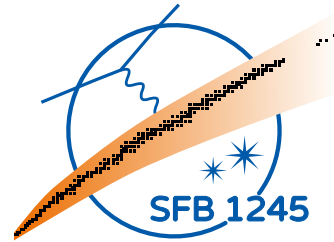




LOEWE

Exzellente Forschung für
Hessens Zukunft



TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DARMSTADT

CONSTRAINING NEUTRINO PROPERTIES BY DOUBLE-BETA DECAY

Lotta Jokiniemi (she/her)

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PAINT2026 – Workshop on Progress in Ab Initio Nuclear Theory, TRIUMF,
February 25, 2026

COLLABORATORS

T. Shickele, J. D. Holt



A. Todd



A. Belley



F. Deppisch



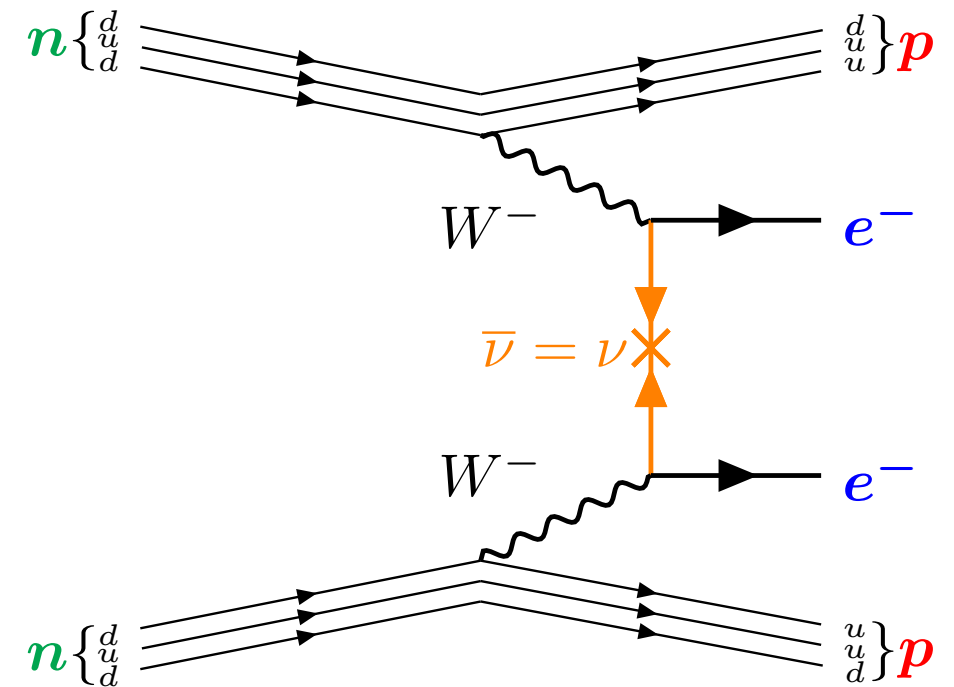
OUTLINE

- 1** Introduction
- 2** Effective field theory for neutrinoless double-beta decay with light-neutrino exchange
- 3** Global limits for Majorana masses
- 4** Different decay mechanisms
- 5** Summary and Outlook

NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE-BETA ($0\nu\beta\beta$) DECAY

$$(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^- + \cancel{2\nu_e}$$

$$L: 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad 0 \quad + 2 \quad (-2)$$

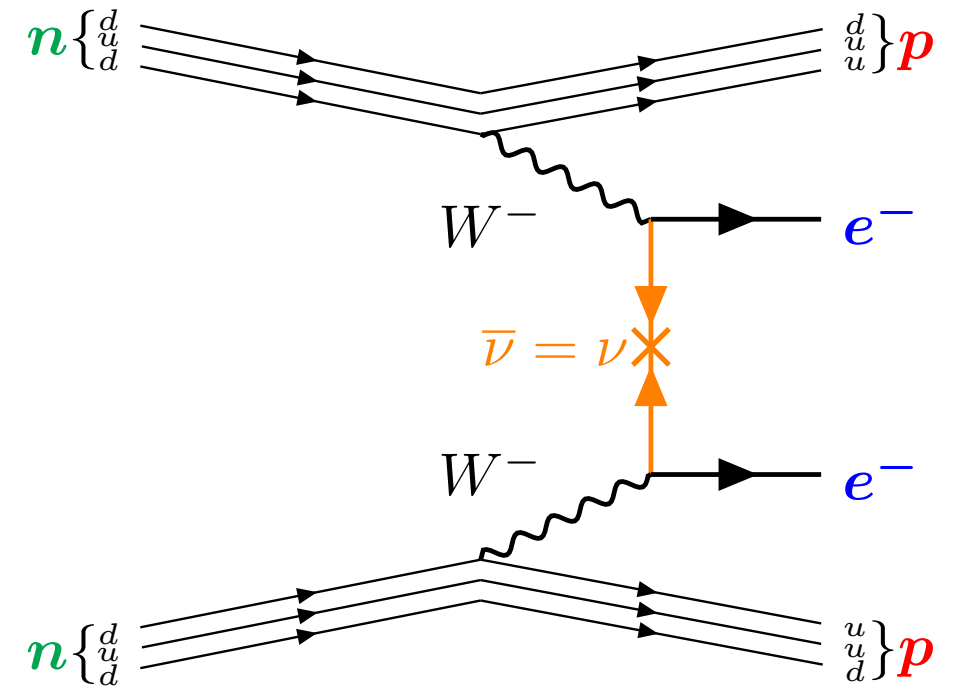


NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE-BETA ($0\nu\beta\beta$) DECAY

- Violates lepton-number conservation

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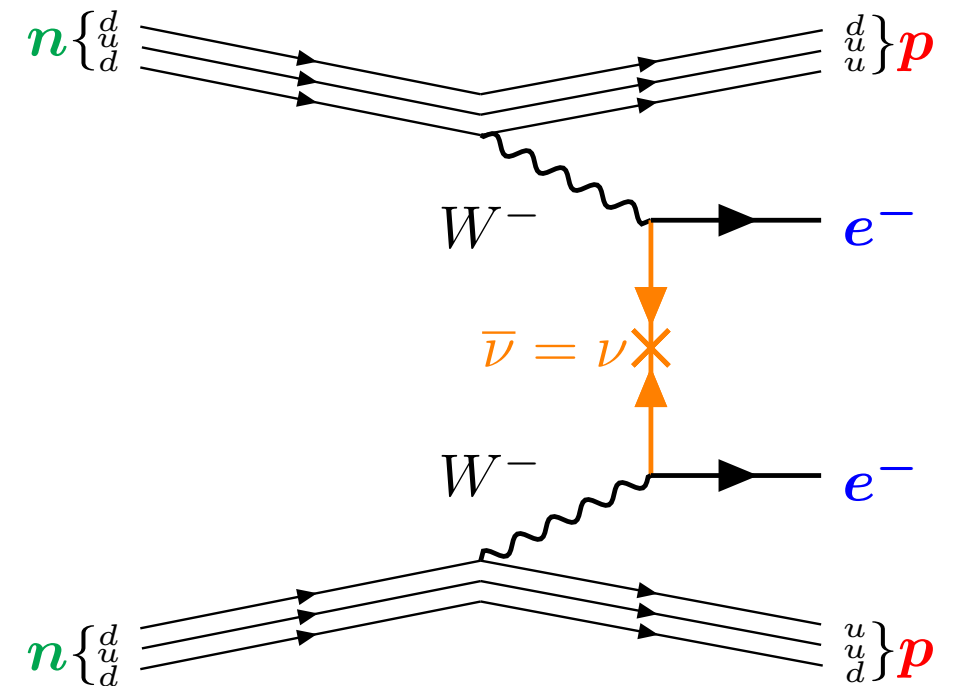
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NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE-BETA ($0\nu\beta\beta$) DECAY

- Violates lepton-number conservation
- Requires that **neutrinos are Majorana particles**

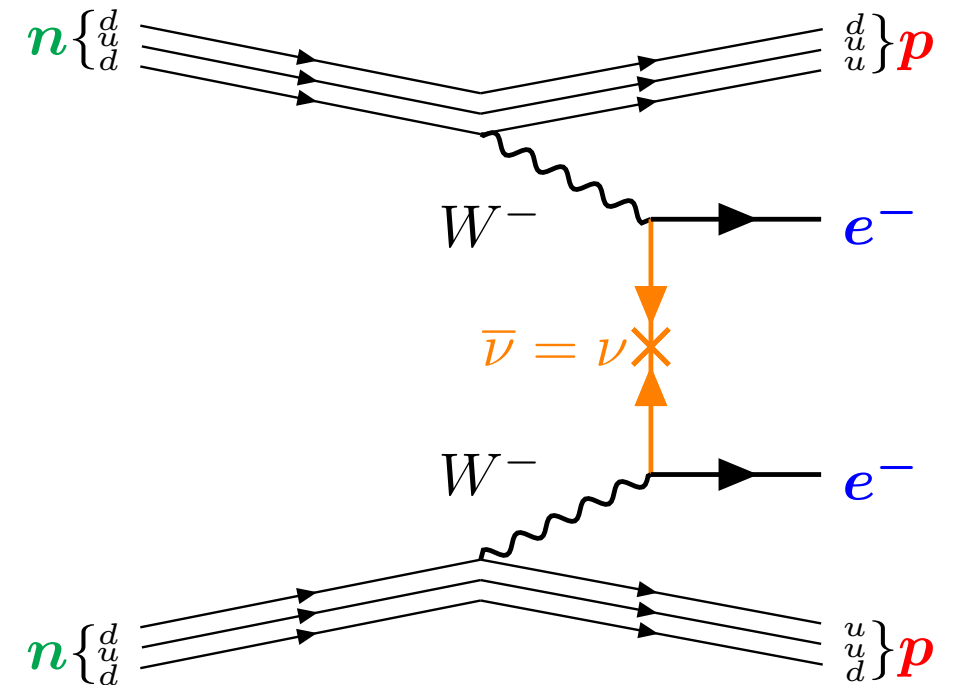
$$\begin{array}{l} (A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^- + \cancel{2\nu_e} \\ L: 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad 0 \quad + 2 \quad (-2) \end{array}$$



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- If observed, $t_{1/2}^{0\nu} \gtrsim 10^{25}$ years

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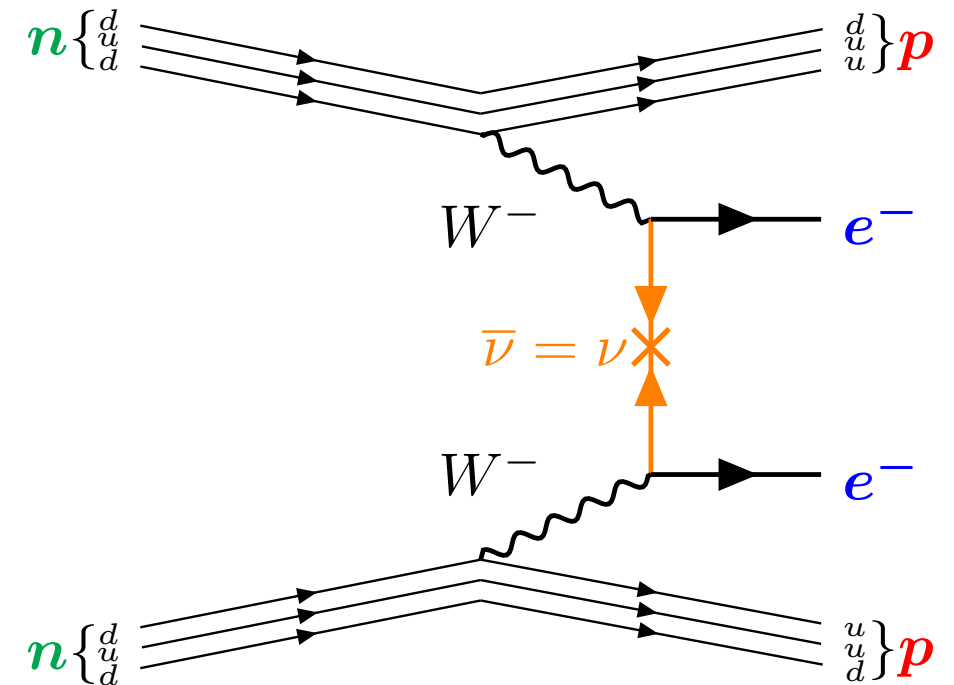


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($t_{1/2}^{2\nu} \approx 10^{20}$ years, Age of the Universe $\approx 10^{10}$ years)

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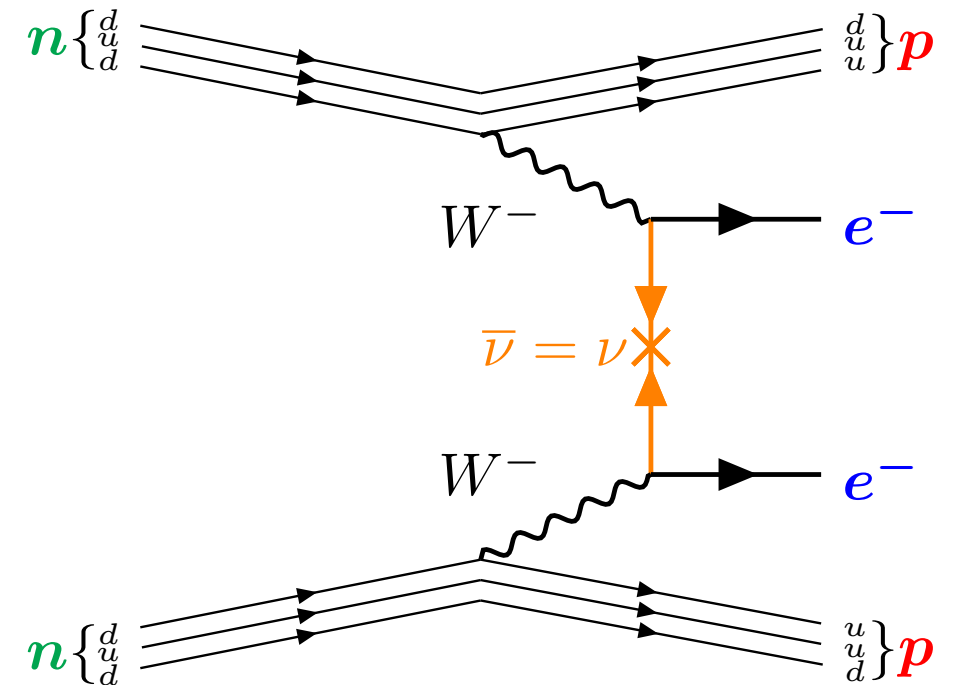
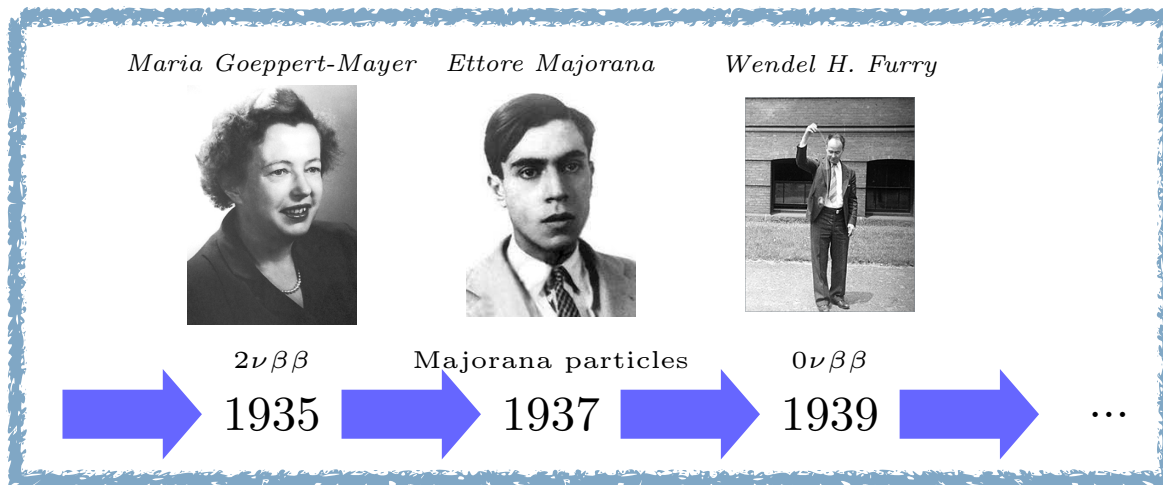
NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE-BETA ($0\nu\beta\beta$) DECAY

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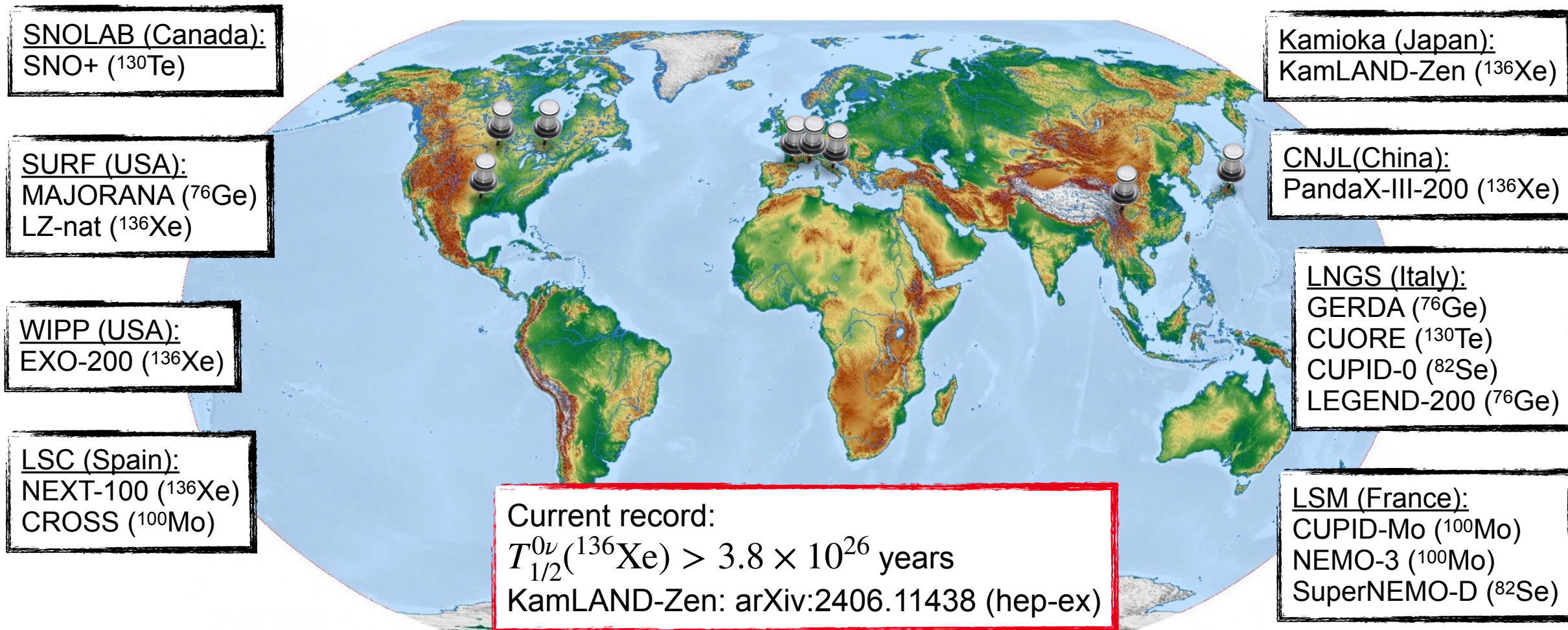
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$$(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^- + \cancel{2\nu_e}$$

$$L: 0 \rightarrow 0 + 2 \quad (-2)$$



DOUBLE-BETA-DECAY EXPERIMENTS



NEXT-GENERATION EXPERIMENTS

SNOLAB (Canada):
SNO+II (^{130}Te)

Kamioka (Japan):
KamLAND2-Zen (^{136}Xe)

Yemilab (Korea):
PandaX-III-200 (^{136}Xe)

Goal: $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} \sim 10^{28}$ years

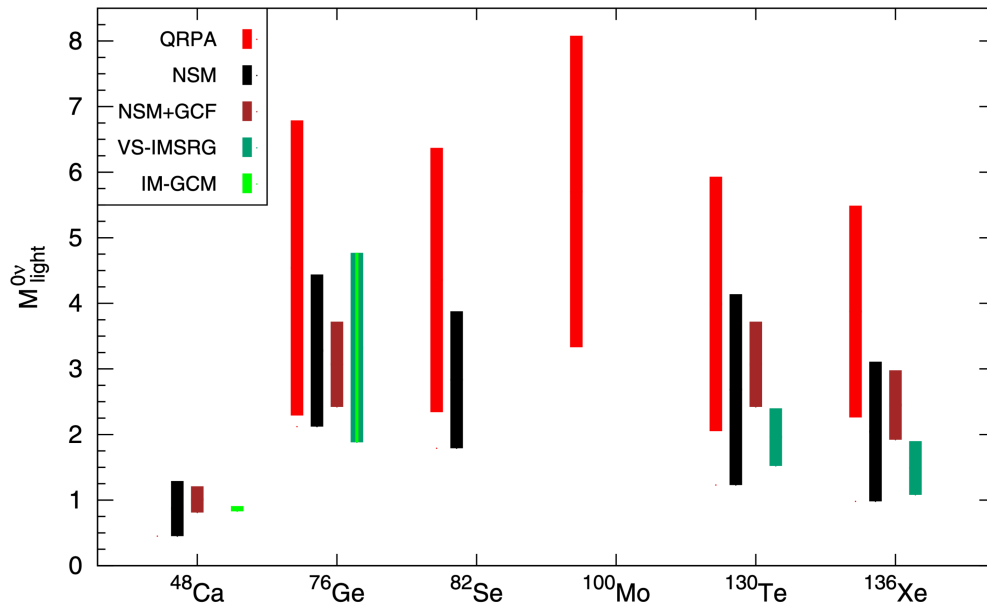
LNGS (Italy):
CUPID (^{100}Mo)

LSM (France):
SuperNEMO (^{82}Se)

+ LEGEND-1000 (^{76}Ge), nEXO/XLZD (^{136}Xe), NEXT-HD (^{136}Xe), Darwin (^{136}Xe), ...

