

# High-energy neutrino-nucleon deep inelastic scattering

Keping Xie

Department of Physics and Astronomy,  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

Fermilab Neutrino Seminar  
March 14, 2024

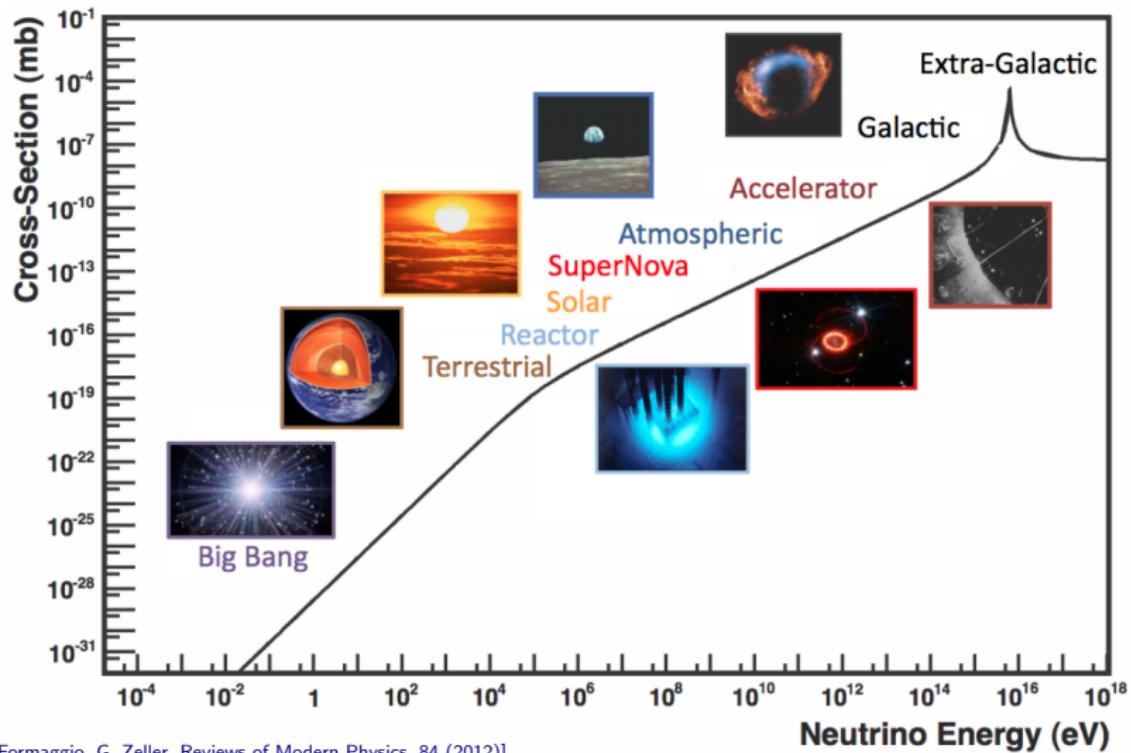
In collaboration with Jun Gao (SJTU), Tim Hobbs (Argonne),  
Daniel Stump and C.-P. Yuan (MSU)

[arXiv:2303.13607]

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Neutrino-nucleon deep inelastic scattering
  - small  $x$  and small  $Q$
  - A general-mass variable-flavor-number scheme: ACOT
  - Small- $x$  resummation
  - Neutrino-isoscalar cross sections
- 3 The nuclear corrections (a simplified version)
- 4 Experimental measurements
- 5 Conclusion

# Neutrino Sources

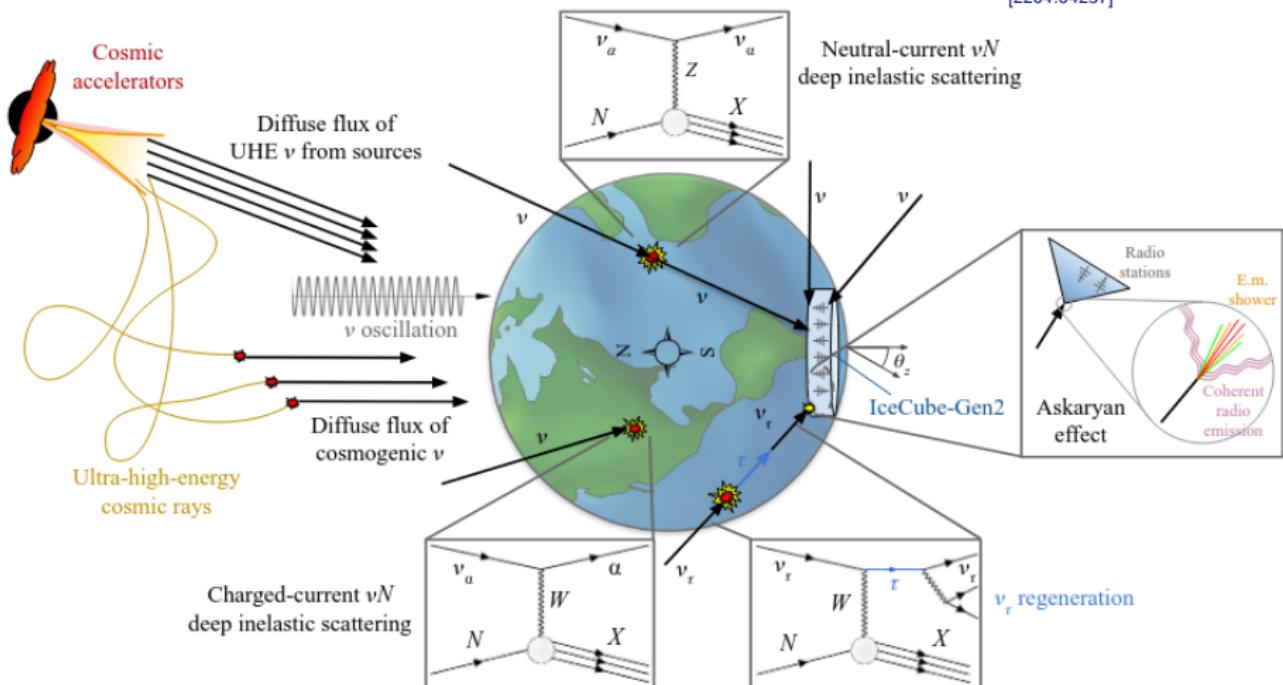


[J. A. Formaggio, G. Zeller, *Reviews of Modern Physics*, 84 (2012)]

- We focus on (ultra-)high-energy neutrinos, mainly from Galactic plane.
- Some accelerator neutrinos can reach intermediate high energies ( $\gtrsim 10$  GeV)

# Neutrinos at IceCube(-Gen2)

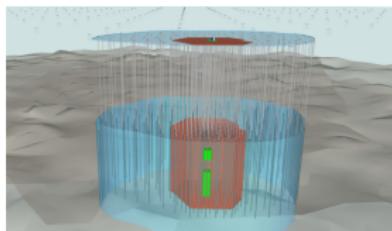
[2204.04237]



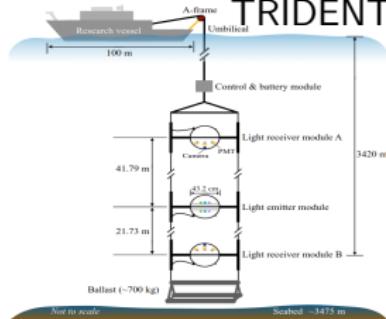
# Many neutrino observatories (under development)

- IceCube-Gen2 [2008.04323]
- KM3NeT [1601.07459]
- Baikal-GVD [Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A, 11']
- GRAND [1810.09994]
- POEMMA [1708.07599]
- P-ONE [2005.09493]
- TRIDENT [2207.04519]

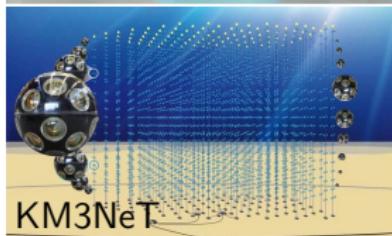
IceCube-Gen2



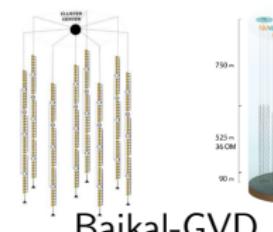
TRIDENT



P-ONE

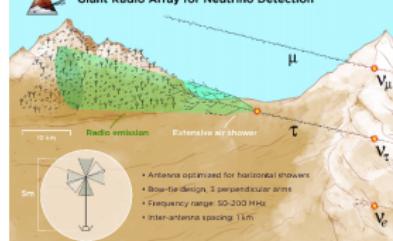


KM3NeT



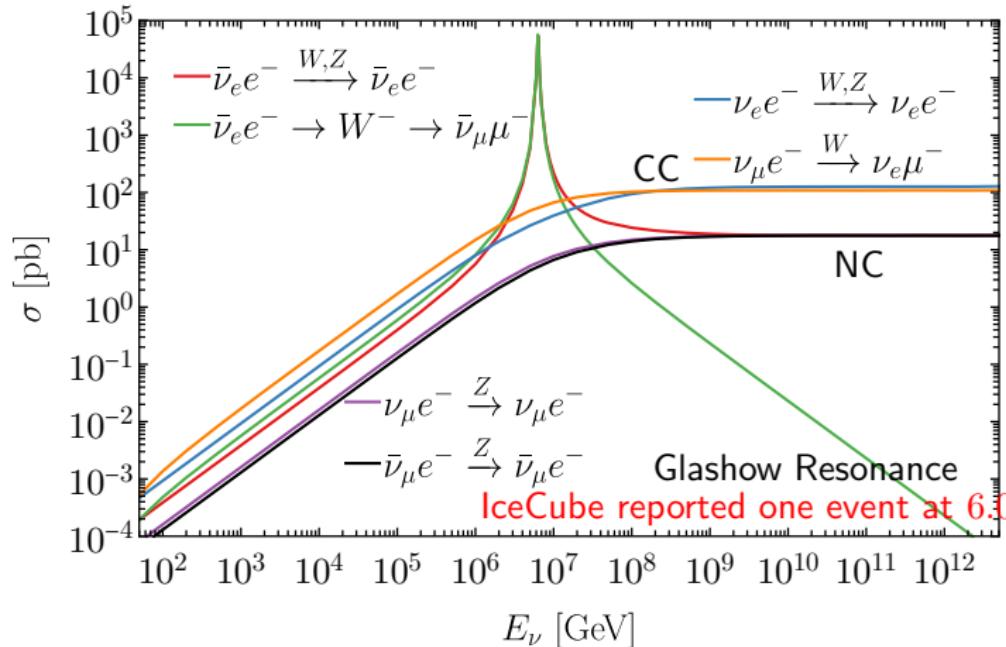
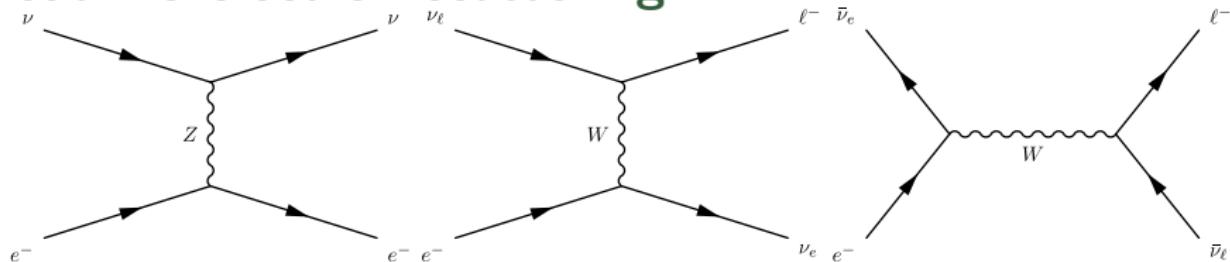
Baikal-GVD

GRAND Giant Radio Array for Neutrino Detection



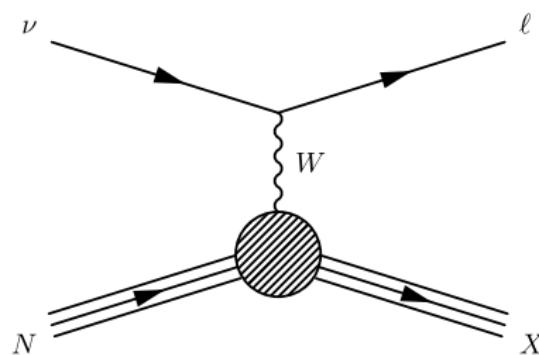
GRAND

# Neutrino-electron scattering

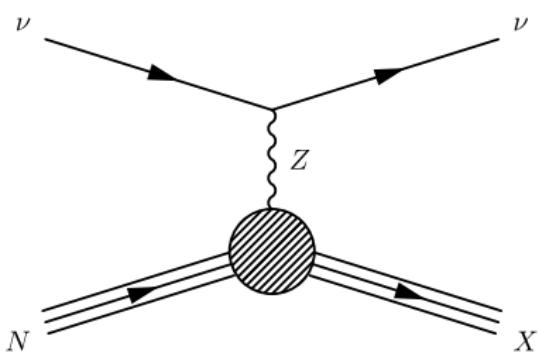


# Neutrino-nucleon Interactions

Charged-Current (CC) interactions  
via  $W$  boson

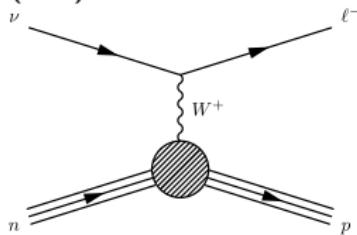


Neutral-Current (NC) interactions  
via  $Z$  boson

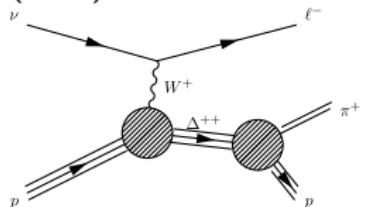


# Charged-Current interactions

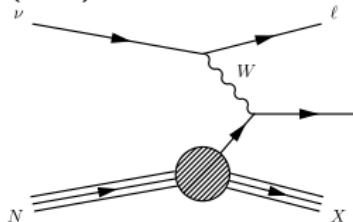
Quasi-elastic scattering  
(QE)



