Phenomenology of Light Sterile Neutrinos Carlo Giunti

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Neutrino Oscillations

- ▶ 1957: Bruno Pontecorvo proposed Neutrino Oscillations in analogy with $K^0 \leftrightarrows \bar{K}^0$ oscillations (Gell-Mann and Pais, 1955)
- Flavor Neutrinos: ν_e , ν_μ , ν_τ produced in Weak Interactions
- ▶ Massive Neutrinos: ν_1 , ν_2 , ν_3 propagate from Source to Detector
- A Flavor Neutrino is a superposition of Massive Neutrinos

$$\begin{aligned} |\nu_e\rangle &= U_{e1} |\nu_1\rangle + U_{e2} |\nu_2\rangle + U_{e3} |\nu_3\rangle \\ |\nu_\mu\rangle &= U_{\mu1} |\nu_1\rangle + U_{\mu2} |\nu_2\rangle + U_{\mu3} |\nu_3\rangle \\ |\nu_\tau\rangle &= U_{\tau1} |\nu_1\rangle + U_{\tau2} |\nu_2\rangle + U_{\tau3} |\nu_3\rangle \end{aligned}$$

• U is the 3×3 Neutrino Mixing Matrix





$$|\nu(t > 0)\rangle = U_{e1} e^{-iE_1 t} |\nu_1\rangle + U_{e2} e^{-iE_2 t} |\nu_2\rangle + U_{e3} e^{-iE_3 t} |\nu_3\rangle \neq |\nu_e\rangle$$

$$E_k^2 = p^2 + m_k^2$$

at the detector there is a probability > 0 to see the neutrino as a ν_{μ} Neutrino Oscillations are Flavor Transitions $\propto \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{kj}^2 L}{4E} \right)$ $\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} \qquad \nu_e \rightarrow \nu_{\tau} \qquad \nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e \qquad \nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\tau}$ $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\mu} \qquad \bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\tau} \qquad \bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e \qquad \bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ transition probabilities depend on U and $\Delta m_{kj}^2 \equiv m_k^2 - m_j^2$ [C. Giunti – Phenomenology of Light Sterile Neutrinos – Corfu 2014 – 6 September 2014 – 3

Experimental Evidences of Neutrino Oscillations





Three-Neutrino Mixing Paradigm



absolute scale is not determined by neutrino oscillation data

$$\begin{split} \Delta m_{\rm S}^2 &= \Delta m_{21}^2 \simeq 7.5^{+0.3}_{-0.2} \times 10^{-5} \, {\rm eV}^2 \quad \text{uncertainty} \simeq 3\% \\ \Delta m_{\rm A}^2 &= |\Delta m_{31}^2| \simeq |\Delta m_{32}^2| \simeq 2.4^{+0.1}_{-0.1} \times 10^{-3} \, {\rm eV}^2 \quad \text{uncertainty} \simeq 4\% \\ U &= \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta_{13}} \\ -s_{12}c_{23}-c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & c_{12}c_{23}-s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23}-c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & -c_{12}s_{23}-s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\lambda_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\lambda_3} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta_{13}} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta_{13}} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\lambda_3} \end{pmatrix} \\ & \vartheta_{23} = \vartheta_{\rm A} & \text{Daya Bay, RENO} & \vartheta_{12} = \vartheta_{\rm S} & \beta\beta_{0\nu} \\ \sin^2 \vartheta_{23} \simeq 0.4 - 0.6 & \text{Double Chooz} & \sin^2 \vartheta_{12} \simeq 0.30 \pm 0.01 \\ & P_{\rm osc} \propto \sin^2 2\vartheta_{23} & T2K, \text{MINOS} \\ & \text{maximal and flat} & \sin^2 \vartheta_{13} \simeq 0.023 \pm 0.002 \\ \text{at} \vartheta_{23} = 45^{\circ} & \frac{\delta \sin^2 \vartheta_{13}}{\sin^2 \vartheta_{13}} \simeq 10\% & \frac{\delta \sin^2 \vartheta_{12}}{\sin^2 \vartheta_{12}} \simeq 5\% \\ & \frac{\delta \sin^2 \vartheta_{23}}{\sin^2 \vartheta_{23}} \simeq 40\% & \frac{\delta \sin^2 \vartheta_{13}}{\sin^2 \vartheta_{13}} \simeq 10\% & \frac{\delta \sin^2 \vartheta_{12}}{\sin^2 \vartheta_{12}} \simeq 5\% \\ & \frac{c. \, Giunti - \text{Phenomenology of Light Sterile Neutrinos - Corfu 2014 - 6 September 2014 - 7} \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

