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Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Experiments

A VERY UNUSUAL REVIEW…

- Short Intro with best Physics Results
- Open Questions
- Controversial Issues
- Impact or Input on/from other fields

### Neutrino-less Double Beta Decay: a short intro…



To date, 0 $\nu\beta\beta$  is the only viable option to show that neutrinos are Majorana particles ( $\nu$  =  $\nu$ )

### **Experimental observation of neutrino-less double beta decay will...**

**Establish the violation of lepton number** in particle physics

Shed light on the **mass generation mechanisms** and the smallness of neutrino masses 

Open a window to understand **matter dominance** in the universe 

Provide information on the **size and pattern** of neutrino masses 

Caveat In order to extract the information on the neutrino mass, it is necessary to pass through atomic and nuclear physics

$$
(t_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = (C_{0\nu}) \cdot |M_{0\nu}|^2 \cdot \left|\frac{m_{BB}}{m_e}\right|^2
$$

## Experimental search for  $0\nu\beta\beta$

**detection**: energy (track) of the 2 emitted  $e^-$ 

- monochromatic peak at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$  $\Box$
- smearing due to finite energy resolution  $\Box$
- **observable**: decay half-life of the isotope,  $t_{1/2}^{0\nu}$  $\Box$  in the case of a peak in the energy spectrum

$$
t_{1/2}^{0\nu} = \ln 2 \cdot T \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \frac{N_{\beta\beta}}{N_{\text{peak}}} \qquad \left(\frac{\delta t_{1/2}^{0\nu}}{t_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = \frac{\delta N_{\text{peak}}}{N_{\text{peak}}}\right)
$$



if no peak is detected, the sensitivity corresponds to the maximum signal  $\Box$ that can be hidden by the background fluctuations  $n_B = \sqrt{M T B \Delta}$ 

$$
S_{1/2}^{0\nu} = \ln 2 \cdot T \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \frac{n_{\beta\beta}}{n_{\sigma} \cdot n_{\beta}} = \ln 2 \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \frac{1}{n_{\sigma}} \cdot \frac{x \eta N_A}{M_A} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{M T}{B \Delta}}
$$

 $(M =$  detector mass  $T =$  measuring time  $B =$  background level  $\Delta =$  energy resolution)

 $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ 

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## Detector requirements

- good energy resolution
	- only protection against  $2\nu\beta\beta$  spectrum tail  $\Box$

$$
\Box \quad R_{0\nu/2\nu} \propto \left(\frac{Q_{\beta\beta}}{\Delta}\right)^{\!\!\!6} \frac{t_{1/2}^{2\nu}}{t_{1/2}^{0\nu}}
$$

- very low background
	- underground location  $+$  shielding  $\Box$
	- radio-pure materials for detector and surrounding parts

 $((10^9 - 10^{10}) \text{ yr from natural chains vs.} > 10^{25} \text{ yr of } 0 \text{ v} \beta \beta)$ 

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- analysis rejection techniques  $\Box$
- large isotope mass
	- $\Box$  present: some tens up to hundreds of kg
	- $\Box$  tonnes required to cover the IH region



Counts

It is up to the experimentalists to choose which aspect to privilege in order to get the best sensitivity

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## Present sensitivity

### Effective Majorana mass

 $m_{\beta\beta} \equiv |\sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i| = |e^{i\xi_1} \cos^2 \theta_{12} \cos^2 \theta_{13} m_1 + e^{i\xi_2} \cos^2 \theta_{13} \sin^2 \theta_{12} m_2 + \sin^2 \theta_{13} m_3|$ 



## Comparison of the (future) experiments



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A crucial issue: background suppression

$$
\blacksquare \text{ recall: } S_{1/2}^{0\nu} = \ln 2 \cdot T \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \frac{n_{\beta\beta}}{n_{\sigma} \cdot n_{\beta}} = \ln 2 \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \frac{1}{n_{\sigma}} \cdot \frac{x \eta N_A}{M_A} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{MT}{B \Delta}}
$$

 $\blacksquare$  when *B* is sufficiently low  $\rightarrow$  zero background condition

□ transition region in between:  $M T B \Delta = \mathcal{O}(1)$  (no expected events in the ROI)

$$
S_{1/2,0B}^{0\nu} = \ln 2 \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \frac{x \eta N_A}{\mathcal{M}_A} \cdot \frac{M T}{N_S}
$$

max n. of counts compatible with 0 bkg

 $\Box$  the sensitivities scales linearly with the exposure!

