Double Beta Decay and the Challenges it Poses for Nuclear Physics

neutrino masses, lepton number, and double beta decay

 our workshop: can we find a way to do controlled nuclear physics (including for double beta decay)?

Wick Haxton, UC Berkeley and LBL







2016 TRIUMF Double Beta Decay Workshop

 1934: Fermi's incorporation of both in his "effective theory" of β decay

 $n_{\rm bound} \to p_{\rm bound} + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$

1935: M. Goppert-Mayer describes
 "double β disintegration"

 $2n_{\text{bound}} \rightarrow 2p_{\text{bound}} + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$



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 $2n_{\text{bound}} \rightarrow 2p_{\text{bound}} + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$

• 1937: Majorana suggests that

 $\nu_e \equiv \bar{\nu}_e$





In the same year Giulio Racah pointed out that Majorana's new theory would lead to a second form of $\beta\beta$ decay -- a neutrinoless type

 $2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^{-}$

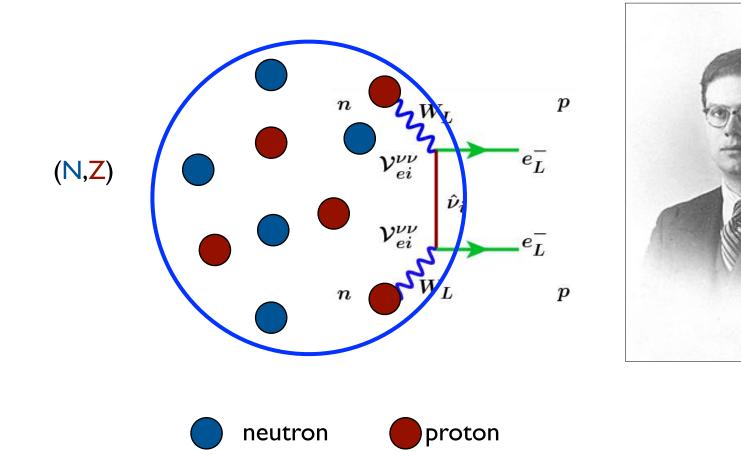






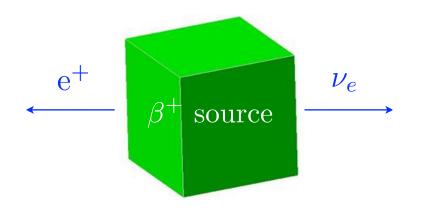
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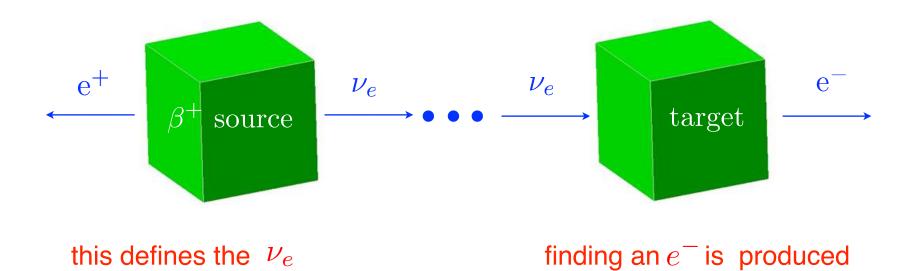
Can we do experiments to distinguish between the two kinds of neutrinos?

a "thought" experiment:

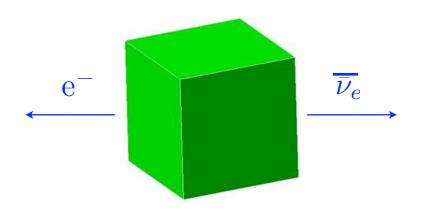


this defines the ν_e

then allow it to interact in a target

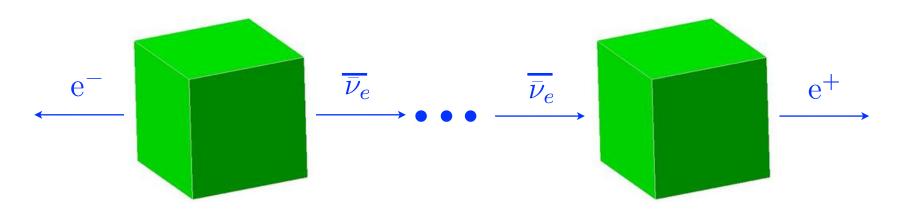


and then a second experiment



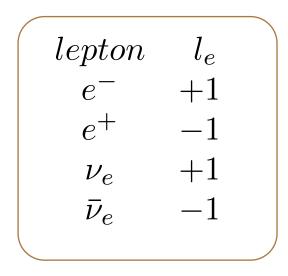
this defines the $\,\overline{
u}_e\,$

allow it to interact in a target



this defines the $\bar{\nu}_e$ finding an e^+ is produced

So clearly (??) $|\nu_e\rangle \perp |\bar{\nu}_e\rangle$ not $|\nu_e\rangle \equiv |\bar{\nu}_e\rangle$

