



# Latest results from the CUORE experiment

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on behalf of the CUORE collaboration
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European Nuclear Physics Conference 2025

# The CUORE experiment

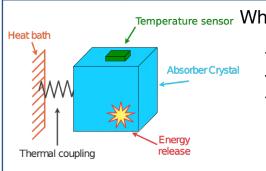


## Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events

Cryogenic experiment at tonne-scale, utilising (nat)TeO<sub>2</sub> cryogenic calorimeters operated at ~10 mK Located at Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (Italy)

Search for rare events and for physics beyond the Standard Model

Main goal: search for  $0v\beta\beta$  decay of <sup>130</sup>Te ( $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2527.51$  keV)



Temperature sensor Why cryogenic calorimeters:

- $E_{dep}$  converted into  $\Delta T$  (phonons)
- Detector =  $\beta\beta$  source
- Large calorimeters (~kg scale)
  - Sensitive from keV to MeV scale
  - Optimal energy resolution ~ 0.1%@MeV

# The CUORE challenge

CUORE

Low temperature and low vibrations 988 TeO<sub>2</sub> detectors (~742 kg) operated as calorimeters at ~10 mK stable over time

- Multistage cryogen-free cryostat
- Mechanical vibration isolation: passive and active systems

## Low background

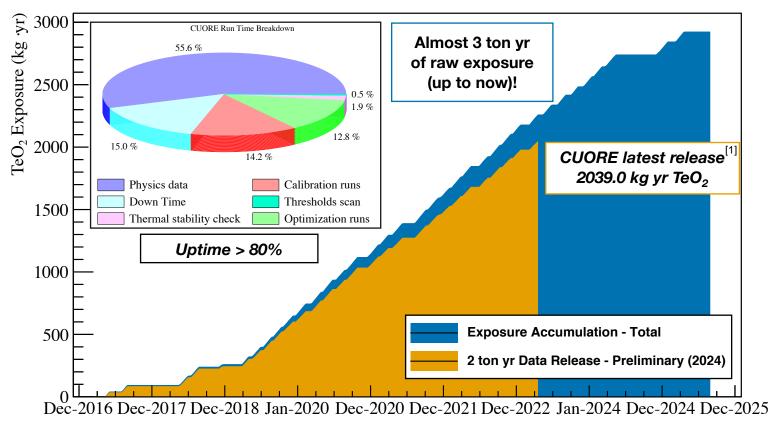
- Deep underground location @LNGS
- Strict radio-purity controls on materials and assembly
- Passive shields from external and cryostat radioactivity
- Detector: high granularity and selfshielding



crystals

# **CUORE** data-taking

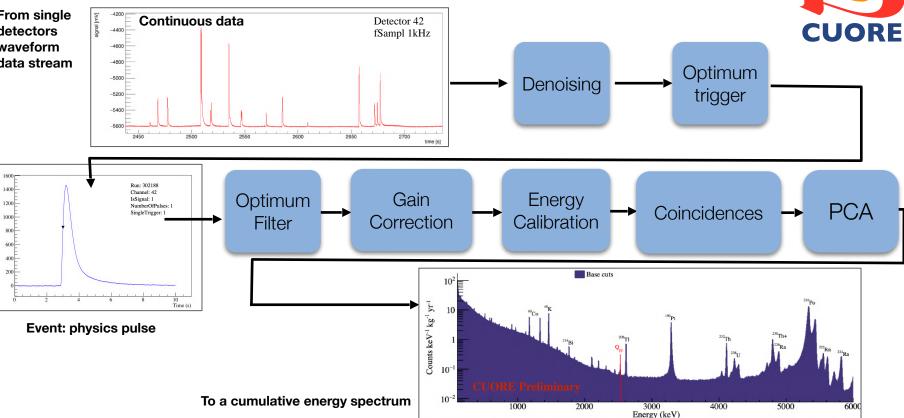




# The CUORE data production chain



From single detectors waveform data stream





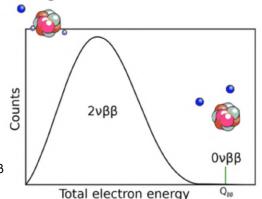
• Beyond Standard Model process ( $\Delta L = 2$ )

$$(A, Z) \longrightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^{-}$$

• Not yet observed:  $T^{1/2}_{0\nu\beta\beta} > 10^{22-26} \text{ yr}$ 

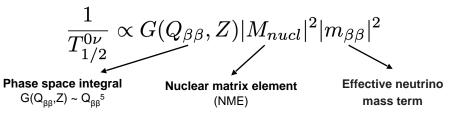
Impacts of a potential observation of  $0v\beta\beta$  decay:

