

# Geoneutrinos and heat production in the Earth

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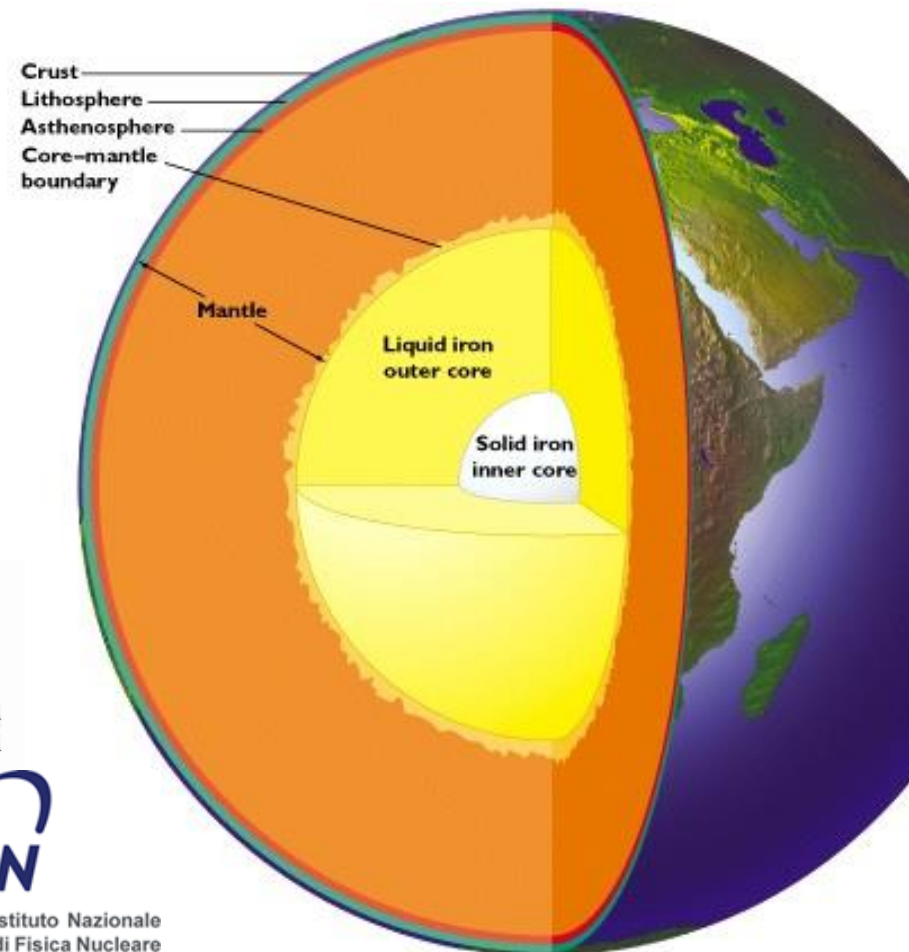
Fabio Mantovani and \*\*Virginia Strati

Physics, U Ferrara and INFN, Italy

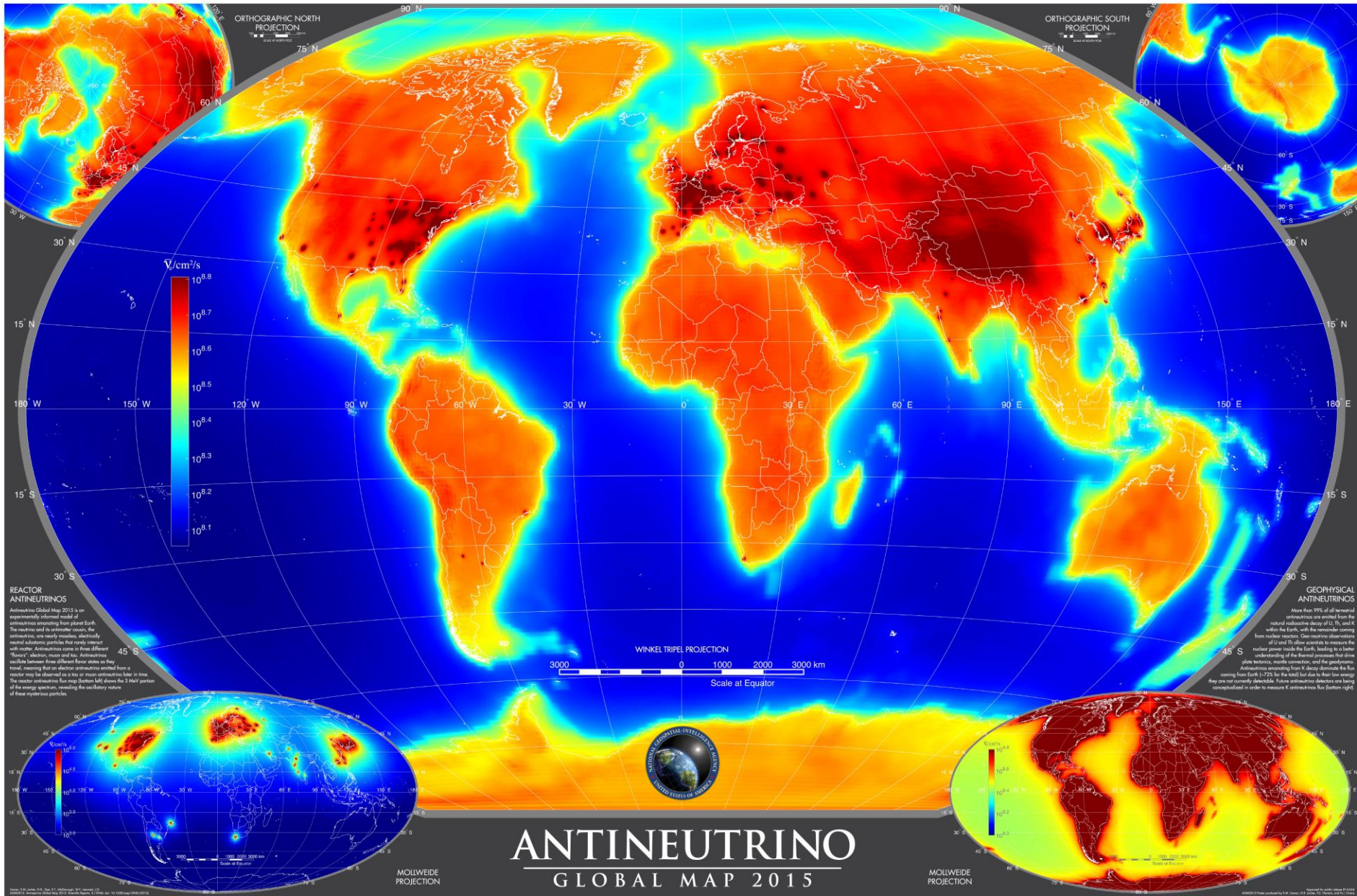
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Physics, U Hawaii

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+former post-doc

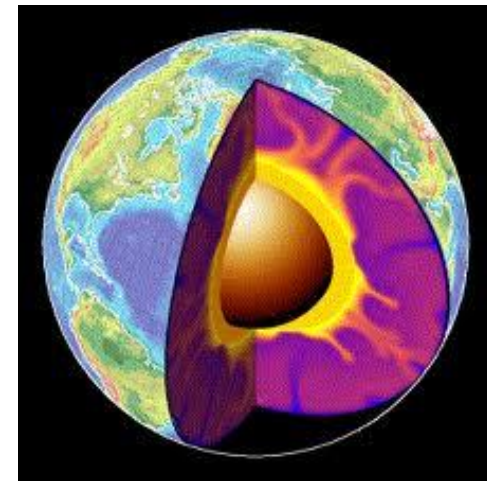
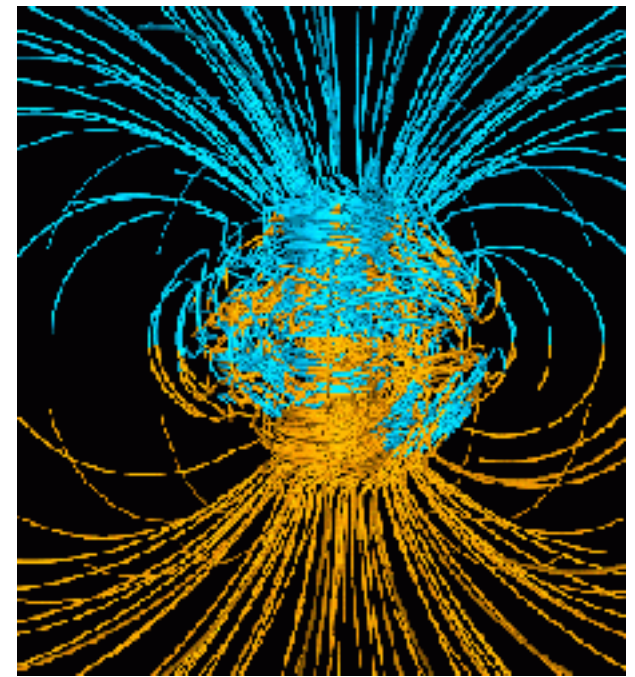
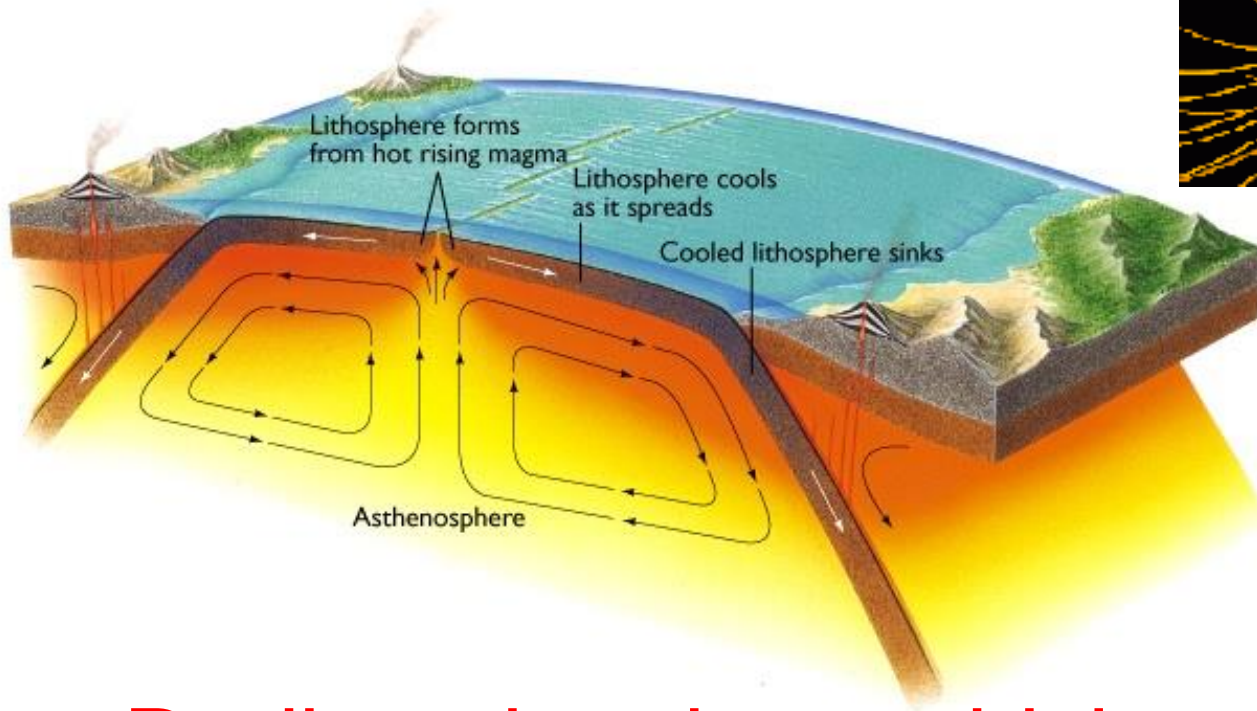


# Antineutrino Map: geoneutrinos + reactor neutrinos





# Plate Tectonics, Convection, Geodynamo



Radioactive decay driving  
the Earth's engine!

*K, Th & U!*

# Nature & amount of Earth's thermal power

## *radiogenic heating vs secular cooling*

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- abundance of heat producing elements (K, Th, U) in the Earth  
*estimates of BSE from 9TW to 36TW*
- clues to planet formation processes  
*constrains chondritic Earth models*
- amount of radiogenic power to drive mantle convection & plate tectonics  
*estimates of mantle 1.3TW to 28TW*



is the mantle compositionally layered? or has large structures?

*layers, LLSVP, superplume piles*

*the future is...*

***Geoneutrino studies***

# Disagreement with “chondritic” Earth Models

Murakami et al (May - 2012, *Nature*): “...the lower mantle is enriched in silicon ... consistent with the [CI] **chondritic Earth model**.”

