

# Three-Nucleon Forces and the Structure of Exotic Nuclei

Jason D. Holt



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT

126

Based on

- T. Otsuka, T. Suzuki, JDH, A. Schwenk, Y. Akaishi, PRL (1010)
- JDH, J. Menendez, A. Schwenk, arXiv:1108.2680
- JDH, T. Otsuka, A. Schwenk, T. Suzuki JPG (2012)
- **JDH, J. Menendez, A. Schwenk, arXiv:1207.1590**
- **JDH, J. Menendez, A. Schwenk, in prep.**
- **JDH and J. Engel, in prep.**
- D. Lincoln, JDH *et al.*, submitted to PRL

**Supported by BMBF under 06DA7047I (NuSTAR.DA)**



# Outline

Goal: understand the role of 3N forces for structure of medium-mass exotic nuclei

- What are the limits of nuclear existence?
- How do magic numbers form and evolve?

I. Microscopic approach: theoretical inputs consistently from NN+3N

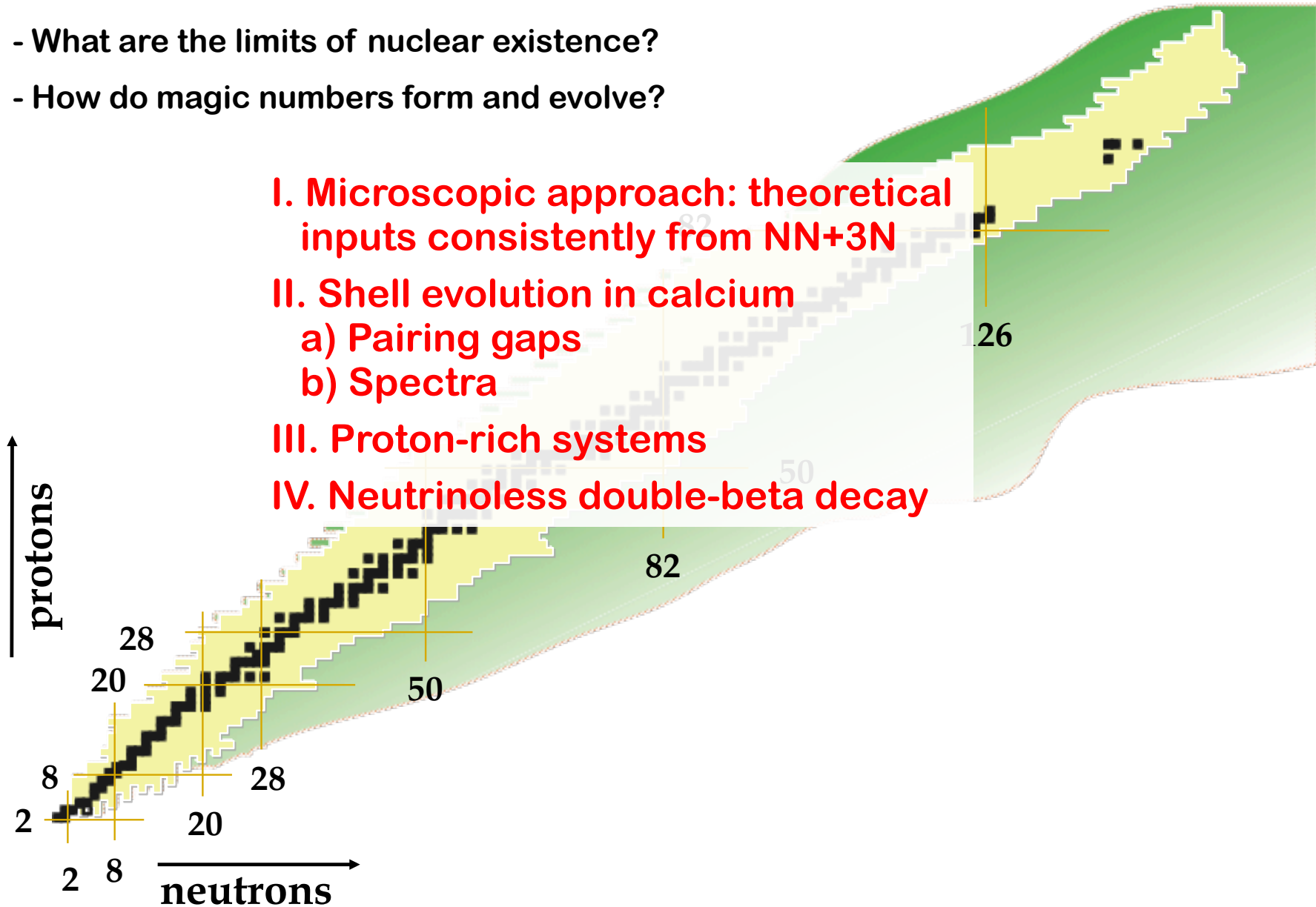
II. Shell evolution in calcium

a) Pairing gaps




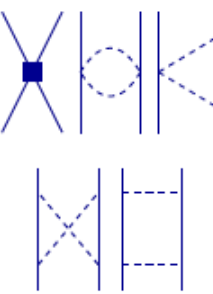


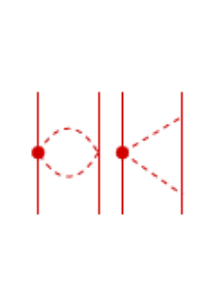
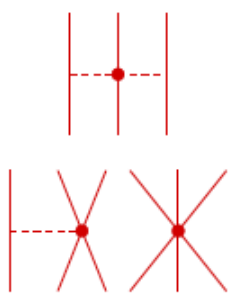

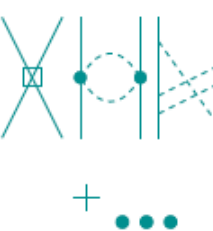


b) Spectra

III. Proton-rich systems

IV. Neutrinoless double-beta decay



# Chiral Effective Field Theory: Nuclear Forces

	2N forces	3N forces	4N forces
LO			
NLO			
N <sup>2</sup> LO			
N <sup>3</sup> LO			

Nucleons interact via pion exchanges and contact interactions

Hierarchy:  $V_{\text{NN}} > V_{\text{3N}} > \dots$

Consistent treatment of NN, 3N, ... electroweak operators

Couplings fit to experiment once

Evolve to **low-momentum**  $V_{\text{low } k}$   
(Improved convergence behavior)

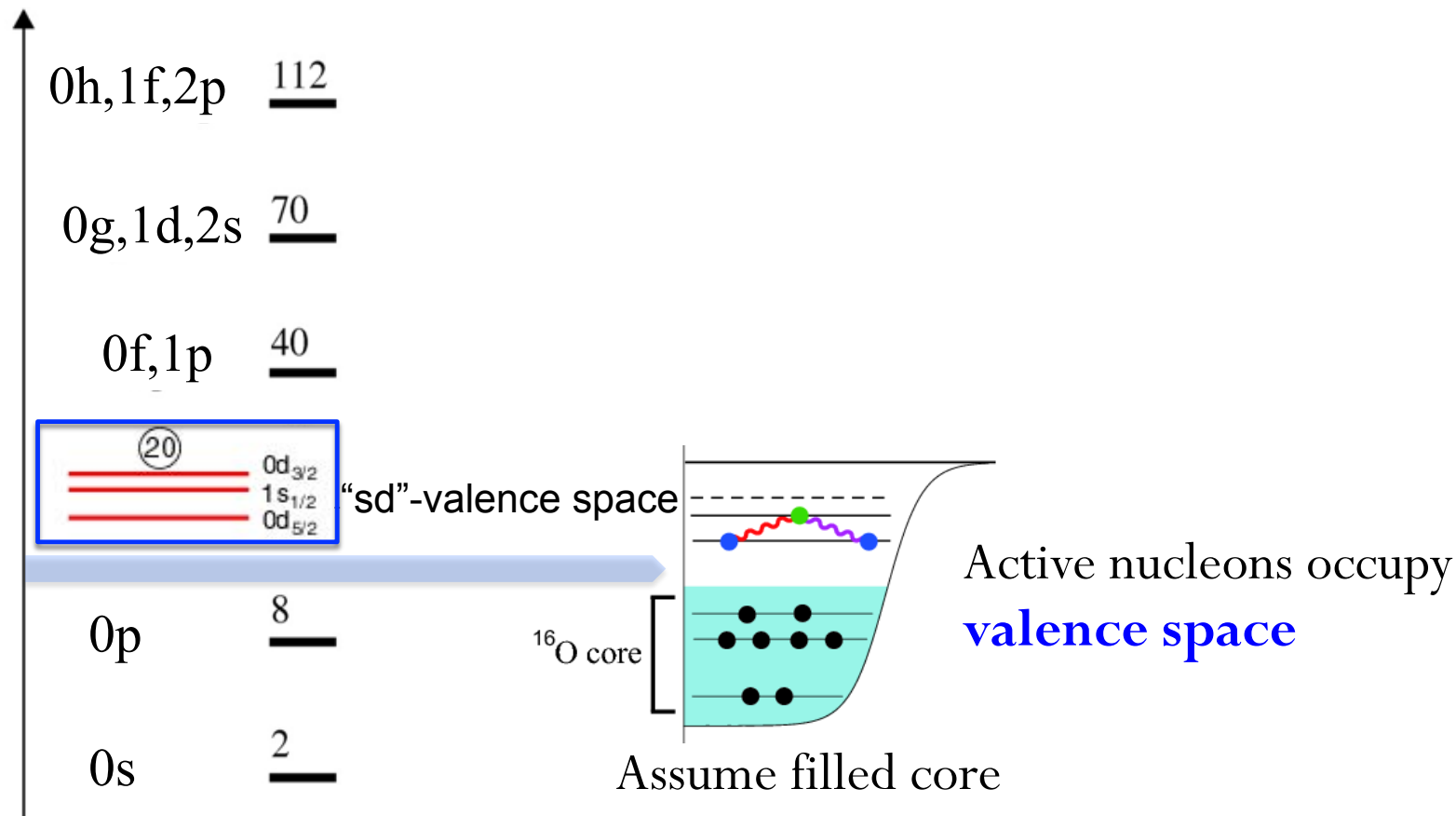
3N constants fit to properties of light nuclei at low momentum

Weinberg, van Kolck, Kaplan, Savage, Wise, Epelbaum, Kaiser, Meissner,...

# Solving the Nuclear Many-Body Problem

Nuclei understood as many-body system starting from closed shell, add nucleons  
 Interaction and energies of valence space orbitals from  $V_{\text{low } k}$

**Does not reproduce experimental data**



# Solving the Nuclear Many-Body Problem

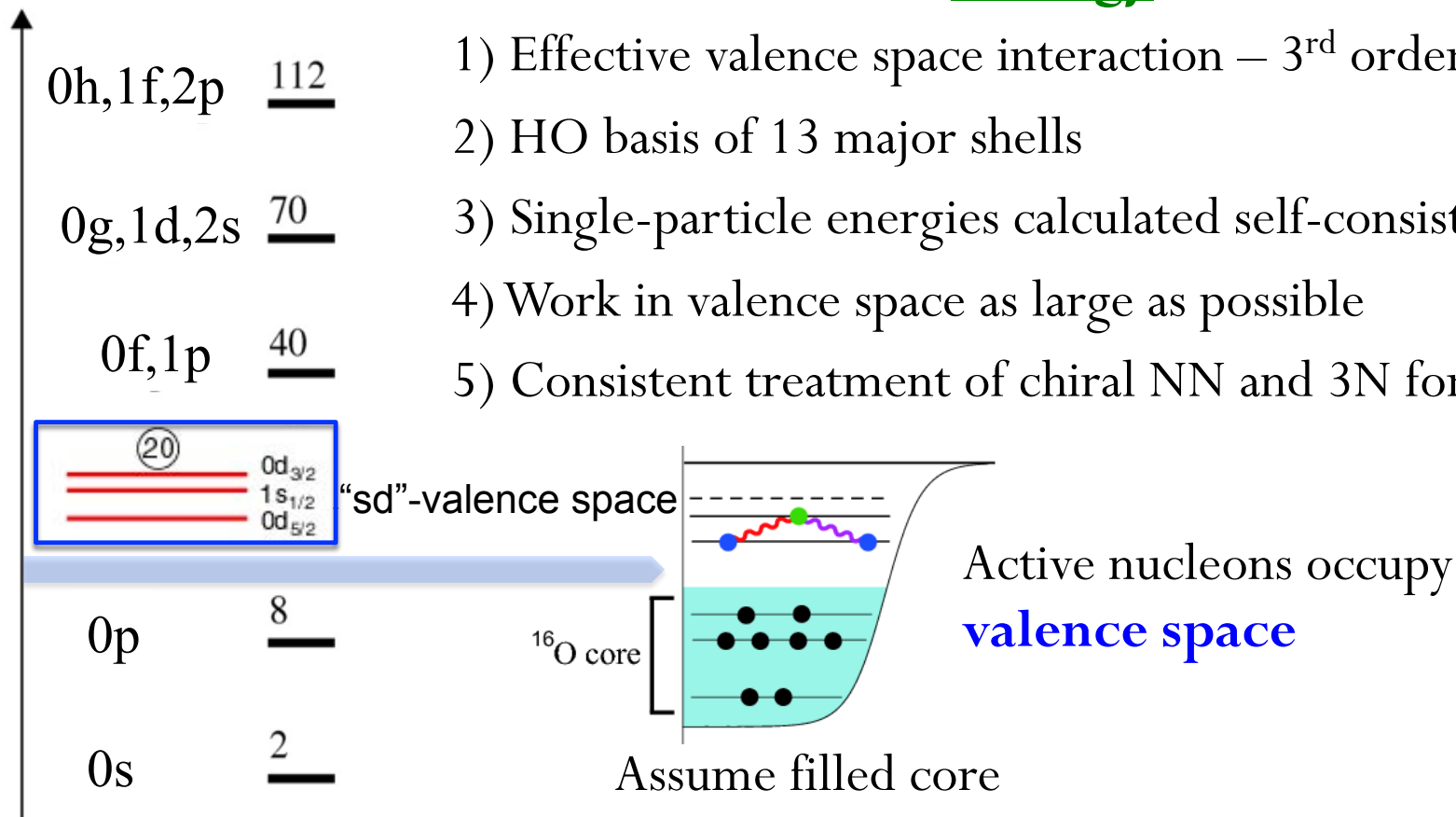
Nuclei understood as many-body system starting from closed shell, add nucleons

Interaction and energies of valence space orbitals from  $V_{\text{low } k}$

Does not reproduce experimental data – **allow explicit breaking of core**

## Strategy

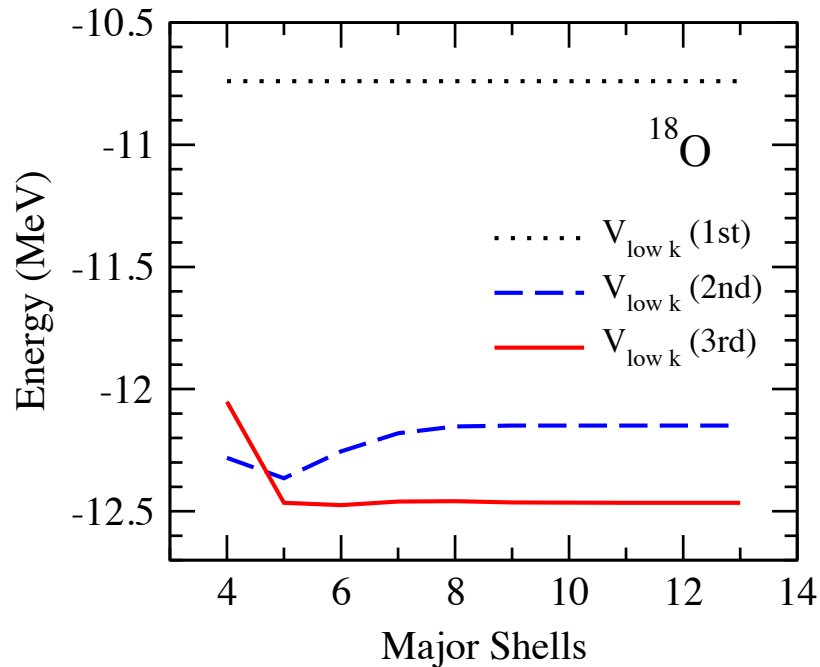
- 1) Effective valence space interaction – 3<sup>rd</sup> order MBPT
- 2) HO basis of 13 major shells
- 3) Single-particle energies calculated self-consistently
- 4) Work in valence space as large as possible
- 5) Consistent treatment of chiral NN and 3N forces



# Convergence Properties

**NN matrix elements** derived from:

- Chiral N<sup>3</sup>LO (Machleidt, 500 MeV) using smooth-regulator  $V_{\text{low } k}$
- Third order in MBPT
- 13 major HO shells for intermediate state configurations



