









Neutrons and nuclei as a precision laboratory for Vud and CKM unitarity

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HADRON 2023, Genova, June 5-9, 2023

Understanding β Decays: A Cornerstone of the Standard Model

Existence of neutrinos to explain the continuous β spectrum (Pauli, 1930)

Contact theory of β decay (Fermi, 1933)

Parity violation in β decay (Lee, Yang 1956 & Wu 1957)

V - A theory (Sudarshan & Marshak and Gell-Mann & Feynman, 1957)

Radiative corrections to 4-Fermi theory: important step to the Standard Model

RC to muon decay UV finite for V-A —> $G_F = G_\mu = 1.1663788(7) \times 10^{-5} GeV^{-2}$

But RC to neutron decay - log UV divergent!

UV behavior of β decay rate at 1-loop (Sirlin, 1967) $\frac{\alpha}{2\pi}P^0d^3p \ 3[1+2\bar{Q}]\ln(\Lambda/M)$

 \bar{Q} : average charge of fields involved: $1 + 2\bar{Q}_{\mu,\nu_{\mu}} = 0$ but $1 + 2\bar{Q}_{n,p} = 2$

Standard Model with massive W,Z-bosons (Glashow-Salam-Weinberg, 1967)

Precision, Universality and CKM unitarity

In SM the same coupling of W-boson to leptons and hadrons, $G_V = G_\mu$

Before RC were included: $G_V \sim 0.98 G_{\mu}$

Large $\log(M_Z/M_p)$ in RC for neutron —> $G_V \sim 0.95 G_\mu$

Kaon and hyperon decays? ($\Delta S = 1$) — even lower rates!

Cabibbo: strength shared between 2 generations

Cabibbo unitarity: $\cos^2 \theta_C + \sin^2 \theta_C = 1$

 $|G_V^{\Delta S=0}| = \cos \theta_C G_\mu$ $|G_V^{\Delta S=1}| = \sin \theta_C G_\mu$

Kobayashi & Maskawa: 3 flavors + CP violation — CKM matrix V



Detailed understanding of β decays largely shaped the Standard Model

Status of top-row CKM unitarity $|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 0.9985(6)_{V_{ud}}(4)_{V_{us}}$ ~ 0.95 ~ 0.05 ~ 10^{-5}



Inconsistencies between measurements of V_{ud} and V_{us} and SM predictions Main reason for Cabibbo-angle anomaly: shift in V_{ud} (and small uncertainties?)

Status of V_{ud}

Theory: Major reduction of uncertainties in the past few years

Universal correction Δ_R^V to free and bound neutron decay Identified 40 years ago as the bottleneck for precision improvement *Novel approach dispersion relations + experimental data + EFT + lattice QCD*

 Δ_R^V uncertainty: factor 2 reduction

 δ_{NS} uncertainty: factor 3 increase!!!

RC to semileptonic pion decay

 δ Factor 3 reduction

Experiment

 $g_{A} = -1.27641(56)$ Factor 4 reduction $g_{A} = -1.2677(28)$ $\tau_{n} = 877.75(28)^{+16}_{-12}$ Factor 2-3 reduction $\tau_{n} = 887.7(2.3)$ C-Y Seng et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 121 (2018) 24, 241804; C-Y Seng, MG, M.J. Ramsey-Musolf, Phys.Rev. D 100 (2019) 1, 013001; MG, Phys.Rev.Lett. 123 (2019) 4, 042503; C-Y Seng, X. Feng, MG, L-C Jin, Phys.Rev. D 101 (2020) 11, 111301; A. Czarnecki, B. Marciano, A. Sirlin, Phys.Rev. D 100 (2019) 7, 073008

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UCN τ *F. M. Gonzalez et al. Phys. Rev. Lett.* 127 (2021) 162501

BL1 (NIST) Yue et al, PRL 111 (2013) 222501

Status of $V_{ud} \label{eq:Vud}$

0+-0+ nuclear decays: long-standing champion

$$|V_{ud}|^{2} = \frac{2984.43s}{\mathscr{F}t(1+\Delta_{R}^{V})} \qquad |V_{ud}^{0^{+}-0^{+}}| = 0.97370(1)_{exp, nucl}(3)_{NS}(1)_{RC}[3]_{total}$$

Nuclear uncertainty x 3

Neutron decay: discrepancies in lifetime τ_n and axial charge g_A ; competitive!

$$|V_{ud}|^2 = \frac{5024.7 \text{ s}}{\tau_n (1 + 3g_A^2)(1 + \Delta_R)}$$

Single best measurements only

$$|V_{ud}^{\text{free n}}| = 0.9733 (2)_{\tau_n} (3)_{g_A} (1)_{RC} [4]_{total}$$

PDG average
 $|V_{ud}^{\text{free n}}| = 0.9733 (3)_{\tau_n} (8)_{g_A} (1)_{RC} [9]_{total}$

RC not a limiting factor: more precise experiments a-coming

Pion decay $\pi^+ \to \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$: theoretically cleanest, experimentally tough

$$|V_{ud}|^2 = \frac{0.9799}{(1+\delta)} \frac{\Gamma_{\pi\ell'3}}{0.3988(23) \,\mathrm{s}^{-1}} \qquad \qquad |V_{ud}^{\pi\ell'3}| = 0.9739 \,(27)_{exp} \,(1)_{RC}$$

Future exp: 1 o.o.m. (PION

 $\begin{array}{l} \swarrow \nu_e(\bar{\nu}_e) \\ f = p, A'(0^+) \end{array} \sim V_{ud} \end{array}$ $i = n, A(0^+)$

