THEORY OVERVIEW

Angelo Esposito







Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

PTOLEMY collaboration meeting, Nov. 21 st 2024

Angelo Esposito







Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

PTOLEMY collaboration meeting, Nov. 21 st 2024

Angelo Esposito



• To determine the neutrino mass from β -decay one needs to carefully look at the end-point spectrum.



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

- To determine the neutrino mass from β -decay one needs to carefully look at the end-point spectrum.
- Naïve in-vacuum picture:





- To determine the neutrino mass from β -decay one needs to carefully look at the end-point spectrum.
- Naïve in-vacuum picture:



• For nuclei on condensed matter, more d.o.f. participate to the decay:



- To determine the neutrino mass from β -decay one needs to carefully look at the end-point spectrum.
- Naïve in-vacuum picture:



• For nuclei on condensed matter, more d.o.f. participate to the decay:



$^{3}\text{H} \rightarrow ^{3}\text{He}^{+} + e^{-} + \bar{\nu}_{e} + \text{extra stuff}$

Angelo Esposito



Forecast/measurement of m_{ν}













SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA INFN

Angelo Esposito





Accurate model of $dN(m_{\nu})/dE_{e}$

Initial state effects Initial ³H wave functions and binding energies

Final state effects

Inclusive on ³He⁺ state, phonons and electrons



Angelo Esposito



• Phenomenological approach employed so far:



• Phenomenological approach employed so far:

initial state effect



³H in the ground state of a initial "potential" generated by electrons, C nuclei and other ³H nuclei

SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



 β -decay

• Phenomenological approach employed so far:

initial state effect



final state effect



³H in the ground state of a initial "potential" generated by electrons, C nuclei and other ³H nuclei

INFN

SAPIENZA

³He⁺ can end up in any eigenstate of the *final* potential

Angelo Esposito



• Given the initial and final potential, the matrix element for each possibility is:

$$\mathcal{M}_f = \int d^3 x \, \psi_f^*(\mathbf{x}) \, \psi_0(\mathbf{x}) \, e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$$



• Given the initial and final potential, the matrix element for each possibility is:

initial ³H wave function $\mathcal{M}_f = \int d^3 x \, \psi_f^*(\mathbf{x}) \, \psi_0(\mathbf{x}) \, e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$



• Given the initial and final potential, the matrix element for each possibility is:

Final ³He⁺ wave function

$$\mathcal{M}_{f} = \int d^{3}x \,\psi_{f}^{*}(\mathbf{x}) \,\psi_{0}(\mathbf{x}) \,e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$$
initial ³H wave function



• Given the initial and final potential, the matrix element for each possibility is:

Final ³He⁺ wave function

$$\mathcal{M}_{f} = \int d^{3}x \,\psi_{f}^{*}(\mathbf{x}) \,\psi_{0}(\mathbf{x}) \,e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$$
initial ³H wave function

• All these final states contribute to the final electron's spectrum,

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE_e} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \sum_{f} |\mathcal{M}_f|^2 \rho_f(E_e)$$



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

• Given the initial and final potential, the matrix element for each possibility is:

Final ³He⁺ wave function

$$\mathcal{M}_{f} = \int d^{3}x \,\psi_{f}^{*}(\mathbf{x}) \,\psi_{0}(\mathbf{x}) \,e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$$
initial ³H wave function

• All these final states contribute to the final electron's spectrum,

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE_e} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \sum_{f} |\mathcal{M}_f|^2 \rho_f(E_e)$$

• How do the potential and wave functions look like?



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Angelo Esposito



• A more basic question: what is the "He potential"?



- A more basic question: what is the "He potential"?
- Within the Born-Oppenheimer approximation the nuclei are subject to an effective interaction:



- A more basic question: what is the "He potential"?
- Within the Born-Oppenheimer approximation the nuclei are subject to an effective interaction:

$$E_{\text{eff}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\text{T}}\}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\text{C}}\} \middle| \rho(\{\mathbf{x}\})\right)$$

Angelo Esposito



- A more basic question: what is the "He potential"?
- Within the Born-Oppenheimer approximation the nuclei are subject to an effective interaction:

position of all the nuclei

$$E_{\text{eff}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\text{T}}\}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\text{C}}\} \middle| \rho(\{\mathbf{x}\})\right)$$

electronic density, which depends on the position of the nuclei



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

• A more basic question: what is the "He potential"?