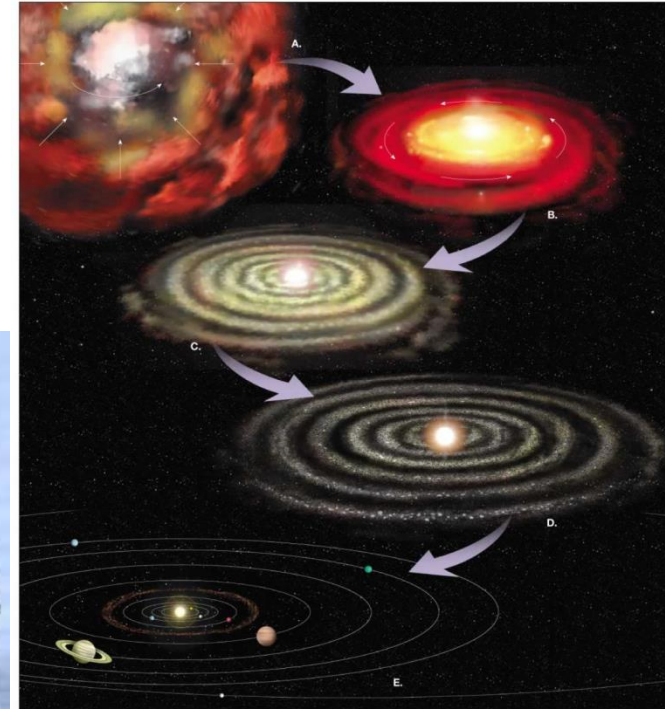
# What is the composition of the Earth? and where did this stuff come from?

**Nebula**

**Meteorite**



Heterogeneous mixtures  
of components with  
different formation  
temperatures and  
conditions

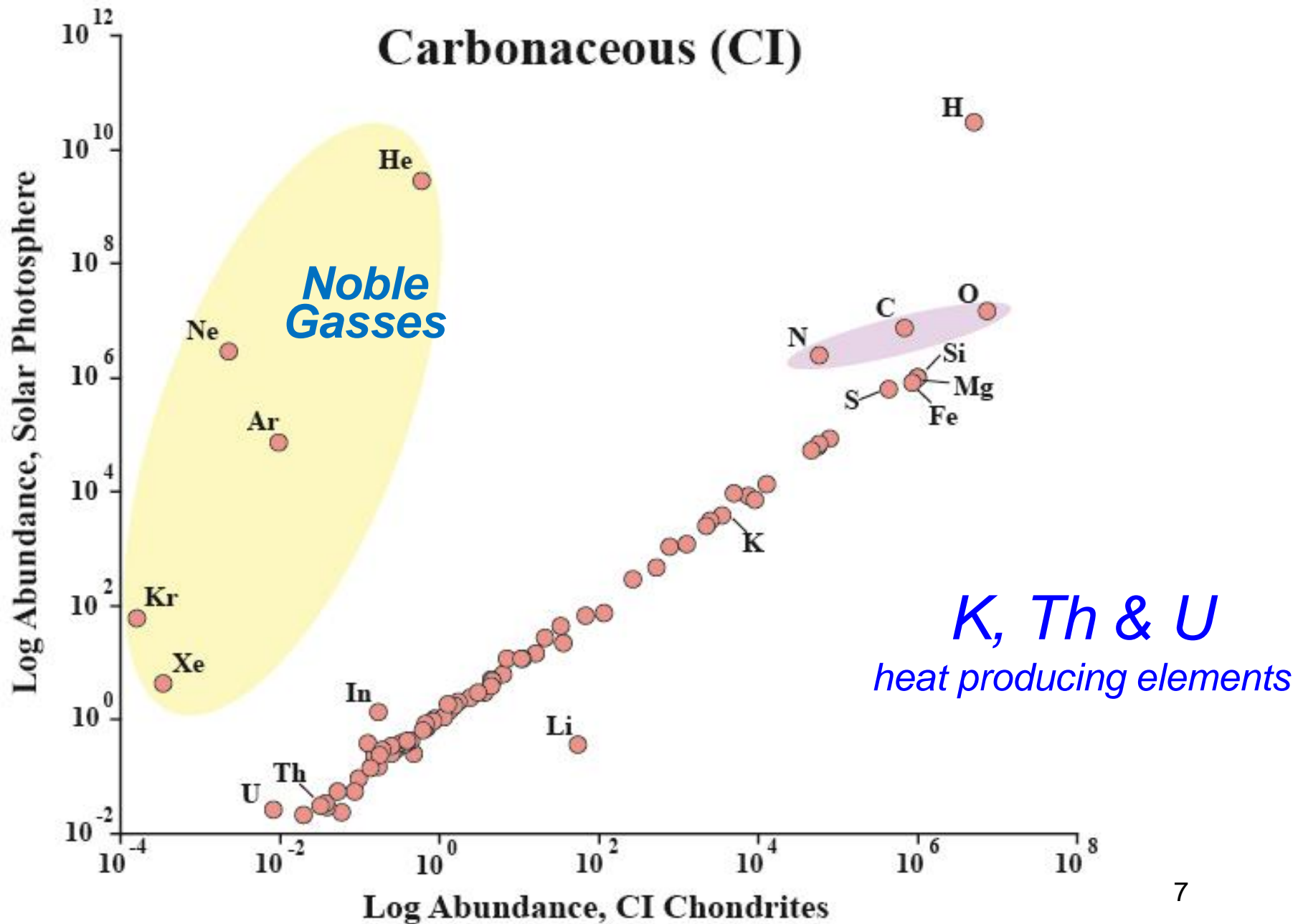


**Planet:**  
mix of metal, silicate, volatiles





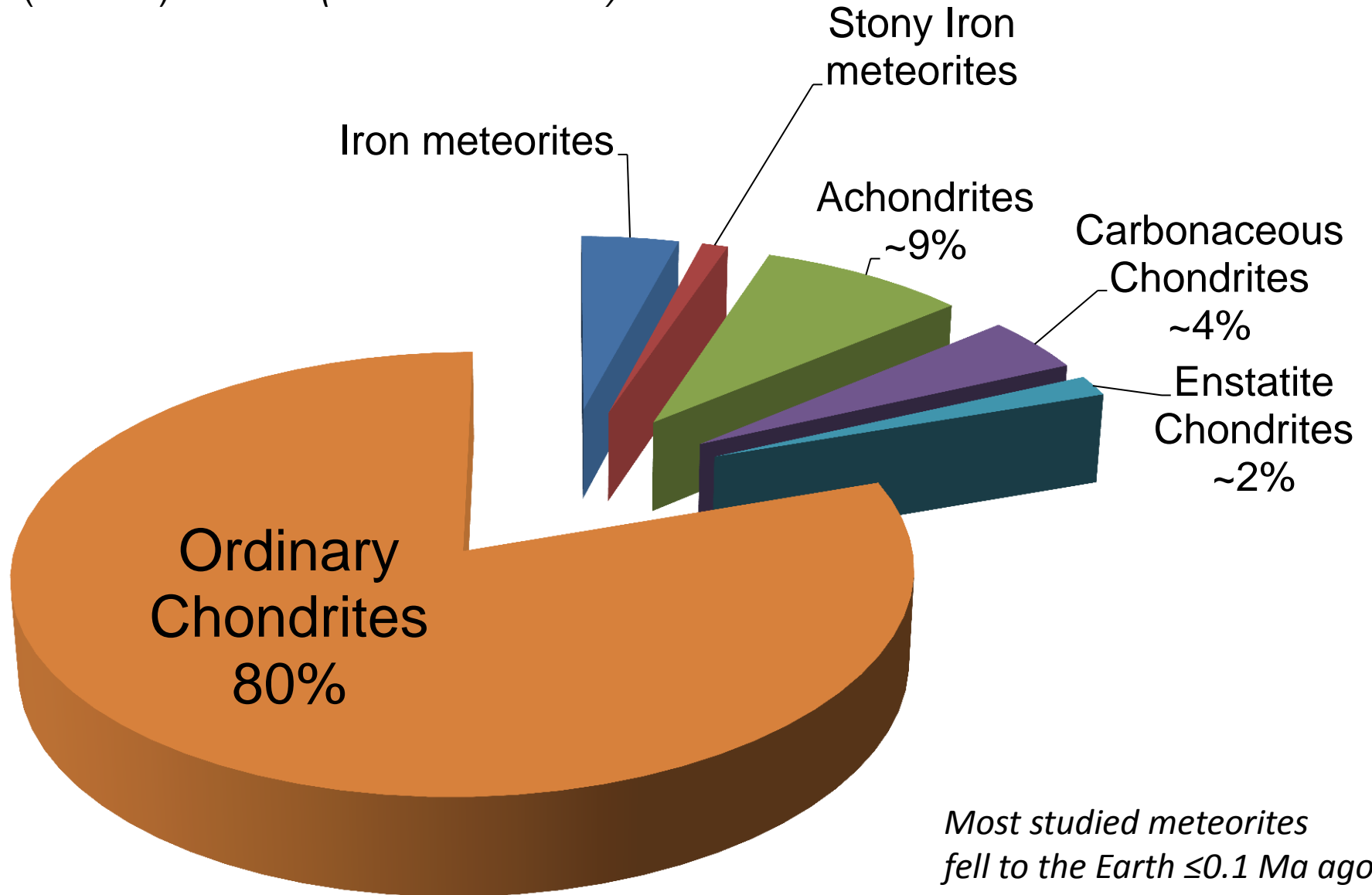
# Sun and Chondrites are related



# Meteorite: Fall statistics

(n=1101)

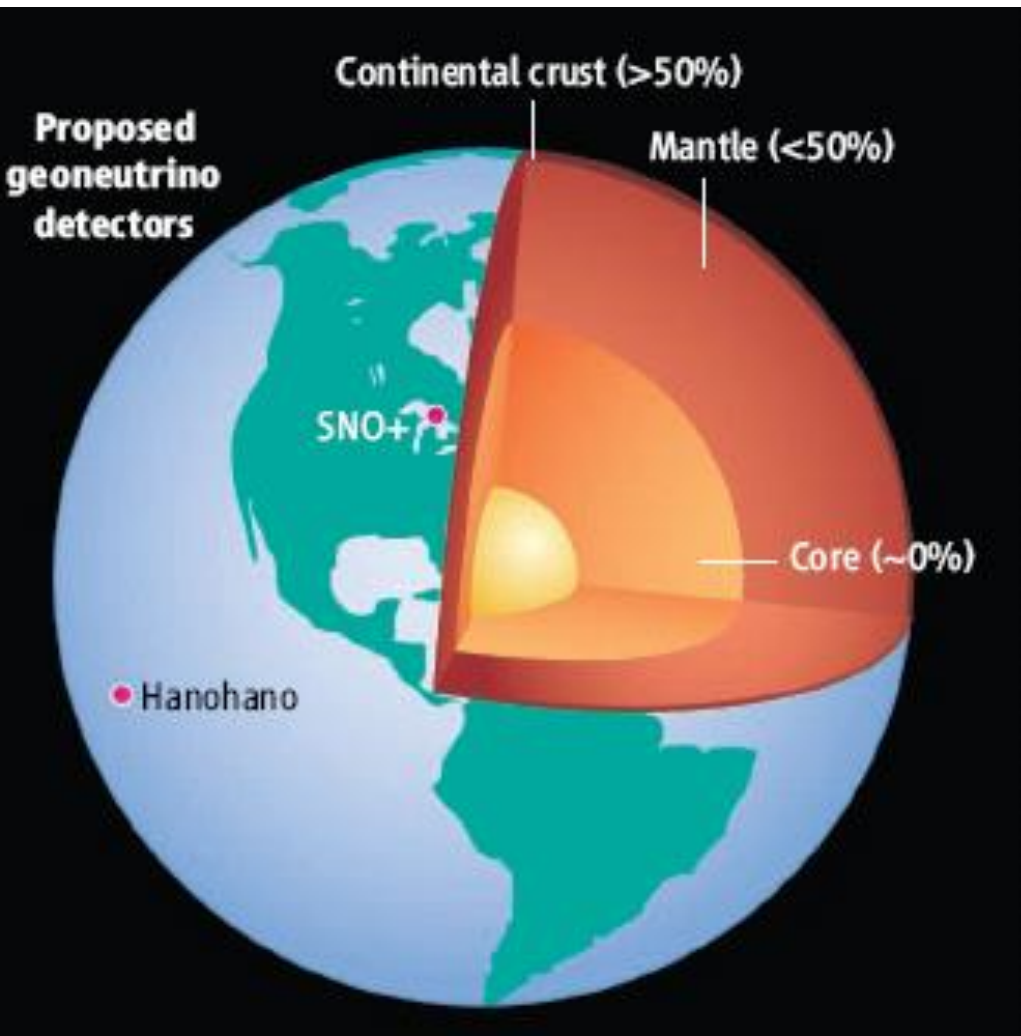
(back to ~980 AD)





# U in the Earth:

$$[\text{Th}/\text{U} = 3.9, \text{K}/\text{U} = 1.3 \times 10^4]$$



**~13 ng/g U in the Earth**

---

**Metallic sphere (core)**  
**<<<1 ng/g U**

**Silicate sphere**  
**20\* ng/g U**

\*O'Neill & Palme (2008) 10 ng/g

\*Turcotte & Schubert (2002) 31 ng/g

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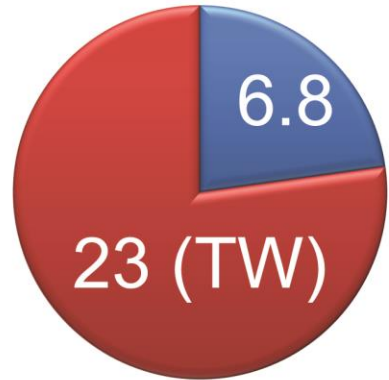
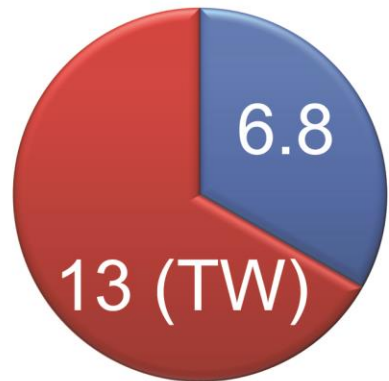
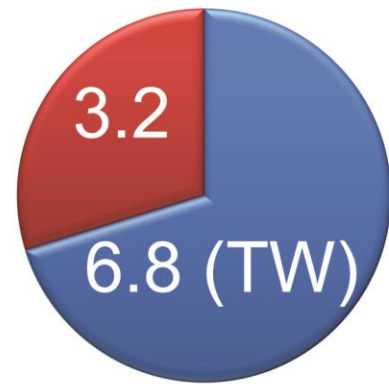
**Continental Crust**  
**1300 ng/g U (~7 TW)**

