# A reference worldwide model for antineutrinos from reactors

I N F N

lstituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

#### Marica Baldoncini University of Ferrara – INFN

In collaboration with Ivan Callegari, Giovanni Fiorentini, Fabio Mantovani, Barbara Ricci, Virginia Strati and Gerti Xhixha (University of Ferrara-INFN)

# Outline

- Why a reference model for reactor antineutrinos?
- Nuclear power plants: an overview of the worldwide reactor database
- Worldwide reactor signal calculation and Monte Carlo uncertainty propagation
- Some focuses: long-lived isotopes, spent nuclear fuels, research reactors and reactor spectra
- Signal distance and temporal profiles
- > Worldwide map of reactor signals
- Conclusions







#### Reactor antineutrinos: a fundamental background for geoneutrino measurements

r=R<sub>LER</sub>/G

Inverse Beta Decay (IBD) Reaction



The ratio r between the reactor signal in the LER (R<sub>LER</sub>) and the geoneutrino signal (G) changes in time according to the different reactor operational conditions

Low Energy Region (LER): energy range starting at 1.806 MeV (IBD threshold) and ending at 3.3 MeV (end point of <sup>214</sup>Bi spectrum)

High Energy Region (HER): energy range starting at 3.3 MeV and ending at 8 MeV (end point of reactor spectrum)

✓ Full Energy Region (FER) = LER + HER



# Why a reference model for antineutrinos from reactors?

- ✓ Nuclear power plants are the strongest man made antineutrino sources
   (L ~ 2 × 10<sup>20</sup> v/sec for 1 GW thermal power)
- ✓ Liquid scintillation detectors: moving from the Short BaseLine (SBL) (~1km) and Long BaseLine (LBL) era (~200 km) towards the Medium BaseLine (MBL) era (~50 km)



#### Goal of the work:

- ✓ provide on the base of reactors official data a worldwide reference model required for estimating the reactor signal for LBL experiments
- estimating signal uncertainty starting from the uncertainties on individual input quantities



438 NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS IN OPERATION (OR)
ALL (48) OPERATIONAL JAPANESE CORES POWERED OFF FOR THE ENTIRE 2014
68 NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

✓ Sharp asymmetric geographical distribution: only 2% of ORs in Southern Emisphere

✓ Far East Asia, Western Europe and North America host 25% of the total ORs each

 $\checkmark$  40% of under construction reactors in the world in China (~ 30 GW<sub>el</sub>)

#### Nuclear power plants in the world: reactor type distribution



The reactor technologies are not so relevant for studying antineutrinos as the **different fuel types**:

✓ PWR, BWR, LWGR and GCR: enriched uranium with different enrichment levels (<sup>235</sup>U ~ 2.2% for GCR and LWGR up to 5% for PWR and BWR)

**\checkmark PHWR** (CANDU): natural uranium (<sup>235</sup>U ~ 0.7%)

✓ Few tens of reactors use Mixed Oxide fuels (**MOX**), a mixture of depleted U and Pu

#### The Power Reactor Information System (PRIS) by the IAEA\*

**PRIS:** a database on commercial nuclear power reactors all over the world maintained by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

#### **Used** inputs

- ✓ Thermal Powers P<sub>th</sub> [MW]
- ✓ Core type
- ✓ Use of MOX
- ✓ Monthly Load Factors LF [%]



#### Drawbacks

No cores coordinates
No research reactors
No unique database

$$LF = 100 \times \frac{EG}{REG}$$

*EG* = net electrical energy produced *REG* = reference energy generation

> Typically **1 year** working at **~80% LF** and **~1 month off** for scheduled maintenance

\* https://www.iaea.org/pris/



#### Nuclear reactors database at www.fe.infn.it/antineutrino

The web page www.fe.infn.it/antineutrino provides an updated collection of data about worldwide nuclear reactors for calculation of antineutrino signal



