ICHEP 2016 Chicago



38th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS

AUGUST 3 - 10, 2016 CHICAGO

Contribution ID: 726

Type: Oral Presentation

Model-independent determination of the axial mass parameter in quasielastic antineutrino-nucleon scattering (15' + 2')

Saturday, 6 August 2016 09:35 (17 minutes)

Understanding the charged current quasielastic (CCQE) neutrino-nucleus interaction is important for precision studies of neutrino oscillations. The theoretical description of the interaction depends on the combination of a nuclear model with the knowledge of

form factors. While the former has received considerable attention, the latter, in particular the axial form factor, is implemented using the historical dipole model.

As was suggested in 2011, instead of the dipole model one can use a model independent approach based on the z expansion. We use this method to analyze muon antineutrino CCQE mineral oil data published by the MiniBooNE collaboration. We combine the cross section for scattering of antineutrinos off protons in carbon and hydrogen, using the same axial form factor for both. The extracted value of the axial mass parameter is in very good agreement with the model independent value extracted from MiniBooNE's neutrino data. Going beyond a one-parameter description of the axial form factor, we extract values of the axial form factor finding a very good agreement with the analogous extraction from the neutrino data. We discuss the implications of these results.

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Presenter: PAZ, Gil (Wayne State University) **Session Classification:** Neutrino Physics

Track Classification: Neutrino Physics