

# KM3NeT/ORCA – towards the determination of the neutrino mass ordering

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Nikhef

## France

- Centre de Physique des Particules de Marseille, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS
- Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien, Université de Strasbourg, CNRS
- Laboratoire Astroparticules et Cosmologie, CNRS, Université Paris Cité
- Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille, AMU, CNES, CNRS
- Laboratoire de Physique Corpusculaire de Caen, CNRS, Université de Caen
- Laboratoire Univers et Particules de Montpellier, CNRS, Université de Montpellier
- Institut Méditerranéen d'Océanologie, amU, CNRS, IRD, Marseille
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- Université Libre de Bruxelles

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- NWO-I, Nikhef, Amsterdam
- TNO, Technical Sciences, Delft
- Universiteit van Amsterdam
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- Sternwarte, Bamberg
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- INFN Sezione di Bari and Politecnico di Bari
- INFN Sezione di Bologna, Università di Bologna
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- INFN Sezione di Genova, Università di Genova
- INFN Sezione di Napoli, Università di Napoli Federico II
- INFN Sezione di Padova, Università di Padova
- INFN Sezione di Roma, Sapienza Università di Roma
- Università della Campania L. Vanvitelli
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- NCBJ - National Centre for Nuclear Research, Warsaw
- Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center, Particle Astrophysics Science and Technology Centre, Warsaw

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- Slovenská akadémia vied Kosice

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- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

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- Instituto de Física Corpuscular, Universitat de València, CSIC
- Laboratori d'Aplicacions Bioacústiques, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Vilanova i la Geltrú
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- Mohamed Boudiaf University, M'sila
- Université Badji Mokhtar, Annaba
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- University of Johannesburg
- University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

## Georgia

- Tbilisi State University
- University of Georgia, Tbilisi

## United Arab Emirates

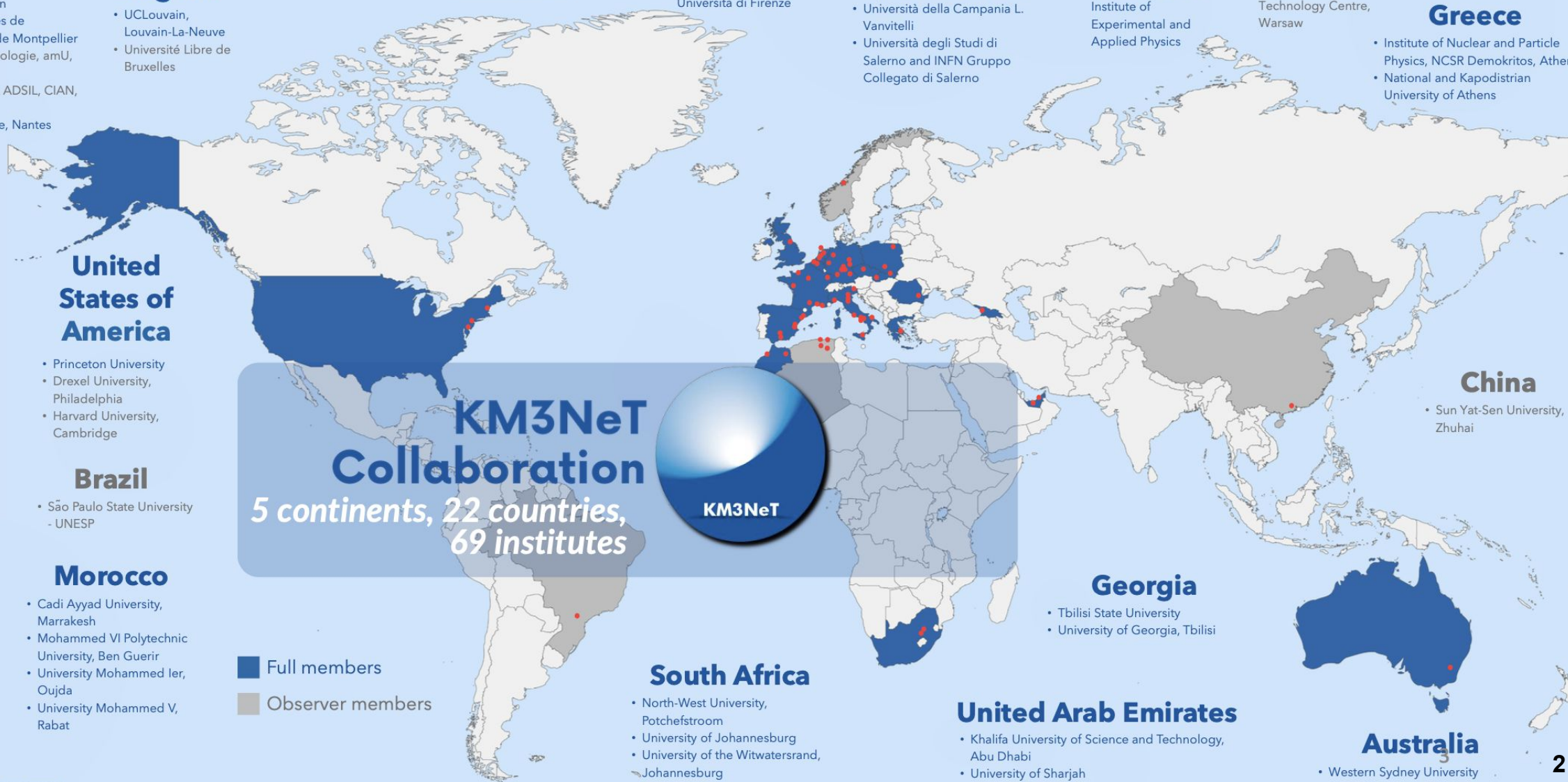
- Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi
- University of Sharjah

## China

- Sun Yat-Sen University, Zhuhai

## Australia

- Western Sydney University

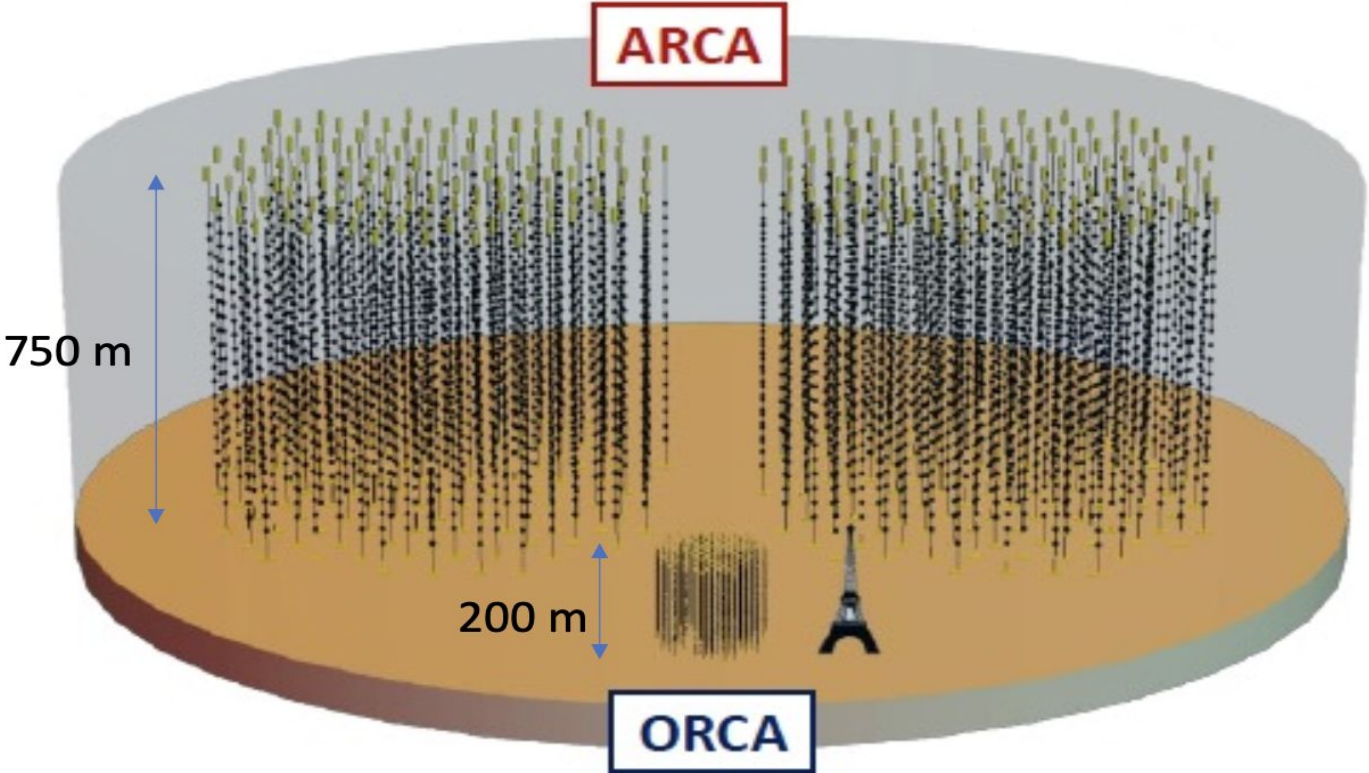


**KM3NeT Collaboration**  
 5 continents, 22 countries, 69 institutes

■ Full members  
 ■ Observer members

# KM3NeT

$\text{KM3NeT} = \text{ARCA} + \text{ORCA}$



	Water mass	Lines	Optical Modules	PMTs	vertical	horizontal spacing
ARCA :	1 Gton	230	4140	128k	36m	70m
ORCA :	7 Mtons	108	1944	60k	9m	20m

# Multi-PMTs

Design developed by KM3NeT

Applied now for in all next-generation detectors

Photon counting, nsec coincidences, directionality

Better calibrations

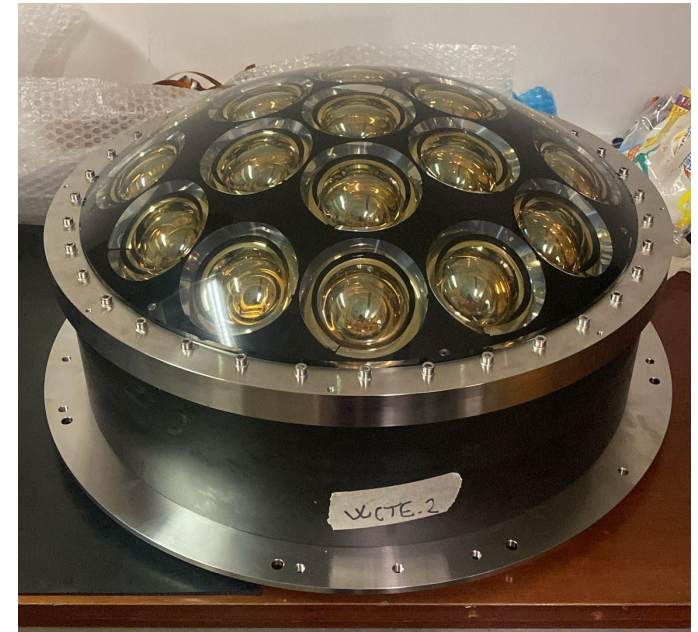
KM3NeT



IC upgrade



Hyperkamiokande

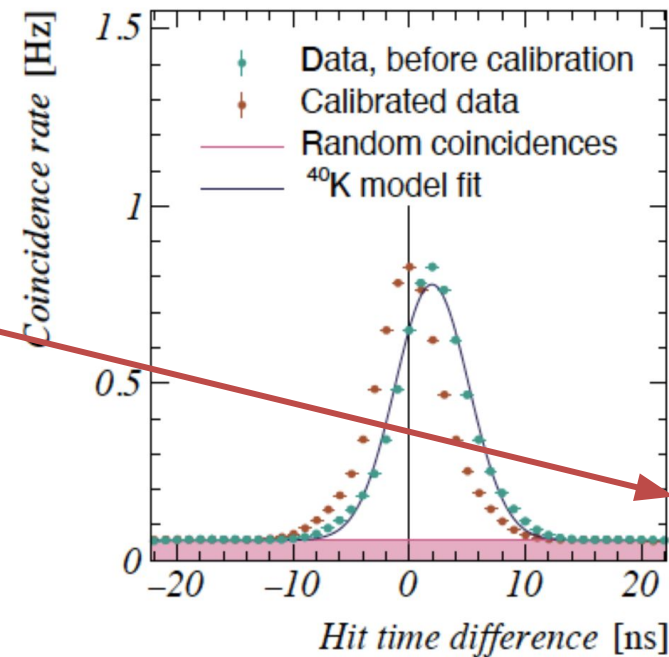
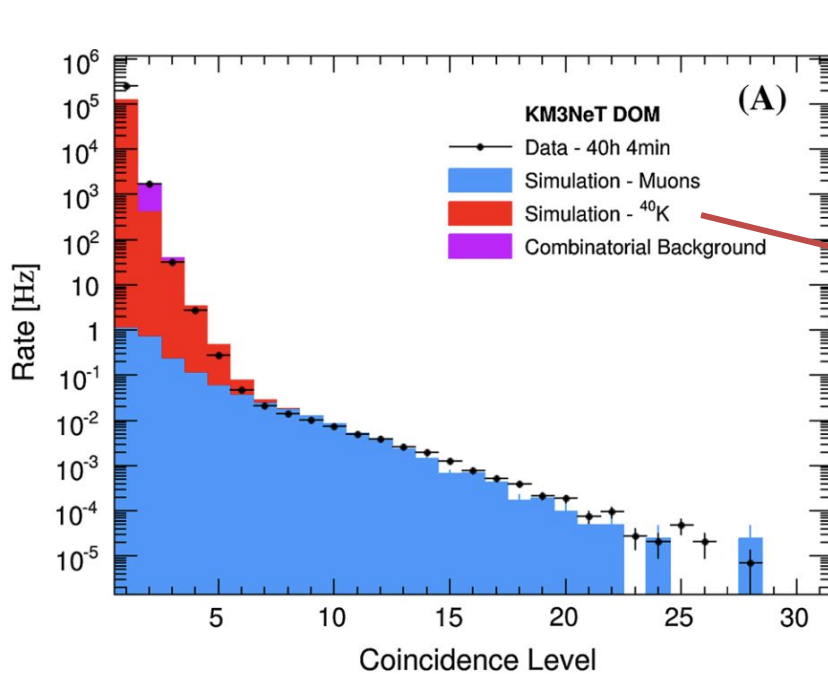


# Single DOM signal

Bioluminescence variable but no coincidences

$^{40}\text{K}$  – well understood, excellent calibration source

atm. muons – main contribution at higher values



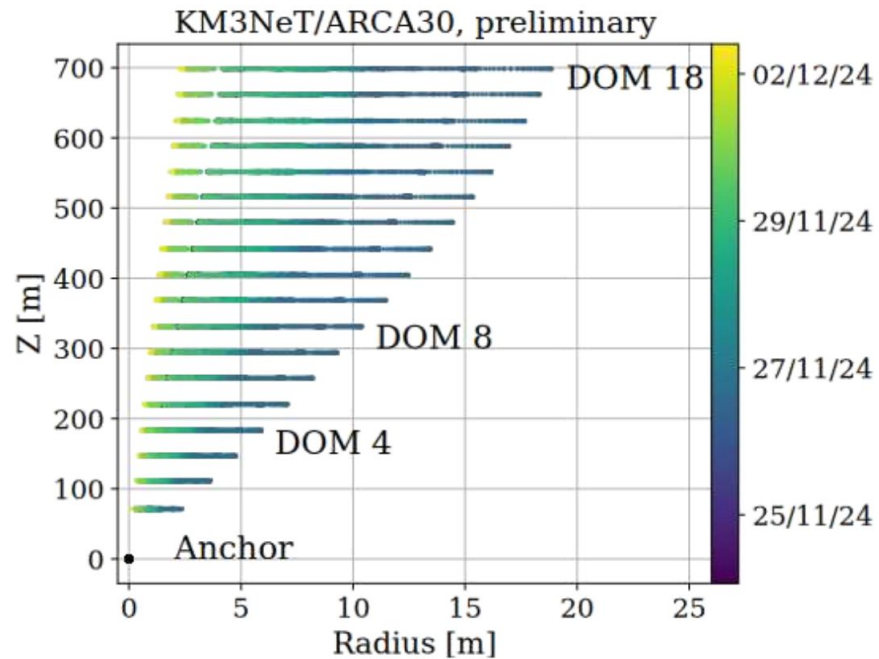
$^{40}\text{K}$  decays:  
correlated  
photons

Detector Timing  
PMT efficiency

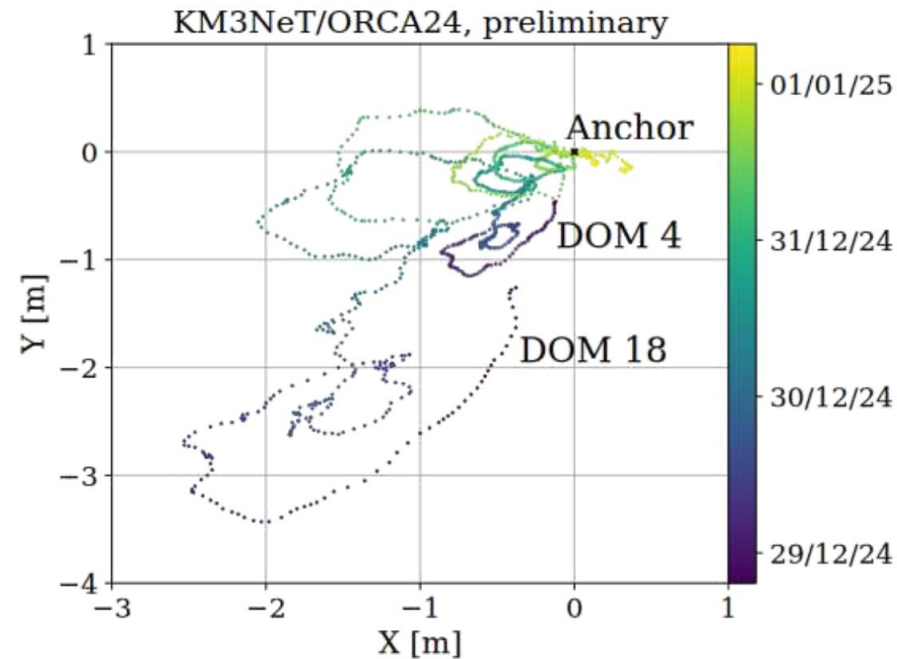
# Relative position calibration

Individual DOMs can be located to  $\sim 10\text{cm}$   
orientation precision : few degrees

*Reconstructed deviation of a DU in ARCA in 7 days*



*Reconstruction DOM position shifts in ORCA in 4 days*



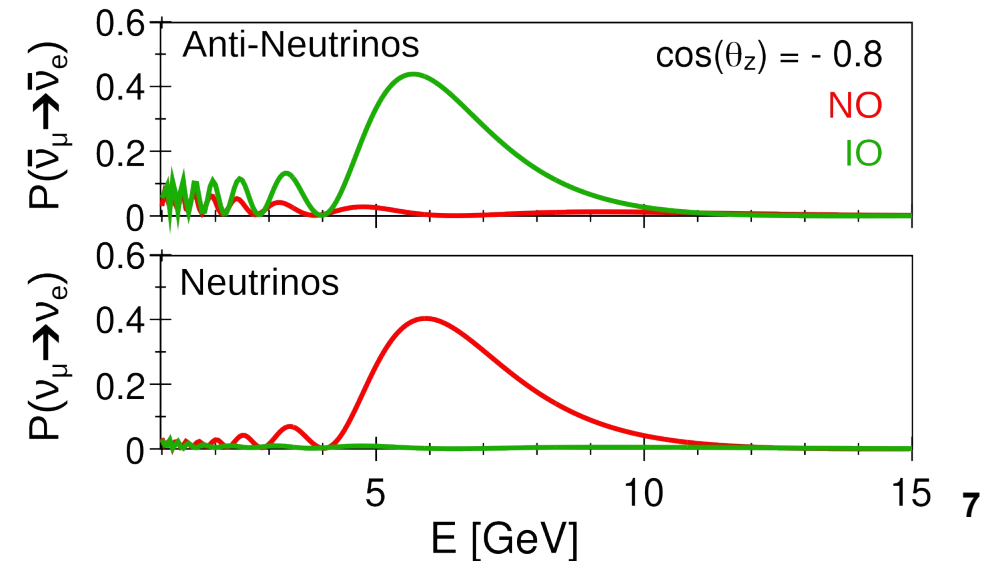
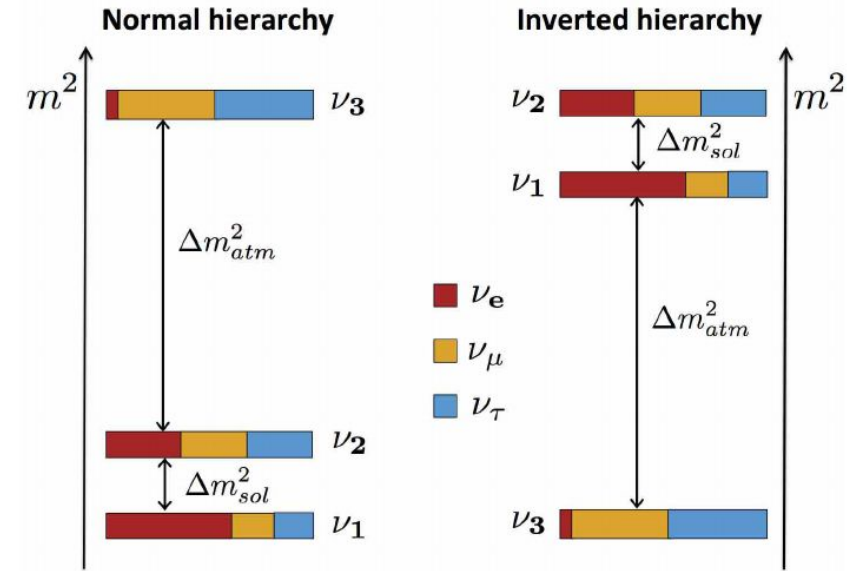
# Mass ordering with atmospheric neutrinos

