High-Energy and Ultra-High-Energy Neutrinos Whitepaper

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Co-editors: Markus Ackermann, Lu Lu, Nepomuk Otte, Mary Hall Reno, Stephanie Wissel

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(Will be submitted for publication)

46 authors

~100 pages

Several overview plots

Particle physics & astrophysics areinextricably linked

For Snowmass: focus on particle-physics opportunities, point out complementarity

Complementarity highlighted in the Astro2020 Decadal Survey:

- Fundamental Physics with High-Energy Cosmic Neutrinos, <u>1903.04333</u>
- Astrophysics Uniquely Enabled by Observations of High-Energy Cosmic Neutrinos, <u>1903.04334</u>

Contents

1	Introduction and overview	1
2	1.1 HE and UHE cosmic neutrinos in particle physics	2
	1.2 HE and UHE cosmic neutrinos in astrophysics	3
	1.3 Detector requirements to achieve the science goals	4
	1.4 Present and future experimental landscape	6
2	Current status and lessons learned	7
ť.	2.1 In particle physics	7
L	2.2 In astrophysics	17
3	Goals for the next decade	23
{	3.1 In particle physics	23
L	3.2 In astrophysics	28
4	Experimental landscape	33
	4.1 Overview	33
	4.2 High-energy range	37
	4.3 Ultra-high-energy range (> 100 PeV)	47
	, /	

1 Introduction and overview

Cosmic neutrinos are unique probes of extreme environments surrounding the most energetic sources in the Universe and a unique test beam for weak interactions at energies inaccessible through accelerators. Within the last decade, the discovery of high-energy (HE, TeV to 100 PeV) astrophysical neutrinos by IceCuble [8] has opened a new window to learn more about cosmic accelerators and neutrino interactions at the highest energies. With next-generation experiments pushing sensitivity and energy reach, we anticipate that the wealth of information will expand dramatically. Ultra-high-energy (UHE, >100 PeV) astrophysical neutrinos, long-sought but not yet detected, provide the only means of directly investigating processes that occur at energy scales of EeV ($\equiv 10^{18}$ eV) and above in the distant Universe. Discovering them would open new regimes of exploration in high-energy physics, astrophysics, and cosmology. In this white paper, we describe the significant physics opportunities offered by cosmic neutrinos and and unit the experimental landscape in the coming decades.

Observations of neutrinos from different sources, across different energies and traveled distances, have led to the fundamental-physics conclusions that neutrinos have mass and mix among flavors. These Nobel-prize winning experimental tests include measurements of neutrinos in the sub-GeV-to-10-PeV energy range from cosmic-ray interactions in the atmosphere [9] and of neutrinos from the Sun [10–15]. Indeed, neutrinos access important questions in the complementary fields of high-energy physics and astrophysics. The wide range of neutrino energies and traveled distances allow us to explore neutrino properties, their interactions, and fundamental symmetries across a wide breadth of parameter space, as shown in Fig. 1. And because they are neutral and weakly interacting, they carry information about the physical conditions at their points of origin; at the highest energies, even from powerful cosmic accelerators at the edge of the observable Universe.

Recently, the discovery of a diffuse flux of HE astrophysical neutrinos, in the TeV–PeV range [8, 16] opened a new view to the Universe. They have made possible the direct measurement of weak interactions in a new energy regime, including the neutrino-nucleon cross section [17–19], inelasticity distribution [19],

High-energy neutrinos: TeV–PeV (Discovered)

Ultra-high-energy neutrinos: > 100 PeV (Predicted but undiscovered)











Ackermann, MB, et al., Astro2020 Decadal Survey (1903.04333), adapted

Current status:

Discovered (by IceCube, 2013)

Accumulating statistics

First tests of high-energy v physics First promising source candidates > 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy



Current status

Discovered (by IceCube, 2013) Accumulating statistics

First tests of high-energy v physics First promising source candidates > 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy

Current status

Predicted (1960s), but undiscovered Upper limits on their flux Flux predictions uncertain, improving Aim for discovery in next-gen detectors



1 What are the main physics goals for the next 10–20 years?

2 What theoretical developments do we need to realize these goals?

3 What experiments do we need to realize these goals?



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> 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy



