



# *MCEq and a universal treatment for systematic errors*

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# Origin of the series of models, methods and tools



Hans  
Dembinski



Anatoli  
Fedynitch



Ralph  
Engel



Thomas K.  
Gaisser



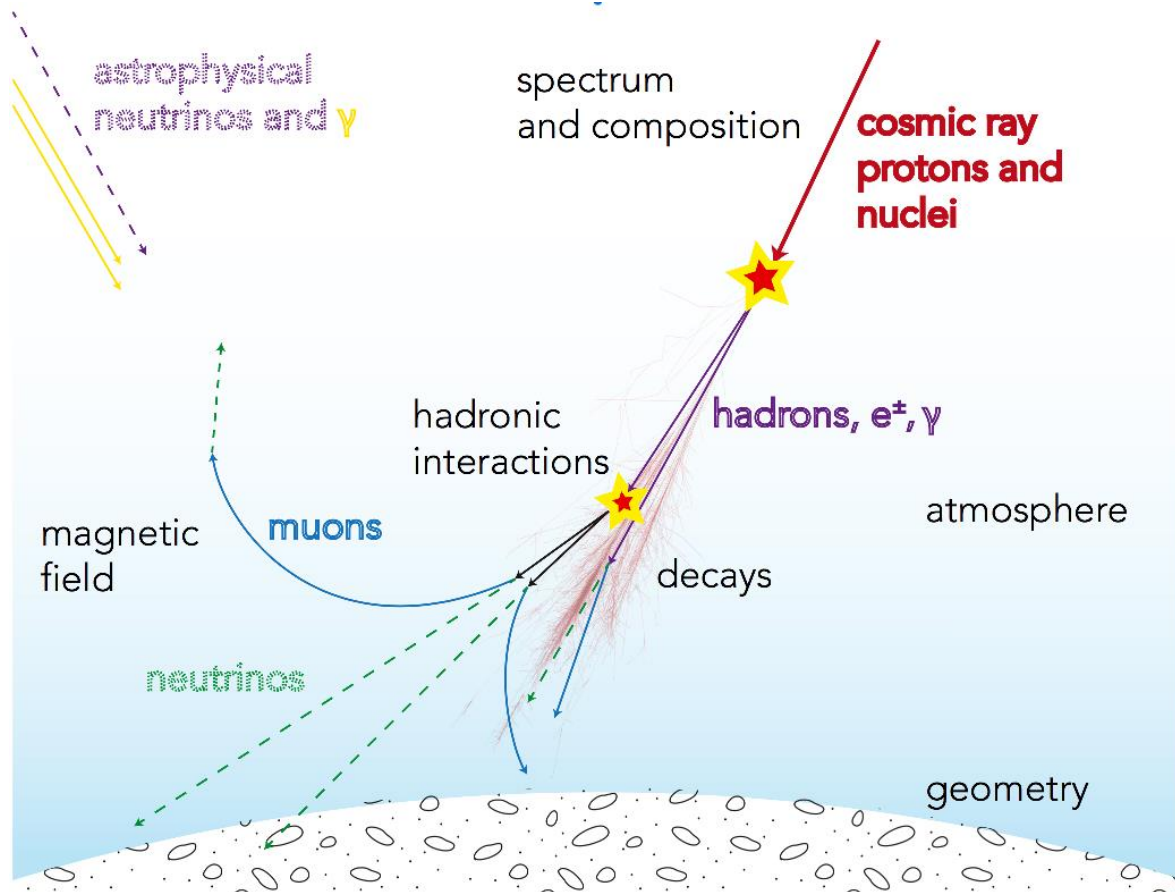
Felix  
Riehn



Todor  
Stanev

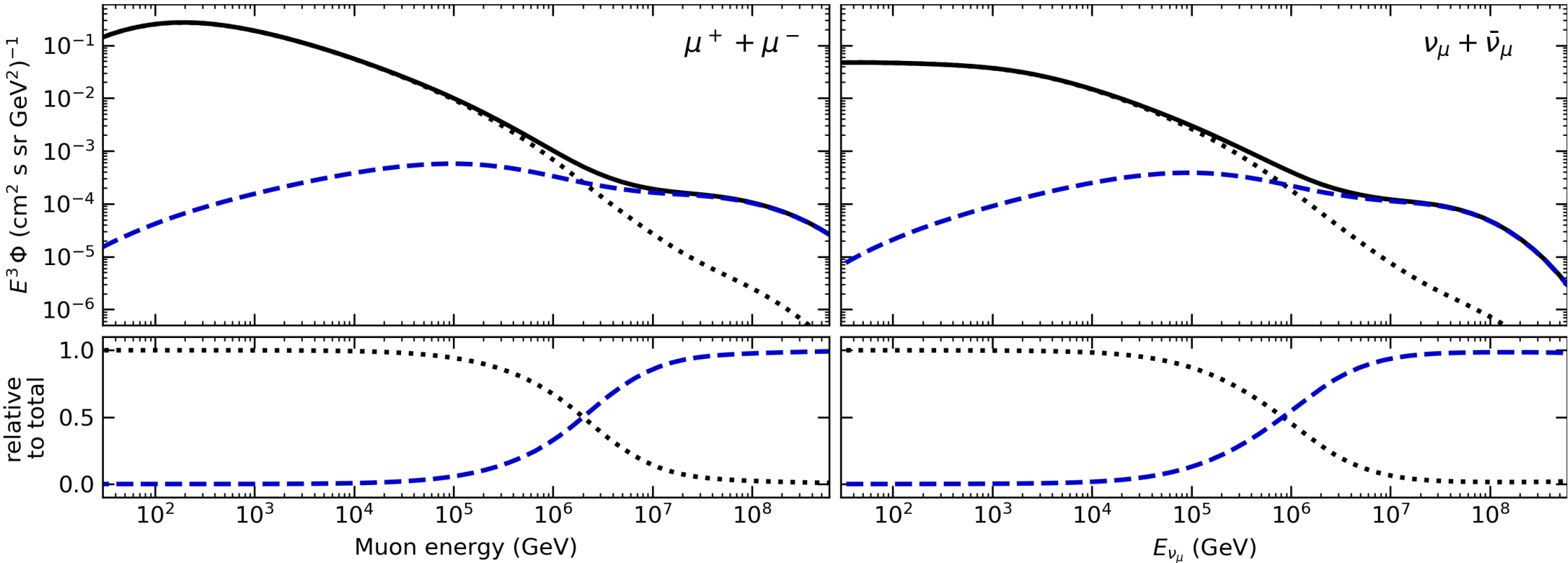
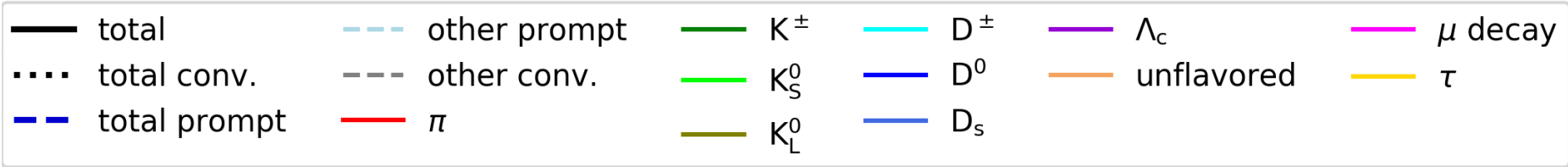
# Atmospheric neutrinos

## Ingredients for high-precision atmospheric neutrino flux calculation



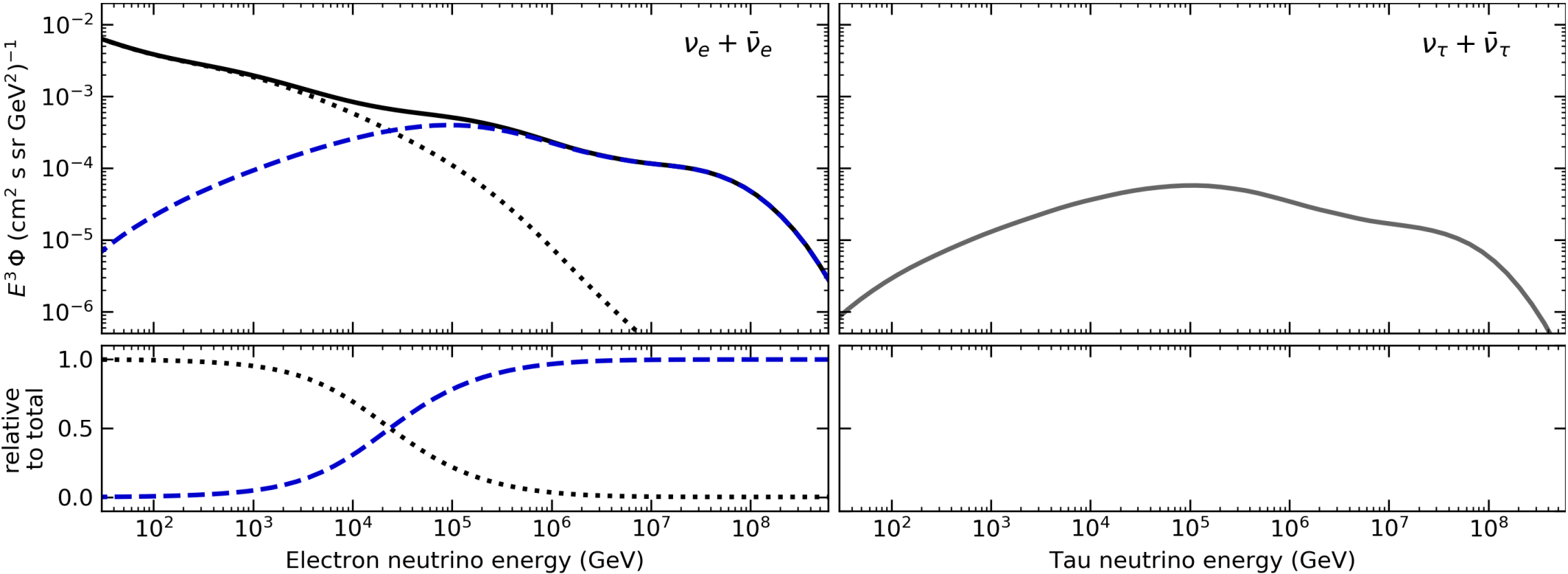
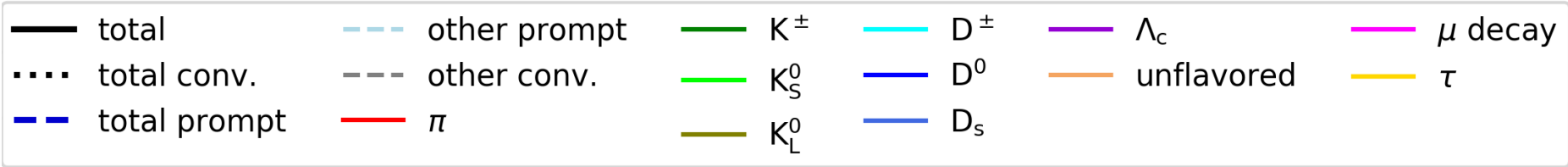
- For high precision calculations all phenomena need accurate modeling
- Uncertain “ingredients”:
  - Cosmic ray spectrum and composition
  - Hadronic interactions
  - Atmosphere (dynamic, depends on use case)
  - (Rare) decays
  - Geometry, magnetic fields, solar modulation
- No clear prescription how to handle uncertainties.
- Energy range MeV – EeV!

# Hadrons contributing to muonic leptons

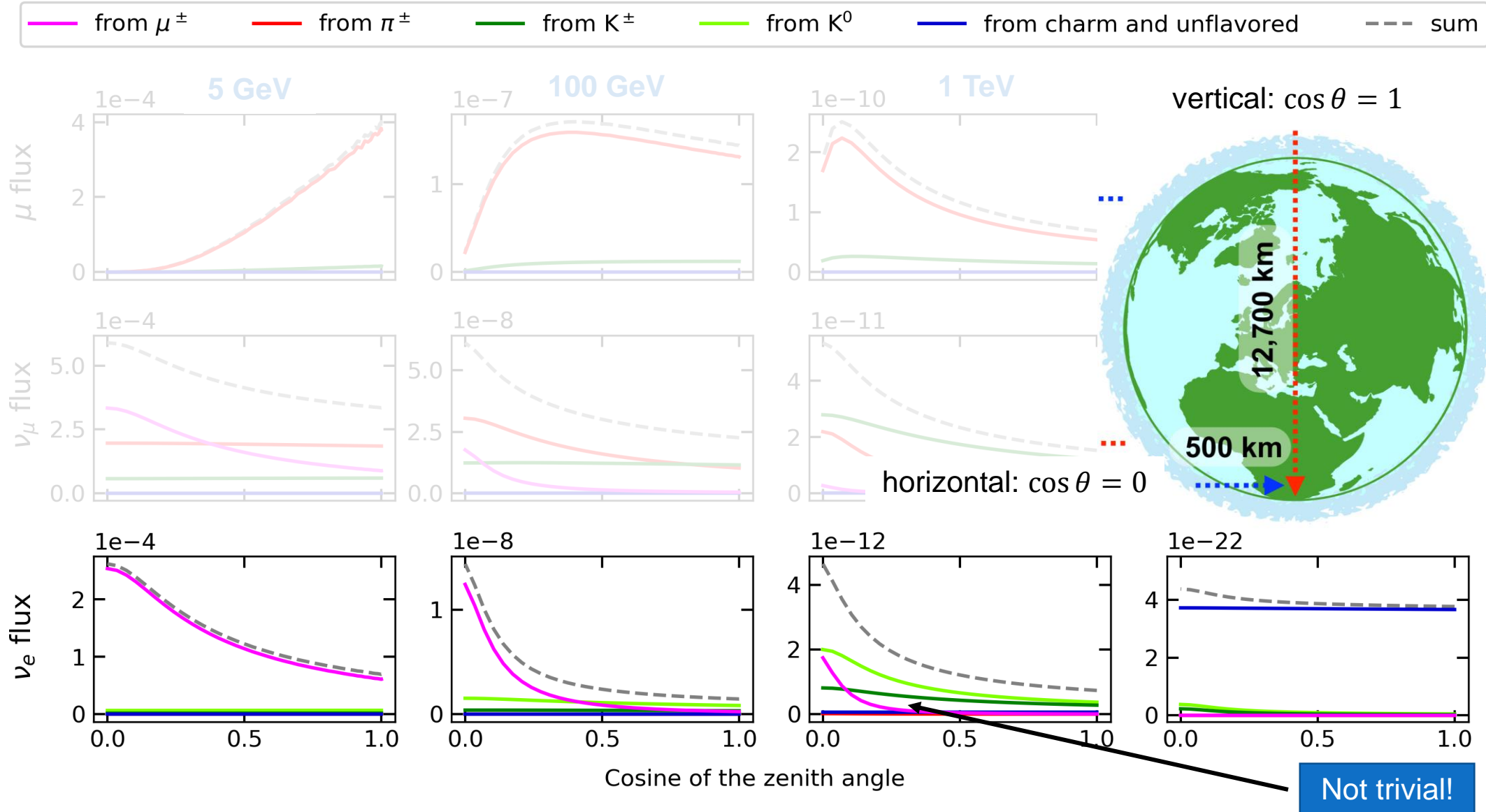


# Hadrons contributing to electron and tau neutrinos

arXiv:1806.04140



# Different hadronic components shape the zenith distribution



# Transport equations (hadronic cascade equations)

System of coupled non-linear PDE for each particle species  $h$  :

$$\frac{d\Phi_h(E, X)}{dX} = - \frac{\Phi_h(E, X)}{\lambda_{\text{int},h}(E)} - \frac{\Phi_h(E, X)}{\lambda_{\text{dec},h}(E, X)} - \frac{\partial}{\partial E} (\mu(E)\Phi_h(E, X)) + \sum_k \int_E^\infty dE_k \frac{dN_{k(E_k) \rightarrow h(E)}}{dE} \frac{\Phi_k(E_k, X)}{\lambda_{\text{int},k}(E_k)} + \sum_k \int_E^\infty dE_k \frac{dN_{k(E_k) \rightarrow h(E)}^{\text{dec}}}{dE} \frac{\Phi_k(E_k, X)}{\lambda_{\text{dec},k}(E_k, X)}$$

cosmic ray physics

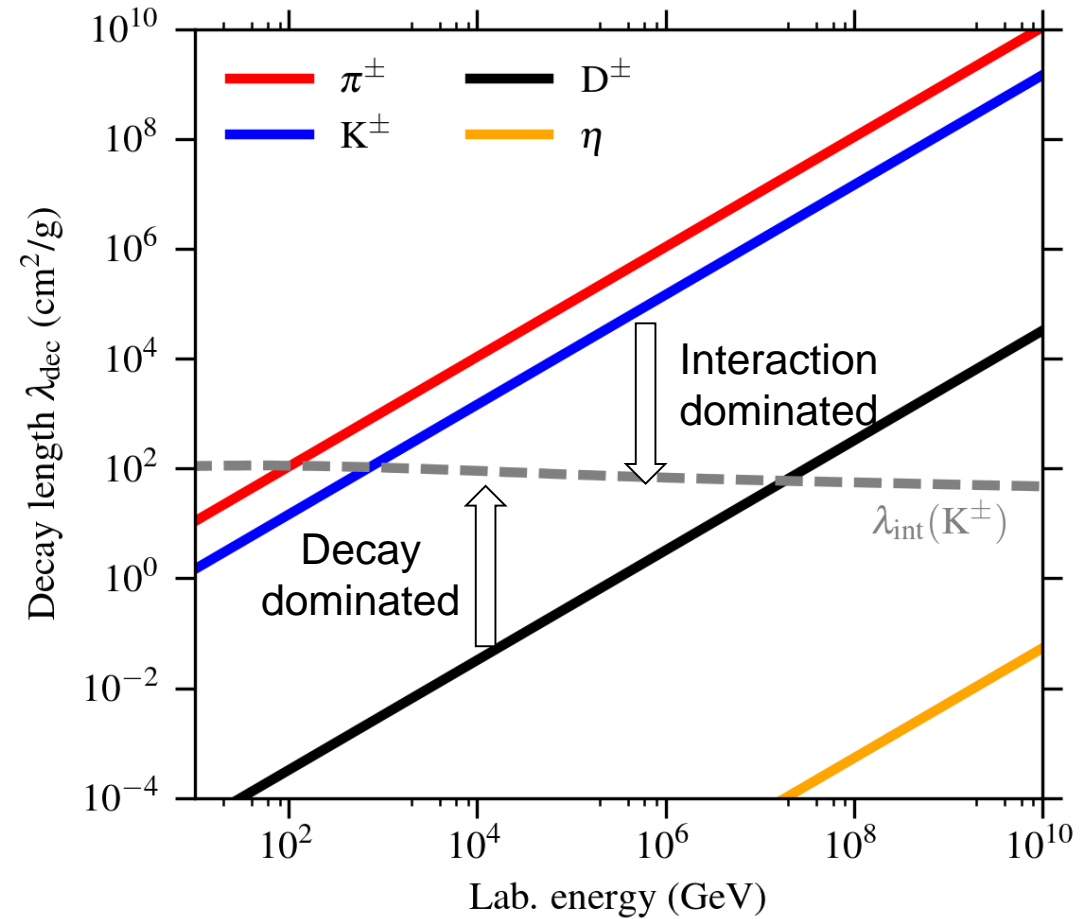
Interactions with air

Decays

atmospheric physics

Continuous losses

particle physics



$$X(h_0) = \int_0^{h_0} dl \rho_{\text{air}}(l)$$

# MCEq: Matrix Cascade Equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Phi_h(E, X)}{dX} = & - \frac{\Phi_h(E, X)}{\lambda_{\text{int},h}(E)} \\ & - \frac{\Phi_h(E, X)}{\lambda_{\text{dec},h}(E, X)} \\ & - \frac{\partial}{\partial E}(\mu(E)\Phi_h(E, X)) \\ & + \sum_{\ell} \int_E^{\infty} dE_{\ell} \frac{dN_{\ell(E_{\ell}) \rightarrow h(E)}}{dE} \frac{\Phi_{\ell}(E_{\ell}, X)}{\lambda_{\text{int},\ell}(E_{\ell})} \\ & + \sum_{\ell} \int_E^{\infty} dE_{\ell} \frac{dN_{\ell(E_{\ell}) \rightarrow h(E)}^{\text{dec}}}{dE} \frac{\Phi_{\ell}(E_{\ell}, X)}{\lambda_{\text{dec},\ell}(E_{\ell}, X)} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Phi_{E_i}^h}{dX} = & - \frac{\Phi_{E_i}^h}{\lambda_{\text{int},E_i}^h} \\ & - \frac{\Phi_{E_i}^h}{\lambda_{\text{dec},E_i}^h(X)} \\ & - \vec{\nabla}_i(\mu_{E_i}^h \Phi_{E_i}^h) \\ & + \sum_{E_k \geq E_i}^{E_N} \sum_{\ell} \frac{C_{\ell(E_k) \rightarrow h(E_i)}}{\lambda_{\text{int},E_k}^{\ell}} \Phi_{E_k}^{\ell} \\ & + \sum_{E_k \geq E_i}^{E_N} \sum_{\ell} \frac{d_{\ell(E_k) \rightarrow h(E_i)}}{\lambda_{\text{dec},E_k}^{\ell}(X)} \Phi_{E_k}^{\ell} \end{aligned}$$

