

# ON RECONSTRUCTION WITH GRAPH NEURAL NETWORKS (GNN) IN THE ICECUBE EXPERIMENT

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GraphNeT

Graph Neural Networks for  
Neutrino Telescope Event Reconstruction



Oxford University, 23rd of September 2022



# Outline & Aim

In the following, I will talk about:

- The IceCube detector and physics program.
- The IceCube neutrino signals.
- Neutrino reconstruction algorithms.
- The workings of Graph Neural Networks (GNN).
- How GNNs might be used to expand neutrino astronomy.

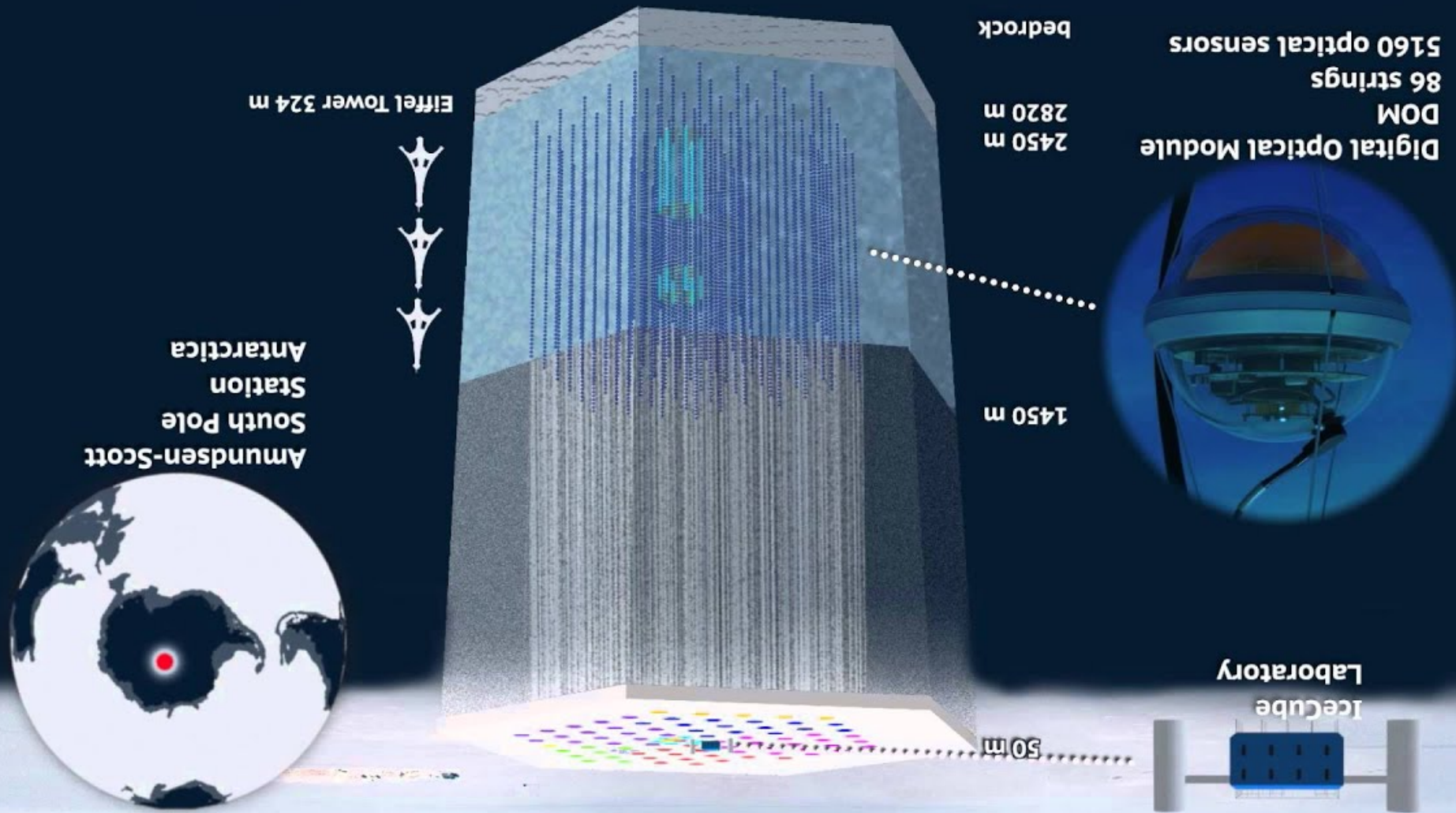
In the following, I hope to convey that:



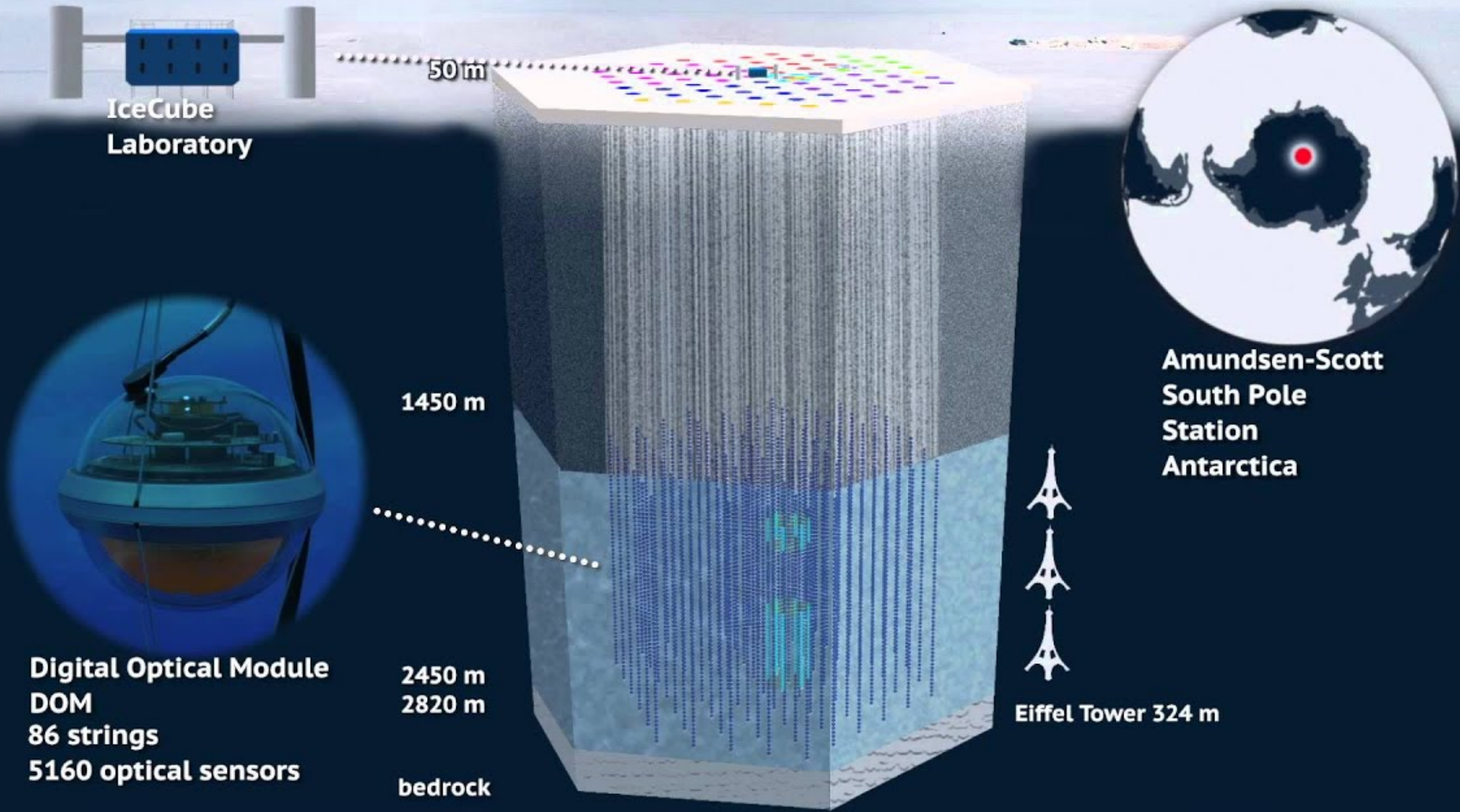
The background is a detailed map of the Southern Ocean, showing magnetic isotherms (lines of equal magnetic declination) and isobaths (lines of equal depth). A star marks a specific location with the label 'VAR 10°13'W'. The text 'MAGNETIC' is visible on the map. In the upper right, there is a label 'ICE BITTER END YACHT CLUB'. The map includes various depth contours and magnetic declination values.

# IceCube Detector & Physics

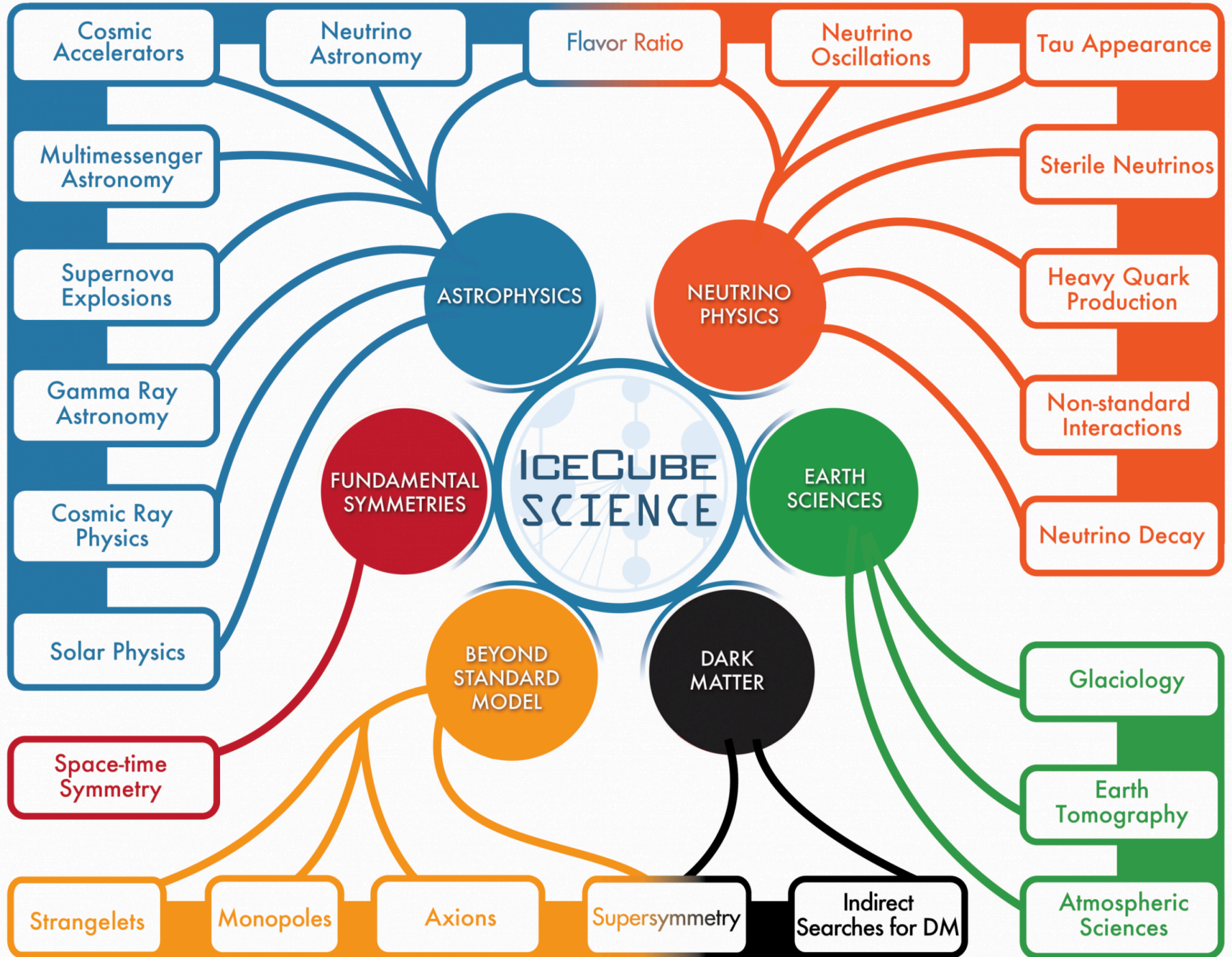
# IceCube experiment (South Pole)



