Search for flavor-changing non-standard neutrino interactions by MINOS

Article  (Accepted Version)


This version is available from Sussex Research Online: http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/97850/

This document is made available in accordance with publisher policies and may differ from the published version or from the version of record. If you wish to cite this item you are advised to consult the publisher's version. Please see the URL above for details on accessing the published version.

Copyright and reuse:
Sussex Research Online is a digital repository of the research output of the University.

Copyright and all moral rights to the version of the paper presented here belong to the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. To the extent reasonable and practicable, the material made available in SRO has been checked for eligibility before being made available.

Copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided that the authors, title and full bibliographic details are credited, a hyperlink and/or URL is given for the original metadata page and the content is not changed in any way.
A search for flavor-changing non-standard neutrino interactions by MINOS

P. Adamson,\textsuperscript{8} G. Barr,\textsuperscript{21} M. Bishai,\textsuperscript{3} A. Blake,\textsuperscript{5} G. J. Bock,\textsuperscript{8} D. Bogert,\textsuperscript{8} S. V. Cao,\textsuperscript{29} D. Cheradack,\textsuperscript{30} S. Childress,\textsuperscript{8} J. A. B. Coelho,\textsuperscript{30,6} L. Corwin,\textsuperscript{14} D. Cronin-Hennessy,\textsuperscript{18} J. K. de Jong,\textsuperscript{21} A. V. Devan,\textsuperscript{32} N. E. Devenish,\textsuperscript{27} M. V. Diwan,\textsuperscript{3} C. O. Escobar,\textsuperscript{8} J. J. Evans,\textsuperscript{17,16} E. Falk,\textsuperscript{27} G. J. Feldman,\textsuperscript{10} M. V. Frohne,\textsuperscript{11} H. R. Gallagher,\textsuperscript{30} R. A. Gomes,\textsuperscript{9} M. C. Goodman,\textsuperscript{3} P. Gouffon,\textsuperscript{24} N. Graf,\textsuperscript{13} R. Gran,\textsuperscript{19} K. Grzelak,\textsuperscript{31} A. Habib,\textsuperscript{19} J. Hartnell,\textsuperscript{27} R. Hatcher,\textsuperscript{8} A. Himmel,\textsuperscript{4} A. Holin,\textsuperscript{16} J. Hynel,\textsuperscript{8} G. M. Irwin,\textsuperscript{26} Z. Isvan,\textsuperscript{3,22} C. James,\textsuperscript{8} D. Jensen,\textsuperscript{8} T. Kafka,\textsuperscript{30} S. M. S. Kasahara,\textsuperscript{3} G. Koizumi,\textsuperscript{8} M. Kordosky,\textsuperscript{32} A. Kreymer,\textsuperscript{8} K. Lang,\textsuperscript{29} J. Ling,\textsuperscript{3} P. J. Litchfield,\textsuperscript{18,23} P. Lucas,\textsuperscript{8} W. A. Mann,\textsuperscript{30} M. L. Marshak,\textsuperscript{18} M. Mathis,\textsuperscript{32} N. Mayer,\textsuperscript{30,14} M. M. Medeiros,\textsuperscript{9} R. Mehdiyev,\textsuperscript{29} J. R. Meier,\textsuperscript{18} M. D. Messier,\textsuperscript{14} W. H. Miller,\textsuperscript{18} S. R. Misra,\textsuperscript{25} S. Moed Sher,\textsuperscript{8} C. D. Moore,\textsuperscript{8} L. Mualem,\textsuperscript{4} S. Mufson,\textsuperscript{14} J. Musser,\textsuperscript{14} D. Naples,\textsuperscript{22} J. K. Nelson,\textsuperscript{32} H. B. Newman,\textsuperscript{4} R. J. Nichol,\textsuperscript{16} J. A. Nowak,\textsuperscript{18} W. P. Oliver,\textsuperscript{30} M. Orchanian,\textsuperscript{4} R. B. Palilka,\textsuperscript{8} J. Paley,\textsuperscript{1} R. B. Patterson,\textsuperscript{4} G. Pawloski,\textsuperscript{18,26} S. Phan-Budd,\textsuperscript{1} R. K. Plunkett,\textsuperscript{8} X. Qiu,\textsuperscript{26} A. Radovic,\textsuperscript{16} B. Rebel,\textsuperscript{8} C. Rosenfeld,\textsuperscript{25} H. A. Rubin,\textsuperscript{13} M. C. Sanchez,\textsuperscript{15,1} J. Schneps,\textsuperscript{30} A. Schreckenberger,\textsuperscript{18} P. Schreiner,\textsuperscript{1} R. Sharma,\textsuperscript{8} A. Sousa,\textsuperscript{7,10} N. Tagg,\textsuperscript{20} R. L. Talaga,\textsuperscript{1} J. Thomas,\textsuperscript{16} M. A. Thomson,\textsuperscript{5} R. Toner,\textsuperscript{10,5} D. Torretta,\textsuperscript{8} G. Tzanakos,\textsuperscript{2} J. Urheim,\textsuperscript{14} P. Vahle,\textsuperscript{32} B. Viren,\textsuperscript{3} A. Weber,\textsuperscript{21,23} R. C. Webb,\textsuperscript{28} C. White,\textsuperscript{13} L. Whitehead,\textsuperscript{12,3} S. G. Wojcicki,\textsuperscript{26} and R. Zwaska\textsuperscript{8} (The MINOS Collaboration)

