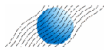


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lecture course on

Astroparticle physics

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6 Double β -decay

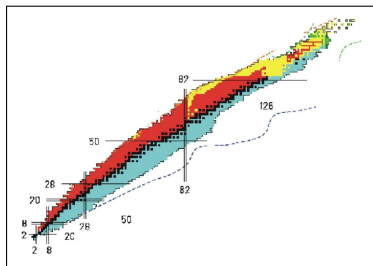
- ▶ 6.1 Double β -decay – Decay process
- ▶ 6.2 Double β -decay – Motivation
- ▶ 6.3 Double β -decay – Candidate isotopes
- ▶ 6.4 Double β -decay – Experimental ν -mass determination
- ▶ 6.5 Double β -decay – Performed experiments
- ▶ 6.6 Double β -decay – Future experiments
- ▶ 6.7 Double β -decay – Enrichment

6.1 Double β -decay

Decay processes – β and $\beta\beta$ decays

► Normal β -decay

- β^- : $n \longrightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$
 $(Z, A) \longrightarrow (Z + 1, A) + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$
- β^+ : $p \longrightarrow n + e^+ + \nu_e$
- EC : $p + e^+ \longrightarrow n + \nu_e$
 $(Z, A) \longrightarrow (Z - 1, A) + e^+ + \nu_e$



► Double β -decay

- (1) with neutrino ($2\beta 2\nu$)
 $n_{1,2} \longrightarrow p_{1,2} + e_{1,2}^- + \bar{\nu}_{e1,e2}$
 $(Z, A) \longrightarrow (Z + 2, A) + e_1^- + e_2^- + \bar{\nu}_{e1} + \bar{\nu}_{e2}$
- (2) neutrinoless decay ($2\beta 0\nu$)
 $n_{1,2} \longrightarrow p_{1,2} + e_{1,2}^- + \bar{\nu}_{e1,e2}$
 $(Z, A) \longrightarrow (Z + 2, A) + e_1^- + e_2^-$

6.1 Double β -decay

Decay processes – semiempirical mass formula

- ▶ $M(Z, A) = Zm(^1\text{H}) + Nm_n - B(Z, A)/c^2$
- ▶ $B(Z, A) = a_v A - a_s A^{2/3} - a_c Z(Z-1)A^{-1/3} - a_{\text{sym}}(A-2Z)^2/A + \delta_p$

- ▶ a_v = volume term = 15.5 MeV
- ▶ a_s = surface term = 16.8 MeV
- ▶ a_c = Coulomb term = 0.72 MeV
- ▶ a_{sym} = symmetry term = 23 MeV

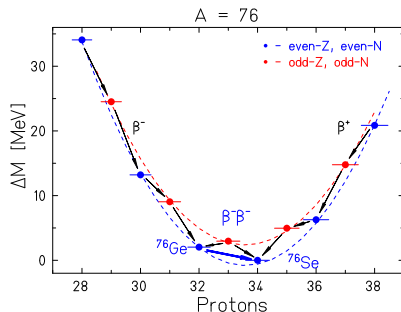
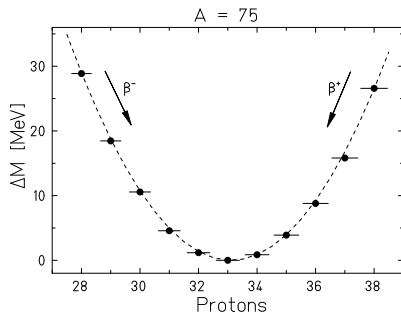
- ▶ δ_p = pairing energy =
$$\begin{array}{ll} +a_p A^{-3/4} & Z, N \text{ even} \quad (A \text{ even}) \\ 0 & Z \text{ or } N \text{ odd, } A \text{ odd} \\ -a_p A^{-3/4} & Z, N \text{ odd} \quad (A \text{ even}) \end{array}$$

$$a_p = 34 \text{ MeV}$$

6.1 Double β -decay

Decay processes – mass parabola – fixed A

- ▶ $M(Z, A) = Zm(^1\text{H}) + Nm_n - B(Z, A)/c^2$
- ▶ $B(Z, A) = a_v A - a_s A^{2/3} - a_c Z(Z-1)A^{-1/3} - a_{\text{sym}}(A - 2Z)^2/A + \delta$



