

#### Axion Dark Matter and Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay:

New Techniques for New Physics

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# Things my group searches for:

### Axions

## Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay



## Remaining Standard Model Issues:

#### **Strong CP Problem**

#### Majorana vs. Dirac Neutrinos



## What unites these two topics?

# Peccei-Quinn Mechanism

# $\overline{\Theta}$

# See-Saw Mechanism



Let's start with Axions

#### **Heavy Dark Matter**

#### **Axion Dark Matter**





#### **Heavy Dark Matter**

#### **Axion Dark Matter**





#### **Heavy Dark Matter**

#### **Axion Dark Matter**



#### These are billiard balls.



#### This is a field.

#### **Some Details:**

- The Strong CP Problem
- Axion Cosmology
- How do we detect them?
- ABRACADABRA

#### A quick side-trip to Neutron EDM

#### What is it? Why is there a problem?

#### A quick side-trip to Neutron EDM





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neutron\_electric\_dipole\_moment

#### Charge Parity (CP) Violation is a key ingredient in generating the matter-antimatter asymmetry in the universe.



#### **Some Details:**

This is the CP violating term of the QCD Lagrangian.

 $\mathcal{L}_{\Theta} = -\bar{\Theta} \left( \alpha_s / 8\pi \right) G^{\mu\nu a} \tilde{G}^a_{\mu\nu}$   $\uparrow$ Gluon field strength tensor

This term gives rise to an electric dipole moment.

 $d_n \approx 3.6 \times 10^{-16} \theta_{\rm QCD} e \ {\rm cm}$ 

The current limit:  $|d_n| < 2.9 \times 10^{-26} e \,\mathrm{cm} \, (90\% \, \mathrm{C.L.})$ 

This implies....

 $\theta_{\rm QCD} \lesssim 10^{-10}$ 

#### Well thats not very natural.

#### **The Solution: Peccei-Quinn Symmetry**

SU(3)xSU(2)xU(1)

SU(3): Strong Force SU(2): Weak Force U(1): Electromagnetic

Add

U(1)<sub>PQ</sub>

U(1)<sub>PQ</sub>: Peccei Quinn

#### The Breaking of PQ Symmetry restores CP Symmetry!



$$m_A = 5.70(7) \left(\frac{10^9 \,\text{GeV}}{f_A}\right) \,\text{meV}$$
  
mass of the axion

Dynamically sends  $\Theta$  to zero!

#### Originally, we thought...

 $f_A \sim v_{\rm weak}$ 

where

$$v_{\text{weak}} = (\sqrt{2}G_{\text{F}})^{-1/2} = 247 \text{ GeV}$$

#### but that has been ruled out by experiment.

 $f_A \gg v_{\rm weak}$ 

these invisible axions are mostly unconstrained.

#### Kim-Shifman-Vainshtein-Zakharav (KSVZ) Axion

Introduces heavy quarks as well as the PQ scalar.

# Dine-Fischler-Srednicki-Zhitnitsky (DFSZ) Axion

Introduces additional Higgs field as well as the PQ scalar.

#### **An Equivalent plot for Axions**



...so thats what the yellow bands are on this plot.

#### **Some Details:**

- The Strong CP Problem
- Axion Cosmology



• ABRACADABRA

#### **Slightly Different Cosmology**

#### PQ Phase Transition Before Inflation

#### PQ Phase Transition After Inflation

#### **Misalignment Mechanism**

The most straight forward mechanism to generate cold axion dark matter.



In this period the field is damped. The initial value of the field is determined by the scenario for when symmetry breaking occurred relate to inflation.

From: David Marsch, arXiv1510.07633



Misalignment refers to the scenario where there is an initial coherent displacement and it relaxes to the potential minimum.

