

Test of Fundamental physics with Astrophysical Neutrinos



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King's College London
Royal Society Yusuf Hamied Workshop for India and the UK (online)
February 24, 2023

1. Test of Fundamental Physics

2. Astrophysical High-Energy Neutrinos

3. Search of Lorentz violation in IceCube

4. Conclusions

1. Violation of fundamental physics

All fundamental physics phenomena must be experimentally tested including **Lorentz symmetry**, isotropy of the space-time

Fundamental physics laws are basis of all science, so the violation, if it exists, must be **very small**

Einstein and Lorentz



Lorentz Institute

1. Violation of fundamental physics

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Fundamental physics laws are basis of all science, so the violation, if it exists, must be **very small**

However, **quantum gravity** theories show it is possible to violate fundamental physics laws

- string theory
 - noncommutative field theory
- etc.

Discovery of a new space-time structure is the breakthrough to understand quantum gravity theories!

Einstein and Lorentz



Lorentz Institute

1. Violation of fundamental physics

Coupling of ordinary particles (photons, neutrinos, etc) and new space-time structure might modify behaviour of particles in vacuum

- Energy spectrum
 - Neutrino flavour
- etc.

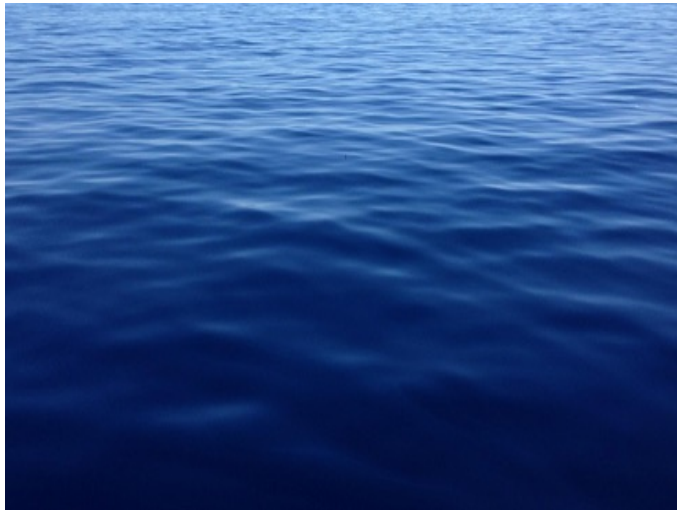
$$L = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu\psi - m\bar{\psi}\psi + \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu a_\mu\psi + \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu c_{\mu\nu}\partial^\nu\psi \dots$$

The equation is annotated with a blue box labeled "Standard Model" under the first three terms and a green box labeled "New physics" under the last two terms. A green arrow points from the "New physics" box to the right.

Expected effect is small. We need **high-precision measurements** to find such new physics

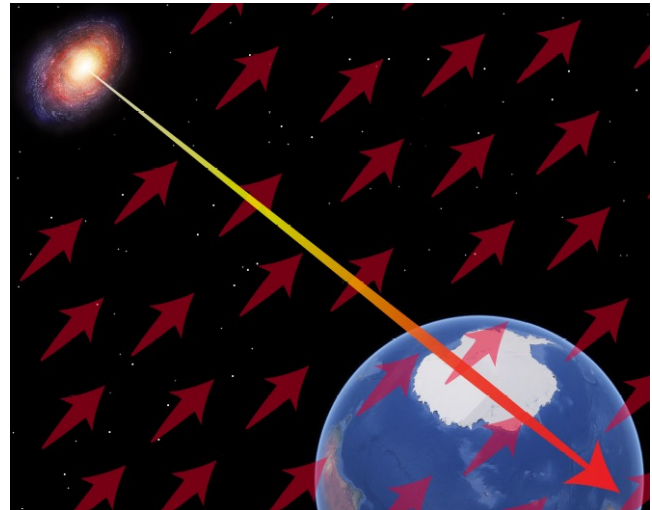
quantum foam

- quantum fluctuation of space-time

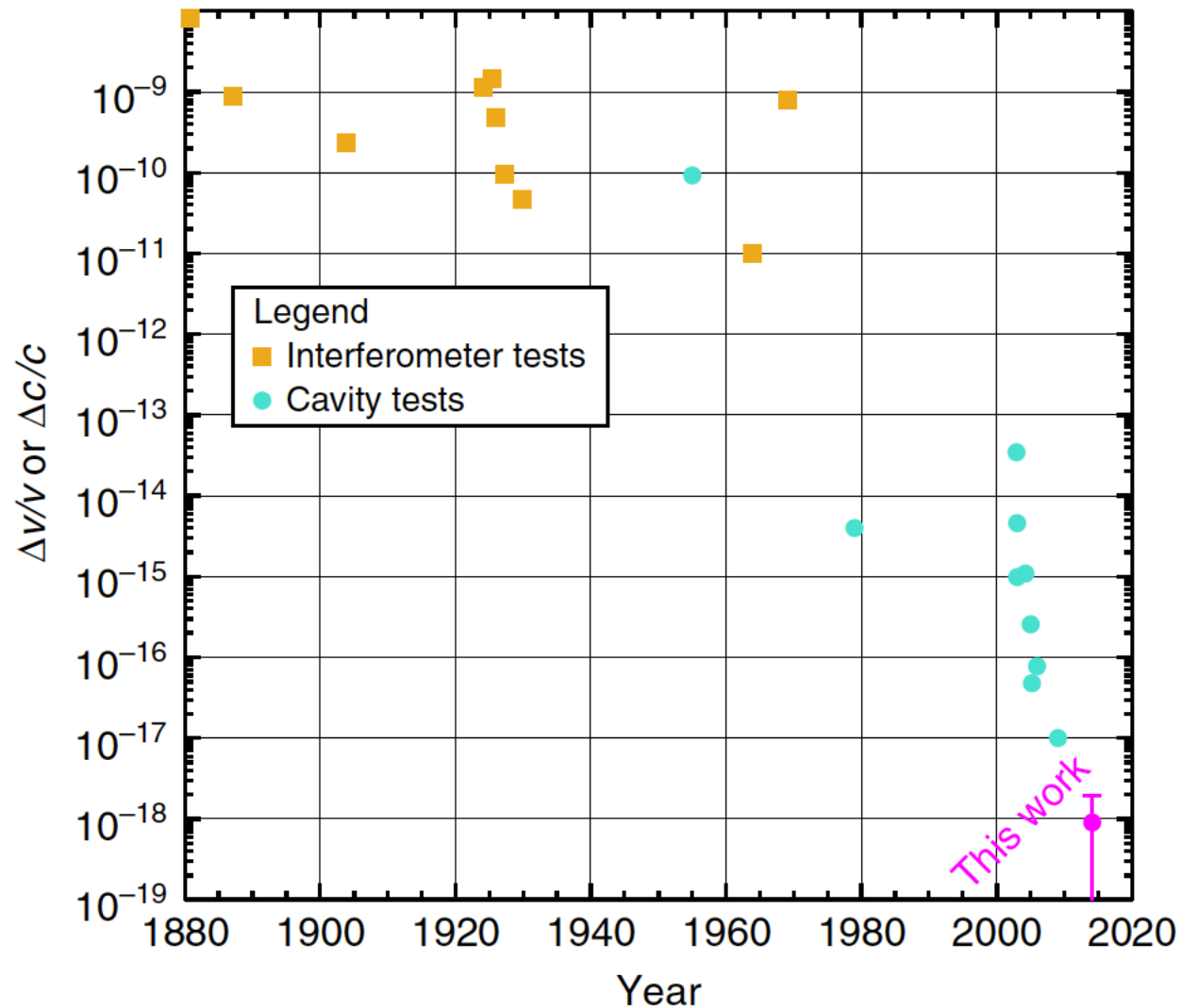


Lorentz violating field

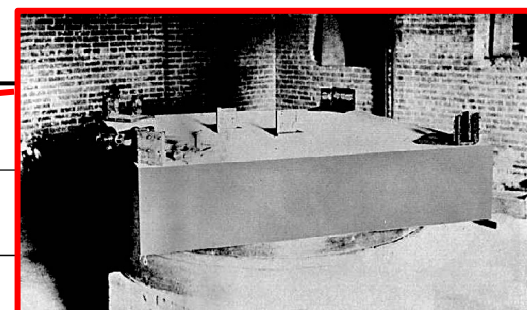
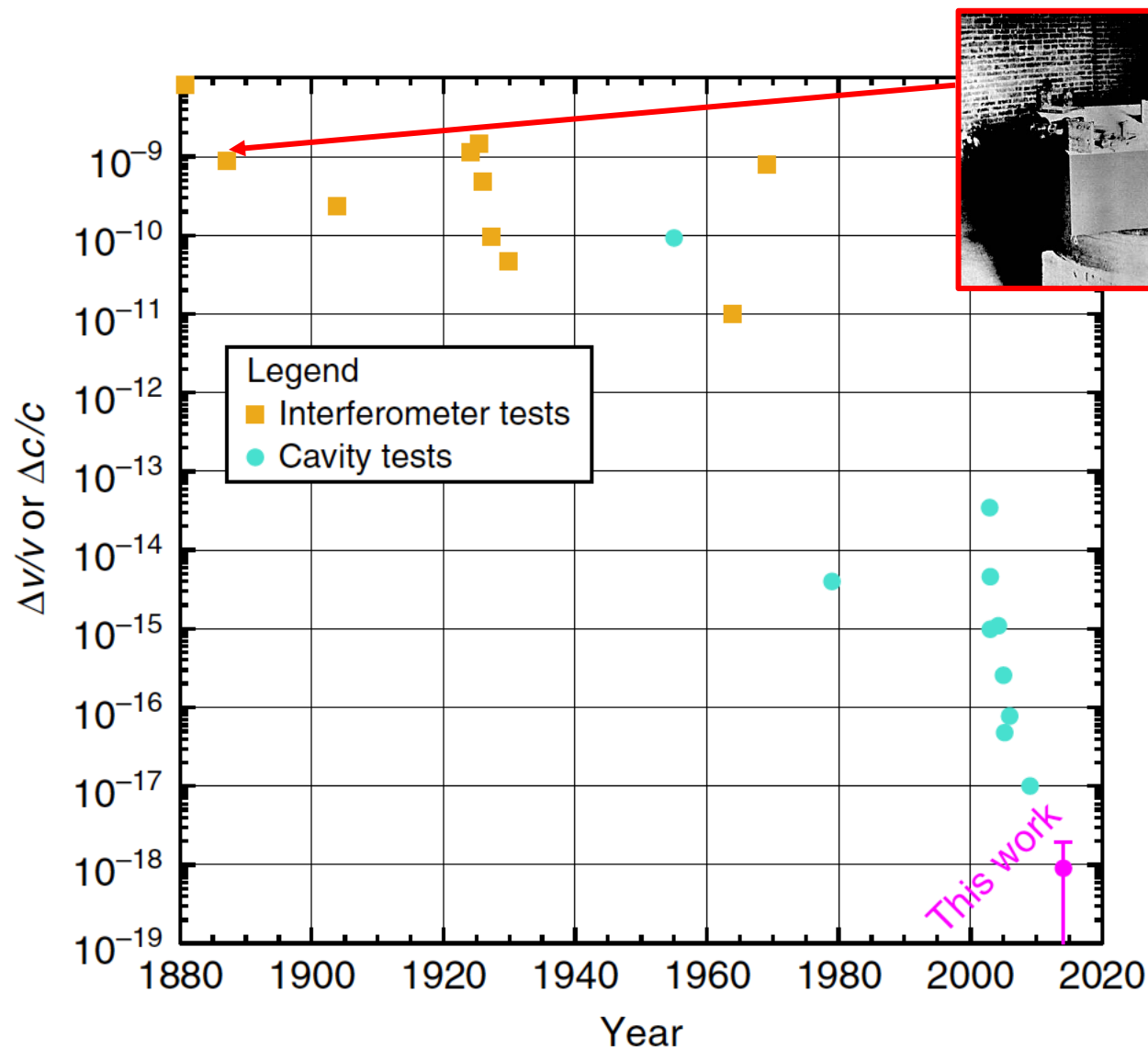
- new field saturating the universe (æther)



