

New results from the CUORE experiment

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58th Rencontres de Moriond 2024 Electroweak Interactions & Unified Theories





Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

Elusive neutrinos



Neutrinos are the lightest known elementary fermions.

Open questions:

- How the neutrino mass eigenstates are ordered (normal/inverted hierarchy) ?
- Which are the neutrino mass absolute values?
- Why the neutrino mass is so small wrt to the other SM particles?
- The neutrinos neutral leptons are Dirac or Majorana particles?



Searching for 0vßß decay



- Beyond Standard Model process ($\Delta L = 2$) (A, Z) \longrightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2 e^{-}
- Not yet observed: $T_{0vBB}^{1/2} > 10^{22-26}$ 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_{BB}
- \rightarrow Constraints on neutrino mass hierarchy and scale
- → Hint on origin of matter/anti-matter asymmetry (baryogenesis via leptogenesis involving 10^{30} Majorana neutrinos)





Broad experimental program to search for 0vββ decay with different isotopes: ⁴⁸Ca, ⁷⁶Ge, ⁸²Se, ¹⁰⁰Mo, ¹¹⁶Cd, ¹³⁰Te, ¹³⁶Xe ...

ββ decay review - D.Moore (TAUP2023)

The CUORE experiment



Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events

Cryogenic experiment at tonne-scale, utilising ^(nat)TeO₂ thermal detectors operated at ~10 mK Located at Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (Italy)

Search for rare events and for physics beyond the Standard Model

Search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay of ¹³⁰Te ($Q_{\beta\beta} = 2527.51$ keV)

Why thermal detectors for $0\nu\beta\beta$ search

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

Adams D. et al. (CUORE collaboration), *Nature* 604 (2022) 7904, 53-58, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-04497-4

Heat bath

Thermal coupling

Temperature sensor

Energy release

Absorber Crystal

Adams D. et al. (CUORE collaboration), Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 122 (2022) 103902, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppnp.2021.103902

The CUORE challenge



Pulse tubes Dilution unit 40 K 4 K 800 mK 50 mK 10 mK -Modern lead Detector 1 m Roman lead

Dell'Oro S. et al., Cryogenics 102, 9, (2019) https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cryogenics.2019.06.011

Low temperature and low vibrations 988 TeO₂ detectors 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
- Strict radio-purity controls on materials and assembly
- Passive shields from external and cryostat radioactivity
- Detector: high granularity and self-shielding



@10 mK ΔT_{crystal} ~ 100 μK/MeV ΔV_{NTD} ~ 400 μV/MeV

Adams D. et al. (CUORE collaboration), Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 122 (2022) 103902, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppnp.2021.103902

CUORE: data-taking





CUORE: new data release





March 29th 2024 - Moriond EW 2024 - I.Nutini (INFN Milano Bicocca)





Denoising the continuous data

Installed diagnostic devices (seismometers, accelerometers, antennae, microphones): identify and measure noise sources in different frequency intervals. Remove noise from calorimeter channels using both the correlated noise between the different aux-devs and the correlated noise between each aux-dev and each detector







Vetter, K.J., Beretta, M., Capelli, C. et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 84, 243 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1140/epic/s10052-024-12595-y



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CUORE





CUORE performance

CUORE 2 TonneYr release (this result)

28 datasets analyzed: from May 2017 to April 2023

Number of detectors surviving the data production chain: ~914 (avg) per dataset

Quality cuts: identify single site events corresponding to single particle-like pulses

- BaseCuts: $\epsilon_{BC} = 95.624(2) \%$
- Anti-coincidence (M1): $\varepsilon_{AC} = 99.80(5)$ %
- PCA: ε_{PCA}= 97.9(2) %

2039.0 kg yr TeO₂, 567.0 kg yr ¹³⁰Te

Total efficiency

93.4(2)%

Total exposure for 0vββ decay search

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From MC study, ~88% of 0vββ decay events are contained in a single crystal