\textsuperscript{1}Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA
\textsuperscript{2}Department of Physics, University of Athens, GR-15771 Athens, Greece
\textsuperscript{3}Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, USA
\textsuperscript{4}Lauritsen Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125, USA
\textsuperscript{5}Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HE, United Kingdom
\textsuperscript{6}Universidade Estadual de Campinas, IFGW-UNICAMP, CP 6165, 13083-970, Campinas, SP, Brazil
\textsuperscript{7}Department of Physics, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221, USA
\textsuperscript{8}Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510, USA
\textsuperscript{9}Instituto de Física, Universidade Federal de Goiás, CP 131, 74001-970, Goiânia, GO, Brazil
\textsuperscript{10}Department of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA
\textsuperscript{11}Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556, USA
\textsuperscript{12}Department of Physics, University of Houston, Houston, Texas 77204, USA
\textsuperscript{13}Department of Physics, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois 60616, USA
\textsuperscript{14}Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, USA
\textsuperscript{15}Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011 USA
\textsuperscript{16}Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom
\textsuperscript{17}School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom
\textsuperscript{18}University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA
\textsuperscript{19}Department of Physics, University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, Minnesota 55812, USA
\textsuperscript{20}Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio 43081, USA
\textsuperscript{21}Subdepartment of Particle Physics, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3RH, United Kingdom
\textsuperscript{22}Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, USA
\textsuperscript{23}Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Science and Technologies Facilities Council, Ox11 0QX, United Kingdom
\textsuperscript{24}Instituto de Física, Universidade de São Paulo, CP 66318, 05315-970, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
\textsuperscript{25}Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208, USA
\textsuperscript{26}Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, USA
\textsuperscript{27}Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QH, United Kingdom
\textsuperscript{28}Physics Department, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, USA
\textsuperscript{29}Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station C1600, Austin, Texas 78712, USA
\textsuperscript{30}Physics Department, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts 02155, USA
\textsuperscript{31}Department of Physics, University of Warsaw, Hoża 69, PL-00-681 Warsaw, Poland
\textsuperscript{32}Department of Physics, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187, USA

We report new constraints on flavor-changing non-standard neutrino interactions (NSI) using data from the MINOS experiment. We analyzed a combined set of beam neutrino and antineutrino data, and found no evidence for deviations from standard neutrino mixing. The observed energy spectra constrain the NSI parameter to the range $-0.20 < \epsilon_{\mu\tau} < 0.07$ (90\% C.L.).

