Review of Solar and Geo Neutrino Experiments

Physics in Collision 2024 Αθήνα, Ελλάδα

Mark Chen Queen's University October 22, 2024

> with thanks to J. Maneira, L. Ludhova (@ Neutrino 2024) and others



Solar Neutrino Experiments – by detection method

- Elastic Scattering, neutrino-electron
- Charged-Current reactions
- CEvNS, coherent neutrino-nucleus

Solar Neutrino Physics

• I'll return to discussing the physics after setting the stage with the current experimental status...

Solar $\nu_e + e^- \rightarrow \nu_e + e^-$

Past experiments:

- Super-Kamiokande

- Borexino

- also SNO and KamLAND



Talk by Marco Giammarchi on Wednesday reviewing the results from Borexino - complete spectroscopy of solar neutrinos (*pp* chain and *CNO* neutrinos)

Current experiments:

- Super-Kamiokande

- SNO+

- PandaX-4T (and Xe DM expts)

Future experiments:

- JUNO
- Hyper-K
- Jinping Neutrino Experiment

- THEIA

figure from J. Maneira

22.5 kton fiducial volume water Čerenkov detector15.9 live-time years of data SK-I to IVThreshold as low as 3.49 MeV (electron recoil, kinetic)





Phase	SK-I SK-II		SK-III	SK-IV	
Period (Start)	April '96	October '02	July '06	September '08	
Period (End)	July '01	October '05	August '08	May '18	
Livetime [days]	1,496	791	548	2,970	
ID PMTs	11,146	5,182	11,129	11,129	
OD PMTs	1,885	1,885	1,885	1,885	
PMT coverage [%]	40	19	40	40	
Energy thr. [MeV]	4.49	6.49	3.99	3.49	

Threshold as low as 3.49 MeV (electron recoil, kinetic) ⁸B neutrino spectrum sees hint of "low energy upturn" at 1.2σ (2.1σ if combined with SNO)



Day/Night asymmetry fit to zenith distribution: $A_{D/N}^{SK-IV, fit} = -0.0262 \pm 0.0107(stat.) \pm 0.0030(syst.)$ 3 σ significance non-zero asymmetry for SK-I to IV combined



K. Abe et al., PRD 109, 092001 (2024)

Oscillation parameters from global solar fit (by SK)

1.5 σ tension between solar (neutrino) and KamLAND (antineutrino) values for Δm^2_{21}



K. Abe et al., PRD 109, 092001 (2024)

SK-Gd continues solar neutrino measurements

SK-VI (0.01% Gd, 2020-2022) SK-VII (has 0.03% Gd, since July 2022) – thresholds are higher than SK-IV because backgrounds are higher



CNO solar neutrinos and metallicity

Model and Solar Neutrino Fluxes. Units Are: 10¹⁰(pp), 10⁹ (⁷Be), 10⁸ (pep, ¹³N, ¹⁵O), 10⁶ (⁸B, ¹⁷F), and 10³ (hep) cm⁻² s⁻¹



Solar neutrino fluxes are affected by core composition (metallicity)





GS98 High-Z models predict sound speeds in agreement with helioseismology AGS09 Low-Z models find photosphere (surface) solar composition has lower metallicity than from GS98 (worse for helioseismology agreement)

Borexino CNO solar

100 ton fiducial volume liquid scintillator detector 9.9 live-time years of data Phase I, II + III

Solar neutrino detection in a liquid scintillator requires very low radioactivity backgrounds; Čerenkov detectors reconstruct the direction of recoil e⁻, point to the Sun

Borexino developed "Correlated Integrated Directionality" uses *a priori* knowledge of solar direction to identify early Čerenkov hits in the forward direction, and fit for solar *v* fluxes over background using those distributions

10^t

10

 10^{3}

10

500

1000

1500

Energy [keV]

2000

2500

Events / 5N_h







talk by M. Giammarchi tomorrow!

