

Realistic shell-model calculations for neutrinoless double-beta decay: Where do we stand ?

Nunzio Itaco

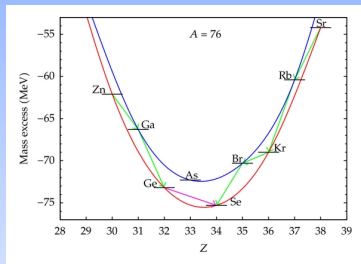
Università della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare - Sezione di Napoli

XVII Conference on Theoretical Nuclear Physics in Italy



Double β -decay

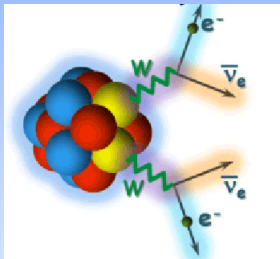
Double β -decay (2ν ECEC) is the rarest process yet observed in nature.



- Maria Goeppert-Mayer (1935) suggested the possibility to detect
$$(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z+2) + e^- + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e + \bar{\nu}_e$$
- Historically, G. Racah (1937) and W. Furry (1939) were the first ones, to suggest to test the neutrino as a Majorana particle, considering the process:
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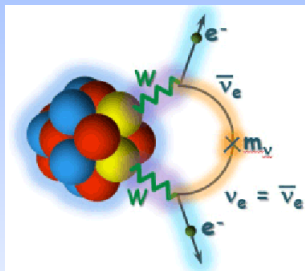
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Neutrinoless double β -decay

The detection of the $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay is nowadays one of the main targets in many laboratories all around the world, triggered by the search of "new physics" beyond the Standard Model.

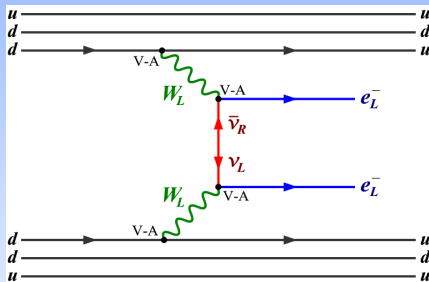
Its detection \Rightarrow

- would correspond to a violation of the conservation of the **leptonic number**
- may provide more informations on the nature of neutrinos (neutrino as a **Majorana particle**, determination of its **effective mass**, ..).

Neutrinoless double β -decay

The inverse of the $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay half-life is proportional to the squared nuclear matrix element (NME).

This evidences the relevance to calculate the NME



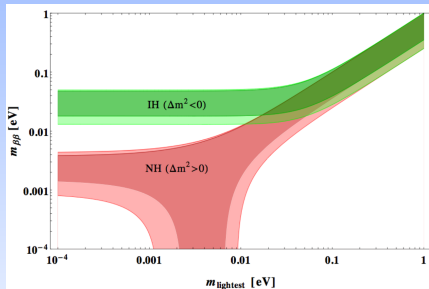
$$\left[T_{1/2}^{0\nu} \right]^{-1} = G^{0\nu} \left| M^{0\nu} \right|^2 \langle m_\nu \rangle^2$$

- $G^{0\nu} \rightarrow$ phase-space factor
- $\langle m_\nu \rangle = \left| \sum_k m_k U_{ek}^2 \right|$ effective mass of the Majorana neutrino, U_{ek} being the lepton mixing matrix

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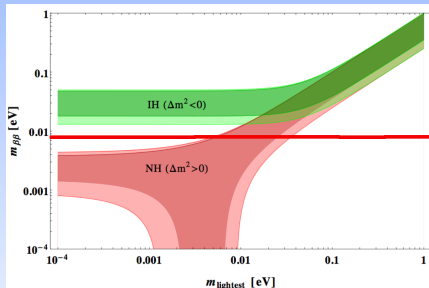
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 $m_\nu = 8\text{meV}$

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The calculation of the NME

The nuclear matrix element (NME) is expressed as

$$M^{0\nu} = M_{GT}^{0\nu} - \left(\frac{g_V}{g_A} \right)^2 M_F^{0\nu} + M_T^{0\nu} ,$$

where

$$M_{GT}^{0\nu} = \langle 0_f^+ | \sum_{m,n} \tau_m^- \tau_n^- H_{GT}(r_{mn}) \vec{\sigma}_m \cdot \vec{\sigma}_n | 0_i^+ \rangle$$

$$M_F^{0\nu} = \langle 0_f^+ | \sum_{m,n} \tau_m^- \tau_n^- H_F(r_{mn}) | 0_i^+ \rangle$$

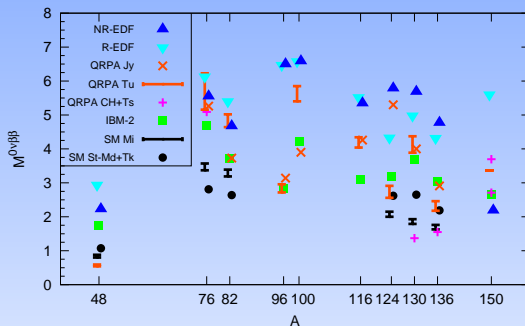
$$M_T^{0\nu} = \langle 0_f^+ | \sum_{m,n} \tau_m^- \tau_n^- H_T(r_{mn}) [3 (\vec{\sigma}_m \cdot \hat{r}_{mn}) (\vec{\sigma}_n \cdot \hat{r}_{mn}) - \vec{\sigma}_m \cdot \vec{\sigma}_n] | 0_i^+ \rangle$$

The calculation of the NME

⇒ make use of nuclear structure models

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Engel & Menendez Reports on Progress in Physics 80, 046301 (2017)

- The spread of nuclear structure calculations evidences inconsistencies among results obtained with different models

Realistic Shell-Model Calculations

Shell model \Rightarrow well-established approach to obtain a microscopic description of both collective and single-particle properties of nuclei