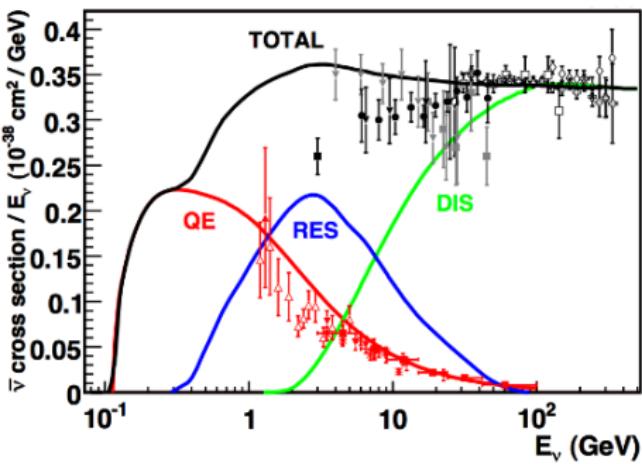
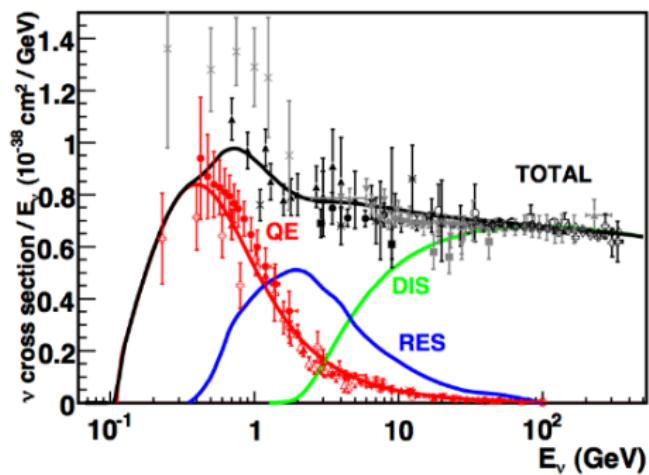
Resonance production  
(RES)



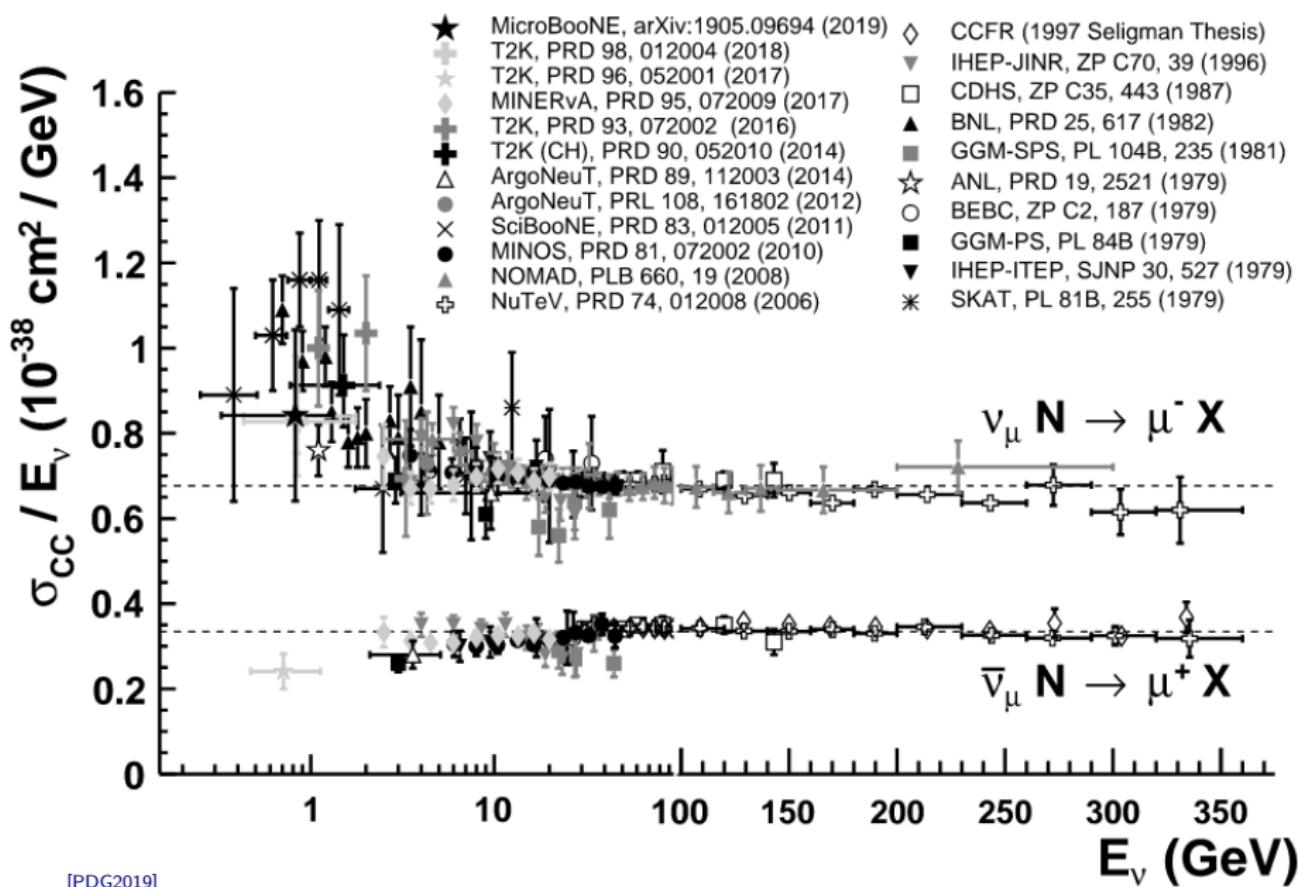
Deeply inelastic scattering  
(DIS)



Total neutrino and antineutrino per nucleon CC cross sections

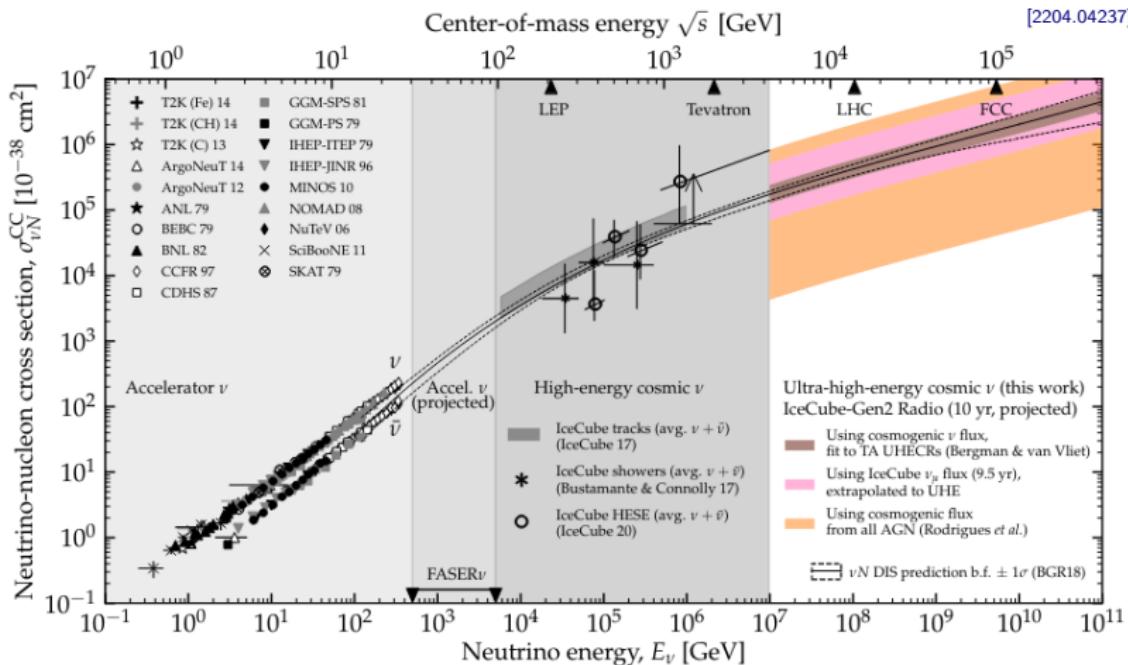


# Neutrino-Nucleon CC cross sections



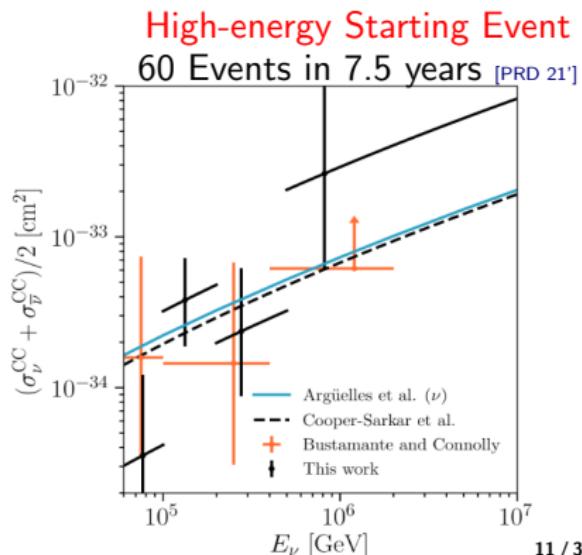
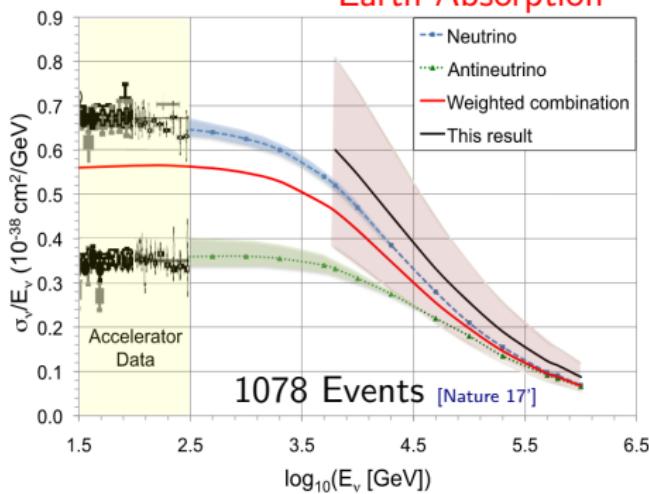
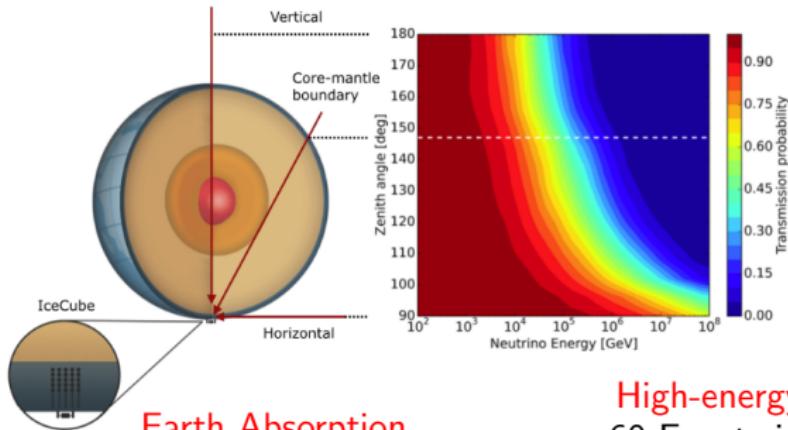
# High-energy neutrino measurements

[2204.04237]

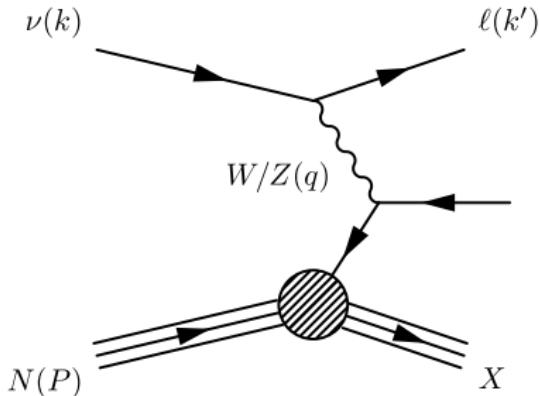


- High energy neutrinos: colliders
- Ultrahigh energy neutrinos: astrophysical source

# IceCube cross sections



# The neutrino-nucleon DIS cross section



Kinematic variables

$$Q^2 = -q^2 = -m_\ell^2 + 2E_\nu(E' - k' \cos\theta) \quad (1)$$

$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot q} = \frac{Q^2}{2M(E_\nu - E')}, \quad y = \frac{P \cdot q}{P \cdot k} = \frac{E_\nu - E'}{E_\nu} = \frac{Q^2}{2xME_\nu}, \quad (2)$$

Inclusive cross section

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu(\bar{\nu})}}{dxdy} = \frac{G_F^2 ME_\nu}{\pi \left(1 + Q^2/M_{W,Z}^2\right)^2} \left[ \begin{array}{l} \frac{y^2}{2} 2xF_1(x, Q^2) + \left(1 - y - \frac{Mxy}{2E}\right) F_2(x, Q^2) \\ \pm y \left(1 - \frac{y}{2}\right) xF_3(x, Q^2) \end{array} \right] \quad (3)$$

