

# Review of $0\nu\beta\beta$ Theory

## Mini Workshops

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INFN - Torino

For the Snowmass 2021 Topical Group on Neutrino Properties (NF05)  
Conveners: Ben Jones, Carlo Giunti, Diana Parno, Lisa Kaufman

# Snowmass 2021 Mini Workshops on Neutrino Properties

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## August 2020

- 19 Aug [Mini Workshop: Onubb Experiment II](#)
- 12 Aug [Mini Workshop: Neutrino Electromagnetic Properties](#)
- 05 Aug [Mini Workshop: Onubb Experiment I](#)

## July 2020

- 22 Jul [Mini Workshop: Nuclear theory of neutrinoless double-beta decay](#)
- 15 Jul [Mini Workshop: Particle theory of neutrinoless double-beta decay](#)
- 08 Jul [Mini Workshop: Direct Neutrino Mass Measurements](#)

### 👤 Managers

- 👤 Benjamin Jones
- 👤 Carlo Giunti
- 👤 Diana Parno
- 👤 Lisa Kaufman

### 📎 Materials [↻](#)

There are no materials yet.



# 15 July Mini Workshop: Particle theory of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

1. **Boris Kayser (Fermilab)**  
Introduction to  $0\nu\beta\beta$  theory
2. **Michele Maltoni (UAM/CSIC, Madrid)**  
Neutrino masses and  $0\nu\beta\beta$  from neutrino oscillations
3. **Silvia Pascoli (Durham U.)**  
CP violation in  $0\nu\beta\beta$
4. **Michael Ramsey-Musolf (Massachusetts U., Amherst)**  
Non-standard contributions to  $0\nu\beta\beta$

# Boris Kayser: Introduction to $0\nu\beta\beta$ theory

## The Majorana vs. Dirac Question

Is each neutrino mass eigenstate, such as  $\nu_1$ ,

**a Majorana fermion**  $\bar{\nu}_1 = \nu_1$

or

**a Dirac fermion**  $\bar{\nu}_1 \neq \nu_1$

## The Promising Approach — Seek Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay [ $0\nu\beta\beta$ ]

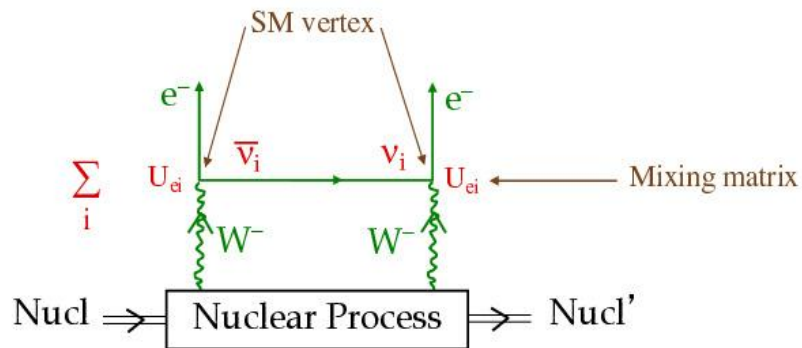


Observation at any non-zero level would imply —

- Lepton number  $L$  is not conserved ( $\Delta L = 2$ )
- Neutrinos have Majorana masses
- Neutrinos are Majorana particles (self-conjugate)

# Boris Kayser: Introduction to $0\nu\beta\beta$ theory

If the dominant mechanism is –



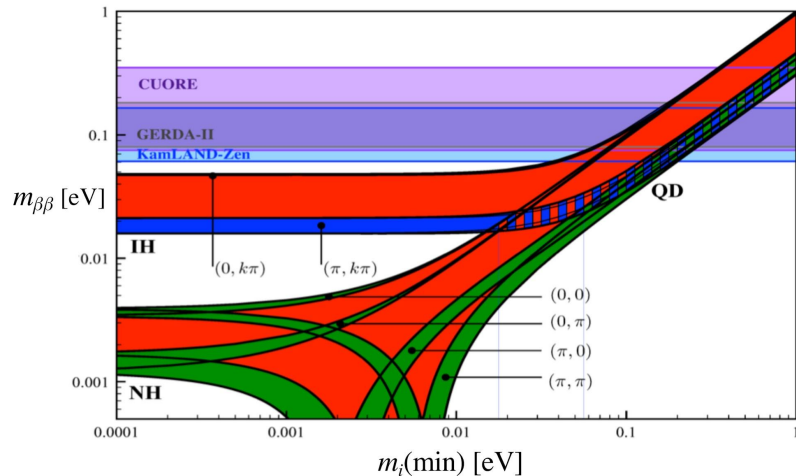
Then –

$$\text{Amp}[0\nu\beta\beta] \propto \left| \sum m_i U_{ei}^2 \right| \equiv m_{\beta\beta}$$

Mass ( $v_i$ )

$$\text{Thus } m_{\beta\beta} = \left| m_1 c_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 e^{i\alpha_1} + m_2 s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 e^{i\alpha_2} + m_3 s_{13}^2 e^{-2i\delta} \right|.$$

## Possible Size of $m_{\beta\beta}$



Pascoli

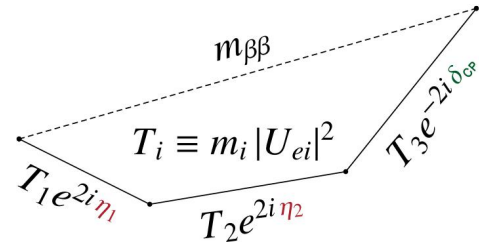
# Michele Maltoni: Neutrino masses and $0\nu\beta\beta$ from neutrino oscillations