From: David Marsch, arXiv1510.07633



# The field is now underdamped and oscillations begin!

Locally,  $a(t) \approx a_0 \sin(m_a t)$   $\frac{1}{2}m_a^2 a_0^2 = \rho_{\text{DM}}$ 

#### And the key equation for axions as dark matter:

$$\begin{split} \Omega_A^{\rm vr} h^2 &\approx 0.12 \, \left( \frac{f_A}{9 \times 10^{11} \ {\rm GeV}} \right)^{1.165} \, F \, \bar{\Theta}_{\rm i}^2 \\ &\approx 0.12 \, \left( \frac{6 \ \mu {\rm eV}}{m_A} \right)^{1.165} \, F \, \Theta_{\rm i}^2 \,, \end{split}$$

axion dark matter mass density

#### Why are the experimental limits focused at micro-eV?



#### And the key equation for axions as dark matter:

$$\Omega_A^{\rm vr} h^2 \approx 0.12 \left( \frac{f_A}{9 \times 10^{11} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1.165} F \bar{\Theta}_i^2$$
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$$\mathbf{Because that is natural.}$$

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#### **Theoretical Preferences in Pink**



There are some preferences but a lot of wiggle room!

#### **Some Details:**

- The Strong CP Problem
- Axion Cosmology
- How do we detect them?



• ABRACADABRA

From: Yoni Kahn

# Axion-SM interactions

[Graham and Rajendran, Phys. Rev. D88 (2013)]



For "axion-like particles" (ALPs), couplings independent of  $m_a$ 

#### The Summary of the Axion Parameter Space



#### **Axions modify Maxwell's Equations!**

$$\nabla \cdot E = -g_{a\gamma\gamma}B \cdot \nabla a$$

$$\nabla \cdot B = 0$$

$$\nabla \times E = -\frac{\partial B}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times B = \frac{\partial E}{\partial t} - g_{a\gamma\gamma} (E \times \nabla a - \frac{\partial a}{\partial t} B)$$

#### Modified Source-free Maxwell's Equations
#### **Axions modify Maxwell's Equations!**

$$\nabla \cdot E = -g_{a\gamma\gamma}B \cdot \nabla a$$

$$\nabla \cdot B = 0$$

$$\nabla \times E = -\frac{\partial B}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times B = \frac{\partial E}{\partial t} - g_{a\gamma\gamma} (E \times \nabla a - \frac{\partial a}{\partial t} B)$$

These terms are assumed to be small.

From: Yoni Kahn

# Axion-photon searches

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B}_r = \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}_r}{\partial t} + g_{a\gamma\gamma} \mathbf{B}_0 \frac{\partial a}{\partial t}$$

Cavity regime:  $\lambda_{\mathrm{Comp}} \sim R_{\mathrm{exp}}$ ADMX

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B}_{r} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}_{r}}{\partial t} + g_{a\gamma\gamma} \mathbf{B}_{0} \frac{\partial a}{\partial t}$$
$$\mathbf{J}_{eff}$$

Quasistatic regime:  $\lambda_{\rm Comp} \gg R_{\rm exp}$ ABRACADBRA

 $\nabla \times \mathbf{B}_r = \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}_r}{\partial t} + g_{a\gamma\gamma} \mathbf{B}_0 \frac{\partial a}{\partial t}$ 

Radiation regime:  $\lambda_{
m Comp} \ll R_{
m exp}$ MADMAX

# A Calculation of the Axion Induced Fields



Ouellet and Bogorad, arXiv:1809.10709v1

## The Lumped Element Parameter Space





Sensitive to  $m_A$  between 10<sup>-14</sup> to 10<sup>-6</sup> eV, ~Hz to~GHz

#### **The ABRA Parameter Space**



Sensitive to  $m_A$  between 10<sup>-14</sup> to 10<sup>-6</sup> eV, ~Hz to~GHz

#### **Some Details:**

- The Strong CP Problem
- Axion Cosmology
- How do we detect them?
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A Broadband / Resonant Approach to
 Cosmic Axion Detection with an
 Amplifying B-field Ring Apparatus

#### What is a B-field Ring Apparatus?



#### Based on Kahn, Safdi and Thaler, Phys.Rev.Lett. 117 (2016) no.14, 141801





Real Magnetic Field!



A real magnetic field induced in a zero field region.

