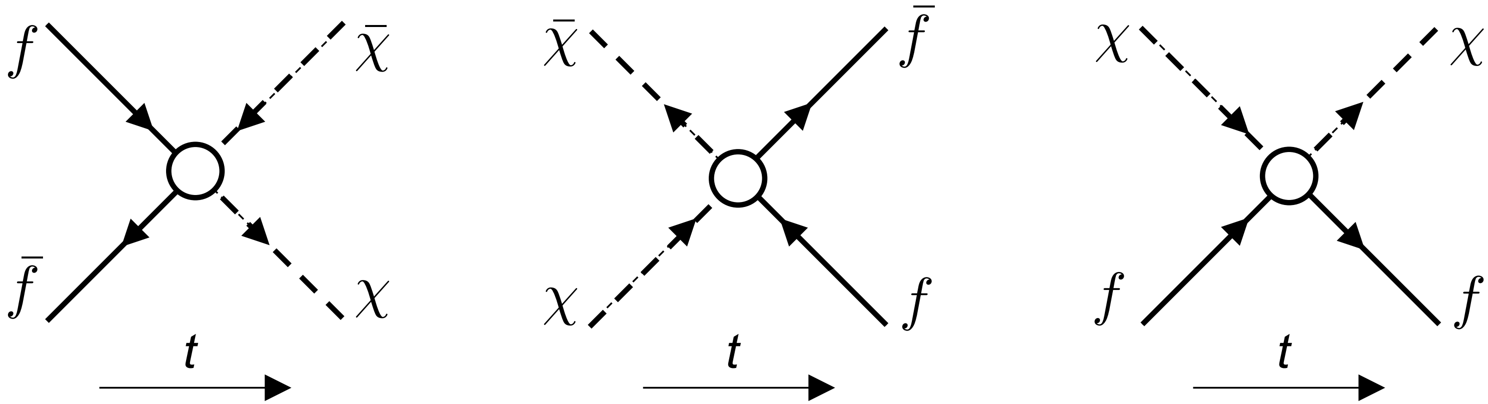
A Light Mass Dark Matter Search with MiniBooNE

Robert Cooper

http://neutrino.indiana.edu/rlcooper

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

How To Look For Dark Matter



Collider Production

- Can cover most of mass range
- Signal is lack of a signal (Missing E_T)

Annihilation

- Energetic particle / antiparticle signals
- Also gamma rays (e.g., 511 keV)

Scattering

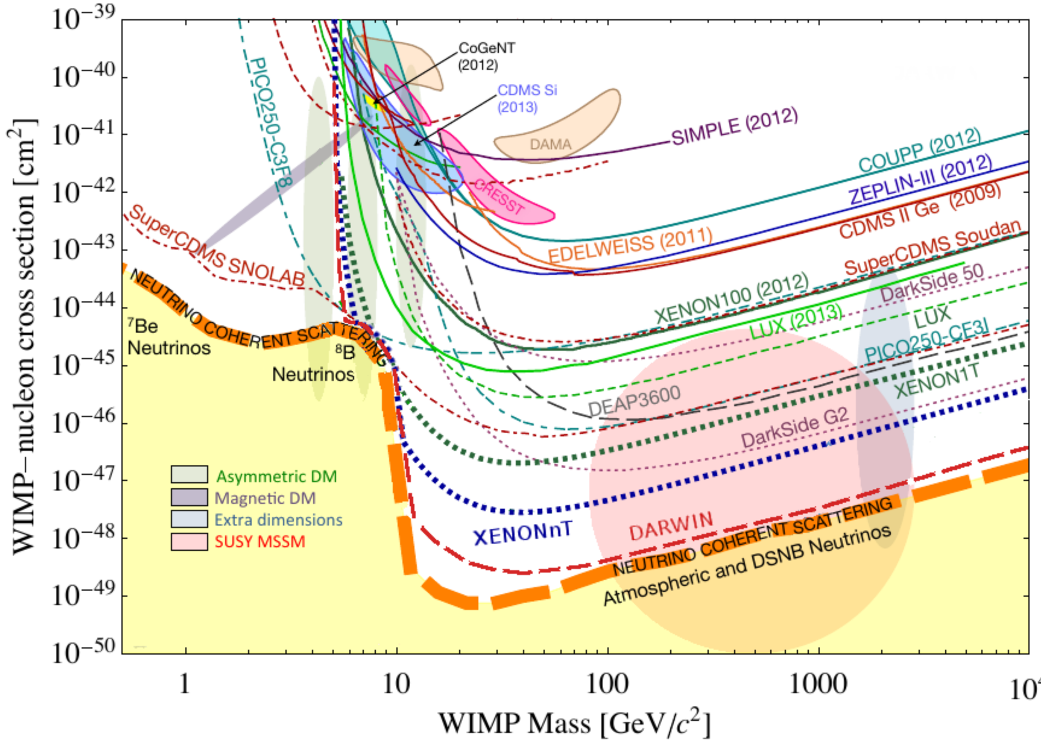
- Galactic halo DM scatters in detector
- Very low energy deposits

Where Are We With Direct Searches?

<u>"WIMP Miracle"</u>

- Electroweak scale masses (~100 GeV) and cross sections (10^{-38} cm^2) give correct relic abundances
- Conflicting claims, mostly ruled out phase space
- A rich dark sector easily bypasses "miracle"

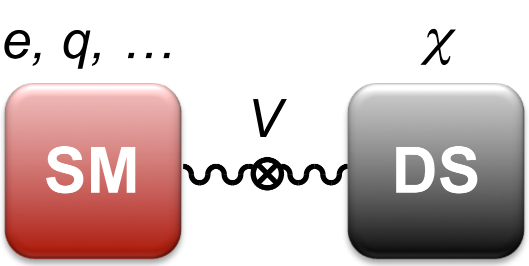
Dark Matter Sensitivity

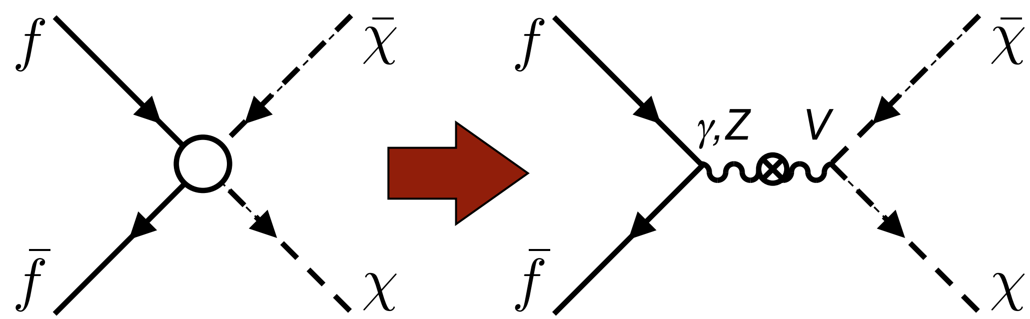


[1]G. L. Baudis, *Phys. Dark Univ.* **4** (2014) 50. arXiv:1408.4371 [astro-ph]

Why Not Sub-GeV Dark Matter?

- Lee-Weinberg bound: $M_\chi > O(1\text{ GeV})$ presumes weak annihilation rate $\sim M_\chi^2 / M_Z^4$ which is too low
- New forces and force carriers → viable light thermal relic
  1. Mediate SM interactions to a dark sector
  2. Open up annihilation channels – circumventing L-W bound



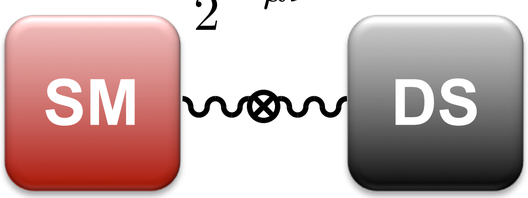


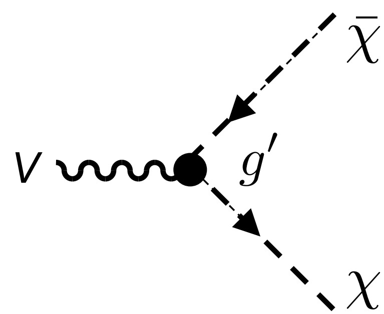
[1] C. Boehm & P. Fayet, *Nucl. Phys.* **B683** (2004) 219. arXiv:hep-ph/0305261 [hep-ph]

Minimal Vector Portal Model

- Postulated to solve excess 511 keV γs from central galaxy bulge → extends more familiar dark photon concept
- U(1) vector mediator kinematically mixed
- Requires 4 parameters: $m_\chi,\ m_V,\ \kappa,\ g'$

