Detecting 0v-ββ decay: current status and future challenges



Present knowledge about neutrinos

- neutrinos are massive fermions
- there are 3 active neutrino flavors (v_{α})
- neutrino flavor states are mixtures of mass states (v_k)

 $|\nu_{\alpha}\rangle = \sum_{k} U_{\alpha k} |\nu_{k}\rangle$

Pontecorvo–Maki–Nakagawa–Sakata matrix $U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ Atmospheric / Reactor / Solar / Reactor / Reactor

Measurements of neutrino parameters from:

- neutrino oscillations
- single beta decay
- cosmology
- neutrinoless double beta decay

Open questions

- What is the absolute neutrino mass scale?
- What is the neutrino mass hierarchy? Normal (m1 < m2 < m3) or Inverted (m3 < m1 < m2)?
- Are neutrinos Dirac or Majorana particles?
- What is the origin of neutrino masses and flavor mixing?
- Is there CP violation in the lepton sector?
 - Neutrinos are important probes of the Standard Model limits
 - Neutrino masses are linked (directly or indirectly) to all the above questions

Open questions

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 $0v-\beta\beta$ can give an answer to three of those questions:



Oscillation experiments can determine the hierarchy but are blind to the other two questions

Double beta decay

Very rare nuclear decay $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e^{-}(+?)$



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Double beta decay

0v-DBD is a fundamental tool to determine neutrino properties

- Dirac or Majorana nature
- Absolute mass scale
- Mass hierarchy

$$\frac{u}{v}$$

$$(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e^- + 2\overline{\nu}$$

 2ν -DBD

 2^{nd} order process allowed in the SM observed in several nuclei with $\tau^{2v} \sim 10^{19}$ - 10^{21} y



$$(A,Z) \to (A,Z+2) + 2e^{-1}$$

0v-DBD (implies physics beyond SM) lepton number violating process $\tau^{0v} > 10^{24}$ - $10^{25} v$

exists if neutrino is a Majorana particle and m_v≠0





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A long history of 0v-ββ experiments



An order of magnitude on the effective Majorana mass every 15 years?

$0v-\beta\beta$ and Majorana mass



Is there a preferred isotope?

- Nuclear matrix elements calculations are rapidly improving and today the differences between different methods (IBM, QRPA, ISM) are much smaller than in the past
- Uncertainty on g_A plays a relevant role factor 2 in g_A is a factor 16 in decay rate
- inverse correlation observed between phase space and square of the nuclear matrix element



Matrix element squared



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Isotope choice

In many cases driven by the detector characteristics.

- ⁷⁶Ge with Germanium diodes
- ¹³⁶Xe with Xenon TPCs
- bolometers and scintillators have multiple choices

- Isotopic abundance as high as possible
 money issue
- Q-value as high as possible
 background
- 2v-DBD half-life as high as possible
 energy resolution



Sensitivity

Half-life corresponding to the minimum detectable number of events over background at a given confidence level

$$S_{0\nu} = ln(2)N_A \frac{\eta \cdot \epsilon}{W} \sqrt{\frac{M \cdot T}{\Delta E \cdot B}}$$

finite background: $M \cdot T \cdot B \cdot \Delta E > 1$

$$S_{0\nu} = ln(2)N_A \frac{\eta \cdot \epsilon}{W} M \cdot T$$

zero background: $M \cdot T \cdot B \cdot \Delta E \leq 1$

M: active detector mass [kg]

- T: measurement life time [anni]
- B: background in the ROI [counts keV⁻¹ kg⁻¹ y⁻¹]

W: molecular weight

N_A: Avogadro number
η: isotopic abundance
ε: detector efficiency
ΔΕ: FWHM energy resolution @ Q-value

How to improve sensitivity?