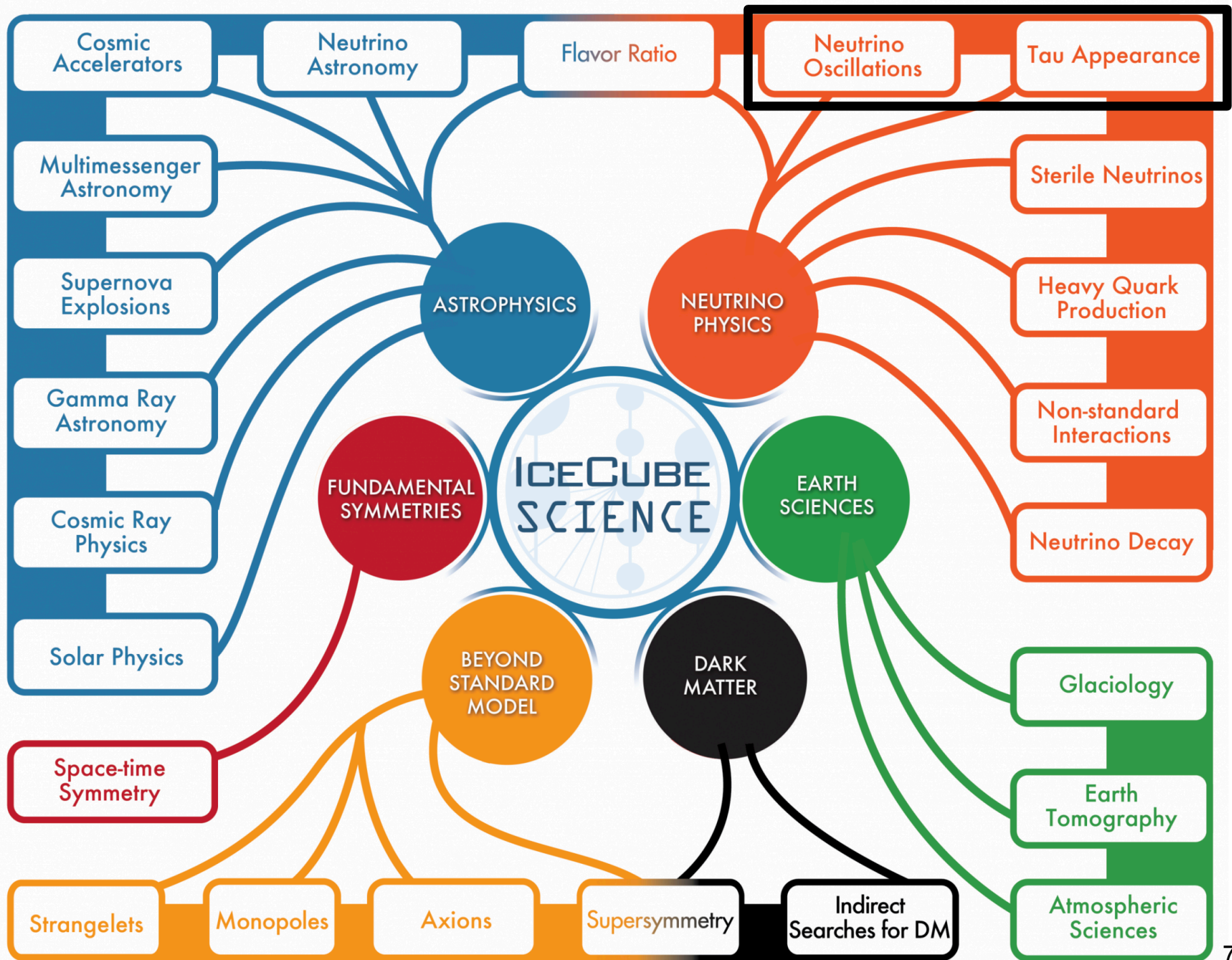


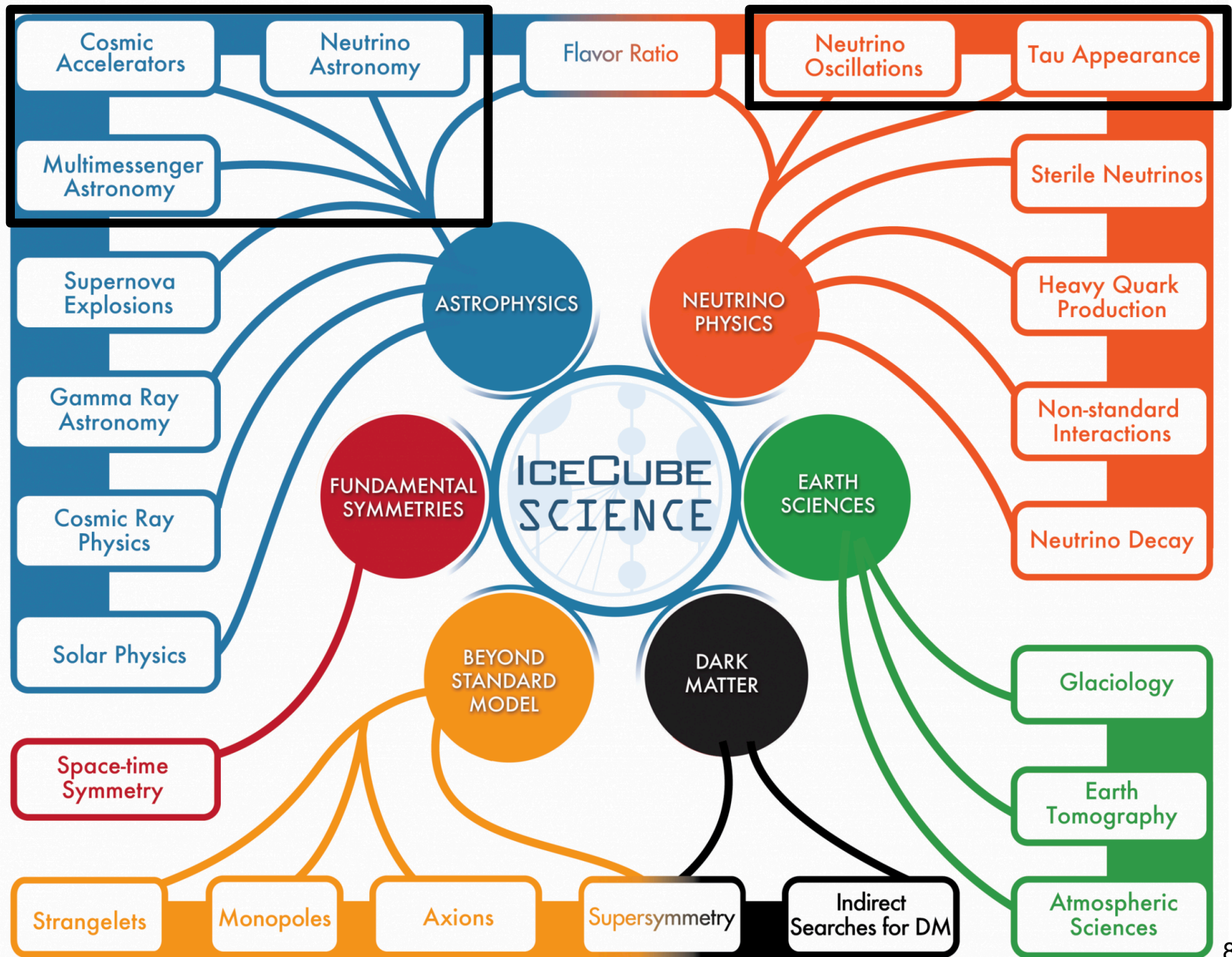


# IceCube experiment (South Pole)









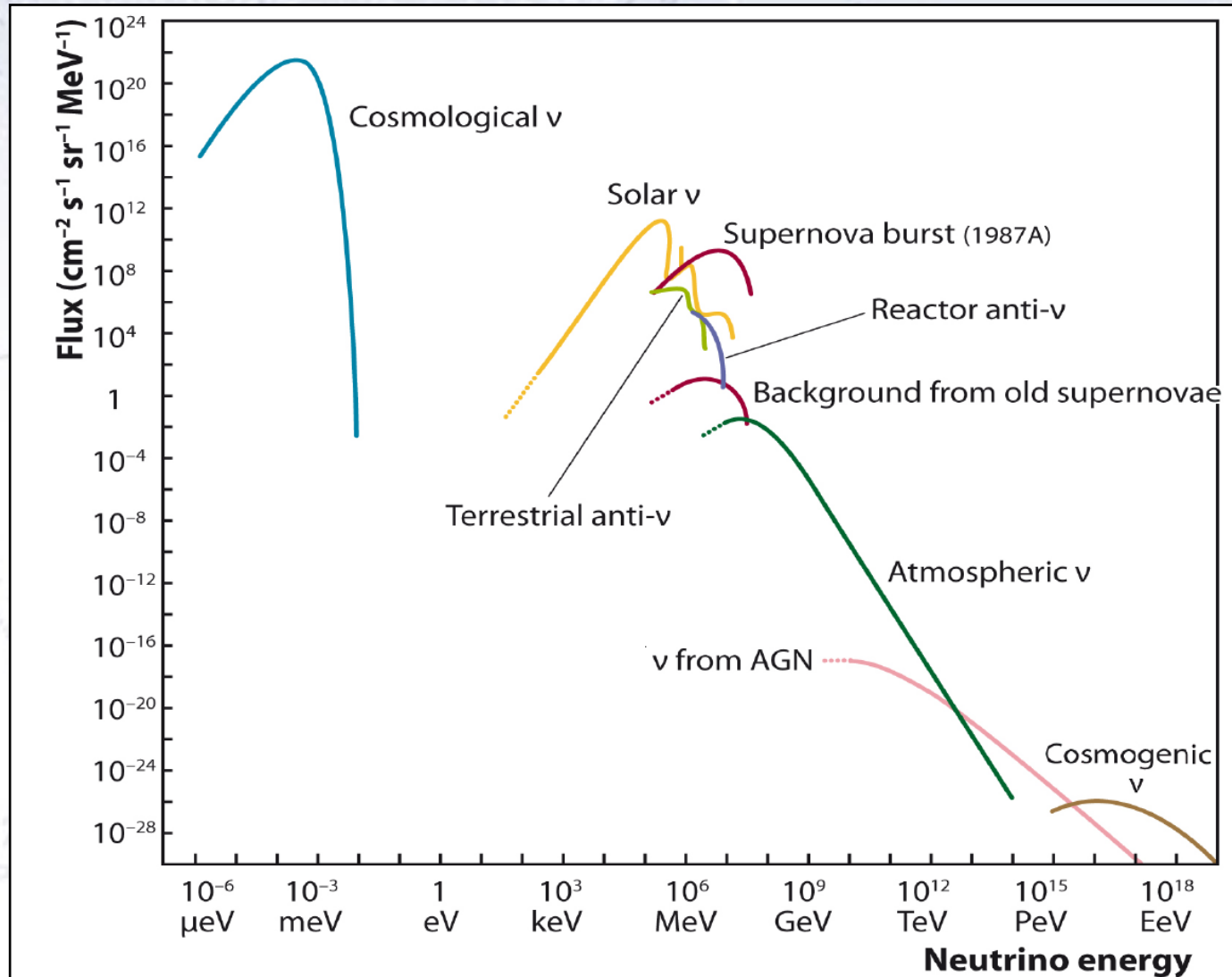




# IceCube neutrino signals

# Signals in IceCube

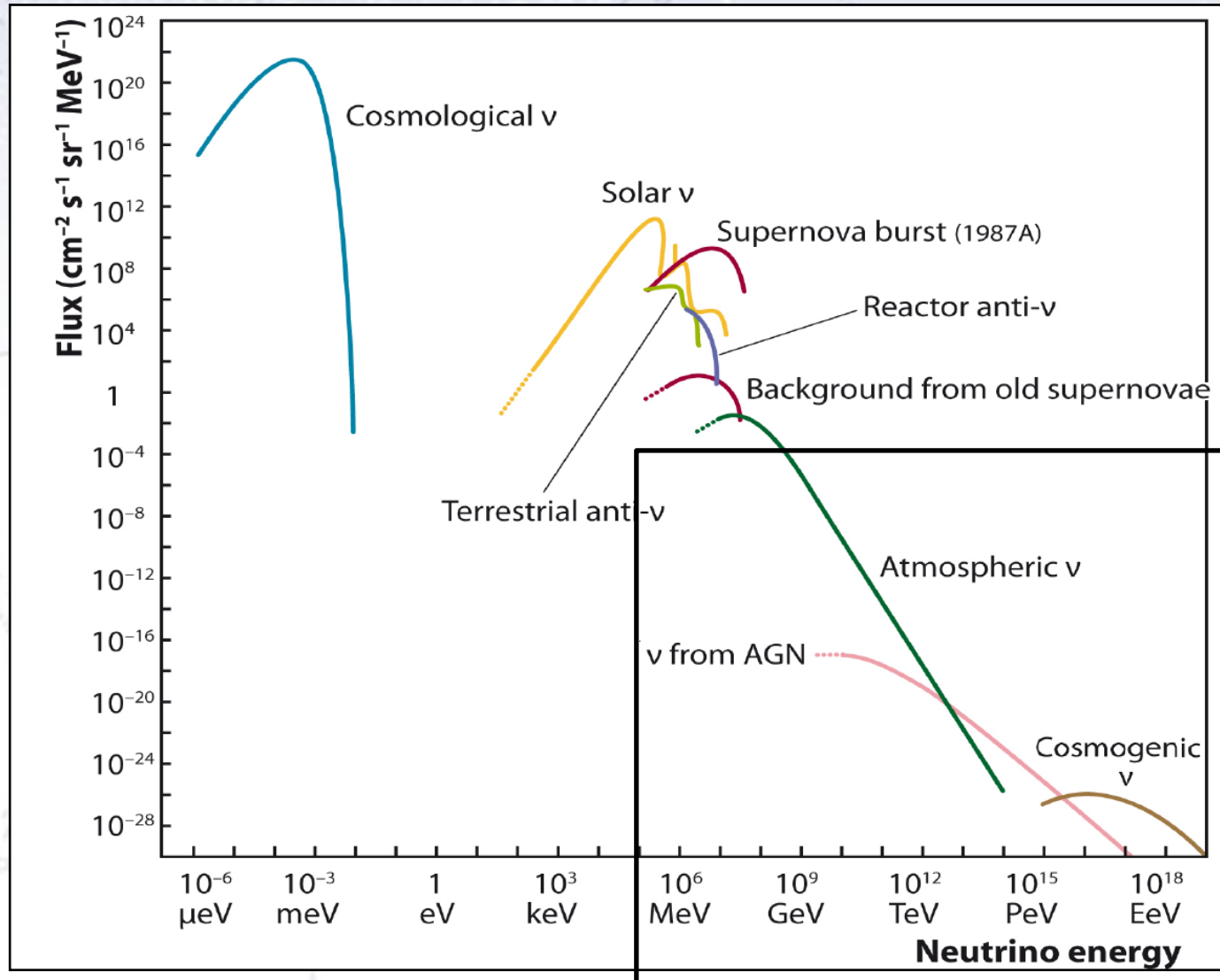
The neutrino spectrum is largely unknown, but expected to be as follows:





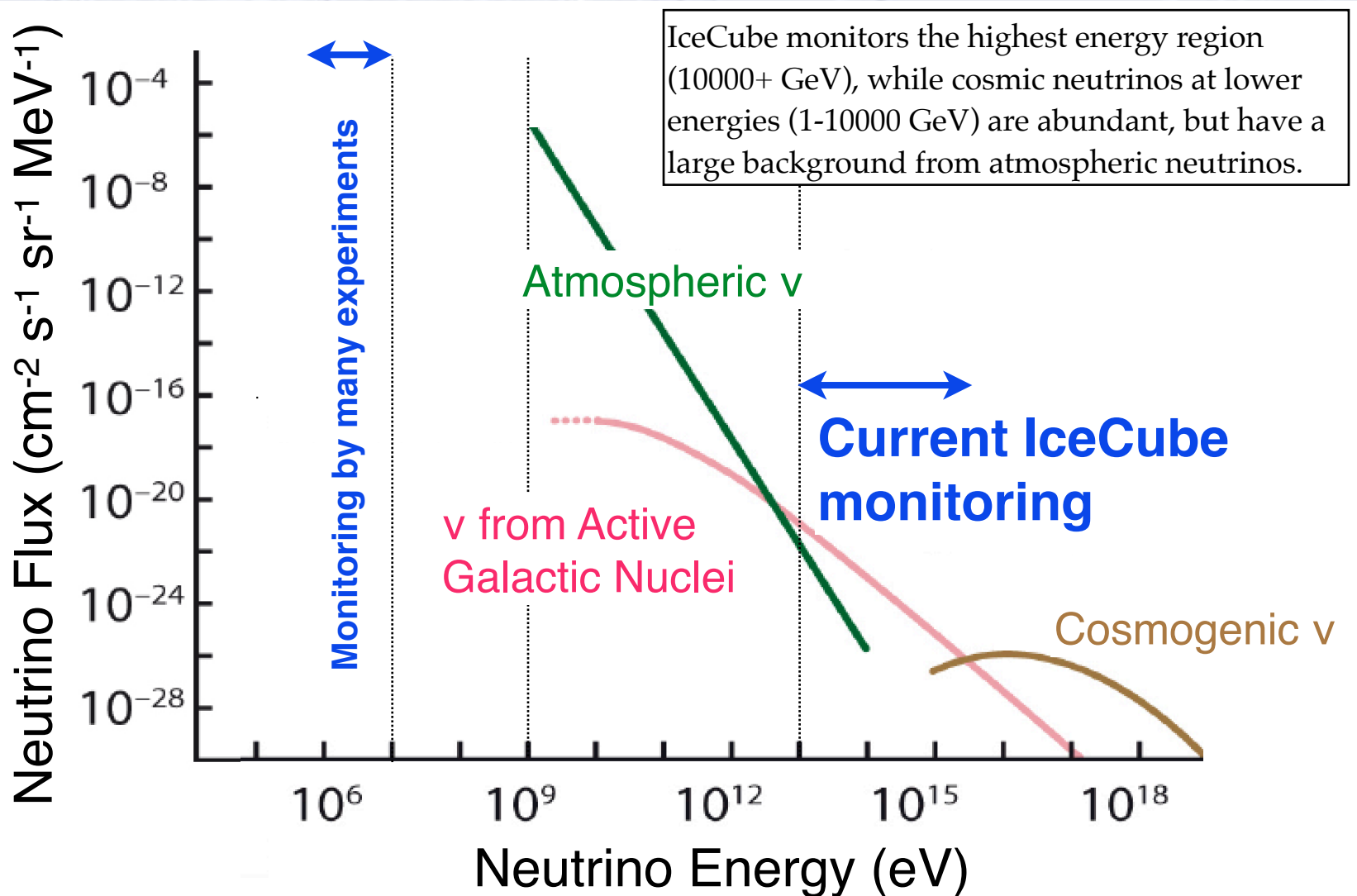
# Signals in IceCube

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# Signals in IceCube

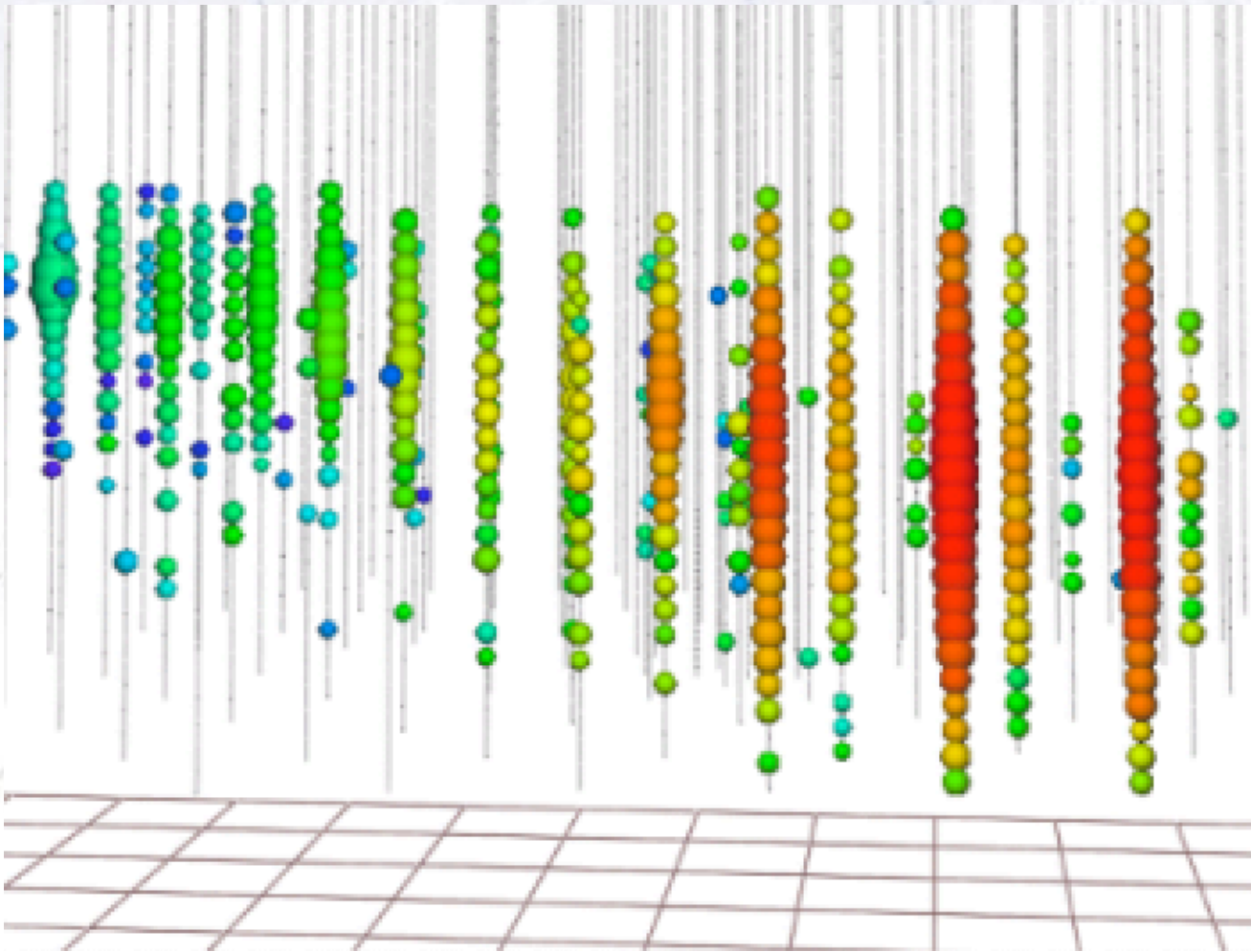
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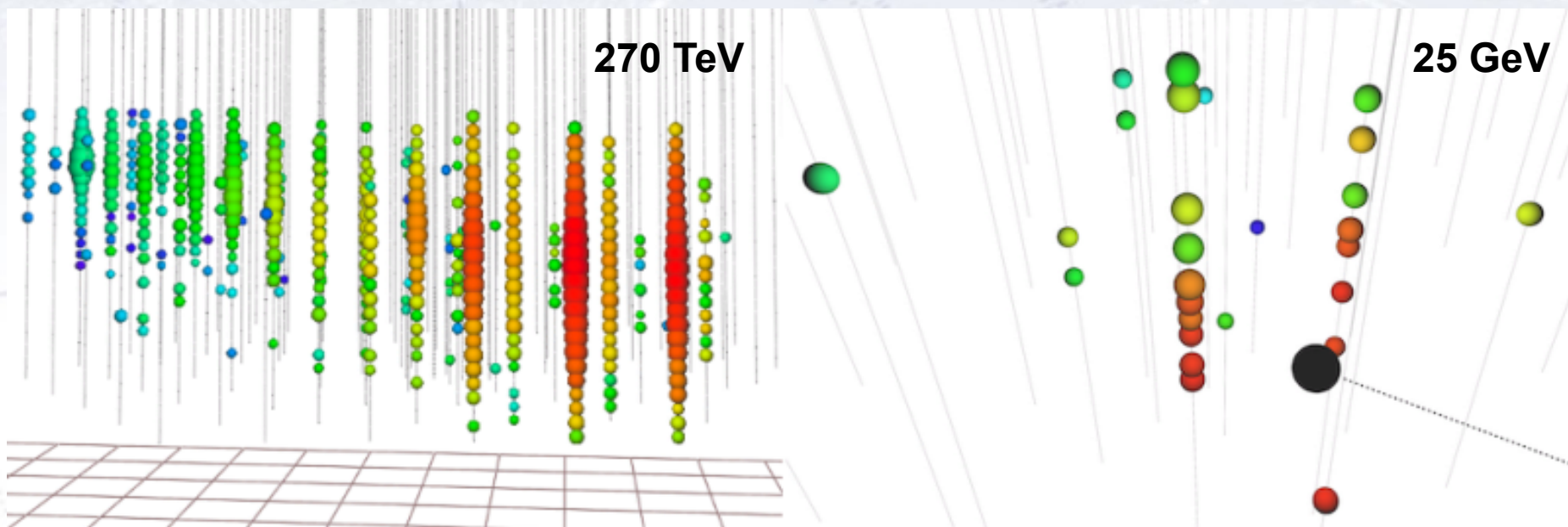
# Signals in IceCube

The trigger/read-out rate is about 2500 Hz, while the true neutrino rate is mHz, i.e. one every 6 minutes! You might imagine these looks like below...