$$\frac{\kappa}{2} F_{\mu\nu} V^{\mu\nu}$$



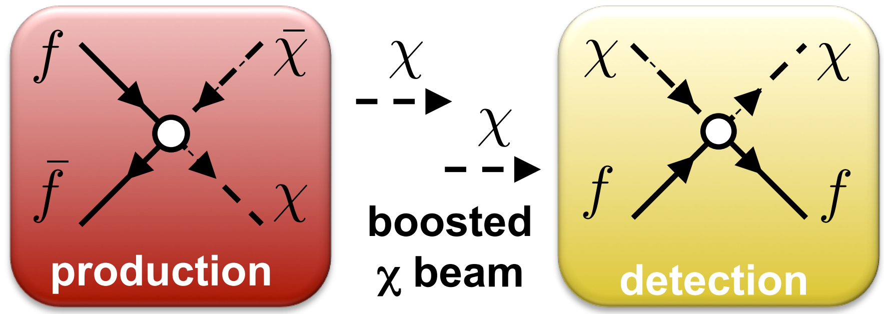


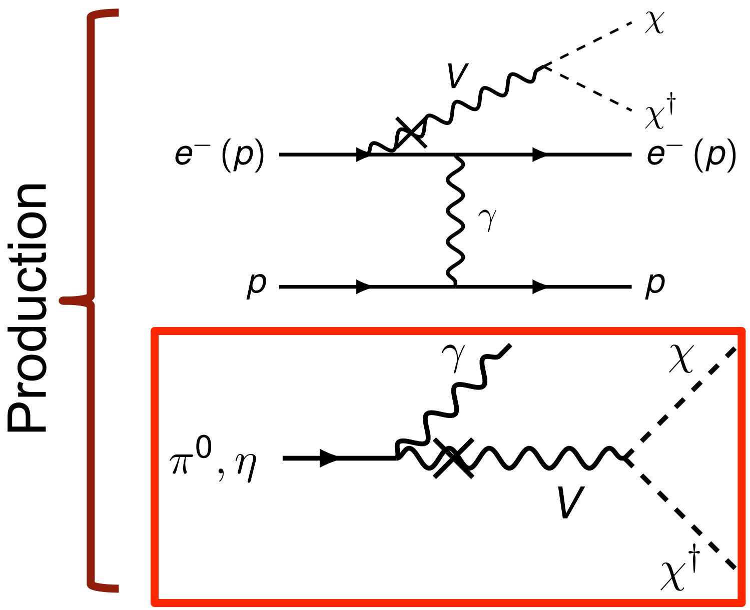
$$\alpha' = g'^2/4\pi$$

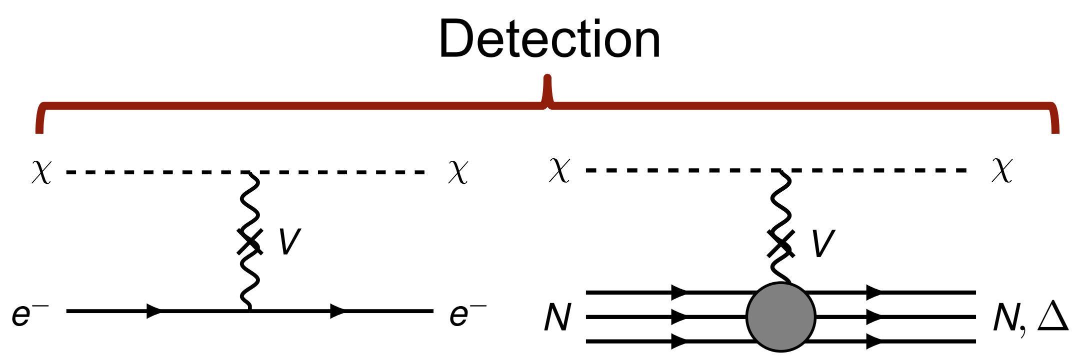
[1] C. Boehm & P. Fayet, *Nucl. Phys.* **B683** (2004) 219. arXiv:hep-ph/0305261 [hep-ph]
C. Boehm et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **92** (2004) 101301. arXiv:astro-ph/0309686 [astro-ph]

Dark Matter Beam and Detector

- High-energy production and scattering detection





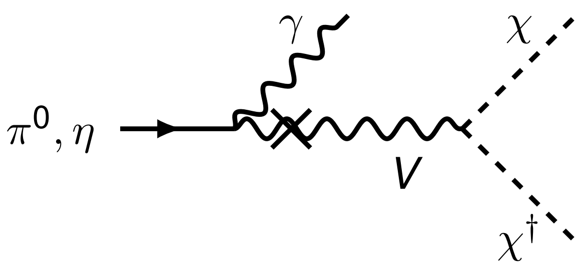


[1] B. Batell et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **113** (2014) 171802. arXiv:1406.2698 [hep-ph].
P. deNiverville et al., *Phys. Rev.* **D84** (2011) 075020. arXiv:1107.4580 [hep-ph].

Our Primary Sensitivity

- To create a "beam" of dark matter traveling 500 m in dirt, require invisible decays

$$m_V > 2m_\chi$$



- Want final state of *V* decays to prefer pairs of χs

$$V \to \chi\chi^\dagger$$

- SM final state suppression

- Minimal vector portal model initially motivated run

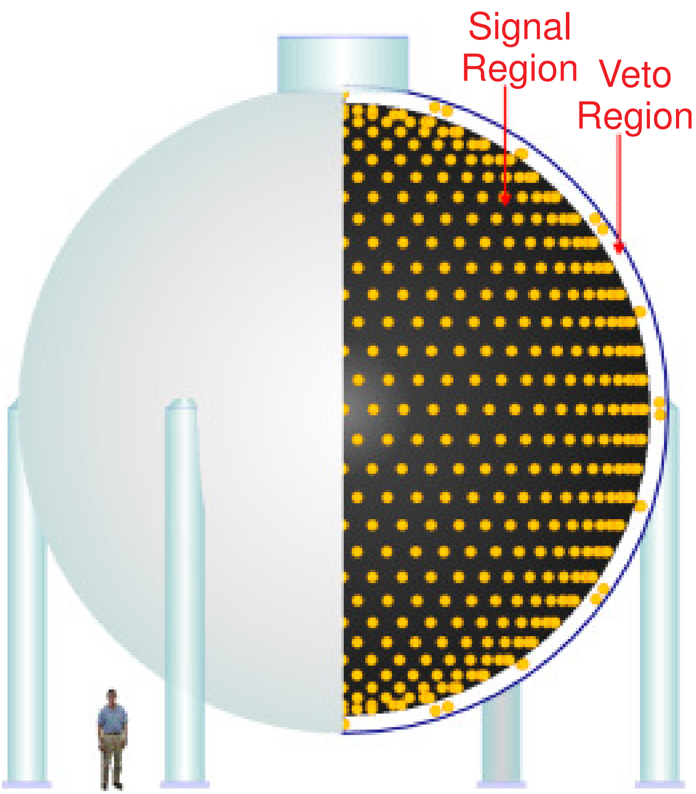
- Not the only viable model (e.g. leptophobic dark matter)

[1] B. Battell et al., *Phys. Rev.* **D90** (2014) 115014. arXiv:1405.7049 [hep-ph].

MINIBOONE DETECTOR

The MiniBooNE Detector

- 12 m spherical detector with 800 tons pure mineral oil (CH_2)
- Cherenkov response with some scintillation from trace fluors
- Inner signal region 1280× 8” PMTs
  Outer veto region 240× 8” PMTs
  (10% photocathode coverage)
- **Detector is very well characterized**



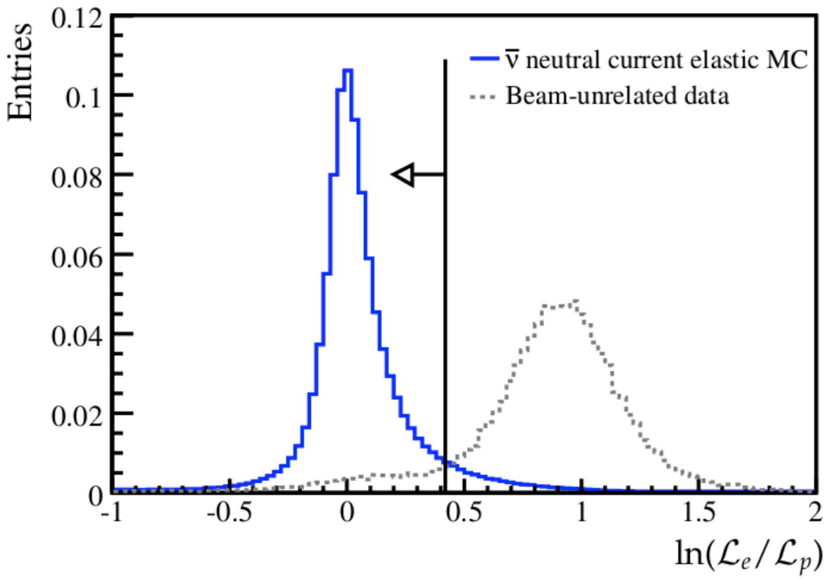
[1]A.A. Aguilar-Arevalo et al., *Nucl. Instrum. Meth.* **A599** (2009) 28. arXiv:0806.4201 [hep-ex].

Indiana University

Particle IDentification

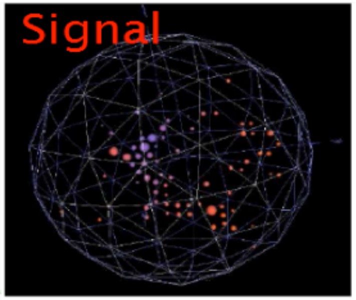
Nucleon PID

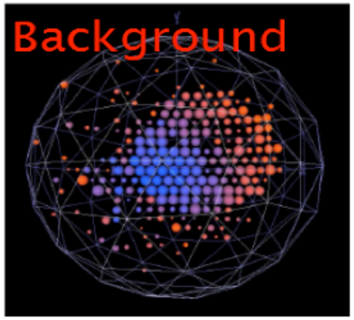
- Slow scintillation, very little Cherenkov
- Poorer energy resolution p - 20%, n – 30%

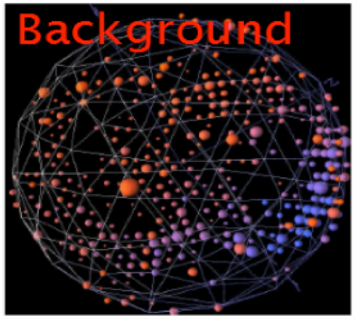


Electron PID

- Mostly Cherenkov but shape is important
- *e*/μ – fuzzy/sharp ring
- π^0 – 2 rings → degeneracy
- *e*χ collision forward peaked → another cut







