The Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly

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arXiv:1101.2755 [hep-ex], submitted to PRD

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linked to our new "improved prediction of reactor antineutrino spectra", done with Subatech group: M. Fallot, S. Cormon, L. Giot, J. Martino, A. Porta, F. Yerma arXiv:1101.2663 [hep-ex], submitted to PRC



Rencontres de Moriond EW 2011, La Thuile.





- A very short introduction to reactor neutrino physics.
- What has changed recently
- Reinvestigating reactor neutrino experiments: the reactor anti-neutrino anomaly
- And in neutrino sector: the Gallium anomaly
- Larger consequences and sterile neutrino hypothesis
- Conclusion & beyond: need of future experimental confirmation of this anomaly





SHORT INTRODUCTION TO REACTOR NEUTRINOS



Reactor anti-neutrinos

of fissions

235U

238U

239Pu

-241Pu

×10¹⁸

120

100

80

60

40

20

0

100



• Nuclear reactors $1 \text{ GW}_{\text{th}} \Leftrightarrow 2 \ 10^{20} \ \bar{\nu}/\text{s}$

- Neutrino Luminosity $N_{ar{
 u}} = \gamma(1+k)P_{\mathrm{th}}$
 - γ: reactor constant
 - k : fuel evolution correction up to 10%
- Neutrino detection
 - Inverse Beta-Decay reaction (xsec: $\sigma_{V_{-\Delta}}$)

$$\bar{\nu}_e + p \longrightarrow e^+ + n$$

reaction threshold 1.8 MeV. E, from 0 to 10 MeV

Reactor experiments measure anti-v_e interaction rate

theory through averaging σ_{V-A} over

reactor neutrino spectrum

$$n_{\nu} = \frac{1}{4\pi R^2} \frac{P_{\rm th}}{\langle E_f \rangle} N_p \varepsilon \sigma_f \longrightarrow$$
• Often published comparison of $\sigma_{\rm f}$ to

 $\sigma_f^{\text{meas.}} = \frac{4\pi R^2 n_{\nu}^{\text{meas.}}}{N_{\nu}\varepsilon} \frac{\langle E_f \rangle}{P_{\text{th}}}$

200

300

400

500 Time (days)

Average cross section per fission

$$n_{\nu}^{\text{th}} = \int_{0}^{\infty} \phi(E_{\nu}) \sigma_{\text{V-A}}(E_{\nu}) dE_{\nu} \qquad \sigma_{f}^{\text{pred.}} = \int_{0}^{\infty} \phi_{f}^{\text{pred.}}(E_{\nu}) \sigma_{\text{V-A}}(E_{\nu}) dE_{\nu}$$



v flux prediction: Anchor point of ILL electron data

Most precise source of information for anti- v_e flux prediction:

accurate measurements of β -spectra of ²³⁵U, ²³⁹Pu, ²⁴¹Pu fission products @ ILL high resolution magnetic spectrometer in the 80's







WHAT HAS CHANGED RECENTLY:

The conversion procedure of ILL β -spectra



Result: +3% bias (averaged) with respect to previous results

Similar results for all measured isotopes (²³⁵U, ²³⁹Pu, ²⁴¹Pu)



arXiv:1101.2663 [hep-ex] , submitted to PRC

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MURE evolution code: core composition and off equilibrium effects

(Subatech Nantes)

$$S_k(E) = \sum_{fp=1}^{N_{fp}} \mathcal{A}_{fp}(T) \times S_{fp}(E)$$

Full simulation of reactor core
 → absolute prediction of isotopes inventory.

• Relative off-equilibrium effect: close to beta-inverse threshold, a significant fraction of the v spectrum takes weeks to reach equilibrium

 \rightarrow Sizeable correction in the v oscillation range that depends on the exact chronology of ILL data taking.

Relative change of ν spectrum w.r.t. infinite irradiation time







CONSEQUENCES ON REACTOR MEASUREMENTS



19 Experimental results at distances below 100 m



Measured neutrino rates and cross sections per fission $\sigma_{\rm f}$



- Bugey-4 is the most precise experiment
- Use Bugey-4's calculations to check ours
- Compare with reference publication of BUGEY-4 (*Phys. Lett. B 338 (1994), 383*) for isotopes measured by Schreckenbach et al. (ILL β-spectra)
 - Using their inputs:
 - τ_n = 887.4 s
 - OLD spectra using 30 effective branch conversion
 - no off-equilibrium corrections (ILL @<36h irradiation time,</p>

Bugey measurement ~ 1 y <= require off-equil corrections in principle)

corss section per fission

$$\sigma_{f,k}^{\text{pred.}} = \int_0^\infty \phi_{f,k}^{\text{pred.}}(E_\nu) \sigma_{\text{V-A}}(E_\nu) dE_\nu \qquad k = {}^{235}\text{U}, {}^{239}\text{Pu}, {}^{241}\text{Pu}$$

OLD pre	ediction
compari	sons:

our code vs. published info.

