

Measurement of ν_μ -induced charged-current neutral pion production cross sections on mineral oil at $E_\nu \in 0.5 - 2.0$ GeV

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Using a custom 3 Čerenkov-ring fitter, we report cross sections for ν_μ -induced charged-current single π^0 production on mineral oil (CH_2) from a sample of 5810 candidate events with 57% signal purity over an energy range of 0.5 – 2.0 GeV. This includes measurements of the absolute total cross section as a function of neutrino energy, and flux-averaged differential cross sections measured in terms of Q^2 , μ^- kinematics, and π^0 kinematics. The sample yields a flux-averaged total cross section of $(9.2 \pm 0.3_{\text{stat.}} \pm 1.5_{\text{sys.}}) \times 10^{-39}$ cm²/CH₂ at mean neutrino energy of 0.965 GeV.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The charged-current interaction of a muon neutrino producing a single neutral pion ($\text{CC}\pi^0$) on a nucleon can only occur through incoherent processes, most com-

monly through the $\Delta(1232)$ resonance at energies below 2 GeV. This interaction is unique among single-pion production interactions as there is no nuclear coherent interaction and only through this interaction can purely incoherent processes be directly studied. Additionally, as future neutrino-oscillation experiments become more sensitive, they will require more accurate estimation of their signal and background rates, of which $\text{CC}\pi^0$ interactions are commonly a background. Previous measurements of $\text{CC}\pi^0$ production at these energies were made on deuterium at the ANL 12 ft bubble chamber [1, 2] and the BNL 7 ft bubble chamber [3]. Previous measurements [4, 5] were also performed at higher neutrino energy on a variety of targets.

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In order to extract $CC\pi^0$ interactions from the more dominant charged-current quasi-elastics (CCQE) and charged-current single π^+ ($CC\pi^+$) production interactions, a custom fitter has been developed to isolate and fit both the μ^- and the π^0 in a $CC\pi^0$ event. This fitter also accurately reconstructs the kinematics of these interactions providing a means with which to extract both total and single-differential cross-sections. This work presents the most comprehensive measurements of $CC\pi^0$ interactions to date, at energies below 2 GeV, including the cross section as a function of neutrino energy and the first measurements of single-differential cross sections in terms of final-state particle kinematics. Additionally reported is a measurement of the flux-averaged total cross section.

II. FINAL STATE INTERACTIONS & OBSERVABLE $CC\pi^0$

Because this measurement is being performed on a nuclear target, particular attention must be paid to how the sample is being defined, especially given how nuclear and final-state effects can influence the observables. The dominant effect is final state interactions (FSI) which are the re-interactions of particles created from the neutrino-nucleon interaction with the nuclear medium of the target nucleus. FSI change the experimental signature of a neutrino-nucleon interaction. For example, if a π^+ from a $CC\pi^+$ interaction is absorbed within the target nucleus, then the event is indistinguishable from a CCQE interaction. Additionally, if the π^+ charge exchanges then the interaction is indistinguishable from a $CC\pi^0$ interaction. The understanding of FSI effects is model-dependent, with large uncertainties on the FSI cross sections. An “observable” interaction is therefore defined by the leptons and mesons that remain after FSI effects. Observable interactions are also inclusive of all nucleon final states. To reduce the FSI-model dependence of the measurements reported here, the signal is defined as a μ^- and a single π^0 that exited the target nucleus, with any number of nucleons, and with no additional mesons or leptons that survived the nucleus. This is referred to as an observable $CC\pi^0$ event. The results presented here are not corrected for nuclear effects and intra-nuclear interactions.

III. THE MINIBOONE EXPERIMENT

The Mini Booster Neutrino Experiment (MiniBooNE) [6] is a high-statistics low-energy neutrino experiment located at Fermilab. A beam of 8 GeV kinetic energy protons is taken from the Booster [7] and impinged upon a 71 cm long beryllium target. The data corresponds to 6.27×10^{20} p.o.t. (protons on target) with an uncertainty of 2%. The resulting pions and kaons are (de)focused according to their charge by a toroidal

magnetic field created by an aluminum magnetic focusing horn; positive charge selection is used for this data. These mesons then decay in a 50 m long air-filled pipe before impacting a steel beam dump. The predominantly ν_μ -neutrino beam passes through 500 m of dirt before interacting in a spherical 800 ton, 12 m diameter, mineral oil (CH_2), Čerenkov detector. The center of the detector is positioned 541 m from the beryllium target. The inner surface of the detector is painted black and instrumented with 1280 inward-facing 8 inch photomultiplier-tubes (PMTs) providing 11.3% photocathode coverage. A thin, optically-isolated shell surrounds the main tank region and acts to veto entering and exiting particles from the main tank. The veto region is painted white and instrumented with 240 tangentially-facing 8 inch PMTs. A full description of the MiniBooNE detector can be found in Ref. [8].

The neutrino beam is simulated within a GEANT4 [9] Monte Carlo (MC) framework. All relevant components of the primary proton beam line, beryllium target, aluminum focusing horn, collimator, meson decay volume, beam dump, and surrounding earth are modeled [10]. The total p-Be and p-Al cross sections are set by the Glauber model [11]. Wherever possible, inelastic production cross sections are fit to external data. The neutrino beam is dominated by ν_μ produced by π^+ decay in flight. The π^+ production cross sections are set by a Sanford-Wang [12] fit to π^+ production data provided by the HARP [13] and E910 [14] experiments. The high-energy ($E_\nu > 2.4$ GeV) neutrino flux is dominated by ν_μ from K^+ decays. The K^+ production cross sections are set by fitting data from Refs. [15–22] to a Feynman scaling parametrization. The production of protons and neutrons on the target are set using the MARS [23] simulation. The ν_e , $\bar{\nu}_\mu$, and $\bar{\nu}_e$ contributions to the flux are unimportant for this measurement. Ref. [10] describes the full details of the neutrino-flux prediction and estimation of its systematic uncertainty. Additionally, the MiniBooNE neutrino data has not been used to tune the flux prediction.

Interactions of neutrinos with the detector materials are simulated using the v3 NUANCE event generator [24]. The NUANCE event generator is a comprehensive simulation of 99 neutrino and anti-neutrino interactions on nuclear targets over an energy range from 100 MeV to 1 TeV. The dominant interaction in MiniBooNE, CCQE, are modeled according to Smith-Moniz [25]; however, the axial mass, M_A , has been adjusted for better agreement with the MiniBooNE data to $M_A^{\text{eff}} = 1.23 \pm 0.20$ GeV/ c^2 [26]. The target nucleus is simulated with nucleons bound in a relativistic Fermi gas (RFG) [25] with binding energy $E_B = 34 \pm 9$ MeV and Fermi momentum $p_F = 220 \pm 30$ MeV/ c [27] (on carbon). The RFG model is further modified by shape fits to Q^2 , for better agreement of the CCQE interaction to MiniBooNE data [26]. The Rein-Sehgal model [28] is used to predict the production of single-pion final states for both CC and NC modes. This model includes 18

non-strange baryon resonances below 2 GeV in mass and their interference terms. The model [28] predicts the $\Delta(1232)$ resonance to account for 71% of $CC\pi^0$ production (84% of resonant production); a 14% contribution from higher mass resonances; a 15% contribution from non-resonant backgrounds. The non-resonant backgrounds are added *ad hoc* to improve agreement to past data [28] and are not indicative of actual non-resonant contributions but allow for additional inelastic contributions. The quarks are modeled as relativistic harmonic oscillators *a la* the Feynman-Kislinger-Ravndal model [29]. The axial mass for single-pion production is $M_A^{1\pi} = 1.10 \pm 0.27$ GeV/ c^2 , and for multi-pion production it is $M_A^{N\pi} = 1.30 \pm 0.52$ GeV/ c^2 . The model includes the re-interactions of both baryon resonances, pions, and nucleons with the spectator nucleons leading to the production of additional pions, pion charge-exchange, and pion absorption.

The MiniBooNE detector is simulated within a GEANT3 [30] MC. This MC handles the propagation of particles after they exit the neutrino-target nucleus, subsequent interactions with the mineral oil [31], and most importantly, the propagation and interactions of optical photons. Photons with wavelengths between 250-650 nm are considered. The production, scattering, fluorescence, absorption, and reflections of these photons are modeled in a 35 parameter custom optical model [8, 32, 33]. The detector MC also simulates photon detection by the PMTs and the effects of detector electronics. The absorption ($\pi^+ \rightarrow \kappa$) and charge-exchange ($\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$) of π^+ particles on carbon are fixed to external data [34–36] with uncertainties of 35% and 50% respectively.

IV. EVENT RECONSTRUCTION

Particles traversing the mineral oil are detected by the Čerenkov and scintillation light they produce. The relative abundances of these emissions, along with the shape of the Čerenkov profile, are used to classify the type of particle in the detector. For a single particle, an “extended track” is fit using a maximum-likelihood method for several possible particle hypotheses. For each considered particle type, the likelihood is a function of the initial vertex, kinetic energy, and direction. For a given set of track parameters, the likelihood function calculates probability density functions (PDFs) for each of the 1280 PMTs in the main portion of the detector [32, 37]. Separate PDFs for the initial hit time and total integrated charge are produced. As the data acquisition records only the initial hit time and total charge for each PMT, the Čerenkov and scintillation contributions are indistinguishable for a given hit; however, they are distinguishable statistically. The likelihood is formed as the product of the probabilities, calculated from the PDFs. The initial track parameters are varied using MINUIT [38] and the results of the best fit likelihood determines the parameters for both the particle type and kinematics.

The extended-track reconstruction is scalable to any number of tracks. The charge PDFs are constructed by adding the predicted charges from each track together to determine the overall predicted charge. The time PDFs are calculated separately for each track, and separately for the Čerenkov and scintillation portions, then time sorted and weighted by the Bayesian probability that a particular PDF caused the initial hit [8, 32]. The reconstruction needed for an observable $CC\pi^0$ event requires three tracks: a μ^- track and two photon tracks from a common vertex [39, 40]. The final state is defined by a μ^- , a π^0 , and nuclear debris. The μ^- is directly fit by the reconstruction, along with its decay electron. The π^0 decays into two photons with a branching fraction of 98.8% [41] at the neutrino interaction vertex ($c\tau = 25.1$ nm). The two photons are fit by the reconstruction. Photons produce Čerenkov rings both by converting ($\lambda = 67$ cm) into e^+e^- pairs through interactions with the mineral oil and Compton scattering. The nuclear debris is ignored in the reconstruction as it is rarely above Čerenkov threshold and therefore only contributes to scintillation light. As the calculation of the kinetic energy of a track is dominated by the Čerenkov ring, the added scintillation light is effectively split uniformly among the three tracks and justifiably ignored.

