## The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory: Observation of Flavor Change for Solar Neutrinos.



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## **Neutrinos from the Sun**



The middle of the sun is so hot that the centers of the atoms (nuclei) fuse together, giving off lots of energy and neutrinos. The neutrinos penetrate easily through the dense material in the Sun and reach the earth.

## **Understanding How the Sun Burns**





Hans Bethe Basic Theory 1939 Nobel Laureate 1967 Willy Fowler Theory, Experiments 1950's, 60's Nobel Laureate 1983

## We stand on the Shoulders of Giants

#### **Pioneers of Solar Neutrino Physics: Davis, Bahcall, Pontecorvo & Gribov**



1968: Davis' Measurements with Chlorine-based detector show 3 times fewer than Bahcall's calculations.

Ray Davis: Nobel Laureate 2002



Бруно Понтекоры

1968: Gribov and Pontecorvo suggest flavor change (oscillation) of electron neutrinos to muon neutrinos as a possible reason. **SOLAR FUSION CHAIN** 



1984: Chen proposes heavy water to search for direct evidence of flavor transformation for neutrinos from <sup>8</sup>B decay in the Sun.
Electron neutrinos and all active neutrinos are measured separately to show flavor change independent of solar model calculations.



#### SNO Collaboration Meeting, Chalk River, 1986

#### PROPOSAL TO BUILD A NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY IN SUDBURY, CANADA

D. Sinclair, A.L. Carter, D. Kessler, E.D. Earle, P. Jagam, J.J. Simpson, R.C. Allen, H.H. Chen, P.J. Doe, E.D. Hallman, W.F. Davidson, A.B. McDonald, R.S. Storey, G.T. Ewan, H.-B. Mak, B.C. Robertson II Nuovo Cimento C9, 308 (1986)

## How does SNO detect neutrinos from the Sun?



Billions of them stream out every second from the nuclear reactions powering the Sun and strike our detector. Once an hour they make a burst of light that we can detect.

# **Unique Signatures in SNO (D<sub>2</sub>O)**

(1 in 6400 molecules in ordinary water are  $D_2O$ . We used >99.75%  $D_2O$ )



## **3 neutron (NC) detection methods (systematically different)**

**Phase I (D<sub>2</sub>O) Nov. 99 - May 01** 

n captures on <sup>2</sup>H(n, γ)<sup>3</sup>H Effc. ~14.4% NC and CC separation by energy, radial, and directional distributions Phase II (salt) July 01 - Sep. 03

2 tonnes of NaCl n captures on <sup>35</sup>Cl(n, γ)<sup>36</sup>Cl Effc. ~40% NC and CC separation by event isotropy

<sup>35</sup>Cl+n

36**C** 

8.6 MeV

Phase III (<sup>3</sup>He) Nov. 04-Dec. 06

400 m of proportional counters <sup>3</sup>He(n, p)<sup>3</sup>H Effc. ~ 30% capture Measure NC rate with entirely seperate detection system.



 $n + {}^{3}He \rightarrow p + {}^{3}H$ 



## **Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO)**

Neutrinos are very difficult to detect so our detector had to be very big with low radioactivity, deep underground.

1000 tonnes of heavy water: D<sub>2</sub>O \$ 300 million on Loan for \$1.00

9500 light sensors

12 m Diameter Acrylic Container

Ultra-pure Water:  $H_2O$ .

Urylon Liner and Radon Seal 34 m or ~ Ten Stories High! 2 km below the ground

**NEUTRINO** 

To study Neutrinos with little radioactive background, we went 2 km underground to reduce cosmic rays and built an ultra-clean detector: SNO



SNO: One million pieces transported down in the 3 m x 3 m x 4 m mine cage and re-assembled under ultra-clean conditions. Every worker takes a shower and wears clean, lint-free clothing.

NXXX

70,000 showers during the course of the SNO project



Steven Hawking's Visit Posed some special Challenges – INCO Designed a special Rail car for him. (Stainless steel with Lots of nickel, of course) Water systems were developed to provide low radioactivity water and heavy water: 1 billion times better than tap water. Less than one radioactive decay per day per ton of water!!



## WE OBSERVED NEUTRINOS FROM THE SUN WITH ALMOST NO RADIOACTIVE BACKGROUND



Data from Pure Heavy Water Phase in 2002



A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION NEUTRINOS CHANGE THEIR TYPE: 2/3 OF THE ELECTRON NEUTRINOS HAVE CHANGED TO MU, TAU NEUTRINOS ON THE WAY FROM THE SOLAR CORE TO EARTH. THIS REQUIRES THAT THEY HAVE A FINITE MASS.





