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The Short-Baseline Near Detector: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

Vishvas Pandey for the SBND Collaboration



Neutrino Scattering at Low and Intermediate Energies, Mainz, Jun 26 – 30, 2023

Outline

- Short Baseline Neutrino (SBN) Program at Fermilab
 - Short-baseline anomalies, status
- Short Baseline Near Detector (SBND)
 - Installation status and timeline, key features
- Neutrino Interaction Physics at SBND
 - High statistics, detection capabilities, SBND-PRISM
- Broader Physics Program at SBND
 - Oscillations and BSM Physics



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Liquid Scintillator Neutrino Detector (LSND) at LANL

• Well known decay-at-rest neutrinos:





Liquid Scintillator Neutrino Detector (LSND) at LANL

• Well known decay-at-rest neutrinos:





- A 3.8 σ excess of events over backgrounds was observed.
- Compatible with $\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e}$ oscillations with L/E ~ 1 m/MeV

SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

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MiniBooNE at FNAL

• Designed to test the LSND anomaly - very different L, E, but similar L/E







MiniBooNE at FNAL

Designed to test the LSND anomaly - very different L, E, but similar L/E



SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

Short-Baseline Anomaly: Sterile Neutrino?

- Similar observation by reactor experiments (reactor anomaly, $\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance) and Source experiments (Gallium anomaly, ν_e disappearance)
- If coming from oscillations, all these results require a new mass eigenstate around the eV scale
- A new heavier mass state with mass-splitting $\Delta m^2_{41} \sim \mathcal{O} (1 eV^2)$ that can generate neutrino oscillations at short-distances

$$P\left(\nu_{\mu} \to \nu_{e}\right) = \sin^{2}\left(2\theta_{\mu e}\right)\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\Delta m_{41}^{2}L}{4E_{\nu}}\right)$$

$$\sin^2 (2\theta_{\mu e}) \equiv 4 |U_{e4}|^2 |U_{\mu 4}|^2$$



Short-Baseline Anomaly: Caveats?

Electron/photon separation

Appearance/disappearance tension



Short-Baseline Anomaly: Caveats?

Electron/photon separation

 Cherenkov signatures in MiniBooNE are unable to distinguish between photons and electrons





MiniBooNE Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 103, 052002 (2021)

Appearance/disappearance tension



Short-Baseline Anomaly: Caveats?

Electron/photon separation

 Cherenkov signatures in MiniBooNE are unable to distinguish between photons and electrons



Appearance/disappearance tension

- When combining appearance and disappearance data, a 4.7 σ tension arises.
- A lack of overlap between the parameter region favored by appearance data (driven by LSND and MiniBooNE) and the strong exclusion limits from disappearance data.



Sterile Neutrino Global Fits ca 2019



Short-Baseline Neutrino (SBN) Program at Fermilab

- Three functionally identical Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber (LArTPC) detectors located along the Booster Neutrino Beamline (BNB) at Fermilab
 - Introducing a new detector technology to this endeavor LArTPC
- Same neutrino beam, nuclear target and detector technology to reduce systematic uncertainties to the % level.
- Large LArTPC detector masses and proximity to intense beams enables a broad physics program, including BSM searches & high statistics cross section measurements.
- SBN is also a ground for the LArTPC technology development that will be used in DUNE.



SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

Short-Baseline Neutrino (SBN) Program at Fermilab

Electron/photon separation

Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber (LArTPC)

Fully active calorimeter and high resolution tracking - allows strong electron-photon separation



Appearance/disappearance tension

• Three functionally identical detectors along the same beam line will allow studying ν_e appearance, ν_{μ} disappearance and ν_e disappearance oscillation channels in the same program, and help resolve the appearance-disappearance tension.

