### Neutrino Physics at ORNL and PROSPECT Experiment Status

Alfredo Galindo-Uribarri, Physics Division

Conference on Neutrino and Nuclear Physics Monastero dei Benedettini Catania, Italy October 15-21, 2017



ORNL is managed by UT-Battelle for the US Department of Energy

### Monastero dei Benedettini UNESCO World Heritage Site

Architectonical integration of different styles through different epochs.

e.g. a Roman house, the cloisters and a roof garden.





# OUTLINE

- Oak Ridge -
  - Nuclear Structure
- New opportunities with neutrino sources
  - Development of Ultrasensitive Analytical Techniques
  - SNS and HFIR
- Reactors and accelerators as neutrino sources
- PROSPECT
  - Precision Reactor Oscillation and Spectrum Experiment
- Summary



# HRIBF at ORNL designated an historical site by APS



July 2016 at Nuclear Structure 2016 Conference and Neutrinos in Nuclear Physics Workshop (Precursor, CNNP-0)



### **ORNL HRIBF - APS Historical Site**



Closed definitively



• APS Plaque for Historical Site



# HRIBF(1996-2012) pioneered techniques, methods and instrumentation in nuclear reaction spectroscopy with RIBs.





Constraints on Theoretical Models What Experimental data is required?

### Need for analytical techniques to assess purity of materials





(See J. Detwiler and S. Schonert CNNP)





# AMS as analytical tool for searches of $0\nu\beta\beta$

Detection of <sup>232</sup>Th and <sup>238</sup>U in ultrapure Cu with ANU 15 MV Tandem

- Detection of U and Th in ultrapure Cu samples produced at SURF (MJD) using UCu and ThCu molecules
- Need to develop a good "standard"



# Detecting U and Th with resonant laser ionization(IRIS 2)



Efficient positive ion sources demonstrated for U and Th Overall ionization efficiency of 8.7% for U and 40% for Th by resonant laser ionization AMS (negative ions from sputtering source) efficiencies for actinides 0.01-0.1%

E. Romero-Romero AMS14 (Ottawa 2017)



### **New Opportunities at Oak Ridge National**





# **Neutrino Physics at ORNL - ORLAND**

### Effort to establish a neutrino laboratory 20 years ago!

ORLaND — Oak Ridge Laboratory for Neutrino Detectors

F. Plasil<sup>1</sup> for the ORLaND Project and for the CoNDOR Collaboration

<sup>1</sup>Physics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6372, USA Heavy Ion Physics15(2002)381

#### **ORLaND** Project and the CoNDOR Collaboration

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### SNS: Spallation Neutron NEUTRINO Source p beams, 60 Hz, 1MW power





# **Stopped-Pion (πDAR) Neutrinos**



(See K. Schoelberg CNNP)



### **ORNL and Research Reactors**



The Clinton Pile was the world's first continuously operated nuclear reactor Critical on Nov. 1943 (Wigner, Fermi and Weinberg)

### 85MW Research Reactor



The HFIR became critical on Aug. 1965 (Seaborg at AEC, Cheverton, and Weinberg)

Several reactors developed: X-10, MTR, LITR, BSR, TSF, ORR, HFIR



### **Reactors as antineutrino sources**

β- decay of neutron rich fission fragments



#### energy per fission

Kinetic energy of fragments	165 (5)
Energy of prompt photons	7 (1)
Kinetic energy of neutrons	5 (0.5
Energy of $\beta$ decay electrons	7 (1)
Energy of $\beta$ decay antineutrinos	10
Energy of γ decay photons	6(1)

### $\sim 200$ MeV/fission and 6 $\overline{v}_{\rm e}/\text{fission}$



Pure source of  $\overline{v_e}$ 

~ 5% energy taken away by neutrinos

3 GW reactor produces ~6x10<sup>20</sup> v<sub>e</sub>/sec OAK RIDGE National Laboratory

# **Chalk River Laboratories**





# **Chalk River Laboratories**



Combined basic and applied research Research reactors and accelerators

MATPARTICLE

TRANSPORT LIN

PT GAMMA RA

TANDEM ACCELERATOR

TASCC Tandem Accelerator Superconducting Cyclotron

### Italian Physicists - Bruno Pontecorvo



**Ragazzi Via Panisperna** D'Agostino, Segre, Amaldi, Rassetti, Fermi

Bruno Pontecorvo in Anglo-Canadian nuclear research laboratory in Montreal (1943-1945) and Chalk River (1945-1949)



