ACCELERATOR NEUTRINOS

ZOYA VALLARI NEUTRINO UNIVERSITY 2025 JULY 9, 2025



NEUTRINO OSCILLATIONS THEORETICAL REVIEW

NEUTRINO OSCILLATION

$$\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{e}} \quad \mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{t}} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \nu_{e} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = U_{\text{PMNS}} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_{1} \\ \nu_{2} \\ \nu_{3} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{v}_{3}$$

Flavor Eigenstates

Mixing Matrix

Mass Eigenstates

Flavor Eigenstates

Mass Eigenstates



$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

TWO FLAVOR EXAMPLE

TWO FLAVOR EXAMPLE



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OSCILLATION: NATURE'S PARAMETERS

$$U_{\rm PMNS} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta_{\rm CP}} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta_{\rm CP}} & 0 & c_{13} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Mixing angles θ_{12} , θ_{13} , θ_{23} determine the magnitude of oscillation.

$$\theta_{23} \approx 45^{\circ} \qquad \theta_{13} \approx 8.5^{\circ} \qquad \theta_{12} \approx 34^{\circ}$$

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Frequency

$$P(\nu_{\alpha} \to \nu_{\beta}) \sim \sin^2(2\theta) \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m_{ij}^2 L}{4E}\right)$$

OSCILLATION: NATURE'S PARAMETERS

Two known mass-splitting scales determine frequency of the oscillations.

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \hline \nu_{1} & \nu_{2} \\ \Delta m_{21}^{2} \sim 7 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{eV}^{2} \\ & & \\ |\Delta m_{31}^{2}| \sim 2 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{eV}^{2} \end{array}$$

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OSCILLATION: EXPERIMENTAL PARAMETERS

$$P(\nu_{\alpha} \to \nu_{\beta}) \sim \sin^2(2\theta) \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m_i^2 L}{4E}\right)$$

Experiments are designed with a typical L/E to optimize sensitivity to Δm_{ij}^2 oscillation scales





Detector Technology

Slide inspiration Alex Himmel

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NEUTRINO OSCILLATIONS EXPERIMENTAL REVIEW

HOW TO SEE A NEUTRINO?

Through its interactions...

the neutrinos themselves are invisible, but they produce visible particles when they interact with the nucleus



HOW TO SEE A NEUTRINO?

Through its interactions...

the neutrinos themselves are invisible, but they produce visible particles when they interact with the nucleus



But they almost never interact!

NEUTRINOS ARE ELUSIVE



Neutrinos pass through anything, even the Earth – giving them the nickname: **The Ghost Particles!**

NEUTRINOS ARE ABUNDANT

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Image Credit: Symmetry

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SOURCES OF NEUTRINOS

REACTOR

ACCELERATOR

ATMOSPHERIC

SOLAR

THE WILD NEUTRINOS



ATMOSPHERIC

SOLAR

Slide inspiration Kate Scholberg



THE TAMED NEUTRINOS



Meet my cat : Quigley

DISCOVERIES IN THE WILD... CONFIRMED WITH TAME NEUTRINOS



Slide inspiration Kate Scholberg

 $\sin^2\theta_{12}$

DISCOVERIES IN THE WILD... CONFIRMED WITH TAME NEUTRINOS



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Slide inspiration Kate Scholberg

MEASURING OSCILLATIONS



EXPERIMENTAL OVERVIEW: A 25 YEARS LONG ODYSSEY



"Ultimate Goal: Not Measure Parameters but Test the Formalism": A.D. Gouvea

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Snowmass NF01 report P.B. Denton et al <u>arXiv:2212.00809</u> JULY 0

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THE UNKNOWNS

As seen on WH10 floor office





Values from PDG 2020



Current Measured Value : $\theta_{23} \sim 45^{\circ}$ Precision : $\sin^2 \theta_{23} \sim 5\%$



If
$$\theta_{23} = 45^{\circ} \rightarrow |U_{\mu 3}| = |U_{\tau 3}|$$





Do neutrinos violate Charge-Parity symmetry?



Do neutrinos and anti-neutrinos oscillate differently violating the CP symmetry? Is sin $\delta_{CP} = 0$?

Accelerator-based long-baseline oscillation experiments provide unique handle for this measurement.

Which neutrino is the heaviest?



v Mass Ordering (MO): Normal or Inverted?

Does the symmetry that determines the mass of charged leptons influences v_1 to be the lightest neutrino or does the inverse hold?

Is the 3-flavor paradigm of neutrino complete?



- Are there additional flavor states?
 - Heavy neutral leptons
 - Sterile neutrinos
 - Non-standard interactions
- Probing unitarity of PMNS tests robustness of 3-flavor framework!

ACCELERATOR NEUTRINOS

THE TAMEST OF THEM ALL...







