

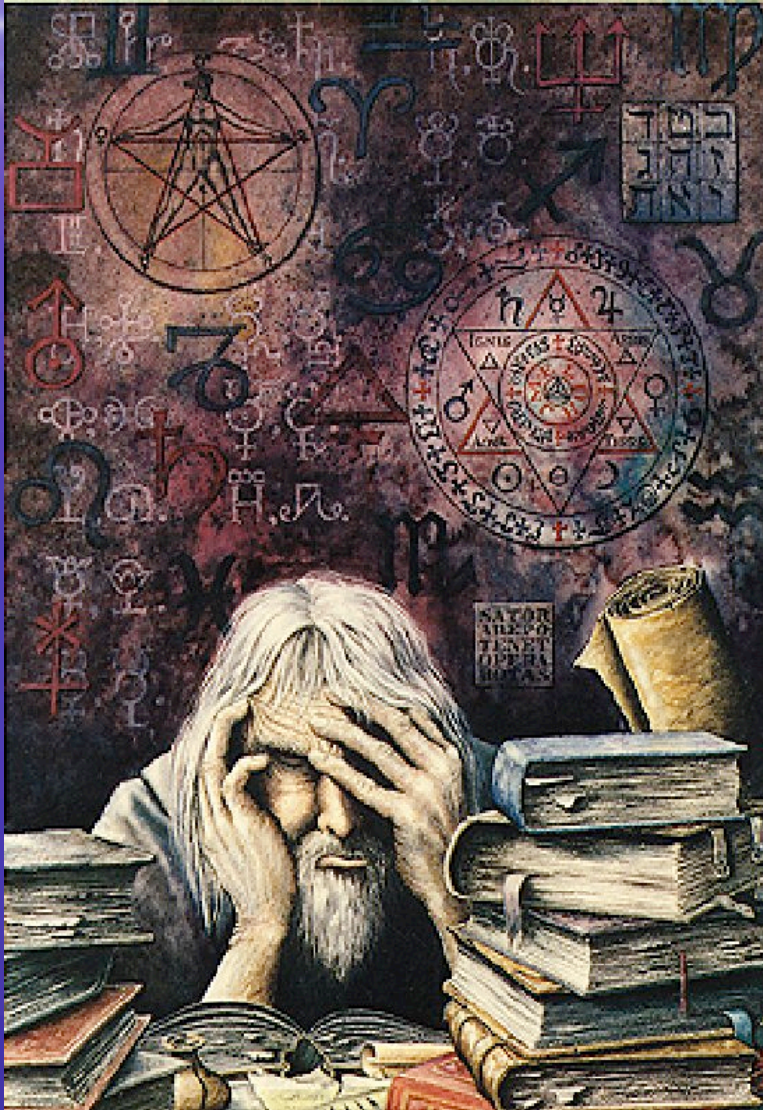


K. Zuber, TU Dresden  
DESY, 9/10 September 2008

In search of neutrinoless  
double beta decay



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- General Introduction
- Neutrino physics and DBD
- Experimental considerations
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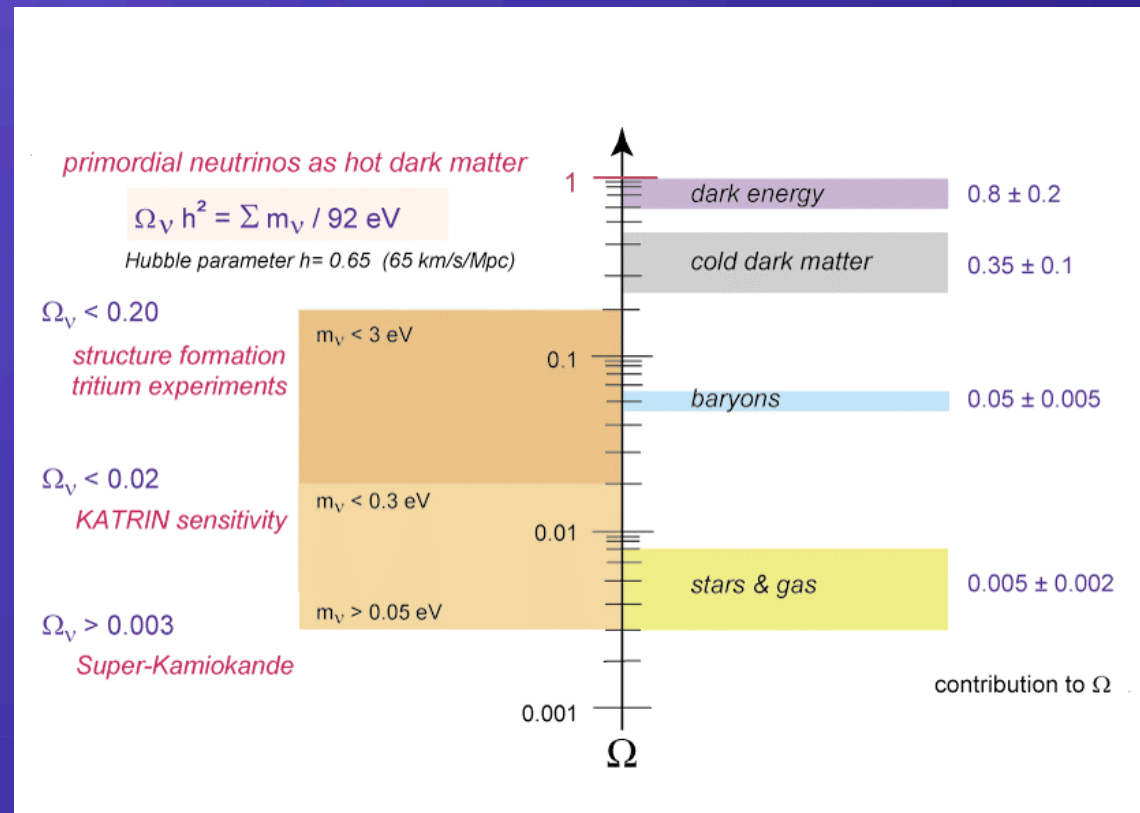


# Fundamental neutrino properties

Are neutrinos their own antiparticles?

What is the absolute neutrino mass?

One example:



Both questions can be explored with double beta decay

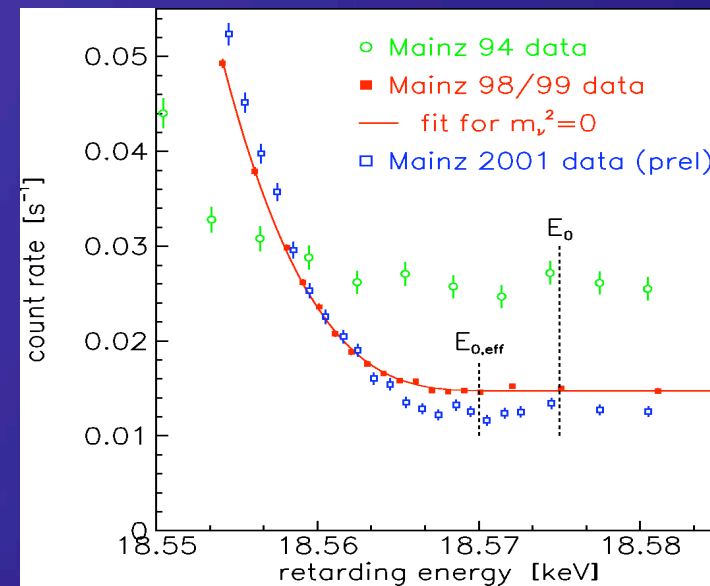
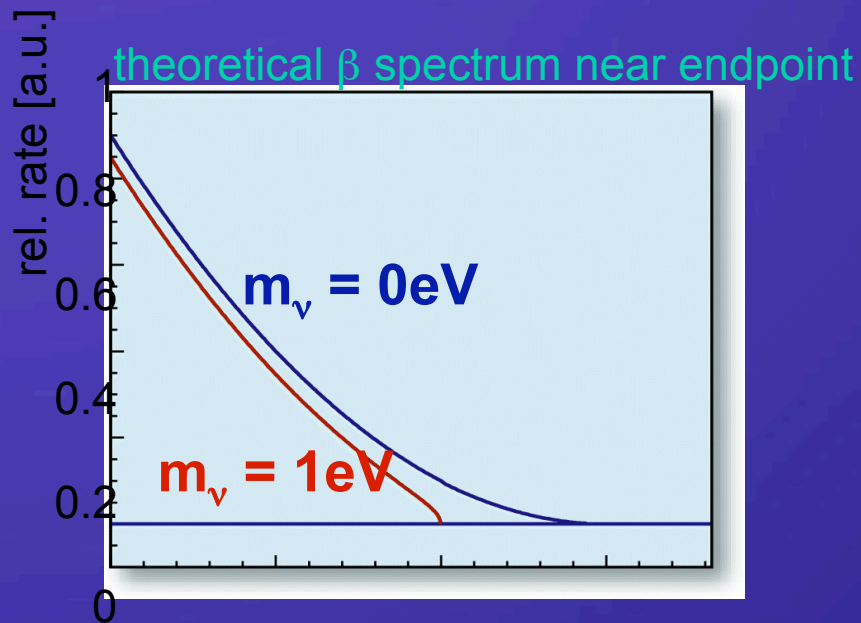


# Beta decay

- $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+1) + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$   $\beta$ -decay
- $n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$

Isotope:  ${}^3\text{H}$

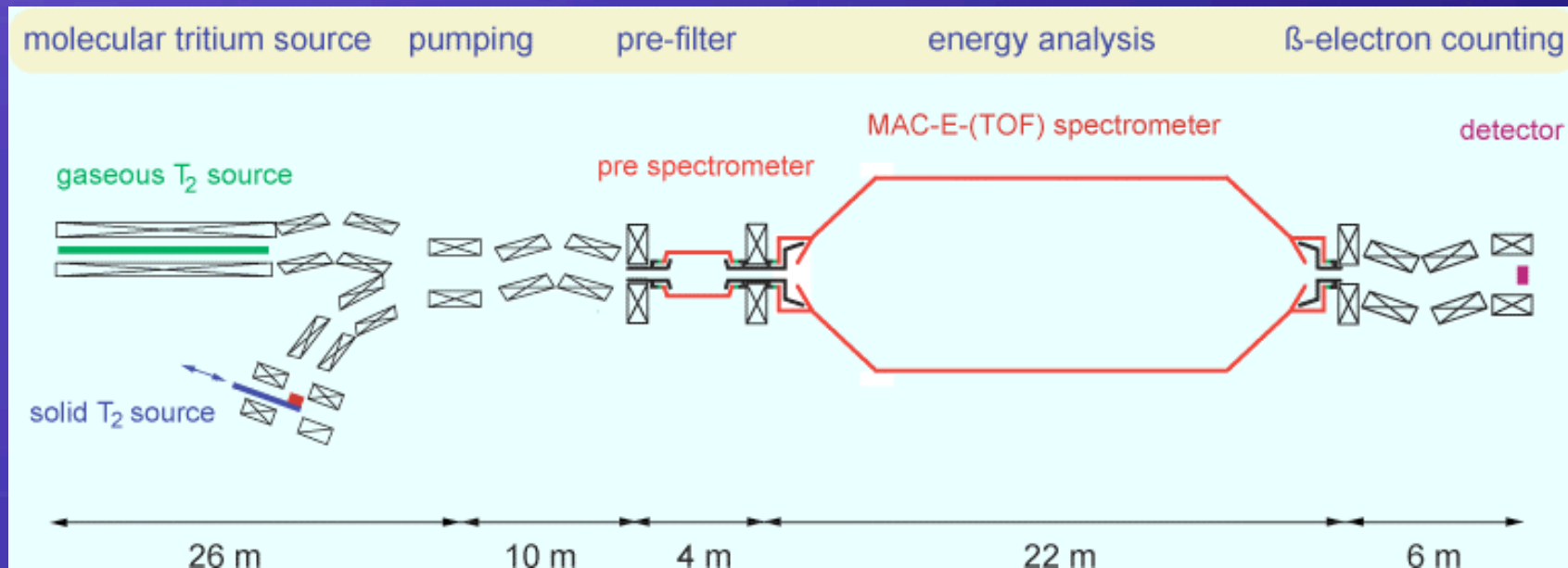
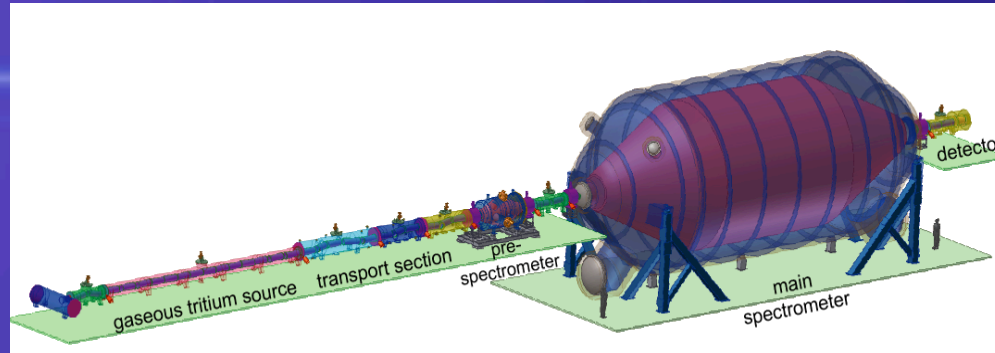
Only about  $10^{-13}$  electrons in the last eV



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



# KATRIN-The ultimate beta-decay experiment



Discovery potential  $m_{\nu_e} = 0.35 \text{ eV}$  at  $5\sigma$

Sensitivity  $m_{\nu_e} < 0.2 \text{ eV}$  (90% CL)

