



Latest results from CUORE

Searching for $ov\beta\beta$ with a tonne-scale bolometric array

Stefano Dell'Oro, on behalf of the CUORE Collaboration

Dipartimento di Fisica G. Occhialini, Università di Milano-Bicocca

INFN, Sezione di Milano-Bicocca





IX Workshop on Low Radioactivity Techniques

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Double Beta Decay: real and virtual neutrinos



$$(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$$
 (2v $\beta\beta$)

 $(A,Z) \to (A,Z+2) + 2e^-$ (ov $\beta\beta$)



- L-violation: creation of a pair of electrons
 - discovery of ovββ
 - \Rightarrow L is not a symmetry of the universe
 - \Rightarrow link to baryon asymmetry in Universe (?)
- assuming the ν mass mechanism
 - $\rightarrow \ ovetaeta$ key tool for studying neutrinos
 - Majorana or Dirac nature
 - mass scale and ordering

A possible diagram



A powerful search aims to optimize **isotope + detector technique** combination



Thermal detectors

- bolometers detect the phonon contribution of the energy release
 - large fraction of the total energy
 - ionization/excitation $\rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow$ phonons
 - measured via temperature variation



- $\Delta T = \Delta E/C$
 - low C: C $\downarrow \Rightarrow \Delta T \uparrow$
 - very low T
 - + Debye law: C $\propto (T/\Theta_D)^3$
 - + thermal fluctuations $\propto \sqrt{T^2\,C}$
- temporal evolution: $\tau = C/G$
- Neutron Transmutation Doped
 Ge thermistor
 - $R = R_* \exp{(T_*/T)^{1/2}}$





- an absorber with heat capacity C
- (connected to) a heat bath @ constant ${\cal T}_{\rm O}$
- (through) a thermal conductance G





- search for $ov\beta\beta$ of ^{130}Te
- · largest bolometric detector ever built
 - + 19 towers imes 13 floors imes 4 crystals = 988 bolometers
 - 1 tonne detector mass: 327 kg Cu + 742 kg TeO₂

 \rightarrow 206 kg of $^{\rm 130}{\rm Te}$

- at the Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso
 - + ~ 3600 m w. e. (µ: $3\cdot 10^{-8}$ cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1})$
 - 30-year-long history of measurements





CUORE required a **dedicated protocol** for the detector construction + design of custom **cryogenic system** for its operation

Industrial-scale assembly of a rare-event detector











J. Instrum. 11, P07009 (2016)

- strict material selection
- · high-standard surface cleaning protocols for detector components
 - crystal etching + lapping @ SICCAS (China)
 - magnetron plasma cleaning for Cu frames @ LNL of INFN
- semi-automatic system for sensor gluing
 - highly-reproducible
- contact-less approach in tower assembly & bonding
- Rn exposure minimized \rightarrow avoid surface re-contamination
 - all operations performed in N₂ sealed glove boxes



 ${\rm TeO}_2$ crystal





- the design of the CUORE cryostat had to satisfy very tight requirements
 - + large $\mbox{experimental volume}$ for detector + shielding of $\sim 1\mbox{ m}^3$
 - base temperature for optimal operation of NTDs, i. e. down to about 10 mK
 - · low radioactive background from the cryogenic apparatus,

compatible with goal of 0.01 c keV $^{-1}$ kg $^{-1}$ yr $^{-1}$ at $Q_{\beta\beta}$

- high system reliability to guarantee long-term operation
- response to seismic events

(LNGS are located in a seismic sensitive area)

- custom cryogen-free cryostat
- only a few construction materials acceptable
 - use of Cu OFE/Cu NOSV for plates and vessels
 - more than 6.5t of lead shielding integrated in the structure



CUORE cryostat

- 6+1 thermal stages
 - 300 K @ ambient temperature
 - 40 K @ PT first stage temperature
 - 4 K @ PT second stage temperature
 - Still @ 800 mK
 - HEX @ 50 mK
 - MC @ base T < 10 mK
 - TSP @ stabilized working T
- 2 vacuum chambers
- Fast Cooling System +
 - 5 Pulse Tubes + custom Dilution Unit
- 2 internal lead shields
 - use of ancient Roman lead
 - Spanish ingots from I century BCE
 - * 210 Pb activity < **715 uBq kg^{-1}**







