

Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics and accelerator-based science

# Ab initio calculations of double-beta decay and WIMPnucleus scattering

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## The Next Big Discovery: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay?

#### Neutrino own antiparticle $\Longleftrightarrow 0\nu\beta\beta$ decay





#### Tremendous impact on BSM physics:

#### Lepton-number violating process

Majorana character of neutrino

Absolute neutrino mass scale



### The Next Big Discovery: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay?





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Uncertainty from Nuclear Matrix Element; bands do not represent rigorous uncertainties

## Next Big Discovery: Nature of Dark Matter?

Many direct-detection searches underway worldwide



Direct detection:  $X \operatorname{SM} \to X \operatorname{SM}$ 

Leading candidates: neutralinos

Couples primarily to scalar and axial-vector currents in atomic nuclei



Observation of nuclear recoil

## Next Big Discovery: Nature of Dark Matter?

Exclusion plots for WIMP-nucleon total cross section (spin-dependent)



Differential cross section: compare results from different targets

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}p^2} = \frac{8G_F^2}{(2J_i+1)v^2}S_A(p)$$

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Structure functions required from nuclear theory

## **Predictions with Models**

How well can nuclear models motivate experiments, predict beyond data?



Work well in regions where informed by data

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Spread in results = meaningful uncertainty?

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Analogous picture in  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay

$$M_{GT}^{0\nu} = \langle f | \sum_{ab} H(r_{ab}) \sigma_a \cdot \sigma_b \ \tau_a^+ \tau_b^+ | i \rangle$$



## $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Nuclear Matrix Element Status

All calculations to date from extrapolated phenomenological models; large spread in results







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All models missing essential physics  $M^{0
u}$  0
uetaeta

#### **R**TRIUMF

#### **Spin-Dependent Structure Factors**

Phenomenological wfs + inconsistent bare operator (with two-body currents)



## Ab Initio Approach

Aim of modern nuclear theory: Develop unified *first-principles* picture of structure and reactions

$$H\psi_n = E_n\psi_n$$



### Ab Initio Approach: Interactions

Aim of modern nuclear theory: Develop unified *first-principles* picture of structure and reactions

- Nuclear forces (low-energy QCD)

$$H\psi_n = E_n\psi_n$$

- Electroweak physics

"The first, the basic approach, is to study the elementary particles, their properties and mutual interaction. Thus one hopes to obtain knowledge of the nuclear forces."



### **Effective Theory of Nuclear Forces**

**Chiral effective field theory**: systematic expansion of nuclear interactions



**Consistent EW interactions** Quantifiable uncertainties possible Best fitting strategy for ~30 undetermined couplings debated

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## Ab Initio Approach: Many-Body Methods

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- Nuclear forces (low-energy QCD)

$$H\psi_n = E_n\psi_n$$

- Electroweak physics
- Nuclear many-body problem

"If the forces are known, one should, in principle, be able to calculate deductively the properties of individual nuclei."



## Chronological Reach of Ab Initio Many-Body Methods

Moore's law: exponential growth in computing power

Methods for light nuclei (QMC, NCSM) scale exponentially with mass



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## Breadth of Ab Initio Many-Body Methods

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## Ab Initio $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Predictions in the Shell Model

Conventional Shell Model: phenomenological wavefunctions

Ab initio valence-space: wavefunctions based on NN+3N forces from chiral EFT

$$M^{0\nu} = M^{0\nu}_{GT} - \frac{M^{0\nu}_F}{g_A^2} + M^{0\nu}_T$$
$$M^{0\nu}_{GT} = \langle f | \sum_{ab} H(r_{ab}) \sigma_a \cdot \sigma_b \ \tau_a^+ \tau_b^+ | i \rangle$$



1) Ab initio energies in medium/heavy-mass region

#### Valence-Space In-Medium SRG

Explicitly construct unitary transformation from sequence of rotations

$$U = e^{\Omega} = e^{\eta_n} \dots e^{\eta_1} \quad \eta = \frac{1}{2} \arctan\left(\frac{2H_{\text{od}}}{\Delta}\right) - \text{h.c.}$$
$$\tilde{H} = e^{\Omega} H e^{-\Omega} = H + [\Omega, H] + \frac{1}{2} [\Omega, [\Omega, H]] + \cdots$$

All operators truncated at two-body level



Step 1: Decouple core Step 2: Decouple valence space

Can we achieve accuracy of large-space methods?

$$\langle \tilde{\Psi}_n | P \tilde{H} P \mid \tilde{\Psi}_n \rangle \approx \langle \Psi_i | H | \Psi_i \rangle$$

Tsukiyama, Bogner, Schwenk, PRC 2012 Morris, Parzuchowski, Bogner, PRC 2015

$\langle P H P\rangle$	$\langle P H Q angle ightarrow 0$
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#### Ground States: From Oxygen to Nickel