# Signals in IceCube

The trigger/read-out rate is about 2500 Hz, while the true neutrino rate is mHz, i.e. one every 6 minutes! You might imagine these looks like below...



...but - alas - that is not the case! Most have very low energy, and result in 10-20 signal pulses, which are mixed with a similar amount of background pulses from noise.

Here, the challenge starts!



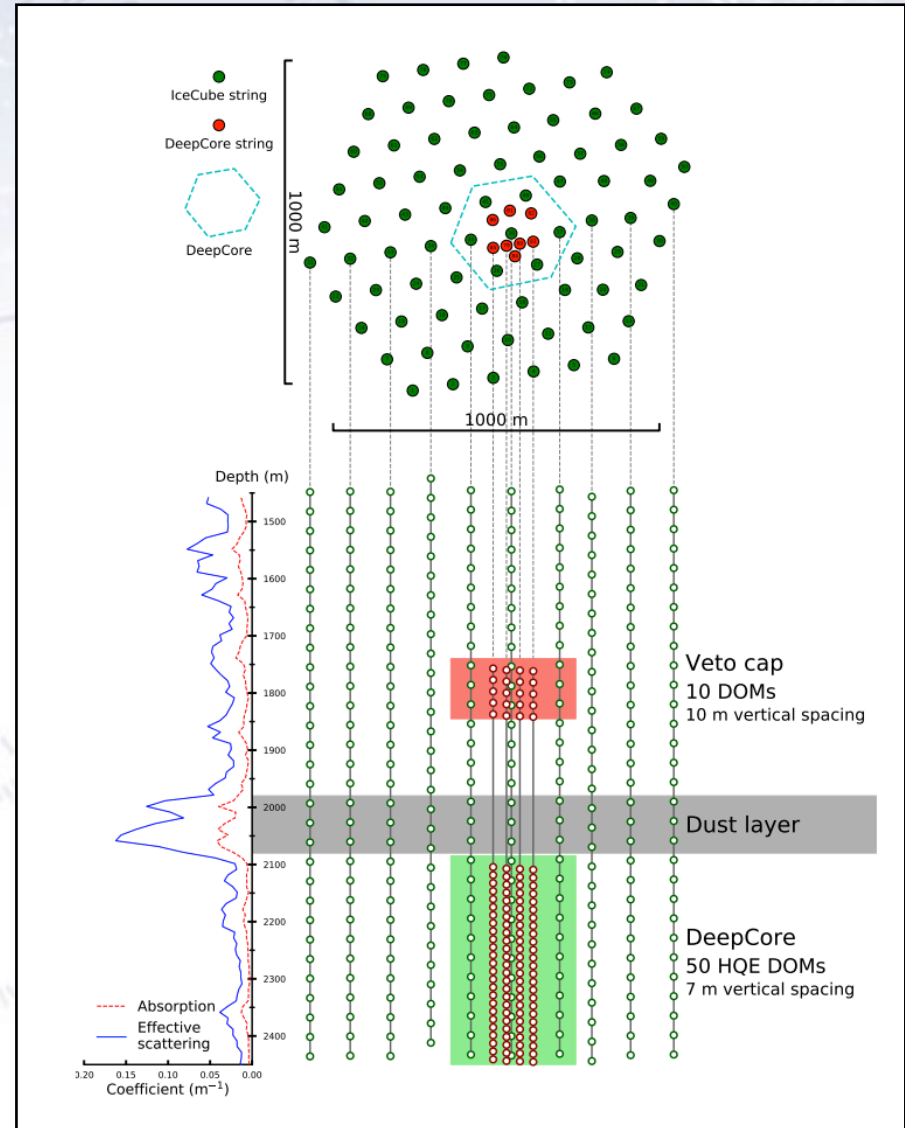
# More complications

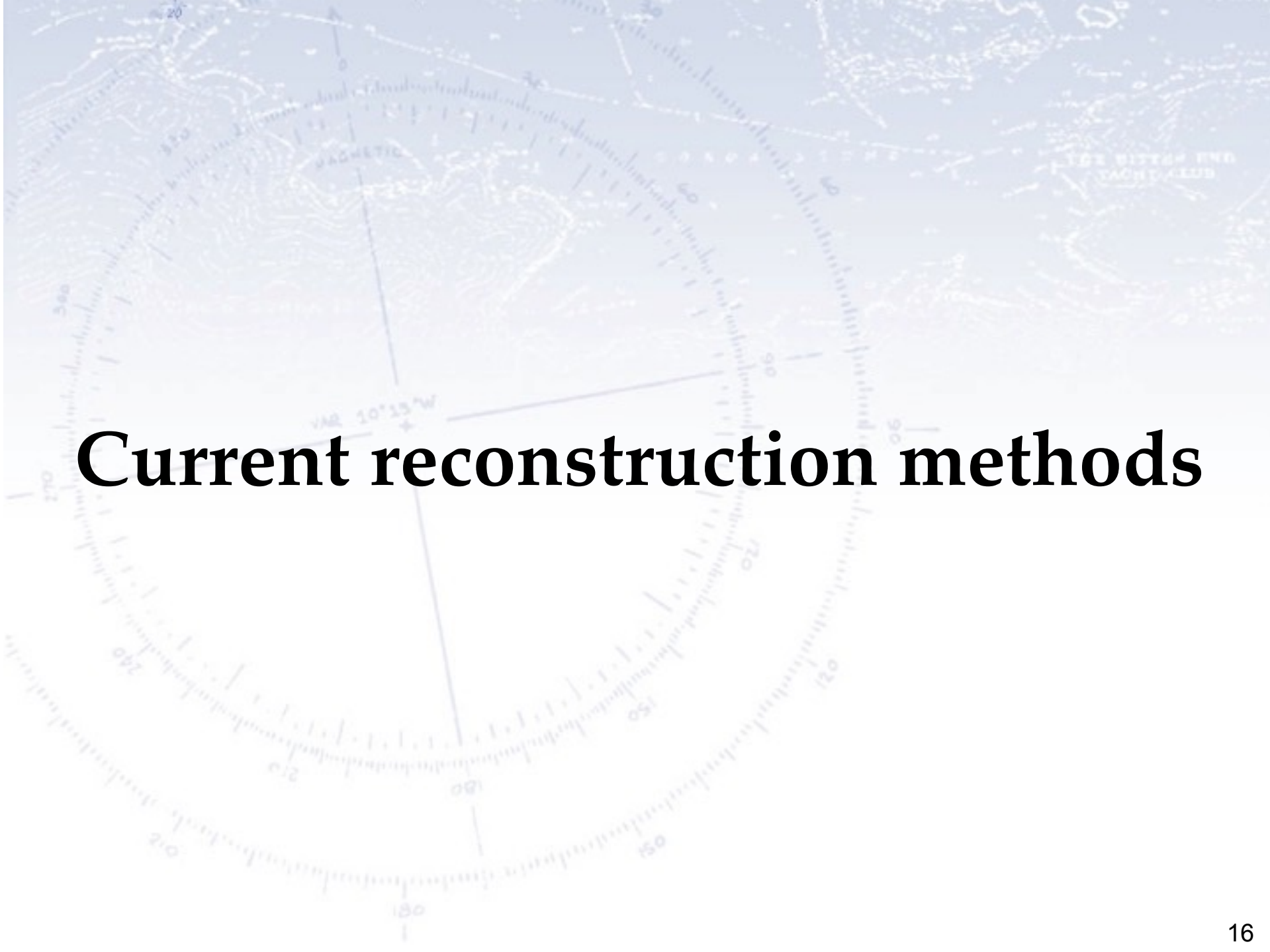
On top of the irregular detector geometry, the ice also has its irregularities.

Different depths have different absorption and scattering lengths, due to **dust layers** from past ages.

Furthermore, the ice in the holes that the strings are installed in has **bubbles**.

Finally, the ice seems to have a preferred direction, due to **crystal structures** in the glacial flow.





# Current reconstruction methods

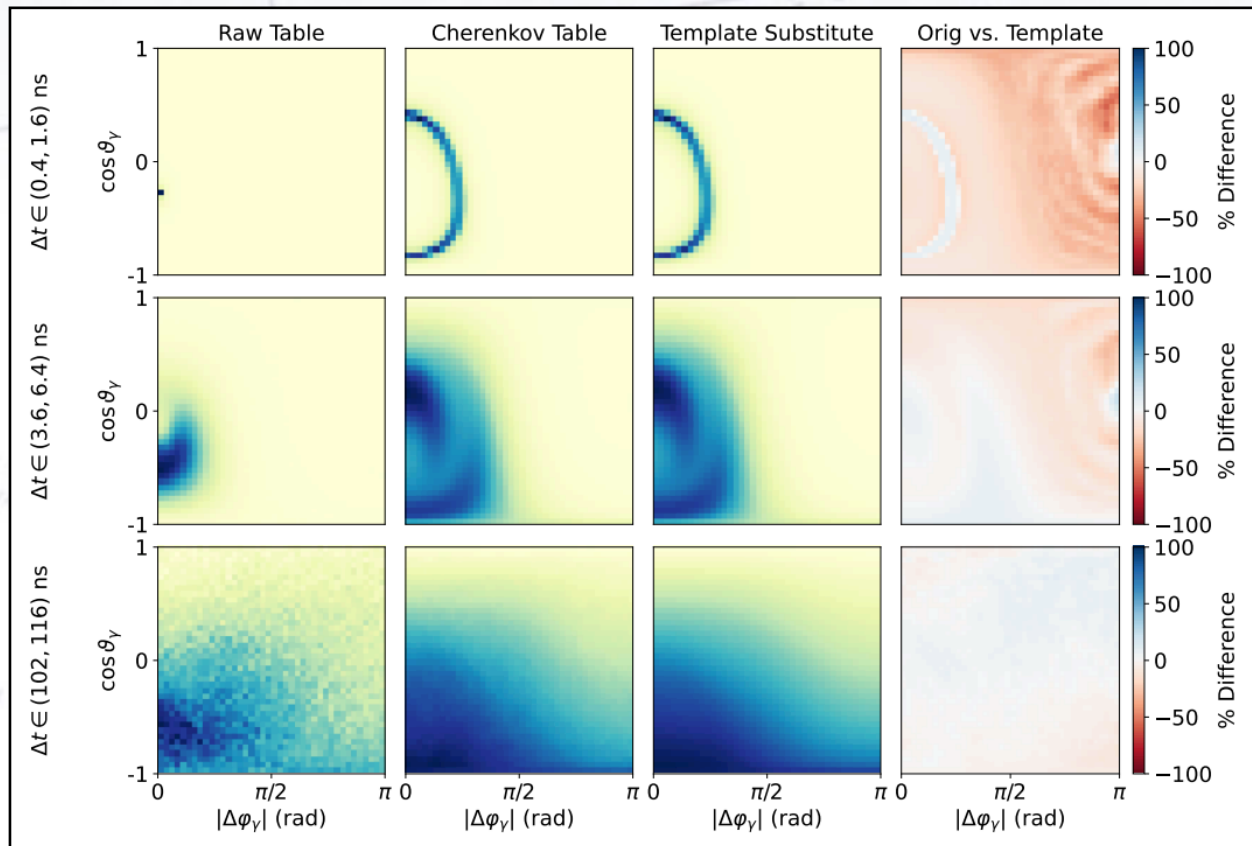
16



# Current reconstruction methods

The **RETRO reconstruction algorithm** was created around 2019, and is a likelihood based method for LOW energy neutrinos (Arxiv: 2203.02303).

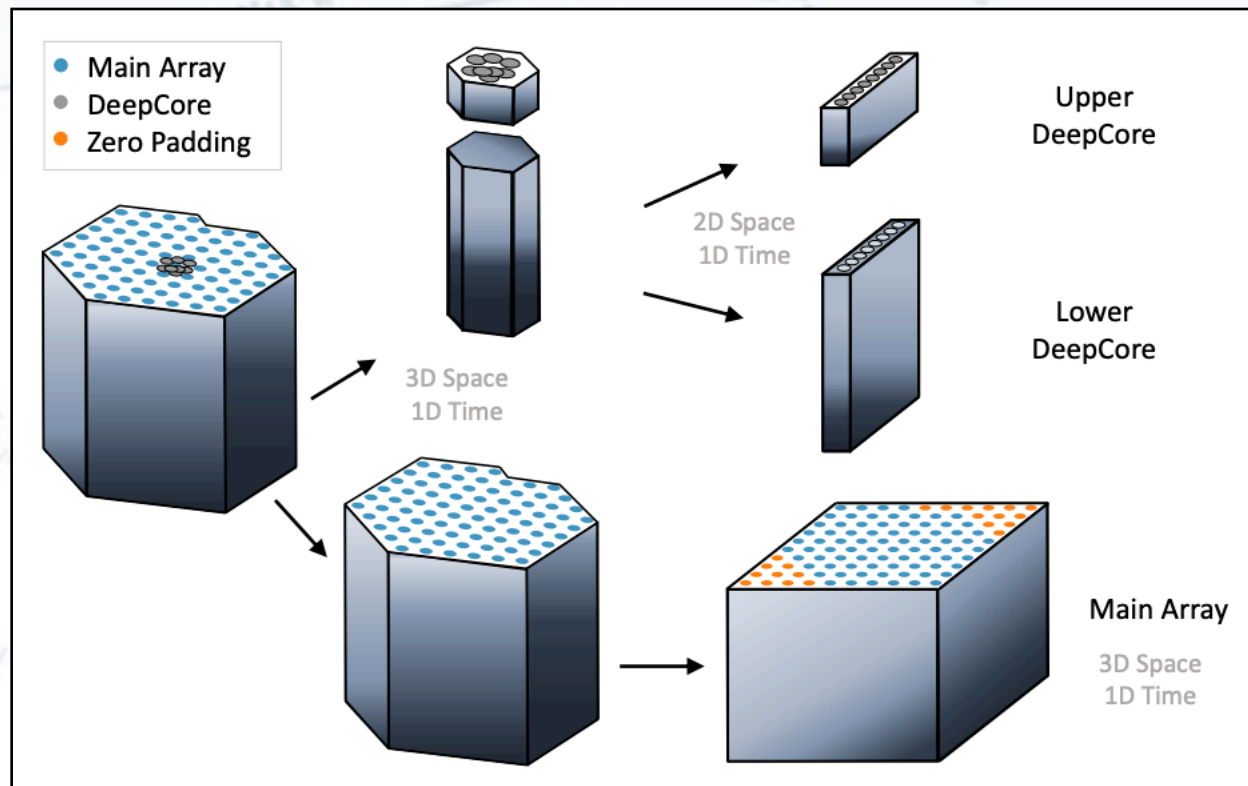
It uses large tables created from simulating millions of neutrino interactions, to create templates. While very accurate, it takes about 10-40 seconds to run.



# Current reconstruction methods

The **DNN reconstruction algorithm** was created in 2021, and is a CNN based method for HIGH energy neutrinos (Arxiv: 2101.11589).

It subdivides the irregular IceCube array, and applies a CNN approach to each of these, which are then combined in a “normal” NN. It takes about 1ms to run.

