

# The NEUT Generator: Status and Plans

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for the NEUT developers  
16/09/24  
NuFact 2024  
Argonne



# What Is NEUT?

[Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top. 230, 4469–4481 \(2021\)](#)

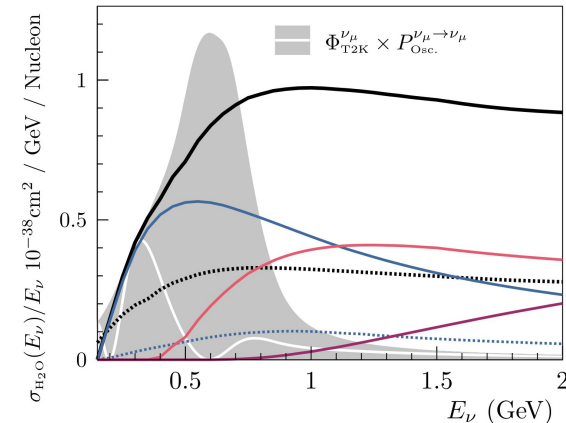
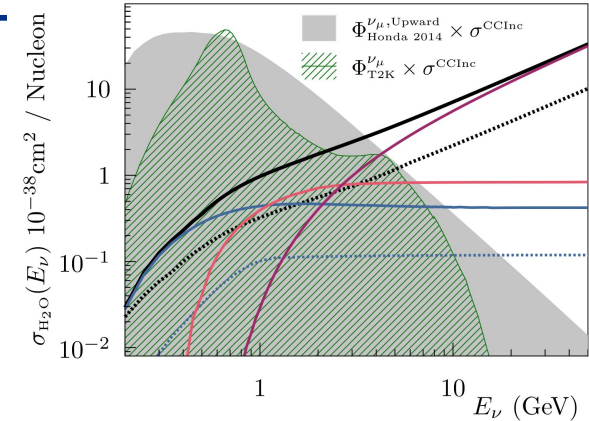
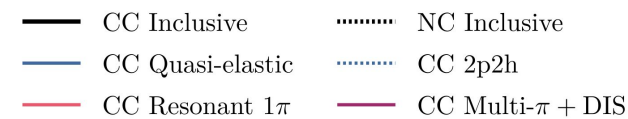
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- Primarily a Neutrino–Nucleus interaction generator:
  - Simulates primary processes for  $\sim 100$  MeV to few-TeV neutrinos
  - Interactions with nuclear targets from Hydrogen to Lead
  - Hadron cascade for propagating hadrons out of the nuclear medium

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  - Simulates primary processes for ~100 MeV to few-TeV neutrinos
  - Interactions with nuclear targets from Hydrogen to Lead
  - Hadron cascade for propagating hadrons out of the nuclear medium
  
- Maintained 'in house' for use on T2K and SK:
  - Development targets the needs of the long baseline oscillation and cross-section programmes
    - Sub-to-few GeV energy region
    - Hydrocarbon and water targets



# History

- Originally developed to predict neutrino-induced background rate for Kamiokande nucleon decay measurements.

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-----

(Purpose)
  Give cosine and sine of random direction

(Input)
  NONE

(Output)
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(Creation Date and Author)
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- Has since been used for all SK and T2K long baseline oscillation results and the majority of T2K cross-section measurements.
  - Including Nobel and Breakthrough prize-winning measurements!
- The source has historically not been public, but is available upon request.

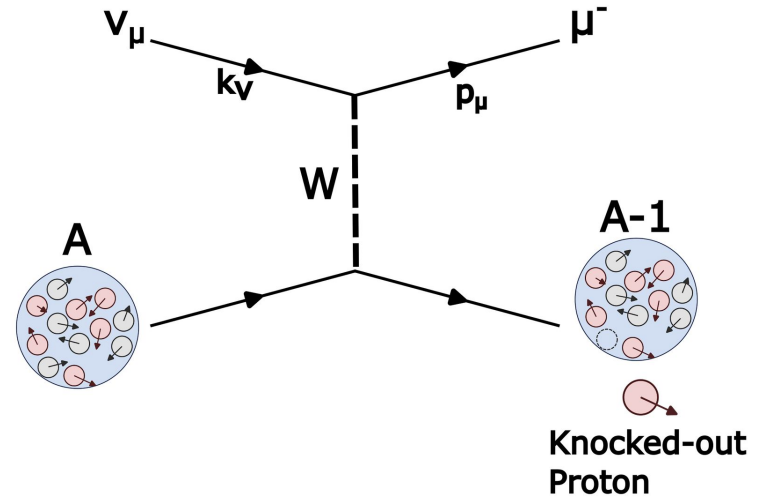
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37 *
38 *   1983.??.?? ; M.NAKAHATA
39 *   1987.08.?? ; N.SATO   FOR TAU
40 *   1988.08.31 ; T.KAJITA DATA UPDATE
41 *   1988.09.06 ; T.KAJITA R1314 IS ADDED
42 *   1988.09.10 ; T.KAJITA DX/DY WAS CHANGED BY THAT OF N.SATO'S
43 *                                     WHICH INCLUDE LEPTON MASS TERM AND SMALL
44 *                                     TERMS
45 *   1988.10.06 ; T.KAJITA SIGMA(NC)/SIGMA(CC) RATIOS AT HIGH ENERGIES
46 *                                     J.E.KIM ET AL., REV.MOD.PHYS.53(1981)211
47 *   1989.07.21 ; K.KANEYUKI NEU-TAU C.C. CROSS SECTION WAS UPDATED SAME
48 *                                     AS NEU-E,NEU-MU
49 *                                     NEU-TAU N.C. CROSS SECTION ==>
50 *                                     SAME AS NEU-E,NEU-MU
51 *   1998.03.02 ; M.Shiozawa invariant mass threshold was changed due
52 *                                     to new improved Rein-Sehgal model.
53 *   1998.09.?? ; J.Kameda  New Calculation based on New Structure
54 *                                     function GRV94 DIS
55 *                                     Consider Nu_tau cross section
56 *   2006.08.04 ; G.Mitsuka  Cross section is culcated after loading
57 *                                     cross section table
58 *   2007.11.06 ; G.Mitsuka  support target nucleus besides 160
59 *   2007.11.10 ; T.Tanaka  add upmu mode
60 *   2007.12.06 ; G.Mitsuka  Maximum neutrno energy is extended to 100TeV
61 *                                     even if not upmu mode
62 *   2008.11.17 ; R.Tacik   calculate inump and inumpn for each event
63 *   2016.03.08 ; C.Bronner Put back the possibility to use a given input proton fraction
64 *                                     inump and inumpn are computed from number of nucleons only if
65 *                                     the input fraction is <0 or >1
66 *   2020.12.02 ; C.Bronner Cross-section for new BY model
67 *
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# Model Components

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# Anatomy of A Neutrino Interaction

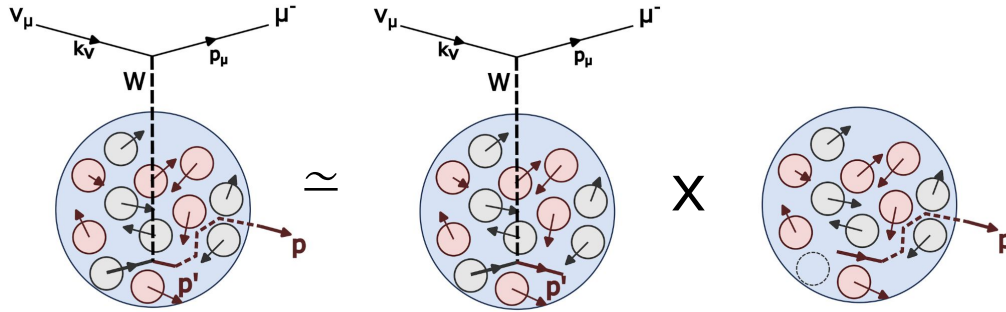
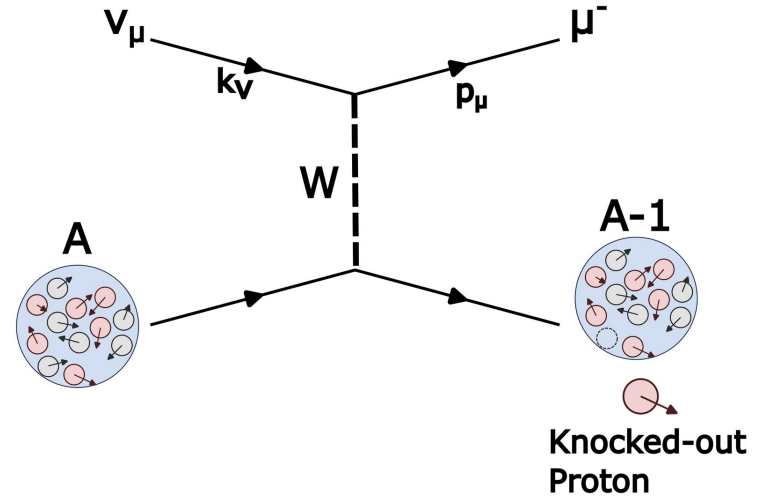
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  - But solving the neutrino–nucleus quantum many-body problem fully is intractable





