

# Testing creation of matter and Majorana neutrinos with $0\nu 2\beta$

Stefano Dell'Oro, Simone Marcocci, Francesco Vissani

LNGS & GSSI

(based mostly on the review 1601.07512, Adv. in HEP, 2016, 2162659)

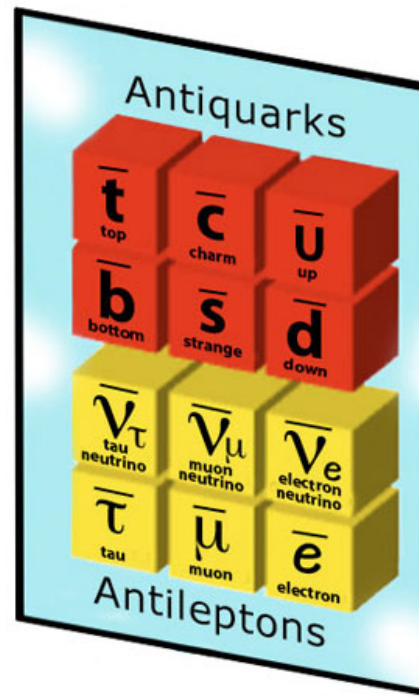
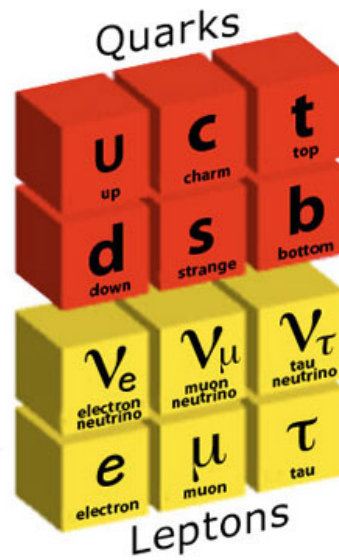
Conference on Neutrino and Nuclear Physics, Catania, Oct17, 2017

On the nature of matter, shortcomings of the “standard model”, search for new phenomena: creation of electrons & proton decay

## **WHY MATTER STABILITY NEEDS TESTS**



What is  
“matter”?



# the best theory of matter we have

*is the “Standard Model”. Some features relevant for us,*

- neutrino masses are zero
- $B-L$  ,  $L_e-L_\mu$  ,  $L_e-L_\tau$  ,  $L_\tau-L_\mu$  are exactly conserved;  
 $B$  ,  $L$  ,  $L_e$  ,  $L_\mu$  ,  $L_\tau$  only perturbatively
- matter  $\neq$  antimatter, neutrinos included
- (no explanation of cosmic matter unbalance)



# the best theory of matter we have

*is the “Standard Model”. Some features relevant for us,*

- neutrino masses are zero (**false**)
- $B-L$  ,  $L_e-L_\mu$  ,  $L_e-L_\tau$  ,  $L_\tau-L_\mu$  are exactly conserved;  
 $B$  ,  $L$  ,  $L_e$  ,  $L_\mu$  ,  $L_\tau$  only perturbatively (**mostly false**)
- matter  $\neq$  antimatter, neutrinos included (**dubious**)
- (no explanation of cosmic matter unbalance)

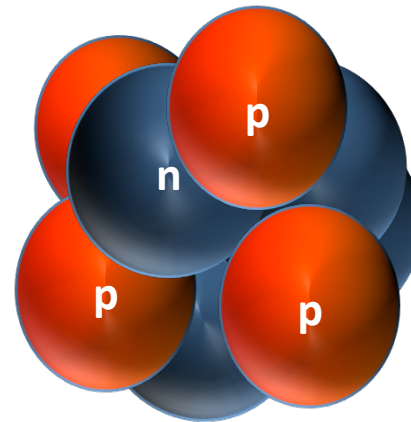
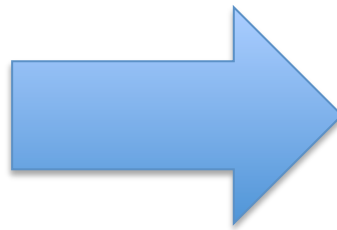
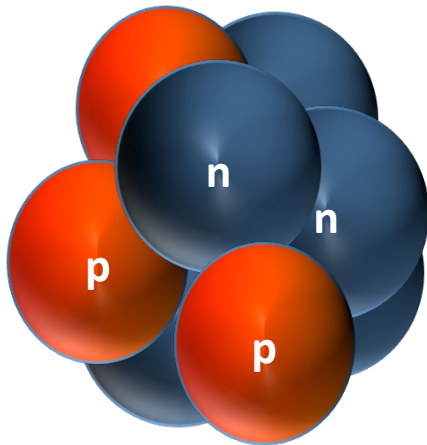
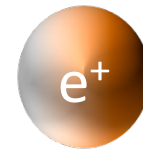
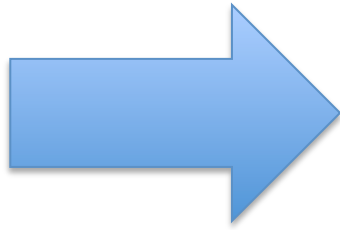
# IN “STANDARD MODEL” WE TRUST – *OR NOT?*

**SM ensures matter stability, but it has its own shortcomings**

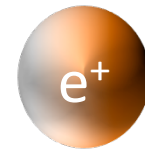
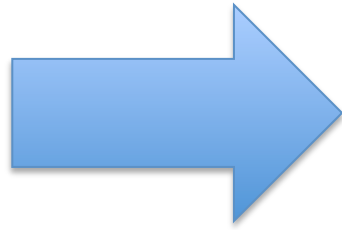
**Matter stability is not for granted; It should be tested experimentally**

**Matter could appear in some process & disappear in some other**

# MAYBE MATTER IS NOT FOREVER

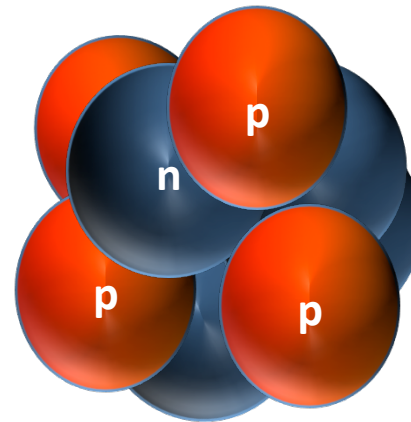
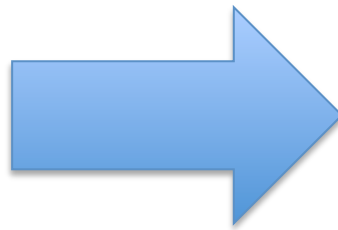
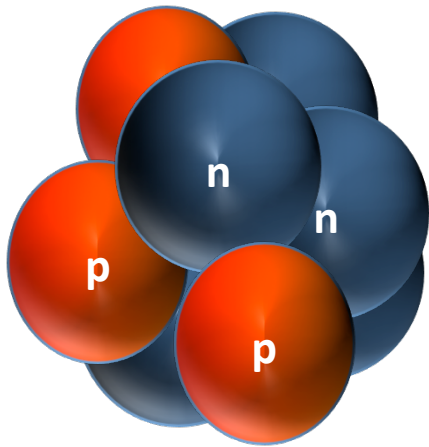


# MAYBE MATTER IS NOT FOREVER

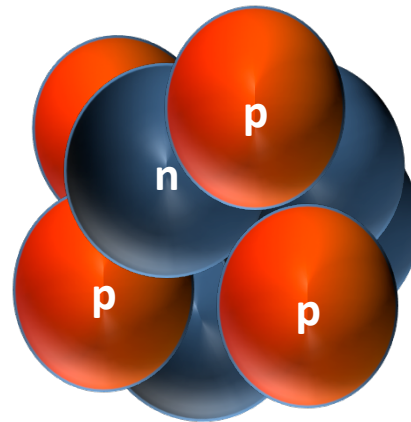
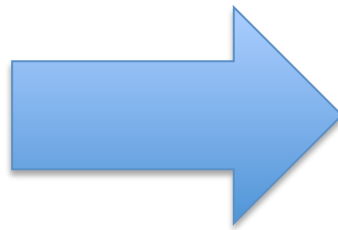
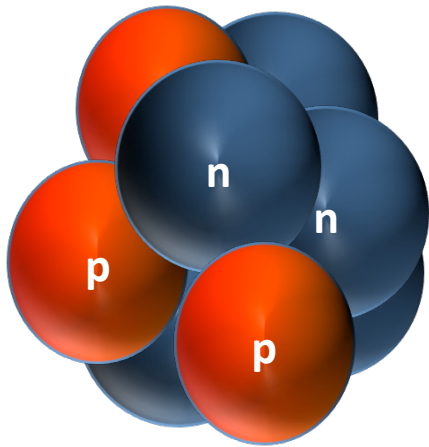
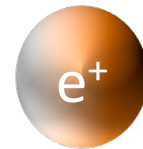
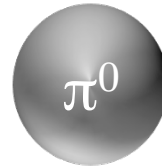
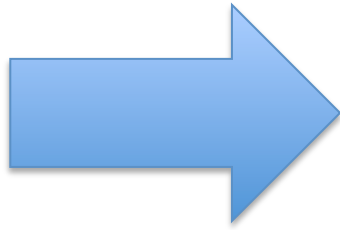


**B=+1, L=0**

**B=0, L=-1**



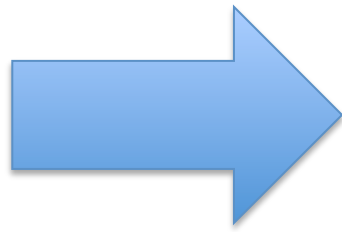
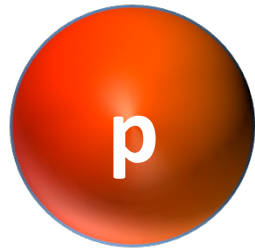
# MAYBE MATTER IS NOT FOREVER



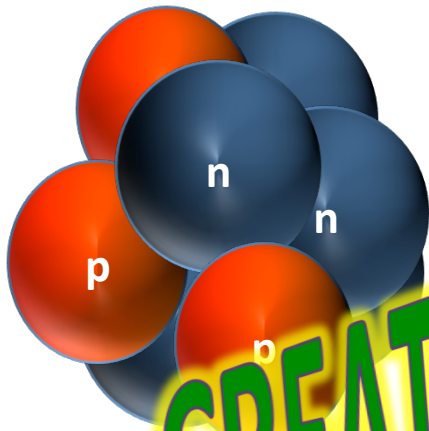
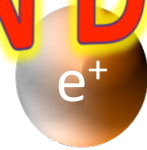
**B=A , L=0**