**Mantle**  
**~13\* ng/g U (~13 TW)**

*\*Mantle could have as little  
1-3 TW or as much as 28 TW*

# Bulk Silicate Earth Models

## Continental Crust (Huang et al 2013)



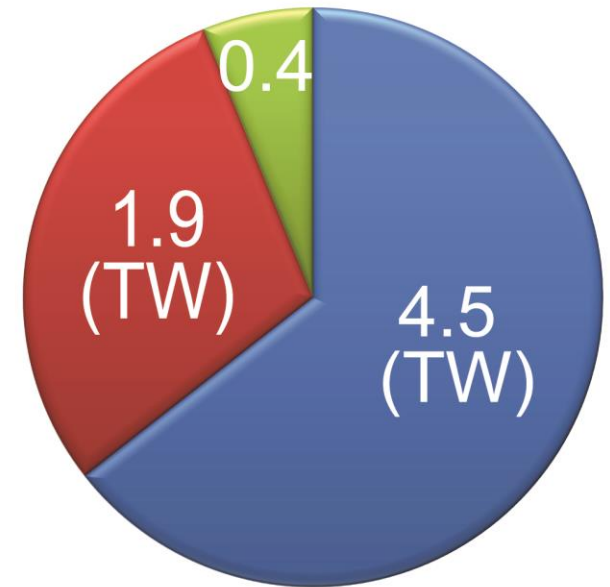
■ Cont. Crust  
■ Modern Mantle

Medium Q  
(20 TW)

High Q  
(30 TW)

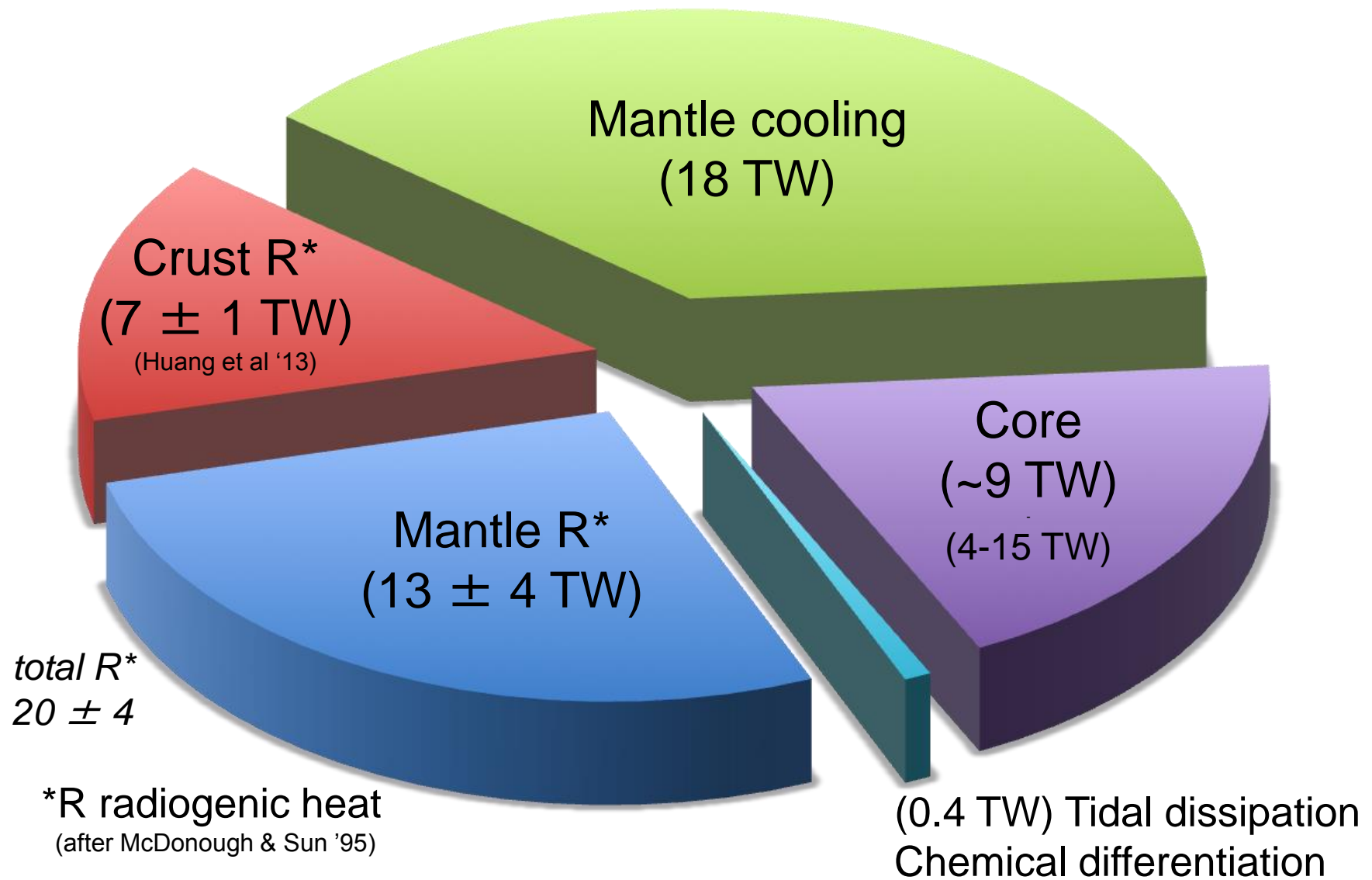
$\text{Th/U} = 3.9$

$\text{K/U} = 1.4 \times 10^4$



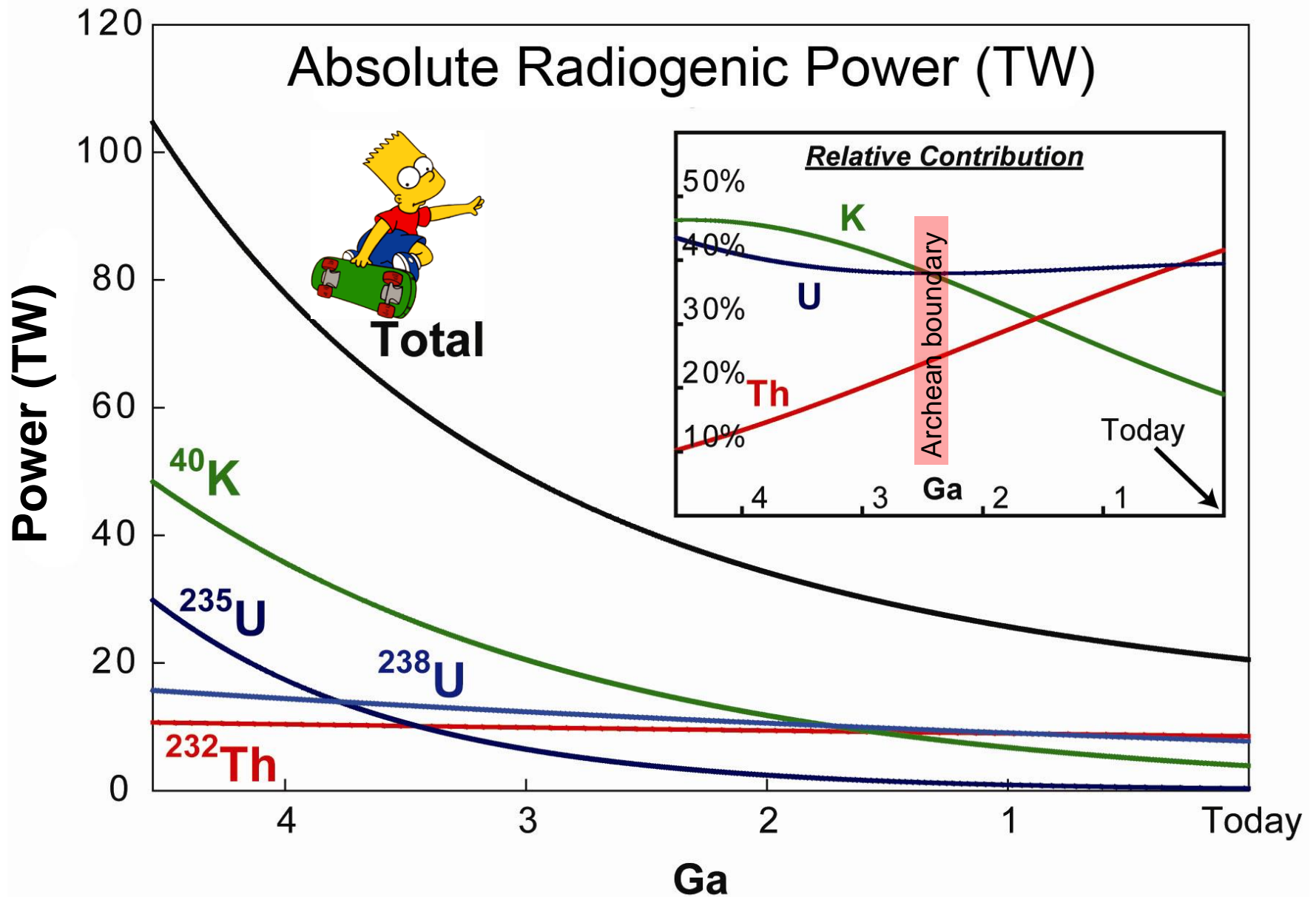
■ Upper Crust  
■ Middle Crust  
■ Lower Crust

