# Identification of multinucleon effects in neutrino-carbon interactions at $\text{MINER}\nu\text{A}$

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We're going to measure neutrino oscillations precisely with this?!

# Big questions in neutrino oscillations

- Do neutrinos violate CP?
- What does this imply for the baryon asymmetry of the universe?

$$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}) \qquad \qquad P(\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e})$$

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# Big questions in neutrino oscillations

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$$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}) \qquad \qquad P(\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e})$$

▶ But no anti-detectors! So we have to understand (anti-)neutrino interactions

#### Oscillation experiments need to reconstruct $E_{\nu}$ accurately

$$P(
u_{lpha} 
ightarrow 
u_{eta}) pprox 1 - \sin^2 2 heta \sin^2 \left(rac{\Delta m^2 L}{E_
u}
ight)$$



# In Cerenkov detectors, need to model neutrino energy *vs* lepton kinematics

▶ Don't see hadrons:  $E_{\nu}$  from lepton + two-body kinematic assumption



#### In "fully-active" detectors, need to model hadron energy in detail

 $E_{\nu} = E_{\text{lepton}} + E_{\text{hadrons}}$ 



# Modeling neutrino-nucleus interactions proceeds in three steps







# Even on free nucleons, several processes to model



# Nuclear effects modify cross sections and kinematics



Fermi gas (our "current model"):



n

- Quasi-free nucleons in a mean field
- Fermi motion, binding energy, Pauli blocking

### Final state interactions modify the observed hadrons

MINER $\nu$ A CC  $1\pi^{\pm}$ 

PRD 92, 092008 (2015)



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### Oscillation experiments have seen discrepancies with this model



# $\dots \text{so has MINER}\nu A$



PRL 111, 022501 (2013); PRL 111, 022502 (2013) (updated flux)

So we know the model is wrong. Want to know exactly what is wrong

In electron scattering, reconstructing full event kinematics reveals details of nuclear structure

Fixed electron energy, so just measure final state electron



In electron scattering, reconstructing full event kinematics reveals details of nuclear structure

▶ Fixed electron energy, so just measure final state electron



What could we learn if we had similar variables in neutrino scattering?

Energy transfer and three-momentum transfer distinguish processes



Energy transfer and three-momentum transfer distinguish processes



Evidence from nuclear physics suggests two effects missing in current event generators



1. Screening from W polarization



2. Interactions involving multiple nucleons



Griffiths, Introduction to Electrodynamics

### Charge screening in nuclear medium: "RPA"



Griffiths, Introduction to Electrodynamics

- Analogous to screening of electric charge in a dielectric
- Calculated using Random Phase Approximation (RPA) PRC 70, 055503 (2004)
- Suppresses low energy, momentum transfer

# Interactions involving multiple nucleons: "2p2h"





#### Interactions involving multiple nucleons: "2p2h"







# These two effects turn up in different regions of our 2D space

▶ Put in both effects, take ratio to nominal:

# These two effects turn up in different regions of our 2D space

> Put in both effects. take ratio to nominal:



Use illustrative Nieves *et al.* calculations PRC 70, 055503 (2004); PRC 83, 045501 (2011)
 Calculations only for 0π final states

# Side story: We modify GENIE pion production to agree with deuterium and $\text{MINER}\nu\text{A}$ data



- Scale down nonresonant pion production by 75% (1.5 $\sigma$ )
- $\blacktriangleright$  Further scale down pion production with  $W < 1.8~{\rm GeV}$  by 10%
- Applied throughout this talk

#### In neutrino scattering, we need to reconstruct the hadronic energy too

Energy transfer:

$$q_0 \equiv \nu =$$
Calorimetric hadronic energy



$$q_3\equiv |{f q}|=\sqrt{Q^2+q_0^2}$$

• Produce inclusive CC  $\nu_{\mu}$  double-differential cross section in  $(q_0, q_3)$ 

# What does calorimetric energy really mean?



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On average, we see *available* hadronic energy  $E_{avail} \neq q_0$ :

 $E_{\text{avail}} = \sum$  (Proton and  $\pi^{\pm}$  KE) + (Total *E* of other particles except neutrons)

# Start with an inclusive CC $u_{\mu}$ selection

- $\blacktriangleright$  All 3.33  $\times$  10<sup>20</sup> pot of NuMI LE neutrino-mode data. Thanks AD! Thanks SCD!
- Fiducial interaction (CH tracker)
- Negative muon matched to MINOS: Thanks MINOS!
- ▶  $2 < E_{\nu} < 6 \text{ GeV}$



127,420 events, 97% purity

# Data disagrees with model in reconstructed variables



Easier to compare in slices of momentum transfer...

