

# Recent progress on neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay nuclear matrix elements

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Workshop on “Double Beta Decay and Underground Science”

Waikoloa, 21<sup>th</sup> October 2018



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University of Tokyo

Center for Nuclear Study (CNS)



東京大学  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



# Nuclear matrix elements for new physics searches

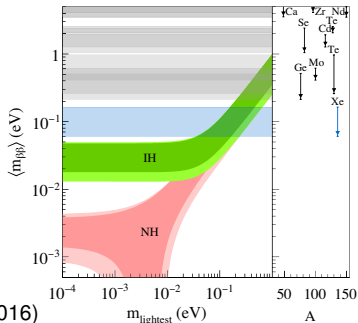
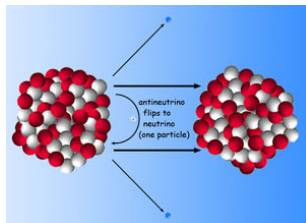
Neutrinos, dark matter studied in experiments using nuclei

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

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

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

$M^{0\nu\beta\beta}$  : Nuclear matrix element  
 $\mathcal{F}_i$  : Nuclear structure factor

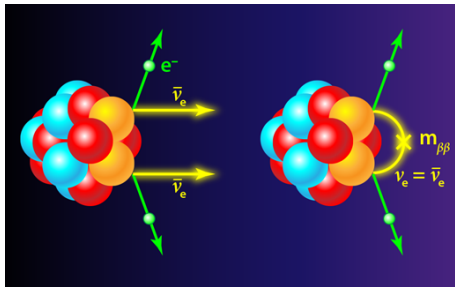


# Calculating nuclear matrix elements

Nuclear matrix elements needed in low-energy new physics searches

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

- Nuclear structure calculation of the initial and final states:  
Shell model, QRPA, IBM,  
Energy-density functional  
Ab initio many-body theory  
GFMC, Coupled-cluster, IM-SRG...
- Lepton-nucleus interaction:  
Hadronic current in nucleus:  
phenomenological,  
effective theory of QCD

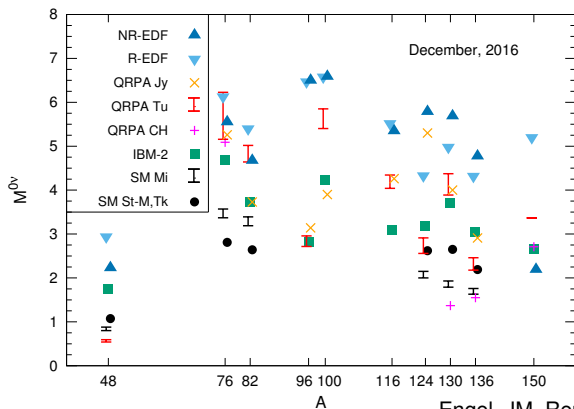


# $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay nuclear matrix elements

Large difference in nuclear matrix element calculations: factor  $\sim 2 - 3$

$$\langle 0_f^+ | \sum_{n,m} \tau_n^- \tau_m^- \sum_X H^X(r) \Omega^X | 0_i^+ \rangle$$

$\Omega^X =$  Fermi ( $\mathbb{1}$ ), GT ( $\sigma_n \sigma_m$ ), Tensor  
 $H(r) =$  neutrino potential



How can  
nuclear matrix elements  
calculations improve?

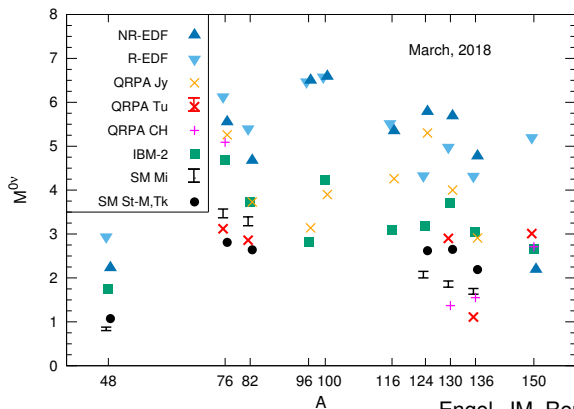
How can  
nuclear structure  
experiments  
guide  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay?

