





Nuclear physics for the precise extraction of Vud

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Outline

- 1. Precision frontier and the CKM unitarity
- **2.** V_{ud} from beta decays
- 3. Inputs at tree-level
 - > Weak decay form factors
 - > Isospin-breaking correction
- 4. Inputs at loop-level
 - > Nucleus-independent radiative corrections
 - > Nucleus-dependent radiative corrections
- 5. Summary and outlook

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 Solution
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Standard Model of Elementary Particles



Image credit: Wikipedia

Two Ultimate Goals in Nuclear and Particle Physics (my opinion)



Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Many unresolved problems call for physics beyond the Standard Model (BSM) !

Image credit: Wikipedia



Why is there much more matter than antimatter in the observed universe?

What is the origin of dark energy and dark matter?

Image credit: Jefferson Lab



What is the nature of the neutrino mass?



Precision Frontier: Measure things very precisely, and look for their **deviations** from SM prediction!

Precision Frontier



Standard Model Prediction

Experimental Result 8

Precision Frontier



Standard Model Prediction

Experimental Result 9

Precision Frontier



Standard Model Prediction

Experimental Result ¹⁰

Example: Charged weak decays and CKM unitarity



Massive quarks ==> Generation mixing

$$\psi_{d,f} = \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}_{f} = \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}_{m}$$

Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix

Three generations of quarks and leptons





Weak interaction universality ==> Unitarity of the measured CKM matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud}^* & V_{cd}^* & V_{td}^* \\ V_{us}^* & V_{cs}^* & V_{ts}^* \\ V_{ub}^* & V_{cb}^* & V_{tb}^* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Can be tested at **0.01%** level! Probes new physics at the scale:

$$\left(\frac{v_{\rm H}}{\Lambda_{\rm BSM}}\right)^2 \sim 0.01\% \implies \Lambda_{\rm BSM} \sim 20 \,{\rm TeV}$$

Competitive to high-energy experiments!





Perfect example of strong-electroweak interplay

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V_{ud}: The most precisely-studied CKM matrix element



Pion: $\pi^+ \to \mu^+ \nu_\mu$ or $\pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$ Neutron: $n \to pe\nu_e$ Nucleus: $i \to fe\nu_e$

"Superallowed" beta decays of I=1, J^p=0⁺ nuclei

$$i(0^+) \to f(0^+) + e^+ + \nu_e$$



Provides the **best measurement of V**_{ud} :

- > Tree-level amplitude is (almost) known
- > 23 measured transitions
- > 15 with ft-precision better than 0.23%

Hardy and Towner, 2020 PRC

$$|V_{ud}|^2 = \frac{\pi^3 \ln 2}{G_F^2 m_e^5 ft(1+\delta_{\rm R}')(1+\Delta_{\rm R}^V)(1+\delta_{\rm NS}-\delta_{\rm C})}$$

Master Formula

Experimental Inputs:



Master Formula

Theoretical Inputs:



"outer" radiative correction

Isospin-breaking

correction to Fermi

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Superallowed decays at tree level



Charged weak decay matrix element:



1. Conventional shell-model calculation

Hardy and Towner, 2005 PRC

 $\langle f|O|i\rangle = \sum_{\alpha\beta} \langle \alpha|O|\beta \rangle \langle f|a_{\alpha}^{\dagger}a_{\beta}|i \rangle$ single-nucleon states

Difficult to quantify theory uncertainty!

