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Pioneering experiments in dark matter and neutrinos

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We start with the early applications of Ge detectors for fundamental physics by the group of Ettore Fiorini's search for double-beta decay of Ge-76. This was followed by the early work of the Battelle-Carolina Collaboration, IGEX, then MAJORANA. We recognize parallel efforts by the Heidelberg group, and special background reduction by GERDA and LEGEND using their liquid Ar emersion technique. The main discussion will be of recently developed alternative methods of reprocessing the scrap Ge from detector fabrication.

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