



Liquid Argon Time Projection Chambers for Neutrino Physics

Mitch Soderberg Syracuse University / Fermilab







- Brief Overview of Neutrinos
 - Liquid Argon Detectors for Neutrino Physics
 - The ArgoNeuT Project
 - MicroBooNE, and beyond



• In the Standard Model **neutrinos** are neutral massless leptons that only interact via the Weak force.

- Three generations (or flavors) of neutrinos with similar properties.
- All three flavors of neutrino have been observed.
- Neutrinos are very elusive, making experimental inquiry a tough job.



Fundamental Particles of the Standard Model

- In the late 1960s the number of neutrinos from the Sun was measured by Ray Davis and colleagues in the Homestake Mine to be $\sim 2/3$ lower than predicted.
 - This experiment was located deep underground so that only neutrinos could penetrate down through the rock
 This deficit of neutrinos was referred to as the "Solar Neutrino Problem"
- This was one of the first hints of what we now know as neutrino oscillations.

Half-life of 35 days.



 $p^+ + p^+ \rightarrow {}^2H + e^+ + \nu_e$ Solar Fusion



- The relation between neutrino flavor and mass states is parameterized by a mixing matrix, U.
- Probability for a neutrino to oscillate flavors is dependent on:
 - The length (L) over which the neutrino travels before detection.
 - The energy (E) of the neutrino
 - The square of the mass-splitting (Δm^2) between neutrino mass states.
 - A rotation angle from the mass to flavor states (θ)
- A neutrino that's initially 100% muon neutrino can evolve into an electron neutrino.



• We know there are three active flavors of neutrinos, three corresponding mixing angles, two independent mass splittings, and one phase.

There is also a matrix that depends on Majorana nature of neutrino...doesn't impact oscillation probabilities.



Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata (PMNS) Mixing Matrix:

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta_{23}) & \sin(\theta_{23}) \\ 0 & -\sin(\theta_{23}) & \cos(\theta_{23}) \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta_{13}) & 0 & \sin(\theta_{13})e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin(\theta_{13})e^{i\delta} & 0 & \cos(\theta_{13}) \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta_{12}) & \sin(\theta_{12}) & 0 \\ -\sin(\theta_{12}) & \cos(\theta_{12}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Mixing angles and mass splittings have all been measured
- $\Sigma m < 0.3 \text{ eV}$ (total mass of the 3 generations of neutrino)
- Don't yet know the value of the CP phase, or the ordering of the mass states.



Refs: 1.) *New Physics from Flavor*, S. Stone, ICHEP 2012 Conference Proceedings

Some Neutrino Physics Goals

- Measure the CP-violating phase, δ_{CP} (Could this explain matter/antimatter asymmetry of universe?)
- Determine Mass Hierarchy:



Intense neutrino beam and <u>massive</u> detector with good background rejection required for much of this physics....

• To study neutrino oscillations we need:

A source (many different types available...intensity is important)

Big Detectors (to accumulate sizeable statistics...interaction cross-sections are small)

Good understanding of signal vs. background



Nuclear Reactors



Astrophysical (SuperNova/Big Bang)



Cosmic Ray Showers



The Earth (Radioactive Elements)



The Sun



Accelerators

• Accelerator neutrino experiments look for oscillations by studying the data observed when a very pure beam of muon neutrinos is aimed at a far detector:

"appearance" - Do we see an excess of electron neutrino events?

"disappearance" - Do we see a deficit of muon neutrino events?

• Charged-Current interactions are the "signal" events that allow the neutrino flavor to be identified, via identification of the charged lepton flavor.



- Background processes can confuse a measurement.
- There are background processes in appearance and disappearance analyses.
 Example: Neutral Current (NC π^o) events where a π^o is produced can fake CC ν_e if one of the gammas from the π^o decay get misidentified as an electron.



"appearance" signal

"appearance" background

• Energy range of current/future accelerator neutrino oscillation experiments is in the range where both signal and background processes are relevant.

• Improved cross-section measurements, and increased background rejection would greatly benefit future oscillation experiments.

