

Nuclear response and decay processes within beyond mean-field methods

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A banner for the INFN2024 conference. On the left, the INFN logo is accompanied by the text 'Nuove frontiere della fisica nucleare fondamentale e applicata' and '10 anni di TIFPA'. The central part features a dark blue silhouette of a mountain range with a blue line graph overlaid. On the right, an orange banner contains the text 'INFN2024' and '6° INCONTRO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE'. Below this, the dates '26 | 28 Febbraio 2024' and the location 'TRENTO' are displayed in orange. The background is light blue with a faint grid and a stylized sunburst pattern.



Nuclear response (and decay processes)

- General features and properties
- Connections with other open questions/investigations

Microscopic description of the nuclear response

- Mean-field approximation: The Random Phase Approximation (RPA)
- Beyond mean-field approaches: The Second RPA and the PVC models





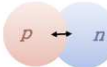
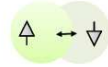





Recent Applications

- The GMR puzzle and nuclear incompressibility
- Gamow-Teller excitations and Beta-decay (and quenching problem)

The nuclear response (NR)

- A standard way to investigate nuclei is to perturb them with a probe (γ , protons, α -particles, ...) \mapsto **Nuclear Response (NR)**
- A large part of the NR is absorbed by collective excitations where many nucleons participate in a coherent way (for example **Giant Resonances**)
- Their properties are related to the **underlying nuclear interaction**
- NR is very rich and variegated \mapsto **Challenge for Theory and Experiment**

GRs, a schematic picture: Multipolarity L, Spin S, Isospin T

$\Delta L=0$	 <p>ISGMR</p>	 <p>IVGMR</p>	 <p>ISSMR</p>	 <p>IVSMR</p>
$\Delta L=1$		 <p>IVGDR</p>	 <p>ISSDR</p>	 <p>IVSDR</p>
$\Delta L=2$	 <p>ISGQR</p>	 <p>IVGQR</p>	 <p>ISSQR</p>	 <p>IVSQR</p>
	$\Delta S=0$	$\Delta S=0$	$\Delta S=1$	$\Delta S=1$
	$\Delta T=0$	$\Delta T=1$	$\Delta T=0$	$\Delta T=1$

Giant Resonances, a macroscopic picture

ISGMR ($L=0, S=0, T=0$): n and p in phase (isoscalar), compression (breathing) mode

IVGDR ($L=1, S=0, T=1$): neutrons (n) and protons (p) in opposite phase (isovector)

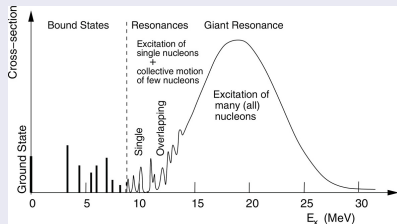
Giant Resonances, a macroscopic picture

ISGMR ($L=0, S=0, T=0$): n and p in phase (isoscalar), compression (breathing) mode

IVGDR ($L=1, S=0, T=1$): neutrons (n) and protons (p) in opposite phase (isovector)

A closer Look to the nuclear response: Main properties

Total Strength

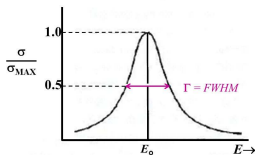


Credit: Hans Pietz gen. Schieck

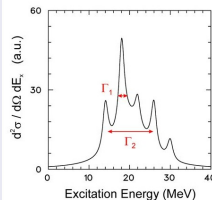
Centroid (E_0), Width (Γ) and Fine structure

Breit-Wigner Resonance Curve

$$\sigma(E) = \sigma_{\max} \frac{\Gamma^2 / 4}{(E - E_0)^2 + \Gamma^2 / 4}$$



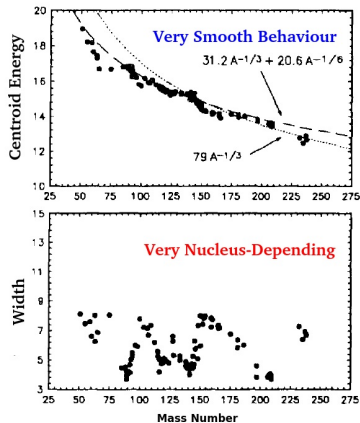
Centroid (E_0), Width (Γ)