SAPIENZA

Angelo Esposito

• Within the Born-Oppenheimer approximation the nuclei are subject to an effective interaction:

position of all the nuclei

$$E_{\text{eff}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\text{T}}\}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\text{C}}\} \middle| \rho(\{\mathbf{x}\})\right)$$

electronic density, which depends on the position of the nuclei

• To go from this to the "He potential" turns out to be an ill posed question...

Angelo Esposito



• <u>Sudden approximation</u>

After the decay everything is kept frozen, the only change is the additional ${}^{3}\text{He}^{+}$ charge,



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

• <u>Sudden approximation</u>

After the decay everything is kept frozen, the only change is the additional ${}^{3}\text{He}^{+}$ charge,

$$\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}\}_{\mathrm{post}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}, \qquad \rho_{\mathrm{post}} = \rho_{\mathrm{pre}}(\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}})$$
$$V_{\mathrm{He}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}) \equiv E_{\mathrm{eff}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}} \mid \rho_{\mathrm{pre}}(\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}))$$

Angelo Esposito



• <u>Sudden approximation</u>

After the decay everything is kept frozen, the only change is the additional ³He⁺ charge,

$$\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}\}_{\mathrm{post}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}, \qquad \rho_{\mathrm{post}} = \rho_{\mathrm{pre}}(\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}})$$
$$V_{\mathrm{He}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}) \equiv E_{\mathrm{eff}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}} \middle| \rho_{\mathrm{pre}}(\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}))$$



• <u>Sudden approximation</u>

After the decay everything is kept frozen, the only change is the additional ${}^{3}\text{He}^{+}$ charge,

$$\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}\}_{\mathrm{post}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}, \qquad \rho_{\mathrm{post}} = \rho_{\mathrm{pre}}(\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}})$$
$$V_{\mathrm{He}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}) \equiv E_{\mathrm{eff}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}} \mid \rho_{\mathrm{pre}}(\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}))$$



This should be correct near the minimum.

For larger distances the electron density should have time to rearrange.

Angelo Esposito



• <u>Semi-classical sudden approximation</u>



• <u>Semi-classical sudden approximation</u>

Initial tritium is a classical particle. After the decay the electron density is kept frozen to the value it had at the decay position,



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

• <u>Semi-classical sudden approximation</u>

Initial tritium is a classical particle. After the decay the electron density is kept frozen to the value it had at the decay position,

$$\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}\}_{\mathrm{post}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}, \qquad \rho_{\mathrm{post}} = \rho_{\mathrm{pre}} \left(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}\right)$$



• Semi-classical sudden approximation

Initial tritium is a classical particle. After the decay the electron density is kept frozen to the value it had at the decay position, $\{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}\}_{post} = \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre}, \quad \rho_{post} = \rho_{pre}(\mathbf{x}_{T} = \mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre})$ $V_{He}(\mathbf{x}_{He}) \equiv E_{eff}(\mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre} | \rho_{pre}(\mathbf{x}_{T} = \mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre}))$



Semi-classical sudden approximation

Initial tritium is a classical particle. After the decay the electron density is kept frozen to the value it had at the decay position, $\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}\}_{\mathrm{post}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}, \qquad \rho_{\mathrm{post}} = \rho_{\mathrm{pre}} \left(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}\}_{\mathrm{pre}}\right)$ $V_{\text{He}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}) \equiv E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\text{T,C}}^{\text{eq}}\}_{\text{pre}} \middle| \rho_{\text{pre}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{T}} = \mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\text{T,C}}^{\text{eq}}\}_{\text{pre}}) \Big)$ V[eV] 6 7 eV z[Å] 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 SAPIENZA INFN Angelo Esposito

• Semi-classical sudden approximation

Initial tritium is a classical particle. After the decay the electron density is kept frozen to the value it had at the decay position, $\{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}\}_{post} = \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre}, \qquad \rho_{post} = \rho_{pre} (\mathbf{x}_{T} = \mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre})$ $V_{He} (\mathbf{x}_{He}) \equiv E_{eff} (\mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre} | \rho_{pre} (\mathbf{x}_{T} = \mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre}))$



This might describe well the potential away from the minimum, at early times.

