

Point sur la situation du projet Super-Kamiokande  
et sur l'engagement des équipes IN2P3  
Conseil scientifique de l'IN2P3

Thomas Mueller pour les équipes ILANCE et LLR

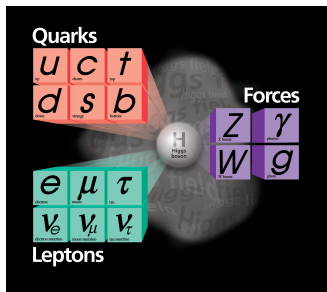
October 26, 2021

I L  $\Lambda$  N C E

International Laboratory for **A**strophysics,  
**N**eutrino and **C**osmology Experiments

The logo for LLR (Laboratoire de Physique des Hautes Energies) is a stylized, red, handwritten-style monogram consisting of three interconnected loops.

# Neutrinos in the Standard Model... and beyond



Super-Kamiokande (1998) + SNO (2001) :  
oscillations  $\Rightarrow$  neutrinos have (different) mass

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = U_{\text{PMNS}} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

flavour "interaction"                      mass "propagation"

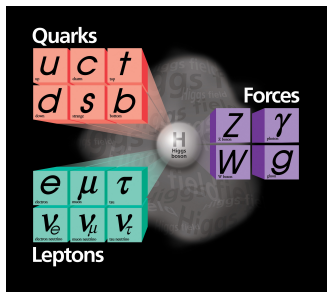


$$U_{\text{PMNS}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta_{23} & \sin \theta_{23} \\ 0 & -\sin \theta_{23} & \cos \theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_{13} & 0 & e^{-i\delta} \sin \theta_{13} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -e^{-i\delta} \sin \theta_{13} & 0 & \cos \theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_{12} & \sin \theta_{12} & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_{12} & \cos \theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

atmospheric  $\Delta m_{31}^2$     solar  $\Delta m_{21}^2$

3 mixing angles, 2 squared mass differences 1 CP violation phase

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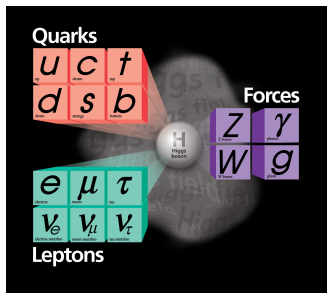
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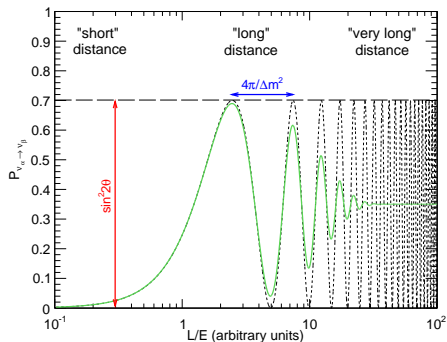
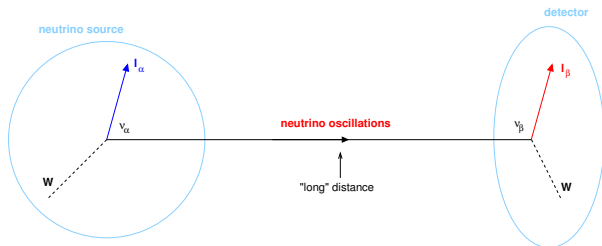
atmospheric  $\Delta m_{31}^2$                       solar  $\Delta m_{21}^2$

accelerators

reactors

3 mixing angles, 2 squared mass differences 1 CP violation phase

# Neutrino oscillation in a nutshell



2-flavour approximation:

$$P_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta}(L, E) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{\Delta m^2 L}{4E} \right)$$

3 flavours : much longer to write...  
but same basic principle

$$\delta_{CP} \neq 0 \Rightarrow P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) \neq P(\bar{\nu}_\alpha \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\beta)$$

Matter-antimatter asymmetry?

# Three flavour oscillation parameters summary

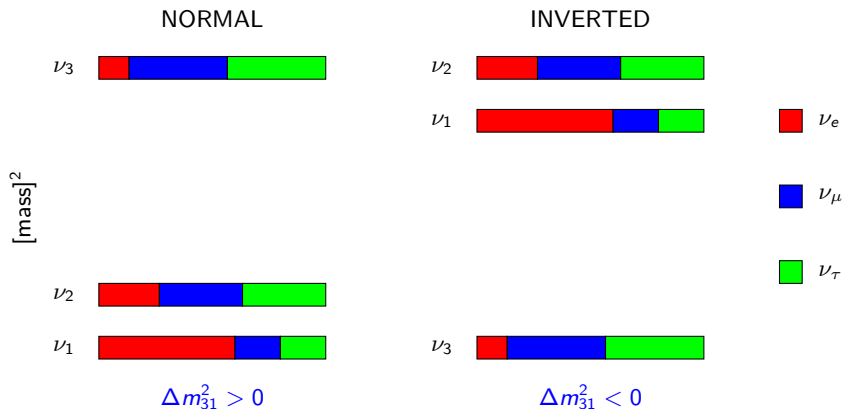
From NuFIT 5.0 (2020), [www.nu-fit.org](http://www.nu-fit.org)

