

Measuring the Mass of Earth and Core using Neutrino Oscillations in IceCube-DeepCore

Sharmistha Chattopadhyay

sharmistha.c@iopb.res.in, schattopadhyay@icecube.wisc.edu

(For the IceCube collaboration)

Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India

Department of Physics and WIPAC, UW Madison, USA

Brookhaven Forum 2023

Advancing Searches for New Physics (BF2023)

October 4 - 6, 2023



Using Neutrinos to Understand Earth's Interior

Current Knowledge about Earth

Knowledge about Earth's interior based on :

- **Gravitational measurements**

Mass of the Earth

Moment of Inertia of the Earth

- **Seismic studies**

Distribution of matter, their physical and chemical properties

Gravitational + Seismic measurements → **Preliminary Reference Earth Model (PREM)**

Current Knowledge about Earth

Knowledge about Earth's interior based on :

- **Gravitational measurements**

Mass of the Earth

Moment of Inertia of the Earth

- **Seismic studies**

Distribution of matter, their physical and chemical properties

Gravitational + Seismic measurements → **Preliminary Reference Earth Model (PREM)**

Now we can also use weak interaction of neutrinos to study the Earth !

Neutrino oscillation tomography

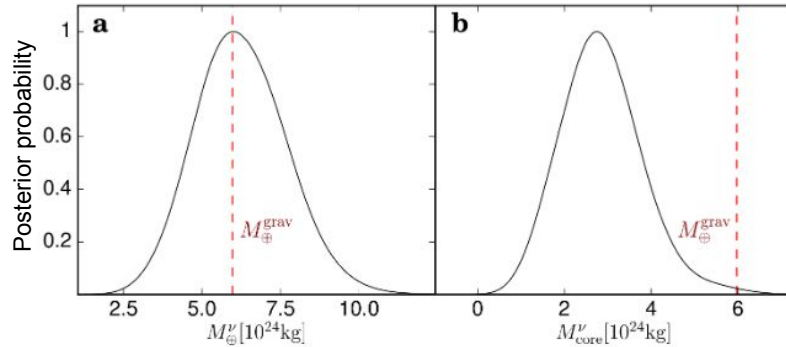
Neutrino absorption tomography

Neutrinos will act as an **independent and complementary tool** to gravitational and seismic studies in probing the Earth

Neutrino Absorption & Oscillation Tomography

Contemporary studies on measurement of the mass of Earth & Earth's core using neutrinos

Neutrino absorption tomography (with IC86)



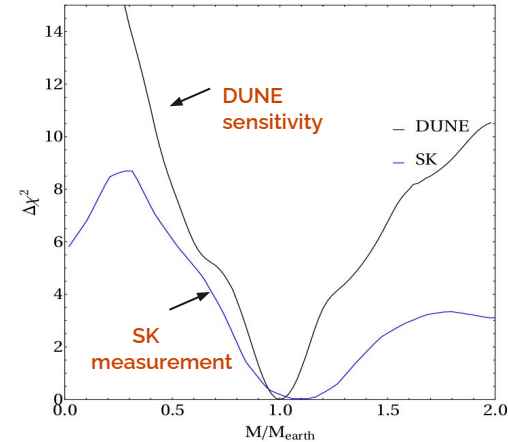
[Neutrino tomography of the Earth](#) (Nature Physics, 2018)

$$M_{\oplus}^{\nu} = (6.0^{+1.6}_{-1.3}) \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$$

$$M_{\text{core}}^{\nu} = (2.72^{+0.97}_{-0.89}) \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$$

- Mass of Earth (Relative 1 σ precision \rightarrow ~25%)
- Mass of Core (Relative 1 σ precision \rightarrow ~34%)

Neutrino oscillation tomography



[Atmospheric neutrino oscillation analysis with external constraints in Super-Kamiokande I-IV](#) (Phys. Rev. D, 2018)

[DUNE atmospheric neutrinos: Earth tomography](#) (JHEP, 2022)

- Super-K measurement (NO) : Relative 1 σ precision $\Delta M \sim 21\%$ (328 kton-years)
- DUNE sensitivity (NO) : Relative 1 σ precision $\Delta M \sim 9.48\%$ (400 kton-years)

Image source: [Neutrino Earth tomography in DUNE](#) (see talk in MMTE 2022 by Ivan Martinez-Soler)

Analysis

Analysis I : Measuring the Mass of Earth

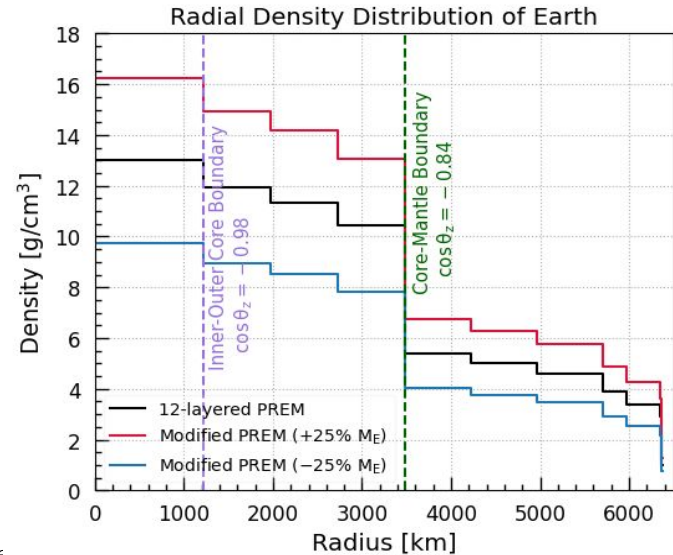
Can we measure the Mass of Earth using Matter Effects in Neutrino Oscillations in DeepCore?

