Measurement of the ν_μ CCQE cross section on carbon with the ND280 detector at T2K

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Abstract

The Charged-Current Quasi-Elastic (CCQE) interaction, $\nu_l + n \to l^- + p$, is the dominant CC process at $E_\nu \sim 1$ GeV and contributes to the signal in accelerator-based long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiments operating at intermediate neutrino energies. This paper reports a measurement by the T2K experiment of the ν_μ CCQE cross section on a carbon target with the off-axis detector based on the observed distribution of muon momentum (p_μ) and angle with respect to the incident neutrino beam (θ_μ). The flux-integrated CCQE cross section was measured to be $\langle \sigma \rangle = (0.83 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-38}$ cm^2. The energy dependence of the CCQE cross section is also reported. The axial mass, M_A^{QE}, of the dipole axial form factor was extracted assuming the Smith-Moniz CCQE model with a relativistic Fermi gas nuclear model. Using the absolute (shape-only) p_μ-cosθ_μ distribution, the effective M_A^{QE} parameter was measured to be $1.26^{+0.21}_{-0.18}$ GeV/c^2 ($1.43^{+0.28}_{-0.22}$ GeV/c^2).

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Charged-Current Quasi-Elastic (CCQE) interaction, $\nu_l + n \to l^- + p$, is the dominant CC process for neutrino-nucleon interactions at $E_\nu \sim 1$ GeV and contributes to the total cross section in the neutrino energy range relevant for current accelerator-based long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiments. The CCQE interaction of a neutrino with a nucleon is a two-body interaction and hence the initial neutrino energy can be estimated from relatively well-measured final state lepton kinematics without relying on reconstruction and energy measurement of the hadronic final state. As the neutrino oscillation probability depends on the neutrino energy, the energy dependence of the CCQE cross section is critically important. This interaction has been modeled with the Llewellyn Smith [1] (Smith-Moniz [2, 3]) model for CCQE interactions on nucleons (nuclei). Assuming a dipole axial vector form factor, there is only one free parameter to be fixed by neutrino experiments, the axial mass, M_A^{QE}. This CCQE model is described in detail in Section V.

Modern accelerator-based neutrino oscillation experiments use nuclear targets to achieve high target masses and hence high event rates. The use of a nuclear target introduces nuclear effects whose impact on the neutrino-nucleon interaction must be understood. Recent CCQE measurements have shown disagreement between experiments, and also between deuterium and higher atomic number nuclear targets. The value of M_A^{QE} extracted from neutrino-deuterium scattering is 1.016 ± 0.026 GeV/c^2 [4] and is consistent with results from pion electro-production (1.014 ± 0.016 GeV/c^2) [5]. The K2K experiment report 1.2 ± 0.12 GeV/c^2 [6] with an Oxygen target with peak energy ~ 1.2 GeV. The NOMAD experiment report 1.05 ± 0.06 GeV/c^2 [7] with a carbon target with $\langle E_\nu \rangle \sim 24$ GeV. The MiniBooNE experiment report 1.35 ± 0.17 GeV/c^2 [8] with a carbon target with $\langle E_\nu \rangle \sim 0.8$ GeV.

These discrepancies have motivated theoretical work on more sophisticated models including contributions from multi-nucleon interactions which mimic the CCQE signal if the additional nucleons are not detected. Recent theoretical developments are reviewed in [9, 10]. Such additional processes not only contribute to the measured total cross section, they can also affect the neutrino energy reconstruction. These new models have had success in describing MiniBooNE CCQE data [11–14] and T2K CC inclusive data [15, 16].

This paper reports the first measurement by the T2K experiment of the ν_μ CCQE cross section on a carbon target with the T2K off-axis near detector (ND280) based on the observed distribution of muon momentum (p_μ) and angle with respect to the incident neutrino beam (θ_μ). Measurements of the p_μ-cosθ_μ distribution are analyzed within the context of the standard Smith-Moniz CCQE model with a Relativistic Fermi Gas (RFG) nuclear model. We measure the energy dependence of the neutrino cross section and extract the value of the M_A^{QE} parameter under this assumed model. In addition, the flux-integrated total CCQE cross section is also reported. In this analysis, no attempt is made to account for additional multi-nucleon processes that may be present. Thus the measured cross section should be interpreted as a measurement of a "CCQE-like" cross section. The extracted value of M_A^{QE} should be interpreted as an effective-M_A^{QE} necessary to explain the observed distribution of "CCQE-like" events rather than a direct measurement of the true nucleon M_A^{QE}. The extraction of the energy dependent cross section depends on the $p_\mu - E_\nu$ dependence in the Smith-Moniz model. While this is an inherently model dependent approach, such measurements have proven valuable for the development and testing of new models. This is also the approach taken in the measurements reported above, so direct comparison to them is meaningful. Given the importance of this channel, and the discrepancies between datasets,

it is important that such measurements are repeated by several experiments with a variety of nuclear targets.

The T2K experiment and ND280 detector are described in Sections II and III, respectively. The event selection is described in Section IV. The neutrino interaction model used for this analysis is described in Section V. The systematic uncertainties due to neutrino flux prediction, neutrino-nucleus interaction modeling, and detector response are described in Section VI. The measurement of the CCQE cross section and interpretation of this result as a measurement of an effective M_A^{QE} are described in Section VII. The results are summarized and future prospects are discussed in Section VIII.

II.   THE T2K BEAM

The T2K experiment is an accelerator-based long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiment [17]. The main goals of the experiment are the discovery and measurement of ν_e appearance in a muon-neutrino beam and precision measurements of ν_μ disappearance. These are typically interpreted in the standard three-flavor model as measurements of the neutrino mass-squared differences and the mixing angles of the PMNS matrix [18, 19]. Our limited knowledge of neutrino interaction cross sections, including CCQE, forms one of the largest uncertainties in the measurement of oscillation parameters. The T2K off-axis detector is an excellent laboratory for measuring CCQE interactions as backgrounds from inelastic scattering are suppressed due to the narrow neutrino energy spectrum.

The J-PARC main ring proton beam is extracted into the neutrino beam-line. The proton beam energy is 30 GeV and each beam spill consists of up to eight bunches 15 ns in width with 581 ns spacing between bunches. The spill cycle has a frequency of 0.3-0.4Hz. The proton beam impacts a graphite target where hadronic interactions produce mostly pions and kaons. Charged particles are focused by three magnetic horns and enter the decay tunnel where they decay to produce the neutrino beam. For the data presented here, the horns are operated in neutrino mode to focus π^+ for a high purity ν_μ beam. A beam dump at the end of the decay tunnel stops non-neutrino particles from reaching the near detectors. Muon monitors beyond the beam dump are used to monitor the beam intensity and direction. An underground experiment hall containing near detectors designed to characterize the neutrino beam is located 280 m from the target. The on-axis near detector, INGRID, consists of an array of modules that measure the beam direction and profile. The ND280 near detector used for this analysis lies 2.5° off the beam axis. This analysis is based on 2.6×10^{20} protons on target (POT) using data collected by the ND280 detector during the first three T2K running periods (spanning the period January 2010 - June 2012).

