

2nd JUNO Neutrino Summer School

Neutrino oscillation phenomenology

Thomas Schwetz



Hangzhou, China, 17-24 Aug 2025

Outline

Lepton mixing

Neutrino oscillation fundamentals

Oscillations in vacuum

QFT approach to neutrino oscillations

Coherence requirements for oscillations

Oscillations in matter

Varying matter density and MSW

Global data and 3-flavour oscillations

Qualitative picture

Global analysis

δ_{CP} and mass ordering

Summary and concluding comments

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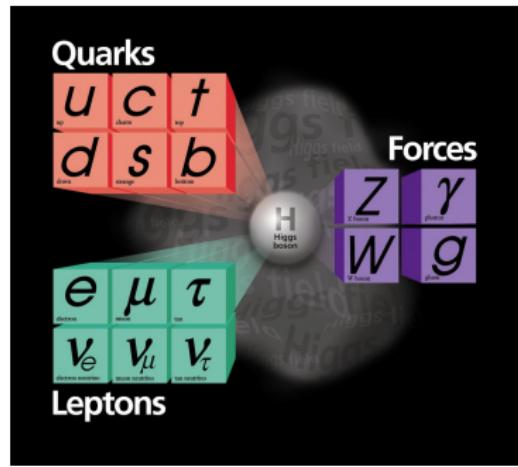
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Summary and concluding comments

The Standard Model



Fermions in the Standard Model come in three generations (“Flavours”)

Neutrinos are the “partners” of the charged leptons

more precisely: they form a doublet under the $SU(2)$ gauge symmetry

Flavour neutrinos

A neutrino of flavour α is **defined** by the charged current interaction with the corresponding charged lepton:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{CC}} = -\frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W^\rho \sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} \bar{\nu}_{\alpha L} \gamma_\rho \ell_{\alpha L} + \text{h.c.}$$

for example

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$$

the muon neutrino ν_μ comes together with the charged muon μ^+

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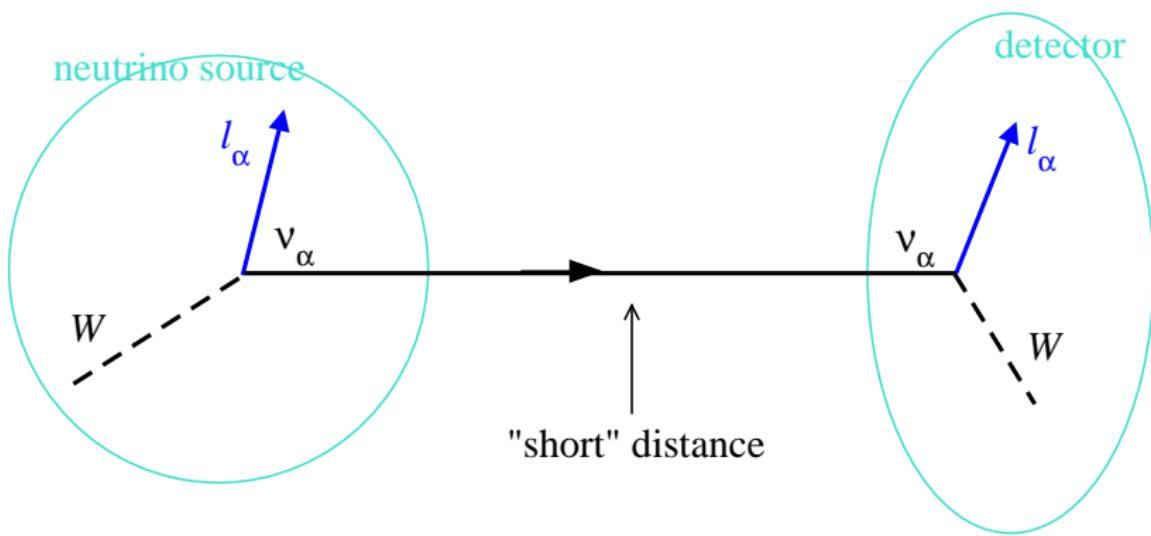
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Flavour neutrinos



Let's give mass to the neutrinos

Majorana mass term:

$$\mathcal{L}_M = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha, \beta = e, \mu, \tau} \nu_{\alpha L}^T C^{-1} M_{\alpha \beta} \nu_{\beta L} + \text{h.c.}$$

M : symmetric mass matrix

In the basis where the CC interaction is diagonal the mass matrix is in general not a diagonal matrix

any complex symmetric matrix M can be diagonalised by a unitary matrix

$$U_\nu^T M U_\nu = m, \quad m : \text{diagonal, } m_i \geq 0$$

Lepton mixing

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{CC}} &= -\frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W^\rho \sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} \sum_{i=1}^3 \bar{\nu}_{iL} U_{\alpha i}^* \gamma_\rho \ell_{\alpha L} + \text{h.c.} \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{M}} &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^3 \nu_{iL}^T C^{-1} \nu_{iL} m_i^\nu - \sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} \bar{\ell}_{\alpha R} \ell_{\alpha L} m_\alpha^\ell + \text{h.c.}\end{aligned}$$

Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata lepton mixing matrix:

$$(U_{\alpha i}) \equiv U_{\text{PMNS}}$$

Lepton mixing

- ▶ Flavour neutrinos ν_α are superpositions of massive neutrinos ν_i :

$$\nu_\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^3 U_{\alpha i} \nu_i \quad (\alpha = e, \mu, \tau)$$

- ▶ mismatch between mass and interaction basis
- ▶ Example for two neutrinos:

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

- ▶ The same phenomenon happens also for quarks (CKM matrix)

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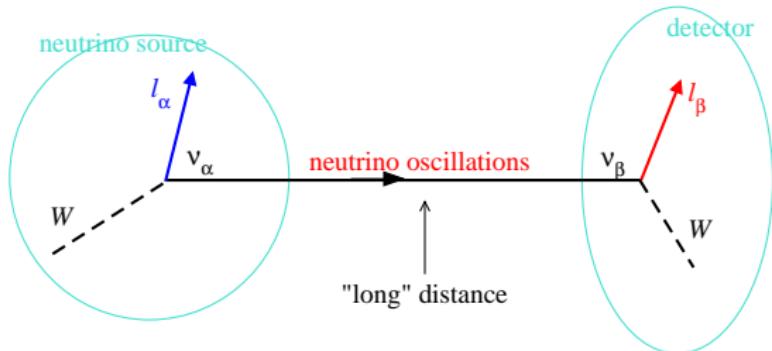
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Neutrino oscillations



$$|\nu_\alpha\rangle = U_{\alpha i}^* |\nu_i\rangle$$

$$e^{-i(E_i t - p_i x)}$$

$$|\nu_\beta\rangle = U_{\beta i}^* |\nu_i\rangle$$

oscillation amplitude:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta} &= \langle \nu_\beta | \text{propagation} | \nu_\alpha \rangle \\ &= \sum_{i,j} U_{\beta j} \langle \nu_j | e^{-i(E_i t - p_i x)} | \nu_i \rangle U_{\alpha i}^* = \sum_i U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha i}^* e^{-i(E_i t - p_i x)} \end{aligned}$$

Neutrino oscillations in vacuum

oscillation amplitude:

$$\mathcal{A}_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta} = \sum_i U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha i}^* e^{-i(E_i t - p_i x)} \quad \rightarrow \quad P_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta} = |\mathcal{A}_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta}|^2$$

need to calculate phase differences:

$$\phi_{ji} = (E_j - E_i)t - (p_j - p_i)x \quad \text{with} \quad E_i^2 = p_i^2 + m_i^2$$

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after some hand waving:

$$\phi_{ji} \approx \frac{\Delta m_{ji}^2 L}{2E} \quad \text{with} \quad \Delta m_{ji}^2 \equiv m_j^2 - m_i^2$$

A hand-waving derivation for two flavours oscillation phase:

$$\phi = (E_2 - E_1)t - (p_2 - p_1)x \quad \text{with} \quad E_i^2 = p_i^2 + m_i^2$$

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define: $\Delta E = E_2 - E_1$, $\Delta E^2 = E_2^2 - E_1^2$, $\bar{E} = (E_1 + E_2)/2$

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A hand-waving derivation for two flavours

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use “average velocity” of the neutrino $v = \bar{p}/\bar{E}$ and $x \approx vt$:

$$\boxed{\phi \approx \frac{\Delta m^2}{2\bar{p}}x \approx \frac{\Delta m^2}{2\bar{E}}x}$$

Effective Schrödinger equation

The evolution of the flavour state can be described by an effective Schrödinger equation:

$$i \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} a_e \\ a_\mu \\ a_\tau \end{pmatrix} = H_{\text{vac}} \begin{pmatrix} a_e \\ a_\mu \\ a_\tau \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\text{vac}}^\nu &= U \text{diag} \left(0, \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{2E_\nu}, \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2}{2E_\nu} \right) U^\dagger \\ H_{\text{vac}}^{\bar{\nu}} &= U^* \text{diag} \left(0, \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{2E_\nu}, \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2}{2E_\nu} \right) U^T \end{aligned}$$

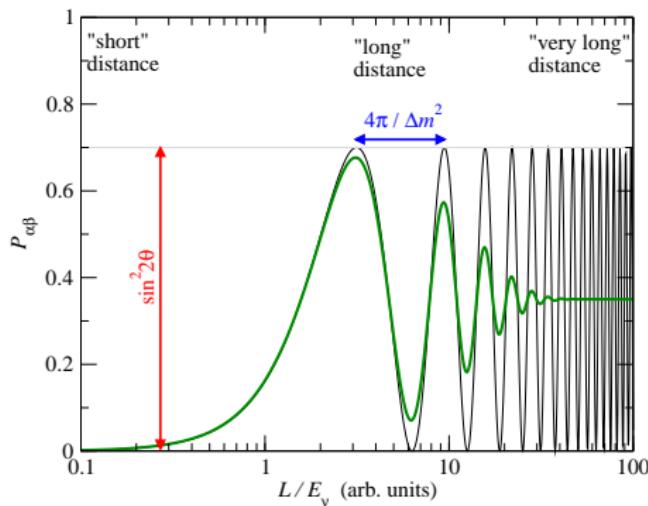
equivalent to $\mathcal{A}_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta} = \sum_i U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha i}^* e^{-i(E_i t - p_i x)}$ and $\phi_{ji} \approx \frac{\Delta m_{ji}^2 L}{2E}$

2-neutrino oscillations

Two-flavour limit:

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}, \quad P = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E_\nu}$$

oscillations are sensitive to mass differences (not absolute masses)



$$\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E_\nu} = 1.27 \frac{\Delta m^2 [\text{eV}^2] L [\text{km}]}{E_\nu [\text{GeV}]}$$

Appearance vs. disappearance

- ▶ appearance experiments:

$$P_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta}, \quad \alpha \neq \beta$$

“appearance” of a neutrino of a new flavour $\beta \neq \alpha$ in a beam of ν_α

- ▶ disappearance experiments:

$$P_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\alpha}$$

measure the “survival” probability of a neutrino of given flavour

Neutrinos oscillate!