	10 ⁻⁴³ cm ² /fission	235	²³⁹ Pu	²⁴¹ Pu
E	BUGEY-4	6.39±1.9%	4.18±2.4%	5.76±2.1%
-	This work	6.39±1.9%	4.19±2.4%	5.73±2.1%
[Difference	< 10 ⁻³	0.2%	-0.5%

Final agreement of our code to **better** than **0.1%** on best known ²³⁵U, using Bugey-4 inputs. **Validates our calculation code**.



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- v-flux: 235 U : +2.5%, 239 Pu +3.1%, 241 Pu +3.7%, 238 U +9.8% (σ_{f}^{pred} 7)
- Off-equilibrium corrections now included (σ_f^{pred} **7**)
 - Neutron lifetime decrease by a few % ($\sigma_{\rm f}^{\rm pred}$ 7) ($\sigma_{\rm V-A}(E_{\nu}) \propto 1/\tau_n$)
 - Slight evolution of the phase space factor ($\sigma_{f}^{pred} \rightarrow$)
 - Slight evolution of the energy per fission per isotope ($\sigma_{f}^{pred} \rightarrow$)

• Burnup dependence:
$$\sigma_f^{pred} = \sum_k f_k \sigma_{f,k}^{pred} \ (\sigma_f^{pred} \rightarrow)$$
 relative effect

10 ⁻⁴³ cm ² /fission	old [3]	new	- ↓
$\sigma^{pred}_{f,^{235}U}$	$6.39{\pm}1.9\%$	$6.61{\pm}2.11\%$	+3.4%
$\sigma^{pred}_{f,239Pu}$	$4.19{\pm}2.4\%$	$4.34{\pm}2.45\%$	+3.6%
$\sigma_{f,238_{U}}^{pred}$	$9.21{\pm}10\%$	$10.10{\pm}8.15\%$	+9.6%
$\sigma^{pred}_{f,^{241}Pu}$	$5.73{\pm}2.1\%$	$5.97{\pm}2.15\%$	+4.2%



Comparison of cross sections per fission

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$$\sigma_f^{\text{meas.}} = \frac{4\pi R^2 n_{\nu}^{\text{meas.}}}{N_p \varepsilon} \frac{\langle E_f \rangle}{P_{\text{th}}}$$
$$\sigma_f^{\text{pred.}} = \int_0^\infty \phi_f^{\text{pred.}}(E_{\nu}) \sigma_{\text{V-A}}(E_{\nu}) dE_f$$



- Corrected OLD ratio include
 - Off-equilibrium corrections
 - PDG 2010 neutron lifetime (note that $\sigma_{V-A}(E_{\nu}) \propto 1/\tau_n$)

[PDG 2010: τ_n = 885.7 s]

NEW ratio = new v-flux

	Experiment	Distance in meters	τ_n (in s) in publication	Corrected OLD ratio	NEW ratio
	Bugey-4	15	887.4	0.985	0.943
	Rovno 91	18	888.6	0.985	0.940
	Bugey-3	15	889	0.988	0.943
	Bugey-3	40	889	0.994	0.948
ν	Bugey-3	95	889	0.915	0.873
	Goesgen-I	38	897	1.018	0.966
	Goesgen-II	46	897	1.045	0.991
	Goesgen-III	65	897	0.975	0.924
	ILL	9	889	0.832	0.801
	Krasnoyarsk-I	33	899	0.978	0.944
	Krasnoyarsk-II	92	899	0.995	0.960
.)	Krasnoyarsk-III	57	899	0.989	0.954
	SRP-I	18	887	0.987	0.953
	SRP-II	24	887	1.055	1.019
	Rovno 88-I1	18	898.8	0.969	0.917
	Rovno 88-I2	18	898.8	1.001	0.948
	Rovno 88-S1	18	898.8	1.026	0.972
	Rovno 88-S2	25	898.8	1.013	0.959
	Rovno 88-S3	18	898.8	0.990	0.938

The reactor anti-neutrino anomaly

Visual illustration of the anomaly





Our guiding principles: Be conservative & stable numerically

- We correlated experiments in the following way:
 - 2% systematic on flux fully correlated over all measurements of β-spectra of ILL
- Non-flux systematic error correlations across measurements:
 - Same experiment with same technology: 100% correlated
 - ILL shares 6% correlated error with Gösgen although detector slightly different. Rest of ILL error is uncorrelated.
 - Rovno 88 integral measurements 100% corr. with Rovno 91 despite detector upgrade, but not with Rovno 88 LS data
 - Rovno 88 integral meas. 50% correlated with Bugey-4



Experiments correlation matrix on ratios = meas./pred.