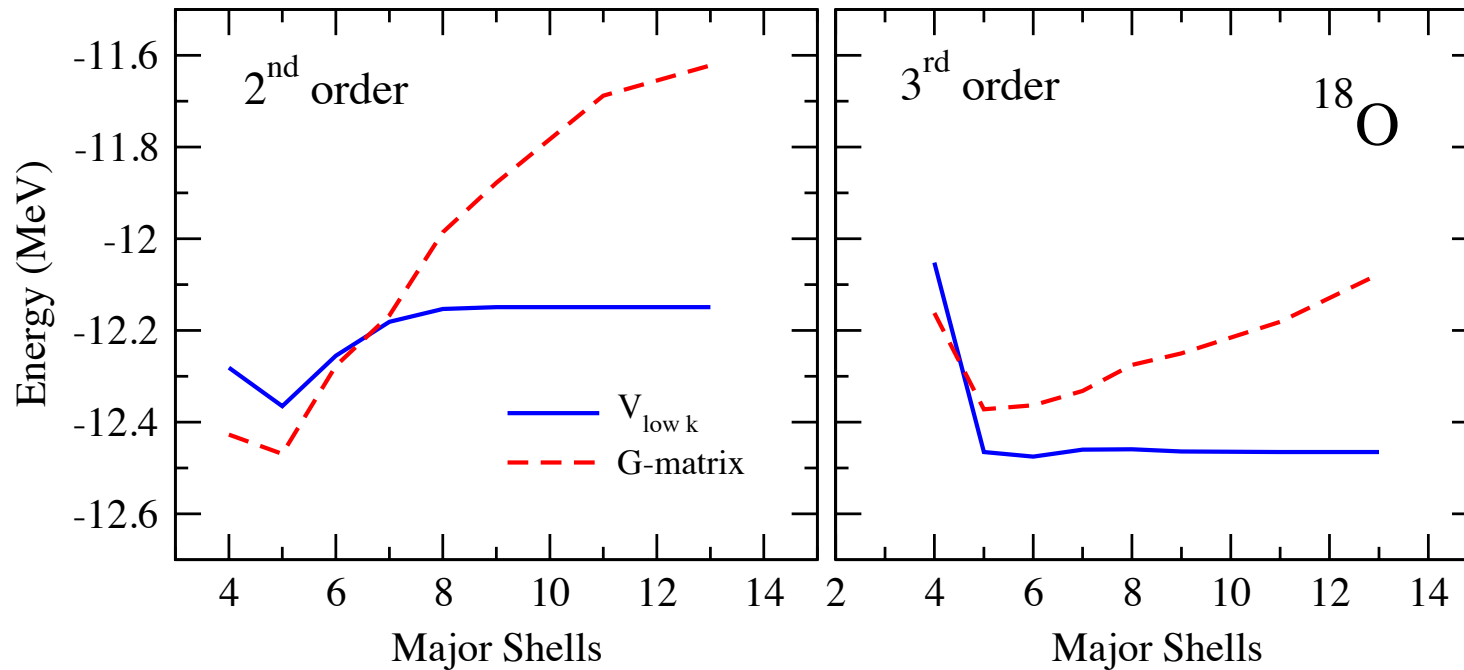
Clear convergence with HO basis size

Promising order-by-order behavior

# Convergence Properties

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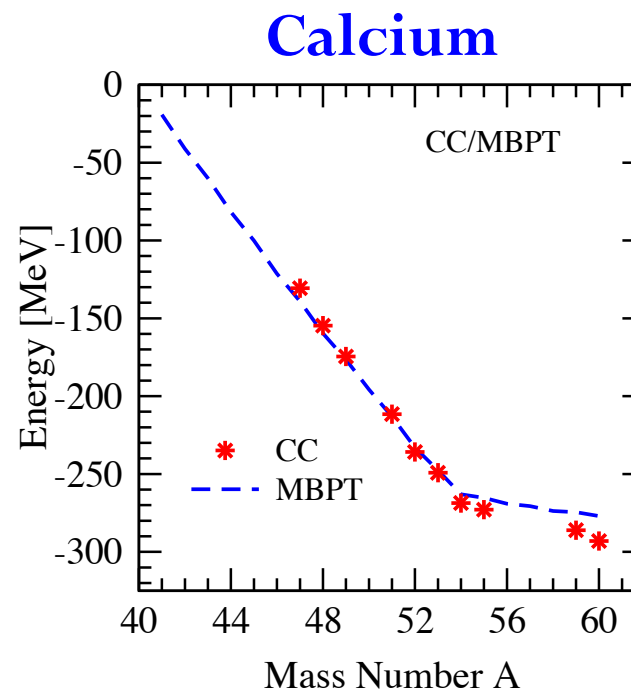
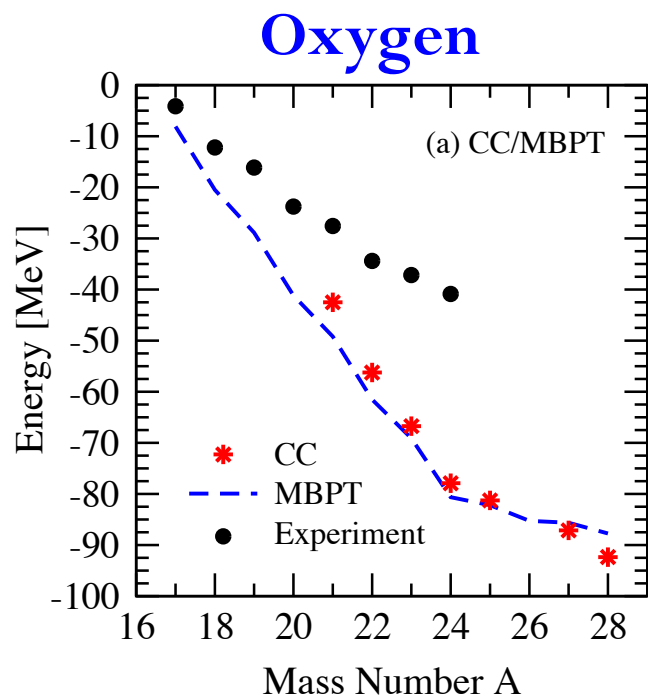


**G-matrix** – no sign of convergence

# Comparison to Coupled Cluster

**Benchmark** against *ab-initio* Coupled Cluster at NN level

SPEs: one-particle attached CC energies in  $^{17}\text{O}$  and  $^{41}\text{Ca}$



Energies relative to  $^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^{40}\text{Ca}$

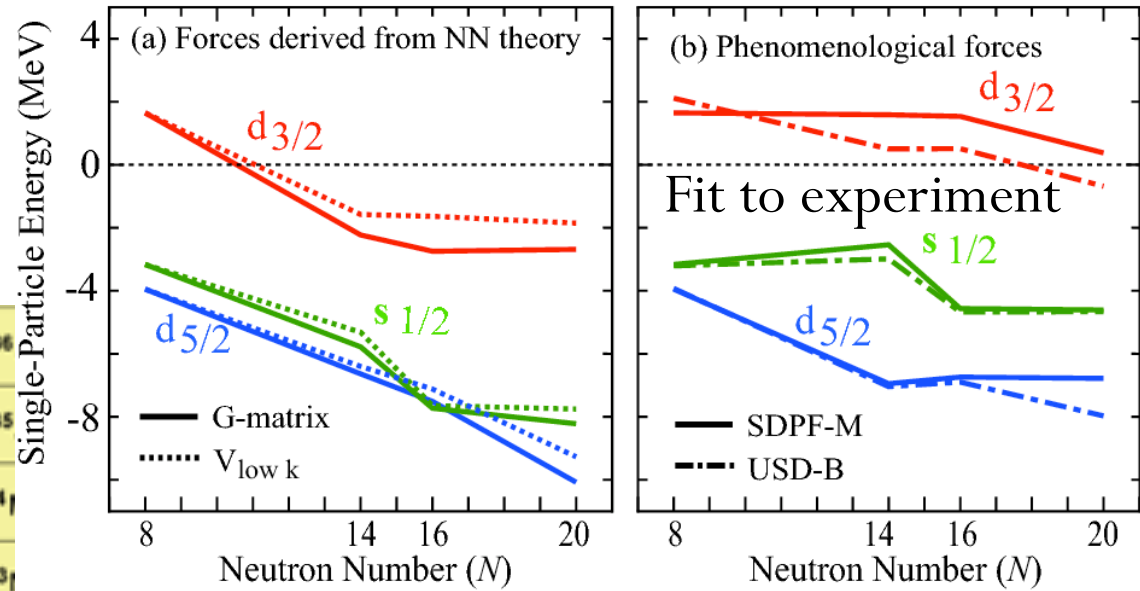
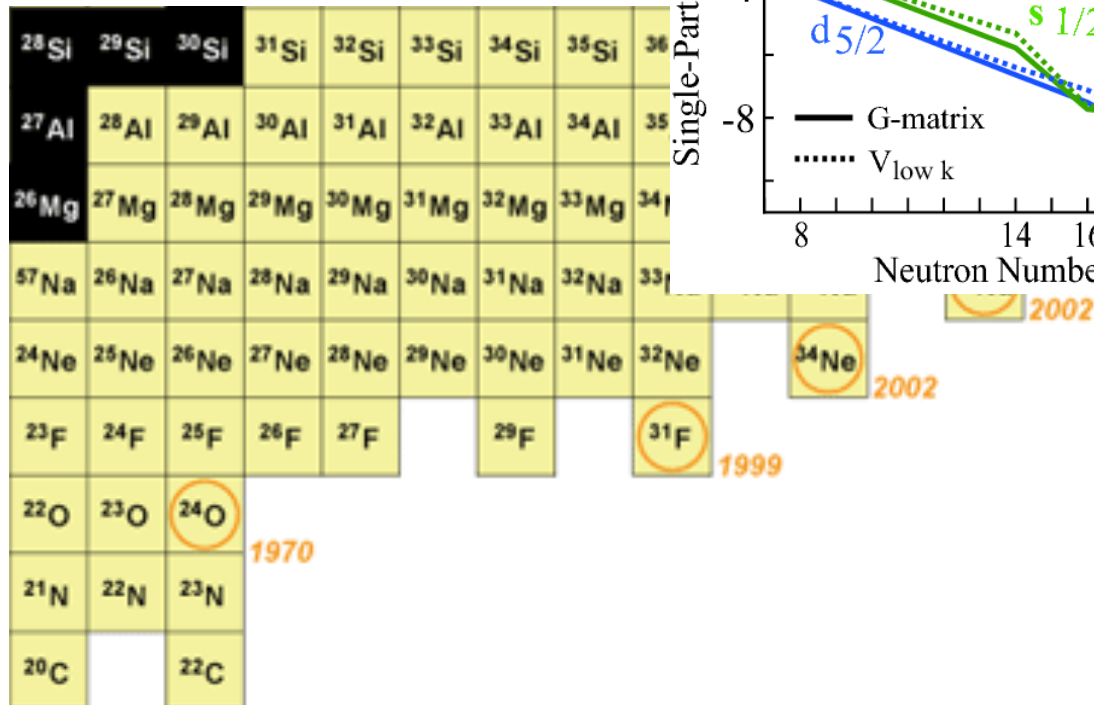
Small difference in many-body methods  $\sim 5\%$



# Limits of Nuclear Existence: Oxygen Anomaly

Microscopic picture:

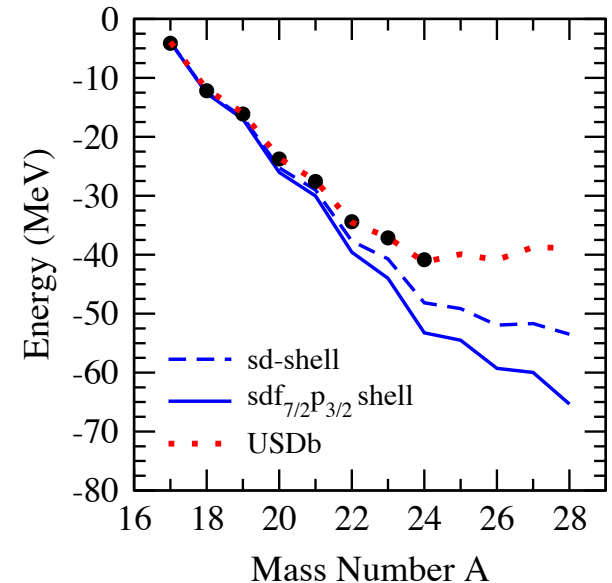
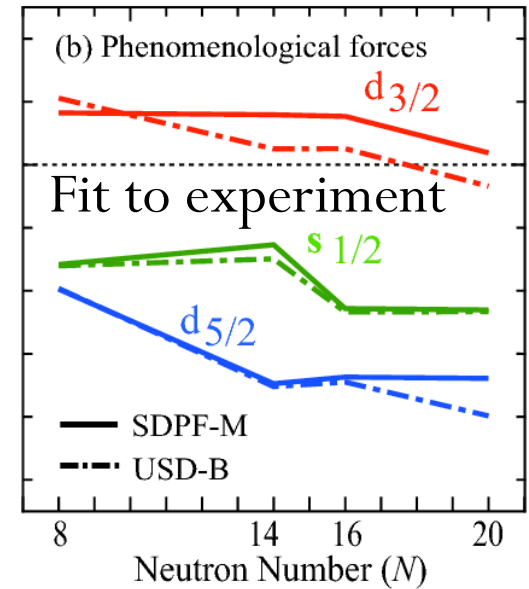
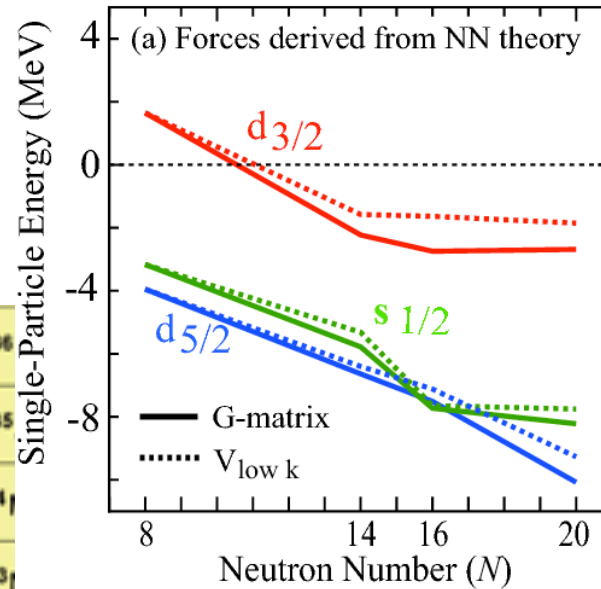
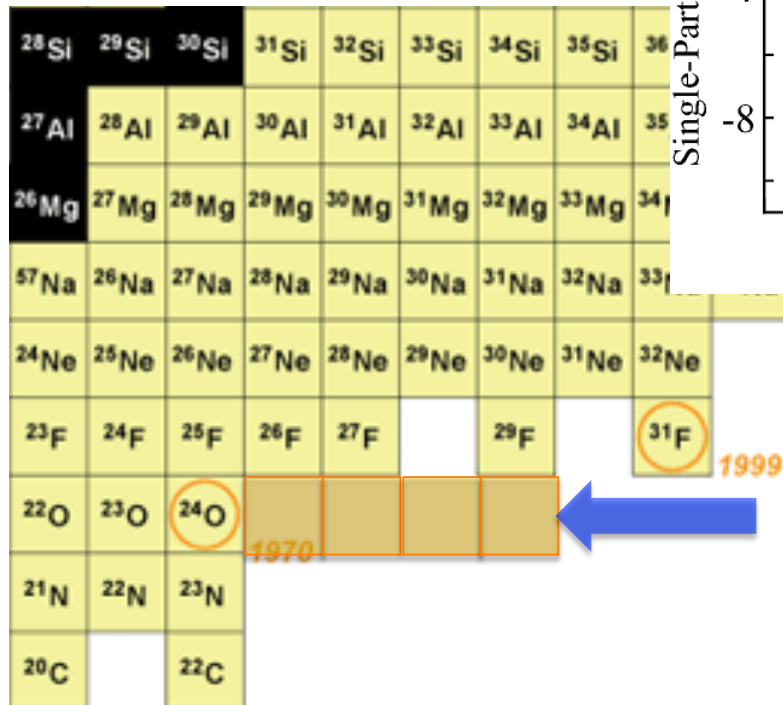
**NN-forces too attractive**



# Limits of Nuclear Existence: Oxygen Anomaly

Microscopic picture:

**NN-forces too attractive**

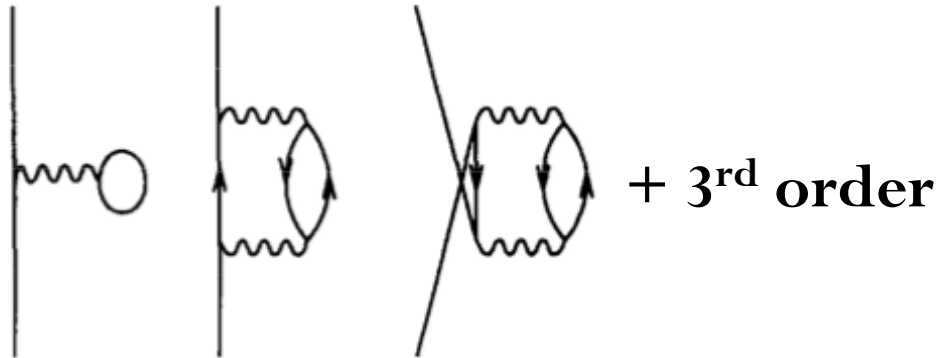


Incorrect prediction of oxygen dripline

Extended-space – more binding

# Single Particle Energies

SPEs self-consistently from one-body diagrams



*sd*-shell: overbound, unreasonable spacing

Orbit	“Exp”	USD <b>b</b>	$T+V_{NN}$ (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
$d_{5/2}$	-4.14	-3.93	<b>-5.43</b>
$s_{1/2}$	-3.27	-3.21	<b>-5.32</b>
$d_{3/2}$	0.944	2.11	<b>-0.97</b>

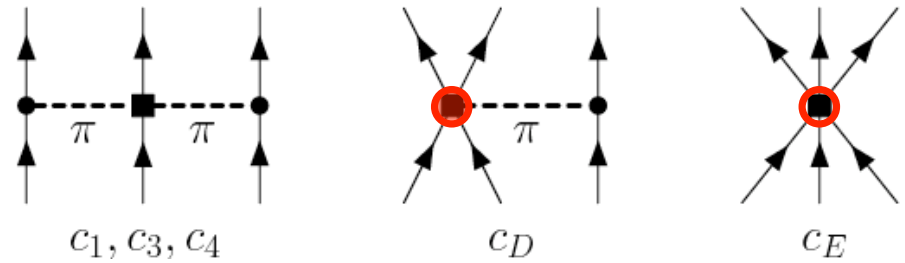
Typical approach: use empirical SPEs

**3N forces eliminate need for adjusted parameters?**

# Chiral Effective Field Theory: 3N Forces

	2N forces	3N forces	4N forces
LO			
NLO			
N <sup>2</sup> LO			
N <sup>3</sup> LO			

Two new couplings at N<sup>2</sup>LO



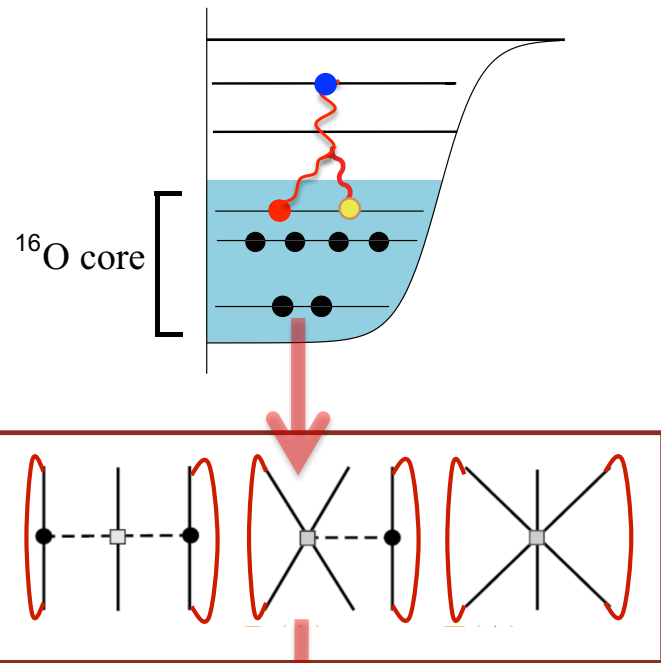
**c terms** given from NN fits:  
constrained by NN,  $\pi$ N data

$c_D$   $c_E$  fit to properties of light nuclei:  
Triton binding energy,  $^4\text{He}$  radius

