Weak and rare nuclear processes

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NT - "Light nuclei from first principles"

- The role of theory in calculating rare nuclear processes.
- Calculating weak reactions in chiral EFT.
- Gamow-Teller transitions within chiral EFT: from ³H through ⁶He to medium-mass nuclei.
- $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay rates at medium-heavy nuclei.
- Spin-dependent WIMP scattering on nuclei.
- Summary.

Outline



Weak and rare nuclear processes

- Nuclear weak processes play a major role in:
 - Nuclear structure: Giant Gamow-Teller resonance, Fermi and GT Strength Functions.
 - Superallowed Fermi transitions: isospin symmetry breaking, CKM matrix unitarity.
 - ³H single β -decay: measurement of the neutrino mass
 - $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay: Lepton Number Conservation, Majorana nature of neutrinos
 - Astrophysical phenomena.
- Dark matter as a weakly interacting massive particle.



The role of theory

- Rare processes are usually hard to measure. Accurate, parameter free predictions are needed to :
 - Constrain fundamental symmetries of QCD.
 - Quantify "beyond the standard model" effects for experiments and assessing the feasibility of experiments.
 - Describe the microscopic dynamics of astrophysical phenomena.
- Connecting reactions and structure in the nuclear domain.
- Understanding the nuclear regime from first principles is essential for a correct interpretation of natural phenomena and experiments.



• Low energy electromagnetic reaction





Low energy weak reaction



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• Neutrino-less double beta-decay



Figure taken from P. Vogel

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• Neutralino scattering off a nucleus



"All happy families are alike, every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way"







Low energy reactions



Low energy nuclear reactions induced by an external probe

- Same symmetry will induce the same structure of the nuclear current.
- Differences lie in *coupling constants*.
- The currents are *reflections* of the *symmetries* and *properties* of the nuclear interaction, in particular can be used to characterize the elusive *three nucleon force*.
- Thus, one can *relate electro-weak properties and reaction rates* with non-trivial properties not only of the *target*, but also of the *fundamental theory* leading to its structure!

Chiral Effective Field Theory

- Symmetries are important *NOT* degrees of freedom.
- In QCD an approximate chiral symmetry:
 - The *u* and *d* quarks are (almost) massless (~5-10 MeV).

 $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \rightarrow SU(2)_V$

- The $SU(2)_V$ symmetry is the isospin symmetry.
- The pions are the Nambu-Goldstone bosons of the spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking.
- The order-parameter is the pion-decay constant: $\Lambda_{QCD} = 4\pi f_{\pi}$
- Identify Q the momentum scale of the process.
 - In view of Q-identify the effective degrees of freedom:
 - Write a Lagrangian composed of ALL possible operators invariant under symmetries of the underlying theory.



Chiral Effective Field Theory

- Find a systematic way to organize diagrams according to their contribution to the observable.
 - Expand in the inverse of the nucleon's mass (take $\Lambda^{\alpha} \sim M_N$) \rightarrow Heavy Baryon $\chi PT!$
 - Weinberg's Power Counting: Each Feynman diagram can be characterized by: $(\underline{Q})^{\nu}$
 - Weinberg showed that v is bound from below.
- Issues!

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20 years of debate led by: Weinberg, Kaplan, Savage, Wise, van-Kolck, Nogga, Timmermans, Birse, Meissner, Epelbaum, Machleidt...





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van Kolck (1995); van Kolck, Ordonez (1995); Gårdestig, Phillips (2006); DG, Quaglioni, Navratil (2009)

Forces in pionfull χEFT

- The leading order NNN forces are at N²LO.
- They include 2 new contact parameters.
- No new parameters at N³LO.



Weinberg, van Kolck, Ordonez, Meissner, Epelbaum, Nogga, Bernard, Kaiser, Krebs, Machleidt, Entem...



Differences from Δ -full



Figure adopted from Ulf Meissner.

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Gårdestig, Phillips, Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 232301 (2006); DG, Quaglioni, Navratil, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 102502 (2009).



