K. Zuber, TU Dresden DESY, 9/10 September 2008

In search of neutrinoless double beta decay

Contents



- General Introduction
- Neutrino physics and DBD
- Experimental considerations
- GERDA
- COBRA
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- Outlook and summary

Fundamental neutrino properties Are neutrinos their own antiparticles? What is the absolute neutrino mass?

One example:



Both questions can be explored with double beta decay



Mainz and Troitsk: $m_{ve} < 2.2 \text{ eV}$ (sensitivity limit)

KATRIN-The ultimate beta-decay experiment



Discovery potential $m_{ve} = 0.35 \text{ eV}$ at 5σ Sensitivity $m_{ve} < 0.2 \text{ eV} (90\% \text{ CL})$

Commissioning in 2008

KATRIN



Aim: Sensitivity to neutrino masses down to 0.2 eV

Beta and double beta decay Beta decay • $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+1) + e^{-} + \bar{v}_{e}$ β-decay • $n \rightarrow p + e^{-} + \bar{v}_{e}$ Double beta decay • $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e^{-} + 2\bar{v}_{e}$ $2\nu\beta\beta$ • $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2 e^{-1}$ 0νββ



changing Z by two units while leaving A constant

Requirements

Weizsäcker formula for A=const near minimum well approximated by

$$m(Z,A) = const + 2b_{S} \frac{(A/2 - Z)^{2}}{A^{2}} + b_{C} \frac{Z^{2}}{A^{1/3}} + m_{e}Z + \delta$$



Pairing energy δ leads to splitting: $\delta = 0$ for even-odd, odd-even $\delta = -12 \text{ MeV/A}^{1/2}$ for even-even $\delta = +12 \text{ MeV/A}^{1/2}$ for odd-odd

There are 35 $\beta^{-}\beta^{-}$ isotopes in nature

Single beta decay must be forbidden

Example - Ge76



Spectral shapes

$0\nu\beta\beta$: Peak at Q-value of nuclear transition



Sum energy spectrum of both electrons

Measured quantity: Half-life

Dependencies (BG limited) $T_{1/2} \propto a \bullet \epsilon (M \bullet t / \Delta E \bullet B)^{1/2}$

link to neutrino mass 1 / $T_{1/2}$ = PS * ME² * (m_v / m_e)²

$0\nu\beta\beta$ Any ΔL=2 process can contribute to $0\nu\beta\beta$



R_p violating SUSY V+A interactions Leptoquarks Double charged Higgs bosons Compositeness Heavy Majorana neutrino exchange Light Majorana neutrino exchange

 $1 / T_{1/2} = PS * NME^2 * \epsilon^2$

The standard lore

Light Majorana neutrino exchange

Measured quantity

Quantity of interest Effective Majorana neutrino mass

 $1 / T_{1/2} = PS * NME^2 * (< m_v > / m_e)^2$

Phase space integral calculable

Nuclear transition matrix element

Oscillation evidences

depends on $\Delta m^2 = m_2^2 - m_1^2$ No absolute mass measurement LSND $\sin^2 2\theta = 10^{-1} \cdot 10^{-3}$, $\Delta m^2 = 0.1 \cdot 6 \text{ eV}^2$ Atmospheric $\sin^2 2\theta = 1.00$, $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ Solar + reactors $\sin^2 2\theta = 0.81$, $\Delta m^2 = 8.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$



LSND not confirmed by MiniBooNE

Neutrino mass schemes

almost degenerate neutrinos m₁≈ m₂≈ m₃

 hierarchical neutrino mass schemes



3 Flavour oscillations (PMNS)

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{e} \\ v_{\mu} \\ v_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu 1} & U_{\mu 2} & U_{\mu 3} \\ U_{\tau 1} & U_{\tau 2} & U_{\tau 3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{1} \\ v_{2} \\ v_{3} \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \frac{m_{i}^{2}}{2E_{v}} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} v_{e} \\ v_{\mu} \\ v_{\tau} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta_{12} & \sin\theta_{12} & 0 \\ -\sin\theta_{12} & \cos\theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta_{13} & 0 & \sin\theta_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin\theta_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & \cos\theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\theta_{23} & \sin\theta_{23} \\ 0 & -\sin\theta_{23} & \cos\theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha_{1}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\alpha_{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