ENO agrees to 1% with large-space methods (where calculations exist)



Extend beyond standard *sdlpf* shells

Agreement with experiment deteriorates for heavy chains (due to input Hamiltonian) Significant gain in applicability with little/no sacrifice in accuracy

Low computational cost: ~1 node-day/nucleus

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#### Extrapolating Beyond Data

#### Stark contrast in extrapolations between model extrapolations and ab initio



All ab initio methods in good agreement when starting from same input NN+3N forces

#### **Ònly informed by 2,3-body data**

### **RETRIUMF** Connection to Infinite Matter: Saturation as a Guide for Nuclei

#### Hebeler/Simonis NN+3N forces with reasonable saturation properties



1.8/2.0 (EM) reproduces closed shells through <sup>78</sup>Ni

Only underbound for neutron-rich oxygen

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#### Forces with good saturation

Isotopic chains: dramatic improvement with respect to experimental data



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How well does it work across broad regions of nuclei?
## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: F (Z=9)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: Ne (Z=10)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: Na (Z=11)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: Mg (Z=12)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: AI (Z=13)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: Si (Z=14)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: P (Z=15)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: S (Z=16)



JDH, Stroberg, et al., in preparation

## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: CI (Z=17)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: Ar (Z=18)



## Ground-State Properties in sd-Shell: K (Z=19)

60

60



## Ground-State Properties in pf-Shell: Ca (Z=20)



JDH, Stroberg, et al., in preparation

## Ground-State Properties in pf-Shell: Sc (Z=21)



## Ground-State Properties in pf-Shell: Ti (Z=22)



### Ab Initio Dripline Prediction



General agreement with model predictions

Significant differences arise for heavy nuclei

### **R**TRIUMF

### Ab Initio Dripline Prediction



General agreement with model predictions

Proton dripline: very good agreement with experiment

## Ground-State Properties in pf-Shell: V (Z=23)



## 

## Ground-State Properties in pf-Shell: Cr (Z=24)

Generally deformed, new data from ISOLTRAP



JDH, Stroberg, et al., in preparation

## Ground-State Properties in pf-Shell: Mn (Z=25)



## Ground-State Properties in pf-Shell: Fe (Z=26)

### Explore ground-state properties throughout medium-mass region



JDH, Stroberg, et al., in preparation

Mass Number A

Mass Number A

## Ground-State Properties in pf-Shell: Ni (Z=28)



## Ab Initio for Structure of Lightest Tin Isotopes

Level ordering near <sup>101</sup>Sn controversial and unknown: insights from ab initio valence-space IMSRG



Ab initio predicts 5/2<sup>+</sup> ground state, but within theoretical uncertainties

## Towards big questions: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

#### Aim of modern nuclear theory: Develop unified *first-principles* picture of structure and reactions

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## **\Re TRIUMF** Ab Initio $0v\beta\beta$ -Decay Predictions from Valence-Space IMSRG

Conventional SM: phenomenological wavefunctions Ab initio SM: wavefunctions from chiral NN+3N forces

$$M^{0\nu} = M^{0\nu}_{GT} - \frac{M^{0\nu}_F}{g_A^2} + M^{0\nu}_T$$
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Ab initio energies in medium/heavy-mass region
 Valence-space IM-SRG for all medium-mass nuclei

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**Deformation challenging for large-space methods** 

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Valence-space IM-SRG for all medium-mass nuclei

Deformation challenging for large-space methods

First ab initio calculation of <sup>76</sup>Ge/<sup>76</sup>Se



## Ab Initio $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Predictions in the Shell Model

Conventional SM: phenomenological wavefunctions + **bare operator** 

Ab initio SM: wavefunctions from chiral NN+3N forces + consistent effective operator

$$M^{0\nu} = M^{0\nu}_{GT} - \frac{M^{0\nu}_F}{g_A^2} + M^{0\nu}_T$$
$$M^{0\nu}_{GT} = \langle f | \underbrace{\sum_{ab} H(r_{ab}) f_a \cdot \sigma_b \tau_a^+ \tau_b^+}_{eff} | i \rangle$$



1) 🗸 Ab initio energies in medium/heavy-mass region

2) Effective decay operator: decouple valence-space operator (analogous to Hamiltonian)



Payne, Stroberg, JDH, Menendez, in preparation

### Effective Valence-Space In-Medium SRG Operators

Explicitly construct unitary transformation from sequence of rotations





## Testing microscopic descriptions of collectivity



- Use GOSIA Coulomb-excitation code to extract matrix elements
- Compare with NCSpM (LSU) and VS-IM-SRG (TRIUMF)
  - NCSpM does excellent job expensive calculations
  - VS-IM-SRG underpredicts strength relatively inexpensive qualitative description excellent