- Existence of Lepton Number violating processes
- Presence of a Majorana term for the neutrino mass, m<sub>66</sub>

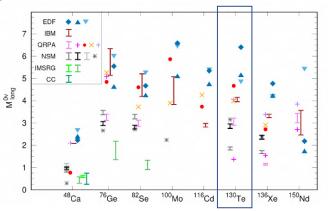


Rev. Mod. Phys. **95**, 025002; https://doi.org/10.1103/RevModPhys.95.0250

From the  $0v\beta\beta$  decay rate it is possible to infer the effective v mass



Key role of **NME** and its uncertainties for a precise inference of the effective neutrino mass. Strong connection with nuclear physics efforts into improving the nuclear models for multiple isotopes





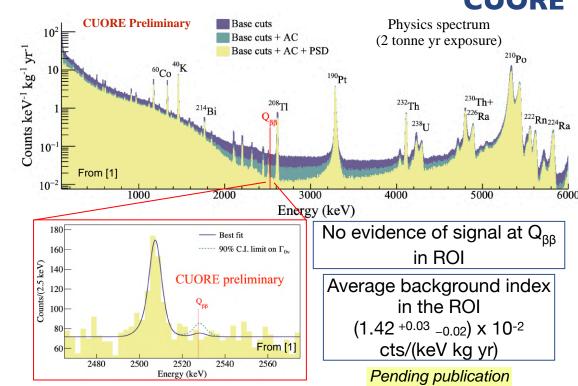
## 2 ton yr data release

Data from May 2017 to April 2023 Total exposure for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay search: 2039.0 kg yr  $TeO_2$ , 567.0 kg yr  $^{130}Te$ 

## Quality cuts for **0vββ search**:

- BaseCuts (trigger, energy reconstruction, pileup rejection)
- Anti-coincidence, AC (only single crystal events)
- Pulse shape discrimination, PSD (only particle-like pulses)

Total efficiency 93.4(2)%





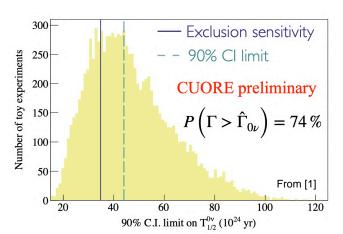
## 2 ton yr data release

Bayesian fit of the data in the ROI

Lower limit on  $^{130}$ Te  $0v\beta\beta$  half life:

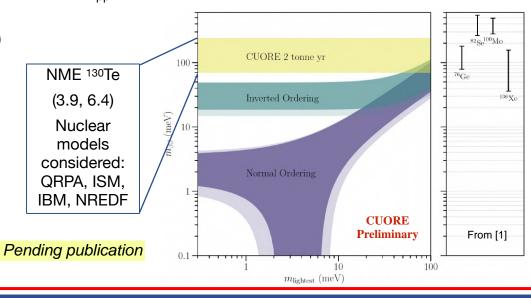
$$T_{0v}^{1/2}$$
 (130Te) > 3.5 x 10<sup>25</sup> yr (90%C.I.)

Frequentist limit:  $T_{1/2} > 3.4 \cdot 10^{25} \text{ yr (90\% C.L.)}$ 



# Limit on the effective neutrino mass, assuming light Majorana-neutrino exchange:

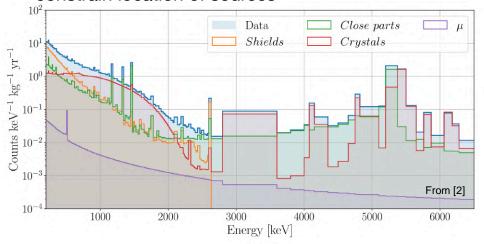
 $m_{\beta\beta} < 70-250 \text{ meV}$ 

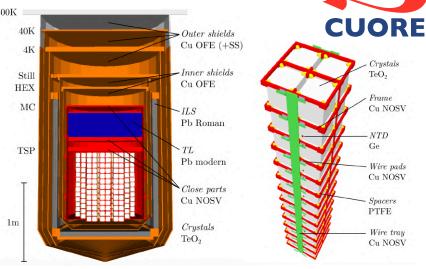


# **CUORE physics analyses: background model**

## Reconstruction of the CUORE physics spectrum

- GEANT4 simulation + measured detector response function to produce expected spectra
- Multiple background sources simulated (datadriven), Bayesian MCMC fit
- Exploit coincidences & detector self-shielding to constrain location of sources



