Abstract

IceCube has measured high energy astrophysical neutrinos for the first time providing a powerful new probe of the universe, but many questions still remain. I will explore one strange quirk in the data. Despite generally large astrophysical uncertainties, I will show that this tension cannot be resolved with standard physics. The simplest consistent explanation is that some neutrinos are decaying. Finally, I will wrap up with predictions and a path forward.

Finding the Unexpected in IceCube

Peter B. Denton

N-Talk

September 21, 2018

PRL 121, 121802 (2018)

with I. Tamborra

The Niels Bohr International Academy

VILLUM FONDEN

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Neutrino-Talk

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New Probe of the Universe

IceCube has measured

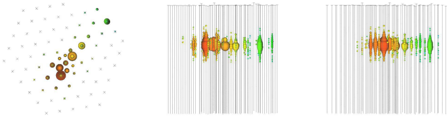
- the first high energy (10 TeV - few PeV) astrophysical neutrinos
- their spectrum
- their flavor at the Earth
- oscillation parameters

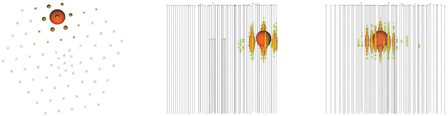
Still working on

- determining their sources*
  - the data is quite isotropic
- particle physics
- ...

*the recent blazar event contributes $\sim 1\%$ to the total flux

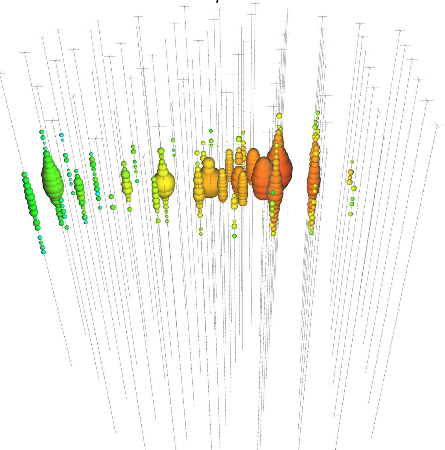
IceCube Measures Tracks and Cascades

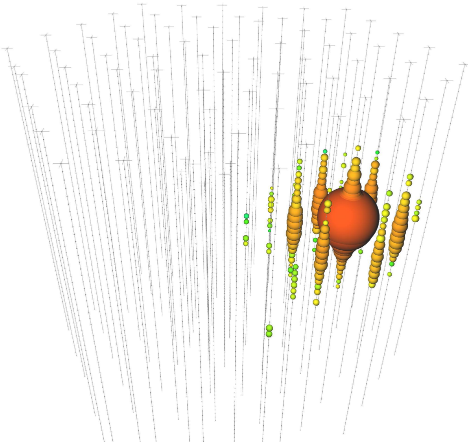




ν_μ CC

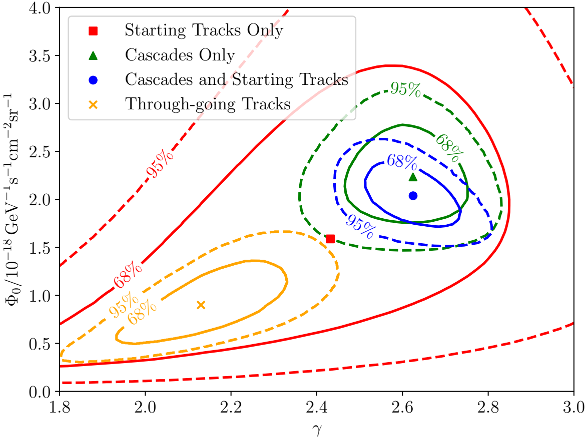
ν_e, ν_τ CC (and all NC)





Tension

$$\Phi(E) = \Phi_0 E^{-\gamma}$$



$\boxed{\Delta\gamma = 0.54}$

"The p-value for obtaining the combined fit result and the result reported here from an unbroken powerlaw flux is 3.3σ, and is therefore in significant **tension**."

IC 1607.08006

"This [cascade] fit [is] in **tension** with previous results based on through-going muons"

IC 1808.07629

Conventional Wisdom

- High energy neutrinos are produced from full π decay
- Flavor ratio at source of 1:2:0 converts to 1:1:1* at Earth
- All neutrinos have the same energy†

*the fact that this ratio is 1:1:1 is coincidental not fundamental

†also a coincidence; kinematic corrections are small

Conventional Wisdom

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Some of these *must* be incorrect.

