Towards Next-Generation Nuclear Matrix Elements for Double-Beta Decay

Lotta Jokiniemi (she/her) TRIUMF, Theory Department NME2025 Workshop, RCNP, Osaka, Japan 20/01/2025





Discovery, accelerated





D. Araujo Najera, M. Gennari, M. Drissi, P. Navrátil



D. Castillo, P. Soriano, J. Menéndez



K. Kravvaris



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

B. Romeo

J. Kotila









Introduction

Corrections to $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Nuclear Matrix Elements

Correlations with Other Observables to Constrain the Matrix Elements

Muon Capture as a Probe of $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

Summary





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Double-Beta Decay



Neutrinoless Double-Beta $(0\nu\beta\beta)$ Decay



 $(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z+2) + 2e^{-+2v_e}$











Wendell H. Furry







Neutrinoless Double-Beta $(0\nu\beta\beta)$ Decay

. . .

- Violates lepton-number conservation
- Requires that neutrinos are Majorana particles

Wendell H. Furry

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 2νββ
 Majorana particles
 0νββ

 1935
 1937
 1939





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• If observed, $t_{1/2}^{0\nu} \gtrsim 10^{25}$ years

Maria Goeppert-Mayer Ettore Majorana







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Neutrinoless Double-Beta $(0\nu\beta\beta)$ Decay

- Violates lepton-number conservation
- Requires that neutrinos are Majorana particles
- If observed, $t_{1/2}^{0\nu} \gtrsim 10^{25}$ years $(t_{1/2}^{2\nu} \approx 10^{20}$ years, age of the Universe $\approx 10^{10}$ years)

Maria Goeppert-Mayer Ettore

Ettore Majorana

Wendell H. Furry









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Discovery, accelerated

0vββ-Decay Experiments



\mathcal{R} **TRIUMF** Next-Generation $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Experiments



\mathcal{R} **TRIUMF** Next-Generation $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Experiments



$0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Half-Life

What would be measured

$$\frac{1}{t_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = g_{\rm A}^4 G_{0\nu} |M^{0\nu}|^2 \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$



0vββ-Decay Half-Life

What would be measured



Majorana mass $m_{\beta\beta} = \sum_k (U_{ek})^2 m_k$



T. Shickele, LJ, A. Belley, J. D. Holt, in preparation

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0vββ-Decay Half-Life

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Nuclear matrix element





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Nuclear Many-body Methods

$$H^{(A)}\Psi^{(A)} = E^{(A)}\Psi^{(A)}$$

• Ab initio methods (IMSRG, NCSM,...)



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Combining the Experimental Efforts



Courtesy of T. Shickele



Current Experiments

Current Experiments

Idea from: •

S. D. Biller, Phys. Rev. D 104, 012002 (2021)



T. Shickele, LJ, A. Belley, J. D. Holt, in preparation

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Combined Limits for Effective Majorana Mass

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Next-Generation Experiments

 Likelihood functions constructed from the predicted sensitivities of next-generation experiments:

LEGEND-1000 Collaboration, arXiv:2107.11462(2021) nEXO Collaboration, J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 49 015104 (2022) SNO+II Collaboration, Adv. High Energ. Phys. 2016, 6194250 (2016) CUPID Collaboration, arXiv:2203.08386 (2022) AMoRE Collaboration, Eur. Phys. J. C 85, 9 (2025) NEXT Collaboration, J. High Energ. Phys. 2021, 164 (2021)



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Effective Field Theory For $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay



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V. Cirigliano et al., J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 49, 120502 (2022)


\overrightarrow{c} TRIUMF Effective-Field-Theory Corrections to $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{t_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = g_{\rm A}^4 G^{0\nu} |M_{\rm L}^{0\nu}|^2 \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2}$$

V. Cirigliano et al., Phys. Rev. C 97, 065501 (2018), Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 202001 (2018), Phys. Rev. C 100, 055504 (2019)



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Traditional $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Operators

$$M^{0\nu} = \frac{R}{g_{\mathbf{A}}^2} \int \frac{\mathbf{d}\mathbf{k}}{2\pi^2} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})}}{|\mathbf{k}|} \sum_n \frac{\langle f | J_{\mu}(\mathbf{x}) | n \rangle \langle n | J^{\mu}(\mathbf{y}) | i \rangle}{|\mathbf{k}| + E_n - \frac{1}{2}(E_i + E_f)}$$