Parameter	$\text{bfp} \pm 1\sigma$	$1\sigma$ acc.	Experiment	Comment
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	$0.304^{+0.012}_{-0.012}$	4.2%	KamLAND, SK, SNO	unitarity?
$\Delta m_{21}^2$ [ $10^{-5}$ eV <sup>2</sup> ]	$7.42^{+0.21}_{-0.20}$	2.8%	KamLAND SK, SNO	
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	NH: $0.573^{+0.016}_{-0.020}$ IH: $0.575^{+0.016}_{-0.019}$	4.3%	T2K, NO $\nu$ A, SK	unitarity? octant? ( $\theta_{23} > 45^\circ$ or $< 45^\circ$ ?)
$\Delta m_{3\ell}^2$ [ $10^{-3}$ eV <sup>2</sup> ]	NH: $\Delta m_{31}^2 = 2.517^{+0.026}_{-0.028}$ IH: $\Delta m_{32}^2 = -2.498^{+0.028}_{-0.028}$	1.2%	T2K, NO $\nu$ A, SK, Daya Bay	mass hierarchy?
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	NH: $0.02219^{+0.00062}_{-0.00063}$ IH: $0.02238^{+0.00063}_{-0.00062}$	3.0%	Daya Bay, RENO, Double Chooz	unitarity?
$\delta_{\text{CP}}$ [degree]	NH: $197^{+27}_{-24}$ IH: $282^{+26}_{-30}$	-	T2K, NO $\nu$ A (w/ $\theta_{13}$ constraint)	$3\sigma$ measurement? CP violation?

Open questions in neutrino oscillations : mass hierarchy,  $\theta_{23}$  octant, value of  $\delta_{\text{CP}}$ , unitarity?

# What is the mass hierarchy?

two possibilities for the neutrino mass spectrum



NB: we know that the mass state containing most  $\nu_e$  is the lighter of the two “solar mass” states  $\Delta m_{21}^2 \equiv m_2^2 - m_1^2 > 0$  and  $\theta_{12} < 45^\circ$  thanks to the observation of the matter effect in the Sun

## IN2P3 involvement in Super-Kamiokande

- 2 laboratories are involved in the Super-Kamiokande project : [Laboratoire-Leprince Ringuet](#) and [ILANCE](#)

Name	Position	FTE	Comment
Antoine BEAUCHENE	PhD student	1	Arrived at LLR in Oct. 2021
Laura BERNARD	Post-doc	1	Will leave LLR end Oct. 2021
Alice COFFANI	PhD student	1	PhD thesis defence in Dec. 2021
Olivier DRAPIER	DR1	0.2	
Sonia EL-HEDRI	Post-doc	1	Left LLR end Sept. 2021
Alberto GIAMPAOLO	PhD student	1	
Michel GONIN	DRCE	0.3	
Thomas MUELLER	CRCN	0.4	
Pascal PAGANINI	DR1	0.8	
Benjamin QUILAIN	CRCN	0.2	
Andrew SANTOS	PhD tracks	N/A	Expected to start a PhD in Oct. 2022

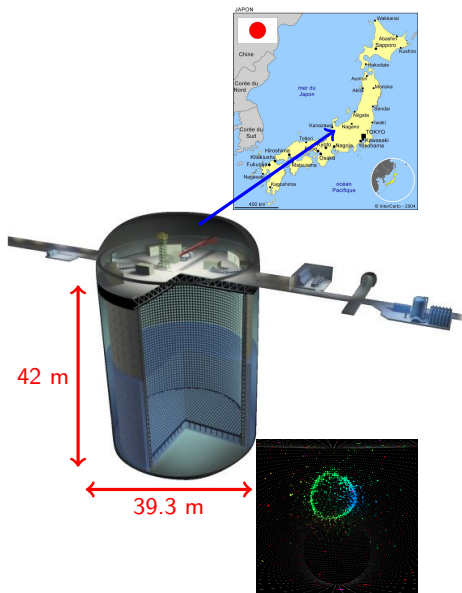
- 2 post-docs + 1 PhD student will leave the group by end 2021  $\Rightarrow$  shrink of our working force



# The Super-Kamiokande experiment (1)

- 50 kton water Cherenkov detector (currently doped with Gd)
- Located in Kamioka, Japan, under Mt. Ikenoyama : 1 km rock overburden (2.7 km water equivalent)
- Optically divided into an inner detector (ID) with a fiducial volume of 22.5 kton and an outer detector (OD), instrumented with
  - ID : 11146 inward facing large 20"-PMTs, 40% photo-coverage
  - OD : 1885 8"-PMTs primarily used as veto

Running for 25 years and still has a lot to teach !



