Terrestrial Hints/Evidence for Sterile Neutrinos: Short-Baseline Anomalies W. C. Louis, LANL May 18, 2012

• Short-Baseline Anomalies: LSND, MiniBooNE, reactor ν experiments, radioactive ν source experiments

- 3+N Models & Sterile Neutrinos
- Proving the Existence of Sterile Neutrinos: OscSNS
- Conclusions

Anomalous Results from Short-Baseline ν Experiments Not Explained by 3 ν

LSND v_e Excess
MiniBooNE v_e Excess
MiniBooNE v_e Excess
Reactor v_e Anomaly
Radioactive v_e Source Anomaly



 \bullet These results (2-4 σ) are not directly ruled out by any other experiment.

LSND Experiment

C. Athanassopoulos et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods A 388, 149, (1997).

- 1 mA, 798 MeV proton beam with 6% DF
- 28,896 C (0.3 g) of protons on target from 1993-1998
- Neutrinos from π^+/μ^+ DAR: $\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_{\mu}$, $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \overline{\nu_{\mu}}$
- $\bar{v}_{e}/v_{e} \approx 8 \times 10^{-4}$
- 8.3 m long x 5.7 m diameter cylindrical tank
- Tank covered by 1220 8" PMTs (25% coverage)
- Tank filled with 167 tons of mineral oil + 0.031 g/l of b-PBD





LSND Detector





LSND Antineutrino Results

A. Aguilar et al., Phys. Rev. D 64, 112007, (2001)



LSND Allowed Oscillation Region

A. Aguilar et al., Phys. Rev. D 64, 112007, (2001).



LSND & KARMEN Comparison

Property	LSND	KARMEN
Proton Energy	798 MeV	800 MeV
Proton Intensity	1000 μA	200 μA
Protons on Target	28,896 C	9425 C
Duty Factor	6x10 ⁻²	1x10 ⁻⁵
Total Mass	167 t	56 t
Neutrino Distance	30 m	17.7 m
Particle Identification	Yes	No
δ E/E at 50 MeV	6.6%	1.6%
Events for 100% \overline{v}_{μ} -> \overline{v}_{e}	33,300	14,000
Beam Angle	17°	90°

Joint LSND/KARMEN Fit

E. D. Church, K. Eitel, G. B. Mills, and M. Steidl, Phys. Rev. D66, 013001, (2002).



Joint Fit to LSND & KARMEN Data

E. D. Church, K. Eitel, G. B. Mills, and M. Steidl, Phys. Rev. D66, 013001, (2002).



MiniBooNE Experiment



- Similar L/E as LSND
 - MiniBooNE ~500m/~500MeV
 - LSND ~30m/~30MeV
- Horn focused neutrino beam (p+Be)
 - Horn polarity \rightarrow neutrino or anti-neutrino mode
- 800t mineral oil Cherenkov detector



10% Photocathode coverage

Two types of Hamamatsu Tubes: R1408, R5912

Charge Resolution: 1.4 PE, 0.5 PE

Time Resolution 1.7 ns, 1.1ns



MiniBooNE Detector Tank



MiniBooNE Detector Tank



MiniBooNE Data Show a Low-Energy Excess

A.A. Aguilar-Arevalo et al., PRL 102, 101802 (2009)

Excess from 200-1250 MeV = 146.5+-28.4+-40.1 events (3.0 or excess)



Backgrounds: Order ($G^2 \alpha \alpha_s$), single γ FS?



MiniBooNE Antineutrino Oscillation Results

update of A. A. Aguilar-Arevalo, Phys. Rev. Lett. 105, 181801 (2010)

Excess = 54.9+-17.4+-16.3 (200-1250 MeV) (2.3 σ excess so far; 32% more data & joint neutrino + antineutrino analysis soon)



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MiniBooNE Antineutrino Oscillation Fit

E>200 MeV $\overline{\nu}_{\mu}$ -> $\overline{\nu}_{e}$ oscillation results appear to confirm the LSND evidence for antineutrino oscillations



LSND vs MiniBooNE Antineutrino Results

Updated from A. Aguilar-Arevalo et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 105, 181801 (2010)



Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly

G. Mention et al., Phys.Rev.D83:073006,2011



R=0.927+-0.023

Radioactive Neutrino Source Anomaly

SAGE, Phys. Rev. C 73 (2006) 045805



R = 0.86+-0.05 (Bahcall with no theoretical error) R = 0.76+0.09-0.08 (Haxton)

Sterile Neutrinos



- 3+N models
- N>1 allows CP violation for short baseline experiments

•
$$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e} \neq \overline{\nu_{\mu}} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{e}$$

3+N Global Fits to World ν Data



Giunti & Laveder, arXiv:1111.1069 (Some tension with v_{μ} disappearance) χ^2 = 152.4/144 DF (Prob = 30%) Kopp, Maltoni, & Schwetz, Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 091801 (2011) $\chi^2 = 110.1/130 \text{ DF} (\text{Prob} = 90\%)$

3+N Models Require Large v_{μ} Disappearance!

