

# Status of neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay nuclear matrix elements

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**Borexino 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Workshop**  
**"Recent developments in neutrino physics and astrophysics"**  
**L'Aquila, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017**



Graduate School of Science  
University of Tokyo

**Center for Nuclear Study (CNS)**



**東京大学**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

# Nuclear physics and fundamental symmetries

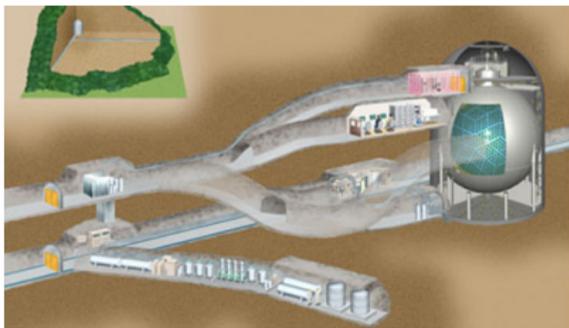
Neutrinos, dark matter... can be studied in high-energy experiments

Nuclear physics offers an alternative:

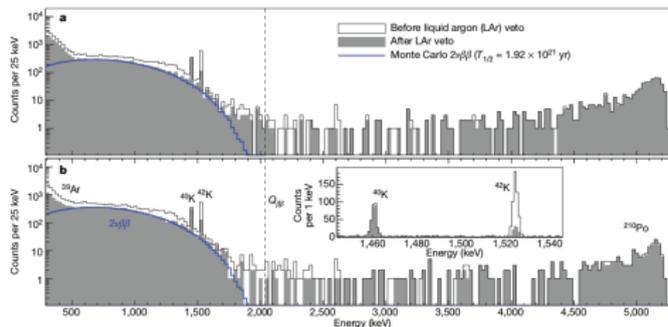
Nuclei are abundant in huge numbers  $N_A = 6.02 \cdot 10^{23}$  nuclei in A grams!

Lots of material over long times provides access to detect very rare decays and very small cross-sections!

Limit background: underground



KamLAND-Zen, GERDA...



# Nuclear physics and neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay

Neutrinos, dark matter studied in experiments using nuclei

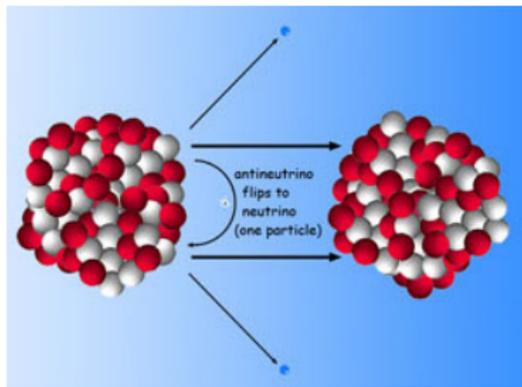
Nuclear matrix elements depend on nuclear structure crucial to anticipate reach and fully exploit experiments

$$0\nu\beta\beta \text{ decay: } \left(T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta}\right)^{-1} \propto |M^{0\nu\beta\beta}|^2 m_{\beta\beta}^2$$

$$\text{Dark matter: } \frac{d\sigma_{\chi\mathcal{N}}}{d\mathbf{q}^2} \propto \left| \sum_i c_i \zeta_i \mathcal{F}_i \right|^2$$

$M^{0\nu\beta\beta}$ : Nuclear matrix element

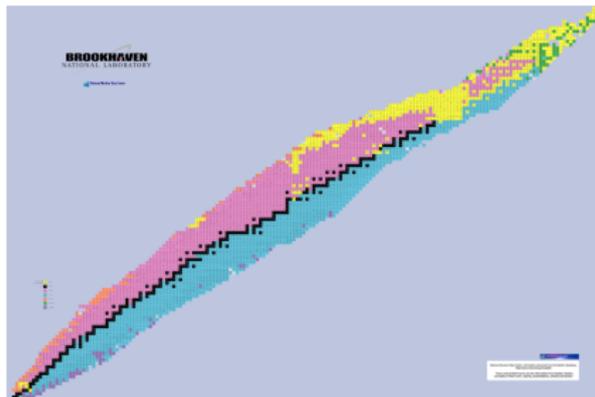
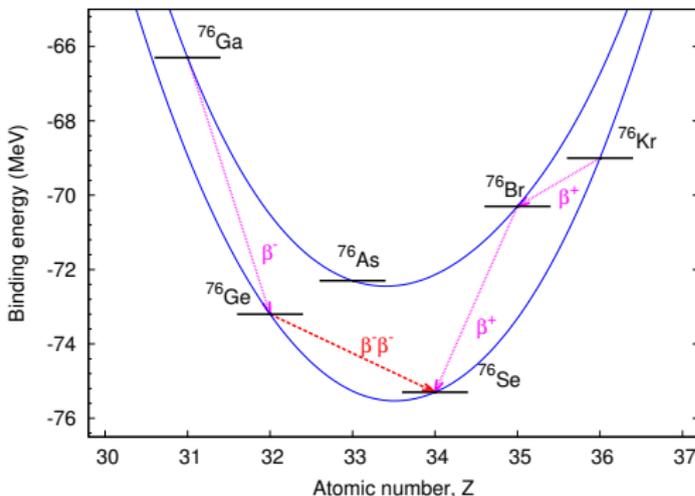
$\mathcal{F}_i$ : Nuclear structure factor



# Neutrinoless double-beta decay

Lepton-number violation, Majorana nature of neutrinos

Second order process only observable in rare cases with  $\beta$ -decay energetically forbidden or hindered by  $\Delta J$

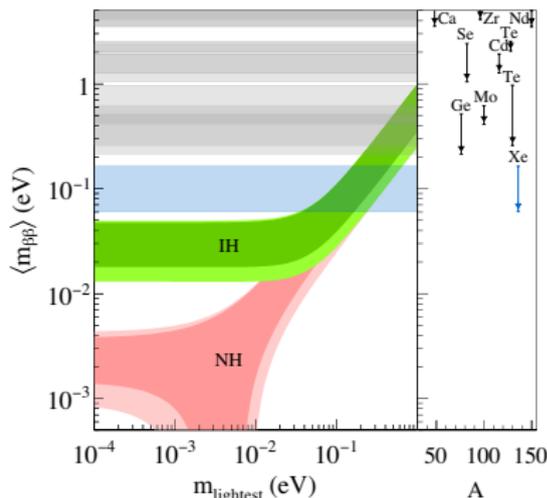
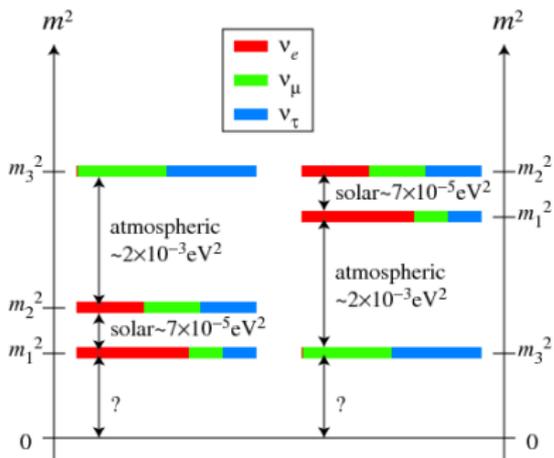


Best limit:  $^{130}\text{Te}$  (CUORE),  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  (GERDA),  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  (EXO, KamLAND-Zen)

# Next generation experiments: inverted hierarchy

The decay lifetime is  $T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} (0^+ \rightarrow 0^+)^{-1} = G_{01} |M^{0\nu\beta\beta}|^2 m_{\beta\beta}^2$

sensitive to absolute neutrino masses,  $m_{\beta\beta} = |\sum U_{ek}^2 m_k|$ , and hierarchy



Matrix elements needed to make sure KamLAND-Zen, PRL117 082503(2016)  
 next generation ton-scale experiments fully explore "inverted hierarchy"

# Outline

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Present status of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay nuclear matrix elements

What can we learn from other nuclear experimental data?