solar If sin $\theta_{13} \neq 0 \rightarrow CP$ -violation atmospheric

Majorana: $U = U_{PMNS} diag(1, e^{i\alpha_1}, e^{i\alpha_2})$

Physical quantities

Experimental observable: Half-life Double beta decay: Effective Majorana neutrino mass

$$\langle m_{\nu} \rangle = \left| \sum U_{ei}^2 m_i \right| = \left| m_1 U_{e1}^2 + m_2 U_{e2}^2 e^{i\alpha_1} + m_3 U_{e3}^2 e^{i\alpha_2} \right|$$

CP-invariance:

$$\langle m_{v} \rangle = \left| \sum U_{ei}^{2} m_{i} \right| = \left| m_{1} \left| U_{e1} \right|^{2} \pm m_{2} \left| U_{e2} \right|^{2} \pm m_{3} \left| U_{e3} \right|^{2}$$

Beta decay

$$m_v = \Sigma / U_{ek} / 2 m_k$$

Measurements are complementary

Oscillations and $0\nu\beta\beta$

General:

$$\langle m_{\nu} \rangle = c_{\odot}^2 c_R^2 m_{\nu_1} + s_{\odot}^2 c_R^2 e^{i\alpha} \sqrt{m_{\nu_1}^2 + \Delta m_{\odot}^2} + s_R^2 e^{i\beta} \sqrt{m_{\nu_1}^2 + \Delta m_{\odot}^2 + \Delta m_{Atm}^2}$$

Rough estimate:

Normal hierarchy: $\langle m_{\nu} \rangle \simeq s_{12}^2 \sqrt{\Delta m_{\odot}^2} \simeq 3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}$ Inverse hierarchy: $\langle m_{\nu} \rangle \simeq \sqrt{\Delta m_{Atm}^2} \simeq 5 \times 10^{-2} \text{ eV}$

$0\nu\beta\beta$ - Normal hierarchy

$$\langle m_{\nu} \rangle = \sum_{j} U_{ej}^{2} m_{\nu_{j}}$$

$$\simeq c_{12}^{2} c_{13}^{2} m_{\nu_{1}} + s_{12}^{2} c_{13}^{2} e^{i\alpha} m_{\nu_{2}} + s_{13}^{2} e^{i\beta} m_{\nu_{3}}$$

$$\sim c_{\odot}^{2} m_{\nu_{1}} - s_{\odot}^{2} m_{\nu_{2}} + 0$$

Thus:

$$\langle m_{\nu} \rangle \equiv 0 \qquad \Leftrightarrow \qquad m_{\nu_1} = \tan^2 \theta_{\odot} m_{\nu_2}$$

Neutrino mass schemes and $0\nu\beta\beta$



$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Inverted mass scheme

$$\langle m_{\nu} \rangle = \sum_{j} U_{ej}^{2} m_{\nu_{j}}$$

 $\simeq c_{12}^{2} c_{13}^{2} m_{\nu_{1}} + s_{12}^{2} c_{13}^{2} e^{i\alpha} m_{\nu_{2}} + 0$
 $\sim (c_{\odot}^{2} - s_{\odot}^{2}) \sqrt{\Delta m_{Atm}^{2}}$
 $\simeq (0.7 - 0.3) \cdot \sqrt{2.2 \cdot 10^{-3}} \text{ eV}$
 $\simeq 0.4 \cdot \sqrt{2.2 \cdot 10^{-3}} \text{ eV} \simeq 19 \text{ meV}$

 \Rightarrow Lower limit exists, if θ_{\odot} non-maximal ($s_{\odot}^2 < 1/2$)

