The Search for Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay

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Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay (0vββ)

Small, non-zero neutrino masses motivate the possibility that neutrinos are Majorana particles, indistinguishable from antineutrinos.

Searches for neutrinoless double-beta decay $(0v\beta\beta)$ are the only current practical probes of Majorana nature of neutrinos.

0vββ requires:

Non-zero neutrino masses:

- "wrong-handed" helicity admixture ~ m_i/E_{v_i}
- Any process that allows 0vββ to occur requires Majorana neutrinos with non-zero mass. -Schechter and Valle, 1982

Lepton Number non-conservation

- No experimental evidence that Lepton number must be conserved
- Allowed based on general SM principles, such as electroweak-isospin conservation and renormalizability



Implications of a 0vββ Measurement

Observation of 0vßß:

Immediately implies neutrinos are Majorana particles, regardless of mechanism.

Demonstrates Lepton Number nonconservation.

Provides a model-dependent measurement of absolute neutrino mass.

Allows access to CP-violating Majorana phases in the PMNS neutrino mixing matrix.

Offers an explanation for the lightness of neutrinos as compared to the other standard model fermions.

Motivates plausible mechanisms for the matter/antimatter asymmetry in the Universe.



Two Modes of Double-Beta Decay





Experimental Signature



Effective Majorana Masses



Theoretical Considerations



10²⁸

48

76 82

96100

А

116 124130 136

impact mass interpretation.

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Large Liquid Scintillator Experiments: Making use of existing large detectors



KamLAND-Zen Xe-doped LS



SNO+ Te-doped LS

KamLAND-Zen

136 Xe loaded LS \rightarrow into KamLAND center with inner balloon.



Double beta decay isotope: ¹³⁶Xe

- Q-value 2.458 MeV
- Dissolved into LS ~3% by weight
- Extract from LS (blank measurement)
- Noble gas \rightarrow chemical stability
- Enrichment ~90%
- Purification method established
- Half life of 2vββ decay is long (~10²¹ yr)

Inner balloon

- 25um thickness clean nylon
 ²³⁸U, ²³²Th ~a few×10⁻¹² g/g
- Enough strength & transparency
- Heat welding (no glue)
- Production in class-1 clean room

Gando, Azusa - doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1286895

Three Phases of KamLAND-Zen





Past KamLAND-Zen 400

320-380 kg of Xenon Data taking 2011 ~ 2015



Present

KamLAND-Zen 800 ~750 kg of Xenon

DAQ to start in this year



Future

KamLAND2-Zen ~1 ton of ¹³⁶Xe Better energy resolution

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KamLAND-Zen 0vββ Search Results

¹³⁶Xe Half-life limit



Combined result (90% C.L.)

T^{1/2} > 1.07×10²⁶ yr

Phase-I: $T^{1/2} > 1.9 \times 10^{25}$ yr Phase-II: $T^{1/2} > 9.2 \times 10^{25}$ yr PRL 117, 082503 (2016)

Gando, Azusa - doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1286895

Limit for effective neutrino mass



KamLAND2-Zen

- Enlarge opening General use: accommodate various devices such as CdWO₄, Nal, CaF₂ detectors



R&D to improve the energy resolution

Winstone cone & High QE PMT

Improve light collection efficiency ×1.9 and photo coverage



Brighter LS

×1.4

Current LS ~8,000 photon/MeV LAB based new LS ~12,000 photon/MeV

 σ (2.6MeV)=4% \rightarrow < 2.5% Target $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$ ~20meV in 5 yrs

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SNO+

- SNOLAB, Ontario
- 780 ton LAB/PPO (2g/L) in 6m radius acrylic vessel (AV)
- ~9400 PMTs at 8.5m
- Inherited SNO detector
 - Upgraded electronics & DAQ
 - New hold-down rope net
 - New underground LS & Te plants

