Uncertainties in modelling neutrino Interactions for oscillation experiments



Stephen Dolan

stephen.joseph.dolan@cern.ch



NOW 2022 Neutrino Oscillation Workshop

Stephen Dolan

Outline

- Why we care about neutrino interaction modelling
 - And what it is that we need to model well

- Simulating neutrino interactions using event generators
 - And why they are usually "wrong"

- What uncertainties we need to control better to make
 DUNE and Hyper-K a success
 - Reviewing some recent and upcoming publications











Current uncertainties

Source (🧟)	$N(v_e)$	Source (TZR)	$N(v_e)$
$\sigma_{\nu N}$ and FSI	7.7%	$\sigma_{\!\scriptscriptstyle {\cal V}N}$ and FSI	3.8%
Total Syst.	9.2%	Total Syst.	5.2%
Phys. Rev. D 98 , 032012		NEUTRINO 2022 XXX International Conference on Neutrino Physics and Astrophysics	

Neutrino-nucleus cross sections



See talks from K. McFarland and L. Alvarez Ruso

Neutrino-nucleus cross sections



See talks from K. McFarland and L. Alvarez Ruso

Neutrino-nucleus cross sections



See talks from K. McFarland and L. Alvarez Ruso





Stephen Dolan



Stephen Dolan



Stephen Dolan



Stephen Dolan

- For a precision probe of oscillation parameters, reconstructing the shape of the oscillated spectrum is crucial
- Require a good control over cross section energy dependence and energy reconstruction!
- Constraints on δ_{CP} rely on differences between electron neutrino and antineutrino appearance



- For a precision probe of oscillation parameters, reconstructing the shape of the oscillated spectrum is crucial
- Require a good control over cross section energy dependence and energy reconstruction!
- Constraints on δ_{CP} rely on differences between electron neutrino and antineutrino appearance
- But we mainly measure muon neutrino interactions at the near detector



- For a precision probe of oscillation parameters, reconstructing the shape of the oscillated spectrum is crucial
- Require a good control over cross section energy dependence and energy reconstruction!
- Constraints on δ_{CP} rely on differences between electron neutrino and antineutrino appearance
- But we mainly measure muon neutrino interactions at the near detector
- A good modelling of v_e/v_μ cross section ratio is essential



- 1. The energy dependence of neutrino cross sections
 - So we know how to extrapolate from our near to far detectors

- 1. The energy dependence of neutrino cross sections
 - So we know how to extrapolate from our near to far detectors
- 2. The smearing of our neutrino energy reconstruction
 - So we can infer the shape of the oscillated spectrum

- 1. The energy dependence of neutrino cross sections
 - So we know how to extrapolate from our near to far detectors
- 2. The smearing of our neutrino energy reconstruction
 - So we can infer the shape of the oscillated spectrum
- 3. Differences in the cross section for v_e/v_μ (and v/\bar{v})
 - So we can use v_e appearance to probe CP-violation

- 1. The energy dependence of neutrino cross sections
 - So we know how to extrapolate from our near to far detectors
- 2. The smearing of our neutrino energy reconstruction
 - So we can infer the shape of the oscillated spectrum
- 3. Differences in the cross section for v_e/v_μ (and v/\bar{v})
 - So we can use v_e appearance to probe CP-violation



Outline

- Why we care about neutrino interaction modelling
 - And what it is that we need to model well

- Simulating neutrino interactions using event generators
 - And why they are usually "wrong"

- What uncertainties we need to control better to make
 DUNE and Hyper-K a success
 - Reviewing some recent and upcoming publications

A generator's view of νN scattering (true for at least some generators some of the time)

- Take theory inputs where possible, but these are often limited
 - Only capable of predicting a subset of observables
 - Only valid within some range of kinematic phase space
 - Only valid for certain processes

See S. Gardiner's talk for many more details

A generator's view of νN scattering (true for at least some generators some of the time)



- Take theory inputs where possible, but these are often limited
 - Only capable of predicting a subset of observables
 - Only valid within some range of kinematic phase space
 - Only valid for certain processes
- Stitch them together



• Fill in the gaps with fudges, guesses and approximations

Generators vs data: a horror story

 No generator can come close to describing global lepton nucleus scattering data

Generators vs data: a horror story

 No generator can come close to describing global lepton nucleus scattering data

See many more informative generator comparisons in the TENSIONS 2019 report (arXiv:2112.09194)



Stephen Dolan

Generators vs data: a horror story

 No generator can come close to describing global lepton nucleus scattering data

See many more informative generator comparisons in the TENSIONS 2019 report (arXiv:2112.09194)



Stephen Dolan



<u>Key question</u>

How do sensibly different model ingredients change the key predictions neutrino oscillation experiments rely (or will rely) on?