# Earth's surface heat flow $46 \pm 3$ ( $47 \pm 1$ ) TW

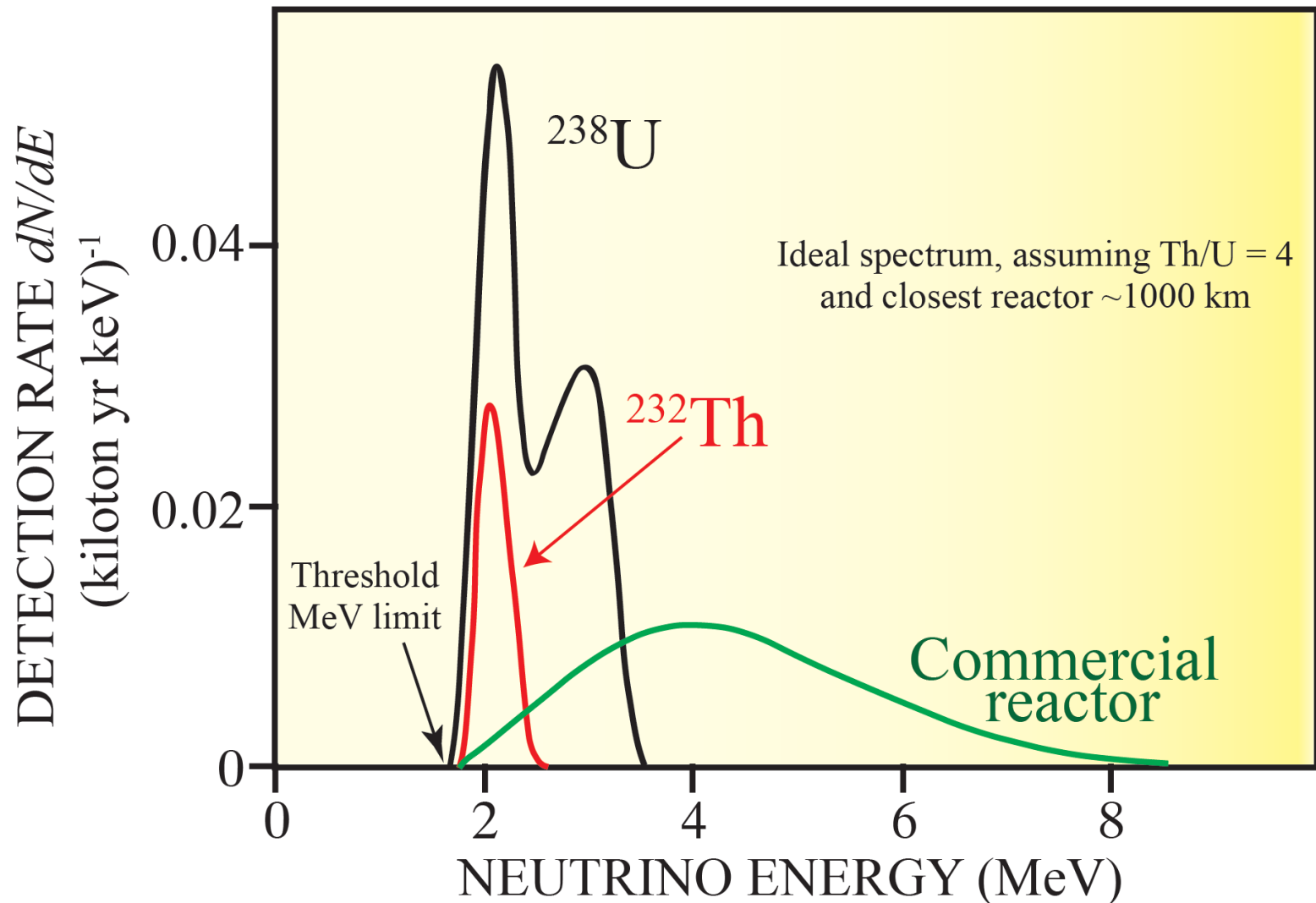




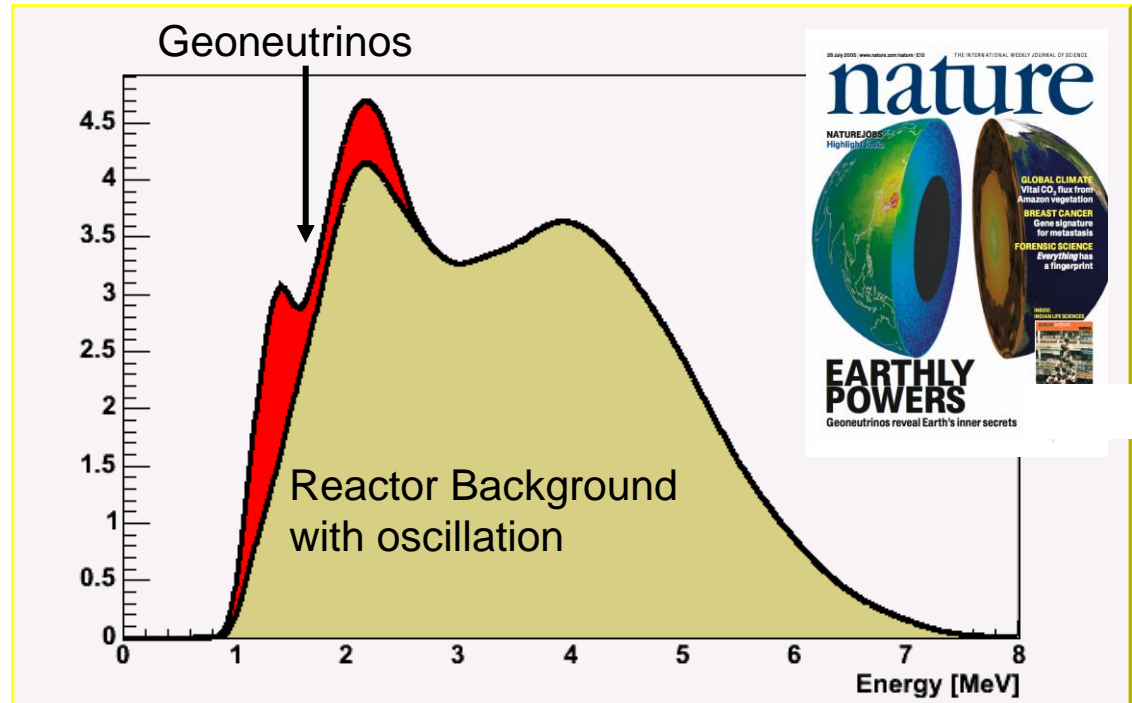
# Earth's thermal evolution: role of K, Th & U



# Antineutrinos - Geoneutrinos



# Reactor and Earth Signal



- KamLAND was designed to measure reactor antineutrinos.
- Reactor antineutrinos are the most significant contributor to the total signal.

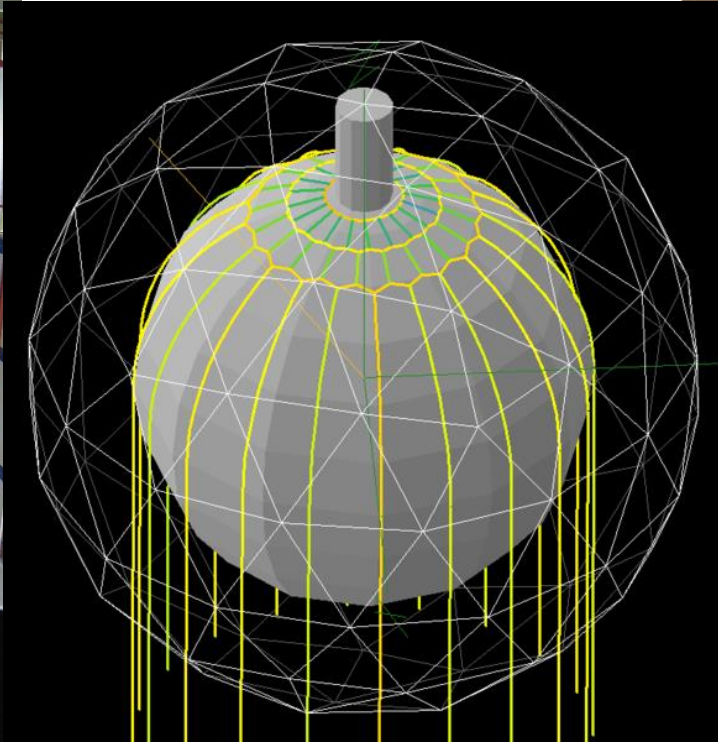


# Present LS-detectors, *data update*

Borexino, Italy (**0.3kt**)

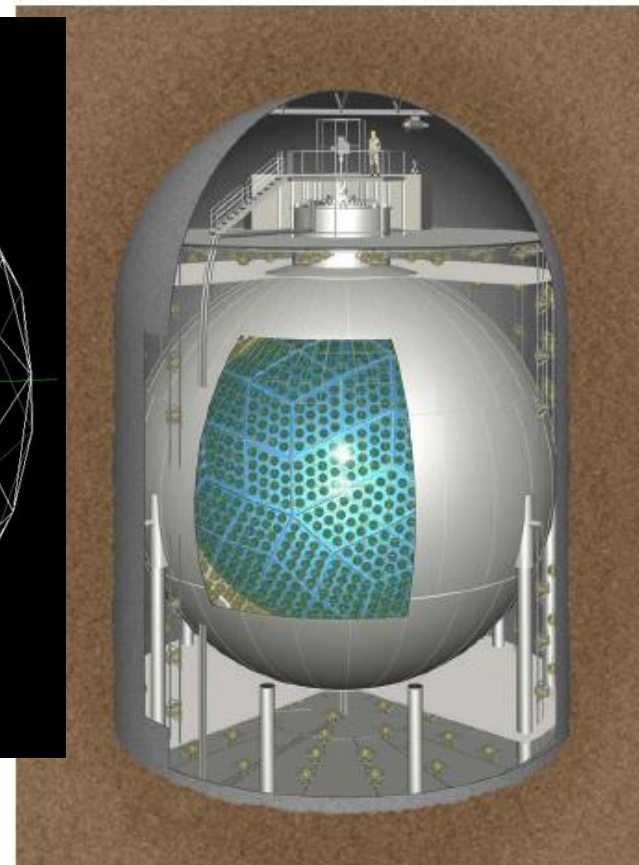


SNO+, Canada (**1kt**)



under construction  
(online later this yr?)

KamLAND, Japan (**1kt**)



$23.7^{+6.5}_{-5.7}$  counts

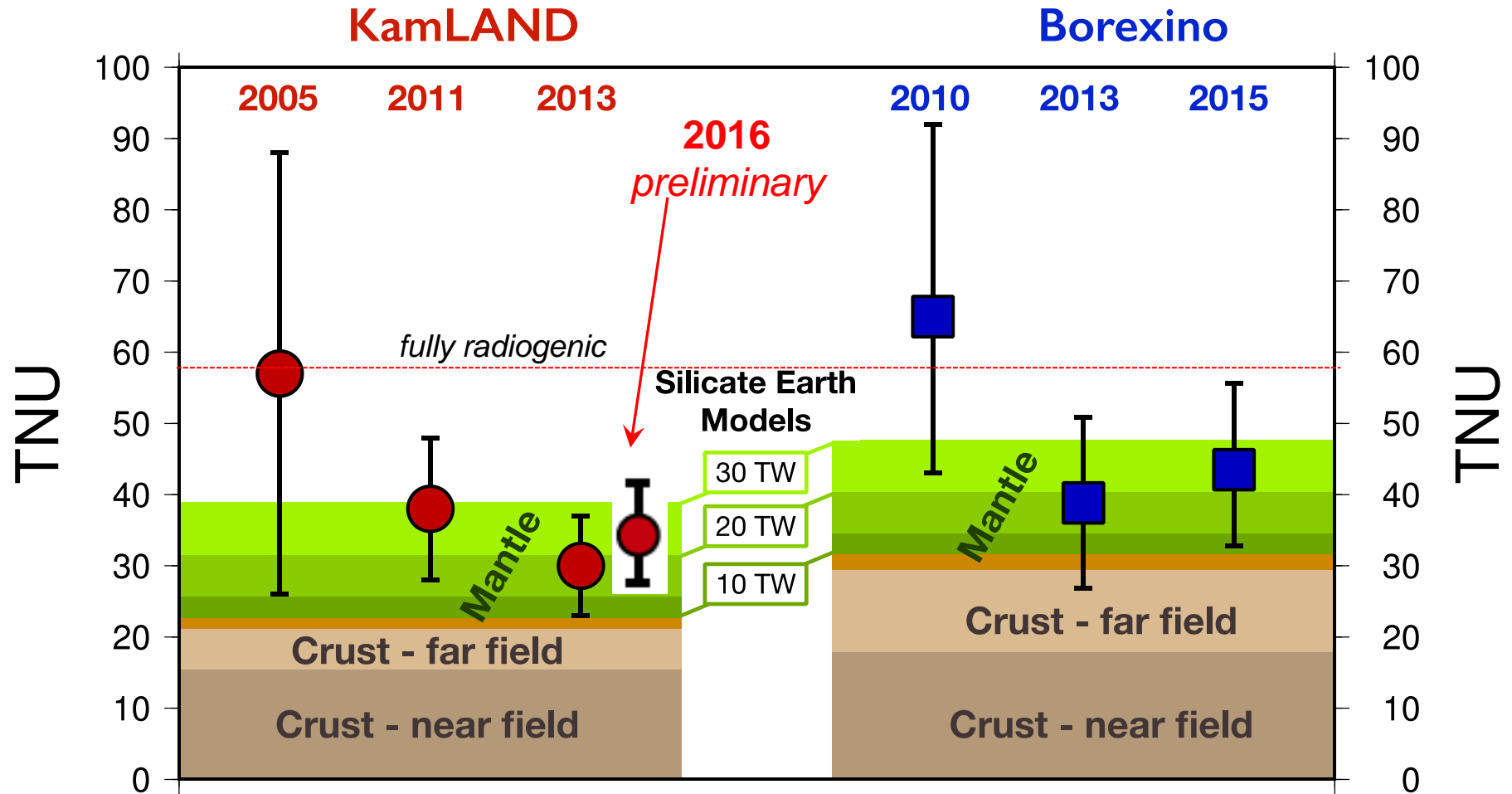
from May '07 - March '15



$164^{+28}_{-25}$  counts

From Mar '02 to Dec '15

# Summary of geoneutrino results



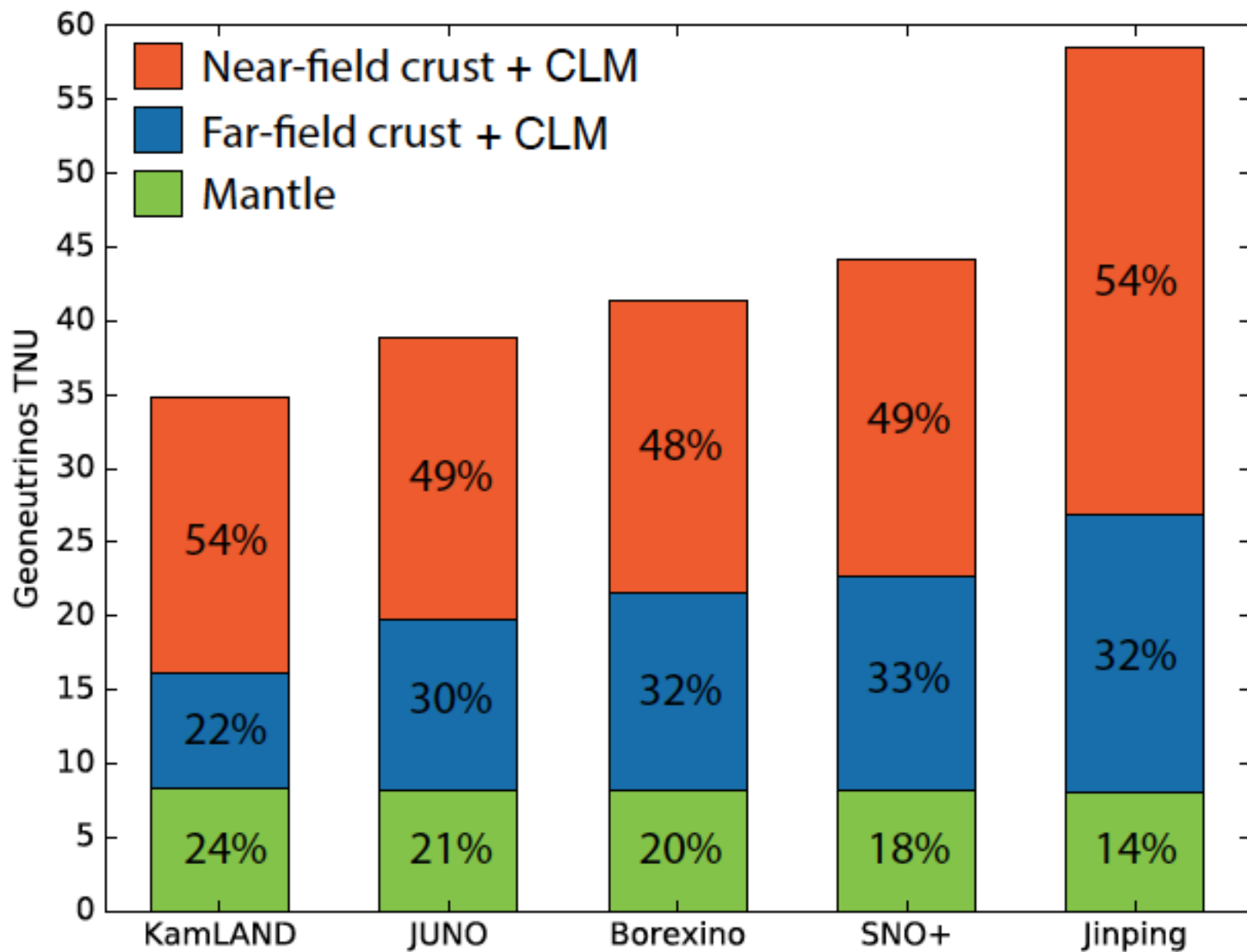
## SILICATE EARTH MODELS

Cosmochemical: uses meteorites – 10 TW

Geochemical: uses terrestrial rocks – 20 TW

Geodynamical: parameterized convection – 30 TW

**TNU**: **geo-neutrino** event seen by a kiloton detector in a year



Near Field: six closest  $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$  crustal voxels