## Absolute neutrino mass scale and $0\nu\beta\beta$

- Quantities sensitive to absolute  $\nu$  masses:  $m_\beta = \sqrt{\sum_i m_i^2 |U_{ei}|^2}$  and  $m_{\beta\beta} = |\sum_i m_i U_{ei}^2|$ ;
- these new quantities depend on:
  - new parameters: lightest neutrino mass ( $m_0$ ) and Majorana phases ( $\eta_1$  and  $\eta_2$ );
  - oscillation parameters: mass-squared ( $\Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{31}^2$ ) and mixings ( $\theta_{12}, \theta_{13}, \delta_{\text{CP}}$ );
- notice that:
  - $\theta_{23}$  does not appear in  $U_{ei} \Rightarrow$  irrelevant for  $m_\beta$  and  $m_{\beta\beta}$ ;
  - only combinations ( $\delta_{\text{CP}} + \eta_i$ ) enter  $m_{\beta\beta} \Rightarrow$  specific  $\delta_{\text{CP}}$  value is not relevant;
- hence, phenomenological picture only affected by  $(\theta_{13}, \theta_{12}, \Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{31}^2)$ .

$$\text{NO: } \begin{cases} m_3^2 = m_1^2 + \Delta m_{31}^2 \\ m_2^2 = m_1^2 + \Delta m_{21}^2 \\ m_1^2 = m_0^2 \end{cases}$$

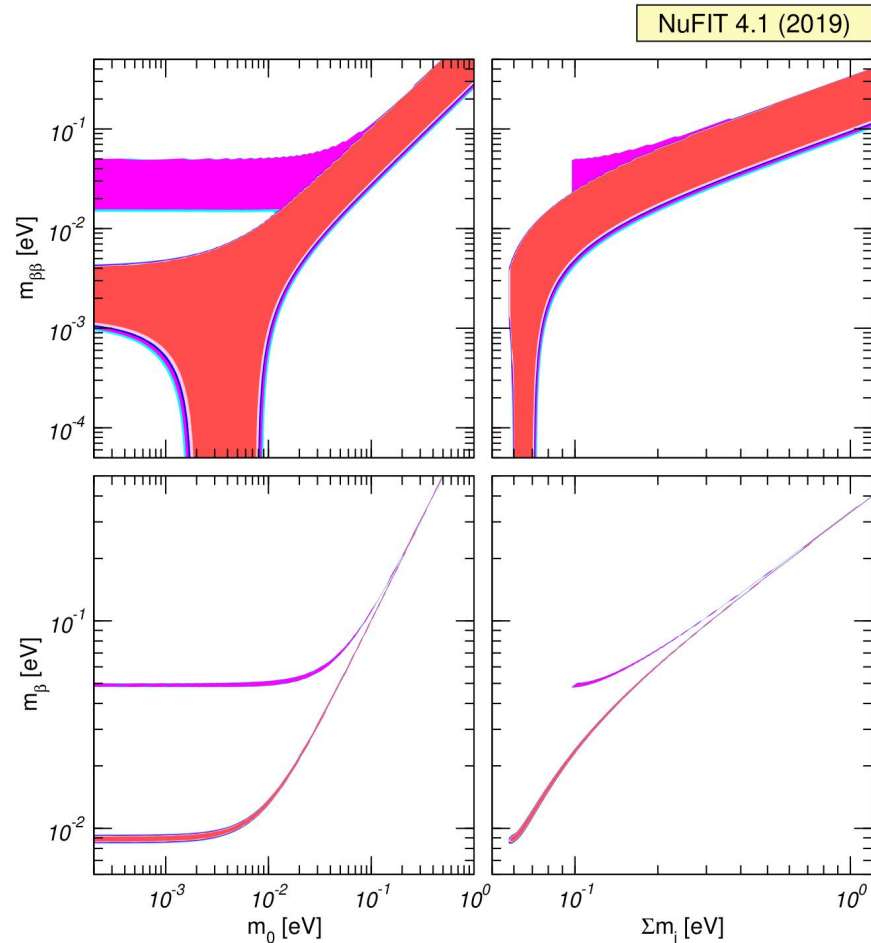
$$\text{IO: } \begin{cases} m_2^2 = m_3^2 + |\Delta m_{32}^2| \\ m_1^2 = m_2^2 - \Delta m_{21}^2 \\ m_3^2 = m_0^2 \end{cases}$$