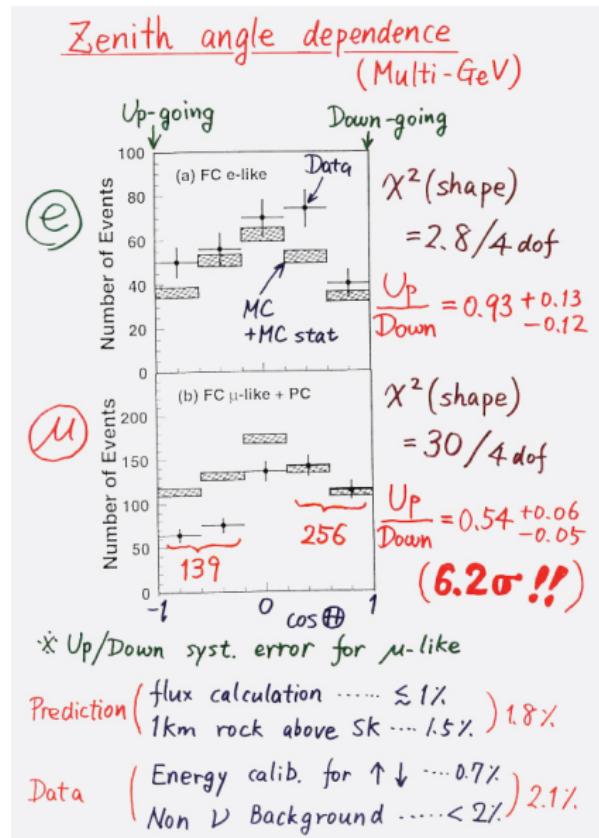
1998: SuperKamiokande
atmospheric neutrinos

- ▶ zenith-angle dependent deficit of multi-GeV μ -like events
- ▶ consistent with $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ oscillations with

$$\Delta m^2 \simeq 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

$$\sin^2 2\theta \simeq 1$$

Nobel prize 2015
Takaaki Kajita



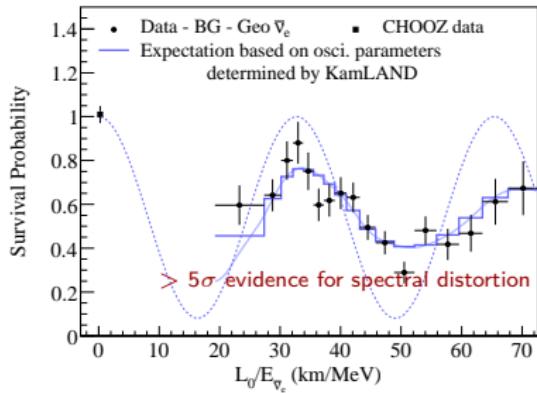
Neutrinos oscillate!

$$P_{\text{survival}} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m^2}{4} \frac{L}{E_\nu} \right)$$

KamLAND $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$



$$\langle L \rangle \sim 180 \text{ km}$$



Neutrinos oscillate!

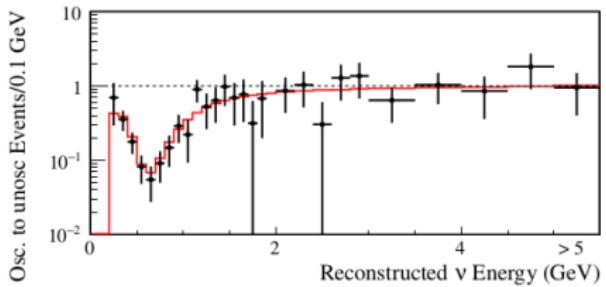
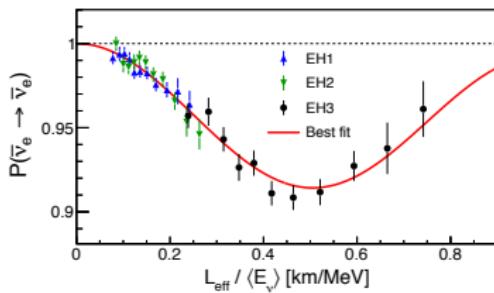
$$P_{\text{survival}} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m^2}{4} \frac{L}{E_\nu} \right)$$

DayaBay, 2015

$\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$, $\langle L \rangle \sim 2 \text{ km}$

T2K, 2015

$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$, $\langle L \rangle \sim 295 \text{ km}$



the naive approach to calculate the oscillation probability is problematic at least for the following reasons:

- ▶ production and detection regions are localised in space → inconsistent with plane wave ansatz for neutrino propagation $\propto e^{-i(E_i t - p_i x)}$
- ▶ plane waves correspond to states with exact energy/momentum → neutrino mass states are distinguishable particles → why is the sum in the amplitude coherent (inside modulus)?

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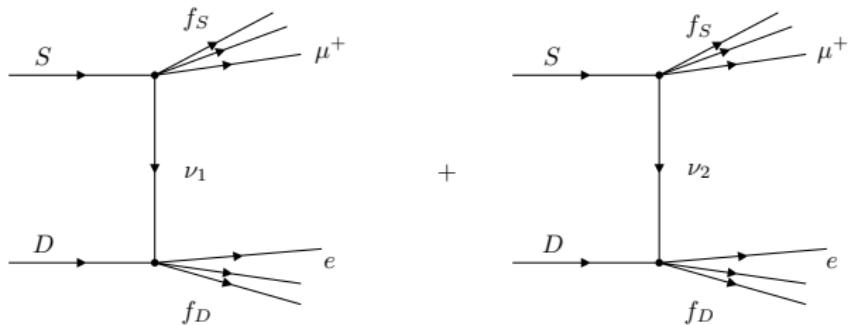
Two approaches:

- ▶ assume wave-packets for neutrinos
- ▶ QFT approach, neutrino as internal line, wave-packets for external particles

relation of the two approaches e.g., Akhmedov, Kopp, JHEP (2010) [1001.4815]

QFT approach to neutrino oscillations

joint process of neutrino production and detection



early papers:

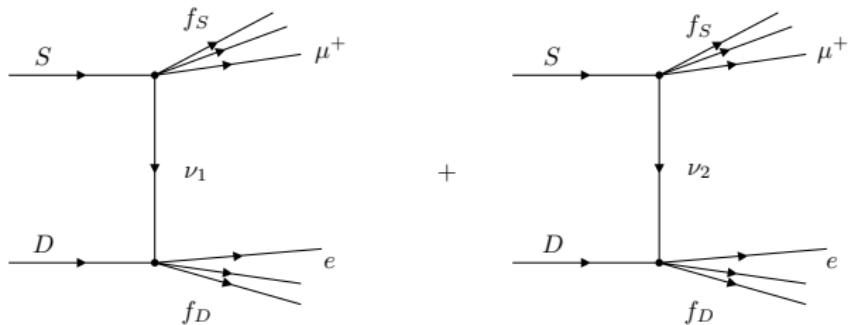
Rich,1993; Giunti,Kim,Lee,Lee,1993; Grimus,Stockinger,1996; Kiers,Weiss,1998

review paper:

M. Beuthe, Oscillations of Neutrinos and Mesons in Quantum Field Theory,
Phys. Rept. 375 (2003) 105 [hep-ph/0109119]

QFT approach to neutrino oscillations

joint process of neutrino production and detection



- ▶ neutrino corresponds to internal line, unobservable
- ▶ “standard” Feynman rules to calculate amplitude A of the whole process
- ▶ take into account that production and detection vertices are macroscopically separated in space and time
- ▶ coherence properties determined by localization (or momentum spread) of **external** particles

QFT approach Dobrev, Melnikov, TS, 2504.10600

Initial states at source and detector ($X = S, D$):
superpositions of momentum eigenstates:

$$|X\rangle = \int [d\vec{k}_X] \phi_X(\vec{k}_X) |\vec{k}_X\rangle, \quad [d\vec{k}_X] = \frac{d^3 \vec{k}_X}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2E_X}}$$

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S -matrix element for the full process $i \rightarrow f$ (final state moment P_S, P_D fixed)

$$S_{if} = \int [d\vec{k}_S][d\vec{k}_D] \phi_S(\vec{k}_S) \phi_D(\vec{k}_D) (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(k_S + k_D - P_S - P_D) \mathcal{M}_{if}$$

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and differential transition probability $i \rightarrow f$:

$$dW_{if} = |S_{if}|^2 d\nu_f$$

with density of final states $d\nu_f = d\Phi_S d\Phi_D$

QFT approach Dobrev, Melnikov, TS, 2504.10600

$$\mathrm{d}W_{if} = \int [\mathrm{d}\vec{k}_S][\mathrm{d}\vec{k}'_S][\mathrm{d}\vec{k}_D][\mathrm{d}\vec{k}'_D] \mathrm{d}\Phi_S \mathrm{d}\Phi_D \phi_S(\vec{k}_S) \phi_D(\vec{k}_D) \phi_S^*(\vec{k}'_S) \phi_D^*(\vec{k}'_D) \times \\ (2\pi)^8 \delta^{(4)}(k_S + k_D - P_S - P_D) \delta^{(4)}(k'_S + k'_D - P_S - P_D) \mathcal{M}_{if} \mathcal{M}'_{if}^*$$

k_X, k'_X : initial state momenta of the two interfering diagrams

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neutrino momenta: $q = k_S - P_S = P_D - k_D, q' = k'_S - P_S = P_D - k'_D$

momenta differences: $\kappa = q - q', \kappa_X = k_X - k'_X, (X = S, D)$

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momenta differences: $\kappa = q - q', \kappa_X = k_X - k'_X, (X = S, D)$

introduce source and detector “times” t_S, t_D :

$$(2\pi)^2 \delta(\kappa_S^0 - \kappa^0) \delta(\kappa_D^0 + \kappa^0) = \int dt_S e^{-i(\kappa_S^0 - \kappa^0)t_S} \int dt_D e^{-i(\kappa_D^0 + \kappa^0)t_D}$$

Crucial step 1

statistical averaging over quantum states described by ϕ_S and ϕ_D gives time-dependent momentum-space density matrices

$$\langle \phi_X(\vec{k}_X) \phi_X^*(\vec{k}'_X) e^{-i\kappa_X^0 t_X} \rangle = \rho_X(\vec{k}_X, \vec{k}'_X, t_X)$$

related to the Wigner function by

$$\rho_X(\vec{k}_X, \vec{k}'_X, t_X) = \int d^3\vec{r}_X n_X(\vec{r}_X, \vec{l}_X, t_X) e^{-i\vec{\kappa}_X \vec{r}_X} \quad (X = S, D)$$

the classical limit of a Wigner function is the phase-space distribution of particles

$$n_X(\vec{r}_X, \vec{l}_X, t_X)$$

with position \vec{r} , momentum \vec{l} , at the time t .

