



# Inelastic neutrino scattering on argon

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**MAYORANA School**

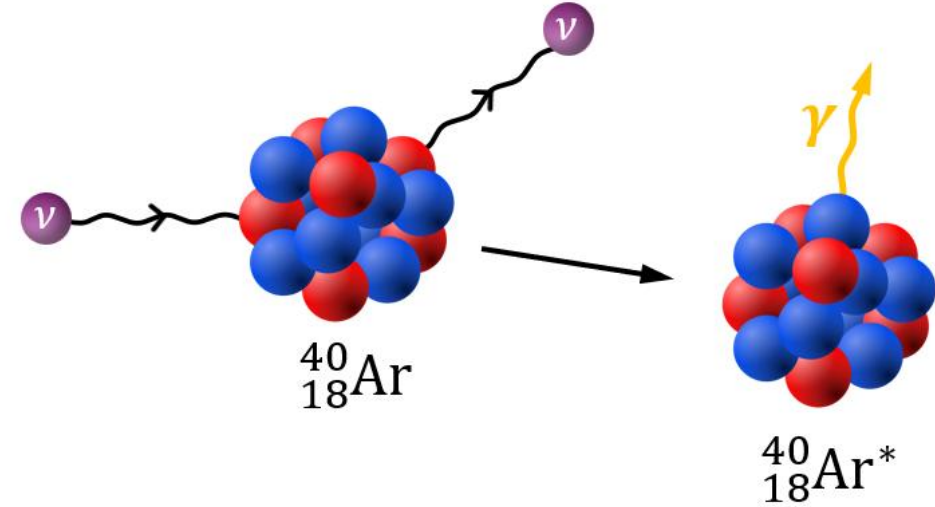
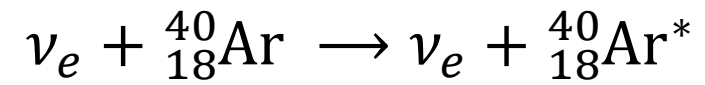
Modica, 19-25 June 2025



# Neutrino interactions on $^{40}\text{Ar}$ at low energies ( $\lesssim 100$ MeV)

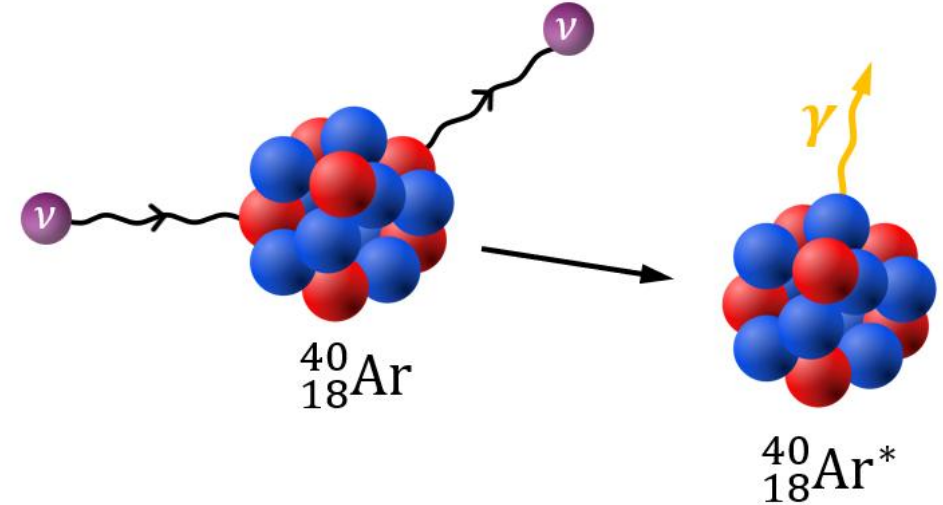
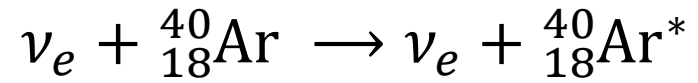
# Neutrino interactions on $^{40}\text{Ar}$ at low energies ( $\lesssim 100$ MeV)

## Neutral Current (NC)

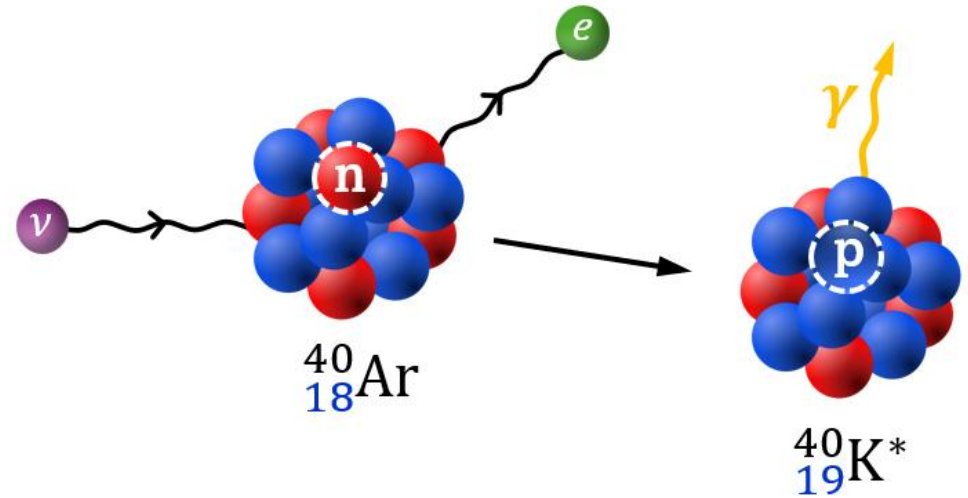
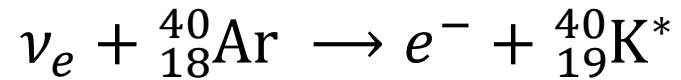