## The Super-Kamiokande experiment (2)

- SK experiment has collected data during 6 phases, **only SK-I to SK-IV** covered in this talk **372.6 kton.years ( $\sim 6000$  days of data taking)** compared to SK-V  $\sim 461$  days and SK-IV  $\gtrsim 400$  days

Phase	Period	Event
SK-I	1996 to 2001	Start of the experiment
SK-II	2003 to 2005	20% photo-coverage after accident
SK-III	2006 to 2008	Full photo-coverage (40%) restored
SK-IV	2008 to 2018	Upgraded electronics
SK-V	2019 to 2020	Detector upgraded for Gd-loading
SK-VI	since 2020	0.01% Gd-doping

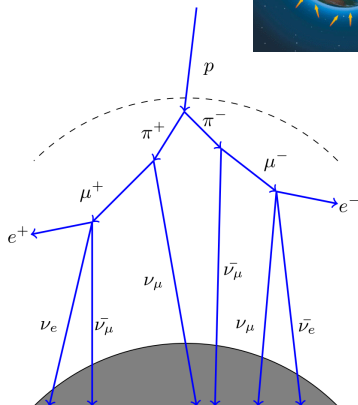
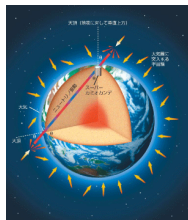
- Highly versatile multi-purpose experiment in the MeV - TeV range : solar & atmospheric neutrinos, supernovae neutrinos, diffuse supernova neutrino background (DSNB), neutrino astrophysics, proton-decay, dark matter + beam neutrino (T2K, covered later by Margherita, Claudio and Benjamin)
- Today, we'll discuss status and perspectives for the physics analysis of **atmospheric neutrino oscillations** (as requested by the Scientific Council) and the **search for the DSNB** (major contribution of IN2P3 to physics analysis at SK)

# Atmospheric neutrinos

- Neutrinos produced by the interaction of primary cosmic rays (mostly protons) with Earth's atmosphere
- **Wide range of energies** from about 100 MeV to 100 GeV
- Produced at  $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ km})$  above the surface and coming from all directions  $\Rightarrow$  **wide range of baselines** from 10 to  $10^4 \text{ km}$
- Flavor content :

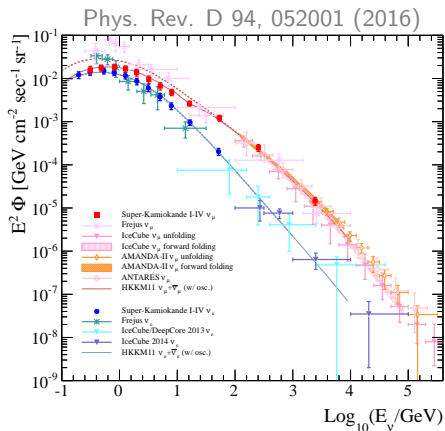
$$\frac{\phi_{\nu_\mu} + \phi_{\bar{\nu}_\mu}}{\phi_{\nu_e} + \phi_{\bar{\nu}_e}} \simeq 2 \text{ below } 1 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\frac{\phi_{\nu_\mu} + \phi_{\bar{\nu}_\mu}}{\phi_{\nu_e} + \phi_{\bar{\nu}_e}} > 2 \text{ above } 1 \text{ GeV}$$



# Atmospheric neutrinos flux

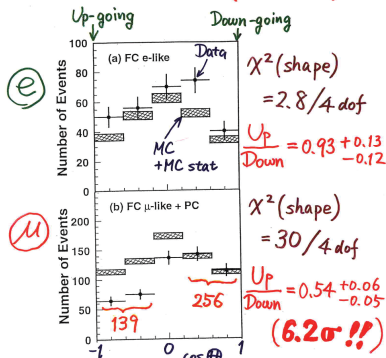
- Detailed simulations are required to compute the neutrino flux taking into account **cosmic ray flux**, complex **hadron interactions**, **geomagnetic field**, **solar activity**, etc...
- On top of that, oscillations !
  - complicated matter effect of neutrinos travelling through Earth
  - appearance of the third kind of neutrinos  $\nu_\tau$
- 1998, observation of a deficit of atmospheric upward-going vs. downward going  $\nu_\mu \Rightarrow$  discovery of neutrino oscillations (model-independent) **2015 Nobel prize**