True profile: 12-layered PREM profile

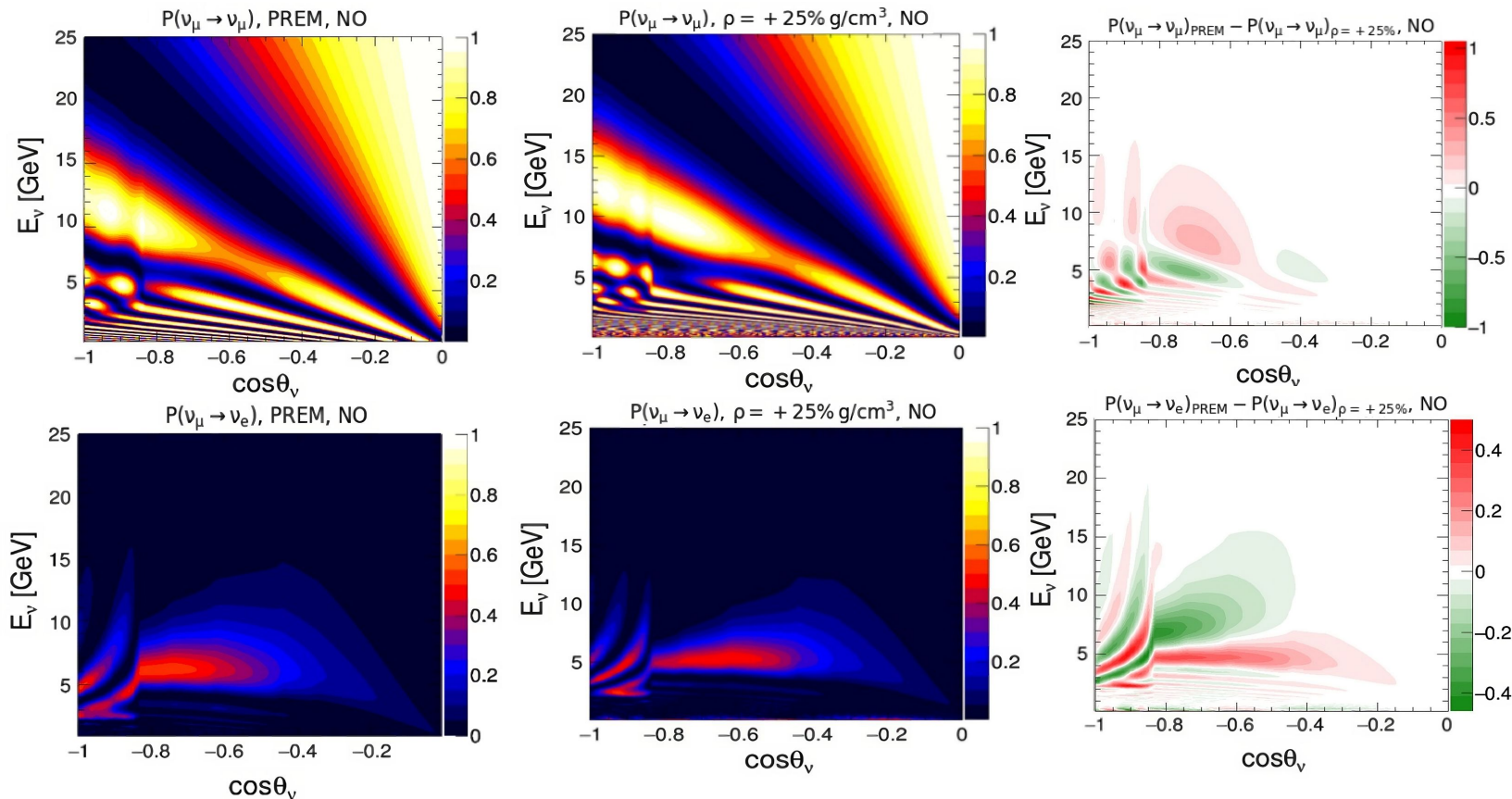
- Radius of Earth = 6371 km
- Earth has been considered neutral ($N_p = N_e$)
- Electron number density ratio: $Y_e = N_e / (N_p + N_n)$:
 - Y_e (Inner Core) = 0.4656
 - Y_e (Outer Core) = 0.4656
 - Y_e (Mantle) = 0.4957
- All layers scaled by the same scaling factor
- Hydrostatic equilibrium condition preserved : $\rho_{\text{inner layer}} > \rho_{\text{outer layer}}$

Using same binning as other two matter effect analyses

Test Statistic : Log Likelihood (LLH) - Used Wilks theorem to determine the test statistic value that corresponds to 1σ or 68% C.L.

