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Recent advancements and future of Solar Neutrino Physics

Abstract Text: Solar neutrinos have been fundamental since ever in creating a link between elementary particle physics and astrophysics. Ten years after the "annus mirabilis" 2002, in which the long standing Solar Neutrino Puzzle was definitly solved, we revise the main results of solar neutrino physics and discuss the main open questions. In this decade the data obtained by different solar neutrino experiments and KamLAND made possible a more and more accurate determination of the oscillation parameters and of the medium and high energy part of the solar neutrino spectrum. Meanwhile, we could finally start attaching the study of the low energy part of the spectrum and Borexino measured the ^7Be monochromatic line and the important pep component and put a limit on the CNO neutrino flux. The mass and mixing pattern emerging from all these data and from the parallel phenomenological analyses and the comparison with the solar models offer a generally coherent picture, confirmed by the recent discovery of a non zero mixing between the first and the third generations. However, some points still need to be clarified. The anomalies that seem to emerge in the "vacuum to matter transition region" clearly indicates the need of a more detailed analysis of the low energy part of the spectrum. We discuss the potentialities of different present and future experiments (already approved or under discussion), like Borexino, SNO+ and various future experiments that will use liquid scintillators of different kind and will try also to measure the lower energy components of the pp cycle (better determination of pep and possibly measurement of pp neutrinos) and to combine these data with the study of the CNO neutrinos, with the hope to discriminate between high Z and low Z solar models and solve the metallicity problem.

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