Results and future prospects of the NA61/SHINE neutrino program

E. D. Zimmerman University of Colorado and CERN

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NA61/SHINE Neutrino Program

- Neutrino oscillation physics
- Neutrino beam physics
- NA61/SHINE neutrino program
- Current and new results
- Upcoming data sets
- New opportunities

Neutrino Oscillations

• ASSUME:

- Two neutrinos (simpler than three)
- Massive, but masses are non-degenerate
- Mass eigenstates are NOT the same as flavor eigenstates
- This is a quantum-mechanical two-state system:

Flavor basis $\longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \end{pmatrix} \longleftarrow$ Mass basis

• v_1 and v_2 phases rotate at different rates:

$$\nu_1 \rangle \to e^{-im_1 t} |\nu_1\rangle \qquad (\hbar = c = 1)$$

• So, starting at t=0 with one flavor:

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = |\nu_e\rangle = \cos\theta |\nu_1\rangle + \sin\theta |\nu_2\rangle$$

• The state evolves a component of the other flavor: $|\psi(t)
angle = \cos\theta e^{-im_1t}|\nu_1
angle + \sin\theta e^{-im_2t}|\nu_2
angle$

Neutrino Oscillations

P(Vm)

- Solving and plugging in sensible units, probability of measuring v_{μ} if state was created as v_e :

$$P(\nu_e \to \nu_\mu) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2(1.27\Delta m^2 \frac{L}{E})$$

• L = flight distance (km); E = neutrino energy (GeV); \overline{m} = mass (eV/c²)



Mass splittings are such that at accessible energies, oscillation phenomena generally occur at terrestrial or astronomical distance scales.

Character of the parameters

- Matrix is characterized by large mixing angles (unlike the quark sector)
- Hierarchy of masses: one mass splitting is about 30 times the other. We do not know, however, what the order is or whether there's a significant offset from zero.



Neutrino oscillation experiments

- E: and me relevant Am is Am 32 (the atmospheric searc), which puts the first oscillation maximum at ~500 km for 1 GeV neutrinos
- Compare event rates at far sites to expectations: Appearance of electron neutrinos and disappearance of muon neutrinos are the main experimental signatures. Ignoring matter effects:

$$\begin{split} & \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{F})(\mathbf{fe}) = \mathrm{ind}\,\mathbf{F}_{e}, \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{V}_{e} \neq \mathbf{V}_{e}, \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{V}_{e} \neq \mathbf{V}_{e}, \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{V}_{e} \neq \mathbf{V}_{e}, \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{V}_{e} = \mathbf{V}_{e}, \mathbf{V}_{e}, \mathbf{V}_{e} = \mathbf$$

 Long-baseline neutrino experiments are now studying the mass hierarchy and searching for CP violation in neutrino oscillations

How to make a neutrino beam



- Modern long-baseline oscillation experiments use "conventional" beams: primary protons strike a target, secondary mesons enter a decay region, and they decay in flight to neutrinos upstream of a beam stop
- Fifty-plus-year history of these beams!
- Numerous variants on the conventional beam: narrow-band, broad-band, off-axis...
- All have common properties:
 - Predominantly v_{μ} , with v_e contamination at the ~1% level from muon, kaon decays.
 - Even "narrow-band" beams tend to have tails to high energy
 - Fluxes have significant systematic errors





- Target must be ~2 λ_0 in beam direction, to maximize interactions
- Should be wide enough to contain the primary beam, but narrow enough to allow interaction products with average p_T to escape the side
- Target material is generally selected to be low-A, since lighter nuclides tend to produce shorter-lived radioactive isotopes with lower gamma energies. Also, want to maximize interactions while minimizing multiple scattering: low λ_0/X_0 ratio preferred.
- Targets must handle very high beam power deposition! Modern targets need dedicated cooling; future targets may need to be liquid or powder-jet as solids may not be able to survive thermal shock.

