

# Beta spectral shapes – A versatile tool for probing weak interactions

Jouni Suhonen

Department of Physics, University of Jyväskylä

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## Contents:

- Intro: Effective value of  $g_A$
- Double beta decays and the  $g_A$  problem
- Enhancement of axial charge
- Electron spectral shapes and reactor  $\bar{\nu}$
- Spectral shapes and the  $g_A$  problem
- About backgrounds in rare-events experiments

The PCVC hypothesis  $\Rightarrow g_A = 1.27$

⇓ Non-nucleonic degrees of freedom (delta resonances)

⇓ Nuclear many-body effects (two-body currents)

⇓ Nuclear-model effects (configuration-space truncations, neglect of three-nucleon forces,...)

Effective value:  $g_A^{\text{eff}}$

# Effective value of $g_A$ affects everything

## Motivation:

Effective value of the weak coupling  $g_A$  is involved in all weak processes, and thus have impact on

- studies of rare  $\beta$  decays
- processes in neutrino physics ( $\beta\beta$  decay, low-energy (anti)neutrino-nucleus scattering, nuclear muon capture, ...)
- processes in astrophysics (allowed and forbidden  $\beta$  decays, (anti)neutrino-nucleus scattering cross sections, ...)

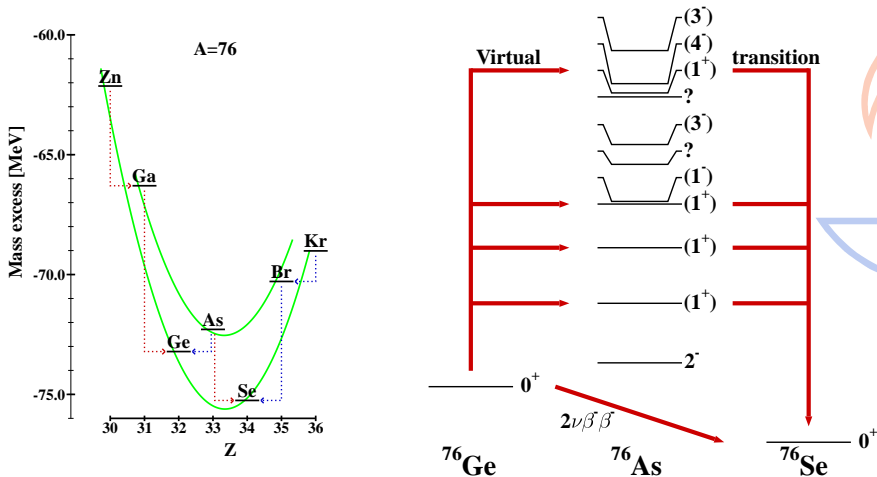


Affects (strongly) the determination of neutrino properties!

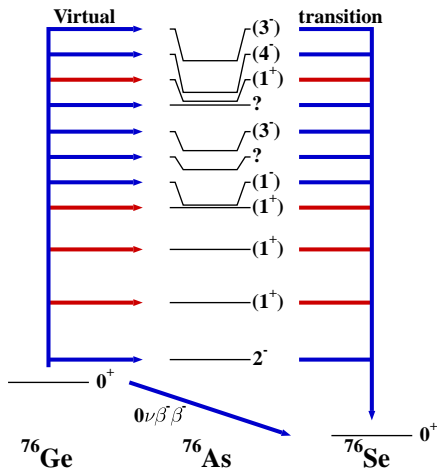
# Motivation for the Work: Double Beta Decay



# $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay from nuclear-structure point of view



# $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay from nuclear-structure point of view



Decay rate:

$$\frac{\ln 2}{T_{1/2}} = (g_A)^4 g^{(0\nu)}(Q) [M^{(0\nu)}]^2 \langle m_\nu \rangle^2$$

- $g^{(0\nu)}(Q) \propto Q^5$  is the phase-space factor
- $M^{(0\nu)}$  = NUCLEAR MATRIX ELEMENT
- Effective neutrino mass:

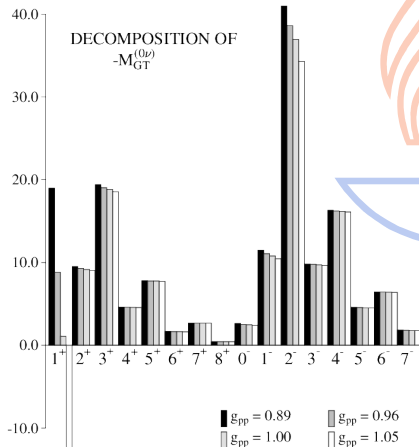
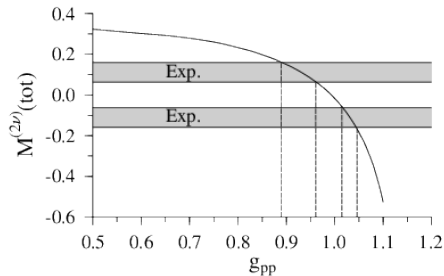
$$\langle m_\nu \rangle = \sum_{j=\text{light}} \lambda_j^{\text{CP}} |U_{ej}|^2 m_j$$

- Light and heavy Majorana-neutrino exchange: J. Hyvärinen and J.S., Phys. Rev. C 91 (2015) 024613

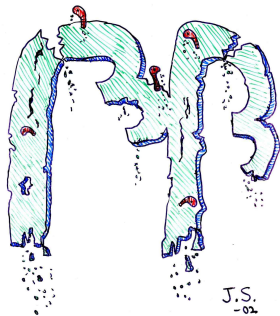
# Decomposition of the $0\nu\beta\beta$ NME in pnQRPA

$$M_{\text{GT}}^{(0\nu)} = \sum_{J^\pi} M_{\text{GT}}^{(0\nu)}(J^\pi),$$

$$M_{\text{GT}}^{(0\nu)}(J^\pi) = \sum_{n\lambda} \langle 0_f^+ \| \sum_j [\sigma_j F_\lambda(\mathbf{r}_j)]_J t_j^- \| J^\pi_n \rangle \\ \times \langle J^\pi_n \| \sum_j [\sigma_j F_\lambda(\mathbf{r}_j)]_J t_j^- \| 0_i^+ \rangle$$



# Motivation for the studies of $g_A^{\text{eff}}$



- DECAY:

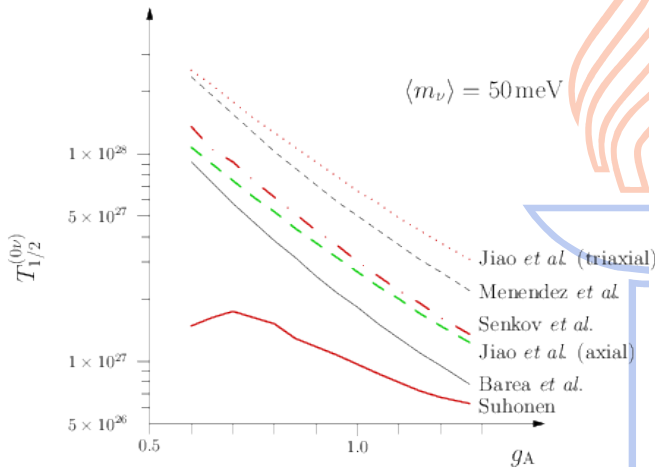
$$2\nu\beta\beta - \text{rate} \sim \left| M_{\text{GTGT}}^{(2\nu)} \right|^2 = (g_A)^4 \left| \sum_{m,n} \frac{M_L(1_m^+) M_R(1_n^+)}{D_m} \right|^2$$

$$0\nu\beta\beta - \text{rate} \sim \left| M_{\text{GTGT}}^{(0\nu)} \right|^2 = (g_{A,0\nu})^4 \left| \sum_{J^\pi} (0_f^+ \| \mathcal{O}_{\text{GTGT}}^{(0\nu)}(J^\pi) \| 0_i^+) \right|^2$$

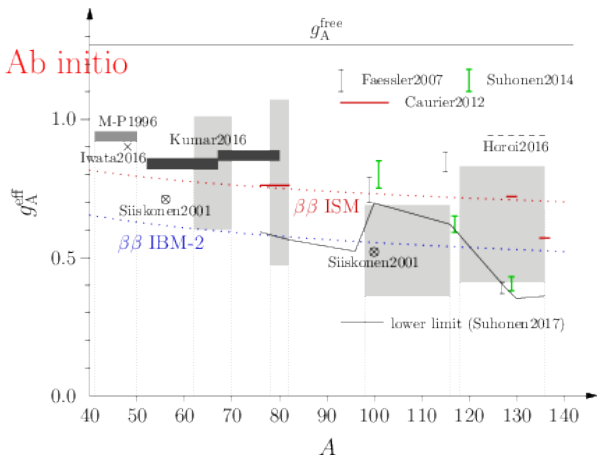


# Example: $0\nu\beta\beta$ NMEs of $^{76}\text{Ge}$ , effect on the half-life

- **Jiao *et al.*:** Phys. Rev. C 96 (2017) 054310 (GCM+ISM)
- **Menendez *et al.*:** Nucl. Phys. A 818 (2009) 139 (ISM)
- **Senkov *et al.*:** Phys. Rev. C 93 (2016) 044334 (ISM)
- **Barea *et al.*:** Phys. Rev. C 91 (2015) 034304 (IBM-2)
- **Suhonen:** Phys. Rev. C 96 (2017) 055501 (pnQRPA +  $g_{pp}$  + isospin restoration + **data on  $2\nu\beta\beta$** )



# Collection of results extracted from the GT $\beta^\pm$ /EC and $2\nu\beta\beta$ calculations



**Ab initio:** P. Gysbers *et al.*, Nature Physics 15 (2019) 428

- Faessler2007: **pnQRPA** A. Faessler *et al.*, arXiv 0711.3996v1 [Nucl-th]
- Suhonen2014: **pnQRPA** J. Suhonen *et al.*, Nucl. Phys. A 924 (2014) 1
- Suhonen2017: **pnQRPA** J. Suhonen, Phys. Rev. C 96 (2017) 055501
- Caurier2012: **ISM** E. Caurier *et al.*, Phys. Lett. B 711 (2012) 62
- Horoi2016: **ISM** M. Horoi *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 93 (2016) 024308
- M-P1996: **ISM** G. Martínez-Pinedo *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 53 (1996) R2602
- Iwata2016: **ISM** Y. Iwata *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 116 (2016) 112502
- Kumar2016: **ISM** V. Kumar *et al.*, J. Phys. G 43 (2016) 105104 Phys. Lett. B 711 (2012) 62
- Siiskonen2001: **ISM** T. Siiskonen *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 63 (2001) 055501
- **$\beta\beta$  ISM and IBM-2:** J. Barea *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 87 (2013) 014315
- Light hatched regions: **pnQRPA** H. Ejiri *et al.*, J. Phys. G 42 (2015) 055201 ; P. Pirinen *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 91 (2015) 054309 ; F. Deppisch *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 94 (2016) 055501

Results from:

Effective value of  $g_A$

as derived from

half-lives and  $\beta$  spectral shapes  
of

first-forbidden non-unique  $\beta$  decays

# First-forbidden non-unique $J^+ \leftrightarrow J^- \beta$ decays

## Enhancement of the time component of the axial current:

Nuclear matrix elements

$$g_A \mathcal{M}_{K+1,K,1} \text{ (unique transitions)} ; g_A \mathcal{M}_{K,K,1} ; g_V \mathcal{M}_{K,K,0} ; g_V \mathcal{M}_{K,K-1,1}$$

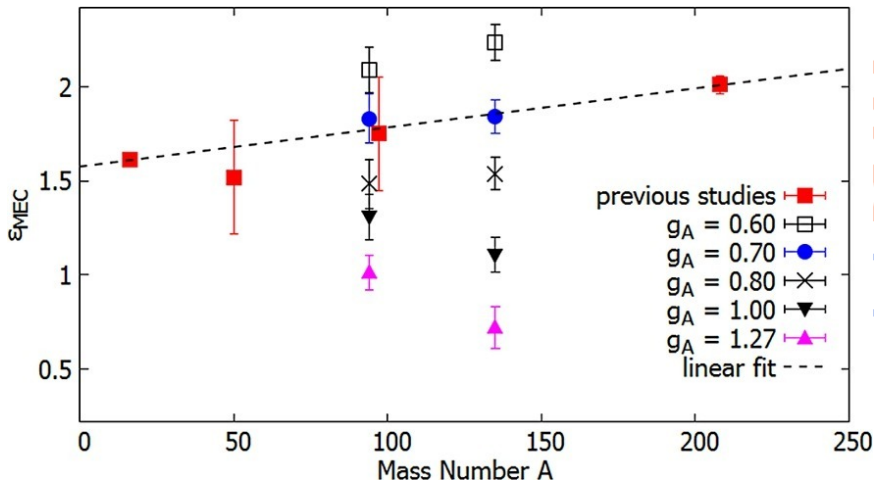
for  $K$ -fold forbidden  $\beta$  transitions emerge from the nucleonic current  $j_N^\mu = g_V \gamma^\mu - g_A \gamma^\mu \gamma^5$ .  
Two additional contributions ( $g_A \mathcal{M}_{0,1,1} ; g_A \mathcal{M}_{0,0,0}$ ) for  $J^+ \leftrightarrow J^- \beta$  decays:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{space components} & g_A \gamma^k \gamma^5 \longrightarrow g_A \mathbf{r} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \\ \text{time component} & g_A \gamma^0 \gamma^5 \longrightarrow g_A (\gamma^5) \frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p}_e}{M_N c^2} \quad (\text{axial charge}) \end{array}$$