Commissioning in 2008



# KATRIN



Aim: Sensitivity to neutrino masses down to 0.2 eV



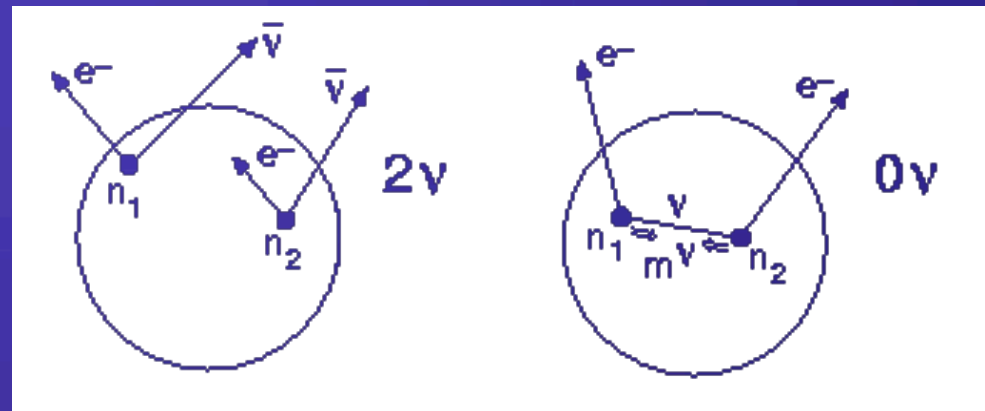
# Beta and double beta decay

## Beta decay

- $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+1) + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$   $\beta$ -decay
- $n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$

## Double beta decay

- $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2 e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$   $2\nu\beta\beta$
- $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2 e^-$   $0\nu\beta\beta$



changing Z by two units while leaving A constant

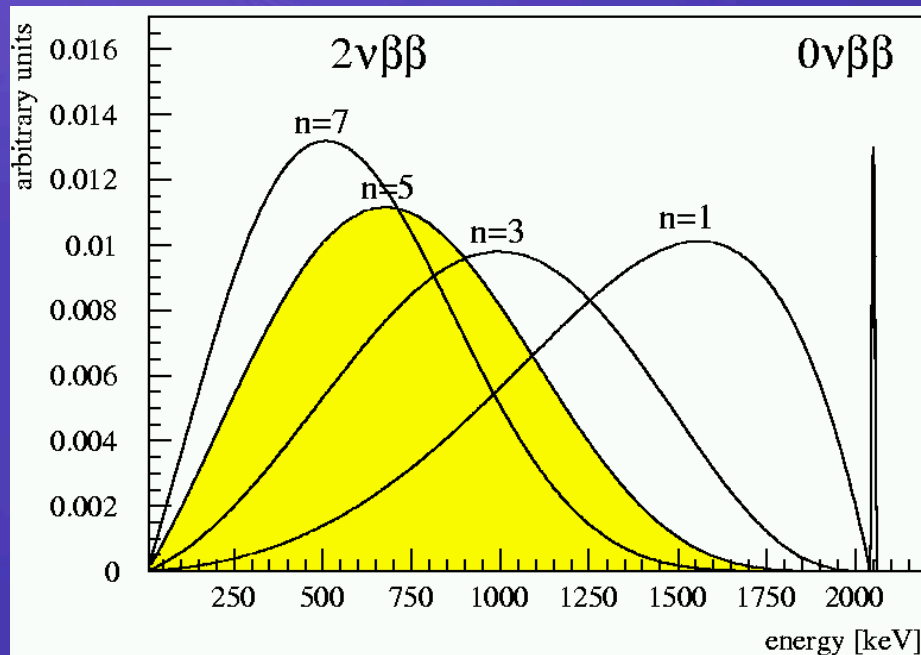






# Spectral shapes

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



Measured quantity: Half-life

Dependencies (BG limited)

$$T_{1/2} \propto a \cdot \varepsilon (M \cdot t / \Delta E \cdot B)^{1/2}$$

link to neutrino mass

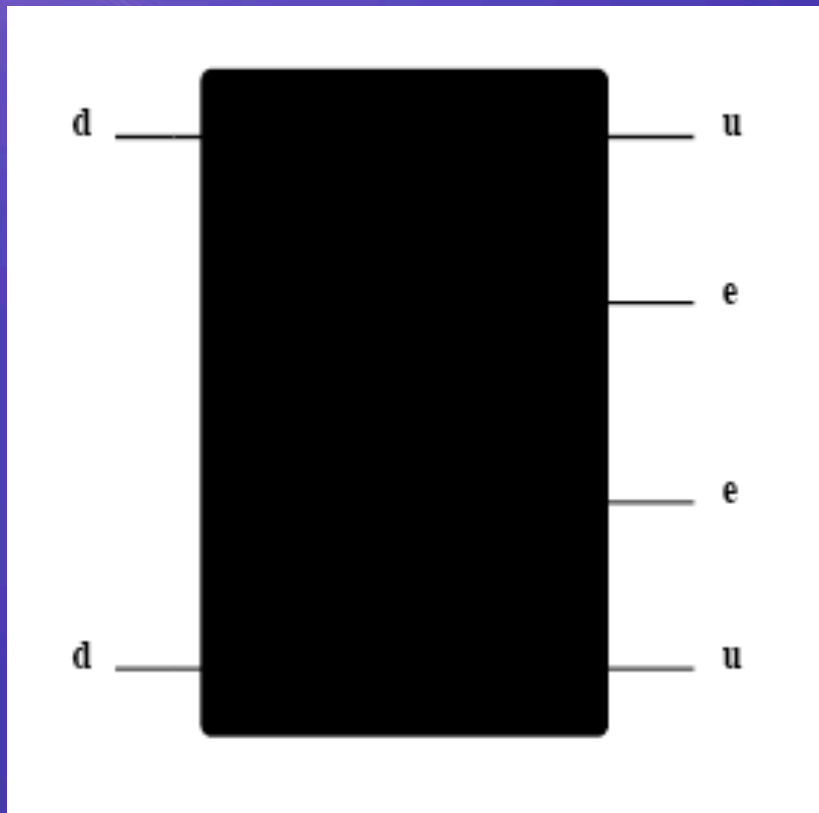
$$1 / T_{1/2} = PS * ME^2 * (m_\nu / m_e)^2$$

Sum energy spectrum of both electrons



# $0\nu\beta\beta$

Any  $\Delta L=2$  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



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



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

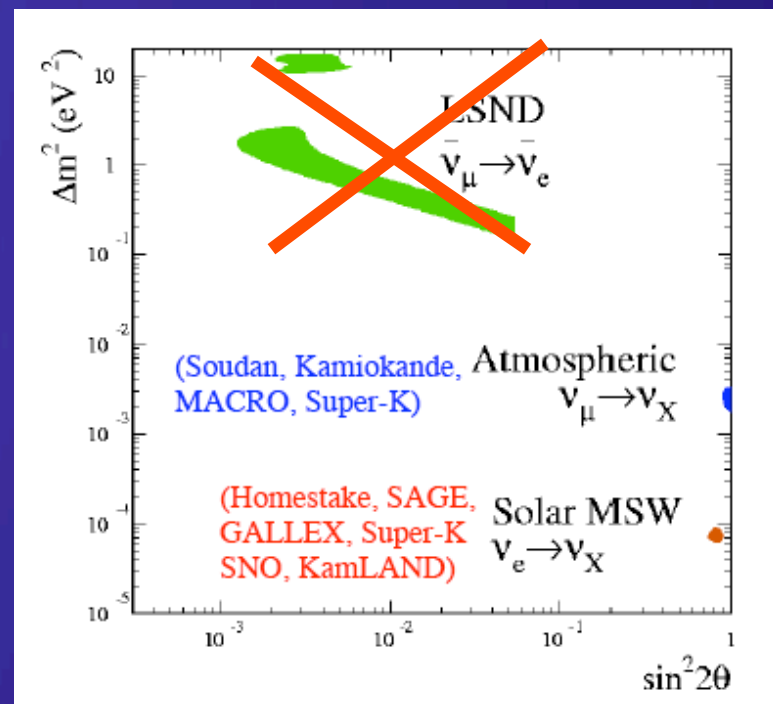
$$\sin^2 2\theta = 10^{-1} - 10^{-3}, \Delta m^2 = 0.1 - 6 \text{ eV}^2$$

## Atmospheric

$$\sin^2 2\theta = 1.00, \Delta m^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

## Solar + reactors

$$\sin^2 2\theta = 0.81, \Delta m^2 = 8.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$$

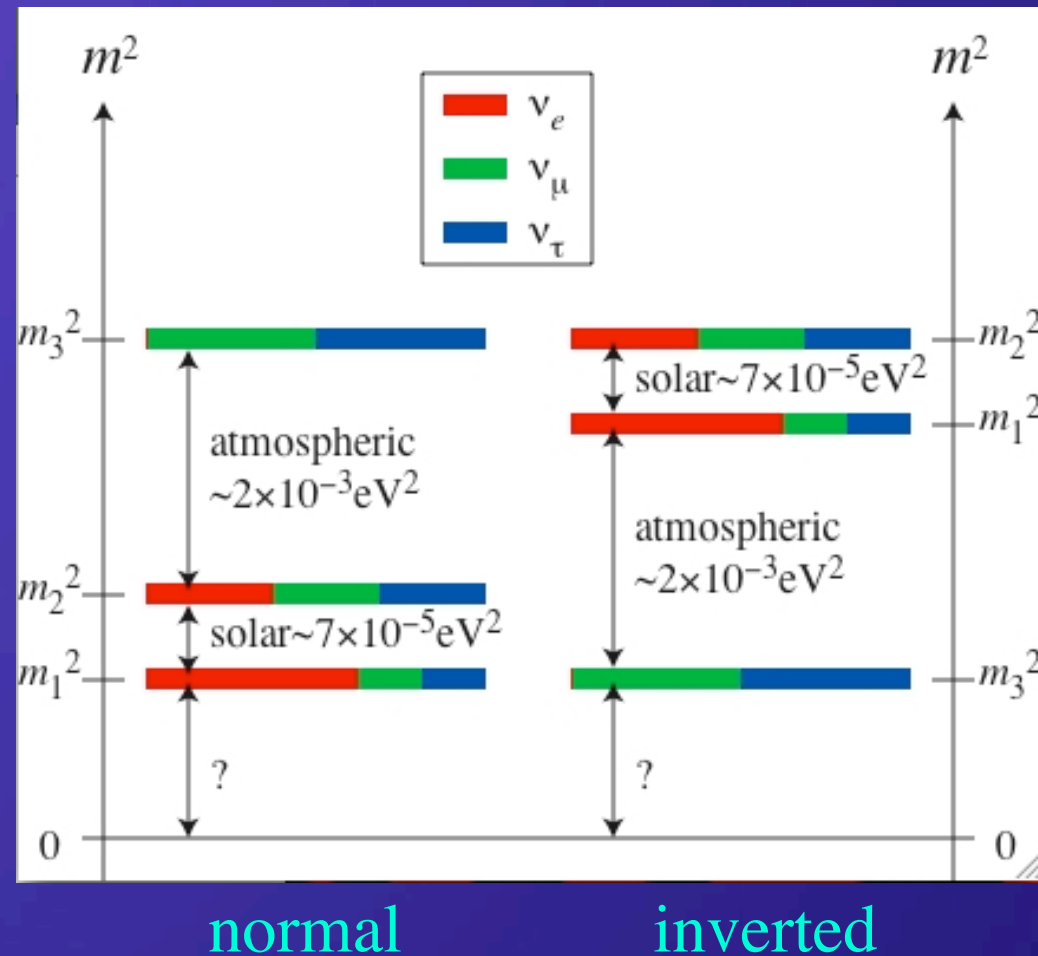


LSND not confirmed by MiniBooNE

# Neutrino mass schemes

- almost degenerate neutrinos  $m_1 \approx m_2 \approx m_3$

- hierarchical neutrino mass schemes



# 3 Flavour oscillations (PMNS)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \frac{m_i^2}{2E_\nu} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta_{12} & \sin\theta_{12} & 0 \\ -\sin\theta_{12} & \cos\theta_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta_{13} & 0 & \sin\theta_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin\theta_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & \cos\theta_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\theta_{23} & \sin\theta_{23} \\ 0 & -\sin\theta_{23} & \cos\theta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha_1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\alpha_2} \end{pmatrix}$$

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

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



# 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:  $\langle m_\nu \rangle = \left| \sum U_{ei}^2 m_i \right| = \left| m_1 |U_{e1}|^2 \pm m_2 |U_{e2}|^2 \pm m_3 |U_{e3}|^2 \right|$

Beta decay

$$m_\nu = \sum |U_{ek}|^2 m_k$$

Measurements are complementary

# Oscillations and $0\nu\beta\beta$

General:

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

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:  $\langle m_\nu \rangle \simeq \sqrt{\Delta m_{\text{Atm}}^2} \simeq 5 \times 10^{-2} \text{ eV}$

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

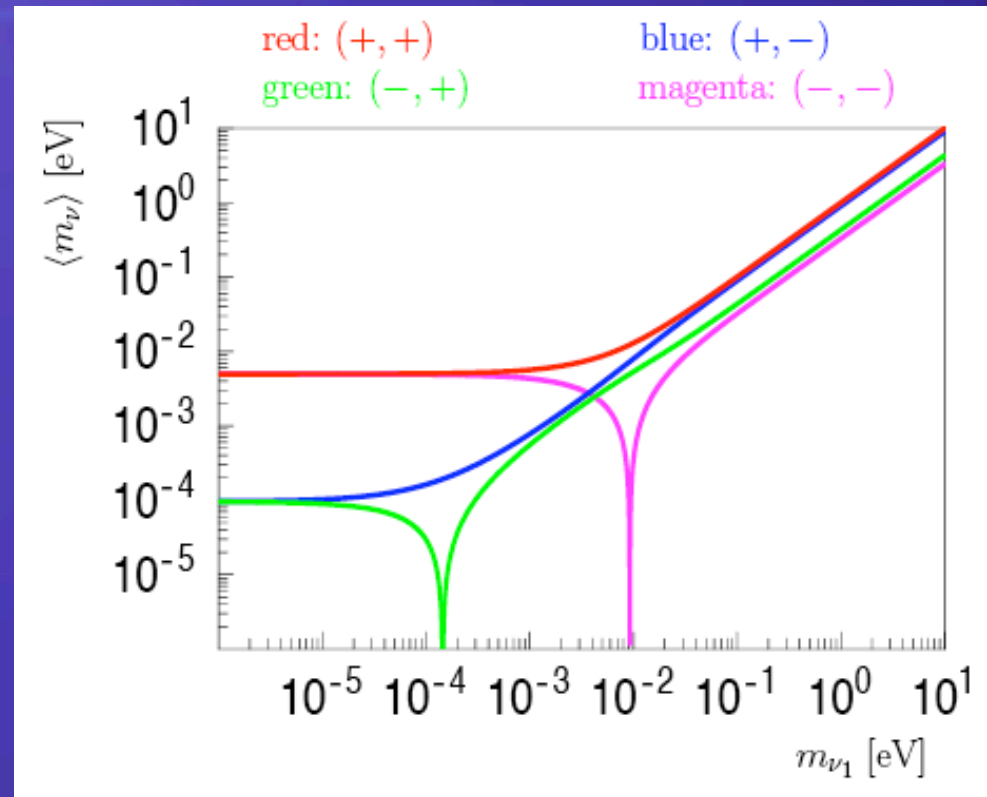
$$\begin{aligned}\langle m_\nu \rangle &= \sum_j U_{ej}^2 m_{\nu_j} \\ &\simeq c_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_{\nu_1} + s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 e^{i\alpha} m_{\nu_2} + s_{13}^2 e^{i\beta} m_{\nu_3} \\ &\sim c_{\odot}^2 m_{\nu_1} - s_{\odot}^2 m_{\nu_2} + 0\end{aligned}$$