Credit A. Richter

High precision studies \rightarrow Fine structure

Centroid Energy and Width

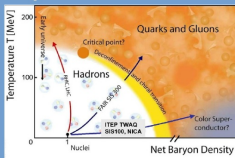


From: Ph. Chomaz, N. Francaria, Physics Reports 252 (1995)

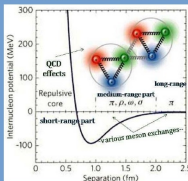
Strong challenge for many-body microscopic theories

Connections with other open questions/investigations

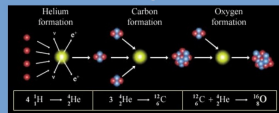
Equation of State



In-medium nuclear force



Nucleosynthesis

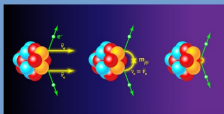


Applications

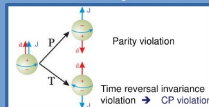
Nuclear Excitations and Decays



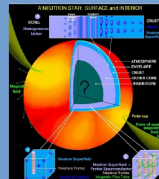
Physics beyond the SM



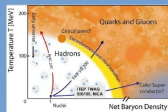
Fundamental Symmetries



Astrophysical Objects

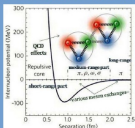


Equation of State (EoS): Main parameters of EoS can be related to the nuclear response



- ✓ **Compressibility modulus K** ~ Giant Monopole Resonance
- ✓ **Symmetry Energy and its slope** ~ Giant Dipole Resonance, Pygmy dipole resonance, Isobaric analog state
- ✓ **Effective mass** ~ Giant Quadrupole Resonance

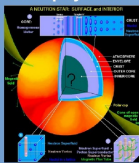
In-medium nuclear force, State of art studies: From QCD to V_{nn} (Lattice QCD, EFT, ...)



- ✓ **Current challenge:** Binding Energy, Charge radii, low-lying spectroscopy
- ✓ **Future challenges:** Nuclear excitations can provide more information and constraints



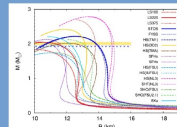
Astrophysical Objects



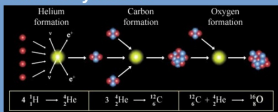
- EoS input in Tolman–Oppenheimer–Volkoff (**TOV**) equation
- **Radius-mass relation** of N.S. depends on the slope of the symmetry energy
- **Multimessenger Physics** (Terrestrial and Astrophysical observations)

$$\frac{dP(r)}{dr} = -G \frac{[\epsilon(r) + P(r)][M(r) + 4\pi r^3 P(r)]}{r^2 [1 - 2GM(r)/r]}$$

$$\frac{dM(r)}{dr} = 4\pi \epsilon(r) r^2, \quad \text{TOV Equation}$$



Nucleosynthesis

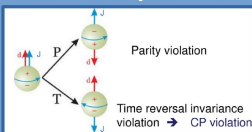


Low-Lying excitations in neutron rich nuclei: strong impact on the radiative neutron capture (r-process nucleosynthesis) [Nuclear Phys. A 739 (3) (2004)]

Gamow-Teller transitions:

- ✓ weak interaction rates in stellar environment [Phys. Rev. Lett. 112 (2014) 252501]
- ✓ r-process stellar nucleosynthesis [Phys. Rep. 450 (4) (2007)]

Fundamental Symmetries



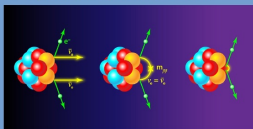
Fermi and Gamow-Teller β transitions can provide

- ✓ accurate measurements the g_A/g_V coupling-constant ratio
- ✓ or search for symmetry violations, CKM matrix

Electric dipole moment (EDM) violates both P and T symmetry.