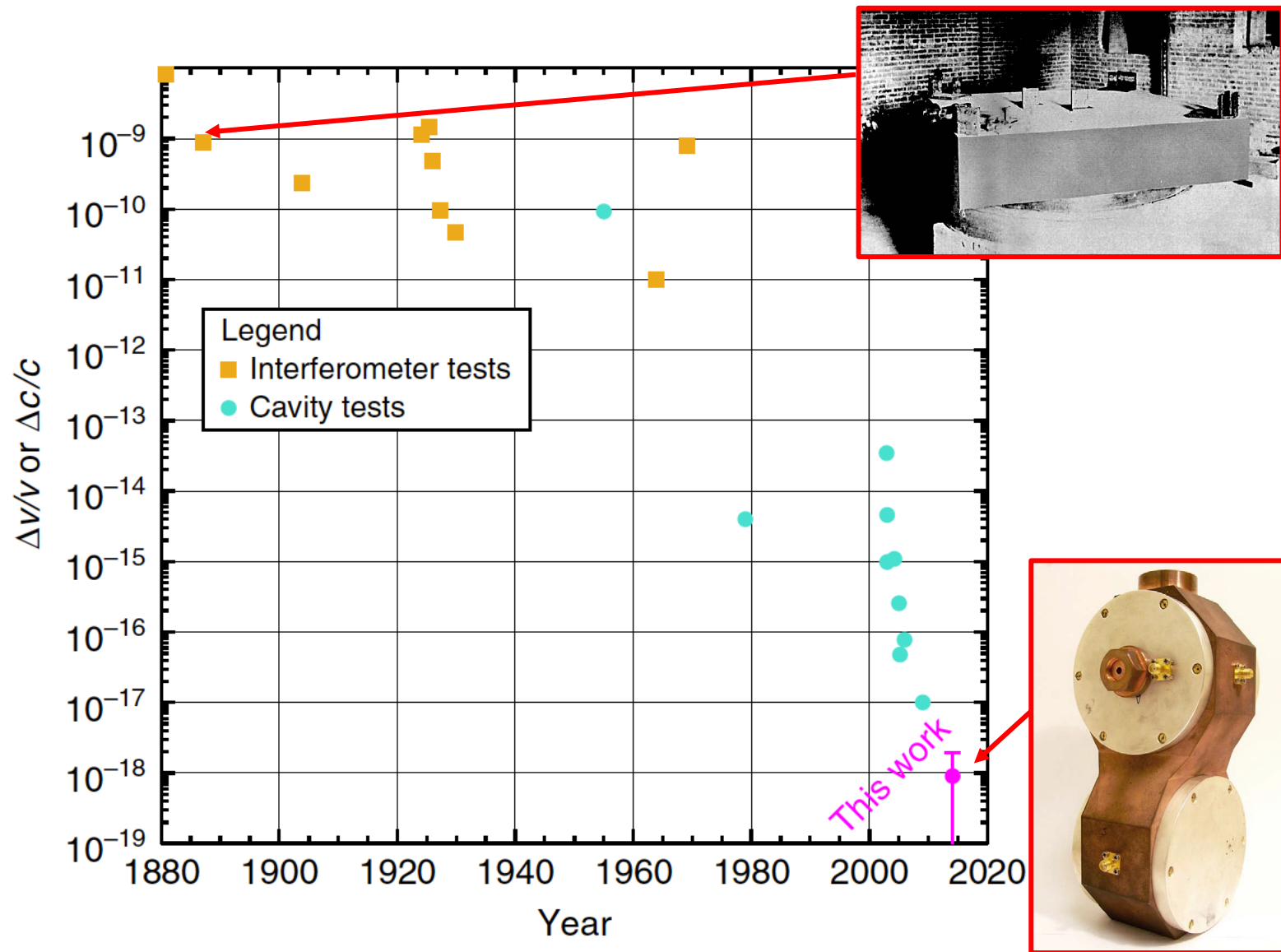
1. History of Michelson-Morley experiment



1. History of Michelson-Morley experiment (1887)



1. History of Michelson-Morley experiment (2015)



1. Test of Fundamental Physics

2. Astrophysical High-Energy Neutrinos

3. Search of Lorentz violation in IceCube

4. Conclusions

2. High-energy astrophysical neutrinos

High-energy particles (>60 TeV) propagating a long distance (>100 Mpc) in vacuum
- Astrophysical neutrino flavour is sensitive to tiny space-time effect

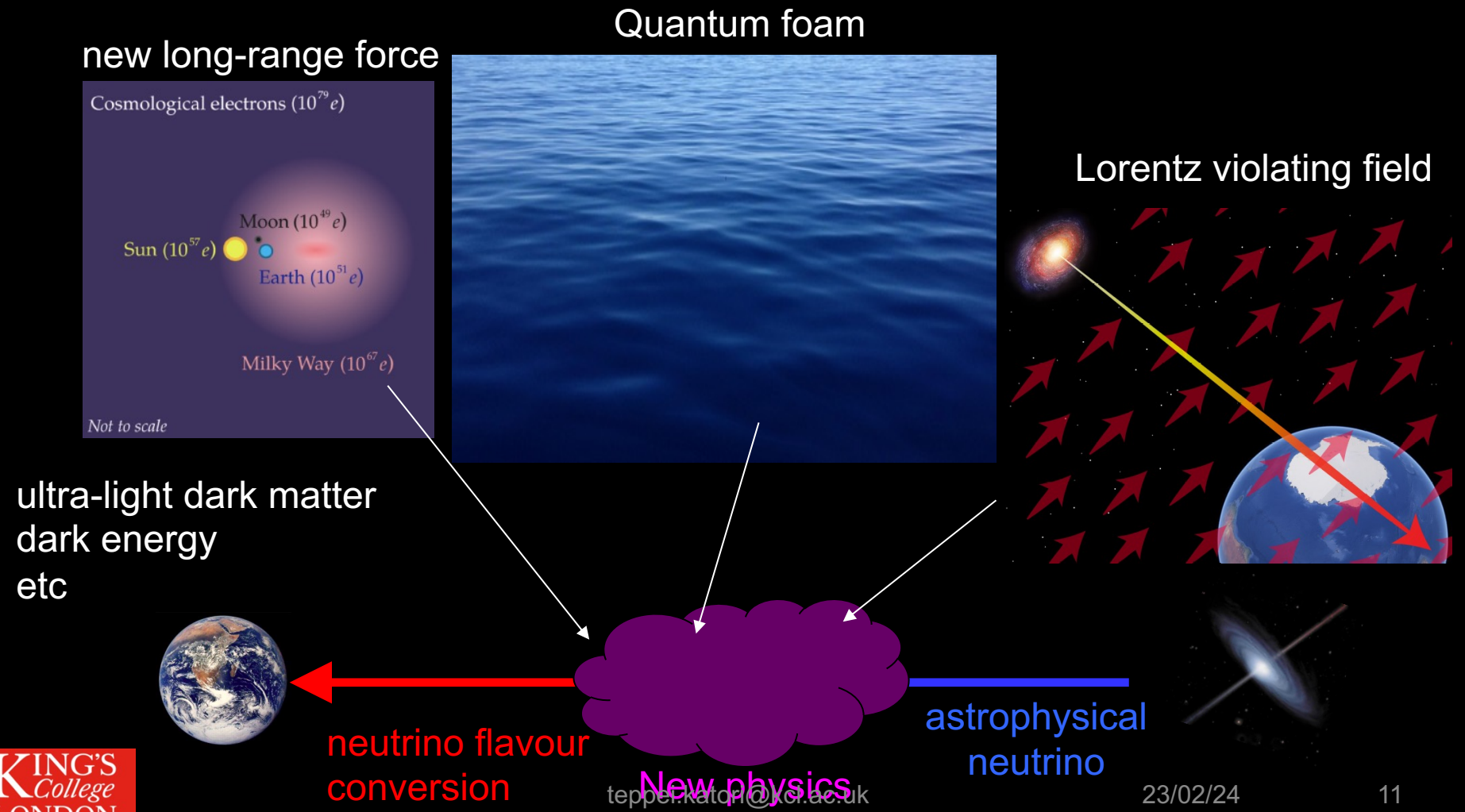


astrophysical
neutrino

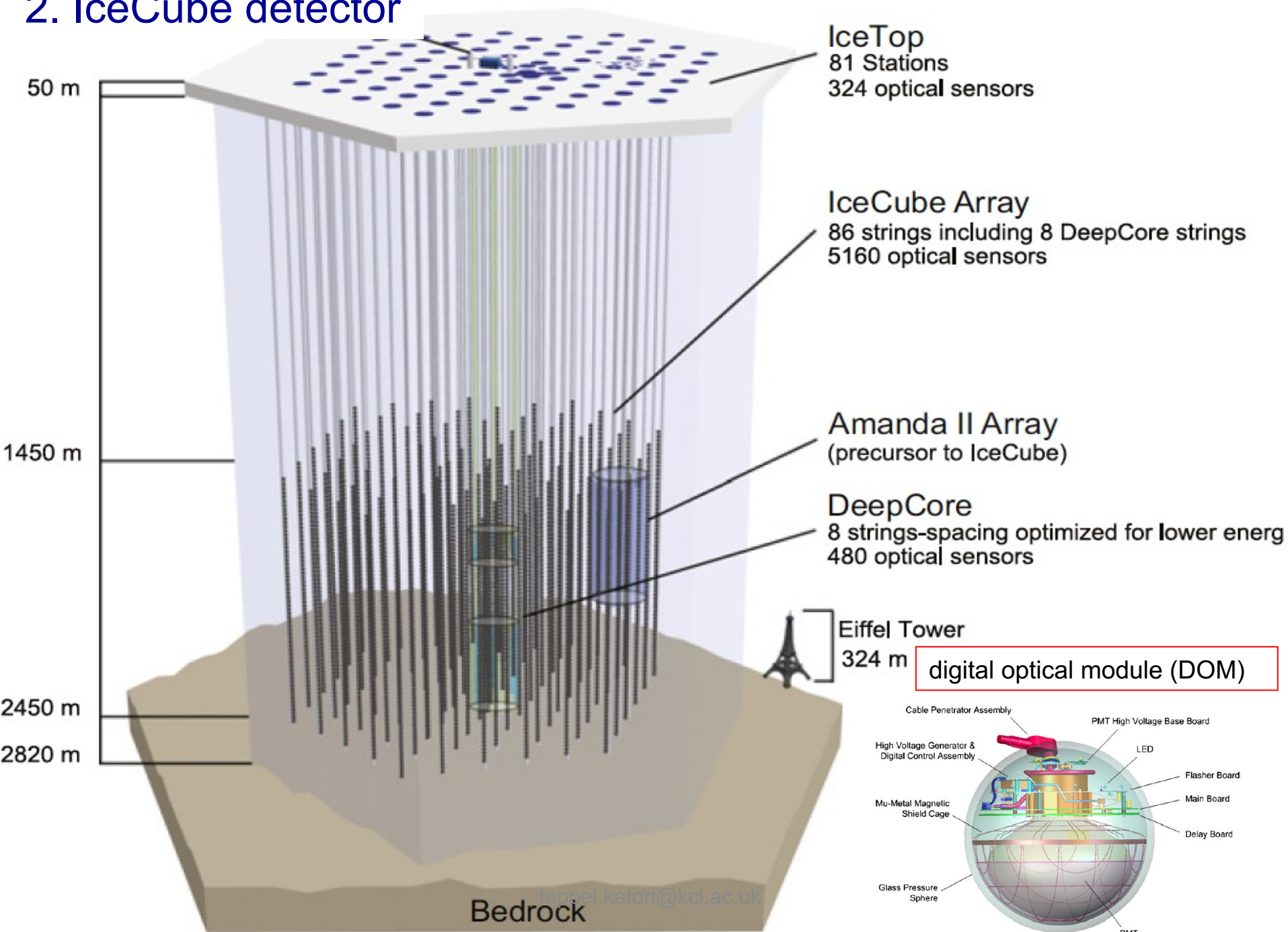


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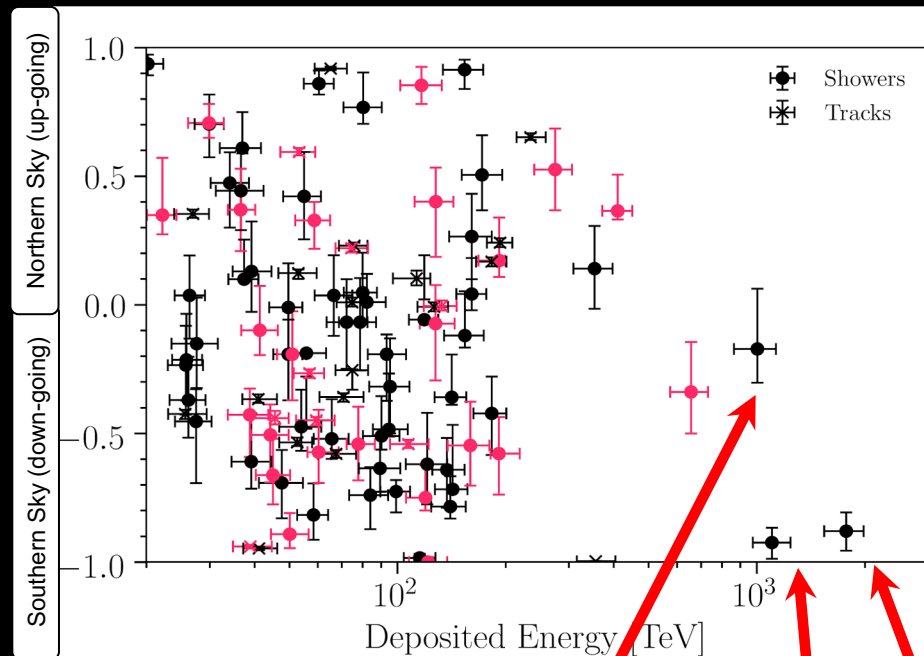
2. IceCube detector



