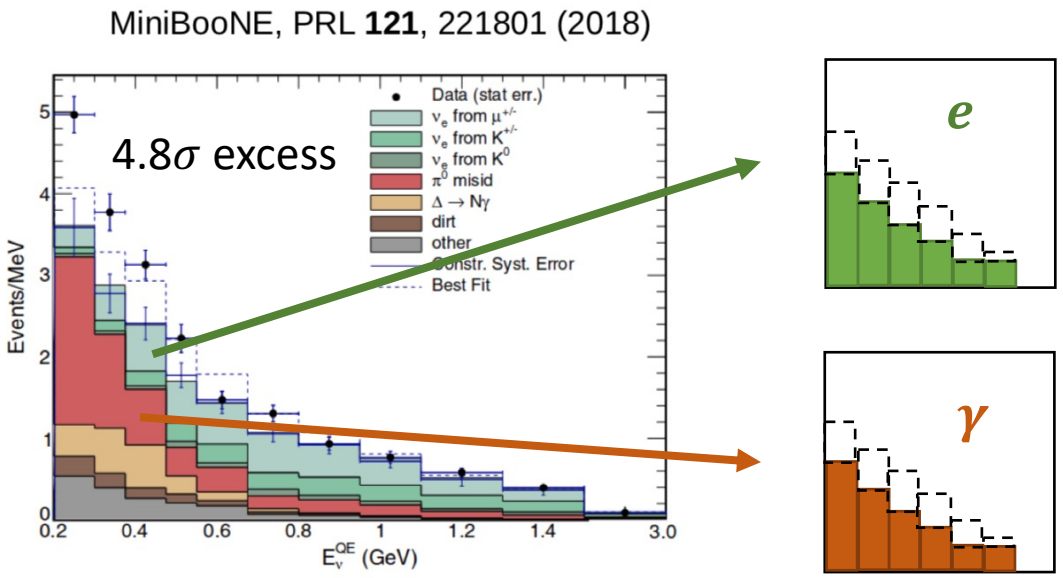
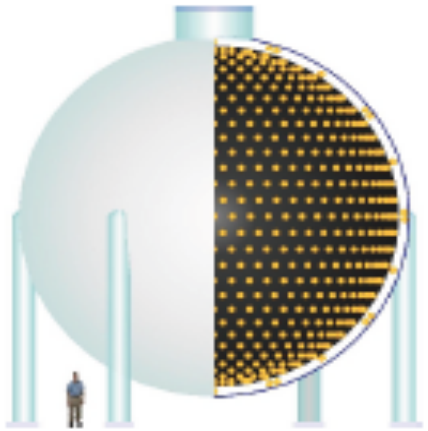
MicroBooNE Low-Energy-Excess Search - Photon Analyses

Xiao Luo, University of California Santa Barbara

on behalf of MicroBooNE collaboration

MiniBooNE's Low-Energy-Excess (LEE) anomaly

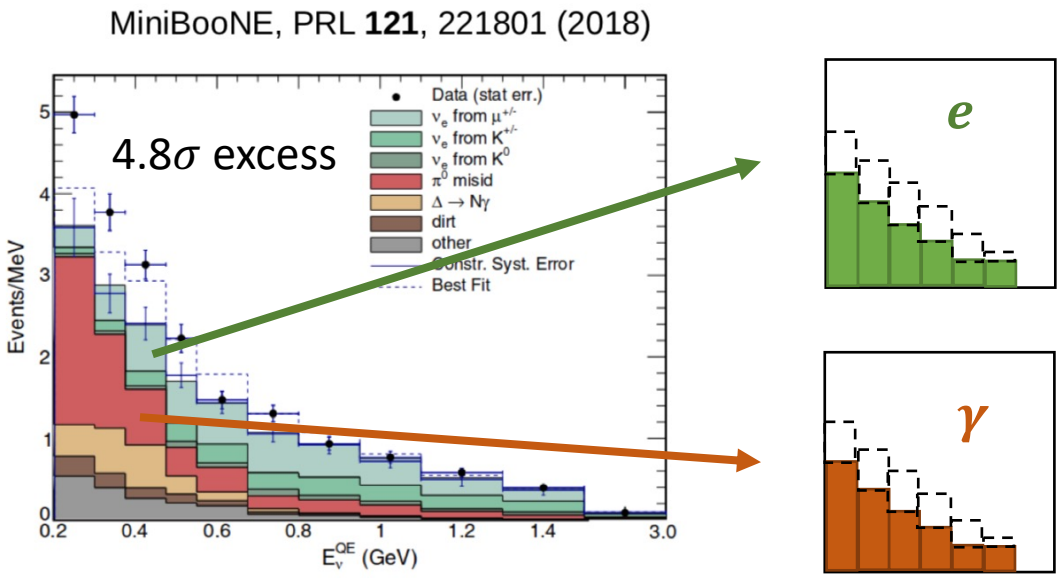


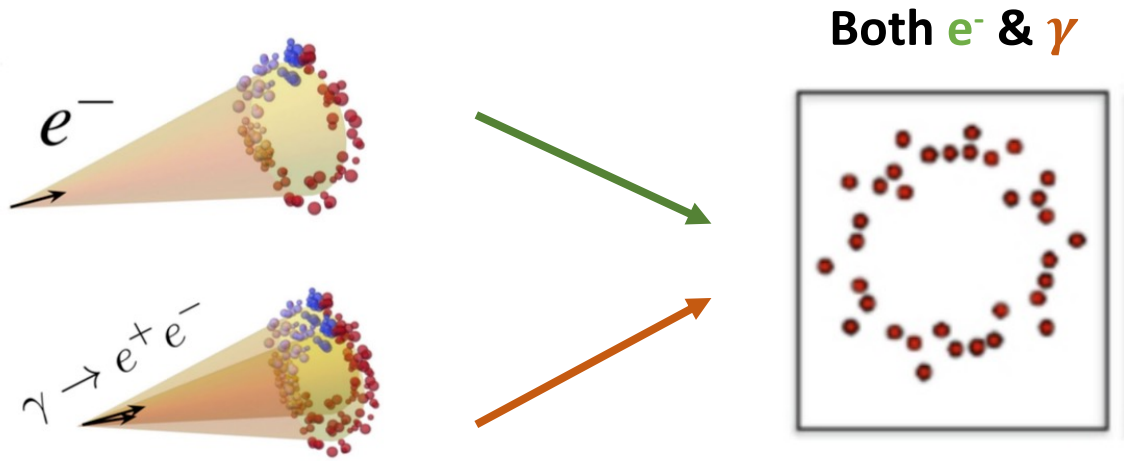


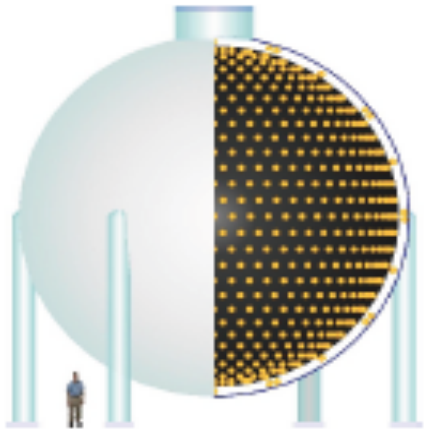
MiniBooNE

- Oil Cherenkov detector
- Located on-axis of Fermilab Booster Neutrino beam (BNB)
- with L/E ~1 m/MeV

MiniBooNE's Low-Energy-Excess (LEE) anomaly





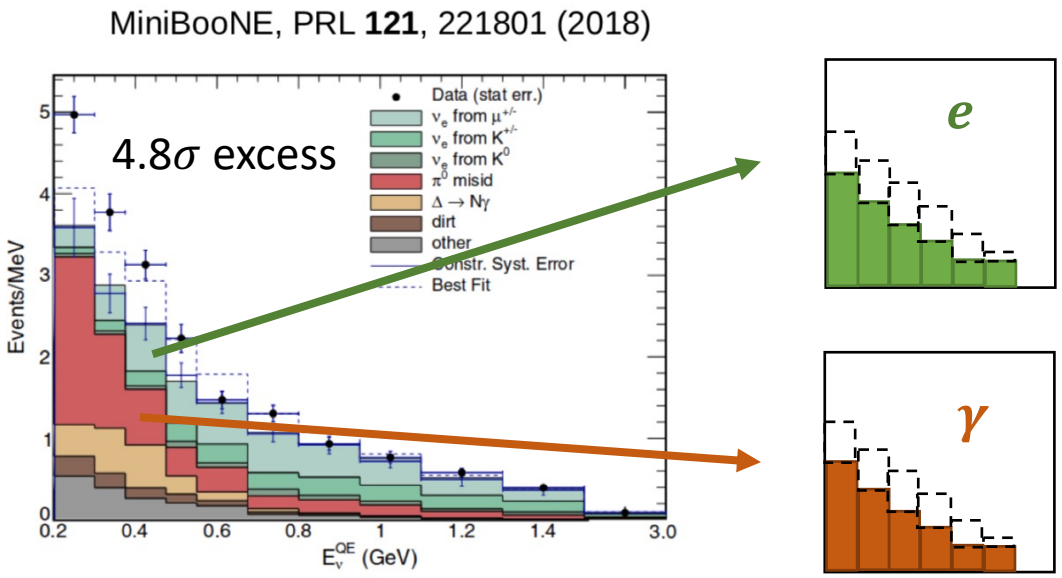


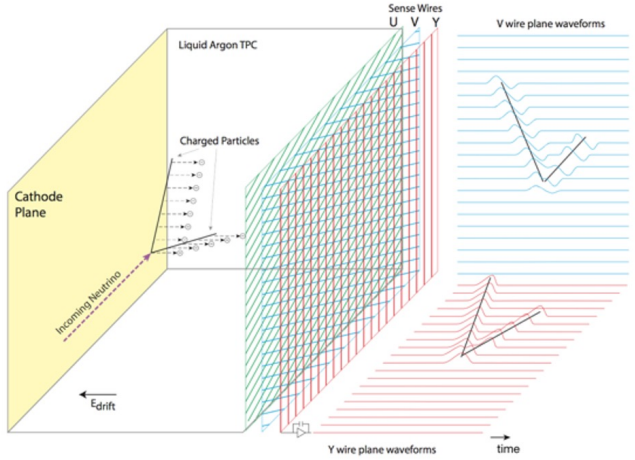
MiniBooNE

- Oil Cherenkov detector
- Located on-axis of Fermilab Booster Neutrino beam (BNB)
- with L/E ~1 m/MeV