Solar Neutrino Physics – a few comments

Matter effects – probe of potential new physics – we understand oscillations and have measured the oscillation parameters, but evidence for the "MSW low-energy upturn" is not completely strong, nor are all observables from the Day/Night asymmetry (hard!) convincingly in place; plus, persistent tension between Δm_{21}^2 from solar v_e and reactor \bar{v}_e

Borexino's CNO solar neutrino measurement agrees with High-Z solar composition neutrino flux predictions...but,



SNO+ Water Phase solar

SNO+ is the follow-up to the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory
2017-2019: Water Phase, 905 tonnes, 282 live-time days
2020-2022: Filling with scintillator (paused by COVID) but including Partial-Fill Phase
2022-present: Scintillator Phase, 780 tonnes
2025/6- : Tellurium Double Beta Decay Phase (3.9+ tonnes)

In SNO+ Water Phase, we published "Measurement of the ⁸B solar neutrino flux in SNO+ with very low backgrounds" M. Anderson et al., PRD **99**, 012012 (2019), then added an extended Water Phase data set, with *even lower backgrounds!*



A. Allega et al., accepted by PRD, arXiv:2407.17595 (2024)



SNO+ Water Phase ⁸B solar

SNO+

2017-2019: Water Phase, 905 tonnes, 282 live-time days Energy threshold down to 3.5 MeV kinetic Lowest backgrounds – deep location, radiopurity, Rn exclusion



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SNO+ Scintillator Phase ⁸B solar

2022-present: Scintillator Phase, 780 tonnes, 140 live-time days analyzed so far Scintillator radiopurity: U and Th at 5 \times 10⁻¹⁷ g/g level



In the small fiducial volume, external backgrounds are negligible and below 3.0 MeV internal ²⁰⁸Tl backgrounds are also small, enabling SNO+ Scintillator Phase to see ⁸B solar neutrinos clearly below 3.0 MeV

Internal Th-chain backgrounds between 3-5 MeV can be constrained with multisite discriminator and possibly using Borexino-style Correlated Integrated Directionality

SNO+ Scintillator Phase Directionality

In SNO+ scintillator with low PPO concentration (0.6 g/L), we were able to perform event-by-event directionality – recoil-electron direction reconstructed without *a priori* knowledge of the Sun direction (a first at MeV energies in liquid scintillator)



Uses Cherenkov-Scintillation angle and time residual as 2D-pdf to reconstruct the recoil-electron direction

A. Allega et al., PRD 109, 072002 (2024)

Now SNO+ scintillator has 2.2 g/L PPO and 2.2 mg/L bis-MSB, no more event-by event directionality

Solar v_e - e^- Scattering in Xe DM Detectors

PandaX-4T commissioning data 0.63 tonne-year exposure electron recoils 24-144 keV from *pp* solar neutrinos



X. Lu et al., arXiv:2401.07045v2 (2024)





PandaX-4T

Note: current/future Xe and Ar DM detectors (e.g. ARGO, 300 tonnes LAr) will be able to use electron scattering for *pp* and *CNO* solar neutrino measurements (depending on backgrounds)

Future Solar $v_e + e^- \rightarrow v_e + e^-$

from S. Moriyama, S. Chen, G. Orebi Gann

260 kton water Hyper-Kamiokande (water Čerenkov detector) 3 σ sensitivity to upturn after 10 yrs (threshold 4.5 MeV) 5 σ observation of non-zero Day/Night asymmetry; 2 σ test of Δm_{21}^2 for v_e/\bar{v}_e

JUNO (20 kton liquid scintillator) ...more on the next slide

Jinping Neutrino Experiment (500 m³ detector, cavity has been constructed) possible slow liquid scintillator or LiCl-LS





THEIA (50 kton hybrid Čerenkov-scintillator concept) *CNO* uncertainty <10%

JUNO Solar $v_e + e^- \rightarrow v_e + e^-$

Impressive rates for ⁷Be, *pep*, *CNO*, ⁸B from its large target volume



talk by S. Dusini earlier today; E. Percalli on Thursday

A. Abusleme et al., JCAP **10**, 022 (2023) and A. Abusleme et al., Chin. Phys. C **45**, 023004 (2021)



Solar neutrino measurements at low energy depend on radiopurity achieved (baseline radiopurity shown in lower two plots) and on three-fold coincidence rejection of cosmogenic backgrounds (¹¹C, ¹⁰C, ⁶He) shown in left plots (with) and right plots (without)





