

*Inside of SNO+ detector, cavity water fill, May 2014*

# Geoneutrinos

Physics and Prospects

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## Overview

- ▶ Neutrino **geophysics**
- ▶ Geoneutrino **detections**
- ▶ **SNO+** detector
  - neutrinoless double-beta decay
  - current status
- ▶ Geoneutrino **flux prediction**
- ▶ SNO+ first results (not yet)
- ▶ Future **prospects**

## "Geoneutrinos reveal Earth's inner secrets"



*Nature*, v 436, p 499, July 2005 : Experimental investigation  
of geologically produced antineutrinos with KamLAND.

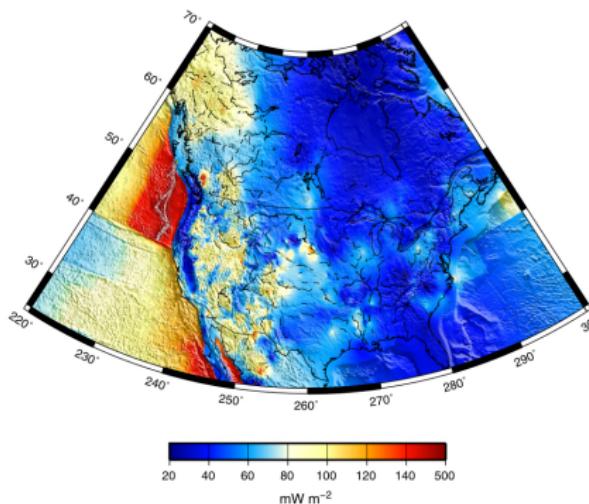
# Neutrino Geophysics

## Present day volcanism and Earth magnetic field



## Global heat losses estimates:

- ▶ Present day 41 - 47 TW
- ▶ Average of 74 - 83 mW/m<sup>2</sup>



**Table 1**  
Estimates of the continental and oceanic heat flux and global heat loss.

	Continental (mW m <sup>-2</sup> )	Oceanic (mW m <sup>-2</sup> )	Total (TW)
Williams and von Herzen (1974)	61	93	43
Davies (1980)	55	95	41
Sclater et al. (1980)	57	99	42
Pollack et al. (1993)	65	101	44
Jaupart et al. (2007) <sup>a</sup>	65	94	46

<sup>a</sup> The average oceanic heat flux does not include the contribution of hotspots. The total heat loss estimate includes 3 TW from oceanic hotspots.

Why has the planet interior not cooled down entirely over the last few Gy?

<sup>1</sup> Map from Mareschal, Jaupart, Tectonophysics 609 (2013) 524-534.

<sup>2</sup> Table from J.-C. Mareschal et al., Journal of Geodynamics 54 (2012) 43-54.

# Earth radiogenic heating

SNO

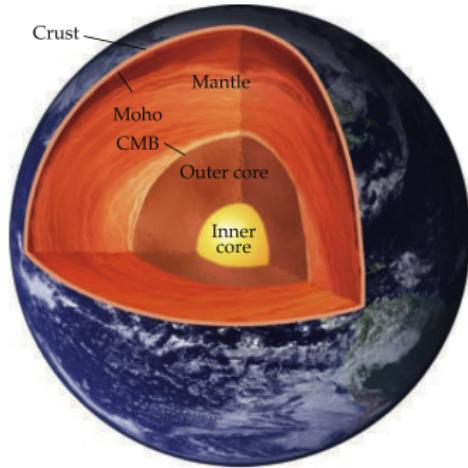


Image from doi:10.1155/2012/235686

## Heat sources, surface losses<sup>1</sup>

Earth core <sup>2</sup>	5 - 10 TW
Radioactivity (K,Th,U)	17 - 23 TW
Tidal dissipation	0.1 TW
Crust (grav. energy)	0.3 TW
Mantle cooling <sup>3</sup>	8 - 29 TW
<b>Surface heat losses</b>	<b>43 - 49 TW</b>

## Radiogenic heat per decay chain<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> C. Jaupart et al., Treatise on Geophysics: Temperatures, Heat and Energy in the Mantle of the Earth, 2007

<sup>2</sup> Core cooling, latent heat, gravitational energy due to chemical separation.

<sup>3</sup> Present day mantle cooling rate of 53 - 190 K Gy<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>4</sup> S. Dye, Reviews of Geophysics, 50, RG3007, 2012

# Abundance estimates for K, Th and U

**Table 2:** Abundance estimates of U, Th, and K in BSE and DM. Uncertainties are included where available.

U (ppb)	Th (ppb)	K (ppm)	Th/U	K/U	Power (TW)	Reference
<b>Bulk silicate Earth (BSE)</b>						
<i>Collisional erosion model</i>						
10	38	120	3.8	12000	9.6	O'Neill and Palme [62]
<i>Based on enstatite chondrites</i>						
13.5	41.7	385	3.1	28500	15	Javoy [63]
12.1	49.2	146	3.5	12000	11	Javoy et al. [64] <sup>1</sup>
<i>Based on terrestrial rocks and C1 carbonaceous chondrite ratios of RLE abundances</i>						
20.8	79.0	264	3.8	12700	20	Hart and Zindler [58]
20.3 ± 20%	79.5 ± 15%	240 ± 20%	3.9	11800	20 ± 4	McDonough and Sun [55]
21.8 ± 15%	83.4 ± 15%	260 ± 15%	3.8	11900	21 ± 3	Palme and O'Neill [59]
17.3 ± 3.0	62.6 ± 10.7	190 ± 40	3.6	11000	16 ± 3	Lyubetskaya and Korenaga [61]
20 ± 4	80 ± 12	280 ± 60	4.0	13800	20 ± 4	Arevalo et al. [60]
<i>Based on energetics of mantle convection ("conventional" scaling)</i>						
31	124	310	4.0	10000	30	Turcotte and Schubert [65]
<b>Depleted mantle (DM)—MORB source</b>						
3.2 ± 0.5	7.9 ± 1.1	50	2.5	15600	2.8 ± 0.4*	Workman and Hart [66]
4.7 ± 20%	13.7 ± 30%	60 ± 28%	2.9	12800	4.1 ± 1.2*	Salter and Stracke [67]
8 ± 20%	22 ± 20%	152 ± 20%	2.8	19000	7.5 ± 1.5*	Arevalo and McDonough [68]

<sup>1</sup>Model of Javoy et al. [64] is constructed following Javoy's recipe as described in [69]. \*Calculation of radiogenic power for DM estimates assumes that the entire mantle has DM composition.

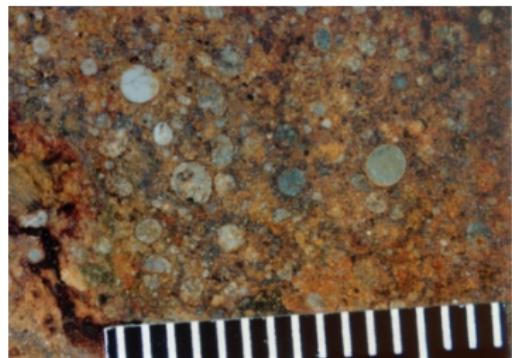
## Assumptions made to predict K, Th and U abundances:

- ▶ Stone meteorite **chondrules** originate from solar nebula at **planet formation**
- ▶ Earth is a **dynamic system**; initial uniform abundances have changed
  - Crust : **high** abundances
  - Mantle : **depleted**, low abundances
  - Core : **assumed zero**

<sup>1</sup>Table from Review Article, *Geoneutrinos, Advances in High Energy Physics* (2012)

### Chondrites:

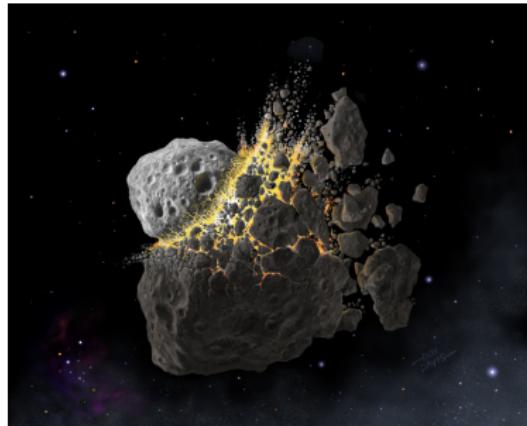
- ▶ Stony (non-metallic) meteorites
- ▶ Formed from dust and small grains in the **early solar system**
- ▶ **Not been modified**; no melting or differentiation of the parent body
- ▶ Contain small, colourful, grain-like inclusions known as "chondrules"
- ▶ Most **common** of meteorite, 86 % of total found



<sup>1</sup>Definitions and images: see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chondrite>.