• Comparisons of theoretical predictions and experimental measurements of these processes is a topic of considerable interest.



 ν_{μ} charged-current cross-sections

Neutrino Detectors

Cerenkov Detectors.

•Particles traversing medium faster than light emit Cerenkov light at a characteristic angle.

- •Cerenkov light collected and produces signals on PhotoMultiplier Tubes (PMTs)
 - Muons: straight trajectories lead to crisp rings
 - Electrons: showering and multiple scattering produce fuzzy rings
 - ▶ π° s: decay into two gammas, which each appear as electron-like rings



Neutrino Detectors

Scintillator Tracking detectors:

- Use scintillator distributed throughout detector that produces light when particles pass through.
- Collect scintillator light via fiber optic readout that connects to a PMT.
- Reconstruct event in 3D by merging information from alternate coordinate views.



Neutrino Detectors

We already are thinking about the next generation of experiments...

- In order to improve sensitivity by reducing backgrounds and improving resolution, would love to have a neutrino detector with the image quality of a bubble-chamber, and a few modern upgrades:
- 1.) Scalable
- 2.) Not infinitely expensive
- 3.) Fast electronic readout



Fermilab 15-foot Bubble Chamber

Are there any modern bubble-chambers? Yes! Liquid-Argon Detectors

Liquid Argon Neutrino Detectors

- Ionization produced in neutrino interactions is drifted along E-field to finely segmented wireplanes.
- Timing of wire pulse information is combined with known drift speed to determine drift-direction coordinate.
- Calorimetry information is extracted from wire pulse characteristics.
- Abundant scintillation light, which LAr is transparent to, also available for collection and triggering.



Refs:

Liquid-argon ionization chambers as total-absorption detectors, W. Willis and V. Radeka, Nuclear Instruments and Methods 120 (1974), no. 2, 221-236.
 The Liquid-argon time projection chamber: a new concept for Neutrino Detector, C. Rubbia, CERN-EP/77-08 (1977)

Liquid Argon Neutrino Detectors



Neutrino Interaction in ArgoNeuT

Pixel size: 4mm x 0.3mm ~96cm **Color is proportional to** amount of charge collected

18

~47cm

~47cm

Why Noble Liquids for Neutrinos?

- Abundant ionization electrons and scintillation light can both be used for detection.
- If liquids are highly purified (<0.1ppb), ionization can be drifted over long distances.
- Excellent dielectric properties accommodate very large voltages.
- Argon is relatively cheap and easy to obtain (1% of atmosphere).
- Noble liquids are dense, so they make a good target for neutrinos.
- Drawbacks?...no free protons...nuclear effects.

	6	Ne	Ar	KP	Xe	Water
Boiling Point [K] @ Iatm	4.2	27.1	87.3	120.0	165.0	373
Density [g/cm ³]	0.125	1.2	1.4	2.4	3.0	I
Radiation Length [cm]	755.2	24.0	14.0	4.9	2.8	36.1
dE/dx [MeV/cm]	0.24	1.4	2.1	3.0	3.8	1.9
Scintillation [γ/MeV]	19,000	30,000	40,000	25,000	42,000	
Scintillation λ [nm]	80	78	128	150	175	
Price [\$/Liter]	~ 0	~100	~	~300	~3000	~

Liquid Argon Properties



Liquid Argon Properties



take 1.6ms.

Advantages of LAr TPCs

excellent e/γ separation \rightarrow superior background rejection

- Particle identification comes primarily from dE/dx (energy deposited) along track.
 - Millimeter wire spacing plus appropriate sampling provides fine-grained resolution
- ν_e appearance: Excellent signal (CC ν_e) efficiency and background (NC π⁰) rejection
 Topological cuts will also improve signal/background separation
- Appear scalable to large sizes.
- •Beautiful, bubble-chamber like events!



LAr Worldwide

Completed/Ongoing/Potential/Proposed/Suggested LAr Projects, separated by location of the detectors.

