The quest for LFV through $0\mathbf{v}2\mathbf{\beta}$ decays in Germanium:



Large Enriched Germanium Experiment for Neutrinoless ßß Decay

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0v2B decays





- \bullet Two β decays at the same time
- Only a few isotopes able to undergo 2β

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

2nd order process, observed, $T_{1/2} \sim 10^{19}$ -10²⁴ yrs ⁷⁶Ge: $T_{1/2} \sim 10^{21}$ yrs

TABLE V. Isotopic abundance and Q-value for the known $2\nu\beta\beta$ emitters [175].

Isotope	isotopic abundance $(\%)$	$Q_{\beta\beta} [\text{MeV}]$		
^{48}Ca	0.187	4.263		
76 Ge	7.8	2.039		
82 Se	9.2	2.998		
⁹⁶ Zr	2.8	3.348		
^{100}Mo	9.6	3.035		
^{116}Cd	7.6	2.813		
$^{130}\mathrm{Te}$	34.08	2.527		
136 Xe	8.9	2.459		
¹⁵⁰ Nd	5.6	3.371		

 $Q_{\beta\beta} = M(Z+2)-M(Z) - 2m_e$

$0v2\beta$ decays





 $0\nu\beta\beta:(A,Z)\to(A,Z+2)+2e^{-1}$

• \Leftrightarrow if neutrinos are Majorana fermions

(Majorana mass term)

- Prosaically: $v = \overline{v}$
- Not only process available, but the one with the highest sensitivity

• BSM (SM only Dirac terms with L-R fermions)



NB: experiments measure $T^{0\nu}_{1/2}$

Connection with mass ordering



- \bullet Limits on m_{ee} from above, can try to rule out IH
 - electron flavour: mix of mass eigenstates, entering $\langle m_{ee} \rangle$ differently for the two MO
 - <u>nuclear matrix element uncertainties</u>: biggest spoiler in the conversion (shaded area)

The observable



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

 $0\nu\beta\beta: (A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z+2) + 2e^{-2}$

Measure overall energy of "2e" considered as "one body" in a 2-body decay
→ with no neutrinos it's a line at E = Qββ

Comparing different isotopes



Alas, it's more like this...



An excellent energy resolution crucial to separate SM from BSM type around Q-value

Experimental sensitivity

- This is essentially a counting exercise in the presence of background
- Sensitivity is dominated by Poisson counting around the Q-value (ROI)





• Value of T_{1/2} for which a 76 Ge-enriched experiment has a 50% chance to observe a signal above background with 3 σ significance

• for various scenarios of BI=N_{bkg}

The pros and cons of Germanium



non-zero background

S: sensitivity ε: efficiency f: abundance of 0νββ isotope M: detector mass t_{run} : measurement time BI: background index ΔE : energy resolution at Q_{BB}

- Source = detector
- semiconductor detectors provide excellent E_{reso} (2.5 keV FWHM @ 2039 keV)
- low intrinsic BI in HPGe
- Bkg rejection capabilities from solid state detectors organized in arrays
- scalable thanks to high demand of HPGe for various applications

• Low isotopic abundance in natural Ge means higher cost to enrich it

• Small phase space



A plot can tell a story...





- Searches with Ge have a long tradition and established technique
- GERDA+Majorana Demonstrator=LEGEND

LEGEND's pa and ma



Majorana demonstrator (SURF)

- Conventional screening with passive material (Pb)
- Low noise electronics for better PSD and energy resolution (2.5 keV FWHM @ Q_{\beta\beta})
- Lower threshold for more physics searches
- 29.7 kg of 88% enriched ⁷⁶Ge crystals (PPC detectors)



GERDA (LNGS)

- New idea implying active LAr-based screening →exploit bkg topologies to detect scintillation and apply coincidences btw LAr and Ge dipped within
- E reso: 2.6-2.9 keV FWHM @ Qββ
- 44.2 kg of 88% enriched ⁷⁶Ge crystals (coax+BEGe+ICPC detectors)

In common: careful control of radioactive bkg at material fabrication and specialized analysis techniques (material+ambient)

 \Rightarrow Lowest bkg rate and best E reso for any $0\nu 2\beta$ expt

LEGEND's pa and ma







• Stems from such achievements and puts together best of both in terms of technology and knowhow (+ some new-comers like me...)

