

Preliminary Results for CCQE Scattering with the MINOS Near Detector

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HEP Seminar, UCL, 4th December 2009

Overview

- Introduction to the MINOS experiment and NuMI beam
- v_μ -CC QE scattering theory and the axial-vector mass
- Event selection and data analysis methodology
- Axial-vector mass results and systematic errors
- Summary and outlook for the analysis

The MINOS Experiment

- The Main Injector Neutrino Oscillation Search.
	- Neutrino beam is produced using the Neutrinos at the Main Injector (NuMI) facility at FNAL.
		- The beam passes through the Near Detector (ND) on-site at FNAL and the Far Detector (FD), 735km away in the Soudan Underground Mine.

• Interesting things happen between the two!

The MINOS Collaboration

The collaboration comprises ~150 physicists from ~30 institutions.

MINOS Physics Goals

(electron, muon, tau flavours)

- Make precision measurements of the oscillation parameters Δm^2 and sin²(2θ) [$v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$].
- Rule out exotic models such as neutrino de-coherence or decay.

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- Search for sub-dominant oscillations at Δm^2_{atm} [$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$].
- Search for possible mixing to sterile neutrinos [$v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{s}$].
- Investigate anti-neutrino oscillations (CPT test) $[\bar{v}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{v}_{\tau}]$.

The NuMI Beam

- 120 GeV protons are flung at a graphite target and the resultant spray of secondary hadrons are focused by magnetic "horns" and subsequently decay to neutrinos.
- In the nominal low energy beam configuration the beam comprises

Rock

End view of horn.

92.9% v_{μ} , 5.8% \bar{v}_{μ} , 1.3% $v_{e} + \bar{v}_{e}$

Variable Beam Energy

NuMI Beam Performance

MINOS currently has over 7e20 POT!

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The MINOS Detectors

- The detectors are designed to be as functionally similar as possible in order to "cancel" many systematic errors in oscillation measurements.
- The ND sees a much larger rate of neutrino interactions though. **Far Detector, 5.4kT**
- Detectors are massive steel-scintillator tracking/sampling calorimeters.
- Both detectors are magnetised to 1.3T which allows us to sign-select particles.

Detector Technology

Events in the MINOS Detectors

What we look for in the muon neutrino / anti-neutrino analyses.

What we use for the sterile neutrino analysis. What we look for in the

Events in the MINOS Detectors

Long muon track with hadronic activity at the vertex.

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Events in the MINOS Detectors

 V_{μ} CC Event **Exent** NC Event **Exercise Section** V_{μ} CC Event

3.5m 2.5m 2.5m 2.5m 2.4

Long muon track with hadronic activity at the vertex.

What we look for in the muon neutrino / anti-neutrino analyses.

Short event often with a diffuse shower.

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Events in the MINOS Detectors

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Long muon track with hadronic activity at the vertex.

What we look for in the muon neutrino / anti-neutrino analyses.

Short event often with a diffuse shower.

What we use for the sterile neutrino analysis. What we look for in the

Short event with a compact, EM-like shower profile.

Events in the MINOS Detectors

$$
E_{v} = E_{\mu} + E_{shw}
$$

Muon energy resolution:

6% from range in the detector 13% from curvature in the magnetic field Shower energy resolution:

Candidate CCQE Scattering Event

• There are various types of v_μ -CC scattering that occur in experiments like MINOS, the dominant three are:

Quasi-Elastic Scattering: (target is modified but does not break up)

$$
V_{\mu} + n \rightarrow \mu^- + p
$$

Resonance Production:

$$
v_{\mu} + n \rightarrow \mu^- + \Delta^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 + p
$$

Deep Inelastic Scattering: (target does break up)

$$
V_{\mu} + N \rightarrow \mu^{-} + X
$$

Why do we care about CCQE?

- Dominant interaction mode at low energy where future experiments will operate (e.g. T2K, NOvA).
- Could be an important systematic for θ_{13} measurements but is also hugely interesting in its own right:
	- Fundamental process
	- \triangleright Probe axial nature of nucleon
	- **▶ Window onto nuclear effects** \blacktriangleright
- CCQE cross section measurements have been being made for 40 years but the devil is in the details...

Why do we care about CCQE?

