The future of high-energy astrophysical neutrino flavor measurements

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New neutrino telescopes = more events, better flavor measurement



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We will know the mixing parameters better (JUNO, DUNE, Hyper-K, IceCube Upgrade)

*Test of the oscillation framework:* We will be able to do what we want even if oscillations are non-unitary

### Astrophysical sources

#### Earth



# Different production mechanisms yield different flavor ratios: $(f_{e,S}, f_{\mu,S}, f_{\tau,S}) \equiv (N_{e,S}, N_{\mu,S}, N_{\tau,S})/N_{tot}$

Flavor ratios at Earth ( $\alpha = e, \mu, \tau$ ):

$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} P_{\nu_{\beta}\to\nu_{\alpha}} f_{\beta,S}$$

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Standard oscillations  
or  
new physics

### *From sources to Earth:* we learn what to expect when measuring $f_{\alpha,\oplus}$



*From Earth to sources:* we let the data teach us about  $f_{\alpha,S}$ 

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One likely TeV–PeV v production scenario:  $p + \gamma \rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_{\mu}$  followed by  $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ + \nu_e + \overline{\nu}_{\mu}$ 

# Full $\pi$ decay chain (1/3:2/3:0)<sub>s</sub>

*Note:* v and  $\overline{v}$  are (so far) indistinguishable in neutrino telescopes









How does IceCube see TeV–PeV neutrinos?

### Deep inelastic neutrino-nucleon scattering

Neutral current (NC)Charged current (CC)

$$v_x + N \rightarrow v_x + X$$

 $v_l + N \rightarrow l + X$ 

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### *From sources to Earth:* we learn what to expect when measuring $f_{\alpha,\oplus}$



Theoretically palatable flavor regions  $\equiv MB, Beacom, Winter, PRL 2015$ Allowed regions of flavor ratios at Earth derived from oscillations

*Note:* The original palatable regions were frequentist [MB, Beacom, Winter, *PRL* 2015]; the new ones are Bayesian

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Explore all possible combinations

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0.65

0.55

 $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ 

0.60

2020: Use  $\chi^2$  profiles from 2.0 the NuFit 5.0 global fit 1.8 (solar + atmospheric 1.6 1.4 + reactor + accelerator) 1.2 Esteban *et al.*, *JHEP* 2020  $\delta_{\rm CP}/\pi$ www.nu-fit.org 1.0 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 NuFit 5.0 0.400.45 0.50

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Two limitations:

*Allowed flavor regions overlap* – Insufficient precision in the mixing parameters

Measurement of flavor ratios – Cannot distinguish between pion-decay and muon-damped benchmarks even at 68% C.R. (1σ)



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We can compute the oscillation probability more precisely:

$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} P_{\beta\alpha} f_{\beta,\mathrm{S}}$$

So we can convert back and forth between source and Earth more precisely



For a future experiment ε = JUNO, DUNE, Hyper-K:



We combine experiments in a likelihood:

$$-2\log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{\varepsilon} \chi_{\varepsilon}^2(\boldsymbol{\vartheta})$$





2020



Allowed regions: overlapping Measurement: imprecise

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Not ideal

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2030

Allowed regions: well separated Measurement: improving

#### Song, Li, Argüelles, MB, Vincent, JCAP 2021

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NO, upper  $\theta_{23}$  octant, -1.0JUNO + HK •  $\pi$  decay:  $(1:2:0)_{S}$ 0.1 68% C.R. □ *u*-damped: (0 : 1 : 0)<sub>c</sub> 0.9 95% C.R. 0.2  $\land$  *n* decay:  $(1:0:0)_{c}$ 99.7% C.R. 0.8 0.3 Fraction of U.S. F. Fraction of VH1 \$ H1.® 0.40.8 0.2 0.9 -0.11.0 0.0 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.6 0.70.8 0.9 1.0 0.0 0.1 04

2030

0.0

Fraction of  $v_e$ ,  $f_{e,\oplus}$ 

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Success

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*From Earth to sources:* we let the data teach us about  $f_{\alpha,S}$ 

#### Ingredient #1: Flavor ratios measured at Earth,



Ingredient #2: Probability density of mixing parameters ( $\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{CP}$ )



Song, Li, Argüelles, **MB**, Vincent, *JCAP* 2021 **MB** & Ahlers, *PRL* 2019



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# Inferring the flavor composition at the sources