In general, $P(\overline{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{e}) < \frac{1}{4} P(\overline{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{x}) P(\overline{\nu}_{e} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{x})$

Reactor Experiments: $P(\overline{v}_e \rightarrow \overline{v}_x) \approx 15\%$

LSND/MiniBooNE: $P(\overline{v}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{v}_{e}) \sim 0.25\%$

Therefore: $P(\overline{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{x}) > 7\%$

Assuming that the 3 light neutrinos are mostly active and the N heavy neutrinos are mostly sterile.

SciBooNE/MiniBooNE Neutrino Disappearance Limits (Antineutrino Next)

arXiv:1106.5685



Future ν Experiments

• There is a diverse set of experiments, spanning vastly different energy scales, that have been proposed to test the 3+N models & resolve the present anomalies:

• Accelerator v Experiments: MicroBooNE, MINOS+, NOvA with two near detectors, NOvA with cyclotron, BooNE (two oil detectors or two LAr detectors), μ storage ring at FNAL, Project X at FNAL, ICARUS at CERN, OscSNS at ORNL

- Reactor v Experiments: SCRAAM, NEUTRINO4
- Radioactive Source v Experiments: BOREXINO, Daya Bay, Baksan, LENS
- Atmospheric v Experiments: IceCube

Question: How to prove the existence of light, sterile neutrinos?

Answer: Search for disappearance oscillations of a NC reaction. (e.g. OscSNS!)

OscSNS at ORNL

- SNS spallation neutron source
- 1GeV protons @ 1.4MW
- Prolific source of neutrinos
- MiniBooNE-like detector at 30-60m from neutrino source





OscSNS would be capable of making precision measurements of \overline{v}_{e} appearance & v_{μ} disappearance and proving the existence of sterile neutrinos. (see Phys. Rev. D72, 092001 (2005)).

OscSNS Advantages Over Other Neutrino Oscillation Experiments

- \bullet Well understood ν flux
- \bullet Well understood ν cross sections
- Low duty factor
- Absence of nuclear effects
- Very low backgrounds (< 0.1%)
- \bullet Can actually observe ν oscillations in the detector
- Beam comes for free from the SNS
- SNS runs ~ 2/3 of the year

$\begin{array}{l} OscSNS \ \overline{\nu}_{\mu} \ \text{->} \ \overline{\nu}_{e} \ \text{Experiment vs LSND} \\ \text{(assuming } \Delta m^{2} < 1 \ eV^{2}) \end{array}$

- More Detector Mass (x5)
- Higher Intensity Neutrino Source (x2)
- Lower Duty Factor (x100) (less cosmic background)
- No DIF Background (backward direction)
- Lower Neutrino Background (x4) (60m vs 30m)
- Better Signal/Background (x4)
- For LSND parameters, expect ~350 v_e oscillation events & <80 background events per year!

Goals of the OscSNS Experiment

- Prove the existence of sterile neutrinos by comparing NC reactions in near and far detector
- Short baseline v_e and $\overline{v_e}$ appearance
- Short baseline CP violation
- Short baseline v_e , v_μ and \overline{v}_μ disappearance
- The resolution of the current short-baseline anomalies

OscSNS at ORNL

• $\overline{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{e}$ appearance sensitivity for 1 & 3 years of running: $\overline{\nu}_{e} p \rightarrow e^{+} n; n p \rightarrow d \gamma$ (2.2 MeV)





Search for Sterile Neutrinos with OscSNS Via Measurement of NC Reaction: $v_{\mu} C \rightarrow v_{\mu} C^{*}(15.11)$

Garvey et al., Phys. Rev. D72 (2005) 092001

Neutral Current Disappearance Pattern in a Two Detector Setup



KARMEN Measurement of $v_{\mu} C \rightarrow v_{\mu} C^{*}(15.11)$



 $\sigma_{\rm NC} = (3.2+-0.5+-0.4) \times 10^{-42} \, {\rm cm}^2$ (B. Armbruster et al., Phys. Lett. B423 (1998) 15) $\sigma_{\rm NC} \sim 2.8 \times 10^{-42} \, {\rm cm}^2$ (Kolbe, Langanke, & Vogel, Nucl. Phys. A652 (1999) 91)