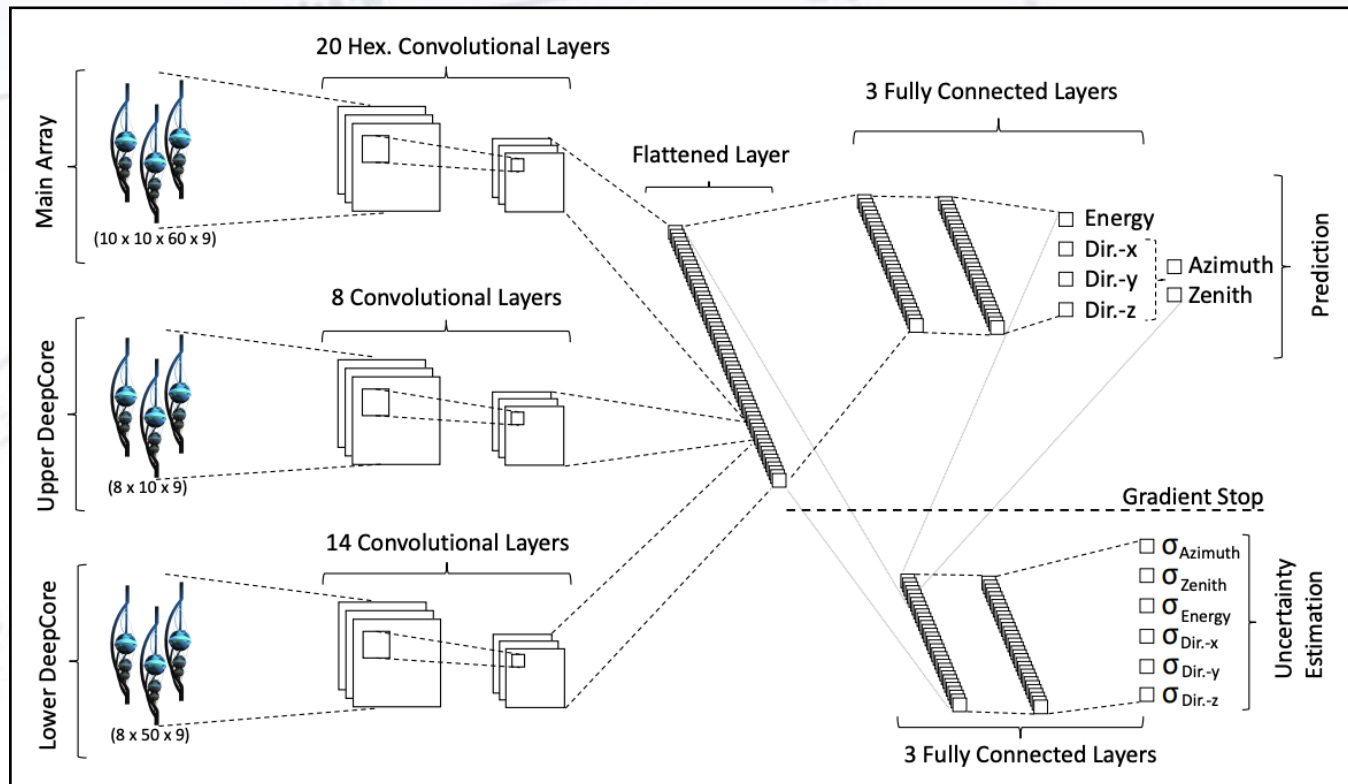




# Current reconstruction methods

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# Reconstruction discussion

The **RETRO algorithm** is very smart, and uses known physics along with a good deal of optimisation. The result is very accurate predictions.

The drawback is the speed. At 10-40 seconds/event, it takes months to run through and reconstruct the IceCube dataset (11 years!).

The **DNN algorithm** is also very smart. It utilises the fact that it is OK to introduce various transformations of the input data, as long as a Neural Network at the end gets a chance to combine it. Like all ML methods, it is also fast.

However, the method works best for high energy neutrinos, which have a large number of pulses (1000+), while details (and hence performance) are partially lost at lower energies.



# Reconstruction discussion

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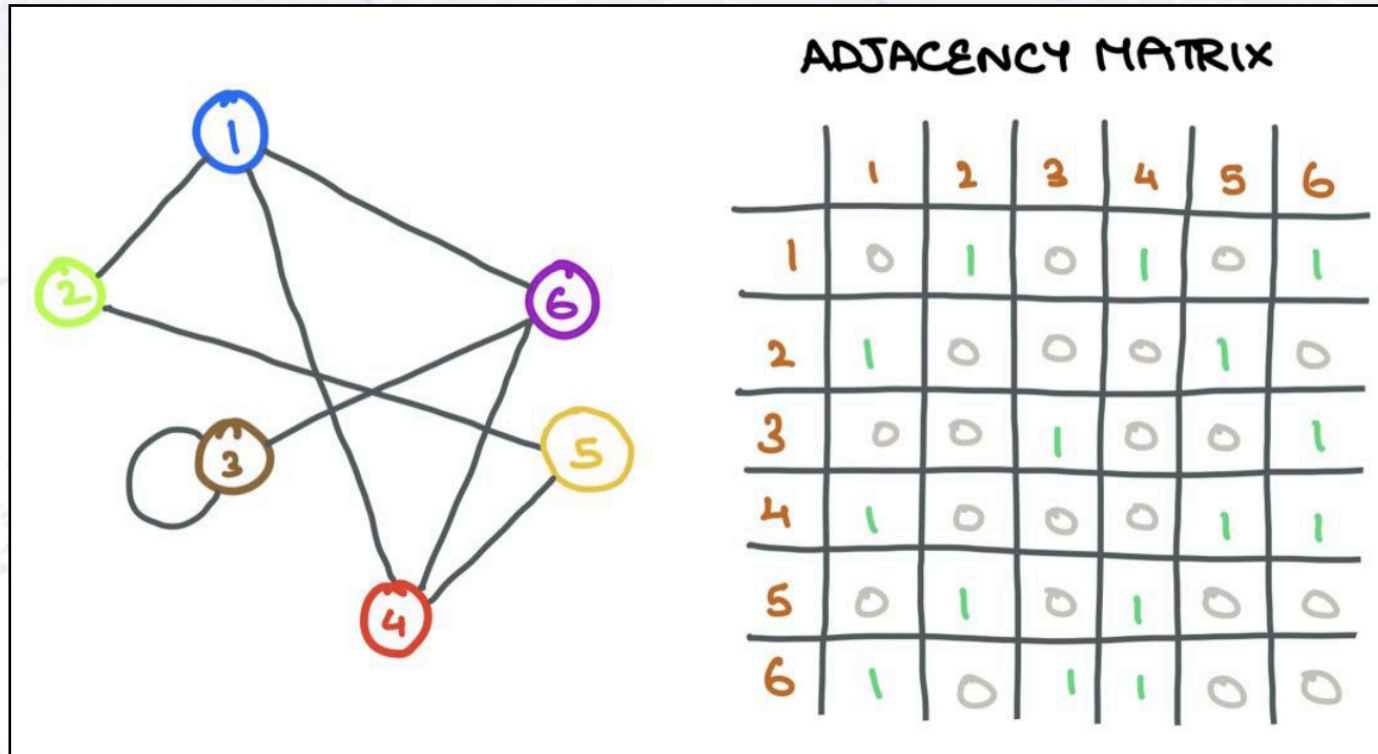
**How to solve the problem of variable input size and irregular geometry?**



# Enter Graph Neural Networks

# Graphs

A graph consists of nodes (containing information) and edges (node connections). The connectivity does not need to be bijective, and the number of connections may vary (but doesn't in our case).



In the case of IceCube, the pulses (or DOMs) are the nodes, and these are connected in “some way”, upon which a Neural Network is applied.



# Graph Neural Networks

A Graph Neural Network (GNN) is a Neural Network applied to a graph, that is it takes a graph as input, and outputs as an NN.

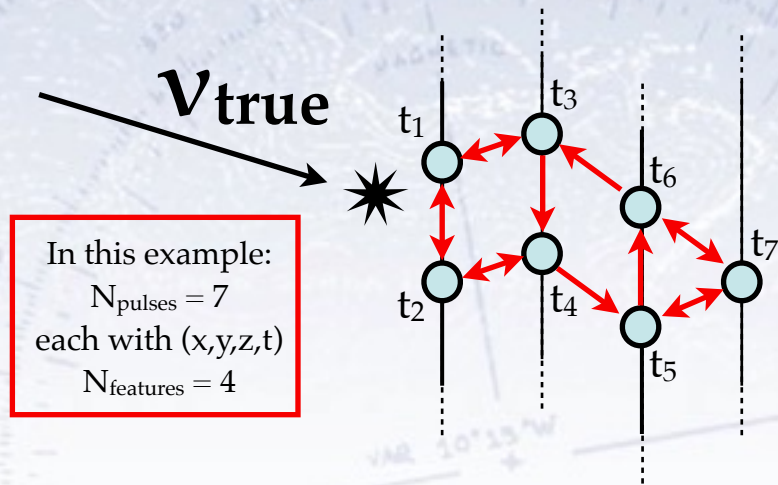
Just like in a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), the process consists of applying several convolutions. In the GNN case, this is done with a convolutional operator. An example of this is EdgeConv (Arxiv: 1801.07829):

$$x^{\text{update}} = \sum_i^{\text{Neighbours}} NN(x, x_i)$$

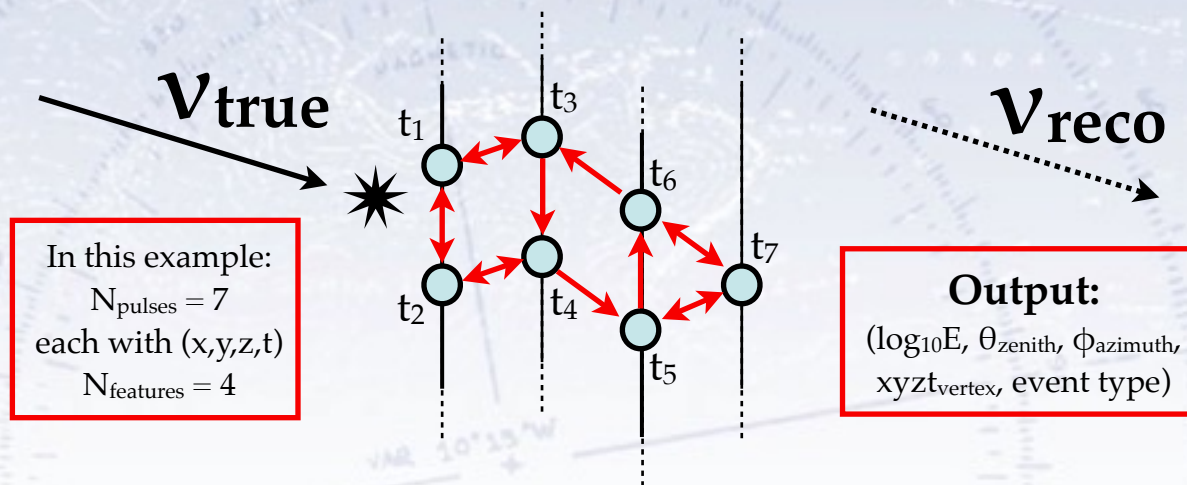
In the end, all the nodes are aggregated together, resulting in a fixed size vector to apply an ordinary NN on, yielding the desired estimates.

Sounds complicated? Let us have a look in more detail...

# Details of GNN reconstruction

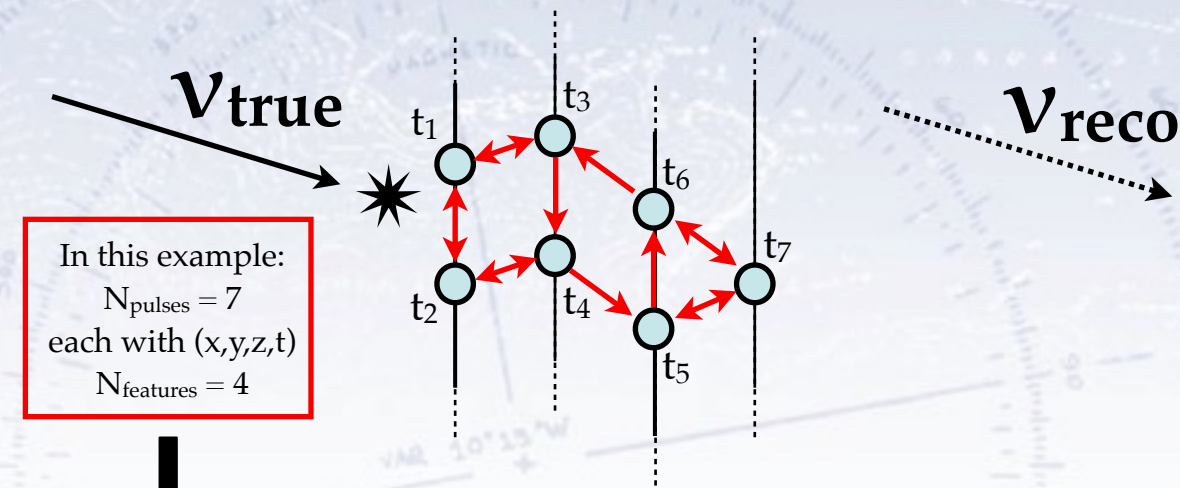


# Details of GNN reconstruction





# Details of GNN reconstruction



$$\vec{v}_1 = [x_1 \ y_1 \ z_1 \ t_1]$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = [x_2 \ y_2 \ z_2 \ t_2]$$

$\vdots$

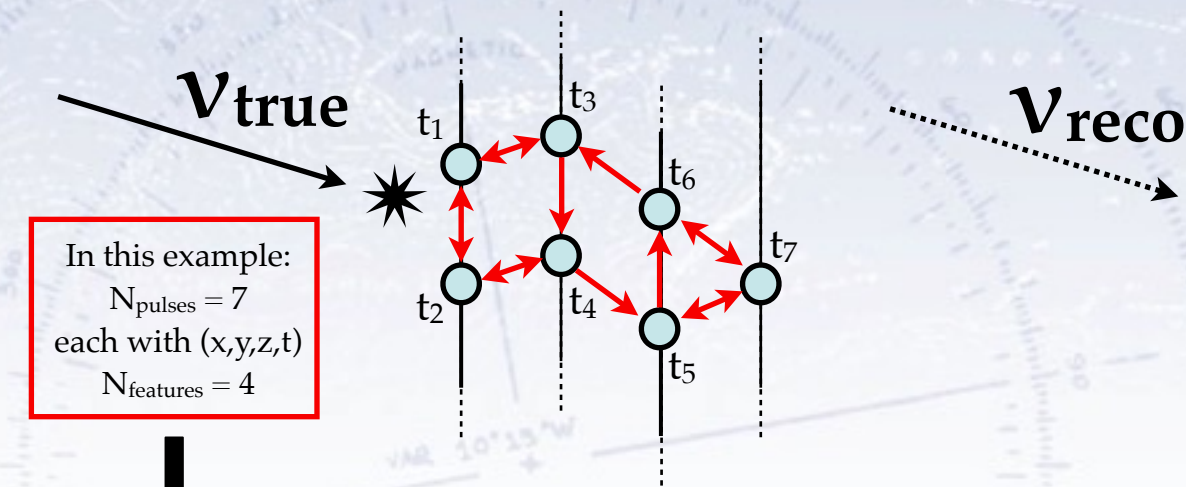
$$\vec{v}_7 = [x_7 \ y_7 \ z_7 \ t_7]$$

**Input:**

$$N = N_{\text{pulses}} \times N_{\text{features}}$$

The input features of a node are combined with that of  $N (=2)$  nearby nodes

# Details of GNN reconstruction



$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{v}_1 &= [x_1 \ y_1 \ z_1 \ t_1] \xrightarrow{EC(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3)} [g_{11} \dots g_{1N_1}] \\
 \vec{v}_2 &= [x_2 \ y_2 \ z_2 \ t_2] \xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} [g_{21} \dots g_{2N_1}] \\
 &\vdots \xrightarrow{EC(\vec{v}_4, \vec{v}_5, \vec{v}_6)} \vdots \\
 \vec{v}_7 &= [x_7 \ y_7 \ z_7 \ t_7] \xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} [g_{71} \dots g_{7N_1}]
 \end{aligned}$$

**Input:**

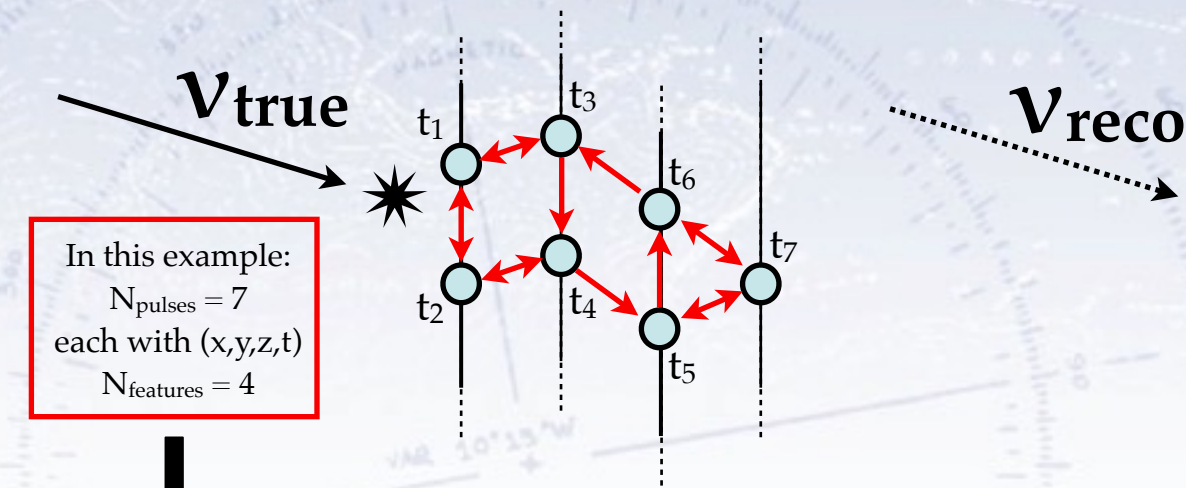
$$N = N_{\text{pulses}} \times N_{\text{features}}$$

**Convolution(s):**

$$N = N_{\text{pulses}} \times N_1$$

The input features of a node are combined with that of  $N$  ( $=2$ ) nearby nodes through an NN (MLP0) function, yielding an (abstract) vector for each node. This can be repeated (not shown).

