

# Deep learning for neutrino interactions with nuclei

Krzysztof M. Graczyk



Uniwersytet  
Wrocławski



**Institute for Theoretical Physics**  
*Neutrino Physics Division - NUWRO Group*



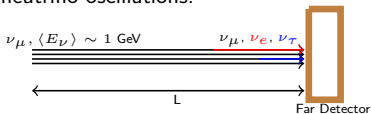
<https://kgraczyk.github.io/laip/>

February 19, 2025

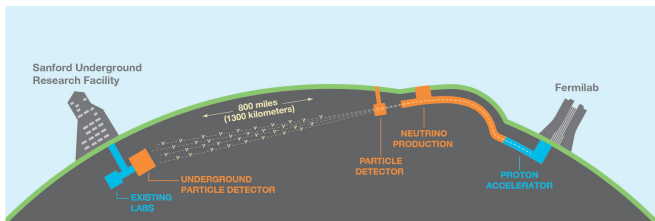


# Primary Motivation

- neutrinos  $\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau, \dots$ , fundamental particles
  - weakly interacting, neutral, difficult to detect...
- neutrino oscillations:



- $CP$ -violation phase  $\rightarrow$  the Matter-Antimatter asymmetry
- Mass hierarchy problem

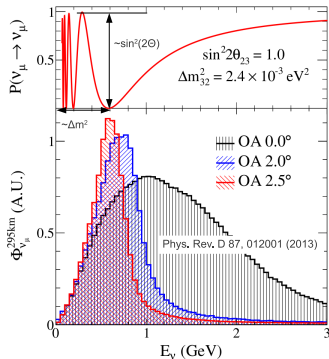


- **There is a huge experimental and theoretical effort in studying neutrino properties.**
- Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE), HyperKamiokande and T2K experiments

- Accelerator neutrinos:
  - 1 GeV neutrinos interact with Oxygen (HyperKamiokande), Argon (DUNE), ...
- From a precision of about 20-30% in our knowledge of  $\nu$ -nucleus scattering cross sections to a percent-level precision.
- To study oscillations, we must determine the energy of incoming  $\nu$ s.

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau) = \sin^2 \theta_{23} \left( \frac{\Delta m_{32}^2 L}{4E_\nu} \right)$$

- **neutrino energy**,  $E_\nu$ , given by some distribution, one must reconstruct energy event-by-event

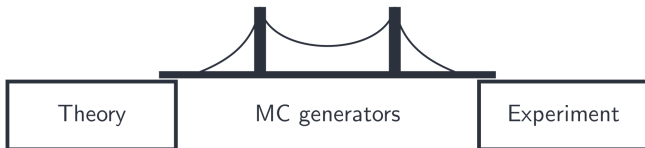


- **Theory meets experiment: a Monte Carlo generator for neutrino-nucleus interaction events!**

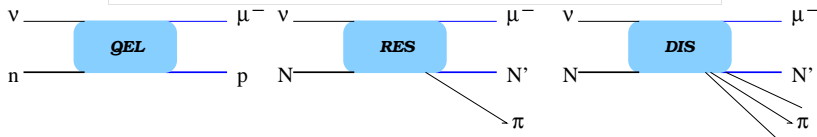
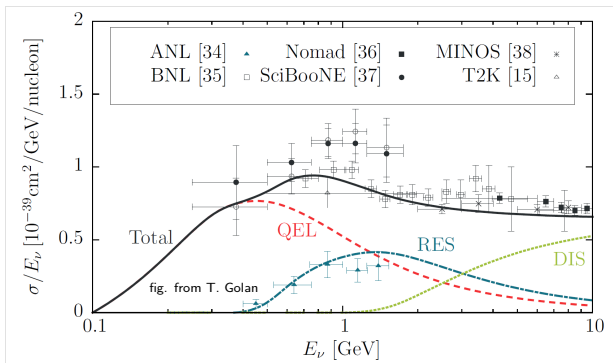
- Monte Carlo Generator of neutrino interactions, written in C++
- Developed since 2005 at the University of Wroclaw by Jan Sobczyk *et al.*)
- Optimized for neutrino energy from  $\sim 100$  MeV to  $\sim 20$  GeV
- Handle all kinds of targets, and neutrino fluxes, equipped with detector interface
- \* open source code, repository:  
<https://github.com/NuWro/nuwro>



- **For given initial neutrino generates final products of interaction**



figs. from T. Golan



- Neutrino energy reconstructed mainly from the analysis of QuasiElastic (QE) scattering events!

