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$\beta\beta$ -decay matrix elements

&

charge-exchange reactions

(some surprises in nuclear physics ??)

KVI:  $(d, {}^2\text{He})$  reactions  $\rightarrow GT^+$

RCNP:  $({}^3\text{He}, t)$  reactions  $\rightarrow GT^-$

(TRIUMF: EC rates with ion-traps)

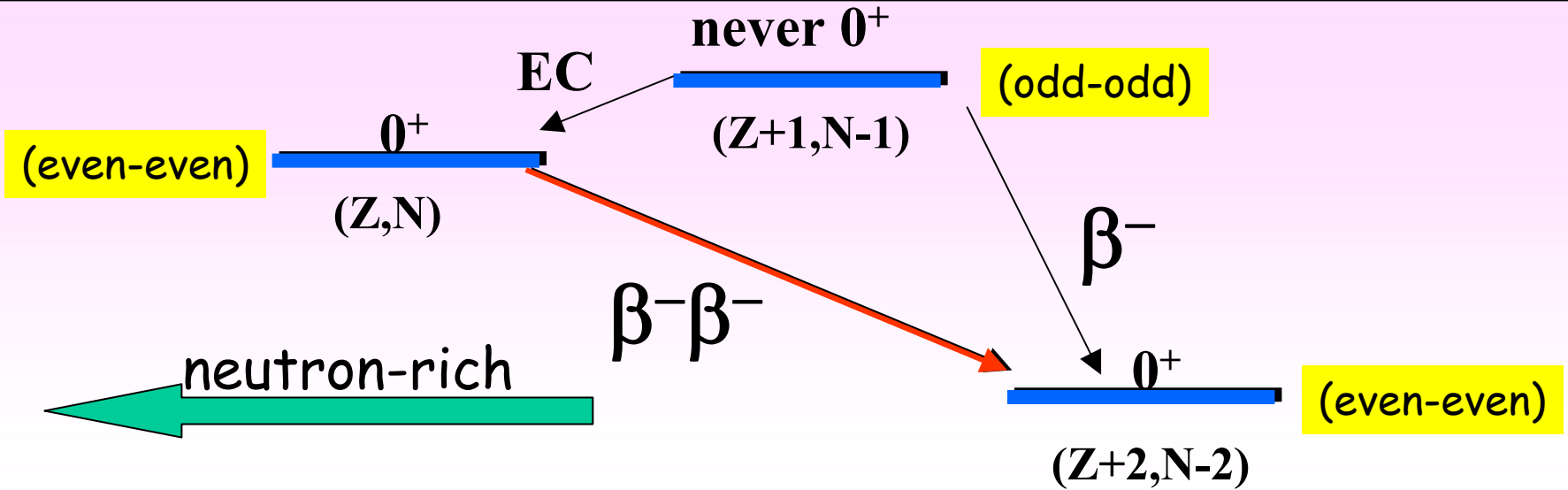
# OUTLINE

- 1) ~~some basics about  $\nu$ 's and nuclear  $\beta\beta$  matrix elements~~
- 2) understanding the nuclear physics of  $2\nu\beta\beta$  -decay
  - charge-exchange reactions ( $d, {}^2\text{He}$ ) and ( ${}^3\text{He}, t$ )

	${}^{48}\text{Ca}$	<b>CANDLES</b>
	${}^{64}\text{Zn}$	<b>COBRA</b>
→	${}^{76}\text{Ge}$	<b>GERDA</b>
	${}^{82}\text{Se}$	<b>NEMO</b>
→	${}^{96}\text{Zr}$	<b>NEMO</b>
→	${}^{100}\text{Mo}$	<b>MOON/NEMO</b>
	${}^{116}\text{Cd}$	<b>COBRA</b>
→	${}^{128/130}\text{Te}$	<b>CUORE</b>
→	${}^{136}\text{Xe}$	<b>EXO, KamLAND-ZEN</b>
	${}^{150}\text{Nd}$	<b>SNO+</b>

- 3) possibilities towards the nuclear physics of  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay.
- 4) wish list and issues for theorists to deal with

# $\beta^-\beta^-$ decay



$2\nu\beta^-\beta^-$  decay:  $\Gamma = (\text{ph-spc}) \times \left| \begin{array}{c} NME \\ \text{5-body} \\ \text{allowed} \end{array} \right|^2$

$0\nu\beta^-\beta^-$  decay:  $\Gamma = (\text{ph-spc}) \times \left| \begin{array}{c} NME \\ \text{3-body} \\ \text{any degree} \end{array} \right|^2 \times \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|^2$

# Quick reminder of neutrino mass problem

$$\Gamma \propto |NME|^2 \cdot \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|^2$$

$$U = V \cdot \text{diag}(e^{-i\Phi_1}, e^{-i\Phi_2}, 1) \quad \leftarrow \text{2 extra Majorana phases}$$

$$V_{\alpha i} = \begin{pmatrix} V_{e1} & V_{e2} & V_{e3} \\ V_{\mu 1} & V_{\mu 2} & V_{\mu 3} \\ V_{\tau 1} & V_{\tau 2} & V_{\tau 3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & c_{13}s_{12} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -c_{23}s_{12} - c_{12}s_{13}s_{23}e^{-i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{13}s_{23}e^{-i\delta} & c_{13}s_{23} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{13}c_{23}s_{13}e^{-i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{23} - c_{23}s_{12}s_{13}e^{-i\delta} & c_{13}c_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

**known quantities:**

$$\Theta_{12} = 0.6 \pm 0.1 \quad \rightarrow \approx \pi/6$$

$$\Theta_{23} = 0.7 \pm 0.2 \quad \rightarrow \approx \pi/4$$

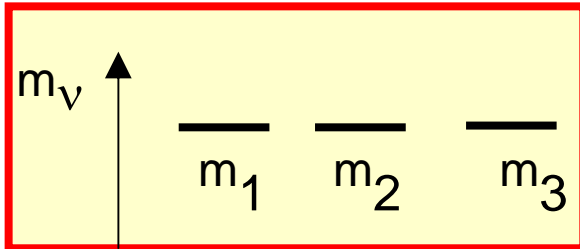
$$\Theta_{13} < 0.14$$

$$\Delta m_{atm}^2 = \left| m_3^2 - m_2^2 \right| \approx 2.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2 \approx \underline{\underline{(0.05 \text{ eV})^2}}$$

$$\Delta m_{sol}^2 = \left| m_2^2 - m_1^2 \right| \approx 7.9 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2 \approx \underline{\underline{(0.009 \text{ eV})^2}}$$

# Neutrino mass scenarios:

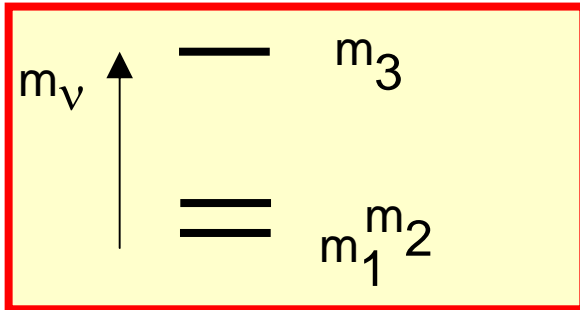
1) degenerate:



$$|m_{\nu_e}| \approx 0.2 eV$$

best of all cases

2) normal hierarchy:

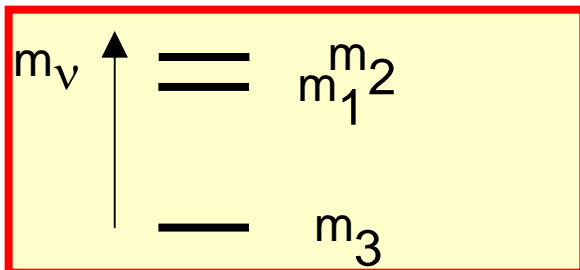


$$|m_{\nu_e}|^2 \propto \Delta m_{sol}^2 \times \left| \frac{3m_1}{\Delta m_{sol}} + e^{-2i(\Phi_2 - \Phi_1)} + (< 0.5)e^{-2i(\delta - \Phi_1)} \right|^2$$

= zero!! for:

$$\Theta_{13} = 0 \quad (\Phi_2 - \Phi_1) = \frac{\pi}{2} \quad \frac{3m_1}{\Delta m_{sol}} = 1$$

3) inverted hierarchy:



$$|m_{\nu_e}|^2 \propto \Delta m_{atm}^2 \times \left| 3 + e^{-2i(\Phi_2 - \Phi_1)} \right|^2$$

if inverted hierarchy were determined  
(by LHC or spectral distortion of SN-neutrinos)

THEN:  $|m_{\nu_e}| \approx \Delta m_{atm}$

or the neutrino is a Dirac particle

**NME important**

# NMIE

## $2\nu\beta^-\beta^-$ decay

**q-transfer like ordinary  $\beta$ -decay**

**( $q \sim 0.01 \text{ fm}^{-1} \sim 2 \text{ MeV}/c$ )**

**only allowed decays possible**

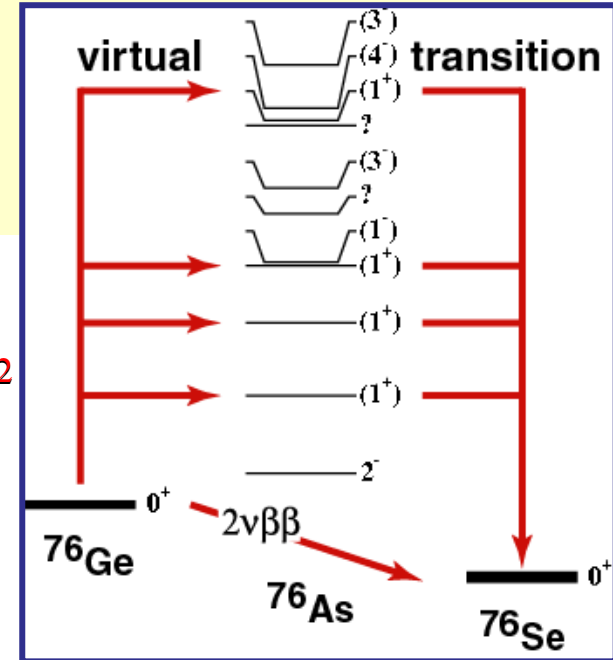
$$\Gamma_{(\beta^-\beta^-)}^{2\nu} = \frac{C}{8\pi^7} \left( \frac{G_F g_A}{\sqrt{2}} \cos(\Theta_C) \right)^4 \left| M_{\text{DGT}}^{(2\nu)} \right|^2 \mathcal{F}_{(-)}^2 f(\mathbf{Q})$$

$$= G^{2\nu}(\mathbf{Q}, Z) \left| M_{\text{DGT}}^{(2\nu)} \right|^2$$

$\propto Q^{11} \cdot Z^2$

$\approx 10^{-3} \text{ MeV}^{-2}$

$\propto \frac{1}{N-Z}$

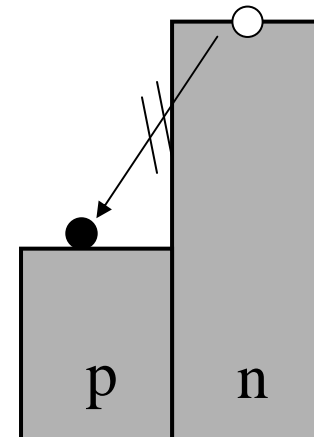


**favorable:**

1. High Q-value
2. High Z

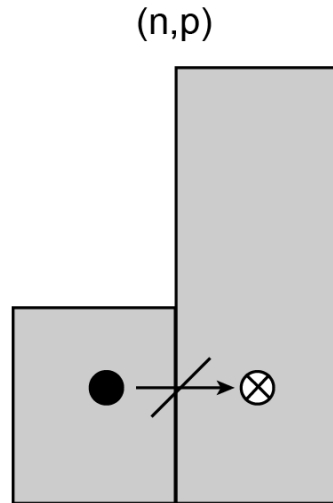
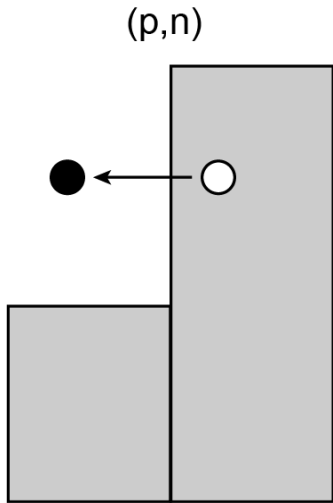
**Unfavorable:**

1. high neutron excess  
(because of Pauli-Blocking)



# A layman's sketch of the Pauli-blocking

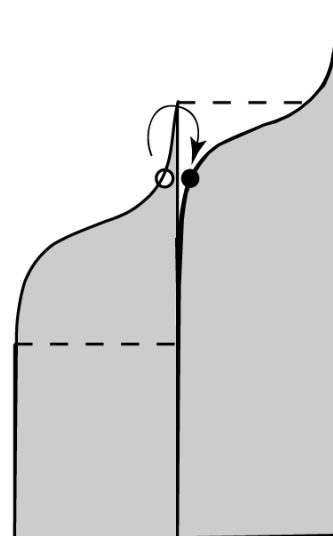
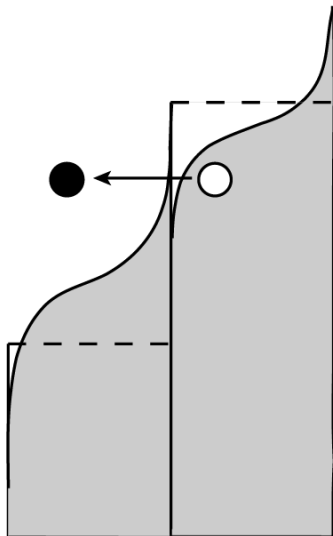
remember: GT requires  $\Delta\hbar\omega=0$  !!