Technology

HOW TO BUILD AN ACCELERATOR NEUTRINO OSCILLATION EXPERIMENT?





HOW TO MAKE A NEUTRINO BEAM

Symmetry Article

YouTube how-to

STEP 1: GRAB SOME PROTONS

- STEP 2: AIM
- **STEP 3: SMASH THINGS**
- **STEP 4: FOCUS THE DEBRIS**
- **STEP 5: PHYSICS HAPPENS**

HOW TO MAKE A NEUTRINO BEAM



 Reversing the polarity of the focusing horn magnets changes the sign selection of pions, resulting in a beam enhanced in antineutrinos.

HOW TO MAKE A NEUTRINO BEAM



The neutrino beam produced is analogous to a flashlight beam
– spread out in space and over a range of energies, rather than being narrowly focused or monoenergetic.

THE OFF-AXIS NEUTRINO BEAM



 $oldsymbol{ heta}$ is the angle between the pion and neutrino direction



THE OFF-AXIS NEUTRINO BEAM



 $oldsymbol{ heta}$ is the angle between the pion and neutrino direction



HOW TO BUILD AN ACCELERATOR NEUTRINO OSCILLATION EXPERIMENT?



HOW TO BUILD AN ACCELERATOR NEUTRINO OSCILLATION EXPERIMENT?





- Near Detector provides valuable data-driven cancelation and constraints on:
 - neutrino flux
 - cross-section, and
 - detector uncertainties

Never go on a long baseline adventure without a near detector – Anonymous.
ROLE OF THE FD



ν_{μ} disappearance at fd



ν_e APPEARANCE AT FD



• Opposite impact of matter effect and δ_{CP} for v_e vs. \bar{v}_e appearance probability.

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MEASURING OSCILLATIONS

Measurement

Detect neutrino interactions.
 Tag the flavor.
 Reconstruct energy.

Inference

- 1. Compare with the no oscillation prediction.
- 2. Compare v_e and \bar{v}_e appearance rate.



3 GENERATIONS OF LONG-BASELINE EXPERIMENTS



MEASURING OSCILLATIONS WITH



1.Detect neutrino interactions.

2.Tag the flavor.

3.Reconstruct energy.

NOVA DETECTORS

NOvA FD



- NOvA's ND and FD are functionally identical segmented liquid scintillator detectors.
 - ND: ~290 t and ~100 m underground
 - FD: ~14 kt and on the surface

NOVA DETECTORS



~150 kHz of cosmic rays at the FD which is on the surface.

NOVA DETECTORS



 Good spatial resolution (~few cm) and timing resolution (~10ns) allows to isolate neutrino interaction from 99% of cosmic backgrounds.

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TAG FLAVOR & RECONSTRUCT ENERGY

- Detectors are optimized for EM showers.
 - ~6 samples per radiation length (~40 cm) making muon-electron identification easy.
- Neutrino interaction candidates are identified using a convolutional neural network (CNN)
- Energy is reconstructed via tracking (muon) and calorimetry (electromagnetic, hadronic)



10 YEARS OF NOVA DATA



2024 marked 10 years of data collection!

February 5th, 2014 – NOvA's Period 1 data taking began with run 12941 at 11:57 pm





February 11, 2014 - NOvA "1st Neutrino Event" Celebration in the Main Control Room

NEAR DETECTOR DATA



- Exceptional statistics at the ND leads to negligible statistical uncertainty.
 - ~6.5M ν_{μ} (~1.5M)candidate events
 - Use this sample to predict both
 ν_{μ} and ν_{e} at the FD
 - ~100k ν_e candidate events
 - Background intrinsic beam
 ν_e prediction at the FD.

FD SAMPLES: ν_{μ}



- Observed **384** u_{μ} and **106** $\overline{
 u}_{\mu}$ candidates
 - In the absence of oscillations, we'd expect ~2100 and ~500.

FD SAMPLES: v_e



- We observe **181** ν_e and **32** $\overline{\nu}_e$ appearance candidates.
 - The predicted backgrounds are 62 and 12 respectively.

SYSTEMATICS

Example: Systematic uncertainties on the v_e candidate count: without ND vs with ND constraints



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SYSTEMATICS



SYSTEMATICS



 $\theta_{13} \mathbf{vs} \theta_{23}$

- Accelerator experiments have a degeneracy between the measurement of mixing angles θ₁₃ and θ₂₃
- Reactor experiments provide a highly precise measurement of θ₁₃ using distinct oscillation channels.



Consistent measurements of θ_{13} across reactor and accelerator experiments, provides evidence of the robustness of the PMNS framework of neutrino mixing.



Reactor Experiments

Accelerator Experiments

Δm_{32}^2 AND θ_{23}

Note: Accelerator experiments use θ_{13} constraint from reactor experiments

NOvA Preliminary

 Global consistency across accelerator, atmospheric and joint-fit results.

