Measurements of Coherent Elastic Neutrino-Nucleus Scattering



Artwork by Sandbox Studio, Chicago with Ana Kova

Kate Scholberg, Duke University Gran Sasso Science Institute Online Seminar May 6, 2020

OUTLINE

- Coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CEvNS)
- Why measure it? Physics motivations
- How to measure CEvNS
- The COHERENT experiment at the SNS
- First light with Csl[Na]
- Second measurement with LAr:
- Future prospects

Neutrino Interactions with Matter

Neutrinos are aloof but not *completely* unsociable



Produces lepton with flavor corresponding to neutrino flavor

(must have enough energy to make lepton)



Neutrino interactions with Nuclei



Neutrino interactions with Nuclei



Neutrino interactions with Nuclei

Interactions with nuclei and electrons, minimally disruptive of the nucleus

Deep Inelastic Scattering

keV



GeV





Interactions with nucleons inside nuclei, often disruptive, hadroproduction

We are considering the low-energy regime and the *gentlest* interaction with nuclei



Coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CEvNS)

$$\nu + A \rightarrow \nu + A$$

A neutrino smacks a nucleus via exchange of a Z, and the nucleus recoils as a whole; **coherent** up to $E_v \sim 50$ MeV





Coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CEvNS)

$$v + A \rightarrow v + A$$

A neutrino smacks a nucleus via exchange of a Z, and the nucleus recoils as a whole; **coherent** up to $E_v \sim 50$ MeV





Nucleon wavefunctions in the target nucleus are **in phase with each other** at low momentum transfer

For $QR \ll 1$, [total xscn] ~ A^2 * [single constituent xscn]

A: no. of constituents

This is *not* coherent pion production, a strong interaction process *(inelastic)*



\begin{aside}

Literature has CNS, CNNS, CENNS, ...

- I prefer including "E" for "elastic"... otherwise it gets frequently confused with coherent pion production at ~GeV neutrino energies
- I'm told "NN" means "nucleon-nucleon" to nuclear types
- CEvNS is a possibility but those internal Greek letters are annoying

→CEvNS, pronounced "Sevens"... spread the meme!

\end{aside}

First proposed >40 years ago!

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 5

1 MARCH 1974

Coherent effects of a weak neutral current

Daniel Z. Freedman[†]

National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510 and Institute for Theoretical Physics, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York 11790 (Received 15 October 1973; revised manuscript received 19 November 1973)

Our suggestion may be an act of hubris, because the inevitable constraints of interaction rate, resolution, and background pose grave experimental difficulties for elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering. We will discuss these problems at the end of this note, but first we wish to present the theoretical ideas relevant to the experiments.

Also: D. Z. Freedman et al., "The Weak Neutral Current and Its Effect in Stellar Collapse", Ann. Rev. Nucl. Sci. 1977. 27:167-207



(probability of kicking a nucleus with recoil energy T)

 $\frac{d\sigma}{dT} \simeq \frac{\bigcap_{K=0}^{2} M}{2\pi} \frac{Q_{W}^{2}}{4} F^{2}(Q) \left(2 - \frac{MT}{E_{\nu}^{2}}\right)$

(probability of kicking a nucleus with recoil energy T)



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(probability of kicking a nucleus with recoil energy T)



(probability of kicking a nucleus with recoil energy T)









Large cross section (by neutrino standards) but hard to observe due to tiny nuclear recoil energies:



The only experimental signature:

tiny energy deposited by nuclear recoils in the target material



→ WIMP dark matter detectors developed over the last ~decade are sensitive to ~ keV to 10's of keV recoils

CEvNS: what's it good for?

CEvNS as a **signal** for signatures of *new physics*

CEvNS as a **signal** for understanding of "old" physics

CEvNS as a **background** for signatures of new physics

CEvNS as a **signal** for *astrophysics*

CEvNS as a practical tool





(not a complete list!)









CEvNS: what's it good for?

