Coherent Elastic Neutrino-Nucleus Scattering



Kate Scholberg, Duke University, Erice International School of Nuclear Physics, 41st Course September 23, 2019

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 *(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 >4 decades 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





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



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!)



So







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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

 $q_A^n = -0.5121.$

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

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

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

"True" disappearance with baseline-dependent Q distortion

e.g. arXiv: 1511.02834, 1711.09773, 1901.08094

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(not a complete list!)









What can we learn about nuclear physics with CEvNS?



Neutron radius and "skin" (R_n-R_p) relevant for understanding of neutron star EOS! P S Amanik and G C McLaughlin 2009 J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 36 015105

K. Patton et al., Phys.Rev. C86 (2012) 024612

Observable is recoil spectrum shape



But: if you are hunting for BSM physics as a distortion of the recoil spectrum ... uncertainties in the form factor are a nuisance!

There are degeneracies in the observables between "old" (but still mysterious) physics





and "new" physics

At current level of precision,

form factor shape is **not a dominant effect**

... but we will need to think carefully about how to disentangle these effects for the longer term

[See also: D. Aristizabal Sierra et al. arXiv:1902.07398, recent INT workshop "Weak Elastic Scattering with Nuclei"]

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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!)



So

→ Many

Things







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

Low-energy nuclear recoil detection strategies



Maximum recoil energy as a function of E_{v}



Maximum recoil energy as a function of E_{ν}



Maximum recoil energy as a function of E_{ν}



Maximum recoil energy as a function of E_{ν}



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



Want energy as large as possible while satisfying coherence condition: $Q \lesssim \frac{1}{R}$ (<~ 50 MeV for medium A)

Stopped-Pion (π**DAR)** Neutrinos



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Stopped-Pion Neutrino Sources Worldwide











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!

The COHERENT collaboration

http://sites.duke.edu/coherent



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









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











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

Reducing systematic uncertainties

2017 Csl measurement

Uncertainties on signal and background predictions				
Event selection	5%			
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Total uncertainty on signal	28%			
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- ancillary quenching factor measurements are important for the physics program
- D₂O for flux normalization also planned (v_e-d interaction has few % theoretical uncertainty)



Next largest uncertainty (affects all detectors)



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



*CHARM constraints apply only to heavy mediators

A COHERENT enlightenment of the neutrino Dark Side

Pilar Coloma,^{1,*} M. C. Gonzalez-Garcia,^{2,3,4,†} Michele Maltoni,^{5,‡} and Thomas Schwetz^{6,§}



First fit to the COHERENT CsI data

M. Cadeddu, C. Giunti, Y. F. Li, and Y. Y. Zhang. "Average CsI neutron density distribution from COHERENT data." (2017). 1710.02730.



- Fit to neutron radius resulting in ~18% uncertainty, as well as neutron skin measurement
- Does not handle bin-by-bin correlation of systematics (e.g., from QF)

COHERENT will have better measurement soon, + handling of shape systematics w/ correlations

YOUR STEP

What's Next for COHERENT?



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One measurement so far! Want to map out N² dependence

Neutrino Alley Deployments: current & near future



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 for other

targets...

Single-Phase Liquid Argon

- ~22 kg fiducial mass
- 2 x Hamamatsu 5912-02-MOD 8" PMTs
 - 8" borosilicate glass windown
 - 14 dynodes
 - QE: 18%@ 400 nm
- Wavelength shifter: TB-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)

COHERENT LAr Engineering Run Result (COHERENT LA





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

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

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

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



Sodium Iodide (NaI[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



In the meantime: **185 kg deployed at SNS** to go after v_e CC 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	$284 \pm 91(\text{stat}) \pm 25(\text{sys})$	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

Measurement Precision with 2 SNS years at 1.4 MW



~few percent precision on flux normalization

Estimated future sensitivities for NSI









Coherent Captain Mills @ Lujan: single-phase LAr



Primary focus on sterile neutrinos (see D. Caratelli plenary talk, TAUP 2019)

Neutrinos from nuclear reactors



- v_e -bar produced in fission reactions (one flavor)
- huge fluxes possible: ~2x10²⁰ s⁻¹ per GW
- several CEvNS searches past, current and future at reactors, but recoil energies<keV and backgrounds make this very challenging

Reactor CEvNS Efforts Worldwide

Experiment	Technology	Location	
CONNIE	Si CCDs	Brazil	
CONUS Talk by M. Lindner,	HPGe	Germany	
MINER	Ge/Si cryogenic	USA	
NuCleus	Cryogenic CaWO ₄ , Al ₂ O ₃ calorimeter array	Europe	LET.
vGEN	Ge PPC	Russia	
RED-100	LXe dual phase	Russia	
Ricochet	Ge, Zn bolometers	France	e40 mm
TEXONO	p-PCGe	Taiwan	