Tree-level amplitude

 $\sim \alpha/2\pi \approx 10^{-3}$ Radiative corrections to tree-level amplitude

 1×10^{-4} Precision goal for V_{ud} extraction

Electron carries away energy E < Q-value of a decay

E-dep RC:
$$\frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \left(\frac{E}{\Lambda}, \ln \frac{E}{\Lambda}, \dots \right)$$

Energy scales Λ





RC to beta decay: overall setup

Generically: only IR and UV extremes feature large logarithms! Works by Sirlin (1930-2022) and collaborators: all large logs under control

IR: Fermi function + Sirlin function

Fermi function: resummation of $(Z\alpha)^n \longrightarrow$ Dirac - Coulomb problem

UV: large EW logs + pQCD corrections

Inner RC: energy- and model-independent

W,Z - loops UV structure of SM



γW -box: sensitive to all scales

New method for computing EW boxes: dispersion theory Combine exp. data with pQCD, lattice, EFT, ab-initio nuclear



 $(\operatorname{Re} c)_{\mathrm{m.d}} = 8\pi^2 \operatorname{Re} \int \frac{d^2 q}{(2\pi)^4}$

Dispersion Formalism for γW -box

γW -box from dispersion relations

Model-dependent part or RC: γW -box





$$\int dx e^{iqx} \langle H_f(p) | T\{J_{em}^{\mu}(x)J_W^{\nu,\pm}(0)\} | H_i(p) \rangle$$

Generalized (non-diagonal) Compton amplitudes



Commutator (Im part) - only on-shell hadronic states — related to data

$$\int dx e^{iqx} \langle H_f(p) | [J^{\mu}_{em}(x), J^{\nu,\pm}_W(0)] | H_i(p) \rangle$$

Interference structure functions

Physics of taming model dependence with dispersion relations:

virtual photon polarizes the nucleon/nucleus;

Long- and intermediate-range part of the box sensitive to hadronic **polarizabilities** Polarizabilities related to the excitation spectrum via dispersion relation (Cf. Kramers-Kronig)

Universal RC from dispersion relations

Interference γW structure functions

$$\mathrm{Im}T^{\mu\nu}_{\gamma W} = \dots + \frac{i\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}p_{\alpha}q_{\beta}}{2(pq)}F^{\gamma W}_{3}(x,Q^{2})$$

After some algebra (isospin decomposition, loop integration)

$$\Box_{\gamma W}^{b,e}(E_e) = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dQ^2 \frac{M_W^2}{M_W^2 + Q^2} \int_{\nu_{thr}}^\infty \frac{d\nu'}{\nu'} \frac{\nu' + 2\sqrt{\nu'^2 + Q^2}}{(\nu' + \sqrt{\nu'^2 + Q^2})^2} \frac{F_{3,-}(\nu',Q^2)}{Mf_+(0)} + \mathcal{O}(E_e^2)$$

$$\Box_{\gamma W}^{b,o}(E_e) = \frac{2\alpha E_e}{3\pi} \int_0^\infty dQ^2 \int_{\nu_{thr}}^\infty \frac{d\nu'}{\nu'} \frac{\nu' + 3\sqrt{\nu'^2 + Q^2}}{(\nu' + \sqrt{\nu'^2 + Q^2})^3} \frac{F_{3,+}(\nu',Q^2)}{Mf_+(0)} + \mathcal{O}(E_e^3)$$

Advantage to previous approach (Marciano & Sirlin):

- Explicit 2-fold integral, isospin decomposition and energy dependence

Nachtmann moments
play a role in DIS
$$M_3(n, Q^2) = \frac{n+1}{n+2} \int_0^1 \frac{dx\xi^n}{x^2} \frac{2x(n+1) - n\xi}{n+1} F_3(x, Q^2), \qquad \xi = \frac{2x}{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4M^2x^2/Q^2}}$$

Hiding the nu-integration in the Nachtmann moments:

$$\Box_{\gamma W}^{b}(E_{e}) = \frac{3\alpha}{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{dQ^{2}}{Q^{2}} \frac{M_{W}^{2}}{M_{W}^{2} + Q^{2}} \left[M_{3,-}(1,Q^{2}) + \frac{8E_{e}M}{9Q^{2}} M_{3,+}(2,Q^{2}) \right] + \mathcal{O}(E_{e}^{2})$$

Input into dispersion integral

W

q

p

Rev'



Input into dispersion integral - $\nu/\bar{\nu}$ data

Mixed CC-NC γW SF (no data) <—> Purely CC WW SF (inclusive neutrino data) Isospin symmetry: vector-isoscalar current related to vector-isovector current Only useful if we know the physical mechanism (Born, DIS, Regge, Resonance,...)

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Marciano, Sirlin 2006: $\Delta_R^V = 0.02361(38) \longrightarrow |V_{ud}| = 0.97420(10)_{Ft}(18)_{RC}$ DR (Seng et al. 2018): $\Delta_R^V = 0.02467(22) \longrightarrow |V_{ud}| = 0.97370(10)_{Ft}(10)_{RC}$

γW -box from DR + Lattice QCD input

Currently available neutrino data at low Q^2 - low quality; Look for alternative input — compute Nachtmann moment $M_3^{(0)}$ on the lattice

First direct LQCD computation $\pi^- \rightarrow \pi^0 e^- \nu_e$

5 LQCD gauge ensembles at physical pion mass Generated by RBC and UKQCD collaborations w. 2+1 flavor domain wall fermion

Match onto pQCD at $Q^2 \sim 2\,{ m GeV^2}$







Quark contraction diagrams

$$\Box_{\gamma W}^{VA, \pi} = 2.830(11)_{\text{stat}}(26)_{\text{sys}}$$

Independent calculation by Los Alamos group

Yoo et all, 2305.03198

$$\Box_{\gamma W}^{VA, \pi} = 2.810(26)_{\text{stat+sys}}$$

Direct impact for pion decay $\pi^+ \to \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$