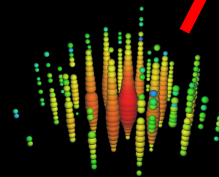
2. High-energy astrophysical neutrinos

60TeV- 2PeV astrophysical neutrinos are observed by IceCube Neutrino Observatory

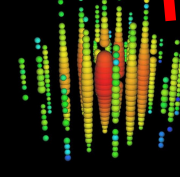
high-energy starting event (HESE) sample



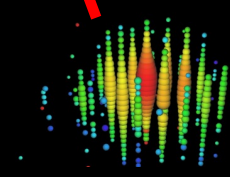
“Bert”
1.1 PeV



tepei.katori@kcl.ac.uk



“Ernie”
1.0 PeV



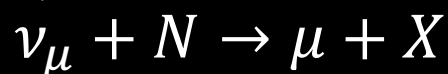
“Big Bird”
2.0 PeV

29/02/24

2. IceCube event morphology

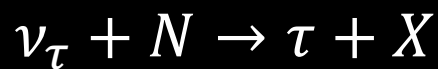
Track

ν_μ CC



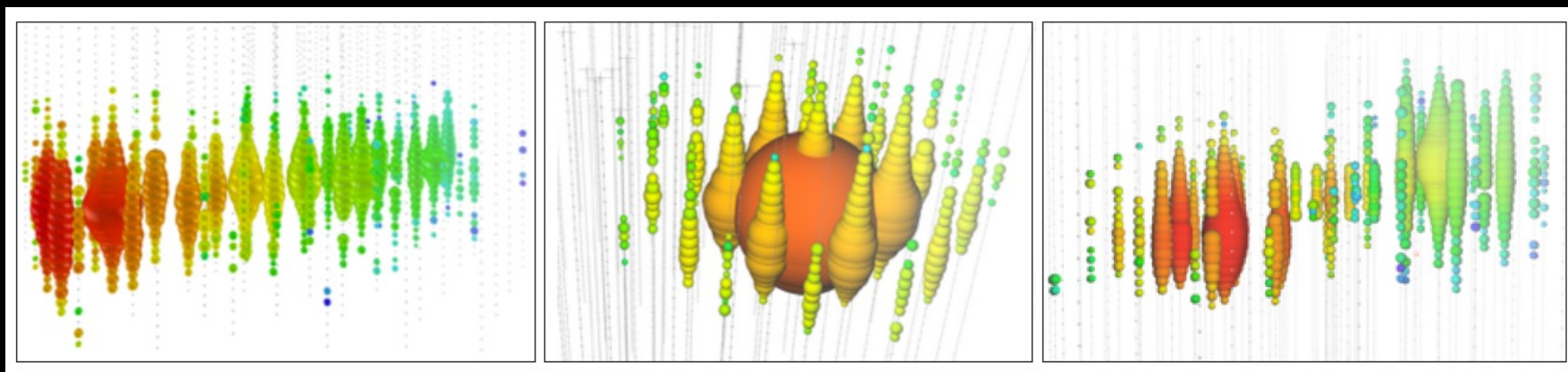
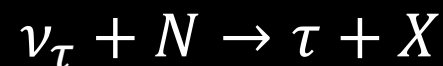
Cascade

ν_e CC, ν_τ CC, NC



Double cascade

ν_τ CC ($L \sim 50 \text{m} \cdot E/\text{PeV}$)



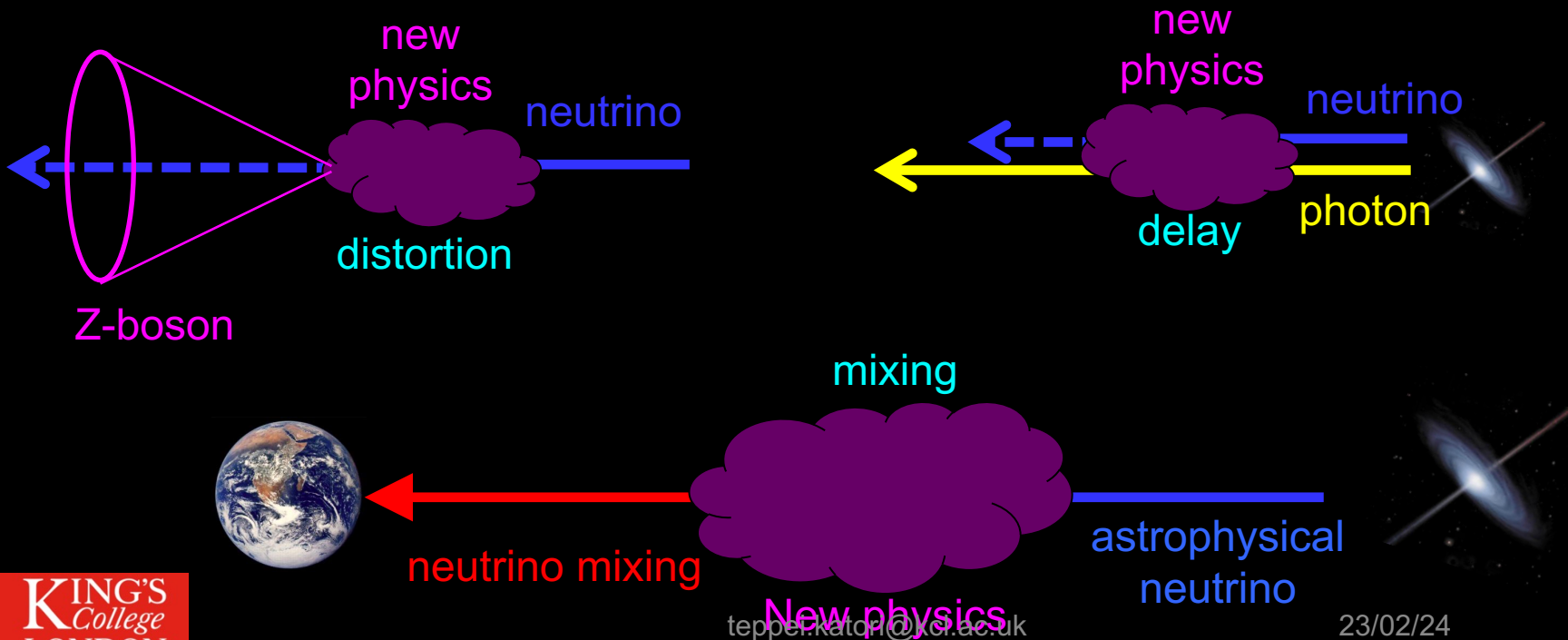
1. Test of Fundamental Physics
2. Astrophysical High-Energy Neutrinos
- 3. Search of Lorentz violation in IceCube**
4. Conclusions

3. Search for Lorentz violation with astrophysical neutrinos

High-energy particles (>100 TeV) propagating a long distance (>100 Mpc)
- Neutrinos can probe new physics in the universe

New physics search

- Spectrum distortion (vacuum Cherenkov radiation)
- Time of Flight (modified dispersion)
- New flavour structure (new vacuum effect)



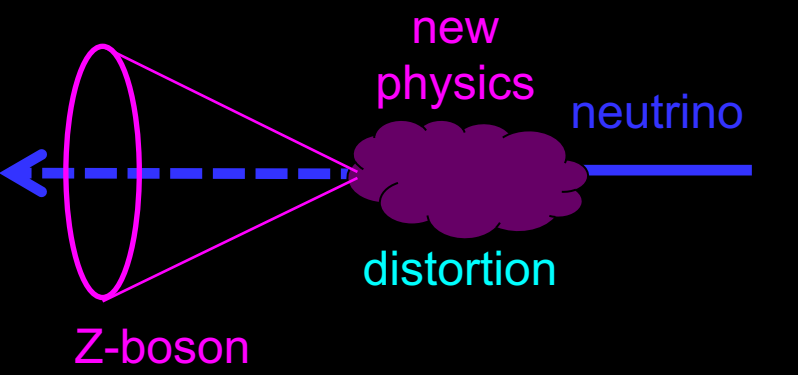
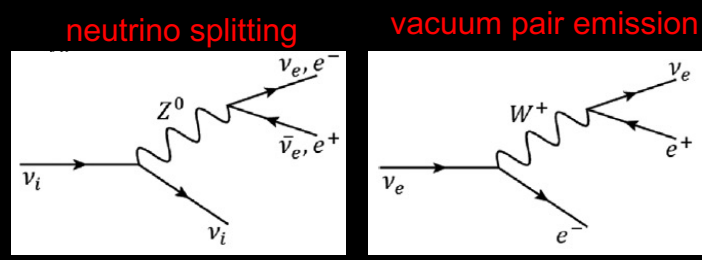
3. Search for Lorentz violation with astrophysical neutrinos

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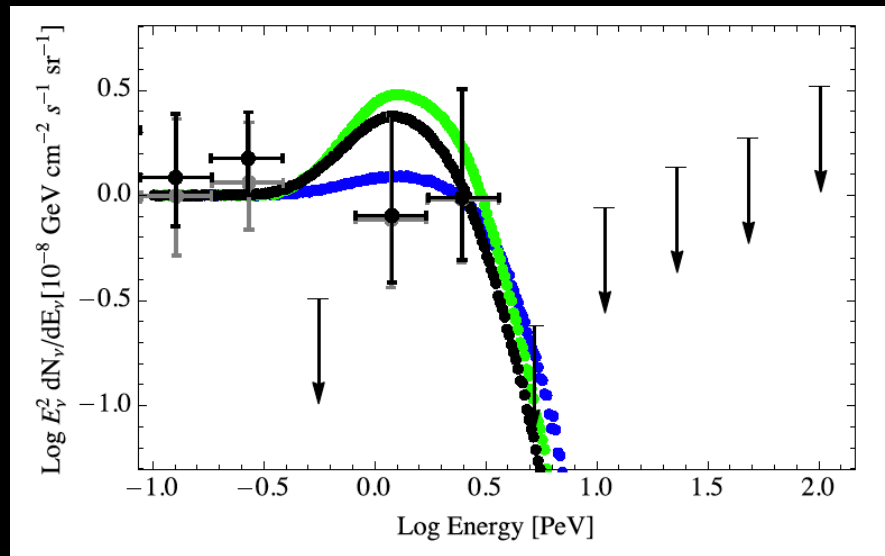
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Lorentz violating field cause
Cherenkov radiation in vacuum



Neutrino spectrum with new physics

3. Search for Lorentz violation with astrophysical neutrinos

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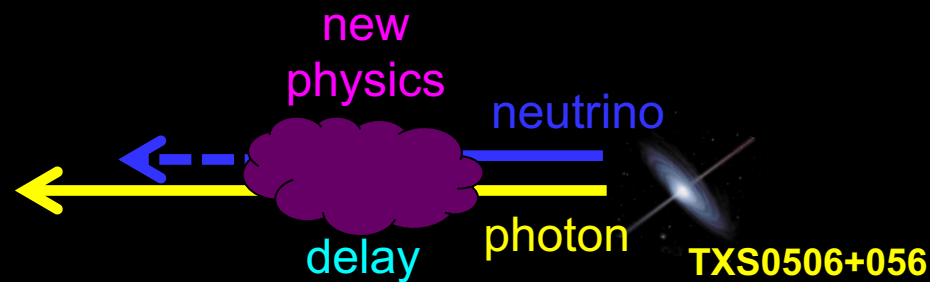
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Modified dispersion due to quantum foam cause unexpected delay/advance for neutrinos

$$E^2 = p^2 + m^2 \pm \left(\frac{E}{M_{QG,n}} \right)^n$$



$$\frac{|v - c|}{c} \lesssim 4.2 \times 10^{-12} \left(\frac{\Delta t}{7 \text{ days}} \right)$$

3. Search for Lorentz violation with astrophysical neutrinos

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Flavour effect

- Macroscopic quantum effect and sensitive to small effects



HESE 7.5-yr Flavor new physics search

Data

IceCube, PRD104(2021)022002

- 2635 days high-energy starting event (HESE) sample

Simulation

Bhattacharya et al., JHEP06(2015)110

- Foregrounds (conventional (Honda flux), prompt (BERSS model), muon (CORSIKA))
- Astrophysical neutrinos, simple power law
- Interaction, NLO PDF DIS (CSMS model)

