

Accelerator Neutrinos

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Outline

- Neutrino introduction
- Oscillation introduction
- Neutrino beams
- Accelerator neutrino experiments
 - Current long baseline neutrino program
 - Future long baseline neutrino program

What we know about neutrinos



We know there are at least three types of neutrinos

We know neutrinos oscillate and that they have mass

Currently, this is the only clear laboratory observation of BSM physics.

But many aspects of neutrino physics are puzzling, and the experimental picture is incomplete

We don't know lots, but accelerator neutrino experiments can help!



- What is the origin of neutrino mass?
- How are the masses ordered (referred to as mass hierarchy)?
- What are the masses?
- Do neutrinos and antineutrinos oscillate differently?
- Are there additional neutrino types or interactions?
 - Are there additional symmetries?
 - Are there additional interactions (NSI)?
 - Are there additional (sterile) neutrinos?
- Are neutrinos their own antiparticles?

Some of these questions can be explored with neutrinos made via an accelerator



Neutrinos come in a wide variety of energies from many sources

The neutrino cross section (on the y axis) is a measure of how likely the neutrino is to be stopped by regular matter. The higher energy a neutrino has, the more likely it is to interact.

Neutrinos are very light ($m_v < a$ few eV), electrically neutral, and only interact via weak force (and gravity)

Interact in three flavor states, which are not the same as their mass states.



Mixing angles used to describe flavor make up of mass states



10¹²

10

1010

10

τ τ

mass (eV)

Neutrino Oscillations

Flavor states may be written as linear combination of mass states (and vice versa) using a mixing (rotation) matrix



Neutrino Oscillations

Over time the states will become out of phase, they oscillate, and we can derive a simple formula to describe the probability



- · Oscillation probability depends on the
 - mixing angles, Δm^2 (mass differences), and L/E (baseline/energy)

Neutrino oscillation experiments measure amplitude (θ) and frequency (Δm^2)



Accelerator neutrino experiments all nominally work on the same simple design:

1) Start with a source of neutrinos with a known flavor composition







Accelerator neutrino experiments all nominally work on the same simple design:

2) Measure beam close to source before it oscillates



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Accelerator neutrino experiments all nominally work on the same simple design:

3) Measure beam again after neutrinos traveled some distance



Near Detector: Characterize beam, interactions, and make use to make prediction of what will see at the FD

Far Detector: Compare ND prediction with data, and extract oscillation parameters

NOvA Preliminary NOvA Preliminary Neutrino Mode 2.5 Data NOvA 6.05×10²⁰ POT-equiv. 120 **Total Simulation** Best fit prediction Total Background 100 10⁶ Events / 11×10²⁰ POT Events / 0.25 GeV Wrong Sign Unoscillated prediction Data .5 sin²(θ₂₃) Δm^2_{32} 0.5 20 3 Reconstructed v_{μ} Energy [GeV] Reconstructed neutrino energy (GeV)

Neutrino oscillation experiments measure amplitude (θ) and frequency (Δm^2)

Power of accelerator neutrino experiments:





Life gets a bit more complicated with 3 neutrinos



Life gets a bit more complicated with 3 neutrinos

Neutrino mass mixing matrix, PMNS, factorizes into three terms

$$\begin{vmatrix} \nu_{e} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\tau} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ c_{23} & s_{23} \\ -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} \\$$

 $c_{\alpha\beta} =$ $s_{\alpha\beta} =$

Many parts of PMNS matrix not well constrained and we do not understand the relative sizes of these values or nor the relationship between quarks and neutrinos