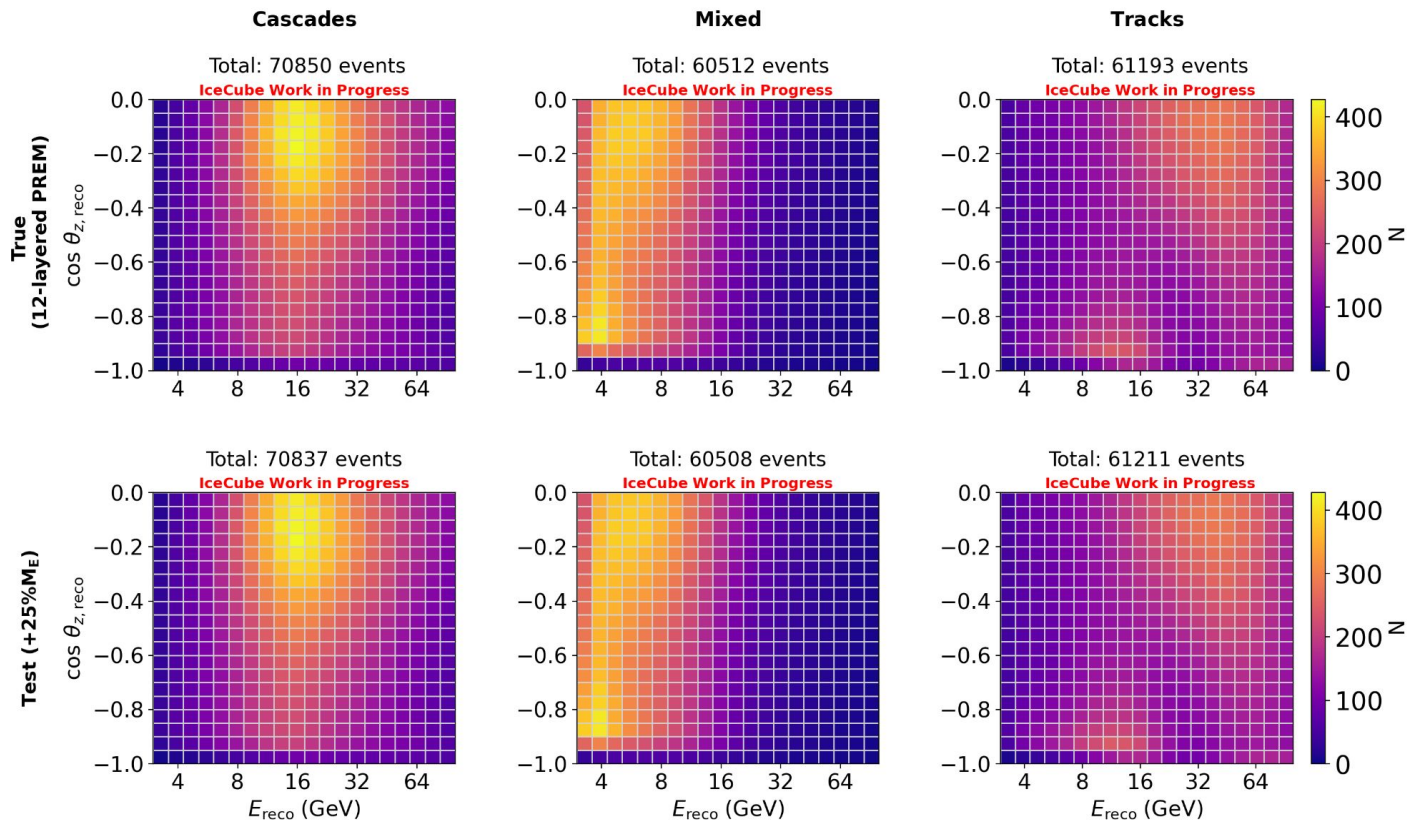


Probabilities & Their Differences [PREM vs. Modified profile], NO



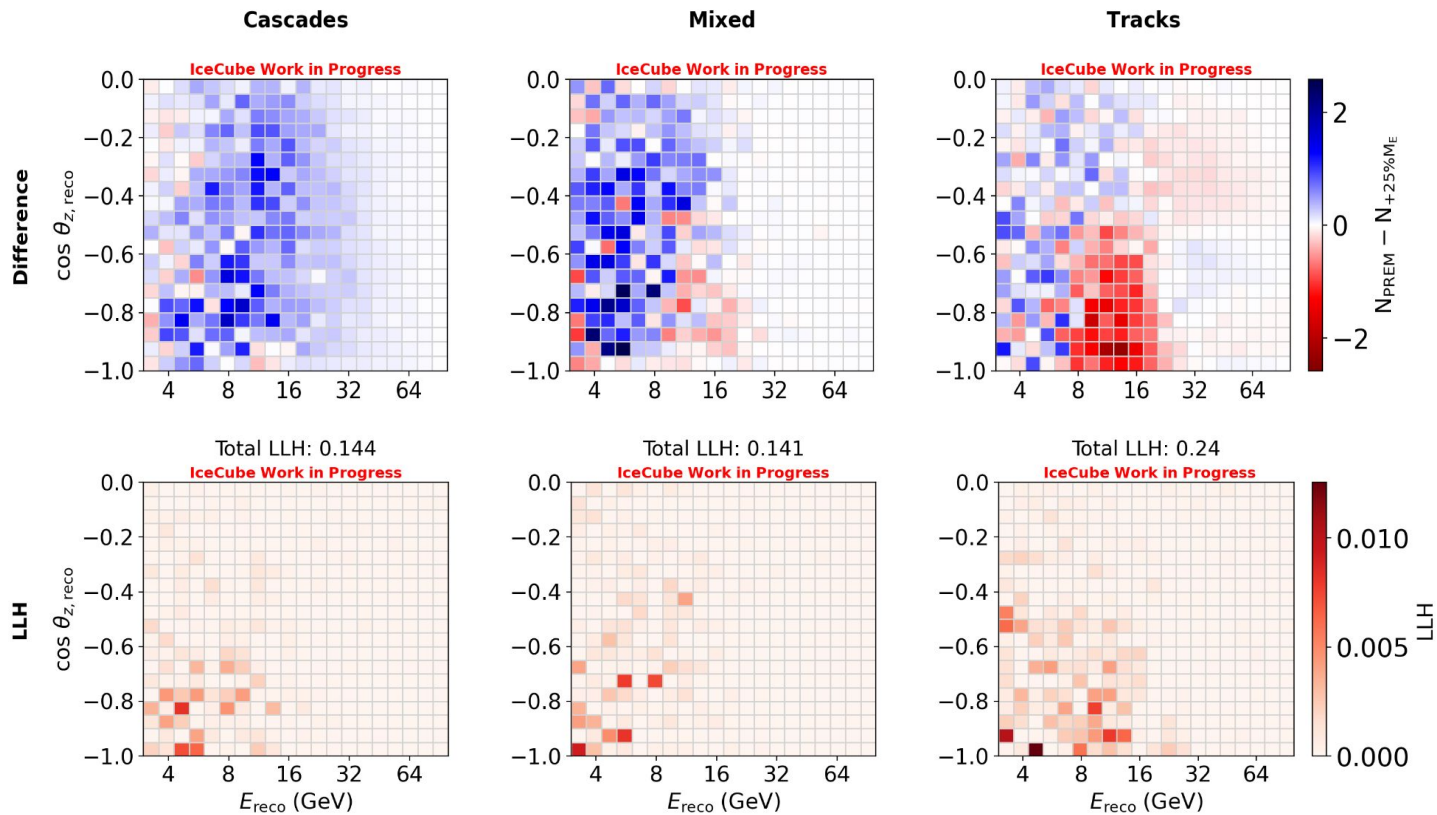
- Main contribution to our signal from lower energy and higher baselines

Expected Event Distributions, NO



- PREM & Test hypo.: For true values of all oscillation and systematic parameters

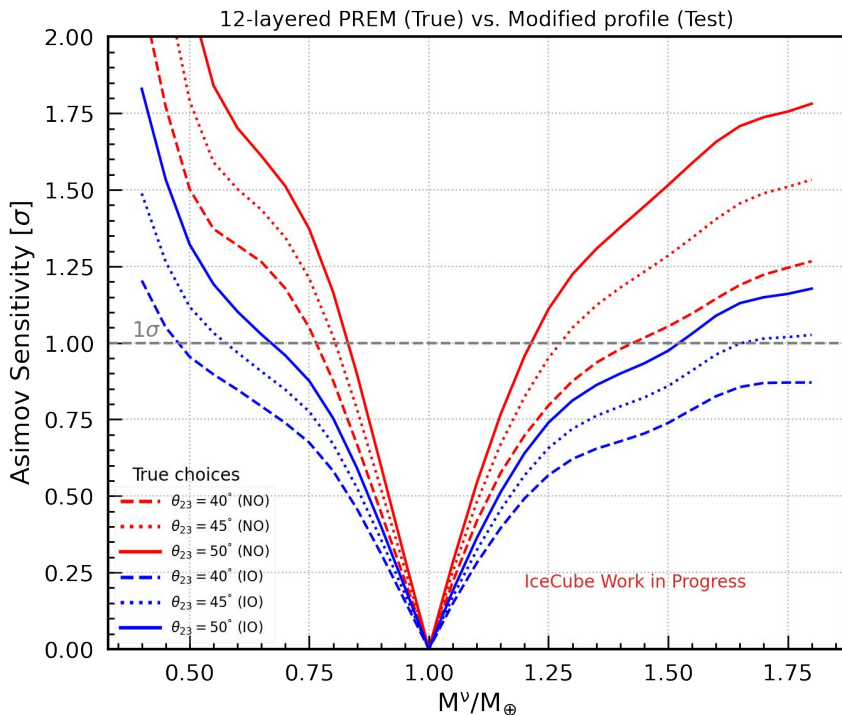
Distributions of Simulated Event Differences & LLH, NO



- Distribution of event difference plotted for true values of osc. and sys. parameters.
- Most of the LLH contribution comes from tracks