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SNO+

Method: Load LAB/PPO with 0.5% natTe

- High nat abundance of ¹³⁰Te
 → enrichment unnecessary
- High intrinsic photon yield, low absn
- Favourable 2νββ:ονββ NME
- Isotope-out background measurement
- High detection efficiency



stil 12000 Bench-top measurement 10000 of promptlight fraction α 8000 in Te-LAB/ PPO 6000 4000 2000 0.6 0.65 0.7 0.75 0.8 0.85 0.9 fprompt

- Low backgrounds (dominated by ⁸B ν_e)
 - Fiducialisation \Rightarrow self-shielding
 - Particle ID and coincident timing BiPo rejection > 99.99% in ROI
 - Deep location (6000 m.w.e.)
- Large target mass, easy scaling

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SNO+ Towards 0vββ

Background levels consistent with or below "nominal" value used for sensitivity projections



Xenon Time Projection Chambers



Monolithic TPCs with little/no background-inducing material in central volume, possibility of tagging Ba daughter.

EXO-200, nEXO: Liquid Xe

NEXT: High-pressure gaseous Xe

EXO: Enriched Xenon Observatory

The EXO program

- Use ¹³⁶Xe in liquid phase
- Initial R&D on energy resolution using scintillation-ionization correlation

Build EXO-200, first 100kg-class experiment to produce results. Phase II in progress, will end in Dec 2018

- Build the 5-tonne nEXO, reaching $T_{1/2} \sim 10^{28}$ yr and entirely covering the Inverted Hierarchy
- Develop a technique for tagging the final state Ba as a possibility to further upgrade nEXO and substantially exceed $T_{1/2}=10^{28}$ yr

EXO-200 calibration data 3000 [keV] 2500 ergy P 2000 Scintillation 1500 100 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000





EXO-200 Time Projection Chamber



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EXO-200 0vββ Results

	Sensitivity (yr)	90% CL Limit (yr)	<m<sub>66> (meV)</m<sub>
PRL 109, 032505 (2012)	0.7x10 ²⁵	1.6x10 ²⁵	FF
Nature 510, 229 (2014)	1.9x10 ²⁵	1.1x10 ²⁵	
PRL 120 072701 (2018)	3.8x10 ²⁵	1.8x10 ²⁵	147-398



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nEXO



Major changes on the EXO-200 theme

- Only one drift volume
- ASIC electronics in LXe
- Silica substrate charge collection tiles
- VUV SiPMs (~4.5m²)
- Little plastics in the TPC (Sapphire, Silica)





nEXO Sensitivity



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NEXT: Neutrino Experiment with a Xenon TPC



Prototypes (~1 kg) [2009 - 2014]

Demonstration of detector concept [<1% FWHM, tracking]





NEXT-NEW (~5 kg) [2015 - 2018]

Underground and radiopure operations, background, 2νββ



NEXT-100 (~100 kg) sensitivity: 6x10²⁵ yr [2018 - 2020's]

Neutrinoless double beta decay searches

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NEXT: Background Suppression through Event Topology



Tagging of the Ba Daughter

EXO: Laser-Induced Fluorescence Spectroscopy



NEXT: Single-Molecule Fluorescence Imaging



CUORE / CUPID: Te Bolometers

Cryogenic Bolometers

- Solid state detectors operating at low temperatures: ~10mK
- 1 MeV energy deposition causes ~ 100 μK increase in temperature
 - Read out with an Ge Neutron Transmutation
 Doped thermometer
- Extremely good energy resolution: 5 keV FWHM at 2.5 MeV
- Detector is made out of Te and contains the candidate isotope inside
- Flexible choice of candidate isotope



Ouellet, Jonathan - doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1286904







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CUORE / CUPID: Te Bolometers