MB & Ahlers, PRL 2019

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#### Neutrino decay

[Beacom *et al.*, *PRL* 2003; Baerwald, **MB**, Winter, JCAP 2010; **MB**, Beacom, Winter, *PRL* 2015; **MB**, Beacom, Murase, *PRD* 2017]



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### Long-range ev interactions [MB & Agarwalla, PRL 2019]

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Reviews:
Mehta & Winter, JCAP 2011; Rasmussen et al., PRD 2017
```



# The high-energy flavor charter



NO, upper  $\theta_{23}$  octant, JUNO + HK  $\theta_{00}^{(1)} = \theta_{23}^{(1)} C.R.$   $\theta_{00}^{(2)} = \theta_{00}^{(2)} d.R.$   $\theta_{00}^{(2)} d.R.$  $\theta_{00}^{(2)}$ 

Fraction of  $v_e$ ,  $f_{e,\oplus}$ 



*Today:* Allowed flavor regions at Earth large, imprecise flavor measurements

2030: Allowed flavor regions shrunk, thanks to JUNO + Hyper-K + DUNE

2040: Allowed flavor regions shrunk + precise flavor measurements *Opportunities for astrophysics and particle physics exist throughout!* 

# Backup slides

Assumes underlying unitarity – sum of projections on each axis is 1

How to read it: Follow the tilt of the tick marks

Always in this order:  $(f_e, f_{\mu}, f_{\tau})$ 



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# New (IC 7.5 yr): First identified high-energy astrophysical $v_{\tau}$



IceCube, 2011.03561

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# Measuring flavor composition: 2015–2040



*Status today:* 

Measurements are compatible with standard expectations (but errors are large!)

#### **Projections:**

*Near future* (~2020): × **5 reduction** using 8 yr of IC contained + thru.

*Coming up* (~2040): **× 10 reduction** using Gen2 and all v telescopes

IceCube, PRL 2015, ApJ 2015, PRD 2019, J. Phys. G 2021, 2011.03561

# Measuring flavor composition: 2015–2040



Song, Li, Argüelles, **MB**, Vincent, *JCAP* 2021 IceCube, *PRL* 2015, *ApJ* 2015, *PRD* 2019, *J. Phys. G* 2021, 2011.03561























By 2040:

#### Theory –

Mixing parameters known precisely: allowed flavor regions are *almost* points (already by 2030)

*Measurement of flavor ratios* – Can distinguish between similar predictions at 99.7% C.R. (3σ)

Can finally use the full power of flavor composition for astrophysics and neutrino physics

# No unitarity? *No problem*



The  $3 \times 3$  active mixing matrix is a non-unitary sub-matrix of a bigger one:

Active flavors



### Additional sterile flavors

The elements  $|U_{\alpha i}|^2$  for active flavors can be measured *without* assuming unitarity

Because the sub-matrix is not-unitary  $(U_{3\nu}^{\dagger}U_{3\nu} \neq 1)$ , the "row sum" may be <1

Ellis, Kelly, Li, *JHEP* 2020 Parke & Ross-Lonergan, *PRD* 2016

# No unitarity? No problem

Flavor ratios at Earth:

$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} P_{\beta\alpha} f_{\beta,\mathrm{S}}$$

Same as for standard oscillations...

... but the probability is computed directly using the values of the  $|U_{\alpha i}|^2$ (instead of the mixing angles)



No unitarity? No problem  
Flavor ratios at Earth: 
$$P_{\beta\alpha} = \sum_{i=1,2,3} |U_{\alpha i}|^2 |U_{\beta i}|^2$$

$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} P_{\beta\alpha} f_{\beta,S}$$

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Same as for standard oscillations...

... but the probability is computed directly using the values of the  $|U_{\alpha i}|^2$ (instead of the mixing angles)