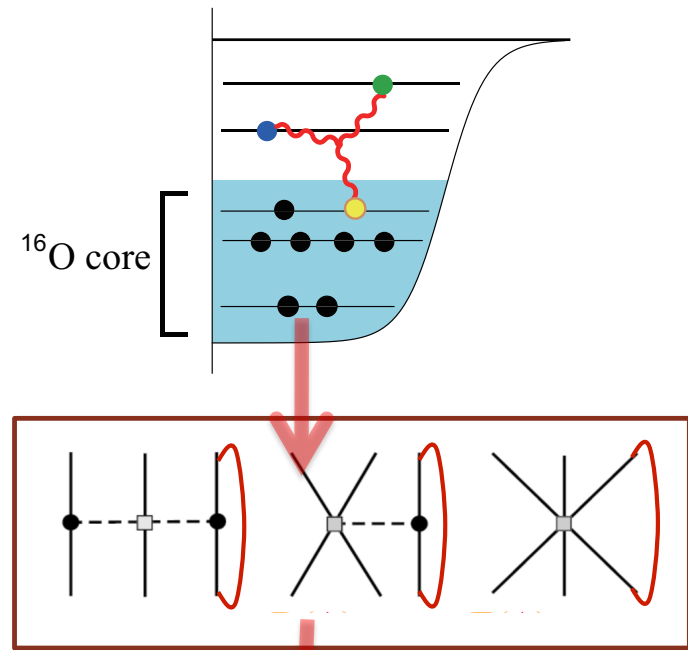
# 3N Forces for Valence-Shell Theories

**Normal-ordered 3N**: contribution to valence nucleon interactions

Effective one-body



Effective two-body



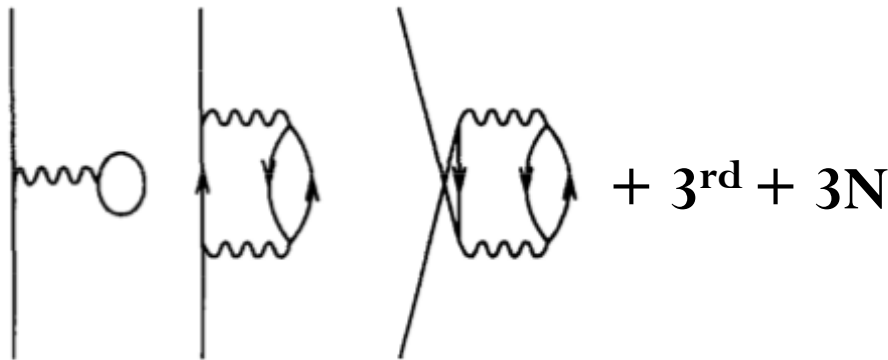
$$\langle a | V_{3N,\text{eff}} | a' \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha\beta=\text{core}} \langle \alpha\beta a | V_{3N} | \alpha\beta a' \rangle$$

$$\langle ab | V_{3N,\text{eff}} | a'b' \rangle = \sum_{\alpha=\text{core}} \langle \alpha ab | V_{3N} | \alpha a'b' \rangle$$

Combine with microscopic NN (**Third Order**): no empirical adjustments

# Extended Valence Space SPEs

**3N forces:** additional repulsion – comparable to phenomenology

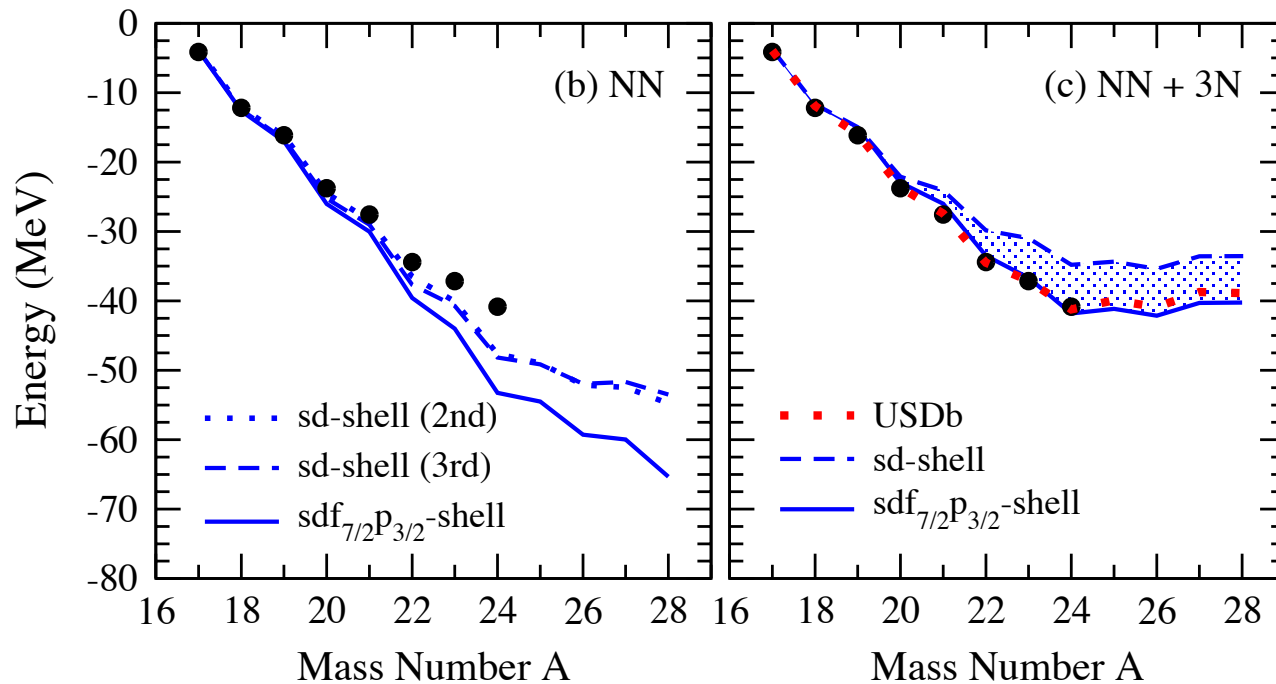


Orbit	USDb	$T+V_{NN}+V_{3N}$	SDPF-M	$T+V_{NN}+V_{3N}$
$d_{5/2}$	-3.93	-3.78	-3.95	-3.46
$s_{1/2}$	-3.21	-2.42	-3.16	-2.20
$d_{3/2}$	2.11	1.45	1.65	1.92
$f_{7/2}$			3.10	3.71
$p_{3/2}$			3.10	7.72

Similar behavior in standard/extended spaces

# Ground-State Energies of Oxygen Isotopes

Valence-space interaction and SPEs from NN+3N



JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1108.2680

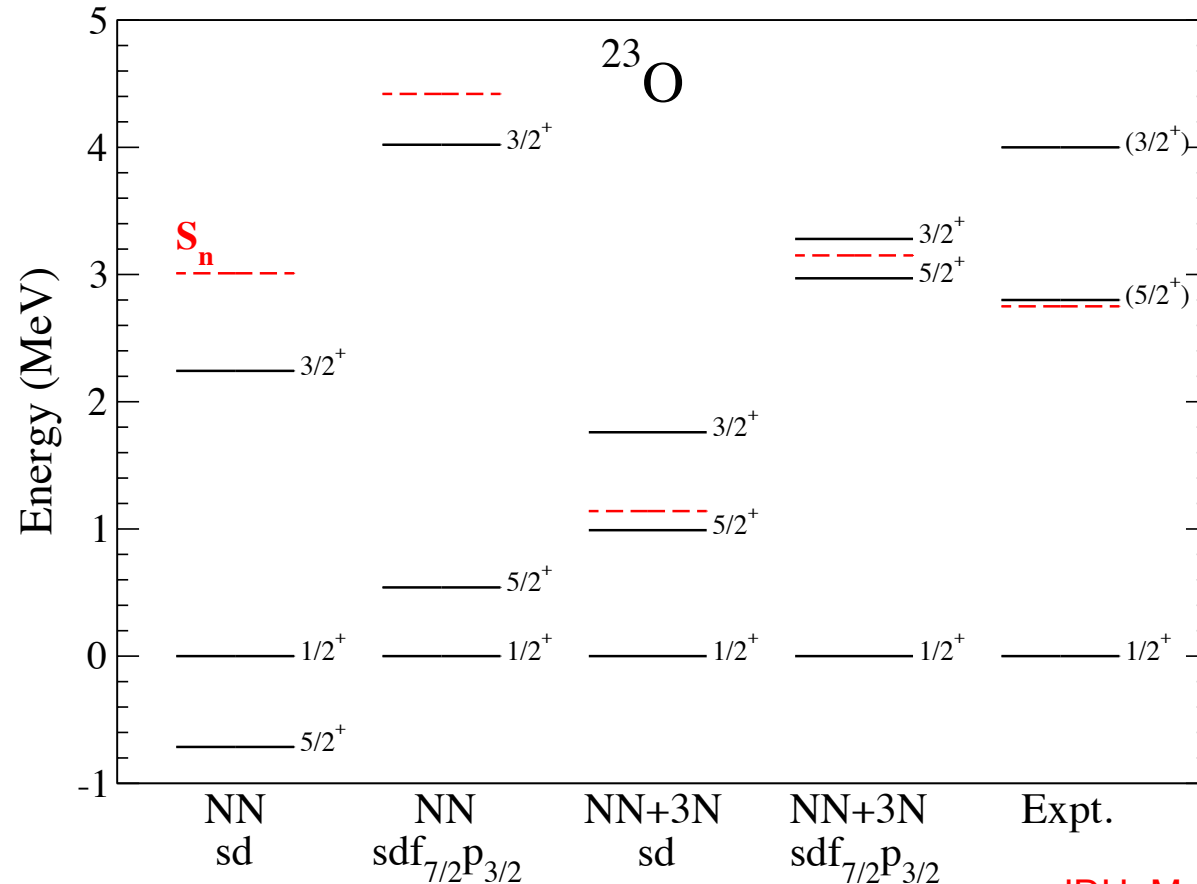
Repulsive character improves agreement with experiment

*sd*-shell results underbound; improved in **extended space** *sdf*<sub>7/2</sub> *p*<sub>3/2</sub>

# Impact on Spectra: $^{23}\text{O}$

Neutron-rich oxygen spectra with NN+3N

$5/2^+$ ,  $3/2^+$  indicate position of  $d_{5/2}$  and  $d_{3/2}$  orbits



*sd-shell NN-only*

Wrong ground state

$5/2^+$  too low

$3/2^+$  bound

*NN+3N*

Improvements in

extended valence space

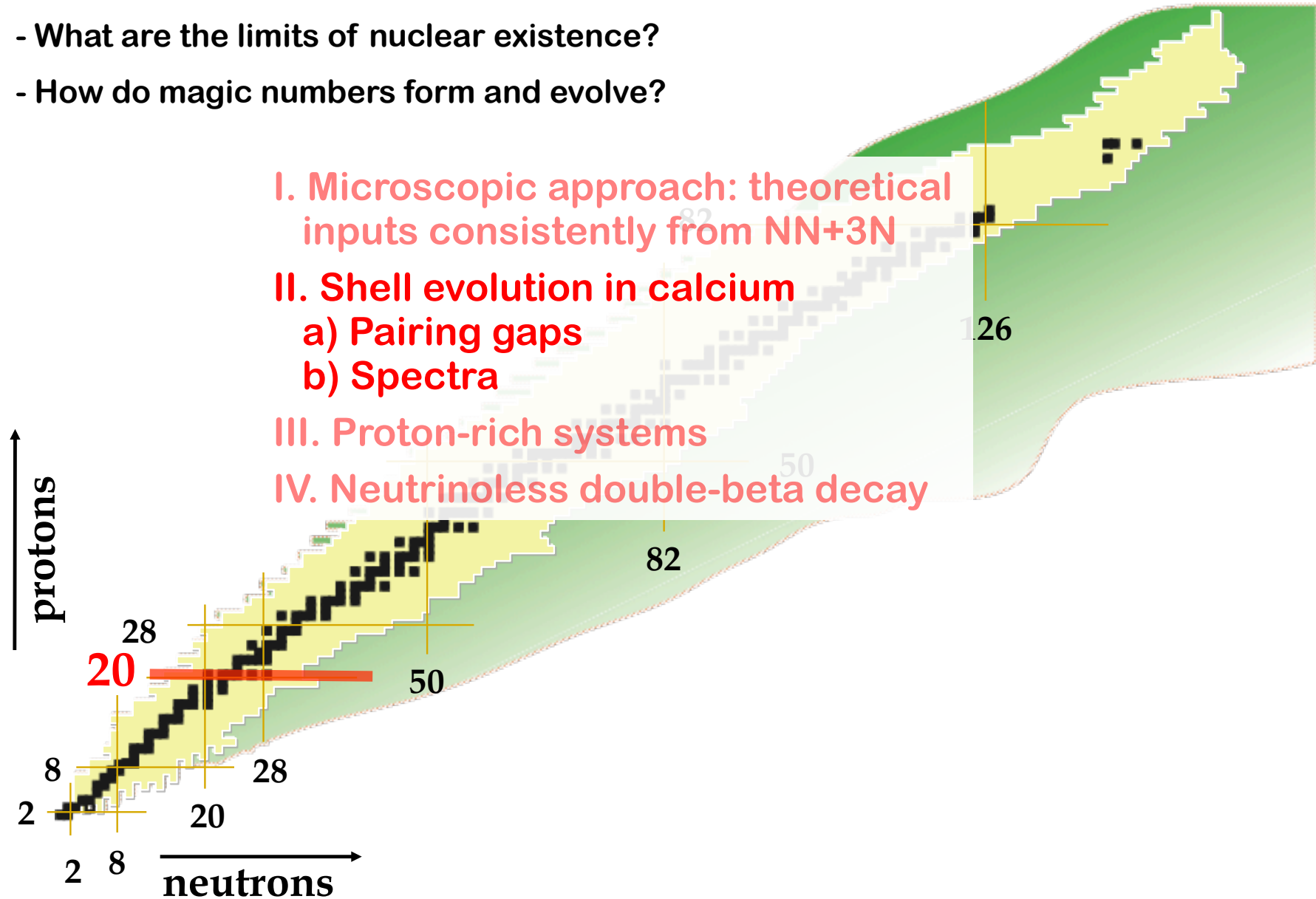
JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1108.2680



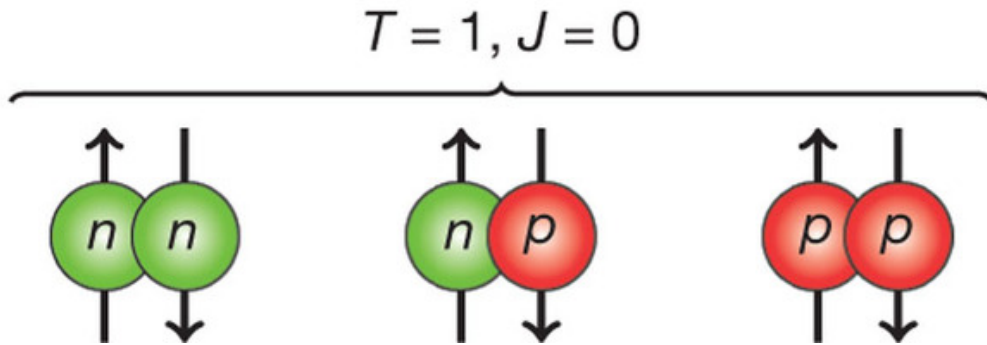
# Shell Formation/Evolution in Calcium Isotopes

Goal: understand the role of 3N forces for structure of medium-mass exotic nuclei

- What are the limits of nuclear existence?
- How do magic numbers form and evolve?



# Nuclear Pairing



Pairing of even number of nucleons – even/odd staggering

Pairing gaps deduced from **3-point mass difference**:

$$\Delta_n^{(3)} = \frac{(-1)^N}{2} [BE(N+1, Z) + BE(N-1, Z) - 2BE(N, Z)]$$

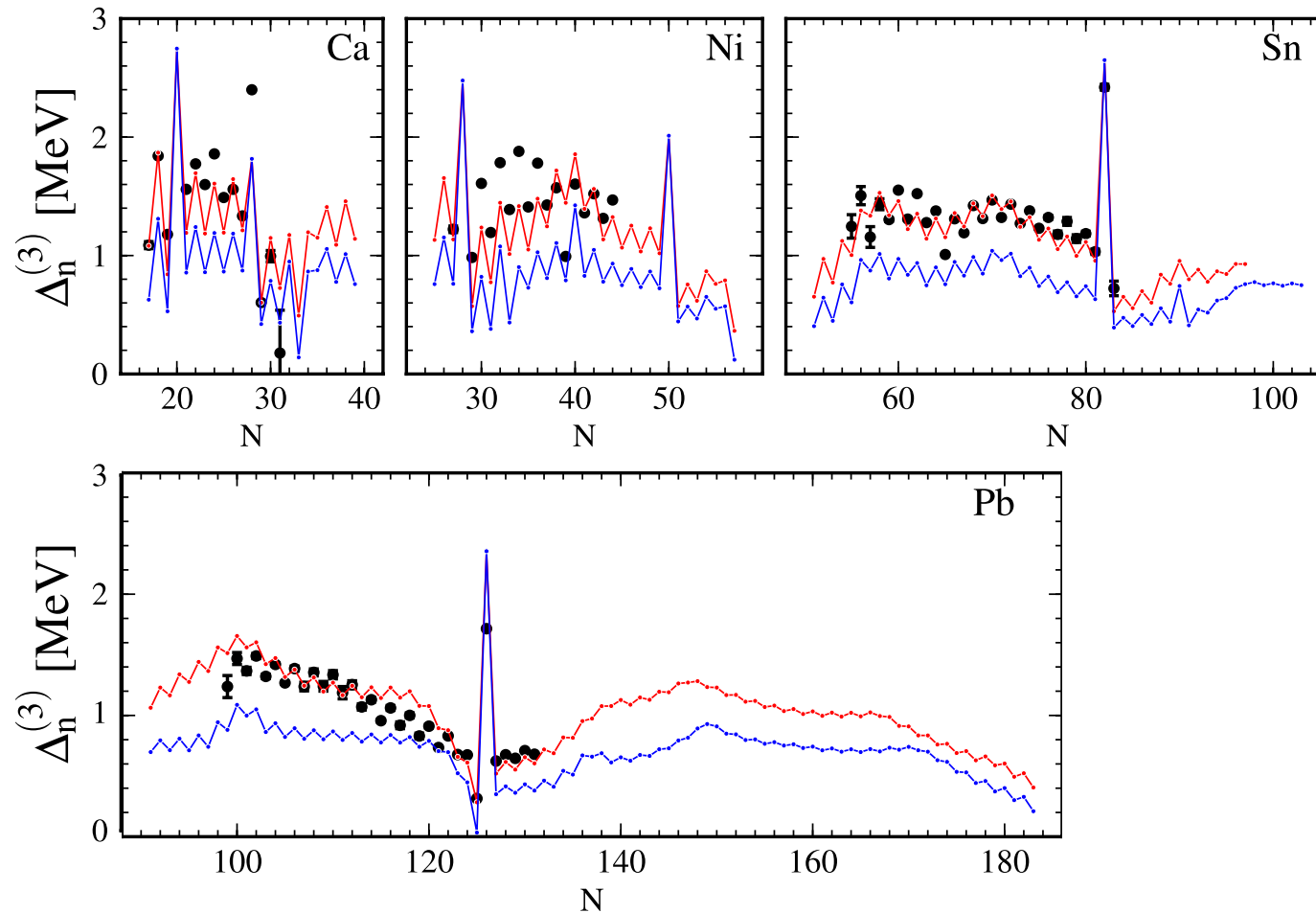
Allows comparison with experiment

Relative peak in pairing strength indicates **shell closure**

# Pairing in EDF with 3N Forces

In Energy Density Functional theory: 3N forces lower gaps systematically  $\sim 30\%$