## State (or flux) vector

$$\vec{\Phi} = \left( \vec{\Phi}^{\text{p}} \quad \vec{\Phi}^{\text{n}} \quad \vec{\Phi}^{\pi^+} \quad \dots \quad \vec{\Phi}^{\bar{\nu}_{\mu}} \quad \dots \right)^T$$

$$\vec{\Phi}^{\text{p}} = \left( \Phi_{E_0}^{\text{p}} \quad \Phi_{E_1}^{\text{p}} \quad \dots \quad \Phi_{E_N}^{\text{p}} \right)^T$$

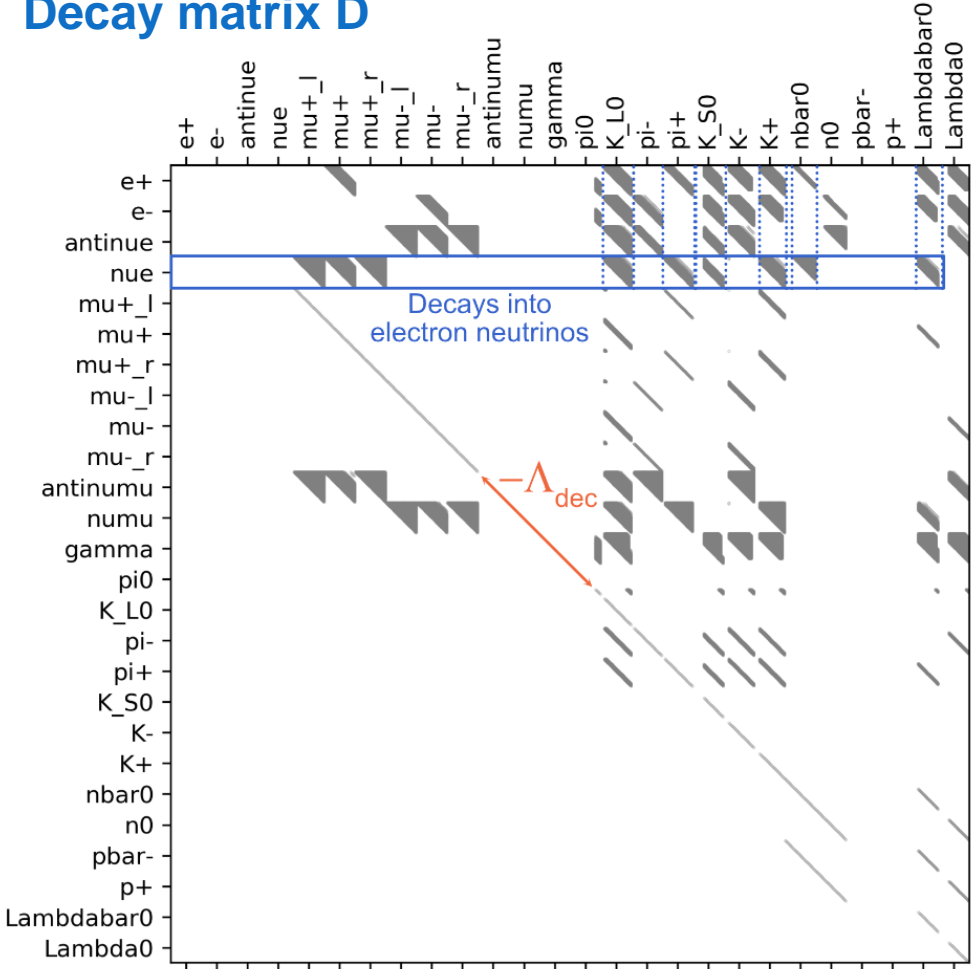
## “Matrix form”

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dX} \vec{\Phi} = & - \vec{\nabla}_E (\text{diag}(\vec{\mu}) \vec{\Phi}) + (-\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{C}) \mathbf{\Lambda}_{\text{int}} \vec{\Phi} \\ & + \frac{1}{\rho(X)} (-\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{D}) \mathbf{\Lambda}_{\text{dec}} \vec{\Phi} \end{aligned}$$

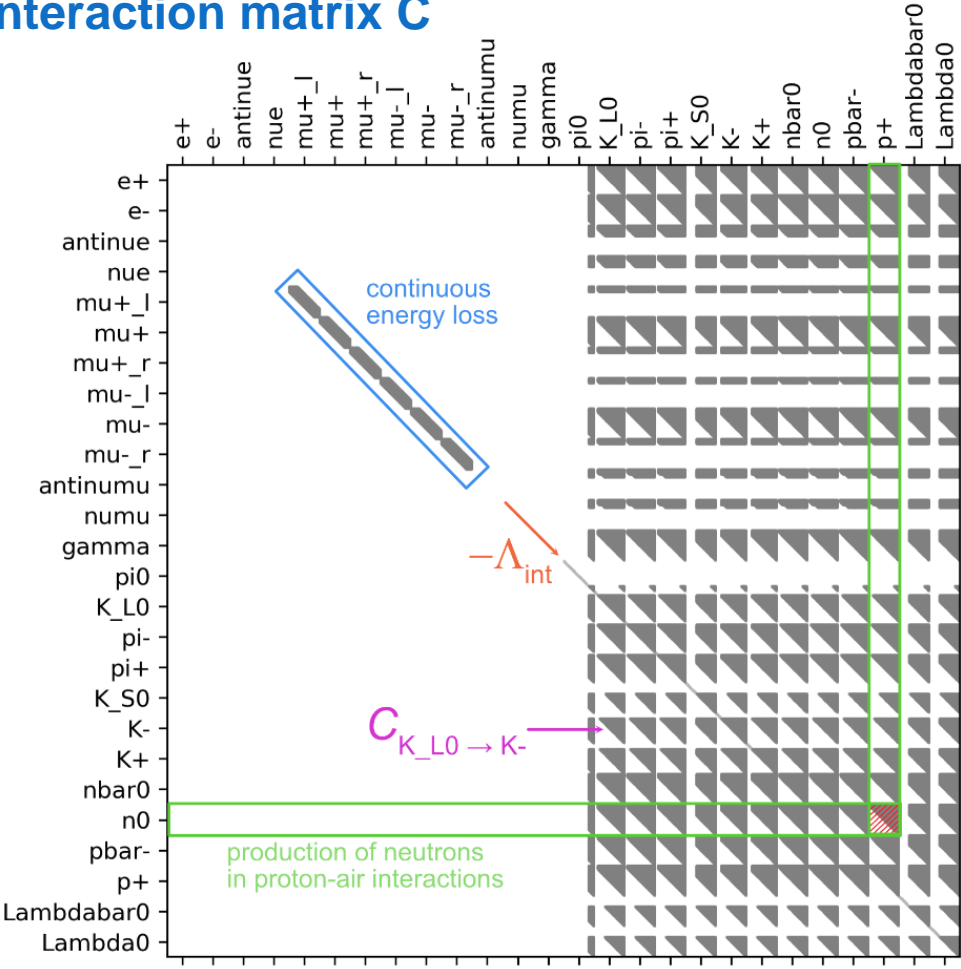


# Sparse matrix structure

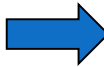
## Decay matrix D



## Interaction matrix C



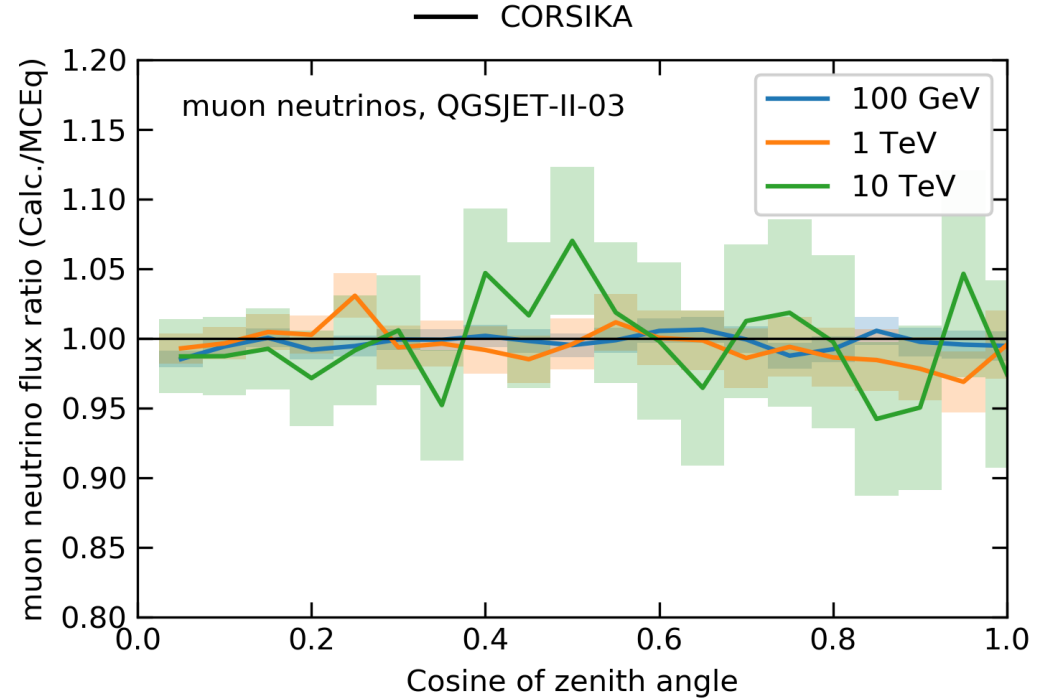
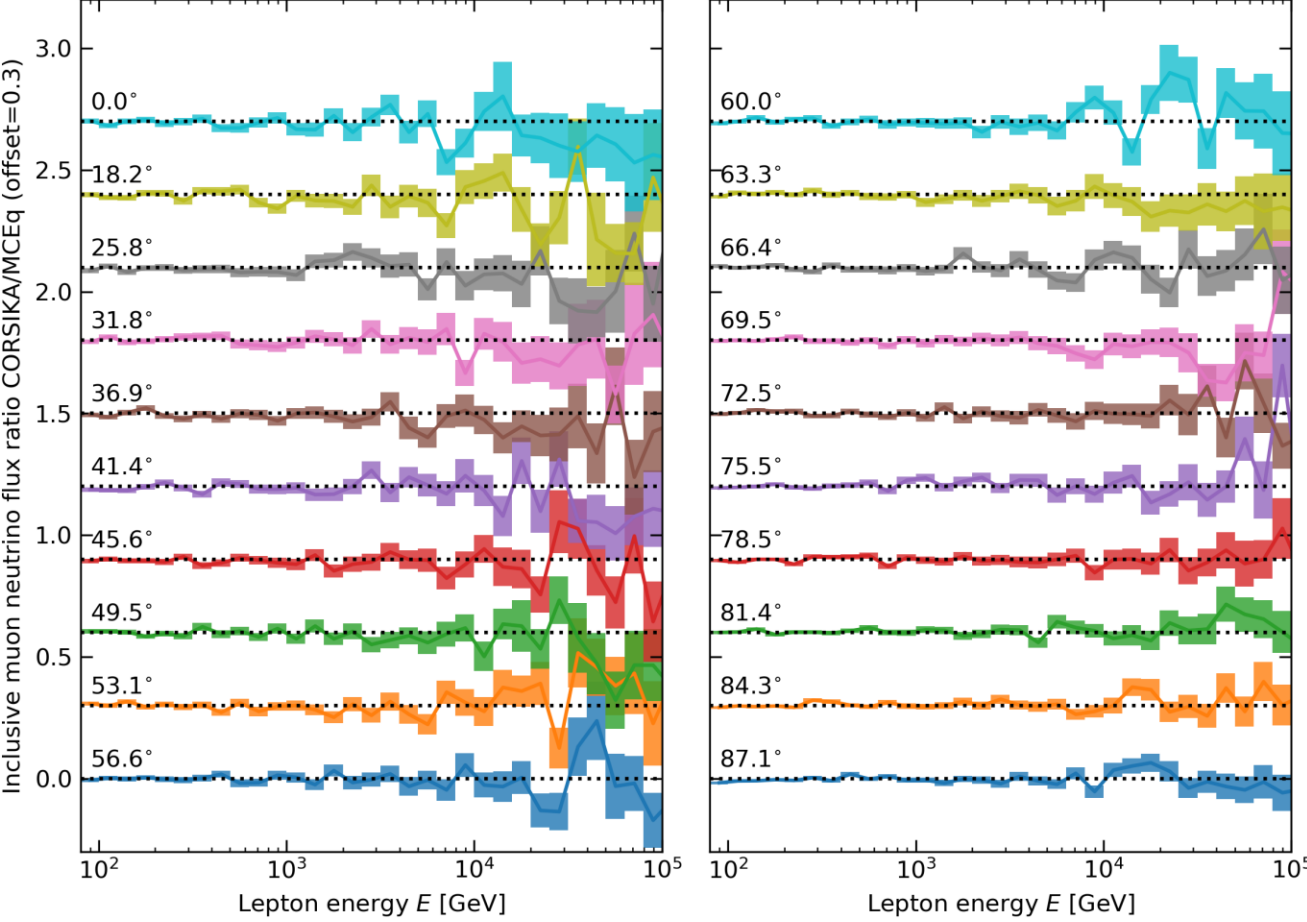
matrices are sparse



high performance

# MCEq vs (thinned) CORSIKA calculation in 1D

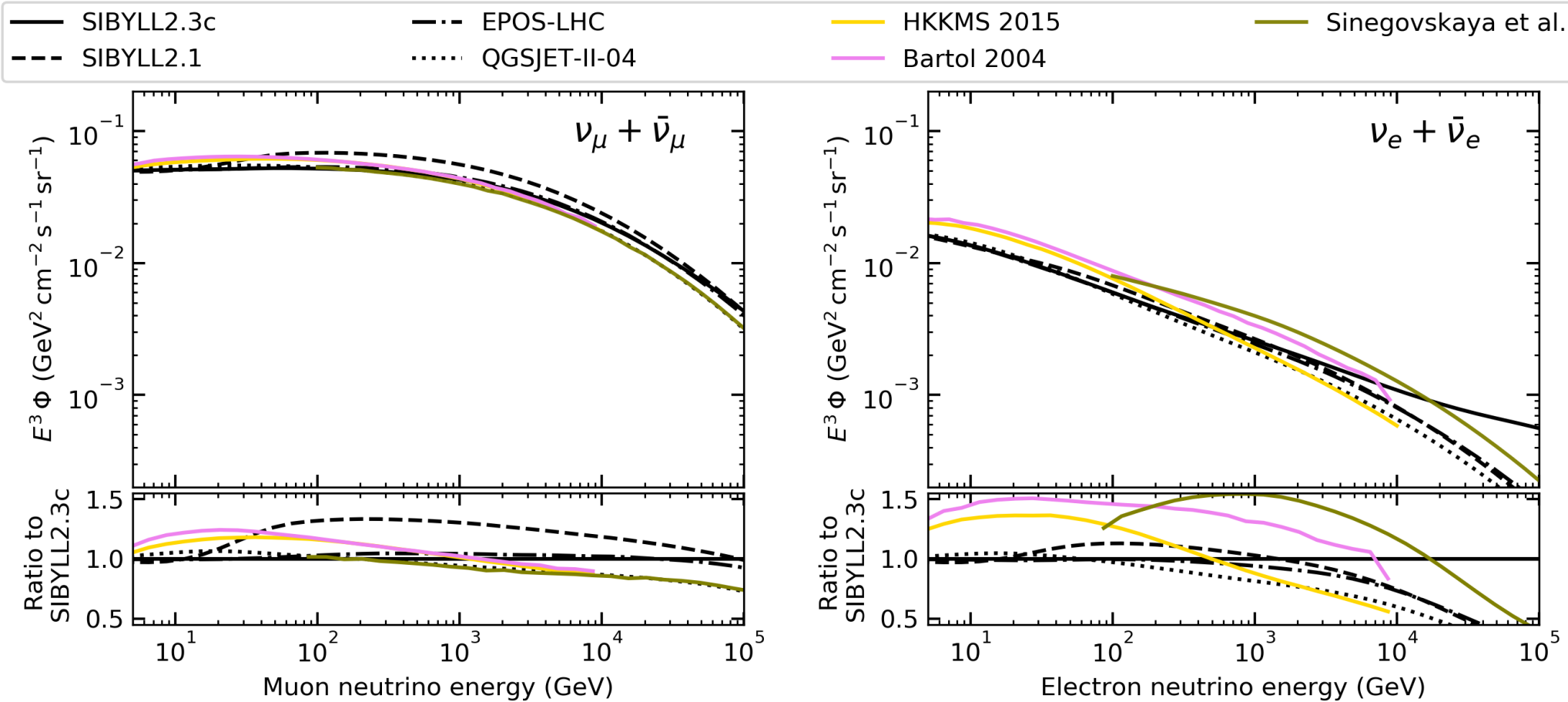
Inclusive muon neutrino flux ratio CORSIKA/MCEQ. QGSJET-II-03 + H3a.



