GEONEUTRINOS



LIVIA LUDHOVA IKP-2 FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM JÜLICH AND RWTH AACHEN, GERMANY

HISTORY OF NEUTRINO, 5-7 SEPTEMBER 2018, PARIS, FRANCE







OUTLINE

- What are geoneutrinos and why to study them.
- The first ideas.
- Expected geoneutrino flux.
- KamLAND and Borexino: from the first geoneutrino detection up to the most recent results.
- Neutrino geoscience: outlook.







Earthquake, L'Aquila, Italy, 2016





Shiveluch vulcano, Kamchatka, Russia, September 2017





Karymsky vulcano, Kamchatka, Russia, September 2017



From where is coming the energy driving these processes?

From where is coming the energy driving these processes? How can neutrino physics help us to understand?

EARTH HEAT BUDGET

Surface heat flux: 47 ± 3 TW

(based on the measured temperature gradients along 30,000 bore holes around the globe) IMPORTANT MARGINS FOR ALL DIFFERENT MODELS OF THE EARTH

*** * * * * * 1**

Surface heat flux Heat production in lithosphere

Mantle cooling

CMB heat flux

Core cooling

Inner core growth



²³⁸U (99.2739% of natural U) \rightarrow ²⁰⁶Pb + 8 α + 8 e^{-} + 6 anti-neutrinos + **51.7 MeV**

²³²Th \rightarrow ²⁰⁸Pb + 6 α + 4 e^- + 4 anti-neutrinos + 42.8 MeV

²³⁵U (0.7205% of natural U) \rightarrow ²⁰⁷Pb + 7 α + 4 e^- + 4 anti-neutrinos + **46.4 MeV**

⁴⁰K (0.012% of natural K) \rightarrow ⁴⁰Ca + e⁻ + 1 anti-neutrino + 1.32 MeV (BR=89.3 %)

 $^{40}\text{K} + e^- \rightarrow ^{40}\text{Ar} + 1 \text{ neutrino} + 1.505 \text{ MeV} (BR=10.7 \%)$

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□ the only direct probe of the deep Earth

□ <u>released heat and anti-neutrinos flux in a well fixed ratio</u>

□ measure geoneutrino flux = (in principle) = get radiogenic heat

□ in practice (as always) more complicated.....

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Earth shines in antineutrinos: flux ~10⁶ cm⁻² s⁻¹ leaving freely and instantaneously the Earth interior (to compare: solar neutrino (NOT antineutrino!) flux ~10¹⁰ cm⁻² s⁻¹)

NEUTRINO GEOSCIENCE: TRUELY INTER-DISCIPLINARY FIELD



- Main goal: determine the contribution of the radiogenic heat to the total surface heat flux, which is an important margin, test, and input at the same time for many geophysical and geochemical models of the Earth;
- Further goals: U/Th ratio, tests and discrimination among geological models, Earth composition models, study of the mantle homogeneity or stratification, insights to the processes of Earth'formation, additional sources of heat?, idea of U-based geo-reactor in the Earth's core (according to Herndon)

NEUTRINO GEOSCIENCE: TRUELY INTER-DISCIPLINARY FIELD



Main goal: determine the contribution of the radiogenic heat to the ce heat • of these had only little hope before geoneutrinos! flux, which is an important margin, test, and input at d physical and geochemical models of the Earth

Jourogical models, Earth Further goals: U/Tgeneity or stratification, insights to the comp , adultional sources of heat?, idea of U-based geo-reactor in proces (according to Herndon) the Ea

THE FIRST IDEAS CONCERNING

EXPECTED GEONEUTRINO FLUX POSSIBLE DETECTION TECHNIQUES



THE FIRST IDEAS: G. EDER

8.C.2

Nuclear Physics 78 (1966) 657-662; C North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam

