Neutrino detection

Loredana Gastaldo

- short neutrino history up to the standard model
- planning a neutrino experiment
- neutrino oscillations in vacuum
- neutrino sources
- neutrino cross-sections
- experiments across the neutrino energy scale

Important concepts



Neutrinos can undergo

• charged current (CC) interactions via the exchange of a W-boson

 neutral current (NC) interactions via the exchange of a Z-boson





History of neutrinos

- 1900 -1930	Observation of a continuous spectrum of electrons emitted in decay (A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z-1)	+ e
--------------	--	-----

- 1930 Pauli postulation of a neutral spin ½, quite light and quite penetrating particle
- 1934 Fermi wrote the first theory of beta decay very small cross section
- -1956 Reines and Cowan experiment at Savannah River nuclear reactor: First detection of neutrinos
- -1957 Wu et al. experiment with polarized ⁶⁰Co: discovery of parity violation in beta decays
- -1958 Goldhaber et al. experiment: neutrinos are left-handed particles
- -1962 Brookhaven neutrino experiment: muon neutrinos are different from electron neutrinos
- -1965 First detection of atmospheric neutrinos
- -1970 First detection of solar neutrinos (Davis Chlorine experiment) starting of the solar neutrino problem
- -1973 Gargamelle experiment at CERN discovered neutral current interactions
- '90 The decay width of the Z-boson showed the existence of three neutrino flavor states
- -1998 explanation deficit of detected atmospheric neutrinos by neutrino oscillation in SK experiment
- -2000 the tau neutrino was discovered (DONUT experiment)
- -2002 solution of solar neutrino problem through neutrino oscillations in the Sun

How to plan an experiment with neutrinos

In order to study the neutrino properties we need some ingredients:

- A proper description of the evolution of neutrino wavefunctions
- A proper understanding of neutrino sources
- A proper understanding of the neutrino cross-sections with matter
- A proper detector concept:

which neutrino interactions can occur in the detector material? which final state particles can be detected?

Mass and flavor eigenstates

By definition v_e is the neutrino state produced along with an electron. In the same way, charged current weak interactions of the state v_e produce an electron. Same considerations are valid for v_{μ} and v_{τ} .

3 neutrino flavor eigenstates – weak eigenstates

$$v_{\alpha} = (v_e, v_{\mu}, v_{\tau})$$

Each flavor eigenstate is a coherent linear combination of the three mass eigenstates:

$$v_i = (v_1, v_2, v_3)$$

Let's consider the case of two flavor eigenstates and two mass eigenstates

 $v_{e} = U_{e1}v_{1} + U_{e2}v_{2}$ $v_{\mu} = U_{\mu 1}v_{1} + U_{\mu 2}v_{2}$

 ν_{e} represents the wave-function of the coherent state produced along with an electron in the weak interaction

Neutrino oscillations (2 states)

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_e \\ v_\mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|v_e\rangle = \cos\theta |v_1\rangle + \sin\theta |v_2\rangle$$





Production

$$\left|\nu_{\alpha}\right\rangle = \sum_{i} U_{\alpha i} \left|\nu_{i}\right\rangle$$

Propagation

$$v_1(t)\rangle = |v_1\rangle e^{i\vec{p}_1\cdot\vec{x}-iE_1t}$$

$$|\nu_2(t)\rangle = |\nu_2\rangle e^{i\vec{p}_2 \cdot \vec{x} - iE_2 t}$$

$$\left| \boldsymbol{\nu}_{\beta} \right\rangle = \sum_{i} \boldsymbol{U}_{\beta i} \left| \boldsymbol{\nu}_{i} \right\rangle$$

Neutrino oscillations (2 states)

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_e \\ v_\mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$v_e \rangle = \cos\theta |v_1\rangle + \sin\theta |v_2\rangle$$

$$P(v_e \to v_\mu) = \sin^2(2\theta)\sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{4E}L\right)$$

$$\Delta m_{21}^2 = m_2^2 - m_1^2$$

$$P(v_e \to v_e) = 1 - \sin^2(2\theta)\sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{4E}L\right)$$

$$\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{4E}L = 1.27 \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 [eV^2]}{E[GeV]} L[km]$$

