Neutrino Interactions

Kate Scholberg, Duke University

MPA Summer School 2021:

Fundamental Interactions in Particle, Hadron and Nuclear Physics

September 2021



Outline of Lecture Topics











This is the *gentlest* interaction of a neutrino with a nucleus



Coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CEvNS)

$$v + A \rightarrow v + A$$

A neutrino smacks a nucleus via exchange of a Z, and the nucleus recoils as a whole; **coherent** up to $E_v \sim 50$ MeV





Coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CEvNS)

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Nucleon wavefunctions in the target nucleus are **in phase with each other** at low momentum transfer

For $QR \ll 1$, [total xscn] ~ A² * [single constituent xscn]

A: no. of constituents

Image: J. Link Science Perspectives

First proposed >47 years ago!

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 5

1 MARCH 1974

Coherent effects of a weak neutral current

Daniel Z. Freedman[†]

National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510 and Institute for Theoretical Physics, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York 11790 (Received 15 October 1973; revised manuscript received 19 November 1973)

Our suggestion may be an act of hubris, because the inevitable constraints of interaction rate, resolution, and background pose grave experimental difficulties for elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering. We will discuss these problems at the end of this note, but first we wish to present the theoretical ideas relevant to the experiments.

Also: D. Z. Freedman et al., "The Weak Neutral Current and Its Effect in Stellar Collapse", Ann. Rev. Nucl. Sci. 1977. 27:167-207



This is *not* coherent pion production, a strong interaction process *(inelastic)*



How do you pronounce "CEvNS"?

A. "KEVENS"

B. "KENZ"

C. "KENSE"

D. "SEVENS"

E. "SENSE"

F. "SENZ"

\begin{aside}

Literature has CNS, CNNS, CENNS, ...

- I prefer including "E" for "elastic"... otherwise it gets frequently confused with coherent pion production at ~GeV neutrino energies
- I'm told "NN" means "nucleon-nucleon" to nuclear types
- CEvNS is a possibility but those internal Greek letters are annoying

Sevens of the meme! Sevens of the meme!

\end{aside}

Standard Model prediction for CEvNS differential cross section

(probability of kicking a nucleus with recoil energy T)



E_v: neutrino energy T: nuclear recoil energy M: nuclear mass $Q = \sqrt{(2 M T)}$: momentum transfer







Standard Model prediction for differential cross section

(probability of kicking a nucleus with recoil energy T) E_v: neutrino energy T: nuclear recoil energy M: nuclear mass Q = $\sqrt{(2 \text{ M T})}$: momentum transfer







Large cross section (by neutrino standards) but hard to observe due to tiny nuclear recoil energies:



The only experimental signature:

tiny energy deposited by nuclear recoils in the target material



→ WIMP dark matter detectors developed over the last ~decade are sensitive to ~ keV to 10's of keV recoils

CEvNS: what's it good for?

CEvNS as a **signal** for signatures of *new physics*

CEvNS as a **signal** for understanding of "old" physics

CEvNS as a **background** for signatures of new physics

CEvNS as a **signal** for *astrophysics*

CEvNS as a **practical tool**













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So

Things



(not a

complete list!)





The cross section is cleanly predicted in the Standard Model

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dT} = \frac{G_F^2 M}{\pi} F^2(Q) \left[(G_V + G_A)^2 + (G_V - G_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T}{E_\nu}\right)^2 - (G_V^2 - G_A^2) \frac{MT}{E_\nu^2} \right]$$

E_v: neutrino energy
T: nuclear recoil energy
M: nuclear mass
Q = $\sqrt{(2 \text{ M T})}$: momentum transfer