## Nuclear reactors database at www.fe.infn.it/antineutrino

The web page **www.fe.infn.it/antineutrino** provides an **updated collection** of data about worldwide nuclear reactors for calculation of antineutrino signal



- ✓ Global: performance data of all reactors in the world
- Monthly Load Factors (%)
- Public, official and free
- Latitude and longitude of reactors
- ✓ Multitemporal: time lapse of **12 years** (2003 2015)
- ✓ **Direct implementation** thanks to standard file (ASCII, Excel)

#### **Reactor thermal power and fission fractions**



<sup>235</sup>U, <sup>238</sup>U, <sup>239</sup>Pu, <sup>241</sup>Pu give > **99%** of the fissions

A single fission process involves :

- the emission of ~ 6 antineutrinos
- ~ 2 antineutrinos above IBD threshold

the production of <Q> ~ 200 MeV

 $P_{th} = R \sum_{i=1}^{4} f_i Q_i \qquad \begin{array}{c} R \\ f_i \\ f_i \end{array}$ 

*R* = total fission rate [fissions/sec] *f<sub>i</sub>* = relative fission yield, i.e the
fraction of fissions produced by the *ith* isotope

**Q**<sub>i</sub> = energy released in one fission of the *ith* isotope [MeV/fission]

Fissile isotope	<b>Q</b> <sub>i</sub> [MeV/fission]
<sup>235</sup> U	202.36 ± 0.26
<sup>238</sup> U	205.99 ± 0.52
<sup>239</sup> Pu	211.12 ± 0.34
<sup>241</sup> Pu	214.26 ± 0.33

#### **Fission fractions and power fractions collection**

 $p_i = \frac{f_i Q_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{4} f_i Q_i}$  is the **fraction of**  $P_{th}$  produced by the fission of the *ith* isotope

 $\frac{dN_i^{fiss}}{dt} = LF \cdot P_{th} \frac{p_i}{Q_i}$ 

Extensive collection of different sets of fission/power fractions from literature

	<b>Reactor Classes</b>	Fractions	<sup>235</sup> U	<sup>239</sup> Pu	<sup>241</sup> Pu	<sup>238</sup> U	Reference
			0.538	0.328	0.056	0.078	
2 10 <sup>20</sup>			0.614	0.274	0.038	0.074	
			0.620	0.274	0.042	0.074	
			0.584	0.298	0.050	0.068	
			0.543	0.329	0.058	0.070	G Mention et al. (2011)
235U 238tt -			0.607	0.277	0.042	0.074	G. Mention et al. (2011)
10 <sup>18</sup> 2 <sup>39</sup> Pu ▲			0.603	0.276	0.045	0.076	
$2^{41} Pu \checkmark$			0.606	0.277	0.043	0.074	
<sup>242</sup> Pu □			0.557	0.313	0.054	0.076	
10	PWR		0.606	0.274	0.046	0.074	
	BWR	<b>f</b> i	0.488	0.359	0.067	0.087	Y. Abe et al. (2012)
	LWGR		0.580	0.292	0.054	0.074	
$\Gamma_{\text{PP}}$	GCR		0.544	0.318	0.063	0.075	Z. Djurcic et al. (2009)
Days			0.577	0.292	0.057	0.074	
			0.590	0.290	0.050	0.070	V. I. Kopeikin et al. (2004)
The values reported in the table			0.570	0.295	0.057	0.078	S. Abe et al. (2008)
depend on <b>enrichment</b> and			0.568	0.297	0.057	0.078	K. Eguchi et al. (2003)
hurn up stage of the core			0.563	0.301	0.057	0.079	T. Araki et al. (2005)
built up stuge of the core			0.650	0.240	0.040	0.070	
			0.560	0.310	0.060	0.070	V. I. Kopeikin (2012)
Enriched Uranium			0.480	0.370	0.080	0.070	
		<b>p</b> i	0.560	0.300	0.080	0.060	G. Bellini et al. (2010)
Mixed Oxide Fuel	MOX	<b>p</b> i	0.000	0.708	0.212	0.081	G. Bellini et al. (2010)
Natural Uranium	PHWR	<b>p</b> i	0.543	0.411	0.022	0.024	G. Bellini et al. (2013)

