

# Super-NEMO

## Proposal for a Design Study

Ruben Saakyan<sup>1</sup>, Jenny Thomas<sup>1</sup>  
Stefan Soldner-Rembold<sup>2</sup>, Apostolos Pilaftsis<sup>2</sup>  
Julia Sedgbeer<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> – University College London

<sup>2</sup> – University of Manchester

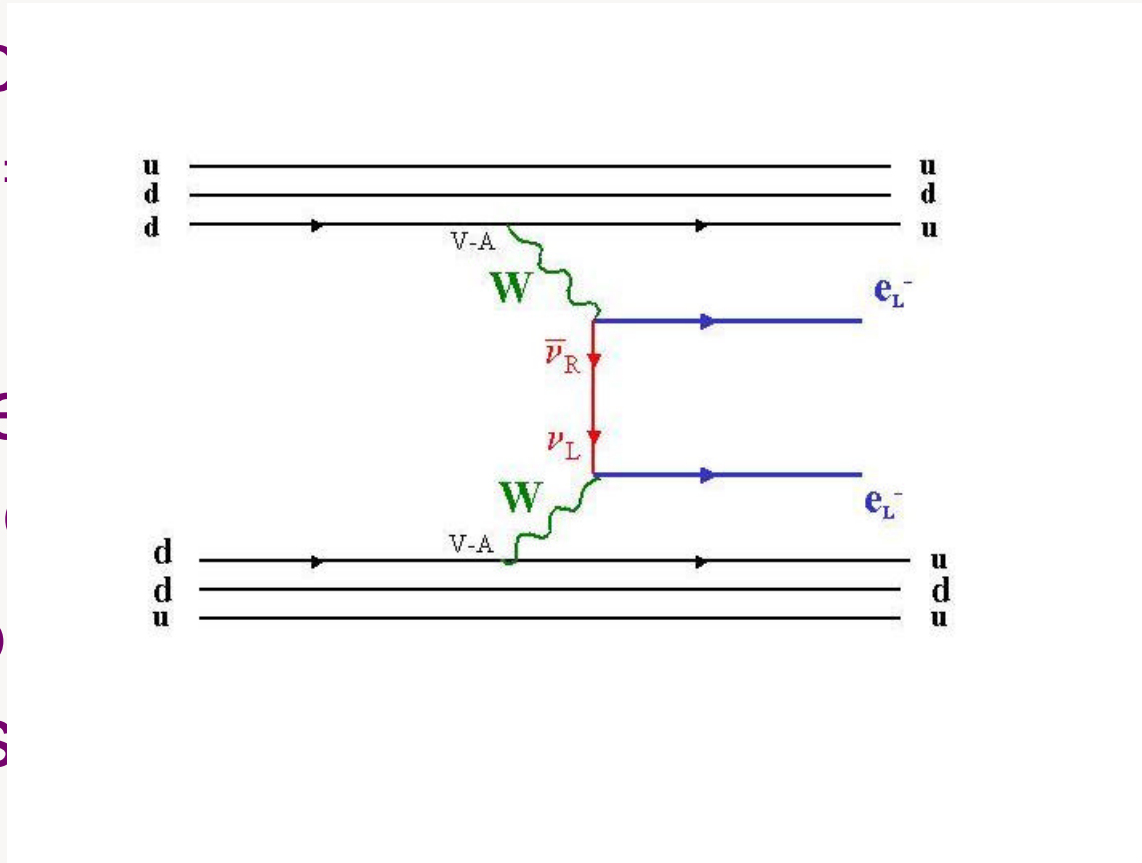
<sup>3</sup> – Imperial College London

# Preview

- Why search for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay?
- Why Super-NEMO?
- What are the experimental issues?
  - Calorimeter : Ruben Saakyan
  - Tracker : Stefan Soldner-Rembold
- The request
  - Manpower, money
  - Will try to address referees questions throughout

# Why search for $0\nu b\bar{b}$ decay?

- If this could be a type (vector) exchange
- This is a scalar exchange
- All other neutrino masses (particle) are Dirac type
- If the neutrino mass is absolute



Majorana

es

Dirac type

absolute

)

# Why search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay?

- Oscillation experiments tell us that

- $P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau) = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2(1.27 \Delta m^2 L/E)$

- From Super-K,  $\Delta m^2_{\text{atm}} \sim 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$

- Assume one mass is vanishing:  $m_\nu \sim 0.05 \text{ eV}$

- First time a clear goal is available for DBD experiments

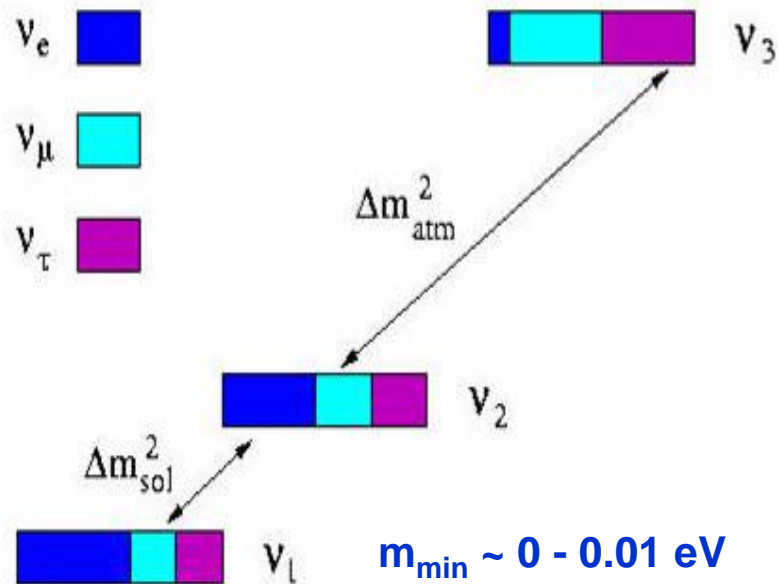
$$\langle m_n \rangle^2 = \left| \sum_i^N U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|^2 = \left| \sum_i^N |U_{ei}|^2 e^{a_i} m_i \right|^2$$