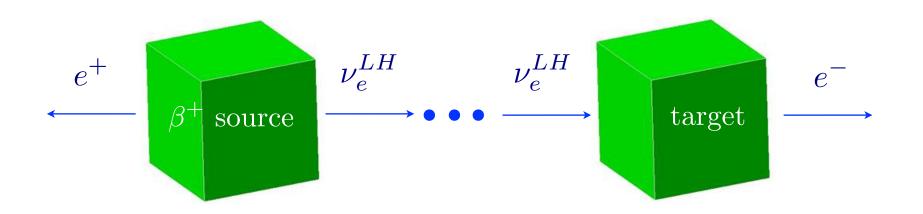


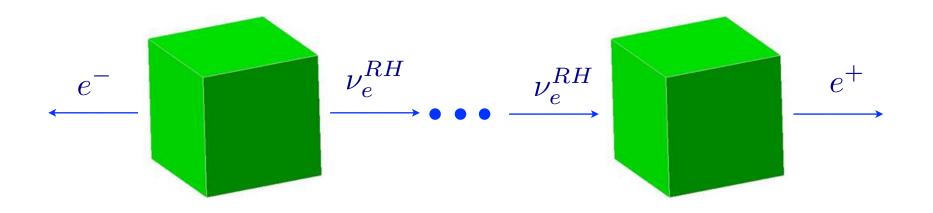
$$\sum_{\rm in} {\bf l_e} = \sum_{\rm out} {\bf l_e}$$

$$|\nu_e(l_e=1)\rangle \neq |\bar{\nu}_e(l_e=-1)\rangle$$

The problem with this argument is PNC: the neutrino helicity

adding helicity labels

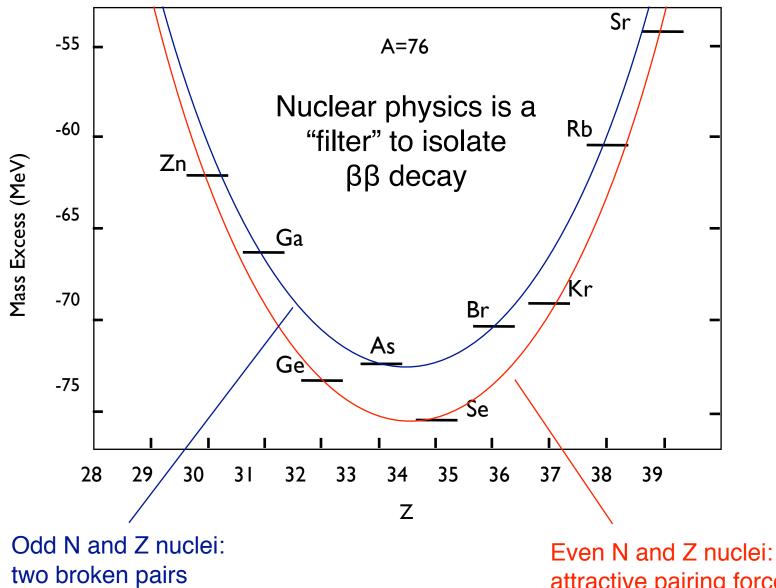




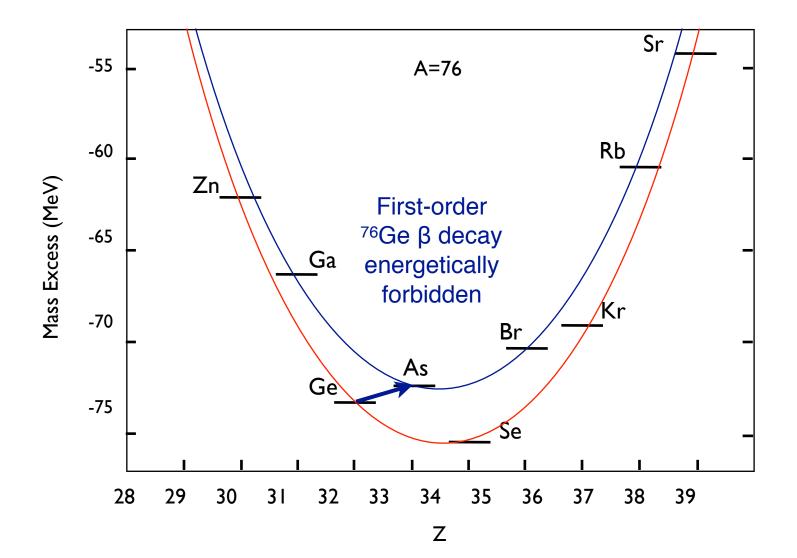
so no need to add any addition quantum number to account for observations

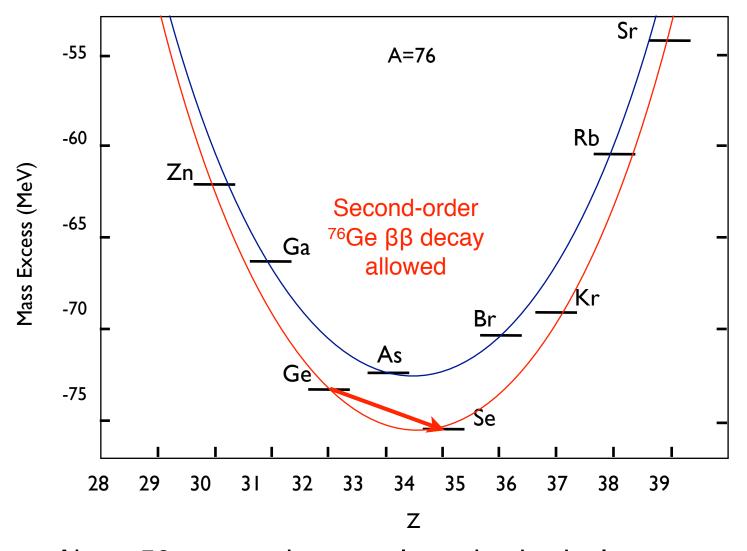
massless Dirac or Majorana neutrinos perform exactly as required