Semi-classical sudden approximation

Initial tritium is a classical particle. After the decay the electron density is kept frozen to the value it had at the decay position, $\{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}\}_{post} = \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre}, \quad \rho_{post} = \rho_{pre}(\mathbf{x}_{T} = \mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre})$ $V_{He}(\mathbf{x}_{He}) \equiv E_{eff}(\mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre} | \rho_{pre}(\mathbf{x}_{T} = \mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}\}_{pre}))$



This might describe well the potential away from the minimum, at early times. At later times the nuclei also have time to rearrange.

Angelo Esposito



• Fully relaxed, Born-Oppenheimer:



• Fully relaxed, Born-Oppenheimer:

For each position of the He nucleus, the system is completely allowed to relax, both electrons and the other nuclei,



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

• Fully relaxed, Born-Oppenheimer:

For each position of the He nucleus, the system is completely allowed to relax, both electrons and the other nuclei,

$$\{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}\}_{post} = \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}(\mathbf{x}_{He})\}, \qquad \rho_{post} = \rho(\mathbf{x}_{He}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{eq}(\mathbf{x}_{He})\})$$



• Fully relaxed, Born-Oppenheimer:

For each position of the He nucleus, the system is completely allowed to relax, both electrons and the other nuclei,

$$\{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}\}_{\text{post}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}, \qquad \rho_{\text{post}} = \rho\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}\right)$$
$$V_{\text{He}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}\right) \equiv E_{\text{eff}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}, \{\mathbf{x}_{C}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}\right) \left| \rho_{\text{pre}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}\right)\right)$$



• Fully relaxed, Born-Oppenheimer:

For each position of the He nucleus, the system is completely allowed to relax, both electrons and the other nuclei,

$$\{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}\}_{\text{post}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}, \qquad \rho_{\text{post}} = \rho\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}\right)$$
$$V_{\text{He}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}\right) \equiv E_{\text{eff}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}, \{\mathbf{x}_{C}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}\right) \left| \rho_{\text{pre}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{T,C}^{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{He}})\}\right)\right)$$



• Fully relaxed, Born-Oppenheimer:

For each position of the He nucleus, the system is completely allowed to relax, both electrons and the other nuclei,

$$\{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}\}_{\mathrm{post}} = \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}})\}, \qquad \rho_{\mathrm{post}} = \rho\left(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}})\}\right)$$
$$V_{\mathrm{He}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}\right) \equiv E_{\mathrm{eff}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}})\}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}})\}\right) \left|\rho_{\mathrm{pre}}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}}, \{\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{T,C}}^{\mathrm{eq}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathrm{He}})\}\right)\right)$$



This is likely a good description only at very large distances, where the whole system had enough time to relax.

Angelo Esposito



• Different shapes of the "He potential" lead to different decay spectra.



- Different shapes of the "He potential" lead to different decay spectra.
- Andrea and I are working on it. We will likely present these recipes and the corresponding outcomes, explaining the methodology



- Different shapes of the "He potential" lead to different decay spectra.
- Andrea and I are working on it. We will likely present these recipes and the corresponding outcomes, explaining the methodology
- The lesson I think I've learned:



- Different shapes of the "He potential" lead to different decay spectra.
- Andrea and I are working on it. We will likely present these recipes and the corresponding outcomes, explaining the methodology
- The lesson I think I've learned:

To phrase the problem using in terms of a potential is good to characterize the material before and after the decay, but it cannot be used for a systematic, controlled evaluation of the decay rate.



- Different shapes of the "He potential" lead to different decay spectra.
- Andrea and I are working on it. We will likely present these recipes and the corresponding outcomes, explaining the methodology
- The lesson I think I've learned:

To phrase the problem using in terms of a potential is good to characterize the material before and after the decay, but it cannot be used for a systematic, controlled evaluation of the decay rate.

• A new, systematic framework is necessary.

- Different shapes of the "He potential" lead to different decay spectra.
- Andrea and I are working on it. We will likely present these recipes and the corresponding outcomes, explaining the methodology
- The lesson I think I've learned:

To phrase the problem using in terms of a potential is good to characterize the material before and after the decay, but it cannot be used for a systematic, controlled evaluation of the decay rate.

• A new, systematic framework is necessary.

Thank you for the attention!