Extreme case:

(p,n) completely open

(n,p) completely blocked



Soft surface case:

(p,n) still largely open

(n,p) still largely blocked

yet probabilities could be finite  
but tiny



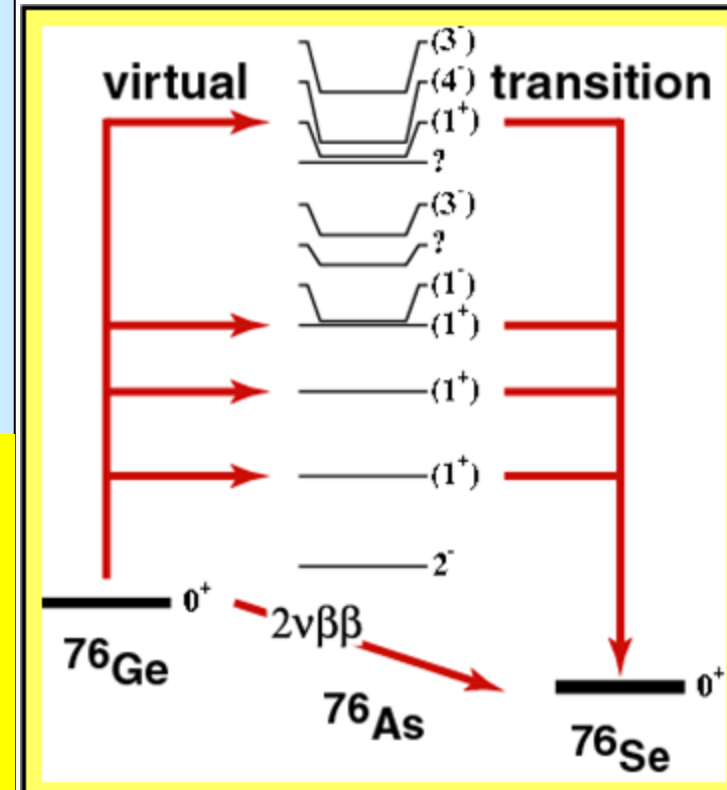
$$M_{\text{DGT}}^{(2\nu)} = \sum_m \frac{\langle \mathbf{0}_{g.s.}^{(f)} | \sum_k \sigma_k \tau_k^- | \mathbf{1}_m^+ \rangle \langle \mathbf{1}_m^+ | \sum_k \sigma_k \tau_k^- | \mathbf{0}_{g.s.}^{(i)} \rangle}{\frac{1}{2} Q_{\beta\beta}(\mathbf{0}_{g.s.}^{(f)}) + E(\mathbf{1}_m^+) - E_0}$$

$$= \sum_m \frac{M_m(GT^+) M_m(GT^-)}{E_m}$$

To note:

1. two sequential & „allowed“  $\beta^-$ -decays of „Gamov-Teller“ type
2. „first-“ oder „higher order forbidden“ decays negligible
3. Fermi-transitions don't contribute (because different isospin-multiplet)

accessible thru charge-exchange reactions in (n,p) and (p,n) direction ( e.g. (d,  $^2\text{He}$ ) or ( $^3\text{He}$ , t) )



# NMIE

## $0\nu\beta^-\beta^-$ decay

neutrino enters as virtual particle,

$$q \sim 0.5 \text{ fm}^{-1} (\sim 100 \text{ MeV}/c)$$

degree of forbiddenness weakened

$$\Gamma_{(\beta^-\beta^-)}^{0\nu} = G^{0\nu}(Q,Z) g_A^4 \left| M_{\text{DGT}}^{(0\nu)} - \left( \frac{g_V}{g_A} \right)^2 M_{\text{DF}}^{(0\nu)} \right|^2 |m_{\nu_e}|^2$$

$$\propto Q^5 \cdot Z^4$$

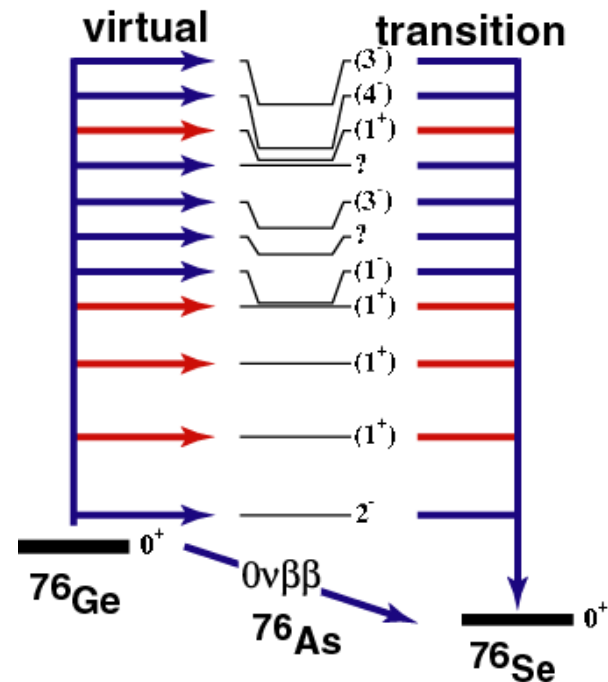
theory  $\approx 10 !!$   
 indept. of (A,Z)  
 (except for magic nuclei)

Mass of Majorana- $\nu$  !

To note:

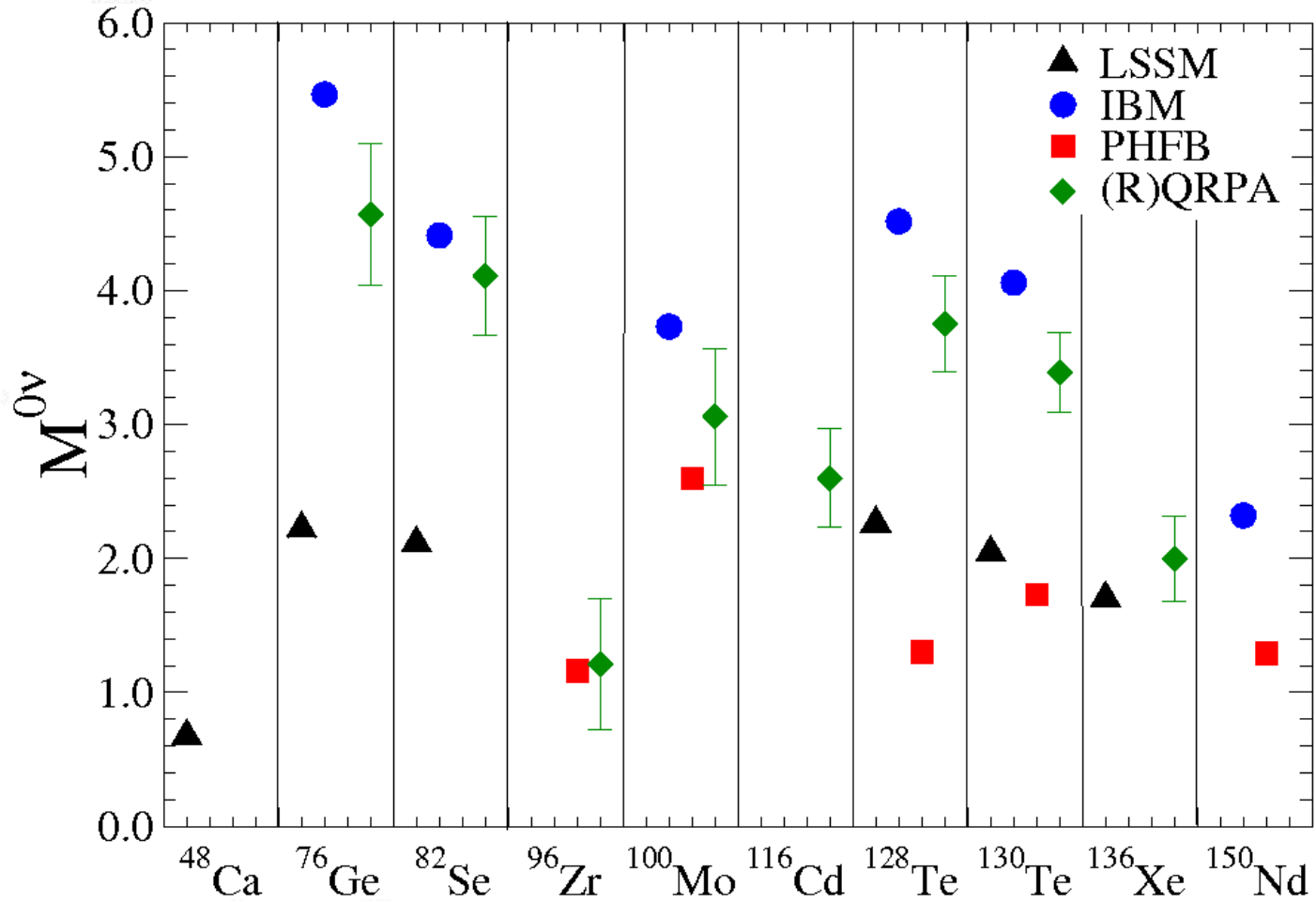
1. „first-“ or „higher order forbidden“ transitions important
2. Fermi -transitions important
3. Pauli-blocking largely lifted
4. high Q-value, high Z important

**NOT accessible thru charge-exchange reactions**

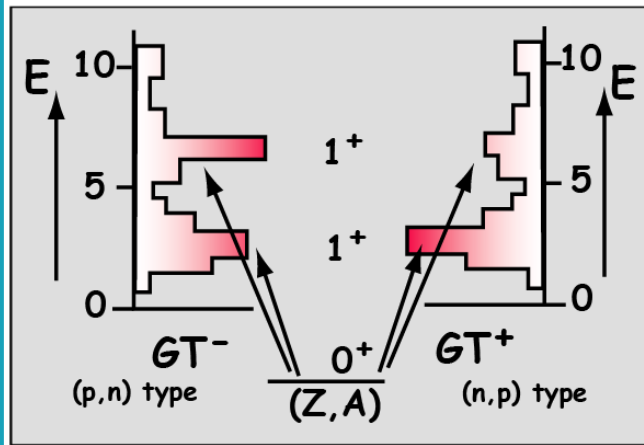


# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Nuclear Matrix Elements

V. Rodin, A. Faessler, F. Šimković, P. Vogel, PRC 68 (2003) 044303;



Back to  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay  
and  
charge-exchange  
reactions



Q: How to connect the weak  $\vec{\sigma}\tau$  GT operator with hadronic reactions?

A: at intermediate energies exploit the dominance of  $V_{\sigma\tau}$  interaction.

$$M(GT) = \langle 1^+ || \sigma\tau^\pm || 0g.i.s. \rangle$$

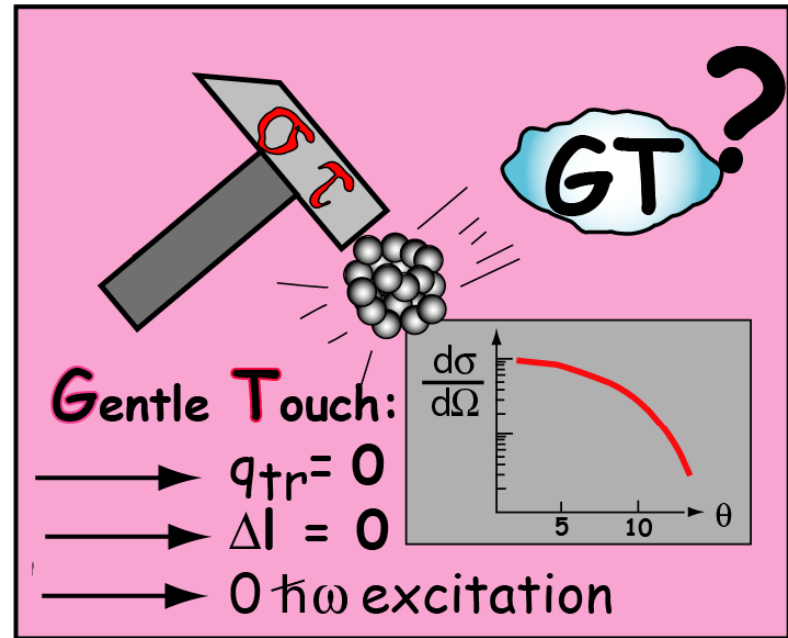
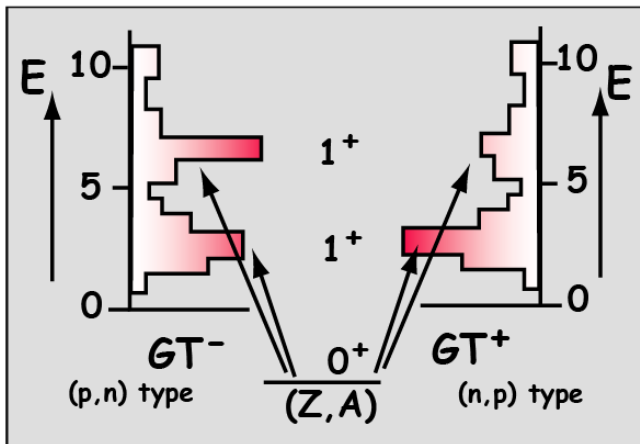
$$B(GT) = \frac{1}{2J_i+1} |M(GT)|^2$$

hadronic probes: (n,p), (d,<sup>2</sup>He), (t,<sup>3</sup>He)

or (p,n), (<sup>3</sup>He,t)

$$\left[ \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right] = \left[ \frac{\mu}{\pi\hbar} \right]^2 \frac{k_f}{k_i} N_d |V_{\sigma\tau}|^2 |\langle f | \sigma\tau | i \rangle|^2$$

largest at 100 - 300 MeV/A



$$M(GT) = \langle 1^+ || \sigma \tau^\pm || 0_g^i.s. \rangle$$

$$B(GT) = \frac{1}{2J_i+1} |M(GT)|^2$$

hadronic probes: (n,p), (d,<sup>2</sup>He), (t,<sup>3</sup>He)

or (p,n), (<sup>3</sup>He,t)

$$\left[ \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right] = \left[ \frac{\mu}{\pi\hbar} \right]^2 \frac{k_f}{k_i} N_d |V_{\sigma\tau}|^2 |\langle f | \sigma \tau | i \rangle|^2$$

largest at 100 - 200 MeV/A

# The message after many years of expmlt studies of $2\nu\beta\beta!!$ -NME

1. In all cases the low-energy part of the GT-excitation makes up most of the NME.
2. The GT giant resonance has little to no effect on the NME (Pauli-blocked from the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg).
3. A large difference of the nuclear shape between mother and grand-daughter leads to a suppression of the NME (case:  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ).
4. There are some very special and simple cases ( $^{96}\text{Zr}$ ,  $^{100}\text{Mo}$ )
5. What is the effect of a 2n-pair in  $^{128,130}\text{Te}$  ?
6. What is wrong with  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  - why is it so stable ?