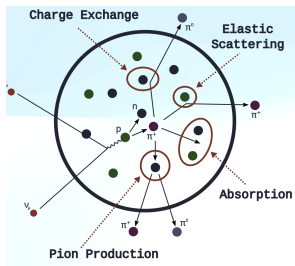
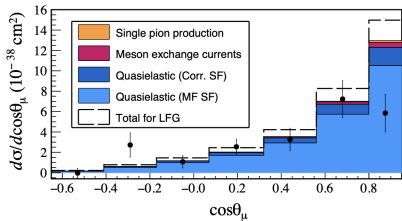
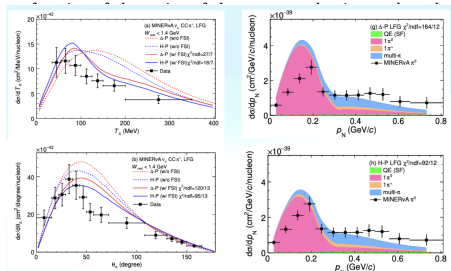


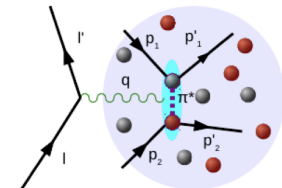
FIG. 2. MicroBooNE CC1p0 $\pi$  differential cross section as



Data from: B. Eberly et al. (MINEA $\nu$ ), Phys. Rev. D92 092008 (2015), arXiv:1406.6415 [hep-ex].

Data from: D. Coploue et al. (MINEA $\nu$ ), Phys. Rev. D 102 072007 (2020), arXiv:2002.05812 [hep-ex].

Figs. from Banerjee, Ankowski, Graczyk, Kowal, Prasad, Sobczyk, Phys.Rev.D 109 (2024) 073004



figs. from J. Sobczyk

- We need to simulate  $\nu$ -Nucleus in realistic conditions

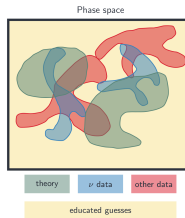
→ Monte Carlo Generator of Neutrino Interactions





fig. from T. Golan

INGREDIENTS:



RECIPE:



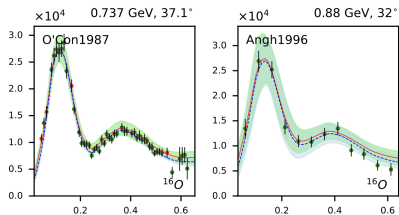
figs. T. Golan

## Goals of the Monte Carlo Generator

- Combine various theoretical/phenomenological models with different data types in different kinematic regimes and reaction scenarios.
- Obtain a system that automatically and objectively **updates its knowledge of physics when new data and theoretical constraints are delivered**

## $\nu$ -Physics vs. $e$ -Physics

- Scarce  $\nu$ -scattering data  $\leftrightarrow$  informative data for  $e$ -nucleus scattering
- Deficiencies in theoretical description of  $\nu$ -nucleus interactions  $\leftrightarrow$  quite well understood  $e$ -nucleus scattering physics
- **Similarities between electron and neutrino interactions with nuclear targets**
  - vector-axial contribution, the same nuclear physics