**B=A , L=2**

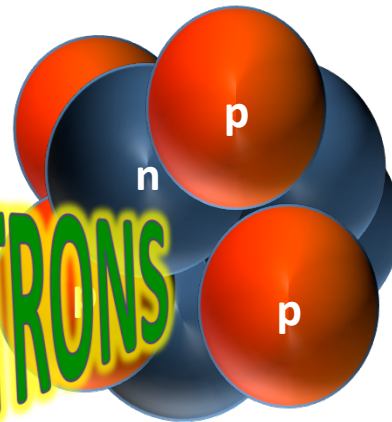
# MAYBE MATTER IS NOT FOREVER



**PROTON DECAY**

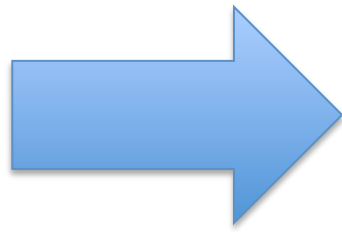
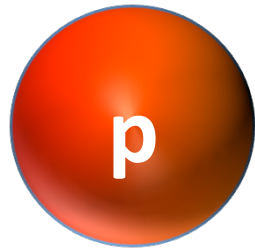


**CREATION OF ELECTRONS**

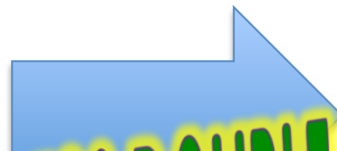
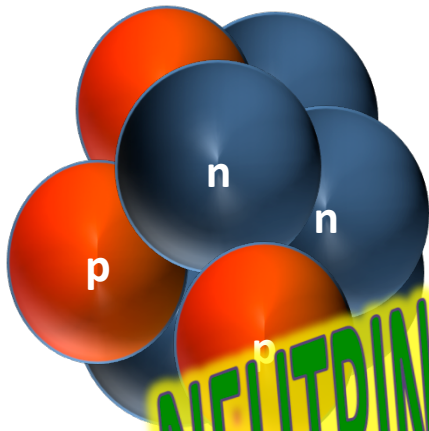
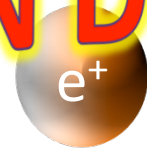




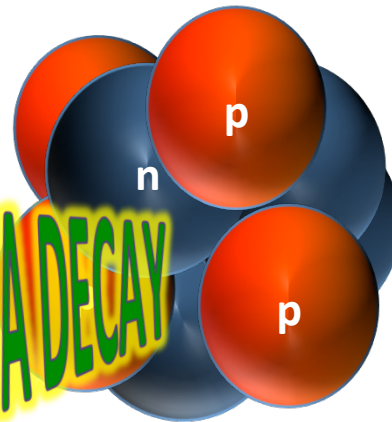
# MAYBE MATTER IS NOT FOREVER



**PROTON DECAY**



**NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE BETA DECAY**

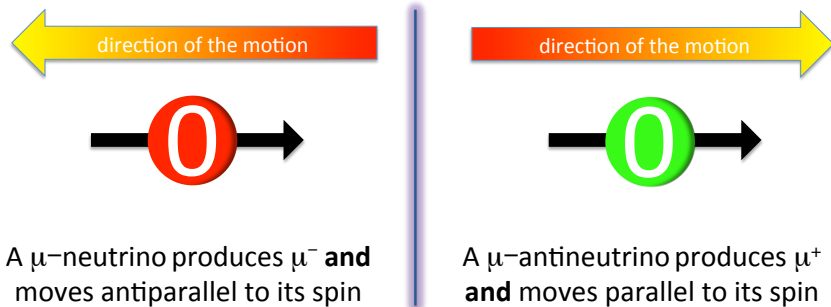


Majorana neutrino masses, impact on the  $0\nu 2\beta$  decay process (or creation of electrons), new physics at very high energy

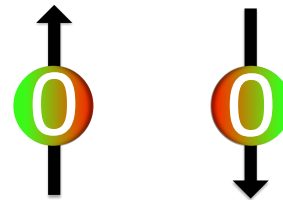
## MOTIVATIONS



## Neutrinos and antineutrinos in the SM



## Spin states of a Majorana massive field



# SM upgrade with $\nu$ mass (dated 1937)

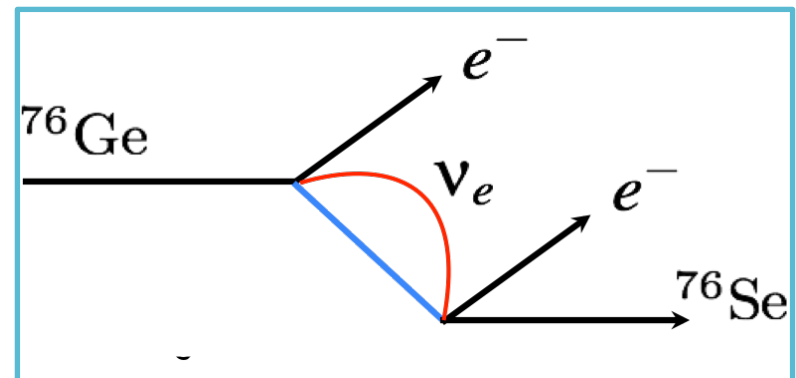
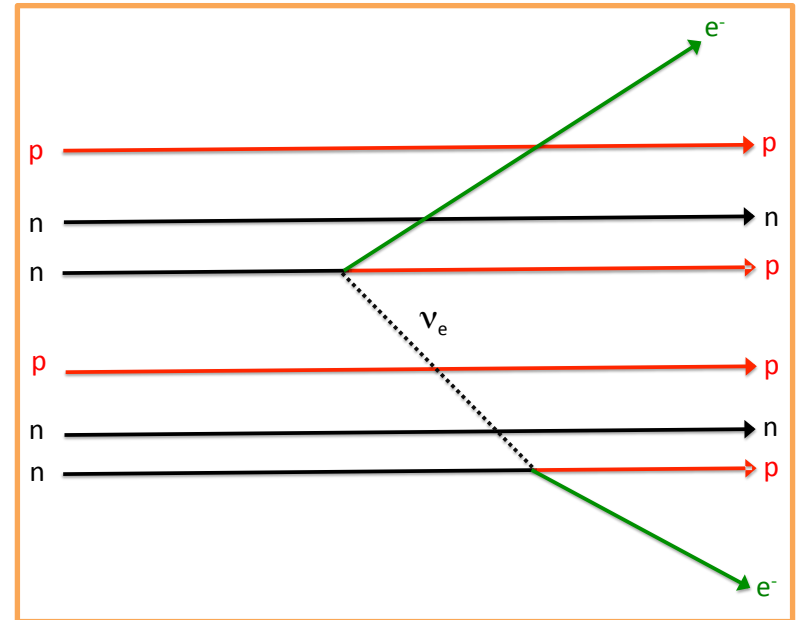
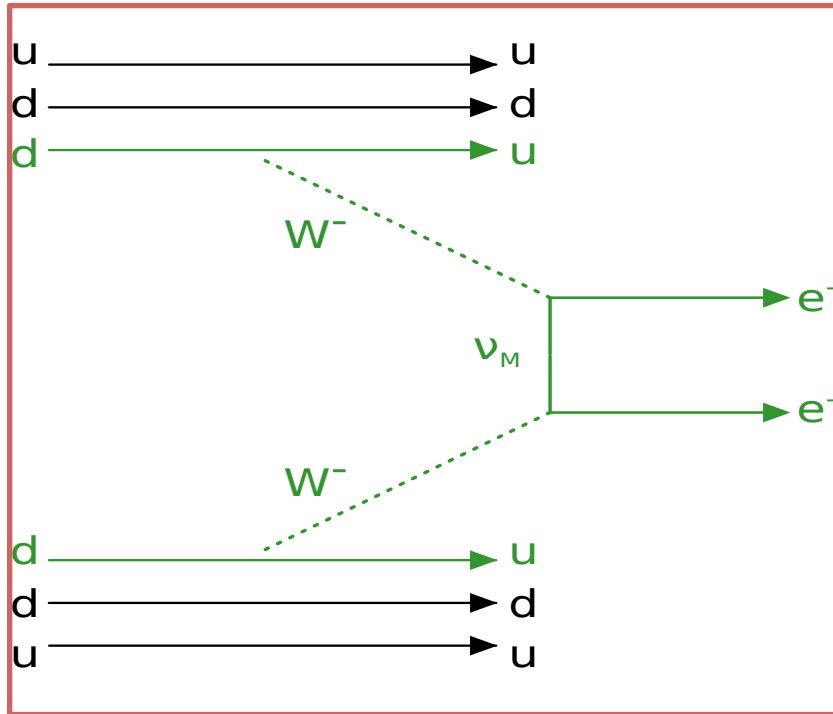
In SM,  $\nu$  are massless and exactly left-handed; anti- $\nu$  are exactly right-handed

**Majorana:** In rest frame,  $\nu$  & anti- $\nu$  are the same particle; they are matter & antimatter

Usual  $\nu$  & anti- $\nu$  satisfy  $m_\nu \ll p_\nu$  and kinematical effects are not observable;  
however, the lepton number  $L$  is violated as  $m_\nu/p_\nu$

(Note, difference between matter & antimatter is not a Lorentz invariant concept)

# impact of the Majorana neutrinos on $0\nu 2\beta$



# Glancing beyond SM

- High dim. operators, invariant under **SM** symmetry, summarize new physics at ultra-high scales, say, at **GUT**
- [They play exactly the same role of Fermi interactions]
- The one with dim.5 describes **neutrino masses (Majorana's)**
- A high mass scale matches well experimental findings:

$$m_{\text{overall}}^{\nu} \sim \frac{M_W^2}{M_{\text{GUT}}} = 65 \text{ meV} \times \frac{10^{14} \text{ GeV}}{M_{\text{GUT}}}$$

The mass parameter that matters; implications of oscillations, cosmology and particle physics theory (or better, of guesswork)

## **MAJORANA NEUTRINOS: IMPLICATIONS**

# the “electron neutrino” mass

If the mass of the light  $\nu$  leads the transition, e.g. if new physics is at ultra-HE scale, the parameter that counts for  $0\nu 2\beta$  is,

$$m_{\beta\beta} \equiv |(M_\nu)_{ee}| = \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 |U_{ei}^2| e^{i\xi_i} m_i \right|$$

Symbols: first is the traditional one; second, ee-element of the  $\nu$  mass matrix

The absolute mass scale and the (Majorana) **phases**  $\xi_i$  are not probed by oscillations: Only mass differences and electronic mixing  $|U_{ei}|^2$  are measured.

