# First study of neutrino angle reconstruction using quasielastic-like interactions in MicroBooNE

3	P. Abratenko, <sup>38</sup> D. Andrade Aldana, <sup>14</sup> L. Arellano, <sup>22</sup> J. Asaadi, <sup>37</sup> A. Ashkenazi, <sup>36</sup> S. Balasubramanian, <sup>12</sup>
4	B. Baller, <sup>12</sup> A. Barnard, <sup>29</sup> G. Barr, <sup>29</sup> D. Barrow, <sup>29</sup> J. Barrow, <sup>26</sup> V. Basque, <sup>12</sup> J. Bateman, <sup>15,22</sup>
5	O. Benevides Rodrigues, <sup>14</sup> S. Berkman, <sup>25</sup> A. Bhat, <sup>7</sup> M. Bhattacharya, <sup>12</sup> M. Bishai, <sup>3</sup> A. Blake, <sup>19</sup> B. Bogart, <sup>24</sup>
6	T. Bolton, <sup>18</sup> M. B. Brunetti, <sup>17,40</sup> L. Camilleri, <sup>10</sup> D. Caratelli, <sup>4</sup> F. Cavanna, <sup>12</sup> G. Cerati, <sup>12</sup> A. Chappell, <sup>40</sup>
7	Y. Chen, <sup>33</sup> J. M. Conrad, <sup>23</sup> M. Convery, <sup>33</sup> L. Cooper-Troendle, <sup>30</sup> J. I. Crespo-Anadón, <sup>6</sup> R. Cross, <sup>40</sup> M. Del Tutto, <sup>12</sup>
8	S. R. Dennis, <sup>5</sup> P. Detje, <sup>5</sup> R. Diurba, <sup>2</sup> Z. Djurcic, <sup>1</sup> K. Duffy, <sup>29</sup> S. Dytman, <sup>30</sup> B. Eberly, <sup>35</sup> P. Englezos, <sup>32</sup>
9	A. Ereditato, <sup>7,12</sup> J. J. Evans, <sup>22</sup> C. Fang, <sup>4</sup> W. Foreman, <sup>14,20</sup> B. T. Fleming, <sup>7</sup> D. Franco, <sup>7</sup> A. P. Furmanski, <sup>26</sup>
10	F. Gao, <sup>4</sup> D. Garcia-Gamez, <sup>13</sup> S. Gardiner, <sup>12</sup> G. Ge, <sup>10</sup> S. Gollapinni, <sup>20</sup> E. Gramellini, <sup>22</sup> P. Green, <sup>29</sup>
11	H. Greenlee, <sup>12</sup> L. Gu, <sup>19</sup> W. Gu, <sup>3</sup> R. Guenette, <sup>22</sup> P. Guzowski, <sup>22</sup> L. Hagaman, <sup>7</sup> M. D. Handley, <sup>5</sup> O. Hen, <sup>23</sup>
12	C. Hilgenberg, <sup>26</sup> G. A. Horton-Smith, <sup>18</sup> A. Hussain, <sup>18</sup> B. Irwin, <sup>26</sup> M. S. Ismail, <sup>30</sup> C. James, <sup>12</sup> X. Ji, <sup>27</sup> J. H. Jo, <sup>3</sup>
13	R. A. Johnson <sup>8</sup> D. Kalra, <sup>10</sup> G. Karagiorgi, <sup>10</sup> W. Ketchum, <sup>12</sup> M. Kirby, <sup>3</sup> T. Kobilarcik, <sup>12</sup> N. Lane, <sup>15,22</sup> JY.
14	Li. <sup>11</sup> Y. Li. <sup>3</sup> K. Lin. <sup>32</sup> B. R. Littleiohn. <sup>14</sup> L. Liu. <sup>12</sup> W. C. Louis. <sup>20</sup> X. Luo. <sup>4</sup> P. Machado. <sup>12</sup> T. Mahmud. <sup>19</sup>
15	C. Mariani. <sup>39</sup> J. Marshall. <sup>40</sup> N. Martinez. <sup>18</sup> D. A. Martinez Caicedo. <sup>34</sup> S. Martynenko. <sup>3</sup> A. Mastbaum. <sup>32</sup>
16	I. Mawby, <sup>19</sup> N. McConkey, <sup>31</sup> L. Mellet, <sup>25</sup> J. Mendez, <sup>21</sup> J. Micallef, <sup>23,38</sup> A. Mogan, <sup>9</sup> T. Mohavai, <sup>16</sup> M. Mooney, <sup>9</sup>
17	A. F. Moor. <sup>5</sup> C. D. Moore. <sup>12</sup> L. Mora Lepin. <sup>22</sup> M. M. Moudgalva. <sup>22</sup> S. Mulleriababu. <sup>2</sup> D. Naples. <sup>30</sup>
18	A. Navrer-Agasson, <sup>15</sup> N. Navak, <sup>3</sup> M. Nebot-Guinot, <sup>11</sup> C. Nguyen, <sup>32</sup> J. Nowak, <sup>19</sup> N. Oza, <sup>10</sup> O. Palamara, <sup>12</sup>
19	N. Pallat. <sup>26</sup> V. Paolone. <sup>30</sup> A. Papadopoulou. <sup>20</sup> V. Papavassiliou. <sup>28</sup> H. B. Parkinson. <sup>11</sup> S. F. Pate. <sup>28</sup> N. Patel. <sup>19</sup>
20	Z. Pavlovic. <sup>12</sup> F. Piasetzky. <sup>36</sup> K. Pletcher. <sup>25</sup> I. Pophale. <sup>19</sup> X. Qian. <sup>3</sup> J. L. Baat. <sup>12</sup> V. Badeka. <sup>3</sup> A. Bafique. <sup>1</sup>
21	M. Reggiani-Guzzo. <sup>11</sup> J. Rodriguez Rondon. <sup>34</sup> M. Rosenberg. <sup>38</sup> M. Ross-Lonergan. <sup>20</sup> I. Safa. <sup>10</sup> D. W. Schmitz. <sup>7</sup>
22	A. Schukraft, <sup>12</sup> W. Seligman, <sup>10</sup> M. H. Shaevitz, <sup>10</sup> R. Sharankova, <sup>12</sup> J. Shi, <sup>5</sup> E. L. Snider, <sup>12</sup> S. Söldner-Rembold, <sup>15</sup>
23	J. Spitz. <sup>24</sup> M. Stancari. <sup>12</sup> J. St. John. <sup>12</sup> T. Strauss. <sup>12</sup> A. M. Szelc. <sup>11</sup> N. Taniuchi. <sup>5</sup> K. Terao. <sup>33</sup> C. Thorpe. <sup>22</sup>
24	D. Torbunov. <sup>3</sup> D. Totani. <sup>4</sup> M. Toups. <sup>12</sup> A. Trettin. <sup>22</sup> YT. Tsai. <sup>33</sup> J. Tyler. <sup>18</sup> M. A. Uchida. <sup>5</sup> T. Usher. <sup>33</sup>
25	B. Viren. <sup>3</sup> J. Wang. <sup>27</sup> M. Weber. <sup>2</sup> H. Wei. <sup>21</sup> A. J. White. <sup>7</sup> S. Wolbers. <sup>12</sup> T. Wongijrad. <sup>38</sup> K. Wresilo. <sup>5</sup> W. Wu. <sup>30</sup>
26	E. Yandel, <sup>4,20</sup> T. Yang, <sup>12</sup> L. E. Yates, <sup>12</sup> H. W. Yu, <sup>3</sup> G. P. Zeller, <sup>12</sup> J. Zennamo, <sup>12</sup> and C. Zhang <sup>3</sup>
27	(The MicroBooNE Collaboration)*
20	<sup>1</sup> Araonne National Laboratory (ANL) Lemont IL 60/39 USA
29	<sup>2</sup> Universität Bern, Bern CH-3012, Switzerland
30	<sup>3</sup> Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Upton, NY, 11973, USA
31	<sup>4</sup> University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, 93106, USA
32	<sup>9</sup> University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB3 0HE, United Kingdom
33	<sup>7</sup> University of Chicago, Chicago, USA
34	<sup>8</sup> University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, 45221, USA
36	<sup>9</sup> Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, 80523, USA
37	<sup>10</sup> Columbia University, New York, NY, 10027, USA
38	<sup>11</sup> University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3FD, United Kingdom
39	<sup>12</sup> Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (FNAL), Batavia, IL 60510, USA
40	<sup>14</sup> Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) Chicago II 60616 USA
41	<sup>15</sup> Imperial College London, London SW7 2AZ, United Kingdom
43	<sup>16</sup> Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA
44	<sup>17</sup> The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 66045, USA
45	<sup>18</sup> Kansas State University (KSU), Manhattan, KS, 66506, USA
46	<sup>19</sup> Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YW, United Kingdom
47	<sup>20</sup> Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, NM, 87545, USA <sup>21</sup> Louisiana Stata University, Batan Bayas, IA, 70802, USA
48	<sup>22</sup> The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kinadom
50	<sup>23</sup> Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA, 02139, USA
51	<sup>24</sup> University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 48109, USA
52	<sup>25</sup> Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA
53	<sup>20</sup> University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 55455, USA
54	<sup>28</sup> New Merico State University, (NMSU) Les Cruces NM 22002 USA
55	<sup>29</sup> University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3RH. United Kinadom
57	<sup>30</sup> University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 15260, USA

