



Heavy-Ion Double Charge Exchange reactions towards *0νββ* NME determination : the NUMEN project

Clementina Agodi

for the NUMEN collaboration









Introduction: the framework

The NUMEN project: an updated overview

Outlook and perspectives





Introduction



Unanswered questions in neutrino physics:



Indeed, if observed, neutrinoless DBD may provide evidence for physics beyond the Standard Model other than the mass mechanism.

Conversely, its non-observation will set stringent limits on other scenarios (sterile,...), and on non standard mechanisms



Neutrinoless double beta decay



 $A_{Z}X_{N} \rightarrow A_{Z+2}Y_{N-2} + 2e^{-1}$

Still not observed

1. Beyond standard model

IFN

- 2. Access to effective neutrino mass
- 3. Violation of lepton number conservation
- 4. CP violation in lepton sector
- 5. A way to leptogenesis and GUT





E. Majorana, Il Nuovo Cimento 14 (1937) 171 W. H. Furry, Phys Rev. 56 (1939) 1184

$$\left[\tau_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta}(0^{+} \to 0^{+})\right]^{-1} = G_{0\nu} \left|M_{0\nu}\right|^{2} \left|f(m_{i}, U_{ei})\right|^{2}$$

Beyond the standard model (Particle physics)

Phase-space factor (Atomic physics) PSF Matrix elements (Nuclear physics) NME





Nuclear matrix elements



 $\left|M_{\varepsilon}^{\beta\beta0\nu}\right|^{2} = \left|\left\langle 0_{f}\right\|\hat{O}_{\varepsilon}^{\beta\beta0\nu}\right\|0_{i}$

Comparison of the main NME calculations: spread about x2



For $\langle m_{ee} \rangle = 17.5 \text{ meV}$ ('bottom of IH' for $g_A = 1.25$, $\sin^2 \theta_{12} = 0.318$)

✓ **Calculations (still sizeable uncertainties)**: QRPA, Large scale shell model, IBM-2

 Measurements (still not conclusive for 0vββ): (π⁺, π⁻) single charge exchange (³He,t) electron capture transfer reactions ...

No isotope significantly preferred when comparing decay rate per mass

Choice mainly driven by experimental considerations

Engel & Menédez

arXiv:1610.06548v2

Courtesy of Stefan Schönert





The Idea:



HI-DCE as experimental tool



NUclear Matrix Element towards Neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay

The challenge: to access quantitative informations



Heavy Ion Double Charge Exchange



- Induced by strong interaction
- Sequential nucleon transfer mechanism 4th order: Brink's Kinematical matching conditions D.M.Brink, et al., Phys. Lett. B 40 (1972) 37
- 3 Meson exchange mechanism 2nd order

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LNS

Possibility to go in both directions



HI-DCE reactions vs *θνββ* decay



Differences

- DCE mediated by **strong interaction**, 0νββ by **weak interaction**
- DCE includes **sequential** multinucleon transfer **mechanism**

Similarities

- **Same initial and final states:** Parent/daughter states of the *0νββ* decay are the same as those of the target/residual nuclei in the DCE
- **Similar operator:** Fermi, Gamow-Teller and rank-2 tensor components are present in both the transition operators, with tunable weight in DCE
- Large linear momentum (~100 MeV/c) available in the virtual intermediate channel
- Non-local processes: characterized by two vertices localized in a pair of valence nucleons
- Same nuclear medium: Constraint on the theoretical determination of quenching phenomena on $0 \nu \beta \beta$
- Off-shell propagation through virtual intermediate channels

A good linear correlation between double GT transitions to the ground state of the final nucleus and $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay NMEs is reported for pf-shell nuclei in ref.:

J. Menéndez, N. Shimizu and K. Yako, arXiv:1712.08691v1.; N. Shimizu, J. Menéndez and K. Yako, arXiv:1709:01088.



Few experimental attempts



First pioneering explorations of HI – DCE in the 80s at energies above the Coulomb barrier in: Berkeley, NSCL-MSU, IPN-Orsay, Los Alamos to determine the mass of n-rich isotopes by reaction Q-value measurements

- not conclusive because of the very poor yields in the measured energy spectra and the lack of angular distributions, due to the very low cross-sections involved.
- not easy to measure, in the same experimental conditions, the different competitive reaction channels (limit due to the prohibitive small cross-sections).



