Lecture I: Direct measurement of neutrino masses

PhD Cycle XXXIV

Three-Neutrino Mixing Paradigm

 ν_e ν_μ ν_τ



best-fit

2.56(2.54)

7.37

 $\Delta m^2_{31(23)} [10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2]$

Absolute Values of Neutrino Masses





$$m_2^2 = m_1^2 + \Delta m_{21}^2 = m_1^2 + \Delta m_S^2$$

 $m_3^2 = m_1^2 + \Delta m_{31}^2 = m_1^2 + \Delta m_A^2$

$$egin{array}{ll} m_1^2 &= m_3^2 - \Delta m_{31}^2 = m_3^2 + \Delta m_{
m A}^2 \ m_2^2 &= m_1^2 + \Delta m_{21}^2 \simeq m_3^2 + \Delta m_{
m A}^2 \end{array}$$

Parameter	best-fit
$\Delta m_{21}^2 \ [10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2]$	7.37
$\Delta m^2_{31(23)} \ [10^{-3} \ {\rm eV}^2]$	2.56(2.54)

Observables sensitive to m_v

The absolute mass scale can be measured through: (numbers on the right are current upper limits)

- tritium beta decay

 $m_{\beta} \equiv \left[\sum |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2 \right]^{1/2}$ (2.05 – 2.3 eV @ 95%CL)

- neutrinoless double beta decay

$$m_{\beta\beta} \equiv \left| \sum U_{e_i}^2 m_i \right|$$
 (0.06 – 0.16 eV @ 90%CL)

- cosmological observations

$$\sum_{i} m_{\nu} \equiv \sum_{i} m_{i} \qquad (0.2 - 0.7 \text{ eV } @ 95\% \text{CL})$$

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$$NOT \text{ HERE}$$

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(0.06 - 0.16 eV @ 90%CL)

- cosmological observations

$$\sum m_{\nu} \equiv \sum_{i} m_{i}$$

LAST LECTURE

Direct mass measurements

Beta decay: direct v_e mass

The most sensitive known method to measure the electron neutrino mass is by observing the electron spectrum in nuclear β -decay

$$\mathcal{N}(A,Z) \to \mathcal{N}(A,Z+1) + e^- + \bar{\nu}_c , \qquad (14.1)$$

where A and Z are, respectively, the mass and atomic numbers of the parent nucleus.

As we have seen in sections 6.1 and 6.2.1, the electron neutrino, in general, does not have a definite mass, but is a mixture of massive neutrinos. However, following the tradition, in this section we treat the electron neutrino as a mass eigenstate. We will discuss the effects of neutrino mixing in nuclear β -decay in section 14.1.1. The differential decay rate in allowed⁷⁴ β -decays is given by

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}E_c} = \frac{G_{\mathrm{F}}^2 \, m_e^5}{2 \, \pi^3} \, \cos^2 \theta_{\mathrm{C}} \, |\mathcal{M}|^2 \, F(Z, E_e) \, E_c \, p_e \, E_\nu \, p_\nu \,, \qquad (14.2)$$

where $\theta_{\rm C}$ is the Cabibbo angle, \mathcal{M} is the nuclear matrix element, $E_e(E_{\nu})$ and $p_e(p_{\nu})$ are the electron (neutrino) energy and momentum, and $F(Z, E_e)$ is the Fermi

the surrounding electrons). The two factors $E_i p_i$ in eqn (14.2), with $i = e, \nu$, come from the phase-space factor of the final state: $d^3p_i = p_i^2 dp_i d\cos\theta_i d\phi_i = p_i E_i dE_i d\cos\theta_i d\phi_i$, where θ_i and ϕ_i are the polar angular coordinates of \vec{p}_i .

