

SNO+: A detector for neutrinoless double beta decay, low energy solar neutrinos, and geoneutrinos.

> Aksel Hallin June 13, 2008

The Universe



Figure 1. The mass composition of the Universe, from http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/media/080998/080998 Universe Content

Astroparticle physics is summarized neatly by the study

Connecting Quarks with the Cosmos: Eleven Science Questions for the New Century

1. What is the dark matter? **SNOLAB**

2. What is the nature of the dark energy?

3. How did the universe begin? **SNOLAB**

- 4. Did Einstein have the last word on gravity?
- 5. What are the masses of the neutrinos, and how have they shaped the evolution of the universe? < SNOLAB
- 6. How do cosmic accelerators work and what are they accelerating?
- 7. Are protons unstable?
- 8. Are there new states of matter at exceedingly high density and temperature?
- 9. Are there additional spacetime dimensions?

10. How were the elements from iron to uranium made? < SNOLAB

- 11. Is a new theory of matter and light needed at the highest energies? specific element of the third question is:
- 3b. Why is the Universe made of matter and not antimatter and how did this asymmetry arise? < SNOLAB

and a related element of the tenth question is:

10b. What role do neutrinos play in supernova explosions and how does this process affect the synthesis of heavy elements? < SNOLAB

Two main thrusts for SNOLAB science

What is the nature of Dark Matter?

Direct dark matter searches

- What are the character and interactions of neutrinos, and how do they affect cosmology and astrophysics?
 - Double beta decay (mass, are neutrinos their own antiparticles, leptogenesis?)
 - Solar neutrino interactions



DISTRIBUTION OF DARK MATTER IN NGC 3198



Dark Matter





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Surface Facility



Underground Laboratory

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2km overburden (6000mwe)



SNOLAB Underground Facility

3,000m² / 30,000 m³ experimental halls class 2000 clean rooms. Intended to house 3 major experiments (10-20m) + 2-3 medium scale (5m)

2km depth = 6000mwe over burden



DEAP/Clean 3600 Detector

3600 kg LAr, 1000 kg fiducial

85 cm radius, 3.8 cm thick acrylic sphere: 100% of inside coated with TPB wavelength shifter Radon barrier Clean Primary LAr containment









Backgrounds and the design

- Liquid circulation: to remove LAr contamination (no suspended particles > 8 microns)
- Acrylic vessel: allows radon isolation, resurfacing (need factor of ~1000 over "normal surfaces")
- Large FV, large light collection, 100% TPB, reflector on AV: to remove remaining surface recoils and for PSD
- Acrylic shield for neutrons
- Water shield/veto for muons

DEAP - Dark matter Experiment with Argon and Pulse-shape-discrimination M.G.Boulay and A.Hime, Astroparticle Physics <u>25</u>, 179 (2006)



WIMP Sensitivity with argon



For nominal threshold of 20 keV visible energy, 1000 kg LAr for 3 years is sensitive to 10^{-46} cm²





SNO



- Ended data taking 28 Nov 2006
- Most heavy water returned June 2007
- Finish decommissioning end of 2007







🖉 PETRESA CANADA

Linear Alkylbenzene

Fill with Liquid Scintillator

- SNO plus liquid scintillator physics program
 - double beta decay
 - pep and CNO low energy solar neutrinos
 tests the neutrino-matter interaction, sensitive to new physics
 - geo-neutrinos
 - 240 km baseline reactor neutrino oscillations
 - supernova neutrinos