⁴⁰Ca(¹⁴C,¹⁴O)⁴⁰Ar @ 51 MeV

Recently at RIKEN and RCNP (80-200 MeV/u):

- (⁸He,⁸Be) was used to search for the tetra-neutron (4n) system, *K. Kisamori et al., Phys. Rev. Lett.* 116, 052501 (2016).
- (¹¹B,¹¹Li) and (¹²C,¹²Be) were used to find the DGT resonance, *H. Sagawa*, *T. Uesaka*, *Phys. Rev. C* 94, 064325 (2016).



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The facility: DCE @ LNS



K800 Superconducting Cyclotron

MAGNEX spectrometer

F. Cappuzzello et al., Eur. Phys. J. A (2016) 52: 167

Mass $\Delta m/m \sim 1/160$

- In operation since 1996.
- Accelerates from H to U ions
- Maximum energy 80 MeV/u.

eration since 1996. erates from H to U ions num energy 80 MeV/u.	ever	Bes -
ial for un	Optical characteristics	Current values
crucia	Maximum magnetic rigidity (Tm)	1.8
	Solid angle (msr)	50
	Momentum acceptance	-14%, +10%
	Momentum dispersion (cm/%)	3.68
	Good compensation of the aberrations:	Measured resolutions: • Energy $\Delta E/E \sim 1/1000$ • Angle $\Delta \theta \sim 0.2^{\circ}$

Trajectory reconstruction



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DCE @ INFN - LNS







⁴⁰Ca(¹⁸O,¹⁸Ne)⁴⁰Ar @ 270 MeV

 $0^{\circ} < \theta_{lab} < 10^{\circ}$ Q = -5.9 MeV

- > ¹⁸O and ¹⁸Ne belong to the same multiplet in S and T
- Very low polarizability of core ¹⁶O
- > Sequential transfer processes very mismatched $Q_{opt} \sim 50 \text{ MeV}$
- Doubly magic target



DCE @ LNS



⁴⁰Ca(¹⁸O, ¹⁸Ne)⁴⁰Ar @ 270 MeV $0^{\circ} < \theta_{lab} < 10^{\circ}$ Q = -5.9 MeV





$d\sigma^{DCE}/d\Omega = 11\mu b/sr$ at $\theta_{cm} = 0^0$

- **Experimental feasibility:** zero-deg, resolution (500 keV), low cross-section (µb/sr) Limitations of the past HI-DCE experiments are overcome!
- Data analysis feasibility: the analysis of the DCE cross-section has lead to NME compatible with the existing calculations $\left|M^{DCE}_{40}(40Ca)\right|^{2} = 0.24 \pm 0.12$

F. Cappuzzello, et al. Eur. Phys. J. A (2015) 51: 145

$$\left| M_{\tau}^{DCE} \left({}^{40}Ca \right) \right|^2 = 0.22 \pm 0.11$$

INFN The role of the competing processes









Moving towards hot-cases (⁷⁶Ge, ¹¹⁶Cd, ¹³⁰Te, ¹³⁶Xe, ...)



- Reaction **Q-values** normally more negative than in the ⁴⁰Ca case
- (¹⁸O,¹⁸Ne) reaction particularly advantageous, but is of $\beta^+\beta^+$ kind Reactions of $\beta^-\beta^-$ kind are not as favourable as the (¹⁸O,¹⁸Ne):
 - > (¹⁸Ne,¹⁸O) requires a radioactive beam
 - ➤ (²⁰Ne,²⁰O) or (¹²C,¹²Be) have smaller B(GT)
- In some cases gas or implanted target necessary (e.g. ¹³⁶Xe or ¹³⁰Xe)
- In some cases MAGNEX energy resolution is not enough to separate the g.s. from the excited states in the final nucleus → Detection of γ-rays

Much higher beam current is needed !







experiment programs

NUMEN

$$(^{18}\text{O}, ^{18}\text{Ne}) \longrightarrow \beta^+\beta^+$$

$$(^{20}\text{Ne}, ^{20}\text{O}) \longrightarrow \beta^{-}\beta^{-}$$

- ▶ Beams intensity up to 10¹⁴ pps
 - ➢ Energy range 15-70 MeV/u
 - ➢ Beam power range 1-10 kW





The phases of the NUMEN project a long range time perspective



> Phase1: the experiment feasibility

- ⁴⁰Ca(¹⁸O, ¹⁸Ne)⁴⁰Ar @ 270 MeV already done: the results demostrate the technique feasibility.

