Modeling neutrinoless double-beta decay with operators from chiral effective field theory

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1 Introduction to neutrinoless double-beta($0\nu\beta\beta$) decay

- 2 Modeling nuclear matrix elements of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay
- 3 Recent studies with operators from (chiral) effective field theory
- ④ Summary and perspectives

Low-energy nuclear probes of new physics









- Three frontiers: for new physics
- Atomic nuclei: low-energy probes



• All about Nuclear Matrix Elements (NME)



Neutrinoless double beta decay



Dark matter direct detection



Stability of atomic nuclei against single- β decay



Nuclear Chart: decay mode of the ground state nuclide(NUBASE2020)



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Nuclear Chart: decay mode of the ground state nuclide(NUBASE2020)



- The two modes of $\beta^-\beta^-$ decay:
 - $(A,Z)
 ightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e^- + (2ar{
 u}_e)$



• Kinetic energy spectrum of electrons



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$0\nu\beta\beta$ decay as a probe to neutrino properties



Neutrino oscillation

• From mass to flavor states

$$\ket{
u_lpha} = \sum_{j=1}^{N=3} U^*_{lpha j} \ket{
u_j}.$$

•
$$\Delta m_{ij}^2 (
eq 0)$$
, and $heta_{ij} (
eq 0)$.

Open questions

- The nature of neutrinos.
- Neutrino mass m_j and its origin. The observation of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay would provide answers.

If $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay is driven by exchanging light massive Majorana neutrinos:

$$\langle m_{etaeta}
angle \equiv |\sum_{j=1}^{3} U_{ej}^{2} m_{j}| = \left[rac{m_{e}^{2}}{g_{A}^{4} G_{0
u} T_{1/2}^{0
u} \left| M^{0
u}
ight|^{2}}
ight]^{1/2}$$

- U_{ej} : elements of the PMNS matrix
- $G_{0\nu}$: phase-space factor
- $M^{0\nu}$: the nuclear matrix element

$$M^{0
u}=ra{\Psi_F}\hat{O}^{0
u}\ket{\Psi_I}$$

- Transition operator: $\hat{O}^{0
 u}$
- Nuclear many-body wfs: $\left| \Psi_{I/F}
 ight
 angle$

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Current and next-generation of experiments



RECOMMENDATION 2

As the highest priority for new experiment construction, we recommend that the United States lead an international consortium that will undertake a neutrinoless double beta decay campaign, featuring the expeditious construction of ton-scale experiments, using different isotopes and complementary techniques.

One of the most compelling mysteries in all of science is how matter came to dominate over antimatter in the universe. Neutrinoless double beta decay, a process that spontaneously creates matter, may hold the key to solving this puzzle. Observation of this rare nuclear process would unambiguously demonstrate that neutrinos are their own antiparticles and would reveal the origin and scale of neutrino mass. Thencleus provides the only laboratory through which this fundamental physics can be addressed.











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Constraints on neutrino mass from $0 u\beta\beta$ decay



Isotope	$G_{0\nu}$	$M^{0\nu}$	$T_{1/2}^{0\nu}$	$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$	Experiments	
	$[10^{-14} \text{ yr}^{-1}]$	[min, max]	[yr]	[meV]	References	
⁴⁸ Ca	2.48	[0.85, 2.94]	$> 5.8 \cdot 10^{22}$	[2841, 9828]	PRC78, 058501 (2008)	
⁷⁶ Ge	0.24	[2.38, 6.64]	$> 1.8 \cdot 10^{26}$	[73, 180]	GERDA: PRL125, 252502(2020)	
⁸² Se	1.01	[2.72, 5.30]	$> 4.6 \cdot 10^{24}$	[277, 540]	CUPID-0: PRL129, 111801 (2023)	
⁹⁶ Zr	2.06	[2.86, 6.47]	$> 9.2 \cdot 10^{21}$	[3557, 8047]	NPA847, 168 (2010)	
¹⁰⁰ Mo	1.59	[3.84, 6.59]	$>1.5\cdot10^{24}$	[310, 540]	CUPID-Mo: PRL126, 181802(2021)	
¹¹⁶ Cd	0.48	[3.29, 5.52]	$> 2.2 \cdot 10^{23}$	[1766, 2963]	PRD 98, 092007 (2018)	
¹³⁰ Te	1.42	[1.37, 6.41]	$>2.2\cdot10^{25}$	[90, 305]	CUORE: Nature 604, 53(2022)	
¹³⁶ Xe	1.46	[1.11, 4.77]	$>2.3\cdot10^{26}$	[36, 156]	KamLAND-Zen: PRL130, 051801(2023)	
¹⁵⁰ Nd	6.30	[1.71, 5.60]	$>2.0\cdot10^{22}$	[1593, 5219]	NEMO-3: PRD 94, 072003 (2016)	



• The neutrino oscillation measurements:

 $\langle m_{etaeta}
angle\in$ [20, 50] meV for the inverted-ordering (IO) case.

