## First neutrino+antineutrino results from NOvA Rutherford Appleton Laboratory October 24, 2018

**UC** 

**Chris Backhouse** 

## The NOvA experiment

## $u_{\mu}$ disappearance

symmetries in neutrino mixing

### $\nu_e$ appearance

neutrino mass ordering

**CP-violation** 

## Future

## Neutrinos are everywhere

Solar





**Atmospheric** 

Reactor





**FACT:** about 65 million neutrinos pass through your thumbnail every second.

- Second most abundant particle in the universe
- But we know almost nothing about them
- Only interact via the weak force
- Need powerful sources and huge detectors

## Neutrinos are unique

- Far lighter than the quarks and charged leptons
- May get their masses by a different mechanism
  - $m^2_{
    m EW}/m_
    u \sim 10^{15}\,{
    m GeV} \sim m_{
    m GUT}$

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Very different mixing structure to quarks









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.

 $m_2 > m_1$ 



## Neutrino oscillations $|\nu_{\alpha}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\nu_{1}\rangle + |\nu_{2}\rangle) \qquad |\nu_{\beta}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\nu_{1}\rangle - |\nu_{2}\rangle) \qquad m_{2} > m_{1}$

 $|\nu_{\alpha}\rangle = \cos\theta |\nu_{1}\rangle + \sin\theta |\nu_{2}\rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad P(\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\alpha}) = 1 - \frac{\sin^{2} 2\theta}{\sin^{2} \left(\frac{\Delta m^{2} L}{4E}\right)}$ 



## **Oscillation structure**



## Current world knowledge

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$





## **Open neutrino questions**

- Dirac or Majorana?
  - Is  $\bar{\nu}$  just a right-handed  $\nu$ ?
- Absolute masses
- CP-violation?
  - Do  $\nu$  and  $\bar{\nu}$  oscillations differ?
- Ordering of the mass states
- Random mixing parameters, or patterns?







symmetry magazine 7/46

## What do we need?

Requirements for neutrino oscillation experiment

- High power neutrino source
- Large detector
- Good resolution of signal from background
- Good control of systematic uncertainties

## What do we need?

Requirements for neutrino oscillation experiment

- High power neutrino source
- Large detector
- Good resolution of signal from background
- Good control of systematic uncertainties
- ► For mass ordering and CP-violation
  - Both disappearance  $(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu})$  and appearance  $(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e})$  modes
  - Long baseline
  - Ability to study neutrinos and antineutrinos

## The NOvA collaboration



#### 47 institutions, 7 countries, over 200 collaborators

Argonne, Atlantico, Austin, Banaras Hindu, Caltech, CUSAT, Czech Academy of Sciences, Charles, Cincinnati, Colorado State, Czech Technical University, Dallas, Delhi, Dubna, Fermilab, Goias, IIT-Guwahati, Harvard, Houston, IIT-Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Illinois Instute of Technology, Indiana, Iowa State, Irvine, Jammu, Lebedev, Michigan State, Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minnesota-Duluth, INR Moscow, NISR, Panjab, Pittsburg, South Alabama, SDMT, South Carolina, SMU, Stanford, Sussex, Tennessee, Tufts, UCL, Virginia, Wichita State, William and Mary, Winona State.

## NOvA 10,000ft view

- $\nu_{\mu}$  beam from Fermilab, IL
- Detector 810km away in MN
- Smaller detector onsite to measure flux before oscillations

$$\begin{split} \blacktriangleright & \nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} & \qquad \blacktriangleright & \bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\mu} \\ \blacktriangleright & \nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\theta} & \qquad \flat & \bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{\theta} \end{split}$$

- ► Precision measurements of |∆m<sup>2</sup><sub>32</sub>| and θ<sub>23</sub>
- Determine the mass hierarchy
- Search for  $\sin \delta_{CP} \neq 0$





- 120 GeV protons from Main Injector
- Strike graphite target
- Produce mainly  $\pi^{\pm}$  and  $K^{\pm}$
- Focused by two magnetic horns
- Allow us to select charge sign for a neutrino or antineutrino beam
- ▶ 675m decay-pipe:  $\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu$
- Muons absorbed by rock





## NuMI performance

- 700kW design power since Jun 2017
- World's highest power neutrino beam,  $\sim 4 \times 10^{13}$  protons / pulse



- ► Neutrino data from Feb 2014 to Feb 2017 8.85 × 10<sup>20</sup> POT
- ► Antineutrino data from Feb 2017 to Apr 2018 6.9 × 10<sup>20</sup> POT
- Approx  $6 \times 10^{20}$  POT / yr going forward

