# Neutrinoless Double beta decay with PandaX

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#### PandaX: Particle and astrophysical Xenon Experiment





#### PandaX detectors







# PandaX-4T @ Hall B2 of CJPL-II



#### PandaX-4T



- A multi-ton dual-phase xenon TPC at B2 hall of China Jinping Underground Laboratory
- 1.2 m (D) ×1.2 m (H); Sensitive volume: 3.7-ton LXe; 3-inch PMTs: 169 top / 199 bottom
- Water shielding





2020/11 – 2021/04	<b>Commissioning (Run 0)</b> 95 days data
2021/07 – 2021/10	<b>Tritium removal</b> xenon distillation, gas flushing, etc.
2021/11 – 2022/05	<b>Physics run (Run 1)</b> 164 days data
2022/09 – 2023/12	<b>CJPL B2 hall construction</b> xenon recuperation, detector upgrade

#### Detector is taking Run 2 data







### Liquid Xenon Time Projection Chamber (LXe TPC)

- Prompt scintillation signal (S1) followed by drift electron signal (S2)
- Measures the 3D position, energy, and time
- Nuclear Recoil (NR) and electron recoil (ER) discrimination
- Single-site (SS) and multi-site (MS) event discrimination
- Large monolithic target: High signal efficiency and effective self-shielding
- LXe TPC as a Total-Absorption 5D Calorimeter



































#### PandaX Ονββ

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#### Candidate Isotopes





• J.M. Yao, J. Meng, Y.F. Niu, P. Ring, Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 126 (2022), 103965

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## Detection of double beta decay



• Examples:

$${}^{136}_{54}Xe \rightarrow {}^{136}_{56}Ba + 2e^- + (2\bar{v})$$
  
$${}^{130}_{52}Te \rightarrow {}^{130}_{54}Xe + 2e^- + (2\bar{v})$$



• Measure energies of emitted electrons

- Electron tracks are a huge plus
- Daughter nuclei identification



#### Simulated track of $0\nu\beta\beta$ in high pressure Xe

### $0\nu\beta\beta$ probes the nature of neutrinos

- Majorana or Dirac
- Lepton number violation
- Measures effective Majorana mass: relate 0vββ to the neutrino oscillation physics



 $m^2$  $m^2$ ν<sub>11</sub> ν,  $m_{2}^{2}$  $-m^2$ solar~7.6×10<sup>-5</sup>eV -matmospheric ~2 5×10-3eV2 atmospheric ~2.5×10-3eV2 m solar~7.6×10<sup>-5</sup>eV<sup>2</sup>  $m_1^2$ .  $-m^2$ 

#### Impressive experimental progress





from review article by Haxton and Stephenson, Jr.

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### Major $0\nu\beta\beta$ experiments around the world





#### US Nuclear Science Long-term planning



#### 2015

#### **RECOMMENDATION II**

The excess of matter over antimatter in the universe is one of the most compelling mysteries in all of science. The observation of neutrinoless double beta decay in nuclei would immediately demonstrate that neutrinos are their own antiparticles and would have profound implications for our understanding of the matterantimatter mystery.

We recommend the timely development and deployment of a U.S.-led ton-scale neutrinoless double beta decay experiment.

# 2023

#### **RECOMMENDATION 2**

As the highest priority for new experiment construction, we recommend that the United States lead an international consortium that will undertake a neutrinoless double beta decay campaign, featuring the expeditious construction of ton-scale experiments, using different isotopes and complementary techniques.

