

# Exploring the universe with neutrinos

Amol Dighe

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research  
Mumbai, India

Lepton-Photon Symposium,  
San Francisco, June 29th, 2013

# Neutrinos as messengers

## Messenger properties

- No bending in magnetic fields  $\Rightarrow$  point back to the source
- Minimal obstruction / scattering  $\Rightarrow$  can arrive directly from regions from where light cannot come.
- This messenger may have unknown interesting properties !

## Sources

- Stars, Earth's atmosphere and crust
- Astrophysical phenomena with large  $\nu$  flux
- Diffused fluxes accumulated over the lifetime of universe

## Detectors

- Water / ice Cherenkov, scintillators, liquid Ar, Lead
- Big, bigger and still bigger size !
- Energy resolution, time resolution, and directionality

# Neutrinos as messengers

## Messenger properties

- No bending in magnetic fields  $\Rightarrow$  point back to the source
- Minimal obstruction / scattering  $\Rightarrow$  can arrive directly from regions from where light cannot come.
- This messenger may have unknown interesting properties !

## Sources

- Stars, Earth's atmosphere and crust
- Astrophysical phenomena with large  $\nu$  flux
- Diffused fluxes accumulated over the lifetime of universe

## Detectors

- Water / ice Cherenkov, scintillators, liquid Ar, Lead
- Big, bigger and still bigger size !
- Energy resolution, time resolution, and directionality

# Neutrinos as messengers

## Messenger properties

- No bending in magnetic fields  $\Rightarrow$  point back to the source
- Minimal obstruction / scattering  $\Rightarrow$  can arrive directly from regions from where light cannot come.
- This messenger may have unknown interesting properties !

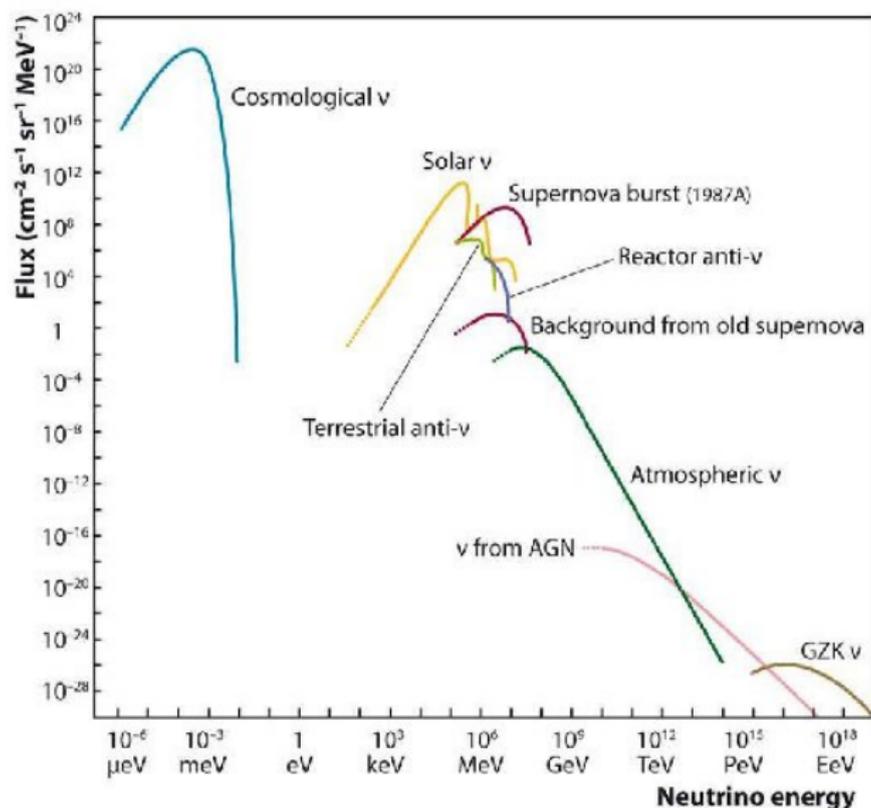
## Sources

- Stars, Earth's atmosphere and crust
- Astrophysical phenomena with large  $\nu$  flux
- Diffused fluxes accumulated over the lifetime of universe

## Detectors

- Water / ice Cherenkov, scintillators, liquid Ar, Lead
- Big, bigger and still bigger size !
- Energy resolution, time resolution, and directionality

# Neutrino fluxes at different energies



# We have seen a lot of these...

## Atmospheric neutrinos ( $E \sim \text{GeV}$ )

- Neutrino oscillations: the first BSM signal
- Measurements of  $|\Delta m_{31}^2|$  and  $\theta_{23}$
- Can also provide  $\text{sign}(\Delta m_{31}^2)$ , now that  $\theta_{13}$  is large

## Solar neutrinos ( $E \sim \text{MeV}$ )

- Neutrino oscillations in matter
- Measurements of  $\Delta m_{21}^2$  and  $\theta_{12}$
- Can be used to probe the interior of the sun

## Geoneutrinos ( $E \sim \text{MeV}$ )

- Understanding radioactivity inside the Earth

# Exploring the universe in neutrinos

- 1 High / ultra-high energy neutrinos ( $E \gtrsim \text{TeV}$ )
- 2 Neutrinos from a core-collapse SN ( $E \sim \text{MeV}$ )
- 3 Big-bang relic neutrinos: ( $E \sim \text{meV}$ )

# Neutrinos and SN astrophysics

- 1 High / ultra-high energy neutrinos ( $E \gtrsim \text{TeV}$ )
- 2 Neutrinos from a core-collapse SN ( $E \sim \text{MeV}$ )
- 3 Big-bang relic neutrinos: ( $E \sim \text{meV}$ )