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay nuclear matrix elements

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How can nuclear structure experiments guide  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay?

Fang et al. PRC97 045503(2018)

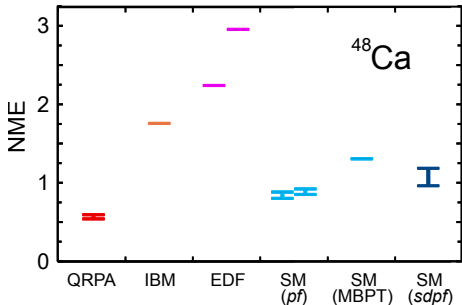
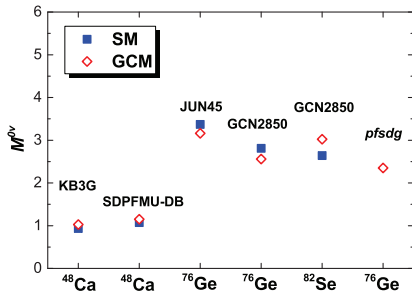
Engel, JM, Rep. Prog. Phys. 80 046301 (2017)

# Shell model matrix elements in two shells

$^{48}\text{Ca} \rightarrow ^{48}\text{Ti}$   $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay

Enlarge configuration space  
from *pf* to *sdpf*, 4 to 7 orbitals

Test excitation energy of  $0_2^+$  in  
 $^{48}\text{Ca}$  off by 1.3MeV in *pf* shell



Nuclear matrix element  
increases moderately 30%

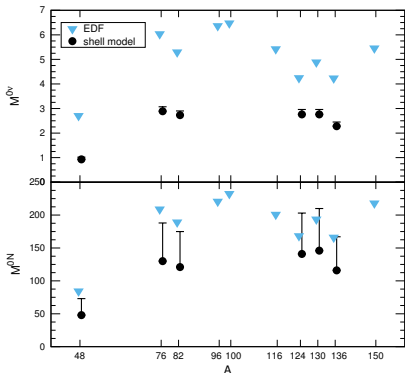
Iwata et al. PRL116 112502 (2016)

Likewise, very mild effect  
found in GCM calculations of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$

Jiao et al. PRC96 054310 (2017)

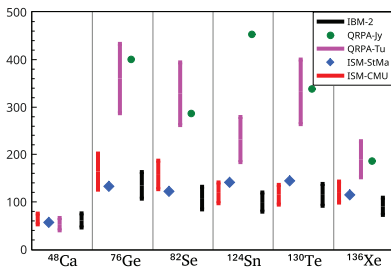
# Heavy-neutrino exchange nuclear matrix elements

Contrary to light-neutrino-exchange, for heavy-neutrino-exchange decay shell model, IBM, and EDF matrix elements agree reasonably!



Song et al. PRC95 024305 (2017)

JM, JPG 45 014003 (2018)



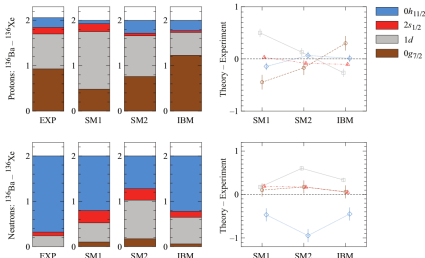
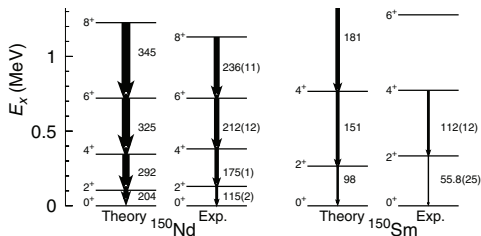
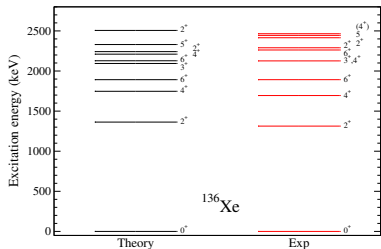
Neacsu et al. PRC100 052503 (2015)

In general, nuclear matrix elements can be expressed in terms of Light and Heavy  $\nu$  exchange ones

Cirigliano et al. JHEP 12 082 (2017)