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CEvNS as a **signal** for *astrophysics*

CEvNS as a **practical tool**









So







The cross section is cleanly predicted in the Standard Model

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dT} = \frac{G_F^2 M}{\pi} F^2(Q) \left[(G_V + G_A)^2 + (G_V - G_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T}{E_\nu} \right)^2 - (G_V^2 - G_A^2) \frac{MT}{E_\nu^2} \right]$$

E_v: neutrino energy
T: nuclear recoil energy
M: nuclear mass
Q = $\sqrt{(2 \text{ M T})}$: momentum transfer

G_V, G_A : SM weak parameters

 $g_A^n = -0.5121.$

vector
$$G_V = g_V^p Z + g_V^n N$$
,
axial $G_A = g_A^p (Z_+ - Z_-) + g_A^n (N_+ - N_-)$
 $\begin{cases} g_V^p = 0.0298 \\ g_V^n = -0.5117 \\ g_A^p = 0.4955 \end{cases}$ small for most nuclei, zero for spin-zero

The cross section is cleanly predicted in the Standard Model

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{dT} &= \frac{G_F^2 M}{\pi} F^2(Q) \left[(G_V + G_A)^2 + (G_V - G_A)^2 \left(1 - \frac{T}{E_\nu} \right)^2 - (G_V^2 - G_A^2) \frac{MT}{E_\nu^2} \right] \\ & \mathsf{E}_\nu: \text{neutrino energy} \\ & \mathsf{T}: \text{ nuclear recoil energy} \\ & \mathsf{M}: \text{ nuclear mass} \\ & \mathsf{Q} = \sqrt{(2 \text{ M T}): \text{ momentum transfer}} \end{aligned}$$

F(Q): nuclear **form factor**, <~5% uncertainty on event rate



Need to measure N² dependence of the CEvNS xscn



Non-Standard Interactions of Neutrinos:

new interaction **specific to** v's Look for a CEvNS **excess** or **deficit** wrt SM expectation



Example models: Barranco et al. JHEP 0512 & references therein: extra neutral gauge bosons, leptoquarks, R-parity-breaking interactions More studies: see https://sites.duke.edu/nueclipse/files/2017/04/Dent-James-NuEclipse-August-2017.pdf

Other new physics results in a distortion of the recoil spectrum (Q dependence)

BSM Light Mediators

SM weak charge

Effective weak charge in presence of light vector mediator Z'

specific to neutrinos and guarks

e.g. arXiv:1708.04255

Neutrino (Anomalous) Magnetic Moment

e.g. arXiv:1505.03202, 1711.09773

⁻ upturn

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dT}\right)_m = \frac{\pi \alpha^2 \mu_\nu^2 Z^2}{m_e^2} \left(\frac{1 - T/E_\nu}{T} + \frac{T}{4E_\nu^2}\right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Specific ~1/T upturr} \\ \text{at low recoil energy} \end{array}$$

Sterile Neutrino Oscillations

$$P_{\nu_{\alpha} \to \nu_{\alpha}}^{\rm SBL}(E_{\nu}) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{\alpha\alpha} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{41}^2 L}{4E_{\nu}}\right)$$

"True" disappearance with baseline-dependent Q distortion

e.g. arXiv: 1511.02834, 1711.09773, 1901.08094

CEvNS: what's it good for?

CEvNS as a **signal** for signatures of *new physics*

CEvNS as a **signal** for understanding of "old" physics

CEvNS as a **background** for signatures of new physics (DM)

CEvNS as a signal for astrophysics

CEvNS as a practical tool





(not a complete list!)









The so-called "neutrino floor" (signal!) for direct DM experiments





How to measure CEvNS

The only experimental signature:

tiny energy deposited by nuclear recoils in the target material



detectors developed over the last ~few decades are sensitive to ~ keV to 10's of keV recoils

How to detect CEvNS?

You need a neutrino source and a detector

What do you want for your ν source?

- ✓ High flux
- ✓ Well understood spectrum
- ✓ Multiple flavors (physics sensitivity)
- ✓ Pulsed source if possible, for background rejection
- ✓ Ability to get close
- ✓ Practical things: access, control, ...





Both cross-section and maximum recoil energy increase with neutrino energy:



coherence condition: $Q \lesssim \frac{1}{R}$ (<~ 50 MeV for medium A)

Stopped-Pion (π**DAR)** Neutrinos


Stopped-Pion Neutrino Sources Worldwide



 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{from duty} \\ \mbox{cycle} \end{array} & \mbox{Comparison of pion decay-at-rest v sources} \end{array}$



from duty Comparison of pion decay-at-rest v sources



Spallation Neutron Source

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN



Proton beam energy: 0.9-1.3 GeV Total power: 0.9-1.4 MW Pulse duration: 380 ns FWHM Repetition rate: 60 Hz Liquid mercury target

The neutrinos are free!