$^{76}\text{Ge}$

the most important  
 $\beta\beta$ -decaying nucleus

Se76

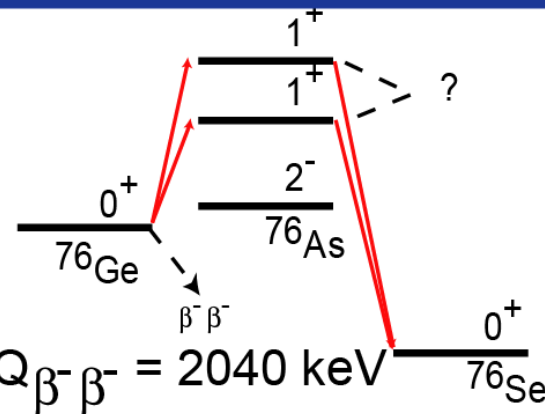
As76

$\beta^-$  26.3h

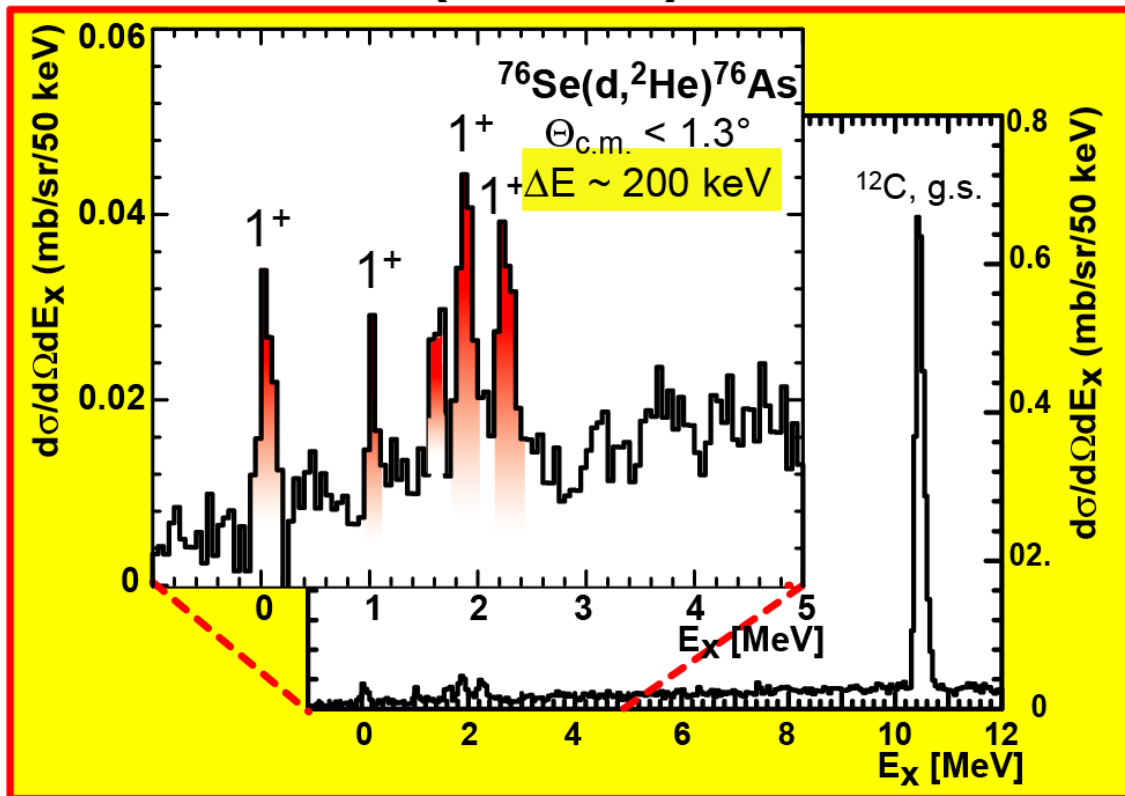
Ge76

$\beta^- \beta^-$   
 $1.4 \times 10^{21}$  a

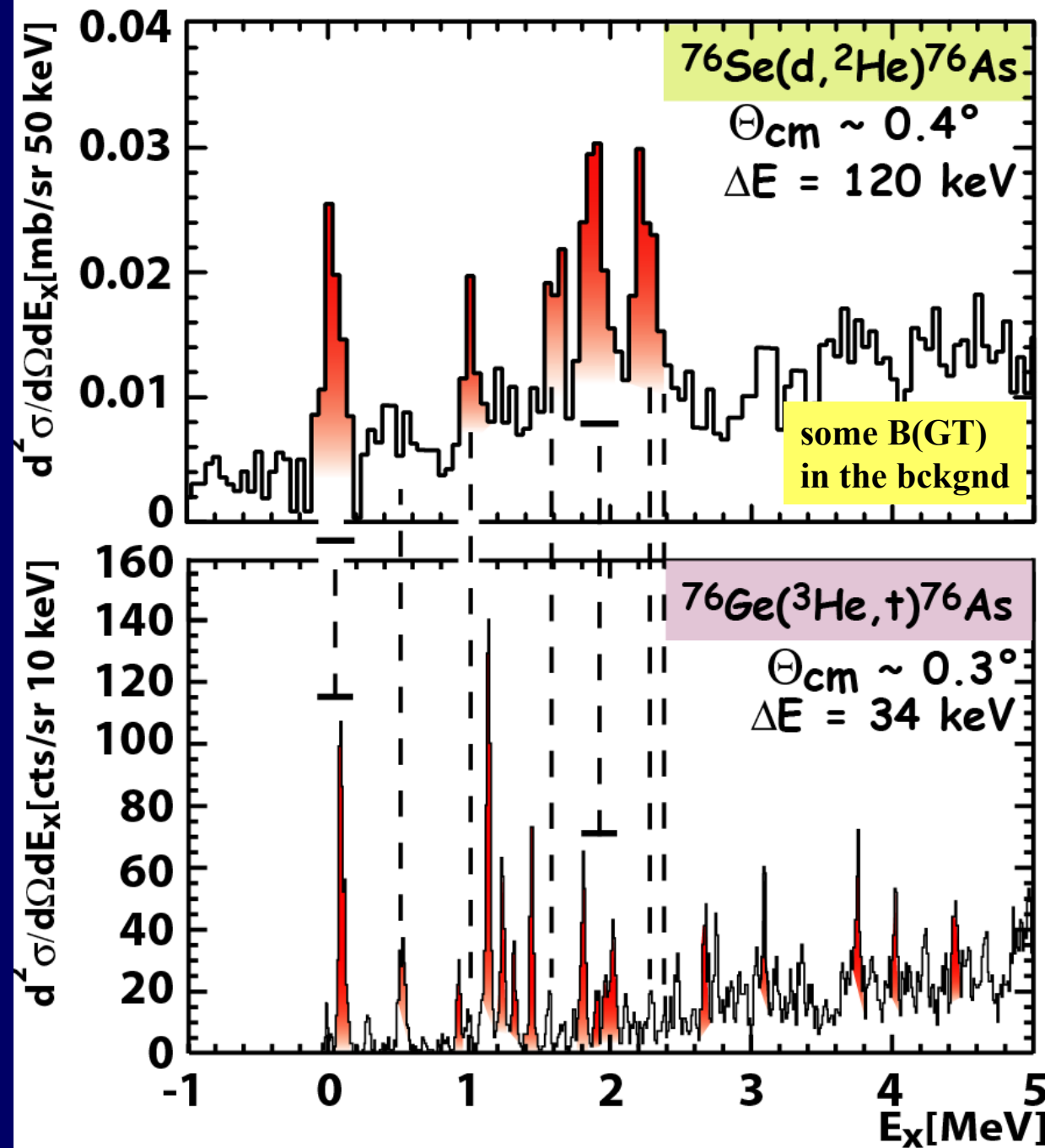
$^{76}\text{Ge} \beta\beta ^{76}\text{Se}$



$^{76}\text{Se}(d, ^2\text{He})^{76}\text{As}$



$\Sigma B(\text{GT}^+) \sim 0.54$



an  
anticorrelation  
of strength  
(very similar to  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ )

!!!!!!

An effect of the  
difference of  
deformation ??

**$^{76}\text{Se}$ :**

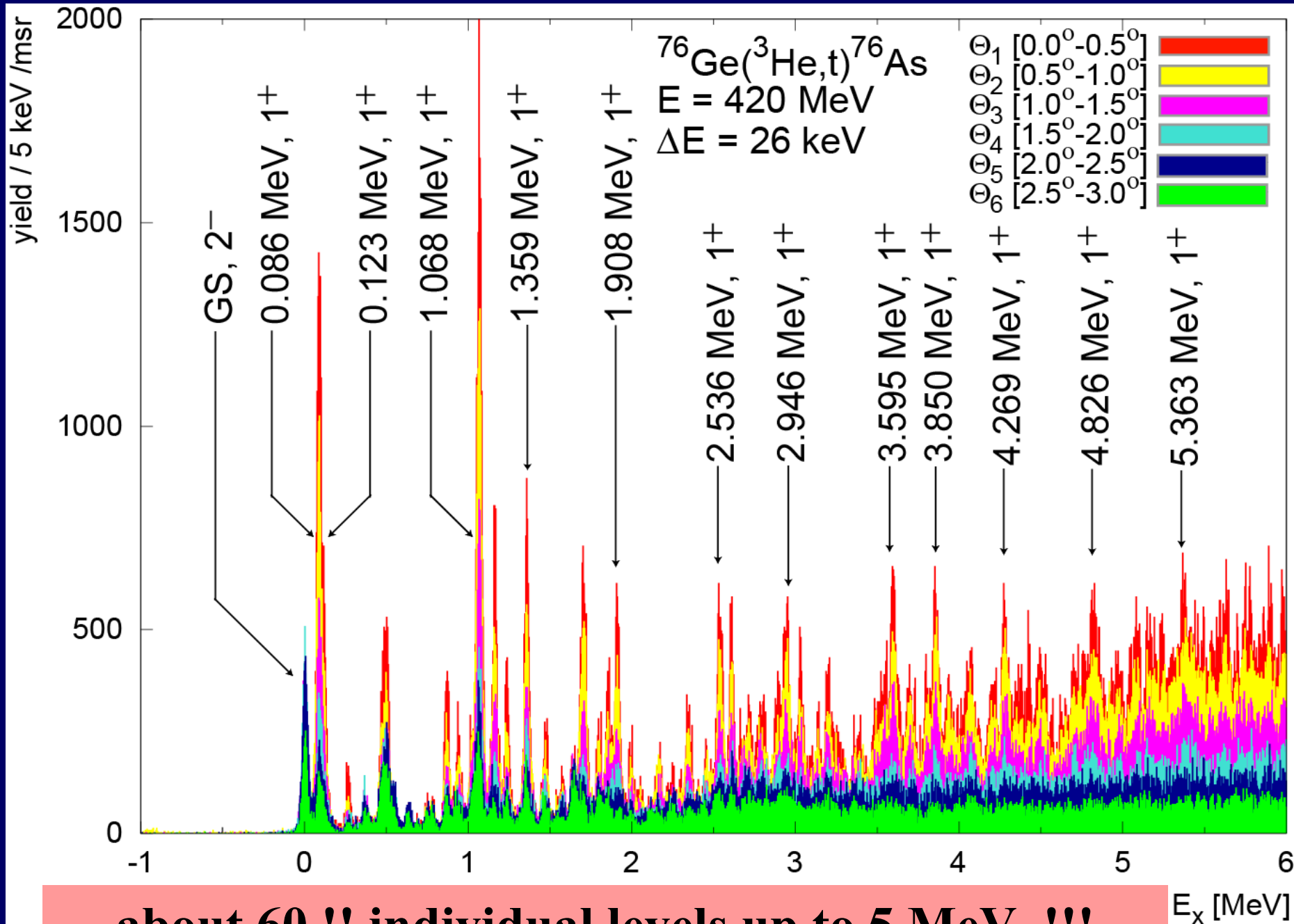
oblate

( $\beta_2 \sim -0.2$ )

