From Precision in Oscillation Searches to Discovery

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Neutrino-Nucleus Interactions in the Standard Model and Beyond



May 15, 2025









3ν mixing

In the 3ν scenario, neutrino evolution is described by six parameters



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 ν_{α}



 δ_{cp}) $U(\theta_{12})$

In the 3ν scenario, neutrino evolution is described by six parameters

$$i\frac{d\nu}{dE} = \frac{1}{2E} \left(U^{\dagger} \text{diag}(0, \Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{31}^2) U \right) \nu$$

Experiment	Dominant	Important	
Solar	$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	Δm_{21}^2	
Reactor LBL	Δm_{21}^2	$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	
Reactor MBL	$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	$ \Delta m_{31}^2 $	
Atmospheric	$ \Delta m_{31}^2 \sin^2 \theta_{23}$	$\sin^2 \theta_{13} \delta_{cp}$	
Accelerator Disapp	$ \Delta m_{31}^2 \sin^2 \theta_{23}$		
Accelerator App	δ_{cp}	$sign(\Delta m_{31}^2) \sin^2 \theta_{23} \sin^2 \theta_{13}$	

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3ν mixing

 $U = U(\theta_{23})U(\theta_{13}, \delta_{cp})U(\theta_{12})$

Reactor Neutrinos

In reactor experiments, a flux of $\bar{\nu}_e$ is created with energies around the ~ MeV

The neutrino flux is created due to the **fission** of four different isotopes:

 235 U(~ 56%), 238 U(~ 8%), 238 Pu(~ 30%), 241 Pu(~ 6%)



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<u>S.H. Seo et al. (RENO) PRD 98 (2018) arXiv:1610.04326</u>

www.nuclear-p

Reactor neutrinos: θ_{13} and $\Delta m_{\rho\rho}^2$

The **spectral information** from reactor experiments determines θ_{13} and Δm_{31}^2

 $P_{ee} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \Delta_{ee}$

 $\Delta m_{ee}^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{12} \Delta m_{31}^2 + \sin^2 \theta_{12} \Delta m_{32}^2$



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K. Luk (DayaBay) Neutrino 2022

- Near detector imposes an upper bound over Δm^2_{31}
- The oscillation measured at the far detector imposes a lower bound on θ_{13} and Δm_{31}^2

Solar Neutrinos

Solar neutrinos are produced by **nuclear fusions** reactions

Survival probability for neutrinos from dense solar regions

$$P_{eff}^{2\nu}(\Delta m_{21}^2, \theta_{12}) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos\theta_{12}^m \cos\theta_{12})$$

Sensitivity to θ_{12} is dominant, while Δm_{21}^2 is probe throught matter effects



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The constraint over θ_{12} are mainly driven by SK+SNO

Maltoni and Smirnov, EPJA 52 (2016) arXiv:1507.05287





Solar Neutrinos: KamLAND

 Δm_{21}^2 determined by **long-baseline reactor** experiments

- Baseline $\sim 180 \,\mathrm{km}$
- $\overline{\nu_e}$ with $E_{\nu} \sim \text{few MeV}$



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Neutrinos are generated from pion/kaon decays caused by an accelerated proton beam hitting a target.

Neutrinos travel ~ 100 Km and have energies $E \sim 1$ GeV, making these experiments sensitive to Δm^2_{31} , $\sin \theta_{23}$, δ_{CP}



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Abe et al., (T2K) PRD 108 (2023) arXiv:2305.09916



Accelerator experiments are sensitive to Δm_{31}^2 and $\sin^2 2\theta_{23}$, searching for ν_{μ} -disappearance

$$P_{\mu\mu} \simeq 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{\mu\mu} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{\mu\mu}^2 L}{4E}$$

$$\Delta m_{\mu\mu}^2 = \sin^2 \theta_{12} \Delta m_{31}^2 + \cos^2 \theta_{12} \Delta m_{32}^2$$
$$+ \cos \delta_{cp} \sin \theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{12} \tan \theta_{23} \Delta m_{21}^2$$

$$\sin^2\theta_{\mu\mu} = \cos^2\theta_{13}\sin^2\theta_{23}$$

It can discriminate whether θ_{23} is maximal or not

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Accelerator experiments can search for ν_e -appearance

$$P_{\nu_{\mu} \to \nu_{e}} \approx 4 \sin^{2} \theta_{13} \sin^{2} \theta_{23} (1 + 2oA) - C \sin \delta_{cp} (1 + e^{2})$$