6.1 Double β -decay

Decay processes

Then

- ▶ Double β -decay may exist for even-even isotopes at the bottom of the valley of stability
- ▶ Approximately 40 candidate isotopes exist, out of which most are $2\beta^-$ type

Moreover

- ▶ Double β -decay is weak interaction process of the second order
👉 half lives are long
- ▶ Neutrinoless double β -decay violates lepton number conservation (is forbidden in the standard electroweak theory)
- ▶ First ideas: Majorana, Racah (1937) and Furry (1939)

6.1 Double β -decay

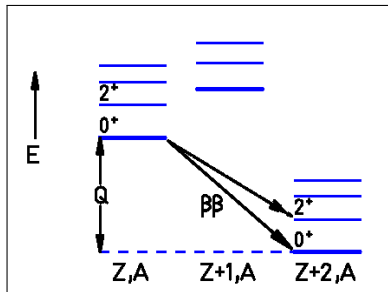
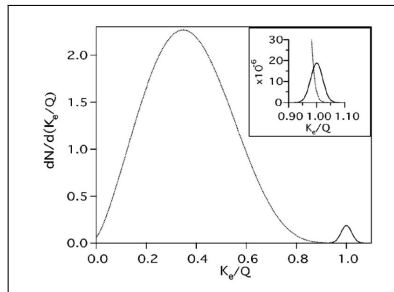
Decay processes

Decay energy ($Q_{\beta\beta}$ -value)

$$Q_{\beta\beta} = \Delta({}_Z^AX) - \Delta({}_{Z+2}^AX)$$

$\Delta({}_Z^AX)$ is the mass defect of isotope (${}_Z^AX$) (from tables)

For example $Q_{\beta\beta}({}_{32}^{76}\text{Ge}) = \Delta({}_{32}^{76}\text{Ge}) - \Delta({}_{34}^{76}\text{Se})$
 $= -73212 \text{ keV} + 75251 \text{ keV} = 2.039 \text{ MeV}$



6.2 Double β -decay

Motivation – Neutrinoless case

- ▶ Neutrinoless double β -decay is important process for probing the fundamental character of neutrino
- ▶ If it exist, it requires that
 - ▶ lepton-number conservation is violated
 - ▶ neutrino has non-vanishing mass
 - ▶ neutrinos are Majorana particles (neutrino is identical to antineutrino)
- ▶ Absolute mass of the neutrino can be determined
- ▶ Neutrino experiments show that neutrinos oscillate which means that they should have finite mass
 - ▶ the upper current limit (of one flavour) is approximately 40 meV
- ▶ The next-generation $0\nu 2\beta$ experiments should go below that limit
 - ▶ $t_{1/2}$ comparable to proton decay
 - ▶ material problems does not allow massive detectors

6.3 Double β -decay

Candidate isotopes – $Q_{\beta\beta} \geq 1.7$ MeV

Nuclide	$Q_{\beta\beta}$ [keV]	Abun δ [%]	$T_{1/2}^{2\nu}(\text{exp.})$ [years]	$T_{1/2}^{0\nu}(\text{exp.})$ [years]	$\langle m_\nu \rangle$ [eV]
^{48}Ca	4272	0.187	$(4.2 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{19}$	$> 9.5 \times 10^{21}$	< 8.3
^{76}Ge	2039	7.61	$(1.3 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{21}$	$> 1.9 \times 10^{25}$ $> 1.6 \times 10^{25}$	< 0.35 $< 0.33 - 1.35$
^{82}Se	2995	8.73	$(9.2 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{19}$	$> 2.7 \times 10^{22}$	< 5
^{96}Zr	3350	2.80	$(1.4^{+3.5}_{-0.5}) \times 10^{19}$		
^{100}Mo	3034	9.63	$(8.0 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{18}$	$> 5.5 \times 10^{22}$	< 2.1
^{110}Pd	2000	11.72			
^{116}Cd	2805	7.49	$(3.2 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{19}$	$> 7 \times 10^{22}$	< 2.6
^{124}Sn	2287	5.79			
^{130}Te	2529	34.08	$(2.7 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{21}$	$> 1.4 \times 10^{23}$	$< 1.1 - 2.6$
^{136}Xe	2468	8.87	$> 8.1 \times 10^{20}$	$> 4.4 \times 10^{23}$	$< 1.8 - 5.2$
^{148}Nd	1929	5.7			
^{150}Nd	3367	5.6	$(7.0^{+11.8}_{-0.3}) \times 10^{18}$	$> 1.2 \times 10^{21}$	< 3
^{160}Gd	1730	21.86			