Two energy regimes Two science thrusts

> 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy



Two energy regimes → ↓ Two science thrusts

> 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy

Explore with high statistics

Discover

Two energy regimes
Two science thrusts

> 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy

Explore with high statistics

Particle physics Measure high-energy SM predictions Test BSM predictions

Astrophysics

Find the neutrino sources Characterize the diffuse flux precisely Discover

Two energy regimes
Two science thrusts

> 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy

Explore with high statistics

Particle physics Measure high-energy SM predictions Test BSM predictions

Astrophysics

Find the neutrino sources Characterize the diffuse flux precisely *Particle physics* Test physics at highest expected energies

Discover

Astrophysics Find sources of UHE cosmic rays

Potential also in the multi-PeV transition regime > 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy

Explore with high statistics

Particle physics Measure high-energy SM predictions Test BSM predictions

Astrophysics

Find the neutrino sources Characterize the diffuse flux precisely *Particle physics* Test physics at highest expected energies

Discover

Astrophysics Find sources of UHE cosmic rays





.Heavy relics	·L	• DM- orentz+CPT violatio	v interaction •DE-v interaction on Neutrino decay•
DM annihilation DM decay .	Secr • Sterile v	ong-range interacti et vv _e interactions Effective	ons• Supersymmetry• e operators _•
	Boosted DM• •NSI •Sup	•Leptoquarks Extra dimensions erluminal v "Mi	s. onopoles





















First observation of a Glashow resonance

Predicted in 1960:

First observation of a Glashow resonance

Predicted in 1960:


First observation of a Glashow resonance

Predicted in 1960:



First observation of a Glashow resonance

Predicted in 1960:





First observation of a Glashow resonance

Predicted in 1960:

First reported by IceCube in 2021:







IceCube, *Nature* 2021 Glashow, *PR* 1960



Adapted for Snowmass

Physics in the flavor composition

Important: Improvement possible *only* from synergy with mixing-parameter measurements in oscillations experiments (DUNE, JUNO, Hyper-K, IceCube Upgrade)



Song, Li, Argüelles, MB, Vincent, JCAP 2021

Neutrinos from heavy dark-matter annihilation



Argüelles, Diaz, Kheirandish, Olivares del Campo, Safa, Vincent, RMP 2021

Characterizing the TeV–PeV neutrino flux



Ackermann et al., High-Energy and Ultra-High-Energy Neutrinos: A Snowmass White Paper, 2203.08096

1 What are the main physics goals for the next 10–20 years?

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3 What experiments do we need to realize these goals?



Make predictions & analyses more sophisticated

Particle physics

Explore larger model parameter spaces

Fully account for astrophysical uncertainties



Abandon assumption that all sources are identical

More complete multimessenger models

1 What are the main physics goals for the next 10–20 years?

2 What theoretical developments do we need to realize these goals?

3 What experiments do we need to realize these goals?



TeV–PeV v High-energy

Strategy Multi km-scale in-ice & in-water Cherenkov detectors

Status

Under design, prototype, deployment (IceCube, IceCube-Gen2, KM3NeT, Baikal-GVD, P-ONE)

Challenges

Familiar tech; mainly logistical + funding

> 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy

TeV–PeV ν High-energy

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> 100-PeV v Ultra-high-energy

Strategy

In-ice & in-water Cherenkov too expensive; use more scalable techniques

Status

Multiple techniques under consideration & in pathfinding stage (radio in-ice, in-air, from ground, radar, imaging, fluorescence, particles on ground)

Challenges

New techniques, capabilities in flux

Diffuse Flux, 1:1:1 Flavor Ratio



Diffuse Flux, 1:1:1 Flavor Ratio



Diffuse Flux, 1:1:1 Flavor Ratio



Diffuse Flux, 1:1:1 Flavor Ratio



1 What are the main physics goals for the next 10–20 years?

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The potential

High-energy and ultra-high-energy neutrinos have vast potential for particle physics (& astrophysics!)

The delivery

These studies are being done already today, in spite of limited statistics and astrophysical unknowns

Theory: *need more nuance to achieve robustness*—
Particle physics: factor in astrophysical uncertainties
Astrophysics: move beyond identical-source estimates

Experiment: need new detectors for statistics & discovery—

- Build bigger: more statistics in the TeV–PeV range
- Study the tail end of the PeV neutrino spectrum
- Build different: discover > 100 PeV neutrinos
- Ongoing work to study new detection techniques



	Redshift 🚽	z = 0	0
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Note: v sources can be steady-state or transient









Note: v sources can be steady-state or transient





Note: v sources can be steady-state or transient
































v self-interactions











v self-interactions

TXS 0506+056

IceCube HESE

6 years (this work)

0

_

 $^{-2}$

-3

-4

-5

Mediator coupling $\log_{10}(g_{\alpha\alpha})$

.