There has been remarkable progress in understanding *neutrinos*

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} \\ U_{r1} & U_{r2} & U_{r3} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U_{MNSP} \text{ Matrix}$$
Additional CP Phases for Majorana Neutrinos
$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\theta_{23} & \sin\theta_{23} \\ 0 & -\sin\theta_{23} & \cos\theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta_{13} & 0 & e^{-i\delta_{CP}} \sin\theta_{13} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -e^{i\delta_{CP}} \sin\theta_{13} & 0 & \cos\theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta_{12} & \sin\theta_{12} & 0 \\ -\sin\theta_{12} & \cos\theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ e^{i\alpha/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ e^{i\alpha/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ e^{i\alpha/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ e^{i\alpha/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ e^{i\alpha/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha/2+i\beta} \end{pmatrix}$$
We have also measured
$$\Delta m_{12}^2 \text{ and } \Delta m_{23}^2$$

$$Me have also measured \Delta m_{23}^2$$
Neutrinos have emerged as among the most effective probes into the nature of higher unification, its symmetries and mass

scales

Majorana Neutrino Mass & GUT Scale



 $m_{oldsymbol{
u}} \ll m_{oldsymbol{\ell}}, m_{oldsymbol{q}}$





Allowed Phase Space for a Majorana Neutrino Mass



SNO+ Double Beta Decay

- SNO+ with Nd-loaded liquid scintillator
 - …also called SNO++



- 0.1% Nd in 1000 tons of scintillator
 - with natural Nd corresponds to 56 kg of ¹⁵⁰Nd isotope
- sensitivity below 100 meV with natural Nd
- meters of ultra-low background self-shielding against gammas and neutrons
 - leads to well-defined background model
- liquid detector allows for additional *in-situ* purification
- possibility to enrich neodymium at French AVLIS facility 26

What Do Scintillators Offer?

- "economical" way to build a detector with a large amount of isotope
- several isotopes can be made into (or put in) a scintillator
- ultra-low background environment can be achieved (e.g. phototubes stand off from the scintillator, self-shielding of fiducial volume)
- with a liquid scintillator, possibility to purify *in-situ* to further reduce backgrounds

Why ¹⁵⁰Nd?

3.37 MeV endpoint (2nd highest of all ββ isotopes) above most backgrounds from natural radioactivity

- **\square** largest phase space factor of all $\beta\beta$ isotopes
 - factor of 33 greater compared with ⁷⁶Ge
 - for the same effective Majorana neutrino mass, the $0\nu\beta\beta$ rate in ^{150}Nd is the fastest

□ cost of NdCl₃ is \$86,000 for 1 ton (not expensive)

upcoming experiments use Ge, Xe, Te; we can deploy a large and comparable amount of Nd

How Does ¹⁵⁰Nd Compare?

- □ 56 kg of ¹⁵⁰Nd is equivalent to:
- considering only the phase space factor
 - ~220 kg of ¹³⁶Xe
 - ~230 kg of ¹³⁰Te
 - ~950 kg of ⁷⁶Ge
- including QRPA matrix element calculations
 - ~1500 kg of ¹³⁶Xe
 - ~400 kg of ¹³⁰Te
 - ~570 kg of ⁷⁶Ge

thanks L. Simard and F. Piquemal

$0\nu\beta\beta$ Signal for $\langle m_{\nu} \rangle = 0.150 \text{ eV}$



56 kg of ¹⁵⁰Nd and $\langle m_v \rangle = 100$ meV



- **6.4%** FWHM at Q-value
- 3 years livetime
 - U, Th at Borexino levels
 - 5σ sensitivity
- note: the dominant background is ⁸B solar neutrinos!
- ²¹⁴Bi (from radon) is almost negligible
- ²¹²Po-²⁰⁸Tl tag (3 min) might be used to veto ²⁰⁸Tl backgrounds; ²¹²Bi-²¹²Po (300 ns) events constrain the amount of ²⁰⁸Tl

Neutrino Mass Sensitivity

The D.B.D. Limit as a Function of Livetime



With 10X enriched Nd our sensitivity extends → to 40 meV.

With natural Nd SNO+ is sensitive to effective neutrino masses as low as 100 meV.