Nuclear β decays

• Typically, a very low momentum transfer.

$$ft = \frac{2\pi^{3} \ln 2 / m_{e}^{3}}{G_{F}^{2} V_{ud}^{2} \left[\left(1 + \Delta_{R}^{V} \right) F_{V}^{2} \left[M_{V} \right]^{2} + \left(1 + \Delta_{R}^{A} \right) g_{A}^{2} \left[M_{A} \right]^{2} \right]}$$
$$\left[M_{V} \right]^{2} = \frac{1}{2J_{i} + 1} \left| \left\langle y_{i} \right\|_{k=1}^{A} t_{k}^{*} \right\| y_{f} \right\rangle \right|^{2} =$$
$$= \frac{6}{6} T \left(T + 1 \right) - T_{Z} \left(T_{z} + 1 \right) \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - d_{C}^{2} \right)$$
$$\left[M_{A} \right]^{2} = \left| \left\langle y_{i} \right| E_{1}^{A} / g_{A} \right| y_{f} \right\rangle \right|^{2} = \frac{1}{3\rho \left(2J_{i} + 1 \right)} \left| \left\langle y_{i} \right\|_{k=1}^{A} \vec{s}_{k} t_{k}^{*} \right\| y_{f} \right\rangle \right|^{2} + corrections$$

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Step 1: use the trinuclei binding energies to find a c_D - c_E relation



Navratil et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 042501 (2007).

Step 2: calibrate c_D according to the triton half life. 1.12 1.1 INT - "Light nuclei from first principles" **Full Calculation** emp 1.08 $-0.3 \le c_D \le -0.1$ $^{1}_{1}$ > theor 1.06 1.04 $c_E \in [-0.220, -0.189]$ ЧЧ 1.02 0.98 25 -2 2 N³LO EM 550 DG, Quaglioni, Navratil, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 102502 (2009)





EFT* approach for low-energy weak reactions:





T.-S. Park et al, Phys. Rev. C 67, 055206 (2003), M. Rho arXiv: nucl-th/061003.



e

$M_{A}^{2} = \left\langle \mathcal{Y}_{i} \middle| GT \middle| \mathcal{Y}_{f} \right\rangle^{2}$ $GT \Big|_{LO} = \mathop{a}\limits_{i=1}^{A} \mathcal{S}_{i} t_{i}^{\pm}$ \overline{V}_{e} K $ft = \frac{1}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 \left[\left(1 + \Delta_R^V \right) F_V^2 \left| M_V \right|^2 + \left(1 + \Delta_R^A \right) g_A^2 \left| M_A \right|^2 \right]}$

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Quenching needed in regions where spectroscopy is well reproduced.

Gamow-Teller Quenching Sesano et al, Phys. Rev. C79, 024602 (2009); Yako et al, Phys. Lett. B615, 193 (2005) (much debated) Measurements of Ikeda sum-rule in ⁹⁰Zr up to high energies, show very small quenching! "Small quenching" $q^2 = \frac{S_{\beta^-} - S_{\beta^+}}{3(N-Z)} = 0.92 \pm 0.11$ $q = 0.96 \pm 0.06$ 2.5 90 Zr(p,n)_V≎M) • Suggesting: 2.0 (n);GT+IVSM) MD analysis many body approximations Rijsdijk et al. (folded) responsible for the discrepancy. The quenching puzzle attracted many theoreticians: Arima, Rho, Towner, Bertsch and Hamamoto, Wildenthal and Brown... Revisit in the framework of Chiral EFT! 10 30 40 60 50 E_{π} (MeV)



⁶He β -decay

- We use the HH method to solve the 6 body problem, with JISP16 NN potential.
- We use χ EFT axial MEC with c_D fixed using triton β decay





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- The contact interaction that does not exist in pheno. MEC, has an opposite sign with respect to the long range one.
- The final GT is just 1.7% away from the experimental one!
- MEC brings the theory closer to experiment!
- No dependence on the cutoff!

|GT|^{JISP16}(⁶He)=2.198(7) |GT|^{exp}(⁶He)=2.161(5)

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Vaintraub, Barnea, DG, Phys. Rev. C, 79 065501 (2009).