### **Nuclear Reactors as a Neutrino Source**



NRX critical July 22, 1947. Most powerful research reactor Cockcroft 1944 Build large heavy water and natural Uranium reactor

Pontecorvo declined Segre's offer job at Berkeley hoping to use the 20 MW Chalk River NRX (National Research eXperimental) for neutrino research

At that time neutrino was considered an undetectable particle



5 pytho TTOHmercoph

Reactors are intense and pure sources of v<sub>e</sub> B. Pontecorvo Natl. Res. Council Canada Rep. (1946) 205 Helv. Phys. Acta. Suppl. 3 (1950)97

#### Good for systematic studies of neutrinos



# Pontecorvo and neutrino detection radiochemical method (too early?)

Invention of the radiochemical methods to detect neutrinos

(he felt his work was not fully recognized)

The inverse process consists in a radioisotope created by free neutrino interaction with stable nuclei and positron emission. Detection of a radioisotopes is proof of neutrino existence.

The radioactive atoms produced have different chemical properties. The few atoms produced can thus be extracted from the large irradiated volume and concentrated for detection.

Pontecorvo never did the experiment Chlorine-Argon method.

(Confusing status of <sup>37</sup>Cl data)

- Railway tank wagon was ever filled with carbon tetrachloride and taken into a Canadian Rocky Mountains tunnel.
- NRX reactor Most powerful research reactor and intense sources of antineutrinos

Pontecorvo left for Dubna August 1950





### A Precision Oscillation and Spectrum Experiment



### The High Flux Isotope Reactor HFIR

- 85 MW Thermal Power Research Reactor
- ~93% enriched <sup>235</sup>U fuel
- Very compact core (h=0.6m d=0.4m)
- Very near access available
- 24 day cycle means no <sup>239</sup>Pu buildup (<0.5%)
- ~50% duty cycle allows good background characterization









# **Experimental site: High Flux Isotope Reactor**

#### **Compact Reactor Core**



Power: 85 MW Fuel: HEU (<sup>235</sup>U) Core shape: cylindrical Size: h=0.5m r=0.2m Duty-cycle: 41%





- Established on-site operation
  - User facility, 24/7 access
- Exterior access at grade
- Full utility access





### **Precision Reactor and Oscillation Experiment**



### Segmented, <sup>6</sup>Li loaded Detector



#### **Detector Design**

- <sup>6</sup>Li liquid scintillator
- minimum dead material
- double-ended PMT readout,
- light guides, 5" PMTs
- ~5%/√E resolutions

#### Active Inner Detector +Shielding





#### **Segmented Detector**

relative measurement of L/E within detector

unoscillated spectrum



#### oscillated spectrum



Relative Spectrum Measurement search for relative shape distortions independent of reactor models/ predictions



# **Motivation**

Directly test the hypothesis of a new oscillation with  $\Delta m^2 \sim 1 \text{ eV}^2$ , i.e. oscillation length of few meters



Provide new tests of reactor models by making precision measurements of novel reactor spectra, esp. <sup>235</sup>U fuel





## **Reactor anti-neutrino anomalies** Motivation behind PROSPECT



### Flux Deficit

- 6% flux deficit
- Few measurements made at very short baselines (<10m from core)</li>

### **Spectral Anomaly**

10% excess of events in 4-6 MeV region



### **Recent Developments: Flux evolution & IBD Yields**



Report IBD yields for U-235 and Pu-239 using change due to fuel evolution – demonstrates prediction for U-235 (at least) is incorrect

#### Improved Cross Section per Fission Determination



Tension between IBD yield from 26 previous reactor measurements and Daya Bay

# Direct, model independent, search for short baseline oscillation remains well motivated

"not enough information to use the antineutrino flux changes to rule out the possible existence of sterile neutrinos"

Hayes et al, arXiv:1707.07728

*"the search for the explanation of the reactor antineutrino anomaly still remains open"* 

National Laboratory

Giunti et al, arXiv:1708.011

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(See L Hayen and C. Giunti CNNP)

# **Reactor Background Measurement & Shield Design**

### Shield design based on surveys & multiple onsite prototype deployments

Extensive measurement campaigns (ongoing):

- Characterize background field at HFIR
- Emphasize importance of localized shielding of penetrations, pipes, etc



