Search for Solar Atmospheric Neutrinos with IceCube

Carsten Rott

(for the IceCube Collaboration)

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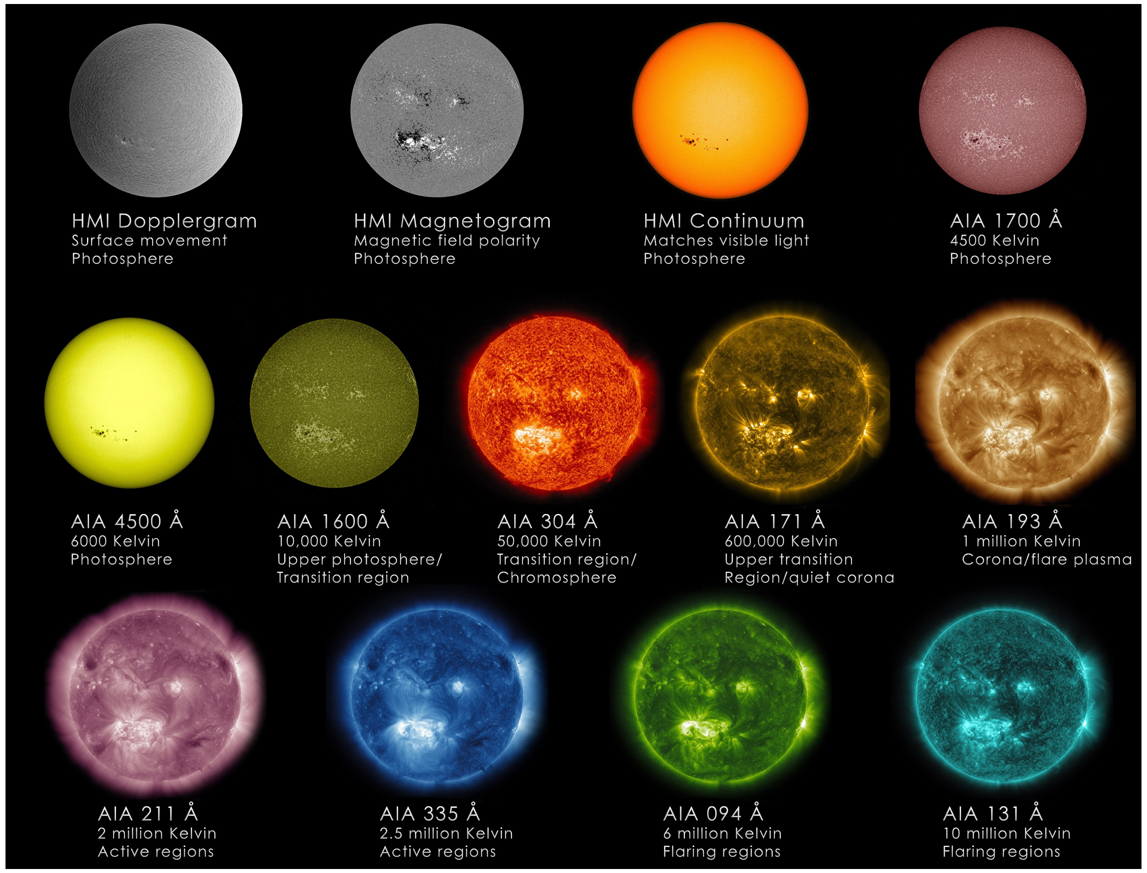
TeVPA 2017

Outline

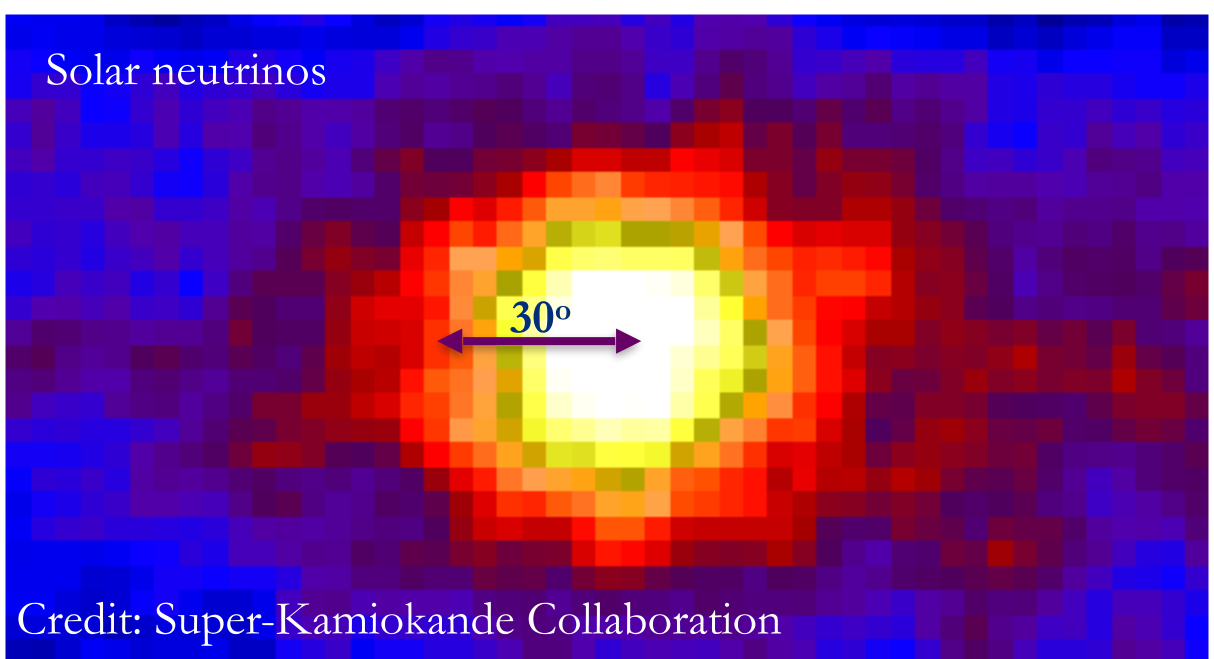
- Motivation
- Energetic Radiation from the Sun
- IceCube Neutrino Telescope
- Observing the Sun with IceCube
  - Sun Shadow
  - Solar Dark Matter
  - Solar Atmospheric Neutrinos and the Dark Matter Neutrino Floor
- Outlook and Conclusions

Motivation

Motivation



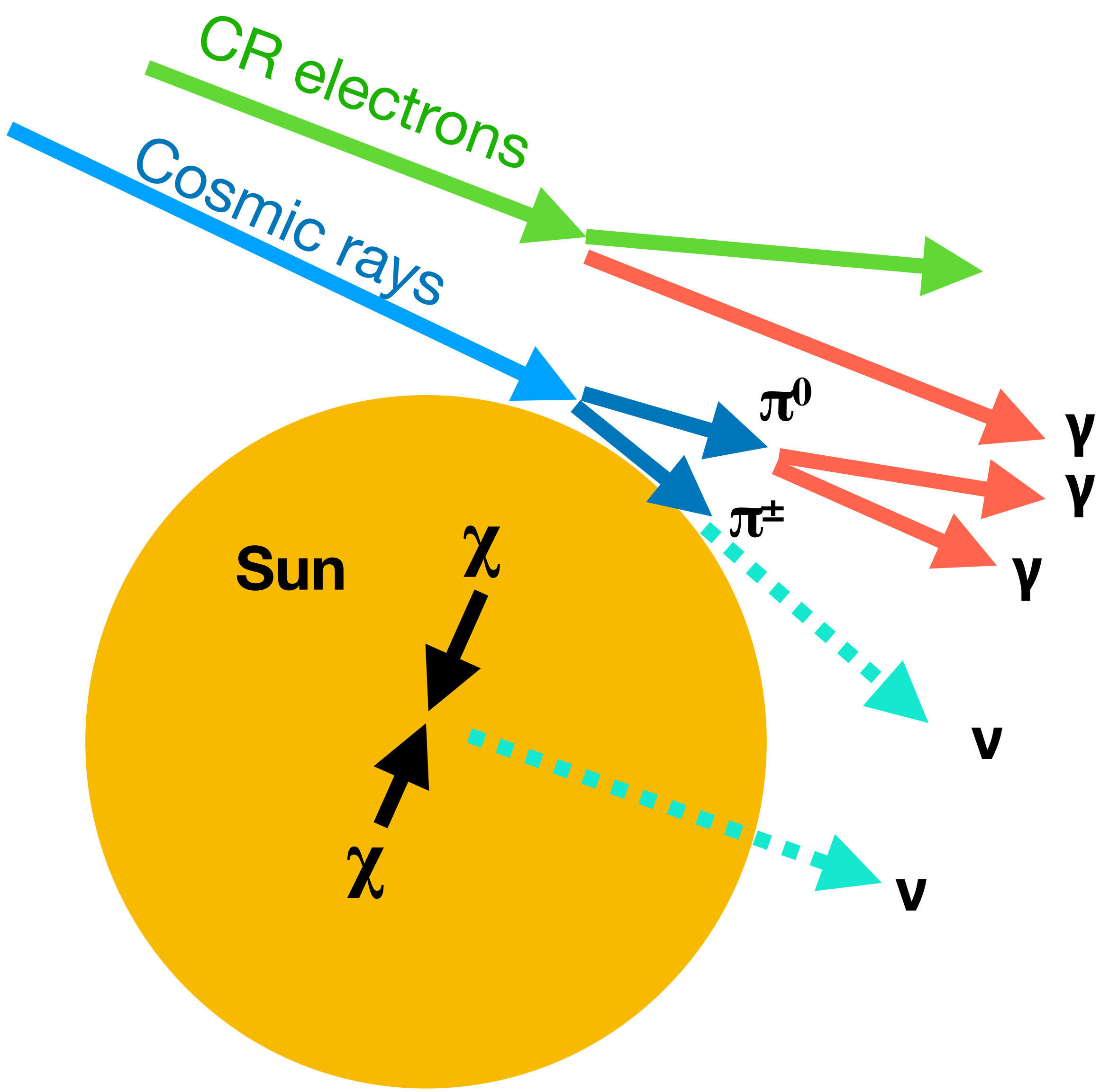
Credit: NASA/SDO/Goddard Space Flight Center



- GeV Radiation from the Sun
  - Inverse Compton (IC)
    - Cosmic ray electrons and positrons on solar photons
  - Solar Disk (Disk)
    - Cosmic rays with solar atmosphere
  - Exotics
    - Dark matter, …