Life gets a bit more complicated with 3 neutrinos

$$\begin{vmatrix} \nu_{e} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\tau} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ c_{23} & s_{23} \\ -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 1 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} \nu_{1} \\ \nu_{2} \\ \nu_{3} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta m_{32}^{2} \simeq 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{eV}^{2} \\ L/E = 500 \text{ km/GeV} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta m_{31}^{2} \approx \Delta m_{32}^{2} \\ \Delta m_{31}^{2} \approx \Delta m_{32}^{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta m_{21}^{2} \simeq 8 \times 10^{-5} \text{eV}^{2} \\ L/E = 15,000 \text{ km/GeV} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P_{\alpha\alpha} \approx 1 - \sin^{2}(2\theta) \sin^{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1.27 \Delta m^{2} [\text{eV}^{2}] L_{\nu} [\text{km}] \\ E_{\nu} [\text{GeV}] \end{pmatrix}$$

Extending to full three flavors

$$\sin^2(2\theta) = 4\sin^2\theta_{23}\cos^2\theta_{13}(1-\sin^2\theta_{23}\cos^2\theta_{13})$$

 $\Delta m^2 = \Delta m_{32}^2 + \Delta m_{21}^2 \sin^2 \theta_{12} + \Delta m_{21}^2 \cos \delta_{CP} \sin \theta_{13} \tan \theta_{23} \sin 2\theta_{12}$



Also need to account for affect due to neutrinos interacting with matter: MSW = Mikheyev–Smirnov– Wolfenstein effect

$$\begin{array}{c} \nu_{e} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\tau} \end{array} \right\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ c_{23} & s_{23} \\ -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 1 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} \nu_{1} \\ \nu_{2} \\ \nu_{3} \end{vmatrix} \\ \\ \begin{array}{c} \Delta m_{32}^{2} \simeq 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{eV}^{2} \\ L/E = 500 \text{ km/GeV} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta m_{31}^{2} \approx \Delta m_{32}^{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta m_{21}^{2} \simeq 8 \times 10^{-5} \text{eV}^{2} \\ L/E = 15,000 \text{ km/GeV} \end{pmatrix}$$

Probability is modified as neutrinos travel through $\sin^2 2\theta_M = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta_{13}}{\sin^2 2\theta_{13} + (A - \cos 2\theta_{13})^2}$ $A = \pm 2\sqrt{2}G_F n_e E_{\nu}/\Delta m_{13}^2$

- Electron neutrinos experience additional interactions with the electrons in matter
- These "matter effects" allow accelerator and atmospheric experiments to probe the neutrino mass ordering



$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e})$ complexity is the foundation of the current accelerator neutrino physics program

$$\begin{split} P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}) &\approx \sin^{2} \theta_{23} \sin^{2} 2\theta_{13} \frac{\sin^{2} \Delta (1-A)}{(1-A)^{2}} & \alpha &= \Delta m_{21}^{2} / \Delta m_{31}^{2} \\ &+ \alpha \tilde{J} \cos(\Delta \pm \delta_{CP}) \frac{\sin \Delta A}{A} \frac{\sin \Delta (1-A)}{(1-A)} & \tilde{J} &= \cos \theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{12} \sin 2\theta_{23} \\ &+ \alpha^{2} \cos^{2} \theta_{23} \sin^{2} 2\theta_{12} \frac{\sin^{2} \Delta A}{A^{2}} & \Delta &= \Delta m_{31}^{2} L_{\nu} / 4E_{\nu} \\ &+ \alpha^{2} \cos^{2} \theta_{23} \sin^{2} 2\theta_{12} \frac{\sin^{2} \Delta A}{A^{2}} & A &= \pm 2\sqrt{2}G_{F} n_{e} E_{\nu} / \Delta m_{13}^{2} \end{split}$$

$$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}) \propto \theta_{23}, \Delta m^{2}_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{cp}$$

 $P(\nu_{\mu} \to \nu_{e}) \neq P(\overline{\nu}_{\mu} \to \overline{\nu}_{e})$

Has sensitivity to some of the biggest questions in the field

Order of the neutrino masses

We do not know the absolute masses of neutrinos (just upper limits), but with oscillations, we can measure the differences between two mass states Since we have three neutrino flavors, need two mass splittings



Neutrino mass ordering

Sensitivity to mass order depends on how far through earth neutrinos travel (baseline)

Electron-neutrinos interact with electrons in the earth which changes the probability



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Ordering has significant implications for astrophysics, cosmology, and neutrino-less double beta decay experiments.