# Michele Maltoni: Neutrino masses and $0\nu\beta\beta$ from neutrino oscillations

## Status of $m_\beta$ and $m_{\beta\beta}$

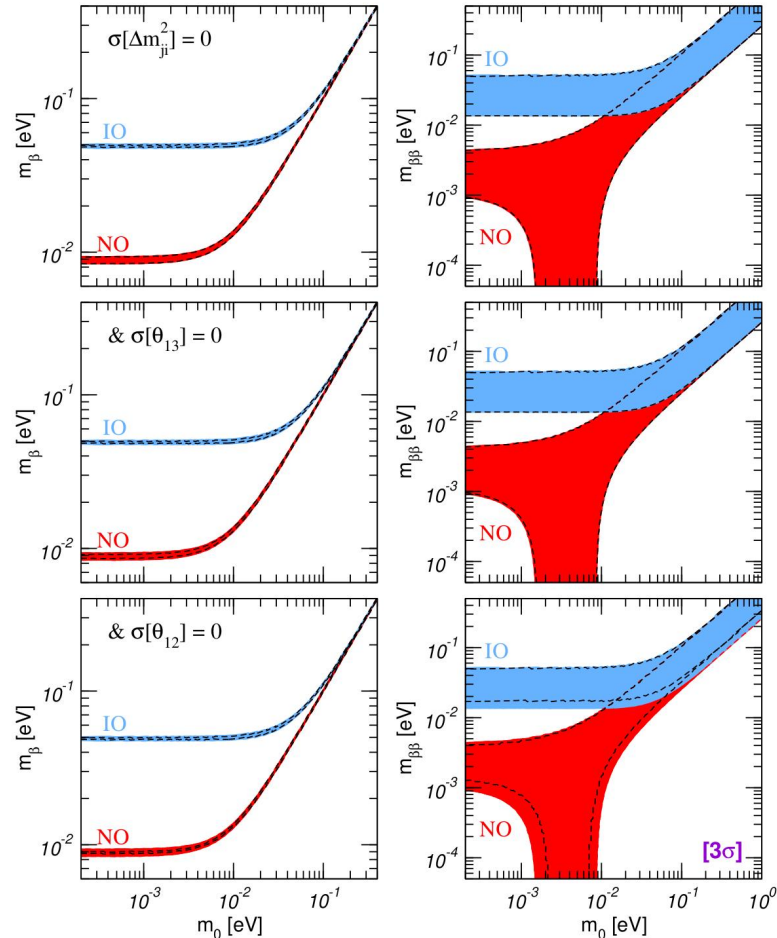
- Results of the global fit of oscillation data can be projected onto  $m_\beta$  and  $m_{\beta\beta}$  as a function of lightest  $\nu$  mass  $m_0$  (or  $\sum m_i$ );
- no neutrino ordering assumed: both cases considered on equal footing  $\Rightarrow$  IO region disfavored at  $\Delta\chi^2 = 6.2$  by oscillation data (growing to  $\Delta\chi^2 = 10.4$  if Super-K atmospheric data also included);
- extension of  $m_{\beta\beta}$  regions dominated by unknown  $\eta_i \Rightarrow$  flat  $\chi^2$  valley closed by steep walls  $\Rightarrow$   $1\sigma$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $3\sigma$ , ... ranges very similar.



# Michele Maltoni: Neutrino masses and $0\nu\beta\beta$ from neutrino oscillations

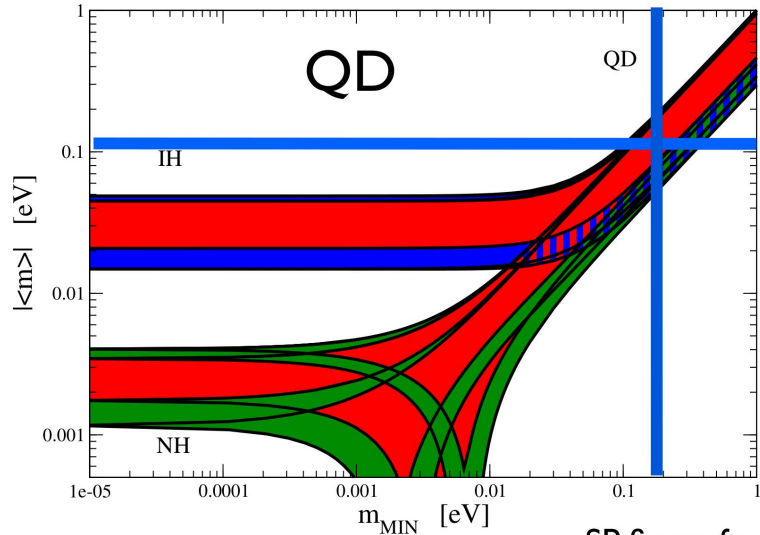
## Impact of osc. parameters

- Uncertainty on  $\Delta m_{21}^2$  and  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  has negligible impact on the extension of the  $m_\beta$  and  $m_{\beta\beta}$  regions;
  - uncertainty on  $\theta_{13}$  marginally affect  $m_\beta$ , and is irrelevant for  $m_{\beta\beta}$ ;
  - the only oscillation parameter whose precision has a visible (albeit small) impact on  $m_\beta$  and  $m_{\beta\beta}$  ranges is  $\theta_{12}$ ;
- ⇒ the present phenomenological picture will not be significantly affected by future improvements in the determination of the oscillation parameters, **except for what concerns the neutrino mass ordering.**