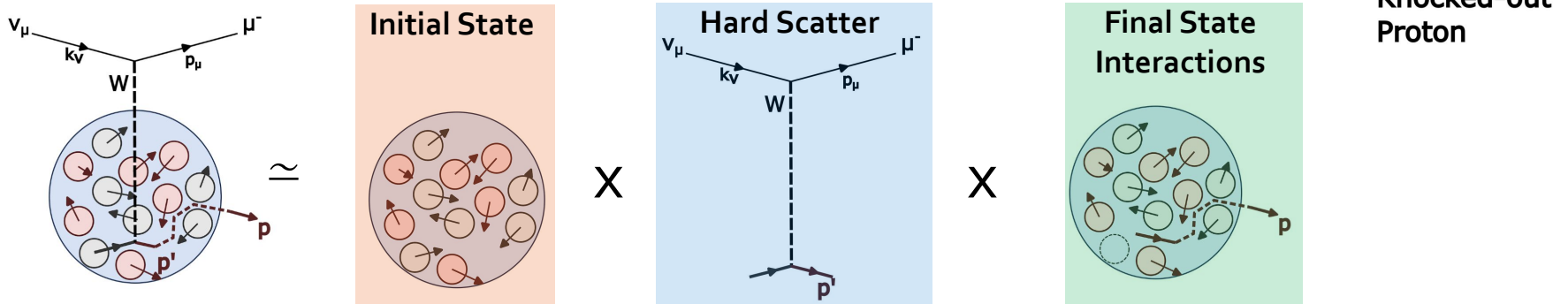
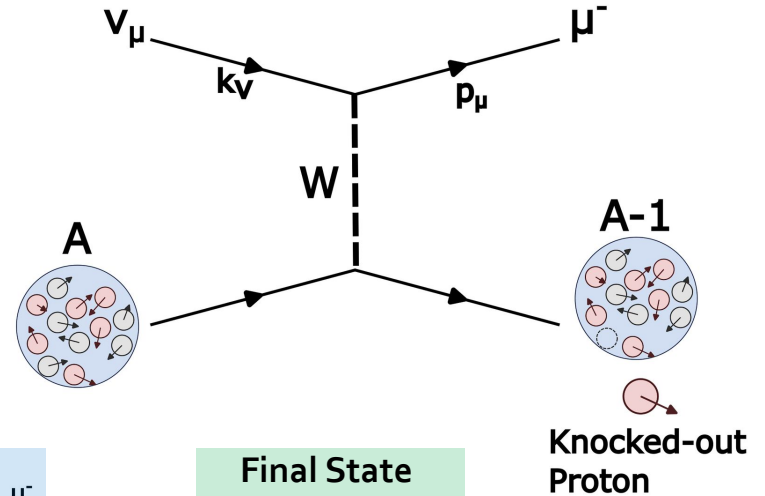
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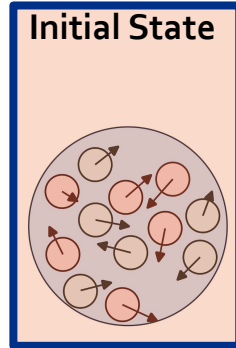
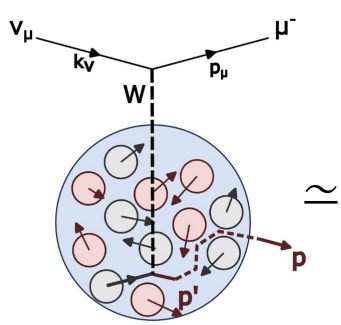
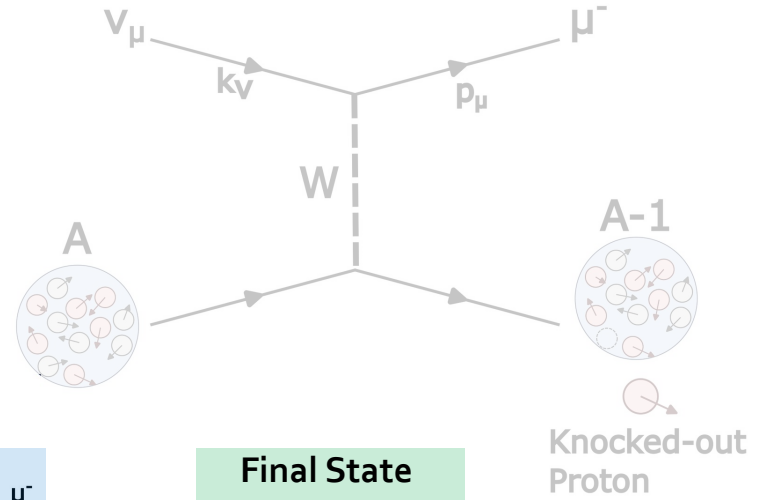
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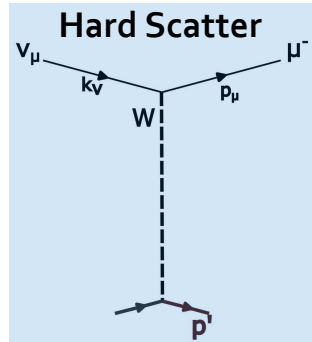


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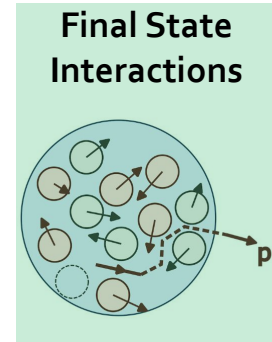
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X



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Knocked-out Proton

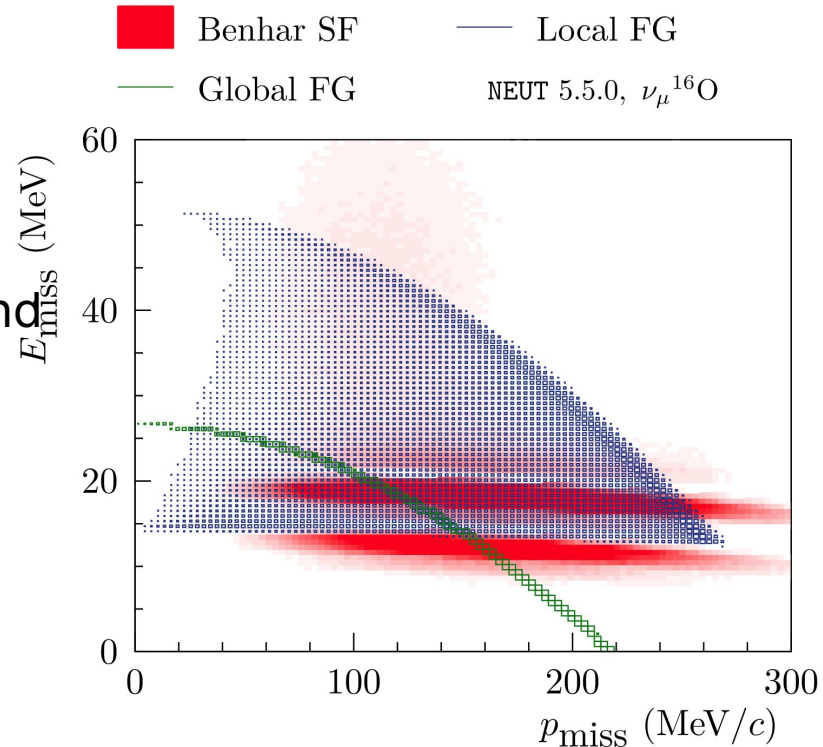
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  - Bound nucleons are in Fermi motion
  - Struck nucleons are off mass shell

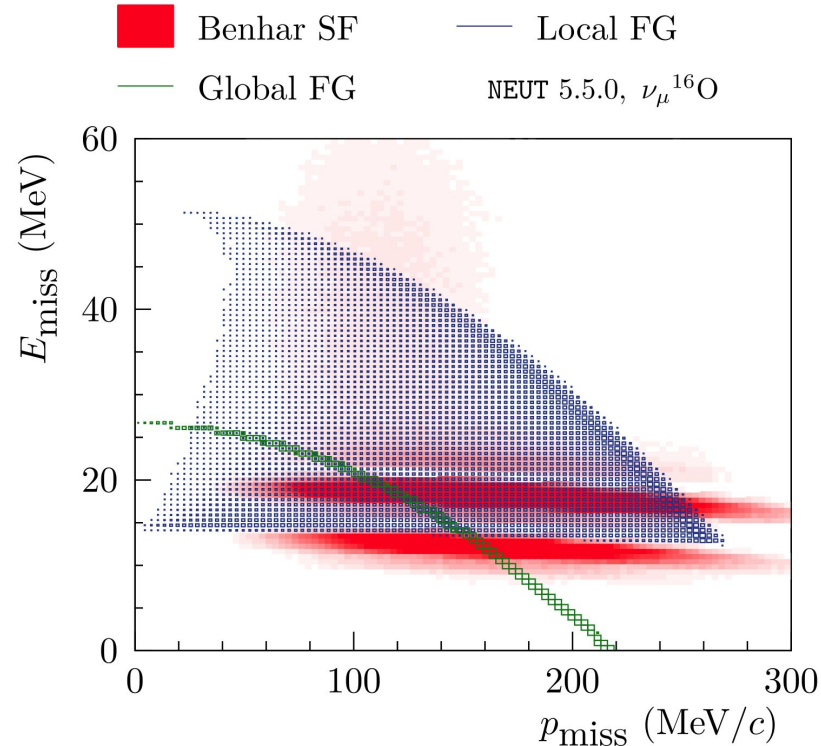
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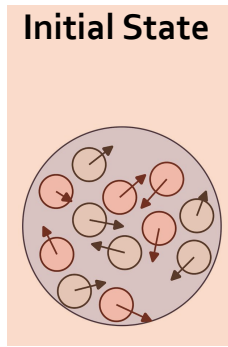
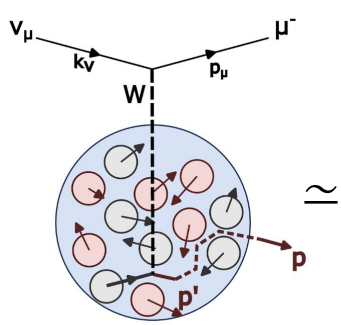
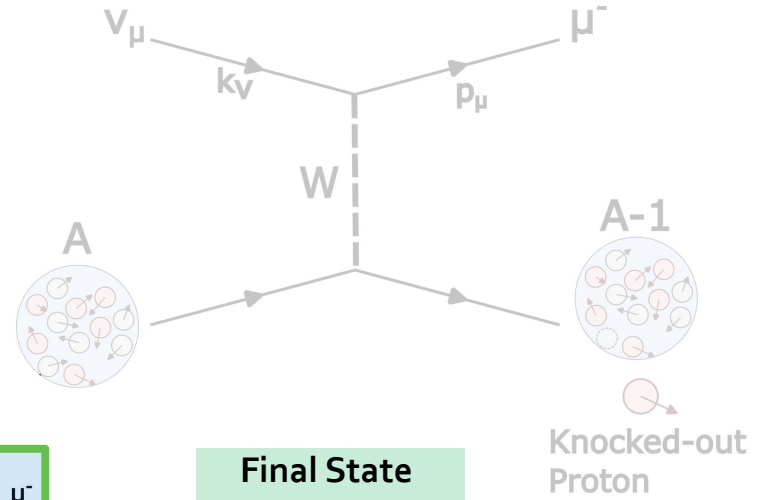
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- NEUT can simulate interactions with FG nuclear models on a wide range of target nuclei
- NEUT can also use the Benhar SF for Quasi Elastic interactions with C12, O16, and Fe56