> Phase2: toward "hot" cases optimizing experimental conditions and getting first result

- Few experiments on selected isotopes candidate for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay (integrated harge of tens of mC)
- R&D on CS and MAGNEX, preserving the access to the present facility
- Theoretical model developments.

Phase3: the facility upgrade

- Disassembling of the old set-up and re-assembling of the new ones will start (18-24 months)
- Tests of new detectors (Tandem @ LNS and other Laboratories)

> Phase4: the systematic experimental campaign

- Systematic experimental campaign with high beam intensities (some pµA; integrated charge of hundreds of mC up to C) on all the isotopes candidates for $0 \nu\beta\beta$ decay

	Tentative time table								
year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Phase1		done							
Phase2				Ap	prov	ed			
Phase3									
Phase4									-



The NUMEN goals



- 1. Holy Graal: sudying if the σ^{DCE} and in turn NME_{DCE} are connected to $0\nu\beta\beta$ NMEs as a smooth function of E_p and A require the development of the reaction and nuclear structure theory and a systematic set of data.
- 2. A new generation of **DCE constrained to 0\nu\beta\beta NME theoretical calculations** achievable in a short term with a reduced dataset
- 3. To provide **relative NME information on the different candidate isotopes** for the $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay : the ratio of the σ^{DCE} can give **a model independent way** to compare the sensitivity of different half-life experiment



strong impact in future development of the field, looking for a "golden isotope" ...





NUMEN phase 2



- R&D for upgrade @ LNS facilities
- Detector R&D : new MAGNEX focal plane detector for PID and tracker ; new target development electronic development ;
- Theoretical model developments.
- Long run @ LNS with MAGNEX with few isotopes, candidates for $0\nu\beta\beta$ already at our reach in terms of energy resolution and availability of thin targets



enhance the project discovery potential already in NUMEN phase 2



INFNNUMEN phase 2 R&D: upgrade @ LNS facilities



Upgrade of the LNS accelerator and beam lines



- **CS** accelerator current (from 100 W to 5-10 kW); from elecrostatic to extraction by stripping
- **beam transport line** transmission efficiency to nearly 100%. The new beam transport line corresponds with the FRAgment Ion Separation line.



Beam dump for the MAGNEX hall



- installed 2.5 meters **below the floor** after a vertical beam line
- $5 \times 5 \times 5 \text{ m}^3$



NUMEN phase 2 R&D:



MAGNEX major upgrades

The Focal Plane Detector (from 2 kHz to several MHz): hybrid detector



NUMEN phase 2 R&D:

MAGNEX major upgrades

> Array of scintillators for γ -rays

• Measurement in coincidence with MANEX study and simulation still in progress...

> New electronics

- ASIC front–end chip VMM2(3)
- Read out: new generation of FPGA and System On Module (SOM)

Radiation tolerant Targets

- Evaporation on a **Graphite backing** (good properties)
- Cooling system

Magnets upgrade

• Increase of the maximum magnetic rigidity from 1.8 Tm to 2.5 Tm













NUMEN phase 2 experimental activity



Few isotope targets: energy resolution and availability of thin targets at our rach among isotopes candidates for $0\nu\beta\beta$

