Astrophysical neutrino self-interactions in the high-statistics era

Division of Particles and Fields APS meeting, 2021

Ivan Esteban

Center for Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics (CCAPP), Ohio State University

Based on `arXiv:2107.xxxx`
In collaboration with S. Pandey (IIT Indore), V. Brdar (Fermilab & Northwestern), J. Beacom (CCAPP & Ohio State)



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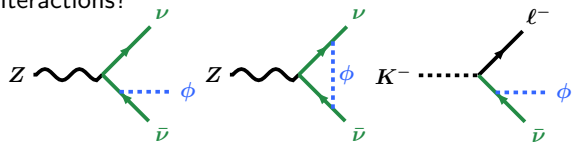
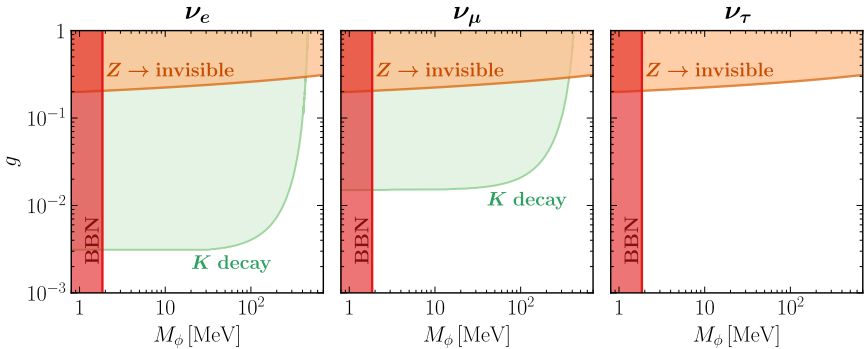
Neutrino self-interactions (νSI)

- Do neutrinos have sizable self-interactions?
  $\mathcal{L}_{\rm int} \sim -g\bar{\nu}\nu\phi$
- Notoriously difficult to test





Blinov et. al., 1905.02727
Brdar et. al., 2003.05339

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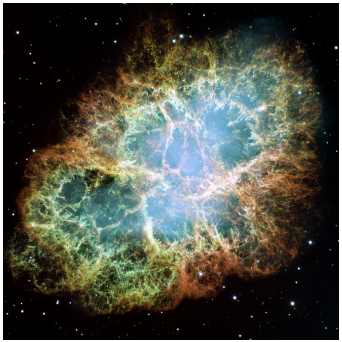
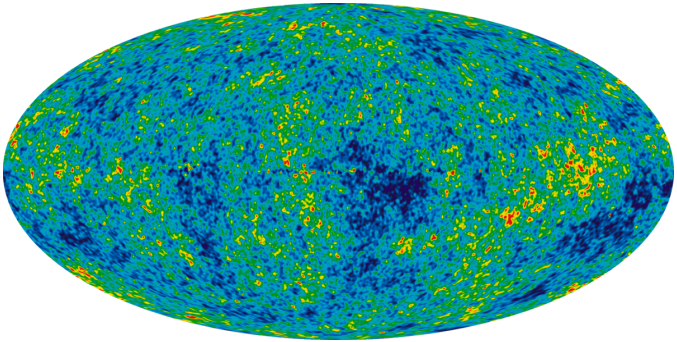
νSI: why do we care?

- It is a fundamental question that may shed light into the neutrino mass origin.
- Let's be practical: neutrinos are everywhere!





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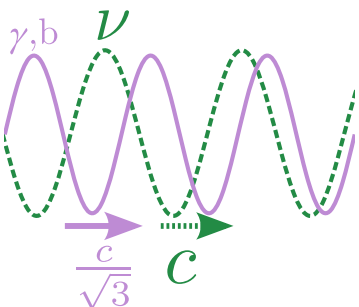
Why do we care?