The CUORE Experiment

- Primary physics goal is the search for 0vββ decay of ¹³⁰Te
- Array of 988 TeO₂ bolometers
- Located at the Gran Sasso National Lab in Italy (3600 m.w.e. overburden)
 - Large mass of 741 kg (206 kg of candidate isotope ¹³⁰Te)
 - > Energy resolution goal of 5 keV FWHM at $Q_{\beta\beta}$ (2527 keV)
 - Low background goal of 10⁻² cnts/(keV·kg·yr) at the ROI
 - High uptime and signal efficiency
- Sensitivity to $T_{1/2} = 9 \times 10^{25}$ yr in 5 years of live time



Ouellet, Jonathan - doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1286904



CUORE: Recent Results

Search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay with CUORE

- Background index is consistent with expectations
 (1.4 ± 0.2) × 10⁻² cnts/(keV·kg·yr)
- Median expected sensitivity

$$T_{1/2}^{0v} = 7.0 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr}$$

Combined limit with CUORE-0 and Cuoricino:

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.5 \times 10^{25} \,\mathrm{yr} \ (90\% \mathrm{C.L.})$$

 $m_{\beta\beta} < 110 - 520 \,\mathrm{meV}$

$$m_{\beta\beta} \equiv \left| \sum_{i} U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|$$

Ouellet, Jonathan - doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1286904





Next Steps: CUPID

CUORE Upgrade with Particle ID (CUPID) R&D

- Next generation of $0v\beta\beta$ decay experiments seek to be sensitive to the full IH region (m_{$\beta\beta$} ~ 6 20 meV, T_{1/2} ~ 10²⁷ yr)
- ~1000 enriched light emitting bolometers mounted in the CUORE cryostat
- ▶ Nearly zero background goal of ~ 0.1 cnts/(ROI·yr)
- Worldwide effort focused on demonstrating readiness to construct a tonne-scale bolometric experiment









Neganov-Luke and TES-based light detectors for TeO₂

Ouellet, Jonathan - doi.org/10.5261/261000.1265504



Next Steps: CUPID

CUORE Upgrade with Particle ID (CUPID) R&D

Goal of reducing the background in the ROI by rejecting all α events with particle ID

- Add the ability to read out the light emitted in a particle interaction (scintillation/Cherenkov)
- Combine the energy resolution of bolometers with the background discrimination of a dual channel detector





Germanium Semiconductor Detectors

GERDA:

Detector immersion in Argon cryogenic bath and active shielding

MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR:

Detectors deployed in ultra-lowbackground vacuum cryostats, compact shield.







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GERDA Phase II



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GERDA Ge Detectors

7 strings with 40 detectors in total

- 7 enriched semi-coaxial (15.6 kg)
- 30 enriched thick window BEGe (20.0 kg)
- 3 natural semi-coaxial (7.6 kg)





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GERDA: Background Suppression with LAr Veto



- Almost pure 2vββ spectrum after LAr veto cut (600-1300 keV)
- LAr veto cut signal acceptance 97.7(1)%

Zsigmond, Anna Julia - doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1287604

GERDA: Background Suppression with PSD



- Both K lines and high energy α events strongly suppressed
- High 0vββ signal efficiency (71.2 ± 4.3)% for Coax and (87.6 ± 2.5)% for BEGe detectors

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GERDA: Background Index

Background index window: 1930-2190 keV, excl. ± 5 keV around two known γ lines and around $Q_{_{\beta\beta}}$



Coax^{*}: 5.7^{+4.1}_{-2.6} ·10⁻⁴ cts/(keV·kg·yr) BEGe: 5.6^{+3.4}_{-2.4} ·10⁻⁴ cts/(keV·kg·yr)

One new event in the BEGe dataset with energy 2042 keV

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The MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR

Operating underground at the 4850' Sanford Underground Research Facility

- Demonstrating backgrounds low enough to justify building a tonne scale experiment.
- Goals: Establishing feasibility to construct & field modular arrays of Ge detectors.
 - Searching for additional physics beyond the standard model.