# what we know from neutrino oscillations

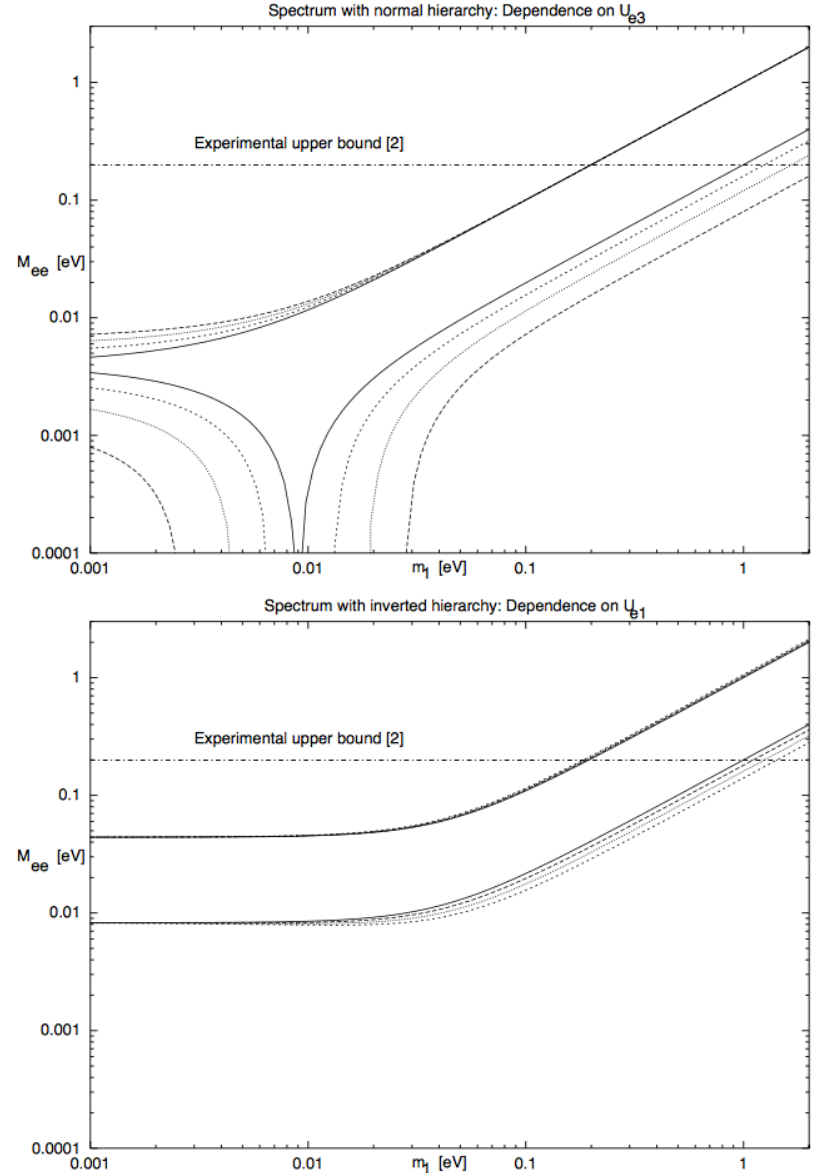
## Signal of neutrinoless double beta decay, neutrino spectrum and oscillation scenarios

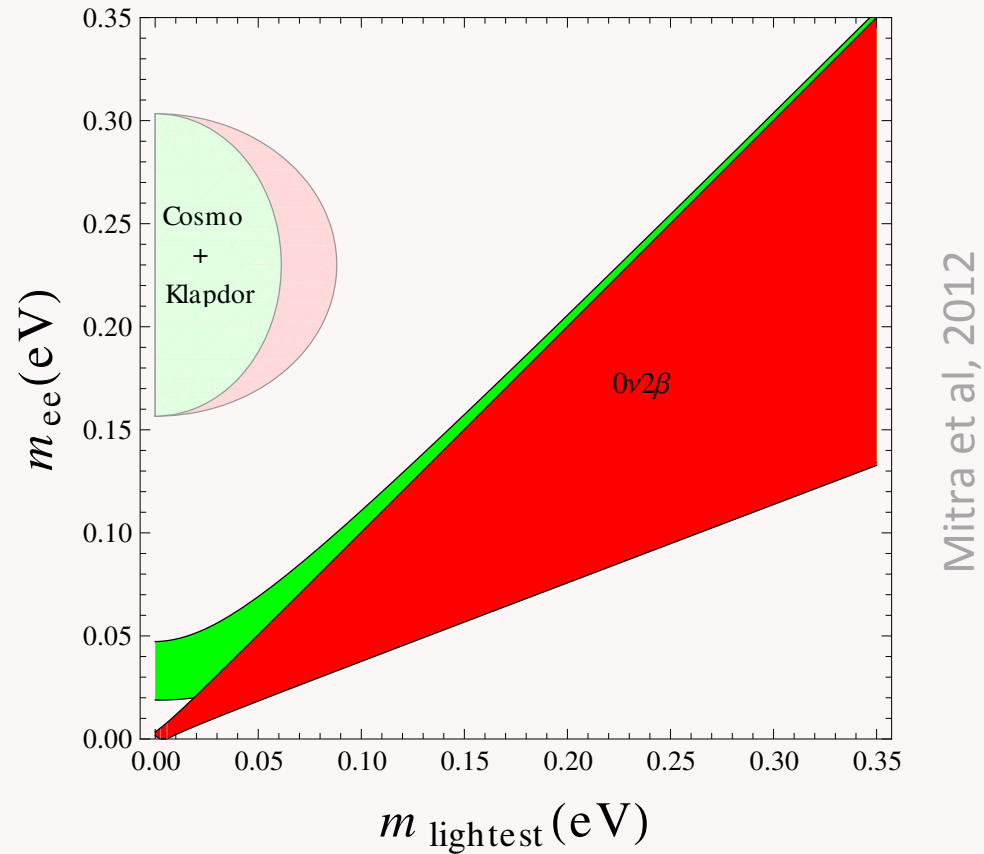
Francesco Vissani

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**ABSTRACT:** The lower and upper bounds on the neutrinoless double beta ( $0\nu 2\beta$ ) decay rate are obtained, as functions of the parameters of neutrino oscillations and of the lightest neutrino mass. The constraints on these parameters from the search for the  $0\nu 2\beta$  transition, as well as from the interpretation of solar and atmospheric neutrino data in terms of oscillations, can be conveniently represented in one unitarity triangle. This representation helps to clarify the cases when the  $0\nu 2\beta$  rate is small; the crucial dependence on the scenarios assumed for solar neutrino oscillations and on the neutrino spectrum is emphasized. We consider hierarchical and non-hierarchical neutrino spectra, and discuss their interest in view of future searches of the  $0\nu 2\beta$  decay.