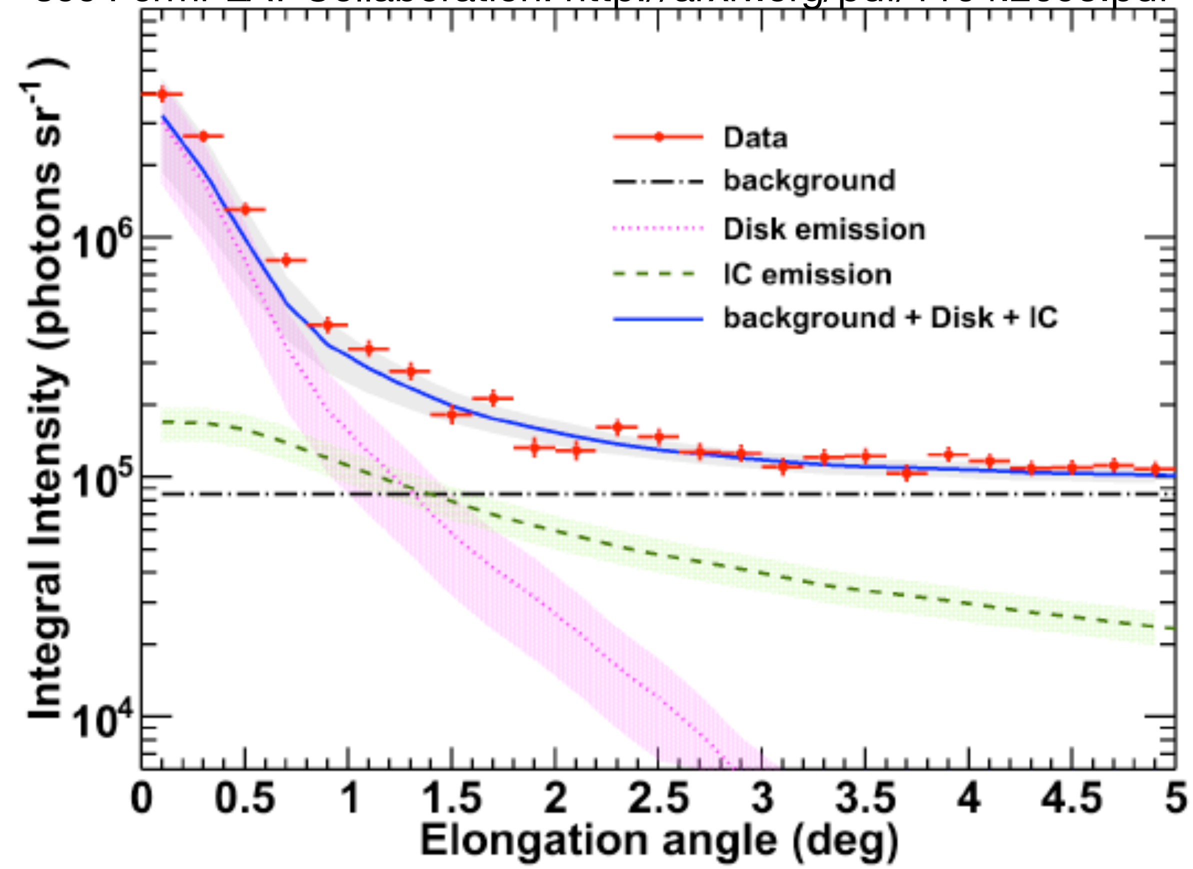
Energetic Radiation from the Sun

Cosmic ray interactions with the Sun



- Cosmic-ray interactions with the solar atmosphere produce gamma-rays and neutrinos
- Background to dark matter search from the Sun, that soon will be relevant and a first high-energy neutrino point source ?

see Fermi-LAT Collaboration: http://arxiv.org/pdf/1104.2093.pdf

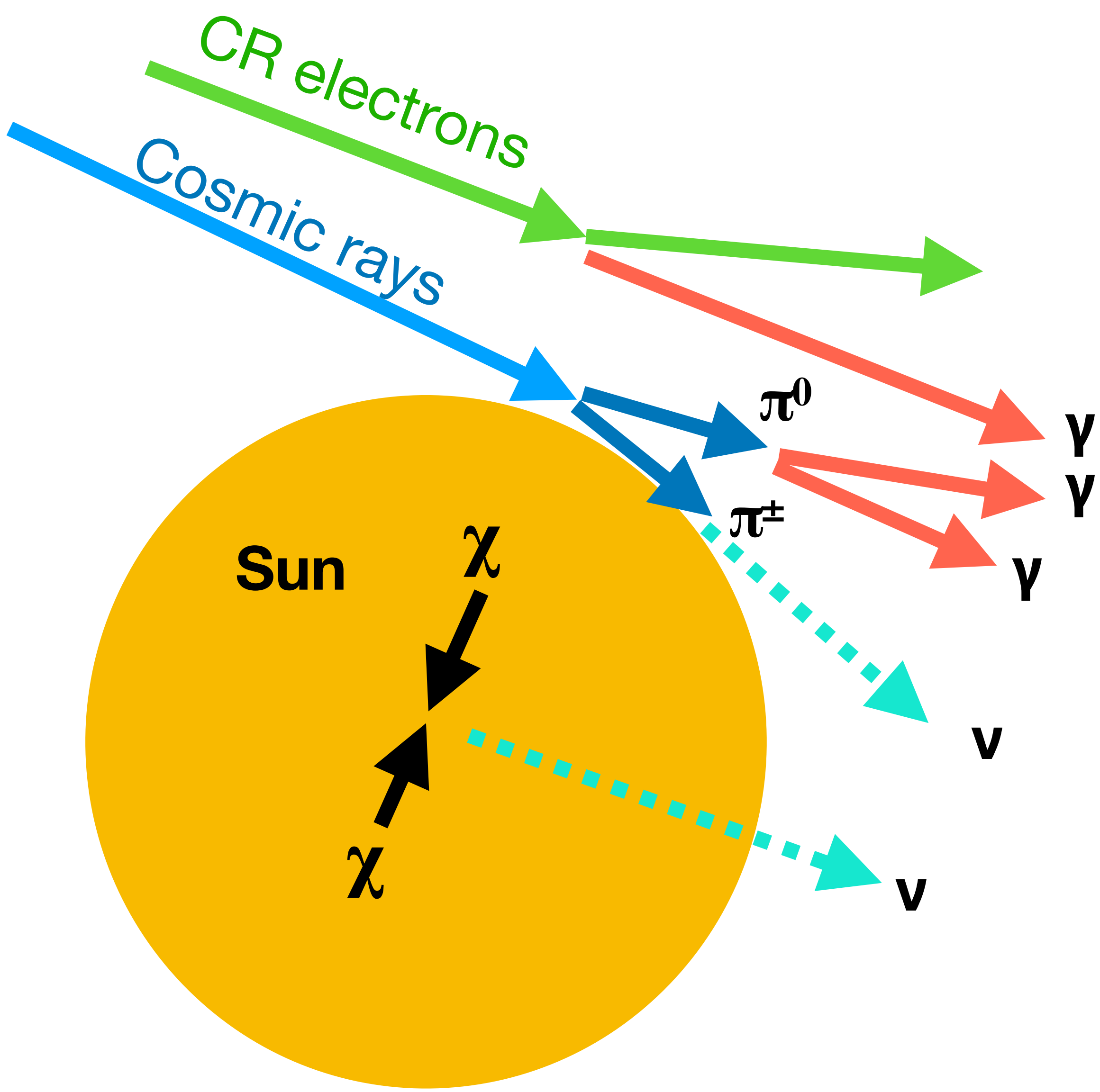


Leptonic
- Moskalenko, Porter, Digel (2006)
- Orlando, Strong (2007)

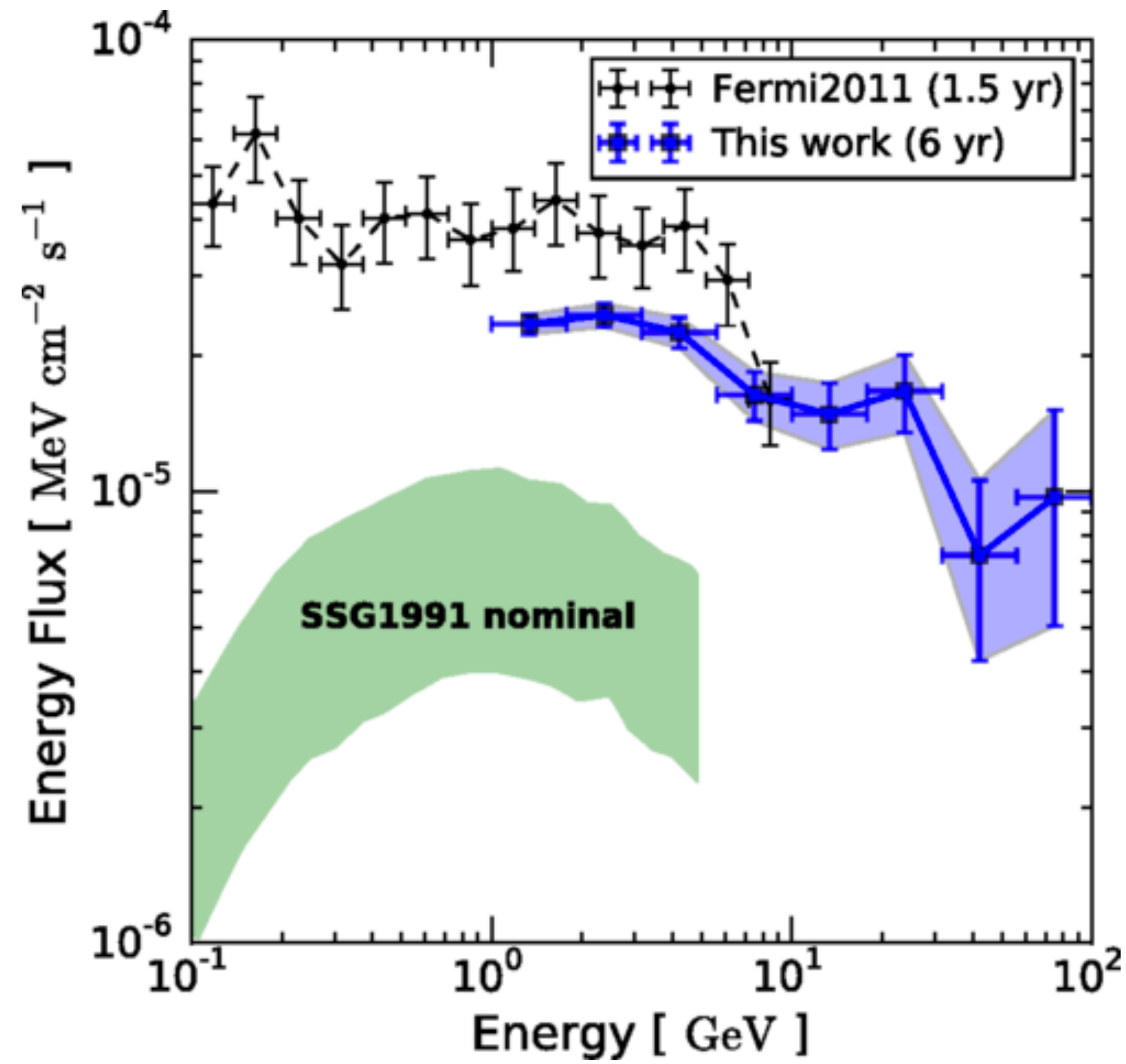
Hadronic
- Seckel, Stanev, Gaisser (1991)
- Moskalenko, Karakula (1993)
- Ingelman & Thunman (1996)

