



Neutrino Flavour Oscillations

Solar Neutrinos



SuperK : Solar neutrino-gram



•Light from the solar core takes a million years to reach the surface

- Fusion processes generate
 electron neutrinos which take
 2s to leave
- Solar neutrinos are a direct probe of the solar core
- Roughly 4.0 x 10^{10} solar v_e per cm² per second on earth

Solar neutrino – pp Cycle





Solar Neutrino Flux





The Solar Neutrino Problem - Homestake





Homestake sensitive to ⁸B and ⁷Be *electron neutrinos*

 $E_v > 800 \text{ keV}$

Observe 1/3 of the expected number of solar neutrinos

1 SNU = 1 interaction per $10^{36} \text{ atoms per second}$



Experimental summary

Total Rates: Standard Model vs. Experiment Bahcall-Pinsonneault 2000



Atmospheric neutrinos



High energy cosmic rays interact in the upper atmosphere producing showers of mesons (mostly pions)



Neutrinos produced by

Expect $\frac{N\left(\nu_{\mu} + \overline{\nu_{\mu}}\right)}{N\left(\nu_{e} + \overline{\nu_{e}}\right)} \approx 2$

At higher energies, the muons can reach the ground before decaying so ratio increases



The Atmospheric Neutrino Anomaly



Neutrino Flavour Oscillations

MixingImage: CKM
Mechanism
$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ d' \end{pmatrix}_L$$
 $\begin{pmatrix} c \\ s' \end{pmatrix}_L$ $d' = d \cos \theta_c + s \sin \theta_c$
 $s' = -d \sin \theta_c + s \cos \theta_c$

In the quark sector, the flavour eigenstates (those states which couple to the W/Z) are not identical to the mass eigenstates (those states which are solutions of the Dirac equation)

Weak
$$(d')_{s'} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.97 & 0.23 & 0.003 \\ 0.23 & 0.97 & 0.04 \\ 0.008 & 0.04 & 0.99 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$
 Mass states

CKM Matrix

MixingImage: CKM
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Neutrino Oscillations



 $Amp(\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\beta}) \propto \sum_{i} U_{\alpha i}^{*} \operatorname{Prop}(\nu_{i}) U_{\beta i}$

If we can't resolve the individual mass states then the amplitude involves a <u>coherent</u> superposition of v_i states

Bruno Pontercorvo



Italian nuclear physicist Early assisstant of Fermi

Spent most of his career obsessed with neutrinos

1945 : Proposed detection of neutrinos via radiochemical method used 20 years later by Davis (Nobel)

1957 : Proposed the idea of neutrino flavour oscillations

1958 : Proposed that neutrinos came in different types. Proved by Lederman, Steinberger and Schwartz in 1962 (Nobel)
 1968 : Proposed neutrino flavour oscillations as solution of the solar neutrino problem. Later verified by McDonald and Kajita (Nobel)

Defected to the USSR in 1950. Most of his ideas were locked behind the Iron Curtain for decades.



$$Prob(\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\beta}) = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4\sum_{i>j} \Re (U_{\alpha i}^{*} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^{*}) \sin^{2}(\Delta m_{ij}^{2} \frac{L}{4E})$$
$$+ 2\sum_{i>j} \Im (U_{\alpha i}^{*} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^{*}) \sin(\Delta m_{ij}^{2} \frac{L}{2E})$$

•If $\Delta m_{ii}^2 = 0$ then neutrinos don't oscillate

•Oscillation depends on $|\Delta m^2|$ - absolute masses, or mass patterns cannot be determined.

If there is no mixing (If $U_{ci} = 0$) neutrinos don't oscillate

•One can detect flavour change in 2 ways : start with v_{a} and look for v_{β} (appearance) or start with v_{a} and see if any disappears (disappearance)

•Flavour change oscillates with L/E. L and E are chosen by the experimenter to maximise sensitivity to a given Δm^2

•Flavour change doesn't alter total neutrino flux – it just redistributes it amongst different flavours (unitarity)

Two flavour oscillations



$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{\alpha} \\ v_{\beta} \end{pmatrix} = U \begin{pmatrix} v_{1} \\ v_{2} \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow U = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P(v_{\alpha} \rightarrow v_{\beta}) = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4 \sum_{i>j} U_{\alpha i} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j} \sin^{2} (\Delta m_{ij}^{2} \frac{L}{4E})$$

 $P(v_{\alpha} \rightarrow v_{\beta})$: Appearance Probability $P(v_{\alpha} \rightarrow v_{\alpha})$: Survival Probability

$$P(v_{\alpha} \rightarrow v_{\beta}) = -4(U_{\alpha 1}U_{\beta 1}U_{\alpha 2}U_{\beta 2})\sin^{2}(\Delta m_{ij}^{2}\frac{L}{4E})$$

$$.=\sin^{2}(2\theta)\sin^{2}(1.27\Delta m^{2}(eV^{2})\frac{L(km)}{E(GeV)})$$

(changing to useful units)