6.4 Double β -decay

Experimental neutrino-mass determination – $0\nu 2\beta$

- ▶ Half-life ($T_{1/2}$) of the decay can be measured
- ▶ The half-life ($T_{1/2}$) of $0\nu 2\beta$ -decay is inversely proportional to the square of the effective mass ($\langle m_\nu \rangle$) of the Majorana neutrino, the phase-space factor ($G_{0\nu}$) and the nuclear matrix element (NME)

$$T_{1/2}(0\nu)^{-1} = G_{0\nu} \times |\text{NME}|^2 \times \langle m_\nu \rangle^2$$

- ▶ the (lower limit) of the half-life can be measured
- ▶ phase-space factor can be calculated (not difficult)
- ▶ the matrix element – which involves the nuclear structure information – can also be calculated
 - ✗ can be calculated well enough only to few isotopes
- ▶ The effective neutrino mass, U_{ei} being the mixing matrix element and m_i the mass eigenvalue

$$\langle m_\nu \rangle = \sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i$$

6.4 Double β -decay

Experimental neutrino-mass determination – $0\nu 2\beta$

- ▶ The lower limit of the half-life ($T_{1/2}$) is obtained from equation

$$T_{1/2} \sim \epsilon \cdot \delta \cdot \left[\frac{M \cdot \tau}{\Delta E \cdot R_{\text{bg}}} \right]^{1/2}$$

where

- ▶ ϵ is the efficiency of the detector
- ▶ δ is the abundance or enrichment of the isotope
- ▶ τ is measuring time [years]
- ▶ M is the total amount of the isotope [kg]
- ▶ ΔE is the energy resolution (FWHM) [keV]
- ▶ R_{bg} is the background at the energy window of $Q_{0\nu 2\beta}$ [counts/(yr·kg·keV)]

6.4 Double β -decay

Experimental neutrino-mass determination – Ideal experiment – 1

- ▶ The detector mass must be large enough to reach the 50-meV limit (~ 1 ton of isotope)
- ▶ The $\beta\beta(0\nu)$ source must be extremely low in radioactive contamination
- ▶ Although the use of natural isotope will be less costly, the enrichment process provides a good level of purification and also results in a (usually) smaller volume detector
- ▶ A small detector volume minimises internal background (which scale with the detector volume). It also minimises external background by allowing smaller shields and structures (active detector)
- ▶ Good energy resolution
- ▶ Ease of operation due to long experiments and remote locations

6.4 Double β -decay

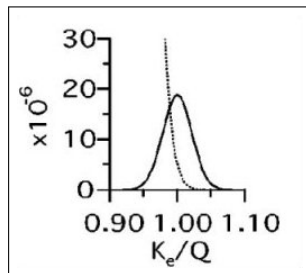
Experimental neutrino-mass determination – Ideal experiment – 2

- ▶ A large $Q_{\beta\beta}$ -value gives faster $\beta\beta(0\nu)$ rate and places the region of interest above many potential background activities
- ▶ A relatively slow $\beta\beta(2\nu)$ rate helps to control the experiment
- ▶ Identifying the daughter in coincidence with the $\beta\beta$ decay would eliminate most potential background events except $\beta\beta(2\nu)$
- ▶ Good spatial resolution and timing information can help reject background processes
- ▶ The nuclear theory is better understood in some isotopes than others.
- ▶ Event reconstruction, providing kinematic data such as opening angle and individual electron energy, can aid in the elimination of background