The novelty of the $CC\pi^0$ event reconstruction is the ability to find and reconstruct three Čerenkov rings. The $CC\pi^0$ likelihood function is parametrized by the event vertex (x, y, z), the event start time (t), the μ^- direction and kinetic energy ($\theta_\mu, \phi_\mu, E_\mu$), the first γ direction and energy (θ_1, ϕ_1, E_1), the first γ conversion length (s_1), the second γ direction and energy (θ_2, ϕ_2, E_2), and conversion length (s_2). Ring, or track finding is performed in a stepwise fashion. The first track is seeded in the likelihood function and fixed by the μ one-track fit described in Ref. [37]. The second track is scanned through 400 evenly-spaced points in solid angle assuming 200 MeV kinetic energy and no γ conversion length. The best scan point is then allowed to float for both tracks simultaneously. The third track is found by fixing the two tracks and scanning again in solid angle for the third track. Once the third track is found, the best-scan point, along with the two fixed tracks, are allowed to float. This stage of the fit, referred to as the “generic” three-track fit, determines a seed for the event vertex, track directions, and track energies. A series of three parallel fits are performed to determine track particle types and the final fit kinematics. Each of these fits is seeded with the generic three-track fit. The fits assign a μ^- hypothesis to one of the tracks and a γ hypothesis to the other two, allowing for the possibility that the μ^- was not found by the original μ one-track fit and was found during the first or second scan. The conversion lengths are seeded at 50 cm and fit along with the kinetic energies while keeping all the other parameters fixed, thereby determining their seeds for the final portion of the fit. The final stage of each fit allows all parameters to float, taking advantage of MINUIT’s IMPROVE function [38]. A term is added to

the fit negative-log-likelihoods comparing the direction from the fit event vertex to the fit μ^- decay vertex versus the fit μ^- direction weighting by the separation of the vertices. This term improves the identification of the particle types. The likelihoods are then compared to choose the best fit.

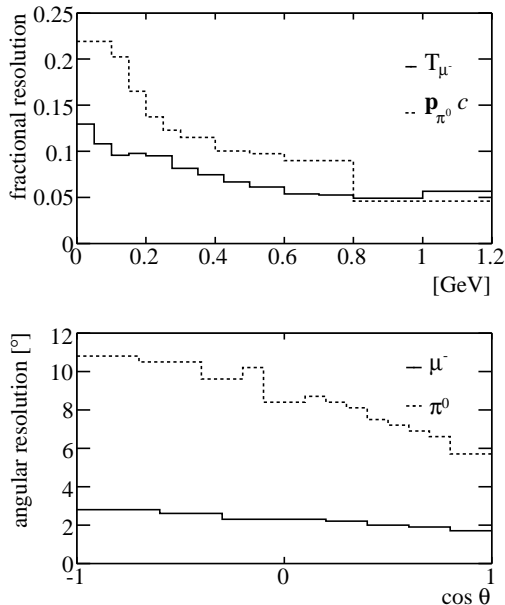


FIG. 1. Top: Fractional Gaussian resolutions as functions of T_μ (solid) and $|\mathbf{p}_{\pi^0}|c$ (dashed). Bottom: Angular resolutions as functions of $\cos \theta_\mu$ (solid) and $\cos \theta_{\pi^0}$ (dashed). The resolutions between each particle type are also correlated.

The quality of the reconstruction is assessed by evaluating the residual resolutions of the signal using the MC. Fig. 1 shows the residual resolutions for both the μ^- and the π^0 . The overall μ^- kinetic-energy fractional resolution is 7.4%, and the angular resolution is 2°. The π^0 , being a combination of the two fit photons, has an overall momentum resolution of 12.5% and angular resolution of 7.8°. The energy and momentum resolutions are worse at lower values and flatten out toward larger values. The μ^- angular resolution is mostly flat and is only slightly better in the forward direction. The π^0 angular resolution gets much better in the forward direction as forward going π^0 tend to have larger momentum. The resolutions between each particle type are also somewhat correlated. Additionally, the interaction-vertex resolution is 16 cm.

The initial neutrino energy is calculated, assuming that the signal events are from the reaction $\nu_\mu n \rightarrow \mu^- \pi^0 p$, from the measured μ^- and π^0 kinematics under three assumptions: the interaction target is a stationary neutron, the hadronic recoil is a proton, and the neutrino is traveling in the beam direction. Under these assumptions, E_ν is constrained even if the proton is unmeasured [40]. The assumption of a stationary neutron contributes to smearing of the reconstructed neutrino energy because of the neutron’s momentum distribution. The neutrino-

energy resolution is 11%. Ideally one would measure the proton, and additional hadronic debris; however, as these particles are rarely above threshold, it is impractical to do so in MiniBooNE. Also, as only 70% of the observable $\text{CC}\pi^0$ interactions are nucleon-level $\text{CC}\pi^0$ on neutrons, additional smearing is due to $\text{CC}\pi^+$ charge-exchanges on protons or other inelastic processes producing a π^0 in the final state. These smearings are not expected to be large. The 4-momentum transfer, Q^2 , to the hadronic system can be calculated from the reconstructed muon and neutrino momentum [40]. The calculation of the nucleon resonance is performed from the neutrino and muon momentum also assuming a stationary neutron.

V. EVENT SELECTION

Isolating observable $\text{CC}\pi^0$ interactions is challenging as such events are expected to comprise only 4% of the data set [24]. The sample is dominated by observable ν_μ -CCQE (44%), with contributions from observable $\text{CC}\pi^+$ (19%), and other CC and NC modes. Basic sorting is first performed to separate different classes of events based on their PMT hit distributions. Then the sample is further refined by cutting on reconstructed quantities to yield an observable $\text{CC}\pi^0$ dominated sample. Each of the following cuts is applied and optimized in succession and will be discussed over the remainder of this section.

The detector is triggered by a signal from the Booster accelerator indicating a proton-beam pulse in the Booster neutrino beam line. All activity in the detector is recorded for 19.2 μs starting 4.6 μs before the 1.6 μs neutrino-beam time window. The detector activity is grouped into “subevents:” clusters in time of PMT hits. Groups of 10 or more PMT hits, within a 200 ns window, with time spacings between the hits of no more than 10 ns with at most two spacings less than 20 ns, define a subevent [8]. In an ideal neutrino event, the first subevent is always caused by the prompt neutrino interaction; subsequent subevents are due to electrons from stopped-muon decays. Neutrino events with one subevent are primarily due to neutral-current interactions and ν_e -CCQE. Two-subevent events are from ν_μ -CCQE, $\text{CC}\pi^0$, and $\text{NC}\pi^+$. Three-subevent events are almost completely $\text{CC}\pi^+$, with some multi- π production. Stopped muon decays produce electrons with a maximum energy of 53 MeV which never cause more than 200 PMT hits in the central detector.

To select a sample of contained events, a requirement is made to reject events that penetrate the veto. These events typically cause more than 6 veto PMT hits. Therefore, a two-subevent sample is defined by requiring more than 200 tank PMT hits in the first subevent, fewer than 200 tank PMT hits in the second, and fewer than 6 veto PMT hits for each subevent. The two-subevent sample is predicted to be 71% ν_μ -CCQE, 16% $\text{CC}\pi^+$, and 6% $\text{CC}\pi^0$. Observable $\text{CC}\pi^+$ events make it into the two-subevent sample for several reasons: primarily by

$\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \lambda$ in mineral oil, by fast muon decays whose electrons occur during the prior subevent, and by μ^- capture on nucleons affecting 8% of μ^- in mineral oil. The two-subevent filter keeps 40% of CCQE and $CC\pi^0$ interactions while rejecting 80% of $CC\pi^+$ interactions. The rejection of CCQE and signal is mainly from μ^- that exit the tank. Additionally, events are lost by the 8% μ^- capture rate on carbon.

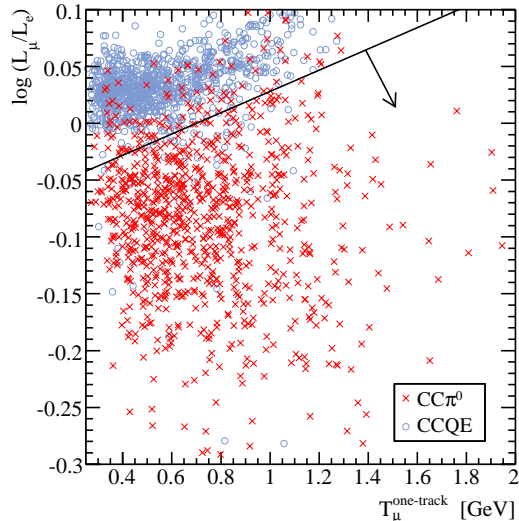


FIG. 2. (color online) The one-track fit likelihood ratio vs. the one-track muon fit kinetic energy. A separation of CCQE events (grey “o”) relative to $CC\pi^0$ events (red “x”) is performed by selecting events below the black line. The events plotted are prescaled by 1000 and 100 for CCQE and $CC\pi^0$ respectively (for clarity). The cut is optimized on the full non-prescaled MC sample.

To isolate a purer sample of observable $CC\pi^0$ events from the two-subevent sample, before the observable $CC\pi^0$ fit is performed, ν_μ -CCQE events are rejected by cutting on the ratio of the ν_μ -CCQE fit likelihood to the ν_e -CCQE fit likelihood as a function of μ^- -fit kinetic energy (see Fig. 2). This cut is motivated by the fact that ν_μ -CCQE interactions are dominated by a sharp muon ring, while $CC\pi^0$ interactions (with the addition of two photon rings) will look “fuzzier” and more electron-like to the fitter. The cut, which has been optimized to reject CCQE, rejects 96% of observable ν_μ -CCQE while retaining 85% of observable $CC\pi^0$ [39]. Additionally, a reconstructed radius cut of $r_{\text{rec}} < 550$ cm is used to constrain events to within the fiducial volume.

