P-ONE The Pacific Ocean Neutrino Experiment

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Outline

- Astroparticle physics: a new field
- Neutrino telescopes: astroparticle detectors
- What have we learned?
 - Physics
 - Technical challenges
- The Pacific Ocean Neutrino Explorer
 - General motivation
 - Novel ideas
 - Status of production
- What comes next for P-ONE?

A bit of motivation



High Energy Astroparticle Physics

Studying elementary particles of astrophysical origin – here focusing on neutrinos





The particle origin

✤ A hundred-year puzzle: cosmic ray origin



Victor Hess before his 1912 balloon flight in Austria, during which he discovered cosmic rays



https://faculty.washington.edu/wilkes/salta/balloon/





The particle origin: ν 's

- ✤ A hundred-year puzzle: cosmic ray origin
- Where do they come from?
 - Cosmic accelerators? Exotics?







$$\mu^+ \to e^+ + \nu_e + \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

Energies from TeV to PeV







Particle physics with cosmic ν 's



- Astrophysical Neutrino production on sources
- Atmospheric CR interactions on Earth's atmosphere
- Energies well above what can be easily done in a lab
 - Can study particle interactions at extreme energies
- Travel astronomical-scale distances
 - Probes for new in interactions Test neutrino properties



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The role of Neutrino Telescopes





The challenge: low fluxes

- The flux of neutrinos drops sharply as their energy increases
- To detect them, you need very large target volumes
 - Optimization between instrumentation density, cost and energy threshold
- A handful of technologies developed so far
 - -<u>Optical</u>
 - -Radio
 - -Acoustic



Optical ν telescope principles

- Neutrino detection via Cherenkov light
- 3D array of light sensors
- Large, natural and transparent medium
- Deep underground















Detection by sampling

The focus is on neutrino energies above GeV

Two "types" of signatures

Muons can go from tens to thousands of kms – long tracks Hadrons and electrons initiate showers over tens of meters

- About 300 Cherenkov photons/cm of track length
- Sparsely instrumented detectors sample a fraction of the light

Sufficient to reconstruct the neutrino interaction

The idea is fairly old

Ve		$\hat{L}(v_{g})$
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2000 AMANDA South Pole 2008 **ANTARES** Mediterranean



IceCube

- The largest NT in operation
- ✤ 5,160 modules with a 10"-PMT
- At the geographic South Pole







Observed O(1M) atmospheric neutrinos and O(100-1k) astrophysical neutrinos Astrophysical events number depends on how you count (e.g. above background or not)





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First identifications of steady neutrino emitter



Science 378, 6619, 538-543 (2022)



Studies of cross section and flavor composition of astro flux



IceCube challenges





IceCube challenges







Why not go back to the ocean?

In the deep ocean

- light is minimally scattered
- absorption lengths are tens of meters
- sensors can be deployed from a ship
- repairs and relocation are possible
- Iogistics should be relatively simple



Projects already under construction:

- Km3NeT Mediterranean sea
- ✤ GVD-Baikal Lake Baikal

Not without challenges to reach km³ scale



The Pacific Ocean Neutrino Experiment P-ONE



The Pacific Ocean Neutrino Experiment

- A neutrino telescope deep in the Pacific Ocean (Cascadia Basin, 2.6km depth)
- Aiming for large volume & superb pointing resolution
- Leveraging an existing investment: Ocean Networks Canada (ONC)

Ocean observing facility Goal is to support research In operation since 2007







University of Water



With Water and

The pathfinder missions

STRings for Absorption length in Water - STRAW

- Deployed in summer 2018, recovered in 2023 (98% uptime)
- Array of PMTs and light emitters (POCAMs, originally developed for **IceCube**) to study the optical properties of the site
- PMT rates continuously recorded over 5 years
- High precision data collected in dedicated campaigns









585 nm

Optical transparency

Attenuation length monitored over 2 years at 4 wavelengths

- Measured $27.7^{+1.9}_{-1.3}$ m at 450nm good transparency
- Stable over the period of data collection
- Comparable with measurements at KM3NeT sites



40

365 nm

400 nm

Eur. Phys. J. C 81, 1071 (2021)

450 nm

The pathfinder missions - b

STRAW-b, a 400m+ long mooring line

- PMT spectrometers, LiDARs, cameras and ambient sensors
- Study site (bioluminescence) and deployment ideas