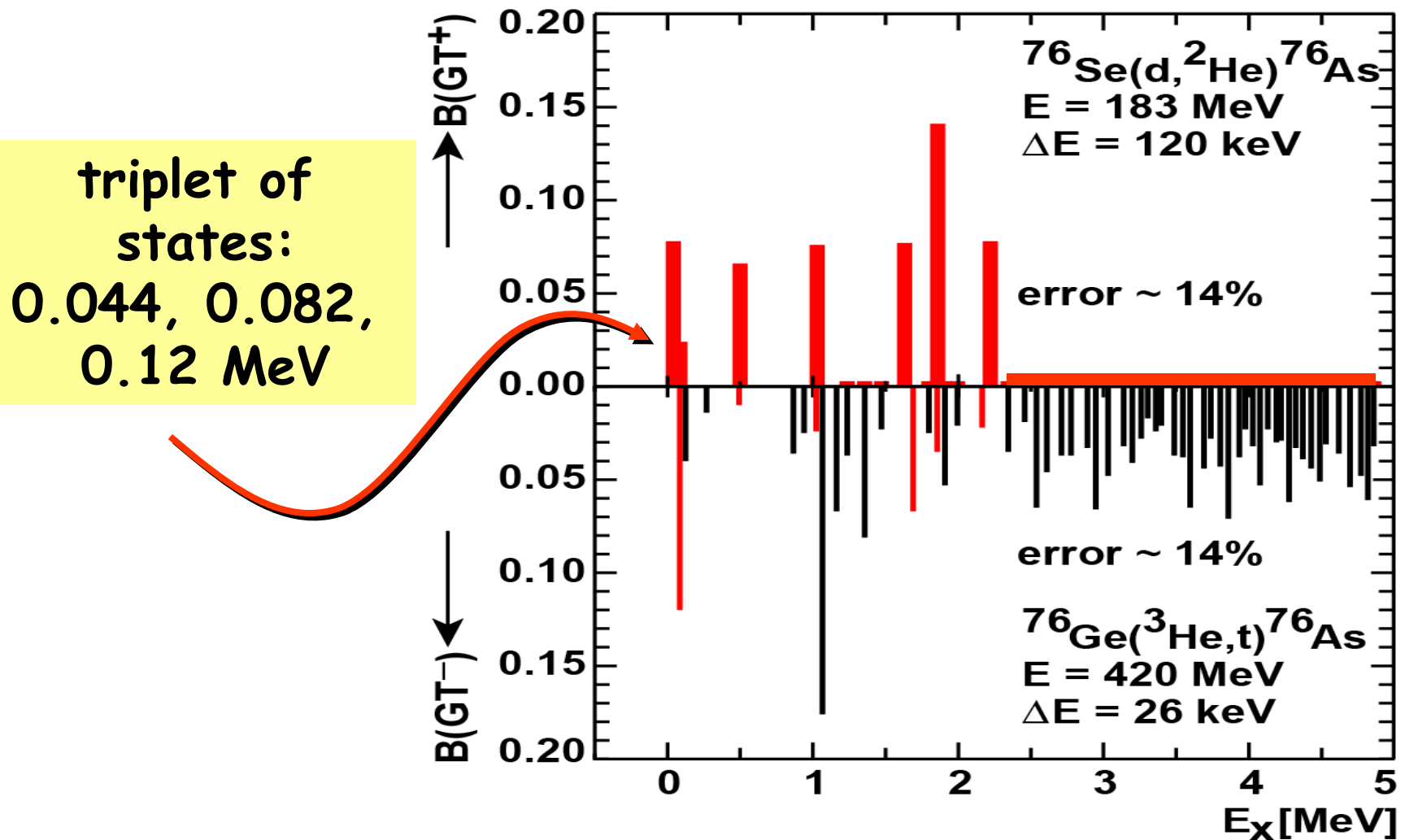
**$^{76}\text{Ge}$ :**

moderately  
oblate/ prolate

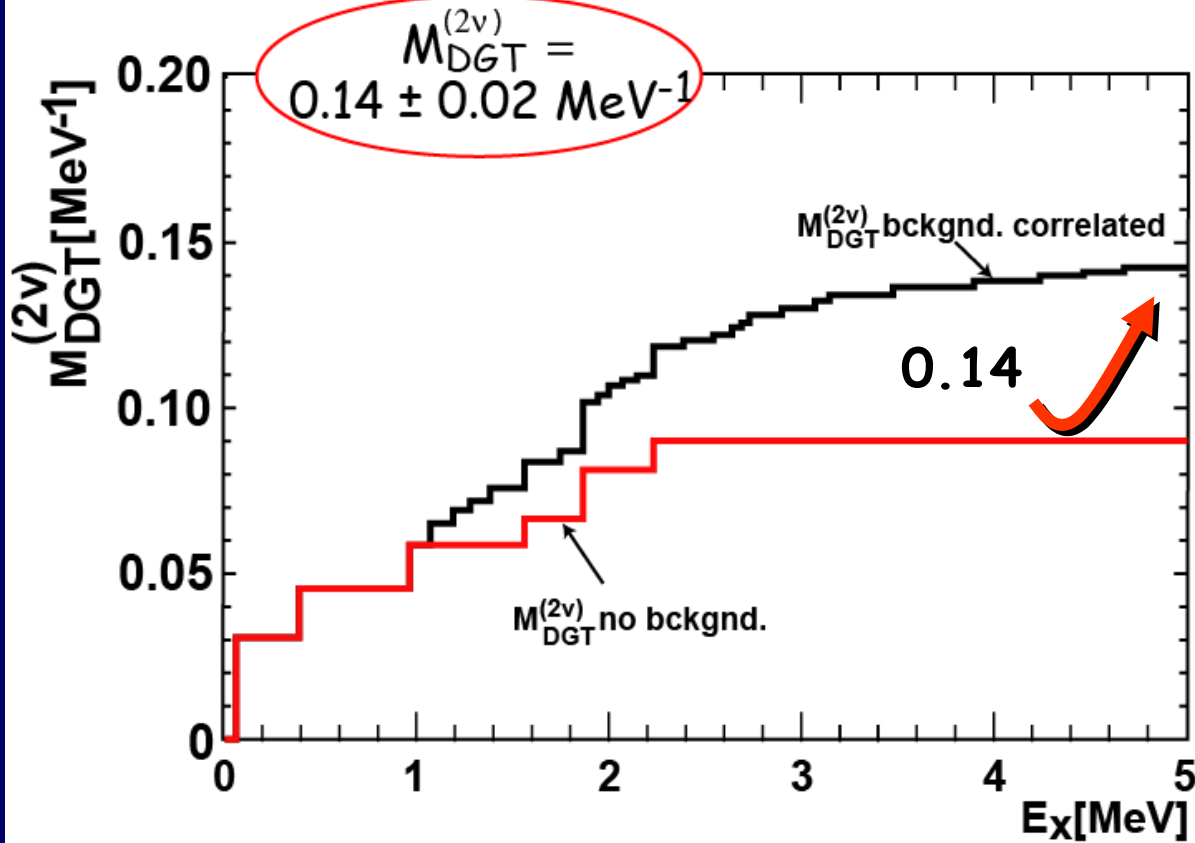
( $\beta_2 \sim 0.1$ )



about 60 !! individual levels up to 5 MeV !!!



Correlate states within the expmtl resolution



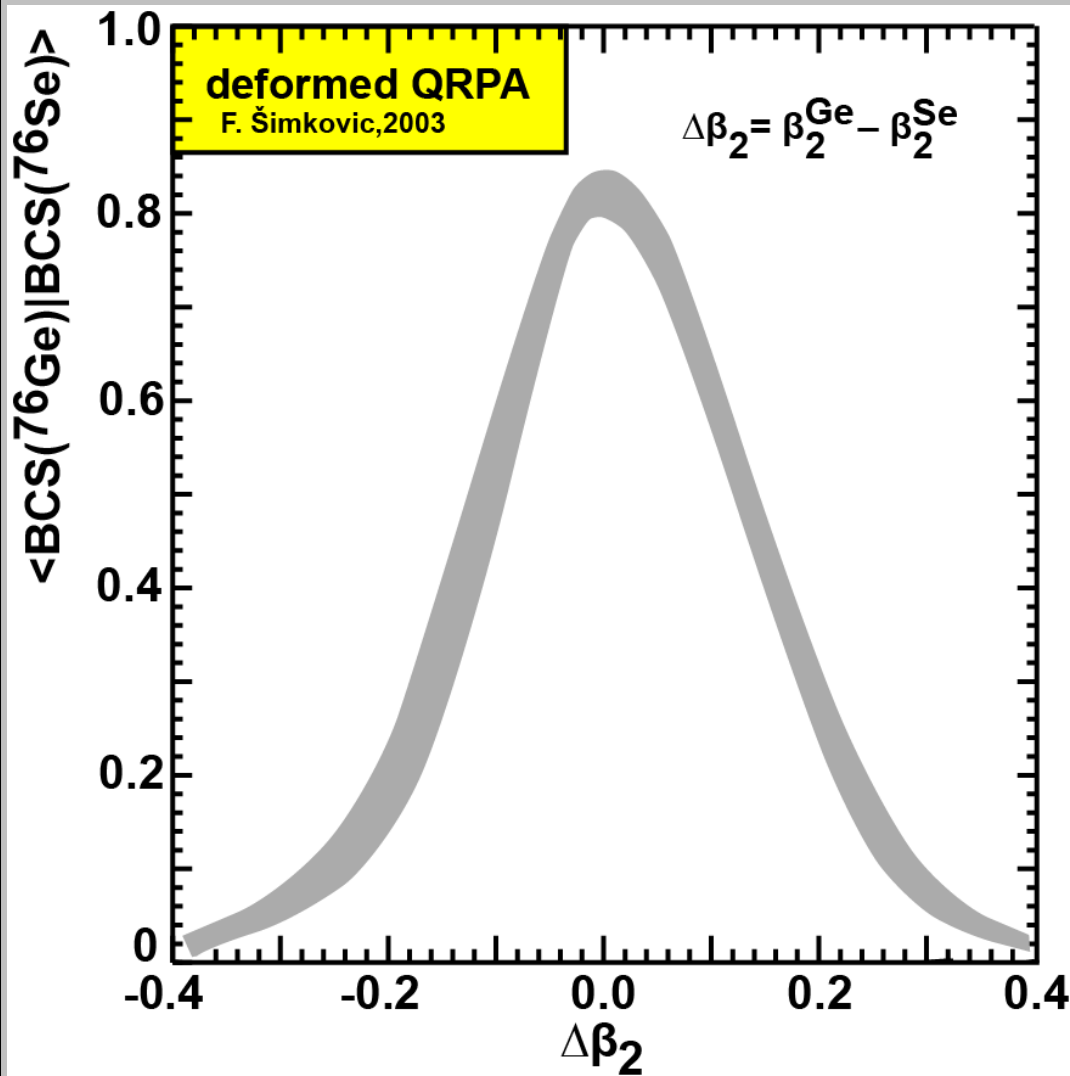
Correlated states make up 55% of  $2\nu\beta\beta$ -ME

$$M_{\text{DGT}} = 0.09 \text{ MeV}^{-1}$$

Adding correlation with undifferentiated bckgnd makes up ~100% of  $2\nu\beta\beta$ -ME

$$M_{\text{DGT}} = 0.14 \pm 0.02 \text{ MeV}^{-1}$$

$$T_{1/2} = (1.5 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{21} \text{ yr}$$



taken from F. Simkovic et al.  
(cf also P. Sarriguren et al.,  
PRC67,44313 (2003))

Intrinsic deformation seems to affect the  $2\nu\beta\beta$ -ME, however, it is the difference of deformation between mother and daughter and not their absolute values which counts.

Exp'ly the deformation seems to manifest itself in a state-by-state mismatch, rather than an overall reduction of  $B(\text{GT})$ 's.