- When the CMB is formed, neutrinos are $\sim 40\%$ of the energy density of the Universe!
- At those times
  - Photons and baryons **oscillate** (tightly-coupled acoustic waves, at $\boldsymbol{c/\sqrt{3}}$)
  - Neutrinos just **freely propagate** (free-stream, at $\boldsymbol{c}$)

Neutrinos will gravitationally pull! Bashinsky, Seljak, astro-ph/0310198



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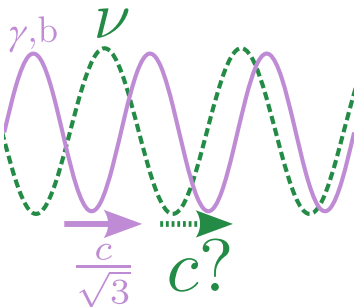
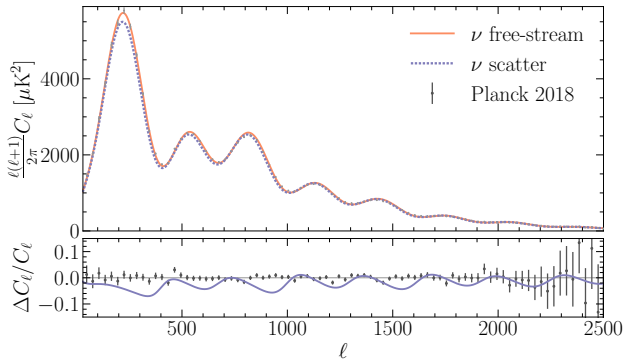
Or, will they? νSI can make neutrinos a tightly-coupled fluid too.





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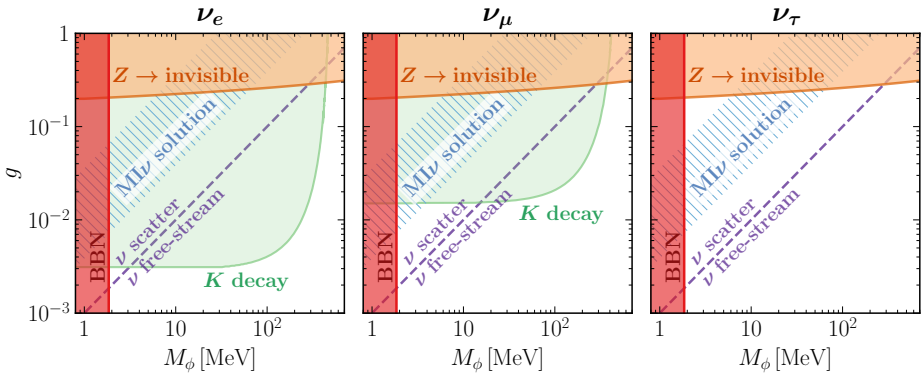
The Moderately Interacting Neutrino (MIν) solution

Cyr-Racine, Sigurdson, 1306.1536; Archidiacono, Hannestad, 1311.3873; Lancaster, Cyr-Racine, Knox, Pan, 1704.06657; Oldengott, Tram, Rampf, Wong, 1706.02123; Kreisch, Cir-Racine, Dor, 1902.00534; ...

Non-free-streaming neutrinos may affect how we infer cosmological parameters from CMB anisotropies!

Most notably H_0 and σ_8

N.B.: beware of polarization data, though



νSI in the ν_τ sector

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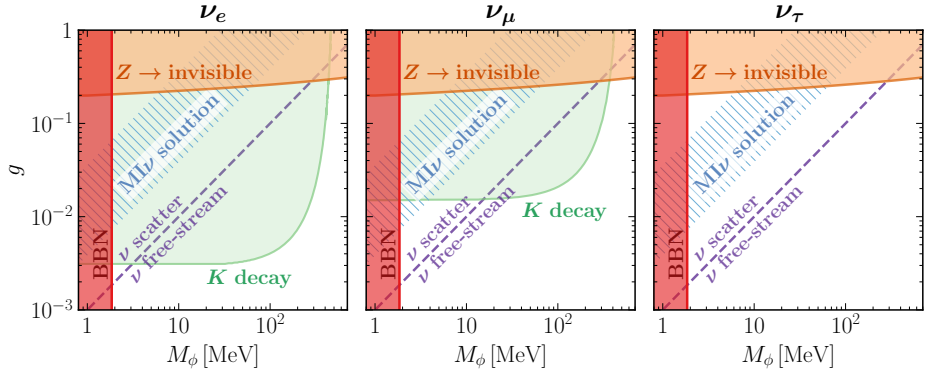

An opportunity opens to explore ν_τ self-interactions. Let's catch it!
ν_τ are hard to *directly* produce, but oscillations can help us.