# Structure Functions in the parton model (LO)

Callan-Gross relation

$$F_L^V = F_2^V - 2x F_1^V = 0, \quad V = \gamma, Z, \gamma Z, W^\pm. \quad (4)$$

Neutral Current

$$\begin{aligned} [F_2^\gamma, F_2^{\gamma Z}, F_2^Z] &= x \sum_q [e_q^2, 2e_q g_V^q, g_V^{q2} + g_A^{q2}] (q + \bar{q}) \\ [F_3^\gamma, F_3^{\gamma Z}, F_3^Z] &= \sum_q [0, 2e_q g_A^q, 2g_V^q g_A^q] (q - \bar{q}), \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where

$$g_V^q = \pm \frac{1}{2} - 2e_q \sin^2 \theta_W, \quad g_A^q = \pm \frac{1}{2}. \quad (6)$$

Charged Current

$$\begin{aligned} F_2^{W^-} &= 2x(u + \bar{d} + \bar{s} + c\dots), \\ F_3^{W^-} &= 2(u - \bar{d} - \bar{s} + c\dots), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

# Kinematic Phase space

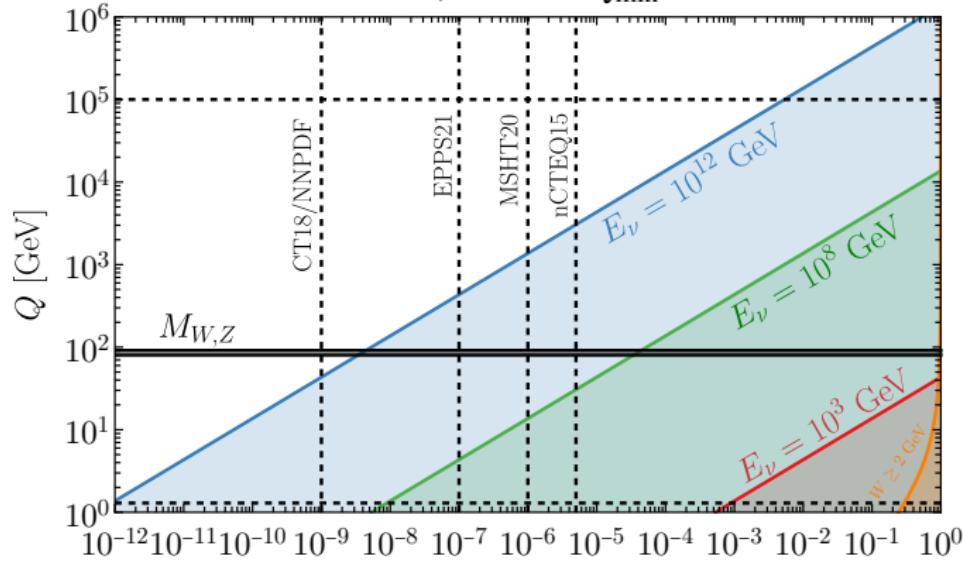
The DIS inclusive cross section

$$\sigma = \int_{Q_{\min}^2}^{2ME_\nu} dQ^2 N(Q^2) \int_{Q^2/(2ME_\nu)}^1 \frac{dx}{x} \mathcal{F}[F_{i=1,2,3}](x, Q^2). \quad (8)$$

Integration limits

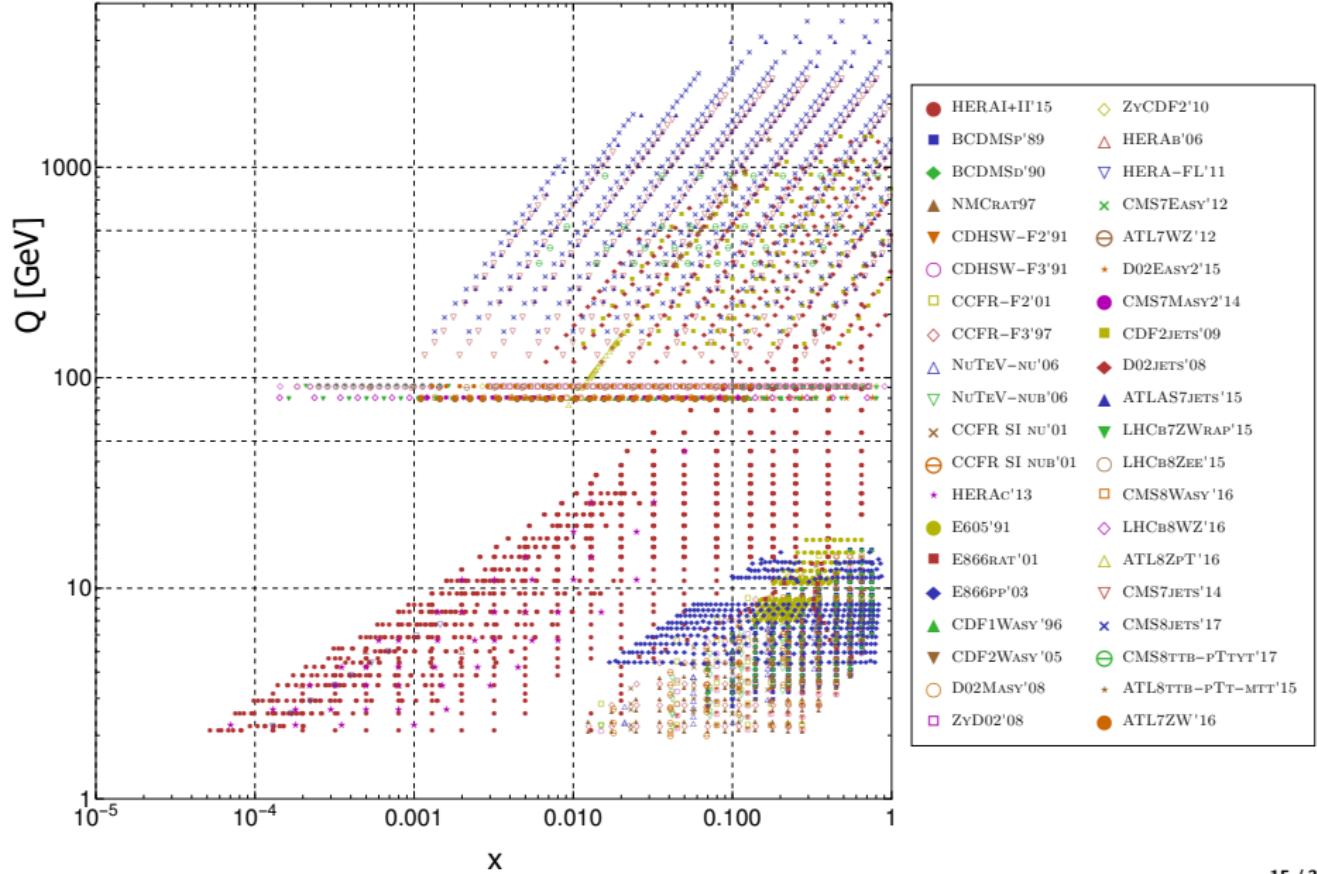
$$Q^2 \in [Q_{\min}^2, 2ME_\nu], \quad x \in [Q^2/(2ME_\nu), 1]. \quad (9)$$

Experiments can select the DIS events, such as  $Q_{\min} = 1 \text{ GeV}$  in MINERvA [\[1601.06313\]](#).

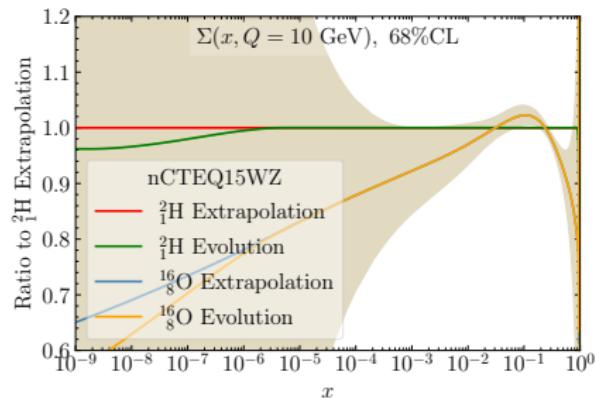
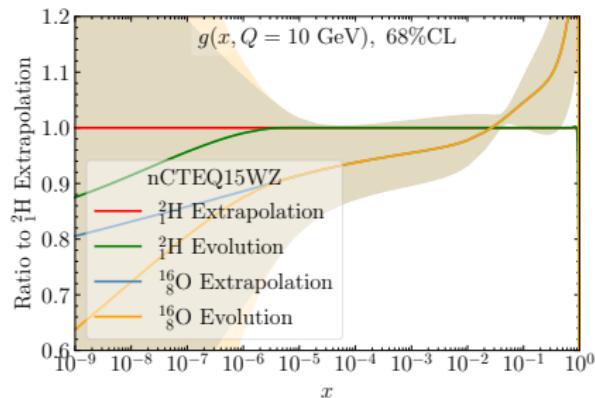
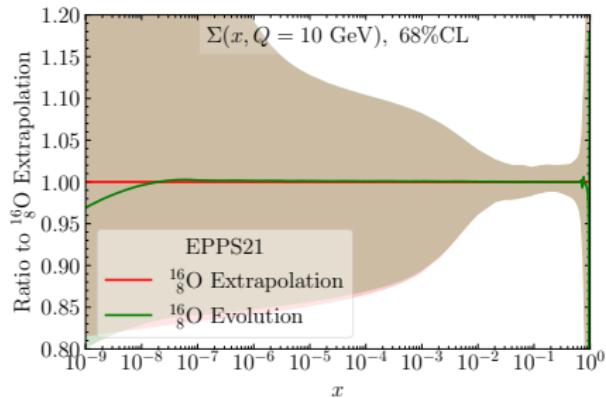
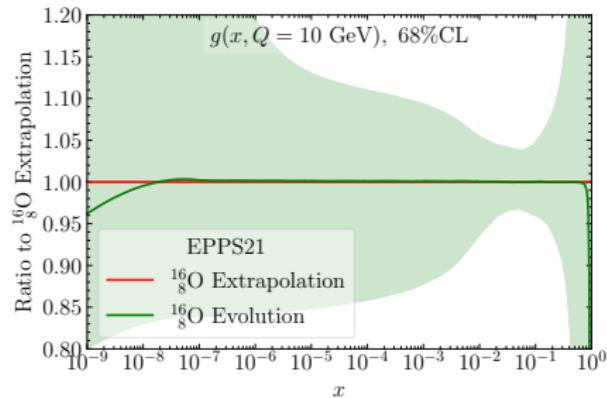


# The data probed ( $x, Q$ ) region [1912.10053]

Experimental data in CT18 PDF analysis

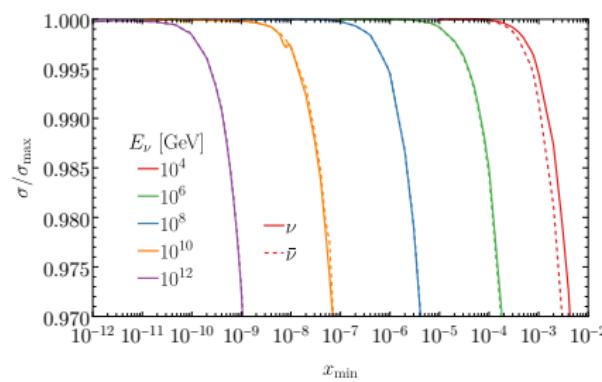
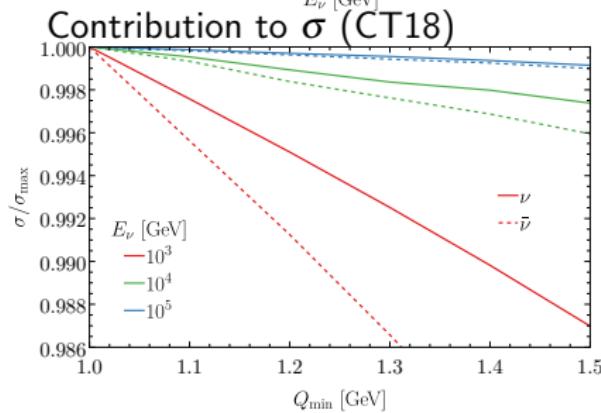
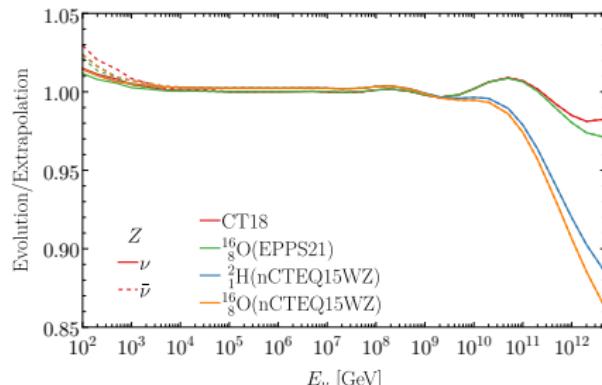
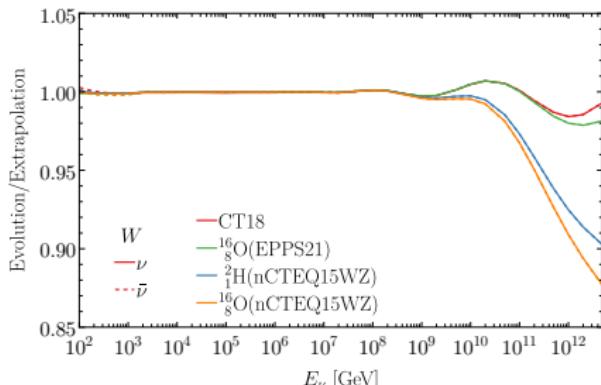


