Testing sterile neutrinos with new fixed target experiment at CERN SPS

Dmitry Gorbunov

Institute for Nuclear Research of RAS, Moscow

The International Workshop on Prospects of Particle Physics: "Neutrino Physics and Astrophysics"

Valday, Russia

Sterile neutrinos from CERN SPS

Outline



Main motivation: neutrino physics

- 2 vMSM: 3 in 1 (neutrino oscillations, dark matter, baryon asymmetry of the Universe)
- The experiment on direct searches at SPS
- 4 Status of the proposal
- 5 Planned activity

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Neutrino oscillations: masses and mixing angles



"Normal" and "Inverted" neutrino mass hierarchies

Only two squared mass differences are determined, there are options for masses... may be, the hierarchy will be fixed by T2K & Novae



trinoless 2
$$\beta$$
-decay $Z - > (Z+2) + 2e^-$ CP ??

Active neutrino masses without new fields

Dimension-5 operator

$$\Delta L = 2$$

$$\mathscr{L}^{(5)} = rac{F_{lphaeta}}{4\Lambda} \bar{L}_{lpha} \tilde{H} H^{\dagger} L^{c}_{eta} + ext{h.c.}$$

 L_{α} are SM leptonic doublets, $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$, $\tilde{H}_a = \varepsilon_{ab} H_b^*$, a, b = 1, 2; in a unitary gauge $H^T = (0, (v+h)/\sqrt{2})$ and

$$\mathscr{L}_{\nu\nu}^{(5)} = \frac{\nu^2 F_{\alpha\beta}}{4\Lambda} \times \frac{1}{2} \bar{\nu}_{\alpha} \nu_{\beta}^c + \text{h.c.} = m_{\alpha\beta} \times \frac{1}{2} \bar{\nu}_{\alpha} \nu_{\beta}^c + \text{h.c.}$$

where

 Λ is the scale of new dynamics

only their ratio is fixed

 $F_{\alpha\beta}$ is the strength of new dynamics

by the scale of active neutrino masses

Option #1 for model parameters

"Natural values for coupling constants"

$$F_{lphaeta} \sim 1 \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \Lambda \sim 3 imes 10^{14} \, ext{GeV} imes \left(rac{3 imes 10^{-3} \, ext{eV}^2}{\Delta m_{ ext{atm}}^2}
ight)^{1/2}$$

The model has to be UV-completed at this scale Λ Serious problem: contribution of new heavy particles to the Higgs boson mass

$$\delta m_h^2 \sim \Lambda^2 \gg (100 \, {
m GeV})^2$$

need special mechanism (SUSY ?) to cancel

LHC: no SUSY, technicolor, etc. at 1 TeV scale flavor physics: probably no SUSY, technicolor, etc. up to 1000 TeV

Option #2 for model parameters

"Hierarchical values for coupling constants"

 $F_{\alpha\beta} \ll 1$ so that $\Lambda < 100 \,\text{GeV}$

The model has to be UV-completed at this scale Λ

- There is a new physics below Electroweak scale
- We haven't recognized it so far, because it is tiny coupled to SM
- And we can test it directly in a fixed target experiment !!

Possible new physics: Sterile neutrinos

Minimal extension of SM to explain neutrino oscillations

sterile: new fermions uncharged under the SM gauge group neutrino: explain observed oscillations by mixing with SM (active) neutrinos

Attractive features:

- only 3 Majorana fermions (6 d.o.f.) is enough
- true renormalizable theory not worth then the SM (e.g. may work up to the Planck scale)
- baryon asymmetry via leptogenesis through redistribution of the leptonic charge between active and sterile neutrinos and transfering of the lepton asymmetry into baryon asymmetry by electoweak sphalerons
- dark matter: lightest sterile neutrino (1-50 keV)



Seesaw type I mechanism: $M_N \gg m_{active}$

$$\mathscr{L}_{N} = \overline{N}_{I} i \partial N_{I} - f_{\alpha I} \overline{L}_{\alpha} \widetilde{H} N_{I} - \frac{M_{N_{I}}}{2} \overline{N}_{I}^{c} N_{I} + \text{h.c.}$$

where I = 1, 2, 3 and $\alpha = e, \mu, \tau$ $\tilde{H}_a = \varepsilon_{ab} H_b^*$

