

# The Latest Results From The MINOS Neutrino Oscillation Experiment



Ruth Toner, for the MINOS Collaboration University of Cambridge March 1st, 2011

# Introduction

## MINOS = Main Injector Neutrino Oscillation Search

- Long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiment, utilizing the Fermilab NUMI muon neutrino beam

- Use two **magnetized tracking calorimeter detectors** to study the neutrino flux from this beamline

# Aim = study the oscillation of neutrinos between these two detectors









# Neutrino Oscillations: Our Physics Goals



# The MINOS Experiment



- Muon Neutrino Beamline (NuMI)

Two functionally equivalent detectors:

Near Detector: 0.029 kT fiducial mass  $\rightarrow$  Unoscillated neutrinos

Far Detector: 4.0 kT fiducial mass at depth of 700 m (2100 mwe) → Oscillated neutrinos

- **Two detectors** = allows us to reduce systematic effects, such as flux mismodeling and cross-section uncertainties

- L/E ~ 500 km/GeV – atmospheric sector



# The MINOS Experiment: Beamline and Detectors





# The NuMI Beamline

**Production:** 120 GeV p+ from Main Injector collides with graphite target to produce hadrons (mostly pions and kaons)

Focusing: Two magnetic focusing horns focus hadrons

- Focus pi+/K+ for neutrino beam
- Focus pi-/K- for antineutrino beam

Decay: Hadrons decay in 675 m long decay pipe

End = on-axis wide-band muon neutrino beam

- Target and horn can be adjusted to change beam peak





# The NuMI Beamline



# **Detector Technology**

# Both MINOS detectors consist of a series of octagonal planes through which the neutrino beam passes and interacts

- particularly well suited for studying  $\mu$ +/ $\mu$ - tracks

#### - Each plane contains:

Layer of 1" steel – **target mass** Layer of 1 cm thick / 4.1 cm wide strips of plastic scintillator – **photons** 

#### **Detectors are magnetized (~1.3 T)**

 $\rightarrow$  Muon tracks bend in field, allow you to determine charge sign: neutrino or antineutrino?







# **Events in the MINOS Detector**

## $v_{\mu}$ Charged Current Events

- **Obvious signature:** hadronic shower followed by long muon track, curved in magnetic field





# **Events in the MINOS Detector**

### v<sub>e</sub> Charged Current

- electron produces electromagnetic response, resulting in a **compact shower** 





# **Events in the MINOS Detector**

#### **Neutral Current Events**

- short, diffuse hadronic shower; cannot tell what type of neutrino interacted





# **Scientific Analyses**







- One primary goal of MINOS is to make precision measurements of **muon neutrino disappearance** 

- For oscillation, survival probability:

 $P(v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\mu}) = 1 - \sin^2(2\theta_{23}) \sin^2(1.27 \Delta m_{32}^2 L/E)$ 

 An Advantage of MINOS: Fixed L, and set range of E → Can measure Δm<sup>2</sup><sub>32</sub>, sin<sup>2</sup>(2θ<sub>23</sub>)

- Presumed to be oscillating to tau neutrinos (which we do not directly observe in MINOS)





#### **Basic analysis:**

- Use Near Detector to predict unoscillated spectrum at the Far Detector
- Compare predicted unoscillated spectrum to (oscillated?) data

$$P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu}) = 1 - \frac{\sin^2(2\theta)}{\sin^2(1.27 \Delta m^2)} L/E)$$



(Input parameters:  $\sin^2 2 \theta = 1.0$ ,  $\Delta m^2 = 3.35 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ )

# Opening the Box

No Oscillation Prediction: 2451

## Observation: 1986



# Models of Disappearance



-  $v_{\mu} \leftrightarrow v_{\tau}\,$  oscillation hypothesis holds up when compared to alternate models

>6σ

- Pure decoherence disfavored: >8σ
- Pure decay disfavored:

V.D. Barger et al., Phys. Lett. B 462, 109 (1999).G.L. Fogli *et al.*, PRD67:093006 (2003)

# Results

$$|\Delta m^2| = 2.35^{+0.11}_{-0.08} \times 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{eV}^2$$
  
 $\sin^2(2\theta) > 0.91 \,(90\% \,\mathrm{C.L.})$ 

# - Includes systematic uncertainties from:

- Normalization
- NC background
- shower energy
- track energy

FNAL Wine & Cheese Alex Himmel June 14, 2010



†Super-Kamiokande Collaboration (preliminary)

# 

# - MINOS also has the unique ability to compare neutrino and antineutrino oscillations

- We can run beam in Antineutrino Mode

- We can use the **curvature of muons** in the magnetic field to distinguish  $v_{\mu}$  and  $\overline{v_{\mu}}$ .