T2K target



- Graphite target, like most modern beams
- 90 cm long, 2.5cm diameter. Beam radius is large (6mm) to reduce local intensity and thermal shock
- Target cooled by very high velocity helium gas in closed loop

CONVENTIONAL BEAMS: Basic components



- After leaving target, charged particles may be focused before entering decay volume
 - Several focusing schemes possible
 - Focusing not strictly necessary: 1962 two-flavor neutrino discovery experiment used unfocused mesons.

Horns

- Horns first proposed by Van der Meer (1961)
- At the most basic level:
 - Two coaxial conductors: a toroidal field exists in the region radially between inner and outer conductors
 - Inner conductor is thin enough (2-3 mm) for most pions to pass through
 - Conductor currents are 100-300 kA so water cooling, pulsed operation necessary to prevent melting
 - Generally made of aluminum alloy



Horns

1960s







Multi-horn systems

- A single horn generally reduces the angular spread of the beam by a factor of ~2. The resulting beam, observed from far enough downstream, looks again like a point source of pions with an angular spread ⇒ it can be focused further by adding another horn.
- Common for beams to be designed with two (or even three) horns in series. The downstream horns allow correction of both under- and over-focused particles:



Understanding a neutrino beam

• Neutrino flux comes from:

- Pions, kaons produced directly from primary *p*+C interactions
- Also produced from re-interactions of secondary p,π in the target
- Secondary particles from target focused in a series of horns
 - Horns contain substantial amounts of aluminum, which also acts like a secondary target
- All of these sources of mesons contribute significantly to the neutrino flux.

Understanding the flux

- Use Monte Carlo techniques to simulate the beam, but this is generally a very complicated and challenging environment. Uncertainties can be large: 20-50% with standard simulation tools.
- Monte Carlo must simulate:
 - Interaction of proton in target
 - Production of pions, kaons in target
 - Propagation of particles through horn (scattering, interactions, field)
 - Propagation through decay volume and loss in beam absorber
 - Meson decays to neutrinos, muons

All of these require knowing hadron interaction physics!

Understanding a neutrino beam

- Two complementary techniques needed to understand the beam well enough to do oscillation measurements
 - Near neutrino detector
 - Standard for modern oscillation experiments. Place a small neutrino detector near the source to measure neutrinos before oscillation.
 - Goal is cancellation of flux uncertainties in near/far ratio.
 - These are not perfect for constraining flux, due to neutrino crosssection (don't cancel if detectors are different) and reconstruction uncertainties, and parallax effects due to being near an extended neutrino source
 - Measurement of pion, kaon production and interactions
 - Essential for measuring neutrino interaction cross-sections
 - Needed for reducing oscillation systematic errors

Primary beam energies for current and near future neutrino beams

T2K, T2HK: 30 GeV/c p

NuMI: 120 GeV/c p

LBNF/DUNE: 60-120 GeV/c p

Monte Carlo generators

- Neutrino experiments use hadronic interaction generators including FLUKA, GEANT4 with various physics lists
- But these generators have
 very large

disagreements with one another: 20%+ is common, or even factors of two for kaon production!

• Very important to have constraints on the hadronic processes

Flux of Fermilab'sNuMI neutrino beam with different physics generators

Meson production

- T2K example: pion production phase space relevant for neutrino production
- p and θ are the momentum and angle in the lab frame

External measurements of meson production

- Until recently, depended on fits to multiple measurements at different labs with different beam energies
- These measurements were made many years ago for other purposes, and had varying applicability to neutrino beams
- Significant issues with combining systematic errors across very different experiments
- Model dependence in extrapolating from different energies, target nuclei

Dedicated experiments

- In recent years, a loose program of hadron production measurements specifically for neutrino experiments has been underway
- Started with HARP experiment at CERN, which measured production from 8 GeV protons (for studying Booster Neutrino Beam) and from 12 GeV protons (for studying K2K beam).
- NA61 has been measuring since 2007