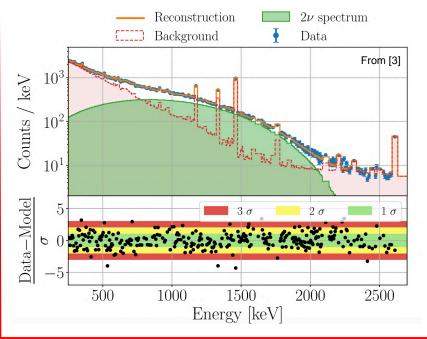


Total exposure for BM analysis: 1038.4 kg yr

- Sensitivity levels down to 10 nBq kg<sup>-1</sup> and 0.1 nBq cm<sup>-2</sup> for bulk and surface contamination
- Main contributions to ROI BI: degraded α particles (~90%), multi-Compton of γs and cosmic muons



130Te 2vββ decay: dominant component of the observed single-site physics spectrum between
 1 to 2 MeV



→ Precise 2vββ half-life measurement

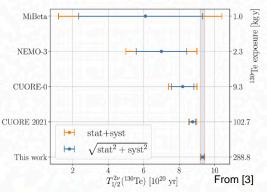
### Choice of the nuclear model

Single-state dominance (SSD), with leading contribution from 1+ state of intermediate nucleus

- Selected as reference
- Preferred to higher-state dominance (HSD) model

$$T_{2v}^{1/2}$$
 (130Te) = [9.32 +0.05<sub>-0.04</sub>(stat) +0.07<sub>-0.07</sub>(syst)] x 10<sup>20</sup> yr

- Statistical uncertainty ~0.5%
- Contribution from nuisance parameters ~0.01%
- Multiple sources of systematic uncertainties < 1%</li>





## Study of 2vββ spectral shape

Use of **improved formalism** for  $2v\beta\beta$  half-life.

Taylor expansion over lepton energies, introducing **nuclear model refinements**:

- → Addition of subleading nuclear matrix elements
- → Spectral shapes and relative strengths of the

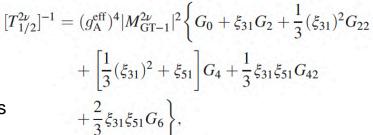
Taylor-expanded terms offer constraints on

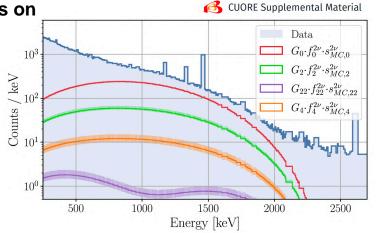
intermediate states and on geff,A

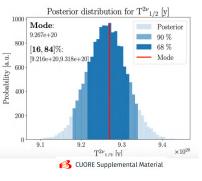
Data reconstruction with multiple shape components for  $2\nu\beta\beta$ .

Good fit to CUORE data.

SSD model slightly favoured, half-life consistent  $< 1\sigma$ 









## 2vββ spectrum fit with improved formalism: results

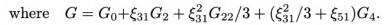
## Considerations on nuclear models (pnQRPA, ISM):

- $\xi_{31}$  consistent with 0. Meets theoretical predictions
- Non zero ξ<sub>51</sub>
  - Rules out HSD model
  - Far from the expectations. Hp: incomplete theoretical description of the decay, such as minor effects not yet included or potential BSM physics

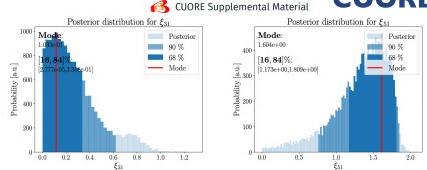
## First-ever information from <sup>130</sup>Te on g<sub>A,eff</sub>