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Short-Baseline Anomaly: Evolving Landscape

- The landscape of SBN anomalies have evolved in recent years.
- Many alternative explanations.
- SBN program can directly test a vast array of these interpretations, ranging from conventional origins, to flavor transformation, and to new particle production in the beam or in neutrino scattering.



categorized by their signature.						
Category	Model	Signature	Anomalies			
			LSND	MiniBooNE	Reactor	Gallium
	3+N oscillations	oscillations	 Image: A start of the start of	 ✓ 	1	1
Flavor						
Conversion:	3+N w/ invisible	oscillations w/ $ u_4$	 Image: A set of the set of the	 ✓ 	1	1
Transitions	sterile decay	invisible decay				
	3+N w/ sterile decay	$ u_4 \rightarrow \phi \nu_e $	√	 ✓ 		√
	3+N w/ anomalous	$ u_{\mu} ightarrow u_{e}$ via	 Image: A start of the start of	 ✓ 	×	×
Flavor	matter effects	matter effects				
Conversion:	3+N w/ quasi-sterile	$ u_{\mu} ightarrow u_{e} w/$	√	 Image: A set of the set of the	√	√
Matter Effects	neutrinos	resonant $ u_s$				
		matter effects				
	lepton-flavor-violating	$\mu^+ \to e^+ \nu_{\alpha} \bar{\nu}_e$	1	×	×	×
Flavor Conversion:	μ decays					
	neutrino-flavor-	$\nu_{\mu}A \to e\phi A$	 Image: A set of the set of the	 ✓ 	×	×
Flavor Violation	changing					
	bremsstrahlung					
Dark Sector: Decays in Flight	transition magnetic	$N \rightarrow \nu \gamma$	×	 ✓ 	×	×
	mom., heavy $ u$ decay					
	dark sector heavy	$N \to \nu(X \to$	×	1	×	×
	neutrino decay	$e^+e^-)$ or				

New physics explanations of the short-baseline anomalies

I the model can naturally explain the anomaly, I the model can partially explain the anomaly, I the model cannot explain the anomaly.

 $N \to \nu(X \to \gamma \gamma)$

 $\nu A \rightarrow NA$.

 $N \rightarrow \nu e^+ e^-$ or

 $N \to \nu \gamma \gamma$

 $\nu A \rightarrow NA$.

 $N \rightarrow \nu \gamma$

 γ or e^+e^-

 γ

1

1

Х

1

neutrino-induced

up-scattering

neutrino dipole

up-scattering

dark particle-induced

up-scattering

dark particle-induced

inverse Primakoff

Snowmass NF02 White Paper: https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.07323



X

X

X

X

1

1

1

X

X

Х

X

SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

Dark Sector:

Neutrino

Scattering

Dark Sector:

Dark Matter

Scattering

 Three functionally identical Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber (LArTPC) detectors located along the Booster Neutrino Beamline (BNB) at Fermilab



SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

• **MicroBooNE:** First detector to operate. Took data from 2015 to 2021, now producing large numbers of scientific publications



SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

- **ICARUS:** First LArTPC experiment in the world. Refurbished and transported from the Gran Sasso Lab to Fermilab via CERN. Steady data taking since March 2021.
- Commissioning and physics data have been used to perform the calibration and event reconstruction. First analyses with neutrino data are underway.







SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

• SBND: Installation recently completed. Commissioning expected late in 2023.



SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

Outline





The SBND Experiment



SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

The SBND Experiment

• SBND Design Overview



SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

LArTPC Operating Principle



- A neutrino enters the detector, interacts within the argon to produce final state particles.
- Charged particles ionise and excite the argon atom as they propagate through the detector. Creating ionization electron and scintillation photons.
- Ionized electrons drift (~ms) under uniform electric field & deposit charge on the anode wire readout planes. Digitized signals from the wires are collected. Time of the wire pulses gives the drift coordinate and amplitude gives the deposited charge.
- Scintillation light (~ns) collected by the photon detection system provides timing information (and additional light calorimetry).

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LArTPC Operating Principle



lacksquare

SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities





CPA: The cathode plane (at - 100 kV) assembly (CPA) splits the detector into two TPCs. Drift distance is 2 m, drift time is 1.25 ms

TPB-coated reflective foils to convert VUV into visible light for the PDS.





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APA: Two anode plane assemblies (APAs) on each side of the detector. Three wire planes in each APA, ~11,000 wires.

Wire orientation: 0°, ± 60°, Wire spacing: 3 mm



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electric field of 500 V/cm

and ensure uniform

Cold Electronics: TPC cold electronics (89K) installed on APA frames.

