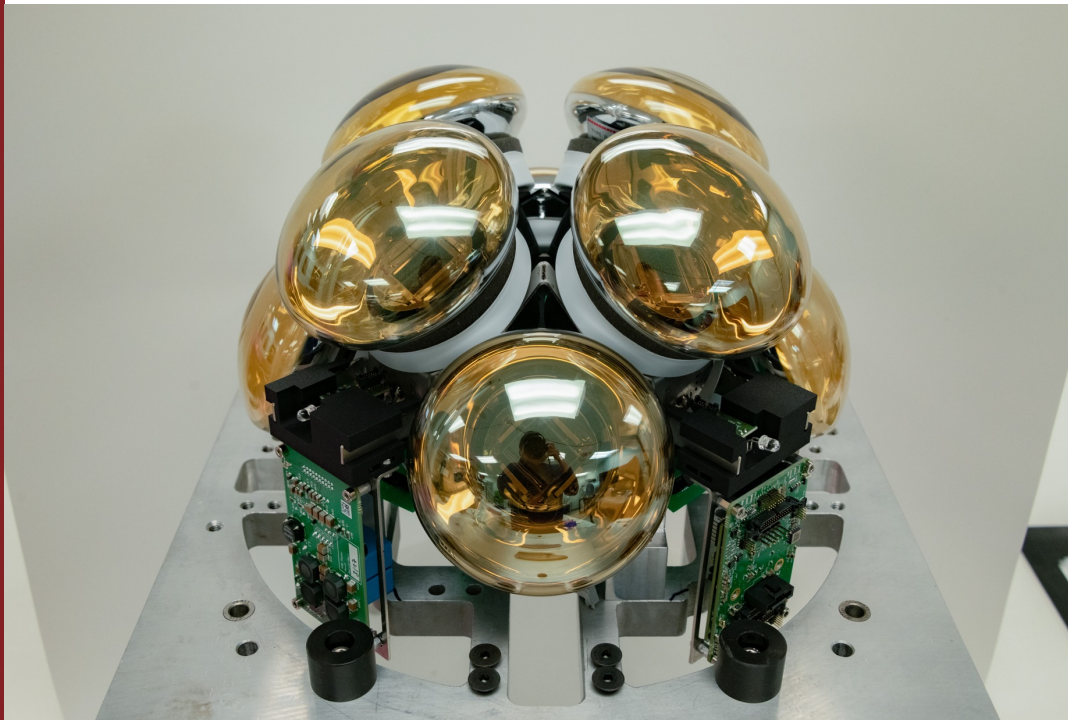
Closed Caption box size

Sensor and Electronics

- 4-inch PMTs developed for IceCube-Gen2
- >3 x sensitivity
- >100 times dynamic range
- Less power
- Cost per photoelectron: <math><1/2</math> IceCube

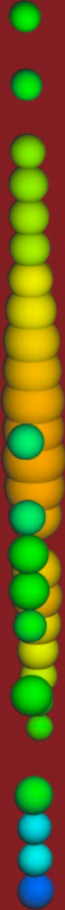


16 or 18 x 4 inch PMT
Diameter: 31 cm



160,000 PMT

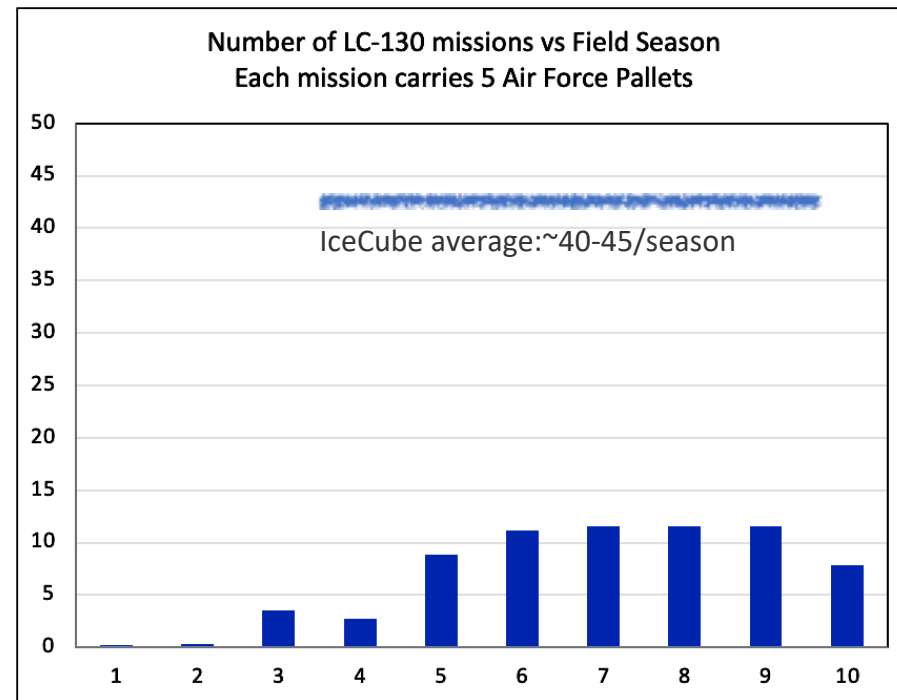
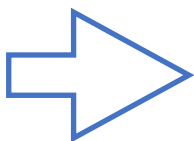
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Logistical Support Example: LC-130 flights