$0\nu\beta\beta$ DECAY WITH LIGHT-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

$$\frac{\Gamma^{0\nu}(A, Z)}{\ln 2} = \frac{1}{t_{1/2}^{0\nu}(A, Z)} = g_A^4 G^{0\nu}(A, Z) |M^{0\nu}(A, Z)|^2 \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$

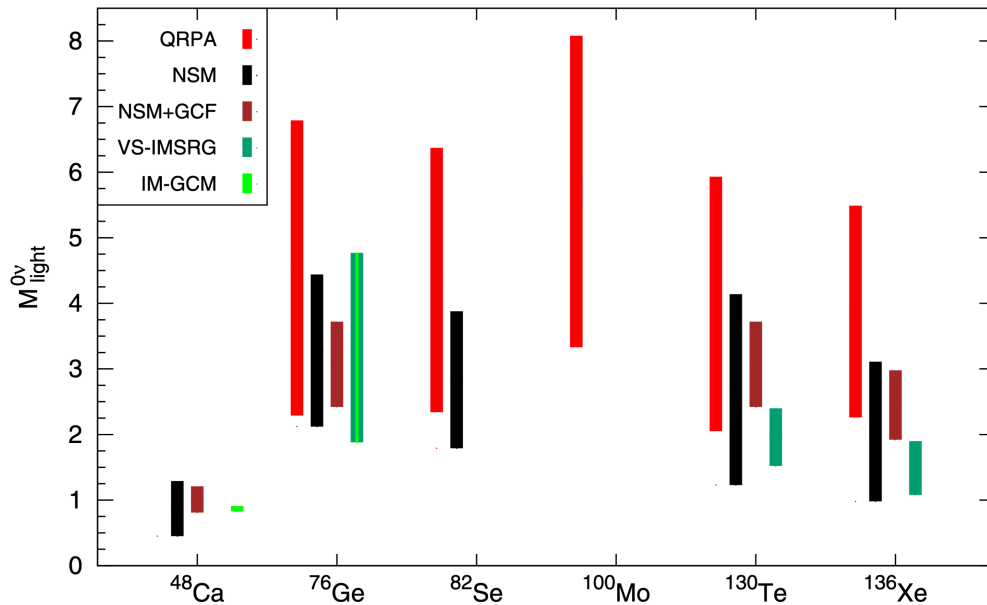


Gómez-Cadenas, Martín-Albo, Menéndez, Mezzetto, Monrabal, Sorel,
La Rivista del Nuovo Cimento 46, 619 (2023)

$0\nu\beta\beta$ DECAY WITH LIGHT-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

Observable

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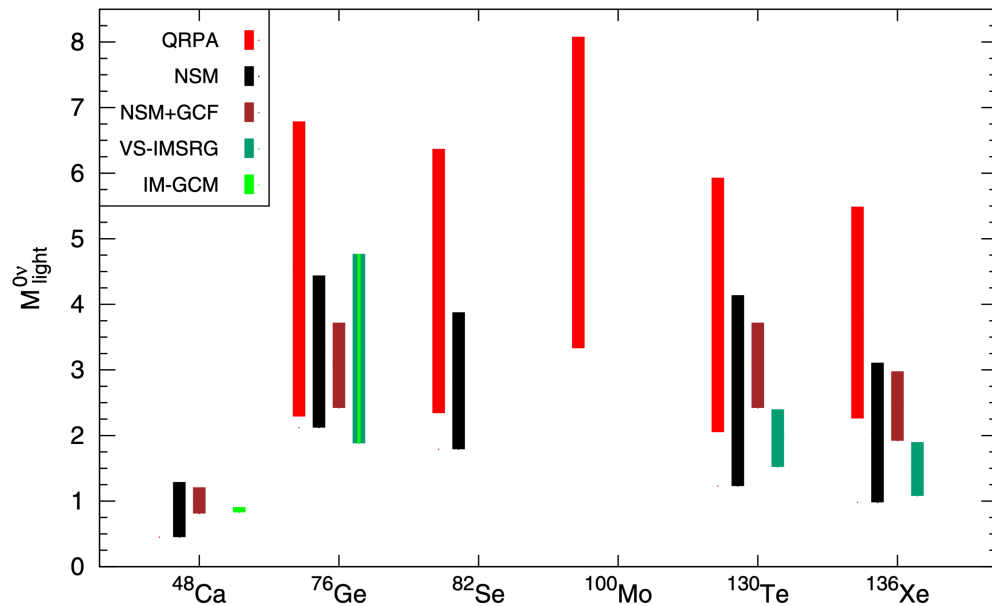
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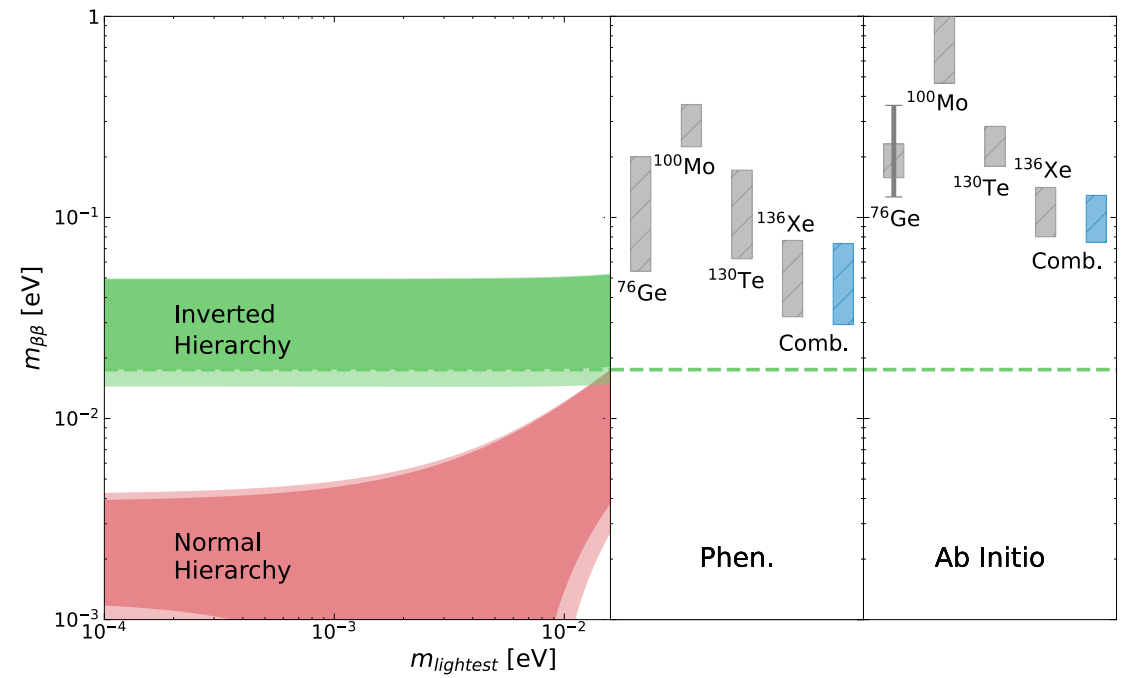
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Majorana mass

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \sum_k (U_{ek})^2 m_k$$



Gómez-Cadenas, Martín-Albo, Menéndez, Mezzetto, Monrabal, Sorel, *La Rivista del Nuovo Cimento* 46, 619 (2023)



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Belley, Holt, in preparation

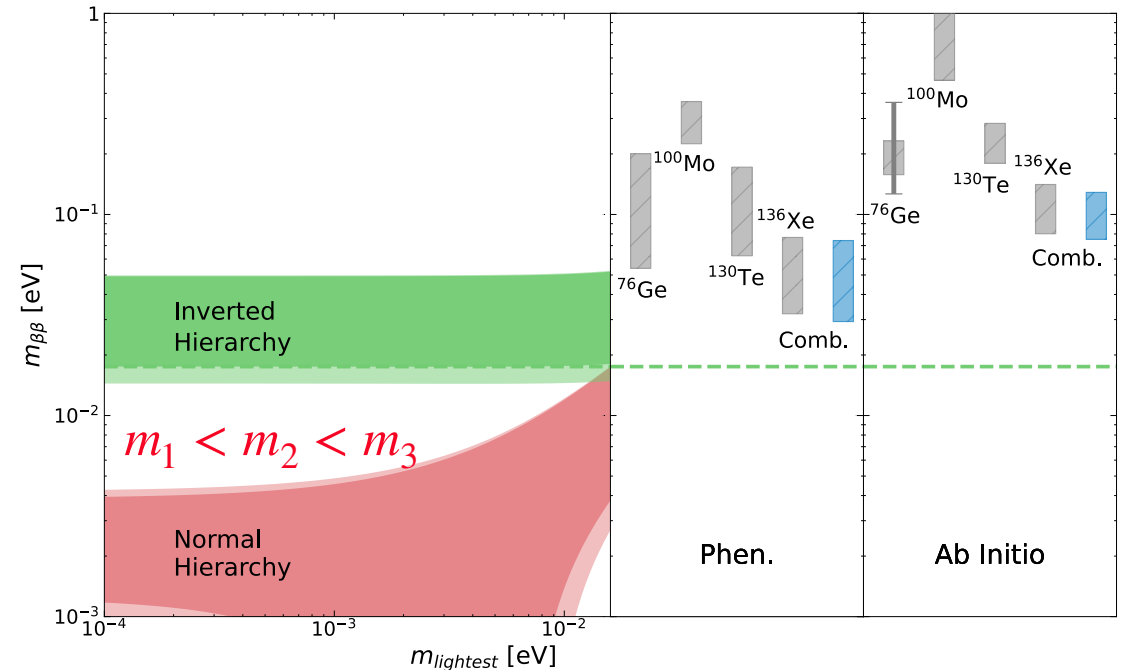
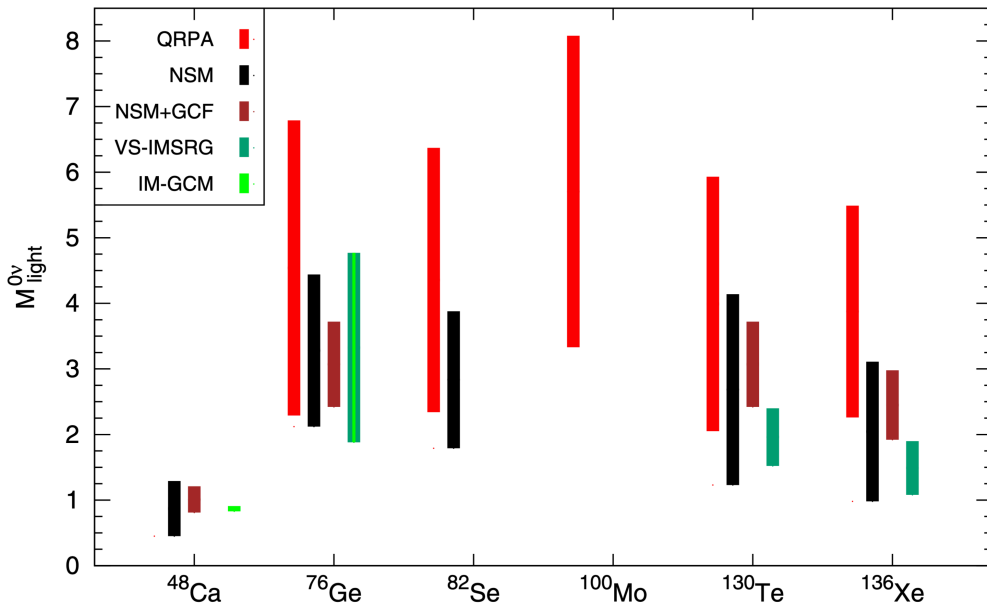
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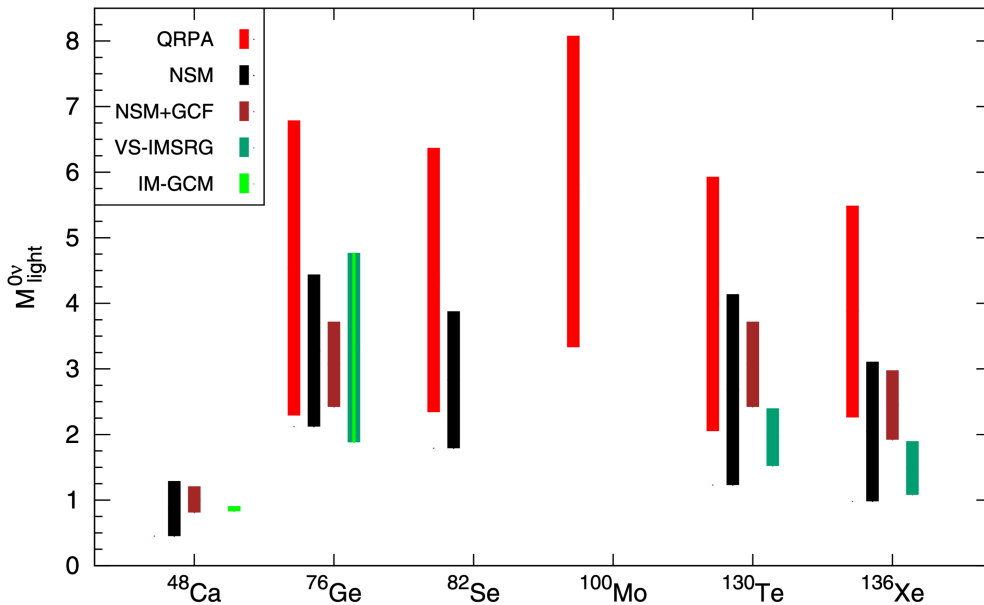
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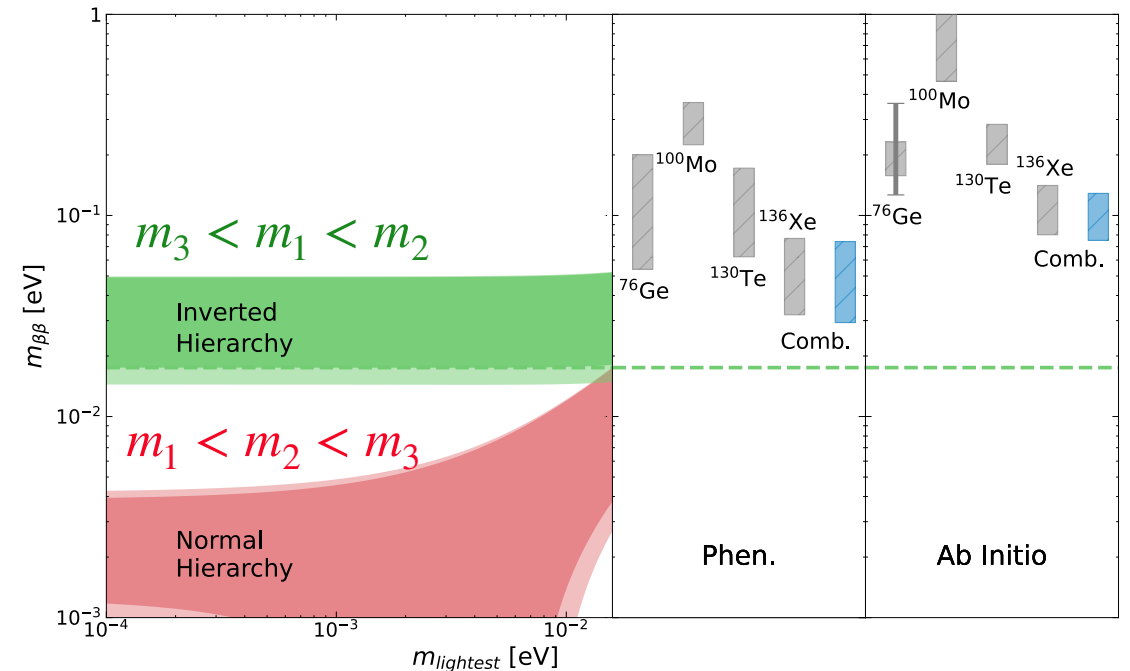
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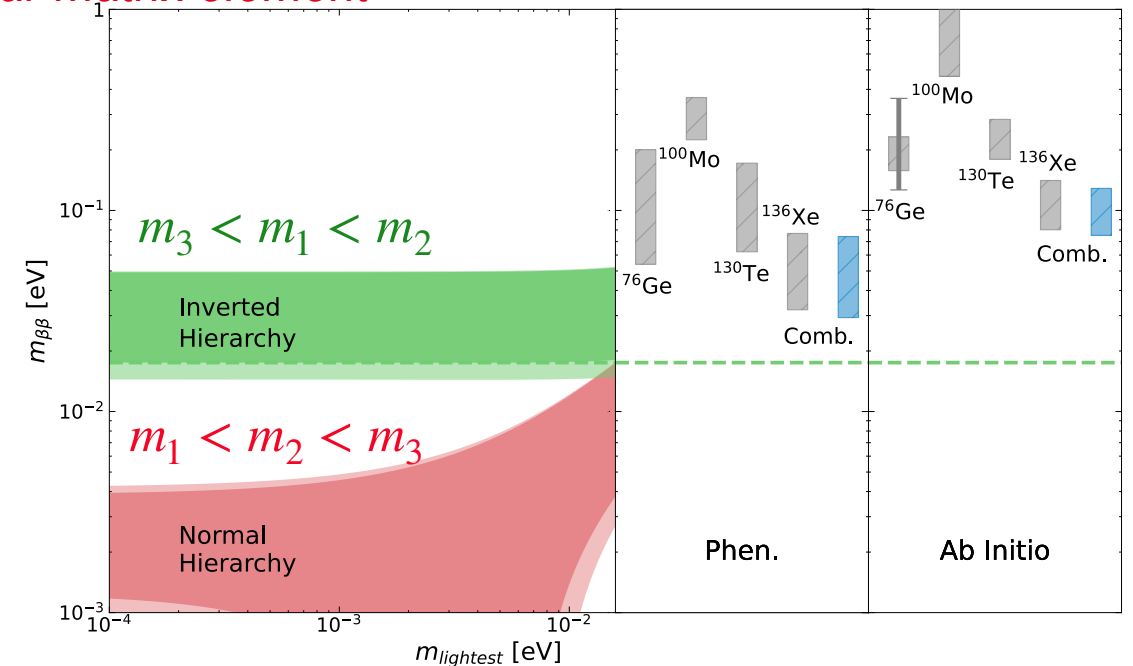
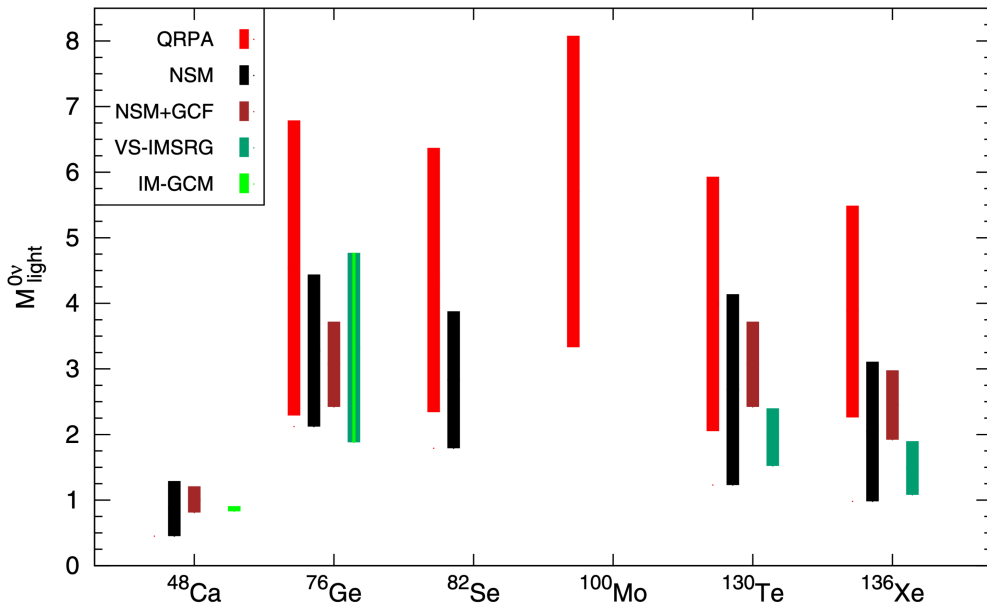
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Nuclear matrix element



Gómez-Cadenas, Martín-Albo, Menéndez, Mezzetto, Monrabal, Sorel,
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$0\nu\beta\beta$ DECAY WITH LIGHT-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

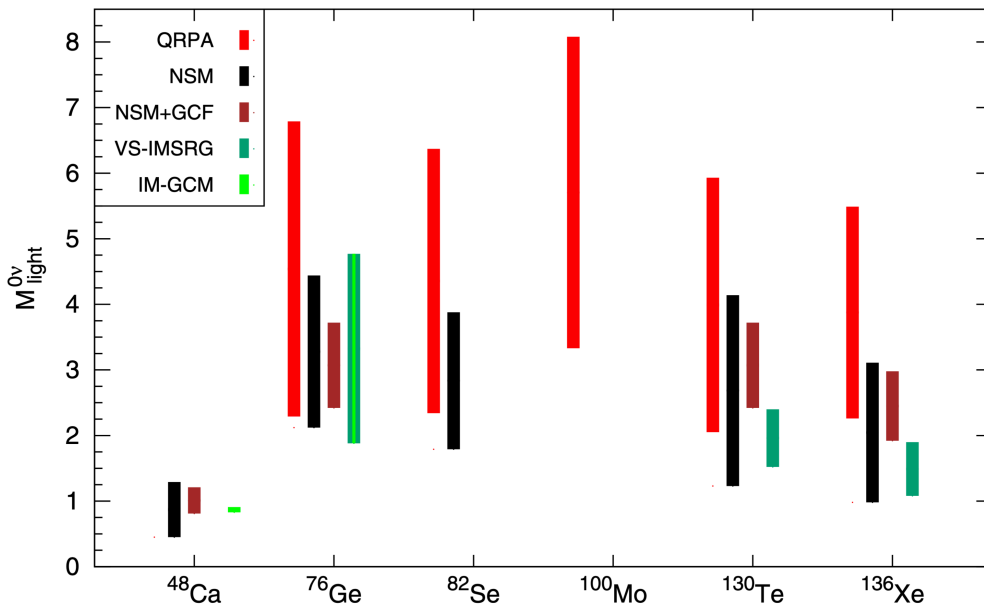
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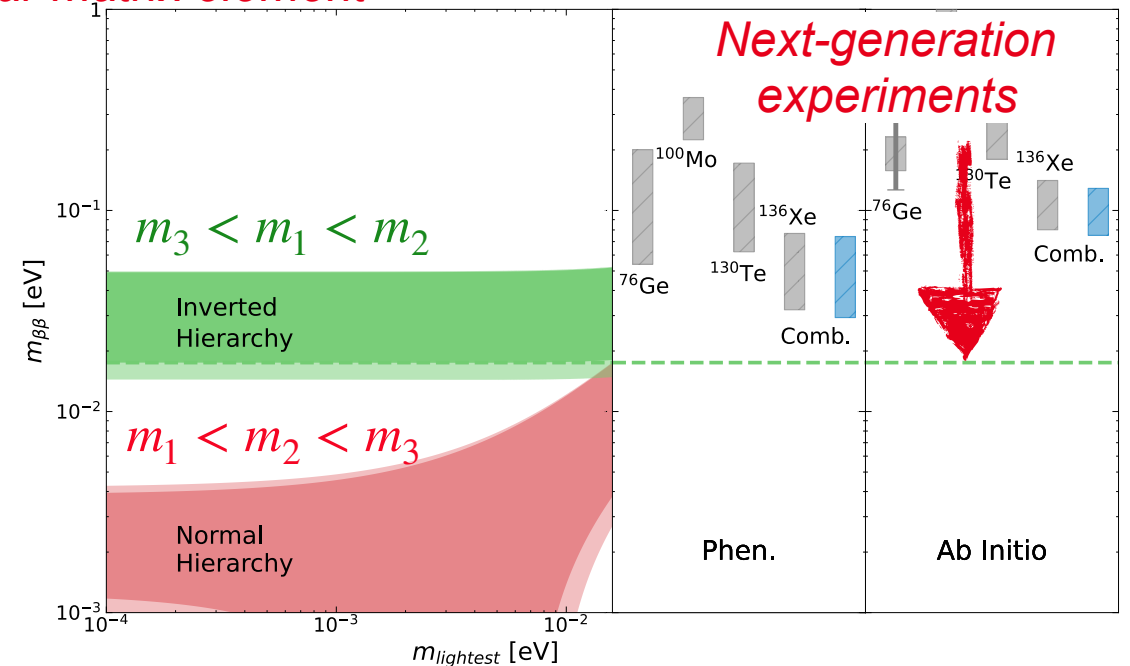
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THE NUCLEAR MATRIX ELEMENT

$$M^{0\nu} = \langle \Psi_f^{(A)} | \mathcal{O}^{0\nu} | \Psi_i^{(A)} \rangle$$

THE NUCLEAR MATRIX ELEMENT

Operator ($nn \rightarrow pp+2e^-$)