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## Zenith angle dependence (Multi-GeV)



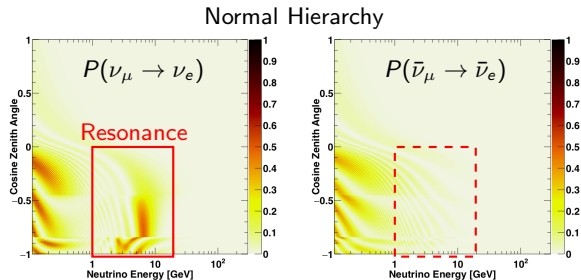
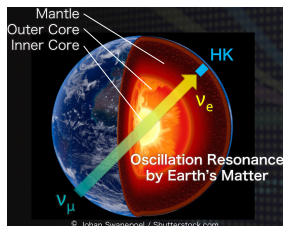
\* Up/Down syst. error for  $\mu$ -like

Prediction (flux calculation .....  $\lesssim 1\%$   
1km rock above SK ..... 1.5%) 1.8%

Data (Energy calib. for  $\uparrow \downarrow$  ..... 0.7%  
Non  $\nu$  Background ..... < 2%) 2.1%

# Atmospheric neutrinos and mass-hierarchy determination

- Mass-hierarchy can be accessed through matter effects, **the longer the baseline, the higher the effects**

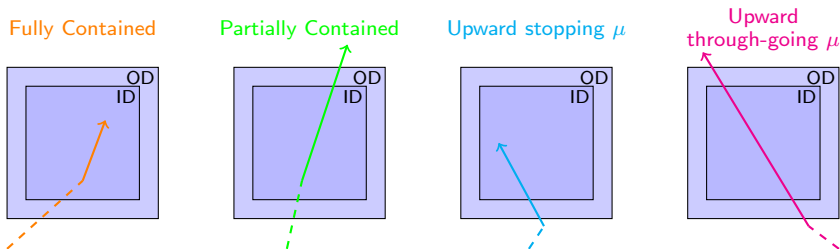


Phys. Rev. D97, 072001 (2018)

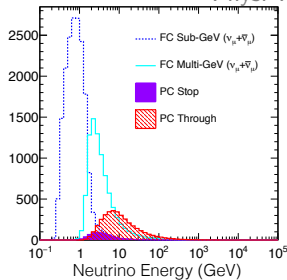
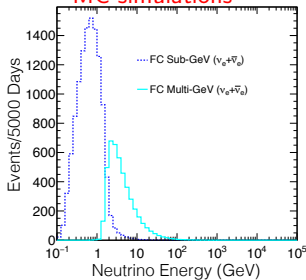
- Mass-hierarchy determined with upward-going **multi-GeV  $\nu_e$  sample** : atm. baseline  $\leq 130000$  km  $\gg$  295 km (T2K/HK  $\rightarrow$  joint-fit) accelerator baseline
  - Normal hierarchy : enhancement of  $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e)$
  - Inverted hierarchy : enhancement of  $P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e)$
- Sensitivity enhanced if  $\nu/\bar{\nu}$  separation

# Event topological classification

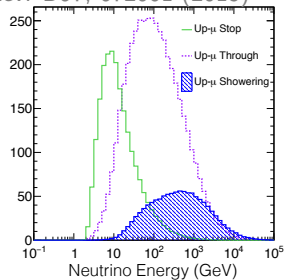
Depending on the topology and ID and OD activities



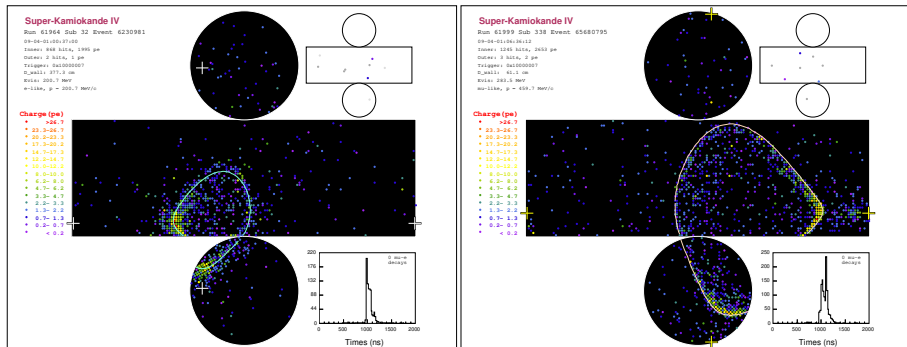
MC simulations



Phys. Rev. D97, 072001 (2018)