58	<sup>31</sup> Queen Mary University of London, London E1 4NS, United Kingdom
59	<sup>32</sup> Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ, 08854, USA
50	<sup>33</sup> SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Menlo Park, CA, 94025, USA
51	<sup>34</sup> South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT), Rapid City, SD, 57701, USA
52	<sup>35</sup> University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME, 04104, USA
53	<sup>36</sup> Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel, 69978
54	<sup>37</sup> University of Texas, Arlington, TX, 76019, USA
55	<sup>38</sup> Tufts University, Medford, MA, 02155, USA
56	<sup>39</sup> Center for Neutrino Physics, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 24061, USA
57	<sup>40</sup> University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom
58	We investigate the expected precision of the reconstructed neutrino direction using a $\nu_{\mu}$ -argon
59	guasielastic-like event topology with one muon and one proton in the final state and the recon-
70	struction capabilities of the MicroBooNE liquid argon time projection chamber. This direction is of
71	importance in the context of DUNE sub-GeV atmospheric oscillation studies. MicroBooNE allows
72	for a data-driven quantification of this resolution by investigating the deviation of the reconstructed
73	muon-proton system orientation with respect to the well-known direction of neutrinos originating
74	from the Booster Neutrino Beam with an exposure of $1.3 \times 10^{21}$ protons on target. Using simula-
75	tion studies, we derive the expected sub-GeV DUNE atmospheric-neutrino reconstructed simulated
76	spectrum by developing a reweighting scheme as a function of the true neutrino energy. We further
77	report flux-integrated single- and double-differential cross section measurements of charged-current

 $\nu_{\mu}$  quasielastic-like scattering on argon as a function of the muon-proton system angle using the full

MicroBooNE data sets. We also demonstrate the sensitivity of these results to nuclear effects and

112

113

144

145

146

- 78
- 79 80

81

I. INTRODUCTION

final state hadronic reinteraction modeling.

Atmospheric neutrinos play a crucial role in improving<sup>114</sup> 82 our understanding of neutrino oscillations and extract-115 83 ing mixing parameters in the lepton sector, such as the<sup>116</sup> 84 charge-parity violating phase  $(\delta_{CP})$  [1, 2]. Of particular<sup>117</sup> 85 interest are sub-GeV atmospheric neutrinos with energies<sup>118</sup> 86 in the 100 MeV to 1 GeV range. These are affected by<sup>119</sup> 87 both solar and atmospheric mass splittings, while being<sup>120</sup> 88 sensitive to nontrivial oscillation effects [3–6]. A mea-<sup>121</sup> 89 surement of their oscillation pattern can yield important<sup>122</sup> ٩n new information on  $\delta_{CP}$ . Furthermore, there are a wealth<sup>123</sup> 91 of phenomenological oscillation study efforts in this en-124 92 125 ergy regime [7–23]. 93

Atmospheric neutrinos' oscillatory nature will be ex-126 94 tensively explored with precision measurements per-127 95 formed using data sets that will be collected, amongst<sup>128</sup> 96 others, by the forthcoming Deep Underground Neutrino<sup>129</sup> 97 Experiment (DUNE) [24–27]. The liquid argon time<sup>130</sup> 98 projection chamber (LArTPC) technology deployed by<sup>131</sup> 99 DUNE will be essential to that effort, since it enables ex-132 100 cellent neutrino interaction topology and energy recon-<sup>133</sup> 101 struction by allowing the detection of the majority of the<sup>134</sup> 102 secondary charged particles with low detection thresh-135 103 olds for charged particles [28]. Yet, in addition to a good<sup>136</sup> 104 estimation of the neutrino energy, a precise reconstruc-<sup>137</sup> 105 tion of the incoming neutrino direction and the accurate<sub>138</sub> 106 modeling of the nuclear effects are crucial to determine<sub>139</sub> 107 the event-by-event baseline necessary for studying oscil-140 108 lation effects and obtaining a measurement of  $\delta_{CP}$  [23]. 141 109 In this work, we investigate the precision of the recon- $_{142}$ 110 structed neutrino direction in a LArTPC detector using<sub>143</sub> 111

sub-GeV neutrinos arriving from a known direction. The reported results use the MicroBooNE detector [29] and data sets corresponding to an exposure of  $1.3 \times 10^{21}$  protons on target. Neutrinos from the Booster Neutrino Beam (BNB) [30] at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory collected during 2015–2020 are used, which provide strong overlap with the sub-GeV atmospheric neutrino spectrum. We focus on interactions where a single muonproton pair is reconstructed with no additional detected particles, similar to previous measurements [31-33]. We refer to these events as  $CC1p0\pi$ . Such events are dominated by quasielastic (QE) interactions as it is required that there are no visible pions. We define the direction of the muon-proton system from the sum of the muon and proton momentum, and investigate the deviation of this direction from that of the incoming neutrino. Furthermore, we present the first flux-integrated differential cross-section measurements for muon-neutrino chargedcurrent (CC) interactions on argon as a function of the angle between the muon-proton system and the incoming neutrino direction. We present both a single-differential measurement, and double-differential measurements in different ranges of variables with sensitivity to nuclear effects and undetected particles such as neutrons. These variables include the reconstructed energy, derived struck nucleon momentum, and derived missing momentum.

In Sec. II we define the angle between the muon-proton system and the incoming neutrino direction,  $\theta_{\rm vis}$ . We further define the variables with sensitivity to nuclear effects used in the double-differential cross section measurements. In Sec. III we present  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distributions using MicroBooNE  $\nu_{\mu}$ -Ar CC1p0 $\pi$  interactions and discuss the observed features in specific regions of phase space. Section IV leverages the MicroBooNE CC1p0 $\pi$  event selection to make a projection for the expected DUNE atmo-

<sup>\*</sup> microboone\_info@fnal.gov

<sup>147</sup> spheric neutrino  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  spectrum by deriving a reweighting<sup>176</sup> factor as a function of the true neutrino energy. In Sec. V<sub>177</sub> <sup>149</sup> we present the first flux-integrated single- and double-<sup>178</sup> differential cross section measurements in the new angular variable. Finally, conclusions are presented in Sec. VI.

## II. OBSERVABLES

152

The simplest case in which to benchmark the recon-153 structed neutrino angular orientation precision is us- $_{180}$ 154 ing charged-current quasielastic-like (CCQE-like) inter- $_{\scriptscriptstyle 181}$ 155 actions, where the final state can be characterized by  $a_{182}$ 156 muon and a proton. Using the muon  $(\vec{p}_{\mu})$  and proton<sub>183</sub> 157  $(\vec{p}_p)$  momentum vectors, we define the angle between the 158 muon-proton system and the incoming neutrino direction 159  $(\theta_{\rm vis})$  as 160

$$\theta_{\rm vis} = \operatorname{acos}(\frac{\vec{b} \cdot \hat{z}}{|\vec{b}|}),\tag{1}$$

with 
$$\vec{b} = \vec{p}_{\mu} + \vec{p}_{p},$$
 (2)<sup>185</sup>

<sup>161</sup> where  $\hat{z}$  corresponds to the unit vector along the beam<sub>187</sub> <sup>162</sup> direction of incident neutrinos, as shown in Fig. 1.