2. Relate it to a distribution



$$ho_{
m cw}(r)$$

Distribution of "active" nucleons eligible for weak transitions in a nucleus



2. Relate it to a distribution



"Semi" data-driven approach:

Wilkinson, 1993 Nucl.Inst.Meth.Phys.Res.A; Hayen et al., 2018 RMP

$$\rho_{\rm cw}(r) = \rho_{\rm ch}(r) + \delta\rho(r)$$

Nuclear charge distribution (data)

Assume small, estimate using shell model

2. Relate it to a distribution



Fully data-driven approach:

Relate to a pair of nuclear charge distributions using CVC

Hostein, 1974 RMP; CYS, 2023 PRL

$$\begin{split} \rho_{\rm cw}(r) &= \rho_{\rm ch,1}(r) + Z_0 \left(\rho_{\rm ch,0}(r) - \rho_{\rm ch,1}(r) \right) \\ &= \rho_{\rm ch,1}(r) + \frac{Z_{-1}}{2} \left(\rho_{\rm ch,-1}(r) - \rho_{\rm ch,1}(r) \right) \end{split}$$

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"Semi" data-driven approach not well-justified!

Measured nuclear charge radii

A	$\langle r_{\rm ch,-1}^2 \rangle^{1/2} ({\rm fm})$	$\langle r_{\mathrm{ch},0}^2 \rangle^{1/2} \ \mathrm{(fm)}$	$\langle r_{\mathrm{ch},1}^2 \rangle^{1/2} \; (\mathrm{fm})$
10	$^{10}_{6}\mathrm{C}$	$^{10}_{5}{ m B(ex)}$	${}^{10}_4\text{Be:}\ 2.3550(170)^a$
14	$\frac{14}{8}$ O	$^{14}_{7}N(ex)$	${}^{14}_{6}$ C: 2.5025(87) ^a
18	$^{18}_{10}$ Ne: 2.9714(76) ^a	${}^{18}_{9}{ m F(ex)}$	${}^{18}_{8}$ O: 2.7726(56) ^a
22	$^{22}_{12}$ Mg: 3.0691(89) ^b	$^{22}_{11}$ Na(ex)	$^{22}_{10}$ Ne: 2.9525(40) ^a
26	$^{26}_{14}{ m Si}$	$^{26m}_{13}$ Al: 3.130(15) ^f	$^{26}_{12}$ Mg: 3.0337(18) ^a
30	$^{30}_{16}{ m S}$	$^{30}_{15}{ m P(ex)}$	$^{30}_{14}$ Si: 3.1336(40) ^a
34	$^{34}_{18}$ Ar: 3.3654(40) ^a	$^{34}_{17}{ m Cl}$	$^{34}_{16}$ S: 3.2847(21) ^a
38	$^{38}_{20}$ Ca: 3.467(1) ^c	$^{38m}_{19}$ K: 3.437(4) ^d	$^{38}_{18}$ Ar: 3.4028(19) ^a
42	$^{42}_{22}{ m Ti}$	$^{42}_{21}$ Sc: 3.5702(238) ^a	${}^{42}_{20}$ Ca: 3.5081(21) ^a
46	$^{46}_{24}\mathrm{Cr}$	$^{46}_{23}\mathrm{V}$	${}^{46}_{22}$ Ti: 3.6070(22) ^a
50	$^{50}_{26}{ m Fe}$	$_{25}^{50}$ Mn: 3.7120(196) ^a	$^{50}_{24}$ Cr: 3.6588(65) ^a
54	${}^{54}_{28}$ Ni: 3.738(4) ^e	$^{54}_{27}\mathrm{Co}$	${}^{54}_{26}$ Fe: $3.6933(19)^a$
62	$^{62}_{32}\mathrm{Ge}$	$^{62}_{31}\mathrm{Ga}$	${}^{62}_{30}$ Zn: 3.9031(69) ^b
66	$^{66}_{34}\mathrm{Se}$	${}^{66}_{33}\mathrm{As}$	${}^{66}_{32}\mathrm{Ge}$
70	$^{70}_{36}{ m Kr}$	$^{70}_{35}{ m Br}$	$^{70}_{34}{ m Se}$
74	$^{74}_{38}{ m Sr}$	$^{74}_{37}$ Rb: 4.1935(172) ^b	$^{74}_{36}$ Kr: 4.1870(41) ^a