# Chondrites not representative of early solar nebula

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nature  
astronomy

LETTERS

PUBLISHED: 23 JANUARY 2017 | VOLUME: 1 | ARTICLE NUMBER: 0035

## Rare meteorites common in the Ordovician period

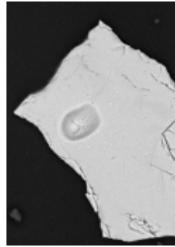
Philip R. Heck<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Birger Schmitz<sup>3</sup>, William F. Bottke<sup>4</sup>, Surya S. Rout<sup>1,2</sup>, Noriko T. Kita<sup>5</sup>, Anders Cronholm<sup>3</sup>, Céline Defouilloy<sup>6</sup>, Andrei Dronov<sup>6,7</sup> and Fredrik Terfelt<sup>8</sup>

Most meteorites that fall today are H and L type ordinary chondrites, yet the main belt appears to have been unable to deliver meteorites are LL chondrites<sup>1,2</sup>. This suggests that the current meteorite flux is dominated by fragments from recent astrophysical events rather than those from the solar system over longer (100-Myr) timescales. Here we present the first reconstruction of the composition of the background meteorite flux at Earth's surface before the breakup of the L-chondrite parent body 466 Myr ago. We have recovered relict minerals from coarse micrometeorites by elemental and oxygen-isotopic analyses and show that before 466 Myr ago, achondrites from different asteroidal sources had similar or higher abundances than ordinary chondrites. The primitive achondrites, such as Iridium-rich carbonaceous chondrites (CI), and the ordinary achondrites, made up ~15–34% of the flux composed with only ~0.45% today. Another group of abundant achondrites may have been the LL chondrites (L), which may have filled the lesser main belt with ballistic fragments a billion years ago. Our data show that the meteorite flux has varied over geological time as asteroid disruptions create new fragments and as the solar system's orbital dynamics change and dynamical evolution. The current flux favours disruption events that are larger, younger and/or highly efficient at delivering material to Earth.

from the L CPB that might have arrived on Earth before should have been shorter than 100 Myr. The time interval since separation of one million years before the strata containing the first abundant LL chondrites is large enough to assess the pre-LCPB flux. The interval since the last major disruption of the L-chondrite parent body was selected with the aim of determining whether the composition of the meteorite flux to Earth was similar to or different from that of today. The flux of meteorites to Earth before the breakup of the L-chondrite parent body 466 Myr ago, we have recovered relict minerals from coarse micrometeorites by elemental and oxygen-isotopic analyses and show that before 466 Myr ago, achondrites from different asteroidal sources had similar or higher abundances than ordinary chondrites. The primitive achondrites, such as Iridium-rich carbonaceous chondrites (CI), and the ordinary achondrites, made up ~15–34% of the flux composed with only ~0.45% today. Another group of abundant achondrites may have been the LL chondrites (L), which may have filled the lesser main belt with ballistic fragments a billion years ago. Our data show that the meteorite flux has varied over geological time as asteroid disruptions create new fragments and as the solar system's orbital dynamics change and dynamical evolution. The current flux favours disruption events that are larger, younger and/or highly efficient at delivering material to Earth.

The presence of surface-irradiated solar-wind-derived helium and noble gases in the silicate-rich coarse micrometeorites (CMCs) that were recovered from similar sediments from several younger Ordovician beds from sites in Sweden, China and Russia is consistent with the hypothesis that the CMCs represent the coarse abundance ratio of the two ordinary chondrite groups H and L. chondrites in recently fallen coarse micrometeorites<sup>1,2,11</sup> is similar to *in situ* noble-gas measurements of the two ordinary chondrite groups<sup>12</sup> and we use it as a proxy for meteorites. The same consistency between the composition of coarse micrometeorites and meteorites has been documented based on fossil material<sup>13</sup> and meteorites<sup>14</sup> and is now demonstrated for the first time because of the much higher abundance of CMCs compared with fossil meteorites<sup>1</sup>, allowing analysis of a larger number of samples<sup>1</sup>.

We recovered 46 chrome-spinel grains with diameters >63 µm,



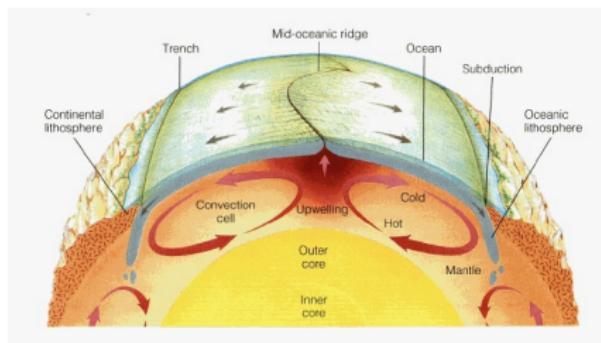
"From limestone that formed about one million years before the breakup of the L-chondrite parent body 466 Myr ago, we have recovered relict minerals from coarse micrometeorites. By elemental and oxygen-isotopic analyses, we show that before 466 Myr ago, achondrites from different asteroidal sources had similar or higher abundances than ordinary chondrites."

<sup>1</sup> Illustration Don Davis, Southwest Research Institute. New York Times, 23 Jan 17.

# Time evolution of elemental abundance

SNO

Earth as a **dynamical system** over long (Gy) time scales



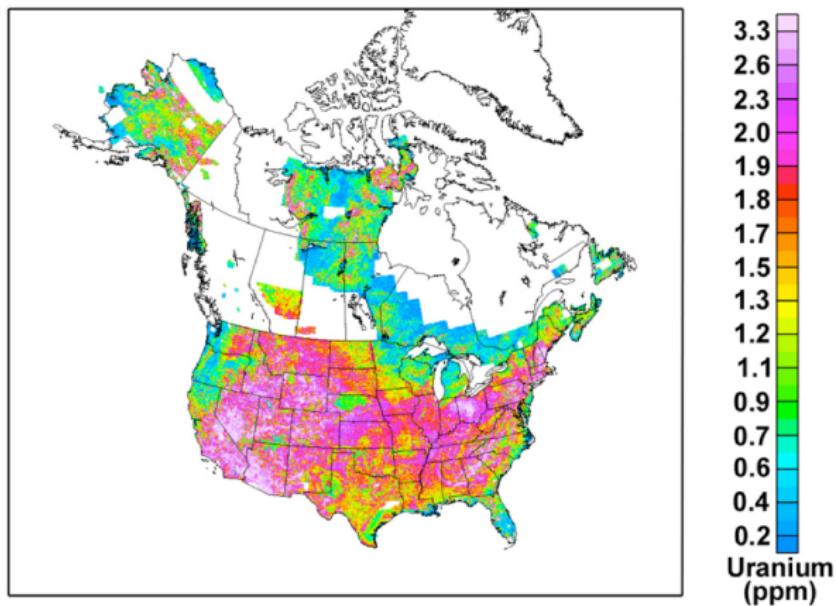
Goldschmidt classification in the periodic table																	
Group →		Period ↓															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
H	Li	Be	B	C	N	O	F	Ne									
H	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar										
Na	Ca	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mn	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sh	Tc	I	Xe
55	56	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	
Cs	Ba	Hf	Tu	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn	
87	88	**	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118
Fr	Ra	Rf	Dh	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nb	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og	
*	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71		
	La	Ec	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Lu			
**	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103		
	Ac	Th	Pu	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Esr	Pm	Md	No	Lr		

Goldschmidt classification: **Lithophile elements** (including K, Th and U) remain on or close to the **surface** by forming compounds with oxygen that do **not sink** into the core.

