Reactor Neutrino Physics

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Outline

- Discovery of the Free Antineutrino
- Reactors as an Antineutrino Source
- Neutrino Oscillation Searches with Reactor Antineutrinos
- Precision Oscillation Physics with Reactor \overline{v}_e
- Other Physics with Reactor \overline{v}_e





Neutrino Energies

Big-Bang neutrinos ~ 0.0004 eV

Neutrinos from the Sun < 20 MeV depending of their origin.

Atmospheric neutrinos ~ GeV





Antineutrinos from nuclear reactors < 10.0 MeV

Neutrinos from accelerators up to GeV (10⁹ eV)



Neutrino Flux on Earth

Solar neutrinos

Primordial neutrinos from the Big Bang What produces the largest neutrino flux on Earth?

The Sun, the Big Bang, or a nuclear reactor?

Reactor neutrinos



Neutrino Flux on Earth

Solar neutrinos 7 x 10¹⁰

Primordial neutrinos from the Big Bang

 3×10^{12}

What produces the largest neutrino flux on Earth?

The Sun, the Big Bang, or a nuclear reactor?

Reactor neutrinos



Discovery of the Free Antineutrino

History of the Neutrino





FIG. 5. Energy distribution curve of the beta-rays.

Fermi, 1934



er dieser Zeilen, den ich huldvollst s näheren auseinendersetsen wird, bin ich Statistik der N- und Li-6 Kerne, sowie -Spektrums suf einen versweifelten Ausweg

verfallen um den "Wecheelsets" (1) der Statistik und den Energienste su retten. Mämlich die Möglichkeit, es könnten elektrisch neutrale Teileben, die ich Neutronen nammen will, in den Iernen existieren, welche den Spin 1/2 haben und das Ausschliessungsprinzip befolgen und isten von Lichtquanten musserden noch dadurch unterscheiden, dass sie gleit mit Lichtgeschwindigkeit laufen. Die Masse der Neutronen fesste von derselben Grossenordnung wie die Elektronenmesse sein und jedenfalls nicht grösser als 0.01 Protonenmasses- Das kontinuierliche beim-Spektrum wäre dann verständlich unter der Annahme, dass beim beim-Zerfall mit des Elektron jeweils noch ein Meutron emittiert wird, derart, dass die Summe der Energien von Meutron und klektron konstant ist.

n Creazione

Nuclear Reactors as a Neutrino Source



Reactors are intense and pure sources of \overline{v}_e

B. Pontecorvo Natl.Res.Council Canada Rep. (1946) 205 Helv.Phys.Acta.Suppl. 3 (1950) 97

Good for systematic studies of neutrinos.

1953: Project Poltergeist

Experiment at Hanford



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1956: First Direct Detection of the Antineutrino



Clyde Cowan Jr.



Frederick Reines



300 liters of liquid scintillator loaded with cadmium



Hanford Experiment





signal: delayed coincidence between positron and neutron capture on cadmium

high background (S/N ~ 1/20) made the experiment inconclusive

0.41+/- 0.20 events/minute

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1956: Savannah River Experiment

tanks I, II, and III were filled with liquid scintillator and instrumented with 5" PMTs

target tanks (blue) were filled with water+cadmium chloride

K





inverse beta decay would produce prompt and delayed signal in <u>neighboring</u> tanks

Observation of the Free Antineutrino

1959 The Savannah River Detector - A new design

Second version of Reines' experiment worked! inverse beta decay $\overline{v}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$





n capture

(b) T = 3 µs Neutron capture produces neutron signal.



Reines-Cowan Experiment

coincidence event signature



signal/reactor independent background ~ 3:1

event signal



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1956: Savannah River Experiment



Electronics trailer

Shielding: 4 ft of soaked sawdust



1956: First Observation Observation of the Antineutrino

by April 1956, a reactor-dependent signal had been observed: signal/reactor independent background ~ 3:1

in June 1956, they sent a telegram to Pauli



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•A Science article reported that the observed cross section was within 5% of the 6.3×10^{-44} cm² expected (although the predicted cross section has a 25% uncertainty).