High-precision study of light nuclei charge radii: See Evgeny Epelbaum's talk ²⁸

Shell model Data-driven

Transition	$t \ (ms)$	$(ft)_{\rm HT}$ (s)	$(ft)_{new}(s)$
$^{18}\mathrm{Ne}{ ightarrow}^{18}\mathrm{F}$	21630 ± 590	2912 ± 79	2912 ± 80
$^{22}Mg \rightarrow ^{22}Na$	7293 ± 16	3051.1 ± 6.9	3050.4 ± 6.8
$^{26}\text{Si}{\rightarrow}^{26m}\text{Al}$	2969.0 ± 5.4	3052.2 ± 5.6	3050.7 ± 5.6
$^{34}\mathrm{Ar}{\rightarrow}^{34}\mathrm{Cl}$	896.55 ± 0.81	3058.0 ± 2.8	3057.1 ± 2.8
$^{38}\mathrm{Ca}{\rightarrow}^{38m}\mathrm{K}$	574.8 ± 1.1	3062.8 ± 6.0	3062.2 ± 5.9
$^{42}\mathrm{Ti}{ ightarrow}^{42}\mathrm{Sc}$	433 ± 12	3090 ± 88	3085 ± 86
$^{50}\mathrm{Fe}{ ightarrow}^{50}\mathrm{Mn}$	205.8 ± 4.7	3099 ± 71	3098 ± 72
$^{54}\text{Ni}{ ightarrow}^{54}\text{Co}$	144.9 ± 2.3	3062 ± 50	3063 ± 49
$^{26m}\mathrm{Al}{\rightarrow}^{26}\mathrm{Mg}$	$6351.24\substack{+0.55\\-0.54}$	3037.61 ± 0.67	3036.5 ± 1.0
$^{34}\text{Cl}{\rightarrow}^{34}\text{S}$	$1527.77_{-0.44}^{+0.47}$	$3049.43\substack{+0.95\\-0.88}$	3048.0 ± 1.1
$^{38m}\mathrm{K}{ ightarrow}^{38}\mathrm{Ar}$	925.42 ± 0.28	3051.45 ± 0.92	3050.5 ± 1.1
$^{42}\mathrm{Sc}{\rightarrow}^{42}\mathrm{Ca}$	681.44 ± 0.26	3047.7 ± 1.2	3045.0 ± 2.7
$^{50}Mn \rightarrow ^{50}Cr$	283.68 ± 0.11	3048.4 ± 1.2	3046.1 ± 3.6
$^{54}\mathrm{Co}{ ightarrow}^{54}\mathrm{Fe}$	$193.495\substack{+0.086\\-0.063}$	$\overline{3050.8^{+1.4}_{-1.1}}$	$3051.3^{+1.7}_{-1.4}$
$^{74}\text{Rb}{ ightarrow}^{74}\text{Kr}$	65.201 ± 0.047	3082.8 ± 6.5	3086 ± 11

Gorchtein and CYS, 2311.00044

Isospin symmetry breaking (ISB) correction

Full Fermi matrix element:



Symmetry broken due to:

Proton's electric charge M_p ≠ M_n

6 decades of δ_c -calculations show huge model-dependence!

Ab-initio study with no-core shell model (NCSM) returned non-convergent result!

Caurier, Navratil, Ormand and Vary, 2002 PRC



Transitions	$\delta_{ m C}$ (%)				
	WS	DFT	$_{\rm HF}$	RPA	Micro
$^{26m}\mathrm{Al}\rightarrow^{26}\!\mathrm{Mg}$	0.310	0.329	0.30	0.139	0.08
$^{34}\mathrm{Cl} \rightarrow ^{34}\mathrm{S}$	0.613	0.75	0.57	0.234	0.13
$^{38m}\mathrm{K}\rightarrow ^{38}\!\mathrm{Ar}$	0.628	1.7	0.59	0.278	0.15
$^{42}\mathrm{Sc} \rightarrow ^{42}\mathrm{Ca}$	0.690	0.77	0.42	0.333	0.18
$^{46}\mathrm{V} \rightarrow ^{46}\mathrm{Ti}$	0.620	0.563	0.38	/	0.21
$^{50}\mathrm{Mn} \rightarrow ^{50}\mathrm{Cr}$	0.660	0.476	0.35	/	0.24
$^{54}\mathrm{Co} \rightarrow ^{54}\mathrm{Fe}$	0.770	0.586	0.44	0.319	0.28