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Initial state wave function

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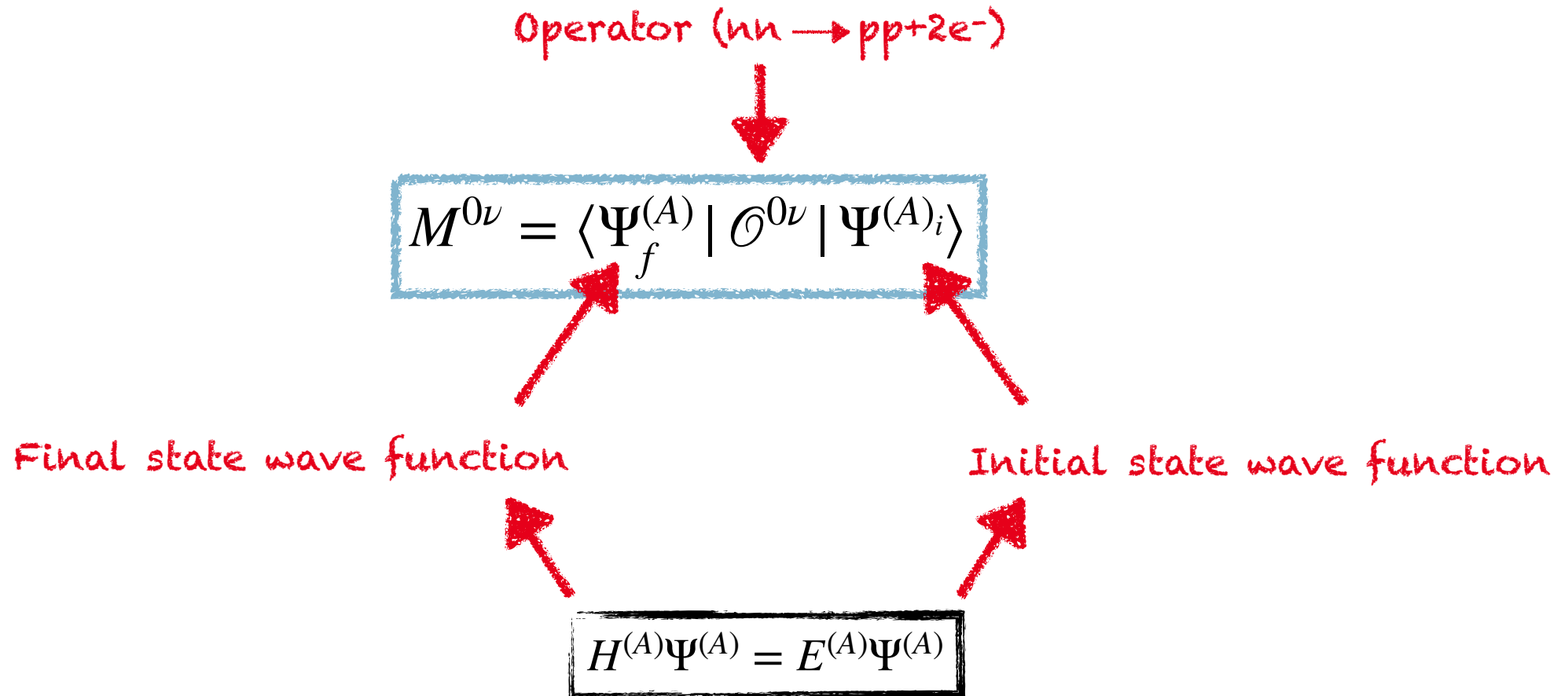


Final state wave function



Initial state wave function

THE NUCLEAR MATRIX ELEMENT





NUCLEAR MATRIX ELEMENT FOR $0\nu\beta\beta$ DECAY WITH LIGHT-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

$$M^{0\nu} = M_{\text{GT}}^{0\nu} - \left(\frac{g_{\text{V}}}{g_{\text{A}}} \right)^2 M_{\text{F}}^{0\nu} + M_{\text{T}}^{0\nu}$$

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Neutrino
potential

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$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{F}}^{(m,n)} = 1$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{T}}^{(m,n)} = 3[(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_m \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}})(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_n \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}})] - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_m \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_n$$

$$M_{\text{X}}^{0\nu} = \frac{2R}{\pi g_{\text{A}}^2} \times \langle 0_f^+ \| \sum_{m,n} \tau_m^- \tau_n^- \mathcal{O}_{\text{X}}^{(m,n)} \int \frac{j_0(qr) h_{\text{X}}(q^2) q^2}{q(q+E)} dq \| 0_i^+ \rangle$$

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Neutrino potential

$nn \rightarrow pp$

NUCLEAR MATRIX ELEMENT FOR $0\nu\beta\beta$ DECAY WITH LIGHT-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

$$M^{0\nu} = M_{\text{GT}}^{0\nu} - \left(\frac{g_V}{g_A}\right)^2 M_{\text{F}}^{0\nu} + M_{\text{T}}^{0\nu}$$

Neutrino propagator:

$$\frac{1}{\omega(\omega + E)}$$
 where

$$\omega = \sqrt{q^2 + m_N^2}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{GT}}^{(m,n)} = \sigma_m \cdot \sigma_n$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{F}}^{(m,n)} = 1$$

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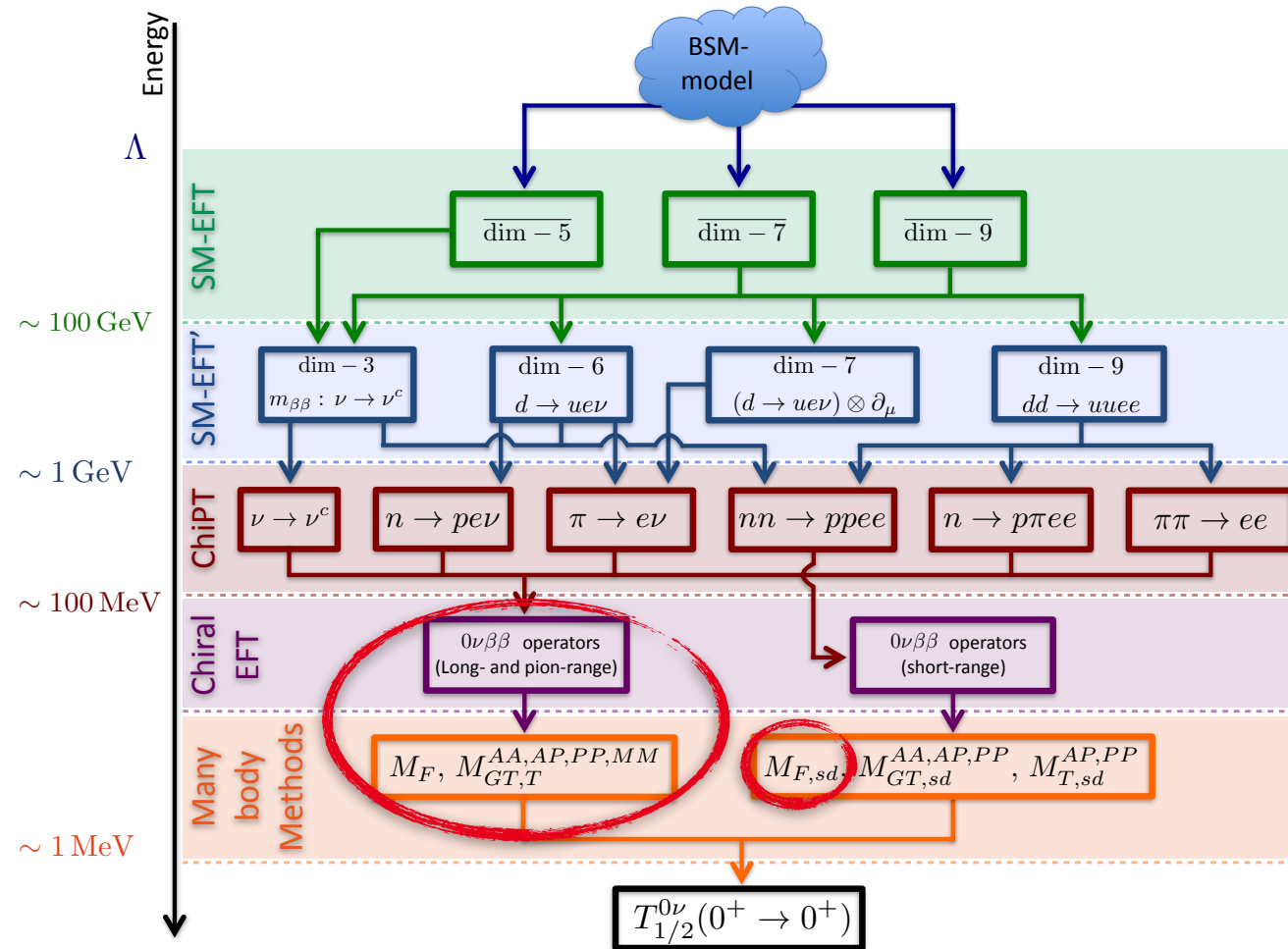
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CHIRAL EFFECTIVE FIELD THEORY FOR $0\nu\beta\beta$ DECAY

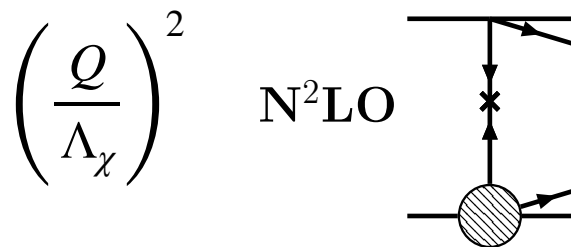
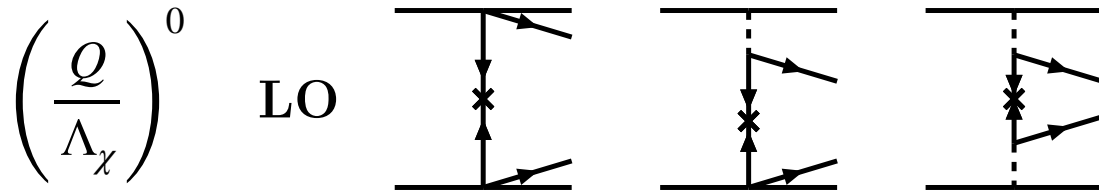


Cirigliano, Dekens, de Vries, Graesser, Mereghetti, JHEP 12, 097 (2018)

CHIRAL EFFECTIVE THEORY FOR LIGHT-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

$$M^{0\nu} = M_L^{0\nu}$$

$$M_L^{0\nu} = M_{GT}^{0\nu} - \left(\frac{g_V}{g_A}\right)^2 M_F^{0\nu} + M_T^{0\nu}$$



V. Cirigliano et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 120, 202001 (2018), *Phys. Rev. C* 100, 055504 (2019)

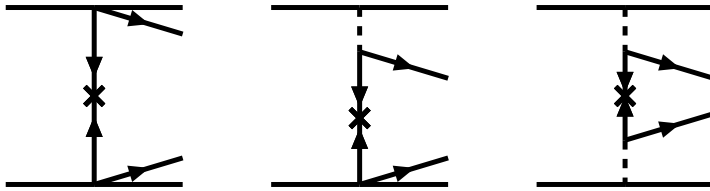
CHIRAL EFFECTIVE THEORY FOR LIGHT-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

$$M^{0\nu} = M_L^{0\nu} + M_S^{0\nu}$$

$$M_L^{0\nu} = M_{GT}^{0\nu} - \left(\frac{g_V}{g_A}\right)^2 M_F^{0\nu} + M_T^{0\nu}$$

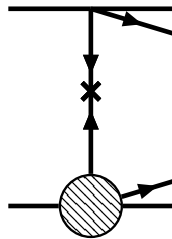
$$\left(\frac{Q}{\Lambda_\chi}\right)^0$$

LO

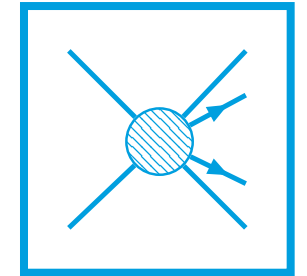


$$\left(\frac{Q}{\Lambda_\chi}\right)^2$$

N²LO



15% – 90%



V. Cirigliano et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 120, 202001 (2018), *Phys. Rev. C* 100, 055504 (2019)

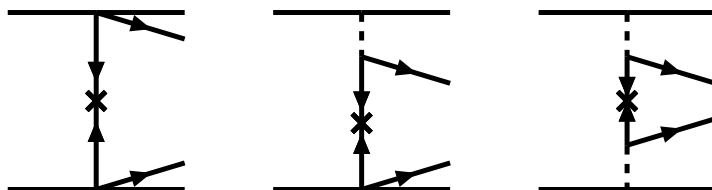
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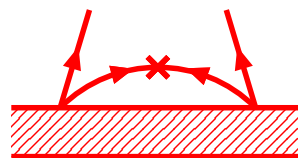
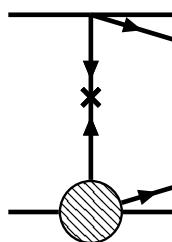
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LO



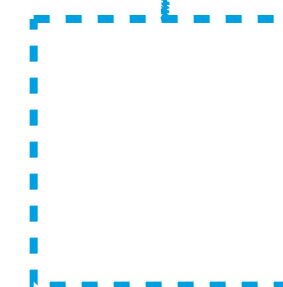
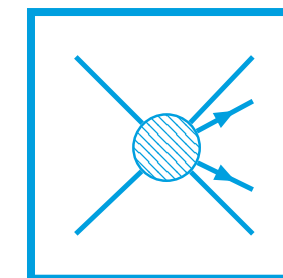
$$\left(\frac{Q}{\Lambda_\chi}\right)^2$$

N²LO



5% – 10%

15% – 90%



V. Cirigliano et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 120, 202001 (2018), *Phys. Rev. C* 100, 055504 (2019)

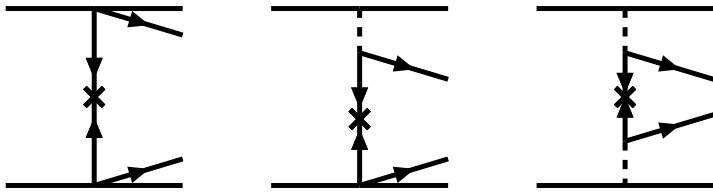
CHIRAL EFFECTIVE THEORY FOR LIGHT-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

$$M^{0\nu} = M_L^{0\nu} + M_S^{0\nu} + M_{\text{usoft}}^{0\nu} + M_{\text{loop}}^{0\nu}$$

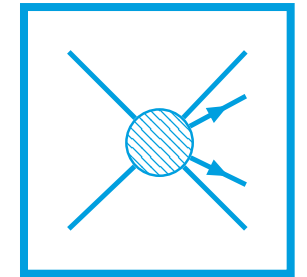
$$M_L^{0\nu} = M_{\text{GT}}^{0\nu} - \left(\frac{g_V}{g_A}\right)^2 M_F^{0\nu} + M_T^{0\nu}$$

$\left(\frac{Q}{\Lambda_\chi}\right)^0$

LO

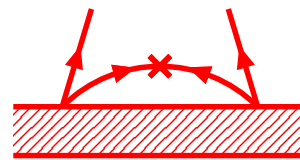
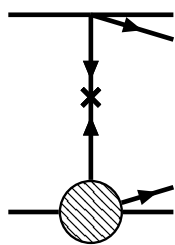


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+ ...



V. Cirigliano et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 120, 202001 (2018), *Phys. Rev. C* 100, 055504 (2019)

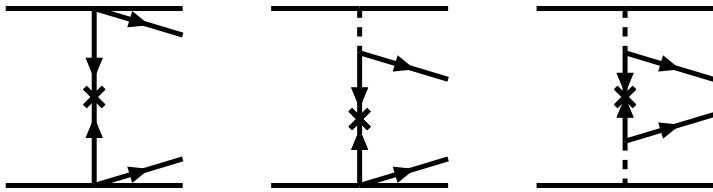
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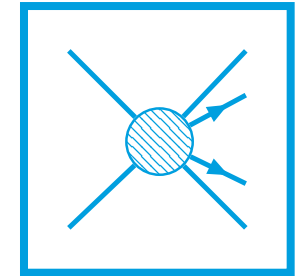
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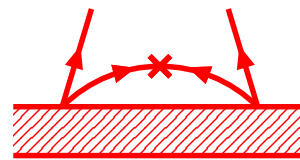
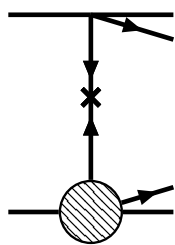


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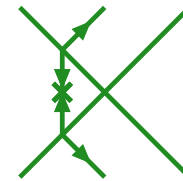


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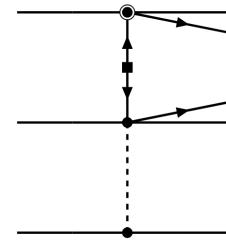


N³LO

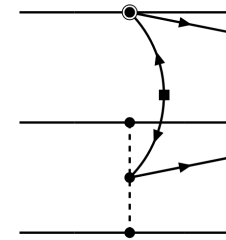
3-nucleon potentials

V. Cirigliano et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 120, 202001 (2018), *Phys. Rev. C* 100, 055504 (2019)

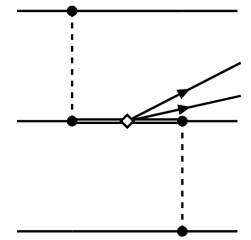
THREE-NUCLEON POTENTIALS



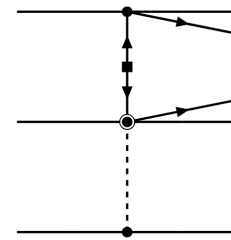
(3a)



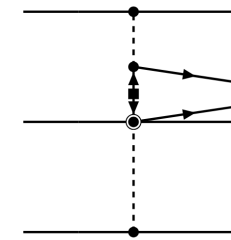
(3b)



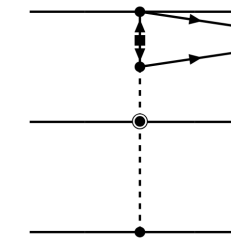
(3c)



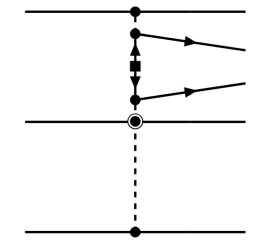
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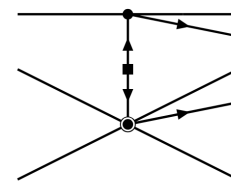
(3e)



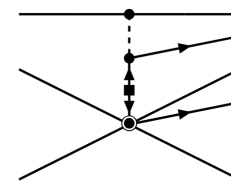
(3f)



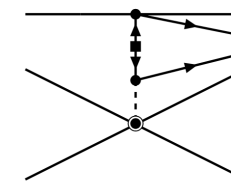
(3g)



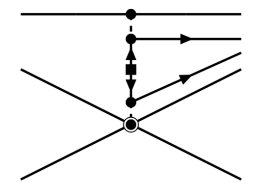
(3h)



(3i)



(3j)

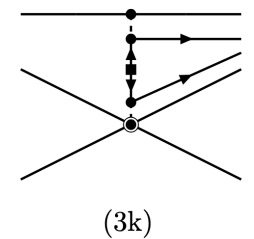
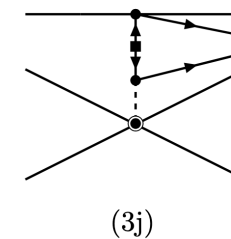
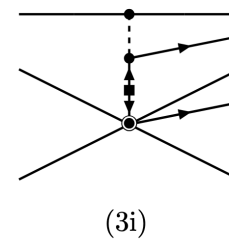
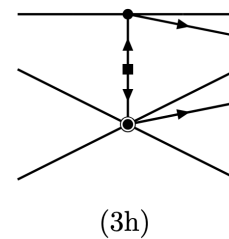
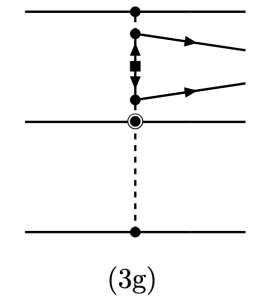
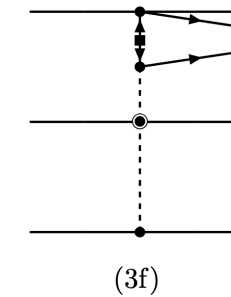
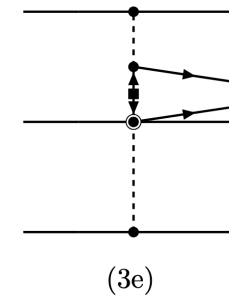
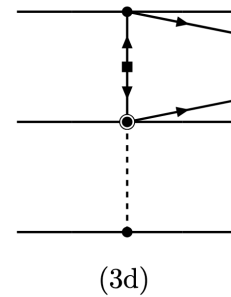
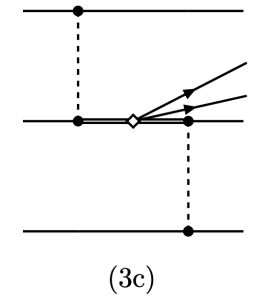
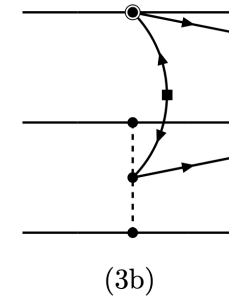
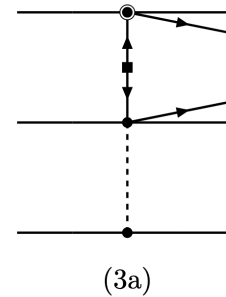