# Sources of HE/UHE neutrinos

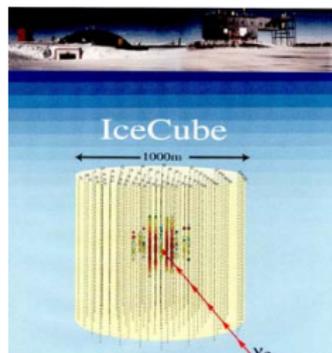
## Secondaries of cosmic rays

- Primary protons interacting within the source or with CMB photons  $\Rightarrow \pi^\pm \Rightarrow$  Decay to  $\nu$
- At GZK energies, secondary neutrino flux comparable to the primary cosmic ray flux (Waxman-Bahcall bound)  
 $E^2 dN/dE \lesssim (10 - 50) \text{ eV cm}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- $\pi^\pm$  produced  $\Rightarrow \pi^0$  produced  $\Rightarrow \gamma$  that shower.  
Observation of gamma rays near  $\sim 100 \text{ GeV} \Rightarrow$   
 $E^2 dN/dE \lesssim 100 \text{ eV cm}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$

## AGNs and GRBs

- Neutrinos produced by particle decays / nuclear reactions / pair production in extreme environments
- **AGNs** can give measurable diffused flux in near future
- Flux possible during the precursor phase, the emission phase as well as the afterglow phase of **GRBs**

# Detection of HE neutrinos: water/ice Cherenkov



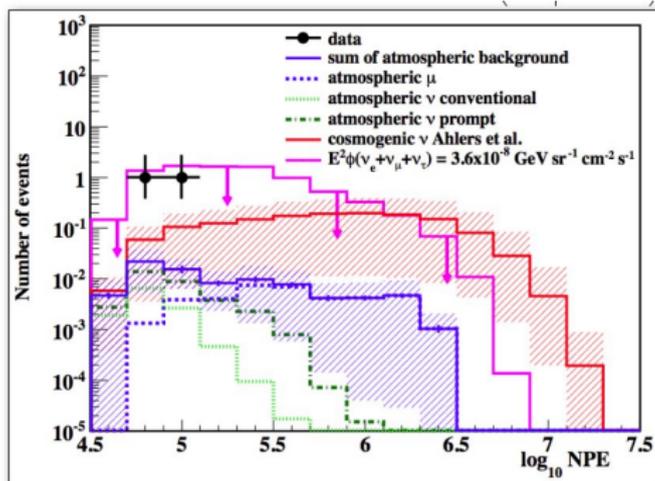
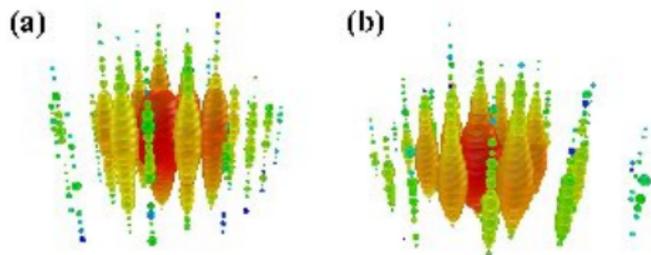
- Thresholds of  $\sim 100$  GeV, controlled by the distance between optical modules
- Track for  $\nu_\mu$
- Cascade for  $\nu_e$ , hadrons,  $\nu_\tau$
- Double-bang for  $\nu_\tau$  ?

## Detection estimates

- Down-going neutrinos: atmospheric muon background becomes insignificant only for  $E \gtrsim 10^{16-17}$  eV
- Up-going neutrinos:  $E \lesssim 10^{16}$  eV, since more energetic neutrinos get absorbed in the Earth
- Diffused flux sensitivity to  $E^2 dN/dE \sim 2$  eV cm $^{-2}$  sr $^{-1}$  s $^{-1}$  after 3 years of full Icecube
- AGNs emitting at  $E \sim 10^{16}$  eV detectable if  $E^2 dN/dE \gtrsim 10^2$  eV cm $^{-2}$  sr $^{-1}$  s $^{-1}$

# The two PeV events at Icecube

Talk by Darren Grant



- Two events at  $\sim 1$  PeV energies found
- Cosmogenic ? X  
Glashow resonance? X  
atmospheric ?

Roulet et al 2013 ++ many

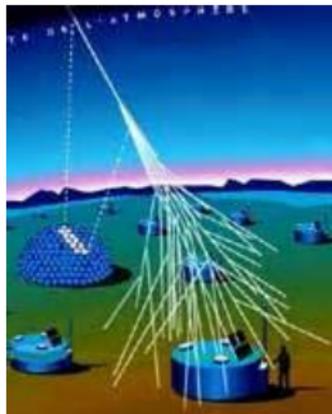
- IceCube analyzing 28 events from 30 TeV to 1.1 PeV

Details in talk by Darren Grant

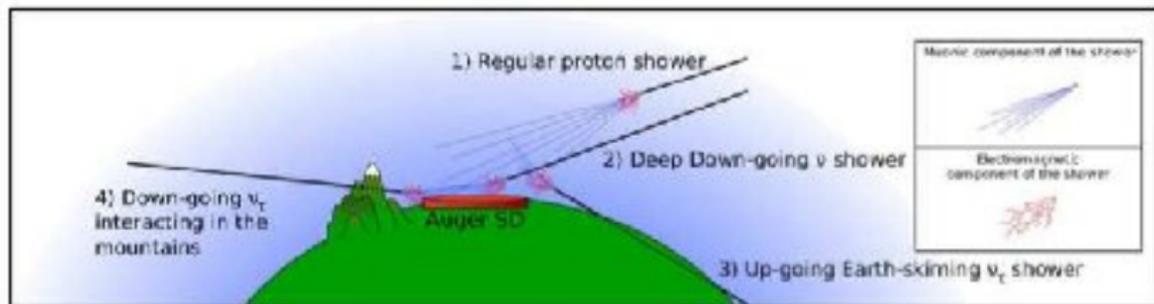
- Constraints on Lorentz violation:  
 $\delta(v^2 - 1) \lesssim \mathcal{O}(10^{-18})$