CUORE performance



Peak lineshape

Reference ²⁰⁸TI gamma peak at 2615 keV from calibration data

 \rightarrow Sufficient statistics to fit the detector response in an energy region close to Q_{BB}

Fit model:

- Multi-Gaussian response function
- Multi-compton background
- Flat background
- Coincidence/escape peaks

Fit at channel-dataset level

Energy resolution at 2615 keV FWHM = 7.550(24) keV

(harmonic mean - exposure weighted)



Physics data: resolution study and blinded fit

Resolution scaling Fit background physics peaks with lineshape model, and extract energy resolution and peak position. Define a scaling factor to obtain the correct energy resolution at $Q_{\beta\beta}$ \rightarrow **FWHM at Q_{\beta\beta}**: 7.525 ^{+1.45} _{-1.15} keV (*exposure weighted*)

Blinded fit

Bayesian (and Frequentist) Analysis using BAT software

Definition of ROI and fit model:

- Unbinned fit in ROI: [2465, 2575] keV
- Likelihood model (S+B): flat-continuum (BI) ds-dependent, posited peak for 0vββ and Γ_{0v} global, 60Co-sum peak (initial rate + position) global, ch-ds dependent parameters (FWHM, energy bias)









New CUORE $0\nu\beta\beta^{130}$ Te decay T_{1/2} limit with 2 tonne year exposure



Not only 0vßß decay search



CUORE: what's next

CUORE phase-I (current)

Run up to mid-2025 Reach > 3 tonne yr TeO2, 1 tonne yr 130 Te exposure (*largest ever collected for* 130 Te)

Room for multiple rare events searches with high statistic, optimal energy resolution and low background

CUORE phase-II

Cryogenic interventions to improve noise and push towards low energy studies

Plan to resume data-taking in 2026

CUPID (CUORE Upgrade with Particle Identification)

Scintillating cryogenic calorimeters: α vs β/γ and $\beta\beta$ pileup rejection using light signal

- ¹⁰⁰Mo ββ decay candidate
- Reusing CUORE cryogenic infrastructure
- Detector array with 1596 Li_2MoO_4 scintillating crystals, enriched > 95% in ¹⁰⁰Mo (~250 kg of ¹⁰⁰Mo), paired with Ge-light detectors
- Bkg goal < 10⁻⁴ cts/(keV kg yr),
- Nominal resolution FWHM(Q_{BB}) ~ 5 keV

Conclusion

- 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 > 90% uptime. A raw exposure of more than 2.5 tonne yr achieved as of today!
- CUORE released today new physics results of ¹³⁰Te 0vββ decay search, utilising 2 tonne yr TeO₂ data!
- CUORE has a rich science program of searches for rare decays of different Te isotopes, low energy studies and multi-crystal studies.
- The CUORE data taking is currently underway to collect up to more than 3 tonne yr TeO₂ exposure.
- CUORE paves the road to the CUPID project (CUORE Upgrade with Particle IDentification) for next generation tonne-scale cryogenic calorimeters for 0vββ decay searches

Thank you on behalf of the CUORE collaboration

Backup

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$0\nu\beta\beta$ 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

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

Phase space integral $G(Q_{\beta\beta},Z) \sim Q_{\beta\beta}^{-5}$

Nuclear matrix element (NME)

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 $|m_{BB}|^2$

Neutrino mass matrix Mv can be decomposed as $M_{\nu} = U \operatorname{diag}(m_1, m_2, m_3) U^t$ where $m_i > 0$ are the masses of the neutrinos and U is the PMNS mixing matrix. Define the effective Majorana mass $m_{\beta\beta}$ where ϕ_i are called Majorana phases and cannot be probed by oscillation experiments. $m_{\beta\beta}$ is the ee-element of the mass matrix $|(M_{\nu})_{ee}|$ $m_{\beta\beta} = \left|\sum_{i=1}^{3} |U_{ei}^2| e^{i\varphi_i} m_i\right|$

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

 $0\nu\beta\beta$ 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.