3-neutrino scenario

$$\left| \boldsymbol{\nu}_{\alpha} \right\rangle = \sum_{i} \boldsymbol{U}_{\alpha i} \left| \boldsymbol{\nu}_{i} \right\rangle$$

$$U_{\alpha i} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\alpha/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-i\beta/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

2-3 rotation
$$\begin{array}{c} 1-3 \text{ rotation} \\ + \text{ CP Dirac phase} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 1-2 \text{ rotation} \\ 1-2 \text{ rotation} \\ \text{phases} \end{array}$$

How to extract oscillation parameters

Disappearance: deficit in the detection rate for neutrinos having the same flavor as the neutrino at the source

Appearance: detection of neutrinos with a different flavor with respect to the flavor at the source



$$P(v_e \rightarrow v_{\mu}) = \sin^2(2\theta) \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{4E}L\right)$$
$$\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{4E}L = 1.27 \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 [\text{eV}^2]}{E[\text{GeV}]}L[\text{km}]$$

The neutrino source define the energy *E* of the neutrinos The position of the experiment define the flying distance *L* Experiments can be optimized to test given values of the oscillation parameters

Neutrino sources

Solar neutrinos

electron neutrinos from nuclear reaction in the Sun energy < 20 MeV large flux of electron neutrinos $\sim 2 \times 10^{38}$ v_e s⁻¹



Atmospheric neutrinos	electron and muon neutrinos and anti-neutrinos from the interaction of cosmic rays in the atmosphere CR $\rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ v_\mu$ $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ v_e \overline{v}_\mu$ Energy > 1 GeV $\pi^- \rightarrow \mu^- \overline{v}_\mu$ $\mu^- \rightarrow e^- \overline{v}_e v_\mu$		
Reactor neutrinos	electron anti-neutrinos from the decay of the reactor fuel (mainly U-235, U-238,) Energy < 8 MeV		
Neutrino beams from accelerators	muon neutrinos and anti-neutrinos from pions and kaons decay generated by high energy proton beams on light target Energy ~ 1 GeV		

Neutrino detection – interactions

In general we can consider the interaction with:

- atomic electrons
- nucleons within the nucleus

We can then consider both charged and neutral currents:





Charged current energy threshold

$$E_{ve} > 0$$
 e⁻
 $E_{v\mu} > 11 \text{ GeV}$
 $E_{v\tau} > 3090 \text{ GeV}$

$$E_{ve} > 0$$
 n
 $E_{v\mu} > 110 \text{ MeV}$
 $E_{v\tau} > 3.5 \text{ GeV}$

The known reactions of neutrinos with matter fall completely within the Standard Model of particle physics. Therefore the cross-section of different process can be calculate (but not so easy....)



Fogli et al., JCAP 0504:002,2005

The known reactions of neutrinos with matter fall completely within the Standard Model of particle physics. Therefore the cross-section of different process can be calculate (but not so easy....)





Total anti-neutrino per nucleon CC cross sections



Representative example of various neutrino sources across decades of energy. The electroweak cross-section for $\overline{v_e}e^- \rightarrow \overline{v_e}e^-$ scattering on free electrons



Neutrino electron and nucleon scattering in the ultra-high energy regime ($E > 10^4$ GeV).



Representative example of various neutrino sources across decades of energy. The electroweak cross-section for $\overline{v_e}e^- \rightarrow \overline{v_e}e^-$ scattering on free electrons



Neutrino electron and nucleon scattering in the ultra-high energy regime ($E > 10^4$ GeV).

Neutrino detection techniques

- What is the energy of the neutrinos to be detected
- Which neutrino flavor and which kind of interactions (charged or neutral current) should be observed
- Which final state can be detect and what should be measured
- How many events should be acquired
- Which background is expected and how this can be eliminated

Solar Neutrinos	$E(v_{\rm e}) < 20 {\rm MeV}$			
	Radio-chemical experiments: Inverse beta decay (A, Z) + $v_e \rightarrow$ (A, Z + 1) + e ⁻ chemically extract produced isotopes and count decay			
	Water Cherenkov: Cherenkov	v light from electron produced in $v_e + e^- \rightarrow v_e + e^-$		
Reactor Neutrinos	$E(\overline{v_e}) < 8 \text{ MeV}$ Liquid scintillators: inverse beta decay $\overline{v_e} + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$			
Atmospheric Neutrinos	$E(v_{e}, v_{\mu}, \overline{v}_{e}, \overline{v}_{\mu}) > 1 \text{ GeV}$	Water Cherenkov		
Neutrino Beams	Water Cherenkov Calorimeters (Fe) Scintillators			