Previous calculation of δ — in ChPT

Significant reduction of the uncertainty!

$$|V_{ud}|^2 = \frac{0.9799}{(1+\delta)} \frac{\Gamma_{\pi\ell3}}{0.3988(23) \,\mathrm{s}^{-1}}$$

Cirigliano, Knecht, Neufeld and Pichl, EPJC 2003

$$\delta: 0.0334(10)_{\text{LEC}}(3)_{\text{HO}} \rightarrow 0.0332(1)_{\gamma W}(3)_{\text{HO}}$$

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Analogous result for $K\ell 3$ decays:

 $\Box_{\gamma W}^{VA, K} = 2.437(44)_{\text{stat+sys}}$

Ma, Feng, MG, Jin, Seng 2102.12048

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Indirectly constrains the free neutron γW -box — requires some phenomenology Based on Regge universality & factorization

Seng, MG, Feng, Jin, 2003.11264

Independent confirmation of the empirical DR result AND uncertainty $\Delta_R^V = 0.02467(22)_{\rm DR} \rightarrow 0.02477(24)_{\rm LQCD+DR}$

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Direct LQCD calculation on the neutron underway by two groups!

Superallowed nuclear decays

Precise V_{ud} from superallowed decays

Superallowed 0+-0+ nuclear decays:

- only conserved vector current
- many decays
- all rates equal modulo phase space

Experiment: **f** - phase space (Q value) and **t** - partial half-life ($t_{1/2}$, branching ratio)

• 8 cases with *ft*-values measured to <0.05% precision; 6 more cases with 0.05-0.3% precision.

 ~220 individual measurements with compatible precision





ft values: same within ~2% but not exactly! Reason: SU(2) slightly broken

- a. RC (e.m. interaction does not conserve isospin)
- b. Nuclear WF are not SU(2) symmetric(proton and neutron distribution not the same)

Splitting the yW-box into Universal and Nuclear Parts

To obtain Vud —> absorb all decay-specific corrections into universal Ft



Hardy, Towner 1973 - 2020

Splitting the yW-box into Universal and Nuclear Parts





 δ_{NS} from DR with energy dependence averaged over the spectrum

$$\delta_{NS} = \frac{2\alpha}{\pi M} \int_{0}^{\text{few GeV}^2} dQ^2 \int_{\nu_{thr}}^{\nu_{\pi}} \frac{d\nu}{\nu} \left[\frac{\nu + 2q}{(\nu + q)^2} \left(F_3^{(0) \, Nucl.} - F_3^{(0), B} \right) + \frac{2\langle E \rangle}{3} \frac{\nu + 3q}{(\nu + q)^3} F_3^{(-) \, Nucl.} \right]$$

Splitting the γ W-box into Universal and Nuclear Parts



Splitting the yW-box into Universal and Nuclear Parts



MG 1812.04229

Nuclear structure uncertainty tripled!

$$\mathcal{F}t = (3072 \pm 2)s$$

Ab-Initio $\delta_{\rm NS}$

Only a naive warm-up calculation — ab-initio δ_{NS} necessary!

Dispersion theory of δ_{NS} : isospin structure + multipole expansion

Interesting effects detected:

Mixed isospin structure due to 2B currents (absent for n, $\pi e3$)

Residue contribution if 0^+ state is not g.s.: anomalous threshold Normal threshold: nuclear excitation spectrum separated from external state by finite energy gap — only virtual; if there are states below — can go on-shell even without external energy

Residue contribution: contains parts singular at $E_e = 0$

—> should contribute to outer correction δ_R'

Currently, effort on light systems C-10, O-14

Accessible to NCSM, GFMC, CC, ... Important cross checks should become possible soon



Seng, MG 2211.10214

With Michael Gennari, Petr Navratil, Mehdi Drissy, Garrett King, Saori Pastore

Status of δ_C

Isospin symmetry breaking in superallowed β -decay

Tree-level Fermi matrix element

 $M_F = \langle f \, | \, \tau^+ \, | \, i \rangle$

 τ^+ — Isospin operator $|i\rangle$, $|f\rangle$ — members of T=1 isotriplet

If isospin symmetry were exact, $M_F \rightarrow M_0 = \sqrt{2}$

Isospin symmetry is broken in nuclear states (e.g. Coulomb, nucleon mass difference, ...)

In presence of isospin symmetry breaking (ISB): $|M_F|^2 = |M_0|^2(1 - \delta_C)$

ISB correction is crucial for V_{ud} extraction

HT: shell model with *phenomenological* Woods-Saxon potential locally adjusted to:

- Masses of the isotriplet T=1, 0⁺ (IMME)
- Neutron and proton separation energies
- Known proton radii of stable isotopes

TABLE X. Corrections δ'_R , δ_{NS} , and δ_C that are applied to experimental ft values to obtain $\mathcal{F}t$ values.