NA61: The <u>SPS Heavy Ion and</u> <u>Neutrino Experiment</u>

- Fixed-target experiment using H2 beam at CERN SPS
- ~150 collaborators.
 Spokespeople: Marek Gazdzicki, EDZ (deputy)
- Designed around the former NA49 heavy-ion spectrometer
- Primary proton beam from CERN SPS, Secondary beams ~25 to 350 GeV/c

NA61: The SPS Heavy Ion and Neutrino Experiment

Diverse physics program includes

Strong interactions/heavy ion physics

Onset of QCD deconfinement

Search for critical point

Open-charm production

Hadron production for neutrino beams

Cosmic ray production

 Hadron production for air-shower model predictions

d/d production for AMS experiment

Nuclear fragmentation cross-sections

NA61 detector system

- Detailed beam instrumentation including PID and tracking before the target
- Several large-acceptance TPCs, two superconducting analysis magnets
- Scintillator-based time-of-flight detectors
- Projectile Spectator Detector: forward hadron calorimeter

Event display

Particle identification

Twin approaches: thin- and replica-target measurements

- Need thin-target measurements to measure physics cross-sections (total inelastic and production cross-sections, and differential spectra), for inputs to generators
- Need measurements on replica (~meter-long) targets of same material and geometry as neutrino production targets.
 - Measure both beam survival probability and differential yields.
 - Have to make measurements specifically for each neutrino beam.
 - Usually use results to re-weight neutrino beam MC at surface of target

Graphite thin target (1.5 cm, 3.1% of λ_{I})

- We study single interactions with a thin target
- Target is a few percent of an interaction length
- Total cross-section definition:

•
$$\sigma_{\text{total}} = \sigma_{\text{el}} + \sigma_{\text{inel}}$$

= $\sigma_{\text{qe}} + \sigma_{\text{prod}}$

- quasi-elastic: target nucleus breaks up
- production: new hadrons produced
- (Careful: some collaborations use subtly different definitions!)

Thin-target measurements

Thin Target Measurement

- Also measure differential yields (spectrum): $d^2n/dpd\theta$ for each measurable daughter particle (π^{\pm} , K^{\pm} , p, K^0 , Λ^0)
- Use measured σ_{prod} to relate the yields to the differential cross-section $d^2\sigma/dpd\theta = \sigma_{\text{prod}} \cdot d^2n/dpd\theta$
- We can then use these to calculate weights for each interaction in a neutrino beam Monte Carlo:

 $W(p,\theta) = \frac{N(p,\theta)_{\text{Data}}}{N(p,\theta)_{\text{MC}}}$

- Exact target geometry of a particular neutrino beam (T2K: 90cm cylinder, NuMI/NOvA: 120cm of graphite fins)
- Most events have primary and secondary interactions in the target
- Measure particle yields vs not only p and θ , but also exit zalong target (and possibly ϕ for targets like NuMI's that aren't cylindrically symmetric)
- Also measure beam particle survival as additional constraint on σ_{prod}
- In neutrino beam MC, apply weights to particles at surface of target in the simulation

NA61/SHINE measurements for T2K

- NA61/SHINE took thin- and thick- target data with 30 GeV/c protons specifically for T2K in **2007 (thin) 2009 (thin and replica)**, and **2010 (replica)**.
- Eight NA61/SHINE publications have come out of these data sets final one just submitted!
- Thin target:
 - total cross-section and π^{\pm} spectra measurements (Phys. Rev. C84 034604 (2011))
 - K+ spectra measurement (Phys. Rev. C85 035210 (2012))
 - K_{s}^{0} and Λ spectra measurements (Phys. Rev. C89 (2014) 025205)
 - total cross-section and π^{\pm} , K[±], p, K⁰_S, and Λ spectra measurements (Eur. Phys. J. C76 84 (2016))
- Replica target:
 - methodology, π +/- yield measurement (Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A701 99-114 (2013))
 - π +/- yield measurement (Eur. Phys. J. C76 617 (2016))
 - π +/-, p, and K+/- yield measurements (Eur. Phys. J. C79, no.2 100 (2019))
 - proton beam survival probability (arXiv:2010.11819, under review at PRD)

Thin Target Results

• One angle bin shown here for illustration

l'Unin-

- MC generators fail badly for kaons and protons
- Published in Eur. Phys. J. **C76** 84 (2016): also contains yields of negative particles and neutral strange particles (V^0).

