

## NEUTRINO EXPERIMENTAL ANOMALIES AND RESULTS

Kirsty Duffy University of Oxford UK Annual Theory Meeting 16th December 2021 There have been a number of anomalies observed in the past 20odd years that don't quite fit with the three-neutrino picture we know and love

	Experiment	Туре	Anomaly	
	lsnd	DAR	$\overline{\nu}_{e}$ appearance	
	MiniBooNE	SBL accel.	V <sub>e</sub> appearance	
	MiniBooNE	SBL accel.	$\overline{\nu}_{e}$ appearance	
	GALLEX/SAGE/BEST	Source - e capture	$\nu_{e}$ disappearance	
	Reactors	Beta decay	$\overline{\nu}_{e}$ rate	
			$\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{\mathrm{e}}$ shape	2
	ANITA	High energy	High-energy events	· not a
			oisclaime	tive lise
See also: R. Guennette, "Sho G. Karagiorgi "Sho	rt-Baseline Neutrinos", APS-DPF 201	9 <u>link</u> phenomenology" INISS 2019 link	Crexhau	





## MY PERSONAL BIAS

- Overview of (some) existing neutrino anomalies
- MiniBooNE anomaly
  - MicroBooNE recent results
  - Possible interpretations



 $V_{\mu}, \overline{V}_{\mu},$ 

## ANOMALIES: LSND

Liquid Scintillator Neutrino Detector: µ<sup>+</sup> decay at rest experiment at Los Alamos National Lab



Phys. Rev. D 64, 112007



+  $e^+ v_e \overline{v}_\mu$ 

 $\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$ 

# ANOMALIES: LSND



- Observed excess of  $\overline{\nu}_e$  at 3.8 $\sigma$
- If interpreted as two-flavour neutrino oscillation, requires
  Δm<sup>2</sup>~0.2-I0eV<sup>2</sup>

## ■ Not consistent with any known Δm<sup>2</sup>

- Interestingly, KARMEN at ISIS DAR neutrino source at RAL did not see an excess
  - KARMEN: 17.7m from source, LSND: 30m









Phys. Rev. D 64, 112007



## ANOMALIES: MINIBOONE



- Similar L/E as LSND: if an oscillation really exists, should see it here too
- Different energy, detector, beam, event signatures, backgrounds



## ANOMALIES: MINIBOONE



- Recently released updated results (2021) with x2 more data than original anomaly (2009)
- Consistent with LSND results: combined significance of 6.1σ
- Best fit for neutrino oscillation hypothesis:  $\Delta m^2 = 0.04 \text{ eV}^2$

#### Phys. Rev. D 103, 052002



## GALLIUM ANOMALY: GALLEX AND SAGE

- Solar neutrino experiments using Gallium for neutrino detection
- Tested using <sup>51</sup>Cr and <sup>37</sup>Ar radioactive sources measured 2.8σ deficit of V<sub>e</sub>
- Could be explained by neutrino oscillations with Δm<sup>2</sup>>0.35eV<sup>2</sup> (best fit Δm<sup>2</sup>~2eV<sup>2</sup>)
- SAGE: "A probable explanation for this low result is that the cross section ... has been overestimated"

Phys. Rev. C 80, 015807 (2009)





### GALLIUM ANOMALY: BEST

- BEST collaboration recently presented a new result: gallium measurement using a chromium-51 source
- Inner target: R=0.791±0.05
- Outer target: R=0.766±0.05
- Gallium anomaly reaffirmed with significantly smaller error bars
- Favours △m<sup>2</sup>>leV<sup>2</sup> (best fit: 3.3eV<sup>2</sup>)



arXiv:2109.11482 [nucl-ex]



## ANOMALIES: REACTOR $\overline{\mathbf{v}}$ e RATE

- New calculation of neutrino flux from nuclear reactors by multiple groups\* in 2011: ~3σ (3.5%) deficit in Ve
- Could be explained by neutrino oscillation  $\Delta m^2 \sim 0.12 eV^2$
- However...