Future prospects for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  nuclear matrix element calculations

# Calculating nuclear matrix elements

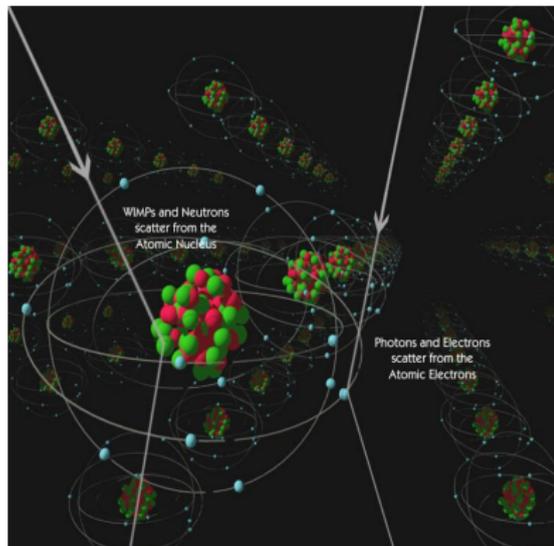
Nuclear matrix elements needed to study fundamental symmetries

$$\langle \text{Final} | \mathcal{L}_{\text{leptons-nucleons}} | \text{Initial} \rangle = \langle \text{Final} | \int dx j^\mu(x) J_\mu(x) | \text{Initial} \rangle$$

- Nuclear structure calculation of the initial and final states:

Shell model Retamosa, Poves, JM, Horoi...  
Energy-density functional Rodríguez, Yao...  
QRPA Vogel, Faessler, Šimkovic, Suhonen...  
Interacting boson model Iachello, Barea...  
Ab initio many-body methods  
Green's Function MC, Coupled-cluster, IM-SRG...

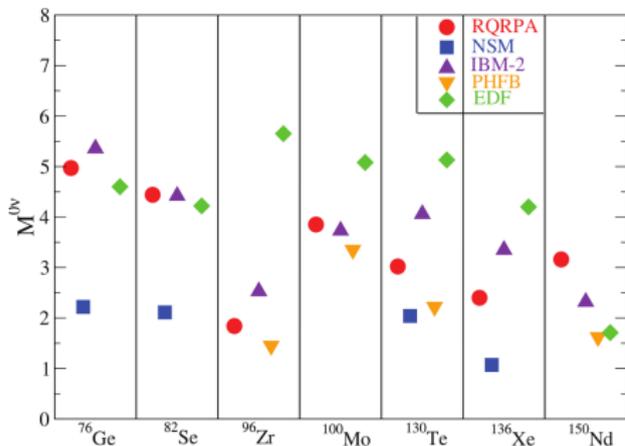
- Lepton-nucleus interaction:  
Study hadronic current in nucleus:  
phenomenological approaches,  
effective theory of QCD



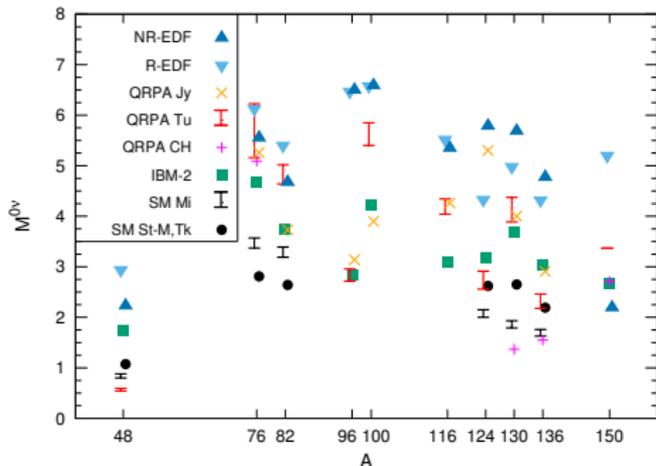
CDMS Collaboration

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ nuclear matrix elements: last 5 years

## Comparison of nuclear matrix element calculations: 2012 vs 2017



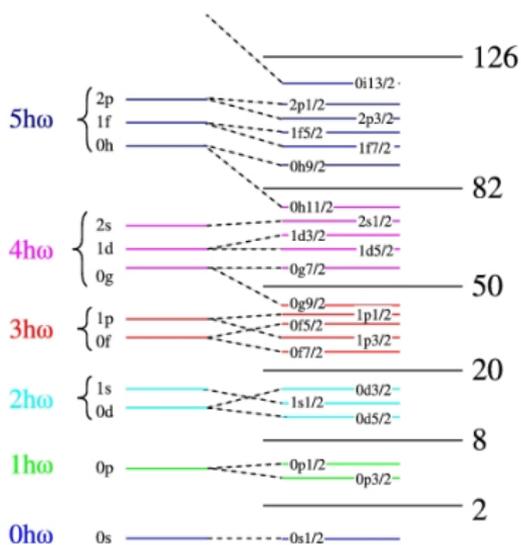
Vogel, J. Phys. G 39 124002 (2012)



Engel, JM, Rep.Prog.Phys. 80 046301(2017)

What have we learned in the last 5 years?

# Configuration space



Nuclear shell model configuration space only keep essential degrees of freedom

- High-energy orbits: always empty
- Configuration space: where many-body problem is solved
- Inert core: always filled

$$H|\Psi\rangle = E|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow H_{\text{eff}}|\Psi\rangle_{\text{eff}} = E|\Psi\rangle_{\text{eff}}$$

$$|\Psi\rangle_{\text{eff}} = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} |\phi_{\alpha}\rangle, \quad |\phi_{\alpha}\rangle = a_{i_1}^{+} a_{i_2}^{+} \dots a_{i_A}^{+} |0\rangle$$

Shell model codes (1 major oscillator shell)  
 $\sim 10^{10}$  Slater dets. [Caurier et al. RMP77 \(2005\)](#)

