The present and future of flavor in high-energy cosmic neutrinos

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N3AS Seminar March 26, 2024



















Synergies with lower energies

Ackermann, MB, et al., Astro2020 Decadal Survey (1903.04333), adapted



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Ackermann, MB, et al., Astro2020 Decadal Survey (1903.04333), adapted







$$p + \gamma_{\text{target}} \rightarrow \Delta^{+} \rightarrow \begin{cases} p + \pi^{0}, & \text{Br} = 2/3 \\ n + \pi^{+}, & \text{Br} = 1/3 \end{cases}$$

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$$p + \gamma_{\text{target}} \rightarrow \Delta^{+} \rightarrow \begin{cases} p + \pi^{0}, \text{ Br} = 2/3 \\ n + \pi^{+}, \text{ Br} = 1/3 \end{cases}$$
$$\pi^{0} \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma$$
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$$n \text{ (escapes)} \rightarrow p + e^{-} + \overline{\nu}_{e}$$



Neutrino energy = Proton energy / 20 Gamma-ray energy = Proton energy / 10

|--|

Note: v sources can be steady-state or transient









Shower (mainly from v_e and v_{τ})

Track (mainly from v_{μ})



Poor angular resolution: $\sim 10^{\circ}$







Arrival directions Isotropy (for diffuse flux)

Main high-energy v observables

uo^{11,50}⁰⁰ Equal number of ν_e, ν_µ, ν_τ

Standard expectation: v and γ from transients arrive simultaneously







Arrival directions Joint Chirections

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Astrophysical sources

Earth



Different production mechanisms yield different flavor ratios: $(f_{e,S}, f_{\mu,S}, f_{\tau,S}) \equiv (N_{e,S}, N_{\mu,S}, N_{\tau,S})/N_{tot}$

Flavor ratios at Earth ($\alpha = e, \mu, \tau$):

$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} P_{\nu_{\beta}\to\nu_{\alpha}} f_{\beta,S}$$

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Standard oscillations
or
new physics

Assumes underlying unitarity – sum of projections on each axis is 1

How to read it: Follow the tilt of the tick marks



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From sources to Earth: we learn what to expect when measuring $f_{\alpha,\oplus}$



One likely TeV–PeV v production scenario: $p + \gamma \rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_{\mu}$ followed by $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ + \nu_e + \overline{\nu_{\mu}}$

Full π decay chain (1/3:2/3:0)_s

Note: v and \overline{v} are (so far) indistinguishable in neutrino telescopes
















From sources to Earth: we learn what to expect when measuring $f_{\alpha,\oplus}$





Note:

All plots shown are for normal neutrino mass ordering (NO); inverted ordering looks similar



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Using high-energy neutrinos as magnetometers

If sources have strong magnetic fields, charged particles cool via synchrotron:

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$$\pi^{0} \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma$$

$$\pi^{+} \rightarrow \mu^{+} + \nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\mu} + e^{+} + \nu_{e} + \nu_{\mu}$$

$$n \text{ (escapes)} \rightarrow p + e^{-} + \bar{\nu}_{e}$$

MB, Tamborra, *PRD* 2020 Winter, *PRD* 2013

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		• DM	-v interaction _DE-v interactio
Heavy relics. DM annihilation DM decay.		orentz+CPT violat	ion Neutrino decay
	L Secr • Sterile v	ong-range interact et vv_interactions Effectiv	tions• Supersymmetry• ve operators•
	Boosted DM- ,NSI	*Leptoquarks Extra dimensior	ns.
	Sup	erluminal v	Ionopoles







Standard expectation: Power-law energy spectrum

Standard expectation: Isotropy (for diffuse flux)





Standard expectation: Isotropy (for diffuse flux)















Use the flavor sensitivity to test new physics:

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Neutrino decay

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Tests of unitarity at high energy

[Xu, He, Rodejohann, *JCAP* 2014; Ahlers, **MB**, Mu, *PRD* 2018; Ahlers, **MB**, Nortvig, *JCAP* 2021]



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Lorentz- and CPT-invariance violation

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Active-sterile v mixing

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New physics in flavor composition

Use the flavor sensitivity to test new physics:

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Long-range ev interactions [MB & Agarwalla, PRL 2019]



Reviews:

Argüelles et al. (inc. MB), EPJC 2023; Mehta & Winter, JCAP 2011; Rasmussen et al., PRD 2017

Lorentz-invariance violation can fill up the flavor triangle



See also: Ahlers, **MB**, Mu, *PRD* 2018; Rasmusen *et al.*, *PRD* 2017; **MB**, Beacom, Winter *PRL* 2015; **MB**, Gago, Peña-Garay *JCAP* 2010; Bazo, **MB**, Gago, Miranda *IJMPA* 2009; + many others



Argüelles, Katori, Salvadó, PRL 2015



Earth



The flux of v_i is attenuated by exp[- $(L/E) \cdot (m_i/\tau_i)$] Mass of v_i Lifetime of v_i

Earth



Earth



L ~ up to a few Gpc





Earth









Flavor compositionSpectrum shapeEvent rate

Flavor composition *Spectrum shape*

Flavor content of mass eigenstates:





Event rate



See also: Beacom *et al.*, *PRL* 2002 / Baerwald, **MB**, Winter, *JCAP* 2012 / **MB**, Beacom, Murase, *PRD* 2017 / Rasmussen *et al.*, *PRD* 2017 / Denton & Tamborra, *PRL* 2018 / Abdullahi & Denton, *PRD* 2020 / **MB**, 2004.06844

Event rate



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Event rate



Spectrum shape

Flavor composition

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Event rate

0.0 ν decay -1.0All regions 99.7% C.R. • V1 0.1 2020: NuFit 5.0 *Two ingredients:* \square ν_2 -0.9 2040: JUNO Distribution mixing parameters 0.2 A V3 + DUNE 0.8 & IceCube flavor posterior + HK0.3 2015 (99.7%) Fraction of L. J. -0.7 raction of NH1 JH1® 0.4 0.6 0.5 0.8 -0.2 0.9 2020 (proj.): IC 8 yr (99.7% C.R.) -0.1 2040 (proj.): IC 15 yr + Gen2 10 yr (99,7 % C.R.) 2040 (proj.): Combined ν telescopes (99.7% C.R.) 1.0 -0.0 0.9 1.0 0.0 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.8 0.1 0.40.6 0.7 Fraction of v_e , $f_{e,\oplus}$

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Towards high statistics



IceCube Collab., *EPJC*Song, Li, Argüelles, **MB**, Vincent, *JCAP*IceCube Collab., *PRD*IceCube Collab., *ApJ*















How knowing the mixing parameters better helps



How knowing the mixing parameters better helps



Back to the sources
From sources to Earth: we learn what to expect when measuring $f_{\alpha,\oplus}$



From Earth to sources: we let the data teach us about $f_{\alpha,S}$



Ingredient #2: Probability density of mixing parameters ($\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{CP}$)



Song, Li, Argüelles, MB, Vincent, JCAP 2021 MB & Ahlers, PRL 2019



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Measuring energy-dependent flavor composition



Liu, Fiorillo, Argüelles, MB, Song, Vincent, 2312.07649



Liu, Fiorillo, Argüelles, MB, Song, Vincent, 2312.07649



Liu, Fiorillo, Argüelles, MB, Song, Vincent, 2312.07649



Measuring flavor anisotropy



Does the high-energy sky shine equally brightly In neutrinos of all flavors?



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From the angular distribution of detected events in neutrino telescopes (HESE cascades, tracks, double cascades) ...



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_ ... we infer the directional dependence of the diffuse fluxes of v_e , v_{μ} , v_{τ}

Telalovic, **MB**, 2310.15224



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From the angular distribution of detected events in neutrino telescopes (HESE cascades, tracks, double cascades) ...

> *How? Undo detection effects (use public IceCube HESE Monte Carlo)*

_ ... we infer the directional dependence of the diffuse fluxes of v_e , v_{μ} , v_{τ}

Telalovic, **MB**, 2310.15224

























Telalovic, **MB**, 2310.15224








Directional high-energy astrophysical neutrino flavor composition: IceCube HESE (7.5 yr)



Directional high-energy astrophysical neutrino flavor composition: Anisotropic (2040, all detectors)



Because new physics can introduce preferred directions for different flavors



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E.g., compass asymmetries from Lorentz-invariance violation



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Upper limits from 7.5-year HESE: < 10⁻³⁴ GeV⁻¹

Towards ultra-high energies















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GRAND, Sci. China Phys. Mech. Astron. 2020 [1810.9994]
























What if future UHE radio-detection neutrino telescopes cannot see flavor?