# Small- $x$ PDFs: Extrapolation vs Evolution



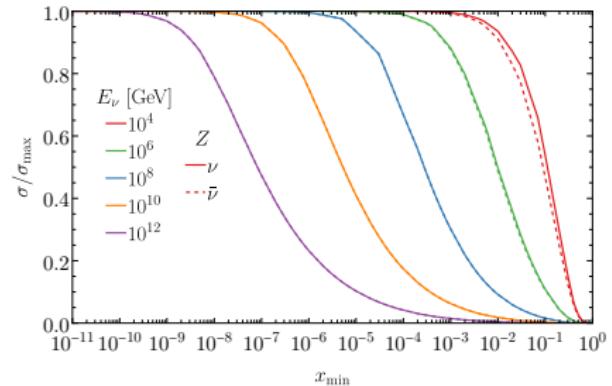
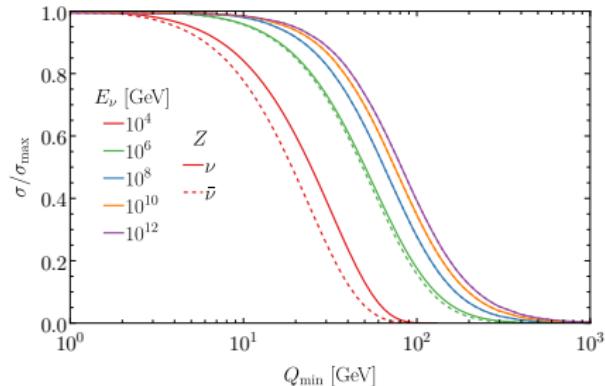
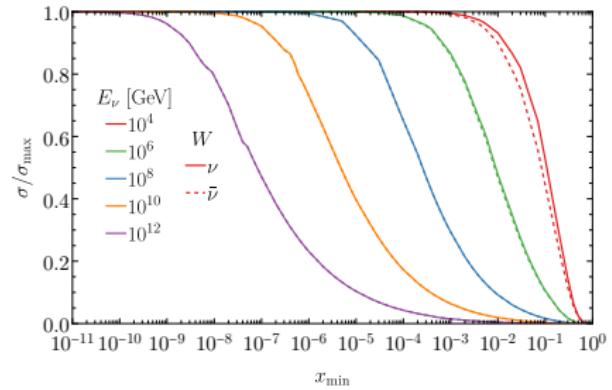
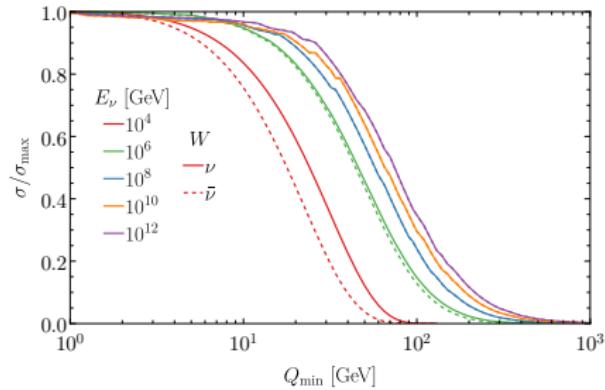
# PDFs at $Q < Q_0$ and $x < x_{\min}$

- Extrapolation: LHAPDF
- Backward evolution: APFEL



# Dominant integration region of $(x, Q^2)$

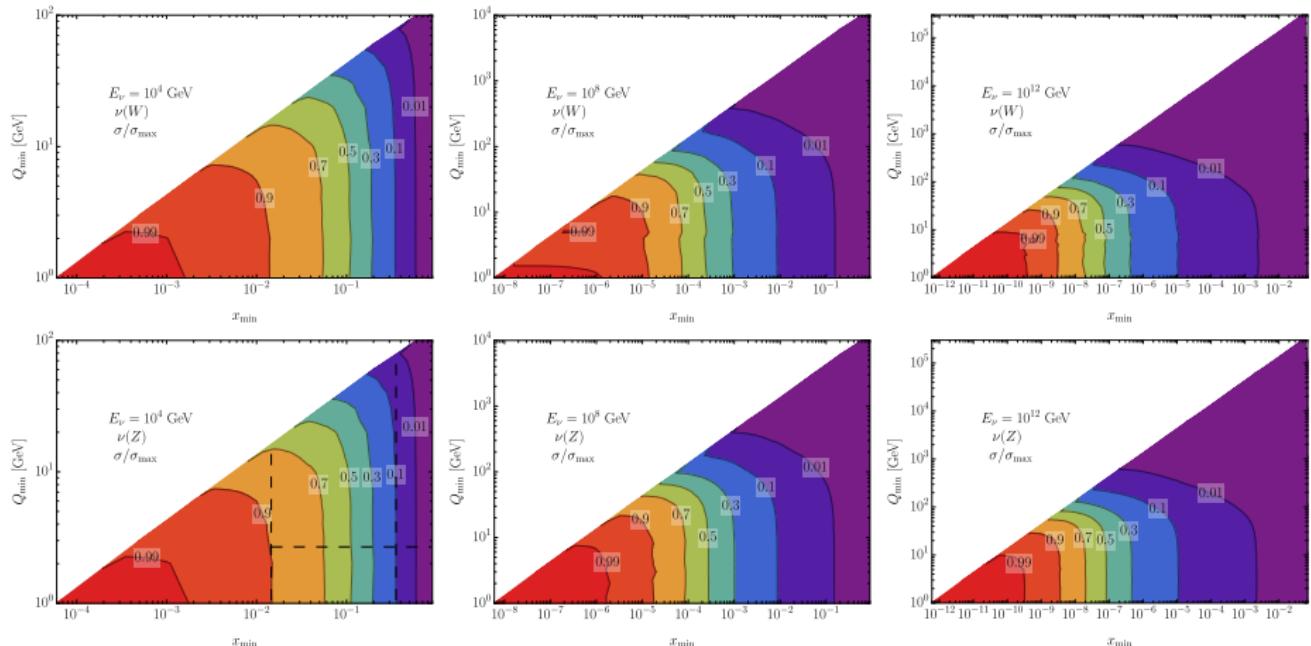
- Dominant integration region:  $Q \sim M_{W,Z}, x \sim M_{W,Z}^2/(2ME_V)$



# 2D contours

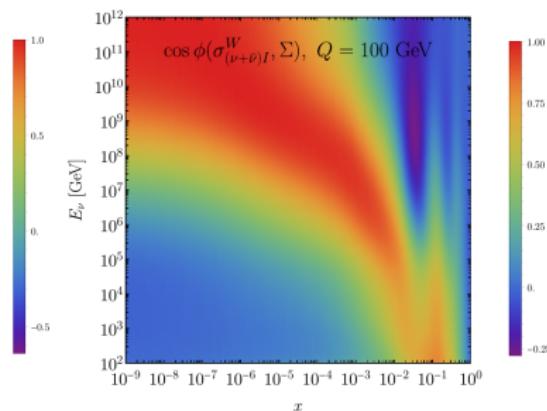
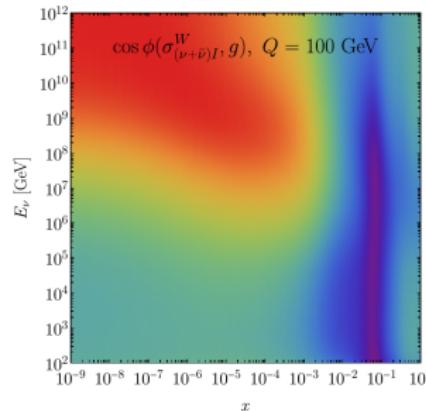
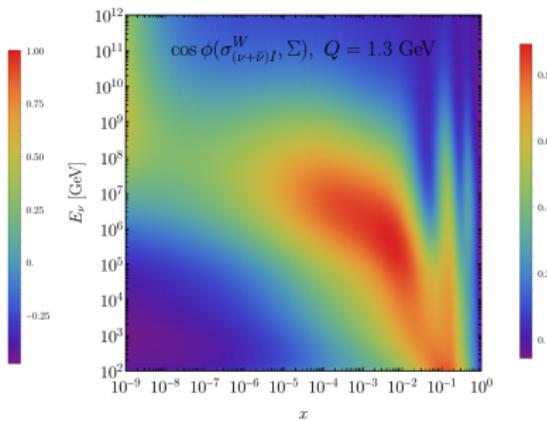
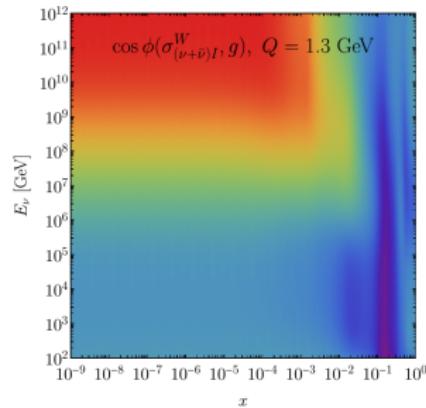
Integrate the trapezoidal region

$$\int_{Q_{\min}^2}^{2ME_\nu} dQ^2 \int_{\max\left(\frac{Q^2}{2ME_\nu}, x_{\min}\right)}^1 dx \quad (10)$$



See backup slides for  $\bar{\nu}$  cross sections.

# PDF correlation



- The singlet  $x \sim M_{W,Z}^2/(2ME_V)$
- At high  $Q$ ,  
 $\Sigma \leftrightarrow g$  correlated.

# QCD corrections

- QCD factorization:

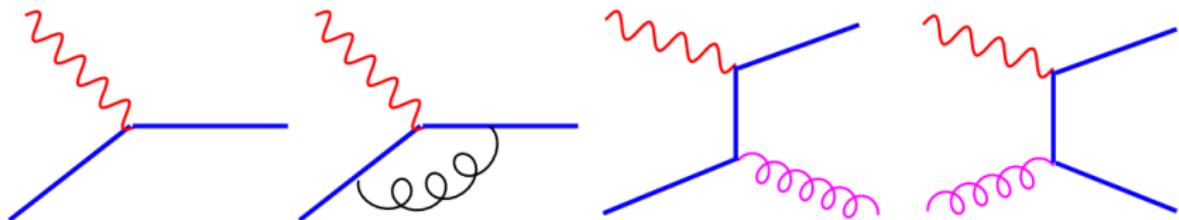
$$F(x, Q^2) = \sum_i \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} C_i \left( \frac{x}{z}, \frac{Q^2}{\mu_f^2}, \alpha_s \right) f_i(z, \mu_f^2) + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{\Lambda^2}{Q^2} \right), \quad (11)$$

where  $i$  indicates parton  $q, \bar{q}, g$ .

- PDF evolution – DGLAP

$$\frac{df_i(x, \mu_f^2)}{d \log \mu_f^2} = \sum_j \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} P_{ij} \left( \frac{x}{z} \right) f_j(z, \mu_f^2). \quad (12)$$

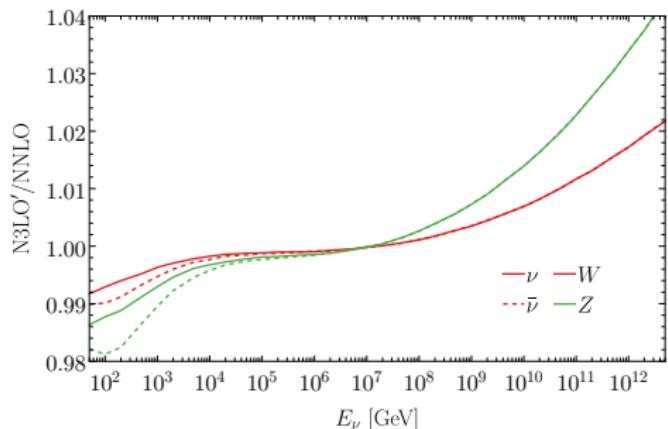
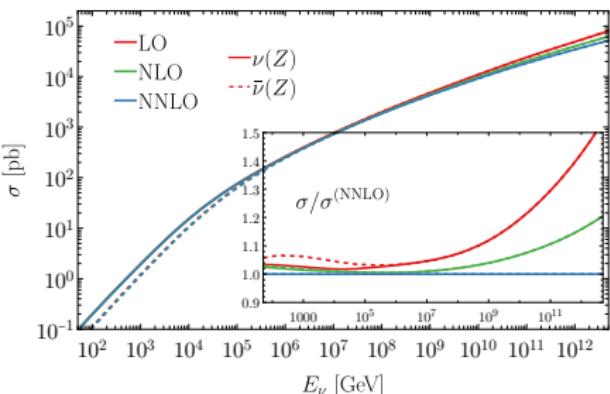
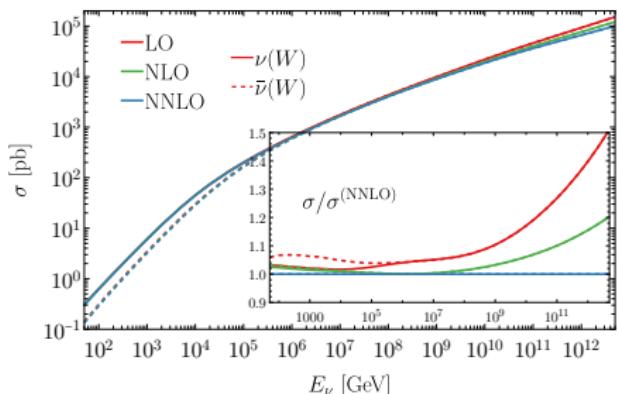
- Perturbative expansion of Wilson coefficients



- Heavy-quark mass effect [More comes later].