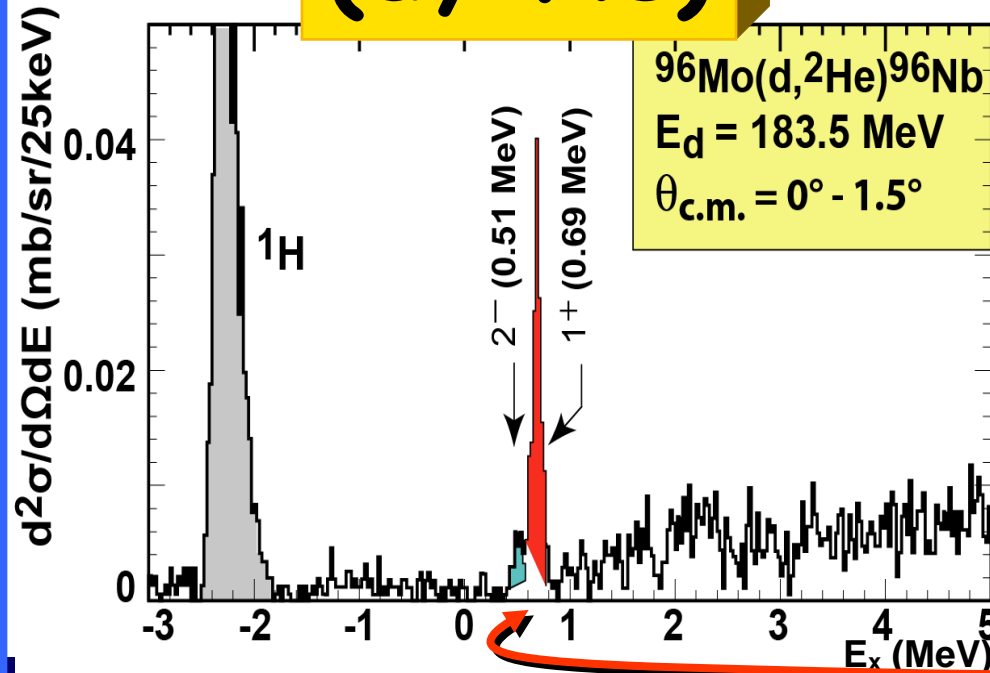
$^{96}\text{Zr}$

the most neutron-rich  
Zr-isotope  $N-Z=16$

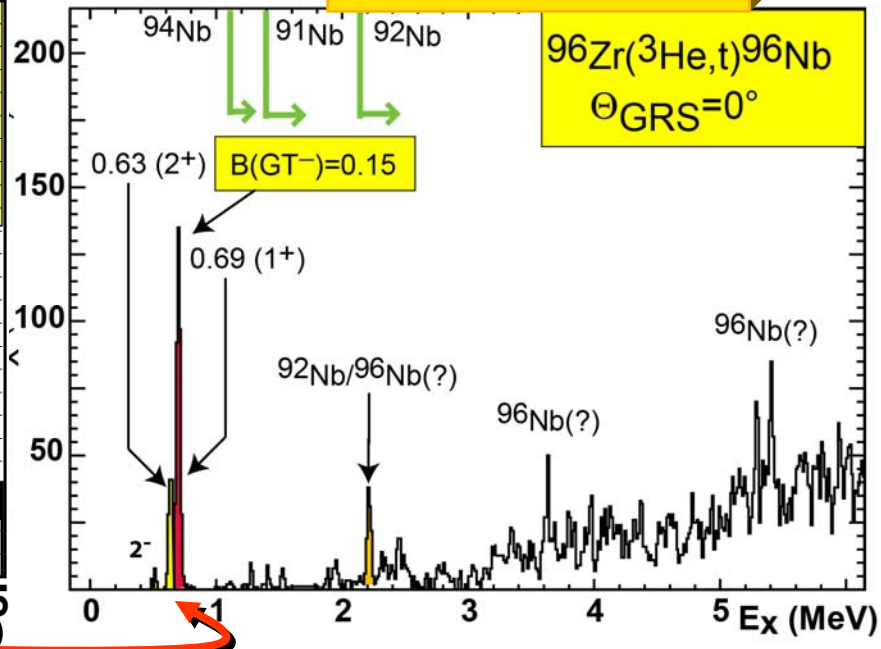


**(d,  $^2\text{He}$ )**

**( $^3\text{He}, t$ )**



RCNP 2007/08



**$B(\text{GT}^+) = 0.3$**

**$B(\text{GT}^-) = 0.15$**

**Fascination: With this 1 level only:**

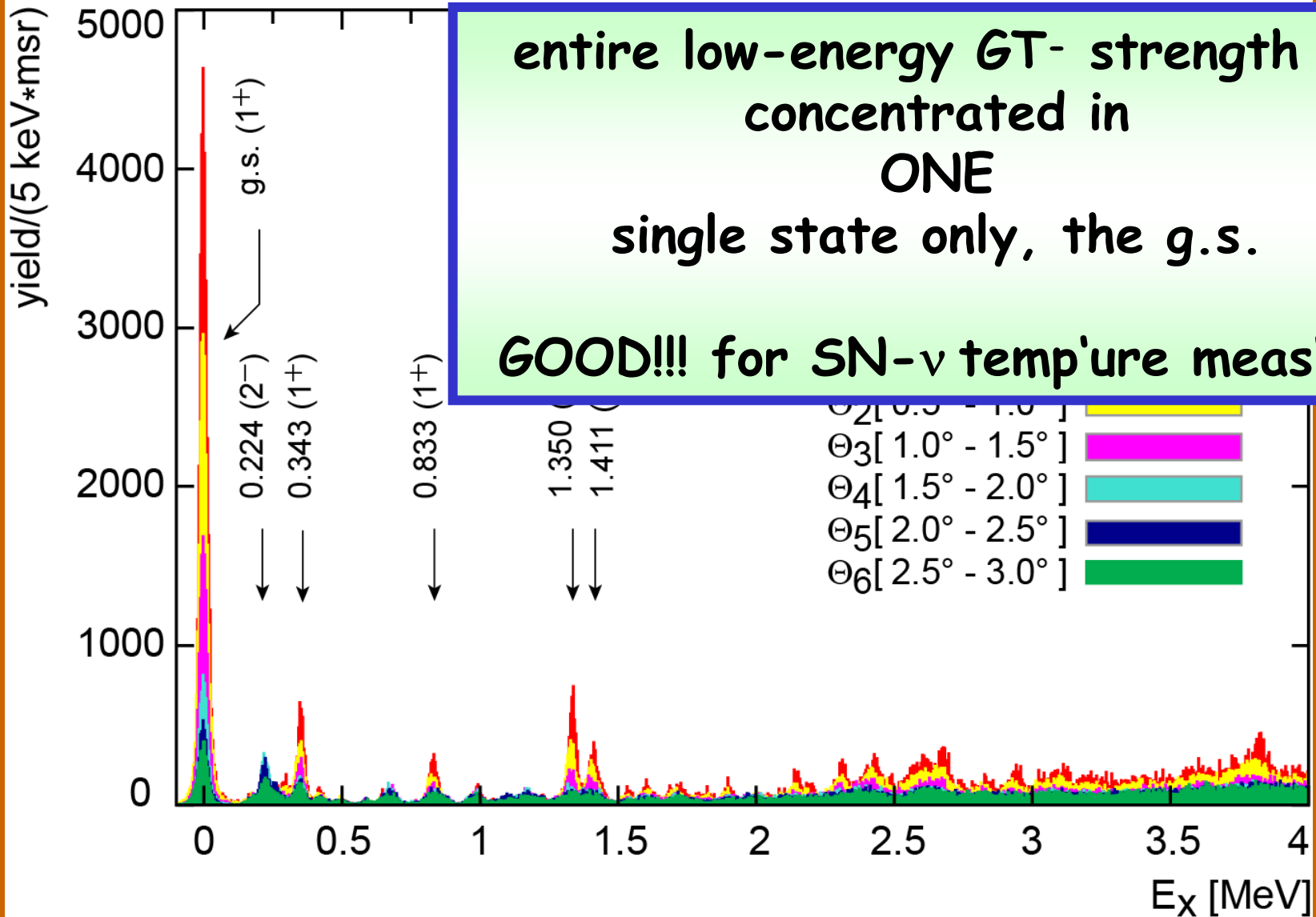
**$T_{1/2}^{\text{calc.}}(2\nu\beta\beta) = (2.4 \pm 0.3) \cdot 10^{19} \text{ years}$**

**$T_{1/2}^{\text{exp.}}(2\nu\beta\beta) = (2.2 \pm 0.4) \cdot 10^{19} \text{ years (NEMO3-result)}$**

# 100 Mo

Important for  
 $\beta\beta$ -decay  
solar neutrino detector  
( $Q = -168$  keV)

SN-neutrino detector  
SN-neutrino temperature



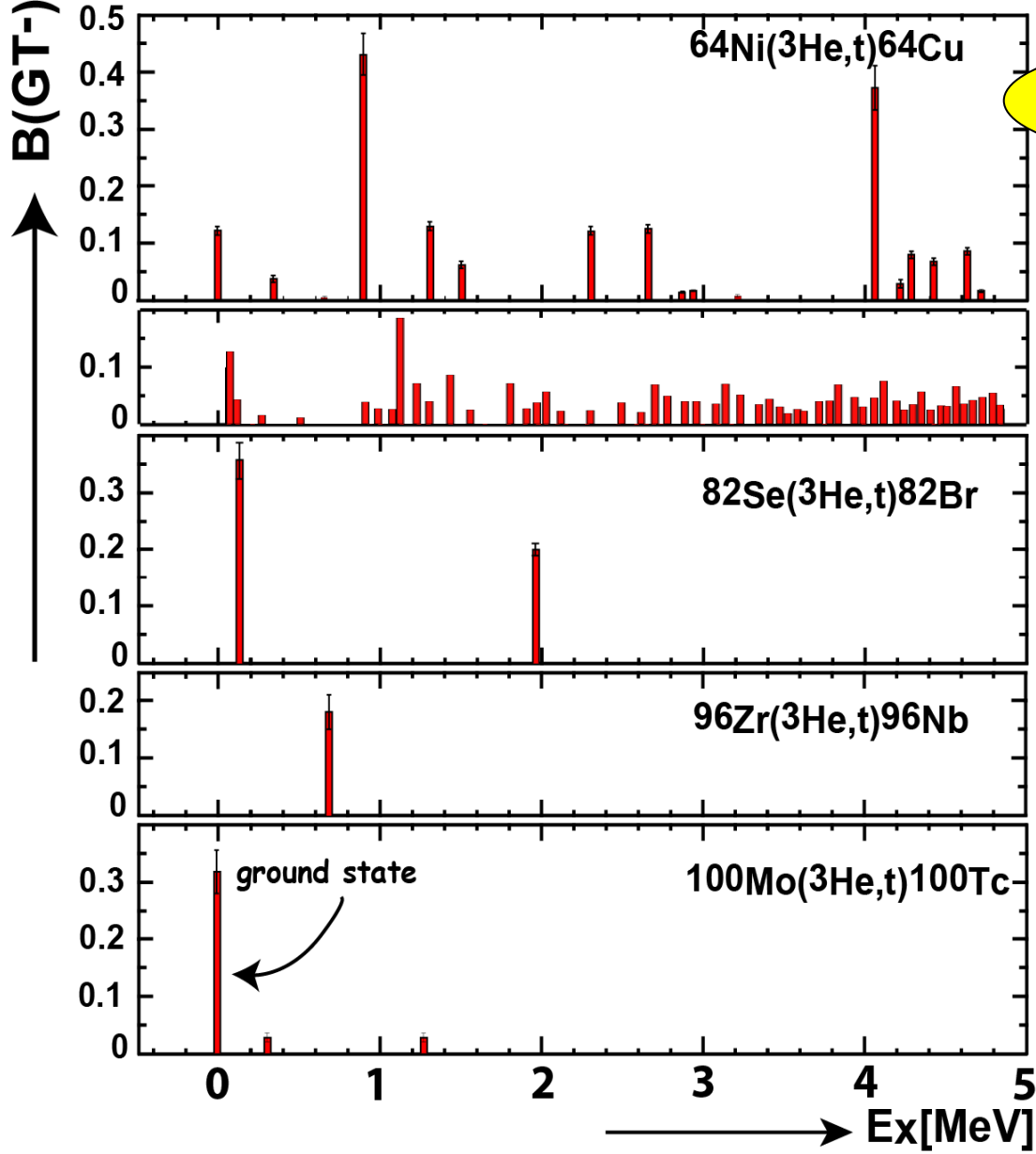
entire low-energy GT- strength is concentrated in ONE single state only, the g.s.

**GOOD!!!** for SN- $\nu$  temp'ure meas'nt

$$B(\text{GT}) = 0.32 \rightarrow \log ft (\text{EC}) = 4.54$$

In perfect agreement with Ejiri et al. (1998):

