Neutrino physics I: Neutrinos as a probe



Gabriel D. Orebi Gann UC Berkeley & LBNL N3AS, UCSC July 17th, 2024



Here be dragons

- Postulating an impossibility:The neutrino is born
- The Solar Neutrino Problem
- Neutrinos to probe the Universe
- Experimental landscape

SOLAR NEUTRINOS COME TO HOLLYWOOD!



"2012" "We were warned"



SOLAR ERUPTIONS CAUSE SPIKES IN NEUTRINO FLUX

"THE COUNT DOUBLED AFTER THE LAST SOLAR ERUPTIONS"

Postulating an Impossibility

1930



The continuous spectrum of β decay poses a problem...

Abschrift

Physikalisches Institut der Eidg. Technischen Rochschule Zürich

Zirich, 4. Des. 1930 Gloriastrasse

Liebe Radioaktive Damen und Herren;

Wie der Ueberbringer dieser Zeilen, den ich huldvollst anzuhören bitte, Ihnen des näheren auseinandersetsen wird, bin ich angesichts der "falschen" Statistik der N- und Li-6 Kerne, sowie des kontinuierlichen beta-Spektrums auf einen versweifelten Ausweg verfallen um den "Wechselsats" (1) der Statistik und den Energiesats su retten. Mämlich die Möglichkeit, es könnten elektrisch neutrale Teilchen, die ich Neutronen nemmen will, in den Kernen existieren, welche den Spin 1/2 haben und das Ausschliessungsprinsip befolgen und side von Lichtquanten masserden noch dadurch unterscheiden, dass sie nicht mit Lichtgeschwindigkeit laufen. Die Masse der Meutronen mote wan derselben Grossenordnung wie die Llektronennasse sein und jebenfalls nicht grösser als 0,00 Protonessasse.- Das kontinuierliche - Spektrum wäre dann verständlich unter der Amahae, dass beim bein-Zerfall mit dem bloktron jeweils noch ein Neutron emittiert wirds derart, dass die Summe der Energien von Neutron und Liektron konstant 1st.

Wolfgang Pauli

* 1930:Wolfgang Pauli proposes a new particle

> "I have done a terrible thing. I have postulated a particle that cannot be detected"



First Detection

Anti-neutrinos detected

1956: Reines and Cowan

1956



Fred Reines & Clyde Cowan

• Double coincidence signal





Standard Model Neutrinos



Standard Model Neutrinos



How Does the Sun Shine?

Ρ

P

P

P

Nuclear fusion reactions in the core produce:

- Helium
- Energy (heat, light)
- Neutrinos

e ⁴₂He Ve ⁴₂He Ve +26.8MeV

Neutrino facts

70 billion V pass through your thumb nail every second

> vs travel the Sun-Earth distance in 8 minutes

> > I light year of lead would stops 50% of incident neutrinos

Vast detectors required for observation



Solar Neutrinos



Solar Neutrino Problem



"Most likely, the solar neutrino problem has nothing to do with particle physics. It is a great triumph that astrophysicists are able to predict the number of ⁸B neutrinos to within a factor of 2 or 3"...

--H. Georgí & M. Luke, Nucl. Phys. B347, 1 (1990)

s-K wrong with neutrinos?





The missing piece



Wolfenstein, Mikheyev & Smirnov: coherent forward scattering of V_e in the Sun

Increases effective mass of V_e Alters mixing angle in matter

$$\tan 2\theta_m = \frac{\frac{\Delta m^2}{2E} \sin 2\theta}{\frac{\Delta m^2}{2E} \cos 2\theta - \sqrt{2}G_F N_e}$$
Resonance when
$$\frac{\Delta m^2}{2E} \cos 2\theta - \sqrt{2}G_F N_e = 0$$



VOLUME 55, NUMBER 14

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

30 SEPTEMBER 1985

Direct Approach to Resolve the Solar-Neutrino Problem



Need:

- I. IkT heavy water
- 2. Deep underground
- 3. High PMT coverage



Fig. 5. -- Conceptual design of the light/heavy-water detector. The heavy water is contained in an aerylic tank and is shielded from activity in the rock by low activity concrete and light water. The Čerenkov light produced in the water is detected by an array of 2400 50 cm diameter phototubes.