These are *not* crummy old cast-off neutrinos...



These are *not* crummy old cast-off neutrinos...



They are of the highest quality!



Time structure of the SNS source 60 Hz *pulsed* source



The SNS has large, extremely clean stopped-pion v flux

0.08 neutrinos per flavor per proton on target



Low-energy nuclear recoil detection strategies



The COHERENT collaboration

http://sites.duke.edu/coherent



~90 members, 20 institutions 4 countries

arXiv:1509.08702







COHERENT CEVNS Detectors



Nuclear Target	Technology		Mass (kg)	Distance from source (m)	Recoil threshold (keVr)
Csl[Na]	Scintillating crystal	flash	14.6	19.3	6.5
Ge	HPGe PPC	zap	16	20	<few< th=""></few<>
LAr	Single-phase	flash	22	29	20
Nal[TI]	Scintillating crystal	flash	185*/3338	28	13

Multiple detectors for N² dependence of the cross section











Expected recoil energy distribution



50

Backgrounds

Usual suspects:

- cosmogenics
- ambient and intrinsic radioactivity
- detector-specific noise and dark rate

Neutrons are especially not your friends*



Steady-state backgrounds can be *measured* off-beam-pulse ... in-time backgrounds must be carefully characterized

The CsI Detector in Shielding in Neutrino Alley at the SNS





A hand-held detector!



Almost wrapped up...

Layer	HDPE*	Low backg. lead	Lead	Muon veto	Water
Thickness	3"	2"	4"	2"	4"
Colour		111			

First light at the SNS (stopped-pion neutrinos) with 14.6-kg CsI[Na] detector



D. Akimov et al., *Science*, 2017 http://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2017/08/02/science.aao0990



Signal, background, and uncertainty summary numbers $6 \le PE \le 30, 0 \le t \le 6000 \text{ ns}$

Beam ON coincidence window	547 counts		
Anticoincidence window	405 counts		
Beam-on bg: prompt beam neutrons	7.0 ± 1.7		
Beam-on bg: NINs (neglected)	4.0 ± 1.3		
Signal counts, single-bin counting	136 ± 31		
Signal counts, 2D likelihood fit	134 ± 22		
Predicted SM signal counts	173 ± 48		

Uncertainties on signal and back		
Event selection	5%	
Flux	10%	
Quenching factor	25%	
Form factor	5%	
Total uncertainty on signal	28%	
Beam-on neutron background	25%	

Neutrino non-standard interaction constraints for current CsI data set:



*CHARM constraints apply only to heavy mediators



Single-Phase Liquid Argon

- ~24 kg active mass
- 2 x Hamamatsu 5912-02-MOD 8" PMTs
 - 8" borosilicate glass window
 - 14 dynodes
 - QE: 18%@ 400 nm
- Wavelength shifter: TPB-coated Teflon walls and PMTs
- Cryomech cryocooler 90 Wt
 - PT90 single-state pulse-tube cold head







Detector from FNAL, previously built (J. Yoo et al.) for CENNS@BNB (S. Brice, Phys.Rev. D89 (2014) no.7, 072004)

LAr CENNS-10 Data Taking

- Engineering Run of total 1.8 GWhr (~0.4 x 10²³ POT) of integrated beam power from February-May 2017
- Data set considered for first physics result (First Production Run) reported here is total 6.1 GWhr (~1.4 x 10²³ POT) of integrated beam power from July 2017-November 2018



Use **pulse-shape discrimination** to select recoils



F90: fraction of light in first 90 ns



Beam-related neutrons: in the alcove, need more attention (still tractable)



Understand spectrum

Likelihood fit in time, recoil energy, PSD parameter

Beam-unrelated-background-subtracted projections of 3D likelihood fit



- Bands are systematic errors from 1D excursions
- 2 independent analyses w/separate cuts, similar results (this is the "A" analysis)