Far Field = bulk crust – near field crust

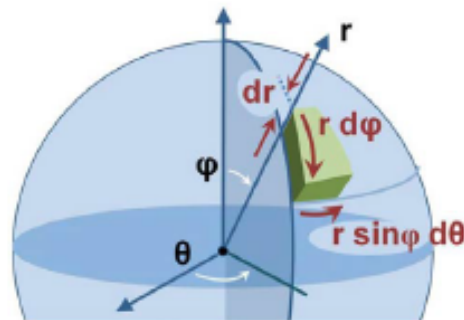
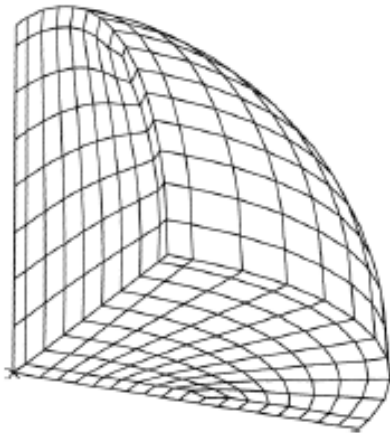


# We calculated geoneutrino flux prediction at Jinping

$$\phi(\vec{r}) = \frac{X\lambda N_A n_\nu \langle P_{ee} \rangle}{\mu} \iiint \frac{A(\vec{r}') \rho(\vec{r}')}{4\pi |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|^2} d\vec{r}'$$

$\phi$  ... Antineutrino flux  
 $X$  ... Natural isotopic mole fraction  
 $\lambda$  ... Half-life  
 $N_A$  ... Avogadro's number  
 $\mu$  ... Standard atomic mass  
 $n_\nu$  ... Number of antineutrinos per decay  
 $\langle P_{ee} \rangle$  ... Average survival probability  
 $A$  ... Elemental abundance  
 $\rho$  ... Mass density  
 $r$  ... position

Predicting geoneutrino flux from emitters ( $^{232}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$ ) distributed spatially with mass fractions  $A(r)$  in the Earth with mass density  $\rho(r)$

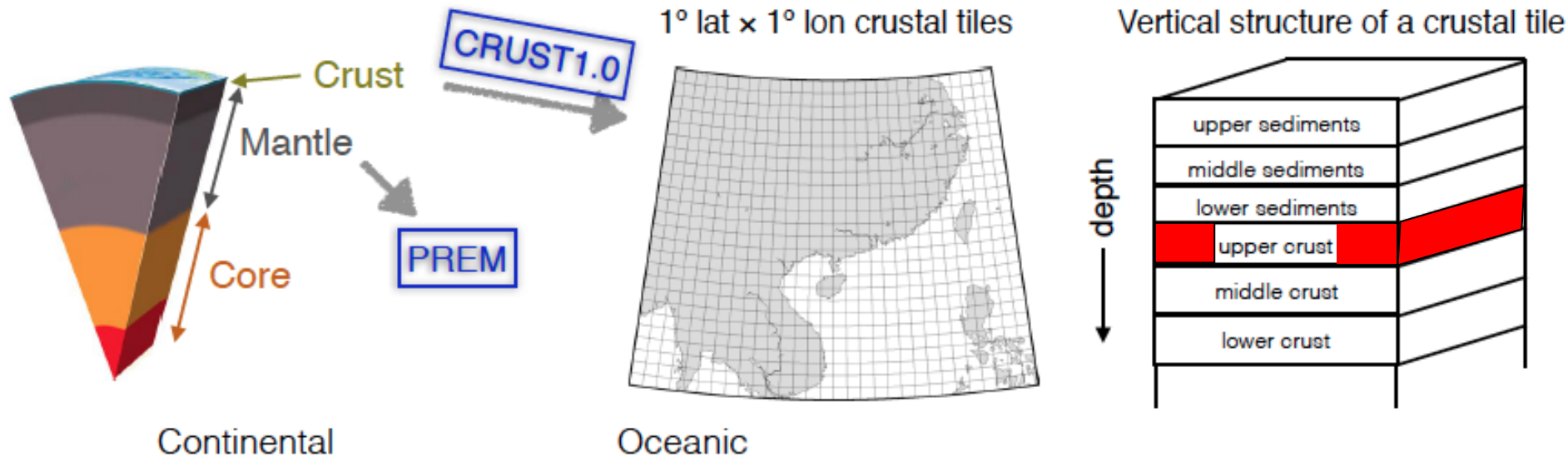


*Previous geonu emission models:  
(non-exhaustive list)*

- Krauss et al. 1984
- Kobayashi & Fukao, 1991
- Mantovani et al. 2004
- Enomoto 2005 (PhD)
- Enomoto et al. 2007
- Fiorentini et al. 2007
- Huang et al. 2013
- Usman et al. 2015

# Geoneutrino emission model

- Model of crustal geometry and material density from **CRUST1.0** model (*Laske et al.*)
- Material density in the mantle from **PREM** model (*Dziewonski & Anderson 1981*)
- Assume negligible Th, U in the core
- Total amount of Th, U in **Silicate Earth** from estimate by *Arevalo et al. 2009*, **20±4 TW** radiogenic power)

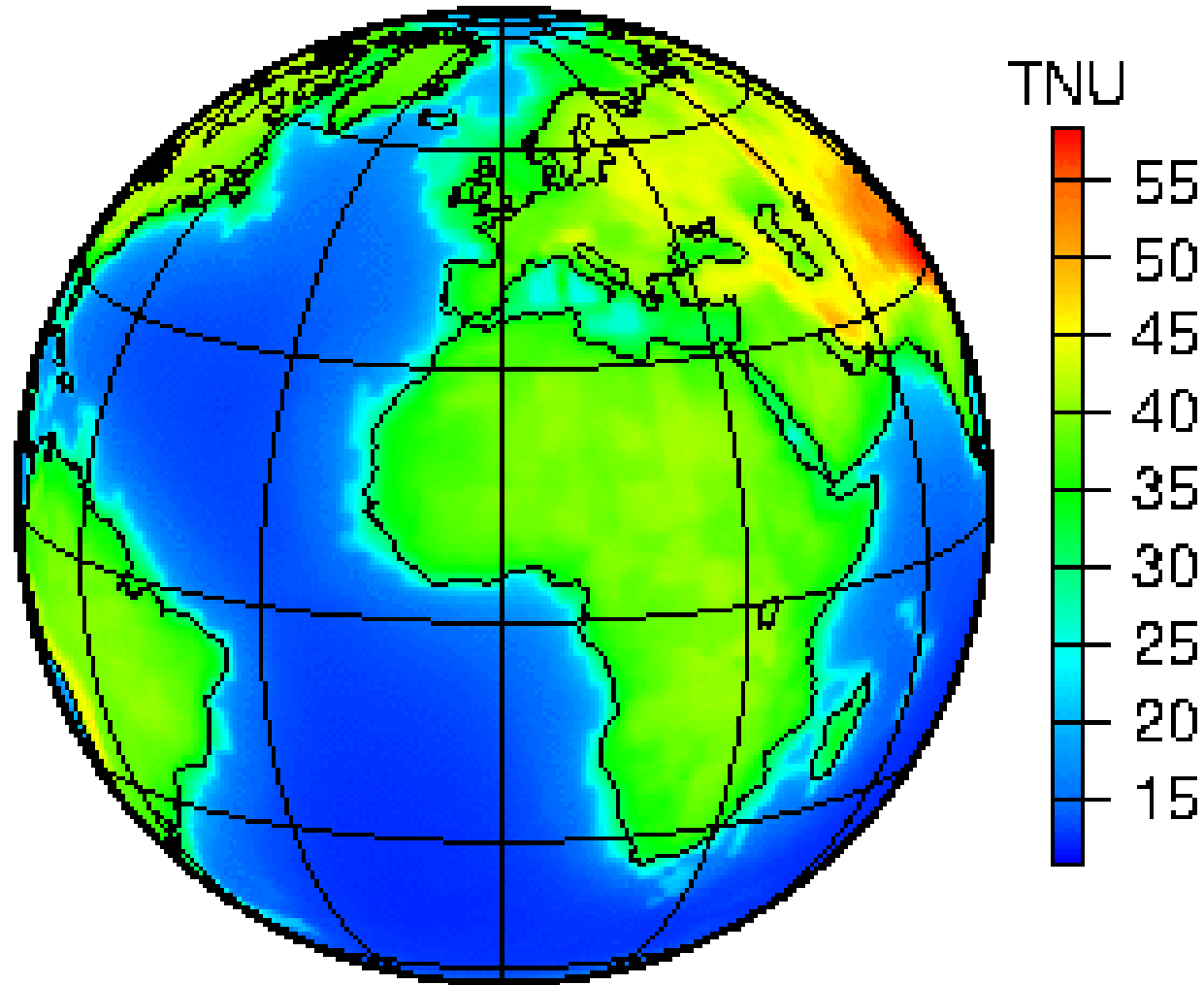


Continental Crust	Sediments (layers 3–5)	reference Earth radius 6371 km	
	Upper Cont. Crust (layer 6): <i>Rudnick &amp; Gao 2014</i>	Oceanic Sediments (layers 3–5): <i>Plank 2014</i>	
	Middle Cont. Crust (layer 7): <i>Rudnick &amp; Gao 2014</i>	Oceanic Crust (layers 6–8): <i>White &amp; Klein 2014</i>	
	Lower Cont. Crust (layer 8): <i>Rudnick &amp; Gao 2014</i>		
	Continental Lithospheric Mantle <i>Huang et al. 2013</i> 175 km depth		
Depleted Mantle: <i>Arevalo &amp; McDonough 2010</i>		radius 4202 km	
Enriched Mantle: <i>Th, U abundance from mass balance</i>		radius 3480 km	
		Oceanic Crust	

Mass fractions of Th and U

	Th	U
Upper CC + sediments	$(10.5 \pm 10\%) \times 10^{-6}$	$(2.7 \pm 21\%) \times 10^{-6}$
Middle CC	$(6.5 \pm 8\%) \times 10^{-6}$	$(1.3 \pm 31\%) \times 10^{-6}$
Lower CC	$(1.2 \pm 30\%) \times 10^{-6}$	$(0.2 \pm 30\%) \times 10^{-6}$
OC sediments	$(8.10 \pm 7\%) \times 10^{-6}$	$(1.73 \pm 5\%) \times 10^{-6}$
OC crust	$(0.21 \pm 30\%) \times 10^{-6}$	$(0.07 \pm 30\%) \times 10^{-6}$
CLM	$150^{+277}_{-97} \times 10^{-9}$	$33^{+49}_{-20} \times 10^{-9}$
Depleted Mantle	$(21.9 \pm 20\%) \times 10^{-9}$	$(8.0 \pm 20\%) \times 10^{-9}$
Enriched Mantle*	$147^{+24}_{-37} \times 10^{-9}$	$30^{+24}_{-18} \times 10^{-9}$
Bulk Silicate Earth	$(80 \pm 15\%) \times 10^{-9}$	$(20 \pm 20\%) \times 10^{-9}$