• An uncertainty of a factor of about 3 or even more (originated from the NMEs) in the $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$ determined by $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay.





- Lifetime sensitivity of the ton-scale experiments: $> 10^{28}$ yr.
- Covering the entire parameter space for the IO neutrino masses depending strongly on the employed NME.

Brief history on modeling the $\beta(\beta\beta)$ decay rate

Furry















. . .



Goeppert-Mayer

Majorana

Primakoff Ver

Vergados Haxton

吴慧芳

Engel



Brief history on modeling the $\beta(\beta\beta)$ decay rate





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Development of nuclear models





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Computing the NMEs with different nuclear models



Modern studies with phenom. nuclear forces

- Interacting shell models (ISM) Vergados (1976), Haxton (1981), H.F.Wu (1985, 1993), Caurier (2008), Menéndez (2009), Horoi (2010), Coraggio (2020)
- Particle-number (and angular-momentum) projected BCS (HFB) with a schematic (PP+QQ) hamiltonian Grotz, Klapdor (1985), Chandra (2008), Rath (2010), Hinohara (2014)
- Quasi-particle random-phase approx. (QRPA) with a G-matrix residual interaction Vogel-2 ν (1986), Engel (1988), Rodin (2003), Faessler (1998), Simkovic (1999), Fang (2010) Or EDF Mustonen (2013), Terasaki (2015), Lv(2023), Bai (2023?)
- Interacting Boson Models (IBM) Barea (2009, 2012)
- GCM+EDFs Rodríguez (2010), Song (2014, 2017), Yao (2015)
- Angular momentum projected interacting shell model based on an effective interaction Iwata, Shimizu (2016), Jiao (2017, 2019) or REDF Wang (2021, 2023)
- Others: Generalized-seniority scheme Engel, Vogel, Ji, Pittel (1989)

Comparison of nuclear models





- ISM predicts small NMEs, while IBM and EDF predict large NMEs. Discrepancy is about a factor of THREE or even larger.
- Different models are not equivalent! Different schemes (model spaces and interactions): compare apples to oranges?
- Efforts in resolving the discrepancy: Challenging or even impossible?

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Strategy

- Operator forms: (Chiral) effective field theory (EFT) to specify the forms of nuclear forces and weak transition operators (at different expansion orders of Q/Λ_χ).
- Low-energy constants (LECs): data on NN scattering and few-body system or Lattice QCD calculations.
- Many-body solvers: A systematically improvable nuclear model to solve the quantum many-body problem.

$0 u\beta\beta$ decay operators from EFT



EFT: a model-independent analysis of operators at different energy scales







initial nucleus

ground state of final nucleus

$0 u\beta\beta$ decay operators from chiral EFT

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• At $E \sim 100$ MeV: operators are expressed in terms of nucleons, pions, and leptons.







K. Hebeler, Phys. Rep. 890, 1 (2021)

Nuclear forces from chiral EFT



• Non-relativistic chiral 2N+3N interactions (Weinberg power counting and others)



K. Hebeler, Phys. Rep. 890, 1 (2020)

• Relativistic chiral 2N interaction (up to N²LO, different PC from the NR case)

J.-X. Lu et al., PRL128, 142002 (2022)

The Monte-Carlo studies of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay in light nuclei





- The variational Monte Carlo (VMC) with the NN(AV18) + 3N(Illinois-7).
- Light Majorana neutrino exchange + multi-TeV (dim9) mechanisms of LNV.
- The N²LO effects captured by nucleon form factors impact the matrix elements at 10% level.
- The non-factorizable terms at N2LO may lead to O(10%) corrections.
- indicating that the NME converges with the chiral expansion order for the weak operators.
- Difficult to extend to the candidate nuclei of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay.

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Challenges of basis-expansion methods





• Repulsive core & strong tensor force: low and high k modes strongly coupled.

• non-perturbative, poorly convergence in basis expansion methods.