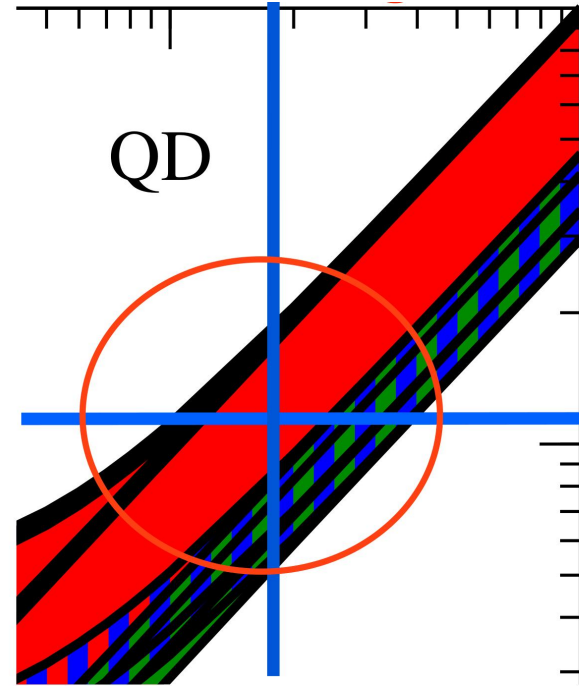


## Silvia Pascoli: CP violation in $0\nu\beta\beta$



SP, figure from PDG

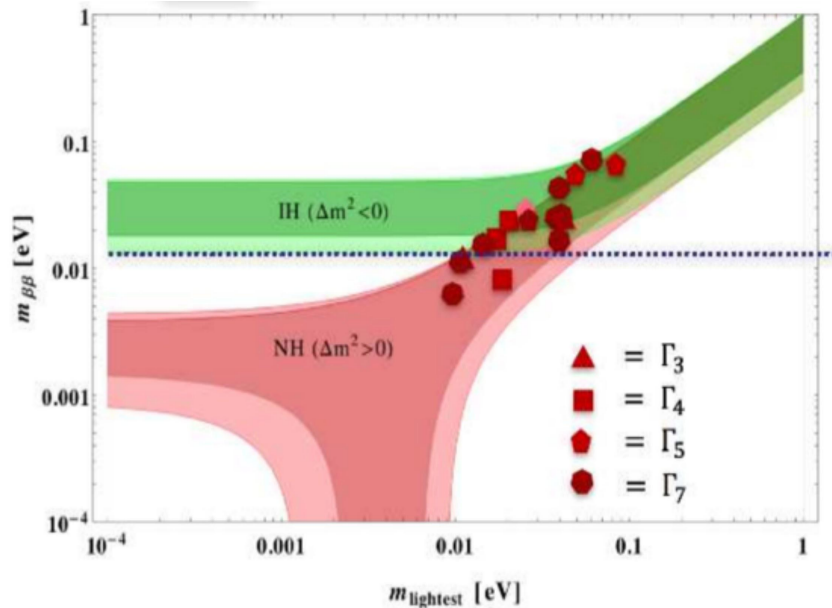
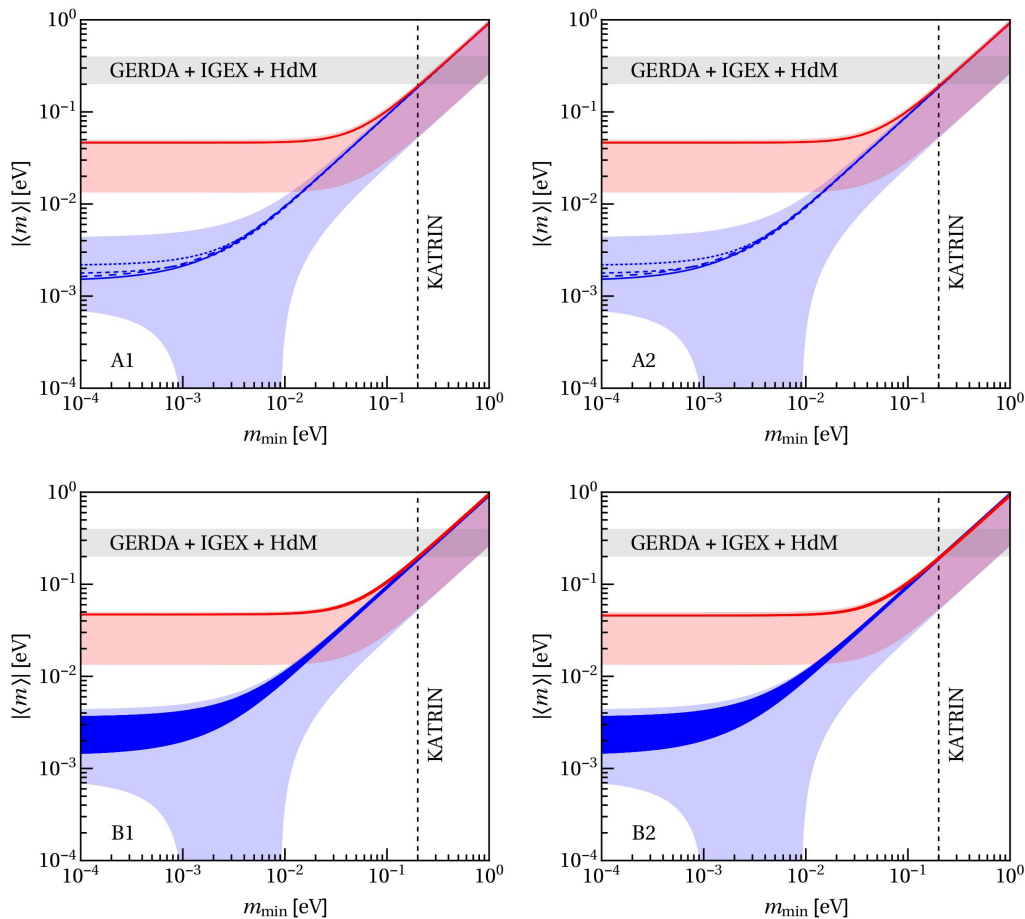
If  $m_{ee}$  and neutrino masses are measured with sufficient precision, then it may be possible to establish CPV due to Majorana phases.



However, this requires also a very precise determination of NME.

# Silvia Pascoli: CP violation in $0\nu\beta\beta$

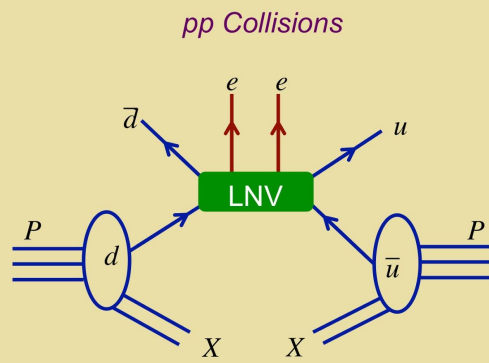
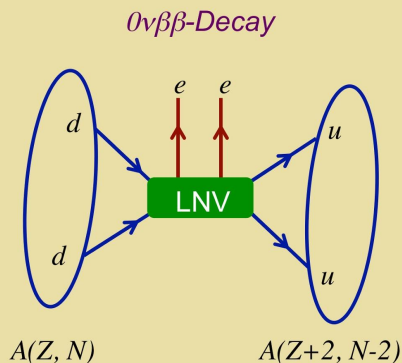
## Examples of model predictions



