Two-Body Currents and $\beta\beta$ Decay

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Weak Current in Chiral EFT

Leading order:



Three orders down:



In Coordinate Space (Don't Ask...)

$$\begin{split} \hat{J}_{2b}(\boldsymbol{x}) &= \sum_{k$$

Ονββ Decay

Use closure approximation:

$$\hat{O} \propto \int rac{J^+(ec{q})J^+(-ec{q})}{q(q+ar{E})} \, d^3q$$

Leading diagram:

$$p$$
 p p ν ν n n

Product of Currents

In first quantization, let

$$\sum_{i} \hat{O}_{i}^{1b} =$$
 1-body operator in J^+
 $\sum_{ij} \hat{O}_{ij}^{2b} =$ 2-body operator in J^+

$$J^{+}(\vec{q})J^{+}(-\vec{q}) = \sum_{ij} \hat{O}_{i}^{1b}\hat{O}_{j}^{1b} + \underbrace{\sum_{ijk} \left(\hat{O}_{ij}^{2b}\hat{O}_{k}^{1b} + \hat{O}_{i}^{1b}\hat{O}_{jk}^{2b} \right)}_{ijk} + 4\text{-body}$$
$$+ \underbrace{\sum_{ij} \left(\hat{O}_{ij}^{2b}[\hat{O}_{i}^{1b} + \hat{O}_{j}^{1b}] + [\hat{O}_{i}^{1b} + \hat{O}_{j}^{1b}]\hat{O}_{ij}^{2b} \right)}_{2\text{-body op.}}_{2\text{-body op.}}$$

Two-Body Currents in $O_{\nu\beta\beta}$ Decay

Diagrams for these contributions:



Javier's Famous Nuclear Matter Work

Normal-ordering of two-body current, to get effective one-body current. Corresponds to:

$$g_{A} \longrightarrow g_{A} - g_{A} \frac{\rho}{F_{\pi}^{2}} \left[\frac{c_{d}}{g_{A}\Lambda} + \frac{2c_{3}}{3} \frac{q^{2}}{q^{2} + 4m_{\pi}^{2}} + I(\rho, P) \left(\frac{2c_{4} - 3_{3}}{3} + \frac{1}{6m} \right) \right]$$

 $I(\rho, P)$ is a complicated function of ρ and P that depends weakly on P an is about 2/3 at nuclear density.

Other Contributions

L.J. Wang has done calculation with approximate ⁷⁶Ge wave function in *fp* shell, inert core underneath. When evaluating contribution of nucleons in core, he finds that in addition a different sum over orbitals contributes:



Comes from one-body operator acting, then two-body operator:

$$\sum_{i < F} \langle F | p_b^{\dagger} n_i^{\dagger} n_a n_b p_a^{\dagger} n_i | l \rangle$$

Can also view as exchange piece of the three-body-operator that comes form multiplying two- and one-body operators.

The Two Contractions in Symmetric Nuclear Matter

Contribution to matrix element vs. distance between two-decay vertices.



Longjun Result:

Javier contraction only

All contractions



Counterterms?

The two-body operator represented by this diagram:



contains a divergent loop integral. The Los Alamos EFT people say that there should be a counter term (with an unknown coefficient) to compensate. There may be other such terms as well; I haven't really looked yet.

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This is not great news, IMO.

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