S. Bogner et al., PPNP (2010)

Preprocessing nuclear chiral interactions with SRG



• Apply unitary transformations to Hamiltonian

$$H_s = U_s H U_s^{\dagger} \equiv T_{
m rel} + V_s$$

from which one finds the flow equation

$$\frac{dH_s}{ds} = [\eta_s, H_s], \quad \eta_s = [T_{\rm rel}, H_s]$$

Evolution of the potential



The flow parameter s is usually replaced with $\lambda = s^{-1/4}$ in units of fm⁻¹. S. K. Bogner et al. (2007)

$$\frac{dV_s(k,k')}{ds} = -(k^2 - k'^2)V_s(k,k') + \frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^\infty q^2 dq(k^2 + k'^2 - 2q^2)V_s(k,q)V_s(q,k')$$

Preprocessing with SRG





Local projection of AV18 and N³LO(500 MeV) potentials V(r).

• The hard core "disappears" in the softened interactions

S. K. Bogner et al. (2010); Wendt et al. (2012)



• Unitary transformations

 $H(s)=U(s)H_0U^\dagger(s)$

Flow equation

$$\frac{dH(s)}{ds} = [\eta(s), H(s)]$$

- Generator η(s): chosen either to decouple a given reference state from its excitations or to decouple the valence space from the excluded spaces.
- Not necessary to construct the whole H matrix, computation complexity scales polynomially with nuclear size.



H. Hergert et al., Phys. Rep. 621, 165 (2016); S. R. Stroberg et al., Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 69, 307 (2019)

Progress in the ab initio studies of atomic nuclei





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N. M. Parzuchowski et al., PRC(2017)

- The single-reference VS-IMSRG(2) is difficult to capture collective correlations.
- The IM-GCM (multi-reference IMSRG+GCM) is capable to describe deformed nuclei.





JMY et al., PRC103, 014315 (2021)



• Using different ab initio methods but the same input to estimate of the truncation errors of many-body methods.





Ab initio methods for the lightest candidate ⁴⁸Ca

 Multi-reference in-medium generator coordinate method (IM-GCM)

JMY et al., PRL124, 232501 (2020)

• IMSRG+ISM (VS-IMSRG)

• Coupled-cluster with singlets, doublets, and partial triplets (CCSDT1) .









A. Belley et al., PRL126, 042502 (2021)

The missing piece in the LO transition operators



Featured in Physics

on Open Acces

New Leading Contribution to Neutrinoless Double- β Decay

Vincenzo Cirigliano, Wouter Dekens, Jordy de Vries, Michael L. Graesser, Emanuele Mereghetti, Saori Pastore, and Ubirajara van Kolck

Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 202001 - Published 16 May 2018



Introducing a contact transition operator

$$V_{
u,S} = -2 g_
u^{NN} au^{(1)+} au^{(2)+}$$





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V. CIRIGLIANO et al. PRC 100, 055504 (2019)

According to the VMS calculation, the contribution of the contact transition operator

$$V_{
u,S} = -2 g_{
u}^{NN} au^{(1)+} au^{(2)+}$$

to the NME of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay of

- $\bullet~^6\text{He}$ could be up to $\sim\pm16\%$
- $\bullet~^{12}\text{Be}$ could be up to $\sim\pm73\%$

The actual contribution depends on the value of the LEC g_{ν}^{NN} , which should be determined by the data of the process or the calculation of a more fundamental theory for the process.

The contact transition operator for $0 u\beta\beta$ decay





Uncertainty from the estimate of the inelastic contributions

The transition amplitude is observable and thus scheme independent.

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- The LEC g_{ν}^{NN} consistent with the employed chiral interaction (EM1.8/2.0) is determined based on the synthetic data.
- The contact term turns out to enhance (instead of qunech) the NME for ⁴⁸Ca by 43(7)%, thus the half-life $T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta}$ is only half of the previously expected value.
- The uncertainty (7%) is due to the synthetic data which can be reduced by using an accurate value of the LEC (g_{ν}^{NN}) .

R. Wirth, JMY, H. Hergert, PRL127, 242502 (2021)





A recent study in the relativistic chiral EFT shows that

- the $nn \rightarrow ppe^-e^-$ transition amplitude A_{ν} is regulator-independent, thus no need to introduce the contact transition operator.
- The predicted $A_{\nu} = 0.02085 \mathrm{MeV}^{-2}$, about 10% larger than the value by Cirigliano (2021).
- The discrepancy could be attributed to the different power counting: the LO of relativistic chiral EFT contains partial N2LO contribution of non-relativistic EFT.