MiniBooNE detector is not able to distinguish e^- from γ.
Need a different detector technology to understand the origin of this LEE anomaly-> MicroBooNE's primary physics goal

MicroBooNE's LArTPC going after LEE

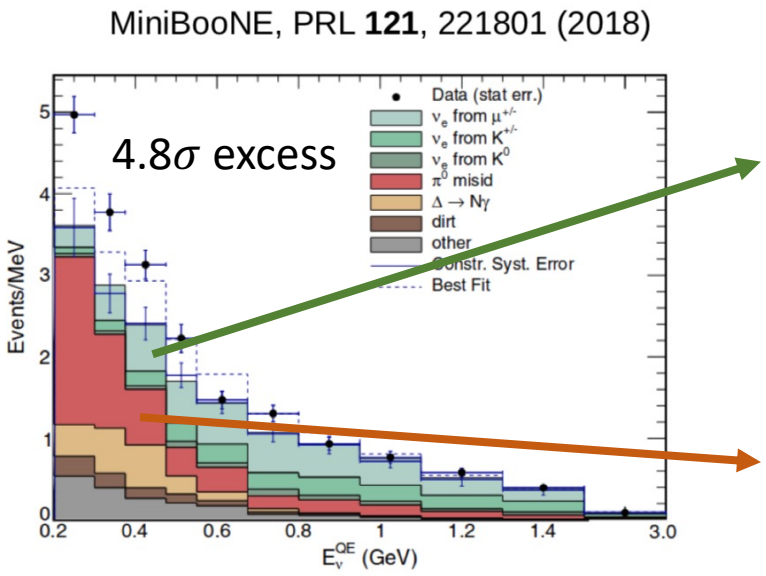


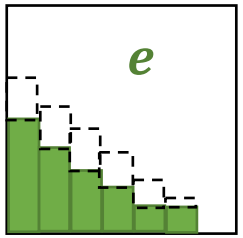


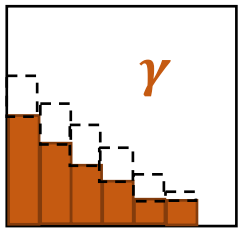
MicroBooNE

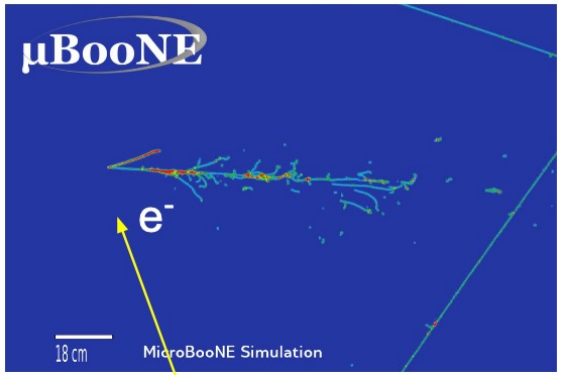
- Liquid Ar Time Projection Chamber (LArTPC)
- Located right upstream of MiniBooNE, same beamline -> same L/E as MiniBooNE

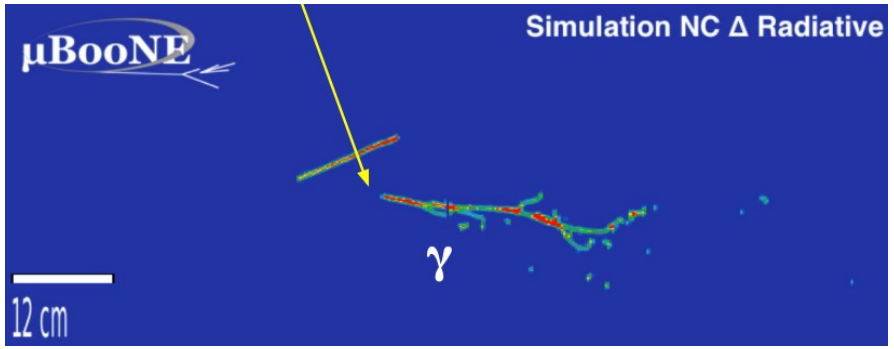
MicroBooNE's LArTPC going after LEE





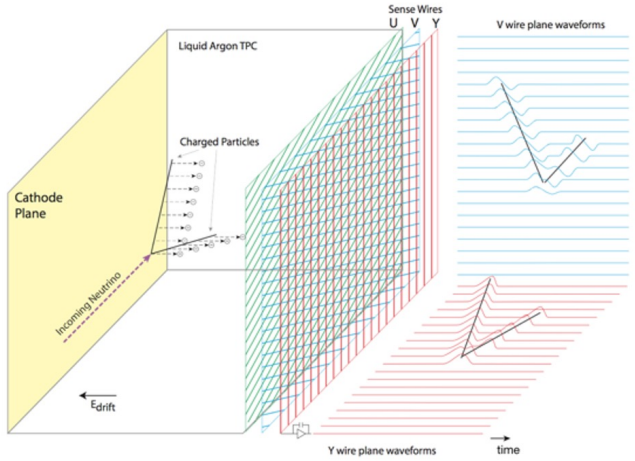






Two handles for e^- /γ separtion

- Gap between shower start and vertex
- 2MIP Vs 1 MIP for shower dE/dx



MicroBooNE

- Liquid Ar Time Projection Chamber (LArTPC)
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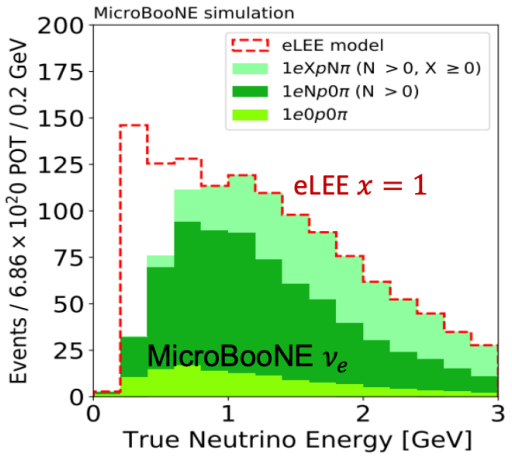
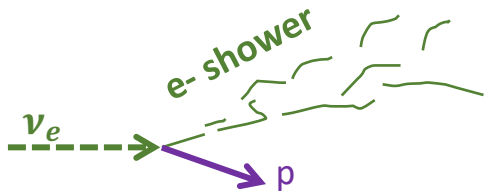
MicroBooNE's signature LEE analyses search for excess events in electron and photon channel

1st round of electron LEE search

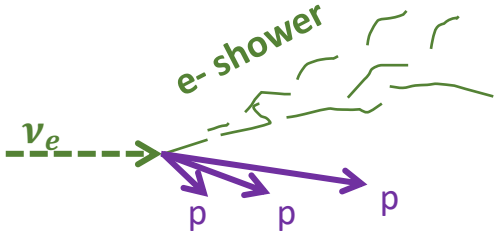
Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 241801 (2022)

Empirical eLEE model derived from MiniBooNE

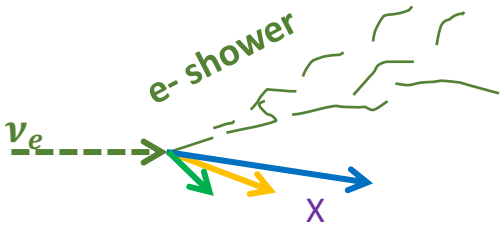




Deep Learning
Simple topology
Simpler E_ν reco (CCQE)
Lower backgrounds



Pandora
Larger signal stat.
Less model dependency
MiniBooNE topology

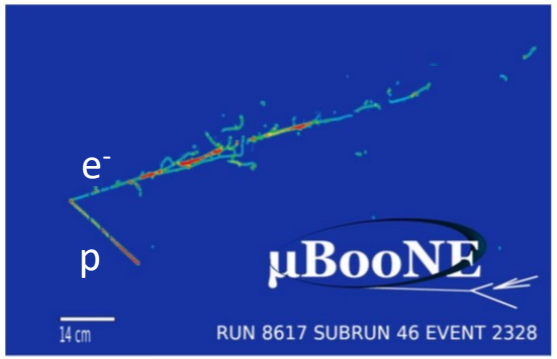


Wirecell
Inclusive -> sensitive
Less model dependency
Most useful for DUNE

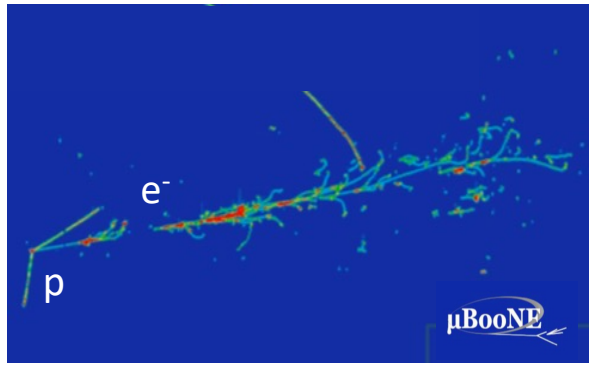
Search for excess events from intrinsic beam ν_e