#### Sensitivity comparison













### $^{134}\text{Xe}$ (0)2v $\beta\beta$ searches at PandaX-4T

- Q=826 keV; Half-life from theoretical predictions: 10<sup>24</sup>-10<sup>25</sup> yr; Never been observed
- Previous  $2\nu\beta\beta$  ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ) half-life limit from EXO-200 :  $T > 8.7 \times 10^{20}$  yr ( $1.1 \times 10^{23}$  yr) at 90% CL
- PandaX-4T: more <sup>134</sup>Xe; much less <sup>136</sup>Xe; wider energy range; discovery possible

	PandaX-4T	EXO-200
<sup>134</sup> Xe mass	68.7 kg	18.1 kg
<sup>136</sup> Xe abundance	8.90%	81%
Analysis threshold	200 keV	460 keV
Live Time	94.9 days	600 days





## <sup>134</sup>Xe half-life limits @ PandaX-4T



- Simultaneous fit for <sup>134</sup>Xe  $2\nu\beta\beta$  and  $0\nu\beta\beta$
- Final counts of  $2\nu\beta\beta$  and  $0\nu\beta\beta$ :  $10\pm269$ (stat.) $\pm680$ (syst.) and  $105\pm48$ (stat.) $\pm38$ (syst.)
- 90% CL lower limits on the half-life:  $T_{1/2}^{2\nu\beta\beta} > 2.8 \cdot 10^{22} \text{ yr}$  and  $T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 3.0 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ yr}$



PRL 132, 152502 (2024)





### Search for $^{136}\mbox{Xe}$ $0\nu\beta\beta$ with natural Xe TPC



	Bkg rate (/keV/ton/y)	Energy resolution	FV mass (kg)	Live time	Sensitivity/Limit (90% CL, year)	Year
PandaX-II	~200	4.2%	219	403 days	2.4 ×10 <sup>23</sup>	2019
XENON1T	~20	0.8%	741	203 days	$1.2 \times 10^{24}$	2022
PandaX-4T	~10	2.0-2.3%	735	258 days	2.1 × 10 <sup>24</sup>	2024
				— Fit	<sup>214</sup> Bi, TPC Qj	<sup>136</sup> Χe ββ





## Extending energy from keV to O(100 keV) - O(MeV)



- S2 waveform slicing to improve SS and MS identification
- PMT desaturation for large S2 signals
- Improvement of X-Y position reconstruction, energy linearity and energy resolution





#### **Energy Response Model**

- Residual shift between simulated energy and reconstructed energy
- Energy resolution vs. reconstructed energy
- Response model from physics data in slim regions outside FV
- Model parameters naturally included in the likelihood fitting





 $E = a \cdot \hat{E}^2 + b \cdot \hat{E} + c.$ 

 $\frac{\sigma(E)}{E} = \frac{d}{\sqrt{E}} + e \cdot E + f.$ 

#### SS vs. MS

- MeV gamma events are mostly multiple-scattering events;
   while signals (DBD) are mostly single site (SS)
- Identifying Multi-Site (MS) events with PMT waveforms
- Width of waveforms dominated by Z (electron diffusion)







#### SS Fraction (SS/Total) determination

- Data-driven S2 waveform simulation + data processing •
- SS fraction uncertainty is estimated by comparison • MC/data of <sup>232</sup>Th calibration
- Spectrum average of the absolute bin-by-bin deviation • between data and MC taken as SS fraction uncertainty





#### **Background Model**

PANDAX PARTICLE AND ASTROPHYSICAL XEIRON TEC

- <sup>136</sup>Xe  $2\nu\beta\beta$  (from PandaX measured <sup>136</sup>Xe half-life)
- Detector material: <sup>60</sup>Co, <sup>40</sup>K, <sup>232</sup>Th, <sup>238</sup>U (from HPGe material assay), and grouped into top, side, and bottom parts
- Stainless steel platform (SSP): <sup>232</sup>Th, <sup>238</sup>U (from MS fitting)



#### Stainless steel platform (SSP) contribution

12001400160018002000220 Energy [keV]



#### Fiducial Volume (FV)



$$FoM \propto \frac{m}{\sqrt{B}}$$

• FV is further divided into four regions to better constrain detector material background from top, side, and bottom parts



#### FoM

• FV is optimized by maximizing the FoM

#### Likelihood and Systematics

- Binned Poisson likelihood with Gaussian penalty terms to constrain nuisance parameters
- Systematics include three categories: energy response, overall efficiency, <sup>136</sup>Xe mass
- <sup>136</sup>Xe mass uncertainties: abundance from RGA measurement; FV mass from the nonuniformity of <sup>83m</sup>Kr + LXe density fluctuation