Lab gee

 $\phi\beta\beta(\alpha = e)$

MB, Rosenstrøm, Shalgar, Tamborra, PRD 2020

BBN ($\Delta N_{\rm eff} = 1$)

-6 -6

-5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5Mediator mass $\log_{10}(M/MeV)$

v scattering on Galactic DM



Argüelles, Kheirandish, Vincent, PRL 2017



v decay



v self-interactions

Lab gee

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TXS 0506+056

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6 years (this work)

coupling $\log_{10}(g_{aa})$

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Argüelles, Kheirandish, Vincent, PRL 2017



v decay

Dark matter decay





v self-interactions

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TXS 0506+056

IceCube HESE

6 years (this work)

coupling $\log_{10}(g_{u\alpha})$

Mediator

_2

-3

-5

v scattering on Galactic DM



Argüelles, Kheirandish, Vincent, PRL 2017



v decay



v-electron interaction

-5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5Mediator mass $\log_{10}(M/MeV)$





v self-interactions

 $\phi\beta\beta(\alpha = e)$

MB, Rosenstrøm, Shalgar, Tamborra, PRD 2020

-5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5Mediator mass $\log_{10}(M/MeV)$

v-electron interaction

TXS 0506+056

IceCube HESE

6 years (this work)

coupling $\log_{10}(g_{aa})$

Mediator

-3

_ 5

-61

v scattering on Galactic DM



Lorentz-invariance violation

Argüelles, Kheirandish, Vincent, PRL 2017



v decay

Dark matter decay







v self-interactions

v decay

v₂





Figure courtesy of Markus Ahlers Maoloud, De Wasseige, Ahlers, **MB**, Van Elewyck, PoS(ICRC2019), 1023



Figure courtesy of Markus Ahlers Maoloud, De Wasseige, Ahlers, **MB**, Van Elewyck, PoS(ICRC2019), 1023



Figure courtesy of Markus Ahlers Maoloud, De Wasseige, Ahlers, **MB**, Van Elewyck, PoS(ICRC2019), 1023



Figure courtesy of Markus Ahlers Maoloud, De Wasseige, Ahlers, **MB**, Van Elewyck, PoS(ICRC2019), 1023



Figure courtesy of Markus Ahlers Maoloud, De Wasseige, Ahlers, **MB**, Van Elewyck, PoS(ICRC2019), 1023

Fundamental physics with high-energy cosmic neutrinos

Numerous new v physics effects grow as ~ $\kappa_n \cdot E^n \cdot L$

So we can probe $\kappa_n \sim 4 \cdot 10^{-47} \, (E/PeV)^{-n} \, (L/Gpc)^{-1} \, PeV^{1-n}$

► Improvement over limits using atmospheric v: $\kappa_0 < 10^{-29}$ PeV, $\kappa_1 < 10^{-33}$

Fundamental physics can be extracted from four neutrino observables:

- Spectral shape
- Angular distribution
- ► Flavor composition
- Timing

Fundamental physics with high-energy cosmic neutrinos

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E.g., \\
n = -1: neutrino decay \\
n = 0: CPT-odd Lorentz violation \\
n = +1: CPT-even Lorentz violation
\end{cases}$

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Fundamental physics can be extracted from four neutrino observables:

Angular distribution
Flavor composition
Timing

$$p + \gamma_{\text{target}} \rightarrow \Delta^{+} \rightarrow \begin{cases} p + \pi^{0}, & \text{Br} = 2/3 \\ n + \pi^{+}, & \text{Br} = 1/3 \end{cases}$$

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Neutrino energy = Proton energy / 20 Gamma-ray energy = Proton energy / 10

Astrophysical sources

Earth



Different production mechanisms yield different flavor ratios: $(f_{e,S}, f_{\mu,S}, f_{\tau,S}) \equiv (N_{e,S}, N_{\mu,S}, N_{\tau,S})/N_{tot}$

Flavor ratios at Earth ($\alpha = e, \mu, \tau$):

$$f_{\alpha,\oplus} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} P_{\nu_{\beta}\to\nu_{\alpha}} f_{\beta,S}$$

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Standard oscillations
or
new physics

GRAND & POEMMA

Both sensitive to extensive air showers induced by Earth-skimming UHE v_{τ}

If they see 100 events from v_{τ} with initial energy of 10⁹ GeV (pre-attenuation):