To reject misreconstructed signal events, along with certain backgrounds, a cut is applied to reject events if two of the three Čerenkov rings reconstruct on top of one another. When this occurs the fitter ambiguously divides the total energy between the two tracks. For cases where there are two or fewer rings, the fitter will place two of the tracks in the same direction. For cases where there are three or more Čerenkov rings, the fit-

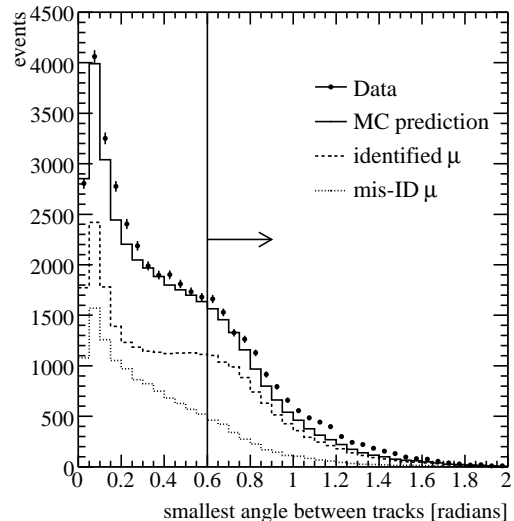


FIG. 3. The smallest angle between two of the three reconstructed tracks. Displayed are the data (with statistical errors), total MC (solid), identified μ^- (dashed), and mis-IDed μ^- (dotted). The cut selects events above 0.6 radians.

ter can still get trapped with two tracks on top of one another. This can happen either because of asymmetric π^0 decays, a μ^- near or below Čerenkov threshold, a dominant μ^- ring, or events that truly have overlapping tracks. In all of these cases, the reconstruction becomes poor, especially the identification of the μ^- in the event. Fig. 3 shows the smallest reconstructed angle between two of the three reconstructed tracks for both data and MC. The MC events are separated into samples that correctly identified the μ^- and those that did not. A cut is optimized on signal events in the MC to reject misidentified μ^- , and rejects events with track separations less than 0.6 radians [39]. This cut reduces the expected μ^- misidentification rate to the 20% level. Additionally the observable $CC\pi^0$ fraction is increased to 38% and the observable CCQE fraction is reduced to 13%.

The next series of cuts reject non- π^0 backgrounds. The first requirement compares the observable $CC\pi^0$ fit likelihood vs. a generic three-track fit and selects events that are more $CC\pi^0$ -like. As the observable $CC\pi^0$ fit is actually a generic- $\mu\gamma\gamma$ from a common vertex-fit, this cut selects events that match this criterion. The second cut is on the reconstructed $\gamma\gamma$ mass about the expected π^0 mass. This cut demands that the photons are consistent with a π^0 decay. The combination of these cuts define the observable $CC\pi^0$ sample. Fig. 4 shows the logarithm of the ratio of the observable $CC\pi^0$ fit over the generic three-track fit likelihoods. The MC is separated into three samples: observable $CC\pi^0$, background events with a π^0 in the final state or created later in the event, and background events with no π^0 . Both the observable $CC\pi^0$ and backgrounds with a π^0 are more $\mu\gamma\gamma$ -like than events with no π^0 in the event. Additionally, as the

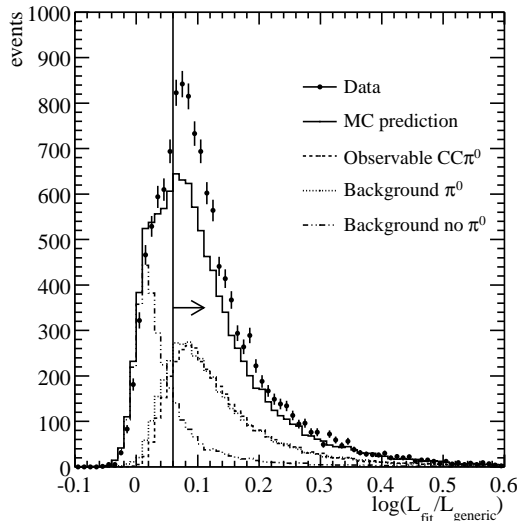


FIG. 4. The logarithm of the ratio of the observable $CC\pi^0$ fit likelihood to a generic three-track fit. Displayed are the data (with statistical errors), total MC (solid), observable $CC\pi^0$ (dashed), backgrounds with a π^0 in the final state or produced after the event (dotted), and backgrounds with no π^0 (dot-dashed). The cut selects events above 0.06.

backgrounds with a π^0 either have multiple pions or the π^0 was produced away from the event vertex, the likelihood ratio for these events tend slightly more toward the generic fit. Events with no π^0 peak sharply at low ratio values. The optimization rejects non- π^0 backgrounds by selecting events greater than 0.06 in this ratio [39].

The final cut on the reconstructed $\gamma\gamma$ mass defines the observable $CC\pi^0$ event sample. Fig. 5 shows the reconstructed $\gamma\gamma$ mass for both data and MC. No assumption is used in the fit that the two photons result from a π^0 decay; nevertheless, both data and MC peak at the known π^0 mass. The predicted background MC with a π^0 in the final state, or a π^0 produced after the event, has a broader peak than the signal MC. This broadening occurs for the same reasons discussed for the likelihood ratio; these events either produced a π^0 away from the μ^- vertex, or there are multiple pions in the final state. As one might expect, background events with no π^0 in the final state show no discernible mass peak and pile up at low mass with a long misreconstructed tail extending out to high mass. A cut is optimized to select events around the known π^0 mass [$0.09 < m_{\gamma\gamma} < 0.2$ GeV] to reject non- π^0 backgrounds (low mass cut) and to preserve signal (high mass cut) [39]. The addition of these selection cuts increases the observable $CC\pi^0$ purity to 57% with 6% efficiency. After all cuts, the observable $CC\pi^0$ candidate sample contains 5810 events in data for 6.27×10^{20} p.o.t. while the MC predicts 4160.2 events. Table I summarizes the effects of the cuts on the MC sample, while Table II summarizes the background content of the observable $CC\pi^0$ candidate sample.

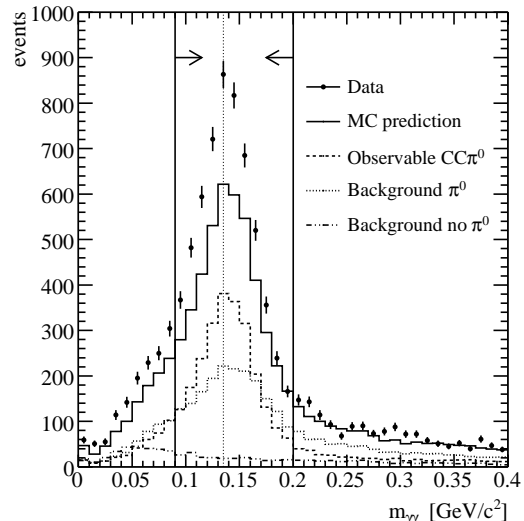


FIG. 5. The reconstructed $\gamma\gamma$ mass. Displayed are the data (with statistical errors), total MC (solid), observable $CC\pi^0$ (dashed), backgrounds with a π^0 in the final state or produced after the event (dotted), and backgrounds with no π^0 (dot-dashed). The vertical dotted line is the known π^0 mass.

TABLE I. The expected efficiency and purity of observable $CC\pi^0$ events as a function of applied cut.

cut description	efficiency	purity
none	100%	3.6%
Two-subevent and Tank and Veto hits	38.2%	5.6%
$CC\pi^0$ filter and fiducial volume	27.9%	29.6%
Misreconstruction	10.3%	38.1%
Likelihood ratio and $m_{\gamma\gamma}$	6.4%	56.7%

VI. ANALYSIS

The extraction of observable $CC\pi^0$ cross sections from the event sample requires a subtraction of background events, corrections for detector effects and cut efficiencies, a well-understood flux, and an estimation of the number of interaction targets. The cross sections are determined by

$$\frac{\partial\sigma}{\partial x}\bigg|_i = \frac{\sum_j U_{ij}(N_j - B_j)}{n\Phi_i\epsilon_i\Delta x_i}, \quad (1)$$

where x is the variable of interest, i labels a bin of the measurement, Δx_i is the bin width, N_j is the number of events in data of bin j , B_j is the expected background, U_{ij} is a matrix element that unfolds out detector effects, ϵ_i is the bin efficiency, Φ_i is the predicted neutrino flux, and n is the number of interaction targets. For the single-differential cross-section measurements, the flux factor, Φ_i , is constant and equals the total flux. For the total cross-section measurement as a function of neutrino energy the flux factor is per energy bin. The extracted cross

TABLE II. The expected background composition of the $CC\pi^0$ candidate sample by observable mode. The level of observable $CC\pi^+$ events are determined by the method described in Section VIA. The symbol X is inclusive of all nuclear final states and photons, and $N \geq 2$ and $M \geq 1$ are the number of pions in the final state. Other backgrounds are inclusive of deep inelastic scattering and NC elastic scattering.

observable mode	description	fraction of background
$CC\pi^+$	$\nu_\mu CH_2 \rightarrow \mu^- \pi^+ X$	52.0%
CCQE	$\nu_\mu CH_2 \rightarrow \mu^- X$	15.4%
CCmulti- π	$\nu_\mu CH_2 \rightarrow \mu^- (N\pi)X$	14.0%
NC- π	$\nu CH_2 \rightarrow \nu (M\pi)X$	8.8%
others		9.8%

sections require a detailed understanding of the measurements or predictions of the quantities in Eqn. 1, and their associated systematic uncertainties. By construction, the signal cross-section prediction has minimal impact on the measurements. Wherever the prediction can affect a measurement, usually through the systematic error calculations, the dependence is duly noted.

A. $CC\pi^+$ backgrounds

The first stage is to subtract the expected background contributions from the measured event rate. This is complicated by the fact that previously measured modes in MiniBooNE (CCQE [42], $NC\pi^0$ [43], and $CC\pi^+$ [44]) show substantial normalization discrepancies with the NUANCE prediction. The single largest background, observable $CC\pi^+$, is well constrained by measurements within the MiniBooNE data set. The observable CCQE in the sample is at a small enough level not warrant further constraint. Most of the remaining backgrounds are unmeasured but small.