- **NMO**: is  $\nu_3$  the heaviest or the lightest of the three neutrino mass eigenstates?
- **Matter** along the neutrino propagation makes the oscillation probability sensitive to NMO

$$P_{3\nu}^m(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e) \approx \sin^2 \theta_{23} 2 \sin^2 \theta_{13}^m \sin^2 \left( \frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E_\nu} \right)$$

$$\sin^2(2\theta_{13}^m) \equiv \frac{(\Delta m_{31}^2 \sin 2\theta_{13})^2}{(\Delta m_{31}^2 \cos 2\theta_{13} \mp 2E_\nu V_{CC})^2 + (\Delta m_{31}^2 \sin 2\theta_{13})^2}$$

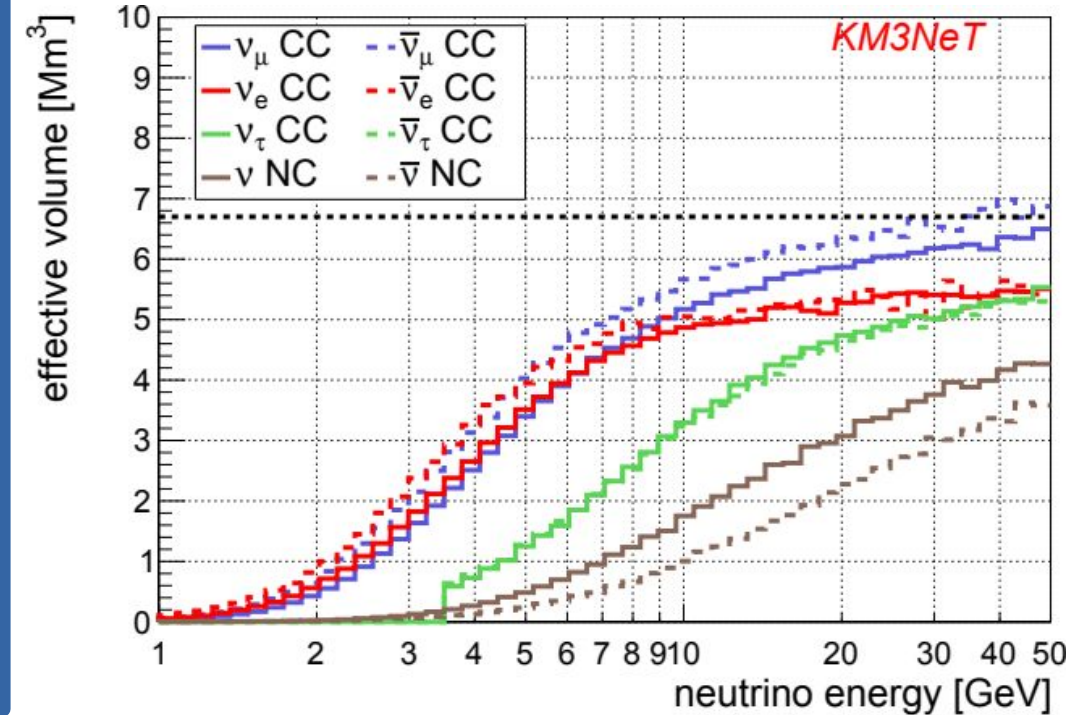
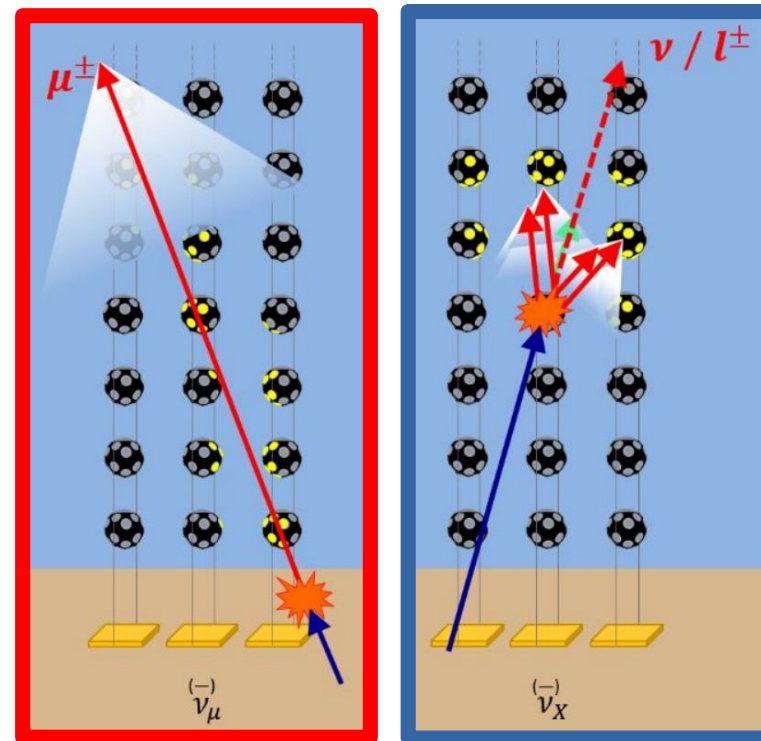
- **Resonance** occurs at  $E = 7$  GeV for
  - neutrino and normal mass ordering
  - anti-neutrino and inverted mass ordering



# Mass ordering at KM3NeT/ORCA

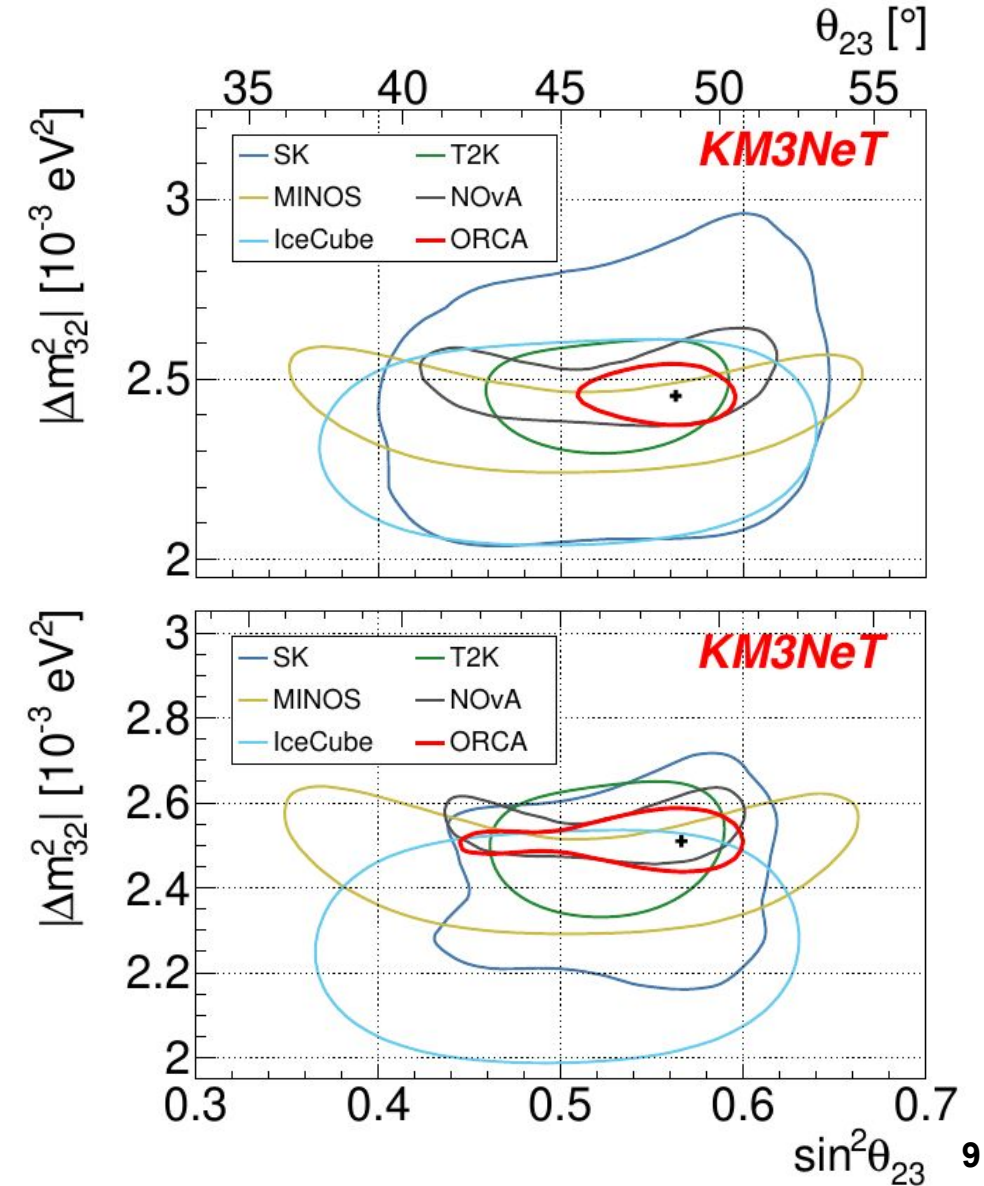
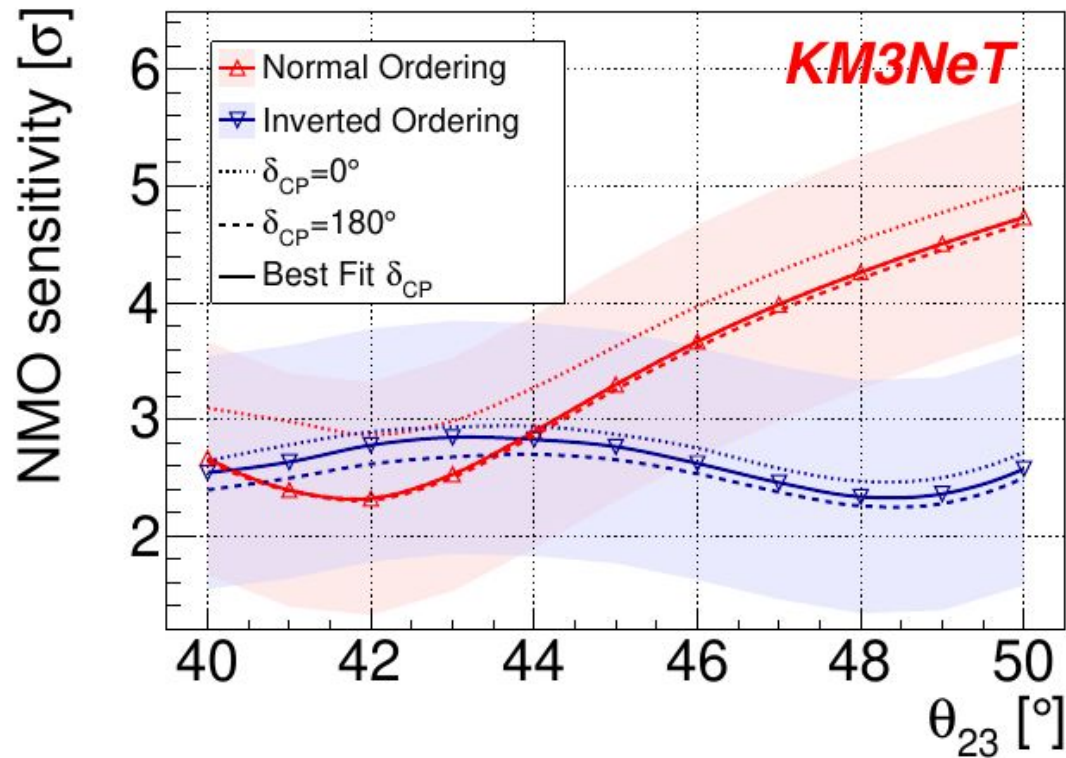
- **ORCA** designed to collect  $\nu$  with energies of 1-100 GeV
- Event topology (track/shower) allows to select **flavour enriched  $\nu$  samples**

$\nu_{\mu}$ CC	<b>Track like</b>
$\tau \rightarrow \mu \nu \nu$	
$\nu_{\tau}$ CC	<b>Shower like</b>
$\tau \rightarrow e \nu \nu$	
$\tau \rightarrow \text{pions}$	
$\nu_e$ CC	
$\nu$ NC	



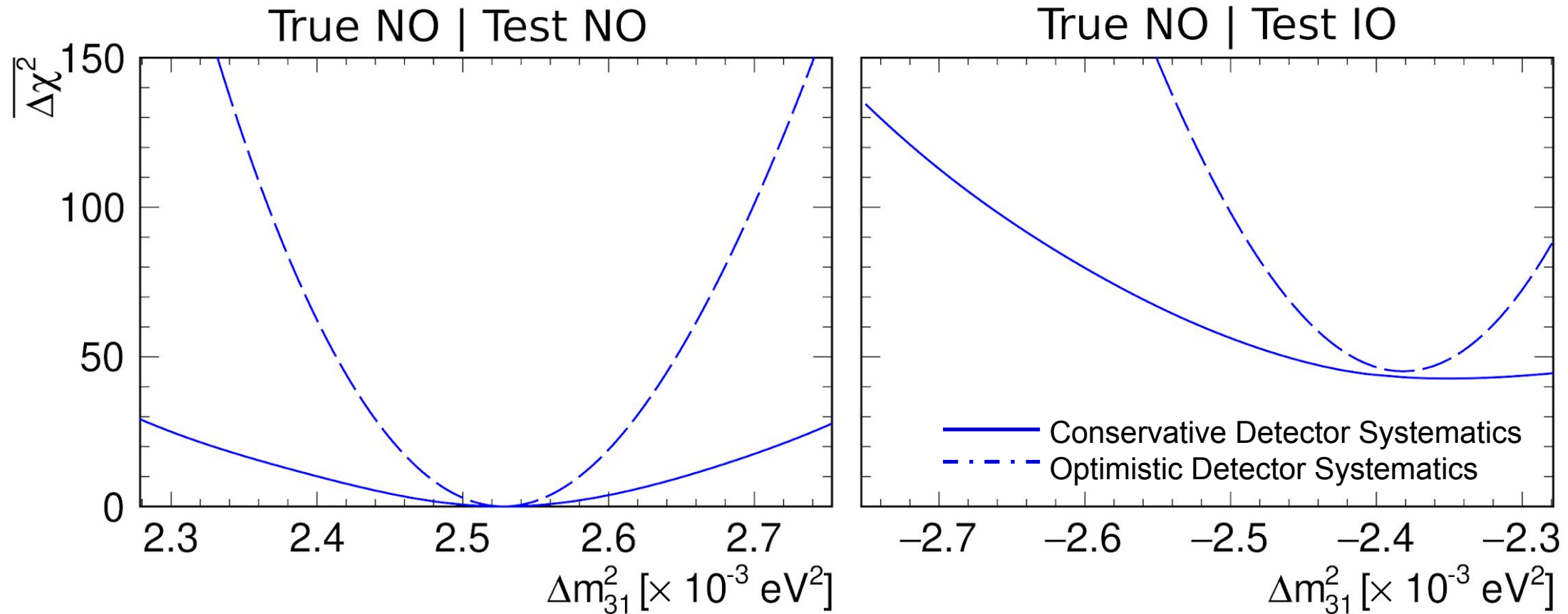
# Sensitivity with full ORCA (3 years)

- Atmospheric oscillation parameters
- NMO sensitivity
  - strongly depends on  $\theta_{23}$  for NO
  - band thickness corresponds to stat. fluct. (68% coverage)



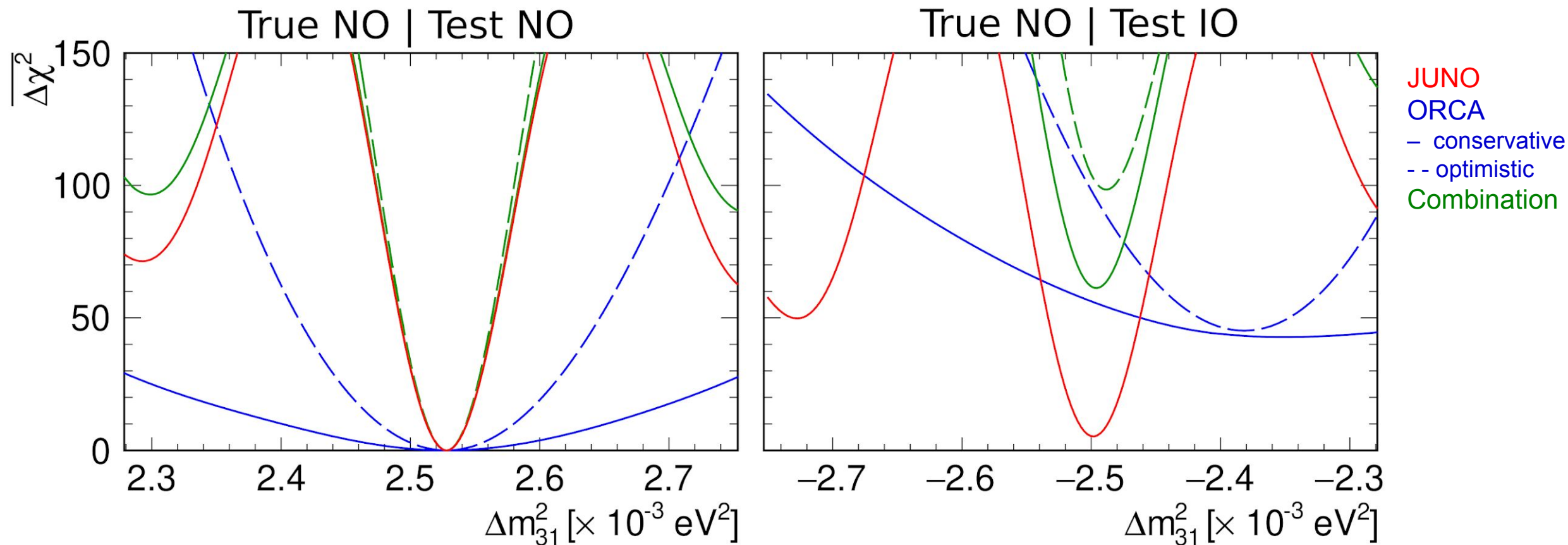
# Mass ordering sensitivity with ORCA 115

- Degeneracy between NMO and  $\Delta m_{31}^2$



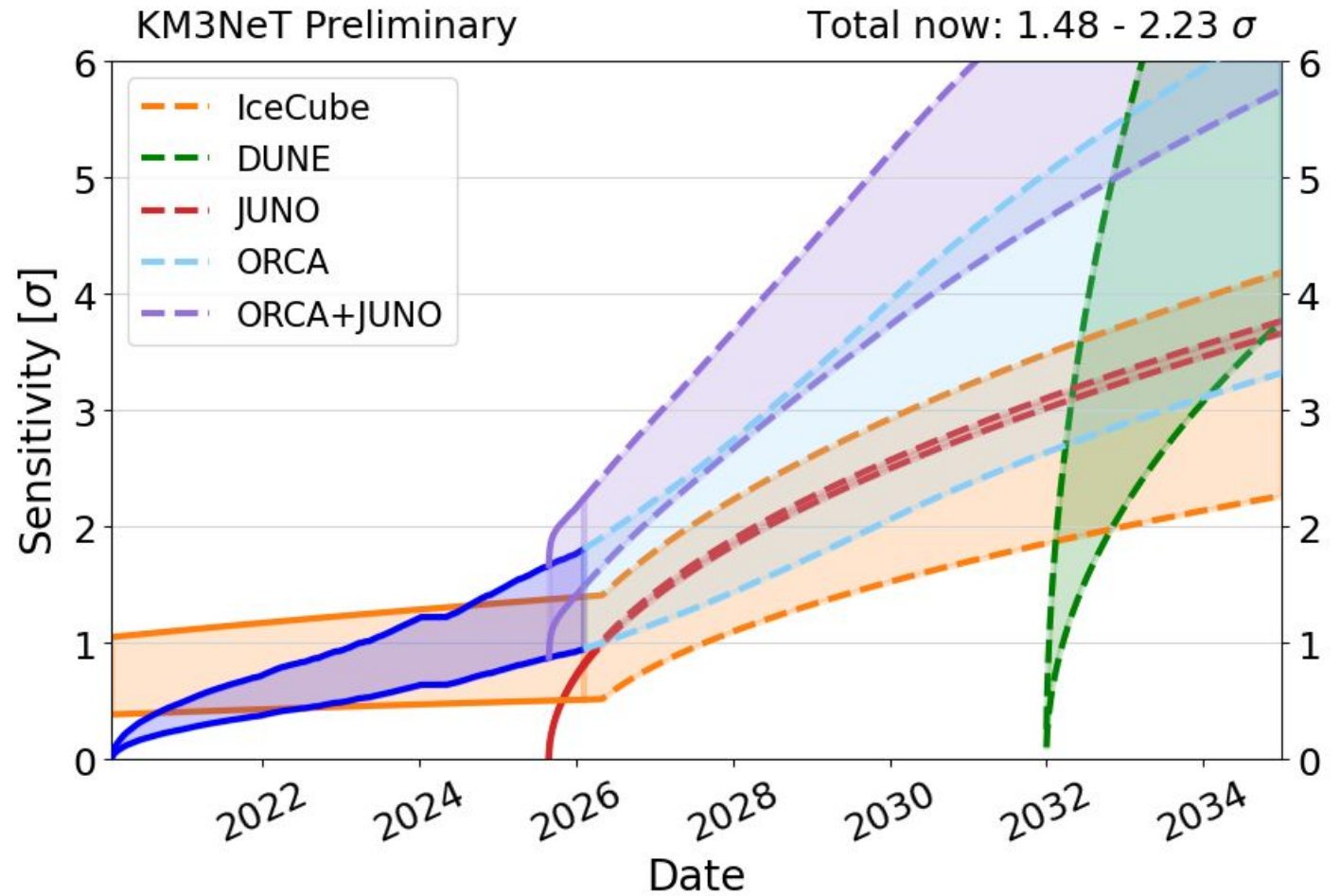
# How to lift the degeneracy

- **JUNO** much **less affected** by NMO/ $\Delta m_{31}^2$  degeneracy
- JUNO's  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  measurement strongly **boosts ORCA sensitivity** (even without a full combination)