STRENGTH project: Napoli-Caserta unit

- L. Coraggio (INFN-NA)
- G. De Gregorio (Università "Vanvitelli" and INFN-NA)
- T. Fukui (INFN-NA)
- A. Gargano (INFN-NA)
- N. I. (Università "Vanvitelli" and INFN-NA)
- R. Mancino (Università "Vanvitelli" and INFN-NA)
- F. Nowacki (IPHC-CNRS Strasbourg)

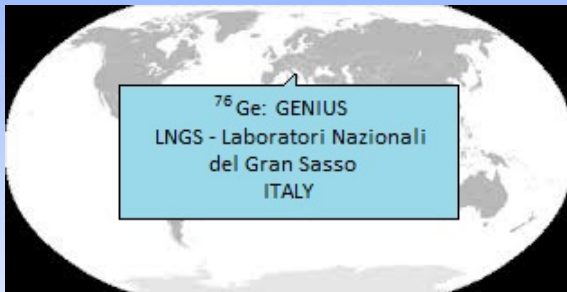
Realistic Shell-Model Calculations

Focus on ^{76}Ge , ^{82}Se , ^{130}Te , and ^{136}Xe .



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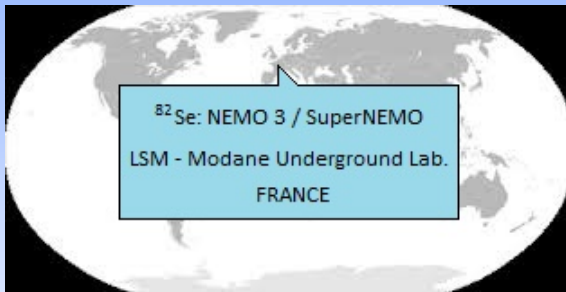
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Effective shell-model hamiltonian

The shell-model hamiltonian has to take into account in an effective way all the degrees of freedom not explicitly considered

Two alternative approaches

- phenomenological
- microscopic

$$V_{NN} (+V_{NNN}) \Rightarrow \text{many-body theory} \Rightarrow H_{\text{eff}}$$

Definition

The eigenvalues of H_{eff} belong to the set of eigenvalues of the full nuclear hamiltonian

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Workflow for a realistic shell-model calculation

- 1 Choose a realistic NN potential (NNN)
- 2 Determine the model space better tailored to study the system under investigation
- 3 Derive the effective shell-model hamiltonian and operators by way of a many-body theory
- 4 Calculate the physical observables (energies, e.m. transition probabilities, ...)

The shell-model effective hamiltonian

We start from the many-body hamiltonian H defined in the full Hilbert space:

$$H = H_0 + H_1 = \sum_{i=1}^A (T_i + U_i) + \sum_{i < j} (V_{ij}^{NN} - U_i)$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{c|c} PHP & PHQ \\ \hline QHP & QHQ \end{array} \right) \mathcal{H} = X^{-1} H X \quad \Rightarrow \quad \left(\begin{array}{c|c} P\mathcal{H}P & P\mathcal{H}Q \\ \hline 0 & Q\mathcal{H}Q \end{array} \right)$$

$$Q\mathcal{H}P = 0$$

$$H_{\text{eff}} = P\mathcal{H}P$$

Suzuki & Lee $\Rightarrow X = e^\omega$ with $\omega = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & 0 \\ \hline Q\omega P & 0 \end{array} \right)$

$$H_1^{\text{eff}}(\omega) = PH_1P + PH_1Q \frac{1}{\epsilon - QHQ} QH_1P -$$

$$-PH_1Q \frac{1}{\epsilon - QHQ} \omega H_1^{\text{eff}}(\omega)$$

The perturbative approach to the shell-model H^{eff}

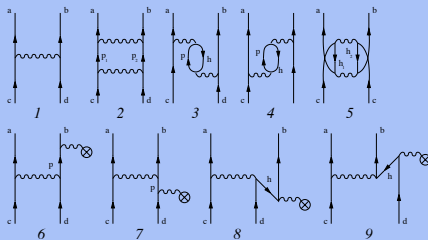
The \hat{Q} -box vertex function

$$\hat{Q}(\epsilon) = PH_1P + PH_1Q \frac{1}{\epsilon - QHQ} QH_1P$$

Exact calculation of the \hat{Q} -box is computationally prohibitive for many-body system \Rightarrow we perform a perturbative expansion

$$\frac{1}{\epsilon - QHQ} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(QH_1Q)^n}{(\epsilon - QH_0Q)^{n+1}}$$

The diagrammatic expansion of the \hat{Q} -box



Effective operators

Φ_α = eigenvectors obtained diagonalizing H_{eff} in the reduced model space $\Rightarrow |\Phi_\alpha\rangle = P|\Psi_\alpha\rangle$

$$\langle \Phi_\alpha | \hat{\Theta} | \Phi_\beta \rangle \neq \langle \Psi_\alpha | \hat{\Theta} | \Psi_\beta \rangle$$

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Effective operator $\hat{\Theta}_{\text{eff}}$: definition

$$\hat{\Theta}_{\text{eff}} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} |\Phi_\alpha\rangle \langle \Psi_\alpha | \hat{\Theta} | \Psi_\beta \rangle \langle \Phi_\beta |$$

$$\langle \Phi_\alpha | \hat{\Theta}_{\text{eff}} | \Phi_\beta \rangle = \langle \Psi_\alpha | \hat{\Theta} | \Psi_\beta \rangle$$

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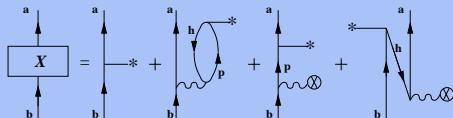
$$\langle \Phi_\alpha | \hat{\Theta}_{\text{eff}} | \Phi_\beta \rangle = \langle \Psi_\alpha | \hat{\Theta} | \Psi_\beta \rangle$$