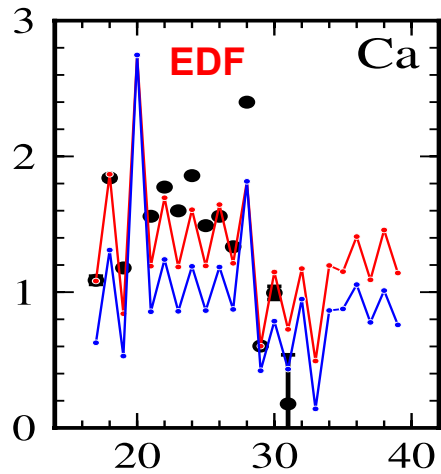
Lesinski, Hebeler, Duguet, Schwenk, JPG (2012)



**What are the contributions from neglected many-body effects?  
(Core polarization)**

# Pairing in Calcium Isotopes: Ladders

Compare with  $\Delta_n^{(3)}$  calculated from microscopic NN+3N in calcium



HFB iterates ladders microscopically in pairing channel

Compare with *pp, hh ladders to 3<sup>rd</sup> order*

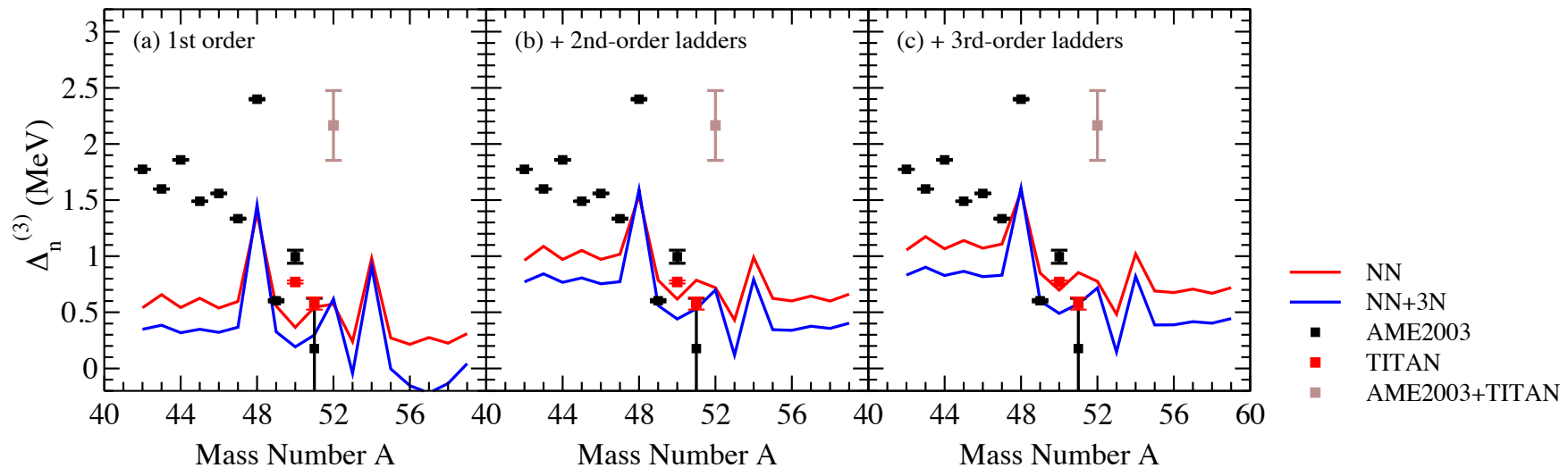
Improved agreement with experiment

Convergence in order-by-order ladders

Suppression from 3N forces as in EDF

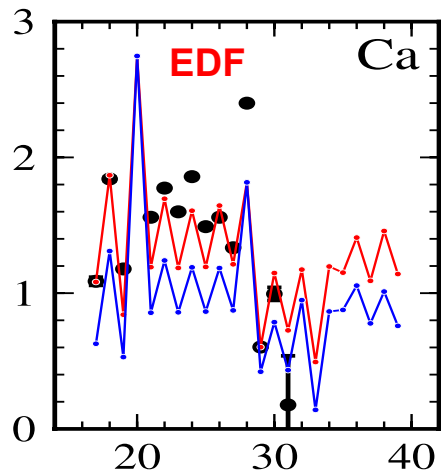
Incorrect odd/even staggering

JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, in prep.



# Pairing in Calcium Isotopes: Full 3<sup>rd</sup> order

Compare with  $\Delta_n^{(3)}$  calculated from microscopic NN+3N in calcium



## Full 3<sup>rd</sup>-order MBPT

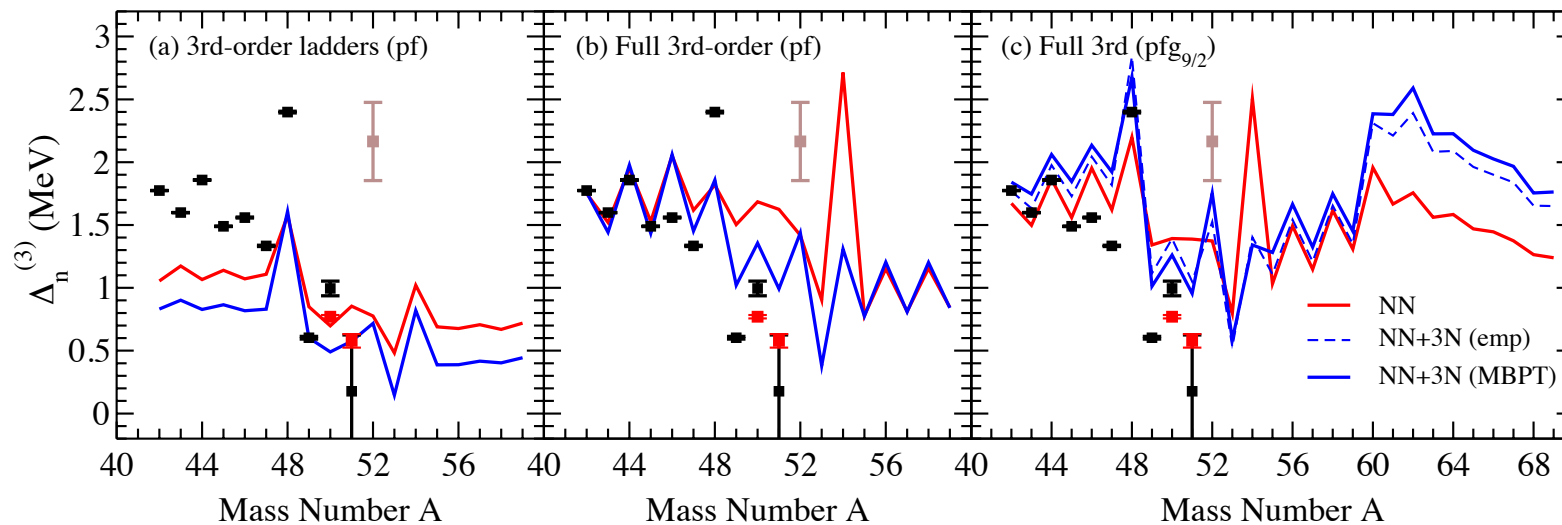
Further increases gaps

Correct odd/even staggering; more pronounced

Good experimental reproduction with 3<sup>rd</sup>-order NN+3N

Can account for missing physics in EDF calculations

JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, in prep.

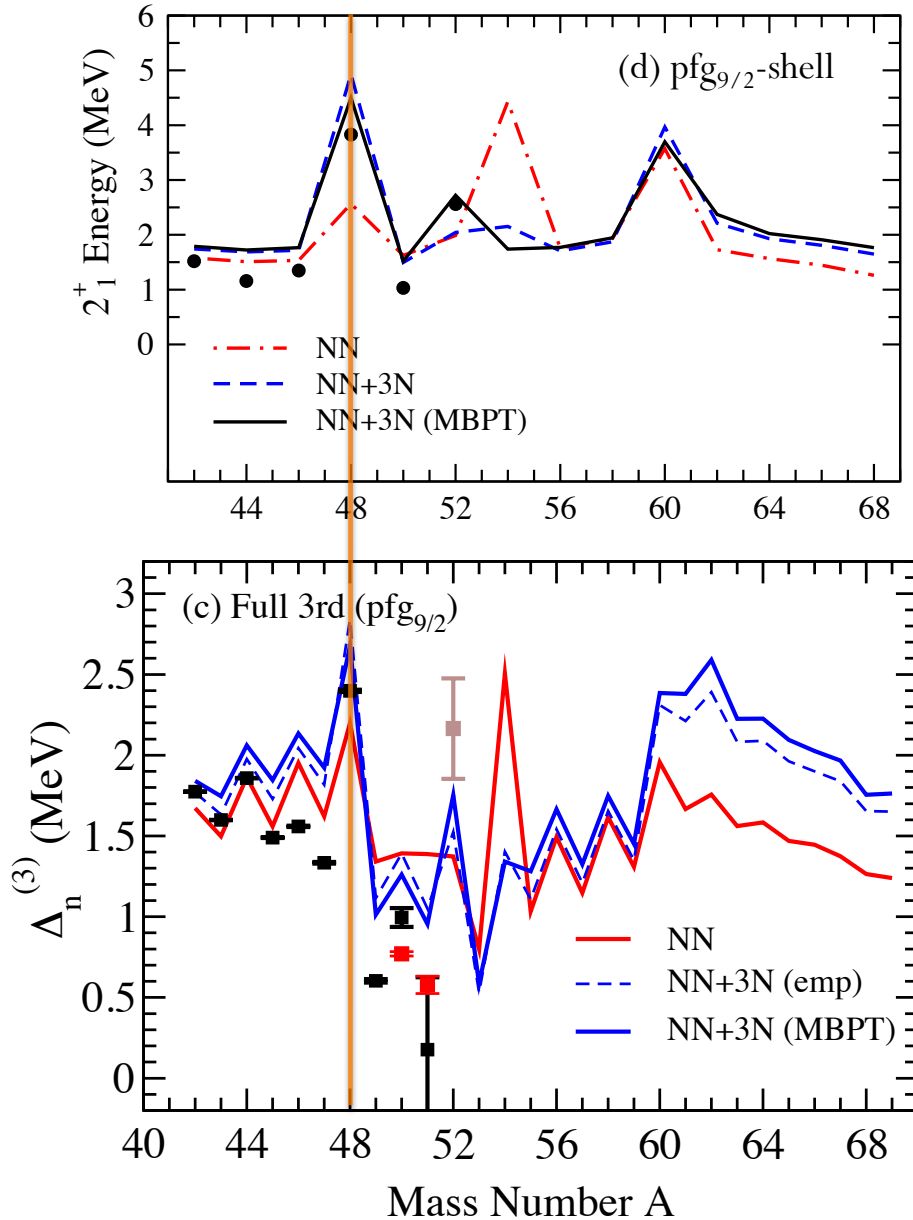


# Pairing for Shell Evolution N=28

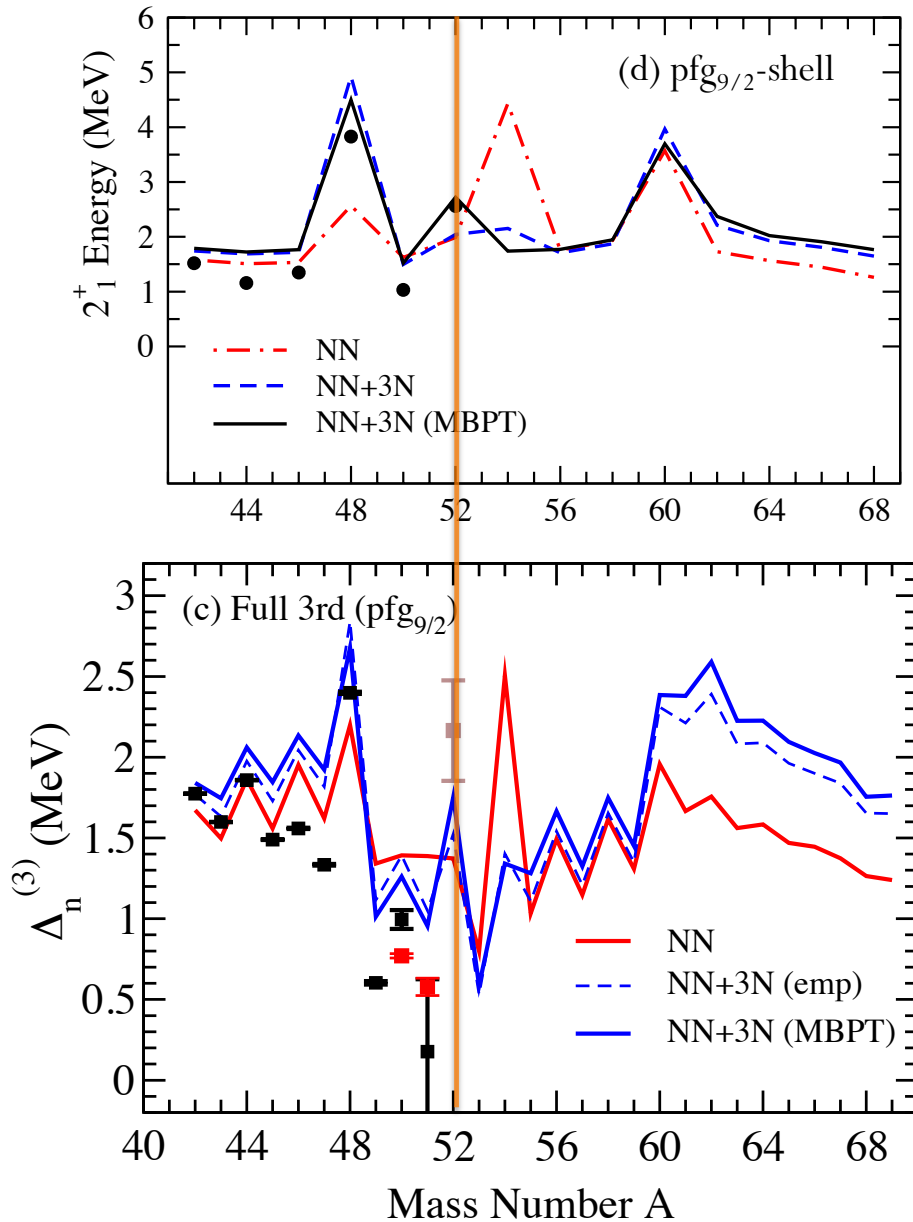
Peak in pairing gaps: complementary signature for shell closure

Compare with  $2^+$  energies for Ca

**N=28**: strong peak, overprediction in both cases



# Pairing for Shell Evolution N=32



Peak in pairing gaps: complementary signature for shell closure

Compare with  $2^+$  energies for Ca

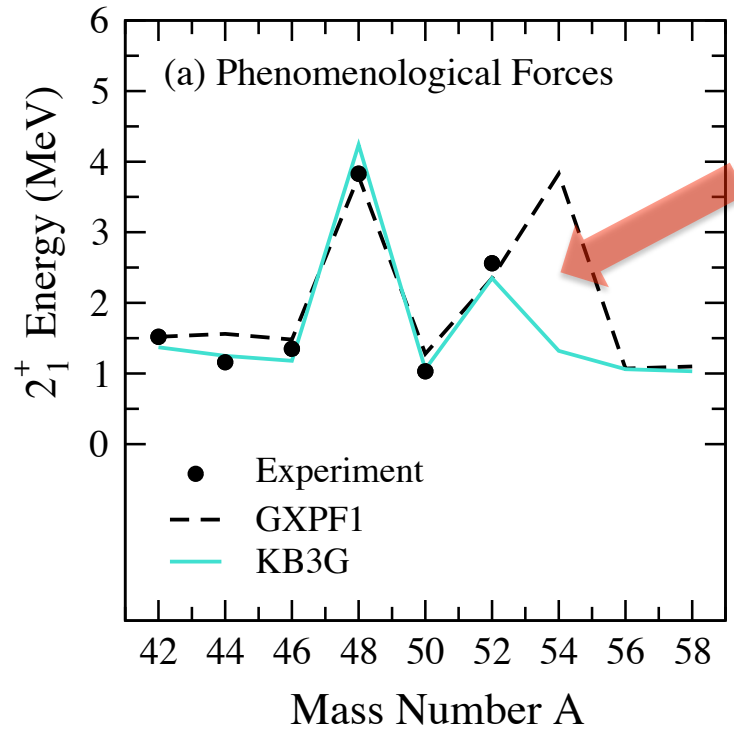
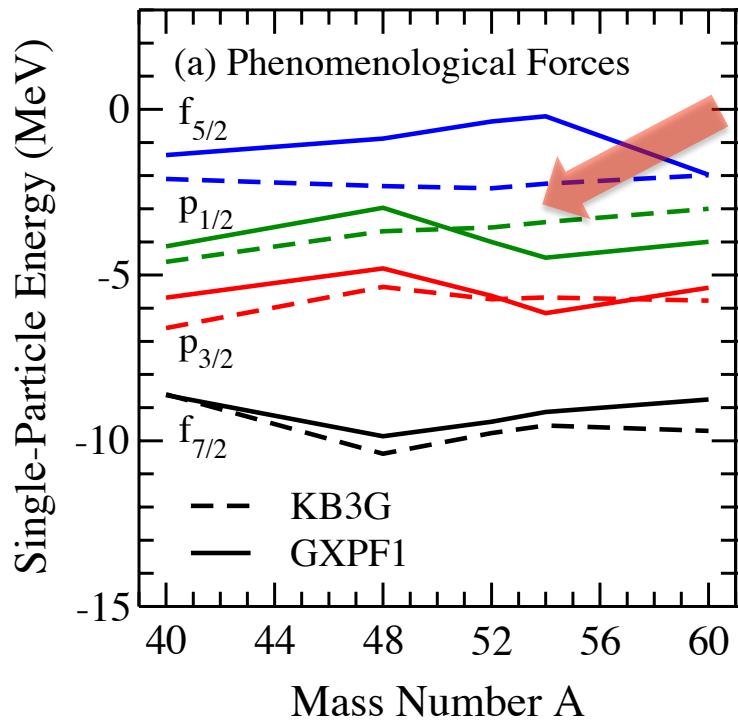
**N=32**: moderate peak