(Selected model results)

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See also talks by Calvin Johnson,
Mark Caprio, Anna McCoy,
Patrick Fasano...
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Similar convergence issue in other ISB-observables:

1. Quadrupole moments in mirror nuclei



FIG. 7. Ratio of Q_p in one member of mirror pair to Q_n in the other, calculated with the Daejeon16 (circles), JISP16 (squares), and LENPIC (diamonds) interactions at fixed $\hbar\omega$ (15, 20, and 25 MeV, respectively, for the three interactions). Calculated values are shown for successive even values of N_{max} (increasing symbol size), from $N_{\text{max}} = 4$ to the maximum value for that mirror pair, indicated at top.

Caprio, Fasano, Maris and McCoy, 2021 PRC

Similar convergence issue in other ISB-observables:

2. RMS radii in mirror nuclei



Mark Caprio, preliminary results

Perturbative representation of ISB:

Miller and Schwenk, 2008 PRC; 2009 PRC
$$H = H_0 + V$$
 ISB potential

Energy eigenstates: $H|n\rangle = E_n|n\rangle$, $H_0|n\rangle = E_n^0|n\rangle$

Wigner-Brillouin perturbation theory:

$$|n\rangle = \sqrt{\mathcal{Z}_n} \left[|n\rangle + \frac{1}{E_n - \Lambda_n H \Lambda_n} \Lambda_n V |n\rangle \right]$$

Normalization factor Projection operator: $\Lambda_n = 1 - |n\rangle(n|)$

Perturbative expansion makes underlying physics more transparent!

Correction to M_F starts from **second order** in ISB interaction:

Behrends and Sirlin, 1960 PRL;Ademollo and Gatto, 1964 PRL

$$\begin{split} \delta_{\mathrm{C}} &\approx -\frac{d}{dz} \bigg\{ \Big[(i|VG(z)V|i) + (f|VG(z)V|f) \\ &- \frac{2}{M_F^0} (f|VG(z)\tau_+V|i) \Big] - g.s. \bigg\}_{z=E_g^0} \end{split}$$

Depends on **off-diagonal** matrix elements of V (unlike mass-splitting) ground-state contribution

Nuclear Green's function:

$$G(z) \equiv \frac{1}{z - H_0}$$

See Michael Gennari's talk

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Radiative Corrections



Loop corrections



Bremsstrahlung corrections

Full R.C. =
$$\Delta_R^V + \delta_{NS}$$

Nucleus-
independent Nucleus-
dependent

Nucleus-independent RC



Methods to evaluate:

1. Dispersion relation (DR) --- relate the loop integral to experimentally-measurable structure functions

CYS, Gorchtein, Patel and Ramsey-Musolf, 2018 PRL; Shiells, Blunden and Melnitchouk, 2021 PRD



Methods to evaluate:

2. Lattice QCD --- Compute the shaded blob directly

Feng, Gorchtein, Jin, Ma and CYS, 2020 PRL; Ma et al., 2308.16755



Methods to evaluate:

2. Lattice QCD --- Structure function from Feynman-Hellmann theorem Can et al., 2402.00255

$$S(\lambda) = S_0 + \lambda_1 \int d^4 z \cos(q \cdot z) \mathcal{J}_{\mu}(z) + \lambda_2 \int d^4 y \sin(q \cdot y) \mathcal{J}_{\nu}^A(y),$$
$$\frac{\mathcal{F}_3(\omega, Q^2)}{\omega} = \frac{Q^2}{\mathbf{q}_2} \left. \frac{\partial^2 E_{N_\lambda}(\mathbf{p})}{\partial \lambda_1 \partial \lambda_2} \right|_{\lambda=0}$$