- Two-staged approach with a ''demonstrator'' of ~200 kg (**Legend-200**) towards the full-fledged experiment with I ton scale (**Legend-1000**)
- What's to "demonstrate"? Development of large Point-contact detectors, layout can be scaled up, bkg reduction can be taken even farther aggressively (incl. cosmogenic activation)



Collab Meeting Seattle Dec 2019

⁷⁶Ge (88% enr.)



Nuclear Matrix Element values from various nuclear models



• Various models predict quite different values, throughout the isotope A range

 \bullet Affects the conversion from $T_{1/2}$ to m_{ee}

LEGEND-200 site: LNGS



• L-200 will use GERDA infrastructure at LNGS

• Same concept of Ge detectors dipped within LAr in pre-existing cryostat

• Mountain provides screening against cosmic rays

• Expected sources of external bkg include **γ** from U/Th decays, neutrons, remaining cosmic rays (prompt and delayed)

• Intrinsic: radioactive surface contamination, ³⁹Ar decays, cosmogenic activation of isotopes

Legend-200 at LNGS







- high-purity germanium (HPGe) detectors enriched in ⁷⁶Ge to (86–88)%: source + detector
- detectors mounted on low-mass holders (to minimize radioactive bkg)
- embedded in liquid argon (LAr): cryogenic coolant and absorber against external radiation
- ultrapure water tank: buffer around cryostat as additional absorber + Cherenkov veto

LEGEND-200: what's new



Legend-200 at LNGS





FIG. 6. Cross section through the cyrogenic infrastructure at the cryostat. Left: between the DN630 shutter and the cryostat (compensator and manifold with feedthroughs). Right: inside the cryostat (heat exchanger, fill level measurement).

Modifications wrt GERDA infrastructure:

- 14 strings of (mostly) ICPC detectors
- new electronics
- raise clean room roof, new lock
- new cabling, detector suspension, feedthroughs
- Improved LAr light collection

A heart of (High Purity) Germanium

• p-type diodes with point-contact (vs extended contact, see *next slides*)

• Charge collection at p⁺ electrode (Boron-implanted), polarization potential applied at n⁺ electrode (diffused Li)

BEGe (from GERDA) and PPC (from MJD)

- A part of the original suite of diodes from the past are retained in L-200: about 60 kg
- High E resolution
- Well established PSD technique exploiting stable field configuration across volume to reject bkg
- but small mass ≤ 1 kg each

ICPC (new)

R. Cooper et al., NIM A665, 25 (2011)]

- Most of remaining 140 kg are of this type
- Larger mass (1.5-2.0 kg, up to <2.5> kg for L-1000)
- but retaining similar charge drift times across volume
- \bullet Reduced surface-to-volume ratio (α and β), less dirty cables, pre-amps
- Lower cost per kg, higher efficiency
- Ordered since 2019, production and characterization on-going





R. Cooper et al., NIM A665, 25 (2011)]

PSD in Ge: concept



• If all ionization happens in single site (SSE), Q and A proportional and compatible with single cluster

• If ionization is diffused (Bethe-Bloch or Compton, MSE), total Q is split in smaller peaks of A

Why is PSD important?