- start of data-taking in April 2017
 - initial detector optimization
- full-speed data collection since 2019
 - + exposure rate \sim 50 kg yr per month
- accumulated 2.74 t yr of TeO₂ to date
- goal is to reach 1 t yr of ¹³⁰Te
- beyond: upgrade cryogenic system





Operational performance

- operating $T = 11 15 \,\mathrm{mK}$
 - year-long cryogenic stability
- uptime >90%
- 99.5% of channels active (984/988)
- resolution at $Q_{\beta\beta}$ of **7.3 keV** FWHM

Results on the search for $ov\beta\beta$

- no peak found at $Q_{\beta\beta}$ of ¹³⁰Te
 - + 2039.0 kg yr of TeO $_2$ / 567.0 kg yr of 130 Te
- + bkg index (BI) in line with expectations: $(1.42\pm0.02)\times10^{-2}~c~keV^{-1}~kg^{-1}~yr^{-1}$
- limit on decay half-life:

$$\begin{split} \Gamma^{\text{best}}_{0\nu} &= 4.5^{+6.9}_{-4.5} \times 10^{-27} \, \text{yr}^{-1} \\ t^{o\nu}_{1/2} &> 3.8 \times 10^{25} \, \text{yr} \ \textcircled{0} \ 90\% \, \text{C.I.} \end{split}$$



• bound on effective Majorana mass:

 $m_{etaeta} < (70 - 240) \, {
m meV}$



 m_{lightest} [eV]

arXiv:2404.04453 [nucl-exp]



Investigations of Te isotopes





•
$$OV\beta^+EC \text{ of } ^{120}Te \quad (Q_{\beta\beta} = 1714.8 \text{ keV})$$

• $^{120}Te + e_b^- \rightarrow ^{120}Sn^* + \beta^*$
 $\rightarrow ^{120}Sn + X + \beta^*$
 $\rightarrow ^{120}Sn + X + 2\gamma_{511}$

- multiple signatures in M1, M2 and M3
- limit: $t_{1/2}^{0
 u}$ > 2.9 × 10²² yr @ 90% C. I.
 - 0.2405 kg yr of 120 Te (120 Te/ nat Te = 0.09%)
- 0^{128} Te ($Q_{\beta\beta} = 866.7$ keV)
 - + limit: $t_{_{1/2}}^{_{0}
 u}$ > 3.6 imes 10 $^{_{24}}$ yr @ 90% C. I.
- $\beta\beta$ excited states of ¹³⁰Te to excited states of ¹³⁰Xe
 - + search for de-excitation $\gamma {\rm 's}$
 - limits: $(t_{1/2})^{0
 u}_{0+}$ > 5.9 imes 10²⁴ yr @ 90% C. I.

•
$$(t_{1/2})^{2
u}_{o^+_2} >$$
 1.3 $imes$ 10²⁴ yr @ 90% C. I.



arXiv:2404.04453 [nucl-exp]



- · different contributions in different regions of the energy spectrum
 - + γ continuum + peaks up to 2.7 MeV
 - + degraded lpha's in (2.7 3.9) MeV
 - + α region from 4 MeV
- construction of an extensive background model
 - large effort ongoing since predecessors of CUORE
 - ultimate validation by CUORE data



Modeling the background

- · Geant4 simulation of contamination from different cryostat components
- · background sources identified/ascribed to different locations in experimental setup
- data-driven Monte Carlo \rightarrow inputs from
 - + radio-assay measurements (HPGe, NAA, α spectroscopy)
 - modeling of CUORE-0 detector (single tower) 📓 Eur. Phys. J. C 77, 13 (2017)
 - + CUORE data: α & γ peaks, time coincidences, event topologies
 - + multiplicities (\mathcal{M}): exploit detector granularity



- raw Monte Carlo converted into CUORE-like data
 - include resolution, efficiencies, ...