- ***The aim for Super-NEMO is to achieve a reach in  $m_n$  of 0.04 eV***

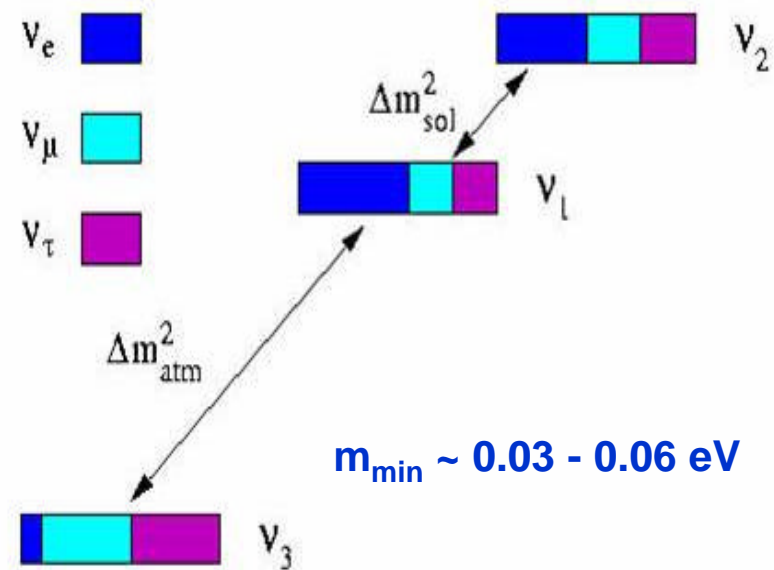
- ***It is not clear that Super-NEMO cannot be expanded further: modular approach just needs space!***

# Why search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay?

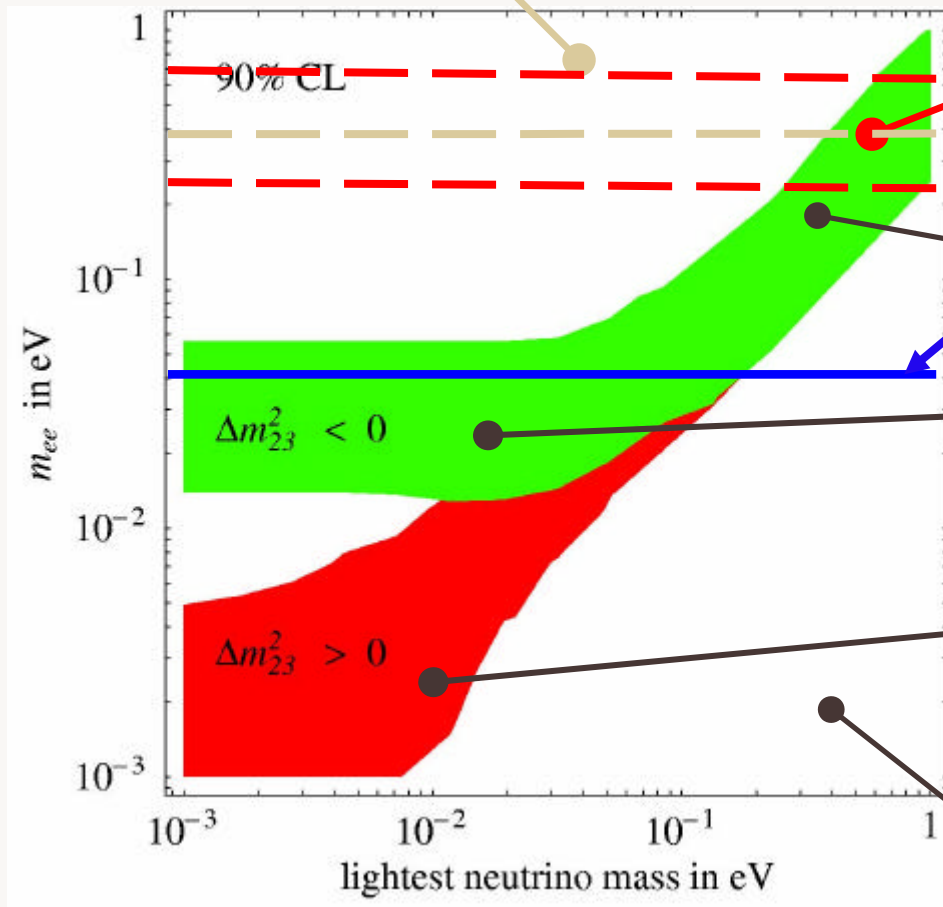
Normal hierarchy:



Inverted hierarchy:



## Present Cuoricino/NEMO-III region



Possible evidence  
(best value 0.39 eV)

Super-NEMO reach

“quasi” degeneracy  
 $m_1 \gg m_2 \gg m_3$

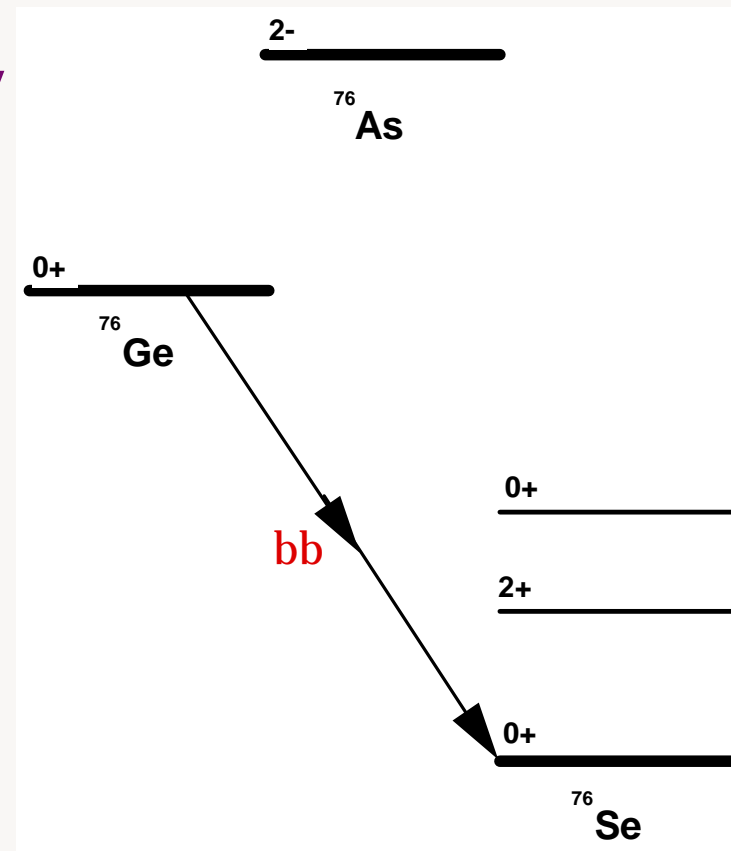
Inverse hierarchy

Normal hierarchy

Cosmological disfavoured  
Region (WMAP)

