Neutrino Interactions: The Experimental Landscape

Kevin McFarland University of Rochester Neutrino Factories 2010, TIFR 21 October 2010



Outline



- Some (Historical?) Perspective
- Goals of Neutrino Interaction Experiments
 - Support oscillation measurements
 - Fundamental weak and strong force physics
- Highlights and Puzzles from Current Results
- New Experiments
- Outlook

Neutrinos and Weak Interactions

- Pauli's proposal of the Neutrino as a signature of the weak force... "Dear Radioactive Ladies and Gentlemen"
- Realized in Fermi's Theory of Weak Interactions, Z. Physik, 88, 161 (1934)
 - Predicted a rate for the neutrino discovery reaction of Reines and Cowan,

$$\overline{v} p \rightarrow e^+ n$$



(20)

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• Discovery of the neutrino with roughly the correct interaction rate, $\sigma \sim 5 \times 10^{-44} \text{ cm}^2$, was a key validation of this picture of the weak force





Another Neutrino Interaction Discovery

- The Weinberg-Salam theory called neutrinos into service again
- Search for neutral current
 - arguably the most famous neutrino interaction ever observed is shown at right

$$\overline{\nu}_{\mu}e^{-} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{\mu}e^{-}$$



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Gargamelle, event from neutral weak force

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The Messy Reality

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- The "discovery signal" for the neutral current was really neutrino scattering from nuclei
 - □ usually quoted as a ratio of muon-less interactions to events containing muons $\sigma(v, N \rightarrow v, X)$



$$R^{\nu} = \frac{\sigma(\nu_{\mu}N \to \nu_{\mu}X)}{\sigma(\nu_{\mu}N \to \mu^{-}X)}$$

- This discovery was held back a crucial year or two by not understanding neutrino interactions
 - backgrounds from neutrons induced by neutrino interactions outside the detector
 - not understanding probability of fragmentation to high E hadrons which then "punched through" to fake muons

Cross-Sections: Medicine for Neutrino Physicists

- Sometimes it tastes awful.
- We know it's good for us, but that doesn't mean we like it.
- Oh, and by the way, whether we like it or not, we force feed it to our children.



- Most oscillation experiments have more students writing a thesis exploring neutrino interactions than doing fits to data for oscillations!
- So it's time for our daily dose



GOALS

- 1. Oscillation Experiment Signals and Backgrounds
- 2. Strong and Weak Interaction Physics

Neutrino Interactions are Simple



- Neutrino interactions are predicted
 EWK SM: SU(2) & U(1) gauge theory unifying weak/EM
 weak NC follows from EM, Weak CC
 - □ Measured physical parameters related to mixing parameter for the couplings, $g'=g \tan \theta_W$ $a = a \sin \theta$ $G = \frac{g^2 \sqrt{2}}{M_W} M_W$

Z Couplings	g _L	g _R
ν_e , ν_μ , ν_τ	1/2	0
<i>e</i> ,μ,τ	$-1/2 + \sin^2 \theta_W$	$\sin^2 \theta_W$
<i>u</i> , <i>c</i> , <i>t</i>	$1/2 - 2/3 \sin^2 \theta_W$	$-2/3 \sin^2 \theta_W$
d , s , b	$-1/2 + 1/3 \sin^2 \theta_W$	$1/3 \sin^2 \theta_W$

Right-handed neutrino has NO interactions!



Neutrino Interactions are Hard

- If the target (nucleon) has structure, there are form factors
 - including un(der)-known axial form factors and form factors from final state lepton mass
- And if you know those, then you face the complication of rescattering in nuclear medium
- And if you can understand that, then the nuclear medium itself will modify your target nucleons
- In short, it's a mess.



How do cross-sections affect oscillation analysis?



- v_µ disappearance at conventional beams
 □ Backgrounds at signal "dip"
 - Neutrino energy measurement from final state
- v_e appearance at conventional beams
 - \square Backgrounds from neutral currents (π^0 s) and others
 - Small signal with restrictive identification, so signal identification also depends on final state details
- v_µ appearance at future beams
 - \Box v_u cross-sections at very low energies for beta beams
 - \Box backgrounds from hadrons to μ at neutrino factories
- v_τ appearance at neutrino factories
 - details of charm production (backgrounds), τ mass suppression

Backgrounds to v_{μ} disappearance in NBB

- Backgrounds for v_µ disappearance
 - at Super-K reconstruct these events by muon angle and momentum (proton below Cerenkov threshold in H₂O)
 - other final states with more particles below threshold ("non-QE") will disrupt this reconstruction