Borriello, Chakraborty, Mirizzi, 2013

# Detection of UHE neutrinos: cosmic ray showers



- Neutrinos with  $E \gtrsim 10^{17}$  eV can induce giant air showers (probability  $\lesssim 10^{-4}$ )
- Deep down-going muon showers
- Deep-going  $\nu_\tau$  interacting in the mountains
- Up-going Earth-skimming  $\nu_\tau$  shower

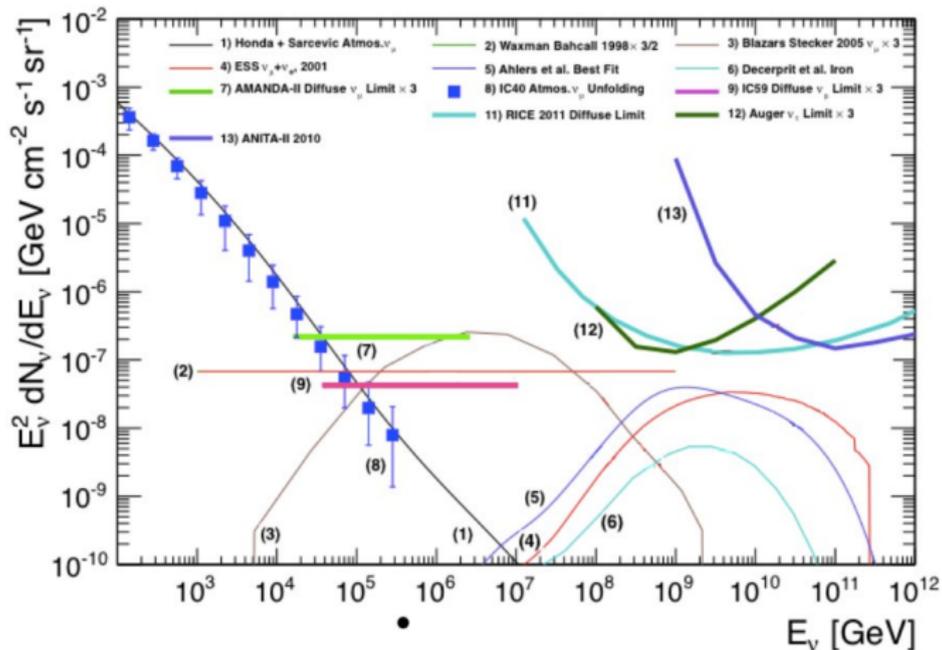


# Detection through radio waves: ANITA



- Charged particle shower  $\Rightarrow$  **Radio Askaryan**: charged clouds emit coherent radio waves through interactions with  $\mathbf{B}_{\text{Earth}}$  or Cherenkov
- Detectable for  $E \gtrsim 10^{17}$  eV at balloon experiments like ANITA

# Limits on UHE neutrino fluxes



Talk by Darren Grant

Waxman-Bahcall, AMANDA, ANITA, RICE, Auger, IceCube

Also expect complementary info from: NEMO, NESTOR, ANTARES, KM3NET ...

# Flavor information from UHE neutrinos

- Neutrino flavor ratio  $\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau$  from primary sources:  
Neutron source **1 : 0 : 0**,  
Pion source **1 : 2 : 0**,  
Dense sources that absorb muons **0 : 1 : 0**
- $L/E$  large  $\Rightarrow$  oscillations change the flavor ratio.  
Pion source: approx **1 : 1 : 1**  
Muon-absorbing sources: **1 : 2 : 2**
- **Decaying neutrinos** can skew the flavor ratio even further:  
as extreme as **6 : 1 : 1** or **0 : 1 : 1**  
**Ratio measurement  $\Rightarrow$  improved limits on neutrino lifetimes**

Beacom et al, PRL 2003

(The numbers obtained with bimaximal mixing)

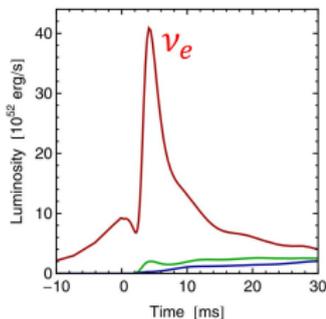
# Neutrinos and SN astrophysics

- 1 High / ultra-high energy neutrinos ( $E \gtrsim \text{TeV}$ )
- 2 Neutrinos from a core-collapse SN ( $E \sim \text{MeV}$ )
- 3 Big-bang relic neutrinos: ( $E \sim \text{meV}$ )

# Neutrino fluxes: $\sim 10^{58}$ neutrinos in 10 sec

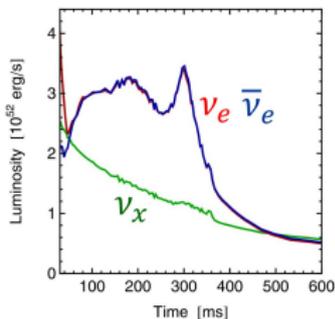
## Three Phases of Neutrino Emission

### Prompt $\nu_e$ burst



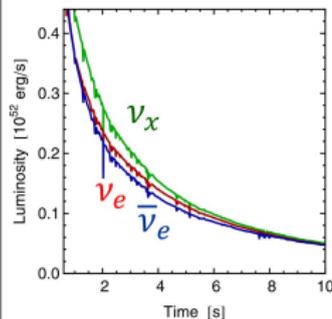
- Shock breakout
- De-leptonization of outer core layers