Thus:

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

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

Best fit values



M. Hirsch  
Neutrino 2006

$$\Delta m_{Atm}^2 = 2.2 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2, \quad \Delta m_{\odot}^2 = 8.1 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2,$$

$$\sin^2 \theta_{\odot} = 0.3, \quad \sin^2 \theta_R = 0.051$$



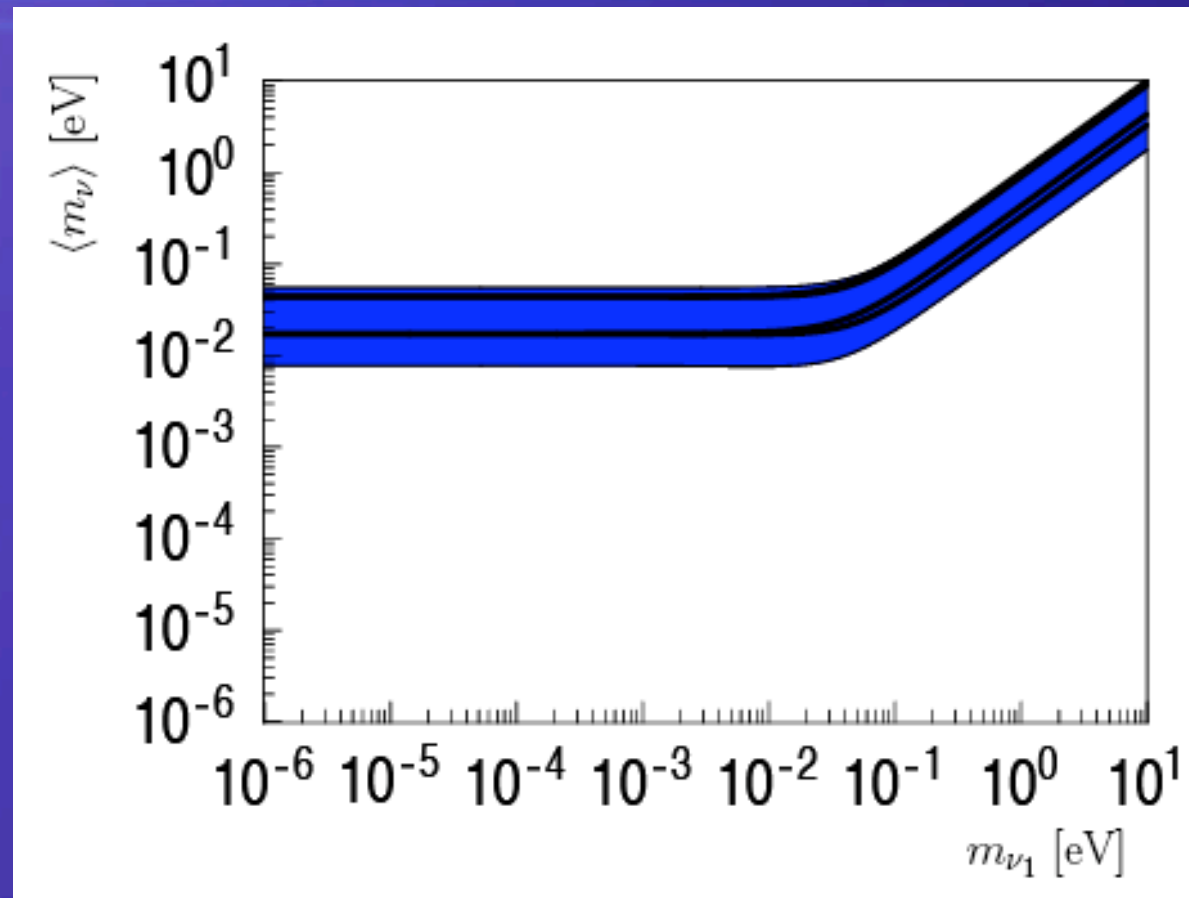
# $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Inverted mass scheme

$$\begin{aligned}\langle m_\nu \rangle &= \sum_j U_{ej}^2 m_{\nu_j} \\ &\simeq c_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_{\nu_1} + s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 e^{i\alpha} m_{\nu_2} + 0 \\ &\sim (c_{\odot}^2 - s_{\odot}^2) \sqrt{\Delta m_{Atm}^2} \\ &\simeq (0.7 - 0.3) \cdot \sqrt{2.2 \cdot 10^{-3}} \text{ eV} \\ &\simeq 0.4 \cdot \sqrt{2.2 \cdot 10^{-3}} \text{ eV} \simeq 19 \text{ meV}\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Lower limit exists, if  $\theta_{\odot}$  non-maximal

$$(s_{\odot}^2 < 1/2)$$

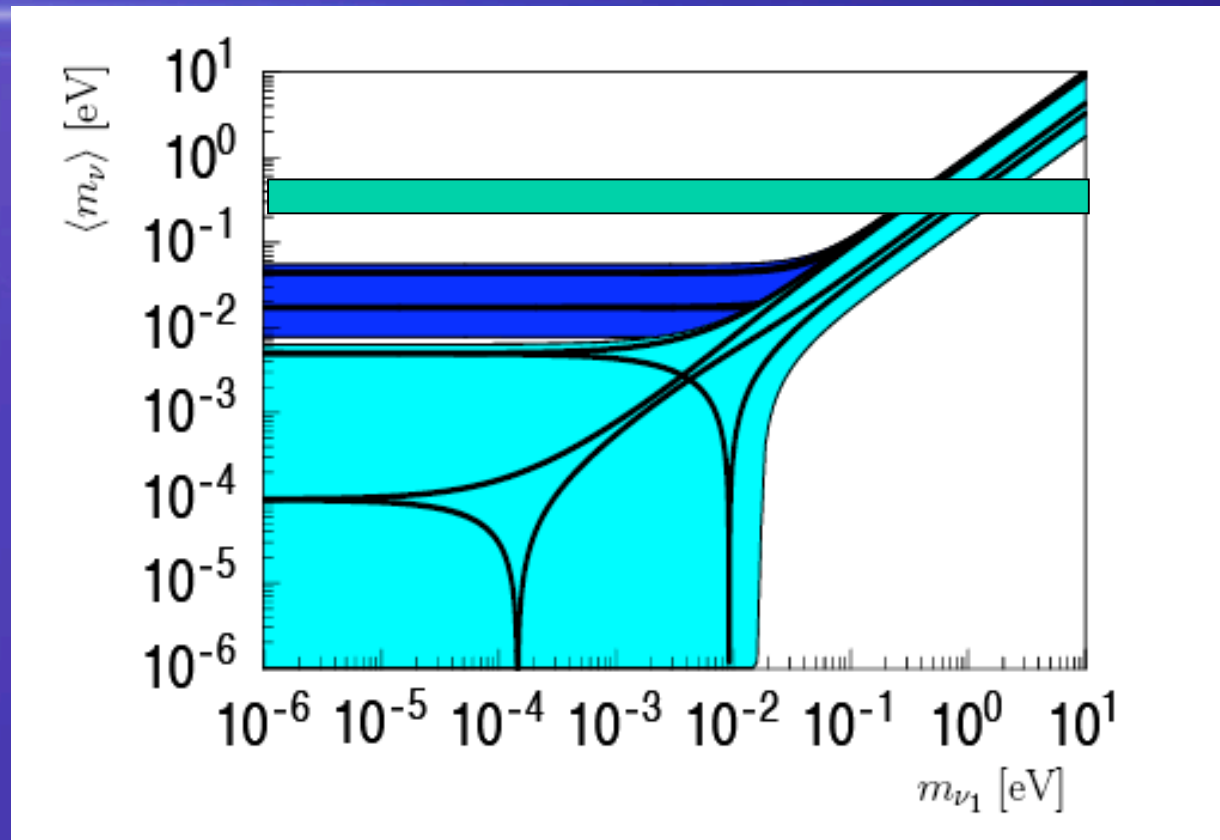
# $0\nu\beta\beta$ - Inverted hierarchy



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

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

# Normal + inverted scheme



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

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

# Phase space

$0\nu\beta\beta$  decay rate scales with  $Q^5$

$2\nu\beta\beta$  decay rate scales with  $Q^{11}$

| <i>Isotope</i> | <i>Q-value<br/>(keV)</i> | <i>Nat. abund.<br/>(%)</i> | <i>(PS <math>0\nu</math>)<sup>-1</sup><br/>(yrs x eV<sup>2</sup>)</i> | <i>(PS <math>2\nu</math>)<sup>-1</sup><br/>(yrs)</i> |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| 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  |

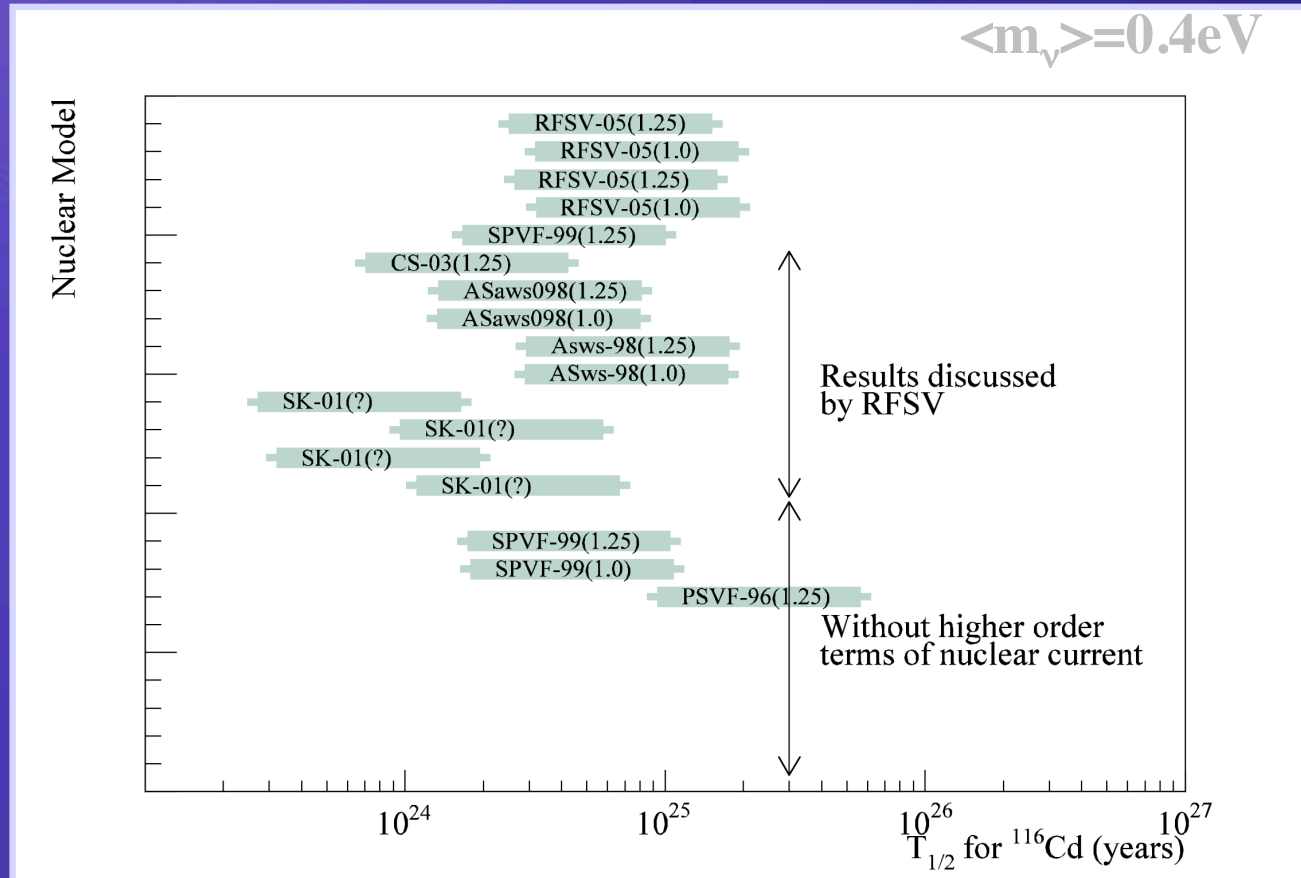


# Nuclear matrix elements



The dark side of double beta decay

# Uncertainties in nuclear matrix elements, example $^{116}\text{Cd}$



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

or



# Back of the envelope

$$T_{1/2} = \ln 2 \cdot a \cdot N_A \cdot M \cdot t / N_{\beta\beta} \quad (\tau \gg T) \quad (\text{Background free})$$

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 can loose: nat. abundance, efficiency, background, ...



## *The dominant problem - Background*

How to measure half-lives beyond  $10^{20}$  years???