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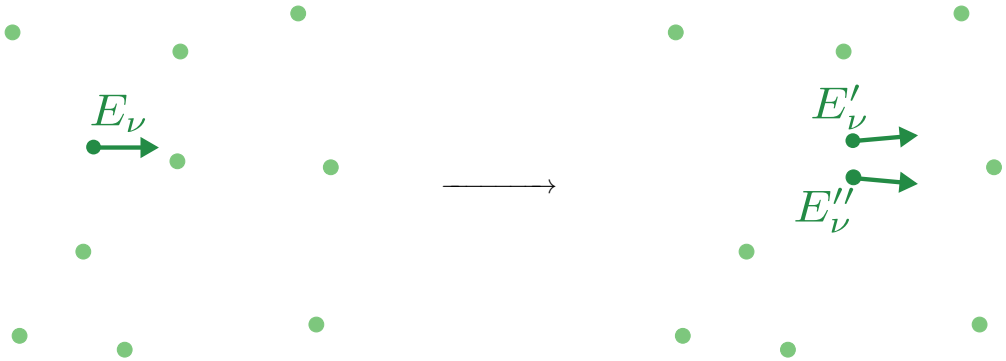
Astrophysical νSI: the basic idea

Kolb & Turner, 1987



Resonantly enhanced when $E_{\mathrm{center-of-mass}} \equiv \sqrt{s} = \sqrt{2E_\nu m_\nu} = M_\phi$.

For $M_\phi \sim 10\,\mathrm{MeV}$, $E_\nu \sim 10^5\,\mathrm{GeV}$: **astrophysical neutrinos at IceCube!**

νSI in astrophysical neutrinos

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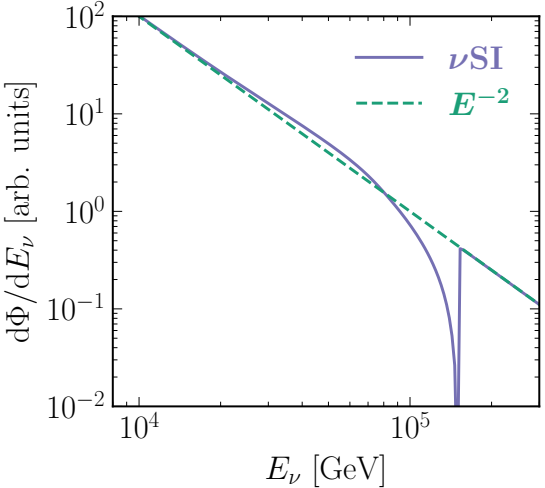
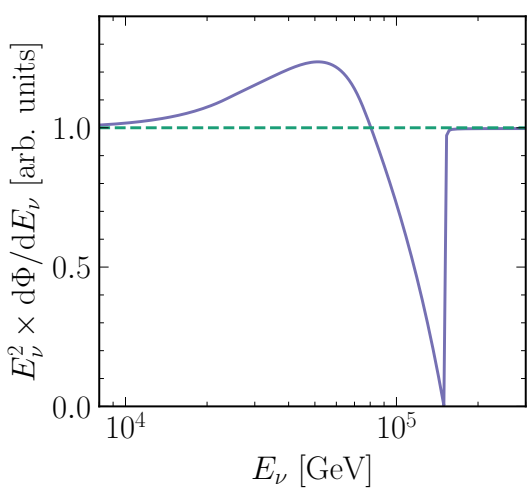
Ng, Beacom, 1404.2288; Ioka, Murase, 1404.2279; ... $E_\nu^{\rm res} = \frac{M_\phi^2}{2m_\nu}$