- ✓ CP violation and the matter-antimatter asymmetry.
- ✓ Number of experiments on different systems (nucleons, nuclei, atoms):
Octupole-deformed heavy nuclei (Ra, Pa, Hg)

Physics beyond the SM



Neutrinoless double- β decay:

- ✓ Lepton number violation
- ✓ Majorana neutrino
- ✓ neutrino's mass

Set of exact eigenstates of the Hamiltonian H

$$H|\nu\rangle = E_\nu |\nu\rangle$$

where $|0\rangle$ is the ground state with energy E_0

Phonon Operators

Let us introduce the operators Q' 's:

$$Q_\nu^\dagger |0\rangle = |\nu\rangle, \quad Q_\nu |0\rangle = 0.$$

Equations of Motion:

$$\langle 0 | [\delta Q, [H, Q_\nu^\dagger]] | 0 \rangle = \omega_\nu \langle 0 | [\delta Q, Q_\nu^\dagger] | 0 \rangle$$

where

$$\omega_\nu = E_\nu - E_0.$$

RPA Phonon Operators

$$Q_\nu^\dagger = \sum_{ph} X_{ph}^{(\nu)} a_p^\dagger a_h - \sum_{ph} Y_{ph}^{(\nu)} a_h^\dagger a_p$$

RPA Equations of Motion ($1 \mapsto 1p1h$)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{A}_{11} & \mathcal{B}_{11} \\ -\mathcal{B}_{11}^* & -\mathcal{A}_{11}^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \end{pmatrix} = \omega_\nu \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \end{pmatrix}$$

RPA Phonon Operators

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RPA Equations of Motion ($1 \mapsto 1p1h$)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{A}_{11} & \mathcal{B}_{11} \\ -\mathcal{B}_{11}^* & -\mathcal{A}_{11}^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \end{pmatrix} = \omega_\nu \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \end{pmatrix}$$

Second RPA Phonon Operators

$$Q_\nu^\dagger = \sum_{ph} (X_{ph}^{(\nu)} a_p^\dagger a_h - Y_{ph}^{(\nu)} a_h^\dagger a_p) \\ + \sum_{p_1 < p_2, h_1 < h_2} (X_{p_1 h_1 p_2 h_2}^{(\nu)} a_{p_1}^\dagger a_{h_1} a_{p_2}^\dagger a_{h_2} - Y_{p_1 h_1 p_2 h_2}^{(\nu)} a_{h_1}^\dagger a_{p_1} a_{h_2}^\dagger a_{p_2})$$

Second RPA Equations of Motion ($1 \mapsto 1p1h, 2 \mapsto 2p2h$)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{A}_{11} & \mathcal{A}_{12} & \mathcal{B}_{11} & \mathcal{B}_{12} \\ \mathcal{A}_{21} & \mathcal{A}_{22} & \mathcal{B}_{21} & \mathcal{B}_{22} \\ -\mathcal{B}_{11}^* & -\mathcal{B}_{12}^* & -\mathcal{A}_{11}^* & -\mathcal{A}_{12}^* \\ -\mathcal{B}_{21}^* & -\mathcal{B}_{22}^* & -\mathcal{A}_{21}^* & -\mathcal{A}_{22}^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{X}_2^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_2^\nu \end{pmatrix} = \omega_\nu \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{X}_2^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_2^\nu \end{pmatrix}$$

Energy dependent RPA-like problem by projecting onto the $1p1h$ space

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{A}_{11}(\omega) & B_{11} \\ -B_{11}^* & -\tilde{A}_{11}^*(\omega) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \end{pmatrix} = \omega \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{1,1'} \mapsto \tilde{A}_{1,1'}(\omega) = A_{1,1'}^{RPA} + \sum_{2,2'} A_{1,2}(\omega + i\eta - A_{2,2'})^{-1} A_{2',1'} = A_{1,1'}^{RPA} + A_{1,1'}^{Cor}(\omega)$$

$$A_{ph,p'h'}^{Cor}(\omega) = \sum_{22'} \frac{\langle ph|V|2\rangle \langle 2'|V|p'h'\rangle}{\omega - A_{22'} + i\eta}, \quad |2\rangle \mapsto 2p2h \text{ configurations}$$