Fundamentals of Neutrino Physics and Astrophysics

massless. On the other hand, if the electron neutrino has a mass m_{ν_e} , the maximal kinetic energy of the electron is

$$T_{\max} = Q_\beta - m_{\nu_e} \tag{14.5}$$

Since the neutrino momentum is given by

$$p_{\nu} = \sqrt{E_{\nu}^2 - m_{\nu_e}^2} = \sqrt{(Q_{\beta} - T)^2 - m_{\nu_e}^2}, \qquad (14.6)$$

the differential decay rate in eqn (14.2) can be written, for $T \leq T_{\text{max}}$, as⁷⁵

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}T} = \frac{G_{\mathrm{F}}^2 \, m_e^5}{2 \, \pi^3} \, \cos^2 \theta_{\mathrm{C}} \, |\mathcal{M}|^2 \, F(Z, E_e) \, E_e \, p_e \, (Q_\beta - T) \, \sqrt{(Q_\beta - T)^2 - m_{\nu_e}^2} \,, \quad (14.8)$$

 \rightarrow What we measure:

$$K(T) = \sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma/\mathrm{d}T}{\frac{\left(\cos\vartheta_C G_{\rm F}\right)^2}{2\pi^3} \left|\mathcal{M}\right|^2 F(E) \, pE}} = \left[\left(Q - T\right) \sqrt{\left(Q - T\right)^2 - m_{\nu_e}^2} \right]^{1/2}$$



C. Giunti – Neutrino Mass: Overview of $\beta\beta_{0\nu}$, Cosmology and Direct Measurements – 14 May 2012 – 4/17

The mass is extracted from a fit to the end-point

Pros and cons

end-point of the electron spectrum is that very few events occur near the end-point. We can estimate the relative number of events occurring in an interval of energy ΔT below the end-point as follows. Below the end-point we have

$$T \simeq Q_{\beta} \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} E_e \simeq Q_{\beta} + m_e \\ p_e = \sqrt{E_e^2 - m_e^2} \simeq \sqrt{Q_{\beta} \left(Q_{\beta} + 2 m_e\right)} \,. \end{array} \right. \tag{14}$$

Ignoring the neutrino mass and the Fermi function, we have

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}T}\Big|_{\substack{T\simeq Q_{\beta}\\m_{\nu_{e}}=0}} \propto \left(Q_{\beta}+m_{e}\right)\sqrt{Q_{\beta}\left(Q_{\beta}+2\,m_{e}\right)}\left(Q_{\beta}-T\right)^{2},$$

and

$$\int_{Q_{\beta}-\Delta T}^{Q_{\beta}} \frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}T} \,\mathrm{d}T \propto \left(Q_{\beta}+m_{e}\right) \sqrt{Q_{\beta} \left(Q_{\beta}+2 \, m_{e}\right)} \,(\Delta T)^{3} \,.$$

The total number of events is proportional to

$$\int_{0}^{Q_{\beta}} \frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}T} \,\mathrm{d}T \propto \int_{0}^{Q_{\beta}} \left(T + m_{c}\right) \sqrt{T \left(T + 2m_{c}\right)} \left(Q_{\beta} - T\right)^{2} \mathrm{d}T, \qquad (14.12)$$

where we have neglected again the Fermi function and the neutrino mass. Since we are interested in an order-of-magnitude estimate, we consider $Q_{\beta} \gg m_e$, which leads to the approximation

$$\int_0^{Q_\beta} \frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}T} \,\mathrm{d}T \propto Q_\beta^5 \,. \tag{14.13}$$

Thus, the relative number of events occurring in an interval of energy ΔT below the end-point is given by

$$\frac{n(\Delta T)}{n} \propto \left(\frac{\Delta T}{Q_{\beta}}\right)^3. \tag{14.14}$$

One can obtain the same result considering $Q_{\beta} \ll m_e$. From eqn (14.14) it is clear that in order to maximize the first considering $Q_{\beta} \ll m_e$.

