# **Neutrino Science at Berkeley Lab: Understanding Neutrino Oscillations**

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Model-Independent Evidence for the Flavor Change of Solar Neutrinos at SNO



The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) is an imaging water Cherenkov detector located 2 km underground in the Creighton mine in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.



With 1000 tons of heavy water, SNO neutrinos through 3 different interaction channels. Neutrino interactions with deuterium give SNO unique sensitive to all active neutrino flavors.

## First Evidence for the Disappearance of Reactor Antineutrinos at KamLAND



KamLAND measured 61% of the expected antineutrino flux. In the 50-year history of reactor neutrino physics, KamLAND has found first evidence for the disappearance of reactor electron antineutrinos.

KamLAND (Kamioka Liquid Scintillator Anti-Neutrino Detector) is a 1-kton liquid scintillator detector in the Kamioka mine in central Japan designed to measure the antineutrino flux from nearby nuclear power plants. KamLAND detects reactor electron antineutrinos through inverse  $\beta$ -decay of  $\overline{v_e}$  on protons.





In 2002, SNO found that 2/3 of all solar electron neutrinos change their flavor en route to Earth and are detected as muon or tau neutrinos in the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory.

#### **Evidence for Neutrino Oscillations**



Before KamLAND After KamLAND eliminates other oscillation solutions 'Large-Mixing-Angle' oscillation solutio

The observed flavor change of solar electron neutrinos in SNO and the measurement of antineutrino disappearance at KamLAND provide evidence for the oscillation of neutrinos (under the assumption of CPT invariance). KamLAND's result narrows the allowed neutrino oscillation parameters to the 'Large-Mixing-Angle' solution and strongly disfavors other possible mechanisms of

neutrino flavor change.



Ratio of the measured  $\overline{v_{e}}$  flux to the expected reactor  $\overline{v_{e}}$  flux. The dashed line is the expectation for no neutrino oscillations. The dotted curve is representative of a best-fit 'Large-Mixing-Angle' oscillation solution.

**Determining the Last Undetermined Mixing Angle:** A Reactor Neutrino Experiment to Measure  $\theta_{13}$ 

## Understanding the U<sub>MNS</sub> Neutrino Mixing Matrix

#### Past, Present and Future Experiments

Results of the SNO solar neutrino experiment, the KamLAND reactor antineutrino experiment, and the evidence from the Super-Kamiokande atmospheric neutrino experiment have established the massive nature of neutrinos and point to a novel phenomenon called *neutrino oscillations*.

In the framework of neutrino oscillations the mass and flavor eigenstates of 3 active species are related through the U<sub>MNSP</sub> matrix.



A variety of experiments are needed to determine all elements of the neutrino mixing matrix. The angle  $\theta_{13}$  associated with the subdominant oscillation is still undetermined!

solar	θ <sub>12</sub> = 33°	large
atmospheric	θ <sub>23</sub> = ~ 45°	maximal
CHOOZ + SK	$\tan^2 \theta_{13} < 0.03$ at 90% CL	small at bes

Future reactor neutrino experiments with multiple detectors have the opportunity to measure the last undetermined mixing angle  $\theta_{13}$ . Knowing  $\theta_{13}$  will be critical for establishing the feasibility of CP violation searches in the lepton sector.

With multiple detectors and a variable baseline a nextgeneration reactor neutrino experiment has the opportunity sub-dominant to discover neutrino oscillations and make a measurement of  $\theta_{13}$ .



 $P_{ee} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2q_{13} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E_n} + \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E_n}\right)^2$  $\cos^4 \boldsymbol{q}_{13} \sin^2 2 \boldsymbol{q}_{12}$ 



2-3 neutrino detectors with variable baseline

#### $\theta_{13}$ is central to neutrino oscillation physics

- Why are the mixing angles *large, maximal, and small*?
- Is there CP, T, or CPT violation in the lepton sector?
- Is there a connection between the lepton and the baryon sector?

• Understanding the role of neutrinos in the early Universe: Can leptogenesis explain the baryon asymmetry?