

# NC Coherent Elastic $\nu$ -Nucleus Scattering (CEvNS): Current probes and $\nu$ -nuclear responses on conventional & exotic $\nu$ -physics"

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Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση  
Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Ταμείο

Επιχειρησιακό Πρόγραμμα  
Ανάπτυξη Ανθρώπινου Δυναμικού,  
Εκπαίδευση και Διά Βίου Μάθηση  
Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



- Introduction
  - Important  $\nu$ -sources and the role of  $\nu$ -Nuclear responses in modern searches
- COHERENT experiment: First Observation of NC CE $\nu$ NS events  
 $\nu + (A, Z) \rightarrow \nu + (A, Z)$ 
  - Analysis and Interpretation with the Standard Model
- $\nu$ -nuclear responses on conventional processes
  - Phenomenological and Realistic Nuclear form factors, Neutron FF and Nuclear Radii
  - Nuclear Structure Calculations, QRPA, SM, DSM, MQPM, etc. (for NC, CC) for various  $\nu$ -sources
- Connection of CE $\nu$ NS to exotic Physics
  - WIMP-nucleus rates (neutrino floor)
  - NSIs: New mediators  $Z'$  and scalar  $\phi$ . Electromagnetic neutrino properties
- Summary and Outlook

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# Neutrino as key-role particle in Modern Physics searches

- Fundamental E-W-Is, Non-Standard (NSIs) with New mediators:  $\nu$ -EM properties,  $\nu$ -millicharge, Vectorial/Tensorial  $\nu$ -quark NSIs
- Study of the deep sky: SN, Neutron stars, Black Hole Micro-quasars, AGN, etc.
- Neutrinos as irreducible background in rare event experiments, e.g. direct DM detection (neutrino floor)
- Strong constraints are extracted from a combined analysis of  $\nu$  from various sources:  $\pi$ -DAR, reactor- $\nu$ , atmospheric- $\nu$ , solar- $\nu$ , SN- $\nu$ , DSNB, etc.
- In such processes the nucleus works as excellent micro-laboratory towards their investigation
- **Nuclear calculations are needed to provide reliable nuclear ingredients and support relevant EXPs**

# Three interesting NC Coherent elastic Electro-Weak processes in nuclei

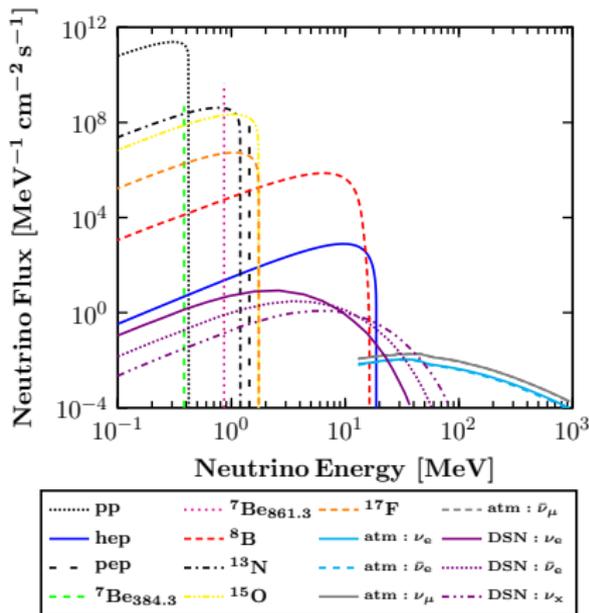
- There are three very interesting Neutral-Current Electro-Weak processes taking place in the presence of Nuclei
  - $\nu + (A, Z) \rightarrow \nu + (A, Z)$  ( $\nu$ -Nucleus scattering)
  - $\chi + (A, Z) \rightarrow \chi + (A, Z)$  (Scattering CDM-candidate on Nuclei)
  - $\mu^- + (A, Z) \rightarrow e^- + (A, Z)$  (muon-to-electron conversion in Nuclei)
- The above three processes are dominated by the COHERENT Elastic channel
- The first two involve neutral particles
- The third involves charged particles
- For all of them **the signal is a sharp coherent forward peak**

# Solar neutrinos

- Solar- $\nu$  are  $\nu_e$  neutrinos produced in the Sun's interior ( $0.1\text{MeV} \leq \varepsilon_\nu \leq 18\text{ MeV}$ ). They depend on the nuclear processes and the densities/temperatures in the Sun
- Dominant Solar- $\nu$  component the p-p channel ( $\sim 86\%$  of  $\Phi_{solar}$ ), Borexino EXP. measured recently  $\Phi_{solar}$  with uncertainty 1%
- The total Solar neutrino flux  $\Phi_{solar} \sim 6.5 \times 10^{11}/\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$  hitting the Earth may appreciably limit the sensitivity of DM experiments
- Solar neutrinos produce a dominant background for direct CDM detection experiments (at low energies)

# Solar neutrino, background in direct CDM detection

- Direct DM detection experiments are sensitive to  ${}^8\text{B}$  and hep  $\nu$ -sources (they cover the high-energy tail of Solar  $\nu$ -spectrum)
- To explore the neutrino-floor one needs to extend the analysis to low  $\nu$ -energies as:
- The pep neutrino line
- The  ${}^7\text{Be}$  neutrino which gives two monochromatic beams:  
 $E_\nu = 384.3 \text{ keV}$ ,  $E_\nu = 861.3 \text{ keV}$
- The CNO cycle neutrinos appear as three continuous spectra ( ${}^{13}\text{N}$ ,  ${}^{15}\text{O}$ , and  ${}^{17}\text{F}$  sources) with end point  $E_\nu$  close to pep- $\nu$