> BSD licensed @ <https://github.com/afedynitch/MCEq>

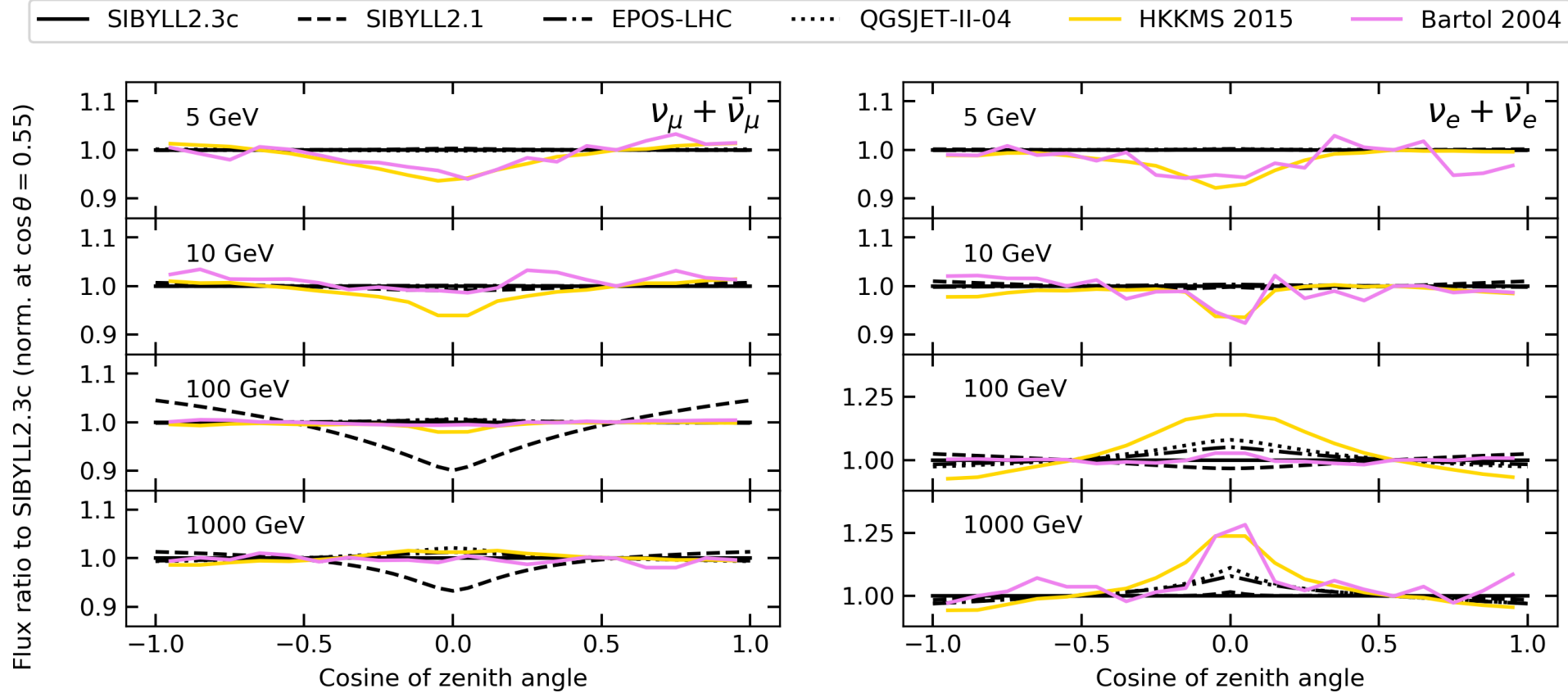
# MCEq vs. traditional calculations

HKMS: M. Honda et al., PRD 92 (2015)  
 Bartol: G. Barr et al., PRD 70 (2004)  
 Sinigovskaya et al. PRD 91 (2015)  
 MCEq: AF, R. Engel in prep.



- Old 2002 (GH) primary model for HKMS and Bartol, H3a for the rest
- Data can not discriminate between calculations
- Shown are zenith and azimuth averages

# Hadronic model dependence of zenith distributions

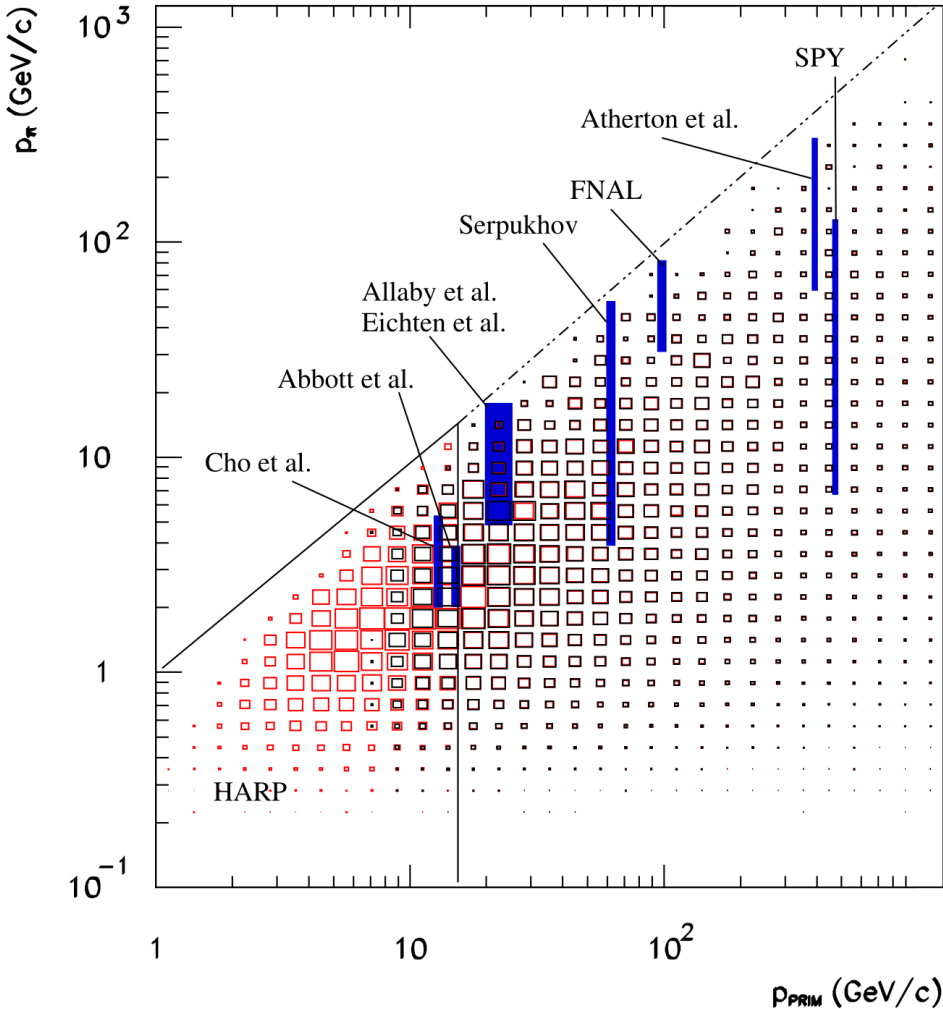


- Good agreement above tens of GeV for muon neutrinos
- Some tension between calculations at the horizon in electron neutrinos
- Affected by K/Pi,  $K^+/K^0_L$  ratios

# Hadronic uncertainties: re-spin of Barr et al. approach

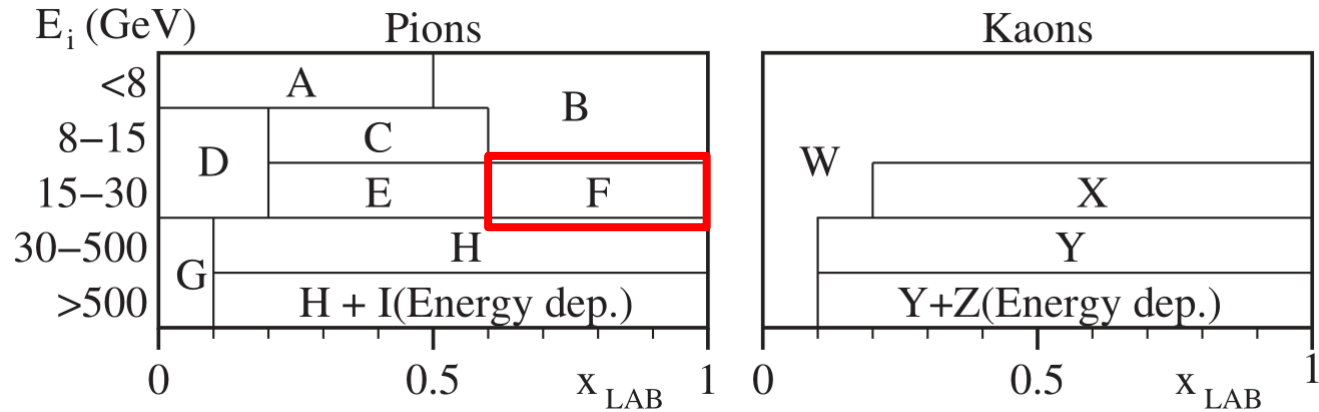
- “*Uncertainties in atmospheric neutrino fluxes*”, G. D. Barr, S. Robbins, T. K. Gaisser, and T. Stanev, Phys. Rev. D 74, 094009 (2006) (extensive discussion also in Sanuki et al. PRD 75 (2007))
- Cut phase-space in regions/slices in  $E_{\text{lab}}$  and  $x_{\text{lab}}$  and **assign** uncertainty to each slice (uncorrelated)
- Uncertainty assigned by hand and not derived from data. Assignment based on availability of data, not how well the model [TARGET2.1] describes it
- Many “free” parameters with unclear correlations

PHYSICAL REVIEW D 74, 094009 (2006)

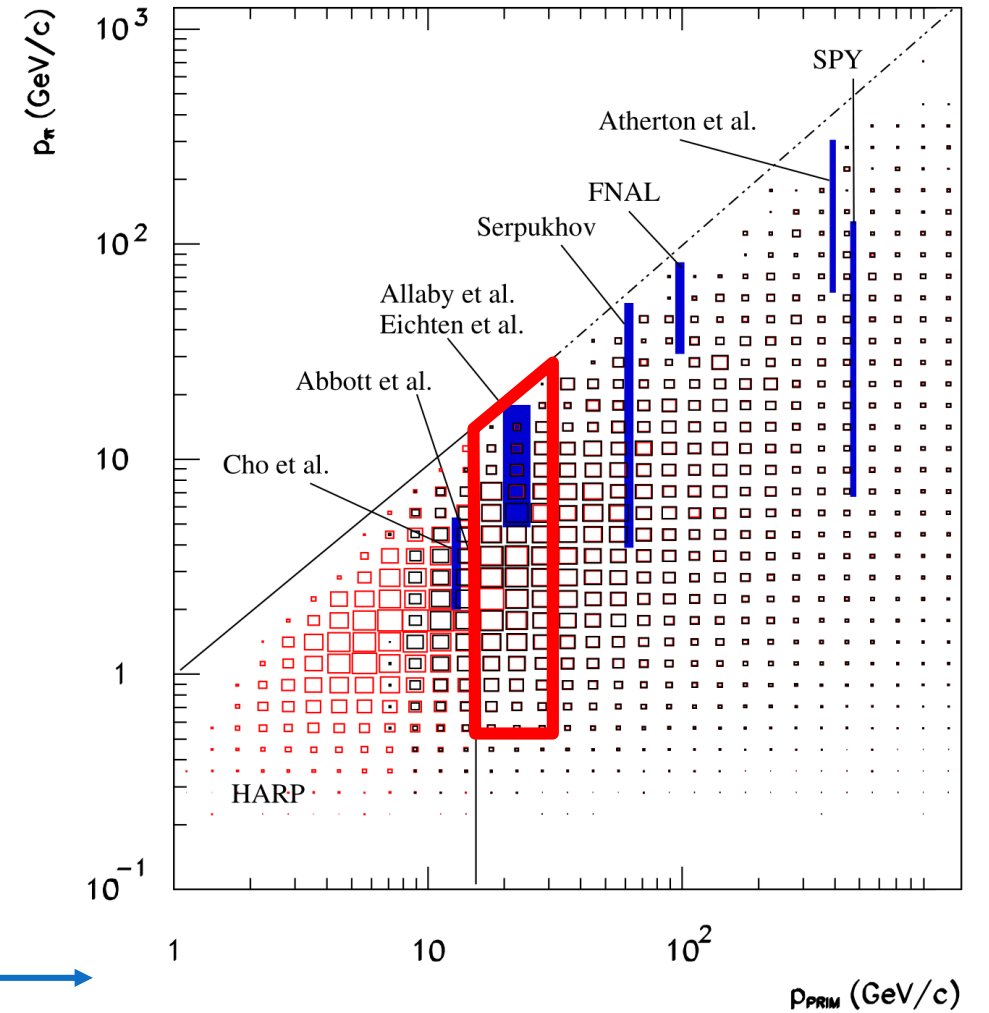


# Phase space regions

“Barr regions”



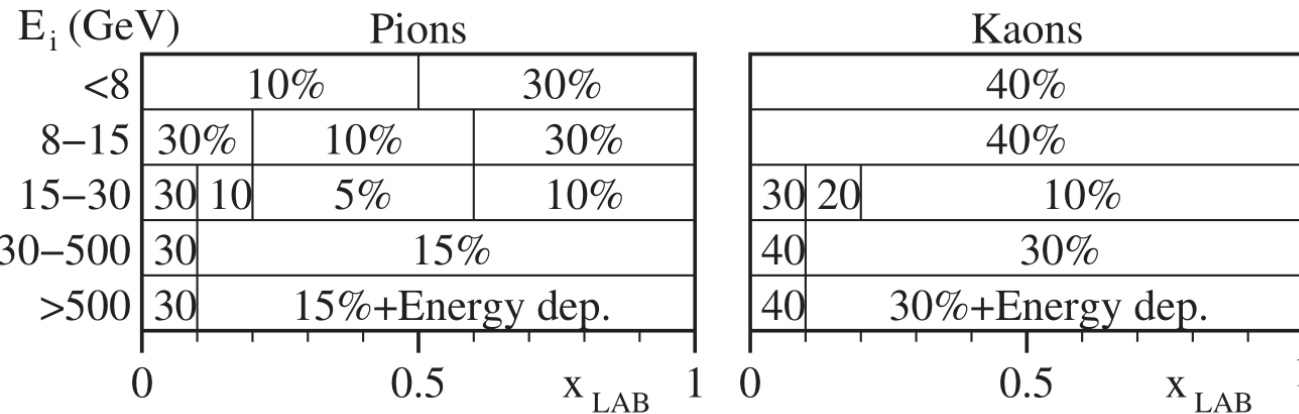
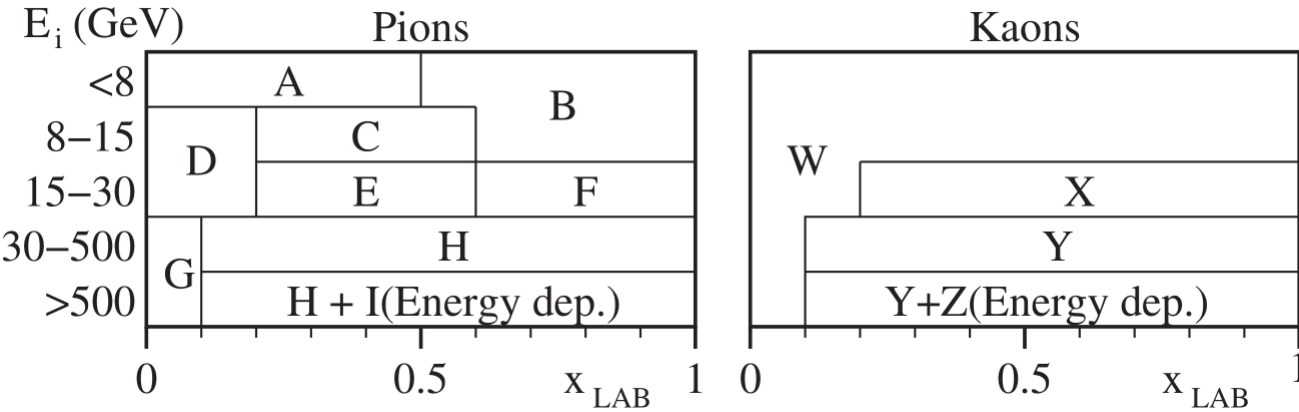
PHYSICAL REVIEW D **74**, 094009 (2006)



Same axes as in the MCEq matrices

# MCEq-based implementation

## “Barr regions”



- Compute partial derivatives wrt. phase-space regions (Taylor expansion), i.e.  $\frac{\partial \Phi_\nu}{\partial W}$
- No correlations between phase-space regions (as in Barr et al.) or add. correlations