The zero bkg condition depends on *M*: the larger the detector mass, the more strict the request on the background

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 $\Box$  the same bkg level can suffice for a kg-size experiment, but not for a tonne-size one

### Zero Background Condition? The GERDA case Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78 :388 Page 3 of 30 **388**



BEGe detectors making up the Phase II detector array; it

ment as a function of exposure for various background indices. An over-

Phase I and II are indicated

## Sensitivity or Discovery Potential? The GERDA - LEGEND case



## 2ββ: a (searched) signal, a MC test, a (major?) bkg **Result of 2νββ decay (2016)**



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# Choice of the isotope

- $Q_{\beta\beta} \rightarrow$  influences the bkg
	- 2.6 (3.3) MeV end-point of main  $\gamma s$  ( $\beta s$ )  $\Box$
	- $\Box$  avoid radioactivity peak position obs. suitability depends on detector features
- high isotopic abundance
	- $\Box$  ease of material enrichment (technologically + economically)
- availability of the isotope
	- $\Box$  tonnes required for future  $0\nu\beta\beta$  experiments
		- $\rightarrow$  high cost + large procurement time
- compatibility with a detection technique

Most suitable **isotope** + detector combination

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## Technological Requirements



# An example: ultrapure materials

What has been learned in a field/experiment is utilized in other applications



## Choice of the isotope: theoretical side

In principle, isotopes with the best Nuclear Factor of Merit ( $G_{0_\mathsf{V}}\cdot\left\lvert M_{0_\mathsf{V}}\right\rvert^2$ ) should be favoured

A surprising inverse correlation has been observed between (specific) phase space and the square of the nuclear matrix element.



Constraints from oscillations:  $m_{\beta\beta}$  vs  $m_{\beta}$  lightest

Since 
$$
(t_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G_{0\nu} \cdot |M_{0\nu}|^2 \cdot \left|\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right|^2
$$



 $S^2$  you can put constraints on the half-life trough constraints on  $m_{\beta\beta}$ 

- it is possible to put a first series of constraints on  $m_{\beta\beta}$ 
	- $\circ$   $m_{\beta\beta}^{max} = \sum_{i=1}^{3} |U_{\alpha i}^{\beta}| m_i$ o  $m_{\beta\beta}^{\min} = \max\left\{2\left|\frac{U_{ci}^2}{m_i} - m_{\beta\beta}^{\max}, 0\right.\right\}$  $i - 1, 2, 3$
- $\xi_{1,2}$  are left free

Constraints from cosmology:  $m_{\beta\beta}$  vs  $\Sigma$ 

• **Σ** < 140 meV (95% C.L.) by combining:

Lyα-forest from BOSS + CMB data from Planck + BAO data from BOSS (limits within the ΛCDM model)



At the 1**σ** level, the IO is excluded, as (recently) claimed also from oscillations

## Implications for the  $0\nu\beta\beta$  search

Depending on the ordering and on the C.L. we want to consider,  $m_{\beta\beta}$  can at most have the following values:



Except for the  $1\sigma$  C.L. they are still at the level reachable by the present experiments



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S. Dell'Oro, S.Marcocci, M. Viel, F. Vissani, J. Cosm. Astropart. Phys. 1512, 023 (2015)

## Discovery probabilities: a shot in the arm?

- Global Bayesian analysis including v-oscillation,  $m_{\beta}$   $m_{\beta\beta}$ ,  $\Sigma$
- Priors:
	- Majorana phases (flat)
	- $m_1$  (scale invariant) ٠





## Discovery probabilities: controversial, but still interesting

Apart presenting data in a different way, the 2 groups reach quite different results

Is it a mere philosophical problem?

Will we have in a short time a hint on how to disentangle the issue?