Question: Do neutrinos and antineutrinos behave in the same way?

$$P(\bar{\nu_{\mu}} \rightarrow \bar{\nu_{\mu}}) = 1 - \sin^2(2\bar{\theta}_{23}) \sin^2(1.27\Delta \bar{m}_{23}^2 L/E)$$



# **Producing an Antineutrino Beam**



# **Producing an Antineutrino Beam**



# Results

No Oscillation Prediction: **155** Observation: **97** 

No oscillations disfavored at 6.3σ

- Dominated by low statistics, including 30% uncertainty on the  $v_{\mu}$  background

- Systematics less important

$$|\Delta \bar{m}^2| = 3.36^{+0.45}_{-0.46} \times 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{eV}^2$$
  
 $\sin^2(2\bar{\theta}) = 0.86 \pm 0.11$ 



# Results

- Neutrino and antineutrino parameters differ at ~2σ level

- We are in the process of at least doubling these statistics and doing a joint neutrino /antineutrino analysis

FNAL Wine & Cheese Alex Himmel June 14, 2010



# **Future Running**



# **NC Event Rates**

- Standard explanation for  $v_{\mu}$  disappearance is oscillation to  $v_{\tau}$ 

- Another possible alternative explanation is oscillation to a fourth, "sterile" neutrino flavor

#### **Rate of Neutral Current Events:**

- We can predict a rate of NC events at the Far Detector

- This rate should not change for three neutrino oscillation scenario

- A <u>deficit</u> might suggest oscillation to a fourth, "sterile" neutrino

- Consider both m4 = m1 and m4 >> m3 models



# **Neutral Current Analysis Results**



Expect: 757 Observe: 802

- Results are consistent with **no significant oscillation** to sterile neutrinos

- This is also taking into account the possibility of electron neutrino appearance at the Far Detector.

The fraction of events which could be oscillating to sterile neutrinos:

$$f_{s} \equiv \frac{P_{\nu_{\mu} \to \nu_{s}}}{1 - P_{\nu_{\mu} \to \nu_{\mu}}}$$

$$f_s < 0.22(0.40v_e)(90\% \text{ C.L.})$$

# $v_{e}$ Appearance



# $v_e$ Appearance

- Unlike an experiment like CHOOZ, MINOS result would depend on  $sin^2(\theta_{23})$ , CP violation phase  $\delta$ , and choice of mass hierarchy (normal or inverted)



# Identifying Signal and Background in the $v_e$ Analysis

- Main problem for ve study = small expected signal, with large background contamination (mostly Neutral Current events)

Particle Identification for ve Charged Current events: Neural net algorithm, trained on 11 separate variables quantifying event shape and energy profile - Efficiency of 40% for ve signal events

- Apply this cut to the Near Detector and use it to make a Far Detector background prediction



# $v_{e}$ Analysis

# Predicted FD background: 49.1±7(stat)±2.7(sys)



 $v_e$  Analysis

# Predicted FD background: $49.1\pm7(stat)\pm2.7(sys)$ Observed: $54(0.7\sigma excess)$



# Results

**Limits:** Assuming  $2\sin^2(\theta_{23})=1$ , CP violation phase  $\delta=0$ , and  $|\Delta m^2| = 2.43 \times 10^{-3}$ :

**Normal mass hierarchy:**  $sin^2(2\theta_{13}) < 0.12$ 

**Inverted mass hierarchy:**  $sin^{2}(2\theta_{13}) < 0.20$ 

- New analysis with more data and more sensitive analysis techniques will be presented later this year





# Summary

#### v<sub>u</sub> Disappearance:

- New best fit points are consistent with standard neutrino oscillations:

 $|\Delta m^2| = 2.35^{+0.11}_{-0.08} \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$  $\sin^2(2\theta) > 0.91 (90\% \text{ C.L.})$ 

### Sterile Neutrino Search:

- No significant evidence for reduced neutral current rate or oscillations to sterile neutrinos

$$f_s < 0.22(0.40v_e)(90\% \text{ C.L.})$$

#### v<sub>u</sub> Disappearance:

- Additional data are being taken!

$$|\Delta \bar{m}^2| = 3.36^{+0.45}_{-0.46} \times 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{eV}^2$$
  
 $\sin^2(2\bar{\theta}) = 0.86 \pm 0.11$ 

Nue Appearance:

- Non-significant (0.7 sigma)  $v_e$  excess seen, with new limit for  $\theta_{_{13}}$ 

**Normal mass hierarchy**:  $sin^{2}(2\theta_{13}) < 0.12$ 

- Planning a new analysis for Spring 2011 with improved analysis and new data



-

Stay tuned for lots more **v**s to come!