•In 1959, following the discovery of parity violation in 1956, the theoretical cross section was increased by $\times 2$ to $(10\pm1.7)\times10^{-44}$ cm²

•In 1960, Reines and Cowan reported a reanalysis of the 1956 experiment and quoted $\sigma = (12^{+7}_{-4}) \times 10^{-44} \text{ cm}^2$

Ref:

R.G. Arms, "Detecting the Neutrino", Physics in Perspectives, 3, 314 (2001)





Reactors as Antineutrino Source

Energy Release in Fission and Self-Fusion



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Nuclear Deformation in Fission

Sequence of Events in the Fission of a Uranium Nucleus by a Neutron



Excited state

Ground state



variation of energy as a function of distortion E_A = fission barrier

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asymmetric fission into lighter and heavier nuclei

 ~ 200 MeV/fission and 6 $\overline{v_{e}}/\text{fission}$

3 GW_{th} reactor produces 6 x 10^{20} v_e/sec

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Reactors as Antineutrino Sources





energy per fission		MeV
Kinetic energy of fragments		165 ± 5
Energy of prompt photons		7 ± 1
Kinetic energy of neutrons		5 ± 0.5
Energy of β decay electrons		7 ± 1
Energy of β decay antineutrinos		10
Energy of γ decay photons		6 ± 1
	Total	200 ± 6

 ~ 200 MeV/fission and 6 $\overline{v_e}/\text{fission}$

Fission with thermal and fast neutrons



some nuclei require thermal neutrons for fission, others require fast neutrons

Antineutrino Production in Nuclear Fuel

> 99.9% of \overline{v}_e are produced by fissions in ²³⁵U, ²³⁸U, ²³⁹Pu, ²⁴¹Pu

 $\sim 90\%$ of $\overline{\nu_e}$ are produced by fissions in $^{235}U,\,^{239}Pu$



Plutonium breeding over fuel cycle (~250 kg) changes antineutrino rate (by 5-10%) and spectrum

typical fuel composition

 ^{235}U : ^{238}U : ^{239}Pu : $^{241}Pu = 0.570$: 0.078: 0.0295: 0.057

ve Spectrum



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Measurements

β--spectra resulting from fission of ²³⁵U, ²³⁸U, ²³⁹Pu, ²⁴¹Pu have been experimentally measured (use thin layer of fissile material in beam of thermal neutrons, e.g. Schreckenbach et al., Hahn et al.)

 \rightarrow can be converted to \overline{V}_{e} spectra

Calculations

²³⁸U beta spectra not available since fast fissions

→ determined from theory (+/-10%) (238 U is only 10% of rate)



Schreckenbach et a PL160B 325 (1985)

Goesgen Experiment

Comparison of Predicted Spectra to **Observations**

two curves are from fits to data and from predictions based on Schreckenbach et al.

3 baselines with one detector





Fuel Element for a PWR Reactor



Reactor Refueling

 $\overline{\nu}_{e}$ flux from reactor has time variation

3-6 week shutdown every12-18 months

1/4-1/3 of fuel assemblies are replaced, remaining fuel repositioned

refueling at Palo Verde and predicted antineutrino rate



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Build-Up of Fission Products & Burn-Up Corrections



- Burn-up correction needed
 - The percentage of the different primary isotopes change with time
 - Different fuel components yield different spectra
- Experiments receive information from reactor company who understand this very well
 - Use information to calculate a time dependent rate of neutrinos vs energy

Neutrino Oscillation Searches with Reactor Antineutrinos

Oscillation Experiments with Reactors

experiments look for non-1/r² behavior of antineutrino interaction rate

$$P_{ee} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E_v}\right) - \cos^4 \theta_{13} \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E_v}\right)$$

for 3 active neutrinos, can study oscillation with two different oscillation length scales: $\Delta m_{12}^2 \Delta m_{13}^2$

$\Delta m_{12}^2 \sim 8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$	L ~ 1.8 km
∆m² ₁₃ ~ 2.5 x 10 ⁻³ eV²	L ~ 60 km

reactor appearance experiments?