$0\nu\beta\beta$ - Inverted hierarchy



Normal + inverted scheme



$$\Delta m^2_{Atm} = [1.4, 3.3] \cdot 10^{-3} \, \mathrm{eV^2}, \quad \Delta m^2_\odot = [7.2, 9.1] \cdot 10^{-5} \, \mathrm{eV^2},$$

$$\sin^2 \theta_{\odot} = [0.23, 0.38], \quad \sin^2 \theta_R = [0, 0.051]$$

Phase space				
	0νββ d	ecay rate scal	es with Q ⁵	
	$2\nu\beta\beta$ de	ecay rate scale	es with Q ¹¹	
Isotope	Q-value (keV)	Nat. abund. (%)	$(PS \ 0v)^{-1}$ $(yrs \ x \ eV^2)$	(PS 2v) ⁻¹ (yrs)
Ca 48	4271	0.187	4.10E24	2.52E16
Ge 76	2039	7.8	4.09E25	7.66E18
Se 82	2995	9.2	9.27E24	2.30E17
Zr 96	3350	2.8	4.46E24	5.19E16
Mo 100	3034	9.6	5.70E24	1.06E17
Pd 110	2013	11.8	1.86E25	2.51E18
Cd 116	2809	7.5	5.28E24	1.25E17
Sn 124	2288	5.64	9.48E24	5.93E17
Te 130	2529	34.5	5.89E24	2.08E17
Xe 136	2479	8.9	5.52E24	2.07E17
Nd 150	3367	5.6	1.25E24	8.41E15

Nuclear matrix elements



The dark side of double beta decay

Uncertainties in nuclear matrix elements, example ¹¹⁶Cd



V. Rodin et al., nucl-th/0503063, Nucl. Phys. A 766,107 (2006)

The search for $0\nu\beta\beta$

or



Back of the envelope

 $T_{1/2} = \ln 2 \cdot a \cdot N_{A} \cdot M \cdot t / N_{\beta\beta} \quad (\tau \gg \tau) \quad (\text{ Background free})$ For half-life measurements of 10^{26-27} yrs 1 event/yr you need 10^{26-27} source atoms This is about 1000 moles of isotope, implying 100 kg

Now you only ean loose: nat. abundance, efficiency, background, ...

The dominant problem - Background

How to measure half-lives beyond 10²⁰ years???

The first thing you need is a mountain, mine,...

- The usual suspects (U, Th nat. decay chains)
- Alphas, Betas, Gammas
- Cosmogenics
- thermal neutrons
- High energy neutrons from muon interactions
- 2νββ



Heidelberg -Moscow

- Five Ge diodes (overall mass 10.9 kg) isotopically enriched (86%) in ⁷⁶Ge
- Lead box and nitrogen flushing of the detectors
- Digital Pulse Shape Analysis
 Peak at 2039 keV













Heidelberg -Moscow



H.V. Klapdor-Kleingrothaus et al, Phys. Lett. B 586, 198 (2004), Mod.Phys.Lett.A21:1547-1566,2006

Future projects, ideas

K. Zuber, Acta Polonica B 37, 1905 (2006)

$\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{p}\mathbf{e}\mathbf{r}\mathbf{i}\mathbf{m}\mathbf{e}\mathbf{n}\mathbf{t}}$	Isotope	Experimental approach
CANDLES	48Ca	Several tons of CaF ₂ crystals in Liquid scintillator
CARVEL	^{48}Ca	$100 \text{ kg} \ ^{48}\text{CaWO}_4$ crystal scintillators
COBRA	116 Cd, 130 Te	420 kg CdZnTe semiconductors
CUORE	$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	750 kg TeO_2 cryogenic bolometers
DCBA	150 Nd	20 kg Nd layers between tracking chambers
EXO	¹³⁶ Xe	1 ton Xe TPC (gas or liquid)
GERDA	76 Ge	~ 40 kg Ge diodes in LN ₂ , expand to larger masses
GSO	^{160}Gd	$2t Gd_2SiO_3$:Ce crystal scintillator in liquid scintillator
MAJORANA	76 Ge	$\sim 180 \mathrm{kg}$ Ge diodes, expand to larger masses
MOON	^{100}Mo	several tons of Mo sheets between scint.
SNO+	150 Nd	1000 t of Nd-loaded liquid scint.
SuperNEMO	82 Se	100 kg of Se foils between TPCs NEMO3 running
Xe	136 Xe	1.56 t of Xe in liquid scint.
XMASS	136 Xe	10 t of liquid Xe

small scale ones will expand, very likely not a complete list...