FIG. 1. Schematic representation of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  using the muon's and<sup>197</sup> proton's three-dimensional momentum vectors.<sup>198</sup>

This reconstructed angular orientation is studied as a<sup>200</sup> function of variables with sensitivity to nuclear effects;<sup>201</sup> namely the i) visible energy, ii) total struck nucleon momentum, and iii) missing momentum.

The reconstructed visible energy  $(E_{\text{reco}})$  is a crucial input to neutrino oscillation studies, and can be obtained<sup>202</sup> following the formalism used in [34],

$$E_{\rm reco} = E_{\mu} + K_p + B, \qquad (3)_{_{205}}^{_{204}}$$

199

203

where  $E_{\mu}$  is the total muon energy,  $K_p$  is the proton ki-206 netic energy, and *B* the nucleon removal energy of argon<sub>207</sub> set to 30.9 MeV [35]. The particle energies are obtained<sub>208</sub> using range-based momentum. 209

Assuming that the incoming neutrino travels along the<sub>210</sub> z-direction and using conservation of momentum along<sub>211</sub> that direction, the transverse and longitudinal components of the struck nucleon momentum can be obtained, as discussed in Refs. [36, 37],

$$\delta \vec{p}_T = \vec{p}_{\mu,T} + \vec{p}_{p,T},\tag{4}$$

$$p_L = p_{\mu,L} + p_{p,L} - E_{\text{reco}},\tag{5}$$

where  $p_{\mu(p),T(L)}$  are the transverse (longitudinal) component of the muon (proton) momentum vector, respectively. Assuming that all the particles are reconstructed, the initial struck nucleon momentum  $(p_n)$  can be obtained as the vector sum of the longitudinal and transverse components,

$$p_n = |\vec{p}_n| = \sqrt{p_L^2 + \delta p_T^2}.$$
(6)

This derivation of the initial struck nucleon momentum builds on the assumption that neutrinos arrive from a known direction along the beamline. This is not applicable for neutrinos of atmospheric origin. To overcome this limitation, we introduce a new variable to quantify the missing momentum as

$$p_{\rm miss} = E_{\rm reco} - b,\tag{7}$$

where b corresponds to the magnitude of the vector  $\vec{b}$ . This quantity is independent of the incoming neutrino direction since it uses no angular information. Thus, it can be calculated for atmospheric neutrinos and leveraged to ensure that both the incoming atmospheric neutrino direction and energy will be reconstructed accurately. In the absence of undetected particles, detection thresholds, or nuclear effects,  $p_{\rm miss}$  would be equal to the protonneutron mass difference. Deviations from that value are indicative of the presence of these effects and introduce missing energy or momentum in the measurement.

### **III. MICROBOONE EVENT SELECTION**

The CC1p0 $\pi$  signal definition used in this analysis includes all  $\nu_{\mu}$ -Ar scattering events with a final-state muon with momentum  $0.1 < p_{\mu} < 1.2 \text{ GeV}/c$ , and exactly one proton with  $0.3 < p_p < 1 \text{ GeV}/c$ . Events with final-state neutral pions of any momentum are excluded. Signal events may contain any number of protons with momentum less than 300 MeV/c or greater than 1 GeV/c, neutrons of any momentum, and charged pions with momentum lower than 70 MeV/c.





FIG. 2. (a) Schematic representation of the  $\theta_{\rm brt}$  angle using the angle between the true  $(\vec{b}_{\rm true})$  and reconstructed  $(\vec{b}_{\rm reco})_{263}^{263}$ muon-proton system vectors with respect to the neutrino orientation for selected signal CC1p0 $\pi$  simulated events. (b)<sup>264</sup> Angular  $\theta_{\rm brt}$  distribution using the selected signal CC1p0 $\pi^{265}$ simulated events. The peak location (p'), median (m), mean<sup>266</sup> value  $(\mu)$ , and standard deviation  $(\tilde{\sigma})$  describing the distri-<sup>267</sup> bution are also shown. (c) Two-dimensional correlation be-<sup>268</sup> tween the reconstructed and true  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  using the selected signal<sub>269</sub> CC1p0 $\pi$  simulated events.

To report the results as a function of the  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  angular orientation, we use five years of data collected by the MicroBooNE detector from its exposure to the BNB neutrino flux. The detector is an 85 tonne active mass liquid argon time projection chamber and is described in detail in Ref. [29].

The selection outlined in Refs. [31–33] is used, which corresponds to the same CC1p0 $\pi$  signal definition as described at the beginning of this section. This results in 17,130 candidate data events, a purity of CC1p0 $\pi$  interactions of about 70%, and a selection efficiency of approximately 10%. The final efficiency is primarily driven by the demand for exactly two fully contained track-like candidates. Based on simulation predictions, we find that the dominant background contributions originate from events with two true protons, pion-proton pairs, and broken muon tracks. This is attributed to reconstruction failures that either fail to reconstruct a particle track or split a particle track into multiple segments.

This data is compared against the GENIE v3.0.6 neutrino interaction generator predictions [38] with the GENIE v3.0.6 G18\_10a\_02\_11a (G18) model configuration along with the MicroBooNE BNB flux prediction [30]. This model configuration uses the local Fermi gas (LFG) model [39], the Nieves CCQE scattering prescription [40] which includes Coulomb corrections for the outgoing muon [41], and random phase approximation (RPA) corrections [42]. Additionally, it uses the Nieves meson exchange current (MEC) model [43], the Kuzmin-Lyubushkin-Naumov Berger-Sehgal resonance production (RES) [44–46], the Berger-Sehgal coherent production (COH) [47], and the Bodek-Yang deep inelastic scattering (DIS) [48] models with the PYTHIA [49] hadronization part, and the hA2018 final state interaction (FSI) model [50]. The CCQE and CCMEC neutrino interaction models have been tuned to T2K  $\nu_{\mu}\text{-}^{12}\text{C}$  CC0 $\pi$ data [51, 52]. Predictions for more complex interactions, such as RES, remain unaltered and no additional Monte Carlo (MC) constraints are applied. We refer to the corresponding tuned prediction as G18T. In order to provide an accurate description of the dominant cosmic backgrounds pertinent to surface detectors, the full MC simulation consists of a combination of simulated neutrino interactions overlaid with background data collected when the beam is off to model cosmic ray induced interactions and detector noise. This technique has been extensively used by previous CC1p0 $\pi$  MicroBooNE analyses [53–56].

We first characterize the performance of the LArTPC reconstruction by comparing the true  $(\vec{b}_{true})$  and reconstructed  $(\vec{b}_{reco})$  muon-proton system vectors. These are constructed using the true and reconstructed values for the muon and proton momentum vectors, respectively, as defined in Sec. II. This comparison is performed using the selected MC events that satisfy the CC1p0 $\pi$  signal definition. We refer to the relevant opening angle between the reconstructed (r) and true (t)  $\vec{b}$  vectors as  $\theta_{brt}$ , as shown in Fig. 2(a). As shown in Fig. 2(b), for the majority of events the angle  $\theta_{brt}$  is better than 5°, which demon-

strates the excellent reconstruction capabilities of LArT-270 PCs. The peak location (p'), median (m), mean value 271  $(\mu)$ , and standard deviation  $(\tilde{\sigma})$  describing the distribu-272 tions are also shown. The small values that characterize 273 this distribution indicate that the detector resolution on 274 these quantities is not the limiting factor in determining 275 the incoming neutrino direction. This will also be dis-276 cussed in later sections. Finally, Fig. 2(c) shows the two-277 dimensional correlation between the reconstructed and 278 true  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  and demonstrates that no major biases are ob-279 served. The corresponding muon and proton angular cor-280 relations between the reconstructed and true quantities 281 can be found in the Supplemental Material [57]. 282

The reconstructed  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distribution is shown in Fig. 3. 283 The uncertainty band shown in the data to MC ra-284 tio includes contributions from the neutrino flux pre-285 diction (6.7%) [58], neutrino interaction cross section 286 modeling (4.8%) [52, 59, 60], detector response model-287 ing (4.1%) [61], beam exposure (2.4%), MC statistics 288 (0.5%), number of scattering targets (1.19%), reinterac-289 tions (0.9%) [62], and out-of-cryostat interaction model-290 ing (0.3%). The data-simulation agreement is quantified 291 across all the figures in terms of a goodness-of-fit met-292 ric  $(\chi^2)$ , the corresponding p-value (p), and as a number 293 of standard deviations ( $\sigma'$ ). The latter is calculated by 294 translating the p-value to a  $\chi^2$  value with one degree of 295 freedom and taking the square root of that quantity. The 296  $\chi^2$  calculation includes the bin-to-bin correlations. 297



FIG. 3. Distribution of the selected CC1p0 $\pi$  events as a function of the angle  $\theta_{\rm vis}$ . Only statistical uncertainties are shown on the data. The bottom panel shows the ratio of data to prediction. The prediction uncertainty is included in the bottom panel. The data-simulation agreement is quantified across all the figures in terms of a goodness-of-fit metric ( $\chi^2$ ), the corresponding p-value (p), and as a number of standard deviations ( $\sigma'$ ).