The appearance channel allows the measurement:

- Mass ordering
- Octant of θ_{23}
- The CP phase
- θ₁₃

$$C = \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E} \sin 2\theta_{12} \sin 2\theta_{13} \sin 2\theta_{23}$$

$$o = sign(\Delta m_{31}^2)$$

$$A = |2EV/\Delta m_{31}^2|$$

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I Esteban, MC Gonzalez-Garcia, M Maltoni, IMS, JP Pinheiro, T Schwetz, JHEP 12 (2025)



NOvA-T2K joint fit

NOvA and T2K have performed a joint fit, showing good agreement with global analysis



No correlation between the flux, detector and cross-section

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Jeremy Wolcott (Neutrino 2024)

Zoya Vallari (Joint Experimental-Theoretical Physics Seminar, Fermilab, 2024)

- Several cross-section models were explored, along with their impact on potential correlations
- The uncorrelated and correlated ● models **agree** with negligible differences.

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NOvA-T2K joint fit



Zoya Vallari (Joint Experimental-Theoretical Physics Seminar, Fermilab, 2024)

Full LBL-reactor combo eases T2K-NOvA tension

• Combining LBL($\Delta m^2_{\mu\mu}$) and reactors (Δm^2_{ee}) strengthens NO preference



Nunokawa, Parke, Funchal, PRD 72(2005) arXiv: hep-ph/0503283

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LBL+Reactors



$$\Delta_{e\mu} = (\Delta m_{ee}^2 - \Delta m_{\mu\mu}^2) / \Delta m^2$$

I Esteban, MC Gonzalez-Garcia, M Maltoni, IMS, JP Pinheiro, T Schwetz, JHEP 12 (2025)

How can atmospheric neutrinos contribute?

Atmospheric Neutrinos

Atmospheric neutrinos are created in the **collision of cosmic rays** with the atmospheric nuclei



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Neutrino Evolution in Matter

Matter effects play a crucial role in the evolution of atmospheric neutrinos

$$i\frac{d\nu}{dE} = \frac{1}{2E_{\nu}} \left(U^{\dagger} \text{diag}(0, \Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{31}^2) U \pm V_{mat} \right) \nu$$
$$V_{mat} = 2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E_{\nu} \text{diag}(1, 0, 0)$$



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Sub-GeV

For atmospheric neutrinos, both fluxes are sensitive to δ_{CP}

• In the case of $\delta_{cp} \neq 0$, the CPT conservation implies

$$P(\nu_{\mu} \to \nu_{e}) \neq P(\nu_{e} \to \nu_{\mu})$$

• The impact of δ_{cp} depends mainly on the neutrino direction

- $P_{\mu\mu}$ contribute to measuring the phase via $\cos\delta_{CP}$

Minakata, Nunokawa, Parke, PLB 537 (2002) Minakata, Nunokawa, Parke, PRD 66 (2002) Denton and Parke, PRD 109 (2024)

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At the **GeV scale**, trajectories crossing the mantle experience a resonance, making neutrinos sensitive to the mass ordering:

In the multi-GeV region, neutrino evolution is dominated by Δm_{31}^2 and $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$



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Super-Kamiokande

Several experiments have measured the atmospheric neutrino flux, with SK starting from the sub-GeV scale.

Super-Kamiokande (SK)

- 22.5 kton water Cherenkov
- Small sample at multi-GeV due to the volume
- The event sample is divided in FC, PC and Up- μ



Abe et al. (Super-Kamiokande), PRD 97 (2018)

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IceCube

The neutrino telescopes measure the atmospheric neutrino flux from the multi-GeV scale

- $\sim 1 \text{km}^3$ ice Cherenkov
- The sample is divided into tracks and cascades
- The upgrade will add seven additional strings lowering the energy threshold to ~1GeV







ORCA

The total expected volume is 7 Mt, with events classified into high-purity tracks, low-purity tracks, and showers



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- **ORCA** measures the multi-GeV component of the atmospheric neutrino flux from ~2GeV



Combining different datasets results in significant **synergy**, as the global **regions are smaller** than the individual ones.