$\hat{\Theta}_{\text{eff}}$ can be derived consistently in the MBPT framework

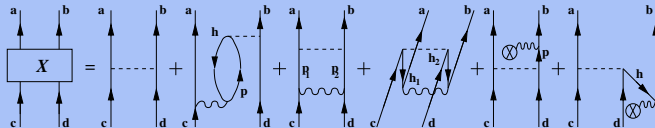
K. Suzuki and R. Okamoto, Prog. Theor. Phys. 93 , 905 (1995)

The shell-model effective operators

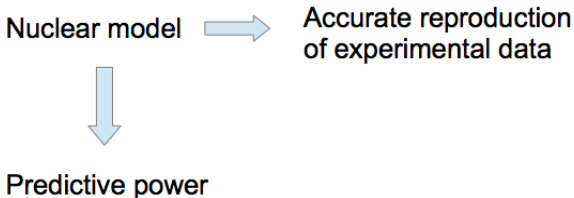
One-body operator



Two-body operator



Nuclear models and predictive power



Realistic shell-model calculations for
 ^{130}Te , ^{136}Xe , ^{76}Ge and ^{82}Se



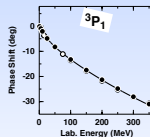
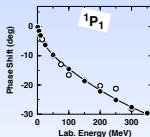
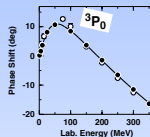
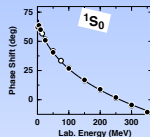
Test our approach calculating observables related to the **GT** strengths and $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay and comparing the results with data.

Realistic Shell-Model Calculations

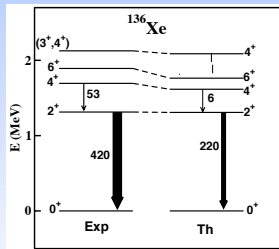
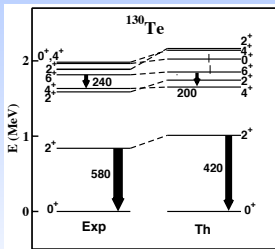
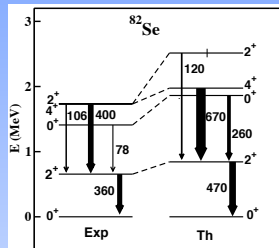
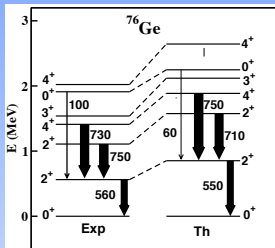
- $^{76}\text{Ge}, ^{82}\text{Se}$: four proton and neutron orbitals outside double-closed $^{56}\text{Ni} \rightarrow 0f_{5/2}, 1p_{3/2}, 1p_{1/2}, 0g_{9/2}$
- $^{130}\text{Te}, ^{136}\text{Xe}$: five proton and neutron orbitals outside double-closed $^{100}\text{Sn} \rightarrow 0g_{7/2}, 1d_{5/2}, 1d_{3/2}, 2s_{1/2}, 0h_{11/2}$

Realistic Shell-Model Calculations

- $^{76}\text{Ge}, ^{82}\text{Se}$: four proton and neutron orbitals outside double-closed $^{56}\text{Ni} \rightarrow 0f_{5/2}, 1p_{3/2}, 1p_{1/2}, 0g_{9/2}$
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- Input V_{NN} : $V_{\text{low}-k}$ derived from the high-precision NN CD-Bonn potential with a cutoff: $\Lambda = 2.6 \text{ fm}^{-1}$.
- H_{eff} obtained calculating the Q -box up to the 3rd order in $V_{\text{low}-k}$
- Effective operators are consistently derived by way of the MBPT



Spectroscopic properties (B(E2)s in $e^2\text{fm}^4$)



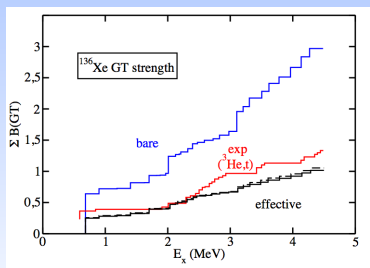
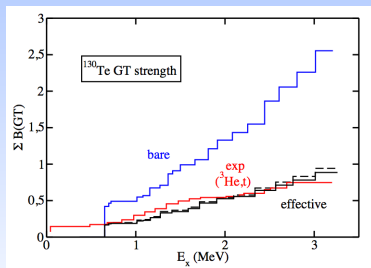
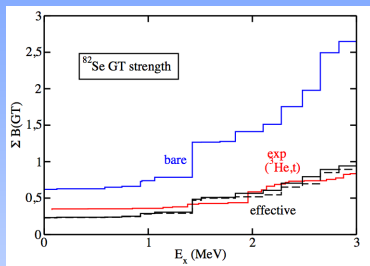
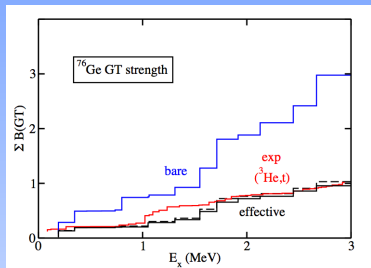
Charge-exchange experiments

$$\left[\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(q=0) \right] = \hat{\sigma} B_{exp}(GT)$$