When Higgs gains $\langle H \rangle = v / \sqrt{2}$ we get in neutrino sector

$$\mathscr{V}_{N} = v \frac{f_{\alpha l}}{\sqrt{2}} \overline{v}_{\alpha} N_{l} + \frac{M_{N_{l}}}{2} \overline{N}_{l}^{c} N_{l} + \text{h.c.} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\overline{v}_{\alpha}, \overline{N}_{l}^{c} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & v \frac{\hat{f}}{\sqrt{2}} \\ v \frac{\hat{f}^{T}}{\sqrt{2}} & \hat{M}_{N} \end{pmatrix} \left(v_{\alpha}^{c}, N_{l} \right)^{T} + \text{h.c.}$$

Then for $M_N \gg \hat{M}_D = v \frac{\hat{t}}{\sqrt{2}}$ we find the eigenvalues:

$$\simeq \hat{M}_N$$
 and $\hat{M}^v = -\hat{M}_D \frac{1}{\hat{M}_N} \hat{M}_D^T \propto f^2 \frac{v^2}{M_N} \ll M_N$

Mixings: flavor state $v_{\alpha} = U_{\alpha i}v_i + \theta_{\alpha I}N_I$

active-active mixing: (PMNS-matrix U) $U^T \hat{M}^v U = diag(m_1, m_2, m_3)$

active-sterile mixing:
$$\theta_{\alpha l} = \frac{M_{D\alpha l}}{M_l} \propto \hat{f} \frac{v}{M_N} \ll 1$$

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We get dim-5 operator at small momentum transfer

$$\mathscr{L}_{N} = \overline{N}_{l} i \partial N_{l} - f_{\alpha l} \overline{L}_{\alpha} \widetilde{H} N_{l} - \frac{M_{N_{l}}}{2} \overline{N}_{l}^{c} N_{l} + \text{h.c.}$$



at $|Q_N^2| \ll M_N^2$

we arrive at effective interaction (dim-5 operator)

$$\implies \qquad \mathscr{L}^{(5)} = \frac{F_{\alpha\beta}}{4\Lambda} \bar{L}_{\alpha} \tilde{H} H^{\dagger} L^{c}_{\beta} + \text{h.c.} \qquad \text{where} \quad \frac{\ddot{F}}{\Lambda} = \hat{t}^{T} \hat{M}_{N}^{-1} \hat{t}$$

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Heavy sterile neutrinos: $M_N \simeq 1 \text{ keV-50 GeV}$ vMSM

T.Asaka, S.Blanchet, M.Shaposhnikov (2005)

- At T > 100 GeV active-sterile neutrino oscillations produce lepton asymmetry in the early Universe, if $\Delta M_N \ll M_N$ E.Akhmedov, V.Rubakov, A.Smirnov (1998)
- Lightest sterile neutrino may comprise Dark Matter
 - production in primordial plasma due to mixing with active neutrinos is ruled out from searches at X-ray telescopes



$$\begin{split} &\Gamma_{N \to v\gamma} \simeq 5.5 \times 10^{-22} \theta_1^2 \left(\frac{M_1}{1 \text{ keV}}\right)^5 \text{s}^{-1} \\ &\text{a narrow line } \left(\delta E_\gamma / E_\gamma \sim v \sim 10^{-3}\right) \\ &\text{at} \quad E_\gamma = M_N/2 \end{split}$$

▶ Possible for 1-50 keV (WDM-CDM range) either with fine-tuning in M_{N_l} ($\Delta M_N \sim 10^{-7}$ eV) to get $L \gg B$ and use the resonant production or with ANOTHER source of production, e.g. inflaton decays.

M.Shaposhnikov, I.Tkachev (2006), F.Bezrukov, D.G. (2009)

Dmitry Gorbunov (INR)

Sterile neutrinos from CERN SPS

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Expression of Interest: **Proposal to search for Heavy Neutral Leptons at the SPS**

(CERN-SPSC-2013-024 / SPSC-EOI-010)

On behalf of:

W. Bonivento^{1,2}, A. Boyarsky³, H. Dijkstra², U. Egede⁴, M. Ferro-Luzzi², B. Goddard², A. Golutvin⁴, D. Gorbunov⁵, R. Jacobsson², J. Panman², M. Patel⁴, O. Ruchayskiy⁶, T. Ruf², N. Serra⁷, M. Shaposhnikov⁶, D. Treille^{2 (‡)}

¹Sezione INFN di Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy
²European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland
³Instituut-Lorentz for Theoretical Physics, Universiteit Leiden, Niels Bohrweg 2, Leiden, The Netherlands
⁴Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom
⁵Institute for Nuclear Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences (INR RAN), Moscow, Russia
⁶Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland
⁷Physik-Institut, Universität Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland
^(‡)retired

