



### *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  $v_{\rm e}^{\rm e}$ per cm<sup>2</sup> per second on earth

## Solar neutrino – pp Cycle





## Solar Neutrino Flux





## The Solar Neutrino Problem - Homestake





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

 $E_{\rm v}$  > 800 keV

Observe 1/3 of the expected number of solar neutrinos

 $1$  SNU = 1 interaction per 10<sup>36</sup> 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

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

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

Expect  $N\left(\left.{\bf v}_{\mu}^{\phantom{\dag}}+{\bf \overline{\bf v}}_{\mu}^{\phantom{\dag}}\right)\right.$  $N(\nu_e + \overline{\nu_e})$  $\approx$ 2

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



The Atmospheric Neutrino Anomaly



## Neutrino Flavour Oscillations

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n\text{Mixing} & & \\
\text{CKM} & & \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d' \end{pmatrix}_{L}, \begin{pmatrix} c \\ s' \end{pmatrix}_{L} & d' = d \cos \theta_{c} + s \sin \theta_{c} \\
s' = -d \sin \theta_{c} + s \cos \theta_{c}\n\end{array}
$$

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)

$$
\text{Weak} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} d' \\ s' \\ b' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.97 & 0.23 & 0.003 \\ 0.23 & 0.97 & 0.04 \\ 0.008 & 0.04 & 0.99 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \text{Mass} \atop \text{states} \atop \text{CKM Matrix}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n\text{Mixing} & & \\
\text{CKM} & & \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d' \end{pmatrix}_{L}, \begin{pmatrix} c \\ s' \end{pmatrix}_{L} & d' = d \cos \theta_{c} + s \sin \theta_{c} \\
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## Neutrino Oscillations



 $\pmb{Amp}(\nu_{\alpha} \!\rightarrow\! \nu_{\beta})\!\propto\! \sum_i \pmb{U}^*_{\alpha i} \mathsf{Prop}\left(\nu_{i}\right) \pmb{U}_{\beta i}$ 

If we can't resolve the individual mass states then the amplitude involves a <u>coherent</u> superposition of  $\mathsf{v}_{_{\mathsf{i}}}$ 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.



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

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

If Δm $_i^2$  = 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 $_{\textrm{\tiny{ci}}}$  = 0) neutrinos don't oscillate

One can detect flavour change in 2 ways : start with  $\mathsf{v}_{\mathsf{a}}$  and look for  $\mathsf{v}_{\mathsf{p}}$ (appearance) or start with  $\mathsf{v}_{\!_{\, \alpha}}$ 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  $\Delta m^2$ 

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

## Two flavour oscillations



$$
\begin{pmatrix}\n v_{\alpha} \\
 v_{\beta}\n\end{pmatrix} = U \begin{pmatrix}\n v_{1} \\
 v_{2}\n\end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow U = \begin{pmatrix}\n \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\
 -\sin \theta & \cos \theta\n\end{pmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
P(v_{\alpha} \rightarrow v_{\beta}) = \delta_{\alpha \beta} - 4 \sum_{i > j} U_{\alpha i} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j} \sin^{2} (\Delta m_{ij}^{2} \frac{L}{4E})
$$

P(ν  $\alpha \rightarrow \mathsf{V}_{\beta}$ ) : Appearance Probability P(ν  $\alpha \rightarrow \mathsf{V}_{\alpha}$ ) : Survival Probability

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

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

(changing to useful units)







## Three Flavour Oscillation

The three flavour case is more complicated, but no different

$$
\begin{pmatrix}\n\mathbf{v}_e \\
\mathbf{v}_\mu \\
\mathbf{v}_\tau\n\end{pmatrix} = U \begin{pmatrix}\n\mathbf{v}_1 \\
\mathbf{v}_2 \\
\mathbf{v}_3\n\end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow U = \begin{pmatrix}\nU_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\
U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\
U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3}\n\end{pmatrix}
$$

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

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

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

$$
U = \begin{vmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\beta} \end{vmatrix}
$$
  
\nProb(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})  
\n+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

$$
U = \begin{vmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} C_{12} & S_{12} & 0 \\ -S_{12} & C_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} C_{13} & 0 & S_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -S_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & C_{13} \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & C_{23} & S_{23} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\delta} \end{vmatrix}
$$

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

$$
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$$



$$
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$$

$$
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$$



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

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

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

### **Proof : Neutral current event rate shouldn't change.**

## Sudbury Neutrino **Observatory**







1000 tonnes of  $D_2$ 0 6500 tons of  $\text{H}_{\text{2}}^\text{O}$ 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  $v_a$  energy spectrum
- some directional info  $\infty (1 1/3 \cos \theta)$
- $-V_{\rm s}$  only