Mean antineutrino energy is 3.6 MeV. Therefore, <u>only disappearance</u> experiments are possible.

early oscillation experiments didn't know the length scales involved early experiments tried to probe "atmospheric neutrino anomaly"

Neutrino Oscillation Search with Reactor Antineutrinos

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Oscillation Searches at Chooz + Palo Verde:

$$\overline{\nu_{e}} \rightarrow \overline{\nu_{x}}$$



Absolute measurement with 1 detector detector size: several tons

detector size: several tons Karsten Heeger, Univ. of Wisconsin





Antineutrino Detection

inverse beta decay

$$\overline{v}_{e} + p \rightarrow e^{+} + n$$

 $n + p \rightarrow D + \gamma (2.2 \text{ MeV})$
(delayed)

coincidence signature between prompt e⁺ and delayed neutron capture on H, (or Cd, Gd)



including E from e⁺ annihilation, $E_{prompt}=E_{\bar{v}}$ - 0.8 MeV

Backgrounds for Reactor Experiments

 Backgrounds to the e⁺ - n coincidence signal

Uncorrelated Backgrounds

- ambient radioactivity
- accidentals
- cosmogenic neutrons

Correlated Backgrounds

- cosmic rays induce neutrons in the surrounding rock and buffer region of the detector
- cosmogenic radioactive nuclei that emit delayed neutrons in the detector

eg. ⁸He (T1/2=119ms) ⁹Li (T1/2=178ms)



from M. Shaevitz
Chooz: Positron Spectrum

Reactor On/Off

- Positron Yields for Reactors I+II
- Fit to Spectrum
- Comparison to Expected Yield for No Oscillation



Chooz: Results

~3600 events in 335 days

~2.2 events/day/ton with 0.2-0.4 bkgd events/day/ton

2.7% uncertainty

number of protons detection efficiency

reactor power

combined

reaction cross section (flux)

energy released per fission

parameter



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relative error (%)

 $\frac{1.9\%}{0.8\%}$

1.5%

0.7%

0.6%

2.7%

Chooz: Degradation of Scintillator



Attenuation degrades by $\sim 0.4\%$ per day.

Reactor \overline{v}_e Flux Measurements at Different Distances



Reactor Antineutrinos in Japan





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KamLAND Antineutrino Detector

$$\overline{\nu}_e + \rho \rightarrow e^+ + n$$
 $E_{\overline{\nu}_e} \simeq E_p + \overline{E}_n + 0.8 \,\mathrm{MeV},$

through inverse β -decay liquid scintillator target: - proton rich > 10³¹ protons - good light yield



Antineutrino Candidate Event







Long Baseline First Evidence for Reactor \overline{v}_e Disappaerance Reactor Ve Baseline





KamLAND 2004



Simple, rescaled reactor spectrum is excluded at 99.6% $CL(\chi^2=37.3/18)$

Measuring Neutrino Oscillation Parameters



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Precision Oscillation Physics with Reactor Neutrinos



KamLAND 2008

Prompt event energy spectrum for $\overline{v_e}$



Systematic Uncertainties

	Detector-related (%)		Reactor-related (%)	
Δm_{21}^2	Energy scale	1.9	$\overline{\nu}_e$ -spectra [7]	0.6
Event rate	Fiducial volume	1.8	$\overline{\nu}_{e}$ -spectra	2.4
	Energy threshold	15	Reactor power	2.1
	Efficiency	0.6	Fuel composition	1.0
	Cross section	0.2	Long-lived nuclei	0.3

fiducial volume systematics reduced from $4.7\% \rightarrow 1.8\%$

total systematics: 4.1%

Estimated Backgrounds

TABLE II: Estimated backgrounds after selection efficiencies.



4π Full-Volume Calibration





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composite source in 4π calibration runs.