Signals pre-amplified and digitized in the cold for noise reduction

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2 Time Projection Chambers Total Dimension: 4m x 4m x 5m TPC Anóde TPC Cathode Field Cage: Wraps Anóde around the 2 TPCs to

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TPC

Anóde

TPC

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Photon Detection System: 120 8" PMTs (96 coated with TPB) 192 X-ARAPUCA modules together with TPB-coated reflector foils on the cathode, sensitive to both VIS and VUV light



Field Cage: Wraps around the 2 TPCs to step down the voltage and ensure uniform electric field of 500 V/cm



Fall 2019 - Assembly Transport Frame Construction

Jul 2021 - CPA Installation

Aug 2021 - CPA refl. window & bottom FC Installation

Oct & Dec 2021 - APA Installation



Jan 2022 - CPA, both APAs and ground meshes installed

Feb & May 2022 - Cold Electronics Installation

Sep 2022 - PDS Installation



SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

Jun 2022 - Field Cage Closing

• The SBND Detector Assembly was completed in October 2022.





• The SBND Detector Assembly was completed in October 2022.



• The Detector was transported from D0 Assembly Building to the SBN-ND building in December 2022.

Detector Top cap was installed in Feb 2023

Detector was rigged inside the cryostat in April 2023

CRT North wall was installed in May 2023

CRT: plastic scintillator panels coupled to SiMPs to tag cosmic rays

• Commissioning activities are currently going on. Cold commissioning expected to start later this year.

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Neutrino-Nucleus Interactions

- Neutrino-Nucleus interactions constitutes one of the biggest systematics uncertainty in neutrino experiments.
- Nucleus is a complex many-body quantum mechanical system
 - Nucleons bound in the nucleus subject to various nuclear effects
 - Multi-body nucleon correlation, Pauli blocking
- Hadrons re-interact inside the nuclear medium before exiting: Final State Interaction (FSI)
 - FSI can cause different interaction modes to have the same final state

Any discovery in the neutrino sector requires detailed understanding of neutrino interactions with the target material in the detector.

(adapted from T. Golan)

• Neutrino interactions on argon, an isospin asymmetric nucleus, is complex due to multiple nuclear effects and interaction processes relevant for SBN and DUNE.

A substantial neutrino-argon cross-section physics program is critical!

Neutrino-Nucleus Interactions

- MicroBooNE is already making several interesting measurements see Afroditi's talk
- SBND will enable a generational advance in the study of neutrino-argon interactions in the GeV energy range
 - Unprecedented statistics
 - Unique detector capabilities (large photon detector coverage, low thresholds, ns timing, ...)
 - Multiple correlated fluxes (PRISM)
- Huge Statistics combined with LArTPC detector's capabilities low thresholds and 4pi acceptance, imaging, high-resolution tracking, calorimetry and excellent particle identification will allow distinguishing various exclusive final-state particles including rare channel (e.g. production of hyperons).

SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

Neutrino Interactions in SBND: High Statistics

- SBND expects approximately 2 million ν_{μ} CC and 15 thousand ν_{e} CC interactions per year, with around **7,000 total neutrino interactions observed per day**
 - Every ~3 months, SBND will collect a dataset equivalent to the full MicroBooNE BNB five-year run
- SBND will record ~20–30x more neutrino–argon interactions than is currently available
- Large statistics will allow us to study different variables and exclusive and rare channels

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SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

Neutrino Interactions in SBND: LArTPC Capabilities

- SBND has 3mm wire spacing
 - Images of interaction final states recorded with bubble chamber resolution & detail
 - Complex final states can be disentangled
 - Isolated energy deposits may be identified down to O(100) keV
 Opportunity to study MeV-scale activity
- Highly-capable, fully-active tracking calorimeters
 - Low reconstruction thresholds
 - Excellent particle identification
- Capable of ns timing resolution, facilitates:
 - Cosmic rejection in neutrino beam searches
 - Beam rejection in rare and exotic searches

Large volumes of LAr data will enable further developments of powerful reconstruction and analysis techniques.