QRPA calculations suggest  
 larger spaces ( $\gtrsim 2$  major shells) needed

Dimension  $\sim$

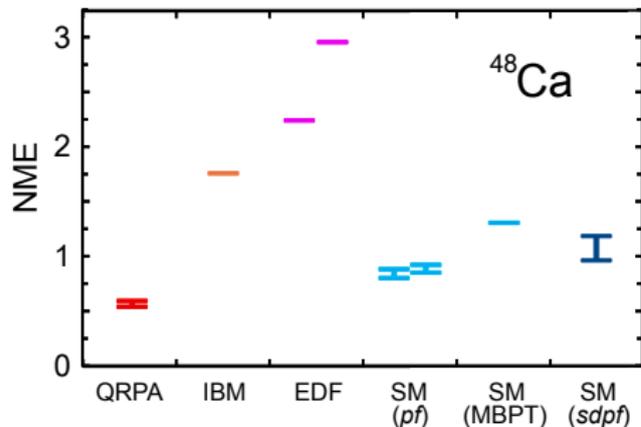
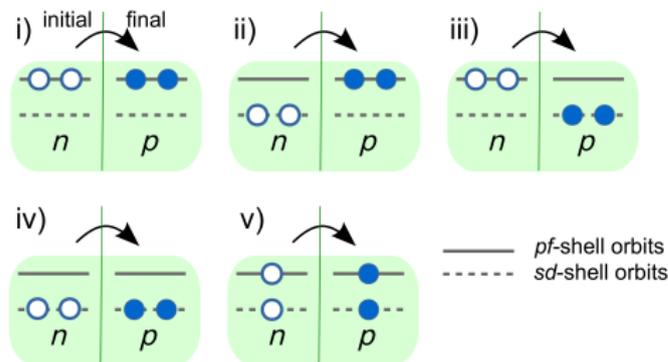
$$\binom{(p+1)(p+2)}{N} \binom{(p+1)(p+2)}{Z}$$

# Shell model: enlarging configuration space

For  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  enlarge configuration space from  $pf$  to  $sdpf$

4 to 7 orbitals, dimension  $10^5$  to  $10^9$   
increases matrix elements  
but only moderately 30%

Iwata et al. PRL116 112502 (2016)



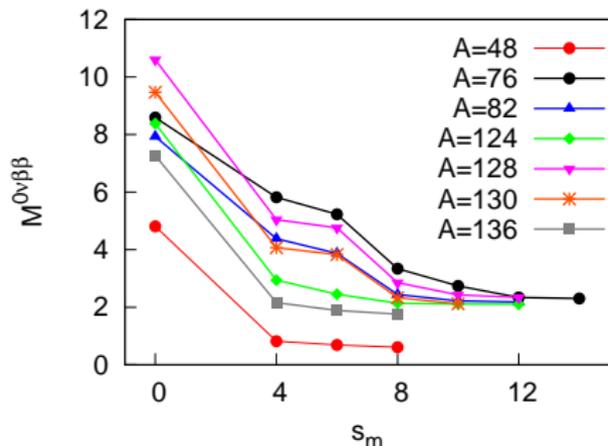
Contributions dominated by pairing  
2 particle – 2 hole excitations  
enhance the  $\beta\beta$  matrix element,

Contributions dominated by  
1 particle – 1 hole excitations  
suppress the  $\beta\beta$  matrix element

# Pairing correlations and $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

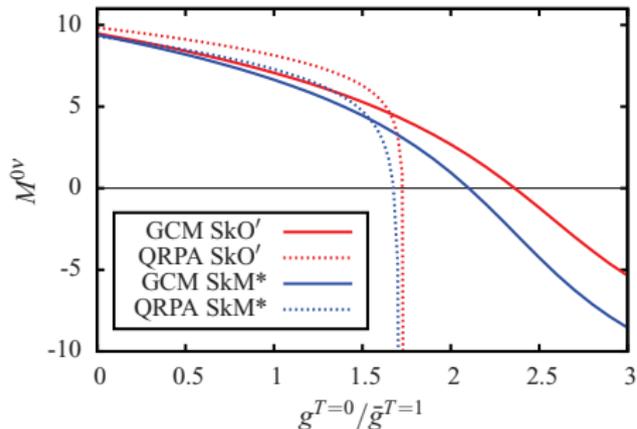
$0\nu\beta\beta$  decay favoured by proton-proton, neutron-neutron pairing, but it is disfavored by proton-neutron pairing

Ideal case: superfluid nuclei reduced with high-seniorities



Caurier et al. PRL100 052503 (2008)

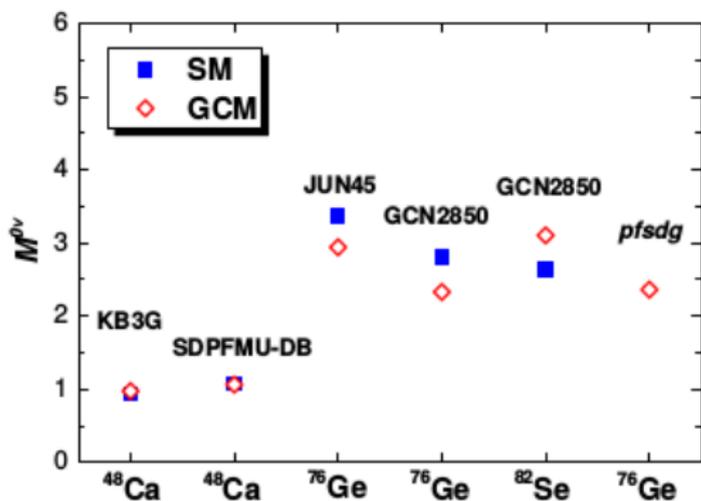
Addition of isoscalar pairing reduces matrix element value



Hinohara, Engel PRC90 031301 (2014)

Related to approximate  $SU(4)$  symmetry of the  $\sum H(r)\sigma_i\sigma_j\tau_i\tau_j$  operator

Large configuration space calculations in 2 major oscillator shells  
 Include all relevant correlations: isovector/isoscalar pairing, deformation  
 Many-body approach: generating coordinate method (GCM)



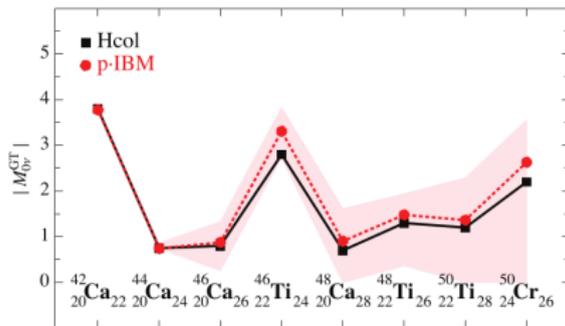
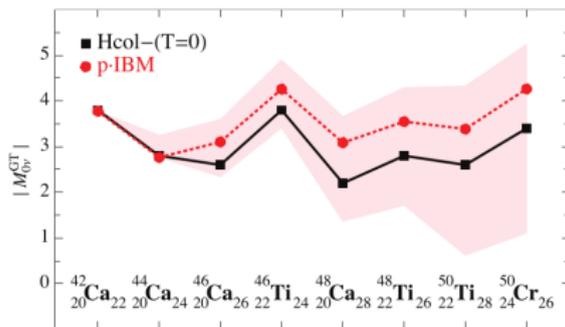
Jiao et al. arXiv:170703940

GCM approximates  
 shell model calculation

Degrees of freedom,  
 or generating coordinates,  
 validated against  
 exact shell model  
 in small configuration space

$^{76}\text{Ge}$  nuclear matrix element in 2 major shells  
 very similar to shell model nuclear matrix element in 1 major shell

# IBM matrix elements with proton-neutron pairing



van Isacker et al. arXiv:1708.05925

Energy-density functional (EDF) theory and interacting boson model (IBM) calculated nuclear matrix elements do not include explicitly proton-neutron pairing correlations

This effect (partially) accounted for by other degrees of freedom present in these approaches