G_V, G_A: SM weak parameters vector $G_V = g_V^p Z + g_V^n N$, (axial $G_A = g_A^p (Z_+ - Z_-) + g_A^n (N_+ - N_-)$

$$g_V^p = 0.0298$$

 $g_V^n = -0.5117$
 $g_A^p = 0.4955$
 $g_A^n = -0.5121.$

The cross section is cleanly predicted in the Standard Model

$$\begin{split} \frac{d\sigma}{dT} &= \frac{G_F^2 M}{\pi} F^2(Q) \left[(G_V + G_A)^2 + (G_V - G_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T}{E_\nu} \right)^2 - (G_V^2 - G_A^2) \frac{MT}{E_\nu^2} \right] \\ & \underset{\text{L}}{\text{E}_\nu}: \text{neutrino energy} \\ & \underset{\text{T}: \text{ nuclear recoil energy}}{\text{M}: \text{ nuclear mass}} \\ & \underset{\text{Q}}{\text{Q}} = \sqrt{(2 \text{ M T}): \text{ momentum transfer}} \end{split}$$

F(Q): nuclear form factor, <~5% uncertainty on event rate



The CEvNS rate is a clean SM prediction



A deviation from α N² prediction can be a signature of beyond-the-SM physics

Searching for BSM Physics with CEvNS

A first example: simple counting to constrain **non-standard interactions (NSI)** of

neutrinos with quarks

Davidson et al., JHEP 0303:011 (2004) Barranco et al., JHEP 0512:021 (2005)

"Model-independent" parameterization

$$\mathcal{L}_{\nu H}^{NSI} = -\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{\substack{q=u,d\\\alpha,\beta=e,\mu,\tau}} \left[\bar{\nu}_{\alpha} \gamma^{\mu} (1-\gamma^5) \nu_{\beta} \right] \times \left(\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^{qL} \left[\bar{q} \gamma_{\mu} (1-\gamma^5) q \right] + \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^{qR} \left[\bar{q} \gamma_{\mu} (1+\gamma^5) q \right] \right)$$

$$\epsilon's \text{ parameterize new interactions}$$

"Non-Universal": ε_{ee} , $\varepsilon_{\mu\mu}$, $\varepsilon_{\tau\tau}$

Flavor-changing: $\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}$, where $\alpha \neq \beta$

 \Rightarrow some are quite poorly constrained (~unity allowed)

Signatures of **Beyond-the-Standard-Model Physics** Look for a CEvNS **excess** or **deficit** wrt SM expectation Csl



Other new physics results in a distortion of the recoil spectrum (Q dependence)

BSM Light Mediators

SM weak charge

(1)

Effective weak charge in presence of light vector mediator Z'

specific to neutrinos and quarks

e.g. arXiv:1708.04255

Neutrino (Anomalous) Magnetic Moment

2, 2, 7, 2, (1, 7, 1)

e.g. arXiv:1505.03202, 1711.09773

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dT}\right)_m = \frac{\pi\alpha^2\mu_\nu^2 Z^2}{m_e^2} \left(\frac{1-T/E_\nu}{T} + \frac{T}{4E_\nu^2}\right) \quad \text{Specific ~1/T upturn} \\ \text{at low recoil energy}$$

Sterile Neutrino Oscillations

$$P_{\nu_{\alpha} \to \nu_{\alpha}}^{\rm SBL}(E_{\nu}) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{\alpha\alpha} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{41}^2 L}{4E_{\nu}}\right)$$

"True" disappearance with baseline-dependent Q distortion

e.g. arXiv: 1511.02834, 1711.09773, 1901.08094

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(not a complete list!) Things



So







What can we learn about nuclear physics with CEvNS?

Nuclear neutron form factor from neutrino-nucleus coherent elastic scattering

PS Amanik and G C McLaughlin

Department of Physics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-8202, USA

Received 19 June 2008 Published 30 October 2008 Online at stacks.iop.org/JPhysG/36/015105

Abstract

We point out that there is potential to study the nuclear neutron form factor through neutrino nucleus coherent elastic scattering. We determine numbers of events for various scenarios in a liquid noble nuclear recoil detector at a stopped pion neutrino source.