Recent result: full differential yields from T2K replica target

18cm

Z6

NA61/SHINE π^+

NuBeam G4.10.03

QGSP BERT G4.10.03

Z3

10

Z6

z = 90 cm

10

12

14

8

8

6

12

 $36 \le z < 54$ cm

Z5

0.3

0.2

0.1

0.0

0.3

0.2

0.1

0.0

16

10 12 14

8

6

p [GeV/c]

0

2

6

θ р Z3Z4• Eur.Phys.J. C 79 π^+ yields (60 $\leq \theta < 80$ mrad) 2,100 (2019) 0.3 Z10.3 72 Showing one ullet $0 \le z < 18 \text{ cm}$ $18 \le z < 36 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 0.2 0.2 angle bin of π^+ <mark>d²n</mark> [(rad ⋅ GeV/c)⁻¹] 0.1 0.1 for illustration. 0.0 0.0 8 10 12 8 10 12 14 16 Also have π^- , K^{\pm} , p yields 0.3 0.3 Z4Z5 $72 \le z < 90 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ $54 \le z < 72 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 0.2 0.2 0.1 0.1

10

8

6

12 14

16

0.0

2

4

Equivalent result in T2K neutrino flux

NA61/SHINE measurements for T2K

- Steady improvements to the T2K flux prediction (described in Phys.Rev. D87 (2013) no.1, 012001 and J.Phys.Conf.Ser. 888 (2017) no.1, 012064) as more NA61 data sets have been incorporated:
 - first thin-target
 - 2009 replica
 - 2010 replica data set (which added statistics and included kaon yields)

New results for T2K replica target

- Direct measurement of the production cross-section by measuring beam proton survival probability in the 90cm T2K replica target
- Used a special run with high vertex magnet field (Forward TPCs were not built yet) to bend beam protons into the main TPC
- Released last month: A. Acharya *et al.,* arXiv:2010.11819

A second phase of NA61 neutrino measurements

- Four US-based groups joined NA61 in 2014 to make measurements specifically for the Fermilab-based neutrino program.
- Motivation: new coverage will be needed for future experiment DUNE, can help existing experiments as well in shorter term
- US-funded project made specific upgrades:
 - Forward tracking system
 - New readout electronics for time-of-flight detector
- Data collected in 2015-18 for this program

Measurements for LBNF/DUNE flux: need to expand acceptance

- Contribution to DUNE far detector neutrino flux, for Nov 2017 DUNE Optimized and Engineered Beam design (120 GeV/c protons)
- NA61 acceptance had a hole in forward region: particularly important for proton production
- New forward TPCs built to add coverage here

NA61 acceptance

- NA61 setup before 2017 had a hole in the acceptance where the beam passes through
- Hole due to heavy ion needs: intense beam can't go through chambers

Forward TPCs

- New TPCs have been built for the neutrino program to fill the hole and complete the acceptance in the forward region
- Low-mass design with light plastic frame and thin printed Kapton field cage; FTPC1 removable for heavy-ion running
- Uses same electronics as other TPCs
- High rates in beam region drove development of new "Tandem TPC" concept.

- Out-of-time tracks in a TPC are reconstructed as shifted in drift direction
- Successive field volumes have opposite drift direction: out-oftime tracks appear discontinuous and can be easily rejected

Forward TPCs

- FTPCs installed 2016-17, used in 2017 and 2018 data run
- Chambers work well
- Event display above from 2017 data with local (green) tracks reconstructed
- New global tracking algorithm in final development stage

Tandem TPC data

Out-of-time track rejection: fraction of these tracks scales with
 intersitive can be rejected by autting out tracks that don't match up