Asimov Sensitivity for the Mass of Earth with IceCube-DeepCore

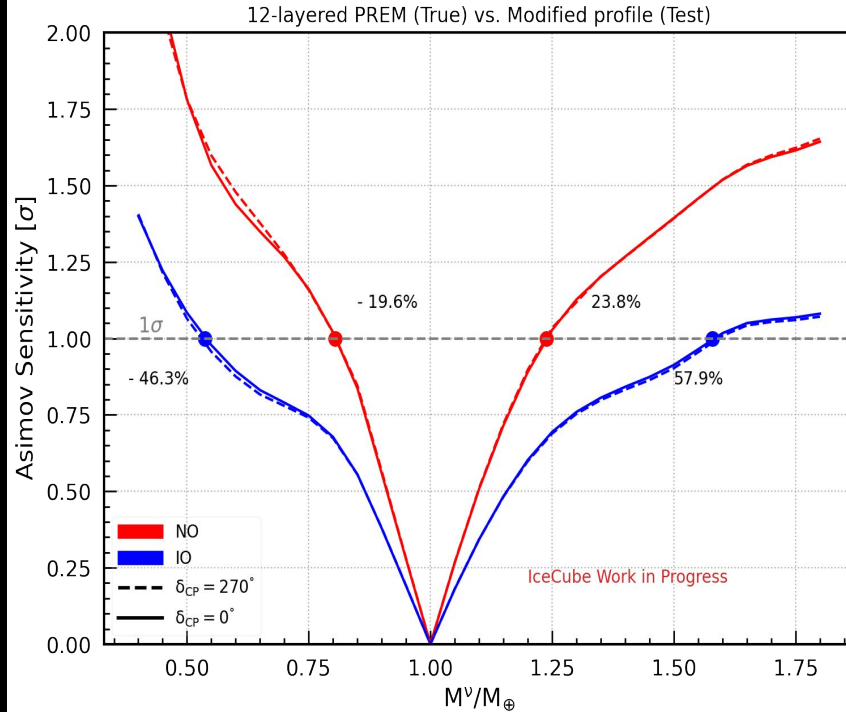
Effect of θ_{23}



- Minimized over relevant oscillation and systematic parameters
- Sensitivity depends on neutrino mass ordering
- Sensitivity for NO is higher than IO due to the lower cross section and flux rate of antineutrino
- **Relative 1σ precision for NO for $\theta_{23} = 45^\circ$ & $\delta_{CP} = 0^\circ$: $\sim 24\%$**
- Relative 1σ precision improves with θ_{23}

Asimov Sensitivity for the Mass of Earth with IceCube-DeepCore

Effect of δ_{CP}



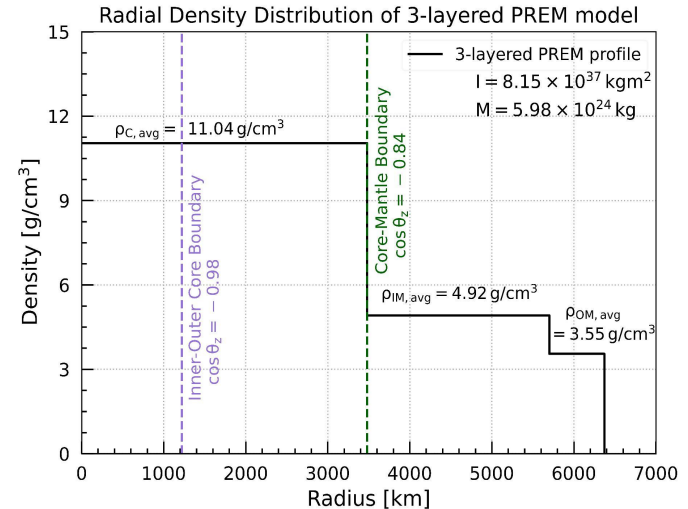
- Minimized over relevant oscillation and systematic parameters
- Minimal effect of δ_{CP}
- **Relative 1σ precision for NO for $\theta_{23} = 47.5^\circ$ & $\delta_{CP} = 0^\circ$: ~ 22%**
- **Comparable to relative 1σ precision of Super-K (~ 21%) ([PhysRevD.97.072001](https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.07200))**

Analysis II : Measuring the Mass of Earth's Core

Can we measure the Mass of Earth's Core using Matter Effects in Neutrino Oscillations in DeepCore?

True profile: 3-layered PREM profile

- Radius of Earth = 6371 km
- Earth has been considered neutral ($N_p = N_e$)
- Electron number density ratio: $Y_e = N_e / (N_p + N_n)$:
 $Y_{eI} = 0.4656$, $Y_{eO} = 0.4656$, $Y_{eM} = 0.4957$
- External constraints used:
 - ❖ Total mass of the Earth
 - ❖ Moment of Inertia of the Earth
 - ❖ Hydrostatic equilibrium condition
- Avg. densities for the true profile have been obtained from the 12-layered PREM model



Using same binning as other two matter effect analyses

Test Statistic : Log Likelihood (LLH) - Used Wilks theorem to determine the test statistic value that corresponds to 1σ or 68% C.L.

Measuring the Mass of Earth's Core using 3-layered Profile (w/ ext. constraints)

- **True profile:** 3-layered PREM profile

→ Core : 0 - 3480 km : $\rho_{C, avg} = 11.04 \text{ g/cm}^3$

→ Inner mantle : 3480 - 5701 km : $\rho_{IM, avg} = 4.92 \text{ g/cm}^3$

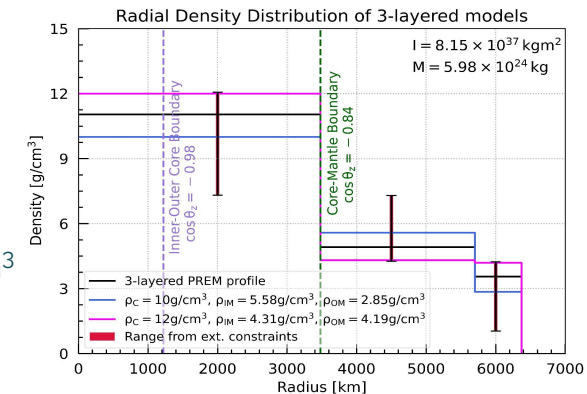
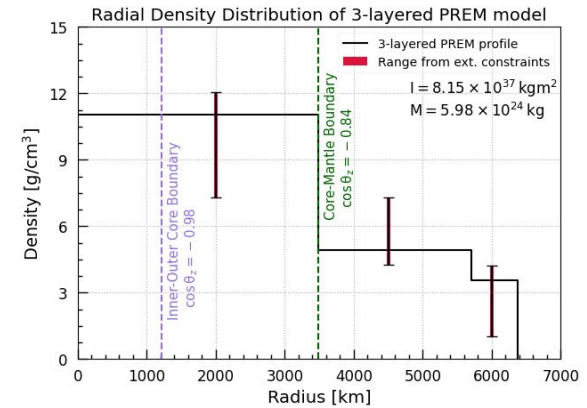
→ Outer mantle : 5701 - 6371 km : $\rho_{OM, avg} = 3.55 \text{ g/cm}^3$