## Detector technology

To 1 APD pixel



- ▶ 64% liquid scintillator by mass
- ► 4×6cm resolution, two views for 3D reco.
- ▶ 344,000 channels in 14 kton FD, on surface
- ► 300 ton ND, underground at FNAL





## **Near Detector**



## **Event topologies**



Very good granularity, especially considering scale
 X<sub>0</sub> = 38cm (6 cell depths, 10 cell widths)

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## ND neutrinos



## FD neutrinos



## FD neutrinos



## FD neutrinos



## Neutrino vs antineutrino mode



## Neutrino vs antineutrino mode



<sup>20/46</sup> 

## Neutrino vs antineutrino mode



## Principle of the $\nu_{\mu}$ measurement

• Separate  $\nu_{\mu}$  CC interactions from backgrounds

- Long muon track with distinctive dE/dx easy to spot
- Extrapolate observed ND spectrum to make FD unosc. prediction
- Measure shape of  $\nu_{\mu}$  deficit in the FD



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- Measure shape of  $\nu_{\mu}$  deficit in the FD
- ► Two flavor approx. works well here
- $\blacktriangleright P_{\mu\mu} \approx 1 \sin^2 2\theta_{23} \sin^2 \left( \frac{\Delta m_{32}^2 L}{4E} \right)$
- θ<sub>23</sub> ≈ 45° → almost all ν<sub>µ</sub> expected to disappear at oscillation max.



## Mixing patterns

V2

- Only a small fraction of  $\nu_e$  in  $|\nu_3\rangle$  (sin<sup>2</sup> 2 $\theta_{13}$ )
- The remainder is split  $\sim 50/50 \ \nu_{\mu}/\nu_{\tau}$  (sin<sup>2</sup>  $\theta_{23}$ )
- Accident? Or a sign of underlying structure?
- Is  $\theta_{23}$  exactly 45°?
- ► If not, is it...
  - <45° ( $|
    u_3
    angle$  more  $u_{ au}$ , like the quarks)
  - > 45° ( $|\nu_3\rangle$  more  $\nu_{\mu}$ , unlike quarks)

## Principle of the $\nu_e$ measurement

- Separate v<sub>e</sub> CC interactions from beam backgrounds
  - More challenging than ν<sub>μ</sub> CC selection
- Evaluate remaining backgrounds in ND
  - ► Intrinsic beam v<sub>e</sub>
  - Neutral currents
  - $\nu_{\mu}$  CC mostly oscillates away
- ▶ An excess in the FD is the sign of  $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$  oscillations


# Why hierarchy?

- Is the electron-like state lightest?
- i.e. Does the pattern of the masses match the charged leptons?



- Are neutrinos Majorana particles ( $\nu = \bar{\nu}$ )?
- Observation of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  would be proof they are
- Impact of IH determination: lack of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  implies Dirac nature



- ► Electrons in the Earth drag on the "electron" neutrino states
- Sign of the effect opposite for antineutrinos and for NH/IH



#### Neutrino/antineutrino symmetry

• Does 
$$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}) = P(\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e})$$
?

- Insight into fundamental symmetries of the lepton sector
- "CP violation" described by oscillation parameter  $\delta_{CP}$



- Why is the universe not equal parts matter and antimatter?
- ► Need ppb early universe asymm.
- Existing CP-violation insufficient
- ► "Leptogenesis": generate v/v̄ imbalance, transfer to baryons

► Require neutrino **appearance** experiment to discover

#### Principle of the $\nu_e$ measurement

- To first order, NOvA measures  $P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e})$ and  $P(\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e})$ evaluated at 2GeV
- These depend differently on sign( $\Delta m_{32}^2$ ) and  $\delta_{CP}$



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- Ultimately constrain to some region of this space

$$P_{\mu e} pprox \sin^2 2 heta_{13} \sin^2 heta_{23} \sin^2$$



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### **Event selection**

- Events classified as  $\nu_e / \nu_\mu / NC$  by Convolutional Neural Network
- Deep Learning technique from computer vision research
- Treat the whole event as an input "image"
- ► Improvement in performance equivalent to 30% more data



### Selecting muon neutrinos



- Also have to reject cosmic rays, use containment, dir. and size
- ► Factor  $10^5$  from  $10\mu$ s spill window vs 1Hz beam,  $10^7$  from cuts
- ► Achieve 98.6% pure FD  $\nu_{\mu}$  CC sample, 78% efficiency

## Selecting electron neutrinos



- ► Biggest background is intrinsic beam *v<sub>e</sub>*'s
- "Wrong sign" appearing neutrinos significant in antineutrino mode
- Majority of other background contains a  $\pi^0$

