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Neutrinoless double beta decay and particle physics

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Summary

The various implications of limits or an observation of neutrinoless double beta decay are given. In the standard interpretation of the decay light massive Majorana neutrinos are mediating the decay. This directly relates double beta decay to neutrino oscillations, direct neutrino mass experiments and cosmological determinations of neutrino mass. However, there are many non-standard interpretations, in which new physics not directly related to neutrino physics mediates the decay. Tests of such alternative mechanisms are possible e.g. with the LHC.

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