(3k)

Chambers-Wall, Loeffers, King, Mereghetti, Pastore, Piarulli, Wiringa, arXiv:2510.21564

THREE-NUCLEON POTENTIALS

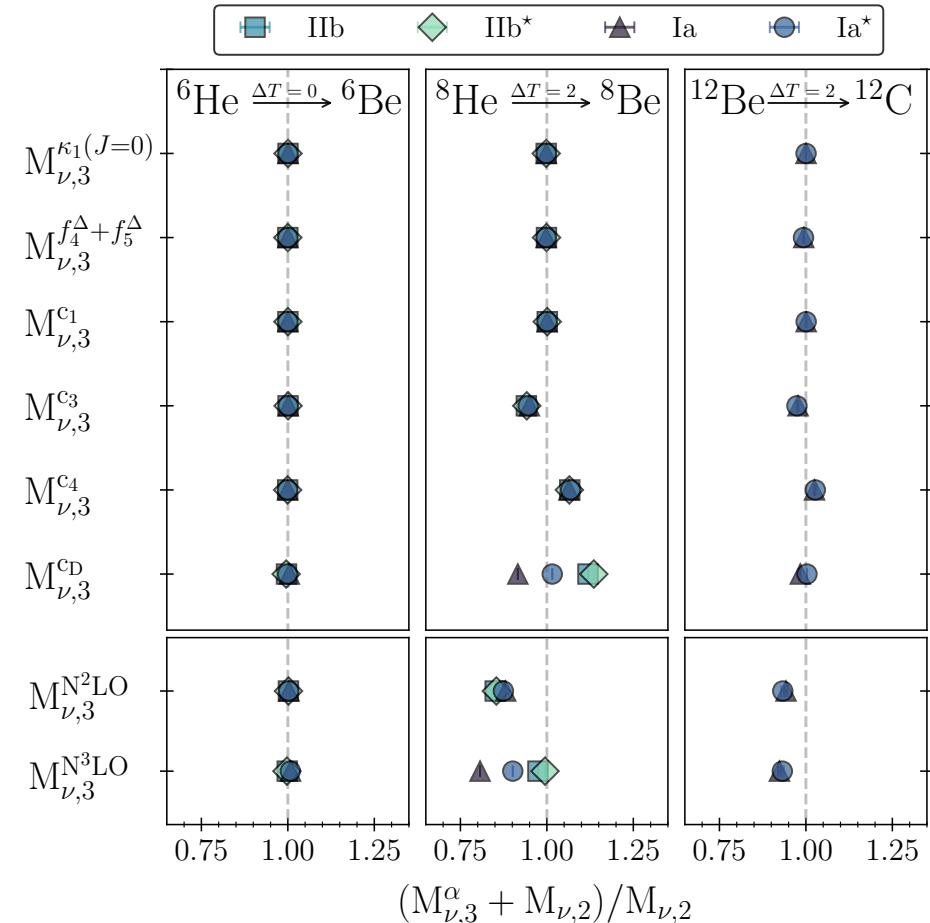
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THREE-NUCLEON POTENTIALS

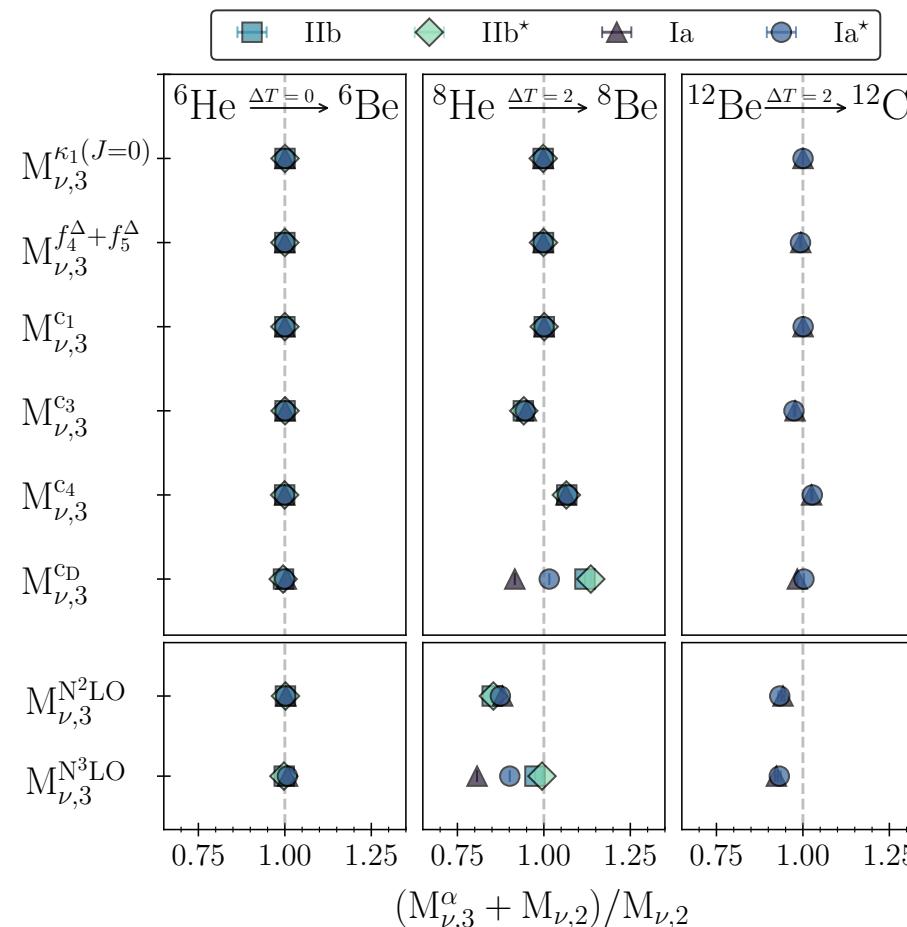
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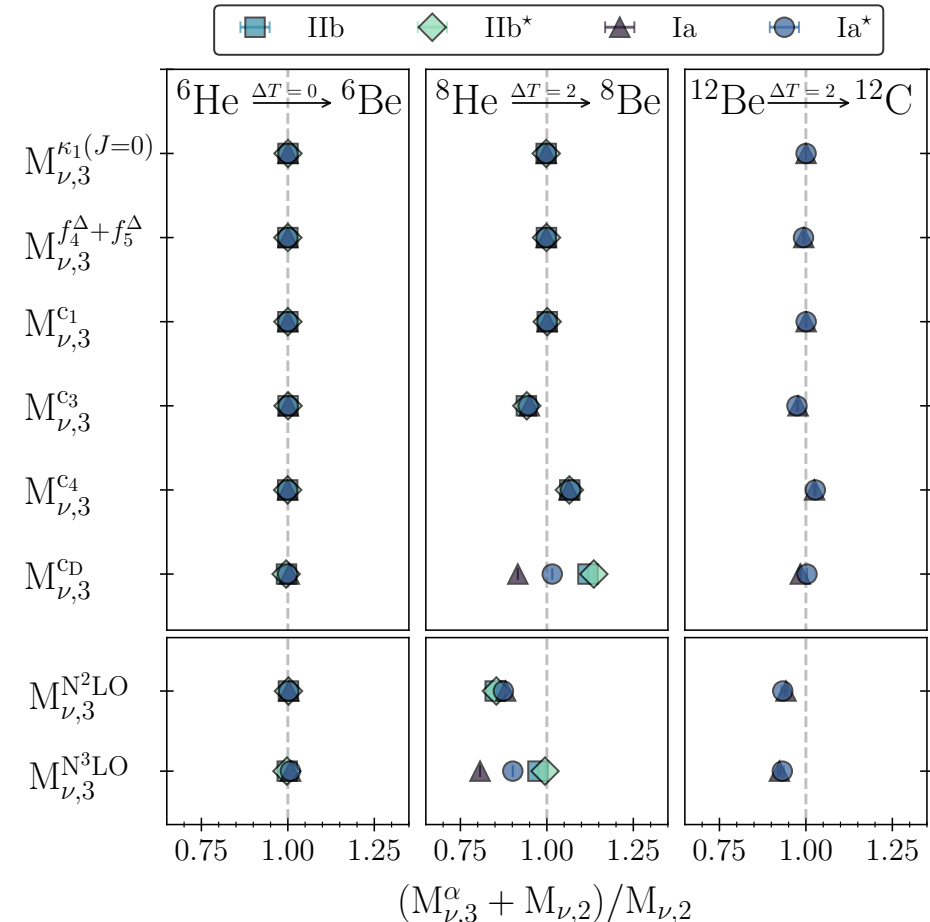
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THREE-NUCLEON POTENTIALS

- Additional three-nucleon diagrams enter at N²LO (Δ -full) and N³LO
- These three-nucleon diagrams **moderately reduce** the matrix elements of **light nuclei**
- What is the effect in experimentally relevant nuclei?**
 - Work in progress in the VS-IMSRG framework



Chambers-Wall, Liefers, King, Mereghetti, Pastore, Piarulli, Wiringa, arXiv:2510.21564

OUTLINE

- 1** Introduction
- 2** Effective field theory for neutrinoless double-beta decay with light-neutrino exchange
- 3** **Global limits for Majorana masses**
- 4** Different decay mechanisms
- 5** Summary and Outlook



GLOBAL LIMITS FOR MAJORANA MASSES

$$\frac{\Gamma^{0\nu}(A, Z)}{\ln 2} = \frac{1}{t_{1/2}^{0\nu}(A, Z)} = g_A^4 G^{0\nu}(A, Z) |M^{0\nu}(A, Z)|^2 \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$

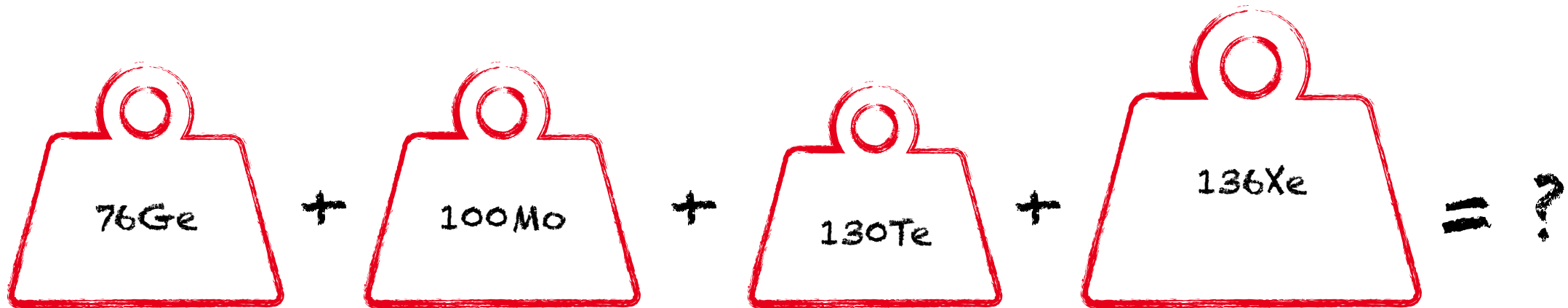


Figure idea stolen from T. Shickele

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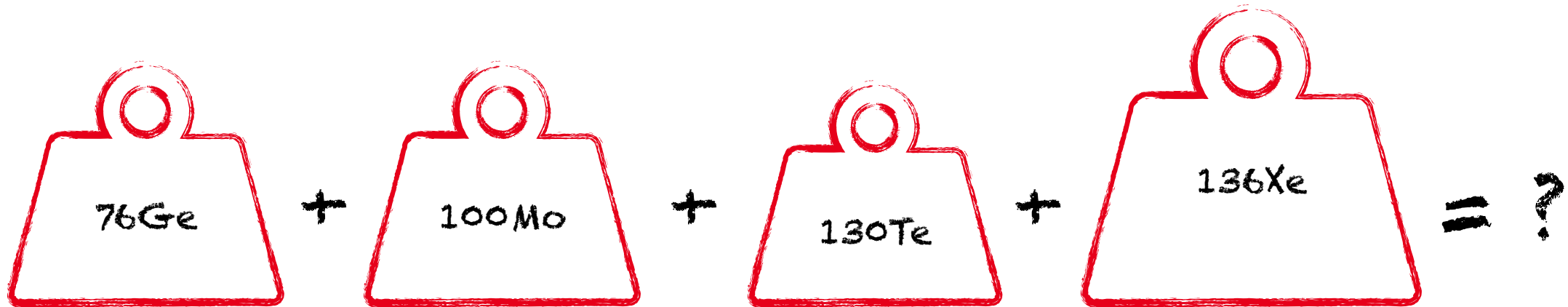


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- Experiments probe Majorana mass with different isotopes
 - How to combine these into **global Majorana-mass limits?**

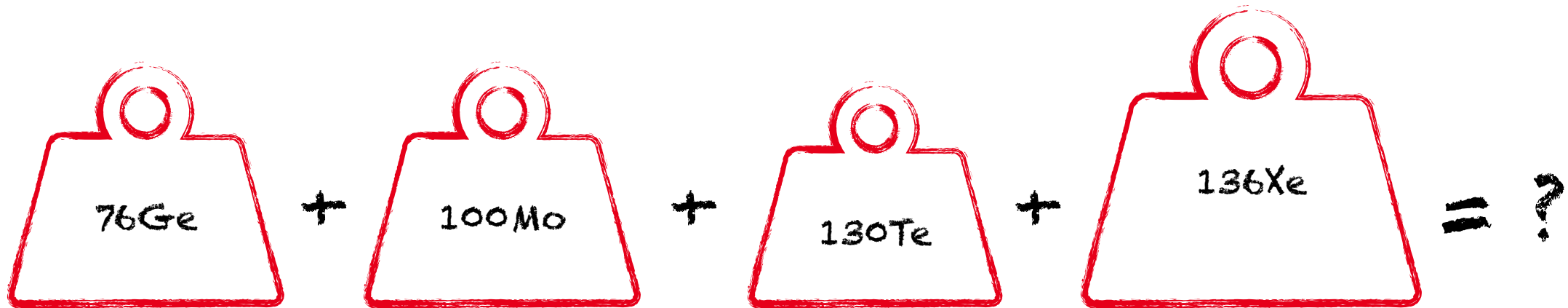


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COMBINED CONSTRAINTS FOR MAJORANA MASSES

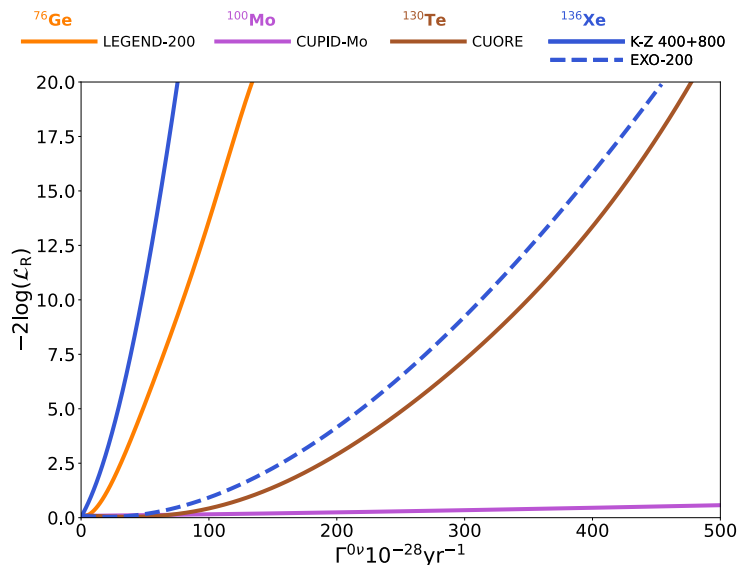
Biller, Phys. Rev. D 104, 012002 (2021)

$$P(m_{\beta\beta} | \text{Data}) \propto \mathcal{L}(\text{Data} | m_{\beta\beta})\pi(m_{\beta\beta})$$

COMBINED CONSTRAINTS FOR MAJORANA MASSES

Biller, Phys. Rev. D 104, 012002 (2021)

Likelihood functions from current experiments:



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Belley, Holt, submitted to PRD

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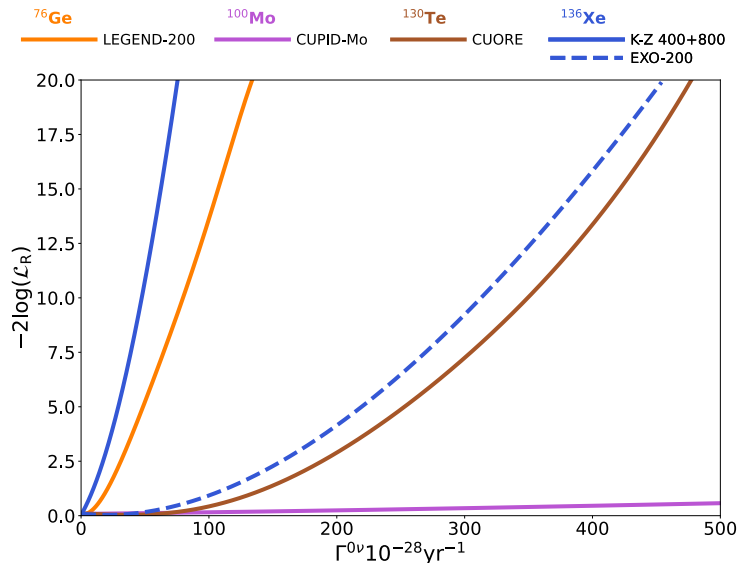
Combined likelihood:

$$\mathcal{L}_{R,\text{Comb}} = \prod_i^n \mathcal{L}_{R,i}$$

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Prior:

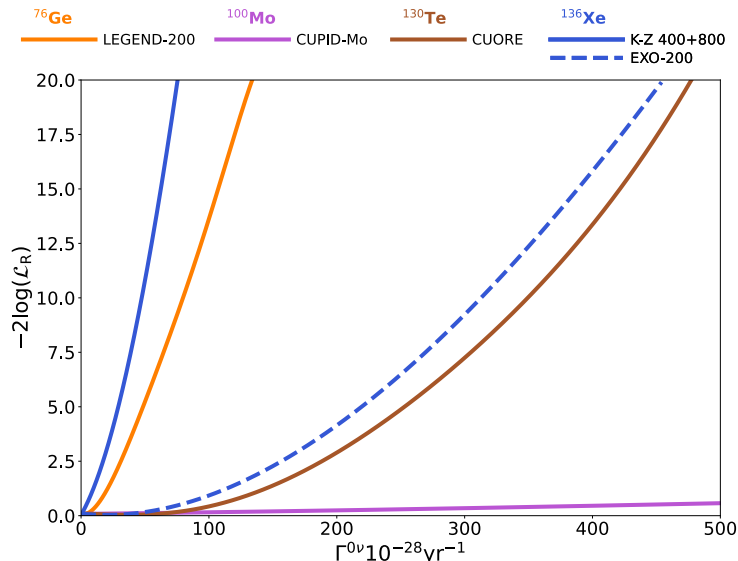
- Uniform in $m_{\beta\beta}$
- Uniform in $\Gamma^{0\nu}$ (or $m_{\beta\beta}^2$)
- Uniform in $\log(m_{\beta\beta})$

COMBINED CONSTRAINTS FOR MAJORANA MASSES

Biller, Phys. Rev. D 104, 012002 (2021)

90% credible interval global limits for $m_{\beta\beta}$

Likelihood functions from current experiments:



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Belley, Holt, submitted to PRD