Cosmogenic backgrounds ~7× higher than Borexino but can be tagged (important for ⁸B solar also)

Solar Neutrinos with Charged-Current Reactions

CC reactions: $\nu_e + {}^{13}C \rightarrow e^- + {}^{13}N$, Q-value 2.2 MeV $\nu_e + {}^{40}Ar \rightarrow e^- + {}^{40}K^*$, Q-value ~1.5_{gs}+4.4 MeV ...for detecting ⁸B solar neutrinos

Other CC targets such as ⁷Li and ³⁷Cl and ¹¹⁵In have lower (much lower) reaction thresholds

Past experiments: - radiochemical Cl, Ga - SNO $(v_e$ -d)

Current experiments: - SNO+

Future experiments: - DUNE

- JUNO (possibly)
- Jinping Neutrino Experiment w/Li or Cl
- CLOUD (LiquidO)

SNO+ Scintillator Phase v_e CC on ¹³C

SNO+

2022-present: Scintillator Phase, 780 tonnes, 150.5 live-time days so far

Delayed coincidence helps reject backgrounds but $\tau = 14.4$ min is long!

Cosmogenic backgrounds (e.g. ¹¹Be) are also a challenge that have prevented this from being observed...until ~now

Cuts optimized before blind box opening: - Fiducial volume R < 5.3 m

- Prompt energy 5.0 < E(e⁻) < 15.0 MeV
- Delayed energy $1.14 \le E(e^+) \le 2.2 \text{ MeV}$
- ∆R < 0.36 m
- 0.01 < ∆T < 24 min
- Likelihood Ratio discriminant > 4

EXPECTED	вох	LIKELIHOOD	
BACKGROUND	0.31	0.17	
SIGNAL	1.83	1.79	



only 1.1%

abundance

isotopic



2 events were found after opening the box, consistent with expectations

With more statistics (already accumulated) this will be only the 2nd real-time detection of solar neutrinos using a pure CC reaction (after SNO)!

Future Solar v_e CC on ⁴⁰Ar in DUNE

Phase-I with 27 kton active volume, LAr TPCs



Possible first observation of hep solar neutrinos by DUNE (benefits from higher CC cross section) "low-energy" backgrounds are important



lop (

In the case the discrepancy between solar v_e and reactor \bar{v}_e is real; 100 kton-yr each

cathode

Bottom

CRPs

Photon

detectors

From Capozzi et al., PRL **123**, 131803 (2019)

from C. Cuesta

Future Solar CC on ¹¹⁵In in CLOUD (LiquidO)

 $\hookrightarrow \gamma/e^-$ (116 keV) + γ (497 keV)

CLOUD is a planned/proposed 10-tonne detector with opaque liquid scintillator and WLS fibre readout (LiquidO technique) – CLOUD-II with 10% In loading

Can achieve what R. Raghavan proposed (for LENS) because of better spatial resolution and event topology from LiquidO

 $\nu_{e} + {}^{115}In \rightarrow e^{-} + {}^{115}Sn^{*}$



from A. Cabrera, D. Navas



Solar Neutrinos with CEvNS in DM Detectors



be representative of the technique...

- DarkSide-20k; ARGO

⁸B Solar Neutrinos with CEvNS in XENONnT

5.9 tonne LXe dual-phase TPCJuly-November 2021; May 2022-August 2023 datasets3.51 tonne-year exposure (316.5 live-time days)

37 events above 0.5 keV with $26.4^{+1,4}_{-1.3}$ expected background



from F. Gao, IDM Workshop, July 2024 E. Aprile et al., arXiv:2408.02877 (2024)



Quantile of S2 BDT score

⁸B Solar Neutrinos with CEvNS in PandaX-4T

3.7 tonne LXe dual-phase TPC
259 calendar days with 2.24 tonne-year exposure
S1-S2 paired 1.1 keV_{nr} threshold; unpaired S2 0.33 keV_{nr}
332 events (unpaired S2) observed with expected
background of 251±32