The $CC\pi^+$ backgrounds are important to constrain for two reasons: they contribute the largest single background, and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \lambda$ processes in the mineral oil have large uncertainties. In particular, $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ in mineral oil is not an observable $CC\pi^0$ because the π^0 did not originate in the target nucleus. By tying the observable $CC\pi^+$ production to measurements within the MiniBooNE data, the uncertainty on this background can also be further reduced. The total error is separated into an uncertainty on $CC\pi^+$ production and an uncertainty on $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \lambda$ processes in mineral oil occurring external to the initial target nucleus. Using the high statistics MiniBooNE 3-subevent sample, many measurements of the absolute observable $CC\pi^+$ production cross sections were performed [44, 45]. This observable $CC\pi^+$ sample is predicted to be 90% pure [44, 45] making it the purest mode measured in the MiniBooNE data set to date. It is a very useful sample for this analysis as

the bulk of the $CC\pi^+$ background events in the $CC\pi^0$ sample fall in the kinematic region well-measured by the observable $CC\pi^+$ data. The measurements used are from the tables in Ref. [45]. Because the re-interaction cross sections for $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \lambda$ are strong functions of π^+ energy, the constraint on $CC\pi^+$ events is applied as a function of π^+ kinetic energy and neutrino energy. Fig. 6 shows the ratio of the measured observable $CC\pi^+$

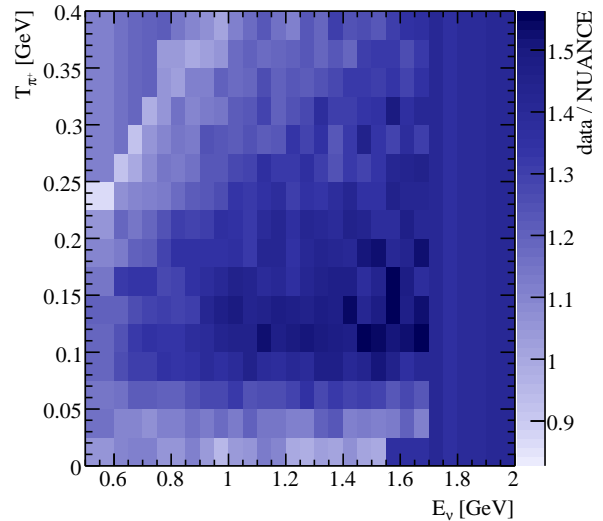


FIG. 6. (color online) The ratio of the measured observable $CC\pi^+$ cross section to the NUANCE prediction. The ratio is plotted as a function of T_{π^+} and E_ν . The regions of phase space not covered by the $\partial\sigma/\partial E_{\pi^+}$ measurement are filled in with the $\sigma(E_\nu)$ ratio.

cross section as a function of π^+ and neutrino energies to the NUANCE predicted cross section. As the differential cross section with respect to π^+ kinetic energy was not reported for bins with small numbers of events, the reweighting function is patched by the ratio of the total observable $CC\pi^+$ cross section as a function of neutrino energy. This reweighting factor (as high as 1.6 in some bins) is applied to every observable $CC\pi^+$ event in the MC sample. All figures and numbers presented in this article have this reweighting applied. By using the MiniBooNE data to constrain the $CC\pi^+$ backgrounds, strict reliance on the NUANCE implementation of the Rein-Sehgal model to predict this important background is avoided.

B. Background subtraction

The MC predicts a sample that is 57% pure observable $CC\pi^0$ after all analysis cuts. A 23% contribution of observable $CC\pi^+$ interactions is set by prior measurements in the MiniBooNE data. The remaining 21% of the event sample is mostly comprised of CCQE and multi- π final-state events (see Table II). These backgrounds, while

thought to be produced in larger quantities than the MC prediction, are set by the MC as there is no clear method to extract the normalization of many of these modes from the current data. Additionally, if the normalizations are different—but on the same order as previously measured modes—they would change the final results by at most a few percent. The uncertainties applied to the production of these backgrounds more than cover the possible normalization differences. After subtracting the backgrounds from the data the sample contains 3725.5 signal events, opposed to 2330.2 predicted events. This is a normalization difference of 1.6, the largest normalization difference that has been observed in the MiniBooNE data thus far. This is not surprising considering the large effects of π^0 re-interactions which can directly influence the measured cross section for observable $CC\pi^0$ production and the fact that the NUANCE prediction appears low even when compared to prior measurements on deuterium data [46].

C. Hadronic invariant mass

The background-subtracted reconstructed nucleon resonance gleans insight toward understanding the production mechanism and propagation of the resonance across the nucleus before it decays, and of pion re-interactions with the spectator nucleons. Fig. 7 shows the background-subtracted reconstructed invariant mass

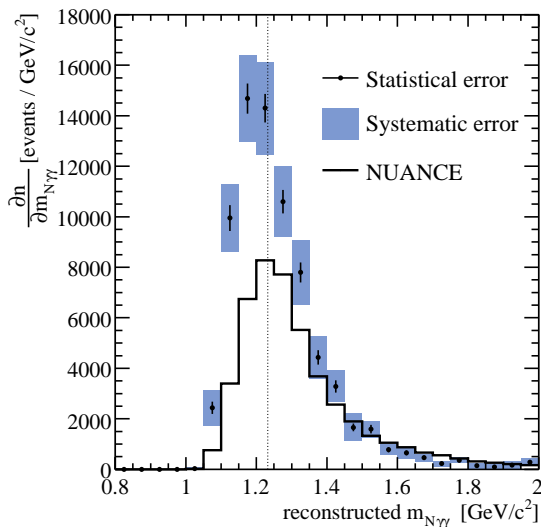


FIG. 7. (color online) Invariant mass of the hadronic system for both data (points with error bars) and the MC prediction (solid line) for the signal mode. The dotted line indicates the location of the $\Delta(1232)$ resonance.

for data and the MC expectation. The fact that the data peaks somewhat below the $\Delta(1232)$ resonance while NUANCE peaks at the resonance implies the model is not

properly taking into account final state interaction effects; however, it is observed that the MiniBooNE data is almost completely dominated by the $\Delta(1232)$ resonance. This shift can also be interpreted as an effective change in the recoil mass, W , of the hadronic system. Additionally, it has been verified that CCQE interactions, which do not involve a resonance, peak at threshold (not displayed).

D. Unfolding & flux restriction

To correct for the effects of detector resolution and reconstruction, a method of data unfolding is performed [47]. The unfolding method constructs a response matrix from the MC that maps reconstructed quantities to their predicted values. The chosen method utilizes the Bayesian technique described in Ref. [48]. This method of data unfolding requires a Bayesian prior for the signal sample, which produces an intrinsic bias. This bias is the only way that the signal cross-section model affects the measured cross sections. In effect, this allows the signal cross-section model to pull the measured cross sections toward the shape of the distributions produced from the model while preserving the normalization measured in the data; nevertheless, strict dependence on the signal cross-section is avoided. For these measurements, the level of uncertainty on the signal model covers the effect of the bias on the central value. For situations where the unfolding is applied to a distribution that is significantly different than the Bayesian prior, the granularity of the unfolding matrix needs to be increased to stabilize the calculation of the systematic uncertainty. Otherwise the uncertainties would be larger than expected due to larger intrinsic bias. For the total cross section as a function of neutrino energy, the unfolding acts on the background-subtracted reconstructed neutrino energy and unfolds back to the neutrino energy prior to the interaction. For each of the flux-averaged differential cross-section measurements, the unfolding acts on the two-dimensional space of neutrino energy and the reconstructed quantity of a particular measurement. For final-state particles, μ^- and π^0 , the unfolding corrects to the kinematics after final-state effects, and are the least model dependent. For the 4-momentum transfer, Q^2 , the unfolding extracts to Q^2 calculated from the initial neutrino and the final-state μ^- . In both the total cross section and flux-averaged differential cross section in Q^2 , the final-state interaction model does bias the measurements. Fluctuations of the signal cross-section model, along with the final-state interaction model, are expected to cover this bias. The unfolded two-dimensional distributions are restricted to a region of unfolded neutrino energy between 0.5 – 2.0 GeV. This effectively restricts the differential cross-section measurements over the same range of neutrino energy, and flux, as the total cross-section measurement.

E. Efficiency correction

The unfolded distributions are next corrected by a bin-by-bin efficiency. The efficiencies are estimated by taking the ratio of MC signal events after cuts to the predicted distribution of signal events without cuts but restricted to the fiducial volume. The efficiency is insensitive to changes in the underlying MC prediction to within the MC statistical error. While this additional statistical error is not large, it is properly accounted for in the error calculation. The overall efficiency for selecting observable $CC\pi^0$ interactions is 6.4%; the bulk of the events ($\sim 60\%$) are lost by demanding a μ^- that stops and decays in the MiniBooNE tank. The cuts to reduce the backgrounds and preserve well-reconstructed events account for the remainder.

F. Neutrino flux

A major difficulty in extracting absolute cross sections is the need for an accurate flux prediction. The MiniBooNE flux prediction [10] comes strictly from fits to external data [13–22]. Fig. 8 shows the predicted ν_μ flux with systematic uncertainties. The flux is restricted by

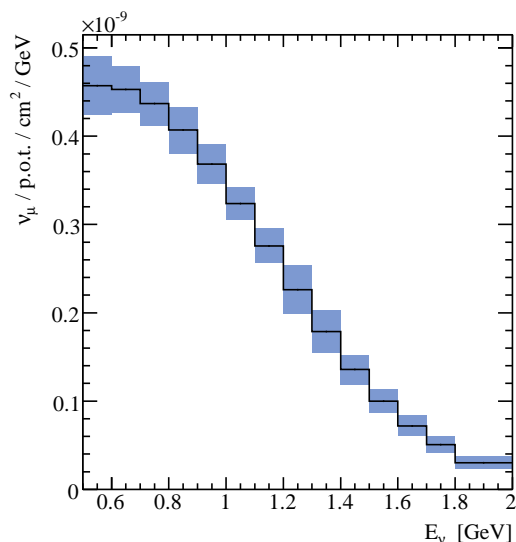


FIG. 8. (color online) The predicted ν_μ flux with systematic uncertainties over the range 0.5–2.0 GeV. A table containing the values of the flux, along with a full-correlation matrix, is provided in Table. V of the appendix.

the unfolding method to the range 0.5–2.0 GeV, although contributions from the flux outside of this range affect the systematic uncertainties of the unfolding method. The integrated flux over this range is predicted to be $\Phi_\nu = (3.545 \pm 0.192) \times 10^{-10} \nu_\mu / \text{p.o.t.} / \text{cm}^2$.