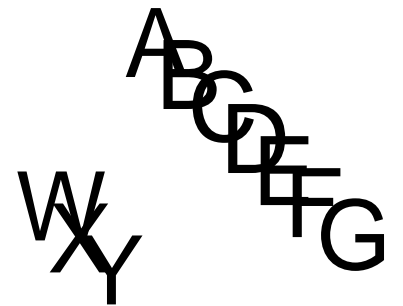
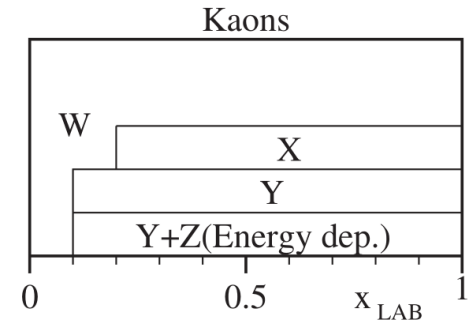
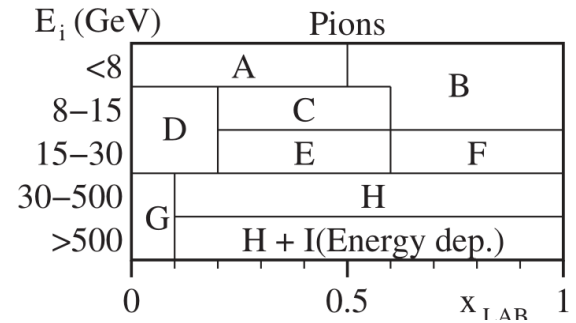
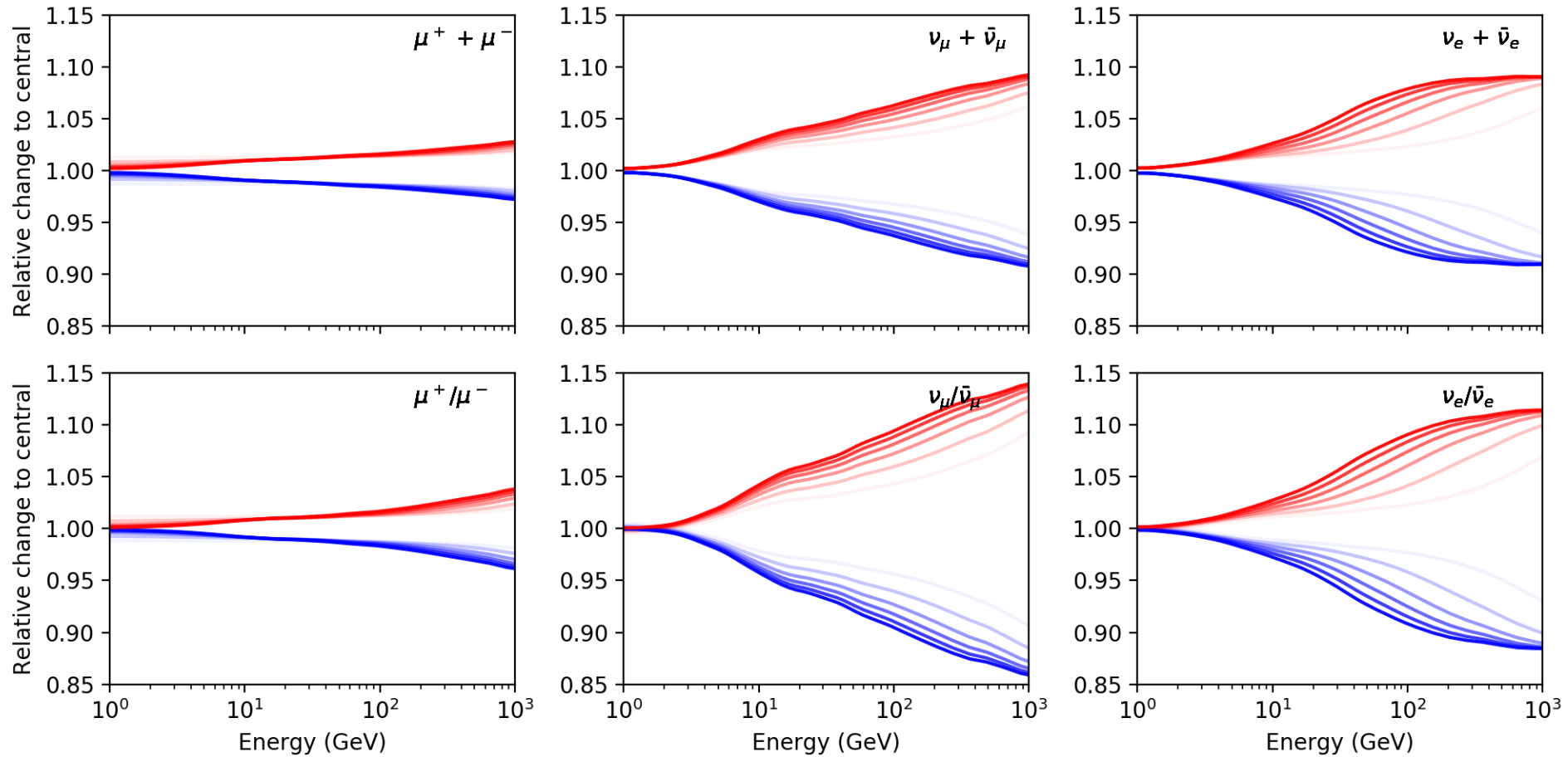
Elements of Jacobian (numerical)

$$J_{E_{ij}} = \frac{\partial \Phi_\nu(E_i)}{\partial p} = \frac{\Phi_\nu(\delta p_j+) - \Phi_\nu(\delta p_j-)}{2\delta p_j}$$

Error propagation

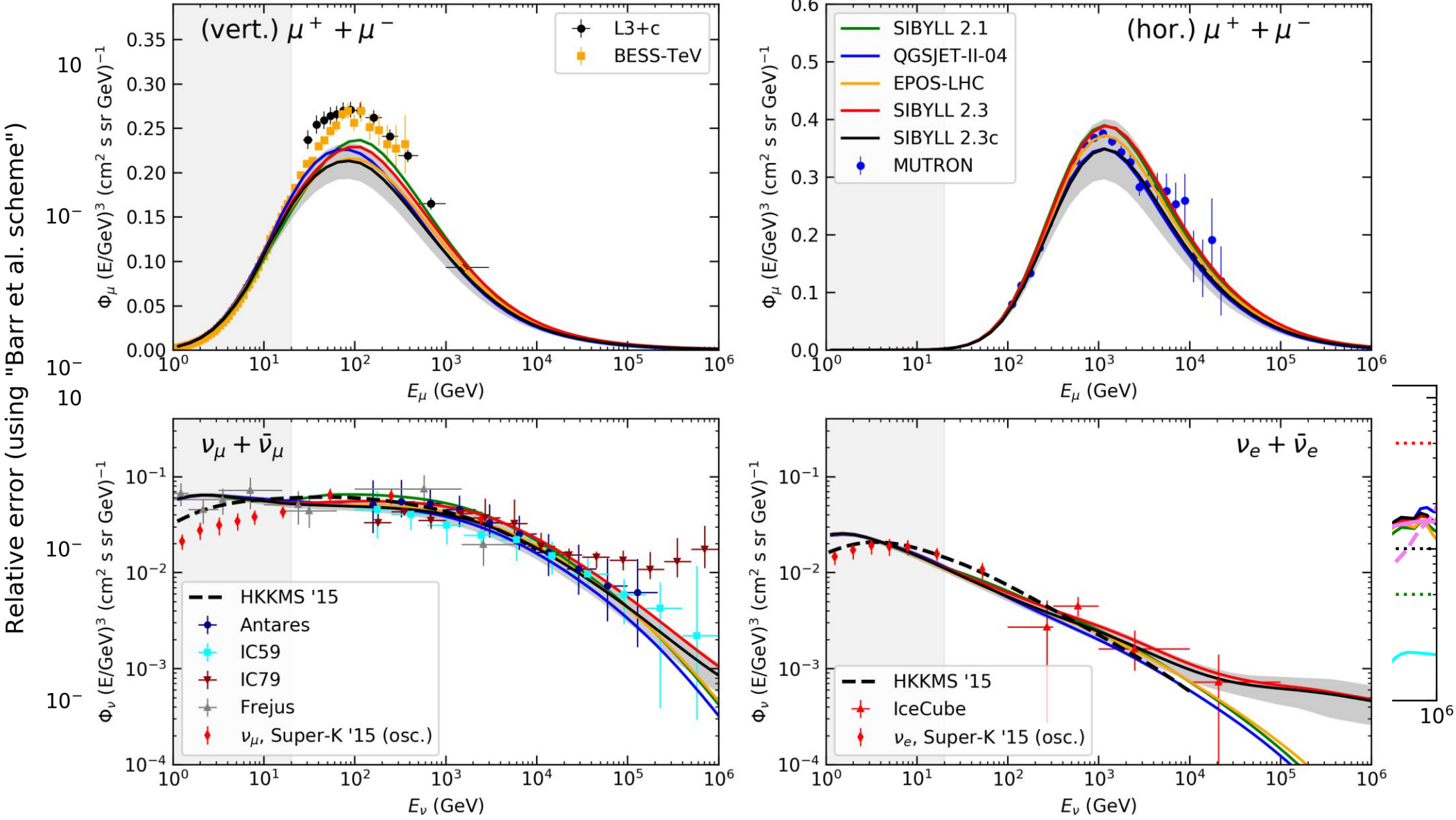
$$\text{cov}[\Phi_\nu(E_i), \Phi_\nu(E_j)] = \sum_{mn} J_{E_i m} J_{E_j n} \text{cov}[p_m, p_l]$$

# ... impact on flux

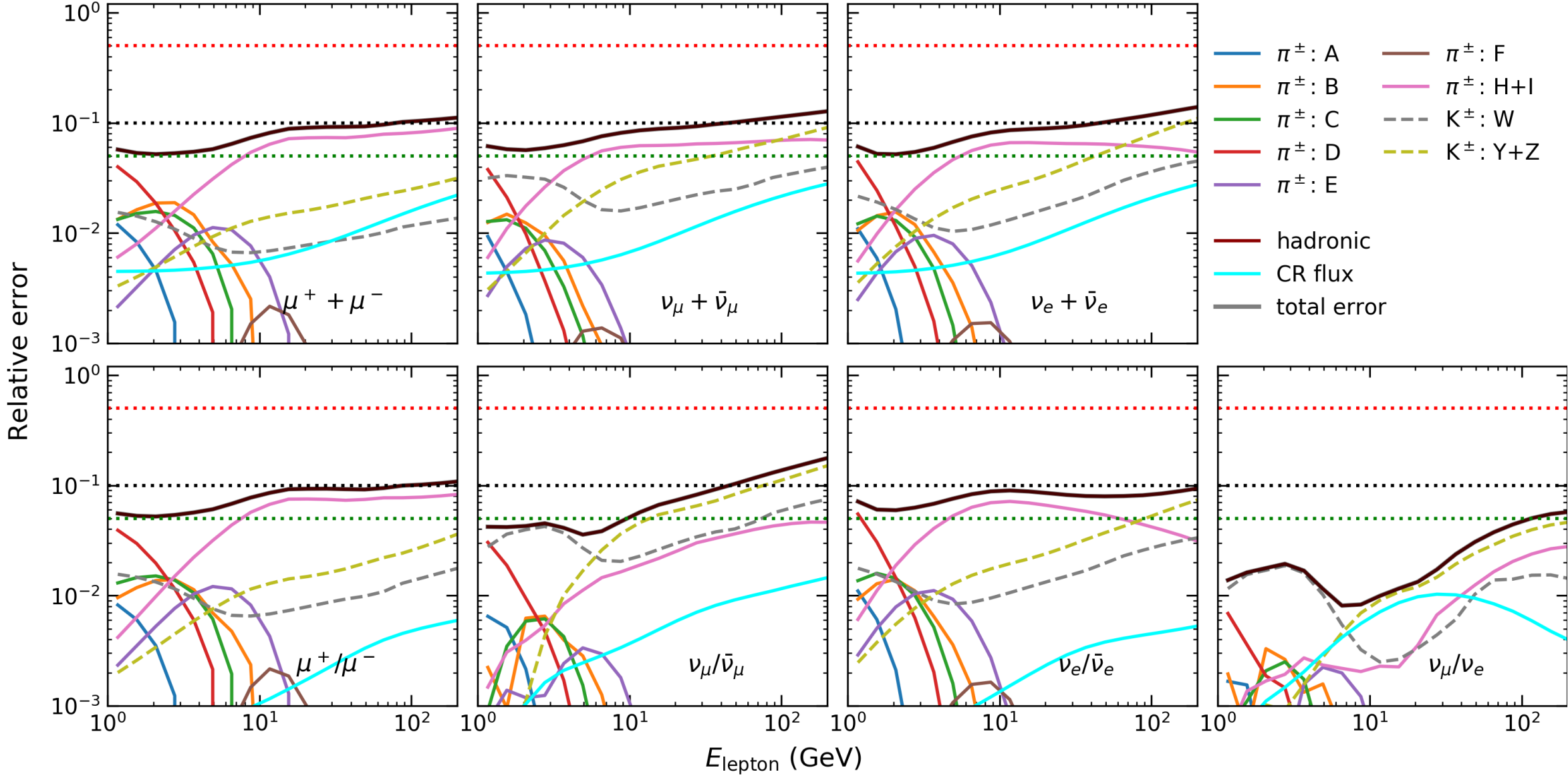




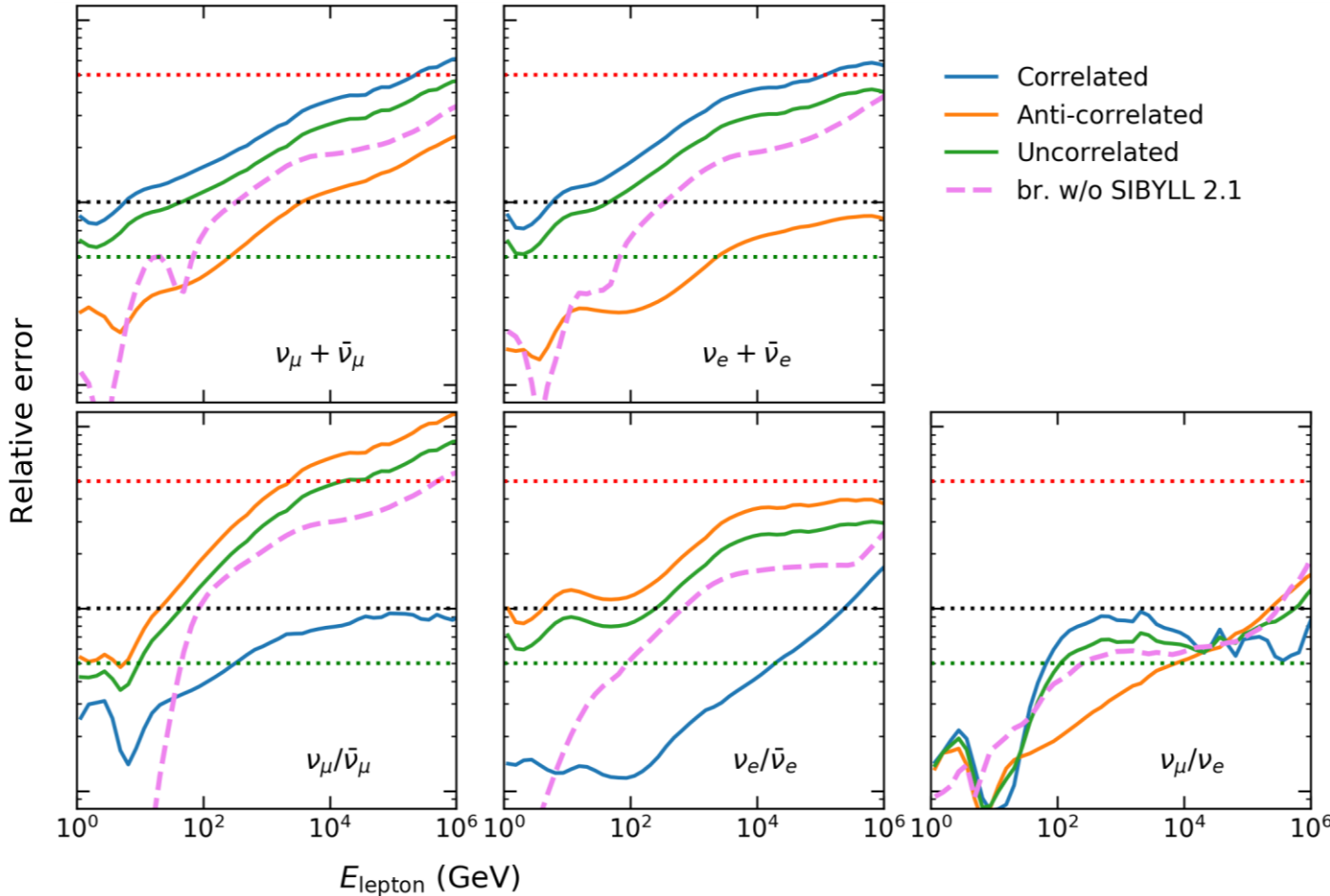
# Computation of error bands through error propagation



# Contribution of individual “Barr groups”



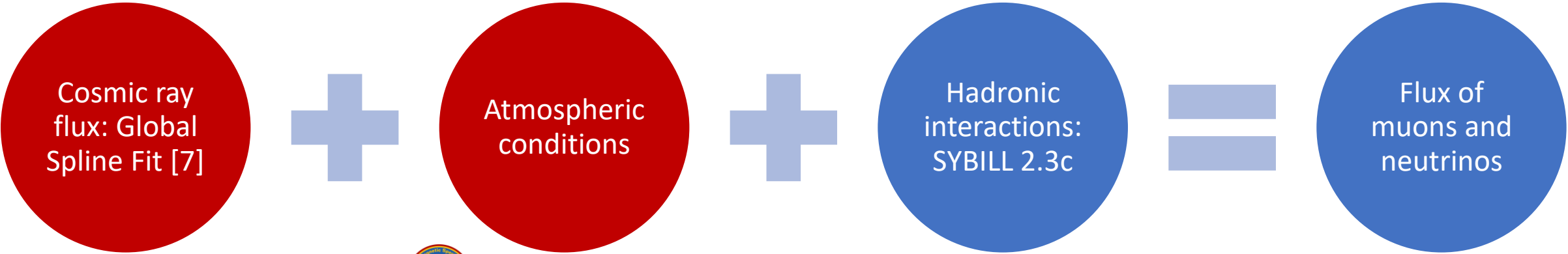
# Correlations between phase-space patches unclear



Examples	For one “Barr” - parameters
symmetric	$\rho\pi^+\uparrow \ n\pi^+\uparrow \ \rho\pi^-\uparrow \ n\pi^-\uparrow$
asymmetric	$\rho\pi^+\uparrow \ n\pi^+\uparrow \ \rho\pi^-\downarrow \ n\pi^-\downarrow$
uncorrelated	$\rho\pi^+\uparrow \ n\pi^+0 \ \rho\pi^-0 \ n\pi^-0$

- The production of charged secondaries is physically not independent
- It is very difficult to extract this information from hadronic interaction models directly

# Calibration of $\nu$ uncertainties with “global fit” to $\mu$ data



Experiment	Energy (GeV)	Measurements	Reported unit	Location	Altitude	Zenith range
AMS-02	0.1-2500	Flux & charge ratio	rigidity	28.57°N , 80.65° W	5 m (sea level)	
BESS-TeV	0.6-400	Flux	momentum	36.2°N, 140.1°W	30 m	0-25.8°
CMS	5-1000	Charge ratio	momentum	46.31°N, 6.071°E	420 m	$p \cos \theta_z$
L3+C	20-3000	Flux & charge ratio	momentum	46.25°N, 6.02°E	450 m	0-58°
MINOS	1000-7000	Charge ratio	total energy	47.82°N, 92.24°W	5 m (sea level)	unfolded
OPERA	891-7079	Charge ratio	total energy	42.42°N, 13.51°E	5 m (sea level)	$E \cos \theta^*$