 $L = \prod_{n=1}^{N_{run}} \prod_{i=1}^{N_{region}} \prod_{i=1}^{N_{bins}} \frac{(N_{rij})^{N_{rij}^{obs}}}{N_{ois}^{obs}!} e^{-N_{rij}}$  $\cdot \prod_{r=1}^{N_{run}} [\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{M}_r; \mathcal{M}_r^0, \Sigma_r^{\mathcal{M}}) \cdot \prod_{r=1}^{N_{eff}} G(\eta_r^k; 0, \sigma_r^k)]$  $\cdot \prod_{i=1}^{N_{bkg}} G(\eta^b; 0, \sigma^b)$  $N_{rii} = (1 + \eta_r^o) \cdot \left[ (1 + \eta_r^s) \cdot n_r^s \cdot S_{ijr} \right]$  $+\sum_{i}^{N_{bkg}}(1+\eta^b)\cdot n_r^b\cdot B_{ijr}^b]$ 

Sources		Values		
3	ources	Run0	Run1	
	$a  [\text{keV}^{-1}]$	$(4.2 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-6}$	$(1.1 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-6}$	
	b	$0.992 \pm 0.002$	$0.997\pm0.004$	
Energy response	c [keV]	$0.90\pm0.32$	$1.4 \pm 1.5$	
Energy response	$d \left[ \sqrt{\text{keV}} \right]$	$0.259 \pm 0.046$	$0.46\pm0.25$	
	$e  [\mathrm{keV}^{-1}]$	$(1.1 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-6}$	$(8.8\pm22.2)\times10^{-7}$	
	$\begin{array}{ccc} d \; [\; \sqrt{\rm keV} ] & 0.259 \pm 0.046 \\ e \; [\rm keV^{-1} ] & (1.1 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-6} \\ \hline f & (9.7 \pm 3.5) \times 10^{-3} \\ \end{array}$		$(7.4 \pm 10.0) \times 10^{-3}$	
Querall efficiency	$^{136}$ Xe $0\nu\beta\beta$ SS fraction	$(87.1 \pm 11.3)\%$	$(87.3 \pm 7.0)\%$	
Overall enferency	Quality cut	$(99.89 \pm 0.10)\%$	$(99.97\pm 0.02)\%$	
136 <b>V</b> a mass	<sup>136</sup> Xe abundance	$a$ [keV <sup>-1</sup> ] $(4.2 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-6}$ $b$ $0.992 \pm 0.002$ $c$ [keV] $0.90 \pm 0.32$ $d$ [ $\sqrt{keV}$ ] $0.259 \pm 0.046$ $c$ [keV <sup>-1</sup> ] $(1.1 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-6}$ $f$ $(9.7 \pm 3.5) \times 10^{-3}$ $m/\beta\beta$ SS fraction $(87.1 \pm 11.3)\%$ $uuality$ cut $(99.89 \pm 0.10)\%$ te abundance $(8.58 \pm 0)^{-7}$ $rmass$ [kg] $735 \pm 3$ odel       Table	± 0.11)%	
Ac mass	FV mass [kg]		$735 \pm 14$	
Backg	round model	Tat	ole. 2	

٠

#### Blinded Fit and Sensitivity







# $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Goodness-of-fit:} \\ \chi^2 / NDF = 1.14 \end{array}$

Median sensitivity is estimated by fits to toy-data, generated from background model.

$$T_{1/2, sensitivity}^{0
uetaeta} > 2.7 \times 10^{24} \ yr$$
 at 90% C.L.