Isotope Target for $\beta^{-}\beta^{-}$	$E^{*}(2^{T})$ [keV]	Isotope Target for	$E^{*}(2^{T})$ [keV]
		$\beta^{^{+}}\beta^{^{+}}\!,\beta^{^{+}}\!EC,ECEC$ decay	
⁴⁸ Ca*	3832	⁴⁰ Ti	983
⁷⁶ Ge	563	⁷⁶ Se	559
^{/8} Se	614	^{/8} Kr *	455
⁸² Se*	655	⁸² Kr	776
⁹² Zr	934	⁹² Mo *	1509
⁹⁰ Zr*	1582	⁹⁰ Mo	778
⁹⁰ Mo	778	⁹⁰ Ru *	833
¹⁰⁰ Mo*	536	¹⁰⁰ Ru	539
¹⁰⁶ Pd	512	¹⁰⁶ Cd	633
Pd*	374	Cd	658
¹¹⁶ Cd	513	¹¹⁶ Sn	1294
¹²⁴ Sn*	1132	¹²⁴ Te	603
¹²⁴ Te	603	¹²⁴ Xe *	354
¹²⁸ Te*	743	¹²⁸ Xe	443
¹³⁰ Te	840	¹³⁰ Xe	536
¹³⁰ Xe	536	¹³⁰ Ba *	357
¹⁵⁰ Xe*	1313	¹³⁰ Ba	818
¹³⁶ Ba	818	¹³⁶ Ce *	552
¹⁴⁸ Nd*	302	¹⁴⁸ Sm	550
¹⁵⁰ Nd*	130	¹³⁰ Sm	334
¹³⁴ Sm*	82	¹³⁴ Gd	123
¹⁰⁰ Gd*	75	Dy	87
¹⁹⁸ Pt*	407	¹⁹⁸ Hg	412





NUMEN runs - Phase 2

N



¹¹⁶Cd - ¹¹⁶Sn case

- ➤ Two experiments @ 15 MeV/A
- > 18O + 116Sn
- $> {}^{20}\text{Ne} + {}^{116}\text{Cd}$



(²⁰Ne.²²Ne)

Ν

¹³⁰Te – ¹³⁰Xe case

One experiment @ 15 MeV/A > ²⁰Ne + ¹³⁰Te

⁷⁶Ge – ⁷⁶Se case

One experiment @ 15 MeV (November 2017) $> {}^{20}\text{Ne} + {}^{76}\text{Ge}$



The ¹¹⁶Cd(²⁰Ne,²⁰O)¹¹⁶Sn reaction



- ➢ ²⁰Ne¹⁰⁺ beam at 15 AMeV incident energy delivered by CS accelerator
- \succ ¹¹⁶Cd rolled target, 1370 µg/cm² thickness
- Ejectiles detected by the MAGNEX large acceptance spectrometer
- > Angular acceptance $3^{\circ} < \theta < 14^{\circ}$

Measured channels

- DCE reaction ¹¹⁶Cd(²⁰Ne,²⁰O)¹¹⁶Sn
- CEX reaction ¹¹⁶Cd(²⁰Ne,²⁰F)¹¹⁶In
- 2p-transfer ¹¹⁶Cd(²⁰Ne,¹⁸O)¹¹⁸Sn
- 2n-transfer ¹¹⁶Cd(²⁰Ne,²²Ne)¹¹⁴Cd
- 1p-transfer ¹¹⁶Cd(²⁰Ne,¹⁹F)¹¹⁷In
- 1n-transfer ¹¹⁶Cd(²⁰Ne,²¹Ne)¹¹⁵Cd





Experimental results







Experimental results







Experimental results





A **peak** corresponding to **g.s. transition** is visible despite the very low statistic. The FWHM resolution is ~800 keV.

INFN Calculation for multi-nucleon transfer





Calculation for multi-nucleon transfer



The role of multi-nucleon transfer routes

VS

The diagonal process (experimental cross section 12 ± 2 nb)



Clementina Agodi - SPES one-day Workshop "Probing fundamental symmetries and interactions by low energy excitations with SPES RIBs" 1-2 February 2018 INFN Pisa



INFN Calculation for multi-nucleon transfer



The role of multi-nucleon transfer routes

VS

The diagonal process (experimental cross section 12 ± 2 nb)



We can rule out the contribution of multi-nucleon transfer on the diagonal DCE process





The NUMEN collaboration





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77 Researchers19 Institutions12 countries





Conclusions and Outlook



- The NUMEN project propose as a tool HI-DCE cross sections towards determination

of NME for $\theta \nu \beta \beta$

- First experiments of NUMEN phase2 @ LNS

- **Good energy resolution to isolate the g.s.** \rightarrow g.s. transition
- Absolute cross section measured
- **Role of multi-nucleon transfer routes negligible with respect to the diagonal DCE**
 - " The NUMEN project " a paper has been submitted to EPJA

High beam intensity is the new frontier for these challenging studies !