6.4 Double β -decay

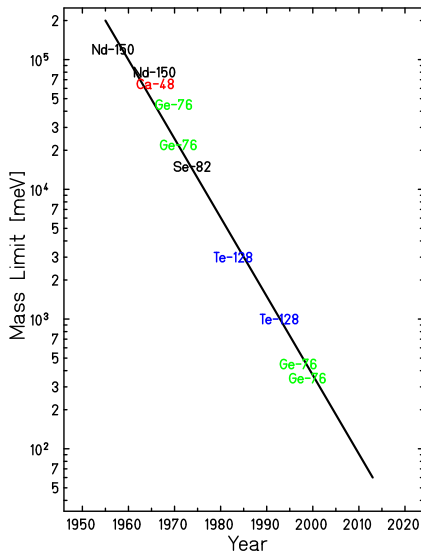
Experimental neutrino-mass determination – Background

- ▶ Double β -decay (both $2\nu 2\beta$ and $0\nu 2\beta$) experiments are essentially a hard struggling and protection against background radiations
- ▶ The background can be divided into three groups
 - ▶ natural and man-made activity:
Uranium and Thorium chains and Potassium
☞ (^{208}Tl , ^{214}Bi , ^{40}K)
artificial isotopes
☞ ($^{239,240}\text{Pu}$, ^{137}Cs , ^{90}Sr , ^{42}Ar , ^{85}Kr)
 - ▶ Cosmic-ray induced activity
 - ▶ $2\nu 2\beta$ -decay for $0\nu 2\beta$ -decay



6.4 Double β -decay

Experimental neutrino-mass determination – the Moores law for the sensitivity



6.5 Double β -decay

Performed experiments

The first $2\beta 0\nu$ experiment : Fireman 1948 [Phys. Rev. 74 (1948) 1238]

Since then $2\beta 0\nu$ decay studied for 28 isotopes

No $2\beta 0\nu$ decay observed, $2\beta 2\nu$ decay observed for 7 isotopes

Isotope	Experimental $T_{1/2}(2\nu)$ [yr]	Experimental $T_{1/2}(0\nu)$ [yr]	$\langle m_{\nu} \rangle$ [eV]	Experiment / Reference
^{48}Ca	$(4.2 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{19}$	$> 9.5 \times 10^{21}$	< 8.3	You Ke <i>et al.</i> , Phys. Lett B265 (1991) 53
^{76}Ge	$(1.3 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{21}$	$> 1.9 \times 10^{25}$	< 0.35	Heidelberg Moscow (1999)
		$> 1.6 \times 10^{25}$	$< 0.33 - 1.35$	IGEX (1999)
^{82}Se	$(9.2 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{19}$	$> 2.7 \times 10^{22}$	< 5	S.R. Elliott <i>et al.</i> , PRC46 (1992) 1535
^{100}Mo	$(8.0 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{18}$	$> 5.5 \times 10^{22}$	< 2.1	ELEGANTS (2001)
^{116}Gd	$(3.2 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{19}$	$> 7.0 \times 10^{22}$	< 2.6	F.A. Danevich <i>et al.</i> , PRC62 (2000) 044501
^{128}Te		$> 7.7 \times 10^{24}$	$< 1.1 - 1.5$	T. Bernatowicz <i>et al.</i> , PRC47 (1993) 806
^{130}Te		$> 1.4 \times 10^{23}$	$< 1.1 - 2.6$	MIBETA (2000)
^{136}Xe		$> 4.4 \times 10^{23}$	$< 1.8 - 5.2$	GOTTHARD TUNNEL (1998)

The sensitivity should be improved at least two orders of magnitude

6.5 Double β -decay

Performed experiments – MIBETA – 1

- ▶ Material $^{128,130}\text{Te}$
- ▶ Detector: Bolometer
 - ▶ utilised the low heat capacity of the crystal at low temperature
 - ▶ small energy deposit causes significant temperature increment in the crystal
 - ▶ good energy resolution
- ▶ Consisted of 20 TeO_2 crystals, each of size of $3\times 3\times 6\text{ cm}^3$, and total mass 6.8 kg
- ▶ Cooled down to $\sim 10\text{ mK}$
- ▶ Heat and background protection
 - ▶ high-purity electrolytically manufactured copper (2.2 cm)
 - ▶ low-activity lead (Roman lead, $< 4\text{ mBq/kg }^{210}\text{Pb}$) 10 cm
 - ▶ normal lead ($16\pm 4\text{ Bq/kg }^{210}\text{Pb}$)