# Atmospheric Neutrinos

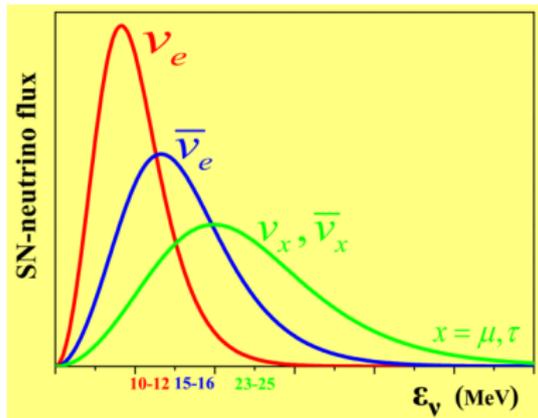
- Atmospheric- $\nu$  are decay products of ( $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $\mu^\pm$ , produced from the cosmic-ray-scattering in Earth's atmosphere)
- The generated secondary particles decay to  $\nu_e$ ,  $\tilde{\nu}_e$ ,  $\nu_\mu$ ,  $\tilde{\nu}_\mu$
- These neutrinos constitute significant background to DM searches for WIMP masses  $\mu_\chi \geq 100\text{GeV}$ .
- The direct detection DM experiments, are sensitive to the lowest energies atmospheric- $\nu$  ( $E_\nu \lesssim 100\text{ MeV}$ )

# Supernova Neutrinos

- According to predictions, the creation of the supernova neutrino-fluxes is very complicated process.
- A thermal spectrum was intuitively employed in earlier studies to describe the SN- $\nu$  energy distribution
- The analytic expressions used are: the two-parameter Fermi-Dirac, and the simpler two parameter Power-Law (PL) distribution
- Both parameterizations FD and PL yield similar energy spectra

## SN- $\nu$ Energies

- 10-12 MeV, for  $\nu_e$
- 15-16 MeV, for  $\bar{\nu}_e$
- 23-25 MeV, for  $\nu_x$  and  $\bar{\nu}_x$ ,  
with  $x = \mu, \tau$



# Diffuse Supernova Neutrino Background (DSNB)

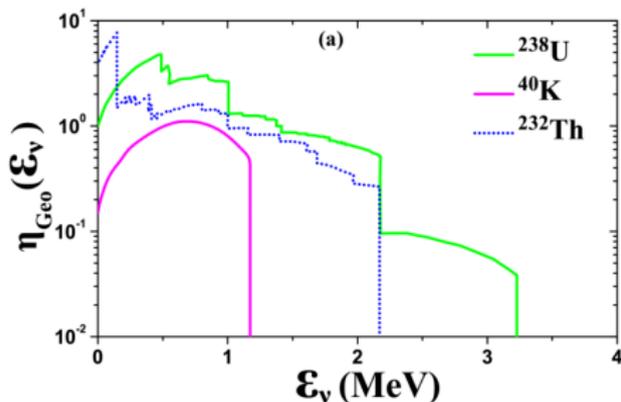
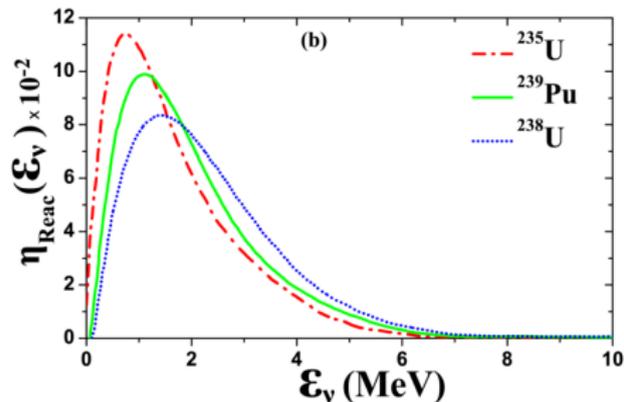
- The low-energy  $\nu$ s emitted from the total number of core collapse SN, is known as "Diffuse Supernova Neutrino Back-ground (DSNB)"
- These neutrinos create an important source of  $\nu$ -background, for WIMP masses  $\mu_\chi \approx 10 - 30$  GeV
- Despite the low flux of DSNB compared to  $\Phi_{solar}$ , their  $\nu$ -energies are higher than those of the Solar  $\nu$ -spectrum.

In our simulations we adopt FD and PL DSNB distributions as:

## DSNB- $\nu$ Energies

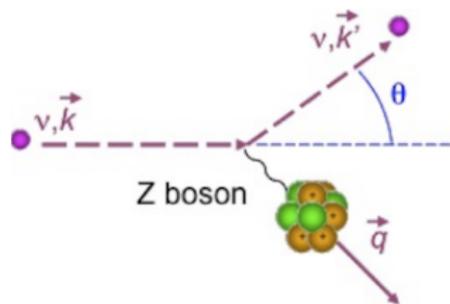
- The peaks in the Fermi-Dirac or power-law type distribution correspond to energies:
- 3 MeV, for  $\nu_e$
- 5 MeV, for  $\tilde{\nu}_e$
- 8 MeV, for  $\nu_x$  and  $\tilde{\nu}_x$ , with  $x = \mu, \tau$

# Reactor and Earth $\nu$ -sources



- Nuclear reactors provide  $\tilde{\nu}_e$  of  $\Phi_{\text{react}} \sim 10^{13} \tilde{\nu}/\text{cm}^2\text{sec}$  at  $L \sim 10 \text{ m}$  from reactor core.
- The spectrum peaks at ( $\sim 0.3 \text{ MeV}$ ) and extends up to  $\sim 10 \text{ MeV}$
- Fuel composition: 62%  $^{235}\text{U}$ , 30%  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  and 8%  $^{238}\text{U}$
- Geo-neutrino flux is low, compared to that of other  $\nu$ -sources producing, practically negligible, remaining irreducible background in DM Exps.

# The Neutral Current (NC) $\nu$ -nucleus scattering



- Predicted 43 years before their first observation (August 2017)
- D.Z. Freedman. Phys.Rev.D 9(1974) 1389 NC scattering rate  $N^2$

## Nuclear Level Diagram

- In the SM description, Nuclear Form Factor and Nuclear Matrix Elements (NME) for the  $|g.s.\rangle$  and all final states  $|f\rangle$ , are required
- Inelastic CC/NC Cross Section for Supernova
- Inelastic CC/NC Cross Section for Weak Physics, in general
  
- Recently, models of Non-Standard Interactions of  $\nu$ -quark can be tested through NC neutrino scattering
- Weak Mixing angle, Neutrino Magnetic Moment, Sterile Neutrino Oscillations