FTPC Performance

B. Rumberger et al., JINST 15 (2020) P07013

Measurements for LBNF/DUNE flux: acceptance with new FTPCs

- New forward TPCs make measurements of important secondary protons possible
- Acceptance is now well-matched to secondaries that generate neutrinos in DUNE (and NuMI too!)
- First analysis with new Forward TPCs (120 GeV/c protons on thin graphite target) is expected in the next couple of months

First results: total production cross-sections on nuclear targets

- 2015 data set collected with no magnetic field due to failure of old superconducting magnets: no momentum measurements
- Pion and kaon scattering on carbon and aluminum
- Published total production and total inelastic cross section measurements for data without magnetic field

- Note: here $\sigma_{prod} = \sigma_{total} \sigma_{el} \sigma_{qe}$, requires new hadrons to be produced. Also $\sigma_{inel} = \sigma_{total} - \sigma_{el}$. This terminology not always used consistently in community or in hadronic event generators.
- Before, NuMI had 5% error on pion interactions, 10-30% for kaons, and had to extrapolate from other energies for protons

NA61 2016-17 neutrino data Thin targets

2016	2017
p + C @ 120 GeV/c	π+ + Al @ 60GeV/c
p + Be @ 120 GeV/c	π+ + C @ 30 GeV/c
p + C @ 60 GeV/c	π⁻ + C @ 60 GeV/c
p + Al @ 60 GeV/c	p + C @ 120 GeV/c (w FTPCs)
p + Be @ 60 GeV/c	p + Be @ 120 GeV/c (w FTPCs)
π+ + C @ 60GeV/c	p + C @ 90 GeV/c (w FTPCs)
π+ + Be @ 60 GeV/c	

- Full particle yields and spectra from these data sets
- Goal with these measurements is to span the phase space of primary and secondary interactions in neutrino targets and surrounding materials
- Analysis is progressing on some, completed on others
- Each measurement will be a point for interpolation in MC generators

Thin-target charged hadron spectra

Thin Target: Charged Hadron Production

dE/dx yields from TPC tracks and PIT fit for one p, θ bin

19))

Positively charged

tracks

 π

1.2

dE/dx (mip)

1.2

1.4

1.6

1.8

Thin-target charged hadron spectra

Thin Target: Charge

- Example: $\pi^+ + C$
- **Thin Target: Charged Hadron Production**
- Measured differential production yields (positively-charged shown, also measured negatives)

Thin-target neutral hadron spectra

- Analysis of decays in flight using "V⁰" events: displaced vertex of two oppositely-charged particles.
- Visualize the events using Armenteros-Podolansky plots

Plot track p_T vs V trajectory against longitudinal momentum asymmetry of the tracks

$$\alpha \equiv \frac{p_L^+ - p_L^-}{p_L^+ + p_L^-}$$

Thin-target neutral hadron spectra

m_{Inv Λ}, p_{tot}:[1.5,5.0] GeV/c θ:[0.04,0.06] rad Signal Thin Target: Neutra 250 Yields of neutral Background data 200 kaons, Λ from Entries/0.0013 specific kinematic 150 bins 100 50 [020.4 600 1.1 1.12 1.14 1.16 1.18 12 0.35 analysis binning m_{inv} [GeV/c²] 500 m_{Inv K⁰_s}, p_{tot}:[7.0,9.0] GeV/c θ:[0.02,0.04] rad 0.3 400 Signal 0.25 250 Background 300 0.2 200 - data 0.15 Entries/0.0025 200 $K_S^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-$ 150 0.1 100 0.05 100 00 10 20 40 50 60 30 Momentum [GeV/c] Phys.Rev. **D100** 112004 (2019) 0.45 0.5 0.4 0.55 0.6 0.65

m_{inv} [GeV/c²]

Thin-target neutral hadron spectra Thin Target: N

Thin Target: Neutral Hadron Prod Thin Target: Neutral Hadron Production

 $C \odot 60$

• Yields of neutral kaons, Λ , $\overline{\Lambda}$ from specific angle bin

• Phys.Rev. **D100** 112004 (2019)