Astrophysical sources

Earth



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Standard oscillations
or
new physics

Theoretically palatable flavor regions $\equiv MB, Beacom, Winter, PRL 2015$ Allowed regions of flavor ratios at Earth derived from oscillations

Note: The original palatable regions were frequentist [MB, Beacom, Winter, *PRL* 2015]; the new ones are Bayesian

Theoretically palatable flavor regions

 $\equiv MB, Beacom, Winter, PRL 2015$ Allowed regions of flavor ratios at Earth derived from oscillations

Ingredient #1: Flavor ratios at the source, $(f_{e,S}, f_{\mu,S}, f_{\tau,S})$

Fix at one of the benchmarks (pion decay, muon-damped, neutron decay)

Оr

Explore all possible combinations

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Note: The original palatable regions were frequentist [MB, Beacom, Winter, *PRL* 2015]; the new ones are Bayesian Ingredient #2: Probability density of mixing parameters ($\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{CP}$)

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0r

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0.65

0.55

 $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$

0.60

2020: Use χ^2 profiles from 2.0 the NuFit 5.0 global fit 1.8 (solar + atmospheric 1.6 1.4 + reactor + accelerator) 1.2 Esteban *et al.*, *JHEP* 2020 $\delta_{\rm CP}/\pi$ www.nu-fit.org 1.0 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 NuFit 5.0 0.400.45 0.50

Theoretically palatable flavor regions

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Ingredient #1: Flavor ratios at the source, $(f_{e,S}, f_{\mu,S}, f_{\tau,S})$

Fix at one of the benchmarks (pion decay, muon-damped, neutron decay)

Or

Explore all possible combinations

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One likely TeV–PeV v production scenario: $p + \gamma \rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_{\mu}$ followed by $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ + \nu_e + \overline{\nu_{\mu}}$

Full π decay chain (1/3:2/3:0)_s

Note: v and \overline{v} are (so far) indistinguishable in neutrino telescopes

One likely TeV–PeV v production scenario: $p + \gamma \rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_{\mu}$ followed by $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ + \nu_e + \overline{\nu_{\mu}}$ 0.0 S O -1.0 π decay Full π decay chain 0.1-0.9 $(1/3:2/3:0)_{S}$ 0.2 - 0.8 0.3 -0.7 Fraction of Vr Fraction of NH 0.4 - 0.6 0.5 - 0.5 0.6 -0.30.8 -0.2 0.9 -0.1 1.0 -0.0 *Note:* v and \overline{v} are (so far) indistinguishable 0.0 0.2 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0 0.1 0.3 0.40.5 in neutrino telescopes Fraction of v_e

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in neutrino telescopes



Note:



Note:



Note: All plots shown are for normal

neutrino mass ordering (NO); inverted ordering looks similar



Note:



Note:



Note:

Theoretically palatable regions: 2020 vs. 2040



By 2040:

Theory –

Mixing parameters known precisely: allowed flavor regions are *almost* points (already by 2030)

Measurement of flavor ratios – Can distinguish between similar predictions at 99.7% C.R. (3σ)

Can finally use the full power of flavor composition for astrophysics and neutrino physics

Song, Li, MB, Argüelles, Vincent, 2012.XXXXX









Rodrigues, Heinze, Palladino, van Vliet, Winter, 2003.08392 Heinze, Fedynitch, Boncioli, Winter *ApJ*Fang & Murase, *Nature Phys.*POEMMA, 2012.07945 RNO-G, *JINST*IceCube-Gen2, *J. Phys. G*GRAND, *Sci. China Phys. Mech. Astron.*







Rodrigues, Heinze, Palladino, van Vliet, Winter, 2003.08392 Heinze, Fedynitch, Boncioli, Winter *ApJ*Fang & Murase, *Nature Phys.*POEMMA, 2012.07945 RNO-G, *JINST*IceCube-Gen2, *J. Phys. G*GRAND, *Sci. China Phys. Mech. Astron.*



UHE neutrinos: *transient sources*



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Guépin, Kotera, Barausse, Fang, Murase, A&A 2018 Murase, PRD 2017 Zhang et al., Nature Commun. 2018 POEMMA, 2012.07945 RNO-G, JINST 2021 IceCube-Gen2, J. Phys. G 2021 GRAND, Sci. China Phys. Mech. Astron. 2020 ANTARES, IceCube, Auger, LIGO, Virgo, ApJ 2017