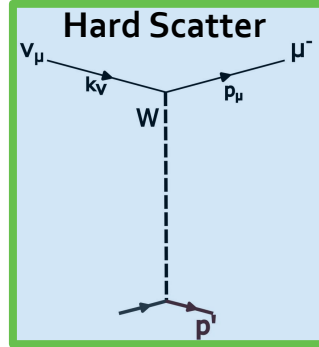


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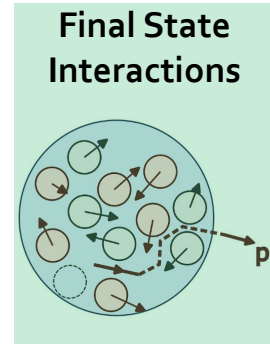
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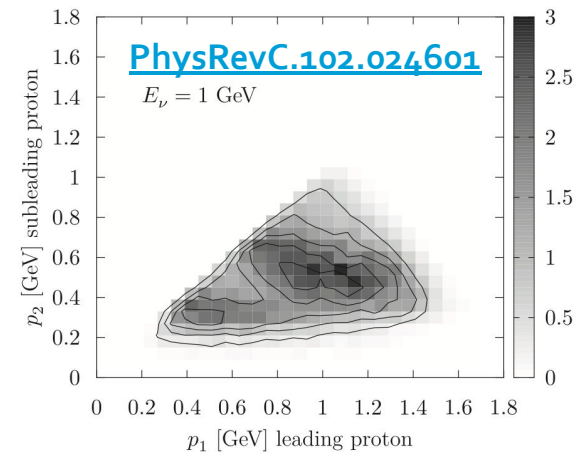
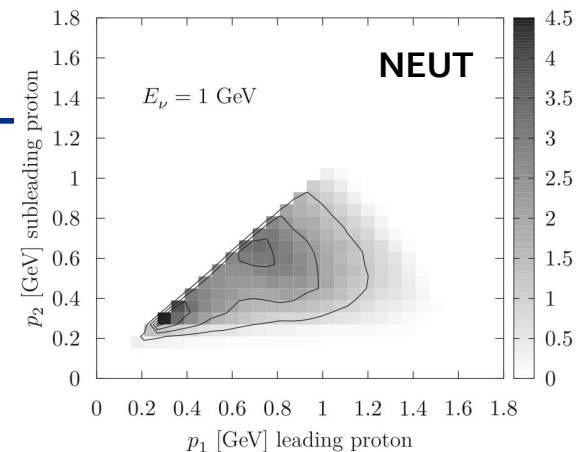
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- Inclusive CCQE Models:
  - Smith-Moniz RFG w/Llewellyn Smith cross-section & kinematics
  - Benhar *et al.* SF w/Llewellyn Smith cross-section & kinematics
  - Nieves *et al.* 1p1h (Valencia) w/Bourguille *et al.* removal energy
  - Nucleon Form Factors:
    - Vector: Dipole, BBA05, BBBA07
    - Axial: Dipole, 3-component, Z-expansion



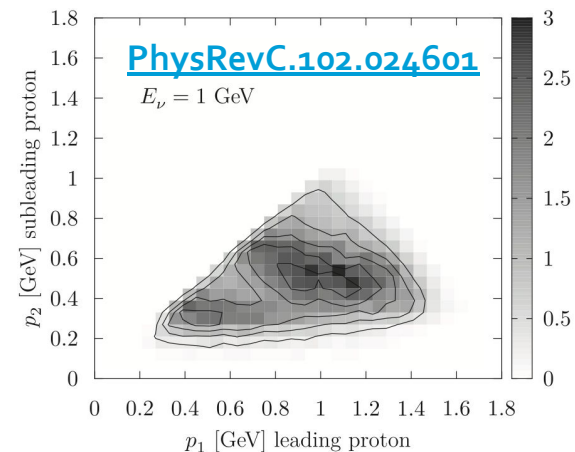
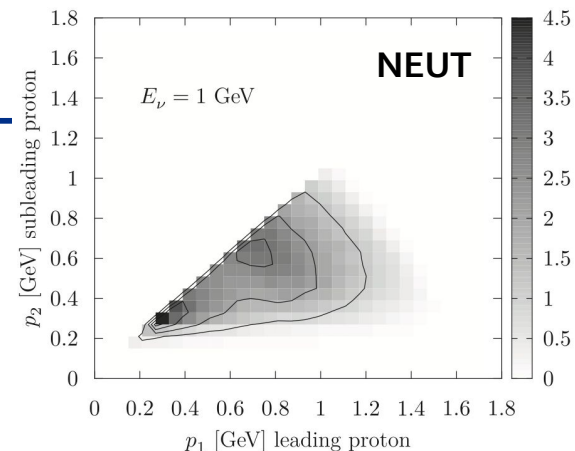
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  - Breaks second factorisation as interaction is inherently multi-body
- 2010's NEUT development focussed on OPi channels
  - Significant improvements needed for HK/DUNE



# Single Pion Production

---

- Rein-Sehgal model: w/Berger-Sehgal lepton mass effects
  - All RS resonances contribute coherently
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  - Isospin  $\frac{1}{2}$  non-resonant background included incoherently
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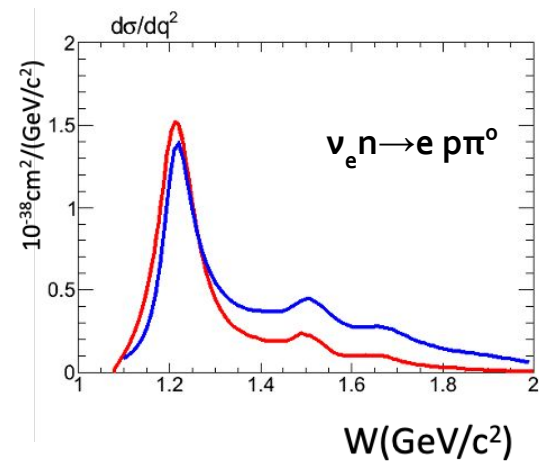
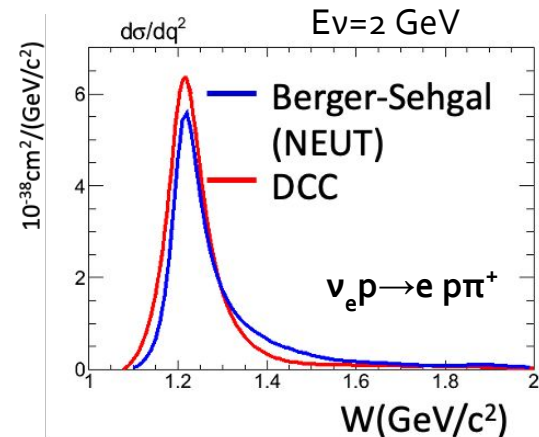
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  - **Key improvement:** Non-resonant channels contribute coherently
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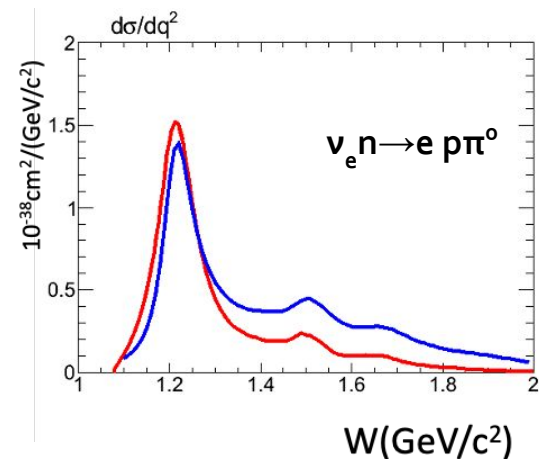
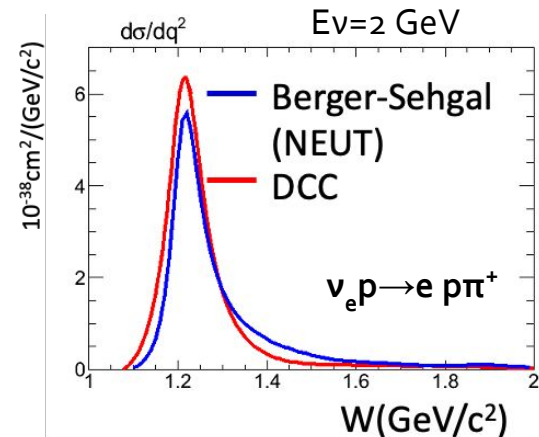
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  - Inclusive predictions implemented in NEUT



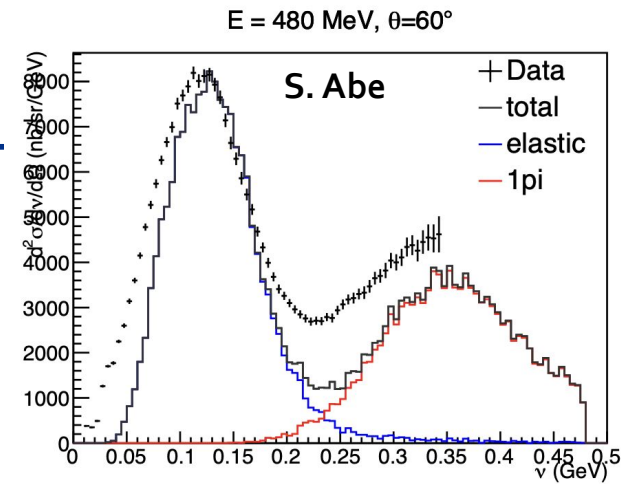
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- Coherent 1Pi: Rein-Sehgal and **Berger-Sehgal**
- Diffractive 1Pi: Rein Model