Dobrev, Melnikov, TS, 2504.10600; Ginzburg, Kotkin, Polityko, Serbo, Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 55 (1992) 1847; Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 55 (1992) 1855; Kotkin, Serbo, Schiller, Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 7 (1992) 4707

Crucial step 2

amplitude factorizes: $\mathcal{M}_{if} \approx -\sin \theta \cos \theta M_S \sum_{a=1,2} \frac{(-1)^a}{q^2 - m_a^2 + i\epsilon} M_D$

$$\mathcal{M}_{if} \mathcal{M}'^*_{if} = \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta |M_S|^2 |M_D|^2 \sum_{a,b=1,2} \frac{(-1)^a (-1)^b}{(q^2 - m_a^2 + i\epsilon)(q'^2 - m_b^2 - i\epsilon)}$$

M_S, M_D smooth functions of neutrino energy (neglect neutrino masses)

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M_S, M_D smooth functions of neutrino energy (neglect neutrino masses)

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int \frac{dQ^2}{2\pi} \frac{d^4\kappa}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-i\kappa x} \sum_{a,b=1,2} \frac{(-1)^a (-1)^b}{(Q^2 + Q\kappa - m_a^2 + i\epsilon)(Q^2 - Q\kappa - m_b^2 - i\epsilon)} \\ &= \dots = \frac{2}{|\vec{Q}|} \delta(t_D - t_S - r_{||}) \delta^{(2)}(\vec{r}_\perp) \Theta(r_{||}) \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4|\vec{Q}|} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where $\vec{r} = \vec{r}_D - \vec{r}_S$, $L \equiv r_{||} = \vec{r} \cdot \vec{e}_\nu$, $\vec{r}_\perp \cdot \vec{e}_\nu = 0$, $|\vec{Q}| \approx E_\nu$

Result for transition probability

$$\begin{aligned} dW_{if} = & \int d^3\vec{p}_\nu \int dt_S d^3\vec{l}_S d^3\vec{r}_S n_S(\vec{r}_S, \vec{l}_S, t_S) \frac{d\Gamma_S}{d^3\vec{p}_\nu} \\ & \times \int dr d^3\vec{l}_D n_D(\vec{r}_S + r\vec{e}_\nu, \vec{l}_D, t_S + r) d\sigma_{D\nu} P_{osc}(r) \end{aligned}$$

$$P_{osc}(r) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E_\nu} \right)$$

convolution of standard oscillation probability with neutrino flux, detection cross section, and phase-space densities at source and detector

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$$P_{osc}(r) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E_\nu} \right)$$

convolution of standard oscillation probability with neutrino flux, detection cross section, and phase-space densities at source and detector

coherence properties encoded in phase-space densities n_S and n_D

Coherence properties

- ▶ assume isotropic Gaussian phase-space densities for $X = S, D$:

$$n_X(\vec{r}_X, \vec{l}_X, t_X) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\vec{r}_X - \vec{L}_X}{\delta_X} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\vec{l}_X - \vec{l}_X}{\sigma_X} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{t_X - T_X}{\tau_X} \right)^2 \right]$$

- ▶ mean locations $\vec{L}_{S,D}$, mean momenta $\vec{l}_{S,D}$, and mean times $T_{S,D}$
- ▶ Quantum mechanical uncertainty relation: $\delta_X \sigma_X > 1/2$
- ▶ assume “stationary detector”: $\tau_D^2 \gg \delta_D^2 + \delta_S^2$

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- ▶ assume isotropic Gaussian phase-space densities for $X = S, D$:

$$n_X(\vec{r}_X, \vec{l}_X, t_X) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\vec{r}_X - \vec{L}_X}{\delta_X} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\vec{l}_X - \vec{l}_X}{\sigma_X} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{t_X - T_X}{\tau_X} \right)^2 \right]$$

- ▶ mean locations $\vec{L}_{S,D}$, mean momenta $\vec{l}_{S,D}$, and mean times $T_{S,D}$
- ▶ Quantum mechanical uncertainty relation: $\delta_X \sigma_X > 1/2$
- ▶ assume “stationary detector”: $\tau_D^2 \gg \delta_D^2 + \delta_S^2$

$$P_{\text{osc}} = \exp \left[-\frac{(\vec{L}_D - \vec{L}_S)_\perp^2}{2\delta^2} \right] \exp \left[-\frac{(L - T)^2}{2\tau^2} \right] \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{2} \left[1 - \xi_{\text{loc}} \xi_{\text{en}} \cos \left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L}{2E_\nu} \right) \right]$$

where

$$\tau^2 \equiv \tau_D^2 + \tau_S^2, \quad \delta^2 \equiv \delta_D^2 + \delta_S^2, \quad L \equiv (\vec{L}_D - \vec{L}_S) \cdot \vec{e}_\nu, \quad T \equiv T_D - T_S$$

Localization decoherence

$$\xi_{\text{loc}} = \exp \left[-2 \left(\pi \frac{\delta}{L_{\text{osc}}} \right)^2 \right] \quad \text{with} \quad L_{\text{osc}} = 2\pi \frac{2E_\nu}{\Delta m^2}$$

production and detection regions have to be localised much better than the oscillation length: $\delta \ll L_{\text{osc}}$ (note $\delta^2 = \delta_S^2 + \delta_D^2$)

$$\xi_{\text{loc}} = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\Delta m^2}{4E_\nu \sigma_{\text{loc}}} \right)^2 \right] \quad \text{with} \quad \sigma_{\text{loc}} = \frac{1}{2\delta}$$

QM momentum uncertainty due to localisation has to be large enough, such that individual mass states cannot be resolved: $\sigma_{\text{loc}} \gg \Delta m^2 / E_\nu$

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Energy decoherence

$$\xi_{\text{en}} = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\Delta m^2 L \sigma}{2E_\nu^2} \right)^2 \right] = \exp \left[-2\pi^2 \left(\frac{L}{L_{\text{osc}}} \frac{\sigma}{E_\nu} \right)^2 \right]$$

- ▶ for experiments at the oscillation maximum ($L \approx L_{\text{osc}}$) the neutrino energy needs to be well defined: $\sigma \ll E_\nu$
- ▶ this term can be interpreted as decoherence due to neutrino wave packet separation, identifying $v_j \approx 1 - m_j^2/(2E_\nu^2)$

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Why are oscillations possible?

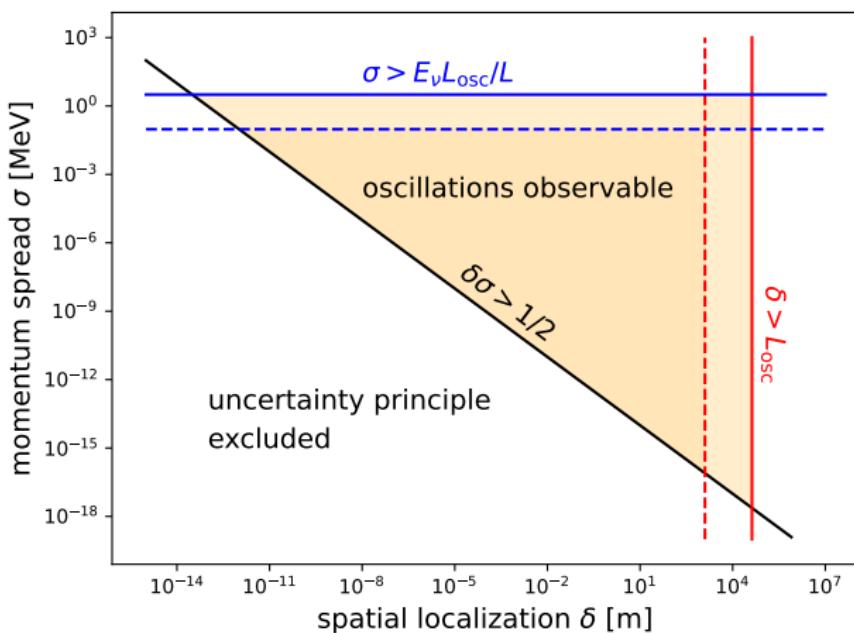
ξ_{loc} and ξ_{en} have opposite dependence on spreads:

- ▶ uncertainties have to be
 - large enough that mass states can interfere: $\sigma_{\text{loc}} \gg \Delta m^2/E_\nu$
 - small enough that interference is not damped: $\sigma \ll E_\nu L_{\text{osc}}/L$
 - but QM uncertainty implies: $\sigma_{\text{loc}} = 1/(2\delta) < \sigma$
- ▶ there are many orders of magnitude available to fulfill these requirements, because

$$\Delta m^2/E_\nu^2 \ll 1 \quad \text{or} \quad E_\nu L_{\text{osc}} \gg 1$$

Why are oscillations possible?

Ex.: JUNO: $E_\nu = 4 \text{ MeV}$, $L = 53 \text{ km}$, solid(dash) $\Delta m^2 = 7.5 \cdot 10^{-5} (2.5 \cdot 10^{-3}) \text{ eV}^2$



Dobrev, Melnikov, TS, 2504.10600

Classical averaging

consider averaging of the event rates $R(L, E_\nu)$:

$$\int dL' R(L', E_\nu) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta_{\text{clas}}} \exp \left[-\frac{(L' - L)^2}{2\delta_{\text{clas}}^2} \right]$$
$$\int dE'_\nu R(L, E'_\nu) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{\text{clas}}} \exp \left[-\frac{(E'_\nu - E_\nu)^2}{2\sigma_{\text{clas}}^2} \right]$$

same decoherence factors ξ_{loc} and ξ_{en} with (in the Gaussian case)

$$\delta^2 \rightarrow \delta^2 + \delta_{\text{clas}}^2, \quad \sigma^2 \rightarrow \sigma^2 + \sigma_{\text{clas}}^2$$

Classical averaging

- ▶ quantum mechanical and classical decoherence have the same effect and are indistinguishable phenomenologically
Kiers, Nussinov, Weiss, 1996; Stodolsky, 1998; Ohlsson, 2001
- ▶ classical averaging due to experimental reasons: size of production region, finite detector resolutions (in space and energy),...
- ▶ fundamental averaging effects due to experimental configuration and physics principles: phase space integrals of unobserved particles, Doppler broadening,...

Classical averaging

In the approach of Dobrev, Melnikov, TS, 2504.10600, the QM uncertainties of the initial state particles manifest themselves as classical convolution of the probability with Wigner distributions:

$$\begin{aligned} dW_{if} = & \int d^3\vec{p}_\nu \int dt_S d^3\vec{l}_S d^3\vec{r}_S n_S(\vec{r}_S, \vec{l}_S, t_S) \frac{d\Gamma_S}{d^3\vec{p}_\nu} \\ & \times \int dr d^3\vec{l}_D n_D(\vec{r}_S + r\vec{e}_\nu, \vec{l}_D, t_S + r) d\sigma_{D\nu} P_{osc}(r) \end{aligned}$$

conditions of observability of oscillations imply that coherence assumptions of the derivation are satisfied

Decoherence parameters - numerical example

estimates for reactor oscillation experiments

Krueger, TS, 2303.15524, Akhmedov, Smirnov, 2208.03736

$$\begin{aligned}-\ln \xi_{\text{loc}} &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\Delta m^2}{4E_\nu \sigma_{\text{loc}}} \right)^2 \approx 1.3 \times 10^{-19} \left(\frac{\Delta m^2}{1 \text{ eV}^2} \right)^2 \left(\frac{1 \text{ MeV}}{E_\nu} \right)^2 \left(\frac{500 \text{ eV}}{\sigma_{\text{loc}}} \right)^2 \\-\ln \xi_{\text{en}} &= 2\pi^2 \left(\frac{L}{L_{\text{osc}}} \frac{\sigma_{\text{en}}}{E_\nu} \right)^2 \approx 4.9 \times 10^{-12} \left(\frac{L}{L_{\text{osc}}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{1 \text{ MeV}}{E_\nu} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\sigma_{\text{en}}}{0.5 \text{ eV}} \right)^2\end{aligned}$$

⇒ QM decoherence (incl. localization and “wave packet separation”) is irrelevant for all practical purposes

decoherence effects completely dominated by classical averaging
(e.g., typical energy resolution in reactor exps: $\sigma_{\text{clas}} \simeq 0.1 \text{ MeV}$)

Summary oscillations in vacuum

- ▶ “simple QM” derivation of oscillation probability is based on *wrong* assumptions but gives the *correct* result
- ▶ well founded derivation and understanding of (coherence) conditions for the observability of oscillations can be obtained by a **QFT or wave packet treatment**
- ▶ fundamental QM decoherence effects are *unobservable* for all practical purposes, coherence is dominated by **classical averaging** effects (or would require rather exotic BSM physics)