FIG. 4. Distribution of the selected CC1p0 $\pi$  events as a function of the muon-proton angle  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  in (a) low, (b) medium, and (c) high reconstructed energy ( $E_{\rm reco}$ ) regions. Only statistical uncertainties are shown on the data. The bottom panels shows the ratio of data to prediction. The prediction uncertainty is included in the bottom panels. The data-simulation agreement is quantified across all the figures in terms of a goodness-of-fit metric ( $\chi^2$ ), the corresponding p-value (p), and as a number of standard deviations ( $\sigma'$ ).

![](_page_5_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Figure_1.jpeg)

FIG. 5. Distribution of the selected CC1p0 $\pi$  events as a function of the muon-proton angle  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  in (a) low, (b) medium, and (c) high reconstructed struck nucleon momentum  $(p_n)$  regions. Only statistical uncertainties are shown on the data. The bottom panels shows the ratio of data to prediction. The prediction uncertainty is included in the bottom panels. The data-simulation agreement is quantified across all the figures in terms of a goodness-of-fit metric  $(\chi^2)$ , the corresponding p-value (p), and as a number of standard deviations  $(\sigma')$ .

FIG. 6. Distribution of the selected CC1p0 $\pi$  events as a function of the muon-proton angle  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  in (a) low, (b) medium, and (c) high reconstructed missing momentum ( $p_{\rm miss}$ ) regions. Only statistical uncertainties are shown on the data. The bottom panels shows the ratio of data to prediction. The prediction uncertainty is included in the bottom panels. The data-simulation agreement is quantified across all the figures in terms of a goodness-of-fit metric ( $\chi^2$ ), the corresponding p-value (p), and as a number of standard deviations ( $\sigma'$ ).

![](_page_6_Figure_0.jpeg)

FIG. 7. (a) Angular orientation  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  dependence on the reconstructed energy using simulated signal CC1p0 $\pi$  events. (b) The  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distributions presented in reconstructed energy slices using simulated signal CC1p0 $\pi$  events. The peak location (p'), median (m), mean value  $(\mu)$ , and standard deviation  $(\tilde{\sigma})$  are also presented.

In the absence of nuclear effects and final-state rein-<sup>337</sup> 298 teractions, the  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distribution would be peaked at 0° 299 with respect to the incoming neutrino direction. Instead<sub>338</sub> 300 it shows a smooth rise at low values until it peaks at<sub>339</sub> 301  $\approx 10^{\circ}$ , followed by a decreasing tail that extends to  $180^{\circ}_{.340}$ 302 The physics contributions driving this tail are discussed<sub>341</sub> 303 in Sec. V. Candidate neutrino interactions that satisfy<sub>342</sub> 304 the CC1p0 $\pi$  signal definition at a reconstruction level<sub>343</sub> 305 but not at truth level are treated as background events.344 306 We refer to these background events as non-CC1p0 $\pi$ . In<sub>345</sub> 307 addition, there are also some remaining background con-346 308 tributions from cosmic contamination and interactions347 309 originating outside the cryostat. 310 348

The final  $\theta_{\text{vis}}$  cross section results will be reported in<sub>349</sub> regions of  $E_{\text{reco}}$ ,  $p_n$ , and  $p_{\text{miss}}$ . These regions are listed in<sub>350</sub> Table I and correspond to phase-space regions with sen-<sub>351</sub> sitivity to different nuclear effects. The relevant event<sub>352</sub>

distributions in these regions are presented in Figs. 4– 6. The  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  resolutions are included in the Supplemental Material [57]. The bin-width division has already been applied to account for the irregular binning. We further report the evolution of the  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  mean value ( $\mu$ ), standard deviation ( $\tilde{\sigma}$ ), and median (m) in those regions for the simulated signal CC1p0 $\pi$  events. A representative example of the angular orientation  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  for the simulated signal CC1p0 $\pi$  events is presented as a function of the reconstructed energy in Fig. 7.

As can be seen both in Figs. 4–6 and in Table I, the median obtained in the  $\theta_{vis}$  distribution using all the events (Fig. 3) is smaller than the median in regions with reconstructed energy less than 0.5 GeV shown in Fig. 4(a). The same behavior is observed for regions with high reconstructed struck nucleon momentum seen in Fig. 5(c) and regions with high missing momentum shown in Fig. 6(bc). Yet, the resolutions obtained with the CC1p0 $\pi$  selection are, in most cases, smaller than the ones observed in the result reported in [63]. That observation is valid even at the lower part of the neutrino energy spectrum, where the reconstruction performance is expected to worsen.

TABLE I. Evolution of the mean value  $(\mu)$ , standard deviation  $(\tilde{\sigma})$ , and median (m) as a function of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  across various regions of  $E_{\rm reco}$ ,  $p_n$ , and  $p_{\rm miss}$  for the simulated signal CC1p0 $\pi$  events.

Region	$\mu$ [deg]	$\tilde{\sigma}$ [deg]	m  [deg]
All events	23.2	21.1	16.5
$E_{\rm reco} < 0.5 {\rm GeV}$	34.5	27.3	26.5
$0.5 < E_{ m reco} < 0.8 { m GeV}$	21.8	18.6	16.5
$0.8 < E_{ m reco} < { m GeV}$	14.3	11.5	10.5
$p_n < 0.2 \mathrm{GeV}/c$	10.0	5.8	9.5
$0.2 < p_n < 0.4 \mathrm{GeV}/c$	21.8	11.4	19.5
$0.4 < p_n < 1 \mathrm{GeV}/c$	49.3	26.3	44.5
$ p_{\rm miss}  < 0.1 {\rm GeV}/c$	20.7	19.4	15.5
$0.1 <  p_{\rm miss}  < 0.2 \mathrm{GeV}/c$	23.6	21.3	16.5
$0.2 <  p_{\rm miss}  < 0.5 {\rm GeV}/c$	29.8	23.6	23.5

#### IV. DUNE ATMOSPHERIC PROJECTION

In this section, we make a projection for the simulated  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distribution expected for DUNE atmospheric searches using the  $\nu_{\mu}$  flux prediction from Honda *et al.* [64] at the Homestake site. This is motivated by the good agreement within uncertainties seen between data and prediction, which allows us to take advantage of our simulation dataset and make predictions for the expected angular resolution in DUNE. In order to make the DUNE projection, we use the probability distribution function (pdf) for the BNB and Honda  $\nu_{\mu}$  fluxes. As shown in Fig. 8(a) showing the flux pdfs, there is a significant overlap between the Honda flux and the low energy range of the BNB flux. Using the ratio between the two flux pdfs as a function of  $E_{\nu}$ , we derive a reweighting function to transition between the two fluxes, as shown in Fig. 8(b).

![](_page_7_Figure_1.jpeg)

FIG. 8. (a) Comparison between the BNB and Honda  $\nu_{\mu}$  flux pdfs in true neutrino energy. (b) Reweighting function used for the BNB-to-Honda projection using the ratio of the  $\nu_{\mu}$  flux pdfs.