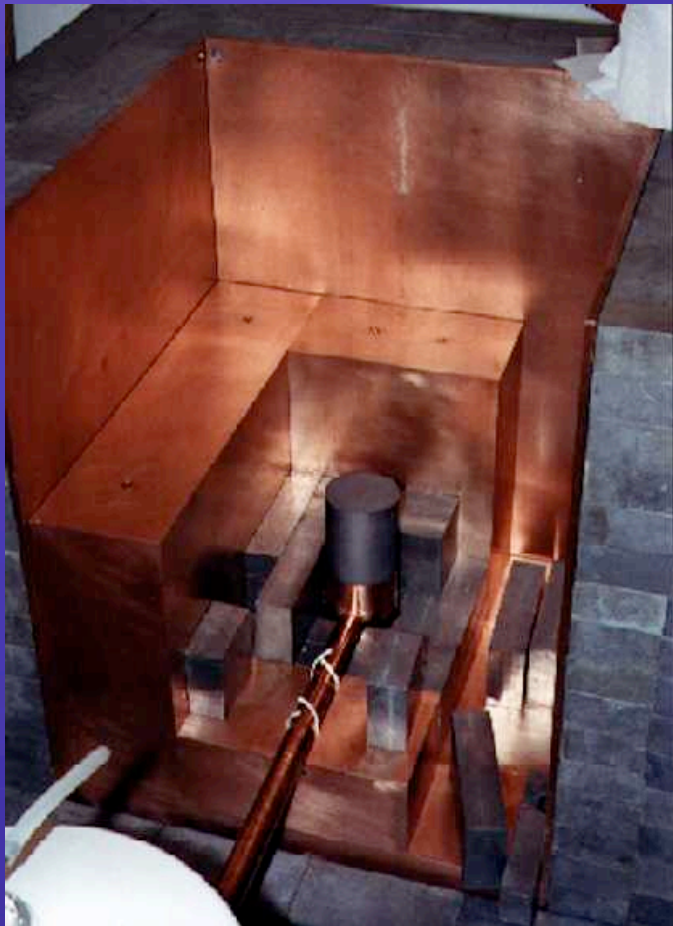
The first thing you need is a mountain, mine,...

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



# Heidelberg -Moscow

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

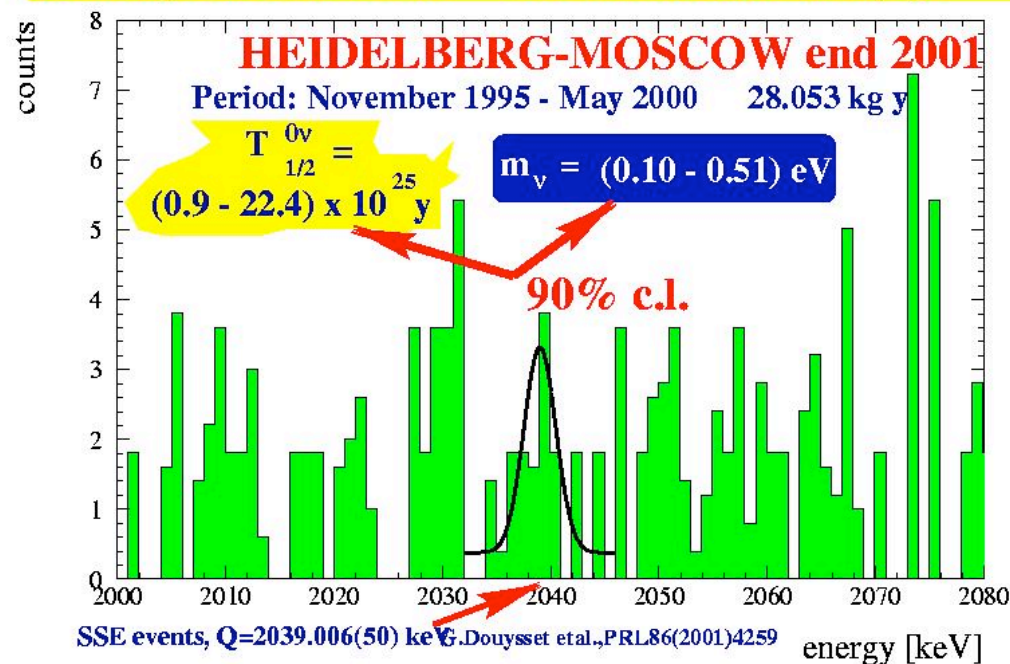






# Heidelberg - Moscow

## Sum spectrum of the $^{76}\text{Ge}$ detectors Nr. 2,3,5



H.V. Klapdor-Kleingrothaus et al. Mod.Phys.Lett. A16 (2001) 2409-2420

Subgroup of collaboration  $T_{1/2} = 2.23 \pm 0.4 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr}$   $\longrightarrow$   $m = 0.32 \pm 0.03 \text{ eV}$

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)

| Experiment | Isotope                            | Experimental approach  |
|------------|------------------------------------|--|
| CANDLES    | $^{48}\text{Ca}$                   | Several tons of $\text{CaF}_2$ crystals in Liquid scintillator                     |
| CARVEL     | $^{48}\text{Ca}$                   | 100 kg $^{48}\text{CaWO}_4$ crystal scintillators                                  |
| COBRA      | $^{116}\text{Cd}, ^{130}\text{Te}$ | 420 kg CdZnTe semiconductors   |
| CUORE      | $^{130}\text{Te}$                  | 750 kg $\text{TeO}_2$ cryogenic bolometers   |
| DCBA       | $^{150}\text{Nd}$                  | 20 kg Nd layers between tracking chambers  |
| EXO        | $^{136}\text{Xe}$                  | 1 ton Xe TPC (gas or liquid)   |
| GERDA      | $^{76}\text{Ge}$                   | $\sim 40$ kg Ge diodes in $\text{LN}_2$ , expand to larger masses                  |
| GSO        | $^{160}\text{Gd}$                  | 2t $\text{Gd}_2\text{SiO}_3:\text{Ce}$ crystal scintillator in liquid scintillator |
| MAJORANA   | $^{76}\text{Ge}$                   | $\sim 180$ kg Ge diodes, expand to larger masses                                   |
| MOON       | $^{100}\text{Mo}$                  | several tons of Mo sheets between scint.   |
| SNO+       | $^{150}\text{Nd}$                  | 1000 t of Nd-loaded liquid scint.  |
| SuperNEMO  | $^{82}\text{Se}$                   | 100 kg of Se foils between TPCs  |
| Xe         | $^{136}\text{Xe}$                  | 1.56 t of Xe in liquid scint.  |
| XMASS      | $^{136}\text{Xe}$                  | 10 t of liquid Xe  |

CUORICINO running

NEMO3 running

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



# Current aims of double beta searches

- Check whether observed peak claimed in  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  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:

$$m_\nu \propto \sqrt[4]{\frac{\Delta EB}{Mt}}$$



GERDA

COBRA



# Gerda - Motivation

– *Improvement of neutrino mass sensitivity*

– *Check of possible evidence*

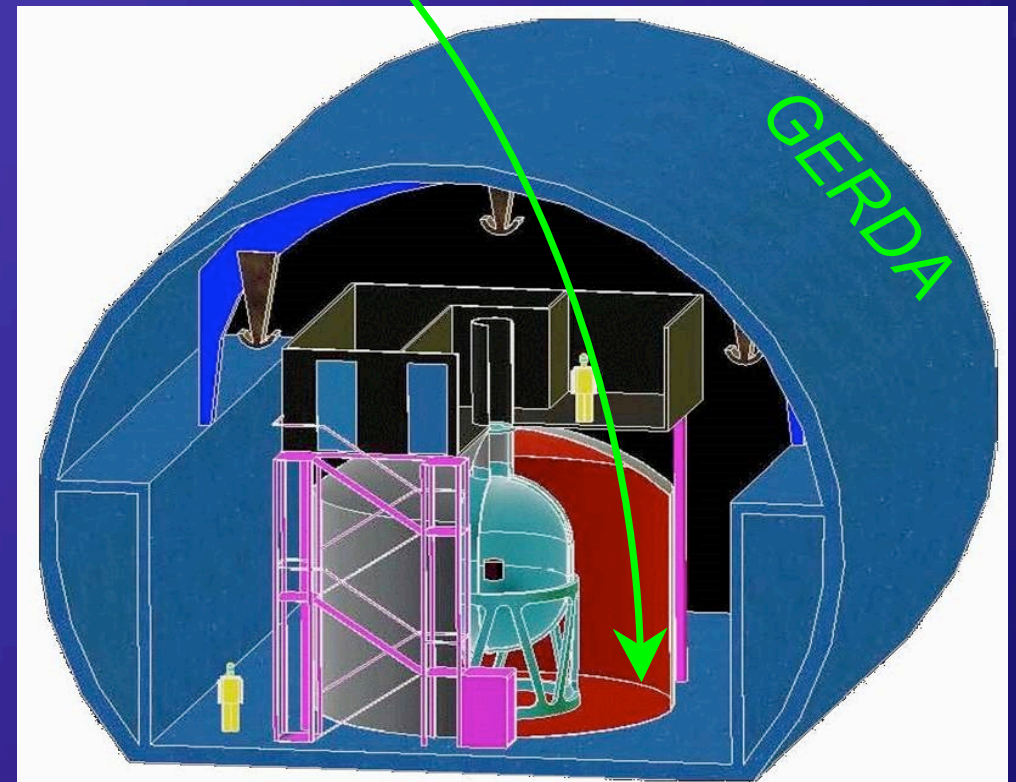
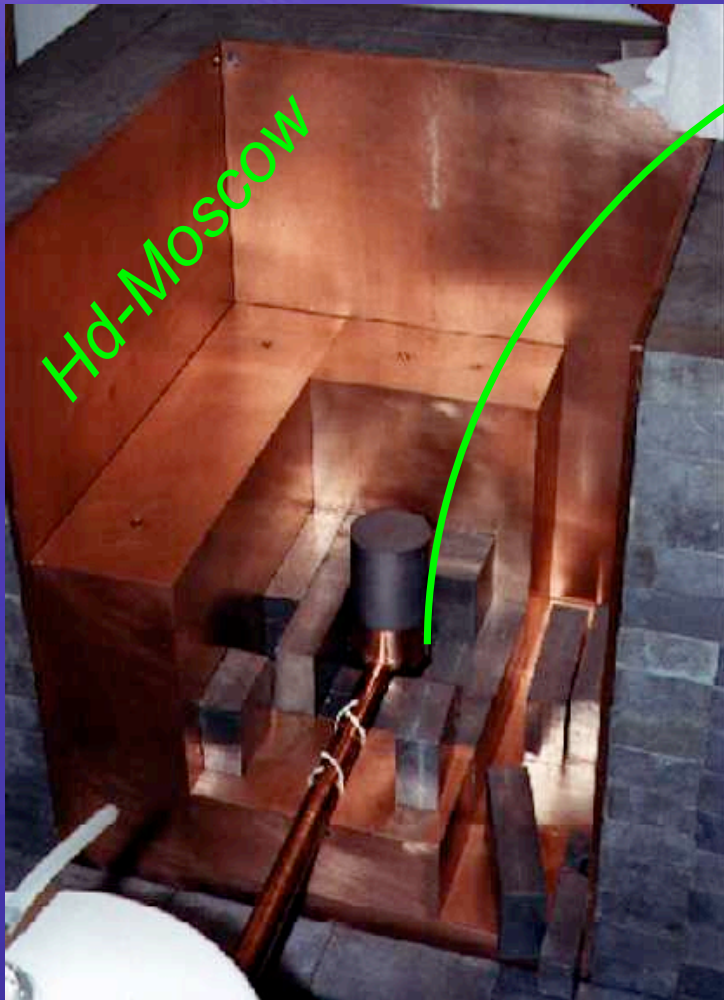
*Improve Background by ultra-pure shielding*

*HPGe detectors in Liquid Argon*

*GERDA  $\rightarrow 10^{-3} (\text{kg}\cdot\text{y}\cdot\text{keV})^{-1}$*

*[IGEX 0.1–0.3  $(\text{kg}\cdot\text{y}\cdot\text{keV})^{-1}$ ]*

*[Hd-M 0.17  $(\text{kg}\cdot\text{y}\cdot\text{keV})^{-1}$ ]*





# GERDA-collaboration

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~70 physicists  
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6 countries

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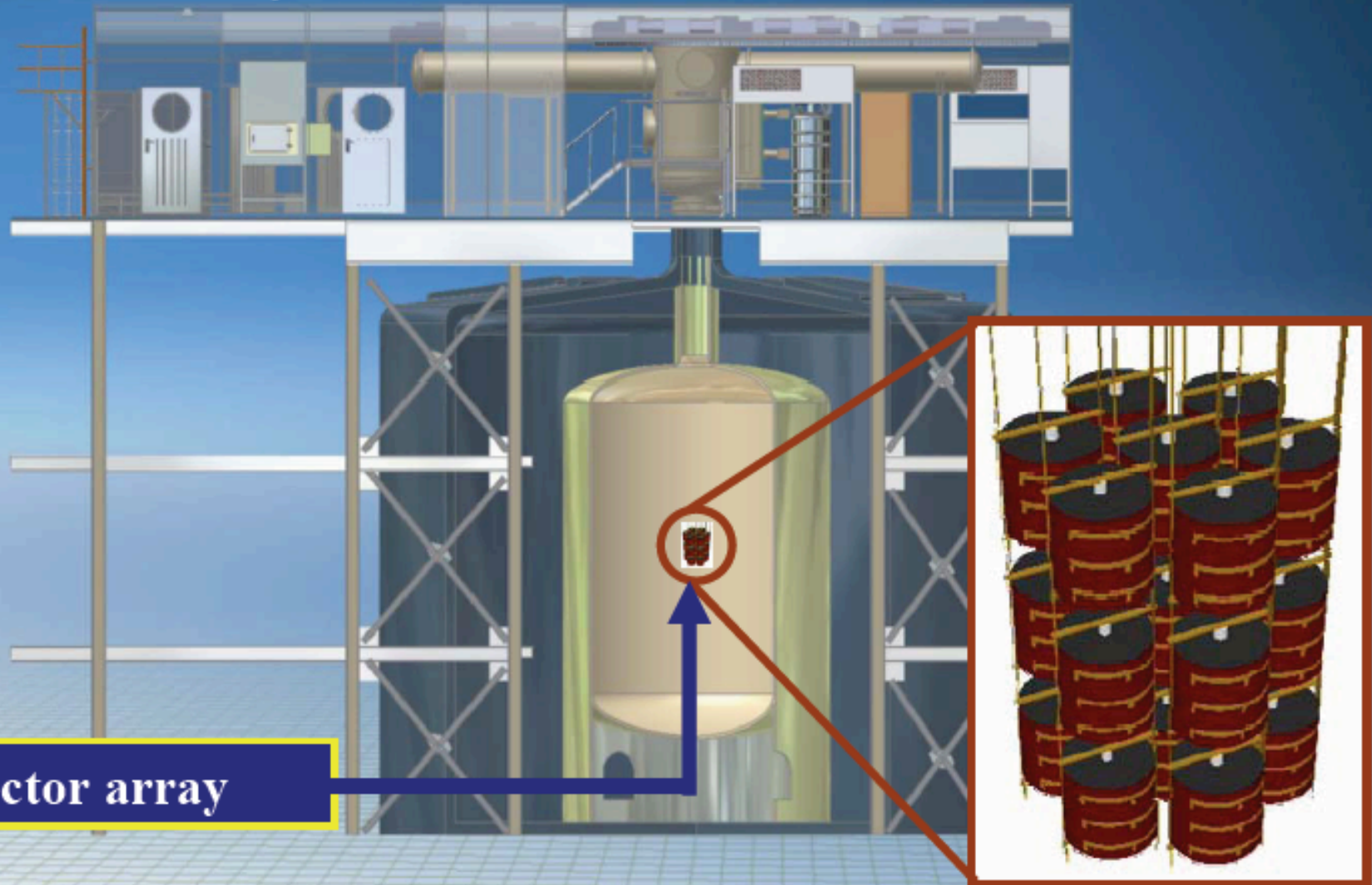
<sup>m</sup> Physikalisches Institut, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany

<sup>n</sup> Physik Institut der Universität Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland



# GERDA-Schematics

➤ Place array of naked HPGe-detectors enriched in  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  in the center of a stainless cryostat filled with LAr.