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 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 and quantify the NMEs theoretical uncertainties

$$M_{nucl}|^2 = g_A^4 |M_{light}^{0\nu}|^2$$

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

25

0vββ decay and inference on neutrino mass

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

Factoring out the **hadron coupling gA** wrt to just the nuclear many-body 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 β -decay Gamow–Teller matrix elements. This implies the need of a correction, by quenching the value of the axial coupling $g_A (g_A' = q g_A \text{ with } q \sim 0.7-0.8)$.

Very recently decay β -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 β -decay operator than to gA.

$$|M_{nucl}|^2 = g_A^4 |M_{light}^{0\nu}|^2$$

Experimental sensitivity

The number of observable $0\nu\beta\beta$ decays is limited by the fluctuations of the background counts around $Q_{\beta\beta}$ (region of interest, ROI)

Ingredients for 0vßß decay experiments

'Finite background'

$$S_{0
u} \propto \eta \cdot \epsilon \cdot \sqrt{rac{M \cdot T}{\Delta \cdot B}}$$

'Zero background' $(B \cdot \Delta \cdot M \cdot T) << 1$

$$S_{0\nu} \propto \eta \cdot \epsilon \cdot M \cdot T$$

Detection technology 4500 48 Good detection efficiency (ϵ): Isotope choice 4000 ββ source embedded into the - High isotope natural abundance or absorber ³⁵⁰⁰ 3000 2500 2000 E_o (Bi) 3.27 MeV enrichment, n Excellent energy resolution (Δ) - High Q-value, Q Low backgrounds (B) E (Tl) 2.615 MeV 130 Tr 2500 Exposure - Large active mass (M) detector 1500 $2\nu\beta\beta$ - Long live-time (T) 1000 Events 25 0 5 10 15 20 30 35 $0\nu\beta\beta$ Isotopic Abundance [atomic %] $Q_{\beta\beta}$ Energy

0vββ experimental landscape

Different detection approaches and background suppression techniques

ββ decay review - D.Moore (TAUP2023)

Low temperature detectors

Cryogenics calorimeters. An absorber crystal is connected to an 'heat bath' at ~few mK. It is instrumented with a sensor measuring the temperature variation in the crystal induced by a small energy release (~keV/MeV). The deposited energy is converted into phonons - heat.

- Absorber at T~ 10 mK
- Energy deposition in the absorber (E_{dep}): particles scattering on electrons and nuclei \rightarrow production of athermal phonons \rightarrow energy degradation \rightarrow thermal phonons/heat $\rightarrow \Delta T$
- Phonon sensor NTD thermistor: large resistance variation with T (Δ R) \rightarrow generation of an electrical pulse signal with amplitude proportional to the energy of the excess phonons

The CUORE detectors

Array of closely packed **988** TeO₂ crystals arranged in 19 towers High Mass of TeO₂: 742 kg **206 kg of ¹³⁰Te, 188 kg of ¹²⁸Te, 0.5 kg of ¹²⁰Te**

Adams D. et al. (CUORE collaboration), *Nature* 604 (2022) 7904, 53-58, https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-04497-4 Alduino C. et al. (CUORE collaboration), J. Inst. 11(07), P07009, (2016) https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-0221/11/07/p07009

CUORE data-taking

CUORE performance

CUORE 2 TonneYr release (this result)

Quality cuts: identify single site events corresponding to single particle-like pulses

- BaseCuts: @ch-ds level → exposure weighted average @ds-level
- Anti-coincidence (M1): @ds-level → posterior distribution at ds-level
- PCA: @ds-level → posterior distribution at ds-level (evaluated from 500 keV to 5 MeV) for M1 and M2 events
- \rightarrow Total combined efficiency for each ds: distribution fed as prior for the $0\nu\beta\beta$ fit

| Total analysis efficiency (data) | 93.4(2)% |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Reconstruction efficiency | 95.624(2)% |
| Anti-coincidence efficiency | 99.80(5)% |
| PSD efficiency | 97.9(2)% |
| Containment efficiency (MC) | 88.35(9)% (35) |
| | |