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Oscillation Parameters

Rate-Shape-Time Analysis





KamLAND only tan² Θ =0.56 $^{+0.14}_{-0.09}$ Δm^{2} =7.58 $^{+0.21}_{-0.21}$ x10⁻⁵ eV²

KamLAND+solar

(combined under assumption of CPT invariance)

 $\tan^2\Theta = 0.47 + 0.06 - 0.05$

$$\Delta m^2 = 7.59 + 0.21 - 0.21 \times 10^{-5} eV^2$$

L/E Dependence





oscillation $P_{ee} = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2(\frac{\Delta m^2}{4}\frac{L}{E})$ decay $P_{ee} = (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta \exp(-\frac{m_2}{2\tau}\frac{L}{E}))_{v_{el}}^2$ ecoherence $P_{ee} = 1 - \frac{1}{2}\sin^2 2\theta(1 - \exp(-\gamma\frac{L}{E}))$

Solar neutrino problem solved!

1970-1995 first identified by Ray Davis (missing solar v_e)

2002-2007 SNO observes neutrino flavor change, finds evidence for neutrino mass 2003-2008 KamLAND demonstrates v oscillation, precision measurement of θ , Δm^2

What we know...

Neutrino Mass Splitting



• KamLAND provides most precise value of Δm_{12}^2 (~2.8%)

What we know...



Current Knowledge of θ_{13} : Experimental Bounds



Current Knowledge of θ_{13} : Experiment & Theory

Global Fit





Theory

Model(s)	Refs.	$\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$
Minimal SO(10)	[22]	0.13
Orbifold SO(10)	[23]	0.04
SO(10) + Flavor symmetry	[24]	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-6}$
	[25]	$7.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$
	[26-28]	0.01 0.04
	[29-31]	0.09 0.18
SO(10) + Texture	[32]	$4 \cdot 10^{-4} 0.01$
	[33]	0.04
$SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times SU(4)_c$	[34]	0.09
Flavor symmetries	[35-37]	0
	[38 - 40]	$\lesssim 0.004$
	[41-43]	$10^{-4} 0.02$
	[40, 44-47]	0.04 0.15
Textures	[48]	$4 \cdot 10^{-4} 0.01$
	[49-52]	0.03 0.15
3×2 see-saw	[53]	0.04
	[54] (n.h.)	0.02
	(i.h.)	$> 1.6 \cdot 10^{-4}$
Anarchy	[55]	> 0.04
Renormalization group enhancement	[56]	0.03 0.04
M-Theory model	[57]	10^{-4}

we don't know $\theta_{13...}$

Ref: FNAL proton driver report, hep-ex/0509019

JSS, July 13, 2009

Open Questions

$$P(v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}) - P(\overline{v}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{v}_{e}) = -16s_{12}c_{12}s_{13}c_{13}^{2}s_{23}c_{23}$$
$$\sin\delta\sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{12}^{2}}{4E}L\right)\sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{13}^{2}}{4E}L\right)\sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{23}^{2}}{4E}L\right)$$



Questions

Is there $\mu - \tau$ symmetry in neutrino mixing?

Is there leptonic CPV?

What is mass hierarchy?

Do neutrinos have Majorana mass?

What is the absolute mass scale?

What is the role of neutrinos in the Universe?

Tell me O13 / nTee nu 14 May 2003

「教えてください、 013を!」 シェルドン・リー・グラショウ 2003年5月14日 グラショウ氏は物理学特別講演のため夫人と共に来位。古本高志東北大学総長と会見後、 ニュートリノ科学研究センターを訪問され、ニュートリノ研究の新たな成果を祈念して記された。

14 May 2003 S. Glashow

Reactor and Accelerator Experiments



- appearance experiment $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$
- measurement of $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$ and $\overline{\nu}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{\nu}_{e}$ yields θ_{13}, δ_{CP}
- baseline O(100 -1000 km), matter effects present