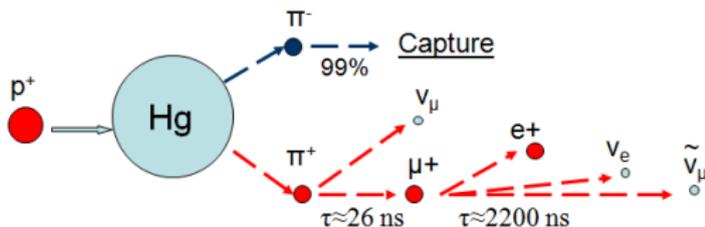
# The Spallation Neutron Source at Oak Ridge



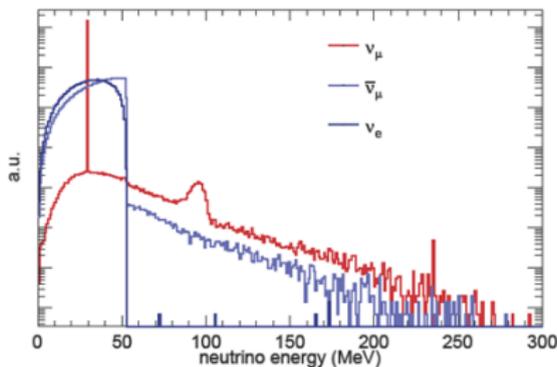
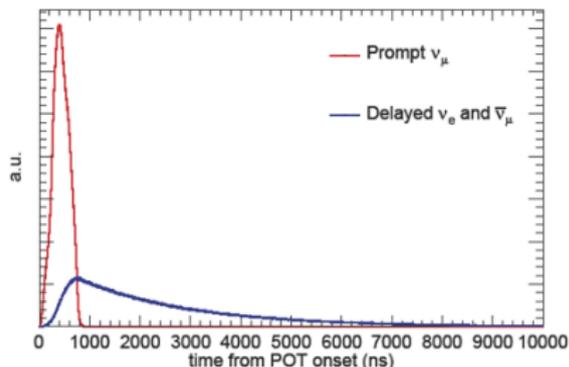
**Spallation Neutron Source, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN**

# Neutrino Sources at SNS: $\pi$ -DAR neutrinos

- Bunches of  $E_p \sim 1$  GeV protons on the Hg target with 60 Hz frequency
- Total neutrino flux:  
 $\Phi_\nu = 4.3 \times 10^7 \nu s/cm^2/s$  at  $L = 20$  m



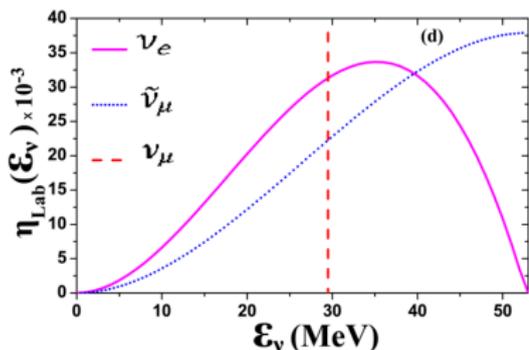
The  $\nu$ -timing (left) and the  $\nu$ -energy (right) suit well for CE $\nu$ NS search



Sholberg, et al. ....

# Advantages of $\pi$ -Decay-At-Rest ( $\pi$ -DAR) $\nu_s$ at SNS

- Ideal Neutrino Energy  $\rightarrow$  Coherence
- High Intensity, Ideal Beam Energy
- Complete Stopping: Point-like source
- Multiple Neutrino Flavors:  $\nu_e$ ,  $\nu_\mu$ ,  $\tilde{\nu}_\mu$
- Ideal Time Structure (Short Pulses)
- Prompt & delayed  $\nu$ s favor handling systematic errors



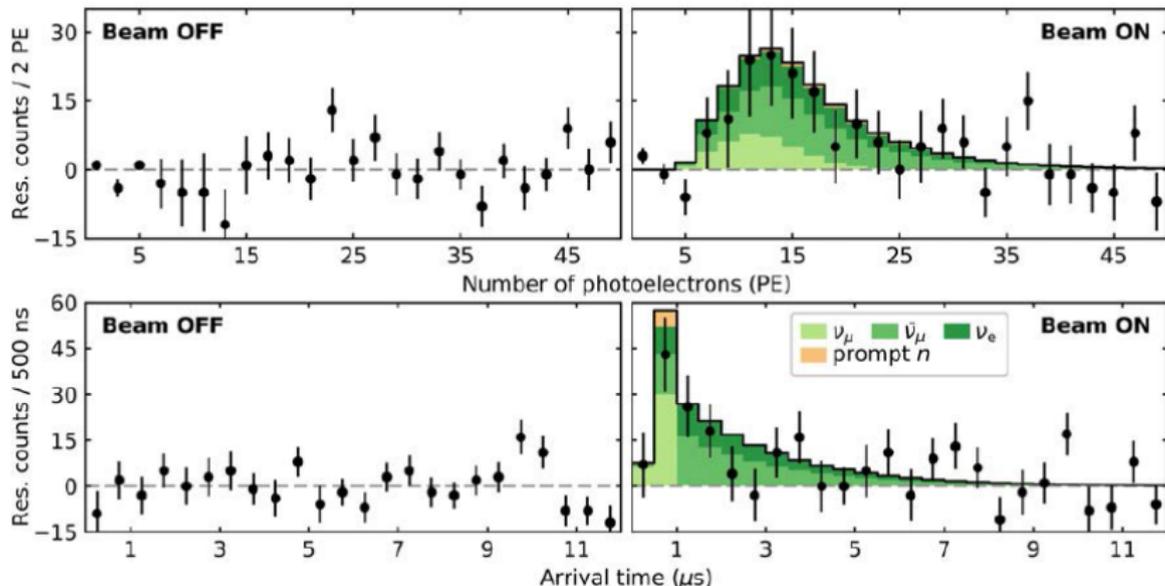
The energy-spectra of  $\nu_e$  and  $\tilde{\nu}_\mu$  are fitted by the distributions

$$\eta_{\nu_e}(\varepsilon_\nu) = 96\varepsilon_\nu^2 M_\mu^{-4} (M_\mu - 2\varepsilon_\nu) ,$$

$$\eta_{\tilde{\nu}_\mu}(\varepsilon_\nu) = 16\varepsilon_\nu^2 M_\mu^{-4} (3M_\mu - 4\varepsilon_\nu) ,$$

