Neutrino Experiments with Reactors

Ed Blucher, Chicago

- Reactors as antineutrino sources
- Antineutrino detection
- Reines-Cowan experiment
- Oscillation Experiments
 - Solar Δm^2 (KAMLAND)
- Lecture 2
- Atmospheric $\Delta m^2 \theta_{13}$ (CHOOZ, Double-CHOOZ, Daya Bay, Braidwood)
- Conclusions



Atmospheric Δm^2 : Searching for θ_{13} with Reactors

- Importance of θ_{13}
- Experimental approaches to θ_{13} ; motivation for a precise reactor experiment
- Designing and ideal experiment
- Planned experiments
- Conclusions

Neutrino mixing and masses

3

Key questions in neutrino mixing

- •What is value of θ_{13} ?
- •What is mass hierarchy?
- •Do neutrino oscillations violate CP symmetry? $P(v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}) - P(\overline{v}_{\mu} \rightarrow \overline{v}_{e}) = -16s_{12}c_{12}s_{13}c_{13}^{2}s_{23}c_{23}\sin\delta\sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{12}^{2}}{4E}L\right)\sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{13}^{2}}{4E}L\right)\sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{23}^{2}}{4E}L\right)$
- •Why are quark and neutrino mixing matrices so different?

	Big	Big	Small?			(1	Small	Small
$U_{\rm MNSP} \sim$	Big	Big	Big	VS.	$V_{\rm CKM} \sim$	Small	1	Small
	Big	Big	Big)			Small	Small	1)

Value of θ_{13} central to these questions; it sets the scale for experiments needed to resolve mass hierarchy and search for CP violation.

Methods to measure $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$

• Accelerators: Appearance $(v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e})$ at $\Delta m^{2} \approx 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^{2}$ $P(v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}) = \sin^{2} \theta_{23} \sin^{2} 2\theta_{13} \sin^{2} \frac{\Delta m_{13}^{2}L}{4E} + \text{not small terms} (\delta_{CP}, sign(\Delta m_{13}^{2}))$

NOvA: $\langle E_v \rangle = 2.3$ GeV, L = 810 km



T2K: $\langle E_v \rangle = 0.7 \text{ GeV}, L = 295 \text{ km}$



• Reactors: Disappearance $(\overline{v}_e \rightarrow \overline{v}_e)$ at $\Delta m^2 \approx 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ $P(\overline{v}_e \rightarrow \overline{v}_e) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{13}^2 L}{4E} + \text{ very small terms}$

Use reactors as a source of v_e ($\langle E_v \rangle \sim 3.5$ MeV) with a detector 1-2 kms away and look for non-1/r² behavior of the v_e rate

Reactor experiments provide the only clean measurement of $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$: no matter effects, no CP violation, almost no correlation with other parameters.





Reactor and accelerator sensitivities to $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$



90% CL allowed regions with osc.signal



Resolving the θ_{23} Degeneracy

 θ_{23}

 v_{μ} disappearance experiments measure $\sin^2 2\theta_{23}$, while $P(v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_e) \propto \sin^2 \theta_{23} \sin^2 2\theta_{13}$.

•If $\theta_{23} \neq 45^{\circ}$, v_{μ} disappearance experiments, leave a 2-fold degeneracy in θ_{23} – it can be resolved by combination of a reactor and $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$ appearance experiment.

Green: Nova Only **Blue: Medium Reactor** plus Nova **Red: Small reactor plus offaxis Example:** $\sin^2 2 \theta_{23} = 0.95 \pm 0.01$ $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} eV^2$ $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.05$ 60 Nova $(v+\overline{v})$ 90% CL 50 $\Lambda m^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}$ $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.05$ 40 Medium react (3 yrs) + Nova 30⊦ Nova only (3yr + 3yr)Small react (3yrs) + Nova 0.05 0.1 0.15 0 $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$

CP Violation and the Mass Hierarchy



Example: Reactor + T2K v running



Nova and T2K Sensitivity to δ_{CP} and Mass Hierarchy



If reactor experiments do not see an oscillation signal, it will be difficult for long-baseline "superbeam" experiments to investigate mass hierarchy and CP violation.

Chooz: Current Best θ_{13} Experiment



Chooz Experiment



m = 5 tons, Gd-loaded liquid scintillator

CHOOZ







Gadolinium Loaded Scintillator

Small amount of Gd added to liquid scintillator to improve neutron detection: shorter capture time and higher energy.