Review committee: "Physics goals... are of outstanding value" Funding agency award: \$0

The Answer: Heavy Water





Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO)

- I 2m acrylic vessel
- IkT D₂O

- 6800ft level
- 5890 m.w.e.



I.7kT +
 5.3kT
 H₂O buffer

9500 PMTs
 55%
 coverage

Creighton Mine



Going Underground



The End of the World...



Incident Vs cause water target to boil...

but only underground...

"...THE NEUTRINOS ARE CAUSING A PHYSICAL REACTION"

6000ft detector, 11000ft u/g

The SNO Detector

Hollywood's Take on Neutrino Detection PMTs

Target

"THIS WATER TANK GOES DOWN ANOTHER 6000 FEET"

Hollywood's Take on - Event Display



Hollywood's Take on - Event Display

World News

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Jellon Jazz estival: Penn's anding party. ohn Swana, iore. Page 4.

ECTION F

NATIONAL NEWS

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sions

agreed that uld be scruhe largest. while small ng water inas Chicago, is wn of about e exemption nefited smalln the Great at have probrater supplies, the cumulative ons could evens in which waadily falling for

ecalled that in palities in Aririously considrt vast quantier-via rivers. -to alleviate ems.

ions reached a anadian compang 158 million rior water by eal fell through tional pressure, xporting Great r regions of the

world has occared. xecutive-director

Federation, said ecognizes the no-

At Niagara Falls, New York Gov. George E. Pataki (R), at lectern, discusses plans to protect the Great Lakes by limiting volume of water sent inland.

guidelines approved today.

Five major diversions are in place, the largest of which is the 2.1 billion gallons that is taken each day from Lake Michigan at Chicago. Half the water is for drinking and the rest is used to reverse the flow of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The diverted water winds up in the Mississippi River.

"Some might say this is not a serious problem because right now there are no serious [export] proposals in front of us. But if there's ever a serious drought elsewhere in the United States, you can be sure there will be serious proposals," said Michael J. Donahue, president of the Great Lakes Commission, a binational agency that promotes the protection of the Great Lakes.

Donahue said that Great Lakes conservationists have learned from past that "you can't just say

Neutrino St Puzzle and

By GUY GUGLIOTTA Washington Post Staff Writer

Every second of every day, tens of thousa ghostly subatomic particles called neutr tiny offspring of nuclear fusion in the core sun-harmlessly flash through a person's t

For 30 years physicists have know thought they knew-how many neutrinos to be reaching Earth, but every measuring told the same story-there were many fe rivals than expected. Either physicists 1 wrong idea about solar fusion, or something happening to the neutrinos en route.

Yesterday, an international team of phy working in a lab sunk more than a mile d Canadian nickel mine, presented the fi crete evidence that the "solar neutrino del curs because while three types of neutrine the Earth, only one-until now-could recounted.

"We have measured the total number of nos coming from the sun, and [the measu agrees with predictions made 30 years a research physicist and team member Klein of the University of Pennsylvania. oldest, longest-lived puzzle in particle ph The findings, reported in the journal

Review Letters by 180 authors from th States, Canada and the United Kingdom, portant implications for both the physi very small and the physics of the very lar

By showing that neutrinos toggle forth on their journey to Earth amo forms, or "flavors," the experiment prov confirmation that neutrinos have mass. agree that such "oscillation" can occur substance has mass.

This concept has thrown a sizable wrench into the "Standard Model" o which proposes a massless neutrino as

. Sun's Missing Neutrinos: Hidden in Plain Si

By KENNETH CHANG

After three decades of searching, physicists have tracked down submic particles that have eluded them for 30 years. The particles, it turns out, were right there all the while but had hidden themselves as if by magic.