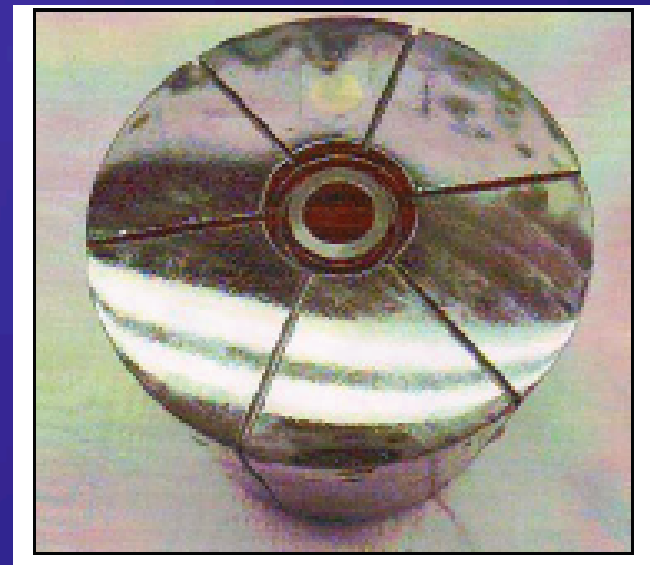
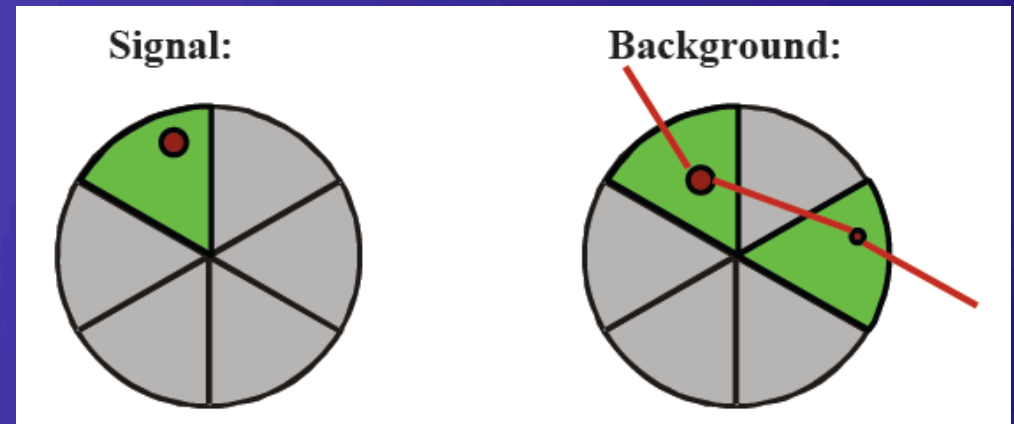


# Status GERDA

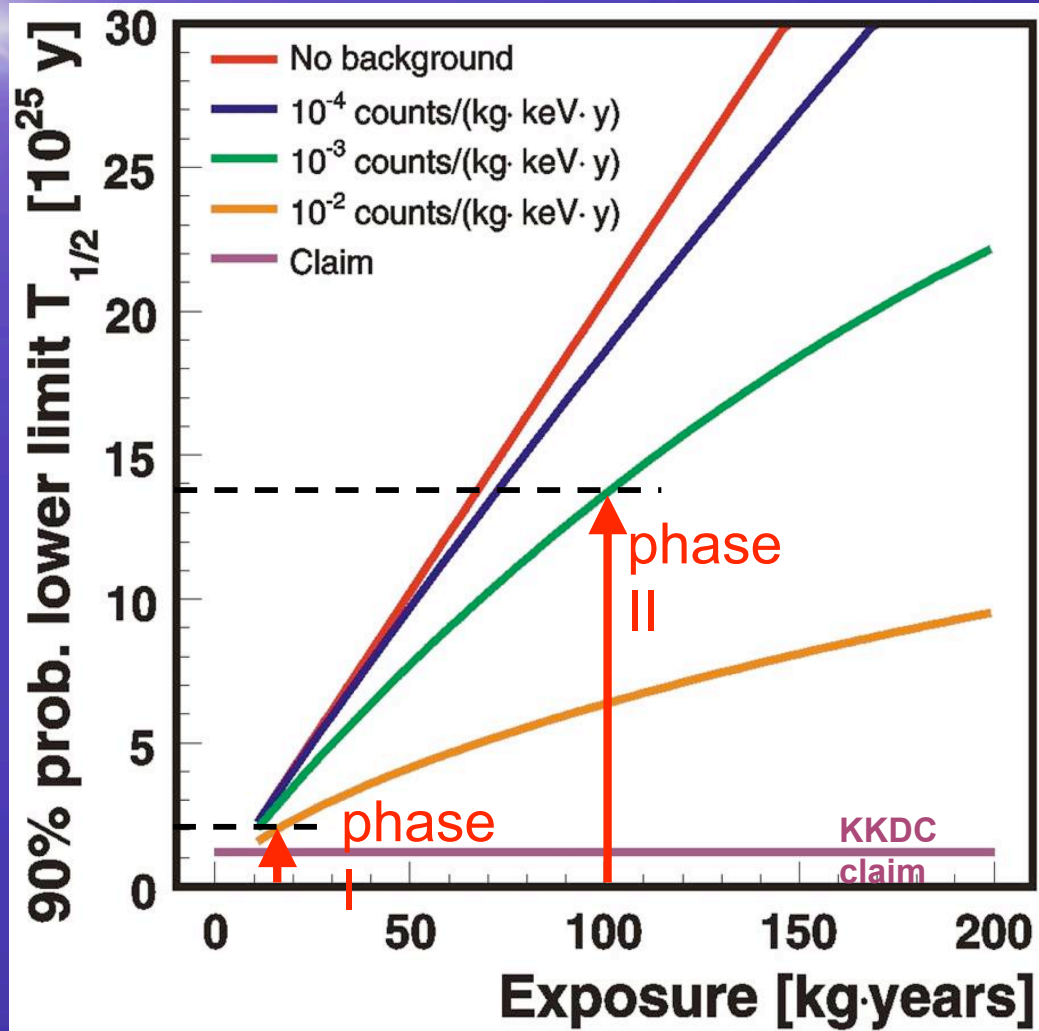




# GERDA Detectors



# GERDA sensitivity



**P I 15 kg y**  
 at  $10^{-2} \text{ (keV kg y)}^{-1}$   
 $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.2 \cdot 10^{25} \text{ y}$   
 ( $\rightarrow$  HdM:  $1.2 \cdot 10^{25} \text{ y}$ )

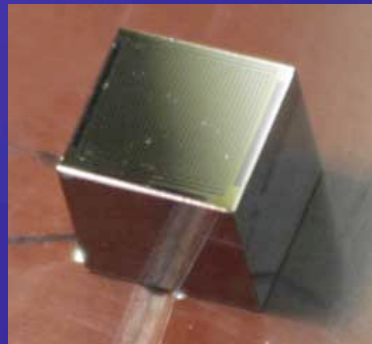
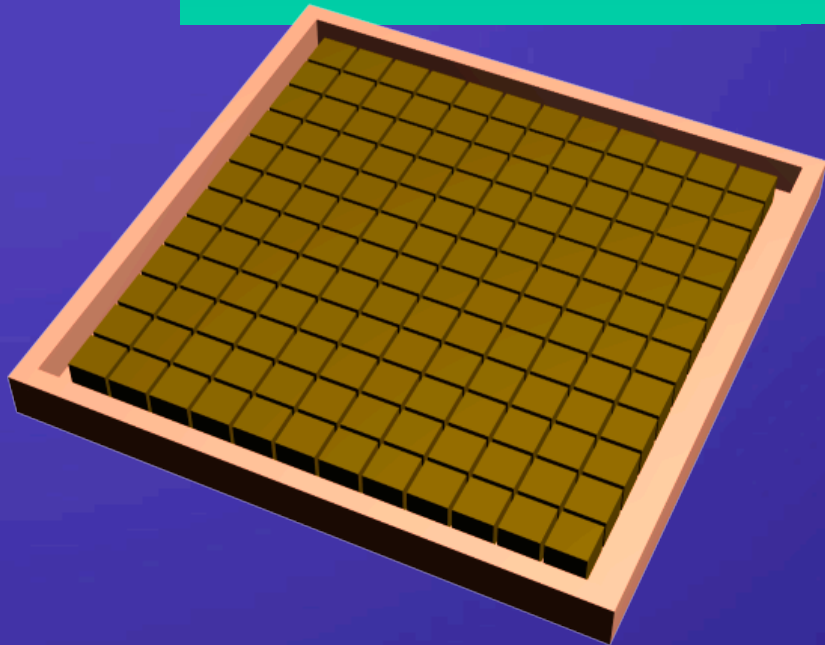
**P II 100 kg y**  
 at  $10^{-3} \text{ (keV kg y)}^{-1}$   
 $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.4 \cdot 10^{26} \text{ y}$

P III 1 ton  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  exp. (GERDA/Majorana)  
 depending on Phase I/II outcome  
 Background goal  $10^{-4} \text{ (keV kg y)}^{-1}$

Phase I commissioning  
 early 2009

# COBRA

Use large amount of  
CdZnTe  
Semiconductor Detectors



Array of  $1\text{cm}^3$   
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
  - $^{116}\text{Cd}$  above 2.614 MeV
- Tracking („Solid state TPC“)



# Isotopes

COBRA: CdZnTe semiconductors

|         | nat. ab. (%) | Q (keV) | Decay mode          |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------------------|
| Zn70    | 0.62         | 1001    | $\beta$ - $\beta$ - |
| Cd114   | 28.7         | 534     | $\beta$ - $\beta$ - |
| → Cd116 | 7.5          | 2809    | $\beta$ - $\beta$ - |
| Te128   | 31.7         | 868     | $\beta$ - $\beta$ - |
| → Te130 | 33.8         | 2529    | $\beta$ - $\beta$ - |
| Zn64    | 48.6         | 1096    | $\beta$ + / EC      |
| → Cd106 | 1.21         | 2771    | $\beta$ + $\beta$ + |
| Cd108   | 0.9          | 231     | EC / EC             |
| Te120   | 0.1          | 1722    | $\beta$ + / EC      |



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

# Latest shell model calculations

(first for those heavier than  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ )

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

$^{116}\text{Cd}$  comes of best...

# COBRA collaboration



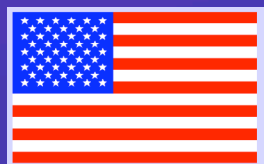
TU Dortmund  
TU Dresden  
Material Research Centre  
Freiburg



Technical University  
Prague



Laboratori Nazionali del  
Gran Sasso



Washington University at St. Louis  
Idaho National Laboratory



University of Bratislava



University of Jyvaskyla



University of La Plata

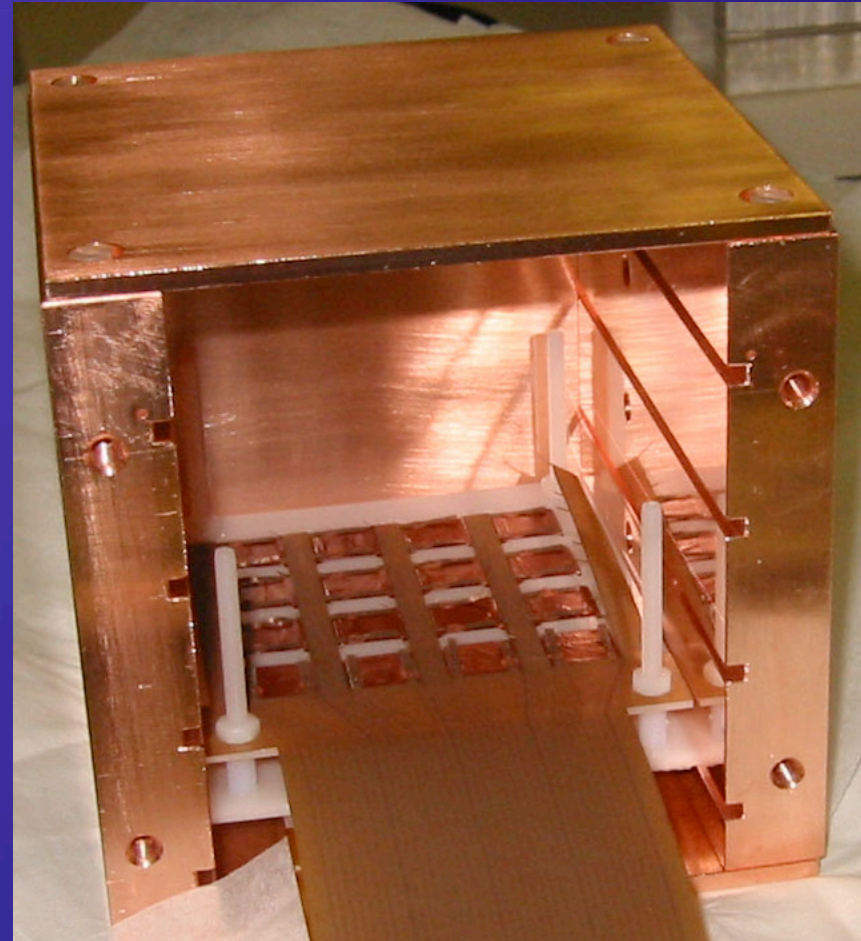
**More  
welcome**

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)