see talks by Kenny Ng/ Bei Zhou

Cosmic ray interactions with the Sun



Ng, Beacom, Peter, Rott Phys.Rev. D94 (2016) no.2, 023004



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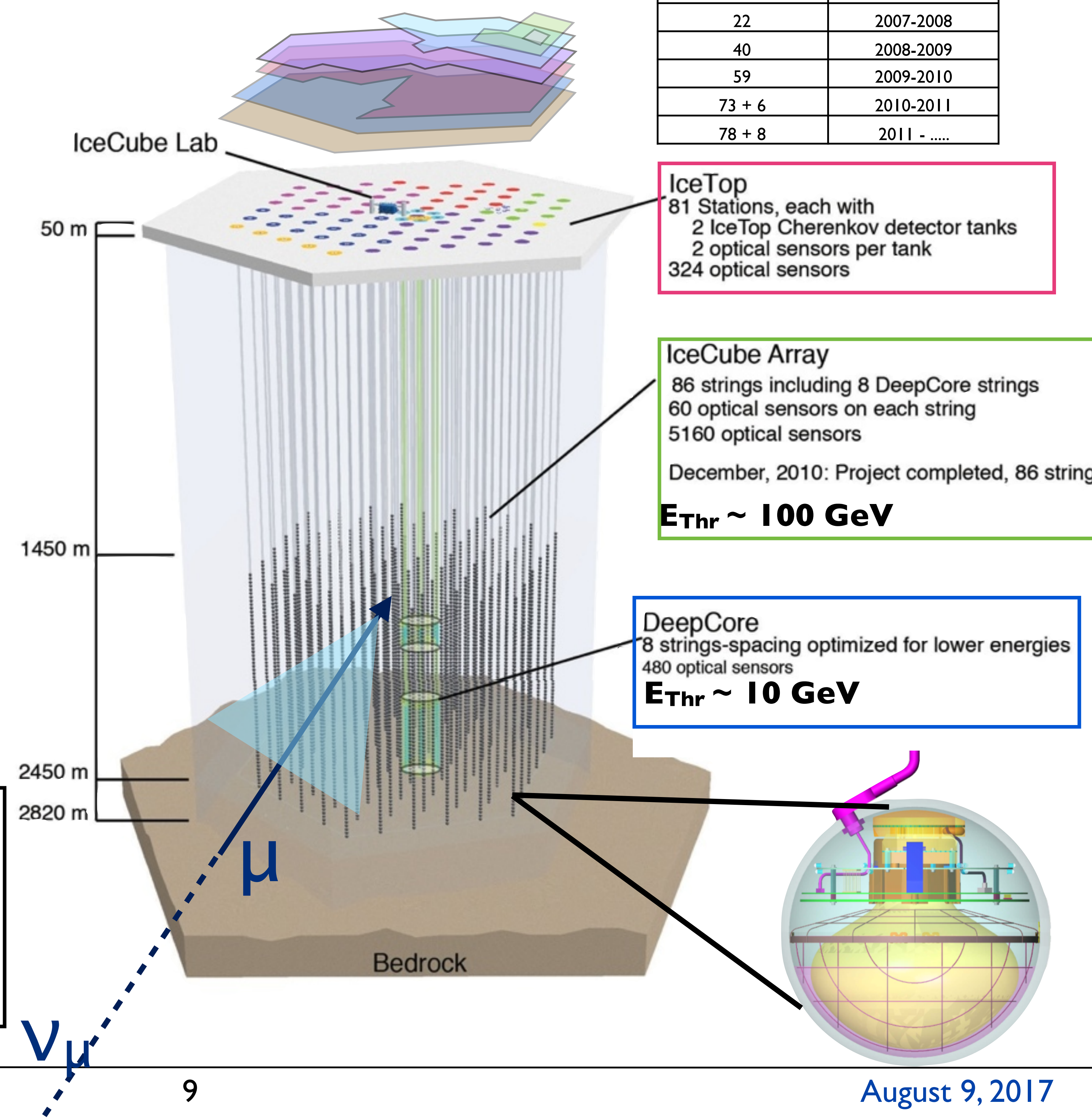
The IceCube Neutrino Observatory

The IceCube Neutrino Telescope

- Gigaton Neutrino Detector at the Geographic South Pole
- 5160 Digital optical modules distributed over 86 strings
- Completed in December 2010, start of data taking with full detector May 2011
- Neutrinos are identified through Cherenkov light emission from secondary particles produced in the neutrino interaction with the ice

Strings	Dataset
1	2005-2006
9	2006-2007
22	2007-2008
40	2008-2009
59	2009-2010
73 + 6	2010-2011
78 + 8	2011 - .....



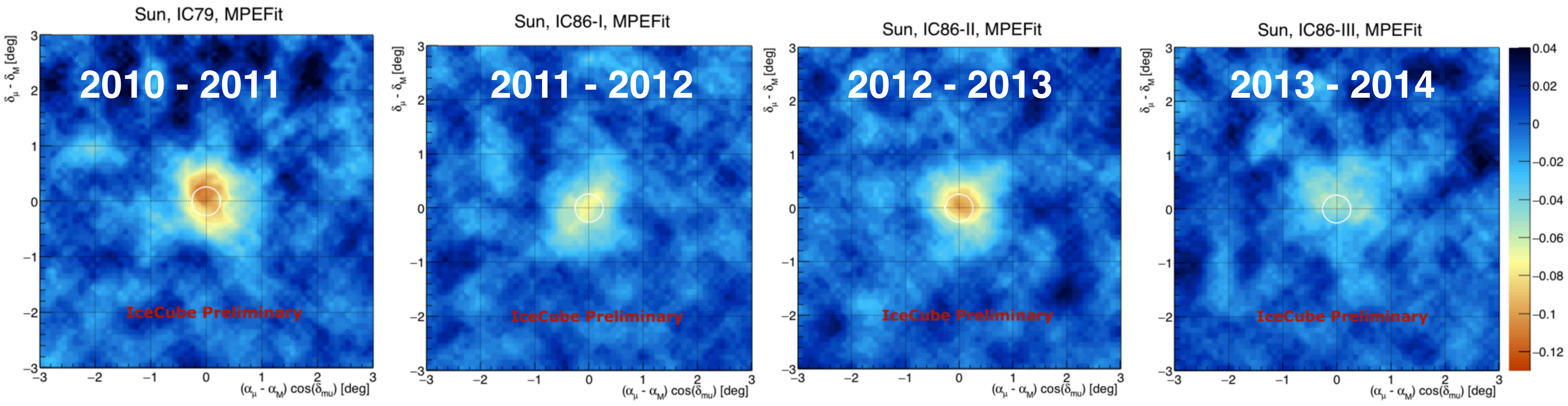
Solar Observations

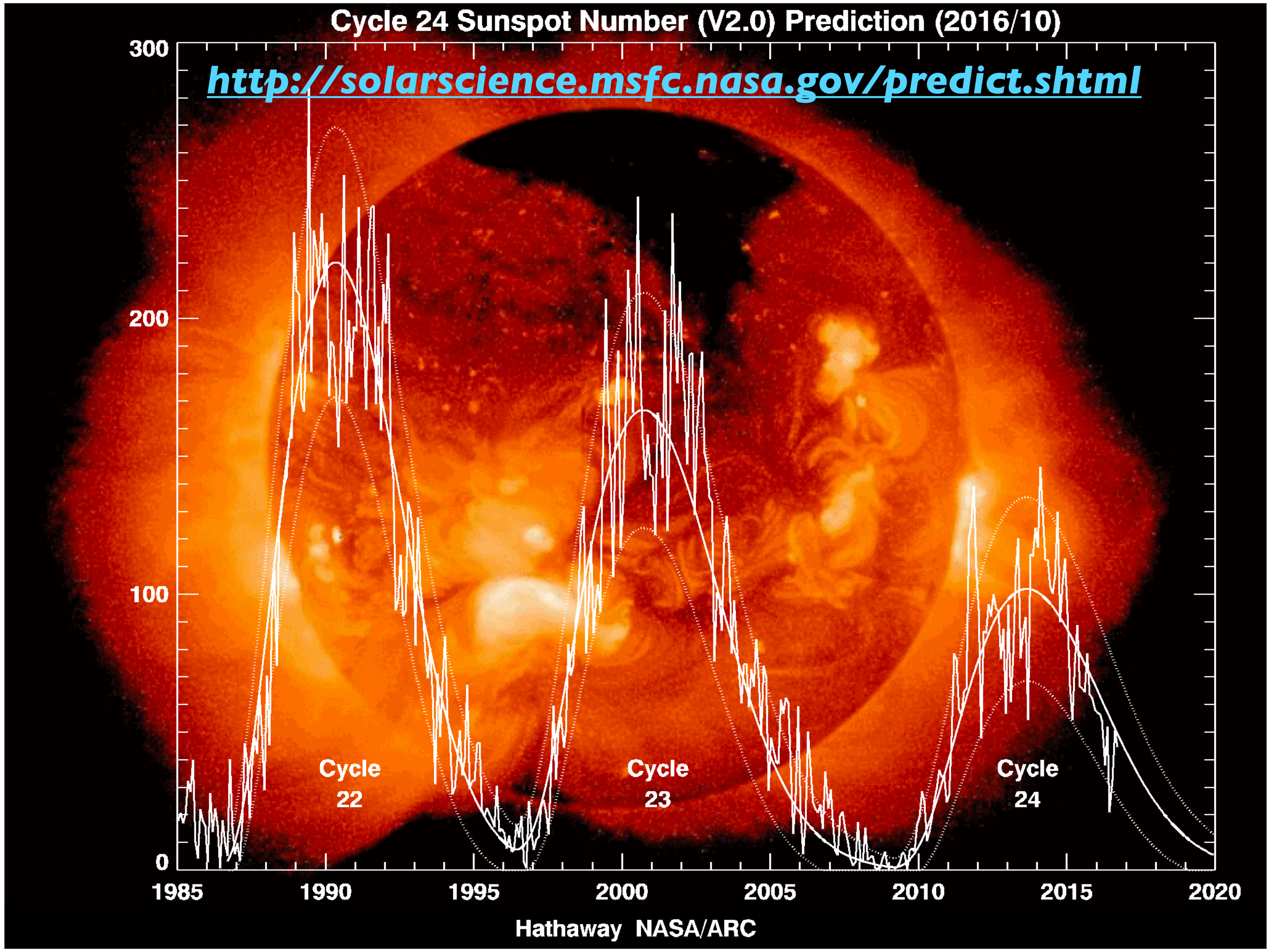
- **At the South Pole the Sun is between +/- 23°**

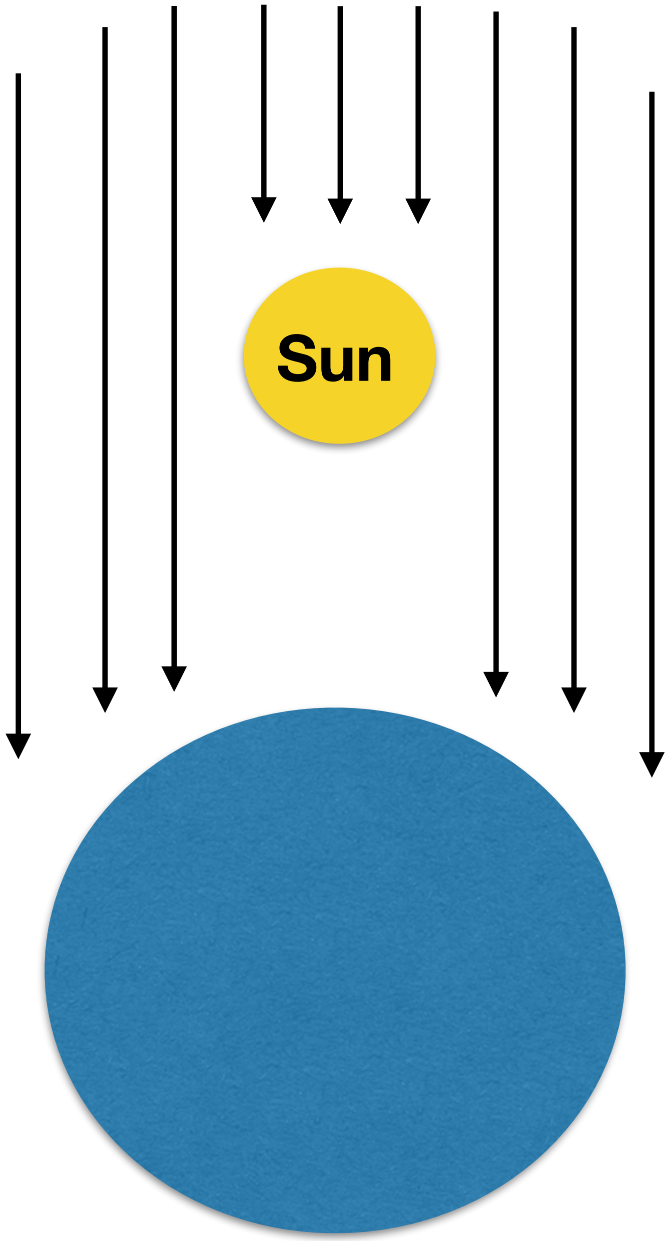
IceCube Performance and Moon/Sun Shadows