Theoretical motivation

- Discovery of the 126 GeV Higgs boson → Triumph of the Standard Model The SM may work successfully up to Planck scale !
- SM is unable to explain:
 - Neutrino masses
 - Excess of matter over antimatter in the Universe
 - The nature of non-baryonic Dark Matter
- All three issues can be solved by adding three new fundamental fermions, right-handed Majorana Heavy Neutral Leptons (HNL): N₁, N₂ and N₃



Masses and couplings of HNLs

• N_1 can be sufficiently stable to be a DM candidate, $M(N_1) \sim 10 \text{keV}$

•

• $M(N_2) \approx M(N_3) \sim a$ few GeV \rightarrow CPV can be increased dramatically to explain Baryon Asymmetry of the Universe (BAU)

Very weak $N_{2,3}$ -to-v mixing (~ U^2) $\rightarrow N_{2,3}$ are much longer-lived than the SM particles



M [GeV]

Experimental and cosmological constraints



Recent progress in cosmology

 The sensitivity of previous experiments did not probe the interesting region for HNL masses above the kaon mass

Strong motivation to explore cosmologically allowed parameter space **Proposal for a new experiment at the SPS to search for New Particles produced in charm decays**

Experimental requirements

- Search for HNL in Heavy Flavour decays
 - Beam dump experiment at the SPS with a total of 2×10²⁰ protons on target (pot) to produce large number of charm mesons
- HNLs produced in charm decays have significant P_{T}



Effective (and "short") muon shield is essential to reduce
 muon-induced backgrounds (mainly from short-lived resonances accompanying charm production)



Proton target

- Preference for relatively slow beam extraction O(s) to reduce detector occupancy
- Sufficiently long target made of dense material (50 cm of W) to reduce the flux of active neutrinos produced mainly in π and K decays
- No requirement to have a small beam spot

Secondary beam-line (cont.)

Muon shield

Main sources of the muon flux (estimated using PYTHIA with 10⁹ protons of 400 GeV energy)

- A muon shield made of ~55 m W(U) should stop muons with energies up to 400 GeV
- Cross-checked with results from CHARM beam-dump experiment
- Detailed simulations will define the exact length and radial extent of the shield



Assume that muon induced backgrounds will be reduced to negligible level with such a shield

Experimental requirements (cont.)

• Minimize background from interactions of active neutrinos in the detector decay volume

Requires evacuation of the detector volume



2×10⁴ neutrino interactions per 2×10²⁰ pot in the decay volume at atmospheric pressure \rightarrow becomes negligible at 0.01 mbar

Detector concept

• Reconstruction of the HNL decays in the final states: $\mu^-\pi^+$, $\mu^-\rho^+$ & $e^-\rho^+$

 Requires long decay volume, magnetic spectrometer, muon detector and electromagnetic calorimeter, preferably in surface building



Expected event yield

- Integral mixing angle U^2 is given by $U^2 = U_e^2 + U_\mu^2 + U_\tau^2$
- A conservative estimate of the sensitivity is obtained by considering only the decay $N_{2,3} \rightarrow \mu^- \pi^+$ with production mechanism $D \rightarrow \mu^+ NX$, which probes U_{μ}^{2}
- $U^2 \longleftrightarrow U_{\mu}^2$ depends on flavour mixing
- Expected number of signal events:

 $N_{signal} = n_{pot} \times 2\chi_{cc} \times BR(U_{\mu}^{2}) \times \varepsilon_{det}(U_{\mu}^{2})$

$$n_{pot} = 2 \times 10^{20}$$

 $\chi_{cc} = 0.45 \times 10^{-3}$

 $BR(U_{\mu}^{2}) = BR(D \rightarrow N_{2,3}X) \times BR(N_{2,3} \rightarrow \mu\pi)$ BR(N_{2,3} $\rightarrow \mu^{-}\pi^{+}$) is assumed to be 20%

 ε_{det} (U_{μ}^{2}) is the probability of the $N_{2,3}$ to decay in the fiducial volume and μ , π are reconstructed in the spectrometer

Expected event yield (cont.)

Assuming $U_{\mu}^{2} = 10^{-7}$ (corresponding to the strongest experimental limit currently for $M_{N} \sim 1$ GeV) and $\tau_{N} = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ s

~12k fully reconstructed N $\rightarrow \mu^{-}\pi^{+}$ events are expected for M_{N} = 1 GeV



120 events for cosmologically favoured region: $U_{\mu}^{2} = 10^{-8} \& \tau_{N} = 1.8 \times 10^{-4} s_{18}$

Expected event yield (cont.)