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Neutrino Interactions in SBND: LArTPC Capabilities

Proton Reconstruction

- A key challenge in reconstructing LArTPC neutrino interactions lies in the proton reconstruction.
- As highly-ionising particles (HIPs), protons quickly deposit large amounts of energy.
- In SBND's simulation, the geometry-driven Pandora* reconstruction achieves a proton tracking threshold around 40 MeV (blue curve)
- Calorimetry has been incorporated into the reconstruction to identity heavy ionization deposits near the vertex for low-energy proton reconstruction (orange curve)
- When combined, the proton identification threshold can be pushed below 15 MeV (green curve)

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*Pandora is a standard pattern recognition package, and is used in many LArTPC experiments: Eur. Phys. J. C 78, 82 (2018)

A Slightly Off-Axis Detector: SBND-PRISM

SBND-PRISM:

- Being close (110 m) to the neutrino source
- Positioned offset relative to the beam center

SBND sees neutrinos from a range of off-axis angles (OAAs)

- Off-axis angles are calculated with respect to the BNB target position

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SBND-PRISM: ν_{μ} Energy Distribution

- ν_{μ} come predominately from the two-body decay, less angular spread, flux changes rapidly with respect to the beam axis.
- With the OAA, the observed neutrino energy spectrum narrows and peaks at a lower energy.

SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

SBND-PRISM: ν_{μ} Energy Distribution

• Energy dependence:

- Up to ~200 MeV difference in ν_{μ} mean energy
- By measuring neutrino interactions at different OAA, we can infer the energy dependence of the cross section (and various nuclear effects) spanning over nearly 200 MeV energy difference.
- Study the relationship between neutrino energy, and lepton (and hadron) kinematics, done by measuring differential cross-section in lepton (and hadron) kinematics at different OAA.

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Disentangling nuclear physics at the "higher-energy" tail:

- The "higher energy" tail of the ν_{μ} flux shrinks as a function of the OAA.
- This would potentially allow us to disentangle nuclear effects that start to dominate at ~1 GeV energy, e.g. non-QE contributions (2p-2h contribution, etc.).

Allows stringent tests of theoretical models and event generators

SBND-PRISM: ν_e Energy Distribution

• Unlike ν_{μ} , ν_{e} come predominately from the three-body decay. For the same parent energy, the ν_{e} flux has a larger angular spread than that of ν_{μ} , and does not follow the same "off-axis" effect as ν_{μ} .

$$\mu^+ \rightarrow \nu_e + \bar{\nu}_\mu + e^+$$
$$K^+ \rightarrow \nu_e + e^+ + \pi^0$$
$$K_L^0 \rightarrow \nu_e + e^+ + \pi^-$$

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(assuming the kaon is perfectly collinear with the beamline)

SBND-PRISM: ν_{μ} and ν_{e} Event Distributions

peak coincides with the on-axis position v_{μ} CC Events $OAA = 1.6^{\circ}$ 300 1.4° 1.2° 200 2 × 10² 10 Neutrino Vertex Y [cm] −100 -200 -300 -200 -300 300 200 100 -100Ó Neutrino Vertex X [cm]

 u_{μ} CC Events

 ν_e **CC Events** distribution is almost constant

• Note high event statistics in all off-axis regions

SBND-PRISM: ν_{μ} and ν_{e} Event Distributions

• ν_{μ} to ν_{e} cross sections:

- Going off-axis, the increase in ν_e to ν_μ flux ratio combined with a choice of kinematics where ν_e to ν_μ differences are expected to be prominent should allow us to measure the ν_e/ν_μ cross section.
- This would allow us to study lepton mass effects, and test Lepton Flavor Universality.
- Note that we expect high event statistics in all offaxis regions.

ν -Ar CC Events

SBND-PRISM: CRT Data

 SBND sees neutrinos from several off-axis angles (OAAs) (Off-axis angle is calculated w.r.t. target position)

• Part of the SBND cosmic ray tagger system was temporary installed in the detector hall.

CRT Data

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- Below is a real data plot of muons from neutrinos interacting in the material upstream of the SBND detector hall (cosmic background subtracted).
- Data taken with the CRT shows the number of beaminduced muons decreases moving away from the beam center.

SBND and DUNE

- SBND interactions will cover significant parts of kinematic phase space relevant for DUNE, including energy range spanning first and second oscillation maxima
- SBND has a significant phase space overlap with DUNE → SBND measurements can be used to constrain the same physics DUNE needs to know.