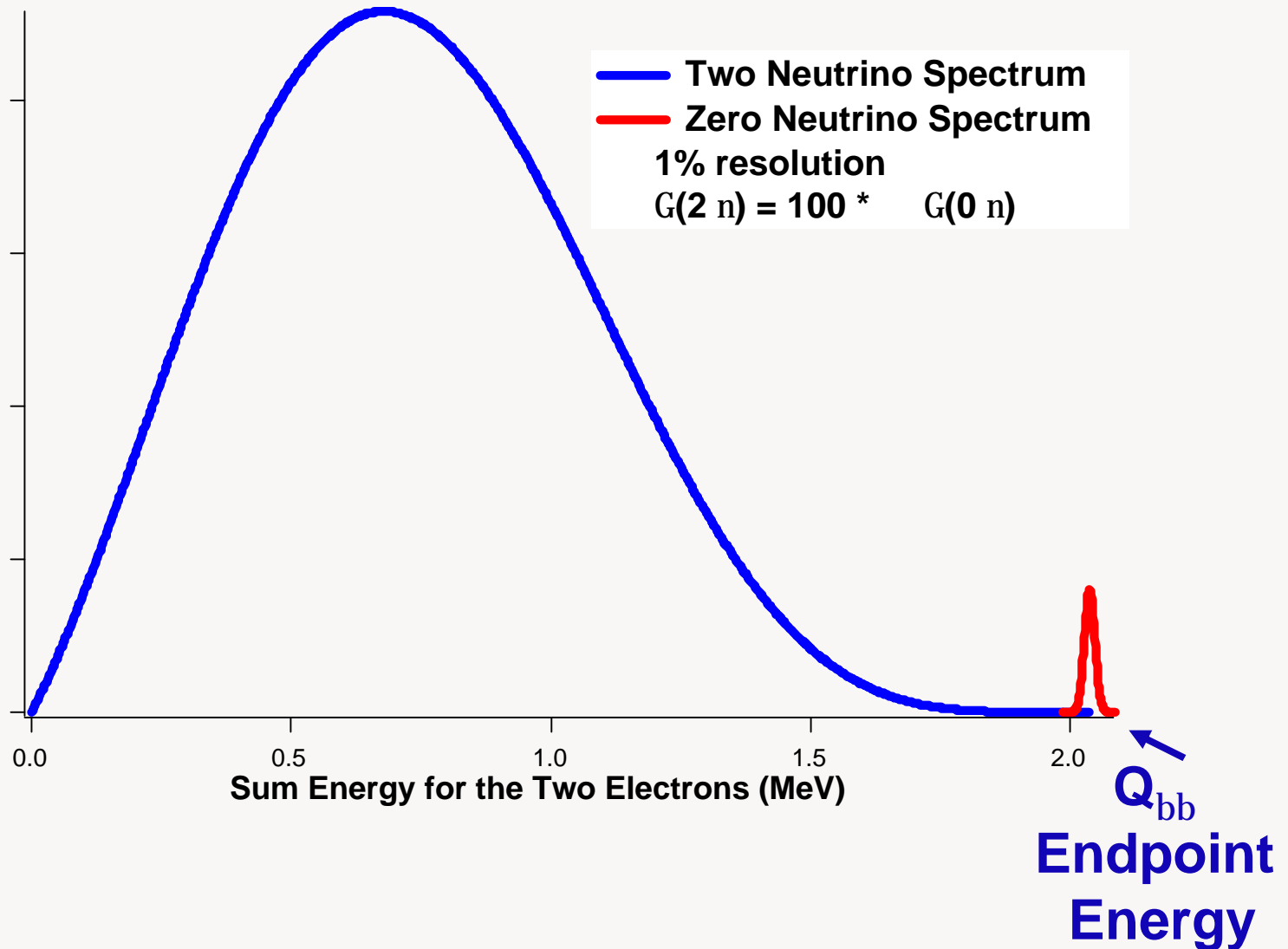
# Double beta decay

- Large number of even-even nuclei undergo double-beta decay, but not single-beta decay
- This is a Standard Model process of  $2\nu\beta\beta$
- Enrichment procedure in place for about 10 isotopes
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  can therefore also occur
- Q value of this decay is well known (difference in energy between two isotopes)



# double beta decay

$^{76}\text{Ge}$  example



# Super NEMO

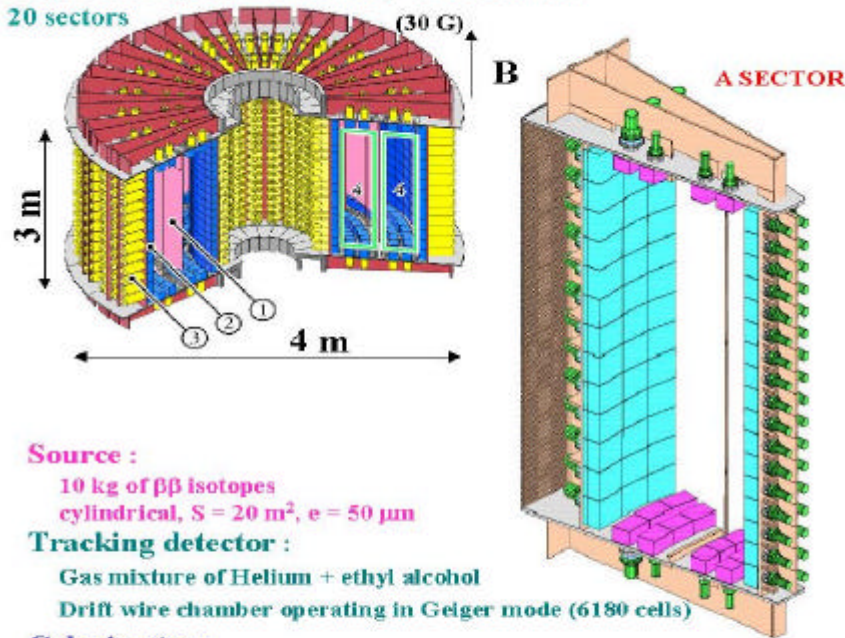
- Two classes of approach to the experiment:
  - Detector IS the isotope
  - Detector contains the isotope(s)
- Measure half-life, infer  $m_\nu$   $[T_{1/2}^{0\nu}]^{-1} = G^{0\nu} |M^{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_\nu \rangle^2$
- Half life sensitivity given by experimental details
- G-phase space, exactly calculable:  $G^{0\nu} \sim Q_{\beta\beta}^5$
- $M^{0\nu}$ -Nuclear Matrix Element, hard to calculate
  - Uncertain to factor  $\sim 2-3$  for interesting isotopes
  - Motivation to measure several isotopes