Parent nucleus	δ_R' (%)	$\delta_{ m NS}$ (%)	δ_{C1} (%)	δ_{C2} (%)	δ_C (%)
\overline{T} 1					
$I_z = -1$	1 (70	0.245(25)	0.010(10)	0.1(5(15))	0.175(10)
¹⁴ 0	1.0/9	-0.343(33)	0.010(10)	0.103(13)	0.173(18)
¹⁴ O	1.543	-0.245(50)	0.055(20)	0.275(15)	0.330(25)
¹⁸ Ne	1.506	-0.290(35)	0.155(30)	0.405(25)	0.560(39)
^{22}Mg	1.466	-0.225(20)	0.010(10)	0.370(20)	0.380(22)
²⁶ Si	1.439	-0.215(20)	0.030(10)	0.405(25)	0.435(27)
³⁰ S	1.423	-0.185(15)	0.155(20)	0.700(20)	0.855(28)
³⁴ Ar	1.412	-0.180(15)	0.030(10)	0.665(55)	0.695(56)
³⁸ Ca	1.414	-0.175(15)	0.020(10)	0.745(70)	0.765(71)
⁴² Ti	1.427	-0.235(20)	0.105(20)	0.835(75)	0.940(78)
$T_z = 0$					
26m Al	1.478	0.005(20)	0.030(10)	0.280(15)	0.310(18)
34 Cl	1.443	-0.085(15)	0.100(10)	0.550(45)	0.650(46)
^{38m} K	1.440	-0.100(15)	0.105(20)	0.565(50)	0.670(54)
⁴² Sc	1.453	0.035(20)	0.020(10)	0.645(55)	0.665(56)
⁴⁶ V	1.445	-0.035(10)	0.075(30)	0.545(55)	0.620(63)
⁵⁰ Mn	1.444	-0.040(10)	0.035(20)	0.610(50)	0.645(54)
⁵⁴ Co	1.443	-0.035(10)	0.050(30)	0.720(60)	0.770(67)
⁶² Ga	1.459	-0.045(20)	0.275(55)	1.20(20)	1.48(21)
⁶⁶ As	1.468	-0.060(20)	0.195(45)	1.35(40)	1.55(40)
70 Br	1.486	-0.085(25)	0.445(40)	1.25(25)	1.70(25)
⁷⁴ Rb	1.499	-0.075(30)	0.115(60)	1.50(26)	1.62(27)

J. Hardy, I. Towner, Phys. Rev. C 91 (2014), 025501

$$\delta_C \sim 0.17\% - 1.6\%!$$

ISB vs. scalar interactions?



Once all corrections are included: CVC —> Ft constant

 δ_C particularly important for alignment!

Fit to 14 transitions: Ft constant within 0.02% if using SM-WS





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If BSM scalar currents present: "Fierz interference" b_F



$$\mathcal{F}t^{SM} \to \mathcal{F}t^{SM} \left(1 + b_F \frac{m_e}{\langle E_e \rangle}\right)$$

 Q_{EC} \uparrow with Z —> effect of $b_F \downarrow$ with Z Introduces nonlinearity in the Ft plot $b_F = -0.0028(26) \sim \text{consistent with 0}$

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Nuclear model comparison for δ_C

J. Hardy, I. Towner, Phys.Rev. C 91 (2014), 025501

				RPA			
	SM-WS	SM-HF	PKO1	DD-ME2	PC-F1	IVMR ^a	DFT
$\overline{T_z = -1}$							
${}^{10}C$	0.175	0.225	0.082	0.150	0.109	0.147	0.650
^{14}O	0.330	0.310	0.114	0.197	0.150		0.303
²² Mg	0.380	0.260					0.301
³⁴ Ar	0.695	0.540	0.268	0.376	0.379		
³⁸ Ca	0.765	0.620	0.313	0.441	0.347		
$T_z = 0$							
26m Al	0.310	0.440	0.139	0.198	0.159		0.370
34 Cl	0.650	0.695	0.234	0.307	0.316		
^{38m} K	0.670	0.745	0.278	0.371	0.294	0.434	
⁴² Sc	0.665	0.640	0.333	0.448	0.345		0.770
^{46}V	0.620	0.600					0.580
⁵⁰ Mn	0.645	0.610					0.550
⁵⁴ Co	0.770	0.685	0.319	0.393	0.339		0.638
⁶² Ga	1.475	1.205					0.882
74 Rb	1.615	1.405	1.088	1.258	0.668		1.770
χ^2/ν	1.4	6.4	4.9	3.7	6.1		4.3 ^b

HT: χ^2 as criterion to prefer SM-WS; V_{ud} and limits on BSM strongly depend on nuclear model

Nuclear community embarked on ab-initio δ_C calculations (NCSM, GFMC, CC, IMSRG) Especially interesting for light nuclei accessible to different techniques!

Phenomenological constraints on δ_C ?

Idea: δ_C dominated by Coulomb repulsion between protons (hence C)

Coulomb interaction generates both δ_C and ISB combinations of nuclear radii

Auerbach 0811.4742; 2101.06199; Seng, MG 2208.03037; 2304.03800; 2212.02681

Nuclear Hamiltonian: $H = H_0 + V_{\text{ISB}} \approx H_0 + V_C$

Coulomb potential for uniformly charged sphere

$$V_C \approx -\frac{Ze^2}{4\pi R_C^3} \sum_{i=1}^A \left(\frac{1}{2}r_i^2 - \frac{3}{2}R_C^2\right) \left(\frac{1}{2} - \hat{T}_z(i)\right)$$

ISB due to IV monopole,
$$V_{\text{ISB}} \approx \frac{Ze^2}{8\pi R^3} \sum_i r_i^2 \hat{T}_z(i) = \frac{Ze^2}{8\pi R^3} \hat{M}_0^{(1)}$$

Same operator generates nuclear radii

$$R_{p/n,\phi} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{X}} \langle \phi | \sum_{i=1}^{A} r_i^2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \mp \hat{T}_z(i)\right) | \phi \rangle$$

Phenomenological constraints on
$$\delta_C$$
?
 $0^+, T = 1, T_z = -1$
 $0^+, T = 1, T_z = 0$
 $0^+, T = 1, T_z = 0$
 $0^+, T = 1, T_z = 0$
 $0^+, T = 1, T_z = 1$
 $0^+, T = 1, T_z = 1$