# Neutrino interactions on $^{40}\text{Ar}$ at low energies ( $\lesssim 100 \text{ MeV}$ )

## Neutral Current (NC)

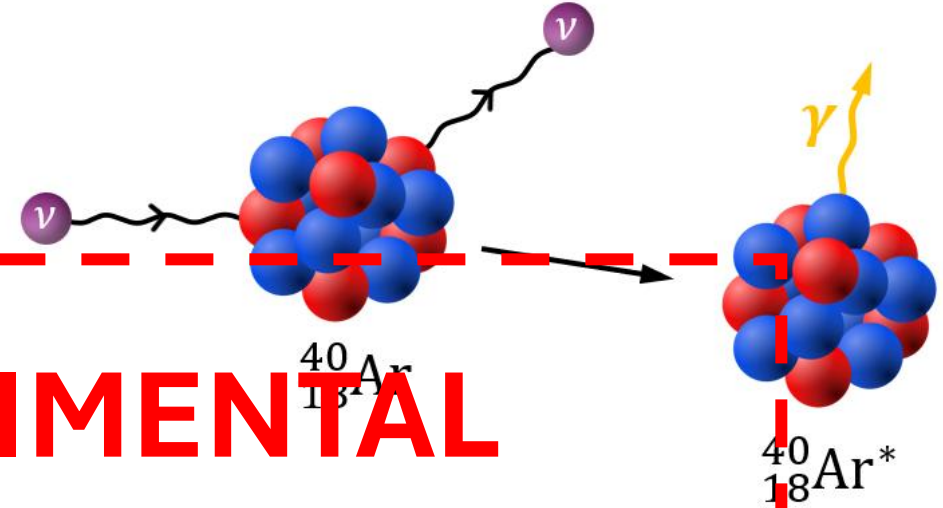
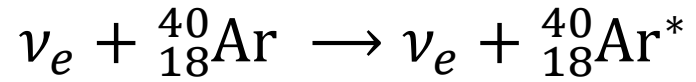


## Charged Current (CC)



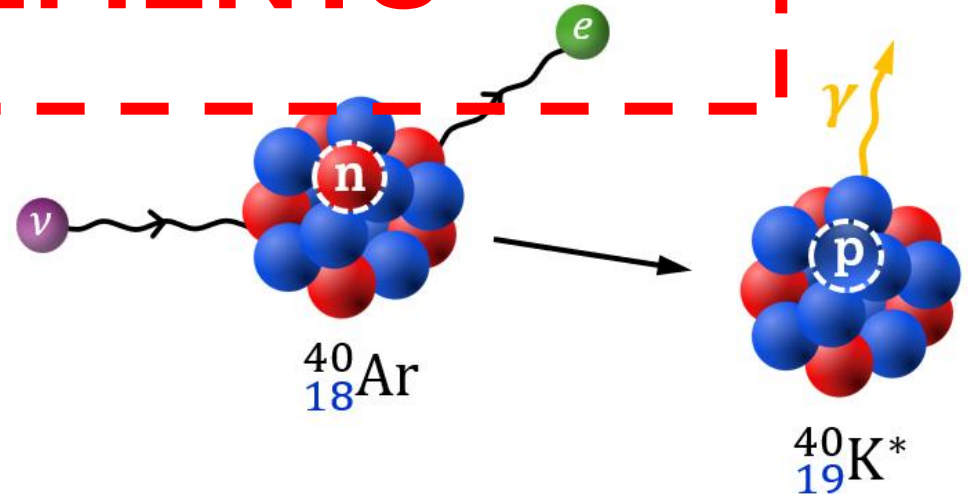
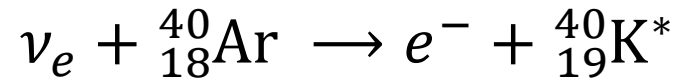
# Neutrino interactions on $^{40}\text{Ar}$ at low energies ( $\lesssim 100 \text{ MeV}$ )

## Neutral Current (NC)



**NO EXPERIMENTAL  
MEASUREMENTS**

## Charged Current (CC)



# Inelastic cross sections recipe



# Inelastic cross sections recipe



$$\sigma_{GT}^{(NC)} = \sum_i \frac{G_F^2 g_A^2}{\pi} (\underbrace{E_\nu - \omega}_{\text{Nuclear excitation energy}})^2 \underbrace{B_i(GT)}_{\text{Nuclear transition probabilities}}$$



# Inelastic cross sections recipe



**NC**

$$\sigma_{GT}^{(NC)} = \sum_i \frac{G_F^2 g_A^2}{\pi} (\underbrace{E_\nu - \omega}_{\text{Nuclear excitation energy}})^2 \mathbf{B}_i(\mathbf{GT})$$

**Nuclear  
transition  
probabilities**

**CC**

$$\sigma_{GT+F}^{(CC)} = \sum_i \frac{G_F^2 |\mathbf{V}_{ud}|^2}{\pi} \underbrace{E_e^i p_e^i}_{\text{CKM matrix element}} [\mathbf{B}_i(\mathbf{F}) + \mathbf{B}_i(\mathbf{GT})] \underbrace{F(\mathbf{Z}, E_e^i)}_{\text{Fermi function}}$$