Close to experimental value with new TITAN data

Experimental measurement of  $^{53}\text{Ca}$  mass needed to reduce uncertainty

# Evolution of Magic Numbers: N=34

**N=34 magic number in calcium?**



Strong phenomenological disagreement for neutron-rich calcium

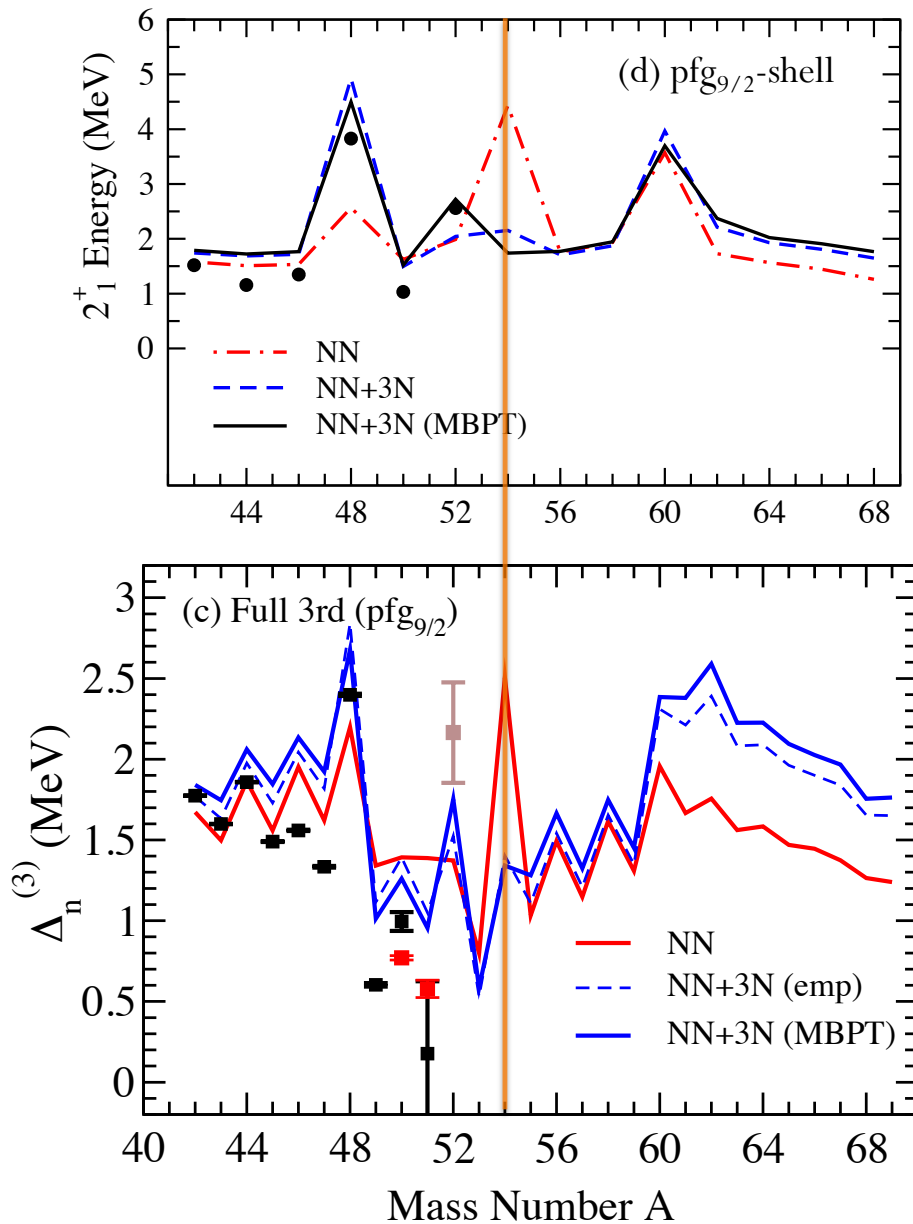


# Pairing for Shell Evolution N=34

Peak in pairing gaps: complementary signature for shell closure

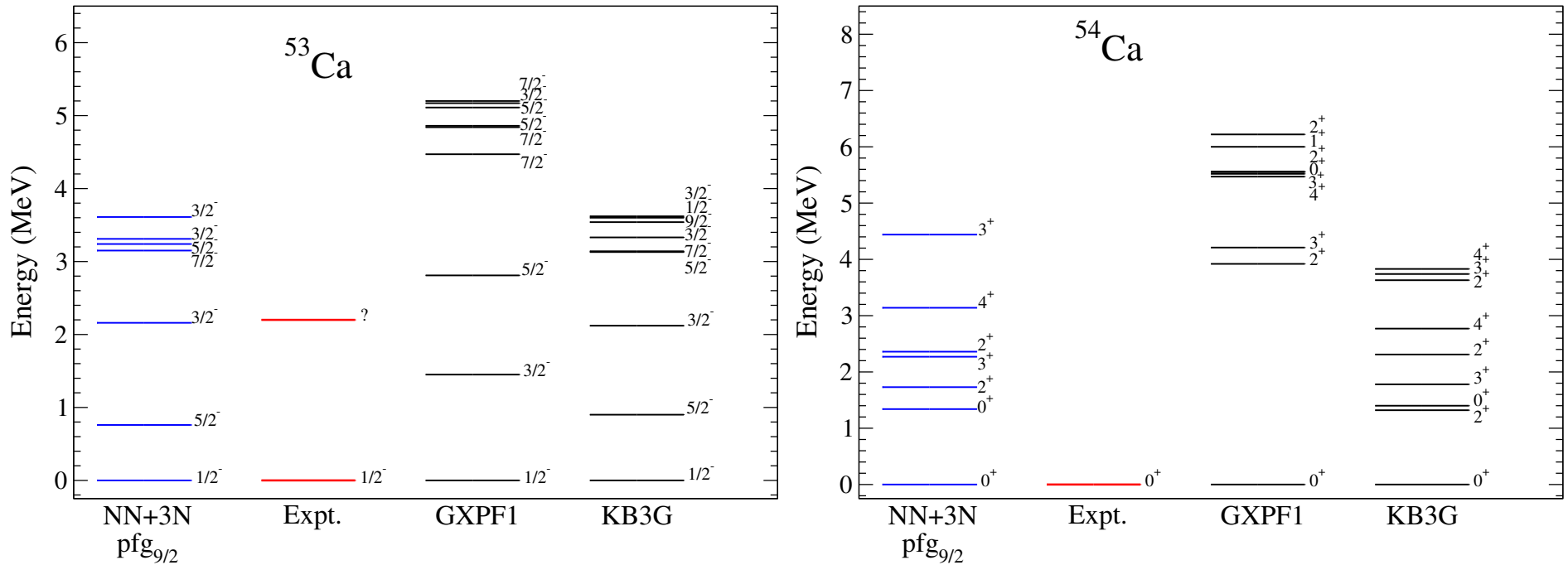
Compare with  $2^+$  energies for Ca

**N=34**: suppressed with 3N forces



# Neutron-Rich Ca Spectra Near N=34

Neutron-rich calcium spectra with NN+3N



JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, in prep.

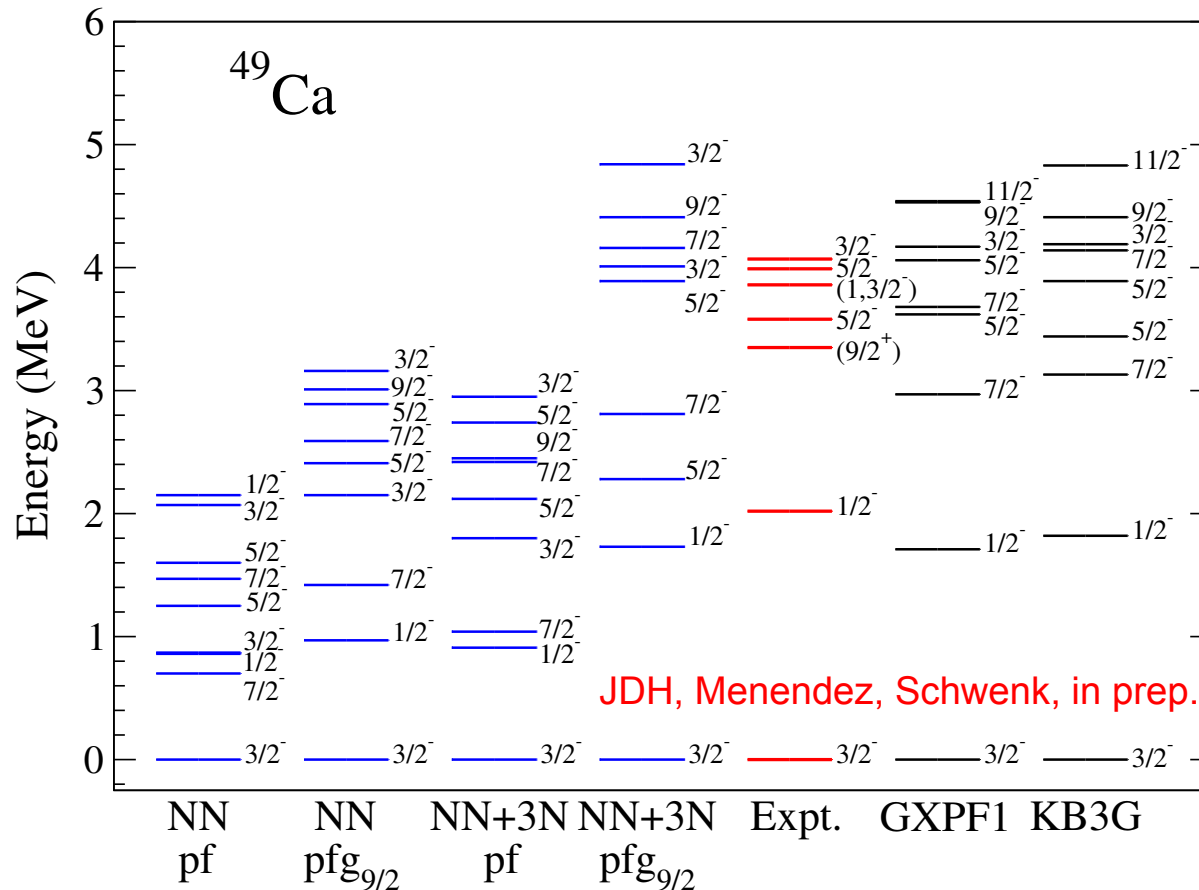
Dramatic difference in phenomenology

NN+3N similar to KB3G – no indication of  $N=34$  magic number

Consistent with predictions from Coupled-Cluster theory

# Impact on Spectra: $^{49}\text{Ca}$

Neutron-rich calcium spectra with NN+3N



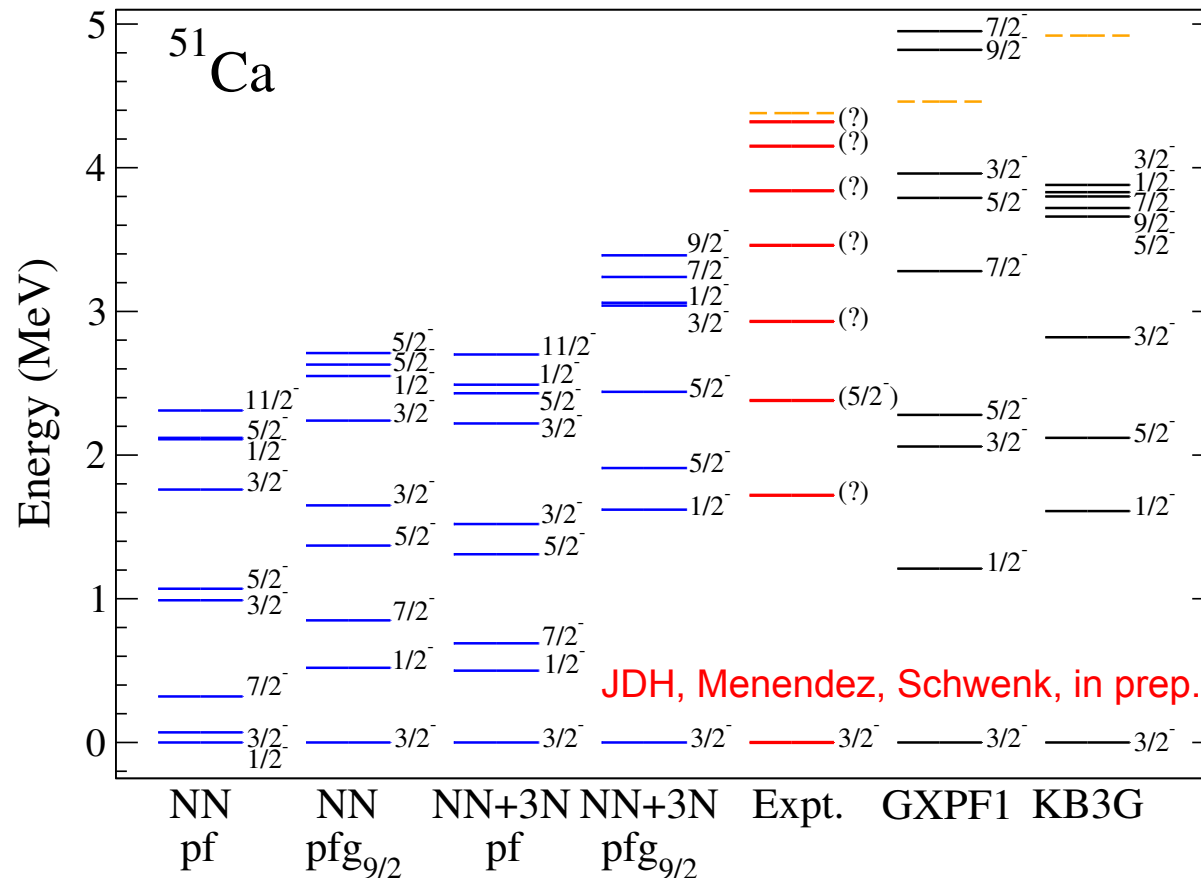
Spectrum typically too compressed

NN+3N in  $pfg_{9/2}$  correct 1/2<sup>-</sup>

Comparable to phenomenology (as for all lighter Ca isotopes)