Two-step calculations

(1) Random Phase Approximation (RPA)

$$Q_\nu^\dagger = \underbrace{\sum_{ph} X_{ph}^{(\nu)} \underbrace{a_p^\dagger a_h}_{1p-1h} - \sum_{ph} Y_{ph}^{(\nu)} \underbrace{a_h^\dagger a_p}_{1h-1p}}_{\text{X and Y are obtained}}$$

(2) Particle Vibration Coupling (PVC)

$$T_\alpha^\dagger = \sum_{ph} (X_{ph}^{(1\alpha)} a_p^\dagger a_h - Y_{ph}^{(1\alpha)} a_h^\dagger a_p) + \underbrace{\sum_{ph,\nu} (X_{ph}^{(2\alpha)} a_p^\dagger a_h Q_\nu^\dagger - Y_{ph}^{(2\alpha)} a_h^\dagger a_p Q_\nu)}_{\text{1p1h + RPA phonons coupling}}$$

Energy dependent RPA-like problem by projecting onto the $1p1h$ space

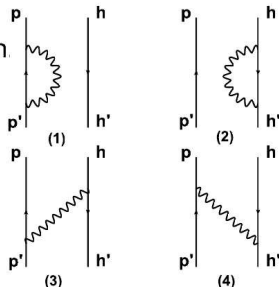
$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{A}_{11}(\omega) & B_{11} \\ -B_{11}^* & -\tilde{A}_{11}(\omega) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \end{pmatrix} = \omega \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{X}_1^\nu \\ \mathcal{Y}_1^\nu \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{1,1'} \mapsto \tilde{A}_{1,1'}(\omega) = A_{1,1'}^{RPA} + A_{1,1'}^{Cor}(\omega)$$




$$A_{ph,p'h'}^{Cor}(\omega) = \sum_{\alpha} \frac{\langle ph|V|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|V|p'h'\rangle}{\omega - E_{\alpha} + i\eta}, \quad |\alpha\rangle = |1p1h\rangle \times |\nu\rangle_{RPA}$$

The state α is $1p-1h$ plus one phonon.

$$\sum_{\alpha} \frac{\langle ph|V|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|V|p'h'\rangle}{E - E_{\alpha} + i\eta}$$



Toward a Unified Description of Isoscalar Giant Monopole Resonances in a Self-Consistent Quasiparticle-Vibration Coupling Approach

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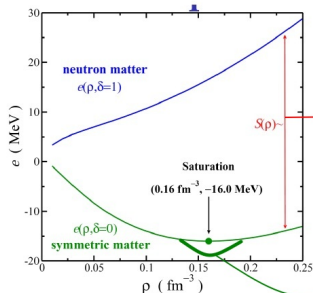
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The nuclear incompressibility is a key parameter of the nuclear equation of state that can be extracted from the measurements of the so-called “breathing mode” of finite nuclei. The most serious discrepancy so far is between values extracted from Pb and Sn, that has provoked the longstanding question “Why is tin so soft?”. To solve this puzzle, a fully self-consistent quasiparticle random-phase approximation plus quasiparticle-vibration coupling approach based on Skyrme-Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov is developed. We show that the many-body correlations introduced by quasiparticle-vibration coupling, which shift the isoscalar giant monopole resonance energy in Sn isotopes by about 0.4 MeV more than the energy in ²⁰⁸Pb, play a crucial role in providing a unified description of the isoscalar giant monopole resonance in Sn and Pb isotopes. The best description of the experimental strength functions is given by SV-K226 and KDE0, which are characterized by incompressibility values $K_\infty = 226$ MeV and 229 MeV, respectively, at mean field level.

Nuclear Equation of State:

- Nuclear equation of state



Nuclear matter (NM)

Symmetric NM

symmetry energy

$$\frac{E}{A}(\rho, \delta) = \frac{E}{A}(\rho, \delta = 0) + S(\rho)\delta^2$$

$$\delta \equiv (\rho_n - \rho_p)/\rho \quad \xi = \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0}$$

$$\frac{E}{A}(\rho, \delta = 0) = \epsilon_0 + \frac{1}{2}K\xi^2 + o(\xi^3)$$

Nuclear Incompressibility

EOs: heavy-ion collisions, neutron stars, supernova explosions, nuclear structure, ...