- SK excellent PID allows for a clear favour separation



- Events are further categorized according to energies, number of rings, number of decay-electrons,  $\pi^0$  likelihood (+ neutron tagging in SK-IV only)  $\Rightarrow$  20 samples in the end



# Most sensitive sub-samples

Phys. Rev. D97, 072001 (2018)

Sample	Energy bins	$\cos \theta_z$ bins	CC $\nu_e$	CC $\bar{\nu}_e$	CC $\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu$	CC $\nu_\tau$	NC	Data	MC
<b>Fully Contained (FC) Sub-GeV</b>									
<i>e</i> -like, Single-ring									
0 decay-e	5 $e^\pm$ momentum	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.717	0.248	0.002	0.000	0.033	10294	10266.1
1 decay-e	5 $e^\pm$ momentum	single bin	0.805	0.019	0.108	0.001	0.067	1174	1150.7
<i><math>\mu</math></i> -like, Single-ring									
0 decay-e	5 $\mu^\pm$ momentum	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.041	0.013	0.759	0.001	0.186	2843	2824.3
1 decay-e	5 $\mu^\pm$ momentum	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.001	0.000	0.972	0.000	0.027	8011	8008.7
2 decay-e	5 $\mu^\pm$ momentum	single bin	0.000	0.000	0.979	0.001	0.020	687	687.0
$\pi^0$ -like									
Single-ring	5 $e^\pm$ momentum	single bin	0.096	0.033	0.015	0.000	0.856	578	571.8
Two-ring	5 $\pi^0$ momentum	single bin	0.067	0.025	0.011	0.000	0.897	1720	1728.4
Multi-ring			0.294	0.047	0.342	0.000	0.318	(1682)	(1624.2)
<b>Fully Contained (FC) Multi-GeV</b>									
Single-ring									
$\nu_e$ -like	4 $e^\pm$ momentum	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.621	0.090	0.100	0.033	0.156	705	671.3
$\bar{\nu}_e$ -like	4 $e^\pm$ momentum	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.546	0.372	0.009	0.010	0.063	2142	2193.7
$\mu$ -like	2 $\mu^\pm$ momentum	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.003	0.001	0.992	0.002	0.002	2565	2573.8
Multi-ring									
$\nu_e$ -like	3 visible energy	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.557	0.102	0.117	0.040	0.184	907	915.5
$\bar{\nu}_e$ -like	3 visible energy	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.531	0.270	0.041	0.022	0.136	745	773.8
$\mu$ -like	4 visible energy	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.027	0.004	0.913	0.005	0.051	2310	2294.0
Other	4 visible energy	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.275	0.029	0.348	0.049	0.299	1808	1772.6
<b>Partially Contained (PC)</b>									
Stopping	2 visible energy	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.084	0.032	0.829	0.010	0.045	566	570.0
Through-going	4 visible energy	10 in $[-1, 1]$	0.006	0.003	0.978	0.007	0.006	2801	2889.9
<b>Upward-going Muons (Up-<math>\mu</math>)</b>									
Stopping	3 visible energy	10 in $[-1, 0]$	0.008	0.003	0.986	0.000	0.003	1456.4	1448.9
Through-going									
Non-showering	single bin	10 in $[-1, 0]$	0.002	0.001	0.996	0.000	0.001	5035.3	4900.4
Showering	single bin	10 in $[-1, 0]$	0.001	0.000	0.998	0.000	0.001	1231.0	1305.0

$\delta_{CP}$

Sensitive to  $\delta_{CP}$  (signal) would benefit from  $\nu/\bar{\nu}$  separation

Sensitive to  $\delta_{CP}$  flux normalization

MH

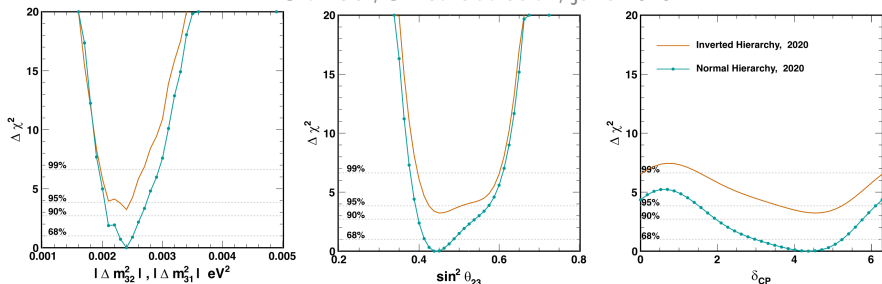
Sensitive to MH, discrimination by number of decay-e

Sensitive to MH, discrimination w/ 4 variables MVA : transverse mom., mom. fraction of most energetic ring, number of rings, number of decay-e

TABLE II. Sample purity broken down by neutrino flavor assuming neutrino oscillations with  $\Delta m_{32}^2 = 2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{eV}^2$  and  $\sin^2 \theta_{23} = 0.5$ . The data and MC columns refer to the total number of observed and expected events, respectively, including oscillations but before fitting, for the full 328 kiloton-year exposure. Sub-GeV multi-ring interactions are not used in the present analysis. The numbers of observed and expected events in this sample are enclosed in parenthesis.