Outline

- Why we care about neutrino interaction modelling
 - And what it is that we need to model well

- Simulating neutrino interactions using event generators
 - And why they are usually "wrong"

- What uncertainties we need to control better to make
 DUNE and Hyper-K a success
 - Reviewing some recent and upcoming publications



<u>Key question</u>

How do sensibly different model ingredients change the key predictions neutrino oscillation experiments rely (or will rely) on?

Plots from

Wilkinson, Dolan, Pickering, Wret, *A substandard candle: the low-v method at few-GeV neutrino energies* arXiv 2203.11821, accepted by EPJC



• What matters ND \rightarrow FD extrapolation is the shape of total cross section as a function of E_{ν}

Plots from Wilkinson, Dolan, Pickering, Wret, *A substandard candle: the low-v method at few-GeV neutrino energies* arXiv 2203.11821, accepted by EPJC



Stephen Dolan

• What matters ND \rightarrow FD extrapolation is the shape of total cross section as a function of E_{ν}

Plots from Wilkinson, Dolan, Pickering, Wret, *A substandard candle: the low-v method at few-GeV neutrino energies* arXiv 2203.11821, accepted by EPJC

• Models differ by 5-10% in the region of interest for DUNE and Hyper-K



Stephen Dolan

• What matters ND \rightarrow FD extrapolation is the shape of total cross section as a function of E_{ν}

Plots from Wilkinson, Dolan, Pickering, Wret, *A substandard candle: the low-v method at few-GeV neutrino energies* arXiv 2203.11821, accepted by EPJC

- Models differ by 5-10% in the region of interest for DUNE and Hyper-K
- Given expected statistics (~1000 v_e , ~6000 v_μ), this may be concerning
- Mitigation by direct measurements of cross section energy dependence (e.g. via multiple off-axis samples) is likely to be crucial





<u>Key question</u>

How do sensibly different model ingredients change the key predictions neutrino oscillation experiments rely (or will rely) on?

• Many experiments reconstruct neutrino energy calorimetrically:

$$E_{rec} = E_{lep} + \sum T_p + \sum T_{\pi^{\pm}} + \sum E_{\pi^0}$$

- Principle biases (sources of unseen energy):
 - Charged pion masses
 - Neutrons

• Many experiments reconstruct neutrino energy calorimetrically:

$$E_{rec} = E_{lep} + \sum T_p + \sum T_{\pi^{\pm}} + \sum E_{\pi^0}$$

- Principle biases (sources of unseen energy):
 - Charged pion masses
 - Neutrons
- Crucial to model the fraction of energy that is unseen
- Impacted by:
 - The energy transfer to the hadronic system
 - Final State Interactions (FSI)
 - Hadronization in inelastic scattering

• Many experiments reconstruct neutrino energy calorimetrically:

$$E_{rec} = E_{lep} + \sum T_p + \sum T_{\pi^{\pm}} + \sum E_{\pi^0}$$

- Principle biases (sources of unseen energy):
 - Charged pion masses
 - Neutrons
- Crucial to model the fraction of energy that is unseen
- Impacted by:
 - The energy transfer to the hadronic system.
 - Final State Interactions (FSI)
 - Hadronization in inelastic scattering





Stephen Dolan



Advanced FSI cascades

• More advanced treatment of FSIs is available via the INCL model (Phys. Rev. C 87 014606)

Plots from Ershova et al., *Study of FSI of protons ith INCL and NuWro cascade models* Phys. Rev. D **106**, 032009



Stephen Dolan

Advanced FSI cascades

- More advanced treatment of FSIs is available via the INCL model (Phys. Rev. C 87 014606)
- INCL's treatment of nucleon absorption and nuclear cluster production gives a different distribution of energy among outgoing hadrons
- Might expect a significant impact on neutrino energy smearing



Plots from Ershova et al., *Study of FSI of protons ith INCL and NuWro cascade models* Phys. Rev. D **106**, 032009

Stephen Dolan

FSI beyond the cascade

- Instead of cascades, FSI can be modelled via a distortion of • the outgoing nucleon wave function by a nuclear potential
- Recent theory effort has allowed a calculation of exclusive observables with • such treatments
- Nikolakopoulos et al.,

Plots from:

Franco-Patino et al., arXiv:2207.02086

See also:

Phys. Rev. C 105, 054603

FSI beyond the cascade

- Instead of cascades, FSI can be modelled via a distortion of the outgoing nucleon wave function by a nuclear potential
- Recent theory effort has allowed a calculation of exclusive observables with such treatments
 - Example below: missing transverse momentum
 - In general: high $\delta p_T \rightarrow$ more missing hadronic energy \rightarrow larger E_{ν} reconstruction bias