Include  $p$ -boson ( $L = 1$ ) to IBM in addition to  $s$  and  $d$  bosons ( $L = 0, 2$ )

First IBM results in calcium region suggest nuclear matrix elements could be somewhat reduced

# Outline

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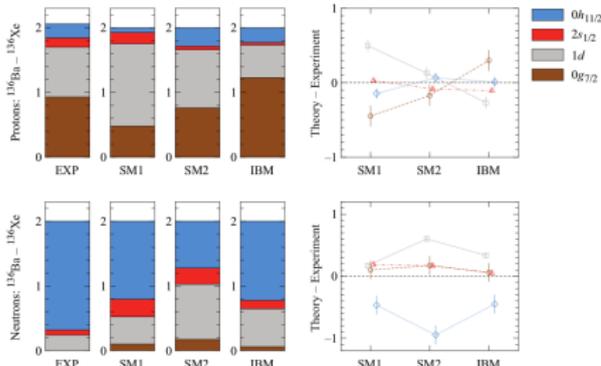
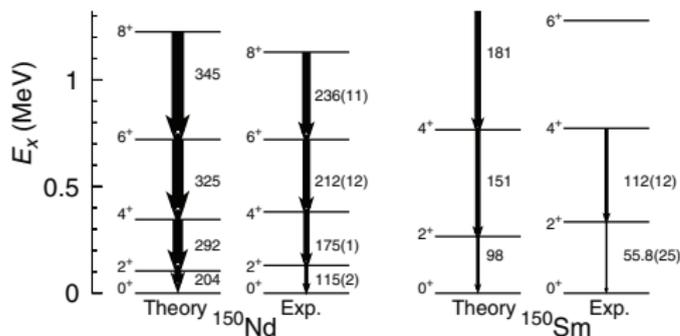
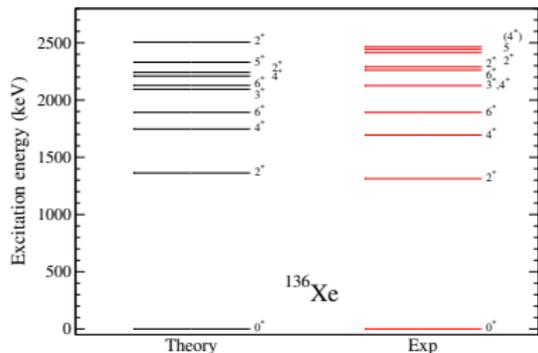
Present status of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay nuclear matrix elements

What can we learn from other nuclear experimental data?

Future prospects for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  nuclear matrix element calculations

# Tests of nuclear structure

Spectroscopy well described: masses, spectra, transitions, knockout...



Schiffer et al. PRL100 112501(2009)

Kay et al. PRC79 021301(2009)

...

Szwec et al., PRC94 054314 (2016)

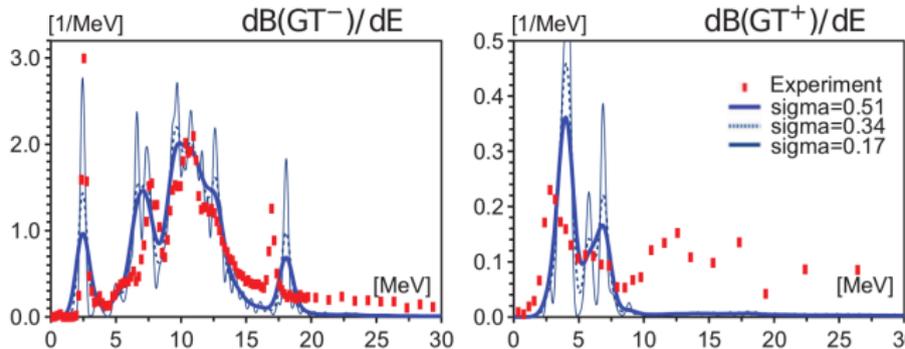
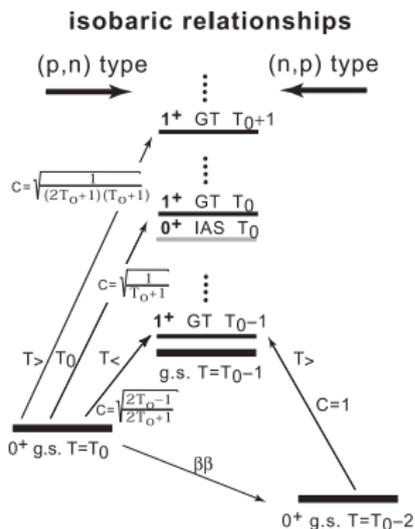
Rodríguez et al. PRL105 252503 (2010)

...

Vietze et al. PRD91 043520 (2015)

# Gamow-Teller strength distributions

Gamow-Teller (GT) distributions well described by theory (quenched)



Iwata et al. JPSCP 6 03057 (2015)

$$\langle 1_f^+ | \sum_i g_A^{\text{eff}} \sigma_i \tau_i^\pm | 0_{\text{gs}}^+ \rangle, \quad g_A^{\text{eff}} \approx 0.7 g_A$$

$$M^{2\nu\beta\beta} = \sum_k \frac{\langle 0_f^+ | \sum_n \sigma_n \tau_n^- | 1_k^+ \rangle \langle 1_k^+ | \sum_m \sigma_m \tau_m^- | 0_i^+ \rangle}{E_k - (M_i + M_f)/2}$$

Freckers et al.

NPA916 219 (2013)

# Double Gamow-Teller strength distribution

Measurement of Double Gamow-Teller (DGT) resonance  
in double charge-exchange reactions  $^{48}\text{Ca}(pp,nn)^{48}\text{Ti}$  proposed in 80's

Auerbach, Muto, Vogel... 1980's, 90's

Recent experimental plans in RCNP, RIKEN ( $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ), INFN Catania

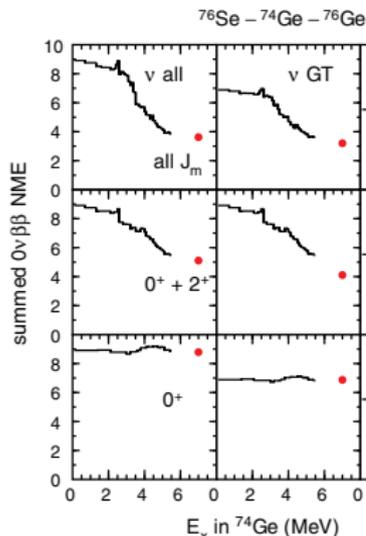
Takaki et al. JPS Conf. Proc. 6 020038 (2015)

Capuzzello et al. EPJA 51 145 (2015)

Promising connection to  $\beta\beta$  decay,  
two-particle-exchange process,  
specially the (tiny) transition  
to ground state of final state

Two-nucleon transfers related to  
 $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay matrix element

Brown et al. PRL113 262501 (2014)



# $^{48}\text{Ca}$ Double Gamow-Teller distribution

Calculate with shell model  $^{48}\text{Ca } 0_{\text{gs}}^+$  Double Gamow-Teller distribution

$$B(\text{DGT}^-; \lambda; i \rightarrow f) = \frac{1}{2J_i + 1} \left| \left\langle {}^{48}\text{Ti} \left[ \left[ \sum_i \sigma_i \tau_i^- \times \sum_j \sigma_j \tau_j^- \right]^{(\lambda)} \right] \left| \left| {}^{48}\text{Ca}_{\text{gs}} \right\rangle \right|^2 \right.$$