# 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)

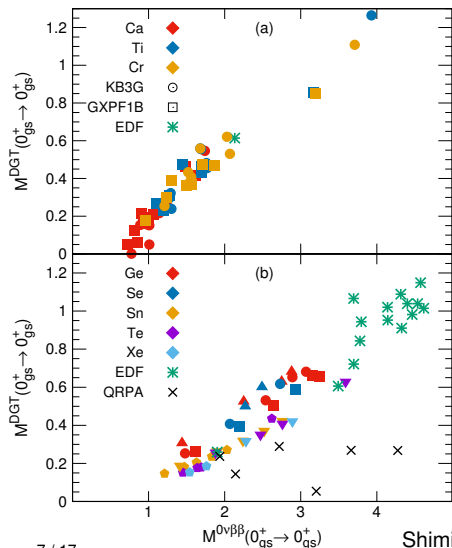
Rodríguez et al. PRL105 252503 (2010)

...

Vietze et al. PRD91 043520 (2015)



# DGT and $0\nu\beta\beta$ : heavy nuclei and $\beta\beta$ emitters



DGT transition to ground state  
very good linear correlation  
with  $0\nu\beta\beta$  matrix elements

$\Rightarrow$

DGT explored @RIKEN, INFN  
can give insight to  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay

Correlation across nuclear chart  
from Ca to Ge and Xe

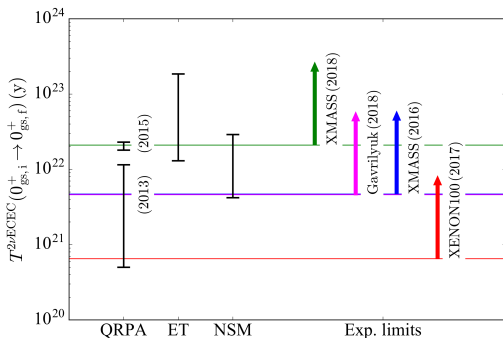
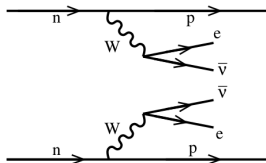
Common to nuclear shell model  
energy-density functional theory  
and interacting boson model  
 $0 \lesssim M^{0\nu\beta\beta} \lesssim 5$   
disagreement to QRPA

# Two-neutrino $\beta\beta$ decay and ECEC

Test of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay: comparison of predicted  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay vs data

Shell model  
reproduce  $2\nu\beta\beta$  data  
including “quenching”  
common to  $\beta$  decays  
in same mass region

Shell model prediction  
previous to  
 $^{48}\text{Ca}$  measurement!

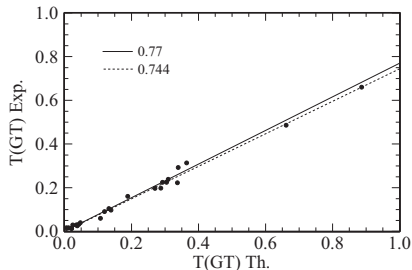
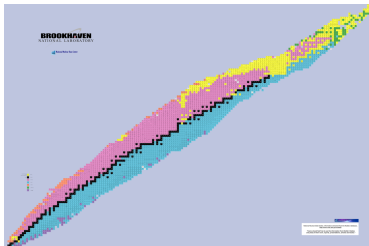


Coello Pérez, JM, Schwenk, arXiv:1809.04443

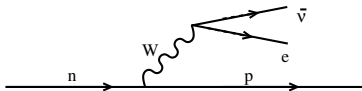
Shell model, QRPA and Effective theory  
predictions of  $^{124}\text{Xe}$   $2\nu\text{ECEC}$  suggest  
experimental detection in near future

# $\beta$ decays

$\beta$  decays ( $e^-$  capture) main decay model along nuclear chart  
 In general well described by nuclear structure theory: shell model...