# Data disagrees with model in reconstructed variables



Interpret as problem with cross section model

# Important systematics are well under control

#### Flux

- Tune to NA49 data
- Remaining O(10%) uncertainties
- Essentially an overall scale
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  - Muon p scale known to 2–3%
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- Interaction modelling
  - 10s of % uncertainties on primary interaction, FSI

Model parameter	Uncertainty (%)
CC resonance prod.	20
$\Delta$ axial mass $M_A^{ m res}$	20
Non-resonant $\pi$ prod.	50
FSI:	
$\pi$ , $N$ mean free path	20
$\pi$ absorption	30



### 10-20% systematic error on MC prediction > statistical error



## That default prediction again...



## RPA screening improves agreement at low $q_3$ , $E_{avail}$



## Adding 2p2h events is a smaller improvement



## Data/MC ratio shows discrepancies are in contiguous regions



# Discrepancy reduced with RPA+2p2h model



## Step back: what have we learned?

- Got into details to demonstrate that our data shows where the current model falls down
- E<sub>avail</sub> not well modeled. Possibilities:
  - ► q<sub>0</sub> not well modeled. Problem for Cerenkov detectors
  - ▶ Relationship  $q_0 \rightarrow E_{\text{avail}}$  not well modeled. Problem for calorimetric detectors



PRL 112, 061802 (2014)



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To adapt to other detectors, need models. Models need cross-section data...

Making a cross section for comparison to models

$$\sigma_i = \frac{U_{ij}(N_j - B_j)}{\Phi_i T \varepsilon_i A_i}$$

- Subtract small BG using MC (only 3%)
- Details:
  - Flux integrated over  $2 < E_{\nu} < 6$  GeV
  - Don't extrapolate to undetected regions: require  $p_{\mu} > 1.5$  GeV,  $heta_{\mu} < 20^{\circ}$

#### The inferred cross section will allow model comparisons



GENIE  $\pi$  production modified

Your model goes here!

## Cross section calculation has small MC dependence



▶ 100% of difference is taken as "Unfolding model" systematic

#### 10-20% systematic error on cross section > statistical error



#### But what's with that excess?



- Look at particle content
- Possibilities for "excess":
  - Different 2p2h model, or modifications
  - Alter kinematics of Δ
  - ▶ RPA or 2p2h effects in  $\Delta$  region? But no calculation...

## Particle content of the excess: counting protons



- Common prediction of 2p2h models is multiple protons in final state
- > Proton Bragg peak produces one high-energy hit in MINER $\nu A$
- Count hits above 20 MeV near vertex ( $\pm$ 225mm in *z*,  $\pm$ 83mm transverse)

#### Counting multi-proton events: results



• Overall  $\chi^2$  reduced from 14.0 to 7.3 with RPA+2p2h (6 dof)

#### Does modifying initial state in 2p2h events help?



Scaling nn : np ratio might help, probably not enough

## Interpretation: modifying $\Delta$ kinematics shape



MC Δ from Rein and Sehgal (1981 vintage)

• MINER $\nu$ A  $\pi^{\pm}$  data suggest no big changes to model for trackable pions

Lots of possibilities!

Pion ID by Michel tag: is the excess due to pions?



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  - Pion ID by Michel tag: is the excess due to pions?
  - Antineutrino analysis: need neutron ID



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- Lots of possibilities!
  - Pion ID by Michel tag: is the excess due to pions?
  - Antineutrino analysis: need neutron ID
  - Extend to higher neutrino energies with ME data
  - Use passive nuclear targets for measurement on Fe, Pb



Figure: B. Tice

## Recap



▶ Identified variables that allow an *e*-scattering-like analysis in neutrinos

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- Identified variables that allow an e-scattering-like analysis in neutrinos
- A significant step forward in determining exactly *where* our interaction models can be improved
- ▶ We're constraining exactly the model elements that oscillation experiments need

# Backup slides

#### Neutrino oscillations offer a probe of beyond SM physics



Oscillation probability:

$$\mathcal{P}(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu}) \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( \frac{\Delta m^2 L}{E_{\nu}} \right)$$

(Nature, Experimental)

The future of neutrino oscillation physics is in measuring CP violation and the hierarchy

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

The future of neutrino oscillation physics is in measuring CP violation and the hierarchy

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_{\rm e} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_{1} \\ \nu_{2} \\ \nu_{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\bullet \ s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}, \ c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$$

Measured, Unmeasured

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$$\triangleright \ s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}, \ c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$$

Measured, Unmeasured



## More on GENIE pion production modification



- ▶ Use reanalyzed ANL/BNL deuterium data à la Wilkinson et al. PRD 90, 112017
- Scale down nonresonant pion production by 75% (1.5σ): GENIE's NonRESBGvnCC1pi. Keep 50% fractional uncertainty
- See poster 70 from C. Wilkinson, PR and K. McFarland for an updated deuterium fit. Essential conclusions the same
- ▶ Further scale down pion production with W < 1.8 GeV by 10% based on comparison with MINER $\nu$ A data
- From comparison with MINER $\nu$ A CC coherent  $\pi^+$ , reduce coherent with  $E_{\pi} < 450$  MeV by 50%