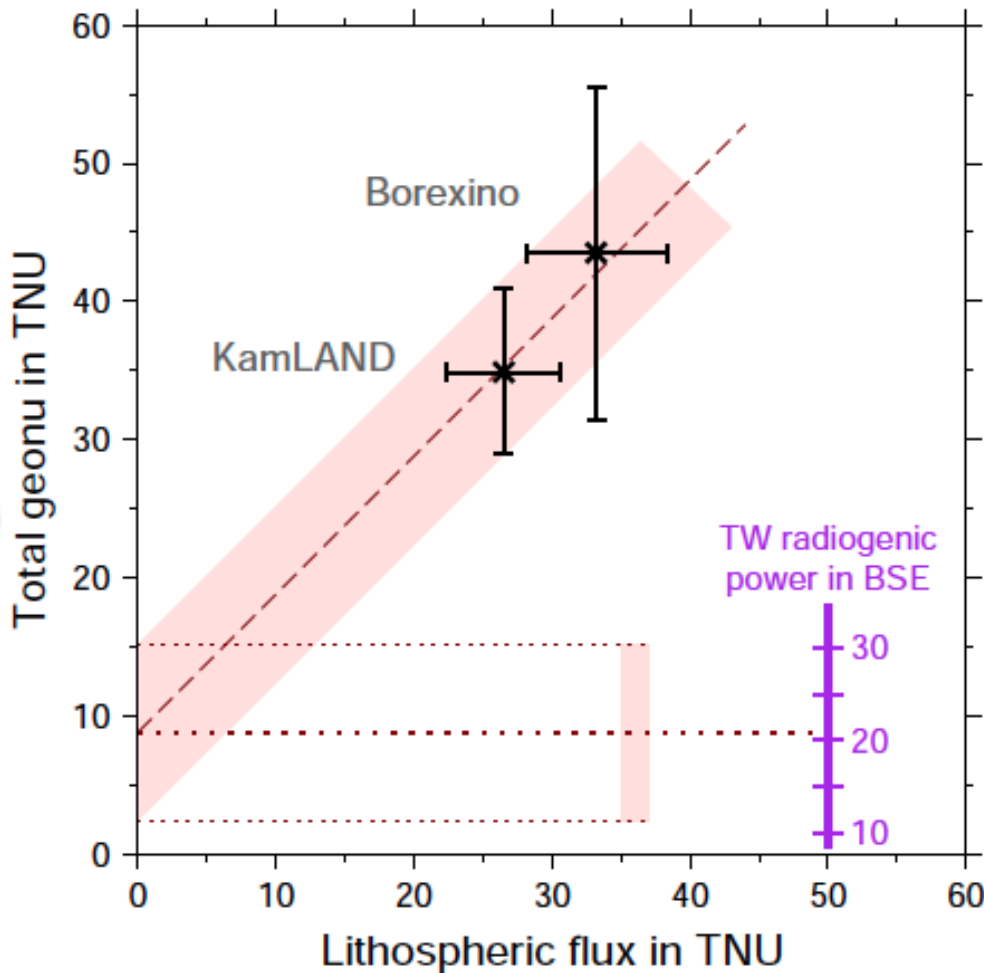
# Predicted Global geoneutrino flux based on our new Reference Model





# Latest result from KamLAND & Borexino

Measured  
by physics:  
**Total geonu**  
KamLAND (2016)  
Borexino 2015  
measurements



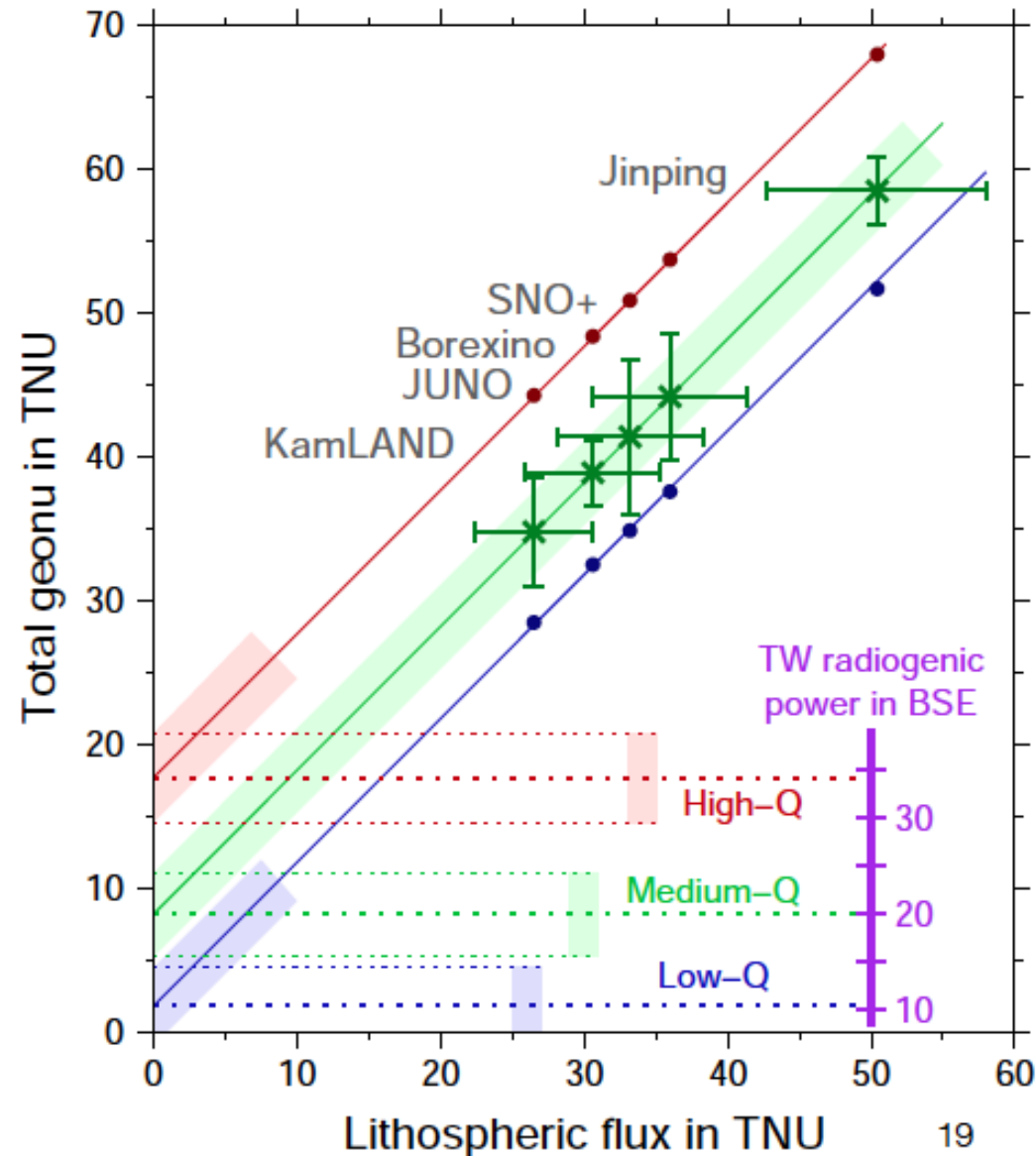
Predicted from geology: **Lithosphere**  
Emission model

## Resolving the Mantle

**Result:**  
Mantle =  $8.8 \pm 6.4$  TNU  
(72% rel. uncertainty)

# Results from detectors combined

Future prospect ~2025



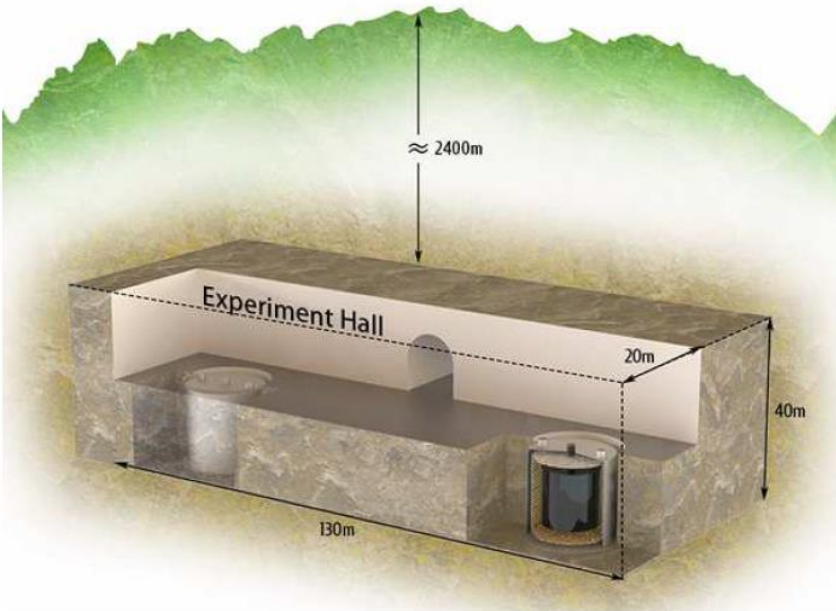
## Mantle result:

High-Q:  $17.7 \pm 3.1$  TNU

Med-Q:  $8.2 \pm 2.9$  TNU

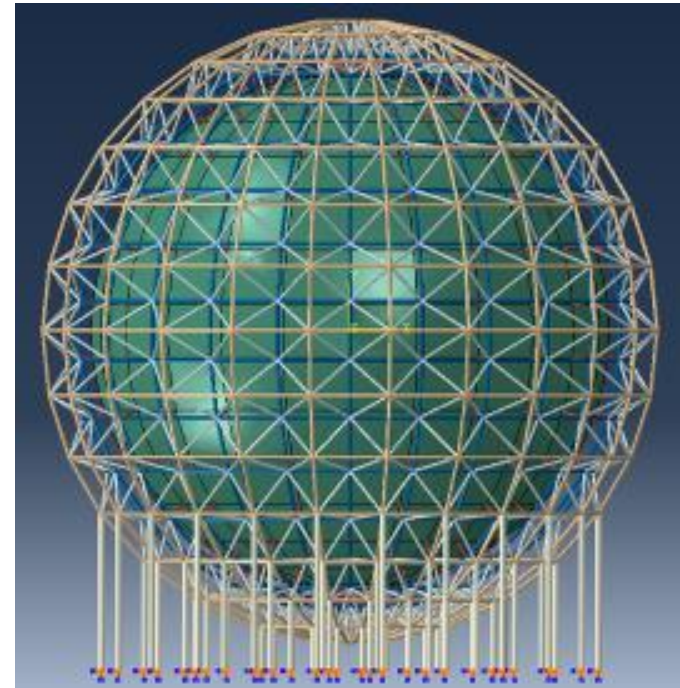
Low-Q:  $1.8 \pm 2.7$  TNU

# Future detectors

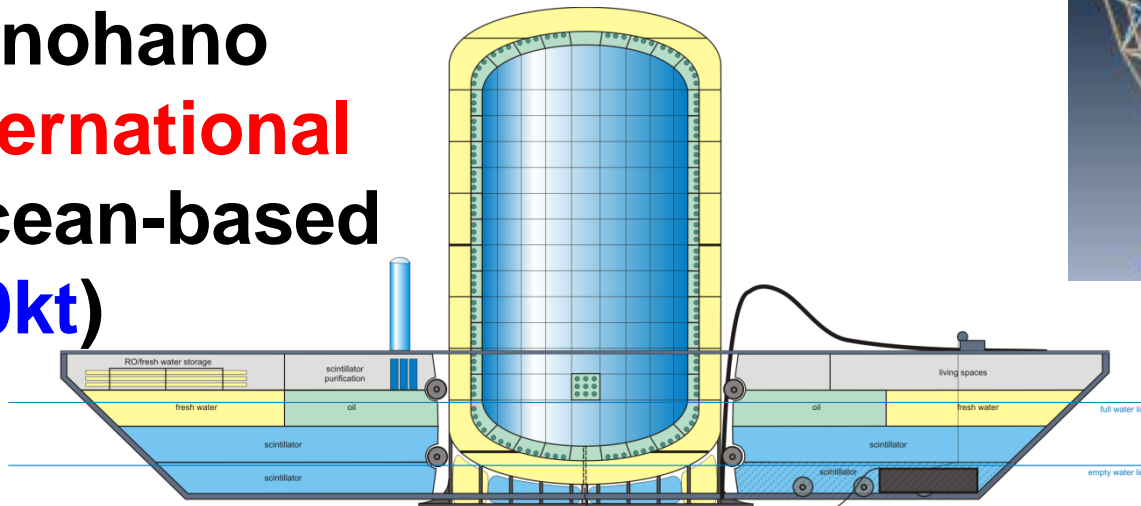


Jinping,  
China  
(4kt)

JUNO  
China  
(20kt)



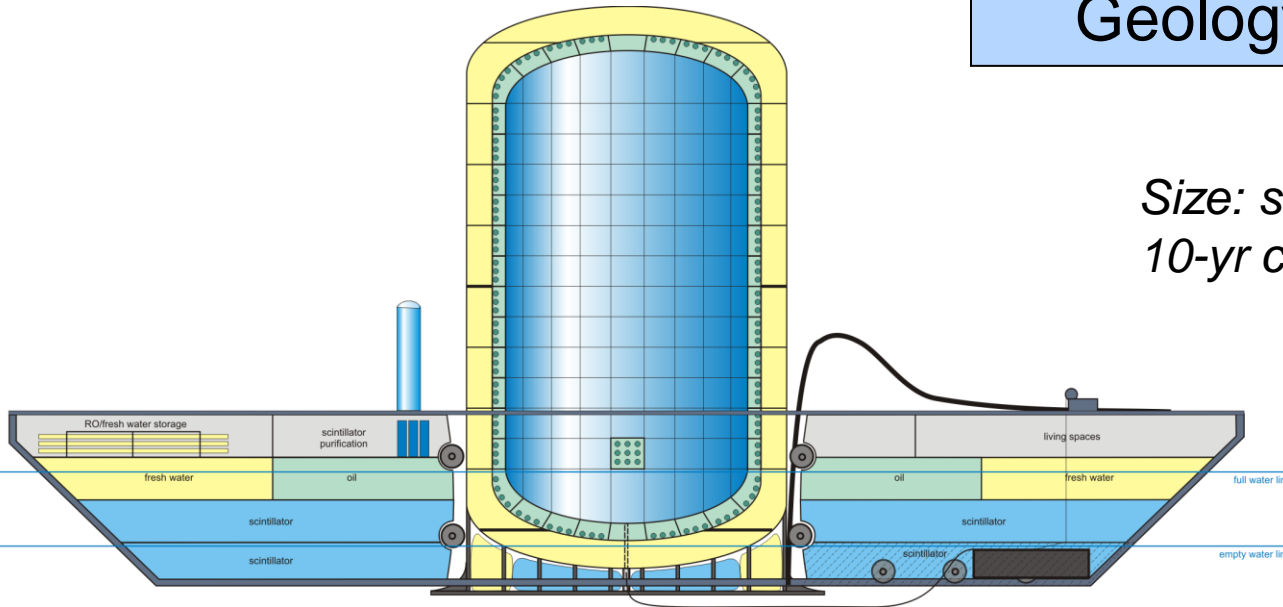
Hanohano  
International  
ocean-based  
(10kt)