<u>US</u>

Materials Test Stand ArgoNeuT Liquid Argon Purity Demonstrator MicroBooNE LBNE 1 kTon LArTPC Test-Beam @ FNAL (LArIAT) Test-Beam @ Los Alamos (CAPTAIN) GLADE RADAR

Europe

3-ton prototype 50-liter @ CERN 10m³ ICARUS LArTPC in B-Field LANDD @ CERN ArgonTube @ Bern UV Laser GLACIER/LAGUNA Double-LAr @ CERN-PS

<u>Japan</u>

Test-Beam (T32) at J-PARC 100 kTon @ Okinoshima island

Message is that majority of these ideas are <5 years old, demonstrating growing interest.

*LAr also pursued for Dark Matter: DarkSide, ArDM, DEAP/CLEAN, WARP, Depleted Argon, ...

Recent/Future LAr Activity in the U.S.

Materials/Electronics Test Stand



Refs:

I.) A Regnerable Filter for Liquid Argon Purification Curioni et al, NIM A605:306-311 (2009)

2.) A system to test the effect of materials on electron drift lifetime in liquid argon and the effect of water Andrews et al, NIM A608:251-258 (2009)

Recent/Future LAr Activity in the U.S.

Volume of LAr TPC Detectors with Time



Russ Rucínskí, TIPP 2011



The ArgoNeuT Project

- ArgoNeuT deployed a ~175 liter LArTPC in Fermilab NuMI neutrino beam.
- Located upstream of MINOS near detector, which provides muon reconstruction and sign selection.
- Collected 1.35×10²⁰ Protons on Target (POT), predominantly in antineutrino mode.



NuMI Beam at Fermilab

Cryostat Volume	500 Liters	
TPC Volume	175 Liters (90cm x 40cm x 47.5cm)	
# Electronic Channels	480	
Electronics Style (Temp.)	JFET (293 K)	
Wire Pitch (Plane Separation)	4 mm (4 mm)	
Electric Field	500 V/cm	
Max. Drift Length (Time)	0.5 m (330 μs)	
Wire Properties	0.15mm diameter BeCu	



ArgoNeuT in the NuMI Tunnel

Refs:

1.) The ArgoNeuT detector in the NuMI low-energy beam line at Fermilab, C. Anderson et al., JINST 7 P10019, Oct. 2012, arXiv:1205.6747

The ArgoNeuT Project



Neutrino Interaction in ArgoNeuT





ArgoNeuT: Physe

+Data (w/ stat. and total error)

GENIE expectation







anti-neutrino mode run

- ArgoNeuT has highlighted need to consider nuclear effects (e.g. Multinucleon Correlations, final-state activity) when analyzing LArTPCs.
 Repeat of CC-Inclusive analysis in antineutrino mode.
- Papers in progress. μ^{-} ArgoNeuT Preliminary, 1.2e20 POT μ^{-} ArgoNe Ψ^{-} ArgoNeuT Preliminary, 1.2e20 POT μ^{-} ArgoNe Ψ^{-} O.16 Ψ^{-} O.16 Ψ^{-} O.16 Ψ^{-} O.17 Ψ^{-} O.18







anti-neutrino mode run



Refs:

1.) *Exclusive Topologies reconstruction in LAr-TPC experiments: a Novel Approach for precise Neutrino-Nucleus Cross-Sections Measurements,* O. Palamara, K. Partyka, F. Cavanna, arXiv:1309.7480 2.) *New Results from ArgoNeuT*, T. Yang, NuFACT2013, hep-ex/1311.2096

The MicroBooNE Experiment

- MicroBooNE will operate in the Booster neutrino beam at Fermilab starting in 2014.
- Combines physics with hardware R&D necessary for the evolution of LArTPCs.
 - MiniBooNE low-energy excess
 - Low-Energy (<1 GeV) neutrino cross-sections
 - Cold Electronics (preamplifiers in liquid)
 - Long drift (2.5m)
 - Purity without evacuation.





MicroBooNE Physics

• Address the MiniBooNE low energy excess

MiniBoone is a Cerenkov detector that looked for v_e appearance from a beam of v_{μ}

Does MicroBooNE confirm the excess?

Is the excess due to a electron-like or gamma-like process?