$M_\mu = 105.6$  MeV (muon rest mass). The maximum energy of  $\nu_e$  and  $\tilde{\nu}_\mu$  is  $\varepsilon_\nu^{\max} = 52.8$  MeV  $= M_\mu/2$ .  $E_{\nu_\mu} = 29.8$  MeV

# NC break-through observation: First CEvNS data (2017)



- **COHERENT** data on Na-doped CsI[Na] detector:  $m_{det}=14.57$  kg
- Exposed to neutrinos from the  $\pi$ -DAR source SNS
- At a distance of  $L = 19.3$  m (Short Base-Line  $\nu$ -experiment)
- For a period of  $t_{run} = 308.1$  d (live days)
- At  $6.7 \sigma$  CL. Total number of events 136.  $n_{PE} = 1.17 \frac{T_A}{(\text{keV})}$

# The interpretation-analysis of CE $\nu$ NS data

A good agreement with the Standard Model (SM) expectation was obtained (with the low-threshold sodium doped CsI[Na] scintillator)

- Phenomenological FF calculations (fit CE $\nu$ NS data)
  - Klein-Nystrand (used by CE $\nu$ NS Collaboration)
  - Helm-type
  - Symmetrized Fermi (Woods-Saxon)
- Realistic form factor calculations (fit CE $\nu$ NS data)
  - The quasi-particle RPA (for even-even nuclei)
  - The deformed Shell Model (DSM)
- Realistic DSM fit better the CE $\nu$ NS data compared to phenomenological FF
  
- CE $\nu$ NS constitute best probe to investigate neutron nuclear FF
- CE $\nu$ NS data encourage probes of physics within/beyond SM of EWIs
- **Nuclear Physics searches explore the potential of probing nuclear structure parameters (weak FFs) through CE $\nu$ NS data**

Ejiri, Suhonen, Zuber, Phys.Rep. 797(2019)1-102 ,Fattoyev, et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 120(2018)172702 ,

Papoulias,Kosmas,Sahu,Kota,Hota, Phys.Let.B 800(2020)135133

# Standard Model CE $\nu$ NS Cross sections

The SM CE $\nu$ NS differential cross section with respect to the scattering angle  $\theta$  reads

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{SM},\nu\alpha}}{d\cos\theta} = \frac{G_F^2}{2\pi} E_\nu^2 (1 + \cos\theta) \left| \langle g.s. || \mathcal{M}_{V,\nu\alpha}^{\text{SM}} || g.s. \rangle \right|^2$$

- $E_\nu$ : incident neutrino energy
- $Q^2 = 4E_\nu^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$ : 4-momentum transfer (from kinematics:  $-q^2 \equiv Q^2 = -\omega^2 + \mathbf{q}^2 > 0$ )
- $|g.s.\rangle = |J^\pi\rangle \equiv |0^+\rangle$ : the nuclear ground state (for even-even nuclei is explicitly constructed by solving the BCS Eqs.)
- $g_V^{p(n)}$ : polar-vector coupling of proton (neutron) to the  $Z$  boson

- The SM nuclear matrix element is given in terms of the electromagnetic proton(neutron) **nuclear form factors**  $F_{Z(N)}(Q^2)$  (CVC theory)
- For  **$g.s. \rightarrow g.s.$  transitions** (i.e.  $|0^+\rangle \rightarrow |0^+\rangle$ ) only the Coulomb operator contributes

$$\left| \mathcal{M}_{V,\nu\alpha}^{\text{SM}} \right|^2 \equiv \left| \langle g.s. || \hat{\mathcal{M}}_{00} || g.s. \rangle \right|^2 = \left[ g_V^p Z F_Z(Q^2) + g_V^n N F_N(Q^2) \right]^2$$

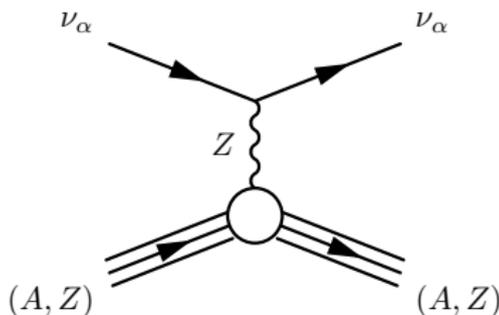
# Simulation in terms of $T_A$ of the COHERENT data

- To simulate COHERENT data, we consider total cross section
- This is the sum of the individual (atomic) cross sections by taking also into account the stoichiometric ratio  $\eta$  of the corresponding atom.
- For a neutrino flavor  $\alpha$  and isotope  $x$  the given CE $\nu$ NS events read

$$N_{\text{theor}} = \sum_{\nu_\alpha} \sum_{x=\text{Cs,I}} \mathcal{F}_x \int_{E_\nu^{\min}}^{E_\nu^{\max}} \lambda_{\nu_\alpha}(E_\nu) dE_\nu \\ \times \int_{T_A^{\min}}^{T_A^{\max}} \mathcal{A}(T_A) \frac{d\sigma_x}{dT_A}(E_\nu, T_A) dT_A,$$

$$\mathcal{F}_x = t_{\text{run}} N_{\text{targ}}^x \Phi_\nu$$

$t_{\text{run}}$  denotes the time exposed to the  $\nu$ -beam.  $N_{\text{targ}}^x$  is the number of target nuclei (in Avogadro's number  $N_A$ )



# The beam neutrino flux and other parameters

- The neutrino flux is  $\Phi_\nu = r\mathcal{N}_{\text{POT}}/4\pi L^2$ , with  $r = 0.08$  representing the number of neutrinos per flavor produced for each proton on target (POT), where
- $\mathcal{N}_{\text{POT}} = N_{\text{POT}}/t_{\text{run}}$  with  $N_{\text{POT}} = 1.76 \times 10^{23}$ .
- Our calculations consider the recoil-energy signal of COHERENT data
- The flavor components  $\nu_\alpha = \{\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \bar{\nu}_\mu\}$  of the SNS  $\nu$ -spectrum including the monochromatic  $E_{\nu_\mu} = 29.9$  MeV prompt beam from  $\pi$ -DAR, are denoted as  $\lambda_{\nu_\alpha}(E_\nu)$  (or as  $\eta_{\nu_\alpha}(E_\nu)$ )
- For each isotope  $x = \text{Cs, I}$ , the number of target nuclei is expressed in terms of Avogadro's number  $N_A$  and the detector mass

$$N_{\text{targ}}^x = \frac{m_{\text{det}}\eta_x}{\sum_x A_x\eta_x} N_A$$

Contributions to event rate from the sodium dopant are of the order  $10^{-5}$ – $10^{-4}$  and can be safely ignored