Quantifies the Coulomb interaction between the outgoing electron and protons of the  $^{40}\text{K}$  nucleus



# Inelastic cross sections recipe

NC

$$\sigma_{GT}^{(NC)} = \sum_i \frac{G_F^2 g_A^2}{\pi} (\underbrace{E_\nu - \omega}_{\text{Nuclear excitation energy}})^2 B_i(GT)$$

**Nuclear  
transition  
probabilities**

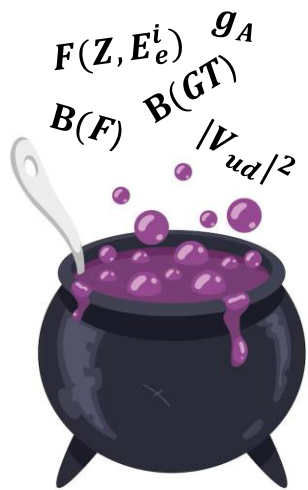
No direct experimental measurements  
No reliable theoretical predictions

CC

CKM matrix element

$$\sigma_{GT+F}^{(CC)} = \sum_i \frac{G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2}{\pi} E_e^i p_e^i [B_i(F) + B_i(GT)] \underbrace{F(Z, E_e^i)}_{\text{Fermi function}}$$

Quantifies the Coulomb interaction between the outgoing electron and protons of the  $^{40}\text{K}$  nucleus



# HOW? Estimation of nuclear matrix elements

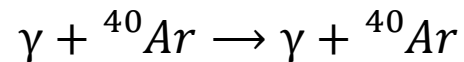


## 1 Theoretical approach

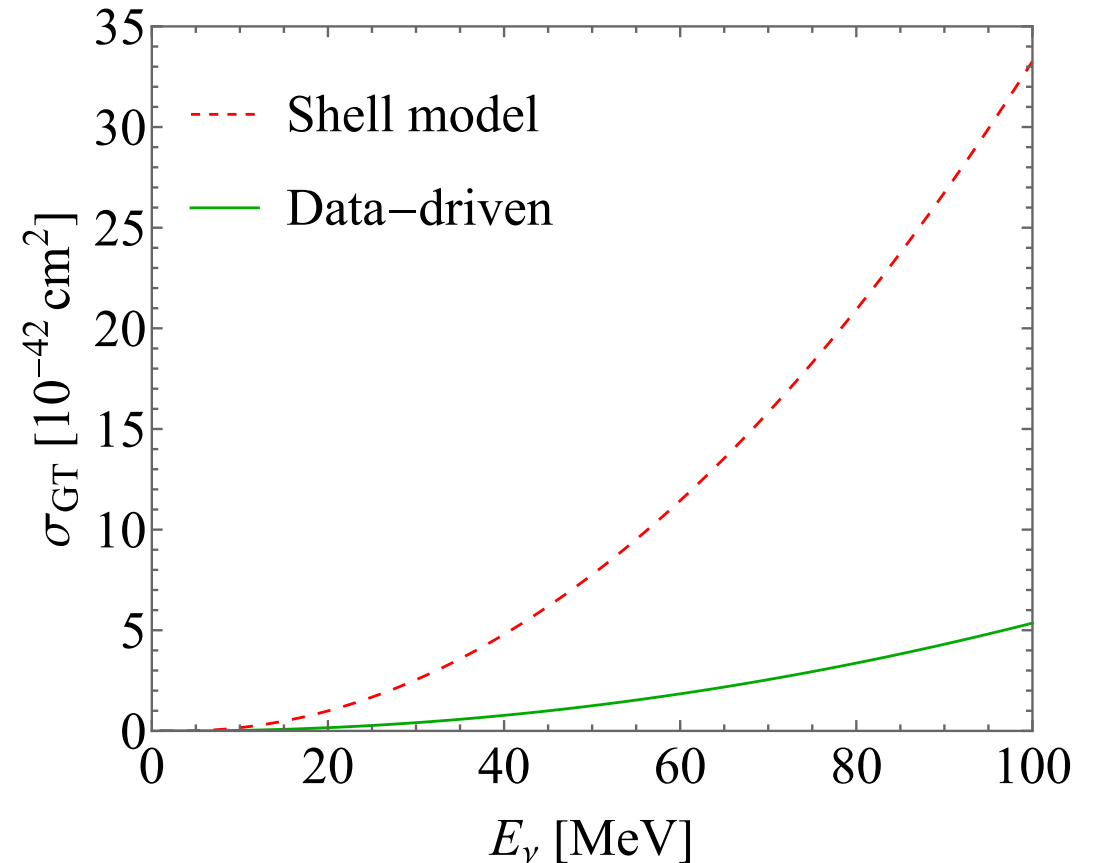
Transition probabilities are computed through BIGSTICK, a **nuclear shell model** code.

