## **An Outlook on Invisibles**

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#### Invisibles are all around us





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#### Symmetry magazine

We are extensively searching for Invisibles, to uncover them and study their properties. The key question is what their new Physics scale/s is.



- The new invisibles could be connected to the origin of Neutrino Masses and leptonic mixing, the DM abundance, the Baryon Asymmetry, the hierarchy problem, Higgs physics, exp anomalies,... In many instances they emerge in models which are otherwise motivated.
- Or maybe not. This opens a wider range of possibilities for the mass scale and their properties.

#### The known Invisible: the Neutrino

First of all, we need to fully establish their properties: nature, MO and masses, CPV, precise determination of the oscillation parameters and test of the 3neutrino mixing scenario.

NOvA Coll., from B. C. Choudhary's talk



LBL and SBL exp: B. C. Choudhary, I. Esteban, W. Van De Pontseele



Neutrinoless double beta decay: C. Brofferio, C. Ransom



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NSIs and other exotics: Y. Farzan, M. Pandey Sterile neutrino searches: S. Antusch, J. Gehrlein, Hernandez-Cabezudo, J. Hernandez, X. Marcano, D. Pramanik, Z. S. Wang,

Direct mass searches: L. Gastaldo, A. Pollithy

#### **Neutrinos masses and mixing**

We need to understand where their masses come from and what the underlying principle behind leptonic mixing is. This calls for new Physics BSM. At which scale?

Recently, a lot of attention has been devoted to scales other than GUT (see-saw type I): from eV to TeV.



#### **Neutrinos and cosmology**

Neutrinos very significantly impact the evolution of the Universe, via the imprint of the sum of masses and  $N_{eff}$ . Cosmological observations may be the most sensitive way to measure neutrino masses.



#### **HE Neutrinos**

With their relatively recent discovery, HE neutrinos are opening a new window on astrophysical objects and provide a complementary test of particle physics.



From I. Tamborra's talk

· Test physics beyond the Standard Model.



#### The known unknown Invisible: Dark Matter

The particle identity of dark matter remains a mystery. In many cases, candidates have emerged in otherwise-motivated models. New ideas explore new territory for masses (light masses).



#### **Dark Matter searches**

DM tests: Direct and indirect searches and gravitational effects (large scale structure formation). Very exciting time: a broad ongoing and planned experimental programme and new ideas to test different mass ranges.



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#### The well motivated unknown Invisible: Axion

Axions provide a compelling answer to the strong CP problem. Theoretical embedding and problem of naturalness as the scale is very high. New models at different scales (extended gauge sectors, tuned models).



#### **Axions/ALPs searches**

Experimental searches are expanding their reach with new experiments and new detection ideas. Cosmological consequences are of great interest: axion DM has specific signatures (miniclusters, axion stars).



#### The maybe unknown Invisible: Sterile neutrino and Other really unknown unknown Invisibles: dark photons, Z', new scalars, hidden sectors

Sterile neutrinos: neutral fermionic singlets of the Standard Model. Generically they mix with the light neutrinos:  $\begin{pmatrix}
\nu_e \\
\nu_\mu \\
\nu_\tau
\end{pmatrix} = U_{4\times 4}\begin{pmatrix}
\nu_1 \\
\nu_2 \\
\nu_3 \\
\nu_4
\end{pmatrix}$ 

> Massive state Nearly-sterile neutrino, commonly called sterile neutrino

$$\mathcal{L} = \dots + \bar{\ell}_L U_{\ell 4} \gamma_\mu \nu_{4,L} W^\mu + \mathrm{NC} + \mathrm{h.c.}$$

**Flavour state** 

Adding sterile neutrinos to the Standard Model is the simplest possible extension BSM.

Theory remains anomaly free.

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Can give origin to neutrino masses and explain their smallness (at least in some cases), provide a DM candidate (for KeV ones) and explain the baryon asymmetry.

- GUT theories embedding L-R symmetries, e.g. SU(4), SO(10),... predict their existence.



There are many other Invisibles particles which can be searched for and have interesting phenomenological consequences...

## Connection to BSM and theoretical issues



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## Could there be a new hidden invisible sector just around the corner (below the EW scale)?



## It could contain several new states (neutral fermions, gauge bosons, scalars, DM.)...

## How does it "talk" to the SM?

- mixing/Yukawa couplings
- new gauge interactions
- kinetic mixing
- new scalars via the Higgs portal
  EFTs

The simplest extension introduces neutral fermions, which (unless a symmetry distinguishes them from the SM) will mix with the active neutrinos.

A coupling to the Higgs is allowed and neutrino masses can emerge.  $\mathcal{L} = -Y_{\nu}\bar{N}L \cdot H - 1/2\bar{N^c}M_RN$ 

 $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & m_D \\ m_D^T & M_N \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow m_{\nu} = \frac{Y_{\nu}^2 v_H^2}{M_N} \sim \frac{(10^{-5} \text{ GeV})^2}{1 \text{ GeV}} \sim 0.1 \text{ eV}$ 

The required Yukawa couplings need to be small. Or should be forbidden altogether by a symmetry (-> radiative neutrino mass models).