Theory

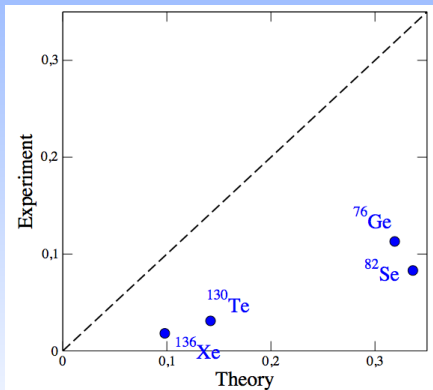
$$B_{th}(GT) = \frac{\left| \langle \Phi_f | \sum_j \vec{\sigma}_j \vec{r}_j | \Phi_i \rangle \right|^2}{2J_i + 1}$$

GT- strength distribution



$2\nu\beta\beta$ nuclear matrix elements

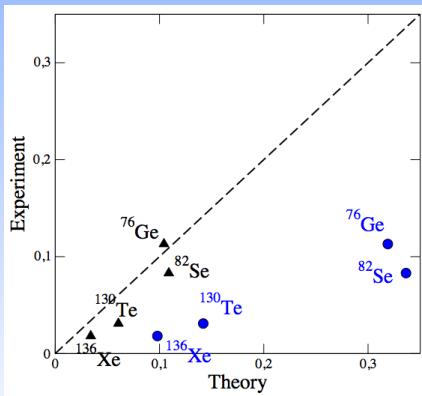
$$M_{2\nu}^{\text{GT}} = \sum_n \frac{\langle 0_f^+ || \vec{\sigma}\tau^- || 1_n^+ \rangle \langle 1_n^+ || \vec{\sigma}\tau^- || 0_i^+ \rangle}{E_n + E_0}$$



Blue dots: bare GT operator

$2\nu\beta\beta$ nuclear matrix elements

$$M_{2\nu}^{\text{GT}} = \sum_n \frac{\langle 0_f^+ || \vec{\sigma}\tau^- || 1_n^+ \rangle \langle 1_n^+ || \vec{\sigma}\tau^- || 0_i^+ \rangle}{E_n + E_0}$$



Blue dots: bare GT operator
Black triangles: effective GT operator

$2\nu\beta\beta$ nuclear matrix elements perturbative properties

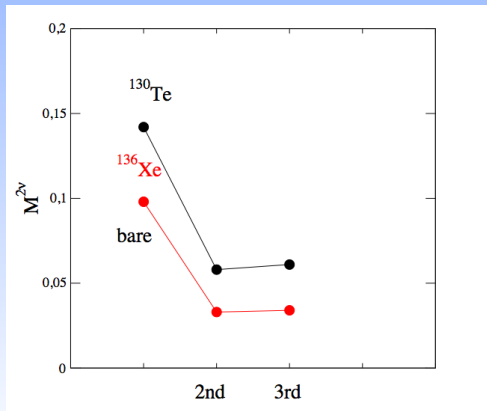
- RSM calculations provide a satisfactory description of observed GT-strength distributions and $2\nu2\beta$ NME
- what about perturbative properties ?

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The calculation of the $0\nu\beta\beta$ NME

The NME is given by

$$M^{0\nu} = M_{GT}^{0\nu} - \left(\frac{g_V}{g_A}\right)^2 M_F^{0\nu} + M_T^{0\nu},$$

The matrix elements $M_\alpha^{0\nu}$ are defined, for a SM calculation, as follows:

$$M_\alpha^{0\nu} = \sum_{j_p j_{p'} j_n j_{n'} J_\pi} TBTD(j_p j_{p'}, j_n j_{n'}; J_\pi) \langle j_p j_{p'}; J^\pi T | \tau_1^- \tau_2^- O_{12}^\alpha | j_n j_{n'}; J^\pi T \rangle$$

with $\alpha = (GT, F, T)$

The $TBTD$ are the **two-body transition-density** matrix elements, and the Gamow-Teller (GT), Fermi (F), and tensor (T) operators:

$$O_{12}^{GT} = \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 H_{GT}(r)$$
$$O_{12}^F = H_F(r)$$
$$O_{12}^T = [3(\vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \hat{r})(\vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \hat{r}) - \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2] H_T(r)$$

Light Majorana neutrino exchange

The neutrino potentials H_α are defined using the closure approximation

$$H_\alpha(r) = \frac{2R}{\pi} \int_0^\infty f_\alpha(qr) \frac{h_\alpha(q^2)}{q + \langle E \rangle} q dq$$

where $f_{F,GT}(qr) = j_0(qr)$ and $f_T(qr) = j_2(qr)$, $\langle E \rangle$ is the average energy used in the closure approximation.

- closure approximation
- higher order corrections (HOC)
- finite nucleon size corrections (FNS)

Short-range correlations

Empirical approach

$$\psi_{nl} \rightarrow [1 + f(r)] \psi_{nl} \quad f(r) = -ce^{-ar^2}(1 - br^2)$$

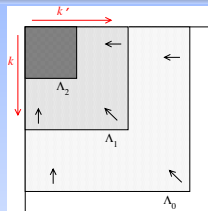
Short-range correlations

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$V_{\text{low-}k}$: the configurations of $V_{NN}(k, k')$ are restricted to those with $k, k' < k_{\text{cutoff}} = \Lambda$

$$V_{NN}(k, k') \rightarrow V_{\text{low-}k}(k, k') = \Omega^{-1} V_{NN}(k, k') \Omega$$



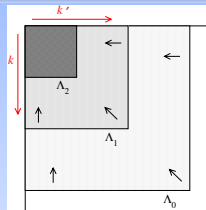
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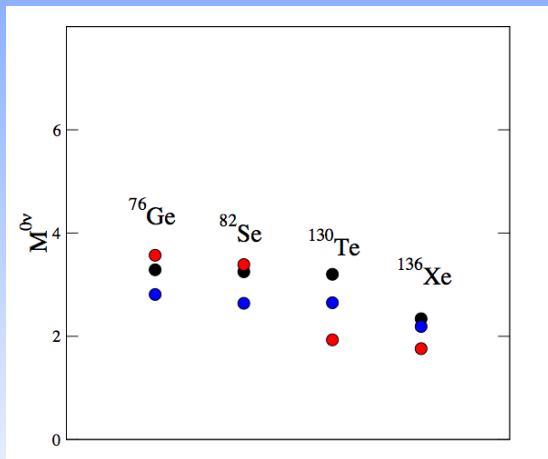
$$V_{NN}(k, k') \rightarrow V_{\text{low-k}}(k, k') = \Omega^{-1} V_{NN}(k, k') \Omega$$