# **Backup Slides**



# **Neutrino Oscillations**

#### **Neutrinos:**

- interact weakly via flavor eigenstates:

 $\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{e}} \quad \mathbf{V}_{\mu} \quad \mathbf{V}_{\tau}$ 

- propagate as mass eigenstates:

 $\mathbf{V}_1$   $\mathbf{V}_2$   $\mathbf{V}_3$ 

$$|
u_{lpha}
angle = \sum_{i} U^*_{lpha i} |
u_i
angle$$

1.27, 2.54 in units of

- Non-zero different masses = neutrino can **change its flavor eigenstate** as it propagates, sliding in and out of phase:

$$P(\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\beta}) = |\langle \nu_{\beta} | \nu_{\alpha}(L) \rangle|^{2}$$

$$= \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4 \sum_{i>j} \Re(U_{\alpha i}^{*} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^{*}) \sin^{2}[1.27\Delta m_{ij}^{2} L/E]$$

$$+2 \sum_{i>j} \Im(U_{\alpha i}^{*} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^{*}) \sin^{2}[2.54\Delta m_{ij}^{2} L/E]$$

$$+2 \sum_{i>j} \Im(U_{\alpha i}^{*} U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^{*}) \sin^{2}[2.54\Delta m_{ij}^{2} L/E]$$

$$- \text{ For the case of two neutrinos: } P(\nu_{\alpha} \rightarrow \nu_{\beta}) = \sin^{2}(2\theta) \sin^{2}(1.27\Delta m^{2} L/E)$$

## **Near Detector**

#### - Measures beam before oscillations

- 282 planes, 0.98 ktons total / 0.029 ktons fiducial
- geometry: 3.8x4.5 m

 LOTS OF NEUTRINOS: Mean of 3 v interactions per beam spill (8 or 10 μs), as many 10
 For a 250kW beam: 10<sup>4</sup> v/day





# **Far Detector**

#### - Look here to see if neutrinos oscillated!

- 486 planes, 5.4 ktons total / 4.0 ktons fiducial

- **geometry:** 31 m long total, in two 15 m sections, each with 192 scintillator strips

- 700 m underground to reduce cosmic ray background to negligible level

- **MUCH QUIETER:** only a few neutrino interactions per day









# Calibrations

- Calibration of Detector response using:
  - LED-based Light Injection system (PMT gain)
  - Cosmic ray muons (strip to strip and detector to detector)
  - Calibration detector (overall energy scale)
- Energy scale calibration:
  - 1.9% absolute error in ND
  - 1.1% absolute error in FD
  - 1.6% relative





Calibrated Plane Response





Slide: Alec Habig

# Going from Near to Far

- Far Detector Spectrum is the same as Near Detector Spectrum to first order
- Beam spectrum: dependent on parent energy and decay angle
  - Higher energy hadron will decay further down pipe
  - Near and Far Detectors have different angular distributions:
     Near Detector = distributed source
     Far Detector = point source
- Monte Carlo allows us to correct for energy smearing and acceptance

- Use knowledge of **beam geometry** and **pion decay kinematics** to predict the Far Detector spectrum from the measured Near Detector spectrum



# **Neutrino Analysis Event Selection**

#### **Data Selection Cuts:**

- Data Quality & Fiducial Volume
- Event must have at least one valid reconstructed track
- Separate out **positive and negative charge** events
- **Particle ID:** Likelihood-based parameter, separates between NuMu Charged Current and Neutral Current



# Making a Far Detector Prediction

- First remove background events (NC)

- Next, must turn the Near Detector spectrum into a Far Detector prediction....

#### **Beam matrix:**

- accounts for pion 2-body decay kinematics and geometry

- shown: example of spread of energy bins from ND to FD.

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Prediction of FD Spectrum} \\ \rightarrow \mbox{CONDUCT A BLIND ANALYSIS} \end{array}$ 





# Improvements for 2010



Improvements from the 2008 Analysis:

- More Data  $(3.4e20 \rightarrow 7.2e20 \text{ POT!})$ 

- Updated reconstruction and simulation

 New likelihood-based selection, with higher efficiency

- **No charge sign cut** (recover low energy events)

# - Improved shower energy resolution

- Now fit in bins of energy resolution
- Improved systematic uncertainties

2008 result: arXiv:0806.2237v1 [hep-ex]

# What is the Best Fit?



- Split up sample into five bins by energy resolution (plus one wrong-sign bin)

- this gives more weight to best-resolved events

- Do a simultaneous fit to  $v_{\mu} \leftrightarrow v_{\tau}~$  oscillation parameters:

$$\left|\Delta m_{32}^{2}\right| = 2.35_{-0.08}^{+0.11} \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^{2}$$
  
 $\sin^{2} 2\Theta_{23} = 1.00_{-0.05}$ 

# **Comparison to Neutrinos**



# Selecting an NC Sample

#### Analysis:

- ND Data Quality cuts remove poorly reconstructed events

#### -ND and FD cuts:

- <47 event planes
- track must not extend more than 6 planes from shower
- Extrapolate with Far to Near spectrum ratio for prediction