- **Density ranges in theory:**

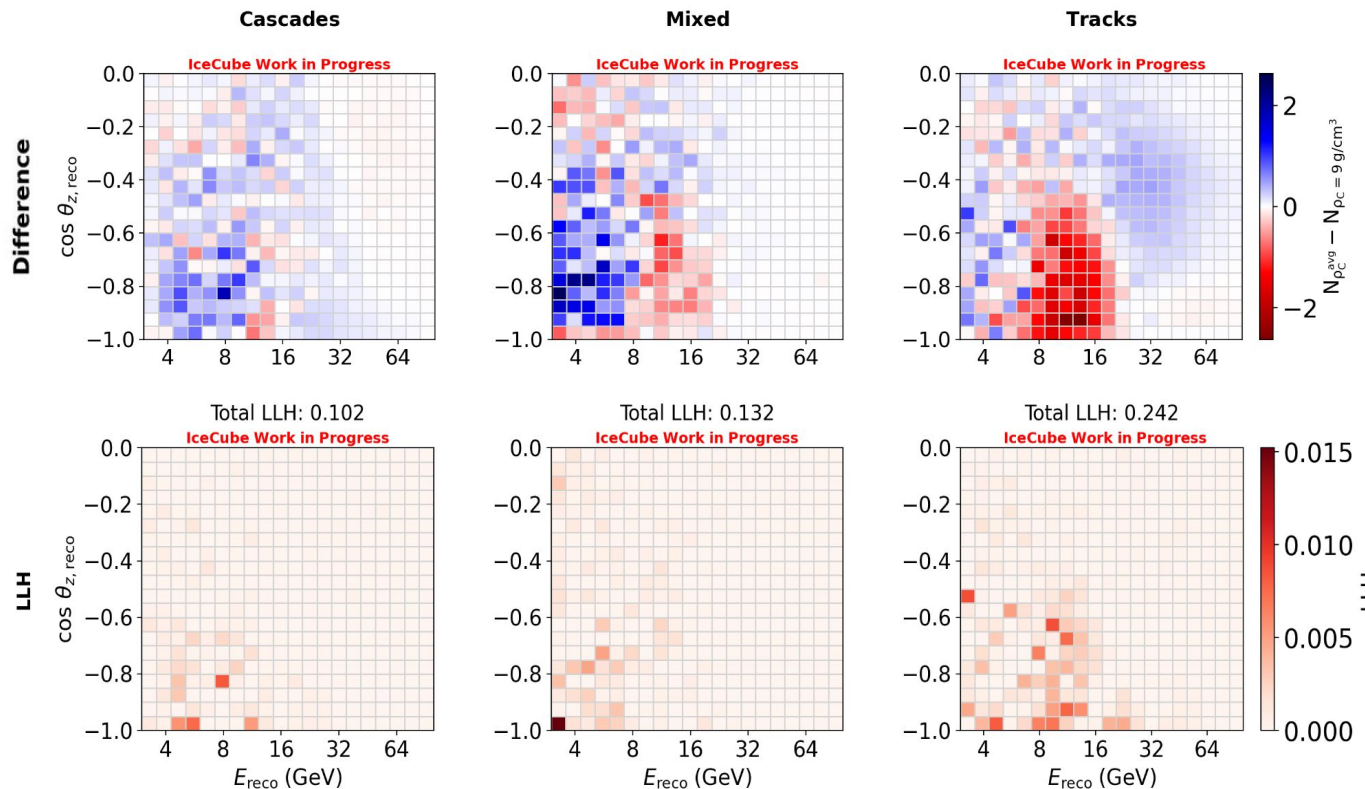
→ Core : 0 - 3480 km : $\rho_C = [7.31 - 12.08] \text{ g/cm}^3$

→ Inner mantle : 3480 - 5701 km : $\rho_{IM} = [4.25 - 7.31] \text{ g/cm}^3$

→ Outer mantle : 5701 - 6371 km : $\rho_{OM} = [1.04 - 4.25] \text{ g/cm}^3$



Distributions of Simulated Event Differences & LLH, NO



True Profile:

- $\rho_{\text{C,avg}} = 11.04 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- $\rho_{\text{IM,avg}} = 4.92 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- $\rho_{\text{OM,avg}} = 3.55 \text{ g/cm}^3$

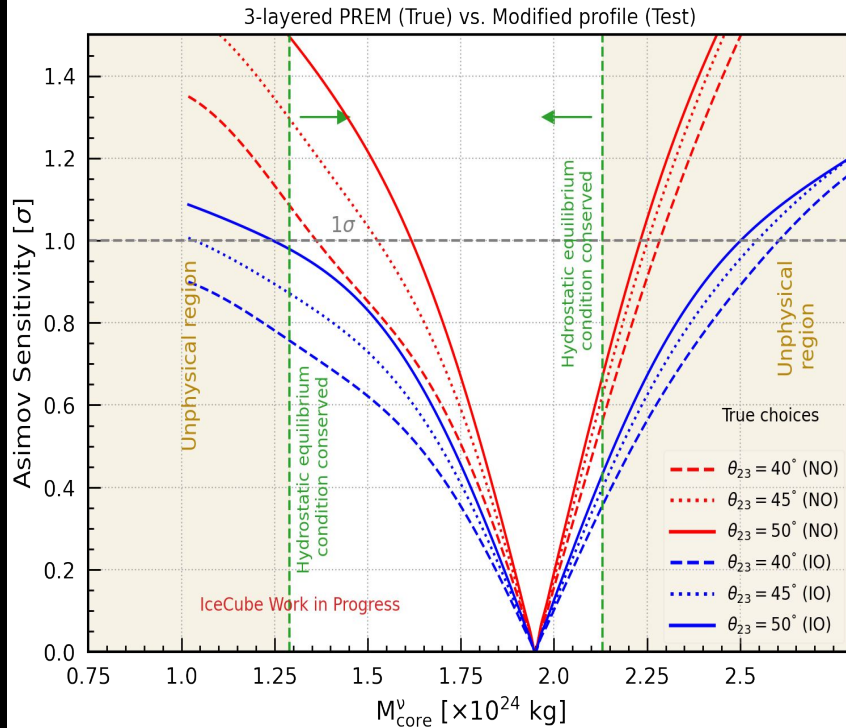
Test Profile:

- $\rho_{\text{C}} = 9 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- $\rho_{\text{IM}} = 6.22 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- $\rho_{\text{OM}} = 2.18 \text{ g/cm}^3$

- Distribution of event difference plotted for true values of osc. and sys. parameters.
- Most of the LLH contribution comes from tracks