Current aims of double beta searches

- Check whether observed peak claimed in ⁷⁶Ge is true
- If yes, observe it with at least one other isotope to confirm that it is double beta decay
- If not, next milestone will be 50 meV suggested by oscillation results
- If still no observation, down to range 1-10 meV
- Compensation of NME uncertainties might require the measurement of 3-4 different isotopes

Remember:

$$m_{_V} \propto 4 \sqrt{\frac{\Delta EB}{Mt}}$$

GERDA COBRA





~70 physicists 13 institutions 6 countries

GERDA-collaboration

A.M. Bakalyarov^j, M. Balata^a, I. Barabanov^h, M. Barnabe-Heider^f, L. Baudisⁿ, C. Bauer^f, E. Bellotti^{*a.g.*}, S. Belogurov^{*h,i*}, S.T. Belyaev^{*j*}, A. Bettini^{*l*}, L. Bezrukov^{*h*}, V. Brudanin^d, R. Brugnera^l, D. Budjas^f, A. Caldwell^k, C. Cattadori^{a,g}, M.V. Chirchenko^{d,j}, O. Chkvorets^f, E.V. Demidovaⁱ, A. Denisiv^h, A. Di Vacri^a, A. D'Andragora^a, V. Egorov^d, A. Ferellaⁿ, F. Froborgⁿ, A. Gangapshev^h, A. Garfagnini¹, J. Gasparro^e, P. Grabmayr^m, G.Y. Grigoriev^j, K.N. Gusev^j, V. Gutentsov^h, W. Hampel^f, M. Heisel^f, G. Heusser^f, W. Hofmann^f, M. Hult^e, L.V. Inzhechik^j, J. Janicsko^k, M. Jelen^k, J. Jochum^m, M. Junker^a, J. Kiko^f, S. Kionanovsky^h, I.V. Kirpichnikovⁱ, A. Klimenko^{d,h}, M. Knapp^m, K-T. Knoepfle^f, O. Kochetov^d, V.N. Kornoukhov^{h,t}, V. Kusminov^h, M. Laubenstein^a, V.I. Lebedev^j, M. Lindner^f, J. Liu^k, X. Liu^k, B. Lubsandorzhiev^h, B. Majorovits^k, G. Marissens^c, G. Meierhofer^m, I. Nemchenok^d, S. Nisi^a, J. Oehm^f, L. Pandola^a, P. Peiffer^f, F. Potenza^a, A. Pullia^g, S. Riboldi^g, F. Ritter^m, C. Rossi Alvarez^l, V. Sandukovsky^d J. Schreiner^f, J. Schubert^k, U. Schwan^f, B. Schwingenheuer^f, S. Schönert^f, M. Shirchenko^j, H. Simgen^f, A. Smolnikov^{d,h}, L. Stanco^l, -IN F. Stelzer^k, Sugonvaev¹, A.V. Tikhomirov^j, C.A. Ur¹, A.A. Vasenkoⁱ, S. Vasiliev^{d,h}, M. Wojcik^b, E. Yanovich^h, J. Yurkowski^d, S.V. Zhukov^j, F. Zocca^g, K. Zuber^c, G. Zuzel^f.

^a INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso LNGS, Assergi, Italy
^b Institute of Physics, Jagellonian University, Cracow, Poland
^c Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany
^d Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
^e Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, Geel, Belgium
^f Max Planck Institut für Kernphysik, Heidelberg, Germany
^g Università di Milano Bicocca e INFN Milano, Milano, Italy
^h Institute for Nuclear Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
ⁱ Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
^j Russian Research Center Kurchatov Institute, Moscow, Russia
^k Max-Planck-Institut für Physik, München, Germany
ⁱ Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università di Padova e INFN Padova, Padova, Italy
^m Physik Institut, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany

GERDA-Schematics

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Status GERDA



GERDA Detectors

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture. QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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GERDA sensitivity



PI 15 kg y at 10⁻² (keV kg y)⁻¹ $T_{1/2}^{0v} > 1.2 \cdot 10^{25}$ y (\rightarrow HdM: 1.2 · 10²⁵y)