- validation dataset: 1038.4 kg yr of TeO₂
- + simultaneous Bayesian fit to \mathcal{M}_1 , \mathcal{M}_2 energy spectra
 - + $\,\sim$ 80 parameters to describe contamination sources
 - bulk and surface (different depths)
 - · Gaussian / expontial prior distributions from input values / limits
 - energy range from 200 keV to 6.8 MeV







Phys. Rev. D 110, 052003 (2024)







- + $2\nu\beta\beta$ component isolated from total spectrum
- most precise measurement to date
 - $t_{1/2}^{2
 u} = 9.323 \, {}^{+0.052}_{-0.037}$ (stat.) imes 10 20 yr

(systematics \sim 1% under finalization)

• test of different nuclear models



- reconstruction of BI
- benchmark for CUORE
- projections for CUPID
 - CUORE Upgrade with Particle IDentification
 - next-gen. οvββ experiment

See talk by P. Loaiza

Next challenges

- continue data collection for $ov\beta\beta$ search
- extend field of investigations
 - DM, axions, other rare decays
- lower the E threshold
 - noise investigation & mitigation 📓 Eur. Phys. J. C 84, 243 (2024)
 - spcific channel+run selection
 - dedicated analysis



CUORE run-II

- new pulse tubes & thermalizations
 - lower vibrational noise
- benchmark improvements + extend sensitivity to low-E studies
- ... preparation in view of CUPID







- · CUORE represents a milestone for bolometric experiments searching for rare events
- CUORE has been collecting data since 2017
 - + the current limit on the ovetaeta of 130 Te is: $t_{1/2}^{0
 u}>$ 3.8 imes 10 25 yr @ 90% C. I.
 - the goal is to collect 1 t yr of $^{\rm 130}{\rm Te}$
- a complete description of the CUORE background has been constructed and validated
- multiple analyses are ongoing \rightarrow a large effort is devoted to lowering the E threshold

Looking ahead...

- CUORE run-II will extend the sensitivity thanks to an improved cryogenic system
- + CUORE is paving the way to the next-generation $ov\beta\beta$ bolometric experiment
 - CUPID = CUORE Upgrade with Particle IDentification



Thank you!







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CUORE bulk contamination (I) [Phys. Rev. D 110, 052003 (2024)]

Volume	Contaminant	Pri	or [Bq kg ⁻¹]	Mode/Limit [Bq kg ⁻¹]	Systematic
Crystals					
	 ¹³⁰Te 2νββ 			$(3.03 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-5}$	+0.11
	²³² Th	$< 1.2 \times 10^{-7}$	CUORE-0	$(2.75 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-7}$	+0.85
	228 Ra \rightarrow 208 Pb	$< 7.5 \times 10^{-8}$	CUORE-0	$(1.19 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-7}$	+0.2
	$^{238}U \rightarrow ^{230}Th$	$< 3.6 \times 10^{-8}$	CUORF-0	$< 6.36 \times 10^{-10}$	-1.16
	²³⁰ Th	$(2.8 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-7}$	CUORE-0	$(3.85 \pm 0.06) \times 10^{-7}$	+0.26
	226 Ra \rightarrow 210 Pb	$< 2.2 \times 10^{-8}$	CUORE-0	$< 4.63 \times 10^{-10}$	-1.3
	²¹⁰ Pb	$(1.37 \pm 0.83) \times 10^{-6}$	CUORE-0	$(1.55 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-6}$	+0.44
	^{235}U \rightarrow ^{231}Pa			$< 2.92 \times 10^{-11}$	- 1.48
	$^{231}\text{Pa} \rightarrow ~^{207}\text{Pb}$			$< 9.06 \times 10^{-10}$	
	190 _{Pt}	$(1.95 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-6}$	CUORE-0	$(1.93 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-6}$	+0.29
	¹⁴⁷ Sm			$(1.09 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-8}$	+0.67
	¹²⁵ Sb			$(2.93 \pm 0.11) \times 10^{-6}$	+2.42
	110m _{Ag}			$(9.06 \pm 2.44) \times 10^{-8}$	+62.58
	108m _{Ag}			$(6.02 \pm 1.08) \times 10^{-8}$	+2.61
	60 _{C0}	$(3.0 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-7}$	CUORF-0	$(1.86 \pm 1.22) \times 10^{-8}$	-2.00 +4.21
	⁴⁰ K (no Tower 12)	$< 8.2 \times 10^{-6}$	CUORE-0	$(4.30 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-6}$	+2.62
	⁴⁰ K (Tower 12)			$(2.45 \pm 0.68) \times 10^{-5}$	+1.49
Close parts	_				-0.63
	²³² Th	$< 2.1 \times 10^{-6}$	CUORE-0	$< 3.88 \times 10^{-7}$	
	238 _U	$< 2.2 \times 10^{-5}$	CUORE-0	$< 4.73 \times 10^{-7}$	
	235U	_		$< 2.17 \times 10^{-8}$	
	¹³⁷ Cs	$< 2.2 \times 10^{-5}$	HPGe	$(1.25 \pm 0.24) \times 10^{-6}$	-0.71
	⁶⁰ Co	$< 2.5 \times 10^{-5}$	HPGe	$(2.04 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-5}$	+0.32 -0.39
	54 _{Mn}	$< 3.1 \times 10^{-5}$	HPGe	$(2.29 \pm 0.33) \times 10^{-6}$	+2.63 -1.93
	⁴⁰ K			$(4.42 \pm 0.06) \times 10^{-4}$	-1.06

