Standard and Non-Standard Neutrino oscillations with NOvA

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- 1. Neutrino Oscillations and NOvA
- 2. Sterile neutrinos
- 3. Non-Standard Interactions
- 4. Bayesian Inference into the PMNS model

Neutrino Oscillations: what and why?

Neutrino oscillation physics



- Flavour eigenstates; ν_e , ν_μ and ν_τ (interact)
 - Mass eigenstates; ν₁, ν₂ and ν₃ (propagate)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_{e} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{atmospheric, beam}} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta_{CP}} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta_{CP}} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{reactor, beam}} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{solar, reactor}} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_{1} \\ \nu_{2} \\ \nu_{3} \end{pmatrix} \qquad s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij} \\ c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij} \\ \text{opera, NOvA, T2K} \\ \text{RENO, NOvA, T2K} \\ \text{Super-K, SNO, KamLAND} \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

Neutrino oscillation physics



- δ_{CP} : Charge-Parity violation in neutrino sector. Potential contribution to matter-antimatter asymmetry in the universe.
- Mass Ordering: Symmetries in neutrino physics, is ν_1 the lightest and ν_3 the heaviest? Has consequences for double-beta decay search.
- θ_{23} : Larger or smaller than 45? Important for $\nu_{\tau} \nu_{\mu}$ symmetries.
- Is the current PMNS parametrization the right approach?

NOvA Experiment



Neutrino oscillations with accelerators







- Beam of 120 GeV protons incident on carbon target.
- Focusing +ve or -ve mesons to obtain mostly ν_{μ} or $\bar{\nu}_{\mu}$.
 - Achieved by reversing the polarity of the magnetic horns.
- Neutrinos appear from the decaying mesons. 675 m decay pipe.

Focusing -ve mesons to get mostly $\bar{\nu}_{\mu}$ (Antineutrino mode)



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- Focusing +ve or -ve mesons to obtain mostly ν_{μ} or $\bar{\nu}_{\mu}$.
 - Achieved by reversing the polarity of the magnetic horns.
- Neutrinos appear from the decaying mesons. 675 m decay pipe.

NuMI Neutrino beamline



- Low background contamination in both neutrino and anti-neutrino mode.
- Collected 37×10^{20} protons-on-target. Thank you Fermilab!
- Recent power record: 893 kW!

NOvA Detectors



- Extruded cells filled with liquid scintillator, with 62% active volume.
- Wavelength-shifting fibre collects and transports light to Avalanche photodiode.
 - Each APD sees 32 NOvA cells.
- Cells with alternating horizontal & vertical planes for 3D reconstruction.
- Optimized for electron showers.

Event topologies



- Modern CNN techniques used to identify neutrino flavour.
- Learns features of different event topologies.
- Data-driven validations based on ND and FD control samples.
- Results in high purity samples.

Collected data



- Collected 37 \times 10^{20} protons-on-target up to date.
- Data up to early 2020 included in the analysis shown here.
 - 13.6×10^{20} in ν -beam mode.
 - 12.5×10^{20} in $\bar{\nu}$ -beam mode.



- ν_{μ} and $\bar{\nu}_{\mu}$ ND samples are used to correct the FD unoscillated predictions via extrapolation.
- We can then apply the $P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e})$ curve to the corrected predictions.
- The ν_e samples are used to correct the irreducible ν_e background in the beam at the FD.

Far detector data Muon neutrinos



- Observed: 211
- Best Fit Prediction: 222.3
- Background: 8.2



- Observed: 105
- Best Fit Prediction: 105.4
- Background: 2.1

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Far detector data Electron neutrinos



- Observed: 82
- Best Fit Prediction: 85.8
- Background: 26.8



- Observed: 33
- Best Fit Prediction: 33.2
- Background: 14

> 4 σ evidence of electron antineutrino appearance

Sterile Neutrinos

Sterile Neutrinos: 3+1

Anomalous neutrino event rates in the short-baseline experiments

- Could be explained with a non-interacting fourth flavour state.
- Manifest in NOvA through neutral-current and ν_{μ} charged-current interactions.
- ν_{μ} disappearance can occur in the near detector at large Δm^2_{41} .
- New near+far detector fitting framework to expand the reach in Δm_{41}^2 .



Neutrino Beam

NOvA Preliminary



Neutrino Beam

NOvA Preliminary



Neutrino Beam



- Profile Δm_{32}^2 , θ_{23} , θ_{34} , δ_{24} . Other PMNS parameters fixed at NuFit values.
- NOvA sees no evidence for sterile neutrinos.
- Competitive limits on θ_{24} at high Δm_{41}^2 .
- World-leading results for θ_{34} as a function of Δm^2_{41} .