*the fact that this ratio is 1:1:1 is coincidental not fundamental

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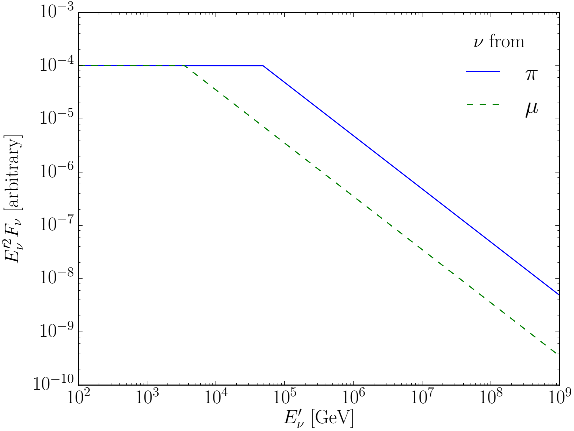
Need a phenomenon that non-trivially depends on
energy and **flavor** at the same time

Muon Cooling

$$\pi \to \nu_\mu + \mu$$

$$\mu \to \nu_\mu + \nu_e + e$$



- E.g. synchrotron
- More ν_μ at high energy
- E_b determined by B field

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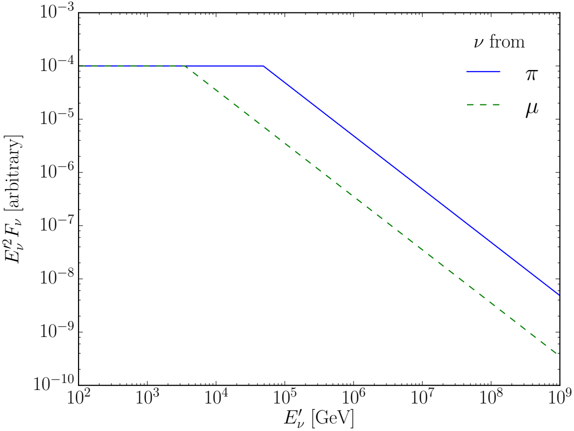

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- This doesn't work at all!
- Oscillations kill this
  - $\mu - \tau$ symmetry
- $\max \Delta\gamma \simeq 0.2$

Other Options

Neutron decay: $n \to p + e + \bar{\nu}_e$

- Produces extra ν_e's
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- Also come from photodisociation of heavy ions

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But

- Neutrino energies are $\sim$ 2-3 orders of magnitude less for $p\gamma$
- Neutrino flux from heavy ions is also suppressed

D. Biehl, et al. 1705.08909

X. Rodrigues, et al. 1711.02091

New Physics!

We need a stronger effect, so we look to new physics.

- NSI with ultra-light mediators ($m \ll 1$ eV)

  A. Joshipura, S. Mohanty hep-ph/0310210

  M. Bustamante, S. Agarwalla 1808.02042

- Pseudo-dirac neutrinos

  L. Wolfenstein Nucl. Phys. B186, 147 (1981)

  S. Pakvasa, A. Joshipura, S. Mohanty 1209.5630

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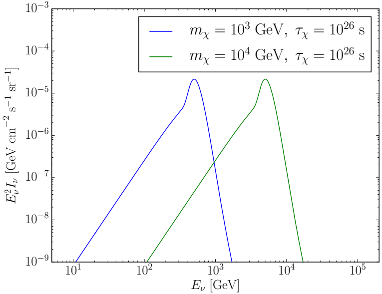

New Physics!

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  A. Joshipura, S. Mohanty hep-ph/0310210

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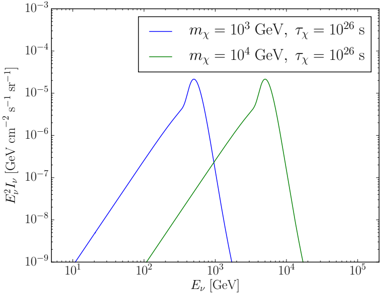
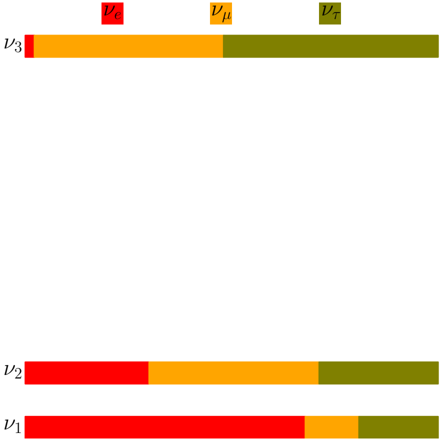
  S. Pakvasa, A. Joshipura, S. Mohanty 1209.5630

- Electrophilic dark matter decay strong but CMB
- Neutrino decay
  strong, 3.4 σ



Some Neutrinos Decay



Model recipe:

1. ν-decay depletes ν's at low energy
2. Want fewer ν_μ at low energy
3. Let ν_2 and ν_3 decay
4. Keep ν_1 stable

*NO preferred at $\sim 3\sigma$

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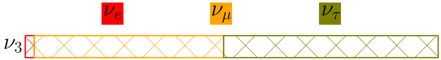
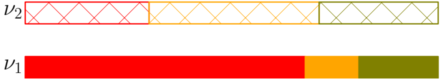


Mr. Stark,
I don't feel so good...