Consistently, we transform the $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator Θ by way of the same similarity transformation Ω

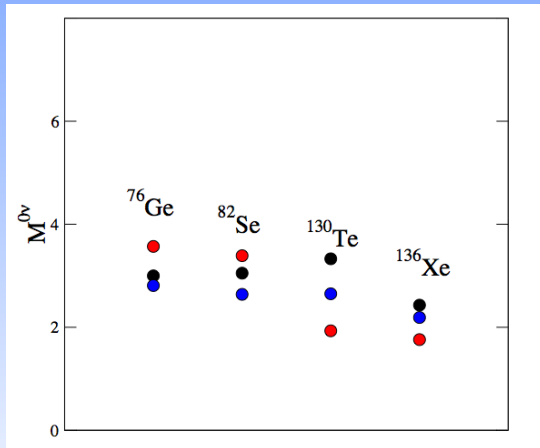
$$\Theta(k, k') \rightarrow \Theta_{\text{low-k}}(k, k') = \Omega^{-1} \Theta(k, k') \Omega$$

Shell model calculations of $M^{0\nu}$



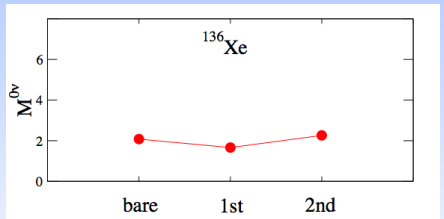
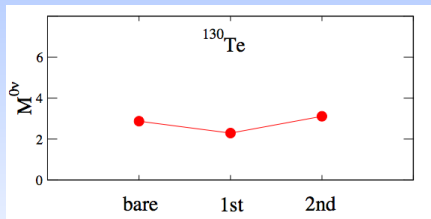
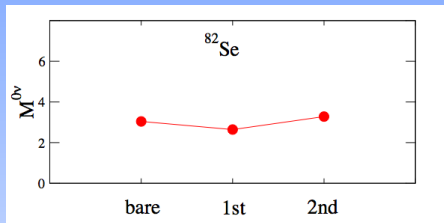
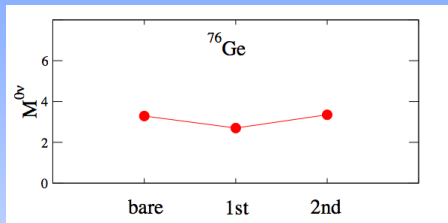
- Blue dots: Madrid-Strasbourg group, $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator
- Red dots: Horoi *et al.*, $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator
- Black dots: RSM, bare $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator

Shell model calculations of $M^{0\nu}$



- Blue dots: Madrid-Strasbourg group, $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator
- Red dots: Horoi *et al.*, $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator
- Black dots: RSM, effective $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator

Shell model calculations of $M^{0\nu}$

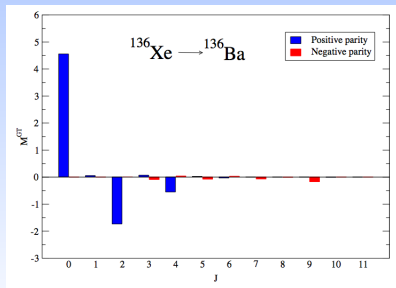
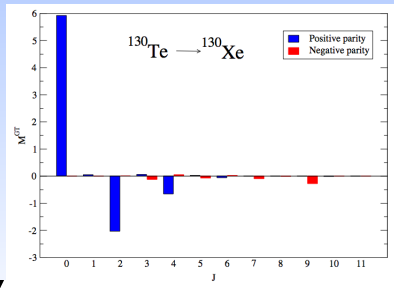
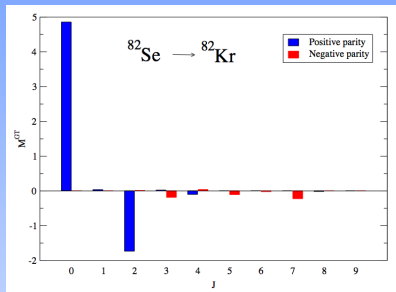
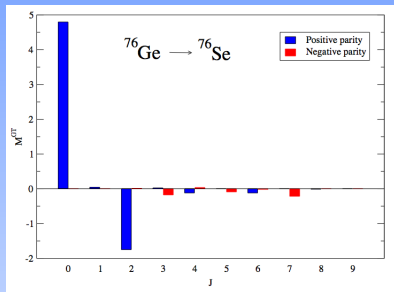


J-pair decomposition

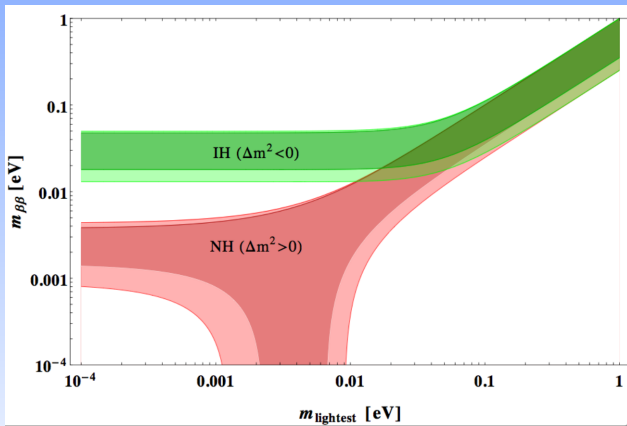
It is possible to decouple $M^{0\nu}$ in terms of the angular momentum J^π of the neutron and proton pairs

$$\begin{aligned} M_\alpha^{0\nu} &= \sum_{j_p j_{p'} j_n j_{n'} J^\pi} TBTD(j_p j_{p'}, j_n j_{n'}; J^\pi) \langle j_p j_{p'}; J^\pi | \tau_1^- \tau_2^- O_{12}^\alpha | j_n j_{n'}; J^\pi \rangle \\ &= \sum_{J^\pi} M_\alpha^{0\nu}(J^\pi) \end{aligned}$$