# Making a $v_{a}$ Selection

EM Showers in MINOS	Detector Parameters
Radiation length in steel: 1.76 cm	Steel thickness: 2.54 cm
Molière radius: 3.7 cm	Strip width: 4.1 cm
- The MINOS detector is not optimize electron neutrino appearance	ed for studying

electron neutrino appearance

Signal: ve Charged Current events

#### **Background:**

Neutral Current: hadronic shower easily mistaken for EM shower

- decay of a  $\pi^0$  can make NC look particularly like a v<sub>e</sub> CC event

v<sub>u</sub> CC: mostly easily removed by long track, but some events with short tracks are harder to eliminate ve CC: must account for 1.3% contamination by nonsignal beam  $v_e$  CC events







# Making a Far Detector Prediction

# - How do we turn a Near Detector rate into a Far Detector prediction?

- Major Near/Far differences (beam flux, fiducial volume) are easy to correct for

- However, the separate Near Detector background components extrapolate differently to the Far Detector

 $-\mathbf{v}_{\mu} \rightarrow \mathbf{v}_{x}$  oscillation.

Could use Monte Carlo to separate components, but in the Near Detector, we see Data/MC disagreements of up to 15%
 Red error bands in top plot are systematic uncertainties in MC
 most of this due to modeling of

hadronic production

# - We cannot rely on the MC to give us our background decomposition



Reconstructed Energy (GeV)

# Making a Far Detector Prediction

#### Method:

- Adjust the NUMI beamline magnetic focusing horn and/or the position of the hadron production target to create different beam energy configurations.

**1) Standard Beam:** NUMI hadrons focused to create a low-energy peak at ~3 GeV.

2) Horn Off Beam: Horn is turned off so hadrons no longer focused  $\rightarrow$  drastically reduces the selection of  $v_{\mu}$  CCs.

**3) High Energy Beam:** Target moved upstream from the horn, focusing higher energy pions

-beam has a ~9 GeV peak, with similar reduction in selection of  $v_{\mu}$  CC events.



# **Background Decomposition**

#### <u>Near Detector Background Decomposition:</u>

For each configuration, in the Near Detector, we have:

- A) the measured overall background (Data)
- B) the relative rates of each background type between configurations (Monte Carlo)

- Linear System: 3 beam configurations, 3 background components (with injected  $v_e$  MC constraint)

 $\rightarrow$  Solve to get the background decomposition

$$N^{Std} = N_{NC} + N_{\nu_{\mu}CC} + N_{\nu_{e}CC}$$

$$N^{Off} = R_{NC}^{Off/Std} N_{NC} + R_{\nu_{\mu}CC}^{Off/Std} N_{\nu_{\mu}CC} + R_{\nu_{e}CC}^{Off/Std} N_{\nu_{e}CC}$$

$$N^{HE} = R_{NC}^{HE/Std} N_{NC} + R_{\nu_{\mu}CC}^{HE/Std} N_{\nu_{\mu}CC} + R_{\nu_{e}CC}^{HE/Std} N_{\nu_{e}CC}$$

(in bins of energy)

# Extrapolation

- Apply this selection to the Near Detector Data
- Adjust NuMI beamline to separate this background into its individual components.
- Can then predict background contamination at the Far Detector

#### Predicting the Far Detector Background:

- Extrapolate each component to the **Far Detector** in bins of energy
  - $\alpha$  = background component



$$Far_{\alpha}^{\text{Predicted}}(E_{i}) = Near_{\alpha}^{\text{Data}}(E_{i}) \frac{Far_{\alpha}^{MC}(E_{i})}{Near_{\alpha}^{MC}(E_{i})}$$

# Nue Appearance Systematic Error

Source of Uncertainty	Effect on Background Prediction
ND Decomposition	$\pm 2.8\%$
Calibration	+2.8%, -2.3%
Far/Near Normalization	$\pm 2.4\%$
Hadronization Model	$\pm 2.3\%$
$\nu_{\tau}$ CC component	$\pm 1.7\%$
Intranuclear Model	+0.9%, -1.0%
Beam Model	$\pm 0.5\%$
Crosstalk	$\pm 0.4\%$
Cross Section	$\pm 0.1\%$
Total Background Systematic	+5.6%, -5.3%

**Total Statistical Uncertainty: ~14%** 

# **Blind Analysis Double Checks**

#### 1) Muon Removed Data:

Sample of "hadronic showers" made by removing tracks from numu CC events
Is our prediction of background rejection consistent wit the data?

- Looks good



#### 2) Anti-PID Selection:

- Reverse cut: ANN < 0.50
- Does the analysis chain (background prediction and extrapolation) work?
- Predict 314 +/- 18 (stat) for  $\theta_{13}$ =0
- Observe 327
- Looks good



ANN Selection Variable