Add/remove pairing

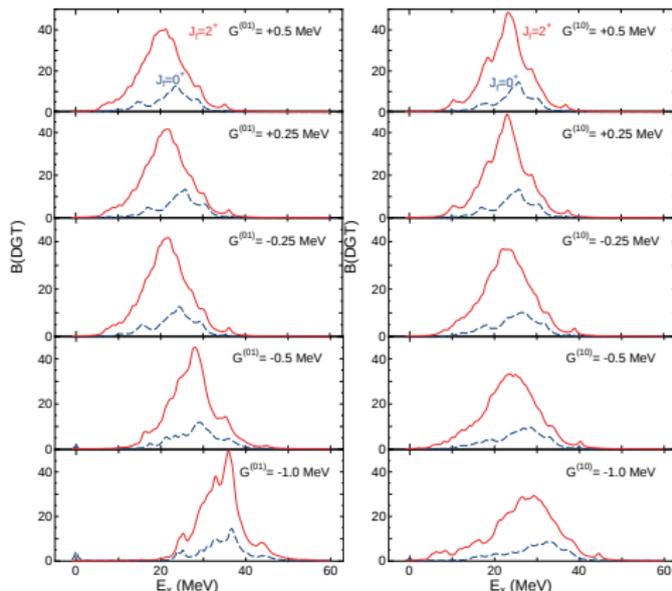
$$H' = H + G^{JT} P^{JT}$$

like-particle ( $T=1$ ) or  
proton-neutron ( $T=0$ )

The properties of the  
DGT giant resonance  
very sensitive to pairing

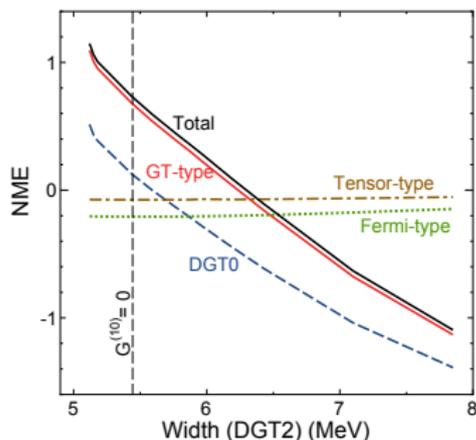
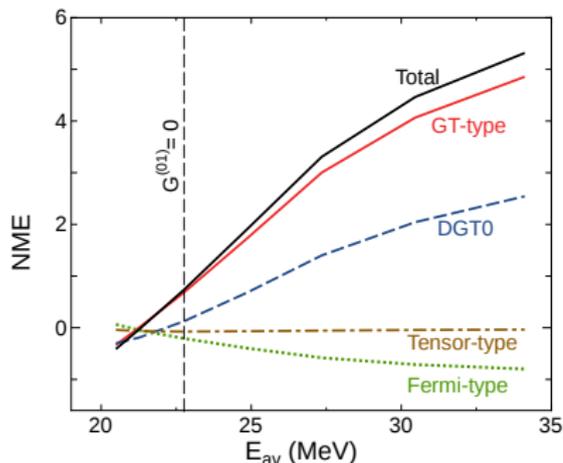
Similar to  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay!

Shimizu, JM, Yako, arXiv:1709.01088



# $^{48}\text{Ca}$ DGT resonance and $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

Correlation btw  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  DGT resonance and  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay matrix element

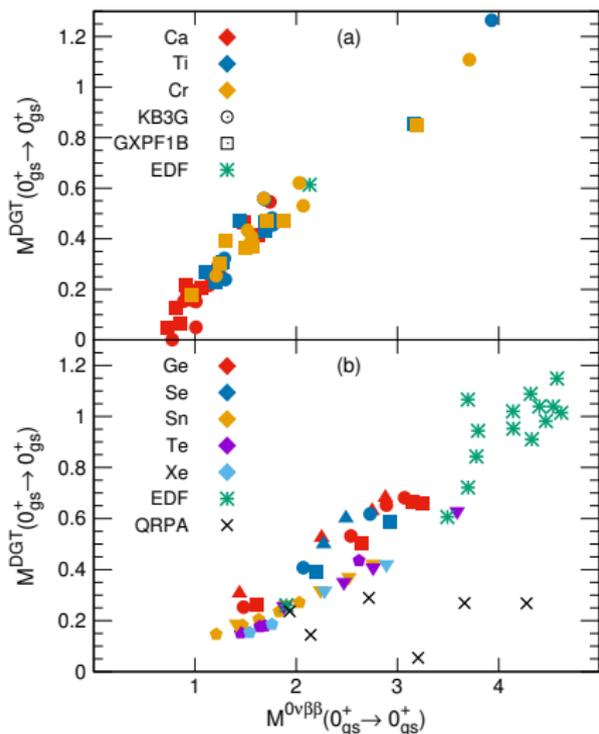


Energy of DGT resonance, to  $\sim 1$  MeV, which may be feasible in the near future can give insight on the value of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay matrix element

$$E_{av} = \frac{\sum_f E_f B(DGT^-, i \rightarrow f)}{\sum_f B(DGT^-, i \rightarrow f)}$$

Shimizu, JM, Yako, arXiv:1709.01088

# DGT to ground state and $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay



Very good linear correlation  
between DGT and  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay  
nuclear matrix elements

$$M^{\text{DGT}} = \sqrt{B(\text{DGT}_{-}; 0; 0_{\text{gs}}^+ \rightarrow 0_{\text{gs}}^+)}$$

Correlation holds  
across wide range of nuclei,  
from Ca to Ge and Xe

Common to nuclear shell model  
and energy-density functional  
 $0.5 \lesssim M^{0\nu\beta\beta} \lesssim 5$

Explained by dominance of  
short internucleon distances btw  
exchanged / decaying neutrons

Bogner et al. PRC86 064304 (2012)

Shimizu, JM, Yako, arXiv:1709.01088

# Outline

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What can we learn from other nuclear experimental data?

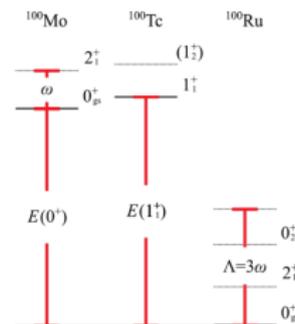
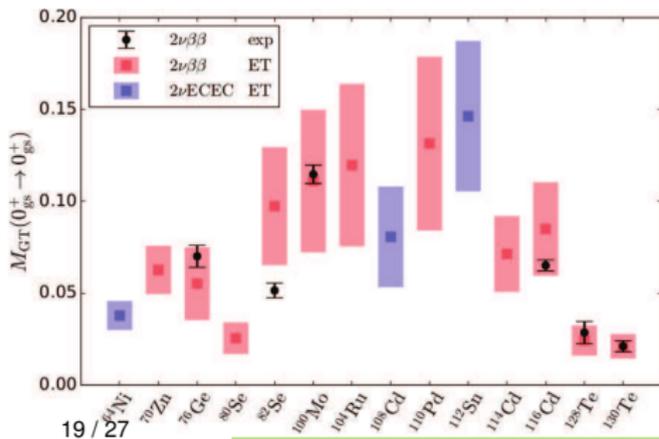
Future prospects for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  nuclear matrix element calculations