This function is applied on an event-by-event basis on 353 the simulated candidate  $CC1p0\pi$  events that satisfy the 354 MicroBooNE BNB event selection outlined in Sec. III<sup>371</sup> 355 and are shown in Fig. 9(a). The reweighted distribu-356 tion shown in Fig. 9(b) corresponds to the expected  $\theta_{\rm vis}$ 357 behavior that DUNE atmospheric analyses might obtain<sup>372</sup> 358 when the Honda flux is used. The MicroBooNE detec-<sup>373</sup> 359 tor properties and cross section modeling are assumed to 360 be the same for the purpose of this DUNE reweighting<sub>374</sub> 361 study. As expected, due to the lower-energy Honda flux, 375 362 the DUNE atmospheric distribution has a broader  $\theta_{vis^{376}}$ 363 distribution than the MicroBooNE BNB  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  one. 364 377

Figure 9 also includes the interaction contributions of  $_{378}$ the simulated candidate CC1p0 $\pi$  events for both the Mi- $_{379}$ croBooNE result and the DUNE projection. Since the  $_{380}$ Honda flux peaks at lower energies compared to the BNB $_{381}$ flux, the DUNE atmospheric projection has a higher con- $_{382}$ tribution of QE events than the MicroBooNE distribu- $_{383}$ 

![](_page_7_Figure_5.jpeg)

FIG. 9. Distribution of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  using simulated candidate CC1p0 $\pi$  events for (a) MicroBooNE and (b) a DUNE atmospheric projection using the reweighting as a function of  $E_{\nu}$ . The peak location (p'), median (m), mean value  $(\mu)$ , and standard deviation  $(\tilde{\sigma})$  describing the distributions are also shown.

tion.

# V. MICROBOONE CROSS SECTION MEASUREMENT

We report the extracted cross sections ( $\sigma$ ) from the MicroBooNE data as a function of true kinematic variables using the Wiener singular value decomposition (Wiener-SVD) unfolding technique [65]. This technique transforms both the data measurement and covariance matrix into a regularized truth space. It requires the construction of a response matrix describing the expected detector smearing and reconstruction efficiency. This matrix is responsible for correcting for these effects. The input covariance matrix is constructed using the uncertain-

ties related to the incident neutrino flux [30], interaction<sub>397</sub> 384 model [66], particle propagation [67], and detector re-398 385 sponse [68]. The binning is chosen to balance resolution<sub>399</sub> 386 and statistics. Each measurement is accompanied by  $an_{400}$ 387 output regularization matrix  $A_C$ . The  $A_C$  matrix per-401 388 forms the conversion from the truth to the regularized  $_{402}$ 389 truth space and is included in the Supplemental Mate-403 390 rial [57]. The unfolding is performed for each of the ob-404 391 servables of interest using the G18T model described in<sub>405</sub> 392 Sec. III. The robustness of the unfolding method is ver-406 393 ified using fake data studies with alternative generator<sub>407</sub> 394 predictions. 395 408

![](_page_8_Figure_1.jpeg)

FIG. 10. (a) The unfolded cross section interaction and<sup>436</sup> the interaction contributions for the selected events for the<sup>437</sup> **G18T** configuration as a function of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$ . (b) The unfolded<sup>438</sup> cross section interaction and the interaction contributions for<sup>439</sup> the selected events using the same configuration as a function<sup>440</sup> of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  for events with  $0.8 < E_{\rm reco} < 2 \,{\rm GeV}$ . The gray band<sup>441</sup> shows the normalization systematic uncertainty. Inner and<sup>442</sup> outer error bars show the statistical and the statistical $\oplus$ shape<sup>443</sup> uncertainty at the  $1\sigma$ , or 68%, confidence level.

The event rate has the predicted background sub-446

396

445

9 by the

tracted before the unfolding. It is further divided by the integrated neutrino flux and number of argon nuclei in the fiducial volume to report a differential cross section. In the results presented in Figs. 10–15, the inner error bars on the cross sections correspond to the data statistical uncertainties. The systematic uncertainties are decomposed into data shape and normalization sources following the procedure outlined in Ref. [69]. The crossterm uncertainties are incorporated in the normalization. The outer error bars on the reported cross sections correspond to data statistical and shape uncertainties added in quadrature. The data normalization uncertainties are presented as a band at the bottom of each plot. The degrees of freedom (ndf) correspond to the number of bins. The  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$  and p-value (p) data comparison for each generator prediction shown on all the figures takes into account the total covariance matrix. More details on the systematic uncertainties and the cross section extraction technique can be found in Ref. [32]. All the extracted cross sections are reported in the Supplemental Material [57]. They are compared to the G18T model set used by MicroBooNE, as well as the model set used by DUNE.

The single-differential cross section as a function of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  is shown in Fig. 10(a). As expected from the reconstructed event spectrum shown in Fig. 3, it is a distribution that peaks at a non-zero value of ~10° and extends to 180°. The low- $\theta_{\rm vis}$  part of the distribution is dominated by QE interactions. The higher- $\theta_{\rm vis}$  part of the spectrum has strong contributions from interactions with multi-nucleon effects, namely MEC and RES along with small DIS contributions. In this case where all events are considered, the G18T prediction yields good data-simulation agreement with a  $\chi^2$ /ndf less than one and a p-value close to unity.

As discussed in Sec. I, the neutrino angular orientation is of great importance for atmospheric neutrino oscillation studies. Thus, an extended  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  tail can be a limiting factor that introduces significant uncertainties and limits the experimental sensitivity. To that end, experimental efforts might want to primarily study events of interest in regions of the phase-space that result in a smaller spread of the  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distribution. An example of such a phasespace region is shown in Fig. 10(b) and corresponds to higher reconstructed energies  $(0.8 < E_{\rm reco} < 2 \,{\rm GeV})$ . In this limited phase space,  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  rarely exceeds 30° and the G18T prediction results in good agreement when compared to the data. Other phase space regions with small  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  spread are those with  $p_n < 0.2 \,{\rm GeV}/c$  and  $|p_{\rm miss}| <$  $0.1 \,\mathrm{GeV}/c$ , as can be seen in Figs. 14 and 15, which will be shown later.

![](_page_9_Figure_0.jpeg)

FIG. 11. (a) The flux-integrated double-differential cross sections as a function of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  for  $0.4 < p_n < 1 \,{\rm GeV}/c$ . Colored lines show the results of theoretical cross section calculations using the G18T hN prediction with the hN FSI model (orange), the G18T G4 prediction with the GEANT4 FSI model (green), and the G18T prediction with the hA FSI model (light blue). The gray band at the bottom shows the normalization systematic uncertainty. The numbers in parentheses show the  $\chi^2$ /ndf calculation for each of the predictions. (b) The flux-integrated double-differential cross sections as a function of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  for  $0.2 < |p_{\rm miss}| < 0.5 \,{\rm GeV}/c$ . Colored stacked histograms show the results of theoretical cross section calculations for events with no neutrons, G18T On (light blue), one neutron, G18T 1n (orange), two neutrons, G18T 2n (green), and at least three neutrons, G18T 3(+)n (red). The num- $_{473}$ bers in parentheses show the fractional contribution for  $\operatorname{each}_{474}$ neutron multiplicity. Inner and outer error bars show the sta- $_{475}$ tistical and the statistical  $\oplus$  shape uncertainty at the  $1\sigma$ , or  $_{476}^{-10}$ 68%, confidence level. 477

<sup>447</sup> In contrast to these phase space restrictions that yield<sup>479</sup> <sup>448</sup> noticeably narrower  $\theta_{vis}$  distributions, regions with a<sup>480</sup> <sup>449</sup> wide angular spread have also been identified. Fig-<sup>481</sup> <sup>450</sup> ure 11(a) shows an example corresponding to high to-<sup>482</sup> <sup>451</sup> tal reconstructed struck nucleon momentum values (0.4<sup>483</sup>

 $< p_n < 1 \,\mathrm{GeV}/c$ ). This phase space region has been shown to be dominated by events that undergo FSI [33]. To test the  $\theta_{vis}$  FSI sensitivity in that region, we study the performance of different FSI modeling options using T2K-tuned GENIE configurations and compare them to the data results. These tuned configurations include the GENIE v3.0.6 G18\_10a\_02\_11 configuration with the empirical hA2018 model (G18T) [50], the GENIE v3.0.6 G18\_10b\_02\_11 configuration with the hN2018 cascade model (G18b) [70], and the GENIE v3.0.6 G18\_10d\_02\_11 configuration with the GEANT4-Bertini model (G18d) [71]. A comparison across the relevant predictions is shown in Fig. 11(a) and reveals that the three FSI models yield comparable predictions that describe the shape of the  $\theta_{vis}$  distribution well. Discrimination power across the three FSI models could be established in future iterations of the analysis with reduced uncertainties in the first bins. A similar broadband  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distribution is observed for low  $E_{\rm reco}$  values and is presented in Fig. 13, which will be discussed later.