Products Cherenko  
\nLight Cone in 
$$
D_2O
$$

\n $V_e$ 

$$
\mathbf{NC} \quad \nu_x + \mathbf{d} \to \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{n} + \nu_x
$$

 $-Q = 2.22 \text{ MeV}$ 

- measures total <sup>8</sup>B v flux from the Sun equal cross section for all v types

$$
\text{ES} \quad v_x + e^- \rightarrow v_x + e^-
$$

- low statistics
- mainly sensitive to  $v_e$ , some  $v_u$  and  $v_\tau$
- strong directional sensitivity

n captures on deuteron  ${}^{2}H(n, \gamma) {}^{3}H$ ν  $+v_{\mu}+v_{\tau}$ e

Produces Cherenkov Light Cone in  $D_2O$ 

$$
v_{\rm e} + 0.15*(v_{\rm p} + v_{\rm t})
$$

## SNO Results





## Naively...



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

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

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

## Naively...



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

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

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.



$$
\text{implications}_{\text{Sin}^2 2 \theta_{\text{M}} = \frac{\sin^2 2 \theta_{\text{V}}}{\sin^2 2 \theta_{\text{V}} + (\cos 2 \theta_{\text{V}} - \xi)^2} \qquad \zeta = \frac{2 \sqrt{2} G_F N_e E}{\Delta m_{\text{Vac}}^2}
$$

If Δm<sup>2</sup><sub>νac</sub> = 0 or matter is very dense, $\zeta = \infty$  and  $\theta_{_{\sf M}}$  $= 0$ Similarly, if  $\theta$ <sub>v</sub>=0, then  $\theta$ <sub>M</sub> = 0

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

At a particular electron density, dependent on  $\Delta m^2$ ,

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

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

Mass hierarchy  
\n
$$
\sin^2 2\theta_M = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - \zeta)^2} \quad \zeta = \frac{2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E}{\Delta m_V^2}
$$

If mass of  $v_1$  < mass of  $v_2$ , Δm<sup>2</sup>=m<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup>-m<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup><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

 $\zeta=$  $2\sqrt{2}G_{F}N_{e}E$  $|\Delta m^2|$  $\rightarrow$ sin<sup>2</sup>2 $\theta_{M}$ =  $\sin^2 2\theta$  $\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - |\zeta|)^2$ If mass of  $v_1 >$  mass of  $v_2$ , Δm<sup>2</sup>=m<sub>1</sub><sup>2</sup>-m<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>>0



## Mixing matrix

$$
U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{el} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix}
$$
  
**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<sub>e</sub> rate agrees with data. ν μ disappear at large baseline consistent with  $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$ Don't detect v<sub>τ</sub> as -below t mass threshold -SuperK is awful at τ detection

$$
|\Delta m^2_{atmos}| \approx 0.0025 \, eV^2
$$
  

$$
\sin^2(2 \theta_{atmos}) \approx 1.0
$$



## Accelerator Cross-check

## $\Delta m^2_{atmos}$ ≈3×10<sup>-3</sup>eV<sup>2</sup> → *L*/*E*≈400 *km* GeV<sup>-1</sup>

### *L*=250 *km*→*E*<sup>ν</sup> ≈0.6*GeV*



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





Use Near Detector to measure  $\Phi_{\text{v}}(\text{\textcircled{o}}\text{ND})$ 

## T2K verification





## T2K Disappearance







## Mixing matrix

$$
U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{el} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix}
$$
  
\n**Solar sector**:  $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$   
\n $\theta_{e\mu} = 34.3^{\circ} \pm 1.0^{\circ}$   
\n $\Delta m_{12}^{2} = +(7.50 \pm 0.21) \times 10^{-5} eV^{2}$   
\n $\Delta m_{23}^{2} = |(2.56 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-3}| eV^{2}|$ 



ν  $L_{\mu} \rightarrow V_{\text{e}}$  oscillations with atmospheric L/E

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

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

ν  $e \rightarrow V_{x}$ disappearance oscillations with atmospheric L/E

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

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







## Global results





P. F. de Salis et al https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.11237



#### Summary of Current Knowledge THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK  $\pmb{\theta}_{_{13}}$  : how much  $\bm{{\mathsf{v}}}_{_{\text{e}}}$  is in ν 3ν e  $|\Delta m_{32}^2| \approx 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \,\text{eV}^2$ ν μ  $V<sub>2</sub>$ ν  $|\Delta m^2_{21}| \approx 8 \times 10^{-5}\,{\rm eV}^2$  $\tau$

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