Previous Beam Dump / Fixed Target Experiments – Proton Beams

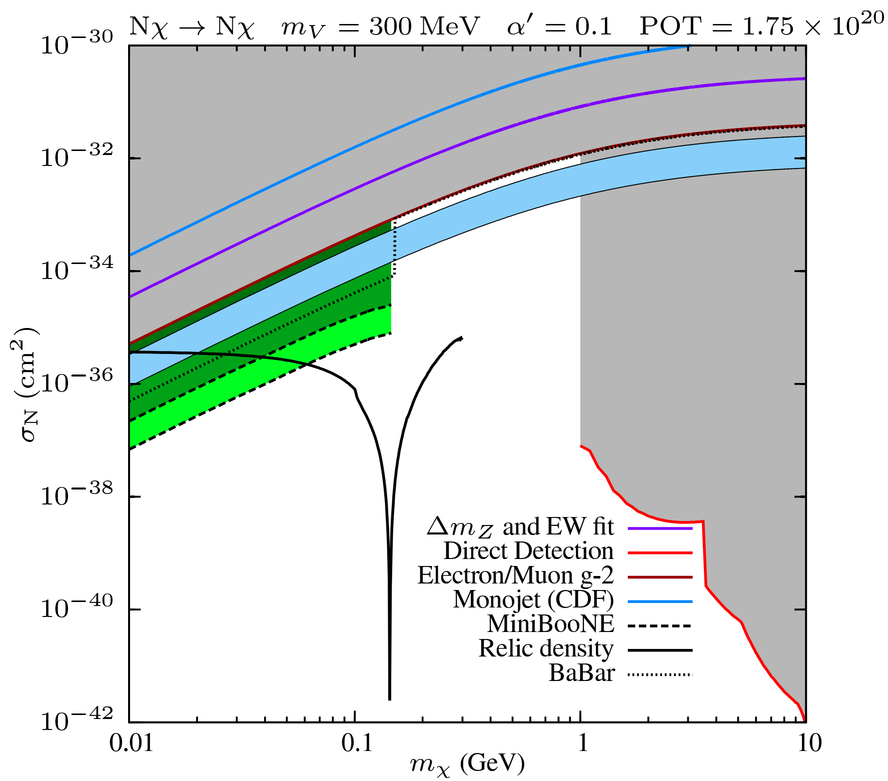
Experiment	Location	approx. Date	Amount of Beam (10^{20} POT)	Beam Energy (GeV)	Target Mat.	Ref.
CHARM	CERN	1983	0.024	400	Cu	[16]
PS191	CERN	1984	0.086	19.2	Be	[17, 18]
E605	Fermilab	1986	4×10^{-7}	800	Cu	[19]
SINDRUM	SIN,PSI					
ν-Cal I	IHEP Serpukhov	1989	0.0171	70	Fe	[20–22]
LSND	LANSCE	1994-1995 1996-1998	813 882	0.798	H20, Cu W,Cu	[23]
NOMAD	CERN	1996-1998	0.41	450	Be	[18, 24]
WASA	COSY	2010		0.550	LH2	[25]
HADES	GSI	2011	0.32 pA*t	3.5	LH2,No,Ar+KCl	[26]
MiniBooNE	**Fermilab**	**2003-2008** **2005-2012** **2013-2014**	**6.27** **11.3** **1.86**	**8.9**	**Be** **Be** **Steel**	**[27]** **[28]** **[29]**

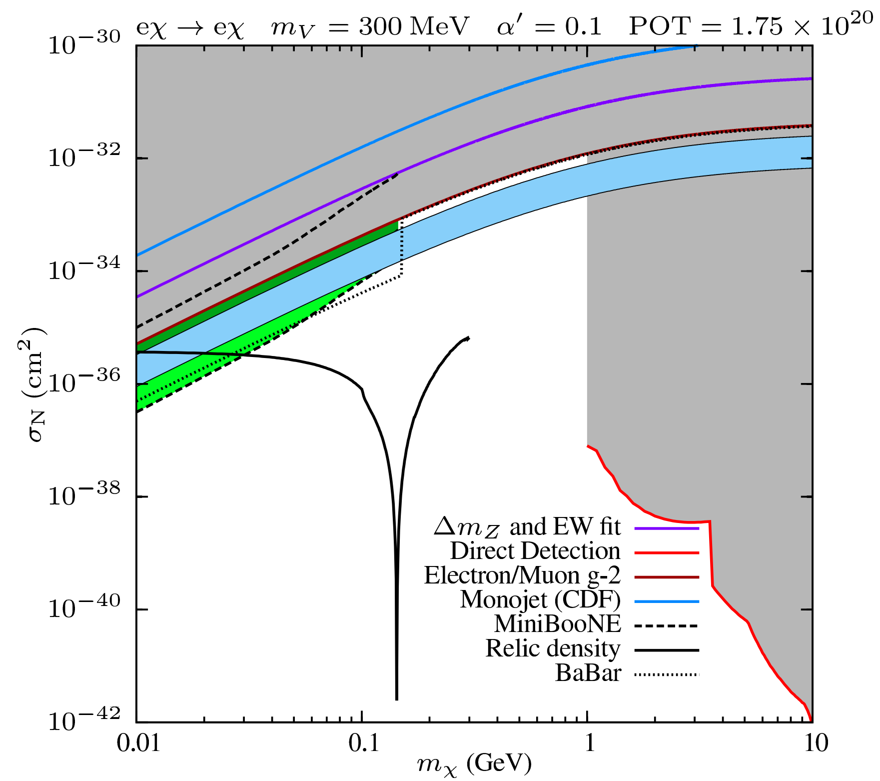
[1]Table by R.T. Thornton, Indiana University Nuclear Physics Seminar, Nov. 21, 2014

Dark Matter Exclusion Plots

Nucleon – DM | **Electron – DM**

1-10 events | 10-100 events | 100-1000 events

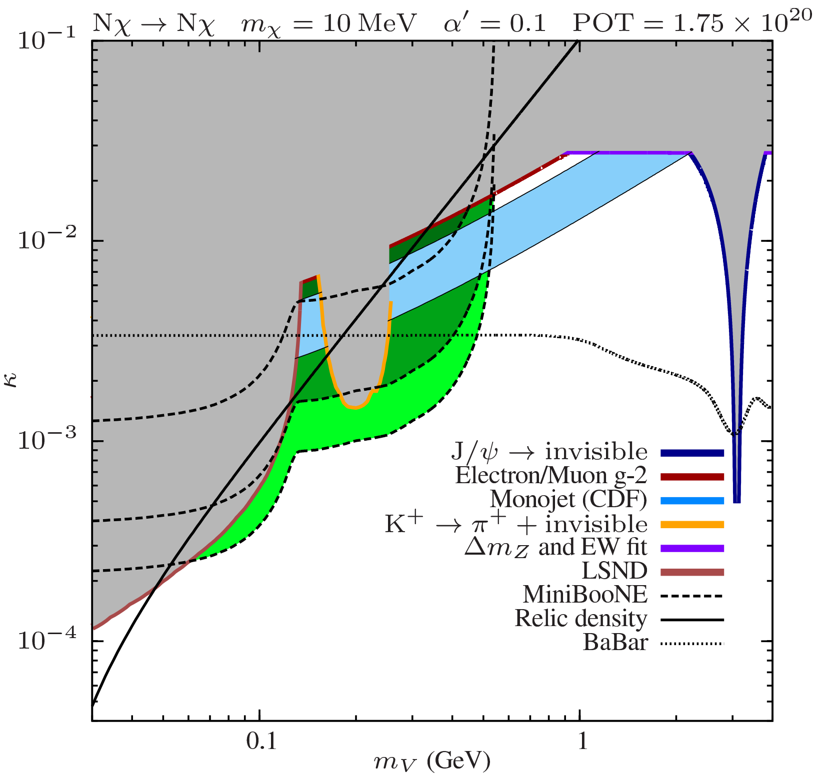


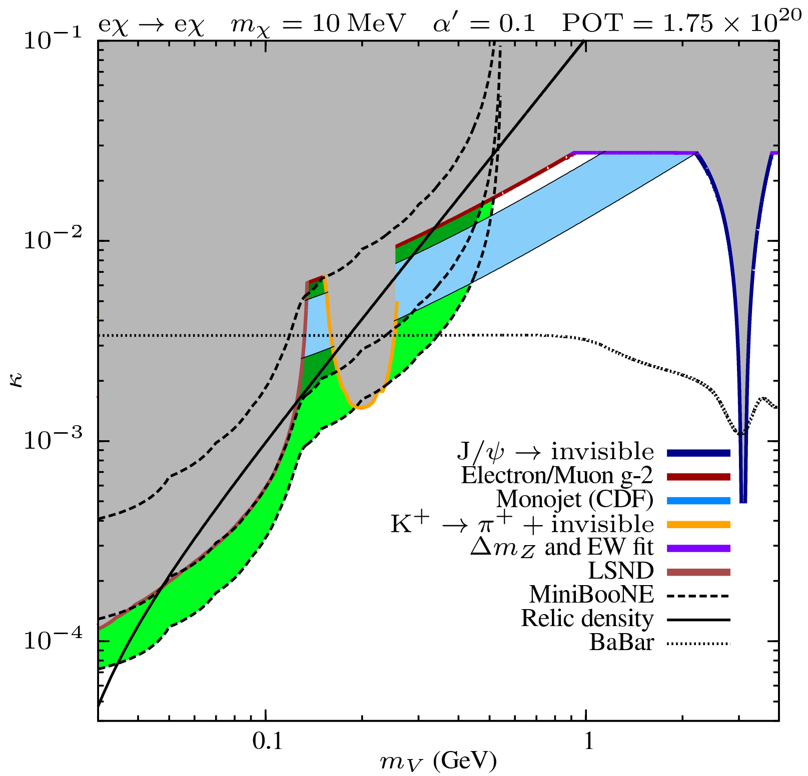


Vector Portal Exclusion Plots

Nucleon – DM | **Electron – DM**

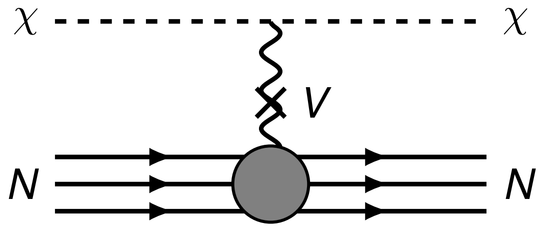
1-10 events | 10-100 events | 100-1000 events





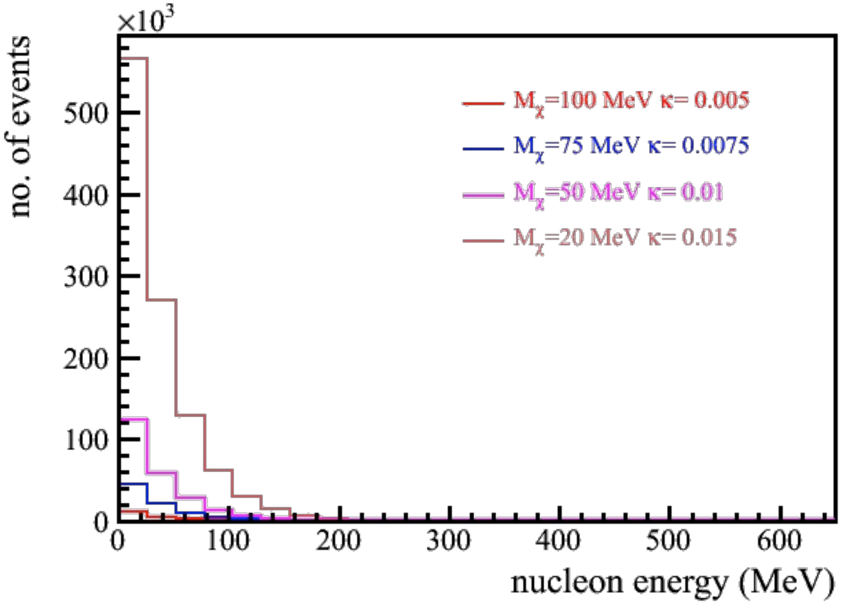
What Is Expected In MiniBooNE?