# Projections for NMO Sensitivity

- **Projections** based on current construction schedule and conservative detector syst.
- **Band thickness** corresponds to favourable/disfavourable scenarii (NO/IO)
- **ORCA is the most sensitive experiment** (until DUNE starts)
- **JUNO/ORCA synergy** allows for **world's first determination ( $5\sigma$ ) of the NMO**

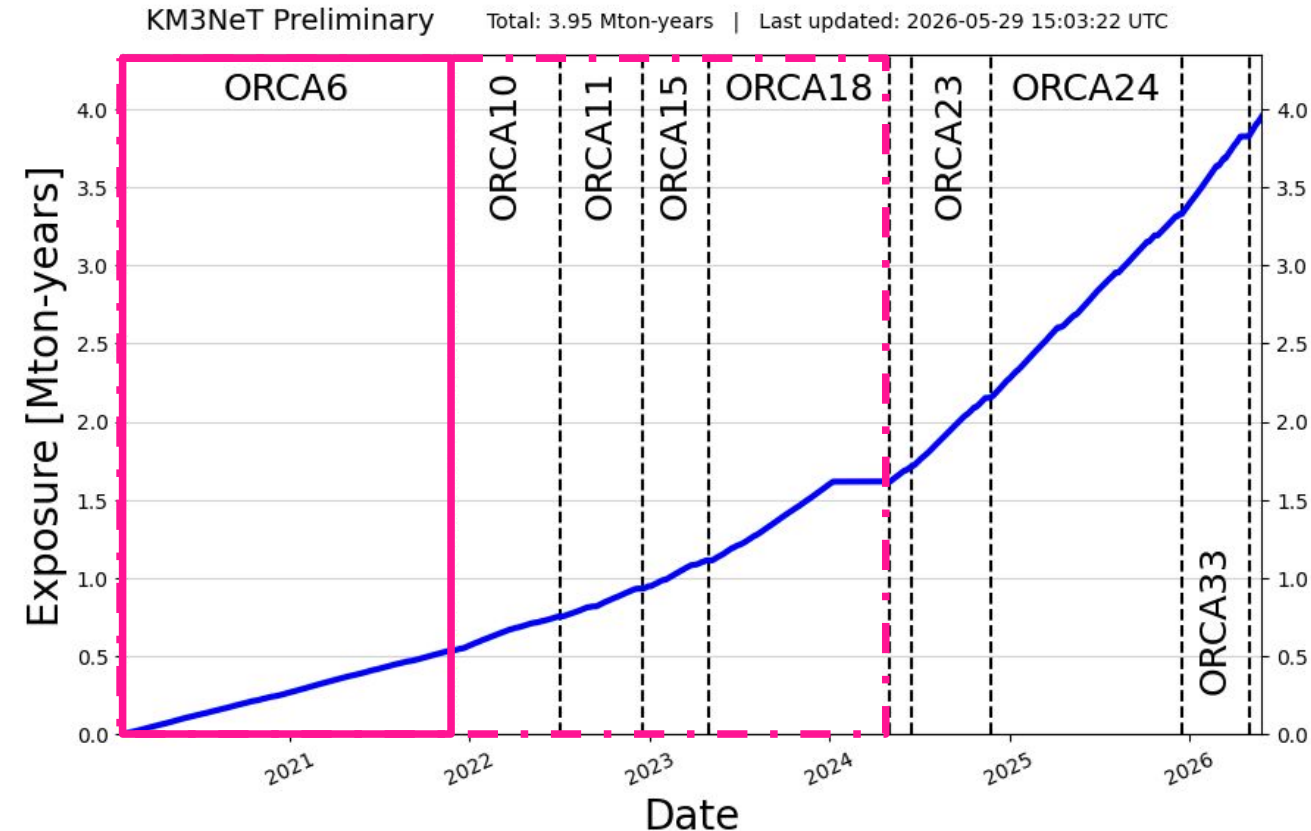


# Results on first data

- **Extensive set of analyses** performed on **ORCA6** (433kton.y) using methods similar to those used for full ORCA sensitivity

Standard Oscillations	JHEP10(2024)206
Sterile Neutrinos	JHEP02(2026)080
Lorentz Invariance Violation	arxiv:2603.04264
Quantum Decoherence	JCAP03(2025)039
Neutrino Decay	JHEP04(2025)105
Non Standard Interaction	JCAP02(2025)073
Tau appearance/NUNM	JHEP07(2025)213

- **ORCA6 public data** set released:  
<https://zenodo.org/records/15715220>



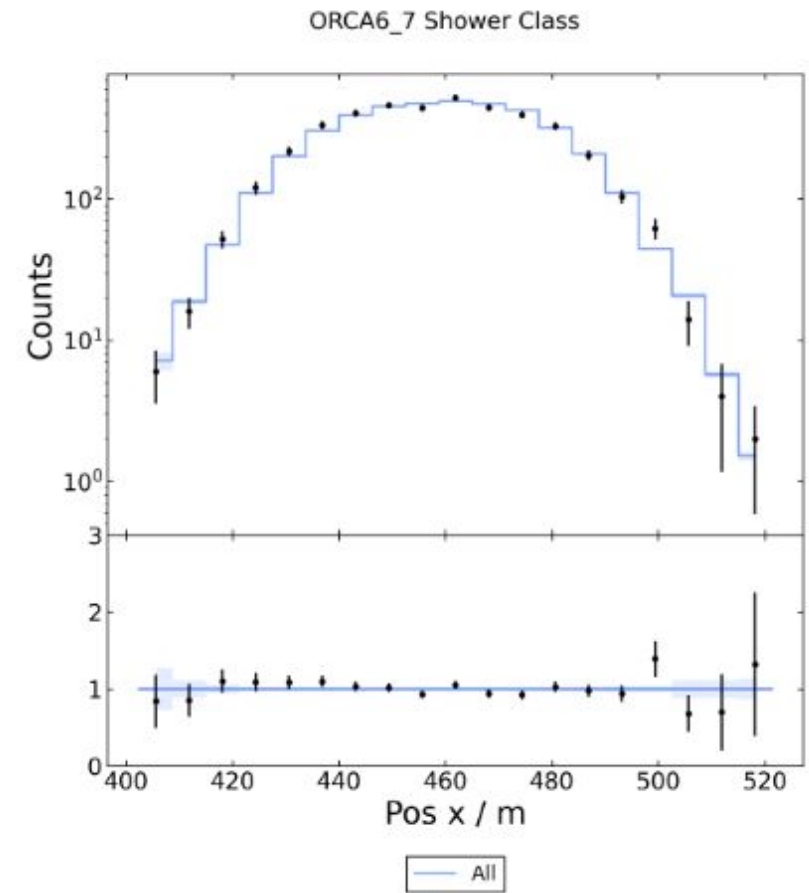
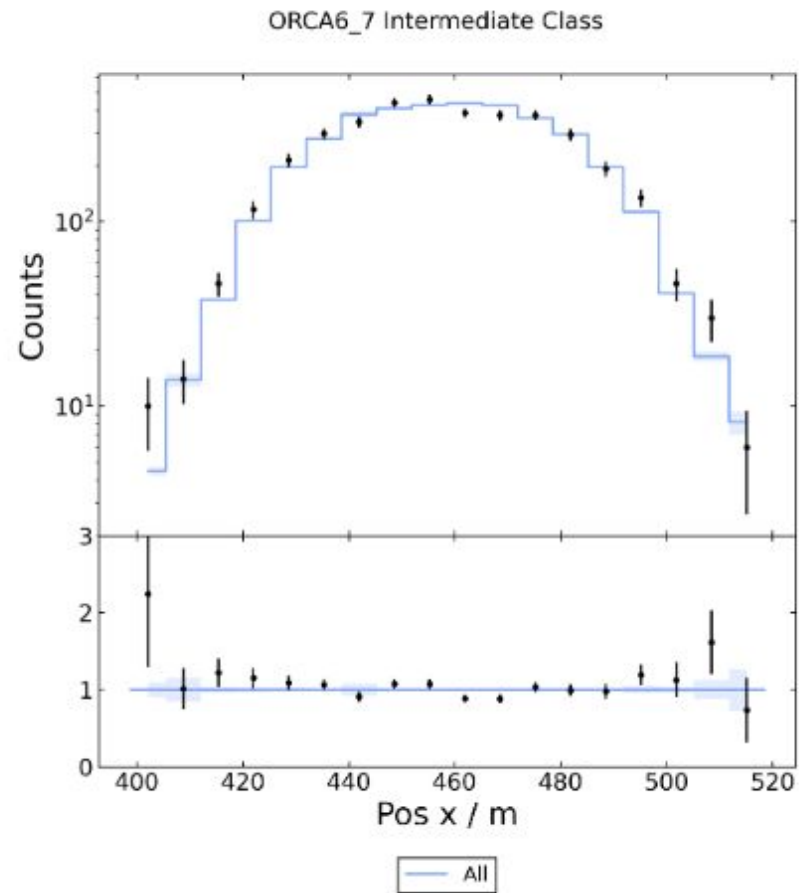
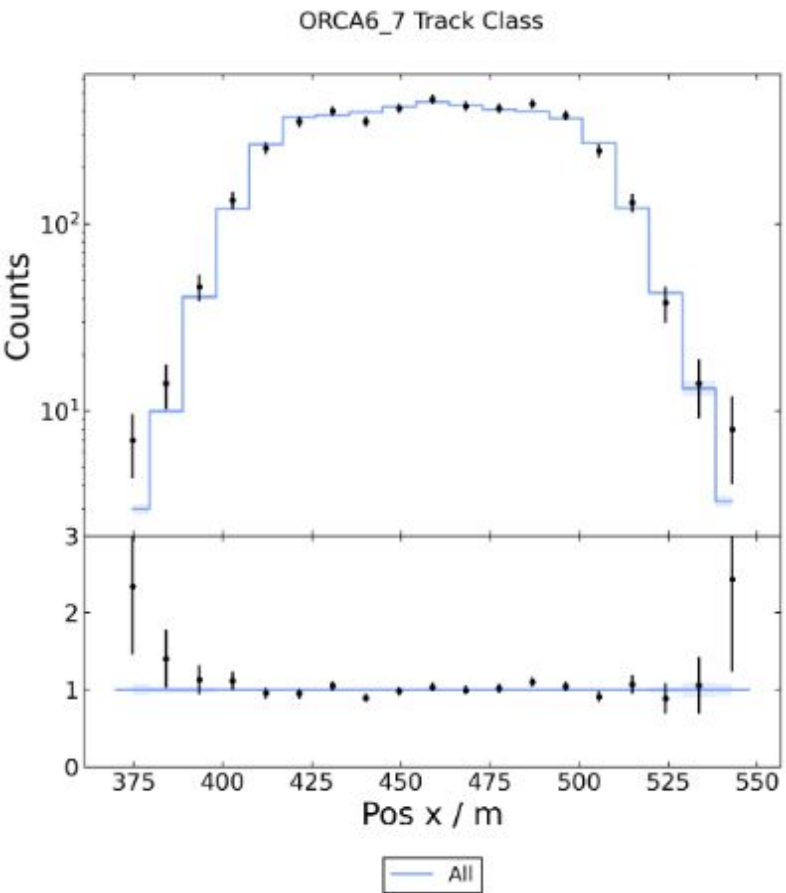
- Update for standard oscillations shown in conference (2023) with **715 kton-yr (ORCA6-11)**
- Preparing next result with twice as much data for next month with 1.5 Mton-yr (ORCA6-18)
- Plan to add up to ORCA24 by the end of the year (3.3 Mton-yr).

# Expected events

Sample	$N_{\text{sig}}$	$N_{\text{bkg}}$	$P_{\nu_e}$ [%]	$P_{\nu_\mu}$ [%]	$P_{\nu_\tau}$ [%]	$P_{\text{NC}}$ [%]	$C_{\text{atm}}$ [%]
ORCA 6-7 tracks	4793	36	1.2	96.8	0.8	0.5	0.8
ORCA 6-7 intermediates	1634	47	25.8	57.5	5.6	8.3	2.8
ORCA 6-7 showers	2193	53	37.5	34.4	8.4	17.4	2.4
<b>ORCA 6-7 total</b>	<b>8619</b>	<b>136</b>	15.5	74.4	3.7	6.4	1.6
ORCA 10-18 tracks	6544	44	2.5	94.9	1.1	0.9	0.7
ORCA 10-18 intermediates	2761	43	30.1	53.4	5.5	9.5	1.6
ORCA 10-18 showers	2725	37	40.5	31.4	8.7	18.1	1.3
<b>ORCA 10-18 total</b>	<b>12030</b>	<b>124</b>	17.7	71.6	3.8	6.9	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20649</b>	<b>260</b>	16.8	72.8	3.8	6.7	1.2

- Expecting 20k neutrinos.
- High purity in the track channel.
- Mixed class to constrain systematics.
- Selection combines:
  - Quality cut to select good reconstructed track and showers.
  - Boosted Decision Trees to reject atmospheric muons and separate tracks and showers.