The predicted neutrino beam flux at the ND280 near detector peaks at 0.6 GeV and is shown in Figure 1 [20]. The neutrino beam flavor content is predicted to be 92.6% ν_μ. The $\bar{\nu}_\mu$, ν_e, $\bar{\nu}_e$ contamination are 6.2%, 1.1%, 0.1%, respectively.   The primary proton interactions with the target are simulated with FLUKA2008 [21, 22] tuned to external hadron production data such as the NA61/SHINE experiment [23, 24]. These simulated hadrons are propagated through the decay volume with GEANT3 [25] with GCALOR [26].

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III. THE OFF-AXIS ND280 DETECTOR

ND280 is a tracking detector located 280 m from the neutrino beam source. The detector sits inside the refurbished UA1 magnet which provides a 0.2 T magnetic field for track sign selection and momentum measurement. The detector is divided into two regions: a tracker and an upstream π^0 detector region (P0D) [27]. A diagram of the ND280 detector is shown in Figure 2. This analysis uses events reconstructed in the ND280 tracker. The tracker region contains two Fine Grained Detector (FGDs) and three Time Projection Chambers (TPCs). Surrounding both the P0D and tracker regions are electromagnetic calorimeters (ECals). The magnet is instrumented with scintillator called the Side Muon Range Detector (SMRD) which detects muons escaping with high angles with respect to the beam direction.

The first Fine Grained Detector (FGD1) [28] provides target mass and track reconstruction near the interaction vertex. It consists of layers of $9.6 \, \text{mm} \times 9.6 \, \text{mm} \times 1864.3 \, \text{mm}$ plastic scintillator bars read out with wavelength shifting fibers into Multi-Pixel Photon Counters (MPPCs). There are 30 layers with each layer containing 192 bars. The orientation of the layers alternates between x and y directions perpendicular to the neutrino beam. This allows for three-dimensional reconstruction of the interaction vertex. The target nuclei are predominantly carbon with small fractions of other nuclei. The composition of the target is summarized in Table I.

The second FGD (FGD2) contains water layers for direct cross section measurements on water. Only interactions in FGD1 are used in this analysis. For this analysis, the fiducial volume is defined as the FGD1 volume excluding the most upstream x-y layer pair and 5 bars width around the edge in x-y to remove external backgrounds. The fiducial mass is 0.9 t.

The FGDs are sandwiched between three TPCs [29]. Each TPC consists of a box containing a gas, consisting of Ar (95%), CF_4 (3%) and iC_4H_{10} (2%), with an electric field between the central cathode and the side anodes where drift charge is read out with micro-mesh gas detectors (micromegas) [30]. The TPC provides 3D track reconstruction, momentum measurement, and sign selection from track curvature in the magnetic field, and particle identification (PID) from dE/dx in the gas. TPC tracks and FGD clusters are combined to form complete three-dimensional tracks with the vertex position given by the most upstream FGD hit and the PID and momentum measurement given by the TPC.

IV. EVENT SELECTION

CCQE interactions are selected with a cut-based analysis which identifies events with a reconstructed μ^- starting within the FGD1 fiducial volume and no reconstructed $\pi^\pm$. No explicit cuts are applied to include or exclude a proton track. In the following, CCQE is defined as the nucleon-level interaction (defined by the model described in Section V) before final state interactions (i.e. the interactions of the outgoing proton with the target nucleus).

Good data quality is required by selecting only spills where the entire ND280 detector is operational. Tracks reconstructed in ND280 are associated with a primary proton beam bunch based on hit timing. Tracks with a reconstructed time greater than 60 ns from the expected beam bunch mean time are rejected. The reconstructed bunch time width is around 15 ns.

Tracks starting within the FGD fiducial volume with a TPC component are selected. The TPC component is required to contain at least 18 clusters. This track quality requirement

ensures that tracks are long enough to provide reliable PID and momentum information. The μ^- candidate is defined as the highest momentum, negatively charged track.

Given the particle momentum, the TPC dE/dx distribution for different particle hypotheses is known. A muon PID variable that combines the likelihood given the observed dE/dx for μ, e, π and proton hypotheses is used to select muons. 97% of simulated ν_μ CCQE events that pass the previous cuts pass this muon PID cut.

External backgrounds are removed by vetoing interactions with additional tracks starting > 150 mm upstream of the μ^- vertex. Only tracks going from FGD1 forward into TPC2 are selected, as the reconstruction is currently unable to distinguish backwards-going μ^- from forwards-going external backgrounds.

This event selection selects ν_μ CC interactions with an efficiency of 50% and a purity of 87%. The dominant background is from neutrino interactions outside of the fiducial volume.

Two additional cuts are applied to remove events containing pions. Events with additional tracks in the TPC are rejected as most protons from CCQE interactions stop in the FGD. Only 14% of true CCQE events selected with the CC inclusive event selection have a matching proton track reconstructed in the TPC. Events with multiple TPC tracks are dominated by resonant pion and DIS backgrounds. Events with delayed clusters reconstructed in the FGD are rejected to remove stopped $\pi^\pm$ that decay to $\mu^\pm$ and then $e^\pm$.

This event selection achieves an efficiency of 40% and purity 72% for true CCQE events in the model described in Section V. The dominant background is from CC resonant pion production. The cuts and selection efficiency are summarized in Table II. This CCQE sample is a sub-sample of the CC inclusive sample described in [15]. An example event display of a candidate signal event is shown in Figure 3. The reconstructed muon kinematics are shown in Figure 4.

V. NEUTRINO INTERACTION MODEL

Neutrino interactions are modeled with the NEUT Monte Carlo generator [31]. The four-vectors of the final state particles are propagated through a detector simulation using GEANT4. Table III shows the fraction of simulated events passing the selection, broken down by nucleon level interaction type. The event sample is dominated by CCQE and CC resonant single pion production. The NEUT generator uses the Smith-Moniz model for CCQE scattering with nuclear targets [2, 3]. In this model, the weak nucleon current is written in the most general form that conserves T and C symmetry and contains four form factors that must be determined by experiment. The electromagnetic form factors are precisely measured in electron elastic scattering experiments. The vector form factors of the weak nucleon current are related to the electromagnetic form factors through the conserved vector current hypothesis. Two form factors remain: the axial vector form factor, F_A and the pseudo-scalar form factor. The pseudo-scalar form factor can be related to the axial form factor. This leaves F_A as the only independent free form factor. A dipole form is assumed for F_A,

$$F_A(Q^2) = \frac{F_A(0)}{\left(1 + \frac{Q^2}{M_A^{\mathrm{QE}2}}\right)^2}.$$ (1)

The results reported in this paper are based on a value of $M_A^{\mathrm{QE}} = 1.21$ GeV/c^2 (unless otherwise stated).

