

Neutrino Oscillations with MINOS – and the Search for New Physics Gregory Pawloski University of Minnesota

Neutrinos



Neutrinos are the oddballs of the elementary fermions

Very tiny masses Neutral charge Rarely interact Only the left-handed ones interact

Still a lot we don't know about them room for theoretical speculation Are they related to matter dominance? Leptogenesis? Are they related to Dark Matter? Heavy sterile neutrinos?

Are they related to Dark Energy?

Probing Neutrinos

Neutrino Oscillations

Mass squared splittings $(\Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{32}^2 \approx \Delta m_{31}^2)$ Mixing Angles $(\theta_{12}, \theta_{23}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{CP})$ $\theta_{23}, \Delta m_{32}^2, \theta_{13}, \delta_{CP}$

New Physics Searches

Take advantage of the uniqueness of neutrinos Unknown neutrino-matter interaction Superluminal neutrinos



Neutrino Oscillations

Three known types of neutrinos





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Neutrino Mixing

Mass eigenstates are a linear combination of weak states

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_{e} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_{1} \\ \nu_{2} \\ \nu_{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

Neutrino born in a weak flavor state is superposition of mass states will oscillate among flavor states as it propagates

$$|v_f(L)\rangle \approx \sum \exp[-iL(m_j^2/2E)] U_{f,j}^* |v_j\rangle$$

Neutrino Mixing Angles

3x3 Unitary Mixing Matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{e} \\ v_{\mu} \\ v_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{1} \\ v_{2} \\ v_{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

Can be fully described by 3 real angles and 1 complex phase for Dirac particles

PMNS (Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata) Matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{e} \\ v_{\mu} \\ v_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13} e^{-i\delta_{CP}} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13} e^{i\delta_{CP}} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{1} \\ v_{2} \\ v_{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

Atmospheric terms Unknown terms Solar terms
$$c_{ij} = \cos\theta_{ij}, \ s_{ij} = \sin\theta_{ij}$$







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and M. Maltoni

Phys Rept 460 (2008)





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MINOS, PRL 106 181801 (2011)

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Is there CP violation in the lepton sector?

- 1) Is there a non-maximal mixing between the v_{μ} and v_{τ} states? Is $\theta_{23} \neq 45^{\circ}$?
- 2) What's the mass hierarchy?

Is $\Delta m_{32}^2 > 0?$

- 3) Is there an v_e component to the v_3 mass state? Is $\theta_{13} \neq 0$?
- 4) Is there CP violation in the lepton sector? Is $\delta_{CP} \neq 0$? (Is $\theta_{13} \neq 0$?)

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So how does MINOS study oscillations?

$\boldsymbol{\nu}$ beam produced at Fermilab

- 2 functionally identical detectors
 - Far Detector in Soudan Mine Search for evidence of oscillations
 - Near Detector at Fermilab Measures unoscillated
 - beam composition Measures energy spectrum
- Near to Far Extrapolation
 - Minimize uncertainties from:
 - Cross section
 - Flux
 - **Event detection**
 - **Event selection**





Proton collision produces hadrons Magnetic horns focus charged hadrons Decays produce neutrinos



Control v energy spectrum Target and horn positions Horn current

Default configuration is Low Energy Optimizes L/E for atmospheric Δm²



CC interactions in the Near Detector are:

93%
$$v_{\mu}$$

6% $\overline{v_{\mu}}$

Two Detectors

Near Detector

1 kton mass (larger v flux)
1 km from neutrino source
100 m underground
Measures beam before oscillations





Far Detector

5.4 kton (smaller v flux)735 km from neutrino source705m undergroundMeasures changes in beamrelative to Near Detector

Functionally Identical Detectors



Event Topologies



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MINOS Oscillation Results



v_µ Charged Current Disappearance

v_µ CC Disappearance Looking for a deficit of $v_{_{\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!}}$ events in the Far Detector Precision measurements of atmospheric Δm^2 and $\sin^2(2\theta)$ Test the neutrino oscillation hypothesis

$$P(v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\mu}) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left(\frac{1.27\Delta m^2 L}{E} \right)$$
, L=735 km

Example MC Parameters set to: $sin^2(2\theta)=1$, $\Delta m^2=3.35x10^{-3}eV^2$



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v_{μ} CC Disappearance



Data consistent with oscillations Pure decoherence¹ disfavored at more than 9σ Pure decay² disfavored at more than 7σ

¹G.L. Fogli et al., PRD 67:093006 (2003) ²V. Barger et al.,PRL 82:2640 (1999) v_{μ} CC Disappearance Fitting Oscillation Parameters



 $|\Delta m^2| = 2.32^{+0.12}_{-0.08} \text{ x } 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$

sin²(2θ) > 0.90 (90% C.L.)

Dominant Systematics Normalization NC Background Shower Energy Track Energy

Fitting Oscillation Parameters

v_µ CC Disappearance





ve Charged Current Appearance



Searching for subdominant $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$ oscillations $P(v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}) \approx \sin^{2}(\theta_{23}) \sin^{2}(2\theta_{13}) \sin^{2}(1.27\Delta m^{2}L/E) + ...$

Constrain θ_{13} by looking for an excess of v_e -like events







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v_e CC Appearance

Select electromagnetic shower topologies

Library Event Matching (LEM)