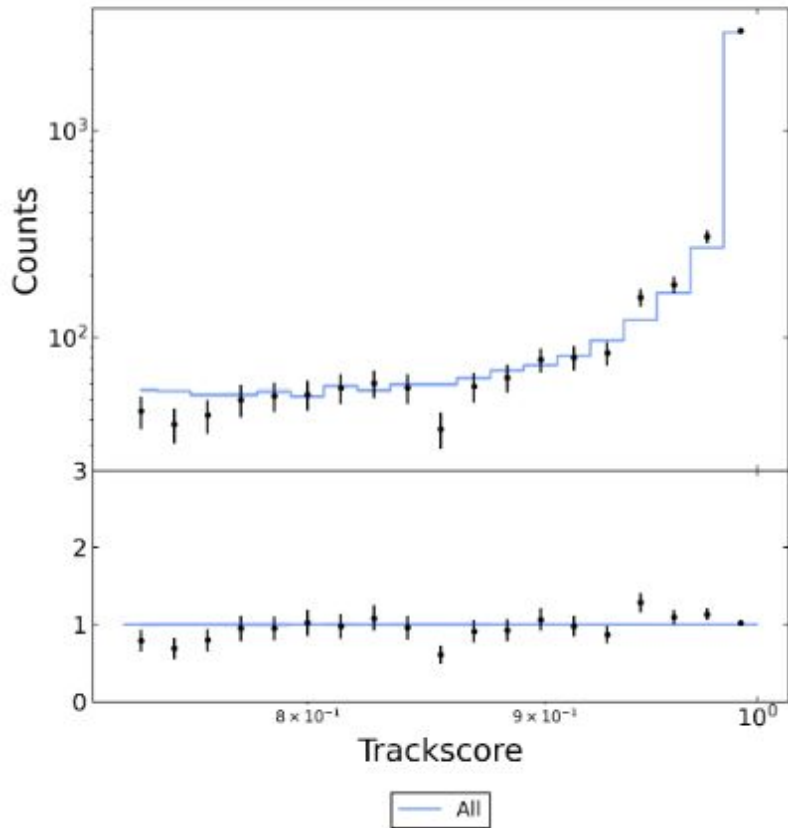
# First peak at Data/MC



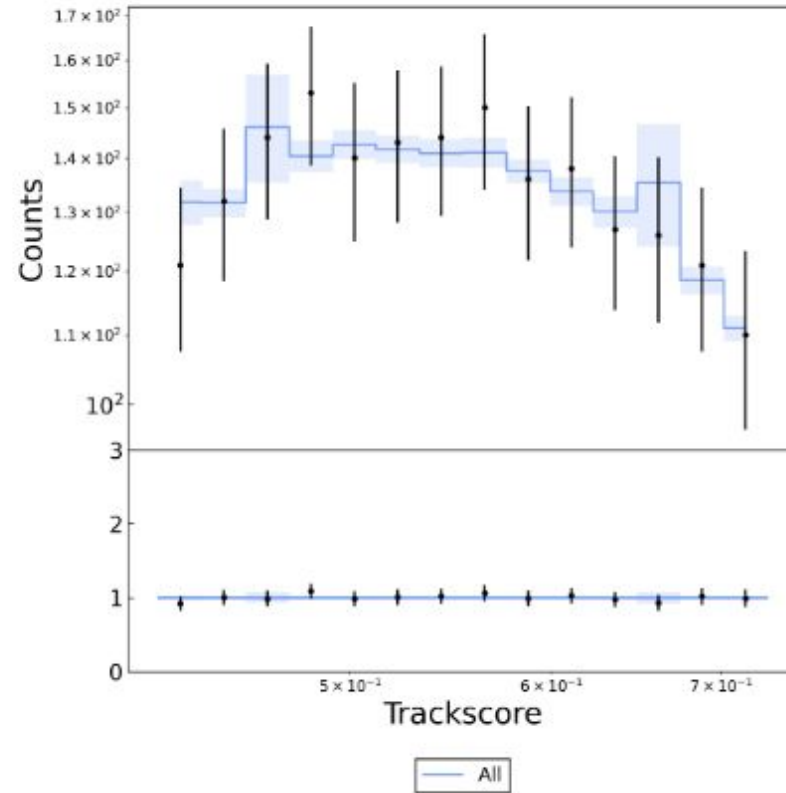
- Excellent Data/MC agreement

# First peak at Data/MC

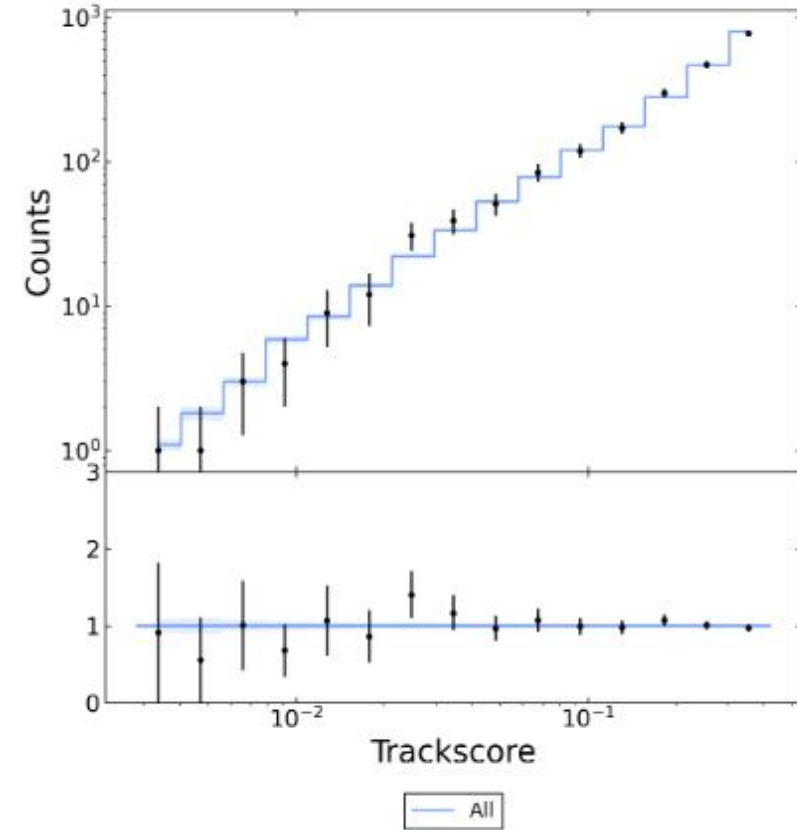
ORCA6\_7 Track Class



ORCA6\_7 Intermediate Class

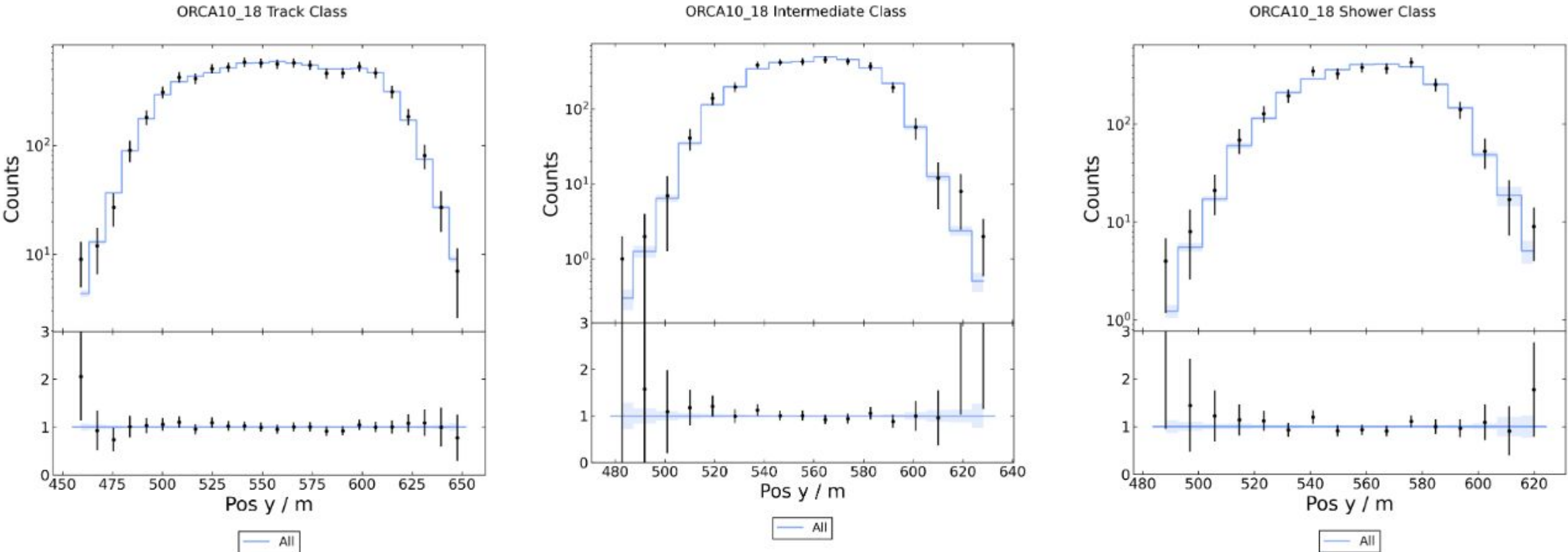


ORCA6\_7 Shower Class



- Excellent Data/MC agreement

# First peak at Data/MC



- Excellent Data/MC agreement

# Ratio to No oscillations (Pseudo-Experiment)

*KM3NeT Preliminary*

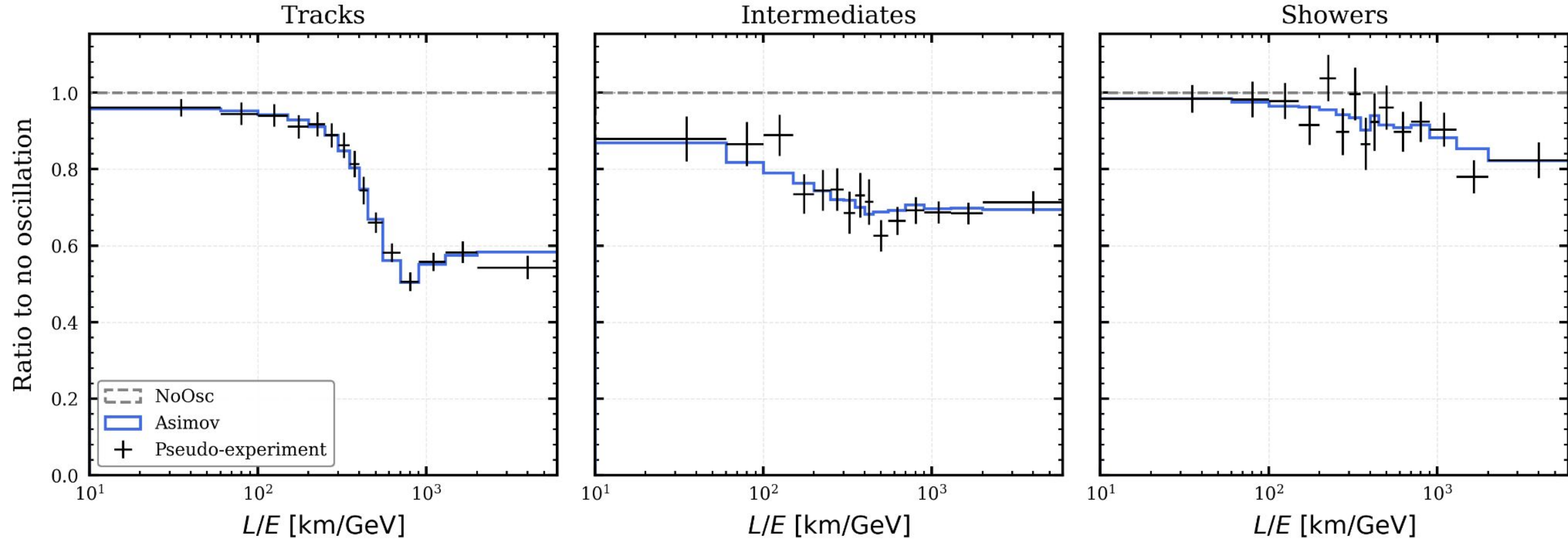
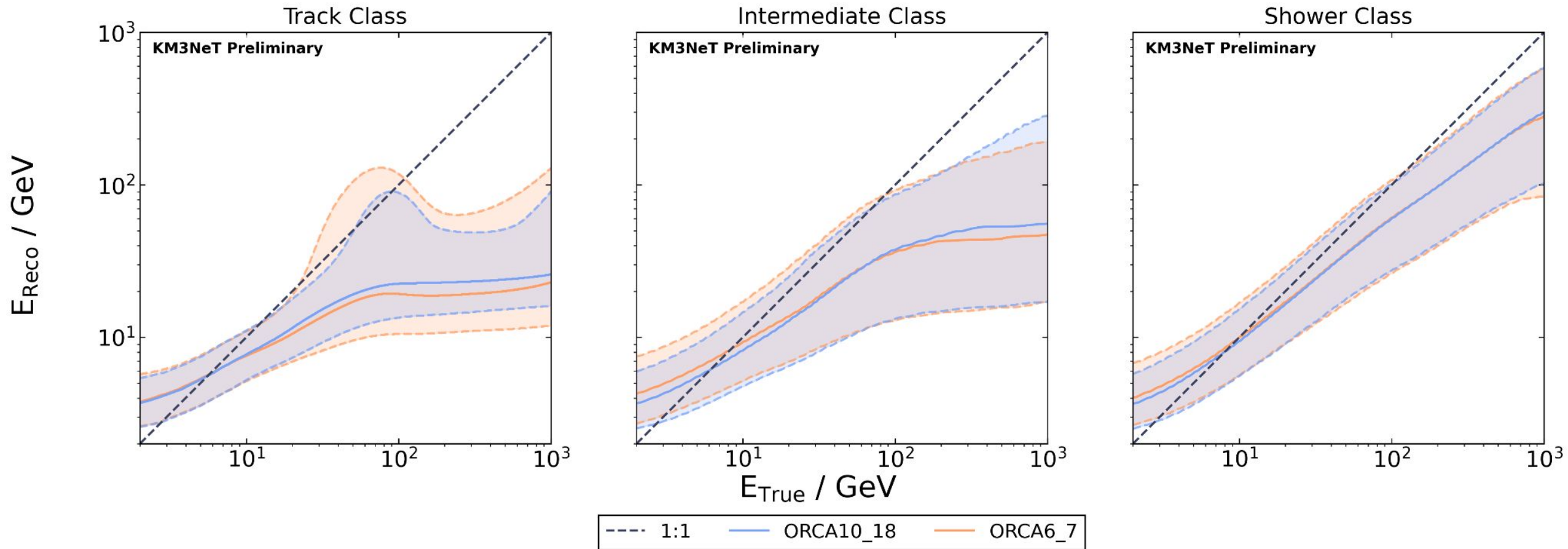


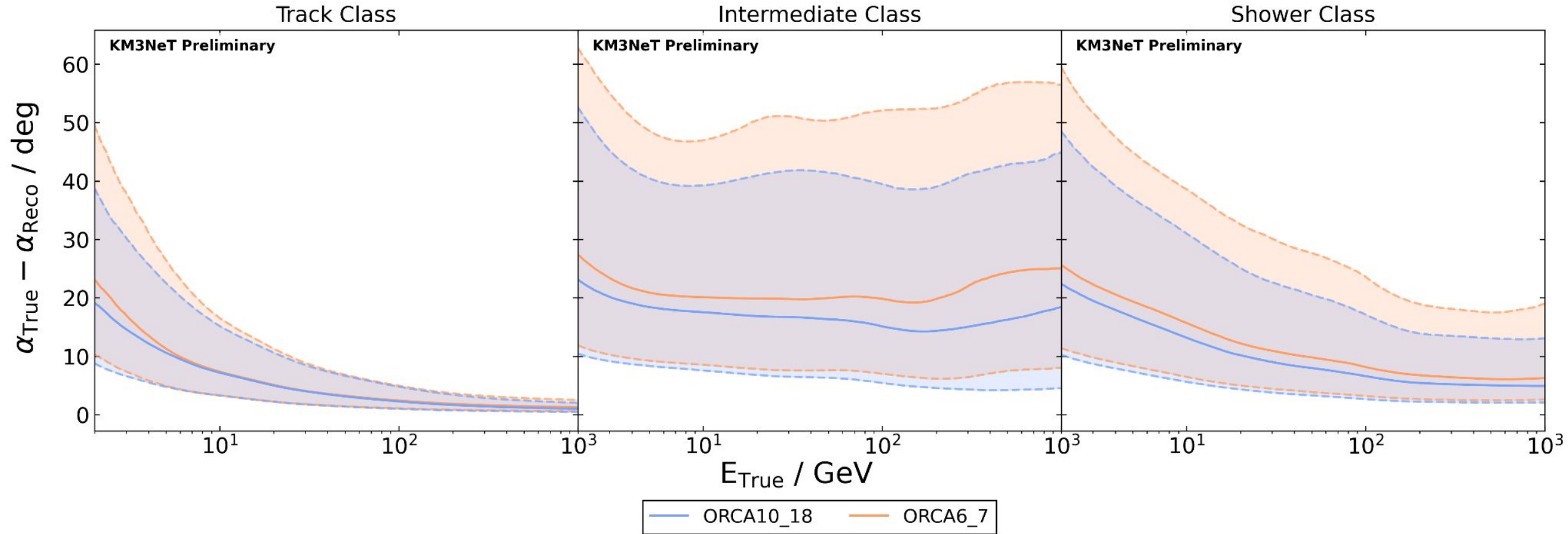
Illustration of how the distributions may look like with a PseudoExperiment.

# Energy resolution



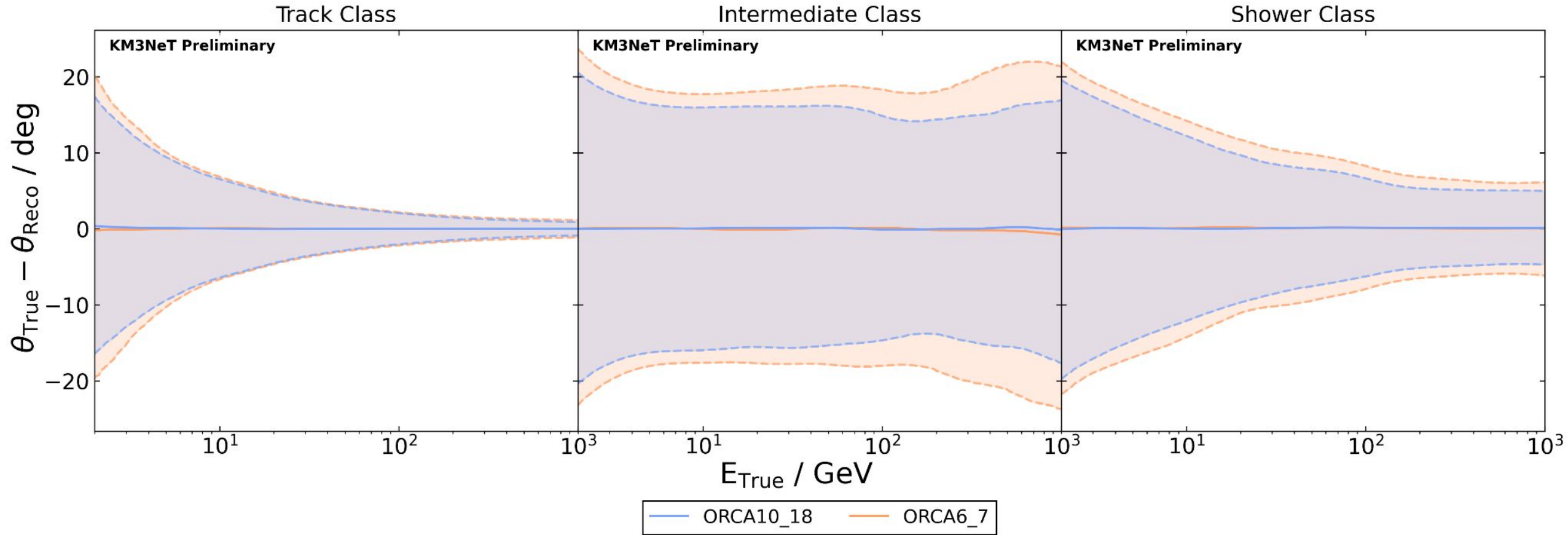
- Improved energy resolution as we add more lines.
- Most track events are uncontained, saturation at high neutrino energies.

# Angular resolution



- 10 degrees at 10 GeV for track events and 15 degrees for shower-like events.
- Intermediate class is comprised of a mix of lesser quality events that are challenging to reconstruct, poorer angular and energy resolution.

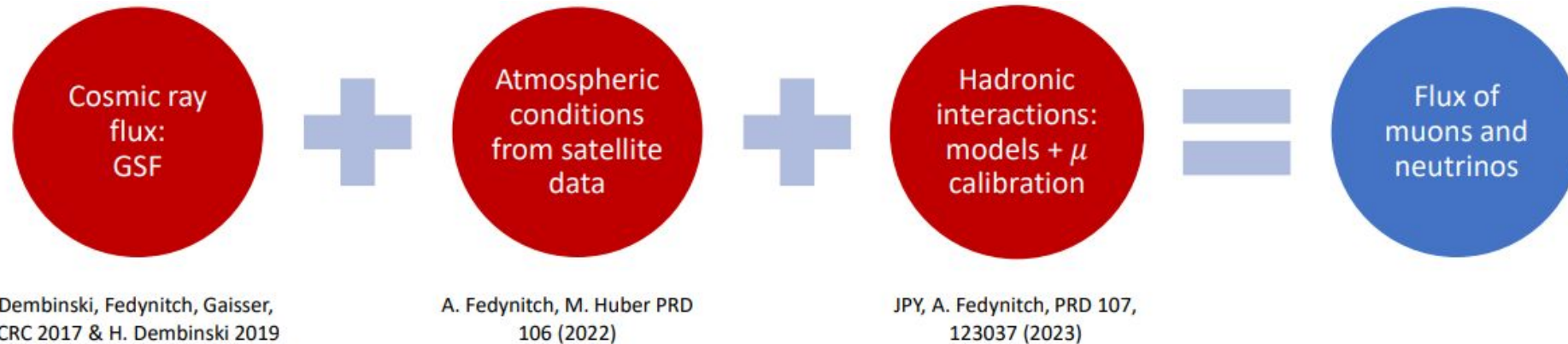
# Zenith angle resolution



# Analysis

- **Neutrino flux**

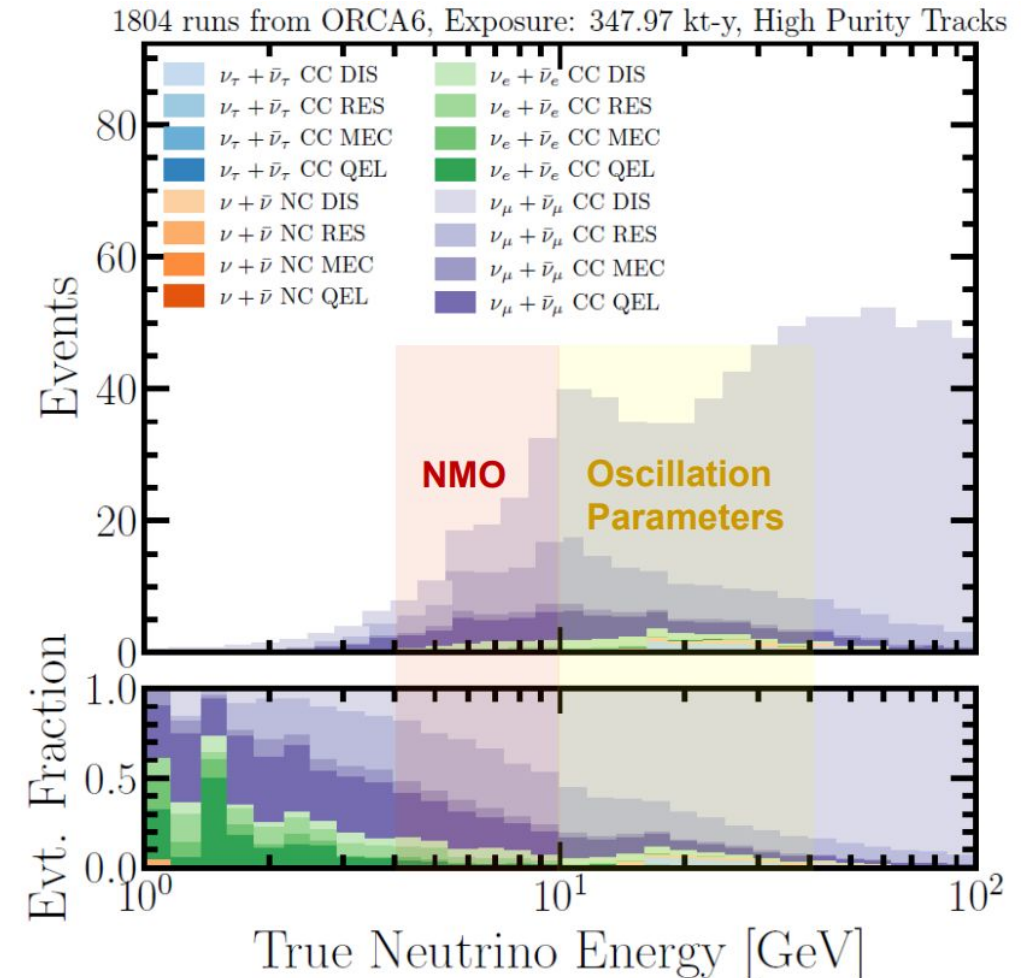
- We replaced Honda flux by **Daemonflux** (data driven model, physics driven uncertainties, coherent  $\nu$  and  $\mu$  fluxes description)
- Daemonflux does not include right now geomagnetic corrections at a few GeV. Temporal solution to interpolate between HONDA2014 and Daemonflux at the transition region (5GeV).