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TERRESTRIAL NEUTRINOS

GERNOT EDER

Institut für Theoretische Physik der Universität Giessen, Giessen, Germany

Received 11 October 1965

- Motivation: radiogenic heat as the source of energy for the Earth expansion of 0.8 mm/year
- Expected fluxes: from K, U, and Th, order of 10⁸ cm⁻² s⁻¹
- Detection for 1.5 MeV neutrinos from ⁴⁰K: Very small expected rate

 $v + {}^{37}\text{Cl} \rightarrow e^- + {}^{37}\text{Ar} - 0.816 \text{ MeV}.$

Detection for anti-neutrinos: 4 e+ / day / 500 tons of water

 $\bar{v} + p \rightarrow e^+ + n - 1.804 \text{ MeV} \longrightarrow \text{Used today!}$



THE FIRST IDEAS: G. MARX

GEOPHYSICS BY NEUTRINOS*)

G. Marx

Institute of Theoretical Physics, Roland Eötväs University, Budapest

- Motivation: use neutrinos to study also the Earth (along with other objects)
- Expected fluxes: ^{238/235}U, ²³²Th, ⁴⁰K, ⁸⁷Rb, total flux **10**⁹ cm⁻² s⁻¹



Marx G., Menyhard N.: Mitteilungen der Sternwarte, Budapest No. 48 (1960).

Marx G., Lux I.: Antineutrino Luminosity of the Earth. Talk at the Moscow Conference on Neutrino Physics and Neutrino Astrophysics. ITP-Budapest Report No. 243 (1968). Marx G., Lux I.: Hunting for Soft Antineutrinos. Acta Phys. Hung. in press. ITP-Budapest Report No. 256 (1969).



NATURE VOL. 310 19 JULY 1984

-REVIEW ARTICLE-

Antineutrino astronomy and geophysics

Lawrence M. Krauss*, Sheldon L. Glashow⁺ & David N. Schramm⁺

* Lyman Laboratory of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA
 † Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA
 ‡ Department of Physics and Astrophysics, Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA

- Motivation: composition and dynamics of the Earth
- Expected fluxes: from lithosphere 10⁷ cm⁻² s⁻¹
- Radiochemical detection methods discusses in detail
 - Induced Beta Decay
 - Induced Electron Capture for mono-energetic anti-nu



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THE FIRST IDEAS: USE OF LIQUID SCINTILLATOR



Measuring the global radioactivity in the earth by multidetector anti-neutrino spectroscopy

R.S. Raghavan (Bell Labs), Stefan. Schonert (Munich, Tech. U.), S. Enomoto, J. Shirai, F. Suekane, A. Suzuki (Tohoku U.)

Aug 1997 - 4 pages

Phys.Rev.Lett. 80 (1998) 635-638 DOI: <u>10.1103/PhysRevLett.80.635</u>

GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS, VOL. 25, NO. 7, PAGES 1083-1086, APRIL 1, 1998

Antineutrino geophysics with liquid scintillator detectors

Casey G. Rothschild, Mark C. Chen and Frank P. Calaprice

Physics Department, Princeton University Princeton, New Jersey

EXPECTED GEONEUTRINO FLUX TODAY



BULK SILICATE EARTH MODELS (BSE)

Models predicting the composition of the Earth primitive mantle

Various inputs: composition of the chondritic meteorites, correlations with the composition of the solar photosphere, composition of rock samples from upper mantle and crust, energy needed to run mantle convection....

Amount of U/Th/K (and thus also radiogenic heat) in BSE = present-day CRUST (continental + oceanic) + MANTLE



EXPECTED GEONEUTRINO SIGNAL

Input: U and Th
abundances

distributions

LOC: Local crust: detailed knowledge on the continental crust: about 50% of the expected geoneutrino signal comes from the crust within 500-800 km around the detector (Mantovani et al.)