Asimov Sensitivity for Mass of Earth's Core using IceCube-DeepCore

Effect of θ_{23}

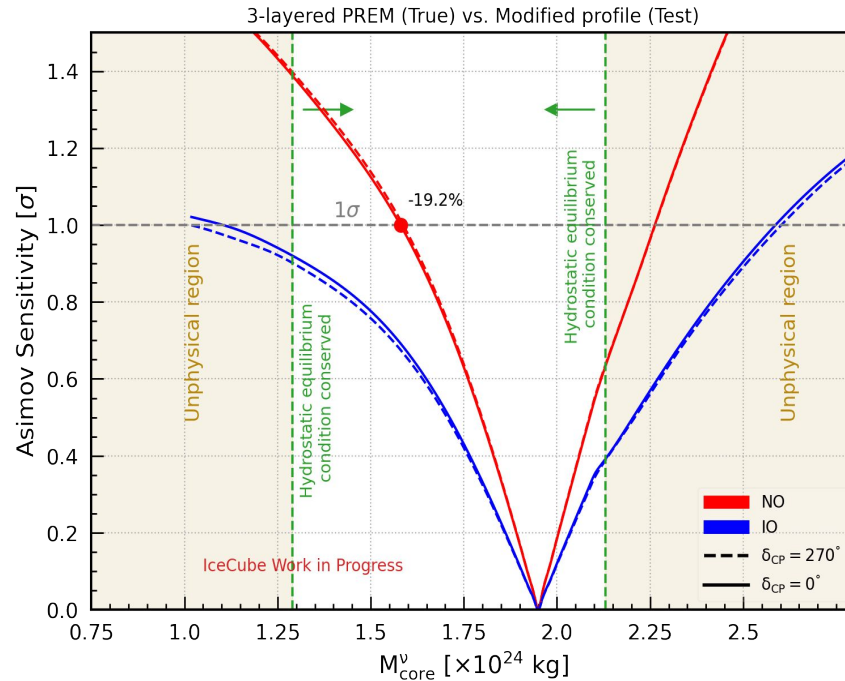


The shaded region in the plot signifies the range of core masses which do not adhere to the condition of hydrostatic equilibrium

- Minimized over relevant oscillation and systematic parameters
- Lower bound on Core mass from ext. const. : $1.29 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$
- Upper bound on Core mass from ext. const. : $2.13 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$
- Lower bound at 1σ for NO for $\theta_{23} = 45^\circ$ & $\delta_{\text{CP}} = 0^\circ$: $1.52 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$ (~ 22%)
- Upper bound at 1σ for NO for $\theta_{23} = 45^\circ$ & $\delta_{\text{CP}} = 0^\circ$: $2.25 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$ (~ 16%)
- For comparison : Relative 1σ precision for NO from neutrino absorption tomography : ~ 34% ([Nature Phys. 15 \(2019\)](#))
- Lower bound at 1σ improves with θ_{23}

Asimov Sensitivity for Mass of Earth's Core using IceCube-DeepCore

Effect of δ_{CP}



The shaded region in the plot signifies the range of core masses which do not adhere to the condition of hydrostatic equilibrium

- Minimized over relevant oscillation and systematic parameters
- Minimal effect of δ_{CP}
- Lower bound at 1σ for NO for $\theta_{23} = 47.5047^\circ$ & $\delta_{CP} = 0^\circ$: 1.57×10^{24} kg (~ 19%)
- Upper bound at 1σ for NO for $\theta_{23} = 47.5047^\circ$ & $\delta_{CP} = 0^\circ$: 2.26×10^{24} kg (~ 16%)
- For comparison : Relative 1σ precision for NO from neutrino absorption tomography : ~ 34% ([Nature Phys. 15 \(2019\)](#))

Summary

- Neutrinos serve as an independent and complementary tool in understanding Earth
- Huge baseline and energy range of atmospheric neutrinos gives a big advantage
- Using 9.28 years of DeepCore sample, we expect to obtain a precision of ~22% for mass of Earth and ~18% for mass of Earth's core, for normal ordering, with our choice of oscillation and systematic parameters

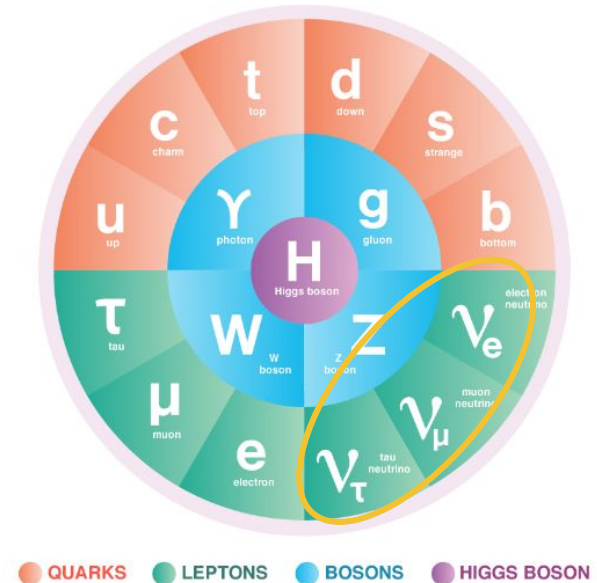
Thank You

Backup

Neutrino Oscillations and Matter Effects

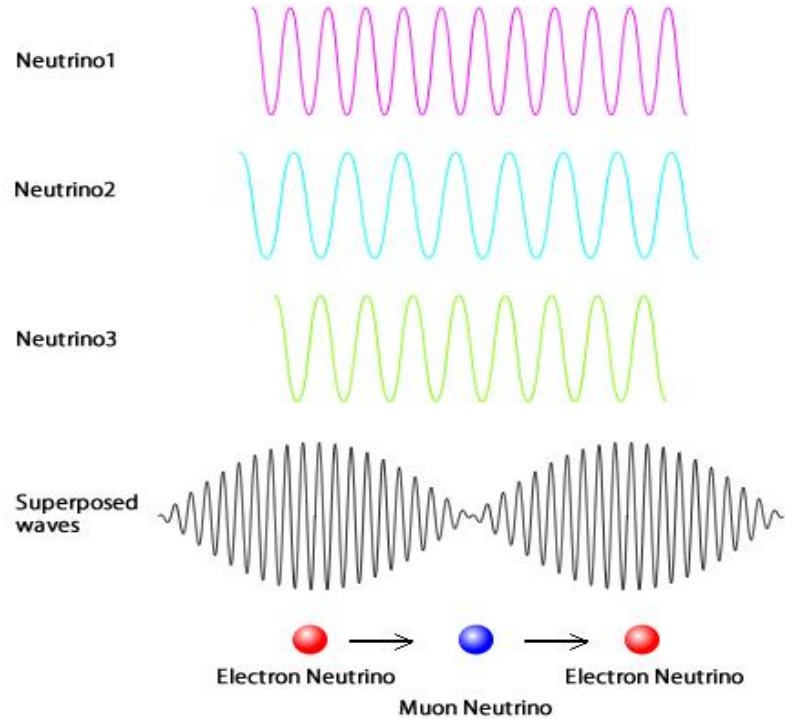
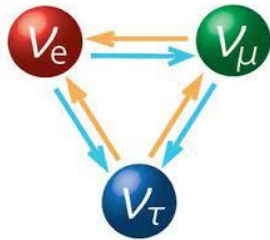
Neutrino

- Neutrinos are **fermions**. They are **neutral** particles with a **spin of $\frac{1}{2}$** . They interact only through mainly through **weak interaction**.
- They are assumed to be **massless in the Standard Model**.
- Neutrinos come in three flavors : **electron** neutrino, **muon** neutrino and **tau** neutrino



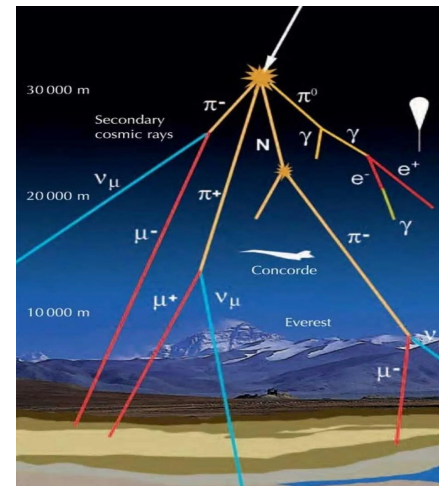
Neutrino Oscillations

- When neutrinos travel from one point to another in space, they oscillate from one flavor to another.
- This is a quantum mechanical effect
- Neutrino oscillations are possible only if neutrinos have mass.