Plots from: Franco-Patino et al., arXiv:2207.02086

See also:

Nikolakopoulos et al., Phys. Rev. C **105**, 054603

FSI beyond the cascade

- Instead of cascades, FSI can be modelled via a distortion of the outgoing nucleon wave function by a nuclear potential
- Recent theory effort has allowed a calculation of exclusive observables with such treatments
 - Example below: missing transverse momentum
 - In general: high $\delta p_T \rightarrow$ more missing hadronic energy \rightarrow larger E_{ν} reconstruction bias
- Key conclusions
 - Significant differences in predictions for different nuclear potentials
 - Sometimes all of these deviate strongly from the cascade approach



Plots from: Franco-Patino et al.,

arXiv:2207.02086

See also:

Nikolakopoulos et al., Phys. Rev. C **105**, 054603

Impact on analyses

Plot from: DUNE physics TDR, arXiv:2002.03005

- DUNE runs a study where it fits as data a model where 20% of final state proton energy in its nominal model instead goes into neutrons
 - A plausible consequence of alternative FSI models
- At the same time, the cross section is altered to leave the proton momentum distribution unchanged
 - Another plausible change to the cross section model

Impact on analyses

Plot from: DUNE physics TDR, arXiv:2002.03005

- DUNE runs a study where it fits as data a model where 20% of final state proton energy in its nominal model instead goes into neutrons
 - A plausible consequence of alternative FSI models
- At the same time, the cross section is altered to leave the proton momentum distribution unchanged
 - Another plausible change to the cross section model
- The result: a large bias in oscillation parameters
- Possible mitigation by creative use of the near detector
 - Off-axis samples
 - Additional nuclear targets





<u>Key question</u>

How do sensibly different model ingredients change the key predictions neutrino oscillation experiments rely (or will rely) on?

- Nuclear medium effects change the $v_{\rm e}/v_{\mu}$ ratio
 - Changes the cross section close to phase space boundaries



Details in: Dieminger et al., NEUTRINO 2022 poster

See also: Nikolakopoulos et al.,

PRL **123**, 052501 Dolan et al., arXiv:2110.14601

Stephen Dolan

- Nuclear medium effects change the $\nu_{\rm e}/\nu_{\mu}$ ratio
 - Changes the cross section close to phase space boundaries
- Considering the Hyper-K flux and taking model differences as a systematic uncertainty we find:
 - 2.2% on the $\nu_{\rm e}/\nu_{\mu}$ ratio
 - 1.5% on the $v_{\rm e}/\bar{v_e}$ ratio
- Comparable to expected Hyper-K statistical uncertainties and other systematic uncertainties
- Does not yet consider the impact of shape changes to the $v_e/\overline{v_e}$ appearance spectra



Details in: Dieminger et al., NEUTRINO 2022 poster

See also: Nikolakopoulos et al., PRL 123, 052501 Dolan et al., arXiv:2110.14601

- Nuclear medium effects change the $\nu_{\rm e}/\nu_{\mu}$ ratio
 - Changes the cross section close to phase space boundaries
- Considering the Hyper-K flux and taking model differences as a systematic uncertainty we find:
 - 2.2% on the $\nu_{\rm e}/\nu_{\mu}$ ratio
 - 1.5% on the $\nu_{\rm e}/\bar{\nu_e}$ ratio
- Comparable to expected Hyper-K statistical uncertainties and other systematic uncertainties
- Does not yet consider the impact of shape changes to the $v_e/\overline{v_e}$ appearance spectra

Additional few-% uncertainty related to **radiative corrections** to the cross section (and the potential impact of outgoing photons on event selections) See: arXiv:2105.07939



Details in: Dieminger et al., NEUTRINO 2022 poster

See also: Nikolakopoulos et al., PRL 123, 052501 Dolan et al., arXiv:2110.14601

- Uncertainties on the neutrino interactions physics most pertinent to future oscillation experiments are far from under control
- As we gather more data, experiments must consider a wider range of analysis failure modes due to a mismodelling of neutrino interactions

- Uncertainties on the neutrino interactions physics most pertinent to future oscillation experiments are far from under control
- As we gather more data, experiments must consider a wider range of analysis failure modes due to a mismodelling of neutrino interactions

<u>uncertainty model</u>

• This work is already happening!