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Different evaluations of the nucleus-independent RC:

Pre-2018			
Method	Δ_R^V		
Phenomenological	0.02361(38)	Marciano and Sirlin, 2006 PRL	
DR with neutrino data (1)	0.02467(22)	CYS, Gorchtein, Patel and Ramsey-Musolf, 2018 PRL	
DR with neutrino data (2)	0.02471(18)	Shiells, Blunden and Melnitchouk, 2021 PRD	
DR with indirect lattice data	0.02477(24)	CYS, Feng, Gorchtein and Jin, 2020 PRD	
Non-DR (1)	0.02426(32)	Czarnecki, Marciano and Sirlin, 2019 PRD	
Non-DR (2)	0.02473(27)	Hayen, 2021 PRD Post_20	18
Lattice	0.02439(19)	Ma et al., 2308.16755	TO

 $\Delta_R^V \uparrow \Longrightarrow |V_{ud}| \downarrow$

Nucleus-dependent inner RC, δ_{NS}

Classical viewpoint:



Type A: Nuclear medium effect, "quenched" couplings **Type B:** Two-nucleon effects

Both computed with NR nuclear models!

Jaus and Rasche, 1990 PRD; Barker et al., 1992 NPA; Towner, 1992 NPA, 1994 PLB

Modern viewpoint:

 $\delta_{\rm NS}$ in terms of the difference between the nuclear and nucleon $\gamma \text{W-box diagram}$



Wick-rotation of the loop integral:



The first two terms probe the nuclear response function:

$$R^{xy}(\nu, Q^2) \sim \sum_X \delta(M + q_0 - E_X) \langle f | J_{\text{em}}^x | X \rangle \langle X | J_W^y | i \rangle$$

See Francesca Bonaiti's talk



Can be studied using ab-initio methods! See Michael Gennari's talk 45

If the daughter nucleus is an **excited state**:



A **residue contribution** from pole in 3rd quadrant

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Residue due to a low-lying $J^P = 1^+$ state:

$$\mathfrak{Res}T_3 \propto \langle f(0^+) | J_{\mathrm{em}}^x(\vec{q}) | f(1^+) \rangle \langle f(1^+) | J_W^y(-\vec{q}) | i(0^+) \rangle$$
M1-transition GT-transition

Matrix elements can be inferred from M1 and GT-transition rates!

	GT, $\log_{10} ft$ (s)	M1, $t_{1/2}$
$^{10}C \rightarrow ^{10}B$	3.0426(7)	4.9(2.1) fs
$^{14}\text{O}{ ightarrow}^{14}\text{N}$	7.279(8)	$68(3) {\rm fs}$
$^{18}\mathrm{Ne}{ ightarrow}^{18}\mathrm{F}$	3.091(4)	1.77(31) fs
$^{22}Mg \rightarrow ^{22}Na$	3.64	19.6(7) ps
$^{30}S \rightarrow ^{30}P$	4.322(11)	96(10) fs

From IAEA / NNDC website

Motivations for future experiments!

Ab-initio calculation? See Thomas Papenbrock's talk

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Current quoted value:

$$|V_{ud}|_{0^+} = 0.97361(5)_{\exp}(6)_{\delta'_R}(4)_{\delta_{\rm C}}(28)_{\delta_{\rm NS}}(10)_{\rm RC}$$

Gorchtein and CYS, 2311.00044

Included:

- > (Averaged) new calculations of Δ_R^{V}
- > Preliminary re-evaluation of δ_{NS}

NOT Included:

- Fully data-driven determination of *ft*-values
- > Ab-initio calculation of δ_{c} and δ_{NS}

Result is preliminary, use with care!!

Valuable inputs in the future:

Experiment:

- > Nuclear charge radii
- > Nuclear M1-transition rates
- > Nucleon/nuclear structure functions

Lattice QCD:

Independent evaluation of nucleon structure functions

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Ab-initio calculation:

 \succ Controlled studies of $\delta_{\rm C}$ and $\delta_{\rm NS}$

>