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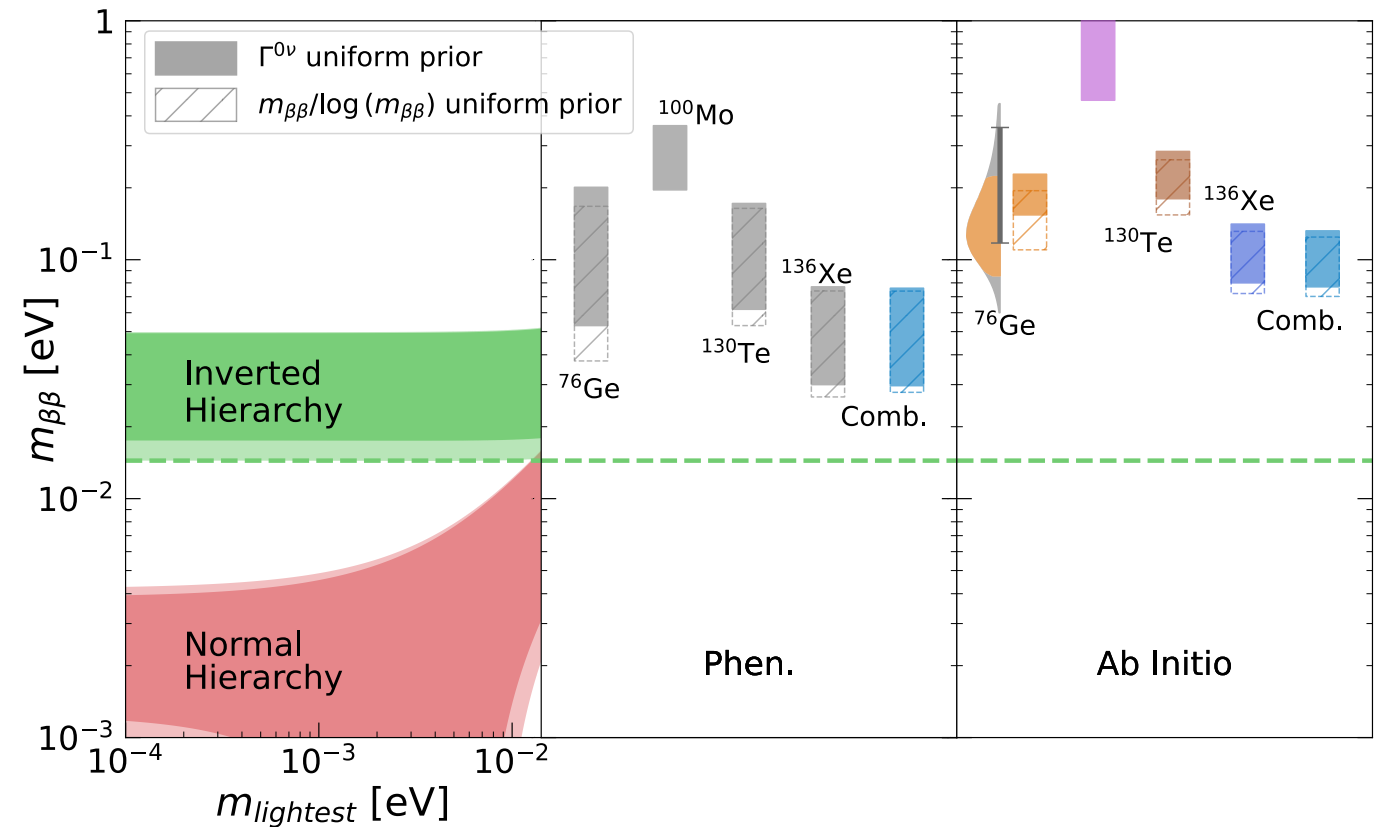
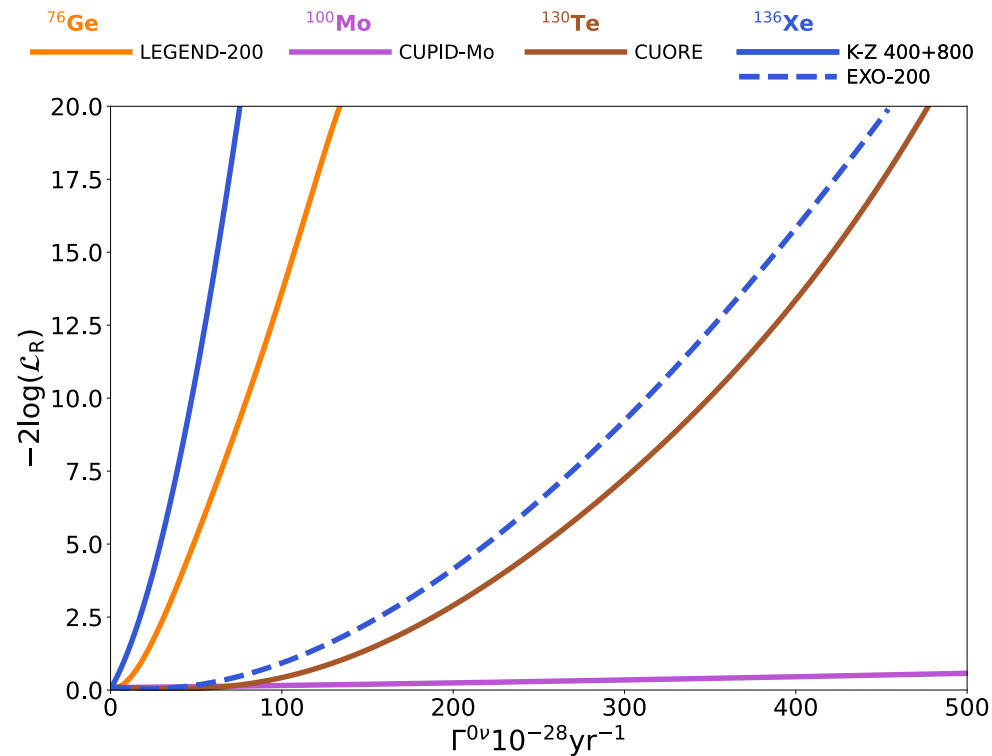
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COMBINED CONSTRAINTS FOR MAJORANA MASSES

Current best limits

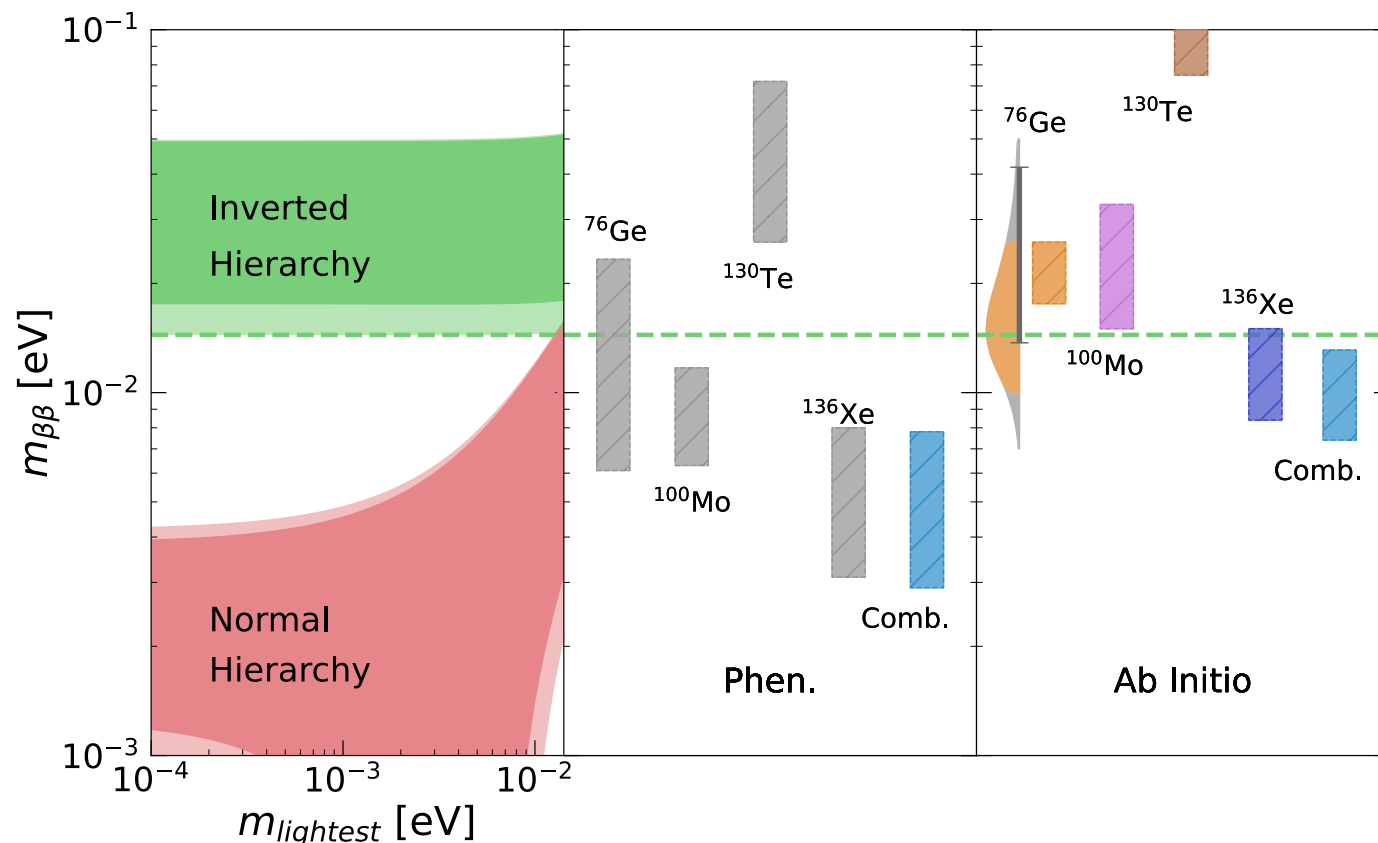
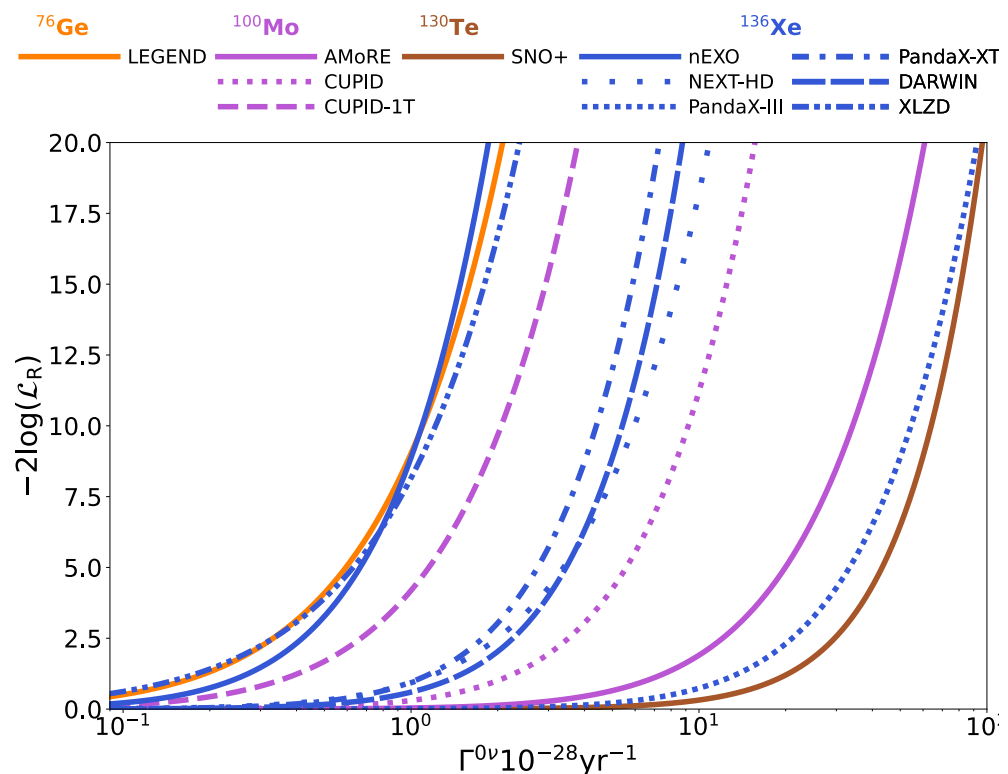


Shickele, Jokiniemi, Belley, Holt, submitted to PRD

COMBINED CONSTRAINTS FOR MAJORANA MASSES

Next-generation experiments

No CUPID-1T

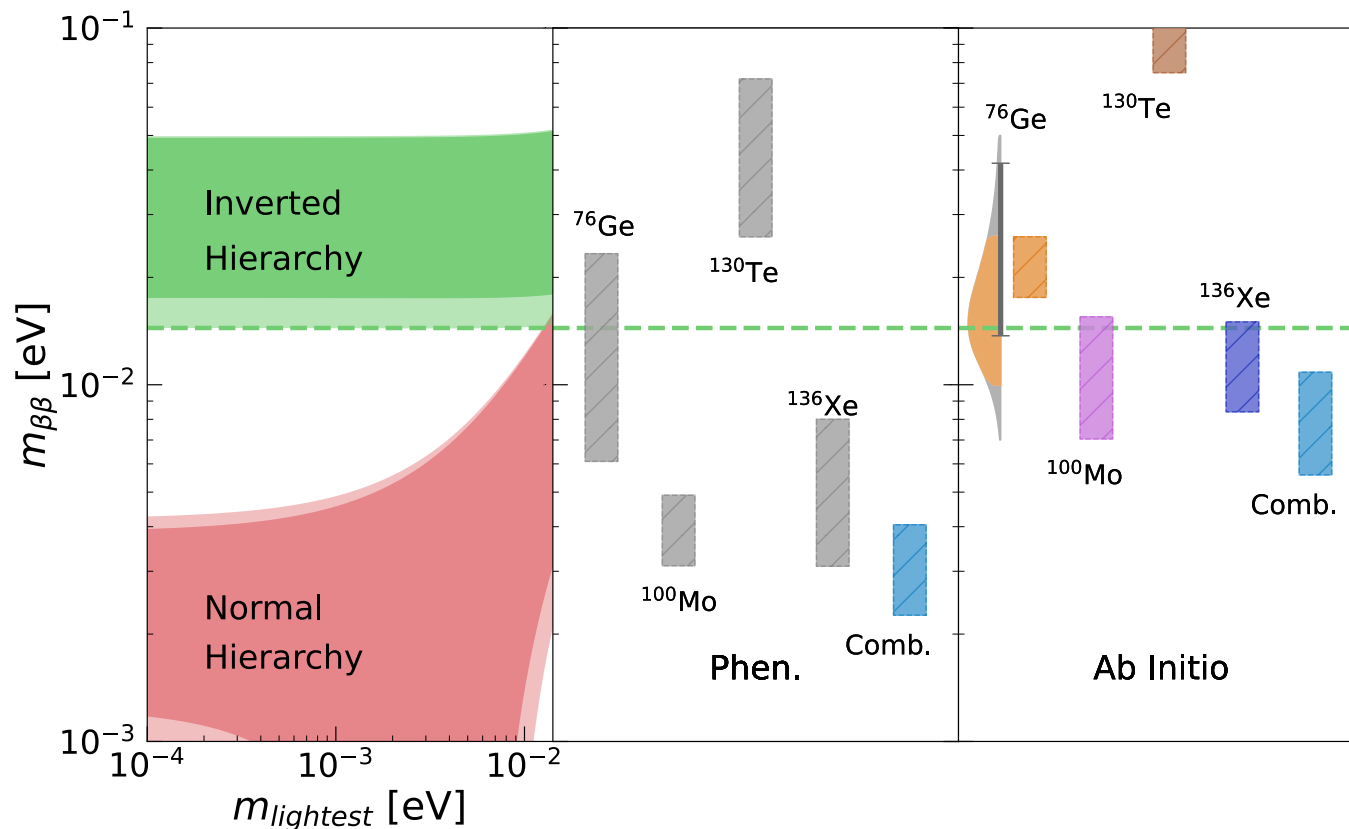
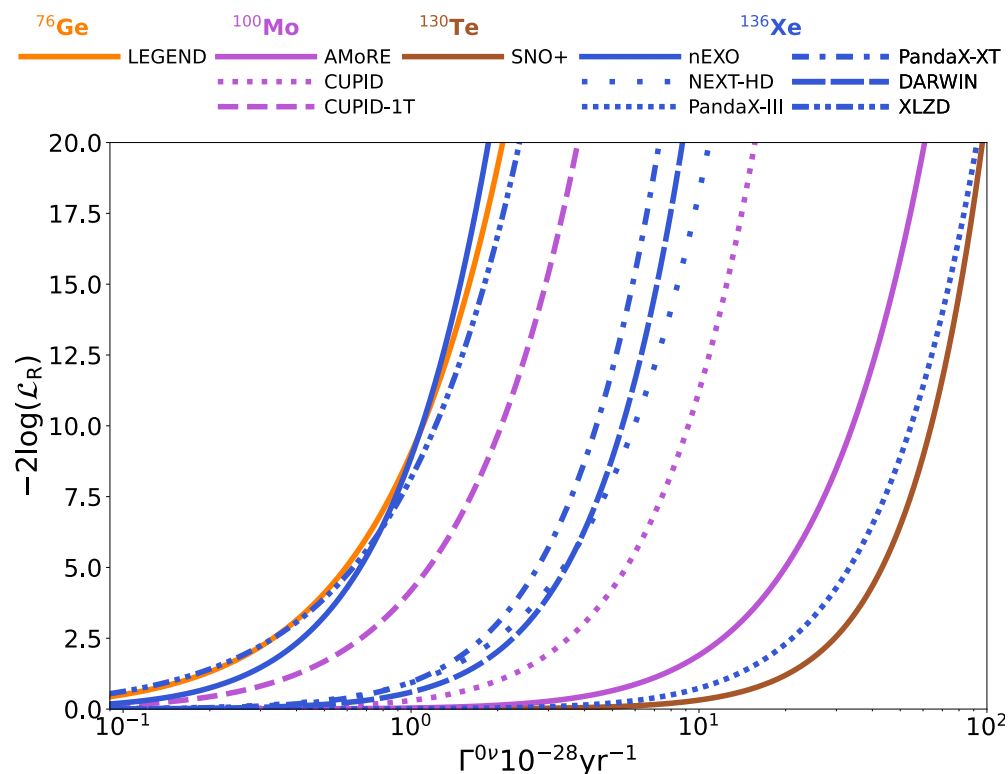


Shickele, Jokiniemi, Bellus, *et al.*, submitted to PRD

COMBINED CONSTRAINTS FOR MAJORANA MASSES

Next-generation experiments

With CUPID-1T

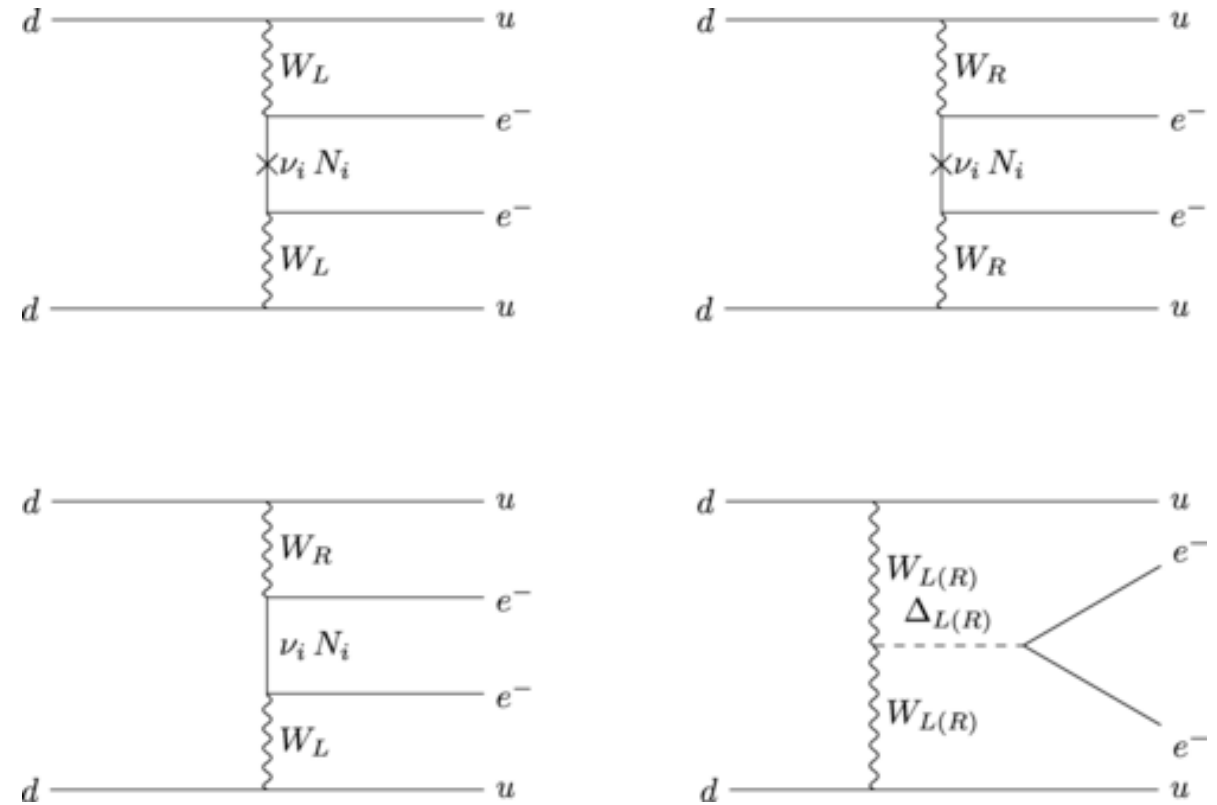


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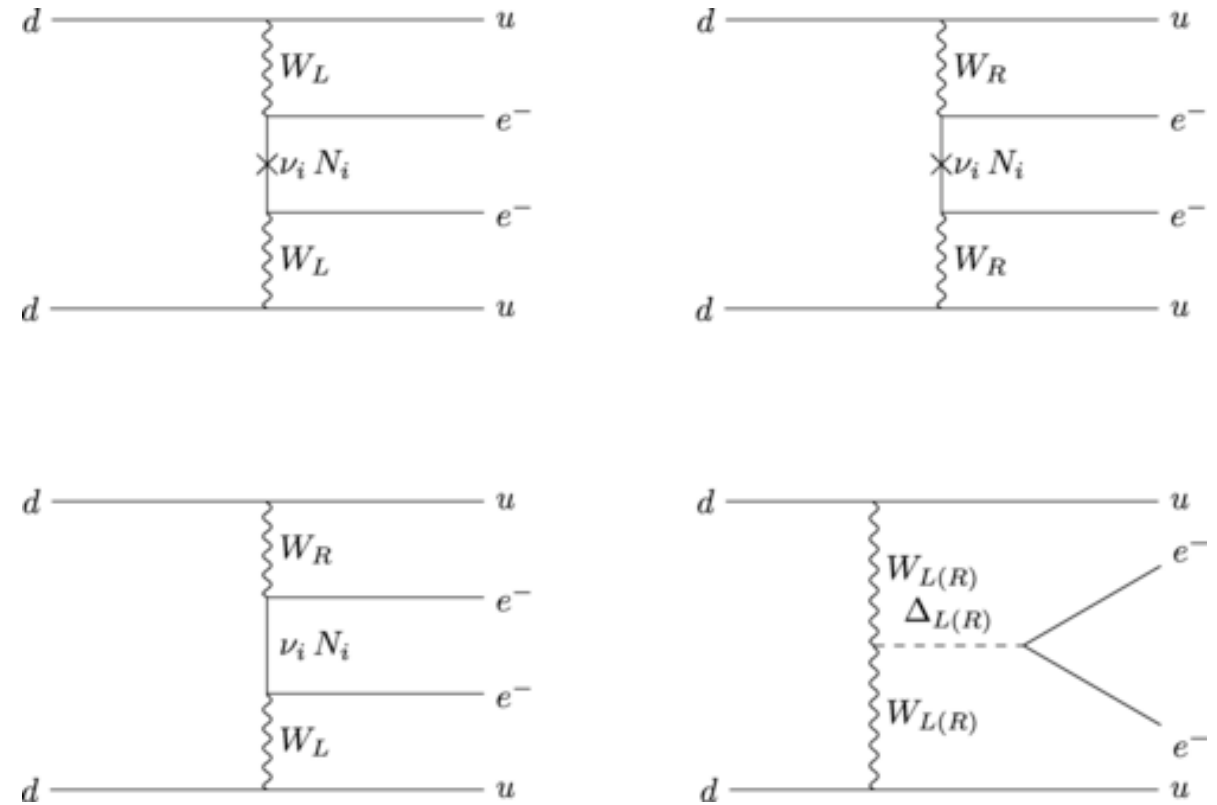
DIFFERENT DECAY SCENARIOS



Gráf, Lindner, Scholer, *Phys. Rev. D* **106**, 035022 (2022)