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# Analysis

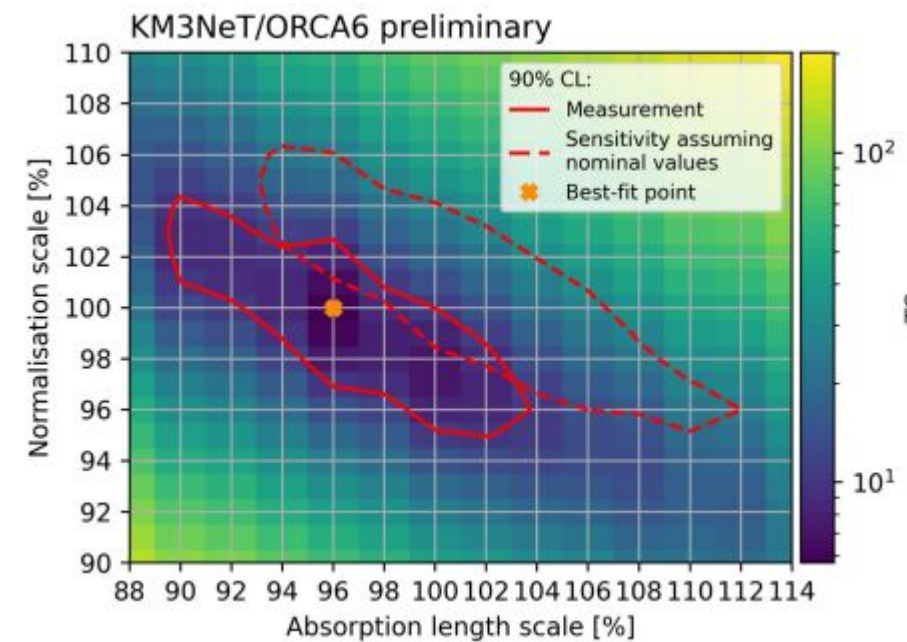
- **Neutrino flux**
- **Neutrino-cross section**
  - **short term:**  
scaling of different x-section processes (RES, DIS, QE,  $\nu_{\tau}$ , NC)
  - **long term:**  
replace simple scaling factors with event reweighting using GENIE with modified parameters and possibly other generators (Nuisance framework)



# Analysis

Next round of analyses on-going with **ORCA18**  
Major improvement of the treatment of **systematics**

- **Neutrino flux**
- **Neutrino-cross section**
- **Detector response**
  - improve **detector modelling** by **physics driven effects** decoupling the effects in the triggering from the effects in the reconstruction.
  - **simulate** MC for different **DOM efficiencies & water absorption length**
  - **measure** abs. length and DOM efficiency with stopping  $\mu$  (time dependent meas.) and/or other sources ( $^{40}\text{K}$ , POCAM, T-REX)

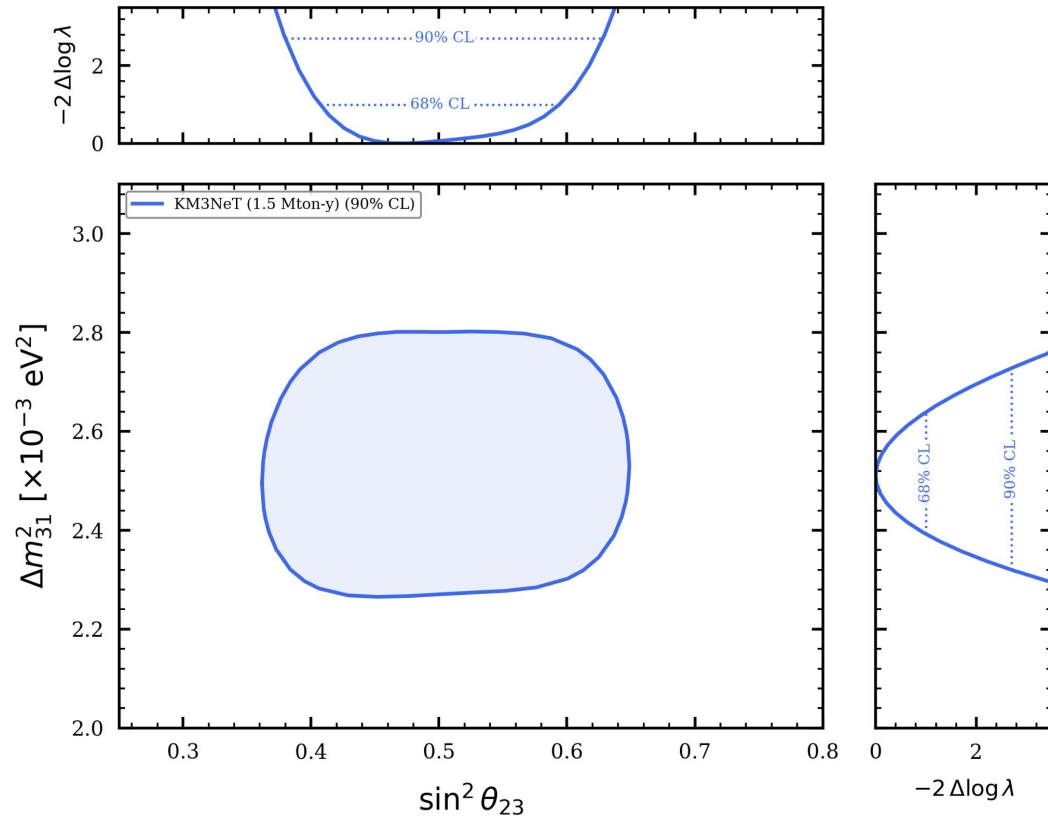


[Stopping Muon, ICRC 2025](#)

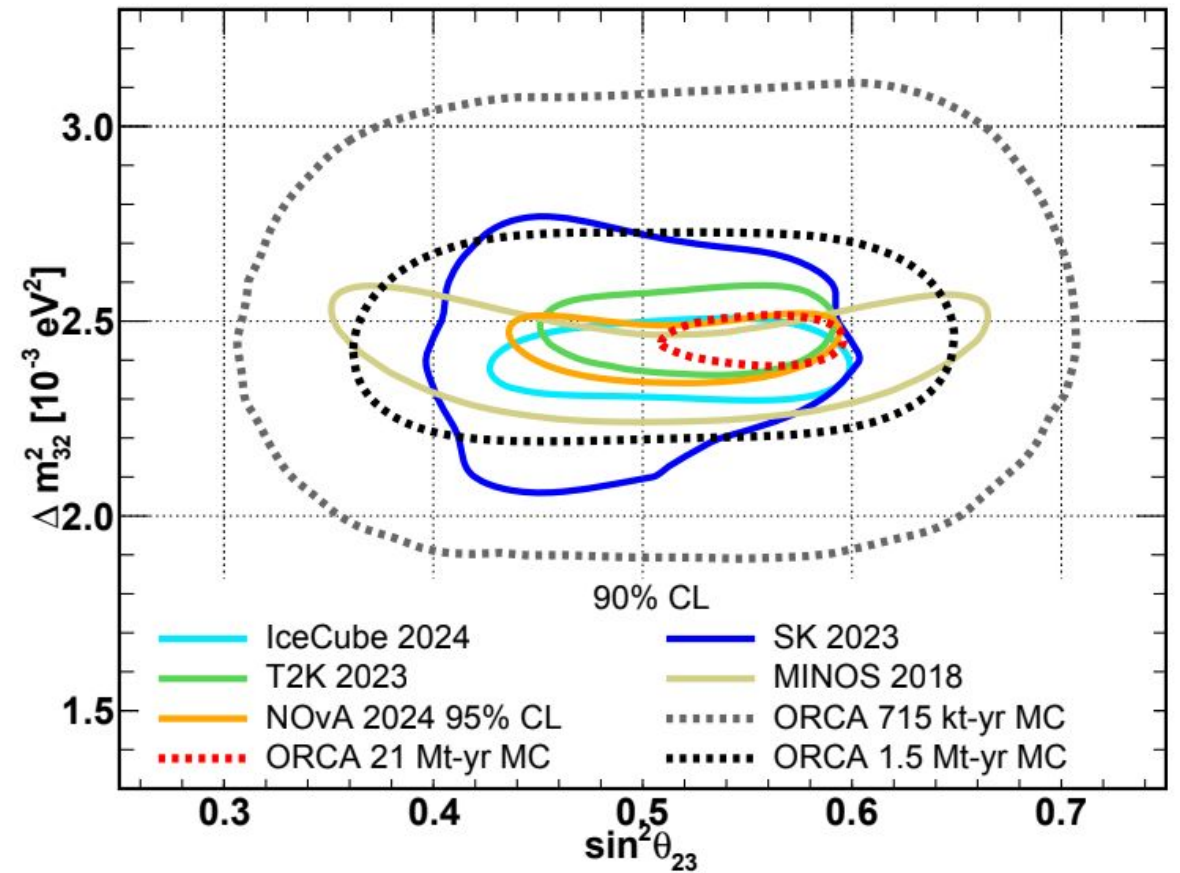


# Standard Oscillations

KM3NeT Preliminary

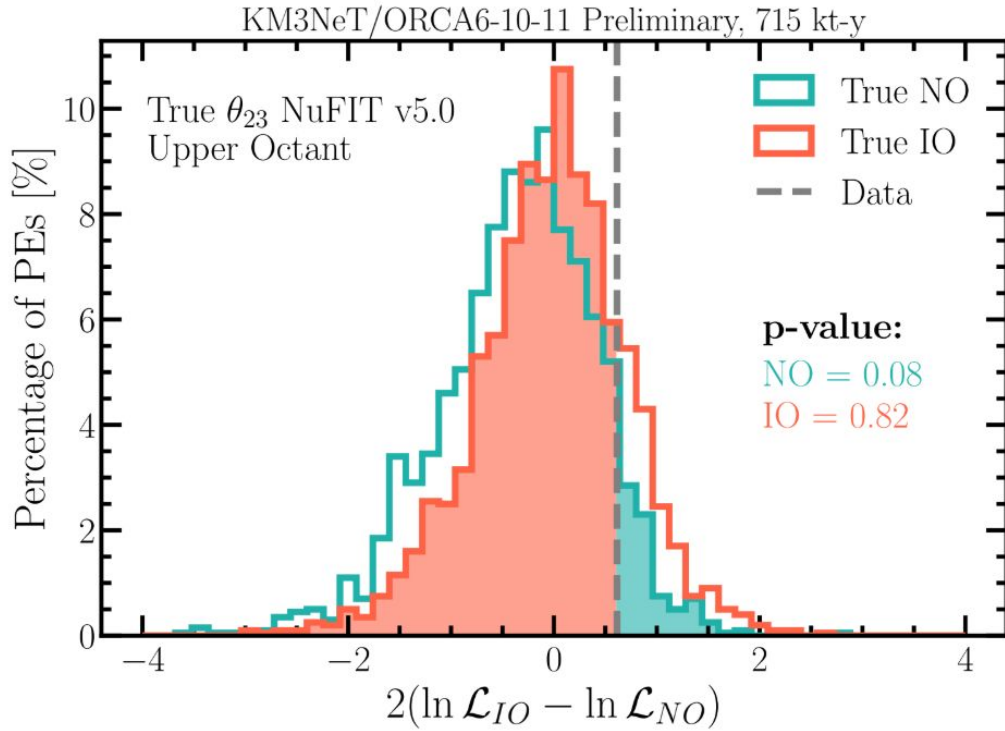


KM3NeT Preliminary



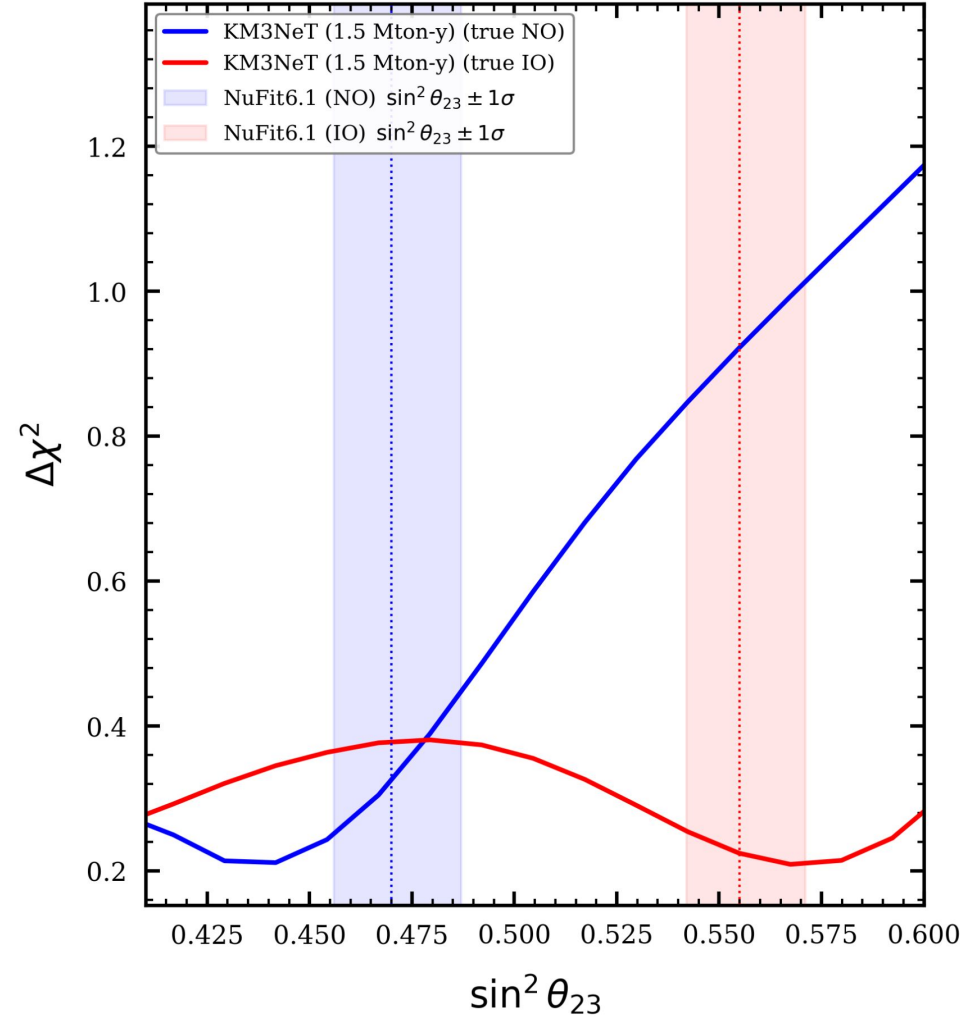
- Reaching competitive values with the sensitivities of this dataset.
- Improved precision not only from statistics but from the modelling of our uncertainties.

## Previous result



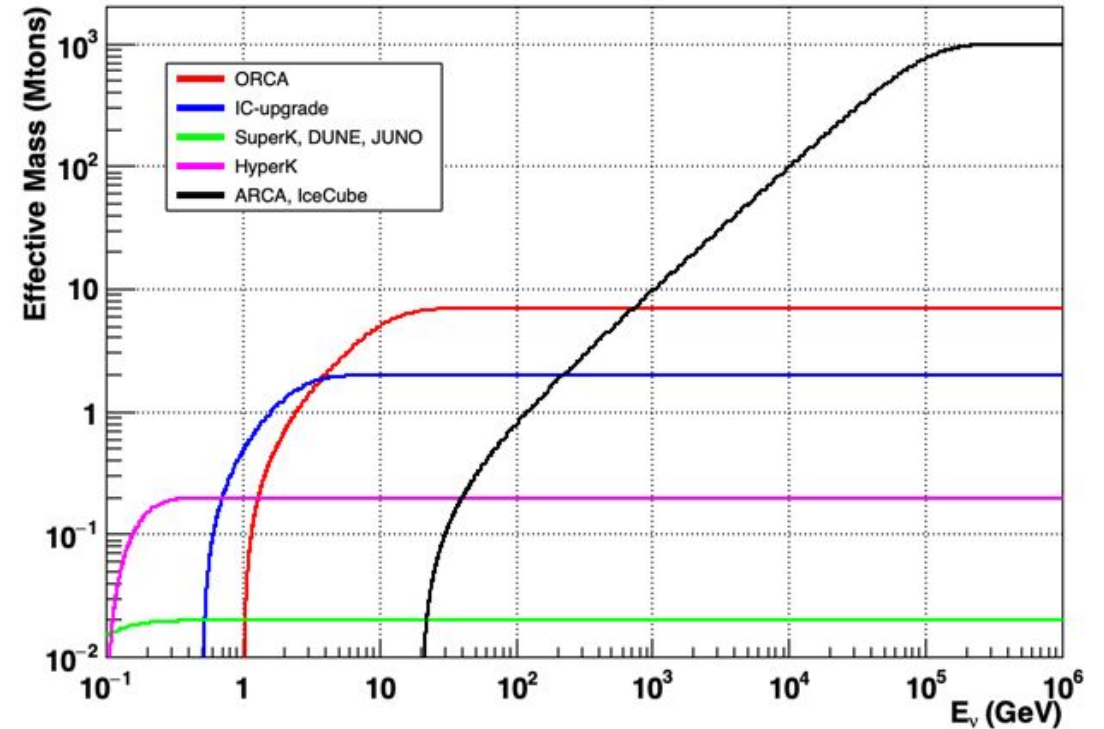
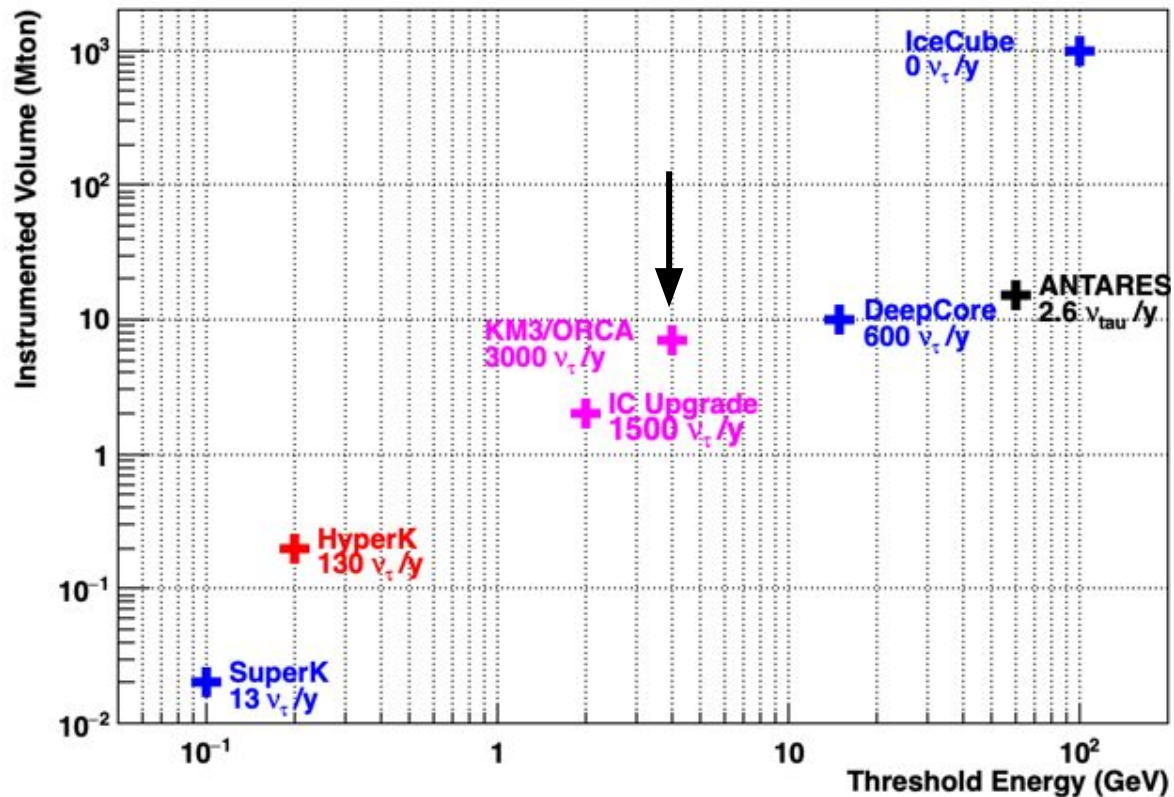
Preparing a p-value as a function of the mixing angle for the unblinding.

## KM3NeT Preliminary



# Tau Neutrinos

- ORCA accesses one of the world's largest  $\nu_\tau$  sample

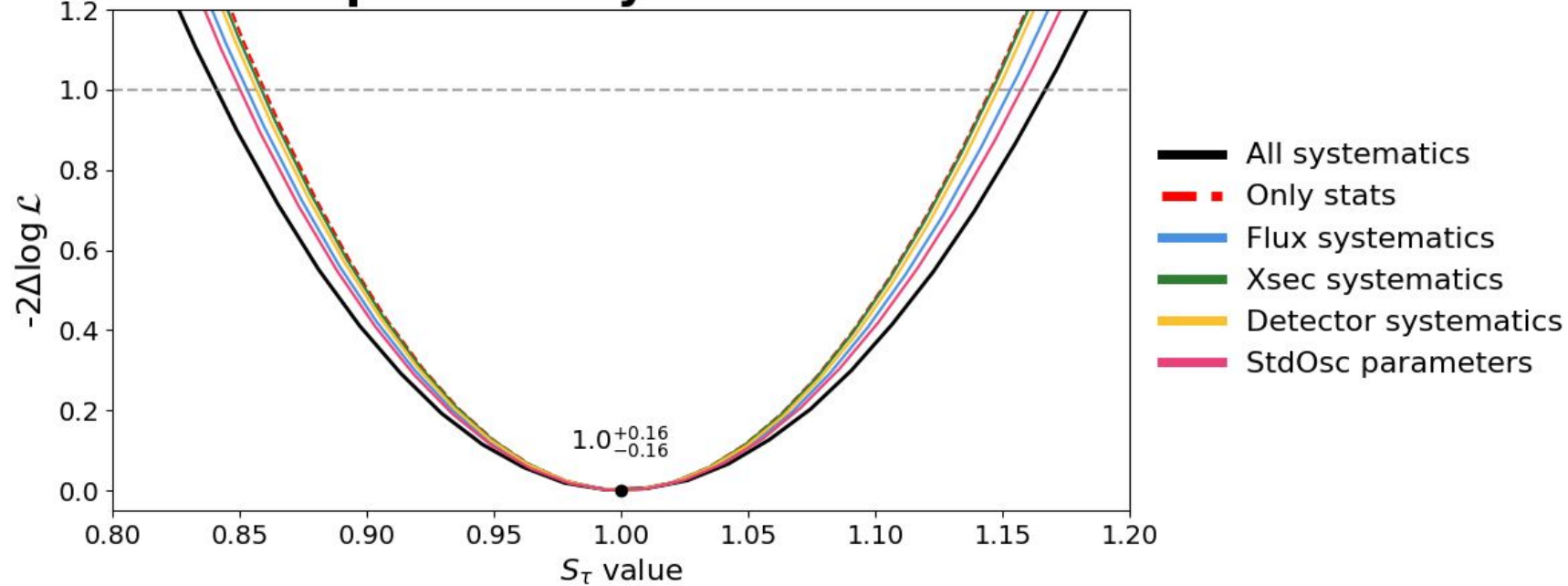


Based on:

[1] arXiv:1711.09436. [2] arXiv:1901.05366. [3] arXiv:2502.01443. [4] arXiv:1805.04163. [5] arXiv:2307.15295. [6] arXiv:2103.09885.