+ :This method relies purely on
 3-body kinematics, without any assumption on the nature of the

(14.11) end point



The smaller the Q_β, the better for the relative stat error just below the end-point



Predictions of 3ν **-Mixing Paradigm**

 $m_{\beta}^2 = |U_{e1}|^2 m_1^2 + |U_{e2}|^2 m_2^2 + |U_{e3}|^2 m_3^2$







Diana Parno -- The KATRIN Experiment

The KATRIN experiment



The KATRIN experiment



MAC-E filter principle allows for < 1 eV energy cut off

High-resolution β spectrometer





[Beamson et al. 1980; Kruit & Read 1983; Lobashev 1985; Picard et al. 1992]



The larger the spectrometer, the smaller (more "adiabatic") the gradient of the e- momentum
~constant along B lines

 spectrometer acts as an integrating high-energy pass filter by virtue of E field (threshold effect)





- Integrated e- spectrum
- Will measure N(e-) vs electric potential applied
- Measurement up to 30 eV below end-point (Q-value)

First tritium injection: I 8th May, 7:48 am UTC



- Commissioning in past months
 checks of temp and pressure,
 Tritium concentration stability
 whether number of electrons
 over threshold as expected
- absolute residual:
 - observed expected (fit)

expect mv,eff data in early 2019



Main sources of background:

- electrons produced by ionization in the residual gas: veto system in place
- electrons from interactions of cosmic rays: veto system in place
- γ-rays from natural radioactivity emanating from material surrounding the detector and from the detector itself: this is still open (²¹⁰Pb on spectrometer walls)

Backgrounds vary over a large range of energies, β -electrons concentrated. Rely on accurate E determination to separate and reject bkgs



KATRIN's uncertainty budget (design sensitivity, ~2004):



Old projections, but still believed to be mostly accurate

Full sensitivity (σ_{syst} = σ_{stat}) after 3 beam years (~5 calendar years)



G. Drexlin et al., Adv. High Energy Phys. 2013 (2013) 293986

Diana Parno -- The KATRIN Experiment

Physics

Excluding masses down to 0.24 eV possible after 3 years of full beam

15

Electron capture in ¹⁶³Ho





- Q_{EC} function of $m(\mathbf{v}) \Rightarrow$ measurement of E(e) sensitive at end-point
- One sees Auger electron and measures E(e) inclusively, with source = detector
 - no risk of loss or of mis-modelling energy at source
- E freed by de-exciting ¹⁶³Dy has ~lowest known "Q value": 2.8 keV
- *problem*: lifetime! need smart format of detector to maximize statistics



Equivalent of beta-decay but with B-W peaks corresponding to energy levels

Main issues

- Measuring the energy with micro-calorimeters with high resolution
- Estimate doubles=overlaps and their bias on Q end-point
- Keep background under control



 162 Er(n, γ) 163 Er \rightarrow 163 Ho + ν_e

- ¹⁶³Ho source mostly from neutron irradiation of ¹⁶³Er
- decays quickly ($\tau \sim 75$ min) and large x-sec: effective process
- but mind radioactive impurities from other elements emitting below 5 keV!

Microcalorimetry

• <u>Small, segmented</u> devices needed for high E resolution (and to avoid two events overlapping in time in same reading element)





• Exploit super-conducting property to rapidly (but about linearly) change R with T





- •Use film of material undergoing transition at roughly ¹⁶³Ho Q (2-3 keV)
 - linear with $Ec \Leftrightarrow T$
 - generates current read-out
- Electro-thermic feedback compensates increase of I from T
 - forces TES to stay around linear regime

Absorber: Bi-Au or Au + 6.5x10^{13 163}Ho per detector → 300 dec/sec ¹⁶³Ho ion implanted in absorber using dedicated facility at Genoa University