$$B(\text{GT}) = 0.33$$



$^{64}\text{Zn}(\epsilon\epsilon, \epsilon\beta^+)$

$^{76}\text{Ge}(\beta\beta^-)$

$^{82}\text{Se}(\beta\beta^-)$

$^{96}\text{Zr}(\beta\beta^-)$

$^{100}\text{Mo}(\beta\beta^-)$

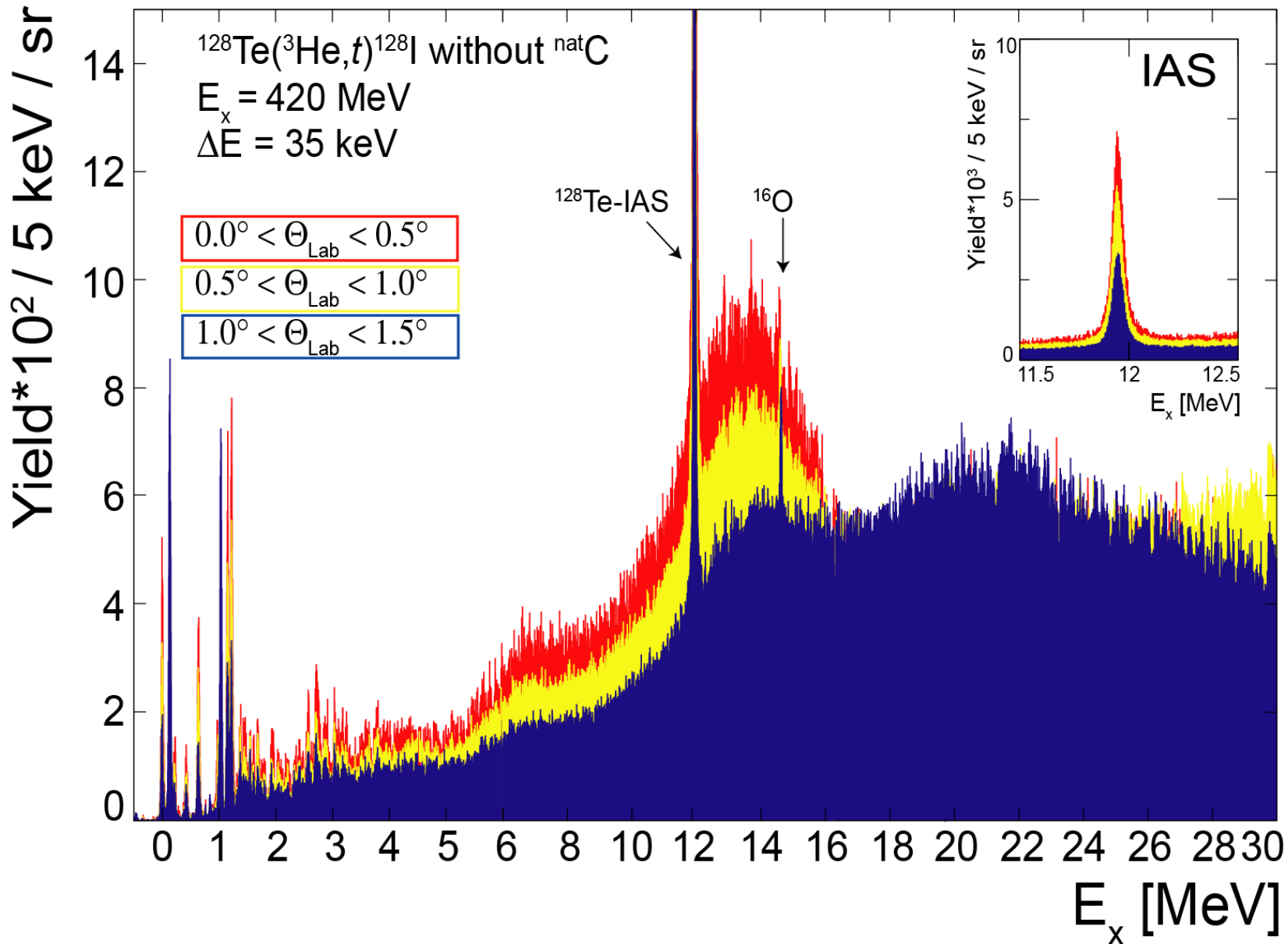
reduced spreading of GT strength

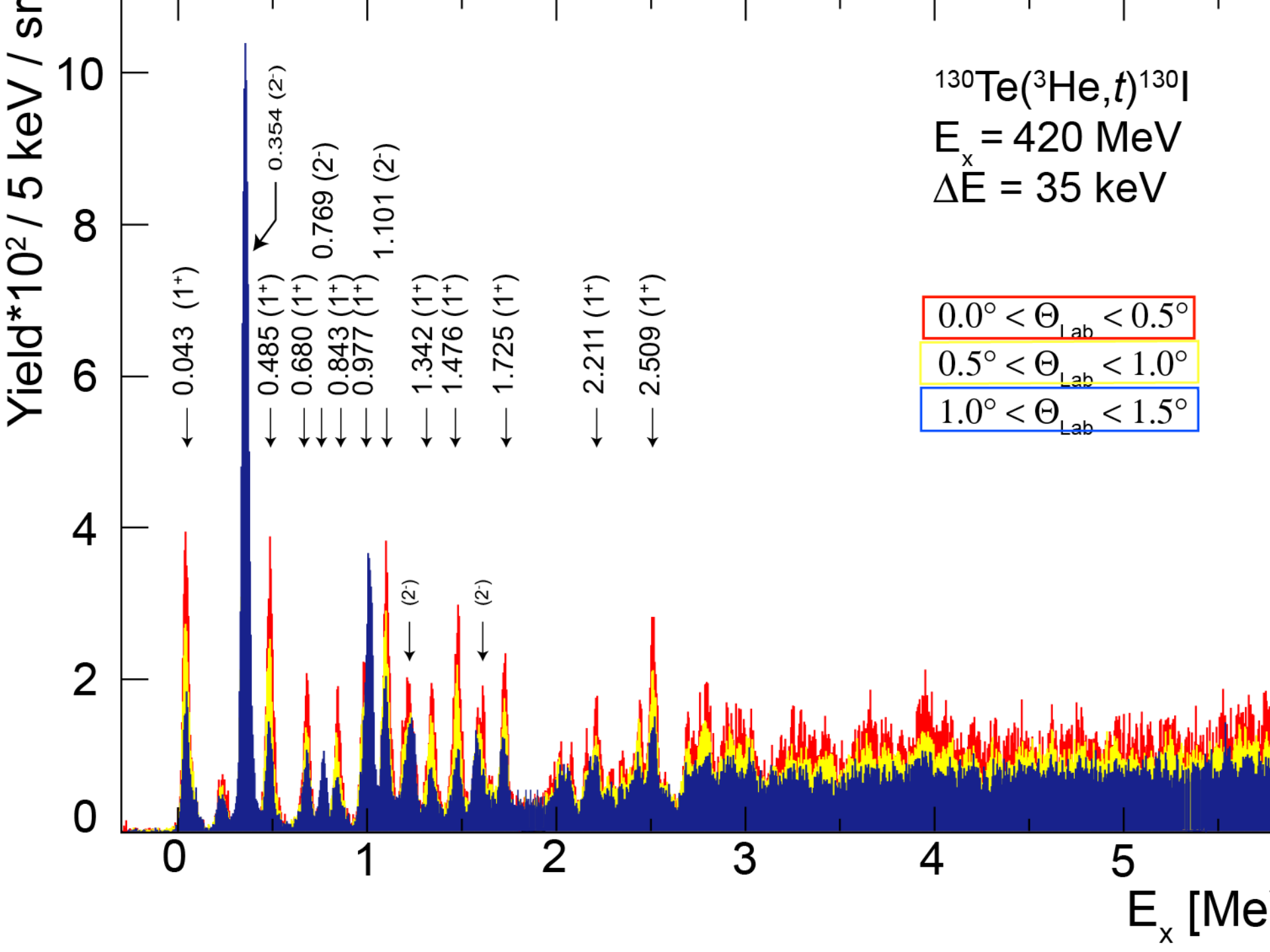
What about

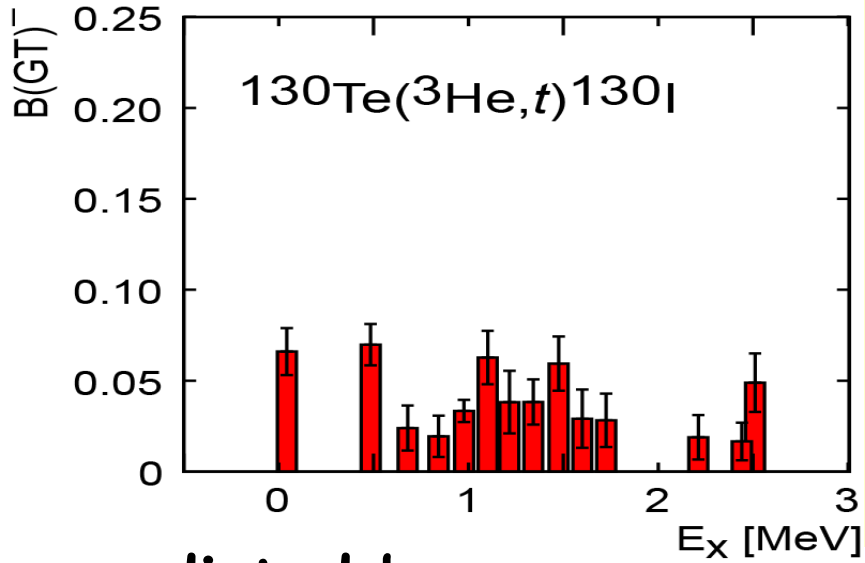
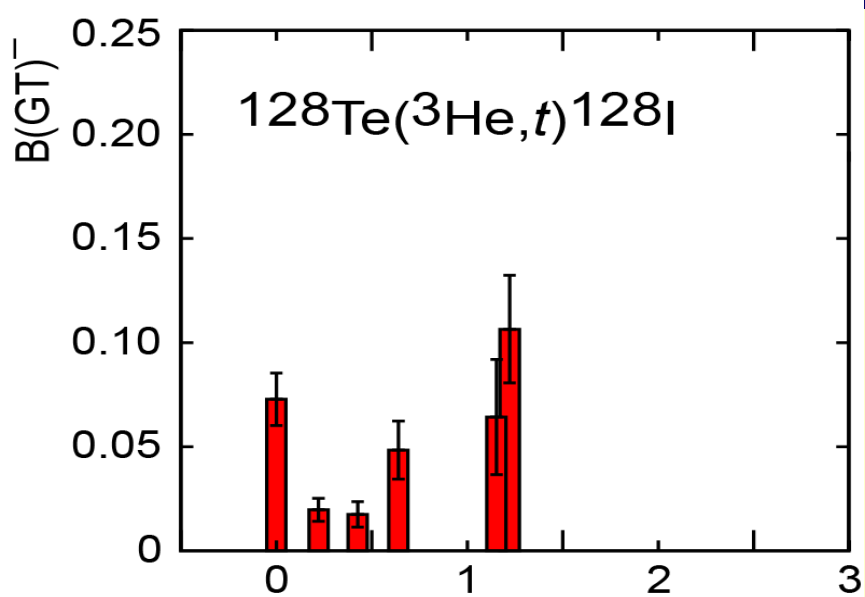
$^{128}\text{Te}$

$^{130}\text{Te}$

$^{136}\text{Xe}$







$^{128}\text{Te}$

$^{130}\text{Te}$

(slightly more fragmented)

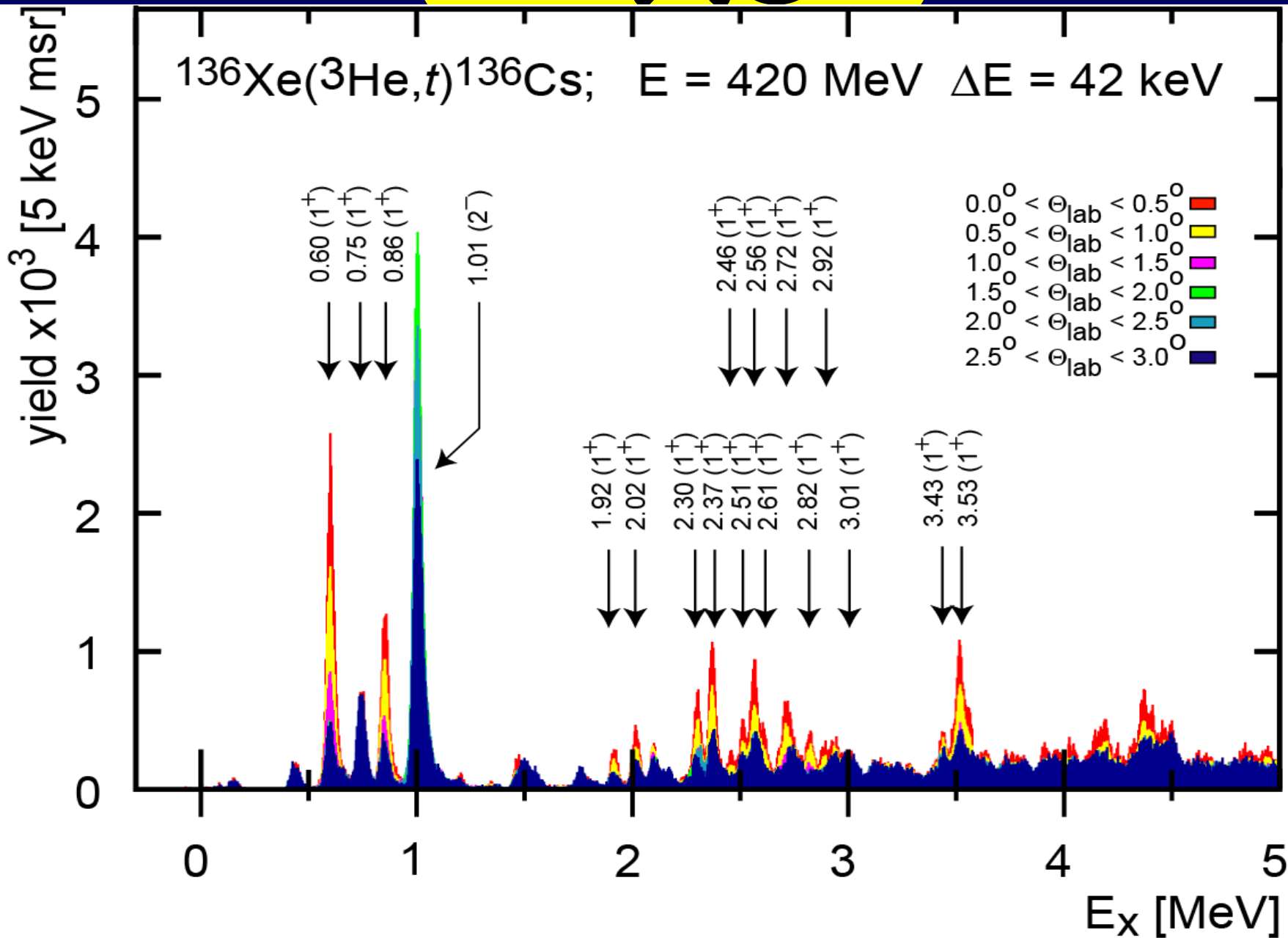
also predicted by

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 81, 014315 (2010)

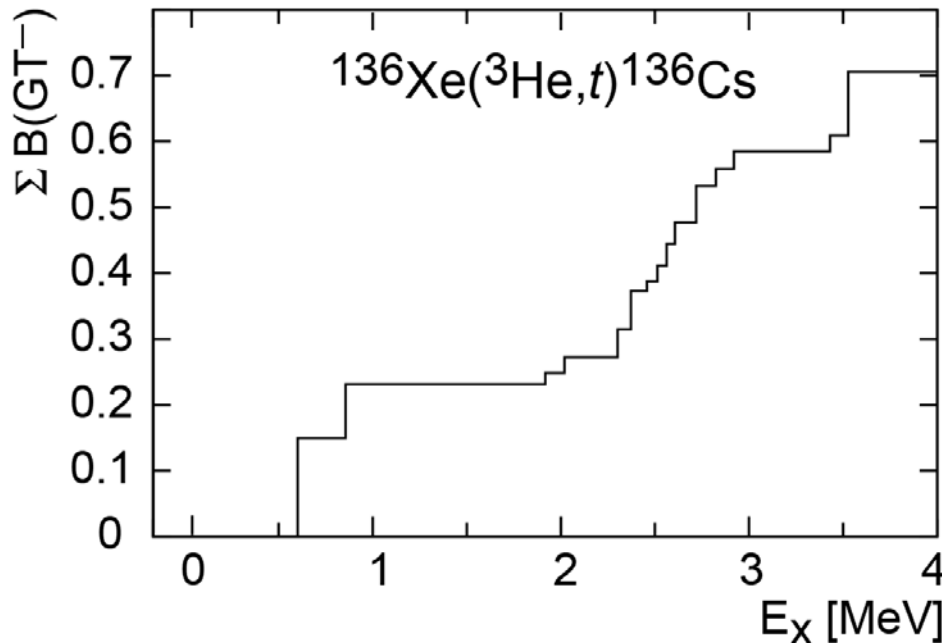
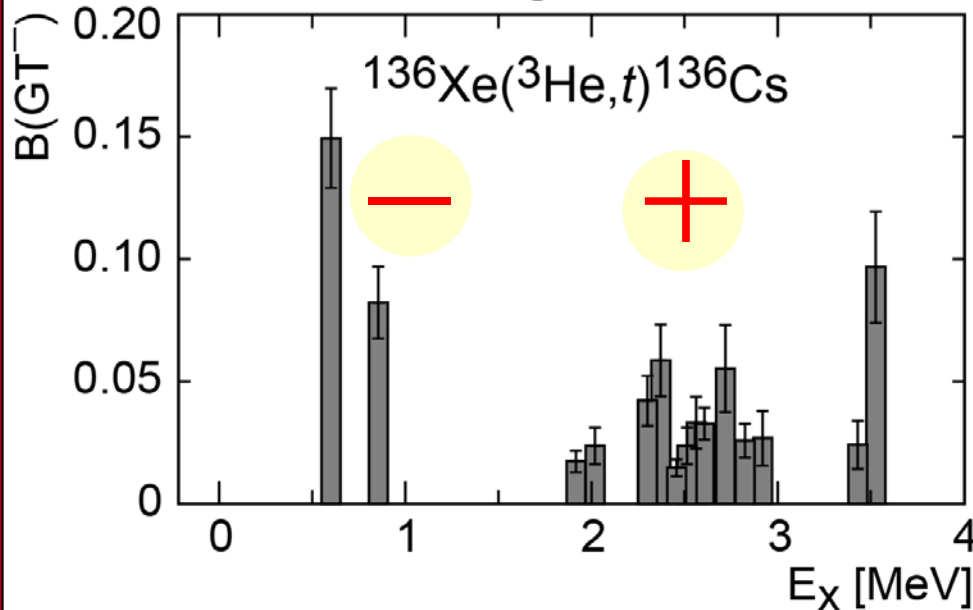
Matrix elements for the ground-state to ground-state  $2\nu\beta^-\beta^-$  decay of Te isotopes in a hybrid model



# $^{136}\text{Xe}$



# How big is the matrix element?



$$T_{1/2}^{2\nu} \geq 8.5 \cdot 10^{21} \text{ yr}$$

$$M_{\text{DGT}}^{(2\nu)} \leq 5 \cdot 10^{-3}$$

scenario-1

all positive sign  $\rightarrow$

$$B_m(GT^+) \approx 10^{-3} \cdot B_m(GT^-)$$

unlikely

scenario-2

sign(clst-1) = - sign (clst-2)

likely

# Early Conclusion

1

Chargex reactions are a powerful tool to determine the  $2\nu\beta\beta$  NME  
(d,  $^2\text{He}$ ) (t,  $^3\text{He}$ )  $\rightarrow$  „GT+ leg“ & ( $^3\text{He}$ , t)  $\rightarrow$  „GT- leg“  
high resolution is essential.

2

The **difference** between the intrinsic deformation of mother and daughter nucleus seems to cause „**state-by-state mismatch**“ of B(GT)'s  
----- $\rightarrow$  How big is the effect on the  $0\nu\beta\beta$  NME ??

3

In all cases the low energy part of the GT distribution seems to be most relevant for the  $2\nu$  decay  
even „Single-State-Dominance“ for  $^{96}\text{Zr}$  und  $^{100}\text{Mo}$

Would this be true for the  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay as well ?