# SK atmospheric neutrinos results (2020)

PMNS official, SK collaboration, june 2020

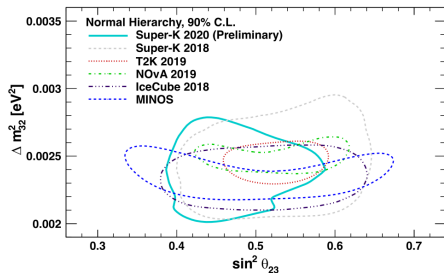


Data favors **first octant** for  $\theta_{23}$

Data favors **NH** at  $1.7\sigma$   
( $\Delta\chi^2(\text{IH}) - \Delta\chi^2(\text{NH}) = 2.8$ )

$\delta_{\text{CP}}$  best fit **agrees with that of T2K**

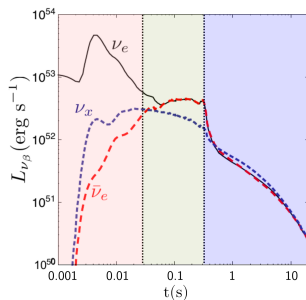
Some constraining power over  $\theta_{13}$   
consistent with LBL results



Results shown here are with  $\theta_{13}$  constrained by reactor experiments, for unconstrained results see back-up slides

# Supernovae physics

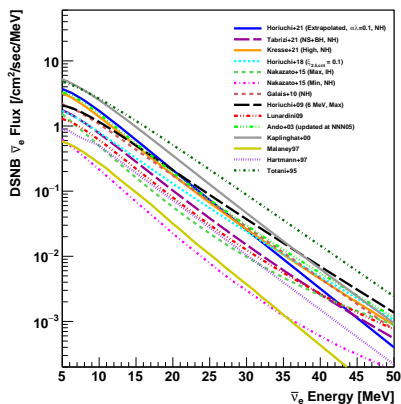
- Core-collapse supernovae are among the most cataclysmic phenomena in the Universe and essential elements of the dynamics of the cosmos
- Underlying mechanism **still poorly understood** and requires knowledge of the core of the collapsing star
- $10^{58}$  neutrinos emitted in a burst (99% of gravitational energy)  $\Rightarrow$  **information about this core**
- So far, only SN1987a in LMC has been detected by neutrino experiments
- If burst in the galactic center  $\Rightarrow \sim 8000$  neutrinos in SK ... but **only few times per century in our galaxy**



$\Rightarrow$  quest for the Diffuse Supernova Neutrino Background (DSNB)

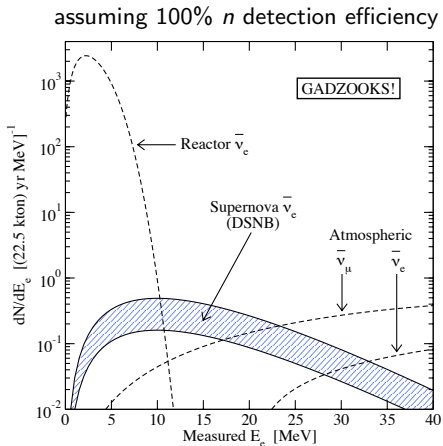
# The Diffuse Supernova Neutrino Background

- Composed by **neutrinos of all past SN of all flavors** whose energies have been redshifted when propagating to the Earth  $\Rightarrow$  information not only on the SN neutrino emission process but also star formation and Universe expansion history
- Normalisation mostly determined by SN rate, related to **cosmic star formation rate**
- Shape depends on many parameters : **fraction of BH-forming SN, effective neutrino energies (core temperature)**, and sub-dominantly on the expansion of the Universe (red-shift) and neutrino mass-hierarchy

