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Investigating fundamental symmetries at **ARIEL**

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TRIUMF ARIEL Science Workshop 2026, Vancouver

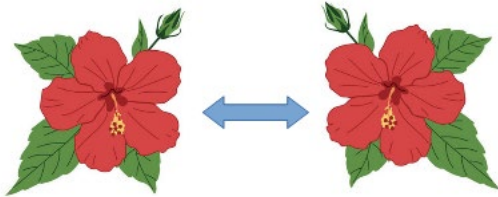
22 April, 2026

No rigorous definition of “**fundamental symmetries**”!

Obvious examples are **discrete symmetries**:



Charge conjugation (C)



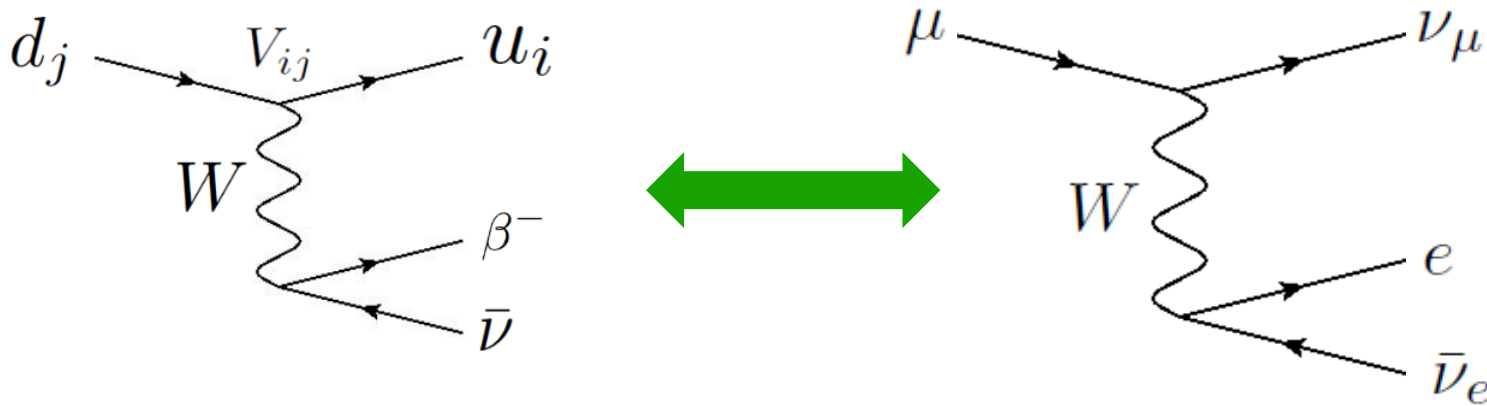
Parity (P)



Time reversal (T), etc

But there are also symmetries due to **SM gauge structures**

Example: **Universality** in charged weak interaction:

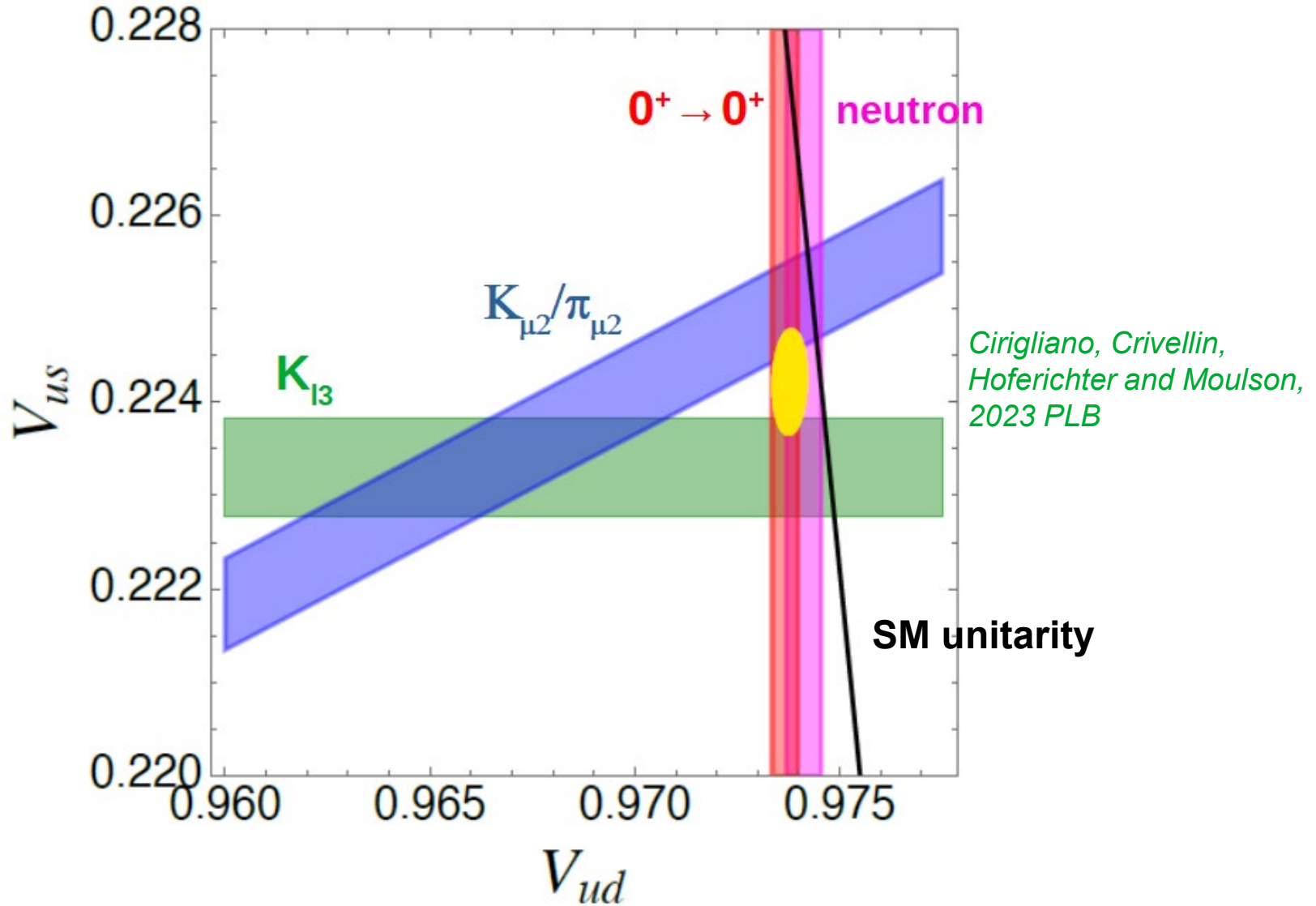


Universality \implies **Unitarity** of the **CKM matrix**

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

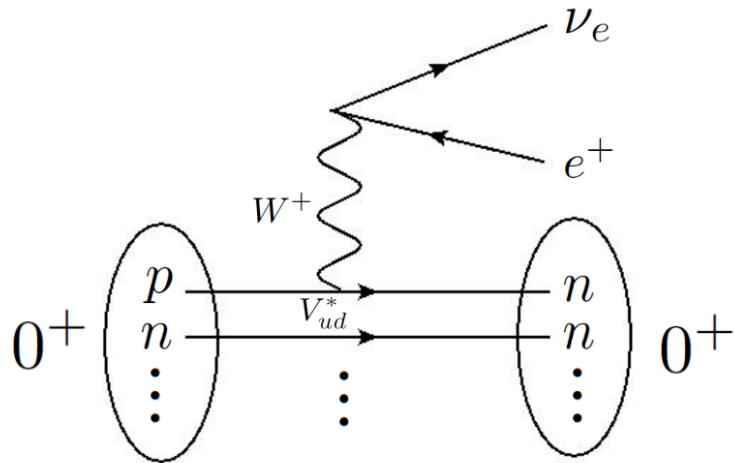
$$\left(\frac{v_H}{\Lambda_{\text{BSM}}} \right)^2 \sim 0.01\% \implies \Lambda_{\text{BSM}} \sim 20 \text{ TeV}$$

“Cabibbo angle anomaly”: Unitarity deficit $\sim 3\sigma$



New physics?