- $Q^2 \sim m_q^2$ : Fixed-Flavor-Number scheme, Flavor Creation
- $Q^2 \gg m_q^2$ : Zero-Mass, Flavor Excitation

# Perturbative orders up to N3LO



[CT18LO:2205.00137]

[CT18(N)NLO:1912.10053]

- LO/NLO/NNLO:  $C^{(0/1/2)} \otimes f^{(0/1/2)}$
- N3LO':  $C^{(3)} \otimes f^{(2)}$  [ZM]

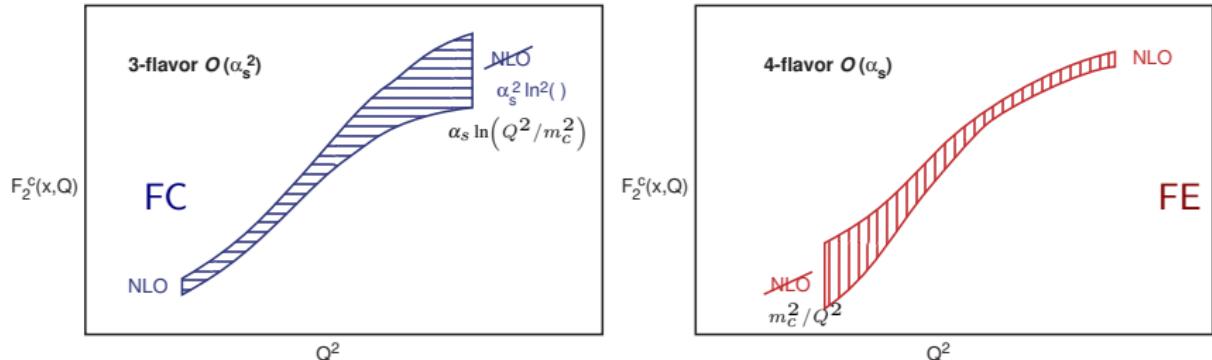
WC:[arXiv:0504242,0708.3731,0812.4168], [more

recently:1606.08907,2208.14325]

# General-Mass Variable-Flavor-Number scheme

- Master Formula: ACOT matching [Aivazis, Collins, Olness, Tung, PRD1994]

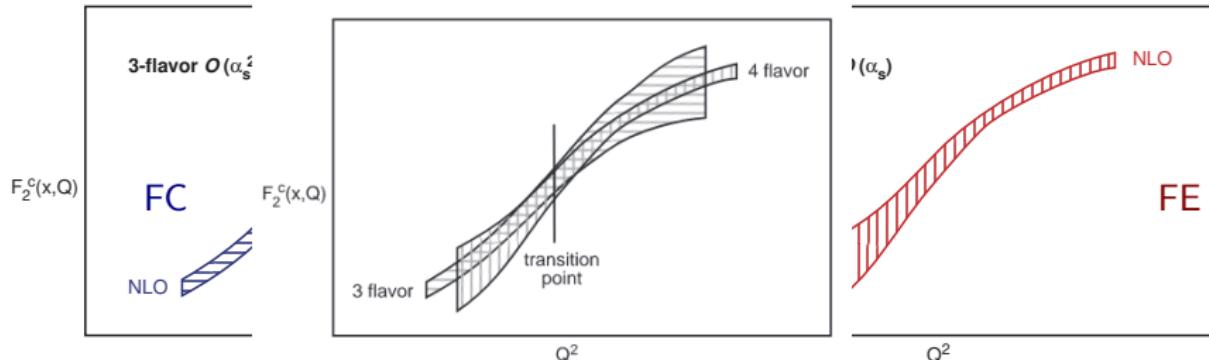
$$\text{ACOT} = \text{FC} + \text{FE} - \text{Sub.} \quad (13)$$



# General-Mass Variable-Flavor-Number scheme

- Master Formula: ACOT matching [Aivazis, Collins, Olness, Tung, PRD1994]

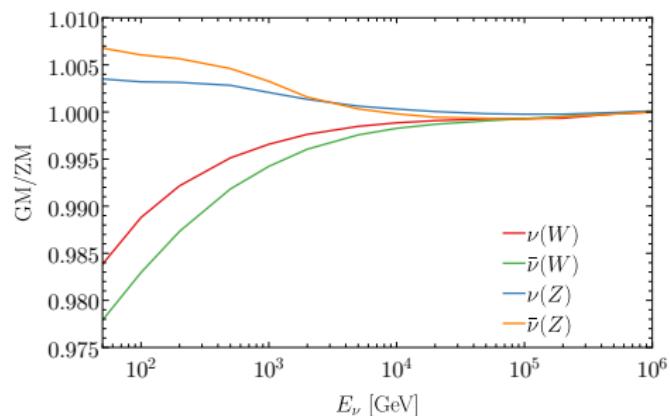
$$\text{ACOT} = \text{FC} + \text{FE} - \text{Sub.} \quad (13)$$



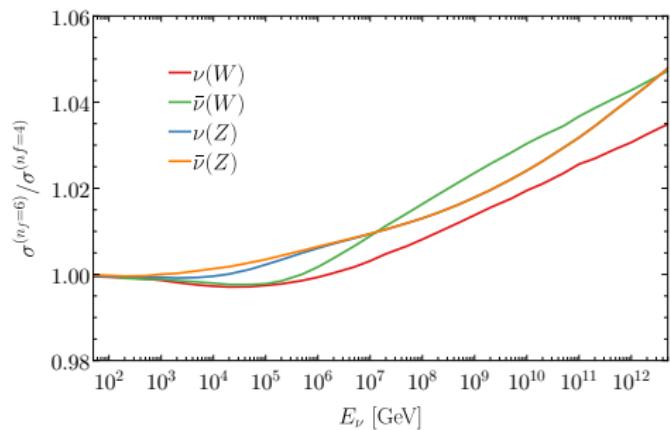
- Asymptotic behaviors
  - $Q \gtrsim m_c$ ,  $m_c$  matters,  $f_c(x, \mu^2) \approx 0$ , FE~Sub, FC dominates (FFN 3-flv).
  - $Q \gg m_c$ ,  $m_c \approx 0$ ,  $f_c(x, \mu^2)$  matters, FC~Sub, FE dominates (ZM 4-flv).
- The Simplified ACOT scheme: treats heavy-quark as massless in Flavor Excitation [Collins, PRD1998, Kramer PRD2000].
- The S-ACOT scheme at NNLO for DIS: NC [Guzzi, 1108.5112], CC [Gao, 2107.00460].

# General-mass variable-flavor-number scheme

Quark mass effect [1108.5112,2107.00460]

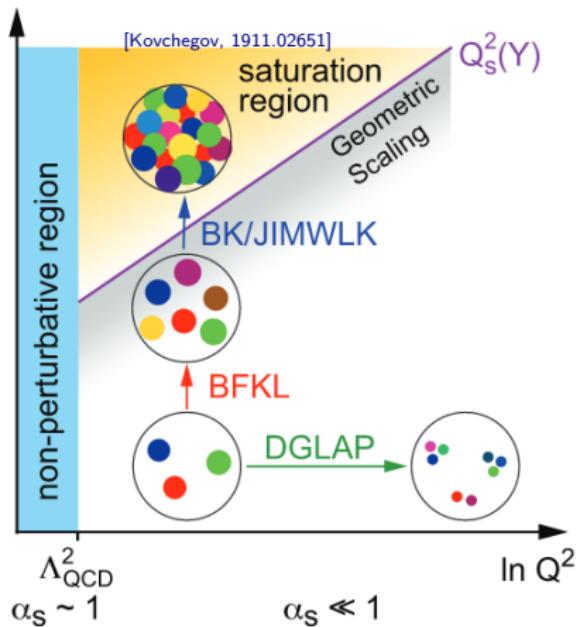


Variable flavor numbers

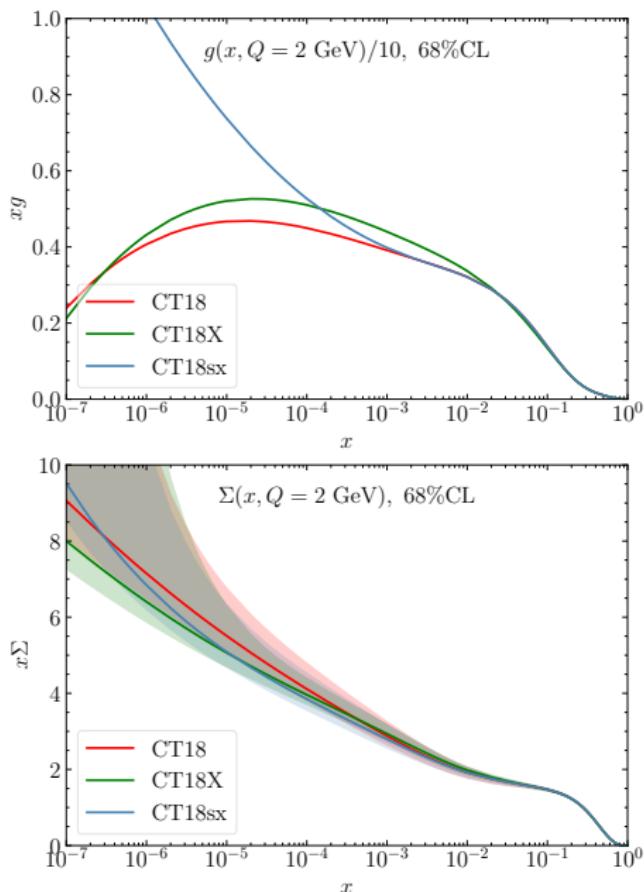


# PDFs at small $x$

$\gamma = \ln 1/x$



- CT18X [1912.10053] takes a saturation model:  $x$ -dependent DIS scale
- CT18sx [2108.06596] resum the  $\ln(1/x)$  with BFKL  
(HELL package [1607.02153, 1708.07510])



# Small- $x$ resummation

- Perturbative Wilson coefficient and splitting functions contains  $\ln(1/x)$  (single-log enhanced)

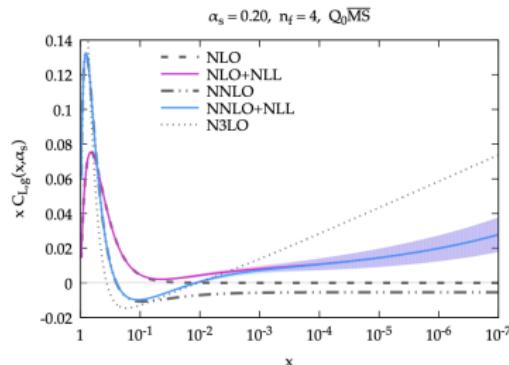
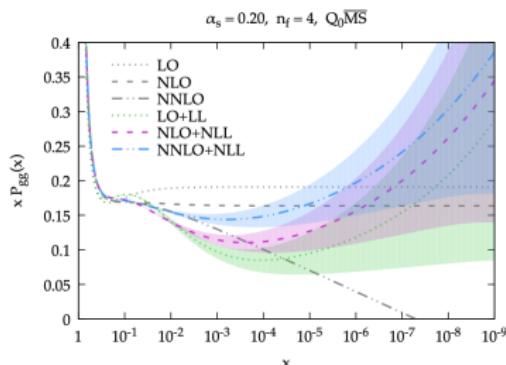
$$C(x, \alpha_s) [ \text{ or } P(x, \alpha_s) ] = a_0 + \alpha_s [ a_1 \ln(1/x) + b_1 ] + \alpha_s^2 [ a_2 \ln^2(1/x) + b_2 \ln(1/x) + c_2 ] + \dots$$

- Large  $\alpha_s \ln(1/x)$  spoils the perturbative convergence  $\Rightarrow$  resummation
- DGLAP vs BFKL:  $\xi = \ln(1/x)$  and  $t = \ln(Q^2/\Lambda^2)$ .

$$g(N, t) = \int_0^\infty d\xi e^{-N\xi} g(\xi, t) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{dt} g(N, t) = \gamma(N, \alpha_s) g(N, t),$$

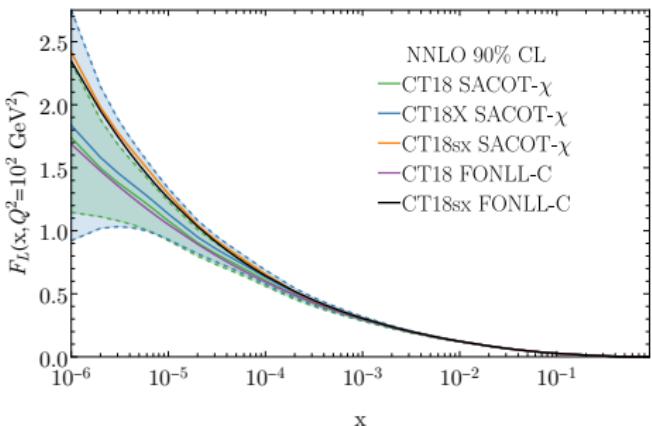
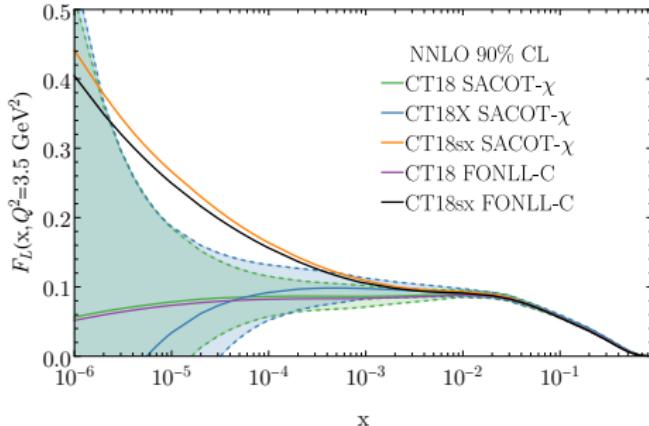
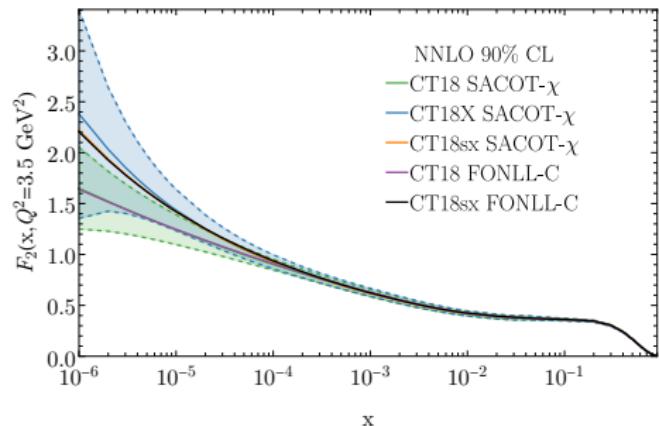
$$g(\xi, M) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty dt e^{-Mt} g(\xi, t) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{d\xi} g(\xi, M) = \chi(M, \alpha_s) g(\xi, M).$$