# Nuclear matrix elements: theoretical uncertainty

Systematic uncertainty hard to estimate for phenomenological matrix elements

Effective theory for  $\beta\beta$  decay:  
spherical core coupled to one nucleon

Couplings adjusted to experimental data,  
uncertainty given by breakdown scale  
(systematic order by order expansion)



Use data on  $\beta$  decay  
to predict  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay

Good agreement to data  
with large error bars

$0\nu\beta\beta$  decay: no data to fit to...  
use nuclear model instead

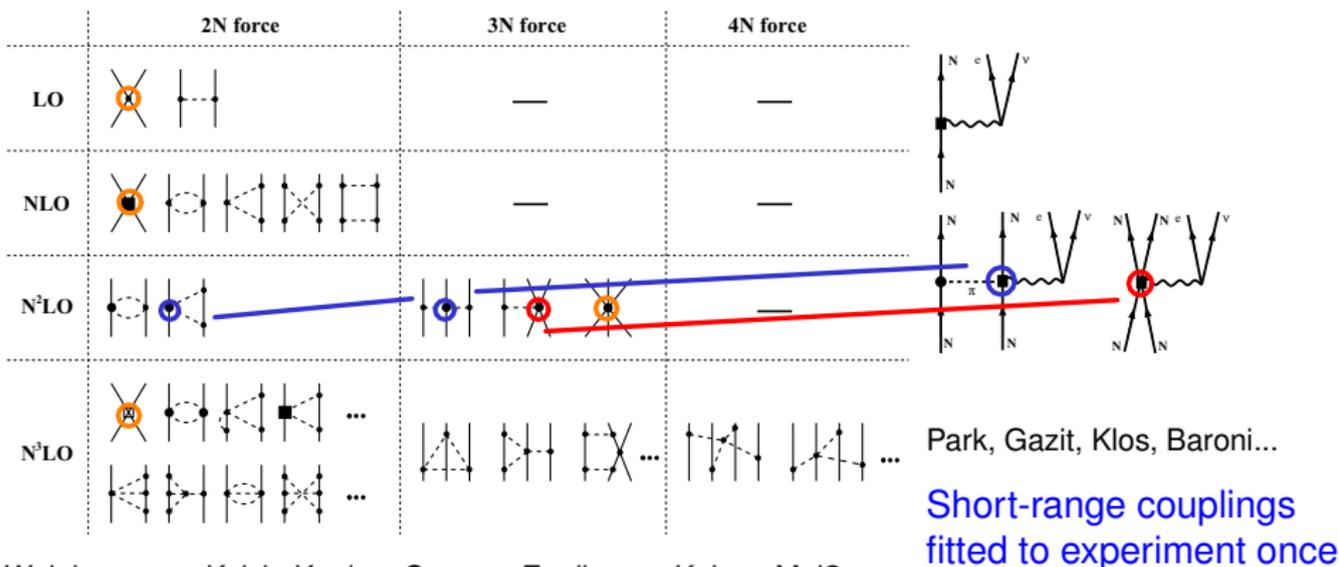
Coello-Pérez, JM, Schwenk,  
arXiv:1708.06140

# Chiral Effective Field Theory

Chiral EFT: low energy approach to QCD, nuclear structure energies

Approximate chiral symmetry: pion exchanges, contact interactions

Systematic expansion: nuclear forces and electroweak currents



Weinberg, van Kolck, Kaplan, Savage, Epelbaum, Kaiser, Meißner...

# Ab initio many-body methods

Oxygen dripline using chiral NN+3N forces correctly reproduced  
ab-initio calculations treating explicitly all nucleons  
excellent agreement between different approaches

No-core shell model  
(Importance-truncated)

In-medium SRG

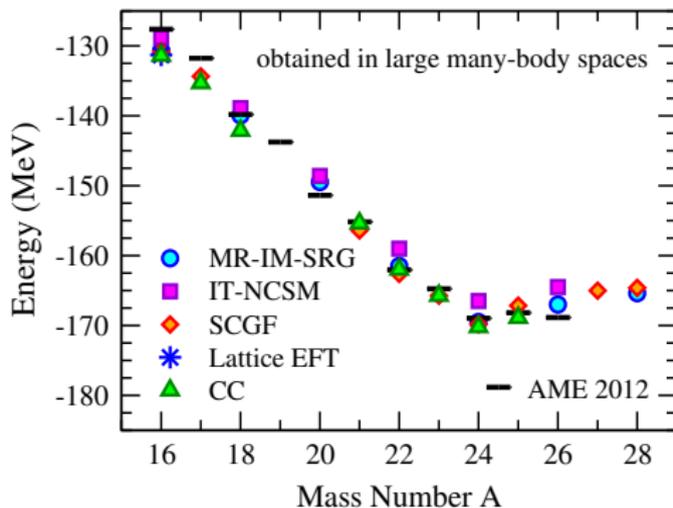
Hergert et al. PRL110 242501(2013)

Self-consistent Green's  
function

Cipollone et al. PRL111 062501(2013)

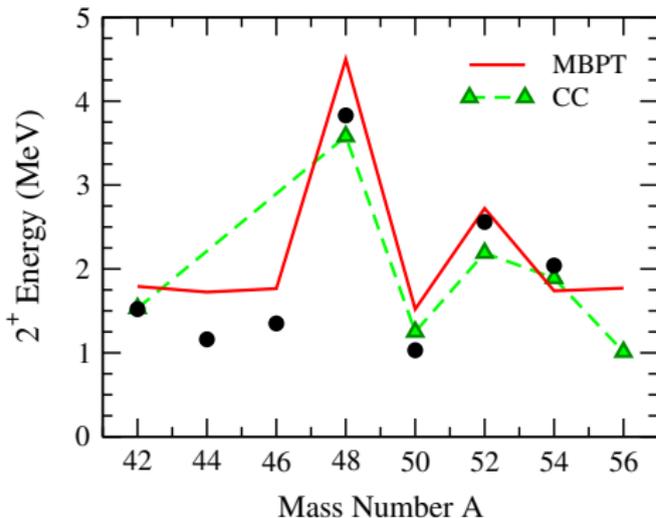
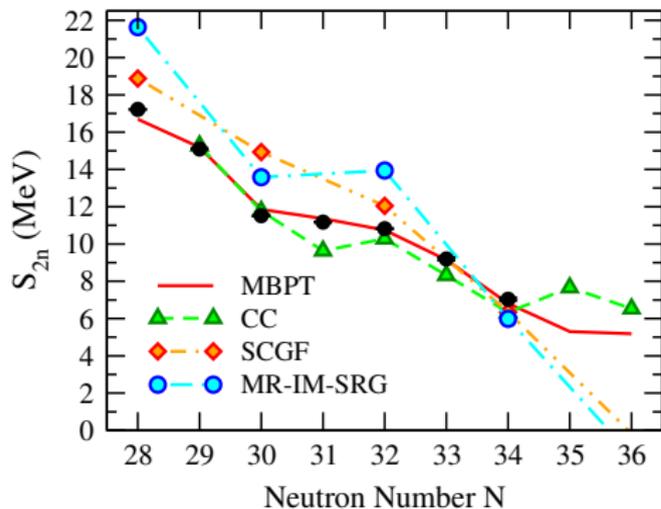
Coupled-clusters