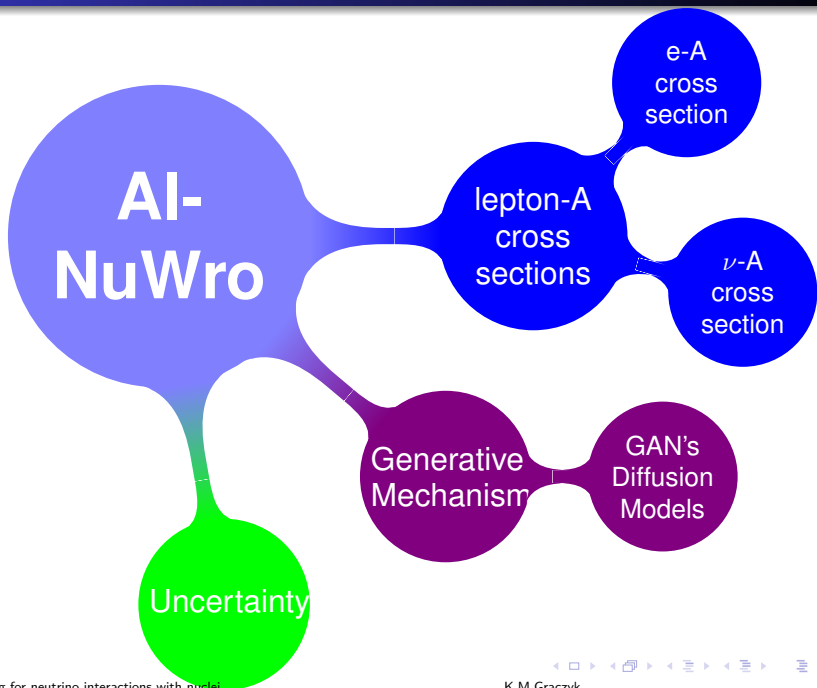


QE, dip, RES peaks are clearly distinguished! Not the case in neutrino interactions!

### Goals

- Transfer a knowledge of nuclear physics from  $e$ -scattering to  $\nu$ -scattering
  - Extrapolate the knowledge of physics from one kinematic domain to the other
- Can deep neural networks learn physics?**

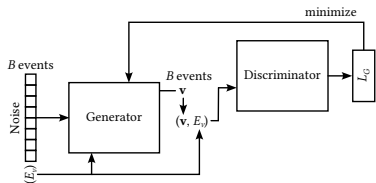




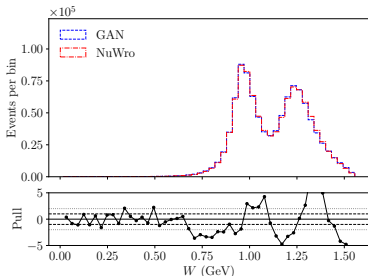
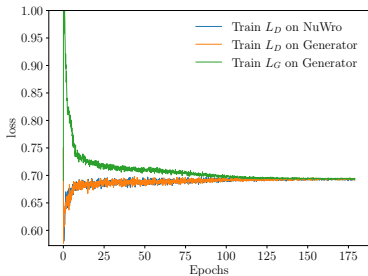
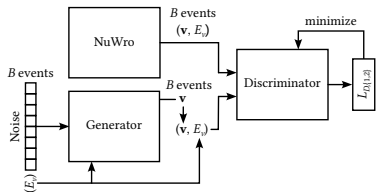
\* Bonilla, Graczyk, et al.,  
arxiv:2503.xxxxx

- Optimize two models:

Generator( $E_\nu, \dots$ )



Discriminator(Muon kinematics)

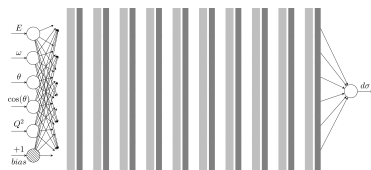


$E=1$  GeV, inclusive scattering

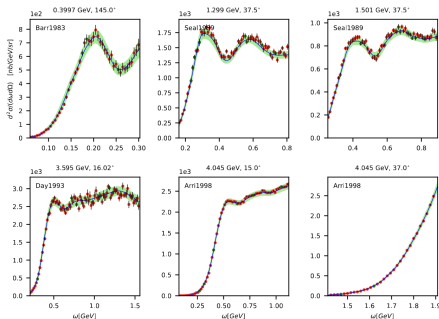
- GANs mimic reality by accumulating physics knowledge.
- Use as a pre-trained model for realistic tuning!
- Utilize the concept of representation learning.

## STEP I: Teach deep neural networks nuclear physics:

- Use electron-carbon scattering data: Kowal *et al.*, Phys.Rev.C110 (2024) 2, 025501



Physic-guided Neural Network (PgNN)



training, test data points

## STEP II: Did neural networks learn nuclear physics? If yes, let us take profit from that

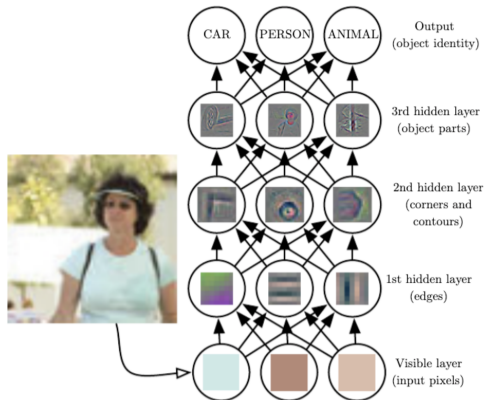
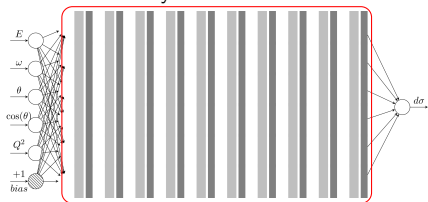


fig from: Deep Learning, Goodfellow, Bengio and Courville

- fundamental concept of deep learning: **representation learning**
- *Transfer learning* known in psychology and education. It refers to the ability of a person who has learned skills in one specific field to easily acquire skills needed in related areas of life.

