

Abstract Submitted
for the DNP17 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Progress towards barium daughter tagging in Xe^{136} decay using single molecule fluorescence imaging AUSTIN MCDONALD, University of Texas at Arlington, NEXT COLLABORATION — The existence of Majorana fermions is of great interest as it may be related to the asymmetry between matter and anti-matter particles in the universe. However, the search for them has proven to be a difficult one. Neutrino-less Double Beta decay (NLDB) offers a possible opportunity for direct observation of a Majorana Fermion. The rate for NLDB decay may be as low as ≈ 1 *count/ton/year* if the mass ordering is inverted. Current detector technologies have background rates between 4 to 300 *count/ton/year/ROI* at the 100kg scale which is much larger than the universal goal of 0.1 *count/ton/year/ROI* desired for ton-scale detectors. The premise of my research is to develop new detector technologies that will allow for a background-free experiment. My current work is to develop a sensor that will tag the daughter ion Ba^{++} from the Xe^{136} decay. The development of a sensor that is sensitive to single barium ion detection based on the single molecule fluorescence imaging technique is the major focus of this work. If successful, this could provide a path to a background-free experiment.

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Date submitted: 30 Jun 2017

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