# Impact on Spectra: $^{51}\text{Ca}$

Neutron-rich calcium spectra with NN+3N



Possibility to assign spin/parity where unknown

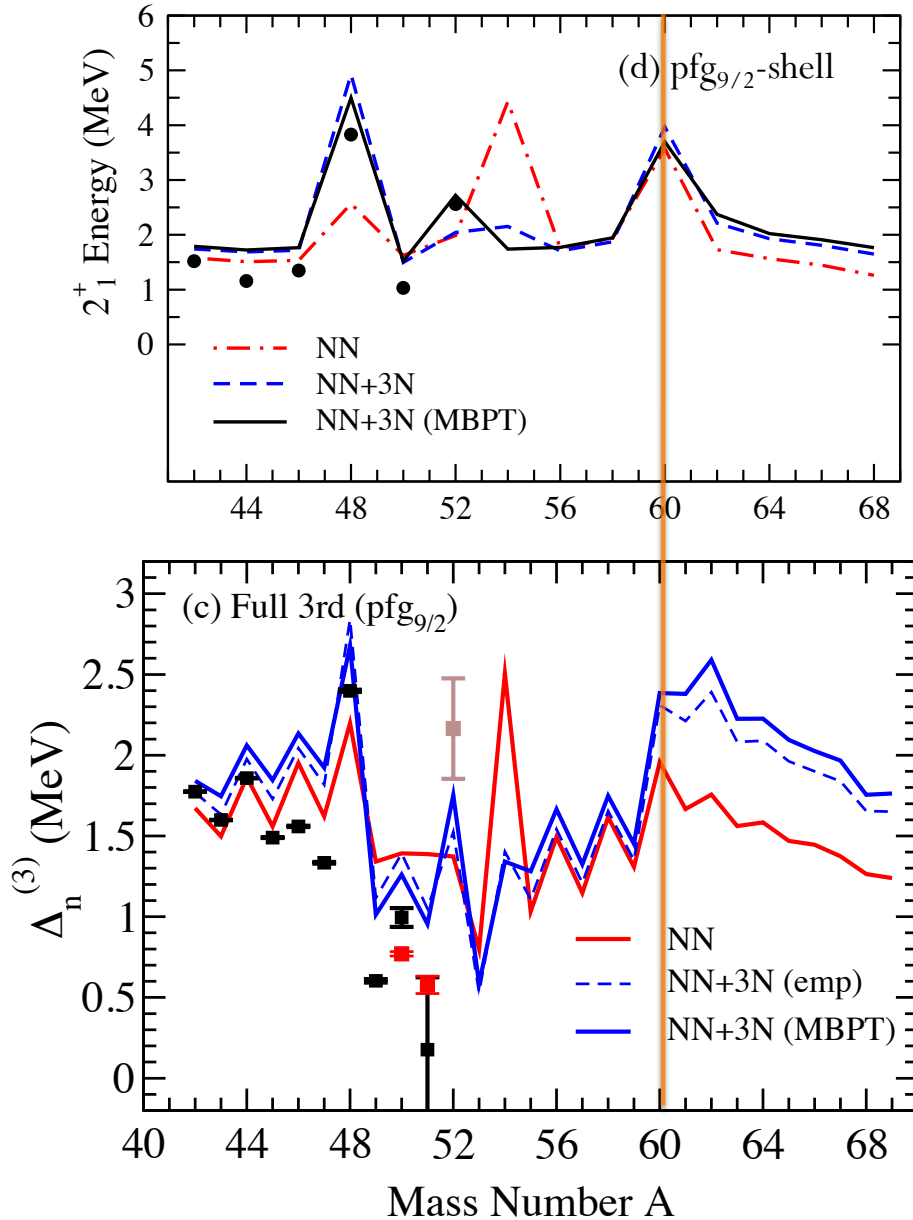
**Gamma-ray spectroscopy needed**

# Pairing for Shell Evolution N=40

Peak in pairing gaps: complementary signature for shell closure

Compare with  $2^+$  energies for Ca

**N=40**: robust signature of shell closure

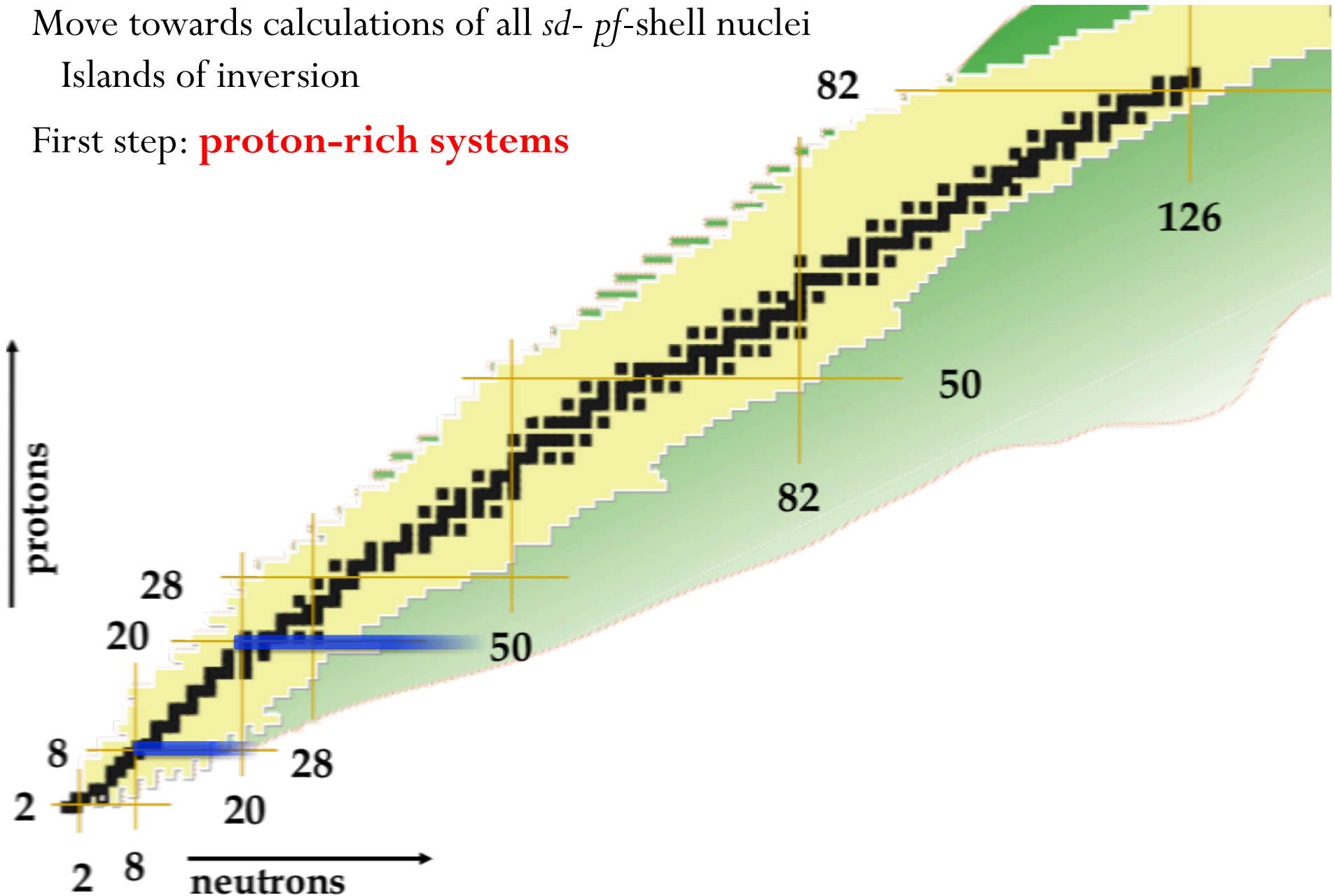


# Proton-Rich Systems

Move towards calculations of all *sd*-*pf*-shell nuclei

Islands of inversion

First step: **proton-rich systems**



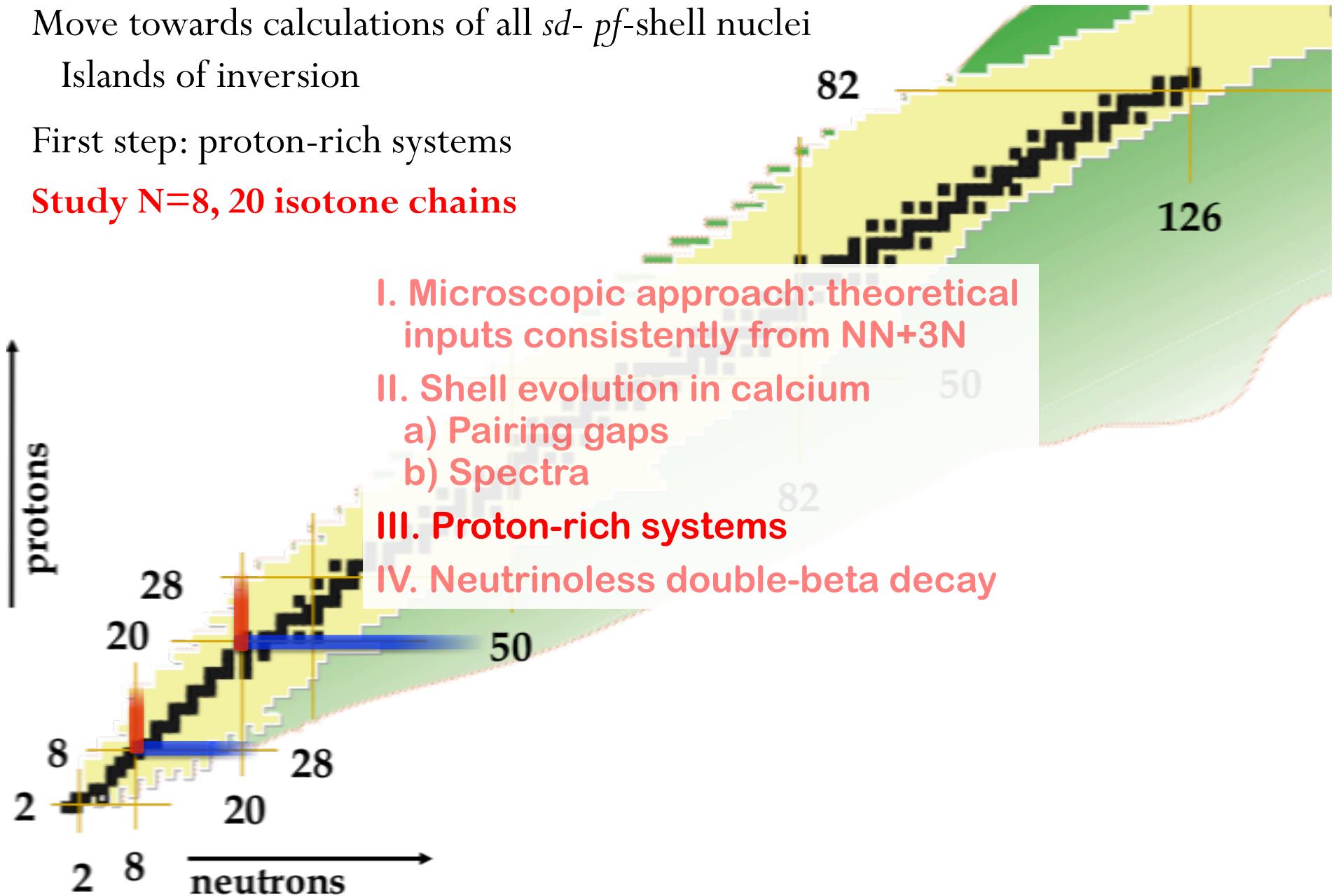
# Proton-Rich Systems

Move towards calculations of all *sd*- *pf*-shell nuclei

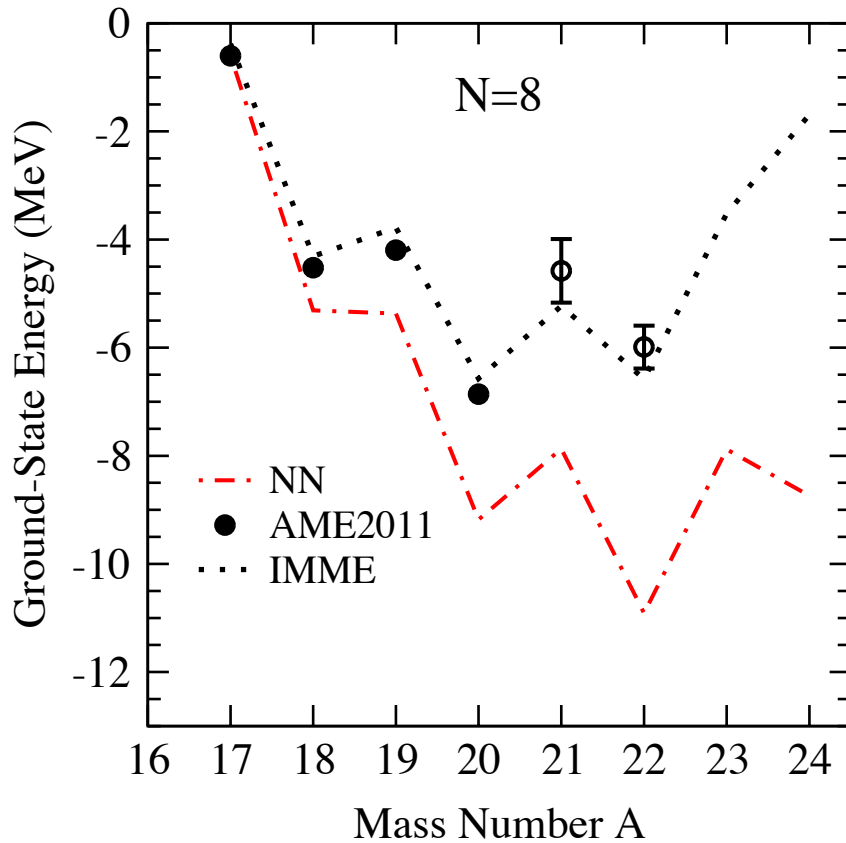
Islands of inversion

First step: proton-rich systems

**Study N=8, 20 isotone chains**



# Ground-State Energies of N=8 Isotones



Data limited – use phenomenological isobaric multiplet mass equation (IMME)

$$E(A, T, T_z) = E(A, T, -T_z) + 2b(A, T)T_z$$

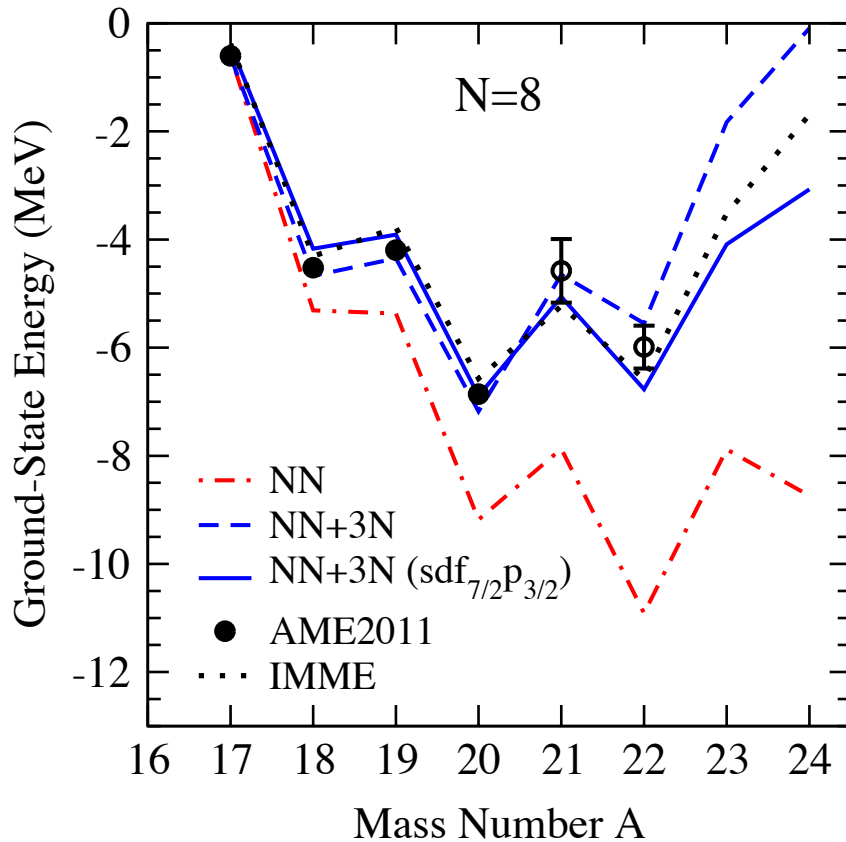
$$b = 0.7068A^{2/3} - 0.9133$$

**NN-only**: overbound

JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1207.1590



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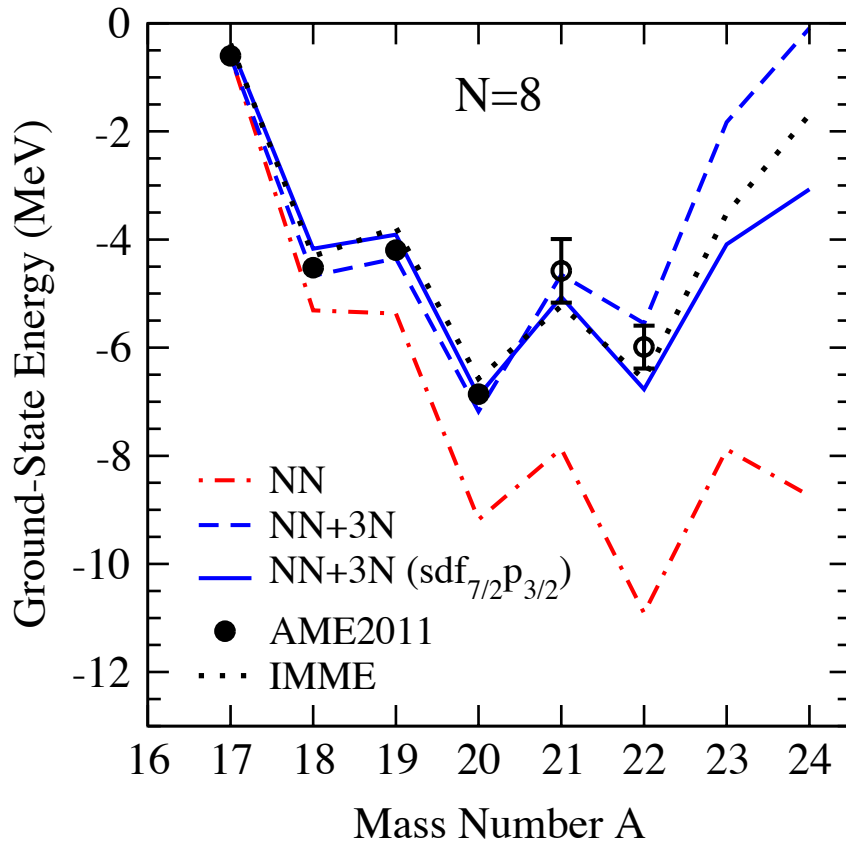
**NN-only**: overbound

**NN+3N**: improved agreement with experiment/IMME

JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1207.1590

**Dripline uncertain:** Unbound in AME2011, NN+3N; bound in IMME

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**NN-only**: overbound

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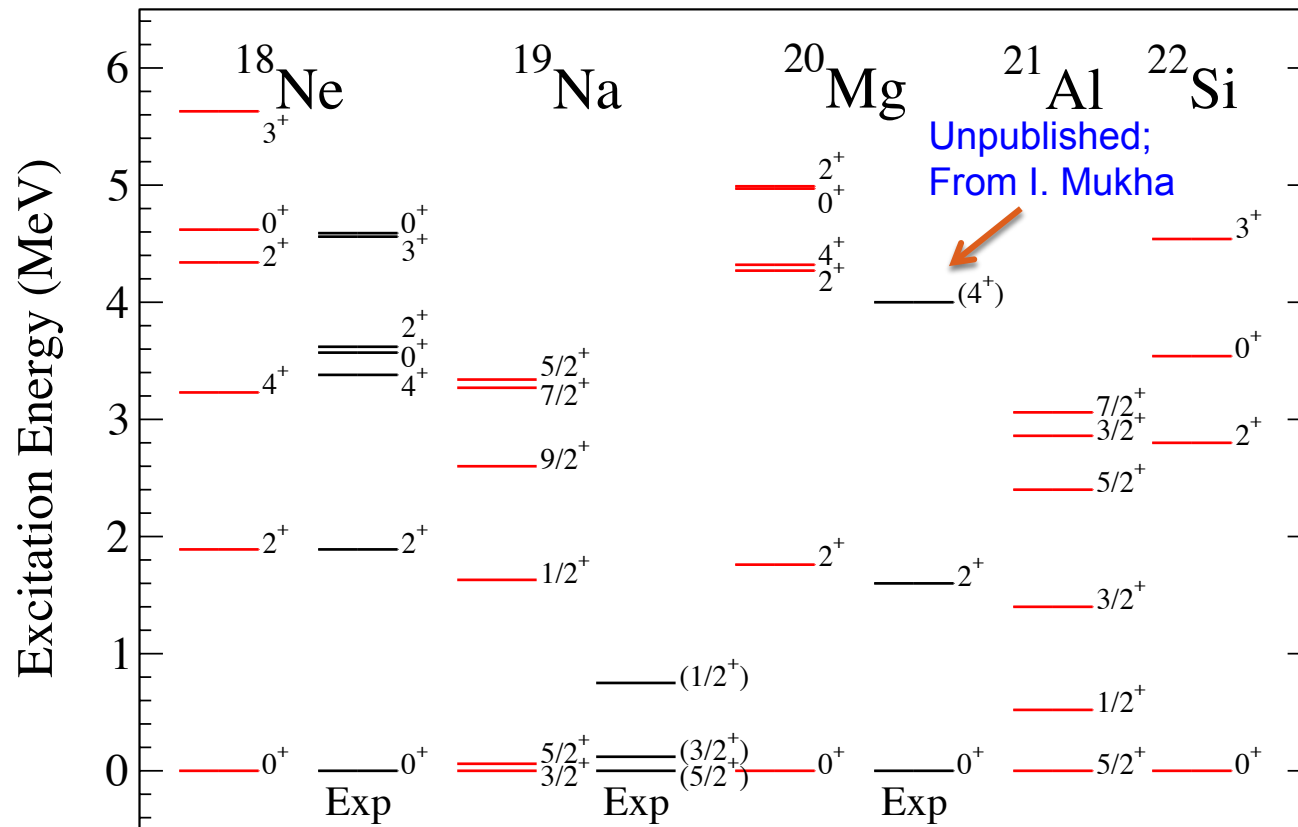
JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1207.1590

**Dripline uncertain:** Unbound in AME2011, NN+3N; bound in IMME

$^{22}\text{Si}$  possible two-proton emitter

	IMME	NN+3N ( <i>sd</i> )	NN+3N ( <i>sdf</i> <sub>7/2</sub> <i>p</i> <sub>3/2</sub> )
$S_{2p}$	0.01 MeV	-1.63 MeV	-0.12 MeV

# Spectra of N=8 Isotones



JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1207.1590

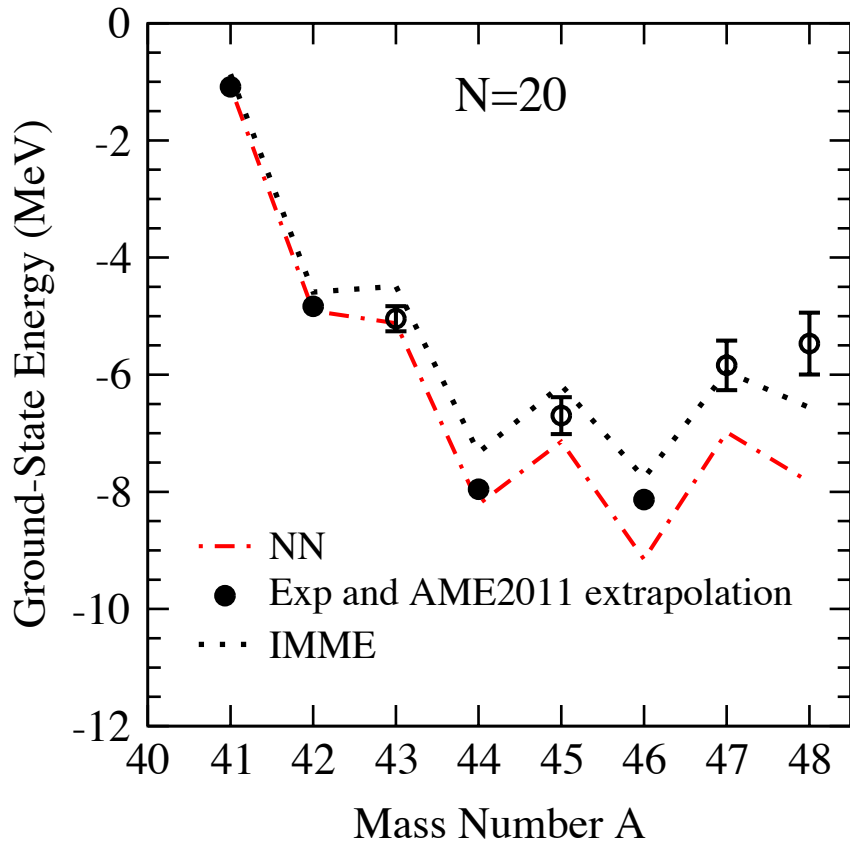
**NN+3N**: reasonable agreement with experiment