Method 2: Reactor Neutrino Oscillation Experiment

$$P_{ee} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E_v}\right) - \cos^4 \theta_{13} \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E_v}\right)$$



absorber

detector

- disappearance experiment $\overline{v_e} \rightarrow \overline{v_e}$
- look for rate deviations from 1/r² and spectral distortions
- observation of oscillation signature with 2 or multiple detectors
- baseline O(1 km), no matter effects

Reactor and Accelerator Experiments

reactor (\overline{v}_{e} disappearance)

$$P_{ee} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E_v}\right) - \cos^4 \theta_{13} \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E_v}\right)$$

- Clean measurement of $\theta_{\rm 13}$

accelerator (v_e appearance)

- No matter effects

mass hierarchy

CP violation

matter

$$\begin{split} P(\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}) &= 4c_{13}^{2}s_{13}^{2}s_{23}^{2}\sin^{2}\Delta_{31} \\ &+ 8c_{13}^{2}s_{13}s_{23}c_{23}s_{12}c_{12}\sin\Delta_{31}\left[\cos\Delta_{32}\cos\delta\right] \sin\Delta_{32}\sin\Delta_{32}\sin\Delta_{31}\sin\Delta_{21} \\ &- 8c_{13}^{2}s_{13}^{2}s_{23}^{2}s_{12}^{2}\cos\Delta_{32}\sin\Delta_{31}\sin\Delta_{21} \\ &+ 4c_{13}^{2}s_{12}^{2}\left[c_{12}^{2}c_{23}^{2} + s_{12}^{2}s_{23}^{2}s_{13}^{2} - 2c_{12}c_{23}s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}\cos\delta\right]\sin^{2}\Delta_{21} \\ &- 8c_{13}^{2}s_{13}^{2}s_{23}^{2}\left(1 - 2s_{13}^{2}\right)\left(\frac{aL}{4E_{\nu}}\sin\Delta_{31}\left[\cos\Delta_{32} - \frac{\sin\Delta_{31}}{\Delta_{31}}\right] \right]. \end{split}$$

- $sin^22\theta_{13}$ is missing key parameter for any measurement of $~\delta_{\text{CP}}$

Precision Measurement of Mixing with Reactor $\overline{\nu}$

Search for θ_{13} in new oscillation experiment with <u>multiple detectors</u>

$$P_{ee} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E_v} \right) - \cos^4 \theta_{13} \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E_v} \right)$$



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Concept of Reactor θ_{13} Experiments

Measure ratio of interaction rates in multiple detectors



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Reactor θ_{13} Experiment at Krasnoyarsk, Russia

Original Idea: First proposed at Neutrino2000



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ex/0211(

World of Proposed Reactor θ₁₃ Neutrino Experiments



Daya Bay, Double Chooz, and Reno

- international collaborations.
- started construction

Angra

- R&D
- nuclear proliferation studies

Daya Bay

- most precise experiment
- only experiment to reach sensitivity of $sin^22\theta_{13} < 0.01$

Daya Bay, China



http://dayawane.ihep.ac.cn/



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Daya Bay, China http://dayawane.ihep.ac.cn/







antineutrino detectors

multiple detectors per site cross-check efficiency

Daya Bay Antineutrino Detectors



Antineutrino Detection

Signal and Event Rates





Daya Bay near site	840
Ling Ao near site	760
Far site	90

events/day per 20 ton module

$$0.3 b$$

$$49,000 b$$

$$+ p \rightarrow D + \gamma (2.2 \text{ MeV}) \quad (\text{delayed})$$

$$+ Gd \rightarrow Gd^* \rightarrow Gd + \gamma's (8 \text{ MeV}) \quad (\text{delayed})$$

Prompt Energy Signal

 $\overline{\nu}$ + $\mathbf{D} \rightarrow \mathbf{e}^+ + \mathbf{n}$

Delayed Energy Signal



Muon Veto System





RPCs: muon detect efficiency 98.6% and ~0.5m spatial resolution. **Two-layer water pool:** 962 PMTs, >2.5m water shield for neutron background, ~0.5m spatial resolution

Daya Bay veto system provides a combined muon detection efficiency > 99.5%.