SPARE



 $(d^{2}He)$



549
F. Osterfeld Rev. Mod. Phys. 64 (1992) 491
H. Ejiri Phys. Rep. 338 (2000) 256
T.N. Taddeucci Nucl. Phys. A 469 (1997) 125

Y. Fujita Prog. Part. Nuc. Phys. 66 (2011)

(⁷Li,⁷Be) S. Nakayama PRC 60 (1999) 047303



reduced mass and the distortion factor, respectively [197].

Fig. 12. The measured on cross-sections of the (d, ³He) reactions at 03 as a function of the G⁺ strengths deduced from β -decay or (p,n) reaction studies. The solid line is a linear "t to the data [244].

B(GT;CEX)/B(GT;β-decay) ~ 1 within a few % especially for the strongest transitions





Under the hypotesis of surface localization, one can assume that the DCE process is just a second order charge exchange: DCE cross sections can be factorized in a nuclear structure term, containing the matrix element, and a nuclear reaction factor.



A wide range of DCE cross sections has never been accurately measured due to :

- > The difficult to perform zero degrees measurements.
- The poor yields in the measured energy spectra and angular distributions, due to the very low cross sections.
- The difficulty to disentangle possible contributions of multi-nucleon transfer reactions leading to the same final state.





Energy resolution

In order to separate the ground state-to-ground state transition from that to the first excited state of the residual nucleus, sufficient energy resolution in the measured excitation energy spectra is required. This resolution mainly depends on three factors:

- 1) the intrinsic energy resolution of the MAGNEX spectrometer ($\delta E_{MAGNEX}/E \sim 1/1000$)
- 2) the energy spreading of the cyclotron accelerated beam ($\delta E_{CS}/E \sim 1/1000$)
- 3) contribution due to the straggling and energy loss of the beam and ejectiles in the target film δE_{TARGET} .

 δE_{TARGET} depends, for a given beam, on the target film material and thickness and on its uniformity.

NFN Search of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay: a worldwide race



List not complete...

Experiment	Isotope	Lab
GERDA	⁷⁶ Ge	LNGS [Italy]
CUORE	¹³⁰ Te	LNGS [Italy]
Majorana	⁷⁶ Ge	SURF [USA]
KamLAND-Zen	¹³⁶ Xe	Kamioka [Japan]
EXO/nEXO	¹³⁶ Xe	WIPP [USA]
CUPID - Lucifer	⁸² Se, ¹⁰⁰ Mo	LNGS [Italy]
SNO+	¹³⁰ Te	Sudbury [Canada]
SuperNEMO	⁸² Se (or others)	LSM [France]
CANDLES	⁴⁸ Ca	Kamioka [Japan]
COBRA	¹¹⁶ Cd	LNGS [Italy]
DCBA	many	[Japan]
AMoRo	100 M o	[Koroa]



R. Henning / Reviews in Physics 1 (2016) 29-35

Nature 544, 47–52 (06 April 2017) doi:10.1038/nature21717 "Background-free search for neutrinoless Double-βdecay of ⁷⁶Ge with GERDA "

Nuclear response to the same degrees of freedom



by weak and strong interaction: β decay and Single Charge Exchange



B(GT;CEX)/B(GT;β-decay) ~ 1 within a few %

 $(d_{2}He)$ $(J_{2}He)$ $(J_{$

INFN

Y. Fujita Prog. Part. Nuc. Phys. 66 (2011) 549
F. Osterfeld Rev. Mod. Phys. 64 (1992) 491
H. Ejiri Phys. Rep. 338 (2000) 256
T.N. Taddeucci Nucl. Phys. A 469 (1997) 125



Fig. 12. The measured om cross-sections of the (q, ¹He) reactions at 03 as a function of the G^{*} strengths deduced from β-decay or (ρ, η) reaction studies. The solid line is a linear "t to the data [244].