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In this model, nucleons are treated as non-interacting particles bound in a potential well of binding energy, E_B and momentum up to the global Fermi momentum, p_F. Both of these parameters are set by electron scattering experiments. As well as describing the nuclear initial state, this also restricts the available final states through Pauli blocking. No additional contribution from multi-nucleon effects are included.

Final State Interactions (FSI) are implemented with a cascade model. In the cascade model, a vertex position within the nucleus is selected from a Wood-Saxon nucleon density distribution. Each hadron produced in the interaction is stepped through the nucleus. At each step a Monte Carlo method is used to determine if an interaction occurs. If an interaction occurs, FSI is applied to the outgoing hadrons. This process is repeated until all hadrons escape the nucleus or are absorbed. For pions, three interactions may occur: inelastic scattering, absorption and charge exchange. The probabilities of these interactions depend on the pion momentum and position within the nucleus and are constrained by external pion-nucleus scattering measurements [32, 33].

The Rein-Seghal model[34, 35] is used to simulate the resonant single pion background. In this model the production cross section of single pion plus nucleon final states is calculated by summing over 18 intermediate resonances with hadronic invariant mass $W < 2$ GeV/c^2, including interference terms. The nominal axial mass is $M_A^{\mathrm{RES}} = 1.16$ GeV/c^2 and the RFG nuclear model is assumed.

VI.   SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

The systematic uncertainties in this analysis can be factorized into neutrino beam flux uncertainties, interaction model uncertainties and detector response uncertainties. A summary of the effect of these systematic uncertainties on the CCQE cross section measurement is shown in Table IV.

A.   Neutrino Beam Flux Uncertainty

The neutrino beam flux uncertainty is dominated by the uncertainty on the hadron interaction model, including uncertainties on the total proton-nucleus production cross section, pion multiplicities, and secondary nucleon production. These uncertainties are summarized in Table V. These uncertainties are derived primarily from NA61/SHINE measurements [23, 24] of pion and kaon production from proton interactions on a graphite target at the T2K beam energy. For areas of phase space uncovered by these measurements, additional external datasets are used. These uncertainties are propagated to the T2K neutrino beam flux prediction by re-weighting FLUKA2008 MC samples. The total proton-nucleus production cross section uncertainty is set to cover discrepancies between NA61 measurements [23] and other external datasets [38] [39] [40]. The uncertainty on secondary nucleon production is set by comparing the predictions of the FLUKA2008 model with external measurements [36, 37].

Uncertainties in the operational conditions of the beam-line are also considered. These include the proton beam incident position on the target, the proton beam profile and intensity, the angle between the beam and the ND280 detector, and the horn current, field and alignment.

For this analysis, the neutrino beam flux uncertainty is modeled as a multi-variate Gaussian in 11 bins of true neutrino energy, including the correlation between bins. The ν_μ flux uncertainty varies between E_ν bins and ranges from 10% to 15%. The effect on the measured flux integrated CCQE cross section is 12%. Further details of the neutrino beam flux prediction can be found in [20].

B. Interaction Model Uncertainty

The interaction model uncertainties are motivated from comparison of the NEUT MC generator with external experimental data. A summary of the parameters and their effects on the overall normalization of the selected QE-enhanced data sample is shown in Table VI. The same parameterization of the systematic error on the interaction model as [15] is used with the exception of the parameters that affect the CCQE model. All uncertainties that affect the CCQE normalization are removed.

Variation of model parameters is estimated by evaluating the bin contents for model parameter variations of $0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4$ and $\pm 5\sigma$. Cubic spline interpolation between these points is used to evaluate the change in bin contents for an arbitrary change in model parameter.

Uncertainty on the shape of the p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ distribution for CCQE events enters when extracting $\sigma(E_\nu)$. This is included with model uncertainties on two parameters, M_A^{QE} and p_F. For M_A^{QE}, a central value of 1.21 GeV/c^2 is selected and the 1σ error set to 0.2 GeV/c^2. This error covers the best-fit values reported by the NOMAD and MiniBooNE experiments, as well as the M_A^{QE} value measured from deuterium scattering experiments. The Fermi-momentum p_F parameter value and error are set from electron scattering measurements. For each event, with neutrino energy E_ν, the prediction with a parameter value x' is multiplied by the factor $\sigma(x^{\mathrm{nominal}}, E_\nu)/\sigma(x', E_\nu)$, where $\sigma(x, E_\nu)$ is the total CCQE cross section calculated with the parameter value x. In both cases, the systematic uncertainty is implemented as a shape-only parameter. Hence, the total cross section is conserved, and only the effect of the parameter on the shape of the p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ distribution is included.

The single pion background uncertainty is set from analysis of MiniBooNE pion production data [41–43]. Model parameter uncertainties are set on the axial vector mass for resonant interactions, M_A^{RES}. Normalization uncertainties are applied to the CC resonant single pion, NC $1\pi^0$ and NC coherent production rates. W_{eff} shape is an empirical parameter used to account for shape differences between the data and MC predictions in the NC$1\pi^0$ pion momentum distributions by modifying the width of the hadronic resonance. In the absence of direct observations of CC coherent pion production at the energy relevant for the T2K neutrino beam flux, a conservative estimate of 100% is set on the CC coherent pion rate [44, 45].

"CC other" is an E_ν^{true} dependent uncertainty on the inelastic cross section excluding CC resonant single pion production. This rate is known to $\sim 10\%$ from external datasets [46] at 4 GeV. "NC other" is a 30% normalization uncertainty on NC elastic, NC resonant production of $\eta/K/\gamma$, NC DIS and NC multi-π production. The contribution from NC backgrounds to this analysis is small.

The FSI uncertainty is estimated by varying parameters of the NEUT FSI model, changing the effective π interaction rates within limits allowed by external pion-carbon scattering data. A covariance matrix is generated from the variation of the number of events in each p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ bin.

C.   Detector Response Uncertainty

The detector response uncertainties are summarized in Table VII. The dominant systematic uncertainties originate from the TPC momentum measurement and from "out-of-fiducial-volume backgrounds".