# Super-NEMO: the idea

## The NEMO3 detector

Fréjus Underground Laboratory : 4800 m.w.e.

20 sectors



### Source :

10 kg of  $\beta\beta$  isotopes  
cylindrical,  $S = 20 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $e = 50 \mu\text{m}$

### Tracking detector :

Gas mixture of Helium + ethyl alcohol  
Drift wire chamber operating in Geiger mode (6180 cells)

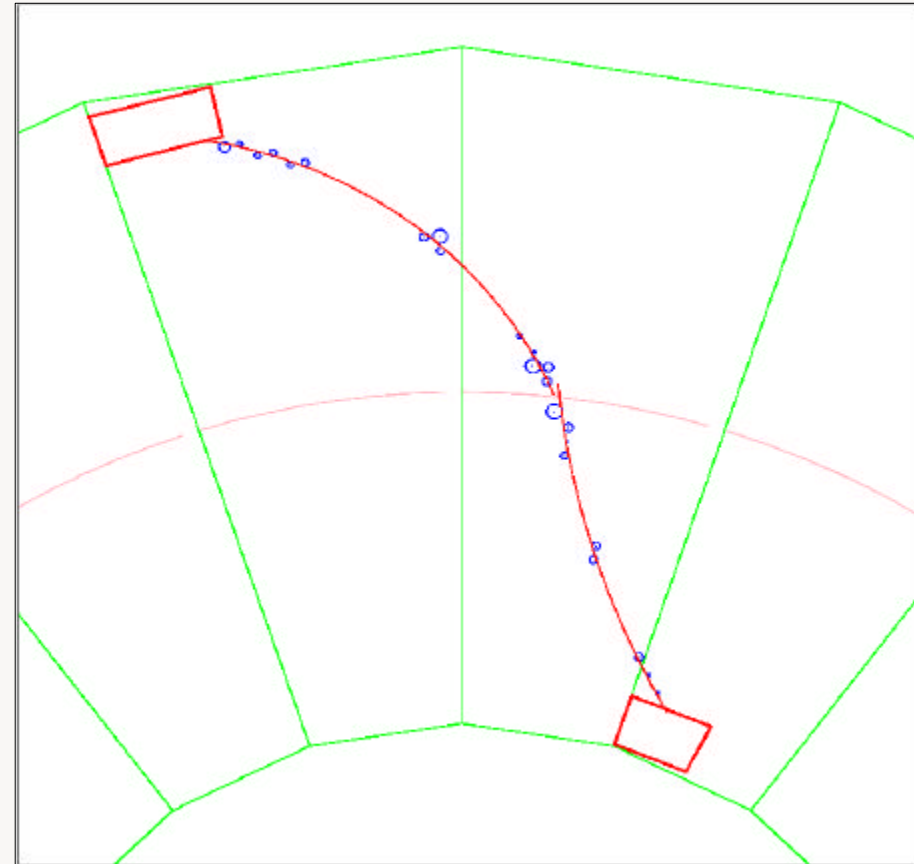
### Calorimeter :

1940 plastic scintillators coupled to low radioactivity PMs ;  
 $\alpha(E)/E$  at 3 MeV  $\sim 3.5\%$

+ Magnetic field + Iron shielding + Neutron shielding

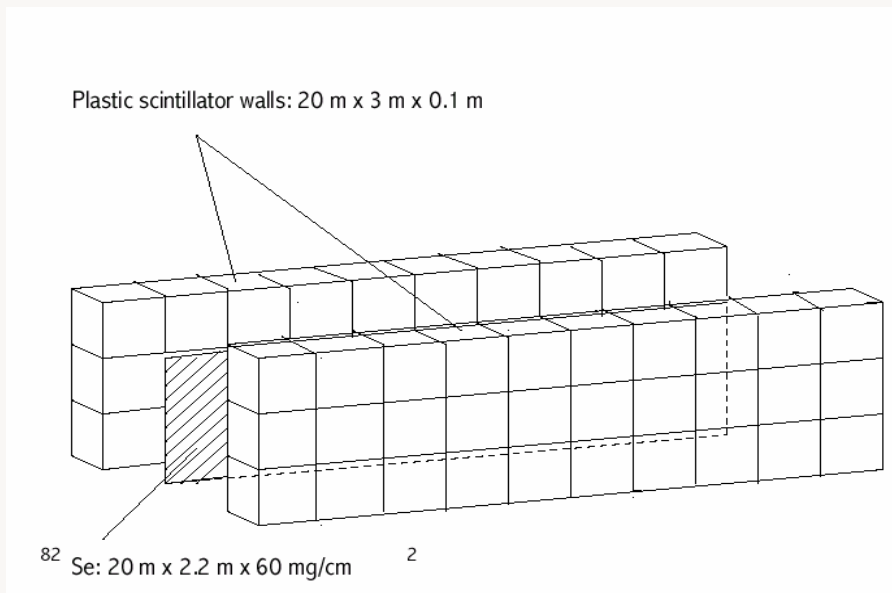
Identification :  $e^-$ ,  $e^+$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $n$  and delayed- $\alpha$

- $\beta\beta$  events detection
- Measurement of source radiopurity
- Background rejection