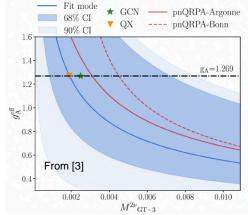
- Mode confirming quenching of g<sub>A</sub>
- Good match with theoretical models
- Relatively high uncertainty

$$g_A^{ ext{eff}} = \left[ rac{\left[ T_{1/2}^{2
uetaeta} 
ight]^{-1} \cdot \xi_{31}^2}{M_{GT-3}^2 \cdot G} 
ight]^{1/4}$$



Synergy between spectral studies from rare decays and nuclear physics





# CUORE physics analyses: ββ <sup>130</sup>Te decay to excited states

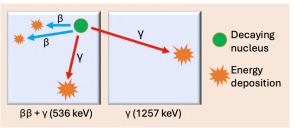
CUORE

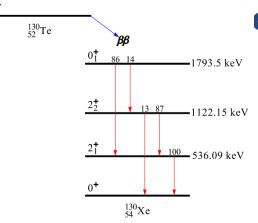
- 2vββ decay to the 0+ excited state observed in <sup>100</sup>Mo and <sup>150</sup>Nd, with half lives of the order of few 10<sup>20</sup> yr
- $2\nu\beta\beta$  (and  $0\nu\beta\beta$ ) decay of <sup>130</sup>Te to the first 0+ excited state of <sup>130</sup>Xe not yet measured.

$$(T_{2v,0+}^{1/2})_{th} = (7.2 - 5630) \times 10^{23} \text{ yr (QRPA, NSM)}$$

# Signature of the decay: Cascade of de-excitation ys in coincidence with βs

- multi-site signatures
- background reduction





Input from nuclear physics for <sup>130</sup>Xe excited states modelling and transition probability

- First CUORE search on 372.5 kg yr TeO<sub>2</sub> No evidence of signal.

$$T_{0v,0+}^{1/2} > 5.9 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr (90\% C.I.)}$$

$$T_{2v,0+}^{1/2} > 1.3 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr (90\% C.I.)}$$

 Current search with 2039 kg yr TeO<sub>2</sub> based on CUORE Background Model
 Sensitivity S<sub>2v.0+</sub><sup>1/2</sup> = 3.7 x 10<sup>24</sup> yr

In progress!

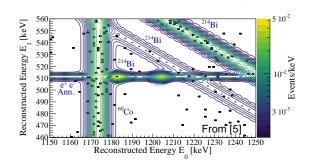
# **CUORE** physics analyses

Decays of other Te isotopes

## <sup>120</sup>Te 0vβ+EC decay

 $Q_{\beta\beta}$ = 1714.8 keV, natural abundance: 0.09% Clear signature from e+e-annihilation and <sup>120</sup>Sn de-excitation via X-ray/Auger electrons emission  $T_{0v}$  <sup>1/2</sup> (<sup>120</sup>Te) > 2.9 × 10<sup>22</sup> yr (90%C.I.)

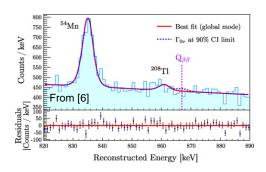
M2 (
$$\beta$$
+ + X +  $\gamma_{511}$ ,  $\gamma_{511}$ ) : (1203.8, 511) keV



## <sup>128</sup>Te 0vββ decay

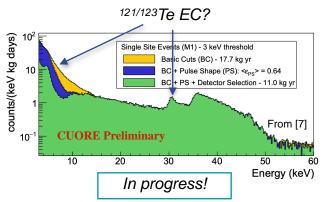
 $Q_{\beta\beta}$ = 866.7 keV, natural abundance: 31.74%  $T_{0v}$  <sup>1/2</sup> (128Te) > 3.6 × 10<sup>24</sup> yr (90%C.I.) Improved limit of over a factor 30 wrt to previous direct search results, and exceeded the results

from geochemical experiments



## Low energy spectrum

- Specific low-energy variables & event-level cuts to optimise sensitivity at keV-scale
- Investigation of spectral features potentially related to <sup>121</sup>Te,<sup>123</sup>Te,<sup>125m</sup>Te decays (not yet measured)



**CUORE** 

## **CUORE:** what's next



Continue data taking until meeting goal ~ 3 ton yr TeO<sub>2</sub> (1 ton yr <sup>130</sup>Te)

Estimate end of data taking in mid-2026

Large statistics to perform high sensitivity searches in several channels (ββ decay, dark matter, exotic phenomena, ...)

