



## Neutrino Geosciences

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## Neutrino Geosciences Outline

- Introduction
- Earth energetics
- Reported observations
- Observational opportunities
- Atmospheric neutrinos and core
- Conclusion



## **Geo-neutrino Detection**

- Geo-neutrinos: Mostly electron antineutrinos
  (*E* ≈ few MeV) from decay series of U, Th, K<sup>\*</sup>
- Interaction: Inverse beta decay-  $\overline{v}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$
- Detection medium: Organic scintillating liquid
- Detected signal: Coincidence in space and time



- Measure  $\overline{v}_{e}$  energy spectrum NOT direction
- Observations: Neutrino geosciences

## Earth- crust, mantle, core





## Geochemistry strongly suggests geo-neutrinos from U, Th, & K in mantle and crust only

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## Why Geo-neutrinos?

- Earth radiogenic power: Understand heat engine
  - Surface power loss well measured: 47 ± 3 TW
  - Radiogenic power now resolved: 16 ± 8 TW
    - Lithosphere radiogenic power: 8 ± 1 TW (model)
    - Mantle radiogenic power: 8 ± 8 TW (geo-nu)
  - Informs thermal evolution of planet by defining mantle cooling (secular heat)
  - Constrains parent material of Earth: U & Th content





Thermal Evolution and History of Earth

 $Aq = Mh - Mc(\partial T/\partial t)$ 

Present temperature decrease rate:  $\partial T/\partial t = Aq/Mc (Mh/Aq - 1) = 50$  to 150 K/Ga Rate of cooling poorly constrained

Present primordial heat loss rate: Aq – Mh = 22 to 40 TW Rate of primordial heat loss poorly constrained

Rates of cooling & primordial heat loss poorly constrained due to uncertainty of radiogenic heating

## **Geological Consequences**

Geo-neutrinos constraining thermal evolution





Greater exposure to geo-neutrinos improves precision of radiogenic heating estimate

## Reported Observations: 2013



- Operation- 3/02 to 11/12
- Exposure- (4.9 ± 0.1) TNU<sup>-1</sup>
- Events- 116 +28/\_27
- Flux- (3.4 ± 0.8) x 10<sup>6</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>
- Rate- (30 ± 7) TNU
- Publication- A. Gando et al.
  PRD 88 (2013) 033001



- Operation- 12/07 to 8/12
- Exposure- (.369 ± .016) TNU<sup>-1</sup>
- Events- 14.3 ± 4.4
- Flux- (4.3 ± 1.3) x 10<sup>6</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>
- Rate- (39 ± 12) TNU
- Publication- G. Bellini et al. PLB 722 (2013) 295

#### Main assumption: Th/U = 3.9

## Combined Mantle Signal: 2013



#### KamLAND

- Total Rate- (30 ± 7) TNU
- Crust prediction- (26 ± 4) TNU
- Mantle signal- (4 ± 8) TNU

#### Borexino



- Total Rate- (39 ± 12) TNU
- Crust prediction- (25 ± 4) TNU
- Mantle signal- (14 ± 13) TNU

Weighted Average (KL + BX)  $x_{\text{best}} = (w_A x_A + w_B x_B)/(w_A + w_B);$  $w_A = 1/\sigma_A^2 \text{ and } w_B = 1/\sigma_B^2$ 

• Combined mantle signal- (7.1 ± 6.7) TNU

#### **Dominant uncertainty: Total rate**

Assumptions: No signal core, homogeneous mantle

# Model Predictions of R<sub>man</sub>

CI- Earth (McDonough & Sun)

- BSE<sub>rad</sub> = 20 ± 3 TW
- R<sub>man</sub> = 9 ± 3 TNU

E-Earth (Javoy & Kaminski)

- BSE<sub>rad</sub> = 13 ± 2 TW
- R<sub>man</sub> = 5 ± 1 TNU

Predictions are marginally consistent Challenging to resolve models

KL + BX combined mantle signal- (7 ± 7) TNU

### Present geo-neutrino measurement is consistent with model predictions

## Geo-neutrino Rate to Power: 2013

- (KL + BX) mantle signal- (7.1 ± 6.7) TNU
- 1.206 TW/TNU (Th/U=3.9; K/U=12,000)
- (KL + BX) mantle heating-  $H_{man}$  = (8.5 ± 8.0) TW
- Total radiogenic- (16 ± 8) TW
  - Mantle (8.5 ± 8.0) TW
  - Crust (7.5 ± 1.9) TW



Huang et al. 2013

Assumptions: Homogeneous mantle, K/U = 12,000 Error: Dominated by geo-neutrino measurement

## Inhomogeneous U, Th Distribution

- Crust + Upper mantle (DM) complementary
- Lower mantle (EM) primitive
- Same R<sub>man</sub> but more P<sub>rad</sub>
- Estimate +2 TW
- Core radioactivity
- pW/kg ~ 2 TW
- R<sub>U</sub> ~ 2 TNU
- Estimate -2 TW
- a(X) ng/g $\Phi(X) 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  $m(X) \ 10^{16} \text{ kg}$ S(X) TNU P(X) TW U 2.14 10.1 1.87 1.63 1.84 0.52 Th 1.29 38.1 7.00 1.84 40K 35.16.47 17.1 1.84 n.a.

Quantities: pW/kg radiogenic heating in outer core

#### Radial inhomogeneity of U, Th introduces ± 2 TW uncertainty to H<sub>man</sub>



## Non-radial Inhomogeneity of U, Th



mantle features

Sound speed slow due to composition, temperature, or both? If composition, then possible geo-neutrino signal



Sramek et al. 2013

## Potential source of uncertainty Features resolvable?

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## **Mantle Signal Measurements**



# Continental Network





5 more years of each Predict error ±3.6 TNU Equivalent ±4.3 TW (homogeneous) Total 11.8 TNU<sup>-1</sup> **Oceanic Rover** 

1.7 years of 10 kT Predict error ±1.3 TNU Equivalent ±1.6 TW (homogeneous)

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## Neutrino Oscillation- Electron Density





#### Normal mass hierarchy more favorable

matter effect

electron density = mass density • Z/A  $Z/A = sum(x_i \cdot Z_i)/sum(x_i \cdot A_i)$ where  $x_i$  is the atomic fraction,  $Z_i$  is the atomic number, and  $A_i$  is the mass of element

# Neutrino Oscillation Tomography





PINGU LOI- 5 years

								Huang11		
Outer Core	Fe	Fe-Ni	Fe-Ni-S	Fe-Ni-Si	Fe-Ni-O	Fe-Ni-C	Fe-Ni-H	Rubie11	Badro14	McDonough14
Z/A	0.4656	0.4661	0.4694	0.4694	0.4684	0.4680	0.4710	0.4695	0.4680	0.4692

Greater exposure and lower energy threshold help probe geologically relevant models Possible synergy with nuclear monitoring

## **Current Activities**

- <u>http://www.geol.umd.edu/~mcdonoug/KITP</u>
  <u>%20Website%20for%20Bill/index.html</u>
  - Whitepaper
  - CIDER-funded
- geoneutrinos.org/model/
  - Browser-based modeling
  - NSF-funded
- JUNO modeling
  - arXiv, YB



## Conclusions

- Geo-neutrinos estimate mantle radiogenic power
- Constraints on thermal evolution of Earth
- Observational opportunities
  - Network of Continental Observatories
  - Oceanic Observatory?
  - Address systematic errors- radial distribution U, Th
- Atmospheric neutrinos probe light elements in core
- Joint projects: Geology and Nuclear Monitoring