lecture 2

- critical open experimental questions in neutrino physics
- 'Portals'
- the neutrino portal

## v Mixing and mass

# critical questions

#### Masses and Mixings



S. Parke Neutrino 2010

## critical question I

#### • $\theta_{13}$ ?

- if  $\theta_{13}=0$ , indicates underlying pattern?
- if  $\theta_{13} \neq 0$ , CPV possible
- if  $\theta_{13} \neq 0$ , matter effects can experimentally determine hierarchy (goal of future longbaseline neutrino oscillation program)

#### $\theta_{13}$ from Reactor Disappearance

kinematic phase:  $\Delta_{ij} \equiv \frac{\delta m_{ij}^2 L}{4E}$ 

$$P(\bar{\nu}_e \to \bar{\nu}_e) \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \left( \frac{\delta m_{ee}^2 L}{4E} \right) - \mathcal{O}(\Delta_{21})^2$$

where  $\delta m_{ee}^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{12} |\delta m_{31}^2| + \sin^2 \theta_{12} |\delta m_{32}^2|$  $\nu_e$  weight average of  $|\delta m_{31}^2|$  and  $|\delta m_{32}^2|$ 



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## critical question II

#### • δ?

- if  $\delta$ ,  $\theta_{13} \neq 0$ , CP is violated in v oscillations
- not directly related to leptogenesis, but would be likely in most leptogenesis models

## critical question III

- Mass Hierarchy?
  - if  $\Delta m_{13}^2 > 0$ , Hierarchy is "normal" like quark sector
    - $\star$  heaviest neutrino is mostly heaviest lepton flavor
  - if  $\Delta m^2_{13} < 0$ , Hierarchy is "inverted" unlike quark sector
    - ★ 2 heaviest neutrinos nearly degenerate, contain large electron flavor fraction
    - $\star$  clue to underlying symmetry pattern?

critical question IV

- Overall malss scale?
  - Cosmology: upper bound of ~eV
  - mass splittings tiny compared to 1 eV
    - $\star$   $|\Delta m^2_{13}| = 0.0024 \ eV^2$
    - $\star \Delta m^2_{12} = 0.00076 \ eV2$
  - if v mass is hierarchical overall scale is  $\sim 0.05 \text{ eV}$
  - if  $m_{\nu} >> 0.1$  eV masses nearly degenerate

★ degeneracy would be clue to underlying symmetry?

critical question V

#### • Majorana or Dirac?

- Majorana theoretically/cosmologically favored
  ★ GUTs
  - ★ leptogenesis/baryogenesis
  - $\star$  seesaw explanation for tiny masses
  - $\star$  quantum gravity: no global symmetries
- Dirac mass would be a surprise! But
  - ★ have no experimental evidence for any Majorana particle

★ have no verified laboratory evidence for lepton or baryon number violation

#### etaeta decay usually conserves lepton number



Double Beta Decay

#### $\beta\beta$ , no $\nu$ 's violates L, tests Majorana nature of $\nu$



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#### Neutrinoless double beta decay





who cares ?

Neutrino mass is physics "beyond the Standard Model", but . . .

we can account for neutrino mass with right handed neutrinos and/or lepton number violating nonrenormalizable interactions in

"the v Standard Model(s)"

no revision of sacred principles needed either way

### Usual reasons to care about

### Neutrino mass/mixing

- Window into GrandUnifiedTheorieS
- May be related to Leptogenesis/Baryogenesis
- Affects structure formation in Universe
- May affect supernovae dynamics
- Neutrino astronomy affected by mixing
- Use of neutrinos as probe, e.g. geophysical, requires knowledge of mixing parameters

### Exotic Physics beyond the V

#### standard model

- Visible oscillations are affected by tiny GUT scale suppressed operators ('standard' seesaw) and weak force(s)
- Neutrinos can mix with "dark" (sterile) fermions
- Neutrinos can thus experience "dark forces" much more strongly than other known particles
- matter effect on oscillations is sensitive to new forces

 Neutrinos are Special! Neutrino physics great place to search for exotica! Window on the Dark Sector!

critical question VI

Is the standard picture of 3 light oscillating neutrinos, interacting via Standard Model Weak Interactions correct?