CUORE bulk contamination (II) [Phys. Rev. D 110, 052003 (2024)]



Volume	Contaminant		Prior [Bq kg ⁻¹]	Mode/Limit [Bq kg ⁻¹]	Systematic
Inner shields					
	- ²³² Th	$< 6.4 \times 10^{-5}$	HPGe	$(4.10 \pm 0.39) \times 10^{-5}$	+1.92
	238 _U	$< 5.4 \times 10^{-5}$	HPGe	$(7.71 \pm 5.03) \times 10^{-6}$	+16.51
	137 _{Cs}			$< 1.92 \times 10^{-6}$	
	60 _{Co}	$< 2.4 \times 10^{-5}$	HPGe	$(1.46 \pm 0.19) \times 10^{-5}$	+4.89
	⁵⁴ Mn			$< 3.71 \times 10^{-6}$	- 1.44
	⁴⁰ K	$< 6.7 \times 10^{-4}$	HPGe	$< 3.48 \times 10^{-5}$	
Outer shields				-	
	²³² Th			$< 2.45 \times 10^{-5}$	
	²³⁸ U			$< 4.02 \times 10^{-5}$	
	¹³⁷ Cs			$< 7.33 \times 10^{-4}$	
	60Co			$(1.45 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-3}$	+0.29
	⁵⁴ Mn			$< 2.14 \times 10^{-4}$	
	40K			$< 8.61 \times 10^{-4}$	
ILS	- 222				0.62
	²⁹² Th	$(3.9 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{-5}$	CUORE-0	$(1.70 \pm 0.22) \times 10^{-5}$	-0.8
	238 _U	$(2.7 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-5}$	CUORE-0	$< 1.61 \times 10^{-6}$	< 11.44
	108m _{Ag}			$(7.99 \pm 0.78) \times 10^{-6}$	+2.62
	40K			$< 3.87 \times 10^{-5}$	< 18.58
TL					1 22 05
	- ²³² Th			$(3.06 \pm 1.47) \times 10^{-4}$	+22.95
	238 _U	$<$ 1.1 \times 10 ⁻³	HPGe	$(3.45 \pm 0.36) \times 10^{-3}$	-3.44
	$^{210}\text{Bi} \rightarrow ^{206}\text{Pb}$			$(1.61 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{+2}$	+0.51
FIS	40 _K	$<$ 7.6 $ imes$ 10 $^{-3}$	HPGe	$(3.74 \pm 2.64) \times 10^{-3}$	+7.49 -3.01
	- ²¹⁰ Bi			$(3.31 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{+2}$	+1.35
	²⁰⁷ Bi			$(\rm 2.29 \pm 0.20) \times 10^{-3}$	+1.21 -1.47