G. Number of targets

The Marcol 7 mineral oil is composed of long chains of hydrocarbons. The interaction target is one link in a hydrocarbon chain; CH_2 chains with an additional hydrogen atom at each end. The molecular weight is the weight of one unit of the chain averaged over the average chain length. The density of the mineral oil is $\rho_{\text{oil}} = 0.845 \pm 0.001 \text{ g/cm}^3$ [8]. Thermal variations over the course of the run were less than 1%. The fiducial volume is defined to be a sphere 550 cm in radius. Therefore, there are $(2.517 \pm 0.003) \times 10^{31}$ interaction targets.

VII. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

Sources of systematic uncertainties are separated into two types: flux sources and detector sources. Flux sources affect the number, type, and momentum of the neutrino beam at the detector. Detector sources affect the interaction of neutrinos in the mineral oil and surrounding materials, the interactions of the produced particles with the medium, the creation and propagation of optical photons, and the uncertainties associated with the detector electronics. Whenever possible, the input sources to the systematic uncertainty calculations are fit to both *ex-* and *in-situ* data and varied within their full error matrices. These variations are propagated through the entire analysis chain and determine the systematic error separately for each quantity of interest. For sources that affect the number of interactions (e.g. flux and cross-section sources), the central value MC is reweighted by taking the ratio of the value of the underlying parameter’s excursion to that of the central value. This is done to reduce statistical variations in the underlying systematics. Sources that change the properties of an event require separate sets of MC to evaluate the error matrices. The unfortunate aspect of this method is it introduces additional statistical error from the excursion. If the generated sets are large, then this additional error is small.

A. Flux sources

The main sources of flux uncertainties come from particle production and propagation in the Booster neutrino beam line. The proton-beryllium interactions produce π^+ , π^- , K^+ , and K^0 particles that decay into ν_μ neutrinos. The dominant source of ν_μ in the flux range of 0.5–2.0 GeV is π^+ decay. The π^+ production uncertainties are determined by fitting the HARP data to a spline function, and varying the parameters returned by that fit within the spline error matrix. The covariance is then formed with respect to the Sanford-Wang central value. The purpose of the spline fits is to set the errors to the HARP data error matrix in regions where the spline fit and Sanford-Wang fit agree, and increase the

uncertainty in regions where they disagree [10]. Over the flux range of this analysis, the total uncertainty on π^+ production introduces a 3.8% uncertainty on the ν_μ -flux. These uncertainties would be larger if the entire neutrino flux were considered in these measurements; however, as the largest flux uncertainties are in regions of phase space that cannot produce a $CC\pi^0$ interaction, it was prudent to restrict the flux range. The consideration for horn uncertainties are from horn-current variations and skin-depth effects (which mainly affect the high-energy neutrino flux) and provide an additional 3.8% uncertainty. No other source contributes more than 0.2% (K^+ production) to the uncertainty. The total uncertainty on the flux over the range 0.5–2.0 GeV, from all sources, is 5.4%. As the flux prediction affects the measured cross sections through the flux weighting, background subtraction, and unfolding, the resulting uncertainties on the measured total cross section are 7.5% and 7.3% for horn variations and π^+ production respectively.

B. Detector sources

Uncertainties associated with the detector result from: neutrino-interaction cross sections, charged-particle interactions in the mineral oil, the creation and interaction of photons in the mineral oil, and the detector read-out electronics. The neutrino-interaction cross sections are varied in NUANCE within their error matrices. These variations mainly affect the background predictions; however, the expected signal variations (i.e. flux and signal cross-section variations) do affect the unfolding. The variations of the background cross sections cover the differences seen in the MiniBooNE data; the variations of the signal cover the bias introduced through the chosen unfolding method. The uncertainty on the observable $CC\pi^+$ cross section is constrained by measurements within the data [44, 45] assuming no bin-to-bin correlations. The total cross-section uncertainty on the observable $CC\pi^0$ cross-section measurement is 5.8%.

The creation and propagation of optical photons in the mineral oil is referred to as the optical model. Several *ex-situ* measurements were performed on the mineral oil to accurately describe elastic Rayleigh and inelastic Raman scattering, along with the fluorescence components [8, 33]. Additionally, reflections and PMT efficiencies are included in the model. A total of 35 correlated parameters define the optical model. These parameters are varied, in a correlated manner, over a set of data-sized MC samples. The uncertainty calculated from these MC samples contains an additional amount of statistical error; however, in this analysis, the bulk of the additional statistical error is smoothed out by forcing each MC to have the same underlying true distributions. The optical model uncertainty on the total cross-section measurement is 2.8%.

Variations in the detector electronics are estimated as PMT effects. The first measures the PMT response by

adjusting the discriminator threshold from 0.1 photoelectrons (PE) to 0.2 PE. The second measures the correlation between the charge and time of the PMT hits. These uncertainties contribute 5.7% and 1.1% to the total cross section respectively.

The dominant uncertainty on the cross-section measurements comes from the uncertainty of $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \chi$ in the mineral oil occurring external to the initial target nucleus where the effects of $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \chi$ internal the target nucleus are included in these measurements. The uncertainty on the $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ cross section on mineral oil is 50% and for $\pi^+ \rightarrow \chi$ it is 35%. The uncertainties come from external data [34]. These uncertainties affect this measurement to a large degree because of the much larger observable $CC\pi^+$ interaction rate (by a factor of 5.2). While this uncertainty is small in the observable $CC\pi^+$ cross-section measurements, many $CC\pi^+$ that undergo either $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ or $\pi^+ \rightarrow \chi$ in the mineral oil end up in the $CC\pi^0$ candidate sample. The uncertainty of $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \chi$ from observable $CC\pi^+$ interactions is 12.9%. The uncertainty applied to $CC(NC)\text{multi-}\pi$, $NC\pi^+$, and other backgrounds is included in the background cross-section uncertainties.

C. Discussion

The total systematic uncertainty, from all sources, on the observable $CC\pi^0$ total cross-section measurement is 18.7%. The total uncertainty is found by summing all of the individual error matrices. The largest uncertainty, $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \chi$ in the mineral oil, is 12.9%; the flux uncertainties are 10.5%; the remaining detector and neutrino cross-section uncertainties are 8.6%. The total statistical uncertainty is 3.3%. Table III summarizes the effects of all sources of systematic uncertainty. Clearly, the limiting factor on the measurement is the understanding of $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi^+ \rightarrow \chi$ in mineral oil external to the target nucleus. The two simplest ways to reduce this uncertainty in future experiments are to improve the understanding of pion scattering in a medium, or to use a fine-grained detector that can observe the π^+ before the charge-exchange or absorption. Beyond that, gains can always be made from an improved understanding of the incoming neutrino flux.

TABLE III. Summary of systematic uncertainties.

source	uncertainty
$\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ & $\pi^+ \rightarrow \chi$ in mineral oil	12.9%
ν_μ flux	10.5%
ν cross section	5.8%
detector electronics	5.8%
optical model	2.8%
total	18.7%

VIII. RESULTS

This report presents measurements of the observable $CC\pi^0$ cross section as a function of neutrino energy, and flux-averaged differential cross sections in Q^2 , E_μ , $\cos\theta_\mu$, $|\mathbf{p}_{\pi^0}|$, and $\cos\theta_{\pi^0}$. These measurements provide the most complete information about this interaction on a nuclear target (CH_2) at these energies (0.5–2.0 GeV) to date. Great care has been taken to measure cross sections with minimal neutrino-interaction model dependence as possible. First, the definition of an observable $CC\pi^0$ interaction limits the dependence of these measurements on the internal $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0$ and $\pi \rightarrow \lambda$ models. Second, most of the measurements are presented in terms of the observed final-state particle kinematics further reducing the dependence of the measurements on the FSI model. Any exceptions to these are noted with the measurements.

The first result, a measurement of the total observable $CC\pi^0$ cross section is shown in Fig. 9. This measurement is performed by integrating Eqn. 1 over neutrino energy. This result does contain some dependence on the initial neutrino-interaction model as the unfolding extracts back to the initial neutrino energy; however, this dependence is not expected to be large. The total measured systematic uncertainty is 18.7%, and is slightly higher than the uncertainties presented for the cross sections without this dependence. The total cross section is higher

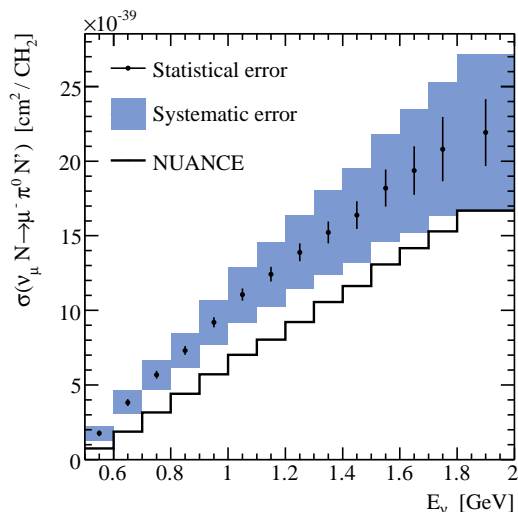


FIG. 9. (color online) The total observable $CC\pi^0$ cross section as a function of neutrino energy. The uncertainty is dominated by π^+ charge-exchange and absorption in the mineral oil external the target nucleus. The total systematic uncertainty on the cross section is 18.7%. The central-value measurement, uncertainties, and correlation matrix are tabulated in Table VI of the appendix.

at all energies than is expected from the combination of the initial interaction [28] and FSI as implemented in NUANCE. An enhancement is also observed in other re-

cent charged-current cross-section measurements [42, 44]; however, the enhancement is a factor of 1.56 ± 0.26 larger than the prediction here.