- Increase measurement time
- 🖗 Increase mass
- Increase isotopic abundance (enrichment)
- Improve energy resolution
- Reduce background

Mass and isotopic abundance

- Ş
- Ş a large enough number of active $\beta\beta$ atoms is useless

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} = ln(2) \cdot N_A \cdot \frac{M}{W} \cdot \eta \cdot \epsilon \cdot T$$

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Is obviously mandatory to increase mass and isotopic abundance

We can even imagine to reach zero background but if we do not have

Energy resolution

- A good energy resolution is important for several reasons: Ş
 - a smaller ROI means a better sensitivity
 - it's easier to identify background contributions
 - Iess probability of superposition of with natural radioactivity peaks (e.g. 2448 keV) ²¹⁴Bi peak is only 10 keV away from ¹³⁶Xe 0v- $\beta\beta$ Q-value)
 - \bigcirc minimize the impact of the background induced by the 2v- $\beta\beta$

Irreducible background from 2v- $\beta\beta$

- The irreducible background induced by the 2ν-ββ could be mitigated just by the energy resolution
- The effect can be partially attenuated with an asymmetric ROI (but losing efficiency)





$$\frac{S}{B} = \frac{m_e}{7Q\delta^6} \frac{\Gamma_{0\nu}}{\Gamma_{2\nu}} = \frac{m_e}{7Q\delta^6} \frac{T_{1/2}^{2\nu}}{T_{1/2}^{0\nu}}$$



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Energy resolution

- Ş good enough to neglect the background induced by the $2v-\beta\beta$.
- Ş orders of magnitude
- Xenon TPCs (gas or liquid) have decent energy resolution
- Scintillation detectors (e.g. SNO+ or KamLAND-Zen) are limited by light yield and light collection

Germanium diodes and bolometers have already an energy resolution

Bolometers (in theory) can still improve; every improvement on energy resolution is equivalent to background reduction. But we cannot expect

Background

- Many R&Ds aiming to strong background reduction
 - materials selection
 - active vetoes
 - Ge diodes: copper electroforming
 - Ge diodes: Pulse shape discrimination SSE/MSE
 - TPC Xe: Barium tagging
 - TPC Xe gas: topological discrimination
 - \odot Bolometers: scintillation or Cherenkov light detection to discrimineta α/β or surface/bulk





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Recent results

GERDA phase I



- Ge diodes enriched to 86% with ⁷⁶Ge
- Q-value: 2039 keV
- ΔE ~ 3 keV in ROI

CFA Lectures 26 June 2015 Advantages:

- known technology(enrichment + diode production)
- best energy resolution
- handles to reduce background PSD



GERDA Phase I



First BEGe's in GERDA

Calibration spectra



Energy resolution and PSA properties

(de	Detector	E resolution	A/E res.	A/E res. HADES
	Agamennone (GD32B)	2.88 ± 0.02	1.5%	0.8%
	Andromeda (GD32C	2.84 ± 0.02	1.7%	1.3%
:	Anubis (GD32D)	2.96 ± 0.04	1.7%	1.6%
In L	Achilles(GD35B)	3.61 ± 0.05	1.9%	0.6%



- operated bare
- 8 coax detectors v
- 0.8% 1.3% 1.6% 0.6%Aristoteles(GD35C) 3.09 ± 0.06 1.7% 1.7%

21 February 2013

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- 5 BEGe detectors (3 kg) added in June 2012
- Total exposure of 21.6 kg yr between Nov. 2011 and May 2013

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GERDA results



we expect to see 6 signal events



In 2039 ±5 keV we see 7 counts, after PSD only 3 remain:

$$T^{0v}_{1/2} > 2.1 \text{ x } 10^{25} \text{ yr}$$

(90% C.L.)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 111, 122503 (2013)

data set	$\mathcal{E}[\mathrm{kg}\cdot\mathrm{yr}]$	$\langle\epsilon angle$	bkg	BI †)	cts
without P	SD				
golden	17.9	0.688 ± 0.031	76	18 ± 2	5
silver	1.3	0.688 ± 0.031	19	63^{+16}_{-14}	1
BEGe	2.4	0.720 ± 0.018	23	$42_{-8}^{+\bar{1}\bar{0}}$	1
with PSD					
golden	17.9	$0.619^{+0.044}_{-0.070}$	45	11 ± 2	2
silver	1.3	$0.619_{-0.070}^{+0.044}$	9	30^{+11}_{-9}	1
BEGe	2.4	0.663 ± 0.022	3	5^{+4}_{-3}	0

[†]) in units of 10^{-3} cts/(keV·kg·yr).