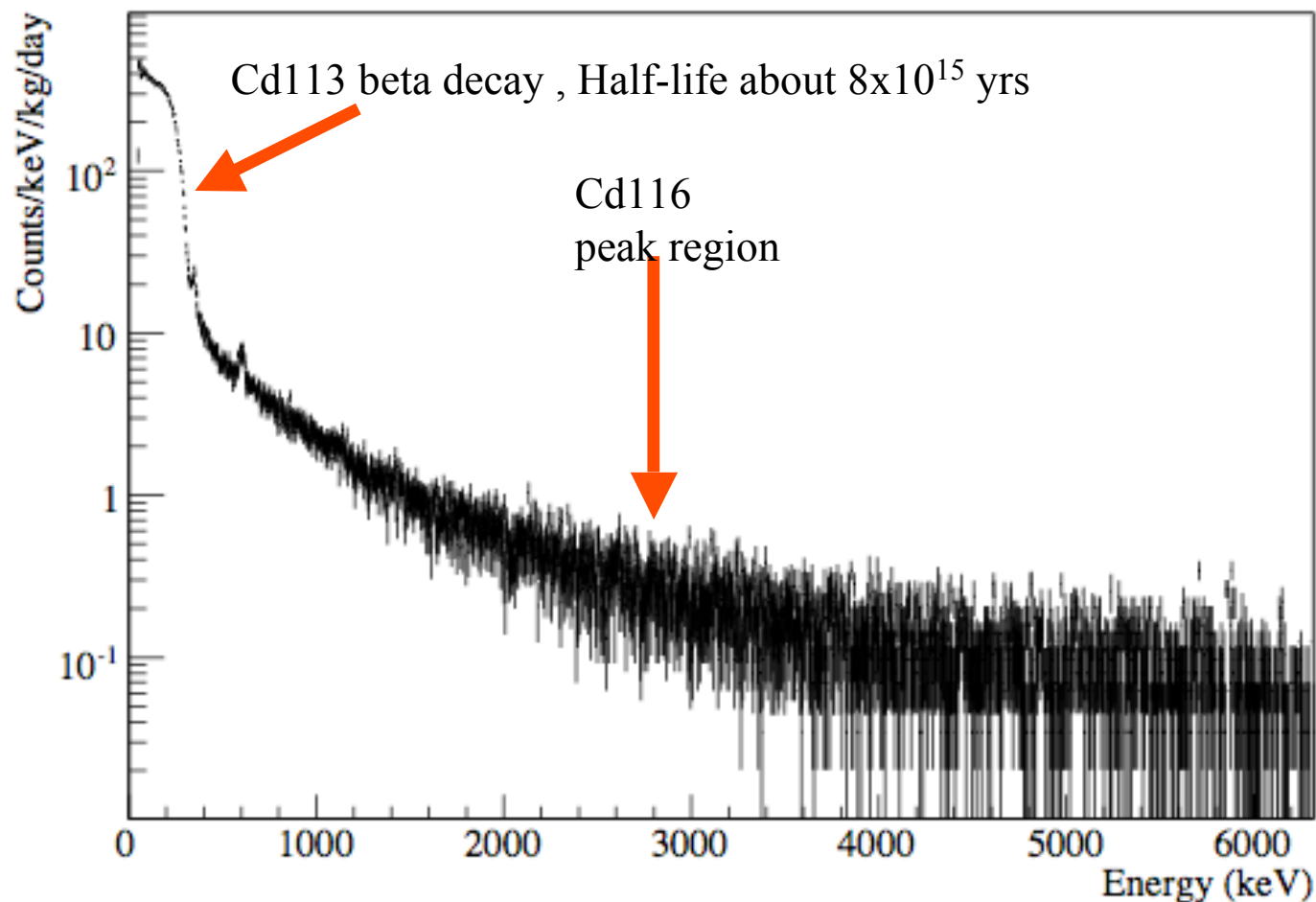
# The 64 array - first layer



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 <sub>half</sub> limit (years, 90% C.L. ) |                       |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|                               | Current Data                               | Previous              |
| $\beta^-\beta^-$ Decays       |  |                       |
| <sup>116</sup> Cd to g.s      | $6.05 \times 10^{19}$                      | $3.14 \times 10^{19}$ |
| <sup>130</sup> Te to g.s      | $3.44 \times 10^{20}$                      | $9.92 \times 10^{19}$ |
| <sup>130</sup> Te to 536 keV  | $2.49 \times 10^{20}$                      | $3.73 \times 10^{19}$ |
| <sup>116</sup> Cd to 1294 keV | $2.80 \times 10^{19}$                      | $4.92 \times 10^{18}$ |
| <sup>116</sup> Cd to 1757 keV | $3.03 \times 10^{19}$                      | $9.13 \times 10^{18}$ |
| <sup>116</sup> Cd to 2027 keV | $3.14 \times 10^{19}$                      | $1.37 \times 10^{19}$ |
| <sup>116</sup> Cd to 2112 keV | $4.16 \times 10^{19}$                      | $1.08 \times 10^{19}$ |
| <sup>116</sup> Cd to 2225 keV | $2.67 \times 10^{19}$                      | $9.46 \times 10^{18}$ |
| <sup>130</sup> Te to 1794 keV | $1.45 \times 10^{20}$                      |                       |
| <sup>130</sup> Te to 1122 keV | $9.48 \times 10^{19}$                      |                       |
| <sup>114</sup> Cd to g.s.     | $4.71 \times 10^{20}$                      |                       |

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



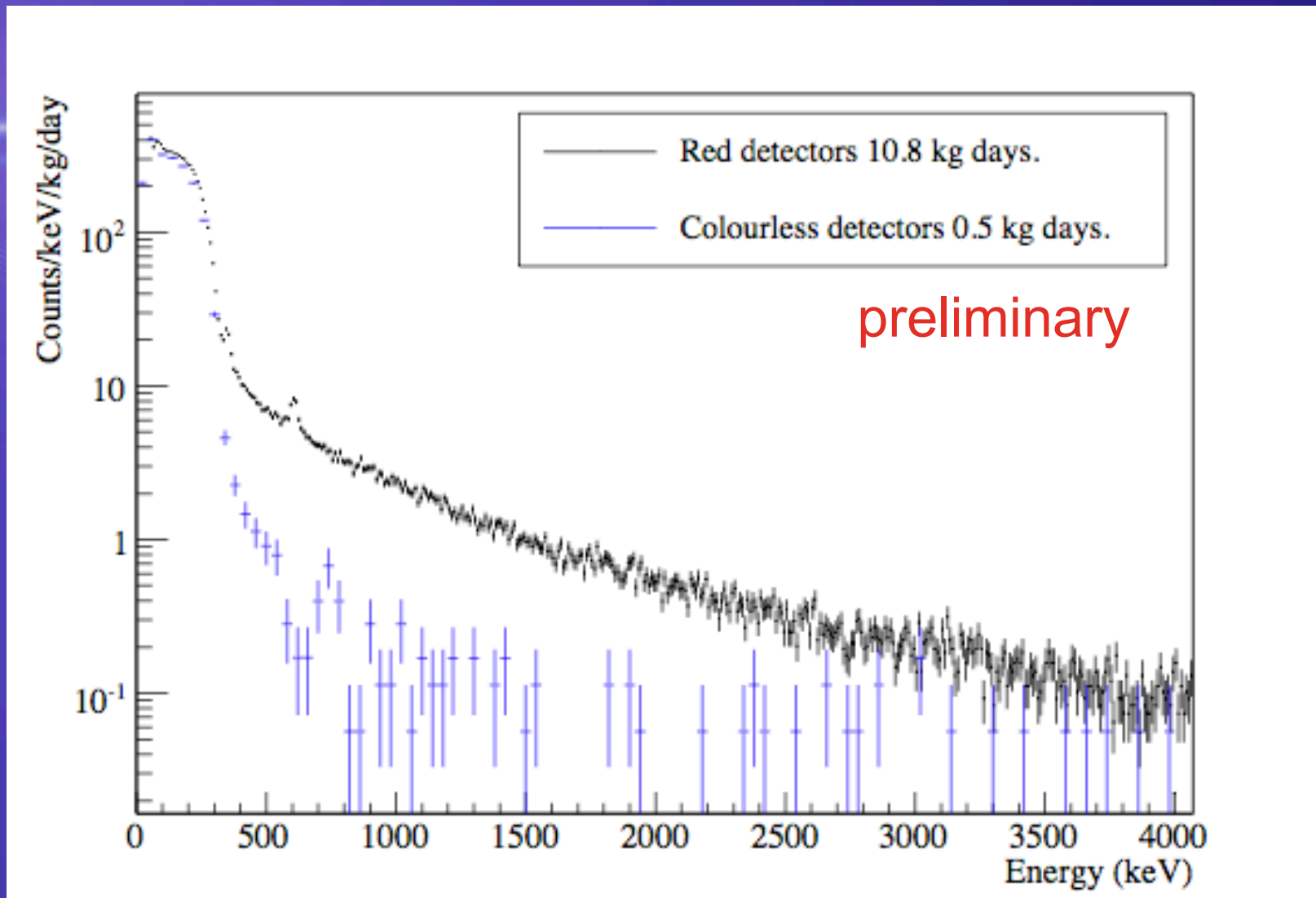
# New Results

PRELIMINARY PRELIMINARY

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

Some new world-best limits

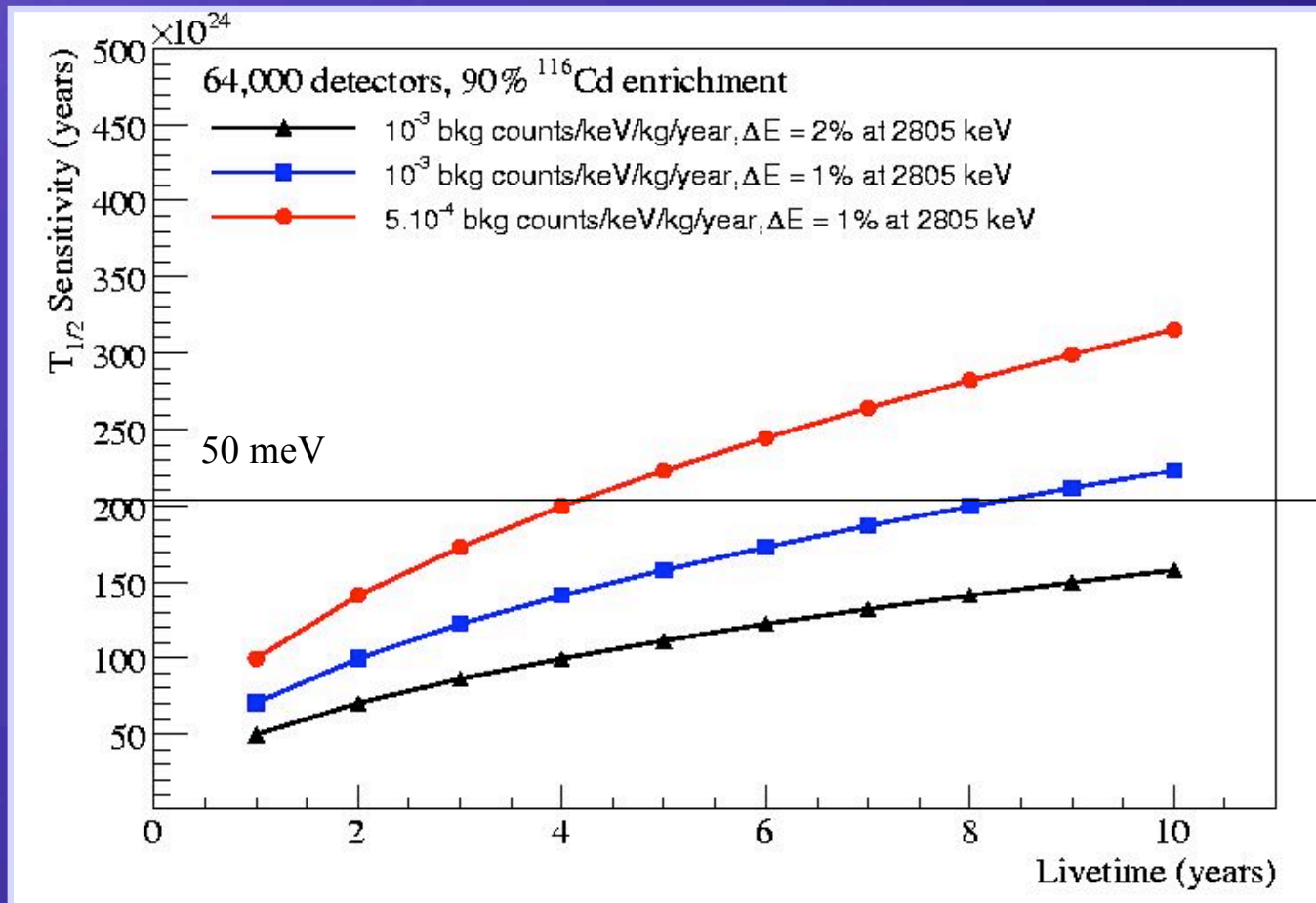
## Alternative painted detectors (four 1 cm<sup>3</sup> CdZnTe)



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

# Sensitivity

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



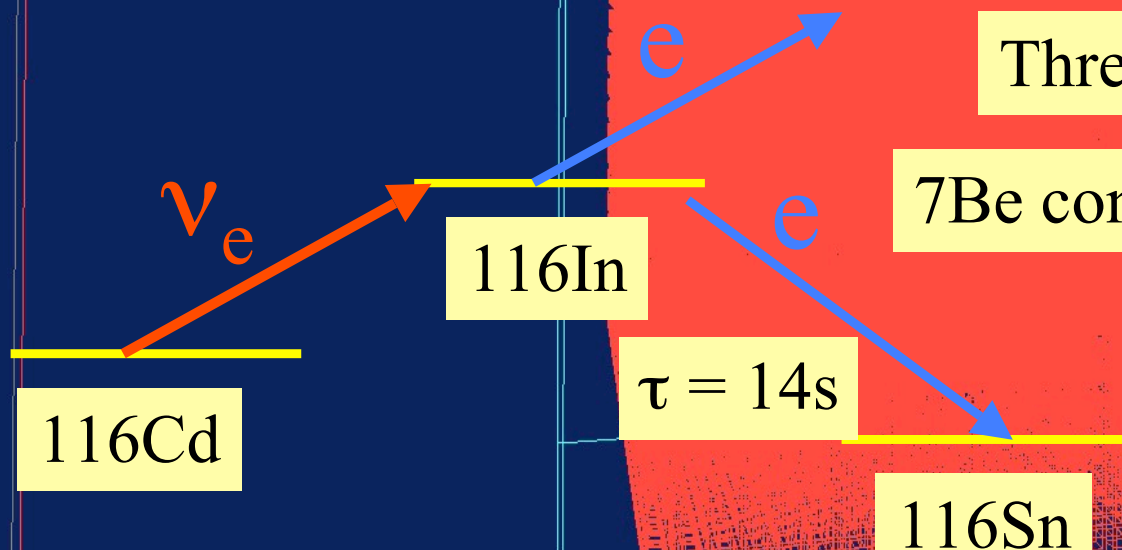
# KING COBRA - Below 40 meV

Current idea: 40x40x40 CdZnTe detectors = 420 kg, enriched in  $^{116}\text{Cd}$

A real time low-energy solar neutrino experiment?