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• Traditionally, the nuclear current includes the leading-order (LO) transition operators

$$\mathcal{J}^{0} = \tau[g_{V}(0)]$$

$$J = \tau[g_{A}(0)\boldsymbol{\sigma} - g_{P}(0)\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{p} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})]$$
LO



Traditional $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Operators

$$M^{0\nu} = \frac{R}{g_{\mathrm{A}}^2} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{k}}{2\pi^2} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})}}{|\mathbf{k}|} \sum_n \frac{\left\langle f \right| J_{\mu}(\mathbf{x}) \left| n \right\rangle \left\langle n \right| J^{\mu}(\mathbf{y}) \left| i \right\rangle}{|\mathbf{k}| + E_n - \frac{1}{2}(E_i + E_f)}$$

• Traditionally, the nuclear current includes the leading-order (LO) transition operators

 and next-to-next-to-leading-order (N²LO) corrections absorbed into form factors and induced weak-magnetism terms

$$\mathcal{J}^{0} = \tau [g_{\mathrm{V}}(p^{2})]$$
$$J = \tau \left[g_{\mathrm{A}}(p^{2})\sigma - g_{\mathrm{P}}(p^{2})p(p \cdot \sigma) + ig_{\mathrm{M}}(p^{2})\frac{\sigma \times p}{2m_{\mathrm{N}}}\right]$$



Leading-order short-range contribution to $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

$$\frac{1}{t_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = g_{\rm A}^4 G^{0\nu} |M_{\rm L}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm S}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm usoft}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm N^2LO}^{0\nu}|^2 \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$

V. Cirigliano et al., Phys. Rev. C 97, 065501 (2018), Phys. Per. Lot. 120, 202001 (2018), Phys. Rev. C 100, 055504 (2019)



Contact Term in pnQRPA and NSM

• The contact term reads

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$$\int C_{\rm L/S}(r) {\rm d}r = M_{\rm L/S}^{0\nu}$$



LJ, P. Soriano and J. Menéndez, Phys. Lett. B 823, 136720 (2021)

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Ultrasoft-neutrino contribution to $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

$$\frac{1}{t_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = g_{\rm A}^4 G^{0\nu} |M_{\rm L}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm S}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm usoft}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm N^2LO}^{0\nu}|^2 \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$

V. Cirigliano et al., Phys. Rev. C 97, 065501 (2018), Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 202001 (2018), Phys. Rev. C 100, 055504 (2019)



CRIUMF Ultrasoft Neutrinos in pnQRPA and NSM



\approx TRIUMF N²LO Loop Corrections to $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

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$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay vs Double-Charge-Exchange Reactions

$$M^{0\nu} = M_{\rm GT}^{0\nu} - \left(\frac{g_{\rm V}}{g_{\rm A}}\right)^2 M_{\rm F}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm T}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm S}^{0\nu} + M_{\rm N^2LO}^{0\nu}$$

Leading contribution

$$M_{\rm GT}^{0\nu} = \langle f \big| \big| \sum_{jk} \tau_j^- \tau_k^- \sigma_j^- \sigma_k^- V_{\rm GT}(r_{jk}) \big| \big| i \rangle$$

• Double-Gamow-Teller (DGT) strength function

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$$B(\text{DGT};\lambda) = \frac{1}{2J_i + 1} |\langle f|| [\sum_{jk} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_j \tau_j^- \times \boldsymbol{\sigma}_k \tau_k^-]^{(\lambda)} ||i\rangle|^2$$



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Could we probe 0vββ decay by DGT reactions?