## RPA reweight function



• Reweight applied to QE events as a function of  $(q_0, q_3)$ 

# Selection efficiency 1



GENIE nominal (with pion production reweighted)

Selection efficiency is high everywhere

Signal def'n: CC  $u_{\mu}$  with 2 <  $E_{
u}$  < 5 GeV,  $p_{\mu}$  > 1.5 GeV and  $heta_{\mu}$  < 20°

Selection efficiency 2



Same as previous, but just for the GENIE 2p2h events

# "Available energy" resolution: GENIE nominal



Reconstructed available energy (GeV)

- This plot shows the resolution of E<sub>avail</sub>, in the six q<sub>3</sub> regions we're quoting, for nominal GENIE (plus pion weights).
- It's not quite the same as the migration matrix used in the analysis, because events with the wrong q<sub>3</sub> are included here
# "Available energy" resolution: GENIE 2p2h



- ► Same as previous, but just for the GENIE 2p2h sample
- Resolution is a little worse than nominal

# Selection: GENIE w/o RPA or MEC, data/MC ratio



Data/MC ratio is clearly larger than systematic uncertainties

# Selection: GENIE plus RPA, data/MC ratio



- This plot is the same as the previous, but the RPA effect has been applied to MC QE events as a reweight
- This improves low-energy region

## Selection: GENIE plus RPA+2p2h, data/MC ratio



This plot is the same as previous, with simulated 2p2h events added

## 2p2h prediction by initial state nucleon pair



- ► This plot shows the reconstructed variables with the 2p2h component (×5) split up by whether the initial nucleon pair is nn or np (the pp prediction is ≈ 0).
- Both *nn* and *np* fill in the dip, and are similar up to higher  $q_3$

## Covariance matrix on reconstructed sample



Strong positive correlations between elements

### 2D reconstructed event distribution plots



These plots show the reconstructed selected event distribution in 2D. The top plot is data, and the bottom row is MC, with nominal (plus pion weights), RPA and RPA+2p2h

## 2D data/MC ratio in reco variables, GENIE w/o RPA or 2p2h



This plot shows the ratio of data to MC in reconstructed variables

## 2D data/MC ratio in reco variables, GENIE plus RPA



Same as previous, but MC now has RPA applied

### 2D data/MC ratio in reco variables, GENIE plus RPA+2p2h



Same as previous, but MC now has RPA applied and 2p2h included

### Uncertainties on MC prediction



## Could the discrepancy just be an energy scale error?



### Could the discrepancy just be an energy scale error?



••••••This is the same as the previous, but now as a ratio to the central value MC  $\,$  85

# Reconstructed W in bins of $Q^2$ , GENIE nominal



 $0.2 < Q^2/\text{GeV} < 0.4$ 

- Do the same in  $(Q^2, W)$
- GENIE is nominal with pion weights

• 
$$Q^2 = 2E_{\nu}(E_{\mu} - p_{\mu}\cos\theta_{\mu}) - m_{\mu}^2$$

• 
$$W = M_N^2 + 2M_N\nu - Q^2$$
  
 $(M_N = (M_p + M_n)/2)$ 

# Reconstructed W in bins of $Q^2$ , GENIE plus RPA



 $0.2 < Q^2/\text{GeV} < 0.4$ 

- Do the same in  $(Q^2, W)$
- Each plot shows W in a slice of Q<sup>2</sup>
- GENIE has pion weights and RPA

# Reconstructed W in bins of $Q^2$ , GENIE plus RPA+2p2h



$$0.2 < Q^2/{
m GeV} < 0.4$$



- Do the same in  $(Q^2, W)$
- Each plot shows W in a slice of Q<sup>2</sup>
- GENIE has pion weights and RPA+2p2h

#### Cross section



• MC with QE and  $\Delta$  components

#### Cross section: MC with RPA



This plot is the same as the previous one, but the prediction is now GENIE with pion weights and RPA applied to the QE component

#### Cross section: MC with RPA+2p2h



This plot is the same as the previous one, but the prediction is now GENIE with pion weights, RPA applied to the QE component, and 2p2h

### Covariance matrix on cross section



> Total covariance and correlation matrices on the cross section

## How does this relate to the 2013 MINER $\nu$ A CCQE result?





- ► Select true CCQE events, split them up by the 2013 CCQE true Q<sup>2</sup><sub>QE</sub> bin they come from, and find their true (q<sub>3</sub>, E<sub>avail</sub>). Draw each bin with contours
- Underneath is the data/MC cross section ratio
- Right is plot from CCQE 2013 neutrino paper