γ-ray intensity variation at HFIR

Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A806 (2016) 401–419, arXiv:1506.03547, PROSPECT Collaboration





### PROSPECT AD Shielding

- local shielding next to reactor wall
- multi-layer passive shield:
  - water bricks, HDPE, borated HDPE, lead



National Laboratory

aver Shield

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### Detector Array to measure Neutrons and Gamma rays (DANG)

### **Electronics**





### Spatial gamma survey – 3"x3" Nal 03-30 – 04-25 Reactor Off, Singles Rates 1-3 MeV







### **Background Characterization Time Variations reflect Reactor activity**



# System Prototyping – PROSPECT50

### Validates AD component design

- Low-mass Optical Separators
- Support Structure
- PMT modules
- Filling System
- Calibration: LED & γ/n Sources



Mid-Segment LED Calibration



Source Capsule

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**PMT Modules** 



Segment Assembly



P-50 Installed in Shield

PROSPECT50 performance as expected based on earlier prototypes

# **AD** Construction is underway















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# How Is $\beta$ Decay Measured?

#### N-RICH PARENT (Z,N)



#### **Pandemonium Effect**

For high-precision, low efficiency detectors, the combination of low efficiency with a high density of states fed by  $\beta$  decay means many multi- $\gamma$  decays will be misinterpreted as direct  $\beta$  feeding to lower energy levels.

Hardy et al, PL B 71,1977

Greenwood *et al.*,1997, Algora *et al.*, 2010, Zakari-Issoufou *et al.*, 2015

National Laboratory

Correcting the Pandemonium Effect General Trends by Average Energy by Particle Type:

$$\gamma \uparrow: \beta^- \downarrow: \overline{\nu}_e \downarrow$$

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# Example of $\beta$ Decay

 $\beta$  decays are not all peaches and cream like  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}.$ 

This is the ENSDF for  $^{137}$  I  $\beta$  decay to  $^{137}$  Xe.

And it is incomplete. (More about this later)



C. Rasco 2017





Over 5 tons of lead shielding + neutron shielding



# A Sterile Neutrino or Erroneous Models? ORNL Efforts to Revise β<sup>-</sup> Decay Data



# Reactors, Decay Heat, and $\beta$ Decay



### What are the fission decay products? More than 800 nuclei per fuel type.

P. Egelhof CNNP

# **PROSPECT Collaboration**







#### prospect.yale.edu



Office of Science



# **Opportunities of Neutrino Physics at ORNL**

#### **World Class Neutrino Sources**

-Spallation Neutron Source

-HFIR (85MW HEU reactor)

#### **REDC - Radiochemical Engineering Development Center (e.g. hot cells)**

#### **Calibration sources fabrication**

#### **Relevant Instrumentation**

- -Advanced Ge detectors
- -Total Absorption Spectrometer (MTAS)
- -Scintillators

#### **Development of Powerful Analytical Techniques**

- -Accelerator Mass Spectrometry
- -Neutron Activation Analysis

#### **Isotope Enrichment Capabilities**

#### 3 HV Platforms (Implantation, LE detection testing)

-Positive and negative ions; Stable and radioactive species; Sputtering source, ECR sources, Laser Ion Sources, Thermal Ionization Sources (see A. Nucciotti, L. Gastaldo CNNP)

### PROSPECT, COHERENT, ... underway

### **Exciting times!**

# Thank you!

es Véréide

ORE MAIORAN

### IN QUESTA CASA IL 5 AGOSTO 1906 E NATO ETTORE MAJORANA

FISICO TEORICO

IL SUO GENIO SOLITARIO E SCHIVO HA SCRUTATO E ILLUMINATO I SEGRETI DEL MONDO COL BAGLIORE DI UNA METEORA CHE TROPPO PRESTO SI DILEGUAVA NEL MARZO DEL 1938 LASCIANDOCI IL MISTERO DEI SUOI PENSIERI

LIONS CATANIA ETNA 1993 .