Measurement of Oscillation Parameters with Two Detectors

 ν_{μ} disappearance







OscSNS Event Rates at 60m

Channel	Events/year
	4650
$v_e C \rightarrow e^- N_{gs}$	4650
$v_e C \rightarrow e^- N^*$	2247
$\nu_{\mu} C \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} C^{*}(15.11)$	1463
$v C \rightarrow v C^{*}(15.11)$	6322
$v_e e^- \rightarrow v_e e^-$	1320
100% $\overline{\nu_{\mu}} \rightarrow \overline{\nu_{e}}, \overline{\nu_{e}} p \rightarrow e^{+} n$	99,275
0.4% $\overline{v_{\mu}} \rightarrow \overline{v_{e}}, \overline{v_{e}} p \rightarrow e^{+} n$	397

Conclusion

• There are anomalies in short baseline v experiments that cannot be explained by the 3 v paradigm and that suggest the existence of sterile v.

- Sterile v would contribute to the dark matter of the universe and would have a big impact on astrophysics and cosmology.
- The world neutrino & antineutrino data can be fit fairly well to a 3+N oscillation model with large v_{μ} disappearance (>7%).
- \bullet Future ν experiments (e.g. OscSNS) can prove the existence of sterile neutrinos.

Sterile Neutrino White Paper: arXiv:1204.5379

Backup

 v_{μ} CCQE Scattering

A.A. Aguilar-Arevalo, Phys. Rev. D81, 092005 (2010).



Extremely surprising result - CCQE $\sigma_{vu}(^{12}C)$ >6 $\sigma_{vu}(n)$

How can this be? Not seen before, requires correlations. Fermi Gas has no correlations and should be an overestimate.

A possible explanation involves short-range correlations & 2-body pion-exchange currents: Joe Carlson et al., Phys.Rev.**C65**, 024002 (2002); Martini et al., PRC80, 065001 (2009).

Nuclear Effects to the Rescue?

 possible explanation: extra contributions from multi-<u>nucleon correlations</u> in the nucleus (all prior calcs assume indep particles)



Martini et al., PRC 80, 065001 (2009)

- large enhancement from short range correlations (SRC) and 2-body currents
- can predict MiniBooNE data without having to increase M_A (here, M_A=1.0 GeV)

Nuclear Effects to the Rescue?

 possible explanation: extra contributions from multi-<u>nucleon correlations</u> in the nucleus (all prior calcs assume indep particles)



Martini et al., PRC 80, 065001 (2009)

 could this explain the difference between MiniBooNE & NOMAD?

jury is still out on this

need to be clear what we mean by "QE"

Neutrino Neutral Current Elastic

Phys.Rev.D82:092005,2010

- Neutral current elastic process probes similar formalism as charged-current quasi-elastic
 - sensitive to structure of both nucleon type.
- Protons fitter developed that reconstructs protons above Cherenkov threshold (T_p > 350 MeV)
- 94,531 events (~65% purity)
- Measured quantities:
 - dσ/dQ²
 - $\Delta s = 0.08 + -0.26$
 - M_A = 1.39+-0.11



Ph.D. thesis, D. Perevalov, University of Alabama Phys. Rev. D. **82**, 092005 (2010)



$NC\pi^0$ Scattering

A. A. Aguilar-Arevalo et al., Phys. Lett. B 664, 41 (2008)

coherent fraction=19.5+-1.1+-2.5%



Single Pion Cross Sections



(R. Nelson, NuInt11)

Cosmology Data Consistent with Extra Sterile Neutrinos (J. Hamann, et. al., arXiv:1006.5276)



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Neutrino energy reconstruction problems and neutrino oscillations

M. Martini

Institut d'Astronomie et d'Astrophysique, CP-226, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

M. Ericson

Université de Lyon, Univ. Lyon 1, CNRS/IN2P3, IPN Lyon, F-69622 Villeurbanne Cedez, France and

Physics Department, Theory Unit, CERN, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland

G. Chanfray

Université de Lyon, Univ. Lyon 1, CNRS/IN2P3, IPN Lyon, F-69622 Villeurbanne Cedez, France



FIG. 10: (Color online) Normalized probability distribution for some $\overline{E_{\nu}}$ values corresponding to the different vertical lines. The MiniBooNE flux and the T2K far detector Super Kamiokande ν_s flux are used.