T2K uncertainty model

µBooNE <u>Uncertainty model</u>

- Uncertainties on the neutrino interactions physics most pertinent to future oscillation experiments are far from under control
- As we gather more data, experiments must consider a wider range of analysis failure modes due to a mismodelling of neutrino interactions

uncertainty model

• This work is already happening!

T2K uncertainty model

µBooNe Uncertainty model

 Whilst we have a long way to go, we should not forget how far we have come!

- Uncertainties on the neutrino interactions physics most pertinent to future oscillation experiments are far from under control
- As we gather more data, experiments must consider a wider range of analysis failure modes due to a mismodelling of neutrino interactions

uncertainty model

• This work is already happening!

T2K uncertainty model

µBooNE uncertainty model

 Whilst we have a long way to go, we should not forget how far we have come!

"Most of our knowledge of neutrino cross sections in [the 0.1-20 GeV energy range] comes from early experiments ... conducted in the 1970s and 1980s"

Formaggio and Zeller, Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1307, 2013

- Uncertainties on the neutrino interactions physics most pertinent to future oscillation experiments are far from under control
- As we gather more data, experiments must consider a wider range of analysis failure modes due to a mismodelling of neutrino interactions

uncertainty model

• This work is already happening!

T2K uncertainty model

µBooNE uncertainty model

 Whilst we have a long way to go, we should not forget how far we have come!

"Most of our knowledge of neutrino cross sections in [the 0.1-20 GeV energy range] comes from early experiments ... conducted in the 1970s and 1980s"

Formaggio and Zeller, Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1307, 2013

 Continued collaboration between experimentalists, theorists and generator builders is crucial reach the level of precision demanded by DUNE and Hyper-K

The next steps ...



And they lived happily ever after ...

From Vishvas Pandey, <u>An overview of</u> <u>neutrino cross sections and challenges</u>

Backups

Stephen Dolan



Fermi motion



Arbitrary units

Neutrino-nucleon interaction



• We have a nucleon, now let's interact with it (usually treating it as if it was a free target)

Final state interactions



- We now have an outgoing nucleon inside the nucleus, it should be allowed to re-scatter before it gets out
- Such **Final State Interactions (FSI)** are simulated using semi-classical intranuclear cascade models



• What matters ND \rightarrow FD extrapolation is the shape of total cross section as a function of E_{ν}

Plots from Wilkinson, Dolan, Pickering, Wret, *A substandard candle: the low-v method at few-GeV neutrino energies* arXiv 2203.11821, accepted by EPJC

• Models differ by 5-10% in the region of interest for DUNE and Hyper-K



Stephen Dolan

• What matters ND \rightarrow FD extrapolation is the shape of total cross section as a function of E_{ν}

Plots from Wilkinson, Dolan, Pickering, Wret, *A substandard candle: the low-v method at few-GeV neutrino energies* arXiv 2203.11821, accepted by EPJC

- Models differ by 5-10% in the region of interest for DUNE and Hyper-K
 - More when considering some specific regions of phase space



Stephen Dolan

Impact on analyses

- DUNE runs a study where it fits as data a model where 20% of final state proton energy in its nominal model instead goes into neutrons
 - A plausible consequence of alternative FSI models
- At the same time, the cross section is altered to leave the proton momentum distribution unchanged
 - Another plausible change to the cross section model



Neutrinos vs anti-neutrinos

- Nuclear medium effects change the $\nu/\bar{\nu}$ ratio
 - 2p2h is expected to be much stronger for v





Neutrinos vs anti-neutrinos

- Nuclear medium effects change the $\nu/\bar{\nu}$ ratio
 - 2p2h is expected to be much stronger for ν
 - RPA effects make further alterations



Plots from: Martini et al., Phys. Rev. C **81**, 045502 Dolan et al., arXiv:2110.14601 See also:

Pandey et al., Phys. Rev. C **89**, 024601

Neutrinos vs anti-neutrinos

- Nuclear medium effects change the $\nu/\bar{\nu}$ ratio
 - 2p2h is expected to be much stronger for ν
 - RPA effects make further alterations
- The ratio is sensitive to the details of the modelling of each effect



Plots from: Martini et al., Phys. Rev. C **81**, 045502 Dolan et al., arXiv:2110.14601 **See also:** Pandey et al., Phys. Rev. C **89**, 024601



Plots from: Dolan et al., arXiv:2110.14601

See also:

Nikolakopoulos et al., PRL **123**, 052501

- Nuclear medium effects change the $v_{
 m e}/v_{\mu}$ ratio
 - Changes the cross section close to phase space boundaries



Stephen Dolan

Additional few-% uncertainty related to **radiative corrections** to the cross section (and the potential impact of outgoing photons on event selections) See: arXiv:2105.07939