# Details of GNN reconstruction



$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \vec{v}_1 = [x_1 \ y_1 \ z_1 \ t_1] & \xrightarrow{EC(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3)} & [g_{11} \dots g_{1N_1}] \\
 \vec{v}_2 = [x_2 \ y_2 \ z_2 \ t_2] & & [g_{21} \dots g_{2N_1}] \\
 \vdots & \xrightarrow{EC(\vec{v}_4, \vec{v}_5, \vec{v}_6)} & \vdots \\
 \vec{v}_7 = [x_7 \ y_7 \ z_7 \ t_7] & & [g_{71} \dots g_{7N_1}]
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 N_{\text{all}} = N_{\text{features}} + N_1 \\
 [x_1 \ y_1 \ z_1 \ t_1 \ g_{11} \dots g_{1N_1}] \\
 [x_2 \ y_2 \ z_2 \ t_2 \ g_{21} \dots g_{2N_1}] \\
 \vdots \\
 [x_7 \ y_7 \ z_7 \ t_7 \ g_{71} \dots g_{7N_1}]
 \end{array}$$

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$$N = N_{\text{pulses}} \times N_{\text{features}}$$

**Convolution(s):**

$$N = N_{\text{pulses}} \times N_1$$

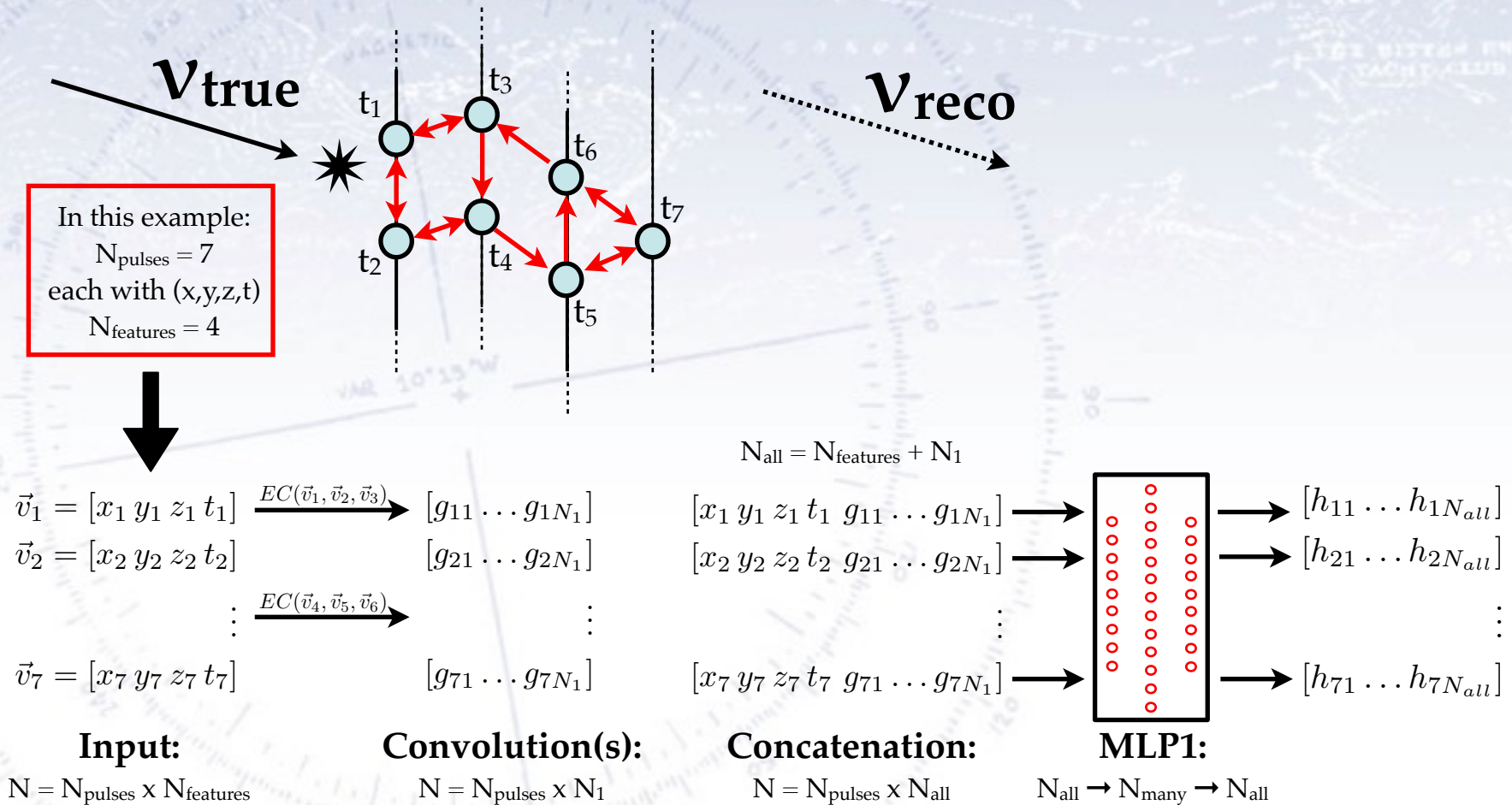
**Concatenation:**

$$N = N_{\text{pulses}} \times N_{\text{all}}$$

The input features of a node are combined with that of  $N$  ( $=2$ ) nearby nodes through an NN (MLP0) function, yielding an (abstract) vector for each node. This can be repeated (not shown). All the features are then combined (concatenated) into long vectors,

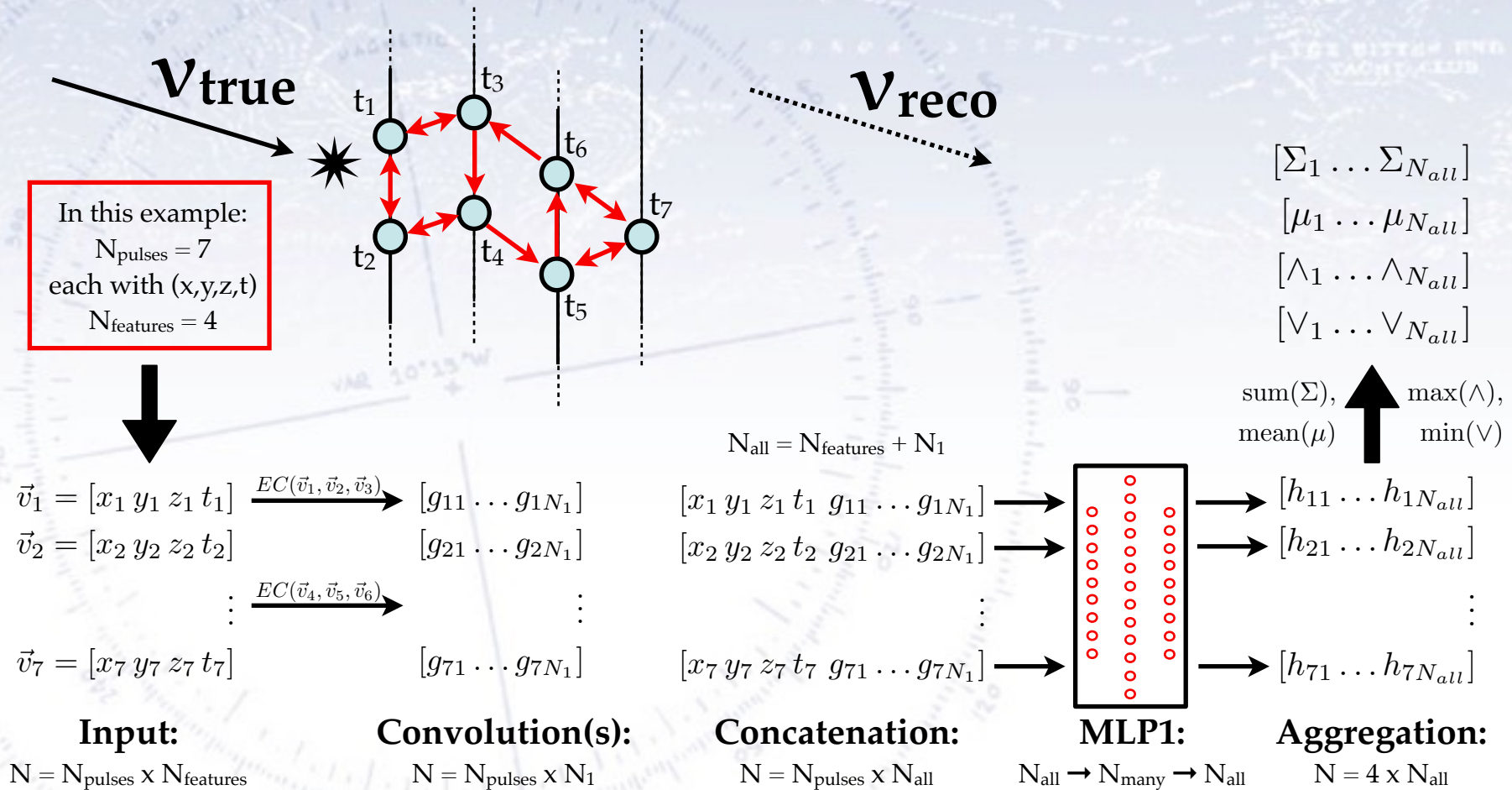


# Details of GNN reconstruction



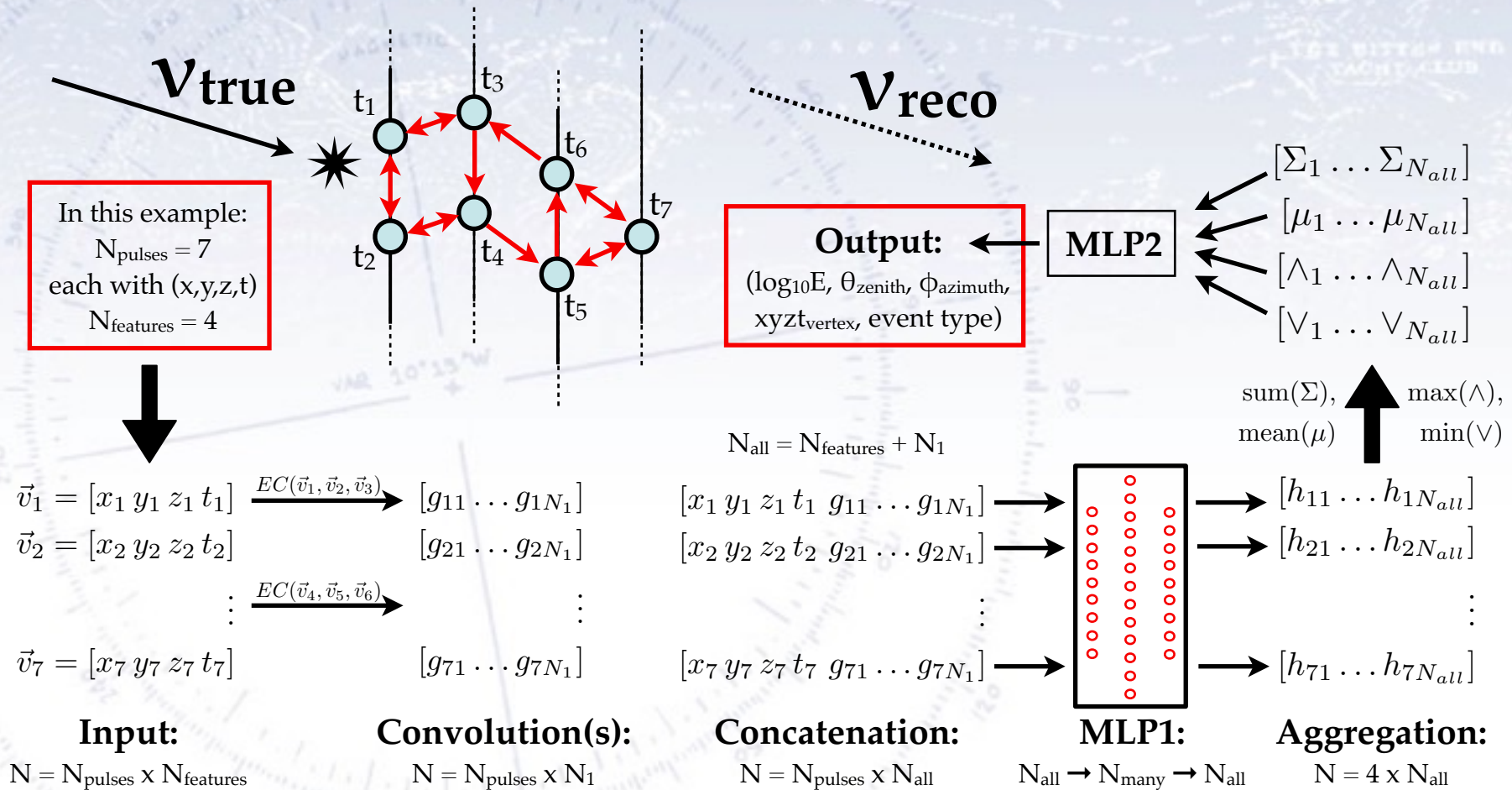
The input features of a node are combined with that of  $N$  ( $=2$ ) nearby nodes through an NN (MLP0) function, yielding an (abstract) vector for each node. This can be repeated (not shown). All the features are then combined (concatenated) into long vectors, which are again put through an NN (MLP1) function with a large hidden layer.

# Details of GNN reconstruction



The input features of a node are combined with that of  $N$  ( $=2$ ) nearby nodes through an NN (MLP0) function, yielding an (abstract) vector for each node. This can be repeated (not shown). All the features are then combined (concatenated) into long vectors, which are again put through an NN (MLP1) function with a large hidden layer. The outputs are aggregated in four ways: Min, Max, Sum & Mean, breaking the variation with number of nodes.

# Details of GNN reconstruction



The input features of a node are combined with that of  $N$  ( $=2$ ) nearby nodes through an NN (MLP0) function, yielding an (abstract) vector for each node. This can be repeated (not shown). All the features from all the convolutions are then combined (concatenated) into long vectors, which are again put through an NN (MLP1) function with a large hidden layer. The outputs are aggregated in four ways: Min, Max, Sum & Mean, breaking the variation with number of nodes. These are then fed into a final NN (MLP2), which outputs the estimated type(s) and parameters of the event.



# Further specifics of DynEdge

In DynEdge, there are several “enlargements” compared to the previous illustration of the GNN architecture. These are essentially:

- We use 6 input features:  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ ,  $t$ , charge, and Quantum Efficiency.
- We convolute each node with the nearest 8 nodes (not two).
- We do 4 (not 1) convolutions, each with 256 inputs and outputs.
- The concatenation is of all convolution layers and the original input.
- We also include global statistics in the final NN.
- In the results to be shown, we have trained separate GNNs for each output.

The repeated convolutions allows all signal parts to be connected.

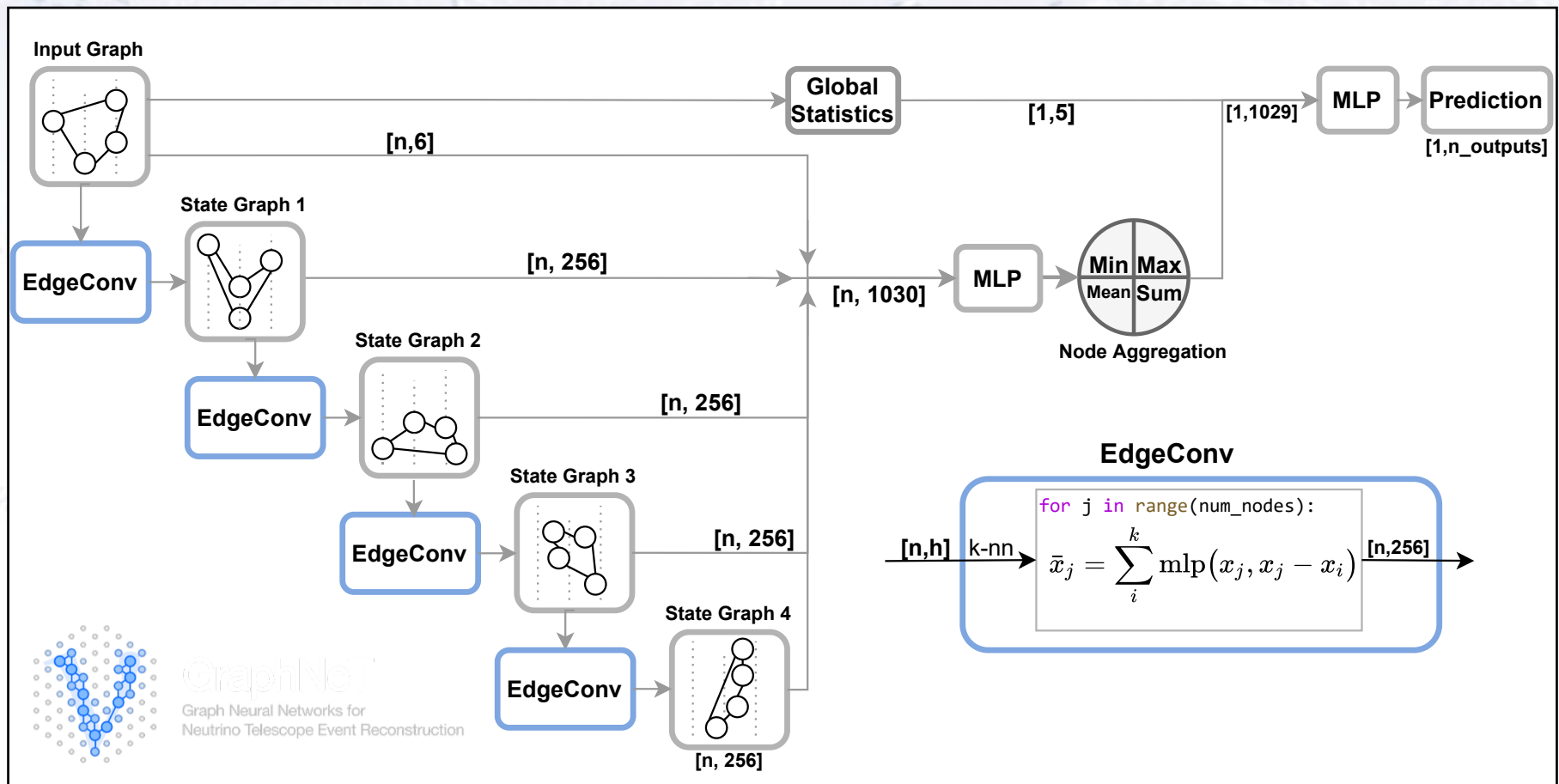
The EdgeConv convolution operator ensures permutation invariance.