**KEYWORDS:** Neutrino Physics, Solar and Atmospheric Neutrinos.





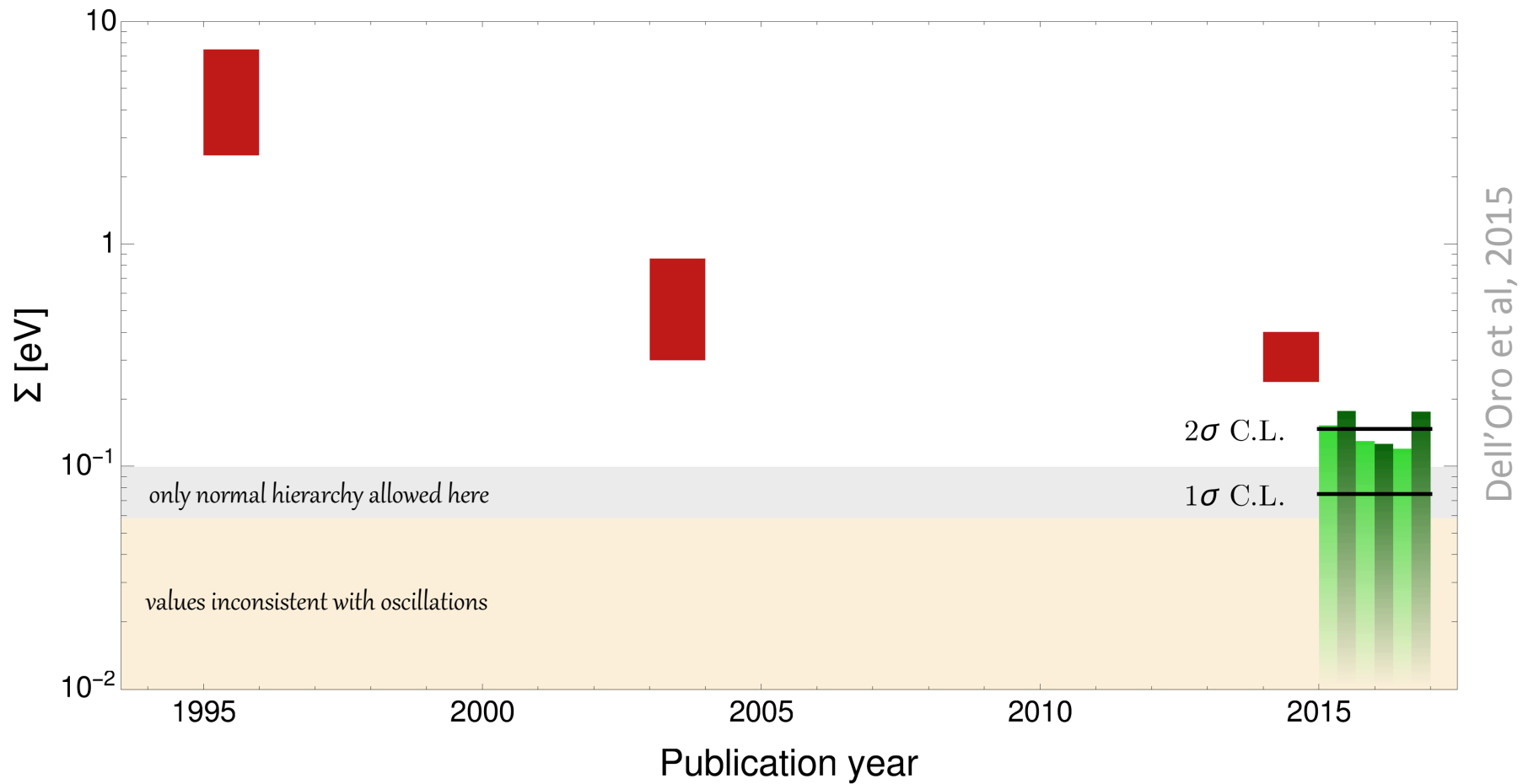
Mitra et al, 2012

## how to use the $(m_{\text{lightest}}, m_{\beta\beta})$ -plot

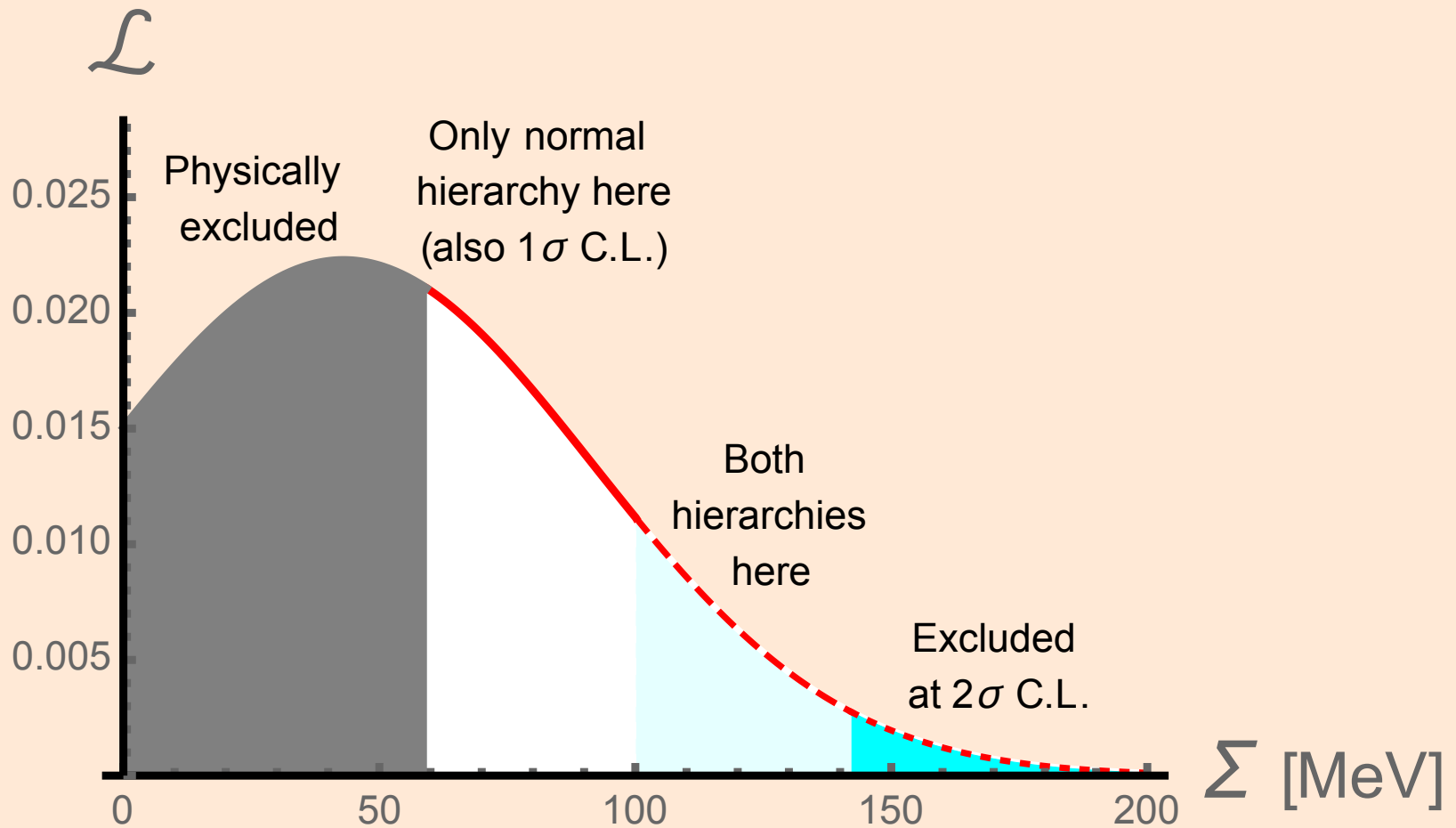
This drawing shows that Klapdor et al's result did not agree with light Majorana neutrino interpretation. A priori, a similar situation can signify that the findings are not reliable or that they hint at an alternative scenario; this could be very interesting ***if lepton number violation will be observed in LHC or other accelerators*** in future.

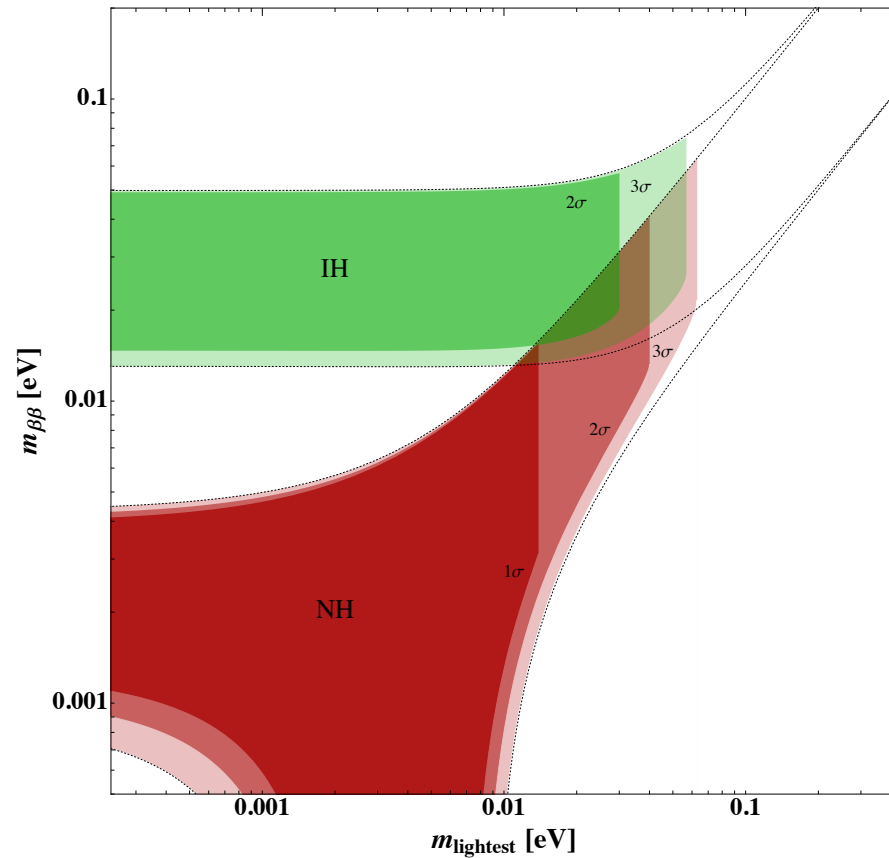


# cosmology yields $\Sigma = m_1 + m_2 + m_3$



# 2015 result confirmed & improved this year



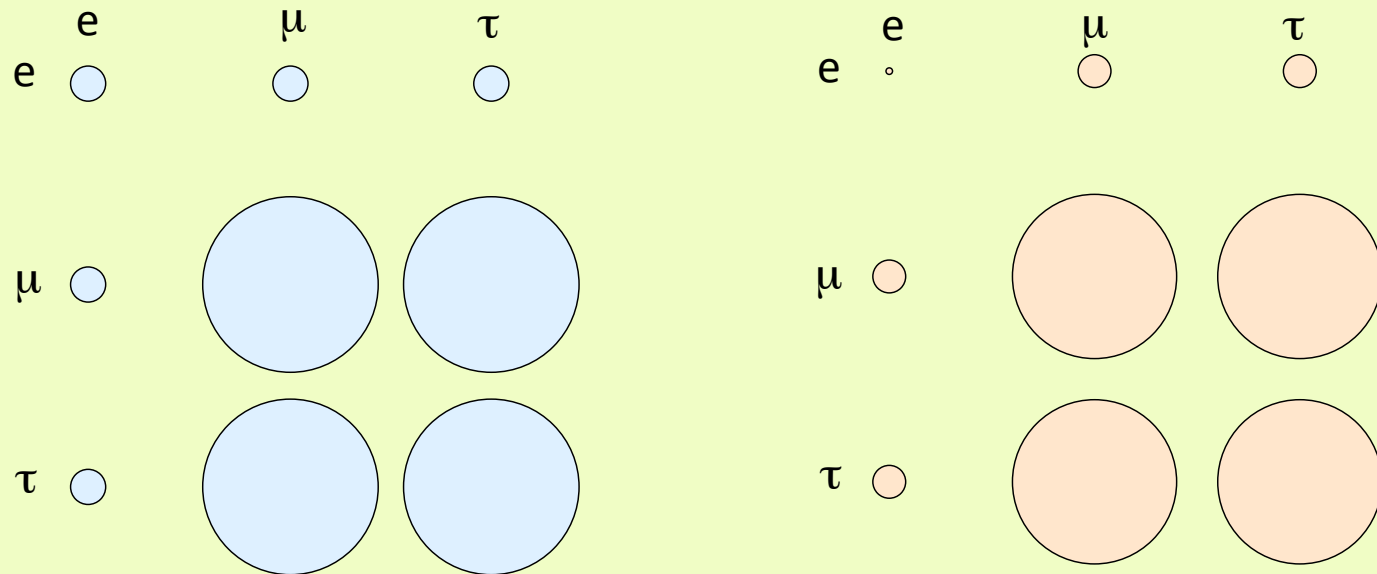


Dell'Oro et al, 2015

## Cosmological bound and allowed regions

Cosmological analyses favors slightly the case of normal mass hierarchy. This indication preceded (2015) and it is consistent with the one from oscillations (2016, 2017).