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#### **Unblinded Fit and Results**





- <sup>136</sup>Xe exposure: 44.6 kg-yr
- Energy resolution @ 2615 keV: 2.0% in Run0 and 2.3% in Run1
- <sup>136</sup>Xe  $0\nu\beta\beta$  event rate:  $14\pm55\ t^{-1}yr^{-1}$ ,  $<111\ t^{-1}yr^{-1}$  at 90% C.L.
- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 2.1 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr}$  at 90% C.L.  $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = (0.4 1.6) \text{ eV/c}^2$

## Search for $^{136}\mbox{Xe}$ $0\nu\beta\beta$ with natural Xe TPC



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- The most stringent constraint from a natural xenon detector
- Improvement w.r.t PandaX-II by an order of magnitude and XENON1T by a factor of 1.8
- Demonstrating the potential of  $^{136}\text{Xe}$   $0\nu\beta\beta$  search with next-generation multi-ten-tonne natural xenon detectors



#### PandaX-xT: Multi-ten-tonne Liquid Xenon Observatory



- Active target: 43 tons of Xenon
  - Test the WIMP paradigm to the neutrino floor
  - Explore the Dirac/Majorana nature of neutrino
  - Search for astrophysical or terrestrial neutrinos and other ultra-rare interactions
- Notable detector improvements:
  - High-granularity, low-background 2-in PMT array
  - Cu/Ti vessel for improved radiopurity
  - Inner liquid scintillator veto



#### SCPMA 68, 221011 (2025)

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#### *SCPMA* 68, 221011 (2025)





- 4 ton of <sup>136</sup>Xe: one
- Effective self-shielding: Xenon-related background dominates in the 8.4-tonne center FV



	Baseline (1/tonne/year)	Ideal (1/tonne/year)
Photosensors	$1.4 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-3}$
Copper vessel	3.2×10 <sup>-2</sup>	6.3×10 <sup>-3</sup>
<sup>222</sup> Rn	$4.5 \times 10^{-2}$	
<sup>136</sup> Xe DBD	$5.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.2 \times 10^{-4}$
<sup>137</sup> Xe	$8.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$8.7 \times 10^{-4}$
Solar ${}^8\mathrm{B}\nu$	$1.4 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-2}$
Total	1.1×10 <sup>-1</sup>	$2.4 \times 10^{-2}$



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### Head-to-head with other DM/0vßß experiments



	Bkg rate (/keV/ton/y)	Energy resolution	Mass (ton)	Run time	Sensitivity/Lim it (90% CL, year)
PandaX-4T	6	1.9%	4	94.9 days	> 10 <sup>24</sup>
XENONnT	1	0.8%	6	1000 days (expected)	2 × 10 <sup>25</sup>
LZ	0.3	1%	7	1000 days (expected)	$1 \times 10^{26}$
KamLAND-ZEN	0.002	5%	0.8 ( <sup>136</sup> Xe)	1.5 years	$2.3 \times 10^{26}$
nEXO	0.006	1%	5 ( <sup>136</sup> Xe)	10 years	1.35 × 10 <sup>28 **</sup>
DARWIN	0.004*	0.8%	40	10 years	2 × 10 <sup>27</sup>
PandaX-xT	0.002*	1%	43	10 years	3×10 <sup>27</sup>

\* Major difference from cosmogenic <sup>137</sup>Xe; \*\*  $\frac{S}{\sqrt{R}}$  sensitivity is 6×10<sup>27</sup> yr, for detector performance comparison in the table. PandaX Ovßß 上海交大 韩柯

#### Sensitivity comparison











#### Possible isotope seperation/enrichment

- PANDAX PARTICLE AND ASTROPHYSICAL XEION TEC
- Xenon with artificially modified isotopic abundance (AMIA) for smoking gun discovery
  - A split of odd and even nuclei
  - Further enrichment of <sup>136</sup>Xe
  - to improve sensitivity to spin-dependence of DM-nucleon interactions and  $0\nu\beta\beta$





#### Neutrinoless double beta decay with PandaX



- Neutrinoless double beta decay is at the frontier of particle and nuclear physics: the Majorana nature of neutrino and beyond
- Global competition: LEGEND (US), CUPID (EU), and KamLAND2-ZEN (JP); all with enriched materials