# How we did it

- New version the cascade code MCEq with improved accuracy at low E
- Cut secondary particle phase-space according to parameters  $B_i$  from Barr et al.
- Generate database of fluxes  $\Phi(E_\mu)$  and Jacobians

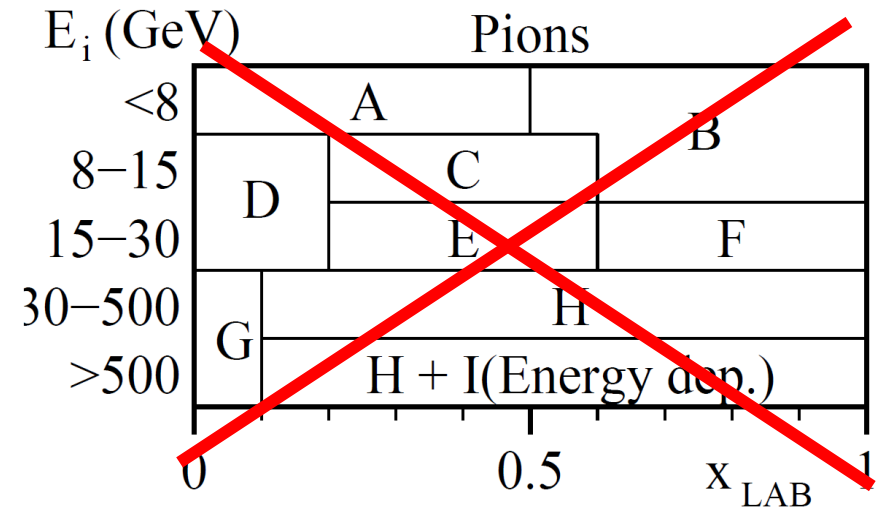
$$\frac{\partial \Phi(E_\mu)}{\partial \mathcal{B}_i} = \frac{\Phi(E_\mu, \mathcal{B}_i = 1 + \delta) - \Phi(E_\mu, \mathcal{B}_i = 1 - \delta)}{2\delta}$$

- Fluxes with modifications to  $B_i$  can be quickly evaluated in the fit:

$$\Phi(E_\mu, \mathcal{B}_a, \mathcal{B}_b, \dots) = \Phi(E_\mu) + \sum_i \mathcal{B}_i \frac{\partial \Phi(E_\mu)}{\partial \mathcal{B}_i}$$

# What we found

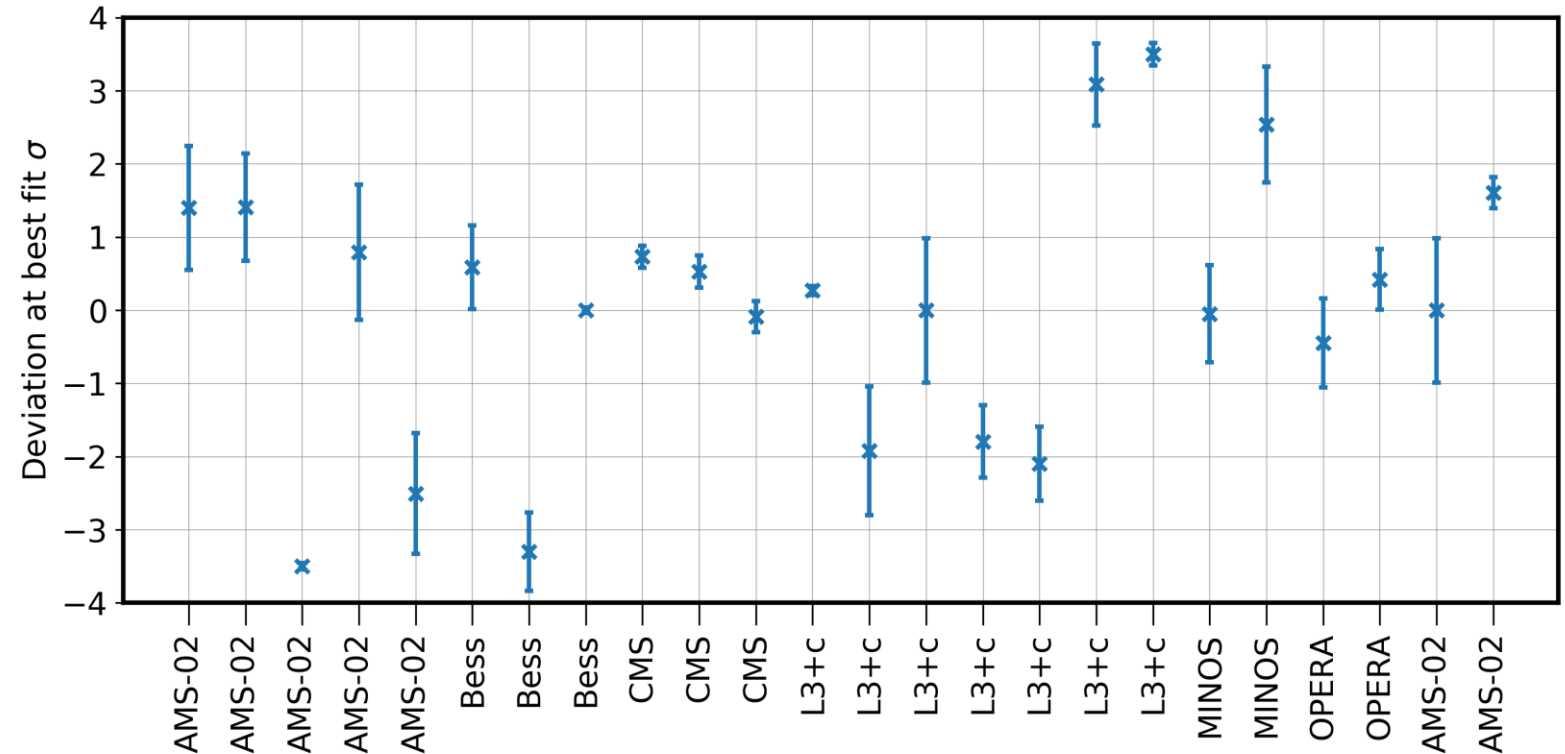
- Original attempt was to use the parameterization of Barr et al.
  1. Found data to be insensitive
  2. Too many correlations
  3. Impossible to constrain
- Simplified to four parameters
  - Yields of each meson species
  - Global, energy-independent scales
  - Enough to describe data



# Some experiments are hard to fit

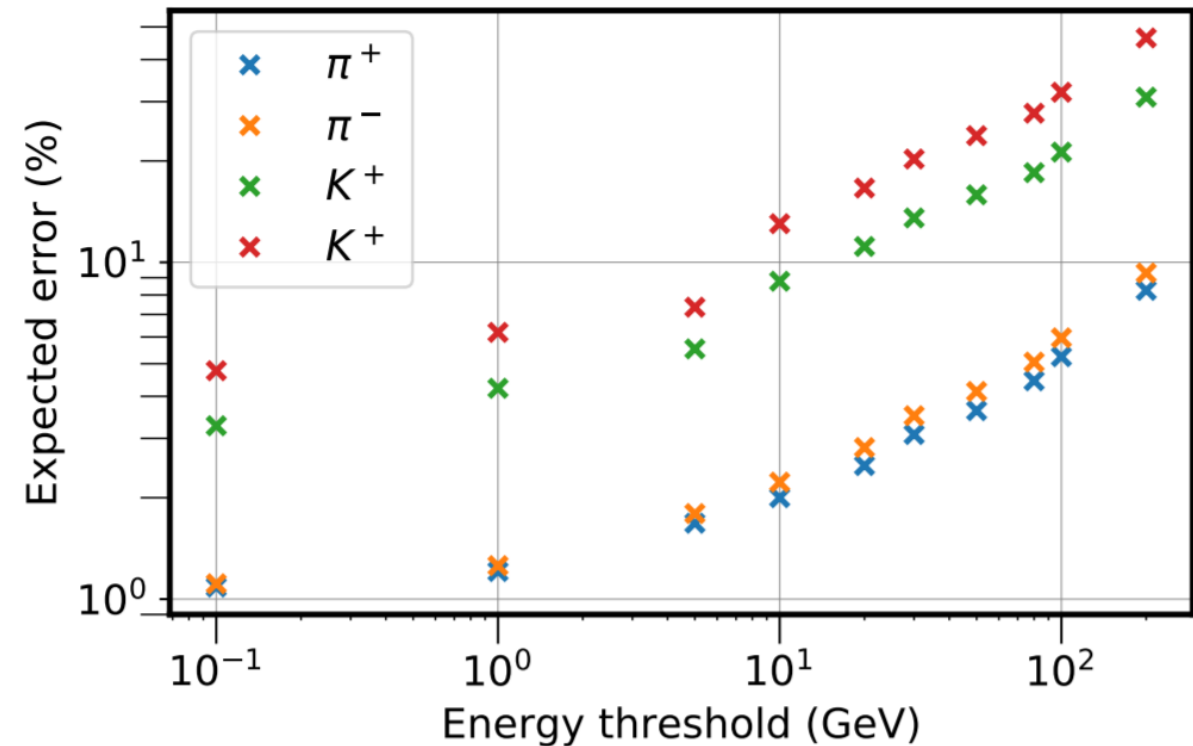
- Some experiments are hard to fit regardless of modifications
- Possible systematic effects not reported
- Additional modifications will be included in next iterations of the study

Deviations of experimental parameters at best fit point



# Impact of energy threshold for the fit

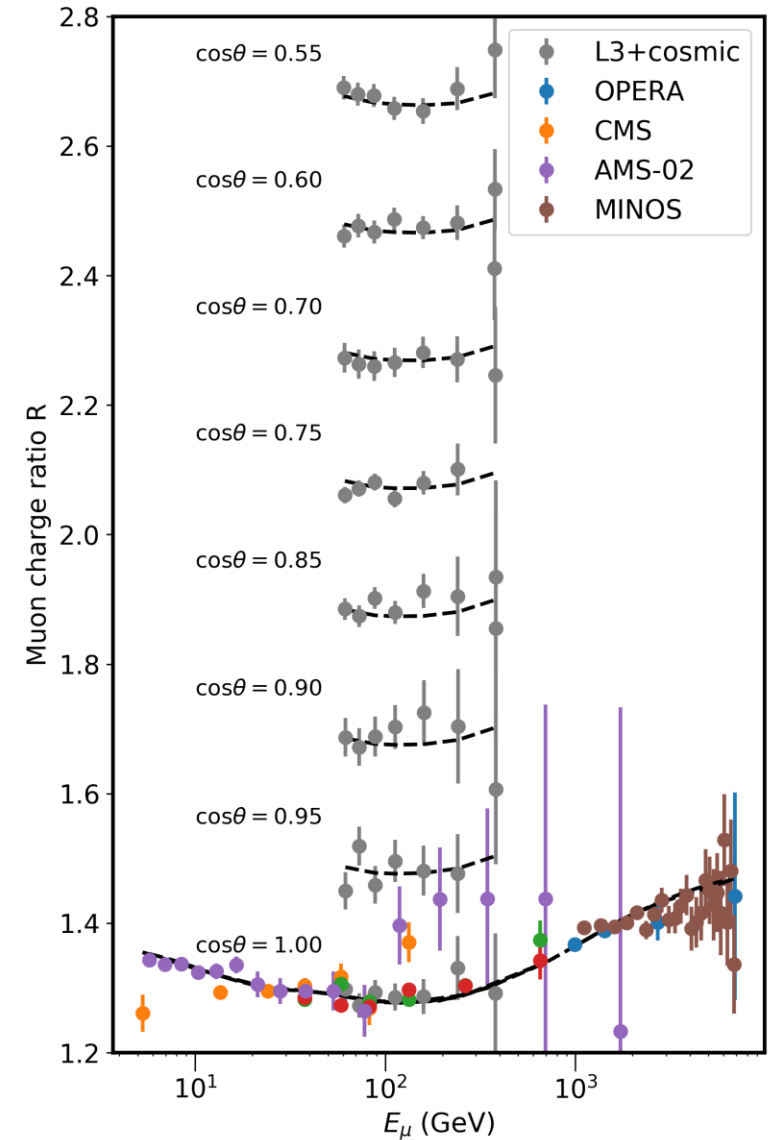
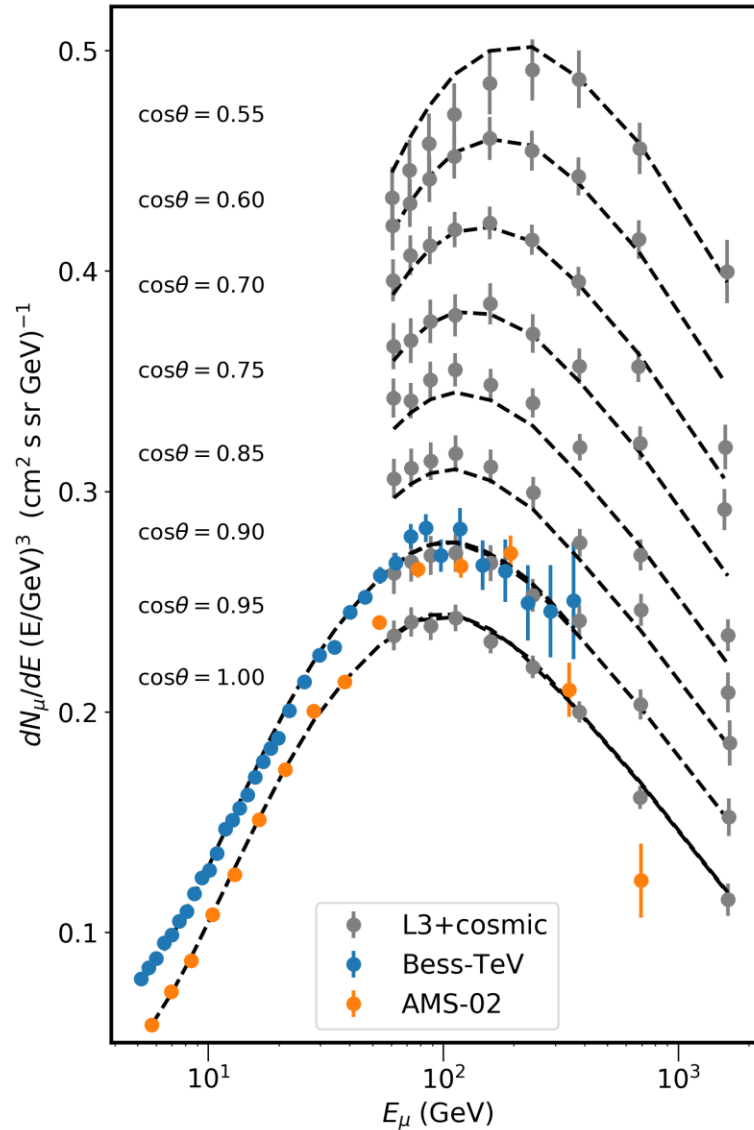
- High energy data less sensitive
- This is because the features in the muon spectrum are smooth
- and fit variables become strongly correlated
- More angles are needed
- We're investigating horizontal and high-altitude balloon data





# Fit results

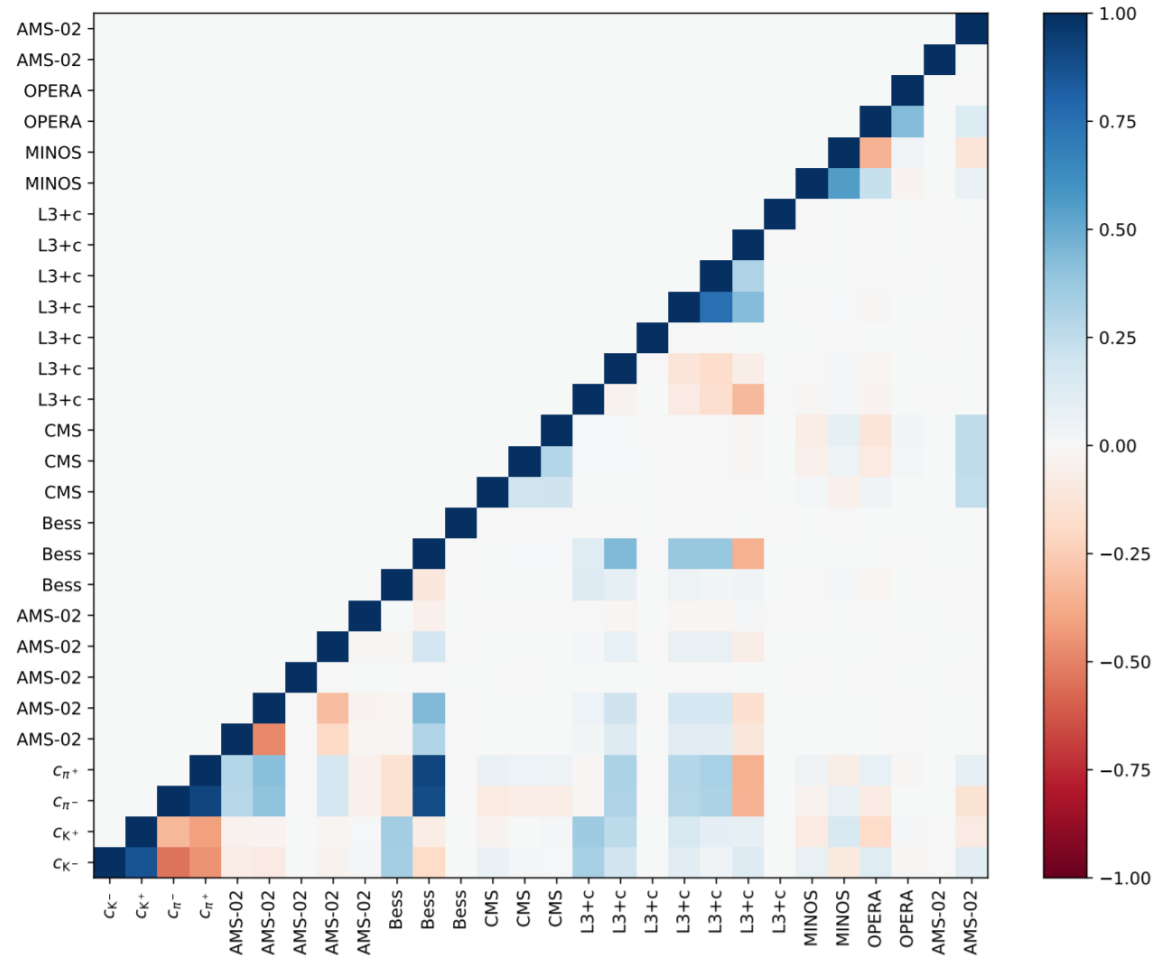
- Some experiments are hard to fit regardless of modifications
- Possible systematic effects not reported
- L3+C – previously “the reference dataset” – is not as good as we thought
- We will include more data and CR flux uncertainties in the next iteration and report later this year