# HP. ON NEUTRINO MASS MATRIX,



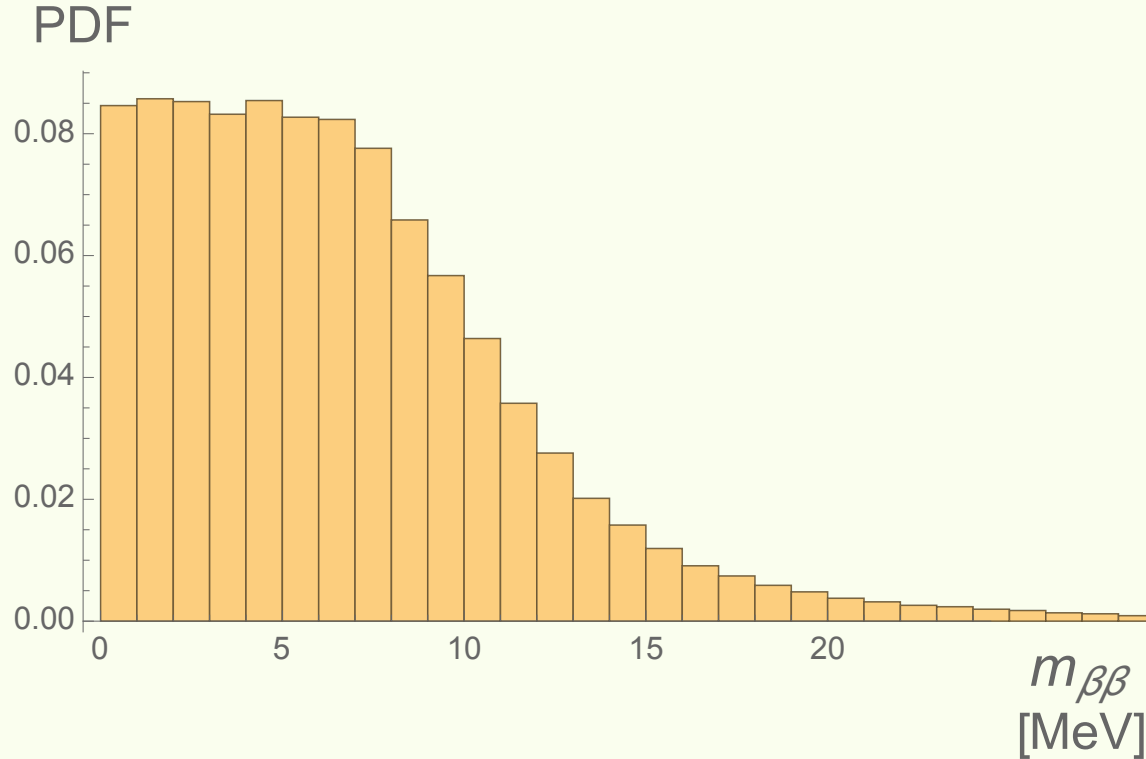
Vissani, 2001

Large atmospheric neutrino mixing suggests a matrix with a **dominant  $\mu$ - $\tau$  block** (Bereziani Rossi 96, Vissani 98).

The expectations can be explored with **random #** generators.

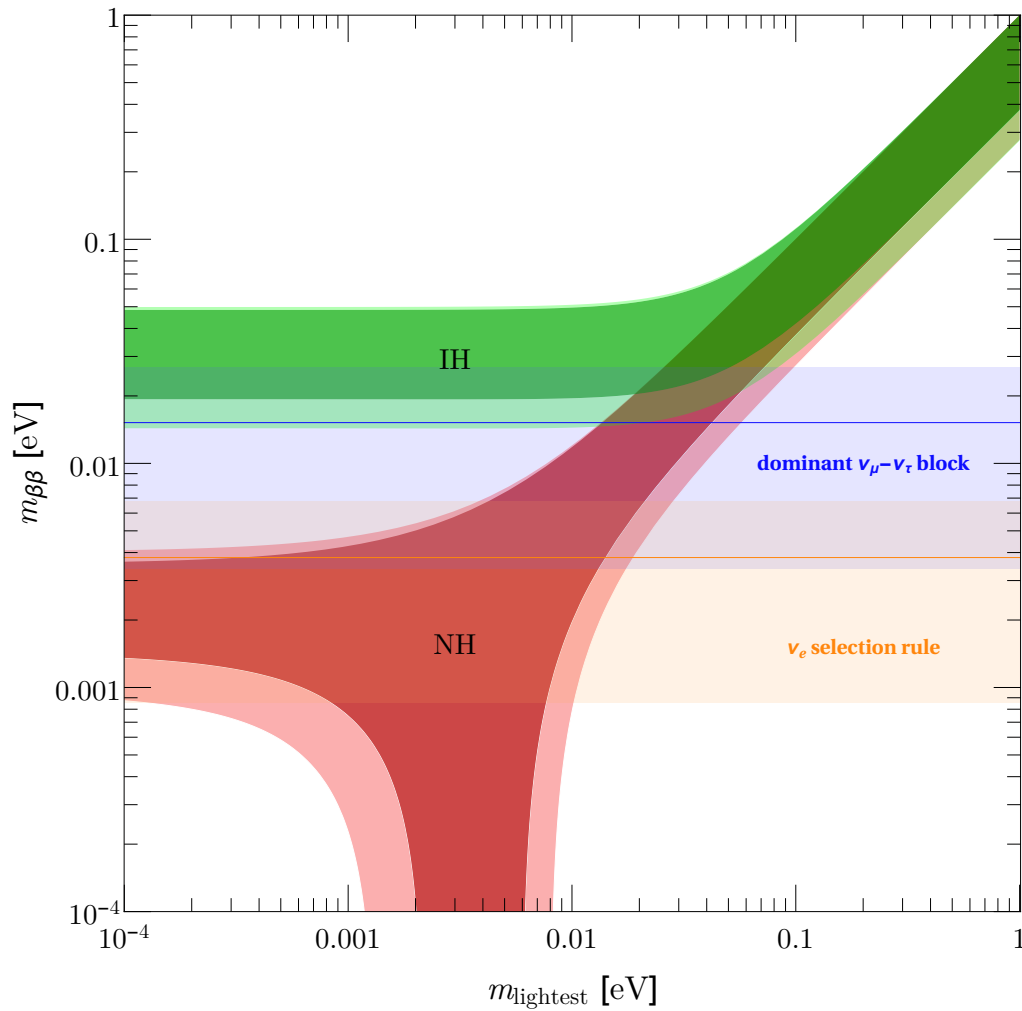
Since 2001, it is known that a “order parameter”  $\theta_C=13^\circ$  or  $\sqrt{m_\mu/m_\tau}=14^\circ$  performs well: it agrees with LMA, it gives large  $\theta_{13}$ , it has NH, etc. The second case has smaller  $m_{\beta\beta} = |(\mathcal{M}_\nu)_{ee}|$  but it is consistent with a  $U(1)$  selection rule

## Expectations with the Extended Dominant Block



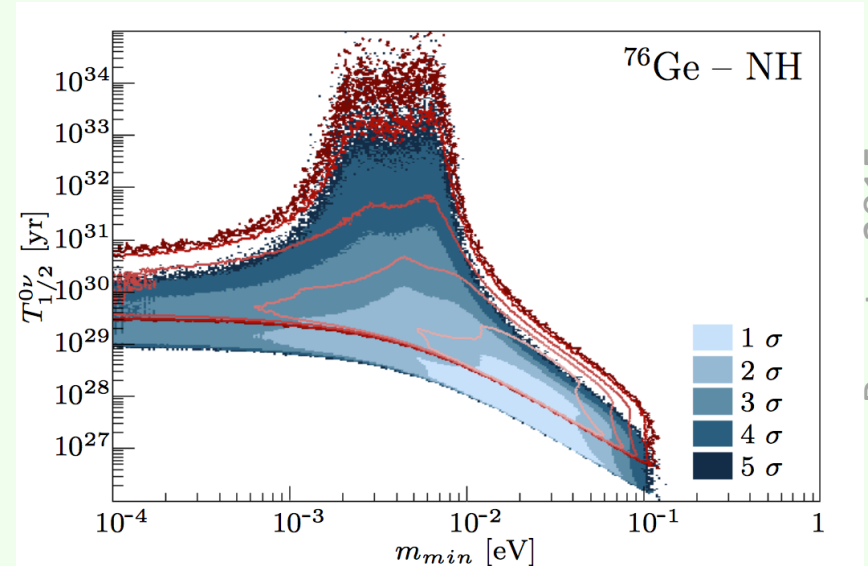
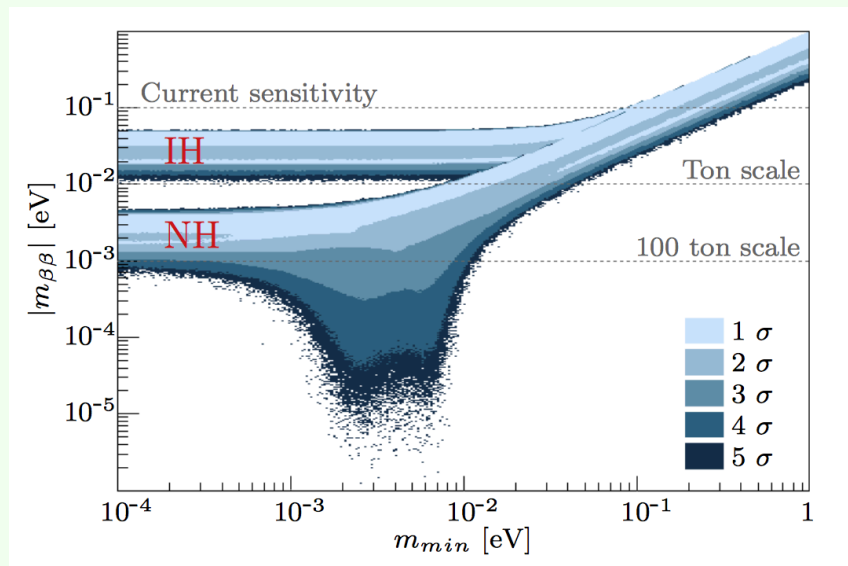
## Output of the statistical exploration

The expectation that  $m_{\beta\beta} \sim 50 \text{ meV} \times \theta_c \sim 10 \text{ meV}$  is confirmed by the Monte Carlo extraction. Here we use a very conservative assumption, that the unknown coefficients are complex random numbers in unit circle



The two strips on top of the “standard presentation” correspond to the values for  $m_{\beta\beta}$  suggested by the previous sets of mass matrices. The case of normal hierarchy is favored and mass scale is within reach for cosmology and Project-8 phase IV.

# alternative: try random phases



See also Caldwell, Merle, Schultz, Totzauer; Agostini, Benato, Detwiler 2017

Nuclear matrix elements (NME), uncertainties from nuclear physics, the issue of axial coupling  $g_A$

**FROM MASS TO LIFETIME**



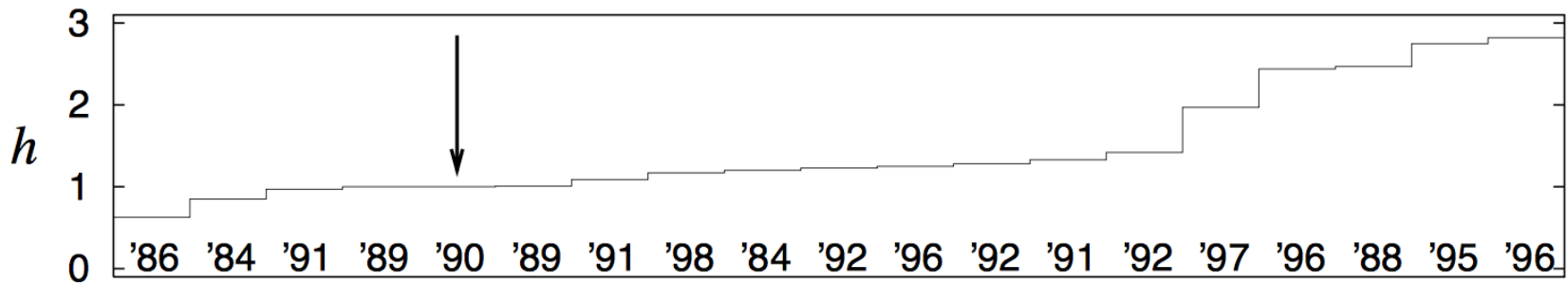
The  $0\nu\beta\beta$  transition takes place in a nuclear medium.  
Theory allows us to evaluate the amplitude.

$$\left[ t_{0\nu}^{1/2} \right]^{-1} = G_{0\nu} \cdot \left| \mathcal{M}_{0\nu} \right|^2 \cdot \left| m_{\beta\beta}/m_e \right|^2$$

Momentum of virtual nucleon is large,  $O(100 \text{ MeV})$ .  
The axial coupling matters - a lot.