(E_μ, p_μ)

v_{μ} Neutrino Energy for Δm^2 in WBB

- Even if reaction is correctly categorized, visible energy is NOT v energy
 - > π absorption, re-scattering are significant effects



- To correctly understand this effect, need
 - Knowledge of the probability of seeing different final states in the detector
 - And that knowledge on the nuclei that comprise your neutrino detector

π

Not a hypothetical worry

PRL 101, 131802 (2008)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 26 SEPTEMBER 2008

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Measurement of Neutrino Oscillations with the MINOS Detectors in the NuMI Beam

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G. Barr,²⁰ W.L. Barrett,³¹ B. R. Becker,¹⁸ A. Belias,²² R. H. Bernstein,⁹ D. Bhattacharya,²¹ M. Bishai,⁴ A. Blake,⁶ G I. Bock,⁹ I. Boehm¹⁰ D. I. Boehnlein,⁹ D. Bogert,⁹ C. Bower,¹² F. Buckley-Geer,⁹ S. Cavanaugh,¹⁰ I.D. Chapman,⁶

TABLE I. Sources of systematic uncertainties in the measurement of $|\Delta m^2|$ and $\sin^2(2\theta)$. The values are the average shifts for varying the parameters in both directions without imposing the $\sin^2(2\theta) \leq 1$ constraint on the fit. The shift resulting from each systematic effect is evaluated individually. The dominant uncertainties are incorporated as nuisance parameters in the fit of our data to Eq. (1) so as to reduce their effect on the oscillation parameter measurement (see text).

Uncertainty	$ \Delta m^2 $ (10 ⁻³ eV ²)	$\sin^2(2\theta)$
(a) Absolute hadronic E scale (±10.3%)	0.052	0.004
(b) Relative hadronic E scale (±3.3%)	0.027	0.006
(c) Normalization (±4%)	0.081	0.001
(d) NC contamination (±50%)	0.021	0.016
(e) μ momentum (range 2%, curvature 3%)	0.032	0.003
(f) $\sigma_{\nu}(E_{\nu} < 10 \text{ GeV}) (\pm 12\%)$	0.006	0.004
(g) Beam flux	0.010	0.000
Total systematic uncertainty	0.108	0.018
Expected statistical uncertainty	0.19	0.09

The effects of systematic uncertainties were evaluated by fitting modified MC simulations in place of data. Table I gives the differences between the fitted values obtained with the modified and an unmodified MC simulation. The largest effects are (a) the ±10.3% uncertainty in the absolute hadronic energy scale, which is the sum in quadrature of a ±5.7% error in the calorimeter response to hadrons as derived from test beam measurements [22], a ±2.3% uncertainty in the energy scale calibration, and a $\pm 8.2\%$ uncertainty in the simulation of neutrino production of hadrons in iron nuclei; (b) the $\pm 3.3\%$ relative uncertainty in the hadronic energy scale between the ND and FD; (c) the $\pm 4.0\%$ uncertainty on the predicted FD event rate which is the sum in quadrature of the uncertainties on the detectors' fiducial mass, event selection efficiency, and the POT counting; (d) the $\pm 50\%$ uncertainty on the neutralcurrent contamination in the charged-current event sample and (e) the uncertainty on the muon momenta measured via range $(\pm 2.0\%)$ or curvature $(\pm 3.0\%)$.

Largest systematic errors dominated by understanding of which final states are present, and how they affect energy measurement and event selection 21 October 2010 K. McFarland, Interaction Experiments 14

Backgrounds to v_e appearance off-axis



 π^0

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v_e appearance

different problem: signal rate is very low so even rare backgrounds contribute!



Super(beam)! Oscillations?



- A wideband beam with a single detector to untangle matter effects and CP violation is a particularly challenging case
 - Multiple maxima requires different L/E_v, in this case realized by different E_v, and need precision measurements for both neutrinos and anti-neutrinos
 - □ Worse, all of this is done with neutrino interactions at $E_v \sim 1$ GeV, near the threshold between elastic and inelastic vN scattering



Strong Interaction Physics



- The development of QCD in the 70's required high energy processes to test predictions
 - Needed tests of perturbative calculations. Low energy QCD was left behind in a mass of uncalculable structure functions and form factors
- With the underlying theory established, the challenge is now to explain complicated systems
 - Heavy ion colliders, low energy continuous beam electron scattering all share these goals
 - □ Neutrino experiments offer a new window into nuclei

Examples of Strong Interaction Topics

- We understand how nuclei affect DIS scattering in charged leptons
 - Because there is lots of data!
 - □ That knowledge is absent in neutrinos
- How do nuclei distort elastic form factors?
- What does the transition between resonance and deep inelastic scattering look like?