Three Flavour Oscillation

The three flavour case is more complicated, but no different

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_{e} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = U \begin{pmatrix} \nu_{1} \\ \nu_{2} \\ \nu_{3} \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix}$$

U is the Pontecorvo-Maskawa-Nakayama-Sakata (PMNS) matrix

$$Prob(v_{\alpha} \rightarrow v_{\beta}) = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4\sum_{i>j} \Re (U_{\alpha i}^{*} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^{*}) \sin^{2}(\Delta m_{ij}^{2} \frac{L}{4E})$$
$$+ 2\sum_{i>j} \Im (U_{\alpha i}^{*} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^{*}) \sin(\Delta m_{ij}^{2} \frac{L}{2E})$$

$$PMNS* matrix$$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e^{j}} & U_{e^{2}} & U_{e^{3}} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\beta} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Prob(v_{\alpha} \rightarrow v_{\beta}) = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4\sum_{i>j} \Re(U_{\alpha i}^{*}U_{\beta i}U_{\alpha j}U_{\beta j}^{*})\sin^{2}(\Delta m_{ij}^{2}\frac{L}{4E})$$

$$+ 2\sum_{i>j} \Im(U_{\alpha i}^{*}U_{\beta i}U_{\alpha j}U_{\beta j}^{*})\sin(\Delta m_{ij}^{2}\frac{L}{2E})$$

*Pontercorvo-Maki-Nakagama-Sakata

$$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{PMNS matrix} \\ U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{el} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\beta} \end{pmatrix} \\ \hline \textbf{Three angles} \end{array}$$

$$Prob(\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\beta}) = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4\sum_{i>j} \Re (U_{\alpha i}^{*} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^{*}) \sin^{2} (\Delta m_{ij}^{2} \frac{L}{4E})$$
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The extra Majorana matrix does not affect flavour oscillation processes.....so is usually dropped. However it will affect the interpretation of neutrinoless double beta decay results



Explaining the solar data

Testing the oscillation hypothesis



Solar neutrino problem

 ν_{e} from sun would change to ν_{μ} or ν_{τ} . However these have too little energy to interact via the charged current, and all the detectors are only sensitive to charge current interactions.

Non- v_{e} component would effectively disappear, reducing the apparent v_{e} flux.

Proof : Neutral current event rate shouldn't change.

Sudbury Neutrino Observatory







1000 tonnes of D_2^0 6500 tons of H_2^0 Viewed by 10,000 PMTS In a salt mine 2km underground in Sudbury, Canada

SNO



cc $v_e + d \rightarrow p + p + e^-$

- -Q = 1.445 MeV
- good measurement of v_e energy spectrum
- some directional info $\propto (1 1/3 \cos \theta)$
- Ve only

NC
$$\nu_x + d \rightarrow p + n + \nu_x$$

-Q = 2.22 MeV

measures total ⁸B v flux from the Sun
 equal cross section for all v types

$$v_x + e^- \rightarrow v_x + e^-$$

- low statistics
- mainly sensitive to v_e , some v_{μ} and v_{τ}
- strong directional sensitivity

n captures on deuteron ²H(n, γ)³H Observe 6.25 MeV γ $v_e + v_\mu + v_\tau$

Produces Cherenkov Light Cone in D₂O

$$v_{e}^{+0.15*}(v_{\mu}^{+}v_{\tau}^{-})$$

SNO Results





Naively...



First instinct is to assume that neutrinos leave the sun as $v_{\rm e}$ and oscillate on their way to the earth. Assuming this

$$L \sim 10^8 \, km$$
, $E_v < 10 \, MeV \rightarrow \Delta m^2 \sim 3 \times 10^{-10} \, eV^2$

Naively...



First instinct is to assume that neutrinos leave the sun as n_e and oscillate on their way to the earth. Assuming this

$$L \sim 10^8 \, km$$
, $E_v < 10 \, MeV \rightarrow \Delta m^2 \sim 7 \times 10^{-5} \, eV^2$

Naively...



First instinct is to assume that neutrinos leave the sun as v_e and oscillate on their way to the earth. Assuming this

$$L \sim 10^8 \, km$$
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Oscillations come from phase difference between mass states. In a vacuum the phase diff comes from free particle Hamiltonian. In a material there are interaction potentials as well

$$-i\hbar\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = E\psi = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial x^2} \rightarrow -i\hbar\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = (E+V)\psi = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial x^2}$$
$$E^2 - p^2 = m_{vac}^2 \rightarrow (E+V)^2 - p^2 = m_{mat}^2 \rightarrow m_{mat} \approx \sqrt{m_{vac}^2 + 2EV}$$

c.f. effective mass of an electron in a semiconductor or light in glass

Oscillations in Matter



Electrons exist in standard matter – μ/τ do not. Electron neutrinos travelling in matter can experience an extra charged current interaction that other flavours cannot.