- Prove effectiveness of electron/gamma separation technique (using dE/dX information).
- Low Energy Cross-Section Measurements (CCQE, NC π^{0} , $\Delta \rightarrow N\gamma$, Photonuclear, ...)
- Continue development of automated reconstruction (building on ArgoNeuT's effort).



MiniBooNE v_e Appearance Result

Refs:

1.) Unexplained Excess of Electron-Like Events From a 1-GeV Neutrino Beam MiniBooNE Collaboration, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 101802 (2009)

MicroBooNE: TPC Detector

Cryostat Volume	150 Tons	
TPC Volume (l x w x h)	89 Tons (10.4m x 2.5m x 2.3m)	
# Electronic Channels	8256	
Electronics Style (Temp.)	CMOS (87 K)	
Wire Pitch (Plane Separation)	3 mm (3mm)	
Max. Drift Length (Time)	2.5m (1.5ms)	
Wire Properties	0.15mm diameter SS, Cu/Au plated	
Light Collection	30 8" Hamamatsu PMTs	



MicroBooNE TPC (Nov. 2013)





MicroBooNE: Cold Electronics

- CMOS preamplifiers located in liquid, attached to TPC, to minimize noise.
- 12-bit ADCs sampled at 2MHz (i.e. 500ns per sample) for <u>4.8ms (x3 drift window)</u>.
- Several hour data buffering for Supernova analysis (triggered by receipt of alert signal from SNEWS).



Refs:

1.) Readout Electronics Design Considerations for LAr TPC, H. Chen, ANT2013 Conference

MicroBooNE: Light Collection

- 30 8" Hamamatsu (R5912-02mod) cryogenic PMTs facing into the TPC volume.
- Tetraphenyl Butadiene coated plate in front of PMT to shift wavelength of UV scintillation light.
- PMTs are essential in disentangling out-of-time cosmic tracks from in-time neutrino interactions.



Plate (that will be) coated with wavelength shifter



PMT System Installed in Cryostat (Sept. 2013).

PMT Assembly

MicroBooNE: Status



All detectors installed...finalizing a few things before sealing up.

MicroBooNE: Status

- We will move sealed-up detector over to new LArTF enclosure in Spring 2014.
- Commissioning begins in summer of 2014.
- Cryogenic recirculation system already installed and being tested prior to arrival of cryostat.



Rendering of cryostat + "hair" in LArTF

Liquid Argon Test Facility (LArTF)

LAr Purity R&D @ Fermilab

- LBNE pursuing membrane cryostats, using experience from industry.
- Built 35-ton membrane cryostat to demonstrate liquid purity without initial evacuation as has previously been demonstrated by Liquid Argon Purity Demonstrator (LAPD) in a "traditional" cryostat.





LAPD (30-ton cryostat)



35-ton Membrane Cryostat



Membrane Cryostat for industrial LNG shipping

LAr Purity R&D @ Fermilab

- Argon gas acts like a piston, pushing atmosphere up and out of cryostat.
- Gas is cycled through cryostat until desired Oxygen concentration is reached.
- LAPD has routinely achieved LAr lifetimes >3 ms, (LBNE/MicroBooNE require ~1.5 ms)



LArIAT

- Dedicated test-beam exposure of LArTPC to charged-particles in appropriate energy regime will provide invaluable calibration information to feed into simulations.
- Liquid Argon In A Testbeam (LArIAT) experiment envisions two phases of running...initially with a small ArgoNeuT-sized detector (starting 2014), followed by a larger MicroBooNE scale detector.



Modified ArgoNeuT Cryostat

LAr1 + LAr1-ND

- Coupling a 1-kiloton "far detector" (LAr1) with existing MicroBooNE experiment would create fantastic short-baseline neutrino program at Fermilab.
- First phase is to install "near detector" (LAr1-ND) in vacant SciBooNE enclosure. Active volume of ~75 tons.

MicroBooNE (61ton fiducial)

LAr1

Leverage LBNE design work; provide beam test of the hardware.