## **An Example Signal**





#### **ABRACADABRA-10cm** Conceptual Design

MITLNS	ARACADARA The Collaboration Zachary Bogorad, Janet Conrad, Joe Fo Jonathan Ouellet, Chiara Salemi, Jesse Th Winklehner, Lindley Winslow (NSF PI)	ormaggio, aler, Daniel
MIT PSFC	Joe Minervini, Alexey Radovinsky	
Chicago/ UIUC	Yonatan Kahn	
U of Michigan	Joshua Foster, Ben Safdi	
UNC	Reyco Henning	
LBNL	Nick Rodd	
THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLIN at CHAPEL HILL		MICHIGAN



Magnet construction at Superconducting Systems Inc. It was wrapped in 3 sections and then installed in a superconducting shield.





#### ABRACADABRA-10cm installed Fall 2017.



Some improvements to the geometry were completed in January 2018.

## **Suspension System**

- Vibration isolation suspension system
  - 150 cm pendulum, with a resonance frequency of ~2 Hz
  - In the Z direction, a spring with a resonance frequency of ~8 Hz
- Supported by a thin Kevlar thread with very poor thermal conductivity
- Can be upgraded with minus-K isolation







#### **SQUID Current Sensors**

- Off the shelf SQUIDs from Magnicon
  - Two stage current sensor + series array amplifier
  - Optimal temperature: ~700 mK
  - Input inductance: 150 nH
  - Noise floor: ~1.2  $\mu \Phi_0/Hz^{1/2}$
  - 1/f corner: ~50 Hz
  - Bandwidth Limit: ~6MHz
- Additional filters limit bandwidth to 2kHz-2MHz





**Broadband Configuration** 

# **Magnetic Shielding**

- Two layers of mu-metal shielding
- Possibility of third layer later
- (Still need to measure the attenuation)







## Wiring and Shielding





# First Results October 2018! arXiv:1810.12257 Long Technical Paper arXiv:1901.10652



SQUID Noise Floor!

Data taken from July 16, 2018 to August 14, 2018, continuous digitization and data transfer was a major accomplishment in itself!

One of the key experimental details is how you calibrate the system?

ABRACADABRA-10 cm Preliminary 10 FLL Output Power [mV<sup>2</sup>/Hz]  $10^{-2}$ 10  $10^{-4}$  $10^{-1}$  $10^{-}$ 849400 849600 849800 850000 850200 850400 850600 Frequency (Hz) 10 10  $10^{-}$  $mV^{2/Hz}$  $10^{-}$  $10^{-}$  $10^{-}$  $10^{-}$  $10^{4}$  $10^{6}$ 10

Frequency (Hz)

We performed detailed scans to determine that our efficiency was flat over a broadband of frequencies. Unfortunately, the gain was low by a factor of 6.5 low, most likely due to neglecting parasitic inductances. Work is underway now to regain this factor. **Calibration Loop** 



#### What next?

# **ABRA Readout**

#### **Option #1 - Broadband Readout**

- pickup loop directly coupled to the SQUID
- simultaneous scan of all frequencies
- simple and fast



#### **Option #2 - Resonant Readout**

- pickup loop coupled to the SQUID through a resonant circuit
- scan across all frequencies
- signal enhancement by Q<sub>value</sub> 10<sup>6</sup> cm resonance but signifier resonance but significant enhancement of sidebands as well
- better ultimate sensitivity



For a review of this issue see Chaudhuri, Irwin et al. arXiv:1803.01627

## **A Bigger Magnet with Higher Field**



## **A Bigger Magnet with Higher Field**



# °₹₽₽₽₽₽₽₽₽₽₽₽₽



Note: ABRA-40cm is two magnets, 1 year integration assumed for all except ABRA-10cm which is 1 month.

#### And now for neutrinoless double-beta decay!



# Things my group searches for:

## Axions

# Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay



## **Big Questions:**

## What is Dark Matter?

Why is there only matter in the universe?

Why are the neutrinos so light?



# What unites these two topics?

# Peccei-Quinn Mechanism

# $\overline{\Theta}$

# See-Saw Mechanism


#### This is the Standard Model



#### The Neutrino:

- Fermions (spin 1/2)
- Three Flavors
- No Electric Charge
- No Strong Charge
- Weakly Interacting
- Left-Handed
- Small masses

### **Dirac Neutrinos**

neutrino and antineutrino different particles

## Majorana Neutrinos

neutrino and antineutrino different helicity state of the same particle

## This is the last missing piece of the Standard Model.

#### Majorana neutrinos are really nice.

#### Masses of the Standard Model Particles



#### **See-Saw Mechanism**



A **big** Majorana mass splits the Dirac neutrino into two neutrinos: the light neutrino v and a heavy neutrino N.