see also talk by Mike Kroll

Sun Shadow



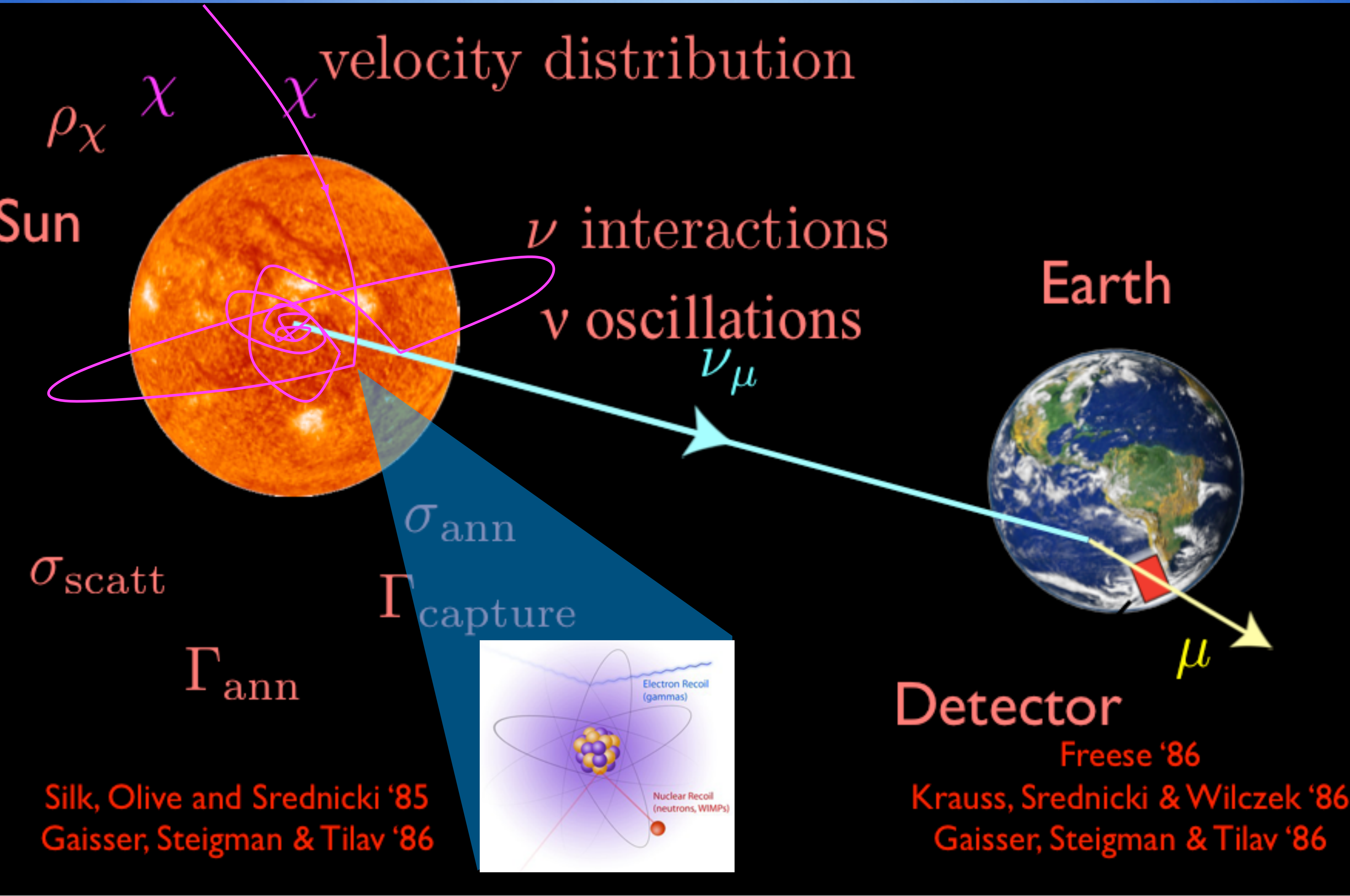




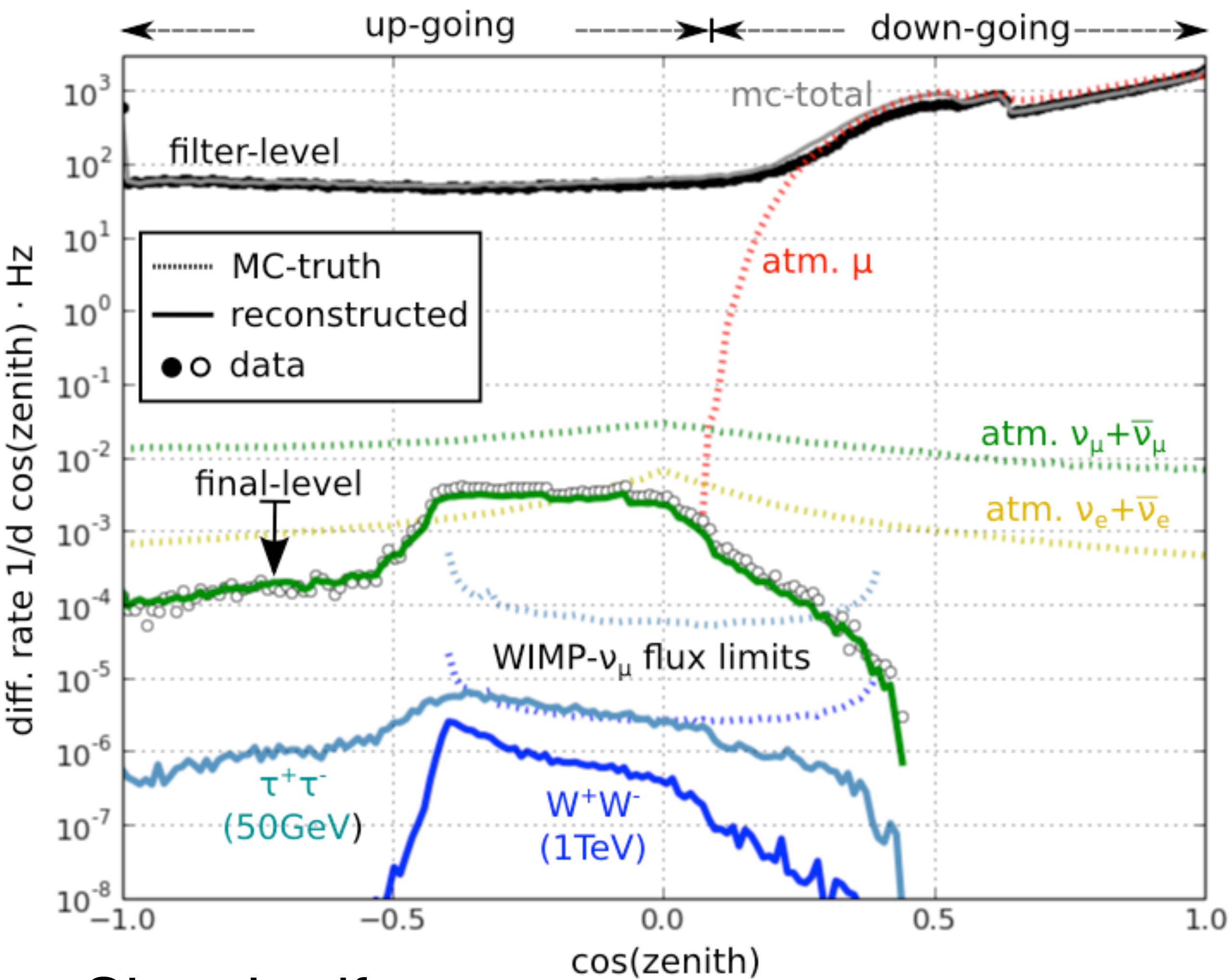
- Sun shadow observed during austral summer
- Variations are clearly visible

Solar Dark Matter Searches

Solar Dark Matter

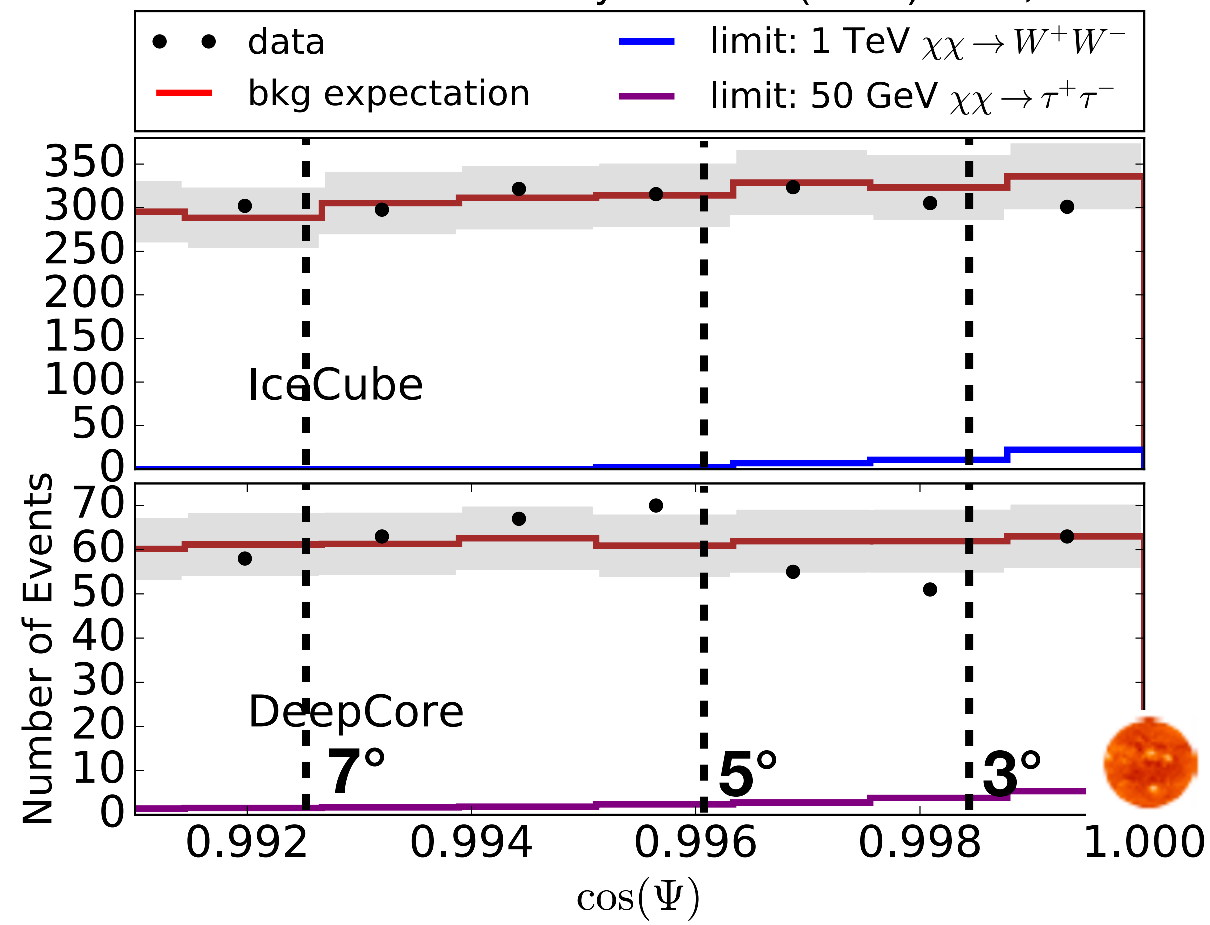


3yrs IceCube Solar Dark Matter Analysis



Observed events

IceCube Eur.Phys.J. C77 (2017) no.3, 146



Signal pdf:

Spectral part

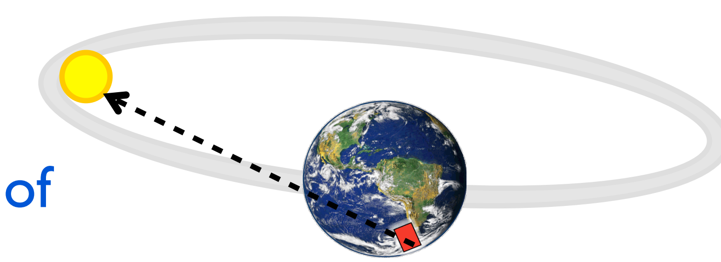
$$S_i(|\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_{\rm sun}(t_i)|, E_i, m_\chi, c_{\rm ann})$$
$$= \mathscr{K}(|\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_{\rm sun}(t_i)|, \kappa_i) \times \mathscr{E}_{m_\chi, c_{\rm ann}}(E_i)$$