6.5 Double β -decay

Performed experiments – MIBETA – 2

- ▶ Energy resolution (FWHM) at 2615 keV : $\Delta E \sim 9$ keV
- ▶ $\delta(^{130}\text{Te}) = 34\% \rightarrow$ enrichment not necessary, still
2 crystals $\delta(^{130}\text{Te}) = 93\%$, and
2 crystals $\delta(^{128}\text{Te}) = 95\%$
- ▶ Background
 - ▶ $R_{\text{bg}} \sim 0.5$ counts/(yr·kg·keV) @ $Q_{\beta\beta}(^{130}\text{Te}) = 2529$ keV
 - ▶ most of it from α -activity
- ▶ Measurement
 - ▶ Gran Sasso, 3500 mwe
 - ▶ $66995 \text{ h} \times \text{crystal} \rightarrow 0.66 \text{ kg} \times \text{yr } ^{130}\text{Te} :$
 - ▶ $T_{1/2}(0\nu) \geq 1.44 \times 10^{23} \text{ yr } (^{130}\text{Te})$
 - ▶ $T_{1/2}(0\nu) \geq 8.6 \times 10^{22} \text{ yr } (^{128}\text{Te})$

6.5 Double β -decay

Performed experiments – Gotthard tunnel

- ▶ Material ^{136}Xe
- ▶ Detector: TPC (Time Projection Chamber)
- ▶ Active volume 180 litres of Xe gas
 - ▶ ($\delta(^{136}\text{Xe}) = 62.5\%$) at pressure of 5 atm $\Rightarrow 9.1 \times 10^{24}$ atoms
- ▶ e^- tracking \rightarrow reducing background
- ▶ Energy resolution (FWHM) at $Q_{\beta\beta}(^{136}\text{Xe}) = 2481 \text{ keV}$:
 $\Delta E \sim 165 \text{ keV}$ (6.6 %)
- ▶ Background
 - ▶ $R_{bg} \sim 0.02 \text{ counts}/(\text{yr} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{keV})$ @ $Q_{\beta\beta}(^{136}\text{Xe}) = 2480 \text{ keV}$
 - ▶ dominating background at $2\beta 0\nu$ was due to Compton-scattered electrons which were created by natural activity
- ▶ Measurement
 - ▶ Gotthard highway tunnel (Switzerland?)
 - ▶ 6830 h + 6013 h (~ 530 days) $\rightarrow 4.9 \text{ kg} \times \text{yr}$:
 $\Rightarrow T_{1/2}(0\nu) \geq 4.4 \times 10^{23} \text{ yr } (^{136}\text{Xe})$

6.5 Double β -decay

Performed experiments – Heidelberg & Moscow

► Detector

- 5 Ge crystals (HPGe), $\delta(^{76}\text{Ge}) = 86\%$, mass 10.96 kg (125.5 moles)
- passive and active background shielding, PSA
- Energy resolution (FWHM) at $Q_{\beta\beta}(^{76}\text{Xe}) = 2039 \text{ keV}$: $\Delta E \sim 3.9 \text{ keV}$

► Background

- $R_{bg} \sim 0.06 \text{ counts}/(\text{yr}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{keV})$ (with PSA)
 $R_{bg} \sim 0.20 \text{ counts}/(\text{yr}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{keV})$ (without PSA)
@ $Q_{\beta\beta}(^{76}\text{Xe}) = 2039 \text{ keV}$

► Measurement

- Heidelberg–Moscow collaboration
- Gran Sasso
- $24 \text{ kg} \times \text{yr}$:
☞ $T_{1/2}(0\nu) \geq 1.6 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr } (^{76}\text{Ge})$

6.5 Double β -decay

Performed experiments – IGEX

- ▶ IGEX – International Germanium EXperiment
- ▶ Detector
 - ▶ 2 kg enriched ^{76}Ge , $\delta(^{76}\text{Ge}) = 88\%$ (HPGe)
 - ▶ PSA, plastic scintillation detector for muon veto
 - ▶ background shielding consisted of 2.5 tons archeological and 10 tons of 70-year-old low-activity lead
 - ▶ Energy resolution (FWHM) at $Q_{\beta\beta}(^{76}\text{Xe}) = 2039 \text{ keV}$:
 $\Delta E \sim 4 \text{ keV}$
- ▶ Background
 - ▶ $R_{bg} \sim 0.06 \text{ counts}/(\text{yr}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{keV})$ (with PSA)
@ $Q_{\beta\beta}(^{76}\text{Xe}) = 2039 \text{ keV}$
- ▶ Measurement
 - ▶ Canfranc Underground Laboratory (Spain)
 - ▶ $8.87 \text{ kg} \times \text{yr}$ ($116.75 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{yr}$) :
 $\Rightarrow T_{1/2}(0\nu) \geq 1.57 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr } (^{76}\text{Ge})$