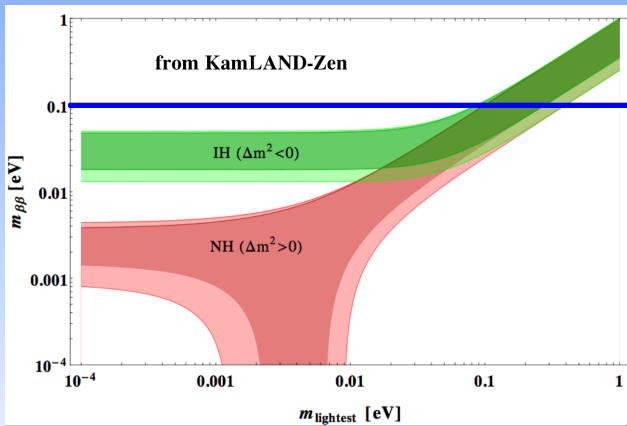
J-pair decomposition



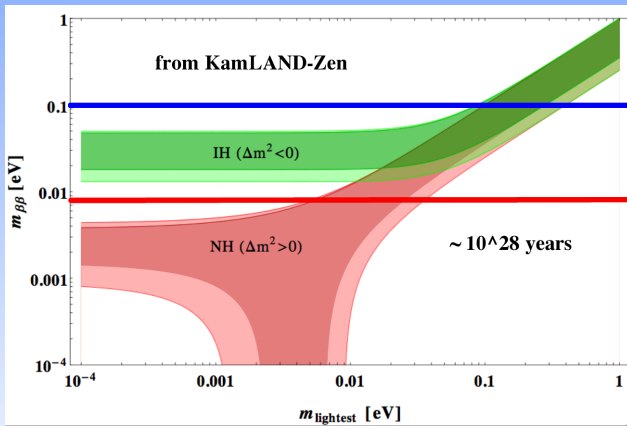
Experimental upper bounds & Sensitivity



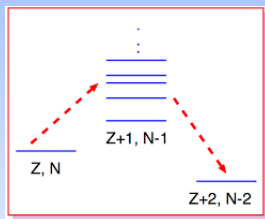
Experimental upper bounds & Sensitivity



Experimental upper bounds & Sensitivity



- H_{eff} derived from chiral two- and three-body potentials: effects of **chiral two-body currents** (for both $2\nu\beta\beta$ and $0\nu\beta\beta$ decays)
- Beyond closure approximation



$$M_{\alpha}^{0\nu} = \sum_{j\rho j\rho' j_n j_n' J_k^{\pi}} \langle 0_f | a_{j\rho'}^{\dagger} a_{j_n'} | J_k^{\pi} \rangle \langle J_k^{\pi} | a_{j\rho}^{\dagger} a_{j_n} | 0_i \rangle \langle j\rho j\rho' | \tau_1^{-} \tau_2^{-} O^{\alpha}(E_k) | j_n j_n' \rangle$$

Realistic shell-model calculations for neutrinoless double-beta decay: Where do we stand ?

Nunzio Itaco

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Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare - Sezione di Napoli

XVII Conference on Theoretical Nuclear Physics in Italy



The shell-model effective operators

$$\Theta_{\text{eff}} = (P + \hat{Q}_1 + \hat{Q}_1 \hat{Q}_1 + \hat{Q}_2 \hat{Q}_2 + \hat{Q}_2 \hat{Q}_2 + \dots)(\chi_0 + \chi_1 + \chi_2 + \dots) ,$$

We arrest the χ series at χ_0

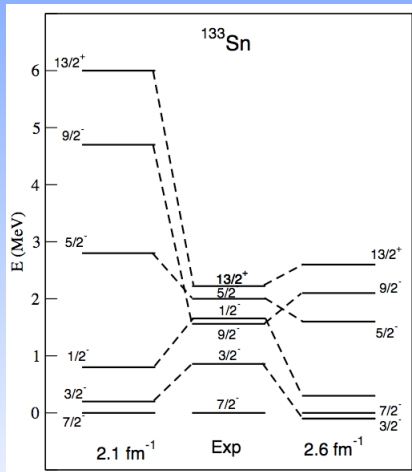
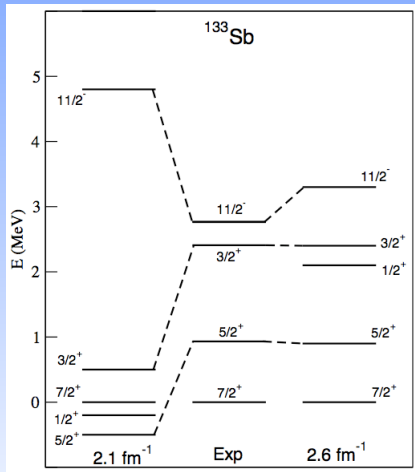
$$\chi_0 = (\hat{\Theta}_0 + h.c.) + \Theta_{00}$$

$$\hat{\Theta}_0 = P\Theta P + P\Theta Q \frac{1}{\epsilon_0 - QHQ} QH_1 P ,$$

$$\hat{\Theta}_{00} = PH_1 Q \frac{1}{\epsilon_0 - QHQ} Q\Theta Q \frac{1}{\epsilon_0 - QHQ} QH_1 P$$

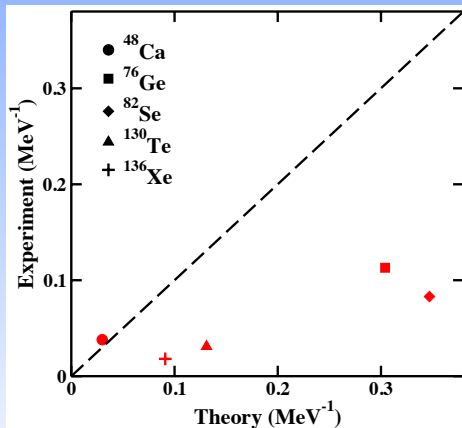
and expand it perturbatively.