### Accretion



- Shock stalls  $\sim 150$  km
- Neutrinos powered by infalling matter

### Cooling

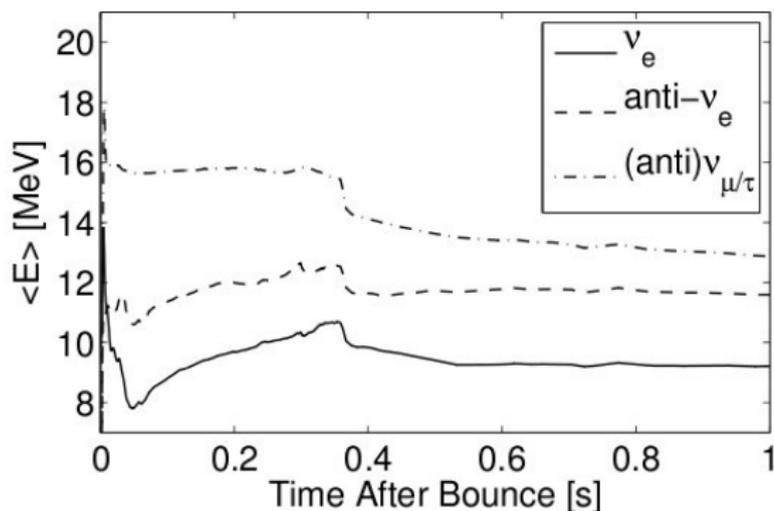


Cooling on neutrino diffusion time scale

- Spherically symmetric model ( $10.8 M_{\odot}$ ) with Boltzmann neutrino transport
- Explosion manually triggered by enhanced CC interaction rate

Fischer et al. (Basel group), A&A 517:A80, 2010 [arxiv:0908.1871]

# Neutrino fluxes: energy spectra

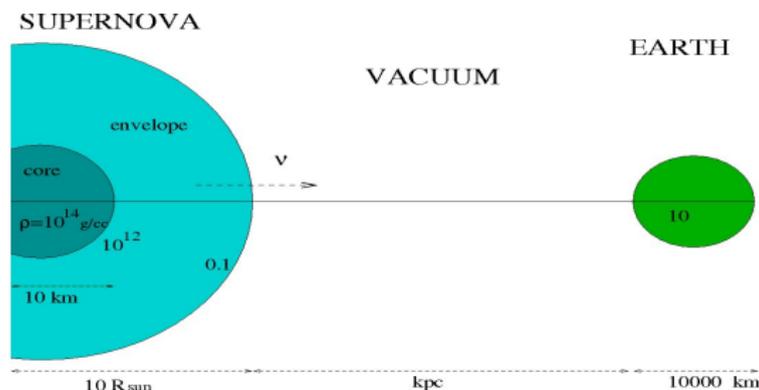


10.8 $M_{\odot}$  star

Fischer et al, arXiv:0908.1871

- Approximately thermal spectra
- $\langle E_{\nu_e} \rangle < \langle E_{\bar{\nu}_e} \rangle < \langle E_{\nu_{\mu}, \nu_{\tau}, \bar{\nu}_{\mu}, \bar{\nu}_{\tau}} \rangle$

# Neutrino propagation



Inside the SN: *flavor conversion*

Collective effects and MSW matter effects

Between the SN and Earth: *no flavor conversion*

Mass eigenstates travel independently

Inside the Earth: *flavor oscillations*

MSW matter effects (*if detector is shadowed by the Earth*)

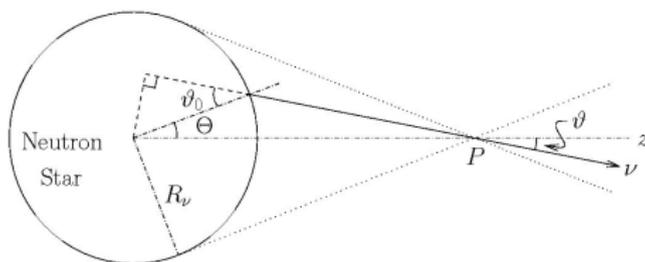
# Non-linearity from neutrino-neutrino interactions

- Effective Hamiltonian:  $H = H_{vac} + H_{MSW} + H_{\nu\nu}$

$$H_{vac}(\vec{p}) = M^2/(2p)$$

$$H_{MSW} = \sqrt{2}G_F n_e \text{-diag}(1, 0, 0)$$

$$H_{\nu\nu}(\vec{p}) = \sqrt{2}G_F \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} (1 - \cos \theta_{pq}) (\rho(\vec{q}) - \bar{\rho}(\vec{q}))$$



Duan, Fuller, Carlson, Qian, PRD 2006

- Equation of motion:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = i [H(\rho), \rho]$$

Note:  $\rho$  is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix

# “Collective” effects: qualitatively new phenomena

## Synchronized oscillations:

$\nu$  and  $\bar{\nu}$  of all energies oscillate with the same frequency

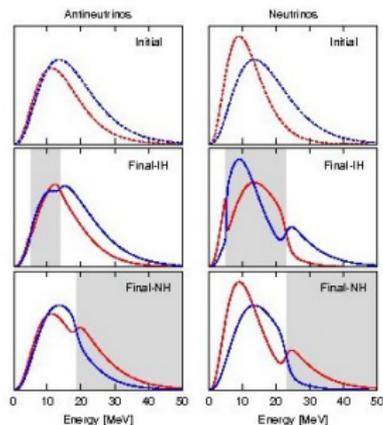
S. Pastor, G. Raffelt and D. Semikoz, PRD65, 053011 (2002)

## Bipolar/pendular oscillations:

Coherent  $\nu_e \bar{\nu}_e \leftrightarrow \nu_X \bar{\nu}_X$  oscillations

S. Hannestad, G. Raffelt, G. Sigl, Y. Wong, PRD74, 105010 (2006)

## Multiple spectral split/swap:



$\nu_e$  and  $\nu_X$  ( $\bar{\nu}_e$  and  $\bar{\nu}_X$ ) spectra interchange completely,  
but only within certain energy ranges.