4

Radioactive beam facilities and ion traps can provide nice tools for getting access to  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay matrix elements

5

What is the importance of Nordheim states ??  
they are strongly excited in CEX and  $\mu$ -X

## My personal wish list and unresolved issues:

1. Need a more modern reaction theory and appropriate reaction code
2. Need updated NN t-matrix fits (we use Love and Franey 81) and have them implemented into a reaction theory code
3. Need theories, which can predict  $0\nu\beta\beta$  matrix elements and which can be tied to experimental data/observables along the way (presently, g.s.  $\beta$ -decay and EC-decay rates are utterly wrong!!)
4. Need to understand more quantitatively the physics, which cause certain matrix element to have a different sign
5. Need to address more aggressively the GT-quenching issue (  $\mathbf{g}_A^{eff}$  ) (experimentally and theoretically)

# The $g_A^{eff}$ -problem

or

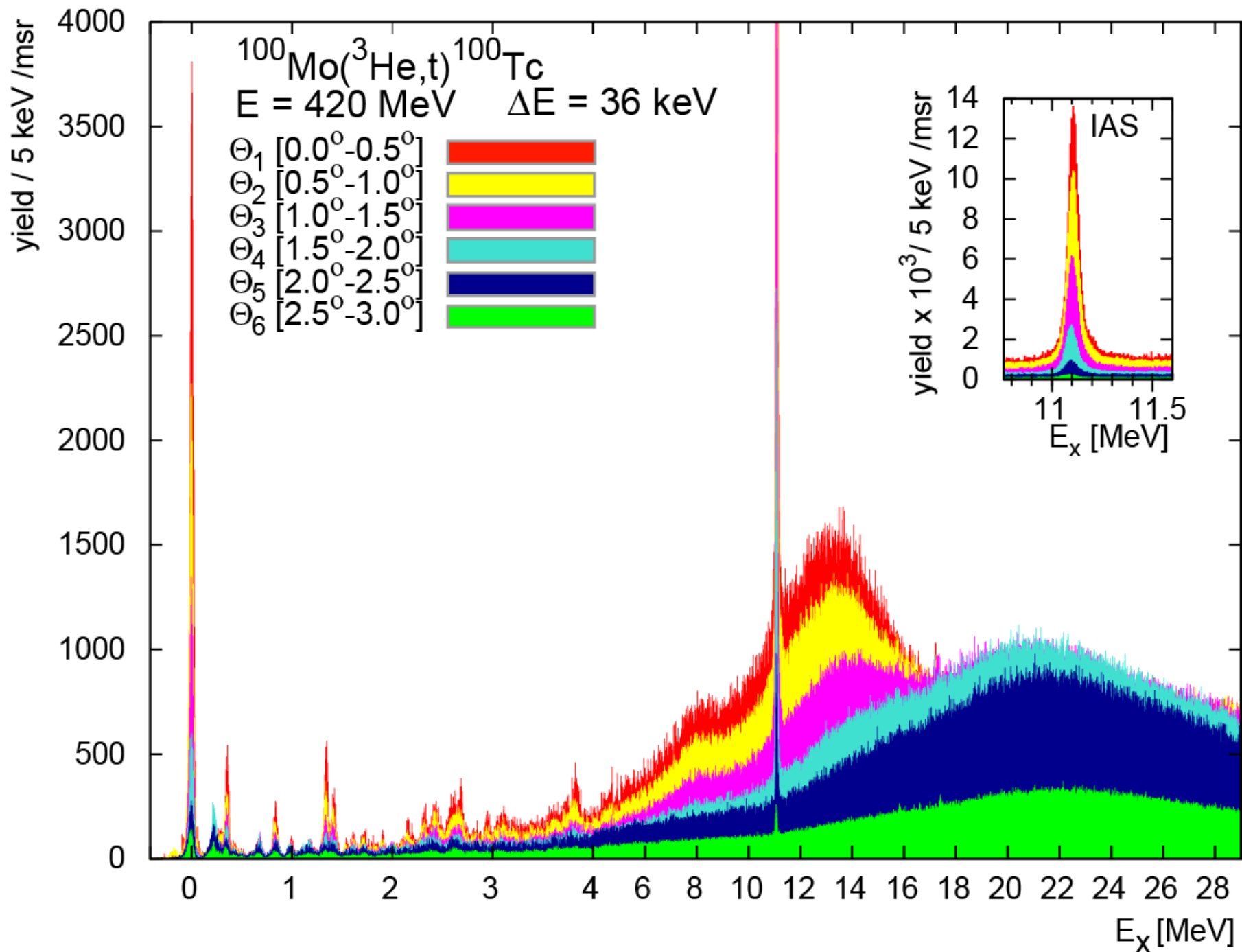
the quenching of the Ikeda sum-rule  $S(\beta^-) - S(\beta^+) = 3(N - Z)$

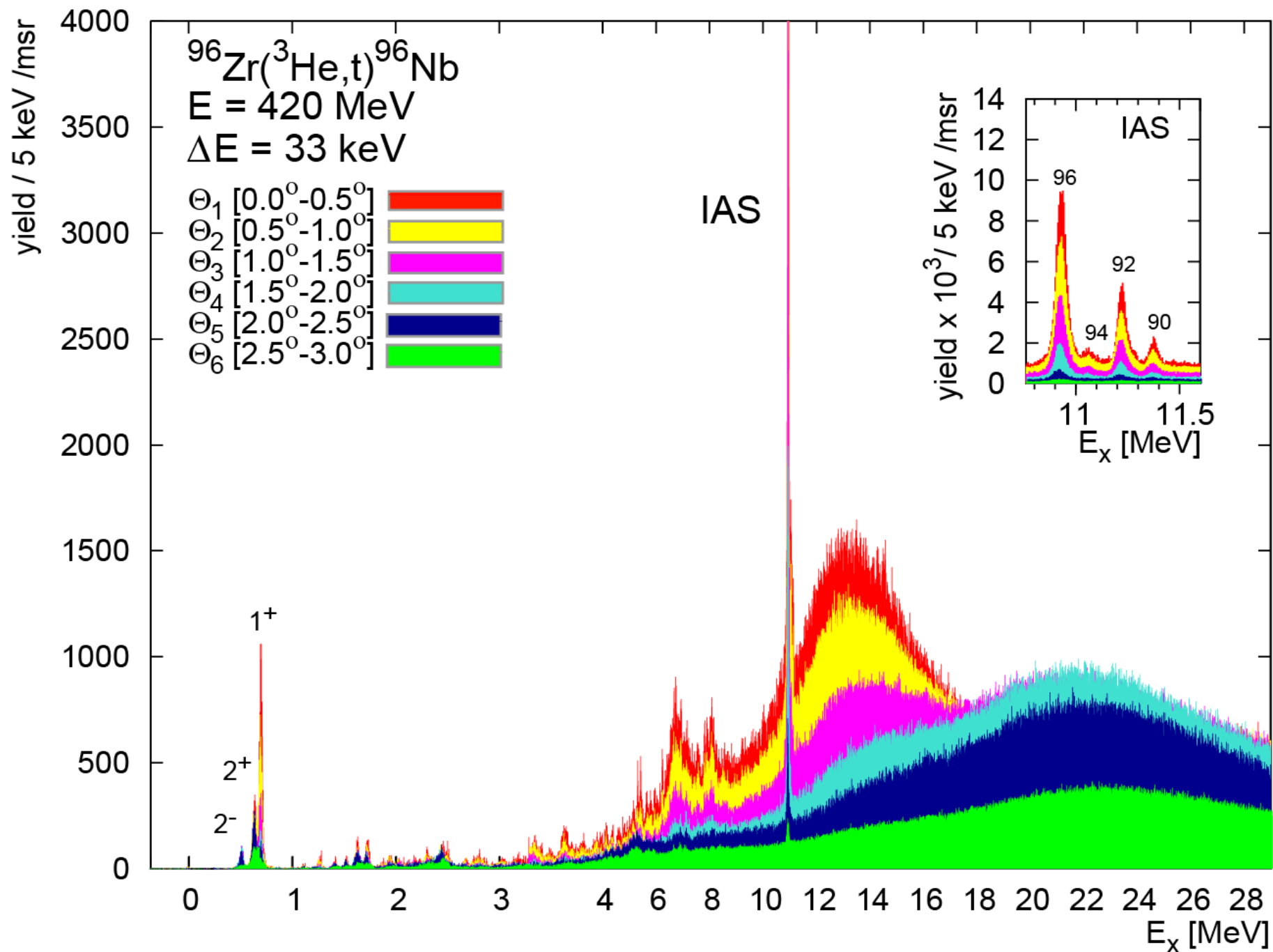
can this be attacked??

**Recall:**  $(T_{1/2})^{-1} \sim (g_A^{eff})^4$       $g_A^{eff} \approx 0.7 g_A$

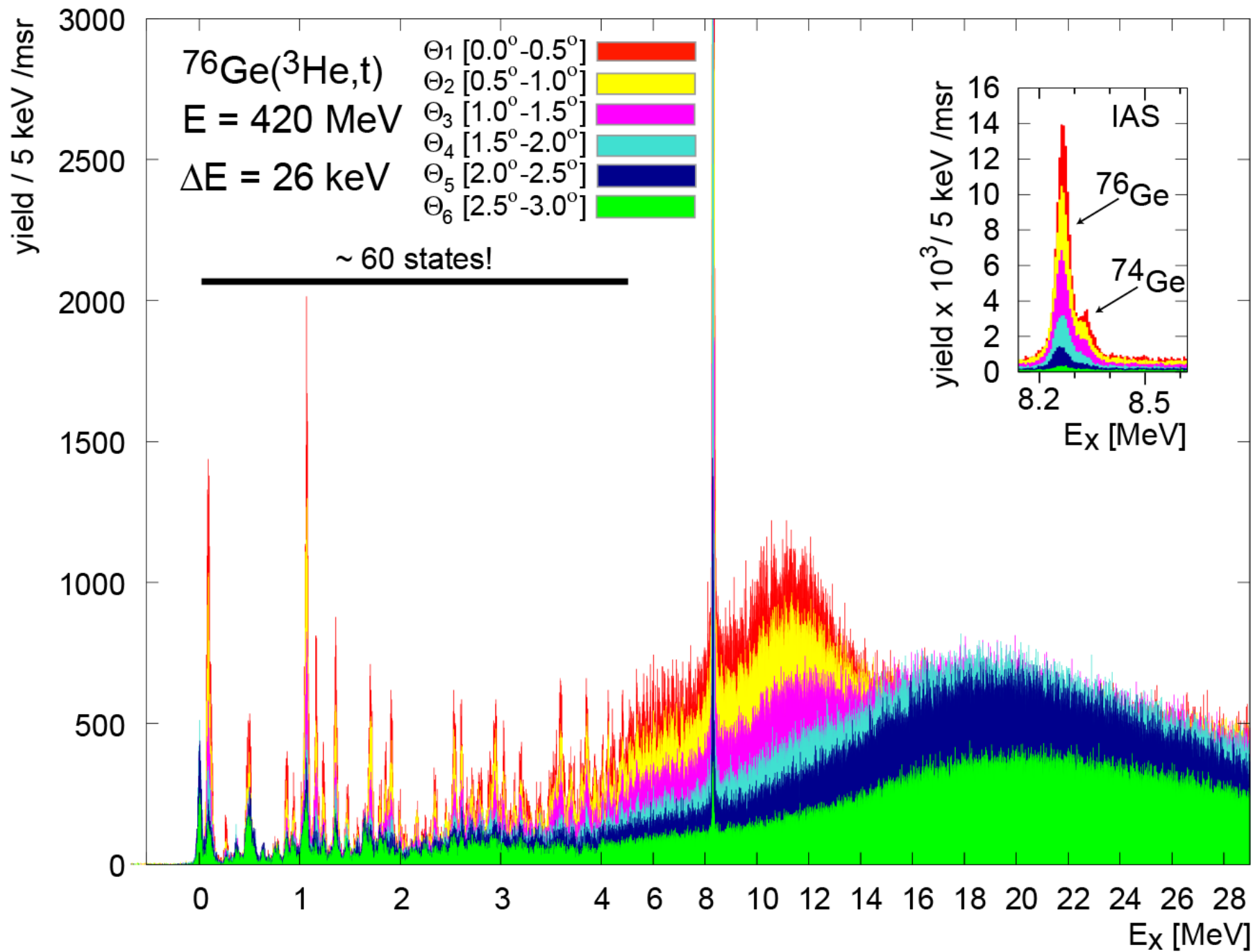
# Reasons for GT quenching

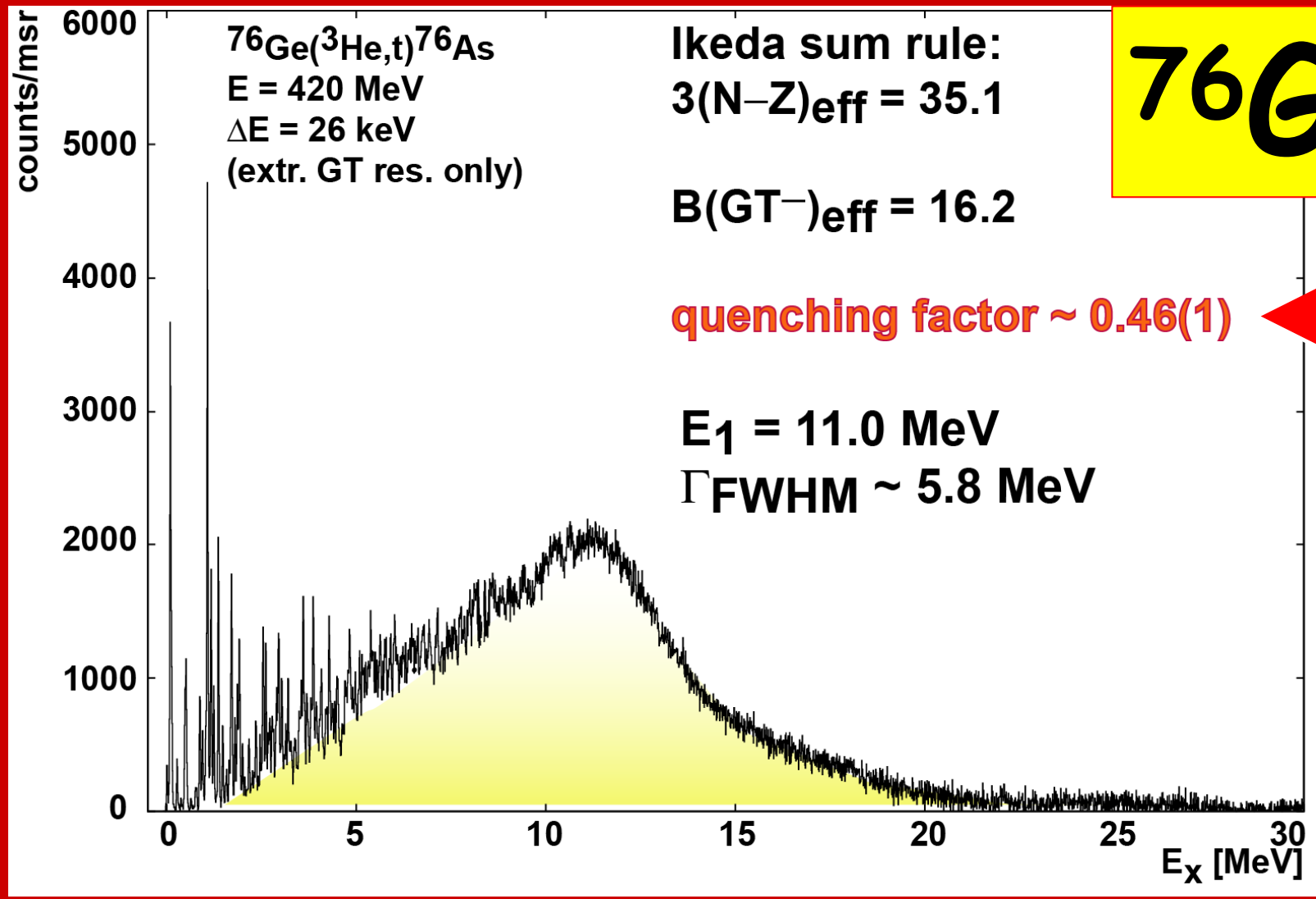
- **nuclear structure**
  - but then quenching should depend on the underlying nuclear structure
- **non-nucleonic degrees of freedom**
  - quenching should not strongly depend on the underlying nuclear structure (but rather on nucl. density)