6.5 Double β -decay

Performed experiments – HM & IGEX

Heidelberg & Moscow experiment versus IGEX

HM and IGEX obtained approximately the same results for the half life

Their interpretation of the background was, however, different

- ▶ HM:
The dominant contribution was created outside the Ge crystal
- ▶ IGEX:
The most restricting factor was the isotope ^{68}Ge that was an impurity in Ge crystal

6.5 Double β -decay

Performed experiments – ELEGANTS

- ▶ ELEctron Gamma-ray Neutrino TeleScopy
- ▶ Material ^{100}Mo
- ▶ Detector: Spectrometer ELEGANT V
 - ▶ three drift chambers for tracking electron paths
 - ▶ plastic scintillation detectors for measuring energy and times
 - ▶ NaI(Tl) scis around the spectrometer for γ -ray elimination
 - ▶ protected by copper and lead
 - ▶ two ^{100}Mo sources ($\delta=95\%$, 20 mg/cm^2), total mass 171 g
 - ▶ 171 g 95% $^{100}\text{Mo} \Rightarrow 10^{24}$ atoms
 - ▶ good background separation but not that efficient or not that good energy resolution than Ge crystals or bolometers
- ▶ Background
 - ▶ the most dominating background component at the $2\beta 0\nu$ energy window was concluded to arise from isotopes ^{208}Tl and ^{214}Bi which were impurities in the Mo source and other detector materials
- ▶ Measurement
 - ▶ Kamioka, Japan
 - ▶ 7582 h + 7333 h (~ 620 days) : $T_{1/2}(0\nu) \geq 5.5 \times 10^{22}\text{ yr}$ (^{100}Mo)

6.6 Double β -decay

Future experiments – could start in 10 years

Aim to reach sensitivity couple of magnitude lower in half-life measurement

☞ measure masses below 50 meV

$$T_{1/2} \sim \epsilon \cdot \delta \cdot \left[\frac{M \cdot \tau}{\Delta E \cdot R_{bg}} \right]^{1/2}$$

- ▶ Choice of detector and detector material
 - ▶ detector efficiency $\sim 100\%$
 - ☞ active detector (^{76}Ge , ^{116}Gd , ^{130}Te , ^{136}Xe)
 - ▶ good energy resolution (FWHM) ☞ at least $\sim 4\% \times Q_{\beta\beta}$
 - ▶ HM: $m(^{76}\text{Ge}) \sim 10\text{ kg}$ ☞ hundreds of kilos enriched material
 - ▶ large $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- ▶ Background ☞ as small as possible at the $Q_{\beta\beta}$ range
- ▶ Measurement time long (~ 10 years) ☞ detector easy to operate

6.6 Double β -decay

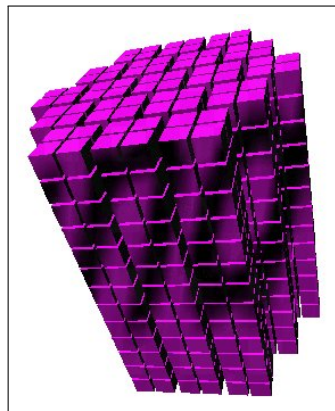
Future experiments – Proposed experiments