The choice of the cutoff $\Lambda = 2.6 \text{ fm}^{-1}$



L. C., A. Gargano, and N. Itaco, *JPS Conf. Proc.* **6**, 020046 (2015)

$2\nu\beta\beta$ nuclear matrix elements



Red dots: bare GT operator

Decay	Expt.	Bare
$^{48}\text{Ca} \rightarrow ^{48}\text{Ti}$	0.038 ± 0.003	0.030
$^{76}\text{Ge} \rightarrow ^{76}\text{Se}$	0.113 ± 0.006	0.304
$^{82}\text{Se} \rightarrow ^{82}\text{Kr}$	0.083 ± 0.004	0.347
$^{130}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{130}\text{Xe}$	0.031 ± 0.004	0.131
$^{136}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{136}\text{Ba}$	0.0181 ± 0.0007	0.0910

Experimental data from *A. S. Barabash, Nucl. Phys. A 935, 52 (2015)*

Perturbative properties of the GT effective operator

Convergence with respect the number of intermediate states

Selection rules of the GT operator make the convergence of the effective one with respect to N_{\max} very fast.

The third decimal digit value of $M_{\text{GT}}^{2\nu}$, calculated with effective operator at third order, does not change from $N_{\max} = 12$ on.

Order-by-order convergence

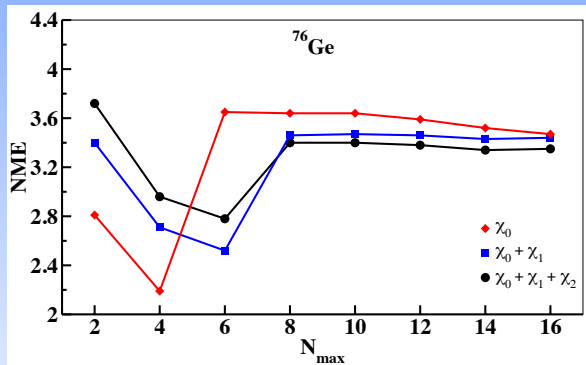
Decay	1st ord $M_{\text{GT}}^{2\nu}$	2nd ord $M_{\text{GT}}^{2\nu}$	3rd ord $M_{\text{GT}}^{2\nu}$	Expt.
$^{130}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{130}\text{Xe}$	0.142	0.058	0.061	0.031 ± 0.004
$^{136}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{136}\text{Ba}$	0.0975	0.0325	0.0341	0.0181 ± 0.0007

More than 60% from 1st \rightarrow 2nd order

Less than 5% from 2nd \rightarrow 3rd order

L.C., L. De Angelis, T. Fukui, A. Gargano, and N. Itaco, Phys. Rev. C
95, 064324 (2017)

Perturbative behavior with respect N_{\max}



- χ_0 contribution is not enough to obtain convergence with respect the number of intermediate states.
- χ_1 and χ_2 contributions are needed to obtain convergent results.

Order-by-order perturbative behavior

Decay		$M_{GT}^{0\nu}$	$M_F^{0\nu}$	$M^{0\nu}$
$^{48}\text{Ca} \rightarrow ^{48}\text{Ti}$	1st order	0.32	-0.13	0.41
	2nd order	0.53	-0.16	0.63
	3rd order	0.25	-0.13	0.33
$^{76}\text{Ge} \rightarrow ^{76}\text{Se}$	1st order	2.76	-0.52	3.09
	2nd order	2.30	-0.62	2.70
	3rd order	2.91	-0.69	3.35
$^{82}\text{Se} \rightarrow ^{82}\text{Kr}$	1st order	2.72	-0.51	3.04
	2nd order	2.25	-0.61	2.64
	3rd order	2.85	-0.68	3.28
$^{130}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{130}\text{Xe}$	1st order	2.51	-0.57	2.87
	2nd order	1.83	-0.72	2.29
	3rd order	2.65	-0.72	3.11
$^{136}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{136}\text{Ba}$	1st order	1.82	-0.41	2.08
	2nd order	1.33	-0.52	1.66
	3rd order	1.93	-0.53	2.26

The perturbative behavior is not satisfactory as for the **single- β** decay operator:
third-order contribution is rather large compared to the **second order one**

The blocking effect

Gamow-Teller two-body matrix elements

Decay	$j_a j_b j_c j_d; J = 0^+$	ladder	3b (a)	3p-1h	3b (b)
$^{48}\text{Ca} \rightarrow ^{48}\text{Ti}$	$0f_{7/2}0f_{7/2}0f_{7/2}0f_{7/2}$	-0.334	0.004	0.260	-0.017
$^{76}\text{Ge} \rightarrow ^{76}\text{Se}$	$0g_{9/2}0g_{9/2}0f_{5/2}0f_{5/2}$	0.154	-0.241	-1.078	0.234
	$0g_{9/2}0g_{9/2}1p_{3/2}1p_{3/2}$	0.185	-0.246	-0.214	0.048
$^{82}\text{Se} \rightarrow ^{82}\text{Kr}$	$0g_{9/2}0g_{9/2}0f_{5/2}0f_{5/2}$	0.157	-0.337	-1.096	0.335
	$0g_{9/2}0g_{9/2}1p_{3/2}1p_{3/2}$	0.189	-0.263	-0.219	0.058
$^{130}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{130}\text{Xe}$	$0h_{11/2}0h_{11/2}0g_{7/2}0g_{7/2}$	0.171	-0.202	-0.948	0.297
$^{136}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{136}\text{Ba}$	$0h_{11/2}0h_{11/2}0g_{7/2}0g_{7/2}$	0.178	-0.264	-0.997	0.381