LAr1-ND in SciBooNE Building

Refs:

1.) LAr1-ND: Testing Neutrino Anomalies with Multiple LArTPC Detectors at Fermilab, C. Adams et al., arXiv:1309.7987

LAr1 + LAr1-ND

Neutrino Oscillation Probability



Figure 18: Sensitivity to ν_{μ} disappearance with the full LAr1 experiment, a program of three LArTPC detectors on the Booster Neutrino Beamline at Fermilab (left). ν_{μ} disappearance probability at $E_{\nu} = 700$ MeV as a function of distance in a sterile neutrino model with $\Delta m^2 = 1 \text{ eV}^2$ and $\sin^2 2\theta_{\mu\mu} = 0.1$ (right). The vertical colored lines indicate the proposed locations of LAr1-ND, MicroBooNE and LAr1-FD.

μμ

- All of this technology development culminates in the multi-kiloton LBNE far-detector, which will use a LArTPC to search for CP violation, proton decay, supernova neutrinos, etc...
- Detector will be located underground at 4850 ft. level in the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF), in the path of an intense beam originating at Fermilab.
 - Reminder: this is the site of the original Ray Davis experiment!

Cryostat Volume	9400 tons (x2 = 18600 tons)	
TPC Volume (l x w x h)	5000 tons (x2 = 10000 tons)	
# Electronic Channels	~150k/cryostat (x2 = ~300k)	
Electronics Style (Temp.)	CMOS (87 K)	
Wire Pitch	~5 mm	
Max. Drift Length (Time)	2.3m (1.4ms)	
Light Collection	Acrylic bars with TPB	



1.) Scientific Opportunities with the Long-Baseline Neutrino Experiement, C. Adams et al., hep-ex/1307.7335

Refs:

Two separate membrane cryostats each with 9.4 kiloton volume.
TPC is formed by alternating rows of cathode (CPAs) and anode (APAs) assemblies that are hung from the ceiling of the cryostat.



- Massive storage of cryogenic liquids not such a crazy idea....ultra-high purity is the big unknown.
- Industrial companies use ocean liners to transport Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) since it's the most economical way (gas density is 1/600 of liquid) to move a large quantity of gas.
- LNG cooled to -162C (111 K)...almost as cold as LAr (87 K).
- "Membrane" cryostats are built piece-by-piece inside an enclosure. Small vacuum levels possible.



Q-Max LNG Carrier Capacity: 266,000m³



"Membrane" Interior

LBNE Physics



Figure 4–12: The expected spectrum of ν_e or $\overline{\nu}_e$ oscillation events in a 35-kt LArTPC for 5 years of neutrino (left) and anti-neutrino (right) running with a 708 kW, 80 GeV beam assuming $\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) = 0.09$. The plots on the top are for normal hierarchy and the plots on the bottom are for inverted hierarchy.

Software

- Extracting physics results from LArTPC data presents its own challenges that must be overcome and will require significant effort.
- Developing generators, simulation, reconstruction, etc... that <u>fully</u> encapsulate neutrino interactions in a LArTPC is a challenge that (in my opinion) rivals the hardware development. Deserves more attention than I'm giving it here.



^{1.)} https://cdcvs.fnal.gov/redmine/projects/larsoftsvn/wiki

Conclusions

- LArTPCs are powerful detectors for studying neutrinos.
- Tremendous progress in recent years in U.S. efforts to develop this technology. Growing interest, which is good since there is lots of work to be done.
- Next few years should be very exciting as experiments come online, and as development of kiloton-scale experiments continues.

Back-Up Slides

NuMI Beam



- •120GeV protons from Main Injector hit graphite target and produce pions, kaons.
- Charged mesons are focused by a pair of magnetic horns, then allowed to decay in flight.
- Absorber removes all but neutrinos.
- "Low Energy" horn configuration during ArgoNeuT's run.



- APAs are formed by wrapping angled wires around perimeter of frame. This allows readout all to come off the ends of the assembly, and helps to control the channel count.
- Light detection systems could be placed inside the APAs, minimizing their impact on active volume of LAr.





Prototype APA at University of Wisconsin

Physical Sciences Laboratory