#### A. Caldwell et al., Phys. Rev. D 96, 073001



## A big Challenge for 0νββ Discovery

• a convenient parametric description of the NME can be:

$$
\mathcal{M} \equiv g_A^2 \mathcal{M}_{0\nu} = g_A^2 \left( \mathcal{M}_{GT}^{(0\nu)} - \left( \frac{g_V}{g_A} \right)^2 \mathcal{M}_F^{(0\nu)} + \mathcal{M}_T^{(0\nu)} \right)
$$

- *M*<sub>0v</sub> depends only mildly on  $g_A$
- relatively small intrinsic error of  $\sim$  20%
- fix the  $g_A$  renormalization to account for the differences between calculations and rates for processes "similar" to  $0\nu\beta\beta$  ( $\beta$ , EC,  $2\nu\beta\beta$ )
- important effect of  $g_A$ 
	- any uncertainty on its values  $\Rightarrow$  a larger uncertainty factor on *M*

## Size of  $g_A$

- $g_A \simeq 1.27$  in weak interactions and decays of nucleons (measured)
- renormalization in nuclear medium, value appropriate for quarks
- strong quenching:  $g_A < 1$ 
	- o limited model space of the calculation
	- o contribution of non-nucleonic degrees of freedom
	- o renormalization of the GT operator due to two-body currents

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• still unknown if the quenching in  $0\nu\beta\beta$  and  $2\nu\beta\beta$  is the same

$$
g_A^{\text{quark}} = 1
$$
  
\n
$$
g_A^{\text{nucleon}} = 1.27
$$
  
\n
$$
g_A^{2\nu\beta\beta} = 1.27 \cdot A^{-0.18}
$$
  
\n
$$
g_A^{0\nu\beta\beta} = ??
$$

### BUT WHY SHOULD IT BE THE SAME?

 $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay is a high-momentum transfer process (q ~ 100 MeV)⇒ less quenching

(J. Menéndez, D. Gazit, A. Schwenk, PRL 107 (2011) 062501

Effect of the nuclear uncertainties: Xe case

- different NMEs / fixed  $g_A$ 
	- $\circ$  74 meV  $< m_{\beta\beta} < 149$  meV
- different  $g_A$  / fixed NMEs
	- 74 meV  $< m_{\beta\beta}$   $<$  (149) 542 meV



 $t_{0\nu}^{1/2} \propto g_A^{-4} \, {\cal M}_{0\nu}^{-2}$ 

the main uncertainty consists in the determination of the *true value* of  $g_A$ 

## How can the experimentalists help?

0.001

50 100 150 200 250 300 350

Electron kinetic energy (keV)



More shape spectra to be measured to extract a "general law" Will not give the quenching of  $g_A$  for 0 $\nu\beta\beta$ , but...

A by-product from forbidden **β** decays studies for g<sub>A</sub>

Studying the forbidden unique and non unique **β** decays is extremely important also for the Reactor Anomaly



### Warning: **don't stick to m**<sub>ββ</sub> metric, just go on with T<sub>1/2</sub>! Variety of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  mechanisms:



 $0vββ$  from any mechanism  $\rightarrow$  Majorana nature of *v* would be established anyway

From: E.Lisi, Nu2018

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BACKUP SLIDES

# Experimental techniques (I)

### Ge-diodes

- high-purity enriched crystals  $\Box$
- high energy resolution ( $\lesssim 0.2\%$  @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ ) □
- bkg rejection by pulse shape analysis  $\Box$

### Heidelberg-Moscow **IGEX**

## **GERDA** MAJORANA Demonstrator

#### bolometers п

- $\Box$  high energy resolution (close to Ge-diodes)
- many compounds with  $0\nu\beta\beta$  emitters  $\Box$
- large source masses □
- complex cryogenic infrastructure  $\Box$

#### **CUORE-0** Cuoricino AMoRE CUPID-0 CUORE









# Experimental techniques (II)

- $\blacksquare$  Xe liquid ...
	- $\Box$  Xe easily enrichable
	- $\Box$  event topology reconstruction
	- low energy resolution ( $\sim$  3%)  $\Box$
- $\blacksquare$  ... and gaseous TPCs
	- higher energy resolution  $\Box$
	- $\Box$  lower signal efficiency ( $\sim$  30%)