Three separate analyses focusing on different final state topologies

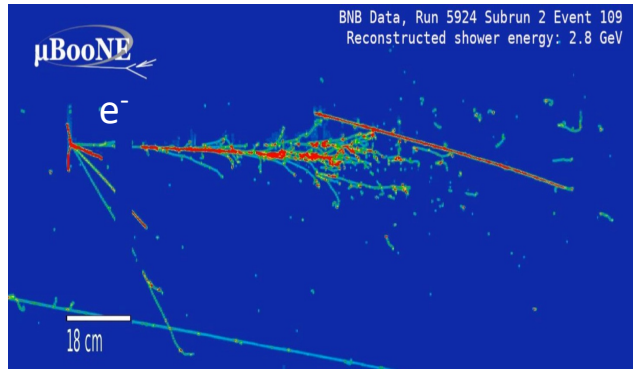
1e1p candidate



1eNp candidate

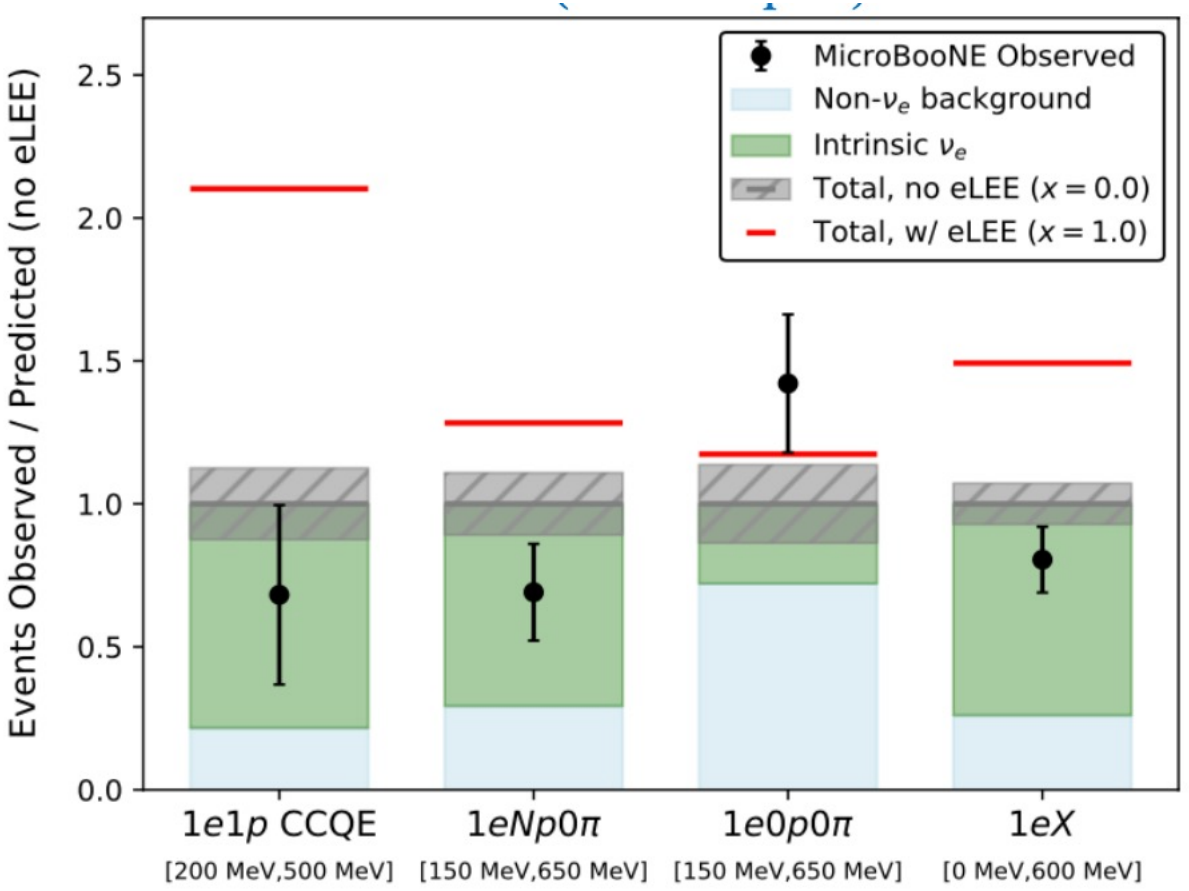


1eX candidate



Electron LEE search result

Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 241801 (2022)



No significant excess in the ν_e channel!

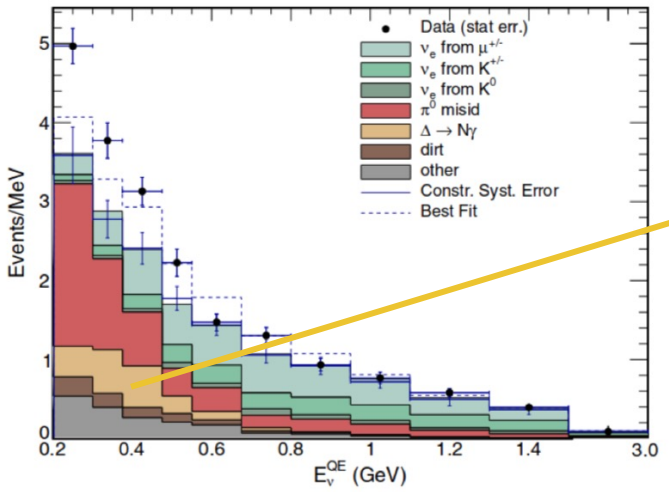
Observed ν_e rates are **consistent** with the predicted background in the low energy region:

- Slight data deficit overall
- 1e0p background dominated

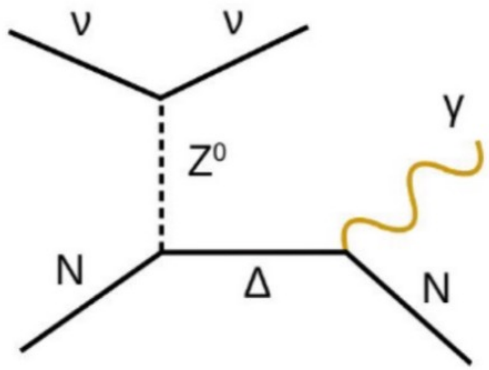
The hypothesis that ν_e events are fully responsible for the median MiniBooNE-LEE is rejected at 97% C.L; (>3σ in the inclusive channel)

1st round of photon LEE search: Δ radiative decay

MiniBooNE, PRL **121**, 221801 (2018)