- Consider nucleon elastic scattering



- Same as ν NC elastic
  → **MUST SUPPRESS ν**

True Nucleon Recoil



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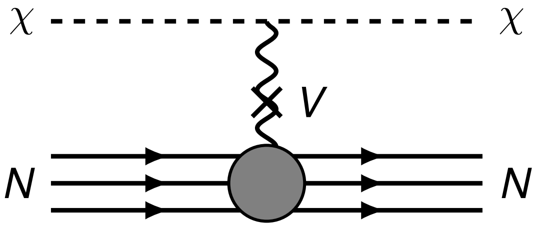

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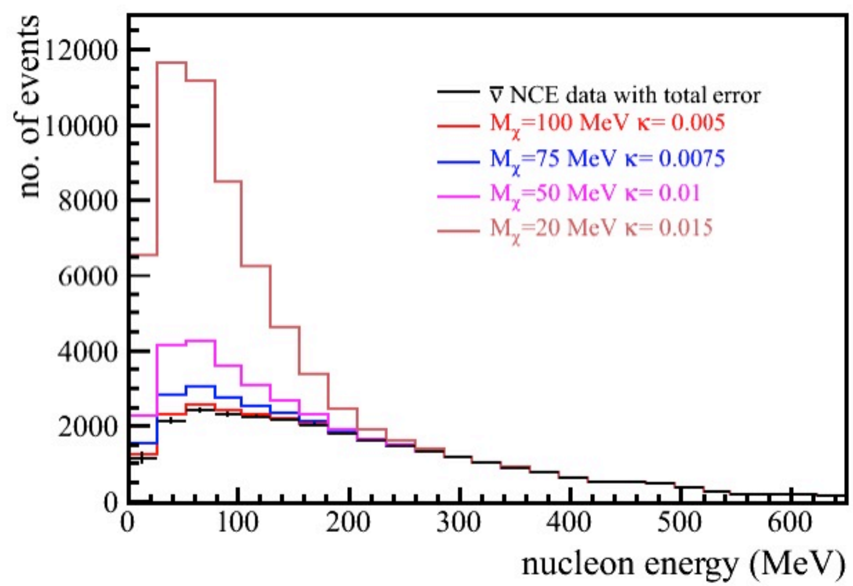
With Detector Efficiency



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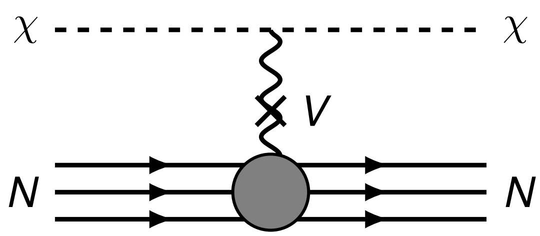

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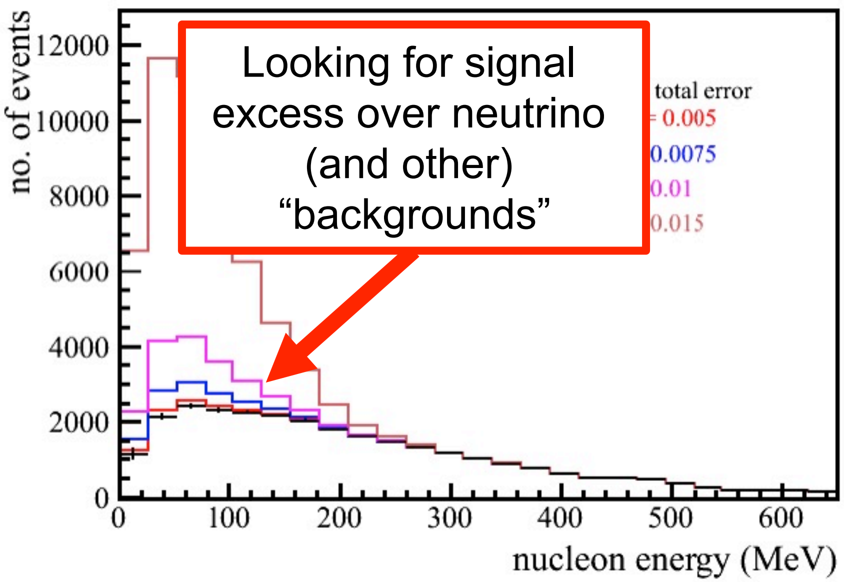

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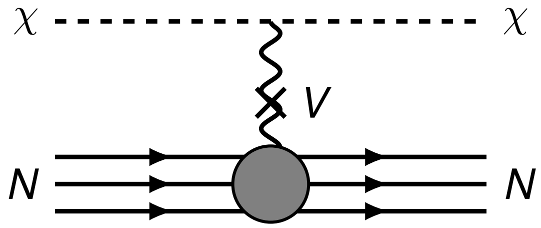

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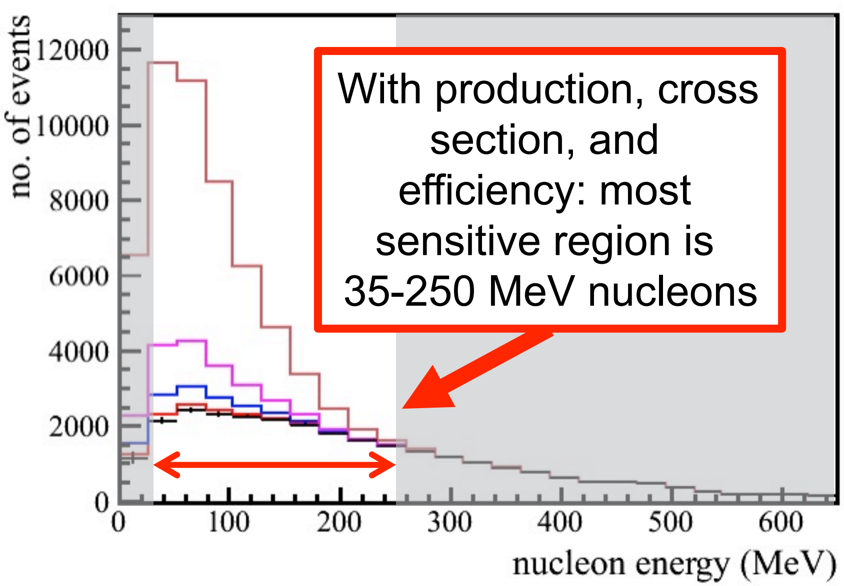

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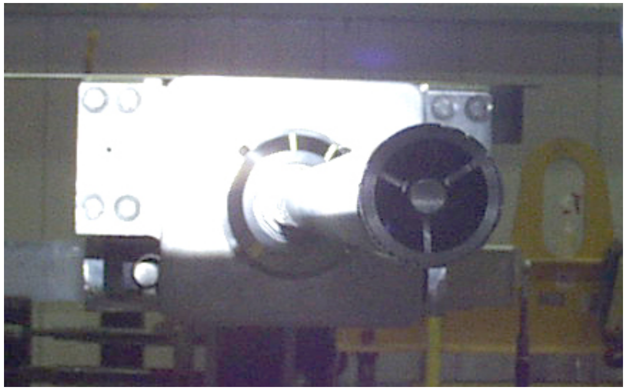
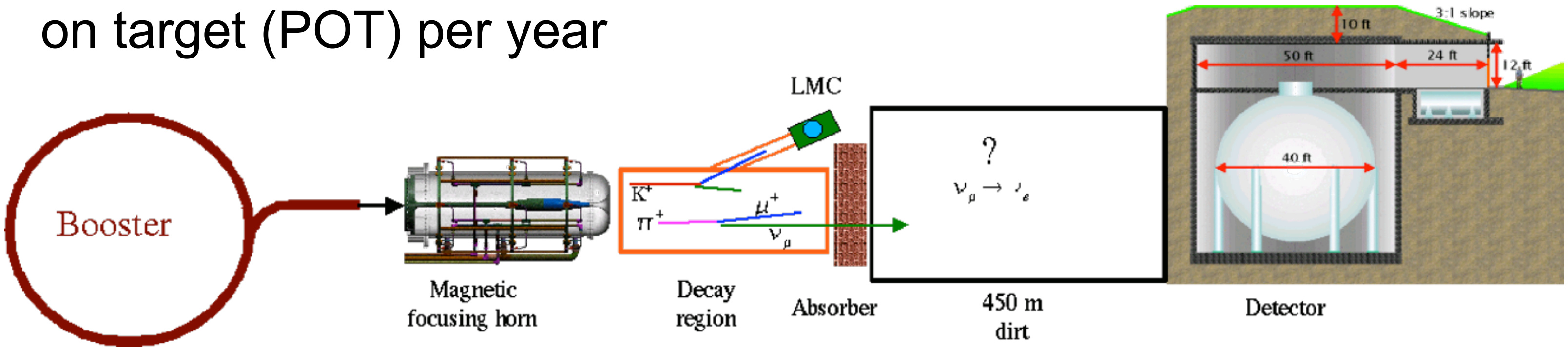
DARK MATTER FROM BNB

The Booster Neutrino Beamline (BNB)

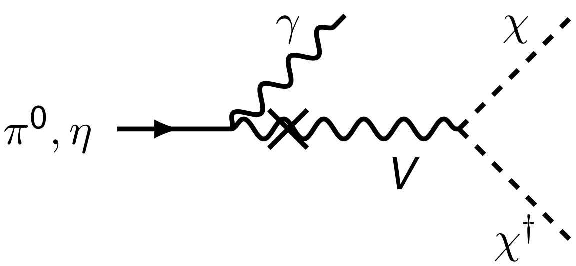
- 8.9 GeV Booster protons to BNB endstation (or Main Injector)
- At BNB, protons strike Be target (1.8 radiation lengths)
- Typical operation: 2×10^{20} protons on target (POT) per year