The number of model parameters is about 750.000 for the angular regressions, while the energy only requires 150.000. In principle one can go down to 70.000 parameters, but there is no reason for this - it is already a “small” ML model.

The GNN model is build in PyTorch Geometric using “DynEdge” architecture.

# GraphNet

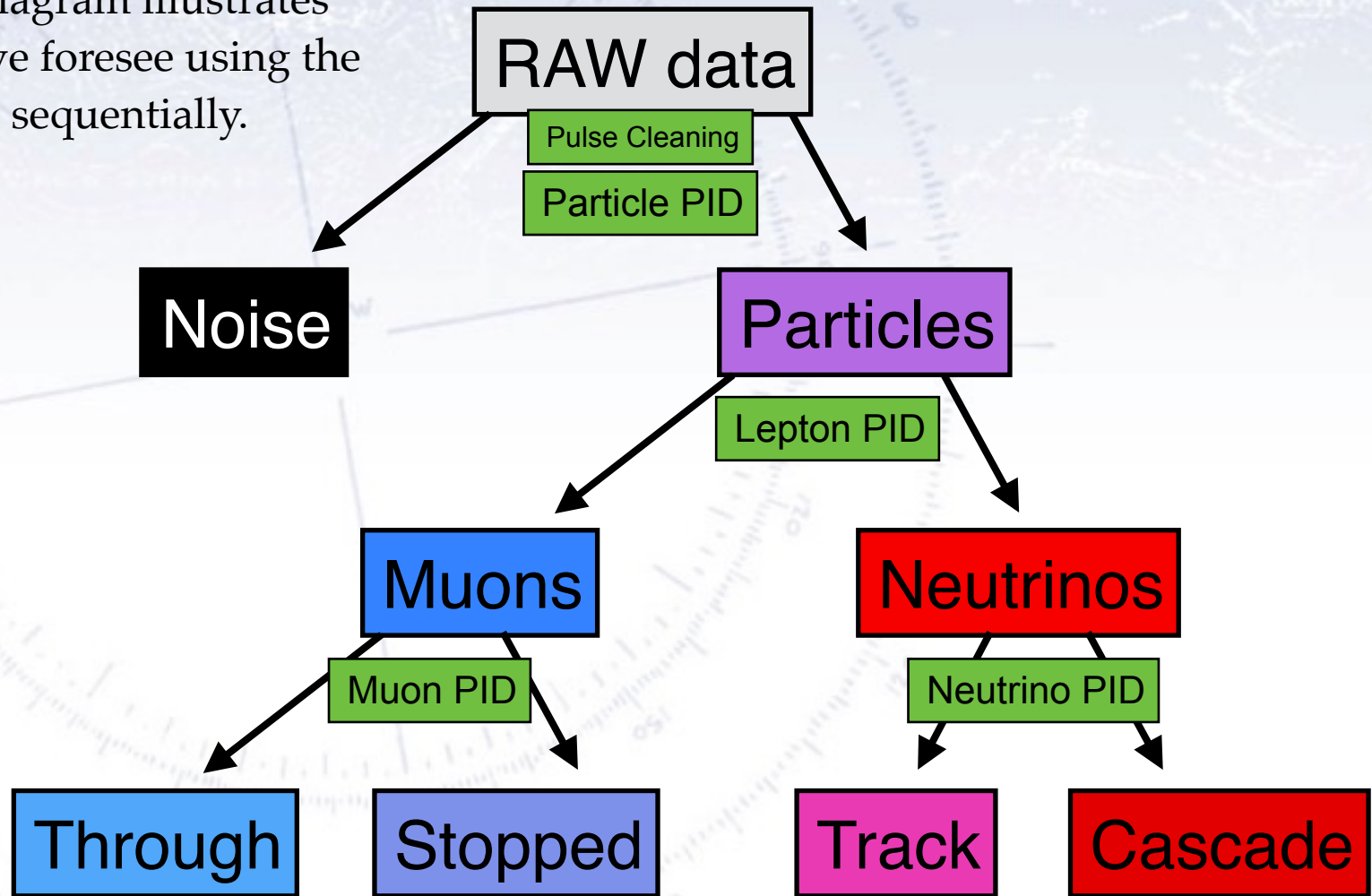
Our GNN model is outlined below, and is part of a larger package that we call GraphNet. Using GraphNet, we want to make it “simple” to reconstruct data from Neutrino Telescopes in general.



GraphNet  
Graph Neural Networks for  
Neutrino Telescope Event Reconstruction

# GNN classification overview

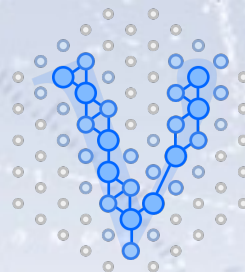
This diagram illustrates how we foresee using the GNNs sequentially.



Reconstruction ( $E$ ,  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $xyzt_{\text{start}}$ ,  $xyzt_{\text{end}}$ , etc.)



# GraphNet - Team



## GraphNeT

Graph Neural Networks for  
Neutrino Telescope Event Reconstruction

GraphNet is our attempt at putting GNN models for IceCube (and others) using the “DynEdge” architecture build in PyTorch Geometric into an easily available software package.

<https://github.com/graphnet-team/graphnet>



### Troels C. Petersen

**Project part:** Inspiration, physics, detector, and coordination.  
**Period:** First thoughts (with Andreas) in 2018.  
**Type:** Regular job!  
**Goal:** A great ML reconstruction, and fun getting there!



### Kaare Endrup Iversen

**Project part:** GNN Upgrade reconstruction, Neutrino oscillation analysis  
**Period:** August 2021 - May 2022 (Master Thesis).  
**Email:** nvc889@alumni.ku.dk  
**Result:** [GitHub repository](#).



### Morten Holm

**Project part:** GNN reconstruction, Neutrino oscillation analysis?  
**Period:** February 2022 - December 2022 (Master Thesis).  
**Email:** qgf305@alumni.ku.dk  
**Result:** [GitHub repository](#).



### Mads Ehrhorn

**Project part:** CNN and TCN reconstruction, data curation, etc.  
**Period:** September 2019 - February 2021.  
**Results:** [Master Thesis](#), [Thesis Defence](#), and [GitHub repository](#).



### Andreas Soegaard

**Project part:** Eventually, probably all parts  
**Period:** September 2021 (Marie-Curie Fellow).  
**Email:** andreas.soegaard@nbi.ku.dk?  
**Result:** [GitHub repository](#).



### Leon Bozianu

**Project part:** GNN classification and reconstruction of muons, MC-data calibration  
**Period:** August 2021 - May 2022 (Master Thesis).  
**Email:** qzr746@alumni.ku.dk  
**Result:** [GitHub repository](#).



### Rasmus F. Oersoe

**Project part:** Graph Neural Net (PyTorch) reconstruction, data curation, etc.  
**Period:** July 2020 - May 2021 (Master Thesis).  
**Email:** pcs557@alumni.ku.dk  
**Result:** [GitHub repository](#).

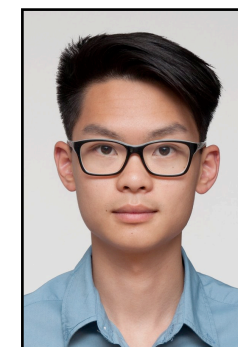


### Bjoern Moelvig

**Project part:** RNN/GRU reconstruction, loss function exploration  
**Period:** September 2019 - October 2020.  
**Results:** [Master Thesis](#), [Thesis Defence](#), and [GitHub repository](#).



Philipp Eller



Martin Minh<sup>36</sup>



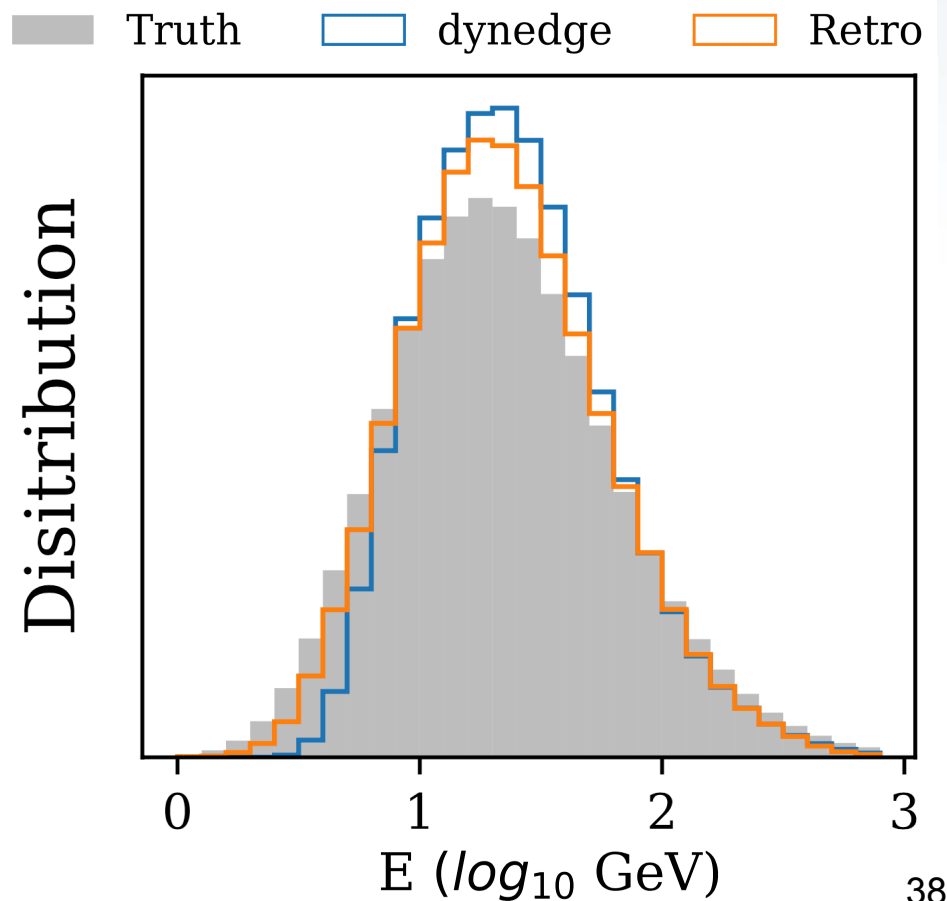
# GNN performance

# GraphNet - Results

The following slides will show the resulting GNN performance (also compared to RetroReco) for track and cascade neutrino events.

The performance depends on the neutrino energy, so all plots are made as a function of energy.

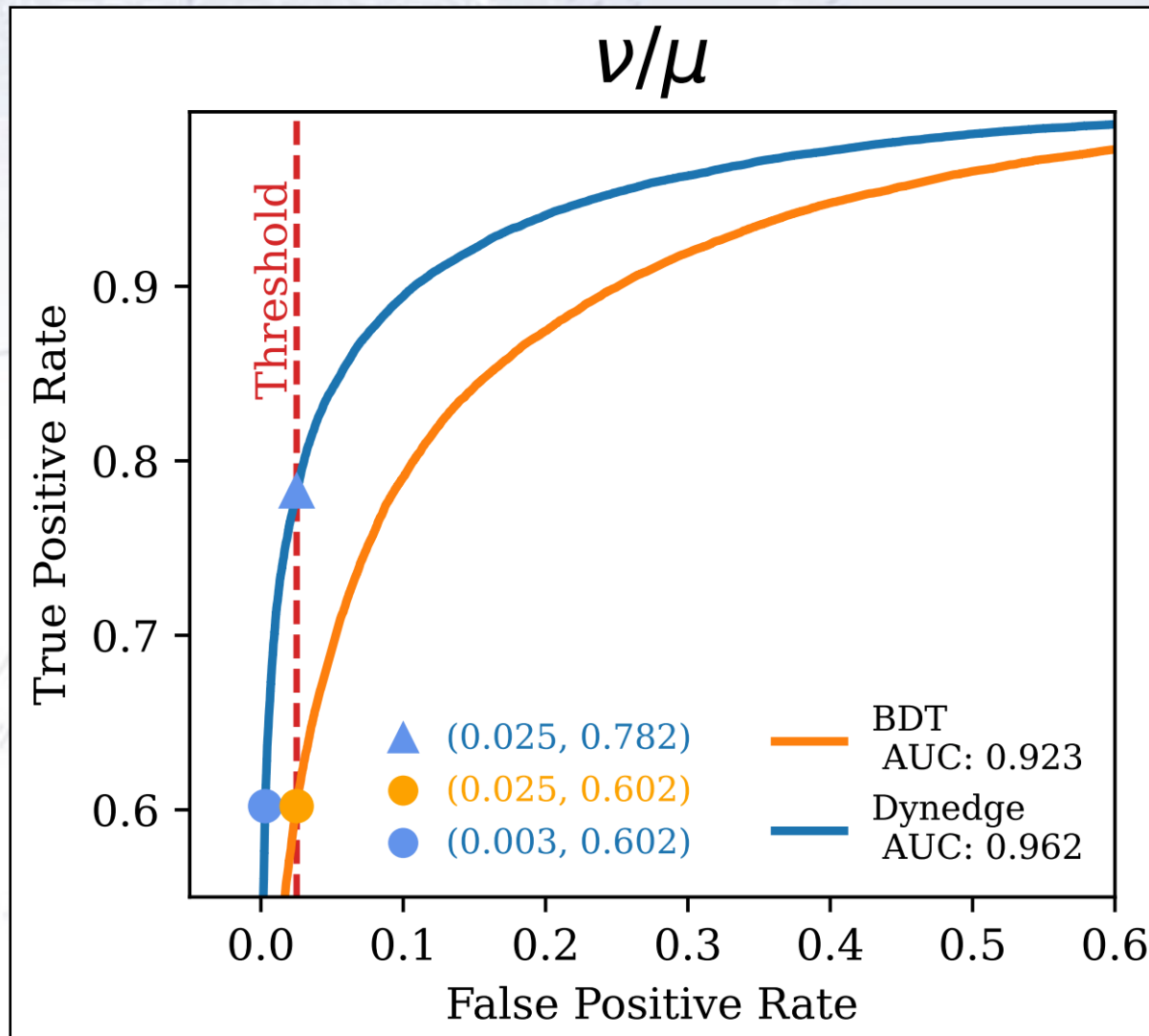
Since neutrino statistics is limited at low ( $< 3$  GeV) and high ( $> 300$  GeV) energies, the GNN performance there is not expected to be optimal.





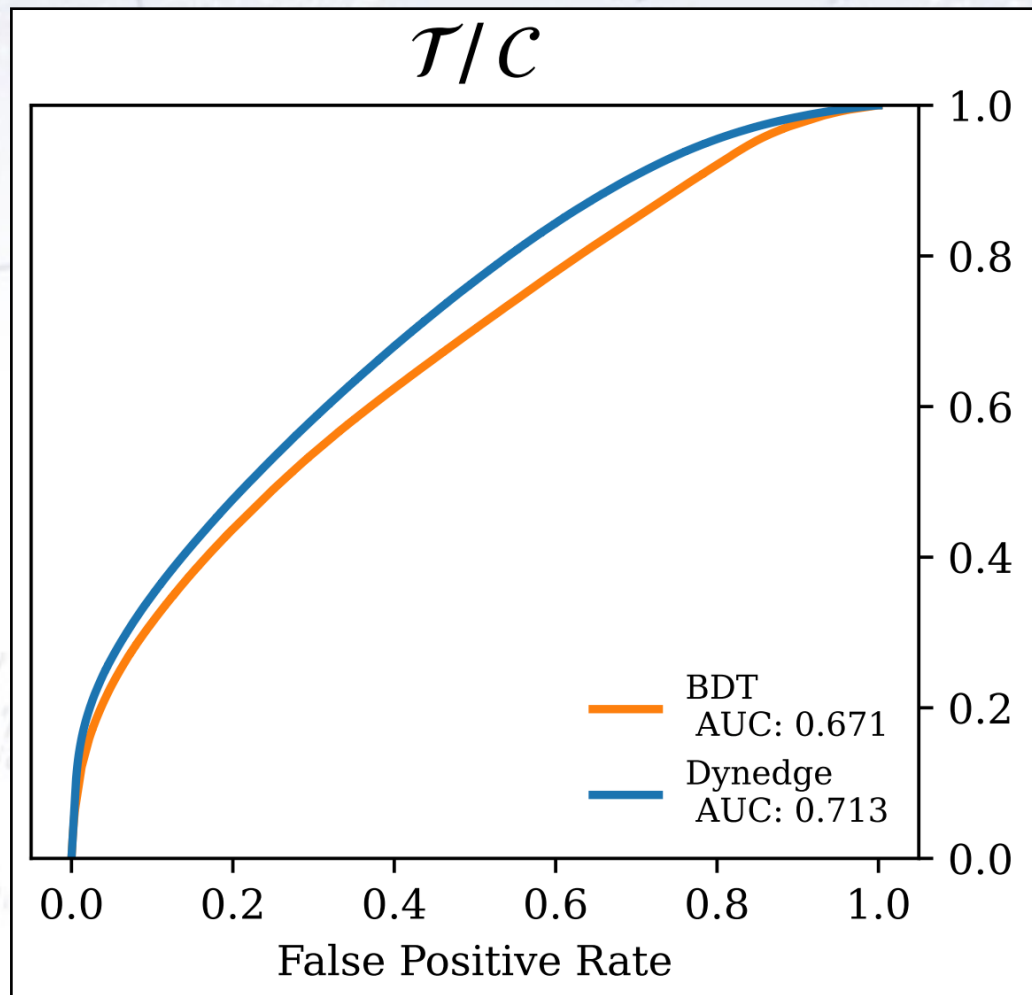
# GraphNet - Results

Separation between signal (neutrinos) and background (muons) is improved.



# GraphNet - Results

The (difficult) separation between track-like (T, from muons) and Cascade (C, from electrons and taus) is also improved, though less overall.