90% C.L. corrected using profiled Feldman Cousins method.

• **Non-Standard Interactions** add a matter potential additional to the standard MSW to include anomalous neutrino interactions in matter.

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2E} \begin{bmatrix} U_{PMNS} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Delta_{21}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta_{31}^2 \end{pmatrix} U_{PMNS}^{\dagger} + a \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} + \epsilon_{ee} & \epsilon_{e\mu} & \epsilon_{e\tau} \\ \epsilon_{e\mu}^* & \epsilon_{\mu\mu} & \epsilon_{\mu\tau} \\ \epsilon_{e\tau}^* & \epsilon_{\mu\tau}^* & \epsilon_{\tau\tau} \end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\epsilon_{\alpha\beta} = |\epsilon_{\alpha\beta}| e^{\delta_{\alpha\beta}} \qquad \qquad a = 2\sqrt{2}G_F N_e E$$
(Wolfenstein matter potential)

- Real-valued, NSI-induced mass squared splittings (Not in this analysis)
- Complex, NSI-induced mixing angles (Fitting one parameter at a time)
- NOvA uses the 2020 dataset to probe the complex NSI mixing angles.

• Effect of the NSI phases on the $P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e})$ oscillations:



- NOvA's 810 km long baseline mean strong matter effects.
- The off-diagonal elements have the largest effect.
- Used $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu}$ and $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$ in both neutrino and anti-neutrino beam mode.



- Best-fit spectra with NSI consistent with standard oscillation results.
- $\Delta \chi^2$ improvement of ~0.65 with two NSI parameters.
- NSI not needed to explain NOvA results.





- Large NSI parameter values ruled out at 90% C.L.
- No evidence for NSI found at 90%C.L. either.
- What is the effect of non-zero NSI effect on standard PMNS parameters?



- $\epsilon_{e\nu}$ has a minimal effect on θ_{23} and Δm_{32}^2 constraints.
- Similar effect for $\epsilon_{e\tau}$.
- $\epsilon_{\mu\tau}$ has a more noticeable effect on this space.





- NSI largely reduce our sensitivity to CP violation due to the degeneracies with the complex NSI phases.
- Both $\epsilon_{e\mu}$ and $\epsilon_{e\tau}$ have a large effect on δ_{CP} .

Bayesian Inference into the PMNS model

NOvA Preliminary



- General conclusions the same as in the 2020 Frequentist analysis.
 - $\delta_{CP} = 1.5\pi$ outside of 2σ credible intervals (NO).
 - $\delta_{CP} = 0.5\pi$ outside of 3σ credible intervals (IO).
 - Prefer Upper Octant of θ_{23} .



Normal Ordering

Disappearance parameters' results



- Prefer upper octant and normal mass ordering.
- Neither preference is significant, below ${\sim}1\,\sigma.$
- Both interpreted as "not worth more than a bare mention" (Jeffreys and Raftery & Kass).

	N. Ordering	I. Ordering	
U. Octant	41.7%	20.9%	62.6%
L. Octant	25.8%	11.5%	37.4%
	67.5%	32.5%	

References: Jeffreys ISBN:9780191589676, Raftery & Kass doi:10.2307/2291091



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- $J = c_{12}c_{13}^2c_{23}s_{12}s_{13}s_{23}s_{CP}$
- Jarlskog-Invariant: measure of CP-violation independent of parametrization.
- Also used in the Quark sector
 - J=0: CP-Conservation. J \neq 0: CP-Violation
 - A prior flat in sin(δ_{CP}) provides data-only preference (upper half).
 - A prior flat in $\delta_{\rm CP}$ has a bias away from minimal CPV (lower half).
 - There's some theoretical motivation (Neutrino Mixing Anarchy) for this.

Reference: Neutrino Mixing Anarchy arXiv:1204.1249





- CP-Conservation (J=0) within 1σ interval in NO, within 3σ in IO.
 - Disfavoured more with a prior uniform in δ_{CP} .
- Bayes factor for $J \neq 0$ using Savage-Dickey method: 1.5 for **both priors**.
 - Less than $1\,\sigma$ significance, or "not worth more than a bare mention".
- Slight, but not significant preference for CP-violation.

Reference: Savage-Dickey arXiv:2004.09899

(No) Reactor constraint on θ_{13}

First NOvA-only θ_{13} measurement





- $\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) = 0.085^{+0.020}_{-0.016}$
- NOvA in a good agreement with the reactor experiments.
- θ_{13} strongly linked with θ_{23} .
- Each θ_{23} octant and mass ordering prefers slightly different central value.
- Reactor's θ_{13} value, when used, causes higher preference for upper octant.