Axial-charge NME  $g_A (\gamma^5) \mathcal{M}_{0,0,0}$

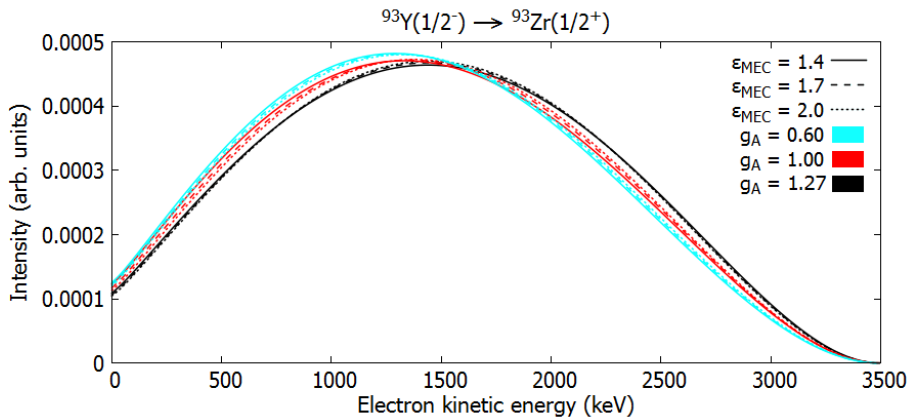
**ENHANCED** through  $g_A (\gamma^5) = \varepsilon_{\text{MEC}} \times g_A$ : Predicted 40 years ago by arguments based on soft-pion theorems and chiral symmetry. In the 90's studied from the perspective of exchange of heavy mesons.

# Axial-charge strength as function of the mass number



Previous studies: E. K. Warburton, I. S. Towner and B. A. Brown, Phys. Rev. C 49 (1994) 824 ; E. K. Warburton, J. A. Becker, B. A. Brown and D. J. Millener, Annals of Physics 187 (1988) 471 ; E. K. Warburton, Phys. Rev. C 44 (1991) 233.

# Effect of axial-charge strength on $\beta$ spectra



From: J. Kostensalo, J. S., Mesonic enhancement of the weak axial charge and its effect on the half-lives and spectral shapes of first-forbidden  $J^+ \leftrightarrow J^-$  decays, Phys. Lett. B 781 (2018) 480 (computed by using the ISM).

# Introducing the **SSM**: Spectrum-Shape Method

$$g_{A,0\nu}(J^\pi) \xrightarrow{q \rightarrow 0} g_A(J^\pi)$$

Higher-multipole transitions: **Spectrum-Shape Method (SSM)\***:

Effective value of  $g_A(J^\pi)$

as derived from

electron spectra of

**forbidden non-unique**  $\beta$  decays

\*First introduced in: M. Haaranen, P. C. Srivastava and J. S., Forbidden nonunique  $\beta$  decays and effective values of weak coupling constants, Phys. Rev. C 93 (2016) 034308

## Spectral shape of higher-forbidden non-unique $\beta$ decays

Half-life:

$$t_{1/2} = \kappa / \tilde{S}.$$

Dimensionless integrated shape function:

$$\tilde{S} = \int_1^{w_0} S(w_e) dw_e, \quad S(w_e) = C(w_e) p w_e (w_0 - w_e)^2 F_0(Z_f, w_e).$$

Shape factor:

$$C(w_e) = \sum_{k_e, k_\nu, K} \lambda_{k_e} \left[ M_K(k_e, k_\nu)^2 + m_K(k_e, k_\nu)^2 - \frac{2\gamma_{k_e}}{k_e w_e} M_K(k_e, k_\nu) m_K(k_e, k_\nu) \right],$$

where

$$\lambda_{k_e} = \frac{F_{k_e-1}(Z, w_e)}{F_0(Z, w_e)}; \quad \gamma_{k_e} = \sqrt{k_e^2 - (\alpha Z_f)^2},$$

$F_{k-1}(Z, w_e)$  being the generalized Fermi function.

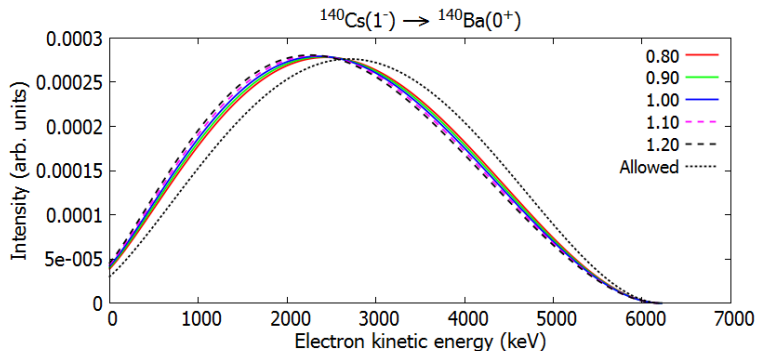
**Decomposition of the shape factor:**

$$C(w_e) = g_V^2 C_V(w_e) + g_A^2 C_A(w_e) + g_V g_A C_{VA}(w_e).$$



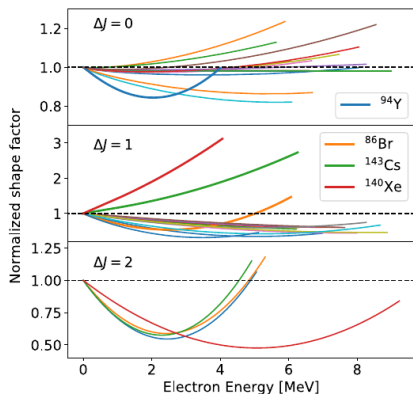
# EXAMPLE: 1st-forbidden nonunique decay of $^{140}\text{Cs}$