- ECAL will allow the reconstruction of decay modes with π^0 such as $N \rightarrow \mu^- \rho^+$ with $\rho^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$, doubling the signal yield
- Study of decay channels with electrons such as $N \rightarrow e\pi$ would further increase the signal yield and constrain U_e^2

In summary, for $M_N < 2$ GeV the proposed experiment has discovery potential for the cosmologically favoured region with $10^{-7} < U_{\mu}^{2} < a$ few × 10⁻⁹

Conclusion

- The proposed experiment will search for NP in the largely unexplored domain of new, very weakly interacting particles with masses below the Fermi scale
- Detector is based on existing technologies Ongoing discussions of the beam lines with experts
- The impact of HNL discovery on particle physics is difficult to overestimate !

It could solve the most important shortcomings of the SM:

- The origin of the baryon asymmetry of the Universe
- The origin of neutrino mass
- The results of this experiment, together with cosmological and astrophysical data, could be crucial to determine the nature of Dark Matter
- The proposed experiment perfectly complements the searches for NP at the LHC

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Towards the proposal

- vMSM: T.Asaka, S.Blanchet, M.Shaposhnikov (2005), T.Asaka, M.Shaposhnikov (2005), see also review A. Boyarsky, O. Ruchayskiy, M.Shaposhnikov (2009)
- direct tests of vMSM: D.G., M.Shaposhnikov (2007)
 - searches for dark matter A. Boyarsky, O. Ruchayskiy, M.Shaposhnikov, I.Tkachev, etc...
 - proposal for direct searches submitted to European Strategy Group, 2012

D.G., M.Shaposhnikov

- sketch of realistic experiment
 S.Gninenko, D.G., and M.Shaposhnikov (2013)
- Expression Of Interests: Proposal to Search for Heavy Neutral Leptons at the SPS W. Bonivento et al, 1310.1762

Sterile Neutrinos Out Of Proton beam Y

http://snoopy.web.cern.ch/snoopy/

Evaluation of the proposal by SPSC

Outcome of the 112th SPSC:

"The Committee received with interest the response of the proponents to the questions raised in its review of EOI010. The SPSC recognises the interesting physics potential of searching for heavy neutral leptons and investigating the properties of neutrinos. Considering the large cost and complexity of the required beam infrastructure as well as the significant associated beam intensity, such a project should be designed as a general purpose beam dump facility with the broadest possible physics programme, including maximum reach in the investigation of the hidden sector. To further review the project the Committee would need an extended proposal with further developed physics goals, a more detailed technical design and a stronger collaboration... We will also provide some more detailed comments on some of the items which a future proposal should address. We will collate these and hopefully send them to you within the next week.

The proposed fixed-target for non-vMSM physics

- General type-I sterile neutrinos (no *v*MSM constraints)
- Physics of weak interactions (neutrino beam scatterings off matter)
- Other BSM physics: light, (very) weakly coupled to SM, relatively long-lived new particles

Required sensitivity to mixing in seesaw type-I



D.G., A.Panin (2013)

say, another production mechanism of dark matter neutrinos or not a dark matter (axion instead), so that $M_1 > M_2 = M_3$

scales as $\propto 1/M_{max}$ for nondegenerate case

Physics within the SM: physics of v_{τ} ?

- Most intensive beam of v_{τ} we ever had
- θ_W from neutrino scatterings: for isoscalar target (e.g. ⁴⁰Ca) plugged inside the detector fiducial volume one expects (upto very moderate corrections)

$$\frac{\sigma_v^{\rm NC} - \sigma_{\overline{v}}^{\rm NC}}{\sigma_v^{\rm CC} - \sigma_{\overline{v}}^{\rm CC}} = \frac{1}{2} - \sin^2 \theta_{W}$$

done at TeVatron by NuTeV for ⁵⁶Fe

measurement of σ_{vA} for various materials,
 e.g. required to improve sensitivity (background, etc)
 of neutrino oscillation experiments, geoneutrino detectors, ...

Sterile neutrinos from CERN SPS

Other BSM physics to be tested

- light, very weakly interacting, yet unstable particles: produced (in)directly on target, then decaying in the detector fiducial volume
 - ► light sgoldstinos (superpartners of goldstino in SUSY models) e.g., D.S. Gorbunov (2001) e.g. $D \rightarrow \pi X$,
 - R-parity violating neutralinos in SUSY models
 e.g., A. Dedes, H.K. Dreiner, P. Richardson (2001)
 - massive paraphotons (in secluded dark matter models)

e.g., M. Pospelov, A. Ritz, M.B. Voloshin (2008)

 light, fairly weakly interacting, unstable particles: produced in beam dump (rock), right in front of detector, then decaying in the detector fiducial volume

 sterile neutrinos with transition dipole moments e.g., S.N. Gninenko (2009,2010)

as compared to CHARM longer lifetimes and smaller couplings will be accessible

e.g. $D \rightarrow \pi X$, then $X \rightarrow l^+ l^-$

e.g. $D \to I \tilde{\chi}$, then $\tilde{\chi} \to I^+ I^- v$

e.g. $\Sigma \rightarrow p V$, then $V \rightarrow I^+ I^-$

 $v A \rightarrow N A$, then $N \rightarrow v \gamma$

Being discussed with:

European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

- France: CEA Saclay, APC/LPNHE Universite Paris-Diderot
- Italy: Instituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN)

Netherlands: National Institute for Subatomic Physics (NIKHEF, Amsterdam)

Poland: Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences (Kracow)

- Russia: Institute for Nuclear Research of Russian Academy of Science (INR, Moscow), Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics ((ITEP, Moscow), Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR, Dubna)
- Sweden: Stockholm University, Uppsala University

Switzerland: Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), University of Zurich, University of Geneva

UK: University of Oxford, University of Liverpool, Imperial College London, University of Warwick

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Conclusion: events this year

- Estimate the sensitivity of the experiment to various BSM physics
- Choose between dump and dump+magnetic field options
- Establish a Collaboration
- Submit a detailed project (Lol/TDR) to SPS by the end of this year

This year (June?) we plan to

- Organize a Workshop on physics at SPS beam-dump (in Lausanne?)
- And the first Collaboration meeting right after that

All of you and your institutes are welcome to attend the meeting and enter the Collaboration

http://snoopy.web.cern.ch/snoopy/

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Backup slides

Present limits

0901.3589: 1) $0\nu\beta\beta$ -bound is stronger by 10, 1205.3867 2) limits from LHCb and CMS





31.01.2014, PPP-2014

27/24

Sterile neutrino lagrangian

Most general renormalizable with 2(3...) right-handed neutrinos N_l

$$\mathscr{L}_{N} = \overline{N}_{I} i \partial N_{I} - f_{\alpha I} \overline{L}_{\alpha} \widetilde{H} N_{I} - \frac{M_{N_{I}}}{2} \overline{N}_{I}^{c} N_{I} + \text{h.c.}$$

Parameters to be determined from experiments

9(7): active neutrino sector	11: $N = 2$ sterile neutrinos (works if $m_v = 0$!!!)	18: $N = 3$ sterile neutrinos:
$2 \Delta m_{ij}^2$: oscillation experiments $3 \theta_{ij}$: oscillation experiments 1 CP-phase: oscillation experiments 2(1) Majorana phases: 0 yee	2: Majorana masses M_{N_i} 9: New Yukawa couplings $f_{\alpha l}$ which form 2: Dirac masses $M^D = f\langle H \rangle$ 3+1: mixing angles	3: Majorana masses M_{N_l} 15: New Yukawa couplings $f_{\alpha l}$ which form 3: Dirac masses $M^D = f\langle H \rangle$ 3+3: mixing angles 2+2: CP violating abagas
$0 v \mu \mu$	2+1: CP-violating phases	3+3. CP-violating phases
1(0) m_v : ³ H \rightarrow ³ He + e + \bar{v}_e , cosmology,	4 new parameters in total help with leptogenesis	9 new parameters in total both BAU and DM are possible

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1(0) m_v : ³ H \rightarrow ³ He + e + \bar{v}_e , cosmology,	4 new parameters in total help with leptogenesis	9 new parameters in total both BAU and DM are possible

Sterile neutrino mass scale: $\hat{M}_{v} = -v^{2}\hat{f}^{\dagger}\hat{M}_{N}^{-1}\hat{f}$

NB: With fine tuning in \hat{M}_N and \hat{f} we can get a hierarchy in sterile neutrino masses, and 1 keV and even 1 eV sterile neutrinos



Lightest sterile neutrino N_1 as Dark Matter

Non-resonant production (active-sterile mixing) is ruled out

Resonant production (lepton asymmetry) requires $\Delta M_{2,3} \lesssim 10^{-16} \text{ GeV}$ arXiv:0804.4542, 0901.0011, 1006.4008

Dark Matter production from inflaton decays in plasma at $T \sim m_{\chi}$

Can be "naturally" Warm (250 MeV $< m_{\gamma} < 1.8 \, \text{GeV}$)

Not seesaw neutrino!

M.Shaposhnikov, I.Tkachev (2006)

F.Bezrukov, D.G. (2009)

 $M_1 \lesssim 15 \times \left(\frac{m_{\chi}}{300 \text{ MeV}}\right) \text{ keV}$

 $M_{N_l}\bar{N}_l^c N_l \leftrightarrow f_l X \bar{N}_l N_l$