• Cross section is not well understood, for example see recent results from the MiniBooNE and NOMAD experiments:

• Before I talk more about the current status of CCQE cross section measurements I think we need to take a quick theory diversion…

Towards the CCQE Cross Section

• Incorporation of parity violation in the weak interaction leads to the V-A form of the weak current:

$$
\left|\bar{u}_{e^-}\gamma_\mu u_\nu\right| \rightarrow \left|\bar{u}_{e^-}\gamma_\mu(1-\gamma_5)u_\nu\right|
$$

Fermi's original 4-vector current V-A weak current

• This is valid for lepton-lepton and quark-quark vertices but how about a vertex involving nucleons:

CCQE Scattering

- Additional strong interaction effects must be taken into account.
- We know that such effects conserve the net electric charge (proton always has charge +1).
- There is no reason to believe the same is true in the weak interaction.

Nucleon Form Factors

• Describe hadronic vertex in terms of nucleon form factors which define how much of each type of possible weak current contributes to a scatter:

$$
\bar{u}_p(P^{'})\Gamma^{\mu}_{CC}(q^2)u_n(P) \quad \text{where} \quad \Gamma^{\mu}_{CC}
$$

• These form factors are functions of the probe strength, Q².

$$
= \frac{\gamma^{\mu} F_V(q^2) + \frac{i \sigma^{\mu \nu} q^{\nu}}{2M} F_M(q^2) + \frac{q_{\mu}}{M} F_S(q^2)}{(\gamma^{\mu} F_A(q^2) + \frac{i \sigma^{\mu \nu} q^{\nu}}{2M} F_T(q^2) + \frac{q_{\mu}}{M} F_P(q^2)) \gamma_5}
$$

(V-type and A-type currents)

Nucleon Form Factors

• Describe hadronic vertex in terms of nucleon form factors which define how much of each type of possible weak current contributes to a scatter:

$$
\bar{u}_p(P')\Gamma^{\mu}_{CC}(q^2)u_n(P) \text{ where } \Gamma^{\mu}_{CC} = \frac{\gamma^{\mu}F_V(q^2) + \frac{i\sigma^{\mu\nu}q^{\nu}}{2M}F_M(q^2) + \frac{q_{\mu}}{M}F_S(q^2)}{2M} + \frac{i\sigma^{\mu\nu}q^{\nu}}{2M}F_T(q^2) + \frac{q_{\mu}}{M}F_S(q^2)
$$
\n• These form factors are
\nfunctions of the probe
\nstrength, Q².\n\n
$$
\lambda \propto \frac{1}{p}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\text{Large } Q^2}{\text{V-type and A-type currents}}
$$
\n
$$
\lambda \propto \frac{1}{p}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\text{Large } Q^2}{\text{Nucleon}}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\text{Smaller } Q^2}{\text{Nucleon}}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\text{Nucleon}}{\text{Nucleon}}
$$

Nucleon Form Factors

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\n• These form factors are
\nfunctions of the probe
\nstrength, Q².
\n(V-type and A-type currents)

• In practice, only 3 of the form factors are non-zero:

Multiplied by lepton mass in cross section so neglected for our muons.

$$
\Gamma_{CC}^{\mu} = \gamma^{\mu} \left[F_V^1(q^2) - \gamma_5 F_A(q^2) \right] + \frac{i \sigma^{\mu \nu} q^{\nu}}{2M} \xi F_V^2(q^2)
$$
\nWell measured through electron scattering experiments.

\nScattering experiments can extract $F_A(Q^2)$.

σ_{CCQE} and the Axial-Vector Form Factor

$$
\frac{d\sigma}{d|q^2|} = \frac{M^2 G_F^2 cos^2(\theta_c)}{8\pi E_V^2} \left[A(q^2) - B(q^2) \frac{s - u}{M^2} + C(q^2) \frac{(s - u)^2}{M^4} \right]
$$

• A , B and C are functions of the form factors and, in particular, depend on:

CCQE Differential Cross Section

Well known from neutron β-decay experiments.

The axial-vector mass for CCQE scattering.