First-forbidden nonunique  $\beta^-$  transition  $^{140}\text{Cs}(1^-) \rightarrow ^{140}\text{Ba}(0^+)$ : a high-yield fission product  $\rightarrow$  **Contributes to the reactor-flux anomalies!**



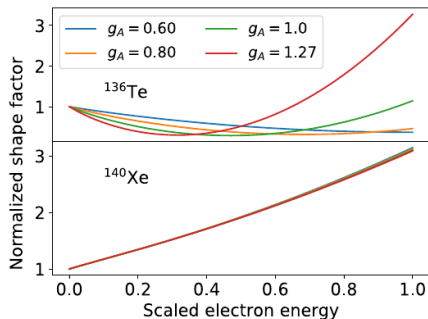
For the **allowed approximation** we have just a multiplicative factor and a **universal spectral shape** (independent of  $g_A$ ):  $C(w_e)_{\text{allowed}} = \frac{1}{2J_i+1} (g_A^2 M_{\text{GT}}^2 + g_V^2 M_{\text{F}}^2) \neq$  function of  $w_e$

# Important contributions from **first-forbidden** $\beta$ decays to the reactor antineutrino spectra (deviations from the allowed spectral shape)



**pseudoscalar** ( $\Delta J = 0$ , non-unique),  
**pseudovector** ( $\Delta J = 1$ , non-unique) and  
**pseudotensor** ( $\Delta J = 2$ , unique) transitions

**Pseudovector** transitions with ( $^{136}\text{Te}$ ) and without ( $^{140}\text{Xe}$ )  $g_A$  dependence



The transitions  $^{137}\text{Xe}(7/2^-) \rightarrow ^{137}\text{Cs}(7/2_{gs}^+, 5/2_1^+)$  are highly interesting: Measurement of the spectral shapes by EXO-200

# Results from the analyses including the $\beta$ spectra

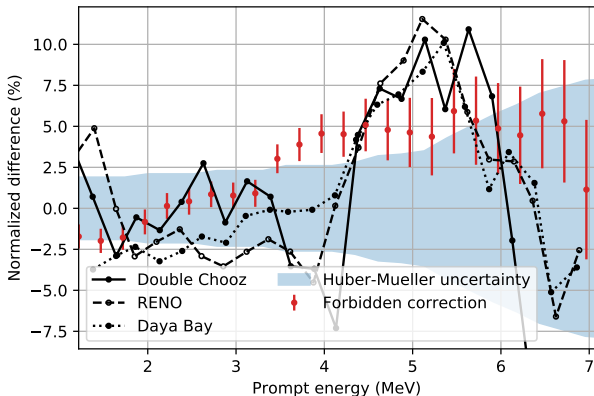
Taking into account the  
(first-forbidden) decays of

$^{86}\text{Br}(0^+)$ ,  $^{86}\text{Br}(2^+)$ ,  $^{87}\text{Se}$ ,  $^{88}\text{Rb}$ ,  
 $^{89}\text{Br}(3/2^+)$ ,  $^{89}\text{Br}(5/2^+)$ ,  $^{90}\text{Rb}$ ,  
 $^{91}\text{Kr}(5/2^-)$ ,  $^{91}\text{Kr}(3/2^-)$ ,  $^{92}\text{Rb}$ ,  
 $^{92}\text{Y}$ ,  $^{93}\text{Rb}$ ,  $^{94}\text{Y}(0^+)$ ,  $^{94}\text{Y}(0^+)$ ,  
 $^{95}\text{Rb}(7/2^+)$ ,  $^{95}\text{Rb}(3/2^+)$ ,  $^{95}\text{Sr}$ ,  
 $^{96}\text{Y}$ ,  $^{97}\text{Y}$ ,  $^{98}\text{Y}$ ,  $^{133}\text{Sn}$ ,  $^{134m}\text{Sb}(6^+)$ ,  
 $^{134m}\text{Sb}(6+?)$ ,  $^{135}\text{Te}$ ,  $^{136m}\text{I}$ ,  $^{137}\text{I}$ ,  
 $^{138}\text{I}$ ,  $^{139}\text{Xe}$ ,  $^{140}\text{Cs}$ ,  $^{142}\text{Cs}$

changes the  $\bar{\nu}$  flux by a few  
% !

**HKSS flux model:**

See: L. Hayen, J. Kostensalo, N. Severijns, J.S., First-forbidden transitions in reactor antineutrino spectra/in the reactor anomaly, Phys. Rev. C 99 (2019) 031301(R) ; Phys. Rev. C 100 (2019) 054323

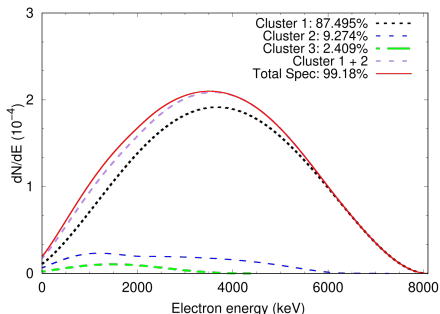


The spectral shoulder appears due to forbidden  
spectral corrections !

# Clear evidence of a contribution to the spectral "bump": The case of $^{92}\text{Rb}$

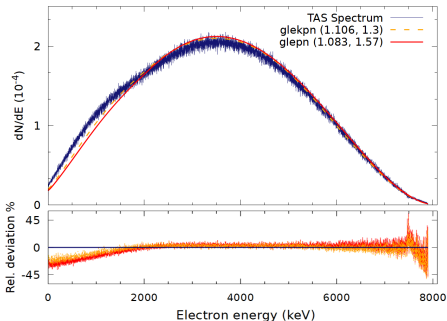
Pioneering calculation of a total  $\beta$ -electron spectrum of a high- $Q$  reactor fission product: The  $\beta^-$  decay of  $^{92}\text{Rb}$  with a  $Q$  value of 8.095 MeV

## Computed cumulative electron spectrum



**Cluster 1:** gs-to-gs transition (based on TAS-measured branching), **Cluster 2:** known 1st-forbidden transitions (based on TAS-measured branchings), **Cluster 3:** unresolved higher-energy 1st-forbidden and allowed transitions

Comparison of the computed total spectrum with the TAS spectrum. Computations done by using two available shell-model interactions.