The matter effect

When neutrinos pass through matter the SM interactions with the particles in the background induce an effective potential for the neutrinos

Effective 4-point interaction Hamiltonian

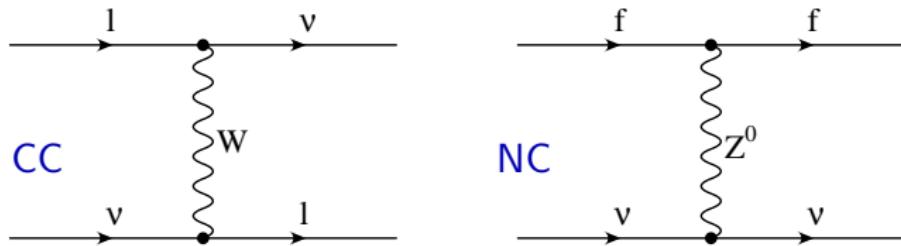
$$H_{\text{int}}^{\nu_\alpha} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{\nu}_\alpha \gamma_\mu (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_\alpha \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{f} \gamma^\mu (g_V^{\alpha,f} - g_A^{\alpha,f} \gamma_5) f}_{J_{\text{mat}}^\mu}$$

coherent forward scattering amplitude leads to an “index of refraction”
 \rightarrow proportional to G_F ! (not G_F^2)

L. Wolfenstein, Phys. Rev. D **17**, 2369 (1978); *ibid.* D **20**, 2634 (1979)

Effective matter potential

$$V_{\text{mat}} = \sqrt{2} G_F \text{ diag} (N_e - N_n/2, -N_n/2, -N_n/2)$$



- ▶ only ν_e feel CC (there are no μ, τ in normal matter)
- ▶ NC is the same for all flavours \Rightarrow potential proportional to identity has no effect on the evolution
- ▶ NC has no effect for 3-flavour active neutrinos, but is important in the presence of sterile neutrinos

Effective Schrödinger equation in matter

$$i \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} a_e \\ a_\mu \\ a_\tau \end{pmatrix} = H \begin{pmatrix} a_e \\ a_\mu \\ a_\tau \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$H = \underbrace{U \text{diag} \left(0, \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{2E_\nu}, \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2}{2E_\nu} \right) U^\dagger}_{\text{vacuum}}$$

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$N_e(x)$: electron density along the neutrino path

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for non-constant matter: $H(t) \rightarrow$ time-dependent Schrödinger eq.

“MSW resonance” Mikheev, Smirnov, Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 42, 913 (1985)

Matter effect in QFT

- ▶ transition probability for neutrinos in matter can be derived also within the QFT approach to neutrino oscillations
e.g., Cardall, Chung, [hep-ph/9904291](#); Akhmedov, Wilhelm, [1205.6231](#)
- ▶ consider the effect of background matter on the neutrino propagator appearing in the QFT Feynman diagram
- ▶ neutrino propagator has to be derived from a solution of the Dirac equation with matter-induced potential

Neutrino oscillations in constant matter

diagonalize the Hamiltonian in matter:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\text{mat}}^{\nu} &= \textcolor{red}{U} \text{diag} \left(0, \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{2E_{\nu}}, \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2}{2E_{\nu}} \right) \textcolor{red}{U}^{\dagger} + \text{diag}(\sqrt{2}G_F N_e, 0, 0) \\ &= \textcolor{red}{U}_m \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) \textcolor{red}{U}_m^{\dagger} \end{aligned}$$

Same expression for oscillation probability, but replace “vacuum” parameters by “matter” parameters

2-neutrino oscillations in constant matter

Two-flavour case:

$$P_{\text{mat}} = \sin^2 2\theta_{\text{mat}} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{\text{mat}}^2 L}{4E}$$

with

$$\sin^2 2\theta_{\text{mat}} = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - A)^2}$$

$$\Delta m_{\text{mat}}^2 = \Delta m^2 \sqrt{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - A)^2}$$

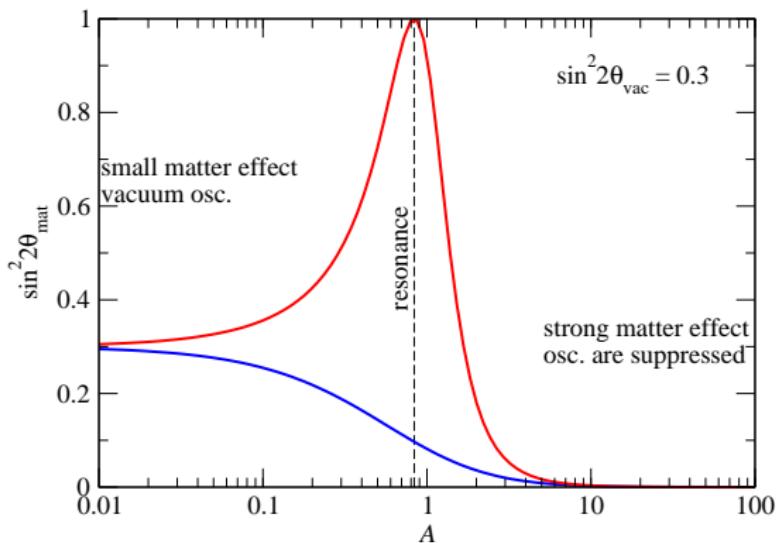
$$A \equiv \frac{2EV}{\Delta m^2}$$

2-neutrino oscillations in constant matter

$$\sin^2 2\theta_{\text{mat}} = \frac{\sin^2 2\theta}{\sin^2 2\theta + (\cos 2\theta - A)^2} \quad A \equiv \frac{2EV}{\Delta m^2}$$

resonance for $\cos 2\theta = A$: “MSW resonance”

Mikheev, Smirnov, Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 42, 913 (1985)



resonance and mass ordering

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resonance for $\cos 2\theta = A$:

- ▶ the appearance of the resonance depends on the relative signs of $V, \Delta m^2, \cos 2\theta = \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta$
- ▶ for neutrinos $V > 0$, for antineutrinos $V < 0$
- ▶ e.g., if the resonance happens for neutrinos we must have

$$\Delta m^2 \cos 2\theta = (m_2^2 - m_1^2)(\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta) > 0$$

possible solution: $m_2^2 > m_1^2$ and $\theta < 45^\circ$

- ▶ in two flavours, there is a degeneracy between labeling the mass states and the allowed range of the mixing angle
more involved parameter dependencies in three flavours

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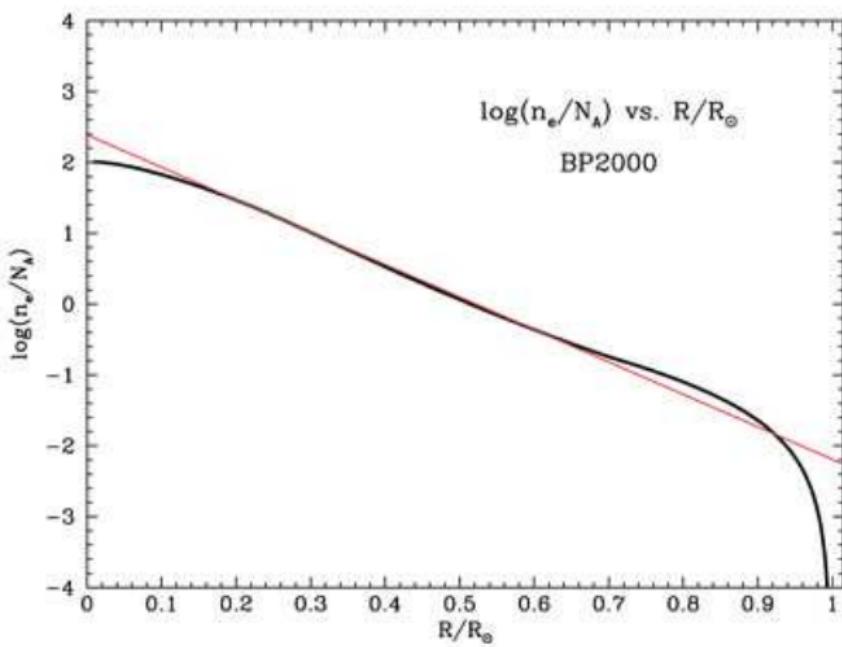
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- more involved parameter dependencies in three flavours

Varying matter density: example solar neutrinos

The electron density in the sun:

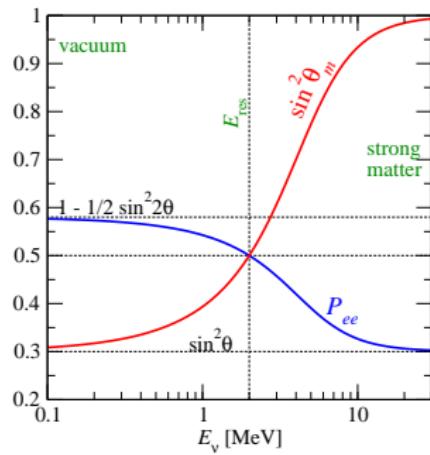


Adiabatic conversion of solar neutrinos

- ▶ matter density changes slowly on the scale of the oscillation length \Rightarrow adiabatic propagation of neutrino mass states in matter
- ▶ oscillations between sun and earth averaged out:

$$P_{ee} = \sum_i |U_{ei}^m|^2 |U_{ei}|^2$$

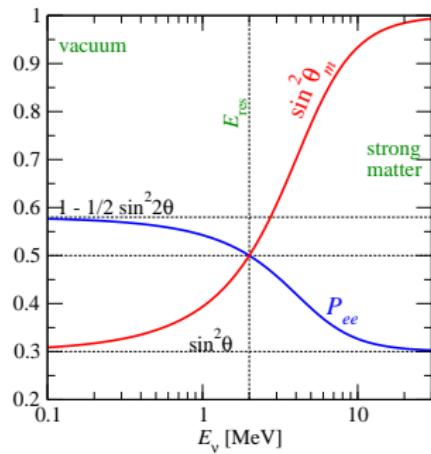
$$\rightarrow \cos^2 \theta_m \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta_m \sin^2 \theta$$



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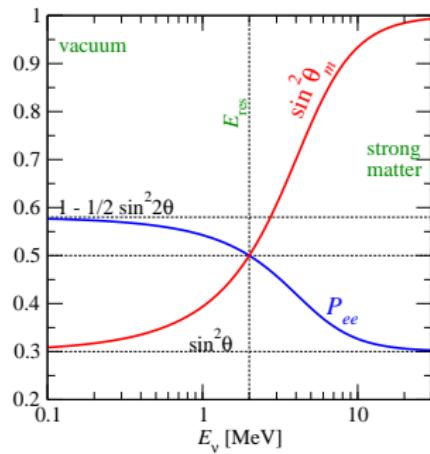
$$E \ll E_{\text{res}} \approx 2 \text{ MeV} : \quad \theta_m \approx \theta \Rightarrow P_{ee} = c^4 + s^4 = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 2\theta$$

$$E \gg E_{\text{res}} \approx 2 \text{ MeV} : \quad \theta_m \approx \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow P_{ee} = \sin^2 \theta$$

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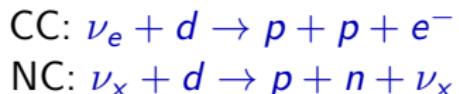
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additional correction from propagation through earth matter \rightarrow day-night effect