Y.L. Yang and P. W. Zhao, arXiv:2308.03356v1 (2023)

Bethe-Salpeter equation $T(\vec{p}\,',\vec{p}) = V(\vec{p}\,',\vec{p}) + \int \frac{d^3p''}{(2\pi)^3} V(\vec{p}\,',\vec{p}\,'') \frac{M_N^2}{F_{\pi\pi}} \frac{1}{p^2 - n''^2 + i\epsilon} T(\vec{p}\,'',\vec{p})$ $E_{p''} \equiv \sqrt{M_N^2 + {p''}^2}$ Lippmann-Schwinger equation $\widehat{T}(\vec{p}\,',\vec{p}) = \widehat{V}(\vec{p}\,',\vec{p}) + \int d^3 p'' \widehat{V}(\vec{p}\,',\vec{p}\,'') \frac{M_N}{n^2 - n''^2 + i\epsilon} \widehat{T}(\vec{p}\,'',\vec{p})$ 0.035 HEFT (R) 0.030 0.030 [MeV⁻²] (MeV⁻²) χEFT (R) Ip.I = 25 MeV Cirigliano202 0.015 Ip.I = 30 Me\ 10 40 04 Λ (GeV)

VS-IMSRG method for $0 u\beta\beta$ decay of heavier candidates

With both the long- and short-range transition operators, the VS-IMSRG method is applied to study the NMEs of heavier candidates:

- For 130 Te, $M^{0
 u}_{L+S} \in [1.52, 2.40]$
- For 136 Xe, $M^{0
 u}_{L+S} \in [1.08, 1.90]$

The uncertainty is composed of different sources: nuclear interaction, reference-state, basis extrapolation, closure approximation, and the LEC for the short-range transition operators. The values are generally smaller than those from phenomenological nuclear models.

A more comprehensive quantification analysis

different nuclear many-body solvers, convergence of NMEs with chiral expansion orders, etc.

A. Belley et al, arXiv:2307.15156 (2023)





Convergence w.r.t. the chiral expansion order for nuclear forces leven the the the the terminate the terminate the terminate terminate



- The $\mathcal{A}_{\nu}(2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^{-})$ converges quickly w.r.t. the chiral expansion order of nuclear interactions. Negligible contribution beyond NLO, particular true for low momentum cases. R. Wirth, JMY, H. Hergert, PRL127, 242502 (2021)
- Convergence is slightly slower in candidate nucleus ⁴⁸Ca.

Convergence w.r.t. chiral expansion order for ⁷⁶Ge





A. Belley, JMY et al, arXiv:2308.15634 (2023)



Table 1 | The recommended value for the total NME of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay in ⁷⁶Ge, together with the uncertainties from different sources.

$M^{0\nu}$	ϵ_{LEC}	$\epsilon_{\chi \mathrm{EFT}}$	$\epsilon_{\rm MBT}$	$\epsilon_{\rm OP}$	$\epsilon_{\rm EM}$
$3.44^{+1.33}_{-1.56}$	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.5	< 0.06





- The long-range part of the NME is sensitive to the LEC C_{1S_0} .
- The phase shift of the ${}^{1}S_{0}$ channel is linearly correlated to the NME.
- The neutron-proton phase-shift δ_{np}^{1S0} at 50 MeV is used to weight the samples.

Uncertainty quantification of NME for ⁷⁶Ge





- Emulator, 8188 samples of chiral interactions, phase shift, $M^{0\nu} = 3.44^{+1.33}_{-1.56}$.
- Current upper limit for the effective neutrino mass $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = 141^{+117}_{-39}$ meV.
- The next-generation ton-scale Germanium experiment (~ 1.3×10^{28} yr): $m_{\beta\beta} = 17^{+14}_{-5}$ meV, covering almost the entire range of IO hierarchy.

A. Belley, JMY et al, arXiv:2308.15634 (2023)

Summary and perspective



- $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay: lepton-number-violation process, a complementary way to determine the absolute mass scale of neutrinos.
- Next-generation experiments: tonne-scale detectors with a half-life sensitivity up to 10²⁸ years.
- Large uncertainty in NMEs: systematical uncertainty, impacting extracted neutrino mass, attracting a lot of efforts from nuclear community.
- Ab initio studies of NMEs: remarkable progress, disclosing non-trivial contributions from high-energy light neutrinos. The NMEs for heavier candidate nuclei (⁴⁸Ca, ⁷⁶Ge, ⁸²Se, ¹³⁰Te, ¹³⁶Xe) have been computed. Convergence w.r.t. the chiral expansion order is rather rapid.

