3rd IAEA Technical Meeting on Nuclear data for antineutrino spectra applications

DANSS detector. Status and modernization

Mark Shirchenko on behalf of DANSS collaboration



Motivation (fundamental)



Neutrino-4 results [Phys. Rev. D 104, 032003 (2021)]





Motivation (practical)

Reactor antineutrino flux is *almost* proportional to the reactor thermal power:



Available room with hard conditions:

- air temperature $\simeq 50^{\circ}$ C
- air pressure up to 5 atm (during pressure tests)
- high γ -background
- · access time is limited by OFF periods only
- Determination of fuel burnout
- Reactor tomography



$$P(t,T) = F(t) \sum_{i=1}^{4} f_i(T) e_i$$
$$C(t,T) = \alpha F(t) \sum_{i=1}^{4} f_i(T) I_i$$

T- time from the campaign start, F(t) – number of fissions per second e_i – average fission energy of the *i* isotope *a* – detector efficiency I_i – Integral positron spectra

Independent reactor power monitoring

The detection idea



Scintillator for positron and gammas Gadolinium for neutrons capture



Detector



Detector

DANSS (Detector of the reactor AntiNeutrino based on Solid-state Scintillator)

- Located below 3.1 GW_{th} commercial reactor ~5·10¹³ v·cm⁻²c⁻¹@11m
- Reactor provide overburden ~50 m w.e. for cosmic background suppression
- Lifting system allows to change the distance between the centers of the detector and of the reactor core **from 10.9 to 12.9** m on-line
- Double PMT (groups of 50) and SiPM (individual)
 readout
- SiPM: 18.9 p.e./MeV & 0.37 X-talk
- PMT: **15.3 p.e./MeV**
- 2500 strips = 1 m^3 of sensitive volume
- IBD ($\overline{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$) reaction is used

[JINST 11 (2016) no.11, P11011]

Accumulated data

Background

Neutron background

Site	Outdoor	4-A336		
$P_r [GW_{th}]$		0	3.1	3.1
CHB [cm]	0	0	0	0
$\Phi_n [n/m^2/s]$	112	1.21	12405	590 ₃

Cosmic background

Background

Trigger and events

- Total trigger rate ≈ 1 kHz
- Veto rate ≈ **400 Hz**
- True muon rate ≈ 180 Hz
- Positron candidate rate ≈ 170 Hz
- Neutron candidate rate ≈ **30 Hz**
- IBD rate ~ **0.1 Hz**
- **IBD event** = two time separated triggers:
 - Positron track and annihilation
 - Neutron capture by gadolinium
- SiPM noise cut:
 - Time window ± 10 ns
 - SiPM hits require PMT confirmation
- Building Pairs
 - Positron candidate:

> 1 MeV in continuous ionization cluster (PMT+SiPM)

- Neutron candidate:
 > 3.5 MeV total energy (PMT+SiPM), SiPM multiplicity >3
- Search positron 50 µs backwards from neutron

Significant background by uncorrelated triggers. Subtract accidental background events: search for a positron candidate where it can not be present – 50 µs intervals 5, 10, 15 ms etc. away from neutron candidate. Use 16 non-overlapping intervals to reduce statistical error. All physics distributions = events - accidental events/16

Selection criteria

Cuts – suppress accidental and muon induced backgrounds:

- Fiducial volume positron cluster position: 4 cm from all edges
- Positron cluster has < 8 strips
- Energy in the prompt event beyond the cluster < 1.2 MeV and there are < 12 hits out of the cluster
- Delayed event energy is < 9.5 MeV and number of hits is < 20
- Positron (cluster) energy E_e dependent cuts on prompt to delayed cluster distance and delayed event energy:

$$L_{2D}[cm] < 40 - 17 \cdot e$$

 $L_{3D}[cm] < 48 - 17 \cdot e$
 $E_N[MeV] > 1.5 + 2.6 \cdot e$

For events with single hit positron cluster additional requirement of at least a hit out of the cluster and the energy beyond the cluster > 0.1 Me

Calibration

2500 SiPM gains and X-talks are calibrated every 30-40 min. All 2550 channels are calibrated every 1-2 days using cosmic muons

Several calibration sources are used to check the detector response

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Energy scale has been fixed using β-spectrum of ¹²B, which is similar to positron signal
Other sources agree within +/- 0.2% with exception of ²²Na which is 1.8% below.
Systematic error on E scale of +/-2% was added due to ²²Na disagreement Hope to reduce this error soon

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Positron spectrum vs model

- Strong dependence on energy shift and scale ٠
- Effect (if does exist) looks twice smaller than ٠ expected from other experiments

Sterile neutrino analysis

For diferent points in parameter space Θ predicted e⁺ spectra are calculated for each (Top, Middle, Bottom) detector position.

