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Zero Mesons/QE/2p2h-like v-A interactions at the NOvA Near Detector

Results and prospects

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on behalf of the NOvA collaboration

NuInt 2024

14th International Workshop on Neutrino-Nucleus Interactions

April 16th, 2024 – Instituto Principia, São Paulo, Brazil

Overview

What Analysis program of ZeroMesons/QE/2p2h-like interactions

- ZM/QE/2p-2h-like channels provide handles for **constraining models of neutrino interactions** and **nuclear structure models**
- NOvA Near Detector is illuminated by a high intensity and purity narrow-band beam at $\langle E_v \rangle \sim 2$ GeV, a highly dynamic region
- Focused analyses on the leptonic and hadronic products of the v-A interaction
- Subsequently, extend to greater exposures and greater detail on the final state
- Leverage a strong muon reconstruction; a combination of traditional and Deep Learning tools for event selection; and data-driven background constrains
- **Status**

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How

Why

- Two released analyses on the lepton and hadronic aspects
- Three upcoming analyses with extended exposure, improved systematics and detail on final state

ZM/QE/2p2h-like Motivation

- Solving open questions in neutrino physics requires **accurate understanding of their interactions**
- Reconstruction of closer-to-elastic channels is more transparent



+ (many) more diagrams...

ZM/QE/2p2h-like Motivation

- Solving open questions in neutrino physics requires **accurate understanding of their interactions**
- **Reconstruction** of **closer-to-elastic** channels is more **transparent**
- The **nuclear environment blurs** the underlying neutrino interactions
 - Only partially known initial state
 - Scattering off correlated nucleons (e.g. 2p2h)
 - Intranuclear rescattering



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ZM/QE/2p2h-like Motivation

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- The **nuclear environment blurs** the underlying neutrino interactions
 - Only partially known initial state
 - Scattering off correlated nucleons (e.g. 2p2h)
 - Intranuclear rescattering
- Focus on observable final states, provide experimentallydefined cross sections
- ZM/QE/2p2h-like are one of multiple complementary channels valuable to elicit neutrino interaction unknowns



A natural laboratory for cross section analyses:

- Fine-grained liquid scintillator tracking calorimeter ٠
- 300 ton, 100m underground ٠



Element Mass fraction					
С	Cl	Н	0	Ti	
67%	16%	11%	3%	3%	



A natural laboratory for cross section analyses:

• High intensity and purity narrow-band beam at peak $E_v = 1.86$ GeV



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A natural laboratory for cross section analyses:

• Highly dynamic region for neutrino interaction modes





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Two Released Analyses

ν_{μ} CC Low Hadronic Energy



v_{μ} CC inclusive and 2p2h estimation

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Two Released Analyses

Three Upcoming Analyses

ν_{μ} CC Low Hadronic Energy

Energy Muon VS μ **System** angle θμ vu q 3-momentum transfer $|\vec{q}|$ Hadronic VS **System** Α energy

ν_μ CC Low Hadronic Energy in _____ 3D (adds E_{avail})

ν_{μ} CC Zero Mesons

$\nu_{\mu}CC$ inclusive and 2p2h estimation

Anti- ν_{μ} CC Zero Mesons

ZM/QE/2p2h-like Neutrino Beam Exposures



Total exposures to date are 27.8x10²⁰ POT neutrino and 12.8x10²⁰ antineutrino

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ZM/QE/2p2h-like Neutrino Beam Simulation Uncertainties

Hadron production model is constrained with external measurements on thin target data (NA49)

- Technique developed by MINERvA (Phys. Rev. D94, 092005)
- About 10% normalization uncertainty

Beam focusing uncertainty is subdominant around the peak (below 2.5 GeV)



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ZM/QE/2p2h-like Neutrino Interaction Model

Released analyses: base model is Genie 2.12.2

ISA	QE	MEC	Res	DIS	FSI
RFG	L-S	Empirical	R-S	B-Y	hA

NOvA ND and external data are used to tune the model

- Correct QE to account for low Q² suppression
- Apply low Q² suppression to Resonant baryon production
- DIS at W>1.7 GeV/c² is weighted up 10% based on NOvA ND data
- Empirical MEC based on NOvA ND data for 2p2h