F. Feruglio, Bethe Colloquium, 18 June 2020,

# Michael Ramsey-Musolf: Non-standard contributions to $0\nu\beta\beta$

## TeV Scale LNV: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay & Colliders

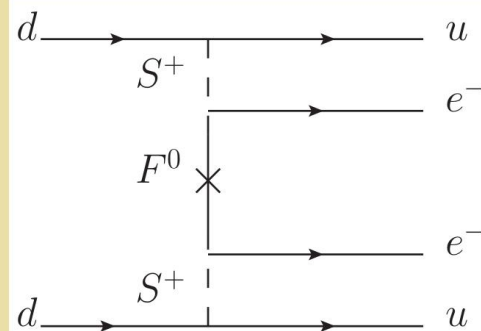
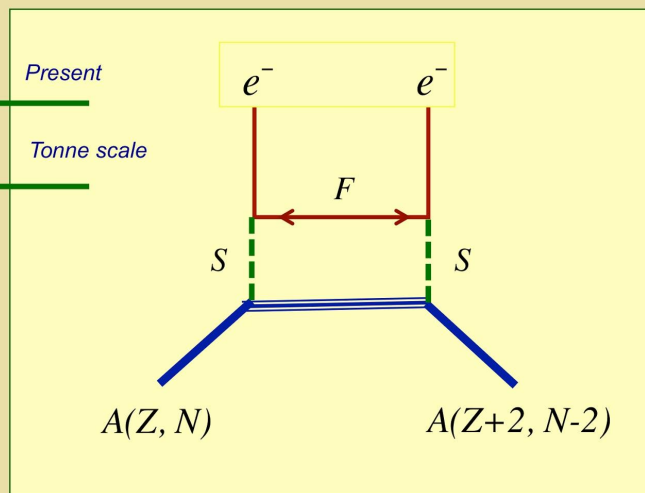
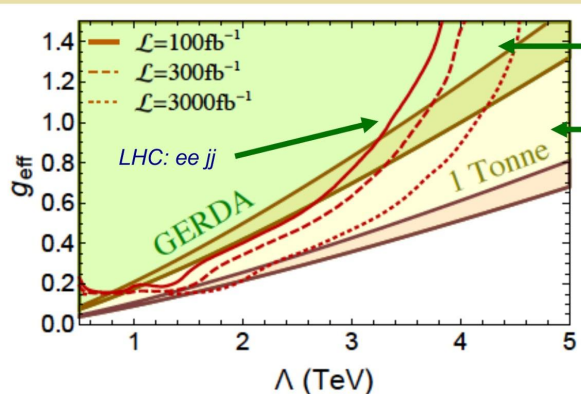


## Simplified Model: Illustrative Case

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{INT}} = g_1 \bar{Q}_i^\alpha d^\alpha S_i + g_2 \epsilon^{ij} \bar{L}_i F S_j^* + \text{H.c.}$$

$S:$              $(1, 2, \frac{1}{2})$   
 $F:$              $(1, 0, 0)$             Majorana

## Benchmark Sensitivity: TeV LNV



*LHC:  $pp \rightarrow jj e^- e^-$*

## $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay: TeV Scale LNV & $m_\nu$

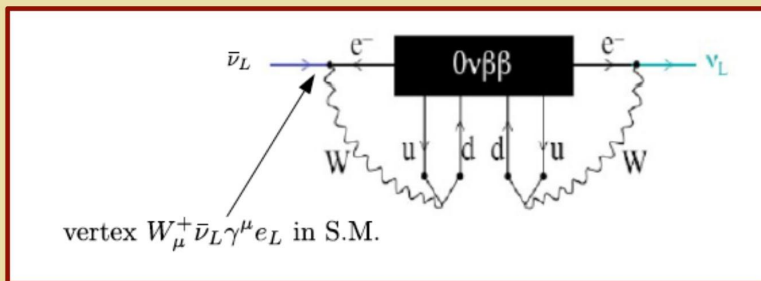
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = y \bar{L} \tilde{H} \nu_R + \text{h.c.}$$

*Dirac*

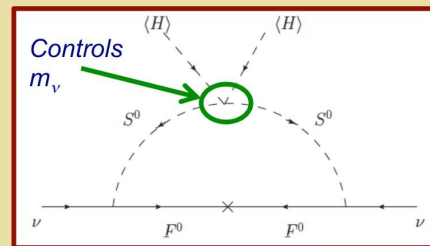
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = \frac{y}{\Lambda} \bar{L}^c H H^T L + \text{h.c.}$$

*Majorana*

*Implications for  $m_\nu$ :*



*Schechter-Valle: non-vanishing Majorana mass at (multi) loop level*



*Simplified model: possible (larger) one loop Majorana mass*

## 22 July Mini Workshop: Nuclear theory of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

1. **Jonathan Engel (North Carolina U.)**  
Introduction to the nuclear theory aspects and problems of  $0\nu\beta\beta$
2. **Jenni Kotila (Jyvaskyla U. and Yale U.)**  
Nuclear matrix elements calculations and perspectives
3. **Javier Menendez (Barcelona U.)**  
First principles calculation of  $0\nu\beta\beta$
4. **Emanuele Mereghetti (Los Alamos)**  
 $0\nu\beta\beta$  in effective field theory and lattice QCD

Light- $\nu$  Exchange in a Nucleus

$$[T_{1/2}^{0\nu}]^{-1} = G(Z, N) |M_{0\nu}|^2 m_{\beta\beta}^2$$

Phase-space factor

Nuclear matrix element

“Traditional” part of matrix element:

$$M_{0\nu} = M_{0\nu}^{GT} - \frac{g_V^2}{g_A^2} M_{0\nu}^F + \dots \times g_A^2$$

with

$$M_{0\nu}^{GT} = \langle F | \sum_{i,j} H(r_{ij}) \sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j \tau_i^+ \tau_j^+ | I \rangle + \dots$$

$$M_{0\nu}^F = \langle F | \sum_{i,j} H(r_{ij}) \tau_i^+ \tau_j^+ | I \rangle + \dots$$

$$H(r) \approx \frac{2R}{\pi r} \int_0^\infty dq \frac{\sin qr}{q + \bar{E} - (E_i + E_f)/2} \quad \text{roughly } \propto 1/r$$