- Match the DGLAP with the BFKL [HELL: 1607.02153, 1708.07510]



# Impacts on structure functions

[2108.06596]



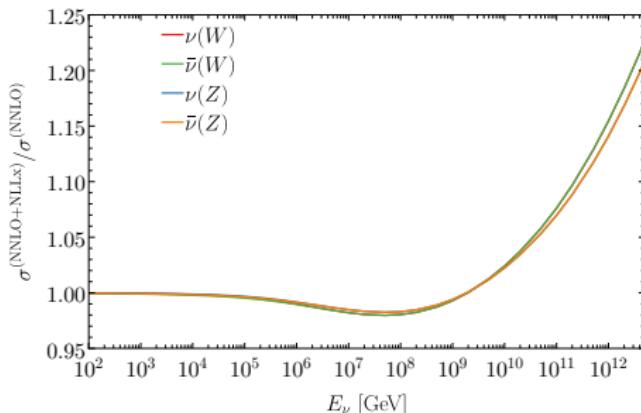
- Both CT18X and CT18sx enhance the  $F_2$  at small  $x$  and  $Q$ .
- CT18X reduces  $F_L$  at small  $x$  while CT18sx enhances  $F_L$ .
- Both effects disappear at  $Q$ .

$$F_2^{\text{NLLx,SACOT}} = \frac{C(\text{NLLx}) \otimes f(\text{CT18sx})}{C(\text{NNLO}) \otimes f(\text{CT18})} \frac{C(\text{NNLO}) \otimes f(\text{CT18})}{K: \text{FONLL-C}} \frac{f_{\text{SACOT}}(\text{CT18})}{F_2^{\text{SACOT}}(\text{CT18})}$$

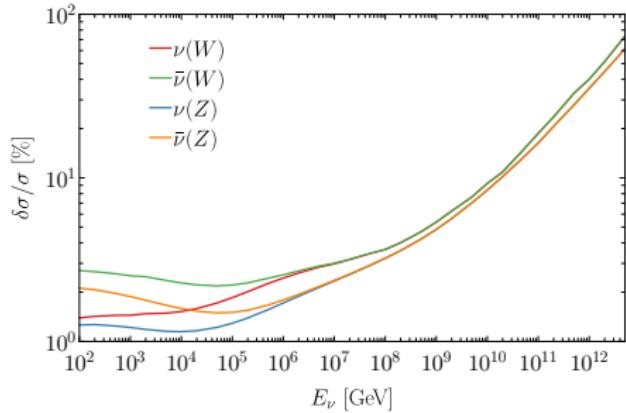
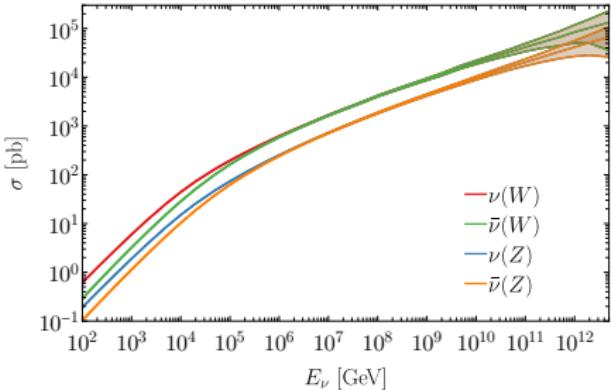
# Impacts on cross sections

- The BFKL resummation of small- $x$  (large  $\log x$ ) enhances (reduces) gluon (flavor singlet) PDFs at low  $Q^2$  (HELL [\[1607.02153, 1708.07510\]](#)).
- Typical  $x$

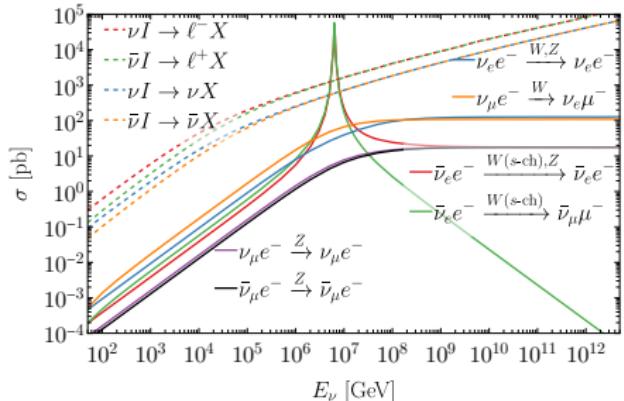
$$x_{W,Z} = \frac{M_{W,Z}^2}{2ME_\nu} \sim 10^{-5} \implies E_\nu \sim 10^9 \text{ GeV.}$$



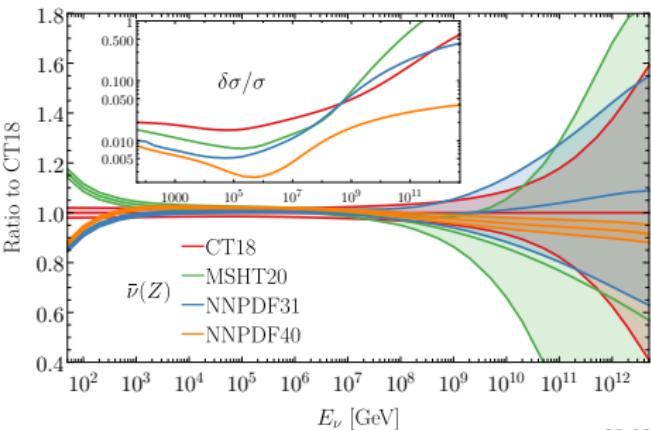
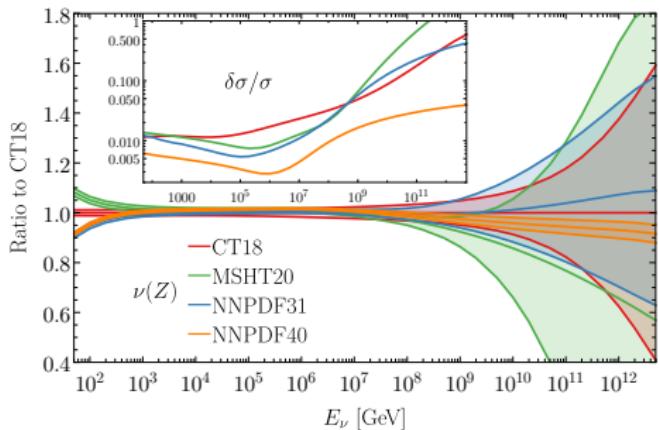
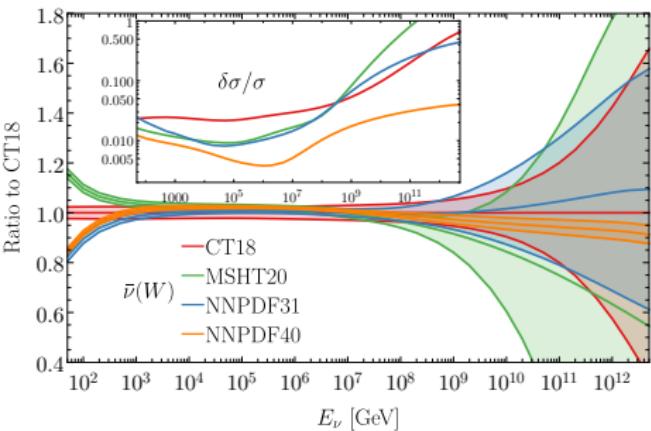
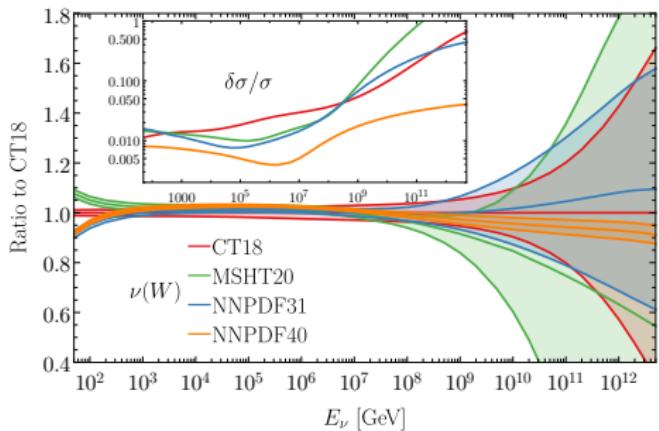
# Predictions for neutrino-isoscalar cross sections



- Exact NNLO (full mass dependence [1108.5112, 2107.00460]), while N3LO ZM WC [1606.08907, 2208.14325]
- $n_f = 6$  Flavors
- Small- $x$  resummation



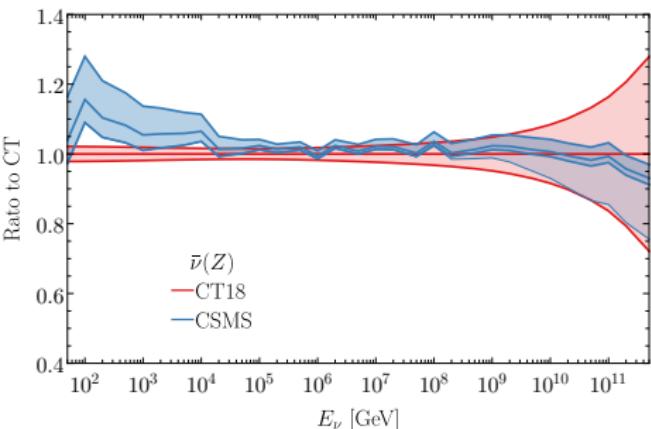
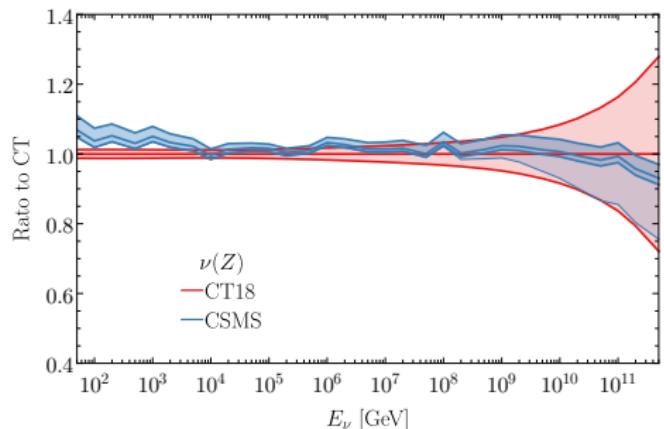
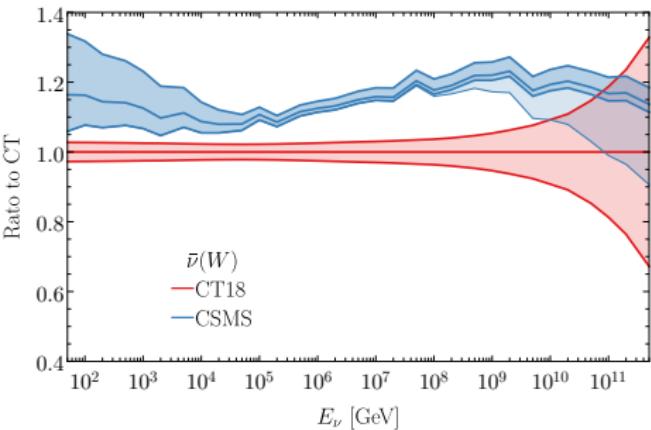
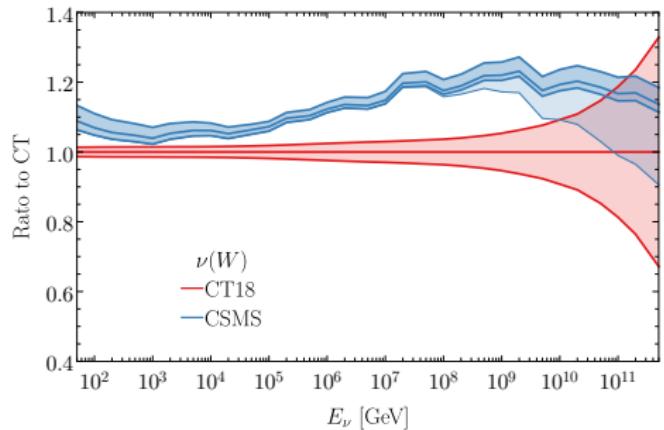
# PDF comparison



## Other calculations

- Gandhi-Quigg-Reno-Sarcevic [[hep-ph/9807264](#)]: CTEQ4M, LO
- Connolly-Thorne-Waters [[1102.0691](#)]: MSTW08, LO
- Cooper-Sarkar-Mertsch-Sarkar [[1106.3723](#)]: HERAPDF1.5, NLO (IceCube)
- Argüelles-Halzen-Wille-Kroll-Reno [[1504.06639](#)]: Color dipole model
- Bertone-Gauld-Rojo [[1808.02034, 2004.04756](#)]: NNPDF3.1sx, NNLO (NLO in Genie)
- NNSFv [[2302.08527](#)]: Bodek-Yang model, NNPDF4.0, NNLO
- Jeong-Reno [[2307.09241](#)]: Shallow inelastic scattering

# Comparison with the CSMS calculation (IceCube)



# Nuclear impacts (simplified)

- The water nucleon number averaged cross sections:

$$F_i^{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = \frac{1}{2+A} (2F_i^p + AF_i^O) \implies \sigma_{v\text{H}_2\text{O}} = \frac{1}{2+A} (2\sigma_{vp} + A\sigma_{vO}),$$

with  $A = 16$  and the isoscalar  $Z = N = 8$  for O nucleus.