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- Unparticles, …

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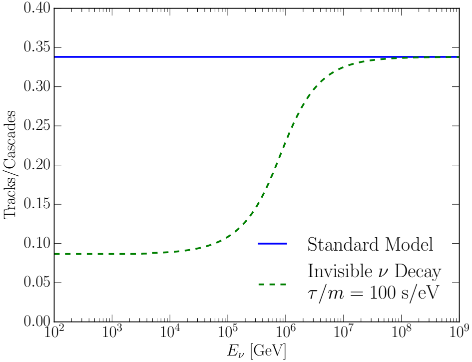
To get *our* model:

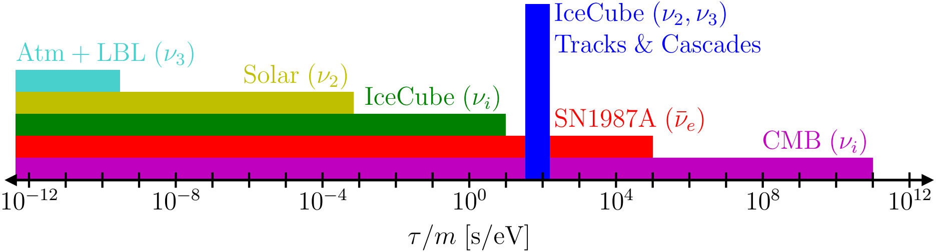
- ν_1 decay is kinematically inaccessible
- Coupling to ν_1 is much smaller
- Lifetime estimated by typical $E \simeq 100$ TeV and $z \simeq 1$: $\tau_2/m_2 \simeq \tau_3/m_3 \sim 10^2$ s/eV

Track to Cascade Ratio (At Earth)



*the deviation from 1/2 as expected is due to SM corrections that are accounted for

Invisible ν Decay Constraints and Evidence



PBD, I. Tamborra 1805.05950

S. Hannestad, G. Raffelt hep-ph/0509278

KamiokaNDE-II PRL 58 1490 (1987)

G. Pagliaroli, et al. 1506.02624

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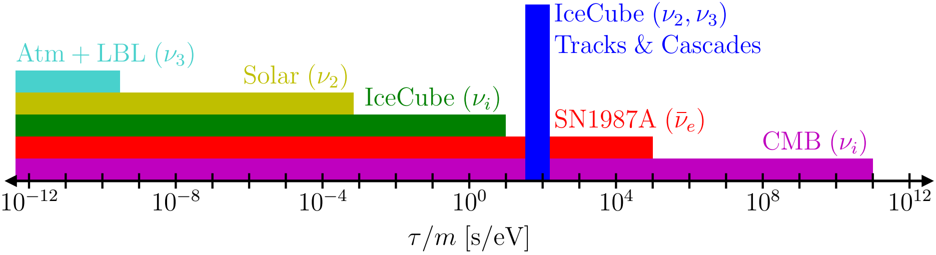

ν_2, ν_3 decay leads to 16% reduction in $\bar{\nu}_e$ flux: SN1987A doesn't apply

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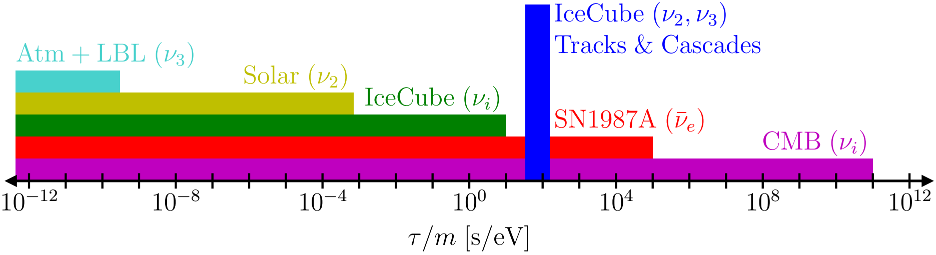

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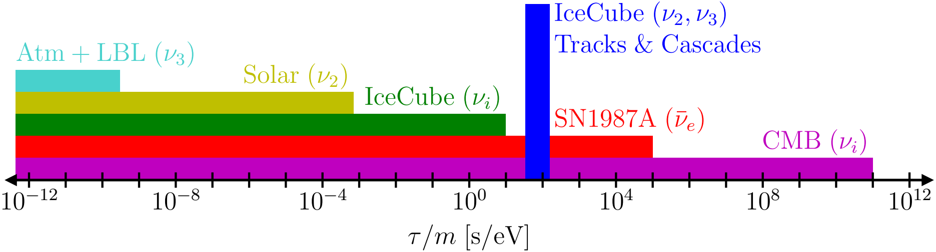