	MiniBooNE		T2K ND	
$\overline{E_{v}}$ (MeV)	QE + np-nh	QE	QE + np-nh	QE
300	546	335	514	350
400	579	435	529	446
500	638	527	575	528
600	711	619	638	606
800	861	799	781	758
1000	1024	981	937	914
1200	1190	1164	1116	1104

TABLE I: The average neutrino energy, Eq. (7), in MeV for various values of $\overline{E_{\nu}}$ considering the MiniBooNE and T2K near detector neutrino fluxes. The results are obtained with (QE+np-nh columns) and without (QE columns) the multinucleon contribution in the cross sections.



FIG. 11: (Color online) Three different treatments of experimental MiniBooNE data [11] on electron neutrino excess events. The histogram is obtained identifying the reconstructed neutrino energy $\overline{E_{\nu}}$ with the true neutrino energy E_{ν} . The full line is our smeared distribution including the multinucleon contribution. The dashed line is our smeared distribution without the multinucleon contribution.

NC_Y Background Estimates

- <E_v> ~ 800 MeV for π^0 production in MB
- MB: $<\sigma_{\pi 0}> \sim 5 \times 10^{-40} \text{ cm}^2/\text{N}$
- MB: $<\sigma_{\gamma}> \sim 5 \times 10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2/\text{N}$
- Richard Hill: $<\sigma_{\gamma}> \sim 6.7 \times 10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2/\text{N}$ (Δ : 5.0; Compton: 0.9; ω : 0.1; Coh: 0.7)
- Xilin Zhang: $<\sigma_{\gamma}> \sim 3.7 \times 10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2/\text{N}$ (Incoh: 3.0; Coh: 0.7); Zhang believes that the background estimates from Hill are overestimated by a factor of ~2 due to nuclear effects
- \bullet The NC γ background estimates from Hill & Zhang are fairly consistent with the MB estimates

Corrections to the HARP-CDP Analysis of the LSND Neutrino Oscillation Backgrounds

G. T. Garvey, W. C. Louis, G. B. Mills, & D. H. White Los Alamos National Laboratoru: Los Alamos, NM 87545

(Dated: December 12, 2011)

Several mistakes have been found in recent papers that purport to reanalyze the backgrounds to the LSND neutrino oscillation signal. Once these mistakes are corrected, then it is determined that the background estimates in the papers are close to (if not lower than) the LSND background estimate

The HARP-CDP group analyzed the pion production data taken by the HARP experiment at CERN with 1.5 GeV/c protons incident on a Be target and performed a reanalysis [1, 2] of the backgrounds to the LSND $\bar{\nu}_{\mu} \to \bar{\nu}_{e}$ oscillation signal [3]. LSND observed a beam-on minus beam-off excess of 117.9 ± 22.4 events. After subtracting a neutrino background of 30.0 ± 6.0 events, LSND determined the oscillation signal to be 87.9 ± 23.2 events [3]. The HARP-CDP group estimates a higher neutrino background of 46.7 ± 20.6 events, which leads to an osby 11.7 events.

cillation signal of 71.2 ± 30.4 events [2]. However, the HARP-CDP group made several errors in making their background estimate. The most egregious errors are discussed below. HARP-CDP multiplies the intrinsic $\bar{\nu}_e$ background by a factor of 1.6, which is the ratio of "Emulation"/"Best Estimate" $\bar{\nu}_e$ in Table 15 [1]. However, this neglects the fact that HARP-CDP overestimates the decay at rest (DAR) fluxes and does not normalize to the ν_e flux. Thus, HARP-CDP instead should use a factor of 1.21, which is the ratio of "Emulation" / "Best Estimate" $\bar{\nu}_e/\bar{\nu}_\mu$ in Table 15. This increases the intrinsic $\bar{\nu}_e$ background by 4.1 events (from 19.5 to 23.6 total events) instead of

In Table 15 of the first HARP-CDP paper [1], the π^+ and π^- decay in flight (DIF) fluxes are factors of 3.3 and 2.5 higher in the "Best Estimate" than in the fluxes used by LSND [3]. However, LSND has made high statistics measurements of ν_{μ} and $\bar{\nu}_{\mu}$ scattering [4], and the HARP-CDP "Best Estimate" DIF fluxes are inconsistent with LSND measurements. For example, for $\bar{\nu}_{\mu}p \rightarrow \mu^{+}n$ scattering, LSND observes 214 ± 35 events, which is consistent with the flux estimate and a factor of 3.3 times lower than the HARP-CDP flux estimate. For $\nu_{\mu}C \rightarrow \mu^{-}N_{as}$ scattering, LSND observes 66.9 ± 9.1 events, which is consistent with the flux estimate and a factor of 2.5 times lower than the HARP-CDP flux estimate. Therefore, it is clear that HARP-CDP is overestimating the DIF flux and overestimating the number of DIF events observed in LSND by factors of 2.5-3.3. As the intrinsic $\bar{\nu}_e$ background all comes from π^- DIF, this implies that the HARP-CDP intrinsic $\bar{\nu}_e$ background estimate should be reduced by a large factor (up to a factor of 3.3).