## **CUORE Phase-II**

Upgrade of the cryogenic system to improve cooling power and reduce vibrational noise

Plan to resume data-taking in 2027

Lower thresholds high sensitivity low energy studies (axions, WIMPS, ...)

# CUPID (CUORE Upgrade with Particle Identification)

Scintillating cryogenic calorimeters to overcome CUORE-sensitivity-limiting a background

- $\beta\beta$  decay candidate: <sup>130</sup>Te (2527 keV)  $\rightarrow$  <sup>100</sup>Mo (3034 keV)
- 1596 Li<sub>2</sub> 100 MoO<sub>4</sub> scintillating crystals paired with Ge-light detectors
- Bkg goal in ROI ~ 10-4 cts/(keV kg yr)
- Same cryogenic infrastructure



CUORE

# **Conclusions**

- CUORE demonstrates the feasibility of a tonne-scale experiment employing cryogenic calorimeters at ~10 mK, for the search of the 0vββ decay and rare events
- CUORE data-taking is proceeding with > 80% uptime. A raw exposure of almost 3 ton yr achieved as of today!
- CUORE has a rich science program of searches for rare decays of different Te isotopes, low energy studies and multi-crystal studies.
- The CUORE rare decays searches and results have strong synergies with the nuclear physics community
- CUORE paves the road to the CUPID project (CUORE Upgrade with Particle IDentification) for next generation tonne-scale cryogenic calorimeters for 0vββ decay and rare event searches



# Thank you on behalf of the CUORE Collaboration











































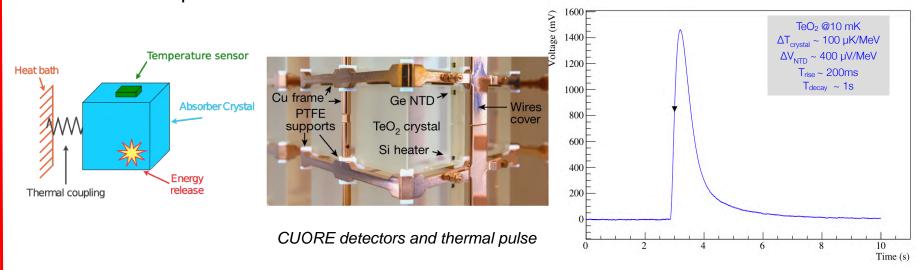
# Backup



# 0vββ searches with cryogenic calorimeters: how

## Cryogenic calorimeters

Conversion of energy deposit into phonons, measuring the heating of the crystal/absorber, which has to be operated at ~10 mK.

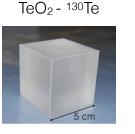


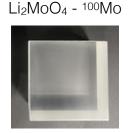
Crystals with masses of ~ tens-hundreds g read by high impedance thermistors are slow detectors (~1ms-1s), still suitable for rare event physics searches

# 0vββ searches with cryogenic calorimeters: why

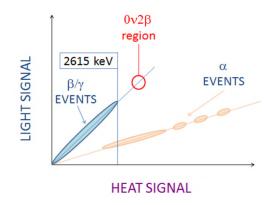


- ββ source embedded into the detector: high detection efficiency, ε~1
- Wide choice of absorber materials: possibility to exploit many ββ candidates
- Crystals of masses ~ 0.5kg with reproducible radio purity levels and detector performance: large active mass, up to ton-scale
- High energy resolution detectors (FWHM/E  $\sim$  0.1-0.3% at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ ): measurement of the sum energy of the two emitted electrons
- Particle ID possibile for scintillating crystals: α background rejection
- Large dynamics: from keV to MeV







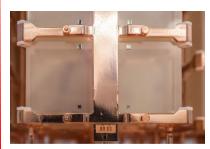


# 0vββ searches with cryogenic calorimeters: where are we?

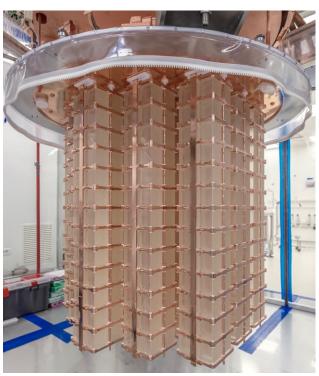
## CUORE (2017-ongoing) @LNGS

CUORE 1TY - Nature (2022)