- ROC: Rest Of the Crust: further crust -> more approximation
 Divided in 3D voxels, volumes for upper, middle, lower crust and sediments are estimated
 and a mean chemical composition is attributed to these volumes (e.g., Huang et al. 2013);
- Mantle = BSE (LOC + ROC): different BSE models are considered and the respective U + Th mass is distributed either homogeneously (maximal signal) or it is concentrated near to the core-mantle boundary (minimal signal);

PHYSICS LETTERS B

www.elsevier.com/locate/npe



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

Physics Letters B 557 (2003) 139-146

Neutrinos and energetics of the Earth

G. Fiorentini^{a,b}, F. Mantovani^c, B. Ricci^{a,b}

^a Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università di Ferrara, I-44100 Ferrara, Italy
 ^b Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Ferrara, I-44100 Ferrara, Italy
 ^c Scuola di Dottorato, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Universitá di Siena, 53100 Siena, Italy

Received 8 December 2002; received in revised form 24 January 2003; accepted 12 February 2003

concentration for ²³⁸U(Mantovani et al. 2004)upper continental crust:middle continental crust:lower continental crust:lower continental crust:oceanic crust:upper mantle:coreNOTHING





A reference Earth model for the heat-producing elements and

Huge amount of work in predicting the global and local crustal geoneutrino signal



How much uranium is in the Earth? Predictions for geoneutrinos at KamLAND

Gianni Fiorentini,^{1,2,*} Marcello Lissia,^{3,4,†} Fabio Mantovani,^{5,6,2,‡} and Riccardo Vannucci^{7,8,§}

Expected "known and big" crustal signal



The signal is small, we need big detectors!

1 TNU = 1 event / 10³² target protons / year Cca 1 event /1 kton /1 year, 100% detection efficiency

Expected mantle signal: hypothesis of heterogeneous composition Motivated by the observed Large Shear Velocity Provinces at the mantle base (from: C. Jaupart: remnants of a basal layer, now thinned and deformed by convection?)



Ondřej Šrámek, William F. McDonough, Edwin S. Kite, Vedran Lekić, Steve Dye, Shijie Zhong "Geophysical and geochemical constraints on geoneutrino fluxes from Earths mantle", Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 361 (2013) 356-366)

ALTERNATIVE APPROACH: EXPECTED CRUSTAL GEONEUTRINO FLUX FROM HEAT FLOW



from J.C. Mareschal, C. Jaupart & L. larotski

H.K.C. Perry, J.-C Mareschal & C. Jaupart, Enhanced crustal geo-neutrino production near the Sudbury neutrino observatory, Ontario, Canada, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 288, 301–308.

J.-C Mareschal, C. Jaupart, C. Phaneuf & C. Perry, Geo-neutrinos and the energy budget of the Earth, J. Geodynamics 54, 43-54

DETECTING GEONEUTRINOS

- only 2 experiments have measured geoneutrinos;
- liquid scintillator detectors;

•(Anti-)neutrinos have low interaction rates, therefore:

- Large volume detectors needed;
- •High radio-purity of construction materials;
- Underground labs to shield cosmic radiations;

KamLAND in Kamioka, Japan Border between OCEANIC / CONTINENTAL CRUST

- built to detect reactor anti-v;
- 1000 tons;
- •S(reactors)/S(geo) ~ 6.7 (2010)
- •After the Fukushima disaster (March 2011) many reactors OFF and S(reactors)/S(geo) ~ 1!
- data since 2002;
- •2700 m.w.e. shielding;

Borexino in Gran Sasso, Italy CONTINENTAL CRUST

- originally built to measure neutrinos from the Sun – extreme radio-purity needed and achieved;
- 280 tons;
- •S(reactors)/S(geo) ~ 0.3 !!! (2010)
- DAQ started in 2007;
- 3600 m.w.e. shielding;



DETECTION PRINCIPLE

 $v_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$ Inverse Beta Decay



P P P P P

"prompt signal"

e⁺: energy loss T_{e^+} + annihilation (2 x 0.511 MeV) $E_{prompt} = E_{geonu} - 0.784 \text{ MeV}$

"delayed signal" neutron thermalisation & capture on protons, emission of **2.2 MeV** γ