σ_{CCQE} and the Axial-Vector Form Factor

$$
\frac{d\sigma}{d|q^2|} = \frac{M^2 G_F^2 cos^2(\theta_c)}{8\pi E_V^2} \left[A(q^2) - B(q^2) \frac{s - u}{M^2} + C(q^2) \frac{(s - u)^2}{M^4} \right]
$$

• A, B and C are functions of the form factors and, in particular, depend on:

$$
F_A(q^2) = \frac{F_A(0)}{(1 - \frac{q^2}{M_A^2})^2}
$$

Dipole form looks a bit like a propagator.

CCQE Differential Cross Section

Could think of M_A as the mass of the exchanged boson corresponding to the axial-vector part of the weak interaction.

• So we know the vector form factors and $F_A(0) \implies$ the uncertainty in this cross section is dominated by the uncertainty on the value of the axial mass.

Nuclear Effects

- Of course in experiments we are not scattering off quarks, or even nucleons, but from nuclei.
- Nuclear effects become important at very low Q² (where we are interacting with a number of nucleons bound in a nucleus).
- Nuclear effects modify the cross section.
- Most neutrino event generators model their nuclei and the associated effects using the relativistic Fermi gas model.
- In MINOS the neutrinos are scattering off iron nuclei - heavy!

The Fermi Gas Model and Pauli-Blocking

- All momentum levels below the Fermi momentum, k_F, are filled.
- Apply Pauli-exclusion principle to the nucleons: identical fermions can"t occupy the same quantum state.

- So any CCQE interaction which leaves the final state nucleon with momentum below k_F is considered to be "Pauli-blocked" (in the event generators this is essentially a Heaviside function).
- Fermi gas model takes care of other nuclear effects too, things like the Fermi motion of nucleons etc. Final state interactions in the nuclear medium are treated separately (will come back to this later).

Impact of Pauli-Blocking

A Generic Axial Mass Measurement

- The CCQE differential cross section with respect to Q^2 depends upon M_{A} ...
- Changes in the value of M_A affect both the shape and rate of the cross section – it is these effects that give sensitivity.
- Possible analysis choices:

If you don"t have a good flux measurement you can use a shape-only fit for $M_{\rm\scriptscriptstyle A}$.

... can measure M_A by looking at the $Q²$ distribution for CCQE scattering events.

Fermi gas is too simplistic – can either ignore the low Q² region in fits or try to modify the CCQE sample at low Q^2 with another parameter.

Current Status of Axial Mass Results

⁻ Lyubushkin *et al*. arXiv:0812.4543

• Also:

MiniBooNE: 1.35+-0.17 (NUINT09) NOMAD: 1.05+-0.07 (above paper)

- World average (circa 2002): 1.026 +- 0.021 GeV
- Complications: Target nucleus Energy range Kinematic resolution Shape v.s. rate Input vector form factors Number of CCQE events

=>M_A is effective parameter?

?

MINOS CCQE Analysis Overview

• MINOS has been going flowchart crazy recently so here it is...

Selecting v_μ -CC Events

- We first remove the majority of NC events by requiring a reconstructed track and then further enrich the sample using a nearest neighbour technique (kNN).
- The kNN combines variables that differentiate between muon tracks and the pion or proton tracks that can be reconstructed in NC events.

Flux Model Tuning

- Different beam configurations sample different regions in parent hadron x_f and p_{τ} .
- We fit the data and tune our FLUKA hadron production model.
- The fits also include nuisance parameters for beam optics effects, cross sections and ND energy scales.
- This flux-tuning procedure has been very successful and all of the MC distributions shown in my talk will use the tuned hadron production model.

Selecting v_μ -CC QE Events

• We select a QE-enriched sample using a simple cut on the hadronic shower energy and only consider events with muons that stop in the ND:

Data/MC Comparison for CCQE Sample

Data/MC Comparison for CCQE Sample

Total # of events selected: Data: 344,736 MC: 292,501

Data wants more low Q^2 suppression and a flatter spectrum at higher Q^2 .

Understanding the Resonances

MINOS Preliminary

Suggests a mis-modeling of nuclear effects for resonance interactions. No Pauli-blocking of resonance events in the default MC –> turn on for CCQE analysis.

We can select a resonance enhanced sample using W cuts and see large differences between data and MC in the low Q^2 (nuclear effect) region.