## Translation of recoil-energy to photoelectrons (PEs)

- The CE $\nu$ NS signal at COHERENT experiment was based on photoelectron (PE) measurements
- To translate the nuclear recoil energy in terms of the number of PE,  $n_{\text{PE}}$ , we adopt the relation

$$n_{\text{PE}} = 1.17 \frac{T_A}{(\text{keV})}$$

**The detector efficiency**  $\mathcal{A}(x)$  depends on the photoelectron number  $x$  as

$$\mathcal{A}(x) = \frac{k_1}{1 + e^{-k_2(x-x_0)}} \Theta(x).$$

Heavisidefunction :  $\Theta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 5 \\ 0.5 & 5 \leq x < 6 \\ 1 & x \geq 6. \end{cases}$

The parameters' values are  $k_1 = 0.6655$ ,  $k_2 = 0.4942$ ,  $x_0 = 10.8507$ .

# Standard Model Analysis of the COHERENT data

- SM differential cross section

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{SM}}}{dT_N}(E_\nu, T_N) = \frac{G_F^2 M}{\pi} \left[ (\mathcal{Q}_W^V)^2 \left( 1 - \frac{MT_N}{2E_\nu^2} \right) + (\mathcal{Q}_W^A)^2 \left( 1 + \frac{MT_N}{2E_\nu^2} \right) \right] F^2(T_N),$$

- SM vector/axial vector couplings

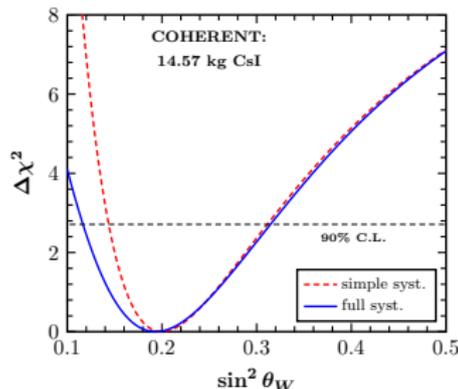
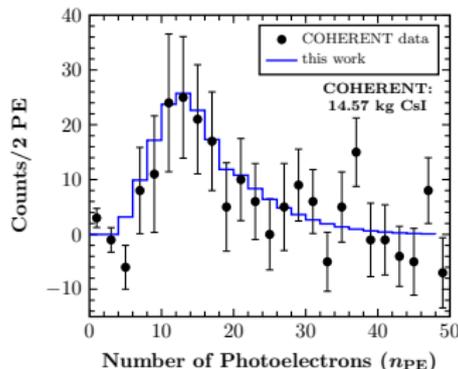
$$\mathcal{Q}_W^V = [g_p^V Z + g_n^V N],$$

$$\mathcal{Q}_W^A = [g_p^A (Z_+ - Z_-) + g_n^A (N_+ - N_-)],$$

- single-bin counting problem (flux, quenching factor, and acceptance uncertainties are included)

$$\chi^2(s_W^2) = \min_{\xi, \zeta} \left[ \frac{(N_{\text{meas}} - N_{\nu\alpha}^{\text{SM}}(s_W^2)[1 + \xi] - B_{0n}[1 + \zeta])^2}{\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2} + \left( \frac{\xi}{\sigma_\xi} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\zeta}{\sigma_\zeta} \right)^2 \right],$$

- search between  $6 \leq n_{\text{PE}} \leq 30$



# Evaluation of the form factors (Klein-Nystrand)

Follows from the convolution of a Yukawa potential with range  $a_k = 0.7$  fm over a Woods-Saxon distribution, approximated as a hard sphere with radius  $R_A$ .

$$F_{\text{KN}} = 3 \frac{j_1(QR_A)}{QR_A} [1 + (Qa_k)^2]^{-1}$$

The rms radius is:  $\langle R^2 \rangle_{\text{KN}} = 3/5 R_A^2 + 6a_k^2$

S. Klein and J. Nystrand, Phys.Rev. C60 (1999) 014903

# Phenomenological FFs: Helm and Symmetrized Fermi

This is a two-parameter phenomenological form factor with a radius parameter  $R_0$ , the cut-off of the corresponding uniform charge density) and a surface thickness  $s$  parameter given by

$$F_{\text{Helm}}(Q^2) = 3 \frac{j_1(QR_0)}{QR_0} e^{-(Qs)^2/2} \quad (1)$$

The first two moments

$$\langle R_n^2 \rangle = \frac{3}{5} R_0^2 + 3s^2, \quad \langle R_n^4 \rangle = \frac{3}{7} R_0^4 + 6R_0^2 s^2 + 15s^4$$

- $j_1(x)$  is the known first-order Spherical-Bessel function
- box or diffraction radius  $R_0$  (interior density)
- $s = 0.9$  fm: surface thickness of the nucleus from spectroscopy data (Gaussian falloff).

The Symmetrized Fermi (Woods-Saxon) charge density distribution, provides the two parameter form factor with parameters ( $c, a$ )

$$F_{\text{SF}}(Q^2) = \frac{3}{Qc [(Qc)^2 + (\pi Qa)^2]} \left[ \frac{\pi Qa}{\sinh(\pi Qa)} \right] \left[ \frac{\pi Qa \sin(Qc)}{\tanh(\pi Qa)} - Qc \cos(Qc) \right],$$