The allowed flavor regions \_ are bigger, but *not much bigger*!



# No unitarity? No problem



# More than one production mechanism?

Can we detect the contribution of multiple v production mechanisms?



Assume real value  $k_{\pi} = 1$  ( $k_{\mu} = k_n = 0$ )

*By 2040, how well will we recover the real value?* [Adding spectrum information (not shown) will likely help]


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$$f_{\rm S} = k_{\pi} f_{\rm S}^{\pi} + k_{\mu} f_{\rm S}^{\mu} + k_{n} f_{\rm S}^{n}$$

$$\frac{\pi \text{ decay: } \mu \text{ damped: } n \text{ decay: } (1/3, 2/3, 0) \quad (0, 1, 0) \quad (1, 0, 0)$$
Propagate to Earth
$$f_{\oplus}$$

Assume real value  $k_{\pi} = 1$  ( $k_{\mu} = k_n = 0$ )

*By 2040, how well will we recover the real value?* [Adding spectrum information (not shown) will likely help]







1.0

0.8

0.9



1.0



1.0

0.8 0.9

If sources have strong magnetic fields, charged particles cool via synchrotron:

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#### Proton cooling

Induce a high-energy cut-off in the emitted v spectrum:

$$\begin{split} E_{\nu}^{\prime 2} \frac{dN_{\nu}}{dE_{\nu}^{\prime}} &\propto E_{\nu}^{\prime 2-\alpha_{\nu}} e^{-E_{\nu}^{\prime}/E_{\nu}^{\prime \max}} \\ E_{\nu}^{\max} &\approx \frac{10^{10} \Gamma \text{ GeV}}{\sqrt{B^{\prime}/\text{G}}} \qquad \overbrace{p+\gamma(p) \rightarrow \pi^{+} \rightarrow \mu^{+} + \nu_{\mu}} \\ & \downarrow \bar{\nu}_{\mu} + e^{+} + \nu_{e} \end{split}$$

If sources have strong magnetic fields, charged particles cool via synchrotron:

#### Proton cooling

Induce a high-energy cut-off in the emitted v spectrum:

Muon cooling

Change flavor composition:

$$(f_{e,\mathrm{S}}, f_{\mu,\mathrm{S}}, f_{\tau,\mathrm{S}}) = \begin{cases} (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 0), & \text{if } E_{\nu} < E_{\nu,\mu}^{\mathrm{sync}} \\ (0, 1, 0), & \text{if } E_{\nu} \ge E_{\nu,\mu}^{\mathrm{sync}} \end{cases}$$
$$E_{\nu,\mu}^{\mathrm{sync}} \approx 10^{9} \Gamma \frac{\mathrm{G}}{B'} \mathrm{GeV}$$
$$\rightarrow \pi^{+} \rightarrow \mu^{+} + \nu_{\mu}$$
$$\downarrow \overline{\nu}_{\mu} + e^{+} + \nu_{e}$$

If sources have strong magnetic fields, charged particles cool via synchrotron:

#### Proton cooling

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$$E_{\nu}^{\max} \approx \frac{10^{10} \Gamma \text{ GeV}}{\sqrt{B'/\text{G}}} \qquad (p+\gamma(p) \rightarrow \pi)$$

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$$E_{\nu,\mu}^{\mathrm{sync}} \approx 10^{9} \Gamma \frac{\mathrm{G}}{B'} \mathrm{GeV}$$
$$\tau^{+} \rightarrow \mu^{+} + \nu_{\mu}$$
$$\rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\mu} + e^{+} + \nu_{e}$$

Pion cooling  
Steepen the v spectrum: 
$$\alpha_{\nu} = \begin{cases} \gamma, & \text{if } E_{\nu} < E_{\nu,\pi}^{\text{sync}} \\ \gamma+2, & \text{if } E_{\nu} \ge E_{\nu,\pi}^{\text{sync}} \end{cases}$$
$$E_{\nu,\pi}^{\text{sync}} \approx 10^{10} \Gamma \frac{\text{G}}{B'} \text{ GeV}$$







See also: Winter, PRD 2013

## Energy dependence of the flavor composition?

Different neutrino production channels accessible at different energies –



TP13: py model, target photons from e<sup>-</sup>e<sup>+</sup> annihilation [Hümmer+, Astropart. Phys. 2010]
 Will be difficult to resolve [Kashti, Waxman, PRL 2005; Lipari, Lusignoli, Meloni, PRD 2007]