\mathcal{R} TRIUMF Correlations Between DGT and $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

$$M_{\rm DGT} = -\langle \mathbf{0}_{\rm gs,f}^+ || [\sum_{jk} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_j \boldsymbol{\tau}_j^- \times \boldsymbol{\sigma}_k \boldsymbol{\tau}_k^-]^{(0)} || \mathbf{0}_{\rm gs,i}^+ \rangle$$



H. Ejiri, LJ, J. Suhonen, Phys. Rev. C 105, L022501 (2022)

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 Correlation between M^{0ν} and M_{DGT} found in nuclear shell model and EFT



N. Shimizu, J. Menéndez, K. Yako, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 142502 (2018)

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- Correlation between M^{0ν} and M_{DGT} found in nuclear shell model and EFT
- Correlation also holds in *ab initio* VS-IMSRG



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- Correlation between M^{0ν} and M_{DGT} found in nuclear shell model and EFT
- Correlation also holds in *ab initio* VS-IMSRG
- ...and QRPA, when proton-neutron pairing varied
 - Observation of $M_{\text{DGT}} \rightarrow \text{constraints}$ for $M^{0\nu}$



LJ, J. Menéndez, Phys. Rev. C 107, 044316 (2023)



Probing $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay by $2\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

• How about $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay?

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LJ, B. Romeo, P. Soriano and J. Menéndez, Phys. Rev. C 107, 044305 (2023)

Probing $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay by $2\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

- How about $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay?
- $2\nu\beta\beta$ -decay also correlated with $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay!
- NMEs with uncertainties based on the correlations and experimental data



LJ, B. Romeo, P. Soriano and J. Menéndez, Phys. Rev. C 107, 044305 (2023)

Probing $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay by $2\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

Two-Body Currents & Contact Term

 Correlations survive when adding approximate two-body currents (2BCs) and the contact term



LJ, B. Romeo, P. Soriano and J. Menéndez, Phys. Rev. C **107**, 044305 (2023)

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J. Menéndez, D. Gazit, A. Schwenk, Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 062501 (2011)

J. Engel, F. Šimkovic, P. Vogel, Phys. Rev. C 89, 064308 (2014)



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 2BCs and the contact term largely cancel each other





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• A muon can replace an electron in an atom, forming a *muonic atom*



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- The *muon can then be captured* by the nucleus

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$$\mu^- + {}^A_{\underline{Z}} \mathbf{X}(J_i^{\pi_i}) \to \nu_{\mu} + {}^A_{\underline{Z-1}} \mathbf{Y}(J_f^{\pi_f})$$

Ordinary = non-radiative

$$\begin{pmatrix} \text{Radiative muon capture (RMC):} \\ \mu^{-} + {}^{A}_{Z} X(J_{i}^{\pi_{i}}) \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + {}^{A}_{Z-1} Y(J_{f}^{\pi_{f}}) + \boldsymbol{\gamma} \end{pmatrix}$$



$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay vs. Muon Capture



$$\stackrel{A}{\underset{\mathbf{Z}}{}} X(J_i^{\pi_i}) \rightarrow \stackrel{A}{\underset{\mathbf{Z}+2}{}} X'(J_f^{\pi_f}) + 2e^{-}$$



$$\mu^- + {}^A_Z \mathcal{X}(J_i^{\pi_i}) \to \nu_\mu + {}^A_{Z-1} \mathcal{Y}(J_f^{\pi_f})$$

$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay vs. Muon Capture





$$\mu^- + ^A_{{\mathbb Z}} \mathrm{X}(J_i^{\pi_i}) \to \nu_\mu + ^A_{{\mathbb Z} - 1} \mathrm{Y}(J_f^{\pi_f})$$

Both involve hadronic current:

$$\langle \boldsymbol{p} | j^{\alpha \dagger} | \boldsymbol{p} \rangle = \bar{\Psi} \left[g_{\mathrm{V}}(q^2) \gamma^{\alpha} - g_{\mathrm{A}}(q^2) \gamma^{\alpha} \gamma_5 - g_{\mathrm{P}}(q^2) q^{\alpha} \gamma_5 + i g_{\mathrm{M}}(q^2) \frac{\sigma^{\alpha \beta}}{2m_p} q_{\beta} \right] \tau^{\pm} \Psi$$



$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay vs. Muon Capture





$$\mu^- + {}^A_Z \mathrm{X}(J_i^{\pi_i}) \to \nu_\mu + {}^A_{Z-1} \mathrm{Y}(J_f^{\pi_f})$$

• $q \approx 1/|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2| \approx 100 - 200 \text{ MeV}$

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$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay vs. Muon Capture





