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# **Neutrino Interactions**

Minerba Betancourt International Neutrino Summer School 2018 May 29 2018

# **South Pole Recap**

- Cons
  - Temperature
  - Isolation
  - Weather
- Pros
  - Only one, but very big one
  - Technically nothing can go south over there which makes it perfect for science and experiments!



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# Recap

- Yesterday we reviewed:
  - The different neutrino interactions
  - The Importance of neutrino interactions
  - Some of the challenges for cross section measurements
  - Looked examples of nuclear effects
  - Reviewed some techniques to constraint the flux



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# Outline

- Building cross section measurements
  - Event selection
  - Signal and backgrounds
  - Unfolding
  - Efficiency correction
  - Systematics
  - Extracting the cross section



# **Example: Measuring Differential Cross Section**

- Let's review a measurement from the MINERvA experiment as an example
- We already talk about flux, number of target and number of neutrino interactions, let's review the other components







- The neutrino flux is hard to calculate and an important source of systematic uncertainty
- We have a prediction for the flux with uncertainties about ~8%





#### **MINERvA Experiment**



Design, calibration, and performance of the MINER

Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A, Volume 743, 11 April 2014, Pages 130-159



# **Selected Events**

 $\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx}\right)_{\alpha} = \frac{\sum_{j} U_{j\alpha} \left(N_{data,j} - N_{data,j}^{onga}\right)}{A_{\alpha}(\Phi T)(\Delta x)}$ 

- We make a selection based on the topology of the event
- But all we can measure is how energy is deposited in the detector
- We use our physics knowledge to infer what patterns of energy deposition correspond to our process, but it's not easy
  - Different processes can produce the same final state particles
  - Different initial interactions can produce the same final state particles
  - Some particles or configurations are difficult to detect (examples: neutral particles, two particles traveling right on top of one another)
- Even after our selection cuts, we have some background events that pass the cuts
- In the case of Quasi-Elastic scattering, what are we looking for in the detector?





# Signal and Background

- Signal event: an event that denote the state of what the underlying  $f(\Phi x)$  is To  $k_{ing,j}^{bkgd}$  regardless of whether we manage to  $(\overline{d_{ex}} t)$  the underlying  $f(\Phi x)$   $\Delta x$
- Background event: is an event that passes our analysis cuts, but which is not actually

   a true signal event. These events mimic our signal





the resonance interactions produce pions, but these can be eus (final-state interactions), faking the signal



# **Simulations**

• We use Monte Carlo simulations (GENIE) for the analysis

Neutrino Interaction Simulation `steps'





Costas Andreopoulos, Rutherford Appleton Lab.





# gy and Q<sup>2</sup> Reconst





# **Background Prediction**

 $\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx}\right)_{\alpha} = \frac{\sum_{j} U_{j\alpha} \left(N_{data,j} - N_{data,j}^{ongu}\right)}{A_{\alpha}(\Phi T)(\Delta x)}$ 

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- We know the Monte Carlo models do not reproduce the real data
- Data is used to constrain the backgrounds
- Data driven background fit methods can reduce model-dependence
- An example from a MINERvA background constraint:
  - Taking the shape of the signal and background distributions in the Monte Carlo simulation
  - The relative weights of each of these distributions are varied until we get the combination that best matches the shape of the data
- Looking at the sideband region helps us to constrain the background in the signal region





# Background

- Background are very important part of the analysis
- This part of the analysis is where we spend most time in many analyzes
- To compute any cross section we need to remove the background
- Our simulation has some predictions for the background, can we just subtract the background?
- Remove the background as much as possible and we must constrain the remaining background





# **Background Subtraction**

 $\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx}\right)_{\alpha} = \frac{\sum_{j} U_{j\alpha} \left(N_{data,j} - N_{data,j}^{okga}\right)}{A_{\alpha}(\Phi T)(\Delta x)}$ 

 After the background is constrained with data, we subtract the predicted background contribution from each bin of the desire quantity we want to measure



#### After background subtraction







Cheryl Patrick, MINERvA 101

Cheryl Patrick, MINERvA 101





Cheryl Patrick, MINERvA 101

• To get the unsmearing matrix U, we must invert the migration matrix

Cheryl Patrick, MINERvA 101



# **Efficiency Correction**

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx}\right)_{\alpha} = \frac{\sum_{j} U_{j\alpha} (N_{data,j} - N_{data,j}^{bkgd})}{A_{\alpha} (\Phi T) (\Delta x)}$$

- A measure of how often we select signal events
- Inefficiency comes from reconstruction and detector geometry