- We define the nuclear corrections as the cross section ratios [following BGR]

$$R_O = \frac{\sigma_{vO}}{\sigma_{vI}},$$

where  $I$  is the isoscalar. The nucleus cross section  $\sigma_{vO}$  are obtained with nuclear PDFs.

- The final  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -averaged cross section can be obtained through

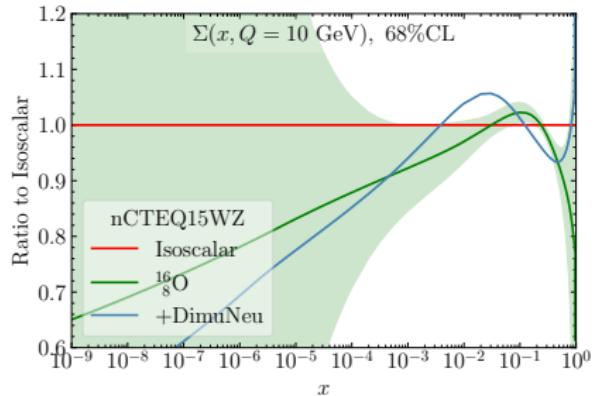
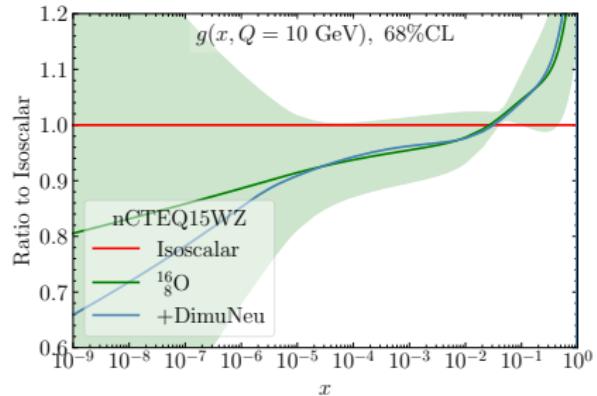
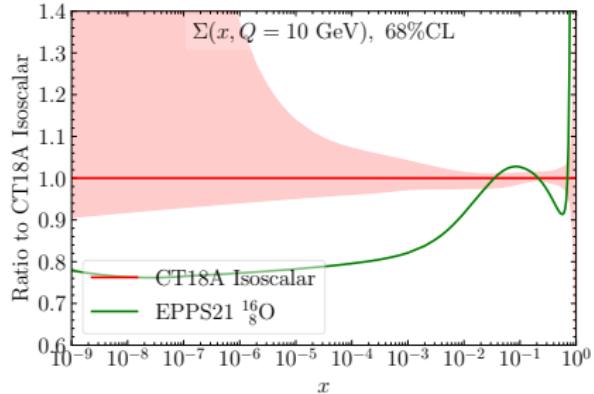
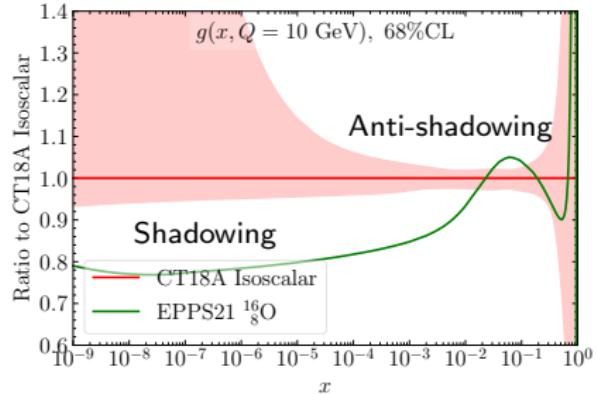
$$\sigma_{v\text{H}_2\text{O}} = \sigma_{vI} R_O R_{\text{H}_2\text{O}/O}, \quad R_{\text{H}_2\text{O}/O} = \frac{2\sigma_{vp} + A\sigma_{vO}}{2+A} / \sigma_{vO}.$$

with uncertainty propagated as

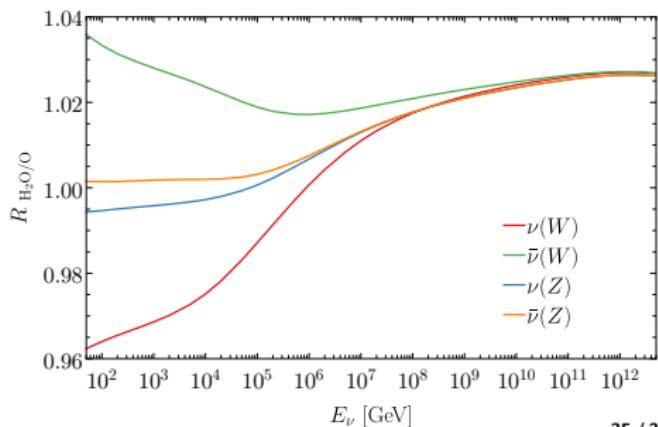
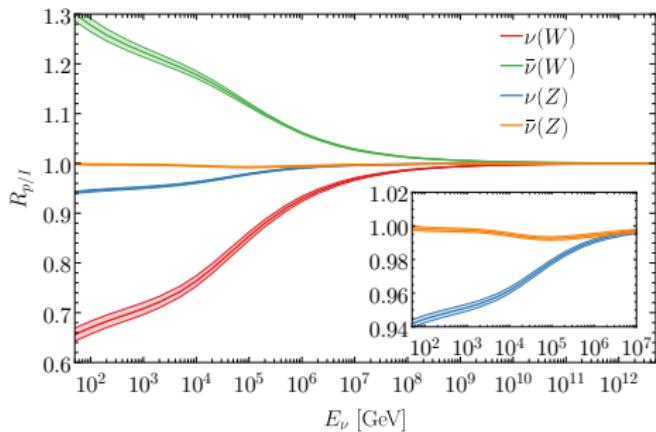
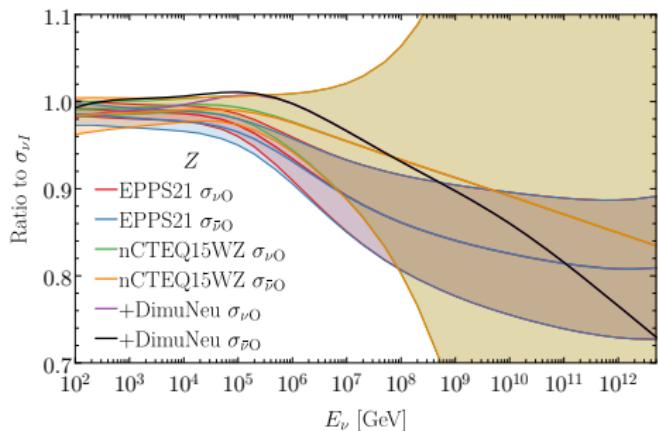
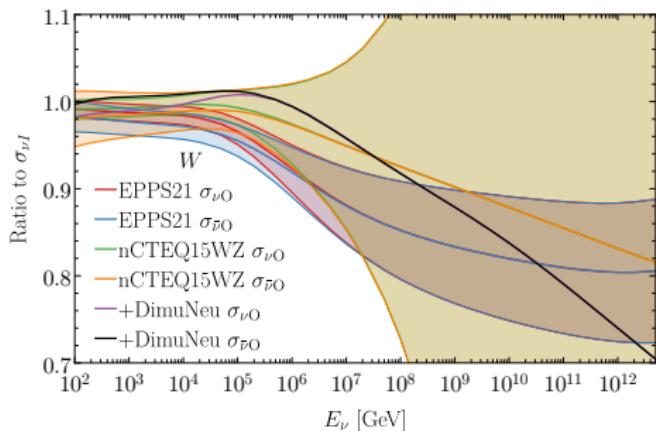
$$\frac{\delta\sigma_{v\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{\sigma_{v\text{H}_2\text{O}}} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta\sigma_{vI}}{\sigma_{vI}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{A}{2+A} \frac{\delta R_O}{R_O}\right)^2}.$$

- We provide  $\sigma_{vI}$ ,  $R_O$  and  $R_{\text{H}_2\text{O}/O}$  as numerical tables [2303.13607].
- Many other impacts can be explored in more details, such as target-mass [2301.07715], off-shell corrections [1704.00204], etc.

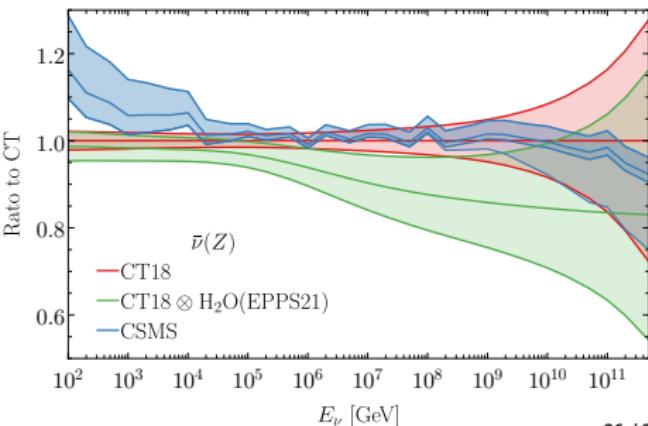
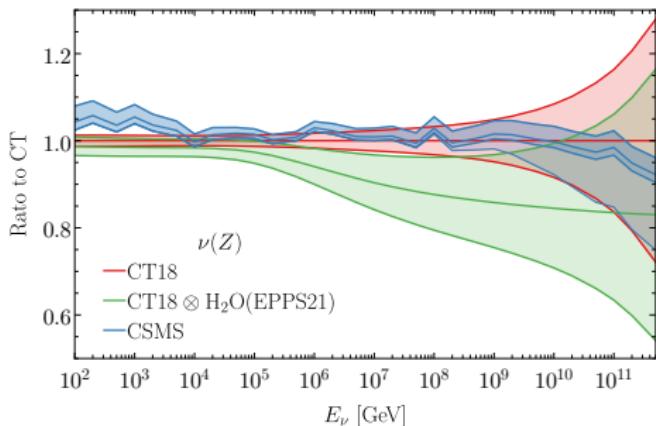
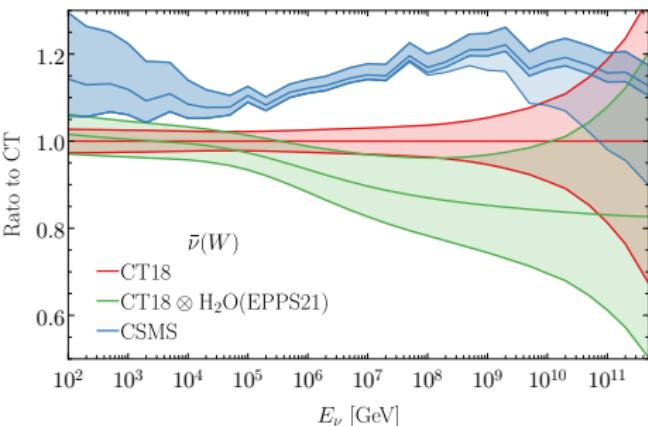
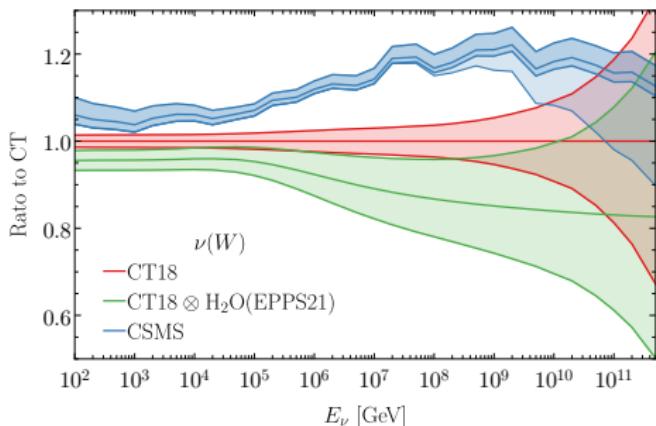
# Nuclear effects on PDFs