Uncertainties in the TPC momentum scale arise due to uncertainties in the magnetic field. The TPC momentum resolution uncertainty is estimated from analysis of through-going muon tracks passing through multiple TPCs by comparing the reconstructed momentum in each TPC.

The background from out-of-fiducial-volume events is 6.1%. These can enter the selected sample due to mis-reconstruction. The dominant reconstruction effect is from muon tracks that originate from outside of the fiducial volume and pass through the FGD but have no hits reconstructed in the bars surrounding the FGD fiducial volume. This is investigated by examining the hits distributions of through-going muons that are known from the TPC measurement to pass through every layer of the FGD. An additional 20% cross section uncertainty is applied to the out-of-FGD events as they come primarily from interactions on heavier nuclei. This is motivated by comparison of the out-of-FGD rates predicted by the NEUT and GENIE event generators as well as comparisons between data and MC of the observed rates in the SMRD, ECal and P0D detectors. The total uncertainty assigned to out-of-fiducial-volume interactions is up to 9% depending on the reconstructed p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ bin.

Uncertainties due to the track reconstruction efficiency, TPC particle ID, Michel electron tagging, sand interactions (i.e. interactions in material upstream of the ND280 detector such as the sand surrounding the pit) and pile-up are considered. These are studied using control samples in data including through-going muons and cosmic muons. The uncertainty due to secondary pion interactions is evaluated by comparing GEANT4 simulation with external pion-carbon scattering datasets. The fiducial mass uncertainty is 0.67%. These systematic uncertainties are described in detail in [15].

For each source of detector response uncertainty, a covariance matrix in reconstructed p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ bins is formed. The total uncertainty was formed from the sum of the covariance matrices.

VII.   CCQE CROSS SECTION MEASUREMENTS

A.   Methodology

The CCQE cross section is extracted by applying a binned likelihood fit to the observed p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ distribution. The input events are grouped into bins in p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ with bin edges $p_\mu = [0.0, 0.4, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9, > 0.9]$ GeV/c and $\cos\theta_\mu = [-1.0, 0.84, 0.90, 0.94, 1.0]$. For simulation, the events are generated with the NEUT MC model described in Section V. The simulated data are additionally binned in the unobserved variable E_ν^{true} and true interaction type. Systematic uncertainties are accounted for by varying the bin contents with nuisance parameters. Five parameters of interest are defined which scale the normalization of CCQE prediction in bins of true E_ν with bin edges $E_\nu = [0.0, 0.6, 0.7, 1.0, 1.5, > 1.5]$ GeV/c^2. This binning is optimized to ensure a stable fit result. The best-fit value of these parameters of interest is used to calculate the measured CCQE cross section. The predicted p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ distribution is calculated by summing over the unobserved variables, after taking into account

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the bin weights.

The number of predicted events in an observed p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ bin, i, is,

$$N_i^{\text{predicted}}(w_{jk}, d_i, f_j, x_{ijk}) = d_i \sum_j^{E_\nu^{\text{true}}\text{bins}} f_j \sum_k^{\text{event type}} w_{jk}x_{ijk}N_{ijk}^{\text{MC}}, \qquad (2)$$

where the indices j and k correspond to the unobserved quantities E_ν^{true} bins and true interaction type, respectively, N_{ijk}^{MC} is the number of events predicted by the nominal MC, d_i are weights for detector systematics, f_j are weights for the flux systematics, x_{ijk} are the weights for the cross section systematics, w_{jk} are the parameters of interests that weight the cross section in bins of E_ν^{true}. These w_{jk} parameters are only allowed to vary for CCQE interactions. For all other interactions they are fixed at unity. The true interaction types are shown in Table III. This categorization is used for the re-weighting used to implement the model systematic uncertainties.

A binned maximum likelihood fit is used to find the best fit parameters. The negative log-likelihood ratio is minimized,

$$-2\ln\lambda(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{p_\mu\text{-}\cos\theta_\mu\text{bins}} \left[N_i^{\text{predicted}}(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) - N_i^{\text{observed}} + N_i^{\text{observed}}\ln\frac{N_i^{\text{observed}}}{N_i^{\text{predicted}}(\boldsymbol{\Theta})} \right]$$
$$+ \ln\frac{\pi_d(\boldsymbol{\Theta_d})}{\pi_d(\boldsymbol{\Theta_d^{\text{nominal}}})} + \ln\frac{\pi_f(\boldsymbol{\Theta_f})}{\pi_f(\boldsymbol{\Theta_f^{\text{nominal}}})} + \ln\frac{\pi_x(\boldsymbol{\Theta_x})}{\pi_x(\boldsymbol{\Theta_x^{\text{nominal}}})}, \qquad (3)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Theta}$ is the set of fit parameters, and π_d, π_f, π_x are multi-variate Gaussian constraints on the nuisance parameters that describe the detector, neutrino beam flux and interaction model uncertainties. The final value for the extracted CCQE cross section is calculated by multiplying the weights, w_{jk}, by the corresponding flux-integrated cross section, $\langle\sigma_{jk}\rangle_\Phi$, in the nominal model. The uncertainty on the CCQE cross section is estimated with the constant $\Delta\ln\lambda$ method. Studies with pseudo-data generated from the MC model found that this method is unbiased and gives frequentist coverage. To avoid experimenter bias, a blind analysis was performed. The analysis method was developed and validated with toy Monte Carlo studies before being applied to the data.

B. Energy Dependent Cross Section

Figure 5 shows the observed p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ distribution before and after the fit. Figure 6 shows the best-fit CCQE cross section. The best-fit to the ND280 data prefers a lower overall cross section than the model prediction. In general the nominal model prediction (Smith-Moniz with RFG and $M_A^{\text{QE}} = 1.2$ GeV/c^2) gives a good description of the data. One exception is the measurement in the range 1-1.5 GeV which differs from the model prediction at the level of 2.3σ in that bin. However, this discrepancy is not statistically significant. A χ^2 test comparing the fitted result with the nominal model prediction gives a p-value of 17% indicating agreement between the data and the cross section model. This is compared with measurements from other experiments in Figure 7. There is consistency between the experiments within the current statistical and systematic uncertainties. At low E_ν the uncertainties are comparable with other experiments. At high E_ν the uncertainties increase where there is increased contamination from background processes and larger flux uncertainties. The total fractional covariance matrix is given in Table VIII. These data may be useful to compare with alternative models, however care should be taken to account for the model assumptions made in the extrapolation from p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ to E_ν.