In Table 17, the first HARP-CDP paper [1] discusses

the backgrounds from $\bar{\nu}_{\mu}p \to \mu^+ n$, where the μ^+ is not observed if it is too low in energy ($T_{\mu} < 3$ MeV). However, the $T_{\mu} < 3$ MeV cut is not a hard cutoff. Rather, LSND still observes some muons down to 2 MeV or lower. especially because the energy lost by the recoil neutron is included. Also, LSND checked the background estimate by extrapolating the observed phototube (PMT) hit distribution down to zero. Therefore, the HARP-CDP background estimate of 13.8 events is overestimated, and HARP-CDP should use the LSND value of 10.5 events instead.

The second HARP-CDP paper [2] estimates a background of 2.3 events from $\nu_e C \rightarrow e^- N_{qs}$ events, where the N_{as} beta decay mimics a 2.2 MeV γ from neutron capture. However, this background is overestimated. partly because a 2.2 MeV positron produces more PMT hits than a 2.2 MeV γ . A 2.2 MeV γ produces the same number of PMT hits as an $\sim 1 - 1.5$ MeV positron, including the energy from positron-electron annihilation. In the LSND analysis, these N_{qs} beta decays that mimic 2.2 MeV γ s are determined to be very small (~ 0.2 events just to pass the minimal cuts). Indeed, LSND determined that the R distribution of N_{as} events looks indistinguishable from the R distribution of N inclusive events without a beta.

In summary, using the corrected estimate of the intrinsic $\bar{\nu}_e$ background of 23.6 events, the HARP-CDP excess should be 83.7 events, which agrees reasonably well with the LSND estimate of 87.9 ± 23.2 events. However, this ignores the problem with the HARP-CDP DIF fluxes. which overestimate the intrinsic $\bar{\nu}_e$ backround. For example, if the HARP-CDP intrinsic $\bar{\nu}_{e}$ flux is reduced by a factor of 3.3 to make the DIF estimates agree with LSND data, then the HARP-CDP $\bar{\nu}_e$ background decreases to 7.1 events and the excess increases to 100.2 ± 23.2 events.

- [3] A. Aguilar et al., Phys. Rev. D 64, 112007 (2001).
- [4] L. B. Auerbach et al., Phys. Rev. C 66, 015501 (2002).

Dec 201 6 [hep-ex] 81v1 218 arXiv:1112

^[1] A. Bolshakova et al., arXiv:1110.4265 [hep-ex].

^[2] A. Bolshakova et al., arXiv:1112.0907 [hep-ex].

LSND vs HARP-CDP: Number of DIF ν Events

Process	LSND Data	LSND Flux	HARP-CDP Flux	
		Estimate	Estimate	
$\nu_{\mu} \text{ C} \rightarrow \mu^{-} \text{ N}_{gs}$	77.8+-8.9	78+-8	184+-18	
ν _μ C -> μ⁻ X	2464+-50	3208+-642	6382+-1276	
$\overline{v}_{\mu} p \rightarrow \mu^{+} n$	286+-27	389+-78	1176+-235	

Therefore, the LSND DIF flux estimate agrees well with LSND data; however, HARP-CDP has overestimated the DIF flux by a factor of ~2-3.

• LSND data from Phys. Rev. C66, 015501 (2002)

Relative neutrino fluxes from Table 15 of arXiv:1110.4265 [hep-ex]; (HARP-CDP neutrino flux is 2.50 times larger than LSND neutrino flux & HARP-CDP antineutrino flux is 3.27 times larger than LSND antineutrino flux)
C cross sections from Hayes & Towner, Phys. Rev. C61, 044603 (2000); 10% systematic error for exclusive reactions

& 20% systematic error for inclusive reactions

Target and Beam Dump



$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_{\mu}$$
 , $\mu^+ \rightarrow \mathbf{e}^+ \nu_{\mathbf{e}} \overline{\nu}_{\mu}$

$$\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathrm{e}}/\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathrm{\mu}}$$
 ~ 8x10⁻²

Particle Identification



 χ_r and χ_a are the quantities minimized for the determination of the event position and direction, and χ_t is the fraction of PMT hits that occur more than 12 ns after the fitted event time. $\chi_L = (\chi_r)(\chi_a)(\chi_t)$

Typical Michel Electron Event Display



Typical Michel Electron Event Display



Typical Michel Electron Event Display



2.2 MeV γ Identification



Fit for Correlated γs