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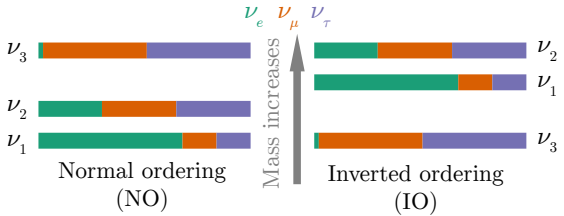
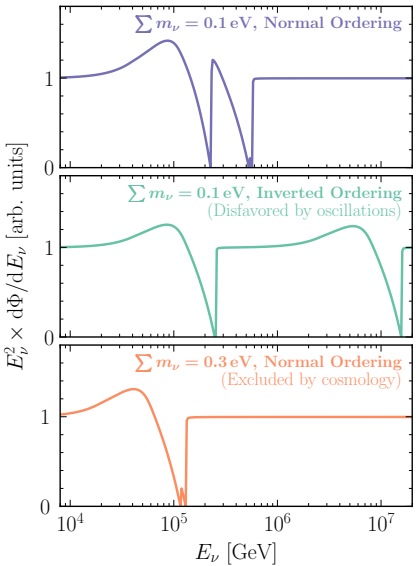
Focusing on ν_τ + 2021

What do we know about the neutrino spectrum?



$\sum m_\nu < 0.12\,\text{eV}$, $\sqrt{\Delta m^2_{32}} \sim \sqrt{\Delta m^2_{31}} \sim 0.05\,\text{eV}$
$E_\nu^{\text{res,i}} = M_\phi^2/2m_i$

- Look for (close) double dips!
  And stay tuned on oscillations + cosmology!



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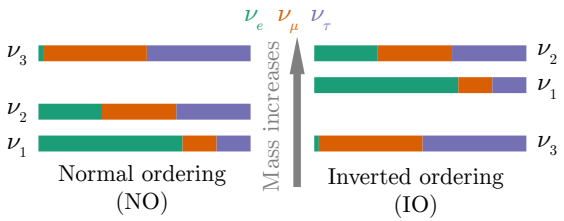

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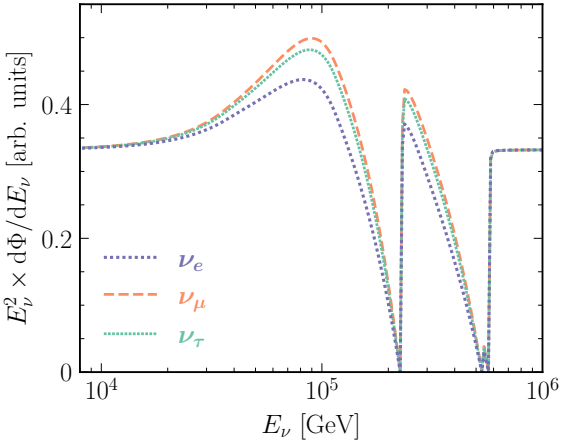
  And stay tuned on oscillations + cosmology!
- Look for all flavors!



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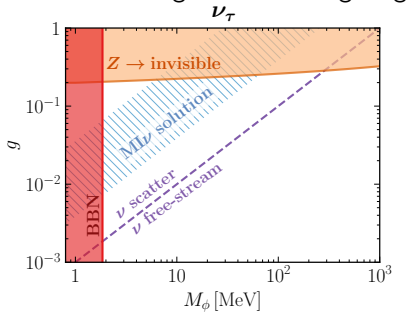
Focusing on ν_τ + 2021

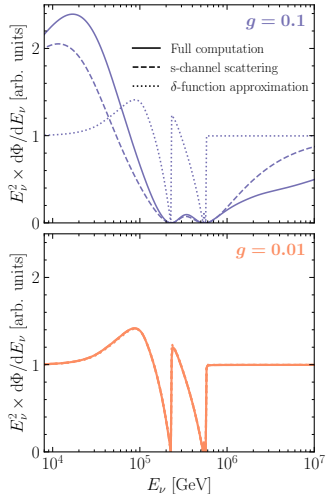
What do we know about the neutrino spectrum?

- Look for (close) double dips!
  And stay tuned on oscillations + cosmology!
- Look for all flavors!