# **Measuring U/Th Content**

#### **Ex-situ**

- Ion exchange (<sup>224</sup>Ra, <sup>226</sup>Ra)
- Membrane Degassing (<sup>222</sup>Rn) count daughter product decays

#### In-situ

- Low energy data analysis
- Separate U and Th Chains

**Using Event isotropy** 





Numbers of background neutrons from gamma rays breaking apart deuterium are measured to be 3 times smaller than the signal. Uncertainty from this is less than 10% of the neutrino measurement.



Phototube Hits



$$\phi_{CC} = 1.68 \, {}^{+0.06}_{-0.06}(\text{stat.}) {}^{+0.08}_{-0.09}(\text{syst.})$$
  
$$\phi_{NC} = 4.94 \, {}^{+0.21}_{-0.21}(\text{stat.}) {}^{+0.38}_{-0.34}(\text{syst.})$$
  
$$\phi_{ES} = 2.35 \, {}^{+0.22}_{-0.22}(\text{stat.}) {}^{+0.15}_{-0.15}(\text{syst.})$$
  
(In units of 10<sup>6</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>)

 $\frac{\phi_{CC}}{\phi_{NC}} = 0.34 \pm 0.023 (\text{stat.})_{-0.031}^{+0.029}$ 

## SNO Results for Salt Phase

**Flavor change determined by > 7** σ.

New physics beyond The Standard Model of Elementary Particles!

The Total Flux of Active Neutrinos is measured independently (NC) and agrees well with solar model Calculations: 5.82 +- 1.3 (Bahcall et al), 5.31 +- 0.6 (Turck-Chieze et al)

Electron Neutrinos are only 1/3 of Total



## Phase 3: 400 m of Ultra Low Background Neutron Counters installed in the heavy water by a remotely controlled submarine



#### **Including other solar neutrino measurements**



## Solar Neutrino Problem

# Year 2000 Experimental sensitivity: primarily or exclusively electron neutrinos



# Solar Neutrino Problem Resolved





## **NEUTRINO OSCILLATIONS AND NEUTRINO MASS**

Neutrino Flavors (Electron, Muon, Tau) can be expressed as combinations of Masses (1,2,3)



**Created in a unique Flavor State**  The mass fractions change as the neutrino travels After traveling there is a finite probability to be detected as a different flavor type

## **Combining SNO with other solar measurements**

## Solar Fluxes: Bahcall et al

## **Experiment vs Solar Models**



The analysis concludes that the electron neutrinos are converted to a pure Mass 2 state by interaction with the dense electrons in the sun via the Mikheyev-Smirnov-Wolfenstein (MSW) effect. This interaction determines that Mass 2 is greater than Mass 1 as well as determining  $\Delta m_{12}^2$  and the mixing parameter  $\theta_{12}$ 



## **Experiments at SNOLAB**

## **NEUTRINOS:**

- SNO+: An experiment is in construction (called SNO+) to replace the heavy water with an organic liquid (Linear Alkyl Benzene:LAB) loaded with over 2 tons of Tellurium-organic compound.

Tellurium is an ideal element to observe "neutrino-less double beta decay" a very rare radioactive process that will test whether neutrinos are their own anti-particles and if so, could tell us the absolute mass of all neutrino types. This is relevant to theories where neutrinos have a strong role in the conversion of anti-matter to matter in the early Universe. SNO+ will be among the most sensitive international experiments for neutrino-less double beta decay. SNO+ will also provide a sensitive measurement of neutrinos from the Earth, lower energy neutrinos from the Sun and from Supernovae.

- HALO: A Supernova detector using Lead and the SNO 3He detectors to emphasize electron neutrino detection for a galactic supernova.

DARK MATTER: A number of different techniques are being employed to detect Dark Matter particles left from the Big Bang:

- DEAP and MiniClean (Liquid Argon), PICO (bubble detection in materials containing fluorine), DAMIC (Highly Pixelated solid state detectors) and SuperCDMS relocating to SNOLAB (Solid State Bolometers)

## The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory

**USA:** 

#### Funding Agencies, Other Support for SNO

### CANADA:

- NSERC
- NRC
- Industry Canada
- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. UK:
- INCO
- AECL
- Ontario Power Generation
- Nortel

#### Institutions:

Canada University of Alberta (since 2005) Chalk River Labs (until 1992) Carleton University University of Guelph Laurentian University NRC (until 1992) Queen's University University of British Columbia

JK	
Oxford	

Portugal LIP Lisbon (since 2005)

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US Department of Energy

 Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council

#### USA

Brookhaven National Lab Princeton University (until 1992) University of Texas at Austin (2002- 2008) Los Alamos National Lab Lawrence Berkeley National Lab University of Pennsylvania University of Washington UC Irvine (until 1989) Louisiana State University (since 2005) MIT (since 2005)



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