'We've solved a 30-year-old puzzle of the missing neutrinos of the Sun," said Dr. Arthur B. McDonald, director of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, near Sudbury, Ontario. In doing so, though, the researchers have answered questions about neutrino behavior and the fate of the universe

Neutrinos are ghostly particles, one of the fundamental building blocks of the universe, like quarks, electrons and photons. Billions of them, produced by fusion reactions within the Sun, fly through every person every second. Minuscule and devoid of electric charge, though, they pass unnoticed. In fact, they are practically undetectable.

In 1968, Dr. John Bahcall, an astrophysicist at the Institute for Ad-vanced Study at Princeton, N.J., calculated that the rate of neutrinos from the Sun passing through one square inch of area should be about 30 million a second.

Experiments beginning in the 1970's counted much lower rates; more than half of the expected neu trinos were never seen. Dr. Bahcall's predictions, refined over the years, remained unchanged.

Yesterday, scientists at the Sud-bury Neutrino Observatory announced the first experimental evidence that provides a solution.

During the neutrinos' 93-million mile journey from the Sun to the Earth, the researchers said, about two-thirds change into other varieties that are more difficult to detect. The total number of neutrinos

from the Sun, they conclude, is about 35 million per square inch per sec-ond. "The agreement is pretty good between the predictions and the measurement," said Dr. Joshua R. Klein, a professor of physics at the University of Pennsylvania who coordinated the analysis of the data. Dr. Bahcall was ecstatic.

"I feel very much like the way I expect that these prisoners that are sentenced for life do when a D.N.A. test proves they're not guilty," Dr Bahcall said. "For 33 years, people have called into question my calcula-

tions on the Sun." The new finding "shows the calculations were correct," he said. "I feel like dancing," he added.

Less happy is Dr. David O. Cald-well, an emeritus professor of physics at the University of California at Santa Barbara. "My personal reaction is one of great disappointment, Dr. Caldwell said. "I was hoping for a rather different result." The data rary to his hopes of fin

trino Observatory consists of a 40foot-wide acrylic sphere containing 1,000 tons of heavy water, in which the two hydrogen atoms of the water molecules have been replaced with occasionally bounce off electrons deuterium atoms, a heavier version of hydrogen. The sphere is submerged within a 10-story cavity that was carved out of a nickel mine 11/4 les underground and filled with Sudbury should match up. But Super-40,000 tons of ordinary water.

Occasionally, an electron neutrino will slam into one of the deuterium atoms in the heavy water, splitting it into a proton and a neutron. Detectors around the sphere of heavy water are able to spot the debris. The

into muon or tau neutrin "It's the first direct e the changing of solar neu electron type to another Klein said. Most physicia sidered neutrino morph most likely explanation ing neutrinos

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 19.

Dr. Caldwell's theory electron neutrinos we into "sterile" neutrinos interact with ordinary looks like they've done a ough job," he said. "It th question if there is any sterile neutrino. I don' hope for it right now." According to the equa

ticle physics, for this tran of flavors to occur, at least neutrino types must pos geon of mass. Coupled experimental results, th ers conclude that each neutrino flavors weigh, 60,000th as much as an e But the universe is fill neutrinos than any other of particle, and some phy wondered whether th gravitation pull of neutri strong enough to stop expansion of the univer back into a big crunch. At the upper limit, neutrinos may be subs haps as much as the rest matter, but far short of needed to collapse the un

Most of the mass of th believed to be in "dark still unknown form of m For particle physicist no data is one more pie will need to incorporate i unified theory of phys from the Super-Kamiokande neutriscribes the behavior of a no experiment in Japan, which priand forces. The current marily detects collisions between

model does not predict the electron neutrinos and electrons. But neutrinos, but its equation muon and tau neutrinos can also pler if neutrinos have no Now scientists know th If all the neutrinos reaching Earth of neutrinos is not simpl from the Sun were of the electron are "very schizophr variety, then the neutrino rates call said. Still unknown for measured by Super-Kamiokande and is whether the electron ne changing into muon neut

Kamiokande detected more. Since neutrinos or both. the Sun produces only electron neu-"I expect to be up la trinos - the production of muon and trying to answer that que Bahcall said. "It's pointi tau neutrinos require higher-energy events, like matter falling into black way - in the right way, w holes or an exploding star - that make a better theory, a me means some of them must change passing theory.