Experiment	Source	Detector description	Sensitivity to $T_{1/2}^{0\nu}$ [years]	Reference
COBRA	^{130}Te	10 kg CdTe semiconductors	1×10^{24}	K. Zuber, Phys. Lett B519 (2001) 1
DCBA	^{150}Nd	20 kg ^{enr}Nd layers between tracking chambers	2×10^{25}	N. Ishihara <i>et al.</i> , NIM A443 (2000) 101
NEMO-3	^{100}Mo	10 kg of $\beta\beta(0\nu)$ isotopes (7 kg Mo) with tracking	4×10^{24}	X. Sarazin, hep-ex/0006031
CAMEO	^{116}Cd	1 ton CdWO ₄ crystals in liquid scintillator	$\geq 10^{26}$	G. Bellini <i>et al.</i> , EPJ C19 (2001) 43
CANDLES	^{48}Ca	several tons of CaF ₂ crystals in liquid scintillator	1×10^{26}	T. Kishimoro <i>et al.</i> , Ann. Rep. Osaka Univ. Lab. Nucl. Studies (2000)
CUORE	^{130}Te	750 kg TeO ₂ bolometers	2×10^{26}	F.T. Avignone <i>et al.</i> , hep-ex/0201038
EXO	^{136}Xe	1 ton ^{enr}Xe TPC (gas or liquid)	8×10^{26}	F.A. Danevich <i>et al.</i> , PR C62 (2000) 044501
GEM	^{76}Ge	1 ton ^{enr}Ge diodes in liquid N	7×10^{27}	Yu.G. Zdesenko <i>et al.</i> , J.Phys. G27 (2001) 2129
GENIUS	^{76}Ge	1 ton ^{76}Ge (enr. 86%) diodes in liquid N	1×10^{28}	H.V. Klapdor-Kleingrothaus, hep-ph/0103074
GSO	^{160}Gd	2 ton Gd ₂ SiO ₅ crystal scintillator	2×10^{26}	F.A. Danevich <i>et al.</i> , NP A694 (2001) 375 S.C. Wang <i>et al.</i> , hep-ex/0009014
Majorana	^{76}Ge	0.5 ton 86% segmented ^{enr}Ge diodes	3×10^{27}	C.E. Aalseth <i>et al.</i> , hep-ex/0201021
MOON	^{100}Mo	34 ton ^{nat}Mo sheets between plastic scintillator	1×10^{27}	H. Ejiri <i>et al.</i> , PRL85 (2000) 2917
Xe	^{136}Xe	1.56 ton of ^{enr}Xe in liquid sci.	5×10^{26}	B. Caccianiga <i>et al.</i> , ApP14 (2001) 15
XMASS	^{136}Xe	10 ton of liquid Xe	3×10^{26}	S. Moriyama <i>et al.</i> , XENON01 Workshop, Tokyo

6.6 Double β -decay

Future experiments – Proposed experiments – CUORE

- ▶ Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events
- ▶ Successor of the MIBETA detector, in Gran Sasso
- ▶ The detector: Bolometer
 - ▶ 988 TeO_2 crystals with a mass of 750 g each and size of a cube of 5 cm^3
 - ▶ operational temperature $\sim 10\text{ mK}$
 - ▶ good energy resolution:
 $5 - 10\text{ keV (FWHM) at } 2.5\text{ MeV}$
- ▶ Background protection
 - ▶ pure copper and low-activity lead
 - ▶ estimated $0.5 - 0.05\text{ counts/(kg}\cdot\text{keV}\cdot\text{yr)}$
- ▶ Sensitivity: $m_\nu \leq 20 - 50\text{ meV}$
- ▶ Prototype CUORICINO, a single CUORE tower is being constructed