**New measurement**: excited state in  $^{20}\text{Mg}$  close to predicted  $4^+ - 2^+$  doublet

Predictions for proton-rich  $^{21}\text{Al}$ ,  $^{22}\text{Si}$  spectra

Closed sub-shell signature in  $^{22}\text{Si}$

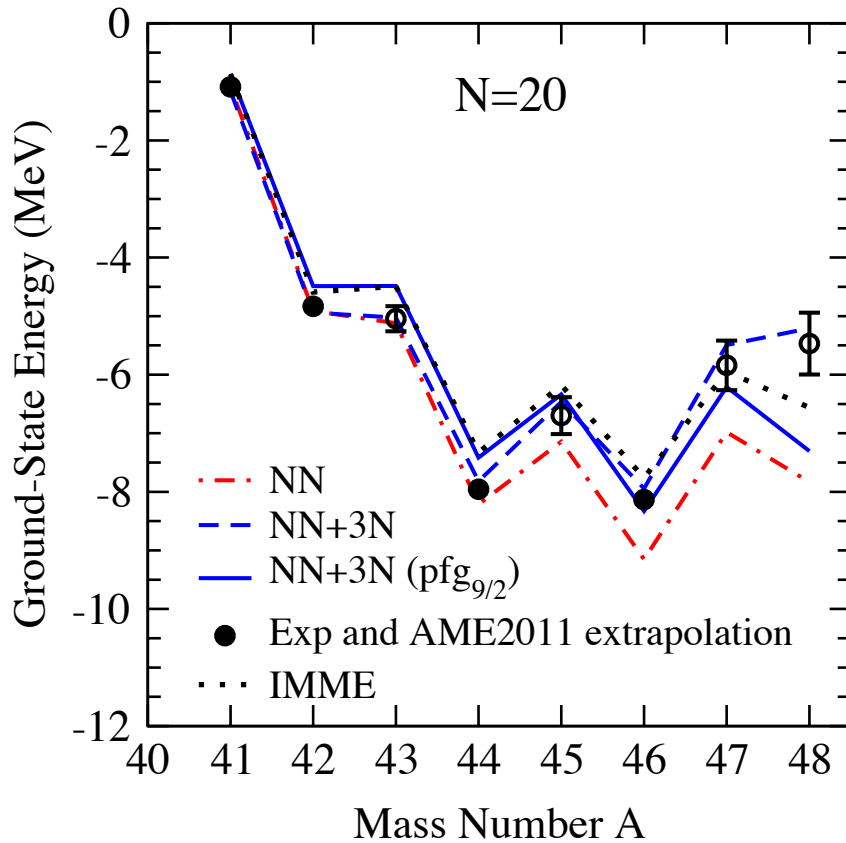
# Ground-State Energies of N=20 Isotones



**NN-only**: overbound beyond  $^{45}\text{Mn}$

JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1207.1590

# Ground-State Energies of N=20 Isotones



**NN-only**: overbound beyond <sup>45</sup>Mn

**NN+3N**: close to experiment/IMME

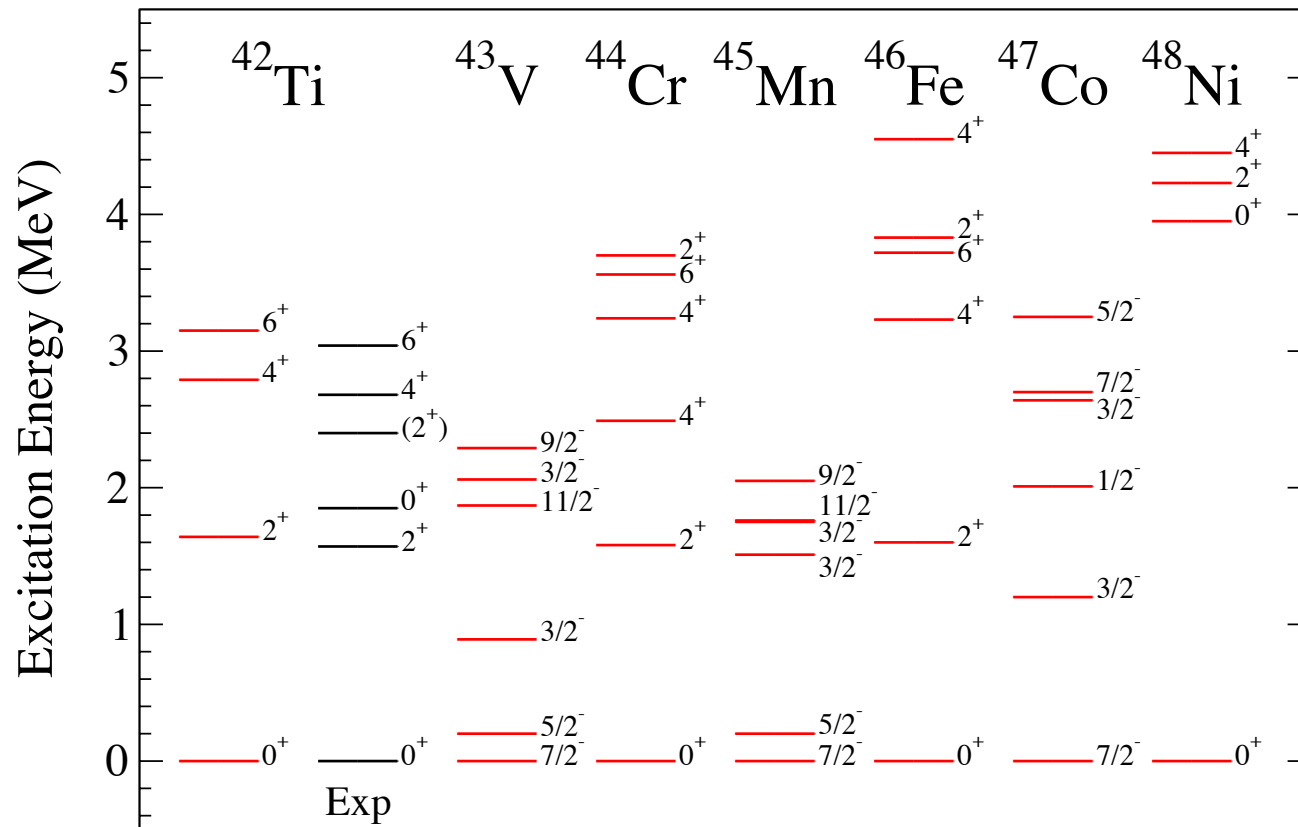
JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1207.1590

**Dripline**: Predicted to be <sup>46</sup>Fe in all calculations

	Expt.	NN+3N ( <i>pf</i> )	NN+3N ( <i>pf</i> <sub>g<sub>9/2</sub></sub> )
$S_{2p}$	-1.28(6) MeV	-2.73 MeV	-1.02 MeV

Prediction for <sup>48</sup>Ni within 300keV of experiment

# Spectra of N=20 Isotones



JDH, Menendez, Schwenk, arXiv:1207.1590

**NN+3N**: reasonable agreement with measured  $^{42}\text{Ti}$

Predictions for proton-rich spectra

Mirror energy differences with Ca isotopes  $\sim 400\text{keV}$

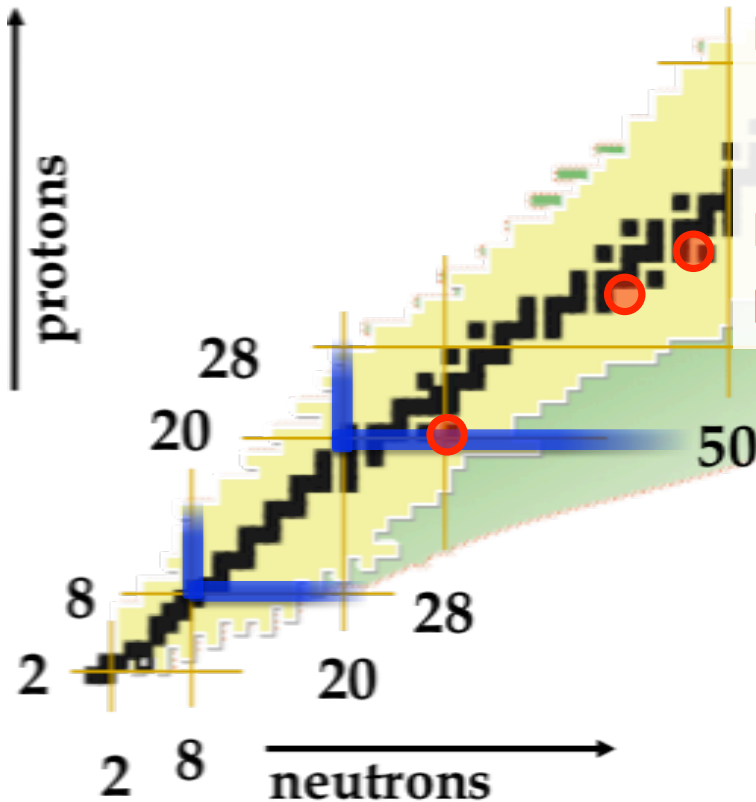
Closed-shell signature in  $^{48}\text{Ni}$

# Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay

Take first steps toward microscopic calculation

First step: effective operator

**Study 'light'  $0\nu\beta\beta$  candidates**



I. Microscopic approach: theoretical inputs consistently from NN+3N

II. Shell evolution in calcium

a) Pairing gaps

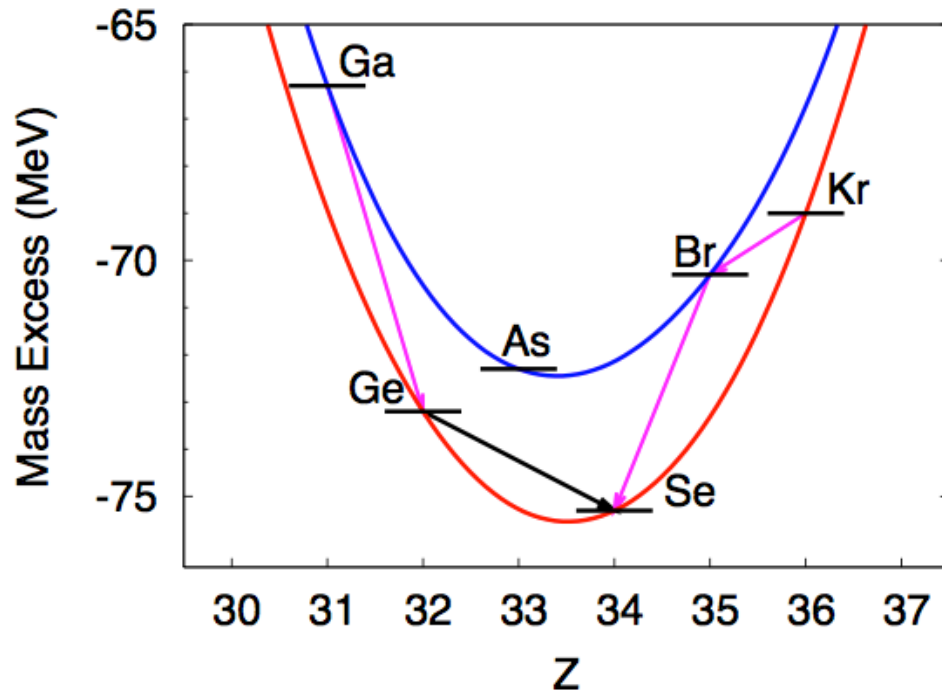
b) Spectra

III. Proton-rich systems

IV. Neutrinoless double-beta decay

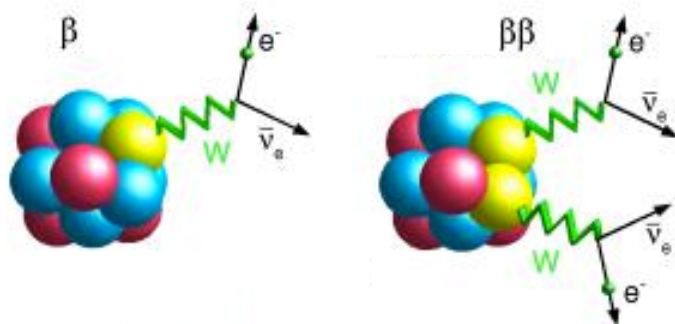
# Nuclear Weak Processes: $\beta\beta$ -Decay

Nuclear weak processes: fundamental importance for particle physics



Rare cases when single  $\beta$ -decay is energetically forbidden

Can undergo  $\beta\beta$ -decay



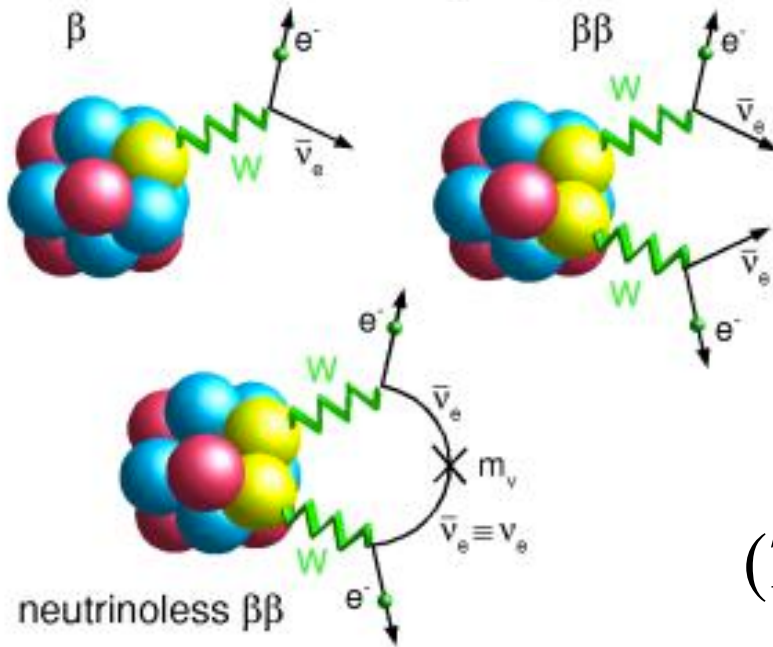
Observed in nature with:

$$T_{1/2}^{2\nu\beta\beta} \gtrsim 10^{19} \text{ y}$$



# Nuclear Weak Processes: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay

Nuclear weak processes: fundamental importance for particle physics



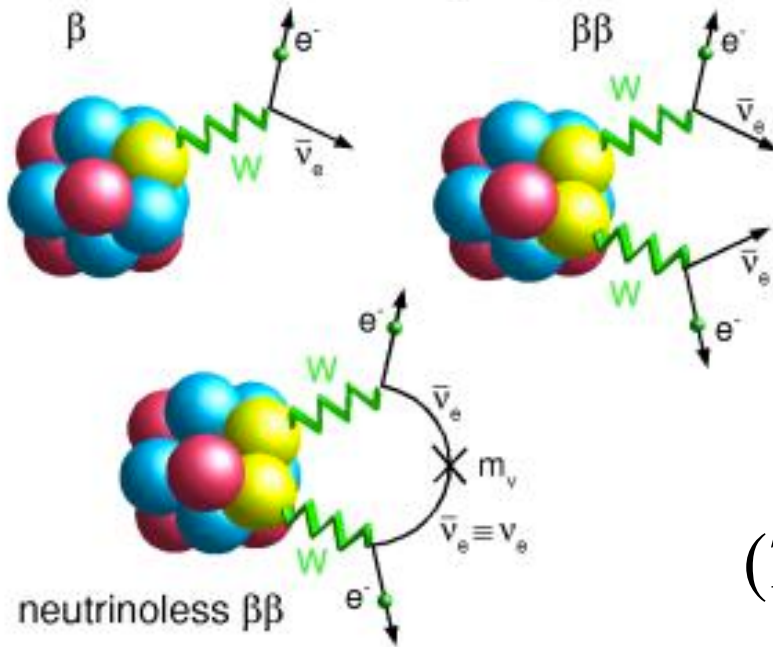
$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta})^{-1} = G_{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M_{0\nu}|^2 |m_{\beta\beta}|^2$$

Determines character of neutrino (Majorana/Dirac)

Lepton number violation

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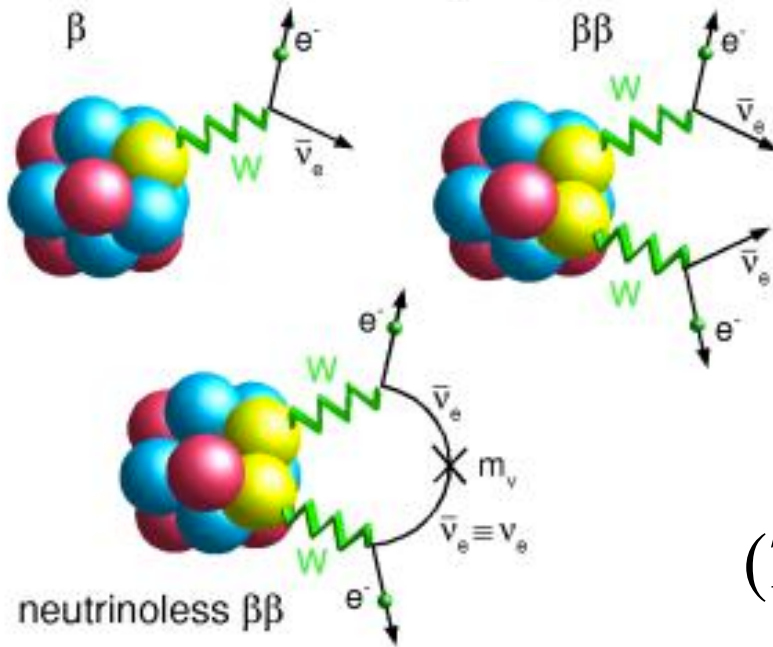
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**Neutrino mass scale**

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Nuclear weak processes: fundamental importance for particle physics