Energy resolution of 2.5 keV FWHM @ 2039 keV is the best of any $\beta\beta$ -decay experiment

Background Goal in the $0\nu\beta\beta$ peak after analysis cuts:

- With the achieved resolution: 2.5 counts/(FWHM t yr)
- Projected backgrounds based on assay results ≤ 2.2 counts/(FWHM t yr)

44.1-kg of Ge detectors

- 29.7 kg of 88% enriched ⁷⁶Ge crystals
- 14.4 kg of natGe
- Detector Technology: P-type, point-contact.
- 2 independent cryostats
 - Ultra-clean, electroformed Cu
 - 22 kg of detectors per cryostat
 - Naturally scalable

Compact Shield

- Low-background passive Cu and Pb shield with active muon veto

Funded by DOE Office of Nuclear Physics, NSF Particle Astrophysics, NSF Nuclear Physics with additional contributions from international collaborators.



[N. Abgrall et al. Adv. High Energy Phys 2014, 365432 (2014)]

Guiseppe, Vincente - doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1286900



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MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR Clean Materials

Ultra-pure materials

- Low mass design
- Custom cable connectors and front-end boards
- Selected plastics & fine Cu coax cables
- Underground Electro-formed Cu Th decay chain (ave) ≤ 0.1 μBq/kg U decay chain (ave) ≤ 0.1 μBq/kg



Detector assembly

- Dedicated glove boxes with a purged N₂ environment



Machining and Cleaning

- Cu machining in an underground clean room
- Cleaning of Cu parts by acid etching and passivation
- Nitric leaching of plastic parts



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MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR Beyond-the-Standard-Model Physics Searches

The low backgrounds at low energy allows additional searches

- Controlled surface exposure of enriched material to minimize cosmogenics
- Sub-keV energy thresholds possible (< 500 eV) Efficiency below 5 keV is under study.
- Excellent energy resolution (0.4 keV FWHM at 10.4 keV)



c / keV / kg / day

Resolution (keV)

Residual (keV)

105

MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR: Energy Resolution

Calibration of the detector array with a ²²⁸Th line source

- Source is inserted and retracted for scheduled calibrations

1000

- Provides energy calibration, gain stability checks, and tuning of single-site (DEP) and multi-site (SEP) cuts

Excellent energy resolution attained improved by charge trapping and ADC nonlinearities corrections Energy (keV)

1500

[NIMA 872,16 (2017) arXiv:1702.02466]





2500

3000

2000

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MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR: Recent 0vββ Results



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MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR: Recent 0vββ Results



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LEGEND

"The collaboration aims to develop a phased, Ge-76 based double-beta decay experimental program with discovery potential at a half-life significantly longer than 10 years, using existing resources as appropriate to expedite physics results."

Combining successes of MJD clean materials development, GERDA active shield, and new initiatives.

LEGEND-200:

- ~200-kg array deployment in existing GERDA cryostat at LNGS
- BG goal (5x lower) 0.6 c/(FWHM-tn-yr)
- Start by 2021

LEGEND-1k:

- 1000-kg, ~4-module array with phased deployment.
- BG goal (30x lower) 0.1 c/(FWHM-tn-yr)
- Timeline connected to US DOE down-select
- Location TBD Required depth under investigation

Active Shield: Investigating reduction of Ar backgrounds:

Depleted Argon

Detector encapsulation

- Frozen scintillator
- Liquid Neon







LEGEND-1k

LEGEND: Future Sensitivity

Next Generation ⁷⁶Ge: LEGEND — Large Enriched Germanium Experiment for Neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ Decay (52 Institutions, ~250 Members)

⁷⁶Ge (87% enr.)