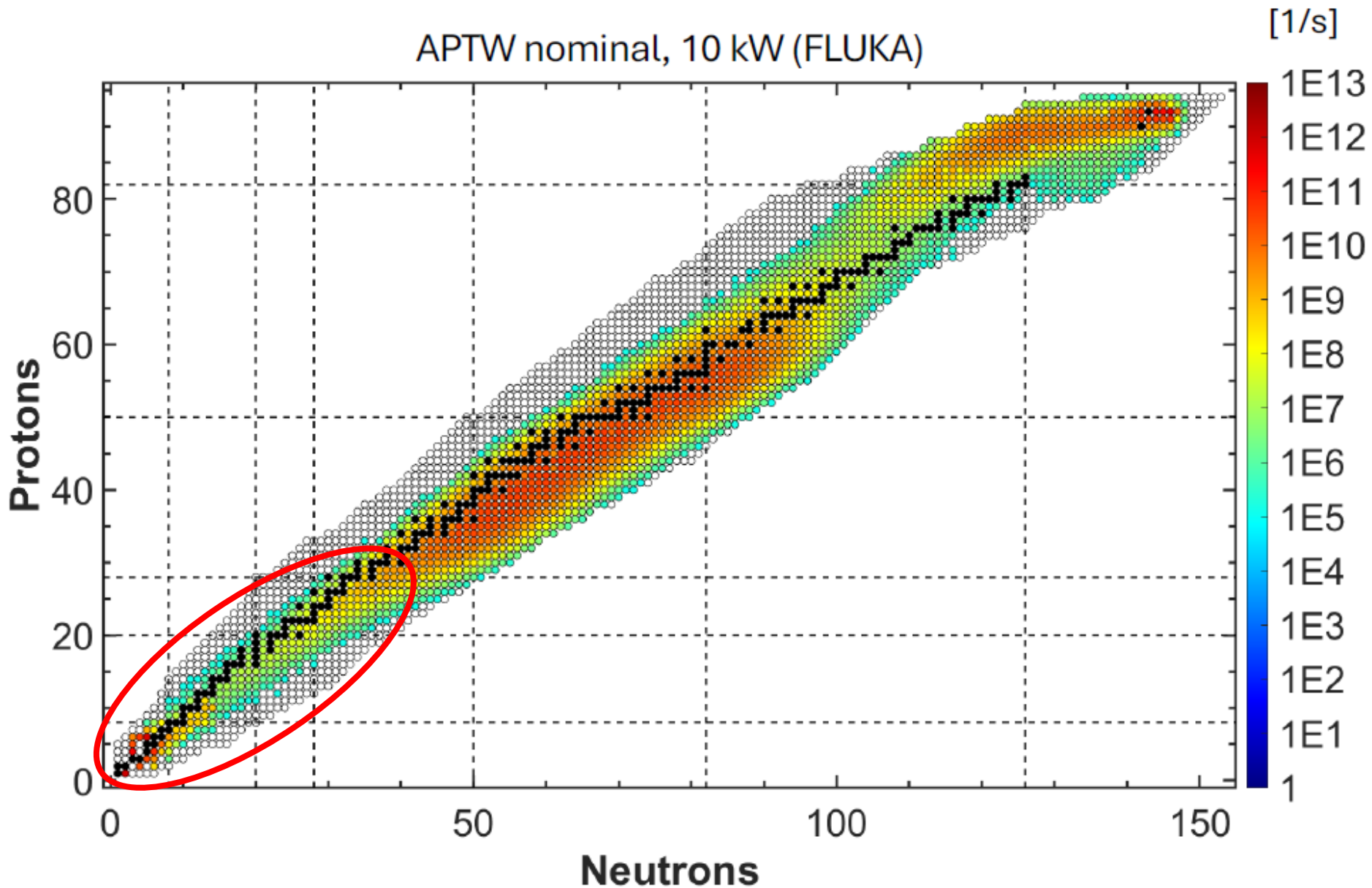
“Superallowed” beta decays of $T=1, J^P=0^+$ nuclei