PACS numbers: 13.15.+g, 14.60.Lm, 14.60.St, 14.60.Pq, 25.30.Pt, 29.27.-a
It is well established from solar, atmospheric, reactor and accelerator experiments \cite{1, 4} that neutrinos undergo flavor change as they propagate. This phenomenon can be explained by the quantum mechanical mixing of neutrino flavor and mass eigenstates. The mixing can be parametrized by three angles, $\theta_{12}, \theta_{13}, \theta_{23}$, and a CP-violating phase, $\delta \ \cite{3}$. The standard neutrino oscillation mechanism requires that at least two of the three active neutrinos are massive. While the phenomenon of oscillations can occur in vacuum, the presence of matter along the neutrino path allows for alternative flavor changing mechanisms such as the Mikheyev-Smirnov-Wolfenstein (MSW) matter effect \cite{3}. This effect alters the survival probability of electron neutrinos propagating through matter since electron neutrinos can have additional interactions with electrons in the surrounding medium, but does not affect the survival probability of muon or tau neutrinos.

Non-standard interactions (NSI) \cite{12} could occur between muon or tau neutrinos and matter, and could alter the flavor content of a neutrino beam as it propagates through the Earth’s crust in a manner similar to standard matter effects. Searches for NSI have already been performed with atmospheric neutrinos \cite{11}. However, non-standard matter effects are, in general, different for neutrinos and antineutrinos. Accelerator-based oscillation experiments offer a powerful tool to search for NSI with their ability to produce well-understood beams of neutrinos and antineutrinos separately. Furthermore, MSW and NSI effects depend on the neutrino’s path length in matter, and beam neutrinos travel a well defined distance to the detector. Recent papers have discussed the compatibility of NSI with MINOS data \cite{12, 13}. This Letter describes the first direct search for NSI which simultaneously fits the separate energy spectra of neutrinos and antineutrinos in a long-baseline experiment.

Short-baseline neutrino experiments have explored and constrained non-standard interactions \cite{13}. In such experiments both charged-current (CC) and neutral-current (NC) NSI can be studied. While long-baseline experiments can also constrain interactions with matter directly in either near or far detectors, their improved sensitivity arises from using the Earth’s matter along the long neutrino path as the interaction medium. Charged-current NSI produce a final state charged-lepton which is absorbed by the Earth’s matter and not observed. However, NC NSI that occur along the neutrino path will produce a final state neutrino of a different flavor, altering the flavor content of the beam \cite{13}. We consider only NC NSI in this study.

The NSI Hamiltonian can be included as a perturbation to standard oscillations. This Hamiltonian is proportional to the matter potential $V = \sqrt{2} G_F N_e$, with $G_F$, the Fermi coupling constant, and $N_e$, the electron density in matter, analogous to the MSW matter effect \cite{3}. In general, the Hamiltonian has both flavor-conserving and flavor-changing components. In flavor-conserving NSI, the NC scattering between the neutrino and matter does not alter the neutrino flavor. Flavor-changing NSI, on the other hand, do not conserve lepton flavor number; the final state neutrino is in a different flavor eigenstate from the initial neutrino. In a disappearance experiment, flavor-changing NSI have a greater effect on the flavor transition probability than flavor-conserving NSI due to interference between amplitudes of standard and non-standard matter interactions \cite{13}. We consider here only flavor-changing NSI and set to zero flavor-conserving amplitudes to which MINOS has no sensitivity.

The resulting NSI Hamiltonian in the two-flavor approximation is

$$H_{\text{NSI}} = V \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \varepsilon_{\mu\tau} \\ \varepsilon_{\mu\tau} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

where the coefficient $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ gives the strength of the NSI effect on transitions between $\mu$ and $\tau$ flavors. We only consider the real part of $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$, which is sensitive to differences between $\nu_\mu$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ survival. We define the vacuum oscillation length for neutrinos of energy $E$ as $L_0 = \left( \frac{\pi}{\Delta m^2_{\text{sol}}} \right)$. The difference between the squares of the second and third neutrino masses, $\Delta m_{\text{sol}}^2 = \Delta m_{32}^2 \equiv m_3^2 - m_2^2$, is the same parameter that governs standard neutrino oscillations \cite{16, 17}. The NSI matter oscillation length is defined as

$$L_m \equiv \frac{L_0}{\left[ 1 \pm 2 \sin(2\theta) L_0 \varepsilon_{\mu\tau} |V| + (L_0 \varepsilon_{\mu\tau} |V|)^2 \right]^2}, \quad (2)$$