# Reactor antineutrino signal calculation

The reactor antineutrino signal evaluation requires several ingredients for modeling the three antineutrino life stages:

- ✓ **production** at reactor cores
- ✓ **propagation** to the detector site
- detection in liquid scintillation detectors



# Reactor antineutrino signal calculation

The reactor antineutrino signal evaluation requires several ingredients for modeling the three antineutrino life stages:

- ✓ **production** at reactor cores
- ✓ **propagation** to the detector site
- detection in liquid scintillation detectors



# Signal uncertainty via Monte Carlo sampling

The investigated sources of uncertainty are:

- Thermal Powers (P<sub>th</sub>)
- Fission Fractions (f<sub>i</sub>)
- Energy released per fission (Q<sub>i</sub>)
- Oscillation parameters ( $\delta m^2$ ,  $sen^2 \theta_{12}$ ,  $sen^2 \theta_{13}$ )
- IBD cross section ( $\sigma_{\!\scriptscriptstyle IBD}$ )

In principle there is some correlation among these inputs, which are
however affected by enrichment
level and burn up stage: both info
are unknown in our global database

Uncertainty on signal obtained via a Monte Carlo sampling of each input X<sub>i</sub> according to its Probability Density Function (PDF)

Uncertainty due solely to X<sub>i</sub>
 obtained by "freezing" all
 other inputs sampling

<sup>1</sup>Capozzi et al.. Phys. Rev. D 89. 093018 (2014) <sup>2</sup> Ma et al.. Phys. Rev. C 88. 014605 (2013) <sup>3</sup>A. Strumia and F. Vissani. Phys. Lett. B 564. 42 (2003)

Input quantity		PDF	
	$\delta m^2 (eV)^2$	Gaussian $1_{\sigma}$ = 3.4 %	
V oscillation <sup>1</sup>	$sen^2 \theta_{12}$	Gaussian $1\sigma = 5.5$ %	$\rightarrow$ /
oscination	$sen^2 \theta_{13}$	Gaussian $1\sigma = 8.5$ %	
	<b>Q</b> <sub>235U</sub>	Gaussian $1\sigma = 0.1$ %	
Energy	<b>Q</b> 238U	Gaussian $1\sigma = 0.3$ %	
per fission <sup>2</sup>	<b>Q</b> <sub>239Pu</sub>	Gaussian $1\sigma = 0.2$ %	E. T.
	<b>Q</b> <sub>241Pu</sub>	Gaussian $1\sigma = 0.2$ %	
	f <sub>235U</sub>		I Cate String
Fission	f <sub>238U</sub>	Elat	0000
fraction	<b>f</b> 239Pu	i idt	10
	<b>f</b> <sub>241Pu</sub>		Monte Carlo
Thermal Power	P <sub>th</sub>	Gaussian $1\sigma = 2\%$	machinery
IBD cross section <sup>3</sup>	$\sigma_{\scriptscriptstyle IBD}$	Gaussian $1\sigma = 0.4$ %	niae.

## Reactor and geoneutrino signal in 6 experimental sites

Experiment	G [TNU]*	R <sub>LER</sub> [TNU]	$r = R_{LER}/G$	Year	
		<b>168.5</b> <sup>+5.7</sup> -6.3	5.4	2006	
KamLAND	31.5 <sup>+4.9</sup> -4.1	18.3 <sup>+0.6</sup> -1.0	0.6	2013	
		<b>7.4</b> <sup>+0.2</sup> <sub>-0.2</sub>	0.2	2014	Ohi 3 and Ohi 4 powered off
		26.0 <sup>+2.2</sup> -2.3	0.7	2013	
	<b>39.7</b> <sup>+0.5</sup> -5.1	<b>354.5</b> <sup>+44.5</sup> -40.6	8.9	2020	Yangjiang and Taishan will be powered on in 2020
Borexino	40.3+7.3	22.2 <sup>+0.6</sup> -0.6	0.6	2013	
SNO+	<b>45.4</b> <sup>+7.5</sup> <sub>-6.3</sub>	<b>47.8</b> <sup>+1.7</sup> <sub>-1.4</sub>	1.1	2013	
RENO-50	<b>42.1</b> <sup>+7.2</sup> <sub>-5.9</sub>	178.4+20.8	4.2	2013	
Hanohano	12.0+0.7	0.9 <sup>+0.02</sup> -0.02	0.1	2013	Long Baseline
					experiments: <b>1σ ~ 4%</b> in <b>LER</b>