- PandaX-4T has established the most stringent <sup>136</sup>Xe limit from a natural xenon detector
- PandaX-xT will be one of the most competitive  $0\nu\beta\beta$  experiments



# Thank you very much

# We welcome new collaborators

at PandaX-xT

#### Data selection

- An identical FV as in <sup>136</sup>Xe analysis, total isotopic exposure: 17.9 kg·yr
- Single site vs multi-site selection measured by <sup>232</sup>Th calibration data
  - Little impact to DBD signals ( $\beta$  SS events)





PandaX, Phys.Rev.Lett. 132 (2024) 15, 152502

#### Signal efficiencies



- + 134Xe 2 $u\beta\beta$  and 0 $u\beta\beta$  events generated with the theoretical calculation
- The signal events went through PandaX-4T simulation and data processing chain

- ROI [200,1000]keV cut:
  - $2\nu\beta\beta$ : 60.56%
  - 0νββ: 99.98%

- SS ratio in ROI:
  - 2νββ: 99.89%
  - 0νββ: 98.23%



Physical Review C 85, 034316 (2012)

#### Background model



	Component	Input Counts	Constraint	
	<sup>60</sup> Co	130	13%	
Materials	<sup>40</sup> K	133	8%	
	<sup>232</sup> Th	950	5%	Measured in $^{136}$ Xe 2 $ uetaeta$ analysis
	<sup>238</sup> U	274	8%	Research 2022 (2022) 9798721
	<sup>136</sup> Xe	12372	5%	
	<sup>212</sup> Pb	1012	29%	Measured by its daughter <sup>212</sup> Po alpha decay
	<sup>85</sup> Kr	296	52%	Determined by $\beta\text{-}\gamma$ emission through the metastable state $^{85m}Rb$
LXe	<sup>133</sup> Xe	3423	10%	Estimated the $\beta+\gamma$ shoulder of $^{133}\mbox{Xe}$ between 90 and 120 keV
	<sup>214</sup> Pb	19429	Free	Determined by 222Rn
	<sup>125</sup> Xe	-	Free	short-lived xenon isotopes induced by neutron calibration
	Other Xe	-	Free	<sup>127</sup> Xe and <sup>129m</sup> Xe

# Bench test for saturation and new PMT base design



- PMT waveform saturation is studied by independent bench tests
  - Desati
- New PMT base design to increase the dynamic range
- All PMT bases have been changed in Run2





# Unified Data Reconstruction Pipeline

#### **Optimizations in data processing:**

- Recovered ~0.5% SS events by an improved time window cut
- S1 waveform slicing to improve alpha events reconstruction
- 3.5 ms dead-time cut before <sup>214</sup>Po events to remove isolated <sup>214</sup>Bi events: ~1% background reduction and negligible data loss
- ➤ And more...

#### Unified pipeline for Run0 and Run1

Reconstructed spectra of Run0 and Run1 are consistent, considering the <sup>222</sup>Rn increase in Run1

#### Blind analysis: ROI = [2356, 2560] keV, only SS events used



#### **Background Model**

- <sup>136</sup>Xe  $2\nu\beta\beta$  (from PandaX measured <sup>136</sup>Xe half-life)
- Detector material: <sup>60</sup>Co, <sup>40</sup>K, <sup>232</sup>Th, <sup>238</sup>U (from HPGe material assay), and grouped into top, side, and bottom parts
- Stainless steel platform (SSP): <sup>232</sup>Th, <sup>238</sup>U (from MS fitting)





Other background components are checked:

- Residual <sup>214</sup>Bi in TPC -> negligible
- Gammas of <sup>214</sup>Bi from LXe skin region -> negligible
- 2.5 MeV peak from <sup>60</sup>Co cascade gammas -> well modelled