$^{76}\text{Ge}(^3\text{He},t)^{76}\text{As}$   
 $E = 420 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\Delta E = 26 \text{ keV}$   
(extr. GT res. only)

Ikeda sum rule:  
 $3(N-Z)_{\text{eff}} = 35.1$

$B(\text{GT}^-)_{\text{eff}} = 16.2$

quenching factor  $\sim 0.46(1)$

$E_1 = 11.0 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\Gamma_{\text{FWHM}} \sim 5.8 \text{ MeV}$

**$^{76}\text{Ge}$**



$^{96}\text{Zr}(^3\text{He},t)^{96}\text{Nb}$   
 $E = 420 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\Delta E = 34 \text{ keV}$   
(extr. GT resp. only)

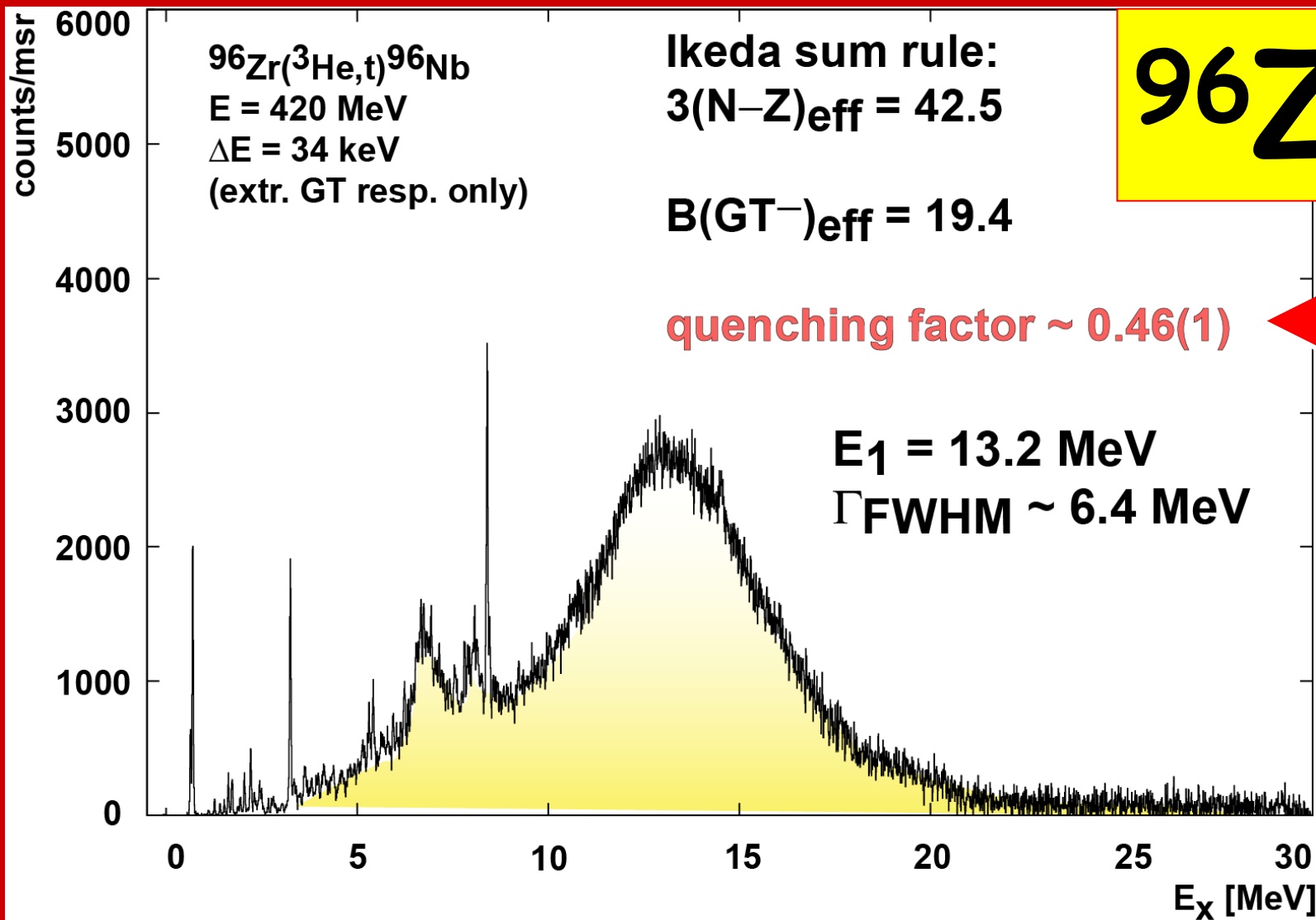
Ikeda sum rule:  
 $3(N-Z)_{\text{eff}} = 42.5$

$B(\text{GT}^-)_{\text{eff}} = 19.4$

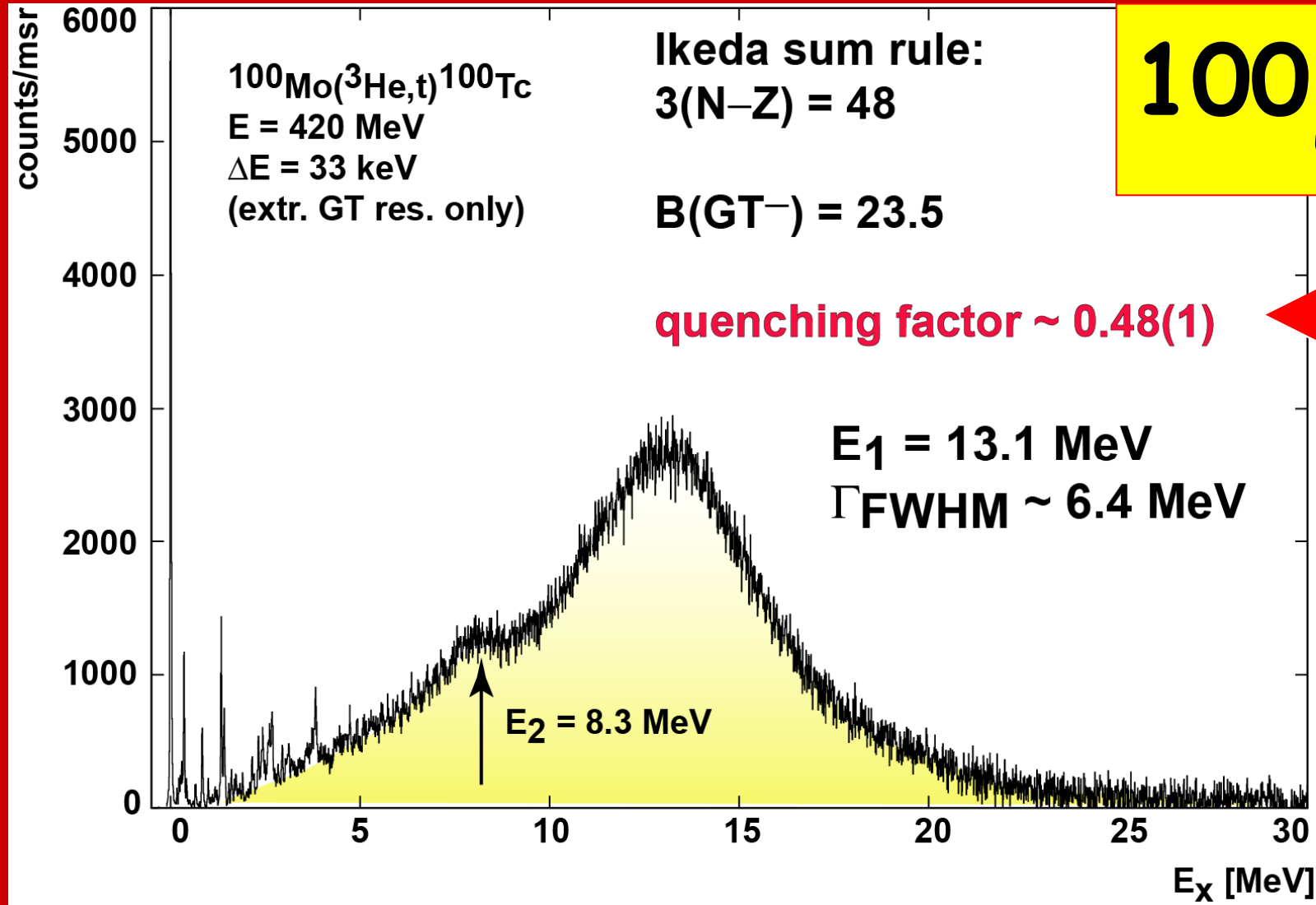
**$^{96}\text{Zr}$**

quenching factor  $\sim 0.46(1)$

$E_1 = 13.2 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\Gamma_{\text{FWHM}} \sim 6.4 \text{ MeV}$



# 100Mo



# Chiral two-body currents in nuclei: Gamow-Teller transitions and neutrinoless double-beta decay

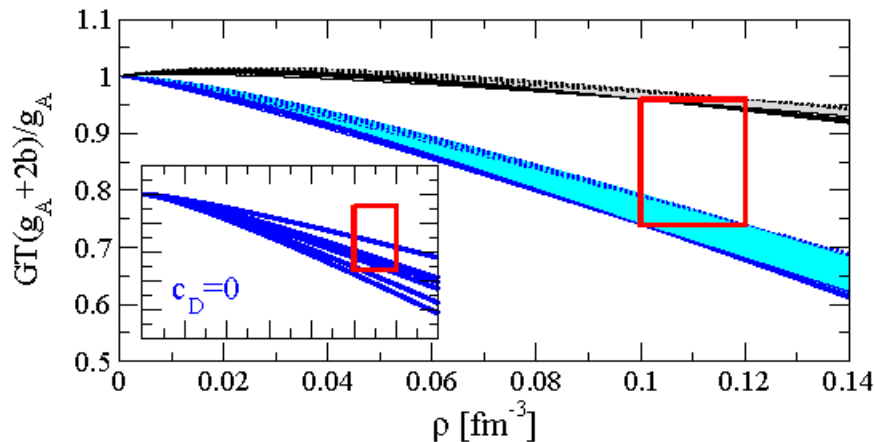
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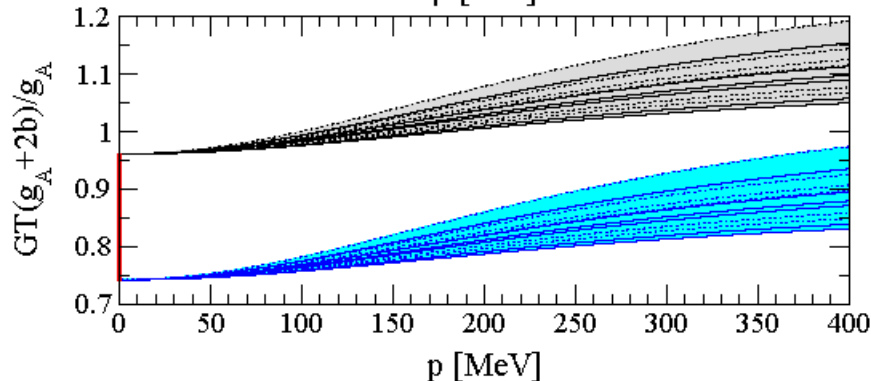
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We show that chiral effective field theory (EFT) two-body currents provide important contributions to the quenching of low-momentum-transfer Gamow-Teller transitions, and use chiral EFT to predict the momentum-transfer dependence that is probed in neutrino-less double-beta ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ) decay. We then calculate for the first time the  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay operator based on chiral EFT currents and study the nuclear matrix elements at successive orders. The contributions from chiral two-body currents are significant and should be included in all calculations.



**$g_A$ - quenching**

as a fctn. of nucl. density  
(long & short range effect  
due to 2B-currents)



**un-quenching of  $g_A$**

as a function of  
momentum transfer

## To prove the theory, need:

- 1) a heavy target consisting of neutrons only
- 2) a diluted nuclear density!!

## may be possible with:

- 1)  $^{132}\text{Sn}$  or even better  $^{132+x}\text{Sn}$
- 2) check nuclear density by exciting pygmy resonances
- 3) perform (p,n) type reaction to excite GT giant resonance.  
 $3(N-Z) = 96+3x$ . What is the quenching???

In the next round  
get the  $0\nu\beta\beta$  NME's  
&

who knows?

may be Nature is indeed kind

Thank you