2.64σ observation of ⁸B solar neutrinos

Z. Bo et al., arXiv:2407.10892 (2024)

Geo Neutrinos

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

Antineutrinos emitted by natural radioactivity in the Earth

Goals:

1) Measure Earth's radiogenic

heat – energetics responsible for mantle convection, plate tectonics, volcanism, the geodynamo – by detecting its neutrino glow
2) Test fundamental ideas (models) of bulk
Earth chemical composition (and Earth's origin) including U/Th ratio

3) Explore the distribution of radioactive elements in the deep Earth – mantle heterogeneity



Thorium



Potassium

Images of elements from the Internet and may not accurately represent reality...

Earth's Heat Flow

Integrated surface heat flux: From measured T-gradients along bore-holes $H_{tot} = 47 \pm 2 TW$



Radiogenic heat & geoneutrinos



figures from L. Ludhova

Earth's Bulk Chemical Composition

The model is that since chondritic abundances are similar to the solar photosphere, this represents the solar system's primordial material from which the Earth formed

Bulk Silicate Earth (BSE)

Silicate primitive mantle became the present-day crust and mantle after differentiatiation



figure from W. McDonough

Distribution of Radiogenic Elements

The model is that since chondritic abundances are similar to the solar photosphere, this represents the solar system's primordial material from which the Earth formed

Bulk Silicate Earth (BSE)

Silicate primitive mantle became the present-day crust and mantle after differentiatiation



table values from F. Mantovani, taken from L. Ludhova

Refractory (high condensation T) & Lithophile (silicate loving)

	th		
	(Mantovani <i>et al</i> . 2004)		lep
	upper continental crust:	2.5 <mark>ppm</mark>	h d
S E S	middle continental crust:	1.6 <mark>ppm</mark>	wit
CAT	lower continental crust:	0.63 <mark>ppm</mark>	es
SILI	oceanic crust:	0.1 ppm	eas
•••	upper mantle:	6.5 ppb	CLE
	core (metallic)	NOTHING	De

Lithophile elements have an affinity with oxygen, enriches the crust in U and Th

In constrast, siderophile elements like iron are not chemically compatible with U and Th; no geoneutrinos from the core!

Different BSE models

Core - not a significant source of geoneutrinos

Crust – U and Th composition can be sampled (but less wellknown the deeper you go)

Mantle – subtracting local crust contribution gives the "deep Earth" component, i.e. from the mantle, to compare with BSE models

BSE model M (U) M (Th) M (K) H_{rad} (U + Th + K) [10¹⁶ kg] [10¹⁶ kg] [10¹⁹ kg] [TW] Cosmochemical (CC) 11.3 ± 1.6 Low-Q 5 ± 1 17 <u>+</u> 2 59 ± 12 Geochemical (CC) **20.2** ± **3.8** Mid-Q 8 ± 2 32 ± 5 113 ± 24 Geodynamical (GD) 142 ± 14 33.5 ± 3.6 High-Q 14 ± 2 57 ± 6 "Fully radiogenic" (FR) 20 ± 1 77 <u>+</u> 3 224 ± 10 47 <u>+</u> 2

PHYS. REV. D 101, 012009 (2020)

extracted from M. Agostini et al., PRF 101, 012009 (2020), which compiled from numerous references

Geo Neutrino Detection via IBD $\bar{v}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$



Potassium geoneutrinos can't be detected by IBD on protons; but see A. Cabrera, M. Chen, F. Mantovani, A. Serafini, V. Strati et al., arXiv:2308.04154

figures from L. Ludhova



S. Abe et al., Geophys. Res. Lett. 49, e2022GL099566 (2022)

KamLAND Geology Interpretation







KamLAND prefers Low-Q and Mid-Q mantle; disfavours High-Q at 99.76% CL (homogeneous mantle; Th/U = 3.9)

Geo Neutrino Experiments: Borexino



1.29 × 10^{32} proton-years, 8.7 live-time years 154 IBD candidate events (~90 in the geo-v region) 52.6^{+9.4}_{-8.6} geoneutrinos