⁹ ⁶He β decay and a hint to heavier nuclei

- The inclusion of χ EFT based MEC is helpful, even when one uses phen. interaction.
- The need of χEFT based MEC is observed in μ capture on light nuclei.
 DG, Phys. Lett. B666, 472 (2008), Marcucci et al., Phys. Rev. C 83, 014002 (2011).
- The conclusion is that the weak correlations inside the nucleus can lead to (at least part of) the observed suppression.
- Going to heavier nuclei demands approximations.



<u>Intermission</u>: β-decay and fundamental symmetries



⁶He produced using a BeO target – enormous yield @ SARAF



SARAF Phase I @ Soreq Center - Israel

- Commissioning of Phase-I is approaching finalization
- 1 mA CW proton beam has been accelerated up to an energy of 3.7 MeV
- Low duty cycle (~0.2 mA) deuteron beam has been accelerated up to an energy of 4.3 MeV
- Phase-II up to 40 MeV (2015)







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Effective 2-body current

The normal-ordered two-body currents are, neglecting (small) tensor-like terms

$$J_{n,2b}^{eff} = -g_A S_n t_n \frac{r}{m_N f_\rho^2} F(r, c_3, c_4, c_D, p)$$

Menendez, DG, Schwenk, Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 062501 (2011)

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Long range GT and quenching

At p = 0 and $c_D = 0$ (long-range part of the currents only) 2B currents suppress 1B currents by q = 0.85...0.66



For density ρ consider the general range 0.10...0.12 fm⁻³

Couplings c₃, c₄ taken from NN potentials

Entem et al. PRC68 041001(2003) Epelbaum et al. NPA747 362(2005) Rentmeester et al. PRC67 044001(2003) $\delta c_3 = -\delta c_4 \approx 1 \text{ GeV}^{-1}$

 \Rightarrow Long-range 2B currents predict g_A quenching Menendez, DG, Schwenk, PRL 107, 062501 (2011)



Short range contributions to GT and quenching

Short-range part (c_D) not so well-known \Rightarrow Adjust c_D according to the empirical quenching required in Gamow-Teller transitions \Rightarrow compare to c_D values obtained by 3N fits

Extreme scenario (big quenching)

2B currents cause all g_A quenching suggested by theoretical calculations $g_A^{\text{eff}} = qg_A$ due to the operator

 \Rightarrow contribution of the 2B currents q = 0.74





Short range contributions to GT and quenching

We use q = 0.74 and q = 0.96 to constrain c_D

Allowed *c*_D lead to q values that lie inside the box



Using EM c_i 's, $-0.3 \le c_D \le -0.1$ from ³H BE and β decay fit favors empirical quenching

c_D values from fits to ³H BE and ⁴He radius also compatible with empirical quenching

Small quenching q = 0.96cannot be ruled out compatible with ³H BE, ⁴He radius fits in some cases (not EM)



GT *p* dependence

The $\sigma \tau^-$ term, when two-body currents are included, depends on transferred momentum *p* through the $\frac{2}{3} c_3 \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{4m_{\pi}^2 + \mathbf{p}^2}$ term



Quenching gets weaker at $p \neq 0$

Menendez, DG, Schwenk, PRL 107, 062501 (2011)

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Neutrino-less double beta decay

• Double β -decay only appears when regular β -decay is energetically forbidden or hindered by large J difference.



Nuclear

Neutrino-less double beta decay

• $\partial v \beta \beta$ decay needs also massive Majorana neutrinos \rightarrow detection would prove Majorana nature of neutrinos.

$$\left(T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta}\left(0^{+}\rightarrow0^{+}\right)\right)^{-1} = G_{01}\left|M^{0\nu\beta\beta}\right|^{2}\left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_{e}}\right)^{2}$$
$$m_{bb} = \left|\mathop{a}_{k}U_{ek}^{2}m_{k}\right|$$
Watrix element, biggest uncertainty due to g_{A} : $T_{1/2}^{0nbb} \models g_{A}^{-4}$

Relevant momentum transfer: *p~100MeV*.