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KamLAND-Zen



- Hosted in the KamLAND detector
- 3 m diameter mini-balloon at the center
- Loaded with 13 tons of Xe-loaded LS
 - ~2.5% by weight Xe
 - ➡ 90% ¹³⁶ Xe (300 kg)
 - Q-value = 2458 keV
- KamLAND LS, 5m thick ultra-pure active shield
- KamLAND mineral oil buffer (2m thick)
- 3.2 kt water Cherenkov muon veto
- Scintillation light detected by array of ~2000 PMTs
- Energy resolution: $\sigma_E/E = 6.6 \%/\sqrt{E}$ or 100 keV @ Q-value





KamLAND-Zen phase I

Phase 1: Sept 2011-June 2012, 89.5 kg×yr exposure of ¹³⁶Xe



KamLAND-Zen phase II

At the end of Phase 1, the Xe and Xe-LS were purified to try to reduce the background



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CUORE-0 is the first tower produced out of the CUORE assembly line.

- 52 TeO₂ 5x5x5 cm³ crystals (~750 g each)
- 13 floors of 4 crystals each
- total detector mass: 39 kg TeO₂ (10.9 kg of ¹³⁰Te)

CUORE-0 has been taking data since March 2013 in the 25 year old Cuoricino cryostat.

- Proof of concept of CUORE detector in all stages
- Test and debug of the CUORE tower assembly line
- Test of the CUORE DAQ and analysis framework
- Check of the radioactive background reduction
- Extend the physics reach beyond Cuoricino while CUORE is being assembled
- Sensitive 0vDBD experiment



From Cuoricino to CUORE

- New lighter detector design structure
- Reduced overall copper surfaces by a factor ~2
- New surface cleaning technique
- Strict production protocols for TeO₂ surface contamination
- Minimization of Rn exposure (Glove Box assembly)
- Strict material selection









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Thermistors & Heaters coupling





NTD

Heater

Before

After

Features:

- new semi-automatic system
- highly-reproducible

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• fully performed under N₂ atmosphere to minimize radioactive recontamination.

CUORE-0 Assembly & Bonding













2. Cabling box



3. Bonding box







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CUORE-0 results



Background index: 0.058 ± 0.004 (stat.) ± 0.002 (syst.) c keV⁻¹ kg⁻¹ yr⁻¹ 0vDBD ¹³⁰Te Bayesian 90% C.L. limit: $T_{1/2} > 2.7 \times 10^{24}$ yr



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Near Future

Several experiments in the next 2-3 years

- 🏺 Gerda phase II
- 30 BeGe detectors with improved background; ~20 kg enriched at 86%
- Majorana demonstrator
 - 30 kg of Ge diodes enriched at 87%; very low level background setup
- 🖗 CUORE
- ~ 1000 TeO2 bolometers; ~200 kg of 130Te
- 🖗 Lucifer/Lumineu
 - Enriched Se and Mo bolometers with alpha background discrimination;
- SuperNEMO demonstrator
- 7 kg of 82Se; reconstruction of electron kinematics, good background rejection
- Improved EXO-200
- improved energy resolution and possibly background
- KamLAND-Zen fase 3
 - 600 kg of 90% enriched Xe; improved background
- 🗳 SNO+ 0.3%
 - liquid scintillator loaded with natural Te; 800 kg of 130Te
- 🖗 NEXT-NEW
 - gaseous Xe TPC; ~ 10 kg of 136Xe