*LS : 278 t *Depth : 3800 m.w.e. *expected event ratio reactor/geo ~**0.3** (2007~)







M. Agostini et al., PRF 101, 012009 (2020)

Borexino Geology Interpretation





Using LOC from M. Coltorti et al. and FFL from Y. Huang et al. and subtracting, Borexino finds non-zero mantle contribution at 99.0% CL

Mantle signal: $21.2^{+9.6}_{-9.1}$ TNU

Borexino prefers High-Q model; large radiogenic contribution to mantle "geo dynamics"

M. Agostini et al., PRF 101, 012009 (2020)

TNU (terrestrial neutrino unit) = 1 event per 10³² proton-year (100% eff.)

Geo Neutrino Experiments: SNO+ Scintillator (ultra preliminary)



0.18 × 10^{32} proton-years exposure, 286 tonne-year 59 IBD candidate events (36 in the geo-v region) 9.9 ± 6.9 geoneutrinos



Large uncertainty comes from (α, n) backgrounds and their uncertain cross section



Comparing Borexino and KamLAND and SNO+



figure comparing KamLAND and Borexino from H. Watanabe

TNU (terrestrial neutrino unit) = 1 event per 10^{32} proton-year (100% eff.)

SNO+ Reactor Neutrino Oscillations (preliminary) – first time Δm^2_{21} is being tested

 $\begin{array}{l} \Delta m^2_{21} = 7.96^{+0.48}_{-0.41} \times 10^{-5} \ \mathrm{eV^2} \ \mathrm{from} \ \mathrm{SNO+} \ \mathrm{Scintillator} \ \mathrm{Phase}, 286 \ \mathrm{tonne-year} \ \mathrm{exposure} \\ \Delta m^2_{21} = 7.54^{+0.19}_{-0.18} \times 10^{-5} \ \mathrm{eV^2} \ \mathrm{from} \ \mathrm{KamLAND} \\ \Delta m^2_{21} = 6.10^{+0.91}_{-0.85} \times 10^{-5} \ \mathrm{eV^2} \ \mathrm{from} \ \mathrm{global} \ \mathrm{solar} \ \nu_e \end{array}$





Future SNO+ Geo Neutrino Measurements



time residuals for prompt proton recoils versus positron scintillation will greatly improve the SNO+ geoneutrino flux measurement (signal extraction), also improving reactor neutrino oscillation analysis too



Impact on prompt energy spectrum:

Future Geo Neutrino Experiment: JUNO





400 geoneutrino events/year!

Despite the large reactor neutrino signal in the geo-nu region, the statistics are good to make a good measurement.

Preliminary expected sensitivity [%]					
tio fixed	Th and U free				
U+ Th	Time	U	Th	U+Th	U/Th
~22					
~10	6 years	~35	~40	~18	~70
~8	10 years	~30	~35	~15	~55
	Preliminar tio fixed U+ Th ~22 ~10 ~8	Preliminary expectedtio fixedU+ Th~22~106 years~8	Preliminary expected sensitivitiestio fixedTh andU+ ThTimeU~22-22-22~106 years~35~810 years~30	Preliminaryexpected sensitivity [9]tio fixedTh and U freeU+ ThTimeU~22-106 years~35~810 years~30~35	Preliminary expected sensitivity [%]tio fixedTh and U freeU+ ThTimeUThU+Th~22-22-106 years~35~40~18~810 years~30~35~15

Combining results in the future



Learned, Adv. High Energy Phys. **2012**, 235686 (2012)

Using all geo neutrino results to determine the mantle contribution — (homogeneity assumption)

figure from W. McDonough



Conclusion

The "old" field of solar neutrino experiments sees new entrants to the game. Large experiments in the future will help scrutinize our understanding of the details of solar neutrino oscillations (and solar physics), with novelty and precision.

The "new" field of geo neutrino experiments is expanding with new measurements by SNO+ and JUNO. These add to the already interesting results and interpretations from KamLAND and Borexino.

Thank you! ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ!