## Beyond the

## standard model

#### "We have a Limited Palette" -Sidney Coleman, Quantum Field Theory



- At low energy/long distance Renormalizable (Marginal and Relevant) terms dominate. With Particle/Field content of Standard Model, 19 renormalizable terms are allowed.
  - 6 quark masses, 3 quark mixing angles, 1 CP violating phase, determined by Higgs couplings
  - 3 charged lepton masses
  - 3 gauge couplings, 1 strong CP violating phase
  - 2 parameter Higgs potential gives Higgs vev, Higgs self-coupling (Higgs mass)
- Sufficient for length scales to  $10^{-33}$  cm (if we neglect dark matter, gravity and v masses), tested to  $10^{-17}$  cm

#### Gravity and Neutrino mass

- Add (nonrenormalizable) interactions for
  - Gravity-2 more parameters ( $G_N$  and  $\Lambda$ )
  - neutrino masses: dimension 5 irrelevant term gives 9 more parameters (3 masses, 3 angles, 3 phases)

## Precision Cosmology and

### The Composition of the Universe



## Dark Matter

- Very strong gravitational evidence
- No nongravitational effects seen yet
- Could be almost anything except what we already know
  - Nearly pressureless, collisionless fluid (weakly interacting nonrelativistic particles)
  - No electromagnetic interactions
  - No strong interactions
  - No (suppressed) Standard Model weak interactions
- Most popular and well motivated:
  - (Very) Weakly Interacting Massive Particle
  - Axion

#### Explain rather than describe?

- historical paradigm-from Fermi theory of weak interactions (nonrenormalizable, "effective theory", potentially lots of terms) to standard electroweak theory, 2 gauge couplings (plus Higgs mechanism)
- How to repeat?
  - Inspiration? so far lots and lots of speculation
    - Decoupling--Many more models of fundamental physics than low energy parameters, low energy physics always underconstraining

#### **Experimental Guidance**

- "High Energy Frontier" (LHC,...)
  - Find new particles! Get lots of information!
- "Intensity Frontier" (low energy rare processes, neutrino physics, precision measurement)
  - only a few parameters to measure
    - Overwhelming theory degeneracy
  - sensitivity to high energy  $(1/energy)^n$ 
    - typically n=4
    - have to improve sensitivity by large factor for modest energy reach







Energy Scale



Similar to neutrino access in Standard Model







### What is a 'portal' ???

- in science fiction and virtual 'reality': a useful short cut to another sector.
- in particle theory???
- Two ingredients
  - 1. Dimensional analysis: possibility of a marginal or relevant operator in an effective theory which connects two sectors
  - 2. A long lived particle associated with the operator which can take advantage of the connection to oscillate or decay into the hidden sector
    - Portal is most effective if the long lived particle can mix with a particle of the hidden sector

Escaping Decoupling: Mixing of light exotic and Standard particles via renormalizable terms

- Dimensional analysis: at low energy in the effective theory terms "mixing" standard model and light exotic particles are highly relevant
  - either mass or kinetic term can mix the sectors
  - particle eigenstates are linear combination of standard and exotic
  - significant effects on decays/interactions/oscillations of nearly stable and/or weakly coupled particles



Long lived neutral particles may be portals to dark sector



#### $\nu$ portal

- suppose hidden sector contains a light fermion  $\psi$
- $\psi$  is gauge singlet under standard model gauge interactions
- $\psi$  could have Majorana mass  $M \psi \psi$
- Portal: renormalizable operator  $\lambda h \ell \psi$
- $\lambda$  might be very small, but effects of this operator relevant at low energy
  - origin of neutrino mass? ( $\psi$  plays role of  $\nu_R$ )
  - more interesting if  $\psi$  is light.

## other effects of V portal

- $\nu$  can mix with exotic neutral fermions
  - sterile neutrinos in oscillations
  - nonunitarity in mixing
  - exotic interactions in oscillations
- Can experience dark forces much more strongly than other particles
- neutrino oscillations phenomenally sensitive to wide variety of exotic, very weakly coupled physics

Exotic Neutral Fermions

- many theories have additional neutral fermions which may mix with neutrinos aka "additional sterile neutrinos"
- in general, mixing need not contribute to neutrino mass, e.g. mixing with Dirac fermion does not give a neutrino mass. Sizable mixing angles with exotic fermions are possible.
- If exotic fermions are heavy, get apparent nonunitarity of light neutrino mixing matrix.
- If exotic fermions are light, called 'sterile neutrinos' (no Standard interactions)
- affect neutrino oscillations
- neutrinos can be strongly affected by dark forces

### SUMMARY

- 6 critical experimental questions for neutrinos
- neutrino could be portal to a hidden sector of light, weakly coupled (to standard model) new particles
- portals avoid decoupling



#### Anomalies in $\nu$ physics via the $\nu$ portal?

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