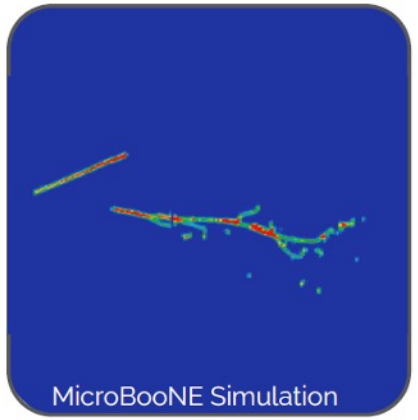


NC $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$

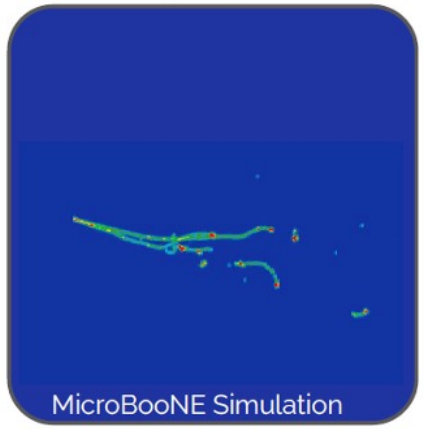


A flat x3.18 enhancement of the SM rate would match the MiniBooNE LEE

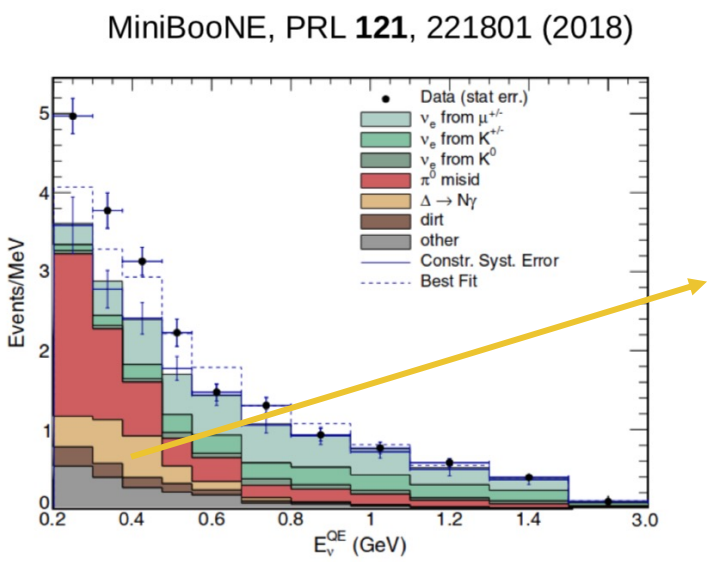
$1\gamma 1p$



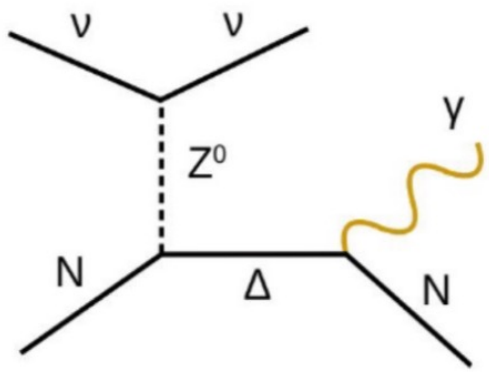
$1\gamma 0p$



1st round of photon LEE search: Δ radiative decay



NC $\Delta\rightarrow N\gamma$



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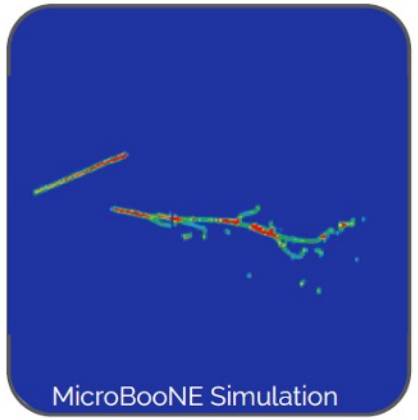
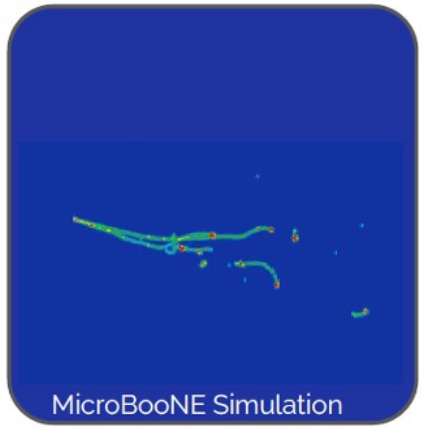
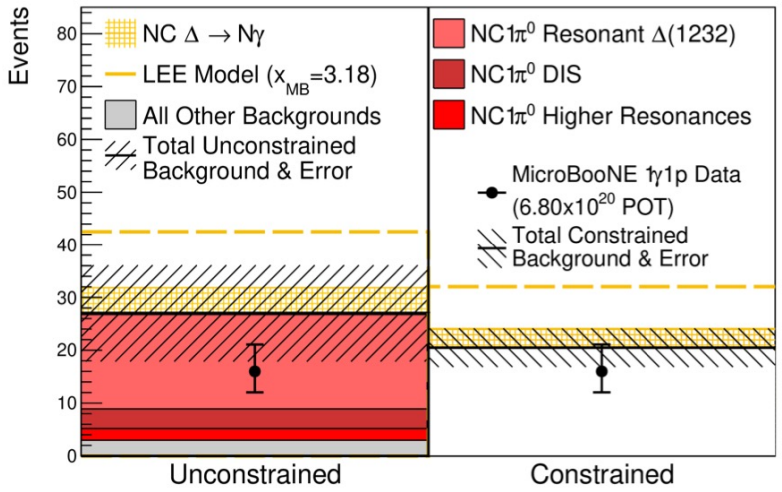
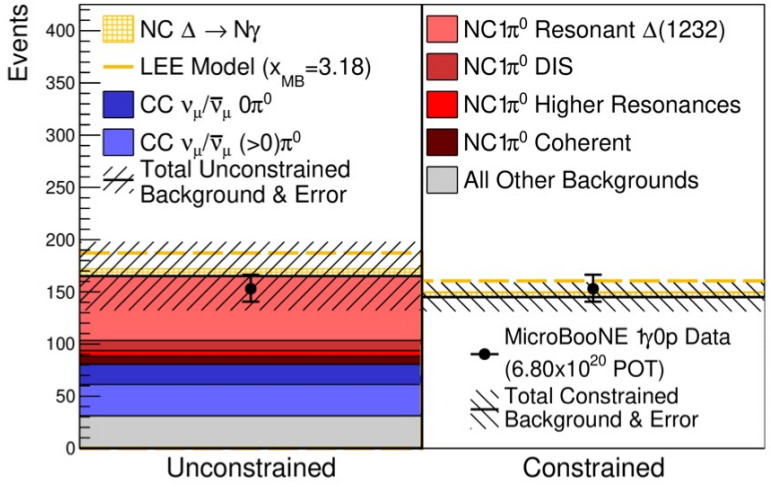


1γ0p







Result

- Observed **no data excess** in both NC $\Delta\rightarrow N\gamma$ signal channels
- Reject 3x NC$\Delta\rightarrow N\gamma$ rate at 95% C.L.
- 50-fold improvement over previous T2K limit in the sub-GeV neutrino range.

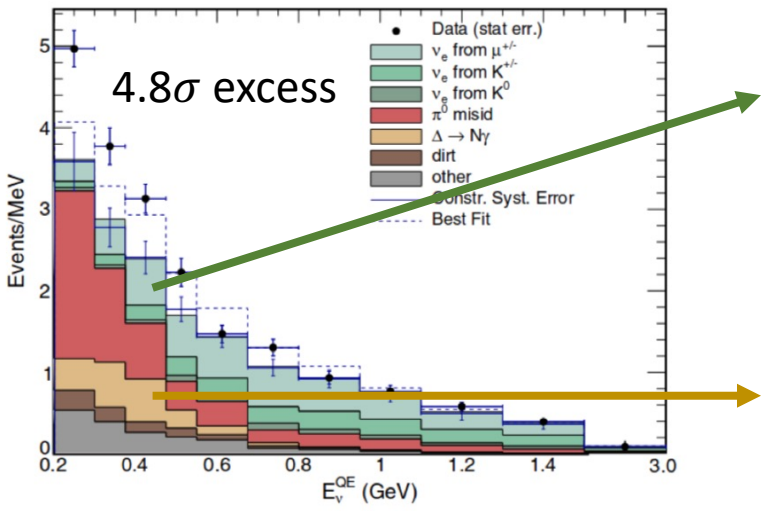
Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 111801 (2022)

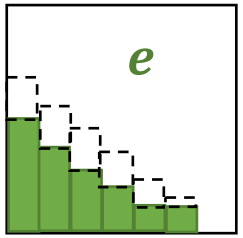
Summary of 1st round of MicroBooNE LEE results:

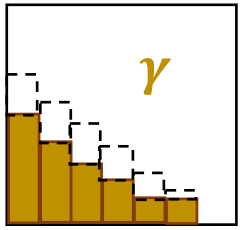
No excess:

- in the electron channel
- only investigated in the **NC $\Delta\rightarrow N\gamma$** channel

MiniBooNE, PRL **121**, 221801 (2018)







?

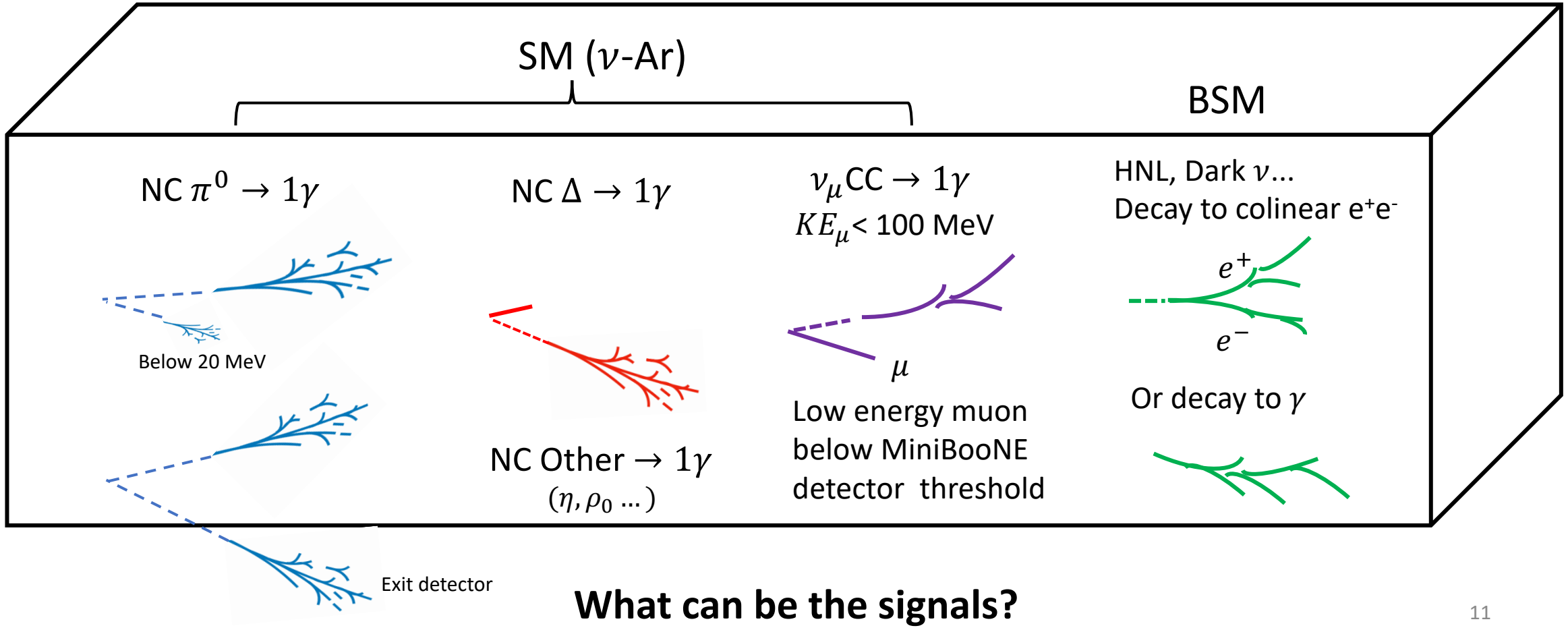
To address if MicroBooNE sees any excess in the **photon** channel

New round of Photon LEE analyses

- **Inclusive single photon**
- Exclusive channels
  - Extended NC $\Delta\rightarrow N\gamma$
  - NC Coherent
  - BSM decay to e^+e^- and γ

Inclusive photon LEE – signal definition

Model-independent approach: select an inclusive set of photon events that can enter the MiniBooNE LEE plot. -> Final states: One γ-like shower + anything.