DUNE kinematic coverage is represented with the blue 2D histogram

SBND kinematic coverage is shown with 3 contours, representing 68%, 95%, and 99.7% of all SBND data.

Neutrino Interactions in SBND

- The capabilities of SBND described so far provide ample opportunities
 - High-statistics searches in high-multiplicity neutrino interaction channels
 - Utilizing the calorimetric and low threshold particle ID capabilities of LArTPC's one can select and study precise various baryonic final states in details
 - Searches for higher order resonance and rare channels with sensitivities beyond what has been possible before
 - Design analyses to be capable of probing regions of greatest model discrimination power
- These capabilities will allow the study of nuclear effects in neutrino interactions in argon nuclei with unprecedented high precision, providing the testbed to assess and validate nuclear models and generator, and hopefully pave the way for precision neutrino-argon scattering physics.
- Engagement from the theory community is highly encouraged to fully exploit SBND xsec physics program!

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SBN Oscillations Sensitivities

• SBND, as the near detector, is crucial for oscillation searches.

- It sits before oscillations turn on @eV-scale \rightarrow it characterizes the beam and addresses the dominant systematic uncertainties

 The PRISM feature of SBND can potentially improve the SBN sensitivities to sterile neutrino oscillations.

SBN Oscillations Sensitivities

- Current sensitivity plots from SBN using up-to-date models, systematics and geometries
- In two/three sterile oscillation channels, SBN will be sensitive to the parameter space favored by previous measurements at the 5σ confidence level
- Directly address existing tensions observed in the combined appearance and disappearance data.

- High-intensity proton beams (high-intensity neutrino beams)
- SBND's proximity to the target

Magnetic Focusing Horn

- Large mass LArTPC detectors
 - Event imaging
 - Fine granularity calorimetry and particle identification
 - Good timing resolution
 - Low energy threshold

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- SBND's proximity to the target

Magnetic Focusing Horn

Courtesy of P. Machado

- Large mass LArTPC detectors
 - Event imaging
 - Fine granularity calorimetry and particle identification
 - Good timing resolution
 - Low energy threshold
- Unprecedented opportunities to probe signatures for new physics scenarios in the neutrino sector and beyond
- Many ideas for new searches emerging from collaboration with theory colleagues

- Alternative explanations to the MiniBooNE excess and other BSM scenarios.
- Many ideas for new searches emerging from close collaboration with theory colleagues

SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities

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Example signatures and event displays for various BSM scenarios

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Final state signatures: single photon, single electron, electron-positron pairs, "trident" with di-leptons and different levels of hadronic activity

SBND-PRISM provides a natural way to mitigate neutrino induced background

- electron scattering signal, ν e elastic scattering is one of the primary background.
- The neutrino induced background decreases as a function of OAA, while the DM induced signal (produced via neutral meson) is isotopic.
- For the (vector portal, sub-GeV, light) dark matter- NC π^0 elastic scattering is one of the primary background for many BSM e^+e^- pair signatures.
 - Neutrino induced NC π^0 background significantly decreases as a function of OAA. While the BSM signal, if produced via neutral meson, will be isotopic.

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Summary

- SBND experiment is wrapping up installation, preparing for commissioning, and is on-track to start operations early in 2024!
- SBND has a broad science goal as part of SBN program and on its own, addressing alternative explanations of the Short-Baseline anomalies, BSM searches and precision studies of neutrino-argon interactions.
- Neutrino interaction measurements are a key part of SBND's physics program, and will benefit other physics goals of the SBN program and beyond.
- The highly-capable LArTPC detector technology combined with SBND's high statistics will enable a wide variety of neutrino-argon interaction measurements at the GeV scale.
- SBND data will provide the testbed to assess and validate nuclear models and generator, and hopefully pave the way for precision neutrino-argon scattering physics.
- SBND-PRISM enhances physics potential on SBND.

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Thank you!

262 Total Collaborators

(faculty/scientists, postdocs, PhD students)

40 Institutions

5 Brazilian Universities

CERN

ORT-BAS.

ZEAR

SBND

DETE

0A

- 1 Spanish University, 1 National Laboratory
- 1 Swiss University
- 8 UK Universities, 1 National Laboratory
- 18 US Universities, 4 National Laboratories

SBND: Neutrino Interactions Measurement Capabilities