\*Y. Huang et al., Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems 14, 2003 (2013)

## Signal uncertainty due to individual inputs

		1 $\sigma$ on signal in FER [%]		
Input quantity		Borexino	KamLAND	SNO+
	$\delta m^2 (eV)^2$	<0.1	0.9	<0.1
V oscillation	$sen^2 \theta_{12}$	+2.4/-2.2	+2.1/-2.0	+2.4/-2.2
oscillation	$sen^2 \theta_{13}$	0.4	0.4	0.4
	<b>Q</b> 235U			
Energy per	<b>Q</b> 238U	<01	<0.1	<0.1
fission	<b>Q</b> <sub>239Pu</sub>	<b>NO.1</b>		
	<b>Q</b> <sub>241Pu</sub>			
	<b>f</b> 235U			
Fission	f <sub>238U</sub>	0.1	0.5	<0.1
fraction	<b>f</b> 239Ри	0.1		
	<b>f</b> <sub>241Pu</sub>			
Thermal	Pth	0.2	0.9	0.3
Power	• 111	0.2		0.0
IBD cross	$\sigma_{\!\scriptscriptstyle IBD}$	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1

- ✓ Reactor signal uncertainty
   dominated by sin<sup>2</sup>(ϑ<sub>12</sub>)
- ✓ Results are time dependent (2013 status) and site dependent
- ✓ Signal uncertainty due to P<sub>th</sub> reflects the signal amount generated by single reactors (for KamLAND 60% of the signal originated by 2 cores)
- ✓ Eventual correlation of reactor operational info act on <1% uncertainties
- ✓ Negligible (<0.1%) uncertainty from  $Q_i$  and  $\sigma_{IBD}$

## Signal increase due to the Long Lived Isotopes (LLIs)

Р	$\tau_{1/2}^{P}$	$E_{\overline{v}_e}^{max P}$ [MeV]	D	$\tau_{1/2}{}^{D}$	$E_{\overline{v}_e}^{max D}$ [MeV]	Y <sub>235</sub> [%]	Y <sub>239</sub> [%]
<sup>93</sup> Y	10.18 h	2.895	<sup>93</sup> Zr	1.61·10 <sup>6</sup> yr	0.091	6.35	3.79
<sup>97</sup> Zr	16.75 h	1.916	<sup>97</sup> Nb	72.1 m	1.277	5.92	5.27
<sup>112</sup> Pd	21.03 h	0.27	<sup>112</sup> Ag	3.13 h	3.956	0.013	0.13
<sup>131m</sup> Te	33.25 h	/	<sup>131</sup> Te	25.0 m	2.085	0.09	0.20
<sup>132</sup> Te	3.204 d	0.24	<sup>132</sup>	2.295 h	2.141	4.31	5.39
<sup>140</sup> Ba	12.753 d	1.02	<sup>140</sup> La	1.679 d	3.762	6.22	5.36
<sup>144</sup> Ce	284.9 d	0.319	<sup>144</sup> Pr	17.28 m	2.998	4.58	3.11
<sup>106</sup> Ru	371.8 d	0.039	<sup>106</sup> Rh	30.07 s	3.541	0.30	3.24
<sup>90</sup> Sr	28.79 yr	0.546	<sup>90</sup> Y	64.0 h	2.280	0.27	0.10