## 2 Data-driven approach

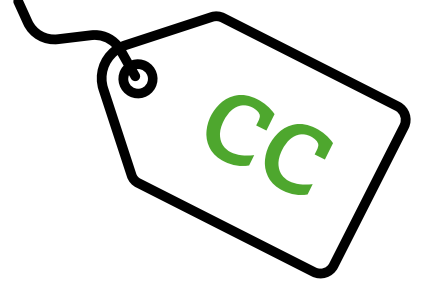
We consider **experimental measurements** of the magnetic dipole amplitudes  $B(M1)$  for the process:



$$\text{At low energies: } B(GT)^{exp} = \frac{B(M1)}{g_A^2 (2.2993 \mu_N)^2}$$



# HOW? Estimation of nuclear matrix elements



1 (p,n) scattering on  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ :  $p + ^{40}\text{Ar} \rightarrow n + ^{40}\text{K}^*$

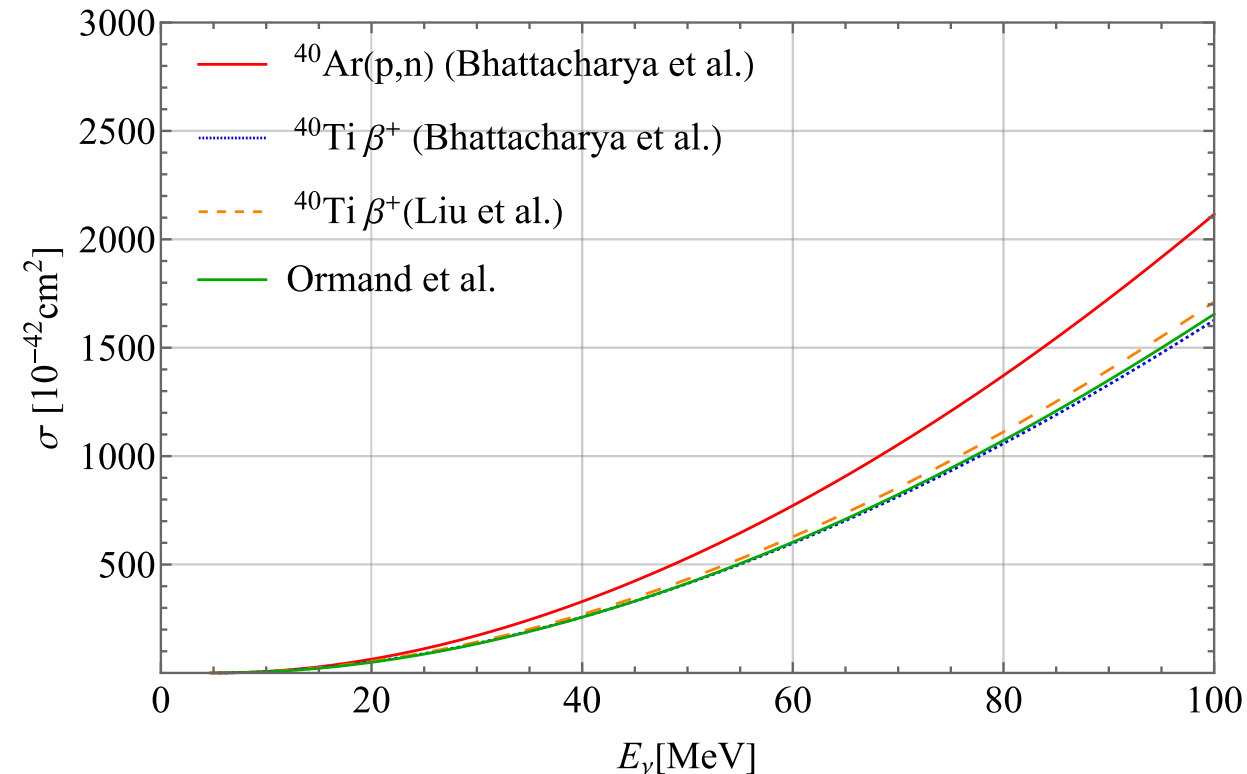
 *Bhattacharya et al.*, *Phys. Rev. C* 80, 055501 (2009).

2  $\beta$  decay of the mirror nucleus:  $^{40}\text{Ti} \rightarrow ^{40}\text{Sc}^* + e^+ + \nu_e$