• Yet hypothetical

$$p\{\frac{d}{u}$$

 W^+

 $\mu^ \nu_\mu$

$$\mu^- + {}^A_Z \mathrm{X}(J_i^{\pi_i}) \to \nu_\mu + {}^A_{Z-1} \mathrm{Y}(J_f^{\pi_f})$$

•
$$\boldsymbol{q} \approx m_{\mu} + M_i - M_f - m_e - E_X \approx 100 \text{ MeV}$$

Both involve hadronic current:

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$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay vs. Muon Capture



$${}^{A}_{Z} X(J_{i}^{\pi_{i}}) \rightarrow {}^{A}_{Z+2} X'(J_{f}^{\pi_{f}}) + 2e^{-1}$$

Both involve

- $q \approx 1/|\mathbf{r}_1 \mathbf{r}_2| \approx 100 200 \text{ MeV}$
- Yet hypothetical



$$\mu^- + {}^A_Z \mathrm{X}(J^{\pi_i}_i) \to \nu_\mu + {}^A_{Z-1} \mathrm{Y}(J^{\pi_f}_f)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{r_1} - \mathbf{r_2} &\approx \mathbf{100} - \mathbf{200} \text{ MeV} \\ \mathbf{pothetical} \\ & \mathbf{P} \mid \mathbf{p} &\approx \mathbf{m}_{\mu} + M_i - M_f - m_e - E_X \approx \mathbf{100} \text{ MeV} \\ \mathbf{P} \mid \mathbf{p} &\approx \mathbf{m}_{\mu} + M_i - M_f - m_e - E_X \approx \mathbf{100} \text{ MeV} \\ \mathbf{P} \mid \mathbf{p} &\approx \mathbf{m}_{\mu} + M_i - M_f - m_e - E_X \approx \mathbf{100} \text{ MeV} \\ \mathbf{P} \mid \mathbf{p} &\approx \mathbf{m}_{\mu} + M_i - M_f - m_e - E_X \approx \mathbf{100} \text{ MeV} \\ \mathbf{P} \mid \mathbf{p} &\approx \mathbf{m}_{\mu} + M_i - M_f - m_e - E_X \approx \mathbf{100} \text{ MeV} \\ \mathbf{P} \mid \mathbf{p} &\approx \mathbf{m}_{\mu} + M_i - M_f - m_e - E_X \approx \mathbf{100} \text{ MeV} \\ \mathbf{P} \mid \mathbf{p} &\approx \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \\ \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} &\approx \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \\ \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \\ \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{p} \mid$$

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Ab initio No-Core Shell Model (NCSM)

• Solve nuclear many-body problem

$$H^{(A)}\Psi^{(A)}(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2,...,\mathbf{r}_A) = E^{(A)}\Psi^{(A)}(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2,...,\mathbf{r}_A)$$



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• Two- (NN) and three-nucleon (3N) forces from χEFT

$$H^{(A)} = \sum_{i=1}^{A} \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + \sum_{i< j=1}^{A} V^{NN}(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j) + \sum_{i< j< k=1}^{A} V_{ijk}^{3N}$$





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• Expansion in harmonic oscillator (HO) basis

$$\Psi^{(A)} = \sum_{N=0}^{N_{\text{max}}} \sum_{j} c_{Nj} \Phi_{Nj}^{\text{HO}}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, ..., \mathbf{r}_A)$$





Dependency on the Harmonic-Oscillator Frequency

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• The expansion depends on the HO frequency because of the *N*_{max} truncation

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Dependency on the Harmonic-Oscillator Frequency



- The expansion depends on the HO frequency because of the $N_{\rm max}$ truncation
 - ► Increasing N_{max} leads towards convergenced results



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

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Harmonic-Oscillator Frequency Dependence of Muon Capture ${}^{12}C(0^+_{ss}) + \mu^- \rightarrow {}^{12}B(1^+_{ss}) + \nu_{\mu}$



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila and Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

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Harmonic-Oscillator Frequency Dependence of Muon Capture



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila and Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

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Muon Capture on ⁶Li





• NCSM slightly underestimating experiment

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Muon Capture on ⁶Li



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- The results are consistent with the variational (VMC) and Green's function Monte-Carlo (GFMC) calculations

King et al., Phys. Rev. C 105, L042501 (2022)



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• Slow convergence due to cluster-structure?