Monovariate Fisher Bingham distribution from directional statistics

Background pdf: $\mathscr{B}_i(tx_i, E_i) = B(\delta_i) \times P(E_i|\phi_{\rm atm})$

Likelihood: $\mathscr{L}(n_s) = \prod_N \left(\frac{n_s}{N} S_i + (1 - \frac{n_s}{N})\mathscr{B}_i\right)$

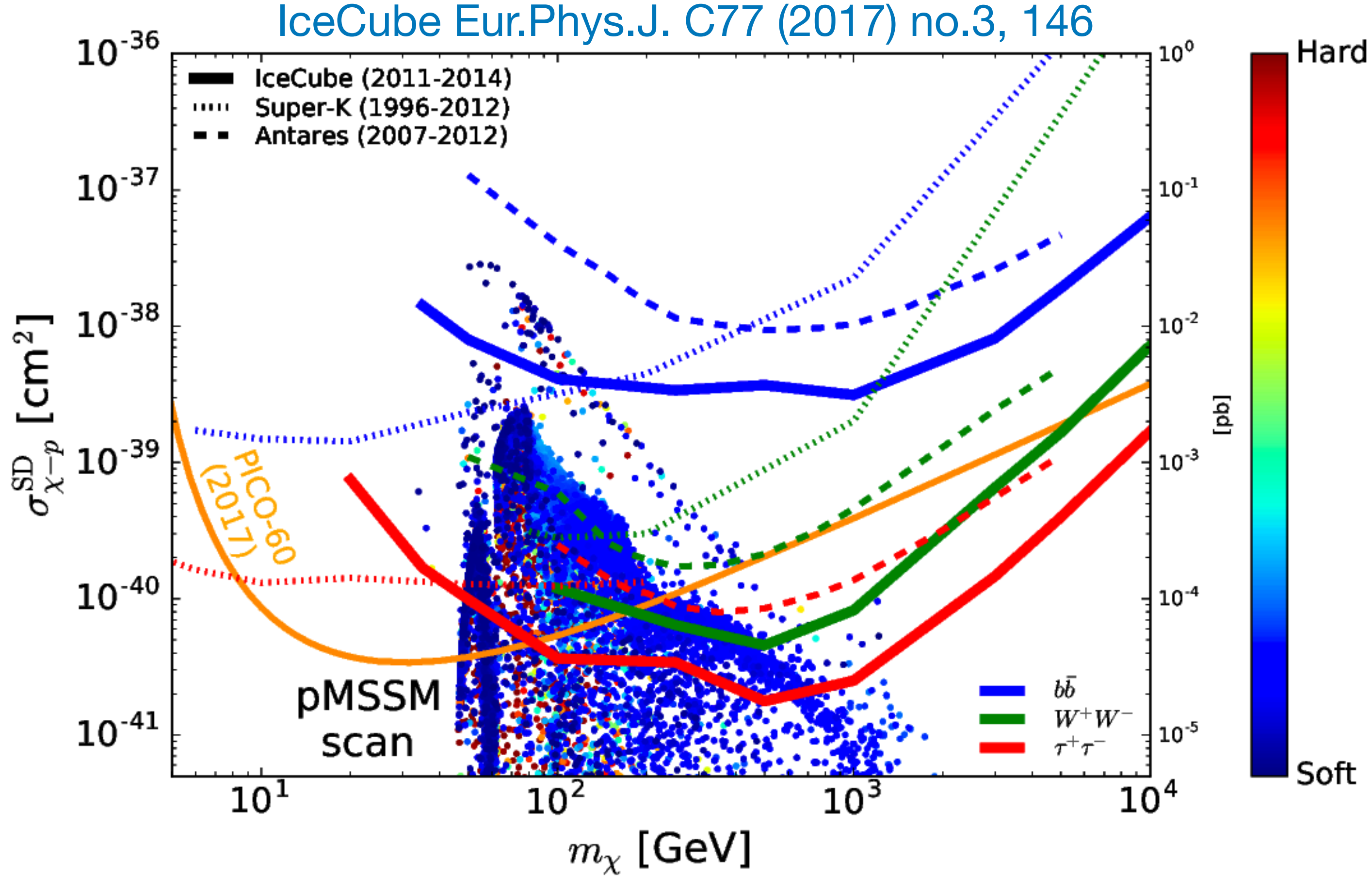
- Use track events for better pointing
- Search for an excess of events from the direction of the Sun
- Observed events consistent with background only expectations



Solar Dark Matter IceCube

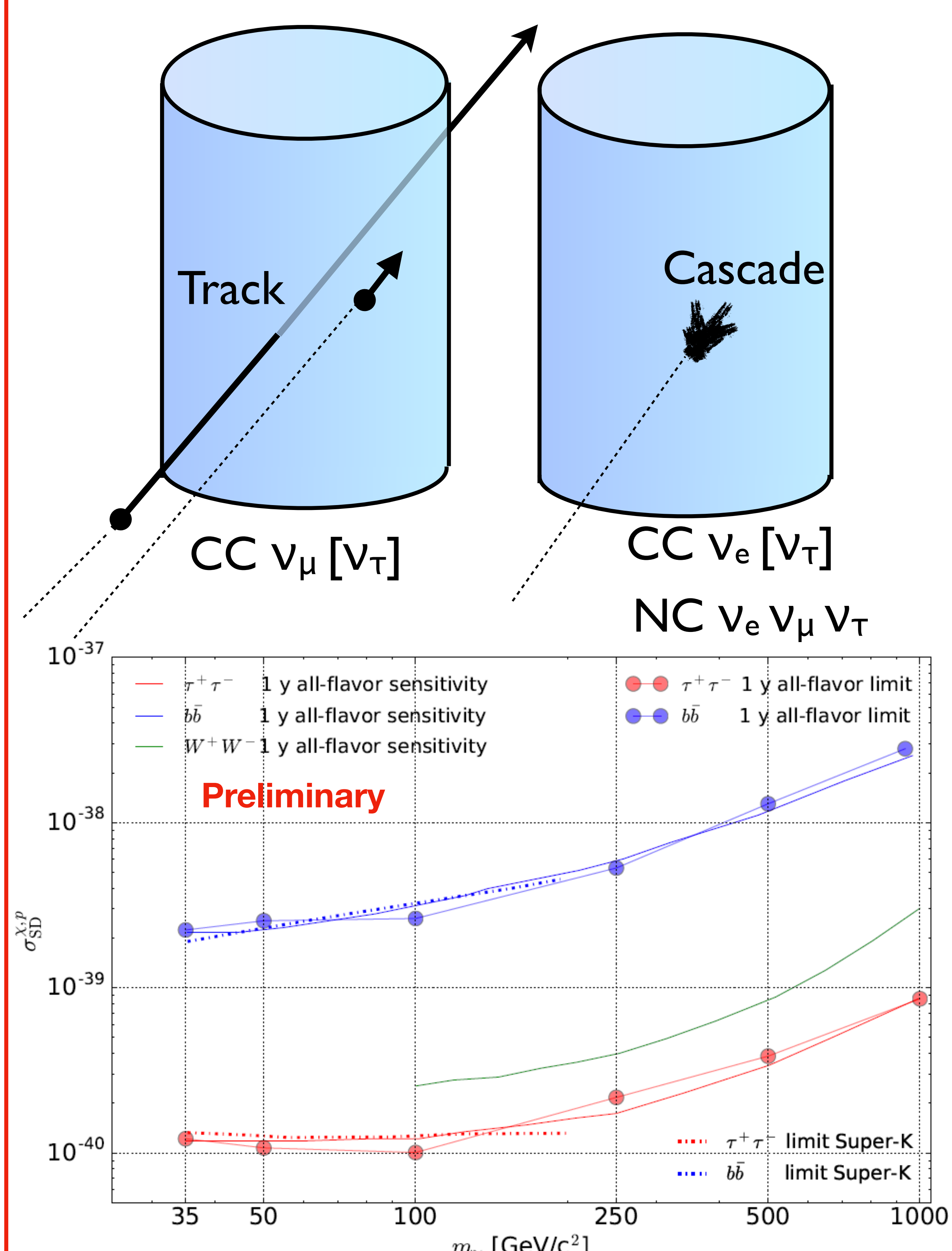
- Convert neutrino flux limit into limit on WIMP-nucleon scattering cross section

IceCube Eur.Phys.J. C77 (2017) no.3, 146



Solar WIMPs
- IceCube Eur.Phys.J. C77 (2017) no.3, 146
- S. In and K. Wiebe [IceCube] ICRC2017 (912)

All flavor Solar WIMP - IceCube

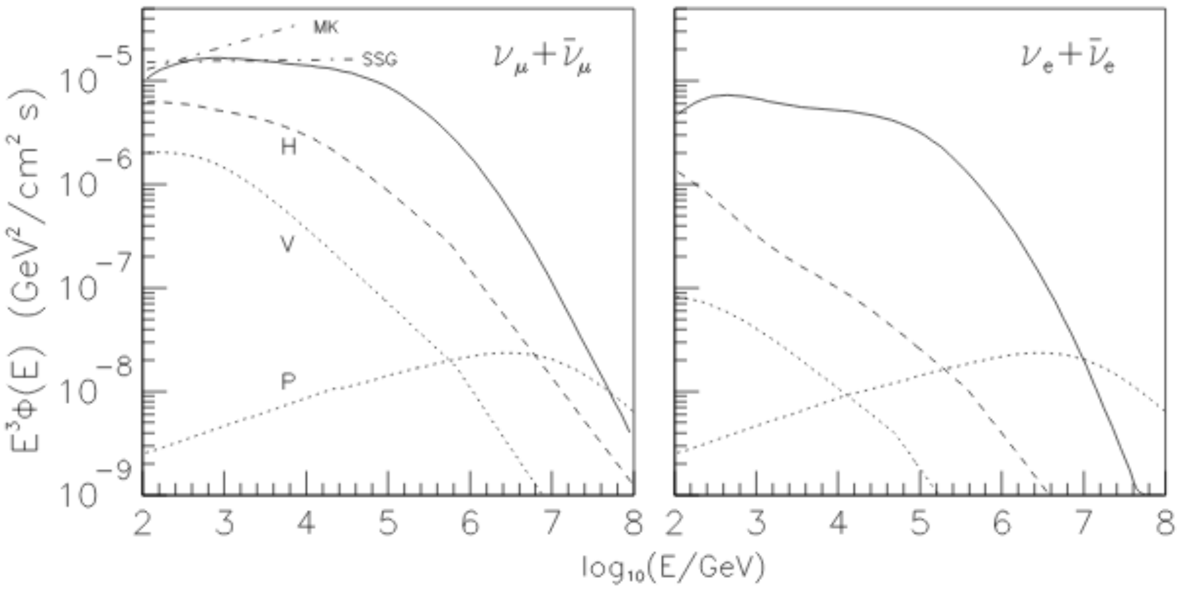


Carsten Rott

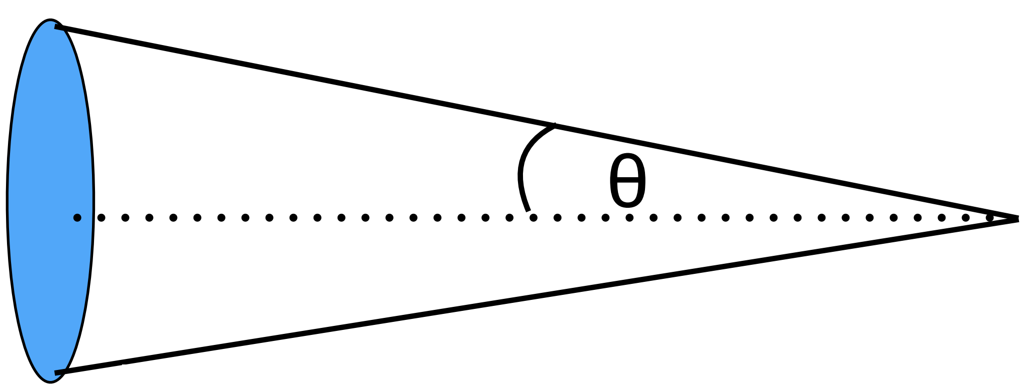
Solar Atmospheric Neutrino Search

Solar Atmospheric Neutrino Analysis

- Ingelman & Thunman flux as reference signal
- Honda atmospheric neutrino flux as background