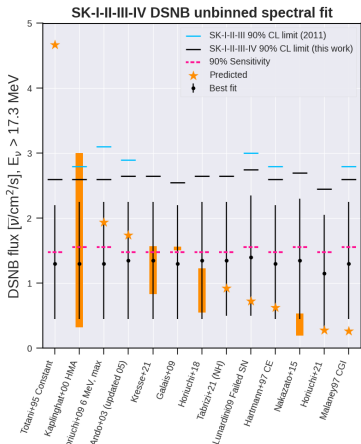
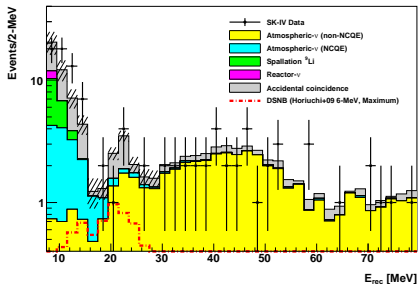


# DSNB detection at Super-Kamiokande

- Detection channel in SK : **inverse  $\beta$ -decay** (IBD)  $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$
- Searched at  $\mathcal{O}(10)$  MeV, bounded by reactor + spallation background at lower energy and atmospheric neutrinos at higher energies
- In order to disentangle signal from backgrounds, **neutron detection in coincidence with the positron is mandatory**
- Neutron doesn't produce Cherenkov light but its capture on H (timescale of  $200 \mu\text{s}$ ) produce a 2.2 MeV gamma. **Neutron detection efficiency of 25% in SK-IV**

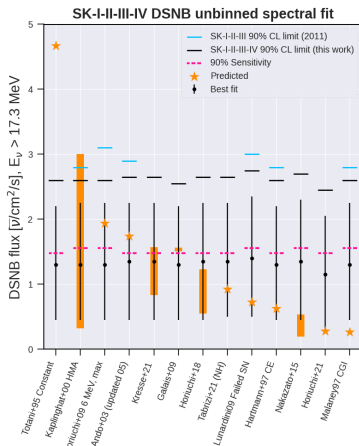
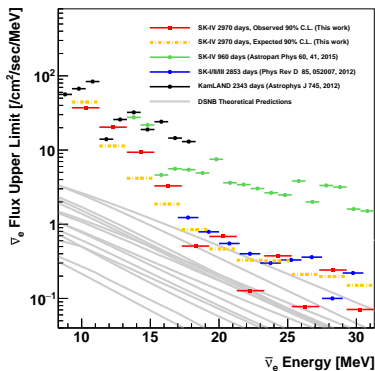


- Model independent analysis w/ full SK-IV dataset, one tagged neutron required through BDT



- Spectral fit (S+B), to derive model-dependent limits on the DSNB flux (no constraints on neutron number)
- In current analyses sensitivity allows probing “median” model but we can do better !

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# IN2P3 members contributions to DSNB analyses

- DSNB analyses with SK-IV dataset

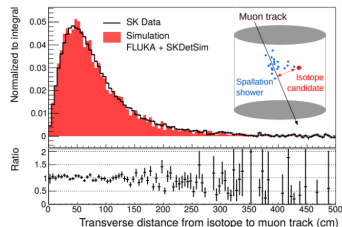
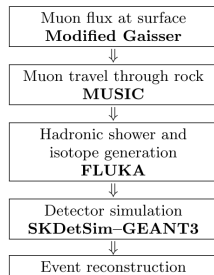
- Leadership in both DSNB analyses
- Simulation of DSNB signal and backgrounds
- BDT for neutron tagging has been developed
- Spectral fit analysis (including evaluation of all systematics) + combination w/ previous results

⇒ “Diffuse Supernova Neutrino Background Search at Super-Kamiokande”,  
arXiv:2109.11174 [astro-ph] submitted for publication

- Modelling of the spallation background

- Dedicated modeling of relevant nuclear processes with FLUKA + propagation using SK detector simulation
- Optimization of spallation rejection cuts for future analyses

⇒ “New Methods and Simulations for Cosmogenic Induced Spallation Removal in Super-Kamiokande-IV”, under collaboration review





# Summer 2018, preparation of the SK-Gd phase (1)



- May - Sep. 2018
  - Tank emptying
  - Replacement of 136 defective PMTs
  - Cleaning
  - Water sealing reinforcement
  - Improvement of tank piping
- Jan. - Mar. 2019 : calibration
- July 2020 : 0.01% Gd  
→ 50% neutron capture efficiency