Then we combine two detectors:



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indistinct detection of all flavors by IceCube-Gen2 (radio)



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Multi-shower events from $v_{\mu} + v_{\tau}$ in IceCube-Gen2 (radio)



Multi-shower v_e CC interactions in IceCube-Gen2 (radio)



IceCube-Gen2 (radio) alone might measure flavor



IceCube-Gen2 (radio) alone might measure flavor



Accessing the full UHE flavor information

IceCube-Gen2 (no flavor-id) + GRAND: Access to v_{τ} fraction



IceCube-Gen2 (with flavor-id): Access to v_e fraction and $v_{\mu}+v_{\tau}$ fraction





Backup slides

How does IceCube see TeV–PeV neutrinos?

Deep inelastic neutrino-nucleon scattering

Neutral current (NC)Charged current (CC)

$$v_x + N \rightarrow v_x + X$$

 $v_l + N \rightarrow l + X$

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Theoretically palatable flavor regions $\equiv MB, Beacom, Winter, PRL 2015$ Allowed regions of flavor ratios at Earth derived from oscillations

Note: The original palatable regions were frequentist [MB, Beacom, Winter, *PRL* 2015]; the new ones are Bayesian

Theoretically palatable flavor regions

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Ingredient #1: Flavor ratios at the source, $(f_{e,S}, f_{\mu,S}, f_{\tau,S})$

Fix at one of the benchmarks (pion decay, muon-damped, neutron decay)

Or

Explore all possible combinations

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2020: Use χ² profiles from the NuFit 5.0 global fit (solar + atmospheric + reactor + accelerator) Esteban *et al.*, *JHEP* 2020 www.nu-fit.org



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2020



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2020



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Allowed regions: well separated Measurement: improving

Song, Li, Argüelles, MB, Vincent, JCAP 2021

2020



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2030

Allowed regions: well separated Measurement: improving

Nice

2020



Allowed regions: overlapping Measurement: imprecise

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2030

2040

01

0.2

1.0

0.9

Ø π decay: (1:2:0)ς.

▲ n decay: (1:0:0);

u-damped: (0:1:0)

Fraction of NH 54.®

0.2

0.1

0.0

NO, upper θ_{23} octant,

JUNO + DUNE + HK

95% C.R.

0.9

0.1

68% C.R.

99.7% C.R.

0.2

0.3

0.4



Allowed regions: well separated Measurement: improving

Nice

Allowed regions: well separated Measurement: precise

- IceCube 15 yr + Gen2 10 yr (68%, 95%, 99.7% C.R.)

0.6

0.7

0.8

0.9 1.0

0.5

Fraction of v_e , $f_{e,\oplus}$

Song, Li, Argüelles, MB, Vincent, *JCAP* 2021

64
Theoretically palatable regions: $2020 \rightarrow 2030 \rightarrow 2040$

2020



Allowed regions: overlapping Measurement: imprecise

Not ideal

2030



Allowed regions: well separated Measurement: improving

Nice

2040



Allowed regions: well separated Measurement: precise

Success















Fundamental physics with high-energy cosmic neutrinos

► Numerous new v physics effects grow as ~ $\kappa_n \cdot E^n \cdot L$

So we can probe $\kappa_n \sim 4 \cdot 10^{-47} \, (E/PeV)^{-n} \, (L/Gpc)^{-1} \, PeV^{1-n}$

> Improvement over limits using atmospheric v: $\kappa_0 < 10^{-29}$ PeV, $\kappa_1 < 10^{-33}$

Fundamental physics with high-energy cosmic neutrinos

► Numerous new v physics effects grow as ~ $\kappa_n \cdot E^n \cdot L$ $\begin{cases}
E.g., \\
n = -1: neutrino decay \\
n = 0: CPT-odd Lorentz violation \\
n = +1: CPT-even Lorentz violation
\end{cases}$