Jansen et al. PRL113 142502(2014)



# Calcium isotopes with NN+3N forces

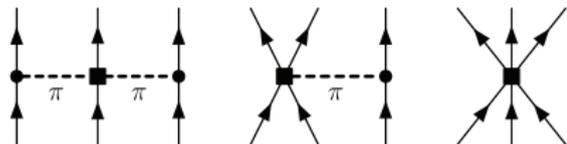
Calculations with NN+3N forces predict shell closures at  $^{52}\text{Ca}$ ,  $^{54}\text{Ca}$



$^{51-54}\text{Ca}$  masses [TRIUMF/ISOLDE]

$^{54}\text{Ca}$   $2_1^+$  excitation energy [RIBF,RIKEN]

Hebeler et al. ARNPS 65 457 (2015)



# Ab initio $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay matrix elements?

Nuclei up to  $A \sim 70$   
explored with ab initio approaches  
Limited by good nuclear force

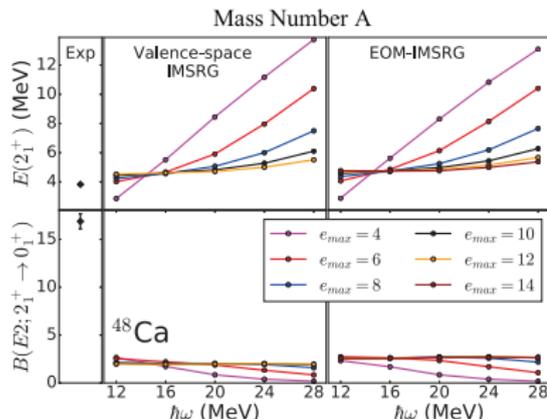
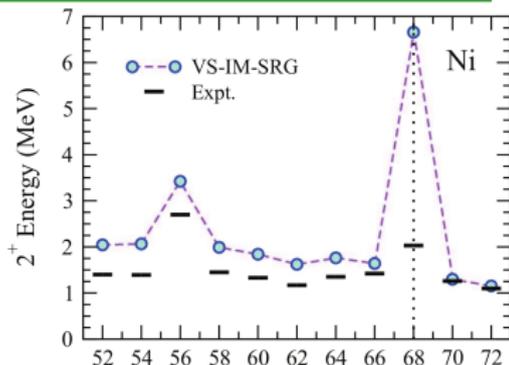
Success of ab initio methods  
(unitary) transformation:  $H' = U^\dagger H U$   
Likewise for operators:  $O' = U^\dagger O U$   
First EM transition results published

Ab initio single- $\beta$ ,  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay  
calculations in light nuclei  
give insight in "quenching" puzzle

$^{48}\text{Ca}$  ab initio  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay  
nuclear matrix element  
ready very soon: stay tuned!

Simonis et al. PRC96 014303 (2017)

Parzuchowski et al. arXiv 1705.05511  
23 / 27

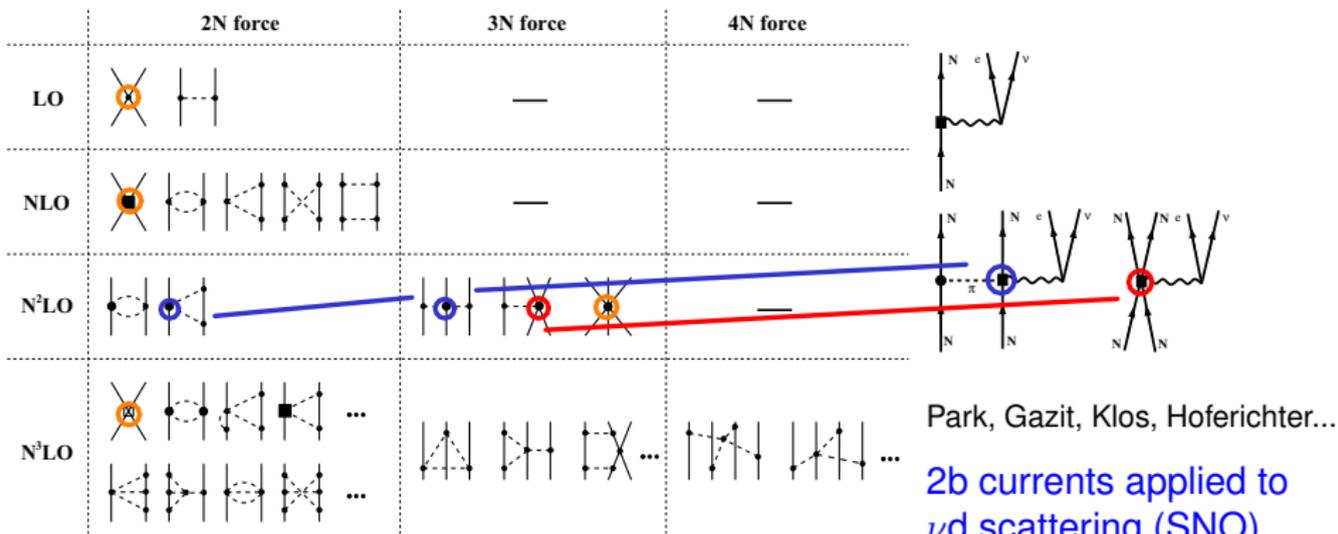


# Chiral effective field theory

Chiral EFT: low energy approach to QCD, nuclear structure energies

Approximate chiral symmetry: pion exchanges, contact interactions

Systematic expansion: nuclear forces and electroweak currents



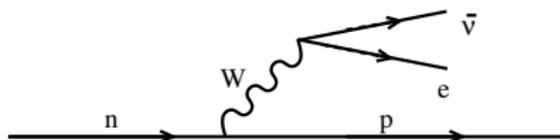
Park, Gazit, Klos, Hoferichter...

2b currents applied to  $\nu d$  scattering (SNO),  $^3\text{H}$   $\beta$ -decay,  $\mu$  moment...

Weinberg, van Kolck, Kaplan, Savage, Epelbaum, Kaiser, Meißner...

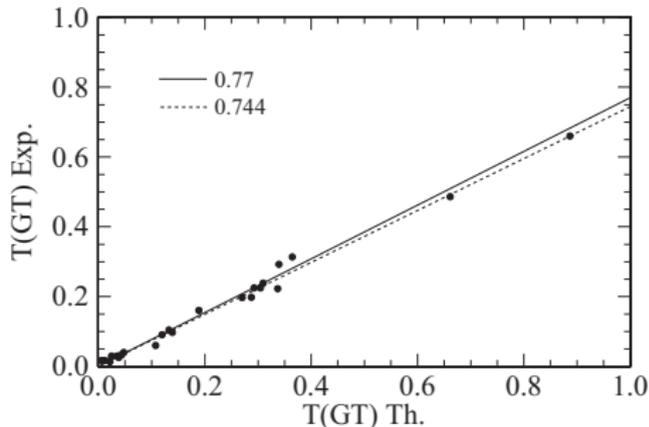
# Gamow-Teller transitions: quenching

Single  $\beta$  decays well described by nuclear structure (shell model)



$$\langle F | \sum_i g_A^{\text{eff}} \sigma_i \tau_i^- | I \rangle$$

$$g_A^{\text{eff}} = q g_A, \quad q \sim 0.7 - 0.8.$$



Martínez-Pinedo et al. PRC53 2602 (1996)

Theory needs to “quench” Gamow-Teller operator to reproduce Gamow-Teller lifetimes: problem in nuclear many-body wf or operator?