 $\Theta = \{\Delta m_{41}^2, sin^2 2\theta_{ee}\}$ for sterile neutrino,

Observed (R^{obs}) and predicted (R^{pre}) e⁺ spectra ratios (per day normalization) are compared using test statistics:

$$\chi_{rel}^{2} = \min_{\eta} \sum_{bins} \frac{(R_{bt}^{obs} - R_{bt}^{pre}(\Theta, \eta))^{2}}{\sigma^{2}}$$
$$+ \sum_{bins} (R_{bt}^{obs} - R_{bt}^{pre} - R_{mbt}^{obs} - R_{mbt}^{pre}) \cdot W^{-1} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} R_{bt}^{obs} - R_{bt}^{pre} \\ R_{mbt}^{obs} - R_{mbt}^{pre} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$+ \sum_{syst} \frac{(\eta - \eta^{0})^{2}}{\sigma_{\eta}^{2}}$$

Systematic uncertainties are treated as nuisance parameters During the fit each absolute (*Top,Middle,Bottom*) spectrum $S(E,\eta)$ was approximated using first-order Taylor expansion: $S(E,\eta) = S(E,\eta^0) + \sum_i \frac{\delta S}{\delta n_i} \cdot \delta \eta_i$

Data taking in two positions R_{ht}=Bottom/Top,

Data taking in three positions $R_{mht} = Middle / \sqrt{Bottom \times Top}$, W – covariance matrix

Penalty terms $\eta(\eta^0)$ nuisance parameters

Sterile neutrino analysis

Diference in χ^2 between 4v and 3v hypotheses. Magenta: $\chi^2_{4\nu} < \chi^2_{3\nu}$, cyan: $\chi^2_{4\nu} > \chi^2_{3\nu}$

Using current statistics 2016-2024 we see no statistically signicant evidence of 4v signal. Best points:

 $\Delta m_{41}^2 = 0.33 eV^2, \sin^2 2\theta_{ee} = 0.07, \chi_{4\nu}^2 - \chi_{3\nu}^2 = -8.7 \ (\sim 2.5 \ \sigma)$ $\Delta m_{41}^2 = 1.3 eV^2$, $\sin^2 2\theta_{ee} = 0.016$, $\chi_{4\nu}^2 - \chi_{3\nu}^2 = -7.6$

RAA and GA best point has been excluded with much more than 5σ

Sterile neutrino search

DANSS analysis without absolute counting rates excludes a large and the most interesting fraction of sterile neutrino parameter space using only ratio of e⁺ spectra at 3 distances (6.8 mln IBD events).

 1σ values used in the penalty terms (changes with respect to nominal values): relative detector efficiencies at different distances (0.4%)

distance to the fuel burning profile center

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correlated backgrounds (35%)
additional smearing in energy resolution
(6\%/\sqrt{E}\oplus 2\%)
energy scale (2\%)
energy shift (50 keV)
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Sterile neutrino search using absolute counting rates

Test statistics with absolute counting rates: $\chi^2_{abs} =$ $\chi^2_{rel} + ((N_{top} + N_{mid} + N_{bottom})^{\text{obs}} - (N_{top} + k_2 \cdot \sqrt{k_1} \cdot N_{mid} + k_1 \cdot N_{bottom})^{\text{pre}})^2 / \sigma^2_{abs}$ σ_{abs} – total systematic uncertainty (7% in absolute rates). HM model used for predictions.

A large and the most interesting fraction of available parameter space for sterile neutrino was excluded with model-independent analysis.

Exclusions based on absolute counting rates for large Δm_{41}^2 support previous results (Daya Bay, Bugey-3, ...)

Our preliminary results exclude the dominant fraction of BEST expectations as well as best fit point of Neutrino-4 experiment. In KI model exclusions are even more more strict.