# **Efficiency Correction**

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx}\right)_{\alpha} = \frac{\sum_{j} U_{j\alpha}(N_{data,j} - N_{data,j}^{bkgd})}{A_{\alpha}(\Phi T)(\Delta x)}$$

• Unfolded distributions are normalized by efficiency, flux and proton number to produce final cross section





#### **Systematic Uncertainties**







Phys. Rev. Lett. 111, 022501 (2013)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 111, 022502 (2013)

The data most prefer an empirical model that attempt scattering to neutrino-nucleus scattering

# **CCQE Signal Definitions**

- Old CCQE measurements:
  - Signal is defined as an event in which the primary interaction is quasi-elastic (regardless of the final state particles)
  - Incoming (anti) neutrino energy between 1.5 and 10 GeV
- New definition for future CCQE measurements:
  - Signal is defined as CCQE-like, no pions in the final state
  - No cut on the neutrino energy
- Why do we change the definitions? CCQE-like is more clearly defined from an experimental point of view, depends less on the models





# **CC0pi Neutrino Event Selection and Signal Definition**

- New Selection requires a cut on non-vertex recoil energy, events above 0,5 GeV are removed
- Track pions and protons; select events based on particle identification
- Look for Michel electrons at later time to remove events with pi+



#### • Signal definition:

- QE-like: defined by particles exiting the nucleus
- Any number of nucleons of all energy
- No pions, heavy baryons etc
- Additional constraint: muon angle <20 degrees because of the MINERvA-MINOS acceptance</li>



#### Muon Transverse/Longitudinal Momentum vs Q<sup>2</sup>/E<sub>v</sub>

- Decide what to measure:
  - Observables with less model dependence as possible







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**Cheryl Patrick's PhD thesis** 

#### **CC0pi using the Proton Kinematics**

- $Q^2$  is reconstructed using the leading proton from the event (different from the muon kinematic  $Q^2$ )
- Using the QE hypothesis and assuming scattering from a free nucleon at rest

$$Q^{2} = (M')^{2} - M_{p}^{2} + 2M'(T_{p} + M_{p} - M')$$

• Measurement: differential cross section as a function of the proton  $Q^2$ 



Signal (CCQE-like):

Events with one muon, no pions and at least one proton with momentum> 450 MeV/c

CC0pi measurement on scintillator Phys. Rev. D. 91, 071301, 2015 CC0pi new measurements on Iron, lead and Carbon arXiv:1705.03791

Proton information allows to test FSI models



#### **Reconstructed Muon Q<sup>2</sup> vs Proton Q<sup>2</sup> (Plastic)**

 Comparing the Q<sup>2</sup> reconstructed from muon kinematics and the Q<sup>2</sup> reconstructed from proton kinematics



• Q<sup>2</sup> from proton kinematics is affected by final state interactions



#### **Another Example for background constraints**

- Multi SideBand Technique to constrain the background
- $Q^2$  is reconstructed using the leading proton from the muon kinematic  $Q^2$ )
- Using the QE hypothesis and assuming scattering from

$$Q^{2} = (M')^{2} - M_{p}^{2} + 2M'(T_{p} + M_{p} - M')$$



• Select four consecutive sidebands outside of the signal region

30



# **Different SideBands**

• For each sideband, extract weights that force the data and simulation to match perfectly



Background factors for each sideband





# **Extracting the factors**

- Take all the sidebands from one bin of  $Q^2$  and make a fit to straight line
- The fit extracts scale factors simultaneously for RES and DIS



# **Background Scale Factors**

- Extracting scale factors for each bin of  $Q^2$ 



 Example of the scale factors we apply to the simulation before the background subtraction
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# Effect of 2p2h and RPA

 Comparisons of differential cross sections with different simulations no 2p2h, 2p2h, and 2p2h+RPA



- There is an A dependence in the 2p2h model
- Most of the RPA suppression is below the proton threshold 450 MeV



# **Comparing with Generators (GENIE vs NuWro)**

Data prefers the simulation with final state interactions



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The A dependence in NuWro seems to be more favored by the data





# $W(q_0, \mathbf{q})$ Identification of Multinucleon Effects

- Inclusive CC doub
  - q<sub>0</sub> is calorimetric Nucleus

on in  $q_0$  and  $q_3$ 

 $H_{adr_{O}n_{S}}$  is the three momentum transfer

is the four momentum transfer squared

$$- p_{\mu} \cos heta_{\mu}) - M_{\mu}^2 \qquad E$$

$$\mathsf{E}_{
u}=\mathsf{E}_{\mu}+q_{0}$$
  $q_{3}\equiv|\mathbf{q}|=\sqrt{Q^{2}+q_{0}^{2}}$ 