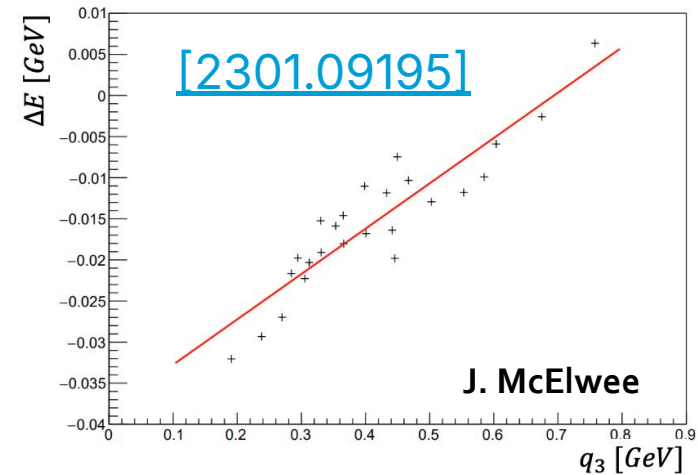
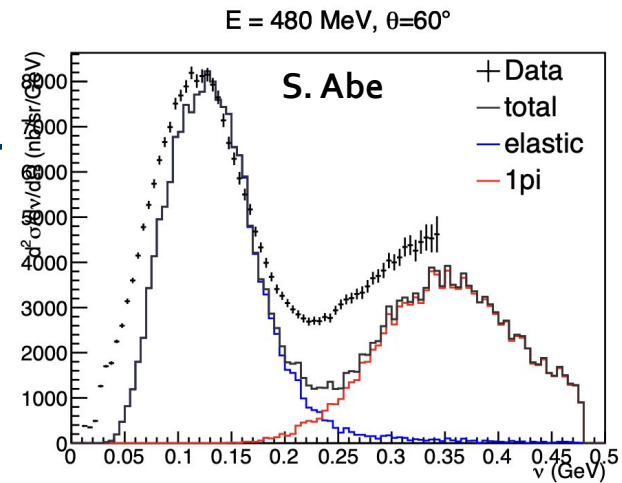
# Electron Scattering

- Recent ability to run an e-like mode in NEUT
- QE channel based on Benhar et al. SF + NCQE
- **NEW!** 1pi predicted by DCC [\[PRD 92, 074024\]](#)



# Electron Scattering

- Recent ability to run an e-like mode in NEUT
- QE channel based on Benhar et al. SF + NCQE
- **NEW!** 1pi predicted by DCC [\[PRD 92, 074024\]](#)
- Can be used to benchmark nuclear response implementation:
  - As expected from earlier work, the QE peak position is not correctly predicted by factorized SF implementation.
  - Shift of predicted to measured QE peak position shows clear dependence on interaction kinematics...
  - The second factorisation is wrong again.
  - But, observed shift ~matches predictions from RMF!

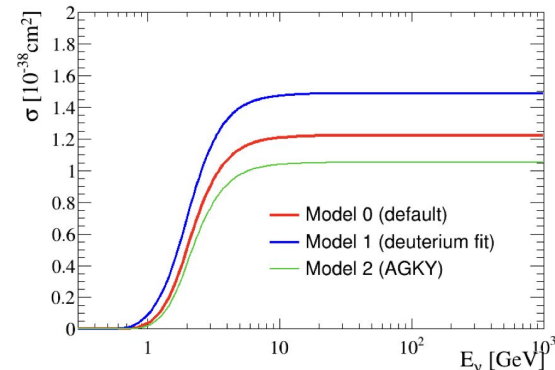
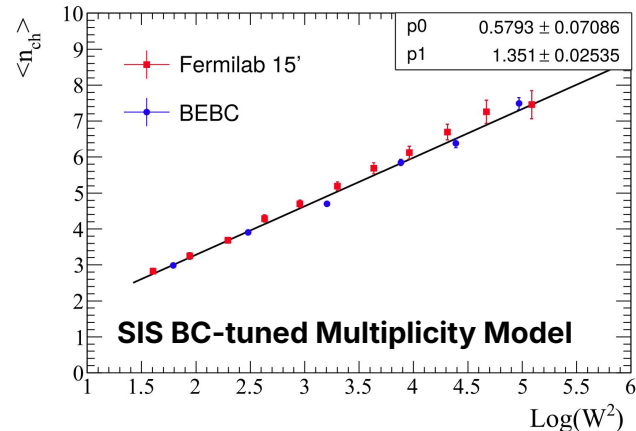




# Shallow & Deep Inelastic Scattering

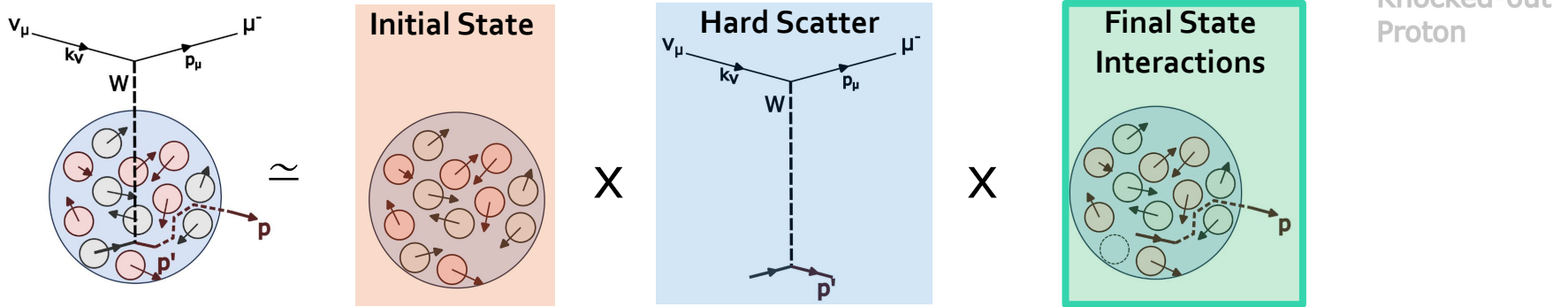
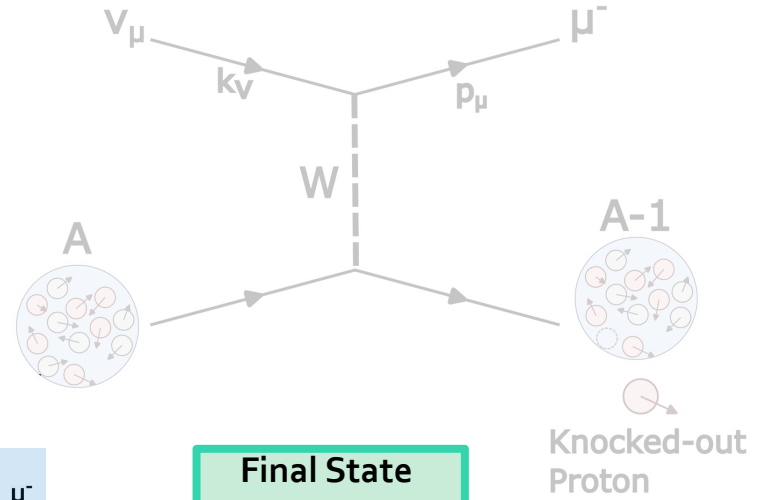
## NEUT SIS+DIS Model:

- GRV98 with Bodek Yang low Q2 modifications
  - Updated to 2108.09240v2 with improved tuning and new uncertainty estimation
  - Many new model improvements/fixes, [C Bronner](#)
- Pythia/JETSET 5.72 fragmentation
- SIS:  $W < 2$ 
  - Must produce  $\geq 2$  pions to remove double-counting with SPP Processes
  - Custom charged-hadron multiplicity model with multiple options: **Legacy**, **BC-tuned**, **AGKY**
- DIS:  $W > 2$ 
  - Full Pythia event generation



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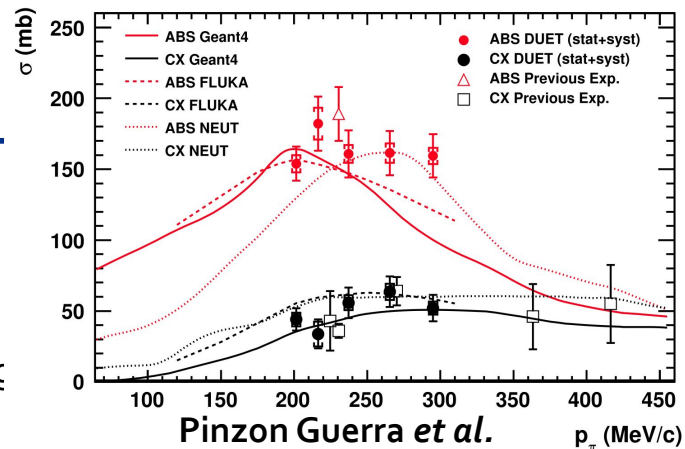
# Cascade

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  - Hadron kinematics, particle species, and multiplicity can change through interactions