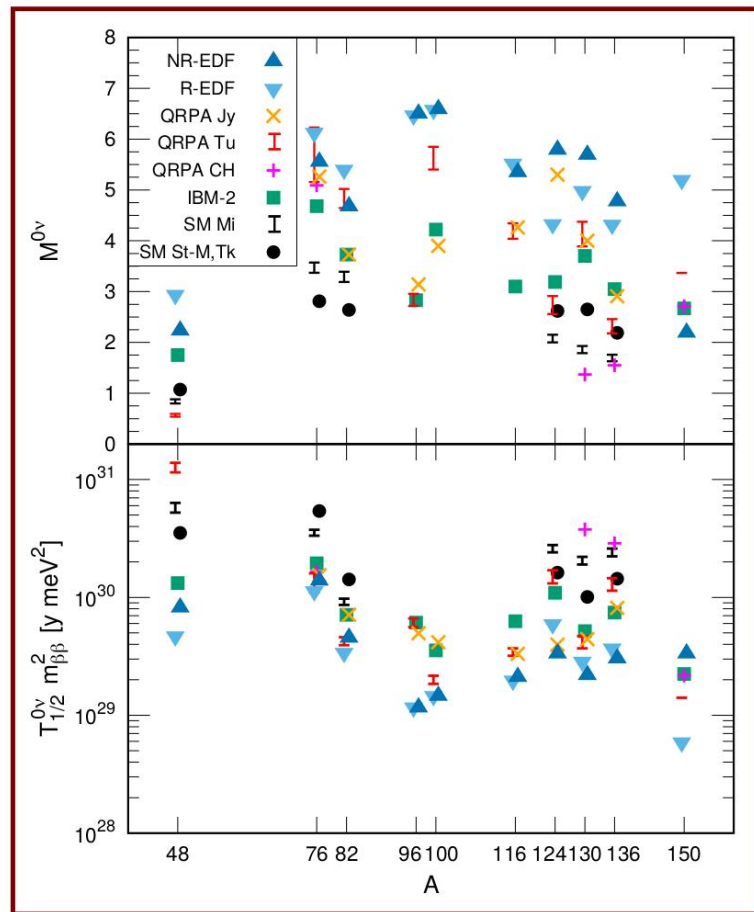
Corrections are from “forbidden” terms, weak nucleon form factors, many-body currents, other effects of high-energy physics that depend on framework.

Recent Values

## Light- $\nu$ -Exchange Matrix Elements

Significant spread. And all the models may miss important physics.

Uncertainty hard to quantify.



# Jonathan Engel: Introduction to the nuclear theory aspects and problems of $0\nu\beta\beta$

## The Way Forward: Ab Initio Nuclear Theory

Starts with chiral effective field theory.

Nucleons, pions sufficient below chiral-symmetry breaking scale.

2N Force

3N Force

4N Force

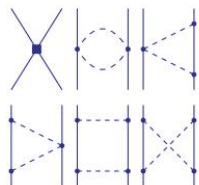
LO

$(Q/\Lambda_\chi)^0$



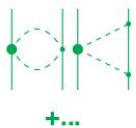
NLO

$(Q/\Lambda_\chi)^2$



NNLO

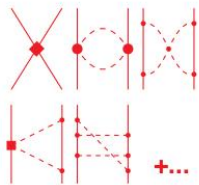
$(Q/\Lambda_\chi)^3$



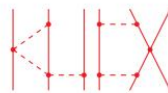
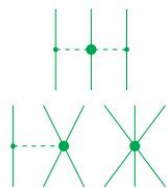
+...

N<sup>3</sup>LO

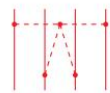
$(Q/\Lambda_\chi)^4$



+...

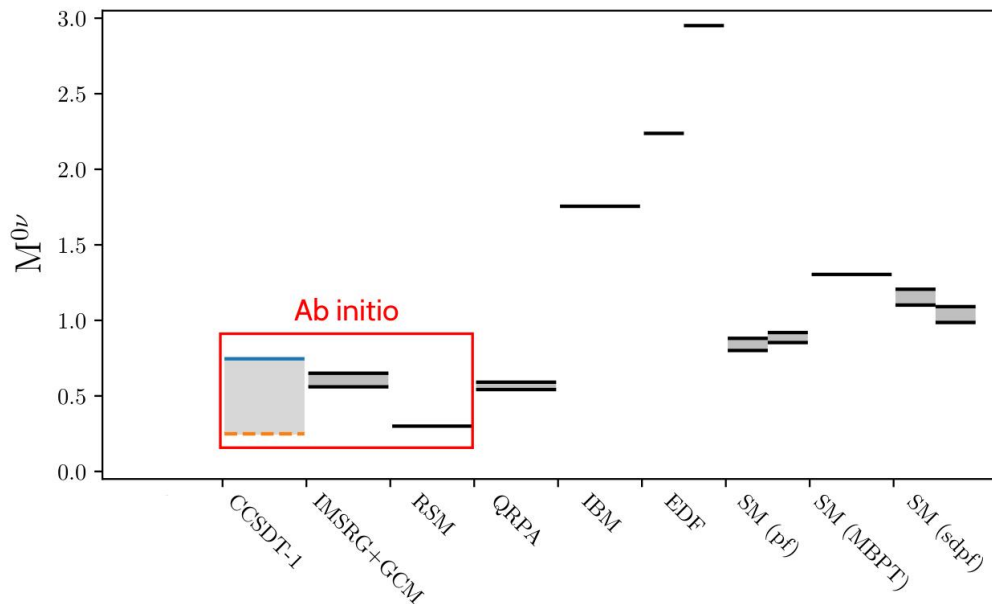


+...



+...