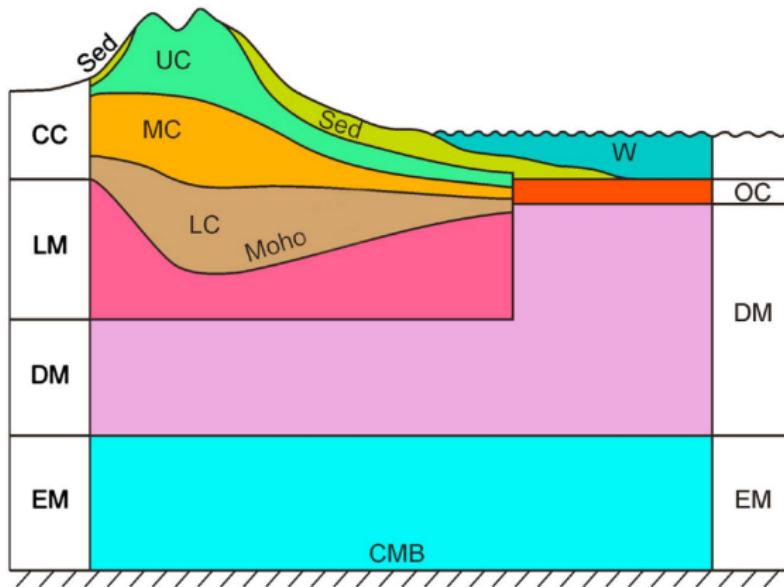
<sup>1</sup> Image Byrd Polar Research Center, Ohio State University

<sup>2</sup> Periodic table Wikipedia, Goldschmidt classification.

Example USGS map of Uranium concentration on or near surface



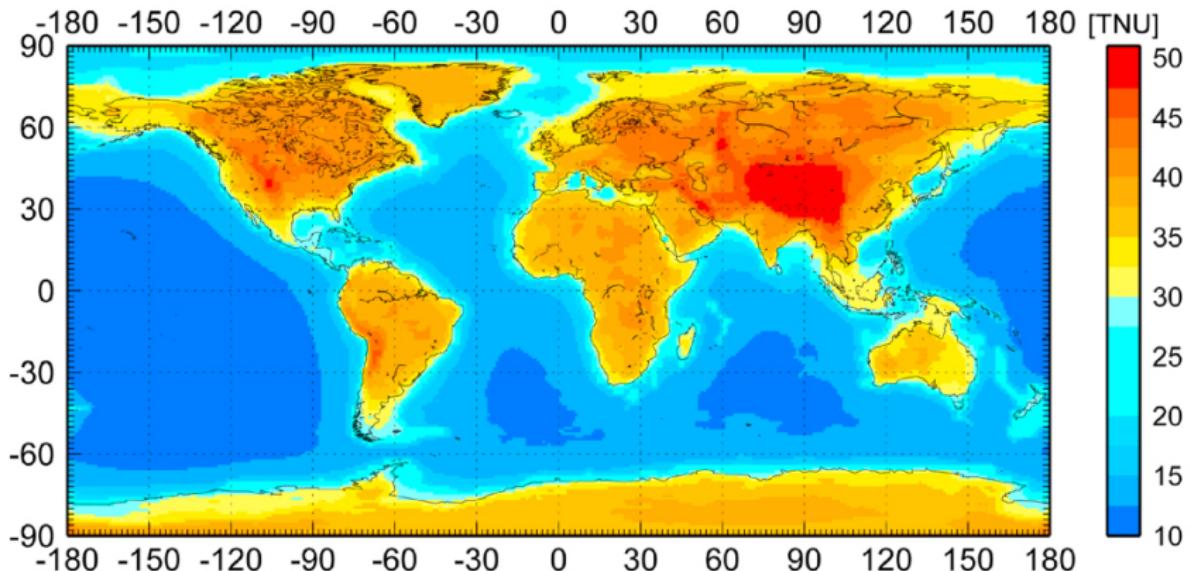
# Geophysics reference model



Huang et al. (2013), *A reference Earth model for the heat-producing elements and associated geoneutrino flux*, *Geochem. Geophys. Geosyst.*, 14, 2003-2029.

# Geophysics reference model, geoneutrino flux prediction

SNO

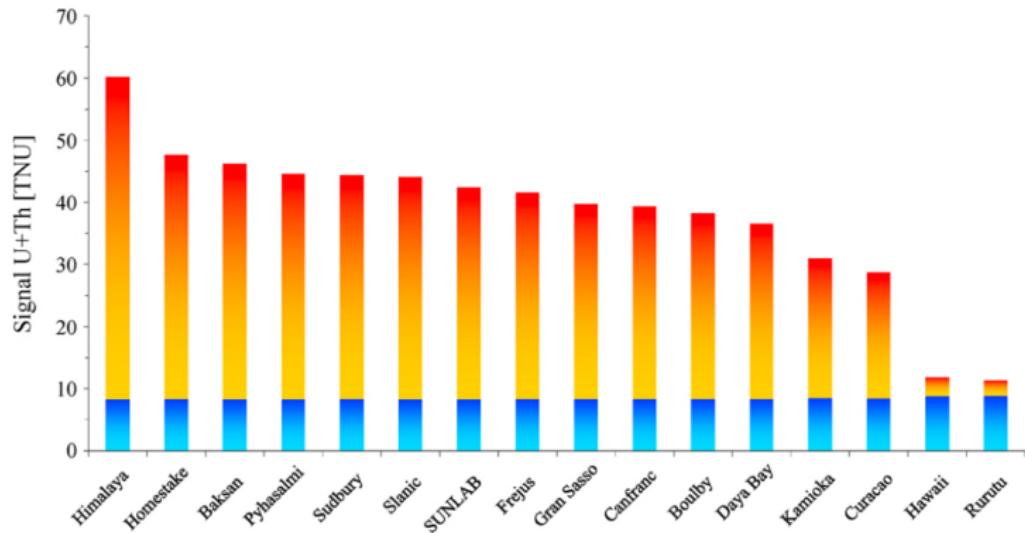


Huang et al. (2013), *A reference Earth model for the heat-producing elements and associated geoneutrino flux*, *Geochem. Geophys. Geosyst.*, 14, 2003-2029.



# Geoneutrino flux predictions

SNO

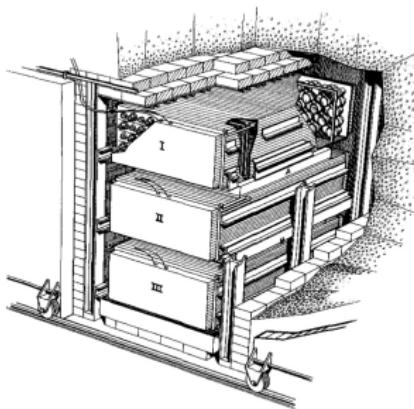
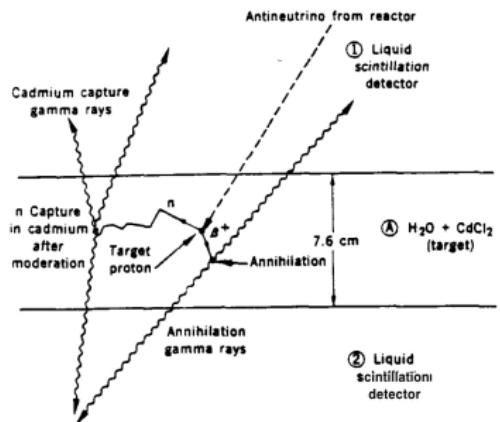


Huang et al. (2013), *A reference Earth model for the heat-producing elements and associated geoneutrino flux*, *Geochem. Geophys. Geosyst.*, 14, 2003-2029.