LC 130 aircraft

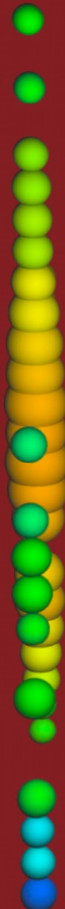


Number of flights

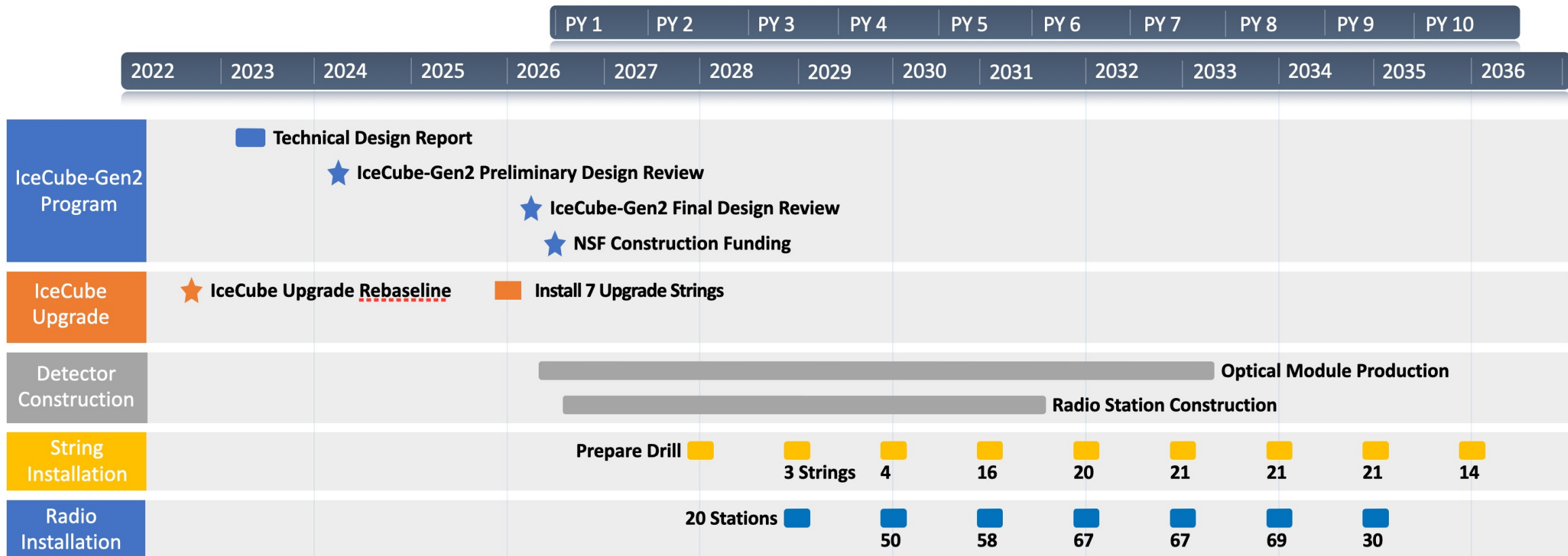
Project Year

Overland traverse

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Schedule (Technically Driven)



Technically Driven Schedule: These are the dates the Project would be ready to move through the MREFC process