Transition Edge Sensor: MoCu or MoAu superconducting films





Pile-up

http://lanl.arxiv.org/pdf/ 1412.5060v3

- TES have a relaxation time of ~several ms
- Two decays can happen close in time within the same TES element and not be discriminated
 - \rightarrow bias on the E_c measured by summing two processes

spectrum is given by the two event pile-up probability $f_{pp} = \tau_R A_{EC}$, where τ_R is the time resolution and A_{EC} is the EC activity in each detector. This kind of statis-





Fig. 4 Monte Carlo estimate of HOLMES neutrino mass statistical sensitivity for $N_{ev} = 3 \times 10^{13}$ (lower curve) or 10^{10} (upper curve) and with $f_{pp} = 3 \times 10^{-4}$, $\Delta E_{\rm FWHM} = 1 \, {\rm eV}$, and no background.



Fig. 9 Monte Carlo estimates of the effect of various background levels on HOLMES baseline statistical sensitivity.

Effect of statistics

Effect of bkg

Overall this technique expected to currently attain ~0.2-0.4 eV neutrino mass sensitivity ⇒ competitive with spectrometers

Source production and purification: 130 MBq available for tests and experiments Detector arrays characterization:

very good single pixel performance operating microwave SQUID multiplexing next challenge \rightarrow load TES arrays with ¹⁶³Ho

Dedicated mass separator:

facility installed tests of the ion source on-going commissioning on-going

• full scale (starting 2019): 1000 channels, $t_{\rm M}$ = 3 years (3x10¹³ events) $\rightarrow m(v_{\rm e}) < 1 \, {\rm eV}$






Alternative observable: the ECHo experiment



ECHo-100k (2018 – 2021)



Activity per pixel 10 Bq Number of detectors 12000 Readout: microwave SQUID multiplexing

Broadly same challenges and figures of merit to attain sensitivity

PROJECT 8



- Enclosed volume filled with tritium molecular gas
- Add a magnetic field →
 Decay electrons spiral around field lines
- Add antennas to detect the cyclotron radiation

Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES)

Non-destructive measurement of electron energy

$$\omega_{\gamma} = \frac{\omega_0}{\gamma} = \frac{eB}{K + m_e}$$

@ 1 Tesla	ω(18 keV) ~ 26 GHz P(18 keV) = 1.2 fW
$Q = M_{^3H} -$	$M_{^3\mathrm{He}}-m_e=18.58\mathrm{keV}$

B. Monreal & J. Formaggio PRD 80 (2009) 051301

Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES) $Q = M_{3H} - M_{3He} - m_e = 18.58 \text{ keV}$



The cyclotron frequency is encoded in cyclotron radiation

Frequency is something we can measure very precisely – eV resolution demonstrated, sub-eV resolution expected



Cyclotron motion:

$$f_{\gamma} = rac{f_{
m c}}{\gamma} B = rac{1}{2\pi} rac{eB}{m_{
m e} + E_{
m kin}/c^2}$$

 $f_{
m c}=27\,992.491\,10(6)\,{
m MHz\,T^{-1}}$



G. Rybka, Heidelberg, Neutrino 2018



Project 8 Goals

 Demonstrate that CRES can be used to measure the tritium endpoint in a small prototype

(right now, "Phase II")

 Scale to a large-volume system that has sufficient statistics to contribute to the global neutrino mass effort and serve as a intermediate step for an atomic experiment

(near future, "Phase III")

 Transition to an atomic tritium measurement and make the most sensitive measurement of the neutrino mass possible (future, "Phase IV")

Project 8 Electron Event with Energy 18 keV



Frequency increases as energy is lost due to radiation (continuous) and collisions (discrete)

Cyclotron motion:

$$f_{\gamma} = \frac{f_{\rm c}}{\gamma} B = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{eB}{m_{\rm e} + E_{\rm kin}/c^2}$$







Project 8 Projected Capabilities with Atomic Tritium



Atomic tritium should allow us sensitivity to a 40 meV mass scale with 10-100 m³years exposure

G. Rybka, Heidelberg, Neutrino 2018

Back up

The KATRIN experiment





KATRIN **as is** probes the favored parameter space for light sterile neutrinos and is complementary to oscillation experiments