W(Prongelectron scattering

Similar measurement for neutrinos using the hadronic system and the lepton





# **Nuclear Effects at low Three Momentum Transfer**

• Default nuclear model struggles to explain data

GENIE  $\pi$  production modified



Including more sophisticated nuclear models: (2p2h effects and RPA (a charge screening effect))
 GENIE π production modified
 0.20 < Reco. q<sub>3</sub>/GeV < 0.30</li>
 0.30 < Reco. q<sub>3</sub>/GeV < 0.40</li>







# As an example of final state interaction effects, let's review a couple of examples from pion production





#### **Charged current pion production**

Charged pion production

 $\nu_{\mu} + \mathrm{CH} \rightarrow \mu^{-} + n\pi^{\pm} + X$ 



Neutral Pion production

 $\bar{\nu}_{\mu} + \mathrm{CH} \rightarrow \mu^{+} + \pi^{0} + X'$ 



 $E_{\nu} = E_{\mu} + E_{H} (E_{H} \text{ determined calorimetrically})$  $Q^{2} = 2E_{\nu}(E_{\mu} - p_{\mu}\cos(\theta_{\mu\nu})) - m_{\mu}^{2}$  $W_{exp}^{2} = -Q^{2} + m_{N}^{2} + 2m_{N}E_{H} (m_{N} \text{ nucleon mass})$  $W_{gen} : W_{exp} \text{ w/o the assumption of a nucleon at rest}$ 









Phys.Rev. D94 (2016) no.5, 052005



#### **Differential Cross Section as a Function of Q**<sup>2</sup>



#### Shape comparisons





# **Coherent Pion Production by Neutrinos**

- In 1978 the Aachen-Padova measured the v+A→v+A+  $\pi^0$  for the first time
- In 1782 the coherent production of a π<sup>0</sup> in a neutrino interaction was proposed by D. Rein and L. Sehgal (Nucl. Pays. B223. 1983)



#### **Coherent Pion Production Previous Measurements**



SciBooNE experiment (CH)  $\langle E_v \rangle = 1.1 \text{ GeV}, 2.2 \text{ GeV}$ 



# **Coherent Pion Production at MINERvA**

• Two final state particles  $\mu^{\mp}$  +  $\pi^{\pm}$ 



**∓**2**⊥** 

$$E_{\nu} = E_{\mu} + E_{\pi}$$

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

$$|t| = -Q^{2} - 2(E_{\pi}^{2} + E_{\nu}p_{\pi}\cos\theta_{\pi} - p_{\mu}p_{\pi}\cos\theta_{\mu\pi}) + m_{\pi}^{2}$$

COH

QE

**RES W<1.4** 

1.4<W<2.0

250

1.4<W<2.0

W> 2.0 Other

300

W> 2.0

Other



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#### **Coherent Pion Production by Neutrinos**







# **Present and Future**

- We have several experiments studying different neutrino interactions and making precise cross section measurements
  - MINERvA, T2K, NOvA, MiniBooNE, ArgoNeut NOMAD and others..
- Future neutrino oscillation experiment (DUNE) will use new detector technology
  - New targets made of liquid argon
- Several experiments in the lab are leading the effort for the liquid argon (MicroBooNE, SBND and ICARUS)



Charged current candidate from MicrooBooNE



# **Next From MINERvA**

- Measurements of quasi-elastic, pion production, DIS and inclusive on iron, lead and carbon using the NuMI medium energy beam yielding high statistics
- Measurements of nuclear effects for quasi-elastic and pion production with high statistics





# **Ongoing Effort with LAr**

- Short-baseline neutrino program at Fermilab:
  - Search for a fourth type of neutrino (sterile neutrino)
  - Measure cross sections on liquid argon
- Three LAr Time Projection Chamber (TPC) detectors at different locations





- Liquid argon has excellent resolution for final state
  - Provide sample of events with multiple nucleons



# Summary

- Some cross section measurements are challenging because nuclear effects are not easy to disentangle
- We need to understand the interplay between nuclear effects and cross sections in neutrino nucleus interactions
- However, cross sections are very important, since they help us perfect the nuclear model we have in our event generator (GENIE)
- The nuclear model is essential to transfer information from the near detector to the far detector in oscillation experiment
- Understanding the neutrino interactions with nuclei is vital for precision oscillation measurements