In the ideal case when the background=0, the bound improves with  $\text{EXPOSURE} \times (\mathcal{M}_{0\nu} \times m_{\beta\beta})^2$ .

# uncertainties 16 years ago:



# and nowadays?

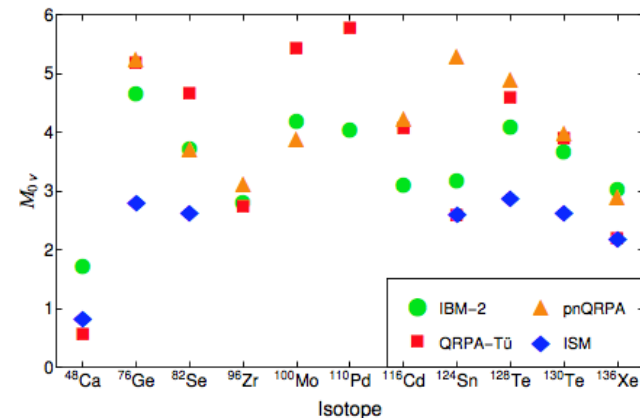
# Models for the nuclear matrix elements

- Nucleus = p and n interacting, bound in a potential well
  - definition of the valence space
  - derivation of an effective Hamiltonian
  - ground state wave functions by solving the equations of motion
- different theoretical models
  - Quasiparticle Random Phase Approximation
  - Intermediate Boson Model
  - Interacting Shell Model
  - ...

QRPA / IBM-2 within  $\sim 30\%$

---

QRPA-Tü: F. Šimkovic *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. C* **87**, 045501 (2013)  
pnQRPA: J. Hyvärinen *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. C* **91**, 024613 (2015)  
IBM-2: J. Barea *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. C* **91**, 034304 (2015)  
ISM: J. Menéndez *et al.*, *Nucl. Phys. A* **818**, 139 (2009)



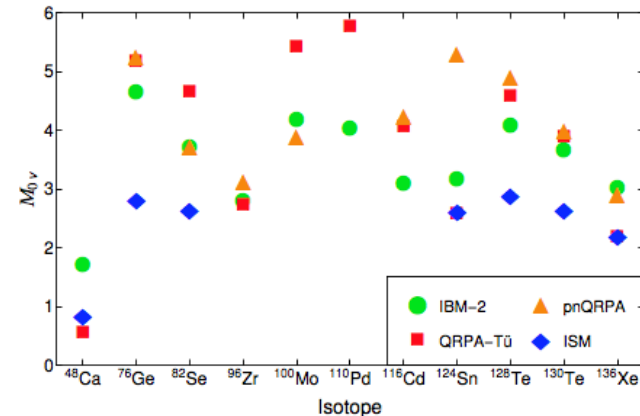
# Models for the nuclear matrix elements

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J. BAREA, J. KOTILA, AND F. IACHELLO

Nucleus	$\tau_{1/2, \text{exp}} (10^{18} \text{ yr})$ exp	$\tau_{1/2} (10^{18} \text{ yr})$ IBM-2	
		$\frac{CA}{GT}$	$\frac{SSD}{GT}$
$^{48}\text{Ca}$	$44^{+6}_{-5}$	2.30	
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	$1500 \pm 100$	144	
$^{82}\text{Se}$	$92 \pm 7$	7.68	
$^{96}\text{Zr}$	$23 \pm 2$	5.31	0.187
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$7.1 \pm 0.4$	6.46	0.117
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	$28 \pm 2$	14.5	0.306
$^{128}\text{Te}$	$1900000 \pm 400000$	65600	1170
$^{130}\text{Te}$	$680^{+120}_{-110}$	15.5	
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$2110 \pm 25$	23.0	

**But can we deem  $\approx 30\%$  a **credible evaluation** of the uncertainty?**

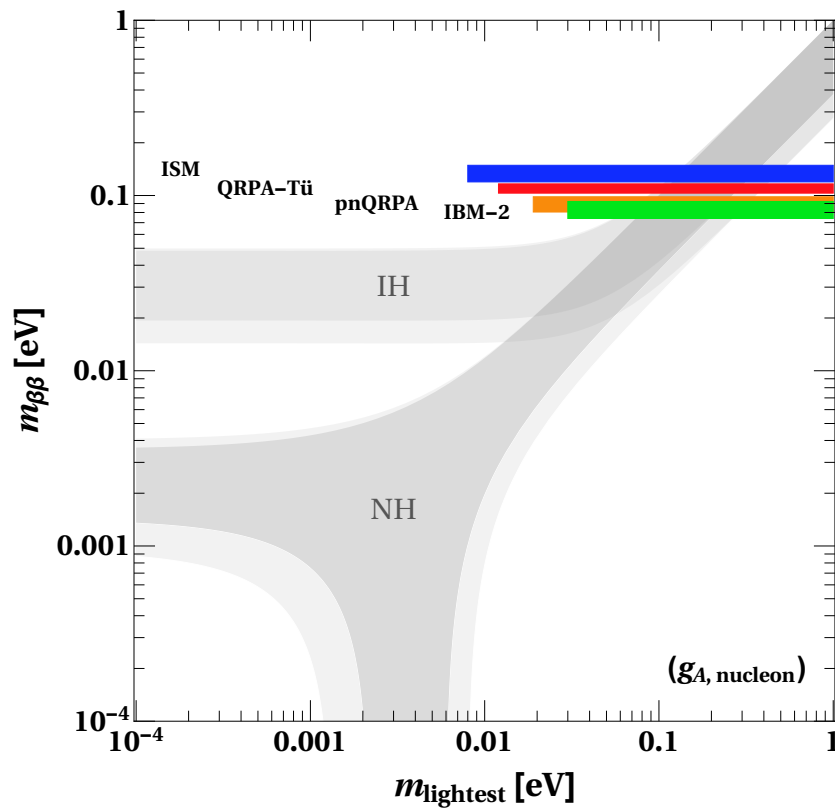
Other methods of calculation as ISM suggest caution. Moreover, for the weak processes where we have data, as  $2\nu 2\beta$ , IBM-2 (and QRPA) **overestimate** matrix elements much more than 30%. Maybe this indicates some systematics, i.e., a common cause of overestimation?

# the hypothesis of $g_A$ quenching

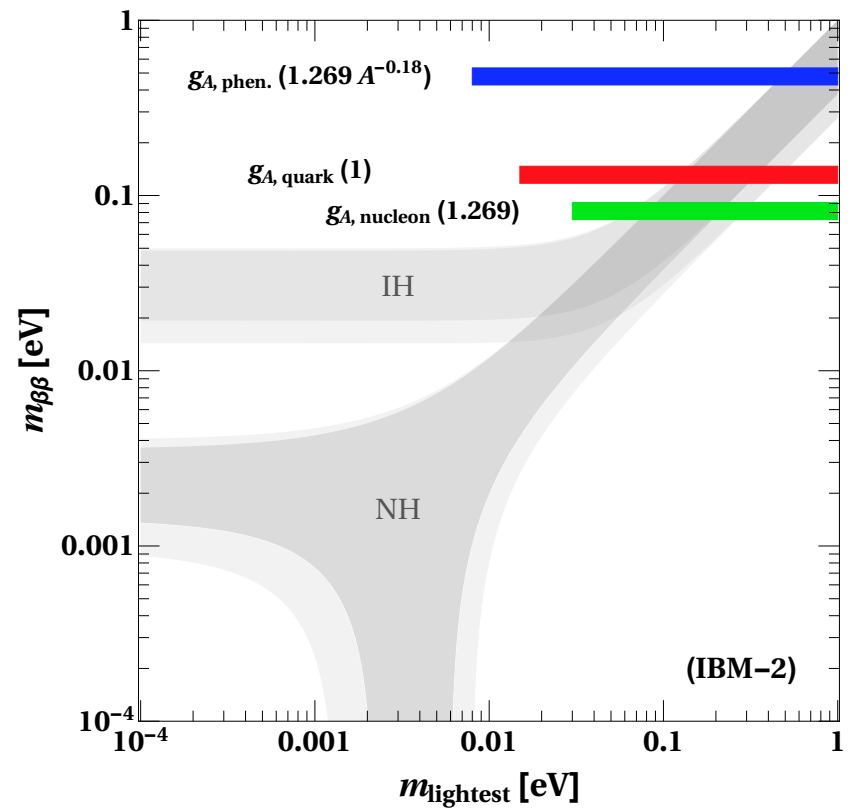
- ❑ Let us assume that the value of the axial coupling of the nucleon in the nuclear medium is not  $g_A = 1.269$
- ❑ Let us assume that this is the reason why the calculated  $2\nu 2\beta$  matrix elements are overestimated
- ❑ This gives the approximate scaling in IBM-2,  
 $g_A = 1.269 \times A^{-0.18}$
- ❑ Similar considerations apply to QRPA

## impact on Xe bound

## Different NMEs, same $g_A$



## Different $g_A$ , same NME (IBM-2)



# A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

- To date, caution suggests to vary  $g_A$  in a wide range, to remind us that uncertainties are unlikely to be small
- The “quenching/renormalization” of  $g_A$  is not a theory; however, if it is there, it is likely to depend upon  $q^2$
- Maybe the connection between  $0\nu 2\beta$  &  $2\nu 2\beta$  is not tight: the momentum of the virtual states  $q^2$  is quite different
- For  $0\nu 2\beta$ ,  $q^2$  is larger: maybe  $g_A$  is also larger, closer to the case of quark matter ( $g_A=1$ ) or to the case of free nucleon [Menendez, Gazit, Schwenk 2011; Engel, Menendez 2016]





Hindawi

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### Review Article

## Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay: 2015 Review

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TABLE 10: Sensitivity and exposure necessary to discriminate between  $\mathcal{NH}$  and  $\mathcal{IH}$ : the goal is  $m_{\beta\beta} = 8 \text{ meV}$ . The two cases refer to the unquenched value of  $g_A = g_{\text{nucleon}}$  (mega) and  $g_A = g_{\text{phen.}}$  (ultimate). The calculations are performed assuming zero background experiments with 100% detection efficiency and no fiducial volume cuts. The last column shows the maximum value of the product  $B \cdot \Delta$  in order to actually comply with the zero background condition.