The differential cross sections provide additional insight into the effect of final-state interactions. By necessity, these cross sections are presented as flux-averaged results due to the low statistics of these measurements. Except for the measurement in Q^2 , these measurements are mostly independent of the underlying neutrino-interaction model (though there is a slight influence from the unfolding). The flux-averaged cross section, differential in Q^2 (Fig. 10), is dependent on the initial neutrino-interaction model because it requires knowledge of the initial neutrino kinematics. The measured Q^2 is unfolded to the Q^2 calculated from the initial neutrino and final-state muon kinematics. This measurement shows

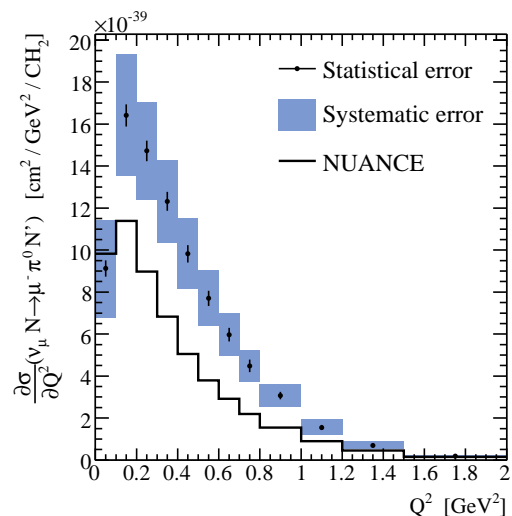


FIG. 10. (color online) The flux-averaged ($0.5 < E_\nu < 2.0$ GeV) differential cross section in Q^2 with total systematic uncertainty of 16.6%. The central-value measurement, uncertainties, and correlation matrix are tabulated in Table VII of the appendix.

an overall enhancement along with a low- Q^2 suppression (relative to the normalization difference) with a total systematic uncertainty of 16.6%.

The kinematics of the μ^- are fully specified by its kinetic energy and angle with respect to the incident neutrino beam as the beam is unpolarized. Fig. 11 shows the flux-averaged differential cross section in μ^- kinetic energy. Like the total cross section, this shows primarily an effect of an overall enhancement of the cross section as the μ^- is not expected to be subject to final-state effects. The total systematic uncertainty for this measurement is 15.8%. The flux-averaged differential cross section in μ^- - ν_μ angle (Fig. 12), shows a suppression of the cross section at forward angles, characteristic of the low- Q^2 suppression. As the shapes of the data and the Rein-Sehgal model as implemented in NUANCE are fundamentally dif-

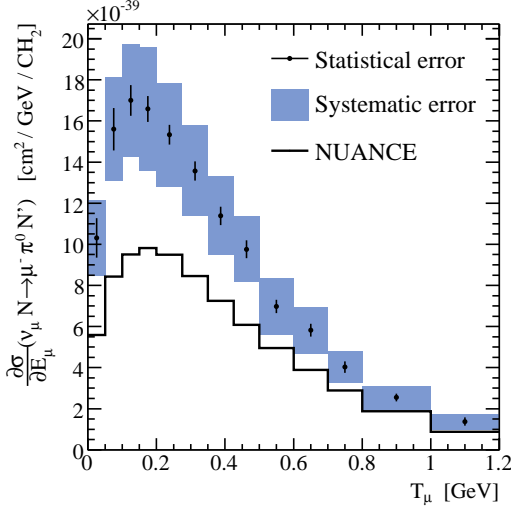


FIG. 11. (color online) The flux-averaged ($0.5 < E_\nu < 2.0$ GeV) differential cross section in E_μ with total systematic uncertainty of 15.8%. The central-value measurement, uncertainties, and correlation matrix are tabulated in Table VIII of the appendix.

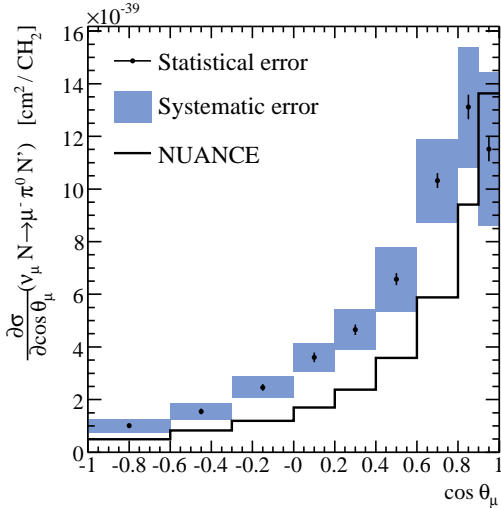


FIG. 12. (color online) The flux-averaged ($0.5 < E_\nu < 2.0$ GeV) differential cross section in $\cos \theta_\mu$ with total systematic uncertainty of 17.4%. The central-value measurement, uncertainties, and correlation matrix are tabulated in Table IX of the appendix.

ferent in this variable, the unfolding procedure required fewer bins to be stable. The total systematic uncertainty is 17.4%.

The π^0 kinematics yield insight into the final-state interaction effects and are also fully specified by two measurements: the pion momentum and angle with respect

to the neutrino beam direction. Fig. 13 shows the flux-

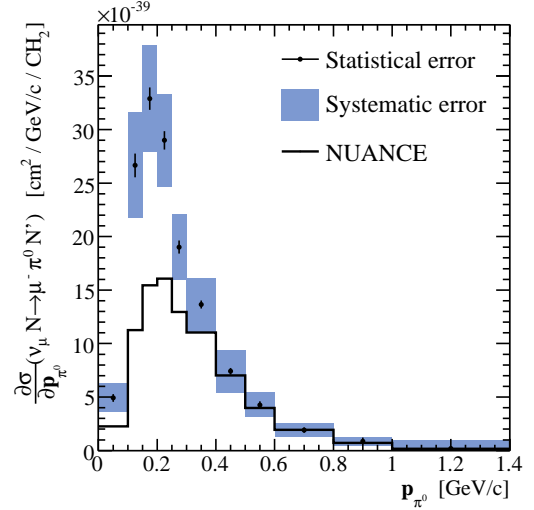


FIG. 13. (color online) The flux-averaged ($0.5 < E_\nu < 2.0$ GeV) differential cross section in $|\mathbf{p}_{\pi^0}|$ with total systematic uncertainty of 15.9%. The central-value measurement, uncertainties, and correlation matrix are tabulated in Table X of the appendix.

averaged differential cross section in $|\mathbf{p}_{\pi^0}|$. The cross section is enhanced at low momentum and in the peak, but agrees with the prediction at higher momentum. Interactions of both the nucleon resonance and pions with the nuclear medium can cause the ejected π^0 to have lower momentum. The total systematic uncertainty is 15.9%. Fig. 14 shows the flux-averaged differential cross section in π^0 - ν_μ angle. The cross section is more forward than the prediction. The total systematic error is 16.3%.

Each of the cross-section measurements also provide a measurement of the flux-averaged total cross section. From these total cross sections, all of the observable CC π^0 cross-section measurements can be compared. Table IV shows the flux-averaged total cross sections cal-

TABLE IV. Summary of the flux-averaged total cross sections calculated from each cross-section measurement. The average cross section is calculated assuming 100% correlated systematics. The flux-averaged neutrino energy is $\langle E_\nu \rangle_\Phi = 0.965$ GeV.

measurement	$\langle \sigma \rangle_\Phi$ [$\times 10^{-39}$ cm 2]
$\sigma(E_\nu)$	9.05 ± 1.44
$\partial\sigma/\partial Q^2$	9.28 ± 1.55
$\partial\sigma/\partial E_\mu$	9.20 ± 1.47
$\partial\sigma/\partial \cos \theta_\mu$	9.10 ± 1.50
$\partial\sigma/\partial \mathbf{p}_{\pi^0} $	9.03 ± 1.54
$\partial\sigma/\partial \cos \theta_{\pi^0}$	9.54 ± 1.55
$\langle \bar{\sigma} \rangle_\Phi$	9.20 ± 1.51

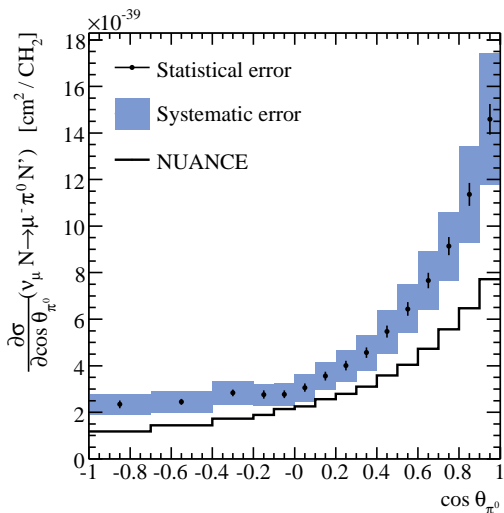


FIG. 14. (color online) The flux-averaged ($0.5 < E_\nu < 2.0$ GeV) differential cross section in $\cos\theta_{\pi^0}$ with total systematic uncertainty of 16.3%. The central-value measurement, uncertainties, and correlation matrix are tabulated in Table XI of the appendix.

culated from each measurement. The measurements all agree within 6%, well within the uncertainty. While all measurements use the same data, small differences can result from biases due to the efficiencies and unfoldings. The results are combined in a simple average, assuming 100% correlated uncertainties, to yield $\langle\bar{\sigma}\rangle_\Phi = (9.20 \pm 0.03_{stat.} \pm 1.51_{syst.}) \times 10^{-39}$ cm²/CH₂ at flux-averaged neutrino energy of $\langle E_\nu \rangle_\Phi = 0.965$ GeV. The averaged flux-averaged total cross-section measurement is found to be a factor of $1.58 \pm 0.05_{stat.} \pm 0.26_{syst.}$ higher than the NUANCE prediction.

