# The role of Borexino in geoneutrino physics

Fabio Mantovani – mantovani@fe.infn.it – www.fe.infn.it/radioactivity/ University of Ferrara – INFN Ferrara ... let leaf through the book of memory...

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and presserver.

...1953...



In **1953** G. Gamow wrote to F. Reines: "It just occurred to me that your background may just be coming from high energy betadecaying members of U and Th families in the crust of the Earth."



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

10:

DR. GRONGE GAMON UNIVERSITY OF NICEIOAN THE UNION AND ARBOR, NICHIGAN FROM NUMBERS IN WRITI BOOK ON THE PLANETS, BOUILIBRIUM HEAT LOSS TROM BARTH'S SURFACE IS 50 EROS/CH<sup>2</sup>SEC. IF ASSIME ALL DUE TO MESSAGE: BETA DECAY THEN HAVE ONLY ENGINE ENERGY FOR ABOUT 10<sup>8</sup>, 14 MeV MENTINGES PER CH<sup>2</sup> AND SEC. THIS IS LOW BY LO<sup>5</sup> OR SO. SHORT HALF LIVES WOULD BE MADE BY COGNIC RAYS OR MEDTRONS IN EARTH. IN VIEW OF BARITY OF COSNIC BAIRS I.E. ABOUT EQUAL TO ENERGY OF STARLIGHT AND OF NEUTRONS IN EARTH THIS BOURCE OF HEUTRONS) S SEEMS EVEN LESS LIKELY AS A SOURCE OF OUR SIGNAL.

#### Heat power of the Earth



- Heat power of the Earth Q [30-49 TW] is the equivalent of ~ 10<sup>4</sup> nuclear power plants.
- The conduction is not the only way of Earth's cooling: convective motions are responsible for significant fraction of surface heat loss.
- The quantitative assessment of heat transport by hydrothermal circulation remains a difficult task.
- Heat flow observations are sparse, non-uniformly distributed and not reliable in the oceans.
   Continents Oceans Total

75 - 85 85 - 95 95 - 150	<ul> <li>Heat flow observations a in the oceans.</li> </ul>

DEEEDENCE	Continents	Oceans	Total
REFERENCE	q <sub>CT</sub> [mW m <sup>-2</sup> ]	q <sub>OCS</sub> [mW m <sup>-2</sup> ]	Q (TW)
Williams et al., 1974	61	92	43 ± 6
Davies, 1980	55	95 ± 10	41 ± 4
Sclater et al., 1980	57	99	42
Pollack et al., 1993	65 ± 2	101 ± 2	44 ± 1
Hofmeister and Criss, 2005	61	65	31 ± 1
Jaupart et al., 2015	65	107	46 ± 2
Davies and Davies, 2010	71	105	47 ± 2
Davies, 2013	65	96	45
Lucazeau, 2019	66.7	89.0	44

#### Geo-neutrinos: anti-neutrinos from the Earth

#### U, Th and <sup>40</sup>K in the Earth release heat together with anti-neutrinos, in a well-fixed ratio:

Decay	$T_{1/2}$	$E_{\max}$	Q	$arepsilon_{ar{ u}}$	$arepsilon_{H}$
	$[10^9 \mathrm{~yr}]$	[MeV]	[MeV]	$[\mathrm{kg}^{-1}\mathrm{s}^{-1}]$	[W/kg]
$^{238}\mathrm{U} \rightarrow ^{206}\mathrm{Pb} + 8\ ^{4}\mathrm{He} + 6e + 6\bar{\nu}$	4.47	3.26	51.7	$7.46\times10^7$	$0.95 \times 10^{-4}$
$^{232}\mathrm{Th} \rightarrow ^{208}\mathrm{Pb} + 6~^{4}\mathrm{He} + 4e + 4\bar{\nu}$	14.0	2.25	42.7	$1.62\times 10^7$	$0.27 \times 10^{-4}$
$^{40}\text{K} \to {}^{40}\text{Ca} + e + \bar{\nu} \ (89\%)$	1.28	1.311	1.311	$2.32 \times 10^8$	$0.22 \times 10^{-4}$

- Earth emits (mainly) antineutrinos  $\Phi_{\overline{v}} \sim 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  whereas Sun shines in neutrinos
- A fraction of geo-neutrinos from U and Th (not from  ${}^{40}$ K) are above threshold for inverse  $\beta$  on protons:

 $\overline{v} + p \rightarrow e^+ + n - 1.8 \text{ MeV}$ 

- Different components can be distinguished due to different energy spectra: e. g. anti-v with highest energy are from U
- Signal unit: 1 TNU = one event per 10<sup>32</sup> free protons/year



#### First calculations of geoneutrino signal

 Models assuming uniform U and Th distribution in the Earth:

> Eder (Nucl. Phys. 1966) Marx (Cz. J. Phys 1969) Kobayashi (GRL 1991)

 Model with a uniform distribution of U in the continental crust:

Krauss et al. (Nature 1984)

- BSE model with different U distribution between crust and mantle:
  - Rothschild et al. (1998)
  - ▲ Raghavan et al. (1998)



#### 2003 - 2008

... discussing geoneutrinos and energetics of the Earth...