# Fit parameters and correlations

- With sufficiently low threshold (5 GeV) the correlations are reduced
- Errors between a few to ten %
- Neutrino flux errors in the range covered by fit comparable to kaon errors

Parameter	Best fit	Error
$c_{\pi^-}$	+0.141	$\pm 0.017$
$c_{\pi^+}$	+0.116	$\pm 0.016$
$c_{K^-}$	+0.402	$\pm 0.073$
$c_{K^+}$	+0.583	$\pm 0.055$

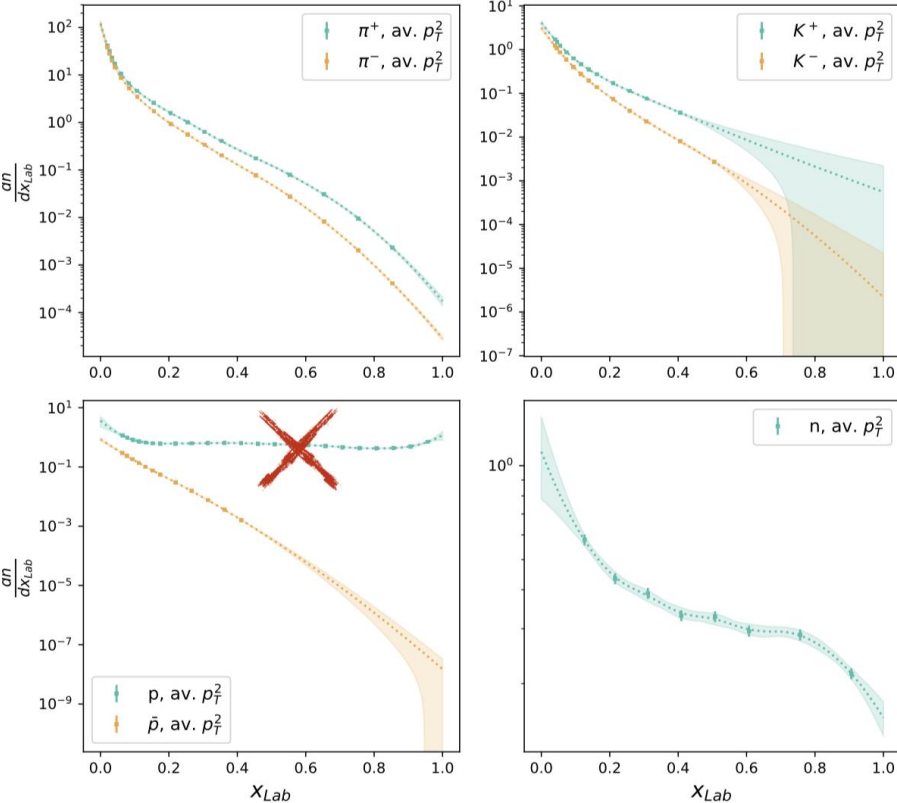


# Alternative under investigation: data-driven inclusive interaction model

"The SHIn-project"

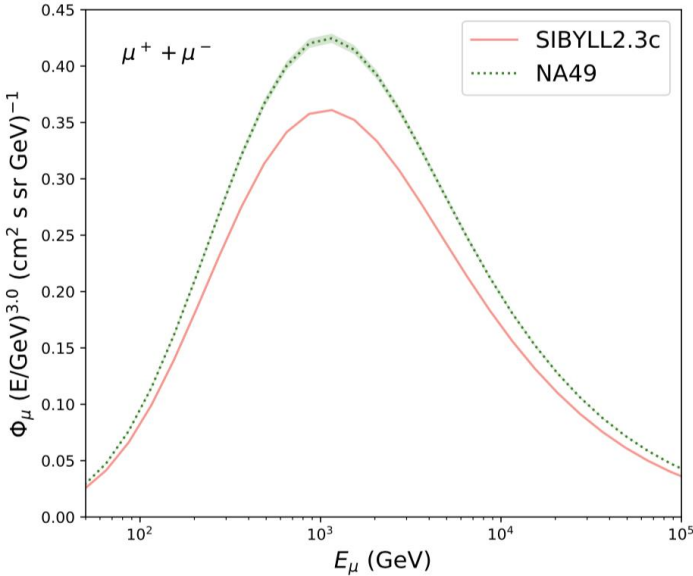


## NA49 pp data (158GeV)



Experiment	Interaction	$E_p$ [GeV]	yields
NA49	pp	158	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm, \bar{p}, n$
NA49	pC	158	$\pi^\pm, \bar{p}, n$
NA61/SHINE	pC	31	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm, K_S^0, \Lambda$
NA61/SHINE	pp	20, 31, 40, 80, 158	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm, \bar{p}$
NA61/SHINE	$\pi^-C$	158, 350	$\rho^0, \omega, K^{*0}$
NA61/SHINE (upcoming)	$\pi^-C$	158, 350	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm, \bar{p}$

$p+p \rightarrow \text{part}+X$

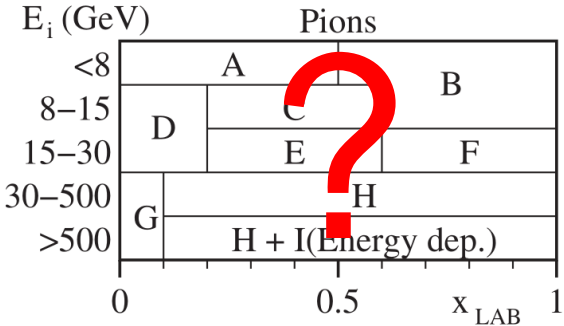


Matthias Huber

# Conclusions and future path

- Current atmospheric neutrino detectors cover **9 orders of magnitude** in energy (MeV-PeV) → **challenge** for modeling!
- **High-precision** (and high-performance) calculations available through MCEq that well match full Monte Carlo
- **Unsolved problems remain**, in particular hadronic interactions, but data-driven techniques can improve the precision as in the HKKM calculations or our muon fit. However, the **parameterization** has to be **revised**
- Work is progressing on building a purely accelerator data driven model. Delays because **NA61** presents data in different, **incompatible formats** and **communication is not working**.
- The tools allow to **handle flux systematics** in data analysis, replacing effective parameters with more physical (but not perparameters)

<i>Atmospheric flux</i>		
$\nu$ flux template	discrete (7)	
$\nu / \bar{\nu}$ ratio	continuous	0.025
$\pi / K$ ratio	continuous	0.1
Normalization	continuous	none <sup>1</sup>
Cosmic ray spectral index	continuous	0.05
Atmospheric temperature	continuous	model tuned

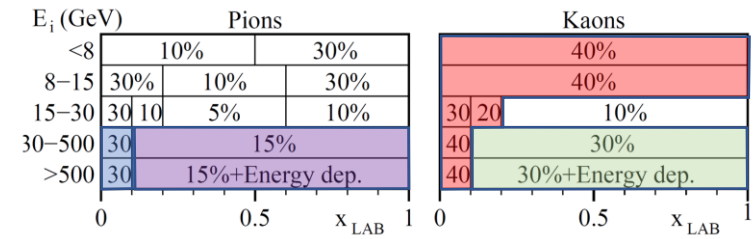
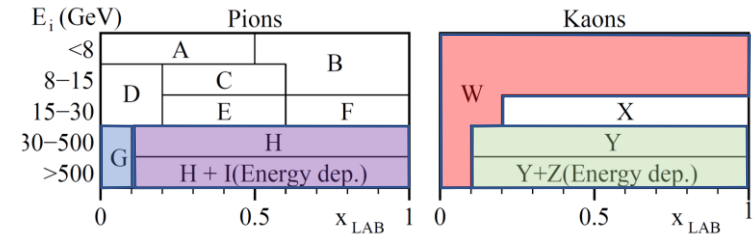
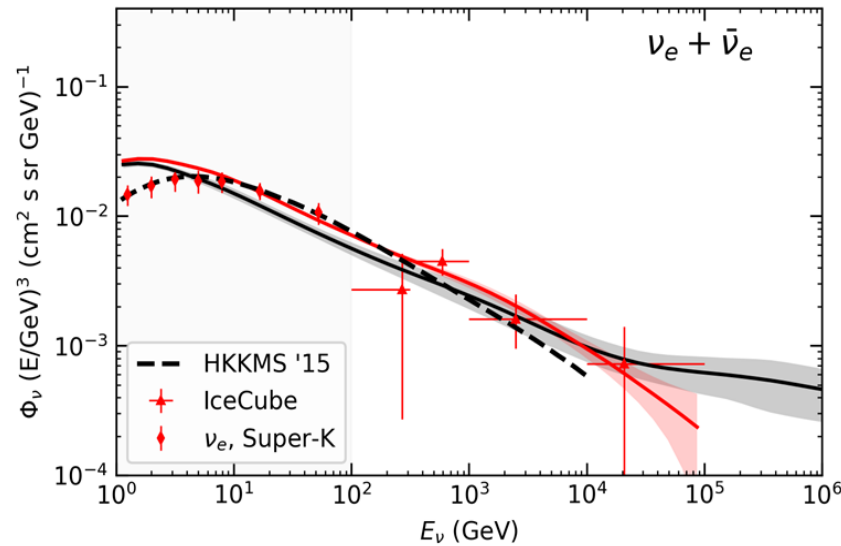
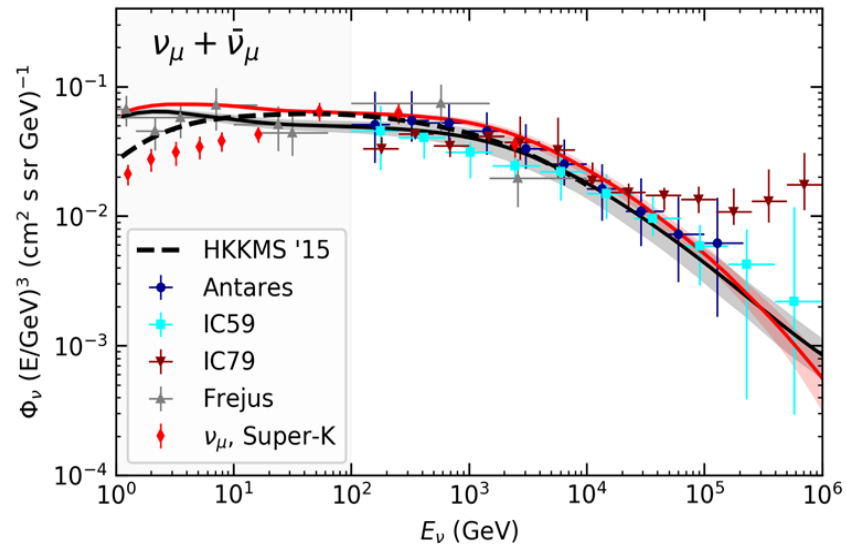
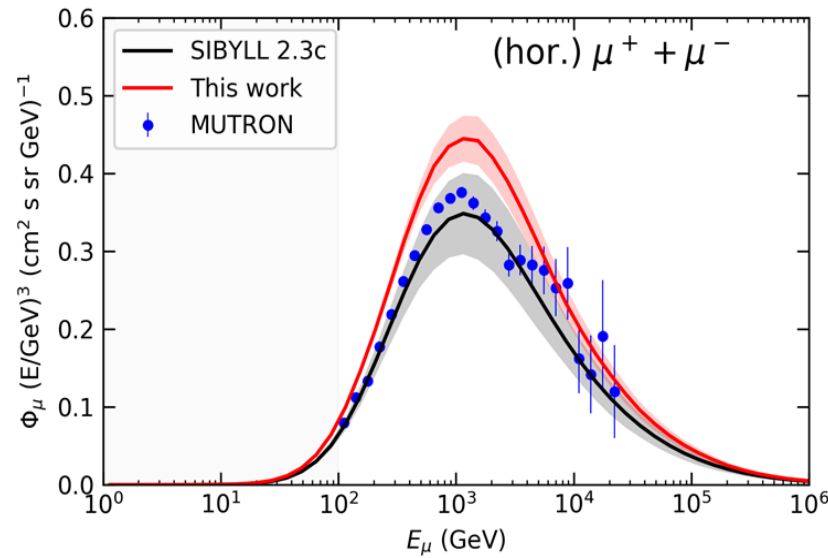
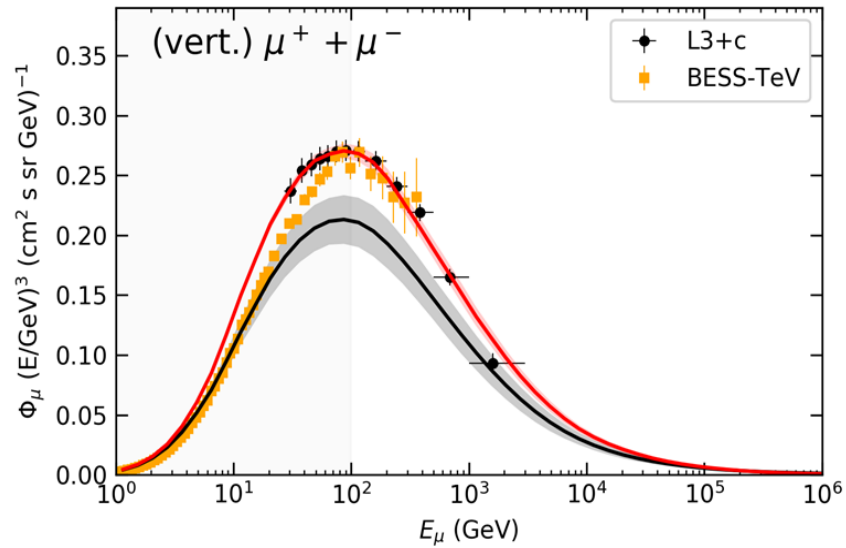


Likely something new needed



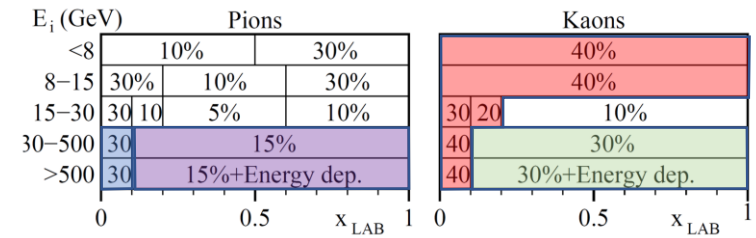
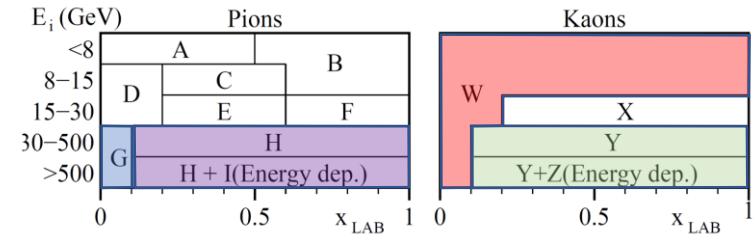
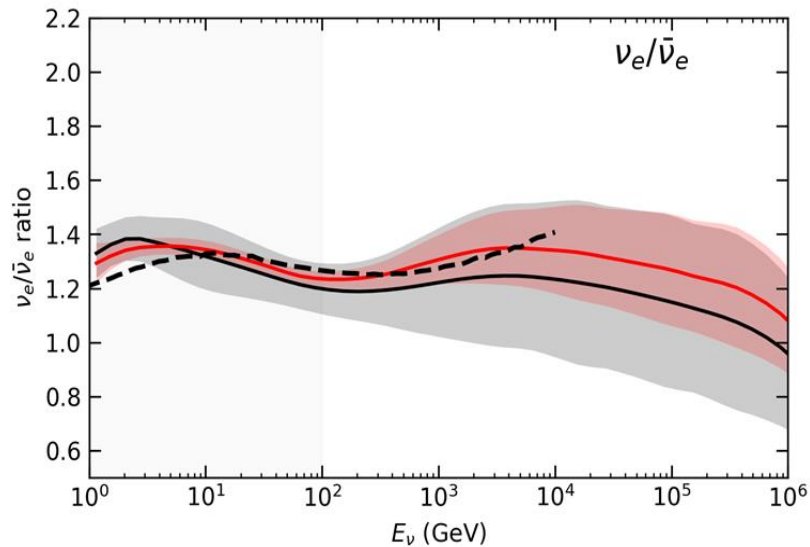
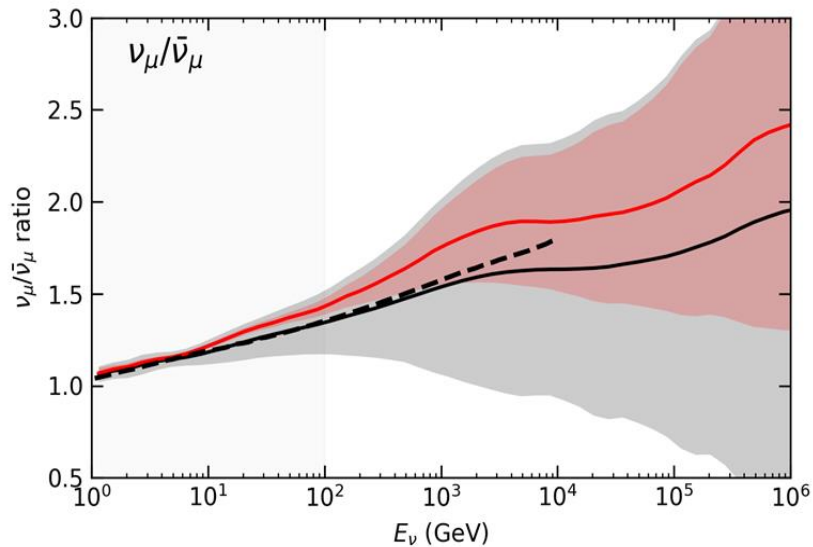
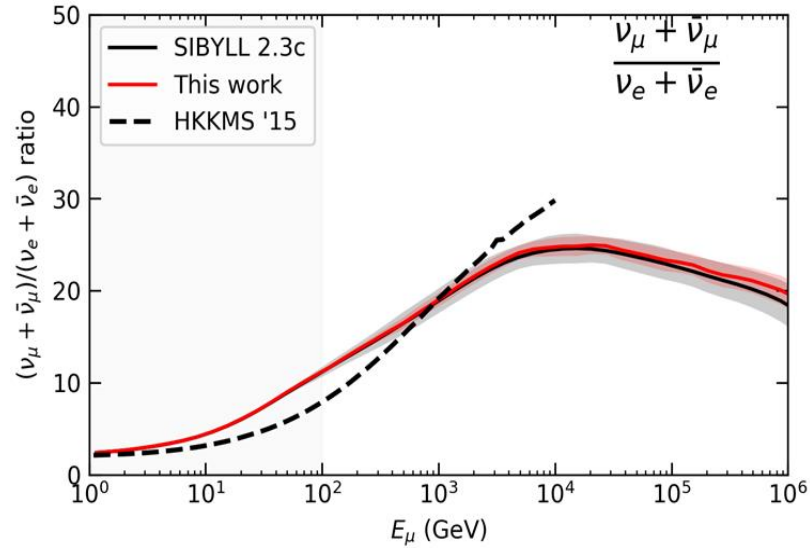
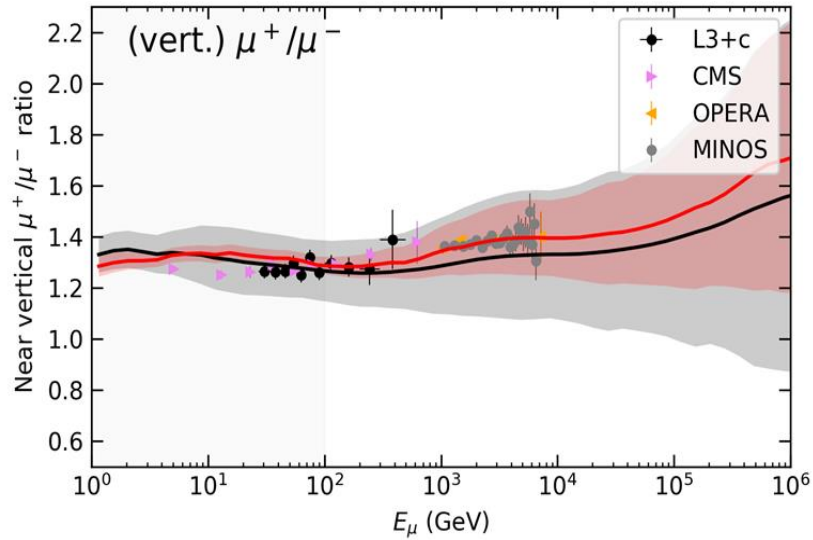
Enjoy your stay in Tokyo  
and happy discoveries!