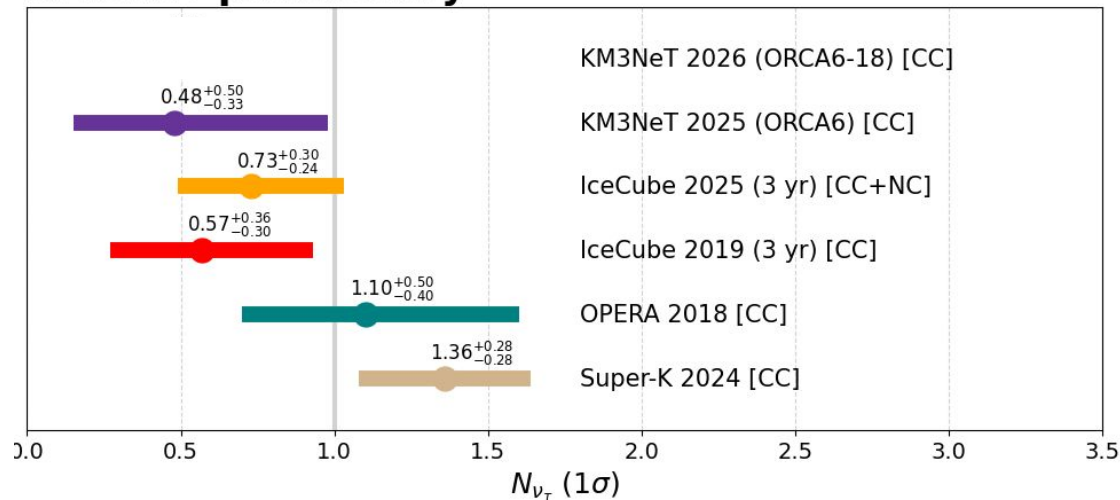
# Tau Neutrinos

**KM3NeT preliminary**



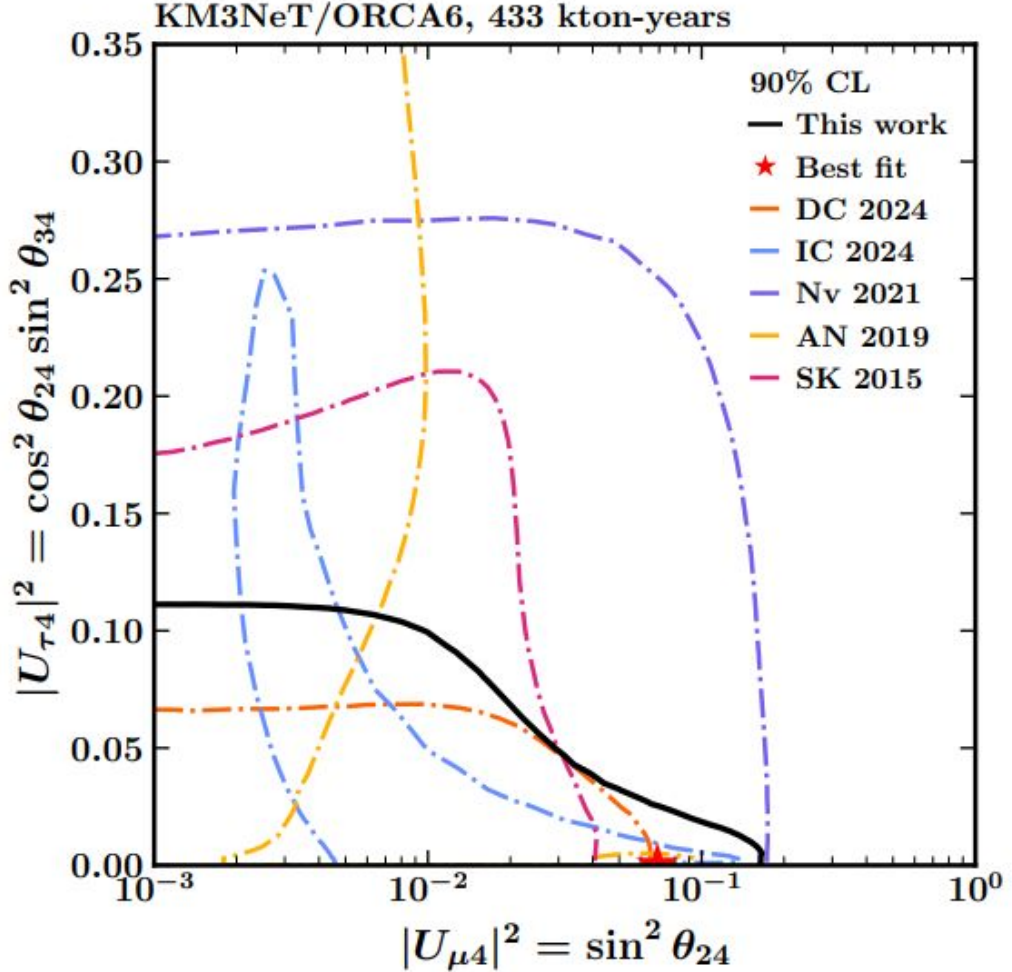
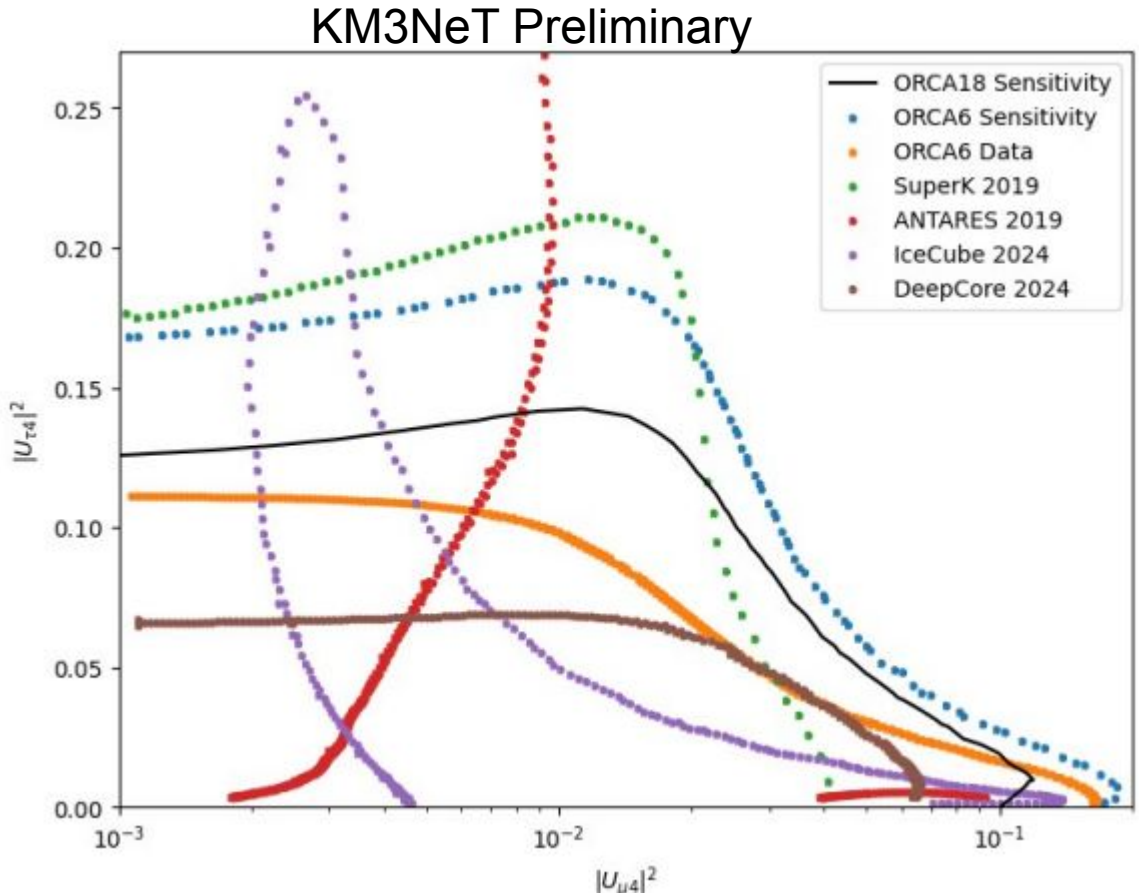
- Excepted high precision with ORCA6-18 sample.
- Dominated by the uncertainties in the oscillation parameters and the flux uncertainties.

**KM3NeT preliminary**



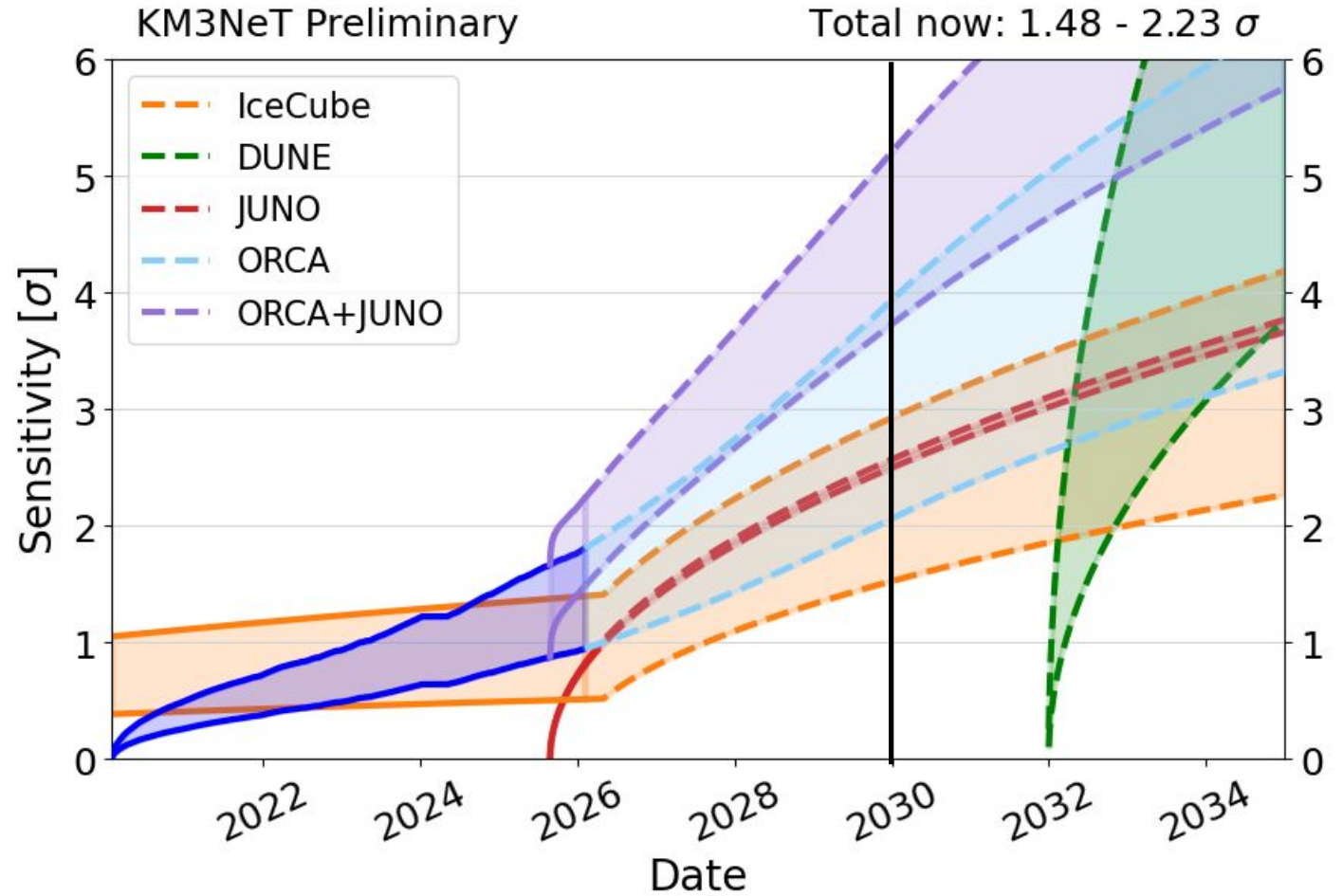
# Search for sterile neutrinos

- ORCA6 search for **sterile neutrino above  $1eV^2$**  already gives **competitive results**
- **Expected significant improvement with 1.5Mt-yr**



# Prospects by 2030

- **NMO:**
  - 2 – 4 $\sigma$  ORCA alone
  - 3.5 – 5 $\sigma$  ORCA/JUNO
- $\theta_{23}$ 
  - 4-7% relative precision
- $\nu_T$  x-section
  - 5% relative precision
- **BSM**
  - improvement x4 wrt ORCA6



# Conclusions

- KM3NeT has a **unique potential to determine the NMO**
- Neutrino **physics program extends well beyond NMO**
- **First results** with 5% of the total detectors (ORCA6) are already **competitive**
- New result with **4x more data** and updated modelling of the systematic uncertainties soon to be unblinded.

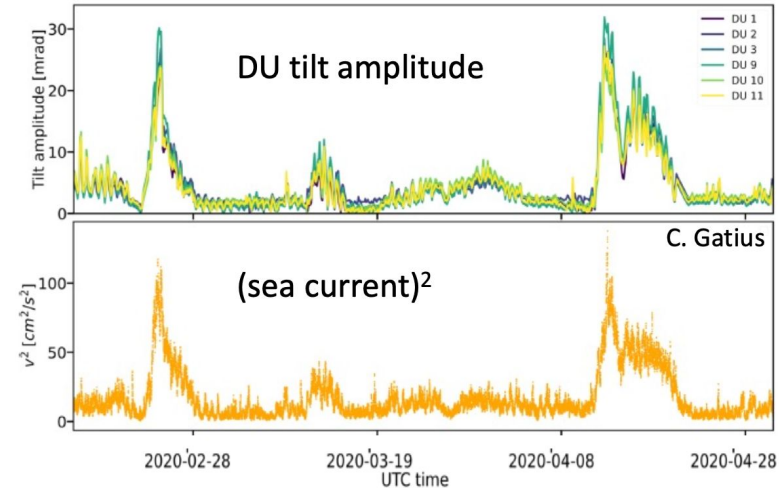
**Thank you for your attention**

# BACKUP

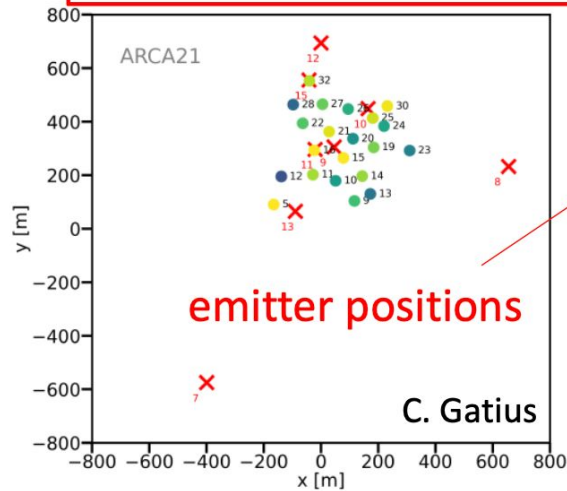
# Position Calibration

Individual DOMs can be located to ~10cm

orientation few deg



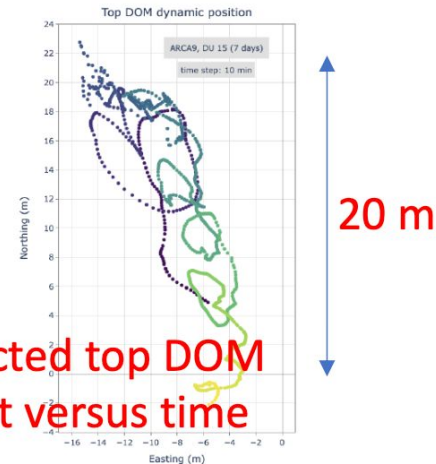
**Positioning: acoustic triangulation using autonomous emitters**