K_A can be obtained from centroid energy of GMR

$$E_{ISGMR} = \hbar \sqrt{\frac{K_A}{m\langle r^2 \rangle}}$$

K_A : the compression modulus of the nucleus with mass number A

From K_A to K_∞

$$K_A = aK_\infty + b.$$

$$E_{ISGMR} = a'\sqrt{K_\infty} + b'$$

K_∞ : incompressibility of nuclear matter

Garg and Colo, PPNP 101, 55 (2018)

From ^{208}Pb and ^{90}Zr : $K_\infty = 240 \pm 20 \text{ MeV}$

Focus issue on open problems in nuclear structure theory

Do we understand the incompressibility of neutron-rich matter?

J Piekarewicz

Department of Physics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA



Nuclear Physics A

Volume 788, Issues 1-4, 15 May 2007, Pages 36-43

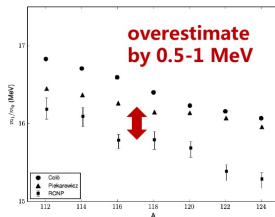


The Giant Monopole Resonance in the Sn Isotopes: Why is Tin so “Fluffy”?

U. Garg^a, T. Li^a, S. Okumura^b, H. Akimune^c, M. Fujiiwara^b, M.N. Harakeh^d,

In even-even 112-124Sn, the ISGMR centroid energy is overestimated by about 1 MeV by the same models which reproduce the ISGMR energy well in 208Pb.

Isotopic Dependence of the Giant Monopole Resonance in the Even-A 112-124Sn Isotopes and the Asymmetry Term in Nuclear Incompressibility



From Sn isotopes: $K_{\infty} \sim 205$ MeV

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **131**, 082501 (2023)

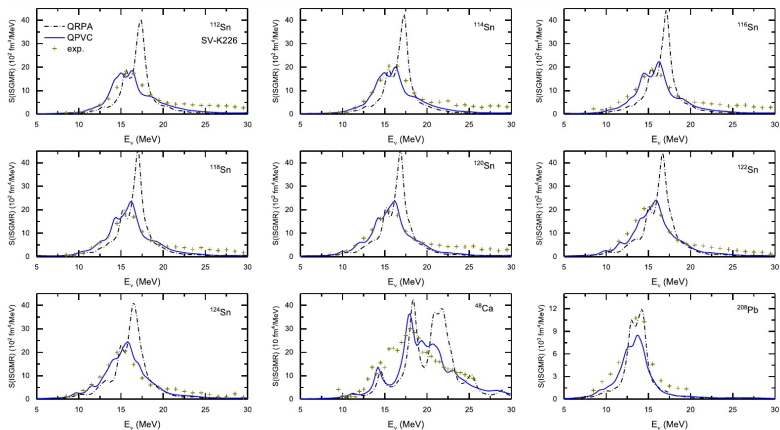
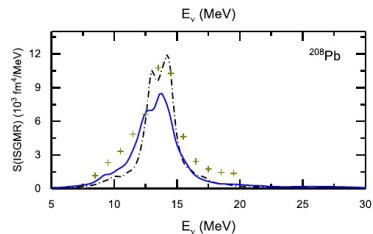
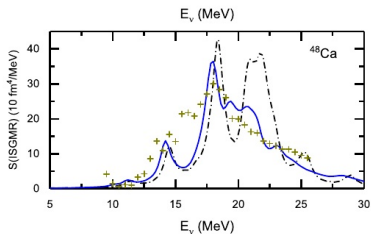
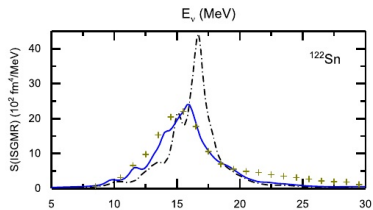
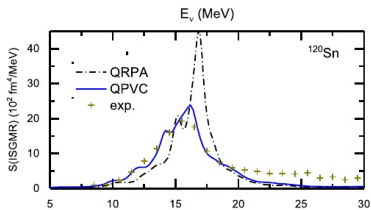
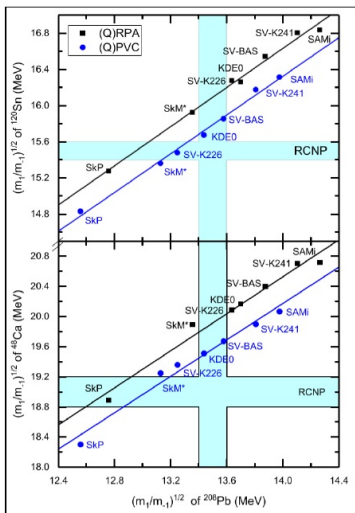