Which interaction strengths are we targeting?



- Do the *full* theoretical calculation!



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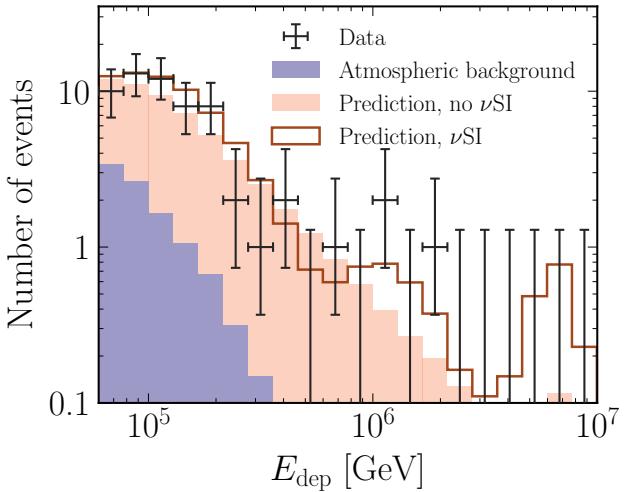
We are in the data era!

Let's go to the data! (HESE. Predictions generated with content in Abbasi et al, 2011.03545. We thank C. Arguelles & A. Schneider)



No νSI: $\phi \propto E^{-2.87}$

νSI: $\phi \propto E^{-2}$, $g = 0.1$, $M_\phi = 7$ MeV

Hints require proper theory to be understood!

Current IceCube data is not perfect because

- Low statistics $\Rightarrow$ fluctuations
- Small energy range $\Rightarrow$ degeneracy with unknown astrophysical neutrino flux

IceCube-Gen2 should overcome these issues

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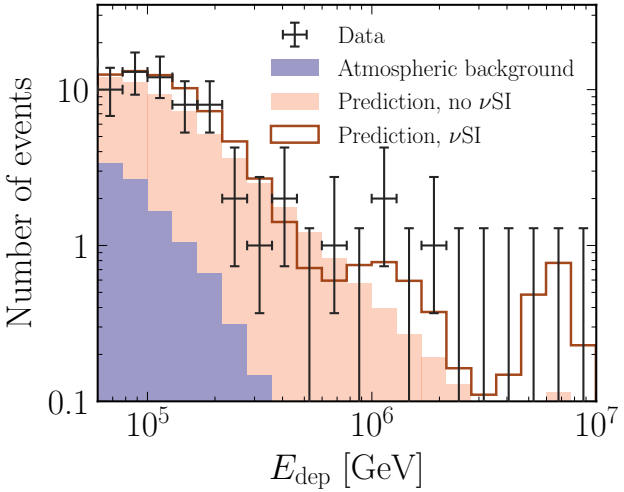

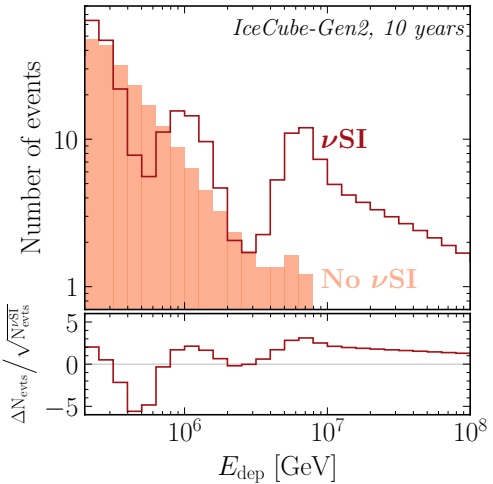

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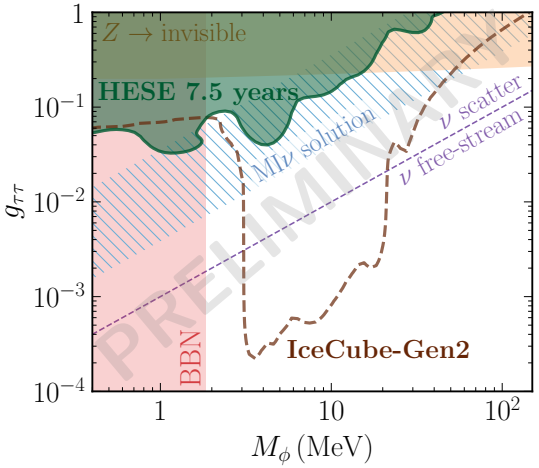
Present constraints and future sensitivity