- P II 100 kg y at 10⁻³ (keV kg y)⁻¹ $T_{1/2}^{0v} > 1.4 \cdot 10^{26}$ y
- P III 1 ton ⁷⁶Ge exp. (GERDA/Majorana) depending on Phase I/II outcome Background goal **10**⁻⁴ (keV kg y)⁻¹

Phase I commissioning early 2009

COBRA

Use large amount of CdZnTe Semiconductor Detectors



Array of 1cm³ CdZnTe detectors

K. Zuber, Phys. Lett. B 519,1 (2001)

Advantages

- Source = detector
- Semiconductor (Good energy resolution, clean)
- Room temperature
- Modular design (Coincidences)
- Two isotopes at once
- Industrial development of CdTe detectors
- ¹¹⁶Cd above 2.614 MeV
- Tracking ("Solid state TPC")

Background

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

COBRA

S. Pirro, Milano

Beyond 2.614 MeV background is a priori much lower

	Isote	opes	
CC	BRA: CdZn'	Te semico	onductors
	nat. ab. (%)	Q (keV)	Decay mode
Zn70	0.62	1001	B-B-
Cd114	28.7	534	B-B-
Cd116	7.5	2809	B-B-
Te128	31.7	868	B-B-
Te130	33.8	2529	B-B-
Zn64	48.6	1096	β+/EC
Cd106	1.21	2771	<u> </u>
Cd108	0.9	231	EC/EC
Te120	0.1	1722	β+/EC

E. Caurier et al, arXiv:0709.2137, PRL 100, 052503 (2008)

Latest shell model calculations (first for those heavier than ⁴⁸Ca)

	· 1		
m_{ν}	for $T_{\frac{1}{2}} = 10^{25}$ y.	$M_{GT}^{(0\nu)}$	1 - χ_F
48 Ca	0.85	0.67	1.14
76 Ge	0.90	2.35	1.10
82 Se	0.42	2.26	1.10
^{110}Pd	0.44	2.67	1.15
^{116}Cd	0.27	2.49	1.18
124 Sn	0.45	2.11	1.13
128 Te	1.92	2.36	1.13
130 Te	0.35	2.13	1.13
¹³⁶ Xe	0.41	1.77	1.13

¹¹⁶Cd comes of best...

COBRA collaboration



TU Dortmund TU Dresden Material Research Centre Freiburg



Technical University Prague



University of Bratislava



University of Jyvaskyla



University of La Plata



Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso



Washington University at St. Louis Idaho National Laboratory More welcome

Jagellonian University (Poland), Los Alamos Nat. Lab. (USA)

Current R&D

- Two detector concepts
 - energy measurement only (coplanar grid technology)
 - energy measurement and tracking (pixelated detectors)
- Three shielding concepts
 - passive (currently used)
 - passive-active (LSc inside passive shielding)
 - mostly active (naked crystals in large LSc tank)

The 64 array - first layer





Installed at LNGS in april 2006, world wide largest array of this type of detector

Spectrum

Sum spectrum. 11.9 kg days.



Dominated by radon in air and red passivation on detector surface

New Results About 8 kg days PRELIMINARY PRELIMINARY

Isotope and Decay		T _{half} limit (years, 90% C.L.)	
		Current Data	Previous
	β	$-\beta^-$ Decays	1000-10
^{116}Cd	to g.s	$6.05 imes 10^{19}$	3.14×10^{19}
$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	to g.s	3.44×10^{20}	$9.92{ imes}10^{19}$
$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	to $536 \mathrm{keV}$	2.49×10^{20}	$3.73{ imes}10^{19}$
^{116}Cd	to $1294 \mathrm{keV}$	$2.80 imes 10^{19}$	$4.92{\times}10^{18}$
^{116}Cd	to $1757\mathrm{keV}$	$3.03 imes 10^{19}$	$9.13{ imes}10^{18}$
^{116}Cd	to $2027 \mathrm{keV}$	3.14×10^{19}	$1.37{\times}10^{19}$
^{116}Cd	to $2112 \mathrm{keV}$	4.16×10^{19}	$1.08{ imes}10^{19}$
^{116}Cd	to $2225 \mathrm{keV}$	$2.67{ imes}10^{19}$	$9.46{ imes}10^{18}$
$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	to $1794 \mathrm{keV}$	1.45×10^{20}	
$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	to $1122 \mathrm{keV}$	9.48×10^{19}	
^{114}Cd	to g.s.	4.71×10^{20}	