Open Problems

- ► $\vartheta_{23} \leq 45^\circ$?
 - ► T2K (Japan), NOvA (USA), IceCube-PINGU, INO (India), ...
- Mass Hierarchy ?
 - ► NOvA (USA), JUNO (China), RENO-50 (Korea), IceCube-PINGU, INO (India), ...
- CP violation ?
 - ► NOνA (USA), LBNE (USA), LAGUNA-LBNO (EU), HyperK (Japan), ...
- Absolute Mass Scale ?
 - β Decay, Neutrinoless Double- β Decay, Cosmology, . . .
- Dirac or Majorana ?
 - Neutrinoless Double- β Decay, . . .
- Beyond Three-Neutrino Mixing ? Sterile Neutrinos ?

Indications of SBL Oscillations Beyond 3 ν Mixing

▶ Reactor Electron Antineutrino Anomaly: $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$

 $L \simeq 10 - 100 \,\mathrm{m}$ $E \simeq 4 \,\mathrm{MeV}$

 $\sim 3.1\sigma$ deficit $\Delta m^2 \gtrsim 0.5 \, {
m eV}^2$ $(\gg \Delta m_{
m A}^2 \gg \Delta m_{
m S}^2)$

• Gallium Anomaly: $\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e$

 $L \simeq 1 \text{ m} \qquad E \simeq 1 \text{ MeV}$ $\sim 2.9\sigma \text{ deficit} \qquad \Delta m^2 \ge 1 \text{ eV}^2 \qquad (\gg \Delta m_A^2 \gg \Delta m_c^2)$

• LSND: Accelerator $\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e}$

 $L \simeq 30 \text{ m}$ $E \simeq 50 \text{ MeV}$ $\sim 3.8\sigma \text{ excess}$ $\Delta m^2 \gtrsim 0.2 \text{ eV}^2$ $(\gg \Delta m^2_A \gg \Delta m^2_S)$

Reactor Electron Antineutrino Anomaly

[Mention et al, PRD 83 (2011) 073006; update in White Paper, arXiv:1204.5379]

New reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ fluxes

[Mueller et al, PRC 83 (2011) 054615; Huber, PRC 84 (2011) 024617]



[see also: Sinev, arXiv:1103.2452; Giunti, Laveder, Li, Liu, Long, PRD 86 (2012) 113014; Ciuffoli, Evslin, Li, JHEP 12 (2012) 110; Kopp, Machado, Maltoni, Schwetz, JHEP 1305 (2013) 050; Zhang, Qian, Vogel, PRD 87 (2013) 073018; Ivanov et al, PRC 88 (2013) 055501]

Gallium Anomaly

Gallium Radioactive Source Experiments: GALLEX and SAGE

Detection Process: $\nu_e + {}^{71}\text{Ga} \rightarrow {}^{71}\text{Ge} + e^-$

 $u_e \text{ Sources:} \qquad e^- + {}^{51}\text{Cr} \rightarrow {}^{51}\text{V} + \nu_e \qquad e^- + {}^{37}\text{Ar} \rightarrow {}^{37}\text{Cl} + \nu_e$

Anomaly supported by new $^{71}Ga(^{3}He, ^{3}H)^{71}Ge$ cross section measurement

[Frekers et al., PLB 706 (2011) 134]



 $E\sim 0.7\,{
m MeV}$ $\langle L
angle_{
m GALLEX}=1.9\,{
m m}$

 $\langle L \rangle_{\text{SAGE}} = 0.6 \,\text{m}$

 $\sim 2.9\sigma$ anomaly

[SAGE, PRC 73 (2006) 045805; PRC 80 (2009) 015807] [Laveder et al, Nucl.Phys.Proc.Suppl. 168 (2007) 344; MPLA 22 (2007) 2499; PRD 78 (2008) 073009; PRC 83 (2011) 065504; PRD 86 (2012) 113014]

[Mention et al, PRD 83 (2011) 073006]