# Geoneutrino Detections

# Reactor anti-neutrinos

Cowan and Reines, Savannah River reactor, 1955



600 kg water target (tank A and B), distance 11 m from reactor, 600 MW.

# A geoneutrino (anti-neutrino) background?

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Dear Fred,  
Just occurred to me  
that your background  
neutrinos may just be coming  
from high energy  $\beta$ -decaying  
members of U and Th families  
in the crust of the Earth. I  
do not have on the train any  
inform. to check it up, but it  
seems the order of magn. is  
reasonable. In fact the total energy  
radioactive energy production  
under one square foot of surface  
may well be equal to the  
energy of solar radiation falling  
on ~~that~~ that surface.  
What do you think?  
Write to me at: The Union  
Univ. of Mich. Ann Arbor. Mich  
Yours G. Gamow.



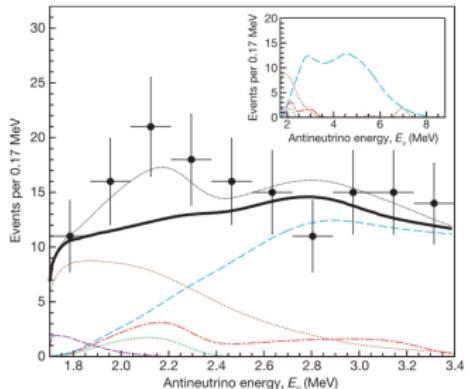
While onboard of the SantaFe Chief Train,  
Georg Gamow wrote to Fred Reines (see  
left):

*It just occurred to me that your  
background may just be coming  
from high energy beta-decaying  
members of U and Th families  
in the crust of the Earth.*

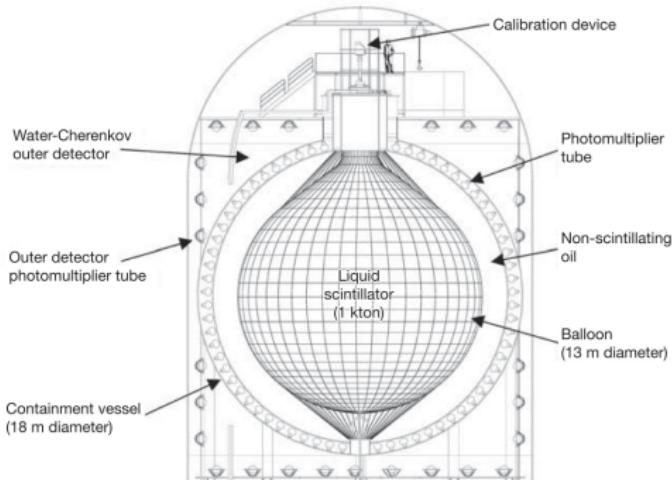
The first estimate of geo-neutrino flux  
was given in a teletype message by Reines  
in response to the letter of Gamow:

*Heat loss from Earth's surface is  
50 erg cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. If assume all  
due to beta decay than have  
only enough energy for about  
 $10^8$  one-MeV neutrinos cm<sup>-2</sup>  
and s.*

<sup>1</sup>From G. Fiorentini et al., Physics Reports 453 (2007) 117-172.



**Figure 3 |  $\bar{\nu}_e$  energy spectra in KamLAND.** Main panel, experimental points together with the total expectation (thin dotted black line). Also shown are the total expected spectrum excluding the geoneutrino signal (thick solid black line), the expected signals from  ${}^{238}\text{U}$  (dot-dashed red line) and  ${}^{232}\text{Th}$  (dotted green line) geoneutrinos, and the backgrounds due to reactor  $\bar{\nu}_e$  (dashed light blue line),  ${}^{13}\text{C}(\alpha,n){}^{16}\text{O}$  reactions (dotted brown line), and random coincidences (dashed purple line). Inset, expected spectra extended to higher energy. The geoneutrino spectra are calculated from our reference model, which assumes 16 TW radiogenic power from  ${}^{238}\text{U}$  and  ${}^{232}\text{Th}$ . The error bars represent  $\pm 1$  standard deviation intervals.



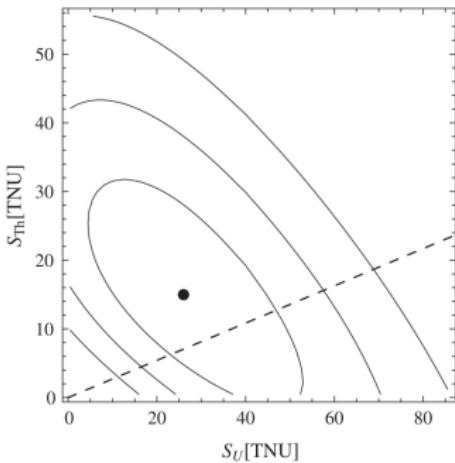
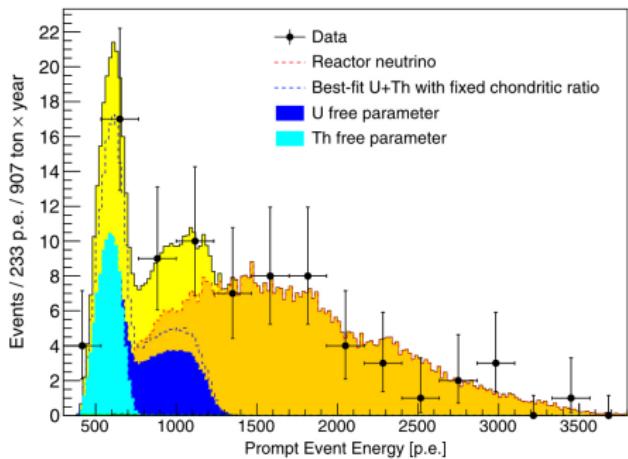
*"Assuming a Th/U mass concentration ratio of 3.9, the 90 percent confidence interval for the total number of geoneutrinos detected is 4.5 to 54.2. This result is consistent with the central value of 19 predicted by geophysical models."*

Gran Sasso National Laboratory, Italy

**278 tons of organic liquid scintillator**

Estimated anti-neutrino background < 0.65 events ( 90% CL)

Data from 2007 to 2015, total of **2055.9 days** before cuts



$$S_{geo} = 23.7^{+6.5}_{-5.7} \text{ (stat)}^{+0.9}_{-0.7} \text{ (sys) events}$$

$$= 43.5^{+11.8}_{-10.4} \text{ (stat)}^{+2.7}_{-2.4} \text{ (sys) TNU}$$

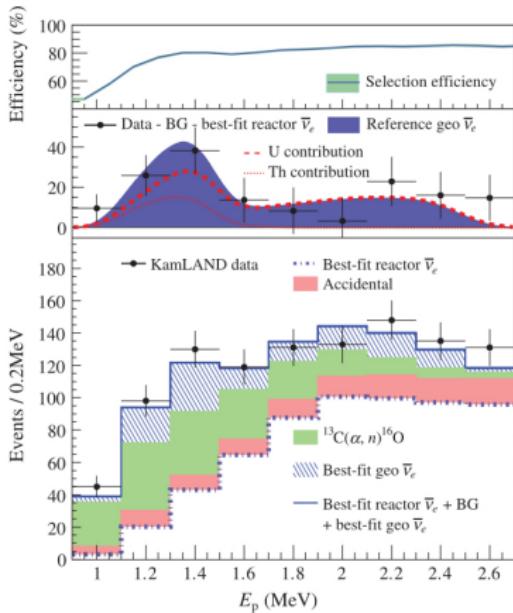
# KamLAND 2013 anti-neutrino results

Total detector live time of **2991 days**, 2002 to 2012.