FIG. 1. ISGMR strength functions in even-even $^{112-124}\text{Sn}$, ^{48}Ca , and ^{208}Pb isotopes, calculated either by (Q)RPA using a smoothing with Lorentzian having a width of 1 MeV [dash-dotted (black) line], or (Q)RPA + (Q)PVC [solid (blue) line]. The SV-K226 Skyrme force is used. The experimental data are given by green crosses [8,15,45].

QRPA and PVC calculations in Pb and Sn isotopes:



Simultaneous reproduction of GMR centroid in Ca, Pb and Sn:



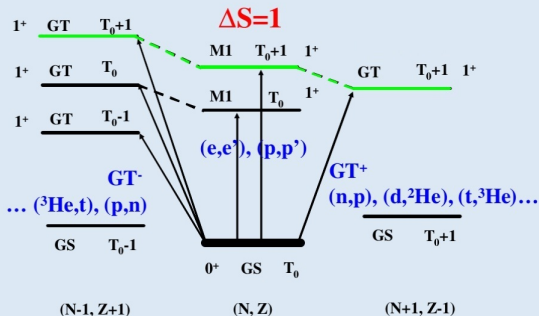
Systematic study of the consistency between ISGMR energies in different nuclei.

PVC coupling plays a key-role

- QRPA => QPVC
Simultaneous description of Sn (or Ca) and Pb is much improved!

• Best descriptions:
SV-K226 $K_\infty = 226$ MeV
KDE0 $K_\infty = 229$ MeV
consistent with $K_\infty = 240 \pm 20$ MeV

Spin-flip & GT transitions



Courtesy of Muhsin N. Harakeh/

Gamow-Teller transition

$$\Delta S=1 \quad \Delta L=0 \quad \Delta T=1$$

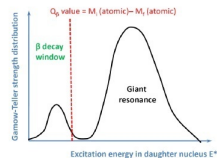
operator

$$\hat{O}_{GT^-} = \sum_{i=1}^A \vec{\sigma}(i) \cdot \tau_{-}(i)$$

Transition probability

$$B(GT^-) = \sum_{\nu} |\langle \nu | \hat{O} | 0 \rangle|^2$$

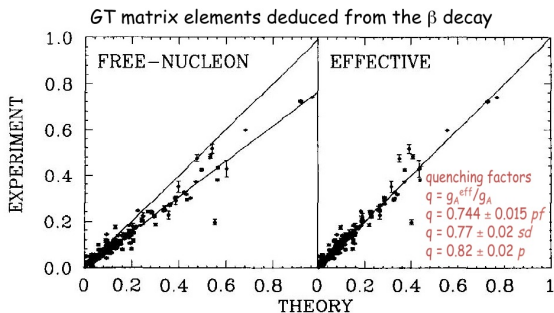
$$S_{GT^-} - S_{GT^+} = 3(N - Z).$$



and of Y. Niu

The quenching problem

- Computed GT matrix elements **are larger** than the experimental ones.
- The problem is “cured” by **quenching** the strength by $q \sim 0.7$ or using effective axial constant g_A (~ 1) instead of the “bare” value ~ 1.27 .