Background Sources



- 1. Natural Radioactivity: PMT glass, steel, rock, radon in the air, etc
- 2. Slow and fast neutrons produced in rock & shield by cosmic muons
- **3. Muon-induced cosmogenic isotopes:** ⁸He/⁹Li which can β-n decay
- Cross section measured at CERN (Hagner et. al.)
- Can be measured in-situ, even for near detectors with muon rate ~ 10 Hz:



Daya Bay Background Summary



	DYB site	LA site	far site
Antineutrino rate (/day/module)	840	760	90
Natural radiation (Hz)	<50	<50	<50
Single neutron (/day/module)	18	12	1.5
β -emission isotopes (/day/module)	210	141	14.6
Accidental/Signal	< 0.2%	<0.2%	<0.1%
Fast neutron/Signal	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
⁸ He ⁹ Li/Signal	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%

backgrounds from beta-delayed neutron emission isotopes ⁸He and ⁹Li will have to be measured and subtracted







Detector-Related Uncertainties

		Absolute measureme	Rela nt mea	tive suremen	t
Source of uncertainty		Chooz	Daya Bay (relative)		
		(absolute)	Baseline Goal G		Goal w/Swapping
# protons	0.8 0.3 0.1 0.006		0.006		
Detector	Energy cuts	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1
Efficiency	Position cuts	0.32	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Time cuts	0.4	0.1	0.03	0.03
	H/Gd ratio	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
	n multiplicity	0.5	0.05	0.05	0.05
	Trigger	0	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Live time	0	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Total detector-related uncertainty		1.7%	0.38%	0.18%	0.12%
					Ref: Daya Bay TDI

O(0.2-0.3%) precision for relative measurement between detectors at near and far sites
Fabrication and Delivery of Detector Components





acrylic target vessels



Detector Assembly at the Daya Bay Power Plant







Sensitivity of Daya Bay





Ratio of Measured to Expected \overline{v}_e Flux



Expected precision in Daya Bay to reach $sin^22\theta_{13} < 0.01$



Future of Neutrino Oscillation Experiments





Other Physics with Reactor Antineutrinos

What about a Neutrino Magnetic Moment?



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NUSS, July 13, 2 Electron Recoil T (MeV)

Low Electron Recoil Energy Experiment

Experiment at Nuclear Reactors (low energy source of $\overline{v_e}$)



Coherent Neutrino Scattering



neutral current process at low neutrino energies of about 1- 50 MeV

At low momentum transfers, a neutrino of any flavor scatters off a nucleus, neutrino interacts simultaneously with all nucleons

cross section for CNNS is very large compared to other neutrino cross sections.

momentum transfer is still tiny

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d(\cos\theta)} = \frac{G_F^2}{8\pi} \left[Z \left(4\sin^2\theta_W - 1 \right) + N \right]^2 E_\nu^2 \left(1 + \cos\theta \right)$$



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Applied Neutrino Physics: Reactor Monitoring





fraction of ²³⁹Pu increases during reactor operation







Reactor Monitoring in US







Liquid Scintillator Plastic Scintillator Gd-doped Water







Removal of 250 kg of ²³⁹Pu followed by replacement with 1.5 tons of fresh ²³⁵U fuel

thermal power with neutrinos? - 3% precision achievable



Neutrino Physics at Reactors

Next - Discovery and precision measurement of θ_{13}

2008 - Precision measurement of Δm_{12}^2 . Evidence for oscillation

 2004 - Evidence for spectral distortion
2003 - First observation of reactor antineutrino disappearance

1995 - Nobel Prize to Fred Reines at UC Irvine

1980s & 1990s - Reactor neutrino flux measurements in U.S. and Europe

1956 - First observation of (anti)neutrinos





KamLAND

Daya Bay

Reno

Double Chooz

Past Reactor Experiments Hanford Savannah River ILL, France Bugey, France Rovno, Russia Goesgen, Switzerland Krasnoyark, Russia Palo Verde Chooz, France