ISB-sensitive combinations of radii: Wigner-Eckart theorem

$$\Delta M_A^{(1)} \equiv \langle f | M_{\pm 1}^{(1)} | i \rangle + \langle f | M_0^{(1)} | f \rangle \qquad \Delta M_B^{(1)} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left(Z_1 R_{p,1}^2 + Z_{-1} R_{p,-1}^2 \right) - Z_0 R_{p,0}^2$$
Transition radius
From β spectrum

$$M^- \underbrace{e^+}_{A_f} \qquad \vec{e}^- \underbrace{Z_1^* \gamma}_{A_f} \qquad \vec{e}^-$$

$$A_f \qquad A_f \qquad A_f \qquad A_f \qquad A_f^{PV} = -\frac{G_F Q^2}{4\sqrt{2}\pi\alpha} \frac{Q_W}{Z} \frac{F_{NW}(Q^2)}{F_{Ch}(Q^2)} \qquad F_{Ch}(Q^2) = 1 - R_{Ch}^2 Q^2/6 + \dots$$

Since N \neq Z for $T_z = \pm 1$ factors $Z_{\pm 1,0}$ remove the symmetry energy to isolate ISB (Usually PVES —> neutron skins —> symmetry energy —> nuclear EOS —> nuclear astrophysics)

Electroweak radii constrain ISB in superallowed β -decay

For numerical analysis: lowest isovector monopole resonance dominates One ISB matrix element, one energy splitting

Model for $\delta_C \rightarrow$	prediction for	$\Delta M^{(1)}_{A,B}$
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Transitions	δ _C (%)					$\Delta M_A^{(1)}$	(fm ²)			_	$\Delta M_B^{(1)}$	(fm ²)			
	WS	DFT	HF	RPA	Micro	WS	DFT	HF	RPA	Micro	WS	DFT	HF	RPA	Micro
26m Al \rightarrow 26 Mg	0.310	0.329	0.30	0.139	0.08	-2.2	-2.3	-2.1	-1.0	-0.6	-0.12	-0.12	-0.11	-0.05	-0.03
$^{34}\text{Cl} \rightarrow ^{34}\text{S}$	0.613	0.75	0.57	0.234	0.13	-5.0	-6.1	-4.6	-1.9	-1.0	-0.17	-0.21	-0.16	-0.06	-0.04
38m K \rightarrow 38 Ar	0.628	1.7	0.59	0.278	0.15	-5.4	-14.6	-5.1	-2.4	-1.3	-0.15	-0.42	-0.15	-0.07	-0.04
$^{42}\mathrm{Sc} \rightarrow ^{42}\mathrm{Ca}$	0.690	0.77	0.42	0.333	0.18	-6.2	-6.9	-3.8	-3.0	-1.6	-0.15	-0.17	-0.09	-0.07	-0.04
$^{46}V \rightarrow ^{46}Ti$	0.620	0.563	0.38	/	0.21	-5.8	-5.3	-3.6	/	-2.0	-0.12	-0.11	-0.08	/	-0.04
50 Mn \rightarrow 50 Cr	0.660	0.476	0.35	/	0.24	-6.4	-4.6	-3.4		-2.4	-0.12	-0.09	-0.06	/	-0.04
54 Co \rightarrow ⁵⁴ Fe	0.770	0.586	0.44	0.319	0.28	-7.8	-5.9	-4.4	-3.2	-2.8	-0.13	-0.10	-0.07	-0.05	-0.05

Can discriminate models if independent information on nuclear radii is available ΔM_A from measured radii —> test models for δ_C

- Charge radii across superallowed isotriplets?
- Some are known (but difficult unstable isotopes, some g.s. are not 0^+)
- Typically, precision is not enough to make a quantitative statement need to improve!

Summary: Status of V_{ud} and top-row CKM unitarity



BSM: RH currents across light and strange quarks may resolve all puzzles

Status of V_{us}

Vus Status and Outlook

$$\Gamma(K_{\ell 3(\gamma)}) = \frac{C_K^2 G_F^2 m_K^5}{192\pi^3} S_{\rm EW} |V_{us}|^2 |f_+^{K^0 \pi^-}(0)|^2 I_{K\ell}(\lambda_{K\ell}) \left(1 + 2\Delta_K^{SU(2)} + 2\Delta_{K\ell}^{\rm EM}\right)$$

$$\Gamma(K_{\ell 3(\gamma)}) = \frac{\frac{192\pi^3}{192\pi^3} S_{\rm EW} |V_{us}|^2 |f_+^{K^0 \pi^-}(0)|^2}{192\pi^3} S_{\rm EW} |V_{us}|^2 |f_+^{K^0 \pi^-}(0)|^2$$

with $K \in \{K^+, K^0\}$; $\ell \in \{e, \mu\}$, and: C_K^2 1/2 for K^+ , 1 for K^0 $S_{\rm EW}$ Universal SD EW correction (1.0232)

Inputs from experiment:

 $\Gamma(K_{\ell 3(\gamma)})$

- Rates with well-determined treatment of radiative decays:
 - Branching ratios
 - Kaon lifetimes

 $I_{K\ell}(\{\lambda\}_{K\ell})$ Integral of form factor over phase space: λ s parameterize evolution in *t*

Inputs from theory:

 $f_{+}^{K^{0}\pi^{-}}(0)$

 $\Delta_{K\ell}^{EM}$

Ν

Hadronic matrix element (form factor) at zero momentum transfer (t = 0)

/

- $\Delta_{K}^{SU(2)}$ Form-factor correction for SU(2) breaking
 - Form-factor correction for long-distance EM effects