\*Mueller et. al., Phys. Rev. C 83, 054615 (2011), Huber Phys Rev C 84, 024617 (2011)



**µBooN** 

# ANOMALIES: REACTOR $\overline{\mathbf{v}}$ e RATE

#### Updated models reduce deficit $\rightarrow$ tension with Gallium anomaly



C. Giunti et. al., arXiv:2110.06820 [hep-ph]

# ANOMALIES: REACTOR $\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{e}$ Shape

#### **Neutrino-4**

- 6-12m from
  centre of active
  zone of the
  SM-3 reactor
- Spectrum ratio measurement
- Report 2.7 $\sigma$ indication of oscillations with  $\Delta m^2 = 7.2 eV^2$





## ANOMALIES: REACTOR $\overline{\mathbf{v}}_{e}$ Shape



Berryman et. al., arXiv:2111.12530 [hep-ph]



Interpretations

## ANOMALIES: THE 5 MEV BUMP



**µBooN**È

## STERILE NEUTRINOS?



#### Appearance

Disappearance

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Interpretations

## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT



## ANITA ANOMALIES

- ANITA can see events in vertical or horizontal polarisations
  - Vertical  $\rightarrow$  most **neutrino** signals
  - Horizontal → usually cosmic rays
- Detected neutrinos (10<sup>18</sup>eV) expected to be at shallow angles
- Mystery: ANITA-I and ANITA-2 saw 2 events at steep angles coming directly at the detector, compatible with a tau decay. No SM particle would survive travelling through the Earth at those energies
- Mystery 2: ANITA-4 did not see any of those events, but did see a weird new class of "horizon" events that they didn't see before (courtesy of new and improved detector?)



# INVESTIGATING THE MINIBOONE ANOMALY



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Interpretations

**00N** 

## MINIBOONE



800-ton mineral oil (CH<sub>2)</sub> Cherenkov detector

Detect Cherenkov ring from electrons produced in V<sub>e</sub> CC scattering interactions

However, photons produce

y rete

identical Cherenkov rings

μBooN

# THE MINIBOONE LOW-ENERGY EXCESS (LEE)



#### Is the excess electrons?

- Sterile neutrino oscillations  $\rightarrow$  difficult to explain MiniBooNE excess and all other global data
- Best-fit 2-neutrino sterile oscillation appearance spectrum does not predict data well at very low energies backto
- More complex models can help
  - Mixed oscillations and decay
  - **Resonance** matter effects
  - 1 come Additional sterile neutrinos
  - Non-unitary mixing
  - ...and many more!



#### Is the excess photons?

Several sources of photon backgrounds:

**NC**π<sup>0</sup> mis-ID

 $\blacksquare$   $\rightarrow$  measured in-situ

**Dirt** (neutrino interactions outside the detector)

■ → beam timing





- Need x3.18 increase to explain excess
- $\rightarrow$  to be investigated...





#### **Or neither?**

- Rich phenomenology developed in recent years
- Could be e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> pairs from decays of new particles?
- Or something else?
- I'll come back to this too!

For now, it's clear that we need more information...



#### More information can come from Liquid Argon TPCs (LArTPCs)

- Bubble-chamber style resolution
- Calorimetric information
- Automated reconstruction
- $\rightarrow$  enable incredible precision measurements at scale
- Placing these detectors in a high-intensity neutrino beam will allow testing of a variety of models that could explain these anomalies













Grateful to Fermilab Accelerator Division, Cryogenics team, and Operations team!