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We will know the mixing parameters better (JUNO, DUNE, Hyper-K, IceCube Upgrade)



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Oscillation physics:

We will know the mixing parameters better (JUNO, DUNE, Hyper-K, IceCube Upgrade)

Test of the oscillation framework: We will be able to do what we want even if oscillations are non-unitary

No unitarity? *No problem*



The 3×3 active mixing matrix is a non-unitary sub-matrix of a bigger one:

Active flavors



Additional sterile flavors

The elements $|U_{\alpha i}|^2$ for active flavors can be measured *without* assuming unitarity

Because the sub-matrix is not-unitary $(U_{3\nu}^{\dagger}U_{3\nu} \neq 1)$, the "row sum" may be <1

Ellis, Kelly, Li, 2008.01088 Parke & Ross-Lonergan, *PRD* 2016

No unitarity? No problem



Are neutrinos forever?

▶ In the Standard Model (vSM), neutrinos are essentially stable ($\tau > 10^{36}$ yr):

- ► One-photon decay $(v_i \rightarrow v_i + \gamma)$: $\tau > 10^{36} (m_i/\text{eV})^{-5} \text{ yr}$
- > One-photon decay (v_i → v_j + γ): τ > 10³⁶ (m_i/eV)⁻⁵ yr
 > Two-photon decay (v_i → v_j + γ + γ): τ > 10⁵⁷ (m_i/eV)⁻⁹ yr
 > Age of Universe (~ 14.5 Gyr)
- ► Three-neutrino decay $(v_i \rightarrow v_i + v_k + \overline{v_k})$: $\tau > 10^{55} (m_i/\text{eV})^{-5} \text{ yr}$

► BSM decays may have significantly higher rates: $v_i \rightarrow v_i + \phi$

▶ We work in a model-independent way: the nature of ϕ is unimportant if it is invisible to neutrino detectors

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- ► One-photon decay $(v_i \rightarrow v_j + \gamma)$: $\tau > 10^{-10} (m_i/\text{eV})^{-9} \text{ yr}$ ► Two-photon decay $(v_i \rightarrow v_j + \gamma + \gamma)$: $\tau > 10^{57} (m_i/\text{eV})^{-9} \text{ yr}$
- ► Three-neutrino decay $(v_i \rightarrow v_i + v_k + \overline{v_k})$: $\tau > 10^{55} (m_i/\text{eV})^{-5} \text{ yr}$

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Nambu-Goldstone ► BSM decays may have significantly higher rates: $v_i \rightarrow v_j \neq \phi$ boson of a broken symmetry

▶ We work in a model-independent way: the nature of ϕ is unimportant if it is invisible to neutrino detectors

Expected from astrophysical processes



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Expected from new physics (e.g., v decay)



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Can we detect the contribution of multiple v production mechanisms?



Assume real value $k_{\pi} = 1$ ($k_{\mu} = k_n = 0$)

By 2040, how well will we recover the real value? [Adding spectrum information (not shown) will likely help]



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Song, Li, Argüelles, MB, Vincent, JCAP 2021

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$$f_{\rm S} = k_{\pi} f_{\rm S}^{\pi} + k_{\mu} f_{\rm S}^{\mu} + k_{n} f_{\rm S}^{n}$$

$$\frac{\pi \text{ decay: } \mu \text{ damped: } n \text{ decay: } (1/3, 2/3, 0) \quad (0, 1, 0) \quad (1, 0, 0)$$
Propagate to Earth
$$f_{\oplus}$$

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Side note: Improving flavor-tagging using *echoes*

Late-time light (*echoes*) from muon decays and neutron captures can separate showers made by v_e and v_{τ} –



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Inferring the UHE flavor composition at the sources (1/2)

Assuming a high UHE flux



Assuming a low UHE flux



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Inferring the UHE flavor composition at the sources (2/2)

10 yr vs. 15 yr, individual channels



Flavor composition: measuring the energy dependence

Can we do better?

Maybe

—If we do not try to pinpoint the energy of flavor transition

How?

—Infer the spectrum of v_e, v_{μ}, v_{τ} separately



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