Neutrino-nucleus coherent scattering as a probe of neutron density distributions

Kelly Patton¹ Jonathan Engel² Gail C. McLaughlin¹ and Nicolas Schunck³ ¹Physics Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695, USA ²Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599, USA ³Physics Division, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Livermore, California 94551 USA (Dated: July 4, 2012)

Neutrino-nucleus coherent elastic scattering provides a theoretically appealing way to measure the neutron part of nuclear form factors. Using an expansion of form factors into moments, we show that neutrinos from stopped pions can probe not only the second moment of the form factor (the neutron radius) but also the fourth moment. Using simple Monte Carlo techniques for argon, germanium, and xenon detectors of 3.5 tonnes, 1.5 tonnes, and 300 kg, respectively, we show that the neutron radii can be found with an uncertainty of a few percent when near a neutrino flux of 3×10^7 neutrinos/cm²/s. If the normalization of the neutrino flux is known independently, one can determine the moments accurately enough to discriminate among the predictions of various nuclear energy functionals.

Observable is recoil spectrum shape



Neutron radius and "skin" (R_n-R_p) relevant for understanding of neutron stars

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Effect of form-factor *uncertainty* on the recoil spectrum: estimate as R_n +/- 3%



At current level of experimental precision, form factor uncertainty is small effect So: if you are hunting for BSM physics as a distortion of the recoil spectrum ... uncertainties in the form factor are a nuisance!

There are degeneracies in the observables between "old" (but still mysterious) physics



We will need to think carefully about how to disentangle these effects and understand uncertainties, for the longer term

[See also: D. Aristizabal Sierra et al. arXiv:1902.07398, recent INT workshop "Weak Elastic Scattering with Nuclei"] Summary of what we can get at experimentally

Observables:

Event rate Recoil spectrum (T=Q²/2M) [In principle: scattering angle... hard]



Knowable/controllable parameters:

Neutrino flavor, via source, and timing (reactor: v_e -bar, stopped- π : v_e , v_μ -bar, v_μ) N, Z via nuclear target type Baseline Direction with respect to source
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CEvNS as a **signal** for understanding of "old" physics

CEvNS as a **background** for signatures of new physics (DM)

CEvNS as a signal for astrophysics

CEvNS as a **practical tool**



So









CEvNS from natural neutrinos creates ultimate background for direct DM search experiments



cdms.berkeley.edu

The so-called "neutrino floor" (signal!) for direct DM experiments





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So











Natural neutrino fluxes



Natural neutrino fluxes



Search for CEvNS from solar neutrinos with the XENON-1T experiment



Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 091301, arXiv: <u>2012.02846</u>



Limit only so far ... but will eventually hit the floor... sometimes there are interesting things to see if you look down...



Neutrinos from core-collapse supernovae

When a star's core collapses, ~99% of the gravitational binding energy of the proto-nstar goes into v's of *all flavors* with ~tens-of-MeV energies

Energy *can* escape via v's Mostly $v-\overline{v}$ pairs from proto-nstar cooling



Timescale: prompt after core collapse, overall Δt ~10's of seconds













0.02

0.025

0.015

0.005

n

0.01



0.05

0.03 0.035 0.04 0.045 0. Recoil energy threshold (MeV)



Detector example: XENON/LZ/DARWIN

dual-phase xenon time projection chambers



The so-called "neutrino floor" for DM experiments



J. Billard, E. Figueroa-Feliciano, and L. Strigari, arXiv:1307.5458v2 (2013). L. Strigari

Think of a SN burst as "the v floor coming up to meet you"



J. Billard, E. Figueroa-Feliciano, and L. Strigari, arXiv:1307.5458v2 (2013). L. Strigari

How to measure CEvNS

The only experimental signature:

tiny energy deposited by nuclear recoils in the target material



Adetectors developed over the last ~few decades are sensitive to ~ keV to 10's of keV recoils

Low-energy nuclear recoil detection strategies













How to detect CEvNS?



What do you want for your v source?

- ✓ High flux
- ✓ Well understood spectrum
- ✓ Multiple flavors (physics sensitivity)



- ✓ Pulsed source if possible, for background rejection
- ✓ Ability to get close
- ✓ Practical things: access, control, …



Both cross-section and maximum recoil energy increase with neutrino energy:



Stopped-Pion (π**DAR)** Neutrinos



 $|\nu_e|$

between 0 and m_{..}/2

DELAYED (2.2 μs)

 $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^-$

Spallation Neutron Source

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN

15523



Proton beam energy: 0.9-1.3 GeV Total power: 0.9-1.4 MW Pulse duration: 380 ns FWHM Repetition rate: 60 Hz Liquid mercury target

The neutrinos are free!