C. Flux Averaged Total Cross Section

The flux averaged CCQE cross section, $\langle \sigma \rangle$, is calculated with the following equation,

$$\langle \sigma \rangle = \frac{\sum\limits_{j} f_j \phi_j^{\text{nominal}} w_{jk} \sigma_{jk}^{\text{nominal}}}{\sum\limits_{j} f_j \phi_j^{\text{nominal}}},\tag{4}$$

where f_j is the fitted value of the flux weight nuisance parameter, ϕ_j^{nominal} is the nominal predicted flux in E_ν^{true} bin j, w_{jk} is the fitted value of the CCQE signal cross section weight, $\sigma_j^{\text{nominal}}$ is the nominal CCQE cross section in bin j. This is a useful quantity to calculate, since it does not rely on extrapolation from observed quantities p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ to E_ν; therefore it is inherently less model-dependent. The fitted flux weight nuisance parameters, f_j, all remain close to their nominal values. The choice to use the post-fit nominal values as opposed to their fitted values has a negligible effect on the final $\langle \sigma \rangle$. To estimate the error on the flux-averaged CCQE cross section a Monte Carlo method was used. A multivariate Gaussian PDF was constructed using the best-fit w_{jk} and f_j parameter values and the post-fit covariance matrix. A toy MC was used to generate 100000 sets of w_{jk} and f_j parameters. These values were used to calculated a set of $\langle \sigma \rangle$. The standard deviation of this distribution was used to estimate the error on $\langle \sigma \rangle$. The final value from the fit to the data is $(0.83 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-38}$ cm^2 per target neutron. This is in good agreement with the nominal model prediction 0.88×10^{-38} cm^2 (with $M_A^{\text{QE}} = 1.21$ GeV).

D. M_A^{QE} Extraction

An alternative approach to fitting the cross section normalization is to directly fit the model parameters. The axial mass parameter M_A^{QE} is varied to obtain the best fit to the observed data. The axial mass parameter affects both the total cross section and its Q^2 dependence. It is interesting to consider both the effect on M_A^{QE} with and without including overall normalization information in the analysis.

Two fits are performed. First, a version that simultaneously varies the shape and normalization (referred to as M_A^{QE}-norm). Second, a version that varies only the shape (referred to as M_A^{QE}-shape). The M_A^{QE} shape uncertainty described in Section VI B is removed from the analysis for these fits. Therefore, the fitted values are independent of external data constraints. The best fit values for M_A^{QE}-norm (M_A^{QE}-shape) is $1.26^{+0.21}_{-0.18}$ GeV/c^2 ($1.43^{+0.28}_{-0.22}$ GeV/c^2). A goodness-of-fit test is performed by comparing the minimized log-likelihood ratio value with the expected distribution from Monte Carlo simulation. The one-sided p-value is calculated to be $p = 0.67$ (0.68) for M_A^{QE}-norm (M_A^{QE}-shape) indicating a good fit of the model to these data.

The shape-only fit result prefers high values of M_A^{QE} relative to the shape and normalization fit result. As shown in Section VII C, the total CCQE cross section is in good agreement, within error, with the nominal NEUT model. As the total CCQE cross section scales with M_A^{QE}, the M_A^{QE}-norm parameter is constrained by the overall normalization to lie close to the nominal value. This normalization constraint does not affect the M_A^{QE}-shape fit and hence this parameter is free to explore a wider range of the parameter space. While higher values are preferred when using shape-only, it should be noted that these results are

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consistent within their current uncertainties. As discussed in Section I, low values of M_A^{QE} (~ 1 GeV/c^2) are observed in measurements of CCQE interactions in neutrino deuterium scattering and pion production in ep scattering. Note that the meaning of this effective parameter depends on the details of the QE model; comparison with results from other experiments should be done with care.

VIII. SUMMARY

We have selected ν_μ CCQE interactions on carbon and analyzed the observed p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ distribution within the context of the standard CCQE interaction model with a RFG nuclear model. The model gives a good description of the data within the current level of statistical and systematic uncertainty. The flux-integrated CCQE cross section was measured to be $\langle\sigma\rangle = (0.83 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-38}$ cm^2 in good agreement with the nominal model value of 0.88×10^{-38} cm^2 (evaluated at $M_A^{\text{QE}} = 1.21$ GeV/c^2). We have extracted the energy-dependent CCQE cross section. Understanding this dependence is crucial for current and future neutrino oscillation experiments. Both results are consistent with an enhanced cross section relative to a model with $M_A^{\text{QE}} = 1.03$ GeV/c^2 (or equivalently this is consistent with a high effective M_A^{QE}). A direct extraction of M_A^{QE} yields $1.26^{+0.21}_{-0.18}$ GeV/c^2 when using normalization plus shape information and $1.43^{+0.28}_{-0.22}$ GeV/c^2 when using only shape information. This observation is consistent with that observed by other experiments at similar energies however at the current level of uncertainty we are unable to resolve the discrepancies between NOMAD and MiniBooNE datasets.

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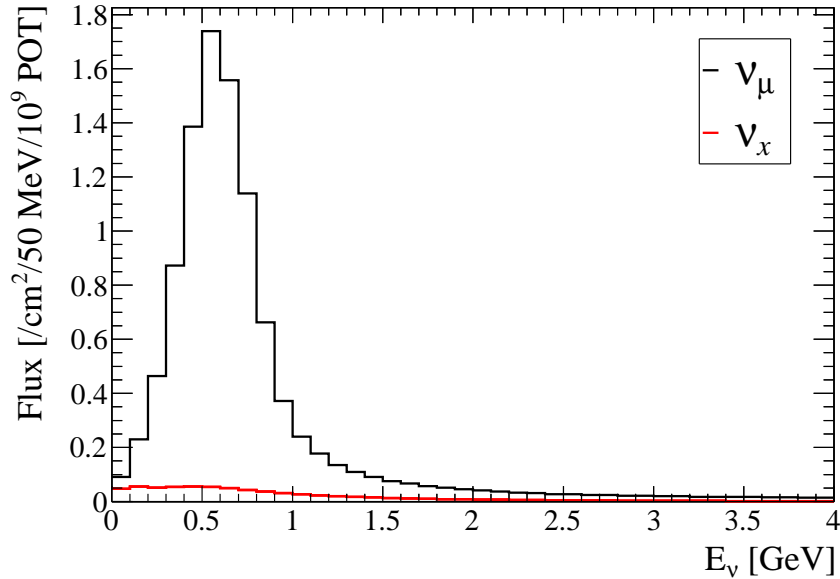[46] P. Adamson *et. al.* (MINOS Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D **81**, 072002 (2010).

FIG. 1: The predicted neutrino flux at the ND280. The beam is dominated by ν_μ and is narrowly peaked at 0.6 GeV. The sum of all other neutrino flavors, including anti-neutrinos, is denoted by ν_x.