#### LArtpc Strength: Low Detection thresholds

Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 201803 (2020) Phys. Rev. D 102, 112013 (2020) JINST 15, P03022 (2020) arXiv:2110.14065 [hep-ex] arXiv:2110.13978 [hep-ex] arXiv:2110.14080 [hep-ex]

- Low thresholds → access to new information about nuclear effects, neutrino interactions
- Example: proton detection thresholds
- MicroBooNE: 250 MeV/c =
- ArgoNeuT: 200 MeV/c Phys. Rev. D 90, 012008 (2014)

Phys. Rev. D 98, 032003 (2018)

T2K: 500 MeV/c MINERvA: 450 MeV/c

Phys. Rev. D 99, 012004 (2019)





## LARTPC STRENGTH: ELECTRONS AND PHOTONS

 Electrons and photons produce showers in LArTPCs

 Distinguish using dE/dx at start of shower and start point







## LARTPC STRENGTH: ELECTRONS AND PHOTONS







#### SHORT-BASELINE NEUTRINOS AT FERMILAB



#### **MiniBooNE**





Interpretations

### SHORT-BASELINE NEUTRINOS AT FERMILAB





#### **MicroBooNE**







500m

Interpretations

### SHORT-BASELINE NEUTRINOS AT FERMILAB



## OUR SELECTIONS




arXiv:2110.00409 [hep-ex]





#### arXiv:2110.00409 [hep-ex]



#### No evidence of an excess in either sample



arXiv:2110.00409 [hep-ex]

 Simple hypothesis test: use combined Neyman-Pearson χ<sup>2</sup> as test statistic

Nucl. Inst. Meth.A 961 (2020) 163677

- Data consistent with nominal  $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$  prediction
- Data rejects LEE model hypothesis in favour of nominal prediction at 94.8% CL





### OUR SELECTIONS





# A NOTE ON NEUTRINO ENERGY

- Each analysis selects different combinations of particles
- Each analysis uses a different reconstruction paradigm
- Electron-search results presented as a function of reconstructed neutrino energy
  - Remember we have to estimate neutrino energy from the particles we measure
  - → reconstructed neutrino energy != true neutrino energy
  - → AND reco→true mapping is different between analyses















arXiv:2110.14054 [hep-ex]



# INTERPRETATIONS

These slides heavily inspired by P. Machado, Fermilab PAC, November 2021



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# EVOLVING THEORY LANDSCAPE





### LANDSCAPE OF POSSIBLE TOPOLOGIES





# LANDSCAPE OF POSSIBLE TOPOLOGIES

**MicroBooNE's first LEE results** 





# EXPLORATION OF THE MINIBOONE EXCESS

First series of results (1/2 the MicroBooNE data set)									
Reco Models	1 <b>e</b> 0p	1e1p	1eNp	1eX	e <sup>+</sup> e <sup>-</sup> + nothing	e⁺e⁻X	1γ⁄0p	1 $\gamma$ 1p	1γΧ
eV Sterile v Osc	~	~	~	~					
Mixed Osc + Sterile v	V [7]	<b>V</b> 171	V [7]	<b>V</b> [7]			<b>1</b> [7]		
Sterile v Decay	[13,14]	[13,14]	[13.14]	<b>V</b> [13,14]			[4,11,12,15]	<b>1</b> [4]	<b>1</b> [4]
Dark Sector & Z' *	<b>V</b> [2,3]				[2,3]	<b>/</b> [2,3]	[1,2,3]	<b>V</b> <sub>[1,2,3]</sub>	[1,2,3]
More complex higgs *					<b>1</b> [10]	[10]	[6,10]	[6,10]	[6,10]
Axion-like particle *					[8]		<b>V</b> [8]		
Res matter effects			<b>V</b> [5]	<b>V</b> [5]					
SM $\gamma$ production							~	~	~

\*Requires heavy sterile/other new particles also



Ballett, Pascoli, Ross-Lonergan PRD 2019

Ballett, Hostert, Pascoli PRD 2020

Bertuzzo, Jana, Machado, Zukanovich PRL 2018

Bertuzzo, Jana, Machado, Zukanovich PLB 2019

Arguelles, Hostert, Tsai PRL 2019

#### e shower Light Z<sub>D</sub> é chauer incoming neutrinos from the beam scatter/up-scatter inside the detector **Motivation:** Heavy Z<sub>D</sub> e shower Origin of neutrino masses gop Dark sector portal Fit to MiniBooNE energy and angular spectrum