LSND

[PRL 75 (1995) 2650; PRC 54 (1996) 2685; PRL 77 (1996) 3082; PRD 64 (2001) 112007]

 $ar{
u}_{\mu}
ightarrow ar{
u}_{e}$ $L \simeq 30 \, {
m m}$

 $20 \,{\rm MeV} \le E \le 200 \,{\rm MeV}$



MiniBooNE

 $L \simeq 541 \,\mathrm{m}$ 200 MeV $\leq E \lesssim 3 \,\mathrm{GeV}$



- Purpose: check LSND signal.
- ▶ Different *L* and *E*.
- ▶ Similar *L*/*E* (oscillations).
- LSND signal: E > 475 MeV.

- Agreement with LSND signal?
- CP violation?
- Low-energy anomaly!

Beyond Three-Neutrino Mixing: Sterile Neutrinos



Light Sterile Neutrinos

- ▶ Physics Beyond the SM ⇒ right-handed sterile neutrinos
- Sterile means no standard model interactions [Pontecorvo, Sov. Phys. JETP 26 (1968) 984]
- Active neutrinos $(\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau)$ can oscillate into light sterile neutrinos (ν_s)
- Observables:
 - Disappearance of active neutrinos (neutral current deficit)
 - Indirect evidence through combined fit of data (current indication)
- Short-baseline anomalies $+ 3\nu$ -mixing:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \Delta m_{21}^2 \ll |\Delta m_{31}^2| \ll |\Delta m_{41}^2| \leq \dots \\ \nu_1 & \nu_2 & \nu_3 & \nu_4 & \dots \\ \nu_e & \nu_\mu & \nu_\tau & \nu_{s_1} & \dots \end{array}$$

- In this talk I consider sterile neutrinos with mass scale ~ 1 eV in light of short-baseline Reactor Anomaly, Gallium Anomaly, LSND.
- Other possibilities (not incompatible):
 - Very light sterile neutrinos with mass scale <
 1 eV: important for solar neutrino phenomenology
 [Das, Pulido, Picariello, PRD 79 (2009) 073010]
 [de Holanda, Smirnov, PRD 83 (2011) 113011]
 - \blacktriangleright Heavy sterile neutrinos with mass scale $\gg 1\,{\rm eV}:$ could be Warm Dark Matter

[Kusenko, Phys. Rept. 481 (2009) 1]

[Boyarsky, Ruchayskiy, Shaposhnikov, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 59 (2009) 191] [Drewes, IJMPE, 22 (2013) 1330019]

Effective SBL Oscillation Probabilities in 3+1 Schemes

Perturbation of 3ν Mixing: $|U_{e4}|^2 \ll 1$, $|U_{\mu4}|^2 \ll 1$, $|U_{\tau4}|^2 \ll 1$, $|U_{r4}|^2 \simeq 1$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} & U_{e4} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} & U_{\mu 4} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} & U_{\tau 4} \\ U_{s1} & U_{s2} & U_{s3} & U_{s4} \end{pmatrix}$$

- 6 mixing angles
- 3 Dirac CP phases
- 3 Majorana CP phases

but CP violation is not observable in SBL experiments!



Global ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_e$ **Disappearance**



Mainz and Troitsk Limit on m_4^2

[Kraus, Singer, Valerius, Weinheimer, EPJC 73 (2013) 2323] [Belesev et al, JETP Lett. 97 (2013) 67; JPG 41 (2014) 015001]



KATRIN Sensitivity



[see also: Sejersen Riis, Hannestad, JCAP (2011) 1475; Sejersen Riis, Hannestad, Weinheimer, PRC 84 (2011) 045503]

Neutrinoless Double- β Decay



$$|m_{\beta\beta}| = \left|\sum_{k=1}^4 U_{ek}^2 m_k\right|$$

$$m_{\beta\beta}^{(4)} = |U_{e4}|^2 \sqrt{\Delta m_{41}^2}$$

caveat: possible cancellation with $m^{(3
u-IH)}_{\beta\beta}$

[Barry et al, JHEP 07 (2011) 091] [Li, Liu, PLB 706 (2012) 406] [Rodejohann, JPG 39 (2012) 124008] [Girardi, Meroni, Petcov, JHEP 1311 (2013) 146]

3+1: Appearance vs Disappearance

• ν_e disappearance experiments:

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{ee} = 4|U_{e4}|^2 \left(1 - |U_{e4}|^2\right) \simeq 4|U_{e4}|^2$$

• ν_{μ} disappearance experiments:

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{\mu\mu} = 4|U_{\mu4}|^2 \left(1 - |U_{\mu4}|^2\right) \simeq 4|U_{\mu4}|^2$$

• $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$ experiments:

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{e\mu} = 4|U_{e4}|^2|U_{\mu4}|^2 \simeq \frac{1}{4}\sin^2 2\vartheta_{ee}\sin^2 2\vartheta_{\mu\mu}$$

▶ Upper bounds on $\sin^2 2\vartheta_{ee}$ and $\sin^2 2\vartheta_{\mu\mu} \implies$ strong limit on $\sin^2 2\vartheta_{e\mu}$

[Okada, Yasuda, IJMPA 12 (1997) 3669-3694]

[Bilenky, Giunti, Grimus, EPJC 1 (1998) 247]



[Giunti, Laveder, Y.F. Li, H.W. Long, PRD 88 (2013) 073008] [different approach and conclusions: Kopp, Machado, Maltoni, Schwetz, JHEP 1305 (2013) 050]

Cosmology

neutrinos in equilibrium in early Universe through weak interactions:

$$\nu\bar{\nu} \leftrightarrows e^+e^- \qquad \stackrel{(-)}{\nu}e \leftrightarrows \stackrel{(-)}{\nu}e \qquad \stackrel{(-)}{\nu}N \leftrightarrows \stackrel{(-)}{\nu}N$$
$$\nu_e n \leftrightarrows pe^- \qquad \bar{\nu}_e p \leftrightarrows ne^+ \qquad n \leftrightarrows pe^-\bar{\nu}_e$$

• weak interactions freeze out \implies active $(\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau)$ neutrino decoupling

$$\begin{split} \Gamma_{\text{weak}} &= N\sigma v \sim G_{\text{F}}^2 T^5 \sim T^2 / M_P \sim \sqrt{G_N T^4} \sim \sqrt{G_N \rho} \sim H \\ T_{\nu\text{-dec}} \sim 1 \, \text{MeV} \qquad t_{\nu\text{-dec}} \sim 1 \, \text{s} \end{split}$$

► relic neutrinos: $T_{\nu} = \left(\frac{4}{11}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} T_{\gamma} \simeq 1.945 \,\mathrm{K} \Longrightarrow k \, T_{\nu} \simeq 1.676 \times 10^{-4} \,\mathrm{eV}$

• number density: $n_f = \frac{3}{4} \frac{\zeta(3)}{\pi^2} g_f T_f^3 \Longrightarrow n_{\nu_k, \bar{\nu}_k} \simeq 0.1827 T_{\nu}^3 \simeq 112 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$

• density contribution: $\Omega_k = \frac{n_{\nu_k, \bar{\nu}_k} m_k}{\rho_c} \simeq \frac{1}{h^2} \frac{m_k}{94 \text{ eV}} \Longrightarrow \Omega_{\nu} h^2 = \frac{\sum_k m_k}{94 \text{ eV}}$ $\left(\rho_c = \frac{3H^2}{8\pi G_N}\right)$ [Gershtein, Zeldovich, JETP Lett. 4 (1966) 120; Cowsik, McClelland, PRL 29 (1972) 669]

- ► sterile neutrinos can be produced by \(\nu_{e,\mu,\tau}\) → \(\nu_s\) oscillations before active neutrino decoupling (\(t_{\nu_{-dec}} \cap 1 s)\))
- energy density of radiation before matter-radiation equality:

$$\rho_R = \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11}\right)^{4/3} N_{\text{eff}}\right] \rho_{\gamma} \qquad (t < t_{\text{eq}} \sim 6 \times 10^4 \,\text{y})$$

$$N_{\rm eff}^{\rm SM} = 3.046$$
 $\Delta N_{\rm eff} = N_{\rm eff} - N_{\rm eff}^{\rm SM}$

sterile neutrino contribution:

$$\rho_s = (T_s/T_\nu)^4 \rho_\nu \implies \Delta N_{\rm eff} = (T_s/T_\nu)^4$$

- ► sterile neutrino with mass $m_s = m_4 \simeq \sqrt{\Delta m_{41}^2} \sim 1 \,\mathrm{eV}$ becomes non-relativistic at $T_\nu \sim m_s/3$, that is at $t_{\nu_s-\mathrm{nr}} \sim 2.0 \times 10^5 \,\mathrm{y}$, before recombination at $t_{\mathrm{rec}} \sim 3.8 \times 10^5 \,\mathrm{y}$
- current energy density of sterile neutrinos:

$$\Omega_{s} = \frac{n_{s}m_{s}}{\rho_{c}} \simeq \frac{1}{h^{2}} \frac{(T_{s}/T_{\nu})^{3}m_{s}}{94\,\mathrm{eV}} = \frac{1}{h^{2}} \frac{\Delta N_{\mathrm{eff}}^{3/4}m_{s}}{94\,\mathrm{eV}} = \frac{1}{h^{2}} \frac{m_{s}^{\mathrm{eff}}}{94\,\mathrm{eV}}$$
$$m_{s}^{\mathrm{eff}} = \Delta N_{\mathrm{eff}}^{3/4}m_{s} = (T_{s}/T_{\nu})^{3}m_{s}$$



Recent discussion: [Bergstrom, Gonzalez-Garcia, Niro, Salvado, arXiv:1407.3806]

Tension between $\Delta N_{\rm eff} = 1$ and $m_s \approx 1 \, {\rm eV}$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Sterile neutrinos are thermalized } (\Delta N_{\rm eff}=1) \mbox{ by active-sterile oscillations} \\ \mbox{before neutrino decoupling} & \mbox{[Dolgov, Villante, NPB 679 (2004) 261]} \end{array}$

Proposed mechanisms to avoid the tension:

- Large lepton asymmetry [Hannestad, Tamborra, Tram, JCAP 1207 (2012) 025; Mirizzi, Saviano, Miele, Serpico, PRD 86 (2012) 053009; Saviano et al., PRD 87 (2013) 073006; Hannestad, Hansen, Tram, JCAP 1304 (2013) 032]
- Enhanced background potential due to interactions in the sterile sector [Hannestad, Hansen, Tram, PRL 112 (2014) 031802; Dasgupta, Kopp, PRL 112 (2014) 031803; Bringmann, Hasenkamp, Kersten, arXiv:1312.4947; Ko, Tang, arXiv:1404.0236; Archidiacono, Hannestad, Hansen, Tram, arXiv:1404.5915]
- a larger cosmic expansion rate at the time of sterile neutrino production [Rehagen, Gelmini JCAP 1406 (2014) 044]
- MeV dark matter annihilation [Ho, Scherrer, PRD 87 (2013) 065016]
- Invisible decay [Gariazzo, Giunti, Laveder, arXiv:1404.6160]

Cosmological Invisible Decay



[Gariazzo, Giunti, Laveder, arXiv:1404.6160]

 $N_s(t) = \Delta N_{
m eff} \, e^{-t/ au_s} \qquad au_s \sim 2 imes 10^5 \, {
m y}$

Conclusions

- ▶ Short-Baseline ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_e$ 3+1 Disappearance:
 - Reactor $\bar{\nu}_e$ anomaly is alive and exciting.
 - Gallium ν_e anomaly strengthened by new cross-section measurements.
 - ► Many promising projects to test short-baseline v_e and v
 _e disappearance in a few years with reactors and radioactive sources.
 - Independent tests through effect of m_4 in β -decay and $(\beta\beta)_{0\nu}$ -decay.
- Short-Baseline $\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e}$ LSND Signal:
 - MiniBooNE experiment has been inconclusive.
 - Better experiments are needed to check LSND signal!
 - ▶ If $|U_{e4}| > 0$ why not $|U_{\mu4}| > 0$? \implies Maybe LSND luckily observed a fluctuation of a small $\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e}$ transition probability with amplitude $\sin^{2} 2\vartheta_{e\mu} = 4|U_{e4}|^{2}|U_{\mu4}|^{2}$, which has not been seen by other appearance experiments.
- Cosmology:
 - BICEP2 + Planck indication in favor of $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \approx 1$.
 - Tension between $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 1$ and $m_s \approx 1 \,\text{eV}$.
 - Cosmological and oscillation data may be explained by invisible decay of ν_s .