- NOvA (purple) in agreement with the reactor experiments.
- Also in agreement with T2K.
- No tensions between short-distance $P(\bar{\nu}_e \to \bar{\nu}_e)$ and long-distance $P(\nu_\mu \to \nu_e) \& P(\bar{\nu}_\mu \to \bar{\nu}_e)$.
- Gives the PMNS model extra credibility.

- NOvA Test-Beam to measure detector response.
- MW-capable horn and target installed.
 - New power record reached last year!
- Expect $> 2 \times$ more in both ν and $\bar{\nu}$ data.
 - Analysed 26e20 POT.
 - 11e20 POT more collected since.
 - Goal by 2027: 67–72e9 POT.



• NOvA-T2K effort to produce joint result.





Conclusions

- Large NSI effects ruled out at 90% C.L.
 - NSI not needed to explain NOvA data.
 - Still important to constrain NSI for standard analyses.
- Competitive constraints on 3+1 sterile neutrinos.
 - NOvA data consistent with no sterile neutrinos.
- First NOvA-only measurement of θ_{13} $\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) = 0.085^{+0.020}_{-0.016}$
- PMNS formalism explains NOvA data very well:
 - No tension between Accelerator and Reactor neutrinos.
 - Jarlskog-Invariant: no high preference for CP-Violation or CP-Conservation.





NOvA Preliminary

8 Feb 2023

NOVA



BACKUPS

Event identification

Pre-selections:

- Contained inside the detector.
- Inside of the beam spill-window.
- Cosmic particles rejection via BDT.

Event Identification:

- Modern CNN techniques used to identify neutrino flavour.
- Learns features of different event topologies.
- Data-driven validations based on ND and FD control samples.
- Results in high purity samples.



$\mathsf{ND}{\rightarrow}\mathsf{FD}\ \mathsf{Extrapolation}$



- Take advantage of detector similarity to extrapolate ND predictions to FD.
- Many systematic effects e.g. cross-sections, flux and efficiency are shared.
- Helps dealing with the "unknown unknowns".
- Extrapolate different kinematic samples separately to deal with Near/Far acceptance differences.



ND \rightarrow FD Extrapolation: E_{had}



- The energy resolution varies between the detectors.
- Extrapolation split in four $E_{\rm had}/E_{\nu}$ quartiles.
- Matches the Hadronic energy resolution between ND and FD.

ND \rightarrow FD Extrapolation: Lepton $|p_T|$



- Different lepton angle distributions due to the difference in detectors' size.
- Extrapolation split in three ranges of lepton transverse momenta.
- Done separately for each E_{had} quartile.
- Matches the detector acceptances between ND and FD.

Far detector data Muon neutrinos



- Observed: 211
- Best Fit Prediction: 222.3
- Background: 8.2



- Observed: 105
- Best Fit Prediction: 105.4
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Fitting/Sampling techniques



- NOvA fits 10 data samples: $4\nu_{\mu}$, $4\bar{\nu}_{\mu}$, $1\nu_{e}$ and $1\bar{\nu}_{e}$.
- All the previous NOvA results were Frequentist with use of profiling.
- New Bayesian frameworks implemented in NOvA.
- New studies now easier: Jarlskog-Invariant, NOvA-only θ_{13} , Bayes factors and possibly more!
- Other experiments often provide Marginalized and/or Bayesian results.

Markov Chain Monte Carlo for NOvA



Bayes Theorem:

 $\mathcal{P}(\vec{ heta}|D) \approx \mathcal{P}(D|\vec{ heta})\mathcal{P}(\vec{a})$

 $\begin{array}{l} \textit{Posterior} \approx \textit{Likelihood} \times \textit{Prior} \\ \\ \textit{Posterior} \approx e^{-\frac{\chi^2}{2}} \times \textit{Prior} \end{array}$

- Bayesian results given in terms of posterior probability distributions.
- Need to produce N-dimensional probability distribution for marginalized results.
- MCMC generates samples on N-dimensional.
 - Sample density corresponds to posterior probability density.

Markov Chain Monte Carlo for NOvA



Bayes Theorem:

 $\mathcal{P}(\vec{ heta}|D) pprox \mathcal{P}(D|\vec{ heta}) \mathcal{P}(\vec{ extbf{a}})$

Posterior pprox Likelihood imes Prior Posterior pprox $e^{-rac{\chi^2}{2}} imes$ Prior

- MCMC generates samples by iteratively deviating parameters from their previous values.
- At each iteration we can either accept, or reject the step.
 - Accept: new step added to the end of the chain.
 - Reject: previous values repeated at the end of the chain.
- Over time, this "chain" ensemble starts resembling posterior probability.