CUORE surface contamination (I) [Phys. Rev. D 110, 052003 (2024)]



Volume	Contaminant		Depth $[\mu m]$	Mode/Limit [Bq cm ⁻²]	Systematic
Crystals					
	²¹⁰ Pb	о	.001	$(7.32 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-8}$	+4.98
	²³² Th	0	.01	$(3.10 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-10}$	+0.2
	^{228}Ra \rightarrow ^{208}Pb	о	.01	$(1.10 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-9}$	+0.69
	^{238}U \rightarrow ^{230}Th	о	.01	$(1.90 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-9}$	-1.08
	²³⁰ Th	о	.01	$(8.22 \pm 0.32) \times 10^{-10}$	+13.51
	^{226}Ra \rightarrow ^{210}Pb	о	.01	$(2.56 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{-9}$	+1.52
	^{235}U \rightarrow ^{231}Pa	о	.01	$(8.74 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-10}$	-0.50
	^{231}Pa \rightarrow ^{207}Pb	0	.01	$(1.05 \pm 0.34) \times 10^{-10}$	+1.07
	²³² Th	0	.1	$(3.21 \pm 1.52) \times 10^{-11}$	+3.21
	228 Ra \rightarrow 208 Pb	0	.1	$(5.34 \pm 0.34) \times 10^{-10}$	-5.27
	238 U \rightarrow 230 Th	0	.1	$(9.15 \pm 2.65) \times 10^{-11}$	+36.50 -8.35
	²³⁰ Th	0	.1	$(8.64 \pm 2.56) \times 10^{-11}$	+7.75 -3.98
	226 Ra $ ightarrow$ 210 Pb	0	.1	$(9.10 \pm 0.40) \times 10^{-10}$	+1.31 -8.71
	²¹⁰ Pb	0	.1	$(1.31 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-8}$	+0.29
	^{235}U \rightarrow ^{231}Pa	0	.1	$(4.21 \pm 1.22) \times 10^{-12}$	+16.78
	^{231}Pa \rightarrow ^{207}Pb	0	.1	$< 6.06 \times 10^{-11}$	5.54
	²³² Th	1		$(7.77 \pm 1.74) \times 10^{-11}$	-3.81
	228 Ra $ ightarrow$ 208 Pb	1		$(1.86 \pm 0.19) \times 10^{-10}$	+10.17
	238 U $ ightarrow$ 230 Th	1		$(2.84 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-10}$	+0.51 -1.11
	²³⁰ Th	1		$(9.32 \pm 1.84) \times 10^{-11}$	+18.73 -5.25
	226 Ra $ ightarrow$ 210 Pb	1		$(3.08\pm0.15)\times10^{-10}$	+1.41 -2.58
	210 _{Pb}	1		$(5.15 \pm 0.10) \times 10^{-9}$	+0.7