Provide best determination
of V_{ud}


$T_z = -1$
${}^{10}_6\text{C} \rightarrow {}^{10}_5\text{B}$
${}^{14}_8\text{O} \rightarrow {}^{14}_7\text{N}$
${}^{18}_{10}\text{Ne} \rightarrow {}^{18}_9\text{F}$
${}^{22}_{12}\text{Mg} \rightarrow {}^{22}_{11}\text{Na}$
${}^{26}_{14}\text{Si} \rightarrow {}^{26}_{13}\text{Al}$
${}^{30}_{16}\text{S} \rightarrow {}^{30}_{15}\text{P}$
${}^{34}_{18}\text{Ar} \rightarrow {}^{34}_{17}\text{Cl}$
${}^{38}_{20}\text{Ca} \rightarrow {}^{38}_{19}\text{K}$
${}^{42}_{22}\text{Ti} \rightarrow {}^{42}_{21}\text{Sc}$
${}^{46}_{24}\text{Cr} \rightarrow {}^{46}_{23}\text{V}$
${}^{50}_{26}\text{Fe} \rightarrow {}^{50}_{25}\text{Mn}$
${}^{54}_{28}\text{Ni} \rightarrow {}^{54}_{27}\text{Co}$

$T_z = 0$
${}^{26m}_{13}\text{Al} \rightarrow {}^{26}_{12}\text{Mg}$
${}^{34}_{17}\text{Cl} \rightarrow {}^{34}_{16}\text{S}$
${}^{38m}_{19}\text{K} \rightarrow {}^{38}_{18}\text{Ar}$
${}^{42}_{21}\text{Sc} \rightarrow {}^{42}_{20}\text{Ca}$
${}^{46}_{23}\text{V} \rightarrow {}^{46}_{22}\text{Ti}$
${}^{50}_{25}\text{Mn} \rightarrow {}^{50}_{24}\text{Cr}$
${}^{54}_{27}\text{Co} \rightarrow {}^{54}_{26}\text{Fe}$
${}^{62}_{31}\text{Ga} \rightarrow {}^{62}_{30}\text{Zn}$
${}^{66}_{33}\text{As} \rightarrow {}^{66}_{32}\text{Ge}$
${}^{70}_{35}\text{Br} \rightarrow {}^{70}_{34}\text{Se}$
${}^{74}_{37}\text{Rb} \rightarrow {}^{74}_{36}\text{Kr}$



Superallowed decay candidates accessible at
Ariel Proton Target West (APTW)

Extraction of V_{ud} from superallowed beta decays

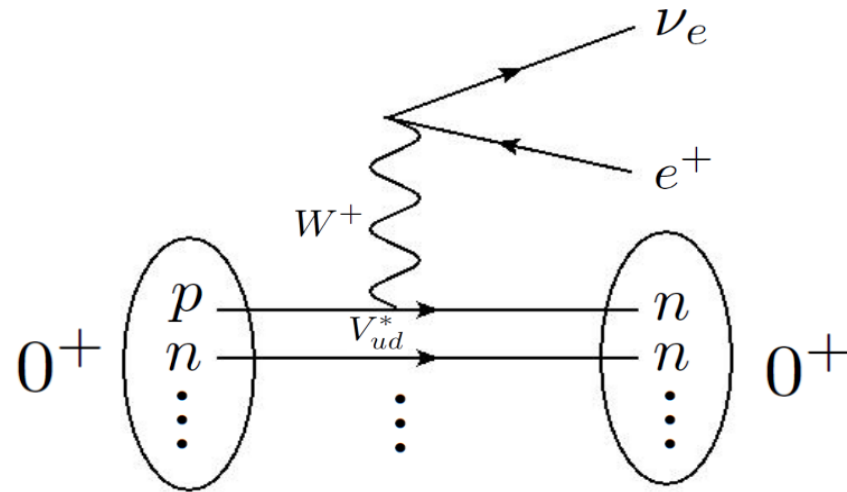
$$|V_{ud}|^2 = \frac{2984.431(3) \text{ s}}{\mathcal{F}t(1 + \Delta_R^V)}$$


Direct **experimental inputs**:

1. Total lifetime
2. Branching ratio
3. Q_{EC} value

But there are also **THEORY INPUTS** that would **benefit from experiments!**

Fermi decay matrix element



$$|M_F|^2 = |\langle f | \hat{\tau}_+ | i \rangle|^2 \approx 2$$

Thanks to another approximate symmetry: **Isospin**

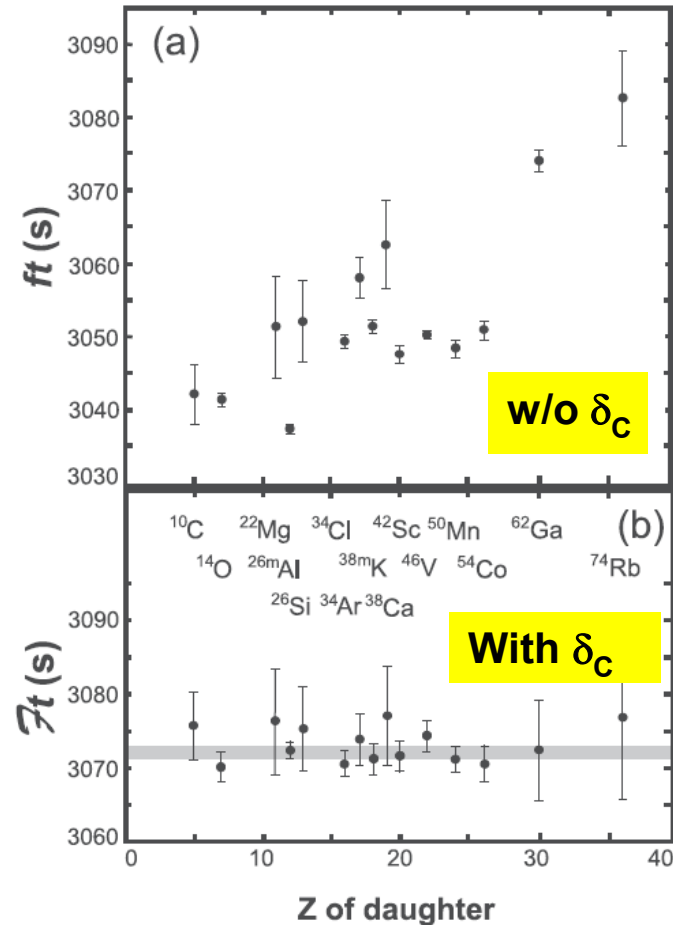
At 0.01% precision, **isospin symmetry breaking (ISB)** corrections must be included!

$$|M_F|^2 = |\langle f | \hat{\tau}_+ | i \rangle|^2 = |M_F^0|^2 (1 - \delta_C)$$

$$H = H_0 + \textcircled{V} \text{ ISB potential due to EM effects}$$

$$\delta_C = \mathcal{O}(V^2) \quad 0.1\% \sim 1\%$$

Crucial to test **conserved vector current (CVC)** assumption

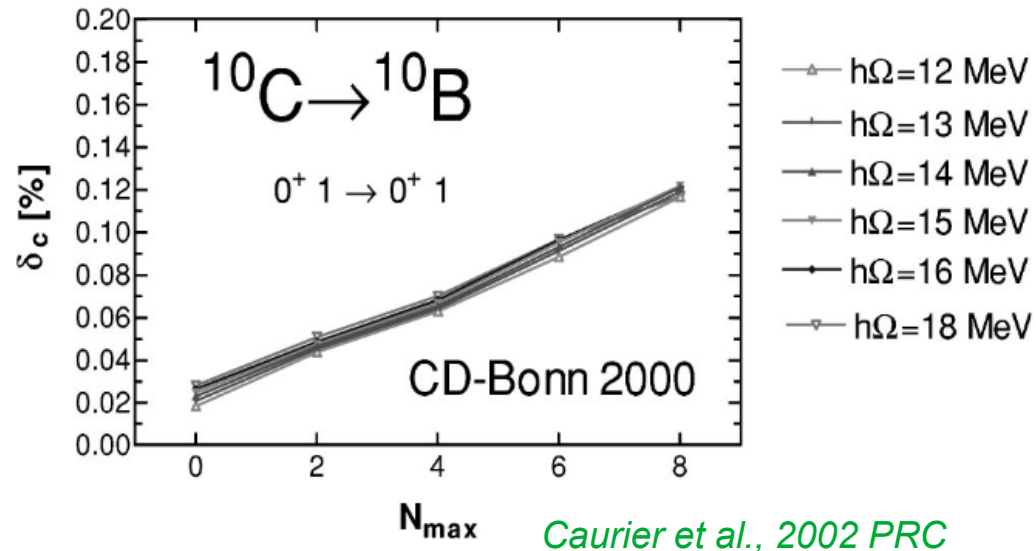


- **Computing δ_c** : Classic problem over **6 decades!**

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

(Selected results)

Model calculations showed large variations



Ab initio calculations suffer from non-convergence

...and spurious ISB effect

Farren and Stroberg, 2412.10693

Inferring δ_c from experiment?