GERDA Background Estimate:



BEGe and IC detectors: A/E



Y.Kermaidic, Neutrino '20

 $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay signal efficiency:

• $\epsilon_{\text{PSD}}^{\text{BEGe}} = (88.7 \pm 3.2)\%$

GERDA

- $\epsilon_{\text{PSD}}^{\text{IC}} = (90.0 \pm 1.7)\%$
- $\epsilon_{PSD}^{Coax} = (68.9 \pm 3.1)\%$

Each new batch of ICPC is characterized at dedicated underground stands in ORNL (US) and HADES (BE), where resolution, bkg, PSD performance are evaluated

Example from first batch in 2019 with excellent E_{reso}



Origin of radioactive bkgs

- α comes from ²¹⁰Po (τ =138 days) coming from ²³⁸U chain on diode surface and attracted to migrate towards p⁺ electrode by its strong field
- γ comes from
 - various branches of U and Th chain on materials (FETs, cables, Cu mounts);
 - and from ${}^{40/42}Ar \rightarrow {}^{40/42}K \rightarrow {}^{40/42}Ca^*$ decays (K ion drifted by LAr convective motion and electric field lines towards n⁺ dead layer = SSE)
- β mainly from ^{40/42}K decays close to diodes, same as above



MITIGATION measures of radioactive bkgs

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UG electro-formed copper

- Applies experience of MJD, which used 1.2 tons of UGEFCu because of its radio-purity ($\leq 0.1 \mu$ Bq/kgTh/U chains, very low in cosmogenic ⁶⁰Co)
- 3 new EF baths were constructed at SURF to supply clean Cu for detector housing components
- Advancements in the understanding of post machining contamination of plastics and metals will feed into L-1000 effort



Legend-200 at LNGS



EFCu can be placed next to detectors, in LAr: improves signal/ noise and, consequently, PSD



PEN plates: veto yourself !

- PEN Poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalate) is a scintillating plastic (1/3 LY of conventional plastic scintillators)
 - wavelength-shifts to ~450 nm the 128 nm photons from LAr
- Mechanically stronger than silicon, stronger than Cu at cryogenic temperatures (T=87 K)
- Meets radio-purity req. \leq 1 μ Bq/piece for Ra/Th





- Replaces Si plates (GERDA)
- PEN holders deployed in LEGEND "post-GERDA test" at LNGS in first half of 2020 (despite COVID...)
- On-going further R&D for additional cleanliness and improved optical properties for L-1000



Plates fitting read-out electronics



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TPB-coated nylon cylinders surrounding each string to limit effect of drifting K-ions



LAr active veto

- Retain a crucial element of GERDA: instrument LAr volume to read out light from scintillation
 - 2 shrouds of optical fibers for enhanced coverage coated in TBP as WLS
 - connected SiPM with new FE electronics for SPE resolution
 - Reflective foil around outer shroud to increase light collection
- Actively vetoes incoming radiation from U/Th/ K in coincidence with diodes
- But introduces bkg itself:
 - radioactivity from fibers, SiPM
 - high-activity β decays of sub-dominant isotope
 ³⁹Ar [1.41 Bq/l (e.g. NIM A 574 83)]



LAr active veto, related specs

- Ar₂ excimer scintillates at 128 nm (VUV), LY O(10k photons/MeV deposited), singlet and triplet states mix in fast (~few ns) and slow (~1.5 µs) components
- triplet attenuation highly depends on recombination with impurities (N, O, Xe ppm-to-ppb) sneaking at Ar distillation
- "class 5.5" LAr from plant + in place at LNGS ad-hoc system to purify LAr as it flows between tank and cryostat
- Expected to result in $\lambda_{\text{att}} \leq 1$ m, small wrt cryostat radius



LLAMA device in LAr will monitor in time attenuation and triplet lifetime





Benefit of active veto (lesson from GERDA)



• $0\nu 2\beta$ decay signal efficiency: $\epsilon_{LAr} = (97.9 \pm 0.1)\%$

- Accidental coincidences give 2.3% dead time
- Factor 6 bkg reduction in the ROI (1930 keV to 2190 keV) on top of PSD