Common debate: Is g_A quenched at these momenta?



relevant *p* for $\partial v \beta \beta ME$

Check transferred momenta $p \square m_{\square}$ dominate the NME, true at different orders *Q* in the calculation





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Effect of 2B currents Q^3 ranges from +10% to -35% of the NME (Smaller than -45% expected by $q^2 = 0.74^2$ due to $p \neq 0$) Menendez, DG, Schwenk, Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 062501 (2011)



Conclusions for $\partial \nu \beta \beta ME$

2B currents modify Gamow-Teller ($\sigma \tau^-$) term

The long range 2B currents predict g_A quenching
 p dependence of the quenching is also predicted

Nuclear Matrix Elements for 0νββ decay modified –35...10% by chiral 2B currents

Spin-dependent WIMP scattering on nuclei

- More than 20% of the energy density of the Universe is understood as dark matter.
- Promising candidates are WIMPs, such as neutralinos.
- This has spurred direct detection of cold dark matter via elastic scattering off nuclei, requiring detailed knowledge of the response to WIMP induced currents in nuclei.
- This presents a challenging problem, because even if the coupling of to quarks is known, it needs to be evaluated at the nucleus level in the nonperturbative regime of quantum chromodynamics
- Chiral EFT provides an ideal theoretical framework since the typical momentum transfers in direct dark matter detection are of the order of 100 MeV/c.

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Dark matter



Indirect evidence \Rightarrow challenge is direct detection of Dark Matter

Put big amount of material (like in $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay), search WIMP-matter signal WIMP-nucleus signal!

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WIMP-nucleus scattering

Spin dependent

• At low energies:



Spin independent

- Spin dependent: $\mathcal{L} = -\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \overline{\chi} \gamma \gamma_5 \chi \cdot \sum_q A_q \overline{\psi}_q \gamma \gamma_5 \psi_q$
- When moving to the nucleon level:

$$\sum_{q} A_{q} \overline{\psi}_{q} \gamma \gamma_{5} \psi_{q} \longrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{A} \mathbf{J}_{i,1b} = \sum_{i=1}^{A} (\mathbf{J}_{i,1b}^{0} + \mathbf{J}_{i,1b}^{3})$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{A} \frac{1}{2} \left[a_{0} \sigma_{i} + a_{1} \tau_{i}^{3} \left(\sigma_{i} - \frac{g_{P}(p^{2})}{2mg_{A}} \left(\mathbf{p} \cdot \sigma_{i} \right) \mathbf{p} \right) \right],$$

In the nucleus level the isovertor partices 26 corrections – identical to the weak current!

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Spin dependent WIMP scattering

For spin-dependent WIMP scattering off nuclei

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dp^2} = \frac{8G_{\rm F}^2}{(2J+1)v^2} S_{\rm A}(p), \quad S_{\rm A}(p) = \sum_L \left(\left| \langle J || \mathcal{T}_L^{\rm el\,5}(p) || J \rangle \right|^2 + \left| \langle J || \mathcal{L}_L^5(p) || J \rangle \right|^2 \right)$$



Isotopes ¹²⁹Xe and ¹³¹Xe for liquid Xenon detectors, which provide most stringent experimental limits

Calculations in the $0g_{7/2}$, $1d_{3/2}$, $1d_{5/2}$, $2s_{1/2}$ and $0h_{11/2}$ valence space using the gcn.5082 interaction

Menendez, DG, Schwenk, PRD (in press) 1012.1094 (2012)



Spin dependent WIMP scattering

$$S_A(p) = \sum_{L \text{ odd}} \left(\left| \langle J || \mathcal{T}_L^{\text{el 5}}(p) || J \rangle \right|^2 + \left| \langle J || \mathcal{L}_L^5(p) || J \rangle \right|^2 \right)$$

 $S_A(p) = a_0^2 S_{00}(p) + a_0 a_1 S_{01}(p) + a_1^2 S_{11}(p)$





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Constrain the Nuclear interaction and structure.

Extract microscopic information about the fundamental theory and its symmetries.

Using χPT to calculate weak reactions with nuclei can be useful to:

Predict in-medium evolution of nuclear properties.

Probe the limits of the standard model.

Nuclear theory is in the process of building a unified fundamental understanding of reactions and structure, which can shed light on many physical mysteries. 56

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Collaborators





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