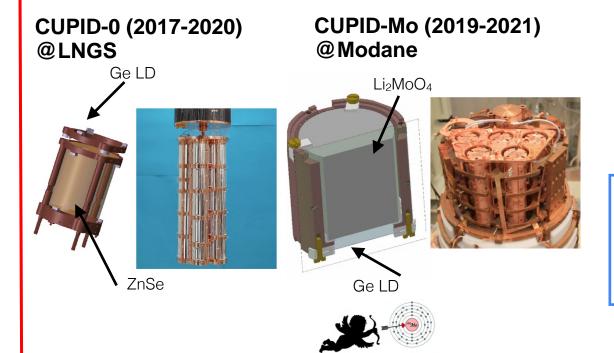




CUORE demonstrated the feasibility of a tonne-scale experiment employing cryogenic calorimeters, for the search of the 0vββ decay and rare events

Talk CUORE results @ TAUP2025

# 0vββ searches with cryogenic calorimeters: where are we?



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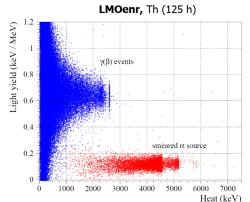
# The path towards CUPID

## **CUPID: CUORE Upgrade with Particle Identification**

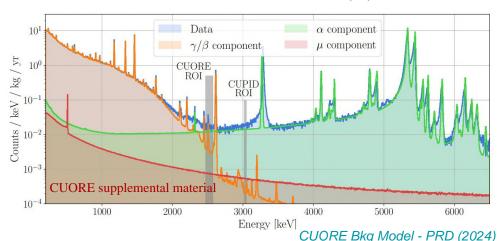
Exploit <sup>100</sup>Mo as ββ candidate

- → Utilise Li<sub>2</sub>MoO<sub>4</sub> scintillating crystals for particle ID: high reduction of α background
- $\rightarrow$  Higher Q-value (Q<sub>ββ</sub> = 3034 keV), most β/γ backgrounds reduced
- → Better phase space ad NME compared to <sup>130</sup>Te

CUORE background in the  $^{100}$ Mo region, once  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  are removed, is close to  $10^{-4}$  cts/(keV kg yr)







# The CUPID Experiment

## **CUPID: CUORE Upgrade with Particle Identification**

Replace CUORE TeO<sub>2</sub> detector with an array of Li<sub>2</sub><sup>100</sup>MoO<sub>4</sub> scintillating crystals

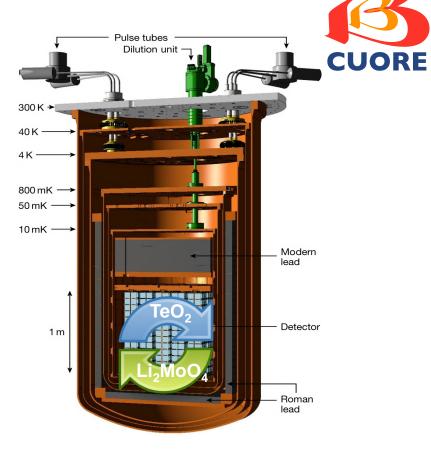
## New detector array:

- 1596 Li<sub>2</sub>MoO<sub>4</sub> scintillating crystals (280 g each)
- 1700 light detectors → scintillation signal read-out
- Mo enrichment > 95% in <sup>100</sup>Mo

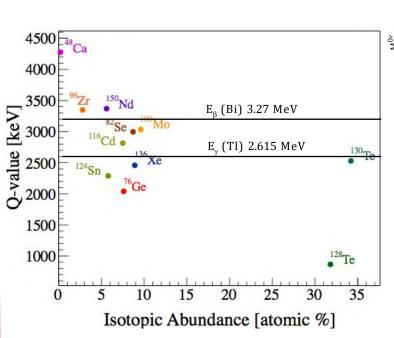
#### Additional needs:

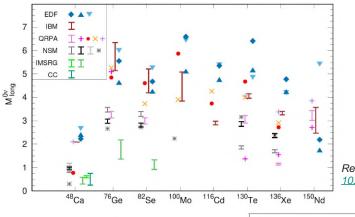
- Upgrade the CUORE cryostat for a ~1600 double read-out array
- Improve external n-shield & add a μ-veto

https://arxiv.org/pdf/2503.02894 (Accepted for publication by EPJC)