DIFFERENT DECAY SCENARIOS

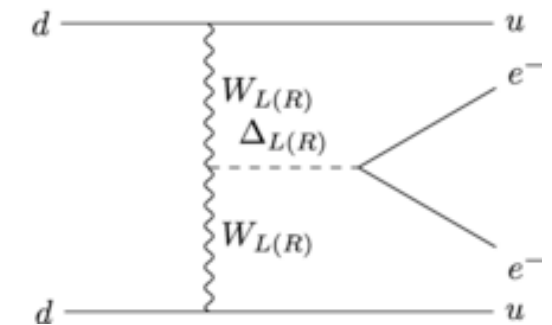
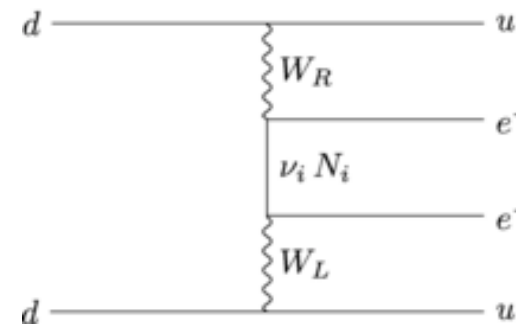
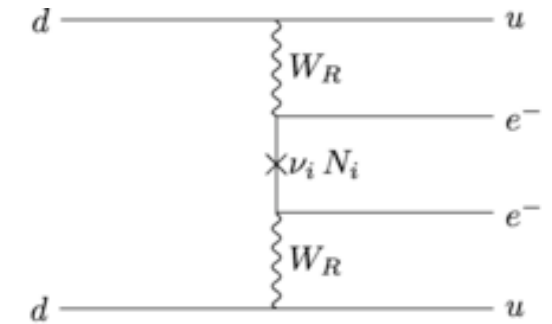
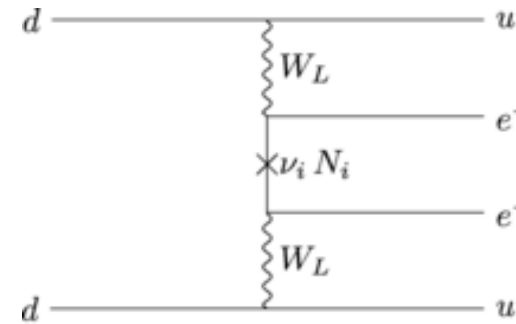
- Many possible scenarios



Gráf, Lindner, Scholer, Phys. Rev. D 106, 035022 (2022)

DIFFERENT DECAY SCENARIOS

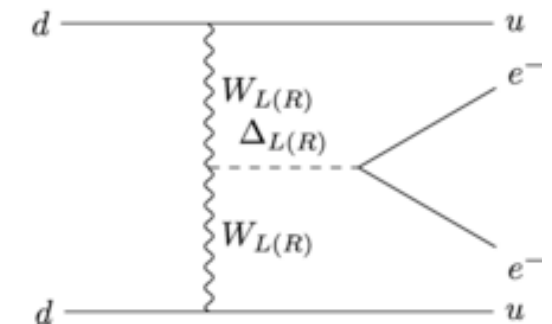
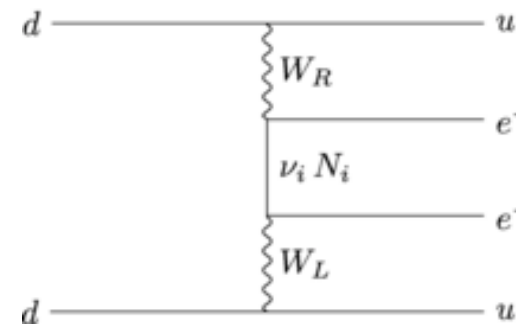
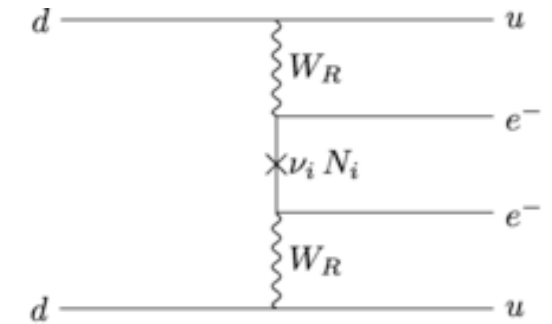
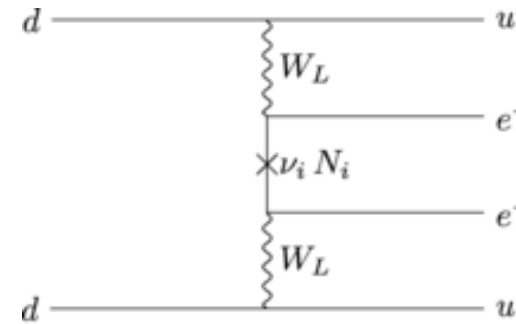
- Many possible scenarios
 - left-right symmetric models (heavy neutrino (N_i), ...)



Gráf, Lindner, Scholer, *Phys. Rev. D* **106**, 035022 (2022)

DIFFERENT DECAY SCENARIOS

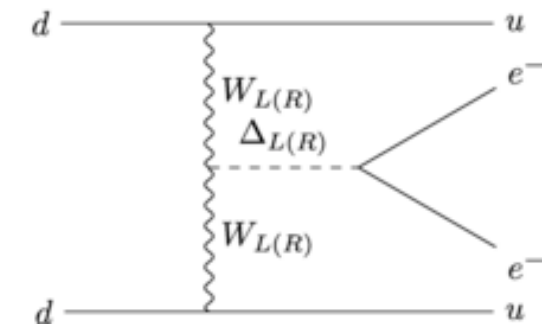
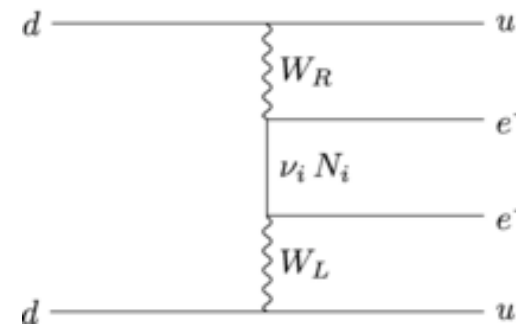
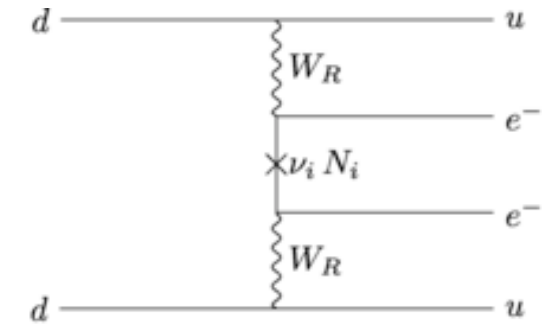
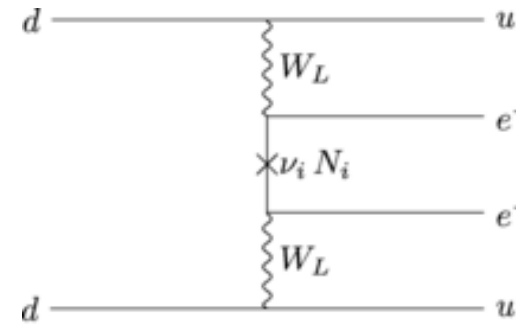
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Gráf, Lindner, Scholer, *Phys. Rev. D* **106**, 035022 (2022)

DIFFERENT DECAY SCENARIOS

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 - leptoquarks, ...



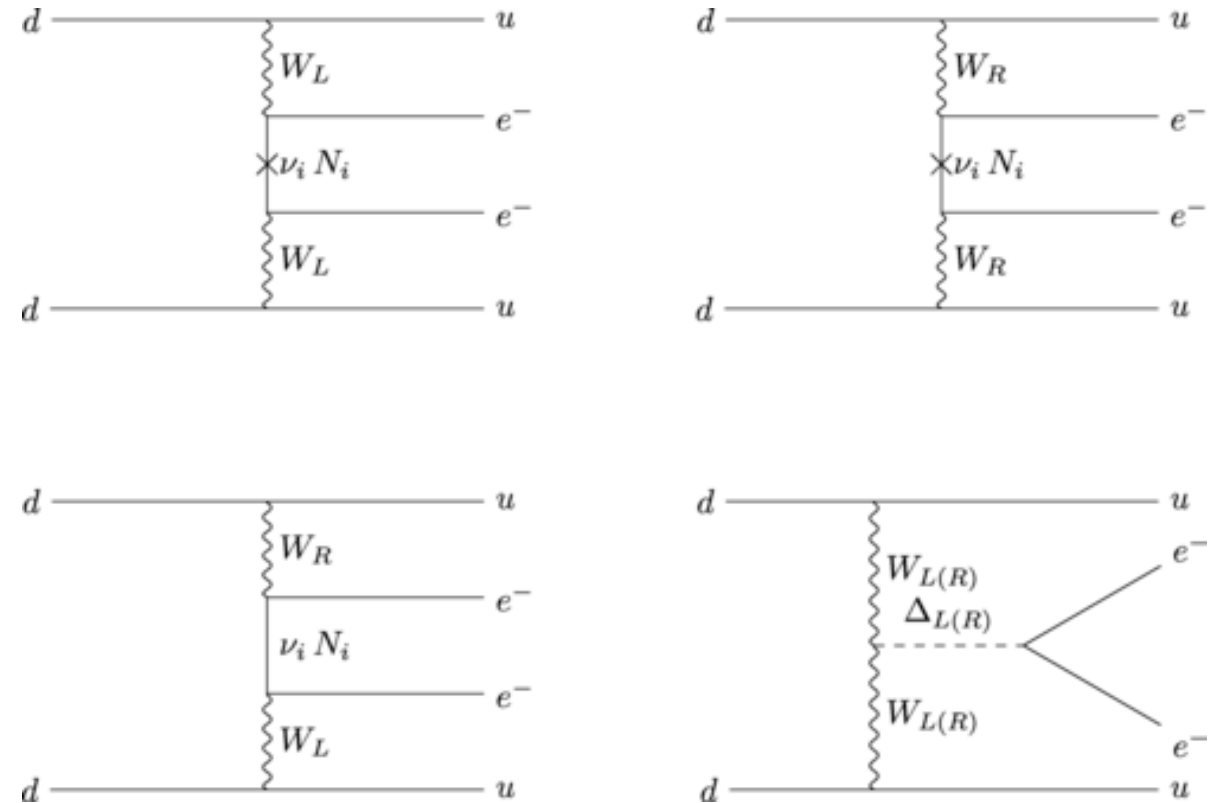
Gráf, Lindner, Scholer, *Phys. Rev. D* **106**, 035022 (2022)

DIFFERENT DECAY SCENARIOS

- Many possible scenarios
 - left-right symmetric models (heavy neutrino (N_i), ...)
 - R-parity violating SUSY
 - leptoquarks, ...

- If light-neutrino-exchange is not the driving mechanism, **no direct connection to Majorana mass**

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Gráf, Lindner, Scholer, *Phys. Rev. D* **106**, 035022 (2022)

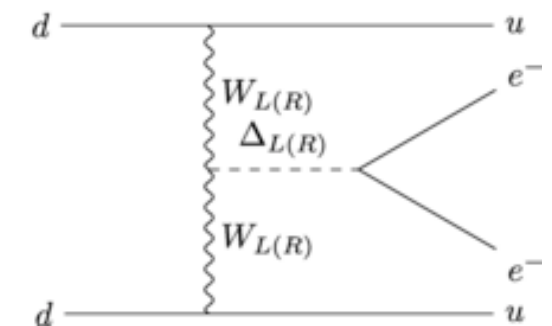
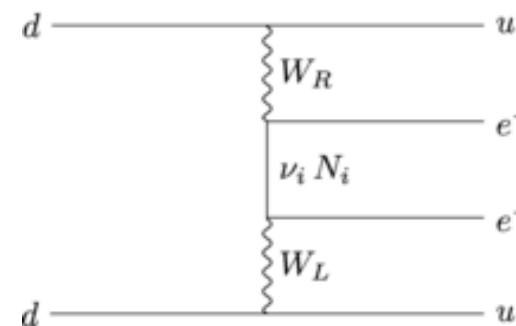
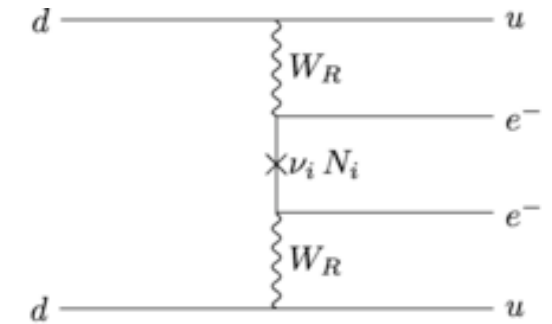
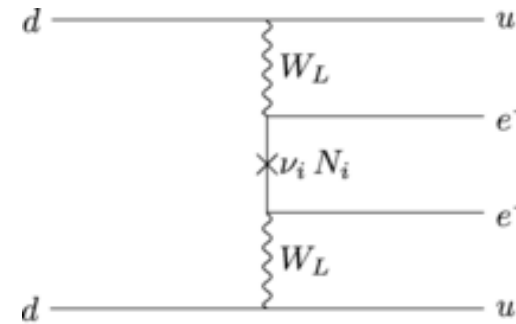
DIFFERENT DECAY SCENARIOS

- Many possible scenarios
 - left-right symmetric models (heavy neutrino (N_i), ...)
 - R-parity violating SUSY
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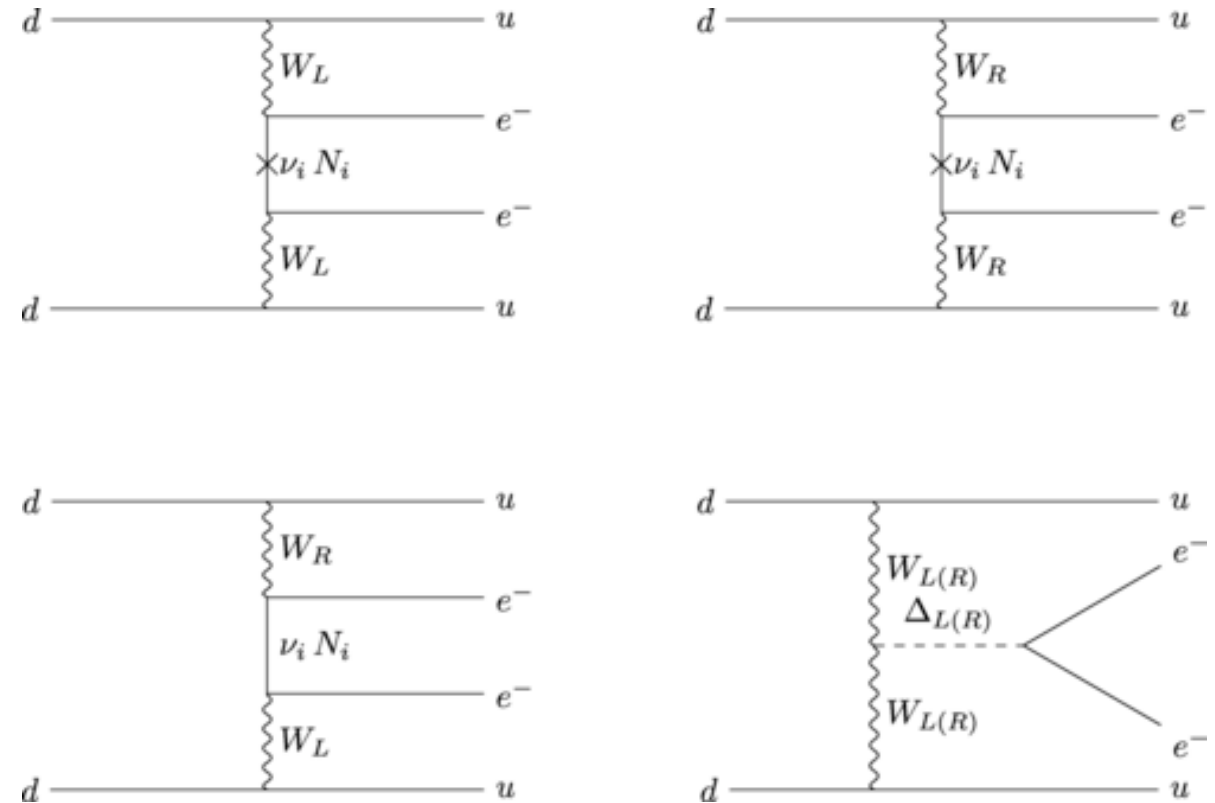
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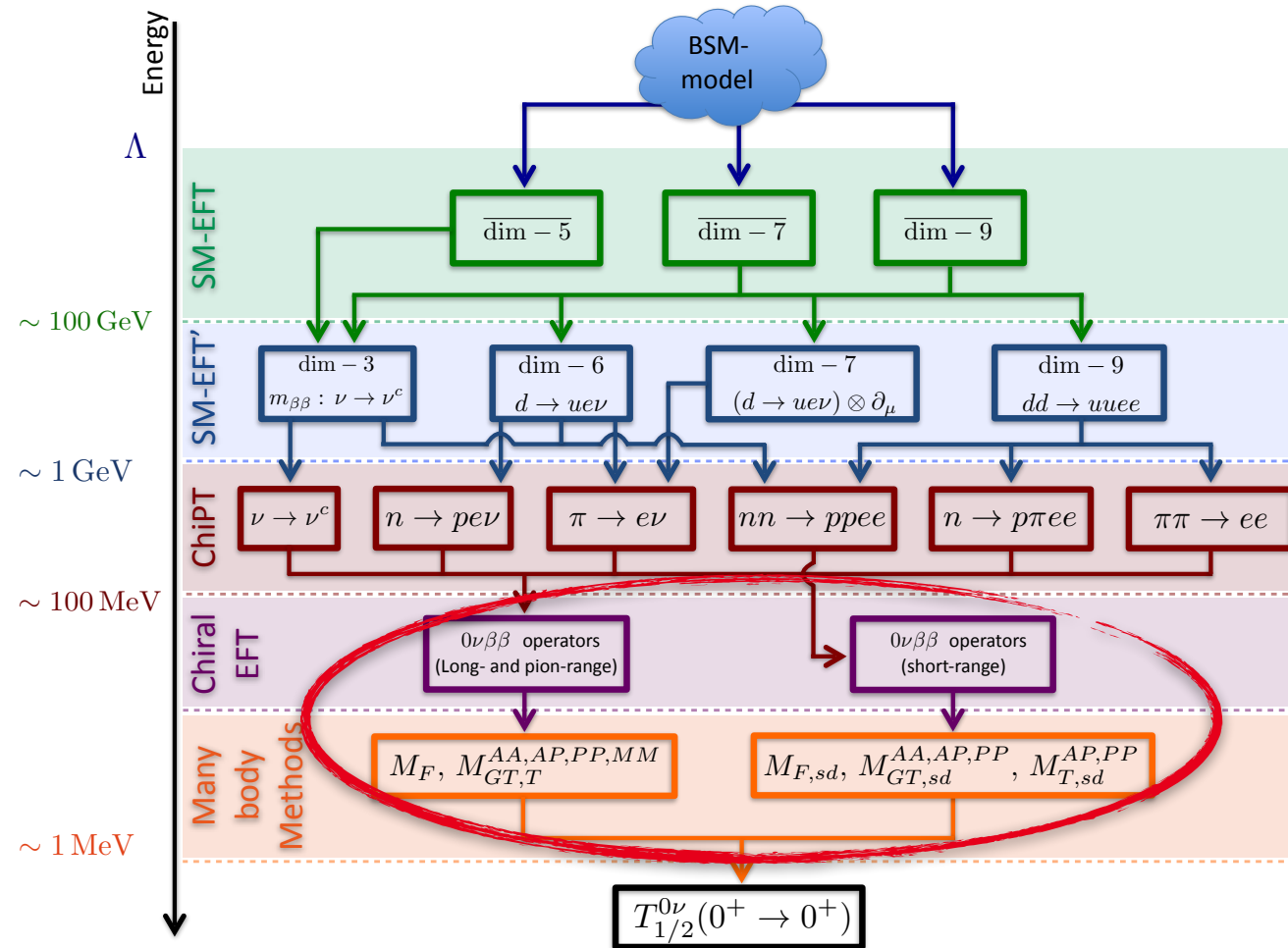
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■ **Need nuclear-theory input**



Gráf, Lindner, Scholer, *Phys. Rev. D* **106**, 035022 (2022)

CHIRAL EFFECTIVE FIELD THEORY FOR $0\nu\beta\beta$ DECAY



Cirigliano, Dekens, de Vries, Graesser, Mereghetti, JHEP 12, 097 (2018)

CONTRIBUTION FROM MASSIVE NEUTRINOS

$$A_\nu(m_i) = \begin{cases} A_\nu^{(\text{pot}, <)}(m_i) + A_\nu^{(\text{hard})}(m_i) + A_\nu^{(\text{usoft})}(m_i), & m_i < 100 \text{ MeV}, \\ A_\nu^{(\text{pot})}(m_i) + A_\nu^{(\text{hard})}(m_i), & 100 \text{ MeV} < m_i < 2 \text{ GeV}, \\ A_\nu^{(9)}(m_i), & 2 \text{ GeV} \leq m_i. \end{cases}$$

Dekens, de Vries, Castillo et al., JHEP 09, 201 (2024)