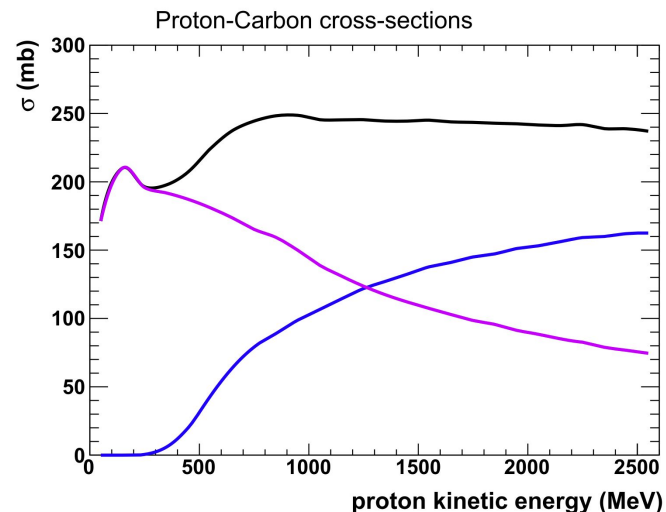
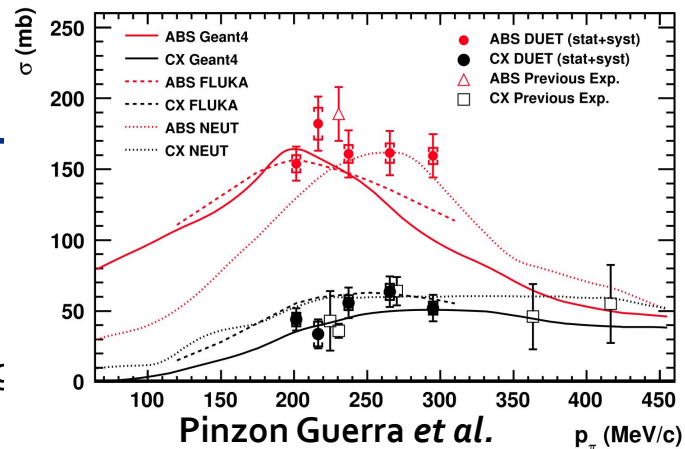
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  - Pion processes: Quasi-Elastic, Charge-exchange, Absorption, or pion production tuned to a variety of thin-target data



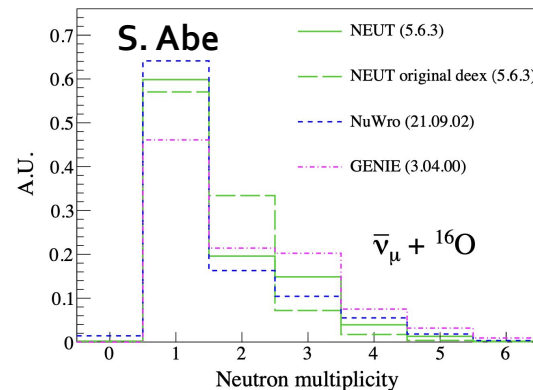
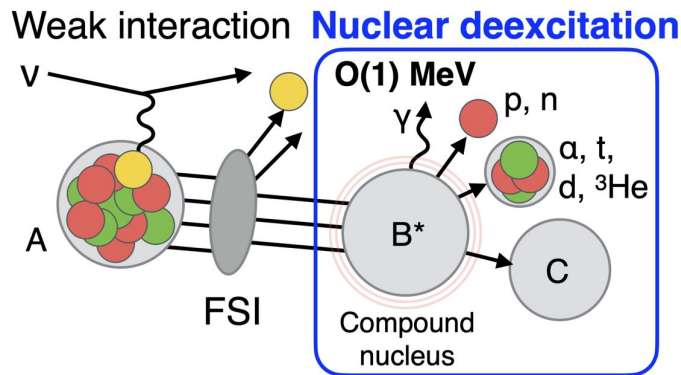
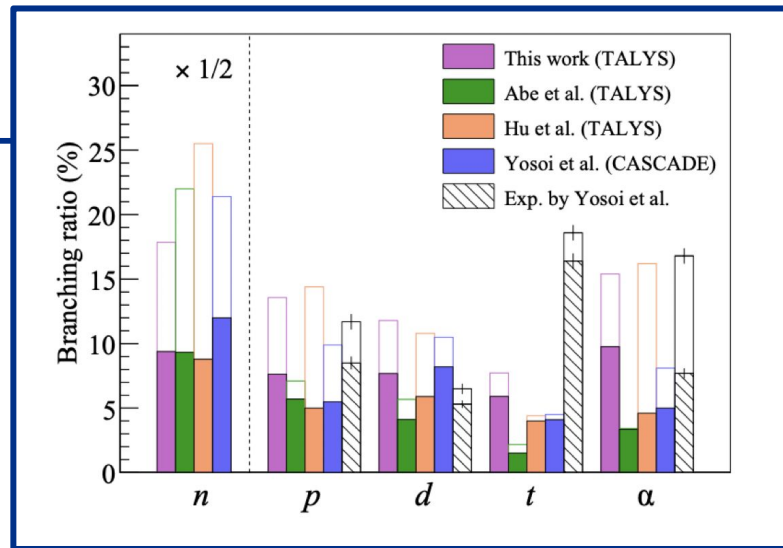
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  - Pion processes: Quasi-Elastic, Charge-exchange, Absorption, or pion production tuned to a variety of thin-target data
  - The nucleon cascade follows Bertini *et al.* for MECC-7
- Woods-Saxon nucleon density with LFG spectral function



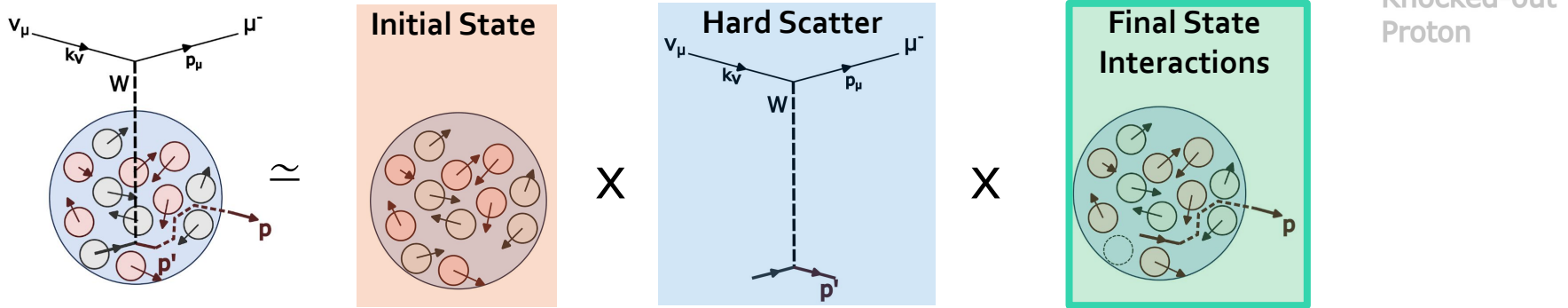
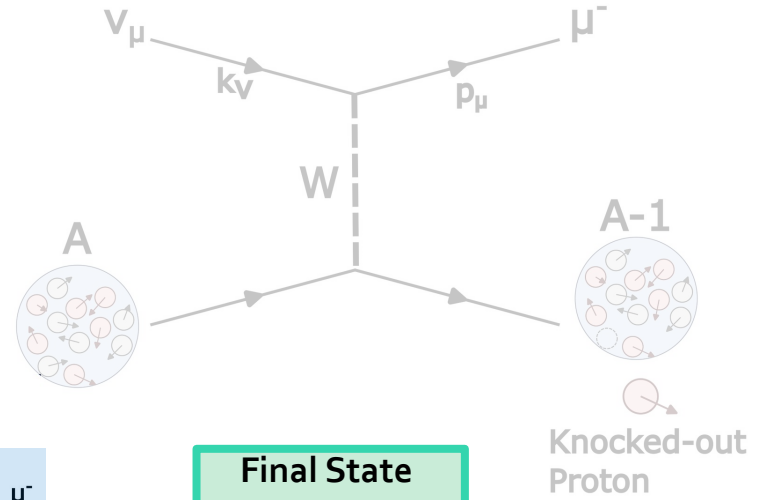
# Nuclear De-excitation

- Interaction can leave nucleus in an excited state which subsequently decays to emit secondary nucleons/gammas.
- NEUT models this only for oxygen targets.
- Recent Work by S. Abe to implement TALYS based NucDeEx model as an alternative option in NEUT



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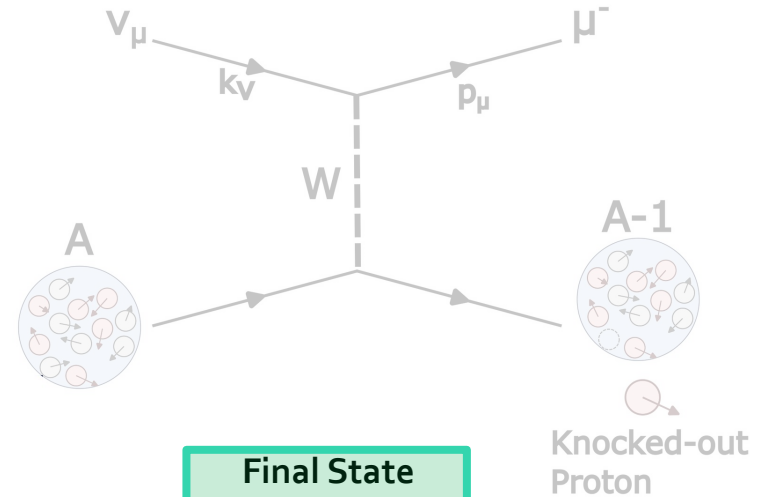
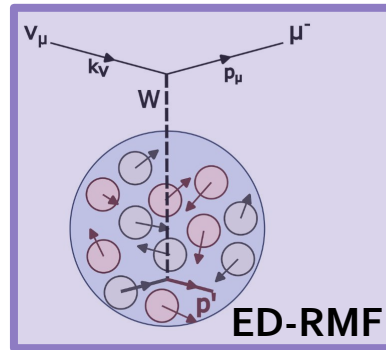
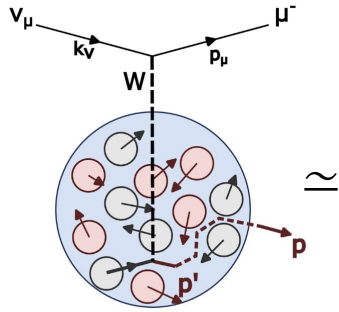
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  - But solving the neutrino–nucleus quantum many-body problem fully is intractable
- Factorisation to the *rescue* again!