CEvNS Count Results from Likelihood

 US:
 $159 \pm 43(\text{stat.}) \pm 14(\text{sys.})$ Reject null@ 3.5σ

 Moscow:
 $121 \pm 36(\text{stat.}) \pm 15(\text{sys.})$ Reject null@ 3.1σ



Flux-averaged cross section results



New Constraints on NSI parameters



Systematic Uncertainties

CEvNS Rate Measurement Systematic Errors				
Error Source	Total Event Uncertainty			
Quenching Factor	1.0%			
Energy Calibration	0.8%			
Detector Model	2.2%			
Prompt Light Fraction	7.8%			
Fiducial Volume	2.5%			
Event Acceptance	1.0%			
Nuclear Form Factor	2.0%			
SNS Predicted Neutrino Flux	10%			
Total Error	13.4%			

(Analysis A)



Additional Likelihood Fit Shape-Related Errors					
Error Source	Fit Event Uncertainty				
CEvNS Prompt Light Fraction	4.5%				
CEvNS Arrival Mean Time	2.7%				
Beam Related Neutron Energy Shape	5.8%				
Beam Related Neutron Arrival Time Mean	1.3%				
Beam Related Neutron Arrival Time Width	3.1%				
Total Error	8.5%				

But now many similar-size contributions

What's Next for COHERENT?



High-Purity Germanium Detectors

P-type Point Contact



- Excellent low-energy resolution
- Well-measured quenching factor
- Reasonable timing
 - 8 Canberra/Mirion 2 kg detectors in multi-port dewar
 - Compact poly+Cu+Pb shield
 - Muon veto
 - Designed to enable additional detectors



Tonne-scale LAr Detector



- 750-kg LAr will fit in the same place, will reuse part of existing infrastructure
- Could potentially use depleted argon



CC/NC **inelastic** in argon of interest for supernova neutrinos

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{CC} & \nu_e \texttt{+}^{40}\text{Ar} \rightarrow e^- \texttt{+}^{40}\text{K}^* \\ \text{NC} & \nu_x \texttt{+}^{40}\text{Ar} \rightarrow \nu_x \texttt{+}^{40}\text{Ar}^* \end{array}$$

Sodium Iodide (Nal[TI]) Detectors (NalvE)

- up to 9 tons available, 2 tons in hand
- QF measured
- require PMT base refurbishment (dual gain) to enable low threshold for CEvNS on Na measurement
- development and instrumentation tests underway at UW, Duke



Multi-ton concept

In the meantime: 185 kg deployed at SNS to go after v_eCC on ¹²⁷I

Isotope	Reaction Channel	Source	Experiment	Measurement (10^{-42} cm^2)	Theory (10^{-42} cm^2)
¹²⁷ I	$^{127}{ m I}(u_e,e^-)^{127}{ m Xe}$	Stopped π/μ	LSND	$284\pm91(\mathrm{stat})\pm25(\mathrm{sys})$	210-310 [Quasi-particle] (Engel et al., 1994)

J.A. Formaggio and G. Zeller, RMP 84 (2012) 1307-1341

Heavy water detector in Neutrino Alley





→ ~few percent precision on flux normalization

COHERENT CEvNS Detector Status and Farther Future

Nuclear Target	Technology	Mass (kg)	Distance from source (m)	Recoil threshold (keVr)	Data-taking start date	Future
Csl[Na]	Scintillating crystal	14.6	20	6.5	9/2015	Decommissioned
Ge	HPGe PPC	16	20	<few< th=""><th>2020</th><th>Funded by NSF MRI, in progress</th></few<>	2020	Funded by NSF MRI, in progress
LAr	Single- phase	22	20	20	12/2016, upgraded summer 2017	Expansion to 750 kg scale
Nal[TI]	Scintillating crystal	185*/ 3388	28	13	*high-threshold deployment summer 2016	Expansion to 3.3 tonne , up to 9 tonnes







+D₂O for flux normalization + concepts

Summary

- CEvNS:
 - large cross section, but tiny recoils, αN^2
 - accessible w/low-energy threshold detectors, plus extra oomph of stopped-pion neutrino source
- **First measurement** by COHERENT Csl[Na] at the SNS, now LAr!
- Meaningful bounds on beyond-the-SM physics



- It's just the beginning.... more CsI+NaI+Ge soon
- Multiple targets, upgrades and new ideas in the works!
- Other CEvNS experiments are joining the fun! (CCM, TEXONO, CONUS, CONNIE, MINER, RED, Ricochet, NUCLEUS...)





- Results from more Csl running, improved QF & analysis
- Results from 22-kg LAr detector
- Treatment of shape systematics
- Accelerator-produced DM sensitivity