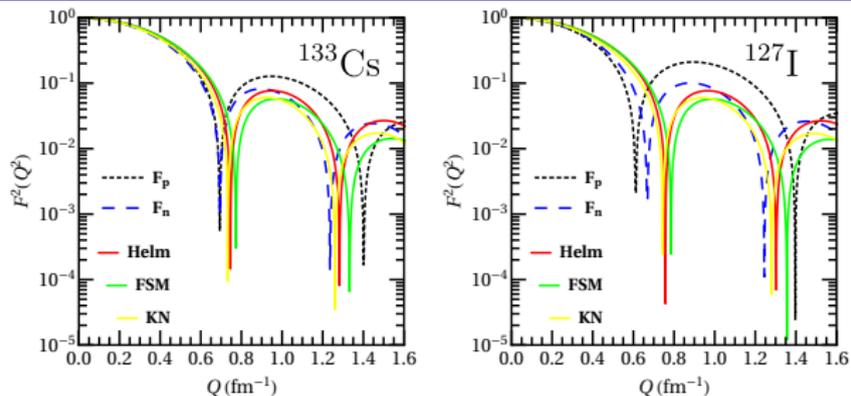
The first two moments

$$\langle R_n^2 \rangle = \frac{3}{5} c^2 + \frac{7}{5} (\pi a)^2, \quad \langle R_n^4 \rangle = \frac{3}{7} c^4 + \frac{18}{7} (\pi a)^2 c^2 + \frac{31}{7} (\pi a)^4$$

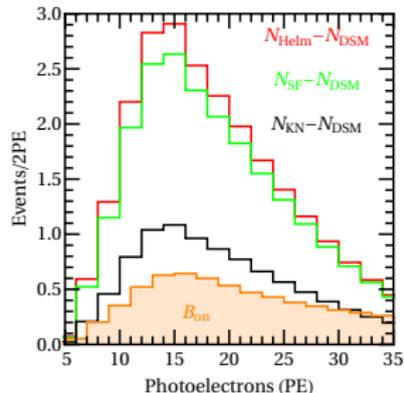
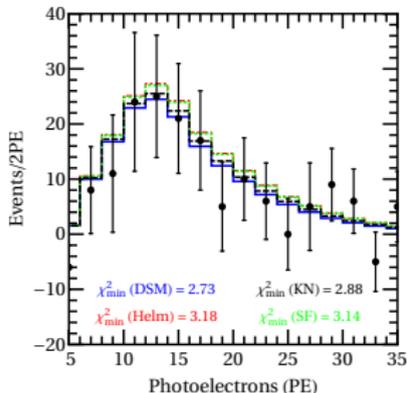
$c$ : half-density radius

$a$  fm: diffuseness

# Impact of form factor on $CE_{\nu}NS$ : COHERENT exp.



Papoulias et al. arXiv:1903.03722



# Beyond the SM Analysis of COHERENT data: EM properties

- **Neutrino magnetic moment contribution**

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_N} \right)_{\text{SM+EM}} = \mathcal{G}_{\text{EM}}(E_\nu, T_N) \frac{d\sigma_{\text{SM}}}{dT_N},$$

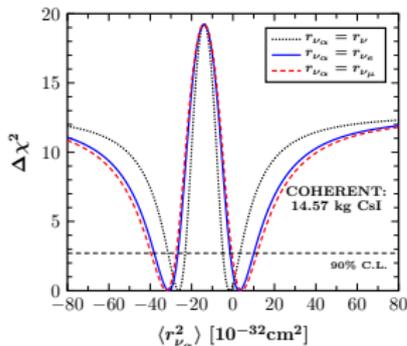
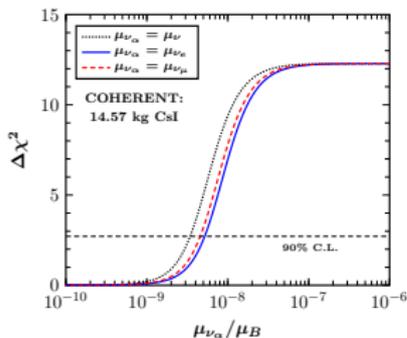
$$\mathcal{G}_{\text{EM}} = 1 + \frac{1}{G_F^2 M} \left( \frac{Q_{\text{EM}}}{Q_W^V} \right)^2 \frac{1 - T_N/E_\nu}{1 - \frac{MT_N}{2E_\nu^2}}.$$

- **EM charge:**  $Q_{\text{EM}} = \frac{\pi a_{\text{EM}} \mu_{\nu\alpha} Z}{m_e}$   
Vogel et al. Phys.Rev. D39 (1989) 3378

- **Neutrino charge radius**

- **redefinition of the weak mixing angle**

$$\sin^2 \theta_W \rightarrow \sin^2 \overline{\theta}_W + \frac{\sqrt{2} \pi a_{\text{EM}}}{3G_F} \langle r_{\nu\alpha}^2 \rangle.$$



# Vector $Z'$ mediator of NSI in COHERENT data analysis

- Vector  $Z'$  mediator Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{vec}} = Z'_\mu \left( g_{Z'}^{qV} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu q + g_{Z'}^{\nu V} \bar{\nu}_L \gamma^\mu \nu_L \right) + \frac{1}{2} M_{Z'}^2 Z'_\mu Z'^\mu$$

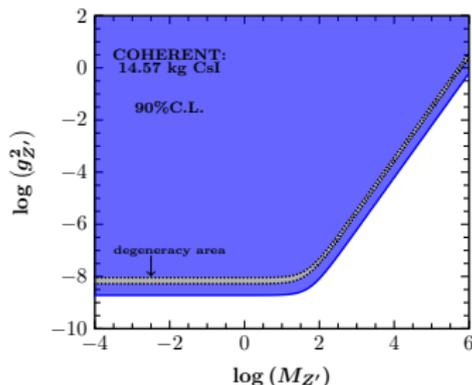
- $Z'$  contribution to  $\text{CE}\nu\text{NS}$  cross section

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_N} \right)_{\text{SM}+Z'} = \mathcal{G}_{Z'}^2(T_N) \frac{d\sigma_{\text{SM}}}{dT_N},$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{Z'} = 1 - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}G_F} \frac{Q_{Z'}}{Q_W^V} \frac{g_{Z'}^{\nu V}}{2MT_N + M_{Z'}^2},$$

- $Z'$  charge:  $Q_{Z'} = (2g_{Z'}^{\mu V} + g_{Z'}^{dV}) Z + (g_{Z'}^{\mu V} + 2g_{Z'}^{dV}) N$

for NSI in  $\text{CE}\nu\text{NS}$  see Refs. below



Papoulias and Kosmas, Phys.Rev. **D97**(2018)033003 Liao et al. PLB 775 (2017) Abdullah et al. PRD98 (2018) 015005

# Scalar $\phi$ mediator of NSI in COHERENT data Analysis

- Interaction Lagrangian of Scalar  $\phi$  mediator

$$\mathcal{L}_{sc} = \phi \left( g_\phi^{qS} \bar{q}q + g_\phi^{\nu S} \bar{\nu}_R \nu_L + \text{H.c.} \right) - \frac{1}{2} M_\phi^2 \phi^2$$