- Main pink color comes from the 2% systematic on ILL β-spectra normalization uncertainty

• The experiment block correlations come from identical detector, technology or neutrino source



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The reactor anti-neutrino anomaly

 $\chi^{2} = \left(r - \overrightarrow{R}\right)^{T} W^{-1} \left(r - \overrightarrow{R}\right)$ Weights: $W = \Sigma_{unc.}^{2} + \Sigma_{cor.} C \Sigma_{cor.}$ with $\Sigma_{unc.}^{2} = \Sigma_{tot.}^{2} - \Sigma_{cor.}^{2}$

The synthesis of published experiments at reactor-detector distances ≤ 100 m leads to a ratio R of observed event rate to predicted rate of

 μ = 0.976 ± 0.024 (OLD flux)

With our **NEW flux** evaluation, this ratio shifts to

 μ = 0.943 ± 0.023,

leading to a deviation from unity at 98.6% C.L.

 $\chi^2_{min} = 19.6/18$

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THE GALLIUM ANOMALY BASED ON GIUNTI & LAVEDER, PRD82 053005 (2010)

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4 calibration runs with intense (~ MCi) v_e (not anti-v_e!) sources.



- 2 runs at GALLEX with a ⁵¹Cr source (720 keV v_e emitter)
- I run at SAGE with a ⁵¹Cr source
- 1 run at SAGE with a 37 Ar source (810 keV v_{e} emitter)
- All observed a deficit of neutrino interactions compared to the expected activity.
- Our analysis:
 - Monte-Carlo simulation of GALLEX and SA + correlated the 2 GALLEX runs together and the 2 SAGE runs together (a bit more conservative than Giunti & Laveder PRD82 053005, 2010 to combine GALLEX & SAGE)





THE STERILE NEUTRINO HYPOTHESIS



What are sterile neutrinos: neutrino states which do not couple neither to Z^0 nor W[±] (LEP Z^0 width measurement implies only 3 active neutrinos).

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It's a 4th neutrino state.
$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_{\text{new}} & \sin \theta_{\text{new}} \\ -\sin \theta_{\text{new}} & \cos \theta_{\text{new}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_{\text{new}} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$P_{\nu_e \to \nu_e}(L, E) = |\langle \nu_e(L) | \nu_e(L=0) \rangle|^2 = 1 - \sin^2(2\theta_{\text{new}}) \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m_{\text{new}}^2 L}{E}\right)$$

Combination of

- Reactor rates experiments
- Gallium rates experiments
- Moreover: added spectral (Energy) dependant info from Reactor experiments Bugey-3 and ILL)

Compared with

prediction with sterile oscillation hypothesis



 $sin^2(2\theta_{new}) = 0.14 \pm 0.07 (1\sigma)$ $\Delta m_{new}^2 > 1.5 \text{ eV}^2 @ 99\% \text{ C.L.}$





• Each short baseline experiment < 100 m from a reactor observed a deficit of anti- v_e compared to the new expectation



- Possibilities of deficit explanations:
 - Our calculations are wrong.
 We don't think so... we encourage nuclear physics groups to cross-check independently
 - Bias in the normalization of the ILL measurement (given with a ~2% uncertainty).
 - Bias in all short-baseline experiments near reactors: unlikely! Different fuel compositions & detection techniques advocate against trivial bias
 - Need also a bias in Gallium experiments since comparable deficits have been observed
 - Hint of new physics at short baselines, explaining a deficit of anti-v_e:
 - Overall, no-oscillation hypothesis disfavored at 99.8% CL
 - Data compatible with $\Delta m^2 > 1 \text{ eV}^2$ and $\sin^2(2\theta) \sim 0.1$

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Need experimental confirmation / infirmation

Clear experimental confirmation / infirmation is needed:
Nucifer: small detector, 7 m from the small Osiris research reactor @ CEA Saclay

 Insert a MCi source into large detector with energy & spatial resolution, e.g. SNO+, Borexino, KamLAND

Many workshops on this active topic!

- Workshop on Sterile Neutrinos and on the Reactor (anti)-Neutrino Anomaly, Munich, February 8th
- Workshop: Beyond 3 neutrinos, LNGS, May 3-4, 2011
- Workshop on Short Baseline neutrino experiments, Fermilab, May 12-14, 2011
- Workshop, Virginia Tech., September, 2011.