 All data is consistent with maximal mixing (θ₂₃ = 45°) hypothesis.



If $\theta_{23} = 45^{\circ} \rightarrow |U_{\mu 3}| = |U_{\tau 3}|$



 Δm_{32}^2 Unprecedent precision on atmospheric mass-splitting in the last ~2 years. It is now the **most precisely measured parameter** in the framework!



NOVA (ACCELERATOR) + DAYA BAY (REACTOR)



 Enhanced precision in
 Δm²₃₂ presents another* lever on measuring neutrino mass-

ordering.

 Under wrong mass ordering assumption, reactor and longbaseline measurements of Δm²₃₂ will disagree.

*Nunokawa, Parke and Funchal, PRD 72, 013009 (2005); Parke and Funchal, arXiv:2404.08733(2024)

NOVA (ACCELERATOR) + DAYA BAY (REACTOR)

NOvA Preliminary



NOVA CP PHASE : δ_{CP}

- The data disfavors large asymmetry combinations: (IO, $\delta_{CP} = \pi/2$) and (NO, $\delta_{CP} =$ 3π/2).
- T2K, joint fits, favor different regions in Normal Ordering, same region in Inverted Ordering. **NOvA Preliminary**



INTERLUDE: NOVA - T2K COMPLEMENTARITY

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ENERGY (E) & BASELINES (L)

Due to the different baselines and corresponding beam energies, T2K (L: 295km, E~0.6 GeV) measurements isolate impact of CP violation while NOvA (L: 810km, E~2.0 GeV) has significant sensitivity to mass ordering.



T2K: L = 295 km

RESOLVING DEGENERACIES

Joint analysis probes both spaces lifting degeneracies of individual experiments.



NOVA & T2K JOINT ANALYSIS DATASET

The joint-fit used **2020-era data** collected by each experiment. Using both experiments data roughly doubles the total statistics at the far detectors.

Channel	NOvA	T2K
$ u_e $	82	94 (ν _e) 14 (ν _e 1π)
$\overline{ u}_e$	33	16
$oldsymbol{ u}_{\mu}$	211	318
$\overline{ u}_{\mu}$	105	137



NOVA + T2K: δ_{CP}



 $\delta_{CP}(0, \pi)$ lie outside the 3-sigma credible interval.

NOVA, T2K, NOVA + T2K



NOvA+T2K: MASS ORDERING

- Small preference for the Inverted Ordering in the joint fit whereas NOvA & T2K individually prefer Normal Ordering.
- Including the Δm²₃₂ constraint from the Daya Bay, reverse the mass ordering preference back to the Normal Ordering.
- No significant preference for either mass ordering in the joint analysis.

	NOvA - T2K w/o	NOvA – T2K – 1D	NOvA - T2K - 2D
	reactor	Daya Bay	Daya Bay
Bayes factor	2.47 Inverted/Normal ~71% : ~29% posterior	1.34 Inverted/Normal ~57% : ~43% posterior	1.44 Normal/Inverted ~59% : ~41% posterior



COMING UP NEXT:

DEEP UNDERGROUND NEUTRINO EXPERIMENT (DUNE)

FD: 4 modules of 17 kt Liquid Argon TPC detector

ND: A suite of detectors to provide in-situ constraints and achieve required sensitivities.

LBNF Beam: Most intense accelerator neutrino beam

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LBNF PIP-II BEAM: MOST POWERFUL ACCELERATOR NEUTRINO BEAM IN THE WORLD

WITH GREAT POWER ...

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WITH GREAT POWER ... COMES GREAT PILE-UP



~100 ν interactions at DUNE ND in a single LBNF beam spill



DUNE ND-LAr: POWERED BY PIXELS



DEMONSTRATOR

DUNE ND-LAr prototype detector taking neutrino beam data!

DUNE DATA

Event 20, ID 20 - 2024-07-08 00:20:14 UTC

July 2024



DUNE ND COMPLEX

- ND-LAr is one of the four components of the DUNE ND complex.
- A suite of near detectors are designed to robustly constrain systematics and achieve required sensitivities.



Why is the DUNE ND Complex so complex?

SAND System for On-Axis Neutrino Detection

DUNE FD:

Located at a baseline of 1300 km from the beam target and 1.5 km underground



DUNE FD:

17 kt LArTPC detector



 DUNE's longer baseline and correspondingly higher neutrino energy, completely removes the degeneracy between the measurements of mass ordering and \(\delta_{CP}\)





DUNE'S FUTURE DATA

• With 10,000s of v_{μ} and 1000s of v_e collected over 10 years, DUNE will conclusively determine the mass ordering and have excellent potential to discover CP violation.