Solar neutrino detection and problem

Homestake (Ray Davis in 1968)	$v_e + {}^{37}Cl \rightarrow e^- + {}^{37}Ar$ $E_{th} = 81e^{-37}Ar + e^- \rightarrow {}^{37}Cl + v_e$ $615 \text{ tons of cleaning fluid } C_2Cl_4(\text{perch})$	4 keV 4 days lorate-ethylene) 60 days exposure		
SAGE, GALLEX	$v_e + {}^{71}\text{Ga} \rightarrow e^- + {}^{71}\text{Ge} \qquad E_{th} = 23$ ${}^{71}\text{Ge} + e^- \rightarrow {}^{37}\text{Ga} + v_e \qquad \tau = 11.5$ 100 tons of gallium chloride GaCl ₃ (~3	ia → e ⁻ + ⁷¹ Ge E_{th} = 233 keV e ⁻ → ³⁷ Ga + v_e τ = 11.5 days as of gallium chloride GaCl ₃ (~30 (12) tons Ga (⁷¹ Ga)) 20 days exposure		
Superkamiokande	$v_e + e^- \rightarrow v_e + e^ E_{th} > 5 M$ 50000 ton water Cherenkov detector Total Rates: Standard Model vs. Experiment Bahcall-Pinsonneault 2000 $7.7_{-1.1}^{+1.3}$ $1.0_{-0.16}^{+0.29}$ $1.0_{-0.16}^{+0.29}$ 129_{-7}^{+7}	/leV (Cherenkov – background) with 11146 Photo-multiplier tubes		
hep 10 ³ 10 ² 10 ⁻¹ 1 10 ⁻¹ 1 10 ⁻¹ 1 10 ⁻¹ 10	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	All the three applied methods to measure the solar neutrino flux showed a lower than expected rate		

Solution of the solar neutrino problem – the SNO experiment

Sudbury Neutrino Observatory – SNO - located in a deep mine in Canada

- 1000 ton heavy water (D₂O) Cherenkov detector inside a 12 m diameter acrylic vessel
- 3000 tons of normal water surround the heavy water target
- 9546 PMTs to monitor events



Solution of the solar neutrino problem – the SNO experiment

Three different reactions



Solution of the solar neutrino problem – the SNO experiment

CC Rate $\propto \phi(v_e) \rightarrow$ measured 1968 ± 61

NC Rate $\propto \phi(v_e) + \phi(v_\mu) + \phi(v_\tau) \rightarrow \text{measured } 264 \pm 26$

ES Rate $\propto \phi(v_e) + 0.154(\phi(v_{\mu}) + \phi(v_{\tau})) \rightarrow \text{measured } 576 \pm 50$



SNO Collaboration, Q.R. Ahmad et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 89:011301, 2002

 $\phi(\nu_e)$ = (1.8 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-6} cm^{-2} s^{-1}

 $\phi(\nu_{\mu})$ + $\phi(\nu_{\tau})$ = (3.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10 $^{\text{-6}}$ cm $^{\text{-2}}$ s $^{\text{-1}}$

Expected electron neutrino flux from standard solar model: $\phi(v_e) = 5.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

Clear evidence for a flux of v_{μ} and/or v_{τ} from the Sun Total neutrino flux is consistent with expectation from SSM

Clear evidence of $\nu_e \! \rightarrow \nu_\mu$ and/or $\nu_e \! \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ neutrino transitions

Reactor neutrinos



Fission fragments are unstable \rightarrow Decay through cascade of β decays

3 GW reactor ~ $10^{20} v_e/s$

Chao Zhang, Prague

Two antineutrino spectrum models 1) ILL + Vogel

ILL model - ²³⁵U, ²³⁹Pu, ²⁴¹Pu Vogel's theoretical model - ²³⁸U

2) Huber + Muller

Huber's model - ²³⁵U, ²³⁹Pu , ²⁴¹Pu Muller's model - ²³⁸U



Electron energy (MeV)