GEONEUTRINOS ENERGY SPECTRA



BACKGROUNDS

B) Non-antineutrino background

1) Cosmogenic background

• ⁹Li and ⁸He ($T_{1/2}$ = 119/178 ms) decay: β (prompt) +neutron (delayed);

fast neutrons

scattered protons (prompt)

Estimated by studying coincidences detected AFTER muons

2) Accidental coincidences; Estimated from OFF-time coincidences

3) Due to the internal radioactivity: (α , n) reactions: ${}^{13}C(\alpha, n){}^{16}O$ Prompt: scattered proton, ${}^{12}C(4.4 \text{ MeV})$ and ${}^{16}O(6.1 \text{ MeV})$

Estimated from ${}^{210}Po(\alpha)$ and ${}^{13}C$ contaminations, cross section

A) Reactor antineutrino background



THE FIRST SEARCH BY KAMLAND IN 2005





Forschungszentrum

LATEST PUBLISHED RESULTS



Forschungszentrum

HISTORY OF GEONU MEASUREMENTS

KamLAND (Japan)

<u>The first investigation in 2005</u>

CL < 2σ Nature 436 (2005) 499 $7.09 \ge 10^{31}$ target-proton year

• Update in 2008 PRL 100 (2008) 221803 73 <u>+</u> 27 geonu's

 2.44×10^{32} target-proton year



99.997 CL observation in 2011 106⁺²⁹-28 geonu's (March 2002 – April 2009) 2600 3.49×10^{32} target-proton year

Latest published result in 2013

116⁺²⁸-27 geonu's (March 2002 – November 2012) $4.9 \ge 10^{32}$ target-proton year PRD 88 (2013) 033001

Nature Geoscience 4 (2011) 647



Preliminary update in 2016: 7.92σ CL 164⁺²⁸ - 25 geonu's (LOW REACTOR)

(March 2002 – November 2016)

 $6.39 \ge 10^{32}$ target-proton year

15-170/0 (H. Watanabe @ Neut. Res. And Thermal Evol. Earth)

Borexino (Italy)

• <u>99.997 CL observation in 2010</u>

9.9 ^{+4.1} _ 3.4 geonu's

small exposure but low background level (December 2007 – December 2009) 34-470/0 $1.5 \ge 10^{31}$ target-proton year PLB 687 (2010) 299

• <u>Update in 2013</u>

14.3 <u>+</u> 4.4 geonu's

(December 2007 – August 2012) $3.69 \ge 10^{31}$ target-proton year 0-hypothesis (a) 6×10^{-6} PLB 722 (2013) 295-300



24-27%

Latest in June 2015: 5.9σ CL $23.7_{-5.7}^{+6.5}$ (stat) $_{-0.6}^{+0.9}$ (sys) geonu's

(December 2007 – March 2015)

 $5.5 \ge 10^{31}$ target-proton year 0-hypothesis @ 3.6 x 10⁻⁹ PRD 92 (2015) 031101 (R)

NEW UPDATE COMING SOON IMPROVED SELECTION, <20% PRECISION

FIRST GEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS

- Measured geoneutrino flux is in agreement with expectations, but we cannot distinguish among various geological models.
- U/Th ratio is compatible with chondritic ratio, but the errors are too big.
- First indications of the measured non-zero mantle signal.
- Idea of Herndon about the active geo-reactor in the Earth core excluded (Borexino 2010 <3TW @95% CL, KamLAND 2011 < 5.2 TW @ 90% CL)





FUTURE RESULTS AND EXPERIMENTS

- **Borexino** (Italy): update with <20% precision soon;
- KamLAND (Japan): update with low reactor-background data soon;
- SNO+ (Canada): 780 ton & DAQ starting soon & 30-40 geonus/year Low cosmogenics;
- JUNO (China): 20 kton & DAQ start in 2021 & 400 geonus/year Should be able to reach the precisions of 17% in the 1st year!
- **JINPING** (China): 5 kton; deepest lab, far away from reactors, very thick continental crust at Himalayan region;
- HanoHano (Hawaii): 10 kton underwater detector with ~80% mantle contribution: "THE" GEONU DETECTOR: MISSING FUNDING!