IX. CONCLUSION

The measurements presented here provide the most complete understanding of $CC\pi^0$ interactions at energies below 2 GeV to date. They are the first on a nuclear target (CH₂), at these energies, and provide the first differential measurements in terms of the final state, non-nuclear, particle kinematics. The development of a novel 3-Čerenkov ring fitter has facilitated the reconstruction of both the π^0 and μ^- in a $CC\pi^0$ interaction. This reconstruction allows for the measurement of the full kinematics of the event providing for the measurement of six cross sections: the total cross section as a function of neutrino energy, and flux-averaged differential cross sections in Q^2 , E_μ , $\cos\theta_\mu$, $|\mathbf{p}_{\pi^0}|$, and $\cos\theta_{\pi^0}$. These cross sections show an enhancement over the initial interaction model [28] and FSI effects as implemented in NUANCE. The flux-averaged total cross section is measured to be $\langle\bar{\sigma}\rangle_\Phi = (9.20 \pm 0.03_{stat.} \pm 1.51_{syst.}) \times 10^{-39}$ cm²/CH₂ at mean neutrino energy of $\langle E_\nu \rangle_\Phi = 0.965$ GeV. These measurements should prove useful for understanding incoherent pion production on nuclear targets.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Appendix: Tables

The tables presented in this appendix are provided to quantify the flux, Fig. 8, and the cross-section measurements, Figs. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

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TABLE V. The predicted ν_μ flux. Tabulated are the central value, total systematic uncertainty, and the correlation matrix. The bin boundaries are tabulated as the low edge of the bin with the last bin giving both the low and high edge.

Bin edge [GeV]	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80-2.00
CV [$\times 10^{-10}$ $\nu/\text{p.o.t./cm}^2/\text{GeV}$]	4.57	4.53	4.37	4.07	3.68	3.24	2.76	2.26	1.79	1.36	1.00	0.72	0.51	0.30
Total Syst.	± 0.33	± 0.26	± 0.25	± 0.26	± 0.22	± 0.18	± 0.20	± 0.28	± 0.24	± 0.17	± 0.13	± 0.12	± 0.10	± 0.07
0.50	1.00	0.91	0.91	0.79	0.77	0.45	-0.06	-0.35	-0.33	-0.12	0.12	0.19	0.25	0.28
0.60	0.91	1.00	0.92	0.80	0.77	0.54	0.08	-0.16	-0.16	-0.01	0.13	0.15	0.17	0.18
0.70	0.91	0.92	1.00	0.87	0.86	0.61	0.13	-0.19	-0.18	0.04	0.25	0.28	0.31	0.33
0.80	0.79	0.80	0.87	1.00	0.92	0.69	0.15	-0.17	-0.17	0.09	0.35	0.40	0.41	0.44
0.90	0.77	0.77	0.86	0.92	1.00	0.83	0.34	-0.02	-0.01	0.23	0.44	0.47	0.49	0.50
1.00	0.45	0.54	0.61	0.69	0.83	1.00	0.75	0.46	0.44	0.60	0.65	0.62	0.57	0.55
1.10	-0.06	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.34	0.75	1.00	0.89	0.87	0.87	0.70	0.58	0.47	0.38
1.20	-0.35	-0.16	-0.19	-0.17	-0.02	0.46	0.89	1.00	0.98	0.84	0.54	0.40	0.28	0.19
1.30	-0.33	-0.16	-0.18	-0.17	-0.01	0.44	0.87	0.98	1.00	0.91	0.63	0.49	0.38	0.26
1.40	-0.12	-0.01	0.04	0.09	0.23	0.60	0.87	0.84	0.91	1.00	0.89	0.78	0.66	0.53
1.50	0.12	0.13	0.25	0.35	0.44	0.65	0.70	0.54	0.63	0.89	1.00	0.97	0.89	0.79
1.60	0.19	0.15	0.28	0.40	0.47	0.62	0.58	0.40	0.49	0.78	0.97	1.00	0.97	0.91
1.70	0.25	0.17	0.31	0.41	0.49	0.57	0.47	0.28	0.38	0.66	0.89	0.97	1.00	0.97
1.80-2.00	0.28	0.18	0.33	0.44	0.50	0.55	0.38	0.19	0.26	0.53	0.79	0.91	0.97	1.00

TABLE VI. The total observable $CC\pi^0$ cross section as a function of neutrino energy (Fig. 9). Tabulated are the central value (CV), the total systematic error, the statistical error, and the correlation matrix for the systematic error. The correlations for the statistical errors are small and not tabulated. The CV, total systematic error, and statistical errors are multiplied by 10^{39} . The bin boundaries are tabulated as the low edge of the bin with the last bin giving both the low and high edge.

Bin edge [GeV]	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80-2.00
CV [$\times 10^{-39}$ cm ²]	1.76	3.83	5.68	7.31	9.20	11.06	12.42	13.89	15.23	16.38	18.20	19.37	20.80	21.92
Stat.	± 0.18	± 0.23	± 0.26	± 0.29	± 0.34	± 0.41	± 0.49	± 0.60	± 0.74	± 0.92	± 1.24	± 1.62	± 2.16	± 2.24
Total Syst.	± 0.49	± 0.78	± 0.97	± 1.17	± 1.50	± 1.85	± 2.16	± 2.46	± 2.82	± 3.17	± 3.61	± 4.15	± 4.49	± 5.26
0.50	1.00	0.93	0.80	0.74	0.71	0.77	0.74	0.68	0.63	0.59	0.50	0.50	0.49	0.54
0.60	0.93	1.00	0.96	0.90	0.88	0.86	0.81	0.79	0.72	0.68	0.62	0.56	0.59	0.59
0.70	0.80	0.96	1.00	0.98	0.96	0.92	0.85	0.86	0.79	0.75	0.73	0.64	0.68	0.65
0.80	0.74	0.90	0.98	1.00	0.99	0.96	0.91	0.91	0.87	0.84	0.81	0.75	0.77	0.74
0.90	0.71	0.88	0.96	0.99	1.00	0.97	0.93	0.94	0.89	0.86	0.85	0.77	0.80	0.75
1.00	0.77	0.86	0.92	0.96	0.97	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.95	0.92	0.89	0.85	0.86	0.83
1.10	0.74	0.81	0.85	0.91	0.93	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.97	0.96	0.91	0.91	0.90	0.89
1.20	0.68	0.79	0.86	0.91	0.94	0.98	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.97	0.95	0.91	0.92	0.89
1.30	0.63	0.72	0.79	0.87	0.89	0.95	0.97	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.97	0.96	0.95	0.94
1.40	0.59	0.68	0.75	0.84	0.86	0.92	0.96	0.97	0.99	1.00	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.96
1.50	0.50	0.62	0.73	0.81	0.85	0.89	0.91	0.95	0.97	0.98	1.00	0.97	0.97	0.94
1.60	0.50	0.56	0.64	0.75	0.77	0.85	0.91	0.91	0.96	0.98	0.97	1.00	0.97	0.98
1.70	0.49	0.59	0.68	0.77	0.80	0.86	0.90	0.92	0.95	0.97	0.97	0.97	1.00	0.97
1.80-2.00	0.54	0.59	0.65	0.74	0.75	0.83	0.89	0.89	0.94	0.96	0.94	0.98	0.97	1.00

TABLE VII. The flux-averaged observable $CC\pi^0$ differential cross section in Q^2 over the flux range $E_\nu \in (0.5 - 2.0 \text{ GeV})$ (Fig. 10). Tabulated are the central value (CV), the total systematic error, the statistical error, and the correlation matrix for the systematic error. The correlations for the statistical errors are small and not tabulated. The CV, total systematic error, and statistical errors are multiplied by 10^{39} . The bin boundaries are tabulated as the low edge of the bin with the last bin giving both the low and high edge.

Bin edge [GeV ²]	0.00	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	1.00	1.20	1.50-2.00
CV [$\times 10^{-39} \text{ cm}^2/\text{GeV}^2$]	7.08	14.51	14.46	12.78	10.34	8.40	6.40	4.96	3.46	1.76	0.79	0.21
Stat.	± 0.33	± 0.48	± 0.48	± 0.45	± 0.41	± 0.38	± 0.33	± 0.30	± 0.19	± 0.13	± 0.07	± 0.03
Total Syst.	± 1.78	± 2.63	± 2.35	± 1.92	± 1.64	± 1.22	± 1.13	± 0.76	± 0.61	± 0.50	± 0.20	± 0.07
0.00	1.00	0.96	0.84	0.91	0.75	0.89	0.66	0.91	0.85	0.41	0.63	0.69
0.10	0.96	1.00	0.90	0.95	0.75	0.94	0.71	0.92	0.80	0.48	0.58	0.64
0.20	0.84	0.90	1.00	0.94	0.93	0.95	0.92	0.87	0.65	0.78	0.62	0.50
0.30	0.91	0.95	0.94	1.00	0.83	0.97	0.80	0.91	0.73	0.61	0.55	0.55
0.40	0.75	0.75	0.93	0.83	1.00	0.87	0.94	0.82	0.65	0.81	0.75	0.52
0.50	0.89	0.94	0.95	0.97	0.87	1.00	0.87	0.95	0.75	0.67	0.62	0.60
0.60	0.66	0.71	0.92	0.80	0.94	0.87	1.00	0.78	0.52	0.92	0.63	0.40
0.70	0.91	0.92	0.87	0.91	0.82	0.95	0.78	1.00	0.90	0.58	0.76	0.77
0.80	0.85	0.80	0.65	0.73	0.65	0.75	0.52	0.90	1.00	0.30	0.84	0.92
1.00	0.41	0.48	0.78	0.61	0.81	0.67	0.92	0.58	0.30	1.00	0.54	0.24
1.20	0.63	0.58	0.62	0.55	0.75	0.62	0.63	0.76	0.84	0.54	1.00	0.89
1.50-2.00	0.69	0.64	0.50	0.55	0.52	0.60	0.40	0.77	0.92	0.24	0.89	1.00

TABLE VIII. The flux-averaged observable $CC\pi^0$ differential cross section in E_μ over the flux range $E_\nu \in (0.5 - 2.0 \text{ GeV})$ in bins of $E_\mu - m_\mu$ (Fig. 11). Tabulated are the central value (CV), the total systematic error, the statistical error, and the correlation matrix for the systematic error. The correlations for the statistical errors are small and not tabulated. The CV, total systematic error, and statistical errors are multiplied by 10^{39} . The bin boundaries are tabulated as the low edge of the bin with the last bin giving both the low and high edge.