• Fission fragments have **wide spread half-lives**, from fraction of seconds up to 10<sup>18</sup>years

• Off-equilibrium correction to the reference spectra\* gives

- LLIs (*Ev<sub>e</sub><sup>max</sup>* > 1.806 MeV and τ<sub>1/2</sub> > 10h) produce spectral distortion in the LER
- The LLIs having  $\tau^P \sim$  yr are called **Spent Nuclear Fuels**



## Signal increase due to the Spent Nuclear Fuels (SNFs)

- A maintenance is typically scheduled once
   a year to substitute 1/3 of the burnt fuel
- SNFs are typically stored for 10 years in water pools close to the reactor for cooling and shielding
- On the base of <sup>235</sup>U e <sup>239</sup>Pu normalized yields the mean life of SNFs is  $\tau_{SNF}$ = 2.8 yr
- Assuming that all SNF is accumulated for 10 years in the water pool close to each core the enhancement of the antineutrino event rate is 2.4% in the LER





## Antineutrino signal from Research Reactors (RRs)\*

**247 RRs** around the world /Total  $P_{th} = 2.2 \text{ GW}$  (0.2% of commercial reactors  $P_{th}$ )



\*http://nucleus.iaea.org/RRDB/RR/ReactorSearch.aspx?filter=0

#### Reactor spectra: impact on antineutrino signals

		R <sub>LER</sub> [TNU]		
_	Reactor spectra model	Borexino	KamLAND	SNO+
1989	P. Vogel	22.1 <sup>+0.6</sup> -0.5	18.3 <sup>+0.6</sup> -1.0	47.2 <sup>+1.7</sup> -1.4
2004	P. Huber + <sup>238</sup> U from Mueller	<b>22.0</b> <sup>+0.6</sup> -0.5	18.3 <sup>+0.6</sup> -1.0	47.1 <sup>+1.7</sup> -1.4
2011	P. Huber et al. + <sup>238</sup> U from Mueller	<b>21.7</b> <sup>+0.6</sup> -0.5	18.0 <sup>+0.6</sup> -1.0	46.3 <sup>+1.7</sup> -1.4
2011	Mueller et al.	21.6 <sup>+0.5</sup> -0.6	17.9 <sup>+0.6</sup> -1.0	46.0 <sup>+1.7</sup> -1.4

#### <sup>235</sup>U spectrum



- Recent strong effort in improving the determination of reactor antineutrino spectra with different methods (abinitio, conversion, mixed)
- Using different spectra has the same effect for all sites

- Different spectra can give a max signal variation of ~2.5%, undistinguishable with respect to 1σ uncertainty
- Signal variability is reduced between
   recent parameterizations (improvements in nuclear database inputs and in corrections to β shape)

#### Borexino and KamLAND signal time profiles



 Seasonal signal variation associated with the lower fall-spring electricity demand
 Relatively insensitive to operational conditions of single reactors since there are no close-by reactors dominating the antineutrino flux

- ✓ Signal time profile governed by the Japanese nuclear industry operational status
- Shutdown of nuclear power plants concomitant to strong earthquakes manifestly visible
- Sensitive to operational conditions of single reactors



## Borexino and KamLAND signal time profiles



 Seasonal signal variation associated with the lower fall-spring electricity demand
 Relatively insensitive to operational conditions of single reactors since there are no close-by reactors dominating the antineutrino flux

- ✓ Signal time profile governed by the Japanese nuclear industry operational status
- Shutdown of nuclear power plants concomitant to strong earthquakes manifestly visible
- Sensitive to operational conditions of single reactors



## Borexino and KamLAND signal time profiles



 Seasonal signal variation associated with the lower fall-spring electricity demand
 Relatively insensitive to operational conditions of single reactors since there are no close-by reactors dominating the antineutrino flux

- ✓ Signal time profile governed by the Japanese nuclear industry operational status
- Shutdown of nuclear power plants concomitant to strong earthquakes manifestly visible
- Sensitive to operational conditions of single reactors



#### Reactor antineutrinos and geoneutrino at SNO+



 The temporal fluctuations (~10% at 1σ) of reactor antineutrino signal resembles the temporal profile of the Bruce Power Station effective thermal power.