#### **See-Saw Mechanism**



Standard

Light **v** 

The  $m_R$  is the Majorana mass and can be much heavier.

The m<sub>D</sub> is normal Dirac mass and should be about the same order as the quarks or charged leptons.



#### And now for some hand waving.....



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Its these guys that will be made in the Big Bang and it's CP Violation and Lepton number violation in their decays that can be turned into the matter antimatter asymmetry. **vaving....** Its these that we can make and detect. N

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Its these guys that will be made in the Big Bang and it's CP Violation and Lepton number violation in their decays that can be turned into the matter antimatter asymmetry. hd waving..... Its these that we can make and detect. ✓ N

> So if we detect CP violation and Lepton number violation in the  $\mathbf{v}$  then it would be difficult to construct a theory of the N that do not have the same properties.

## How do we find out if neutrinos are Majorana?





#### Light Majorana Neutrino Exchange

#### The Process of Double Beta Decay

Due to energy conservation some nuclei can't decay to their daughter nucleus, but can skip to their granddaughter nucleus.



Just a few isotopes!

#### **The Standard Model Process**

This 2**v** process is completely allowed and the rate was first calculated by Maria Goeppert-Mayer in 1935.





#### Double Beta Decay (2v)

The sum of the electron energies gives a spectrum similar to the standard beta decay spectrum.



This has been observed in isotopes such as <sup>130</sup>Te and <sup>116</sup>Cd.



Nuclear Process

#### Light Majorana Neutrino Exchange

The sum of the electron energies gives a spike at the endpoint of the "neutrino-full" double beta decay.



The sum of the electron energies gives a spike at the endpoint of the "neutrino-full" double beta decay.



#### How do we measure this?

#### What is measured is a half-life...

The half-life of the neutrinoless decay:

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta},Z)|M_{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2$$
Phase space factor

Phase space factor Notice higher endpoint means faster rate.

#### What is measured is a half-life:

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2$$

Nuclear Matrix Element

This is a difficult calculation with large errors and substantial variation between isotopes...motivates searches with multiple isotopes.

#### What is measured is a half-life:

# $(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2$

Effective Majorana Mass of the neutrino

#### **Effective Majorana Mass:**

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \sum_{i} V_{ei}^2 m_i = \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1 e^{2i\beta} \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2 e^{2i\alpha} \sin^2 \theta_{12}) + m_3 \sin^2 \theta_{13}$$

Two more phases!

#### **Electron Neutrino Mass:**

$$m_{\nu_e}^2 = \sum_i |V_{ei}^2| m_i^2 = \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1^2 \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2^2 \sin^2 \theta_{12}) + m_3^2 \sin^2 \theta_{13}$$

#### **Double Beta Decay Visualizing the Equations:**

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \sum_{i} V_{ei}^2 m_i = \cos^2 \theta_{13} (m_1 e^{2i\beta} \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_2 e^{2i\alpha} \sin^2 \theta_{12}) + m_3 \sin^2 \theta_{13}$$



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#### **Double Beta Decay Visualizing the Equations:**



#### **Comparing Experiments' Sensitivity:**

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu}(n_{\sigma}) = \frac{4.16 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr}}{n_{\sigma}} \left(\frac{\varepsilon a}{W}\right) \sqrt{\frac{Mt}{b\Delta(E)}}$$



lsotope	Endpoint	Abundance
<sup>48</sup> Ca	4.271 MeV	0.187%
<sup>150</sup> Nd	3.367 MeV	5.6%
<sup>96</sup> Zr	3.350 MeV	2.8%
<sup>100</sup> Mo	3.034 MeV	9.6%
<sup>82</sup> Se	2.995 MeV	9.2%
116Cd	2.802 MeV	7.5%
<sup>130</sup> Te	2.527 MeV	34.5%
<sup>136</sup> Xe	2.457 MeV	8.9%
<sup>76</sup> Ge	2.039 MeV	7.8%





$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu}(n_{\sigma}) = \frac{4.16 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr}}{n_{\sigma}} \left(\frac{\varepsilon a}{W}\right) \sqrt{\frac{Mt}{b\Delta(E)}}$$
  
Energy resolution  
(Most important for separating neutrinoless from two neutrino double beta decay).

