New results from RENO

Hyunkwan Seo∗
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Korea
E-mail: hkseo16@gmail.com

The Reactor Experiment for Neutrino Oscillation (RENO) has been taking reactor antineutrinos data from the six reactors at Hanbit Nuclear Power Plant in Korea using two identical near and far detectors since August, 2011. The smallest neutrino mixing angle $\theta_{13}$ has been successfully measured by observing the disappearance of reactor antineutrinos. In 2016, RENO has published an updated value of $\theta_{13}$ and its first measurement of $\Delta m_{ee}^2$ based on energy dependent disappearance probability using 500 live days of data taken until January. RENO has accumulated more data to obtain more precise values of $\theta_{13}$ and $\Delta m_{ee}^2$. A study has been on progress to find changes in the observed reactor antineutrino flux with respect to the reactor fuel evolution. In this talk, we present newly measured values of $\theta_{13}$ and $\Delta m_{ee}^2$ and results on the evolution of observed reactor antineutrino yields.
1. Introduction

RENO has measured the smallest neutrino mixing angle $\theta_{13}$ in 2012 [1]. An updated value of $\theta_{13}$ and its first measurement of $|\Delta m^2_{ee}|$ based on energy dependent disappearance probability using 500 days of data has been published in 2016 [2]. The detailed description has been also published to PRD [3]. RENO has accumulated more data to obtain more precise values of $\theta_{13}$ and $\Delta m^2_{ee}$. A study has been on progress to find changes in the observed reactor antineutrino flux with respect to the reactor fuel evolution. We report newly measured values of $\theta_{13}$ and $\Delta m^2_{ee}$ and results on the evolution of observed reactor antineutrino yields.

2. Experimental setup

RENO detects antineutrinos from the six reactors at Hanbit Nuclear Power plant in Yonggwang, Korea. The six pressurized water reactors with each maximum thermal output of 2.815 GW$_{th}$ (reactors 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 2.775 GW$_{th}$ (reactors 1 and 2) are lined up in roughly equal distances and span $\sim$1.3 km. Two identical antineutrino detectors are located at 294 m and 1383 m, respectively, from the center of reactor array. The far (near) detector is beneath a hill that provides 450 m (120 m) of water equivalent rock overburden to reduce the cosmic backgrounds. The far-to-near ratio of antineutrino fluxes measured in the two identical detectors considerably reduce systematic uncertainties coming from the reactor neutrino flux, target mass, and detection efficiency. The reactor-flux weighted baseline is 410.6 m for the near detector, and 1445.7 m for the far detector. The detail of detection methods and setup of the RENO experiment can be found elsewhere [4].

3. Measurement of $\theta_{13}$ and $\Delta m^2_{ee}$

Oscillation amplitude and frequency of neutrino survival probability are measured based on the information of the observed reactor neutrino rate and spectra. $|\Delta m^2_{ee}|$ and $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$ are determined by comparing measured far-to-near ratio of IBD prompt spectra to that of prediction.

Figure 1 shows the observed spectrum at the far detector compared to the one expected with no oscillation and the one expected with the best-fit oscillation at the far detector. The expected spectrum with no oscillation is obtained by weighting the spectrum observed at the near detector. The lower panel of the Figure 1 shows the ratio of reactor $\nu_e$ events measured in the far detector to the no-oscillation prediction (points). We have observed a clear energy dependent deficit of reactor $\nu_e$ in the far detector. The best-fit values obtained from the rate and spectral analysis are $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.0896 \pm 0.0048$ (stat.) $\pm 0.0047$ (syst.) and $|\Delta m^2_{ee}| = [2.68 \pm 0.12$ (stat.) $\pm 0.07$ (syst.)]$ \times 10^{-3}$ eV$^2$.

4. Fuel-composition dependent reactor antineutrino yield

A study has been on progress to find changes in the observed reactor antineutrino flux with respect to the reactor fuel evolution. Through this study, we test reactor antineutrino model and find possible source of reactor antineutrino anomaly [5]. Left hand side plot in Figure 2 shows a measured IBD yield per fission $\bar{\nu}_\nu$ as a function of the effective fission fraction. We observe a clear dependence of the IBD yield per fission on the effective fission fraction. This result rules out no
New results from RENO

Hyunkwan Seo

fuel-dependent variation of IBD yield per fission at 6.7 \(\sigma\). The observed slope of the IBD variation over fission fraction is not inconsistent with that of Huber-Mueller (HM) model prediction [6, 7]. \(y_{235}\) and \(y_{239}\) denoting IBD yield per fission for individual isotope \(^{235}\)U and \(^{239}\)Pu, respectively, are determined using the eight data points of the left hand side plot of Figure 2 by a \(\chi^2\) fit with pull parameters of systematic uncertainties. Right hand side plot of Figure 2 shows the result of the measurements of \(y_{235}\) and \(y_{239}\). The contours are allowed regions, the dot is the best fit and the cross is the HM prediction. The measured \(y_{235}\) is smaller than the HM prediction at 3.5 \(\sigma\) while measured \(y_{239}\) is smaller than the HM prediction only at 1.2 \(\sigma\). This suggests the reactor antineutrino anomaly can be largely understood by incorrect prediction of \(y_{235}\). However, it is hard to rule out \(^{239}\)Pu as a contributor to the reactor antineutrino anomaly because error of \(y_{239}\) is large.

Figure 2: Left: IBD yield per fission \(\gamma_f\) as a function of the effective fission fraction. The black dots are measured values, blue dotted line is the scaled Huber-Mueller model prediction and red solid line is the best fit of the data. The horizontal errors of the data indicate the range of effective fission fraction. Errors of \(\gamma_f\) are statistical uncertainties only. Right: measurement of IBD yield per fission for individual isotope \(^{235}\)U and \(^{239}\)Pu. The contours are allowed regions, the dot is the best fit and the cross is the Huber-Mueller model prediction.
5. Summary

RENO has observed a clear energy dependent disappearance of reactor $\nu_e$ at far detector and updated the result of $\sin^22\theta_{13}$ and $|\Delta m^2_{ee}|$ measurement based on far-to-near ratio analysis using 2200 days of data. RENO is going to take data until the end of 2018 and expect to measure $\sin^22\theta_{13}$ and $|\Delta m^2_{ee}|$ with 6% accuracy and it will provide an important information on determination of the leptonic CP phase if combined with a result of an accelerator neutrino beam experiment [8]. RENO also report a fuel-dependent IBD yield using 1807.9 days of RENO near data. Hypothesis of no fuel-dependent IBD yield is ruled out at $6.7\sigma$. The measured IBD yield per $^{235}\text{U}$ fission is smaller than the Huber-Mueller model at $3.5\sigma$. So we conclude the reactor antineutrino anomaly can be understood by reevaluation of the $^{235}\text{U}$ IBD yield prediction. However we do not rule out $^{239}\text{Pu}$ as a contributor to the reactor antineutrino anomaly because error of measured $^{239}\text{Pu}$ IBD yield is large.

References