Element	σ (barns)	Isotopic abundance (%)
¹⁵⁵ Gd	61,400	14.8
¹⁵⁷ Gd	255,000	15.7
Gd (natural)	49,100	
Н	0.328	

Neutrino detection by $\overline{v}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$,

n + $^{m}Gd \rightarrow ^{m+1}Gd^* \rightarrow ^{m+1}Gd \gamma s$ (8 MeV); τ =30 µsec

(Compared to $n + p \rightarrow d + \gamma(2.2 \text{ MeV})$; $\tau \sim 200 \mu \text{sec}$)

For 0.1% Gd, about 85% of neutrons are captured by Gd

Degradation of Chooz Scintillator



Attenuation degrades by ~0.4% per day.

Summary of Chooz run: 4/97 - 7/98

	Time (h)	$\int W \mathrm{d}t$ (GWh)
Run	8761.7	
Live time	8209.3	
Dead time	552.4	
Reactor 1 only ON	2058.0	8295
Reactor 2 only ON	1187.8	4136
Reactors 1 & 2 ON	1543.1	8841
Reactors 1 & 2 OFF	3420.4	

~2.2 evts/day/ton with 0.2-0.4 bkg evts/day/ton ~total sample included 3600 v events

Chooz started data collection before reactor began operating.

UNIQUE possibility to measure backgrounds



Final Chooz Data Sample





CHOOZ Systematic errors					
Reactor v flux	2%				
Detect. Acceptance	1.5%				
Total	2.7%				



 $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} \le 0.15$ for $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$

How can one improve on Chooz Experiment?

- \Rightarrow Add an identical near detector
 - Eliminate dependence on reactor flux; only relative acceptance of detectors needed
- \Rightarrow Optimize baseline
- \Rightarrow Larger detectors; improved detector design
- \Rightarrow Reduce backgrounds
 - (Go deeper $100m \rightarrow 150$ to 300 m; active veto systems)
- \Rightarrow Stable scintillator



Kr2Det: Reactor θ_{13} Experiment at Krasnoyarsk



Ref: Marteyamov et al, hep-ex/0211070

What is the best baseline? It depends ...

•What is Δm^2 ?

•For rate measurement, you must consider competition between $1/R^2$ and sinusoidal term.

•For shape measurement, distortion is different at different baselines:



Best baseline also depends on relative size of statistical and systematic errors.



Combined Rate and Shape Analysis



Sensitivity Using Rate and Energy Spectrum (Huber *et al.* hep-ph/0303232)



Sensitivity Using Rate and Energy Spectrum (Huber *et al.* hep-ph/0303232)

27



Different Scales of Experiments $\overline{v_{e}}$ $\overline{v_{e}}$ $\overline{v_{e}}$ $\overline{v_{e}}$ $\overline{v_{e}}$ $\overline{v_{e}}$

Small: $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sim 0.03$ (e.g., Double-Chooz, KASKA,Reno) Double-Chooz: 10 ton detector at L-1.05 km. Mostly rate information, fixed detectors, non-optimal baseline

Medium: $sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sim 0.01$ (e.g., Braidwood, Daya Bay)

50-100 ton detectors, optimized baseline, optimized depths, rate and shape info, perhaps movable detectors to check calibration, multiple far detector modules for additional cross checks

Large: $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} \sim 0.005$ (e.g., Angra) ~500 ton fiducial mass; sensitivity mainly through E spectrum distortion

Acceptance Issues

Must know:

(relative) number of protons in fiducial region (relative) efficiency for detecting IBD events



Known volume of stable, identical Gd-loaded liquid scintillator in each detector

Well understood efficiency of positron and neutron energy requirements

Gd - Liquid Scintillator (Gd-LS)

- Detectors must be filled simultaneously common scintillator; relative volume measurement with <0.2% uncertainty.
- Several options for stable Gd-loaded scintillator with long attenuation lengths.



Detectors and analysis strategy designed to minimize relative acceptance differences

Central zone with Gd-loaded scintillator surrounded by buffer regions; fiducial mass determined by volume of Gd-loaded scintillator

Neutrino detection by $\overline{v_e} + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$, n ^{*m*}Gd \rightarrow ^{*m*+1}Gd γ s (8 MeV); τ =30µsec

Events selected based on coincidence of e⁺ signal (E_{vis} >0.5 MeV) and γ s released from n+Gd capture (E_{vis} >6 MeV).

No explicit requirement on reconstructed event position; little sensitivity to E requirements.



Gd-loaded liquid scintillator

To reduce backgrounds: depth + active and passive shielding

Monte Carlo Studies



Reconstructed e^+ and n-capture energy



Neutron Capture Energy as a Function of R

neutron energy (MeV)

neutron energy (MeV)

Acceptance as a function of R



Monte Carlo Studies



Reconstructed e^+ and n-capture energy

Energy Scale



Use neutron capture peaks from IBD events to measure energy scale.