And others planned later on

- 🖗 Gerda+Majorana
- ton scale Ge experiment with the best technology
- 🖗 CUPID
 - ~1 ton of enriched Te, Mo or Se bolometers in the CUORE setup, with background discrimination
- 🖗 AMORE
 - ~100 kg CaMoO4 scintillating bolometers with enriched 100Mo
- SuperNEMO
- 100 kg of 82Se (150Nd, 48Ca)
- 🖗 nEXO
 - 5 tons of 90% enriched Xe; possible barium tagging
- KamLAND2-Zen
- ~1 ton of 90% enriched Xe
- § SNO+ 3.0%
- 8 tons of 130Te
- 🖗 NEXT-100, BEXT
 - 100-1000 kg of 136Xe

Different technologies

Different detector technologies are planned

- different challenges
- different capabilities
- Liquid/Gaseous vs Solid detectors
 - Liquid detectors have (generally)
 - worser energy resolution
 - better background (purification)
 - better for reach lower limits
 - Solid detectors have (generally)
 - excellent energy resolution
 - worser background
 - better for discovery



Which is the level that we can reach?



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Assumptions

- Nuclear matrix elements from IBM-2
- 1 sigma sensitivity
- Zero background (i.e. M·T·B·ΔE ≤1)
- 90% isotopic enrichment
- Present isotope cost
- Present detector technologies
- Present efficiencies (fiducial volume)
- Present (or anticipated) energy resolution
- Measurement time: 5 years
- Goal: <m_{ββ}>=12 meV

 $< m_{\beta\beta} > = 12 \text{ meV}$

g	A	-
	-	

	T1/2 0v [years]	Isotope mass [ton]	Efficiency (fiducial volume)	Total detector mass [ton]	a.i. [%]	lsotope cost/kg [k€]	Isotope cost [M€]	B*∆E [c/kg/y]	ΔE FWHM [keV]	Background [c/keV/kg/y]	Q value [keV]	T1/2 2v [years]	F
⁷⁶ Ge GERDA	1,0E+28	0,365	0,82	0,49	7,8	70,00	34,64	5,5E-04	3	1,8E-04	2039	1,8E+21	6,3
⁸² Se Lucifer	3,7E+27	0,145	0,80	0,36	9,2	70,00	14,11	1,4E-03	10	1,4E-04	2996	9,2E+19	4,4
¹⁰⁰ Mo (ZnMO ₄)	3,2E+27	0,151	0,80	0,48	7,6	100,00	20,97	1,3E-03	9	1,5E-04	3034	7,1E+18	8,0
¹¹⁶ Cd (CdWO ₄)	5,4E+27	0,301	0,80	1,31	9,6	150,00	62,64	6,7E-04	6	1,1E-04	2814	2,8E+19	1,4
¹³⁰ Te CUORE	3,0E+27	0,189	0,87	0,30	34,2	13,00	3,14	1,1E-03	5	2,1E-04	2527	6,8E+20	1,1
¹³⁰ Te SNO+	3,0E+27	0,189	0,20	350,61	34,2	13,00	13,67	1,1E-03	270	3,9E-06	2527	6,8E+20	4,:
¹³⁶ Xe EXO	4,3E+27	0,281	0,50	0,63	8,9	8,00	5,00	7,1E-04	58	1,2E-05	2458	2,1E+21	8,4
¹³⁶ Xe Kam-Zen	4,3E+27	0,281	0,30	42,72	8,9	8,00	8,34	7,1E-04	250	2,8E-06	2458	2,1E+21	1,3
¹³⁶ Xe NEXT	4,3E+27	0,281	0,30	1,04	8,9	8,00	8,34	7,1E-04	15	4,7E-05	2458	2,1E+21	2,8