#### **EXO-200 NEXT**

- liquid scintillators loaded with  $0\nu\beta\beta$  isotope
	- $\Box$  poor energy resolution ( $\sim 10\%$ )
	- huge amount of material  $\Box$
	- $\Box$  very low background

### $KamLAND-Zen$   $SNO+$







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# Experimental techniques (III)

### $\blacksquare$  tracker + calorimeter

- almost no limitations in the choice of the isotope  $\Box$
- large isotope masses hardly achievable  $\Box$
- low energy resolution ⊔
- event topology reconstruction  $\Box$

### NEMO-3 SUPERNEMO

### $\blacksquare$  others

- $\Box$  variations on the previous, or new techniques
- $\Box$  numerous running prototypes and R&D projects

CANDLES COBRA ZICOS DCBA/MTD FLARES









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# **Future players: SuperNEMO**

- **SuperNEMO** 
	- □ tracker + calorimeter with 100 kg of <sup>82</sup>Se  $\beta\beta$  source
	- background in ROI:  $5c$  keV<sup>-1</sup> t<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>  $\Box$
	- energy resolution: 120 keV FWHM @  $Q_{BB}$ ш
	- □ sensitivity goal on 0νββ half-life:  $10^{26}$  yr
- from the experience of NEMO-3
	- improved detector design  $+$  modularity  $\Box$
	- $\Box$  increased detector radio-putity
	- $\Box$  increased source radio-purity







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# superNEMO demonstrator first produced module (1 of 20) 7 kg of isotope mass **E** expected sensitivity:  $6 \cdot 10^{24}$  yr

## Future players:  $SNO+$

- Sudbury Neutrino Obrservatory +
	- $\Box$  3.9t of tellurium dissolved in LS
	- $\Box$  background in ROI: 0.1 c keV<sup>-1</sup> t<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>
	- $\Box$  energy resolution: 270 keV FWHM @  $Q_{BB}$
	- □ sensitivity goal on 0νββ half-life:  $2 \cdot 10^{26}$  yr
- commissioning ongoing
	- $\Box$  tellurium stored underground
	- purification system under construction  $\Box$
	- calibration system ready  $\Box$
	- loading of LS forthcoming  $\Box$



### $SNO+$  0v $\beta\beta$  programme

- Te concentration in LS:  $0.5\% \rightarrow 5\%$
- 13.3t of isotope mass
- **E** expected sensitivity:  $> 10^{27}$  yr

# Future players: NEXT-100

- Neutrino Experiment with a Xenon TPC
	- $\Box$  gas TPC with 100 kg of <sup>136</sup>Xe enriched xenon
	- background in ROI: 0.1 c keV<sup>-1</sup> t<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>
	- energy resolution: 15 keV FWHM @  $Q_{BB}$  $\Box$
	- □ sensitivity goal on 0νββ half-life:  $5 \cdot 10^{25}$  yr
- result of a strong R&D programme
	- $\Box$  NEXT-WHITE: final validation prototype
	- $\Box$  signal amplification by electroluminescence
	- $\Box$  tracking plane (SiPMs) + energy plane (PMTs)







### The NEXT program

- NEXT-100  $\rightarrow$  NEXT-250  $\rightarrow$  NEXT-ton
- **D** background estimate:  $0.05$  c keV $^{-1}$  t $^{-1}$  yr $^{-1}$
- **n** final expected sensitivity:  $10^{27}$  yr

# Future players: LEGEND

- Large Enriched Germanium Experiment for Neutrinoless  $\beta\beta$  Decay
	- 200 kg  $\rightarrow$  1 t of <sup>76</sup>Ge enriched HPGe-diodes  $\Box$
	- background in ROI:  $0.1 c keV^{-1} t^{-1} yr^{-1}$  $\Box$
	- energy resolution: 2.5 keV FWHM @  $Q_{BB}$
	- sensitivity goal on  $0\nu\beta\beta$  half-life:  $10^{28}$  yr  $\Box$
- best of GERDA & MJD
	- $\Box$  water + LAr for low-A shielding (G)
	- $\Box$ LAr active veto  $(G)$
	- radio-pure material, especially Cu (M)
	- low-noise electronics (M)  $\Box$









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# Future players: KamLAND2-Zen