All analyses are constructed to be insensitive to the tuning

ZM/QE/2p2h-like Neutrino Interaction Model

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Upcoming Analyses: base model is Genie 3.0.6

IS	QE	MEC	Res	DIS	FSI
LFG	Valencia, Z exp	Valencia	B-S	B-Y + Pythia	hN



Plus improvements in the tuning application





ZM/QE/2p2h-like **Muon Identification**

- Developed within the v_{μ} CC inclusive analysis
- Muon ID calculated with a ٠ **Boosted Decision Tree**
- Cut value is set to **minimize** • shape systematic uncertainty on crosssection measurement
- Selected sample has **97%** ٠ purity and 98% efficiency after pre selection (containment, data quality, fiducial volume)



NOvA Simulation

Presented at the February 2nd, 2024 Fermilab <u>Wine & Cheese Seminar</u> by Leo Aliaga

Signal Definition and Selection

NOvA Simulation ×10³ • Aim to select sample enhanced in QE 12 2.4 and 2p2h Selected events 2.2 Events / 8.09 × 10²⁰ POT 10 RES and DIS likely to produce multiple ٠ 2 (GeV) reconstructed particles 1.8 Selection: 1.6 Scan proton and pion 6 v_{μ} CC with **one** 1.4 Reco thresholds and reconstructed particle *minimize uncertainty* 1.2 (i.e. a muon) in total cross section 2 0.8 **Signal**: v_{μ} CC in the fiducial 0.6 volume with n 0.55 0.6 0.65 0.5 $T_{proton}^{max} = 250 \, MeV$ $T_{pion}^{max} = 175 MeV$

Analysis

• **Performed in 3D** (muon kinematics and E_{avail}), then projected on 2D

 $= \frac{1}{N_{\rm T} \phi} \sum_{E_{avail}} \frac{\sum_{j} U_{ij}^{-1} [N_{\rm selj} P_j]}{\epsilon_i \Delta \cos \theta_{\mu_i} \Delta T_{\mu_i}}$ $d^2\sigma$ $\left(\frac{d\cos\theta_{\mu}\,dT_{\mu}}{d\cos\theta_{\mu}\,dT_{\mu}}\right)_{i}$

- Purity ranges from 60-90%
 - Validation: **sideband** with an **additional**, **short reconstructed particle**:





Results:

Muon Kinematics



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Results:

Muon Kinematics



Let's take a closer look at two cosine bins...

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Results: Muon Kinematics



2p2h uncertainties derived as the spread when **recalculating** the whole cross section using **SuSAv2 and MINERvA-tune-v1.2**

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Results: Muon Kinematics

Comparison to 2p2h models:

- NOvA-tune overestimates most bins
- GiBUU overestimates most data
- Other models tend to predict lower values



NOvA Preliminary

Results: Muon Kinematics

Comparison to 2p2h models: *Shape-only uncertainties*

 Except NOvA-tune, models predict different cross section shapes



NOvA Preliminary

Results: E_v and Q^2



- Limited to the phase space of the muon kinematics measurement
- Calculated as combinations of the reconstructed muon and remaining visible calorimetric energy

Comparison Summary:

χ^2 tests including bin-to-bin correlations

- Different levels of agreement w.r.t. the ratio plots coming from bin-to-bin correlations
- Empirical MEC has best performance modeling the data, followed by experiment-tuned models and then theory-based models.