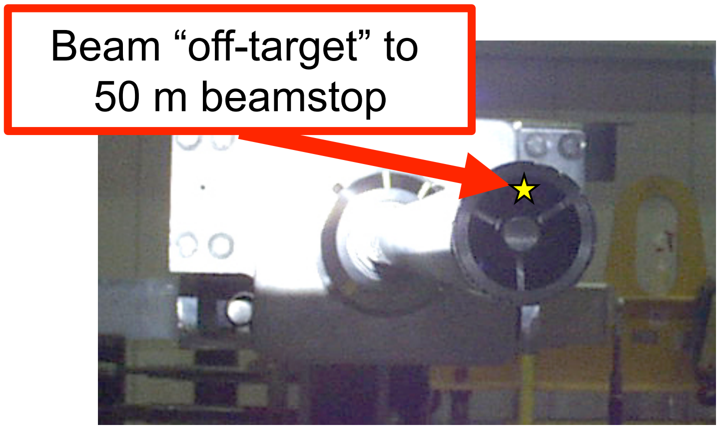


How To Suppress ν and Produce χ

- ν_μ from π^+ → don't let "escape" into air, absorb them in material
- χ from π^0, η: short lifetimes ($\tau \sim 10^{-16}$ s) → decays before absorption in material

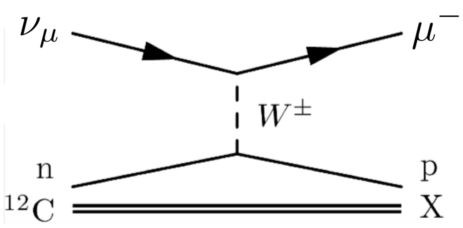


- Bypass Be target, hit steel beam stop
- π^0 production in Fe and Be similar



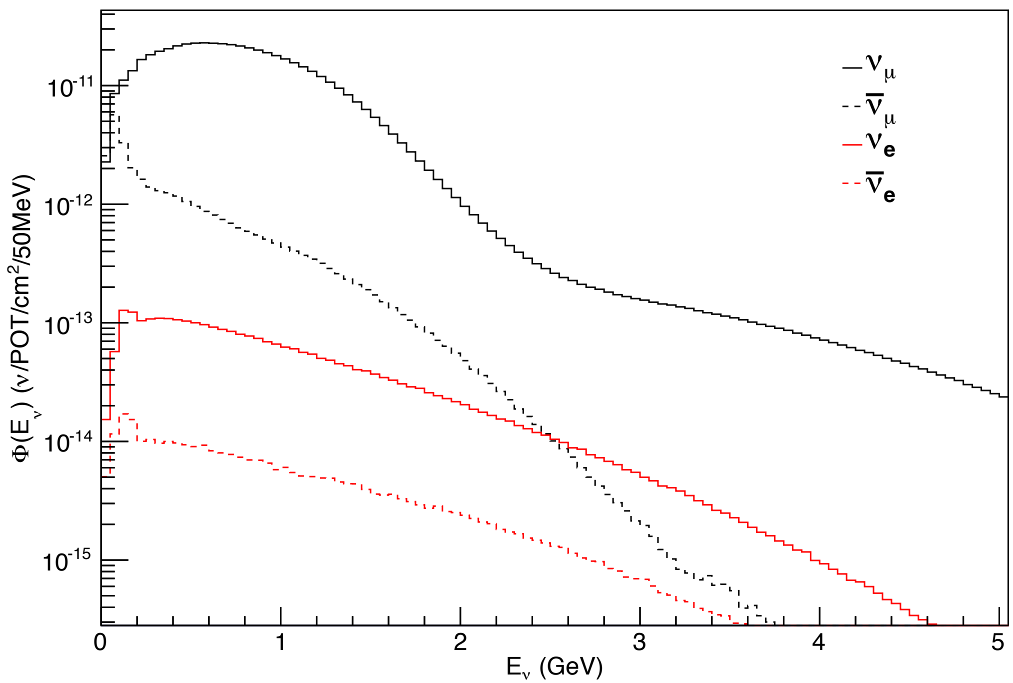
Off-Target vs. On-Target Monte Carlo

- Neutrino-mode horn-on for on-target MC
- flux-weighted MC suppression ~40
  → CCQE data ~50



- Better beamline MC

On-Target Flux



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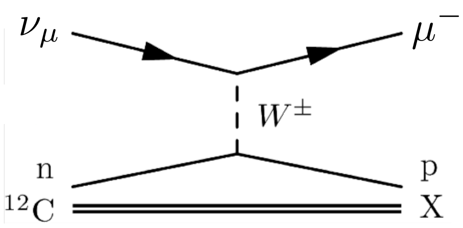

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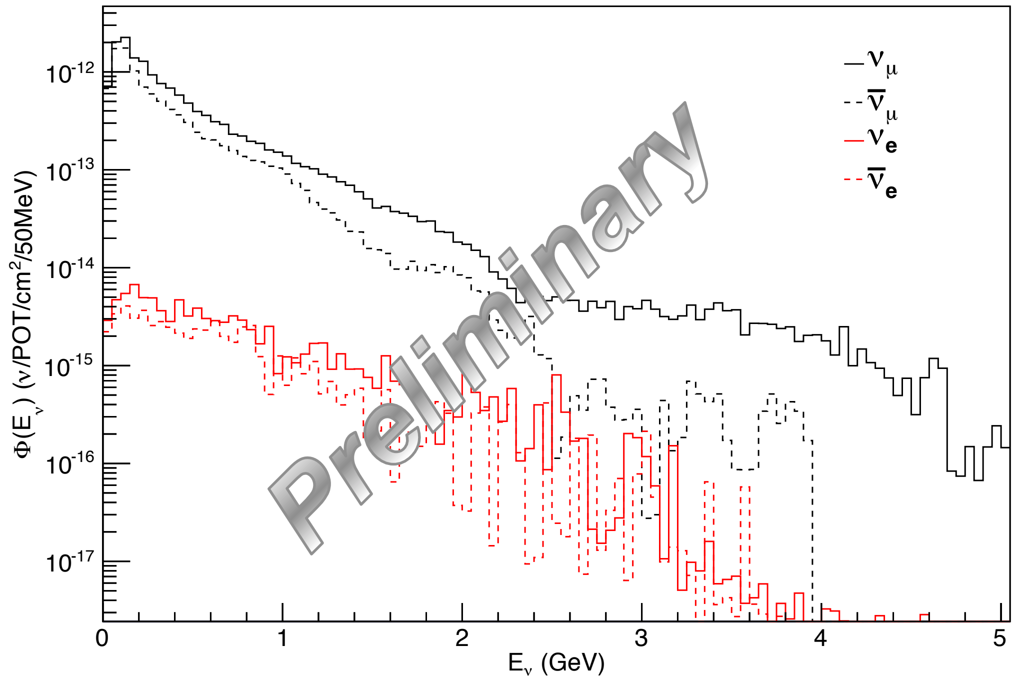

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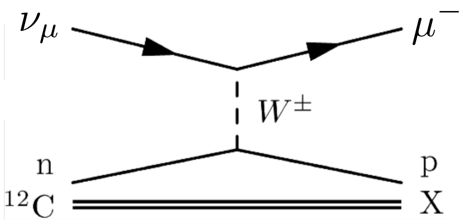

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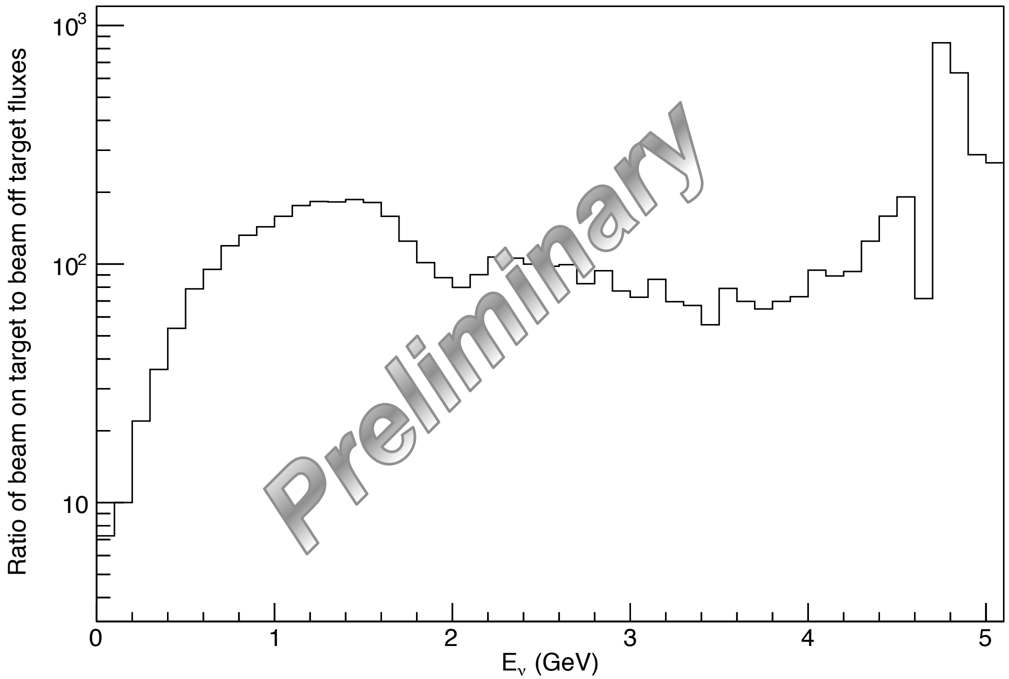
On- to Off- Ratio



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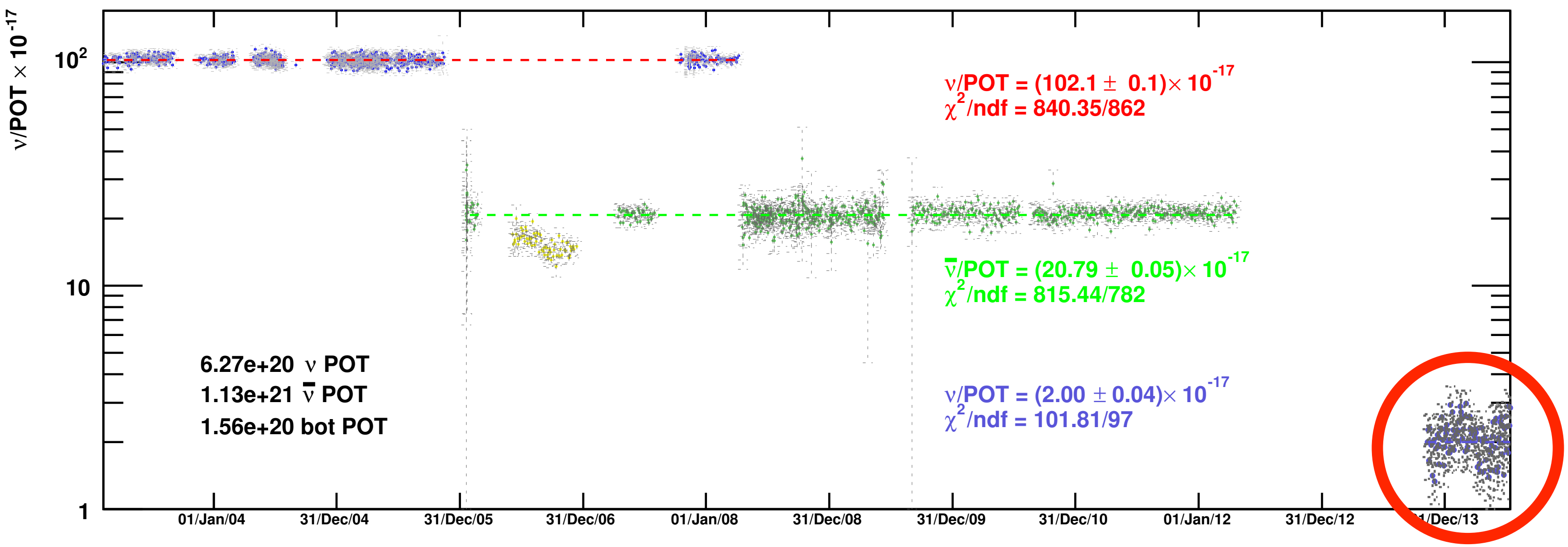
MiniBooNE Neutrino Suppression