These results depend on the predictions of the $\tilde{\nu_e}$ flux from reactors, for which we assumed a conservative unsertainty of 5%.

6.2 mln IBD events, will be updated soon

Sterile neutrino search using absolute counting rates

Source	Rate uncertainty
Number of protons	2%
Selection criteria	2%
Geometry (distance + fission points distribution)	1%
Fission fractions (from KNPP)	2%
Average energy per fission (Phys. Rev. C 88, 014605)	0.3%
Reactor power (from KNPP)	1.5%
Backgrounds	0.5%
Total	4%
Flux predictions	2-5%
Total with fluxes	5-7%

The values of uncertainties are our estimates of the 1σ deviations and are given in percent according to their contributions to the absolute $\tilde{\nu_e}$ counting rate. We hope to reduce experimental uncertainties in future. However, flux prediction uncertainty dominates.

High energy spectrum

Motivation: CEvNS experiments needs a information about high-energy part of antineutrino spectra.

- Background subtraction is based on 5 "reactor off" periods
- DANSS observes \bar{v}_e events with energy > 10 MeV: **1561** ± $157_{stat} \pm 168_{sys}$ ev. (6.8 σ)
- Fraction of high energy \overline{v}_{e} events is somewhat larger than at Daya Bay [PhysRevLett.129.04180]

Absolute counting IBD rates

Huber and Mueller (HM) model was used

DANSS data

Reactor power monitoring

Reactor power monitoring

Fission fractions determination

The antineutrino spectra from different isotopes are different The total spectrum and count rate change with the fuel composition One measurement - 12-15 days

We fit the observed positron spectra with the sum of the 4 main isotopes using the H-M model. 4 main isotopes according to H-M model in each measurement Parts of spectra in the 'bump' region (3-5.5 MeV e+) excluded from the fit.

Small contributions of ²³⁸U and ²⁴¹Pu are by typical campaign (campaign 5), total sum is one Virtually one fit parameter. Normalisation - by campaign average Counts in different positions are matched by 'toy MC' points in reactor and detector Corrections for dead time, efficiency, neighbouring reactors Exact value of reactor power and the position of the combustion centre are not taken into account

Fission fractions determination

- The results are consistent with KNPP data ۲
- Mean difference is almost zero •
- Scatter of differences 2.1% NPP estimate 5%
- The good agreement between the two very different methods adds confidence in both results
- It is demonstrated that it is possible to determine the • isotopic composition without interfering with the reactor operation and information on its parameters.

The ratio of σ_5/σ_9

count rate (and spectra)

 1.3σ higher slope than DB

0.4

Separation of ²³⁵U and ²³⁹Pu Spectra

- Individual 'weekly' points at full power. Total 559 points, range $\rm E_{e^+}(0.5-10~MeV)$
- At each point we renormalise the positron spectrum (on fission) on MC by H-M with known FF
- We subtract the MC spectra of ²³⁸U and ²⁴¹Pu from their FF
- We make the substitution: f₅=f₅/(f₅+f₉), f₉=f₉/(f₅+f₉), S₅₉=S₅₉/(f₅+f₉) so f₅+f₉=1
- For each energy bin, $S_{59} = (1-f_9) S_5 + f_9 S_9$
- In each energy bin, perform a linear fit with free parameters S_5 and S_9
- Relative normalisation, but the correct ratio
- Using the SVD method we convert the spectrum of positrons to the antineutrino spectrum (regularisation 8)
- Not bad for the first try!

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DANSS detector upgrade

Limitations of the DANSS detector

A significant limitation for SN searches is the resolution of the detector 34 % @ 1 MeV

(At the moment, increasing the statistics does not significantly improve the results).

Outdated PMT+SiPM light collection system leads to a decrease in effectively collected light.

34.2 f.e./MeV -> 15.3 f.e./MeV

- There is a small problem with inhomogeneity of light collection ($\sim 8\%$)
- Non-uniformity of gadolinium layer (difficult for modelling)
- It would be nice to have information about event location by time of signal arrival

DANSS detector upgrade

Upgrade goals

- Improve energy resolution ${}^{\bullet}$
- Increase active volume without significantly changing the ulletgeometric dimensions of the setup
- Obtain the information about the location of an event based on the time of signal arrival
- Get rid of PMT. No trigger events.
- Use of gadolinium film instead of paint •

New detector design

Ζ

- Reading of 8 optical fibres from both sides
- SiPM read only
- New electronics better temperature conditions for SiPM
- Optical connector proximity

Guiding tool and board with SiPM and thermometer

49.8

13.2

13.2

5.1

13.2

5.1

D

Detectors tests

7 beam positions Step ~ 19 cm Statistics for each position ~ 1 million events.

