# Towards Measuring Longitudinal Electron Diffusion in the MicroBooNE LArTPC

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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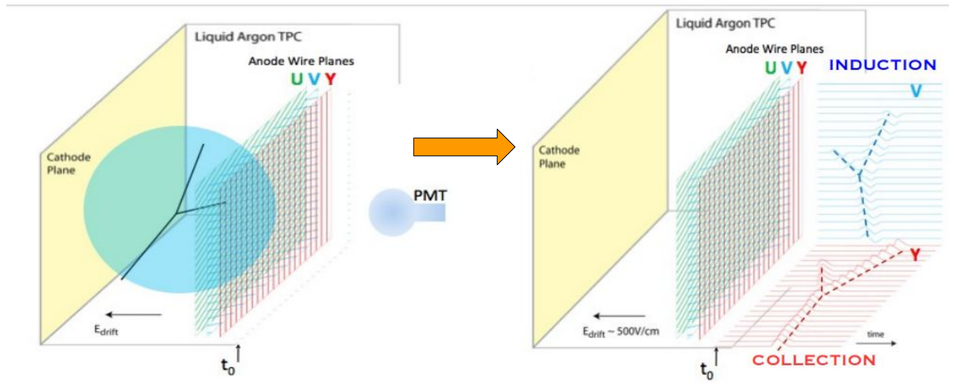
## 1. MicroBooNE

- Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber (LArTPC)
- Neutrino interactions reconstructed based on ionization electrons and scintillation light
- Primary goals:
  - Investigate MiniBooNE low-energy excess
  - Neutrino-argon cross-sections
  - **LArTPC R&D**

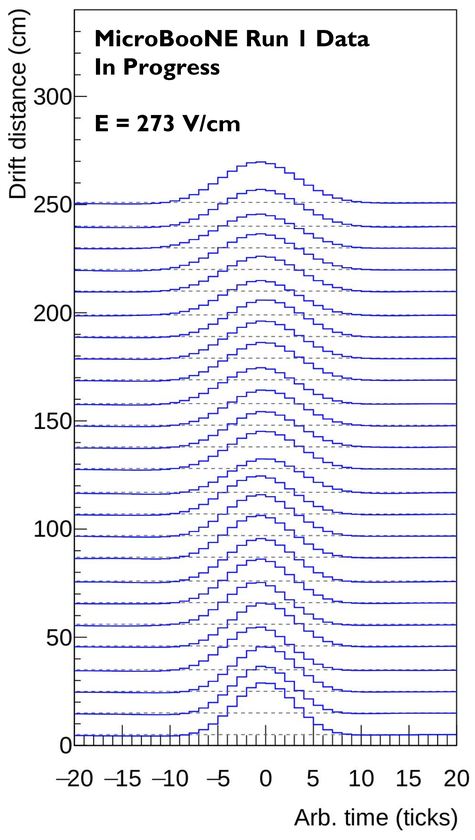



## 2. Electron Diffusion

- "Spreading out" of ionization electrons as they traverse the detector
  - **Longitudinal ($D_L$)** and transverse ($D_T$) components with respect to drift direction
- $D_L$ widens signal pulse width in time ($\sigma_t$), can be extracted from $\sigma_t^2$ vs. drift distance
- Measurement allows for independent method to verify true track drift distance
- **Few current measurements [1], [2]**