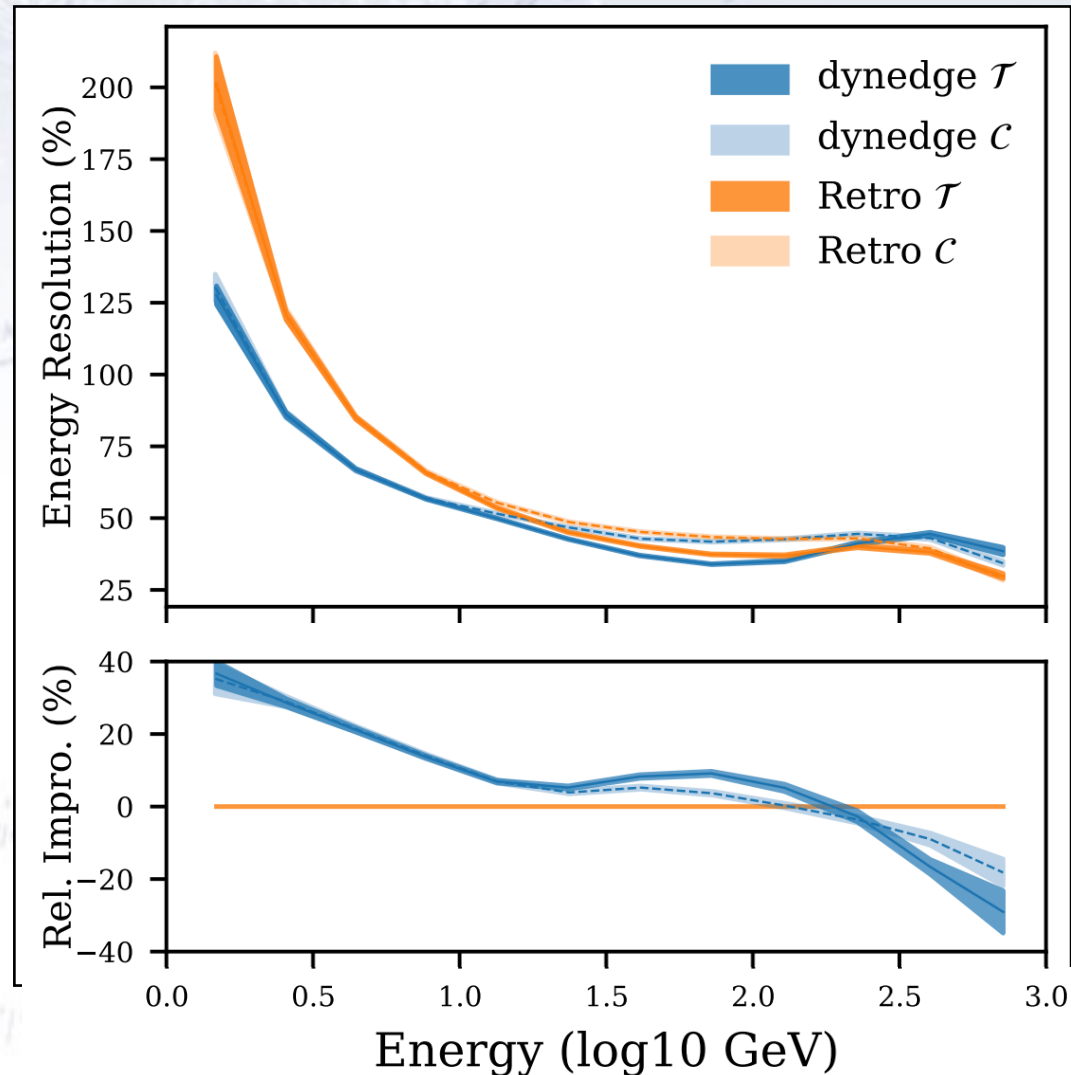
The background is a map of the North Atlantic Ocean. It features magnetic isotherms, which are lines of equal magnetic intensity, labeled with values such as 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000. A magnetic pole is marked with a cross and labeled "VAR 10° 13' W". The word "MAGNETIC" is also visible. In the top right corner, there is a small text box that reads "1000 HITS PER HOUR" and "TACHYCLIP".

# Reconstruction results



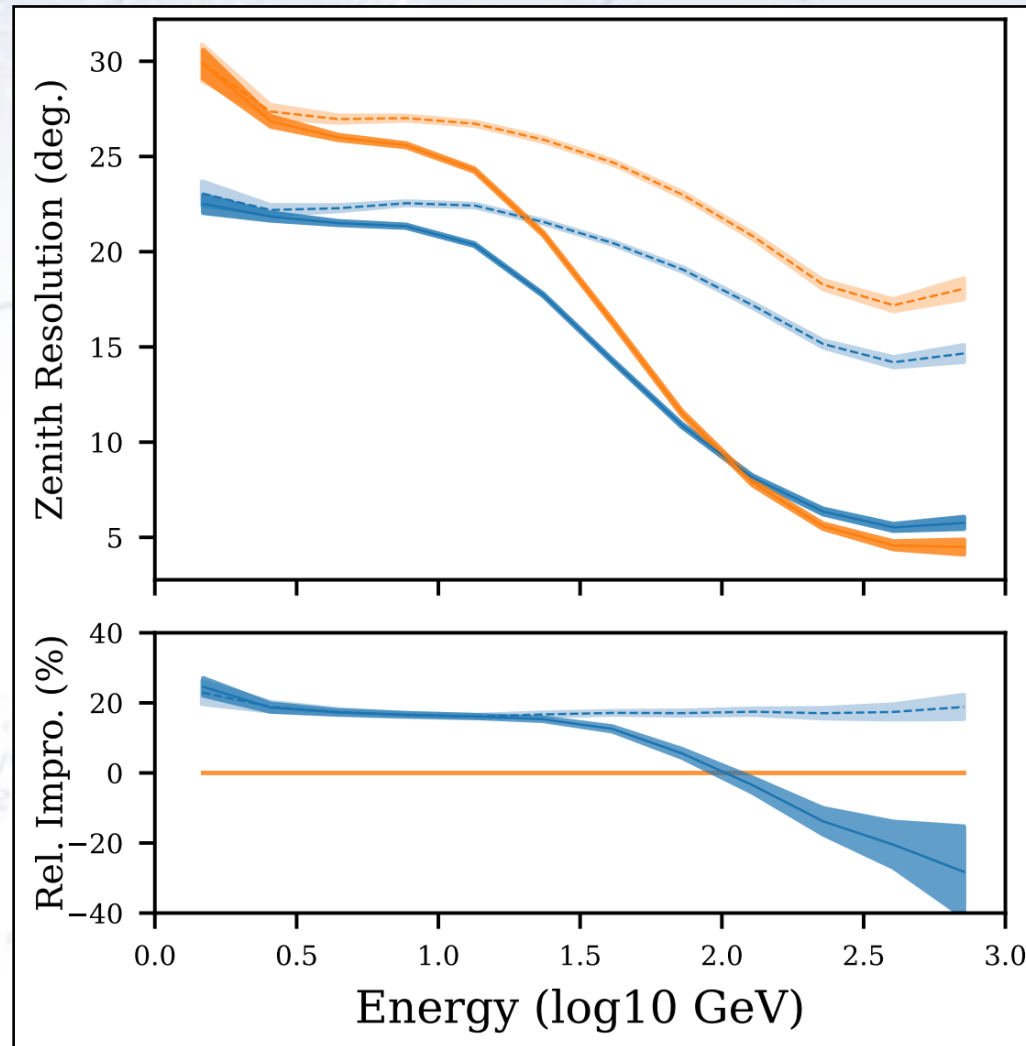
# GraphNet - Energy

The energy is optimised by minimising LogCosh of  $\log_{10}E_{\text{pred}} - \log_{10}E_{\text{true}}$



# GraphNet - zenith angle

The angular performance uses a 2D Von-Mises Fisher loss function, where the task is to predict  $(\cos\theta, \sin\theta)$  and an uncertainty parameter.



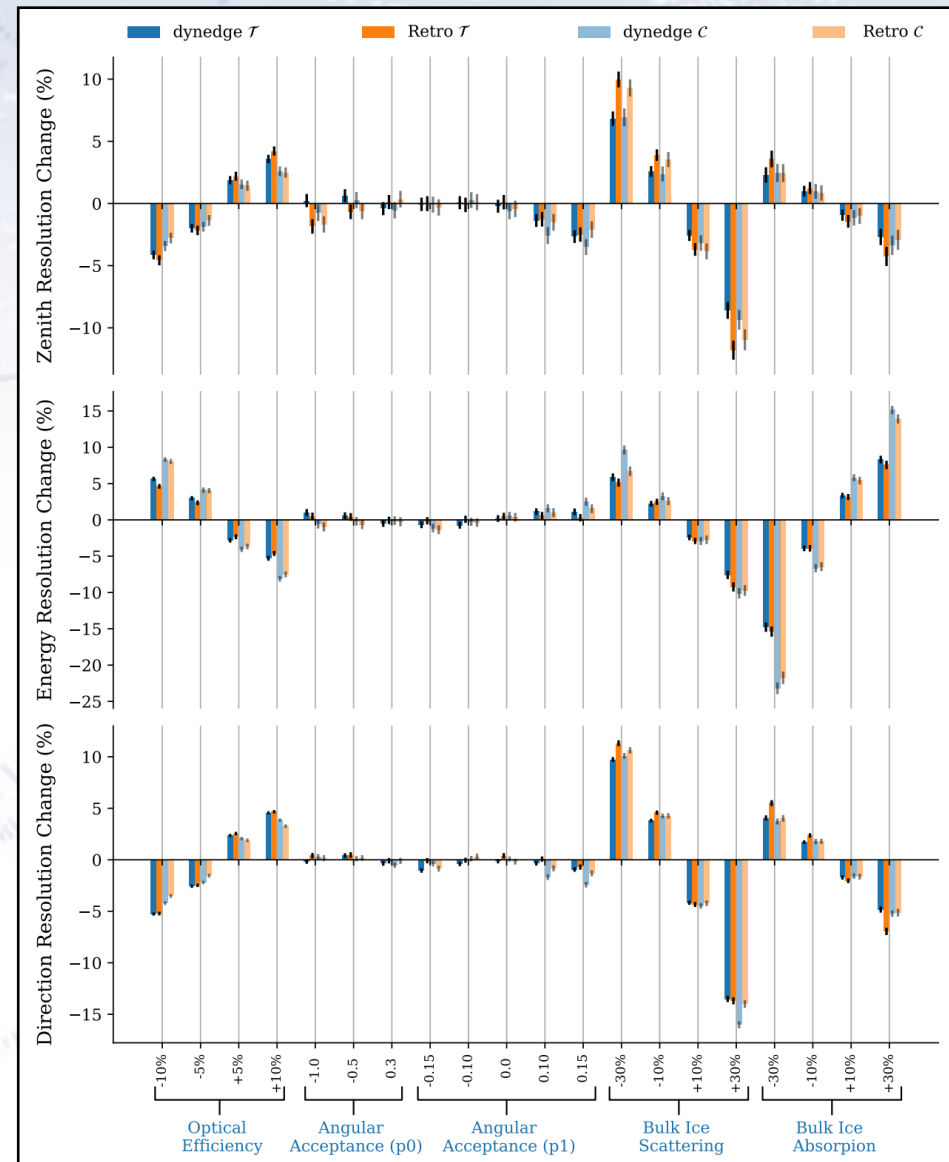
# GraphNet - Robustness test

In order to test, to what extent the GNN reconstruction is robust to systematic changes in the ice properties and the detector response, it has been applied to a standard set of simulated systematic data sets.

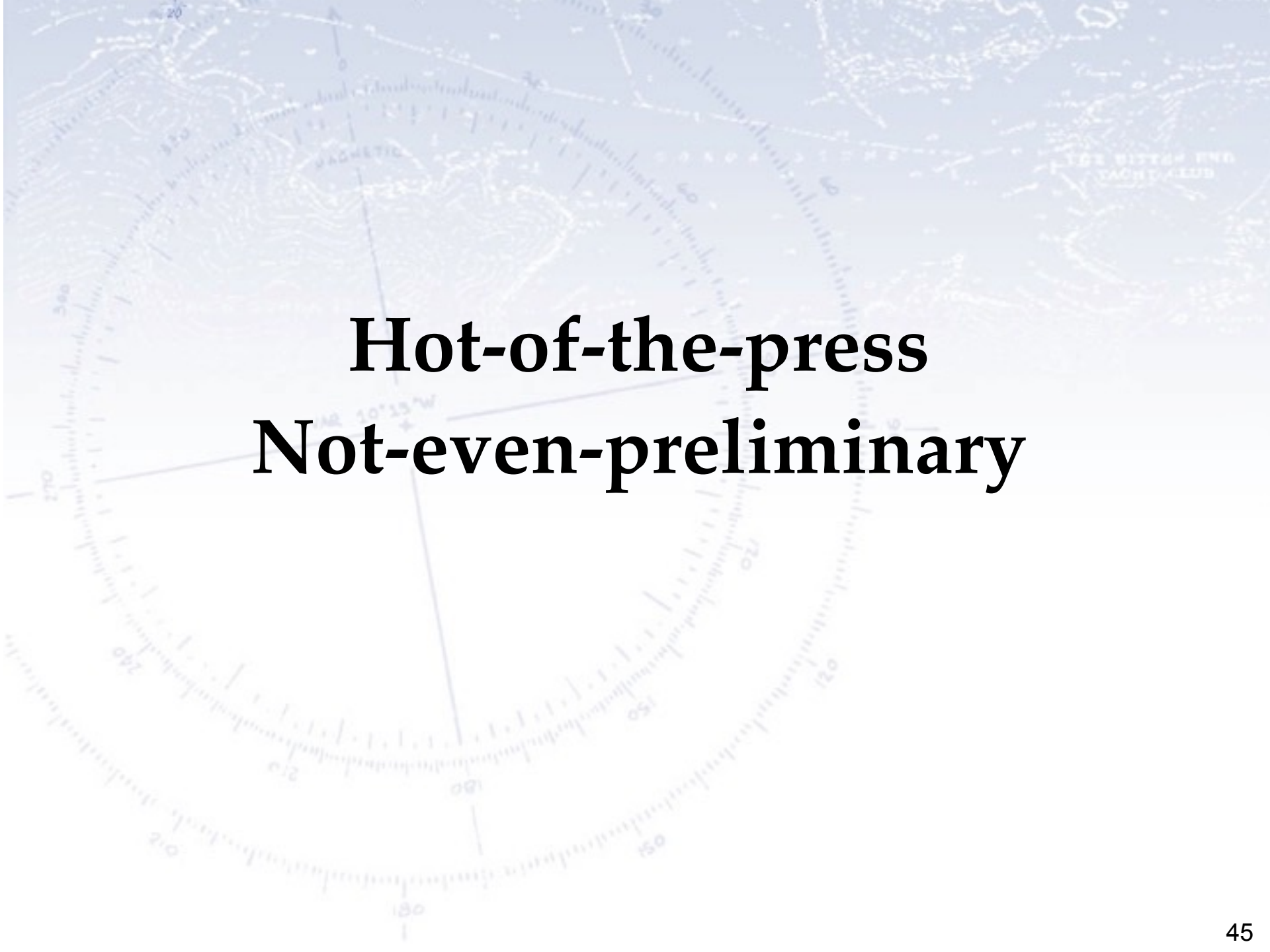
We see the expected pattern in energy and angle.

The overall conclusion is, that it has the same “good” robustness as the RetroReco algorithm.

This suggests, that the reconstruction shifts with systematics are inherent, and not possible to avoid.



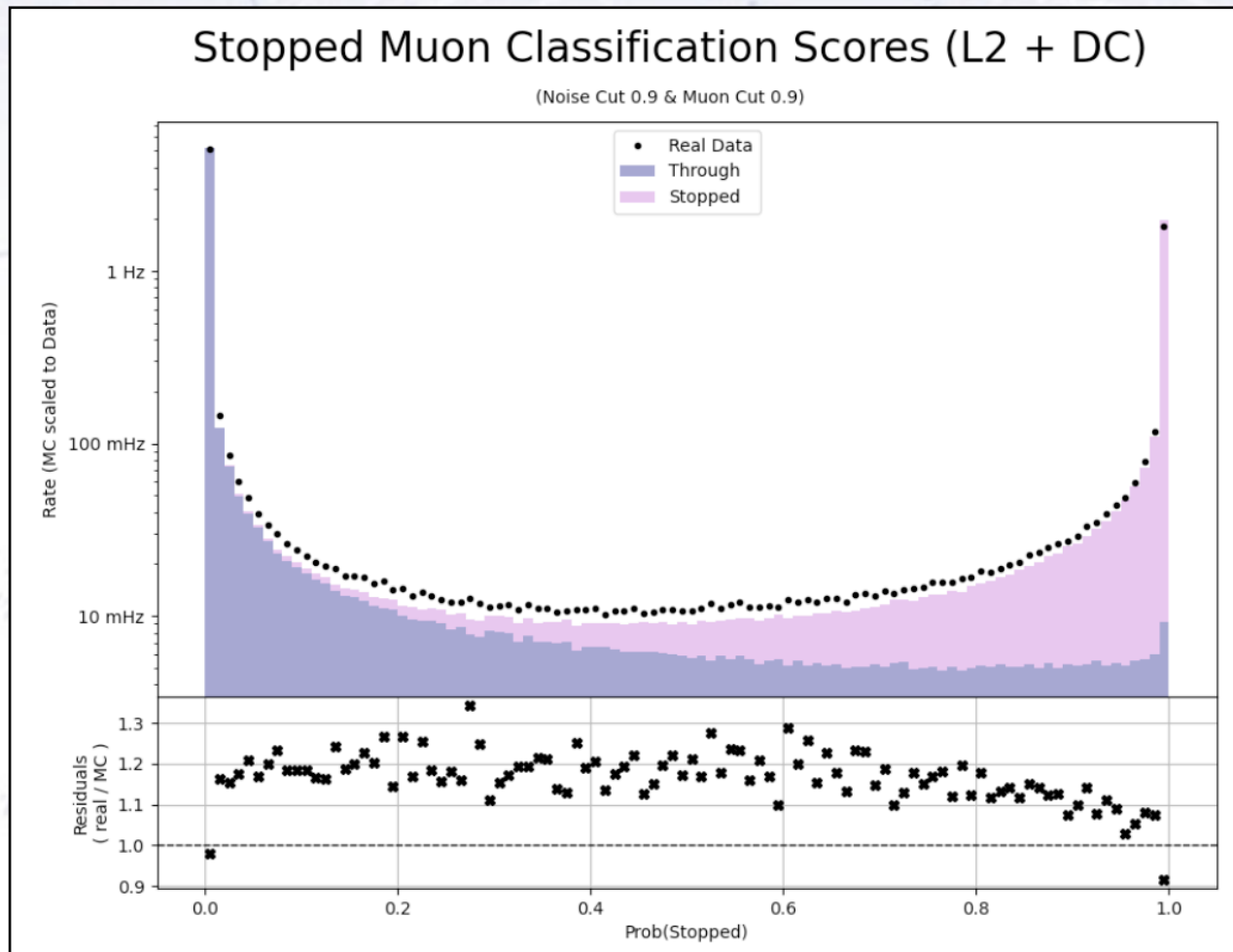


The background is a detailed map of the North Atlantic Ocean. It features concentric magnetic isotherms (lines of equal magnetic intensity) labeled with values such as 300, 320, 340, 360, 380, 400, 420, 440, 460, 480, 500, 520, 540, 560, 580, 600, 620, 640, 660, 680, 700, 720, 740, 760, 780, 800, 820, 840, 860, 880, 900, 920, 940, 960, 980, 1000, 1020, 1040, 1060, 1080, 1100, 1120, 1140, 1160, 1180, 1200, 1220, 1240, 1260, 1280, 1300, 1320, 1340, 1360, 1380, 1400, 1420, 1440, 1460, 1480, 1500, 1520, 1540, 1560, 1580, 1600, 1620, 1640, 1660, 1680, 1700, 1720, 1740, 1760, 1780, 1800, 1820, 1840, 1860, 1880, 1900, 1920, 1940, 1960, 1980, 2000, 2020, 2040, 2060, 2080, 2100, 2120, 2140, 2160, 2180, 2200, 2220, 2240, 2260, 2280, 2300, 2320, 2340, 2360, 2380, 2400, 2420, 2440, 2460, 2480, 2500, 2520, 2540, 2560, 2580, 2600, 2620, 2640, 2660, 2680, 2700, 2720, 2740, 2760, 2780, 2800, 2820, 2840, 2860, 2880, 2900, 2920, 2940, 2960, 2980, 3000. A prominent meridian line is drawn at 10°13'W, marked with a cross and the label '10°13'W'. The word 'MAGNETIC' is visible in the upper left quadrant. In the upper right quadrant, the text '10°13'W' and 'YACHT CLUB' is visible. The map is overlaid with a grid of latitude and longitude lines.