# Hanohano

An experiment with joint  
interests in Physics,  
Geology, and Security

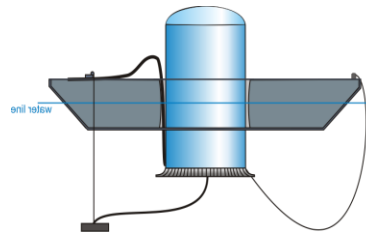
*Size: scalable from 1 to 50 kT*  
*10-yr cost est: \$250M @ 10 kT*



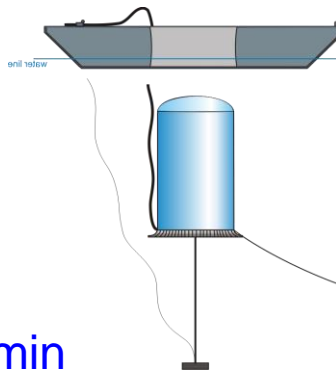
- multiple deployments
- deep water cosmic shield
- control-able L/E detection

A Deep Ocean

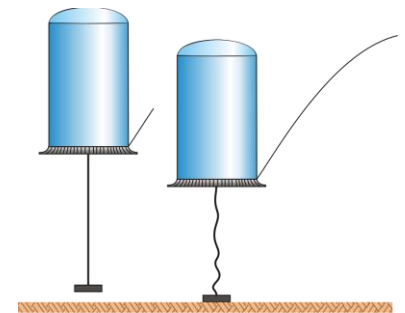
$\bar{\nu}_e$  Electron  
Anti-Neutrino  
Observatory



Descent/ascent 39 min



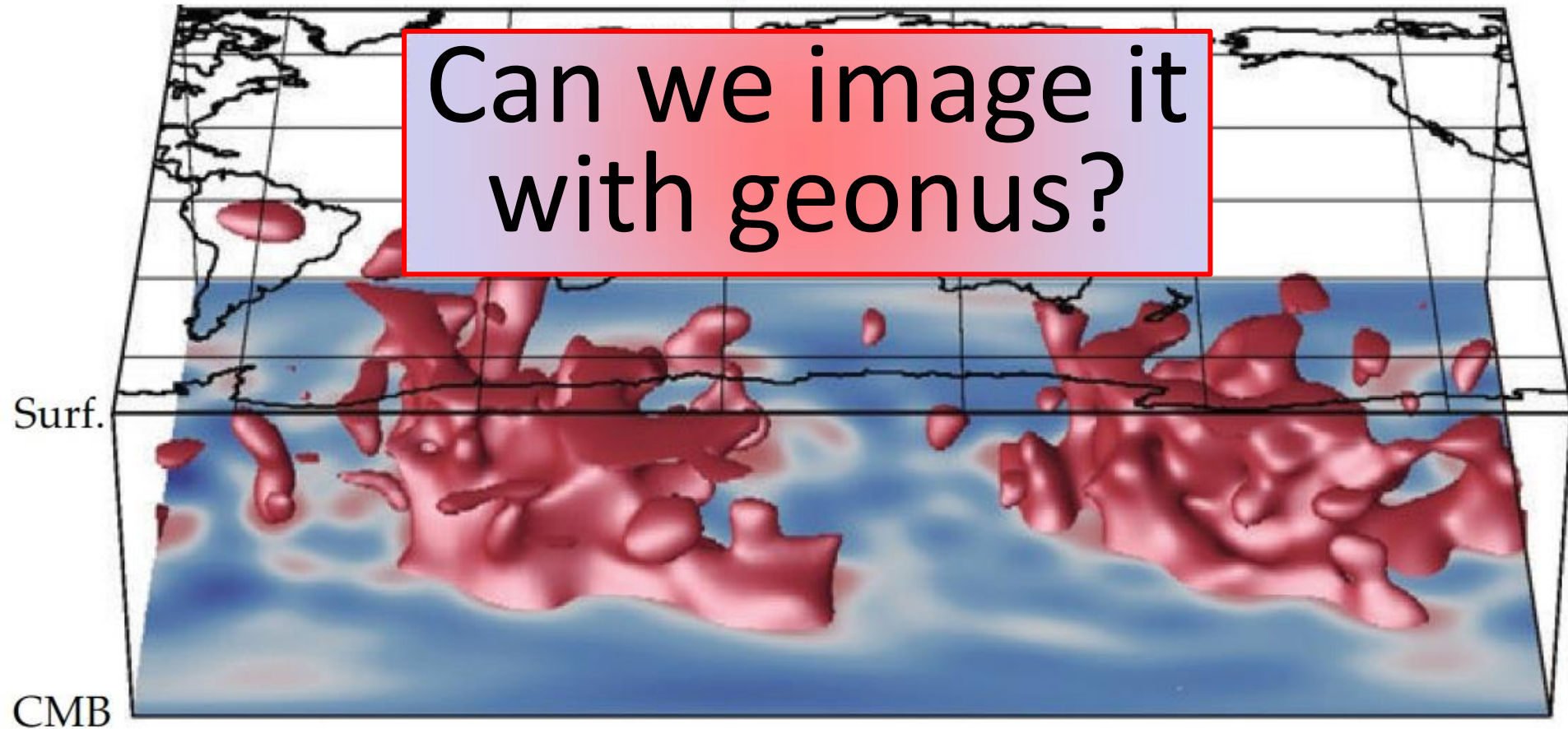
Deployment Sketch





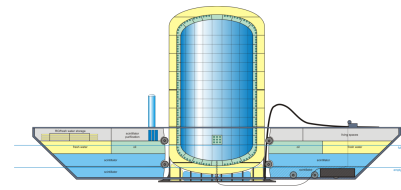
# What's hidden in the mantle?

Seismically slow “red” regions in the deep mantle

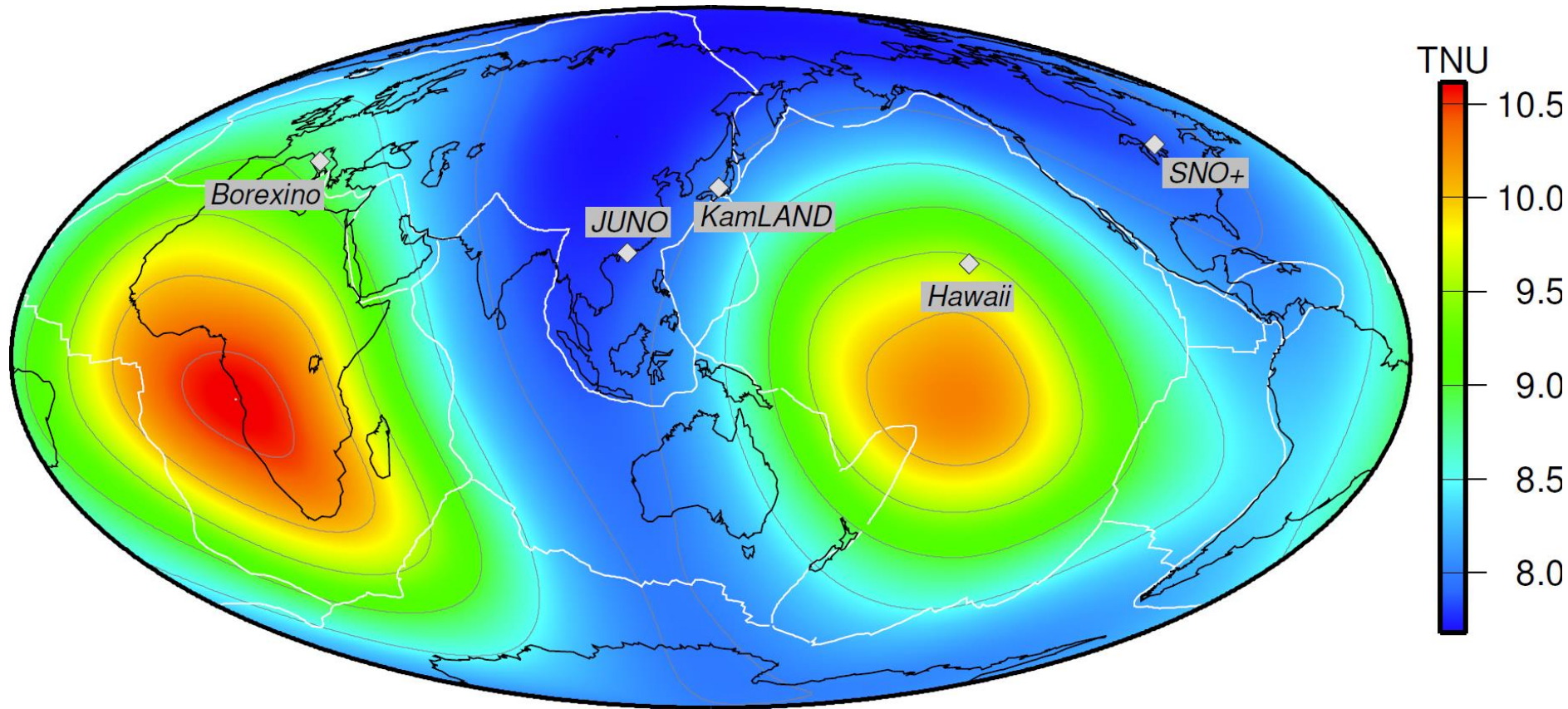


*From Alan McNamara after  
Ritsema et al (Science, 1999)*

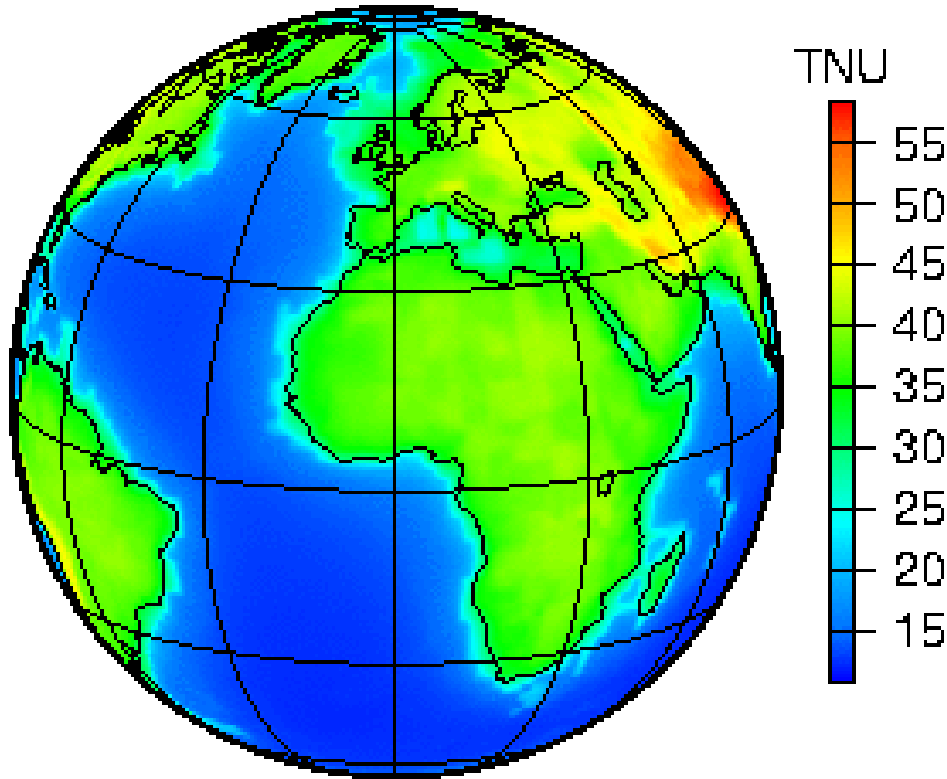
# Testing Earth Models



## Mantle geoneutrino flux ( $^{238}\text{U}$ & $^{232}\text{Th}$ )



# Predicted geoneutrino flux



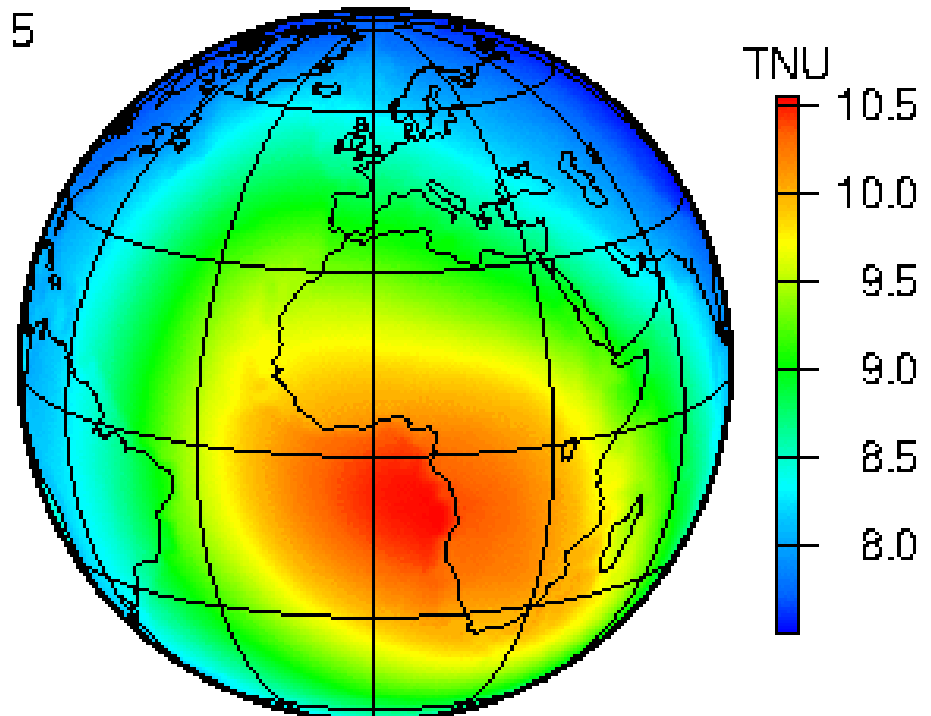
## Total flux at surface

*dominated by  
Continental crust*

Yu Huang et al (2013) *G-cubed* [10.1002/ggge.20129](https://doi.org/10.1002/ggge.20129)