Bin edge [GeV]	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.28	0.35	0.42	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	1.00-1.20
CV [$\times 10^{-39} \text{ cm}^2/\text{GeV}$]	10.31	15.60	17.00	16.58	15.33	13.57	11.38	9.76	6.97	5.82	4.03	2.55	1.38
Stat.	± 0.96	± 1.03	± 0.75	± 0.63	± 0.48	± 0.47	± 0.45	± 0.43	± 0.32	± 0.32	± 0.28	± 0.19	± 0.21
Total Syst.	± 1.83	± 2.52	± 2.73	± 3.00	± 2.52	± 2.21	± 1.91	± 1.60	± 1.38	± 1.12	± 0.76	± 0.58	± 0.36
0.00	1.00	0.50	0.75	0.70	0.66	0.82	0.75	0.65	0.76	0.89	0.62	0.31	0.34
0.05	0.50	1.00	0.87	0.83	0.88	0.78	0.80	0.85	0.67	0.57	0.86	0.78	0.56
0.10	0.75	0.87	1.00	0.93	0.91	0.92	0.92	0.90	0.85	0.82	0.87	0.67	0.51
0.15	0.70	0.83	0.93	1.00	0.83	0.90	0.87	0.90	0.91	0.81	0.90	0.61	0.42
0.20	0.66	0.88	0.91	0.83	1.00	0.91	0.93	0.90	0.75	0.77	0.87	0.84	0.70
0.28	0.82	0.78	0.92	0.90	0.91	1.00	0.95	0.91	0.91	0.92	0.88	0.66	0.58
0.35	0.75	0.80	0.92	0.87	0.93	0.95	1.00	0.93	0.85	0.87	0.88	0.75	0.65
0.42	0.65	0.85	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.91	0.93	1.00	0.89	0.78	0.92	0.79	0.57
0.50	0.76	0.67	0.85	0.91	0.75	0.91	0.85	0.89	1.00	0.89	0.84	0.53	0.38
0.60	0.89	0.57	0.82	0.81	0.77	0.92	0.87	0.78	0.89	1.00	0.78	0.47	0.45
0.70	0.62	0.86	0.87	0.90	0.87	0.88	0.88	0.92	0.84	0.78	1.00	0.77	0.55
0.80	0.31	0.78	0.67	0.61	0.84	0.66	0.75	0.79	0.53	0.47	0.77	1.00	0.72
1.00-1.20	0.34	0.56	0.51	0.42	0.70	0.58	0.65	0.57	0.38	0.45	0.55	0.72	1.00

TABLE IX. The flux-averaged observable $CC\pi^0$ differential cross section in $\cos\theta_\mu$ over the flux range $E_\nu \in (0.5 - 2.0 \text{ GeV})$ (Fig. 12). Tabulated are the central value (CV), the total systematic error, the statistical error, and the correlation matrix for the systematic error. The correlations for the statistical errors are small and not tabulated. The CV, total systematic error, and statistical errors are multiplied by 10^{39} . The bin boundaries are tabulated as the low edge of the bin with the last bin giving both the low and high edge.

Bin edge	-1.00	-0.60	-0.30	0.00	0.20	0.40	0.60	0.80	0.90-1.00
CV [$\times 10^{-39} \text{ cm}^2$]	1.01	1.55	2.46	3.60	4.65	6.58	10.32	13.11	11.51
Stat.	± 0.08	± 0.11	± 0.13	± 0.18	± 0.19	± 0.23	± 0.28	± 0.47	± 0.46
Total Syst.	± 0.25	± 0.32	± 0.40	± 0.54	± 0.76	± 1.22	± 1.59	± 2.29	± 2.92
-1.00	1.00	0.61	0.67	0.45	0.58	0.86	0.34	0.66	0.53
-0.60	0.61	1.00	0.84	0.63	0.87	0.77	0.70	0.84	0.71
-0.30	0.67	0.84	1.00	0.78	0.90	0.83	0.80	0.92	0.83
0.00	0.45	0.63	0.78	1.00	0.76	0.64	0.90	0.80	0.87
0.20	0.58	0.87	0.90	0.76	1.00	0.79	0.84	0.92	0.84
0.40	0.86	0.77	0.83	0.64	0.79	1.00	0.60	0.87	0.76
0.60	0.34	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.84	0.60	1.00	0.84	0.92
0.80	0.66	0.84	0.92	0.80	0.92	0.87	0.84	1.00	0.92
0.90-1.00	0.53	0.71	0.83	0.87	0.84	0.76	0.92	0.92	1.00

TABLE X. The flux-averaged observable $CC\pi^0$ differential cross section in $|\mathbf{p}_{\pi^0}|$ over the flux range $E_\nu \in (0.5 - 2.0 \text{ GeV})$ (Fig. 13). Tabulated are the central value (CV), the total systematic error, the statistical error, and the correlation matrix for the systematic error. The correlations for the statistical errors are small and not tabulated. The CV, total systematic error, and statistical errors are multiplied by 10^{39} . The bin boundaries are tabulated as the low edge of the bin with the last bin giving both the low and high edge.

Bin edge [GeV/c]	0.00	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.80	1.00-1.40
CV [$\times 10^{39} \text{ cm}^2/\text{GeV}/c$]	4.92	26.65	32.90	28.99	19.02	13.65	7.41	4.27	1.90	0.87	0.19
Stat.	± 0.37	± 1.10	± 1.05	± 0.87	± 0.61	± 0.37	± 0.31	± 0.33	± 0.25	± 0.35	± 0.21
Total Syst.	± 1.34	± 4.94	± 5.00	± 4.31	± 3.09	± 2.49	± 2.01	± 1.14	± 0.63	± 0.40	± 0.79
0.00	1.00	0.74	0.83	0.52	0.82	0.79	0.47	0.25	0.26	0.44	0.02
0.10	0.74	1.00	0.92	0.74	0.90	0.70	0.30	0.51	0.58	0.26	-0.41
0.15	0.83	0.92	1.00	0.85	0.97	0.88	0.56	0.59	0.57	0.36	-0.14
0.20	0.52	0.74	0.85	1.00	0.82	0.84	0.73	0.84	0.72	0.26	0.05
0.25	0.82	0.90	0.97	0.82	1.00	0.90	0.55	0.61	0.63	0.38	-0.16
0.30	0.79	0.70	0.88	0.84	0.90	1.00	0.84	0.69	0.57	0.48	0.24
0.40	0.47	0.30	0.56	0.73	0.55	0.84	1.00	0.72	0.46	0.44	0.63
0.50	0.25	0.51	0.59	0.84	0.61	0.69	0.72	1.00	0.89	0.35	0.08
0.60	0.26	0.58	0.57	0.72	0.63	0.57	0.46	0.89	1.00	0.39	-0.19
0.80	0.44	0.26	0.36	0.26	0.38	0.48	0.44	0.35	0.39	1.00	0.24
1.00-1.40	0.02	-0.41	-0.14	0.05	-0.16	0.24	0.63	0.08	-0.19	0.24	1.00

TABLE XI. The flux-averaged observable $CC\pi^0$ differential cross section in $\cos\theta_{\pi^0}$ over the flux range $E_\nu \in (0.5 - 2.0 \text{ GeV})$ (Fig. 14). Tabulated are the central value (CV), the total systematic error, the statistical error, and the correlation matrix for the systematic error. The correlations for the statistical errors are small and not tabulated. The CV, total systematic error, and statistical errors are multiplied by 10^{39} . The bin boundaries are tabulated as the low edge of the bin with the last bin giving both the low and high edge.

Bin edge	-1.00	-0.70	-0.40	-0.20	-0.10	0.00	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90-1.00
CV [$\times 10^{-39} \text{ cm}^2$]	2.34	2.45	2.83	2.76	2.77	3.06	3.55	4.01	4.57	5.47	6.44	7.66	9.14	11.36	14.59
Stat.	± 0.16	± 0.12	± 0.14	± 0.18	± 0.17	± 0.18	± 0.19	± 0.21	± 0.22	± 0.26	± 0.29	± 0.33	± 0.39	± 0.49	± 0.66
Total Syst.	± 0.44	± 0.45	± 0.50	± 0.46	± 0.49	± 0.59	± 0.60	± 0.69	± 0.76	± 0.95	± 1.05	± 1.26	± 1.48	± 2.08	± 2.83
-1.00	1.00	0.87	0.78	0.78	0.84	0.62	0.85	0.84	0.78	0.85	0.81	0.86	0.80	0.63	0.81
-0.70	0.87	1.00	0.70	0.78	0.87	0.63	0.91	0.81	0.71	0.92	0.86	0.88	0.80	0.60	0.88
-0.40	0.78	0.70	1.00	0.67	0.69	0.48	0.76	0.93	0.86	0.71	0.70	0.80	0.80	0.60	0.68
-0.20	0.78	0.78	0.67	1.00	0.96	0.92	0.90	0.75	0.82	0.84	0.93	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.84
-0.10	0.84	0.87	0.69	0.96	1.00	0.88	0.95	0.80	0.82	0.91	0.94	0.91	0.89	0.82	0.90
0.00	0.62	0.63	0.48	0.92	0.88	1.00	0.80	0.59	0.75	0.72	0.87	0.77	0.81	0.90	0.75
0.10	0.85	0.91	0.76	0.90	0.95	0.80	1.00	0.89	0.84	0.95	0.93	0.94	0.91	0.77	0.93
0.20	0.84	0.81	0.93	0.75	0.80	0.59	0.89	1.00	0.92	0.85	0.83	0.88	0.87	0.68	0.82
0.30	0.78	0.71	0.86	0.82	0.82	0.75	0.84	0.92	1.00	0.80	0.86	0.87	0.90	0.83	0.80
0.40	0.85	0.92	0.71	0.84	0.91	0.72	0.95	0.85	0.80	1.00	0.92	0.92	0.87	0.71	0.95
0.50	0.81	0.86	0.70	0.93	0.94	0.87	0.93	0.83	0.86	0.92	1.00	0.95	0.93	0.88	0.92
0.60	0.86	0.88	0.80	0.89	0.91	0.77	0.94	0.88	0.87	0.92	0.95	1.00	0.95	0.81	0.93
0.70	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.90	0.89	0.81	0.91	0.87	0.90	0.87	0.93	0.95	1.00	0.88	0.90
0.80	0.63	0.60	0.60	0.90	0.82	0.90	0.77	0.68	0.83	0.71	0.88	0.81	0.88	1.00	0.77
0.90-1.00	0.81	0.88	0.68	0.84	0.90	0.75	0.93	0.82	0.80	0.95	0.92	0.93	0.90	0.77	1.00