# Results of the fit on fluxes



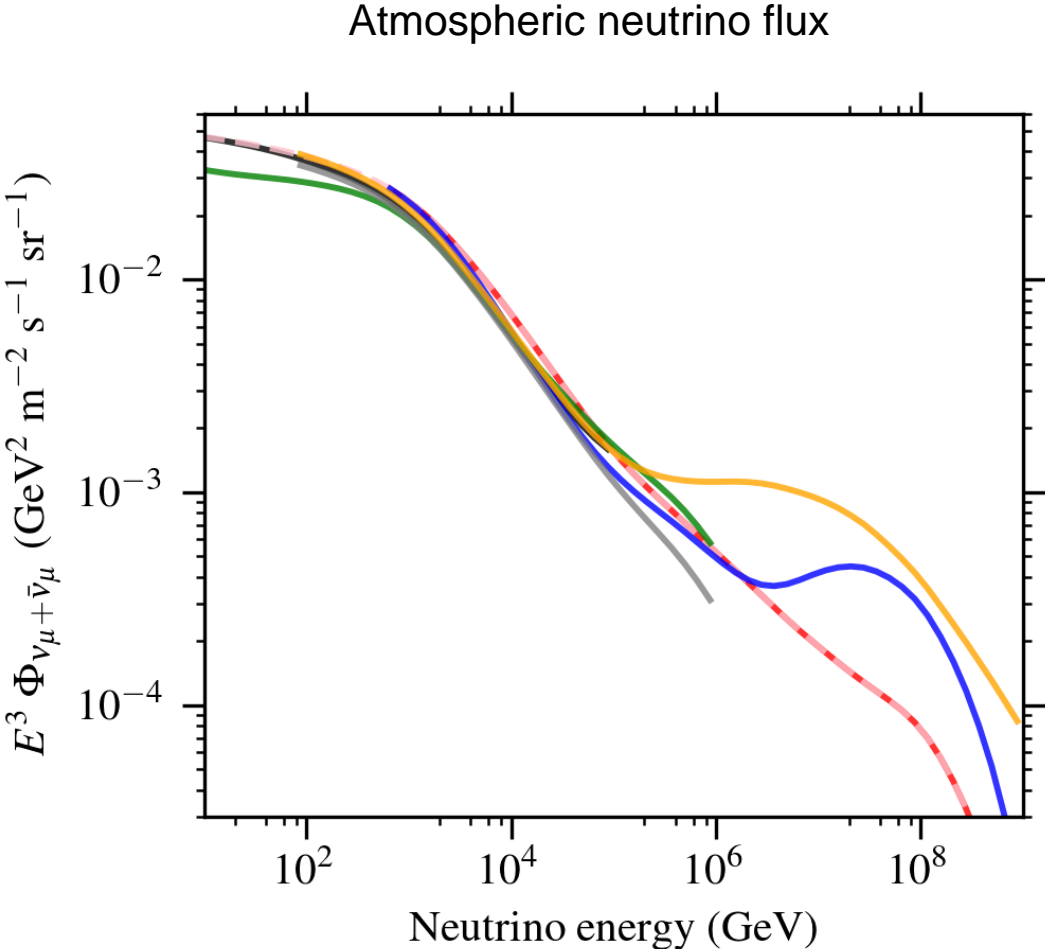
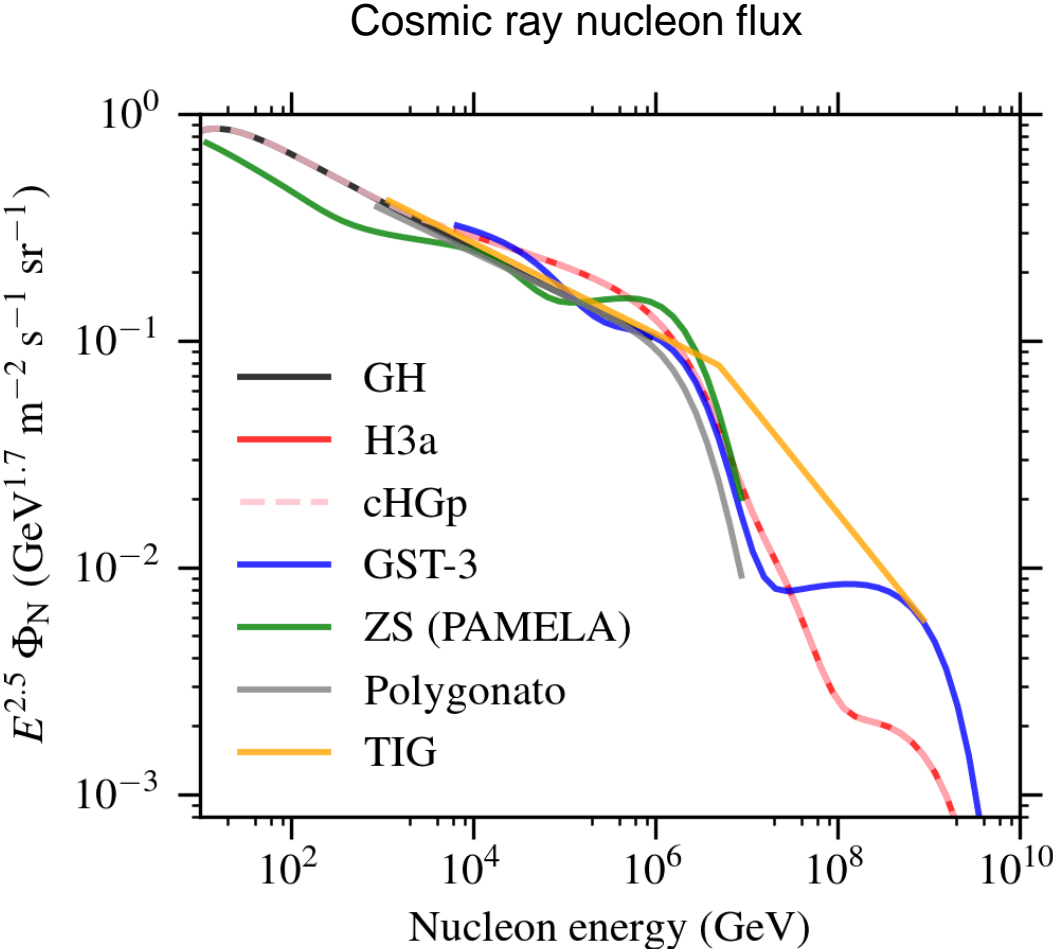
Name	value, error
$\pi^+$ : G	$0.13 \pm 0.10$
$\pi^+$ : H	$0.30 \pm 0.03$
$K^+$ : W	$0.14 \pm 0.08$
$K^+$ : Y	$0.47 \pm 0.07$
$\pi^-$ : G	$0.44 \pm 0.08$
$\pi^-$ : H	$0.16 \pm 0.04$
$K^-$ : W	$0.20 \pm 0.10$
$K^-$ : Y	$0.11 \pm 0.07$

# Results of the fit



Name	value, error
$\pi^+$ : G	$0.13 \pm 0.10$
$\pi^+$ : H	$0.30 \pm 0.03$
$K^+$ : W	$0.14 \pm 0.08$
$K^+$ : Y	$0.47 \pm 0.07$
$\pi^-$ : G	$0.44 \pm 0.08$
$\pi^-$ : H	$0.16 \pm 0.04$
$K^-$ : W	$0.20 \pm 0.10$
$K^-$ : Y	$0.11 \pm 0.07$

# Cosmic ray flux uncertainties – ‘bracketing’ overestimates

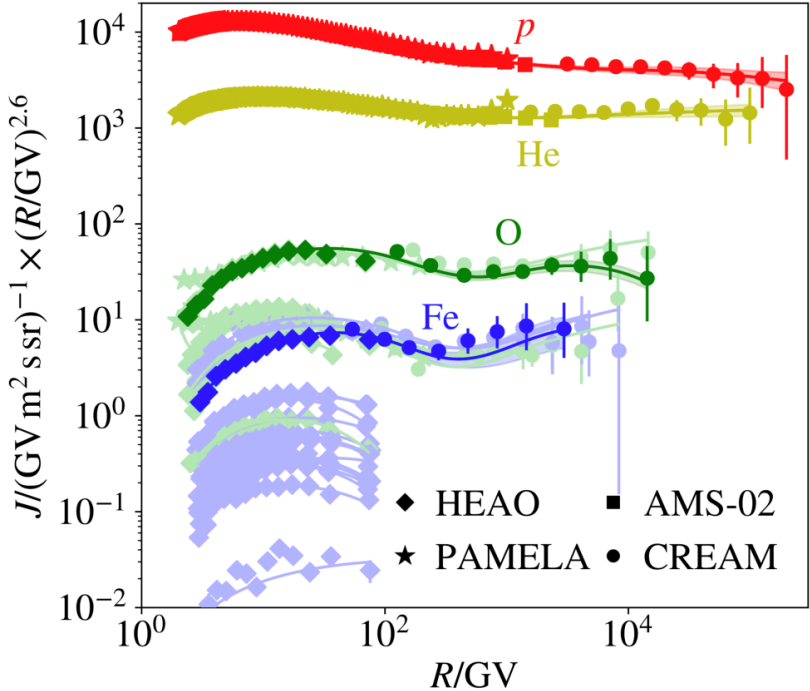
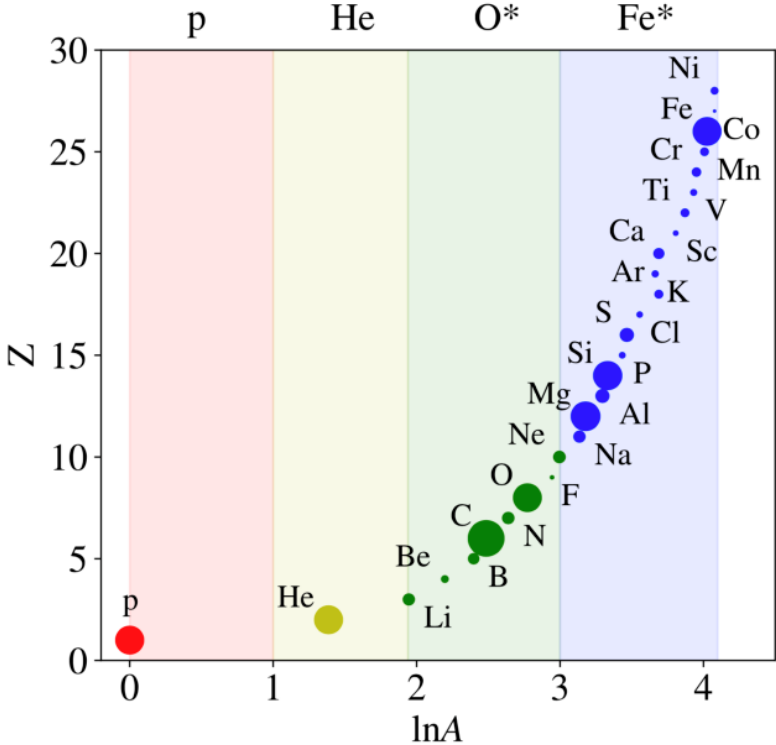




# Global Spline Fit – fit to direct & indirect observations

H. Dembinski, AF, T. Gaisser  
PoS(ICRC2017)533

- Fit **four** independent mass groups, which cover equal ranges in  $\ln A$ :  
proton (p), helium (He), oxygen group (O\*), and iron group (Fe\*)
- Assumption: this holds **at all energies**
- One leading element  $L$  per group described by smooth spline curve
- Other elements  $j$  in a group kept in constant ratio:  $J_j(R)/J_L(R) = const.$

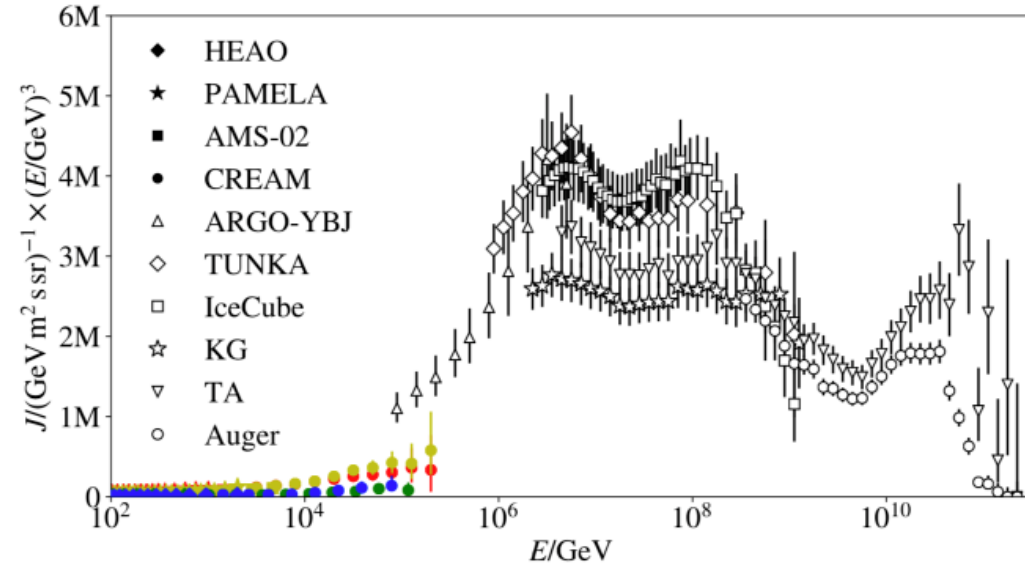
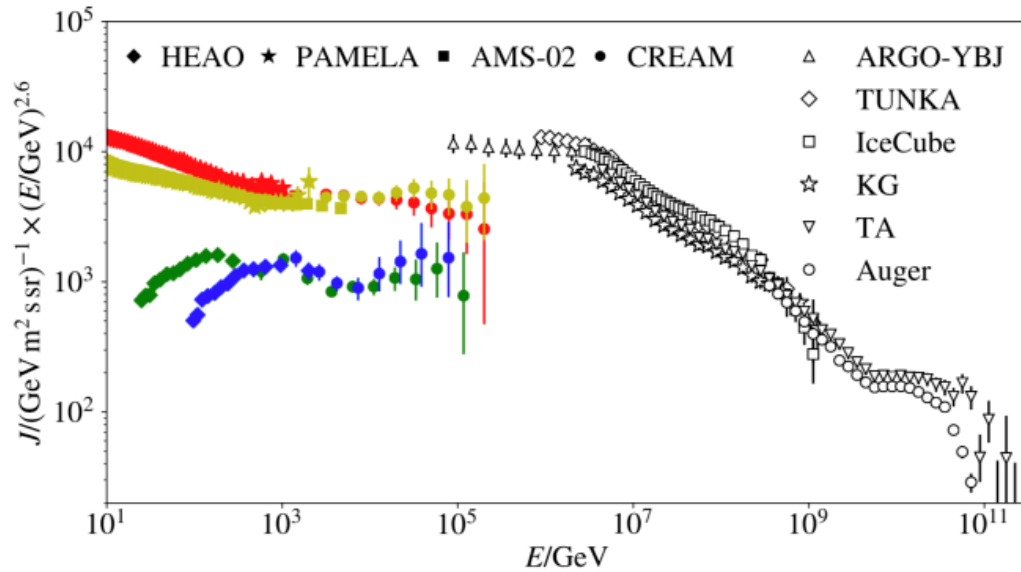


Mass sensitivity of air-shower experiments is  $\sim \ln A$

# Handling energy-scale uncertainty

H. Dembinski, AF, T. Gaisser  
PoS(ICRC2017)533

Original data



- The determination of **energy scale in air-shower experiments is uncertain**
- This is caused by inconsistencies of **hadronic interaction models**
- Fit adjusts energy scales **within systematic uncertainties** of the experiment

$$\tilde{J}(\tilde{E}) = J(E) \frac{dE}{d\tilde{E}} = J \left( \frac{\tilde{E}}{1 + z_E} \right) \frac{1}{1 + z_E}$$