### $u_{\mu}$ energy estimation

- Ltrk Ehad
- ► Estimate energy of selected events to trace out osc. structure
- ► Known muon dE/dx  $\rightarrow$   $E_{\mu} = f(L_{trk}) \sim k \times L_{trk}$
- Hadronic part of the event estimated calorimetrically

• 
$$E_{\nu} = f(L_{trk}) + E_{had}$$

## Near detector – $\nu_{\mu}$



Clear deficit in NOvA ND simulation (also seen by MINERvA)



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- Attributed to inter-nucleon correlations ("2p2h")
- ► Enable GENIE's "empirical Meson Exchange Current" model
- Tune to match our data in  $(q^0, |\vec{q}|)$  space
- Evaluate uncertainties by repeating tune on top of more-QE-like and more-RES-like simulations

### $\nu_{\mu}$ energy estimation



Good data/MC agreement for muon neutrino selected events

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Good data/MC agreement for muon neutrino selected events

## $u_{\mu}$ resolution bins



- ► Bin into 4 equal quantiles by hadronic energy fraction
- Energy resolution varies from  $\sim 6\%$  to  $\sim 12\%$  between bins

# Near detector – $\nu_e$

#### Neutrino mode





- ν<sub>e</sub> spectra split into low and high confidence bins
- FD spectrum will have additional "peripheral" bin
- "Decompose"  $\nu$  mode to NC+ $\nu_{\mu}$ + $\nu_{e}$
- In  $\bar{\nu}$ , check  $\nu$  contamination



### Extrapolation procedure – $\nu_{\mu}$



Reconstructed Neutrino Energy (GeV)

### Extrapolation procedure – $\nu_{\mu}$



Reconstructed Neutrino Energy (GeV)

### Extrapolation procedure – $\nu_e$





#### Extrapolation tests



#### Extrapolation tests







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#### $u_{\mu}$ spectra Neutrino mode Antineutrino mode Neutrino beam Antineutrino beam **NOvA Preliminary NOvA Preliminary** FD Data FD Data Prediction Prediction 80 30 No oscillation No oscillation Events / 0.1 GeV Events / 0.1 GeV 10 20 Reconstructed Neutrino Energy (GeV) Reconstructed Neutrino Energy (GeV) Expect 730 w/o oscillations Expect 266 w/o oscillations

Observe 65 events

Observe 113 events

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 $u_{\mu}$  spectra

#### Neutrino mode



#### Antineutrino mode



# $\Delta m^2$ and $\sin^2 \theta$



# $\Delta m^2$ and $\sin^2 \theta$



#### $\nu_e$ spectra

#### Neutrino mode





#### $\nu_e$ spectra

#### Neutrino mode



• Observe 58  $\nu_e$  and 18  $\bar{\nu}_e$ 



#### $\nu_e$ spectra

Neutrino mode



Expect 15 background

Expect 5.3 background

Antineutrino mode



#### Future



- CP-violation remains challenging for NOvA
- But could have  $>4\sigma$  determination of the hierarchy!
  - Strongly dependent on true parameters (degeneracies)
  - Global best-fit is for the most favourable scenario

### Conclusion

- Presented first NOvA neutrino+antineutrino results
- $4\sigma$  evidence for  $\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e}$  oscillations
- ▶ Prefer NH at 1.8σ
- Exclude IH,  $\delta_{CP} = \pi/2$  at  $>3\sigma$
- ► Disfavours maximal mixing by 1.8σ and lower octant similarly
- $3\sigma$  sensitivity to mass hierarchy by 2020