G.Raffelt, A.Smirnov, PRD76, 081301 (2007), PRD76, 125008 (2007)

B. Dasgupta, AD, G.Raffelt, A.Smirnov, PRL103,051105 (2009)

# Problems and open questions in collective effects

- **New non-linear effects:** can they be understood/modelled in terms of other phenomena (like superconductivity) ?

Pehlivan, Balentekin et al, 2011

- Many answers known only with the **single-angle approximation** (all neutrinos at a point face the same average  $\nu\nu$  potential [effective averaging of  $(1 - \cos \theta_{pq})$ ]). How good is this approximation ?

- **Multi-angle effects** seem to suppress collective effects, or make them appear earlier / later, or smoothen out their effects on the spectra.

Duan, Friedland, 2011, Mirizzi, Serpico 2012

- **Normal matter at high densities** also seems to give rise to additional suppression. What will be the net effect ?

Chakraborty et al, 2011

# Some recent theoretical progress

- **Linearized stability analysis:** focussing on the onset of collective oscillations

Banerjee, AD, Raffelt 2011, Sarikas Raffelt 2011

- Neutrinos that undergo scattering outside the neutrinosphere can have an effect on oscillations  
(Halo effect)

Cherry et al 2012, Sarikas et al 2012

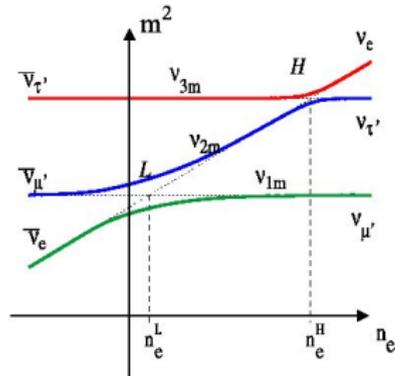
- **Large amplitude turbulence** in outer layers of the star may obscure usual signatures, but give rise to some new ones...

Kneller, Lund 2013

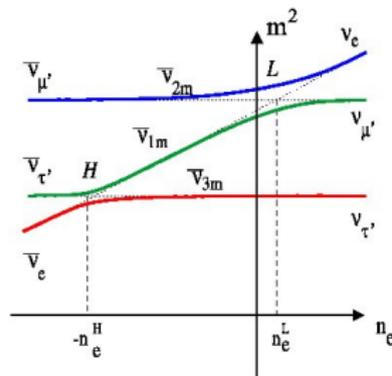
- “Collective” work in progress....

# MSW Resonances inside a SN

## Normal mass ordering



## Inverted mass ordering



AD, A.Smirnov, PRD62, 033007 (2000)

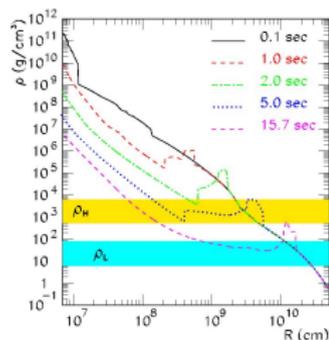
$H$  resonance:  $(\Delta m_{\text{atm}}^2, \theta_{13}), \rho \sim 10^3\text{--}10^4 \text{ g/cc}$

- In  $\nu(\bar{\nu})$  for normal (inverted) hierarchy
- Now that  $\theta_{13}$  is known to be large, adiabatic except during the passage of the shock wave

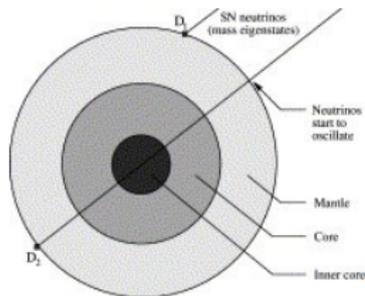
$L$  resonance:  $(\Delta m_{\odot}^2, \theta_{\odot}), \rho \sim 10\text{--}100 \text{ g/cc}$

- Always adiabatic, always in  $\nu$

# Further flavor conversions: shock and earth effects

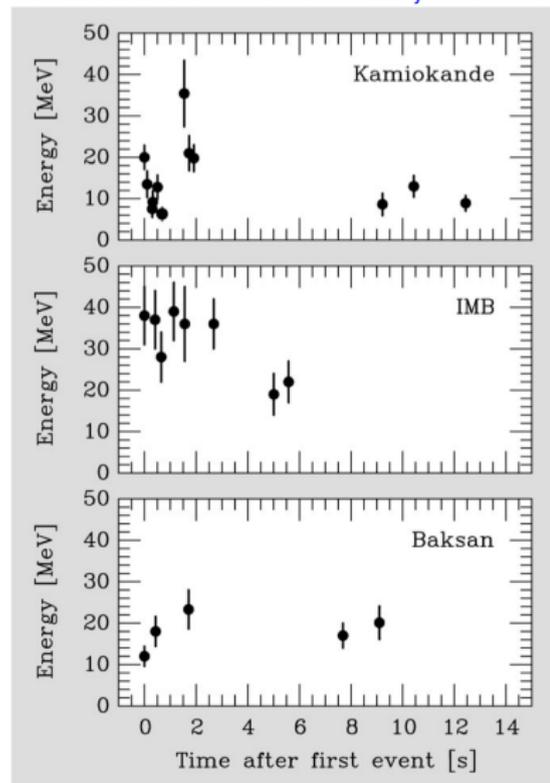


- During shock wave propagation, adiabaticity momentarily lost  $\Rightarrow$  fluctuations in spectra.
- Turbulence behind the shock wave  $\Rightarrow$  depolarization effects
- If the detector is shadowed by the Earth, matter-induced flavor oscillations inside the earth produce spectral modulations.