New! p+C and p+Al @ 60 GeV/c

- Left to right: K^{0}_{S} , Λ , $\overline{\Lambda}$ spectra
- Showing one angle bin

New! p+C and p+Al @ 60 GeV/c

- Left to right: π^+ , K^+ , p spectra
- Showing one angle bin

Coming soon: spectra from thintarget p+C @ 120 GeV

- This data set is high priority: represents the primary proton interaction in NuMI/NOvA/MINERvA.
- Relies on new Forward TPCs to provide forward acceptance (magnet doesn't bend beam-energy protons into the older TPCs) to see elastic, quasi-elastic events
- New tracking algorithm is needed for integrating the FTPCs into the analysis:
 - Cellular automaton-based local tracking with Kalman filter for global track fit is in final development
 - Calibration of new detectors is almost ready too
- Expect results on ~3 million interactions in a very few months!
- See B. Rumberger, ICHEP2020: https://indico.cern.ch/ event/868940/contributions/3817070/

FT

New tracking development

- Tracking has to work not only in low-multiplicity environment but also for NA61's heavy-ion data
- High speed needed for online reconstruction in post-LS2 running
- Local tracks within a chamber are formed by a cellular automaton algorithm that links all possible track-hit combinations and then filters for least-"jumpy" paths

New tracking development

- Local track segments are merged into global tracks
- Overall track finding efficiency >99% for lowmultiplicity events
- Track parameters are fitted using Kalman filter

Coming soon: measurements with NuMI replica target

Post-LS2 plans

- Many major detector upgrades are underway now
 - New forward Projectile Spectator Detector module, reconfiguration of existing detector
 - Replacement of old TPC electronics with system from ALICE

2.2.

- New silicon vertex detector for open charm studies
- RPC-based replacement for TOF-L/R walls
- New beam position detectors
- New trigger/DAQ, combined with new electronics, will give a major upgrade in data collection rate (~100 Hz \rightarrow ~1 kHz)

Relevant for neutrino running

Future after LS2: Planned data collection

- Commissioning and possible short physics runs in 2021 expected
- After that, priorities will be:
 - Additional T2K long-target running
 - LBNF/DUNE replica target when available (2023 likely). This target will be at least 1.5 m long and may create some challenges for reconstruction...
 - Kaon scattering with thin targets for secondary interaction modeling
 - Improved statistics on multiple measurements

Future after LS2: long-targe

T2K Replica Target Results (Sys

T2K Replica Target Results (Systematic Uncertainties)

NA61 Detector

backward

extrapolation

Nagai

T2K

trac

 A leading systematic error with the T2K replica target has been extrapolation of shallow-angle tracks backward to the target surface

-> Having additional tracker surrounding the target avine polarity negative rounding the target to help track extrapolation

- Additional tracking detectors at the end of the target will probably be needed for the longer LBNF/DUNE target as well as a more precise measurement for T2K
- Considering options such as silicon planes or a small TPC

Future after LS2/3: low-energy beam?

- Many groups are interested in hadron production with beams in the 1-20 GeV region, below the range the current H2 beam is capable of providing
- Interest from spallation sources, T2K/Hyper-K for secondary interactions and atmospheric neutrino flux, even DUNE for secondary re-interactions

Principle of a low-energy beam for NA61/SHINE

- C. A. Mussolini, N. Charitonidis
- New beam design ongoing by CERN beam group in collaboration with NA61/SHINE. Aiming to begin construction fairly soon (resources permitting)

NA61/SHINE at Low Energy Workshop

- Interested in low-energy data at NA61/SHINE?
- Open workshop to be held December 9-10 online
- Technical issues and physics opportunities (let me know if you wish to present one)
- https://indico.cern.ch/event/973899/

Conclusions

- NA61/SHINE has provided unique and critical data to support the global neutrino program
- Efforts have reduced T2K's flux errors by factors of 4+
- A new set of analyses is coming out, geared toward the current Fermilab program
- New opportunities abound for data sets after LS2!
- Low-energy workshop:

https://indico.cern.ch/event/973899/

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