Flux distortion caused by energy-scale offset  $z_E$

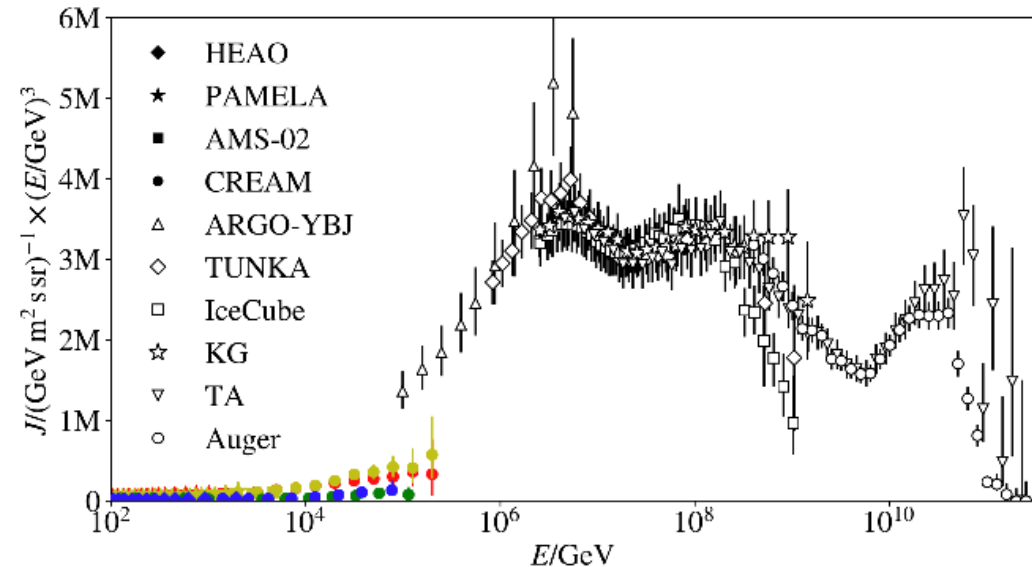
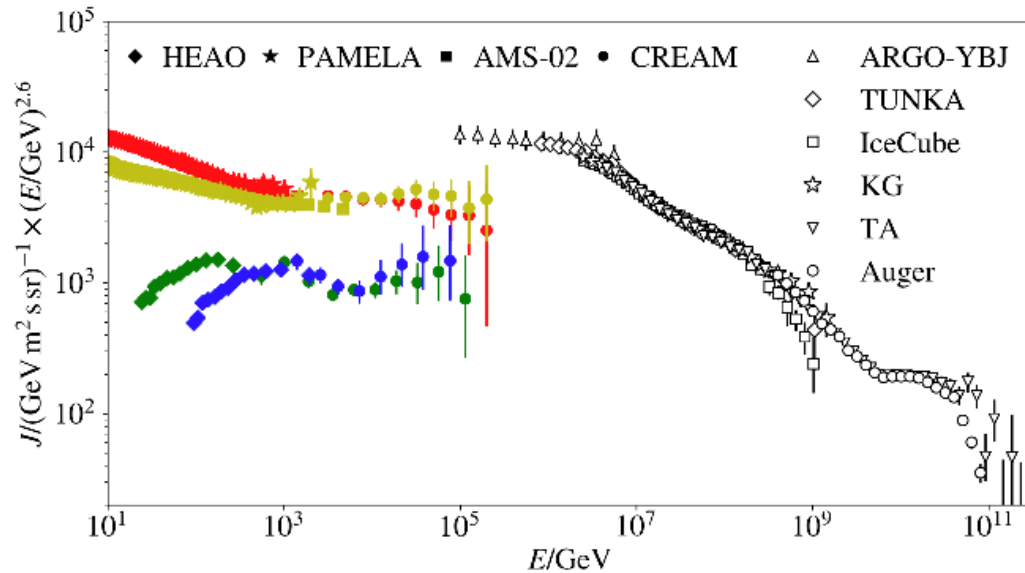
$$S = \sum_i z_i^2 + \sum_j \left( \frac{z_{Ej}}{(\sigma[E]/E)_j} \right)^2$$

Flux residuals      Energy-scale offset residuals

# Handling energy-scale uncertainty

H. Dembinski, AF, T. Gaisser  
PoS(ICRC2017)533

Adjusted data



- The determination of **energy scale in air-shower experiments is uncertain**
- This is caused by inconsistencies of **hadronic interaction models**
- Fit adjusts energy scales **within systematic uncertainties** of the experiment

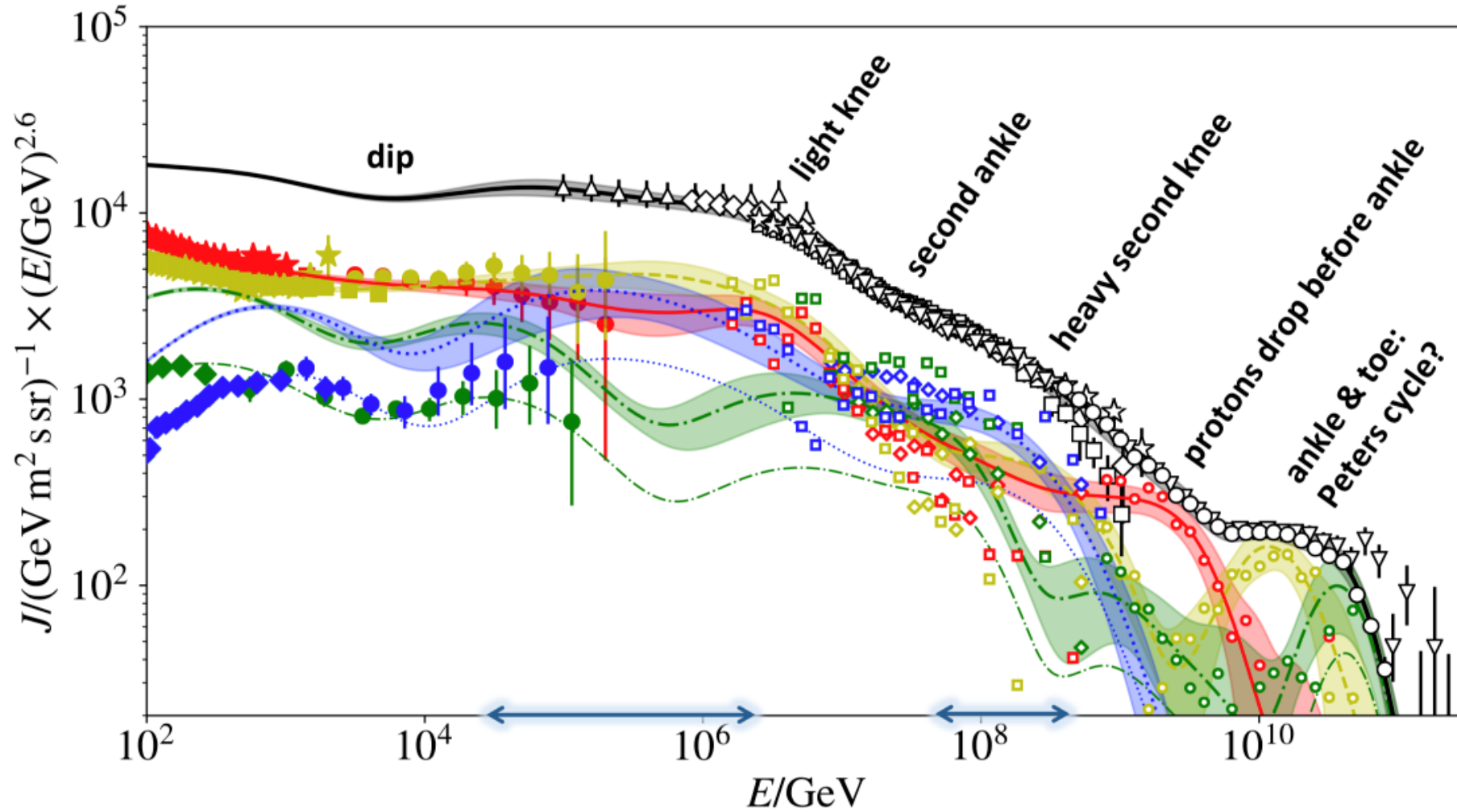
$$\tilde{J}(\tilde{E}) = J(E) \frac{dE}{d\tilde{E}} = J \left( \frac{\tilde{E}}{1 + z_E} \right) \frac{1}{1 + z_E}$$

Flux distortion caused by energy-scale offset  $z_E$

$$S = \sum_i z_i^2 + \sum_j \left( \frac{z_{Ej}}{(\sigma[E]/E)_j} \right)^2$$

Flux residuals      Energy-scale offset residuals

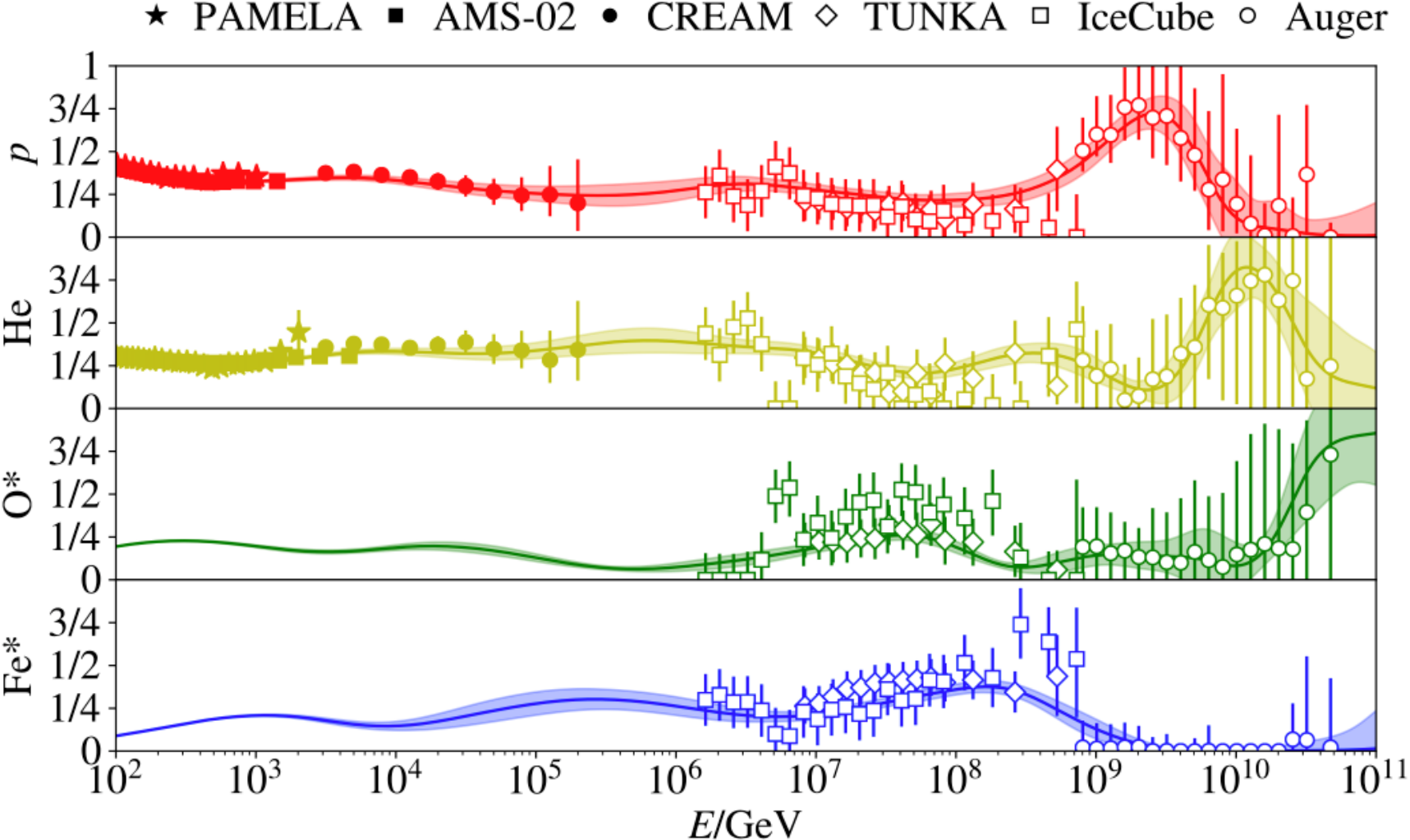
# The Global Spline Fit



More composition data needed

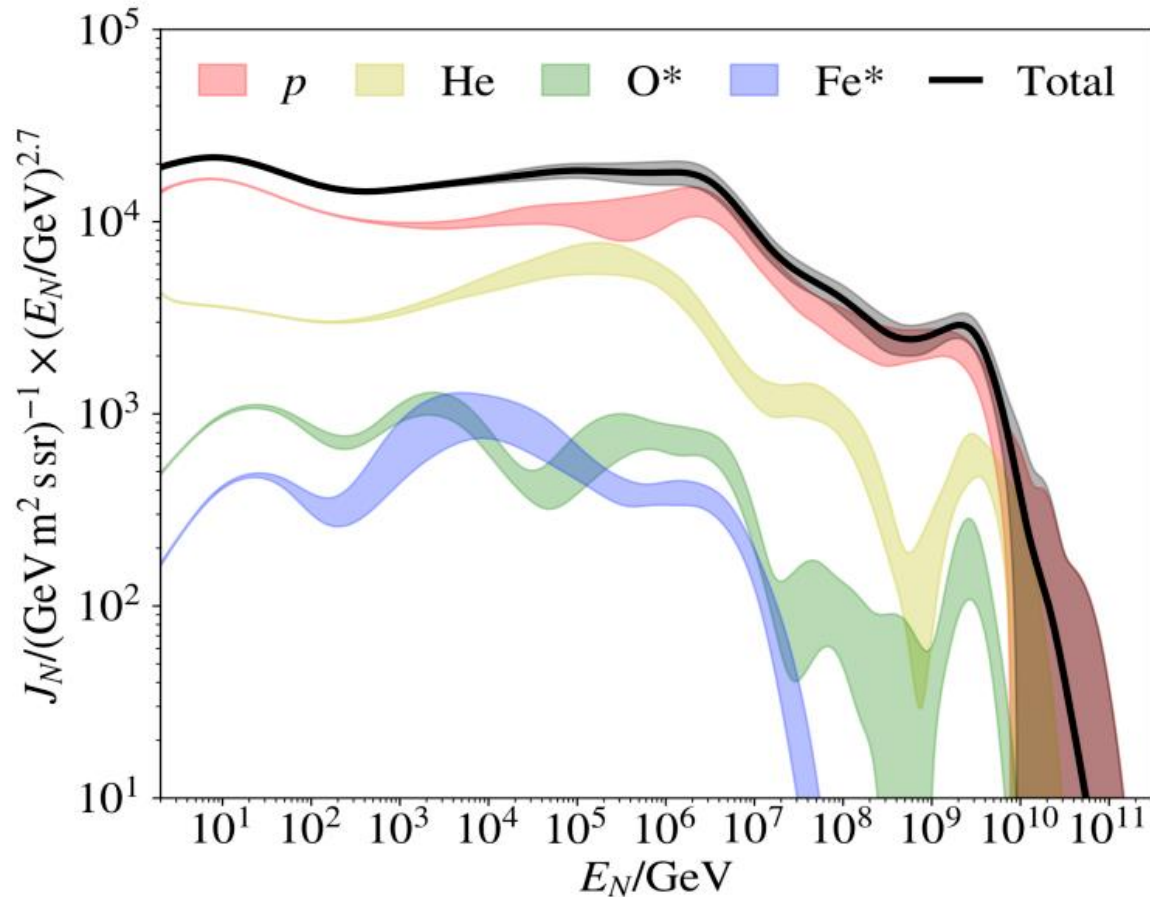
# Fitted composition data

4-mass group experiments

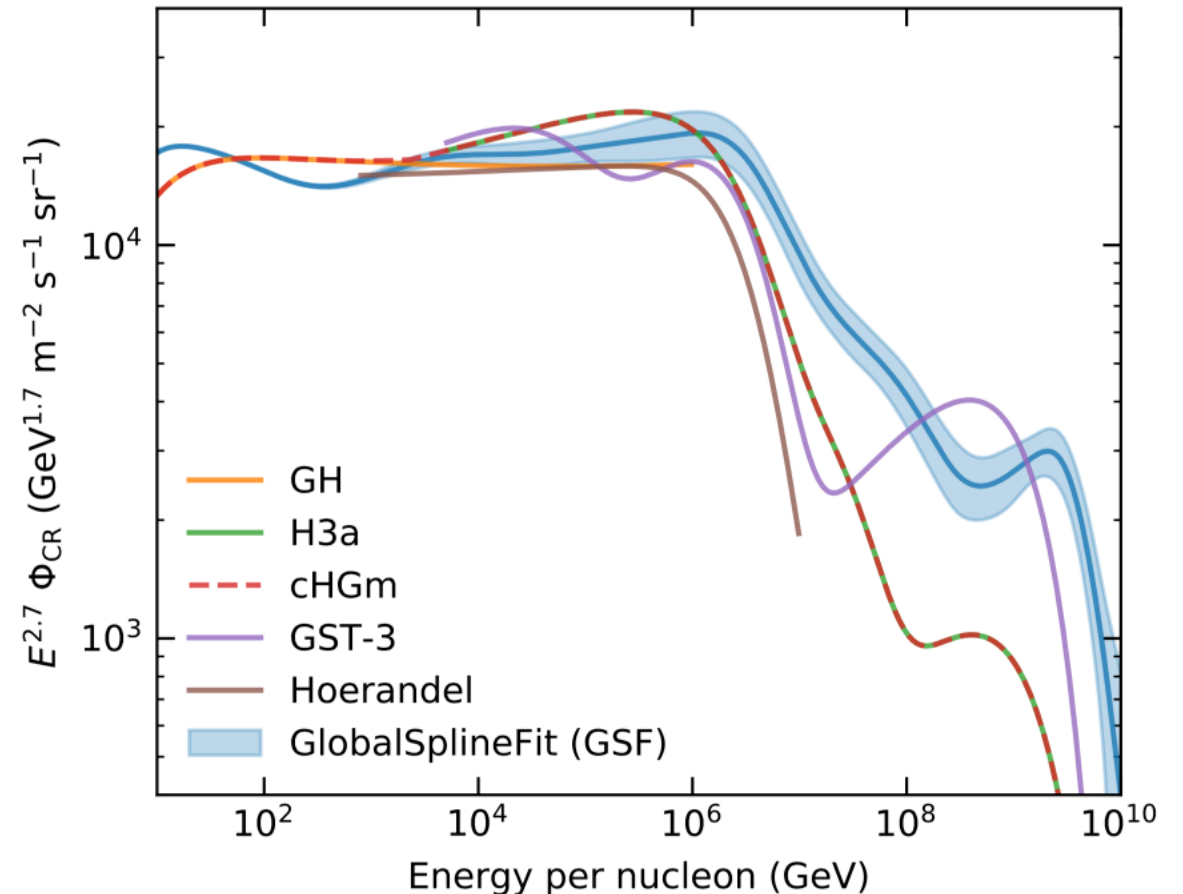


# Derived result: nucleon flux

AF et al, PoS(ICRC2017)1019



Dominated by proton flux. Details of sub-leading elements not important.



Harder spectrum at the knee due to lighter composition as assumed by 3-population models