Martinez-Pinedo et al. PRC53 2602(1996)



$$\langle F | \sum_i [g_A \sigma_i \tau_i^-]^{\text{eff}} | I \rangle, \quad [\sigma_i \tau_i]_{\text{eff}} \approx 0.7 \sigma_i \tau_i$$

Gamow-Teller transitions:  
 theory needs  $\sigma_i \tau_i$  "quenching"

# 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

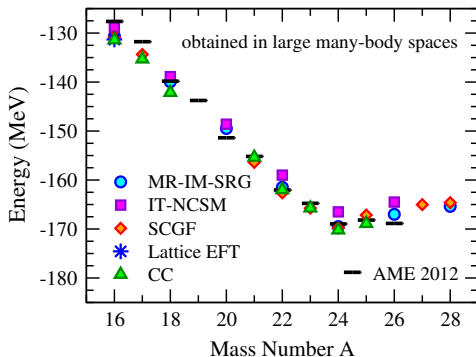
Hergert et al. PRL110 242501(2013)

Self-consistent Green's  
function

Cipollone et al. PRL111 062501(2013)

Coupled-clusters

Jansen et al. PRL113 142502(2014)

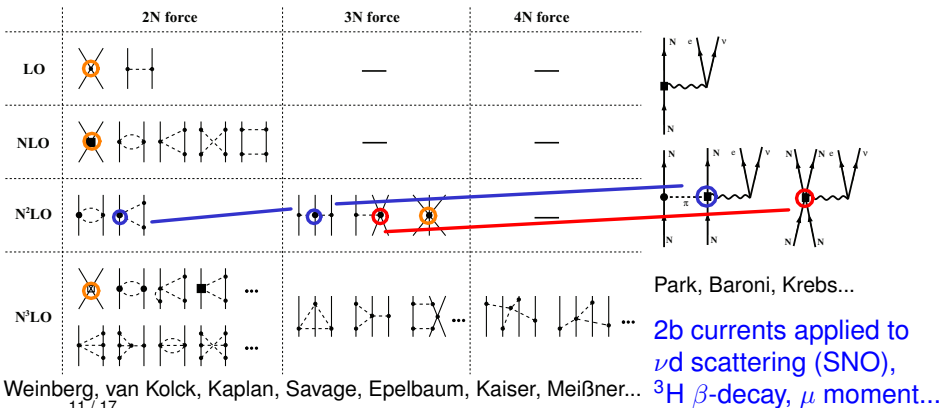


# Chiral effective field theory

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

Approximate chiral symmetry: pion exchanges, contact interactions

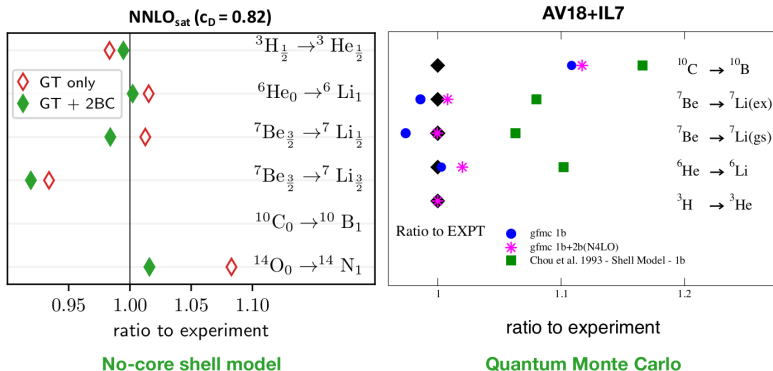
Systematic expansion: nuclear forces and electroweak currents



# $\beta$ decay in very light nuclei: GFMC vs NCSM

## Quantum Monte Carlo, No Core Shell Model $\beta$ decays in $A \leq 10$

Pastore et al. PRC97 022501 (2018), G. Hagen et al., INT-18-1a program



Very good agreement to experiment, except  ${}^{10}\text{C}$  (structure)

Impact of 2b currents small (few %), disagreement on sign

# $\beta$ decay in medium-mass nuclei: IMSRG

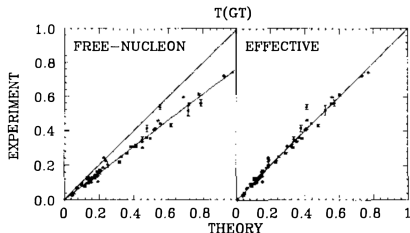


“Quenching” of  $g_A$  in Gamow-Teller Decays

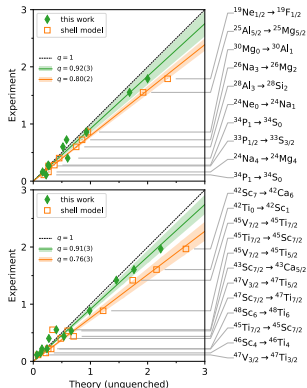
VS-IMSRG calculations of GT transitions in sd, pf shells