From mid-2007 onwards liquid scintillator ( $^{210}\text{Po}$ ) purification

$^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n)^{16}\text{O}$  background reduced by factor 20

Fukushima accident, March 2011, reactor shutdown



Geoneutrino flux

$$S_{\text{geo}} = (3.4 \pm 0.8) \cdot 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Total radiogenic heat production

$$P_{\text{rad}} = 11.2^{+7.9}_{-5.1} \text{ TW}$$

(Th/U abundance ratio 3.9/1)

# SNO+ Detector

# SNO+ Collaboration



Queen's Univ.  
Laurentian Univ.  
Univ. of Alberta  
TRIUMF  
SNOLAB



BNL, AASU,  
Penn., UNC,  
U Washington,  
UC Berkley/LBNL  
Chicago,  
UC Davis



Oxford  
Sussex  
Lancaster  
Liverpool  
QMUL



TU Dresden



LIP Lisboa  
LIP Coimbra

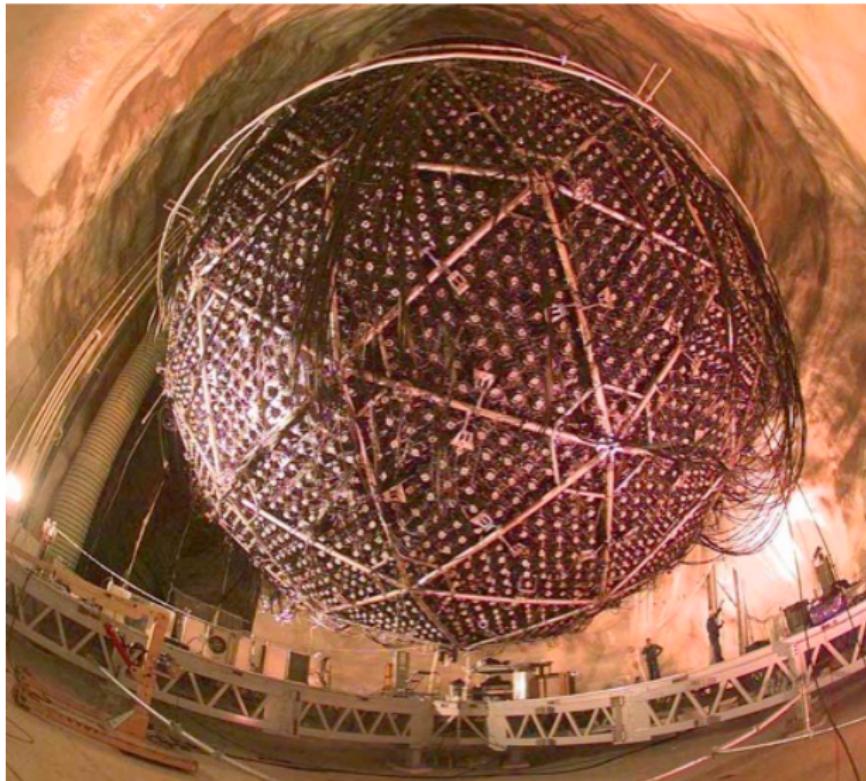


UNAM

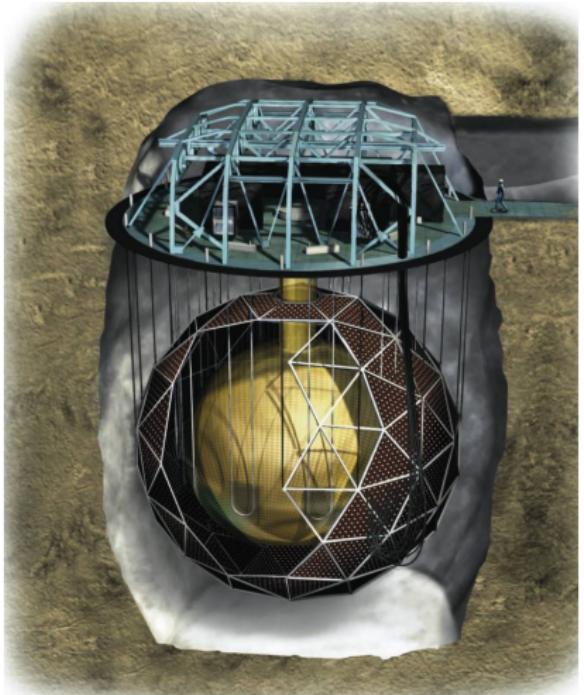


## Previous SNO solar neutrino experiment - until 2006

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SNO detector cavern, wide angle 'fisheye' view

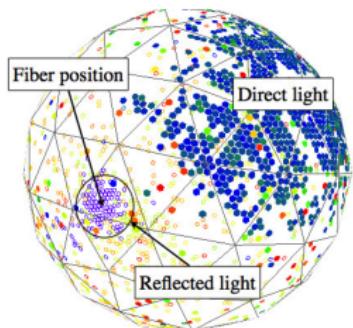


SNO detector, image National Geographic

- ▶ Conversion of SNO to search for neutrinoless double beta-decay
- ▶ 12 m diameter acrylic vessel
- ▶ 780 tons liquid scintillator
- ▶ Tellurium loaded into scintillator  
2340 kg Te at 0.3% loading
- ▶ Surrounded by  $\approx$  9500 PMT  
18 m diameter support structure
- ▶ 1700 tonnes water inner **shielding**  
5300 tonnes water outside
- ▶ Cavern Urylon liner **radon seal**,  
anti-radon cover gas layer
- ▶ Location Sudbury, Ontario,  
Canada
- ▶ Depth 2092 m below surface  
**6010 m water equivalent**

# Detector conversion into SNO+

SNO



Fibre coupled LED light pulse event

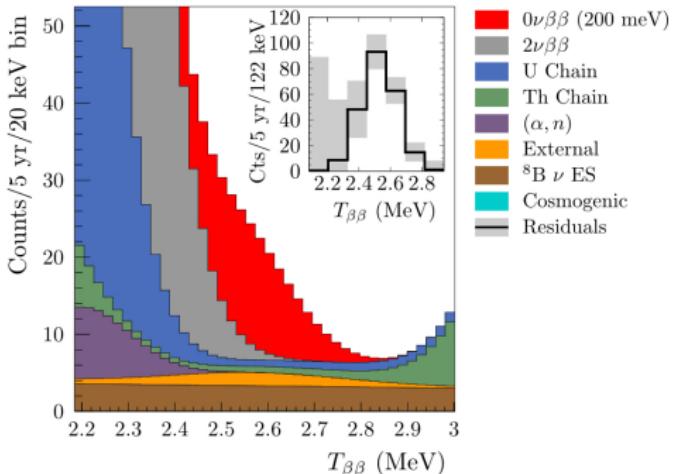


Telluric acid, underground storage

- ▶ install underground liquid scintillator plant ✓
- ▶ add an acrylic vessel hold-down mechanism ✓
- ▶ repair, i.e. PMT bases, cavity floor liner ✓
- ▶ upgrade the data acquisition, trigger, electronics ✓
- ▶ improve the cover gas radon exclusion✓
- ▶ change the calibration source manipulator ✓  
    prepare new radioactive calibration sources ✓
- ▶ new fibre coupled LED calibration system ✓
- ▶ new simulation and event reconstruction codes ✓
- ▶ develop technique for tellurium loading ✓
- ▶ acquire tellurium acid, store underground ✓
- ▶ raise both cavern and acrylic vessel water levels ✓
- ▶ fill with (pure or Te loaded) scintillator