Nuclear mass splitting: $\delta E_n = {}_0\langle n|V|n\rangle_0$ **X**

$$|n\rangle = |n\rangle_0 + \underbrace{\sum_{k \neq n} |k\rangle_0 \frac{{}_0\langle k|V|n\rangle_0}{E_n^{(0)} - E_k^{(0)}}}_{\text{We need this}} + \dots$$

We need this

ISB can be probed through the **variation of charge radii within the same nuclear isomultiplet**

Consider T=1 system. The non-zeroness of

$$\Delta M_B^{(1)} \equiv \frac{1}{2} (Z_{+1} r_{\text{ch},+1}^2 + Z_{-1} r_{\text{ch},-1}^2) - Z_0 r_{\text{ch},0}^2$$

signifies ISB.

Seng and Gorchtein, 2023 PLB; 2024 PRC

Could serve as **important benchmark for δ_C calculation**

List of T=1 nuclei and charge radii data

A	$\langle r_{\text{ch},-1}^2 \rangle^{1/2}$ (fm)	$\langle r_{\text{ch},0}^2 \rangle^{1/2}$ (fm)	$\langle r_{\text{ch},1}^2 \rangle^{1/2}$ (fm)
10	$^{10}_6\text{C}$	$^{10}_5\text{B}(\text{ex})$	$^{10}_4\text{Be}$: 2.361(36)
14	$^{14}_8\text{O}$	$^{14}_7\text{N}(\text{ex})$	$^{14}_6\text{C}$: 2.508(09)
18	$^{18}_{10}\text{Ne}$: 2.934(10)	$^{18}_9\text{F}(\text{ex})$	$^{18}_8\text{O}$: 2.777(07)
22	$^{22}_{12}\text{Mg}$: 3.071(05)	$^{22}_{11}\text{Na}(\text{ex})$	$^{22}_{10}\text{Ne}$: 2.948(04)
26	$^{26}_{14}\text{Si}$	$^{26m}_{13}\text{Al}$: 3.132(08)	$^{26}_{12}\text{Mg}$: 3.030(03)
30	$^{30}_{16}\text{S}$	$^{30}_{15}\text{P}(\text{ex})$	$^{30}_{14}\text{Si}$: 3.132(06)
34	$^{34}_{18}\text{Ar}$: 3.365(11)	$^{34}_{17}\text{Cl}$	$^{34}_{16}\text{S}$: 3.284(04)
38	$^{38}_{20}\text{Ca}$: 3.469(03)	$^{38m}_{19}\text{K}$: 3.437(05)	$^{38}_{18}\text{Ar}$: 3.402(06)
42	$^{42}_{22}\text{Ti}$	$^{42}_{21}\text{Sc}$: 3.558(16)	$^{42}_{20}\text{Ca}$: 3.510(03)
46	$^{46}_{24}\text{Cr}$	$^{46}_{23}\text{V}$	$^{46}_{22}\text{Ti}$: 3.610(03)
50	$^{50}_{26}\text{Fe}$	$^{50}_{25}\text{Mn}$: 3.728(41)	$^{50}_{24}\text{Cr}$: 3.664(05)
54	$^{54}_{28}\text{Ni}$: 3.741(05)	$^{54}_{27}\text{Co}$	$^{54}_{26}\text{Fe}$: 3.688(04)
62	$^{62}_{32}\text{Ge}$	$^{62}_{31}\text{Ga}$	$^{62}_{30}\text{Zn}$: 3.883(06)
66	$^{66}_{34}\text{Se}$	$^{66}_{33}\text{As}$	$^{66}_{32}\text{Ge}$
70	$^{70}_{36}\text{Kr}$	$^{70}_{35}\text{Br}$	$^{70}_{34}\text{Se}$
74	$^{74}_{38}\text{Sr}$	$^{74}_{37}\text{Rb}$: 4.194(17)	$^{74}_{36}\text{Kr}$: 4.168(12)

B. Ohayon, 2025 Atom. Data Nucl. Data Tabl.

Only A=38 has 3 measured radii; $\Delta M_B^{(1)}$ consistent with zero.