J. G. Learned et al., XII International Workshop on Neutrino Telescopes, Venice, 2007.



- The new interdisciplinary field is born and collaboration among geologists started (Neutrino Geoscience conference series since 2005 (last time in 2015 here in Paris!), ISAPP Summer School Using Particle Physics to Understand and Image the Earth in 2016 and 2018);
- Geo-neutrinos has been observed;
- The first results are in agreement with geological expectations;
- New generation experiments needed for geologically highly significant results:
- CHALLENGE 1: detection of ⁴⁰K geoneutrinos (< 1.8 MeV)
- CHALLENGE 2: **directionality** (crust vs mantle contributions)



Mt. Everest group, flight from Kathmandu (Nepal) to Paro (Bhutan), March 2018

BACKUP



PRIMITIVE-MANTLE COMPOSITION



Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 73 (2013) 1–34



core

USGS

SEISMOLOGY



P – primary, longitudinal waves S – secondary, transverse/shear waves Discontinuities in the waves propagation and the density profile but no info about the chemical composition of the Earth



GEOCHEMISTRY

1) Direct rock samples

* surface and bore-holes (max. 12 km);

* mantle rocks brought up by tectonics and **vulcanism**; BUT: <u>POSSIBLE ALTERATION DURING THE TRANSPORT</u>

xenolith

2) Geochemical models:

composition of direct rock samples + C1 carbonaceous chondrites meteorites + Sun's photosphere;

Bulk Silicate Earth (BSE) models (several!): medium composition of the "re-mixed" crust + mantle,

i.e., **primordial mantle** before the crust differentiation and after the Fe-Ni core separation;







EFFECT OF NEUTRINO OSCILLATIONS

$$P_{ee} = P(\overline{\nu}_e \to \overline{\nu}_e) = \cos^4 \theta_{13} \left(1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\delta m^2 L}{4E} \right) \right) + \sin^4 \theta_{13}$$

3 MeV antineutrino .. Oscillation length of ~100 km

for geoneutrinos we can use average survival probability of 0.551 + 0.015 (Fiorentini et al 2012), but for reactor antineutrinos not!



Decay	$T_{1/2}$	E_{\max}	Q	$arepsilon_{ar{ u}}$	ε_H
	$[10^9 \mathrm{yr}]$	[MeV]	[MeV]	$[\mathrm{kg}^{-1}\mathrm{s}^{-1}]$	[W/kg]
$^{238}\mathrm{U} \rightarrow ^{206}\mathrm{Pb} + 8\ ^{4}\mathrm{He} + 6e + 6\bar{\nu}$	4.47	3.26	51.7	7.46×10^7	0.95×10^{-4}
232 Th $\rightarrow ^{208}$ Pb + 6 4 He + 4 e + 4 $\bar{\nu}$	14.0	2.25	42.7	1.62×10^7	0.27×10^{-4}
$^{40}\text{K} \to ^{40}\text{Ca} + e + \bar{\nu} \ (89\%)$	1.28	1.311	1.311	2.32×10^8	0.22×10^{-4}



•Radiogenic heat is related to the neutrino flux:

 $H_R = 9.5 M(U) + 2.7 M(Th) + 3.6 M(^{40}K)$ $L_v = 7.4 M(U) + 1.6 M(Th) + 27 M(^{40}K)$

2015 Borexino geoneutrino results



Two types of fits

1) $m(^{232}Th)/m(^{238}U) = 3.9$ (CI chondrites) $S(^{232}Th)/S(^{238}U) = 0.27$ $S(^{238}U)/S(^{232}Th) = 3.7$

 $N_{geo} = 23.7 + 6.5 - 5.7 (stat) + 0.9 - 0.6 (sys)$ events $S_{geo} = 43.5 + 11.8 - 10.4 (stat) + 2.7 - 2.4 (sys)$ TNU