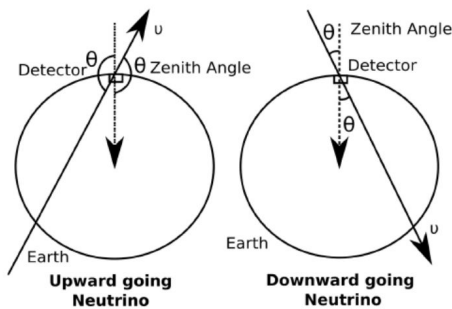
Atmospheric Neutrinos

- Produced by interaction of cosmic rays in the Earth's atmosphere.
- Advantages:
 - Wide range of baselines (15 km to 12757 km)
 - Energy (0.1 GeV to ~TeV).

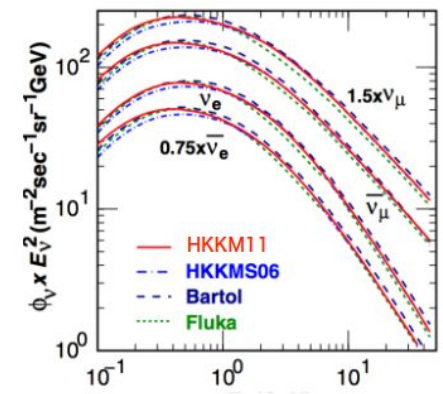


Upward going neutrino:
 $\pi/2 < \theta < \pi$; $-1 < \cos \theta < 0$

Downward going neutrino:
 $0 < \theta < \pi/2$; $0 < \cos \theta < 1$



PRD 83, 123001 (2011)



Matter Effects in Earth

- Upward-going atmospheric neutrinos travel through Earth to experience matter effect.

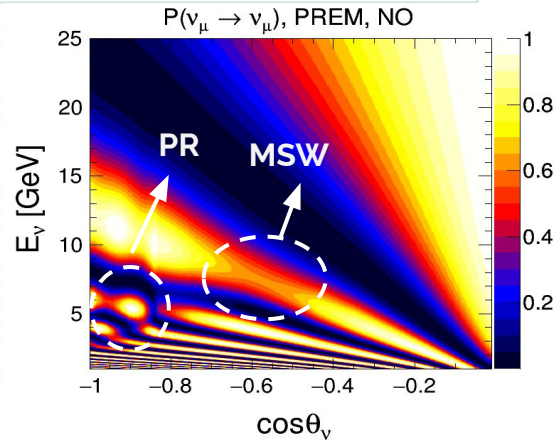
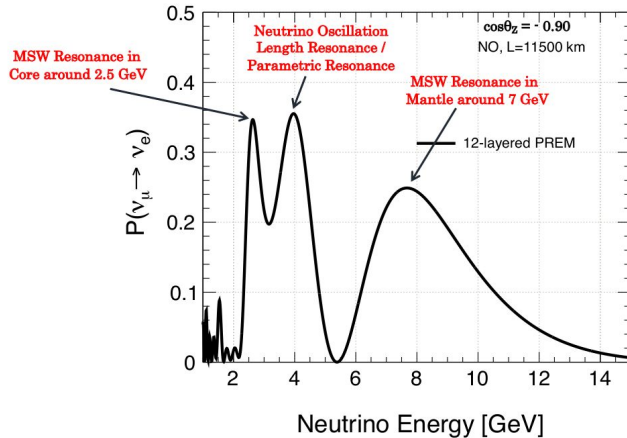
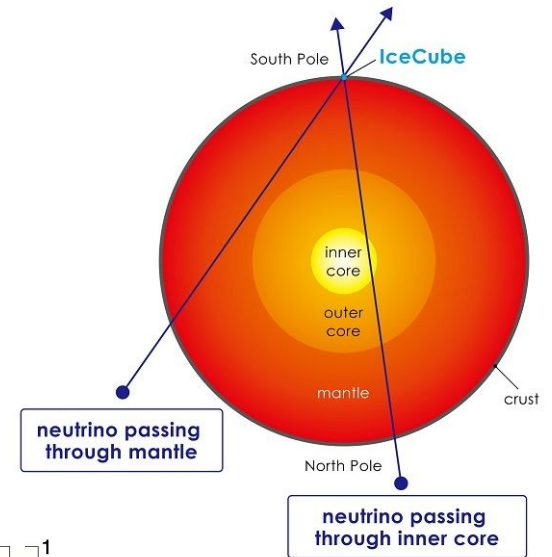
Matter effect in Earth

Mikheyev–Smirnov–Wolfenstein (MSW) effect

$(-0.8 < \cos \theta_\nu < -0.5, 6 \text{ GeV} < E_\nu < 10 \text{ GeV})$

Parametric Resonance (PR)

$(\cos \theta_\nu < -0.8, 3 \text{ GeV} < E_\nu < 6 \text{ GeV})$



$$E_{\text{MSW}} = \frac{\Delta m^2 \cos 2\theta}{2\sqrt{2}G_F N_A Y_e \rho}$$

Electron no. density Density inside Earth

Image source (top right) : [Link](#)