Located in Frejus Underground Lab

# SuperNEMO Baseline Scenario



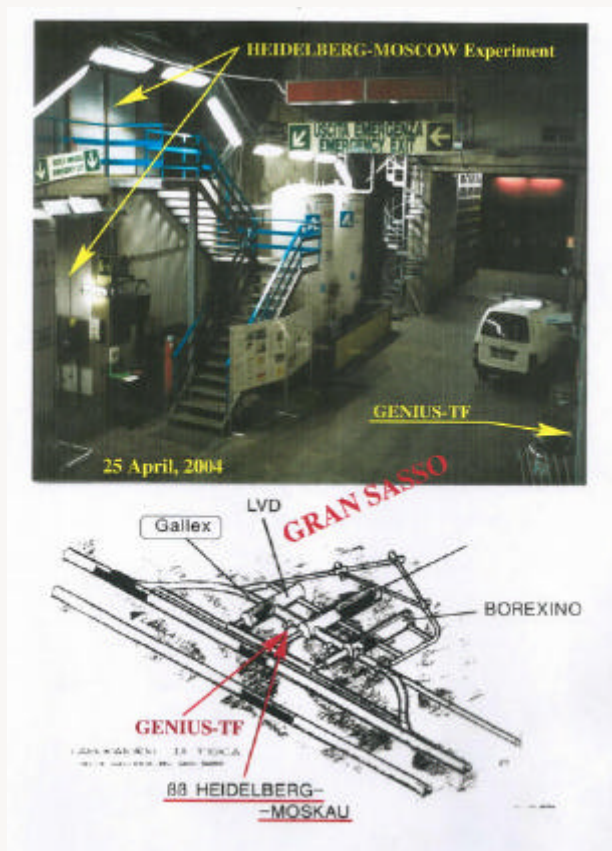
- 100 kg of  $^{82}\text{Se}$
- 5yr of data taking
- Background from  $2\nu$  tail only
- Sensitivity to  $\langle m_\nu \rangle \sim 0.04 - 0.1$  eV depending on NME

# Super-NEMO: the idea

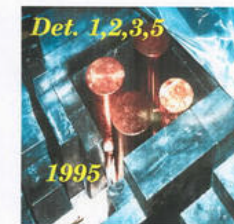
- The plan is NOT to promote a completely new design:
  - *Low energy electrons means keeping energy losses at a minimum: Helium+Geiger wires are the best solution*
  - *Low background plastic scintillator production expertise exists with collaborators in Russia: irrespective of material*

# Heidelberg-Moscow experiment

■ Enriched Germanium ionisation detector

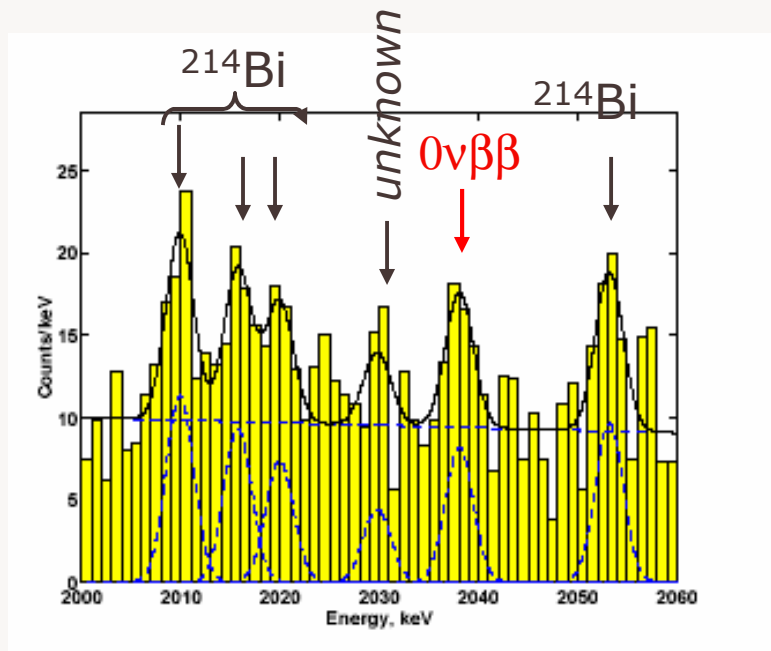


## History of HEIDELBERG-MOSCOW



# Heidelberg claim

hep-ph/0403018.



71.7 kg·yr

- New analysis provides evidence of a peak at the expected value
- Total 71.7kgy of data
- Significance is claimed to be  $4.2 \sigma$
- $m_\nu = 0.24-0.58\text{eV}$
- Corresponds to quasi-degenerate neutrino masses

# Future Plans

- There are presently 15+ projects in various stages of R&D/planning/approval in Italy, Japan, US, France and perhaps other places, target  $\sim 0.05\text{eV}$  in mass
- The final mass sensitivity depends on the NME chosen

## Tracking, TPC, Drift

- DCBA Nd
- MOON Mo
- Super-NEMO  
Mo,Se,Nd
- EXO Xe

## Ionisation/Bolometer

- Cobra, CdTe
- GEM
- GERDA
- CUORE
- Majorana

## Scintillator

- CAMEO Cd
- GANDLES Ca
- CARVEL Cd
- GSO Gd
- Xe Xe.....