nuclear physics allows us to study these rare, 2nd order weak processes

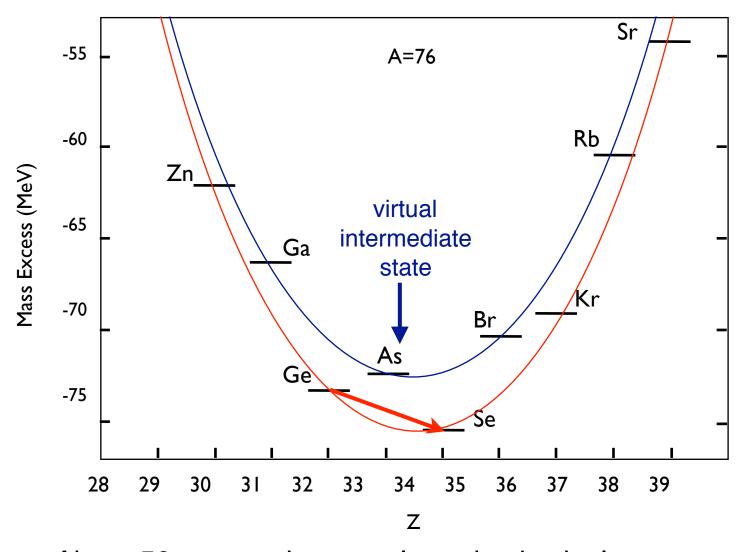


attractive pairing force

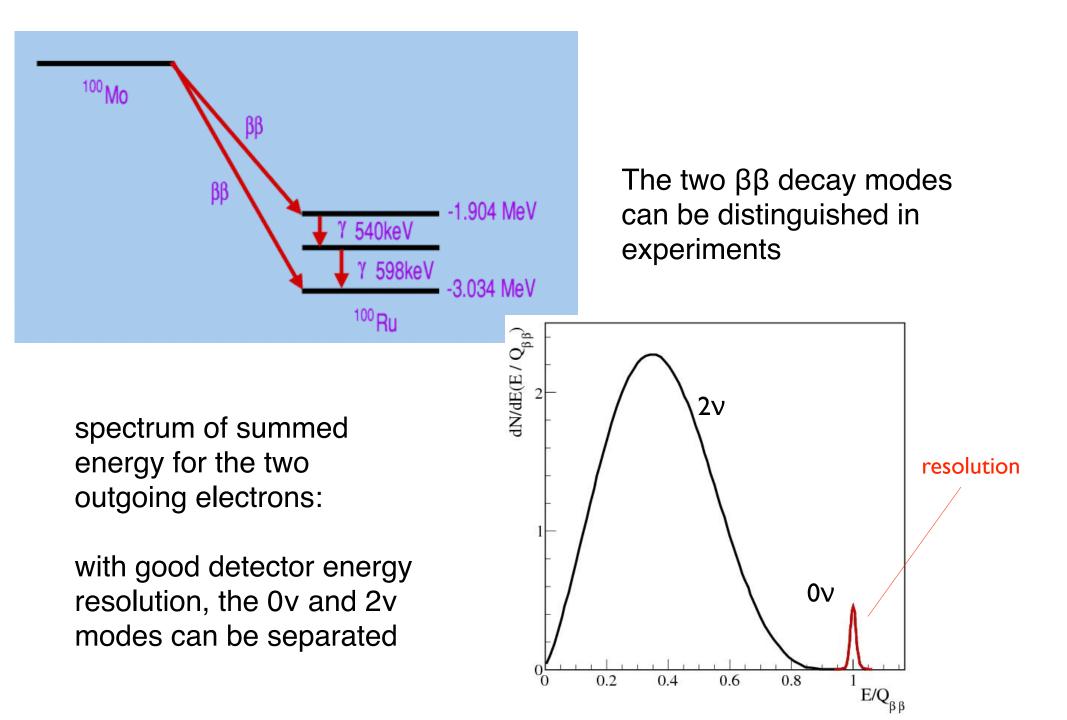




About 50 cases where nuclear physics isolates very rare, second-order weak interactions

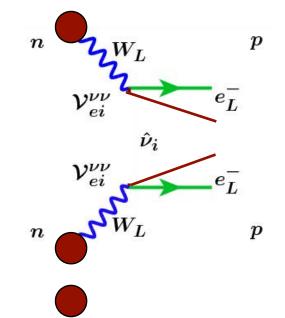


About 50 cases where nuclear physics isolates very rare, second-order weak interactions



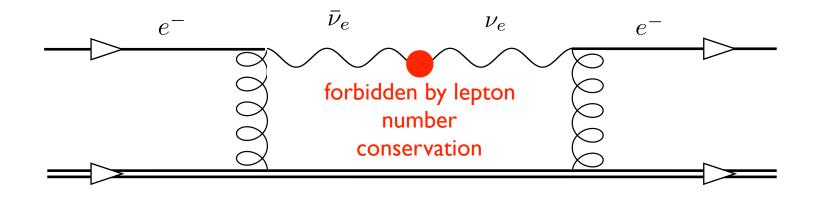
 2ν $\beta\beta$ decay occurs regardless of whether $\nu = \bar{\nu}, \ \nu \perp \bar{\nu}$

$$(N, Z) \rightarrow (N - 1, Z + 1) + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$$
$$(N - 1, Z + 1) \rightarrow (N - 2, Z + 2) + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e \Rightarrow$$
$$(N, Z) \rightarrow (N - 2, Z + 2) + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$$
Iepton-number conserving



what about neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay?