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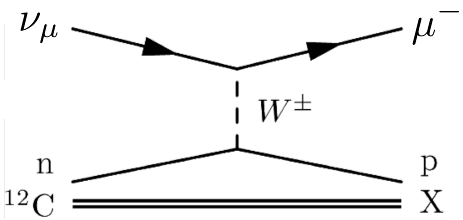

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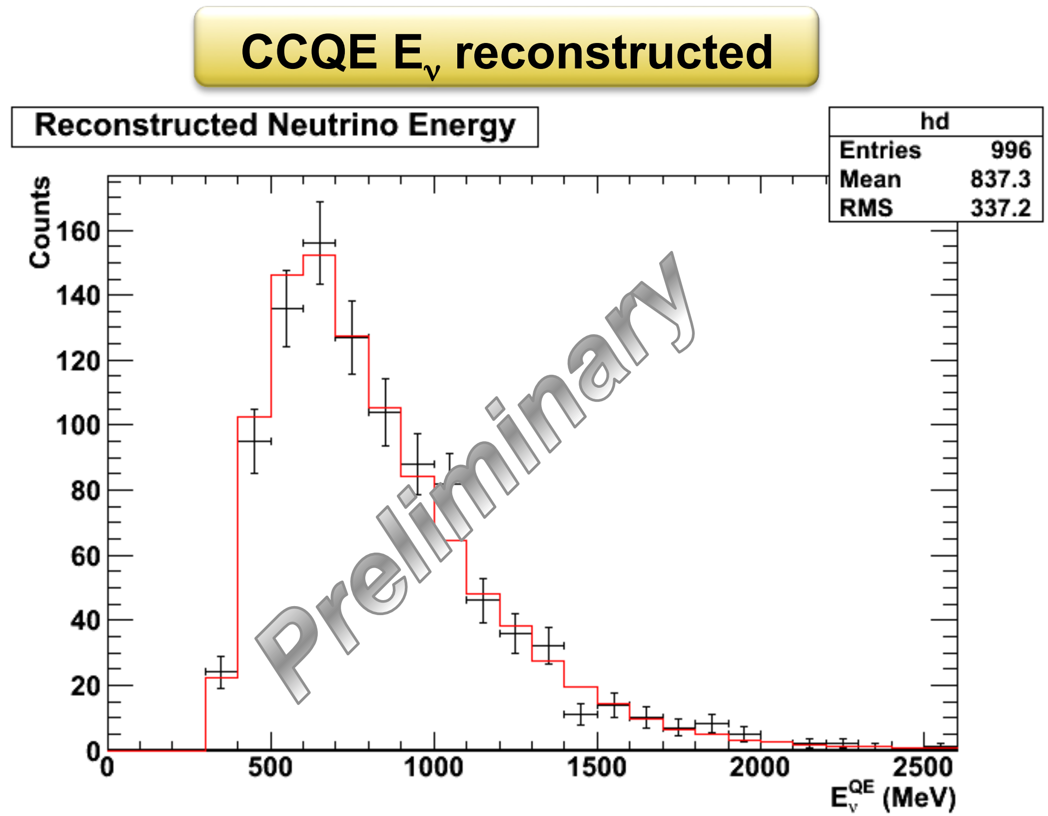

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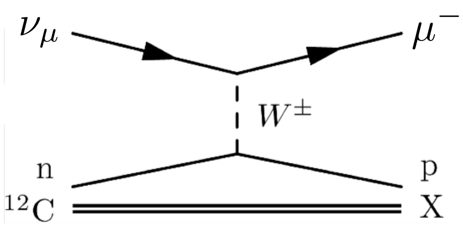
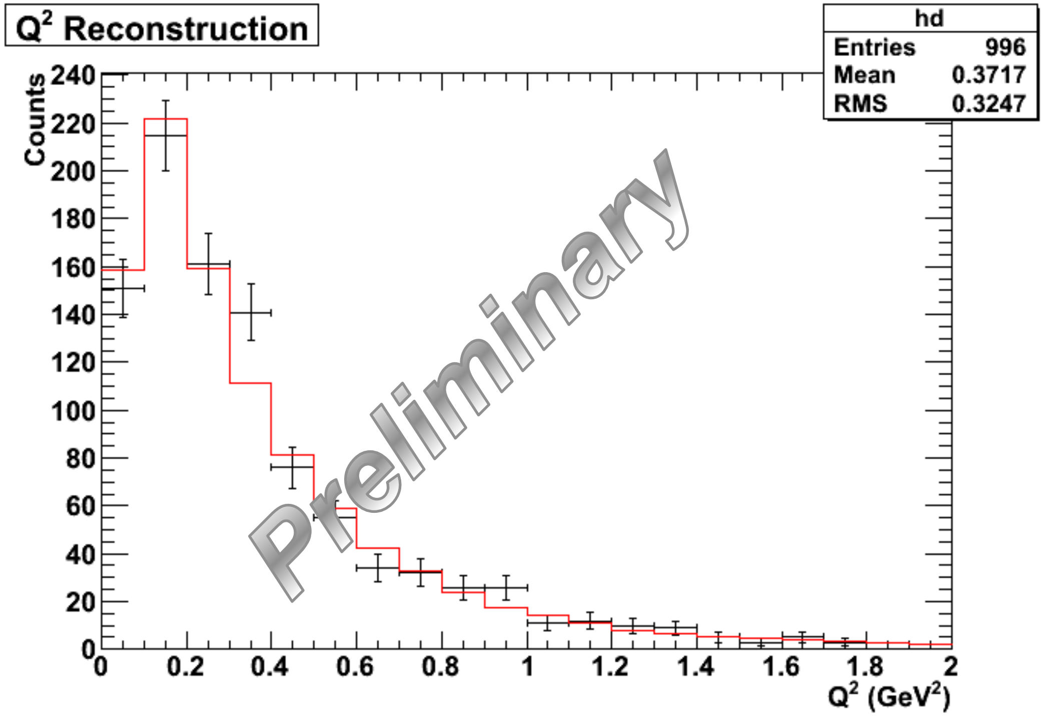


- Better beamline MC

CCQE Q² reconstructed



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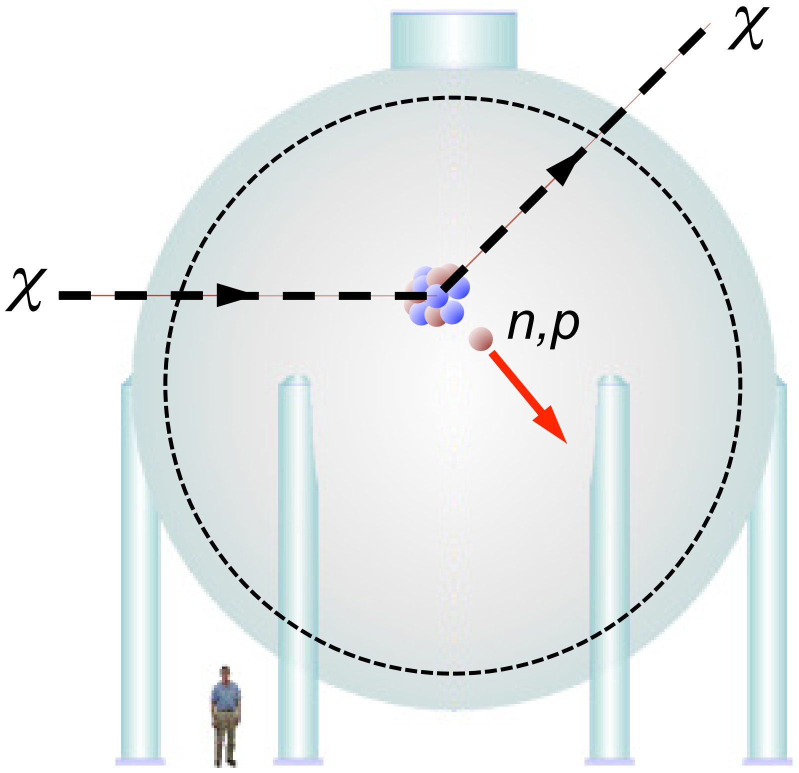
DATA ANALYSIS