TABLE I: The elemental composition of the FGD1 in the fiducial volume. The composition is expressed both as a fraction of the total mass of target nuclei and the total number of target neutrons (for CCQE interactions).

Element	Mass (%)	Neutron (%)
C	86.1	92.8
H	7.4	—
O	3.7	4.0
Ti	1.7	1.9
Si	1.0	1.1
N	0.1	0.2

TABLE II: The predicted cumulative signal efficiency and purity at each cut level.

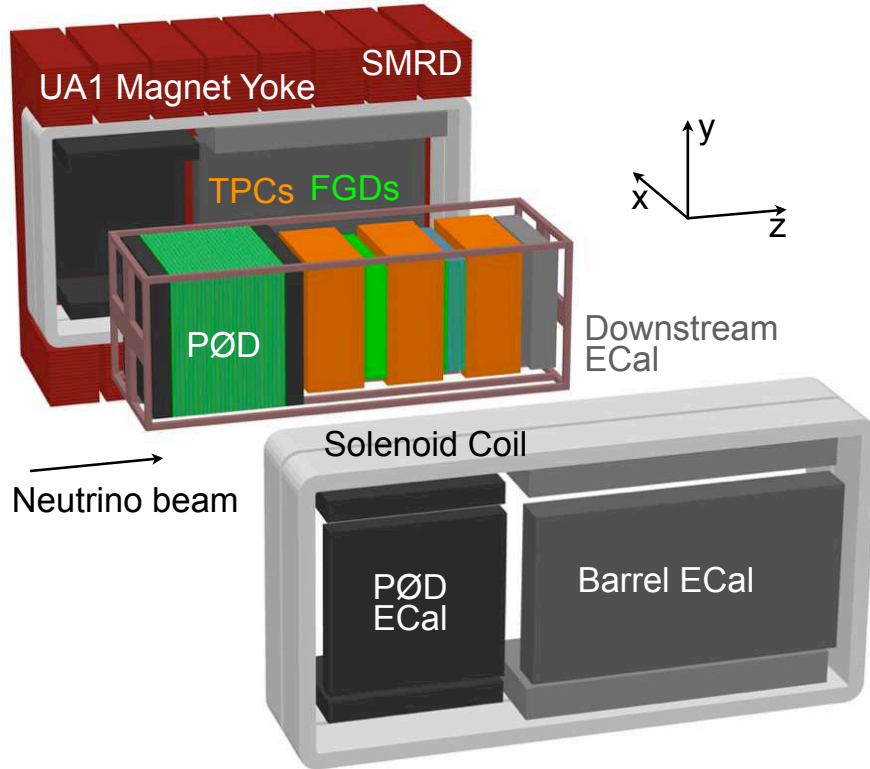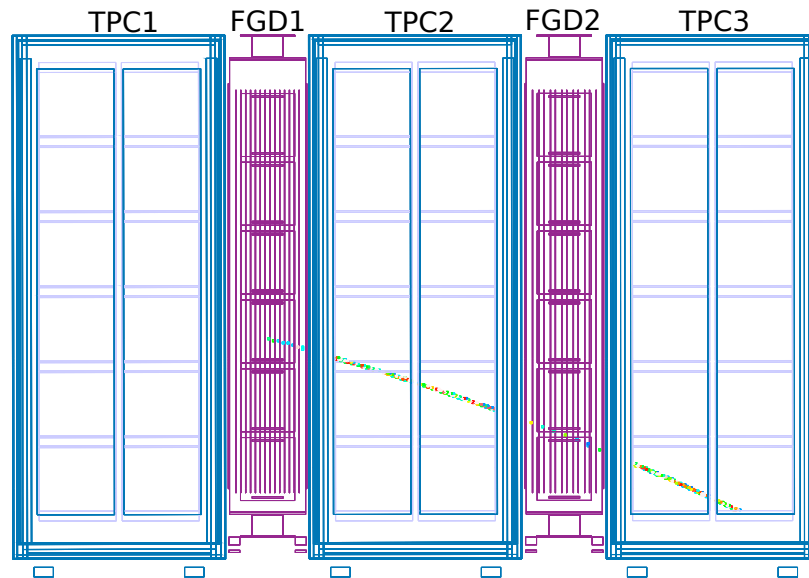| Cut	Efficiency (%)	Purity (%)
Good quality negative track in FV	50	26
TPC veto	49	34
PID cut	47	45
TPC-FGD multiplicity	40	67
Michel electron veto	40	72

FIG. 2: The ND280 off axis near detector.

FIG. 3: An example CCQE candidate event. Only the tracker region of the ND280 is shown. This event shows a forward-going muon track starting within the fiducial volume of FGD1. It passes through two TPCs and the second FGD before exiting the detector.

(a)p_μ
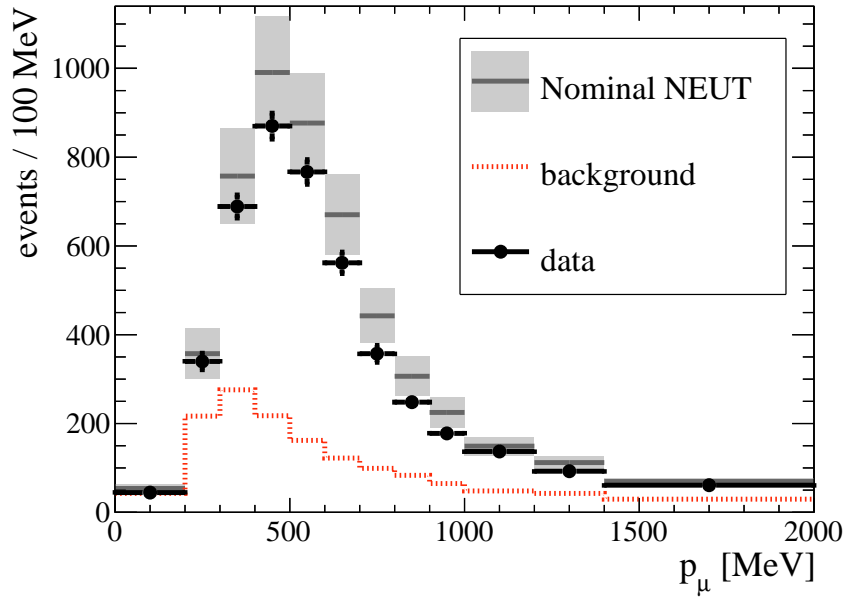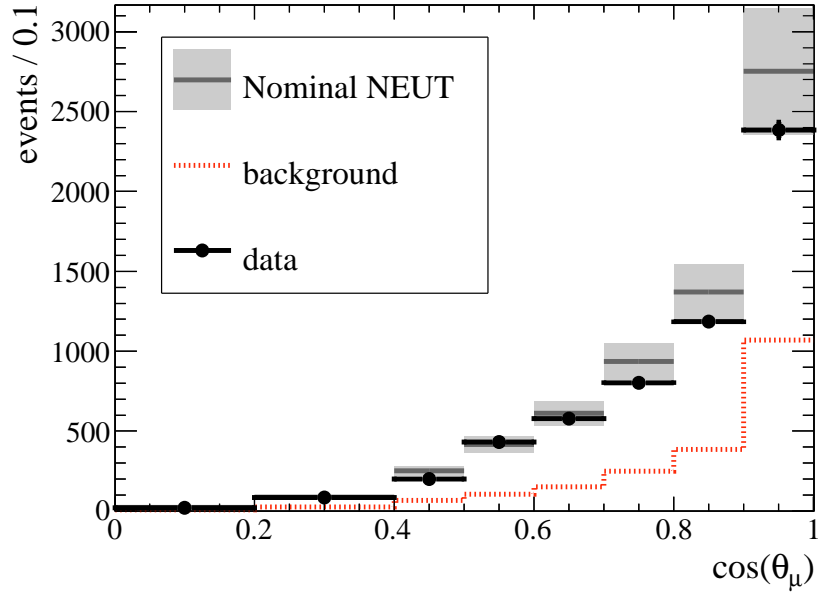
(b)$\cos\theta_\mu$