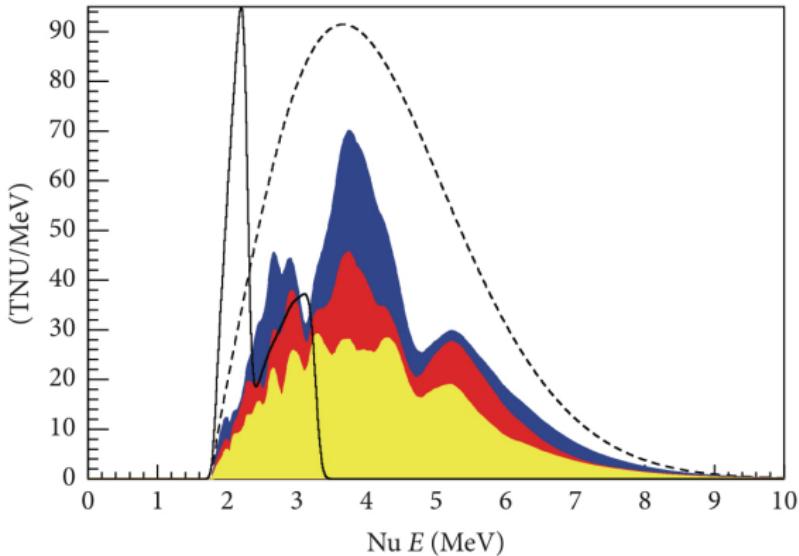
# Neutrinoless double beta-decay

SNO



Envisaged detector operation sequence:

- ▶ Short initial water fill, compare against SNO performance
- ▶ Short liquid scintillator fill, background verification (first **geoneutrino data**)
- ▶ Long **tellurium loaded scintillator phase(s)** (**geoneutrino data**)
  - ▶ Phase I, 0.3 % loading, five years: 55 - 133 meV effective neutrino mass
  - ▶ Phase II, 3 % loading, high QE PMT: 19 - 46 meV effective neutrino mass



**Low background** of < 1 event per year, **low reactor neutrino flux**

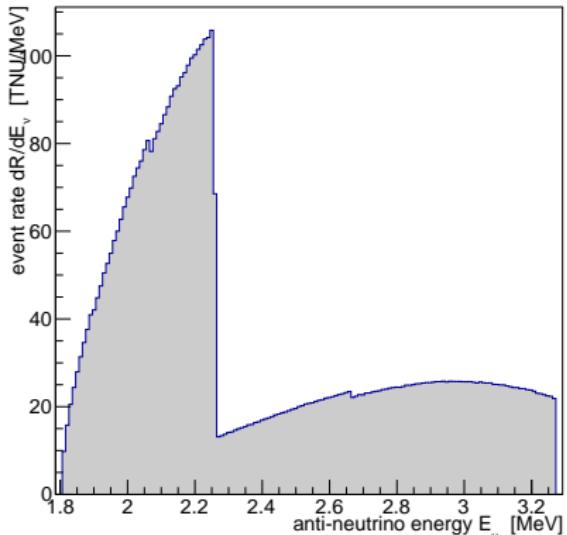
- ▶ SNO<sup>+</sup> deeper (2000 m) than Borexino, KamLAND, less external neutron flux
- ▶ ( $\alpha, n$ ) process suppressed, scintillator recirculation system

**High event rate**  $\sim 30/\text{year}$ , 780 tons (SNO<sup>+</sup>) vs 278 tons (Borexino) target mass

# Geoneutrino Flux Prediction

# Why yet another geoneutrino rate (spectrum) calculation?

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Geoneutrino inverse beta-decay event rate

- ▶ Energy spectrum (or spectra) are necessary input for [detector simulation](#) and [data analysis](#)
- ▶ Which effects change the [shape of the energy spectrum](#)?
- ▶ Correct neutrino survival probability?
- ▶ Expected inverse beta-decay event rate at SNO<sup>+</sup> location

$$R = 39.2 \text{ TNU}$$

For a specific [chosen set of assumptions](#)<sup>1</sup>, i.e. thorium and uranium abundances.

<sup>1</sup>S. T. Dye, Earth and Planetary Science Letters 297 (2010) 1-9

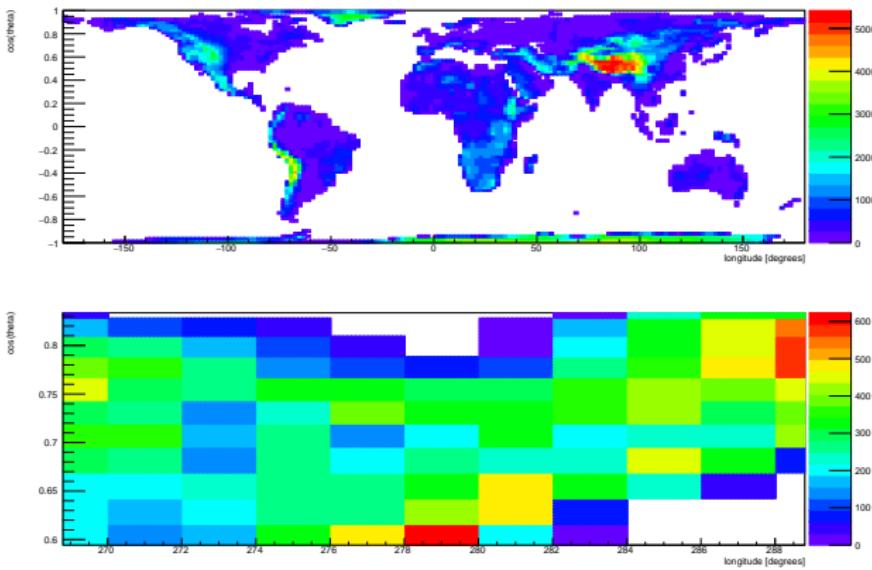
## Geoneutrino flux prediction

$$\frac{d\phi_i(\vec{R})}{dE_{\bar{\nu}}} = \int dV \frac{\rho(\vec{r})}{4\pi|\vec{R} - \vec{r}|^2} \cdot \frac{a_i(\vec{r})C_i}{\tau_i m_i} \cdot f_i(E_{\bar{\nu}}) \cdot \mathbf{P}_s(E_{\bar{\nu}}, \vec{r}, \vec{R}, n_e(\vec{r}'))$$

- ▶ Adaptive Monte Carlo volume integration (GSL/FGSL, Vegas)
- ▶ Earth model: Crust 2.0 and PREM (layer depth, density)
- ▶ Thorium and uranium abundances as in Dye (2010)
- ▶ Th and U decay chains (rates, energy spectra) as in Fiorentini (2007)<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Neutrino **survival probability** calculation : new code
  - ▶ **three** mass eigenstates neutrino oscillation
  - ▶ electron-neutrino interaction potential (**matter effect**)
  - ▶ **varying** electron number density  $n_e(\vec{r}')$  along neutrino path  $\vec{r}'$
- ▶ Oscillation parameters: Forero et al., Physical Review D 90 (2014)

<sup>2</sup>Fiorentini, Lissia, Mantovani, Physics Reports 453 (2007)