## Mantle flux at the Earth's surface

*dominated by  
deep mantle structures*

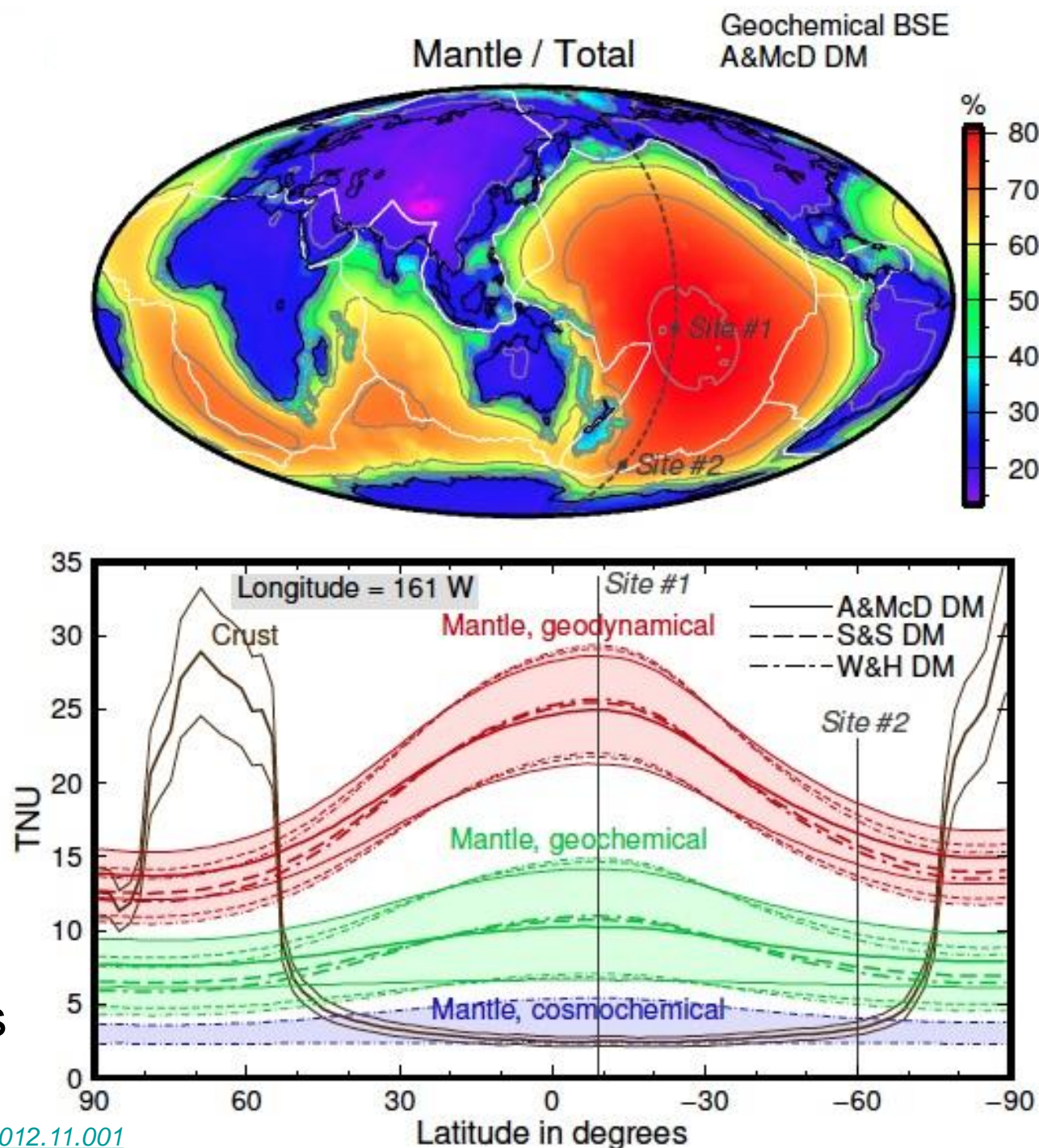


Šrámek et al (2013) *EPSL* [10.1016/j.epsl.2012.11.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.epsl.2012.11.001)



# Ocean based experiment!

- Neutrino Imaging
- Pacific Transect
- Avoid continents
- 4 km depth deployments
- Map out the Earth's interior
- Test Earth models





## SUMMARY

Earth's radiogenic (Th & U) power

$28^{+24}_{-17}$  TW - Borexino       $16^{+8}_{-5}$  TW – KamLAND

Prediction: models range from 8 to 28 TW (for Th & U)

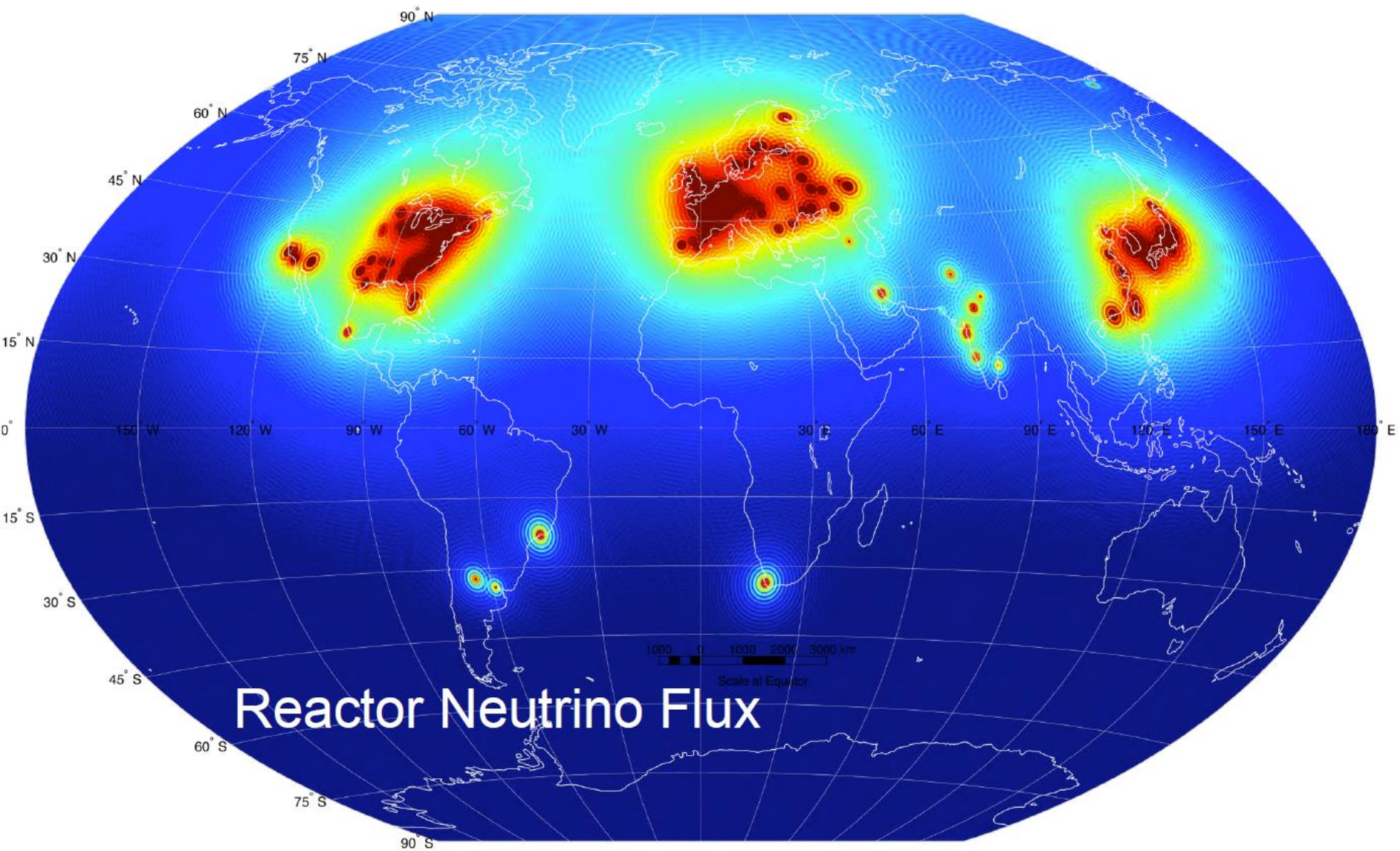
KamLAND: **MANTLE signal**     $8.8 \pm 6.4$  TNU (~11 TW)

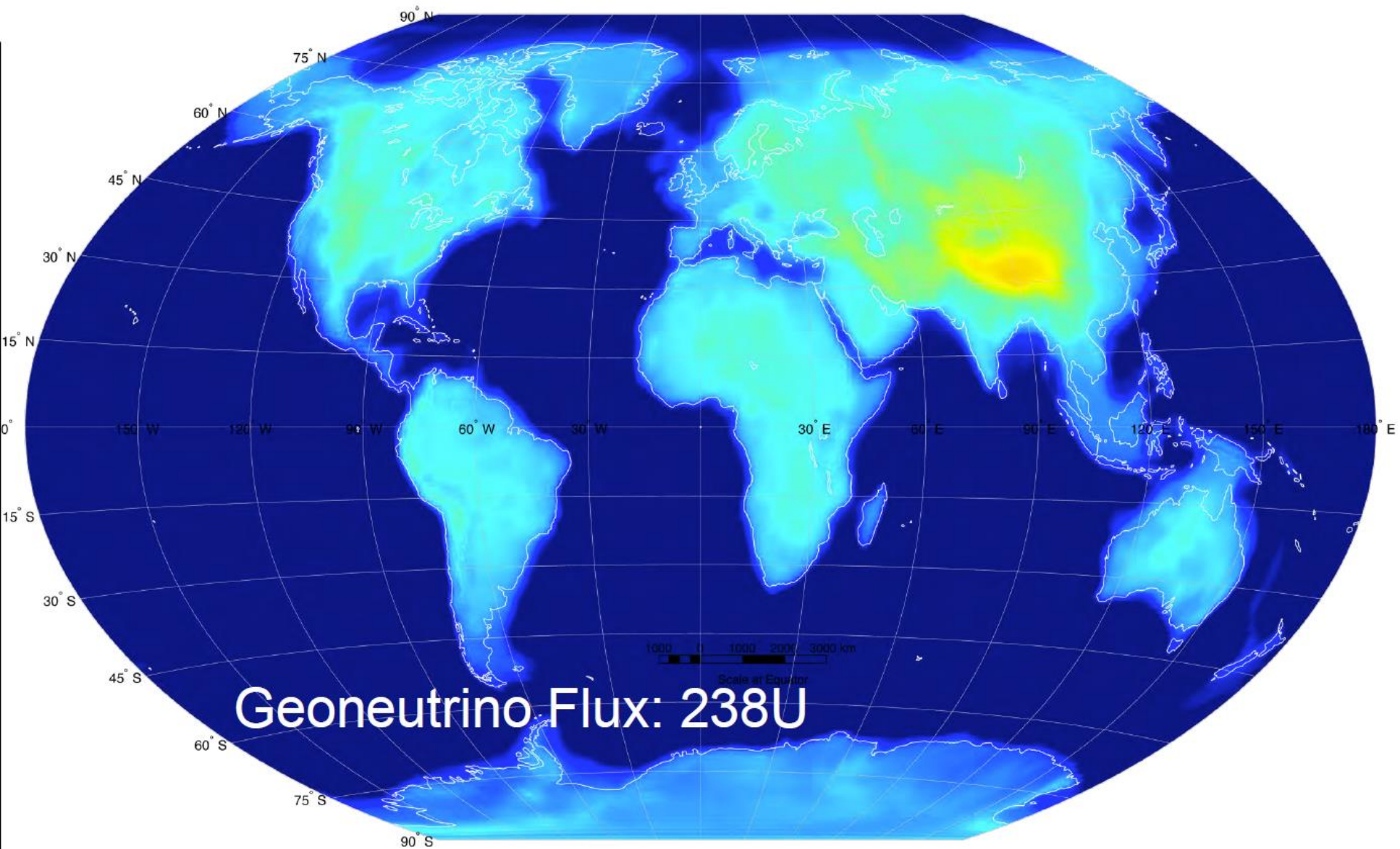
On-line and next generation GEO-NEUTRINO experiments:

- **SNO+** online 2017 ☺
- **JUNO**: 2020, enormous detector & background...
- **Jinping**: 202X, superb experiment, great for crust & mantle
- **Hanohano**: this is how to look at the mantle-only

**IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS: WbLS and directionality**

Backup





Geoneutrino Flux:  $^{238}\text{U}$