## <sup>48</sup>Ca: Ab-Initio $0\nu\beta\beta$ Matrix Elements vs. Older Ones





# Jenni Kotila: Nuclear matrix elements calculations and perspectives

## QUENCHING OF $g_A$

- It is well-known from single  $\beta$  decay/ $EC^*$  and  $2\nu\beta\beta$  that  $g_A$  is renormalized in nuclei.

Reasons:

- ▶ Limited model space
- ▶ Omission of non-nucleonic degrees of freedom ( $\Delta, N^*, \dots$ )

Effective value of  $g_A$  is a work in progress, since:

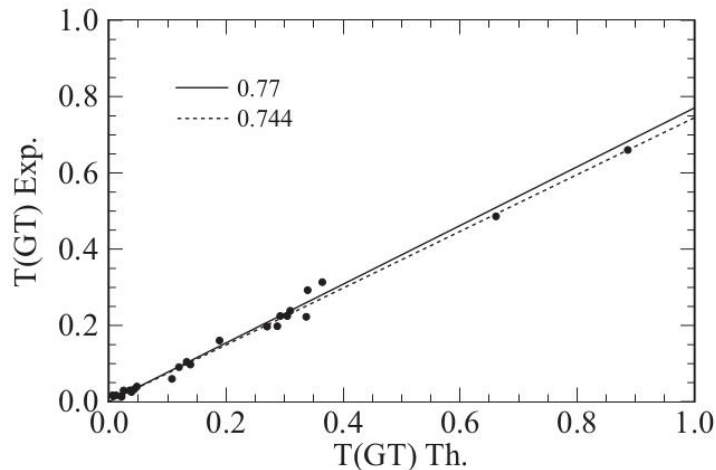
- Is the renormalization of  $g_A$  the same in  $2\nu\beta\beta$  as in  $0\nu\beta\beta$ ?
  - ▶ In  $2\nu\beta\beta$  only the  $1^+$  (GT) multipole contributes. In  $0\nu\beta\beta$  all multipoles  $1^+, 2^-, \dots; 0^+, 1^-, \dots$  contribute. Some of which could be even unquenched.
  - ▶ This is a critical issue, since half-life predictions with maximally quenched  $g_A$  are  $> 6$  times longer due to the fact that  $g_A$  enters the equations to the power of 4!

- Additional ways to study quenching of  $g_A$ :

- ▶ Theoretical studies by using effective field theory (EFT) to estimate the effect of non-nucleonic degrees of freedom (two-body currents)
- ▶ Experimental and theoretical studies of single beta decay and single charge exchange reactions involving the intermediate odd-odd nuclei
- ▶ Double charge exchange reactions

# Javier Menendez: First principles calculation of $0\nu\beta\beta$

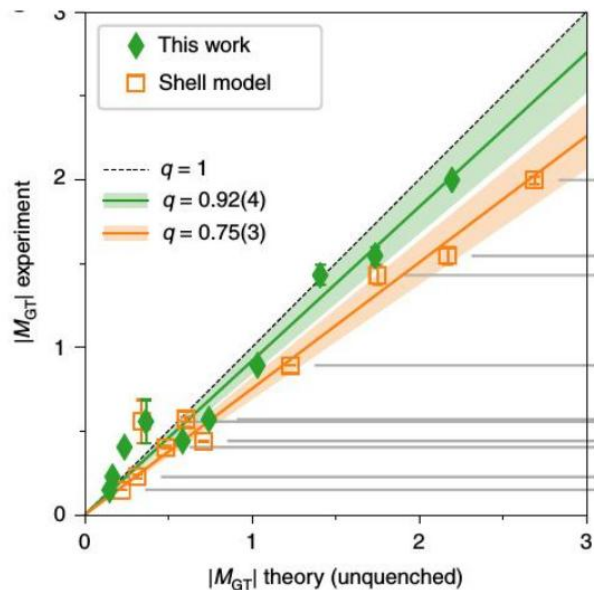
$\beta$  decays ( $e^-$  capture) challenge for nuclear theory



Martinez-Pinedo et al. PRC53 2602(1996)

$$\langle F | \sum_i [g_A \sigma_{iT_i}^-]^{\text{eff}} | I \rangle, \quad [\sigma_{iT}]^{\text{eff}} \approx 0.7 \sigma_{iT}$$

Phenomenological models  
need  $\sigma_{iT}$  “quenching”