The survival probability can then be written as

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu) = 1 - \left[ 1 - \cos^2(2\theta) \frac{L_m^2}{L_0^2} \right] \sin^2 \left( \frac{L}{L_m} \right), \quad (3)$$

with mixing angle $\theta = \theta_{23}$, and neutrino path length $L$. Standard oscillation parameters $\theta$ and $\Delta m^2$ are taken to be the same for neutrinos and antineutrinos. The $\pm$ signs in Eq. (2) arise from the matter potential, $V$, which is positive for neutrinos and negative for antineutrinos. The parameter $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ is real-valued and carries its own sign. A positive value of $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ implies that the neutrino disappearance probability is greater than the antineutrino disappearance probability, and vice versa.

The MINOS experiment measures disappearance of muon neutrinos and antineutrinos in the NuMI beam \cite{18} using two detectors. The event energy spectrum of the low energy NuMI beam, used in this measurement, peaks at approximately 3 GeV \cite{19}. Its focusing components can be tuned to produce a beam with an event composition of 91.7% $\nu_\mu$, 7% $\nu_\tau$, and 1.3% ($\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$) in neutrino mode, or of 58% $\nu_\mu$, 40% $\nu_\tau$, and 2% ($\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$) in antineutrino mode \cite{20}. The Near Detector (ND), with a fiducial mass of 23.7 tons, measures the neutrino and antineutrino energy spectra 1.04 km downstream of the production target. The Far Detector (FD) is located in
the Soudan Underground Laboratory and has a 4.2 kiloton fiducial mass. It measures the energy spectra 735 km downstream of the production target. Both detectors are magnetized steel-scintillator tracking-sampling calorimeters designed to measure the energy and the sign of the charge of muons produced by $\nu_\mu$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ interactions. In each detector, muon neutrino and antineutrino CC interactions are separated event-by-event using the sign of muon track curvature.

The results presented here are based on an exposure of $7.09 \times 10^{20}$ protons on target (POT) in neutrino mode, combined with a $2.95 \times 10^{20}$ POT exposure in antineutrino mode. MINOS previously reported a two-flavor oscillation analysis on this neutrino dataset and the first direct measurement of antineutrino oscillation parameters from the antineutrino sample. Due to the opposite sign of the matter potential in Eq. (3) for neutrinos and antineutrinos, NSI, if present, will alter the survival probability of neutrinos and antineutrinos in opposite directions. The magnitude of $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ is proportional to the difference in probability between neutrinos and antineutrinos, and the sign of $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ is determined by the sign of the probability difference.

We select $\nu_\mu$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ CC events inside the fiducial volume by identifying interaction vertices with a muon track and possible hadronic activity. The neutrino energy is reconstructed by summing the muon track and hadronic shower energies. Muon energy is measured using range for muons that stop in the detector and curvature for muons that exit. The hadronic energy is determined using a $k$-Nearest Neighbor ($k$NN) technique. We require the muon charge to be negative for $\nu_\mu$ and positive for $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ events.

To reject NC interactions we use a discriminant obtained by combining four event characteristics into a $k$NN variable. The selection criteria optimize selection efficiency and sample purity to obtain maximum sensitivity to oscillations. Far Detector selection efficiencies for neutrino and antineutrino samples are 93% and 97%, with purities of 99% and 94%, respectively. Because the neutrino sample has a larger component of highly inelastic events, this optimization process reduces the optimal neutrino selection efficiency in favor of lower NC background. The lower overall purity of the antineutrino sample results from the much larger neutrino contamination at higher energies in the antineutrino mode; however, in the region of interest to oscillations and NSI the contamination is smaller.