ν_2, ν_3 decay leads to 16% reduction in $\bar{\nu}_e$ flux: SN1987A doesn't apply

CMB constraints assume all flavors decay, < 3 decaying is allowed... and may be slightly preferred

PBD, I. Tamborra 1805.05950

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G. Pagliaroli, et al. 1506.02624

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M. Gonzalez-Garcia and M. Maltoni 0802.3699

N. Bell, E. Pierpaoli, K. Sigurdson astro-ph/0511410

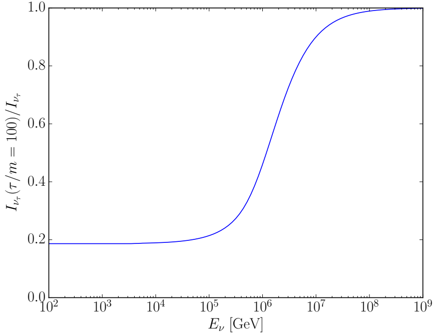
M. Archidiacono, et al. 1404.5915

Deficit(?) of ν_τ Events

- IceCube can *sometimes* identify ν_τ CC
- Should have seen 2-3 events, seen none*

IC 1710.01191

ν_τ suppression from decay:



Multiply with efficiency to find total sensitivity reduced by 59%

* ~ 1 new net event may exist, new sensitivities will be higher

The Message

- There seems to be some tension in IceCube's data
- Inconsistent with standard physics
  - Multiple sources don't help
  - Multi-zone type conspiracies could solve this
- DM is an option, not great
- Neutrino decay works, favored at 3.4 σ

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Looking forward:

- Play close attention to ν_τ searches
- Anisotropy + flavor (DM)
- More flavor + energy dependent fits: BPL

Thank you!

Backups

Neutrino Decay Affects Flavor

The oscillation averaged probability is

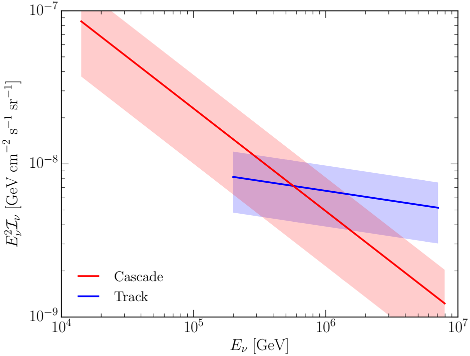
$$\bar{P}(\nu_\alpha \to \nu_\beta) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} |U_{\alpha i}|^2 |U_{\beta i}|^2 e^{-\Lambda_i}$$

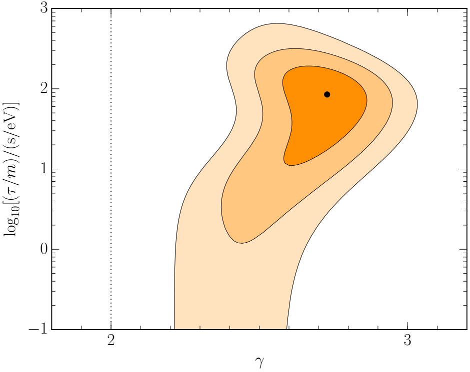
$$\Lambda_i \equiv \frac{d_H f(z) m_i}{E_\nu \tau_i}$$

$$f(z) = \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{(1+z')^2 \sqrt{(1+z')^3 \Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda}}$$

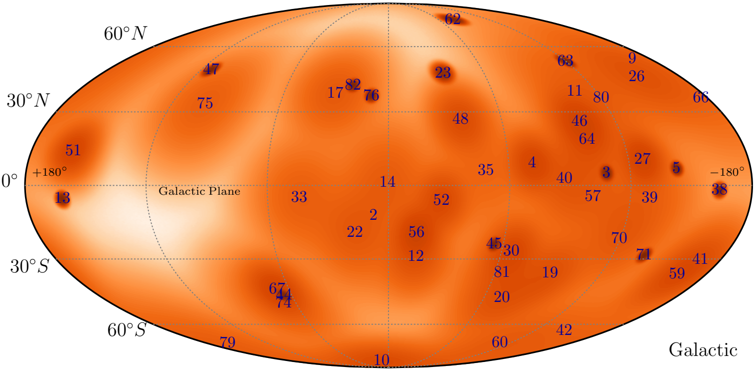
We take $\Lambda_2 = \Lambda_3$ for simplicity and $\Lambda_1 = 0$.

IceCube's Tracks and Cascades





IceCube Neutrinos Origin



$< 9.5\%$ galactic fraction at 90% CL

PBD, D. Marfatia, T. Weiler 1703.09721