Does quark-hadron duality hold as it does in chargedlepton scattering? (Assumption of Bodek-Yang model)

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0.01 3 4 5 6 7

0.01

²₂(X)/F₂(D)

0.8

2 3 4 5 6 7 0.1

E87 Fe/D



HIGHLIGHTS AND PUZZLES IN CURRENT DATA

- 1. Quasi-elastic scattering
- 2. Single pion production
- 3. Inclusive Cross-Sections



Quasi-Elastic Scattering (CCQE)

 Dominant reaction for low energy experiments
 T2K, K2K, Mini-BooNE



- Experimentally useful because of energy reconstruction from muon kinematics
 - □ But backgrounds from other sources move events from high to low E_v . Nasty for off-axis experiments
- "Theoretically robust"
 - But only on free nucleons and axial form factor is poorly known

$$F(Q^2) \cong \frac{F_A(0)}{\left(1 - \frac{Q^2}{M_A^2}\right)^2}$$

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Overview of Recent CCQE Data



 Current data cannot be fit by a single prediction for low energy data (BooNEs) and high energy data (NOMAD)

In dipole form-factor picture, different "M_A"

Free nucleon "correct" M_A is probably ~1 GeV from other data



MiniBooNE

(Phys. Rev. **D81** 092005, 2010)

- Oil Cerenkov detector, views only muon
- Fit to observables, muon energy & angle, confirm discrepancy with low "M_A" is a Q² distortion
- Good consistency between total cross-section and this Q² shape



NOMAD (Eur.Phys.J.C63:355-381,2009)



- Like MiniBooNE, target is mostly carbon (drift chamber walls)
- Reconstruct both recoiling proton and muon
- Total cross-section is used to infer M_{Δ} , but Q^2 shape is also consistent
- Two experiments, same target, but different energies and reconstruction...

... incompatible results?



Role of Backgrounds to CCQE

- K2K famously observed a "low Q² deficit" in its analysis
- MiniBooNE originally had a significant discrepancy at low Q² as well
 - Original approach was to put in a large enhancement to Pauli suppression to "fix" low Q2
 - Was resolved by using single pion background seen in data



MINOS CCQE

- Different target, iron, and different reconstruction technique
 - Select events with little visible hadronic energy in MINOS target calorimeter
- See significant discrepancy at low Q² and a excess at high Q² relative to M_A~1 GeV
- MINOS did a Mini-BooNE style analysis with extra Pauli suppression and floating M_A





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Next Steps Forward

- With more sophisticated analyses and models, we need a new paradigm
- Experimental measurements and calculations are moving to final states, rather than processspecific measurements and extracted parameters
 - MiniBooNE CCQE a good example
- These results can support development new to understand underlying physics and support oscillation experiments





(Phys. Rev. D81 092005, 2010)

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HIGHLIGHTS AND PUZZLES IN CURRENT DATA

- 1. Quasi-elastic scattering
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Resonant Pion Production



Recall that these are major backgrounds to v_µ disappearance and v_e appearance exp'ts

See	Tanaka's
WG2	? talk

Experiments	$\langle {\sf E}_{v} angle$ GeV	Main goal	Detector	ν target	ν MC	Cross section results
K2K	1.3	$ heta_{23}$, Δm_{23}	Fine Grained, Water Cher	CH, H ₂ O	NEUT	Pub: NCπ ⁰ , CCπ ⁺ Prelim: CCπ ⁰
MiniBooNE	0.7	$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$	Oil Cher	CH ₂	NUANCE	Pub: NCπ ⁰ Prelim: CCπ ⁺ , CCπ ⁰
SciBooNE	0.7	σ_{v}	Fine Grained	СН	NEUT, NUANCE	Pub: NCπ ⁰ Prelim:CCπ ⁰

Compilation by Martin Tzanov

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v_{μ} NC π^0 Cross Section Ratio₇₀₀

- K2K made first measurement of this with a goal of verifying their background prediction
 - □ Require two rings in 1kTon near det.
 - $\sigma^{NC\pi^0}/\sigma^{CC} = 0.064 \pm 0.001 (stat.) \pm 0.007 (sys.)$
 - \square MC prediction is 0.065.
- SciBooNE made a similar measurement in spirit, but completely different reconstruction
 - 2 γ tracked in SciBar and contained in external EM calorimeter
- $\sigma^{NC\pi^0}/\sigma^{CC} = (7.7 \pm 0.5(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.5(\text{sys.})) \times 10^{-2}$
 - □ MC prediction 6.8x10⁻²





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Beyond Ratios: Input to Models instead of Specific Analyses



- MiniBooNE differential cross-section analysis
 - Reconstruction by two Cerenkov rings, excellent mass resolution as with K2K 1kTon analysis

×10⁻³⁹

21K events!