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=1,269



 $< m_{\beta\beta} > = 12 \text{ meV}$

	T1/2 0v [years]	Isotope mass [ton]	Efficiency (fiducial volume)	Total detector mass [ton]	a.i. [%]	lsotope cost/kg [k€]	lsotope cost [M€]	B*∆E [c/kg/y]	ΔE FWHM [keV]	Background [c/keV/kg/y]	Q value [keV]	T1/2 2v [years]	F
⁷⁶ Ge GERDA	2,3E+29	8,26	0,82	11,19	7,8	70,00	783,0	2,4E-05	3	8,1E-06	2039	1,8E+21	6,3
⁸² Se Lucifer	8,8E+28	3,46	0,80	8,65	9,2	70,00	336,9	5,8E-05	10	5,8E-06	2996	9,2E+19	4,4
¹⁰⁰ Mo (ZnMO ₄)	8,7E+28	4,16	0,80	13,25	7,6	100,00	577,4	4,8E-05	9	5,3E-06	3034	7,1E+18	8,0
¹¹⁶ Cd (CdWO ₄)	1,7E+29	9,22	0,80	40,14	9,6	150,00	1919,9	2,2E-05	6	3,6E-06	2814	2,8E+19	1,4
¹³⁰ Te CUORE	1,0E+29	6,30	0,87	10,02	34,2	13,00	104,6	3,2E-05	5	6,4E-06	2527	6,8E+20	1,1
¹³⁰ Te SNO+	1,0E+29	6,30	0,20	11664,54	34,2	13,00	454,9	3,2E-05	270	1,2E-07	2527	6,8E+20	4,3
¹³⁶ Xe EXO	1,5E+29	9,67	0,50	21,50	8,9	8,00	172,0	2,1E-05	58	3,6E-07	2458	2,1E+21	8,4
¹³⁶ Xe Kam-Zen	1,5E+29	9,67	0,30	1468,24	8,9	8,00	286,6	2,1E-05	250	8,3E-08	2458	2,1E+21	1,3
¹³⁶ Xe NEXT	1,5E+29	9,67	0,30	35,83	8,9	8,00	286,6	2,1E-05	15	1,4E-06	2458	2,1E+21	2,8

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 $g_{A}=1,269 \cdot A^{-0.18}$



What can we afford?

Assume to build an experiment with a budget of ~100 M€ Ş

- Ş the other expenses
- Suppose that the isotope cost will be 50% of the total budget Ş
- What we can build with that money? Ş

More we increase the mass and more the isotope cost will dominate

Isotope cost = 50 M€

	T1/2 0v [years]	Isotope mass [ton]	Efficiency (fiducial volume)	Total detector mass [ton]	a.i. [%]	lsotope cost/kg [k€]	<mββ> [meV]</mββ>	B*∆E [c/kg/y]	ΔE FWHM [keV]	Background [c/keV/kg/y]	Q value [keV]	T1/2 2v [years]	F
⁷⁶ Ge GERDA	1,4E+28	0,53	0,82	0,71	7,8	70,00	9,8	3,8E-04	3	1,3E-04	2039	1,8E+21	4,4
⁸² Se Lucifer	1,3E+28	0,51	0,80	1,28	9,2	70,00	6,4	3,9E-04	10	3,9E-05	2996	9,2E+19	1,2
¹⁰⁰ Mo (ZnMO ₄)	7,5E+27	0,36	0,80	1,15	7,6	100,00	7,8	5,6E-04	9	6,2E-05	3034	7,1E+18	3,3
¹¹⁶ Cd (CdWO ₄)	4,3E+27	0,24	0,80	1,05	9,6	150,00	13,4	8,3E-04	6	1,4E-04	2814	2,8E+19	1,8
¹³⁰ Te CUORE	4,8E+28	3,01	0,87	4,79	34,2	13,00	3,0	6,6E-05	5	1,3E-05	2527	6,8E+20	6,8
¹³⁰ Te SNO+	1,1E+28	0,69	0,20	1280,37	34,2	13,00	6,3	2,9E-04	270	1,1E-06	2527	6,8E+20	1,2
¹³⁶ Xe EXO	4,3E+28	2,81	0,50	6,24	8,9	8,00	3,8	7,1E-05	58	1,2E-06	2458	2,1E+21	8,4
¹³⁶ Xe Kam-Zen	2,6E+28	1,69	0,30	256,18	8,9	8,00	4,9	1,2E-04	250	4,7E-07	2458	2,1E+21	2,2
¹³⁶ Xe NEXT	2,6E+28	1,69	0,30	6,25	8,9	8,00	4,9	1,2E-04	15	7,9E-06	2458	2,1E+21	4,7