### Backup



# $u_{\mu}$ details



### $\nu_e$ details



### $\nu_e$ details





Low PID 2017: 14

Mid PID 2017: 8

Low PID 2018: 16

High PID 2017: 35

High PID 2018: 33

Peripheral 2017: 9

Peripheral 2018: 9

### **Systematics**







Source of Uncertainty	$sin^2 \theta_{23} (\times 10^{-3})$	$\delta_{CP}/\pi$	$\Delta m_{32}^2$ (×10 <sup>-3</sup> eV <sup>2</sup> )
Beam Flux	+0.42 / -0.48	+0.0088 / -0.0048	+0.0016 / -0.0015
Detector Calibration	+6.9 / -6.1	+0.15 / -0.023	+0.024 / -0.029
Detector Response	+1.9 / -0.99	+0.055 / -0.054	+0.0027 / -0.0034
Muon Energy Scale	+2.6 / -2.1	+0.015 / -0.0026	+0.01 / -0.012
Near-Far Differences	+0.56 / -1.1	+0.11 / -0.064	+0.0033 / -0.0013
Neutrino Cross Sections	+4.2 / -3.5	+0.085 / -0.072	+0.015 / -0.014
Neutron Uncertainty	+6.4 / -7.9	+0.002 / -0.0052	+0.0028 / -0.01
Normalization	+1.4 / -1.5	+0.031 / -0.024	+0.0029 / -0.0027
Systematic Uncertainty	+9.6 / -11	+0.21 / -0.11	+0.032 / -0.035
Statistical Uncertainty	+22 / -29	+0.9 / -0.27	+0.064 / -0.059
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#### **NOvA Preliminary**

### Sensitivities



### Assembly





# Calibration and energy scale

- Response varies substantially along cell due to light atten.
- Use cosmic ray muons as a standard candle to calibrate 300,000 channels individually
- Use dE/dx near the end of stopping muon to set abs. scale
- Multiple calibration x-checks
  - Beam muon dE/dx
  - Michel energy spectrum
  - $\pi^0$  mass peak
  - Hadronic energy/hit
- ► Take 5% abs. and rel. errors on energy scale



### Calibration

#### **NOvA Preliminary**

FD cosmic data - plane 2 (horizontal), cell 376



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### Calibration

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### Data subsets



## What's new?

- 50% additional data
- Data-driven flux estimates from MINERvA<sup>1</sup>
- Retuned cross-section model
- Detector sim. improvements (*E*<sub>res</sub> : 7% → 9%)
- Using computer vision classifier for all analyses
- Analysis improvements
  - Resolution binning for  $\nu_{\mu}$
  - "Peripheral" sample for  $\nu_e$



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Phys. Rev. D94 (2016) 092005

### Sterile neutrinos



- ► Expect 83.5 ± 9.7(stat) ± 9.4(syst) see 95
- ► Set limits on *U*<sub>µ4</sub> and *U*<sub>74</sub> Phys. Rev. D 96, 072006 (2017)



# Particle physics confidence levels

Significance	Confidence level			
$1\sigma$	68.3%			
$2\sigma$	95.5%			
$3\sigma$	99.7%			
$4\sigma$	99.994%			
$5\sigma$	99.99994%			

#### Neutrino oscillations





$$\boldsymbol{P}_{\alpha\beta} = \left| \sum_{i} \boldsymbol{U}_{\alpha i}^{\star} \boldsymbol{e}^{-im_{i}^{2}L/2E} \boldsymbol{U}_{\beta i} \right|^{2}$$



- Recent advances in machine learning/computer vision
- Achieving near-human performance on image classification tasks
- Why not classify event-displays?
- ► CNN deep neural network, inputs are the pixels of the image
- ► Take advantage of translational invariance → convolutions

$$\frac{1}{8} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & +8 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Edge-detection kernel



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#### CVN example





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• Low- $E \nu_{\mu}$  and  $\nu_{e}$  trace back to the same  $\pi^{+}$  ancestors



### ND decomposition – Michels



- $\nu_{\mu}$  CC background events have Michel electron from muon decay
- ► Also produced in  $\nu_e$  CC and NC by pions, but  $\nu_\mu$  have  $\sim$  1 more
- ► Fit observed N<sub>michel</sub> spectrum in each bin by varying components
- ▶  $\nu_e$  and NC near-degenerate, fix  $\nu_e$  to parent-reweight estimate

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### $\nu_e$ selection efficiency – MRE

- EM showers should be well modelled
- ► Any v<sub>e</sub> signal efficiency differences coming from the hadronic side?
- Remove muon from clear ν<sub>μ</sub> CC events in ND, replace with simulated shower



► *O*(1%) efficiency difference to select MRE data/MC events

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### $\nu_e$ selection efficiency – EM activity



 Find FD data cosmic rays w/ brems

### $\nu_e$ selection efficiency – EM activity



- Find FD data cosmic rays w/ brems
- Remove µ leaving pure EM activity
- Run through PID in data and MC
- Very good agreement



### **Cross-sections**

- Neutrino cross-sections poorly known
- Learn about nuclear physics
- Interpretation of other experiments
- Important for precision future
- High powered beam, fine-grained ND
- Many channels to study





### Event reconstruction



- First cluster hits in space and time
- Start with 2-point Hough transform
  - Line-crossing are vertex seeds
- ElasticArms finds vertex
- Fuzzy k-means clustering forms prongs
- ν<sub>μ</sub> analysis uses a Kalman filter to reconstruct any muon track