

Reactor Antineutrinos Signal all over the world

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We present an updated estimate of reactor antineutrino signal all over the world, with particular attention to the sites proposed for existing and future geo-neutrino experiment. In our calculation we take into account the most updated data on Thermal Power for each nuclear plant, on reactor antineutrino spectra and on three neutrino oscillation mechanism.

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Sites	R [TNU]	R _G [TNU]	G [TNU]	R _G /G
LNGS	85.8 ± 4.6	22.8 ± 1.1	40.3 ^{+7.3} _{-5.8}	0.6
KAMIOKA	70.1 ± 3.7	18.7 ± 1.1	31.5 ^{+4.9} _{-4.1}	0.6
SUDBURY	174.6 ± 9.0	43.1 ± 2.1	45.4 ^{+7.5} _{-6.3}	0.9
PHYASALMI	69.2 ± 3.7	17.5 ± 0.8	45.3 ^{+7.0} _{-5.9}	0.4
FREJUS	587.9 ± 31.0	134.0 ± 7.1	42.4 ^{+7.6} _{-6.2}	3.2
HOMESTAKE	27.7 ± 1.5	7.3 ± 0.3	48.7 ^{+8.4} _{-6.9}	0.1
HAWAII	3.4 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.04	12.0 ^{+0.7} _{-0.6}	0.1
CURACAO	9.5 ± 0.5	2.5 ± 0.1	29.3 ^{+4.2} _{-3.3}	0.1

Table 1: Comparison between expected reactor (R) and geo (G) antineutrino signal. R_G indicates the reactor signal expected in the geo neutrino energy window ($E_{\bar{\nu}} < 3.26$ MeV). Geo-neutrino signal has been calculated following the approach described in [14]. 1 TNU = 1event/year/10³² protons.

1. Discussion

Antineutrinos from the decay chains of ²³⁸U and ²³²Th existing in the Earth interior (the so called geo-neutrinos) have been recently detected both by Kamland [1] and by Borexino [2] experiments. Future experiments for geo-neutrinos detection have been proposed (or starting) in several location in the world (e.g. SNO+ in Canada [3], Lena project in Europe [4] and Hawaii Anti-Neutrino Observatory[5]).

The main source of background of such experiments is given by antineutrino produced by nuclear plants. These particles account for a signal almost always larger than geo-neutrinos one, see Table 1. So a detailed calculation of reactor antineutrino flux is mandatory for an accurate measurement of geo-neutrinos.

With this aim, we performed a calculation of reactor antineutrinos flux all over the world. Previous analysis has been presented, for instance, in ref. [6] and [7]. Now we will show an updated estimate of reactor antineutrino signal, with particular attention to the sites proposed for the new geo-neutrino experiments. In our calculation we take into account the most updated data on Thermal Power for each nuclear plant, on reactor antineutrino spectra and on three neutrino oscillation mechanism. The expected reactor antineutrino signal has been calculated as follows:

$$N_{ev} = \varepsilon N_p \tau \sum_{r=1}^{N_{react}} \frac{P_r}{4\pi L_r^2} \langle LF_r \rangle \int dE_{\bar{\nu}_e} \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{f_i}{E_i} \phi_i(E_{\bar{\nu}_e}) \sigma(E_{\bar{\nu}_e}) P_{ee}(E_{\bar{\nu}_e}; \hat{\theta}, L_r) \quad (1.1)$$

where ε is detector efficiency, N_p is the number of target proton, τ is period of data taking, index r cycles over the N reactors considered, L_r , P_r and $\langle LF_r \rangle$ are the distance, the nominal thermal power and the averaged Load Factor of reactor r , respectively. The index i stands for the i -th spectral component in the set (²³⁵U, ²³⁸U, ²³⁹Pu, and ²⁴¹Pu), f_i is the power fraction of the component i , as reported in[2], E_i is the average antineutrino energy per fission of the component i [11], $\phi(E_{\bar{\nu}})$ is the anti-neutrino flux per fission of the i^{th} component, as recently calculated in ref.[9], $\sigma(E_{\bar{\nu}})$ is the inverse beta decay cross section[12] and P_{ee} is the survival probability of the reactor antineutrinos of energy $E_{\bar{\nu}}$ traveling the baseline L_r , depending on the mixing parameters $\hat{\theta}$.

In Eq. (1.1) we assume a 100% detection efficiency, for a detector containing 10³² target protons and operating continuously for 1 year. In particular we consider the nuclear cores all over

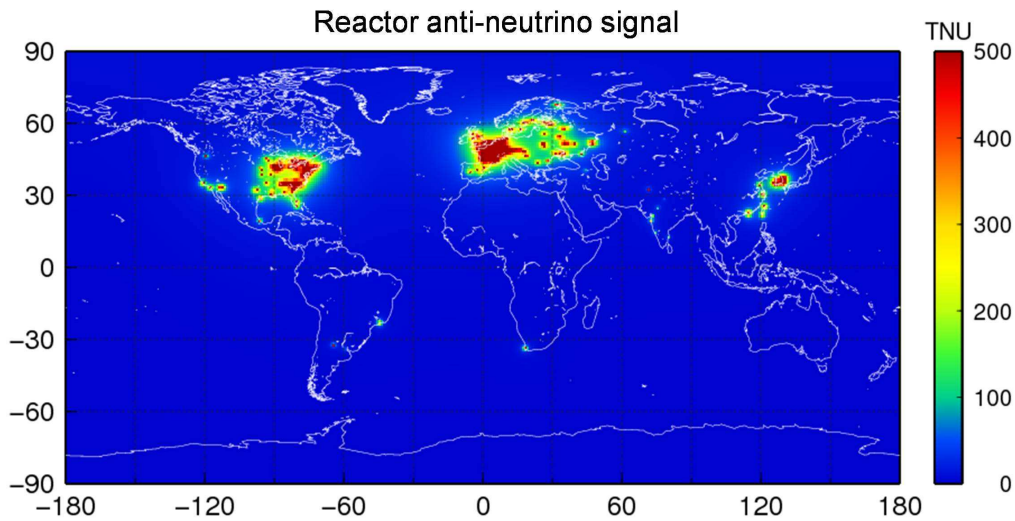


Figure 1: A worldwide map of reactor antineutrinos signal. 1 TNU= 1 events/yr/ 10^{32} target protons

the world, operating in the year 2012. Information on the nominal thermal power and monthly load factor for each nuclear cores originates from International Agency of Atomic Energy (IAEA) [8]. Concerning survival probability, we assumed a three flavour vacuum oscillation mechanism with P_{ee} as in in ref.[10], and mixing parameters from ref.[13].

The results of our calculation are reported in Table 1 and in Fig. 1. We also performed a analysis on the sources of uncertainty in reactor signal prediction, see [7] for details. The total uncertainty is of the order of 5%, the main contributions (i.e. greater than 2%) arising from θ_{12} mixing angle, antineutrino spectrum, fuel composition and thermal power.

One can see that, due to reactors shutdown occurred in 2012, Kamioka became a suitable site for detecting geo-neutrinos, comparable to LNGS. A new european geo-neutrino detector located at Frejus Laboratory requires a detailed knowledge of closeby reactors; the choice of Phyasalmi looks better in this respect. Of course Hawaii and Curacao are wonderful places for geo-neutrino studies due to their position far away from any nuclear plants of the world. The same holds for Homestake. In the near future, the SNO+ experiment, with a quite reasonable ratio R_G/G , will provide more information about Earth's interior.

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