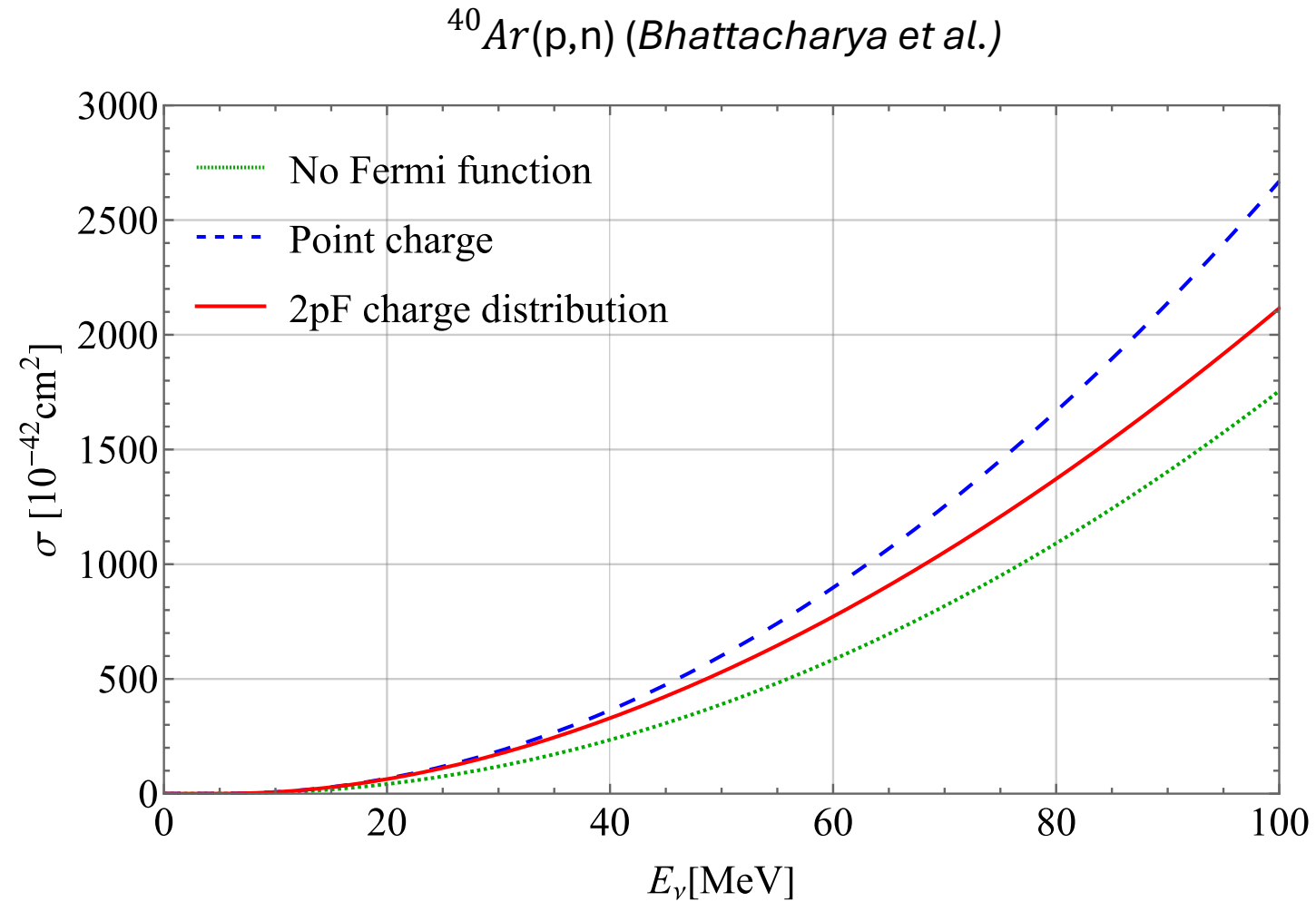
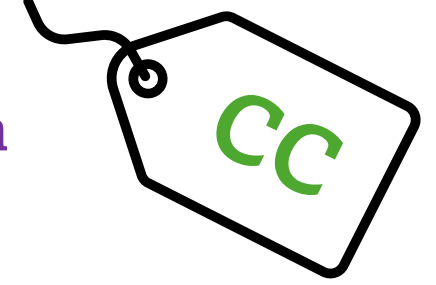
 *Bhattacharya et al.*, *Phys. Rev. C* 58, 36773687 (1998)  
*Liu et al.*, *Phys. Rev. C* 58, 26772688 (1998)

3 Theoretical shell model prediction

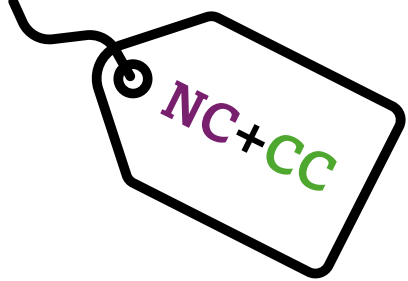
 *W. E. Ormand et al.*, *Phys. Lett. B* 345, 343 (1995)



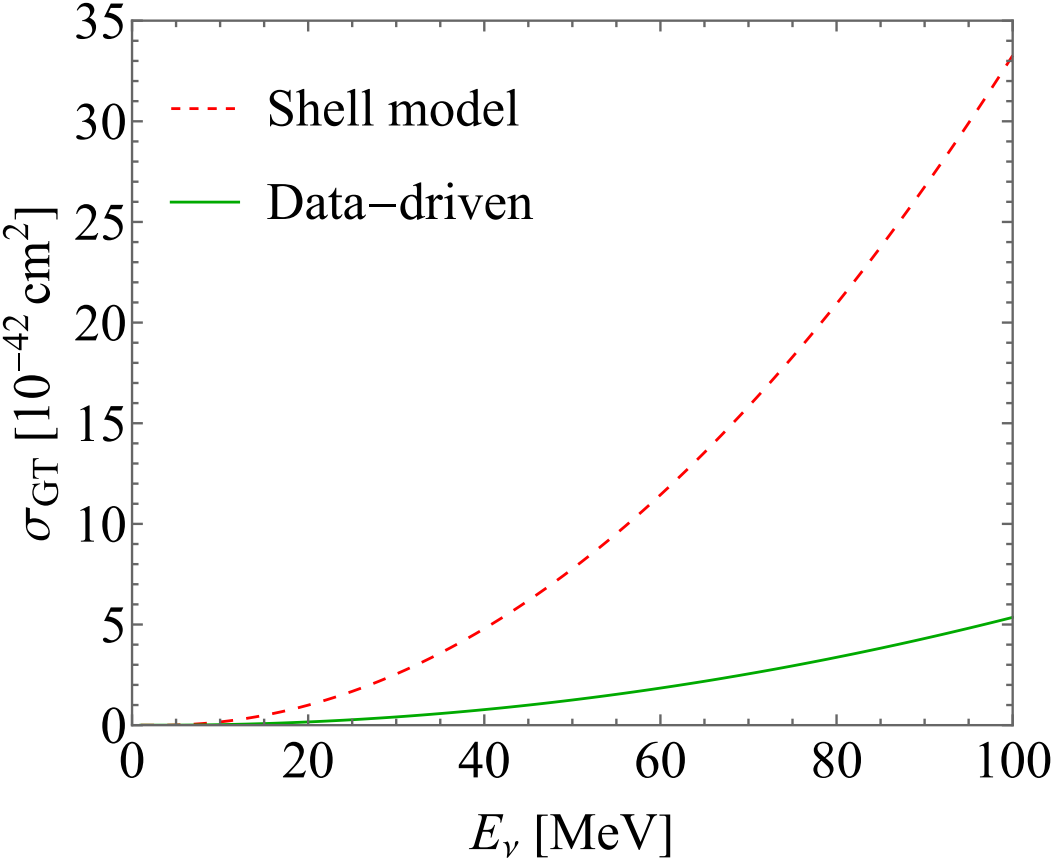
# HOW? Estimation of nuclear matrix elements + Fermi function