• The geoneutrino signal of the Local Crust corresponds to ~ **50%** of the total crustal signal.

Local Crust	<b>15.6</b> <sup>+5.3</sup> <sub>-3.4</sub>
Rest of the Crust	<b>15.1</b> <sup>+2.8</sup> -2.4
Cont. Lithos. mantle	<b>2.1</b> <sup>+2.9</sup> <sub>-1.2</sub>
Mantle	9
TOTAL	<b>40</b> <sup>+6</sup> <sub>-4</sub>

#### Geoneutrinos signal<sup>1</sup>(TNU)

#### Reactor antineutrinos signal<sup>2</sup> (TNU)

	LER	FER
Bruce reactors	<b>17.3</b> <sup>+1.0</sup> <sub>-0.7</sub>	<b>73.7</b> <sup>+2.0</sup> -1.8
Rest of reactors	31.2 <sup>+0.9</sup> -0.8	118.9 <sup>+2.8</sup> <sub>-2.6</sub>
TOTAL	<b>48.5</b> <sup>+1.8</sup> <sub>-1.5</sub>	192.6 <sup>+4.7</sup> -4.4

1 - Huang et al. 2014 Geoch. Geoph. Geosys.

2 - Baldoncini et al. 2016 TAUP Proceedings

## Borexino, KamLAND and SNO+ signal distance profiles



# A live reference model



**Borexino**: ~50% of the signal from a 10<sup>3</sup> km radius by ~50 reactors. **Single core temporal profile** is **not relevant**.

KamLAND: in 2013 few
 Japanese cores give high signal contribution, but in 2014 all powerd off.

- JUNO: in 2013 Guangdong and Ling Ao gave 90% of the signal. After 2020 their contribution will be 6%.
- **RENO-50: 90%** of the signal from close **South Korean** reactors (55% from YongWang and 35% from Ulchin power stations

# A live reference model



**Borexino**: ~50% of the signal from a 10<sup>3</sup> km radius by ~50 reactors. **Single core temporal profile** is **not relevant**.

KamLAND: in 2013 few
 Japanese cores give high signal contribution, but in 2014 all powerd off.

- JUNO: in 2013 Guangdong and Ling Ao gave 90% of the signal. After 2020 their contribution will be 6%.
- **RENO-50: 90%** of the signal from close **South Korean** reactors (55% from YongWang and 35% from Ulchin power stations

# A World Map of Reactor Antineutrino Signal

1° x 1° Map of the
worldwide predicted reactor
antineutrino signal in the
LER originated by nuclear
power plants working with
2013 operating performance



## A World Map of Reactor Antineutrino Signal



## A World Map of Reactor Antineutrino Signal





- The **geoneutrino signal** is **constant** and it has a **continental distribution**
- The reactor signal changes in time and has a highly asymmetrical
  - **distribution** with respect to the equator









# Conclusions

From www.fe.infn.it/antineutrino everybody can freely download a multitemporal, updated and ready-to-use database for calculating the antineutrino signal from worldwide reactors

A worldwide reference model for antineutrino from reactors is a relevant benchmark for geoneutrino science: the profile of R<sub>LER</sub>/G and the relative contribution of each core change in time

From the standard data of IAEA the reactor antineutrino signal at LBL experiments can be studied with a  $1\sigma$  uncertainty of  $\sim 4\%$  in the LER



The uncertainty on the signal in the FER is dominated for LBL experiments by  $sin^2(\vartheta_{12})$ , which provides an uncertainty of ~2.2%

**RRs** and **SNFs** give a systematic enhancement of the commercial reactor signal: the signal increase due to **RRs** is < 0.2%, while **SNFs** stored in water pools increase the antineutrino event rate in the **LER** of ~2.4%