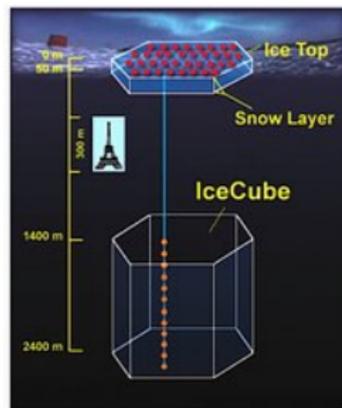
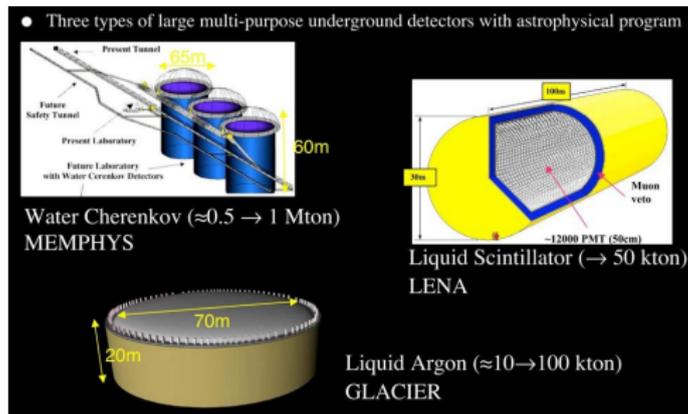
# SN1987A: neutrinos and light

Neutrinos: Feb 23, 1987



- Neutrinos reached a few hours before the light
- Confirmed the **SN cooling mechanism** through neutrinos
- **Number of events too small** to say anything concrete about neutrino mixing
- Some **constraints on SN parameters**, strong constraints on **new physics models** (neutrino decay, Majorans, axions, extra dimensions, ...)

# SN neutrino detection



- Water Cherenkov / liquid scintillator / liquid Ar detectors for **tracking individual neutrinos** (HK, LENA, ....)
- Large-volume ice Cherenkov for determining luminosity to a high accuracy (**integrated Cherenkov glow**)
- **LBNE liquid Ar ?** If it is underground...

# Major reactions at the large detectors (SN at 10 kpc)

## Water Cherenkov detector: size advantage (events at SK)

- $\bar{\nu}_e p \rightarrow n e^+$ : ( $\sim 7000 - 12000$ )
- $\nu e^- \rightarrow \nu e^-$ :  $\approx 200 - 300$
- $\nu_e + {}^{16}\text{O} \rightarrow X + e^-$ :  $\approx 150-800$

## Carbon-based scintillation detector: $\Delta E$ advantage

- $\bar{\nu}_e p \rightarrow n e^+$  ( $\sim 300$  per kt)
- $\nu + {}^{12}\text{C} \rightarrow \nu + X + \gamma$  (15.11 MeV)
- $\nu p \rightarrow \nu p$

## Liquid Argon detector: $\nu_e$ spectrum advantage

- $\nu_e + {}^{40}\text{Ar} \rightarrow {}^{40}\text{K}^* + e^-$  ( $\sim 300$  per kt)

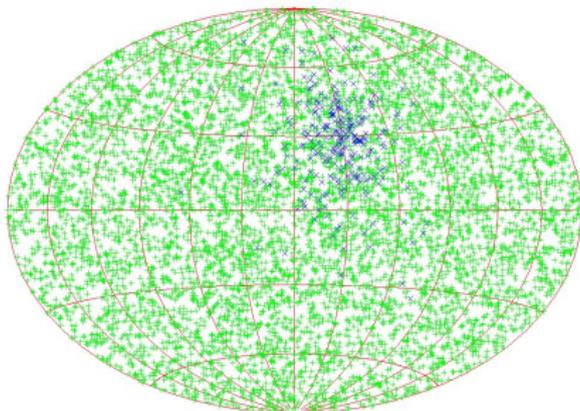
## Lead detector:

- CC:  $\nu_e + {}^{208}\text{Pb} \rightarrow {}^{207}\text{Bi} + n + e^-$ ,  
 $\nu_e + {}^{208}\text{Pb} \rightarrow {}^{206}\text{Bi} + 2n + e^-$
- NC:  $\nu_x + {}^{208}\text{Pb} \rightarrow {}^{207}\text{Pb} + n$ ,  $\nu_x + {}^{208}\text{Pb} \rightarrow {}^{206}\text{Pb} + 2n$

# Pointing to the SN in advance

- Neutrinos reach 6-24 hours before the light from SN explosion (**SNEWS network**)
- $\bar{\nu}_e p \rightarrow n e^+$ : nearly isotropic background
- $\nu e^- \rightarrow \nu e^-$ : forward-peaked “signal”
- Background-to-signal ratio:  $N_B/N_S \approx 30\text{--}50$
- SN at 10 kpc may be detected within a cone of  $\sim 5^\circ$  at SK
- Adding Gd may make the pointing much better...

Beacom, Vogel 1999, Tomas et al 2003



# Vanishing neutronization ( $\nu_e$ ) burst

- Flux during the neutronization burst well-predicted (“standard candle”)

M. Kachelriess et al, PRD 2005

## Mass hierarchy identification (now that $\theta_{13}$ is large)

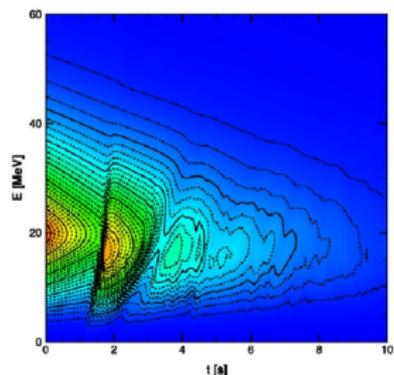
- Burst in CC suppressed by  $\sim \sin^2 \theta_{13} \approx 0.025$  for NH, only by  $\sim \sin^2 \theta_{12} \approx 0.3$  for IH
- Liquid Ar detector with good time resolution (for separating  $\nu_e$  burst from the accretion phase signal) crucial

