

Luke Vinton

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EDUCATION

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| University of Sussex 2013-2017 | Ph.D. , High Energy Physics |
| University of Manchester 2009-2013 | MPhys , Physics with Astrophysics |

RESEARCH: The NOvA Experiment, 2013-2017

Reconstruction and Analysis:

- **Thesis:** *An Analysis of Muon Neutrino Disappearance from the NuMI Beam Using an Optimal Track Fitter*, Adviser: Dr. Mark Messier. Graduation date: August, 2015
- Developed multivariate methods for identifying muons and estimating neutrino energies.
- Developed a new clustering algorithm to separate potentially overlapping physics events based on casual relationships between channel hits.
- Enhanced a modified Hough transform to identify major event features used as a first stage in a global vertex identification algorithm.
- Developed a particle tracking module based on a model for multiple scattering capable of fitting tracks under different particle hypotheses.
- Created an analysis package to assign particle identifications to reconstructed tracks using scattering angles, dE/dx values along the track, and reconstructed momenta.
- Performed a Monte Carlo based analysis to determine the potential sensitivity to neutrino oscillations from events entering the detector from outside.

Detector Monitoring and Commissioning:

- Developed a series of online monitoring tools that provide real-time feedback on critical detector performance. These tools display histograms of key variables and provide the ability to generate plots comparing current and previous detector states.
- Created a fully automated series of scripts for nearline processing that produce continually updated metrics posted to a webpage monitored by shifters. This information is also used for data quality purposes to determine good runs and provide bad channel masks for both of the NOvA detectors.
- Installed and maintained software across eight different computers necessary for running the online and nearline monitoring software. This included being the 24-hour on-call expert for all of the data-monitoring software running on

these eight machines for over a year.

- Created the software to map a coordinate system based on electronic hardware elements to physical locations in the NOvA detectors for the data acquisition group.
- Spent one month assisting in the installation of hardware and cabling for the NOvA near detector and prototype detector.

Leadership:

- Served as the elected president of the Young NOvA group (an organization of post-docs, graduate, and undergraduate students designed to promote an increased representation of the younger members within the collaboration), August 2013 - June 2014

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility: 2011-2012

- Assisted with the research and development of plastic bars coated with a wavelength shifting material to be used to capture scintillation light within the LBNF detectors.

Research Assistant, Indiana University Dept. of Physics: 2010

- Created a numerical simulation of a low energy deuteron beam used to model a pyro-electric fusion device.

Research Assistant, Indiana University Dept. of Astronomy: 2000-2001

- Performed computational simulations of gravitationally interacting few-body systems. Independently developed software to analyze the statistics of the results from thousands of different simulations.

Research Assistant, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics: 1998

- Worked with Dr. Peter Garnavich and Dr. Eric Schlegel to analyze the type II supernova 1995N by processing and analyzing 25 to 30 photometric and spectroscopic digital pictures.

PRESENTATIONS

- **‘Event Reconstruction with the NOvA Far Detector’:** Poster presented at the Physics in Collision 2014 conference, September 2014, Bloomington, IN
- **‘Event Reconstruction with the NOvA Far Detector’:** Poster presented at the Neutrino 2014 conference, June 2014, Boston, MA
- **‘Expected Sensitivities from the ν_μ Disappearance Analysis Using the NOvA Detector’:** Talk given at the American Physical Society Division of Particles and Fields 2013 conference, August 2013, Santa Cruz, CA
- **‘An Analysis of the Peculiar Type II supernova 1995N’:** Poster pre-

sented at the 193rd meeting of the American Astronomical Society, January
1999, Austin, TX