Median of signals distribution [pixel]

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Detectors tests

Number	Type of Plastic	Type of fiber	Median average [pixels]
12	ИФТП	1.0 Y11 m	645
3	Аспект	1.2 Bicron m	353
4*	Аспект	1.0 Y11 m (K)	492* (510)
11	ͶΦΤΠ	1.0 Y11 m (K)	630
7	ͶΦΤΠ	1.2 Y11 s	488
2	Аспект	1.2 Y11 m	564
10	ͶΦΤΠ	1.0 Y11 m (K)	582
6	Аспект	1.0 Y11 m	553
9	ͶΦΤΠ	1.2 Bicron m	419
8	ͶΦΤΠ	1.2 Y11 m	684
1	Аспект	1.2 Y11 s	405
5	Аспект	1.0 Y11 m (K)	562

* – one channel with poor optical link

Time resolution [ns]	Time slope [ns/m]
0.73	-16.14
1.03	-17.29
0.96	-16.57
0.72	-16.07
0.88	-16.17
0.81	-16.19
0.74	-16.33
0.79	-16.44
0.95	-16.69
0.71	-16.09
0.95	-16.58
0.77	-16.32

New optical fibers

Increasing the active volume

- cable lines for output the scintillation counter signals outside the internal protection circuit are excluded.
- Instead, multi-layer interconnecting PCBs between the copper plates are used.
- The thickness of the copper shielding is ulletreduced (no effect on background conditions)

Result:

60 layers of 24 detectors (20x50x1200 mm)+ 70% to sensitive volume

DANSS – 2

1440 detection cells

- New detectors with improved light output (IFTP, Dubna)
- Energy resolution = 12 % @ 1 MeV
- Longitudinal coordinate measurement by signal arrival time
- Sensitive volume is Increased by 70%
- Better temperature conditions for SiPM (PMTs are not used)
- Gadolinium as a constant thickness film
- Reduction in cost by using the old platform,

lift, passive protection

Expected sensitivity

Conclusion

- The DANSS detector has been taking up data since 2016 at a rate of ~ 5000 events per day, which is a world record. Currently, over 9 million IBD events have been accumulated
- We still do not see any sagnificant hint for the sterile neutrino hypothesis
- The reactor power is measured to an accuracy of 1% per week, including 0.8% of the total systematic uncertainties of DANSS and KNPP operational measurements
- For the first time in the world, a reconstruction of fission fractions from measured spectra has been performed, the agreement with the data of KNPP calculations is within 2.1%; this adds confidence in both approaches
- The relative change in the count rate in the fuel campaign is consistent with the H-M model and slightly larger than the DB result
- The output ratio σ₅/σ₉ = 1.528±0.058 is almost the same as H-M (1.53±0.05) but a bit different from DB (1.412±0.089, 1.1σ) and KI (1.45±0.03, 1.2σ) data
- With the future upgrade to DANSS-2 the sensitivity for the sterile neutrino as well as for the reactor processes will be significantly improved

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Test statistics (absolute IBD rates analysis)

$$\chi^{2} = \min_{n,k} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (Z_{1i} Z_{2i}) \cdot W^{-1} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} Z_{1i} \\ Z_{2i} \end{pmatrix} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{Z_{1i}^{2}}{\sigma_{1i}^{2}} + \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{Z_{1i}}{\sigma_{1i}^{2}} + \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{Z_{1i$$

Term for absolute rates

$$\begin{aligned} i - \text{ energy bin (36 total) in range 1.5-6 MeV} \\ Z_i &= R_j^{obs} - k_i \times R_j^{pre} (\Delta m^2, sin^2 2\theta, \eta) \text{ for each} \\ &= \text{energy bin} \\ R_1 &= \frac{Bottom}{Top}, R_2 &= \frac{Middle}{\sqrt{Bottom \cdot Top}}, \text{ where} \\ Top, Middle, Bottom - absolute count rates per day \\ &\text{ for each detector position} \\ k - \text{ relative efficiency}, \\ \eta(\eta^0) - \text{ nuisance parameters (and their nominal values)} \\ W - \text{ covariance matrix to take into account correlations in} \\ \text{spectra ratios at different postions } (Z_1 \text{ and } Z_2) \\ N - \text{ total absolute rates} \end{aligned}$$