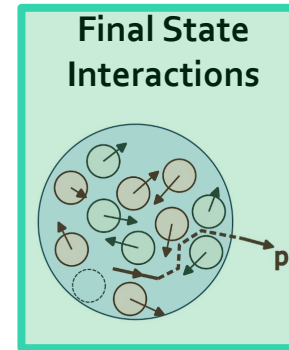
# Anatomy of A Neutrino Interaction

- In the few GeV region, nuclear effects have a significant impact on cross-section predictions
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X



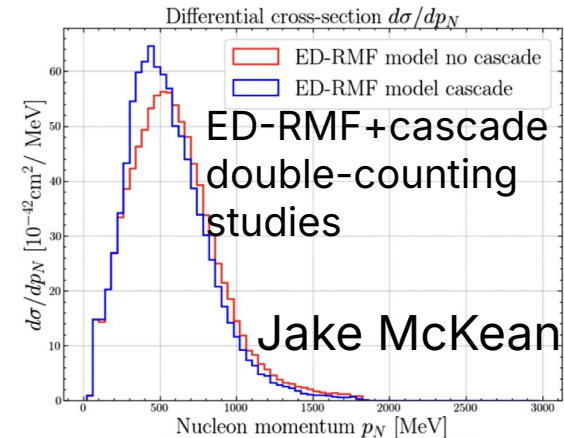
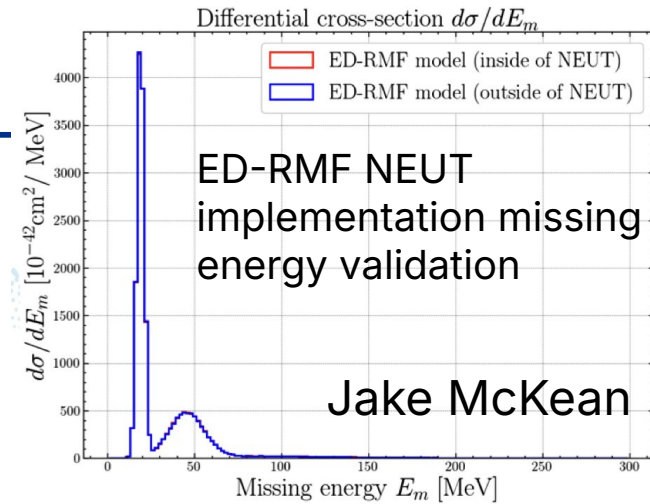


# Relativistic Mean Field

- First implementation of a macroscopic model based on a Relativistic Mean Field optical models into NEUT:
  - Jake McKean, Raul González-Jiménez, Minoo Kabirnezhad
- Potential for new theory-motivated systematic uncertainty studies in NEUT.
- Possible consideration of alternative operators for different processes.
  - *E.g.* Kabirnezhad inelastic pion production model operator.

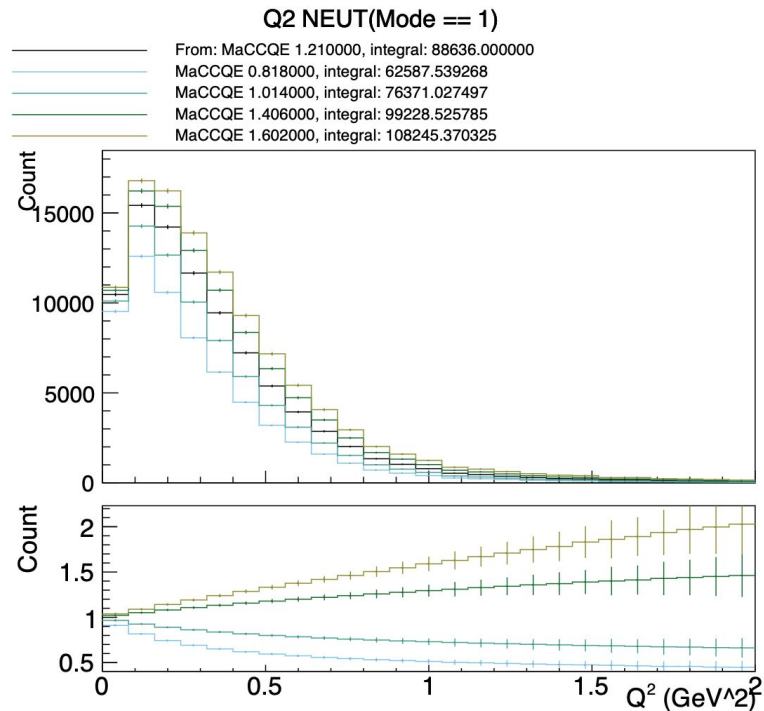
$$J^\mu \propto \int d\mathbf{p} \bar{\Psi}_{Scattered} \overset{\text{Neutrino-nucleon Operator}}{\mathcal{O}^\mu} \Psi_{Bound}$$

Hadronic Current      Scattering Potential      Bound State Wavefunction



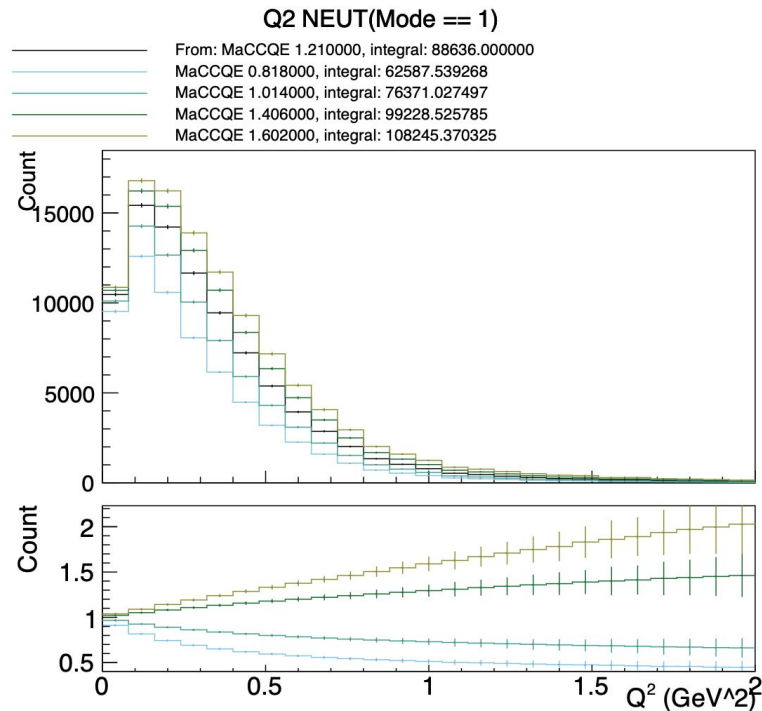
# NEUT Systematics Tools

- NEUT ReWeight:
  - Calculate the relative probability of an already-generated event under some model variation
  - A critical tool for uncertainty propagation:
    - doesn't work for all model variations – complement with approximate techniques
  - Implemented for QE and Res1Pi form factors
  - Implemented for Pion and Nucleon cascade for modest variations of in-medium scattering probabilities



# NEUT Systematics Tools

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- GEANT interface:
  - Can use the NEUT hadron transport model as an inelastic model in GEANT4
  - Enables correlation of Final State Interaction (intra-nuclear) and Secondary Interaction (in-detector) models



# Known Limitations

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- Nuclear models are inconsistent between models or steps in the factorisation:
  - Benhar *et al.* SF can be used for CCQE but no other modes
  - LFG used for FSI nuclear description
- Benhar *et al.* SF Pauli blocking uses a simple, RFG-like approach
- Nuclear effects in single pion production are largely ignored
- Nuclear transparency has no effect on inclusive cross-section for SF/FG
  - Studies ongoing into possible double counting for spectral distortion of the outgoing proton when using ED-RMF & Metropolis semi-classical cascade
- Between us... there are others

based on the density and momentum predictions from an LFG model. Such an inconsistent model is sometimes affectionately referred to as a Franken-model, after the fictional scientist and his Gothic horror implementation. For single meson production, nuclear effects

# Recent and Future Plans

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# NuHepMC: A Common Event Format

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- Implementing HepMC3-based event format proposed as a common neutrino generator format: [NuHepMC \[arXiv:2310.13211\]](#)
  - Formats are only one (very small) piece of the puzzle: Common APIs, community interaction uncertainty, flux, and geometry tooling is going to be the next technical step.
  - Then we can work on doing the hard work interpreting neutrino scattering data together
- NuHepMC is a set of minimal extra metadata beyond the particles involved in an event to facilitate automated prediction.
  - Generator implementations are expected to store additional metadata for reweighting, configuration passthrough, etc...
  - Implementations/converters for NEUT, GENIE, NuWro, Achilles, GiBUU, NUISANCE
- HepMC3 is a event format description used by LHC generators:
  - Particle graph + arbitrary metadata
  - Many on-disk formats and official and unofficial analysis tools

# neut-quickstart

---

- Repository: <https://github.com/neut-devel/neut-quickstart>
- Image: [https://hub.docker.com/repository/docker/picker24/neut580\\_quickstart](https://hub.docker.com/repository/docker/picker24/neut580_quickstart)
- Initially to service a request from IceCube for simple access to NEUT
  - May be useful for other people who want to make NEUT predictions
  - Can use github issues/feature requests for feedback
- Comes with helper script to generate events in NuHepMC/HepMC3 format from a simple CLI