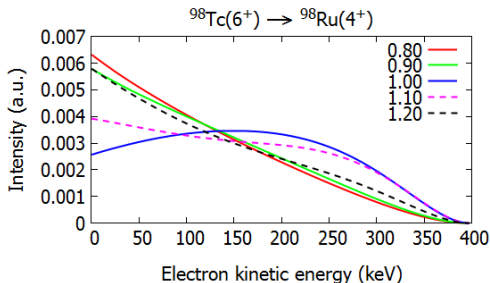
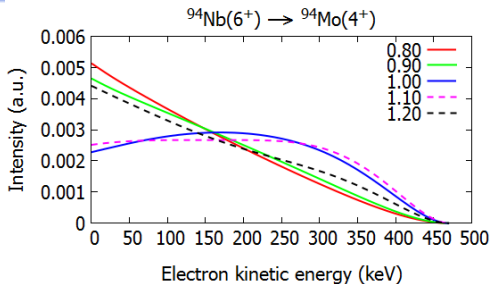


TAS spectrum obtained from the TAS-measured (A. Algorta et al.) branchings assuming all transitions to be allowed.

# ISM-computed $\beta$ spectra for different values of $g_A$

Normalized ISM-computed  
electron spectra for the  
**2nd-forbidden nonunique**  
 $\beta^-$  decays of  $^{94}\text{Nb}$  and  $^{98}\text{Tc}$   
( $g_V = 1.0$ ).

From: J. Kostensalo and J. S.,  
 $g_A$ -driven shapes of electron  
spectra of forbidden  $\beta$  decays in  
the nuclear shell model, Phys.  
Rev. C 96 (2017) 024317

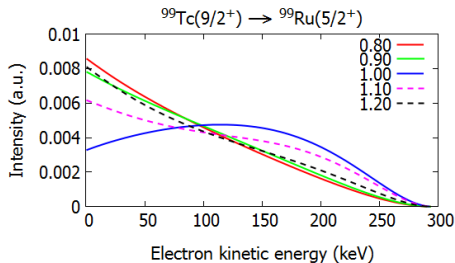


# Example: ISM- and MQPM-computed electron spectra

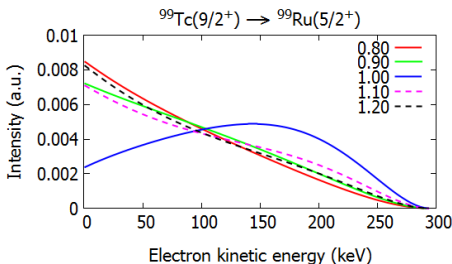
Normalized electron spectra for the **2nd-forbidden nonunique**  $\beta^-$  decay of  $^{99}\text{Tc}$  ( $g_V = 1.0$ ) using different values of  $g_A$ .

Going to be treated by the **IBS-KNU-KRISS-LUKE-JYFL** group:  
**gA EXPERIMENT and Theory collaboration = gA-EXPERT**  
and

the **GSSI-INFN-LNGS-LUKE-JYFL**  
Collaboration: **Array of Cryogenic Calorimeters to Evaluate Spectral Shapes = ACCESS**



(ISM)

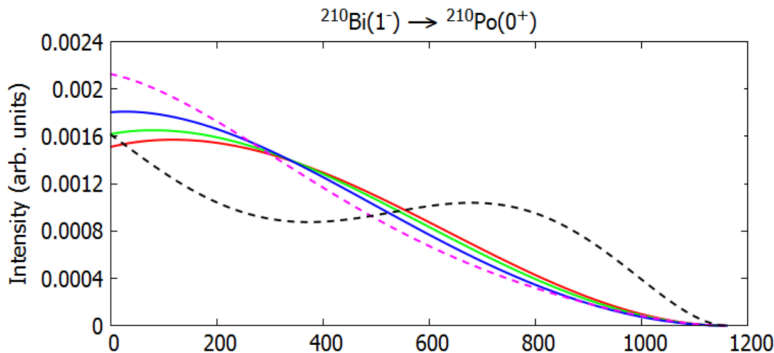


(MQPM)

# EXAMPLE: 1st-forbidden nonunique decay of $^{210}\text{Bi}$

**First-forbidden nonunique**  $\beta^-$  transition  $^{210}\text{Bi}(1^-) \rightarrow ^{210}\text{Po}(0^+)$

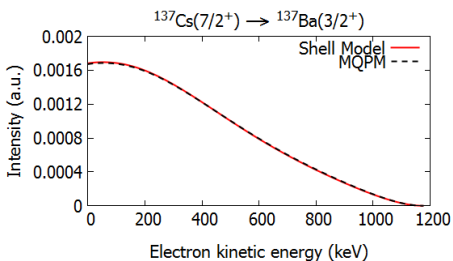
Spectral shapes for different values of  $g_A = 0.80$ (solid red), 0.90, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20(dashed black)



Measured and currently analyzed by the **gA-EXPERT**.

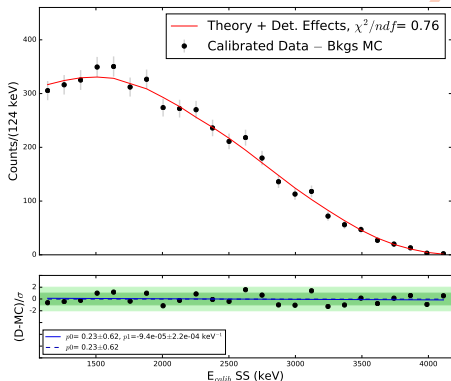
# $\beta$ spectral shapes without dependence on $g_A$

Normalized computed electron spectrum for the 2nd-forbidden nonunique  $\beta^-$  decay of  $^{137}\text{Cs}$



From: J. Kostensalo and J. S., Phys. Rev. C 96 (2017) 024317

First-forbidden nonunique  $\beta^-$  decay



From: S. Al Kharusi *et al.* (EXO-200 Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 232502.