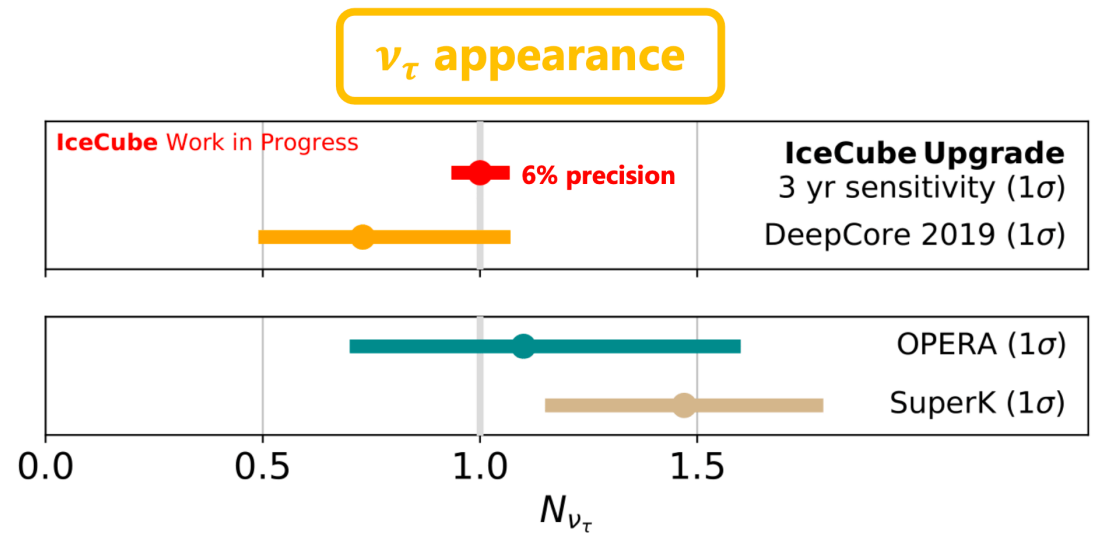
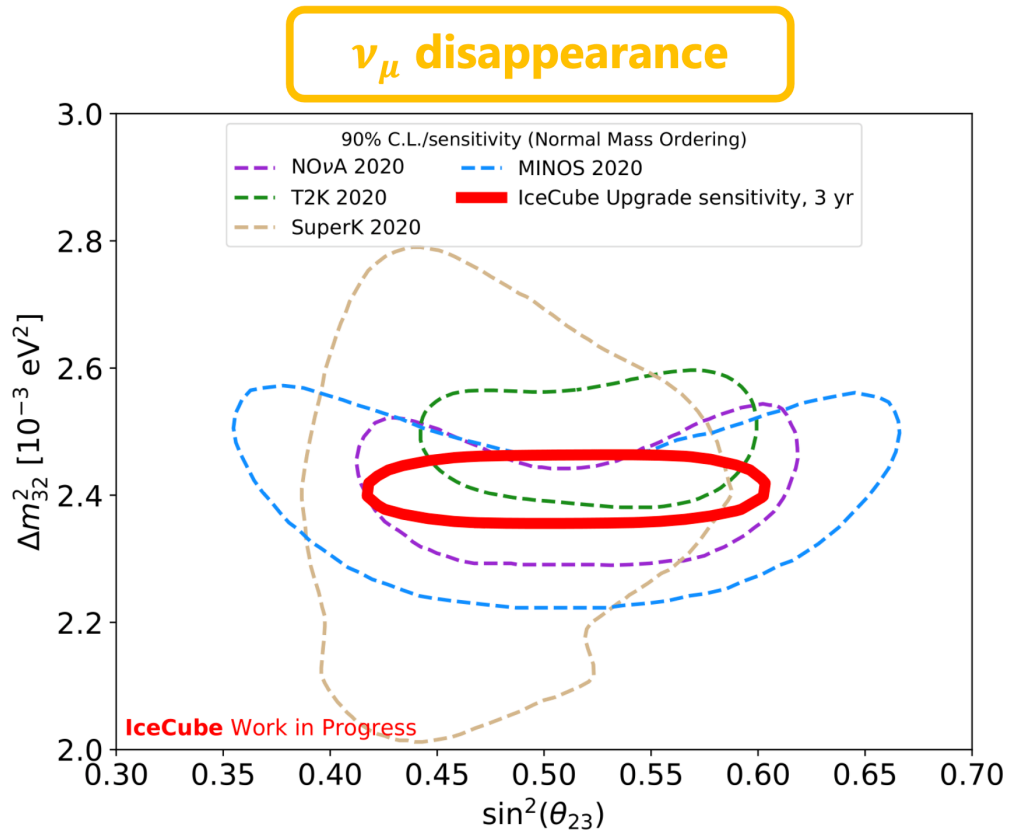
- Preliminary Design Review in 2024, Final Design Review and Construction Funding Start in 2026