Next

- Considering higher-order nuclear interactions, reducing many-body truncation errors, and finding more constraints to shrink the uncertainty.
- Contributions from other mechanisms.



Collaborators

SYSU

Chenrong Ding, Changfeng Jiao, Gang Li, Xin Zhang

• PKU

Lingshuang Song, Jie Meng, Peter Ring

- LZU: Yifei Niu
- SCU: Chunlin Bai
- IMP, CAS: Dongliang Fang

- SWU: Longjun Wang
- MSU: Scott Bogner, Heiko Hergert, Roland Wirth
- UNC: Jonathan Engel, A. M. Romero
- TRIUMF: Antonie Belly, Jason Holt
- TU Darmstadt: Takayuki Miyagi
- Notre-Dame U: Ragnar Stroberg
- UAM: Benjamin Bally, Tomas Rodriguez

Thank you for your attention!

Beta decay and axial-vector coupling strength g_A



• The half-life of single-beta decay

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{\kappa}{f_0(B_F + B_{\rm GT})},$$

$$B_F = \frac{g_V^2}{2J_i + 1} |M_F|^2, \quad B_{\rm GT} = \frac{g_A^2}{2J_i + 1} |M_{\rm GT}|^2$$



• The charge-changing axial-vector current



Park, T.-S. et al. PRC67, 055206 (2003); M. Hoferichter et al., PRD102, 074018 (2020)



$$g_{A}^{\text{eff}}(q,0,\rho) \equiv g_{A} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\rho}{f_{\pi}^{2}} \left[-\frac{c_{D}}{4} \frac{1}{g_{A} \Lambda_{\chi}} + \frac{2c_{3}}{3} \frac{q^{2}}{4m_{\pi}^{2} + q^{2}} + \frac{I(\rho,0)}{3} \left(2c_{4} - c_{3} + \frac{1}{2m_{p}} \right) \right] \right\}$$

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The body-current effect on g_A

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The quenching factor:

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{A}}(q,
ho)\equiv \mathrm{g}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathrm{eff}}(q,
ho)/g_{\mathcal{A}}=1+\mathcal{A}[q]
ho+B
ho^{1/3}+C$$

where the coefficients A, B and C are defined as

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{A}[q] &= \frac{c_D}{4f_\pi^2} \frac{1}{g_A \Lambda_\chi} - \frac{1}{3f_\pi^2} \left[\left(2c_4 - c_3 + \frac{1}{2m_p} \right) + 2c_3 \frac{q^2}{4m_\pi^2 + q^2} \right] \\ \mathsf{B} &= \frac{m_\pi^2}{f_\pi^2} \left(\frac{2}{3\pi^2} \right)^{2/3} \left(2c_4 - c_3 + \frac{1}{2m_p} \right), \\ \mathsf{C} &= -\frac{2m_\pi^3}{3\pi^2 f_\pi^2} \left(2c_4 - c_3 + \frac{1}{2m_p} \right) \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{k_F}{m_\pi} \right). \end{split}$$



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Ab initio methods for nuclear single- β decay





- **VS-IMSRG**: a unitary transformation is constructed to decouple a valence-space Hamiltonian H_{vs} . The eigenstates are obtained by a subsequent diagonalization of the H_{vs} .
- A proper treatment of strong nuclear correlations and the consistency between 2BCs and three-nucleon forces explain the g_A -quenching puzzle in conventional valence-space shell-model calculations.

P. Gysbers et al., Nature Physics 15, 428 (2019)





• The 2B current changes NMEs ranging from -35% to 10%.

Two-body current effect





- The 3B operators quench matrix elements by about 10%,
- The 2B operators can produce somewhat larger quenching.

Correlation relation between NLDBD and DGT





• Weak correlation between $M^{0\nu}$ and $M^{\rm DGT}$.

• Other observables: $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay, excitation energies?

JMY et al., PRC106, 014315 (2022)

Correlation relation from VS-IMSRG for ⁷⁶Ge-Se





Figure: The correlation between different nuclear observables and $M^{0\nu}$ using 34 LECS samples of the Delta-full NNLO_{go}(394) interaction.

A. Belley et al., arXiv:2210.05809v1 [nucl-th]

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