2015 Nobel Prize in Physics

SuperK

Takaaki Kajita

SNO

Arthur B. McDonald

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015 was awarded jointly to Takaaki Kajita and Arthur B. McDonald "for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass"

Fortuitous

Even More Fortuitous

- KamLAND reactor experiment proposed before SNO began taking data
- Multiple reactors (60GW) in Japan at ~ right baseline
- L_{ave} = 180 km (flux-weighted average)
- E_v ~ 2-4 MeV

KamLAND

- I kT liquid scintillator
- 34% photocathode
 coverage
- H₂O veto
- Inverse beta decay:

$$\bar{\nu_e} + p \to n + e^+$$

Same as Reines/Cowan No additive n capture on H

Results

- Flux suppression: 766 ton-yrs expect 365.2 + 17.8 bkg events observe 258
- Disappearance at 99.998% significance

Neutrinos for nonproliferation

Near-field: ~100m Inside a reactor facility I—10 ton, LS Surface possible (requires segmentation)

Increasing standoff, decreasing flux, wider field of view

Measure: reactor power, fissile core content, fuel burn up, maybe enrichment

Increasing depth required to reduce cosmic-ray induced bkg

Mid-field: ~1km Dedicated, but outside the facility 10–100 ton Requires underground site (10s m)

Measure: reactor power, limit on Pu production, verify reactor shut down

Far-field: ~10km+ Monitor any facility within a region 100 ton — 1 kton Deep underground site (100m-km)

Verify or exclude the presence of any reactor above a certain power level

Neutrinos for nonproliferation

Produced as a by-product of fission and fusion

Weakly interacting

Close to massless, travel ~c

Interaction products preserve

Can be used to "point" back to the source

Provide a unique signature

Signature can't be shielded

Near-instantaneous detection

of nuclear fission / fusion

- NuTools: 2021 study (DNN R&D) "exploring practical roles for neutrinos in nuclear energy and security"
- LBNL's focus is to advance the technology to enhance the capabilities of such a detector
 - Reduce the required scale, increase standoff, and provide additional synergies with Office of Science interests
- Close partnership with related efforts at BNL & LLNL

Test site transparency

Small modular reactors

Maritime sensing

Solar Neutrino Oscillation

Solar Neutrinos

"For 35 years people said to me: `John, we just don't understand the Sun well enough to be making claims about the fundamental nature of neutrinos, so we shouldn't waste time with all these solar neutrino experiments.'

Then the SNO results came out.

And the next day people said to me, `Well, John, we obviously understand the Sun perfectly well! No need for any more of these solar neutrino experiments.'"

---- John Bahcall, 2003

Beyond the Solar Neutrino Problem

- Probing the Sun
 - hep: last unobserved flux
 - Precision CNO: Solar composition: high/low metallicity
 - 8B, 7Be: T, environmental factors
 - pp: luminosity constraint
- Solar neutrinos
 - Day/night effect
 - Δm^{2}_{12} (mild tension)
 - NSIs, sterile

M. Maltoni et al., Eur. Phys. Jour. A 52 (2016) 87

Neutrino (astro)physics

- Solar neutrinos ~few x 10-6 TeV
 - Study stellar astrophysics e.g. metallicity, T
 - Probe interaction of V with matter
 - Search for new physics

- Supernova neutrinos ~few x10⁻⁵ TeV
 - Understand explosion mechanism
 - Probe neutrino flavour physics
 - Early warning for astronomers

Nuclear / geo physics with neutrinos

- Geo neutrinos ~few x 10⁻⁶ TeV
 - Probe radiogenic heat production
 - Test model's of Earth's composition
 - Mantle contribution

- Unique potential to be their own antiparticle
- Demonstrate lepton no. violation
- Explain matter/antimatter asymmetry

Γ(0 v)

1.5

Sum Energy for the Two Electrons (MeV)

High energy physics with neutrinos

- Long baseline neutrinos
 - Neutrino mass ordering
 - Search for leptonic CP violation
 - Probe oscillation physics

- Reactor neutrinos
 - Probe oscillations (Δm_{12}^2)
 - Sterile neutrinos
 - Coherent v-N scattering
 - Nonproliferation applications

Why is it Hard?