Select electromagnetic shower topologies

- Feed 3 variables from the 50 best matches and event energy into a neural network
- Background:
 - π^{0} 's generated via NC or deepinelastic ν_{μ} -CC interactions
 - $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ in FD from oscillations
 - Non-oscillation beam v_e
- Measure background rate at Near
- Extrapolate to Far by background component in bins of energy and LEM discriminant
- Fit prediction in bins of LEM and energy to Far Data



v_e CC Appearance



Signal Enhanced Region of LEM > 0.7

Far Detector background expectation: $49.6 \pm 7.0(stat.) \pm 2.7(syst.)$ events

Far Detector observation:62 events

v_e CC Appearance



Assuming: $\delta_{CP}=0, \theta_{23}=\pi/4$ normal (inverted) hierarchy

$$\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) < 0.12(0.20)$$

90% CL

$$\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) = 0.04(0.08)$$

Best Fit

Exclude $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0$ at 89% CL

Tightest constraints on θ_{13} for a normal hierarchy



Comparison with T2K and Double Chooz



Inverted Hierarchy



Probing Neutrinos

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New Physics Searches

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New Physics Searches



ν_μ Charged Current Disappearance Search for new neutrino-matter interactions CPT Violation

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$\overline{v_{\mu}}$ CC Disappearance

Looking for a deficit of $\overline{v}_{\!_{\mu}}$ events in the Far Detector Same as $v_{\!_{\mu}}$ disappearance analysis but with antineutrinos

$$P(\overline{v_{\mu}} \rightarrow \overline{v_{\mu}}) = 1 - \sin^2 2\overline{\theta} \sin^2 \left(\frac{1.27\Delta \,\overline{m}^2 L}{E}\right)$$
, L=735 km



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Looking for a deficit of \overline{v}_{μ} events in the Far Detector Same as v_{μ} disappearance analysis but with antineutrinos

$$P(\overline{v_{\mu}} \rightarrow \overline{v_{\mu}}) = 1 - \sin^2 2\overline{\theta} \sin^2 \left(\frac{1.27\Delta \,\overline{m}^2 L}{E} \right)$$
, L=735 km

v CC Disappearance

CPT conservation: $P(\overline{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{\mu}) = P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu})$



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$\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{\mu}$ CC Disappearance

Why is this study interesting – old results





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Observed Events = 193Expectation (No Osc.) = 273No oscillations ruled out at 7.3σ

$$|\Delta m^2| = 2.62^{+0.31}_{-0.28}(\text{stat}) \pm 0.09(\text{sys}) \ge 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$
$$\sin^2(2\overline{\theta}) = 0.86^{+0.10}_{-0.11}(\text{stat}) \pm 0.01 \text{ (sys)}$$

v CC Disappearance





Superluminal Neutrinos????

Neutrino Velocity Measurements

Fermilab ~500m baseline experiment (1979)

Muon Neutrinos E > 30 GeV $|v-c|/c < 4x10^{-5}$

Supernova 1987a

Electron Antineutrino Detection $E \sim 10-40 \text{ MeV}$ Arrived hours earlier than the light (light held by dense matter) $|v-c|/c < 2x10^{-9}$

Opera (2011)

Muon Neutrinos $E \sim 17 \text{ GeV}$ $(v-c)/c = [2.48 \pm 0.28 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.30 \text{ (sys)}] \times 10^{-5}$ Greater than 5 σ measurement of superluminal velocity

Theory says...

Can't be flavor effect \rightarrow Energy effect High-E superluminal would radiate electron-positron pairs

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Performed measurement in 2007

Measured the difference in the time distribution between the Far and Near detector

To measure velocity you need to know **distance** and **time**

If neutrinos travel the speed of light it would take **2.45 ms** to travel from ND to FD

Baseline:	
$Distance^a ND$ to FD, L	$734298.6\pm 0.7~{\rm m}$
Nominal time of flight, τ	2449356 ± 2 ns
MINOS Timing System:	
GPS Receivers	TrueTime model XL-AK
Antenna fiber delay	$1115~\mathrm{ns}$ ND, $5140~\mathrm{ns}$ FD
Single Event Time Resolution	<40 ns
Random Clock Jitter	$100~\mathrm{ns}$ (typical), each site
Main Injector Parameters:	
Main Injector Cycle Time	2.2 seconds/spill (typical)
Main Injector Batches/Spill	5 or 6
Spill Duration	9.7 μ s (6 batches)
Batch Duration	1582 ns
Gap Between Batches	38 ns

 $^a\mathrm{Distance}$ between front face of the ND and the center of the FD.

Description	Uncertainty (68% C.L.)
A Distance between detectors	2 ns
B ND Antenna fiber length	27 ns
C ND electronics latencies	32 ns
D FD Antenna fiber length	46 ns
E FD electronics latencies	3 ns
F GPS and transceivers	12 ns
G Detector readout differences	9 ns
Total (Sum in quadrature)	64 ns

TABLE II: Sources of uncertainty in ν relative time measurement.

58 What does MINOS have to say about that

Difference in the time distribution between the Far and Near



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Short-term (6-9 months):

Analyze data sample increased by a factor of 9 with respect to the 2007 result. Reduce major systematics.

Medium-term (1 year):

Upgrade the timing system to take all new data from now on with better timing. (Collaborate with experts from NIST) Analyze data taken before the NuMI shutdown. Lower statistics but more precise.

Long-term (MINOS+):

MINOS+ running in the NOvA era with upgraded timing system Higher energy neutrinos (peak ~7 GeV) Goal to achieve O(1ns) total systematic error.

Conclusions

These questions still remain unanswered

Is there a non-maximal mixing between the v_{μ} and v_{τ} states?

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But we are constraining the possible solutions

MINOS sets the tightest limits on θ_{13} assuming normal hierarchy MINOS sets tightest constraints on the magnitude of Δm_{32}^2

Search for new physics

Less compelling motivation for new neutrino-matter interaction But we are compatible with superluminal neutrinos Confirmation or refutation to come soon...