Previous = T. Bloxham et al., PRC 76,025501 (2007)

New Results

PRELIMINARY PRELIMINARY

Isotope and Decay		T _{half} limit (years, 90% C.L.)	
		Current Data	Previous
	$\beta^+\beta^+$	Decays	
64 Zn	$0\nu\beta^+$ EC to g.s.	1.18×10^{18}	$2.78 imes 10^{17}$
64 Zn	$0\nu 2 \text{EC}$ to g.s.	7.43×10^{18}	$1.19{\times}10^{17}$
$^{120}\mathrm{Te}$	$0\nu 2 \mathrm{EC}$ to g.s.	1.13×10^{17}	$2.68{\times}10^{15}$
$^{120}\mathrm{Te}$	$0\nu 2 {\rm EC}$ to $1171 {\rm keV}$	3.43×10^{16}	$9.72{\times}10^{15}$
^{106}Cd	$0\nu\beta^+\beta^+$ to g.s.	5.12×10^{18}	$4.50{\times}10^{17}$
$^{106}\mathrm{Cd}$	$0\nu 2 \text{EC}$ to g.s.	5.48×10^{18}	5.70×10^{16}
$^{106}\mathrm{Cd}$	$0\nu\beta^+\beta^+$ to $512\mathrm{keV}$	$7.17{ imes}10^{17}$	$1.81{\times}10^{17}$

Some new world-best limits

Alternative painted detectors (four 1 cm³ CdZnTe)



blue = colourless painted detectors + nitrogen flushing black = 16 layer with red passivation + air

Sensitivity

 $|T_{1/2} \propto \sqrt{M \times t / \Delta E \times B}|$



KING COBRA - Below 40 meV

Current idea: 40x40x40 CdZnTe detectors = 420 kg, enriched in 116Cd



The solid state TPC

Energy resolution





Massive background reduction
Positive signal information



Pixelisation - I

Massive BG reduction by particle ID, 200µm pixels (example simulations):

 α = 1 pixel, β and $\beta\beta$ = several connected pixel, γ = some disconnected p.



eg. Could achieve nearly 100% identification of ²¹⁴Bi events (²¹⁴Bi \rightarrow ²¹⁴Po \rightarrow ²¹⁰Pb)

Beta with endpoint 3.3MeV 7.7MeV α life-time = 164.3μs

Pixel detectors

Operating 16 pixel (conv. electronics) and 256 pixel (ASIC)

Next step: 64 pixel detectors 2x2x0.5 cm³ (pixel size: 2.5 mm)



Pixel detector with 200 µm pixels produced!

Pixellated detectors

Solid state TPC

2D - Pixelisation on both electrodes





Nobody said it was going to be easy, and nobody was right George W. Bush

SNO – The smoking gun



1000 t heavy water (D₂0)

$$cc \quad v_e + d \Rightarrow p + p + e^{-1}$$

$$\nu_x + d \Longrightarrow p + n + \nu_x$$

$$V_x + e^- \Rightarrow V_x + e^-$$

$$\frac{CC}{ES} = \frac{v_{e}}{v_{e} + 0.14(v_{\mu} + v_{\tau})}$$

$$\frac{\text{CC}}{\text{NC}} = \frac{v_{\text{e}}}{v_{\text{e}} + v_{\mu} + v_{\tau}}$$



Test $< m_v > = 0.150 \text{ eV}$



maximum likelihood statistical test of the shape to extract 0v and 2v components...~240 units of $\Delta \chi^2$ significance after only 1 year!

Summary

- Neutrinoless double beta decay crucial for neutrino physics
- Gold plated channel for Majorana character and neutrino mass
- Sensitivity of 50 meV neutrino mass requires hundreds of kg of isotopes (enrichment)
- A lot of experimental proposals/ideas
- GERDA/MAJORANA, COBRA are the semiconductor approaches (energy resolution)
- SNO+ could be done on a short timescale on large scale
- Revived interest in neutrinoless double EC
- Progress is fast....