¹⁵⁰Nd Scintillator Properties



Nd-150 Consortium

- SuperNEMO and SNO+, MOON and DCBA are supporting efforts to maintain an existing French AVLIS facility that is capable of making 100's of kg of enriched Nd
 - a facility that enriched 204 kg of U (from 0.7% to 2.5%) in several hundred hours



1st test : early 2003 1st full scale exp. : june 2003

AVLIS for ¹⁵⁰Nd is Known

Development of the laser isotope separation method (AVLIS) for obtaining weight amounts of highly enriched ¹⁵⁰Nd isotope

A.P. Babichev, I.S. Grigoriev, A.I. Grigoriev, A.P. Dorovskii, A.B. D'yachkov, S.K. Kovalevich, V.A. Kochetov, V.A. Kuznetsov, V.P. Labozin, A.V. Matrakhov, S.M. Mironov, S.A. Nikulin, A.V. Pesnya, N.I. Timofeev, V.A. Firsov, G.O. Tsvetkov, G.G. Shatalova

SNO+ Nd: Summary

- good sensitivity and very timely homogeneous liquid, well defined background model
 - large volume gives self-shielding
 - Q-value is above most backgrounds thus "insensitive" to internal radon backgrounds thus insensitive to "external" backgrounds (2.6 MeV γ
- Th, Ra purification techniques are effective huge amounts of isotope, thus high statistics, can work for double beta decay search
 - requires exquisite calibration and knowledge of detector response 37

Low Energy Solar Neutrinos



Ga, CI and SNO Data – Distilled

deduce the survival probability high energy: directly from SNO medium energy: CI minus high low energy: Ga minus high, medium

we observe that the survival probability for solar neutrinos versus energy is not yet accurately determined from existing experiments

transition between vacuum and matter oscillations in the Sun has not been accurately determined





Neutrino-Matter Interaction



F is 1-2 MeV

 $\sin 2\theta$ Hamiltonian for neutrino propagation in the Sun

New Physics

- MSW is linear in G_F and limits from v-scattering experiments (∝ g²) aren't that restrictive
- oscillation solutions with NSI can fit existing solar and atmospheric neutrino data...NSI not currently constrained
- new pep solar v data would reveal NSI



pep solar neutrinos are at the "sweet spot" to test for new physics

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Friedland, Lunardini, Peña-Garay, hep-ph/0402266

Mass-Varying Neutrinos

- cosmological connection: mass scale of neutrinos and the mass scale of dark energy are similar
- postulating a scalar field and neutrino coupling results in neutrinos whose mass varies with the background field (e.g. of other neutrinos) Fardon, Nelson, Weiner, hep-ph/0309800
- solar neutrinos affected? *pep v: a* sensitive probe





The Standard Solar Model

Predicts ⁸B neutrino fluxes well, but three experimental issues:

-Metallicity/opacity/helioseismology doesn't agree well

-"Weak young sun paradox"

-Lithium depleted by factor of 160



FIG. 2.—Normalized solar luminosity, $L_{\odot}(t)/L_{\odot}(today)$, vs. solar age for the standard solar model (solid curve) and for three "deficient" solar models: the No Diffusion model (dotted curve), the $S_{34} = 0 \mod (short$ dashed curve), and the Mixed model (long-dashed curve). The luminosity evolution of the Sun is essentially the same in all solar models we have investigated, including deficient solar models. The rms deviation of the deviant models from the standard solar model luminosity is only 1% over the history of the Sun from the zero-age main sequence to the current epoch (see text for more details). The product $L_{\odot}(t)R_{\odot}(t)^{-2.5}$ varies by ±4% over the entire period from the zero-age main sequence to a solar age of 8×10^9 yr, while the solar luminosity itself varies by slightly more than a factor of 2 during this period. In the period between 4×10^9 and 8×10^9 yr, the relation $L_{\odot}(t) \propto R_{\odot}(t)^2$ is satisfied to $\pm 0.5\%$. The solar luminosity has increased by 48% from the zero-age main sequence to the present epoch. The present age of the Sun is indicated by an arrow at 4.59 × 10° yr. [See the electronic edition of the Journal for a color version of this figure.]