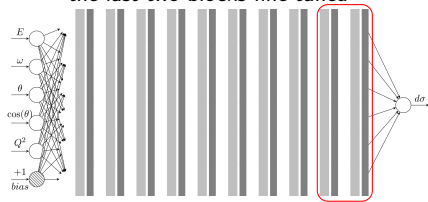
## The First Scenario

all layers fine-tuned



## The Second Scenario

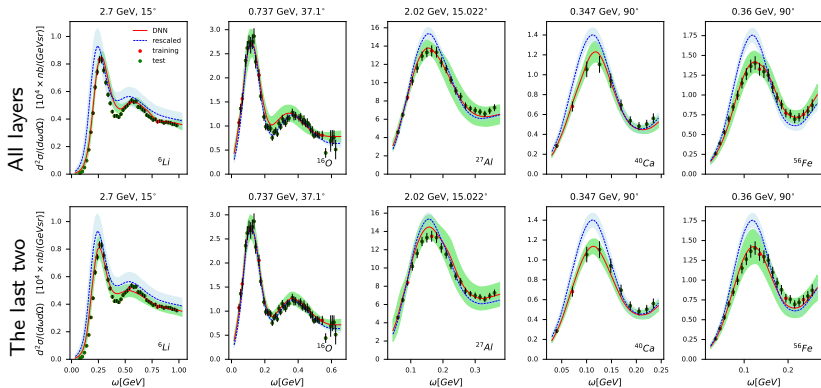
the last two blocks fine-tuned



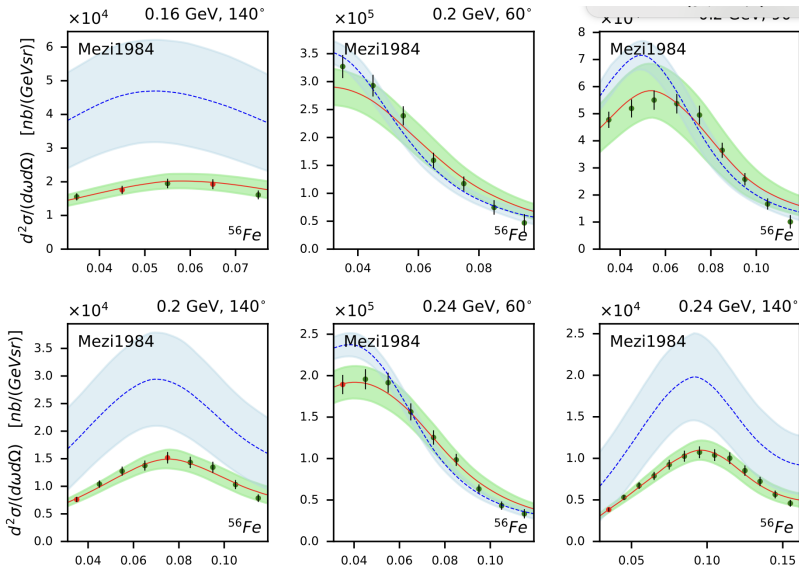
- Consider electron scattering on lithium, oxygen, aluminium, calcium and iron
- For each target consider its own fine-tuning procedure
- To tests transfer learning minimize as much as possible training dataset:

→ **training:test = 1:9**

- \* Graczyk, Kowal, Ankowski, Banerjee, Bonilla, Prasad, Sobczyk, arXiv:2408.09936  
*Electron-nucleus cross sections from transfer learning*



rescaled =  $(A/12)$  carbon cross section



Note that relative normalization parameters (due to nor. sys. uncert.) were taken into account



- We focus on developing neutrino-nucleus scattering models and implement them in NUWRO.
- We have been developing AI-driven models for neutrino-nucleus scattering. This method is promising and broadly applicable.