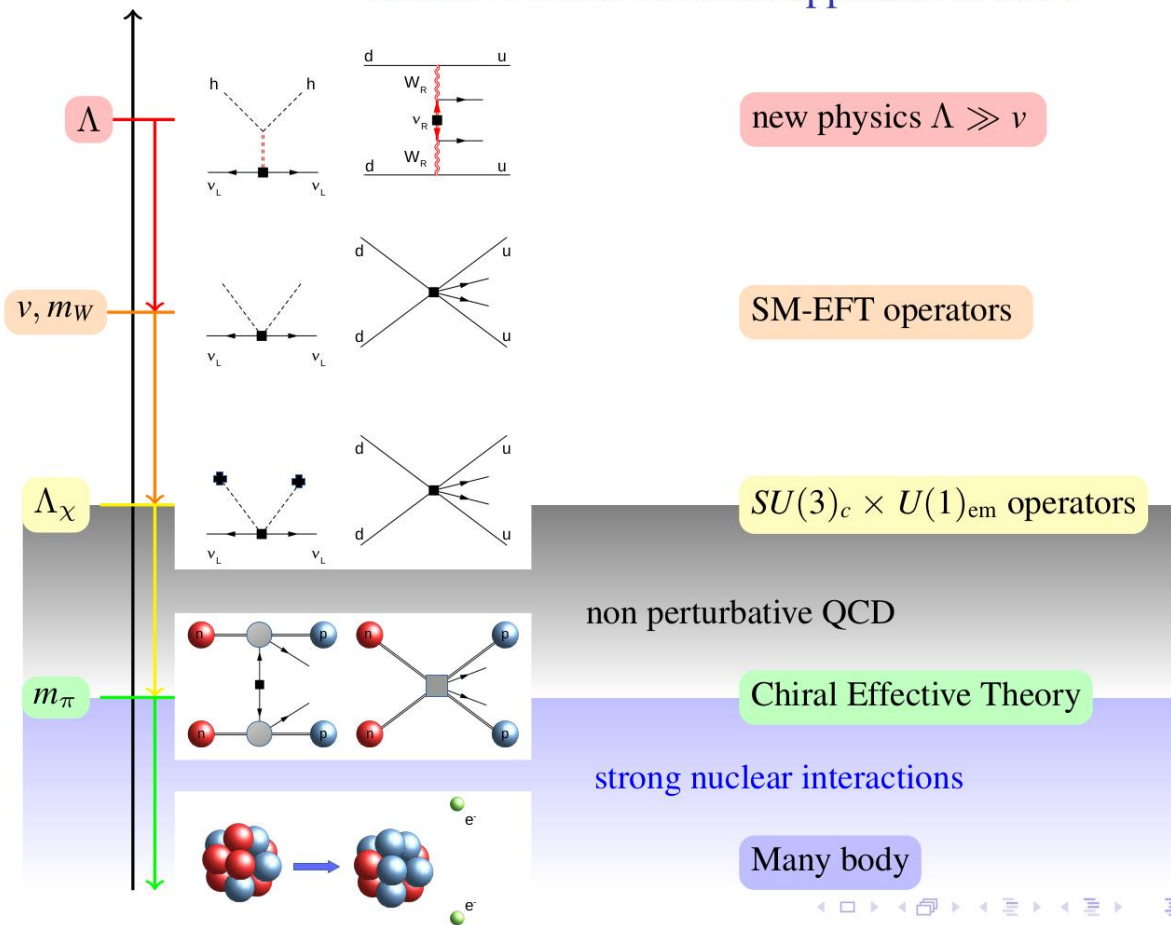


Gysbers et al. Nature Phys. 15 428 (2019)

Ab initio calculations including  
meson-exchange currents  
do not need any “quenching”

# Emanuele Mereghetti: $0\nu\beta\beta$ in effective field theory and lattice QCD

## Effective Field Theories approach to LNV



General framework to describe  $0\nu\beta\beta$  generated by Lepton Number Violation at different scales

See the slides and Zoom recordings for the full discussions:

- Particle theory of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay:

<https://indico.fnal.gov/event/43789/>

- Nuclear theory of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay:

<https://indico.fnal.gov/event/43806/>

# Experiments

Collaboration	Isotope	Technique	mass ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ isotope)	Status
CANDLES-III	$^{48}\text{Ca}$	305 kg $\text{CaF}_2$ crystals in liquid scintillator	0.3 kg	Operating
CANDLES-IV	$^{48}\text{Ca}$	$\text{CaF}_2$ scintillating bolometers	TBD	R&D
GERDA	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	Point contact Ge in active LAr	44 kg	Complete
MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	Point contact Ge in Lead	30 kg	Operating
LEGEND 200	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	Point contact Ge in active LAr	200 kg	Construction
LEGEND 1000	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	Point contact Ge in active LAr	1 tonne	R&D
SuperNEMO Demonstrator	$^{82}\text{Se}$	Foils with tracking	7 kg	Construction
SELENA	$^{82}\text{Se}$	Se CCDs	<1 kg	R&D
NvDEx	$^{82}\text{Se}$	$\text{SeF}_6$ high pressure gas TPC	50 kg	R&D
ZICOS	$^{96}\text{Zr}$	10% $^{nat}\text{Zr}$ in liquid scintillator	45 kg	R&D
AMoRE-I	$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$^{40}\text{CaMoO}_4$ scintillating bolometers	6 kg	Construction
AMoRE-II	$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$\text{Li}_2\text{MoO}_4$ scintillating bolometers	100 kg	Construction
CUPID	$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$\text{Li}_2\text{MoO}_4$ scintillating bolometers	250 kg	R&D
COBRA	$^{116}\text{Cd}/^{130}\text{Te}$	CdZnTe detectors	10 kg	Operating
CUORE	$^{130}\text{Te}$	$\text{TeO}_2$ Bolometer	206 kg	Operating
SNO+	$^{130}\text{Te}$	0.5% $^{nat}\text{Te}$ in liquid scintillator	1300 kg	Construction
SNO+ Phase II	$^{130}\text{Te}$	2.5% $^{nat}\text{Te}$ in liquid scintillator	8 tonnes	R&D
Theia-Te	$^{130}\text{Te}$	5% $^{nat}\text{Te}$ in liquid scintillator	31 tonnes	R&D
KamLAND-Zen 400	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	2.7% in liquid scintillator	370 kg	Complete
KamLAND-Zen 800	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	2.7% in liquid scintillator	750 kg	Operating
KamLAND2-Zen	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	2.7% in liquid scintillator	~tonne	R&D
EXO-200	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	Xe liquid TPC	160 kg	Complete
nEXO	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	Xe liquid TPC	5 tonnes	R&D
NEXT-WHITE	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	High pressure GXe TPC	~5 kg	Operating
NEXT-100	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	High pressure GXe TPC	100 kg	Construction
PandaX	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	High pressure GXe TPC	~tonne	R&D
AXEL	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	High pressure GXe TPC	~tonne	R&D
DARWIN	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$^{nat}\text{Xe}$ liquid TPC	3.5 tonnes	R&D
LZ	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$^{nat}\text{Xe}$ liquid TPC		R&D
Theia-Xe	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	3% in liquid scintillator	50 tonnes	R&D

Jason  
Detwiler  
talk at  
Neutrino  
2020

R&D

Construction

Operating

Complete

Updated from J. Wilkerson