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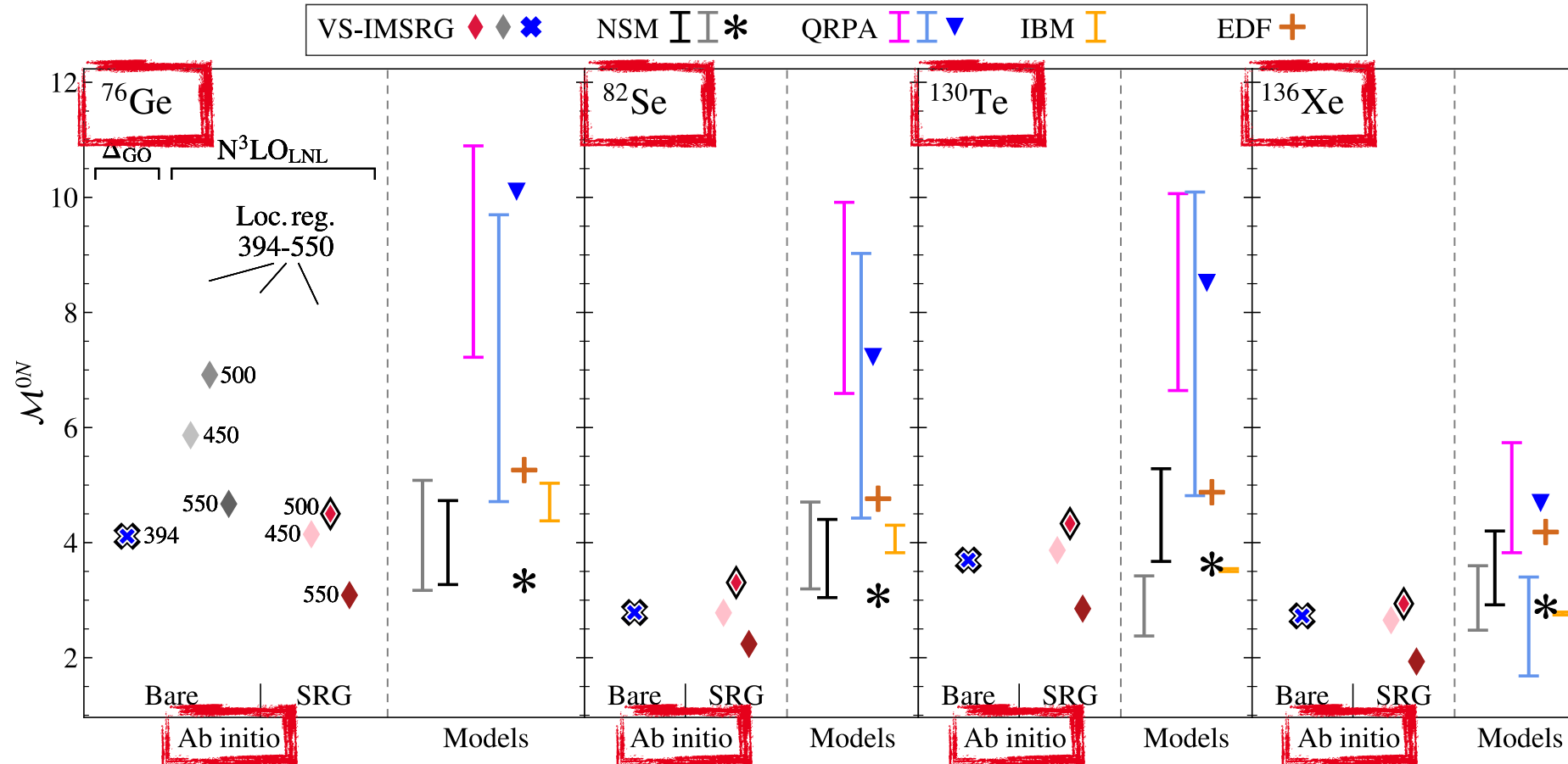
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Dekens, de Vries, Castillo et al., JHEP 09, 201 (2024)

- Hard neutrinos: $k_0 \sim |\mathbf{k}| \sim \Lambda_\chi \rightarrow M_{\text{sd}}^X$
- Soft neutrinos: $k_0 \sim |\mathbf{k}| \sim m_\pi \rightarrow \text{Loop diagrams}$
- Potential neutrinos: $k_0 \sim |\mathbf{k}|^2/m_N \sim k_F^2/m_N \rightarrow M_{\text{ld}}^X$
- Ultrasoft neutrinos: $k_0 \sim |\mathbf{k}| \sim k_F^2/m_N \rightarrow \text{Coherent contribution}$

SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR MATRIX ELEMENTS

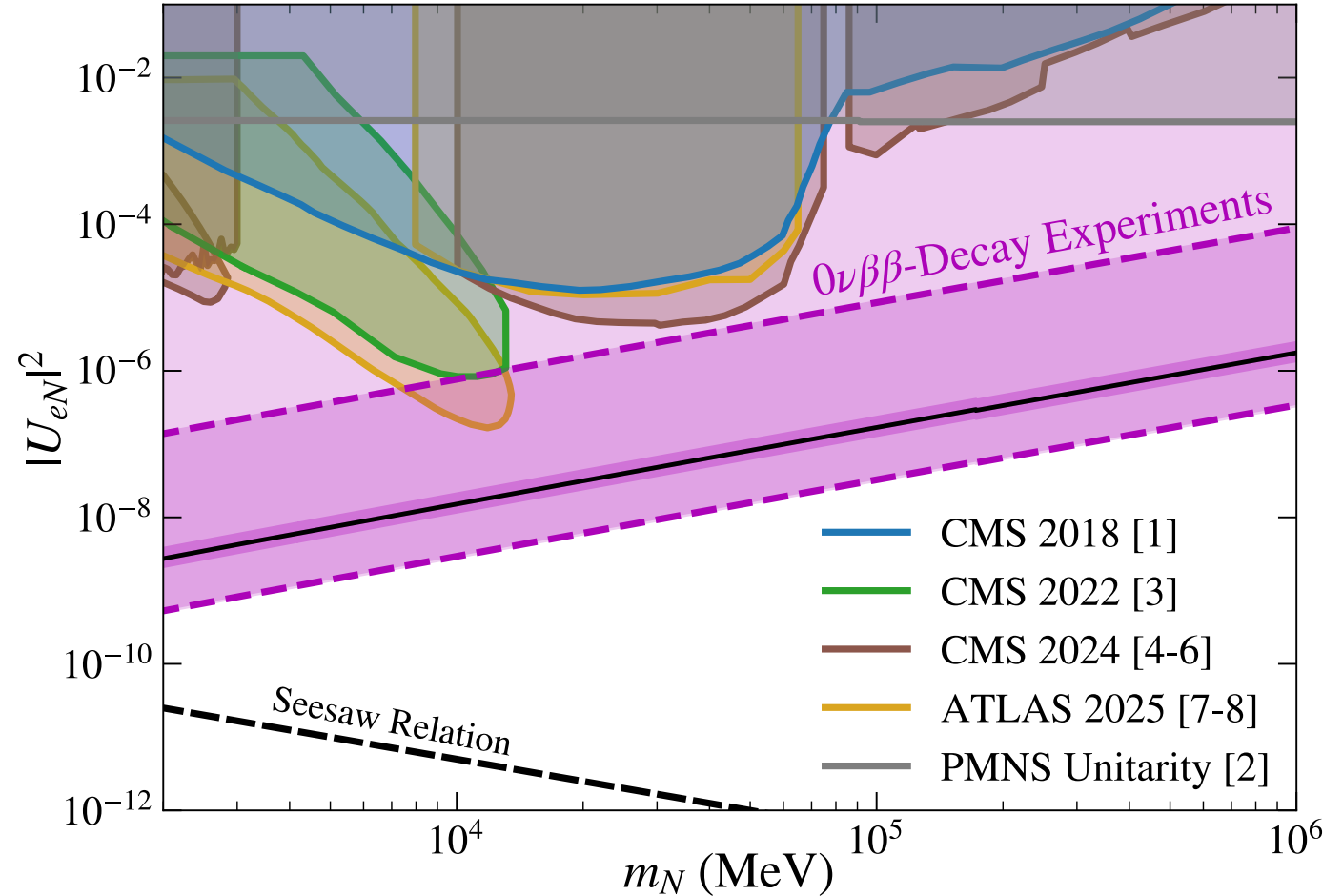
$$M^{0N} = M_{GT}^{0N} - \left(\frac{g_V}{g_A} \right)^2 M_F^{0N} + M_T^{0N}$$



Todd, Shickele, Belley, Jokiniemi, Holt, submitted to PRL

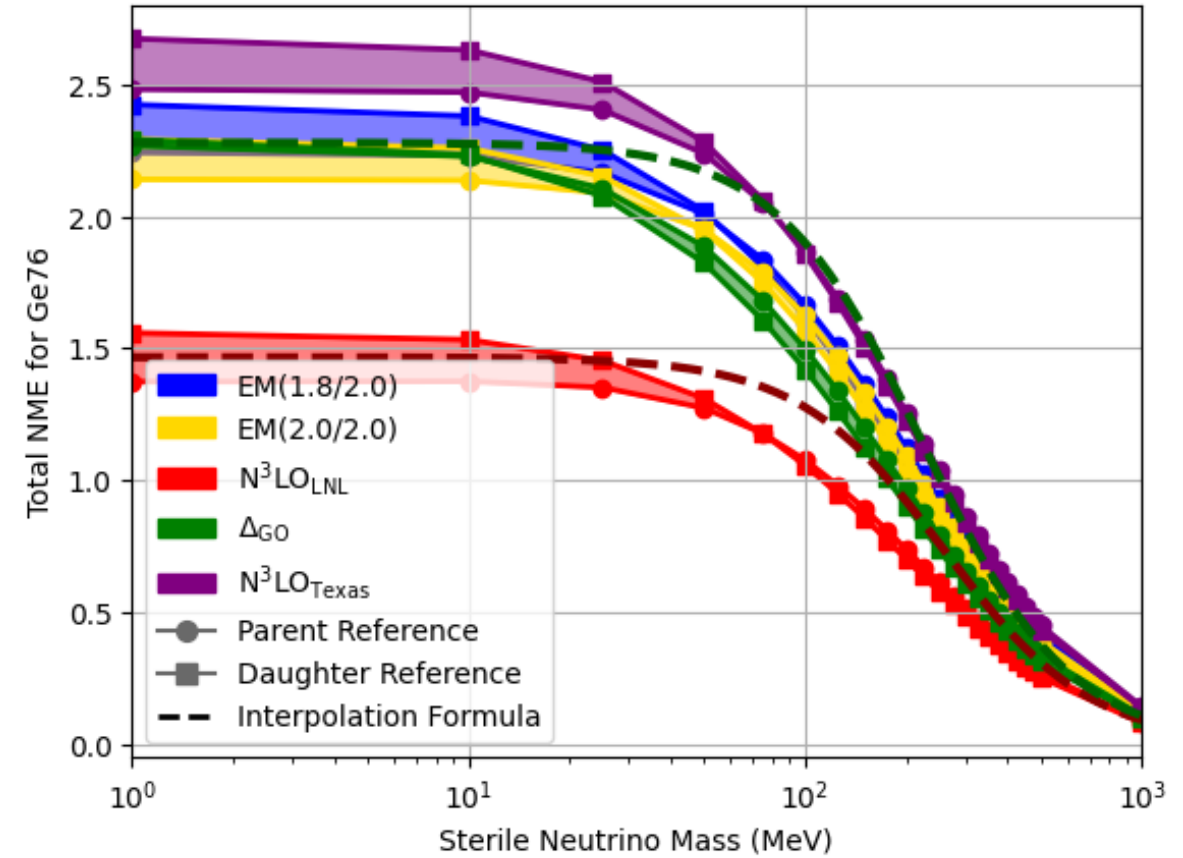
TOY MODEL: 3+1 SCENARIO

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \\ \nu_R \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} & U_{eN} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} & U_{\mu N} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} & U_{\tau N} \\ U_{R1} & U_{R2} & U_{R3} & U_{RN} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \\ \nu_N \end{pmatrix}$$



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LIGHT STERILE-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

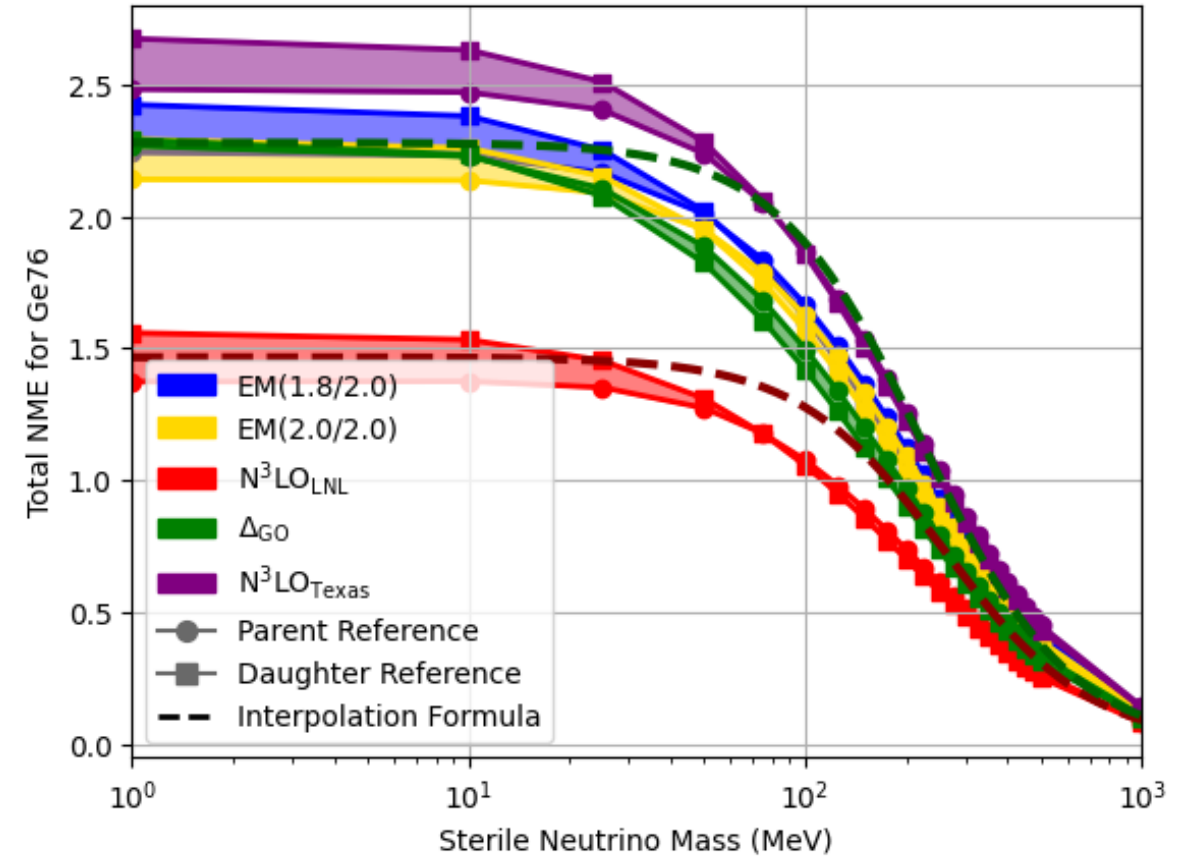


Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

LIGHT STERILE-NEUTRINO EXCHANGE

- When $m_N \sim 100 \text{ MeV} \sim q$, the nuclear matrix elements are sensitive to the neutrino mass

Dekens et al, JHEP 09 (2024) 201



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

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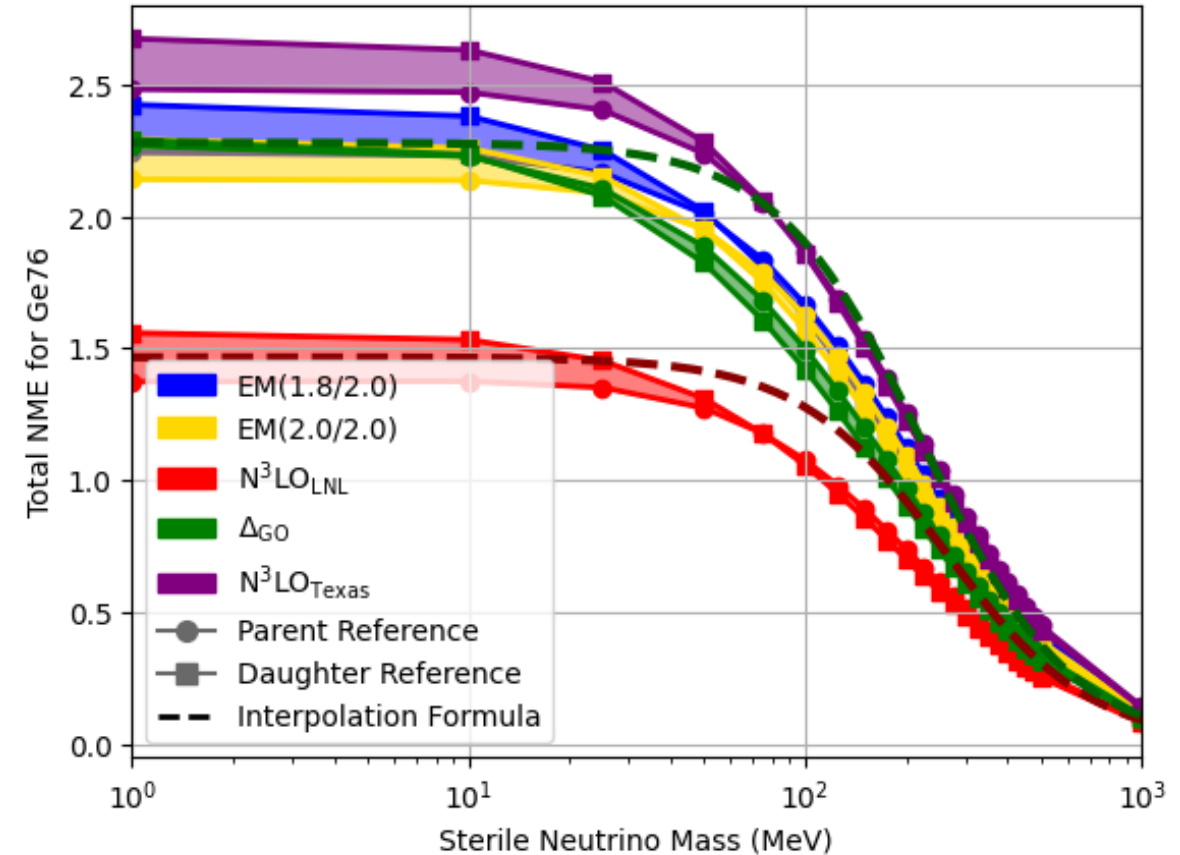
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Dekens et al, JHEP 09 (2024) 201

- In the literature, mostly an **interpolation formula**

$$M^{0\nu}(m_N) = M_L^{0\nu} \frac{\langle p^2 \rangle}{\langle p^2 \rangle + m_N^2}, \quad \langle p^2 \rangle = m_e m_p |M_S^{0\nu} / M_L^{0\nu}|$$

is used



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

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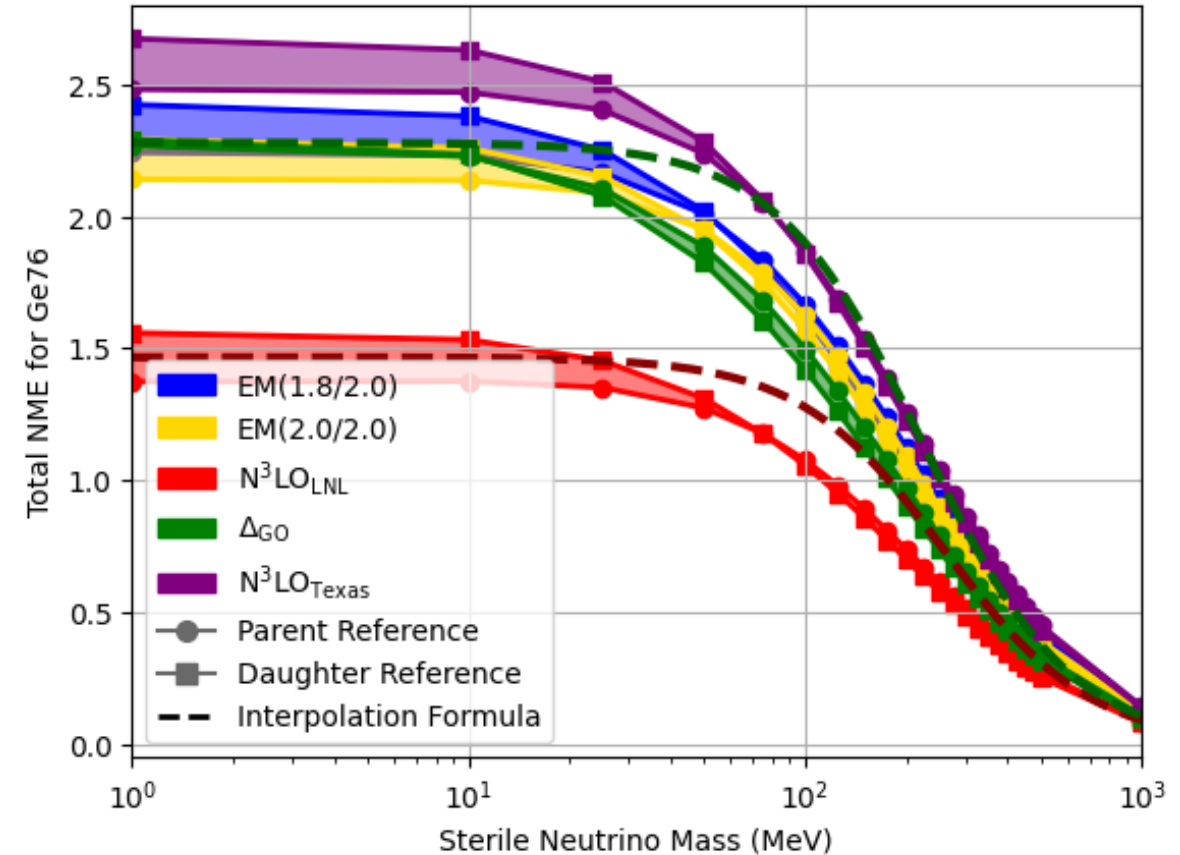
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- Including the mass-dependence explicitly we see deviations from interpolation formula**



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

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Dekens et al, JHEP 09 (2024) 201