## Summer 2018, preparation of the SK-Gd phase (2)

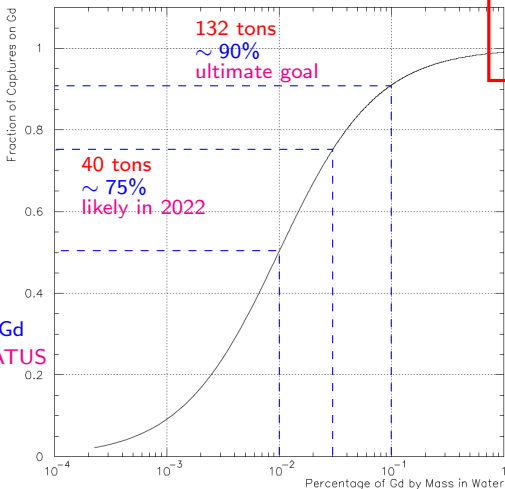
- 140 k€ from Ecole polytechnique : contribution to SK upgrade (traveling + material)
- Safety shoes (> 200) + Tyvek suits (>150) for working in the tank
- Repair of a chiller in one of the electronics hut
- Replacement of 4 HV modules iseg EHS-F030p 16 channels for 25% of OD PMTs
- “cable ties” for PMTs installation (> 35000)
- Filters for water system



# Gd in Super-Kamiokande - Status and perspectives

## GADZOOKS! Proposal

Neutron Captures on Gd vs. Concentration



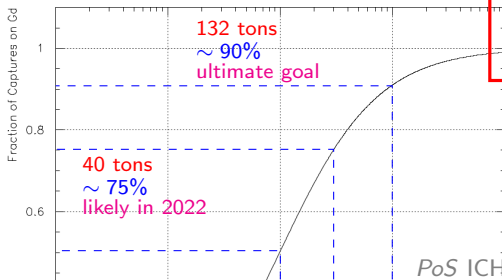
13.2 tons of  
 $\text{Gd}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$   
in 50 ktons water  
 $\sim 50\%$  capture on Gd  
CURRENT SK STATUS

Gd thermal neutron  
cross section : 49.7 kb  
( $\sigma_{\text{H}} = 0.33 \text{ b}$ )  
 $\tau_{\text{Gd}} \sim 30 \mu\text{s}$   
8 MeV  $\gamma$  cascade

# Gd in Super-Kamiokande - Status and perspectives

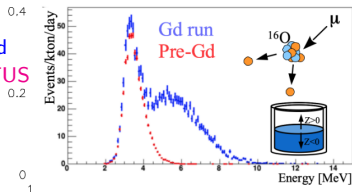
## GADZOOKS! Proposal

### Neutron Captures on Gd vs. Concentration

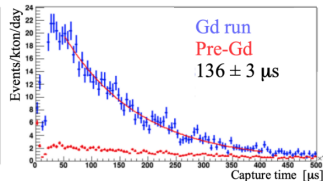


Gd thermal neutron cross section : 49.7 kb  
 $(\sigma_H = 0.33 \text{ b})$   
 $\tau_{Gd} \sim 30 \mu\text{s}$   
 8 MeV  $\gamma$  cascade

13.2 tons of  $Gd_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 8H_2O$   
 in 50 ktons water  
 ~ 50% capture on Gd  
**CURRENT SK STATUS**



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**Figure 5:** Reconstructed energy for spallation neutrons candidates for runs with and without Gd in the lower region of the detector (left) and capture time of the neutron candidates (right).

- Many analyses highly affected by limited ability to distinguish between neutrinos and antineutrinos (though already excellent sensitivity)  $\Rightarrow$  Gd has lifted this limitation !
- For atmospheric neutrinos
  - Limited effect for multi-GeV samples (to be studied), limited effect on the MH determination in the sub-GeV sample
  - Enhancement of  $\delta_{CP}$  determination in the sub-GeV sample
  - Atmospheric parameters determination ( $+\delta_{CP}$ ) will benefit from joint T2K-SK fit (see Benjamin's talk)
- For DSNB neutrinos
  - Very promising perspectives for the DSNB search
  - Increase statistics by up to  $\times 4$  assuming final loading and 90%  $n$  selection efficiency
  - 8 MeV  $\gamma$  cascade (compared to 2.2 MeV for H) will help lowering the threshold down to 12 MeV where  ${}^9\text{Li}$  decays will start to dominate (17.3 MeV currently) by removing almost all spallation background (accidentals)
  - Locating muon-induced showers using neutrons will become especially powerful
  - After eliminating spallation, NCQE interactions will dominate and will call for new dedicated techniques

- Results for PMNS oscillations using atmospheric neutrinos :
  - preference for **large  $\delta_{CP}$  values**, agreeing with T2K experiment
  - preference for **normal ordering**
  - preference for **first octant**
- DSNB search
  - **World best sensitivity** to DSNB, comparable to the predictions of various models
  - For energies  $> 17.3$  MeV, 90% C.L. upper limit of DSNB  $\bar{\nu}_e$  flux of  $\sim 2.7 \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  strongly **disfavoring most optimistic predictions**

**We are entering an era of extraordinary research with the new phase of Super-Kamiokande detector (and very soon with Hyper-Kamiokande)... Stay tuned !**