Coherent Pion Production

 If the last five years of neutrino interaction workshops have taught us nothing else, the experimentalists now know how to get theorists to fight
 But of course it would be wrong to do so...

$$\nu_{\mu} + A \rightarrow I^{-} + \pi^{+} + A$$

 $\nu_{\mu} + A \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + \pi^{0} + A$



- □ No break up.
- Small momentum transfer.
- Very forward pion
- No other particles in the final state.







Past and Recent Measurements

- Observed at high energy, although with large errors and a narrow range of nuclei
- Recent low energy measurements:





Experiments	$\langle {\sf E}_{v} \rangle$ GeV	Main goal	Detector	ν target	ν MC	Cross section results
K2K	1.3	θ_{23} , Δm_{23}	Fine Grained, Water Cher	CH, H ₂ O	NEUT	Pub: CCπ+
MiniBooNE	0.7	$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$	Oil Cher	CH ₂	NUANCE	Pub: NCπ ⁰
SciBooNE	0.7	σ_{v}	Fine Grained	СН	NEUT, NUANCE	Pub: NCπ ⁰ , CCπ ⁺
NOMAD	24.8	$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\tau}$	Drift Chambers	C Tha	anks again,	Pub: NCπ ⁰ <i>Martin!</i>

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Coherent Charged Pions

- SciBooNE analysis isolates two track events, with positive muon and pion (not proton!) tags
 - Require low vertex activity, forward π , inconsistent with QE kinematics
- Look at low Q² events
 - □ Rein-Seghal model for Monte Carlo
- Do not see expected signal seen in MC 150
- **Energies of** two samples are ~ 1 and ~ 2 GeV, respectively



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π-like

Phys. Rev. D78:112004 (2008)

0.5

0.4

ΠΔΤΔ

CC QE

CC coherent π

CC resonant π

U _____?

Data

Dirt

NC coherent π^0

NC other π^0 with n NC other π^0 with p

Int. BG with π^0

Int. BG without π^0

Coherent Neutral Pions

- By contract, this analysis also from SciBooNE finds the expected signal in low energy experiments
 - Require clear π⁰ and no other activity near vertex
 - Low activity also shows forward peaking



Entries / 1 MeV 005

100



HIGHLIGHTS AND PUZZLES IN CURRENT DATA

- 1. Quasi-elastic scattering
- 2. Single pion production
- 3. Inclusive Cross-Sections



Inclusive Interactions



- Much of the data we have is at high energies
 □ Common wideband technique is "low recoil" method which uses the observation that lim do/dv is independent of E_v
 - Cross-section normalized from narrow band expt's which counted secondary particles to measure flux
- Typical goal is to extract structure functions from dependence in x, Q² and E_v.
- Most recently, NuTeV, CHORUS, NOMAD, MINOS

NuTeV CC Differential Cross-Sections Phys.Rev.D74:

 NuTeV has a very large data sample on iron
 High energies, precision calibration from testbeam

Uses:

- \Box pQCD fits for Λ_{QCD}
- Extract structure functions for comparisons with other experiments



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CHORUS and **NOMAD**



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Nuclear Corrections and High-x PDFs



 Suggests that much more data is needed before a reliable model of nuclear corrections is on the horizon

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MINOS Total Cross-Section



- Attempt to bravely extend low recoil technique to very low energies
 - □ "Low recoil" sample is visible hadronic energy below 1 GeV, so a fair fraction of the cross-section at the lowest energy (3 GeV)



Charm Production Cross-Sections

Charm production of particular interest
 Experimentally accessible dimuon signature
 Clean probe of strange sea of nucleon



Addition of data from NOMAD and other charm production exp'ts now giving global fits to strange sea

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Test of differences between strange and anti-strange quarks!

Alekhin, Kulagin and Petti, arXiv:0910.3762, and Phys.Lett.B675:433-440,2009

And of course, "The Gift that Keeps on Giving"

- NuTeV "weak mixing angle" measurement Phys.Rev.Lett.88:091802,2002
 - Really neutral-to-charged current cross-sections in neutrino and antineutrino beams
 - NuTeV got the "wrong" answer
- Complications of the target quarks inside a nucleus leave room to interpret the result
 - Isospin violation in PDFs, asymmetric strange sea
 - "Last word" from NuTeV in progress





Paschos - Wolfenstein Relation



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NEW EXPERIMENTS

What are Energies and Targets of Oscillation Experiments?