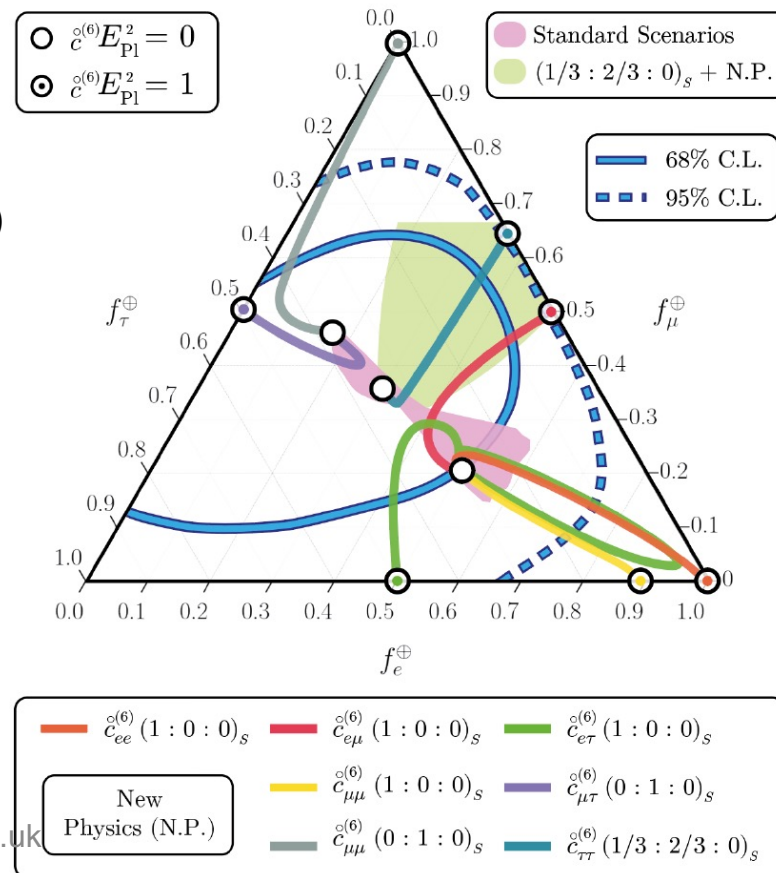
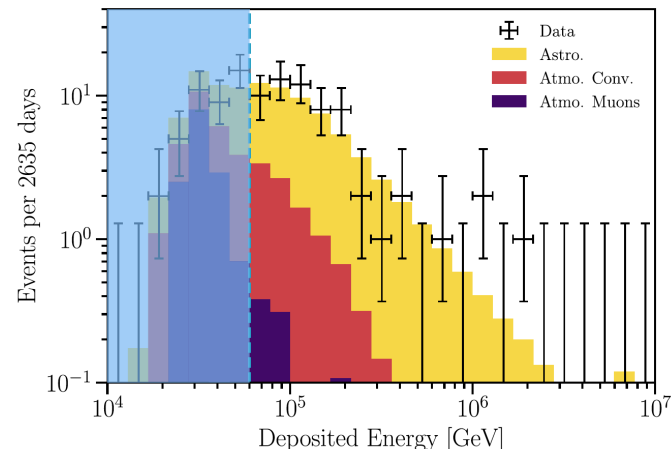
Cooper-Sarkar et al., JHEP08(2011)042

Systematics

- 15 nuisance parameters (oscillations, flux, detector)

Limits

- Bayesian analysis (BF>10)
- Production model dependent



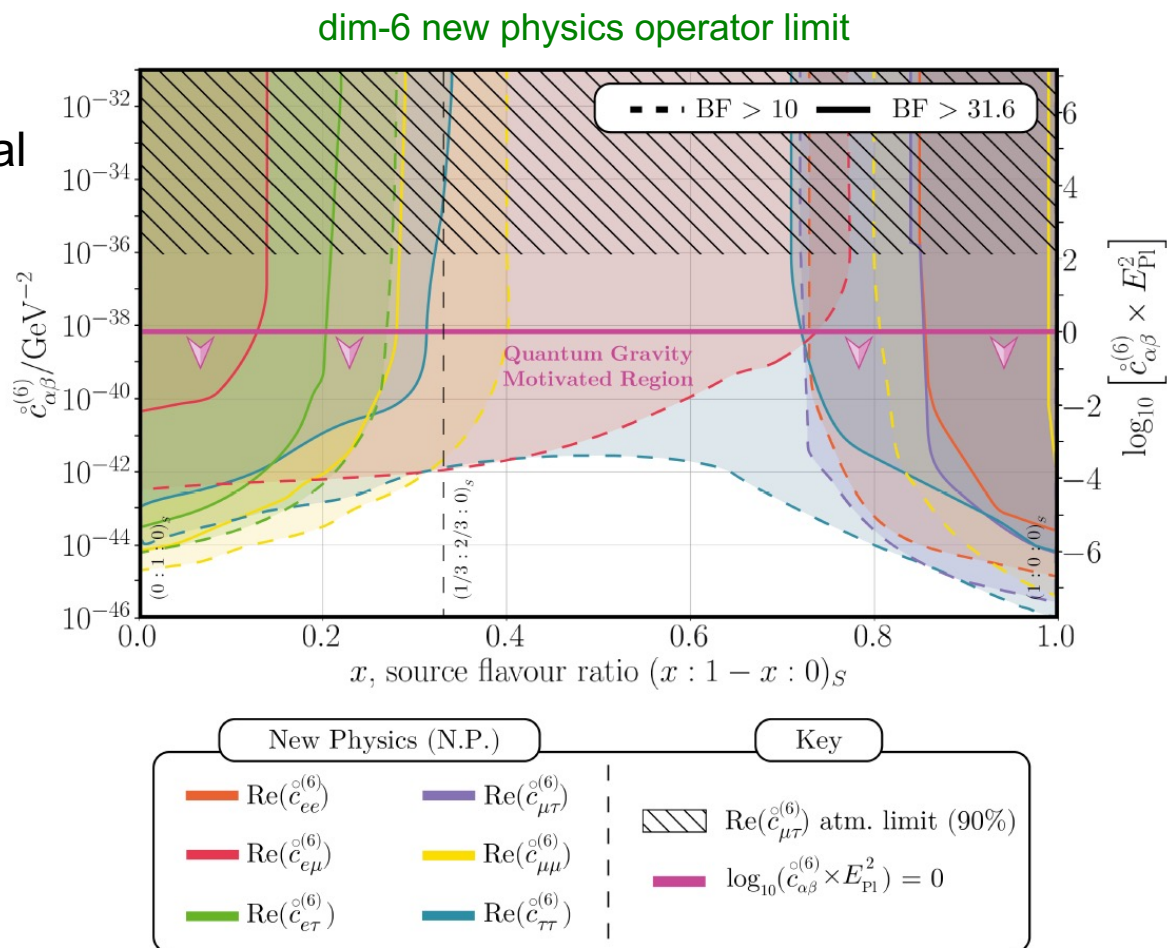
teppey.katori@kcl.ac.uk

3. HESE 7.5-yr flavor new physics search

60 HESE events in 60 TeV – 2 PeV

IceCube data start to explore quantum gravity-motivated signal region for some parameters

$$c^{(6)} \leq \frac{1}{M_{Planck}^2} \sim 10^{-38} GeV^{-2}$$



3. HESE 7.5-yr flavor new physics search

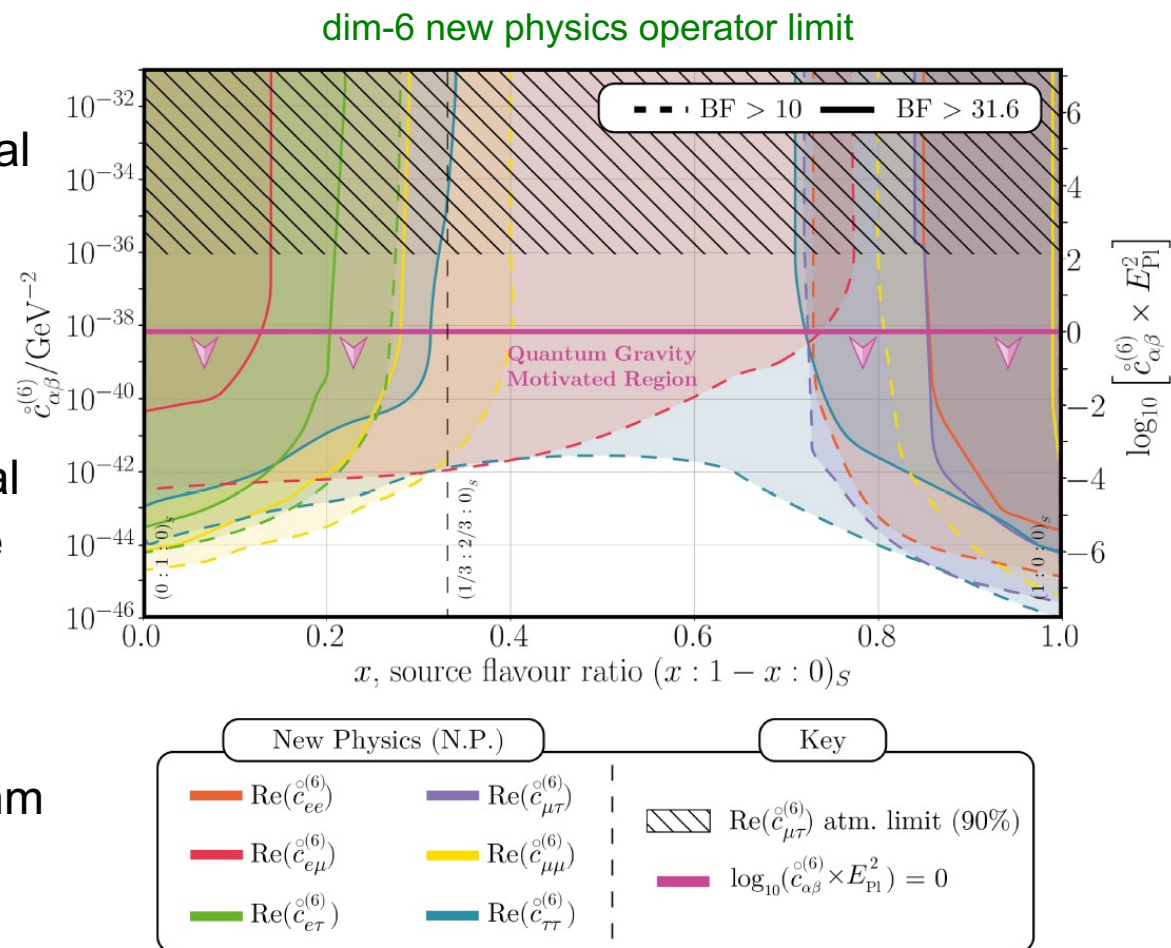
60 HESE events in 60 TeV – 2 PeV

IceCube data start to explore quantum gravity-motivated signal region for some parameters

$$c_{\alpha\beta}^{(6)} \leq \frac{1}{M_{Planck}^2} \sim 10^{-38} GeV^{-2}$$

Results depend on astrophysical neutrino production models. We need to improve this;

1. Multi-messenger astronomy
2. More data
3. Flavour identification algorithm



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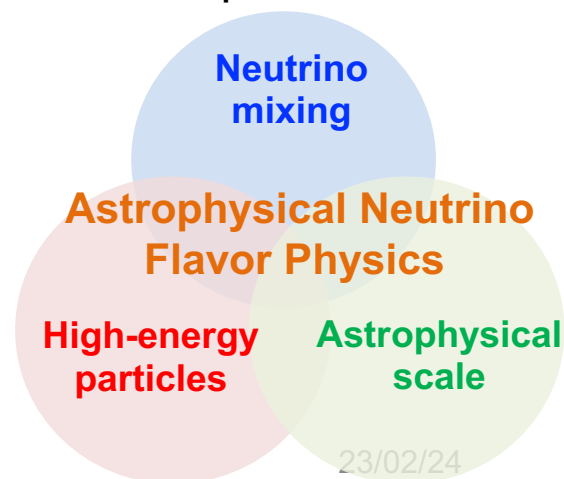
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1. Multi-messenger astronomy
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3. Flavour identification algorithm

Results have significant implications on many new physics models

- Ultralight dark matter, [PRD99\(2019\)051702](#)
- Dark energy (quintessence), [PRD97\(2018\)063006](#)
- New long-range force, etc [PRL122\(2019\)061103](#)

Astrophysical neutrino flavour is a new tool to explore a variety of new physics beyond ordinary matter and spacetime!