- $\phi$  contribution to CE $\nu$ NS cross section

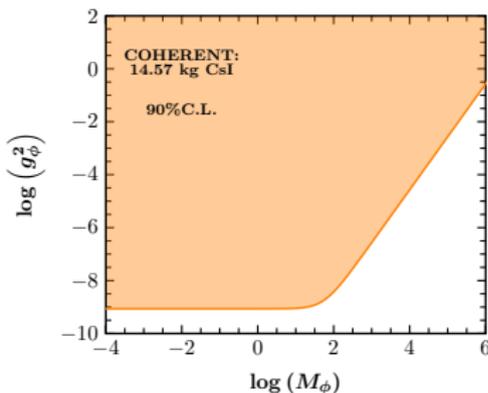
$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_N} \right)_{\text{scal}} = \frac{G_F^2 M^2}{4\pi} \frac{G_\phi^2 M_\phi^4 T_N}{E_\nu^2 \left( 2MT_N + M_\phi^2 \right)^2} F^2(T_N)$$

- Scalar Coupling

$$G_\phi = \frac{g_\phi^{\nu S} Q_\phi}{G_F M_\phi^2}$$

- scalar charge:

$$Q_\phi = \sum_{\mathcal{N}, q} g_\phi^{qS} \frac{m_{\mathcal{N}}}{m_q} f_{T,q}^{(\mathcal{N})}$$



# WIMP-nucleus cross section

Weakly interacting massive particles (WIMPs) are among the most promising non-baryonic cold DM candidates

- Event rates for WIMP-N scattering, expected to be detected in ton-scale rare-event detectors, are required
- There is a close connection between DM and NC  $\nu$ -Nucleus scattering experiments (low threshold, high sensitivity)
- Experiments as DarkSide, DEAP-3600, CDEX, SuperCDMS, LUX, XENON1T, DARWIN, PandaX-II, are looking for tiny WIMP signals
- The most appealing WIMP: Lightest Supersymmetric Particle (LSP), expected to be neutral, stable, interacting very weakly with matter
- Among the most popular detector nuclei, for both WIMP-nucleus and CEvNS searches are the odd-A isotopes  $^{127}\text{I}$ ,  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ , and  $^{133}\text{Xe}$

Up to now the Axion Dark Matter Experiment (ADMX), at Washington Univ., reported "the first experiment achieved the sensitivity to hunt for DM axions"

# WIMP-nucleus cross section

- Cross section in laboratory frame

$$\frac{d\sigma(u, v)}{du} = \frac{1}{2} \sigma_0 \left( \frac{1}{m_p b} \right)^2 \frac{c^2}{v^2} \frac{d\sigma_A(u)}{du},$$

$$u = \frac{1}{2} q^2 b^2, \quad (\text{dimensionless parameter})$$

- spin (axial current) & scalar contributions

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_A}{du} &= [f_A^0 \Omega_0(0)]^2 F_{00}(u) \\ &\quad + 2f_A^0 f_A^1 \Omega_0(0) \Omega_1(0) F_{01}(u) \\ &\quad + [f_A^1 \Omega_1(0)]^2 F_{11}(u) + \mathcal{M}^2(u). \end{aligned}$$

- coherent contribution

$$\mathcal{M}^2(u) = (f_S^0 [ZF_Z(u) + NF_N(u)] + f_S^1 [ZF_Z(u) - NF_N(u)])^2.$$

- model dependent parameters

$f_A^0, f_A^1$  for the isoscalar and isovector parts of the axial-vector current

$f_S^0, f_S^1$  for the isoscalar and isovector parts of the scalar current

# Differential WIMP-nucleus event rate

- differential WIMP-nucleus event rate

$$\frac{dR(u, v)}{dq^2} = N_t \phi \frac{d\sigma}{dq^2} f(v) d^3v$$

- $\phi = \frac{\rho_0 v^1}{m_\chi}$
- $\rho_0$  the local WIMP density

## Folding with Maxwell-Boltzmann WIMP's velocity distribution

- $f(v)$ : distribution of WIMP velocity (Maxwell-Boltzmann)  
for consistency with the LSP

- WIMP-nucleus rate

$$\langle R \rangle = (f_A^0)^2 D_1 + 2f_A^0 f_A^1 D_2 + (f_A^1)^2 D_3 + A^2 \left( f_S^0 - f_S^1 \frac{A - 2Z}{A} \right)^2 |F(u)|^2 D_4 .$$

with

$$D_i = \int_{-1}^1 d\xi \int_{\psi_{\min}}^{\psi_{\max}} d\psi \int_{u_{\min}}^{u_{\max}} G(\psi, \xi) X_i du ,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= [\Omega_0(0)]^2 F_{00}(u) , & X_2 &= \Omega_0(0)\Omega_1(0)F_{01}(u) , \\ X_3 &= [\Omega_1(0)]^2 F_{11}(u) , & X_4 &= |F(u)|^2 . \end{aligned}$$

## Expected neutrino-floor on Ga, Ge, As, I

- We evaluated the expected event rates for the chosen nuclei assuming elastic WIMP scattering for WIMP mass  $m_\chi = 110$  GeV, by adopting known nucleonic-current parameters.  $f_j^k$ .
- There is a strong dependence of the event rate on the studied isotope.
- Among the four studied nuclei, the larger event rate found for  $^{71}\text{Ga}$  detector
- For each component of the Solar, Atmospheric, and DSNB neutrino distributions, we calculate (for all the above detector media) the expected neutrino-floor due to CEvNS
- We neglect possible recoil events arising from Geoneutrinos (we expect them to be at least one order of magnitude less than the above  $\nu$ -sources)
- For neutrino-floor, we do not consider neutrino oscillations (we assume CEvNS to be flavour blind process in the SM)