## 

## Testing microscopic descriptions of collectivity

Assess nature of missing VS-IM-SRG E2 strength:

$$B(E2)_{T_z=-1}^{\text{Proj.}} = B(E2)_{T_z=-1}^{\text{Theory}} \times \frac{B(E2)_{T_z=+1}^{\text{Exp}}}{B(E2)_{T_z=+1}^{\text{Theory}}}$$

If missing E2 strength isoscalar, expected "projected" B(E2) to match experiment

- Projected B(E2) consistently 15% over/
- under predicted by VS-IM-SRG
  Missing strength has <u>consistent</u> isovector component
  Promising for future development
  Shell model (USDB) shows no consistent
- behaviour



# "Quenching" of $g_A$ in Gamow-Teller Decays

Long-standing problem in weak decays of nuclei: should  $g_A$  be "quenched"?

Using  $\,g_A^{\mathrm{eff}} pprox 0.77 imes g_A^{\mathrm{free}}\,$  agrees with data



## Two-body Currents in Nuclei

Chiral Effective Field Theory – electroweak currents consistent with nuclear forces



#### Three-Nucleon Low-Energy Constants from the Consistency of Interactions and Currents in Chiral Effective Field Theory

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Institute for Nuclear Theory, University of Washington, Box 351550, Seattle, Washington 98195, USA

Sofia Quaglioni and Petr Navrátil Lawrence Livermore, California 94551, USA (Received 23 December 2008; published 1 September 2009)

The chiral low-energy constants  $c_D$  and  $c_E$  are constrained by means of accurate *ab initia* calculations of the A = 3 binding energies and, for the first time, of the triton  $\beta$  decay. We demonstrate that these lowenergy observables allow arobust determination of the two undetermined constants a result of the

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## "Quenching" of $g_A$ in Gamow-Teller Decays

VS-IMSRG calculations of GT transitions in sd, pf shells Minor effect from consistent effective operator Significant effect from neglected 2-body currents



Ab initio calculations explain data with unquenched g<sub>A</sub>



### **R**TRIUMF

# "Quenching" of $g_A$ in Gamow-Teller Decays

Prediction from light nuclei to super allowed GT transition in 100Sn



Agreement with data with no need for quenching

## Ab Initio $2\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

First benchmark to reproduce known shell-model results


### Ab Initio $2\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

Consistent many-body wfs/operators from chiral NN+3N forces (no 2b currents)



#### **VS-IMSRG:** decrease in final matrix element

Fayne, Stroberg, JDFT, et al., in pre

Likely missing contributions from intermediate states outside valence space

#### Ab Initio $2\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

Consistent many-body wfs/operators from chiral NN+3N forces (with 2b currents)



Payne, Stroberg, JDH, et al., in prep

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General cancellation between Fermi and Tensor contributions

## Ab Initio $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

Consistent many-body wfs/operators from chiral NN+3N forces (no 2b currents)



Final matrix element converged – significant decrease from phenomenology

# Ab Initio $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

Ab initio: Consistent many-body wfs/operators from chiral NN+3N forces



#### Ab Initio $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

Ab initio: Consistent many-body wfs/operators from chiral NN+3N forces



Two-body currents in progress – typically decrease NME

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## Ab Initio $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Predictions in the Shell Model

Neutrinoless double beta decay

Standard SM: phenomenological wavefunctions + bare operator

Ab initio SM: wavefunctions from chiral NN+3N forces + consistent effective operator

$$M^{0\nu} = M^{0\nu}_{GT} - \frac{M^{0\nu}_F}{g_A^2} + M^{0\nu}_T$$

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1)  $\checkmark$  Ab initio energies in medium/heavy-mass region  
2)  $\checkmark$  Effective decay operator: decouple valence-space operator  
3) Operator corrections  
**Two-body currents S. Leutheusser (UBC/MIT)**

$$\int_{s}^{s} e^{i\sqrt{s}} \int_{s}^{s} e^{i\sqrt{s}} e^{i\sqrt{s}} e^{i\sqrt{s}} \int_{s}^{s} e^{i\sqrt{s}} e^{i\sqrt{s}}$$

## Towards big questions: WIMP-Nucleus Scattering

#### Aim of modern nuclear theory: Develop unified *first-principles* picture of structure and reactions

- Nuclear forces (low-energy QCD)
- Electroweak physics
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#### **R**TRIUMF

#### Ab Initio WIMP-Nucleus Response Functions (Isoscalar)

Ab initio: Consistent many-body wfs/operators from chiral NN+3N forces + 2b currents



#### Outlook

#### Ab initio valence-shell Hamiltonians

First ab initio prediction of nuclear driplines Cross-shell spaces underway: Island of inversion



**Fundamental physics** 

Effective electroweak operators: M1, GT,...

Effective  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay operator