## A liquid argon scintillation veto for GERDA and LArGe

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Date

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## 2β decay







2β decay with 0 neutrinos

$$(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e^{-} + 2\overline{v}_{e}$$

allowed and observed

 $(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e^{-1}$ 

violates lepton number conservation

$$\begin{pmatrix} T_{1/2}^{0\nu} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = F^{0\nu} \cdot \left| \mathcal{M}^{0\nu} \right|^2 \cdot m_{\beta\beta}^2$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_{\beta\beta} \end{pmatrix} = \left| \Sigma_i U_{ei}^2 m_{\nu i} \right|$$

 $\mathcal{M}^{0\nu}$  - nuclear matrix element  $F^{0\nu}$  - phase space integral depends on the Q value  $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$  - effective neutrino mass

#### GERDA

#### See talks: HK 40. 2-6





*M* - mass of the isotope t - time



disfavoured by  $0v2\beta$ Claim  $10^{-1}$  $\Delta m_{23}^2 < 0$ mee | in eV disfavoured by cosmology  $10^{-2}$  $\Delta m_{23}^2 > 0$  $10^{-3}$ 99% CL (1 dof)  $10^{-4}$  $10^{-2}$  $10^{-3}$  $10^{-1}$  $10^{-4}$ lightest neutrino mass in eV

F.Feruglio et al. Nucl.Phys.B 637 (2002)

For a better limit we need:

- more mass
- lower background
- better energy resolution
- measure longer ??



A. Caldwell et al. Phys.Rev. D 74 (2006) 092003

### GERDA

#### See talks: HK 40. 2-6





### LAr veto - The concept



Th232

K42

In the Region of Interest around 2040 keV

- Nearby <sup>208</sup>Tl events can be easily vetoed with very high efficiency
- γ (Ο<sub>β</sub>)

**HPGe** 

LAr

- ∗ <sup>214</sup>Bi is less effective
- \* Does not work for surface  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  events
  - Veto efficiency in GERDA will strongly depend on the origin of the background

### LArGe test facility





## LArGe test facility









## LArGe, Suppression of internal <sup>228</sup>Th



GERDA

## LArGe, Suppression of internal <sup>228</sup>Th



**GERD** 

## LArGe, Suppression of internal <sup>228</sup>Th



**GERD** 

## LArGe, Suppression of internal <sup>226</sup>Ra



<sup>226</sup>Ra source distance ~7 cm DAQ via FADC



GERDA



### LArGe, Background spectrum

detector: GTF44 (non-enriched Ge)



exposure: 116 kg·d
shielding unfinished



GERD

 background index at Q<sub>ββ</sub> ± 150 keV:
 0.12 - 4.6 • 10<sup>-2</sup> cts / (keV·kg·y)

#### LArGe - Summary of suppression factors



| source            | position | suppression factor |               |             |  |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|--|
|                   |          | LAr veto           | PSD           | total       |  |
| <sup>60</sup> Co  | int      | 27 ± 1.7           | 76 ± 8.7      | 3900 ± 1300 |  |
| <sup>226</sup> Ra | ext      | $3.2 \pm 0.2$      | $4.4 \pm 0.4$ | 18 ± 3      |  |
|                   | int      | $4.6 \pm 0.2$      | 4.1 ± 0.2     | 45 ± 5      |  |
| <sup>228</sup> Th | ext      | 25 ± 1.2           | 2.8 ± 0.1     | 129 ± 15    |  |
|                   | int      | 1180 ± 250         | $2.4 \pm 0.1$ | 5200 ± 1300 |  |

#### Acceptance for $\beta\beta$ -events:

LAr veto >97% PSD 90%

#### **Combined suppression:**

$$SF_{total} \sim 1.8 \times (SF_{LAr} \times SF_{PSD})$$

Ref. M. Heisel, PhD thesis, 2011

## **Options for GERDA**





## PMT option - hardware





voltage dividers

 $\rightarrow$  low-bg CuFlon-based



VM2000 reflector foil + wavelength shifter (TPB)



h

h = 210 cm

 $\emptyset = 50 \text{ cm}$ 



## SiPM + WLS fiber design



- Idea was tested at small scale
- SiPMs work at cryogenic temperatures
- TPB + WLS fiber concept works



Ref: NIM A 654 (2011), pp. 225-232









- \* Ketek GmbH Munich based company. Willing to sell SiPMs in 'die'.
- \* Purchased 100 pieces. Already delivered. (~60 needed)



### SiPM holder





- SiPM delivered in 'die', low background packaging is developed
- 9 fiber coupled to 1 SiPM
- units of 27 fibers = 38 mm x 2, full coverage = 10 strips, manageable quantity





## Induced background



ICPMS results: WLS fiber measured at LNGS

| Element | Conc.    | Activity Bq/kg               | Background<br>cts/(keV kg Year) |
|---------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| K       | 15 ppb   | 4.6x10-4                     | _                               |
| Th      | 14.3 ppt | 5.8x10 <sup>-5</sup>         | 8x10-4                          |
| U       | 3.4 ppt  | <b>4.2</b> x10 <sup>-5</sup> | 7.9x10 <sup>-5</sup>            |

- \* The whole setup consists of about 0.5 kg fiber (2 m<sup>2</sup> photon detector)
- Relevant activity: O(~10 μBq)
- \* Compatible with the background goal of GERDA Phase II

# Expected Suppression Factors

- \* Fibers are sensitive also on the outer side  $(E_{inside} + \Omega^* E_{outside}) > E_{eff.thr.}$
- \* Nearby source: Simulated in the copper holder of the Ge detectors
- \* External source single gamma (2.6 MeV) hitting the array
- At least 10x suppression expected

| Threshold<br>keV  | Internal<br>T1208 | external<br>T1208 | Tl208 in<br>fiber | Bi214 in<br>fiber |  |  |  |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| 10  | 40.7              | 61.6              | 4863              | 12.0              |  |  |  |
| 100   | 13.0              | 11.2              | 503               | 4.1               |  |  |  |
| 130   | 10.0              | 7.6               | 286               | 2.9               |  |  |  |
| suppression factors for different thresholds, only energy<br>deposited in LAr, no delayed coincidence |                   |                   |                   |                   |  |  |  |



## Summary - Outlook



- Significant reduction of the background was demonstrated
- \* LAr instrumentation will be implemented in GERDA
- Two competing concepts are being developed
- \* To be deployed in Phase II