BACKUP SLIDES

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ILL data: OLD conversion to v spectra









Stringent test

- Define "true" e⁻ and v spectra from reduced set of wellknown branches from ENSDF nuclei data base.
- Apply exact same OLD conversion procedure to true e⁻ spectrum.
- 3. Compare the converted v spectrum to the true one.
- 4. This technique gives a 3% bias compared to the true v spectrum



=> The **OLD** effective conversion method biases the predicted v spectrum at the level of -3% in normalization.







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- Reactor at ILL with almost pure ²³⁵U, with small core
- Detector 8 m from core
- Reanalysis in 1995 by part of the collaboration to account for overestimation of flux at ILL reactor

Affects the rate but not the shape analysis



Large errors, but looks like an oscillation pattern by eye ?





Estimator sensitive to shape only by minimization over parameter "*a*":

$$\chi^2_{\rm ILL, shape} = \sum_{i=1}^{N=16} \left(\frac{(1+a)R^i_{th} - R^i_{obs}}{\sigma_i} \right)^2$$

- Difficult to assess the systematic error needed to reproduce the results of 1981 & 1995
- 1981: 2% energy scale error on shape 11% systematic on normalization → does not affect shape fit
- 1995: 8.87% error on normalization, no shape error is reported Contour plot difficult to interpret
- Our first approach: simple fit to shape, with stat error only in each bin
- Unknown systematics: error on distance to the core?



- No evidence for oscillation
- Need systematics larger than 5% on shape to reproduce
- ILL collaboration's contours



- 1981: Try to reproduce published contour
- 1995: Contour plot hard to follow, reproduce claim that global fit disfavors no-oscillation at 2σ
- How? Add uncorrelated systematic in each bin until it's large enough
- Quick simulation: Required error = 11%, uncorrelated, in each bin (mostly equivalent to the finite size of the reactor core in full simulation).
- We can reproduce the results quite well





- With the extra systematic, we reproduce the older results
- We needed to add a 11%, uncorrelated systematic in each bin in the shape only fit in our fast simulation.
- Running with the re-evaluated ratios, we obtain the following shape-only contour



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Rate + Bugey-3+ ILL



No oscillation disfavored at 96.51% CL with full rate+shape combination Best fit: $sin^2(2\theta)\sim0.12$, $\Delta m^2\sim2.4$ eV²















Experiments with baselines > 500 m

How do you normalize the expected flux, knowing the fuel composition?

in this slide assume Bugey-4 fuel comp. • If near + far detector, not an issue anymore



CHOOZ



- Chooz Power Station, late 90s
- liquid scintillator doped with 1g/l Gd
 5 tons, 8.4 GW, 300 mwe
- Detector placed at 1050m for the 2 cores
- Look for an oscillation at atmospheric frequency

θ_{13} mixing angle sensitivity, or more...

- Fuel composition typical of starting PWR 57.1% ²³⁵U, 29.5% ²³⁹Pu, 7.8% ²³⁸U, 5.6% ²⁴¹Pu
- Neutron lifetime used in original paper: 886.7 s
- Published ratios: 1.01±0.043
- Revised ratios with new spectra: 0.954±0.041
- Uncertainties:
 - Stat: 2.8%
 - Syst : 2.7% (3.3% in our work)





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- The choice of σ_f changes the limit on θ_{13}
- Chooz original choice was σ_f^{exp} from Bugey-4 with low error
- If $\sigma_{f}^{\text{pred,new}}$ is used, limit is worse by factor of 2
 - If σ_f^{ano} is used with 2.7%, we obtain the original limit
 - If $\sigma_f^{ano,}$ which error should be used? \rightarrow need expert inputs





Reanalysis of KamLAND's 2010 results

arXiv:1009.4771v2 [hep-ex]

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Systematics

$\overline{\Delta m^2_{21}}$	Detector-related	(%)	Reactor-related (%)		
	Energy scale	1.8/1.8	$\overline{\nu}_e$ -spectra [31]	0.6/0.6	
Rate	Fiducial volume	1.8/2.5	$\overline{\nu}_e$ -spectra	2.4/2.4	
	Energy scale	1.1/1.3	Reactor power	2.1/2.1	
	$L_{cut}(E_p)$ eff.	0.7/0.8	Fuel composition	1.0/1.0	
	Cross section	0.2/0.2	Long-lived nuclei	0.3/0.4	
	Total	2.3/3.0	Total	3.3/3.4	

Reproduced KamLAND spectra within 1% in [1-6] MeV range







99 % C.L.

95 % C.L.

90 % C.L.

0.2

0.1

0.3

0.4



Our interpretation:

- No more hint on θ_{13} >0 from reactors
- Global 90 % CL limit stays identical to published values
- Multi-detector experiments are not affected

KamLAND CHOOZ

Global