In the far detector, E scale can be measured to 0.3% every week. (This calibration averages over detector in exactly the same way as signal events.)

Acceptance uncertainty from energy scale should be $\sim 0.1\%$.

2-zone versus 3-zone detectors

I. Gd-loaded liquid scintillator II. Non-scintillating buffer



I. Gd-loaded liquid scintillator
II. γ catcher: liquid scintillator (no Gd)
III. Non-scintillating buffer



3-zone versus 2-zone detectors



Acceptance Sensitivity to Energy Scale

Questions

What should the detectors look like?

To achieve a certain detector mass, is it better to have lots of small detectors or fewer big detectors?

Questions

What should the detectors look like?

To achieve a certain detector mass, is it better to have lots of small detectors or fewer big detectors?

Larger, spherical detectors minimize surface area to volume ratio, simplify reconstruction, and make it possible to study radial dependence of signal and background.

Acceptance cross checks: Movable Detectors

Take data with Near and Far detectors simultaneously at near site. High flux a near site allows precise check of acceptance in ~1 month.

Taken to extreme: swap near and far detectors (Daya Bay)

Backgrounds

- Uncorrelated backgrounds from random coincidences
 - Reduced by limiting radioactive materials
 - Directly measured from rates and random trigger setups
- Correlated backgrounds
 - Neutrons that mimic the coincidence signal
 - Cosmogenically produced isotopes that decay to a beta and neutron: ⁹Li ($\tau_{1/2}$ =178 ms) and ⁸He ($\tau_{1/2}$ =119 ms); associated with showering muons.
 - Reduced by shielding (depth) and veto systems

How deep should detector be?

Should the near and far detectors be at the same depth? Not necessary since signal rates are very different, but same depth offers systematic advantages.

Veto (Tagging) System

Strategy: tag muons that pass near the detector. Use shielding to absorb neutrons produced by muons that miss the veto system.

Muon identification should allow in situ determination of the residual background rate

⁹Li and ⁸He

Isotopes like ⁹Li and ⁸He can be created in μ spallation on ¹²C and can decay to β +n.

Long lifetimes make veto difficult: Half-life of ${}^{9}Li \sim 178ms$

KAMLAND found isotope production correlated with muons that shower in the detector.

Dead time makes it impossible to veto every muon with long time window, but tagging showering muons and rejecting events in a ~ 0.5 s window eliminates 3/4 of ⁹Li – results in acceptable background.

Time between showering muons and "IBD" Candidates

If near and far detectors are at the same depth, measured ⁹Li rates should be identical even though IBD rates will differ by ×100

Features of Ideal Experiment:

- multiple large, spherical detectors that minimize boundary effects
- all detectors protected by an equal and well-understood overburden so cosmic ray backgrounds are similar
- detectors on the reactor symmetry axis to eliminate reactor flux effects
- a robust shielding system to reduce and measure backgrounds in situ

(+ reactor-off time to measure backgrounds)

Braidwood Neutrino Experiment

Features of Braidwood Site:

- 2×3.6 GW reactors 7.17 GW maximum power
- Flat: flexibility, equal overburden at near and far sites, surface transportation of detectors
- Favorable geology (dolomitic limestone): good for excavation, low radioactivity (order of magnitude lower U, Th than granite)

Braidwood Baseline Design

Goals: Flexibility, redundancy, cross checks •4 identical 65 ton fiducial mass detectors; 2 at near site (L=270m), 2 at far site (L=1510m)

- •"Two zone detectors": inner zone with Gd-loaded LS and r=2.6 m; outer zone with mineral oil and r=3.5 m.
- Movable detectors with surface transport for crosscalibration; vertical shaft access to detector halls
 Oscillation measurements using both rate and energy spectrum
- Full detector construction above ground; detectors <u>filled simultaneously with common scintillator</u>.

• Near and far detectors at same depth of 183 (464 mwe) gives equal spallation rates that can be exploited for detector and background checks

Braidwood Site

Movable Detectors

- Transport is necessary to move detectors from construction/filling area to below ground halls
- Movable detectors allow direct check of relative detector acceptances at near site
- Possible scenario:

• Possible method: Use climbing jack system with cable to lift and put detectors on multi-wheeled trailer (standard method used in industry).