Diffusion coefficient; Drift distance; Total time width of pulse; Drift velocity; Inherent pulse width

$$\sigma_t^2 = \left(\frac{2D_L}{v_d^3}\right) x + \sigma_0^2$$

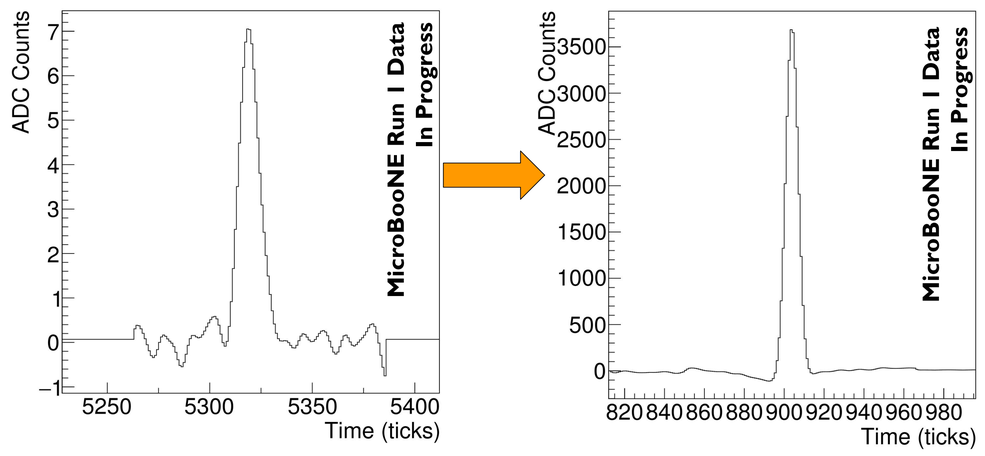



## 3. Simulation and Selection


- Simulate cosmic events, filter for high-quality muon tracks
  - Track length > 100 cm
  - Low-angle tracks
  - Gaussian waveforms
- Split drift distance (256 cm) into 25 bins

## 4. Waveform Averaging

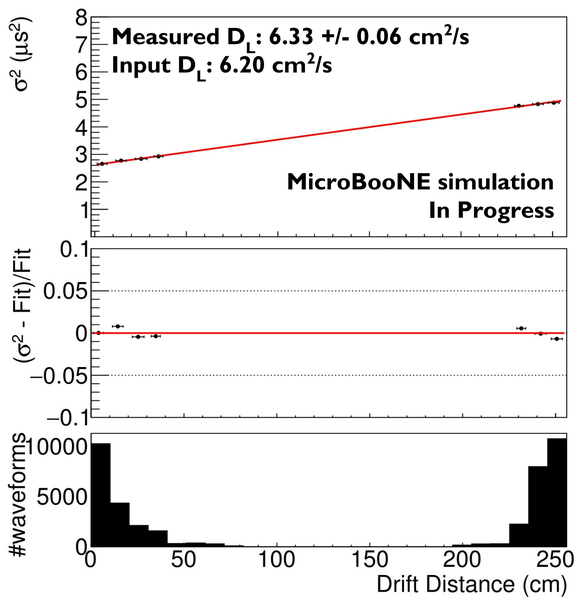
- Sum waveforms in each bin
- Enhances signal, reduces noise




Individual Waveform | Summed Waveform

## 5. Extraction of $D_L$

- Fit Gaussian to summed waveform
  - Standard deviation gives $\sigma_t$
- Plot $\sigma_t^2$ vs. drift distance, extract $D_L$ from slope
  - Ignore bins with < 500 waveforms
- Measured value within 2% of input value
  - Better than ~5% difference expected from effects of $D_T$




## 6. Challenges and Future Work

- Low-statistics due to stringent angular selection and $t_0$-tagging requirement
  - High-angle tracks cause problems, so we cut them out
  - ...but $t_0$-tagged cosmic ray tracks tend to be high-angle
- Pin down systematics
  - Detector response and $D_T$ expected to be dominant
  - Space charge, delta rays, multiple Coulomb scattering, etc. expected to be < 1%
- **Perform analysis on Run 1 cosmic ray data soon**
- Informative to future experiments, especially the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE)

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References
[1] P. Cennini et al. Performance of a 3-ton liquid argon time projection chamber. *Nucl. Instrum. Meth.*, 1994
[2] Yichen Li et. al. Measurement of Longitudinal Electron Diffusion in Liquid Argon. *Nucl. Intrum. Meth.*, 2016

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