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# DARK NEUTRINOS

# HIGGS PORTAL SCALARS

Batell, Berger, Ismail PRD 2019 Patt, Wilczek 2006



#### Motivation:

- Portal to dark sector
- Connection to Higgs sector
- Experimental synergy with HNL search

#### **Experimental signature:**

- No hadronic activity
- e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> or μ<sup>+</sup>μ<sup>-</sup>
- Invariant mass





### MICROBOONE'S HIGGS PORTAL SCALARS SEARCH

Phys. Rev. D 101, 052001 (2020)





# MICROBOONE'S HIGGS PORTAL SCALARS SEARCH

- Motivated by KOTO anomaly:
  - In 2019 KOTO collaboration reported four  $K^{0}_{L} \rightarrow \pi^{0} \sqrt{\nu} +$ invisible decay candidates
  - 2 orders of magnitude above standard model  $K^{0}_{L} \rightarrow \pi^{0} v \overline{v}$  prediction
- Search for e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> decays from scalars coming from NuMI hadron absorber
  - l event observed → 95% C.L. excludes KOTO central value





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HEAVY NEUTRAL LEPTONS

MicroBooNE Results

#### Interpretations

Too many papers to list, but see

Ballett, Pascoli, Ross-Lonergan PRD 2019

Ballett, Pascoli, Ross-Lonergan JHEP 2017

Kelly, Machado PRD 2021





#### **Motivation:**

- Possibly related to neutrino mass
- Dirac vs Majorana nature of HNLs can be probed, if discovered

#### **Experimental signature:**

- Several possibilities
- Delayed timing w.r.t.
  beam neutrinos

Less likely/ harder to explain mB anomaly

#### Reconstruct invariant mass?





### MICROBOONE'S HNL SEARCH Phys. Rev. D 101, 052001 (2020)

- Search for HNLs decaying to μπ pairs
- Dedicated trigger configuration to detect HNL decays that occur after the neutrino beam spill







# MICROBOONE'S HNL SEARCH

Phys. Rev. D 101, 052001 (2020)

Set upper limits on extended PMNS matrix element  $|U_{\mu4}|^2 \rightarrow \text{most constraining}$  experimental limits at higher masses





### WHAT'S NEXT?

#### BNB Data collection: Protons on Target (POT)



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### WHAT'S NEXT?



Anomalies

#### MiniBooNE Anomaly

Beam Excess

SUMMARY

- A number of **anomalies** exist that can't be explained in the 3-neutrino paradigm
- Could hint at interesting new physics?
- MicroBooNE investigation of the MiniBooNE anomaly shows no evidence for excess in single electron or △→Ny single photon samples
- More data (x2 data statistics), more analyses, and more experiments (SBN) will soon add to this picture!







Slide credit: Mark R-L











# A SIMPLE MODEL OFTHE MINIBOONE EXCESS







# A SIMPLE MODEL OF THE MINIBOONE EXCESS







### DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT

Tune neutrino interaction model to external data







# DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT





### DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT





### DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT

Tune neutrino interaction model to external data

#### ν<sub>μ</sub> CCQE-like



#### $v_{\mu}$ **CCQE-like** Data/prediction: 1.23 $\rightarrow$ 1.08





### DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT

Tune neutrino interaction model to external data



# "Sideband" → independent (i.e. non-signal) data sample

Use to:

- validate analysis strategy and modelling
- constrain backgrounds in signal sample
- further constrain models to provide data-driven prediction for signal region



### DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT




Interpretations

## DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT



Interpretations

### DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT





2.0

ROON

# DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT



5

0

0.5

Med

Low

1.0

Reconstructed  $E_{\nu}$  [GeV]

1.5

High

- Blind analysis of fake data sets
- Progressive V<sub>e</sub> unblinding

## DOINGTHE MEASUREMENT



#### I) Simple hypothesis test

Does the data prefer the LEE model over the non-LEE model?

#### 2) Signal strength measurement

 Use Feldman-Cousins procedure to measure best-fit signal strength (x) assuming a linear scaling of the LEE model