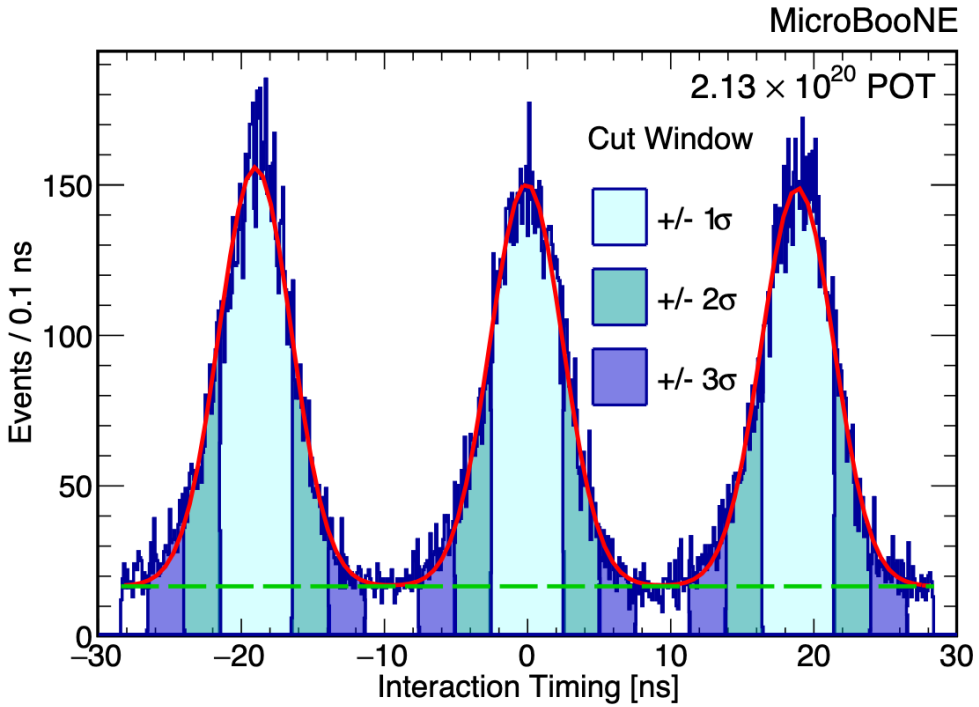


What can be the signals?

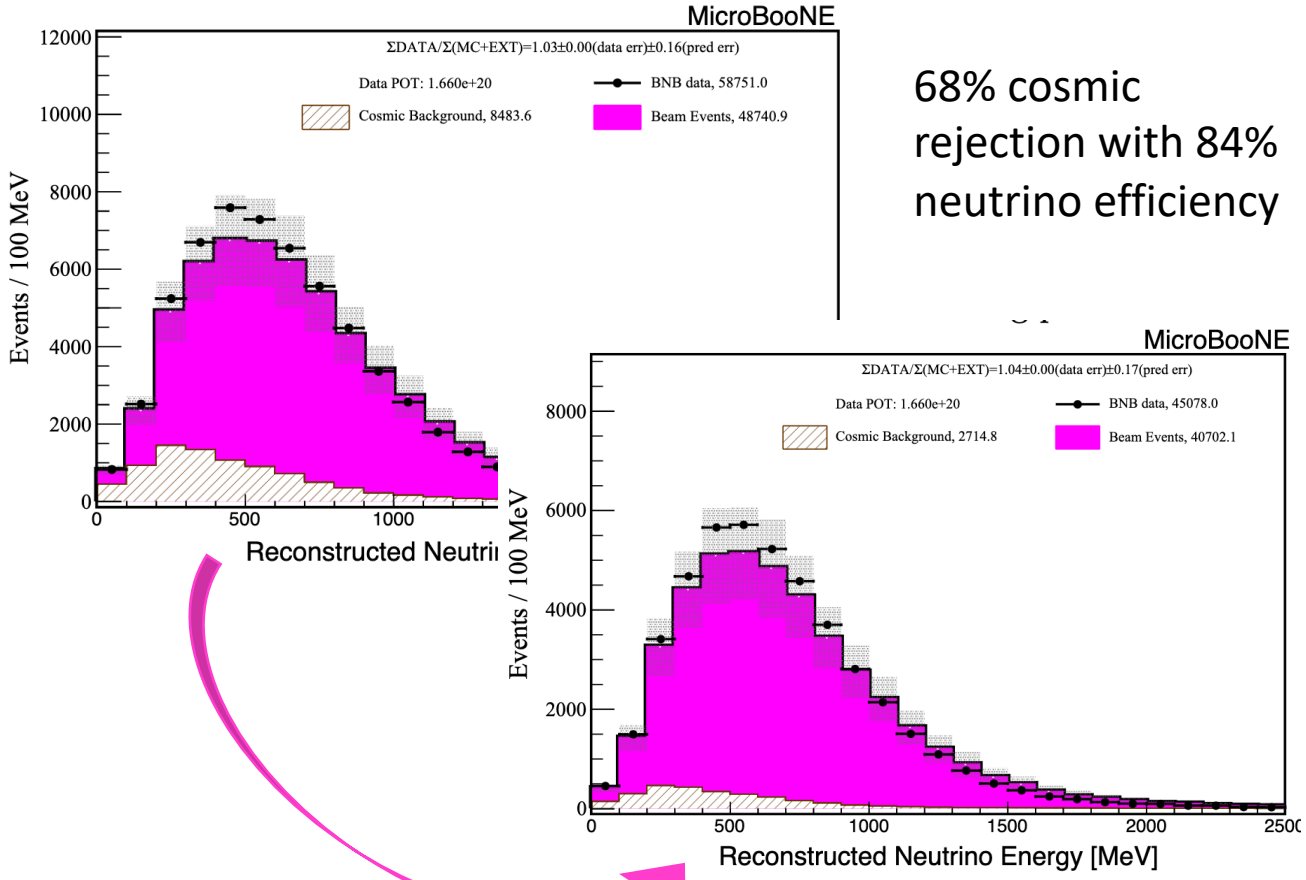
Inclusive photon LEE – event selection

Phys. Rev. D 108, 052010

First step is **cosmic rejection**: Innovative use of O(1 ns) timing for cosmic rejection. (First-time application in any MicroBooNE physics analysis!)



Neutrinos “bunches” while cosmic uniform in time
Cut on interaction timing to remove cosmic.



68% cosmic rejection with 84% neutrino efficiency

Inclusive photon LEE – event selection

More challenging backgrounds than electron LEE

BDTS

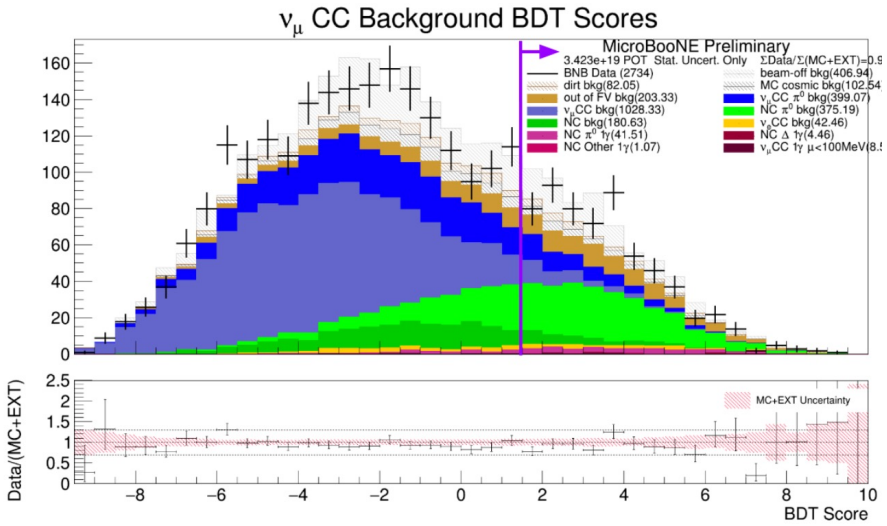
NumuCC
remove remaining numuCC non-signal (high energy muon, 0 or >1γ) events