G. Ingelman and M. Thunman, Phys. Rev. D54 (1996) 4385-4392.

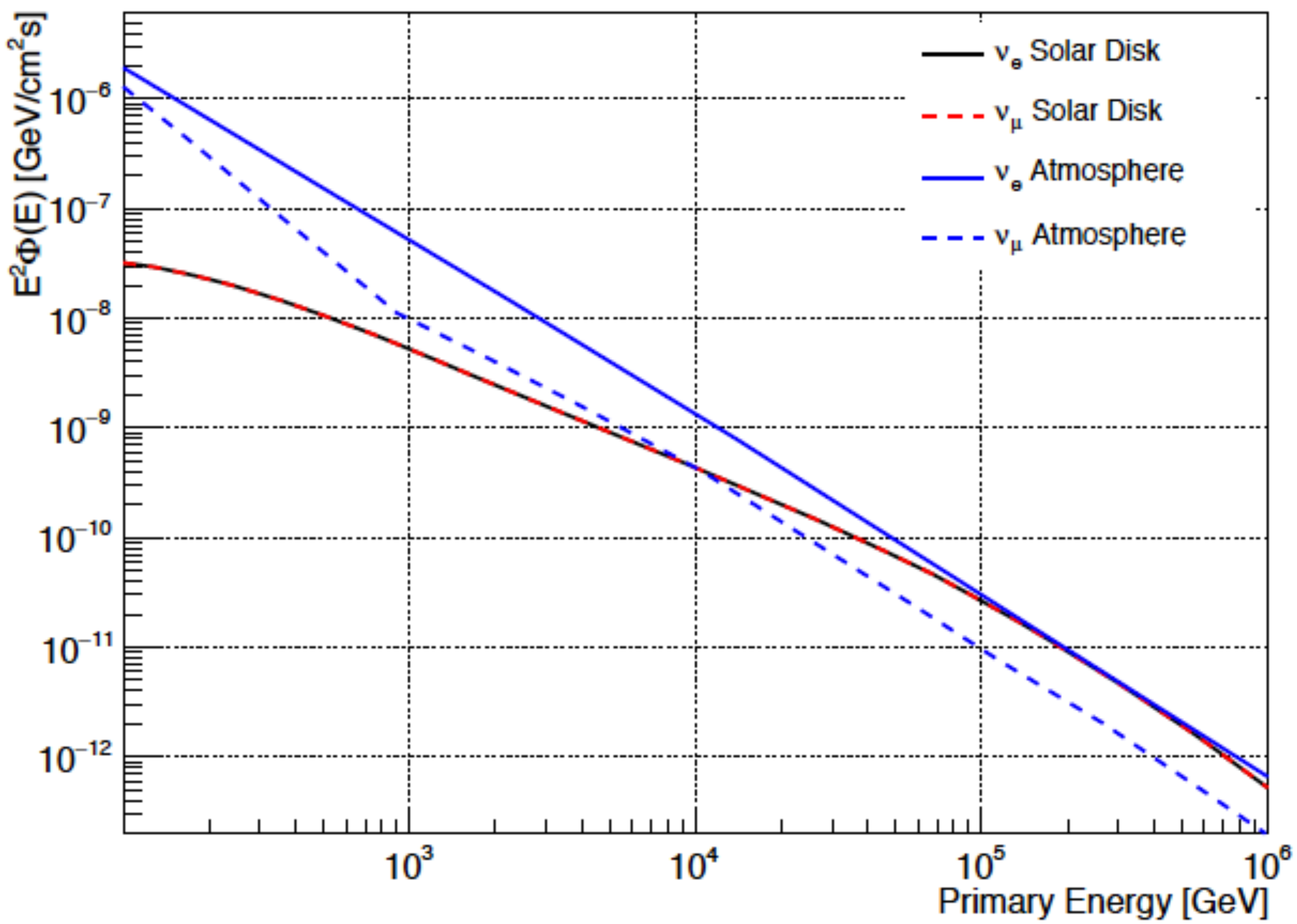


Opening angle used

$$\Theta(E,\nu_i) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{100+900/E[GeV]}^{\circ} & \nu_e, \textit{for all energies} \\ 30^{\circ}/\sqrt{E/GeV} & \nu_\mu, E < 900GeV \\ 1^{\circ} & \nu_\mu, E > 900GeV \end{cases}$$

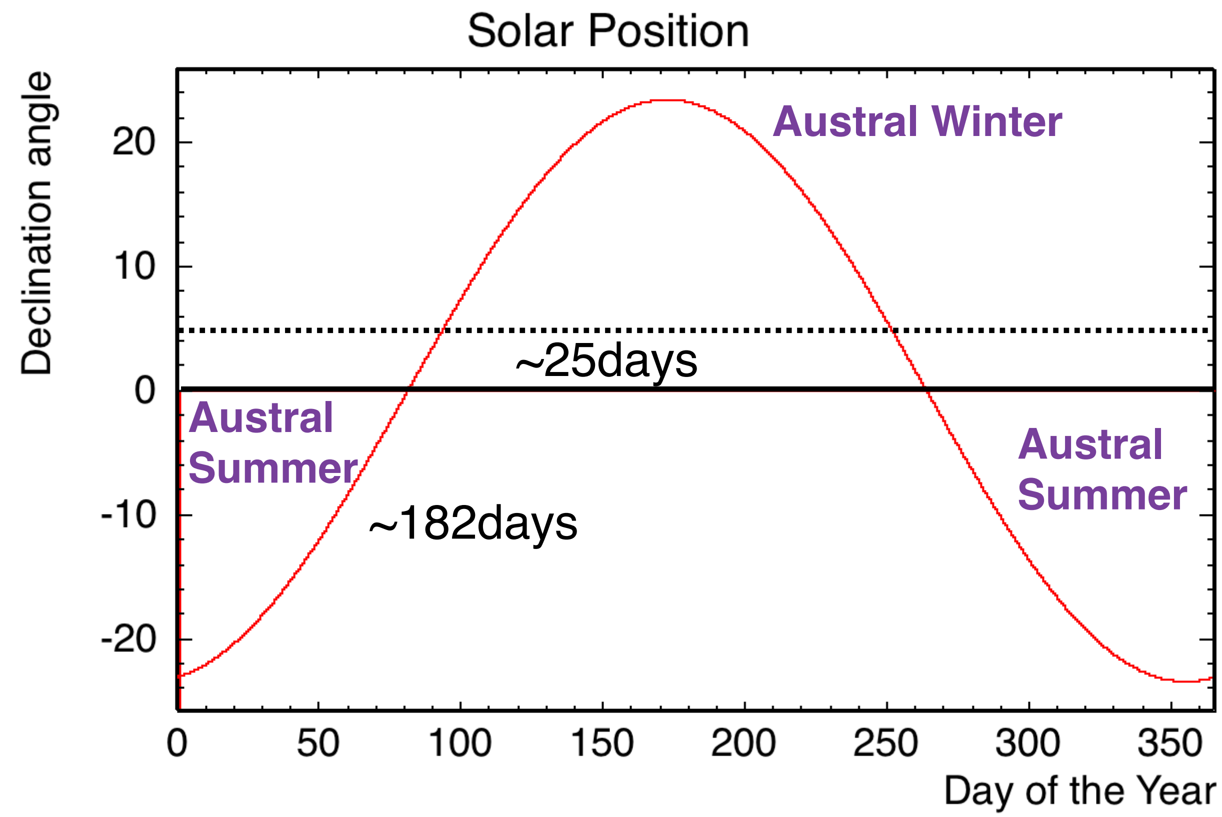
Calculate flux within cone opening angle matching kinematic angle at given neutrino energy

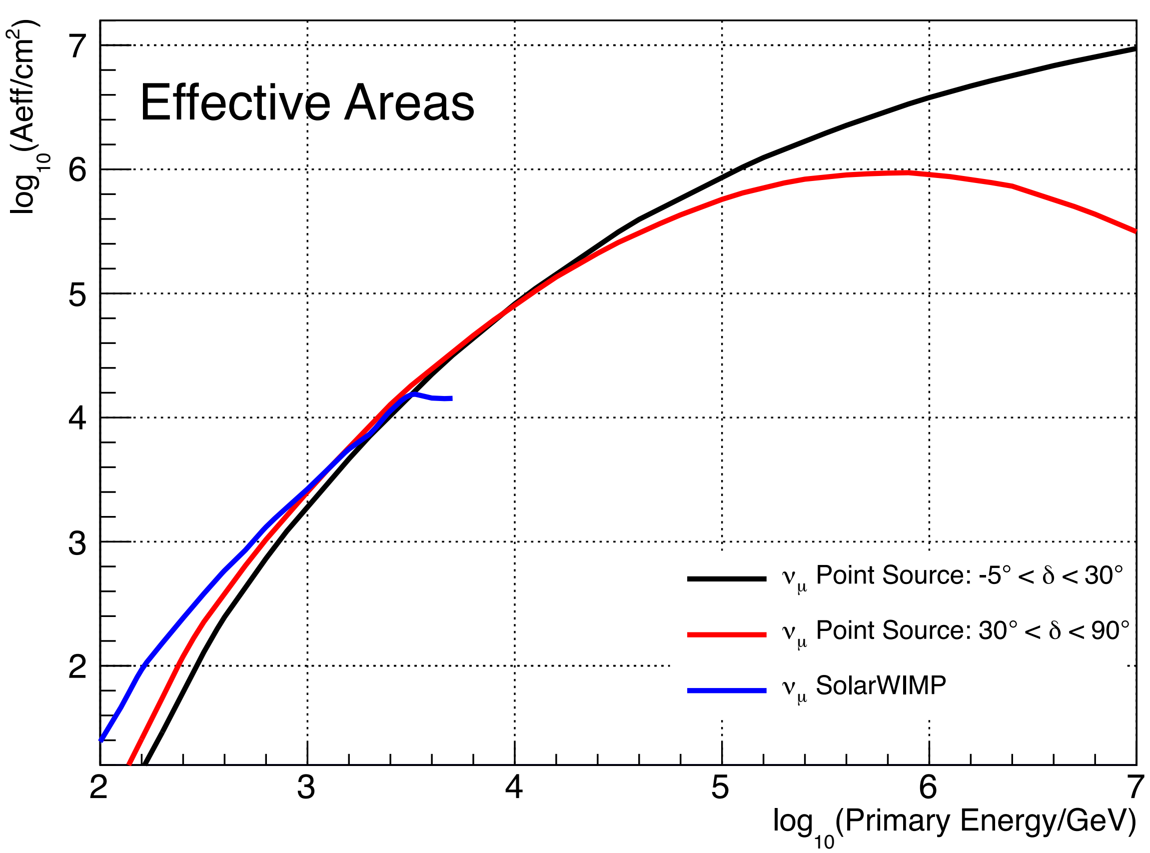
- 68% of solar disk neutrino flux falls within the cone (assume Sun is a point source)
- Background isotrope (angle averaged flux)