Two essential ingredients:  
**Q-value (experiment)**

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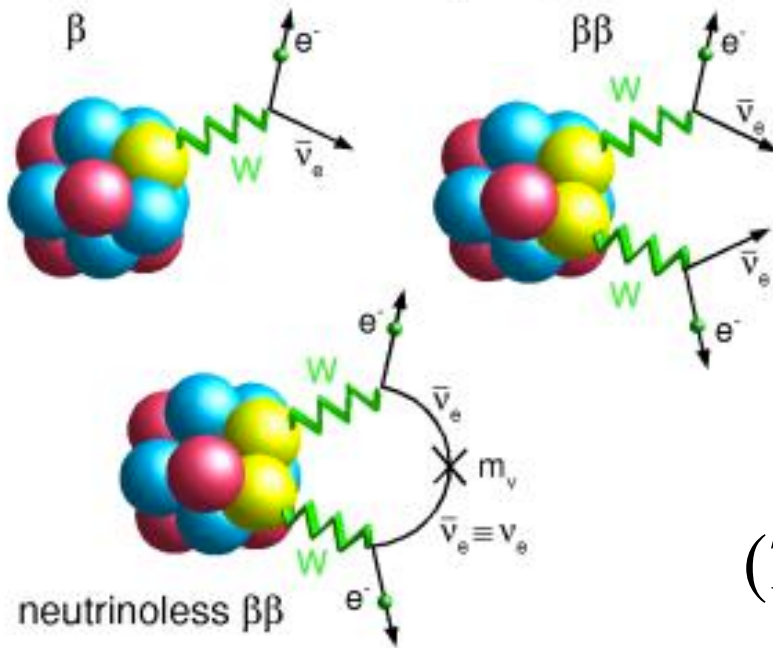
Neutrino mass scale

*New measurement of  $^{82}\text{Se}$   
at NSCL*

D. Lincoln, JDH *et al.*, submitted to PRL

# Nuclear Weak Processes: $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay

Nuclear weak processes: fundamental importance for particle physics



Two essential ingredients:

**Q-value (experiment)**

**Nuclear matrix element**

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Lepton number violation

Neutrino mass scale

Nuclear structure required for NME

**Need microscopic framework capable of accurate prediction**

# Nuclear Matrix Element

$$M_{0\nu} = M_{0\nu}^{GT} - \frac{g_V^2}{g_A^2} M_{0\nu}^F + \dots \quad \text{Corrections} \sim 30\%$$

$$M_{0\nu}^{GT} = \langle f | \sum_{ab} H(r_{ab}) \vec{\sigma}_a \cdot \vec{\sigma}_b \tau_a^+ \tau_b^+ | i \rangle \quad M_{0\nu}^F = \langle f | \sum_{ab} H(r_{ab}) \tau_a^+ \tau_b^+ | i \rangle$$

**Shell model:** arbitrary correlations in small single-particle space

**QRPA:** simple correlations in large single-particle space

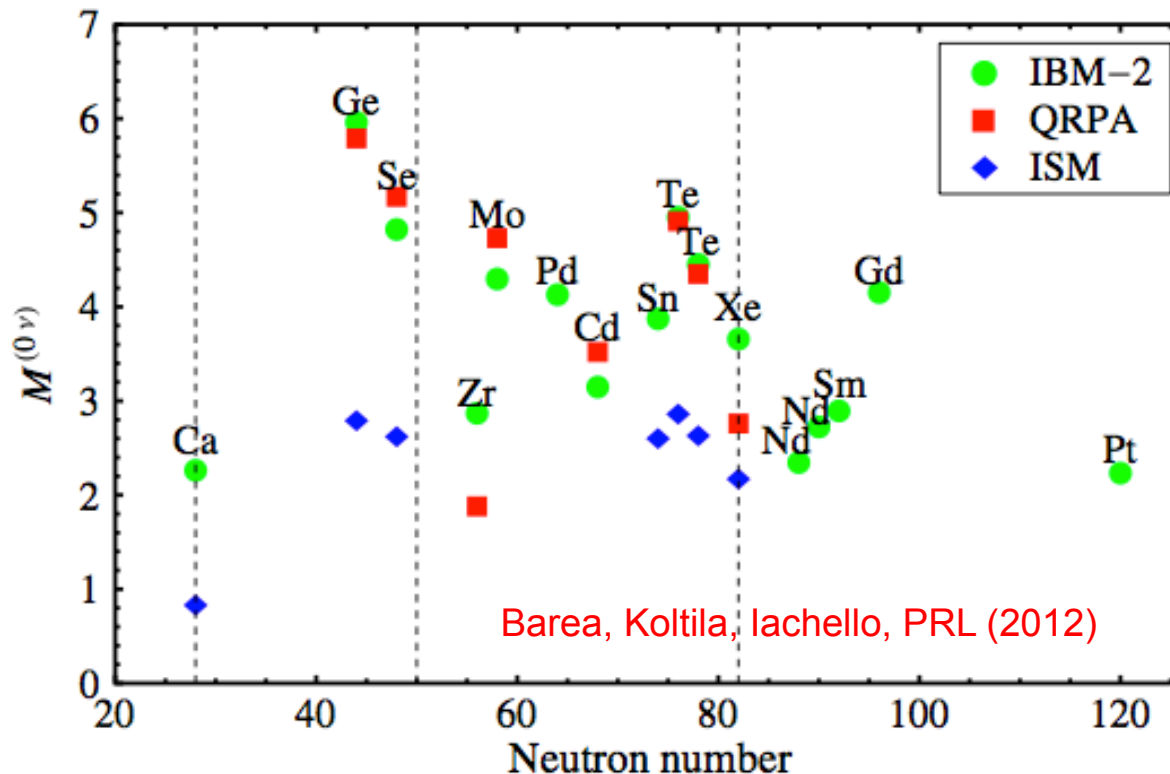
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Pronounced differences for lighter candidates

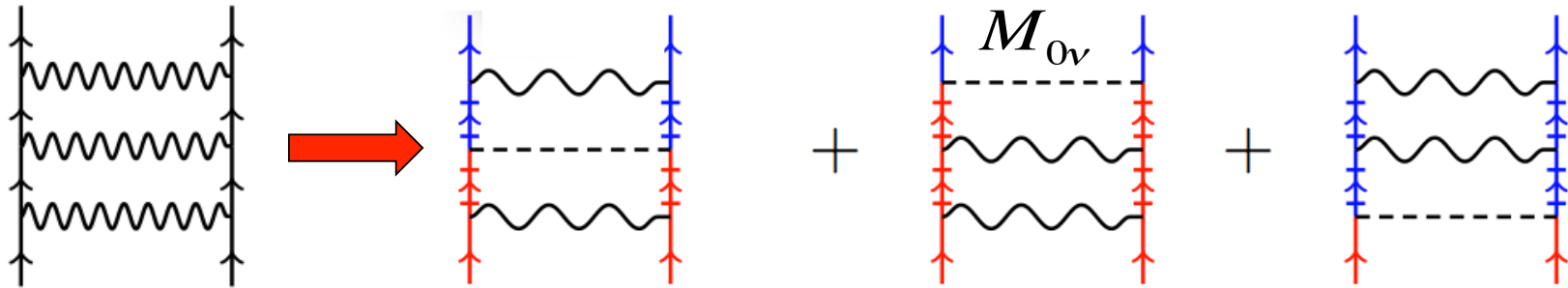
**Explore shell model improvements**

# Effective $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Operator

Standard SM approach: phenomenological wavefunctions + **bare** operator

Calculate *effective*  $0\nu\beta\beta$  operator using formalism of effective interaction theory

Diagrammatically similar: replace one interaction vertex with  $M_{0\nu}$  operator



Previous: G-matrix calculation in 2<sup>nd</sup>-order MBPT non-convergent

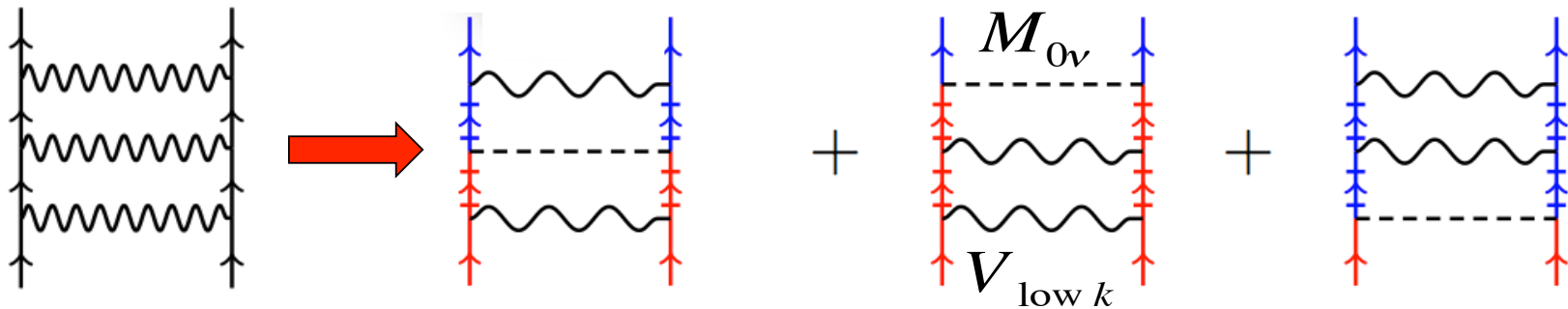
Engel and Hagen, PRC (2009)

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**Low-momentum interactions:** Improve convergence behavior?

- Chiral N<sup>3</sup>LO (Machleidt, 500 MeV) using smooth-regulator  $V_{\text{low } k}$
- 13 major HO shells for intermediate state configuration



# Effective $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Operator

Calculate in MBPT:



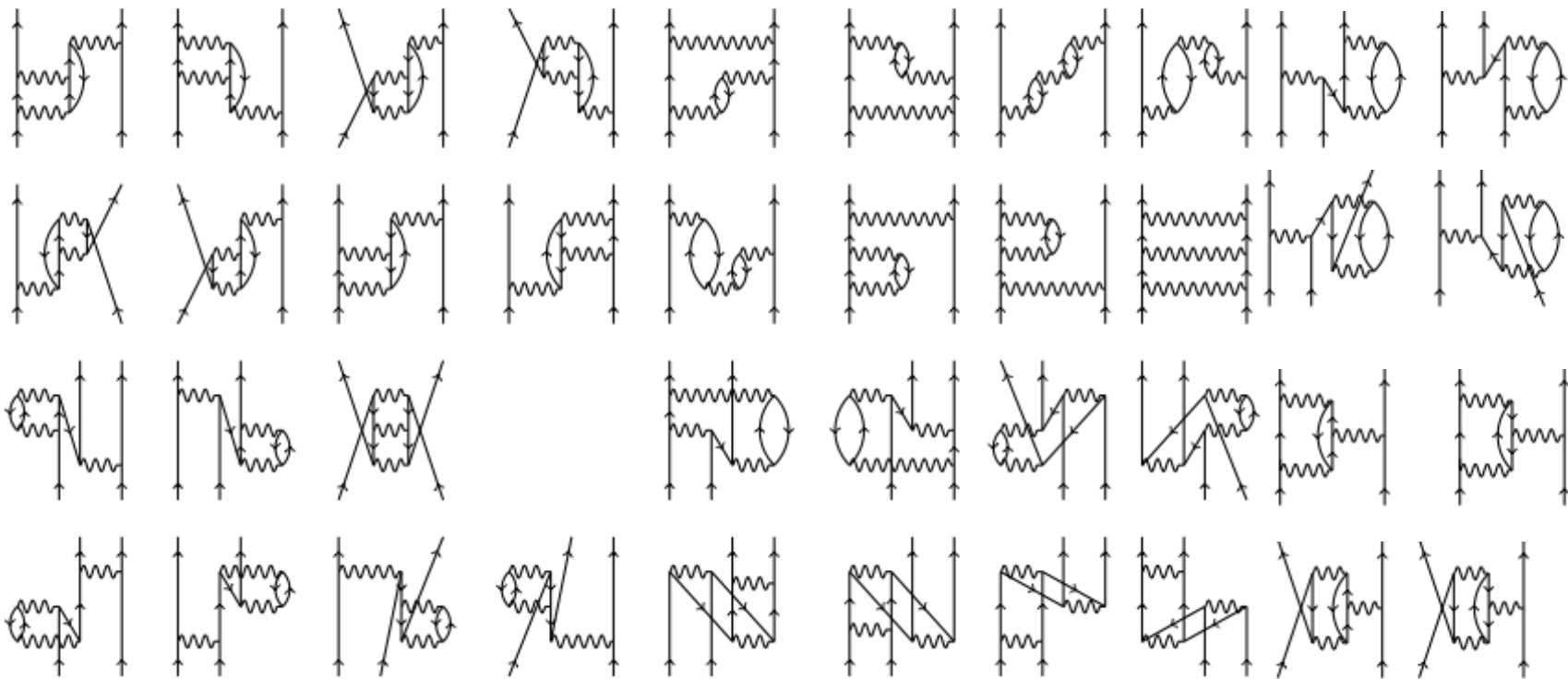
# Effective $0\nu\beta\beta$ -Decay Operator

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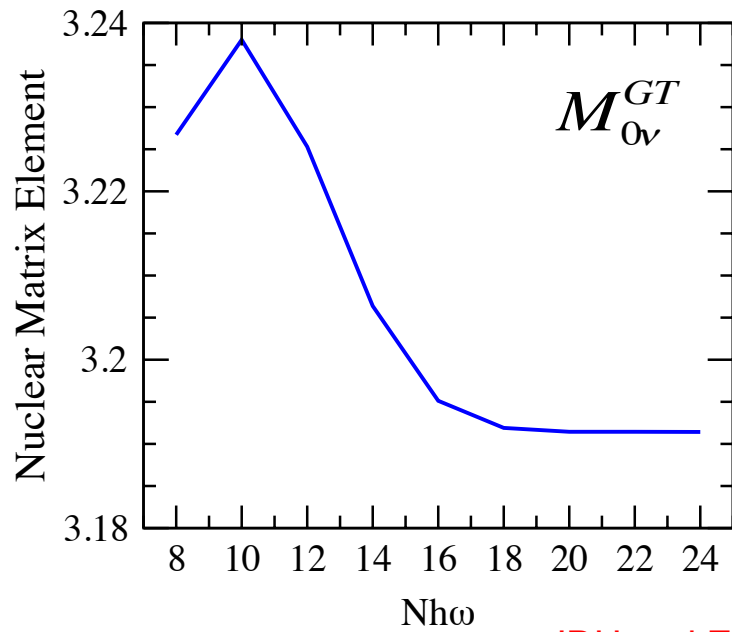
2<sup>nd</sup> order

3<sup>rd</sup> order



# Intermediate-State Convergence

First results in  $^{82}\text{Se}$  (with phenomenological wavefunctions from A. Poves)

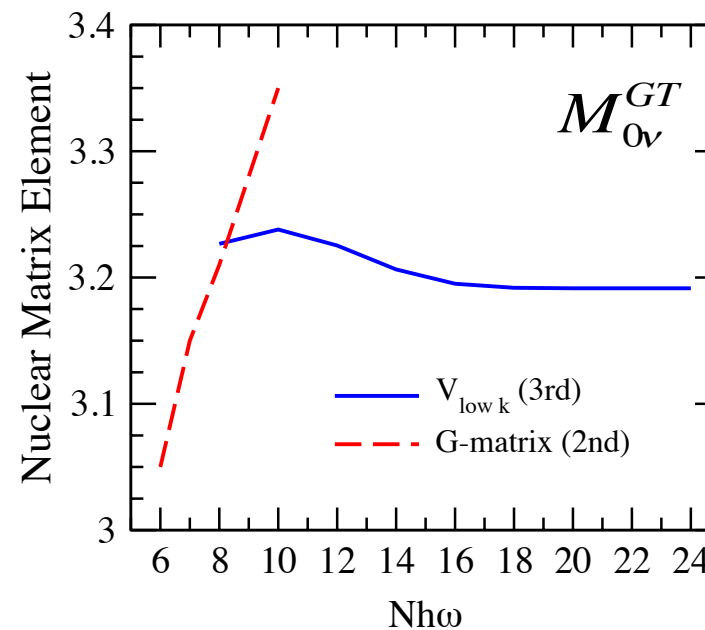
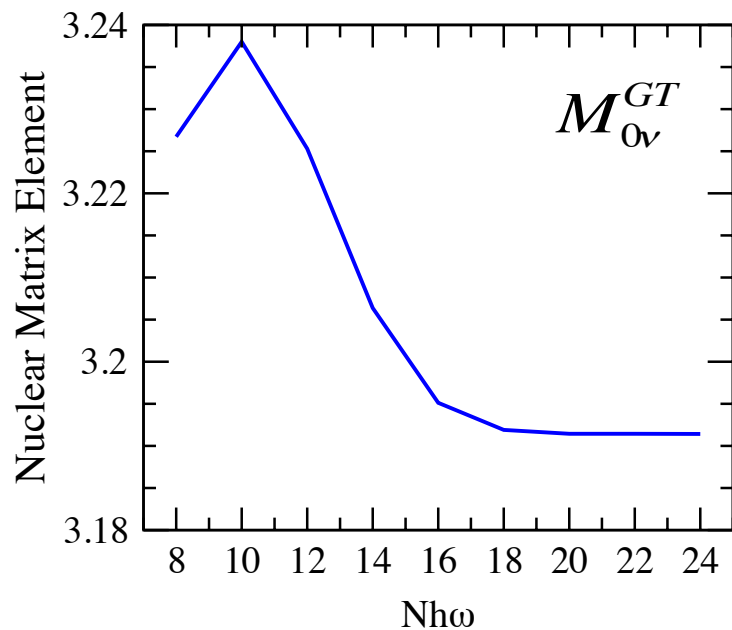


JDH and Engel, in prep.

Results **well converged** in terms of intermediate state excitations

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Results **well converged** in terms of intermediate state excitations

Comparison with G-matrix – no sign of convergence

Order-by-order convergence analysis in progress...

# Conclusion

- Nuclear structure theory of medium-mass nuclei with 3N forces, extended spaces
- Robust repulsive 3N mechanism for  $T=1$  neutron/proton-rich nuclei
- **Oxygen isotopes**
  - Cures NN-only failings: dripline, shell evolution, spectra
- **Calcium isotopes** in  $pf$ - and  $pf g_{9/2}$ -shells:
  - Prediction of  $N=28$  magic number in  $^{48}\text{Ca}$
  - Shell evolution towards the dripline: modest  $N=34$  closure, quenching of  $N=40$
  - Pairing gaps reflect shell structure – higher-order many-body processes essential
- **Proton-rich  $N=8,20$  isotones**: similar improvements in g.s. energies/spectra
- First effective  $0\nu\beta\beta$  operator with chiral NN interactions
- Clearly improvable upgrade path

# Acknowledgments

## Collaborators



J. Menendez, A. Schwenk



T. Otsuka



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

J. Engel



T. Suzuki (Nihon U.)



G. Hagen, T. Papenbrock

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY



UNEDF SciDAC Collaboration  
Universal Nuclear Energy Density Functional



Computing support



Travel support