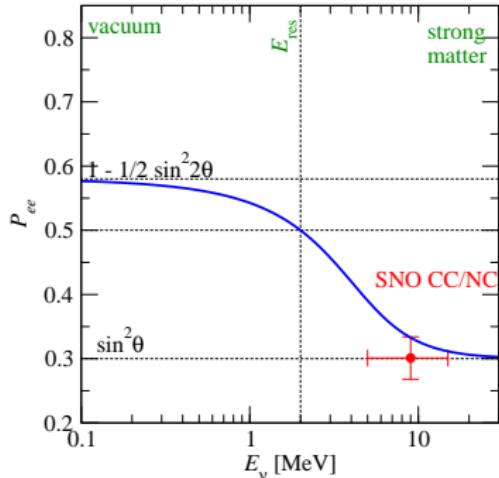
Solar neutrinos and the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory

2002: SNO: CC to NC ratio
of solar neutrino flux



- evidence for $\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$ conversion
- MSW effect inside the sun
adiabatic conversion through resonance

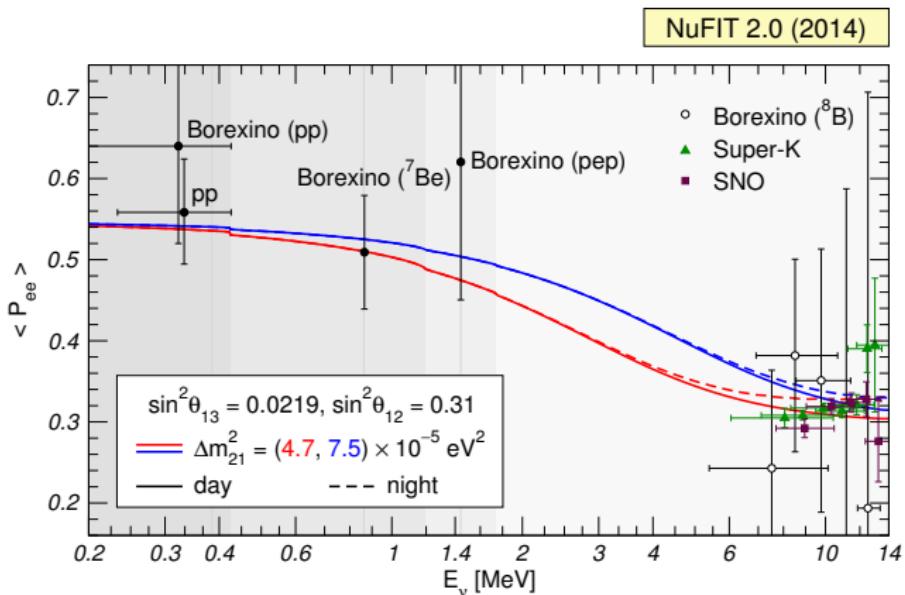
Nobel prize 2015
Art McDonald



$$P_{ee} = \frac{\phi_e}{\phi_e + \phi_\mu + \phi_\tau} = \frac{\phi_{CC}}{\phi_{NC}}$$

Evidence for LMA-MSW

solar neutrino experiments Homestake, SAGE+GNO, Super-K, SNO, Borexino



- ▶ $\sin^2 \theta < 0.5$ is strong evidence for MSW conversion
- ▶ for energies above resonance: $P_{ee} \approx \sin^2 \theta \rightarrow$ best determination of θ_{12}

“Solar” mass ordering

- ▶ for the mass-squared difference relevant for solar neutrinos, we adopt the convention that $\Delta m^2 > 0$, i.e., $m_2 > m_1$
- ▶ observations show that in the sun the resonance happens for *neutrinos*
- ▶ $\Rightarrow \cos 2\theta > 0$: $\theta \sim 33^\circ < 45^\circ$
- ▶ physical statement:
there is one mass state which is dominantly electron-neutrino like, and this mass state has to be the lighter one of the “solar pair”

$$\nu_e = \cos \theta \nu_1 + \sin \theta \nu_2$$

$$\nu_{\mu,\tau} = -\sin \theta \nu_1 + \cos \theta \nu_2$$

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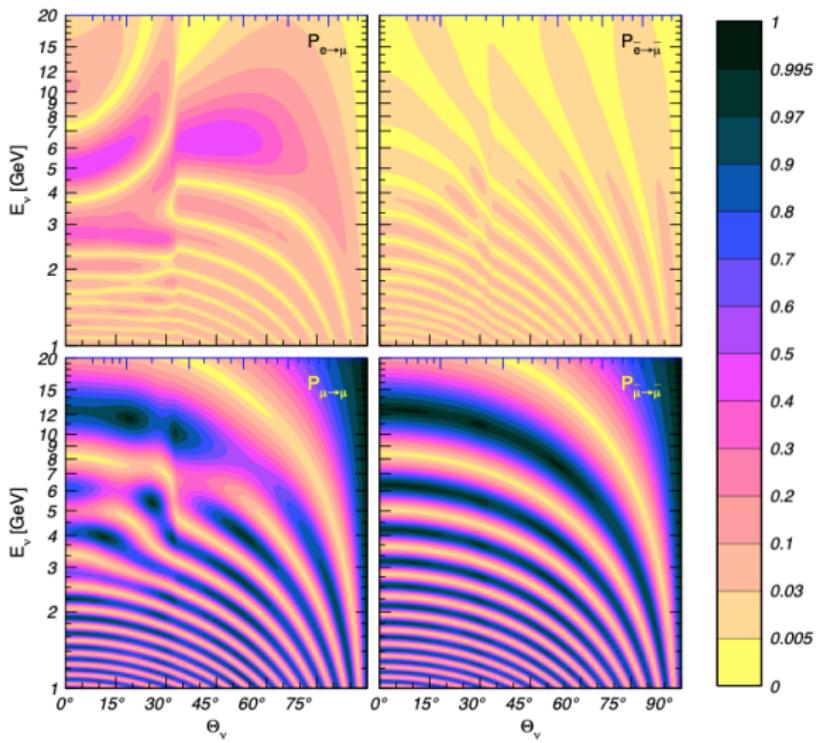
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Matter effects in the ν_μ, ν_τ sector

- ▶ in the two-flavour approximation there is no matter effect in $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$ and $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ transitions
- ▶ the ν_μ -disappearance channel in long-baseline experiments is described by vacuum oscillations to good approximation
e.g., Denton, Parke, 2401.10326
- ▶ typically matter effects in these channels are suppressed by three-flavour effects (in particular θ_{13}), however, there can be resonance enhancement in atmospheric neutrinos

Matter effects in atmospheric neutrinos



Akhmedov, Maltoni, Smirnov, hep-ph/0612285

Final comments on oscillation fundamentals

Neutrino oscillations in vacuum and in matter

- ▶ are sensitive only to neutrino mass-squared *differences* (interference phenomenon)
- ▶ no sensitivity to absolute neutrino mass
→ beta-decay, neutrinoless double-beta decay, cosmology
- ▶ cannot distinguish between Dirac and Majorana neutrino mass (lepton number is conserved in oscillations) → neutrinoless double-beta decay

Outline

Lepton mixing

Neutrino oscillation fundamentals

Oscillations in vacuum

QFT approach to neutrino oscillations

Coherence requirements for oscillations

Oscillations in matter

Varying matter density and MSW

Global data and 3-flavour oscillations

Qualitative picture

Global analysis

δ_{CP} and mass ordering

Summary and concluding comments

3-flavour neutrino parameters

- ▶ 3 masses: Δm_{21}^2 , Δm_{31}^2 , m_0
- ▶ 3 mixing angles: θ_{12} , θ_{13} , θ_{23}
- ▶ 3 phases: 1 Dirac (δ), 2 Majorana (α_1, α_2)

neutrino oscillations

absolute mass observables

lepton-number violation (neutrinoless double-beta decay)

3-flavour oscillation parameters

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & e^{-i\delta} s_{13} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -e^{i\delta} s_{13} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\Delta m_{31}^2$$

$$\Delta m_{21}^2$$

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atm+LBL(dis)

react+LBL(app)

solar+KamLAND

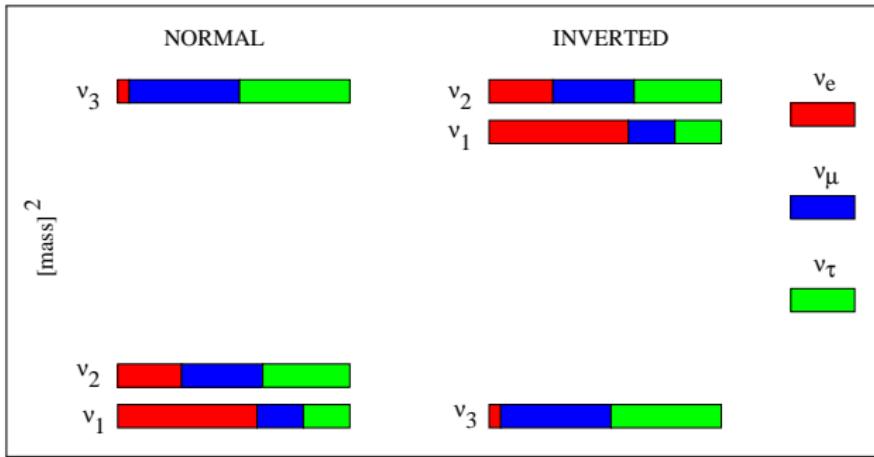
3-flavour effects are suppressed: $\Delta m_{21}^2 \ll \Delta m_{31}^2$ and $\theta_{13} \ll 1$ ($U_{e3} = s_{13} e^{-i\delta}$)

⇒ dominant oscillations are well described by effective two-flavour oscillations

⇒ present data is already sensitive to sub-leading effects

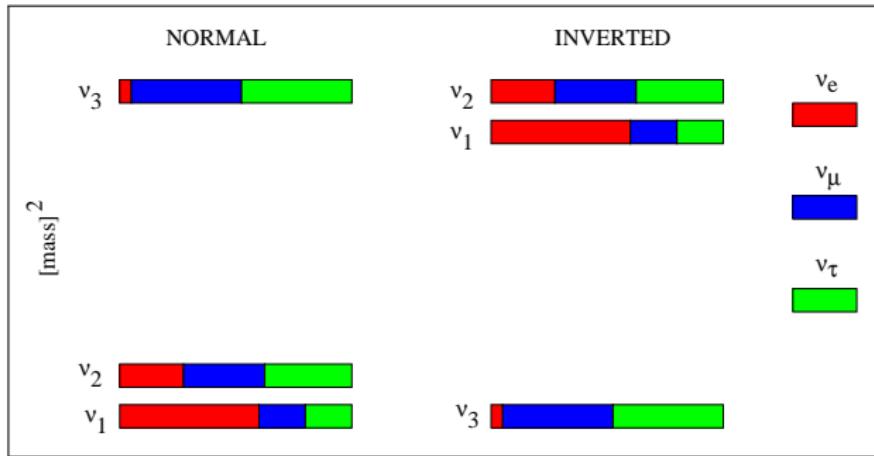
⇒ CP-violation is suppressed by θ_{13} and $\Delta m_{21}^2 / \Delta m_{31}^2$

What we know – masses



- ▶ The two mass-squared differences are separated roughly by a factor 30:
 $\Delta m_{21}^2 \approx 7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$, $|\Delta m_{31}^2| \approx |\Delta m_{32}^2| \approx 2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$
- ▶ at least two neutrinos are massive