Resolution scaling: 1. Fit background physics peaks with lineshape

- Fit background physics peaks with lineshape model, and extract σ(E)
- 2. Model σ vs E dependence:

Physics data: resolution study

- Model 0 (used for prev. releases): $\sigma(E) = R(E)^*\sigma_{2615}, R(E) = pol1(E)$
- Model 1 (new): Linear dependence wrt σ_{2615} $\sigma(E) = R(E)^*\sigma_{2615}$, R(E) ~ erf & sqrt(pol1)
- Model 2 (new official!): Include 'baseline resolution' ('intrinsic' σ), quadratic sum $\sigma(E) = sqrt[\sigma_{bkg,base}^2 + R(E)^*(\sigma_{2615}^2 - \sigma_{cal,base}^2)],$ $R(E) \sim erf \& pol2 (a E^2+b E) with 0 intercept$
- → Official energy resolution and bias (Model 2) Exposure-weighted FWHM @Qbb: 7.525 +1.45 -1.15 keV Exposure-weighted Bias @Qbb: 0.515 +0.04 -0.3 keV

¹³⁰Te 0vββ decay search

1.5

0.5

0.0

-0.5

0.5

1.0

R(E) 1.0

caling factor

0vββ peak search on unblinded data:

Unbinned extended likelihood

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_{\text{DS, C}} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^n}{n!} \prod_i \left[\frac{s}{\lambda} f_{0\nu}(E_i | \vec{\theta}_{0\nu}) + \frac{c}{\lambda} f_{\text{Co}}(E_i | \vec{\theta}_{\text{Co}}) + \frac{b}{\lambda \Delta E} \right]$$

Subdivide 2TY data in two partitions on 1 tonne yr each

Partition A

14

8

6

1010.14

941.78

542.46

467.68

- Fit of the ROI of each partition
- Combine posteriors of Γ_{0v} _

nDS

nDS 1st TY

nDS 2nd TY

Exposure [kg yr]

1st TY Exp [kg yr]

2nd TY Exp [kg yr]

Partition A:

Partition B:

Eff-Weighted Exposure [kg yr]

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Partition B

14

7

7

1028.82

959.87

487.73

541.09

Total

28

15

13

1008.77

Posterior distribution 0vbb Rate: Model 2

$0\nu\beta\beta$ peak search on unblinded data:

Bayesian fit: MCMC sampler

Bayesian limit:

Reso Model 1

Best fit rate $\Gamma_{0v} = 4.3 + 7.1 - 4.3 \times 10^{-27} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ 90% C.I. Limit $\Gamma_{0v} < 1.9 \times 10^{-26} \text{ yr}^{-1}$

Reso Model 2 (official)

Best fit rate $\Gamma_{0v} = 4.5^{+6.9}_{-4.5} \times 10^{-27} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ 90% C.I Limit $\Gamma_{0v} < 1.8 \times 10^{-26} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ $T_{1/2} > 3.8 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr}$ (90% C.I.)

$0\nu\beta\beta$ peak search on unblinded data:

Frequentist fit: Rolke method (background dominated ROI)

Frequentist limit:

Profiled Likelihood (-2LogL)

CUORE TeO₂ detectors background in ROI:

 $0\nu\beta\beta$ peak search on unblinded data:

 Degraded α particles, produced from radioactive decays close to the detectors or on their surface, which deposit part of their energy in the detectors - ~90% contribution

- Multi-Compton of γ emitted by the $^{232}Th/^{238}U$ chains and cosmic muons - <10% contribution

¹³⁰Te 0vββ decay search

Exclusion sensitivity for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay and CUORE results:

- PRL 2020 (372.5 kg yr TeO2): $T_{0v}^{1/2}$ (¹³⁰Te) > 3.2 x 10²⁵ yr; $S_{0v}^{1/2}$ (¹³⁰Te) = 1.7 × 10²⁵ yr; Probability to get a more stringent limit given the current sensitivity: 3%; $m_{\beta\beta}$ < 75 350 meV
- Nature 2022 (1038.4 kg yr TeO₂): $T_{0v}^{1/2}$ (¹³⁰Te) > 2.2 x 10²⁵ yr; $S_{0v}^{1/2}$ (¹³⁰Te) = 2.8 × 10²⁵ yr; Probability to get a more stringent limit given the current sensitivity: 72%; m_{BB}^{2} < 90 305 meV

Alduino C. et al. (CUORE collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 122501, (2020), https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.124.122501

Adams D. et al. (CUORE collaboration), *Nature* 604 (2022) 7904, 53-58, <u>https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-04497-4</u>

¹³⁰Te $\beta\beta$ decay

CUORE data, M, (300.7 kg•y) ¹³⁰Te $2v\beta\beta$ half-life measurement 60 Co 60 Co ¹³⁰Te 2vββ Fit reconstruction M₄ Fit reconstruction Monte Carlo reconstruction of the CUORE background, profiting 208TI Counts/ke from a segmented detector. 102 Most precise measurement of $T_{2\nu}^{1/2}$ (¹³⁰Te): $T_{2u}^{1/2}$ (¹³⁰Te) = [0.76 $^{+0.09}_{-0.07}$ (stat) $^{+0.14}_{-0.17}$ (syst)] x 10²⁰ yr 2000 500 1000 1500 2500 Adams D. et al. (CUORE collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 171801 (2021) Energy (keV) https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.126.171801 https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.131.249902 ¹³⁰₅₂Te ¹³⁰Te $\beta\beta$ to first 0+ excited state of ¹³⁰Xe Cascade of de-excitation vs in coincidence with ßs 2^{+}_{2} -1122.15 keV Multi-site signatures 21 100 536.09 keV Analysis of only fully contained events 0νββ ¹³⁰₅₄Xe Half-life limits @90%C.I. 0vββ: $(T^{1/2})^{0v}_{0+} > 5.9 \times 10^{24}$ yr 2vββ: $(T^{1/2})^{2v}_{0+}^{0+} > 1.3 \times 10^{24}$ yr Exposure: 372.5 kg·yr TeO₂,

103.6 kg·vr ¹³⁰Te

Adams D. et al. (CUORE collaboration), Eur. Phys. J. C (2021) 81:567 https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-021-09317-z

Decays of other Te isotopes

The CUPID experiment

ight yield (keV / MeV)

CUPID: CUORE Upgrade with Particle IDentification

- Li₂¹⁰⁰MoO₄ scintillating cryogenic crystals (CUPID-Mo, successful proof of concept)
- readout of both heat and scintillation light
- alpha-particle and ββ pileup rejection
 using light signal

 100 Mo ββ decay candidate: Q_{ββ} ~3034 keV

- Reusing CUORE cryogenic infrastructure @LNGS (Italy)
- Detector array with 1596 Li_2MoO_4 scintillating crystals, enriched > 95% in ¹⁰⁰Mo (~250 kg of ¹⁰⁰Mo), paired with Ge-light detectors
- Bkg goal $< 10^{-4}$ cts/(keV kg yr),
- Nominal resolution FWHM(Q_{BB}) ~ 5 keV
- Status:
 - CUPID tower design demonstrators in progress
 - Conceptual design in progress, projected 3 σ discovery sensitivity $m_{\beta\beta}$ =12-20 meV (T_{1/2} = 1 x 10²⁷ yr)

CUPID updates (C.Nones) @TAUP2023

LMOenr, Th (125 h)

4000

meared a source

5000

Heat (keV)

y(B) events

2000 3000

1000