SNO detector observes solar neutrinos during daytime hours

Not to scale

44

Why is it Hard?

SNO detector observes **just as many** solar neutrinos at night

Not to scale

Experimental approaches

- Water Cherenkov detectors
- Liquid scintillator detectors
- "Hybrid" detection
- Noble liquid detectors primarily for DM / LBL
- Solid state detectors extremely good resolution
- Disclaimer: will only discuss a few examples!

Experimental landscape

Sudbury Neutrino Observatory

- Search for Lorentz violating effects (preferred direction)
- New / improved constraints on 38 / 16 model parameters
- Search for neutrino decay
- Energy-dependent disappearance
- New limit on lifetime $k_2 (= \tau_2/m_2) > 1.92 \times 10-3 \text{ s/eV} (90\% \text{ CL})$
- Search for hep & DSNB neutrinos
- Final undetected solar v flux
- Probe "glow" from past core-collapse SNe

Phys. Rev. D 99 112007 (2019), Phys. Rev. D 100 112005 (2019)

Super-Kamiokande (+Gd)

- Largest solar neutrino detector: 22.5kton (fiducial)
- Four phases of operation, 20+ years of data!
- High-precision rate, hint of day/night (~2 σ)
- Spectral measurements

- First large detector ever to be filled with Gd-H2O (0.021% Gd₂(SO₄)₃~0.01% Gd)
- Enhance neutron capture efficiency
- Transparency observed to be as good as H2O phase
- 0.03%Gd should allow first detection of DSNB

https://arxiv.org/pdf/2109.00360.pdf; M.Vagins Supernova and Early Uffiverse Workshop

Hyper-Kamiokande

- Largest ever neutrino detector, starting 2027
- Less deep than SK: higher cosmogenic backgrounds; several methods to tag showers
- Huge statistics: ~5 8B v/hour
- If oscillation parameters are that of solar best fit, can reach 5σ precision on day-night effect and low energy upturn (less if reactor)
- 2-3 σ measurement of hep Vs
- >200 kton, 40% coverage

https://arxiv.org/pdf/2109.00360.pdf

https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.04163

Borexino

Nature 587, pages 577-582 (2020), Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 9, 091803, Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022) 5, 052002; PRD 105.052002, PRL 128 (2022) 9, 091803

$SNO \Rightarrow SNO+ SNO$

- Completed data taking with water
- LS fill complete, end of March, 2021 (780kg LAB+PPO)
- PPO fill complete: 2.2 g/L
- Largest, deepest operating LS detector
- Ultra-low background
- NLDBD target backgrounds achieved!
- Broad ongoing physics program

Related work: Phys. Rev. D 105, 112012 (2022) JINST 16 P10021 (2021) JINST 16 P08059 (2021) JINST 16 P05009 (2021) Phys. Rev. C 102, 014002 (2020) Phys. Rev. D 99, 032008 (2019) Phys. Rev. D 99, 012012 (2019)

SNO+ water phase

- New analysis of 126.6 kt-days, including 190.3 days of low background data
- Radon in water $\sim 6 \times 10-15 \text{ gU/g}$
- Lowest background for water Cherenkov detectors > 5 MeV: 0.32 ± 0.07 ev./kt-days

- 3.5 MeV threshold (large uncertainties in lowest bins)
- Best-fit flux consistent (inc. oscillations) with other experiments, and HZ and LZ solar models

"Partial fill" / LS physics

- ~ 7 months data with 365t LAB + 0.5 g/L PPO
- Threshold lowered from IMeV to 40keV
- Measure internal backgrounds, detector response with LS
- New physics opportunities

Preliminary ⁸B solar v + Bkg. Fit to the PF data,

SNO+ pure LS phase

- Analysis of 8B ES interactions in 138.9 live days of scint. data
- Fitted oscillation parameters compatible with global fits

- Strict fiducial volume cut opens prospects for future sensitivity < 3 MeV
- 232Th still dominates 3-5 MeV regions; multi-site discriminant will help