- Colored regions: LBL+IC19
- Black-dashed: LBL+IC24+SK
- Good agreement with **reactor** experiments
- Preference for the higher octant ($\sin^2 \theta_{23} = 0.561$)



- 15 • Combining IC24+Reactors, we get a preference for NO of $\Delta \chi^2 \sim 4.5$ 10 $\Delta \chi^2$ • Super-Kamiokande alone shows a preference for NO of $\Delta \chi^2 \sim 4.5$
- Combining IC+SK+global fit results in a preference for NO of $\Delta \chi^2 \sim 6.1$



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Mass Ordering

I Esteban, MC Gonzalez-Garcia, M Maltoni, IMS, JP Pinheiro, T Schwetz, JHEP 12 (2025)

CP-violation

The Jarlskog Invariant provides a convention-independent measurement of the violation of the CP symmetry

CP-conservation is margnizaly disfavored

$$J_{CP} = \operatorname{Im}[U_{\alpha i} U_{\alpha j}^* U_{\beta i}^* U_{\beta j}]$$
$$= J_{CP}^{\max} \sin \delta_{CP}$$





I Esteban, MC Gonzalez-Garcia, M Maltoni, IMS, JP Pinheiro, T Schwetz, JHEP 12 (2025)

Future Measurements

Super-/Hyper-Kamiokande

In the future, several experiments are going to measure the **atmospheric** neutrino flux with **high precision**



Bian, et al. (Hyper-Kamiokande), arXiv:2203.02029



Neutrino Telescopes

The **neutrino telescopes** measure the high-energy part of the atmospheric neutrino flux



- $\sim 1 \text{km}^3$ ice Cherenkov
- The upgrade will add seven additional strings lowering the energy threshold to ~1GeV



We developed an MC for ORCA based on energy and Zenit reconstruction provided by the collaboration

Systematic uncertainties

The uncertainties on the atmospheric neutrino **flux** and the **cross-section** are common to all detectors.

Flux systematics

We account for the uncertainties over the normalization, energy dependence, up/ down, ν_e/ν_μ , $\overline{\nu}/\nu$





Cross-section systematics

Different types of interactions affect the atmospheric neutrino interaction due to the large energy range covered

Systematic	Uncer./Prior
CCQE	10%
CCQE $\nu/\overline{\nu}$	10%
CCQE e/µ	10%
CC1 <i>π</i>	10%
CC1 $\pi \pi^0/\pi^{\pm}$	40%
CC1 $\pi \nu_e / \overline{\nu_e}$	10%
CC1 $\pi \nu_{\mu}/\overline{\nu_{\mu}}$	10%
Coh. π	100%
Axial Mass	10%
NC hadron	5%
NC over CC	10%
$ u_{ au}$	25%
Neutron prod.	15%
DIS	10%



Combined analysis: θ_{23} and Δm_{31}^2



Combined analysis: mass ordering



Combined analysis: δ_{cp}

-like with no neutron tagged



Argüelles, Fernandez, IMS and Jin, PRX 13 (2023)

Systematic impact

A detailed analysis of all the systematics is performed. The uncertainties related to the flux have a larger impact on δ_{CP}



Argüelles, Fernandez, **IMS** and Jin, <u>PRX 13 (2023)</u>



Boosting the Sentivity with Inelasticity

The mass ordering and the CP-phase predict a different oscillations between neutrinos and antineutrinos.

- $\nu_{\mu}\text{-}$ CC interaction the energy is devided between tracks and cascades.

 Neutrinos and antineutrinos divide their energy differently between the leptonic and the hadronic part differently

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\nu}^{CC}}{dydx} = \frac{G_F^2 xs}{2\pi} \left(\frac{Q(x)}{Q(x)} + \bar{Q}(x) \times (1-y)^2 \right)$$

Q(x): Parton Distribution functions

Ribordy and Smirnov, PRD, 87 (2013)

Giner Olavarrieta, Jin, Argüelles, Fernández, **IMS**, <u>PRD 110 (2024)</u>

$$E_{
u}$$

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FCasc



Boosting the Sentivity with Inelasticity

The reconstructed inelasticity is based on the reconstructed energies of the track and the cascade.