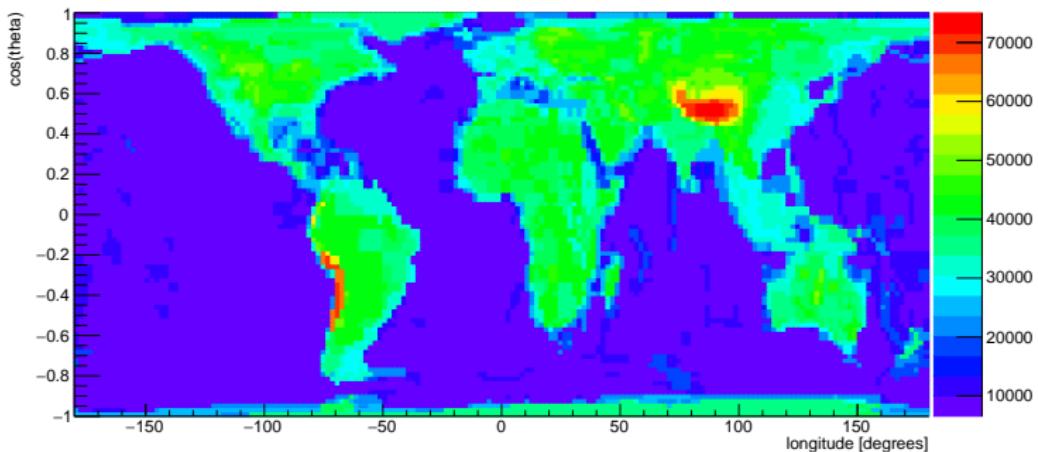
# Continental vs oceanic crust, elevation



- ▶ Crust 2.0 model
- ▶ select continental (oceanic) crust by **elevation** only
- ▶ predicted SNO+ rate : 39.8 TNU
- ▶ compare with 39.2 TNU, Dye (2010)

## Select continental (oceanic) crust by elevation and thickness

SNO



- ▶ Crust 2.0 model
- ▶ add all tiles of **crust thickness > 15 km** to continental crust
- ▶ new predicted SNO+ rate : **41.5 TNU**
- ▶ previously, select by elevation only, rate was 39.8 TNU

$$\left| \hbar \frac{d}{dt} | \nu(t) \right\rangle = \left[ \frac{1}{2E_\nu} \mathbf{U}^\dagger \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Delta m_{21}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta m_{31}^2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{U} + \begin{pmatrix} V(t) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right] | \nu(t) \rangle$$

$$V(t) = \sqrt{2} \cdot G_F \cdot n_e(\vec{r}(t))$$

New numerical code:<sup>3</sup>

- ▶ Break neutrino path into (many) **steps of constant matter density**
- ▶ For each step solve equation numerically (eigenvalue problem)
- ▶ Compare numerical values (LAPACK95) against analytical solution
- ▶ Checks against known special cases (exponential, constant, zero density)
- ▶ Similar to GLoBES ( $\nu$  beams), **optimised for Earth volume integration**
- ▶ Also run as parallel **calculations on a GPU, speedup  $\sim 100$  times**

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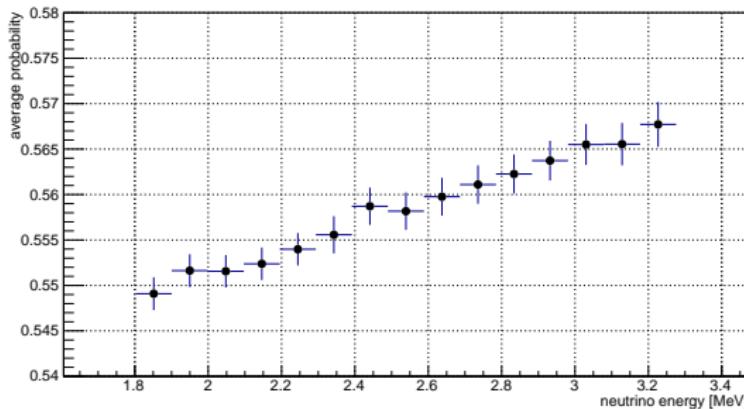
<sup>3</sup>R. Fair, S. Hussain, B. Mawdsley, Final year projects, Liverpool, 2014/15

# Neutrino survival probability

Frequently made approximation:

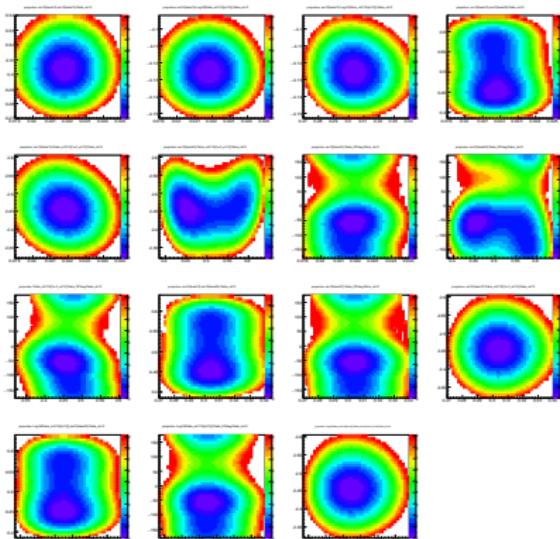
$$P_s \approx 1 - \sin^2(2\theta_{12}) \cdot \sin^2(1.27\Delta m_{12}^2 \frac{L}{E}) \approx 0.56 \pm 0.02$$

Full calculation with three neutrinos, matter effect, Earth volume average:



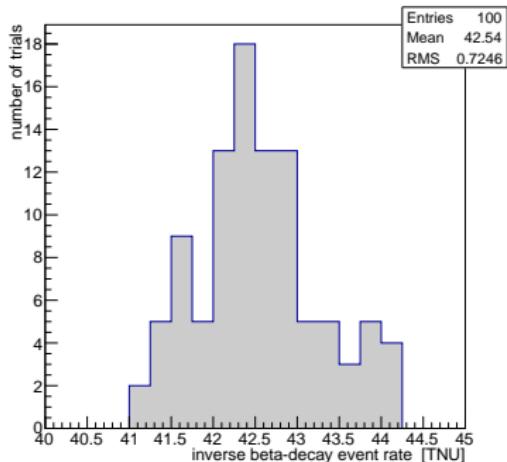
- ▶ Errors shown are due to numerical integration over volume.
- ▶ There is an (expected) change of survival probability with energy.
- ▶ Small effect relative to the overall error due to  $\sin^2(2\theta_{12})$ .

Visualisation of Nu-Fit 2.0  $\Delta\chi^2$  data, JHEP 11 (2014) 052, arXiv:1409.5439



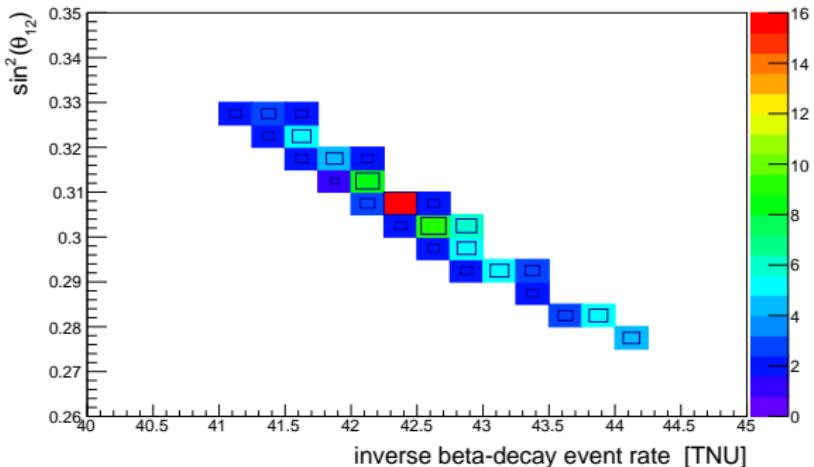
- ▶ Six oscillation parameters
- ▶ 15 possible pairs
- ▶ Selected pairs  
 $(\sin^2(\theta_{13}), \sin^2(\theta_{12}))$ ,  
 $(\sin^2(\theta_{23}), \Delta m_{31}^2)$ ,  
 $(\Delta m_{21}^2, \delta_{CP})$
- ▶ Turn  $\Delta\chi^2(x, y)$  into probability  $P(x, y)$
- ▶ Generate random  $(x_i, y_i)$  pairs
- ▶ Re-run geoneutrino calculation
- ▶ Study variations in predicted rate