Many novel low-background, low-threshold technologies

See H. Wong, Nu2018 talk for a more detailed survey

CONUS



- Brokdorf 3.9 GW reactor
- 17 m from core
- 4 kg Ge PPC
- ~300 eV threshold





Eur. Phys. J. C (2019) 79: 699



NUCLEUS "gram-scale cryogenic calorimeters"



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Natural neutrino fluxes



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Natural neutrino fluxes



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The so-called "neutrino floor" for DM experiments



Think of a SN burst as "the v floor coming up to meet you"



Supernova neutrinos in tonne-scale DM detectors



Detector example: XENON/LZ/DARWIN

dual-phase xenon time projection chambers



Lang et al.(2016). Physical Review D, 94(10), 103009. http://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.94.103009

New idea in early stages of exploration:

Adryanna Smith and Gleb Sinev @ Duke



"CEvNS Glow" in large, high-threshold neutrino detectors

"IceCube-style" supernova detection: Cherenkov photons in ice observed as time-dependent single- (and double-)hit glow over ~10 sec



IceCube collaboration, A&A 535, A109 (2011)

Back-of-the-envelope:

CEvNS signal vs Inelastic (CC/NC) signal:

e.g., v_x + A → v_x + A vs v_e + ⁴⁰Ar → e⁻ + ⁴⁰K* in argon, or IBD in scint ~10² more CEvNS events per target wrt CC ~10⁻³ less energy deposited per event for CEvNS wrt CC ~ 6 due to sensitivity to all flavors ~0.001-0.2 quenching factor (photons wrt e/γ energy deposit) for nuclear recoil wrt CC
Total CEvNS photons are ~few-10% of CC-generated photons, but, diffused over the burst rather than in individual event spikes Issue is whether they exceed Sqrt[background] (and triggering may be challenging!)



Preliminary studies by A. Smith (+ G. Sinev)

For **DUNE**: 40 kt LAr, ~24,000 photons/MeV TPC + photon detectors



Most pernicious issue for CEvNS glow:

³⁹Ar β decays

(dominant radiological)

- 1 Bq/kg
- 260-yr half-life
- in principle can be mitigated w/underground argon (but 40 kton of it a challenge...)



J. Kostensalo et al. (2017) arXiv:1705.05726

Preliminary calculations of photon production:



Underway and TBD:

- photon transport (analytic & MC) and detection efficiencies
- additional backgrounds
- triggering not yet considered...
 serious challenge; may be able to trigger on CC
- distribution of observed N_{pe} may help select signal
- ...study still in early stages!
- "CEvNS buzz" too?
Also looking at organic liquid scintillator





From Borexino Collaboration M. Agostini et al (2017) arXiv:1707.09279v2

- backgrounds tend to be quite low
- ~0.1% quenching for carbon recoils,
 - ~1% for proton recoils

Preliminary calculations of photon production in scintillator:

"Garching" supernova model, 10 kt, 10 kpc

¹²C CEvNS+NCvp IBD+CCv_e+NC **CEvNS** Photons vs. Time Non-CEvNS Interactions Photons vs. Time Radiologicals Photons vs. Time 25000 5000 800000 events/photons/s 20000 events/photons/ events/photons/ 300 0.0005 4000 photons photons photons 500000 15000 3000 0.0003 \$00000 150 10000 2000 0.0002 100 200000 1000 5000 100 10-3 10-2 10^{-1} 10-3 10-2 10-1 100 10-2 10-3 10-1 100 time (s) time (s) time (s)

- similar studies underway... still in early stages!
- backgrounds are much less severe in clean scintillator detectors
- dark counts need to be considered

A. Smith

Recap of CEvNS & supernovae

• Core-collapse supernova neutrinos:

- vast information in flavor-energy-time profile
- NC info is especially valuable! total energy, all-flavor profile

• Supernova neutrinos and CEvNS:

- CEvNS is an important process inside the SN
- CEvNS is a supernova neutrino burst detection channel w/ NC spectral info, tonne-scale DM detectors can exploit
- New idea: CEvNS glow in large, higher-threshold neutrino detectors ... challenging, but still exploring



Summary

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



- It's just the beginning.... LAr + more Csl 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...)

Magnificent CEvNS 2019

9-11 November 2019 The PIT America/New_York timezone



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Overview

Travel and accomodations

Call for Abstracts

Timetable

Book of Abstracts

Registration

Participant List

Remote participation

The second iteration of the Magnificent CEvNS workshop, focused on the process of coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CEvNS).

Proposed in 1974, but unobserved until 2017, the physics accessible with CEvNS is broad. The goal of Magnificent CEvNS is to bring together a broad community of researchers working either directly or peripherally on CEvNS to foster enriching discussions to help direct the field as it continues to grow, forming and strengthening connections between experimentalists and theorists/phenomenologists.

Magnificent CEvNS 2019 is supported by generous contributions from The CoSMS Institute and Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory.

Starts 9 Nov 2019, 08:30 **Ends** 11 Nov 2019, 17:00 America/New_York

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