Double Chooz Experiment

Chooz Far Detector Hall

300 m.w.e. Shielding

Double Chooz Near Detector Hall

80 m.w.e. Shielding

Double Chooz Detector

Systematic Errors

		Chooz		Double Chooz
	ν flux and σ	1.9 %	<0.1 %	
Reactor- induced	Reactor power	0.7 %	<0.1 %	Two "identical" detectors,
	Energy per fission	0.6 %	<0.1 %	Low bkg
	Solid angle	0.3 %	<0.1 %	Distance measured @ 10 cm + monitor core barycenter
Detector - induced	Volume	0.3 %	0.2 %	Same weight sensor for both det.
	Density	0.3 %	<0.1 %	Accurate T control (near/far)
	H/C ratio & Gd concentration	1.2 %	<0.1 %	Same scintillator batch + Stability
	Spatial effects	1.0 %	<0.1 %	"identical" Target geometry & LS
	Live time	few %	0.25 %	Measured with several methods
Analysis From 7 to 3 cuts		1.5 %	0.2 - 0.3 %	
	Total	2.7 %	< 0.6 %	

Double Chooz Background Summary

	· · · ·					/	
Detector	Site				Background		
			Accid	ental		Correlated	
			Materials	\mathbf{PMTs}	Fast n	μ -Capture	⁹ Li
CHOOZ		Rate (d^{-1})					0.6 ± 0.4
$(24 \ \nu/d)$		Rate (d^{-1})	$0.42 \pm$	0.05	1.01 ± 0.01	$04(stat) \pm 0.$	1(sys)
	\mathbf{Far}	bkg/ν	1.6	%		4%	
		Systematics	0.2	%		0.4%	$\langle \rangle$
Double Chooz		Rate (d^{-1})	1 ± 0.1	1 ± 0.1	0.15 ± 0.15	0.42 ± 0.2	1 ± 0.5
$(69 \ \nu/d)$	Far	bkg/ν	1.4%	1.4%	0.2%	0.6%	1.4%
		Systematics	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.7%
Double Chooz		Rate (d^{-1})	7.2 ± 1.0	7.2 ± 1.0	1.4 ± 0.14	2.6 ± 1.2	5.2 ± 3.2
$(990 \ \nu/d)$	Near	bkg/ν	0.7%	0.7%	0.14%	0.26%	0.6%
		Systematics	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
							$\overline{}$

Double Chooz will begin data taking in 2007 with far detector only. Near detector will be installed 18 months later.

Daya Bay Detector Design

Three-Zone Structure:

- I. Target: 0.1% Gd-loaded liquid scintillator
- II. Gamma catcher: liquid scintillator, 45cm
- III. Buffer shielding: mineral oil, ~45cm

Possibly with diffuse reflection at ends. For 200 PMT's around the barrel:

$$\frac{\sigma}{E} \sim \frac{14\%}{\sqrt{E(\text{MeV})}}, \quad \sigma_{\text{vertex}} = 14\text{cm}$$

		Absolute measureme	Relativ nt measu	re rement	
Source of error		CHOOZ	Daya	Bay	
			Baseline	Goal _V	/ swapping
# protons	H/C ratio	0.8	0.2	0.1	$\rightarrow 0$
	Mass	-	0.2	0.02	→ 0.006
Detector	Energy cuts	0.8	0.2	0.05	
Efficiency	Position cuts	0.32	0.0	0.0	
	Time cuts	0.4	0.1	0.03	
	H/Gd ratio	1.0	0.01	0.01	$\rightarrow 0$
	n multiplicity	0.5	0.05	0.01	
	Trigger	0	0.01	0.01	
	Live time	0	< 0.01	< 0.01	
Total detector-related uncertainty		1.7%	0.36%	0.12%	→ 0.06%

Baseline:currently achievable relative uncertainty without R&DGoal:expected relative uncertainty after R&DSwapping:can reduce relative uncertainty further

Summary of Expected Backgrounds for Daya Bay

	Near Site	Far Site
$\overline{\nu}_{e}$ rate/day	560	80
Radioactivity (Hz)	<50	<50
Accidental B/S	<0.05%	<0.05%
Fast neutron B/S	0.14% ± 0.16%	0.08% ± 0.1%
⁸ He/ ⁹ Li B/S	0.41% ± 0.18%	0.2% ± 0.08%

Daya Bay Projected Sensitivity

90% confidence level

Conclusions

•Reactor experiments have played an important role in investigating the properties of the neutrino.

•The worldwide program to understand v oscillations and determine the mixing parameters, CP violating effects, and mass hierarchy will require a broad range of measurements – a reactor experiment to measure θ_{13} is a key part of this program.

•A reactor experiment will provide the most precise measurement of θ_{13} or set the most restrictive limit.

•An observation of θ_{13} will open the door to searching for CP violation in neutrino oscillations.

Many new results to look forward to ...