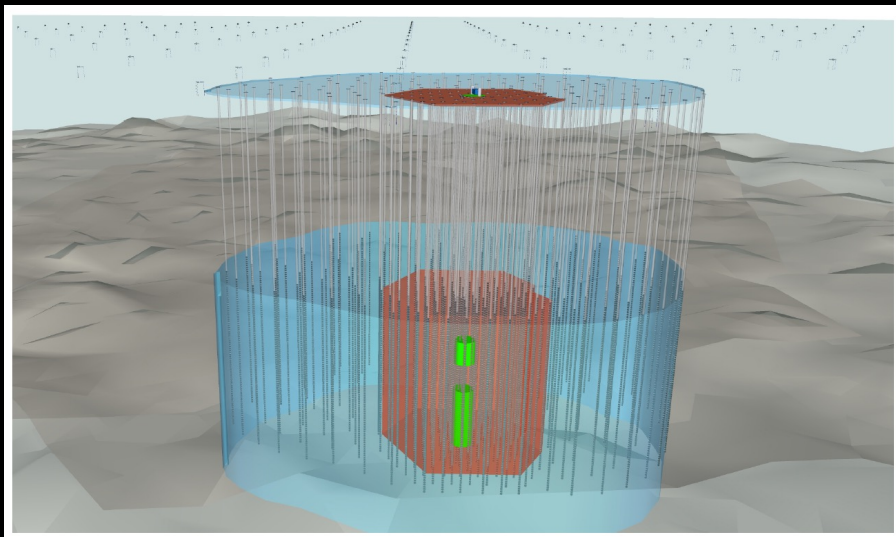




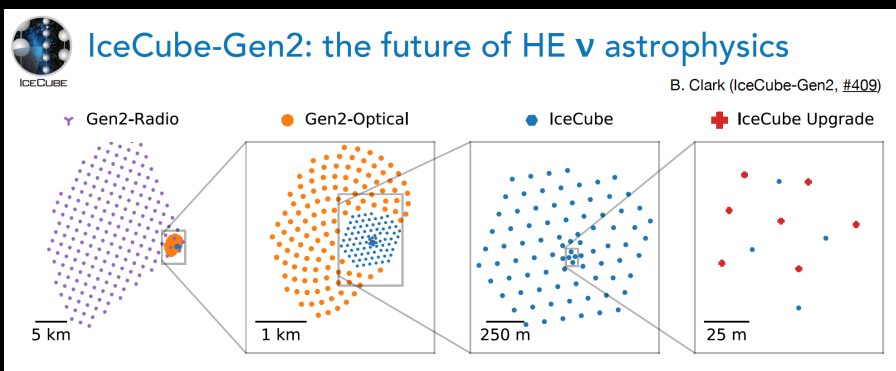
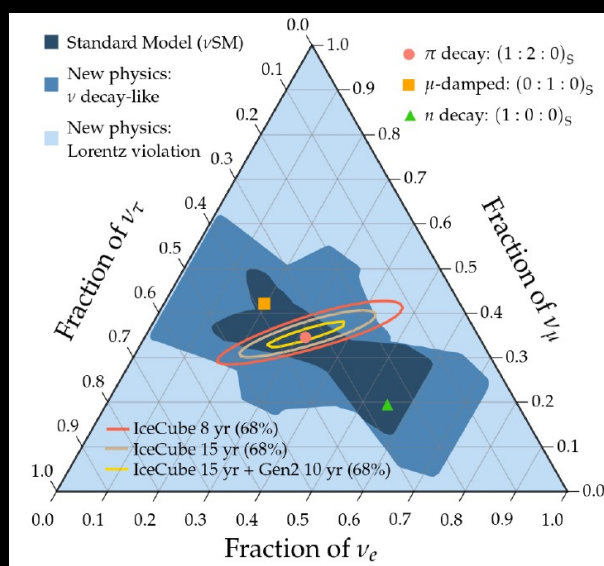
ICECUBE
GEN2

3. IceCube-Gen2

Larger separation (125m \rightarrow ~200-300m) to cover larger volume
- 120 new strings with 100 sensors, 240 m separation, x10 coverage



IceCube-Gen2 flavour ratio sensitivity



The first stage of Gen2
(IceCube upgrade) is ongoing



Conclusion

Quantum gravity may create a new space-time structure in vacuum.

Neutrino interferometry is a powerful technique to look for new physics.

Astrophysical neutrino mixing sensitivity reaches to naïve expectation of Planck scale physics. The results can be improved in near future.

IceCube-Gen2 collaboration



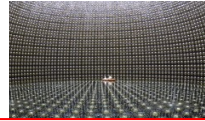
Thank you for your attention!



Backup

3. Test of Lorentz violation with neutrinos

Spectral distortion



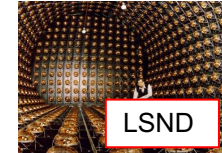
Super-Kamiokande

PRD91(2015)052003



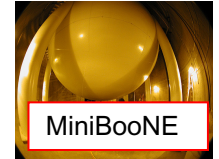
Daya Bay

PRD98(2018)092013



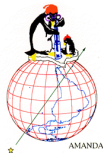
LSND

PRD72(2005)076004



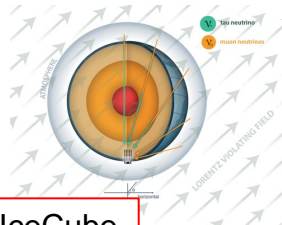
MiniBooNE

PLB718(2013)1303



AMANDA

PRD79(2009)102005



IceCube

Nature Physics
14(2018)961



MINOS ND

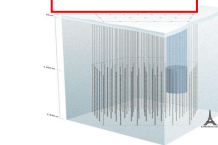
PRL101(2008)151601



MINOS FD

PRL105(2010)151601

IceCube



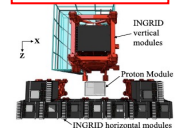
PRD82(2010)112003



Double Chooz

PRD86(2013)112009

T2K ND



PRD95(2017)111101

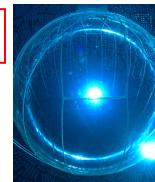
Flavor ratio



IceCube

ArXiv: 2111.04654

SNO



PRD98(2018)112013

Seasonal variation

Sidereal variation

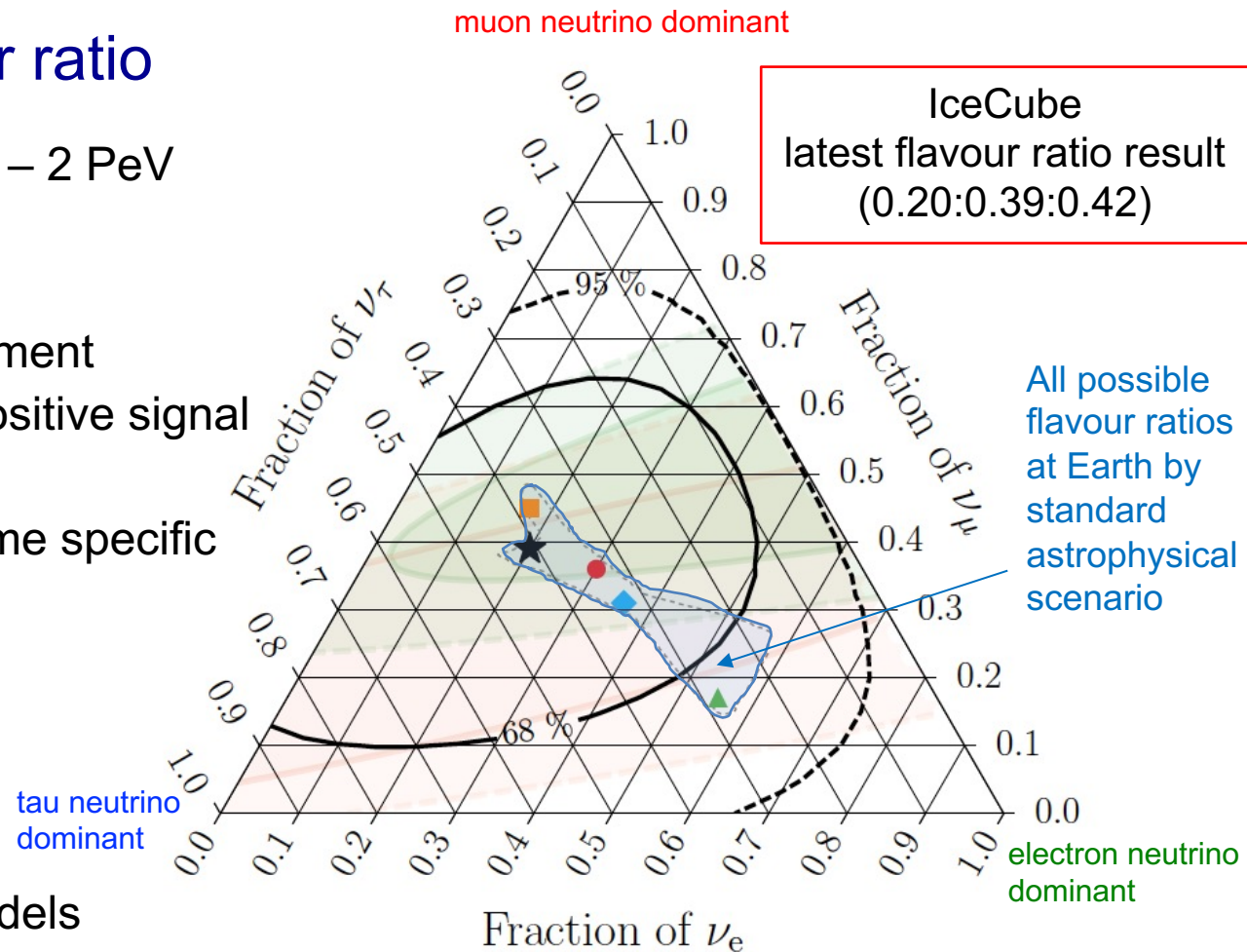
3. HESE 7.5-yr flavor ratio

60 HESE events in 60 TeV – 2 PeV

New flavour ratio measurement

- contour is very big, no positive signal of new physics
- Data are used to test some specific new physics models

We focus on setting limits on certain new physics models



—	HESE with ternary topology ID	$\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau$ at source \rightarrow on Earth:
★	Best fit: 0.20 : 0.39 : 0.42	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: orange; margin-right: 5px;"></div> 0:1:0 \rightarrow 0.17 : 0.45 : 0.37 </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: red; margin-right: 5px;"></div> 1:2:0 \rightarrow 0.30 : 0.36 : 0.34 </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: green; margin-right: 5px;"></div> 1:0:0 \rightarrow 0.55 : 0.17 : 0.28 </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; margin-right: 5px;"></div> 1:1:0 \rightarrow 0.36 : 0.31 : 0.33 </div> </div>
■	Global Fit (IceCube, APJ 2015)	
■	Inelasticity (IceCube, PRD 2019)	
⋯	3ν -mixing 3σ allowed region	

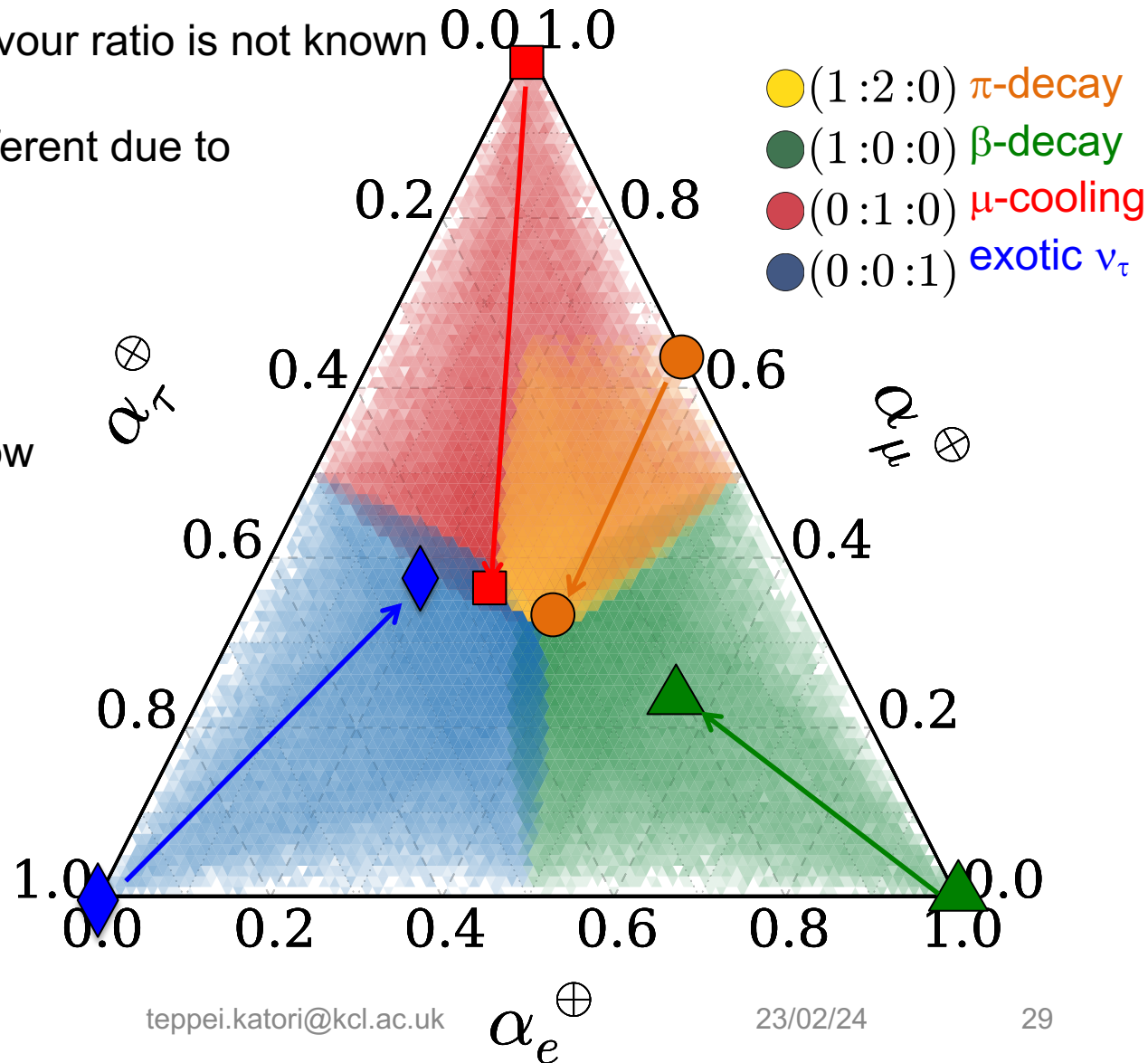
3. Neutrino flavor ratio ($\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau$)