Antineutrino detection

• Evidence of antineutrinos from distant reactors using pure water at SNO+

- Following first detection in a water Cherenkov detector, new results from partial and scint phases
- Main background: (a,n) reactions on I3C; as from high rate 210Po decays
- Partial fill: 114 t.y exposure, 85 Hz of 210Po Stats and background-limited
- Pure LS: lower bkg, expect reactor + geo sensitivity

JUNO

- 20 kton, 3% / MeV resolution
- 0.7 km overburden (Guangdong, China)
- Data taking starts this year!
- Largest LS to-date, with world-leading sensitivity to several oscillation parameters and physics searches
- 2-MeV t/h: sensitivity to probe transition region via low-energy ⁸B v
- 2-3σ sensitivity to day/night
- 7Be rate < 1%
- Pep rate < 10%
- CNO rate ~ Bx
- Precision measurement of ΔM^{2}_{21}

Time [y]

Time [y]

Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 123 (2022) 103927

rate relative uncertainty [%]

LAr: DUNE

- Offers CC on Ar, good for precision spectral measurement (day/night);
- Limited by threshold and background
- Novel ideas to leverage phase II upgrades
 - UG-Ar,
 - pixelated detectors,
 - novel readout,
 - Xe doping
 - Hybrid detection (Theia-25)

Bkg

⁴⁰Ar(n,γ)

36Ar(n,y)

Rate

44 / t-yr

0.62 / t-yr

Hybrid detection: THEIA

Supernova Detection

- ~90% events are IBD
 Highly complementary to V_e LAr signal
 Fast, can act as trigger for DUNE
- ES \Rightarrow pointing accuracy < I \circ
- CC & monoE γ from NC \Rightarrow burst T & subsequent mixing
- Flavour-resolved neutrino spectra
- High-stats, low-threshold signal with good resolution
- Pre-supernova
 V sensitivity

Reaction		Rate
(IBD)	$\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$	19,800
ES)	$v + e \rightarrow e + v$	960
$(v_e \mathbf{O})$	$^{16}\mathrm{O}(v_e, e^-)^{16}\mathrm{F}$	340
$\bar{\nu}_{\varepsilon}O)$	${}^{16}{ m O}(\bar{v}_e,e^+){}^{16}{ m N}$	440
(NCO)	$^{16}O(v, v)^{16}O^*$	1100

Diffuse Supernova v Background

- Diffuse v "glow" from past core-collapse supernovae
- Astrophysics of SNe
- Signature: IBD detection of antineutrino signal
 - Prompt e+ and delayed n-capture signal
- Main background: NC interaction of atmospheric v
 - v hits C nucleus, causing recoil
 - n captures
 - Can mimic signal
- Cherenkov/scintillation ratio provides a powerful handle for background discrimination
- 5σ in 125 kton-yrs

Anti-v Detection

- Geo-V observation by KL, Borexine THEIA: large statistics, complementary site: 218 ev/yr (25 kt)
- Future improvements: PID (p/e+, e-/e+)
- Could offer first evidence for surface variation
- U/Th ratio to 15% precision in 10 years
- **Reactor v** prospects: ~ 20 reactor ev/kt-yr
- Demonstrate techniques for remote reactor monitoring
- Range & direction at >1000km standoff

300 N_T

Prospects

Esteban et al, | High En Phys 2020 178 (2020)

 $\sin^2 \theta_{13} = 0.0222$

12

10

Δm²₂₁ [10⁻⁵ eV²]

- First hep observation: within reach at future large WCD
- Day/night effect: within reach at future large WCD / LS / LAr
- Δm^2_{12} within reach (WCD / LS / LAr)
- Large LXe offers good prospects for luminosity / lowest energy (high flux) signals
- Precision CNO for probe of metallicity may require new technology

The Future

The Future

Summary

Introduction to the neutrino SNO: Solving the Solar Neutrino Problem SNO+: a multi-purpose neutrino experiment The search for the nature of the neutrino Understanding the Earth & the Sun Hollywood's scare mongering!

Thank you for your attention