Semi-empirical test of isospin symmetry with charge radii

B. Ohayon, 2025 Atom.Data Nucl.Data Tabl.

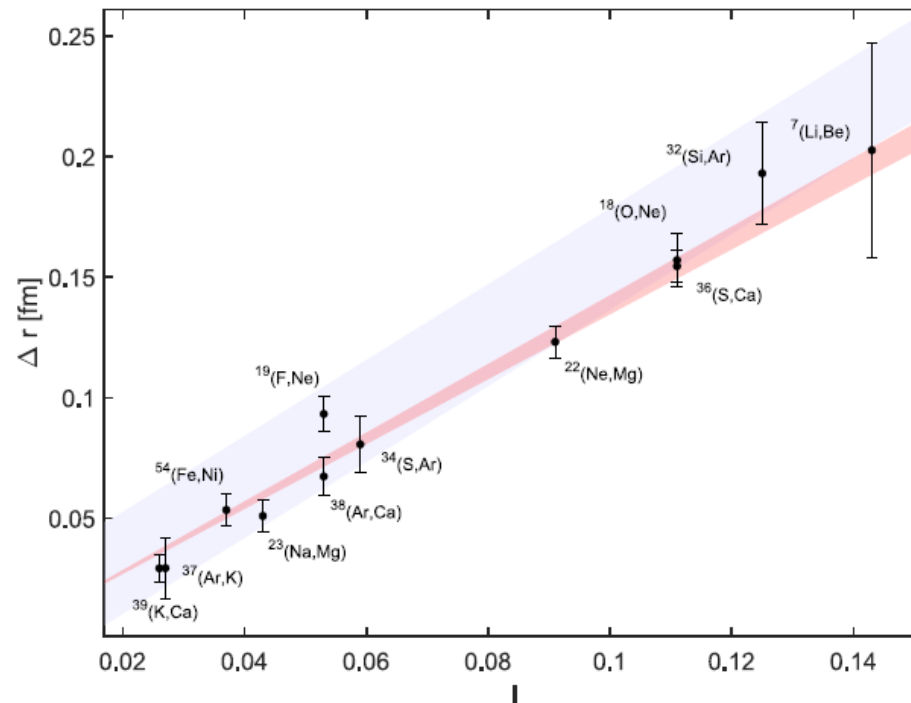
Starting from the known $T_z=+1$ radius:

Step 1: Mirror shift parameterization

$$r_{+1} \longrightarrow r_{-1}$$

$$\Delta r \equiv r_{N,Z}(I) - r_{Z,N}(I) = 1.381(34) \times I \text{ fm}$$

$$I \equiv \frac{N - Z}{A}$$

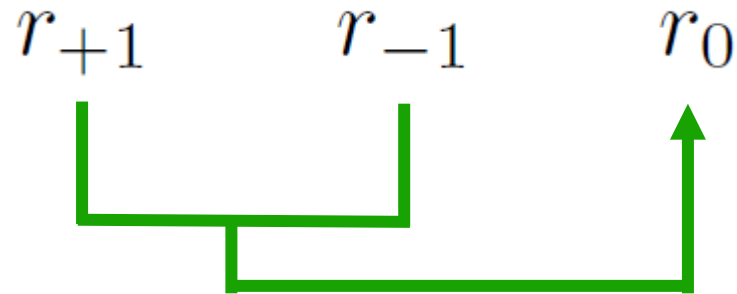


Semi-empirical test of isospin symmetry with charge radii

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Starting from the known $T_z=+1$ radius:

Step 2: Assuming isospin symmetry



Then, compare the deduced r_0 with the measured ones (if available)