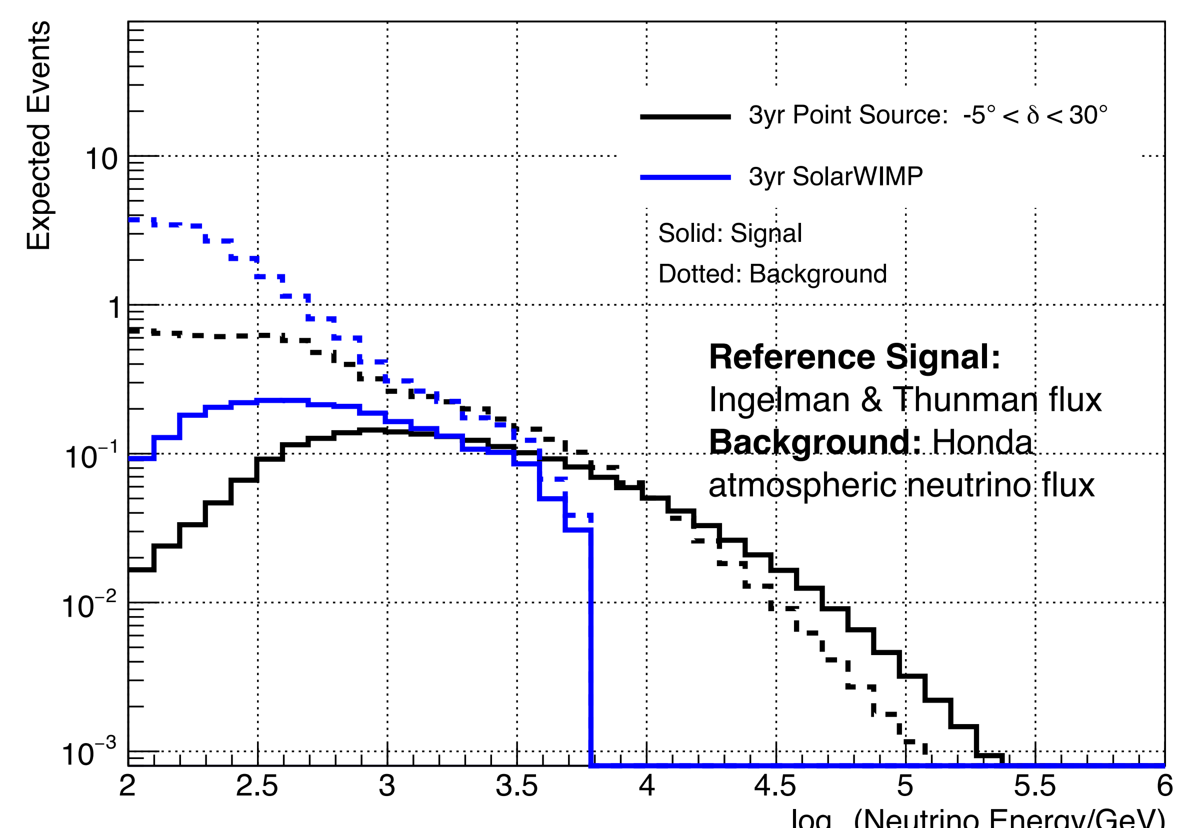


Solar Atmospheric Neutrino Analysis

- Strategy:
  - Muon neutrinos for good pointing
  - Up-going neutrino events (reject large atmospheric muon background) → consider declination angles of δ = 5° to -30°
  - Base analysis on well tested existing data samples
    - Check suitable samples for their sensitivity and optimize cuts where needed



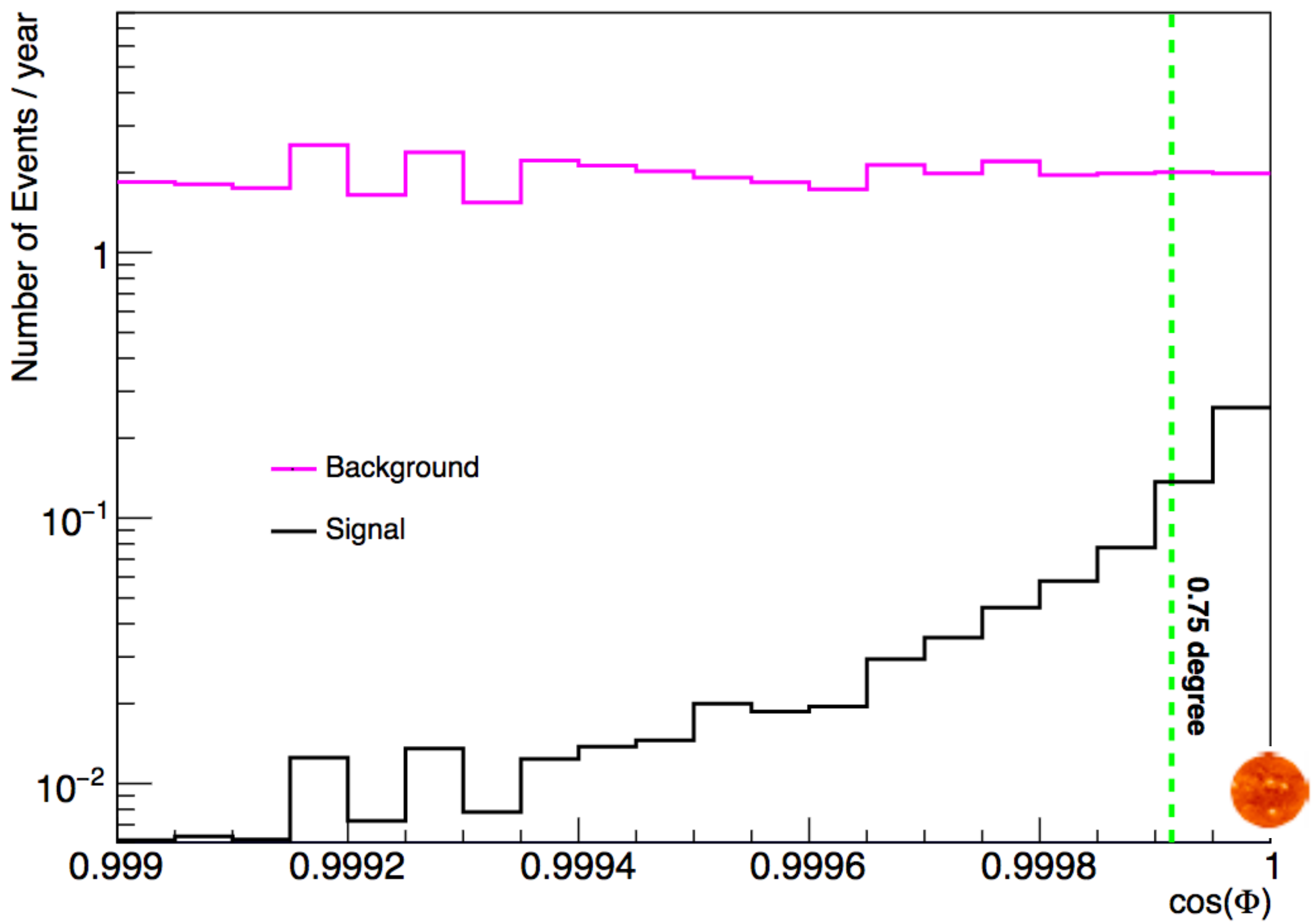




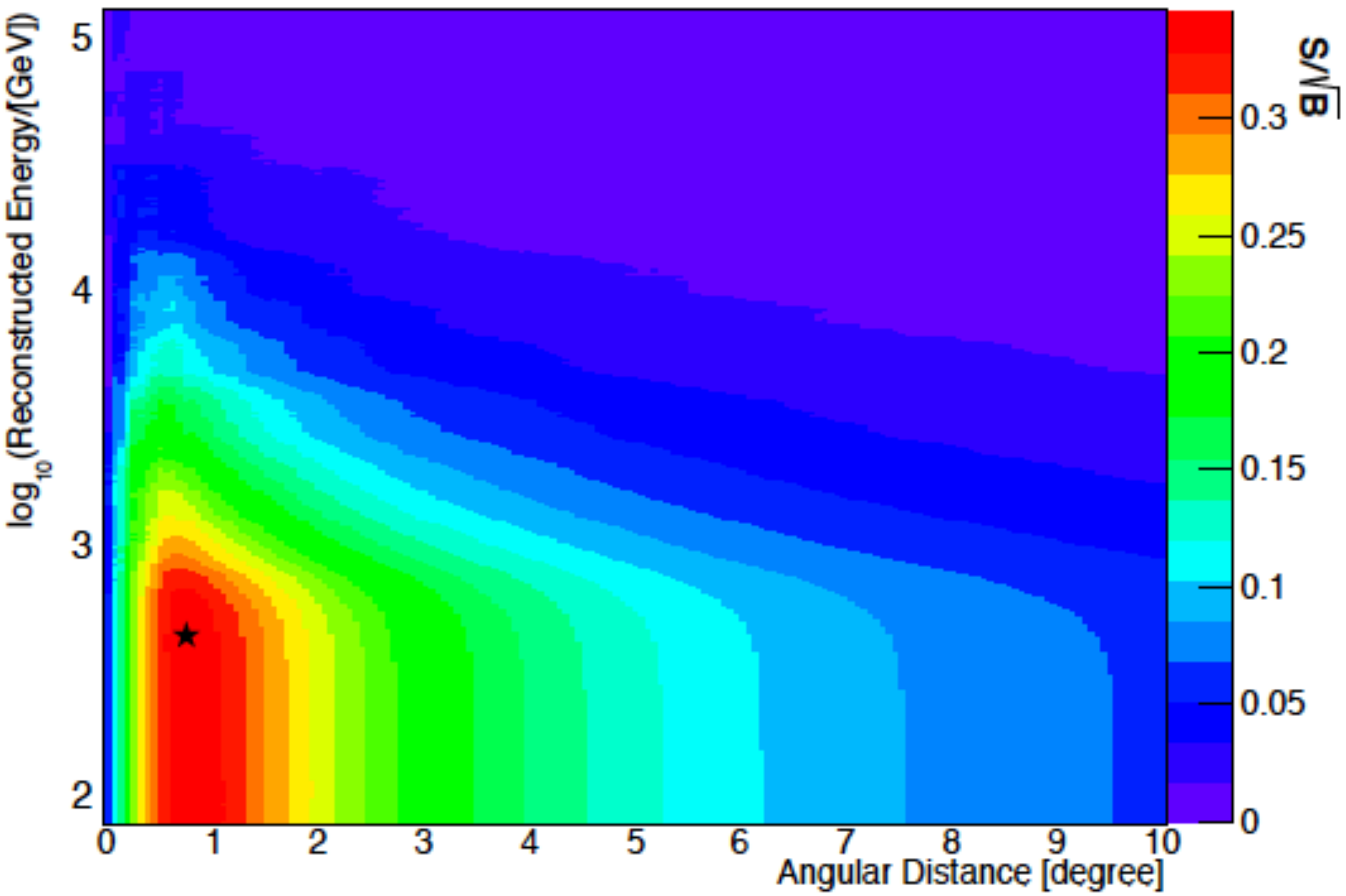
Point Source Sample suites the solar atmospheric neutrino analysis well

Event Expectation Solar Atmospheric Neutrinos

- Using point source analysis sample we determine the expected event rates as function of the distance from the Sun
- Assume emission of solar atmospheric neutrinos homogeneously over the surface of the Sun
- Optimize signal to sqrt(background) ratio based on energy and angle selection cut