Figure from Sonzogni et





Reactor neutrinos

Reactor neutrino detection:

Inverse beta

Inverse beta decay

$$\overline{v_e} + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$$
 Threshold $E_{\text{th}} = 1.806 \text{ MeV}$
 $e^+ + e^- \rightarrow \gamma \gamma (1.022 \text{ MeV})$ Prompt signal
 $n + p \xrightarrow{\tau \sim 200 \, \mu s} D + \gamma (2.2 \text{ MeV})$ delayed signal
 $n + \text{Gd} \rightarrow \text{Gd}^* \xrightarrow{\tau \sim 28 \, \mu s} \text{Gd} + \gamma (8 \ / 8.5 \text{ MeV})$ delayed signal

Liquid Scintillator Detectors

- High Light Yield ٠
 - **Resolution & Energy Threshold**
- Large Proton Abundance ٠ antineutrino target
- **Doping capability** ٠ improve background rejection
- Large Volumes ٠

compensate low cross section



Σ = 1.022 MeV

Gd-loaded Liquid Scintillator

Gd

21 $\Sigma = -8 \text{ MeV}$

Reactor neutrino experiments



Jetter @ COSPA (2014)

Reactor neutrino detectors









Daya Bay



inner water shield **RPCs** outer water shield **PMTs** Tyvek AD AD support stand concrete Double purpose: shield the ADs and veto cosmic ray muons **Gd-doped** LS 192 8" LS PMTs. **Mineral Oil** Energy resolution:

σ_E/E ≅ 8.5%/√E

Atmospheric neutrino detection and problem

$$\pi^{+} \to \mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \qquad \qquad \mu^{+} \to e^{+} \nu_{e} \overline{\nu}_{\mu}$$
$$\pi^{-} \to \mu^{-} \overline{\nu}_{\mu} \qquad \qquad \mu^{-} \to e^{-} \overline{\nu}_{e} \nu_{\mu}$$

Therefore, there is a clear expectation for the rate:

$$R = \frac{\left(\nu_e + \overline{\nu_e}\right)}{\left(\nu_\mu + \overline{\nu_\mu}\right)} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Smaller than expected ratio was measured by different experiments



Flavor identification in SK

Superkamiokande Water Cherenkov detector

50000 ton water 11146 Photo-multiplier tubes

 $v_{\rm I} + e^- \rightarrow v_e + l^-$

Discrimination muon neutrino events from electron neutrino events



Example: 1 GeV muon created at 10 m from the bottom propagating along the SK axis:

Muons lose energy via ionization.

Consindering muon as MIP the full energy is lost in about 4.5 m

For 4.23 m the muon has enough energy to produce Cherenkov light

The Cherenkov ring at the bottom cover an area with $R_{max} \, {}^\sim 8.7$ m and $R_{min} \, {}^\sim 5$ m





Simulation by SK Collaboration

Solution of the atmospheric neutrino problem

Flight distances for neutrinos detected can vary from 15 km for neutrinos coming "down" to more than 13,000 km for neutrinos coming from interactions in the atmosphere below the detector on the other side of the planet.



Super-Kamiokande Collaboration Phys. Rev. Lett. 81, 1562

Neutrino beams

Mesons (pions, kaons) are produced in the interaction of high energy protons with a target

 $\pi^+ \to \mu^+ + \nu_\mu$



Fermilab, NuMI

Neutrino beams – on-axis and off-axis beam

Two approaches to neutrino beams:

- **On**-axis (put detector on the axis of the neutrino beam) $\Rightarrow E_{\nu} = E_{\nu}^{max} \sim 0.43E_{\pi}$
 - \rightarrow broad energy range and high flux
- Off-axis (put detector a few degrees off the beam axis)
 - $\rightarrow E_{\nu}/\text{GeV} = \frac{0.03}{\Theta}$

ightarrow narrow energy range and lower flux





В

The known reactions of neutrinos with matter fall completely within the Standard Model of particle physics. Therefore the cross-section of different process can be calculate (some of them with more effort..)