![](_page_9_Figure_4.jpeg)

FIG. 12. The flux-integrated single-differential cross sections as a function of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$ . The G18T (light blue) and AR23 (orange) GENIE configuration predictions are compared to data. Inner and outer error bars show the statistical and the statistical $\oplus$ shape uncertainty at the 1 $\sigma$ , or 68%, confidence level. The gray band shows the normalization systematic uncertainty. The numbers in parentheses show the  $\chi^2$ /ndf calculation for each of the predictions.

Other broad-spectrum features are observed for high missing momentum values  $(0.2 < |p_{\rm miss}| < 0.5 \,{\rm GeV}/c)$  in Fig. 11(b). The figure shows that these high missing momenta are obtained due to the presence of neutrons that deposit little to no energy in the detector, resulting in a tail that extends beyond 30° in  $\theta_{\rm vis}$ . Multi-neutron contributions account for more than half of the events in the high  $|p_{\rm miss}|$  sample. On the other hand, this reduces to 30% for events with low  $|p_{\rm miss}|$  values. The neutron contributions for the  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distribution using all the selected events and those events with  $|p_{\rm miss}| < 0.2 \,{\rm GeV}/c$  can be

478

11

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

FIG. 13. The flux-integrated double-differential cross sections as a function of  $\theta_{vis}$  for (a)  $E_{reco} < 0.5 \text{ GeV}$ , (b)  $0.5 < E_{reco} < 0.8 \text{ GeV}$ , (c)  $0.8 < E_{reco} < 2 \text{ GeV}$ , and (d) all events in all  $E_{reco}$  regions simultaneously expressed as a function of the universal bin number defined in the bin scheme file. The G18T (light blue) and AR23 (orange) GENIE configuration predictions are compared to data. Inner and outer error bars show the statistical and the statistical  $\oplus$  shape uncertainty at the 1 $\sigma$ , or 68%, confidence level. The gray band shows the normalization systematic uncertainty. The numbers in parentheses show the  $\chi^2$ /ndf calculation for each of the predictions.

found in the Supplemental Material [57]. The impor-500 484 tance of neutron detection in liquid argon has motivated<sup>501</sup> 485 a number of efforts and identification techniques [72–74].502 486 For completeness, the data results are also compared<sup>503</sup> 487 against the v3.4.2 GENIE AR23\_20i\_00\_000 (AR23) 504 488 model prediction that is currently used by DUNE and<sup>505</sup> 489 other Short Baseline Neutrino (SBN) experiments. The<sup>506</sup> 490 AR23 model set shares many common features with 491 the G18T one, but it includes some notable differences. 492 Namely, AR23 uses the local Fermi gas ground state<sup>507</sup> 493 modeling along with a correlated high-momentum 494 nucleon tail [38]; the z-expansion form factors  $for_{508}$ 495 CCQE interactions [75]; the SuSAv2 modeling for  $MEC_{509}$ 496 interactions [76]; emission of de-excitation photons  $for_{510}$ 497 argon nuclei [38]; and the free nucleon tune [45]. 498 511 Figure 12 shows the single-differential cross sec-512 499

tion measurement, while Figs. 13–15 show the doubledifferential cross sections as functions of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  and  $E_{\rm reco}$ ,  $p_n$ and  $|p_{\rm miss}|$ . AR23 yields a systematically lower prediction than G18T due to the fact that, unlike G18T, no tuning is applied on the AR23 QE contribution. Yet, there are also parts of the phase space where G18T demonstrates a poor performance with  $\chi^2/{\rm ndf}$  greater than unity.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

We report on the precision of the reconstructed neutrino orientation  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  for event topologies with a single muon and a single proton in the final state. The data are recorded with the MicroBooNE LArTPC detector using the Booster Neutrino Beam at Fermi National Accelera-

![](_page_11_Figure_1.jpeg)

FIG. 14. The flux-integrated double-differential cross sections as a function of  $\theta_{vis}$  for (a)  $p_n < 0.2 \text{ GeV}/c$ , (b)  $0.2 < p_n < 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c$ , (c)  $0.4 < p_n < 1 \text{ GeV}/c$ , and (d) all events in all  $p_n$  regions simultaneously expressed as a function of the universal bin number defined in the bin scheme file. The G18T (light blue) and AR23 (orange) GENIE configuration predictions are compared to data. Inner and outer error bars show the statistical and the statistical  $\oplus$  shape uncertainty at the  $1\sigma$ , or 68%, confidence level. The gray band shows the normalization systematic uncertainty. The numbers in parentheses show the  $\chi^2$ /ndf calculation for each of the predictions.

tor Laboratory with an exposure of  $1.3 \times 10^{21}$  protons on 529 513 target. We find that the neutrino direction reconstruc-530 514 tion performance using the single-proton selection is, in<sub>531</sub> 515 most cases, better than assumed in already published lit-532 516 erature using an inclusive selection. Using a reweighting<sub>533</sub> 517 function in  $E_{\nu}$ , we use the reconstructed simulated events<sup>534</sup> 518 in MicroBooNE to make a projection for the spectrum<sup>535</sup> 519 that the DUNE atmospheric studies might observe. The536 520  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  cross sections are studied in phase-space regions of 537 521 reconstructed neutrino energy, total struck nucleon mo-538 522 mentum, and total missing momentum. The latter is 523 agnostic to the angular orientation of the incoming neu-524 trino and, therefore, can be used in atmospheric neu-539 525 trino studies to separate events with better and worse 526 directional reconstruction. The G18T modeling perfor-<sub>540</sub> 527 mance is found to be satisfactory within the extracted  $_{541}$ 528

uncertainties and able to describe the majority of the nuclear effects driving the  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  distribution shape in different parts of the phase-space. We also report single-differential cross section measurements as a function of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$ , and double-differential cross section measurements as functions of  $\theta_{\rm vis}$  and the reconstructed visible energy, the total struck nucleon momentum, and the missing momentum. These results can be used to inform the sub-GeV atmospheric oscillation studies that will be reported by forthcoming experiments like DUNE.

# VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document was prepared by the MicroBooNE collaboration using the resources of the Fermi National Ac-

![](_page_12_Figure_0.jpeg)

FIG. 15. The flux-integrated double-differential cross sections as a function of  $\theta_{vis}$  for (a)  $|p_{miss}| < 0.1 \text{ GeV}/c$ , (b) 0.1  $< |p_{miss}| < 0.2 \text{ GeV}/c$  (c)  $0.2 < |p_{miss}| < 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$ , and (d) all events in all regions simultaneously expressed as a function of the universal bin number defined in the bin scheme file. The G18T (light blue) and AR23 (orange) GENIE configuration predictions are compared to data. Inner and outer error bars show the statistical and the statistical  $\oplus$  shape uncertainty at the  $1\sigma$ , or 68%, confidence level. The gray band shows the normalization systematic uncertainty. The numbers in parentheses show the  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$  calculation for each of the predictions.

celerator Laboratory (Fermilab), a U.S. Department of<sub>555</sub> 542 Energy, Office of Science, Office of High Energy Physics556 543 HEP User Facility. Fermilab is managed by Fermi For-557 544 ward Discovery Group, LLC, acting under Contract No.558 545 89243024CSC000002. MicroBooNE is supported by the<sub>559</sub> 546 following: the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Sci-560 547 ence, Offices of High Energy Physics and Nuclear Physics;561 548 the U.S. National Science Foundation; the Swiss National<sub>562</sub> 549 Science Foundation; the Science and Technology Facili-563 550 ties Council (STFC), part of the United Kingdom Re-564 551 search and Innovation; the Royal Society (United King-565 552 dom); the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Future 566 553 Leaders Fellowship; and the NSF AI Institute for Arti-567 554

ficial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions. Additional support for the laser calibration system and cosmic ray tagger was provided by the Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics, Bern, Switzerland. We also acknowledge the contributions of technical and scientific staff to the design, construction, and operation of the MicroBooNE detector as well as the contributions of past collaborators to the development of MicroBooNE analyses, without whom this work would not have been possible. For the purpose of open access, the authors have applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) public copyright license to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission.