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```
neut580_quickstart:neuttalks $ neut-quickstart -n 1000000 -f flux.root,flux_numu -t H20 -o neut.H20.flat.hepmc3
[OPT]: Processing/Generating 1000000 NEUT events.
[OPT]: Generating events with the a flux distribution according to flux.root,flux_numu
[OPT]: Generating events on: H20
[OPT]: Writing final output to neut.H20.flat.hepmc3
[NEUT] Running in /tmp/neut-quickstart/4936
[INFO]: Reading from neutvect.root
[INFO]: Reading flux information from flux.root:flux_numu
[INFO]: Not mono-energetic, so cannot infer FATX from first event.
[INFO]: Calculated FATX from input file file as: 0.0112455 pb/Nucleon
Converting 1000000/1000000
```



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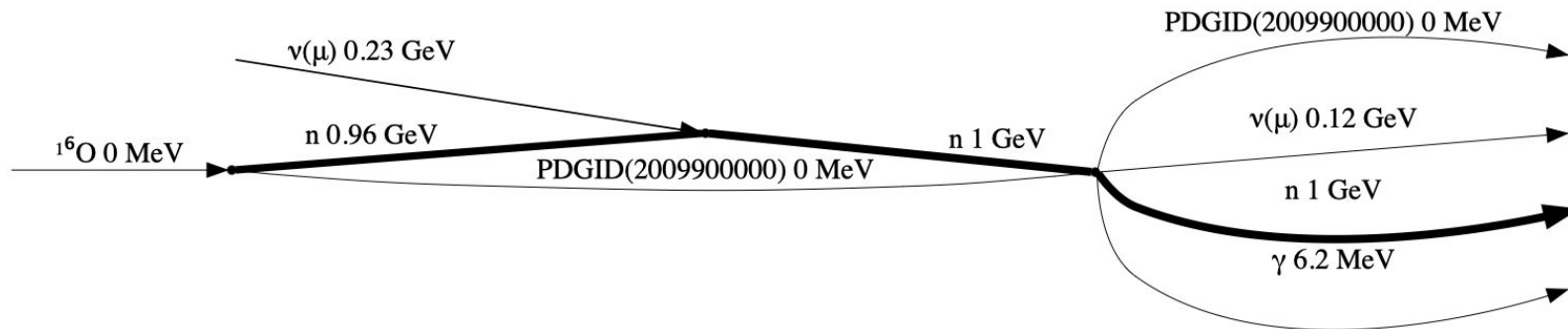
# neut-quickstart + pyhepmc

```
[ ]: !pip3 install pyhepmc
```

```
[2]: import pyhepmc
```

```
[3]: with pyhepmc.open("neut.H20.flat.hepmc3") as f:  
     event = f.read()  
     event
```

```
[3]:
```



# neut-quickstart + pyhepmc

```
[4]: CCQE_pmu = []
num_events = 0
with pyhepmc.open("neut.H20.flat.hepmc3") as f:
    for ev in f:
        num_events += 1
        if ev.attributes["signal_process_id"].astype(int) != 200: #is true CCQE
            continue
        for p in ev.particles:
            if p.status != 1:
                continue
            if p.pid == 13:
                CCQE_pmu.append(p.momentum.p3mod())

FluxAveragedTotalCrossSection = ev.run_info.attributes["NuHepMC.FluxAveragedTotalCrossSection"] \
    .astype(float)
```

```
[5]: print(f"{FluxAveragedTotalCrossSection:.4} pb/Nucleon")
```

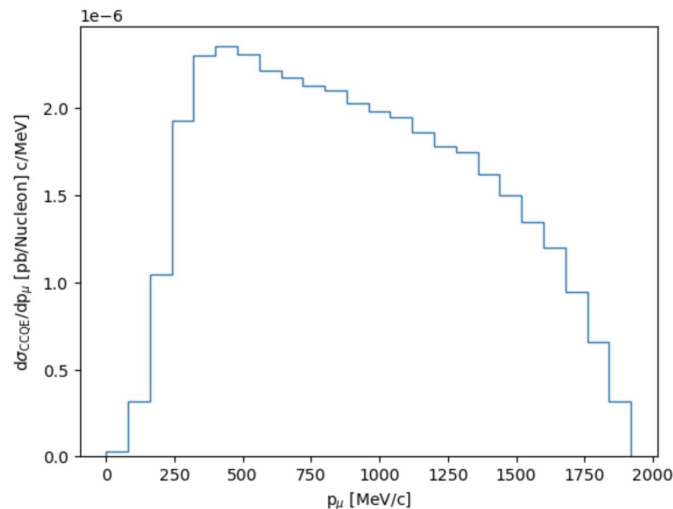
0.01125 pb/Nucleon

# neut-quickstart + pyhepmc

```
[6]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np

pmu_max = 2000.0; nbins = 25; bin_width = pmu_max/float(nbins)
(counts, bins) = np.histogram(CCQE_pmu, bins=[i*bin_width for i in range(nbins)])

plt.hist(bins[:-1], bins,
         weights=(FluxAveragedTotalCrossSection/(bin_width*float(num_events))*counts, histtype="step")
plt.xlabel(r"$p_{\mu}$ [MeV/c]")
plt.ylabel(r"$d\sigma_{\text{CCQE}}/dp_{\mu}$ [pb/Nucleon] c/MeV")
plt.show()
```



# Future: NEUT 6

---

- Development ongoing on NEUT6 - Targeted at HK and final T2K analyses:
  - Significant reorganization of code-base
  - Improved, modern build system
  - Removed dependence on an external CERNLIB
  - New TOML-based configuration file
  - Modern C/Fortran interop
  - Automatic C/Fortran interface generation for model integration
- ED-RMF implementation and new hadron cascade studies are being done in NEUT 6
- Aim is to release NEUT6 as open source under the GPL before the end of ~~2023~~ 2024
  - Will also release the final NEUT5 series release as open source
- Hope to produce comprehensive data-model comparisons for NEUT6 release

# The NEUT Generator: Status and Plans

Luke Pickering, ~~P. Stowell~~  
~~for the NEUT developers~~

16/09/24

NuFact 2024

Argonne



# Questions

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# Questions

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- 1) How can we have more theory-based uncertainties, in particular for neutrino oscillation studies?
- 2) How can we incorporate state-of-the-art nuclear models, providing information on the hadrons, in generators?
  - Clearly communicate what parts of the prediction are most important for your experiment/measurements
  - Meet model-builders *at least* half way:
    - Well defined/documented interfaces
    - Generator developers need to *outreach* to model-builders groups
    - Push for state-of-the-art models to be used in data analysis once implemented
  - **Make citing the models used by your generator easy!**



# Questions

```
15 A NuHepMC.AdditionalParticleNumbers -2000030000 -2000020000 -2000010000 91 92 93 2000000001 2000000002 20
16 A NuHepMC.Citations.Generator.DOI 10.1016/j.nima.2009.12.009 10.1140/epjs/s11734-021-00295-7
17 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[100].DOI 10.1103/PhysRevD.79.053003
18 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[150].DOI 10.1103/PhysRevD.79.053003
19 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[200].DOI 10.1016/0370-1573(72)90010-5
20 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[250].DOI 10.1103/PhysRevD.19.779 10.1103/PhysRevD.35.785
21 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[400].DOI 10.1103/PhysRevD.76.113004
22 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[450].DOI 10.1103/PhysRevD.76.113004
23 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[600].DOI 10.1103/PhysRevD.50.3085 10.1103/PhysRevD.65.033002
24 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[650].DOI 10.1103/PhysRevD.65.033002
25 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[701].DOI 10.1016/0550-3213(87)90131-3
26 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[703].DOI 10.1088/0954-3899/29/11/013
27 A NuHepMC.Conventions E.C.1 E.C.2 E.C.4 E.C.5 G.C.1 G.C.4 G.C.6 G.S.2 P.C.1
```

your experiment/measurements

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# Questions