2) U and Th free fit paramters





KamLAND-Phases

- ✓ Period 1: 2002 2007
- ✓ Period 2 (After a long purification campaign) 2009 – March 2011 (Fukushima disaster)
- ✓ Period 3 After Fukushima when many of the nuclear reactors were switched off

2013 results PRD 88 (2013) 033001

Analysis - Rate+Shape+Time Analysis (2)

 N_U + N_{Th}



best-fit N_U+N_{Th} = 116⁺²⁸-27

Flux : 3.4^{+0.8}-0.8 × 10⁶ cm⁻²s⁻¹

0 signal rejected at 99.9998% C.L. (2 × 10⁻⁶)

From KamLAND talk of H. Watanabe @ Neutrino Geoscience 2013

Analysis - Rate+Shape+Time Analysis (1)



From KamLAND talk of H. Watanabe @ Neutrino Geoscience 2013

Geological implications of the 2015 Borexino results

Radiogenic heat



- Radiogenic heat (U+Th): 23-36 TW for the best fit and 11-52 TW for 1σ range
- Considering chondritic mass ratio Th/U=3.9 and K/U = 10⁴ : Radiogenic heat (U + Th + K) = 33⁺²⁸₋₂₀TW

to be compared with 47 ± 2 TW of the total Earth surface heat flux (including all sources)

Geological interpretaion of the KamLAND geoneutrino results



Geological implications of the 2015 Borexino results

Mantle signal

- $S_{Mantle} = S_{measured} S_{crust}$
- S_{measured} = 43.5 ^{+11.8}_{-10.4}(stat)^{+2.7}_{-2.4}(sys) TNU
- Crustal signal at LNGS "known"

ROC (Huang at al.) + LOC (Coltorti at al.)

 $S_{Crust} = (23.4 \pm 2.8) \text{ TNU}$

• Non-0 mantle signal at 98% CL

 $S_{mantle(Borexino)} = 20.1^{+15.1}_{-10.3}$ TNU

(taking the central values: 23.7 events distributed as \sim 13 from the crust and 11 from the mantle)

KamLAND preliminary update in 2016

International Workshop : Neutrino Research and Thermal Evolution of the Earth



SNO+ AT SUDBURY, CANADA





COMING SOON!

After SNO: D₂O replaced by 780 tons of liquid scintillator M. C. Chen, *Earth Moon Planets* **99**, 221 (2006)

Placed on an old continental crust: 80% of the signal from the crust (Fiorentini et al., 2005)

BSE: 28-38 events/per year

JINPING: THE DEEPEST LAB IN THE WORLD



Lab under excavation 5 kton liquid scintillator detector

PHYSICAL REVIEW D 95, 053001 (2017)





Expected IBD spectrum: Far away from reactors!!!

Very deep:

small Li-He (beta, neutron) background

Big signal from the continental crust

JUNO potential to measure geoneutrinos



Big advantage:

 Big volume and thus high statistics (400 geonu / year)!

Main limitations:

- Huge reactor neutrino background;
- Relatively shallow depth cosmogenic background;

Critical:

 Keep other backgrounds (²¹⁰Po contamination!) at low level and under control;

JUNO can provide another geoneutrino measurement with a

comparable or even a better precision than existing results at another location in a completely different geological environment;

HANOHANO AT HAWAII

HAWAII ANTINEUTRINO OBSERVATORY (HANOHANO = "MAGNIFICENT" IN HAWAIIAN





Project for a 10 kton liquid scintillator detector, movable and placed on a deep ocean floor

J. G. Learned et al., XII International Workshop on Neutrino Telescopes, Venice, 2007.

Since Hawai placed on the U-Th depleted oceanic crust

70% of the signal from the mantle! Would lead to very interesting results! (Fiorentini et al.)

BSE: 60-100 events/per year

Would be the ultimate geoneutrino experiment!