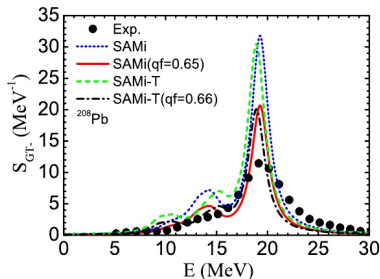
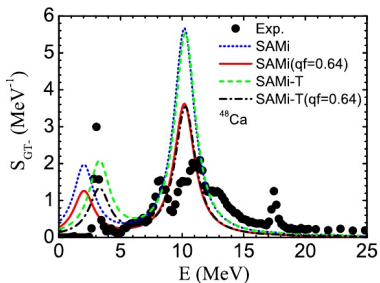


(from Brown & Wildenthal, Ann.Rev.Nucl. Part.Sci.**38**,(1988)29)

Shell Model calculations

The quenching problem

- Computed GT matrix elements **are larger** than the experimental ones.
- The problem is “cured” by **quenching** the strength by $q \sim 0.7$ or using effective axial constant g_A (~ 1) instead of the “bare” value ~ 1.27 .



$$qf = \frac{\sum_{E_x=0}^{E_x(\max)} B(GT : E_x)_{\text{expt}}}{\sum_{E_x=0}^{E_x(\max)} B(GT)_{\text{calc}}}$$

Li-Gang Cao , Shi-Sheng Zhang, and H. Sagawa, PHYSICAL REVIEW C 100, 054324 (2019)

RPA calculations

The quenching problem

- Computed GT matrix elements **are larger** than the experimental ones.
- The problem is “cured” by **quenching** the strength by $q \sim 0.7$ or using effective axial constant g_A (~ 1) instead of the “bare” value ~ 1.27 .

Possible causes fall in two main classes:

- **Nuclear many- body correlations that escape calculations:**
(truncation of the model space, short-range correlations, multi-phonon states, multi particle-hole excitations, ...)
- **Non-nucleonic degrees of freedom:**
(Many-nucleon weak currents, Δ -isobar excitations, in-medium modification of pion physics, ...)


Gamow-Teller Strength in ^{48}Ca and ^{78}Ni with the Charge-Exchange Subtracted Second Random-Phase Approximation

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We develop a fully self-consistent subtracted second random-phase approximation for charge-exchange processes with Skyrme energy-density functionals. As a first application, we study Gamow-Teller excitations in the doubly magic nucleus ^{48}Ca , the lightest double- β emitter that could be used in an experiment, and in ^{78}Ni , the single-beta-decay rate of which is known. The amount of Gamow-Teller strength below 20 or 30 MeV is considerably smaller than in other energy-density-functional calculations and agrees better with experiment in ^{48}Ca , as does the beta-decay rate in ^{78}Ni . These important results, obtained without *ad hoc* quenching factors, are due to the presence of two-particle-two-hole configurations. Their density progressively increases with excitation energy, leading to a long high-energy tail in the spectrum, a fact that may have implications for the computation of nuclear matrix elements for neutrinoless double- β decay in the same framework.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevLett.125.212501](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.125.212501)

See also D. Gambacurta and M. Grasso *Phys. Rev. C* **105**, 014321 (2022)

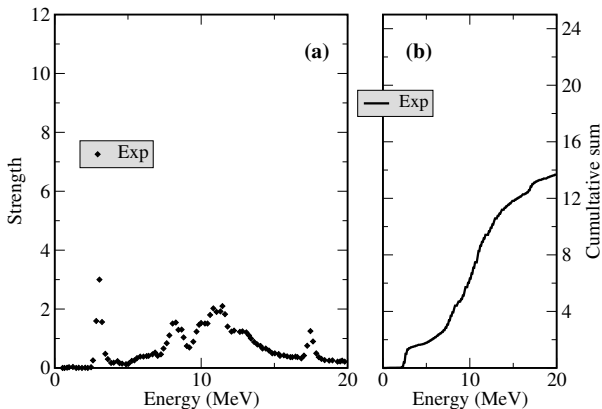


Figure: (a) GT⁻ strength distributions in RPA and SSRPA compared with data.

(b) Cumulative strengths up to 20 MeV.