- < 1 GeV QE dominates
- > 5 GeV DIS dominates
- 1 GeV < E < 5 GeV mixture of QE, RES, DIS

In all cases need to reconstruct the neutrino energy:

- QE simple topology
- DIS complex topology

Need dedicated experiments and theoretical models

Formaggio, Zeller Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1307 (2012)

Experiment	data run	Peak energy	Baseline	Detector	Main results
К2К	1999-2004	1 GeV	250 km	Water Cherenkov	confirm atmospheric neutrino oscillations
MINOS(+)	2005-2015	3 GeV	735 km	Iron/scintillator	precise measurement of $\left \Delta m^2_{23} \right $ and $ heta_{23}$
CNGS/OPERA	2008-2012	17 GeV	735 km	Emulsions	observe tau appearance in $V_{\mu} \rightarrow V_{\tau}$ oscillations
Т2К	2010 -	0.7 GeV	295 km	Water Cherenkov	observe $v_{\mu} \leftrightarrow v_{e}$ oscillations, measure θ_{13}
ΝΟνΑ	2014 -	2 GeV	810 km	Liquid scintillator	observe $V_{\mu} \leftrightarrow V_{e}$ at a longer baseline for mass ordering

arXiv:1710.02601v1

Neutrino Detectors

3D schematic of



- Muon momentum from range
- Hadronic/EM energy from light yield

193 ton Near Detector has dimensions $3.9 \text{ m} \times 3.9 \text{ m} \times 12.67 \text{ m}$ is located 100 m underground at Fermilab

14 kton Far Detector has dimensions 15.5 m \times 15.5 m \times 60 m is located approximately 810 km away on the surface in Ash River, Minnesota.

Neutrino energy from the sum of muon/electron energy and hadron energy



DUNE

LBNF: the world's most intense high-energy v beam \rightarrow 1.2 MW from day one \rightarrow upgradable to 2.4 MW \rightarrow ~80 GeV proton beam

to be compared to NuMI (MINOS) <400 kW and NuMI (NOVA) 600 - 700 kW



DUNE

Physics which can be done with the DUNE detector

- 1) Neutrino Oscillation Physics
- Discover CP Violation in the leptonic sector
- Mass ordering
- Precision Oscillation Physics:
 - parameter measurement, θ_{23} octant
 - testing the 3-flavor paradigm, steriles, NSI

2) Nucleon Decay

- e.g. targeting SUSY-favored modes, $p \rightarrow K^+ \overline{\nu}$
- 3) Supernova burst physics & astrophysics
- Galactic core collapse supernova, sensitivity to ν_{e}

Long baseline:

 \rightarrow Matter effects are large ~ 40%

Wide-band beam:

- → Measure ve appearance and $\nu\mu$ disappearance over range of energies
- \rightarrow MO & CPV effects are separable

$$\nu_e + {}^{40}Ar \rightarrow e^- + {}^{40}K$$

T2HK

Upgraded JPARC beam \rightarrow Assume 1.3 MW at start of experiment

T2HK will run6 years with one tank (260 kt)4 years with two tanks (2 x 260 kt)

Hyper-K is off-axis Narrow-band beam, centered on first oscillation maximum Baseline = 295 km matter effect is small



T2HK

Physics cases for T2HK

1) Neutrino Oscillations

- CPV from J-PARC neutrino beam
- Mass Hierarchy from Atmospheric Neutrinos
- Solar neutrinos

2) Search for Proton Decay

- Particularly strong for decays with π^0
- 3) Supernova burst physics & astrophysics
- Galactic core collapse supernova sensitivity to $\overline{v_e}$

UHE neutrinos

www.quantamagazine.org/

Icecube



F. Halzen <u>https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.01687</u> https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/andp.202100309

Flavor identification in Icecube



Charged-current v_T

(simulation)





Up-going track Precise direction reconstruction 0.5° factor 2 for energy determination

Cascade 15% energy resolution 10° angular resolution (E>100TeV)

Double cascade resolvable above ~ 100TeV

IceCube collaboration

Glashow resonance





Glashow resonance expected at 6.4 PeV

Measured energy ~ 6 PeV

https://icecube.wisc.edu/gallery/icecube-sees-a-glashow-resonance-event/

Conclusions



Conclusions