$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e})$ ' ν_{e} appearance' oscillation probability



Vacuum oscillation probability at NOvA Far Detector

Baseline - 810 km Beam energy peak - 2 GeV

Designed to give max number of muon neutrinos oscillating to electron neutrinos

No matter effects and CP conservation



Neutrino Mass Hierarchy



Matter effect: Electron neutrinos experience additional interactions with electrons in the earth

Neutrino Mass Hierarchy

We can determine the ordering by looking to see if neutrinos (anti-neutrinos) are enhanced or suppressed



Matter effect: Electron neutrinos experience additional interactions with electrons in the earth

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mass

Do neutrinos and anti-neutrinos oscillate the same?

Neutrino mass matrix has phase δ_{CP} which allows neutrino and anti-neutrino oscillation rates to be different

This could potentially be part of one of the biggest questions in particle physics. Why do we live in a universe only made of matter?









If there is CP violation, we will see an enhancement or suppression that will be opposite for neutrinos and anti-neutrinos





The design of accelerator oscillation experiment









Going off the central beam axis



Neutrino detectors have historically had relativity poor energy resolution, specifically for higher energy events.

Placing the detector off-axis makes a much narrow energy beam

But there are advantages of both - DUNE will be on axis

NOvA and MINOS were on and off axis in the same beam





- In reality, the beam is not a 100% muon neutrino beam
- We produce (anti)neutrino and v_e backgrounds, especially at higher energies, and the overall rate is unknown to about 10%.
- Need a near detector to measure exactly what was produced so we know what to expect at the Far



The design of accelerator oscillation experiment

Neutrino interactions and reconstruction are some of the biggest challenges we face

 $\Sigma E_{vis} \sim E_{had}$

- Neutrinos will interact (via charge current) and product a lepton, and some number of other hadrons
- Large uncertainty on neutrino cross-sections, need to measure and not reply on simulation



- We don't see the neutrino itself so need to reconstruct incoming neutrino energy from its interaction in the detector
- Challenging problem to account for all particles both seen and unseen

AND DECK OF STREET



E = E

Track Length $\sim E_{\mu}$

Calometric energy

estimation method

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Near Detector (s) and uncertainties

- Its very hard to predict (and simulate) accurately what neutrinos will do
 - We need to measure the flux of neutrinos produced from the beam
 - We need to measure the neutrino cross-section with the material of our detector
 - We need to measure how our detectors respond to neutrinos
- The better we know all these things (smaller uncertainties) we better we can measure of the neutrino properties
- Near Detectors both serve to measure the rate of neutrino interaction and to help constrain the associated uncertainties





The design of accelerator oscillation experiment
Far Detector (s)

- Neutrino interactions are rare think about 1 per day at the Far Detector
- Far Detectors are generally designed to be as large and dense as possible
 - Generally homogeneous and made from a cheap and easily available material
- Many many more events from cosmic rays will interact in these detectors, can remove these by going underground or by having fast electronics





Short baseline accelerator neutrino experiments





Could there be more than 3 types of neutrinos?

- Past experiments, LSND and MiniBooNE, have results that could be interpreted as due to a new neutrino with a mass of ~1 eV
- But we know there are only 3 types of neutrinos that interact with matter, and they are all lighter than 1eV
- Call this potential new type a "sterile neutrino", we would only see it through oscillations



Phys.Rev.D64:112007,2001



Blue sample is fitted v_e appearance



Short baseline accelerator neutrino experiments

Placing experiments at different distances (baselines) enables us to probe different mixings and mass splittings.

Short baseline experiments are placed to probe a mass difference around 1eV



MicroBooNE released its results in 2021, and results from ICURAS and SBND are still to come

No answer on sterile neutrinos, as yet

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Currently running long baseline accelerator neutrino experiments









XA

NOvA: Off-axis long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiment Uses NuMI (neutrinos from main injector) high energy neutrino beam





typical charged particle

path

To 1 APD pixel





Electron and muon neutrinos and antineutrinos in the Far Detector Muon neutrinos Electron neutrinos

Muon and electrons leave distinct signals in detectors.