Data from: K. Yako *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 012503 (2009)

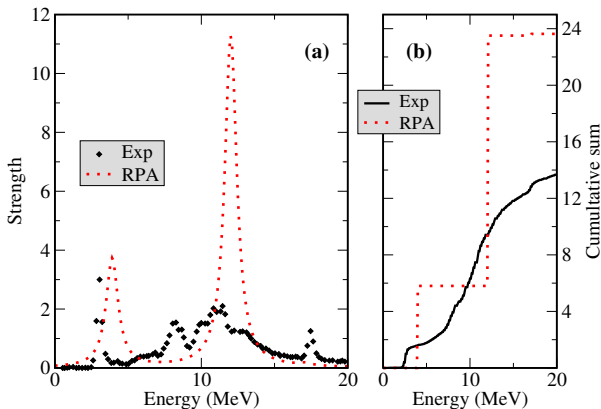


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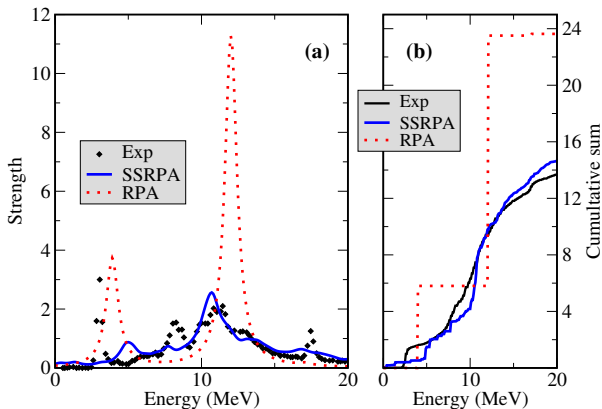


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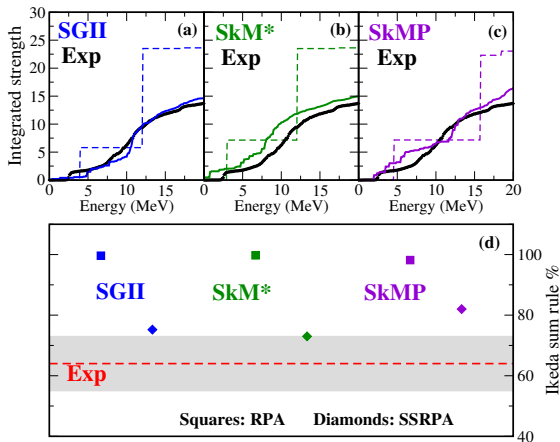


Figure: (a), (b), (c) Strengths integrated up to 20 MeV with different parameterizations.

(d) RPA and SSRPA percentages of the Ikeda sum rule below 30 MeV compared with the experimental one.

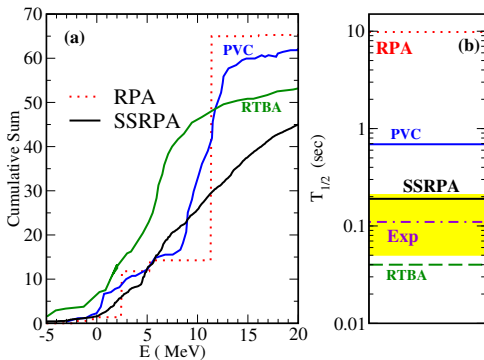


Figure: (a) Cumulative sum for the nucleus ^{78}Ni within the SSRPA, PVC and RTBA models;

(b) β -decay half-life for ^{78}Ni . **No quenching, bare $g_a = 1.27$;**

Data from: P. T. Hosmer *et al.* Phys. Rev. Lett. 94, 112501 (2005)

PVC: Y. F. Niu, G. Coló and E. Vigezzi, Phys. Rev. C 90, 054328 (2014)

RTBA: C. Robin and E. Litvinova, Phys. Rev. C 98, 051301(R), 2018

Theory

- More systematic applications of the Second RPA and PVC models
- Comparing Second RPA and PVC ...
- “Merging” Second RPA and PVC:
PVC coupling with collective phonons:
Second RPA: coupling of 1ph and 2ph degrees of freedom

Exp

- Giant Resonances in *exotic* and weakly bound nuclei (LNS, SPES, ...)
- Giant Resonances in deformed nuclei ...
- β -decay in plasma (PANDORA)
- Neutrinoless double- β decay (we need more accurate NMEs)
- NUMEN project: DCEX calculations based on BMF methods

Thank you!