Physical interpretation of mixing angles



$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta_{13} &= |U_{e3}| & (\nu_e \text{ component in } \nu_3) &= (\nu_3 \text{ component in } \nu_e) \\ \tan \theta_{12} &= \frac{|U_{e2}|}{|U_{e1}|} & \text{ratio of } \nu_2 \text{ and } \nu_1 \text{ component in } \nu_e \\ \tan \theta_{23} &= \frac{|U_{\mu 3}|}{|U_{\tau 3}|} & \text{ratio of } \nu_\mu \text{ and } \nu_\tau \text{ component in } \nu_3 \end{aligned}$$

What we know – mixing

- ▶ approx. equal mixing of ν_μ and ν_τ in all mass states:
 $\theta_{23} \approx 45^\circ$ (with significant uncertainty)
- ▶ there is one mass state (" ν_1 ") which is dominantly ν_e ($\theta_{12} \approx 30^\circ$), and it is the lighter of the two states of the doublet with the small splitting (MSW in sun)
- ▶ there is a small ν_e component in the mass state ν_3 : $\theta_{13} \approx 9^\circ$
we *do not know* whether this mass state is the heaviest (normal ordering) or the lightest (inverted ordering)

Complementarity of global oscillation data

param	experiment	comment
θ_{12}	SNO, SuperK, (KamLAND)	resonant matter effect in the Sun
θ_{23}	SuperK, T2K, NOvA	ν_μ disappearance atmospheric (accelerator) neutrinos
θ_{13}	DayaBay, RENO, D-Chooz (T2K, NOvA)	$\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance reactor experiments @ ~ 1 km
Δm_{21}^2	KamLAND, (SNO, SuperK)	$\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance reactor @ ~ 180 km (spectrum)
$ \Delta m_{31}^2 $	MINOS, T2K, NOvA, DayaBay	ν_μ and $\bar{\nu}_e$ disapp (spectrum)
δ	T2K, NOvA + DayaBay	combination of $(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e) + \bar{\nu}_e$ disapp

- ▶ global data fits nicely with the 3 neutrinos from the SM
- ▶ a few “anomalies” $> 3\sigma$: LSND, MiniBooNE, Gallium anomaly

Global 3-flavour fit

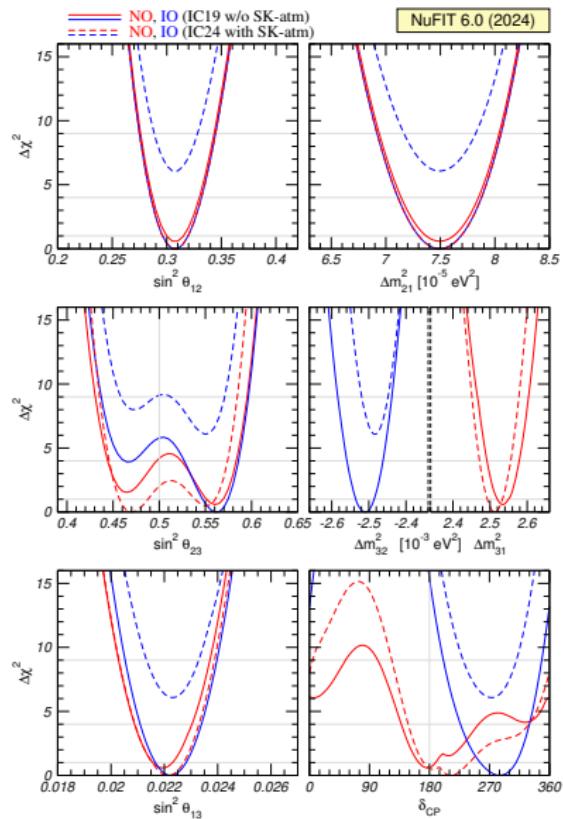
- ▶ NuFit collaboration: www.nu-fit.org
with M.C. Gonzalez-Garcia, M. Maltoni, et al.
- ▶ latest paper: NuFit 6.0 (as of Sept 2024)
Esteban, Gonzalez-Garcia, Maltoni, Martinez-Soler, Pinheiro, Schwetz,
JHEP(2024), 2410.05380
- ▶ provides updated global fit results
tables & figures, χ^2 data for download

Global 3-flavour fit

- robust determination
(relat. precision at 3σ):

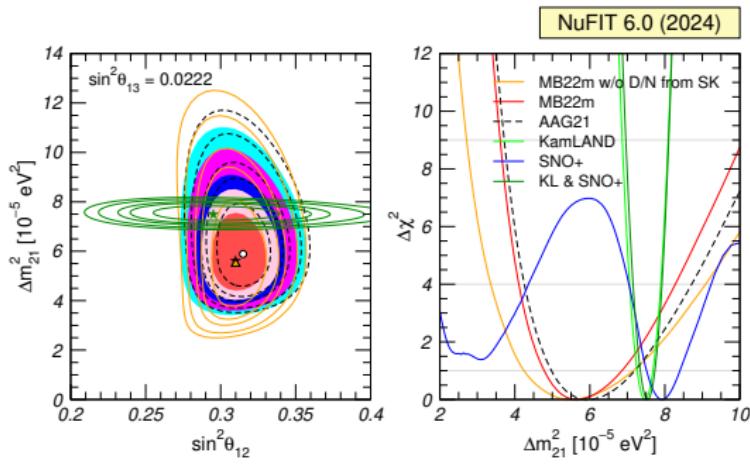
$$\theta_{12} \text{ (13\%)} , \quad \theta_{13} \text{ (8\%)} \\ \Delta m_{21}^2 \text{ (15\%)} , \quad |\Delta m_{3\ell}^2| \text{ (5.1\%)}$$

- broad allowed range for θ_{23} (20%), non-significant indications for non-maximality/octant
- ambiguity in sign of $\Delta m_{3\ell}^2 \rightarrow$ mass ordering
- values of $\delta_{CP} \simeq 90^\circ$ disfavoured preference for $\delta_{CP} \simeq 270^\circ$ for IO

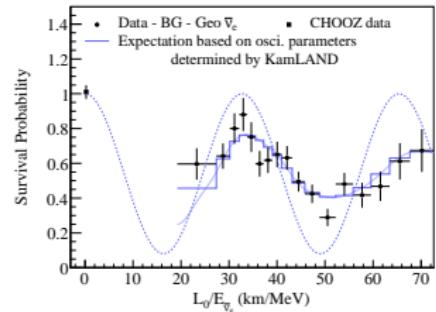


“Solar” sector: θ_{12} , Δm_{21}^2

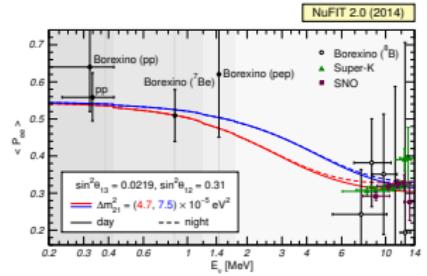
synergy between solar neutrinos and KamLAND reactor neutrinos



KamLAND



solar neutrinos

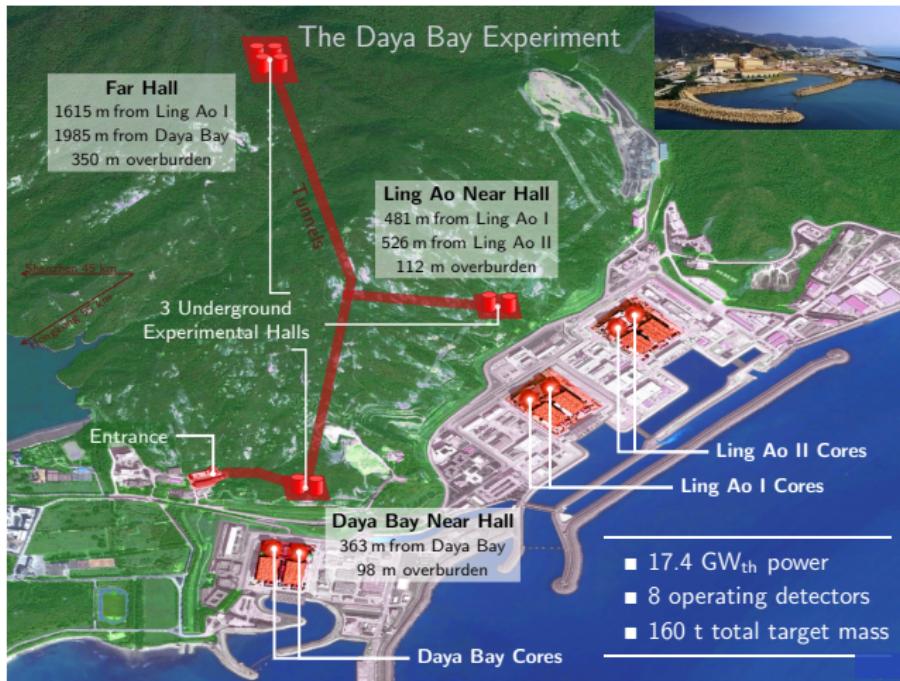


“Atmospheric” sector: $\theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{\text{CP}}, \Delta m_{31}^2$

- ▶ atmospheric neutrino experiments (SuperK, IceCube, ORCA)
- ▶ accelerator experiments (T2K, NOvA)
- ▶ reactor experiments (DayaBay, RENO)

Daya Bay reactor experiment

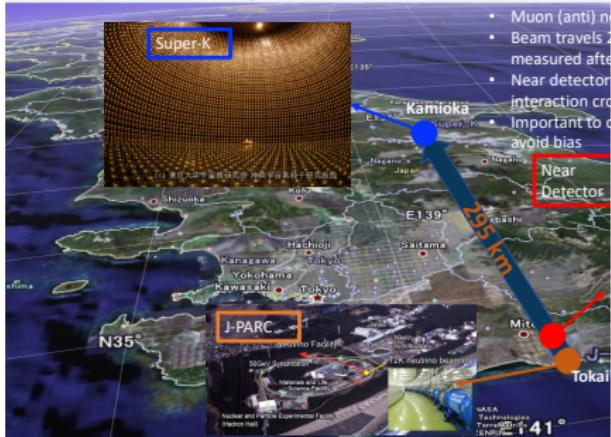
- $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance



T2K and NOvA accelerator experiments

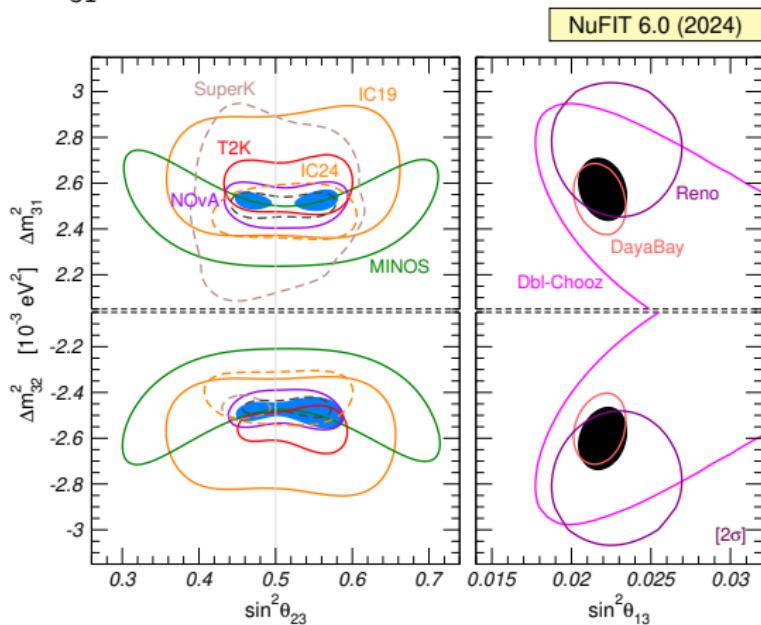
- ▶ $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu$ disappearance
- ▶ $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ appearance