**Hot-of-the-press  
Not-even-preliminary**

# Running on (1 day of) real data

The ability to identify muons, and divide them into “stopped” or not is shown below, with data overlaying MC. The MC still needs scaling, re-weighting, etc.... but as first result on raw data, this is reasonably good:



# Speed



# GraphNet - Speed

Of course an ML algorithm is faster than a (difficult) likelihood minimisation.

However, the GNN speed never fail to amaze us, illustrated as follows:

The OscNext analysis required the reconstruction of the 21 systematic sets, which is a total of **143.000.000 neutrino events**.

At ~40 s/event, this took 2.5 months on 1000 CPUs. The power cost alone is 10.000+ DKr. We tried to do the same reconstruction on a single GPU...

# GraphNet - Speed

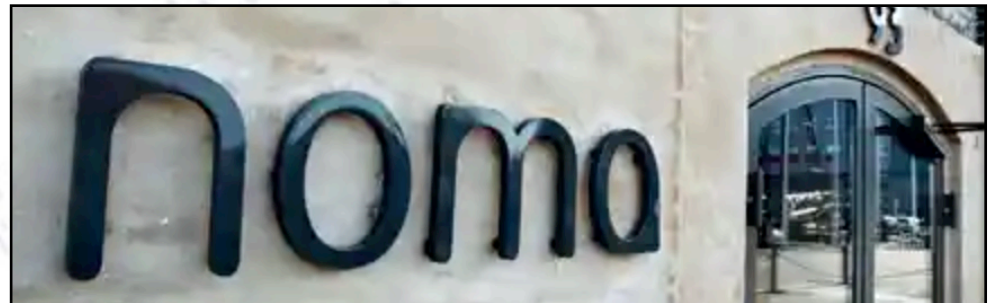
Of course an ML algorithm is faster than a (difficult) likelihood minimisation.

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You could submit the job,  
go to NOMA for dinner,  
bring a friend / colleague,  
get the full menu + wine menu,  
have a fantastic evening...



# GraphNet - Speed

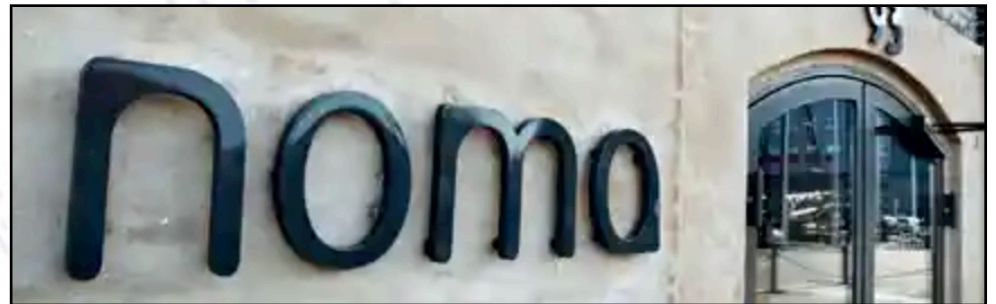
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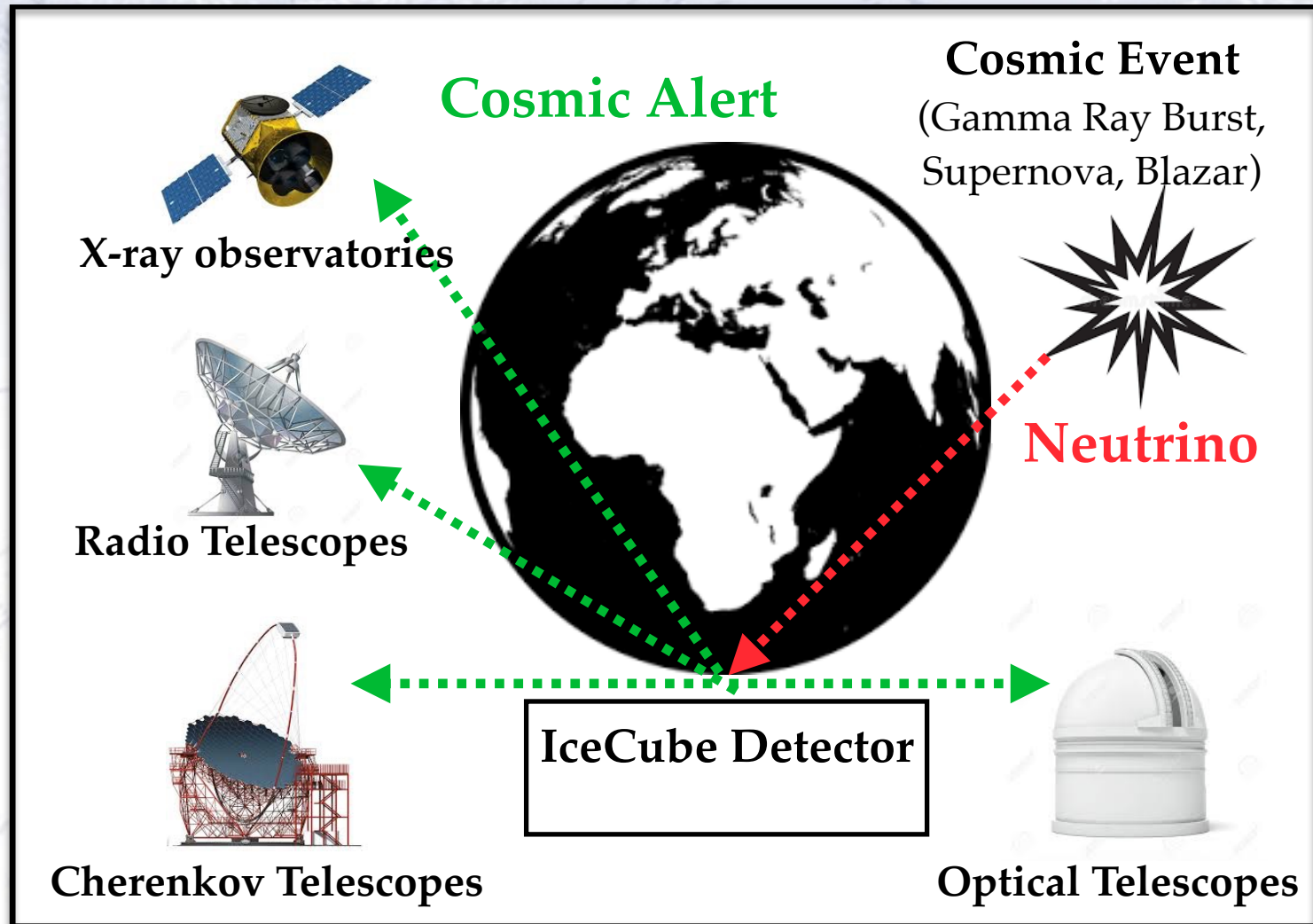
And you would still be richer and not be sober, when the job was done...  
(7 hours, 10 DKr.)





# DREAMING

# Seeing the Universe in $\nu$ light





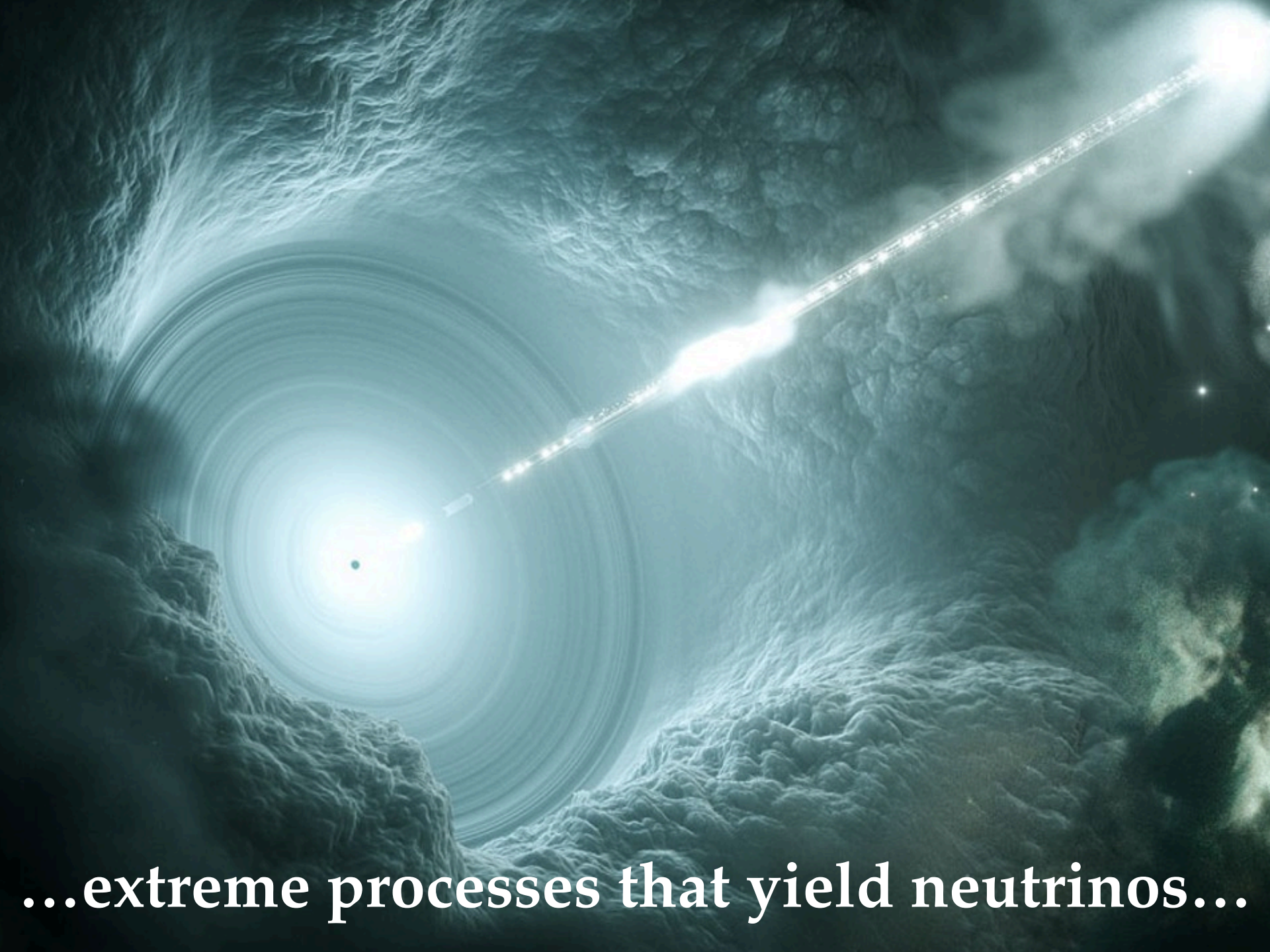
# Seeing the Universe with neutrinos





The image features a large, blue, rectangular scientific station with two tall, cylindrical towers on either side, situated on a vast, dark blue ice floe. The station is elevated on a metal frame. Below the station, the ice transitions into a dark, deep blue area where numerous vertical columns of glowing spheres are visible. These spheres are colored in a gradient from red and orange at the bottom to yellow and green at the top, representing particle tracks or data points. The background is a clear, light blue sky.

# IceCube Neutrino Telescope can see...



...extreme processes that yield neutrinos...

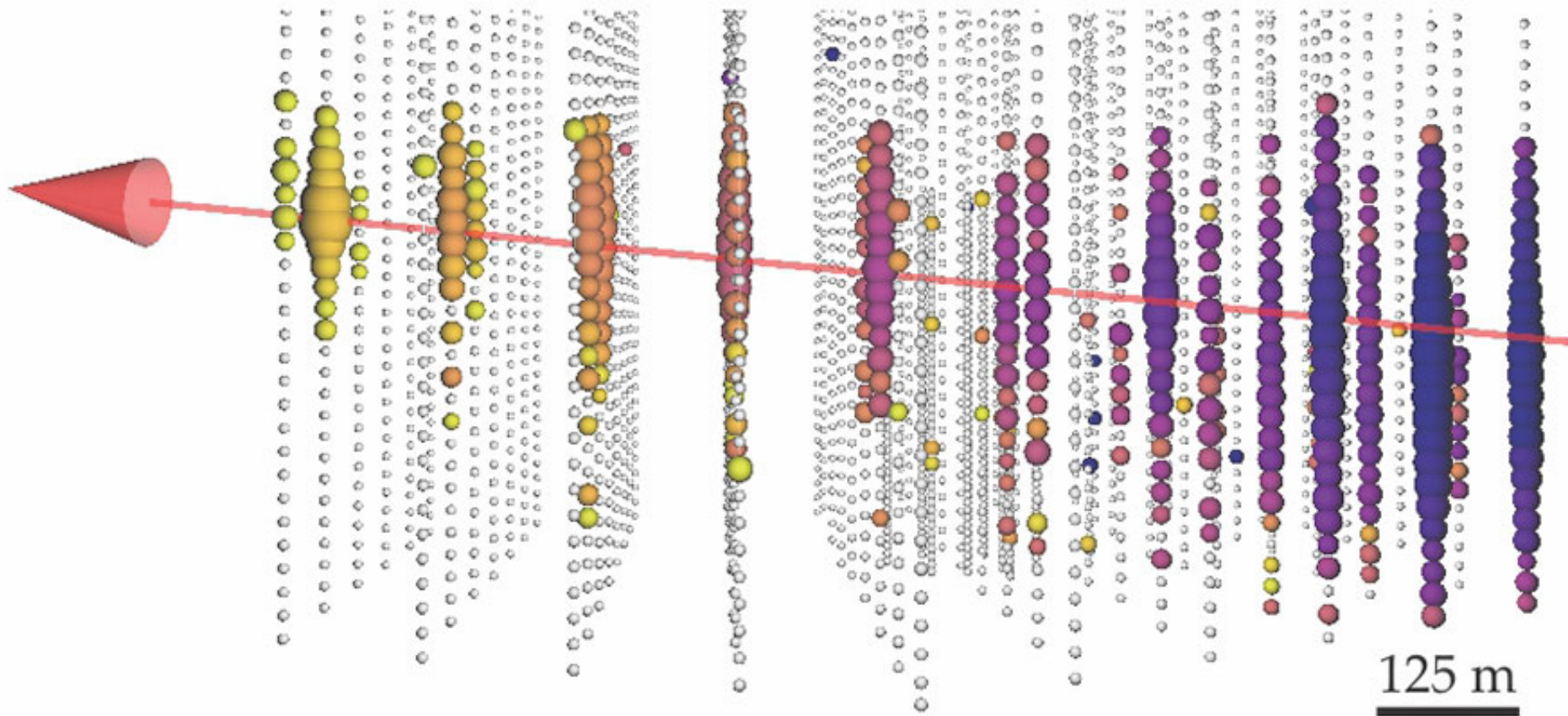


...which are great cosmic messengers...





...that can be observed by  
IceCube  $\nu$ -Telescope...







GraphNeT

Graph Neural Networks for  
Neutrino Telescope Event Reconstruction

...in real time using  
Graph Neural Networks



GraphNeT

Graph Neural Networks for  
Neutrino Telescope Event Reconstruction

Despite having a very complicated geometry and a great variation in number of signal inputs, new ML methods - Graph Neural Networks - are capable of handling this... very well!

Neighbours

$$x^{\text{update}} = \sum_i NN(x, x_i)$$

...in real time using  
Graph Neural Networks





# Bonus slides