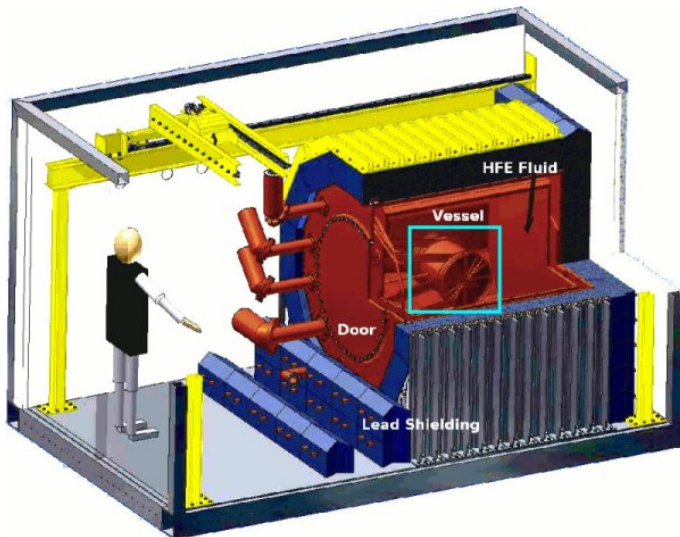
6.6 Double β -decay

Future experiments – Proposed experiments – EXO – 1

- ▶ The Enriched Xenon Observatory
- ▶ Detector: EXO-200 – 200 kg prototype experiment currently being installed at WIPP – Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, USA
- ▶ Liquid xenon TPC
- ▶ Measure $2\nu 2\beta$ mode of 80% enriched $^{136}\text{Xe} \implies$ limit for $0\nu 2\beta$
- ▶ Ultrapure materials
- ▶ EXO – a ton-scale experiment ^{136}Xe
 - ▶ under R&D (background elimination)
- ▶ ^{136}Xe
 - ▶ relatively easy to purify the LXe
 - ▶ relatively easy to enrich in Russian centrifuges
 - ▶ $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2.48$ MeV is quite high
 - ▶ liquid: scintillation and ionisation
 - ▶ background elimination by tagging in the daughter isotope ^{136}Ba

6.6 Double β -decay

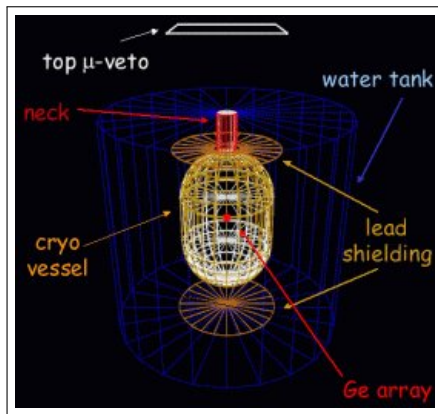
Future experiments – Proposed experiments – EXO – 2



6.6 Double β -decay

Future experiments – Proposed experiments – GERDA

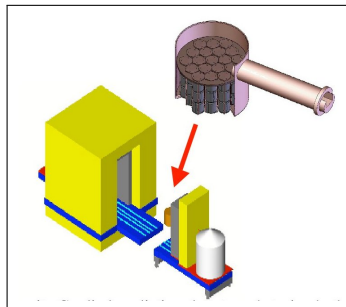
- ▶ GERDA is the successor of the HM and IGEX experiments
- ▶ New double β -decay experiment at Gran Sasso, proposed 2004
- ▶ enriched ^{76}Ge
- ▶ Aim: sensitivity of $T_{1/2}(0\nu) \geq 1.4^{26} \text{ yr}$ and $m_\nu \leq 90 - 300 \text{ keV}$
- ▶ Background reduction
 - ▶ cryostat filled with LN or LAr \Rightarrow radiopure materials



6.6 Double β -decay

Future experiments – Proposed experiments – Majorana

- ▶ Detector
 - ▶ 120 kg of HPGe crystals, $\delta(^{76}\text{Ge}) = 86\%$
- ▶ Background protection
 - ▶ conventional low-active cryostat, very pure copper ($< 25\ \mu\text{Bq/kg}\ ^{226}\text{Ra}$, $9\ \mu\text{Bq/kg}\ ^{228}\text{Th}$)
 - ▶ detectors protected by low-activity lead and copper
 - ▶ segmented detectors and PSA
- ▶ Aim: to achieve background level of $\sim 1\ \text{counts}/(\text{ton}\cdot\text{yr})$ in 4-keV region around $Q_{\beta\beta}$
if yes \implies scale to 1 ton or larger
- ▶ If funding obtained construction started this year



6.7 Double β -decay

Enrichment of detector materials

Only enrichment plants in Russia are capable, at the moment, to produce hundreds of kilograms of enriched materials

☞ Electro Chemical Plant (ECP), Krasnojarsk

Enriched production currently

- ▶ ^{76}Ge : ~ 20 kg/yr
 - ▶ with a device never used for Uranium enrichment
- ▶ ^{136}Xe : ~ 300 kg/yr

With investments

- ▶ ^{76}Ge : ~ 30 kg/yr \longrightarrow ~ 50 kg/yr \longrightarrow ~ 100 kg/yr
- ▶ ^{136}Xe : ~ 2 tonnia/yr