Fitting for an Effective M_A^{QE}

• Use MINUIT to minimize:

- Will show results from 2 shape-only fits to \mathcal{Q}^2_{QE} (>0.3 and >0.0 GeV²).
- The most important systematic effects are considered directly in the fits whilst other uncertainties are studied via their impact on the fit results.
- Based on observations of the resonance sample we apply Pauli-blocking to the resonance interactions. We also apply a correction for the Coulomb interaction between the nucleus and outgoing lepton.

Fit Parameter: M_AQE-Scale

• Treated as a free parameter in the fits. The effect on the QE sample is asymmetric due to the non-QE background. Note that these figures are absolutely normalized although the fits only consider the Q^2 shape.

Fit Parameter: Muon Energy Scale

• We take a 1σ error of 2% for use in the penalty term (this is the published MINOS uncertainty for stopping muons). This parameter changes Q^2 via the muon-only kinematic reconstruction.

Fit Parameter: M_ARES-Scale

• We take a 1σ error of 15% for use in the penalty term (again, this is the published MINOS uncertainty). This parameter can change both the shape and rate of the resonance background in the QE sample.

Fit Parameter: Low Q² Suppression

• We fit a scaling of the Fermi momentum used to Pauli-block QE events. This is an effective parameter to account for mis-modeled nuclear effects and is only used when we fit for M_A^{QE} below Q²=0.3 GeV².

More on Effective Low Q² Suppression

• Now looking at true Q² for true v_μ -CC QE events. We take an assumed 1σ error of 30% on this parameter which corresponds to removing about 50% of the lowest Q^2 events. There are limitations for this parameter...

Examples of Nuclear Model Spread

Results for >0.3 GeV² Fit

>0.3 GeV² Fit Contour and Correlations

MINOS Preliminary

• Contour drawn from MINUIT and minimized at every point with respect to the other fit parameter; the $\mathsf{M}_{\mathsf{A}}^{\mathsf{RES}}$ -scale. There is a relatively strong anti-correlation between these two fit parameters.

Systematic Errors and >0.3 GeV² Result

MINOS Preliminary

Effective $M_A^{\text{QE}} = 1.26^{+0.12}$ _{-0.10} (fit)^{+0.08}_{-0.12} (syst) GeV

MINOS Preliminary

Systematic Errors and >0.3 GeV² Result

Includes effects such as mis-calibration and mis-reconstruction.

Changes to intra-nuclear re-scattering parameters such as pion elastic or in-elastic scattering, charge exchange, secondary pion production, the formation time and nucleon absorption.

Investigated via changes to the value of the Fermi momentum used to apply Pauli-blocking.

MINOS Preliminary

Effective $M_A^{\text{QE}} = 1.26^{+0.12}$ _{-0.10} (fit)^{+0.08}_{-0.12} (syst) GeV

MINOS Preliminary

Intra-Nuclear Re-Scattering (FSI)

- Hadron mean free path is of order fm.
- Many possibilities to mask the primary interaction (approximately 40% in Iron).
- FSI change both the final hadronic state multiplicities and observable kinematics.

$$
v_{\mu}Fe \to \mu^- p \qquad or
$$

$$
v_{\mu}Fe \to \mu^- ppn \text{ or}
$$

 V_μ Fe $\rightarrow \mu^-$ ppppnnnnn

or…

Results for >0.0 GeV² Fit

>0.0 GeV² Fit Contours

• Contours are drawn from MINUIT and minimized at every point with respect to the other fit parameters; the $\mathsf{M}_{\mathsf{A}}^{\mathsf{RES}}$ -scale and either the QE Fermi momentum scale or stopping muon energy scale.

Systematic Errors and >0.0 GeV² Result

The results and uncertainties from the two fit configurations are very consistent!

MINOS Preliminary

Effective $M_A^{\text{QE}} = 1.19^{+0.09}$ _{-0.10} (fit) ^{+0.12}_{-0.14} (syst) GeV

MINOS Preliminary

Fit errors are reduced because of the extra statistics from the low Q² region. Additional systematic error is increased due to inclusion of low Q² region.

Comparison of Fit Results

• Left figure shows the two sets of fit results along with the errors returned by the fits and points showing the nominal parameter values and input 1σ errors. Right figure shows an overlay of 1σ contours from the fits.