Target Materials:

□ MINOS = Fe

 \square BooNE = CH

□ CNGS = Pb, Ar

 $\Box T2K = H_2O$

 \square NOvA = CH

DUSEL = H_2O , Ar

(Compilation from D. Schmitz)



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Energies and Targets of Cross-Section Measurements



Modern Neutrino Cross-Section Experiments



Energies and Targets of Cross-





What are these experiments?

- MINERvA: in NuMI at Fermilab
 Fine-grained scintillator detector
 - \Box Nuclear targets of He, C, H₂O, Fe, Pb
- T2K 280m Near Detector at J-PARC
 - Fine-grained scintillator, water, and TPC's in a magnetic field
- NOvA near detector: to run in 2013
 Liquid scintillator in off-axis beam, running above ground before 2013
 MicroBooNE: to run in/after 2013
 Liquid Argon TPC in FNAL Booster Beam
 - Some data from ArgoNeuT test in NuMI





MINERvA Detector

- 120 modules
 - Finely segmented scintillator planes read out by WLS fiber
 - Side calorimetry
- Signals to 64-anode PMT's
- Front End Electronics using Trip-t chips (thanks to D0)
- Side and downstream EM and hadron calorimetry

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MINOS Detector gives muon momentum and charge





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MINERvA Sees

- Integrated about 1E20 POT in anti-neutrinos with a partial detector and in neutrinos with a full detector
 - A gallery of neutrino events: range of energies and interactions



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First MINERvA Distributions

- MC generator is GENIE v2.6.0 with a full GEANT4 detector simulation.
- 4.04e19 POT in anti-v mode
- Inclusive anti-v CC

800F

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

See talk in WG2 ("Kopp")

Events/Module

Plastic

tracker

Note the cut-off in momentum this is not our full kinematic range!

4.04E19 POT, π⁻ Focused Beam

Data

to Data

50

Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo Area Normalized

60

80

70



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T2K Near Detectors



- Understand the neutrino beam before oscillations occur
- On Axis Detector
 - Monitor beam direction
 - Monitor beam intensity
- Off Axis Detector
 - Beam flux
 - Beam v_e contamination
 - Cross sections



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slide courtesy of R. Terri

Off-Axis Detector

- UA1 Magnet 0.2T field
- Includes a water target in POD and Tracker
 - Understand interactions at SK
- Tracker Region
 - Fine Grained Detectors (FGDs) & TPCs
 - Particle Tracking
- POD
 - Measure NC π^0 rate
- ECAL
 - Surrounds tracker and POD
 - Capture EM energy
- SMRD
 - Muon ranging instrumentation in the magnet yoke





NOvA Near Detector

Scintillator extrusion cross section of 3.87cm x 6cm, but with added muon range stack to see 2 GeV energy peak

16m

<u>4.</u>5m

53

Veto region, fiducial region Shower containment, muon catcher •Range stack: 1.7 meters long, steel interspersed with 10 active planes of liquid scintillator

•First located on the surface, then moved to final underground location

MicroBooNE

Liquid Argon TPC 150/89 tons total/active

30 PMT's for scintillation light



TPC: (2.5m)²x10.4m long 3mm wire pitch

> To go on Booster Neutrino Beam Axis

Future Experiments at a Neutrino Factory



- Early on in the consideration of neutrino factories, this generated a lot of excitement
 - Concepts for experiments tried to leverage flux in high energy beams
 - \Box Precision weak interaction physics through ve \rightarrow ve
 - □ Separated flavor structure functions through neutrino and antineutrino scattering on H_2 and D_2 targets
- Expect proposals for these experiments, or sensible versions thereof, to match parameters of whatever we eventually build
 D. Harris, KSM, AIP Conf. Proc. 435:376-383, 1998;
 - AIP Conf.Proc.435:505-510,1998,
 - R. Ball, D. Harris, KSM, hep-ph/0009223
 - M. Mangano et al. CERN-TH-2001-131, 2001
 - I.I. Bigi et al, Phys.Rept.371:151-230,2002.



CONCLUSIONS

What is Left to Say?



"I'm not going to discuss neutrino interactions in my summary" – R.G.H. Robertson, Neutrino 2010

- Neutrino interactions, despite the mixed press, is a vibrant and evolving field
- Near future experiments have the capability to meet a number of our scientific goals, to resolve a number of interesting puzzles, and to provide critical input to oscillation experiments
- In the far future, a program in interactions would likely play a similar role at a neutrino factory
 - When life and governments offer us such wonderful opportunities, we should and will make the most of them!

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