Expected bkg budget L-200



 \sim 2-3 times lower BI than GERDA

Front-End electronics

- Low-Mass (radio-pure) FE on ULTEM inert plastic (a la MJD) feeding into "CC4" CSA pre-amp (a la GERDA)
- LMFE: production tested in "Post-GERDA" tests last year, ok -> production/ shipment to LNGS being finalized
- CC4: ~2.7V output to flange/air, production complete, random screening to be performed



Energy calibration

- I 6 ²²⁸Th sources (T_{1/2}=1.9 yr, A~5 kBq/source) for use in cold
- Away during data-taking and inserted by 4 dedicated motorized units
- Response checked at various energies periodically







L-1000 design



- String concept replicated in 4 payloads, in total ~400 detectors
- Each re-entrant tube (UGEFCu) hosts 14 strings in dedicated UAr cryostat, ~3m³ in volume
- Modest-sized LAr cryostat in "water tank" (6 m Ø LAr, 2-2.5 m layer of water) or large LAr cryostat w/o water (9 m Ø)
 - Other options still remain under investigation (e.g. LN₂)
- Site yet TBD (LNGS? SNO? SURF?): all offer some advantages and some limitations
- Staged data-taking in payloads (2025-2030?) as detector production progresses
- R&D on-going on several crucial improvements

Expected bkg budget L-1000 (preliminary)



~ 50 times lower BI than GERDA

L-200 → L-1000



• Largest reductions are on ${}^{42}\text{K}, \pmb{\alpha}, \pmb{\mu}$

• + "trimming" here and there on radio-purity of materials, esp. cables

UGAr to reduce ${}^{42}\text{Ar}/{}^{42}\text{K}$

- ⁴²K from β decay of ⁴²Ar resulting from cosmogenic activation in various processes [e.g. PRD 100, 072009 (2019)]
 - low fraction in atmospheric Ar, but high enough activity
- Underground Ar significantly less subject to CR activation → highly depleted in such isotopes (down by factors ~10⁴)
- Proposed to use part of the production from the ARIA plant, estimated need
 21 tons (from 2023): use only in payload cryostats, AAr in outer volume
- Ion collection depends on n⁺ dead-layer thickness: to be optimized
- Use of nylon cylinders around strings for further screening under discussion
 - shields, but only partially; self-vetoes, but only partially
 - could be good enough (after PSD and LAr veto), several studies done and on-going for GERDA and L-1000 [e.g. EPJC 75, 506 (2015)]
 - Else PEN? Encapsulated detectors (no LAr)? Xe-doped LAr for charge-exchanges?

Cosmic muons

- While "prompt" events in time with muon passage can be effectively rejected (95 to 99%) by water or LAr veto, delayed effects can generate disturbance
- Particularly production of Ge isotopes from capture of spallated neutrons (^{77,m}Ge)
- At SNO depth w/o further shielding expect $\sim 5 \ 10^{-8} \text{ cts/kev/kg/yr}$ (1% of desired BI)
 - at LNGS ×100, but gain "virtual" depth operating the LAr active veto with an independent trigger for delayed detection of n capture on ⁴⁰Ar (factor of ×10 reduction in µ-induced ^{77,m}Ge decays?) [Eur.Phys.J. C78 (2018) no.7, 597]
 - developments (using also ML) will be tested at L-200



Alpha

- Those α depositing on diode surface making it through the p⁺ electrode or the this-surfaced insulating grooves
 - most of the surface is a too-thick n⁺
- Hard to estimate a priori (consider upper limits from previous experiments)
- PSD, PSD and yet improved PSD
 - complementary techniques in GERDA and MJD more or less effective depending on charge diffusion in detector geometry (BEGe vs PPC)
 - therefore, design the LEGEND-1000 ICPC detector electrode geometry based on the relative size of the detector's passivated surface