FIG. 4: Reconstructed muon kinematics. The background is the NEUT prediction and is dominated by CC resonant pion production. The gray error band on the MC prediction includes the systematic uncertainties described in Section VI. The error bars on the black data points show the statistical uncertainties.

TABLE III: Predicted fraction of selected events broken into interaction type. CC other includes resonant production of multiple-pions, production of other mesons (such as η and K) and deep-inelastic scattering. Sand interactions occur in the material upstream of the ND280 detector such as the sand surrounding the pit and the pit walls.

Event Type	Fraction (%)
CCQE	72.0
CC1π	16.1
CC coherent	1.8
CC other	6.3
NC	2.2
Sand interactions	1.5

TABLE IV: A summary of the effect of each class of systematic uncertainty on the flux-integrated CCQE cross section.

Error Source	Frac. Err. on $\langle \sigma \rangle$ (%)
Detector	4
Neutrino beam flux	12
Interaction model	4
Statistical	8
Total	16

TABLE V: A summary of the neutrino beam flux uncertainties. The uncertainties shown are the uncertainty on the total ν_μ neutrino flux.

	Error (%)
Secondary nucleon production	6.9
Production cross section	6.4
Pion multiplicity	5.0
Kaon multiplicity	0.8
Off-axis angle	1.6
Proton beam	1.1
Horn absolute current	0.9
Horn angular alignment	0.5
Horn field asymmetry	0.3
Target alignment	0.2
Total	10.9

TABLE VI: The pre-fit model parameter errors and nominal values. The effect of each systematic on the total normalization of the predicted number of selected events is also shown.

Parameter	Description	Nominal value	Error	Normalisation (%)
M_A^{QE}	axial mass for QE interactions	1.21 GeV/c^2	0.20 GeV/c^2	3.5%
p_F	Fermi momentum	217 MeV/c	30.38 MeV/c	1.5%
$x_1^{CC1\pi}$	CC1π norm. ($0.0 \leq E_\nu < 2.5$)	1.63	0.43	4.3%
$x_2^{CC1\pi}$	CC1π norm. ($E_\nu > 2.5$)	1	0.40	1.9%
M_A^{RES}	axial mass for resonant interations	1.16 GeV/c^2	0.11	1.8%
W_{eff}	modifies width of hadronic resonance	1	0.52	0.6%
$x^{CCcoh.}$	CC coherent norm.	0	1.00	1.0%
$x^{CCother}$	varies other CC interactions	0	1.00	0.6%
$x^{NC1\pi}$	NC1π norm.	1.19	0.43	0.4%
$x^{NCcoh.}$	NC coherent norm.	1	0.3	0.4%
$x^{NCother}$	varies other NC interactions	1	0.3	0.5%
x^{FSI}	FSI	-	-	0.5%

TABLE VII: The detector systematic errors. The effect of each systematic on the total normalization of the predicted number of selected events is also shown.

Systematic Error	Normalisation Error (%)	Shape Error (%)
TPC momentum scale	0.1	0.2-5.9
TPC momentum resolution	0.2	0.0-2.0
External background	1.3	0.4-8.9
Track reconstruction	0.6	0.7-2.1
TPC PID	0.02	0.0-0.7
Michel tagging	0.6	0.3-1.6
Sand interations	0.1	0.0-1.1
Pile-up	0.4	0.3-1.6
Pion rescattering	1.4	0.5-4.7
Fiducial Volume Target Mass	0.6	0.6

TABLE VIII: The fractional covariance matrix corresponding to the errors shown in Figure 6.