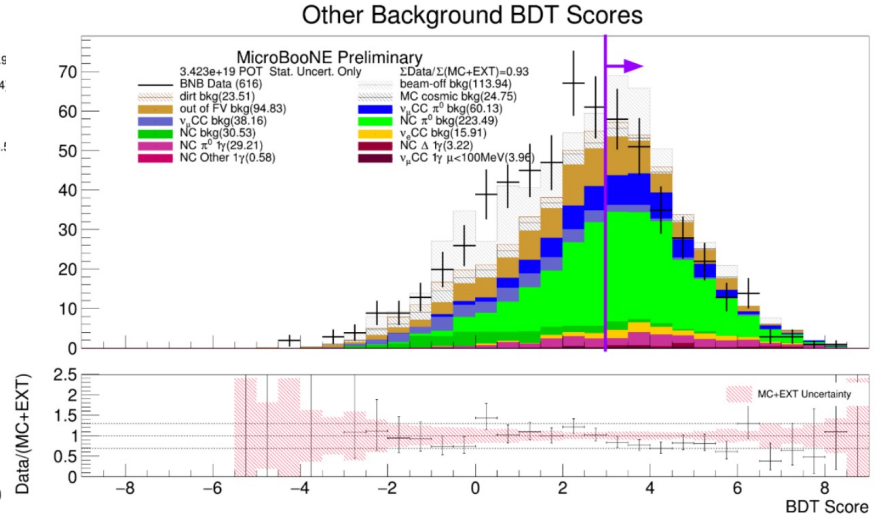
Other
remove remaining smaller/less problematic backgrounds

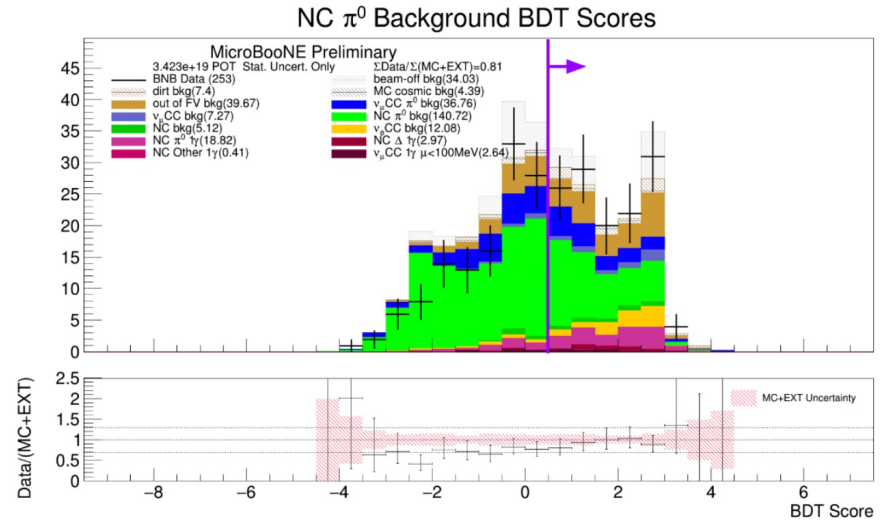
NC Pi0
remove NC Pi0 non-signal (2γ) events

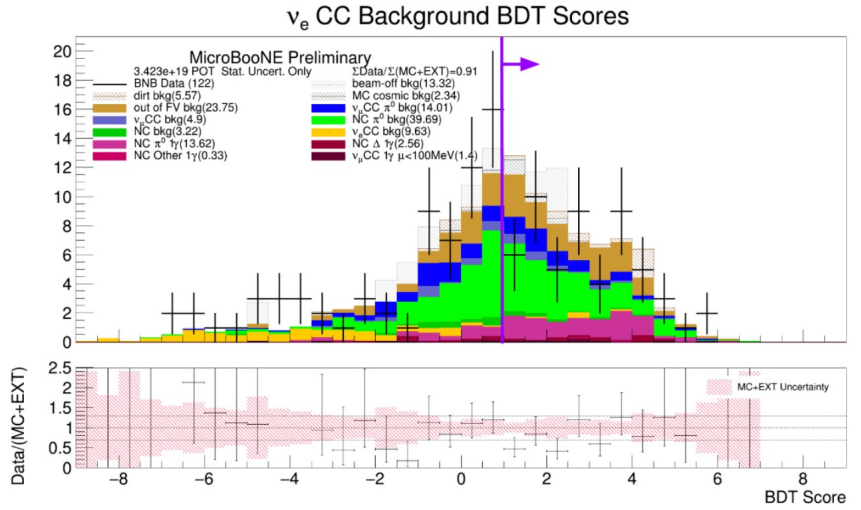
NueCC
remove nueCC events

BDT- based selection focusing on background rejection





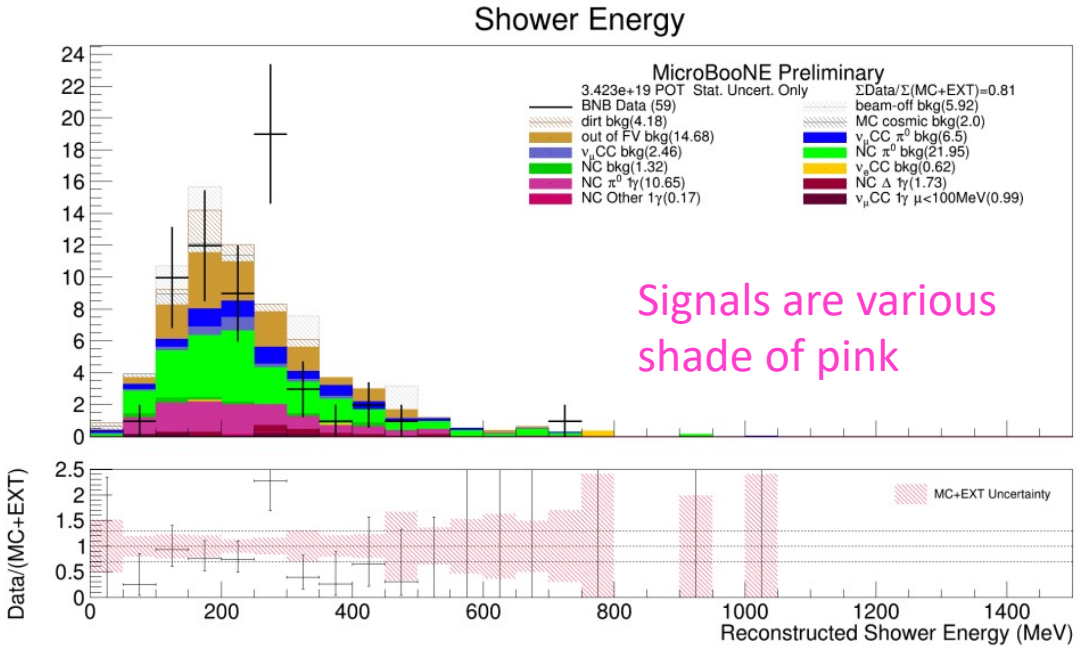




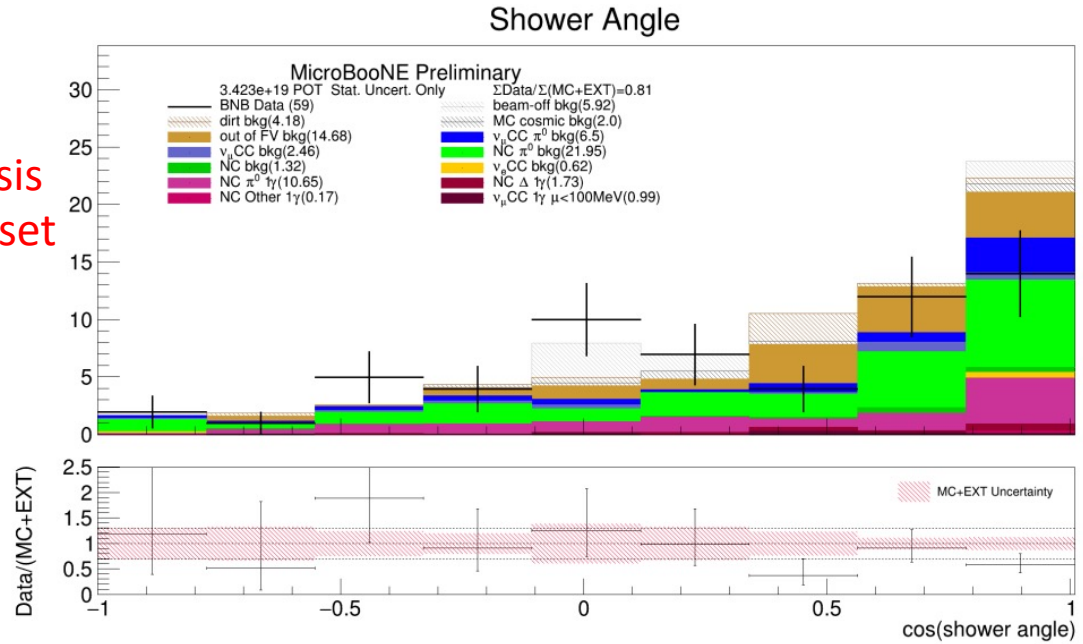
[MicroBooNE Pubic NOTE - 1102]