## Oscillation parameter uncertainty

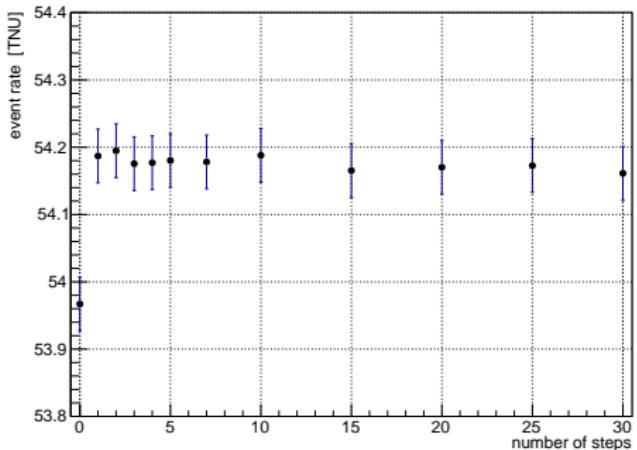


- ▶ Repeat calculation with sets of random oscillation parameter values
- ▶ Equal probability of each trial, consistent with  $\Delta\chi^2$  distributions
- ▶ The predicted inverse beta-decay rate is  $(42.5 \pm 0.8)$  TNU
- ▶ Appears to be a **change in rate of +1 TNU**
- ▶ **False alarm!** See next slide.

# Change in event rate vs $\sin^2(\theta_{12})$

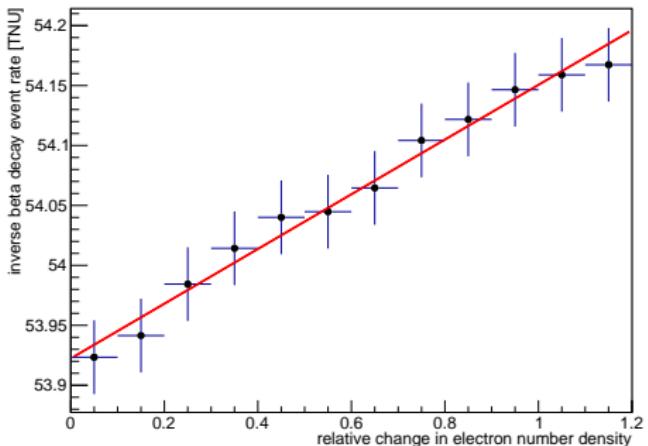


- ▶ Shown are 100 trials, random oscillation parameters sets
- ▶ Expected **strong correlation: rate and  $\sin^2(\theta_{12})$** .
- ▶ Forero et al., PhyRev D 90 (2014):  $\sin^2(\theta_{12}) = 0.323$ .
- ▶ Nu-Fit 2.0, JHEP 11 (2014) 052,  $\sin^2(\theta_{12}) = 0.304$
- ▶ Difference in  $\sin^2(\theta_{12})$  estimate explains different rates.
- ▶ Other mixing variables with far less impact.



- ▶ Example arbitrary detector location, high flux region (Himalaya).
- ▶ Neutrino propagation in steps of constant electron number density.
- ▶ Zero steps is vacuum propagation (zero density).
- ▶ **Small increase** in rate of  $\sim 0.2$  TNU or  $\sim 0.4\%$  (as expected).
- ▶ Beyond  $\sim 10$  steps no further improvement in accuracy.

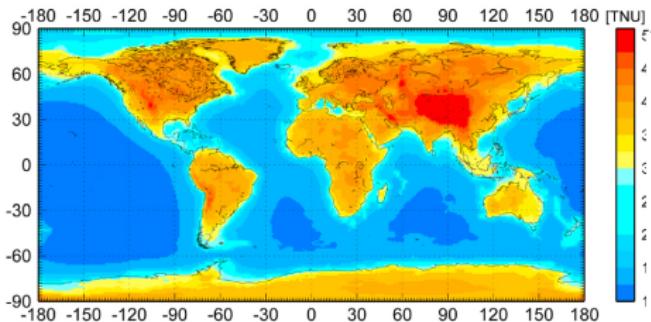
# What if electron number density is higher (lower) than expected?



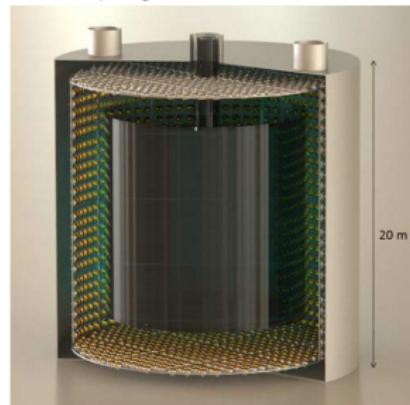
- ▶ Example arbitrary detector location, high flux region (Himalaya)
- ▶ Depending on **chemical composition** more (less) electron density, i.e. electron to nucleon ratio ( $Z/A$ ) changes with hydrogen content
- ▶ Rate change of  $\sim 10^{-3}$  TNU per percent in electron number density.
- ▶ Effect much smaller than present error of rate measurement.

# Future prospects

## Future experiments

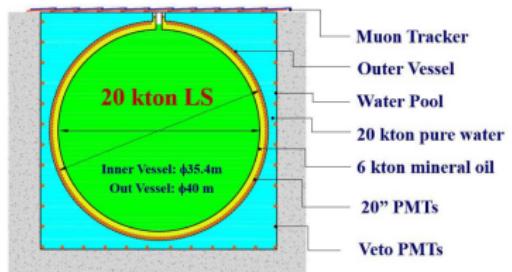
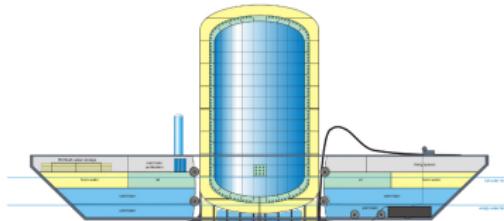


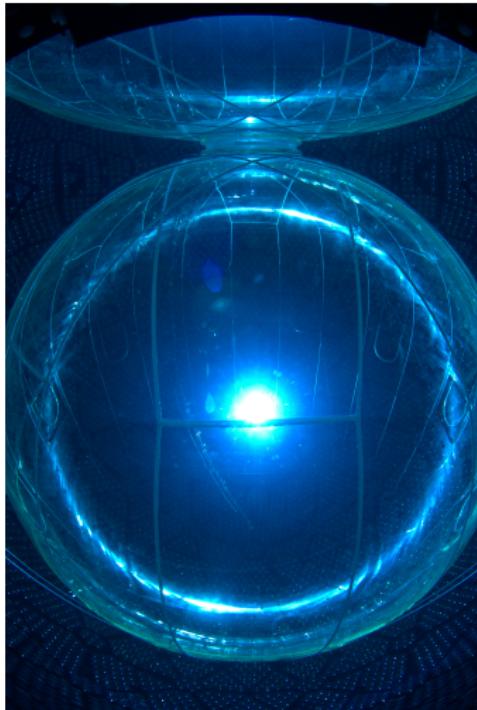
Jinping



JUNO

## Hanohano





A SNO+ centric view:

- ▶ Conversion of detector to **SNO+ complete**
- ▶ Cavern and acrylic vessel water fill complete
- ▶ Scintillator fill to follow
- ▶ Expect first **geoneutrino** (candidate) events in 2017