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 $g_{A}=1,269$



Isotope cost=50 M€

	T1/2 0v [years]	Isotope mass [ton]	Efficiency (fiducial volume)	Total detector mass [ton]	a.i. [%]	lsotope cost/kg [k€]	<mββ> [meV]</mββ>	B*∆E [c/kg/y]	ΔE FWHM [keV]	Background [c/keV/kg/y]	Q value [keV]	T1/2 2v [years]	F
⁷⁶ Ge GERDA	1,4E+28	0,53	0,82	0,71	7,8	70,00	47,5	3,8E-04	3	1,3E-04	2039	1,8E+21	6,3
⁸² Se Lucifer	1,3E+28	0,51	0,80	1,28	9,2	70,00	31,2	3,9E-04	10	3,9E-05	2996	9,2E+19	4,4
¹⁰⁰ Mo (ZnMO ₄)	7,5E+27	0,36	0,80	1,15	7,6	100,00	40,8	5,6E-04	9	6,2E-05	3034	7,1E+18	8,0
¹¹⁶ Cd (CdWO ₄)	4,3E+27	0,24	0,80	1,05	9,6	150,00	74,4	8,3E-04	6	1,4E-04	2814	2,8E+19	1,4
¹³⁰ Te CUORE	4,8E+28	3,01	0,87	4,79	34,2	13,00	17,4	6,6E-05	5	1,3E-05	2527	6,8E+20	1,1
¹³⁰ Te SNO+	1,1E+28	0,69	0,20	1280,37	34,2	13,00	36,2	2,9E-04	270	1,1E-06	2527	6,8E+20	4,:
¹³⁶ Xe EXO	4,3E+28	2,81	0,50	6,24	8,9	8,00	22,3	7,1E-05	58	1,2E-06	2458	2,1E+21	8,4
¹³⁶ Xe Kam-Zen	2,6E+28	1,69	0,30	256,18	8,9	8,00	28,7	1,2E-04	250	4,7E-07	2458	2,1E+21	1,3
¹³⁶ Xe NEXT	2,6E+28	1,69	0,30	6,25	8,9	8,00	28,7	1,2E-04	15	7,9E-06	2458	2,1E+21	2,8

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 $g_{A}=1,269 \cdot A^{-0.18}$



Few thoughts

- All those numbers get worse if we are not in zero background conditions (e.g. if M·T·B·ΔE=10, the needed mass to reach the same result is Mx10)
 - an example: CUORE with 90% enriched ¹³⁰Te with background of 10^{-2} conteggi keV⁻¹ kg⁻¹ y⁻¹ and with g_A=1,269, in order to reach $< m_{\beta\beta} > = 12$ meV should have a mass of ~15 ton.
- On the other hand an experiment with a good background rejection but with not feasible/affordable large masse is not useful
- \Im If g_A is quenched the road is very hard
- Eikely is needed to start thinking at isotopic enrichment with reasonable cost
 - If the best future technique will be based on a isotope different from ¹³⁶Xe and ¹³⁰Te, it is mandatory
 - For ¹³⁰Te (bolometers) and ¹³⁶Xe (NEXO, NEXT) even with the present cost and g_A quenched looks feasible to cover inverted hierarchy; but background reduction is still far from the needs

M. Biassoni, O. Cremonesi, P. Gorla, http://arxiv.org/abs/1310.3870