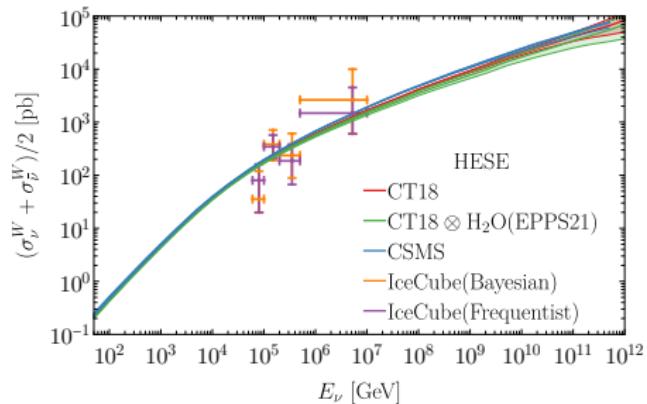
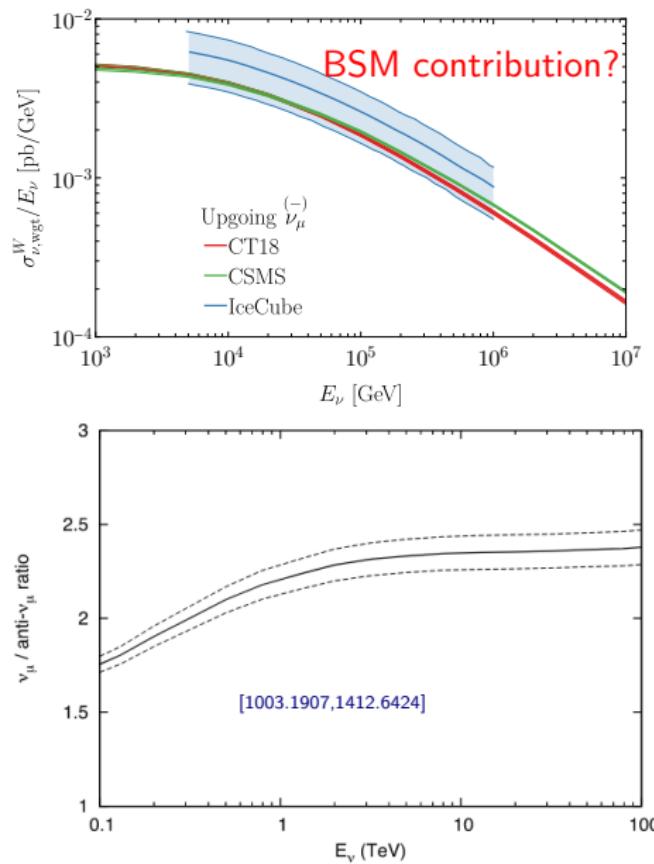
# Neutrino scattering with Oxygen and water



# A comparison again



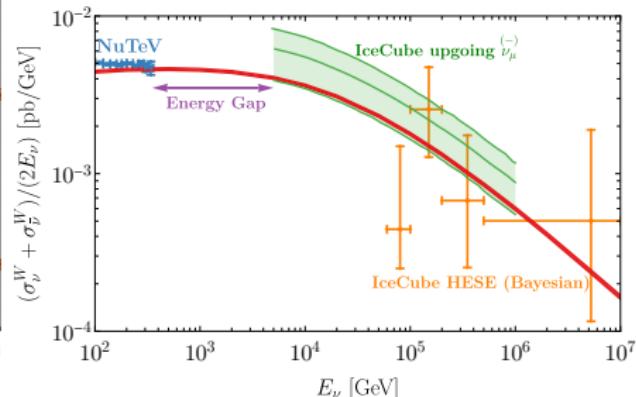
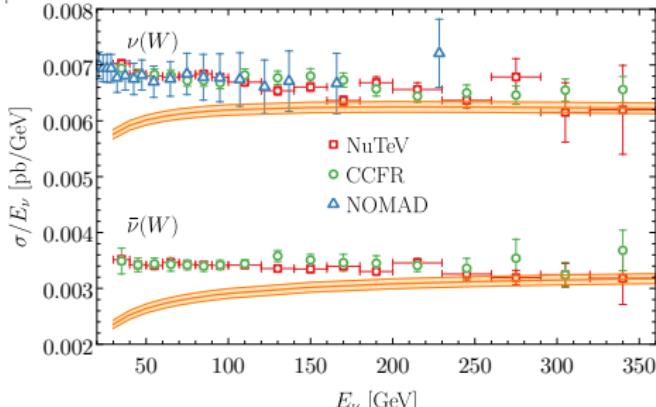
# Compare with IceCube data



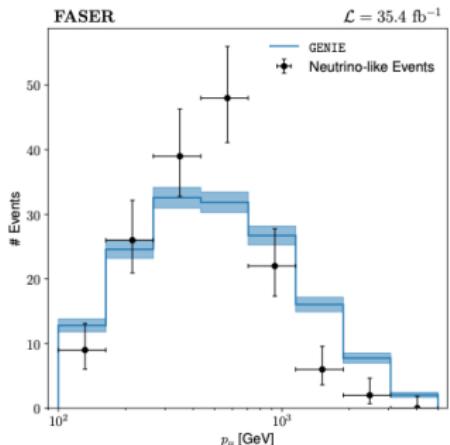
- The absorption cross section [IceCube, [Nature 17](#)] is weighted with neutrino flux.
- the HESE cross section is averaged [IceCube, [PRD20](#)'].

$$\sigma_{\nu, \text{wgt}} = \frac{\Phi_\nu \sigma_\nu + \Phi_{\bar{\nu}} \sigma_{\bar{\nu}}}{\Phi_\nu + \Phi_{\bar{\nu}}}.$$

# Accelerator neutrinos and energy gap



- At low  $E_\nu$ , the missing Quasi-Elastic (QE) scattering and Resonance (RES) production become important.
- The energy gap can be potentially filled by the FASER (FPF) measurements.
- First FASER measurement comes out [\[2303.14185\]](#).



# Conclusion

- We have performed a state-of-art calculation for high-energy neutrino-nucleon scattering.
- Partons have been included up to  $n_f = 6$  flavors (4%).
- The perturbative QCD order has been achieved up to exact NNLO (heavy-quark mass effect -2%), and zero-mass N3LO (3%).
- Small- $x$  resummation has been included with the BFKL equation (20%).
- Nuclear effects have been explored with the nuclear PDF approach (20%).
- The PDF uncertainty varies from 1% to 70%.
- Our calculation provides a good description of neutrino DIS data, both for accelerator and astrophysical sources.
- The energy gap between IceCube and accelerator sources can be filled by the FASER (FPF) experiment.

# The Earth absorption

- At high  $E_\nu$ , astrophysical neutrinos dominate.
- Single-power-law astro. flux

$$\frac{d\Phi_{6\nu}}{dE_\nu} = \Phi_{\text{astro}} \left( \frac{E_\nu}{100 \text{ TeV}} \right)^{-\gamma_{\text{astro}}} \cdot 10^{-18} \text{ GeV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}, \quad (14)$$

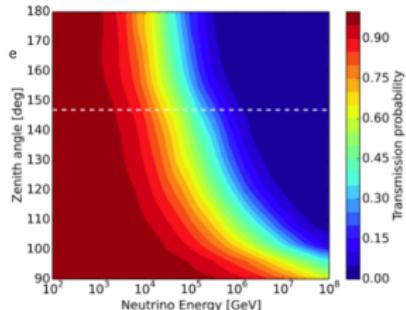
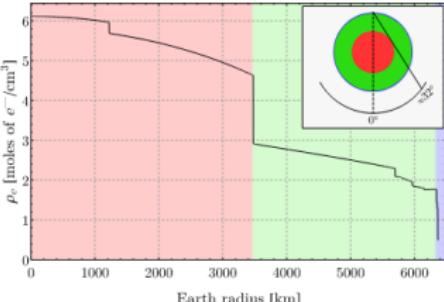
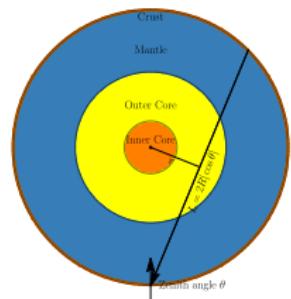
- The upward-going events (from northern sky)

$$\frac{dN_{\text{evt}}}{dE_\nu} = \sigma_v^W \frac{d\Phi_{6\nu}}{dE_\nu} \mathcal{P}_{\text{trans}} \quad (15)$$

- The transmission probability

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{trans}} \sim \exp\{-L(\theta)/\lambda(E_\nu)\} = \exp\{-L(\theta)\kappa\sigma(E_\nu)\} \quad (16)$$

- Earth model: isotopic abundance and density



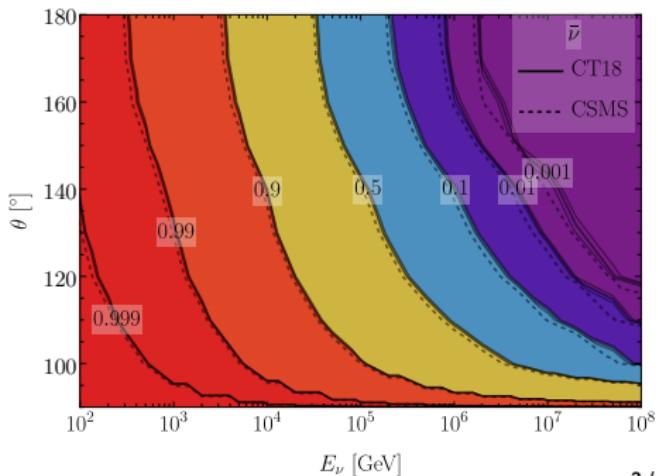
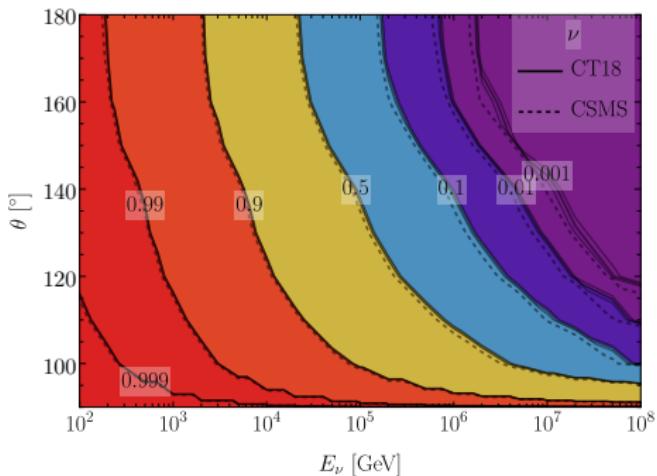
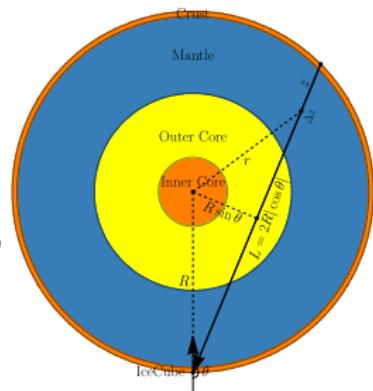
# The transmission probability

- We take a spherical earth model, with the density from Preliminary Reference Earth Model (PREM) [Dziewonski & Anderson, 1981].

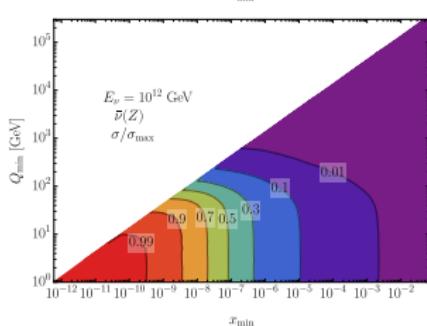
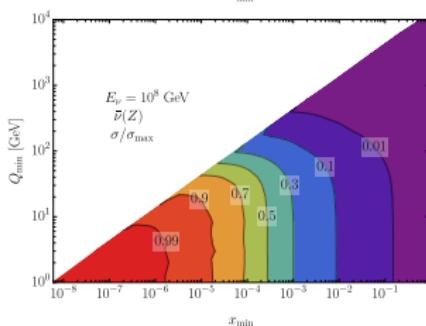
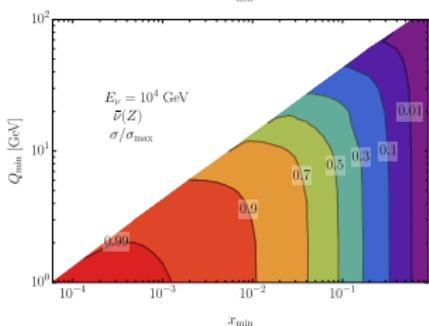
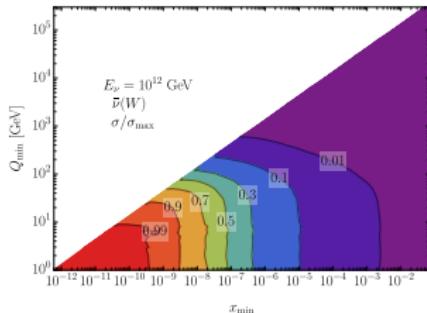
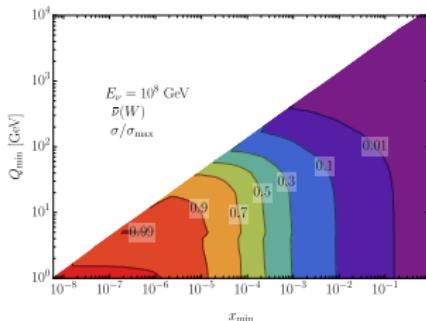
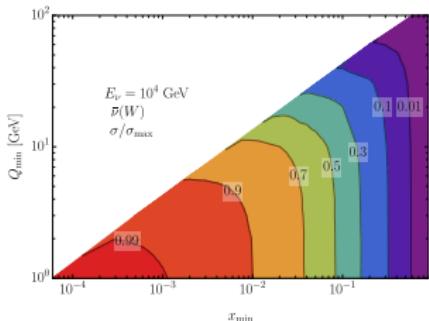
- The transmission probability

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{trans}}(E_\nu, \theta) = \Pi_{\Delta z} P_{\alpha\alpha}(E_\nu, \Delta z) \exp\{-\Delta z/\lambda(r, E_\nu)\},$$

where the oscillation probability is  $P_{\alpha\alpha} \approx 1$  when  $E_\nu \gtrsim 1$  TeV, and the mean-free path  $\lambda = 1/n_N(r)\sigma_\nu(E_\nu)$ .



# $(x_{\min}, Q_{\min})$ for $\bar{\nu}$ cross section



# The CSMS and BGR calculations