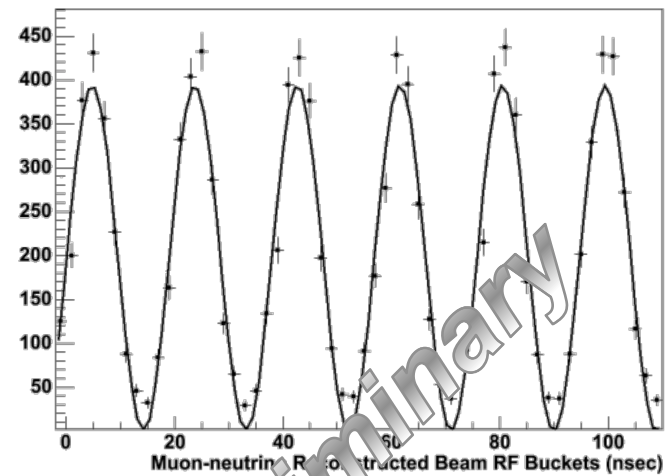
Event Selection Cuts

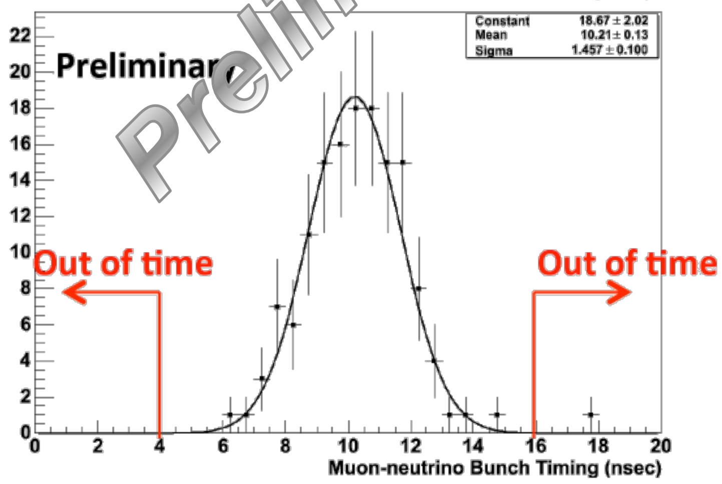
- 1 Track (single recoil) in beam timing window
- Event is centralized contained
  - No activity in veto
  - Fiducialized inner tank
- Signal above hits and visible energy threshold
- PID: Nucleon or electron



Dark Matter Propagation Time

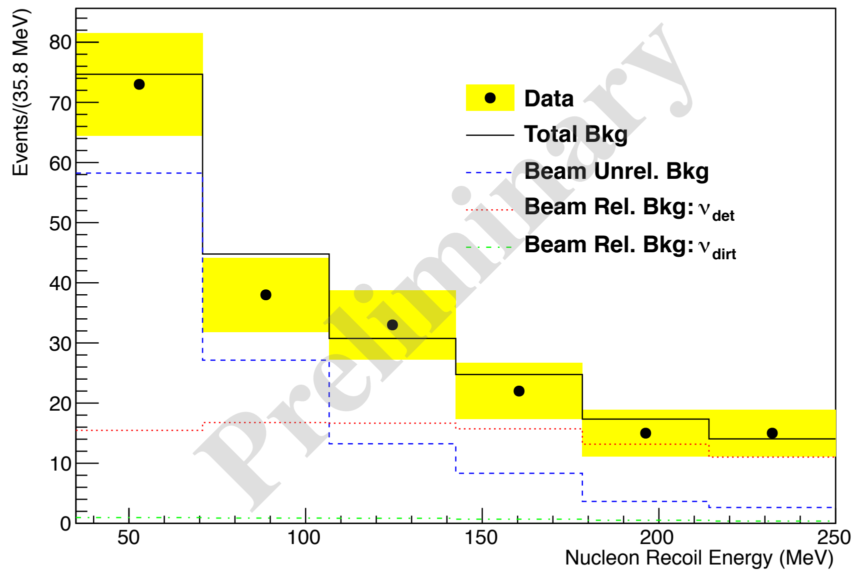
- χ is massive so travels the 500 m slower than *c* ($m\chi$ = 120 MeV, E = 1.5 GeV → 6 ns delay)
- Beam – 81 RF bunches
- Can correlate events to a particular bunch
  - δt ~ 1.5 ns Cherenkov (eχ)
  - δt ~ 4.2 ns Scintillation (Nχ)
- Provides more sensitivity to dark matter parameter space





Preliminary Results (3.19×10^{19} POT)

- Total 1.86×10^{20} POT in 10 month run
- Semi-blind: open analysis of 17% of data
- Beam unrelated biggest contribution (measured in strobe)
- Anticipate ~10% systematic uncertainty



	# events	error	projected error
ν_{dirt}	4.31		
ν_{det}	88.8		
N_{BUB}	113.24		
Total Bkg	206.35	15%(sys.)	10%(sys.)
Data	196	7.1%(stat.)	3.0%(stat.)

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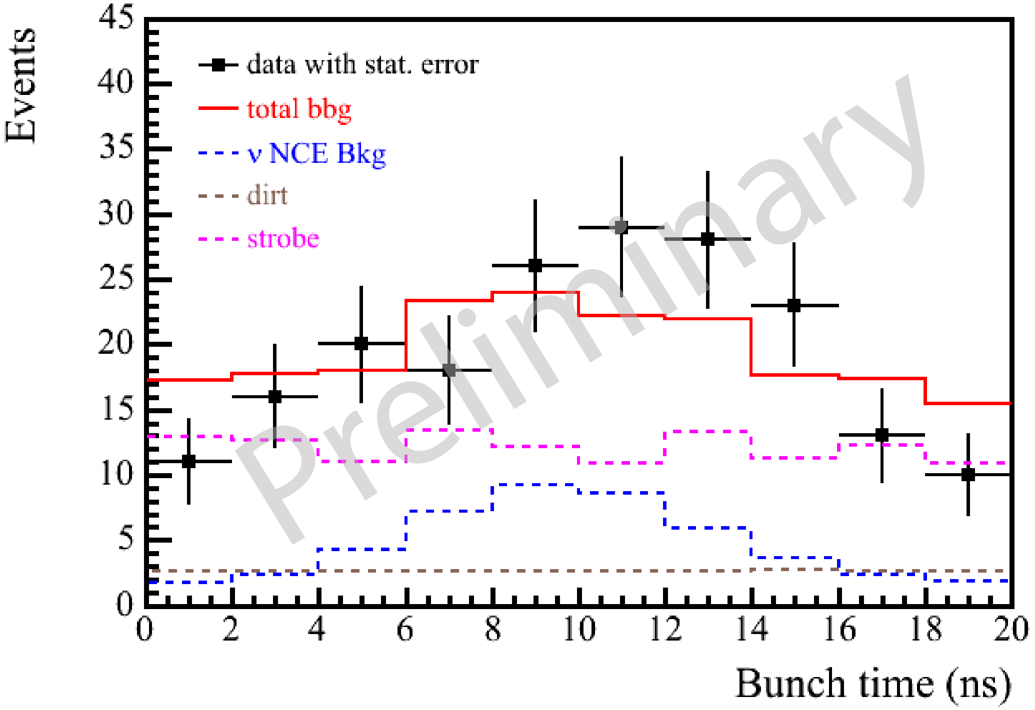


UPCOMING WORK AND CONCLUSIONS

Next Steps

- Systematic uncertainties being calculating (flux model excursions, optical model, etc.)
- R.T. Thornton (IU) leading N-DM analysis → open box soon
  - Both a direct approach and a ratio-of-ratios
  - On/Off-target ratio; NC/CC ratio
  - Ratio should give cancellations in flux and cross section
- S. Shahsavarani (UTA) leading e-DM analysis
  - Builds on oscillations with extended energy sensitivity
  - Very forward scattering
  - View to neutrino elastic scattering in on-target data

Lesson Learned Relevant for DUNE

- Predicting the flux is difficult *a priori*
- Light mass DM search is a near detector search; flux uncertainty cancellations may help for neutrino backgrounds, DM sensitivity unconstrained by far detector?
- Beam uncorrelated data is a large contributor: what can timing and/or shielding / overburden do to mitigate?
- Liquid scintillator is fast → makes delayed DM signal work. How can drifting electrons in LAr "keep up"

Conclusions

- MiniBooNE has collected 1.86×10^{20} POT in beam-off-target configuration to search for sub-GeV dark matter
- Beam-off-target suppresses neutrino backgrounds
  → beam uncorrelated backgrounds dominant
- First of its kind, proton beam dump to a large neutrino detector → an extremely well characterized detector!
- Opening N-DM box soon! e-DM follows, and then other exotic channels

Thank You!

A Proposal to Search for Dark Matter with MiniBooNE

Submitted to the FNAL PAC Dec 16, 2013

The MiniBooNE Collaboration

R. Dharmapalan, & I. Stancu
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

R. A. Johnson, & D.A. Wickremasinghe
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221

R. Carr, G. Karagiorgi, & M. H. Shaevitz
Columbia University; New York, NY 10027

M. Backfish, B.C. Brown, F.G. Garcia , R. Ford, T. Kobilarcik, W. Marsh
C. D. Moore, D. Perevalov, C. Polly, A.D. Russell, & W. Wester
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, IL 60510

J. Grange, & H. Ray
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

R. Cooper, R. Tayloe, & R. Thornton
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

G. T. Garvey, A. Green, W. Huelsnitz, W. Ketchum, Q. Liu, W. C. Louis, G. B. Mills,
J. Mirabal, Z. Pavlovic, C. Taylor, R. Van de Water, & D. H. White
Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545

B. P. Roe
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

A. A. Aguilar-Arevalo, & I. L. de Icaza Astiz
Instituto de Ciencias Nucleares, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, D.F. México

P. Nienaber
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, MN 55987

T. Katori
Queen Mary University of London, London, E1 4NS, UK

C. Mariani
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 24061

The Theory Collaboration

B. Batell
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 60637

The Theory Collaboration (Continued)

P. deNiverville, M. Pospelov, & A. Ritz
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, V8P 5C2

D. McKeen
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 98195

[1]A.A. Aguilar-Arevalo et al. arXiv:1211.2258 [hep-ex]

BACKUPS

Previous Beam Dump / Fixed Target Experiments – Electron Beams

Experiment	Location	approx. Date	Amount of Beam (10^{20} EOT)	Beam Energy (GeV)	Target Mat.	Ref.
E137	SLAC	1980-1982	1.87	20	Al	[6, 8, 9]
E141	SLAC	1986	2×10^{-5}	9	W	[8, 10]
KEK-PF	KEK	1986	1.67×10^{-3}	2.5	Fe,PB,Plastic	[11]
LAL 86/25	Orsay	1986	$\sim 9.6 \times 10^{-5}$	1.5	W	[12]
E774	Fermilab	1991	0.52×10^{-10}	275	W	[8, 13]
A1	MAMI	2011	90 µA*t	0.855	Ta	[14]
APEX	JLAB	2011	150 µA*t	2.260	Ta	[15]

[1] Table by R.T. Thornton, Indiana University Nuclear Physics Seminar, Nov. 21, 2014