```

15 A NuHepMC.AdditionalParticleNumbers -2000
16 A NuHepMC.Citations.Generator.DOI 10.1016
17 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[100].DOI 10.1
18 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[150].DOI 10.1
19 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[200].DOI 10.1
20 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[250].DOI 10.1
21 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[400].DOI 10.1
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23 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[600].DOI 10.1
24 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[650].DOI 10.1
25 A NuHepMC.Citations.Process[701].DOI 10.1
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year = "1972"
}

```

citations.bib

your experiment/measurement

- Meet model-builders *at least*
  - Well defined/documented interactions
  - Generator developers need to check
  - Push for state-of-the-art models
- **Make citing the models use**

# Questions

---

3) How to use the wealth of experimental measurements already available and expected in the coming years to solve key issues in neutrino scatterings?

- Community tools and interfaces, built and maintained by experimenters, generator developers, and model-builders
- Open, automated data-comparison tools...

# Questions

3) How to use the wealth of experimental measurements already available and expected in the coming years to solve key issues in neutrino scatterings?

**HEPData** Search HEPData Search

HEPData Sandbox Last updated on 2024-07-08 19:46 JSON

Hide Publication Information

Additional Resources

**Abstract (data abstract)**  
We present a set of new generalized kinematic imbalance variables that can be measured in neutrino scattering. These variables extend previous measurements of kinematic imbalance on the transverse plane, and are more sensitive to modeling of nuclear effects. We demonstrate the enhanced power of these variables using simulation, and then use the MicroBooNE detector to measure them for the first time. We report flux-integrated single- and double-differential measurements of charged-current muon neutrino scattering on argon using a topology with one muon and one proton in the final state as a function of these novel kinematic imbalance variables. These measurements allow us to demonstrate that the treatment of charged current quasielastic interactions in GENIE version 2 is inadequate to describe data. Further, they reveal tensions with more modern generator predictions particularly in regions of phase space where final state interactions are important.

**Upload New Files**  
**Download All**

Filter 22 data tables

**cross\_section-pn** >  
covariance-pn >  
smearing-pn >  
cross\_section-alpha3d >  
covariance-alpha3d >  
smearing-alpha3d >  
cross\_section-phi3d >  
covariance-phi3d >  
smearing-phi3d >  
cross\_section-pn\_para >  
covariance-pn\_para >

## NUISANCE Work-in-progress

select	MicroBooNE_CCOPI_GKI_nu_SelectSignal
project:pn	MicroBooNE_CCOPI_GKI_nu_pn
target	Ar
probe_species	numu
probe_spectrum	microboone_flux_numu
variable_type	cross-section-measurement
covariance	covariance-pn
smearing	smearing-pn
<b>pn</b>	<b>cross_section [cm<sup>2</sup> c/GeV /Nucleon]</b>
0.0 - 0.07	6.4406 ±1.1679 <b>total</b>
0.07 - 0.14	21.314 ±2.2968 <b>total</b>
0.14 - 0.2	36.266 ±3.6505 <b>total</b>
0.2 - 0.3	27.206 ±2.6118 <b>total</b>
0.3 - 0.4	15.223 ±2.2399 <b>total</b>
0.4 - 0.47	12.758 ±2.6894 <b>total</b>
0.47 - 0.55	9.1936 ±2.3617 <b>total</b>

Visualize

Sum errors  Log Scale (X)  Log Scale (Y)

Deselect variables or hide different error bars by clicking on them.

**Variables**  
cross\_section [cm<sup>2</sup> c/GeV /Nucleon]  
variable\_type:cross-section-measurement  
Summed error

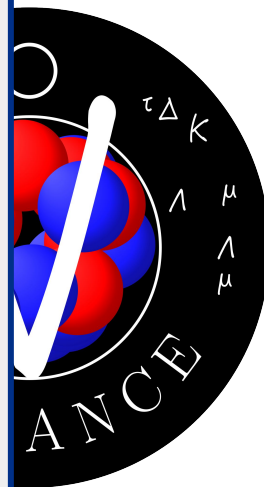


# Questions

3) How and experimental scattering

The screenshot shows the HEPData website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Search HEPData' and a 'Search' button. The main navigation bar includes 'Browse all', 'View all Publication Data', and 'ProSelecta File'. The page title is 'analysis.cxx' and the main heading is 'NUISANCE Work-in-progress'. Below the heading, it states 'License: CC0' and 'Selection and projection function examples. Can be executed in the ProSelecta environment v1.0.'. A code block contains two C++ functions: 'double T2K\_CC0Pi\_offaxis\_nu\_Project\_CosThetaMu' and 'double T2K\_CC0Pi\_offaxis\_nu\_Project\_PMu'. A 'Download' button is visible at the bottom of the code block. On the left side, there is a sidebar with 'Resources' and 'Abstract (data abstract)' sections. The abstract text describes the first measurement of muon neutrino charged-current interactions without pions in the final state using multiple detectors with correlated energy spectra at T2K. The data was collected on hydrocarbon targets using the off-axis T2K near detector (ND280) and the on-axis T2K near detector (JINGRID) with neutrino energy spectra peaked at 0.6 GeV and 1.1 GeV, respectively. The correlated neutrino flux presents an opportunity to reduce the impact of the flux uncertainty and to study the energy dependence of neutrino interactions. The extracted double-differential cross sections are compared to several Monte Carlo neutrino-nucleus interaction event generators showing the agreement between both detectors.

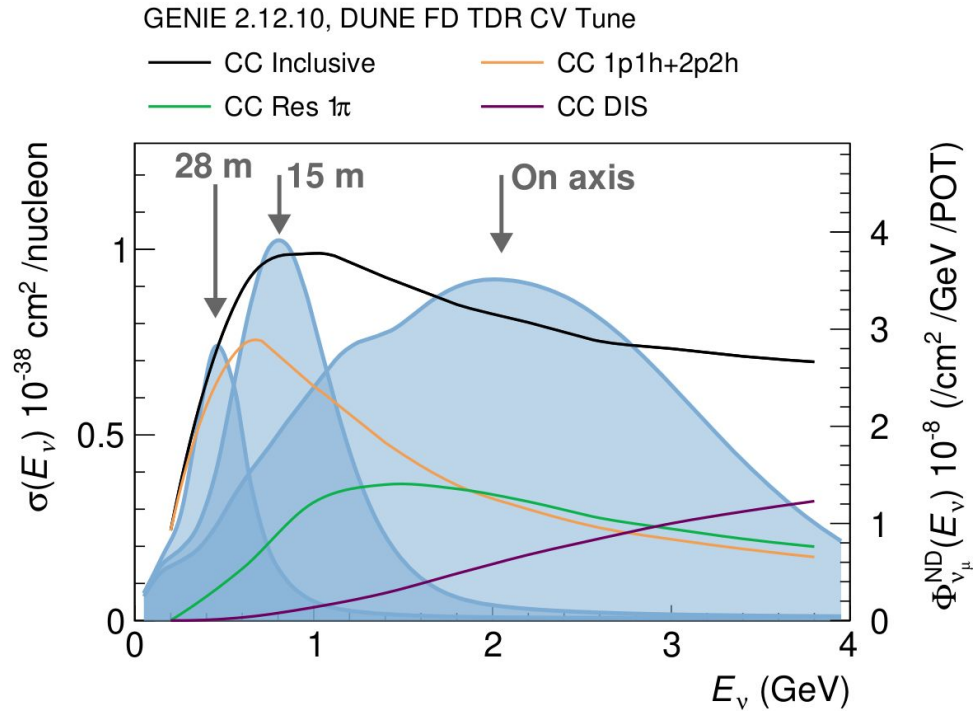
available



# Questions

4) Which kind of experiments are needed to improve the modeling of neutrino-nucleus cross section?

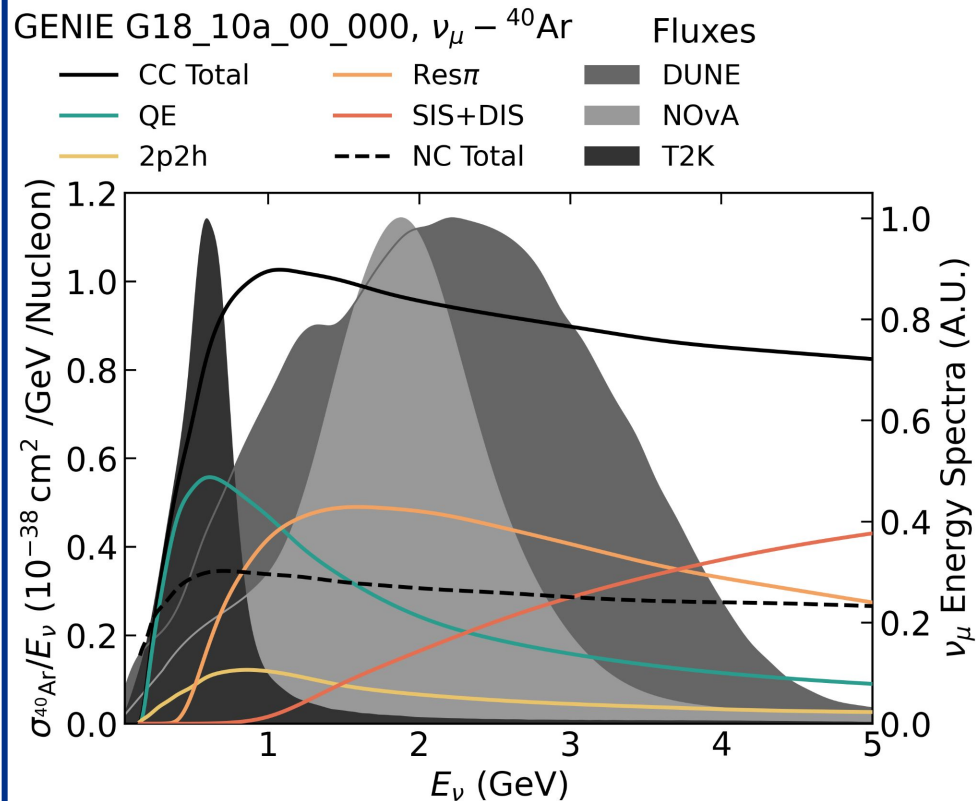
- Mobile near detectors
  - Scan across true energies
  - Ideally magnetised...
- Reduced flux uncertainties
  - Break flux \* xs degeneracies
- Low-energy pion/hadron beams...
  - More pion intra- and inter- nuclear transport data at relevant energies



# Questions

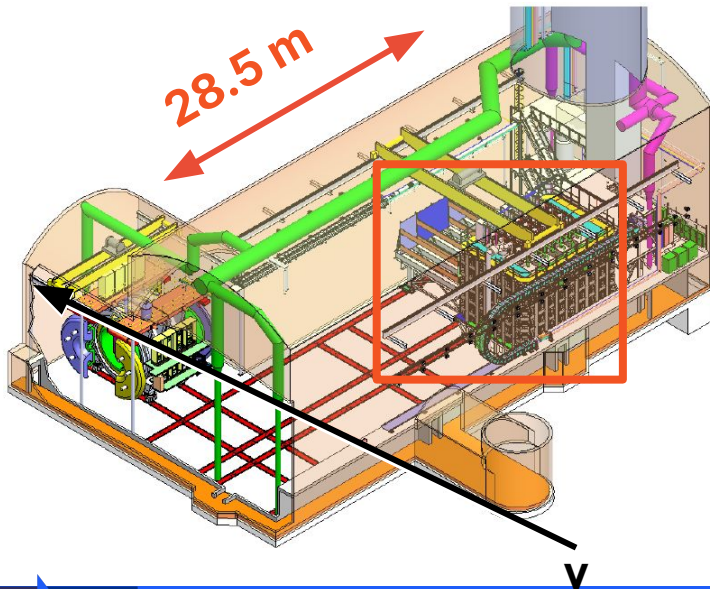
5) What are the main reaction channels and, therefore, identify the main systematic uncertainties in oscillation experiments?

- Depends on the experiment
- But, it's difficult everywhere:
  - Nuclear response
  - Transition region
  - Low W 'DIS'



# Questions

6) Can you highlight the unique experimental capabilities of your detector... and how that relates to important observables?



"And yet it moves"

- Galileo Galilei, 1633

- Make measurements with the same detector in a wide range of peak energies



# Summary

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# Summary

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- Development targets needs of J-PARC-based neutrino scattering experiments
  - Focus on few-GeV electron, muon, and tau neutrino interactions with  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$ ,  $^{16}\text{O}$  targets
- NEUT provides a complete model for interpreting neutrino-scattering data
  - But a step-change in prediction quality is needed for the next generation
- Factorisations are mathematically and computationally necessary, but we know their usages misses important physical effects:
  - Ongoing effort to understand, quantify, and implement more-complete models and effective corrections.
- NEUT has a long, rich history and we want to make sure that it not only survives, but becomes a more useful community tool into the next generation.
  - Effort on opening up the source code and providing user-friendly tools/scripts/examples
  - Implementing and testing community interfaces and formats
  - Updating dependencies and procedures to modern standards (where reasonable)