Forbidden if the neutrino is Dirac

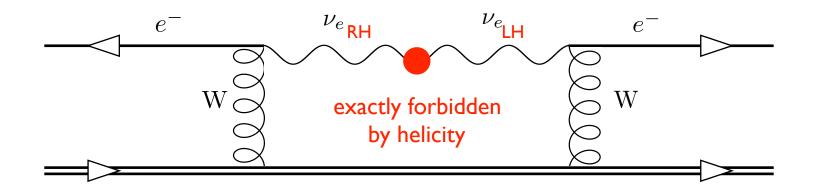


(which we concluded from our "thought" experiment showing $\nu \perp \bar{\nu}$)

Definitive it seems.... but in 1957 we discovered that weak interactions violated parity maximally

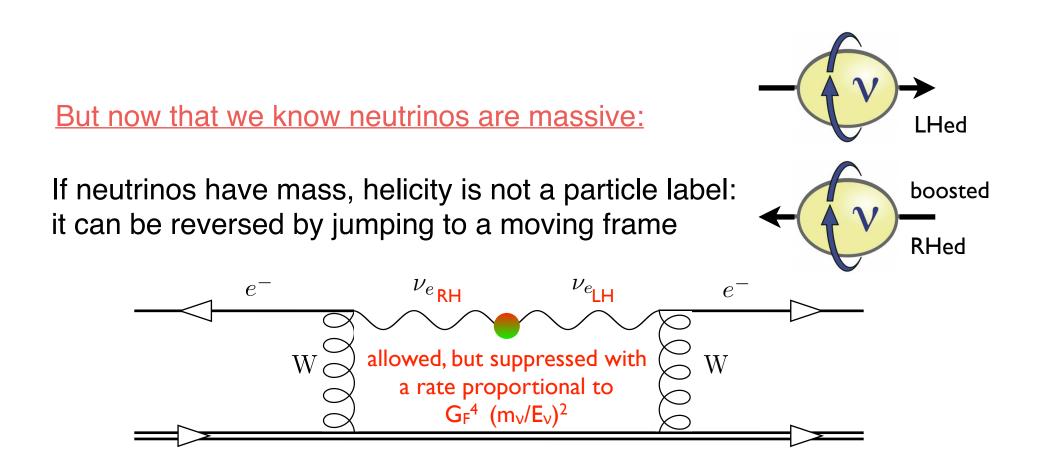
There is ANOTHER selection rule forbidding ββ decay - helicity

Forbidden for massless neutrinos that are purely handed



The good news: the interesting possibility that neutrinos are Dirac, Majorana, or both is in fact completely open

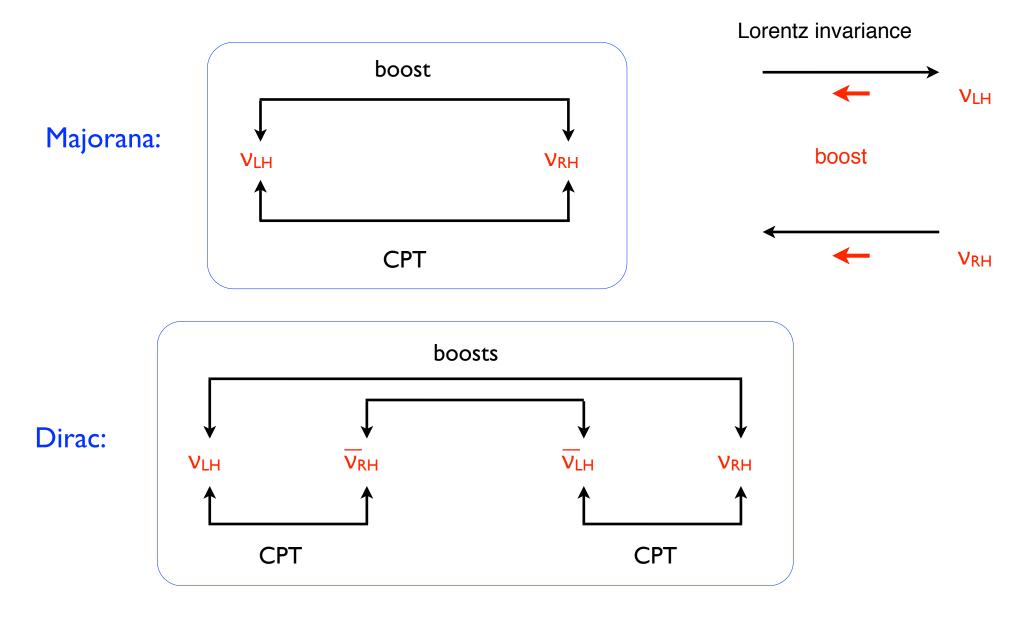
The bad news: we can't use $0v \beta\beta$ decay to decide this issue because helicity forbids the process, regardless



neutrino mass restores $\beta\beta$ decay as a definitive test of lepton number violation, though with a rate suppressed by $(m_v/E_v)^2$ where $E_v \sim 1/R_{nuclear}$

That is, if the mass is a *Majorana mass*, both selection rules forbidding this process are defeated. But if Dirac, one remains.

