

Explaining the MiniBooNE Excess Through a Mixed Model of Oscillation and Decay

Wednesday, 14 July 2021 15:30 (15 minutes)

This talk presents a model of the electron-like excess observed by the MiniBooNE experiment comprised of oscillations involving a new mass state, ν_4 , at $\mathcal{O}(1)$ eV and a high mass state, \mathcal{N} , at $\mathcal{O}(100)$ MeV that decays to $\nu + \gamma$ via a dipole interaction.

Short baseline oscillation data sets (omitting MiniBooNE appearance data) are used to predict the oscillation parameters. We simulate the production of \mathcal{N} along the Booster Neutrino Beamline via both Primakoff up-scattering ($\nu A \rightarrow \mathcal{N}A$) and Dalitz-like neutral pion decays ($\pi^0 \rightarrow \mathcal{N}\nu\gamma$).

The simulated events are fit to the MiniBooNE neutrino energy and visible scattering angle data separately to find a joint allowed region at 95% CL.

An example point in this region with coupling of $3.6 \times 10^{-7} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$, \mathcal{N} mass of 394 MeV, oscillation mixing angle of 6×10^{-4} and mass splitting of 1.3 eV^2 has $\Delta\chi^2/dof$ for the energy and angular fit of 15.23/2 and 37.80/2, respectively.

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Yes

Primary author: KAMP, Nicholas (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Co-authors: DIAZ, Alejandro (Massachusetts Institute of Technology); ARGÜELLES-DELGADO, Carlos A. (Harvard University); SHAEVITZ, Michael (Columbia University); UCHIDA, Melissa (University of Cambridge (GB)); VERGANI, Stefano; CONRAD, Janet (MIT)

Presenter: KAMP, Nicholas (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

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