

# Michinari SAKAI

## PERSONAL DATA

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PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH: Los Angeles, USA | 16 October 1980  
ADDRESS: 60 N. Nimitz Hwy. #1107 Honolulu, HI 96817 USA  
PHONE: +1-808-206-4357  
EMAIL: [michinar@hawaii.edu](mailto:michinar@hawaii.edu)

## EDUCATION

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DEC. 2015 (expected) Ph.D. in PHYSICS, Univ. of Hawaii, Manoa  
Thesis: "High Energy Neutrino Analysis in KamLAND and Application to Dark Matter Search"  
Advisor: Prof. John G. LEARNED  
AUG. 2005 - AUG. 2006 Graduate Program in MATHEMATICS, Sun Moon Univ., S. Korea  
Advisor: Prof. Doe-Wan KIM  
AUG. 2005 Dual B.S. in PHYSICS and MATHEMATICS, Sun Moon Univ., S. Korea  
Honors: Summa Cum Laude  
Advisor: Prof. Ki-Won KIM

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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AUG. 2009 - Current	<b>Research Assistant</b> KAMLAND: Developed directional reconstruction algorithm for high-energy neutrinos. First ever physics application (dark matter search) of neutrino directionality in scintillator experiments. MINI-TIMECUBE: Lead GEANT4 simulation developer for project. Examined trade studies for various neutron capture dopants in scintillator. Contributed to neutrino/neutron directional reconstruction algorithm. Conducted background studies for long-lived isotopes produced from cosmogenic muons.
AUG. 2007 - MAY. 2009	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> Taught two undergraduate physics mechanics laboratory courses per semester. Received positive reviews.
JAN. 2003 - MAR. 2006	<b>Interpreter and Teacher</b> (Mar. 2006) Part time English lecturer for Korean undergraduate students. (Mar. 2004 - Dec. 2005) Part time contributing reporter and translator for campus magazine. (Jul. 2004) Spontaneous trilingual interpreter for W-CARP International Education Conference. (Mar. 2003 - Mar. 2004) Part time translator for magazine Today's World.

## SKILLS

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Software/Tools: ROOT, GEANT4, PADS, CAD  
Programming Languages: C++, Python, Fortran, Perl, Mathematica, Matlab, Bash, VHDL  
Human Languages: English, Japanese, Korean

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2004	Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Samsung Corp.
2001, 2002, 2003, 2004	Undergraduate Achievement Scholarships, Sun Moon Univ.
2001	Ae-Guk Freshman Scholarship, Sun Moon Univ.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### MINI-TIMECUBE

2015 (expected) V.A. Li et al., MINI-TIMECUBE, RSI Invited Review

### KAMLAND

- 2015 (expected) K. Asakura et al., SEARCH FOR THE PROTON DECAY MODE  $p \rightarrow \bar{\nu}K^+$  WITH KAMLAND, Phys. Rev. D
- Mar. 2015 K. Asakura et al., STUDY OF ELECTRON ANTI-NEUTRINOS ASSOCIATED WITH GAMMA-RAY BURSTS USING KAMLAND, arXiv:1503.02137v1
- Feb. 2015 T.I. Banks et al., A COMPACT ULTRA-CLEAN SYSTEM FOR DEPLOYING RADIOACTIVE SOURCES INSIDE THE KAMLAND DETECTOR, 10.1016/j.nima.2014.09.068
- Jan. 2015 C. Lane et al., A NEW TYPE OF NEUTRINO DETECTOR FOR STERILE NEUTRINO SEARCH AT NUCLEAR REACTORS AND NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION APPLICATIONS, arXiv:1501.06935v1
- May 2014 A. Gando et al.,  $^7\text{Be}$  SOLAR NEUTRINO MEASUREMENT WITH KAMLAND, arXiv:1405.6190v1
- Aug. 2011 S. Abe et al., MEASUREMENT OF THE  $^8\text{B}$  SOLAR NEUTRINO FLUX WITH THE KAMLAND LIQUID SCINTILLATOR DETECTOR, 10.1103/PhysRevC.84.035804
- Aug. 2011 J. Kumar, J.G. Learned, M. Sakai, S. Smith, DARK MATTER DETECTION WITH ELECTRON NEUTRINOS IN LIQUID SCINTILLATION DETECTORS, Phys. Rev. D84 (2011) 036007