- Kamioka Liquid scintillator Anti-Neutrino Detector 2 - Zero neutrino
	- $\Box$  1 t of <sup>136</sup>Xe enriched xenon dissolved in LS
	- background in ROI: 0.01 c keV<sup>-1</sup> t<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>  $\Box$
	- energy resolution: 50 keV FWHM @  $Q_{BB}$
	- sensitivity goal on  $0\nu\beta\beta$  half-life:  $10^{27}$  yr  $\Box$
- from the experience of KamLAND-Zen  $\mathbf{r}$ 
	- $\Box$  improved light collection (new LS & PMTs + collectors)
	- scintillating balloon  $(^{214}$ Bi tagging)  $\Box$
	- new method for LS purification  $\Box$
	- pressurized Xe-LS  $\Box$





# Future players: nEXO

- next Enriched Xenon Observatory
	- $\Box$  liquid TPC with 4.7 t of active <sup>136</sup>Xe enriched xenon
	- $\Box$  background in ROI: 0.01 c keV $^{-1}$  t<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>
	- $\Box$  energy resolution: 60 keV FWHM @  $Q_{BB}$
	- □ sensitivity goal on 0νββ half-life:  $9 \cdot 10^{27}$  yr
- from the experience of EXO-200
	- $\Box$  3x larger size  $\Rightarrow$  30x mass/volume
	- $\Box$  improved design & components
	- $\Box$  increased light collection

(larger coverage  $+$  APDs  $\rightarrow$  SiPMs)





### A major challenge: Ba tagging

 $1^{36}Xe \rightarrow 1^{36}Ba^{++} + 2e^{-}$ 

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- complete background elimination
- 40x in expected sensitivity:  $4 \cdot 10^{28}$  yr

## Future players: CUPID

- **CUORE Upgrade with Particle IDentification** (Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events)
	- 750 kg bolometric array of enriched crystals  $\Box$
	- $TeO<sub>2</sub>$  or Mo/Se compounds
	- background in ROI: 0.1 c keV<sup>-1</sup> t<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>  $\Box$
	- energy resolution:  $5 \text{ keV}$  FWHM @  $Q_{BB}$
	- sensitivity goal on  $0\nu\beta\beta$  half-life:  $5 \cdot 10^{27}$  yr
- from the experience of CUORE
	- use CUORE cryogenic infrastructure  $\Box$
	- light collection (Cerenkov / scintillation)  $\Box$
	- $\rightarrow \alpha$  vs.  $\beta/\gamma$  separation  $\Rightarrow$  bkg reduction



### CUORE first results (Oct 2017)



# Future players: PandaX-III

- Particle and astrophysical Xenon Detector III
	- $\Box$  5 gas TPCs with 200 kg of <sup>136</sup>Xe enriched xenon
	- background in ROI: 0.01 c keV<sup>-1</sup> t<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>  $\Box$
	- energy resolution: 75 keV FWHM @  $Q_{BB}$  $\Box$
	- □ sensitivity goal on 0νββ half-life:  $10^{27}$  yr
- $\blacksquare$  0v $\beta\beta$  search with the PandaX programme
	- $\Box$  symmetric TPC instrumented with Microbulk MicroMegas
	- $\Box$  extensive material screening campaign
	- commissioning of prototype TPC (10 kg Xe) ongoing  $\Box$







# Future players: AMoRE-II

- Advanced Mo-based Rare process Experiment II
	- 200 kg bolometric array of enrMo-based crystals  $\Box$
	- background in ROI:  $0.1c$  keV $^{-1}$ t $^{-1}$  yr $^{-1}$  $\Box$
	- energy resolution: 10 keV FWHM @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$  $\Box$
	- □ sensitivity goal on 0νββ half-life:  $5 \cdot 10^{26}$  yr
- result of the AMoRE programme
	- $\Box$  new underground laboratory: ARF
		- @ Handeok Iron Mine (1100 m overburden)
	- $\Box$  new cryogenic infrastructure
	- improved detector performance  $\Box$



### **AMoRE** pilot

- 6 crystals of  $^{40}Ca^{100}MoO<sub>4</sub> (\sim 1.8 kg)$
- several upgrades in detector/system design
- **E** FWHM @  $^{208}$ TI: 43 keV  $\rightarrow$  10 keV