Threshold energy: 464 keV

$^7\text{Be}$  contribution g.s. alone: 227 SNU



K. Zuber, Phys. Lett. B 571,148 (2003)

# The solid state TPC

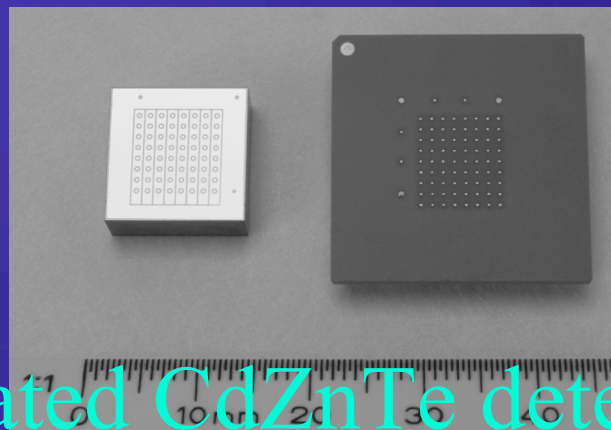
Energy resolution



Tracking



- Massive background reduction
- Positive signal information



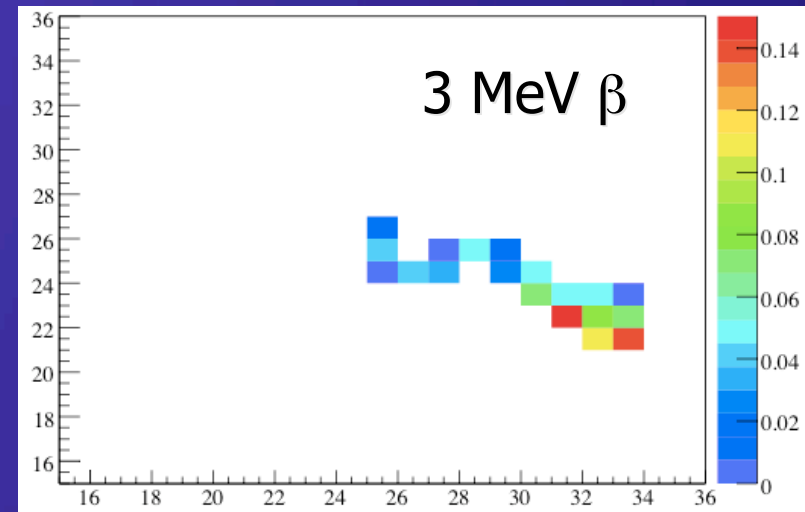
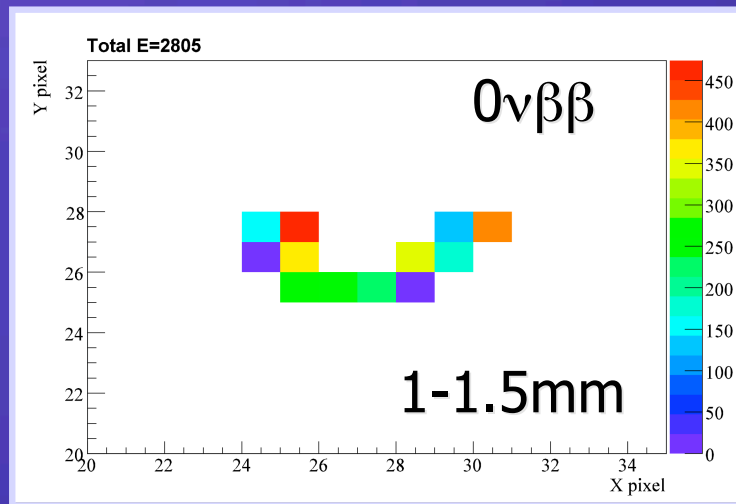
Pixelated CdZnTe detectors



# Pixelisation - I

- Massive BG reduction by particle ID , 200 $\mu$ m pixels (example simulations):

$\alpha$ = 1 pixel,  $\beta$  and  $\beta\beta$ = several connected pixel,  $\gamma$ = some disconnected p.



- eg. Could achieve nearly 100% identification of  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  events ( $^{214}\text{Bi} \rightarrow ^{214}\text{Po} \rightarrow ^{210}\text{Pb}$ )

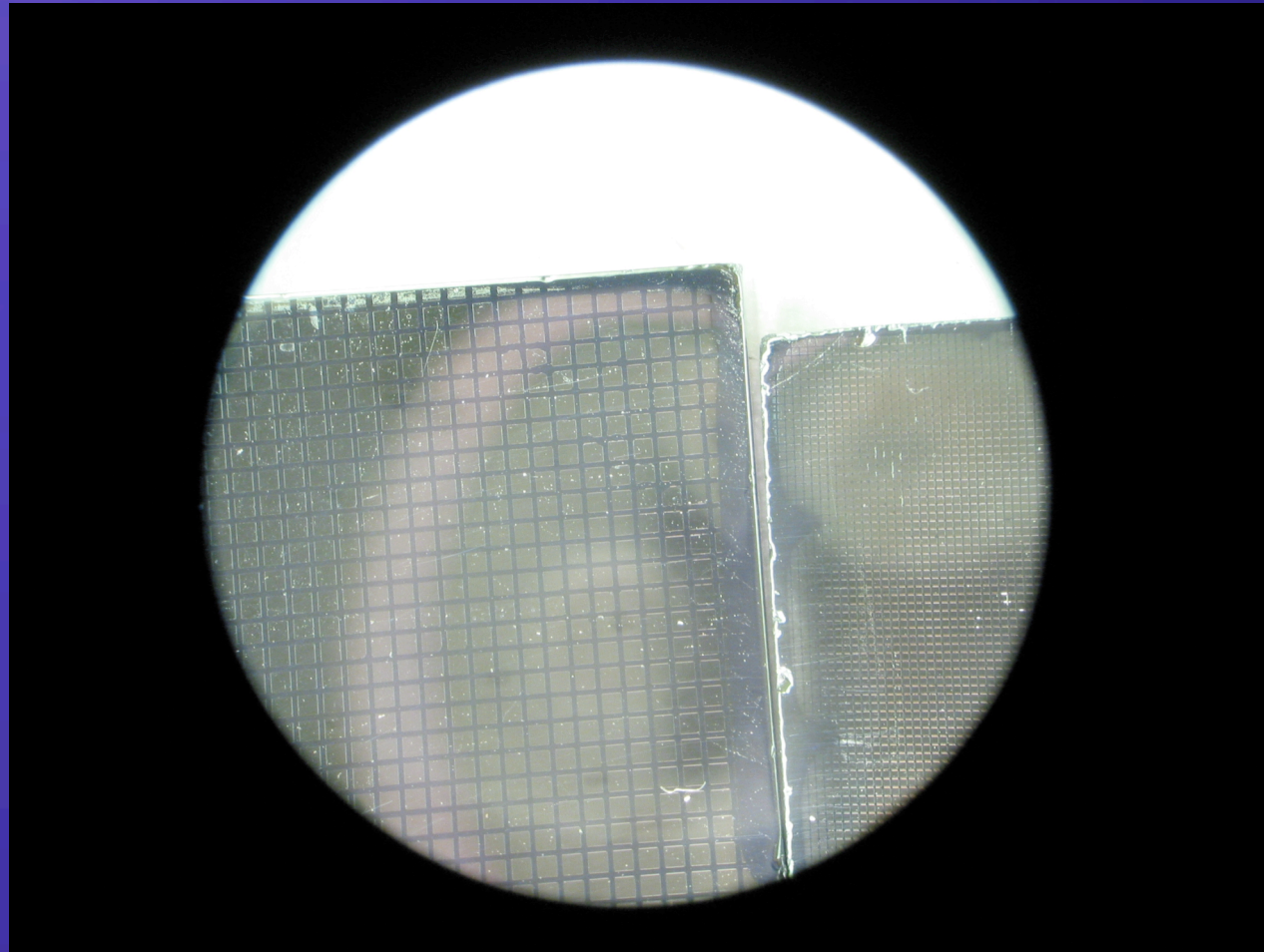
Beta with  
endpoint  
3.3MeV

7.7MeV  $\alpha$   
life-time =  
164.3 $\mu$ s

# Pixel detectors

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

Next step: 64 pixel detectors  $2 \times 2 \times 0.5$  cm<sup>3</sup> (pixel size: 2.5 mm)

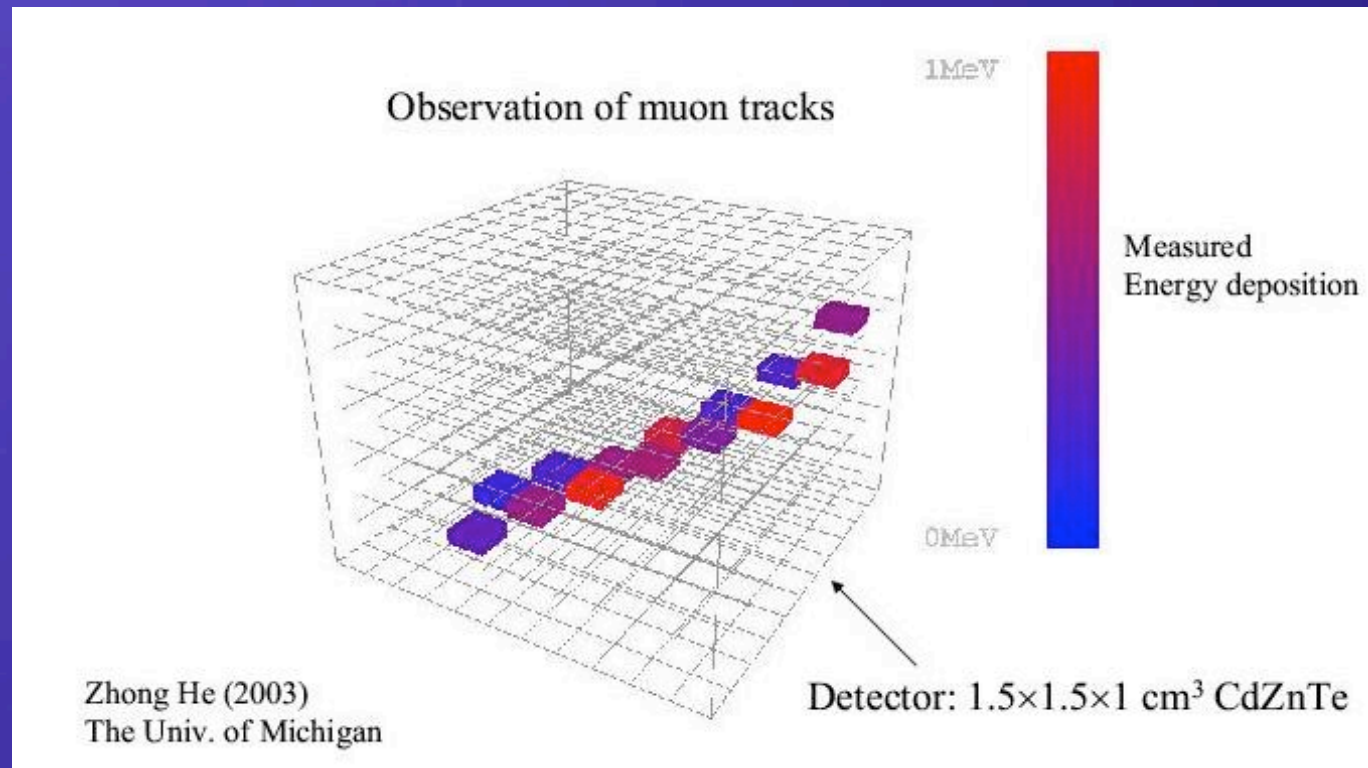


Pixel detector with 200  $\mu$ m pixels produced!