This puzzle has been the target of many theoretical efforts:

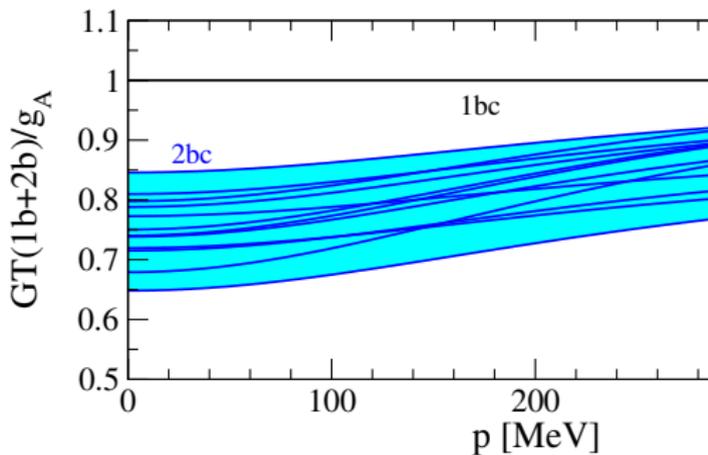
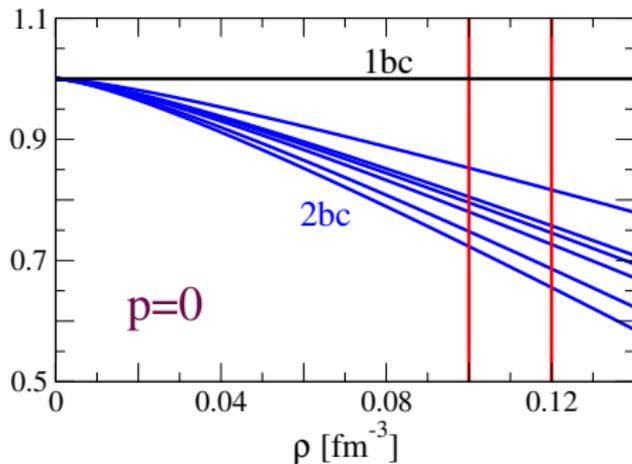
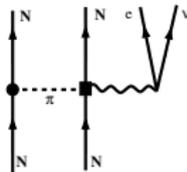
Arima, Rho, Towner, Bertsch and Hamamoto, Wildenthal and Brown...

# 2b currents in medium-mass nuclei

## Normal-ordered 2b currents modify GT operator

JM, Gazit, Schwenk PRL107 062501 (2011)

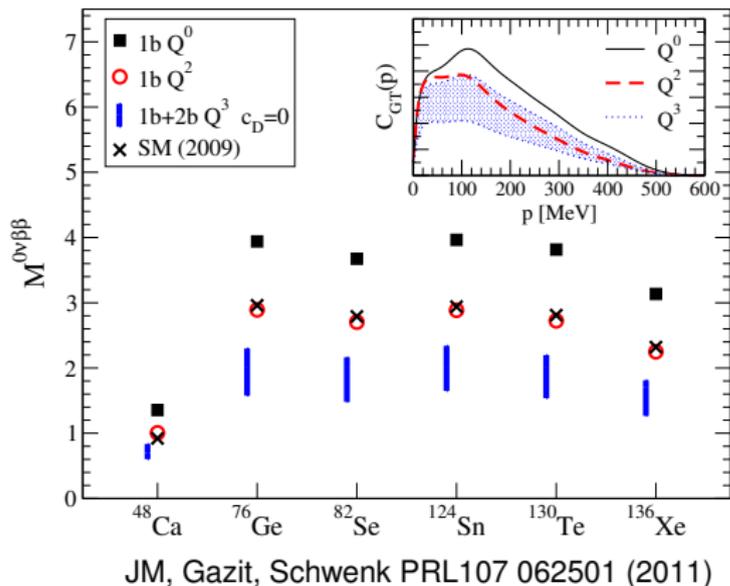
$$\mathbf{J}_{n,2b}^{\text{eff}} \simeq -\frac{g_{A\rho}}{f_\pi^2} \tau_n^- \sigma_n \left[ I(\rho, P) \frac{(2c_4 - c_3)}{3} \right] - \frac{g_{A\rho}}{f_\pi^2} \tau_n^- \sigma_n \frac{2}{3} c_3 \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{m_\pi^2 + \mathbf{p}^2},$$



2b currents predict  $g_A$  quenching  $q = 0.85 \dots 0.66$

Quenching reduced at  $p > 0$ , relevant for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay where  $p \sim m_\pi$

# Nuclear matrix elements with 1b+2b currents

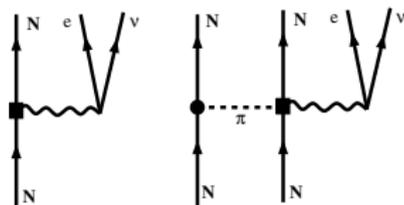


Smaller quenching  $q = 0.96...0.92$

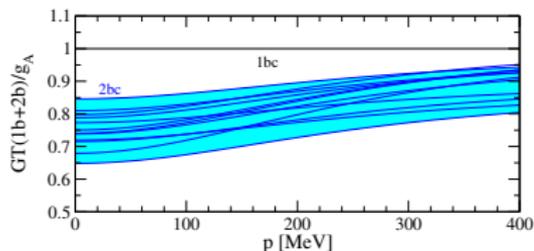
Ekström et al. PRL113 262504 (2014)

Improved (ab initio) calculations needed

2b currents  
 reduce matrix elements  
 $\sim 20\% - 50\%$



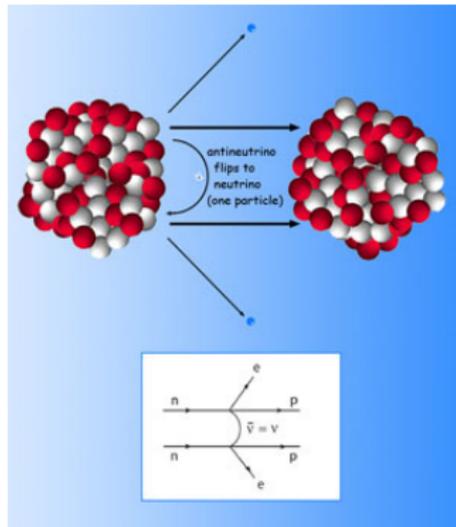
Momentum transfer  $p \sim m_\pi$ ,  
 reduces quenching  $\downarrow$



# Summary

Reliable nuclear matrix elements needed to plan and fully exploit impressive experiments looking for neutrinoless double-beta decay

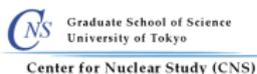
- Matrix element differences between present calculations, factor 2 – 3
- New  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  and  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  matrix elements in larger configuration spaces moderate  $\sim 30\%$  increase or less
- Double Gamow-Teller transitions pursued in different labs very useful insight on value of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay matrix elements
- Ab initio calculations on the way, consistent 2b currents (quenching?) evaluation of theoretical uncertainties



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