We have been discussing two limits for describing massive neutrinos



Let's see the mass consequences: start with the Dirac eq., project out

$$\psi_{R/L} = \frac{1}{2} (1 \pm \gamma_5) \psi$$
 $C \psi_{R/L} C^{-1} = \psi_{R/L}^c$

Allow for multiple flavors and flavor mixing

$$L_m(x) \sim m_D \bar{\psi}(x) \psi(x) \Rightarrow M_D \bar{\Psi}(x) \Psi(x) \qquad \Psi_L \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_L^e \\ \Psi_L^\mu \\ \Psi_L^\mu \\ \Psi_L^\tau \end{pmatrix}$$

Gives a 4n by 4n matrix, n the number of generations

$$(\bar{\Psi}_{L}^{c}, \bar{\Psi}_{R}, \bar{\Psi}_{L}, \bar{\Psi}_{R}^{c}) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & M_{D}^{T} \\ 0 & 0 & M_{D} & \\ & M_{D}^{\dagger} & 0 & 0 \\ M_{D}^{*} & 0 & 0 & \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{L}^{c} \\ \Psi_{R} \\ \Psi_{L} \\ \Psi_{R}^{c} \end{pmatrix}$$

-

 $L_M = \left[\bar{\Psi}_R M_D \Psi_L + \bar{\Psi}_L^c M_D^T \Psi_R^c + \bar{\Psi}_L^c M_L \Psi_L + \bar{\Psi}_R^c M_R \Psi_R\right] + h.c.$

$$= \left(\bar{\Psi}_L^c, \bar{\Psi}_R, \bar{\Psi}_L, \bar{\Psi}_R^c\right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & M_L & M_D^T \\ 0 & 0 & M_D & M_R^\dagger \\ M_L^\dagger & M_D^\dagger & 0 & 0 \\ M_D^* & M_R & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_L^c \\ \Psi_R \\ \Psi_L \\ \Psi_R^c \end{pmatrix}$$

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The SM:1) has no RHed v fields \Rightarrow no Dirac masses2) renormalizable \Rightarrow no Majorana masses

so massless SM neutrinos

$$L_M = \left[\bar{\Psi}_R M_D \Psi_L + \bar{\Psi}_L^c M_D^T \Psi_R^c + \bar{\Psi}_L^c M_L \Psi_L + \bar{\Psi}_R^c M_R \Psi_R\right] + h.c.$$

$$= \left(\bar{\Psi}_{L}^{c}, \bar{\Psi}_{R}, \bar{\Psi}_{L}, \bar{\Psi}_{R}^{c}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & M_{L} & M_{D}^{T} \\ 0 & 0 & M_{D} & M_{R}^{\dagger} \\ M_{L}^{\dagger} & M_{D}^{\dagger} & 0 & 0 \\ M_{D}^{*} & M_{R} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{L}^{c} \\ \Psi_{R} \\ \Psi_{L} \\ \Psi_{R}^{c} \end{pmatrix}$$

But 1) might anticipate $M_D \sim$ other SM Dirac masses 2) know $M_L \ll M_D$ (no ββ decay), reasonably $M_R \gg M_D$

so with these assumptions can diagonalize this matrix

 $L_M = \left[\bar{\Psi}_R M_D \Psi_L + \bar{\Psi}_L^c M_D^T \Psi_R^c + \bar{\Psi}_L^c M_L \Psi_L + \bar{\Psi}_R^c M_R \Psi_R\right] + h.c.$

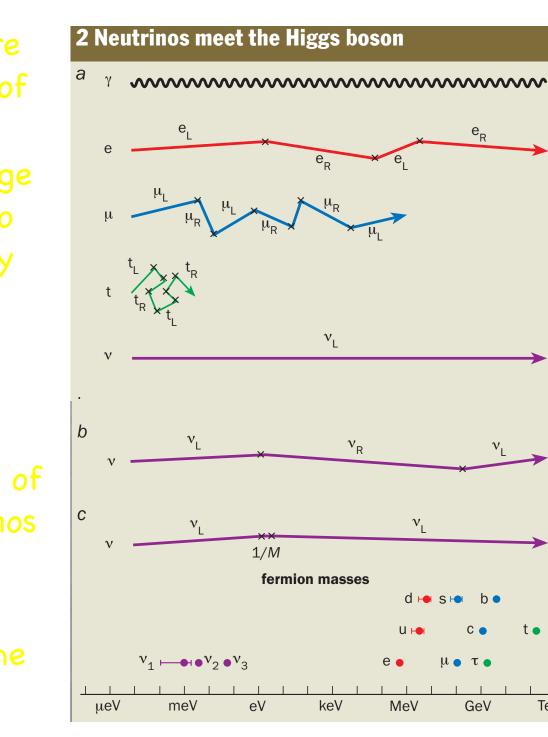
$$= \left(\bar{\Psi}_L^c, \bar{\Psi}_R, \bar{\Psi}_L, \bar{\Psi}_R^c\right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & M_L & M_D^T \\ 0 & 0 & M_D & M_R^\dagger \\ M_L^\dagger & M_D^\dagger & 0 & 0 \\ M_D^* & M_R & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_L^c \\ \Psi_R \\ \Psi_L \\ \Psi_R^c \end{pmatrix}$$

$$m_{\nu}^{\rm light} = M_D \ \left(\frac{M_D}{M_R}\right) \qquad \qquad \text{seesaw}$$