$$\frac{\text{Implications}}{\sin^2 2 \theta_M} = \frac{\sin^2 2 \theta_V}{\sin^2 2 \theta_V + (\cos 2 \theta_V - \zeta)^2} \qquad \zeta = \frac{2\sqrt{2} G_F N_e E}{\Delta m_{Vac}^2}$$

•If $\Delta m^2_{Vac} = 0$ or matter is very dense, $\zeta = \infty$ and $\theta_M = 0$ •Similarly, if $\theta_V = 0$, then $\theta_M = 0$

•If there is no matter, then $\boldsymbol{\zeta}=0$ and we have vacuum mixing

•At a particular electron density, dependent on Δm^2 ,

$$\zeta = \frac{2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E}{\Delta m^2} = \cos 2\theta_V \implies \sin^2 2\theta_M = 1$$

Even if the vacuum mixing angle is tiny, there is a density for which the matter mixing is large

Mass heirarchy

$$\sin^{2}2\theta_{M} = \frac{\sin^{2}2\theta}{\sin^{2}2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - \zeta)^{2}} \qquad \zeta = \frac{2\sqrt{2}G_{F}N_{e}E}{\Delta m_{V}^{2}}$$

▶ If mass of $v_1 < mass of v_2$, $\Delta m^2 = m_1^2 - m_2^2 < 0$

$$\zeta = -\frac{2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E}{|\Delta m^2|} \rightarrow \sin^2 2\theta_M = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta + |\zeta|)^2}$$

Positive definite – no resonance

If mass of $v_1 > \text{mass of } v_2, \Delta m^2 = m_1^2 - m_2^2 > 0$ $\zeta = \frac{2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E}{|\Delta m^2|} \Rightarrow \sin^2 2\theta_M = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - |\zeta|)^2}$



Mixing matrix

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

Solar sector
$$\theta_{e\mu} = 32.5^{\circ} \pm 2.4^{\circ}$$
$$\Delta m_{12}^{2} = +7.9 \times 10^{-5} eV^{2}$$



Explaining the atmospheric data

Cosmic Labs







Atmospheric results







Prediction for v_e rate agrees with data.
•v_µ disappear at large baseline consistent with v_µ → v_τ
•Don't detect v_τ as
-below t mass threshold
-SuperK is awful at τ detection

$$\left|\Delta m_{atmos}^2\right| \approx 0.0025 \, eV^2$$
$$\sin^2(2\,\theta_{atmos}) \approx 1.0$$



Accelerator Cross-check

$\Delta m_{atmos}^2 \approx 3 \times 10^{-3} eV^2 \rightarrow L/E \approx 400 \, km \, GeV^{-1}$

 $L=250 \, km \rightarrow E_{v} \approx 0.6 \, GeV$



Beam events tagged using GPS at both near and far detector sites





Use Near Detector to measure Φ_{μ} (@ND)

T2K verification





T2K Disappearance







1

Mixing matrix

 Δ

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{el} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13} e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13} e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

Solar sector : $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$
 $\theta_{e\mu} = 34.3^{\circ} \pm 1.0^{\circ}$
 $m_{12}^{2} = +(7.50 \pm 0.21) \times 10^{-5} eV^{2} \end{pmatrix}$
Atmospheric sector
 $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$
 $\theta_{\mu\tau} = 48.7^{\circ} \pm 1.0^{\circ}$
 $\Delta m_{23}^{2} = |(2.56 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-3}| eV^{2})$



 $v_{_{\mu}} \rightarrow v_{_{e}}$ oscillations with atmospheric L/E

$$P(v_{\mu} \to v_{e}) = \sin^{2} 2\theta_{13} \sin^{2} \theta_{23} \sin^{2} (1.27\Delta m_{23}^{2} \frac{L}{E})$$

 $\nu_{_{e}}$ appearance in a $\nu_{_{\mu}}$ beam – ideal for *accelerator experiments*

 $v_{_{\rm P}} \rightarrow v_{_{\rm x}}$ disappearance oscillations with atmospheric L/E

$$p(\overline{\mathbf{v}_{e}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{v}_{x}}) \stackrel{\hat{C}\hat{P}}{=} P(\mathbf{v}_{e} \rightarrow \mathbf{v}_{x}) = 1 - \sin^{2}(2\theta_{13}) \sin^{2}(1.27 \Delta m_{23}^{2} \frac{L}{E})$$

 \overline{v}_{e} disappearance – ideal for *reactor experiments*







$$\theta_{13} = (8.44(41) \pm 0.16)^{\circ} (NO(IO))$$

Global results







Summary of Current Knowledge θ_{13} : how much v_e is in v_3 v_3 v_4 $|\Delta m_{32}^2| \approx 2.5 \times 10^{-3} eV^2$ v_4 $|\Delta m_{21}^2| \approx 8 \times 10^{-5} eV^2$ v_4

$$U_{MNSP} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.5 & -0.15 \\ -0.4 & 0.7 & 0.6 \\ 0.4 & -0.5 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}$$
Some elements only known to 10-30% Very very different from the quark CKM matrix