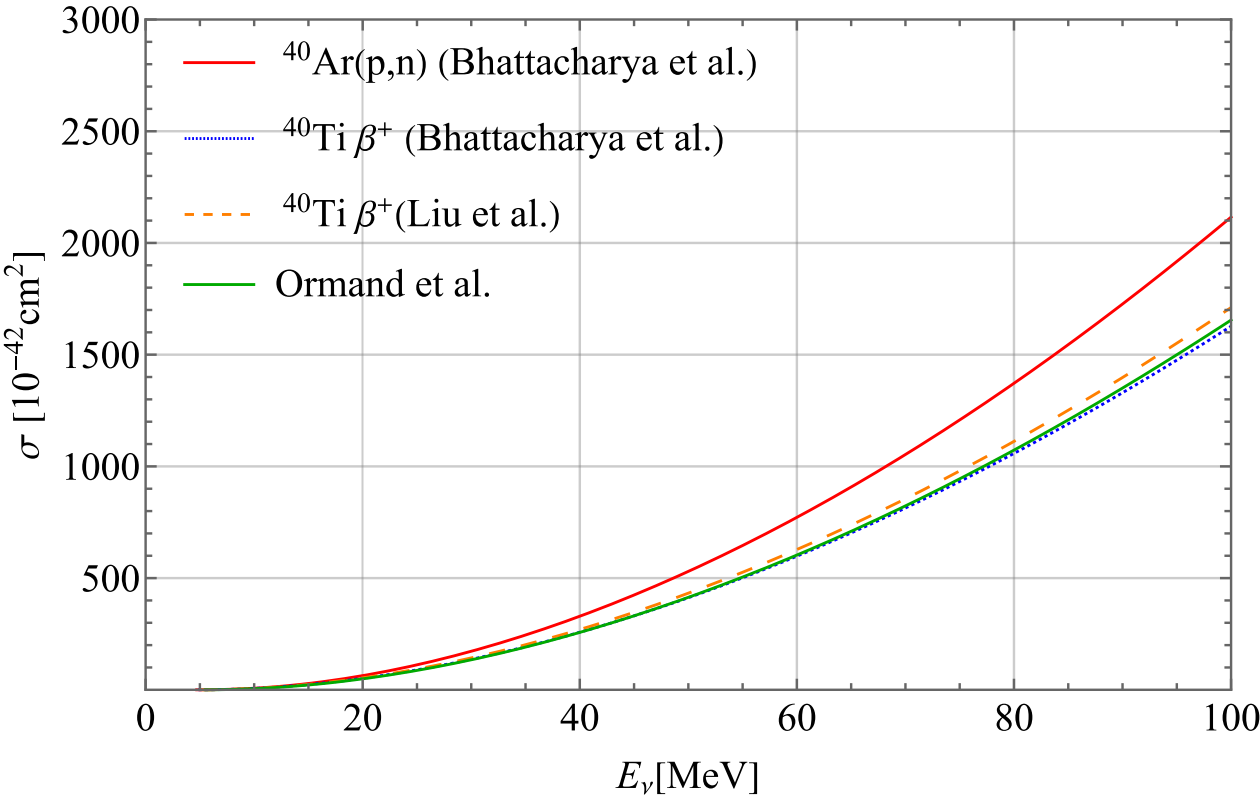
# Summary: preliminary results



NC



CC





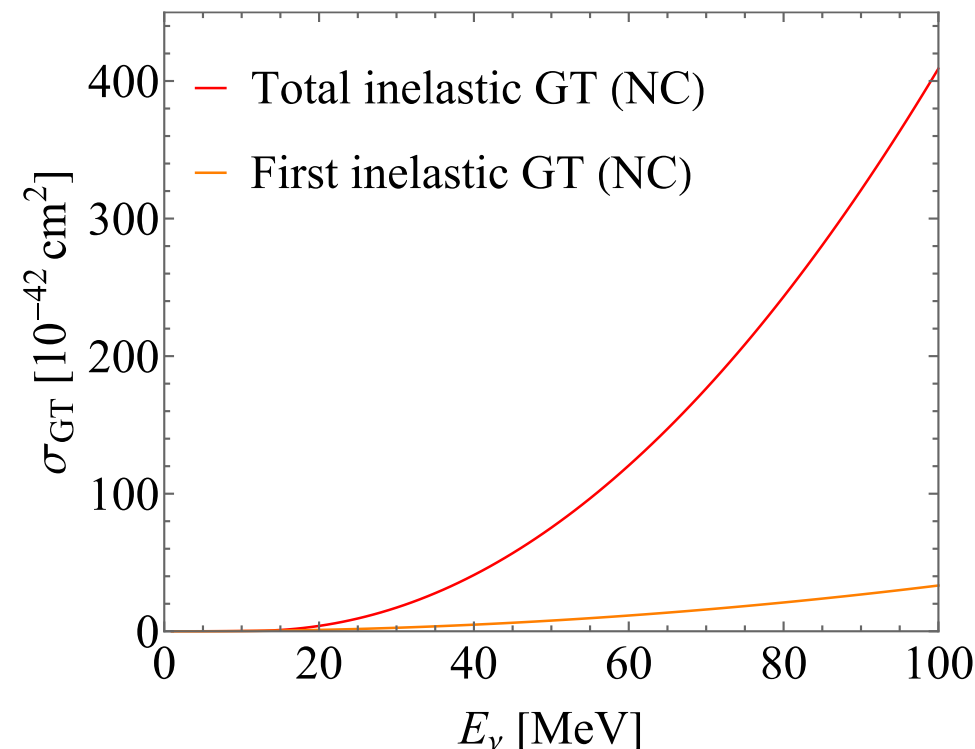
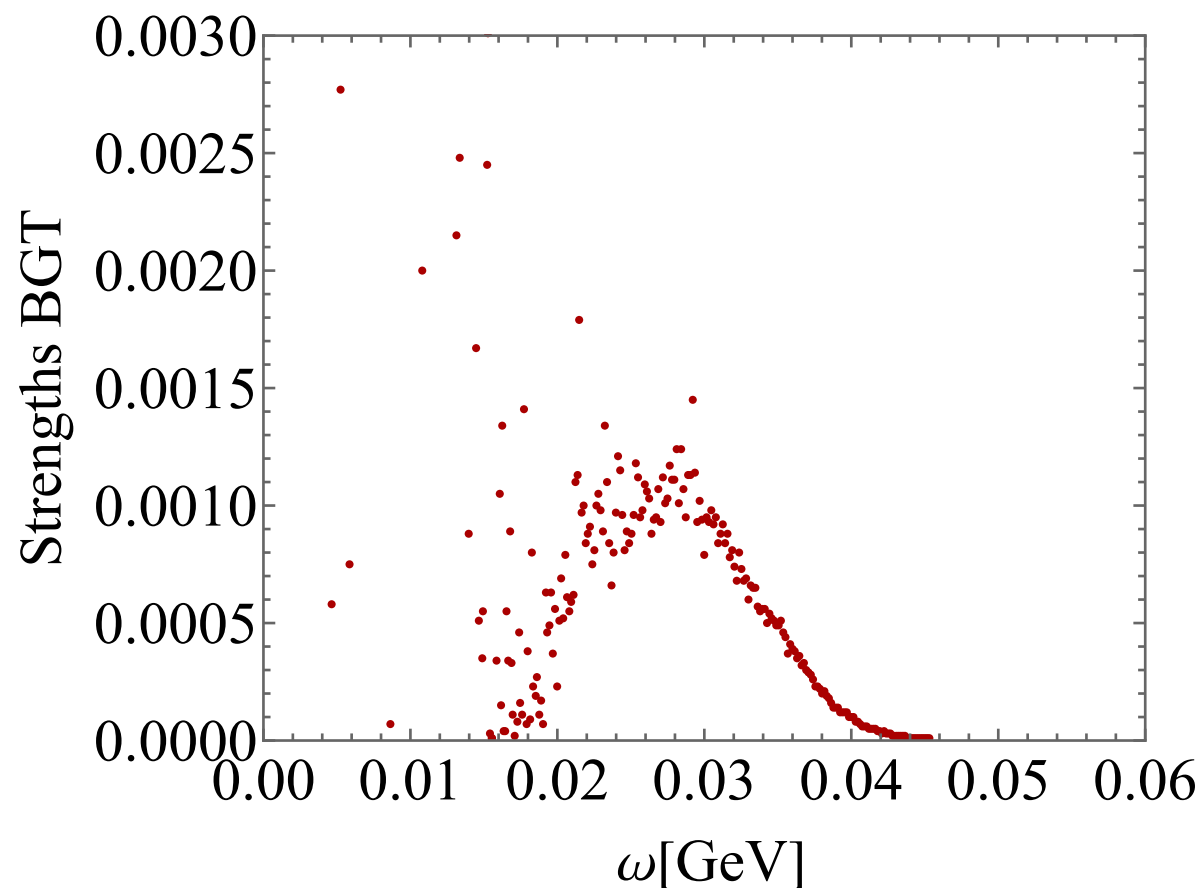


Thanks for your attention!

# Estimating B(GT): theoretical shell model prediction

 C. W. Johnson et al. (2018), arXiv:1801.08432v1 [physics.comp-ph]

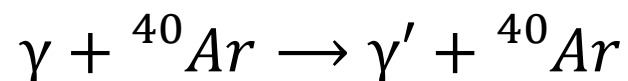
- 1 B(GT) matrix elements are estimated through **BIGSTICK**, a nuclear shell model code used to compute transition probabilities.



| $E_\nu$ [MeV] | $\sigma_{GT} [10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2]$ | $\sigma_{GT}^{\text{first}} [10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2]$ |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 20            | 3.9                                   | 1                                                    |
| 50            | 75                                    | 7.8                                                  |
| 80            | 243                                   | 21                                                   |

# Estimating B(GT): data-driven approach

- 2 We determine the B(GT) amplitudes from the experimental measurements of the magnetic dipole amplitudes **B(M1)**, conducted at the Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory (TUNL) for the process:



 W. Tornov et al., Phys. Lett. B 835 (2022)

At low energies, these amplitudes are related to the BGT amplitudes through the relation:

$$B(GT)^{exp} = \frac{B(M1)}{g_A^2 (2.2993 \mu_N)^2}$$

 K. Langanke et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 93 (2004)

| $\omega$ (keV)    | $J^\pi$ | $\Gamma_0$ (meV) | $B(M1 \uparrow) (10^{-3} \mu_N^2)$ |
|-------------------|---------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| $9697.5 \pm 1.4$  | $1^+$   | $233 \pm 27$     | $66 \pm 8$                         |
| $9758.3 \pm 1.1$  | $1^+$   | $692 \pm 60$     | $193 \pm 17$                       |
| $9805.6 \pm 1.3$  | $1^+$   | $272 \pm 26$     | $75 \pm 7$                         |
| $9841.3 \pm 1.3$  | $1^+$   | $566 \pm 52$     | $154 \pm 14$                       |
| $9871.7 \pm 1.2$  | $1^+$   | $223 \pm 21$     | $60 \pm 6$                         |
| $9893.9 \pm 1.4$  | $1^+$   | $116 \pm 12$     | $31 \pm 3$                         |
| $10020.5 \pm 1.7$ | $1^+$   | $71 \pm 12$      | $18 \pm 3$                         |
| $10033.9 \pm 1.4$ | $1^+$   | $210 \pm 25$     | $54 \pm 6$                         |

$$B(M1)_{tot} = 651(98) \times 10^{-3} \mu_N^2$$

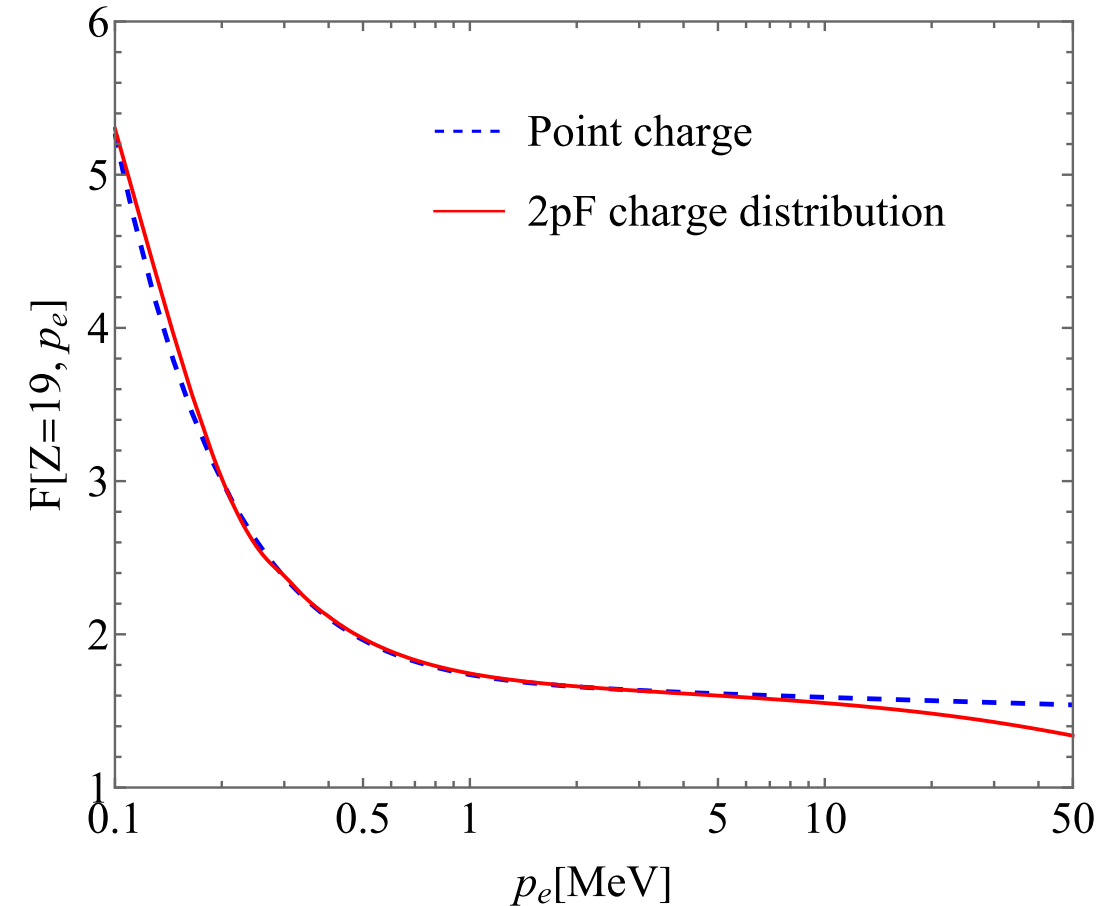
# Fermi function

**Fermi function:** quantifies the Coulomb interaction between the outgoing electron and a proton of the  $^{40}\text{K}$  nucleus

$$F(Z, p_e) = \frac{|\phi_e(0)_{\text{Coulomb}}|^2}{|\phi_e(0)|^2}$$

→ **Electron in a Coulomb field**  
→ **Free electron**

- 1 Point charge:** analytical solution
- 2 Charge distribution:** different nuclear charge distributions (uniform, 2pF, 3pF,...)  
only numerical solution



# Elastic and inelastic cross sections