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BUT, WHAT IF THE **3-NEUTRINO** PICTURE IS ΝΟΤ **COMPLETE?**

ANOMALIES, ANOMALIES



ANOMALIES, ANOMALIES

Also, Gallium Anomaly! Important to the story but not covered here 🙁



ANOMALIES, ANOMALIES

Also, Gallium Anomaly! Important to the story but not covered here 😕





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HANG ON! IF THERE IS AN APPEARNACE ... HOW ABOUT THE DISAPPEARNACE



HANG ON! IF THERE IS AN APPEARNACE ... HOW ABOUT THE DISAPPEARNACE



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NEED MORE DATA TO SETTLE THIS DEBATE

‡ Fermilab

Short-Baseline Neutrino Program







SBN SENSITIVITY



SBN SENSITIVITY





SBN SENSITIVITY



BEYOND 3+1 STERILE NEUTRINO

PORTALS TO THE DARK SECTOR & OTHER NEW PHYSICS BEYOND THE STANDARD MODEL

M. HOSTERT'S TALK IN 2 WEEKS

OUTLOOK

COUARTERS ONLY

TO OPERATE

STEP 1 STEP 2





NEUTRINO PHYSICS IS AT A TURNING POINT-THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO DIVE IN.

- With 25 years of experience under our belt with neutrino experiments, we better understand the 3-flavor mixing and oscillations of neutrinos!
- A new generation of experiments is underway or about to launch!

WEARE HEADING INTOTHE ERAOF PRECISION & DISCOVERY





δ_{CP}: Do neutrinos violate CP?





WEARE HEADING INTOTHE ERAOF PRECISION & DISCOVERY

BUT, keep room for surprises!







SUPPLEMENTARY SLIDES

THE LONG & SHORT OF OSCILLATION MEASUREMENTS

Credit: Adam Lister & Brian Rebel





Not to scale

Hyper-Kamiokande			e	<image/>	
	Location	Beam	Baseline	Near Detector	Far Detector
Hyper-K	Japan (Tokai to Kamioka)	J-PARC 1.3 MW	295 km	Suite of detectors, on-and off-axis, intermediate movable Water Cherenkov detector	Water Cherenkov, 187 kt fiducial, off-axis
DUNE	United States (Fermilab to Lead, South Dakota)	LBNF 2 - 2.4 MW tunable	1285 km	Liquid argon time projection chamber + suite of detectors, on-axis, movable off-axis Adap	Liquid argon time projection chamber, 40kt fiducial, on-axis ted from <u>annurev-nucl-102020-101615</u>





These experiments are designed to study accelerator, astrophysical, solar and atmospheric neutrinos and probe SM, BSM, exotic and dark matter physics.











Hyper-K Dome: Completed

Cavern: Nearing completion?









- Excellent particle identification and spatial resolution.
- Low thresholds of a few-MeV.





- Clean separation of muon and electron Cherenkov rings.
- Excellent timing resolution (~ns).



HYPER-K SENSITIVITY

- Due to its short baseline, HK is unable to break the degeneracy between CPv and MO with only beam data.
- Atmospheric v's partially recover CPV sensitivity, or if MO already known through DUNE/JUNO or other experimental input.



DISCOVERY: MASS ORDERING & CP VIOLATION



- DUNE has an unrivaled sensitivity to resolve MO for any values of other oscillation parameters.
- HK has excellent sensitivity to CP violation but has a degeneracy between CP violation and MO due to its short baseline.
 - Recover CPV sensitivity with Atmospheric v's or if MO already known through DUNE/JUNO.
PRECISION

- Both Hyper-K and DUNE offe unprecedented precision on Δm_{32}^2 , $\delta_{\rm CP}$, θ_{23} with multiple years of running.
- They will also probe astrophysical, **solar**, and atmospheric neutrinos, with sensitivity to the solar mixing parameters.



REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEAR DETECTOR

- I. Neutrino Flux
 - **Measure the flux**: not mono-energetic and not wellunderstood
 - Monitor beam stability
- II. Neutrino Cross-Section
 - Same **nuclear target** and measurements **transferable to FD**
- III. Detector Uncertainties
 - Similar detector technologies



DUNE ND-LAr: A NEXT GENERATION LATTPC

1. Modular TPC

short drift distances

2. Pixelated Charge readout

- □ unambiguous 3D tracking
- Always active continuous selftriggering.

3. Optical Segmentation

- contained scintillation light
- □ high photo-coverage

4. Low-profile field cage

limit inactive volume



THE ND COMPLEX

 To achieve its ambitious physics goals, DUNE will need to constrain its systematics to few percent.

• A suite of near detectors are designed to robustly constrain systematics and achieve required sensitivities.



PRISM

• Using a linear combination of ND flux at various off-axis position, we can construct a prediction for the oscillated FD flux.





ND REQUIREMENTS



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