Astrophysical neutrino production mechanism is not known \rightarrow production flavour ratio is not known

Flavour ratio on Earth is different due to mixing by neutrino masses

All possible flavour ratio is confined in a small space

e.g.) New physics just below the limit can produce any flavour ratio



2. Flavor new physics search with effective operators

Standard Model Extension (SME) is an effective field theory to look for Lorentz violation

$$L = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu\psi - m\bar{\psi}\psi + \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu a_\mu\psi + \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu c_{\mu\nu}\partial^\nu\psi \dots$$

Standard Model New physics

Effective Hamiltonian can be written from here

$$h_{eff} \sim \frac{1}{2E} U^\dagger M^2 U + a_{\alpha\beta}^{(3)} - E c_{\alpha\beta}^{(4)} + E^2 a_{\alpha\beta}^{(5)} - E^3 c_{\alpha\beta}^{(6)} \dots$$

Standard Model New physics (renormalizable) higher dimension operator (non-renormalizable)

$E^3 c_{\alpha\beta}^{(6)} = E^3 \begin{pmatrix} c_{ee}^{(6)} & c_{e\mu}^{(6)} & c_{\tau e}^{(6)} \\ c_{e\mu}^{(6)*} & c_{\mu\mu}^{(6)} & c_{\mu\tau}^{(6)} \\ c_{\tau e}^{(6)*} & c_{\mu\tau}^{(6)*} & c_{\tau\tau}^{(6)} \end{pmatrix}$

IceCube is sensitive to higher dimension operators

dimension-6 operator natural scale: $c^{(6)} \sim \frac{1}{M_{Planck}^2} \sim 10^{-38} GeV^{-2}$

Neutrino interferometry – Atmospheric neutrinos

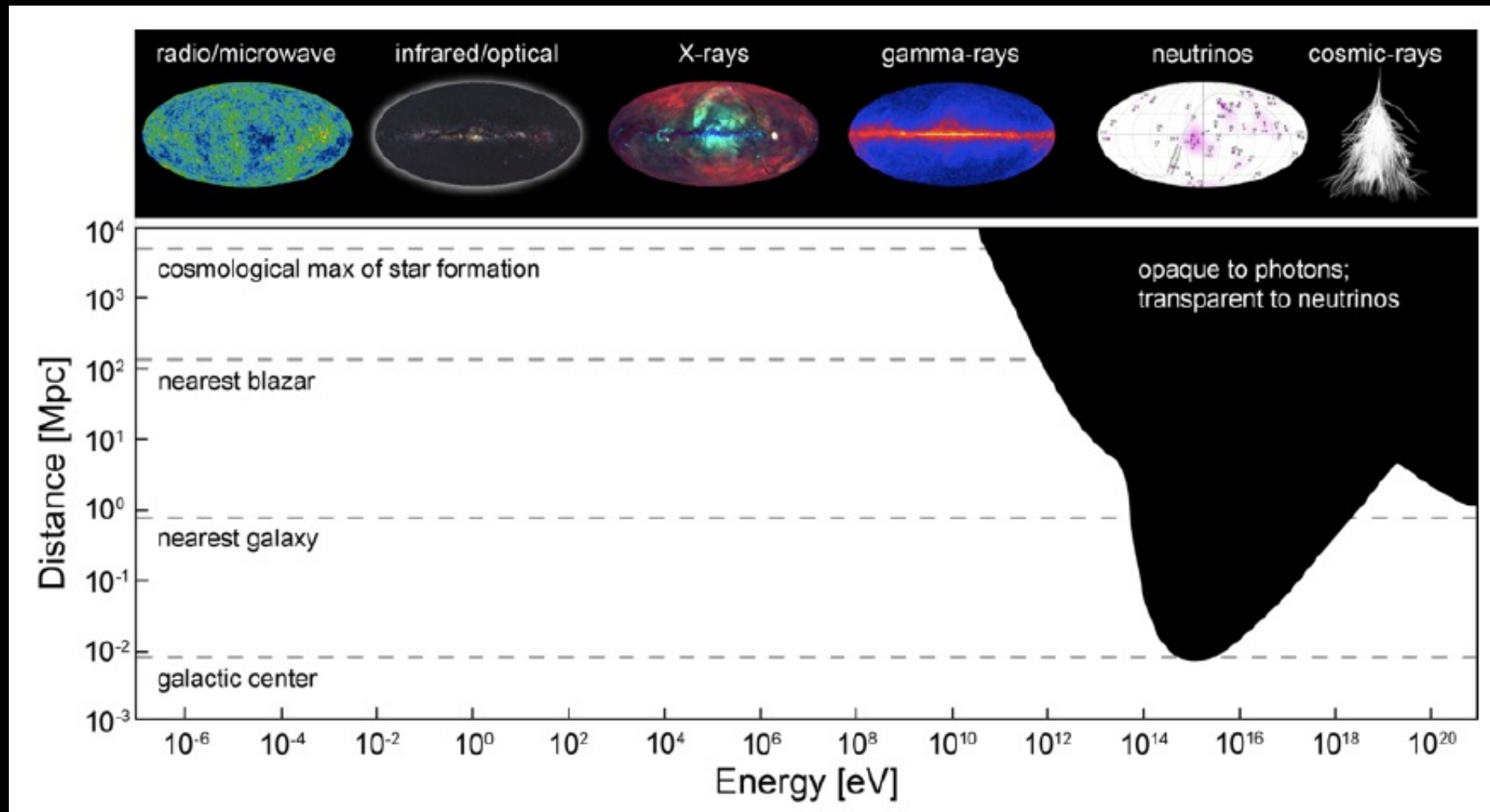
dim.	method	type	sector	limits	ref.
3	CMB polarization	astrophysical	photon	$\sim 10^{-43}$ GeV	[6]
	He-Xe comagnetometer	tabletop	neutron	$\sim 10^{-34}$ GeV	[10]
	torsion pendulum	tabletop	electron	$\sim 10^{-31}$ GeV	[12]
	muon g-2	accelerator	muon	$\sim 10^{-24}$ GeV	[13]
	neutrino oscillation	atmospheric	neutrino	$ \text{Re}(\hat{a}_{\mu\tau}^{(3)}) , \text{Im}(\hat{a}_{\mu\tau}^{(3)}) < 2.9 \times 10^{-24}$ GeV (99% C.L.) $< 2.0 \times 10^{-24}$ GeV (90% C.L.)	this work
4	GRB vacuum birefringence	astrophysical	photon	$\sim 10^{-38}$	[7]
	Laser interferometer	LIGO	photon	$\sim 10^{-22}$	[8]
	Sapphire cavity oscillator	tabletop	photon	$\sim 10^{-18}$	[5]
	Ne-Rb-K comagnetometer	tabletop	neutron	$\sim 10^{-29}$	[11]
	trapped Ca^+ ion	tabletop	electron	$\sim 10^{-19}$	[14]
neutrino oscillation	atmospheric	neutrino	$ \text{Re}(\hat{c}_{\mu\tau}^{(4)}) , \text{Im}(\hat{c}_{\mu\tau}^{(4)}) < 3.9 \times 10^{-28}$ (99% C.L.) $< 2.7 \times 10^{-28}$ (90% C.L.)	this work	
5	GRB vacuum birefringence	astrophysical	photon	$\sim 10^{-34}$ GeV^{-1}	[7]
	ultra-high-energy cosmic ray	astrophysical	proton	$\sim 10^{-22}$ to 10^{-18} GeV^{-1}	[9]
	neutrino oscillation	atmospheric	neutrino	$ \text{Re}(\hat{a}_{\mu\tau}^{(5)}) , \text{Im}(\hat{a}_{\mu\tau}^{(5)}) < 2.3 \times 10^{-32}$ GeV^{-1} (99% C.L.) $< 1.5 \times 10^{-32}$ GeV^{-1} (90% C.L.)	this work
6	GRB vacuum birefringence	astrophysical	photon	$\sim 10^{-31}$ GeV^{-2}	[7]
	ultra-high-energy cosmic ray	astrophysical	proton	$\sim 10^{-42}$ to 10^{-35} GeV^{-2}	[9]
	gravitational Cherenkov radiation	astrophysical	gravity	$\sim 10^{-31}$ GeV^{-2}	[15]
	neutrino oscillation	atmospheric	neutrino	$ \text{Re}(\hat{c}_{\mu\tau}^{(6)}) , \text{Im}(\hat{c}_{\mu\tau}^{(6)}) < 1.5 \times 10^{-36}$ GeV^{-2} (99% C.L.) $< 9.1 \times 10^{-37}$ GeV^{-2} (90% C.L.)	this work
7	GRB vacuum birefringence	astrophysical	photon	$\sim 10^{-28}$ GeV^{-3}	[7]
	neutrino oscillation	atmospheric	neutrino	$ \text{Re}(\hat{a}_{\mu\tau}^{(7)}) , \text{Im}(\hat{a}_{\mu\tau}^{(7)}) < 8.3 \times 10^{-41}$ GeV^{-3} (99% C.L.) $< 3.6 \times 10^{-41}$ GeV^{-3} (90% C.L.)	this work
8	gravitational Cherenkov radiation	astrophysical	gravity	$\sim 10^{-46}$ GeV^{-4}	[15]
	neutrino oscillation	atmospheric	neutrino	$ \text{Re}(\hat{c}_{\mu\tau}^{(8)}) , \text{Im}(\hat{c}_{\mu\tau}^{(8)}) < 5.2 \times 10^{-45}$ GeV^{-4} (99% C.L.) $< 1.4 \times 10^{-45}$ GeV^{-4} (90% C.L.)	this work

TABLE I: Comparison of attainable best limits of SME coefficients in various fields.

IceCube atmospheric neutrino limit, $c^{(6)} < 10^{-36} \text{GeV}^{-2}$
 This is close to the target signal region, $c^{(6)} \sim 10^{-38} \text{GeV}^{-2}$

2. High-energy astrophysical neutrinos

Above ~ 100 TeV, neutrinos are only particles pointing to their high-energy sources



HESE 7.5-yr Flavor new physics search

Data, 2635 days HESE sample [IceCube, PRD104\(2021\)022002](#)

- 17 track events, 20 $\log(E)$ bins [60 TeV, 10 PeV], 10 $\cos\theta$ bins [-1.0, +1.0]
- 41 cascade events, 20 $\log(E)$ bins [60 TeV, 10 PeV], 10 $\cos\theta$ bins [-1.0, +1.0]
- 2 double cascades, 20 $\log(E)$ bins [60 TeV, 10 PeV], 10 $\log(L)$ bins [10m, 100m]

Simulation

[Bhattacharya et al., JHEP06\(2015\)110](#)

- Foregrounds, conventional (Honda flux), prompt (BERSS model), muon (CORSIKA)
- Astrophysical neutrinos, simple power law
- Interaction, NLO PDF DIS (CSMS model) [Cooper-Sarkar et al., JHEP08\(2011\)042](#)

Systematics (15 nuisance parameters)

- oscillation parameters (6)
- normalization of flux : conventional (40%), prompt (free), muon (50%), astrophysical (free)
- spectrum index : primary cosmic ray (5%) astrophysical neutrinos (free)
- Ice model : (20%)
- DOM efficiency : overall (10%), angular dependence (50%)