# Old list of $g_A$ -dependent $\beta$ -spectrum shapes

Transition	$J_i^{\pi_i}$ (gs)	$J_f^{\pi_f}$ ( $n_f$ )	Branching	$K$	Sensitivity	Nuclear model
$^{59}\text{Fe} \rightarrow ^{59}\text{Co}$	$3/2^-$	$7/2^-$ (gs)	0.18%	2	Moderate	ISM
$^{60}\text{Fe} \rightarrow ^{60}\text{Co}$	$0^+$	$2^+$ (gs)	100%	2	Moderate	ISM
$^{87}\text{Rb} \rightarrow ^{87}\text{Sr}$	$3/2^-$	$9/2^+$ (gs)	100%	3	Moderate	MQPM, ISM
$^{94}\text{Nb} \rightarrow ^{94}\text{Mo}$	$6^+$	$4^+$ (2)	100%	2	Strong	ISM
$^{98}\text{Tc} \rightarrow ^{98}\text{Ru}$	$6^+$	$4^+$ (3)	100%	2	Strong	ISM
$^{99}\text{Tc} \rightarrow ^{99}\text{Ru}$	$9/2^+$	$5/2^+$ (gs)	100%	2	Strong	MQPM, ISM
$^{113}\text{Cd} \rightarrow ^{113}\text{In}$	$1/2^+$	$9/2^+$ (gs)	100%	4	Strong	MQPM, ISM, IBFM-2
$^{115}\text{In} \rightarrow ^{115}\text{Sn}$	$9/2^+$	$1/2^+$ (gs)	100%	4	Strong	MQPM, ISM, IBFM-2
$^{136}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{136}\text{I}$	$0^+$	$(1^-)$ (gs)	8.7%	1	Strong	ISM
$^{137}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{137}\text{Cs}$	$7/2^-$	$5/2^+$ (1)	30%	1	Strong	ISM
$^{138}\text{Cs} \rightarrow ^{138}\text{Ba}$	$3^-$	$3^+$ (1)	44%	1	Strong	ISM
$^{210}\text{Bi} \rightarrow ^{210}\text{Po}$	$1^-$	$0^+$ (gs)	100%	1	Strong	ISM

- Electron spectra of  $^{113}\text{Cd}$  (L. Bodenstern-Dresler *et al.*, Phys. Lett. B 800 (2020) 135092) measured by the **COBRA collaboration**.
- Electron spectrum of  $^{115}\text{In}$  measured by using  $\text{LiInSe}_2$  bolometers (**Experimentalists-Jyvaskylä collaboration**).

BUT: Very recent NSM calculations for medium-mass nuclei including the treatment of the **small relativistic vector NME (sNME)**

Motivation:

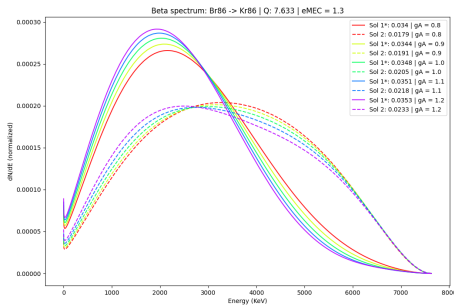
Quest for  $g_A$  sensitive  $\beta$  spectral shapes in the mass  $A = 86 - 99$  region using the nuclear shell model (NSM) (**sNME used as a fitting parameter**)

CVC value of sNME ( $K, K - 1, 1$ ) obtained from large vector NME ( $K, K, 0$ ),  $K = \text{forbiddenness}$ :

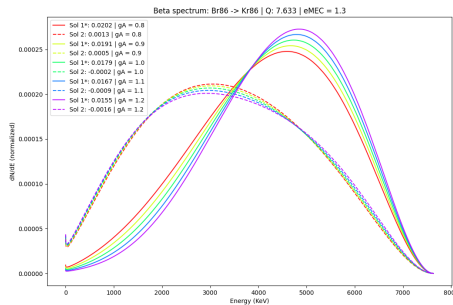
$$\begin{aligned} {}^V \mathcal{M}_{KK-11}^{(0)} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{K(2K+1)}} \left[ \frac{(W_0 + M_p c^2 - M_n c^2) R}{\hbar c} + \frac{6}{5} \alpha Z \right] {}^V \mathcal{M}_{KK0}^{(0)} / R \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{K(2K+1)}} \left( \frac{\Delta_{T, T-1} R}{\hbar c} \right) {}^V \mathcal{M}_{KK0}^{(0)} / R \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

# Role of the sNME: Transition $^{86}\text{Br}(1^-) \rightarrow ^{86}\text{Kr}(0^+)$

sNME 1\* (solid lines) can be considered more consistent with the CVC value of sNME



With the  $gLeqpn$  NSM Hamiltonian

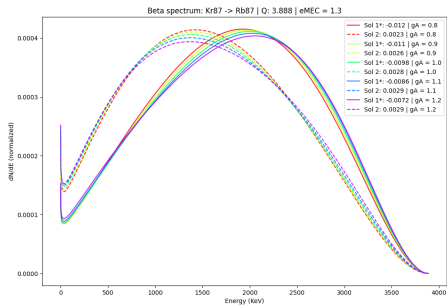


With the  $jj45pnb$  NSM Hamiltonian

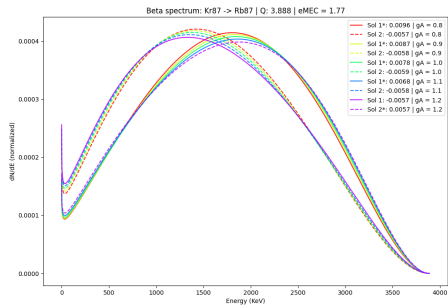
These spectra depend on  $g_A$ , sNME and the NSM Hamiltonian!

# Role of the sNME: Transition $^{87}\text{Kr}(5/2^+) \rightarrow ^{87}\text{Rb}(3/2^-)$

sNME 1\* (solid lines) can be considered more consistent with the CVC value of sNME



With the *glepn* NSM Hamiltonian



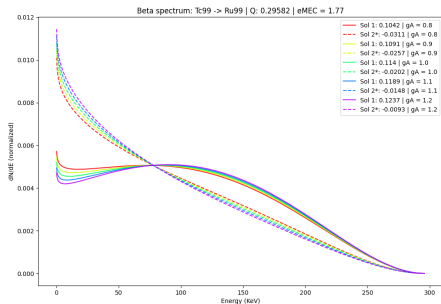
With the *jj45pnb* NSM Hamiltonian

These spectra depend on  $g_A$  and sNME!

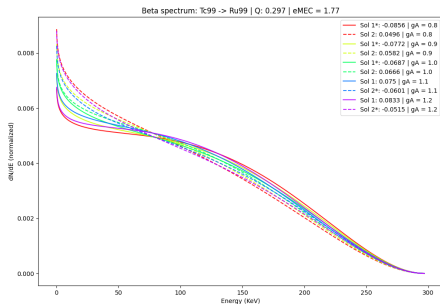
# Role of the sNME: Transition $^{99}\text{Tc}(9/2^+) \rightarrow ^{99}\text{Ru}(5/2^+)$

sNME 2\* (dashed lines) can be considered more consistent with the CVC value of sNME

It also looks consistent with the recently measured experimental spectrum !