- K. Abe *et al.* (Super-Kamiokande Collaboration), Atmo-629
   spheric neutrino oscillation analysis with external con-630
   straints in Super-Kamiokande I-IV, Phys. Rev. D 97,631
   072001 (2018).
- M. G. Aartsen *et al.* (IceCube Collaboration), Measure-633
  ment of atmospheric neutrino oscillations at 6–56 GeV634
  with IceCube DeepCore, Phys. Rev. Lett. **120**, 071801635
  (2018).
- [3] L. Wolfenstein, Neutrino oscillations in matter, Phys.637
   Rev. D 17, 2369 (1978).
- S. P. Mikheyev and A. Y. Smirnov, Resonance Amplifica-639
   tion of Oscillations in Matter and Spectroscopy of Solar640
   Neutrinos, Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 42, 913 (1985). 641
- [5] E. K. Akhmedov, Neutrino oscillations in inhomogeneous<sub>642</sub>
   matter (in Russian), Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 47, 301 (1988).
- <sup>583</sup> [6] P. Krastev and A. Smirnov, Parametric effects in neu-644 trino oscillations, Phys. Lett. B **226**, 341 (1989). 645
- V. Barger, T. Weiler, and K. Whisnant, Generalized neu-646
   trino mixing from the atmospheric anomaly, Phys. Lett.647
   B 440, 1 (1998).
- [8] A. Friedland, C. Lunardini, and M. Maltoni, Atmo-649
   spheric neutrinos as probes of neutrino-matter interac-650
   tions, Phys. Rev. D 70, 111301 (2004).
- [9] P. Huber, M. Maltoni, and T. Schwetz, Resolving param-652
   eter degeneracies in long-baseline experiments by atmo-653
   spheric neutrino data, Phys. Rev. D 71, 053006 (2005). 654
- E. K. Akhmedov, M. Maltoni, and A. Y. Smirnov, Neu-655
   trino oscillograms of the earth: effects of 1-2 mixing and 656
   CP-violation, J. High Energy Phys. 2008 (06), 072. 657
- [11] O. Mena, I. Mocioiu, and S. Razzaque, Neutrino mass658 hierarchy extraction using atmospheric neutrinos in ice,659
   Phys. Rev. D 78, 093003 (2008).
- [12] O. L. G. Peres and A. Y. Smirnov, Oscillations of very low<sub>661</sub>
   energy atmospheric neutrinos, Phys. Rev. D **79**, 113002<sub>662</sub>
   (2009).
- [13] E. Fernandez-Martinez, G. Giordano, O. Mena, and
   I. Mocioiu, Atmospheric neutrinos in ice and measure-665
   ment of neutrino oscillation parameters, Phys. Rev. D666
   82, 093011 (2010).
- [14] V. Barger, R. Gandhi, P. Ghoshal, S. Goswami, D. Mar-668
  fatia, S. Prakash, S. K. Raut, and S. U. Sankar, Neutrino669
  mass hierarchy and octant determination with atmo-670
  spheric neutrinos, Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 091801 (2012). 671
- [15] E. K. Akhmedov, S. Razzaque, and A. Y. Smirnov, Mass<sup>672</sup>
   hierarchy, 2-3 mixing and CP-phase with Huge Atmo-<sup>673</sup>
   spheric Neutrino Detectors, J. High Energy Phys. **02**,<sup>674</sup>
   082 (2013).
- [16] W. Winter, Neutrino mass hierarchy determination with
   IceCube-PINGU, Phys. Rev. D 88, 013013 (2013).
- [17] K. J. Kelly, P. A. N. Machado, N. Mishra, L. E. Strigari, 678
  and Y. Zhuang, Solar cycle effects in future measure-679
  ments of low-energy atmospheric neutrinos, Phys. Rev. 680
  D 108, 123019 (2023).
- [18] Y. Zhuang, L. E. Strigari, and R. F. Lang, Time vari-682
   ation of the atmospheric neutrino flux at dark matter683
   detectors, Phys. Rev. D 105, 043001 (2022).
- <sup>624</sup> [19] C. A. Ternes, S. Gariazzo, R. Hajjar, O. Mena, M. Sorel, <sup>685</sup> and M. Tórtola, Neutrino mass ordering at DUNE: An<sub>686</sub> extra  $\nu$  bonus, Phys. Rev. D **100**, 093004 (2019). <sup>687</sup>
- [20] P. B. Denton and R. Pestes, Neutrino oscillations through
- <sup>628</sup> the Earth's core, Phys. Rev. D **104**, 113007 (2021). <sup>689</sup>

- [21] K. J. Kelly, P. A. N. Machado, I. Martinez-Soler, and Y. F. Perez-Gonzalez, DUNE atmospheric neutrinos: Earth tomography, J. High Energy Phys. 05, 187 (2022).
- [22] C. A. Argüelles, P. Fernández, I. Martínez-Soler, and M. Jin, Measuring Oscillations with a Million Atmospheric Neutrinos, Phys. Rev. X 13, 041055 (2023).
- [23] K. J. Kelly, P. A. Machado, I. Martinez Soler, S. J. Parke, and Y. F. Perez Gonzalez, Sub-GeV Atmospheric Neutrinos and CP-Violation in DUNE, Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 081801 (2019).
- [24] B. Abi *et al.* (DUNE Collaboration), Long-baseline neutrino oscillation physics potential of the DUNE experiment, Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 978 (2020).
- [25] B. Abi *et al.* (DUNE Collaboration), Prospects for beyond the Standard Model physics searches at the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment, Eur. Phys. J. C 81, 322 (2021).
- [26] B. Abi *et al.* (DUNE Collaboration), Supernova neutrino burst detection with the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment, Eur. Phys. J. C 81, 423 (2021).
- [27] A. A. Abud *et al.* (DUNE Collaboration), Supernova pointing capabilities of DUNE (2024), arXiv:2407.10339.
- [28] O. Palamara, Exclusive muon neutrino charged current pion-less topologies. ArgoNeuT results and future prospects in LAr TPC detectors, in Proceedings of the 10th International Workshop on Neutrino-Nucleus Interactions in Few-GeV Region (NuInt15) (NuINT15, 2015) Chap. 10, p. 7566, https://journals.jps.jp/doi/pdf/10.7566/JPSCP.12.010017.
- [29] R. Acciarri *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Design and Construction of the MicroBooNE Detector, J. Instrum. **12** (02), P02017 (2017).
- [30] A. Aguilar-Arevalo *et al.* (MiniBooNE Collaboration), The Neutrino Flux prediction at MiniBooNE, Phys. Rev. D 79, 072002 (2009).
- [31] P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), First double-differential measurement of kinematic imbalance in neutrino interactions with the MicroBooNE detector, Phys. Rev. Lett. **131**, 101802 (2023).
- [32] P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Multidifferential cross section measurements of  $\nu_{\mu}$ -argon quasielasticlike reactions with the MicroBooNE detector, Phys. Rev. D **108**, 053002 (2023).
- [33] P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Measurement of nuclear effects in neutrino-argon interactions using generalized kinematic imbalance variables with the MicroBooNE detector, Phys. Rev. D 109, 092007 (2024).
- [34] X. Lu and J. T. Sobczyk, Identification of nuclear effects in neutrino and antineutrino interactions on nuclei using generalized final-state correlations, Phys. Rev. C 99, 055504 (2019).
- [35] A. Bodek and T. Cai, Removal energies and final state interaction in lepton nucleus scattering, Eur. Phys. J. C 79, 293 (2019).
- [36] B. Bourguille, J. Nieves, and F. Sánchez, Inclusive and exclusive neutrino-nucleus cross sections and the reconstruction of the interaction kinematics, J. High Energy Phys. 04, 153 (2021).
- [37] A. P. Furmanski and J. T. Sobczyk, Neutrino energy reconstruction from one-muon and one-proton events, Phys. Rev. C 95, 065501 (2017).