Why pep Solar Neutrinos?

stat + syst + SSM errors estimated

SSM pep flux: Solar Neutrino Survival Probability **م**^{*} 0.6 uncertainty ±1.5% $\Delta m^2 = 8.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$ known source 0.55 known cross section (v-e scattering) $\tan^2\theta = 0.45$ 0.5 \rightarrow measuring the rate gives the survival 0.45 probability 0.4 \rightarrow precision test for neutrino physics with low 0.35 energy solar neutrinos, have to 0.3 achieve precision similar to SNO SNO CC/NC 0.25 or better...it's no longer sufficient 0.2⊑ to just detect the neutrinos 2 12 16 18 20 E_v [MeV] Sat Mar 19 17:13:48 2005 pep solar neutrinos: $E_v = 1.44 \text{ MeV}$ observing the rise confirms ... are at the right energy to MSW and our understanding pep v search for new physics of solar neutrinos

¹¹C Cosmogenic Background





Requirements for a Liquid Scintillator pep Solar v Detector

depth

to reduce/eliminate ¹¹C background

good light output from the scintillator

studied the effect of varying the energy resolution; found not a steep dependence

radiopurity

- control of Rn exposure because of ²¹⁰Bi
- eliminate ⁴⁰K internal contamination

Solar Signals with Backgrounds



SNO+ Solar Neutrino Projected Capability

with backgrounds at KamLAND levels

- U, Th achieved
- ²¹⁰Pb and ⁴⁰K post-purification KamLAND targets
- external γ backgrounds
 - calculated based upon SNO external activitiesfiducial volume 450 cm
- pep uncertainties
 - <±5% statistical (signal extraction from background)</p>
 - ±3% systematic
 - ±1.5% SSM
 - e.g. it would be a measurement of the survival probability at 1.44 MeV of 0.55 ± 0.03

pep \mathbf{v} and $\mathbf{\theta}_{13}$

- solar neutrinos are complementary to long baseline and reactor experiments for θ₁₃
- hypothetical 5% stat. 3% syst. 1.5%
 SSM measurement
- has discriminating power for θ₁₃



Geo-Neutrino Signal

antineutrino events $v_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$:

- KamLAND: 33 events per year (1000 tons CH₂) / 142 events reactor
- SNO+: 44 events per year (1000 tons CH₂) / 38 events reactor



Reactor Neutrino Oscillations

Events / 10³² proton-years / MeV

0



SN Neutrino Detection in SNO+

SNO+			vs. Super-Kamiokande	
CC:	$\overline{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$	(260) 41%	$\overline{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$	(7000) 91%
	${}^{12}C(\nu_{e},e){}^{12}N$	(30) 4.7%		
	${}^{12}C(\overline{\nu}_e,e^+){}^{12}B$	(10) 1.5%		
NC:	$^{12}C(\nu_{x},\nu_{x})^{12}C^{*}$	(60) 9.3%	${}^{16}O(\nu_x,\nu_x){}^{16}O^*$	(410) 5%
	$\nu_x + p \rightarrow \nu_x + p$	(270) 42%		
ES:	$\nu_x + e \rightarrow \nu_x + e$	(12) 1.9%	$\nu_x + e \rightarrow \nu_x + e$	(300) 4%

Summary Points

diverse and exciting neutrino physics

- SNO+ double beta decay is competitive and could be leading the field with an early start
- SNO+ is the most interesting solar neutrino experiment to be done post-SNO
- SNO+ geo-neutrinos will be a Nature publication of considerable popular science interest...for free!
- SNO+ reactor neutrino "oscillation dip moves as L/E" will be an easy PRL publication...for free!
- we have the required technical skills in our team
 - SNO+ includes KamLAND and Borexino members and experience
- we have proven SNO operations capability
- much of the development activity is straightforward engineering; nothing all that exotic is being proposed

SNO+ Schedule and Milestones



SNO+ Collaboration

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