Selection of additional R&D

- Larger mass detectors: different configurations with similar weighting potential being still pursued as alternatives to baseline, but need time
- Material:
 - clean manufacturing of alloys and plastics by laser-excitation additive "3-D printing" (SLA)
 - In-house synthesis of more radio-pure PEN
- FE: Reduced front-end substrate and connector mass, related to new ASIC radio-pure boards (JINST15 P09022)
- All signal cables in re-entrant tube from clean Kapton (incl Diode HV)
- Active veto: variants include Xe-doped LAr, walls of SiPM instead of ''dirtier'' fibres

(Approx) timeline





MO separation

$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = \left| \sum_{i=1}^{3} U_{ei}^{2} m_{i} \right|$$

$$= \left| m_{0} c_{12}^{2} c_{13}^{2} + \sqrt{m_{0}^{2} + \delta m_{\text{sol}}^{2}} s_{12}^{2} c_{13}^{2} e^{2i(\alpha_{2} - \alpha_{1})} + \sqrt{m_{0}^{2} + \delta m_{\text{sol}}^{2} + \delta m_{\text{atm}}^{2}} s_{13}^{2} e^{-2i(\delta_{\text{CP}} + \alpha_{1})} \right|$$
 NO
$$= \left| m_{0} s_{13}^{2} + \sqrt{m_{0}^{2} - \delta m_{\text{atm}}^{2}} s_{12}^{2} c_{13}^{2} e^{2i(\delta_{\text{CP}} + \alpha_{2})} + \sqrt{m_{0}^{2} - \delta m_{\text{sol}}^{2} - \delta m_{\text{atm}}^{2}} c_{12}^{2} c_{13}^{2} e^{2i(\delta_{\text{CP}} + \alpha_{2})} \right|$$
 IO.



Phys. Rev. D 96, 053001

Active veto optical parameters



Property	Value			
Atomic composition	$[C_{14}H_{10}O_4]_n$			
Density: δ	$1.35 \mathrm{g/cm^3}$			
Melting point	$270^{\circ}C$			
Peak emission λ	$445\pm5\mathrm{nm}$			
Light yield	$\approx 4000 \mathrm{photons/MeV}$			
Decay constant	34.91 ns			
Attenuation length	$\approx 5\mathrm{cm}$			
Young's modulus: E [GPa]	$1.855 \pm 0.011 (296 \text{ K}) 3.708 \pm 0.084 (77 \text{ K})$			
Yield strength: σ_{el} [MPa]	$108.6 \pm 2.6 (296 \text{ K}) = 209.4 \pm 2.8 (77 \text{ K})$			

TABLE XV. The relevant properties of PEN.

Phase II upgrade: BEGe detectors



Matteo Agostini (GSSI/LNGS)

Gerda 7

Monday, 26 April 21

PSD and LAr veto during Phase II commissioning

²²⁶Ra calibration run (single BEGe string in GERDA):







JHEP 2020, 139 (2020)

- same isotopes as in Phase I
- Th/Ra contributions consistent with screening results
- main components before LAr veto/PSD:

 α from ²¹⁰Po,²²⁶Ra
 - $\circ \beta$ from ⁴²K
 - $\circ \gamma$ from ²¹⁴Bi,²⁰⁸Tl
- flat background in the ROI

https://arxiv.org/pdf/1205.5608.pdf



FIG. 6: Relation between the $T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta}$ in ⁷⁶Ge and ¹³⁶Xe for different matrix element calculations (GCM [20], NSM [21], IBM-2 [22], RQRPA-1 [23] and QRPA-2 [5]). For each matrix element $\langle m \rangle_{\beta\beta}$ is also shown (eV). The claim [4] is represented by the grey band, along with the best limit for ⁷⁶Ge [19]. The result reported here is shown along with that from [7].

Gerda

Phase II final array configuration

- ► Deployed in Dec 2015
- ▶ 30 enriched BEGe (20 kg)
- ▶ 7 enriched Coax (15.8 kg)
- ▶ 3 natural Coax (7.6 kg)

\Rightarrow 35.8 kg of enr detectors



String 1	String 2	String 3	String 4	String 5	String 6	String 7
			1000		200	
_		_				