2 Floats

LiDAR 2 -2228 m | 432 m

-2216 m | 444 m (surface | seafloor)

PMT-Spectrometer 2

-2252 m | 408 m

Standard Module 3

Standard Module 2

-2276 m | 384 m

Sedimentation & biofouling

Both systems were recovered in summer 2023

- An inspection dive revealed sedimentation and biological growth
- Loss of transparency confirmed in analysis
- Exploring methods to mitigate this effect





PoS (ICRC 2023) 1166





Towards a neutrino telescope in the Pacific

With lessons learned from KM3NeT and IceCube

P-ONE line design

- Mooring lines 1km long with 20 modules
- Designed for sub-ns synchronization
- The P-ONE line is an attempt to minimize risk
 - Single cable contains communications, power and structural support
 - No penetrators or breakouts **connectorless** design









The P-ONE Optical Module (P-OM)

The optical module follows the multi-PMT design from KM3NeT

- 17" glass hemispheres coupled to a titanium cylinder
- 16 x 3" PMTs point in all directions (Hamamatsu R14374-10)
- Mounted on a 3D-printed structure
- Modular, spring-loaded system
- Individual gel pad couples PMTs to the glass hemisphere
- PMT necks coated following KM3NeT advice
- Operation and DAQ highlights
 - Leveraging IceCube's microBase for HV
 - Full waveform digitization (16 channel ADC)
 - Sampling rate 210 MSPS
 - Capabilities to buffer data (4GB in-module)



P-OM production in @TUM





The P-ONE Optical Module (P-OM)

Loaded with calibration LEDs, lesson from IceCube

- 16 emitters of multiple colors pointing in 4 directions
- Enable studies of water column









PoS (ICRC 2023) 1113

Calibration module (P-CAL) @SFU

P-ONE Calibration module inspired by IceCube's POCAM

- Isotropic, bright and well understood light emission
- Dual purpose: optical and position calibration
- Includes a camera with a fisheye les
 - To monitor bioluminescence and sediments
- It occupies the place of a regular module
 Remove 4 PMTs per hemisphere to place a light source













Positioning acoustic system @SFU

Plan: P-CAL takes care of the position calibration of the detector

- Redundant acoustic system for first deployments to prove it
- 2x acoustic receivers (piezos) inside every module
- Accuracy of @20cm expected







PoS (ICRC 2023) 1112

Muon In-Situ Tracker (MIST) @UofA

Pointing calibration is ultimately based on MC

- Moon/Sun shadows in CR help, but can we do more?
- Idea: tag individual cosmic muons going through modules
 - Use them to benchmark reconstruction resolution and bias using data
 - Simple system based on plastic scintillators that are inside every module







Muon In-Situ Tracker (MIST) @UofA







Ongoing projects

Exploring coating options to prevent biofouling

- Deploying a couple of spheres with coating in first lineTransmission degrades by 5%
- Developing a device to communicate with outside
 - Low-power sensor in the water
 - Wireless power and communication
 - For multidisciplinary science







Geometry and performance studies

Our benchmark geometry currently has

- 70 strings, 80m separation
- 20 modules per string, 50m apart
- Infrastructure can support up to 140 w/minimal upgrades
- Studying performance and possible variations







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Where are we?

P-ONE

Timeline and milestones

Funded by Canada (NSERC & CFI), Germany/Europe (TUM, ERC) and the US (NSF)

Deployment of first cluster (Demonstrator), with up to 5 detector lines



Pathfinders Phase 1 (2018 – 2023) Demonstrator Phase 2 (2023 – 2028) Full scale P-ONE Phase 3 (2028 - ...)

Timeline and milestones

- P-ONE-1 on track be deployed in 2025
- PMTs have been characterized in Aachen's IceCube facility
- P-OM assembly/integration in TUM close to finished
- P-CAL assembly in SFU underway
- On-board electronics in production
- Final testing and integration at TRIUMF this spring













Next steps

Deploy P-ONE-1

- Show that the deployment mechanism works
- Successfully connect the line to ONC

Acquire and understand P-ONE-1 data

- Operate calibration systems
- Record PMT data and detect cosmic muons
- Characterize the bioluminescence in detail
- Exercise the acoustic positioning system
- Revisit the P-ONE-1 line design
 - Simplify, streamline components
- Scale up our construction, deploy the full Demonstrator













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