## Energy dependence of flavor ratios – in IceCube-Gen2 Measured:



# Energy dependence of flavor ratios – in IceCube-Gen2 Measured: Inferred (at sources):







#### Flavor composition – a few source choices

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Ackermann, **MB**, *et al.*, Astro2020 Survey (1903.04333) Based on: **MB**, Beacom, Winter *PRL* 2015













## Side note: Improving flavor-tagging using *echoes*

Late-time light (*echoes*) from muon decays and neutron captures can separate showers made by  $v_e$  and  $v_{\tau}$  –



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## Hadronic vs. electromagnetic showers



#### Are neutrinos forever?

In the Standard Model (vSM), neutrinos are essentially stable (τ > 10<sup>36</sup> yr):
 One-photon decay (v<sub>i</sub> → v<sub>j</sub> + γ): τ > 10<sup>36</sup> (m<sub>i</sub>/eV)<sup>-5</sup> yr
 Two-photon decay (v<sub>i</sub> → v<sub>j</sub> + γ + γ): τ > 10<sup>57</sup> (m<sub>i</sub>/eV)<sup>-9</sup> yr
 Three-neutrino decay (v<sub>i</sub> → v<sub>i</sub> + v<sub>k</sub> + v<sub>k</sub>): τ > 10<sup>55</sup> (m<sub>i</sub>/eV)<sup>-5</sup> yr

► BSM decays may have significantly higher rates:  $v_i \rightarrow v_j + \phi$ 

**φ**: Nambu-Goldstone boson of a broken symmetry (*e.g.*, Majoron)

We work in a model-independent way: the nature of φ is unimportant if it is invisible to neutrino detectors

#### Flavor content of neutrino mass eigenstates


Neutrinos propagate as an incoherent mix of  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ ,  $v_3$  —



### Measuring the neutrino lifetime

Earth



#### Measuring the neutrino lifetime

Earth





Baerwald, **MB**, Winter, *JCAP* 2012





## Using unitarity to constrain new physics

 $H_{tot} = H_{std} + H_{NP}$ 

New mixing angles unconstrained

- Use unitarity  $(U_{NP}U_{NP}^{\dagger} = 1)$  to bound all possible flavor ratios at Earth
- Can be used as prior in new-physics searches in IceCube

Ahlers, **MB**, Mu, *PRD* 2018 See also: Xu, He, Rodejohann, *JCAP* 2014



# How to fill out the flavor triangle?

 $H_{\text{tot}} = H_{\text{std}} + H_{\text{NP}} \qquad (I$   $H_{\text{std}} = \frac{1}{2E} U_{\text{PMNS}}^{\dagger} \operatorname{diag} \left( 0, \Delta m_{21}^{2}, \Delta m_{31}^{2} \right) U_{\text{PMNS}} \qquad (I$   $H_{\text{NP}} = \sum_{n} \left( \frac{E}{\Lambda_{n}} \right)^{n} U_{n}^{\dagger} \operatorname{diag} \left( O_{n,1}, O_{n,2}, O_{n,3} \right) U_{n}$ 

This can populate *all* of the triangle –

► Use current atmospheric bounds on  $O_{n,i}$ :  $O_0 < 10^{-23}$  GeV,  $O_1/\Lambda_1 < 10^{-27}$  GeV

Sample the unknown new mixing angles





# How to fill out the flavor triangle?

0.0.1.0 For n = 0 $H_{\text{tot}} = H_{\text{std}} + H_{\text{NP}}$ (similar for n = 1) (1:2:0)(1:0:0) $H_{\text{std}} = \frac{1}{2F} U_{\text{PMNS}}^{\dagger} \operatorname{diag} \left(0, \Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{31}^2\right) U_{\text{PMNS}}$ 8.0 ().2(0:1:0)(0:0:1) $H_{\rm NP} = \sum \left(\frac{E}{\Lambda_n}\right)^n U_n^{\dagger} \operatorname{diag}\left(O_{n,1}, O_{n,2}, O_{n,3}\right) U_n$ 0.4 0.6 Q E Ø This can populate *all* of the triangle – 0.6 0.4• Use current atmospheric bounds on  $O_{n,i}$ :  $O_0 < 10^{-23}$  GeV,  $O_1/\Lambda_1 < 10^{-27}$  GeV 0.8 0.2Sample the unknown new mixing angles 0.00.2 0.40.60.8 0.0 1.0 $lpha_{e}^{\,\oplus}$ See also: Ahlers, MB, Mu, PRD 2018; Rasmusen et al., PRD 2017; MB, Beacom, Winter PRL 2015;

**MB**, Gago, Peña-Garay JCAP 2010; Bazo, **MB**, Gago, Miranda IJMPA 2009; + many others