## Big

## Good Energy Resolution

# What has been happening lately...



The last few years have focused on experiments sensitive to addressing this claim.


Actually, we are about here now, ~10<sup>26</sup> years.

#### **Rough Time Scales**

- 14C 104 years
- <sup>40</sup>K 10<sup>9</sup> years
- <sup>232</sup>Th 10<sup>10</sup> years
- The Universe 10<sup>10</sup> years
- **Two Neutrino Double Beta ~ 10<sup>20</sup> years**
- **Neutrinoless Double Beta > 10<sup>26</sup> years**
- **Proton Decay > 10<sup>30</sup> years**



We have been trying to figure out what is needed for a definitive search over the parameter space corresponding to the inverted hierarchy.

# A lot of detector ideas:















# A lot of detector ideas:



#### A lot of detector ideas: SN0+ Commissioning EXO-200 Data Taking Majorana Data Taking Avalanche around -75kV Photodiodes SuperNEMO Under construction GERDA CANDLES Data Taking KamLAND-Zen Complete Data Taking Under construction : ENERGY PLANE CUORE Data Taking CATHODE ANODE

## What did I choose?

# Good Energy Resolution



**Bolometers** 

More Difficult to make big.

# Good at Size



Scintillator

# Bad Energy Resolution





Super Cool

### How Bolometers work:





#### CUORE: Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events



- 19 Towers, 988 TeO<sub>2</sub> crystals operated as bolometers.
- We are the "Coldest cubic meter in the known universe", arXiv:1410.1560









### CUORE: Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events









# Physics Data Taking 2017



Dataset 1: May - June Detector Optimization Campaign Dataset 2: August - September

- Blue = Physics
- Red = Calibration
- Pink = Setup/Configuration

Green = Test

All physics runs bracketed by a calibration run.



# Physics Data Taking 2017



Dataset 1: May - June Detector Optimization Campaign Dataset 2: August - September

Acquired statistics used for this 0vDBD decay search: (Dataset 1 + Dataset 2):

- $^{nat}$ TeO<sub>2</sub> exposure: 86.3 kg yr (37.6 kg yr + 48.7 kg yr)
- <sup>130</sup>Te exposure: 24.0 kg yr



#### CUORE: Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events

#### First Results from CUORE: A Search for Lepton Number Violation via $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay of <sup>130</sup>Te

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#### The Result



Best fit for <sup>60</sup>Co mean:  $(2506.4 \pm 1.2)$  keV



#### The Result



Best fit decay rate:  $(-1.0_{-0.3}^{+0.4} \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.1 \text{ (syst.)}) \times 10^{-25} \text{ / yr}$ 



No evidence of signal Limit calculation Profile likelihood integrated on the physical region ( $\Gamma^{0v} > 0$ )



Decay rate limit (90% CL, including systematics):  $0.51 \times 10^{-25}$  / yr Half-life limit (90% CL, including systematics):  $1.3 \times 10^{25}$  yr Median expected sensitivity:  $7.0 \times 10^{24}$  yr



### Combination with Previous Results

We combined the CUORE result with the existing <sup>130</sup>Te 19.75 kg yr of Cuoricino 9.8 kg yr of CUORE-0

The combined 90% C.L. limit is  $T_{0v} > 1.5 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr}$ 





CUORE: Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events

#### CUORE Goal: 1x10<sup>-2</sup> counts/keV/kg/year





CUORE: Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events

#### CUPID Goal: 1x10<sup>-4</sup> counts/keV/kg/year





- Scintillating bolometers provide active alpha rejection by comparing heat and light signals.
- Moving to Li<sub>2</sub>MoO<sub>4</sub> (LMO) enriched in <sup>100</sup>Mo moves above all gamma backgrounds.
- Re-uses CUORE infrastructure so is an easily staged upgrade.
- Active crystal R&D effort at MIT with RMD Inc.

#### RMD Inc. Na2Mo2O7 Crystal









### CUPID-Mo Demonstrator



MIT Graduate Student Joe Johnston assembling the CUPID-Mo bolometric test tower, funding through MISTI-France.