As we expect:

- 3-body (a) diagram reduces the contribution of the 2-body ladder diagram
- 3-body (b) diagram reduces the contribution of the 2-body 3p-1h (core polarization) diagram

The blocking effect

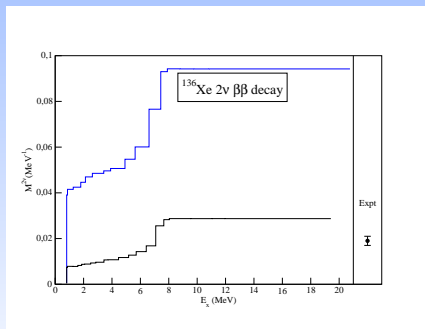
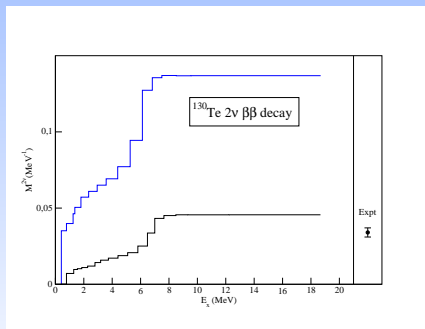
Decay		$M_{GT}^{0\nu}$	$M_F^{0\nu}$	$M^{0\nu}$	
$^{48}\text{Ca} \rightarrow ^{48}\text{Ti}$	3rd order	0.25	-0.13	0.33	
	3rd order + blocking	0.27	-0.12	0.35	0%
$^{76}\text{Ge} \rightarrow ^{76}\text{Se}$	3rd order	2.91	-0.69	3.35	
	3rd order + blocking	2.55	-0.70	3.00	10%
$^{82}\text{Se} \rightarrow ^{82}\text{Kr}$	3rd order	2.85	-0.68	3.28	
	3rd order + blocking	2.60	-0.71	3.05	7%
$^{130}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{130}\text{Xe}$	3rd order	2.65	-0.72	3.11	
	3rd order + blocking	2.83	-0.79	3.33	7%
$^{136}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{136}\text{Ba}$	3rd order	1.93	-0.53	2.26	
	3rd order + blocking	2.06	-0.58	2.43	8%

Obviously, the **blocking effect** is stronger for decays involving nuclei with a larger number of valence nucleons

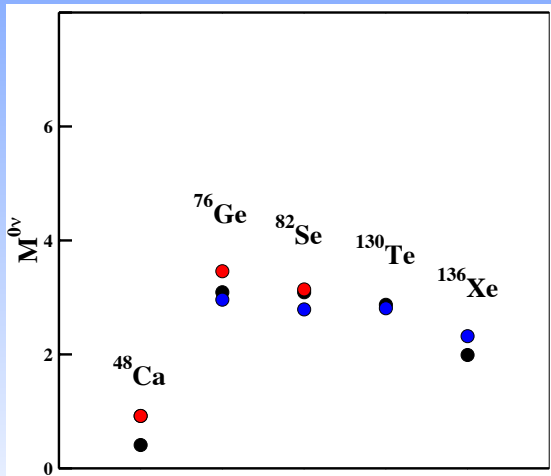
Summing intermediate states

Lanczos strength function method

E. Caurier, et al, Rev Mod. Phys. 77 , 427 (2005)



Shell model calculations of $M^{0\nu}$: no SRC



- Blue dots: Madrid-Strasbourg group, bare $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator
- Red dots: Horoi *et al.*, bare $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator
- Black dots: RSM, bare $0\nu\beta\beta$ operator

The Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Matrix Element

The form factors $h_\alpha(q^2)$ are

$$\begin{aligned}h_F(q^2) &= g_V^2(q^2) \\h_{GT}(q^2) &= \frac{g_A^2(q^2)}{g_A^2} \left[1 - \frac{2}{3} \frac{q^2}{q^2 + m_\pi^2} + \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{q^2}{q^2 + m_\pi^2} \right)^2 \right] \\&\quad + \frac{2}{3} \frac{g_M^2(q^2)}{g_A^2} \frac{q^2}{4m_p^2}, \\h_T(q^2) &= \frac{g_A^2(q^2)}{g_A^2} \left[\frac{2}{3} \frac{q^2}{q^2 + m_\pi^2} - \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{q^2}{q^2 + m_\pi^2} \right)^2 \right] \\&\quad + \frac{1}{3} \frac{g_M^2(q^2)}{g_A^2} \frac{q^2}{4m_p^2}.\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

The Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Matrix Element

The $g_{V,A,M}$ form factors can include nucleon finite size effects, which in the dipole approximation are given by

$$\begin{aligned}g_V(q^2) &= \frac{g_V}{(1 + q^2/\Lambda_V^2)^2}, \\g_M(q^2) &= (\mu_p - \mu_n)g_V(q^2), \\g_A(q^2) &= \frac{g_A}{(1 + q^2/\Lambda_A^2)^2}.\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

Here $g_V = 1$, $g_A = 1.25$, $(\mu_p - \mu_n) = 3.7$, $\Lambda_V = 850 \text{ MeV}$, and $\Lambda_A = 1086 \text{ MeV}$.