The T2K Experiment

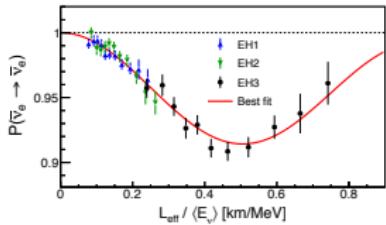


“Atmsopheric” sector: $\theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \Delta m_{31}^2$

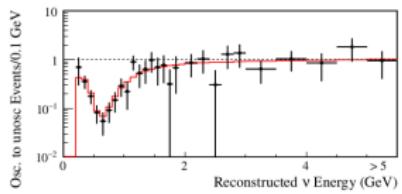
interplay of disappearance data at the
 Δm_{31}^2 -scale



DayaBay, 2015
 $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e, \langle L \rangle \sim 2 \text{ km}$



T2K, 2015
 $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu, \langle L \rangle \sim 295 \text{ km}$



Complementarity between beam and reactor experiments

- $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ appearance probability (T2K, NOvA):

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\mu e} \approx & \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \theta_{23} \frac{\sin^2(1-A)\Delta}{(1-A)^2} \\ & + \sin 2\theta_{13} \hat{\alpha} \sin 2\theta_{23} \frac{\sin(1-A)\Delta}{1-A} \frac{\sin A\Delta}{A} \cos(\Delta + \delta_{CP}) \end{aligned}$$

with

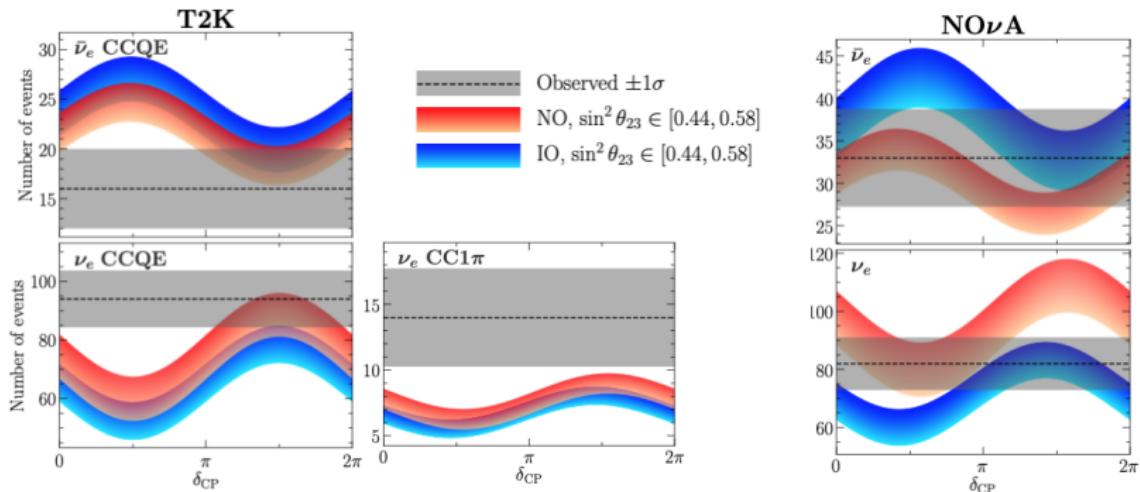
$$\Delta \equiv \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E_\nu}, \quad \hat{\alpha} \equiv \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{\Delta m_{31}^2} \sin 2\theta_{12}, \quad A \equiv \frac{2E_\nu V}{\Delta m_{31}^2}$$

- ν_e survival probability (reactor experiments, e.g. Daya Bay)

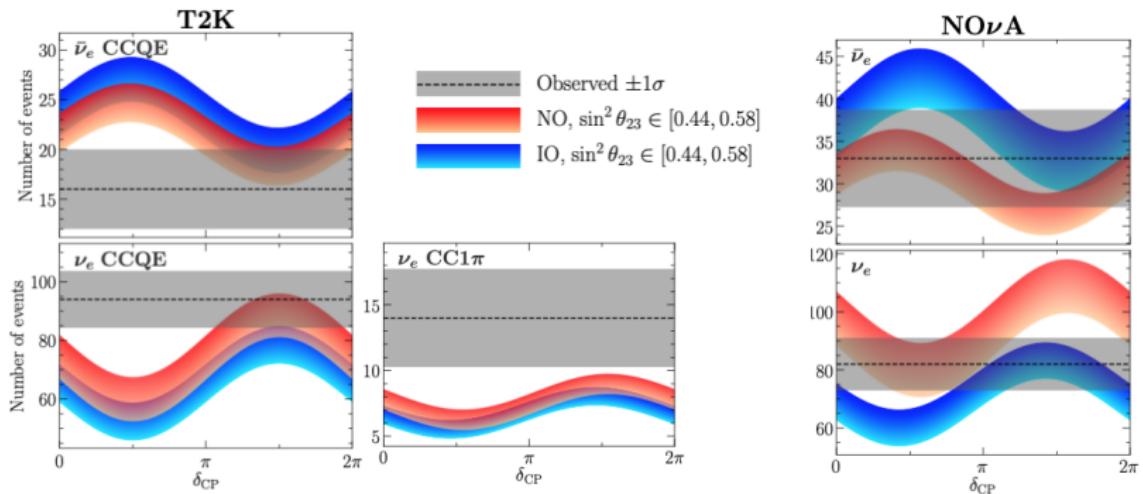
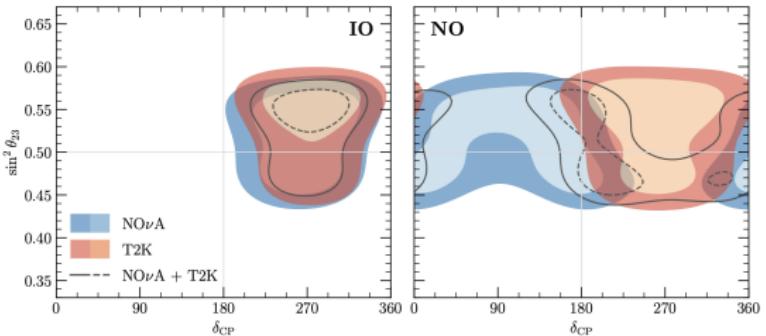
$$P_{ee} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \Delta$$

Appearance results from T2K and NO ν A

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{\mu e} \approx & \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \theta_{23} \frac{\sin^2(1-A)\Delta}{(1-A)^2} \\
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 \end{aligned}$$



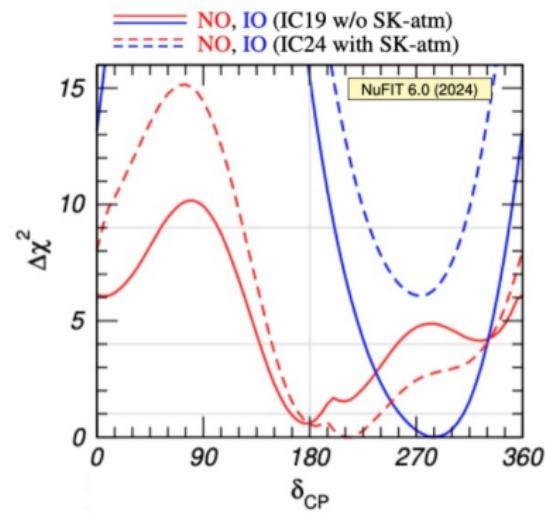
Appearance results from T2K and NO ν A



Status of δ_{CP}

some indications on the allowed range of δ_{CP} due to the interplay of reactor (Daya Bay) and accelerator (T2K, NOvA) neutrino experiments

- ▶ values of $\delta_{\text{CP}} \simeq 90^\circ$ disfavoured
- ▶ **normal ordering:**
CP conservation ($\delta_{\text{CP}} \simeq 180^\circ$) at 1σ
- ▶ **inverted ordering:**
preference for $\delta_{\text{CP}} \simeq 270^\circ$ (maximal CPV)
CP conservation disfavoured at $> 3.6\sigma$



CP violation in neutrino oscillations

Leptonic CP violation will manifest itself in a difference of the vacuum oscillation probabilities for neutrinos and anti-neutrinos

Cabibbo, 1977; Bilenky, Hosek, Petcov, 1980, Barger, Whisnant, Phillips, 1980

$$P_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta} - P_{\bar{\nu}_\alpha \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\beta} = -16 J_{\alpha\beta} \sin \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E_\nu} \sin \frac{\Delta m_{32}^2 L}{4E_\nu} \sin \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E_\nu},$$

where

$$J_{\alpha\beta} = \text{Im}(U_{\alpha 1} U_{\alpha 2}^* U_{\beta 1}^* U_{\beta 2}) = \pm J,$$

with $+(-)$ for (anti-)cyclic permutation of the indices e, μ, τ .

J : leptonic analogue to the Jarlskog-invariant in the quark sector
 Jarlskog, 1985

CP violation

Jarlskog-invariant:

$$J = |\text{Im}(U_{\alpha 1} U_{\alpha 2}^* U_{\beta 1}^* U_{\beta 2})| = s_{12} c_{12} s_{23} c_{23} s_{13} c_{13}^2 \sin \delta \equiv J^{\max} \sin \delta$$

neutrino oscillation data:

$$J^{\max} = 0.0333 \pm 0.0007 (\pm 0.0017) \quad 1\sigma (3\sigma) \quad \text{nu-fit 6.0}$$

in the quark sector:

$$J_{\text{CKM}} = (3.12 \pm 0.13) \times 10^{-5} \quad \text{PDG}$$

CP violation

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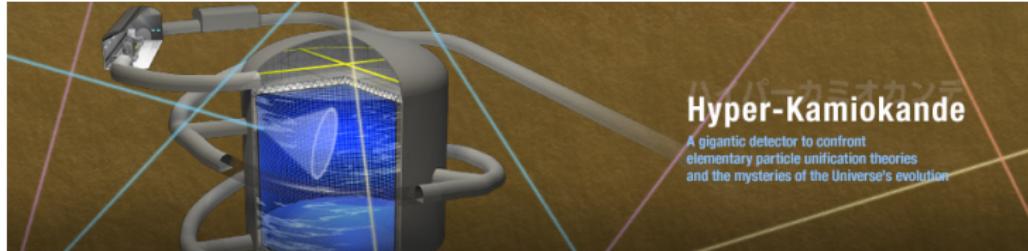
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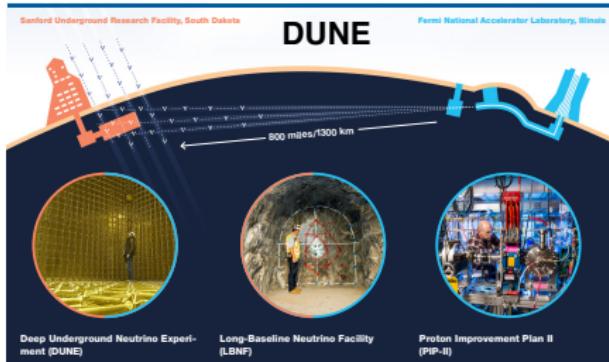
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T2K: J-PARC → HyperK (285 km, WC detector)