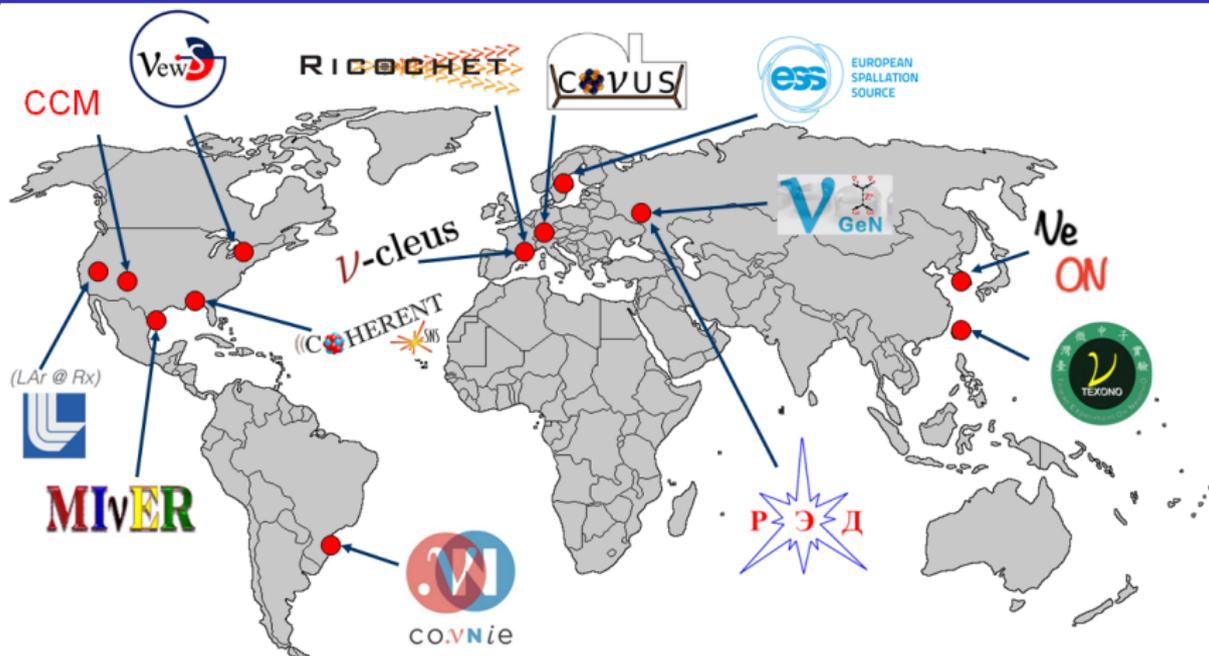
# Expected background events due to CEvNS on Ga, Ge, As, I detectors

The number of expected background events due to CEvNS for each component of the Solar, Atmospheric, and DSNB neutrino fluxes is illustrated in the figure.

- At low energies the neutrino background is dominated by the Solar neutrino spectrum with dominant components the hep and  $^8\text{B}$  neutrino sources
- The results imply that future multi-ton scale detectors with sub-keV sensitivities may be also sensitive to  $^7\text{Be}$  and pp neutrinos.
- Such sensitivities will be further limited due to the quenching effect of the nuclear recoil spectrum (it is not taken into account in this study)
- We mention that neutrino-induced and WIMP-nucleus scattering processes provide similar recoil spectra (the recoil spectrum of  $^8\text{B}$  neutrinos may mimic that of a WIMP with  $m_\chi \approx 6$  GeV (or 100 MeV).



# NC $\nu$ -Nucleus Scattering Experiments around the World

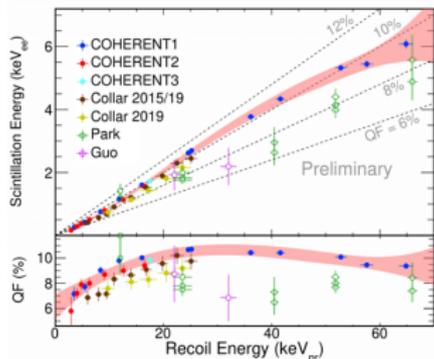


## Ongoing/planned/designed NC $\nu$ -Nucleus Experiments in the World

- (i) CONUS, CONNIE, MINER, NU-CLEUS, Ricochet, vGEN, and TEXONO experiments, use  $^{73}\text{Ge}$  as detector
- (ii) RED100 experiment will use  $^{133}\text{Xe}$  isotope as detector

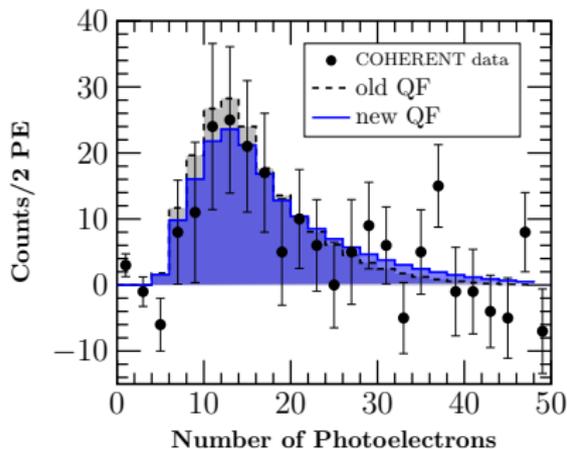
# Improved fits through the new Quenching Factor results

- An important quantity in CEvNS measurements is the known as Quenching Factor (QF)
- For QF, an improved value came out recently (see below)



D.K. Papoulias, PRD (2020)

- By introducing the new Quenching Factor in the previous calculations new interesting fits are obtained as



A. Konovalov: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/943069/>

# Summary and Outlook

- We evaluated realistic cross sections and predicted expected signals for NC  $\nu$ -processes (within the SM and exotic ones)
- Detailed studies for nuclear systems throughout the periodic table (for several  $\nu$ -sources) are required for promising detectors (with low-threshold and high sensitivity) for future CE $\nu$ NS and direct DM detection experiments
- The neutrino floor constitutes an irreducible background in direct DM detection experiments
- From our results we conclude that, for recoil energies  $T_A \geq 10$  keV, Atmospheric neutrinos dominate the neutrino background event rates (from the DSNB spectrum a tiny contribution is coming)
- Advanced nuclear physics methods may enable the accurate determination of the neutrino floor in various DM searches and other nuclear structure quantities (weak neutron form factor, rms radius, etc)
- Study of contributions due to new physics interactions (NSIs, new light mediators as  $Z'$ ,  $\phi$ , etc.) improve the fits to CE $\nu$ NS observations

Thank you for your attention !