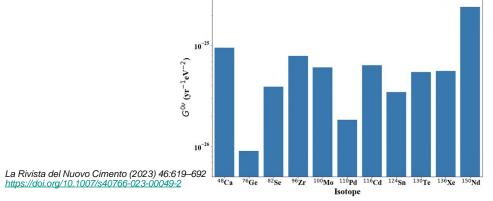


# **Ovββ searches: candidate isotopes**





Rev. Mod. Phys. **95**, 025002; https://doi.org/ 10.1103/RevModPhys.95.025002



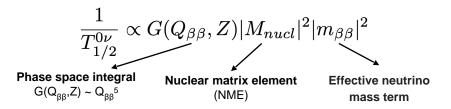
# 0vββ decay and inference on neutrino mass

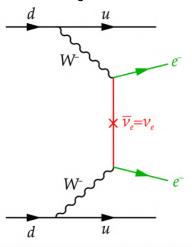


The standard neutrinoless double-beta decay mechanism: light Majorana neutrino exchange

The parent nucleus emits a pair of virtual W bosons. The W exchange a Majorana neutrino to produce the outgoing electrons. The exchanged neutrino can be seen as emitted (in association with an electron) with almost total positive helicity. For a massive Majorana neutrino, it has a small, O(m/E), negative helicity component which is absorbed in the other vertex by the Standard Model electroweak current.

From the decay rate it is possible to infer the effective neutrino mass





# **Ovββ** decay and inference on neutrino mass



The standard neutrinoless double-beta decay mechanism: light Majorana neutrino exchange

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}^{0\nu}} \propto G(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{nucl}|^2 |m_{\beta\beta}|^2$$

### Effective neutrino mass term $|m_{gg}|^2$

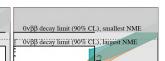
Neutrino mass matrix Mv can be decomposed as  $M_{\nu} = U \, \mathrm{diag}(\mathrm{m}_1,\mathrm{m}_2,\mathrm{m}_3) \, U^t$ where m<sub>i</sub>>0 are the masses of the neutrinos and U is the PMNS mixing matrix.

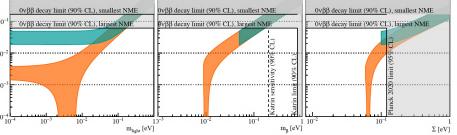
Define the effective Majorana mass  $m_{gg}$  where  $\phi_i$  are called Majorana phases and

cannot be probed by oscillation experiments.  $m_{gg}$  is the ee-element of the mass matrix  $|(M_v)_{ee}|$ 

> 0vββ is directly connected to neutrino oscillations phenomenology, and that it also provides direct information on the absolute neutrino mass scale, as cosmology and decay experiments do.

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_{i=1}^{3} |U_{\rm ei}^2| \ e^{i\varphi_i} \ m_i \right|$$





# 0vββ decay and inference on neutrino mass



The standard neutrinoless double-beta decay mechanism: light Majorana neutrino exchange

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}^{0\nu}} \propto G(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{nucl}|^2 |m_{\beta\beta}|^2$$

#### **Nuclear Matrix Elements**

Factoring out the hadron coupling gA wrt to just the **nuclear many-body**  $|M_{nucl}|^2=g_A^4|M_{light}^{0
u}|^2$  part and to light neutrino exchange

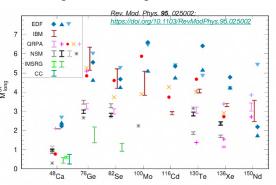
All nuclear methods used to study  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay make a significant effort to describe with high quality the structure of the initial and final nuclei and the relative long and short-term interactions among nucleons.

Models: Shell model, QRPA, EDF theory, IBM, Ab-initio methods

The variation of the NME about a factor three for a given isotope, highlights the uncertainties introduced by the approximate solutions of the nuclear many-body problem.

Current strong effort to improve the nuclear models for multiple isotopes are quantify the NMEs theoretical uncertainties

$$M_{light}^{0\nu}=M_{long}^{0\nu}+M_{short}^{0\nu}$$



# **0vββ** decay and inference on neutrino mass



The standard neutrinoless double-beta decay mechanism: light Majorana neutrino exchange

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}^{0\nu}} \propto G(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{nucl}|^2 |m_{\beta\beta}|^2$$

#### **Nuclear Matrix Elements**

Factoring out the **hadron coupling gA** wrt to just the nuclear many-body  $|M_{nucl}|^2=g_A^4|M_{light}^{0
u}|^2$  part and to light neutrino exchange

The "gA quenching" is a potential source of uncertainty in  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay NMEs.