SM fermion mass scale

needed "small parameter" specific to vs

Gell-Mann, Ramond, and Slansky 80; Yanagida



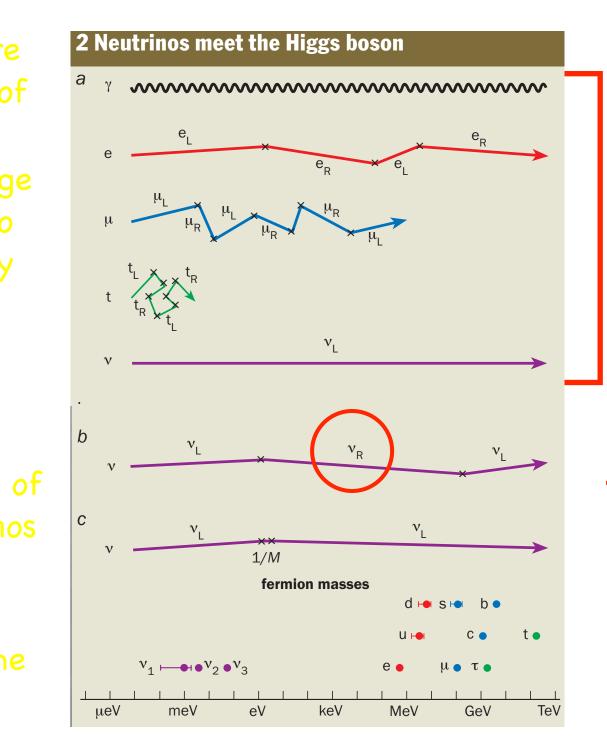
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TeV

Murayama's v mass cartoon

standard model fermion masses

standard model v and mass=0

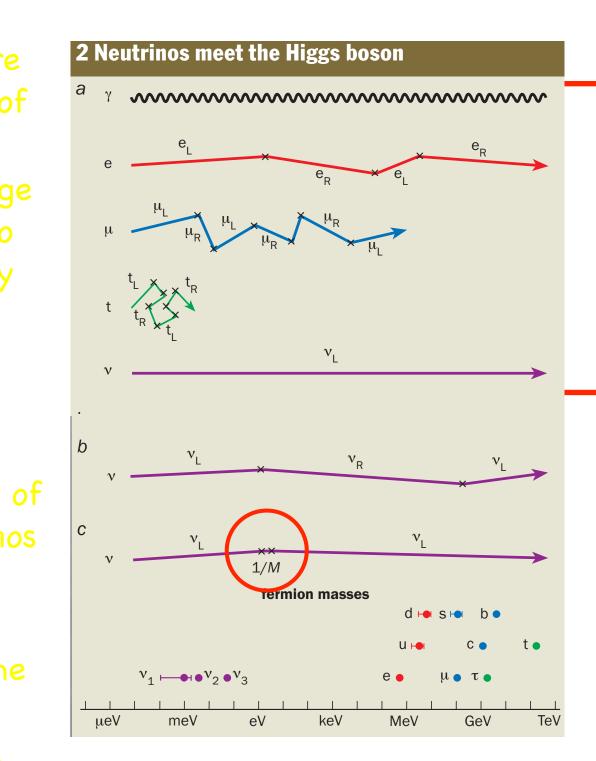


Murayama's v mass cartoon

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light Dirac neutrino mass



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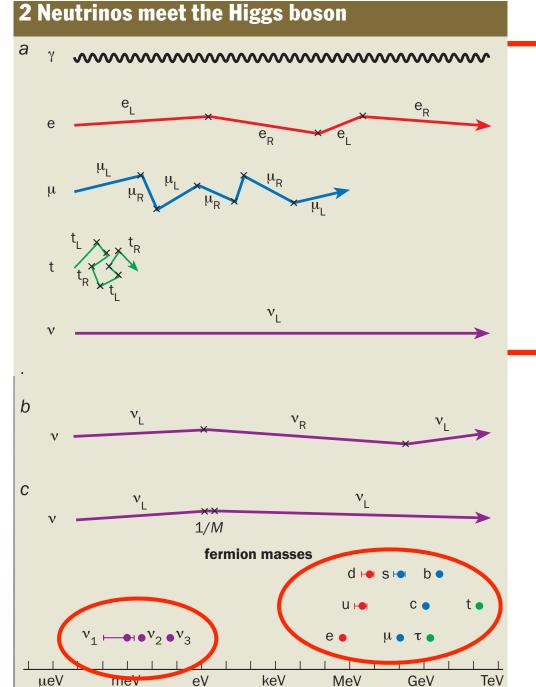
light Dirac neutrino mass

