MicroBooNE



Sophie Berkman Michigan State University Fermilab User's Meeting July 11, 2024



MicroBooNE

• Longest operating LArTPC detector, with world's largest data set of neutrino-argon interactions



• Collect data from the BNB and NuMI beamlines at Fermilab

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• Thank you to everyone at Fermilab who has made this possible!

ACCELERATOR DIVISION

CYRO ENGINEERS

COMPUTING

OPERATIONS

Why MicroBooNE?

1. Exploring anomalies and new physics

2. Providing input for the future with neutrino interaction cross sections

3. Expanding the reach of LArTPC detectors



Why MicroBooNE?

Today:

1. Exploring anomalies and new physics

New results using full 5 years of data for the first time!

2. Providing input for the future with neutrino interaction cross sections

New measurements taking advantage of detailed topological information available in LArTPCs

3. Expanding the reach of LArTPC detectors Continuing to innovate and develop new methods to use LArTPC data to its full capacity with detector R&D







Exploring Anomalies and New Physics

Outstanding anomaly for >10 years



Why MicroBooNE for Anomaly Exploration?

1. Collect data in the same neutrino beam at Fermilab and close to MiniBooNE



2. Different detector technology \rightarrow additional information about neutrino interactions

Why MicroBooNE for Anomaly Exploration?

1. Separation of electrons and photons

Conversion Distance

Energy Deposited by Shower



2. Visible protons: MiniBooNE limited by Cherenkov threshold of ~900 MeV/c for protons arxiv:0806.4201

In MicroBooNE protons always ionize the argon and protons are visible down 10s of MeV KE



July 11, 2024

Comprehensive Single Photon Measurements

- **Previous results:** search for NCA radiative decay standard model process
- Now: search for variety of photon final states, independent of origin

NCπ⁰ Background Sideband Samples for Each of these Searches



Comprehensive Single Photon Measurements

- **Previous results:** search for NC delta radiative decay standard model process
- Now: search for variety of photon final states, independent of origin

Signal Region Prediction for Each of these Searches



Dark Sector e+e- Final States

 Recent theoretical interest in dark neutrinos decaying to e⁺e⁻ final states to explain MiniBooNE excess

Ballet, Pascoli, Ross-Lonergan PRD 99 (2019) 071701

Bertuzzo, Jana, Machado, Zukanovich Funchal <u>PRL 121 (2018) 24, 241801</u>







MICROBOONE-NOTE-1124-PUB

- Developed new dedicated searches for this final state topology to test these models
 - Built from electron and photon analyses and result in higher overall efficiencies for this topology
 - Sensitive to MiniBooNE allowed region at 95% CL

Stay tuned for the data results!

Expanded Electron Neutrino Search

- Search for electron neutrinos without visible pions in the final state
 - Same topology as MiniBooNE final state



First measurement to use five years of MicroBooNE data!

60% more data than previous analyses

Expanded Electron Neutrino Search

• Updated sideband constraint to match final state topologies and constrain π^0 background



Additional signal model in electron neutrino and energy





Expanded Electron Neutrino Search: Results



Data compatible with background-only prediction Data incompatible with electron neutrino excess at >99% CL



MICROBOONE-NOTE-1127-PUB

Sterile Neutrino Search

- Reinterpret electron neutrino excess search under 3+1 sterile neutrino hypothesis
- First MicroBooNE sterile 3+1 search in 2022 with inclusive electron neutrinos
- But, there is a degeneracy:
 - 3+1 electron neutrino appearance cancels out electron neutrino disappearance
 - NuMI beam makes it possible to cancel out this degeneracy due to different ratio between the number of electron neutrinos and muon neutrinos in the beam



MICROBOONE-NOTE-1132-PUB

Sterile Neutrino Search

 Joint NuMI + BNB analysis allows for increased sensitivity relative to previous BNB only result



Stay tuned for these upcoming data results!

MICROBOONE-NOTE-1132-PUB

Looking Towards the Future: Interaction Cross Sections



Looking Towards the Future: Interaction Cross Sections

 An understanding of neutrino interactions is required for discovery science, such as BSM and oscillation searches





MicroBooNE currently has the largest recorded data set of neutrino-argon interactions

What Can We Measure?

1. Lepton properties: energy, angle relative to hadrons



2. Hadronic System: energy and number of protons/pions

These kinematics are inputs to calculate neutrino energy

Hadronic System Modelling: Inclusive Measurement

- Starting to focus on understanding hadronic system and correlating with leptonic system
 - Already many MicroBooNE measurements on leptonic system



- Necessary for neutrino energy calculation
- Measure events with and without visible protons
- Demonstrates importance of modelling improvement for low energy protons

arXiv:2402.19216, accepted by PRD arXiv:2402.19281, accepted by PRL

What Can We Measure?

3. Transverse kinematic imbalance: sensitivity to final state interactions and nuclear model



Orientation of imbalance: $\delta lpha_T$

Nuclear Effects



Generally poor agreement suggests correlations between kinematic variables are not well modelled

ie. GENIE v3.0.6 χ2/ndf =1859/359



First measurement using novel variables that generalize transverse kinematic imbalance to 3D Enhanced sensitivity to nuclear reinteractions

More on these in an upcoming FNAL Wine and Cheese!

π⁰ Production Measurements



- First differential CCπ⁰ measurement
- Mismodelling in π⁰ momentum and forward angles from low energy transfer region; consistent with measurements on other nuclei



 $NC\pi^0$

- First simultaneous measurement in two π^0 variables
- Sensitivity to form factor modeling and reinteractions
- Simulation consistently overpredicts the data
- More on these in an upcoming FNAL Wine and Cheese!

And many more!

World neutrino argon cross section measurements:



S. Berkman

Expanding the Reach of LArTPCs with Detector R&D



Neutrino Interaction Time with O(ns) Resolution

- Apply time of flight correction to resolve the BNB beam bunch structure
- Improved cosmic rejection: cosmics arrive uniformly in time, but the beam does not
- Improved sensitivity to BSM physics, such as heavy neutral leptons: Reduce neutrino background in these rare process searches by looking outside the beam window





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Neutron Identification

- Neutrons are one of the main sources of missing energy in LArTPCs
- Measured indirectly when they re-interact to produce protons in the detector



MeV Scale Physics Capabilities

- Reconstruct low energy deposits down to the MeV scale
- Provides additional physics capability:
 - Low energy neutron induced tracks
 - Coherent interactions
 - Neutral current interactions
 - Solar neutrinos
 - Supernova neutrinos
- Recently: Bi(214) radiopurity measurement in MicroBooNE demonstrates levels of Rn(222) that satisfy the requirements for DUNE



Conclusions

MicroBooNE is an active collaboration with a robust physics program that is:

- Exploring anomalies and BSM physics
- Looking towards the future with neutrino cross section measurements
- Expanding the reach of LArTPC detectors through detector physics and methods development