Time structure of the SNS source

60 Hz pulsed source



The SNS has large, extremely clean stopped-pion v flux

0.08 neutrinos per flavor per proton on target



The COHERENT collaboration

http://sites.duke.edu/coherent



~90 members, 19 institutions 4 countries

arXiv:1509.08702







COHERENT CEVNS Detectors



Nuclear Target	Technology		Mass (kg)	Distance from source (m)	Recoil threshold (keVr)
Csl[Na]	Scintillating crystal	flash	14.6	19.3	6.5
Ge	HPGe PPC	zap	18	22	<few< th=""></few<>
LAr	Single-phase	flash	24	27.5	20
Nal[TI]	Scintillating crystal	flash	185*/3338	25	13

Multiple detectors for N² dependence of the cross section









Siting for deployment in SNS basement

View looking down "Neutrino Alley"

(measured neutron backgrounds low,

~ 8 mwe overburden)



Expected recoil energy distribution



If 100 counts are expected in 10 kg of argon at 20 m, how many are expected in 100 kg at 40 m?

A. 2.5
B. 25
C. 100
D. 250
E. 2500

Backgrounds

Usual suspects: cosmogenics ambient and intrinsic radioactivity

- detector-specific noise and dark rate

Neutrons are especially not your friends*



Steady-state backgrounds can be *measured* off-beam-pulse ... in-time backgrounds must be carefully characterized

A "friendly fire" in-time background: Neutrino Induced Neutrons (NINs)



- potentially non-negligible background from shielding
- requires careful shielding design
- large uncertainties (factor of few) in xscn calculation
- [Also: a signal in itself, e.g, HALO SN detector]


The CsI Detector in Shielding in Neutrino Alley at the SNS





A hand-held detector!



Almost wrapped up...

Layer	HDPE*	Low backg. lead	Lead	Muon veto	Water
Thickness	3"	2"	4"	2"	4"
Colour		///			



First light at the SNS (stopped-pion neutrinos) with 14.6-kg CsI[Na] detector



D. Akimov et al., *Science*, 2017 http://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2017/08/02/science.aao0990

Neutrino non-standard interaction constraints for current CsI data set:



*CHARM constraints apply only to heavy mediators



Single-Phase Liquid Argon

- ~24 kg active mass 2 x Hamamatsu 5912-02-MOD 8" PMTs
 - 8" borosilicate glass window
 - 14 dynodes
 - QE: 18%@ 400 nm
- Wavelength shifter: TPB-coated Teflon walls and PMTs
- Cryomech cryocooler 90 Wt
 PT90 single-state pulse-tube cold head







Detector from FNAL, previously built (J. Yoo et al.) for CENNS@BNB (S. Brice, Phys.Rev. D89 (2014) no.7, 072004)

Likelihood fit in time, recoil energy, PSD parameter

Beam-unrelated-background-subtracted projections of 3D likelihood fit



- Bands are systematic errors from 1D excursions
- 2 independent analyses w/separate cuts, similar results (this is the "A" analysis)



New Constraints on NSI parameters





Remaining CsI[Na] dataset,

with >2 x statistics

+ improved detector response understanding

+ improved analysis





Best fit results

Steady-state background	1273
Beam-related neutrons	17
Neutrino-induced neutrons	5
CEvNS	306



And squeezing down the possibilities for new physics...





High-Purity Germanium Detectors

P-type Point Contact



- Excellent low-energy resolution
- Well-measured quenching factor
- Reasonable timing
 - 8 Canberra/Mirion 2 kg detectors in multi-port dewar
 - Compact poly+Cu+Pb shield
 - Muon veto
 - Designed to enable additional detectors



Tonne-scale LAr Detector



- 750-kg LAr will fit in the same place, will reuse part of existing infrastructure
- Could potentially use
 underground argon



CC/NC **inelastic** in argon of interest for supernova neutrinos

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{CC} & \nu_e \texttt{+}^{40}\text{Ar} \rightarrow e^\texttt{-} \texttt{+}^{40}\text{K}^* \\ \text{NC} & \nu_x \texttt{+}^{40}\text{Ar} \rightarrow \nu_x \texttt{+}^{40}\text{Ar}^* \end{array}$

If ~7000 CEvNS interactions per year are detected in 1 ton of argon at the SNS, about how many v_eCC events would be expected?