- [38] L. Alvarez-Ruso *et al.* (GENIE Collaboration), Recent<sub>754</sub>
   highlights from GENIE v3, Eur. Phys. J. ST 230, 4449<sub>755</sub>
   (2021).
- [39] R. Carrasco and E. Oset, Interaction of Real Photons757
   With Nuclei From 100-MeV to 500-MeV, Nucl. Phys. A758
   536, 445 (1992).
- [40] J. Nieves, F. Sanchez, I. Ruiz Simo, and M. Vicente Va-760
   cas, Neutrino Energy Reconstruction and the Shape of 761
   the CCQE-like Total Cross Section, Phys. Rev. D 85,762
   113008 (2012).
- [41] J. Engel, Approximate treatment of lepton distortion in<sup>764</sup>
   charged current neutrino scattering from nuclei, Phys.<sup>765</sup>
   Rev. C 57, 2004 (1998).
- [42] J. Nieves, J. E. Amaro, and M. Valverde, Inclusiverer
   quasielastic charged-current neutrino-nucleus reactions,768
   Phys. Rev. C 70, 055503 (2004).
- [43] J. Schwehr, D. Cherdack, and R. Gran, GENIE im-770
   plementation of IFIC Valencia model for QE-like 2p2h771
   neutrino-nucleus cross section (2016), arXiv:1601.02038.772
- [44] C. Berger and L. Sehgal, Lepton mass effects in single<sup>773</sup>
  pion production by neutrinos, Phys. Rev. D **76**, 113004774
  (2007). 775
- 712 [45] J. Tena-Vidal *et al.* (GENIE Collaboration), Neutrino-776
   713 nucleon cross-section model tuning in GENIE v3, Phys.777
   714 Rev. D 104, 072009 (2021). 778
- [46] K. S. Kuzmin, V. V. Lyubushkin, and V. A. Nau-779
  mov, Lepton polarization in neutrino-nucleon interac-780
  tions, Mod. Phys. Lett. A 19, 2815 (2004).
- [47] C. Berger and L. Sehgal, PCAC and coherent pion pro-782 duction by low energy neutrinos, Phys. Rev. D 79, 053003783 (2009).
- <sup>721</sup> [48] U. K. Yang and A. Bodek, Parton distributions, d/u, and <sup>785</sup> <sup>722</sup> higher twist effects at high x, Phys. Rev. Lett. **82**, 2467<sup>786</sup> <sup>723</sup> (1999). <sup>787</sup>
- [49] T. Sjöstrand, S. Mrenna, and P. Skands, Pythia 6.4788
   physics and manual, J. High Energy Phys. 05, 026 (2006).789
- [50] D. Ashery, I. Navon, G. Azuelos, H. Walter, H. Pfeif-790
   fer, and F. Schleputz, True Absorption and Scattering of 791
   Pions on Nuclei, Phys. Rev. C 23, 2173 (1981). 792
- <sup>729</sup> [51] K. Abe *et al.* (T2K Collaboration), Measurement of <sup>793</sup> double-differential muon neutrino charged-current inter-<sup>794</sup> actions on  $C_8H_8$  without pions in the final state using <sup>795</sup> the T2K off-axis beam, Phys. Rev. D **93**, 112012 (2016).<sup>796</sup>
- <sup>733</sup> [52] P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Newr97 <sup>734</sup> CC0 $\pi$  GENIE model tune for MicroBooNE, Phys. Rev.798 <sup>735</sup> D **105**, 072001 (2022). 799
- [53] C. Adams *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Rejecting<sup>800</sup>
  cosmic background for exclusive charged current quasison
  elastic neutrino interaction studies with Liquid Argon<sup>802</sup>
  TPCs; a case study with the MicroBooNE detector, Eur.<sup>803</sup>
  Phys. J. C **79**, 673 (2019).
- <sup>741</sup> [54] P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), First<sup>805</sup> <sup>742</sup> measurement of differential charged current quasielasti-<sup>806</sup> <sup>743</sup> clike  $\nu_{\mu}$ -argon scattering cross sections with the Micro-<sup>807</sup> <sup>744</sup> BooNE detector, Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 201803 (2020). <sup>808</sup>
- [55] P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Firsteep measurement of energy-dependent inclusive muon neu-sio trino charged-current cross sections on argon with thesin MicroBooNE detector, Phys. Rev. Lett. **128**, 151801812 (2022).
- [56] P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), First<sup>814</sup>
   measurement of inclusive electron-neutrino and antineu-<sup>815</sup>
   trino charged current differential cross sections in charged<sup>816</sup>
- <sup>753</sup> lepton energy on argon in MicroBooNE, Phys. Rev. D<sub>817</sub>

105, L051102 (2022).

- [57] See supplemental material at relevant link for the data release, the validation of the reweighting function, the fake data studies, the covariance matrices, the regularization matrices, and the neutron breakdowns.
- [58] A. A. Aguilar-Arevalo *et al.* (MiniBooNE Collaboration), First measurement of the muon antineutrino doubledifferential charged-current quasielastic cross section, Phys. Rev. D 88, 032001 (2013).
- [59] C. Andreopoulos *et al.*, The GENIE Neutrino Monte Carlo Generator, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A **614**, 87 (2010).
- [60] C. Andreopoulos *et al.*, The GENIE Neutrino Monte Carlo Generator: Physics and User Manual (2015), arXiv:1510.05494.
- [61] P. Abratenko *et al.* (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Novel approach for evaluating detector-related uncertainties in a LArTPC using MicroBooNE data, Eur. Phys. J. C 82, 454 (2022).
- [62] J. Calcutt, C. Thorpe, K. Mahn, and L. Fields, Geant4reweight: a framework for evaluating and propagating hadronic interaction uncertainties in Geant4, J. Instrum. 16, P08042 (2021).
- [63] J. Kopp, P. Machado, M. MacMahon, and I. Martinez-Soler, Improving Neutrino Energy Reconstruction with Machine Learning (2024), arXiv:2405.15867 [hep-ph].
- [64] M. Honda, M. S. Athar, T. Kajita, K. Kasahara, and S. Midorikawa, Atmospheric neutrino flux calculation using the NRLMSISE-00 atmospheric model, Phys. Rev. D 92, 023004 (2015).
- [65] W. Tang, X. Li, X. Qian, H. Wei, and C. Zhang, Data unfolding with Wiener-SVD method, J. Instrum. 12, P10002 (2017).
- [66] P. Abratenko et al. (MicroBooNE Collaboration), New CC0π GENIE model tune for MicroBooNE, Phys. Rev. D 105, 072001 (2022).
- [67] S. Agostinelli *et al.* (GEANT4 collaboration), GEANT4– a simulation toolkit, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A 506, 250 (2003).
- [68] P. Abratenko et al. (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Novel approach for evaluating detector-related uncertainties in a LArTPC using MicroBooNE data, Eur. Phys. J. C 82, 454 (2022).
- [69] K. Mahn, A search for muon neutrino and antineutrino disappearance in the Booster Neutrino Beam, Ph.D. thesis, Columbia University (2009).
- [70] S. Dytman, Y. Hayato, R. Raboanary, J. T. Sobczyk, J. Tena-Vidal, and N. Vololoniaina, Comparison of validation methods of simulations for final state interactions in hadron production experiments, Phys. Rev. D 104, 053006 (2021).
- [71] D. H. Wright and M. H. Kelsey, The Geant4 Bertini Cascade, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A 804, 175 (2015).
- [72] P. Abratenko et al. (MicroBooNE Collaboration), Demonstration of neutron identification in neutrino interactions in the MicroBooNE liquid argon time projection chamber, Eur. Phys. J. C 84, 1052 (2024).
- [73] S. Martynenko *et al.* (CAPTAIN Collaboration), Measurement of the neutron cross section on argon between 95 and 720 MeV, Phys. Rev. D 107, 072009 (2023).
- [74] D. O. Rivera, Neutron Cross Section Measurement In The ProtoDUNE-SP Experiment, Ph.D. thesis, University of Pennsylvania (2023).
- [75] A. S. Meyer, M. Betancourt, R. Gran, and R. J. Hill, Deuterium target data for precision neutrino-nucleus cross

sections, Phys. Rev. D **93**, 113015 (2016).

819 [76] S. Dolan, G. D. Megias, and S. Bolognesi, Implementa-822

821

tion of the SuSAv2-meson exchange current 1p1h and

2p2h models in GENIE and analysis of nuclear effects in T2K measurements, Phys. Rev. D  ${\bf 101},\,033003$  (2020).