(HESE analysis generated with content in Abbasi et al, 2011.03545. We thank C. Arguelles & A. Schneider)



- IceCube HESE is starting to probe uncharted parameter space!
  MIν solution excluded for some parameters.
- It is important to do the theory correctly
  We find no preferred region within $\sim 1\sigma$
- More statistics + IceCube-Gen2 will be **very powerful**!
  Could even be sensitive to other νSI flavors!

There is plenty of phenomenology to be explored: our code will be publicly available to avoid unreliable approximations.

Conclusions

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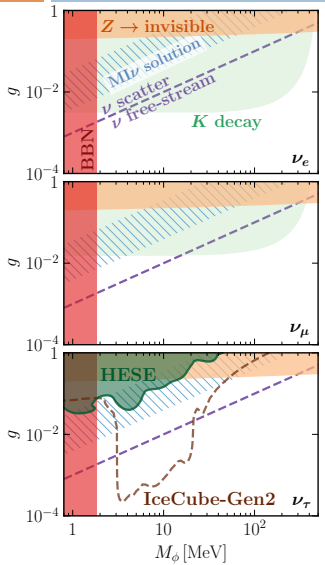

- Neutrino self-interactions are not only fundamentally interesting, **they affect our understanding of the Early Universe**.
- Unexplored ν_τ sector $\Rightarrow$ **opportunity for neutrino telescopes**.
- We set up theory framework to *take the most out of this opportunity*:
  - Double dips (other experiments are measuring neutrino spectrum!)
  - All-flavor measurements
  - Precise data requires precise theory

  Code will be public
- IceCube already constraining, **Gen2 will be unique**.
- We provided the particle physics, all improvements in
  - Astrophysics
  - Experimental sensitivity studies

  are welcome!

Backup

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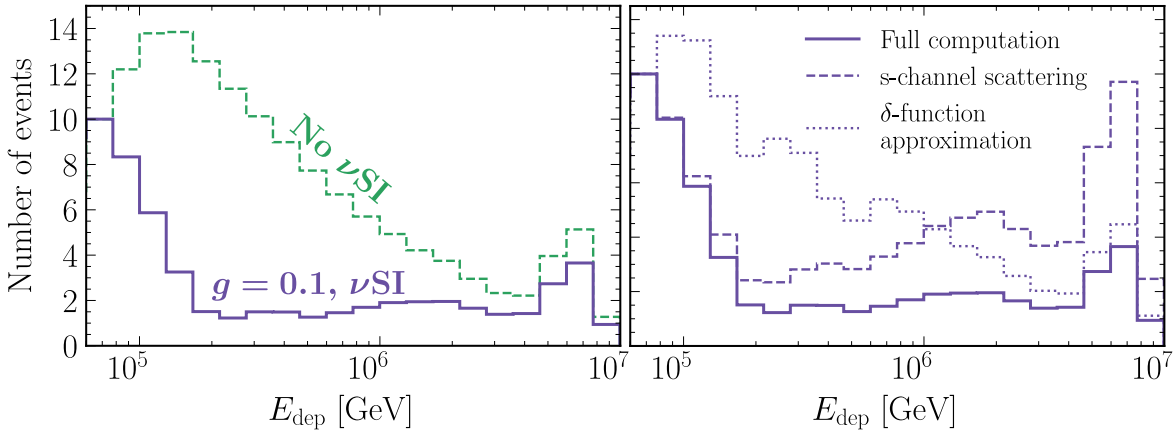
How does this look in IceCube? (Generated with content in Abbasi et al, 2011.03545. We thank C. Arguelles & A. Schneider)



Double-dips and non-resonant effects are relevant!

What if we use the wrong theory?