## O-Ne-Mg supernova

- MSW resonances take place within the collective region
- Distinctive spectral modulations in the neutronization burst spectrum (even more due to Halo effect)

Duan et al 2008, Dasgupta et al 2008, Cherry et al 2011, 2013

# Shock wave effects and turbulence



2D simulation  
Positron spectrum  
(inverse beta reaction)

Kneller et al., PRD 2008

## Observable shock signals

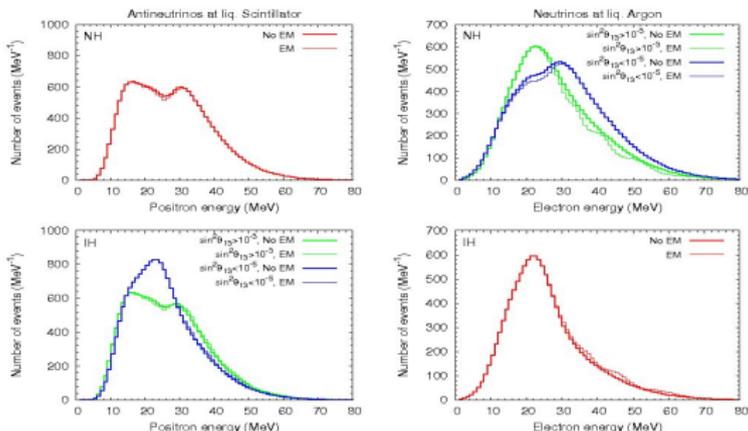
- Time-dependent dip/peak features in  $N_{\nu_e, \bar{\nu}_e}(E)$ ,  $\langle E_{\nu_e, \bar{\nu}_e} \rangle$ , ...
- Can track the shock wave while still inside the mantle

R.Tomas et al., JCAP 2004, Gava et al., PRL 2009

## Identifying mixing scenario: independent of collective effects

- Shock effects present in  $\nu_e$  only for NH
- Shock effects present in  $\bar{\nu}_e$  only for IH
- Absence of shock effects gives no concrete signal.  
primary spectra too close ? turbulence ?

# Earth matter effects



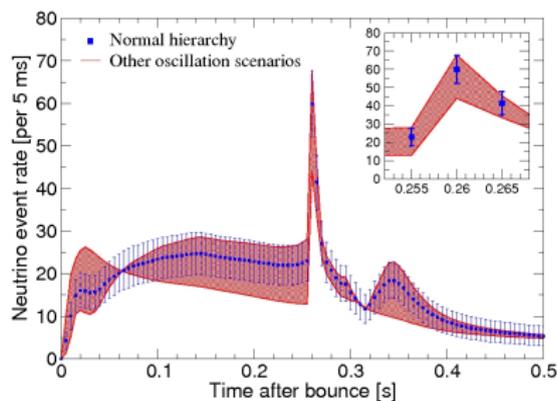
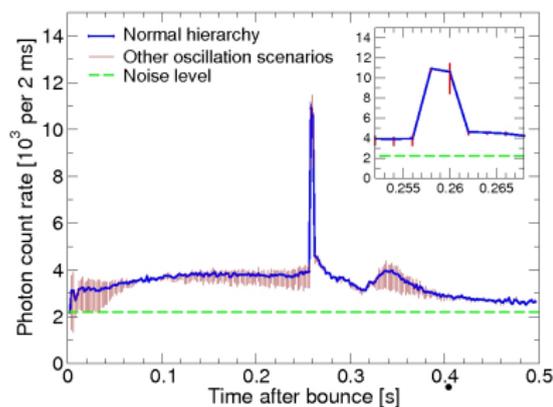
Choubey et al, 2010

- Spectral split may be visible as “shoulders”
- Earth effects possibly visible, more prominent in  $\nu_e$
- Detection through spectral modulation, or comparison between time-dependent luminosities at large detectors.
- Recent simulations do not paint such a rosy picture.

Borriello et al, 2012

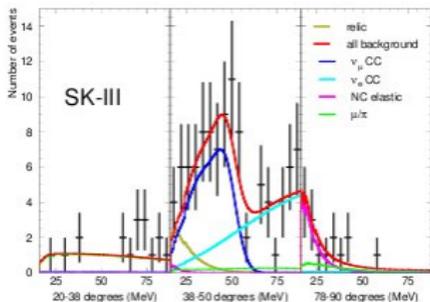
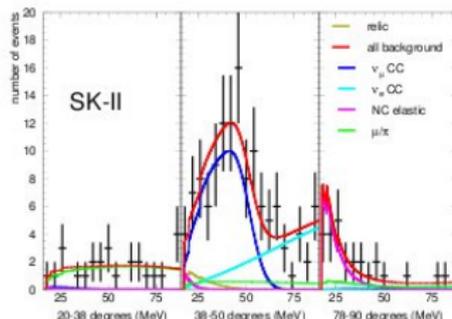
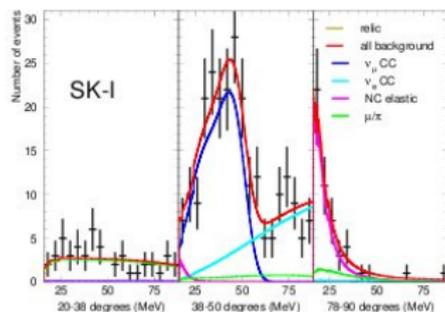
# QCD phase transition (if it takes place)

- Sudden compactification of the progenitor core during the QCD phase transition
- Prominent burst of  $\bar{\nu}_e$ , visible at IceCube and SK