2p2h implementation	Muon kinematics NDF: 115	Neutrino energy NDF: 8	Four momentum square NDF: 10
Empirical MEC	190 (209)	4.5 (4.5)	20.8 (19.4)
NOvA-tune	197 (178)	7.5 (6.3)	24.2 (20.0)
MINERvA-tune-v1.2	330 (386)	2.3 (2.6)	51.1 (63.2)
SuSAv2	499 (698)	4.0 (1.4)	41.6 (68.1)
Valencia	510 (756)	6.1 (3.1)	41.1 (64.9)
Gibuu	563 (501)	8.7 (7.8)	43.1 (27.5)

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Presented at the February 2nd, 2024 Fermilab <u>Wine & Cheese Seminar</u> by Travis Olson

Analysis variables:

Neutrino energy: $E_v = E_\mu + E_{had}$

4-momentum transfer squared: $Q^2 = 2 * E_v * (E_\mu - P_\mu * \cos(\theta_v)) - m_\mu^2$

3-momentum transfer:

$$|\vec{\mathbf{q}}| = \sqrt{\mathbf{Q}^2 + (\mathbf{E}_v - \mathbf{E}_\mu)^2}$$

Available energy:

Kinetic energy: p/π^{\pm} Total energy: $\pi^{0}/e/\gamma$ (neglect neutron energy)



Released Analysis: v_{μ} Charged Current Inclusive and 2p2h estimation

Signal Definition and Selection

- Signal:
 - True v_μ CC event in a fiducial volume
 - 2) Within muon phase space that enhances efficiency and purity (from inclusive analysis in muon kinematics)
- Selection: MuonID > 0.24





Released Analysis: v_{μ} Charged Current Inclusive and 2p2h estimation

Analysis

- Background estimated
- Overall purity is ~92%
- Background subtraction from simulation

Process	Event fraction
Signal	91.8%
Electron neutrino	0.1%
Outside phase space	3.7%
Non-fiducial	1.8%
CC Anti-neutrino	1.5%
Neutral Current	1.1%
Total background	8.2%

 $\left(\frac{d\sigma^2}{d|\vec{q}|dE_{avail}}\right)_{ii}$





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Results: Inclusive Cross section

Models predict large 2p2h contribution between $0.50 < |\vec{q}| < 1.00$ GeV/c and $0.2 < E_{avail} < 0.5$ GeV.

NOvA tune 2p2h gives best description of data.

SuSAv2 and Valencia models under-predict the data rate.



NOvA Preliminary

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Comparisons to 2p2h models



	Model	χ² NDF: 61
	NOvA tune	51 (50)
	GENIE Empirical	514 (545)
	MINERvA tune v1.2	1220 (1390)
	SuSAv2 model	1610 (876)
	Valencia model	2065 (2654)

The values in parentheses are the shape-only $\chi 2$ calculations

The NOvA tune and GENIE empirical 2p2h give better agreement with the data than the theory-based models or the MINERvA tune v1.2

Results: Inclusive Cross section

From electron nucleous scattering and theory 2p2h is expected to occur between QE and RES excitation.

The data does indeed show an excess in that region above expectation for v_{μ} CC single-nucleon scattering.



GENIE 2.12 based templates

are used to estimate distribution of CC 1p1h reactions:



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Control sample: Has minimal QE and 2p2h, used to fit RES and DIS templates

A non-muon reconstructed particle longer than 1 m Three or more reconstructed particles or showers







or

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Released Analysis: v_{μ} Charged Current Inclusive and 2p2h estimation

Control Sample: Has minimal QE and 2p2h, used to fit RES and DIS templates

- Normalizations for **RES and DIS templates** are derived from **fits in the control sample**
- **Independent fits** in **region I** (RESdominated) and **region III** (DIS-dominated)
- For **region II**, **average** normalizations from regions I and III
- **QE template** calculated using:
 - Llewellyn-Smith formalism
 - RFG nucleus with high momentum tail and RPA correction





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Released Analysis: v_{μ} Charged Current Inclusive and 2p2h estimation

2p2h contribution is taken to be the data excess above the sum of the 1p1h templates.