SOX at Borexino

CMB lensing potential

first proposed (AFAIK...):

Phys.Rev. D73 (2006)

045021





LARGE SCALE STRUCTURES



95% constraints on total mass	PlanckTT	PlanckTTTEEE
+lowP	<0.72 eV	<0.49 eV
+lowP+lensing	<0.68 eV	<0.59 eV
+lowP+BAO	<0.21 eV	<0.17 eV
+lowP+ext	<0.20 eV	<0.15 eV
+lowP+lensing+ext	<0.23 eV	<0.19 eV



Cosmological constraints (for more see e.g. seminar by Lattanzi at Roma Tre, 10th Jan 2017)

- cosmological observations

$$\sum_{i} m_{\nu} \equiv \sum_{i} m_{i} \qquad (0.2 - 0.7 \text{ eV } @ 95\% \text{CL})$$



At freeze out the neutrinos had a thermal velocity distribution.

Since then the neutrinos have continued to move along geodesics with a velocity which has red-shifted as a result of the expansion of the universe.

This geodesic movement is called *free streaming*.

These free-streaming neutrinos make up the *cosmic neutrino background*.

Below T ~ I MeV, neutrino free stream keeping an equilibrium spectrum:

$$f_{\nu}(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{\mathbf{I}}{\mathbf{e}^{\mathbf{p}/\mathbf{T}} + \mathbf{I}}$$

• Today $T_v = 1.9$ K and $n_v = 113$ part/cm³ per species

Constraints from the Neutrino Background

In standard cosmologies, the cosmological neutrino background only interacts gravitationally after freeze-out and *all cosmological bounds on neutrino masses arise from* gravitational interactions of the cosmic neutrino background.

The gravitational interaction depends on the sum of the gravity from all of the neutrinos, which is proportional to the sum of the masses once the neutrinos have become nonrelativistic. This is why cosmology constrains the sum of the masses.

➡ Effects:

- They contribute to the recent expansion of the universe identically to dark matter.
- II) Since freeze out they free stream a distance called the free-streaming length. This disrupts structure formation on scales below the free-streaming length.

Free streaming

Velocity dispersion large wrt size of potential well



HOW HEAVY?



Perturbations: free streaming, damping of small-scale perturbations

- proportional to the neutrino energy density
 - the effect is larger for larger masses

Model-dependent: interplay with Λ_{CDM} , H₀

HOW HEAVY?



Matter power spectrum with massive neutrinos (at low redshifts)



[Figure from Abazajian+ 2013]

FUTURE PROSPECTS FROM THE LAB

The absolute mass scale can be measured through: (numbers on the right are forecast for future sensitivities)

- tritium beta decay

 $m_{\beta} \equiv \left[\sum |U_{\rm ei}|^2 m_i^2\right]^{1/2}$

- neutrinoless double beta decay

$$m_{\beta\beta} \equiv \left| \sum U_{ei}^2 m_i \right| \tag{8}-$$

- cosmological observations

$$\sum m_{\nu} \equiv \sum_{i} m_{i}$$

(200 meV @ 68%CL) (Katrin)

(8 – 20 meV @ 90%CL)

(nEXO, 5-year exposure)

(16-45 meV @ 68%CL)

(CORE, CORE+LSS)

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10/01/2017 – Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica di Roma Tre

Mass scale: experimental tools / 1





A. Nucciotti, PSI, Villigen (CH), May 23rd, 2017

Summary & outlook



- β decay allows model-independent, direct access to neutrino mass scale
- KATRIN will exhaust degenerate mass regime: 200 meV (90% CL for 5 yrs of running); reaching sub-eV sensitivity with first few weeks of data
- Interesting physics potential beyond m_v: eV and keV scale sterile v, RH currents, LIV, ...



→ First tritium runs starting in 2018, inauguration ceremony: 11 June 2018