

Progress towards understanding the source of the Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly

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We have reviewed the nuclear data used in the normalization of the electron spectra measured at the Institut Laue Langevin in the 1980s, concluding that they are very close to currently recommended values, except for the neutron capture cross section on ^{207}Pb , which is 9% higher. This would lead to an artificially larger ^{235}U electron and antineutrino spectra, consistent with the Daya Bay Collaboration results, as well as those reported recently by Kopeikin and collaborators. Additionally, following an analysis that employs the latest nuclear databases of the electron data measured at ORNL in the 1970s by Dickens and collaborators, we have deduced new electron and antineutrino spectra for ^{235}U and $^{239,241}\text{Pu}$ under equilibrium conditions, which are consistent with the above mentioned normalization issue, and which can better reproduce the IBD antineutrino spectrum near its maximum, thus providing a coherent explanation for the origin of the Reactor Antineutrino Anomaly.

Abstract title

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