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#### Models with enhanced mixing

The mixing-mass relation can be avoided if neutrino masses are suppressed. A typical example are the inverse see-saw and extended see-saw models, in which two sterile neutrinos are introduced.

 $\mathcal{L} = Y\bar{L} \cdot HN_1 + Y_2\bar{L} \cdot HN_2^c + \Lambda\bar{N}_1N_2 + \mu'N_1^TCN_1 + \mu N_2^TCN_2$ 

The neutrino mass matrix is

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$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & Yv & Y_2v \\ Yv & \mu' & \Lambda \\ Y_2v & \Lambda & \mu \end{pmatrix}$$

Neutrino masses are suppressed by the (small) lepton number parameters:

 $m_{tree} \simeq -m_D^T M^{-1} m_D \simeq \frac{v^2}{2(\Lambda^2 - \mu'\mu)} \left(\mu Y_1^T Y_1 + \epsilon^2 \mu' Y_2^T Y_2 - \Lambda \epsilon (Y_2^T Y_1 + Y_1^T Y_2)\right)$ 

How to test the existence of these sterile neutrinos?



They critically depend on the masses of the sterile neutrinos. Direct searches cannot go beyond TeV masses.



#### **GeV-TeV scale: direct searches**

TeV

sub-eV

keV 🔇

MeV

GeV

#### **Peak Searches**

eV

If produced in pion and kaon decays, they would modify the electron and muon spectrum with a peak at lower E.



**GUT** scale

#### **Decay Searches**

Once produced, they can decay in visible particles inside the detector (electrons, muons, pions....).







Some bounds are close to the naive see-saw predictions.

@Silvia Pascoli

Current and future SBL/LBL experiments are effectively beam-dump experiments, with bigger exposure with respect to past searches.





Ballett, SP, Ross-Lonergan, JHEP 1704 (2017)

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SBN, mainly thanks to the SBND detector, DUNE, T2K, and the specifically designed SHiP experiment can significantly improve bounds. In SBN, precise information about arrival times would provide a smoking gun signature.

### keV scale: Kinks and dark matter

sub-eV

keV

eV

MeV

GeV TeV

Sterile neutrinos with keV masses have attracted a lot of attention because they constitute a favoured warm dark matter candidate. Their phenomenology depends critically on the mixing angles.



#### eV scale: Neutrino oscillations etc.



- Beta decays
- Neutrinoless double beta decay.

- if in equilibrium in the Early Universe, contribute to the HDM and to the number of relativistic degrees of freedom at BBN and CMB.

Normal ordering

Fractional flavour content of massive neutrinos

Inverted ordering



designed to test this results. It found an excess of events at low energy.

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#### on experiments

There are hints beyond standard 3 neutrino mixing. LSND reported the appearance of electron antineutrinos at short distance.



Danilov, Solvay workshop, ULB, Dec 2017

The **DANSS** reactor neutrino experiment observes some indication compatible with sterile neutrino oscillations.





Gariazzo et al., JHEP 1706 (2017) See also T. Schwetz talk at

CENF workshop, A. Hernandez updated from Dentler et al., 1709.04294.

Several new experiments are starting or planned. SBN (MicroBooNE, ICARUS, SBND) will search for neutrino appearance. Beta decay experiments (KATRIN) are sensitive to eV sterile neutrinos via kink searches in positrons.

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# Can this sector contain other Invisibles?

#### **Dark Matter**

DM could also belong to this sector and "talk" to Ns and the SM via e.g. Neutrino, Higgs and Vector Portal:



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## **Extended gauge symmetry**

It is also possible to extend the gauge sector via new U(1) and an associated Z' with light mass and very weak interactions with the SM.

New scalars are also introduced to break the symmetry and necessarily talk to the Higgs.



### A new MiniBooNE low-E excess explanation

For a long time (>4 years) we looked for a viable explanation of the MiniBooNE low-E excess. Guided by the data, we introduce a sterile neutrino, charged under a new U(1) which mixes with the standard model neutrinos, and a light gauge boson Z'.



## Very good angular and energy distributions can be obtained.



P. Ballett, S. Pascoli, M. Ross-Lonergan, 1808.02915

## The values of the parameters are compatible with other sterile neutrino and Z' searches. The model can be made theoretically consistent.

For a similar idea see Bertuzzo et al., 1808.02500.

### Conclusions

## Invisibles are all around us and appear in many extensions of the SM.

New ideas are emerging exploring different mass scales: neutrino masses, sterile neutrinos, DM, axions, exotics... Liberating ourselves from theoretical prejudice [B. Gavela].



There may be more than one invisible: a new invisibles sector with multiple particles, new interactions and distinct phenomenology and cosmological consequences. Can it be just around the corner?