Clementina Agodi 103º Congresso SIF Trento, 11-15 settembre 2017

MAGNEX:



LNS large acceptance magnetic spectrometer





Requires:

- Detailed knowledge of magnetic fields
- Powerful algorithms for solving the transport equations
- High performance detectors

Assures:

- Good compensation of aberrations *
- Excellent quality of reconstructed parameters **

INFŃ



The CS facility



- The CS accelerator current (from 100 W to 5-10 kW);
- The beam transport line transmission efficiency to nearly 100%





Physics observable





The (²⁰Ne, ²⁰O) reaction





²⁰Ne¹⁰⁺ beam passing through the target produces 9⁺ and 8⁺ charge states

The ²⁰Ne⁹⁺ has the same magnetic rigidity of ²⁰F⁹⁺

The ²⁰Ne³⁺ has the same magnetic rigidity of ²⁰O⁸⁺

The use of a post-stripper reduces the amount of 9⁺ and 8⁺ charge states



NUMEN selected "hot-cases"



Candidates for $0\nu\beta\beta$ already at our reach in terms of energy resolution and availability of thin targets.

¹¹⁶Sn (¹⁸O,¹⁸Ne) ¹¹⁶Cd – first excited state 513 MeV

¹¹⁶Cd (²⁰Ne,²⁰O) ¹¹⁶Sn - first excited state 1.29 keV

⁷⁶Ge (²⁰Ne,^{20°}) ⁷⁶Se - first excited state 562 keV

⁷⁶Se (¹⁸O,¹⁸Ne) ⁷⁶Ge - first excited state 559 keV

¹³⁰Te (²⁰Ne,^{20°})¹³⁰Xe - first excited state ...







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- > The difficult to perform zero degrees measurements.
- The poor yields in the measured energy spectra and angular distributions, due to the very low cross sections.
- The difficulty to disentangle possible contributions of multinucleon transfer reactions leading to the same final state.

MAGINEA I Utal I lanc

Gas-filled hybrid detector
 Drift chamber 1400mm x200mmx100mm
 Pure isobutane pressure range: 5-100mbar; 600-800 Volt,wires 20 micron

Schematic view of the MAGNEX Focal Plane Detector: a) side view; b)





Particle identification



Z identification

A identification



XXI International School on Nuclear Physics and Applications September

10 - 16, 2017 Varna, Bulgaria

The volume integrals

Nuclear spin and isospin excitations

Franz Osterfeld

Reviews of Modern Physics, Vol. 64, No. 2, April 1992

- Volume integrals are larger at smaller energies
- They enter to the fourth power in the unit cross section!
- GT-like % F-like competion at low energy



FIG. 15. Energy and momentum dependence of the free nucleon-nucleon t_F matrix. The upper part of the figure shows the energy dependence of the central components of the effective t_F matrix at zero-momentum transfer (including direct and exchange terms). The G-matrix interaction of Bertsch et al. (1977) was used below 100 MeV and joined smoothly to the t_F matrix above 100 MeV. The lower figures show the momentum dependence of the 135-MeV t_F matrix for natural-(left figure) and unnatural-(right figure) parity transitions. Isoscalar and isovector central (C), spin-orbit (LS), and tensor (T) components are shown. From Petrovich and Love (1981).

January 8-11, 2018 Cocoyoc, Morelos, Mexico

500



 $(d^{2}He)$



Fig. 12. The measured on cross-sections of the $(d, {}^{2}He)$ reactions at 03as a function of the G' strengths deduced from β -decay or (p,n) reaction studies. The solid line is a linear "t to the data [244]. Y. Fujita Prog. Part. Nuc. Phys. 66 (2011) 549
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(⁷Li,⁷Be) S. Nakayama PRC 60 (1999) 047303



Fig. 18. Cross-sections $\sigma l(\mu N^{"})$ for G' transitions in the ('Li, 'Be) reactions at 03 and B(G') values μ and N" are the reduced mass and the distortion factor, respectively [197].

B(GT;CEX)/B(GT;β-decay) ~ 1 within a few % especially for the strongest transitions