The Global Picture

Experiment	Iso	Iso.	σ	BOI	EPV Fair E B		В	3σ disc. sens.		Required			
Emportanente	100.	Mass		1001		csig			$\hat{T}_{1/2}$ $\hat{m}_{\beta\beta}$		Improvement		
		$[\mathrm{kg}_{iso}]$	$[\mathrm{keV}]$	$[\sigma]$	[%]	[%]	$\left[\frac{\mathrm{kg}_{iso}\mathrm{yr}}{\mathrm{yr}}\right]$	$\left[\frac{\mathrm{cts}}{\mathrm{kg}_{iso}\mathrm{ROI}\mathrm{yr}}\right]$	[yr]	[meV]	Bkg	σ	Iso. Mass
LEGEND 200 [62, 63]	⁷⁶ Ge	175	1.3	[-2, 2]	93	77	119	$1.7 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$8.4\cdot10^{26}$	40-73	3	1	5.7
LEGEND 1k [62, 63]	76 Ge	873	1.3	[-2, 2]	93	77	5 93	$2.8\cdot 10^{\text{-}4}$	$4.5 \cdot 10^{27}$	17 - 31	18	1	29
SuperNEMO [69, 70]	82 Se	100	51	[-4, 2]	100	16	16.5	$4.9\cdot 10^{-2}$	$6.1 \cdot 10^{25}$	82 - 138	49	2	14
CUPID $[59, 60, 71]$	82 Se	336	2.1	[-2, 2]	100	69	221	$5.2 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{27}$	15 - 25	n/a	6	n/a
CUORE [53, 54]	$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	206	2.1	[-1.4, 1.4]	100	81	141	$3.1 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$5.4 \cdot 10^{25}$	66 - 164	6	1	19
CUPID $[59, 60, 71]$	$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	543	2.1	[-2, 2]	100	81	422	$3.0\cdot 10^{-4}$	$2.1 \cdot 10^{27}$	11 - 26	3000	1	50
SNO+ Phase I $[67, 72]$	$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	1357	82	[-0.5, 1.5]	20	97	164	$8.2 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{26}$	46 - 115	n/a	n/a	n/a
SNO+ Phase II [68]	¹³⁰ Te	7960	57	[-0.5, 1.5]	28	97	1326	$3.6 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$4.8 \cdot 10^{26}$	22 - 54	n/a	n/a	n/a
KamLAND-Zen 800 [61]	136 Xe	750	114	[0, 1.4]	64	97	194	$3.9 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{26}$	47 - 108	1.5	1	2.1
KamLAND2-Zen [61]	136 Xe	1000	60	[0, 1.4]	80	97	325	$2.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$8.0 \cdot 10^{26}$	21 - 49	15	2	2.9
nEXO [73]	136 Xe	4507	25	[-1.2, 1.2]	60	85	1741	$4.4\cdot10^{-4}$	$4.1 \cdot 10^{27}$	9-22	400	1.2	30
NEXT 100 [65, 74]	136 Xe	91	7.8	[-1.3, 2.4]	88	37	26.5	$4.4 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$5.3 \cdot 10^{25}$	82 - 189	n/a	1	20
NEXT 1.5k [75]	136 Xe	1367	5.2	[-1.3, 2.4]	88	37	398	$2.9\cdot 10^{-3}$	$7.9\cdot 10^{26}$	21 - 49	n/a	1	300
PandaX-III 200 [66]	136 Xe	180	31	[-2, 2]	100	35	60.2	$4.2 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$8.3 \cdot 10^{25}$	65 - 150	n/a	n/a	n/a
PandaX-III 1k [66]	¹³⁶ Xe	901	10	[-2, 2]	100	35	301	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$9.0 \cdot 10^{26}$	20-46	n/a	n/a	n/a

Agostini, Benito, Detwiler - doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.96.053001 45

The Global Picture



- Colored bands represent NME uncertainties.
- Assumed $g_a = 1.27$ (no quenching).

Discovery Potential



- Increasingly significant evidence is suggesting a preference for Normal Ordering.
- While it is essentially impossible to completely rule out NO Majorana Neutrinos with $0\nu\beta\beta$ null results, there is significant discovery potential for next-generation experiments even in the case of Normal Ordering.

Thank you for your attention...

and thank you for your help, Alfredo Galindo-Uribarri and Andrea Pocar!