Penalty terms for nuisance parameters: relative efficiencies and systematics N_{mid} + $k_1 \cdot N_{bottom}$)^{pre})²/ σ_{abs}^2

ance parameters and their errors ($\sigma_{k,n}$): elative detector efficiencies – 0.4% ergy scale – 2% ergy shift 50 keV stance to fuel burning profile center – 5 smic background – 25% st neutron background – **30%** ditional smearing energy resolution: %/√*E* ⊕ **2%)**

Aging of DANSS scintillator

- T2K (several detectors) 0.9-2.2 %/year; MINOS 2 %/year; MINERvA — 7-10 %/year @ 80F(27.6°^C)
- DANSS 7 years of continuous operation.
- The experimental hall is air conditioned and very dry.
- A chilled water cooling system is used for electronics inside the passive shielding, providing a stable temperature for the central part of the detector.
- Scintillator strips extruded from polystyrene by Institute of Scintillating Materials, Kharkiv, Ukraine.
- The surface is covered by ~0.2 mm co-extruded layer with admixture of TiO_2 and Gd_2O_3 which serves as a diffuse reflector. Gadolinium is used to capture neutrons from the inverse beta-decay after their moderation.
- Light collection by 3 wave length shifting fibers KURARAY Y-11(200)M

Central fiber is read by **SiPM HAMAMATSU S12825-050C**. Two side fibers are read by PMT. The other ends of the fibers are polished and covered by reflective paint.

Only SiPM data is used in the analysis. SiPM bias voltages were set once at the very beginning and never changed.

Close to vertical muon tracks with $tg\theta < 0.2$ selected. Median value of Landau distribution. We can not separate aging of the scintillator and of the conversion efficiency of the WLS fiber. But we observe a hint of some decrease in its attenuation length. The increase of aging effect with the distance from SiPM gives an estimation of WLS attenuation length shortening $-dL_{att}/dt = 0.26 \pm 0.04$ (stat.) %/year

Meteorological effects on cosmic muon flux [European Physical Journal C, 2022, 82(6), 515]

Terrestrial Physics, vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 349-358 (1965)]

Spectrum dependence on fuel composition

IBD rate dependence on ²³⁹Pu fission fraction $(dN/df_9)/N(f_9=0.3)$ for various E_{e+} agrees with HM model and a bit more steep than at Daya Bay

DANSS result $\sigma_5/\sigma_9 = 1.54 \pm 0.06$ is larger than Day Bay (1.445 ± 0.097) and agrees with HM $(1.53 \pm 0.05).$

Use of DB-Slope in our formula gives: $\sigma_5/\sigma_9 =$ 1.459 ± 0.052

Difference between DANSS and DB is due to slope

Заключение

- Исключительная стабильность ДАНССа позволяет выполнять прецизионные измерения на протяжении 8 лет
- Мощность реактора по счету антинейтрино измеряется с точностью 1% за неделю, включая 0.8% суммарных систематических неопределенностей ДАНСС и эксплуатационных измерений КАЭС
- Впервые в мире выполнено восстановление долей делений по измеренным спектрам, согласие с данными расчетов КАЭС в пределах 2.1%; это прибавляет уверенности в обоих подходах
- Относительное изменение скорости счета в топливной кампании согласуется с моделью Н-М и несколько больше, чем результат DB
- Отношение выходов $\sigma_{\rm s}/\sigma_{\rm 9} = 1.528 \pm 0.058$ почти совпадает с H-M (1.53±0.05), но отличается от DB (1.412±0.089, 1.10) и КИ (1.45±0.03, 1.20)
- Первые результаты по разделению спектров ²³⁵U и ²³⁹Pu хорошо описывают соотношение позитронных спектров по Н-М и позволяют восстановить спектры нейтрино методом SVD

Спасибо за внимание!

Грант PHФ https://rscf.ru/project/23-12-00085/ Дмитрий Свирида (НИЦ КИ) от коллаборации ДАНСС