A 2 PEGION/ A  $\pm$  B C TOTALE 49 10 147 49 0 19 13 0 13 10.9 10 209 19 9 28 14  $\pm$  4.5 10.9 10 209 19 9 28 14  $\pm$  4.5 10  $\pm$  7 10  $\pm$  4.5 10  $\pm$  7 1



## Earth's heat budget

ш	Radiogenic heat (H)	
PHER	Secular cooling (C)	•
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Æ	• • •	Нм
CO		H <sub>c</sub>

				_ =	Q - Н	
H <sub>CC</sub> = radiogenic power			$C_{M} = Q - H - C_{C}$			
$H_{\rm CC}$ = radiogenic power		ł	<b>⊣</b> <sub>Μ</sub> =	= H - H <sub>LS</sub> -	H <sub>c</sub>	
$H_{CLM}$ = radiogenic			ł	H <sub>LS</sub> =	= H <sub>cc</sub> + H <sub>o</sub>	c + H <sub>CLM</sub>
ithospheric mantle			l	J <sub>R</sub> =	$\frac{H - H_{cc}}{Q - H_{cc}}$	
			_	_		
	Range [TW]	Adopted [TW]			Range [TW]	Adopted [TW]
	[10 ; 37]	19.3 ± 2.9		С	[8 ; 39]	28 ± 4
	[6 ; 11]	$8.1^{+1.9}_{-1.4}$		CLS	~ 0	0
	[0;31]	11.0+3.3		См	[1 ; 29]	17 ± 4
	[0;5]	0		C <sub>c</sub>	[5;17]	11 ± 2

- The mass of the lithosphere (~ 2% of the Earth's mass) contains ~ 40% of the total estimated HPEs and it produces  $H_{LS}$  ~ 8 TW.
- Radiogenic power of the mantle  $H_M$  and the contributions to C from mantle ( $C_M$ ) and core ( $C_C$ ) are model dependent.

Neglecting tidal dissipation and gravitation contraction (<0.5 TW), the two contributions to the total heat loss (Q) are:

- Secular Cooling (C): cooling down caused by the initial hot environment of early formation's stages
- Radiogenic Heat (H) due to naturally occurring decays of Heat Producing Elements, HPEs (U, Th and K) inside our planet.



#### 2005 - 2010

... meanwhile the experimental results were starting to be published...



	Physics Letters B 687 (2010) 299-304	
	Contents lists available at ScienceDirect Physics Letters B	PHYSICS LETTERS B
ELSEVIER	www.elsevier.com/locate/physletb	And the set of a set of the set o
Observatio	n of geo-neutrinos	



## Bulk Silicate Earth Models and radiogenic heat

- The BSE describes the primordial, non-metallic Earth condition that followed planetary accretion and core separation, prior to its differentiation into a mantle and lithosphere.
- Different authors\*
  proposed a range of BSE
  models based on different
  constraints (enstatite
  chondrites, carbonaceous
  chondrites, undepleted
  mantle, etc.)

\* The codes reported in the plot are explicitly indicated in the back slide.



	Poor	Medium	Rich
H(U+Th+K) [TW]	12.4 ± 1.9	19.7 ± 3.1	31.7 ± 3.4

### **Timeline of KamLAND and Borexino geoneutrino results**



- 2015 Paris (France) 2019 Prague (Czech Republic)

#### 2008-2010

..."you will never fully understand Borexino results, if you don't know the radioactivity of surrounding rocks..."





# Mantle geoneutrino signals from multi-site detection

The Far Field Lithosphere (FFL) is the superficial portion of the Earth including the Far Field Crust (FFC) and the Continental Lithospheric Mantle (CLM).

U and Th distributed in the Near Field Crust (NFC) gives a significant contribution to the signal (~ 50% of the total).



$$S_M^i(U+Th) = S_{Exp}^i(U+Th) - S_{FFC}^i(U+Th) - S_{CLM}^i(U+Th) - S_{NFC}^i(U+Th)$$

The geological models need to comply with the following constraints:

- **FFC** model needs to be unique for *i* detectors for avoiding systematic biases.
- NFC should be built with geochemical and/or geophysical information typical of the local regions.
- NFC must be geometrically complementary to the FFC.
- All geoneutrino signal contributions should be separately reported together with their uncertainties.

# Mantle geoneutrinos from KamLAND and Borexino\*

- The FFC and the CLM signals of KL and BX are fully correlated, since they are derived from the same geophysical and geochemical model.
- $S_{NFC}^{BX}(U+Th)$  and  $S_{NFC}^{KL}(U+Th)$  are considered uncorrelated.
- Using only the experimental signals published by BX and KL collaborations without any spectral information, the PDFs of experimental KL and BX signals are reconstructed.