Volume	Contaminant	D	epth [μ m]	Mode/Limit [Bq cm ⁻²]	Systematic
Crystals					
	$^{235}U \rightarrow ^{231}Pa$	1		$(1.31 \pm 0.06) \times 10^{-11}$	+0.23
	231 Pa \rightarrow 207 Pb	1		$< 2.23 \times 10^{-11}$	0.51
	²³² Th	10		$(1.18 \pm 0.28) \times 10^{-10}$	+7.12
	228 Ra \rightarrow 208 Pb	10		$(3.29 \pm 1.27) \times 10^{-11}$	+61.54
	238 U $ ightarrow$ 230 Th	10		$< 1.99 \times 10^{-11}$	
	²³⁰ Th	10		$(2.17 \pm 0.25) \times 10^{-10}$	+5.95
	^{226}Ra \rightarrow ^{210}Pb	10		$(1.82 \pm 0.86) \times 10^{-11}$	+10.24
	²¹⁰ Pb	10		$(2.23 \pm 0.09) \times 10^{-9}$	+2.48
	$^{235}U \rightarrow ^{231}Pa$	10		$< 9.15 \times 10^{-12}$	2.10
	$^{231}\text{Pa} \rightarrow ^{207}\text{Pb}$	10		$< 1.37 \times 10^{-11}$	
Close parts	222				0.51
	²³² Th	0	.01	$(1.35 \pm 0.06) \times 10^{-9}$	-0.51
	²³⁸ U	0	.01	$(1.24 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{-9}$	+0.44 -0.68
	²¹⁰ Pb	0	.01	$(3.40 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-7}$	+1.22
	210 _{Pb}	0	.1	$(6.48 \pm 0.25) \times 10^{-8}$	-2 55
	235 _U	0	.01	$(5.71 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-10}$	+0.20
	210 _{Pb}	1		$(5.23 \pm 0.19) \times 10^{-8}$	+3.15
	²³² Th	10		$(1.15 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-8}$	+0.34
	238 _U	10		$(8.35 \pm 0.68) \times 10^{-9}$	-0.04
	210 _{Pb}	10		$(6.85 \pm 0.69) \times 10^{-8}$	-3.96 +4.88
	235 _U	10		$(3.84 \pm 0.31) \times 10^{-10}$	-4.23



Volume	Contaminant		Depth $[\mu m]$	Mode/Limit [Bq cm ⁻²]	Systematic
мс				_	
	²³² Th	0	.01	$< 4.36 \times 10^{-9}$	
	²³⁸ U	0	.01	$(6.79 \pm 1.32) \times 10^{-8}$	-6.42
	210 _{Pb}	0	.01	$< 2.05 \times 10^{-5}$	< 17.11
	²³⁵ U	0	.01	$(3.12\pm 0.61)\times 10^{-9}$	-2.95
HEX	²¹⁰ Pb			$(8.23\pm0.20)\times10^{-4}$	+6.43

CUORE detector commissioning

- tower assembly (Sep 2012 Jul 2014)
- cryostat commissioning

(Aug 2012 - Mar 2016)

• detector installation (Jul – Aug 2016)



• cool down: *T*_{MC} = **6.8 mK**





Some pictures from the CUORE cryostat







- + experimental search for ovetaeta: $t_{_{1/2}}^{o_{
 u}}\propto\sqrt{M\,T/B\,\Delta}$
- when M T B $\Delta = O(1)$, i. e. no event expected in ROI: $t_{1/2}^{o_{\mathcal{V}}} \propto M T$
 - \rightarrow crucial to achieve zero background, so that sensitivity scales linearly with exposure



CUORE

- ¹³⁰Te ($Q_{\beta\beta}$ = 2527.5 keV)
 - below ²⁰⁸Tl @2615 keV
- only heat channel
 - pure thermal detector
 - no particle identification



Next generation

- ¹⁰⁰Mo ($Q_{\beta\beta}$ = 3034.4 keV)
 - + reduced γ contribution
- heat + light
 - scintillating bolometer
 - + α vs. β/γ discrimination

CUPID physics potential

- mass: 450 kg, i. e. \sim 240 kg of $^{100}{\rm Mo}$
 - 1596 Li₂¹⁰⁰MoO₄ crystals
 - 57 towers of 14 floors of 2 crystals
 - + each 45 \times 45 \times 45 mm^3 , with a mass of 280 g
- live time: 10 yr
- resolution: 5 keV at $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- bkg: 10^{-4} c keV⁻¹ kg⁻¹ yr⁻¹ in ROI
- sensitivity on $0\nu\beta\beta$: $t_{_{1/2}}^{_{0
 u}}>10^{27}\,yr$
 - m_{etaeta} < (15 20) meV
 - full coverage of Inverted-Hierachy region
- other searches
 - rare decays: 2vββ, excited states
 - spectral-shape study: CPT-violation, Majorons
 - + low-E searches: DM, axions, $\text{CE}\nu\text{NS}$