**CUORE** is the only funded project ( $\sim 80\%$ )

# Future Plans

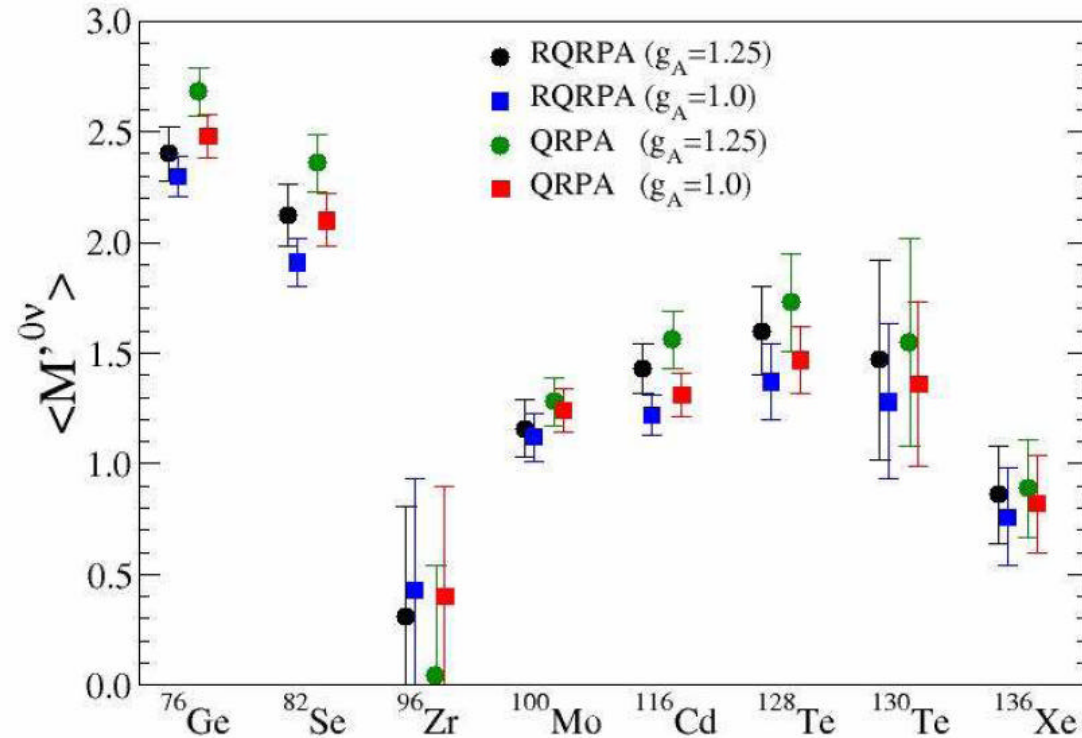
- Certain factors dominate reach
  - Some factors are intrinsic to a particular isotope (NME), others to the experimental approach

$$[T_{1/2}^{0\nu}]^{-1} = G^{0\nu} |M^{0\nu}|^2 \langle m_\nu \rangle^2$$

- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu}$  given by experimental parameters: background, resolution, efficiency
- The larger M, the lower the reach in  $m_\nu$

## Recent developments in NME calculations are encouraging

Rodin, Faessler, Simcovic, Vogel, PRC 68 (2003) 044303  
nucl-th/0503063.



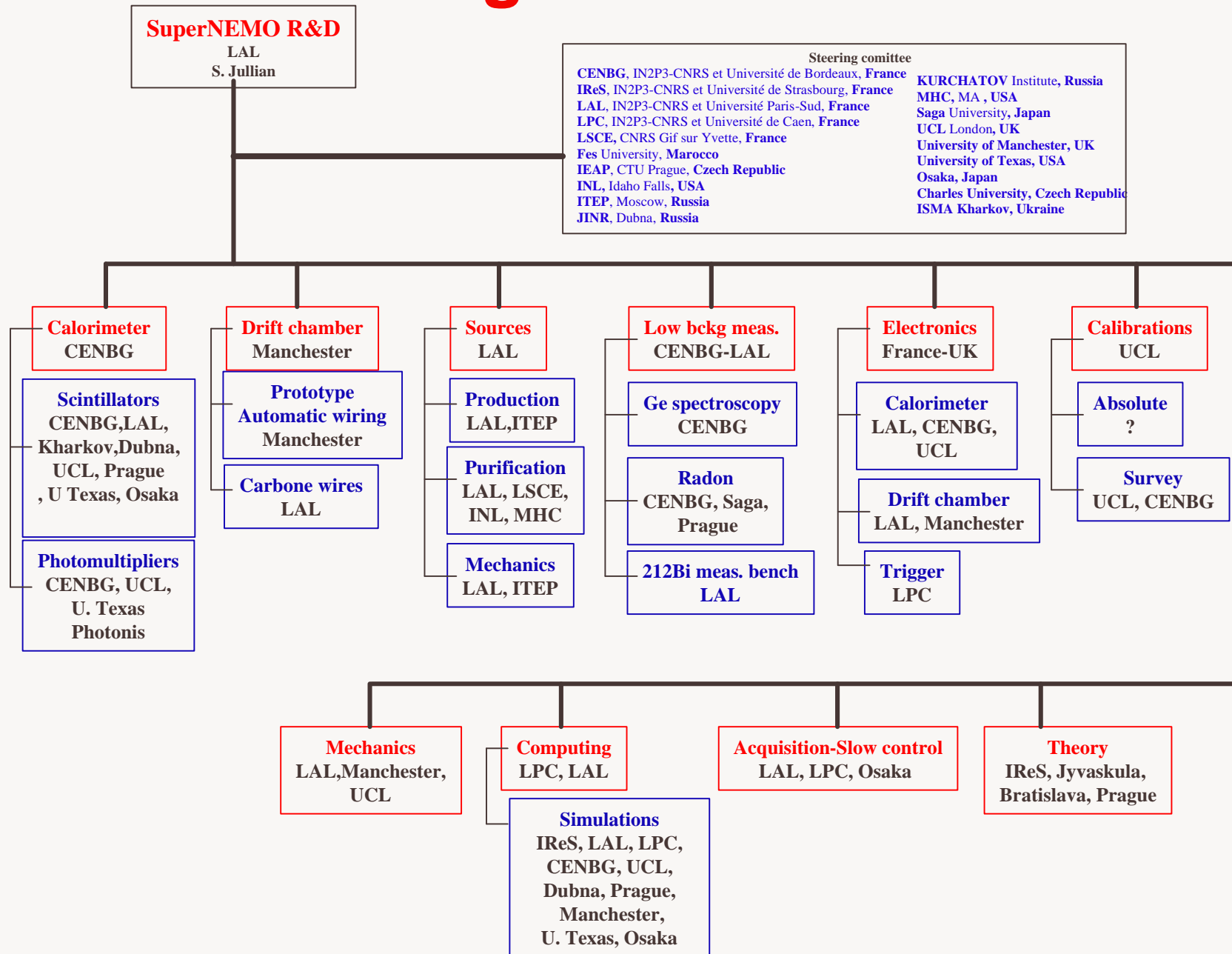
Error bars are from  
experimental errors on  $T_{1/2}^{2\nu}$