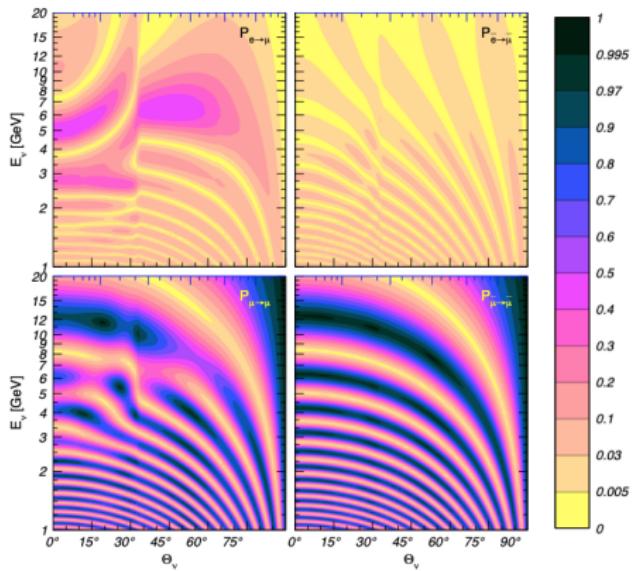
DUNE: Fermilab → Homestake (1300 km, LAr detectors)



oscillation science goals:
determine mass ordering
and CP phase

Determining the mass ordering - 1

- ▶ Looking for the matter effect in transitions involving Δm_{31}^2
 - ▶ long-baseline accelerator experiments NOvA, DUNE
 - ▶ atmospheric neutrino experiments IceCube, ORCA, HyperK



Akhmedov, Maltoni, Smirnov, hep-ph/0612285

Determining the mass ordering - 2

- ▶ Interference effect of oscillations with Δm_{31}^2 and Δm_{21}^2

Petcov, Piai, hep-ph/0112074

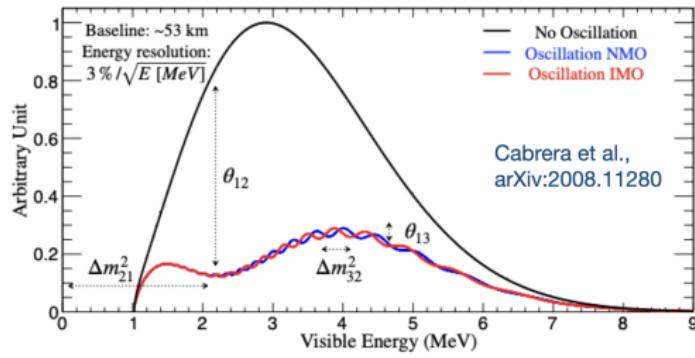
- ▶ reactor experiment at 60 km JUNO

$$P_{ee}^{\text{reac}} = 1 - c_{13}^4 \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 \phi_{\text{sol}} \\ - \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 2\theta_{13} [1 - \cos \phi_{\text{sol}} \cos 2\phi_{\text{atm}} + \cos 2\theta_{12} \sin \phi_{\text{sol}} \sin 2\phi_{\text{atm}}]$$

with

$$\phi_{\text{sol}} = \frac{(m_2^2 - m_1^2)L}{4E}$$

$$\phi_{\text{atm}} = \frac{[m_3^2 - (m_1^2 + m_2^2)/2]L}{4E}$$



Determining the mass ordering - 3

- Determination of $|\Delta m_{31}^2|$ from ν_e and ν_μ disappearance

Nunokawa, Parke, Zukanovich Funchal, hep-ph/0503283

$$P_{\alpha\alpha} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{\alpha\alpha} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{\alpha\alpha}^2 L}{4E_\nu}, \quad \alpha = \mu, e$$

with

$$\sin^2 \theta_{\mu\mu} = \cos^2 \theta_{13} \sin^2 \theta_{23}$$

$$\Delta m_{\mu\mu}^2 = \sin^2 \theta_{12} \Delta m_{31}^2 + \cos^2 \theta_{12} \Delta m_{32}^2 + \cos \delta_{\text{CP}} \sin \theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{12} \tan \theta_{23} \Delta m_{21}^2$$

$$\theta_{ee} = \theta_{13}$$

$$\Delta m_{ee}^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{12} \Delta m_{31}^2 + \sin^2 \theta_{12} \Delta m_{32}^2$$

$$|\Delta m_{\mu\mu}^2| - |\Delta m_{ee}^2| = \mp \Delta m_{21}^2 [\cos 2\theta_{12} - \cos \delta_{\text{CP}} \sin \theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{12} \tan \theta_{23}]$$

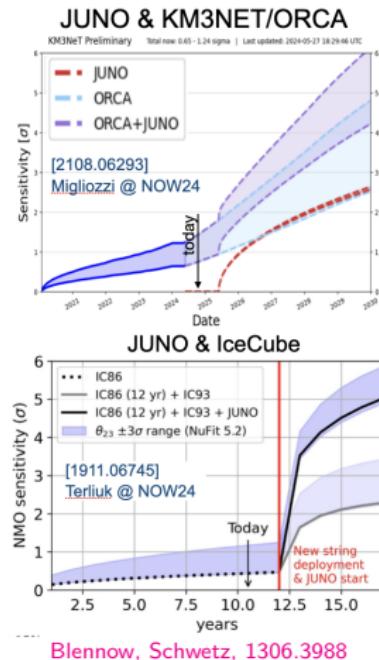
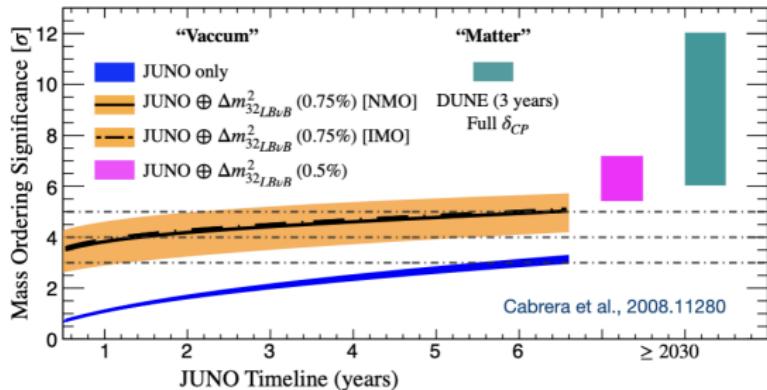
Determining the mass ordering - 3

- ▶ Determination of $|\Delta m_{31}^2|$ from ν_e and ν_μ disappearance

Nunokawa, Parke, Zukanovich Funchal, hep-ph/0503283

- ▶ starts being relevant in current data
- ▶ will become more important with JUNO

JUNO & long-baseline experiments



Outline

Lepton mixing

Neutrino oscillation fundamentals

Oscillations in vacuum

QFT approach to neutrino oscillations

Coherence requirements for oscillations

Oscillations in matter

Varying matter density and MSW

Global data and 3-flavour oscillations

Qualitative picture

Global analysis

δ_{CP} and mass ordering

Summary and concluding comments

Concluding comments

- ▶ global data on neutrino oscillations is (mostly) consistent with 3-flavour oscillations
- ▶ at least two neutrinos are massive
- ▶ typical mass scales

$$\sqrt{\Delta m_{21}^2} \sim 0.0086 \text{ eV}$$

$$\sqrt{\Delta m_{31}^2} \sim 0.05 \text{ eV}$$

are much smaller than all other fermion masses

- ▶ all three mixing angles are measured with reasonable precision
- ▶ lepton mixing is VERY different from quark mixing

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The SM flavour puzzle

Lepton mixing:

$$\theta_{12} \approx 33^\circ$$

$$\theta_{23} \approx 45^\circ$$

$$\theta_{13} \approx 9^\circ$$

$$U_{PMNS} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{O}(1) & \mathcal{O}(1) & \epsilon \\ \mathcal{O}(1) & \mathcal{O}(1) & \mathcal{O}(1) \\ \mathcal{O}(1) & \mathcal{O}(1) & \mathcal{O}(1) \end{pmatrix}$$

Quark mixing:

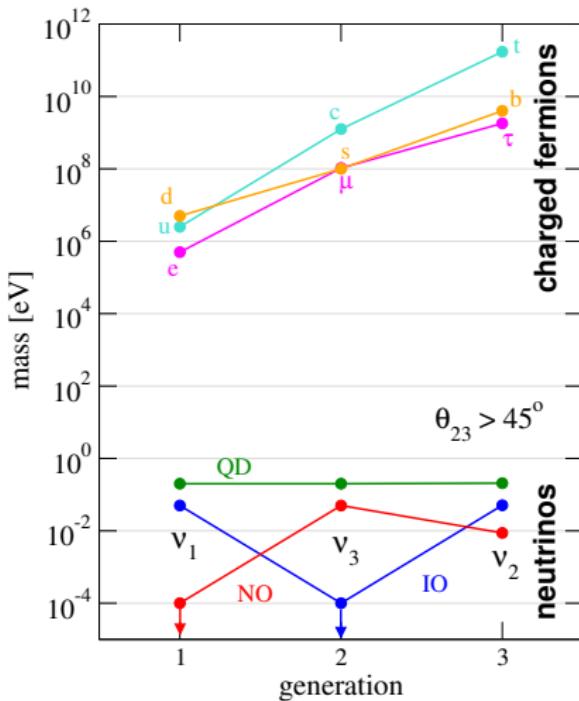
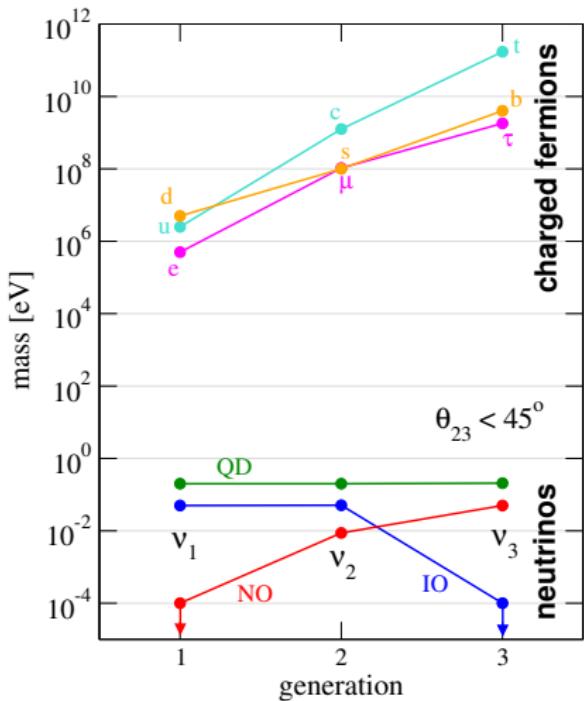
$$\theta_{12} \approx 13^\circ$$

$$\theta_{23} \approx 2^\circ$$

$$\theta_{13} \approx 0.2^\circ$$

$$U_{CKM} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \epsilon & \epsilon \\ \epsilon & 1 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon & \epsilon & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The SM flavour puzzle



Concluding comments

open questions for oscillation experiments:

- ▶ identify neutrino mass ordering
- ▶ establish leptonic CP violation
- ▶ precision measurements (e.g., $\theta_{23} \approx 45^\circ$?)
- ▶ over-constrain 3-flavour oscillations (search for non-standard properties, sterile neutrinos, exotic neutrino interactions,...)

questions which cannot be addressed by oscillations:

- ▶ absolute neutrino mass scale
- ▶ Dirac or Majorana nature

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