Some obtained from Step 1

Obtained from Step 2

Experiment

	r_{-1} (fm)	$r_{0,SE}$ (fm)	$r_{0,exp}$ (fm)	r_{+1} (fm)		
¹⁰ C	2.638(36)	¹⁰ B*	2.531(38)		¹⁰ Be	2.361(36)
¹⁴ O	2.705(10)	⁵ N*	2.623(09)		⁴ C	2.508(09)
¹⁸ Ne	2.934(10)	¹⁴ F*	2.861(07)		¹⁴ O	2.777(07)
²² Mg	3.071(05)	⁷ Na*	3.017(05)		¹⁸ Ne	2.948(04)
²⁶ Si	3.136(04)	¹¹ ^{26m} Al	3.088(03)	3.132(08)	²² Mg	3.030(03)
³⁰ S	3.226(06)	¹³ P*	3.181(06)		¹⁰ Si	3.132(06)
³⁴ Ar	3.365(11)	¹⁵ Cl	3.327(04)		¹⁴ S	3.284(04)
³⁸ Ca	3.469(03)	¹⁷ ^{38m} K	3.440(06)	3.437(05)	¹⁶ Ar	3.402(06)
⁴² Ti	3.576(03)	¹⁹ Sc	3.545(03)	3.558(16)	¹⁸ Ca	3.510(03)
⁴⁶ Cr	3.670(05)	²¹ V	3.642(05)		²⁰ Ti	3.610(03)
⁵⁰ Fe	3.709(04)	²³ Mn	3.692(04)	3.728(41)	²² Cr	3.664(05)
⁵⁴ Ni	3.741(05)	²⁵ Co	3.714(04)		²⁴ Fe	3.688(04)
⁵⁸ Zn	3.820(03)	²⁷ Cu*	3.797(03)		²⁶ Ni	3.773(03)
⁶² Ge	3.927(06)	²⁹ Ga	3.906(06)		²⁸ Zn	3.883(06)
⁷⁴ Sr	4.205(12)	³¹ Rb	4.187(12)	4.194(17)	³⁰ Kr	4.168(12)
³⁸		³⁷			³⁶	

B. Ohayon, 2025 Atom. Data Nucl. Data Tabl.

Large ISB signal in the **A=26** isotriplet?


Similar observation from IMSRG calculation

Bingcheng He et al., in preparation

^{26m}Al radius only measured recently (ISOLDE+IGISOL):

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Nuclear Charge Radius of ^{26m}Al and Its Implication for V_{ud} in the Quark Mixing Matrix

[P. Plattner](#) ^{1,2,3,*}, [E. Wood](#)⁴, [L. Al Ayoubi](#)⁵, [O. Beliuskina](#)⁵, [M. L. Bissell](#)^{6,1}, [K. Blaum](#) ³, [P. Campbell](#)⁶, [B. Cheal](#) ⁴, [R. P. de Groote](#)^{5,†} *et al.*

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Phys. Rev. Lett. **131**, 222502 – Published 27 November, 2023

Experimental issue? Or Large ISB signal?

ISB effect can be directly probed by measuring ^{26}Si radius

Required measurement: **Isotope shift**, e.g. $^{28}\text{Si} \rightarrow ^{26}\text{Si}$

Extracting radii from unstable nuclei

Isotope shift: Measured experimentally from laser spectroscopy



$$\delta\nu^{A,A'} \approx K \cdot \frac{M_A - M_{A'}}{M_A M_{A'}} + F \cdot \delta\langle r^2 \rangle^{A,A'}$$



Mass-shift factor



Field-shift factor

Si possesses 3 stable isotopes: ^{28}Si , ^{29}Si , ^{30}Si , so K and F can be deduced from **King-plot analysis!**

Measurement of $\delta\nu^{A,A'}$ will unambiguously determine the **^{26}Si charge radius.**

Summary

- I discussed two “fundamental symmetries”: **weak interaction universality** and **isospin symmetry**, in the context of superallowed nuclear beta decays
- Relevant nuclei accessible at APTW
- Theoretical calculations of ISB effect contain large uncertainty, and can benefit from charge radii measurements
- A=26 isotriplet has potential to probe large ISB effect. Measurement of ^{26}Si charge radius is desired.

Thanks for your attention!