	S <sub>Exp</sub> (U+Th) [TNU]	S <sub>NFC</sub> (U+Th) [TNU]	S <sub>FFC</sub> (U+Th) [TNU]	S <sub>CLM</sub> (U+Th) [TNU]	S <sub>M</sub> (U+Th) [TNU]
KL	32.1 ± 5.0	17.7 <u>±</u> 1.4	$7.3^{+1.5}_{-1.2}$	$1.6^{+2.2}_{-1.0}$	$4.8^{+5.6}_{-5.9}$
BX	$47.0^{+8.6}_{-8.1}$	9.2 <u>+</u> 1.2	$13.7^{+2.8}_{-2.3}$	$2.2^{+3.1}_{-1.3}$	20.8+9.4
KL+BX	- 1	-	i	-	$8.9^{+5.1}_{-5.5}$

The joint distribution  $S_M^{KL+BX}(U+Th)$  can be inferred from the PDFs by requiring that  $S_M^{KL}(U+Th) = S_M^{BX}(U+Th)$ , obtaining the combined mantle geoneutrino signal:  $S_M^{KL+BX}(U+Th) = 8.9^{+5.1}_{-5.5}$ TNU





## Mantle radiogenic power from U and Th

Since  $H_{LS}$  (U+Th)=  $6.9_{-1.2}^{+1.6}$ TW is independent from the BSE model, the discrimination capability of the combined geoneutrino measurement among the different BSE models can be studied in the space  $S_M$ (U+Th) vs  $H_M$ (U+Th):

 $S_M(U+Th) = \beta \cdot H_M(U+Th)$ 



	Poor	Medium	Rich	KL+BX
H <sub>M</sub> (U+Th) [TW]	<b>3.2</b> <sup>+2.0</sup> -2.1	9.3 ± 2.9	20.2 <sup>+3.2</sup> -3.3	10.3 <sup>+5.9</sup> -6.4

# Collection of the geoneutrino mantle signals



# Understanding the Earth's heat budget with geoneutrinos



$$C = Q - H$$

$$C_{M} = Q - H - C_{C}$$

$$H_{M} = H - H_{LS} - H_{C}$$

$$H_{LS} = H_{CC} + H_{OC} + H_{CLM}$$

$$U_{R} = \frac{H - H_{CC}}{Q - H_{CC}}$$

- We know from direct measurements
  - Q = 47 ± 2 TW
  - $H_{LS}(U+Th+K) = 8.1^{+1.9}_{-1.4} \text{ TW}$



	Reference values from published models	Combining KL + BX experimental results
H <sub>M</sub> (U+Th+K) [TW]	11.3 <sup>+3.3</sup> -3.4	<b>12.5</b> <sup>+7.1</sup> <sub>-7.7</sub>
H [TW]	19.3 ± 2.9	<b>20.8</b> <sup>+7.3</sup> -7.9
C [TW]	28 ± 4	26 ± 8

... and the future?

#### ... the future belongs to women





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Comprehensive geoneutrino analysis with Borexino

Citing Articles (20)

Export Citation

M. Agostini *et al.* (Borexino Collaboration) Phys. Rev. D **101**, 012009 – Published 21 January 2020

Physics See Synopsis: Earth As a Neutrino Source

References

Article

### Expected geoneutrino signal at JUNO

- JUNO is a 20 kton LS detector surrounded by ~18.000 20" PMT
- Expected geo-v ~ 400
   events/year (~ 40 TNU)
- Expected react-v in [1.8-3.3 MeV]
   ~ 260 TNU (S<sub>rea</sub> / S<sub>geo</sub> ~ 7)



	N° of cores	Thermal power/core	
Yangjiang	6	2.9 GW	
Taishan	2	4.6 GW	

110- 112-	114
	S(U+Th) [TNU]
Strati et al., 2015 (using global crustal model)	39.7 <sup>+6.5</sup> -5.2
	41.3 <sup>+7.5</sup> -6.3
Wipperfurth et al., 2020 (using global crustal models)	41.2 <sup>+7.6</sup> -6.4
	40.05 <sup>+7.4</sup> -6.2
Gao et al., 2020 (*) (combining global crustal model and local geological data)	49.1 <sup>+5.6</sup> -5.0



## Expected geoneutrino signal at SNO+



- Deepest underground detector (~ 5800 mwe)
- 780 tons of LS detector with ~ 9300 PMTs
- Expected react-v in [1.8-3.3 MeV] =  $48.5^{+1.8}_{-1.5}$  TNU (S<sub>rea</sub> / S<sub>geo</sub> ~ 1.2)







# Borexino and geoneutrinos: what's in the future?



Data taking	2007-2019
Reactors events	39.5 ± 0.7
Tot bkg events	8.3 ± 1.0
Geo- $v$ events (U+Th)	52.6 <sup>+9.6</sup> -9.0
S(U+Th) [TNU]	47.0 <sup>+8.6</sup> -8.1

- Analysis of data between 2019 and 2021: we expect ~ +10% more events
- An update geochemical local model\*: from 57 rock samples to 10<sup>3</sup> (U + Th) measurements



\* Virginia is going to apply for Starting Grant of FIS (Fondo Italiano per la Scienza)



# Thank you, Borexino!

You wrote an outstanding page in the book of Earth science

### Back up slide



 $12.4 \pm 1.9$ 

19.7 ± 3.1

 $31.7 \pm 3.4$ 

H(U+Th+K) [TW]