With the *glekpn* NSM Hamiltonian

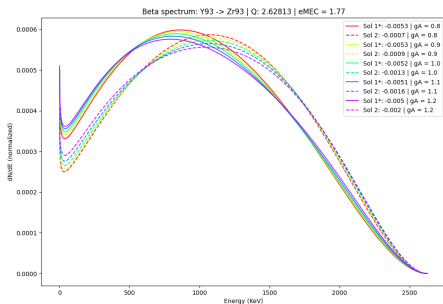


With the *jj45pnb* NSM Hamiltonian

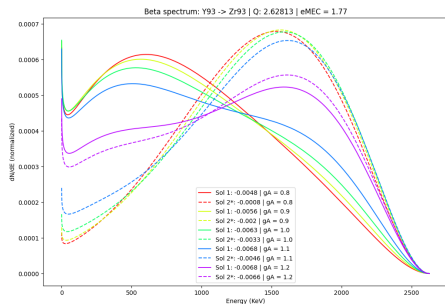
These spectra depend on  $g_A$ , sNME and the NSM Hamiltonian!

# Role of the sNME: Transition $^{93}\text{Y}(1/2^-) \rightarrow ^{93}\text{Zr}(3/2^+)$

sNME 1\* (solid lines) for the *glekpn* interaction and sNME 2\* (dashed lines) for the *jj45pnb* interaction can be considered more consistent with the CVC value of sNME



With the *glekpn* NSM Hamiltonian

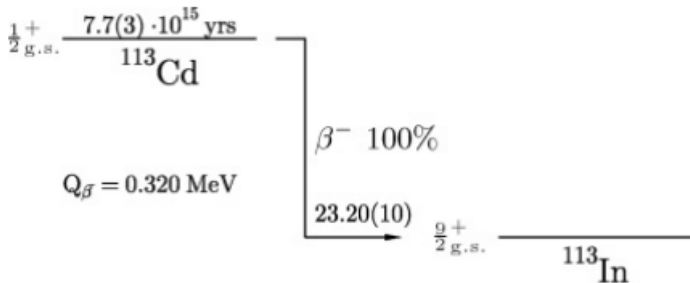


With the *jj45pnb* NSM Hamiltonian

These spectra depend on  $g_A$ , sNME and the NSM Hamiltonian!

# EXAMPLE: 4th-forbidden nonunique decay of $^{113}\text{Cd}$

4th-forbidden nonunique  $\beta^-$  transition  $^{113}\text{Cd}(1/2^+) \rightarrow ^{113}\text{In}(9/2^+)$



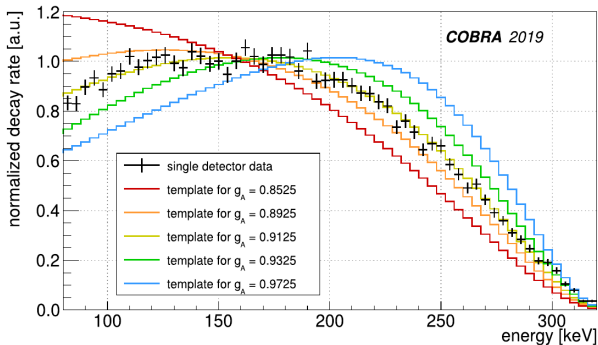
Calculated by using the **Interacting Shell Model (ISM)**, the **Microscopic Quasiparticle-Phonon Model (MQPM)** and the **microscopic Interacting Boson-Fermion Model (IBFM-2)**.

# Decay of $^{113}\text{Cd}$ – Comparison with data

Normalized electron spectra  
for the 4<sup>th</sup>-forbidden  
nonunique  $\beta^-$  transition  
 $^{113}\text{Cd}(1/2^+) \rightarrow ^{113}\text{In}(9/2^+)$   
( $g_V = 1.0$ ).

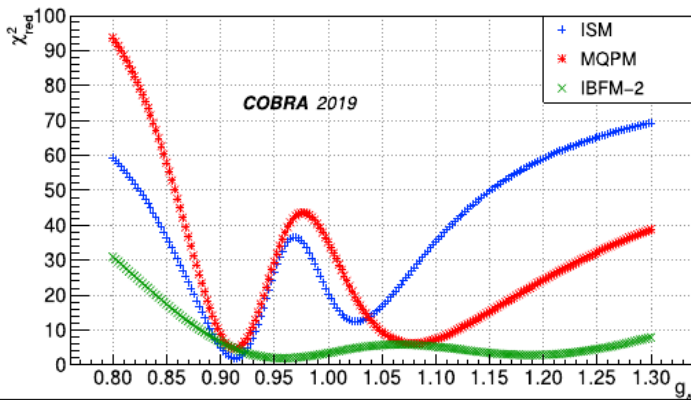
Experimental data from  
The **COBRA** collaboration:  
PLB2020: L. Bodenstern-Dresler  
*et al.*, Phys. Lett. B 800 (2020)  
135092.

Measured spectrum by detector no. 54:





# Decay of $^{113}\text{Cd}$ – Comparison with data



PLB2020 :  $\bar{g}_A(\text{ISM}) = 0.914 \pm 0.008$ ; PLB2021 :=  $0.907 \pm 0.064$ (sNME included)  
PLB2020 :  $\bar{g}_A(\text{MQPM}) = 0.910 \pm 0.013$ ; PLB2021 :=  $0.993 \pm 0.063$ (sNME included)  
PLB2020 :  $\bar{g}_A(\text{IBFM-2}) = 0.955 \pm 0.035$ ; PLB2021 :=  $0.828 \pm 0.140$ (sNME included)

PLB2021: J. Kostensalo, J. S., J. Volkmer, S. Zatschler and K. Zuber, Phys. Lett. B 822 (2021) 136652

# Decay of $^{113}\text{Cd} - g_A^{\text{eff}}$ using spectral moments

SMM = Spectral Moments Method

$$\mu_n = \int_{w_{\text{thr}}}^{w_0} S(w_e) w_e^n dw_e,$$

$n = 0 \leftrightarrow$  area under the spectral curve  $\leftrightarrow T_{1/2}$

$n = 1 \leftrightarrow$  mean energy

$n = 2 \leftrightarrow$  variance

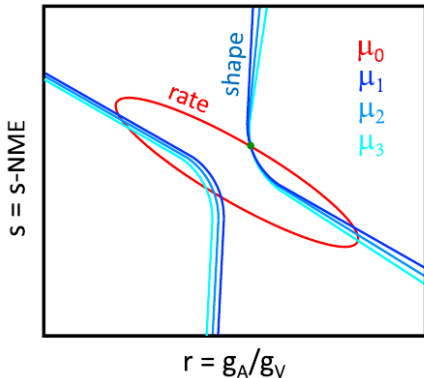
Usually only first few moments  $\mu$  are enough!