V_{us} from KI3 decays

$ V_{us} f_{+}(0)$ 0.21 0.215			% err	Approx BR	κ. contrib τ	to % er Δ	r from: Int
· · ·	$K_L e3$	0.2162(5)	0.23	0.09	0.20	0.02	0.05
+	$K_L \mu 3$	0.2165(6)	0.26	0.15	0.18	0.02	0.07
	K _s e3	0.2169(8)	0.39	0.38	0.02	0.02	0.05
	K _S µ3	0.2125(47)	2.2	2.2	0.02	0.02	0.08
-•-	K [±] e3	0.2169(6)	0.30	0.27	0.06	0.11	0.05
	K [±] μ3	0.2168(10)	0.47	0.45	0.06	0.11	0.08
0.21 0.215 Average: V	$f_{us} f_{+}(0) =$	= 0.21656(35)	χ²/r	ndf = [·]	1.89/5	(86%)

$|V_{us}| f_{+}(0)$ from world data: 2022 update



Evaluations of $f_+(0)$

ChPT

FLAG '21 averages:

$N_f = 2+1+1$ $f_+(0) = 0.9698(17)$

Uncorrelated average of: **FNAL/MILC 18:** HISQ, 5sp, $m_{\pi} \rightarrow$ 135 MeV, new ensembles added to FNAL/MILC 13E **ETM 16:** TwMW, 3sp, $m_{\pi} \rightarrow$ 210 MeV, full q^2 dependence of f_+, f_0

$N_f = 2+1$ $f_+(0) = 0.9677(27)$

Uncorrelated average of: **FNAL/MILC 12I:** HISQ, $m_{\pi} \sim 300 \text{ MeV}$ **RBC/UKQCD 15A:** DWF, $m_{\pi} \rightarrow 139 \text{ MeV}$ **JLQCD 17** not included because only single lattice spacing used

$f_{+}(0) = 0.970(8)$

Ecker 15, Chiral Dynamics 15: Calculation from Bijnens 03, with new LECs from Bijnens, Ecker 14

$$K_{\mu 3}$$
 $V_{us} = 0.22330(35)_{exp}(39)_{lat}(8)_{lB}$ $f_{+}(0) = 0.9698(17)$ $\Delta^{(1)}_{CKM} = -0.00176(16)_{exp+lB}(17)_{lat}(51)_{ud} = -3.1\sigma$ $N_f = 2+1+1$

34

V_{us} / V_{ud} from KI2 decays

$$\frac{|V_{us}|}{|V_{ud}|}\frac{f_K}{f_{\pi}} = \left(\frac{\Gamma_{K_{\mu^2(\gamma)}}m_{\pi^{\pm}}}{\Gamma_{\pi_{\mu^2(\gamma)}}m_{K^{\pm}}}\right)^{1/2}\frac{1-m_{\mu}^2/m_{\pi^{\pm}}^2}{1-m_{\mu}^2/m_{K^{\pm}}^2}\left(1-\frac{1}{2}\delta_{\rm EM}-\frac{1}{2}\delta_{SU(2)}\right)$$

Inputs from experiment:

From K^{\pm} BR fit: **BR** $(K^{\pm}_{\mu 2(\gamma)}) = 0.6358(11)$ $\tau_{K\pm} = 12.384(15)$ ns

From PDG:

Inputs from theory:

 $\delta_{\rm EM}$ Long-distance EM corrections

 $\delta_{SU(2)}$ Strong isospin breaking $f_K/f_{\pi} \rightarrow f_{K\pm}/f_{\pi\pm}$

 f_{K}/f_{π} Ratio of decay constants Cancellation of lattice-scale uncertainties from ratio NB: Most lattice results already corrected for SU(2)-breaking: $f_{K\pm}/f_{\pi\pm}$

V_{us} / V_{ud} from KI2 decays

Giusti et al. PRL 120 (2018)	 First lattice calculation of EM corrections to P₁₂ decays Ensembles from ETM 	Lattice			
	• $N_f = 2+1+1$ Twisted-mass Wilson fermions	N _f = 2+1+1			
	$\delta_{SU(2)} + \delta_{EM} = -0.0122(16)$	ETM 21 New! TM guarks, 3sp, $m_{\pi} \rightarrow$	1 phys		
	Oncertainty from quenched QED Included (0.0006)	Not yet in FLAG '21 aver Replaces ETM 14E in ou			
	Compare to ChPT result from Cirigliano, Neufeld '11:	Miller 20	1		
	$\delta_{SU(2)}$ + δ_{EM} = -0.0112(21)	FNAL/MILC17	1		
		HPQCD13A	1		
Di Carlo et al.	Update, extended description, and systematics of Giusti et al.	N _f = 2+1			
PRD 100 (2019)	$\delta_{SU(2)} + \delta_{EM} = -0.0126(14)$	QCDSF/UKQCD17	1		
		BMW16	1		
		RBC/UKQCD14B	1		
			-		

$|V_{us}/V_{ud}| \times f_K/f_{\pi} = 0.27679(28)_{BR}(20)_{corr}$

results for f_K/f_{π}

ETM 21 New!	1.1995(44)(7)						
TM quarks, 3sp, m_{π}	\rightarrow physical						
Not yet in FLAG '21 average!							
Replaces ETM 14E	in our average						
Miller 20	1.1964(44)						
FNAL/MILC17	1.1980(⁺¹³ _19)						
HPQCD13A	1.1948(15)(18						

1.192(10)(13)
1.182(10)(26)
1.1945(45)
1.192(7)(6)
1.198(2)(7)

$f_K/f_{\pi} = 1.1978(22)$ S = 1.1

Average is problematic with correlations assumed by FLAG, dominated by FNAL/MILC17 (symmetrized)