#### Likelihood and Systematics

- Binned Poisson likelihood with Gaussian penalty ٠ terms to constrain nuisance parameters
- Systematics include three categories: energy ٠ response, overall efficiency, <sup>136</sup>Xe mass
- Background model and systematics are included in ٠ likelihood fitting

$$\begin{split} L &= \prod_{r}^{N_{reglin}} \prod_{i}^{N_{reglin}} \prod_{j}^{N_{bins}} \frac{(N_{rij})^{N_{rij}^{obs}}}{N_{rij}^{obs}!} e^{-N_{rij}} \\ &\cdot \prod_{r}^{N_{reglin}} [\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{M}_{r}; \mathcal{M}_{r}^{0}, \Sigma_{r}^{\mathcal{M}}) \cdot \prod_{k}^{N_{eff}} G(\eta_{r}^{k}; 0, \sigma_{r}^{k})] \\ &\cdot \prod_{b}^{N_{bkg}} G(\eta^{b}; 0, \sigma^{b}) \\ N_{rij} = (1 + \eta_{r}^{o}) \cdot [(1 + \eta_{r}^{s}) \cdot n_{r}^{s} \cdot S_{ijr} \\ &+ \sum_{b}^{N_{bkg}} (1 + \eta^{b}) \cdot n_{r}^{b} \cdot B_{ijr}^{b}] \end{split}$$



Sources		Values		
3	ources	Run0	Run1	
	$a  [\mathrm{keV}^{-1}]$	$(4.2 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-6}$	$(1.1 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-6}$	
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Energy response	c [keV]	$0.90\pm0.32$	$1.4 \pm 1.5$	
Energy response	$d [\sqrt{\text{keV}}]$	$0.259 \pm 0.046$	$0.46 \pm 0.25$	
	$e  [{ m keV^{-1}}]$	$(1.1 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-6}$	$(8.8\pm22.2)\times10^{-7}$	
	f	$(9.7\pm 3.5)\times 10^{-3}$	$(7.4 \pm 10.0) \times 10^{-3}$	
Overall efficiency	$^{136}$ Xe $0\nu\beta\beta$ SS fraction	$(87.1 \pm 11.3)\%$	$(87.3 \pm 7.0)\%$	
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136 <b>Xe</b> mass	<sup>136</sup> Xe abundance	$e \ [\text{keV}^{-1}]$ $(1.1 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-6}$ $f$ $(9.7 \pm 3.5) \times 10^{-3}$ $0\nu\beta\beta$ SS fraction $(87.1 \pm 11.3)\%$ Quality cut $(99.89 \pm 0.10)\%$ Xe abundance $(8.58 \pm 10^{-2})\%$		
Ac mass	FV mass [kg]	$735 \pm 3$	$735 \pm 14$	
Backg	round model	Tat	ole. 2	

- <sup>136</sup>Xe abundance is measured by RGA with xenon samples from detector
- FV mass uncertainty is estimated from the non-٠ uniformity of <sup>83m</sup>Kr calibration data distribution, plus the LXe density fluctuation (pressure fluctuation) during data-taking

PandaX OvBu

#### Background counts and parameter pulls

Dealerson dealers in the DOI

Background counts in the KOI						
Background	Model expectation	Blinded fit	Unblinded fit			
SSP <sup>232</sup> Th	527 ± 45	$470 \pm 34$	$458 \pm 33$			
SSP <sup>238</sup> U	$50 \pm 15$	$38 \pm 11$	$39 \pm 11$			
<sup>232</sup> Th	$375 \pm 224$	$510 \pm 34$	$485\pm31$			
<sup>238</sup> U	$78 \pm 42$	$70 \pm 9$	$72 \pm 9$			
<sup>60</sup> Co	$18 \pm 7$	$31 \pm 3$	$31 \pm 3$			
<sup>136</sup> Xe	$0.18 \pm 0.01$	$0.19 \pm 0.01$	$0.19\pm0.01$			

> All pulls of nuisance parameters fall within the  $\pm 2\sigma$  range

- All best-fit nuisance parameters are consistent between the blinded and unblinded fits
- Pull of top <sup>60</sup>Co reaches 1.8σ, indicating that the model expectation from the HPGe material assay might be slightly underestimated