Differential cross sections in $|\vec{q}|$ and E_{avail} :



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Upcoming Analyses

- Increased exposure
- Improved cross-section models and systematic uncertainties
- More detail on the final state

ZM/QE/2p2h-like Neutrino Beam Exposures



Total exposures to date are 27.8x10²⁰ POT neutrino and 12.8x10²⁰ antineutrino

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ZM/QE/2p2h-like Neutrino Beam Exposures



Total exposures to date are 27.8x10²⁰ POT neutrino and 12.8x10²⁰ antineutrino

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Upcoming Analysis: James Lesmeister v_{μ} Charged Current Low Hadronic E in 3D with E_{avail}

- Inherits signal definition and event selection of Released Low Hadronic analysis
 - Signal: v_{μ} CC events with T_p < 250 MeV, T_{π} < 175 MeV in fiducial volume
 - Selection: Only one reconstructed particle
- Extended Exposure
- Delivering results in muon kinematics plus three E_{avail} bins



Upcoming Analysis: v_{μ} Charged Current Zero Mesons

- Inherits muon ID and reconstruction
- Looser selection **allows for reconstructed nucleons** in the final state
- Signal: ν_{μ} CC events with no Mesons in the final state
- Event Selection Tool
 - **ProngCVN**: a convolutional neural network trained on single particles simulated in the Near Detector





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Upcoming Analysis: v_{μ} Charged Current Zero Mesons

Optimized cuts on particle IDs targeted to **reject pion-like particles** while **preserving protonlike particles**



Template Fitting to **Michel Electron ID** to constrain the remaining charged pion background and extract signal events

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Upcoming Analysis: Anti-ν_μ Charged Current Zero Mesons

- Signal: ν_µ CC events with no mesons above 100 MeV
- Event Selection:
 - **MERMAID:** Custom BDT based on ProngCVN and Shower variables
- Exploring distributions in muon longitudinal and transverse muon momentum
- Learn more from Kevin at the poster session!



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Kevin Vockerodt

Summary

- Two 2p2h-enhanced analyses released
 - 2p2h shown to have a significant presence in both analyses
 - Under-prediction for forward, high energy muon; and also lower E_{avail} , and $|\hat{\mathbf{q}}|$
 - Estimated a 2p2h cross section contribution in E_{avail} , and $|\vec{q}|$
 - Provide valuable input for model development and joint fits
- Three upcoming analyses
 - Almost **double the exposure** and more detail in final states
 - Stay tuned for more results!

Thank you!



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Backup

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- Fine-grained tracking calorimeter
- 14.6 mrad off-axis of the NuMI beam
- Layers of liquid scintillator-filled PVC cells in alternating orthogonal directions, providing a "top view" and "side view"
- 38 cm radiation length in tracker (0.07 X_{\circ} per layer)
- Cells of cross section 3.9 × 6.6 cm², 3.9m lon
- 300 ton, 63% by mass active material
- Muon catcher: scintillator layers are further interleaved with 10cm-thick steel, able to stop up to 2.5 GeV muons
- FD is roughly four times larger than ND with equal cell cross section





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ZM/QE/2p2h-like NuMI Beam Composition Table

Predicted flux composition in absence of oscillations Integrated in [1,5] GeV neutrino energy.

	ND, FHC %	ND, RHC %
Vμ	93.765	6.602
$\overline{\mathbf{V}}_{\mu}$	5.299	92.495
Ve	0.814	0.170
Ve	0.123	0.733

ZM/QE/2p2h-like Cross Section Model

Upcoming Analyses: base model is Genie 3.0.6

Plus, further improvements in the tuning:

IS	QE	MEC	Res	DIS	FSI
LFG	Valencia, Z exp	Valencia	B-S	B-Y + Pythia	hN

- Fit is performed to the Near Detector using dual 2D-Gaussians in energy and momentum transfer space
- CV shifted upward by 50%
- Systematics are applied to assess remaining differences



ZM/QE/2p2h-like Muon Identification – Antineutrino mode

- Developed within the Anti-ν_μ
 CC inclusive analysis
- Muon ID calculated with a Boosted Decision Tree
- Cut value is set to minimize shape systematic uncertainty on cross-section measurement
- Sample has 90% purity and ~32.9% efficiency overall