Inclusive photon LEE status

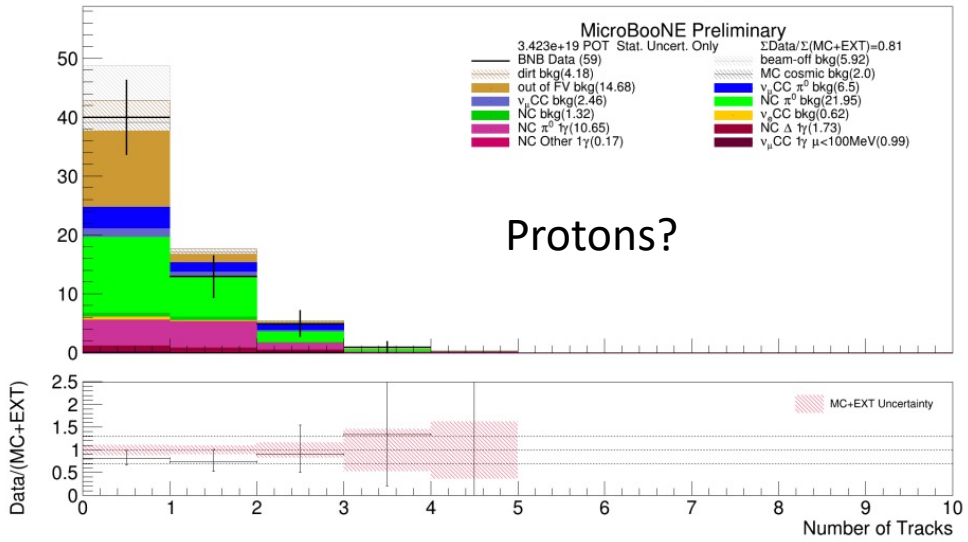
[MicroBooNE Pubic NOTE - 1102]



Blinded analysis
2% of full dataset
no syst. uncertainty



Number of tracks

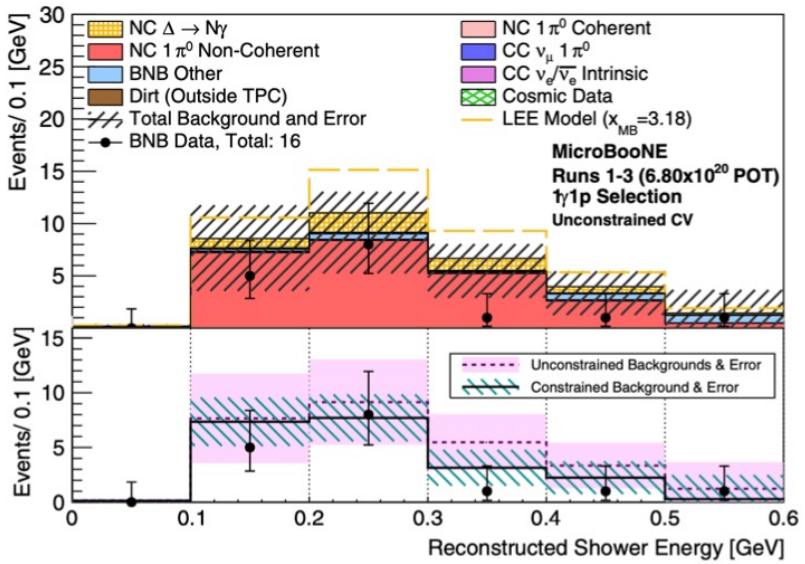


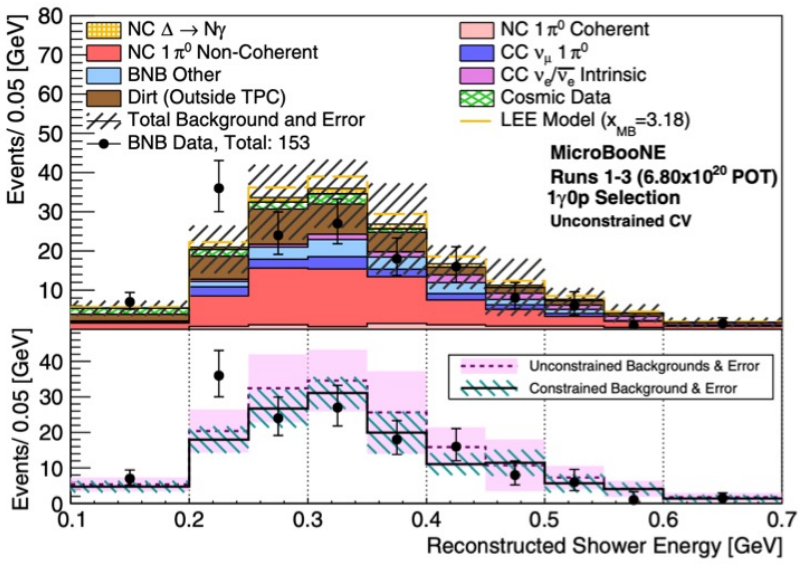
Besides shower energy and angle, MicroBooNE has the advantage of seeing **proton tracks**, providing more insight in case of excess in the photon channel.

Current status: Finalizing sideband validation and mock-data study. **Result coming soon!**

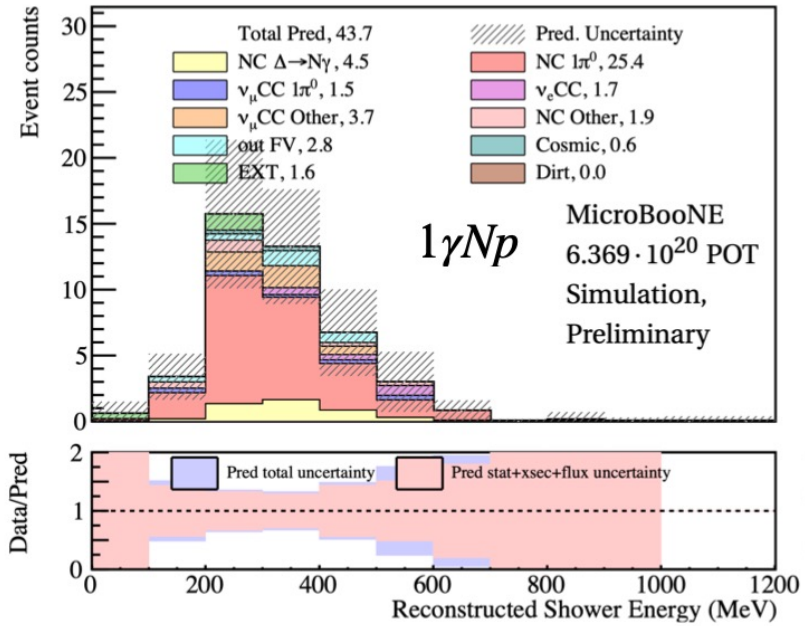
Exclusive photon LEE analysis: expanding NC$\Delta \rightarrow 1\gamma$

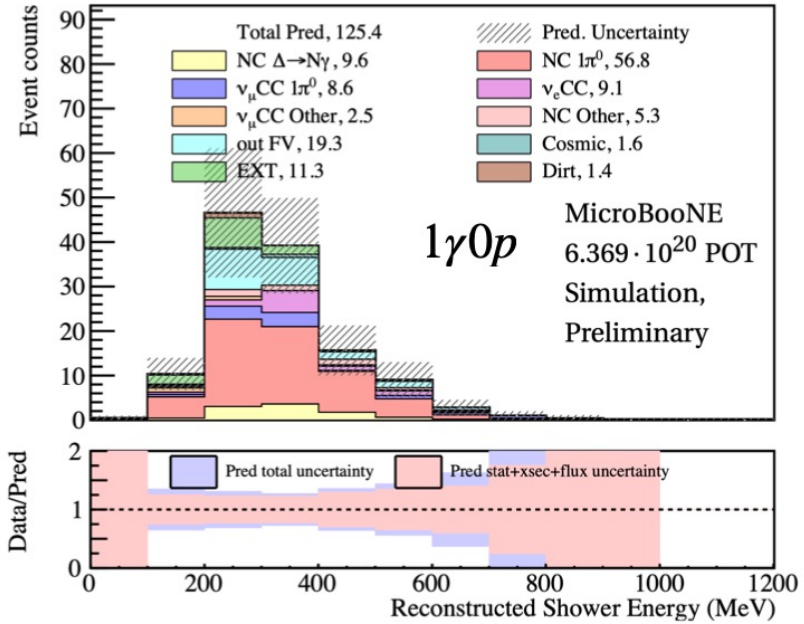
Selection from 1st round analysis





New Analysis





Different event reconstruction:
- Pandora 2D (old)
- Wirecell 3D (new)

Orthogonal selection:
- nearly double statistics.
- Expands 1γ1p to 1 γNp

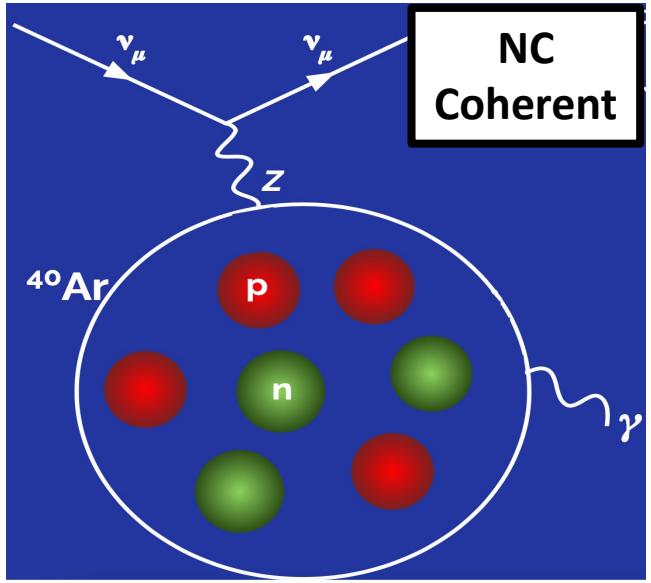
New analysis improves efficiency and purity in 1γ0p channel

Target two-dimensional search in 0p / Np topologies.