Dasgupta et al, PRD 2010

# Diffused SN neutrino background



- Energy window: 17 MeV  $\lesssim E \lesssim 50$  MeV
- 90% C.L. limits on  $\bar{\nu}$  flux:  $2.9 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  for  $E > 17.3$  MeV

SK Collaboration, 2012

Predictions have a factor of 2-3 uncertainty. Collective effects and shock effects can affect predictions of the predicted fluxes by up to  $\sim 50\%$

# Neutrinos and SN astrophysics

- 1 High / ultra-high energy neutrinos ( $E \gtrsim \text{TeV}$ )
- 2 Neutrinos from a core-collapse SN ( $E \sim \text{MeV}$ )
- 3 Big-bang relic neutrinos: ( $E \sim \text{meV}$ )

# Source: abundance and temperature

- Relic density:  $\sim 110$  neutrinos /flavor /cm<sup>3</sup>
- Temperature:  $T_\nu = (4/11)^{1/3} T_{\text{CMB}} \approx 1.95 \text{ K} = 16.7 \text{ meV}$
- The effective number of neutrino flavors:  
 $N_{\text{eff}}(\text{SM}) = 3.074$ . Planck  $\Rightarrow N_{\text{eff}} = 3.30 \pm 0.27$ .
- Contribution to dark matter density:

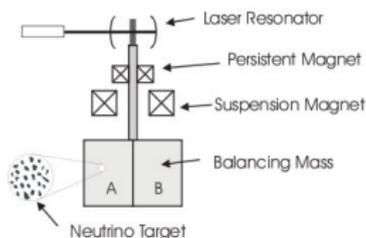
$$\Omega_\nu / \Omega_{\text{baryon}} = 0.5 \left( \sum m_\nu / \text{eV} \right)$$

- Looking really far back:

	Time	Temp	z
Relic neutrinos	0.18 s	$\sim 2 \text{ MeV}$	$\sim 10^{10}$
CMB photons	$\sim 4 \times 10^5 \text{ years}$	0.26 eV	1100

Lazauskas, Vogel, Volpe, 2008

# Detection of relic neutrinos: the torsion balance idea



- De Broglie wavelength of relic neutrinos:  $\lambda \approx h/p \approx 1.5\text{mm}$ .
  - $\nu$  can interact coherently with a sphere of this size
  - Measure force on such “spheres” due to the relic neutrino wind
- 
- For iron spheres and 100 times local overdensity for  $\nu$ , acceleration  $a \lesssim 10^{-26} \text{ cm /s}^2$
- Shvartsman et al 1982
- $\gtrsim 10$  orders of magnitude smaller than the sensitivity of current torsion balance technology
  - If neutrinos are Majorana, a further suppression by  $v/c \approx 10^3$  (polarized target),  $(v/c)^2 \approx 10^{-6}$  (unpolarized)
- Hagmann, astro-ph/9901102
- The idea is essentially impractical.

# The inverse beta reaction

- Need detection of low-energy neutrinos, so look for zero-threshold interactions
- Beta-capture on beta-decaying nuclei:



End-point region ( $E > M_{N_1} - M_{N_2}$ ) background-free.  
Energy resolution crucial.

Weinberg 1962, cocco, Mangano, Messina 2008, Lazauskas et al 2008, Hodak et al 2009

- Possible at  $^3\text{H}$  experiments with 100 g of pure tritium but atomic tritium is needed to avoid molecular energy levels
- $^{187}\text{Re}$  at MARE also suggested, but a lot more material will be needed, so not feasible.

Lazauskas, Vogel, Volpe 2009, Hodak et al 2011

# Summary

## HE / UHE neutrinos

- Cerenkov  $\nu$  telescopes, large cosmic ray detector arrays
- We are on the threshold of detection
- Flavor identification holds clues on sources and  $\nu$  properties

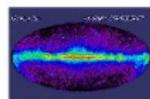
## Supernova neutrinos

- Rich SN astrophysics and  $\nu$  oscillation phenomenology
- Instant identification of mass hierarchy possible
- Unique way of extracting information on SN dynamics
- Wanted: large underground liquid Ar detector with good  $\Delta t$

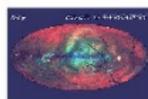
## Big bang relic neutrinos

- Inverse beta processes on beta-decaying nuclei: only feasible idea ?

# Mapping the universe



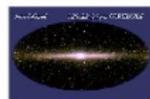
Gamma ray



X-ray



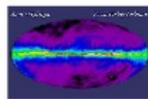
Visible



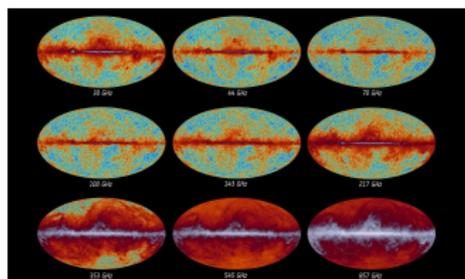
Near infrared



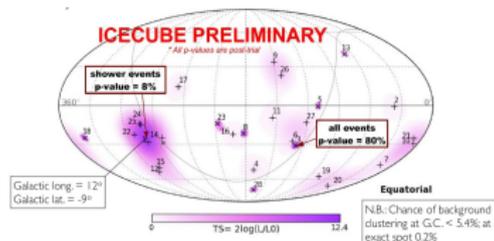
Infrared



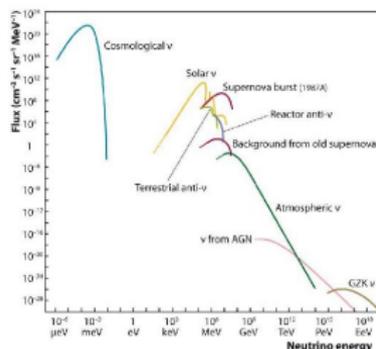
Radio waves



Neutrinos entering this domain, slowly but surely...



Talk by Darren Grant



We should be adding more colors to the universe...