each DOM records sound

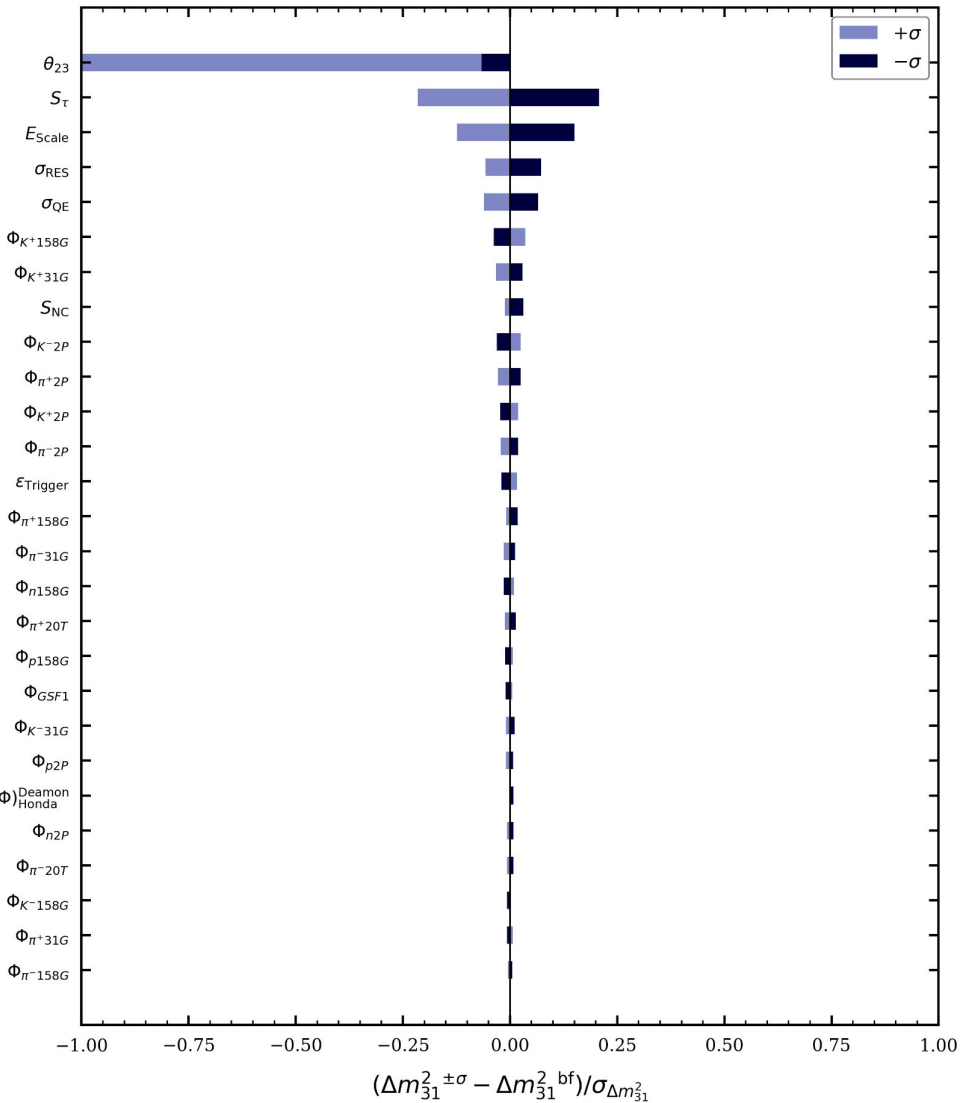
emitter positions

reconstructed top DOM movement versus time

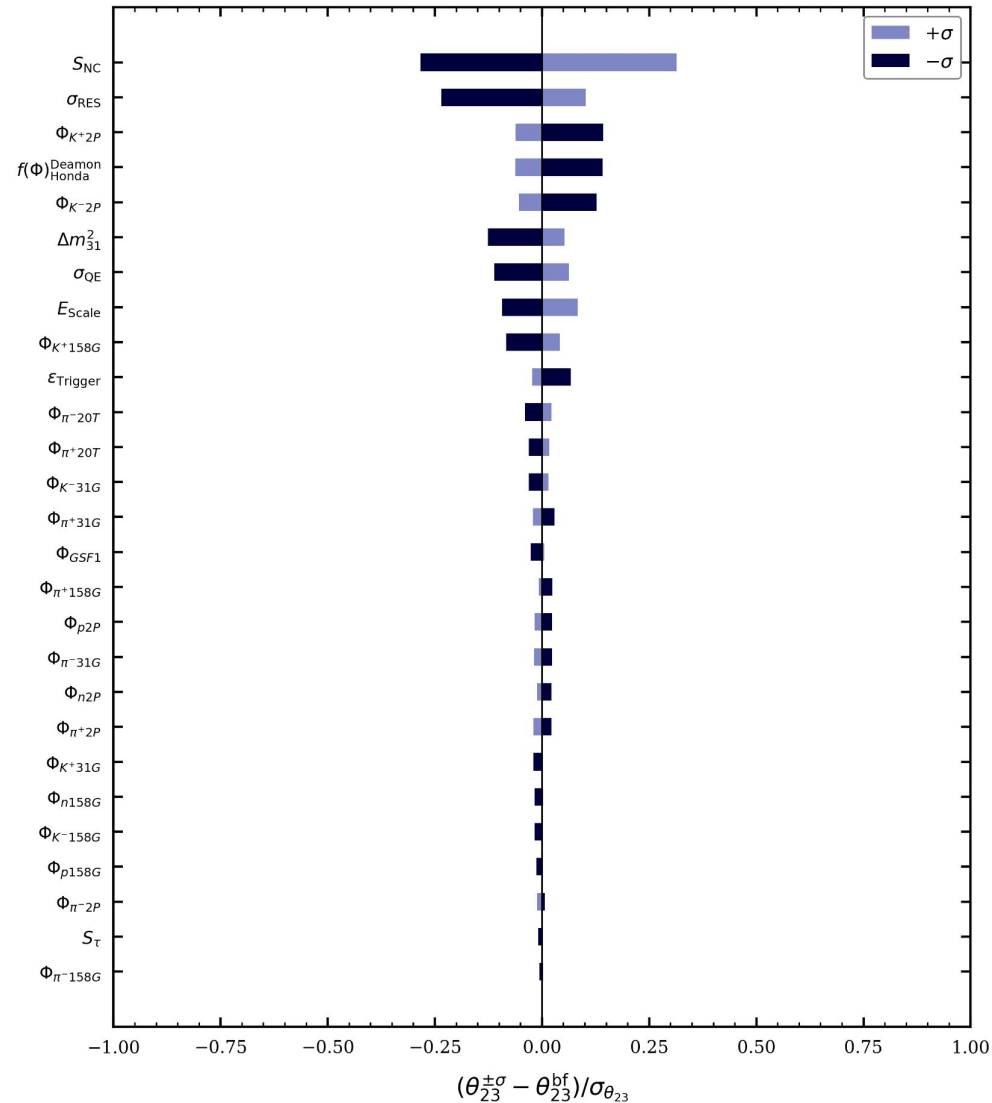


# Impact of systematics Std Osc

KM3NeT Preliminary



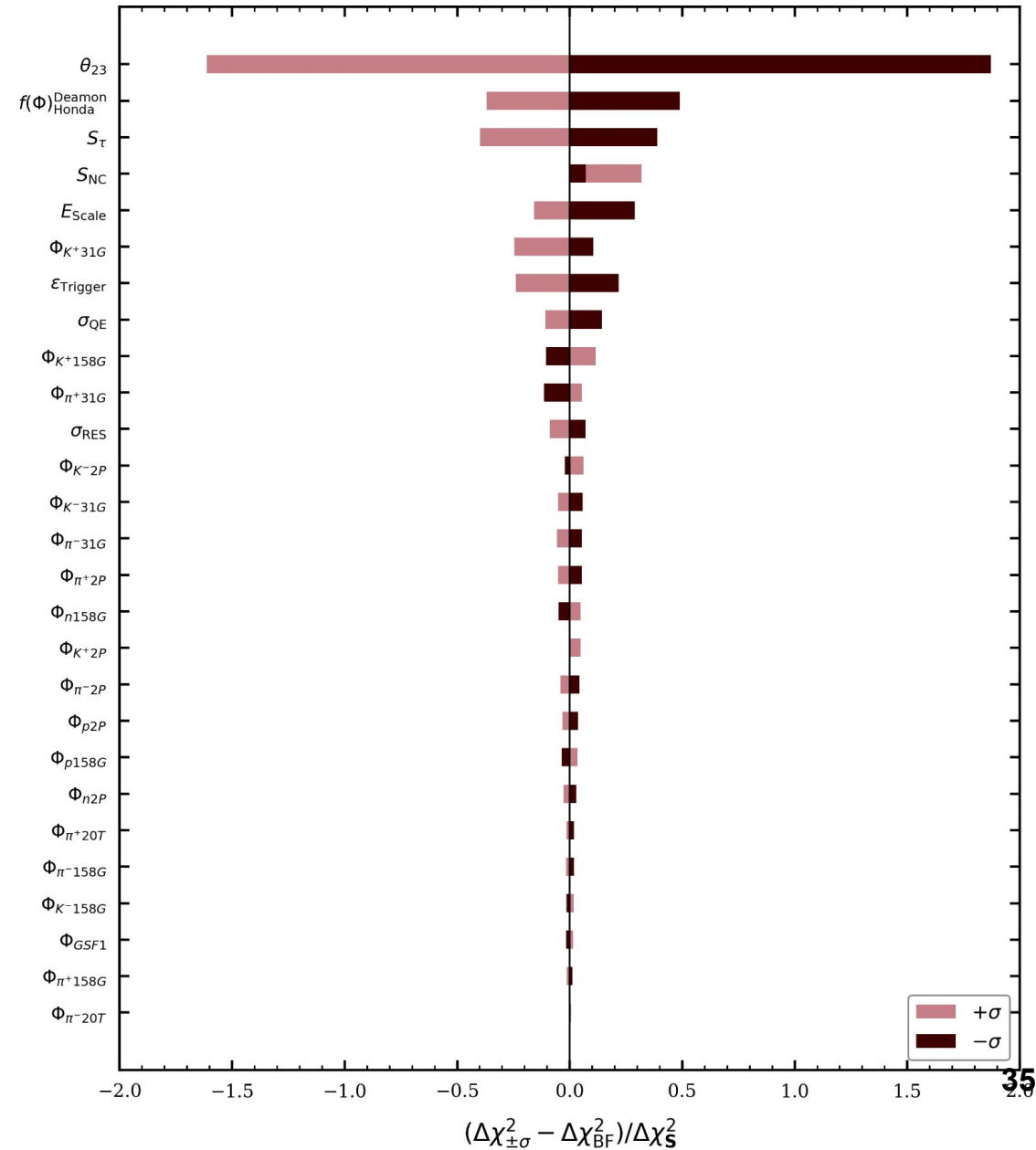
KM3NeT Preliminary



- Most important source of uncertainties are our cross section systematics and our energy scale.
- Flipping mass ordering when shifting the mixing angle and fitting for the mass splitting.

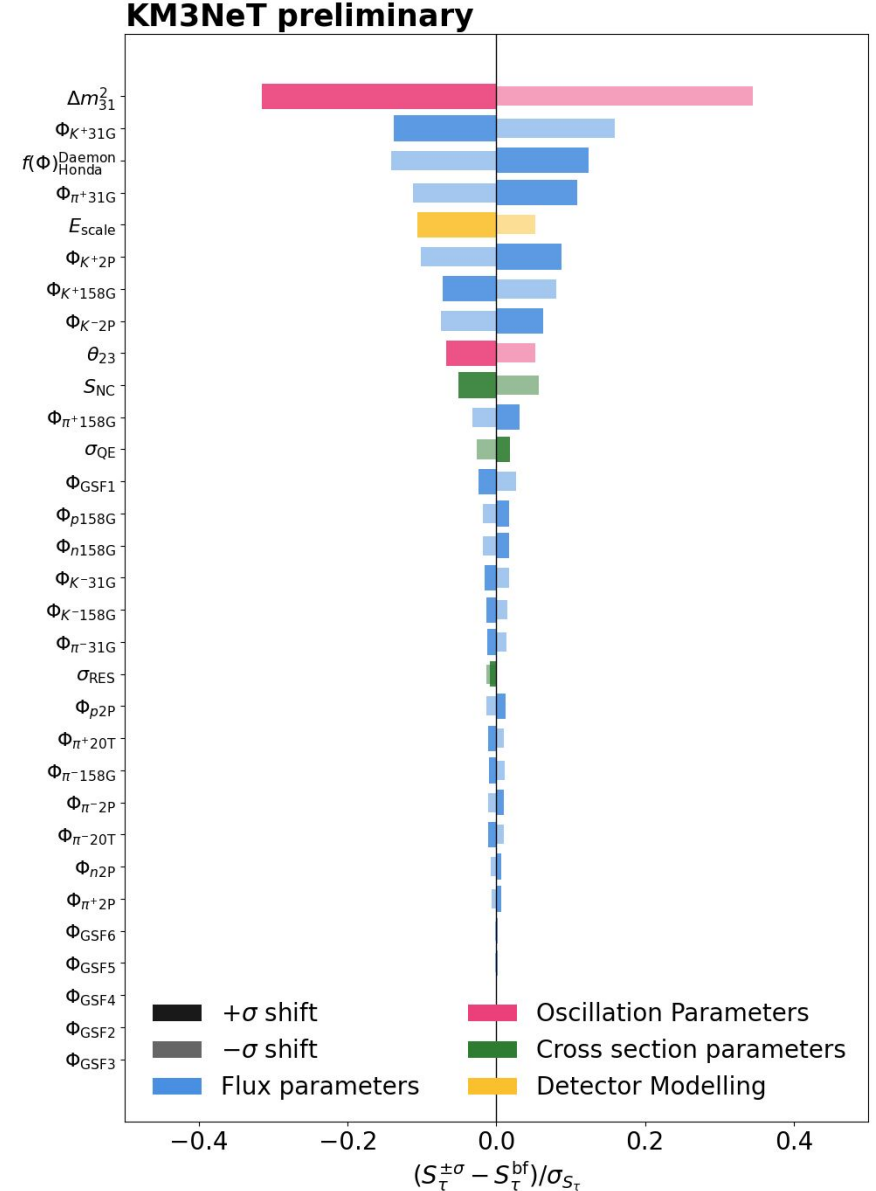
# Impact of systematics NMO

- Impact on the NMO dominated by the mixing angle (expected)
- Most important systematic right now is our HONDA-Daemon interpolation <5 GeV, which is a temporal solution for the absence of geomagnetic effects in Daemonflux.



# Impact of systematics Tau

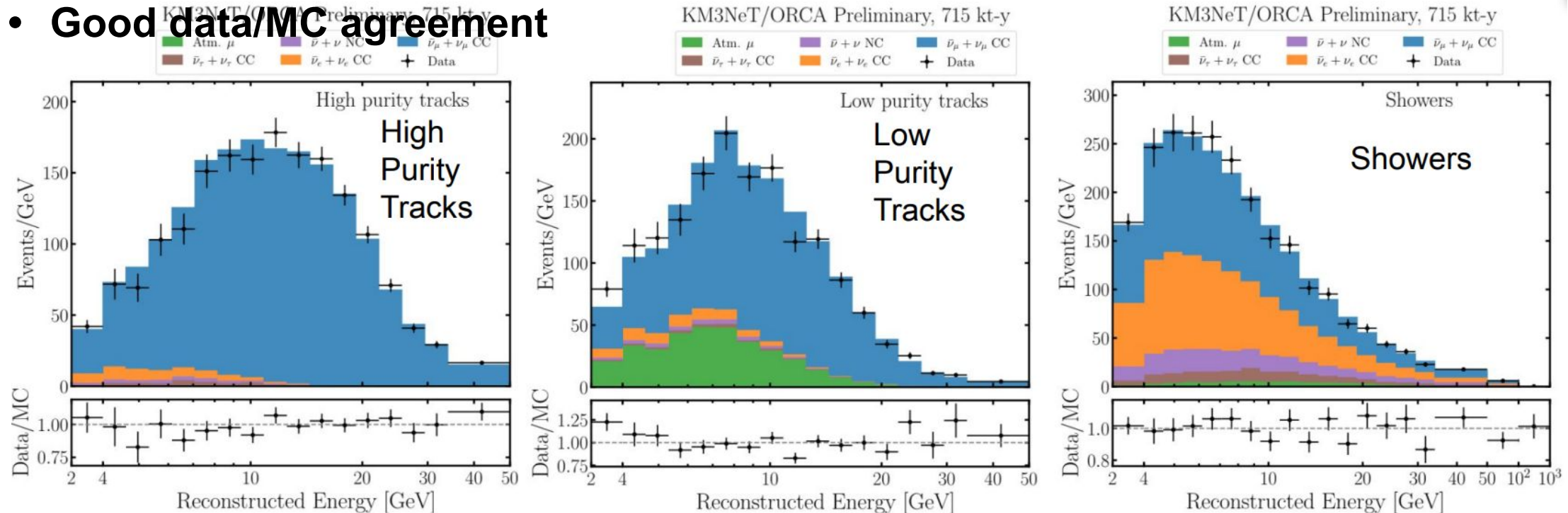
- Impact on the tau appearance dominated by the mass splitting.
- Quite important flux uncertainties and our energy scale.



# The previous dataset

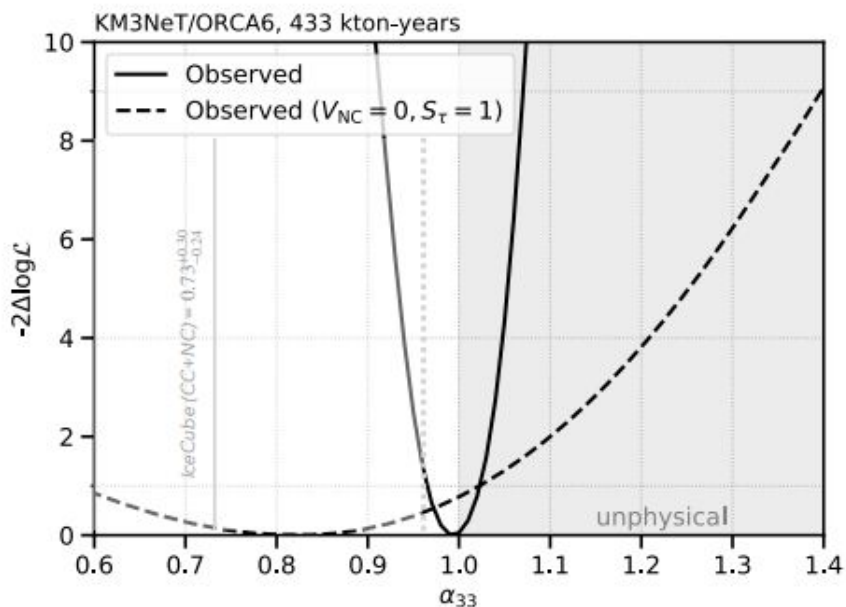
- After selection: **9751 neutrino candidates** (715 kton.y)
- Separated in **three classes**:
  - high purity-tracks (i.e. with minimal muon contamination)
  - low purity tracks
  - showers

- **Good data/MC agreement**



# Tau Neutrinos

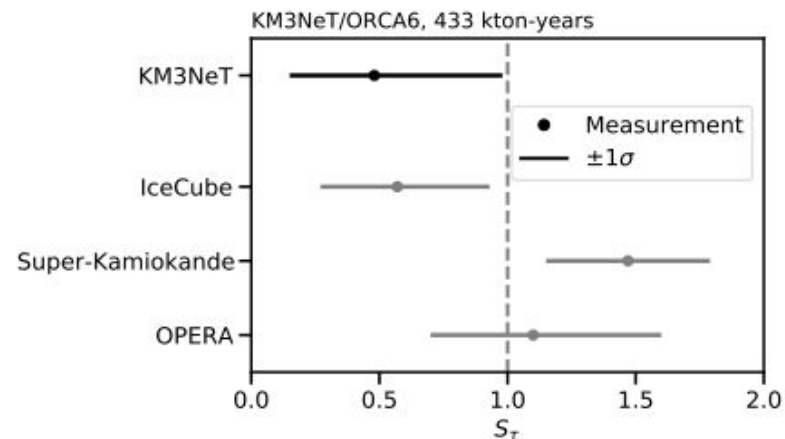
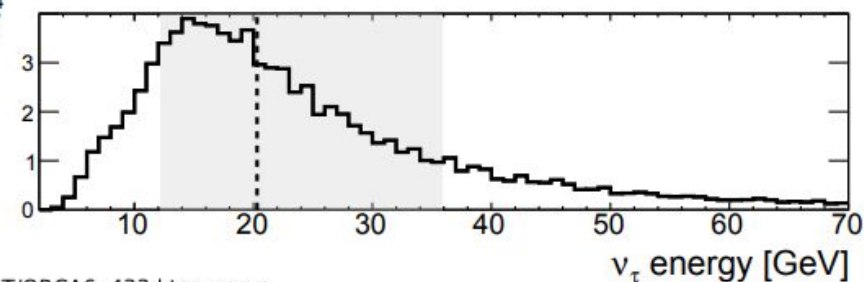
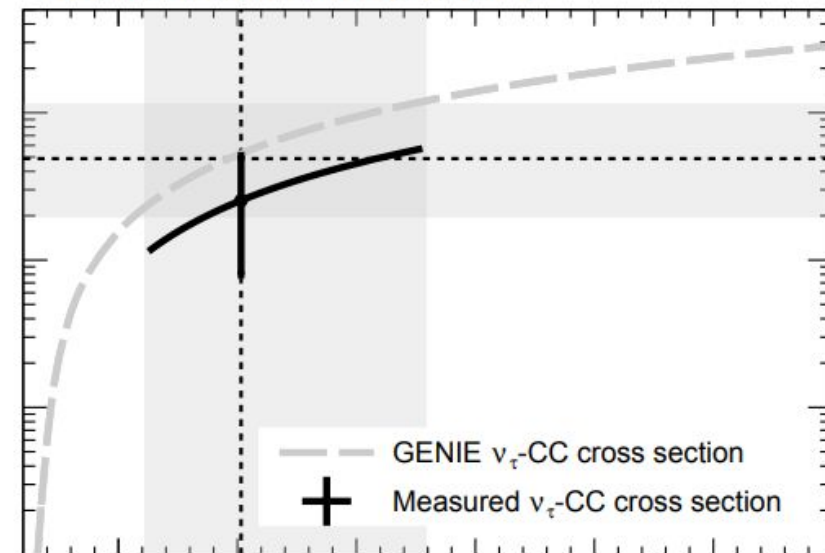
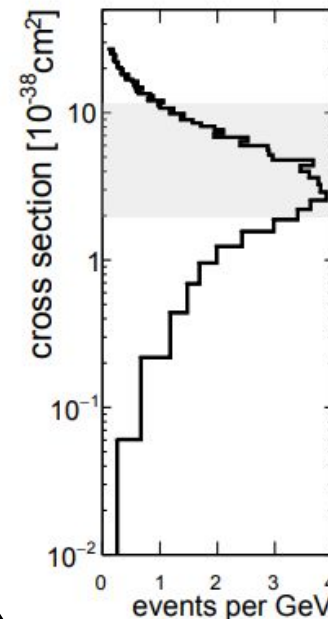
- **ORCA6  $\nu_\tau$  sample** exploited to
  - measure  $\nu_\tau$  **cross section**
  - constrain  $\nu_\tau$  **normalisation**
  - constrain **non-unitarity mixing**



**Best limit on  $\alpha_{33}$ : [0.95, 1.04] at 95% CL**

$$N = \alpha U_{PMNS}$$

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} & 0 \\ \alpha_{31} & \alpha_{32} & \alpha_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$



# Lorentz Invariance Violation

- **Lorentz invariance\*** can be violated in models trying to unify QFT&GR

- Model independent search using **EFT (SME)**

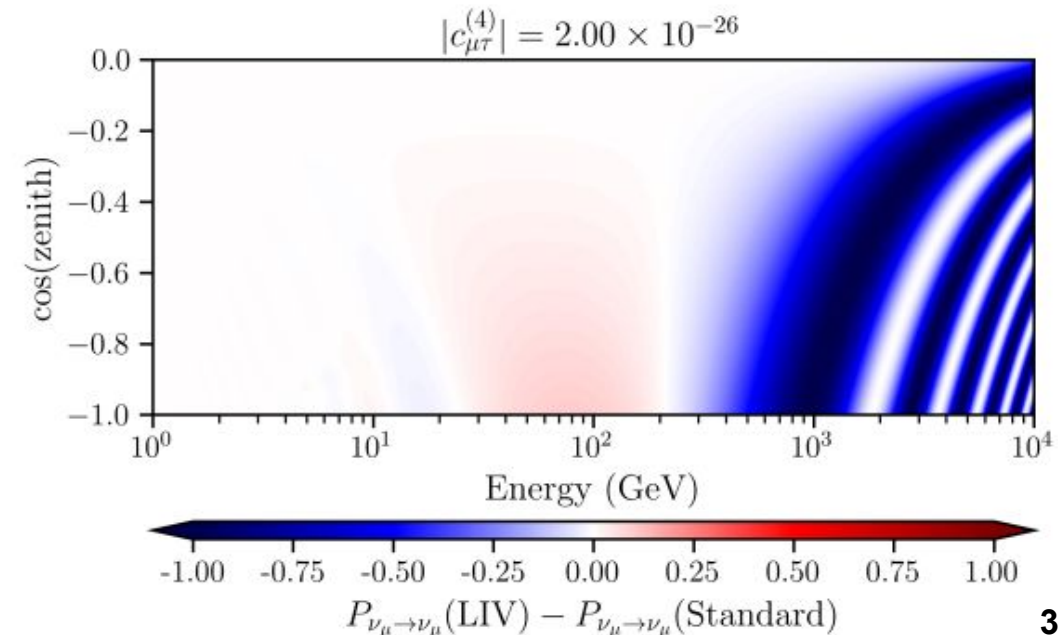
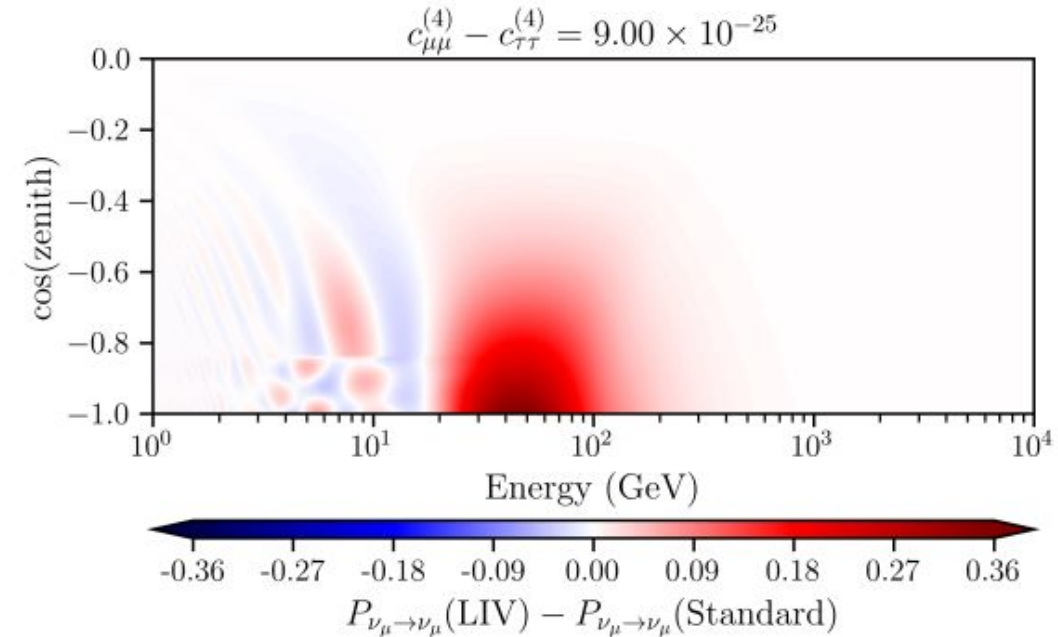
$$H = UH_0U^\dagger + H_I + H_{LIV}$$