Limits

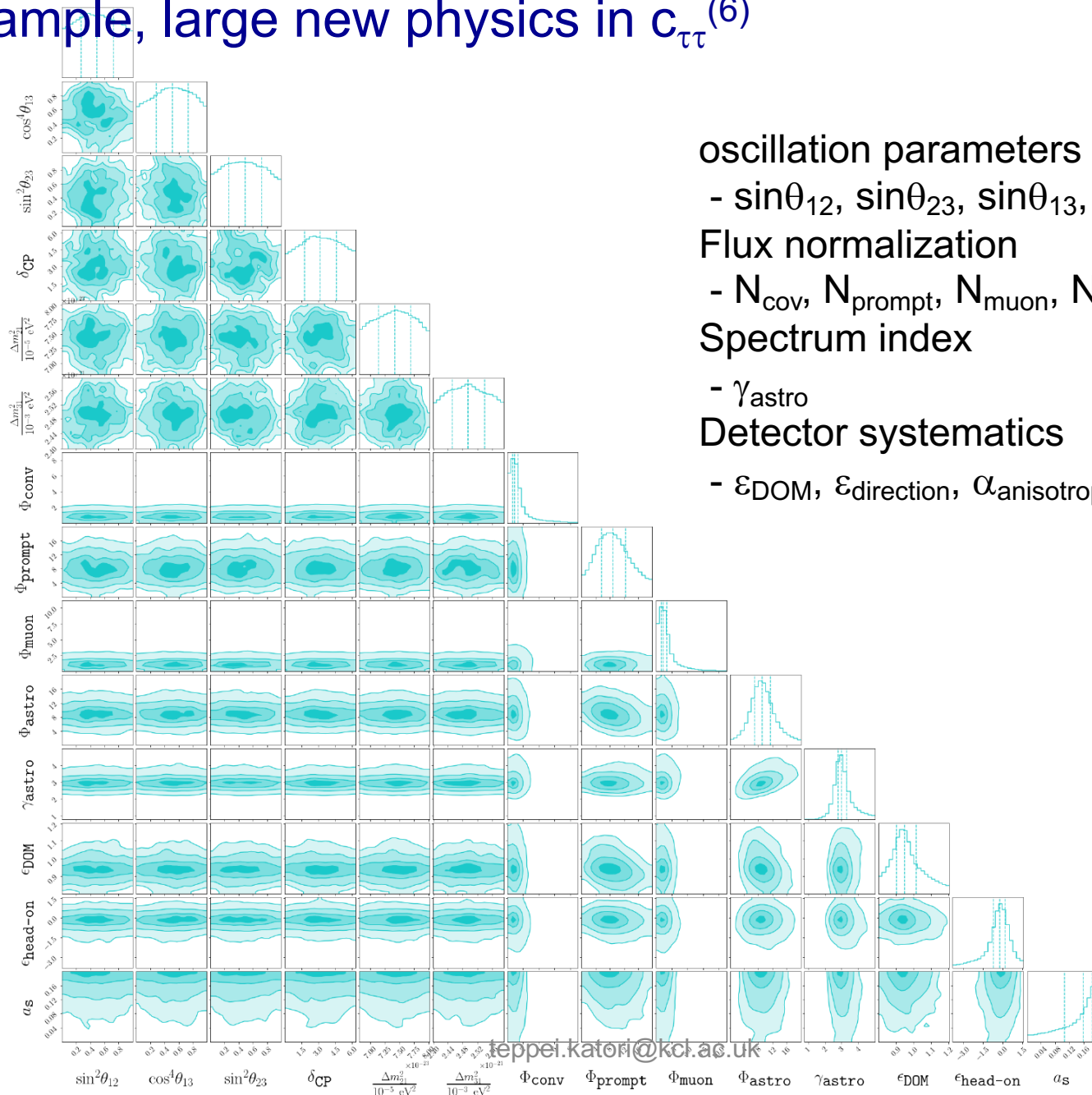
[Feroz et al., Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc. 398,1601\(2009\)1601](#)

- Bayesian: MCMC with Multinest, Bayes factor with Jefferey' scale “strong” limit
- Frequentist: Wilks' theorem

Systematic errors

Parameter	Prior (constraint)	Range	Description
Astrophysical neutrino flux:			
Φ_{astro}	-	$[0, \infty)$	Normalization scale
γ_{astro}	-	$(-\infty, \infty)$	Spectral index
Atmospheric neutrino flux:			
Φ_{conv}	1.0 ± 0.4	$[0, \infty)$	Conventional normalization scale
Φ_{prompt}	-	$[0, \infty)$	Prompt normalization scale
$R_{K/\pi}$	1.0 ± 0.1	$[0, \infty)$	Kaon-Pion ratio correction
$2\nu / (\nu + \bar{\nu})_{\text{atmo}}$	1.0 ± 0.1	$[0, 2]$	Neutrino-anti-neutrino ratio correction
Cosmic-ray flux:			
$\Delta\gamma_{\text{CR}}$	0.0 ± 0.05	$(-\infty, \infty)$	Cosmic-ray spectral index modification
Φ_{μ}	1.0 ± 0.5	$[0, \infty)$	Muon normalization scale
Detector:			
ϵ_{DOM}	0.99 ± 0.1	$[0.80, 1.25]$	Absolute energy scale
$\epsilon_{\text{head-on}}$	0.0 ± 0.5	$[-3.82, 2.18]$	DOM angular response
a_{s}	1.0 ± 0.2	$[0.0, 2.0]$	Ice anisotropy scale

Fit example, large new physics in $c_{\tau\tau}$ ⁽⁶⁾



oscillation parameters

- $\sin\theta_{12}$, $\sin\theta_{23}$, $\sin\theta_{13}$, Δm_{12} , Δm_{23} , δ

Flux normalization

- N_{cov} , N_{prompt} , N_{muon} , N_{astro}

Spectrum index

- γ_{astro}

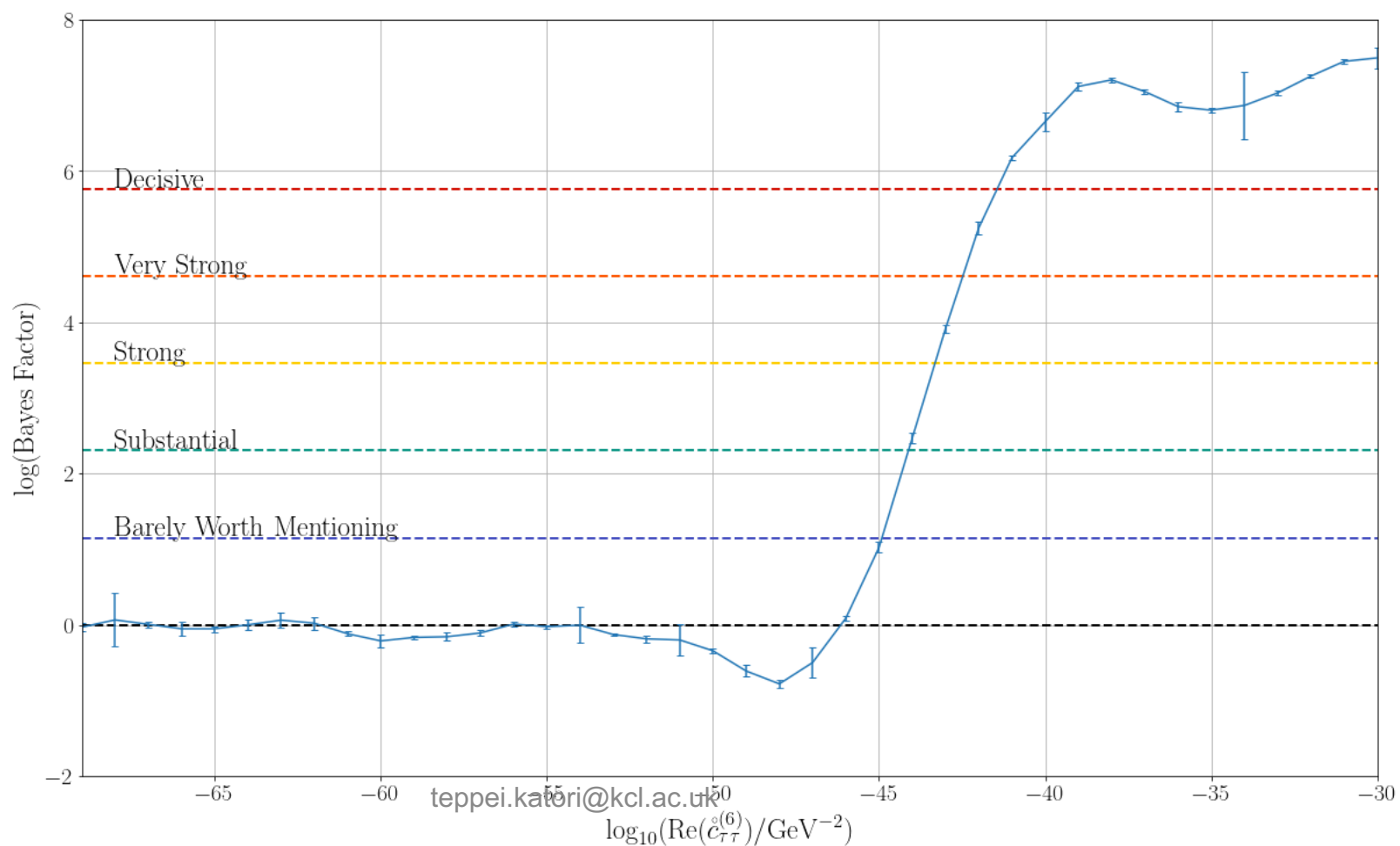
Detector systematics

- ϵ_{DOM} , $\epsilon_{\text{direction}}$, $\alpha_{\text{anisotropy}}$

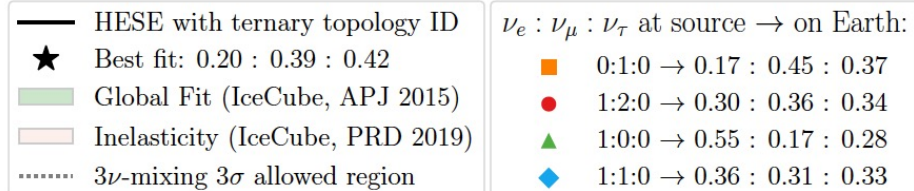
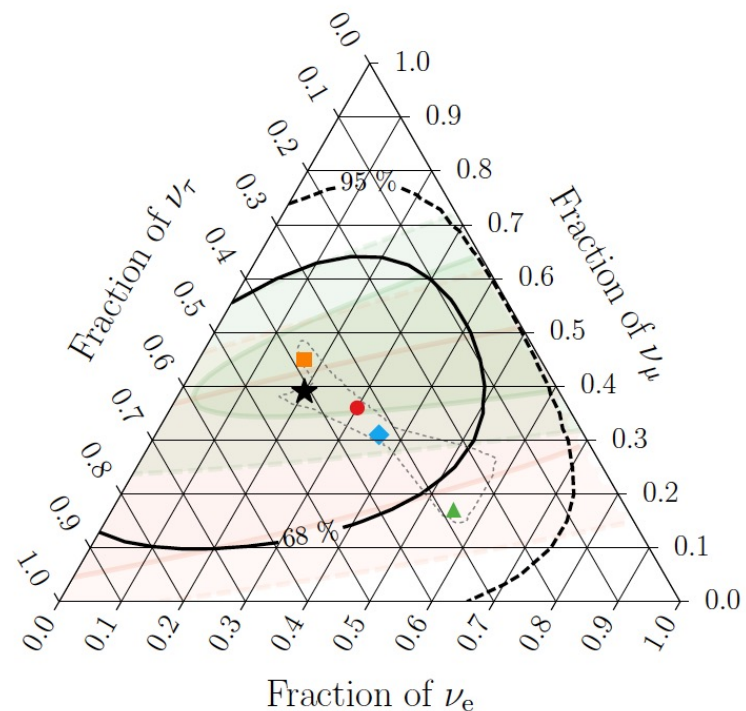
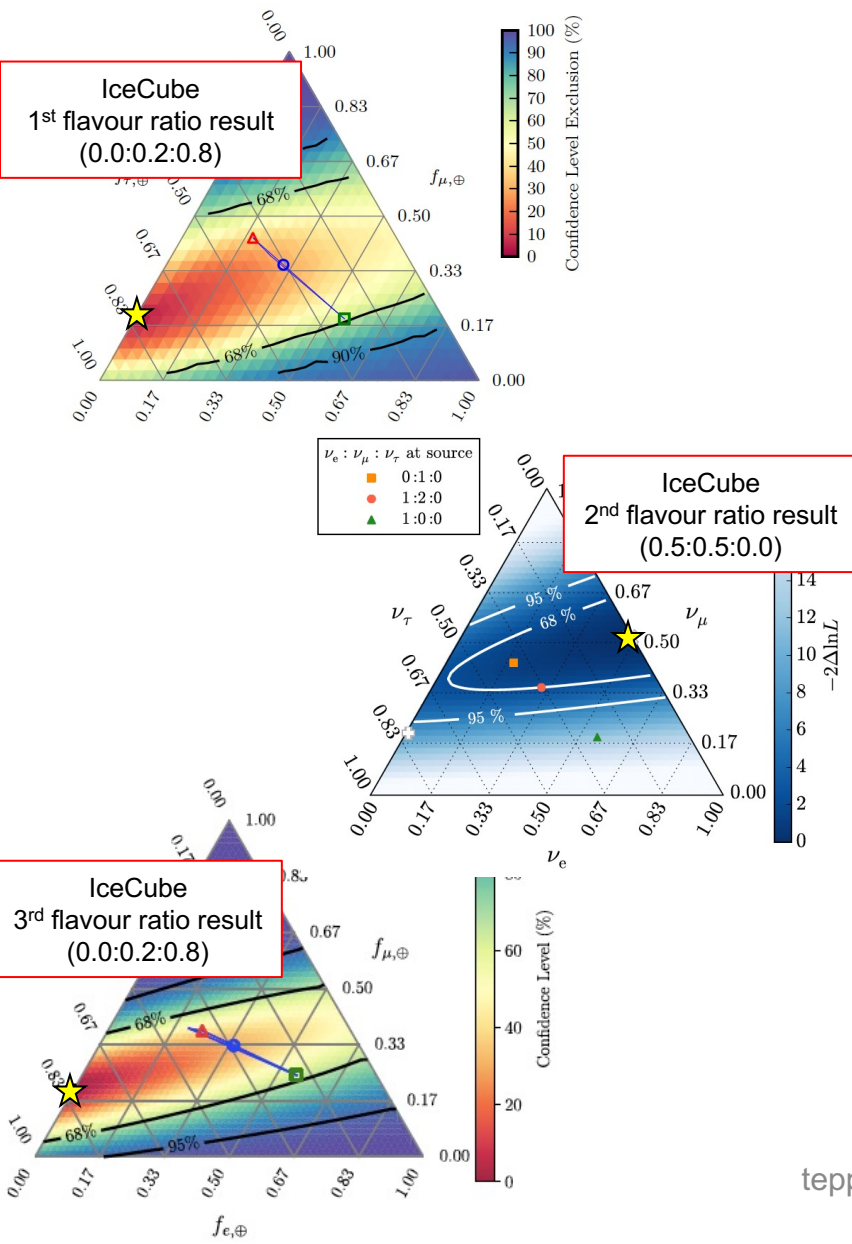
Fit example, large new physics in $c_{\tau\tau}^{(6)}$