The FD neutrino and antineutrino spectra in the absence of flavor change are predicted using the ND data by first correcting the ND spectra for inefficiency and backgrounds and then extrapolating to the FD by a transfer matrix obtained from simulation. We predict 2073 neutrino and 273 antineutrino events without oscillations, and observe 1654 and 193 events, respectively.

The results presented here are based on an exposure of $7.09 \times 10^{20}$ protons on target (POT) in neutrino mode, combined with a $2.95 \times 10^{20}$ POT exposure in antineutrino mode. MINOS previously reported a two-flavor oscillation analysis on this neutrino dataset and the first direct measurement of antineutrino oscillation parameters from the antineutrino sample. Due to the opposite sign of the matter potential in Eq. (3) for neutrinos and antineutrinos, NSI, if present, will alter the survival probability of neutrinos and antineutrinos in opposite directions. The magnitude of $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ is proportional to the difference in probability between neutrinos and antineutrinos, and the sign of $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ is determined by the sign of the probability difference.

We select $\nu_\mu$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ CC events inside the fiducial volume by identifying interaction vertices with a muon track and possible hadronic activity. The neutrino energy is reconstructed by summing the muon track and hadronic shower energies. Muon energy is measured using range for muons that stop in the detector and curvature for muons that exit. The hadronic energy is determined using a $k$-Nearest Neighbor ($k$NN) technique. We require the muon charge to be negative for $\nu_\mu$ and positive for $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ events.

To reject NC interactions we use a discriminant obtained by combining four event characteristics into a $k$NN variable. The selection criteria optimize selection efficiency and sample purity to obtain maximum sensitivity to oscillations. Far Detector selection efficiencies for neutrino and antineutrino samples are 93% and 97%, with purities of 99% and 94%, respectively. Because the neutrino sample has a larger component of highly inelastic events, this optimization process reduces the optimal neutrino selection efficiency in favor of lower NC background. The lower overall purity of the antineutrino sample results from the much larger neutrino contamination at higher energies in the antineutrino mode; however, in the region of interest to oscillations and NSI the contamination is smaller.

The results presented here are based on an exposure of $7.09 \times 10^{20}$ protons on target (POT) in neutrino mode, combined with a $2.95 \times 10^{20}$ POT exposure in antineutrino mode. MINOS previously reported a two-flavor oscillation analysis on this neutrino dataset and the first direct measurement of antineutrino oscillation parameters from the antineutrino sample. Due to the opposite sign of the matter potential in Eq. (3) for neutrinos and antineutrinos, NSI, if present, will alter the survival probability of neutrinos and antineutrinos in opposite directions. The magnitude of $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ is proportional to the difference in probability between neutrinos and antineutrinos, and the sign of $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$ is determined by the sign of the probability difference.

We select $\nu_\mu$ and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ CC events inside the fiducial volume by identifying interaction vertices with a muon track and possible hadronic activity. The neutrino energy is reconstructed by summing the muon track and hadronic shower energies. Muon energy is measured using range for muons that stop in the detector and curvature for muons that exit. The hadronic energy is determined using a $k$-Nearest Neighbor ($k$NN) technique. We require the muon charge to be negative for $\nu_\mu$ and positive for $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ events.

To reject NC interactions we use a discriminant obtained by combining four event characteristics into a $k$NN variable. The selection criteria optimize selection efficiency and sample purity to obtain maximum sensitivity to oscillations. Far Detector selection efficiencies for neutrino and antineutrino samples are 93% and 97%, with purities of 99% and 94%, respectively. Because the neutrino sample has a larger component of highly inelastic events, this optimization process reduces the optimal neutrino selection efficiency in favor of lower NC background. The lower overall purity of the antineutrino sample results from the much larger neutrino contamination at higher energies in the antineutrino mode; however, in the region of interest to oscillations and NSI the contamination is smaller.