Statistical Method

Following Poissonian LLH

$$\text{Test Statistics (TS)} = \text{LLH} + \text{Prior pull} = \sum_{i \in \text{bins}} [-\lambda_i + x_i \ln(\lambda_i) - \ln(x_i!)] + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in \text{sys}} \frac{(p_j - \hat{p}_j)^2}{\sigma_j^2}$$

x_i - Observed value of i^{th} bin

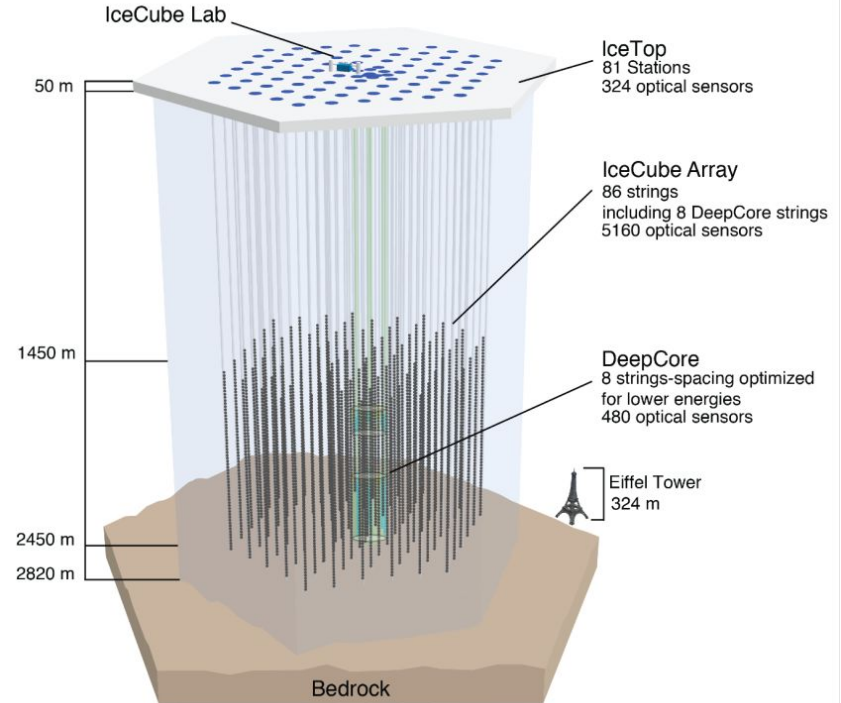
λ_i - Expected value of i^{th} bin

p_j , \hat{p}_j , and σ_j^2 are the nominal, best-fit, and Gaussian prior of j^{th} systematics, respectively

The IceCube Detector

IceCube-DeepCore

- 1 km³ neutrino detector at South Pole.
- 5160 DOMs - deployed between 1450 m and 2450 m below the surface of the ice on 86 vertical strings.
- DeepCore DOMs placed deeper than 1750 m.
 - 8 closely spaced strings.
 - 7 IceCube strings.
- 8 DeepCore strings.
 - Bottom 50 DOMs - spacing of 7 m (depth 2100 m - 2450 m).
 - Top 10 DOMs - spacing of 10 m (depth < 2000 m), form a veto cap.



Binning and Test Statistic

- Signals for matter effect related studies predominantly come from lower energy ($3 < E < 8$ GeV) and $\cos(\text{zenith}) < -0.6$.
- Binning optimized to have fine binning.

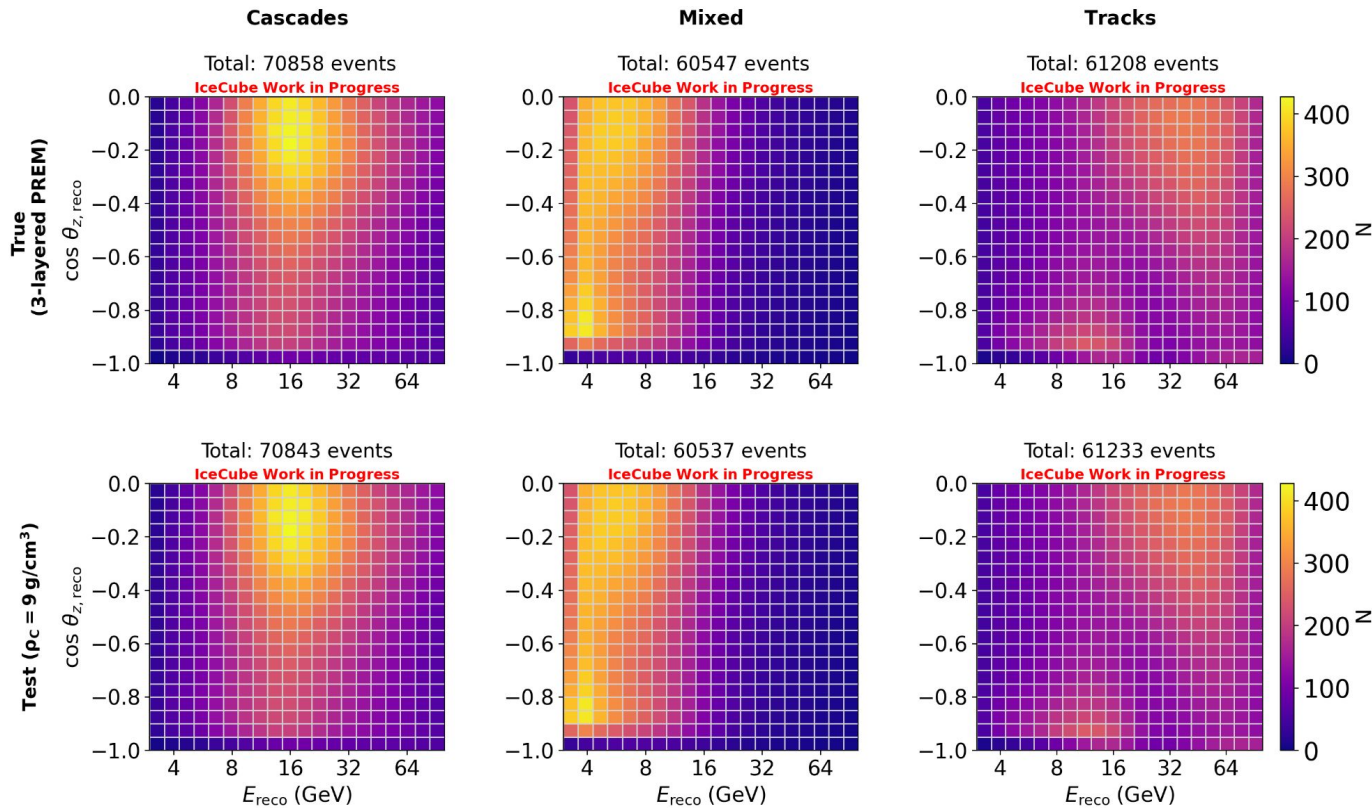
Optimized binning

Observables	Number of Bins	Range	Step
Energy	20	[3, 100] GeV	log
$\cos(\text{zenith})$	20	[-1, 0]	linear
PID	3	[0, 0.33, 0.39, 1] [Cascade, Mixed, Track]	linear

Test Statistic used : Log Likelihood (LLH)

Used Wilks theorem to determine the test statistic value that corresponds to 1σ or 68% C.L.

Mass of Core : Expected Event Distributions, NO



True Profile:

$\rho_{C, \text{avg}} = 11.04 \text{ g/cm}^3$

$\rho_{\text{IM}, \text{avg}} = 4.92 \text{ g/cm}^3$

$\rho_{\text{OM}, \text{avg}} = 3.55 \text{ g/cm}^3$

Test Profile:

$\rho_C = 9 \text{ g/cm}^3$

$\rho_{\text{IM}} = 6.22 \text{ g/cm}^3$

$\rho_{\text{OM}} = 2.18 \text{ g/cm}^3$

- PREM & Test hypo.: For true values of all oscillation and systematic parameters