light LHed Majorana neutrino mass









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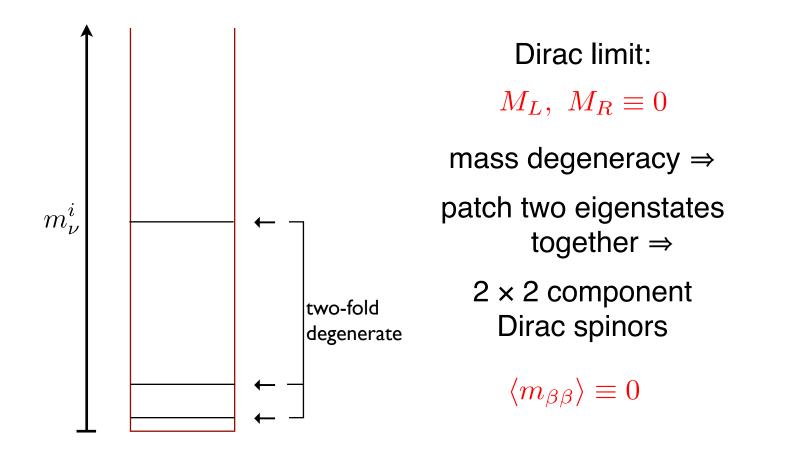
light LHed Majorana neutrino mass

← the anomalous v mass scale, connected with the seesaw?

• The v mass tested in $\beta\beta$ decay is

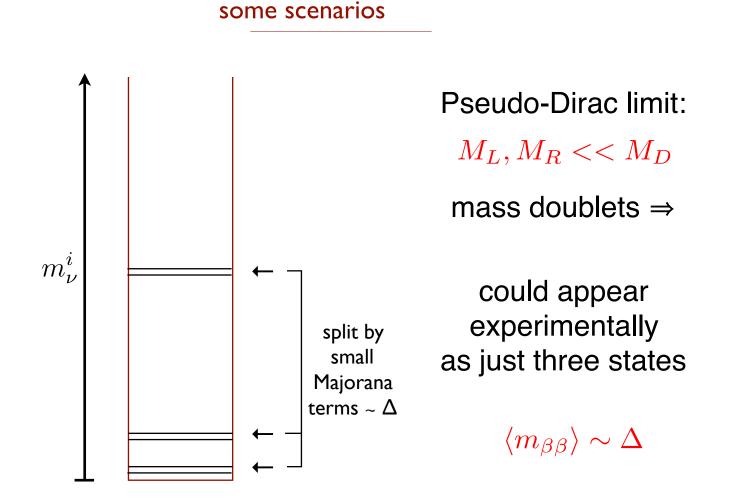
$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{2n} U_{\rm ei}^L U_{\rm ei}^L \ \lambda_i^{\rm CP} \ m_{\nu}^i$$