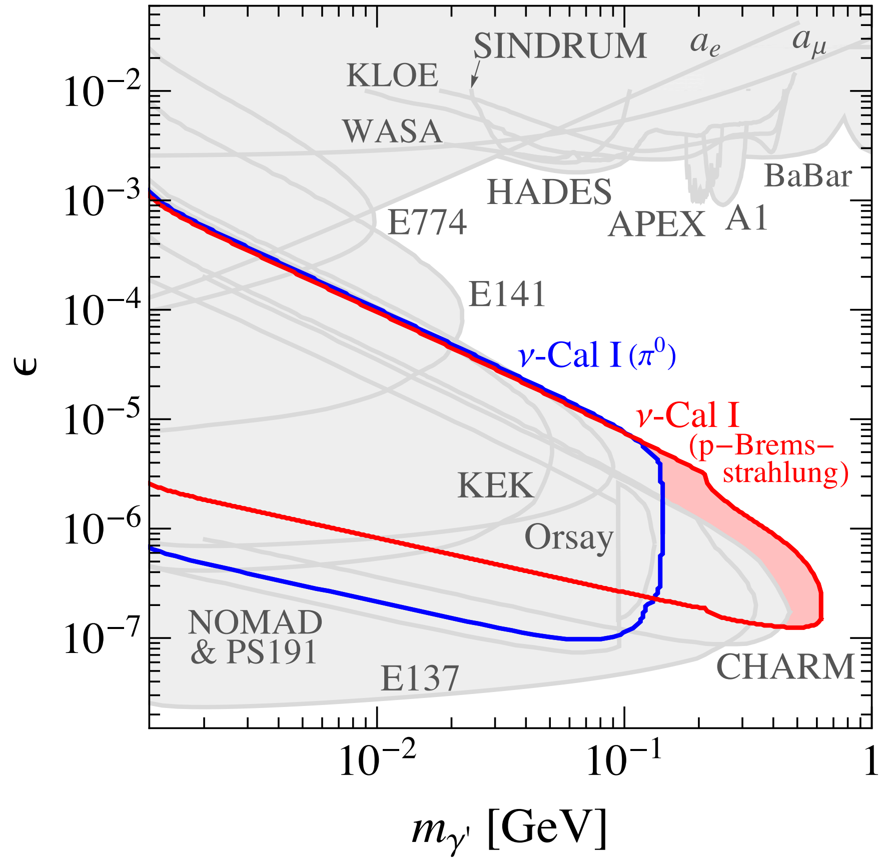
Current Limits

Visible

- $m_V < 2m_\chi$
- Final state *V* decays are visible SM model particles, e.g.,

$$V \to \ell^- \ell^+ \to \gamma\gamma$$

- Can't produce a pair of χs

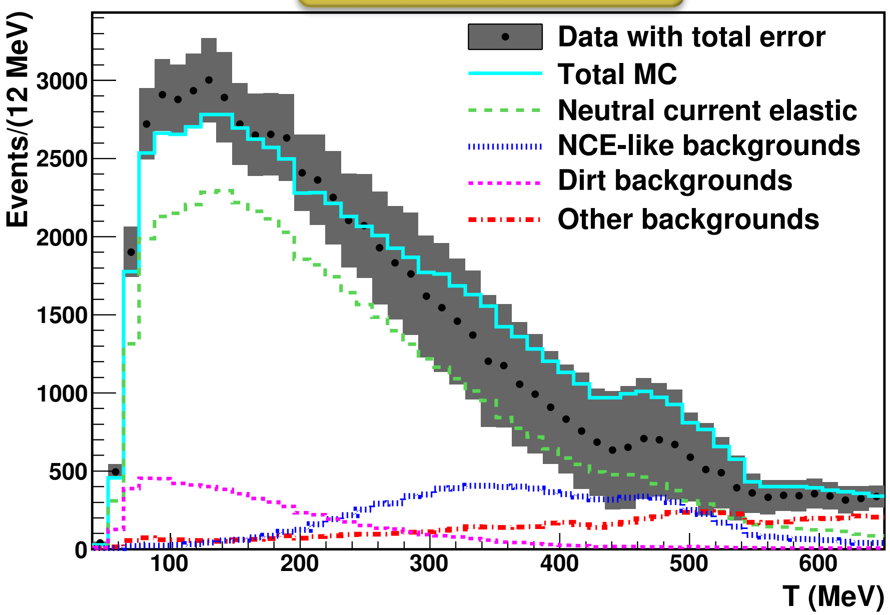


[1]J. Blümlein & J. Brunner, *Phys. Lett.* **B4** (2014) 320. arXiv:1311.3870 [hep-ph].

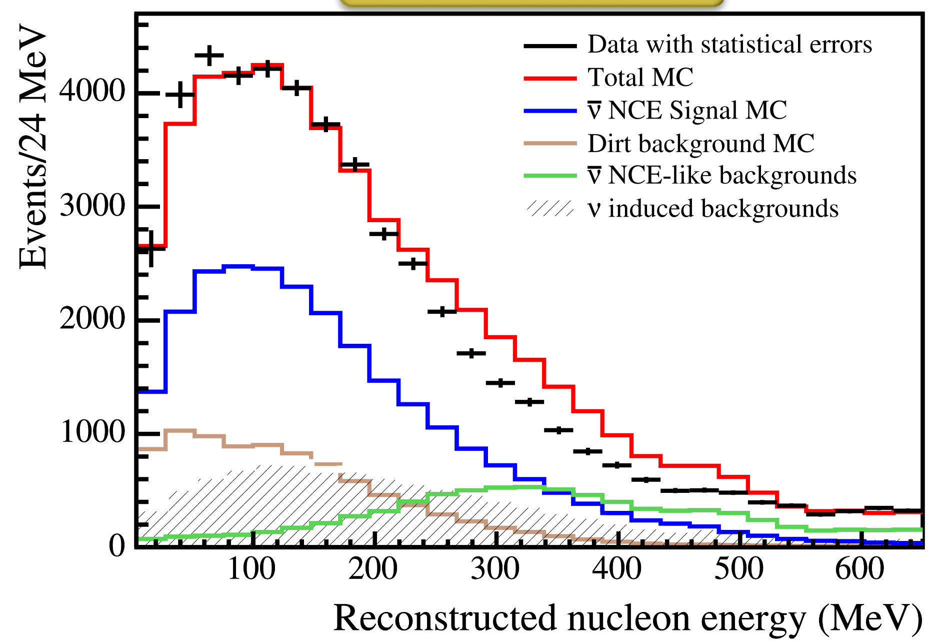
Energy Spectrum Reconstruction

- Previous neutrino running important for spectrum reconstruction

ν NC elastic



ν̄ NC elastic

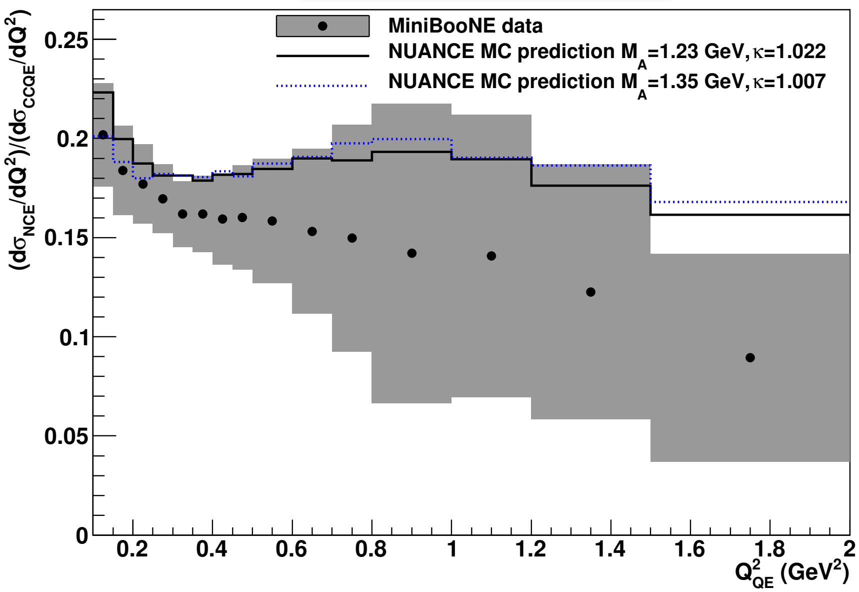


[1]A.A. Aguilar-Arevalo et al., *Phys. Rev.* **D82** (2010) 092005. arXiv:1007.4730 [hep-ex].
A.A. Aguilar-Arevalo et al., *Phys. Rev.* **DXX** (2015) XXXXX. arXiv:1309.7257[hep-ex].

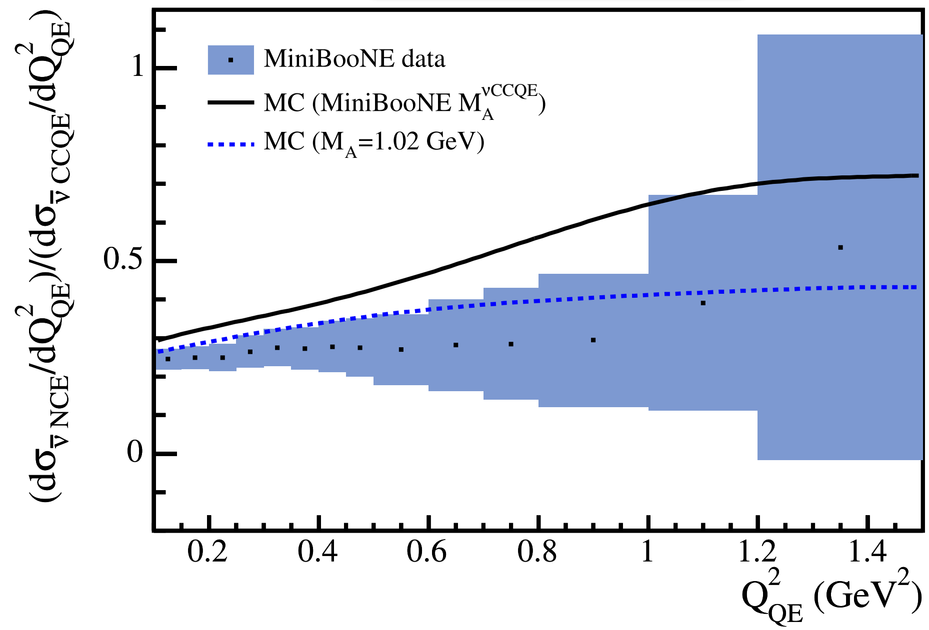
Energy Spectrum Reconstruction

- CCQE is a "standard candle" to fix new cross sections against

ν NC elastic



$\bar{\nu}$ NC elastic



[1]A.A. Aguilar-Arevalo et al., *Phys. Rev.* **D82** (2010) 092005. arXiv:1007.4730 [hep-ex].
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