- Share ensembles
- Partially correlated uncertainties using FLAG prescription

 $f_{\rm K}/f_{\pi} = 1.1946(34)^*$

* MILC10 omitted from average because unpublished

 $V_{us}/V_{ud} = 0.23108(23)_{exp}(42)_{lat}(16)_{lB}$ $K_{\mu 2}$ $f_K / f_\pi = 1.1978(22)$ $V_{us} = 0.22504(28)_{exp}(41)_{lat}(06)_{ud}$ $N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$ $\Delta^{(2)}_{\rm CKM} = -0.00098(13)_{\rm exp}(19)_{\rm lat}(53)_{ud}$ $= -1.8\sigma$

$$\Delta V_{us} (K_{\mu 3} - K_{\mu 2}) = -0.0174(73) -2.4\sigma$$

Existing data from BNL865, KTeV, ISTRA+, KLOE, NA48, NA48/2 Upcoming data from KLOE-2 and NA62

Cabibbo Angle Anomaly as a BSM Signal

Low-energy effective Lagrangian Cabibbo Angle Anomaly as a BSW Signal

Leptonic interactions

2010.13797

$$\mathcal{L}_{CC}^{(\mu)} = -\frac{G_F^{(0)}}{\sqrt{2}} \left(1 + \epsilon_L^{(\mu)} \right) \bar{e} \gamma^{\rho} (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_e \cdot \bar{\nu}_{\mu} \gamma_{\rho} (1 - \gamma_5) \mu + \dots$$

$$\mathbf{\mathcal{L}_{CC}} = -\frac{G_F^{(0)} \mathcal{V}_{ud}}{\sqrt{2}} \left(1 - \epsilon_L^{(\mu)} \right) \qquad \text{Semi-leptonic interactions}$$

$$\mathcal{\mathcal{L}_{CC}} = -\frac{G_F^{(0)} \mathcal{V}_{ud}}{\sqrt{2}} \times \left[\left(\delta^{ab} + \epsilon_L^{ab} \right) \bar{e}_a \gamma_{\mu} (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_b \cdot \bar{u} \gamma^{\mu} (1 - \gamma_5) d \right]$$

$$+ \epsilon_R^{ab} \bar{e}_a \gamma_{\mu} (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_b \cdot \bar{u} \gamma^{\mu} (1 + \gamma_5) d$$

$$+ \epsilon_S^{ab} \bar{e}_a (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_b \cdot \bar{u} \gamma_5 d$$

$$+ \epsilon_T^{ab} \bar{e}_a \sigma_{\mu\nu} (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_b \cdot \bar{u} \sigma^{\mu\nu} (1 - \gamma_5) d \right] + \text{h.c.} \qquad \text{For global analysis of beta decays in this framework see:}$$

$$+ \epsilon_T^{ab} \bar{e}_a \sigma_{\mu\nu} (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_b \cdot \bar{u} \sigma^{\mu\nu} (1 - \gamma_5) d \right] + \text{h.c.} \qquad \text{Falkowski, Gonzalez-Alonso, Naviliat-Cuncle,}$$

Cabibbo Angle Anomaly as a BSM Signal

Connect beta decays to UV physics via EFT: Wilson coeffs. of 4-fermion operators

$$\begin{split} |\bar{V}_{ud}|^{2}_{0^{+} \to 0^{+}} &= |V_{ud}|^{2} \left(1 + 2\left(\epsilon_{L}^{ee} + \epsilon_{R} - \epsilon_{L}^{(\mu)}\right) + c_{0^{+}}^{S}(Z) \epsilon_{S}^{ee} \right) \\ |\bar{V}_{ud}|^{2}_{n \to pe\bar{\nu}} &= |V_{ud}|^{2} \left(1 + 2\left(\epsilon_{L}^{ee} + \epsilon_{R} - \epsilon_{L}^{(\mu)}\right) + c_{n}^{S}\epsilon_{S}^{ee} + c_{n}^{T}\epsilon_{T}^{ee} \right) \\ |\bar{V}_{us}|^{2}_{Ke3} &= |V_{us}|^{2} \left(1 + 2\left(\epsilon_{L}^{ee(s)} + \epsilon_{R}^{(s)} - \epsilon_{L}^{(\mu)}\right)\right) \right) \\ |\bar{V}_{ud}|^{2}_{\pi_{e3}} &= |V_{ud}|^{2} \left(1 + 2\left(\epsilon_{L}^{eee} + \epsilon_{R} - \epsilon_{L}^{(\mu)}\right) \right) \\ |\bar{V}_{us}|^{2}_{K\mu2} &= |V_{us}|^{2} \left(1 + 2\left(\epsilon_{L}^{\mu\mu(s)} - \epsilon_{R}^{(s)} - \epsilon_{L}^{(\mu)}\right) - 2\frac{B_{0}}{m_{\ell}}\epsilon_{P}^{\mu\mu(s)} \right) \\ |\bar{V}_{ud}|^{2}_{\pi\mu2} &= |V_{ud}|^{2} \left(1 + 2\left(\epsilon_{L}^{\mu\mu} - \epsilon_{R} - \epsilon_{L}^{(\mu)}\right) - 2\frac{B_{0}}{m_{\ell}}\epsilon_{P}^{\mu\mu} \right) \end{split}$$

Three distinct Cabibbo unitarity deficits may be defined

$$\Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(1)} = |V_{ud}^{\beta}|^{2} + |V_{us}^{K_{\ell3}}|^{2} - 1 \qquad V_{us} \text{ from } K_{\ell3} + V_{ud} \text{ from } \beta \text{ decays}$$

$$\Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(2)} = |V_{ud}^{\beta}|^{2} + |V_{us}^{K_{\ell2}/\pi_{\ell2},\beta}|^{2} - 1 \qquad V_{us} \text{ from } K_{\mu2} + V_{ud} \text{ from } \beta \text{ decays}$$

$$\Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(3)} = |V_{ud}^{K_{\ell2}/\pi_{\ell2},K_{\ell3}}|^{2} + |V_{us}^{K_{\ell3}}|^{2} - 1 \qquad V_{us} \text{ from } K_{\ell3} + V_{us}/V_{ud} \text{ from } K_{\mu2}$$