Markov Chain Monte Carlo for NOvA





Arianna Rosenbluth

Stanislaw Ulam

- Two algorithms in NOvA: Metropolis-Hastings and Hamiltonian MCMC.
- Hamiltonian MCMC is based on Stan library (https://mc-stan.org).
 - Stanislaw Ulam invented the methods of Monte-Carlo.
- Metropolis-Hastings was written from scratch in-house.
 - Named Aria after Arianna Rosenbluth, who first implemented the method.
- Importantly, both algorithms produce identical results.

References: Metropolis-Hastings doi:10.1063/1.1699114, Hamiltonian doi:10.1016/0370-2693(87)91197-X

Bayesian vs Frequentist, Marginalization vs Profiling



Bayesian vs Frequentist, Marginalization vs Profiling



- Not necessarily reserved to Bayesian methods!
- Profiling: Maximize parameters not shown.
- Marginalization: Integrate over parameters not shown.
- Example: marginalizing/profiling over $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$.
 - Line of best fit to profile over $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$.
 - Line of best fit to prome over sine v_{23} . Box with probabilities to sum over for marginalization.
- Use posterior probability densities, not χ^2 .
 - Bayes. Credible Intervals vs Freq. Confidence Levels.



Frequentist result 0.7 Normal Ordering 0.6 $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ 0.5 0.4 NOvA: 🔶 BF ≤ 90% CL ≤ 68% CL 0.3 0.7 Inverted Ordering 0.6 $\sin^2 \theta_{23}$ 0.5 0.4 ≤ 90% CL NOvA: ≤ 68% CL 0.3 $\frac{3\pi}{2}$ 2π 0 $\frac{\pi}{2}$ π δ_{CP} Frequentist results reference: arXiv:2108.08219 Artur Sztuc Imperial College London



2020 Frequentist Results



Best fit:

- Normal mass ordering.
- $\Delta m^2_{32} = (2.41 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{-3} eV^2$
- $sin^2\theta_{32} = 0.57^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$
- $\delta_{\rm CP} = 0.82\pi$
 - Disfavour IO $\delta_{\rm CP}=\pi/2$ at $>3\sigma.$
 - Disfavour NO $\delta_{\rm CP}=3\pi/2$ at $2\,\sigma.$

NOvA Preliminary



- Prefer upper octant and normal mass ordering.
- Neither preference is significant, below $\sim 1 \sigma$.

	N. Ordering	I. Ordering	
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U. Oct

L. Octa

	N. Ordering	I. Ordering	
ant	41.7%	20.9%	62.6%
ant	25.8%	11.5%	37.4%

32.5%

 Bayes Factors: odds ratio, how much more likely one model is than another.

67.5%

- NO/IO: 2.1, UO/LO: 1.7
- Both can be interpreted as below 1 σ or "not worth more than a bare mention" according to Jeffreys and Raftery & Kass scales.

References: Jeffreys ISBN:9780191589676, Raftery & Kass doi:10.2307/2291091





How about priors on other oscillation parameters for J?

- Changing θ priors to be uniform in θ , $\sin^2 \theta$ changes the prior contribution.
- It does not, however, change the posterior our results.
- Likelihood is stronger than the prior for high-stats data, overwhelming it.
- This does not happen for $\delta_{\rm CP}$ because we don't constrain it well.

Jarlskog-Invariant θ_{13} constraint comparisons



Both Orderings

Normal Ordering

Inverted Ordering



- The shape changes because θ_{13} is allowed to take more values.
- Nevertheless, the general conclusions about CP-conservation are similar.



- Setting θ_{13} free does change our results slightly.
- Prefer lower octant with free θ_{13} , upper octant when constrained.
- These differences are low, however.
 - 1σ intervals in both octants.
 - Low Bayes Factors.



- All previous Frequentist results shown with external θ_{13} constraint.
- But NOvA has sensitivity to θ_{13} ! How does it affect our results?
 - Do we agree with the Reactors? Tensions in the PMNS model?
- Allowing unconstrained θ_{13} to give NOvA-only preferences:
 - δ_{CP} preferences don't change much.
 - Prefer normal mass ordering.
 - General conclusions similar to Reactor-constrained θ_{13} .

Results without Reactor Constraint

Normal Ordering

Bayesian Cred. Int .: -1 o - 2 o - 3 o

 δ_{CP}

 $\frac{\pi}{2}$

 $\frac{3\pi}{2}$



- Higher preference for Lower Octant in Inverted Ordering.
- We need to look at θ_{13} to understand this.

0.4

0.3

 2π

NOvA-only θ_{13} measurements



Non-Standard Interactions: $\epsilon_{\mu\tau}$