Bayesian analysis

- Bayes factor is computed with new physics parameter
- Repeat this to find the threshold to set the limit



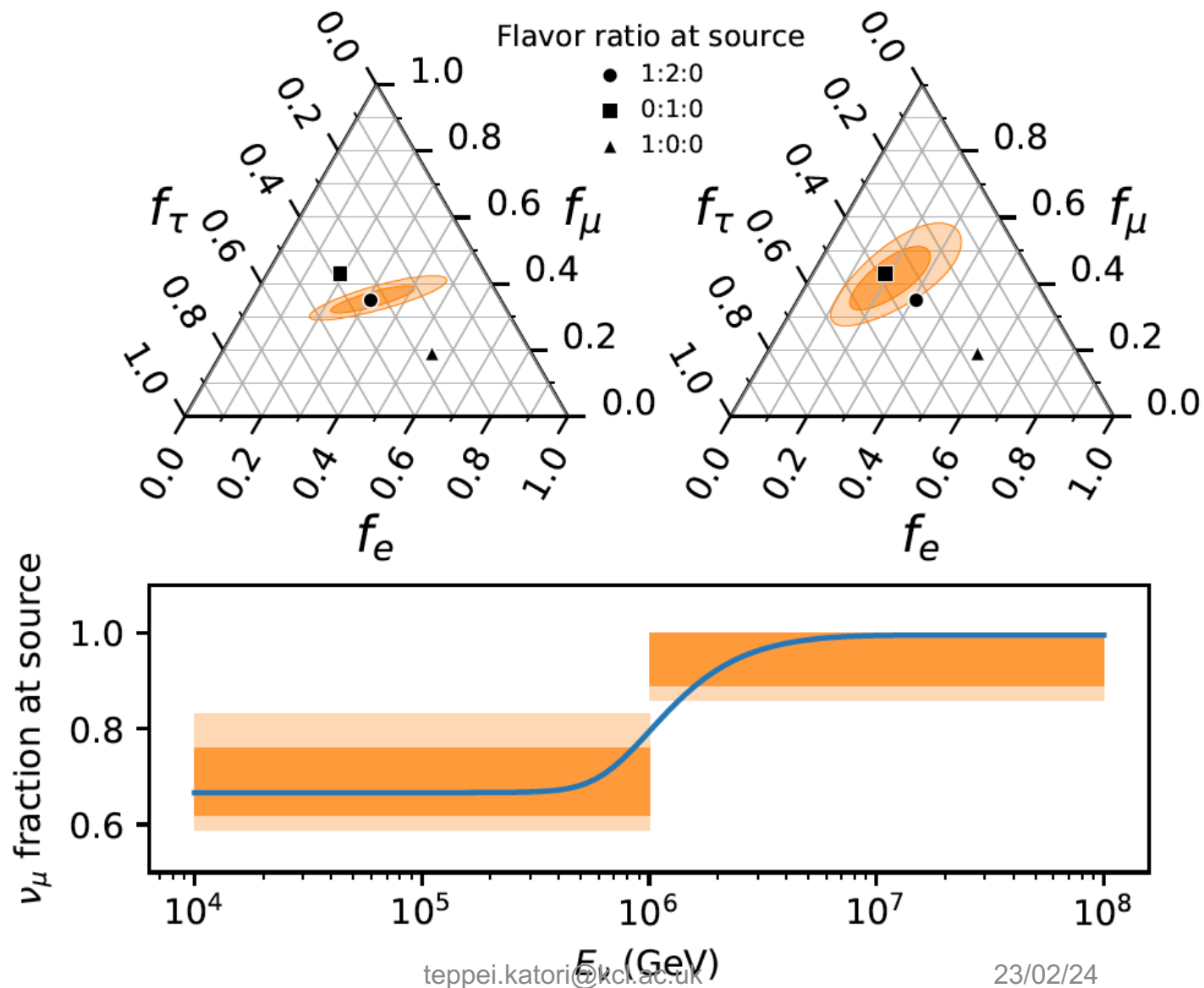
HESE 7.5-yr data (2018)



New flavour ratio measurement

- Likelihood is very shallow and fit often confuses between ν_e and ν_τ
- New flavour ratio result has some power to distinguish ν_e and ν_τ

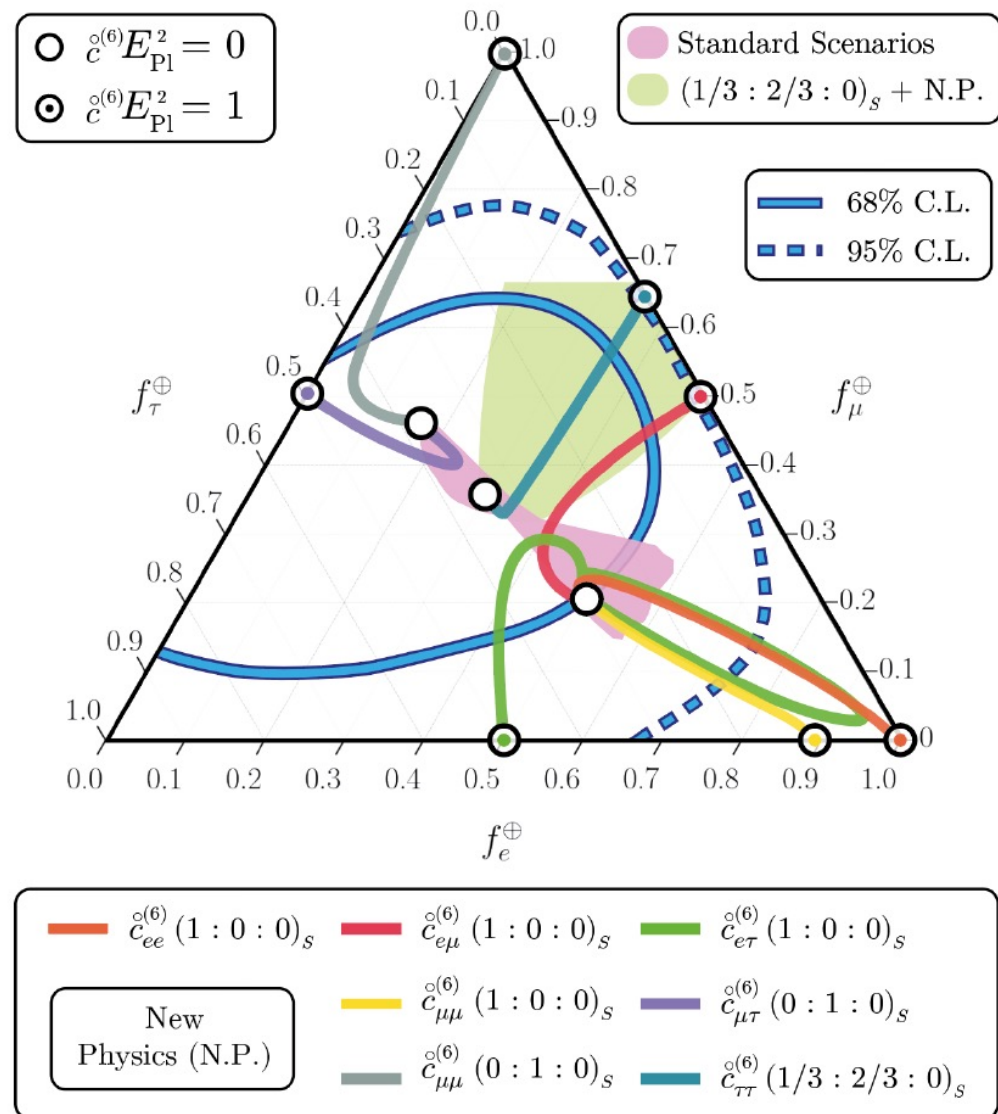
Energy dependence of flavor ratio



HESE 7.5-yr flavor new physics search

Various standard astrophysical neutrino production models predict different neutrino flavour ratios, however, they all end up in the pink region. \circ indicated characteristic model predictions. Nonzero new physics moves standard predictions \circ to different locations \odot depending on the types of new physics operators.

If the new physics models bring the standard predictions outside of the data contour, such model can be rejected by current data



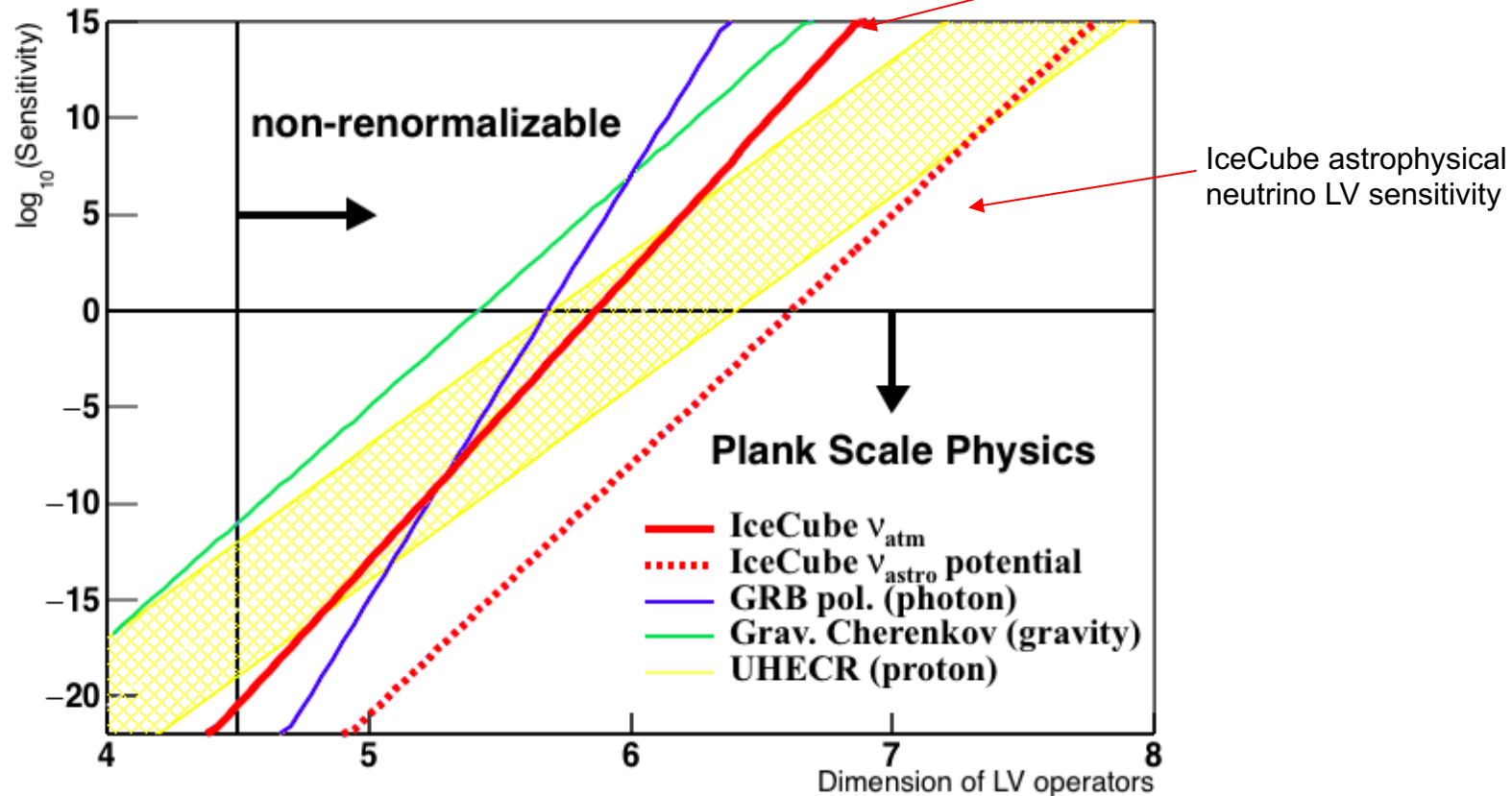
Neutrino interferometry – Astrophysical neutrinos

Higher-dimension operators may be related to new physics

- Dimension-5 operator (unit: GeV^{-1}), example: Majorana mass
- Dimension-6 operator (unit: GeV^{-2}), example: Fermi constant (G_F)

IceCube atmospheric neutrino LV sensitivity
Nature Physics 14(2018)961

New physics limits and projected sensitivity



Astrophysical neutrino dim-6 LV operator search can reach quantum gravity motivated region ($\sim 1/M_{\text{Planck}}^2 \sim 10^{-38} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$)