Cabibbo Angle Anomaly as a BSM^{es}Signal

RH currents in ud- and us-sectors

 V_{ud} , V_{us} , V_{ud}/V_{us} overconstrained, can solve all tensions

 $|\bar{V}_{ud}|^2_{0^+ \rightarrow 0^+} Test$ $|V_{ud}|^2 (1 + 2\epsilon_R)$ with uncertainty entirely dominated by experiment [22]. A competitive determination requires a dedicated experimental eampaign, as planned at the PIONEER experiment [26]. V The best information on V_{ls} comes from known decays, $K_{l2} =$ $K \to \ell \nu_{\ell}$ and $K_{\ell 3} = K \to \pi \ell \nu_{\ell}$. The former is typically analyzed by normalizing to $\pi_{\ell 2}$ decays [27], leading to a constraint on V_{us}/V_{ud} while $K_{\ell3}$ decays give direct access to V_{us} when the corresponding form-factor is provided from lattice QGD [28]. Details of the global fit to kaon decays, as well as the input for decay constants, form factors, and radiative corrections, are discussed in Sec. 2, leading to

 $V_{ud} |_{\frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}}|_{K_{(2}/\pi_{\ell_{2}}}}^{2} = |V_{ud}|^{2} \left(1 + 2\epsilon_{R}\right)^{2} = 0.23108(23)_{\exp}(42)_{F_{A}}(16)_{IB}[51]_{total}$ $V_{us}^{K_{\ell_3}} = 0.22330(35)_{\exp}(39)_f(8)_{IB}[53]_{total}, (s)$ where the errors refer to experiment, lattice input for the matrix elements, and isospin-breaking corrections, respectively. Together with the constraints on V_{ud} , these bands give rise to the situation depicted in Fig. 1: on the one hand, there is lartension between the best fit and CKM unitarity, but another tension, arising entirely from meson decays, is due to the fact that the $K_{\ell 2}$ and $K_{\ell 3}$ constraints intersect away from the unitarity circle. Additional information on V_{us} can be derived from τ decays [29, 30], but given the larger errors [31, 32] we will continue to focus on the kaon sector. The main point of this Letter is that given the various ten-

sions in the V_{ud} - V_{us} plane, there is urgent need for additional information on the compatibility of $K_{\ell 2}$ and $K_{\ell 3}$ data, especially when it comes to interpreting either of the tensions (CKM unitarity and $K_{\ell 2}$ versus $K_{\ell 3}$ in terms of physics beyond the SM (BSM). In particular, the data base for $K_{\ell 2}$ is completely dominated by a single experiment [33], and at the same time the global fit to all kaon data displays a relatively poor fit quality All these points could be scrutinized by a new measurement of the $K_{\mu3}/K_{\mu2}$ branching fraction at the level of a few permil, as possible at the NA62 experiment. Further, once the experimental situation is clarified, more robust interpretations of the ensuing tensions will be possible, especially regarding the role of right-handed currents both in the strange and non-strange sector. To make the case for the proposed measurement of the $K_{\mu3}/K_{\mu2}$ branching fraction, we first discuss in detail its impact on the global fit to kaon data and the implications for CKM whitarity in Sec. 2. The consequences for physics beyond the CKare addressed in Sec. 3, before we conclude in Sec. 4.

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2. Global fit to kaon data and implications for CKM unitarity Λ

Cabibbo Angle Anomaly as a BSMesSignal

RH currents in ud- and us-sectors

Unveiling R-handed quarked urrents?



 $|\bar{V}_{ud}|^2_{0^+ \to 0^+} = |V_{ud}|^2 \left(1 + 2\epsilon_R\right)$ with uncertainty entirely dominated by experiment [22]. A competitive determination requires a dedicated experimental eampaign, as planned at the PIONEER experiment [26]. V The best information on V_{ls} comes from known decays, $K_{l2} =$ $K \to \ell \nu_{\ell}$ and $K_{\ell 3} = K \to \pi \ell \nu_{\ell}$. The former is typically analyzed by normalizing to $\pi_{\ell 2}$ decays [27], leading to a constraint on V_{us}/V_{ud} while $K_{\ell3}$ decays give direct access to V_{us} when the corresponding form factor is provided from lattice QGD [28]. Details of the global fit to kaon decays, as well as the input for decay constants, form factors, and radiative corrections, are discussed in Sec. 2, leading to

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2. Global fit to kaon data and implications for CKM unitarity

Cabibbo Angle Anomaly as a BSN Fest Signal

RH currents in ud- and us-sectors

Unveiling R-handed quark durrents?



$$\Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(1)} = 2\epsilon_R + 2\Delta\epsilon_R V_{us}^2,$$

$$\Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(2)} = 2\epsilon_R - 2\Delta\epsilon_R V_{us}^2,$$

$$\Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(3)} = 2\epsilon_R + 2\Delta\epsilon_R (2 - V_{us}^2)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\epsilon_R = -0.69(27) \times 10^{-3}$$

$$\Delta\epsilon_R = -3.9(1.6) \times 10^{-3}$$

$$\Lambda_R \sim 5 \text{--10 TeV} \quad 2.5\sigma \text{ effect}$$

Beta decay vs. LHC on S,T Complementarity now and in the future!

Gonzalez-Alonso et al 1803.08732



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Summary: Status of V_{ud} and top-row CKM unitarity



BSM: RH currents across light and strange quarks may resolve all puzzles