- ✓  $g_{pp}$  fixed from *experimentally* measured  $M^{2\nu}$
- ✓ Different calculations converge
- ✓ Underlines the importance of  $2\nu\beta\beta$  *precise* measurements

Experiment	Source and Mass	Sensitivity to $T_{1/2}$ (y)	Sensitivity to $\langle m_\nu \rangle$ (eV)*
Majorana \$50M-100M	$^{76}\text{Ge}$ , 500kg	$3 \times 10^{27}$	0.03 – 0.07
CUORE \$30M	$^{130}\text{Te}$ , 750kg(nat)	$2 \times 10^{26}$	0.04 – 0.17
EXO \$50M-100M	$^{136}\text{Xe}$ 1 ton	$8 \times 10^{26}$	0.05 – 0.12
<b>SuperNEMO</b> <b>\$40M</b>	<b><math>^{82}\text{Se}</math>(or other)</b> <b>100 kg</b>	<b><math>2 \times 10^{26}</math></b>	<b>0.04 – 0.08</b>

\* 5 different *latest* NME calculations

# Organisation



# UK involvement

- The UK group is a significant part of the international Super-NEMO collaboration
  - Only 2-3 countries will make major financial contributions
- ***This proposal is part of a coordinated approach with the French to start Super-NEMO***
- UK/French groups agreed (meeting in Manchester Jan-2005) on the sharing of the main work

# Why Super-NEMO now?

- There are other experiments starting up now:
  - US has identified this field as a priority
  - So far only CUORE has been approved by Italy
- Using tried and tested technology Super-NEMO can start fast
  - Design study driven by physics
  - Being first to measure several isotopes would be a major coup
- If any signal seen in any isotope, it will HAVE to be observed by this type of experiment to be sure it is  $0\nu\beta\beta$

# Academic effort

## ■ Present

- Ruben Saakyan – 80%
- Jenny Thomas – 40%
- Stefan Soldner-Rembold – 25%
- Apostolos Pilaftsis – 10%

## ■ Increase in near future

- Julia Sedgbeer (IC) – simulation and reconstruction software
  - 80% starting in 2006 Academic year
  - contingent on the subsequent bid to PPRP
- Effort in UCL to be increased
- Possible additional academic effort from Manchester

# Conclusions

- Very exciting time for neutrino physics in general and  $0\nu\beta\beta$  in particular
- A positive signal is now a serious possibility in light of oscillation results
- Costs of experiments all in the £25M range: this is small potatoes for the potential scientific gain

# The Request

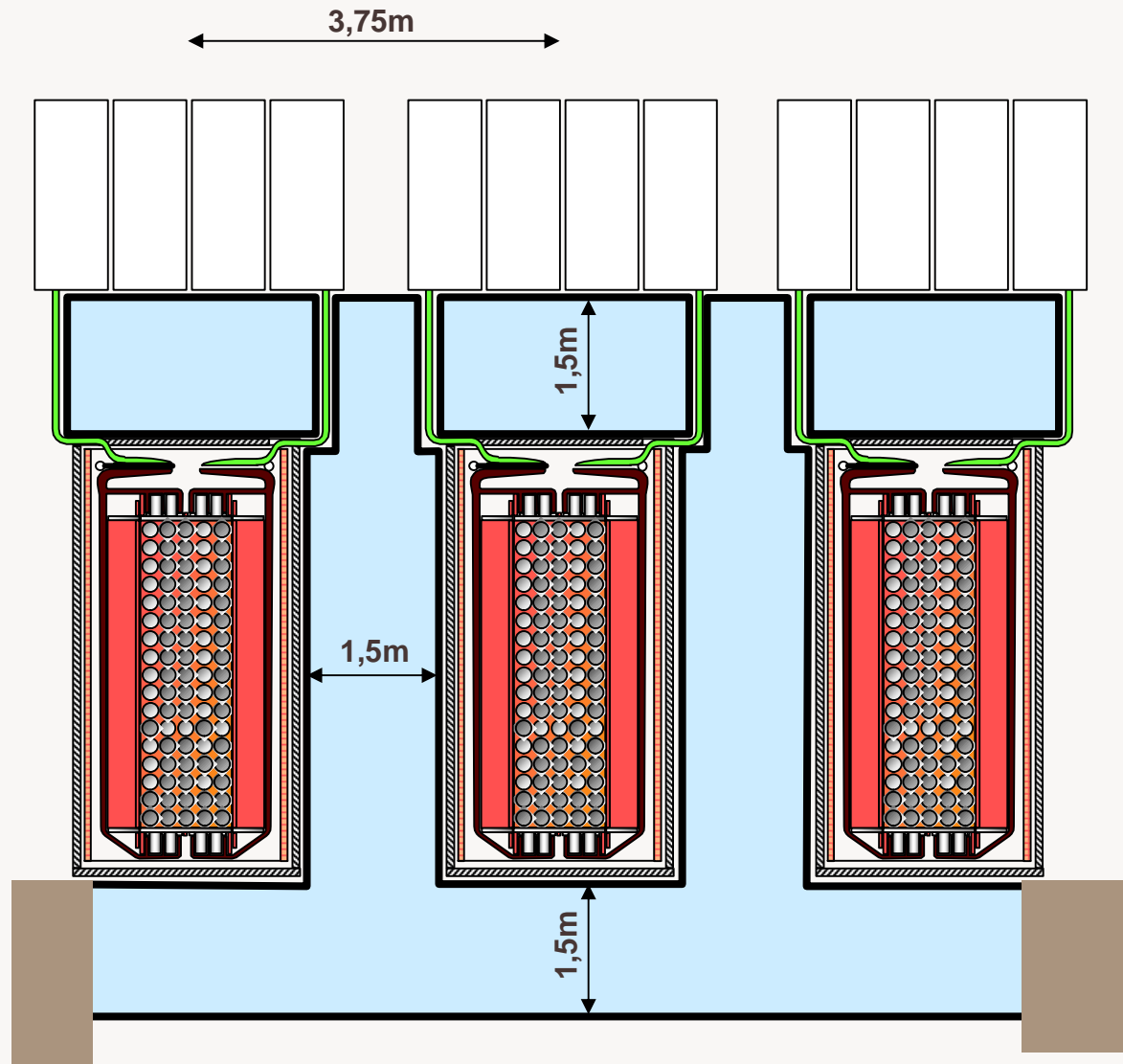
- UK: Tracker Construction, Scintillator R&D
  - Wire stringing robot : key to the manpower problem of ~60000 anode wires + cathodes
  - Wire thickness/length R&D, wire electronics
  - Mechanical design of tracker frame
  - Continuation of R&D/PMT development
  - Calibration (light injection survey and absolute calibration)
- France : Calorimeter construction, some tracker R&D,  $\beta\beta$  sources, low background measurements
- ALL : Conceptual design studies, impact on site decision