Summary

- From a fit above the region where we might expect serious nuclear effect mis-modeling we find a best fit effective $M_A^{QE} = 1.26$ ^{+0.12}_{-0.10} $^{+0.08}$ _{-0.12} GeV best represents our data.
- From a fit above Q²=0.0 GeV² we find that a best fit effective M_A^{QE} $= 1.19 + 0.09$ _{-0.10} $^{+0.12}$ _{-0.14} GeV, along with an effective low Q² suppression given by taking a Fermi momentum scaling of 1.28 higher than nominal, best represents our data.
- The MINOS preliminary results, on Iron and at higher energy than K2K and MiniBooNE (2.5 GeV peak with most data from 1-6 GeV), show the same trends as these experiments.
- Our data wants more low Q^2 suppression, consistent with a 'beyond the Fermi Gas' nuclear model. The shape of the $Q²$ spectrum requires an increase in the relative number of high $Q²$ events, which we accomplish in our model by increasing $\mathsf{M}_{\mathsf{A}}^{\mathsf{QE}}$.

Analysis Outlook Part 1

- There are a number of routes for extending and improving this analysis:
	- \triangleright use of additional data (we have over 5 times the amount of low energy running as well as data from alternate beam configurations)
	- \triangleright potential measurement with anti-neutrino QE events using the 6% contribution of anti-neutrinos to our beam
	- \triangleright investigation of absolute rate and absolute cross section
	- \triangleright improved QE selection:

We are developing an entirely complimentary QE selection procedure that looks for proton tracks. In particular, this sample has a higher Q² reach.

Analysis Outlook Part 2

• Currently putting together a paper in which we hope to include some statement about deviations from the dipole form for F_{A} :

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Final Remarks

- Accurate knowledge of the CCQE cross section is both important for current and future neutrino oscillation measurements but is also very interesting in it's own right.
- Understanding CCQE events involves nuclear and particle physics theory as well as knowledge from a wide variety of experimental results – complicated but interesting!
- The CCQE cross section really is a hot topic in neutrino physics at the moment – can look forward to lots of new input from experiments like T2K and, in particular, the Minerva experiment at Fermilab over the coming years.
- Any questions?

1

Backup Slides

Detector Calibration

- Cosmic ray muons remove variations between and along strips.
- LED-based light injection system and cosmic muons track channel gains over time.

The Calibration Detector

• A dedicated detector that took data at the CERN PS and provides the absolute energy calibration for MINOS.

Event Generation

- NEUGEN3 event generator
- QE: BBA05 vector form factors, dipole F_A with M_A^{QE} = 0.99 GeV
- Resonances: Rein-Seghal model
- DIS: Bodek-Yang modified LO model, tuned to e and n data in resonance/DIS overlap region
- Coherent production
- Nuclear model: relativistic Fermi Gas (Pauli-blocking of QE)
- FSIs: nucleons and pions

CC Sample Kinematic Coverage

• These sub-samples correspond roughly to kinematic regions where the event generator is using a different piece of the interaction model.

MiniBooNE Result (Pre-NUINT09)

Phys. Rev. Lett 100 (2008) 032301

- On Carbon
- Extra low Q^2 suppression wanted by data.
- Region below 0.2 is fit with κ (= extra Pauli-blocking) .

 $M_A^{\,QE}$ = 1.23 ± 0.2

K2K Result

Phys. Rev. D 74 (2006) 052002

- On Oxygen
- Extra low Q^2 suppression wanted by data but no attempt to include in model or fit.
- Region below 0.2 is not fit.

 M_A^{QE} = 1.20 ± 0.12

>0.3 GeV² Fit: Absolute Normalisation

• MC is now normalized to the POT of the data. The best fit parameters do not fully correct the rate but systematic errors, such as from the flux and intra-nuclear re-scattering, would likely cover the difference.

>0.0 GeV² Fit: Absolute Normalisation

• MC is now normalized to the POT of the data. The best fit parameters do not fully correct the rate but systematic errors, such as from the flux and intra-nuclear re-scattering, would likely cover the difference.

>0.0 GeV² Fit: Correlation Matrix

Comparison of Systematic Shifts

• Comparison of the shifts in the best fit $\mathsf{M}_{\mathsf{A}}^{\mathsf{QE}}$ for the two fits along with the quadrature sum of the positive and negative shifts in each case.