Experiment	Isotope	$S_{0B}^{0\nu}$ [yr]	Exposure (estimate)	
			$M \cdot T$ [ton·yr]	$B \cdot \Delta_{(\text{zero bkg})}$ [counts kg <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> ]
mega Ge	<sup>76</sup> Ge	$3.0 \cdot 10^{28}$	5.5	$1.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$
mega Te	<sup>130</sup> Te	$8.1 \cdot 10^{27}$	2.5	$4.0 \cdot 10^{-4}$
mega Xe	<sup>136</sup> Xe	$1.2 \cdot 10^{27}$	3.8	$2.7 \cdot 10^{-4}$
ultimate Ge	<sup>76</sup> Ge	$6.9 \cdot 10^{22}$	125	$8.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$
ultimate Te	<sup>130</sup> Te	$2.7 \cdot 10^{29}$	84	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-5}$
ultimate Xe	<sup>136</sup> Xe	$4.0 \cdot 10^{29}$	130	$7.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$



Hindawi

Advances in High Energy Physics

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**In Table 10 above:**

**use IBM-2, show**

**effect of  $g_A$  on**

**$S=1, B<1$**

pages

**2015 Review**

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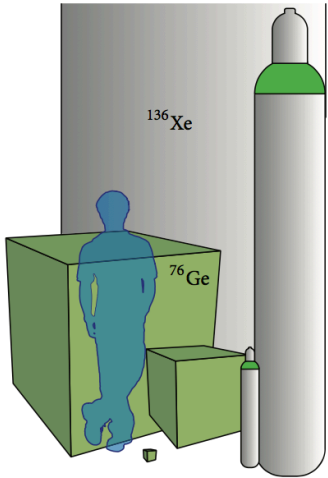


FIGURE 18: Masses corresponding to present, mega, and ultimate exposures, assuming zero background condition and 5 years of data acquisition. The cubes represent the amount of <sup>76</sup>Ge, the (150 bar = 15 MPa) bottles, and the one of <sup>136</sup>Xe. The smallest masses depict the present exposure, while the biggest bottle is out of scale.

# Summary & Discussion

Motivations are **stronger than ever**.

Particle physics theory helps **for general considerations** (Majorana mass and SM) and for orientation (normal hierarchy, flavor structure).

Oscillations + cosmological measurements allowed us to **progress a lot** in the expectations.

The tightest cosmological bounds imply that **multi-ton detector mass** will be needed, even if background events were absent.

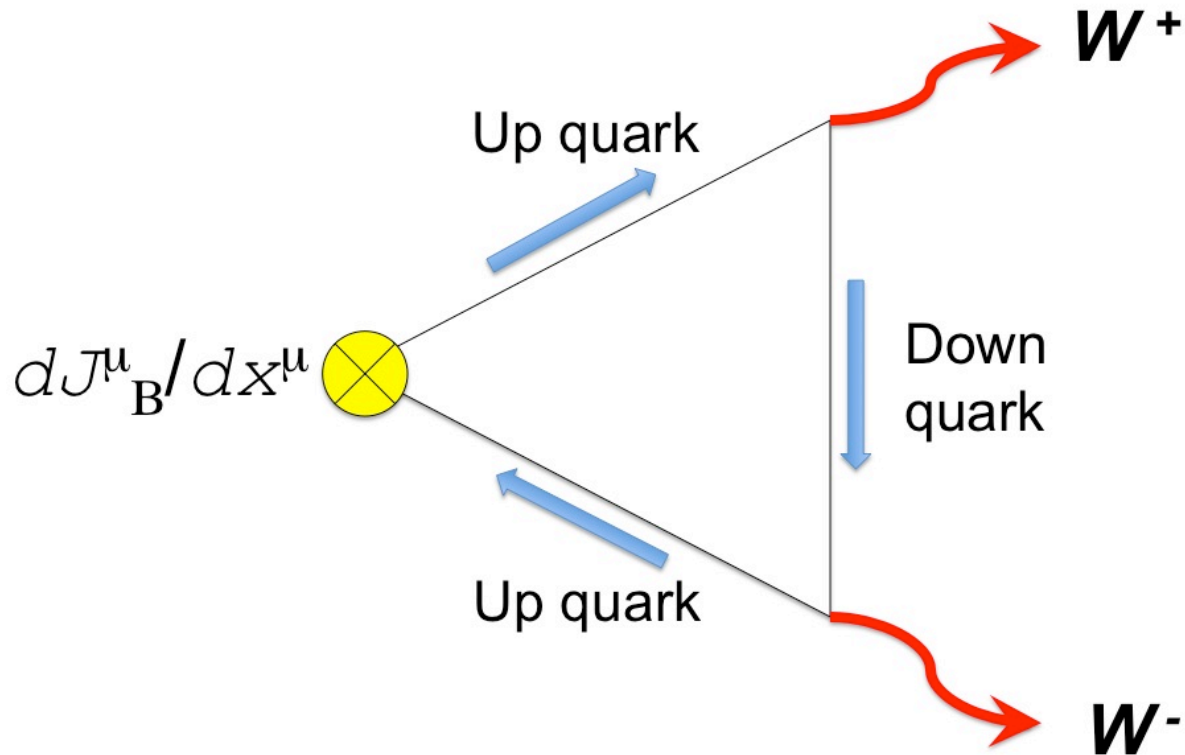
Uncertainties on the rate are **large**, mostly due to particle physics, and partly due to nuclear physics but the situation seems to evolve.

Neutrino masses are very interesting but we measure lifetime: If new sources of lepton number violation at low energy (TeV?) exist, **surprises** may occur.

**Thanks  
a lot  
for your  
attention!**



The true global symmetry of SM  
is  $B-L$  --- not  $B$  and  $L$  alone



# progresses of the last 20 years

Standard model gets heaps of confirmations

Oscillations due to massive neutrinos proved

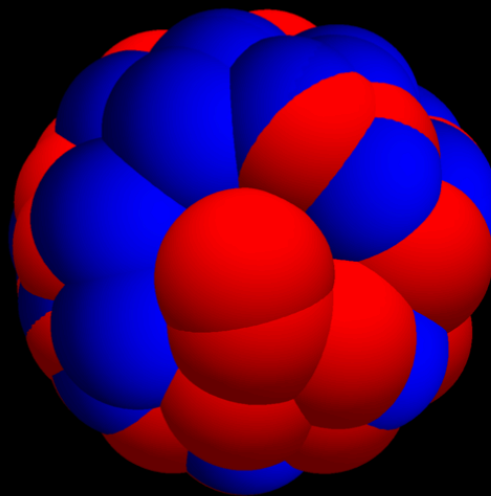
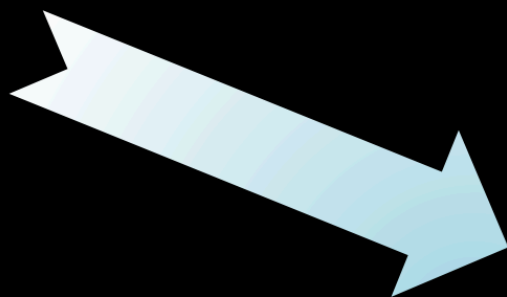
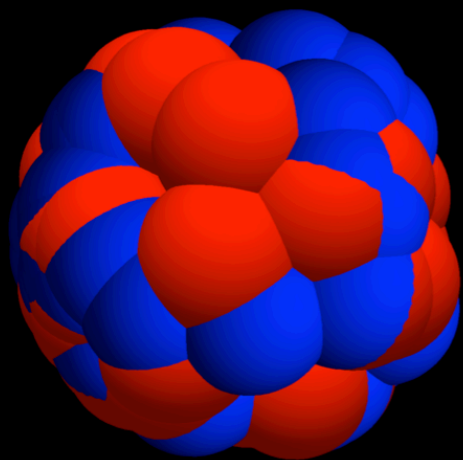
Cosmology (with  $\nu$ -mass) enters precision era

Renewed interest in  $0\nu 2\beta$

Many experimental progresses in  $0\nu 2\beta$

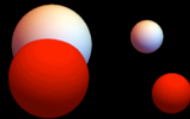
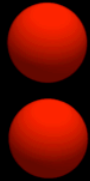
Many attempts of BSM -  $\nu$ -mass and  $0\nu 2\beta$

Discussion of nuclear uncertainties re-opened



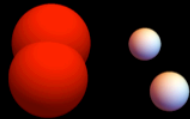


# proton fusion: $p+p \rightarrow D+e^++\nu$



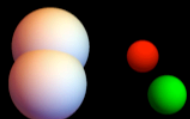
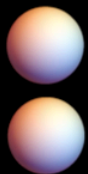
*Electric charge is conserved:*

$$1+1=1+1+0$$



*Baryon number is conserved :*

$$1+1=2+0+0$$



*Lepton number is conserved:*

$$0+0=0-1+1$$



# Alternative designations for $0\nu 2\beta$ ? the suffix “-genesis” seems apt, but

“Electrogenesis” is already used in biochemistry

English [\[edit\]](#)

Etymology [\[edit\]](#)

*electro-* + *-genesis*

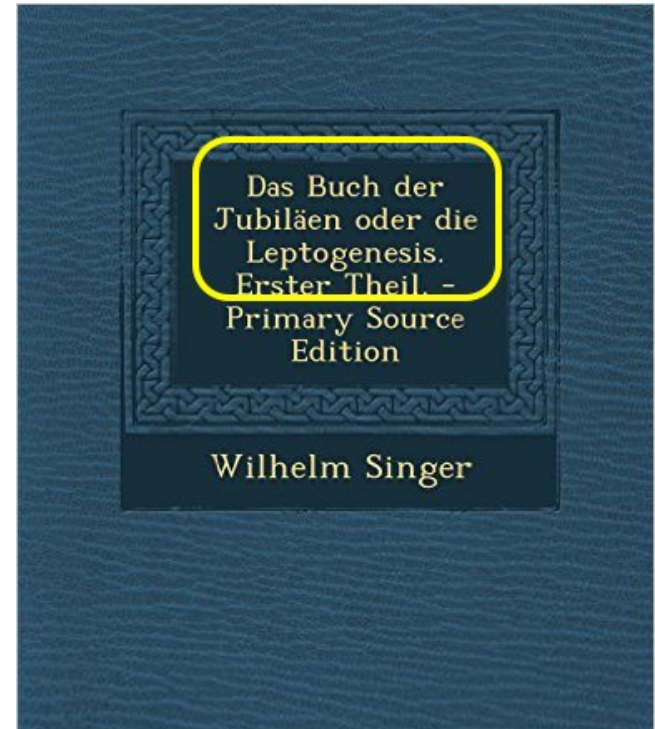
Noun [\[edit\]](#)