Use algorithms (machine learning) to identify and work out the energy deposited.

Compare ND prediction to FD data to extract the oscillation parameters that best match it and exclude values that don't.







The parameters can have a lot of overlap in how they affect the FD event rate, so will need more data to say is neutrinos are CP conversing or what the mass order is

T2K Super-Kamiokande detector

T2K: Off-axis long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiment







Far Detector, Super-Kamiokande, is water cherenkov detector Stainless-steel tank, 39.3m diameter and 41.4m tall, filled with 50,000 tons of ultra pure water

The detector provides excellent e/µ separation and background rejection





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Combing T2K and NOvA

- Experiments are complementarity, have different baselines, energy ranges and detector technologies
- The two collaborations are working on a joint analysis
 - Increased sensitivity
 - Ability to break the degeneracy between mass ordering and δCP



Results expected with the next year





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Future accelerator neutrino experiments







- Same beam as T2K, but now upgraded to 1.3 MW
- Leverages upgraded T2K near detectors
- New Far Detector planned to start operations in 2027



Hyper-K physics sensitivity





Competitive and very different from DUNE

- Hyper-K sensitivity is focused on δ_{cp} where DUNE physics program is broader
- Narrowband beam and shorter baseline
 - Significantly reduced sensitivity to mass ordering compared to DUNE
 - Reusing many T2K components and well-vetted technology leads to potential faster ramp up and small uncertainties in the early years
 - Lower energy beam can reduce some complexity





- LBNF beam: New high-intensity 1.2 MW beam, using PIP-II upgrade, upgradable to > 2 MW
- Far detector: Large on-axis 1.5 km underground in Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) in SD
- Near Detector: A capable near detector complex at Fermilab to ensure uncertainties are adequately constrained



DUNE concept

- **Unique** The combination of the long baseline and the wide energy of the beam give DUNE unique insights into neutrino oscillation.
 - <u>Baseline</u>: breaks the experimental degeneracy between the neutrino mass ordering and the determination of δ_{CP} .
 - <u>Wideband beam and on-axis:</u> DUNE can measure v_e appearance as a function of L/E (fixed L, wide range E), over more than a full oscillation period
- **Precision:** LArTPC technology is a game changer
 - MeV scale energy resolution, with ND percent level uncertainty constraints. Precision particle reconstruction, including of hadronic part of the interaction
- Breath: broad physics program











DUNE has four detectors, the first two will be finished in 2028-2029 Beam will be ready in ~2028 (with plans to further upgrade) and Near Detector in ~2030 (upgrade planned)





System for on-Axis Neutrino Detection

The muon spectrometer

Liquid Argon Near Detector

Prototype - 2x2 demonstrator+ MINERvA



- Located in the NuMI beam in the MINOS underground area.
- Mirroring design of ND-LAr +TMS,
- Will see a comparable rate to the near detector
- Will start taking data in 2023!







Neutrino Mass Ordering Sensitivity

- DUNE has an unrivaled ability to definitively resolve the mass ordering independent of other experiments.
- Definitive determination of mass ordering for all possible parameters, after just a few years.

DUNE MO Sensitivity

 $sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.088 \pm 0.003$

All Systematics

 $0.4 < \sin^2 \theta_{23} < 0.6$

35-Normal Ordering

30F

25

15

10

[₹]X7 20

Width of band represents 68% of throws (stats, systematics, oscillation parameters)

True Normal Ordering

-0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8

δ_{CP}/π

36 kt-MW-vear

Variatione of

and oscillation parameter

True Inverted Ordering





CP Violation Sensitivity

Width of band represents 68% of throws (stats, systematics, oscillation parameters)

True Inverted Ordering

Significant CP violation discovery potential over wide range of δ_{CP} space in 7-10 years **50 discovery potential for CP violation over > 50% of \delta_{CP} values** 7-16° resolution to δ_{CP} (with external input for only solar parameters)



True Normal Ordering

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• Next-generation experiments currently being built will significantly improve our understanding of neutrinos

Conclusion

• Come join us!