A. 70000 **B.** 3000 C. 300 D. 70 E. 3 F. 0.1

COHERENT CEvNS Detector Status and Farther Future

Nuclear Target	Technology	Mass (kg)	Distance from source (m)	Recoil threshold (keVr)	Data-taking start date	Future
Csl[Na]	Scintillating crystal	14.6	19.3	6.5	9/2015	Decommissioned
Ge	HPGe PPC	18	22	<few< th=""><th>2021</th><th>Funded by NSF MRI, in progress</th></few<>	2021	Funded by NSF MRI, in progress
LAr	Single- phase	24	27.5	20	12/2016, upgraded summer 2017	Expansion to 750 kg scale
Nal[TI]	Scintillating crystal	185*/ 3388	25	13	*high-threshold deployment summer 2016	Expansion to 3.3 tonne , up to 9 tonnes
+D ₂ O for flux normalization						

+ concepts for other

targets...

+ power upgrade to 2 MW in 2023, Second Target Station upgrade to 2.8 MW ~2030



Many exciting possibilities for v's + DM!

Many CEvNS Efforts Worldwide

Experiment	Technology	Location	Source
COHERENT	Csl, Ar, Ge, Nal	USA	πDAR
ССМ	Ar	USA	πDAR
CONNIE	Si CCDs	Brazil	Reactor
CONUS	HPGe	Germany	Reactor
MINER	Ge/Si cryogenic	USA	Reactor
NuCleus	Cryogenic CaWO ₄ , Al ₂ O ₃ calorimeter array	Europe	Reactor
vGEN	Ge PPC	Russia	Reactor
RED-100	LXe dual phase	Russia	Reactor
Ricochet	Ge, Zn bolometers	France	Reactor
TEXONO	p-PCGe	Taiwan	Reactors



+ DM detectors, +directional detectors +more... many novel low-background, low-threshold technologies!!

Coherent Captain Mills @ Lujan: single-phase LAr



- Room to deploy shielding, large overhead crane, power, etc

Primary focus on sterile neutrinos & DM search

Neutrinos from nuclear reactors



- v_e-bar produced in fission reactions (one flavor)
- huge fluxes possible: ~2x10²⁰ s⁻¹ per GW
- several CEvNS searches past, current and future at reactors, but recoil energies<keV and backgrounds make this very challenging



- Brokdorf 3.9 GWth reactor, Germany
- 17 m from core
- 4 kg Ge PPC
- ~300 eVee threshold

Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 4, 041804 arXiv: 2011.00210 [hep-ex]



<85 events in ROI @90 CL

CONNIE

- Angra-2 3.8 GWth nuclear reactor, Brazil
- 32 m from core
- 47.6 g Si CCDs ~0.1 keVee threshold



Phys.Rev.D 100 (2019) 9, 092005 <u>arXiv: 1906.02200</u> [physics.ins-det]

Summary of CEvNS Results



... looking forward to more soon!

Summary of CEvNS Results



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Summary of CEvNS Results



... looking forward to more soon!

Take-away points from the lecture

- CEvNS:
 - large cross section, but tiny recoils, $\alpha~N^2$
 - accessible w/low-energy threshold detectors, plus extra oomph of stopped-pion neutrino source
- First measurement by COHERENT Csl[Na] at the SNS... now Ar, + more Csl data!
- Meaningful bounds on beyond-the-SM physics



- Nore Nal+Ge CEvNS soon, (+ inelastics)!
- Multiple targets, upgrades and new ideas in the works!
- "Neutrino Avenue" at the Second Target Station?
- Other CEvNS experiments will join the fun! (CCM, TEXONO, CONUS, CONNIE, MINER, RED, Ricochet, NUCLEUS...)