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Boosting the Sentivity with Inelasticity



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The **inelasticity** allows for a **50% increase** in sensitivity to the mass ordering, reaching 8.4σ in 5 years.

• In the case of δ_{CP} , the sensitivity increases by 15%





LArTPCs

- Excellent capabilities to identify charged particles.
- Precise measurement of the energy and the direction of low-energy charged particles



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Anderson et al. (ArgoNeuT), JINST 7 (2012)





Capozzi, Li, Beacom, PRL 123 (2019)

We simulate neutrino scattering on Argon using **NuWro** event generator.



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LArTPCs

Events topologies based on visible protons allows statistical separation of neutrinos and antineutrinos



Kelly, Machado, IMS, Parke, Perez-Gonzalez, PRL 123 (2019)







Calorimetric reconstruction provides good results for GeV neutrinos with visible protons

$$E_{\nu}^{\text{cal}} = E_{\ell} + \sum_{i}^{\text{mesons}} E_{i} + \sum_{i}^{\text{baryons}} K_{i}$$

	K.E.	Ang.	E
Ρ	30MeV	10	10%
${\cal \pi}$	30MeV	10	10%
Λ	30MeV	10	10%
μ^{\pm}	5MeV	2	5%
e	10MeV	2	5%

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LArTPCs







 δ_{cp} causes a **significant deviation** in DUNE's expected sub-GeV events.



Kelly, Machado, IMS, Parke, Perez-Gonzalez, <u>PRL 123 (2019)</u>

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LArTPCs

DUNE can exclude ranges of δ_{cp} with more than 3σ confidence







Understanding how **incoming neutrinos correlate** with **final states** enhances neutrino reconstruction.



Alvarez-Ruso et al. (NuSTEC), Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 100 (2018)

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Complex correlation between the neutrino and the final state kinematics



Kopp, Machado, MacMahon, IMS, arXiv: 2405.15867





Neutrino energy [MeV]

Kopp, Machado, MacMahon, IMS, arXiv: 2405.15867

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DNN improves the neutrino energy resolution at all the energies



Kopp, Machado, MacMahon, IMS, arXiv: 2405.15867

The improvement obtained by DNN leads to an increase in sensitivity to the oscillation parameters.

Mismodeling neutrino-nucleus cross-sections reduces energy resolution and biases reconstruction

The **DNN trained on NuWro** has been applied to events generated with **GENIE**.

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BSM

To explain the origin of the neutrino masses, the SM can be considered as a low energy effective model

• At d=5, we have the Weinberg operator

Type-I seesaw:

- Introduce right-handed neutrinos
- Allow L number violation

• For
$$M_R > > v$$

$$m_{\nu} \sim \frac{Y_{\nu}^{\dagger} Y_{\nu} \nu^2}{M_R} \qquad m_N \approx M_R + \mathcal{O}\left(m_{\nu}\right)$$

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$$\mathcal{L}_{mass}^{\nu} \supset Y_{\nu} \bar{L}_L \tilde{\phi} N_R + \frac{1}{2} M_R \bar{N}_R^c N_R + h \cdot c \,.$$

- Neutrino masses can be smaller than other fermion masses
- Heavy neutrinos can hardly be tested
- There are other scenarios where the Majorana mass can take smaller values

In the presence of N_R , the flavor states can be written as a superposition of massive states as

$$\nu_{\alpha L} = \sum U_{\alpha m} \nu_{n}$$

We can look for HNLs using **double bang signals**

$$\nu + N \rightarrow N_4 + \text{shower}$$

 $N_4 \rightarrow \nu + \text{signal}$



M. Atkinson, P. Coloma, IMS, N. Rocco, IM Shoemaker, JHEP 04 (2022)

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 $V_{mL} + U_{\alpha 4} N_{4L}$



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 $V_{mL} + U_{\alpha 4} N_{4L}$



P Coloma, E. Fernandez-Martinez, M. Gonzalez-Lopez, J. Hernandez-Garcia, Z. Pavlovic, EPJC 81 (2021)

Several experiments can search for HNLs by looking for a double-bang event topology

For masses around the GeV scale, $U_{\tau 4}^2 < 10^{-6}$



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Fernandez-Martinez, Gonzalez-Lopez, Hernandez-Garcia, Hostert, Lopez-Pavon, JHEP 09 (2023)