Result from

J. Kostensalo, E. Lisi, A. Marrone and J.

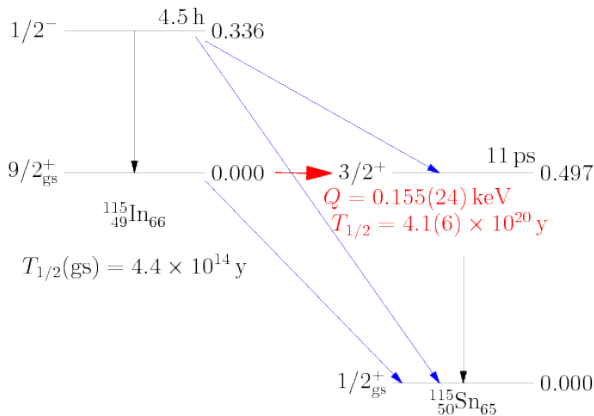
S.,  $^{113}\text{Cd}$   $\beta$ -decay spectrum and  $g_A$  quenching using spectral moments,

Phys. Rev. C 107 (2023) 055502.



$$\begin{aligned}\bar{g}_A(\text{ISM}) &= 0.96 - 0.99 \\ \bar{g}_A(\text{IBFM-2}) &= 1.03 - 1.13 \\ \bar{g}_A(\text{MQPM}) &= 1.02 - 1.07\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE: 4th-forbidden nonunique transition  $^{115}\text{In}(9/2^+) \rightarrow ^{115}\text{Sn}(1/2^+)$



Interesting ultra-low  $Q$ -value transition: The 2nd-forbidden unique transition

$^{115}\text{In}(9/2^+) \rightarrow ^{115}\text{Sn}(3/2^+)$  has the smallest known  $Q$  value of a nuclear transition: J. S. E.

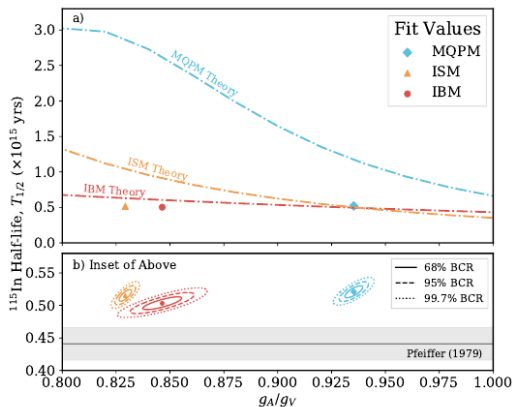
Wieslander *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103 (2009) 122501; B. J. Mount *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103 (2009) 122502.

# Decay of $^{115}\text{In}$ – Comparison with data

Normalized electron spectra  
for the 4th-forbidden  
nonunique  $\beta^-$  decay  
 $^{115}\text{In}(9/2^+) \rightarrow ^{115}\text{Sn}(1/2^+)$   
( $g_V = 1.0$ ).

## Result from

The CEA-CNRS-CSNSM-  
INR-JYFL-MIT-LUKE-UCB  
collaboration: A. F. Leder *et al.*,  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 129 (2022)  
232502 (analyses without the  
sNME adjustment procedure !)



$$\begin{aligned}\bar{g}_A(\text{ISM}) &= 0.830 \pm 0.002 \\ \bar{g}_A(\text{IBFM-2}) &= 0.845 \pm 0.006 \\ \bar{g}_A(\text{MQPM}) &= 0.936 \pm 0.003\end{aligned}$$

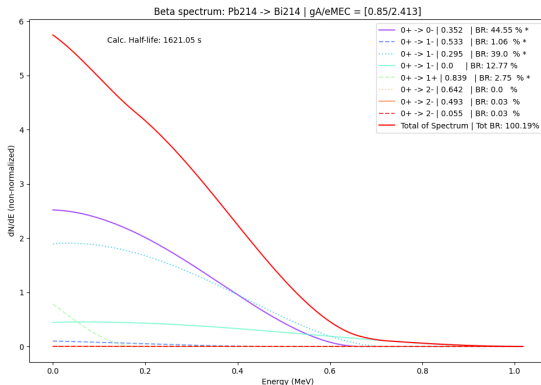
## NOTE: Spectral shapes as background: Total $\beta$ spectrum of $^{214}\text{Pb}$

$^{85}\text{Kr}$ ,  $^{212}\text{Pb}$  and  $^{214}\text{Pb}$  are backgrounds in dark-matter experiments like XENON1T, XENONnT, PandaX, etc. (see S. J. Haselschwardt et al., Phys. Rev. C 102 (2020) 065501).

Beta decay of  $^{214}\text{Pb}$  includes several first-forbidden non-unique transitions from  $0^+$  to  $0^-$  and  $1^-$  states within the decay  $Q$  window.

Total spectrum from M. Ramalho *et al.*, in collaboration with the PandaX dark-matter experiment

The decay chains  $^{212,214}\text{Pb} \rightarrow ^{212,214}\text{Bi} \rightarrow ^{212,214}\text{Po}$  stem from the  $^{220,222}\text{Rn}$  backgrounds



# Conclusions about $g_A$ and the spectral shapes

## Conclusion 1:

The long chain of ISM calculations and the recent pnQRPA and IBM-2 calculations of Gamow-Teller  $\beta$  decays and  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decays are (surprisingly!) **consistent with each other** and clearly point to a  **$A$ -dependent quenched  $g_A$**

## Conclusion 2:

The **spectrum-shape method (SSM)** and the **spectral moments method (SMM)** for forbidden non-unique  $\beta$  decays seem **robust tools** (largely independent of the nuclear model, the assumed Hamiltonian and mean field) to search for the **effective value of  $g_A$**  and to try to solve other problems, like those related to the **reactor- $\bar{\nu}_e$  spectra** and **backgrounds in rare-events experiments**