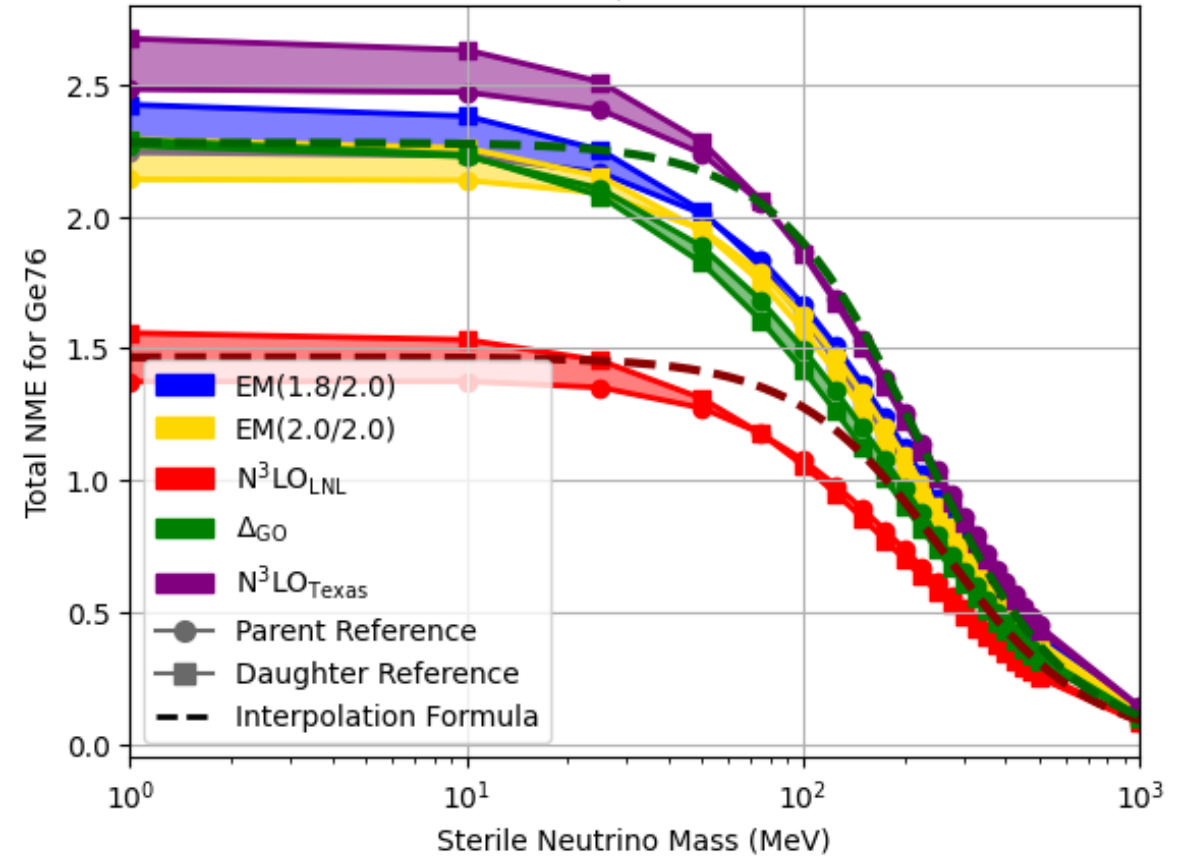
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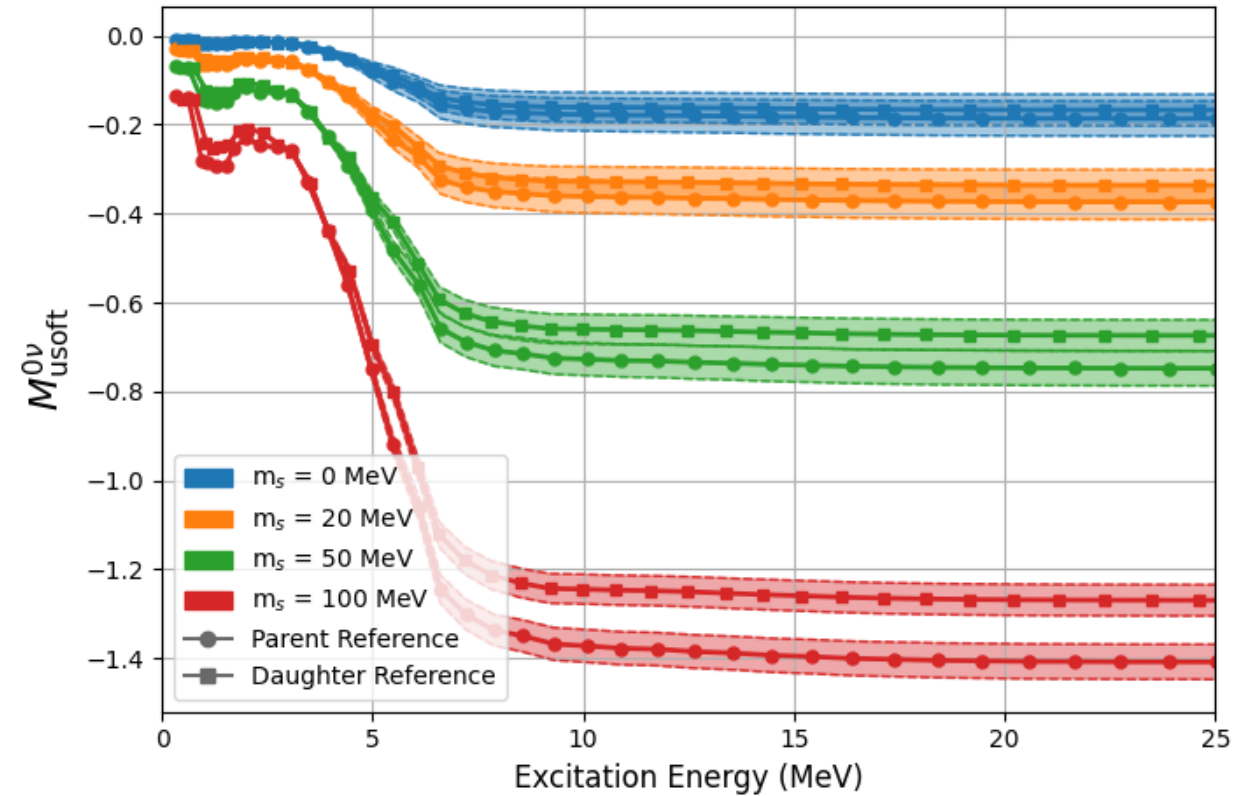
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See T. Shickele's poster for details



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

CONTRIBUTION FROM ULTRASOFT AND HARD NEUTRINOS

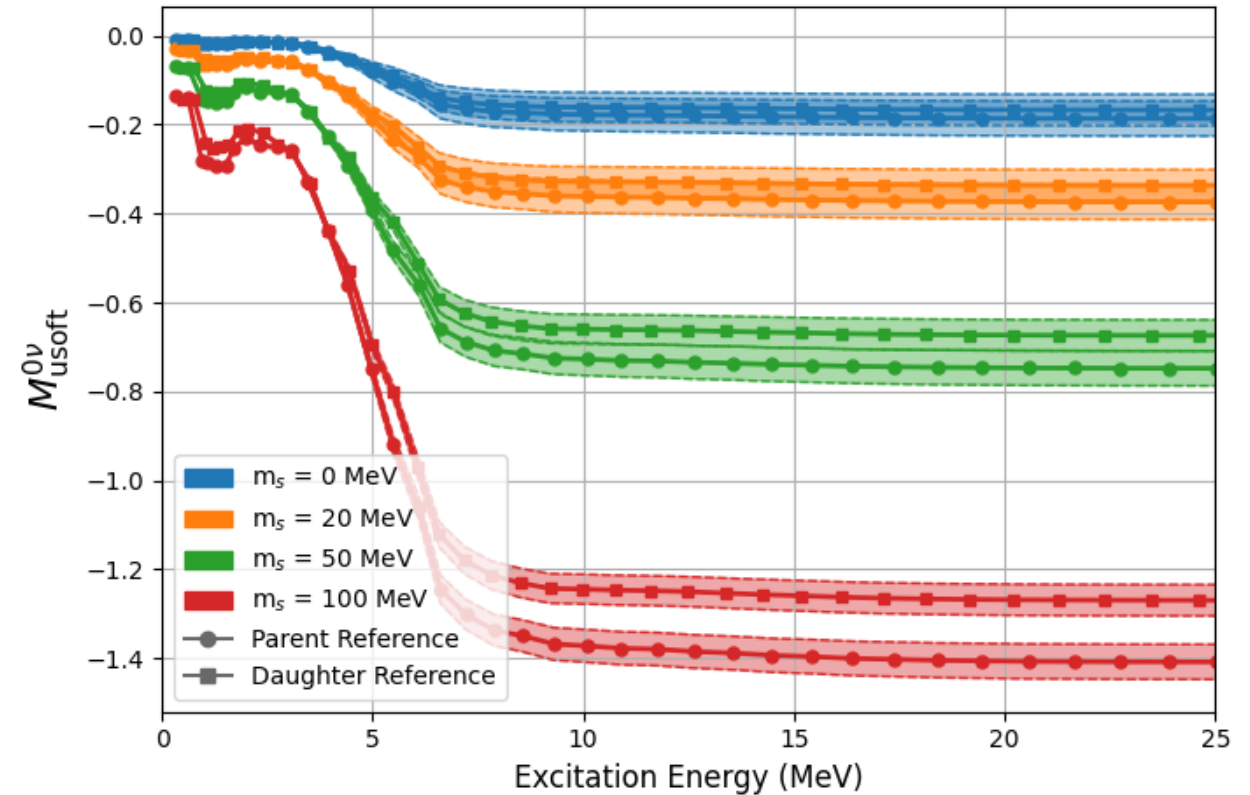


Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

CONTRIBUTION FROM ULTRASOFT AND HARD NEUTRINOS

- Coherent contribution from ultrasoft ($k_0 \sim |\mathbf{k}| \sim k_F^2/m_N$) neutrinos

$$A_\nu^{(\text{usoft})}(m_i) \propto \sum_n \langle 0_f^+ | \mathcal{J}^\pi | 1_n^+ \rangle \langle 1_n^+ | \mathcal{J}_\mu | 0_i^+ \rangle \times (f(m_i, \Delta E_1) + f(m_i, \Delta E_2))$$



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

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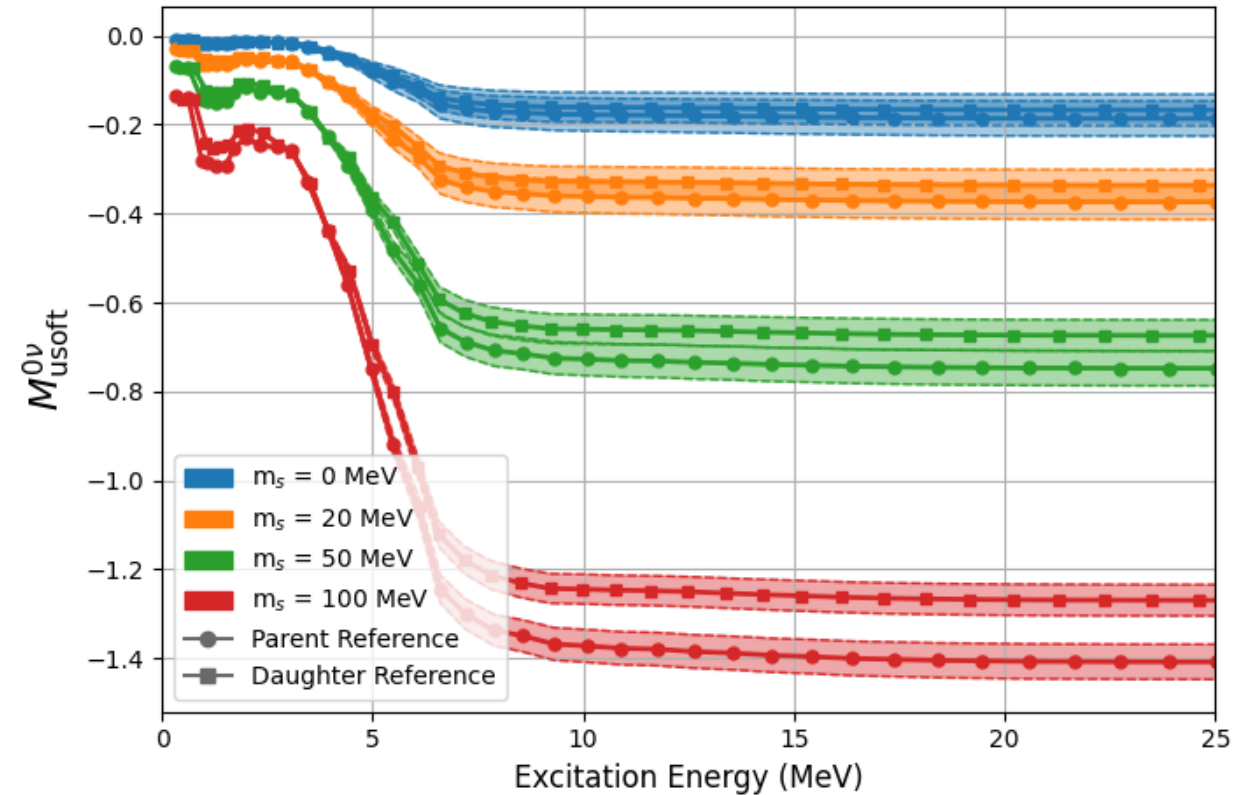
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$$A_\nu^{(\text{hard})}(m_i) \propto g_\nu^{NN}(m_i) M_{F,\text{sd}}$$

Cirigliano, Dekens, Urrutia Quiroga, JHEP04(2025)181



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

CONTRIBUTION FROM ULTRASOFT AND HARD NEUTRINOS

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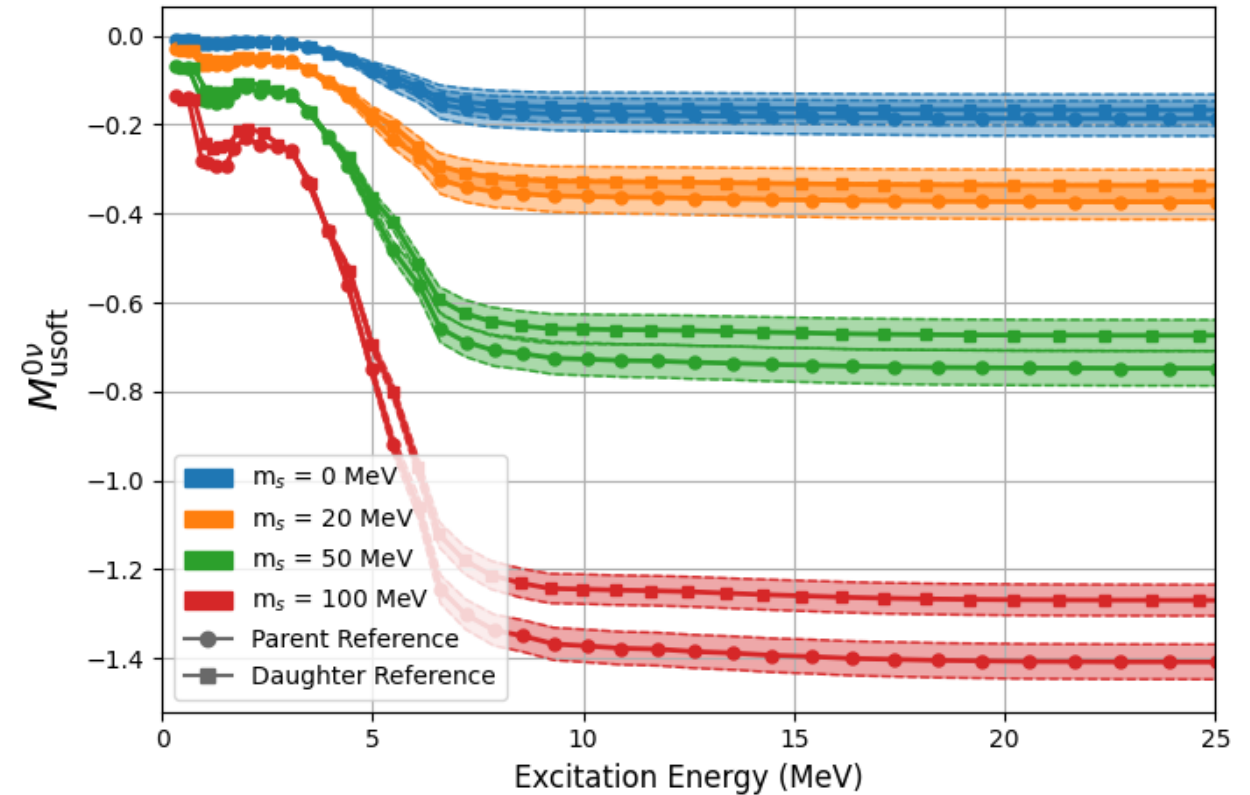
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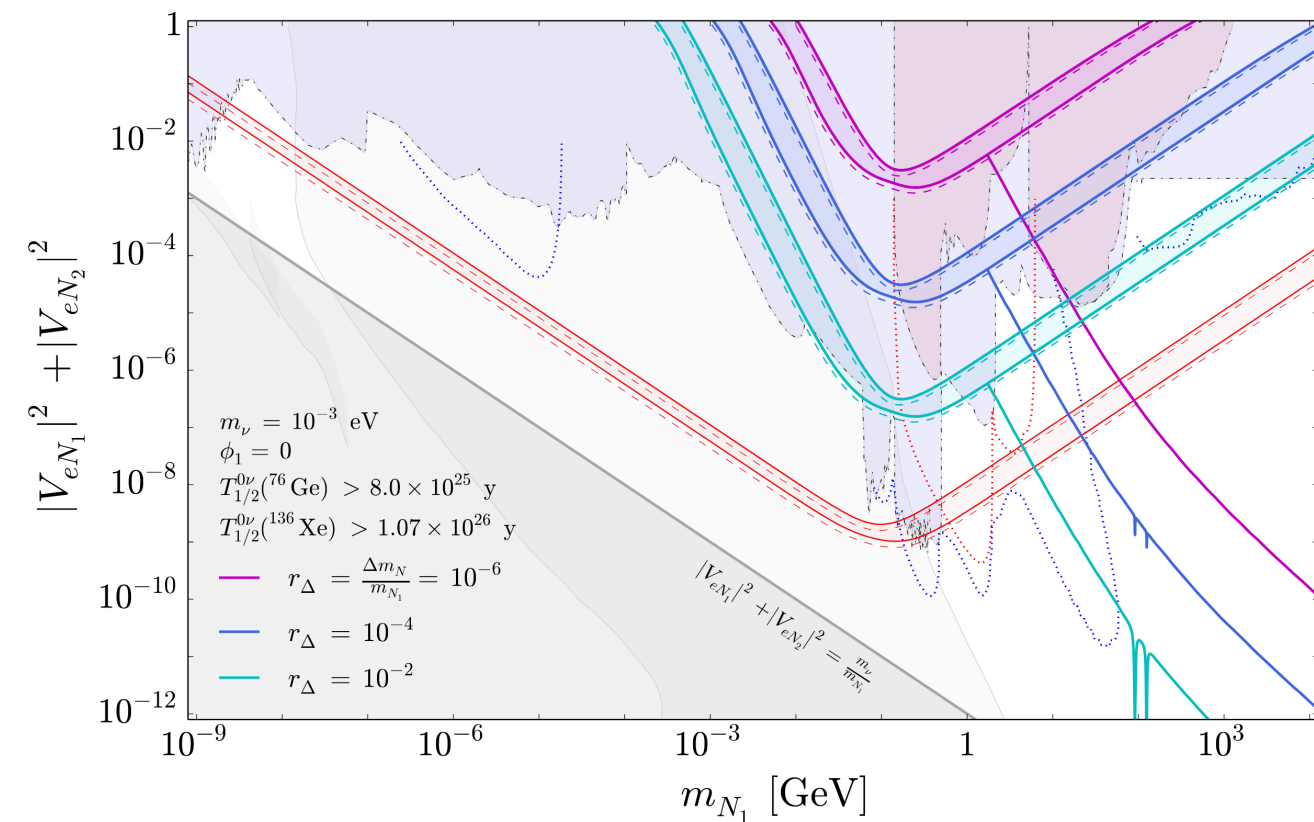
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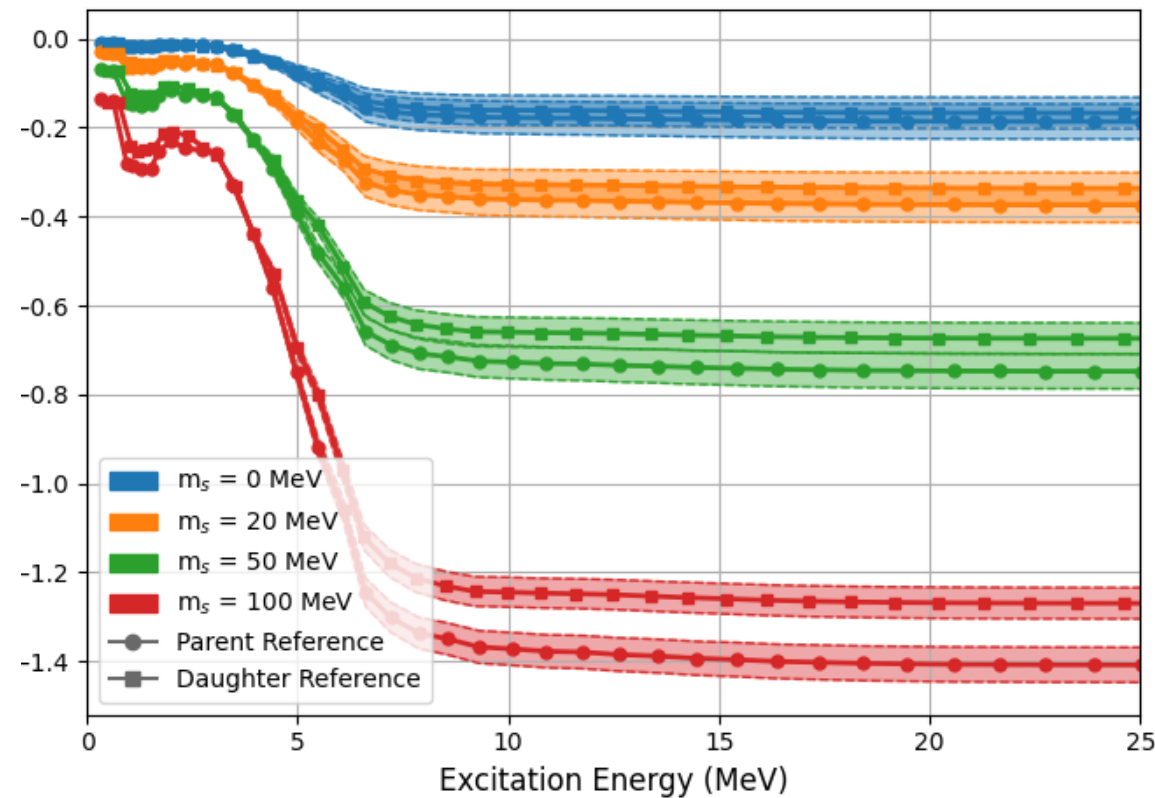
Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

CONTRIBUTION FROM ULTRASOFT AND HARD NEUTRINOS

See T. Shickele's poster for details



Bolton, Deppisch, Dev, JHEP 2020, 170 (2020)



Shickele, Jokiniemi, Deppisch, Belley, Holt, in preparation

SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

- $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay is a robust yet challenging probe for beyond-standard-model physics and neutrino properties
- χ EFT analysis of the operators allows for uncertainty quantification in *ab initio* framework
- Next-generation experiments likely to fully cover the inverted-hierarchy band of neutrino masses
- Reliable nuclear-theory predictions needed to distinguish $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay mechanism

TODO

- Correlated nuclear matrix elements
- Two-body currents
- Different mechanisms,...