### Palazzo Majorana Sec XIX

Qui nacque Ettore Majorana Fisico e scienziato Catania 5 Agosto 1906 Morte presunta 27 Marzo 1938





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2017 Workshops

The Flavor Structure of Nucleon Sea (INT-17-68W) October 2 - 13, 2017 C. Aidala, W. Detmold, J. Qiu, W. Vogelsang

Neutron-Antineutron Oscillations: Appearance, Disappearance, and Baryogenesis (INT-17-69W) October 23 - 27, 2017 K. Babu, Z. Berezhiani, Y. Kamyshkov, B. Kerbikov

Quantum Computing for Nuclear Physics (INT-17-66W) November 14-15, 2017 D. Dean, M. Hjorth-Jensen, M.J. Savage

2018 Programs

**Nuclear ab initio Theories and Neutrino Physics (INT-18-1a)** February 26 - March 30, 2018 C. Barbieri, O. Benhar, A. Galindo-Uribarri, A. Lovato, J. Menéndez



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Program Coordinator: Farha Habib faraway@uw.edu (206) 685-4286

Application form For full consideration, please apply by October 31, 2017.

Talks Online

#### Exit Survey

INT Program INT-18-1a

Nuclear ab initio Theories and Neutrino Physics

February 26 - March 30, 2018



Coherent neutrino-nucleus scattering - from the COHERENT collaboration's website.

The program is designed to foster interactions among nuclear theorists, nuclear experimentalists and neutrino physicists, thus facilitating (much needed) inter-disciplinary collaborations and discussions



#### Week 1: Ab initio methods

Ab initio nuclear many-body approaches: strengths, limitations and further directions. Challenges and opportunities for nuclear structure and nuclear astrophysics as posed by neutrino-oscillation and  $0\beta\beta$ -decay experiments.

### Week 2: Workshop on: Neutrino detection and interactions: challenges and opportunities for ab-initio nuclear theory

The workshop will cover the most relevant aspects of neutrino interactions with atomic nuclei and infinite matter. It is intended to foster interactions between nuclear theorists and neutrino experimental programs (oscillations,  $\beta\beta$ -decay, supernovae...).

A workshop registration fee will apply; amount to be determined. The registration fee includes participation in the workshop, lectures, and coffee breaks.

#### Week 3: Nuclear interaction and currents

Development and fitting of next generation nuclear interaction (problem of saturation and prediction in neutron rich elements). Challenges in constructing and exploiting (electroweak) currents consistent with the interactions. Estimation of theoretical errors.

#### Week 4: Neutrino-nucleus response and oscillation experiments

How to approach neutrino energies in the few GeV region. Factorization of nuclear transition matrix elements and spectral functions. Matching relativistic current to low-energy structure. Application to neutrino response in infinite matter. Estimation of theoretical errors.

#### Week 5: Applications for $\beta\beta$ -decay.

Develop a roadmap to explore possible many-body mechanisms and many-body currents at the origin of the  $g_A$  "quenching". Relation between "quenching" in  $\beta$  and  $\beta\beta$  decays. Connection between toy  $\beta\beta$  decays in light systems and  $\beta\beta$  decay emitters. Use of experimental data to constrain the theoretical predictions.

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## **OTHER**

Four primary outcomes:

- mass spectra,
- binomial distribution,
- power law dependence,
- bombarding graphene with copper cluster ion,
- We want to make a comparison of cluster formation using graphite versus buckyballs as the source material.



### **Development of PROSPECT Detector** Components

Low-Mass Optical Separators

High reflectivity, high rigidity, low mass reflector system developed



- DF 2000 PE Two-sided adhesive Carbon Fiber Teflon FEP
- Array formed using 3D printed
  - "pinwheel" spacers
  - Chemical compatibility of all materials validated

Component design refined for final production





- Developed non-toxic, nonflammable formulations based on EJ-309, LAB, Ultima Gold
- EJ-309 selected as baseline





- ~4000L of <sup>6</sup>Li loaded liquid scintillator
- 11x14 segmented optical array, ~15 x 15 x 120 cm<sup>3</sup> segment dimensions
- Double ended PMT readout, light guides, ~4.5%/ $\sqrt{E}$  resolution
- Low mass optical separators, minimal dead material
- Full volume calibration access



# Full Scale Prototyping - PROSPECT20

### Validates optical system design

- Li-loaded liquid scintillator
- Reflector panels



- Compton edge of  $^{60}Co$  and  $^{217}Bi$   $\gamma\text{-rays}$  and the quenched (n, Li) capture peak from  $^{252}Cf$  neutrons
- light collection: 522±16 PE/MeV



Unloaded LS studies described in 2015 JINST 10 P11004, <u>arXiv:1508.06575</u>, PROSPECT collaboration