PMNS
Std Osc. Hamiltonian
Matter Effect Hamiltonian

$$H_{LIV} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{a}_{ee}^{(3)} & \hat{a}_{e\mu}^{(3)} & \hat{a}_{e\tau}^{(3)} \\ \hat{a}_{e\mu}^{(3)*} & \hat{a}_{\mu\mu}^{(3)} & \hat{a}_{\mu\tau}^{(3)} \\ \hat{a}_{e\tau}^{(3)*} & \hat{a}_{\mu\tau}^{(3)*} & \hat{a}_{\tau\tau}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix} - E \begin{pmatrix} \hat{c}_{ee}^{(4)} & \hat{c}_{e\mu}^{(4)} & \hat{c}_{e\tau}^{(4)} \\ \hat{c}_{e\mu}^{(4)*} & \hat{c}_{\mu\mu}^{(4)} & \hat{c}_{\mu\tau}^{(4)} \\ \hat{c}_{e\tau}^{(4)*} & \hat{c}_{\mu\tau}^{(4)*} & \hat{c}_{\tau\tau}^{(4)} \end{pmatrix} + E^2 \hat{a}^{(5)} - E^3 \hat{c}^{(6)} + \dots$$

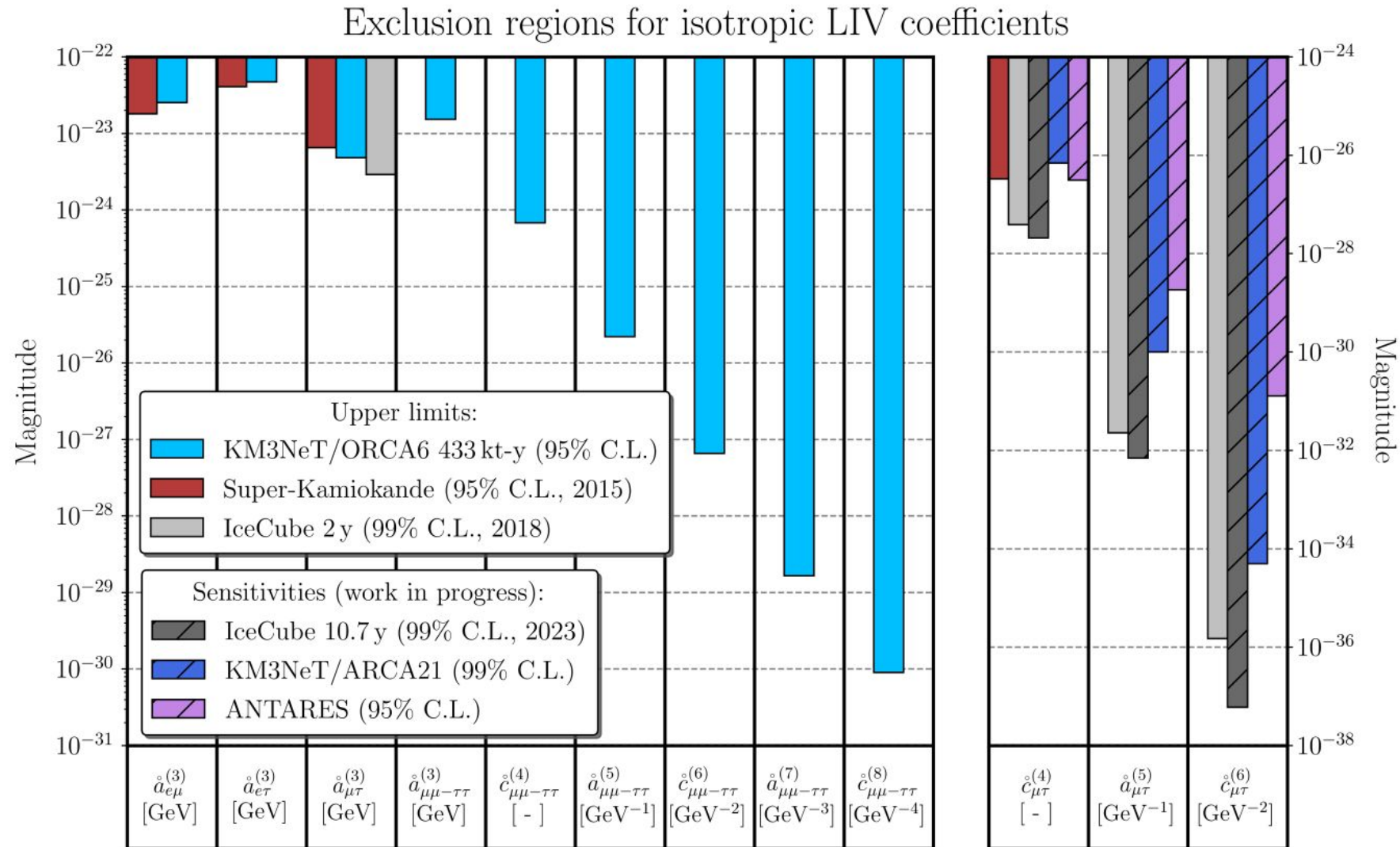
- **Complementarity ORCA/ARCA** to test the  $H_{LIV}$  terms in different energy regimes

\*Lorentz Invariance: physics is identical for all interial observers



# Lorentz Invariance Violation

- **ORCA6 and ARCA21** data set already put **very competitive constraints**



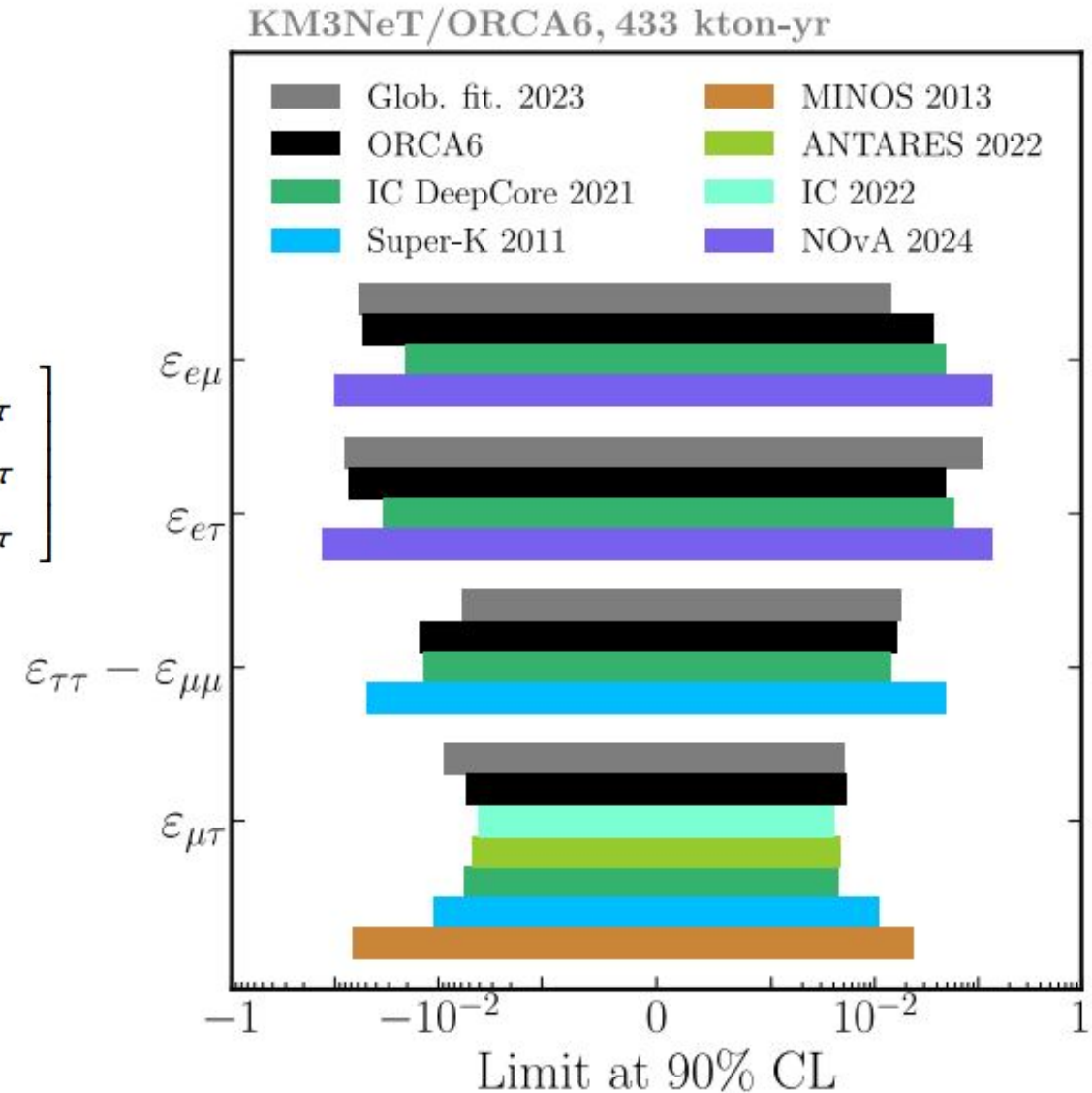
# Non Standard Neutrino Interactions

- **NSI** typically arise in models providing mechanisms to explain the **origin of  $\nu$  masses**

- Model independent search with **EFT**:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{2E} \mathcal{U} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Delta m_{21}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta m_{31}^2 \end{bmatrix} \mathcal{U}^\dagger + A(x) \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \varepsilon_{ee} & \varepsilon_{e\mu} & \varepsilon_{e\tau} \\ \varepsilon_{e\mu}^* & \varepsilon_{\mu\mu} & \varepsilon_{\mu\tau} \\ \varepsilon_{e\tau}^* & \varepsilon_{\mu\tau}^* & \varepsilon_{\tau\tau} \end{bmatrix}$$

- **NC-NSI** affect  $\nu$  oscillations in matter by modifying coherent forward scattering
- ORCA6 data provide **competitive results**



# Neutrino Decay

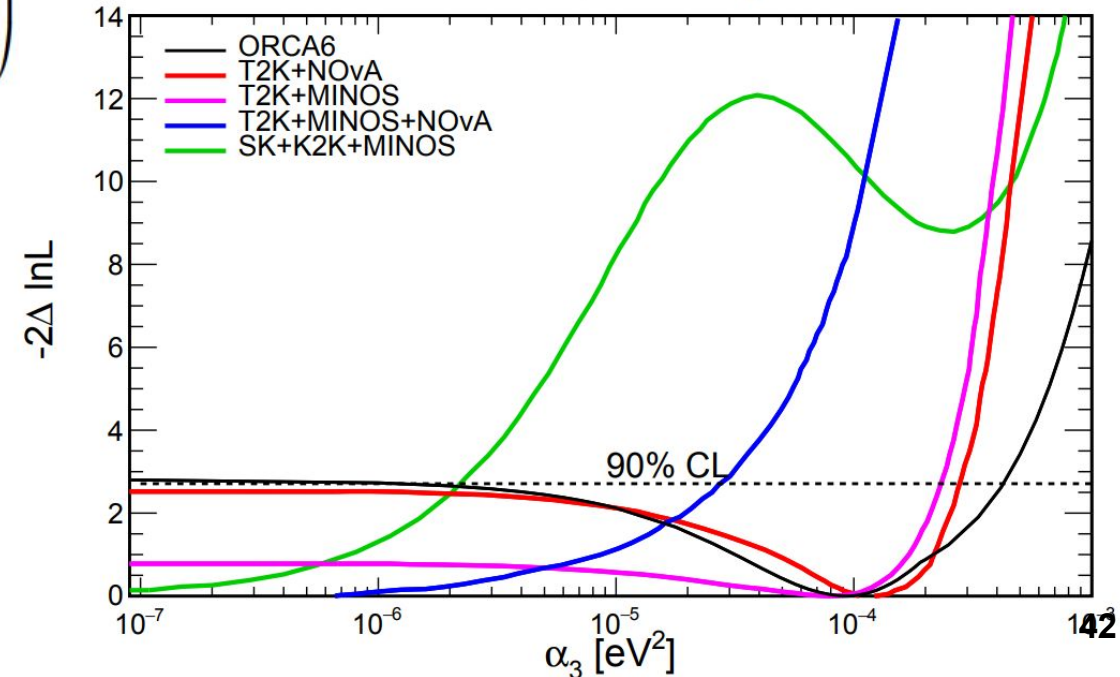
- Hypothesis: neutrino decay to invisible products
- Analysis focuses on  $\nu_3$  decay (others constrained by solar and Super Novae)
- Model independent search with EFT

$$H_{\text{Total}} = \frac{1}{2E} \left[ U \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Delta m_{21}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta m_{31}^2 \end{pmatrix} U^\dagger + U \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i\alpha_3 \end{pmatrix} U^\dagger \right] + \begin{pmatrix} V & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- ORCA6 measured  $\alpha_3 = 0.92_{-0.57}^{+1.08} \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV}^2$  compatible with 0 (SM) at  $2.1\sigma$

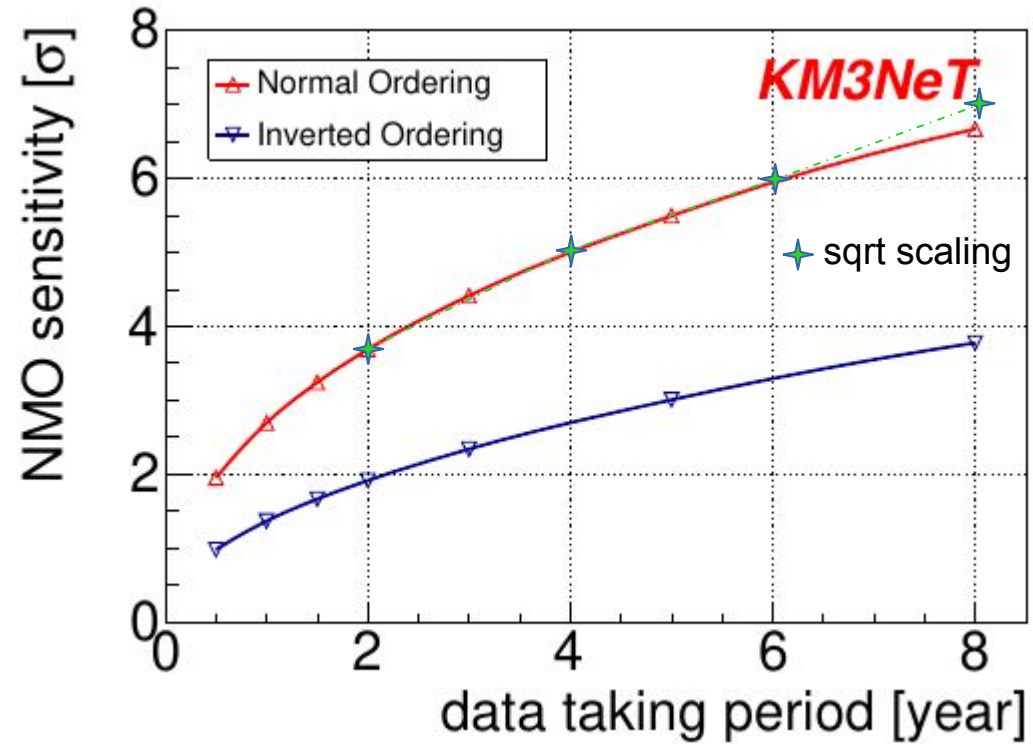
Experiment	UL (90% CL) [ $10^{-6} \text{ eV}^2$ ]
<b>ORCA6 (433 kton-year)</b>	[10, 380]
<b>ORCA (70 Mton-year)</b>	3.7
T2K, NO $\nu$ A	290
T2K, MINOS	240
T2K, NO $\nu$ A, MINOS	27
K2K, MINOS, SK I+II	2.3
DUNE ( $5\nu+5\bar{\nu}$ ) yr	13
MOMENT (10 yr)	24
ESSnuSB ( $5\nu+5\bar{\nu}$ ) yr	16 – 13
JUNO (5 yr)	7
INO-ICAL (10 yr)	4.4

KM3NeT/ORCA6, 433 kton-years



# Stats vs Syst

- ORCA is dominated for a long time by statistical uncertainties



# Quantum Decoherence

- Oscillations affected by **decoherence**, described by a **damping term**

$$P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) = \sum_{i,j} \tilde{U}_{\alpha i} \tilde{U}_{\beta i}^* \tilde{U}_{\alpha j}^* \tilde{U}_{\beta j} e^{-i\Delta\tilde{E}_{ij}t - \gamma_{ij}t}$$

$$\gamma_{ij} = \gamma_{ij}^0 \left( \frac{E}{\text{GeV}} \right)^n$$

- ORCA** well suited to study **n = -2, -1**
- ARCA** well suited to study **n = 0, 1, 2, 3**
- ORCA6** data allows to set limits comparable to **DeepCore** but other exp. at **lower energy** (RENO, KamLAND, T2K) put stronger bounds for n<0.

	Upper Limits on $\gamma_{31}$ [GeV]	
	n=-2	n=-1
<b>ORCA6</b> NO, <b>90%CL</b>	$8.4 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$2.7 \cdot 10^{-22}$
<b>arXiv:2306.14699</b> $\gamma_{31}=\gamma_{32}$ NO/IO, <b>90%CL</b>	$6.9 \cdot 10^{-25}$	$2.1 \cdot 10^{-23}$
	<b>RENO</b>	<b>T2K</b>
<b>ORCA6</b> NO, <b>95%CL</b>	$11.7 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$4.2 \cdot 10^{-22}$
<b>DeepCore</b> $\gamma_{31}=\gamma_{32}$ NO, <b>95%CL</b>	$4.3 \cdot 10^{-20}$	$2.0 \cdot 10^{-21}$

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	Upper limits [GeV]			
	$n = -2$		$n = -1$	
ORCA6, 90 %CL	NO	IO	NO	IO
$\Gamma_{21}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$4.6 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{-22}$	$1.9 \cdot 10^{-22}$
$\Gamma_{31}$	$8.4 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$2.2 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$2.7 \cdot 10^{-22}$	$0.8 \cdot 10^{-22}$
$\Gamma_{21} = \Gamma_{31}$	$4.1 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$2.9 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{-22}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{-22}$
ORCA6, 95 %CL	NO	IO	NO	IO
$\Gamma_{21}$	$3.7 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$6.9 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{-22}$	$3.0 \cdot 10^{-22}$
$\Gamma_{31}$	$11.7 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$3.2 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$4.2 \cdot 10^{-22}$	$1.3 \cdot 10^{-22}$
$\Gamma_{21} = \Gamma_{31}$	$5.2 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{-22}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-22}$

	Upper limits [GeV]			
	$n = -2$		$n = -1$	
Reported in [14], 90 % CL				
$\Gamma_{21} = \Gamma_{32}$	$7.9 \cdot 10^{-27}$ (KL)		$1.8 \cdot 10^{-24}$ (KL)	
$\Gamma_{31} = \Gamma_{32}$	$6.9 \cdot 10^{-25}$ (R)		$2.1 \cdot 10^{-23}$ (T2K)	
$\Gamma_{21} = \Gamma_{31}$	$7.9 \cdot 10^{-27}$ (KL)		$1.8 \cdot 10^{-24}$ (KL)	
Reported in [18], 95 %CL	NO	IO	NO	IO
$\Gamma_{21} = \Gamma_{32}$	$7.5 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-20}$	$3.5 \cdot 10^{-22}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{-21}$
$\Gamma_{31} = \Gamma_{32}$	$4.3 \cdot 10^{-20}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-20}$	$2.0 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$5.8 \cdot 10^{-22}$
$\Gamma_{21} = \Gamma_{31}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-20}$	$8.3 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$5.4 \cdot 10^{-22}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^{-22}$

# NMO Net Effect

- **Degeneracy between NMO and chirality** is broken by cross-section (and flux) difference between neutrinos and anti-neutrinos
- **Strong net effect** even without chirality measurement