NOvA Simulation

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ZM/QE/2p2h-like Simulation



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ZM/QE/2p2h-like Simulation => Systematic Uncertainties



Public Analysis: Muon Reconstruction

Binning



The muon energy is estimated by track length and has a resolution of approximately 4%

The muon angle resolution is $< 0.1^{\circ}$ at forward-going angles and $< 3^{\circ}$ at high angles

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Pion reconstruction efficiency NOvA Simulation



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Unfolding

Unfolding technique (D'Agostini) is used to correct the smearing between bins due to detector and reconstruction effects:

- Smearing level is small: 0.46% of the offdiagonal bins in the migration matrix are larger than 20% of their diagonal element.
- We use the minimal Mean Square Error and several shifted fake data to optimize the number of iterations.

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Selection by interaction modes

The selection enhanced **QE** and **2p2h**

Res is reduced with respect to the inclusive sample but still has large population, especially at lower muon energies

DIS is negligible

QE	2p2h	Res	DIS	сон
39.7%	33.7%	23.0%	2.5%	1.1%



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Results: Muon Kinematics



The dominant systematic is the **flux**:

- hadron production (~10%)
- focusing uncertainties (~4%)

The non-2p2h neutrino interaction uncertainties are calculated with:

- GENIE tunable physics parameters
- shifts based on external data

The detector response

uncertainty comes from the calibration and the light model

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Results: E_v and Q^2

Empirical and NOvA-tune are in better agreement with the data within uncertainties MINERvA-tune and SuSAv2 tend to underestimate our data GiBUU tends to overestimate our data



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Results: E_v and Q^2

In the shape only comparison most of the models except Valencia and SuSAv2 follow the shape of our measurement



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Public Analysis: Travis Olson v_{μ} Charged Current Inclusive and 2p2h estimation

Results: Inclusive Cross section



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Unfolding Hadronic Variables

Unfolding technique (D'Agostini) is used to correct the smearing between bins due to detector and reconstruction effects:

- We use the minimal Mean Square Error and several shifted fake data to optimize the number of iterations.
- Use 2 iterations of unfolding

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Public Analysis: Travis Olson v_{μ} Charged Current Inclusive and 2p2h estimation

Cross-section Uncertainty:

The dominant uncertainty arises from the neutrino flux, however 2p2h modeling, cross-section models, and detector calibration are significant sources at low $|\vec{a}|$ and high Eavail.

As with the low hadronic energy analysis, the 2p2h modeling uncertainty is based on the cross-section spread observed using alternative 2p2h models in the reference simulation.

	Source of	Weighted avg	Weighted avg
	uncertainty	fractional uncertainty	$\operatorname{correlation}$
\rightarrow	Flux	11 %	1.0
	$2p2h-MEC \mod l$	7.1%	0.6
	Cross section model	5.6%	0.2
	Detector calibration	3.7%	0.6
	Energy scale	0.9%	0.6
	Event statistics	0.5%	0.4
	Total	17%	0.5







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Public Analysis: Travis Olson v_{μ} Charged Current Inclusive and 2p2h estimation

Results: Inclusive Cross Section

Data comparison with models:



Better alignment with the data is obtained with NOvA tune and GENIE 2p2h than with theory-based models or the MINERvA tune.

Public Analysis: Travis Olson v_{μ} Charged Current Inclusive and 2p2h estimation

Excess cross section defines 2p2h active region of the measured v_{μ} CC inclusive cross section:



 χ^2 now focuses on the 2p2h active region of the inclusive sample.

V_μ CC Zero Mesons Selection: Containment

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V_μ CC Zero Mesons Michel Electron ID (MID)



Validation of the ExMID simulation:

Data vs MC comparisons prod5.1

Selection: NuMu CC Inclusive selection

All histograms area-normalized (i.e. normalized to number of reco muons)

Shape-only (area normalized) covariance matrices used for the Chi square, considers Beam transport, Genie, PPFX, MENATE, Geant4 and Detector Systematics.

Bins with less than 100 entries excluded from fit

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