Minor effect from consistent effective operator

Significant effect from neglected 2-body currents



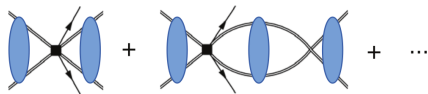
Ab initio calculations explain data with unquenched  $g_A$



From J. Holt, INT-18-1a program

# Open questions: contact operator, $\beta\beta$ 2b currents

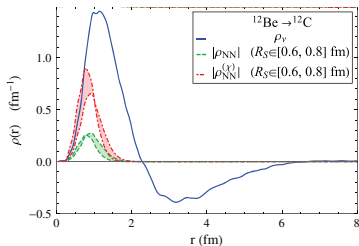
## Contact light-neutrino operator



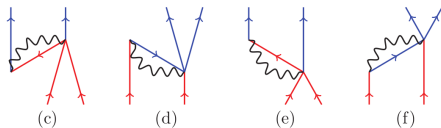
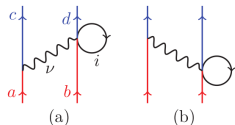
Cirigliano et al. PRL120 202001(2018)

Unknown coupling value

Short-range character



## Two-body currents in $\beta\beta$ decay



Estimated effect  $\sim 10\%$

Wang et al. PRC98 031301 (2018)

compared to  $\sim 20\%$   
in  $\beta$  decay (“quenching”)

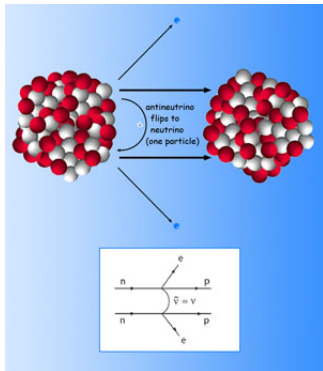
JM et al. PRL107 062501(2011)



# Summary

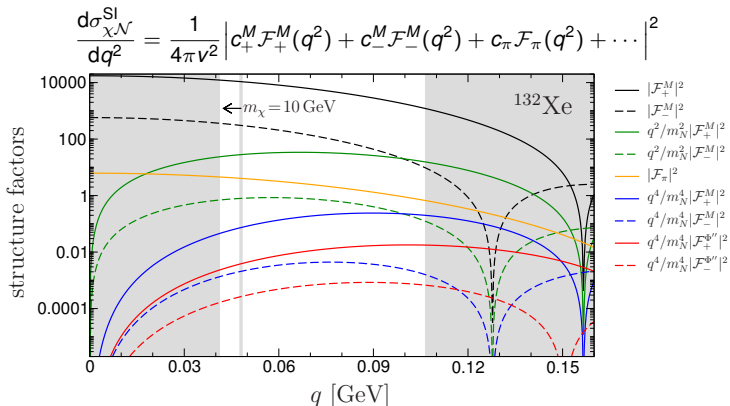
Nuclear matrix elements are key for the design of next-generation tonne-scale  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay experiments and for fully exploiting the experimental results

- Present matrix element calculations disagree suggested convergence of QRPA results  
Need improved calculations, guidance from other nuclear experiments
- Ab initio calculations in light nuclei solve much of  $\beta$  decay "quenching" problem  
ab initio matrix elements in  $\beta\beta$  emitters soon!
- Double GT transitions,  $^{124}\text{Xe } 2\nu\beta\beta$  decay, pursued in RIKEN, INFN, XMASS, XENON promising insight on  $0\nu\beta\beta$  matrix elements



# Nuclear structure factors for dark matter scattering

Cross section depends on nuclear structure factors  $\mathcal{F}$ :  
spin-independent (SI), spin-dependent (SD), coherent pion coupling...



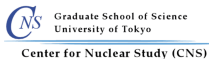
For xenon in Hoferichter et al. PRD94 063505 (2016)

For argon, fluorine, germanium... very soon in the arXiv, stay tuned!

# Collaborators



T. Otsuka  
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