Most calculations systematically overestimate  $\beta$ -decay Gamow–Teller matrix elements. This implies the need of a correction, by quenching the value of the axial coupling  $g_A$  ( $g_A$ ' = q  $g_A$  with q ~0.7-0.8).

Very recently decay  $\beta$ -decay has been studied with the ab initio methods. These calculations suggest that the overprediction of matrix elements is more likely related to the GT  $\beta$ -decay operator than to gA.



Model	M0v	SRC	Reference	Link	Authors
QRPA-Jy (pnQRPA)	4.00	CD-Bonn	PRC 91, 024613 (2015)	http://journals.aps.org/prc/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevC.91.024613	Suhonen, Hyvärinen
NREDF	6.405	(shape+pair)	PRL 111, 142501 (2013)	http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.111.142501	Vaquero, Rodriguez
	5.13	(shape)			
ISM	1.79	Argonne	PRC C 93, 024308 (2016)	http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.93.024308	Horoi, Neacsu
	1.93	CD-Bonn			
ISM	2.76	Argonne	J. Phys. G 45, 014003 (2018)	https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6471/aa9bd4	Menéndez
	2.96	CD-Bonn			
QRPA	3.939	Arg. (t_1/2)	PRC 98, 064325 (2018)	https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.98.064325	Šimkovic, Smetana, Vogel
	4.673	Arg. (SU4)			
QRPA deformed	2.9	Argonne	PRC 97, 045503 (2018)	https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.97.045503	Fang, Faessler, Šimkovic
	3.22	CD-Bonn			
ISM	3.16	(effective op.)	PRC 101, 044315 (2020)	https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.101.044315	Coraggio, Gargano, Itaco, Mancino, Nowacki
	3.27	(bare operator)			
IBM-2	4.154	Arg. (pos. M_T)	PRD 102, 095016 (2020)	https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.102.095016	Deppisch, Graf, lachello, Kotila
CDFT	4.89	Argonne	PRC 95, 024305 (2017)	https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.95.024305	Song, Yao, Ring, Mer

NMEs and Phase space factors for <sup>130</sup>Te

G0v (1E-15)	error	Reference	Link	Authors
14.22	0.9954	PRC 85, 034316 (2012)	http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/ PhysRevC.85.034316	lachello, Kotila
14.1		PRC 88, 037303 (2013)	http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/ PhysRevC.88.037303	Stoica, Mirea
14.2547		PRC 92, 055502 (2015)	http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/ PhysRevC.92.055502	Stefanik, Dvornicky
14.24		Front. Phys. 7, 12 (2019)	https://doi.org/10.3389/ fphy.2019.00012	Stoica, Mirea



## 2vββ spectrum fit with improved formalism: results

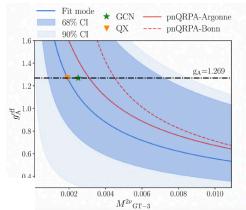
## First-ever information from <sup>130</sup>Te on g<sub>A</sub>

- Relatively high uncertainty
- Smaller S/N wrt to similar studies on <sup>100</sup>Mo and <sup>136</sup>Xe
- Advanced background model + high collected statistics
- Mode confirming quenching of gA
- Good match with theoretical models

$$g_A^{ ext{eff}} = \left[ rac{\left[ T_{1/2}^{2
uetaeta} 
ight]^{-1} \cdot \xi_{31}^2}{M_{GT-3}^2 \cdot G} 
ight]^{1/4}$$

where  $G = G_0 + \xi_{31}G_2 + \xi_{31}^2G_{22}/3 + (\xi_{31}^2/3 + \xi_{51})G_4$ .

g<sub>A,eff</sub> effective value of axial coupling constant in nuclear medium



- CUORE data. For each Markov-chain MC step of the fit and for  $M_{2v,GT-3}$  in the range 0–0.01, we obtain a posterior distribution for  $g_{\text{eff},A}$ , from which we extract 68% CI and 90% CI.
- Predictions from two nuclear models, ISM and pnQRPA. ISM has two different interactions, QX ( $g_A = 0.76$ ) and GCN5082 ( $g_A = 0.48$ )
- gA free neutron value of 1.269