#### EDELWEISS

- We are working closely with the Orsay group both on crystal testing and the realization of a demonstrator experiment.
- The 20  $Li_2MoO_4$  crystal phase-I demonstrator is now taking data.

### KamLAND-Zen



~320kg 90% enriched <sup>136</sup>Xe installed so far

# Basic Principle of Liquid Scintillator Detector

# $\mathbf{Physics} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Light} \longrightarrow \mathbf{PMTs}$



A charged particle vibrates molecules making light that is detected by photomultiplier detectors (PMT).

#### KamLAND-Zen started in 2011:



Currently the slowest process directly measured.

#### KamLAND-Zen started in 2011:



An Unexpected BG was found!



### Full phase-2 data-set

- After Purification
- December 2013 October 2015
- Livetime 534.5 days, exposure 504 kg-yr
- For Reference:  $T_{1/2}(^{110m}Ag) = 250$  days.



# Analysis: 40 equal-volume bins



Energy and radial distributions are well-reproduced by known BGs. 141

#### Phase 2 - Results on $0\nu 2\beta$ period-1 period-2 270.7 days 263.8 days livetime <sup>136</sup>Xe $0\nu 2\beta$ < 5.5 /kton/day < 3.5 /kton/day decay rate combined < 2.4 /kton/day (90%C.L.) <sup>136</sup>Xe $0\nu 2\beta$ > 9.2×10<sup>25</sup> yr (90%C.L.) half-life

sensitivity

 $> 4.9 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr}$  (11% probability)

## Combined datasets gives T<sub>1/2</sub>>1.07×10<sup>26</sup> yr

## **Mini-Balloon Construction:**



## Summer 2015: MIT IROP Students Emmett Krupczak and Gailin Pease
### Outer Detector Refurbishment:



## January 2016



New Mini-Balloon Leak Checking and Installation

MIT Undergraduates Hannah Taylor and Andrea Herman

## **Summer 2016**



A New New Mini-Balloon Construction for Summer 2017

MIT graduate student Suzannah Fraker

## KamLAND-Zen 800 is now running!!!

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### **Deep Learning to Reduce Backgrounds!**

The topology and time structure of events can be used to separate backgrounds from NDBD. A generic CNN-based algorithm can already reduce the background by more than half!



See arXiv:1812.02906v1, submitted to NIMA

Matteo Agostini<sup>\*</sup> Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy

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National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

# NuDot: A Prototype Directional Liquid Scintillator







## Basic Principle of Liquid Scintillator Detector

## $\mathbf{Physics} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Light} \longrightarrow \mathbf{PMTs}$



A charged particle vibrates molecules making light that is detected by photomultiplier detectors (PMT).

# Problem: Scintillation light is isotropic.

# Cherenkov light retains directional information!

An 8 MeV Solar Neutrino event in Super-K.

#### Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay



#### (Cherenkov Only)

#### How does it work?





Retains directional information!

Important in Big Detector.

# Longer wavelengths travel faster in scintillator

#### and

Scintillation processes have inherent time constants.

Always Important

#### JINST 9 (2014) P06012

#### So if you have good enough timing....



.... you should be able to separate the scarce Cherenkov from the abundant scintillation light.

#### JINST 9 (2014) P06012

#### This corresponds to 0.1 ns.



This sort of timing is available in very tiny MCP-based PMT's/SiPMs...for now.

#### The LAPPD:







#### JINST 9 (2014) P06012



### With a basic algorithm, we can reconstruct the direction of single electrons!

### NuDot: A Prototype Directional Liquid Scintillator Detector



- NuDot mechanical design completed by MIT-Bates Engineering Center.
- All components are ordered and many have arrived.
- Construction beginning imminently and first results expected by the summer!







More Scintillation

See arXiv:1811.11144, accepted by JINST.

### NuDot: A Prototype Directional Liquid Scintillator Detector



Pappalardo Fellow Julieta Gruszko finalist for Neutrino2018 poster session with this result (more than 500 posters).