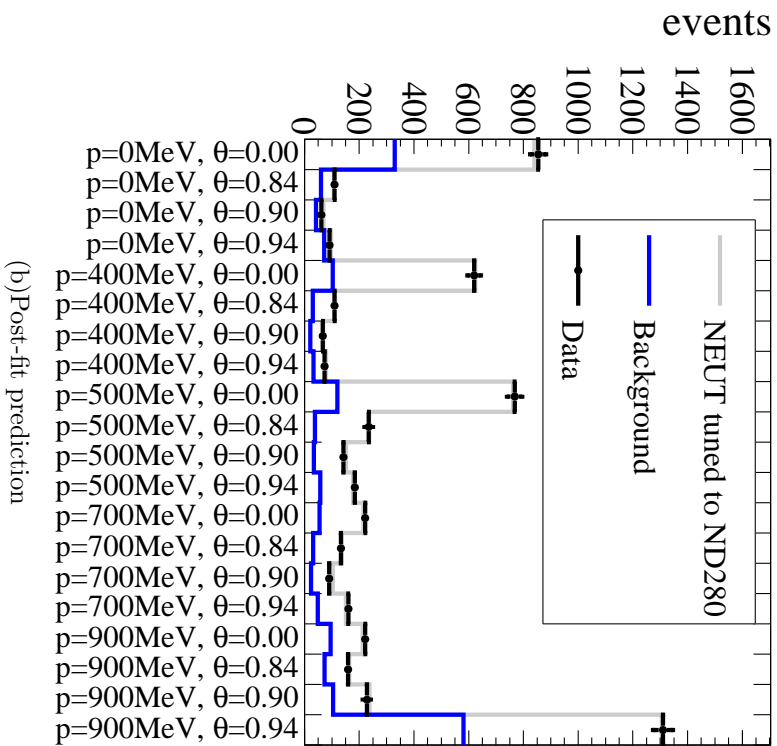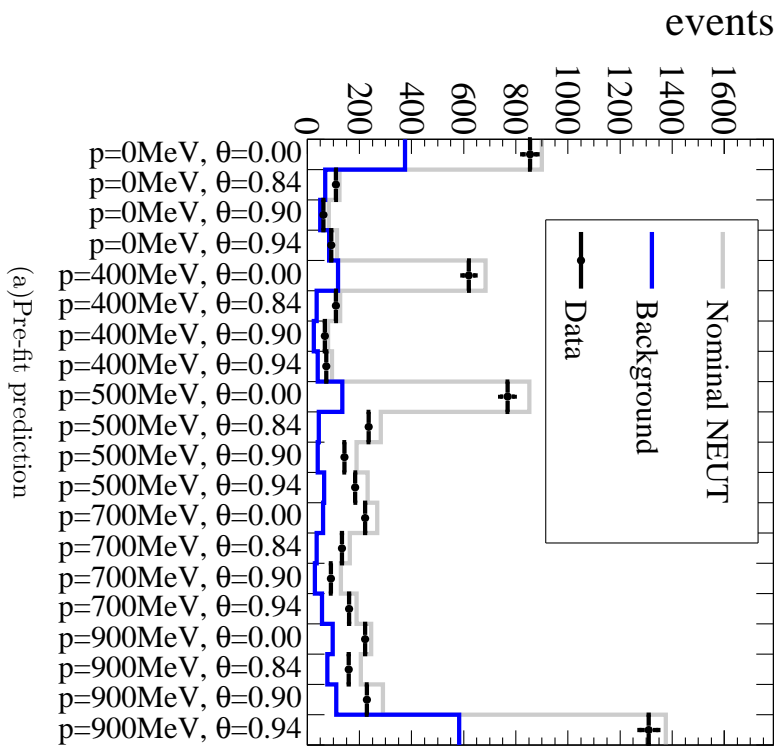| Energy bin (GeV)	0.0-0.6	0.6-0.7	0.7-1.0	1.0-1.5	$\geq$ 1.5
0.0-0.6	0.035	0.002	0.024	0.006	0.025
0.6-0.7	0.002	0.038	$-$0.004	0.023	0.000
0.7-1.0	0.024	$-$0.004	0.039	$-$0.006	0.035
1.0-1.5	0.006	0.023	$-$0.006	0.068	-0.021
$\geq$ 1.5	0.025	0.000	0.035	$-$0.021	0.102

FIG. 5: Data MC comparison of both the predicted and fitted p_μ-$\cos\theta_\mu$ distributions.
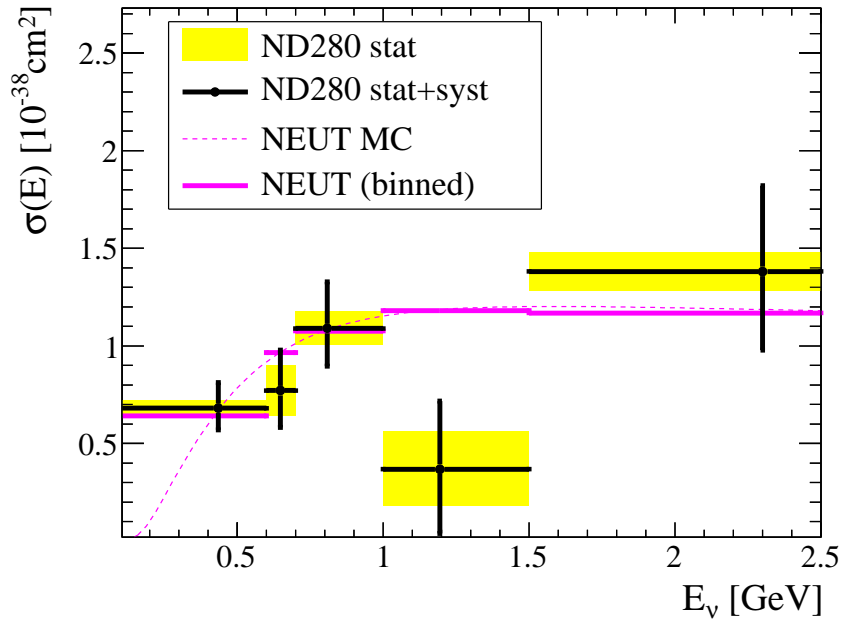
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FIG. 6: The measured CCQE energy-dependent cross section per target neutron with statistical (band) and total (bar) errors.
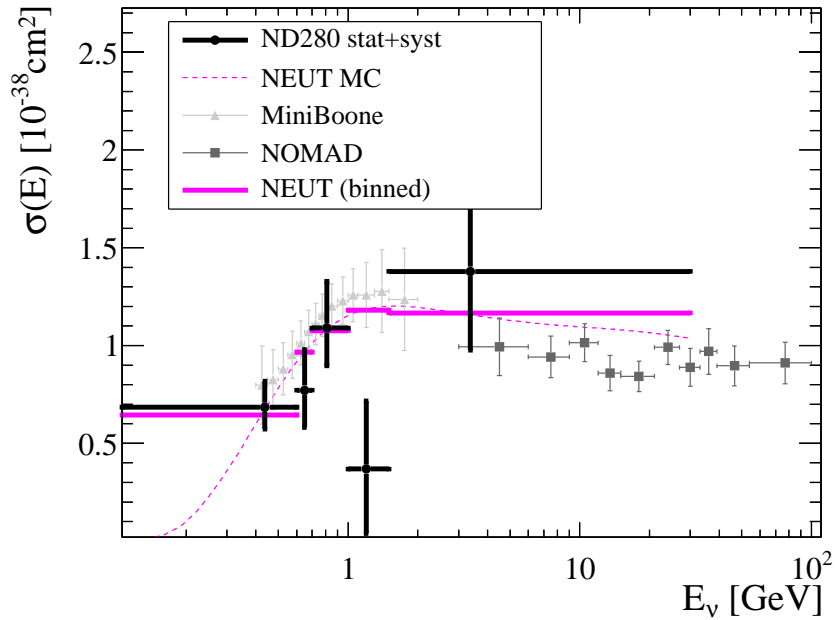

FIG. 7: The measured CCQE energy-dependent cross section per target neutron compared with MiniBooNE and NOMAD results.