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King et al., Phys. Rev. C 105, L042501 (2022)

- Slow convergence due to cluster-structure?
 - NCSM with continuum (NCSMC) might give better results?

Muon Capture on ⁶Li

$${}^{6}\text{Li}(1_{\text{gs}}^{+}) + \mu^{-} \rightarrow {}^{6}\text{He}(0_{\text{gs}}^{+}) + \nu_{\mu}$$



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õ

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• The NN-N⁴LO+3N^{*}_{In1} interaction with the additional spin-orbit 3N-force term most consistent with experiment

Muon capture on ¹²C ${}^{12}C(0^+_{\sigma s}) + \mu^- \rightarrow {}^{12}B(1^+_{\sigma s}) + \nu_\mu$



C ŭ S

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- Capture rates to excited states in ¹²B also well reproduced

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Hayes et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 91, 012502 (2003)

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Hayes et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 91, 012502 (2003)

• 3N-forces essential to reproduce the measured rate

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Muon capture on ¹²C



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

Muon capture on ¹⁶O



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

Total Muon-Capture Rates

 $\mu^- + {}^{12}C(0^+_{gs}) \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + {}^{12}B(J^{\pi}_k)$



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

• Rates obtained summing over ~ 50 final states of each parity

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- Summing up the rates, we capture ~85% of the total rate in both ¹²B and ¹⁶N

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LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

- Rates obtained summing over ~ 50 final states of each parity
- Summing up the rates, we capture ~85% of the total rate in both ¹²B and ¹⁶N
- Where is the rest?

Total Muon-Capture Rates

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LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

Trium Total Muon-Capture Rates with the Lanczos Strength Function Method

$$W_{\text{tot.}} = \sum_{f} W_{\text{OMC}}(i \rightarrow f) \approx \sum_{f,J} g(q_f) |\langle \Psi_f | O_J(q_f) | \Psi_i \rangle|^2$$

• For each operator (in a *q* grid), compute pivot

$$|\Phi_1\rangle = \frac{O_J |\Psi_i\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \Psi_i | O_J^{\dagger} O_J |\Psi_i\rangle}}$$

^{25/66} Discovery, accelerate

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where $\alpha_i = \langle \Phi_i | H | \Phi_i \rangle$ and β_{i+1} s.t. $\langle \Phi_{i+1} | \Phi_{i+1} \rangle = 1$

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where $\alpha_i = \langle \Phi_i | H | \Phi_i \rangle$ and β_{i+1} s.t. $\langle \Phi_{i+1} | \Phi_{i+1} \rangle = 1$

Extract strength from the orthonormality of the basis

$$\langle \Psi_{f} | O_{J}(q_{f}) | \Psi_{i} \rangle = \sqrt{\langle \Psi_{i} | O_{J}^{\dagger} O_{J} | \Psi_{i} \rangle \langle \Phi_{0} | \Phi_{f} \rangle}$$



CRIVERY PRELIMINARY: Total Muon-Capture Rates with the Lanczos Strength Function



D. Araujo Najera, M. Gennari, LJ, M. Drissi, P. Navrátil, in preparation

4 N_{\max} 3 $\sum W_{\rm OMC}(10^4/{\rm s})$ Exp. 2 Pos Neg. Both par. 0 0 10 2030 40E(MeV)

 $\mu^{-} + {}^{12}C(0^+_{rs}) \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + {}^{12}B(J^{\pi}_{k})$

LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, Phys. Rev. C 109, 065501 (2024)

Discovery, accelerated

40/42



Outline

Introduction

Corrections to $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Nuclear Matrix Elements

Correlations with Other Observables to Constrain the Matrix Elements

Muon Capture as a Probe of 0vetaeta Decay

Summary





- *χ*EFT corrections to 0νββ-decay seem to respect the power counting, but N²LO
 corrections still significant
- Correlation between $0\nu\beta\beta$ and $2\nu\beta\beta$ decays helped us predict $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay NMEs with uncertainties
- Correlations with DGT and M1M1 transitions with future data can help us further constrain the NMEs
- Ab initio muon-capture studies could shed light on nuclear-weak current at finite momentum exchange regime relevant for 0νββ decay

Thank you Merci