Project Year: Project Year starts with Construction Funding Start

— in our schedule this could be as early as June, 2026

IceCube-Upgrade

IceCube Upgrade sensitivity after only 3 years

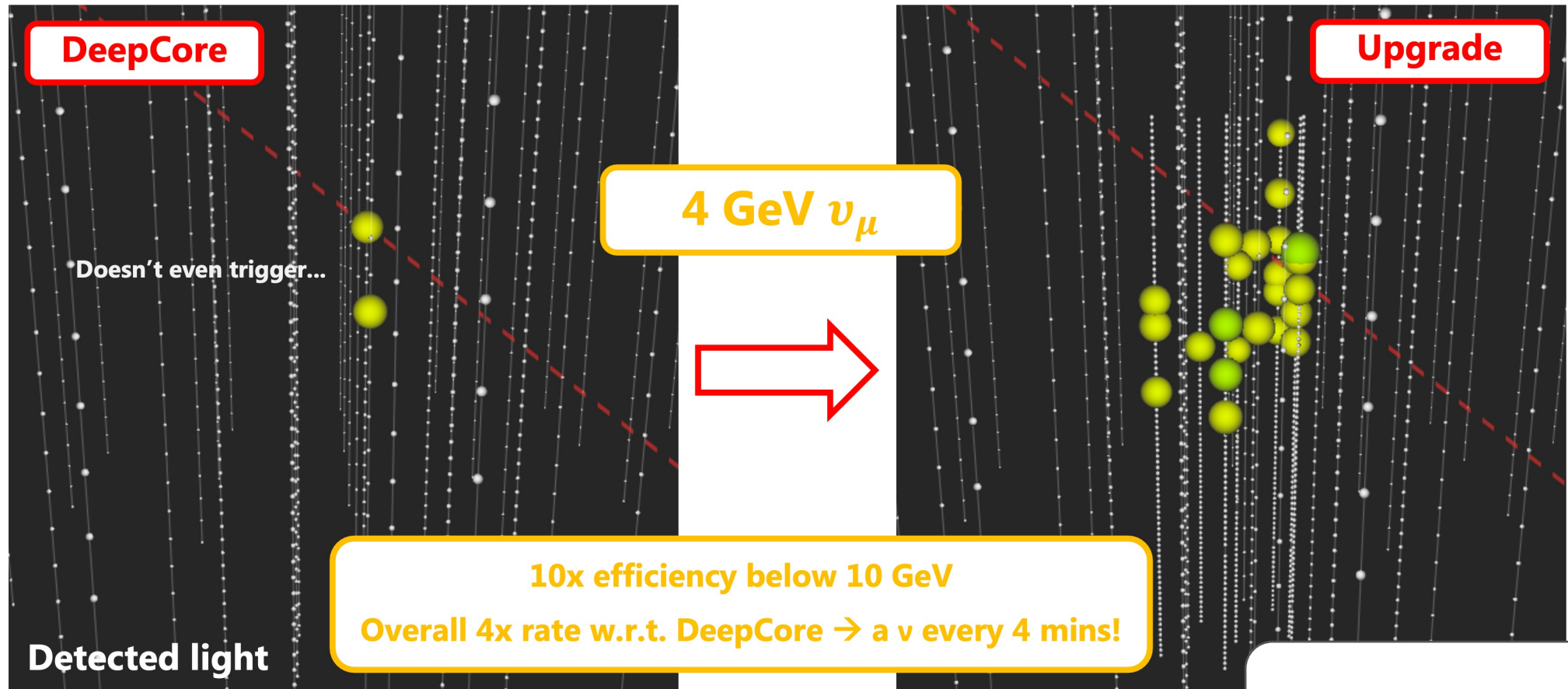


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IceCube-Upgrade

Dense instrumentation in 2 Mton core

- Large increase in photocathode density → sensitive down to **~1 GeV neutrinos**



Detected light

Closed Caption box size

IceCube-Upgrade

In progress

Scope:

Add 7 new strings, 700 sensors, densely packed in the center of IceCube.

Instrumented volume: 2 Mt

Energy threshold: ~ 1 GeV

Science goals:

- Fundamental neutrino properties
- Improved calibration
- R&D, new instruments.

Installation: 2025/26 Pole season.



Science example:

Atmospheric tau neutrino appearance