**electrogenesis** (*usually uncountable*, plural **electrogeneses**)

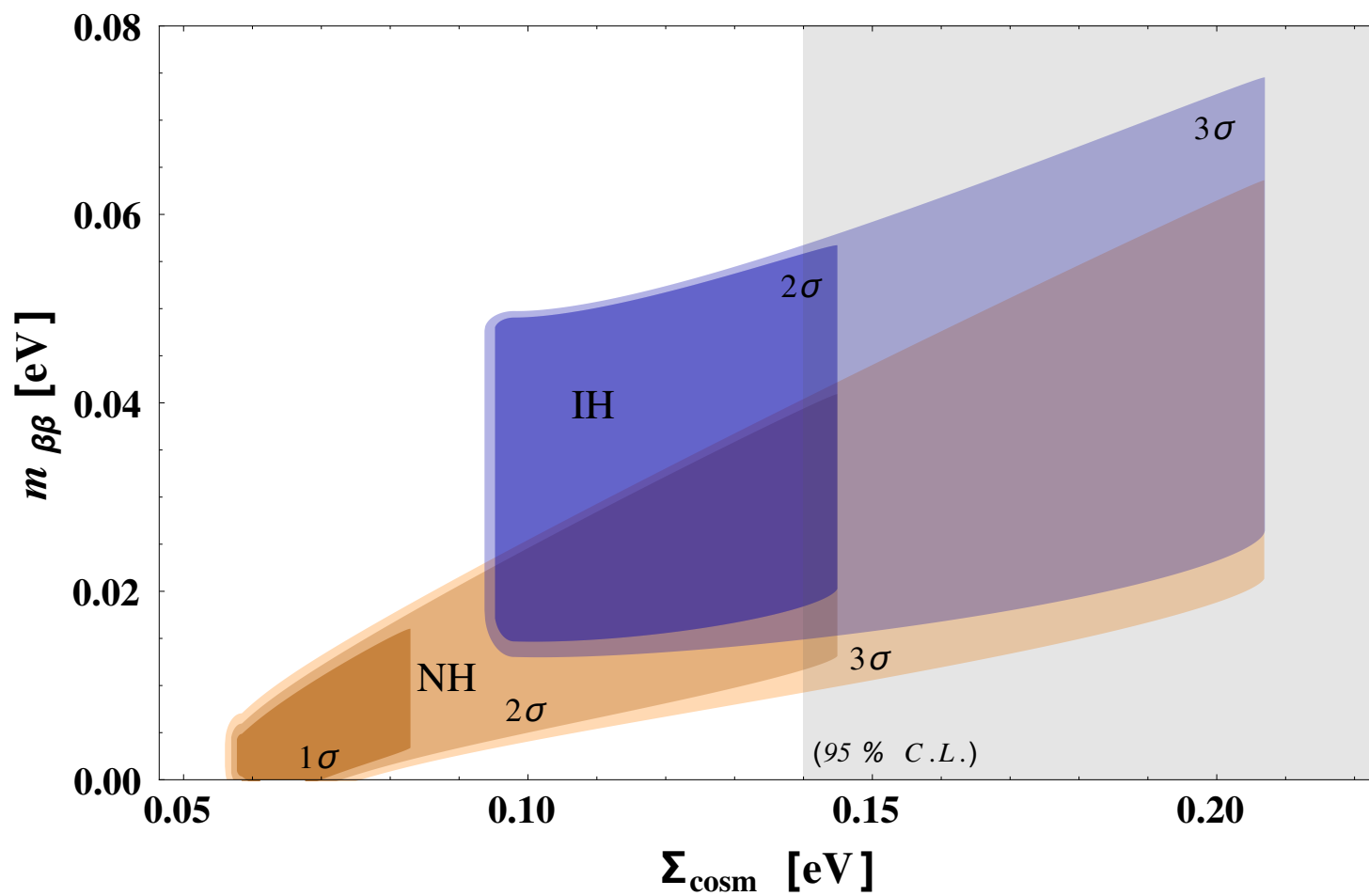
1. (*biochemistry, physics*) The production of **electricity** (or the transfer of **electrons**) in the **tissues** of a living organism



“Leptogenesis” is taken by copts & particle theorists



(cosmology, illustrated using Bari's plot)



Dell'Oro et al, 2015

# impact of $g_A \rightarrow g_A \times (1 - \delta)$

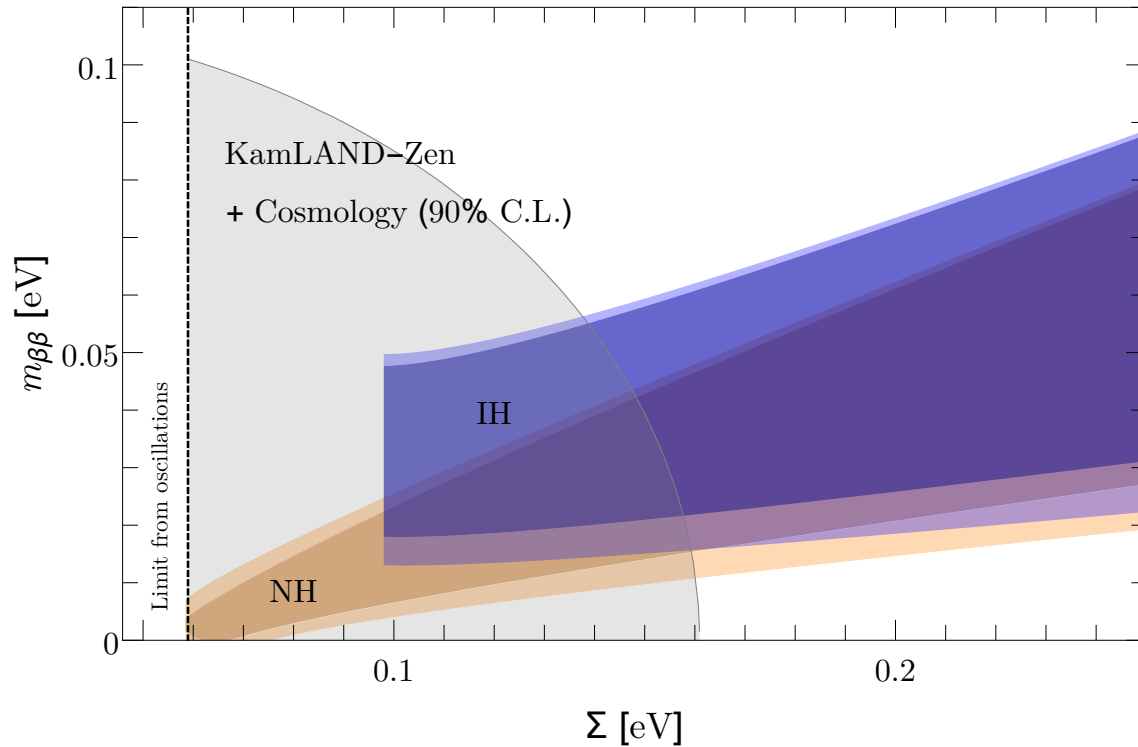
(even a small uncertainty *does* matter)

Amplitude scales roughly as  $g_A^2$  for double  $\beta$

Signal  $S$  scales as amplitude<sup>2</sup> and as mass  $\times$  time

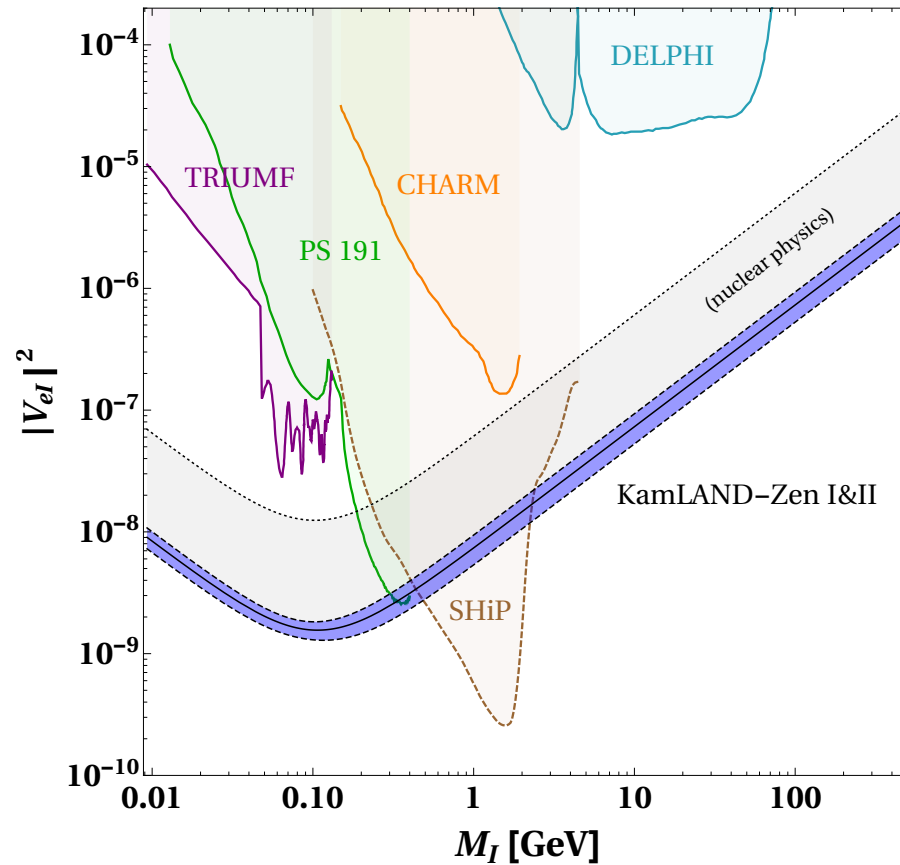
Significance  $S/\sqrt{B}$  scales as  $\sqrt{\text{mass} \times \text{time}}$

$\delta=10\%$  ( $20\%$ ) uncertainty needs to be compensated with  $1/(1 - \delta)^8 = 2.3$  ( $6$ ) more mass and/or time



## It is possible to measure Majorana phases?

This is more than challenging with present systematic uncertainties; moreover, statistical errors are unlikely to be small (Dell'Oro et al 2014). For illustration, the figure compares current bound and predictions.



## Effect of a “light” right-handed neutrino

A single (not-too) massive neutrino, coupled to the three usual ones, can saturate the present bound on  $0\nu\beta\beta$  for suitable mixing angles and masses. The range of mass below 10 GeV is favored by theoretical considerations. Direct search at accelerators are relevant.