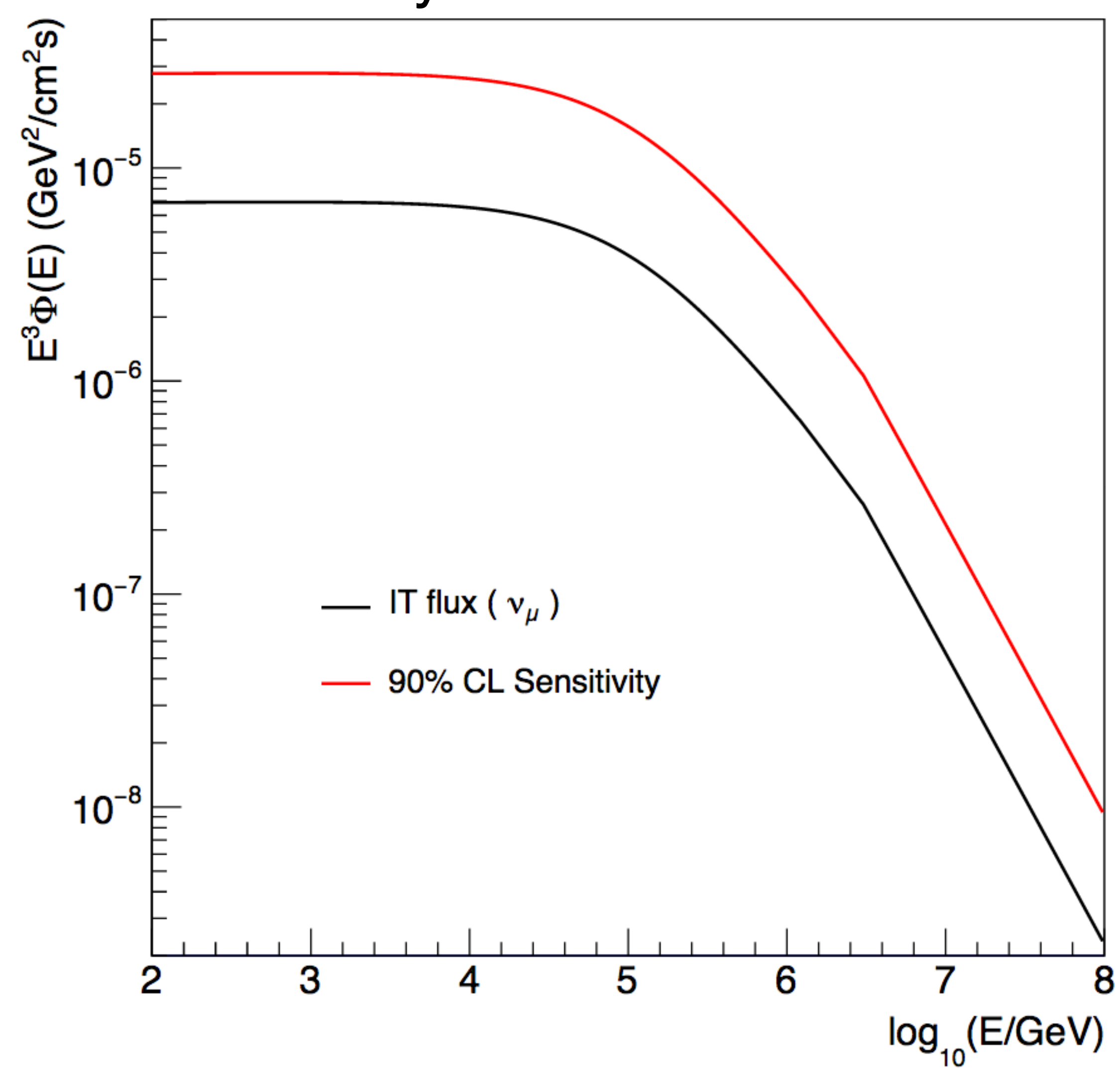


Event Expectation Solar Atmospheric Neutrinos



- Preliminary optimization yields the following selection cuts:
  - E > 430GeV
  - ψ < 0.75°
- Next: likelihood method …

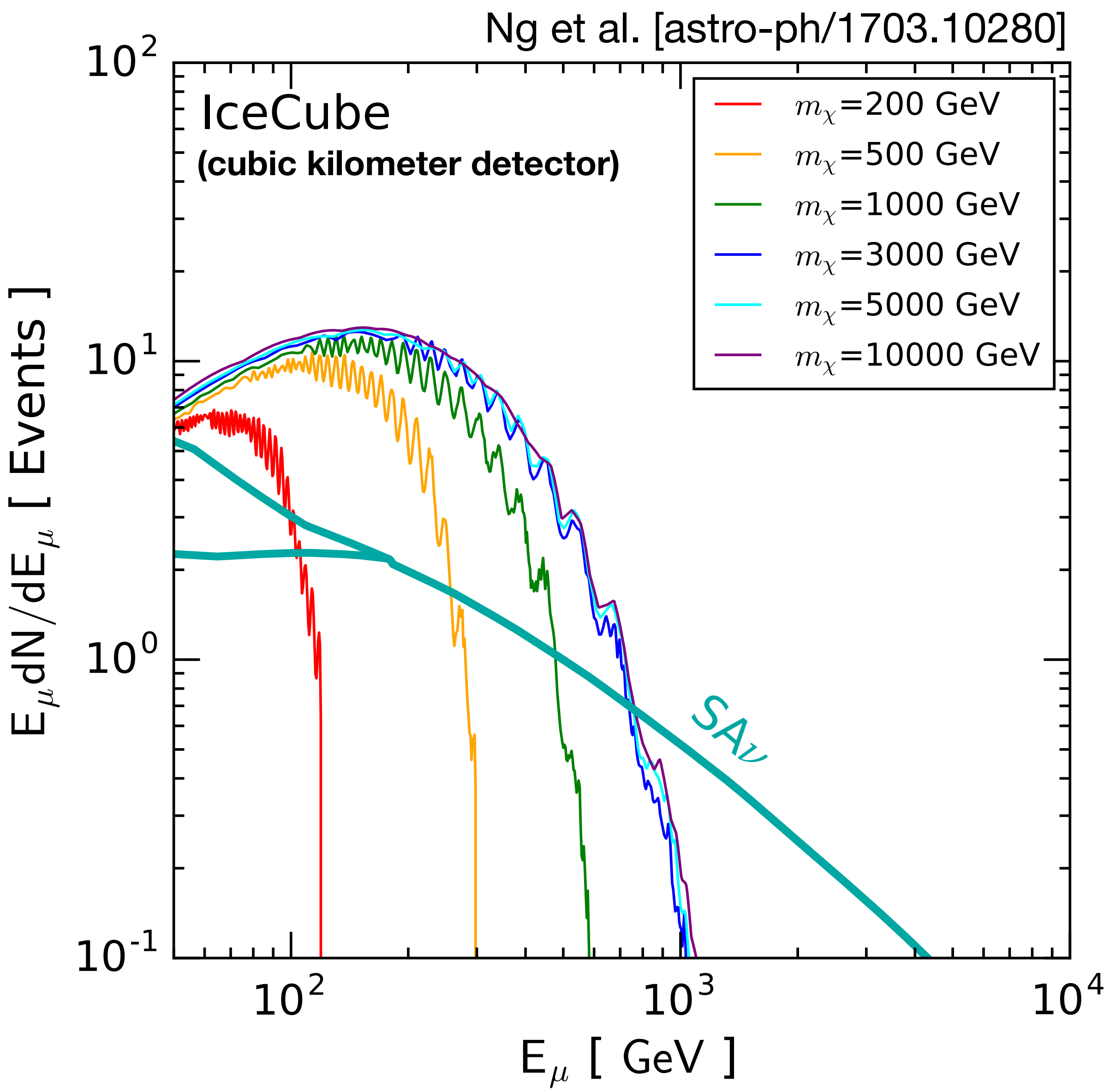
Sensitivity Solar Atm. Neutrinos

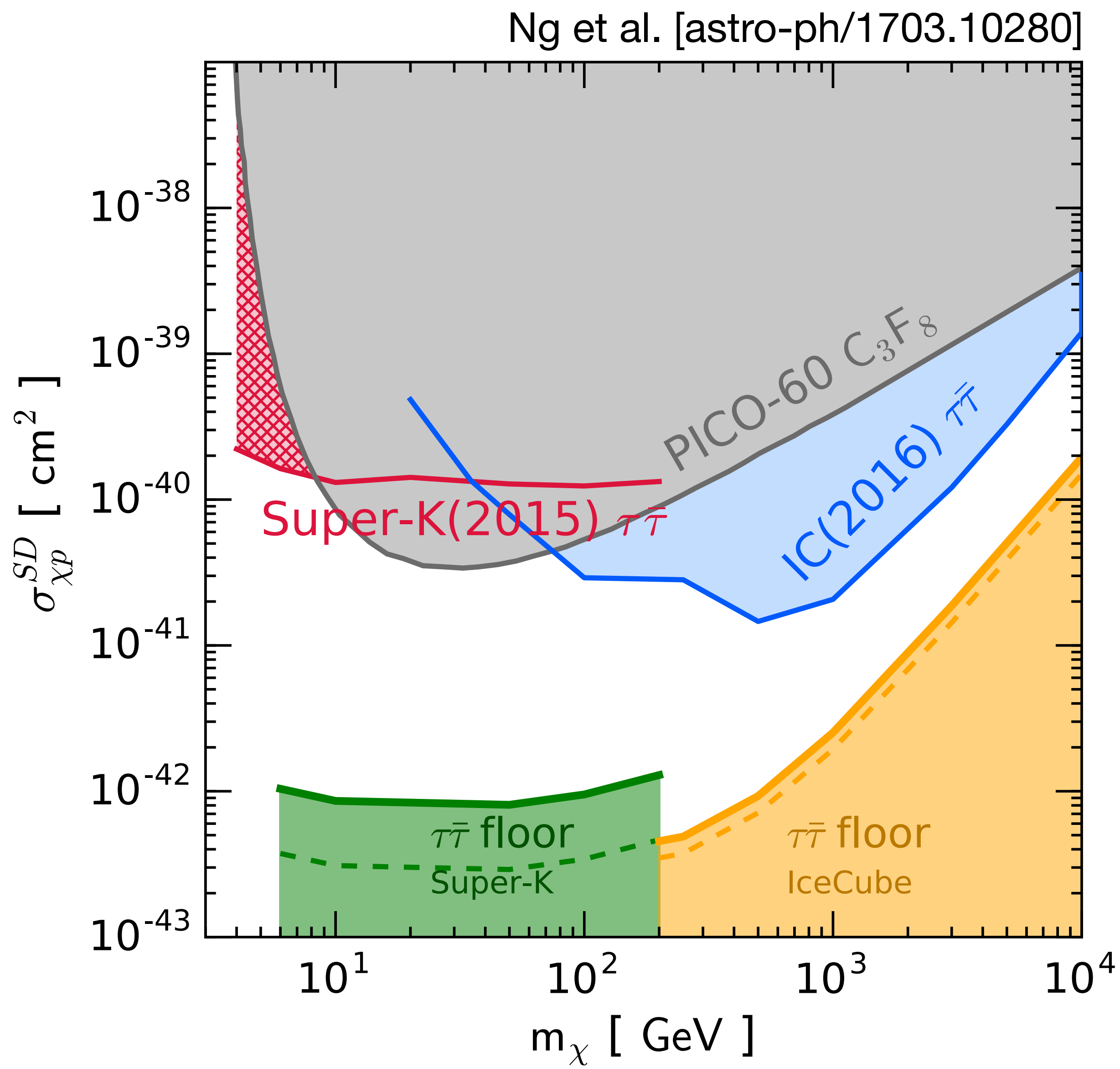


- Sensitivity computed assuming 3 yrs of data computed after optimization
  - Event expectations:
    - Background: 10.5 ± 0.2 events
    - Signal (assuming IT1996) 1.1 ± 0.2 events

Solar Atmospheric Neutrino Floor

Cosmic background from the Sun





- Natural background to Solar Dark Matter Searches !
- However, energy spectrum expected to be different
- DM annihilation neutrinos significantly attenuated above a few 100GeV

Expect ~2events per year at cubic kilometer detector

Recent works on the Solar Atmospheric Neutrino Floor

- Argüelles et al. [astro-ph/1703.07798]
- Ng et al. [astro-ph/1703.10280]
- J. Edsjö, J. Elevant, R. Enberg, and C. Niblaeus, JCAP 2017 .06 (2017), p. 033, [astro-ph/1704.02892]
- M. Masip (2017), [hep-ph/1706.01290]

Conclusions

Conclusions

- The Sun is an exciting target for neutrino telescopes
  - IceCube set the worlds best bound on spin-dependent dark matter nucleon scattering for masses above 100GeV
  - Cosmic ray shadow provides clues about propagation in the inner solar system
  - Solar atmospheric neutrinos might be observable in the near future
    - First sensitivity evaluated further optimization on going
- Observing solar atmospheric neutrinos is important for:
  - Understanding solar magnetic fields
  - Cosmic ray propagation in the inner solar system
  - Improving models of CR interactions in the solar atmosphere
  - Identifying a first high-energy neutrino point source