## **V** The Directional Calibration Source





#### **Source Geometry**

**MC Simulation** 

Two realizations came together: 3D printing of nylon to interface with the quartz cuvette and that a collimated <sup>90</sup>Sr beta-source had sufficient rate for calibration. Stay tuned for more results! ABRACADABRA KamLAND-Zen 800 CUPID-Mo and CUORE NuDot

#### **Did you say something about quantum dots?**

#### What if I could narrow the emission spectrum?



# Narrowed emission spectrum with traditional PMTs and 0.1ns timing.



#### What are Quantum Dots?



#### Quantum Dots are semiconducting nanocrystals.

### Candidate Isotopes Are Quantum Dot Materials!

lsotope	Endpoint	Abundance
<sup>48</sup> Ca	4.271 MeV	0.187%
<sup>150</sup> Nd	3.367 MeV	5.6%
<sup>96</sup> Zr	3.350 MeV	2.8%
<sup>100</sup> Mo	3.034 MeV	9.6%
<sup>82</sup> Se	2.995 MeV	9.2%
<sup>116</sup> Cd	2.802 MeV	7.5%
<sup>130</sup> Te	2.533 MeV	34.5%
<sup>136</sup> Xe	2.479 MeV	8.9%
<sup>76</sup> Ge	2.039 MeV	7.8%
<sup>128</sup> Te	0.868 MeV	31.7%

### Optical properties of quantum dots are



# Optical properties of quantum dots are size-dependent



# Optical properties of quantum dots are size-dependent



# We can tune fluorescence by tuning the reaction!



# Can we make UV-emitting quantum dots?




## Perovskite crystal structure



## Perovskite crystal structure







## We can make quantum dots out of these!



Recall: we can tune the size and fluorescence



Recall: we can tune the size and fluorescence



Recall: we can tune the size and fluorescence





Synthesis is as easy as mixing solvent!



## Perovskite quantum dots



## Perovskite quantum dots



#### Fluorescence red shifts with growing halide

# More results coming soon!



## First Crystals: LilnSe<sub>2</sub>

#### Forbidden nonunique $\beta$ decays and effective values of weak coupling constants

M. Haaranen,<sup>1</sup> P. C. Srivastava,<sup>2</sup> and J. Suhonen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Jyväskylä, Department of Physics, P.O. Box 35 (YFL), FI-40014, University of Jyväskylä, Finland <sup>2</sup>Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee 247667, India (Received 28 October 2015; revised manuscript received 22 January 2016; published 8 March 2016)





The crystal doesn't work for double-beta experiments because of the In, but can help with theoretical uncertainties in the nuclear physics (quenching of  $g_A$ ) that could severely impact the sensitivity of experiments.



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The field is ready to build experiments capable of reaching ~10<sup>27</sup> years.



How do we build an experiment for the normal hierarchy, ~10<sup>28</sup> years?

## **Thinking Big....**

see Brunner and Winslow, Nucl. Phys. News 27 (2017) no.3, 14-19

# The next-next generation?





## Axions

## Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay



## What is Dark Matter?

Why is there only matter in the universe?

Why are the neutrinos so light?



## **Strong CP Problem**

## Majorana vs. Dirac Neutrinos



## What unites these two topics?

## Peccei-Quinn Mechanism

# $\overline{\Theta}$

## See-Saw Mechanism



## Thank you to my wonderful group!

#### **The Winslow Group**

N

**Lindley Winslow** Jon Ouellet (Postdoc) Lucia Canonica (Postdoc - Italy) Julieta Gruszko(Pappalardo Fellow) Alex Leder (Grad Student) Joe Johnston (Grad Student) Suzannah Fraker (Grad Student) Chiara Salemi (Grad Student) Zhenghao Fu (Grad Student) Brian Naranjo (UCLA Staff Researcher) Diana Gooding (BU Grad Student) Many Wonderful UROPs



Can we do something better with Liquid Scintillator detectors?

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### NuDot: A Prototype Directional Liquid Scintillator Detector



2.17 m

- NuDot has 140 2" PMTs (300 ps timing, shown in orange).
- Construction delayed last summer by Hamamatsu, so...
- Working on smaller 25 PMT setup.







Excellent system for testing new data acquisition system and testing different scintillator cocktails (including quantum dots)!









#### **MC Simulation**

#### **FlatDot Mineral Oil Data**



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### Perovskite quantum dots



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# More results coming soon!

# The End