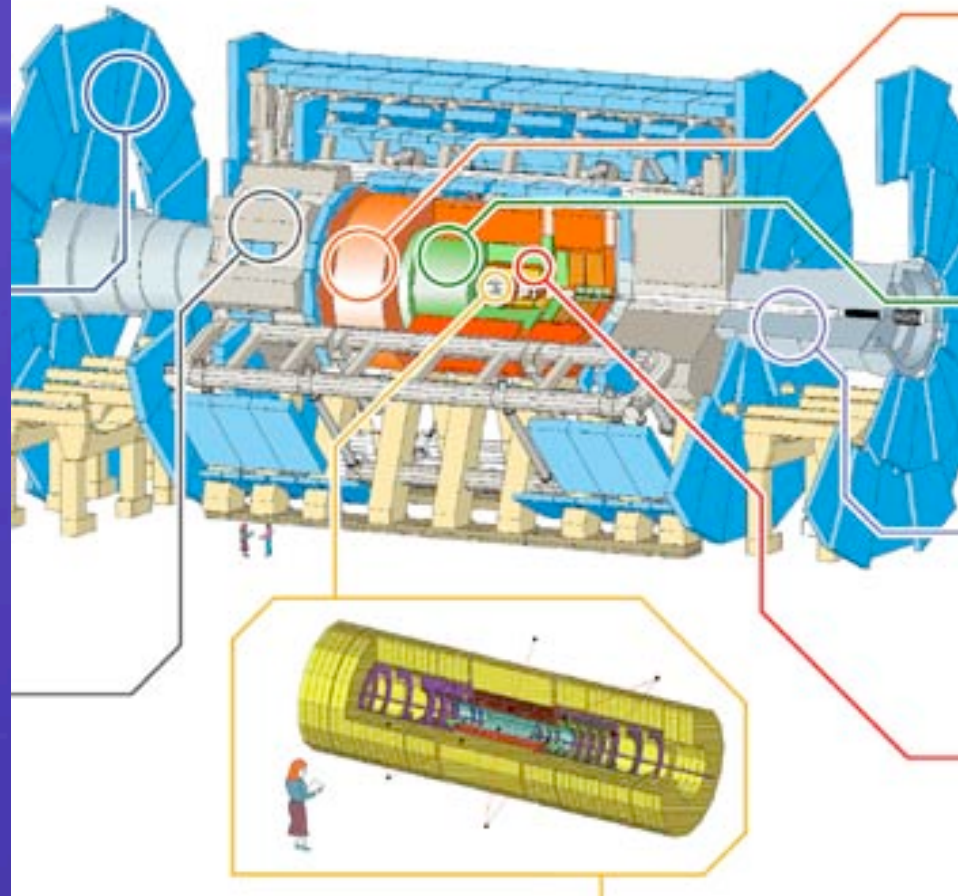
# Pixellated detectors

Solid state TPC

2D - Pixelisation on both electrodes



## ATLAS Detector Photos

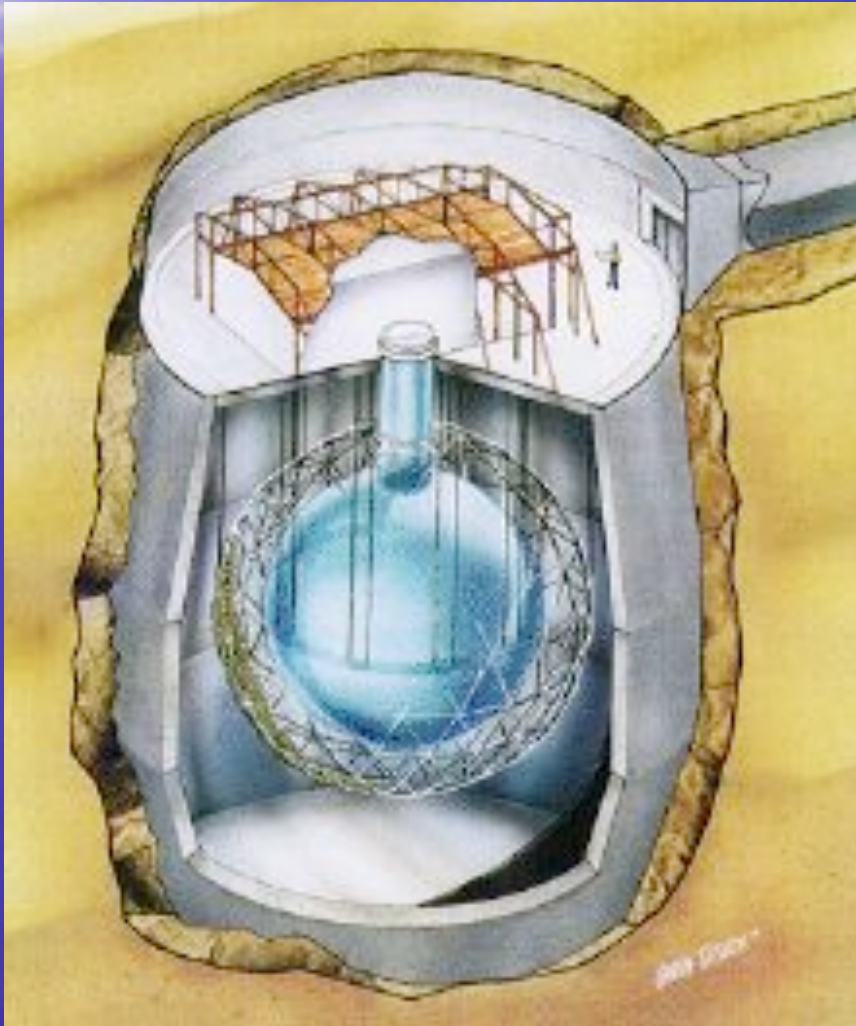


**Nobody said it was going to be easy, and nobody was right**

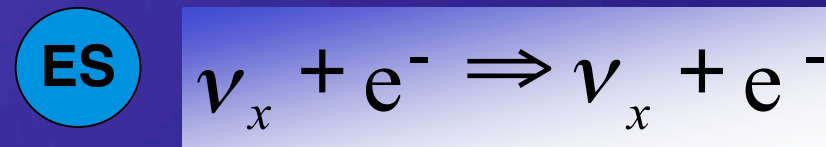
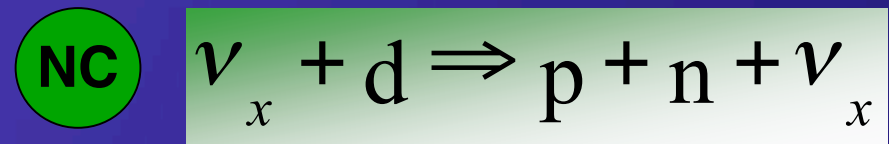
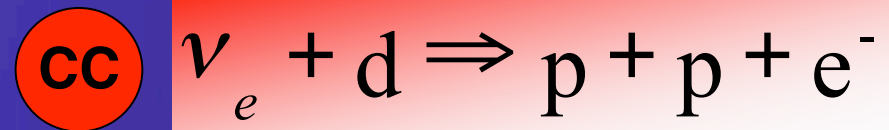
George W. Bush



# SNO – The smoking gun



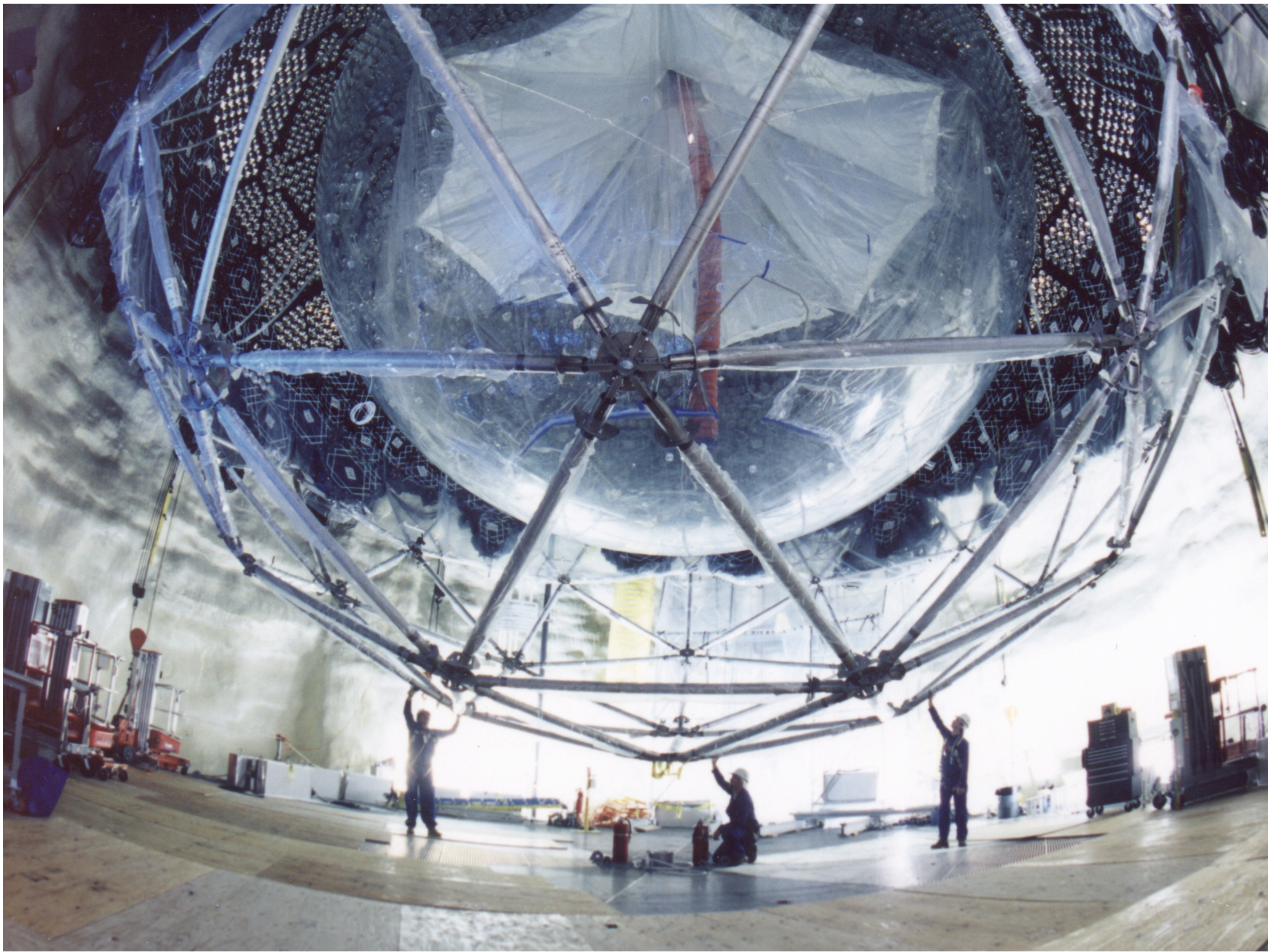
1000 t heavy water (D<sub>2</sub>O)



$$\frac{\text{CC}}{\text{ES}} = \frac{\nu_e}{\nu_e + 0.14(\nu_\mu + \nu_\tau)}$$

$$\frac{\text{CC}}{\text{NC}} = \frac{\nu_e}{\nu_e + \nu_\mu + \nu_\tau}$$

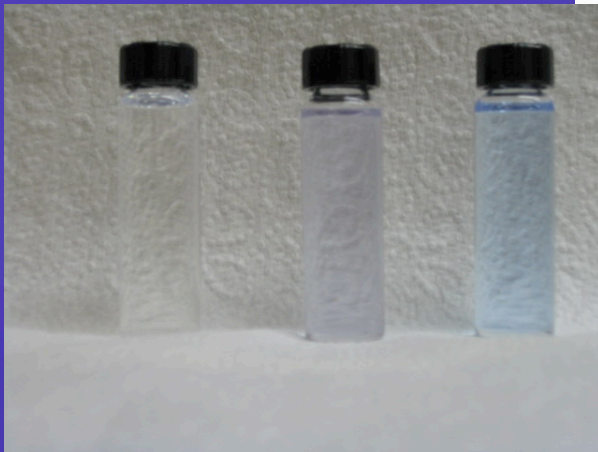




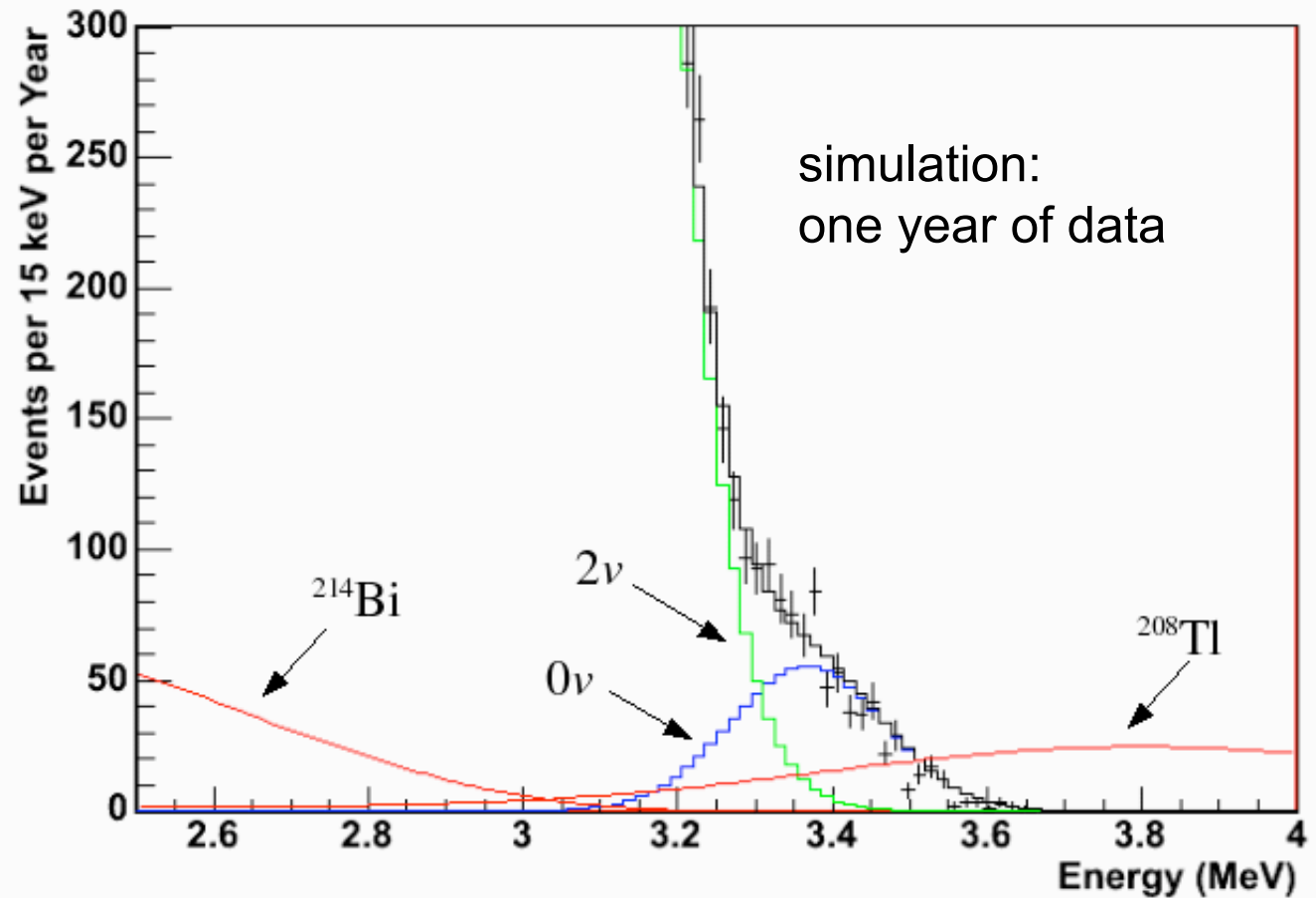


# Test $\langle m_{\nu} \rangle = 0.150 \text{ eV}$

$0\nu$ : 1000 events per year with 1% natural Nd-loaded liquid scintillator in SNO+



The Simulated Spectrum of Double Beta Decay Events



*maximum likelihood statistical test of the shape to extract  $0\nu$  and  $2\nu$  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....