## POSTERS AND TALKS

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- Jul. 2015 (expected) Talk for DOE review, Honolulu, Hawaii, HIGH ENERGY ANALYSIS AND APPLICATION TO DARK MATTER SEARCH IN KAMLAND
- Jun. 2012 Poster at Neutrino 2012, Kyoto, Japan, INDIRECT DARK-MATTER DETECTION THROUGH KAMLAND
- Nov. 2010, 2011 Talks at Univ. of Hawaii campus open house, Honolulu, Hawaii, WHAT IS A NEUTRINO?, MINI-TIMECUBE: THE WORLD'S SMALLEST NEUTRINO DETECTOR
- Aug. 2010 Talk at AAP 2010, Sendai, Japan, MINI-TIMECUBE: A PORTABLE DIRECTIONAL NEUTRINO DETECTOR
- Sep. 2009 Talk for DOE review, Honolulu, Hawaii, KAMLAND SUMMARY
- Jul. 2009 Talk at International Neutrino Summer School, Fermilab, STUDENT PRESENTATION: HOW TO SOLVE  $\theta_{23}$  DEGENERACY

## STATEMENT OF RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

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I have been involved with three projects during my graduate studies at University of Hawaii with Prof. John Learned; the 1 kt liquid scintillator neutrino experiment KamLAND in Japan, a portable 2.2 L plastic scintillator neutrino experiment called the mini-TimeCube, and a third related to scintillator R&D for a future 10 kt-scale deep-sea based neutrino detector HanoHano.

My work in KamLAND has involved developing directional event reconstruction methods for high-energy  $\sim\text{GeV}$  scale neutrinos and applying this to conduct an indirect dark matter search by looking at neutrinos from the Earth's core. Studies done with Monte-Carlo suggest that the accuracy of reconstructing the neutrino direction using this method is better than that of water-Cherenkov detectors by  $\sim 10^\circ$  for energies  $\sim 1\text{ GeV}$  and greater. This method is now being tested against events spilling into KamLAND from the T2K neutrino beam-line and the initial results are consistent with what is expected. I believe this is a first ever physics application to neutrino directionality in a scintillator experiment.

In addition, I have worked as the lead GEANT4 simulation designer for the mini-TimeCube

collaboration to conduct case studies for optimizing the detector design, test candidate neutron capture doping elements in plastic scintillator, and simulate the response of the multi-channel-plate (MCP) PMTs deployed in the detector. These studies were used during construction of the detector, and to develop directional algorithms that are now being tested in analysis of neutrons from test sources as well as neutrinos from nuclear reactors. I have also conducted simulation studies for cosmic-ray muons and long-lived cosmogenic background isotopes such as  $^8\text{He}$  and  $^9\text{Li}$ . These backgrounds are extremely difficult to tag due to their long life-time ( $>\sim\text{s}$  scale) and travel distances. The studies have been vital to the project. Working with the mini-TimeCube project has further involved fabricating test boards using the Pads PCB design suit and contributing to the FPGA firmware for the readout electronics.

Finally, my work in scintillator R&D for HanoHano has been designing and building apparatus using CAD for measuring light output of LAB based liquid scintillators when put in large electric potential gradients as well as testing their light transmissivity under extreme temperatures and pressures such as those found in deep-sea environments.

## REFERENCES

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Supplied upon request or please contact in person.

John G. LEARNED	Professor, Univ. of Hawaii, +1-808-956-2964, <a href="mailto:jgl@phys.hawaii.edu">jgl@phys.hawaii.edu</a>
Kunio INOUE	Professor, Tohoku Univ./RCNS, +81-22-795-6727, <a href="mailto:inoue@awa.tohoku.ac.jp">inoue@awa.tohoku.ac.jp</a>
Jason KUMAR	Assoc. Professor, Univ. of Hawaii, +1-808-956-2972, <a href="mailto:jkumar@phys.hawaii.edu">jkumar@phys.hawaii.edu</a>
Jelena MARICIC	Assoc. Professor, Univ. of Hawaii, +1-808-956-7176, <a href="mailto:jelena@phys.hawaii.edu">jelena@phys.hawaii.edu</a>
Adam BERNSTEIN	P.I. Applied Antineutrino Physics, LLNL, <a href="mailto:bernstein3@llnl.gov">bernstein3@llnl.gov</a>

(note: I have met Dr. Bernstein once during AAP 2010 Sendai, so perhaps he knows me least within the listed referrers.)