Short baseline accelerator neutrino experiments

- All three detectors of Fermilab's Short Baseline Neutrino Program are Liquid Argon Time Projection Chambers (LArTPCs)
 - Some of the first of the detector of this type.
 - They have clearly demonstrated its potential and our ability to run LArTPC and analyze their data.
- MicroBooNE released its results in 2021, and results from ICURAS and SBND are still to come

No answer on sterile neutrinos, as yet





LArTPC technology provides exquisite resolution

- Clean separation of v_{μ} and v_{e} charged currents
- Precise energy reconstruction over broad Ev range
- Low thresholds: sensitivity to few-MeV

Project Status

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2020 > 2021 > 2022 > 2023 > 2024 > 2025 > 2026 > 2027)



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MEUTRINO 202



Muon final state

 $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu}$

disappearance channel



Neutrino beam





Antineutrino beam



1000s v_e events



The DUNE design will enable:

- Program of neutrino oscillation measurements using both a neutrino and anti-neutrino beam.
 - Determination of the mass ordering for all possible parameters
 - 5σ discovery for CP violation for a wide range of possible values of δ_{CP}
- World leaving measurements of oscillation parameters, including both mass splitting and all 3 mixing angles!
 - An independent measurement of $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$ with precision comparable to reactors
 - Solar neutrino oscillation measurements studies suggest significant improvement on Δm²₂₁
 - World's best measurements of atmospheric parameters. Including significant sensitivity to the θ_{23} octant
 - Sensitivity to neutrino oscillations from atmospheric neutrinos
- Unlike all other neutrino experiments, DUNE will not need external inputs enabling us
 to really stress test the PNMS matrix
- Design including wide-beam really strengthens our BSM program nonstandard neutrino interactions, sterile, CPT, extra dimensions, and more











Significant improvement in precision measurement of atmospheric mixing parameters



High-precision measurements of mixing parameters also allow tests for inconsistencies that could point us to physics beyond the three-flavor model.

Ultimate reach does not depend on external θ_{13} measurements, and comparison with reactor data directly tests PMNS unitarity





HORN #1



NuMI Horn 1 and positioning module installation in beamline chase



How LAr TPCs work



- Neutrinos interact in argon, producing charged particles
- Argon scintillates and photon detectors quickly detect light, used to trigger.
- Charged particles ionize the argon and electrons slowly drift to the anode
- Anode is instrumented (readout wires or pixels)
- Combining charge and light enables 3D event reconstruction with mm precision


Electron neutrino oscillation probability



The effect of CP phase is reversed for neutrinos and anti-neutrinos. The power of accelerator neutrino experiment over other sources is ability to easily switch between beam modes

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Electron neutrino oscillation probability



The effect of CP phase is reversed for neutrinos and anti-neutrinos. The power of accelerator neutrino experiment over other sources is ability to easily switch between beam modes





Current status 3-flavor oscillation NuFit 5.2 (Nov 2022)

- Mass ordering or sign of larger mass splitting unknown
 - Some preference for normal ordering
- θ_{23} octant unknown
 - Some preference for upper octant
- δ_{CP} unknown
 - Some regions of possible phase space excluded at 3σ

Including:

Accelerator experiments – MINOS, T2K, NOvA Reactor experiments – KamLAND, Reno, Daya Bay,, Double-Chooz Atmospheric experiments - IceCube/DeepCore, SK1-4 and external atmospheric neutrino fluxes

Solar experiments - • SK, SNO, Borexino, SAGE, Gallex & GNO, Chlorine total rate, and including external info of Standard Solar Model

JHEP 09 (2020) 178 [arXiv:2007.14792], NuFIT 5.2 (2022), www.nu-fit.org.