Transition Magnetic Moment

Active and HNL states may be coupled via a transition dipole moment



We are going to consider that both the HNL production and decay are given by the dipole moments ($N \rightarrow \nu_i \gamma$)

$$\Gamma = \frac{\mu_{\nu}^2 M_4^3}{4\pi}$$

M. Atkinson, P. Coloma, IMS, N. Rocco, IM Shoemaker, JHEP 04 (2022)

Ivan Martinez-Soler (IPPP)





M. Atkinson, P. Coloma, IMS, N. Rocco, IM Shoemaker, JHEP 04 (2022)

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Conclusions

Neutrino physics is entering the **precision** era. Most parameters are known at the percent level, but several open questions remain:

- For θ_{23} , small preference for the **lower octant** (higher octant), combining IC24+SK+global fit (global)
- For δ_{cp} , almost the entire region is allowed, with CP-conservation preferred for NO and maximal CPviolation for IO.
- Mass ordering shows small preference until IC24+SK is included, which favors NO.

With the next generation of experiments, precise knowledge of the neutrino-nucleon cross-section in a wide energy range (from ~100 MeV to ~100 GeV) will be essential to probe neutrino oscillation and search for BSM.

Deep neural networks (DNN) can improve the neutrino reconstruction, leveraging the rich data expected from the next-generation experiments

Thanks!

Conclusions

	NuFit [1]	Valencia [2]	Bari [3]
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	$0.308^{+0.012}_{-0.012}$	$0.318^{+0.016}_{-0.016}$	$0.303^{+0.01}_{-0.013}$
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	$0.470^{+0.017}_{-0.013}$	$0.574^{+0.14}_{-0.14}$	$0.455^{+0.018}_{-0.015}$
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	$0.02215^{+0.00056}_{-0.00058}$	$0.022^{+0.00069}_{-0.00069}$	0.023+0.0007 -0.0006
δ_{CP}	212^{+26}_{-41}	218+38 -27	234+41 -32
$\Delta m_{21}^2 / 10^{-5}$	$7.49^{+0.19}_{-0.19}$	$7.50^{+0.22}_{-0.20}$	$7.36^{+0.16}_{-0.15}$
$\Delta m_{31}^2 / 10^{-5}$	2.513 ^{+0.021} -0.019	$2.55^{+0.02}_{-0.03}$	$2.458^{+0.023}_{-0.029}$

[1] Esteban, Gonzalez-Garcia, Maltoni, Martinez-Soler, Pinheiro, Schwetz, arXiv:2410.05380 [2] Salas, Forero, Gariazzo, Martinez-Mirave, Mena, Ternes, Tortola, Valle, JHEP 02 (2021) 071 [3] Capozzi, Di Valetino, Lisi, Marrone, Melchorri, Palazzo, PRD 104 (2021) 8

• Each experiment shows a preference for NO

• The LBL combination leads to a preference for IO due to NOvA T2K tensions

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The LBL combined analysis favors CP phase near $\delta_{CP}\sim 212^o$



Solar Neutrinos: Day-Night Asymmetry

Day-night asymmetry shows a preference for lower Δm_{21}^2

$$A_{D/N} = \frac{\Phi_{day} - \Phi_{night}}{0.5 * (\Phi_{day} + \Phi_{night})} -3.1\% -2.$$

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-2970

.1 %



K. Abe et al., PRD 94 (2016) arXiv:1606.07538



Reactor Flux Uncertainties

The flux shows an excess at 5 MeV



Kwang Joo (RENO), Neutrino 2022

- New evaluations of the flux aliviate those tensions
- near/far comparison

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Reevaluations of the $\overline{\nu_e}$ flux determined a deficit in the experimental data



• The uncertainties do not affect the determination of the oscillation parameters because they are based on a



Systematic impact

Among the other parameters, the cross-section uncertainties have the largest impact on the CP-phase



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Argüelles, Fernandez, IMS and Jin, <u>PRX 13 (2023)</u>



Super-/Hyper-Kamiokande

Gadolinium (Gd) in water helps Super-Kamiokande tag neutrons and distibguish neutrinos from antineutrinos



<u>Wester et al. (Super-Kamiokande), arXiv: 2311.05105</u> <u>P.F. Menéndez, Ph.D. thesis</u>

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