The FD neutrino and antineutrino spectra in the absence of flavor change are predicted using the ND data by first correcting the ND spectra for inefficiency and backgrounds and then extrapolating to the FD by a transfer matrix obtained from simulation. We predict 2073 neutrino and 273 antineutrino events without oscillations, and observe 1654 and 193 events, respectively.

The neutrino and antineutrino energy spectra are fit simultaneously to three parameters, $|\Delta m^2|$, $\sin^2 2\theta$, and $\varepsilon_{\mu\tau}$, in the combined oscillation and NSI model in Eq. (3), using a binned log-likelihood. The value of the mixing angle is constrained to be physical by asserting $0 \leq \sin^2 (2\theta) \leq 1$. The resulting simulated energy spectra, obtained by using the best fit values, are shown in Fig. 1 superimposed on the full neutrino and antineutrino spectra.

The overall systematic uncertainty in the measurement is much smaller than the statistical uncertainty. However, the difference in the relative sizes of the neutrino and antineutrino event samples results in a large difference in their statistical uncertainties, while the systematic uncertainties are comparable. Systematic uncertainties are included in the fit to ensure that the neutrino sample does not have a disproportionate impact. The largest sources of systematic uncertainty are the muon energy scale, the hadronic energy scale, the NC background, and the relative normalization between the Near...
and Far detectors. The muon energy scale uncertainty is 2% for events where muon energy is determined from range and 3% where the energy is obtained by measuring the curvature in the magnetic field.

The uncertainty on the measurement from range is based on a comparison of tabulated muon spectrum power in MINOS detectors with tables in [25], and includes our uncertainty in the material composition of the detectors. The curvature uncertainty was found by comparing the curvature measurement to that from range for stopping muons [16]. The hadronic energy scale uncertainty is energy-dependent and smaller than 10% integrated over all hadronic energies. The size of its uncertainty, which is dominated by hadronic shower modeling, is estimated to be 20% by comparing experimental data to simulation. The 1.6% normalization uncertainty at all energies arises from modeling reconstruction differences between Near and Far detectors, and the uncertainty in the number of protons on target [16].

These four sources of systematic uncertainty are included in the fit using penalty terms. The best fit parameters from this procedure are found to be

$$\Delta m^2 = 2.39^{+0.14}_{-0.11} \times 10^{-3} \text{eV}^2,$$
$$\sin^2(2\theta) = 1.00^{+0.00}_{-0.06},$$
$$\epsilon_{\mu\tau} = -0.07^{+0.08}_{-0.08}$$

with the allowed region $-0.20 < \epsilon_{\mu\tau} < 0.07$ (90% C.L.).

The penalty terms from systematic uncertainties have a negligible effect on the fit; each penalty term pulls the best fit point by much less than one standard deviation. The allowed regions of fit parameters are shown in Fig. 2 where three two-dimensional slices from a 3D likelihood surface are chosen by marginalizing over the third parameter. The obtained oscillation parameter values are in good agreement with previously published results in [16, 20]. Within errors the fit is consistent with no contribution to flavor change from NSI. This conclusion is in agreement with recent results from the Super-Kamiokande collaboration [11], as well as with values of $\epsilon_{\mu\tau}$ extracted from global fits to data from multiple experiments [24, 29].

In summary, this is the first direct search for non-standard interactions with high-purity samples of both neutrinos and antineutrinos. We conducted a simultaneous fit to neutrino and antineutrino energy spectra of conventional $\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ oscillations with an additional NSI matter effect. We found no evidence for non-standard neutrino interactions.

This work was supported by the U.S. DOE; the United Kingdom STFC; the U.S. NSF; the State and University of Minnesota; the University of Athens, Greece; and Brazil’s FAPESP, CNPq and CAPES. We are grateful to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the crew of the Soudan Underground Lab, and the personnel of Fermilab for their contribution to this effort.


[17] The experiment measures an unresolved mixture of $|\Delta m_{31}^2|$ and $|\Delta m_{32}^2|$, which is referred to as $|\Delta m^2|$ for brevity. The parameter $\sin^2(2\theta)$ is likewise an admixture, dominated by $\theta_{23}$.