# The Request

- Calorimeter hardware £47k
- Tracker hardware £163k
- Light Injection system £10k
- 2 New posts £174k
- MSSL technical and engineering staff  
£210k
- Travel £80k
- Total £684k

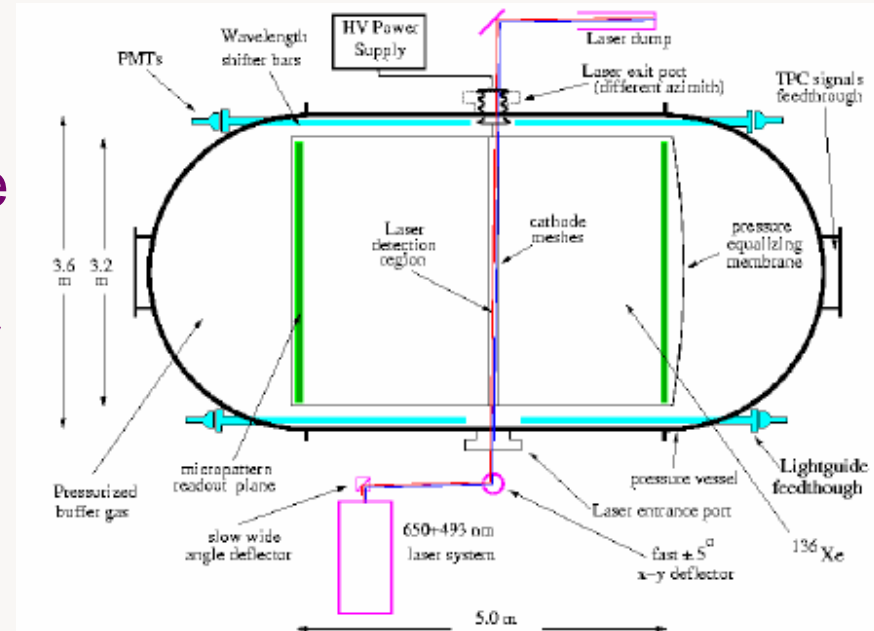
# Summary

- The manpower estimate has been from bottom-up and from top-down : confident that manpower request is warranted (see new table)
- Expertise in tracking at Manchester/UCL, Scintillator at UCL
- ***Technical expertise in low background issues is something which will be acquired at UCL-MSSL/Manchester in collaboration with French experts: not as stringent as for source=detector approach.***
- Important new field and UK must get this technical expertise



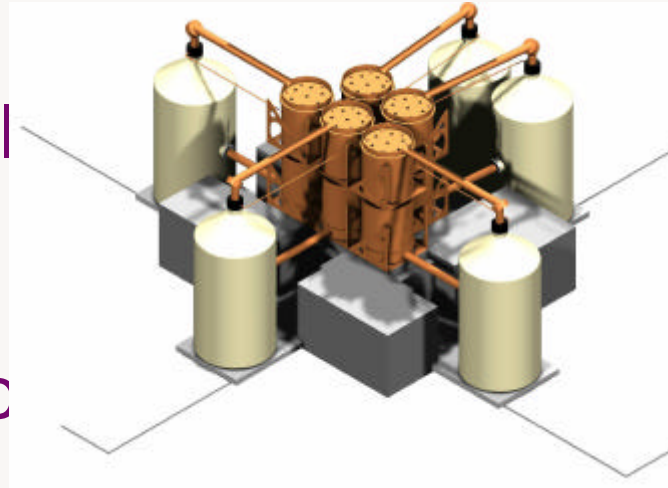
# Future Plans : EXO

- High Pressure Xe TPC with laser tagging of +Ba daughter for background-free measurement
- 2 Tonne of  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  at 10Atm or Liq Xe with cold-finger tagging
- Energy resolution 2% at 2.5MeV
- 200kg prototype of Liq Xe funded by DoE (no tagging) will be built at WIPP, New Mexico.
- 200kg isotope already in hand



# Future Plans : Majorana/MPI

- 500kg enriched segmented conventional Ge detector
- Feasibility has been demonstrated, waiting for approval
- Will use pulse-shape information to reduce background
- Based on theory that dominant background is  $^{68}\text{Ge}$  from cosmogenics



- MPI-Ge experiment also proposed
- Uses Ge mono-crystal in Liquid N or Ar for passive/active shielding
- Based on theory that dominant background is from Cu, etc external to

# Introduction:the isotopes

■ What are the usable  $\beta\beta$  decay isotopes?

■  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ,  $Q=2.038\text{MeV}$  :  $MG = 7.3^{+0.6}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-14}$

■  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ,  $Q = 4.272\text{MeV}$  :  $MG = 5.4^{+3.0}_{-1.4} \times 10^{-14}$

■  $^{82}\text{Se}$ ,  $Q = 2.995\text{MeV}$  :  $MG = 1.7^{+0.4}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-13}$

■  $^{100}\text{Mo}$ ,  $Q = 3.034\text{MeV}$  :  $MG = 1.0^{+0.3}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-12}$

■  $^{116}\text{Cd}$ ,  $Q = 2.804\text{MeV}$  :  $MG = 1.3^{+0.7}_{-0.3} \times 10^{-13}$

■  $^{130}\text{Te}$ ,  $Q = 2.528\text{MeV}$  :  $MG = 4.2^{+0.5}_{-0.5} \times 10^{-13}$

■  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ,  $Q = 2.481\text{MeV}$  :  $MG = 2.8^{+0.4}_{-0.4} \times 10^{-14}$

■  $^{150}\text{Nd}$ ,  $Q = 3.368\text{MeV}$  :  $MG = 5.7^{+1.0}_{-0.7} \times 10^{-12}$

■ These can all be enriched by standard processes