Result coming soon!
MicroBooNE Public Note 1104

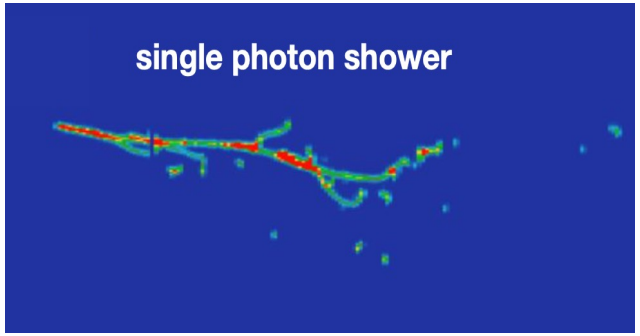
Exclusive photon LEE analysis: NC Coherent

[MicroBooNE Public Note 1103]

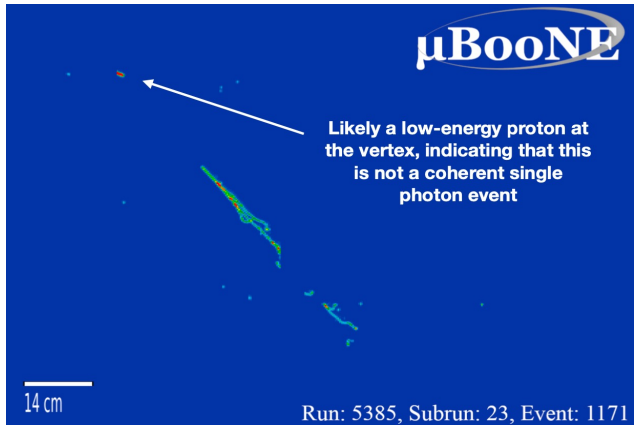


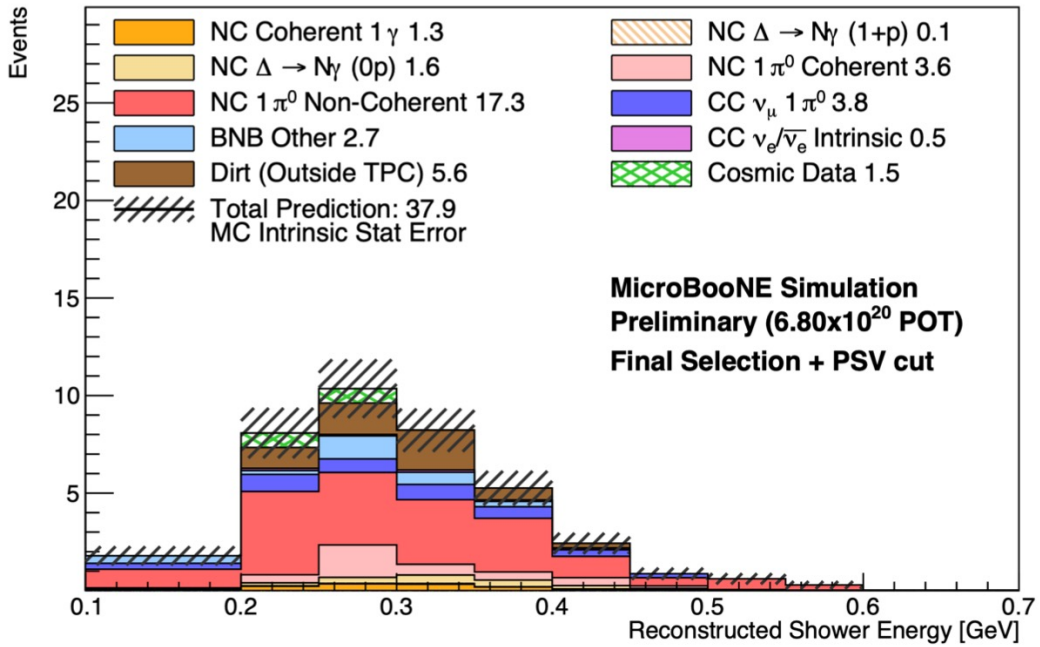
A very rare SM process
1/40 branching ratio
compared to NC $\Delta \rightarrow 1\gamma$

Event signature:
One low energy, forward going (beam direction) photon shower



Use published NC $\Delta 1\gamma$ selection
+ new tools to reject proton





Status: sideband study and mock-data test.

SM signature beyond sensitivity reach

Probe coherent LEE explanations more generally

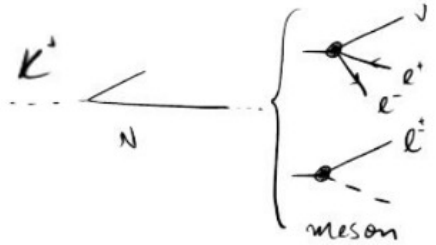
Result coming soon...

Exclusive photon LEE analyses – e^+e^- from BSM

Numerous BSM particles decay to e+e-. The predicted colinear electron pair can look like single photon, entering MiniBooNE's LEE

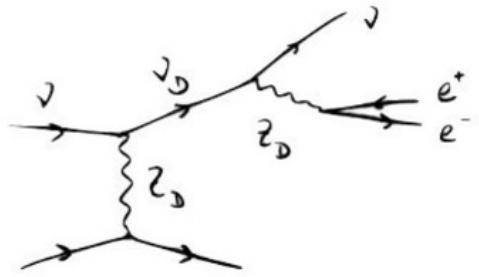
Inclusive photon LEE selection can be used as the pre-selection for this exclusive final state.

Heavy Neutral Leptons



Ballett Pascoli Ross-Lonergan JHEP 2017
Kelly Machado PRD 2021

Dark Neutrinos



Bertuzzo Jana Machado Zukanovich PRL 2018, PLB 2019
Arguelles Hostert Tsai PRL 2019
Ballett Pascoli Ross-Lonergan PRD 2019
Ballett Hostert Pascoli PRD 2020

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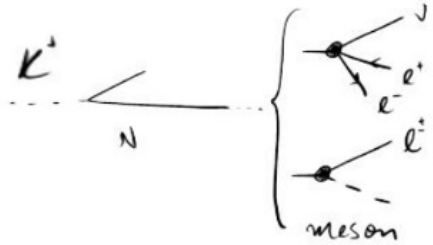

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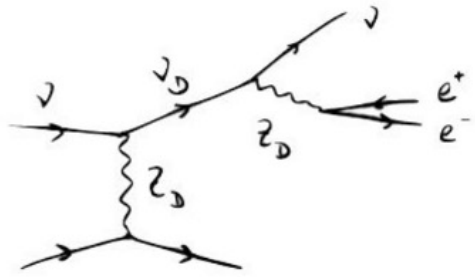

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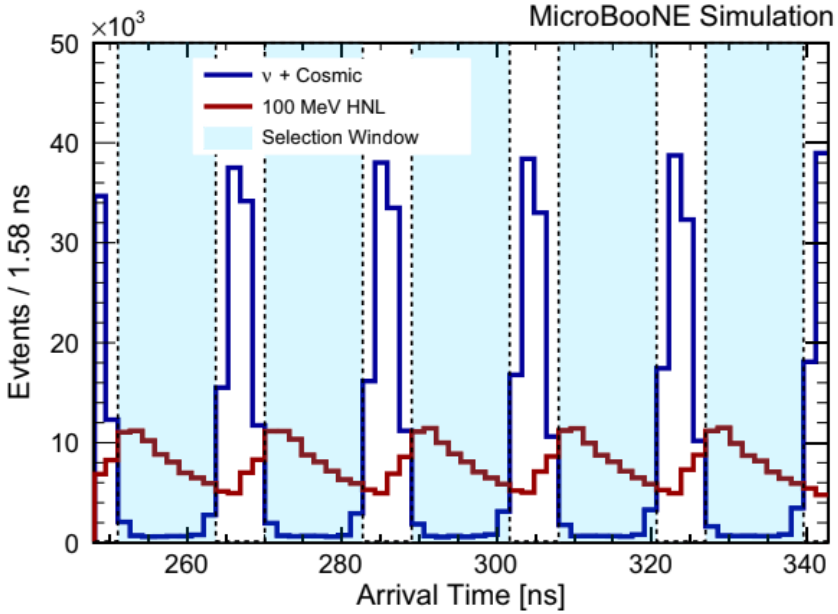
Phys. Rev. D 108, 052010



Delayed arrival of heavy BSM particle Vs. prompt neutrinos.

Time-of-flight offers a powerful handle for **rejecting SM neutrino background**.

Details see Dante Totani's talk on Tuesday afternoon session

Several ongoing BSM searches in MicroBooNE focus on e^+e^- final states. e.g arxiv:2310.07660

These analyses will also help provide constraints to photon LEE analysis

Summary

- MicroBooNE's 1st round LEE result showed no excess in the electron channel -> **photon LEE search** in high stake to address MiniBooNE's LEE anomaly

- Several ongoing analyses searching for excess in the photon channel

  - Model-independent with **inclusive single photon**: 1 γ + anything else

  - Exclusive photon: Updated NC$\Delta 1\gamma$ (SM), NC Coherent (SM), Dark neutrino induced e^+e^- (BSM)

- Stay tuned for new round of MicroBooNE result featuring LEE search in the photon channels!

Thank you!

Backup

MicroBooNE's powerful PID with LArTPC