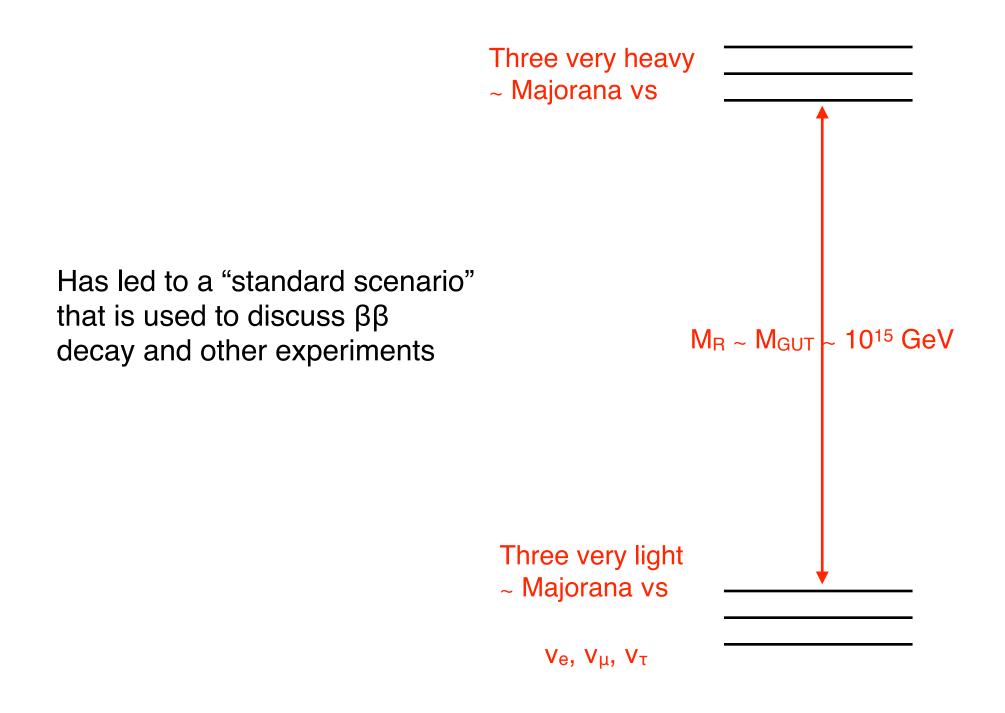
some scenarios

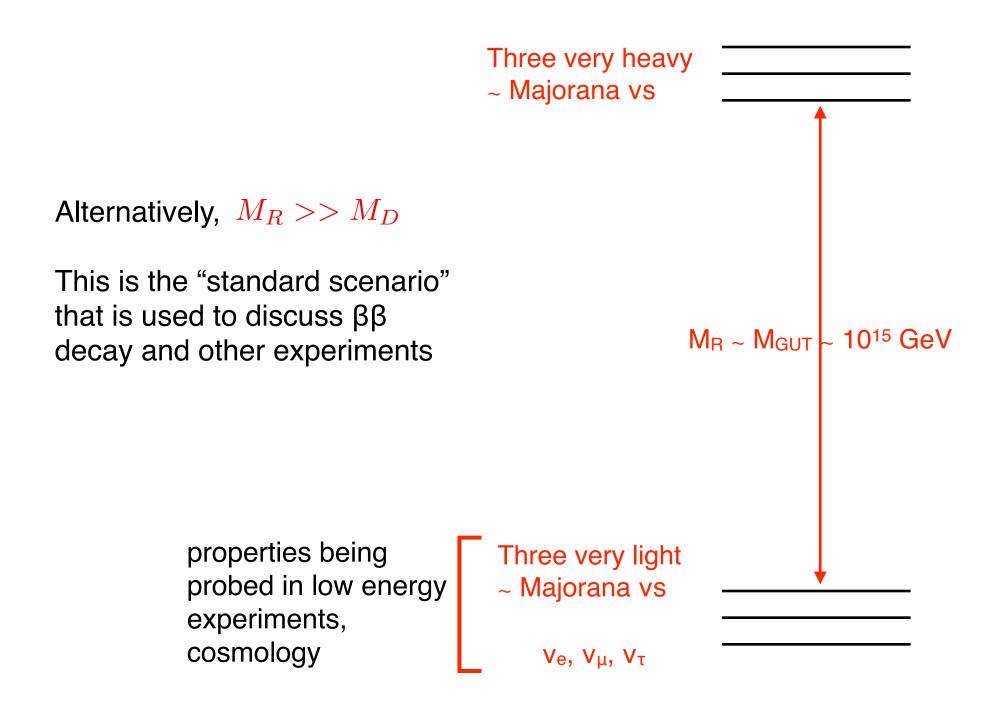


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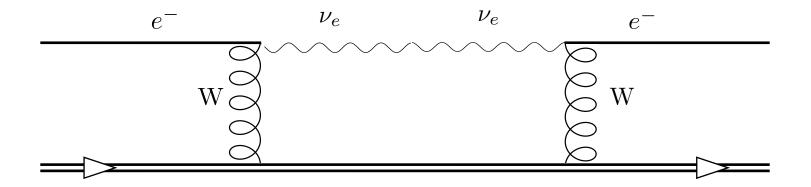
$$\left(\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{2n} U_{\rm ei}^L U_{\rm ei}^L \ \lambda_i^{\rm CP} \ m_{\nu}^i \right)$$



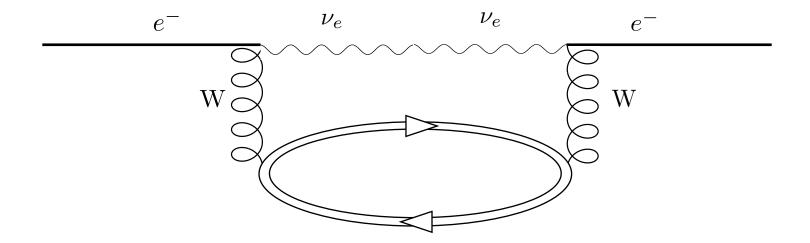




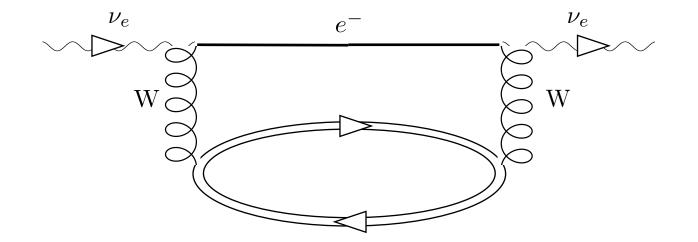
The observation of neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay \sim implies neutrino mass



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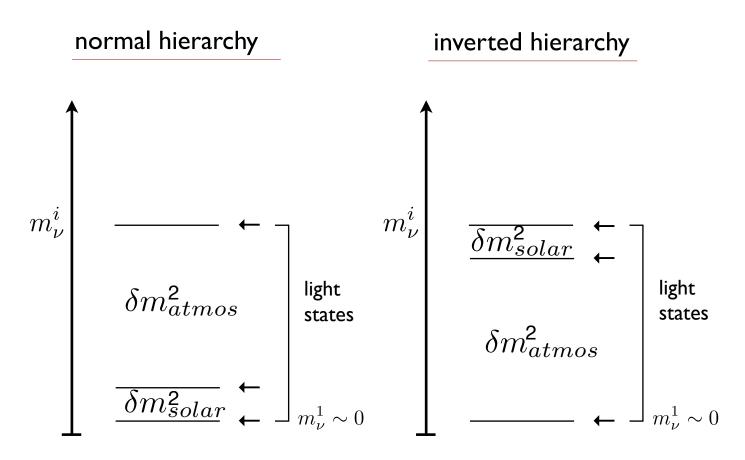


The observation of neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay ~ implies neutrino mass



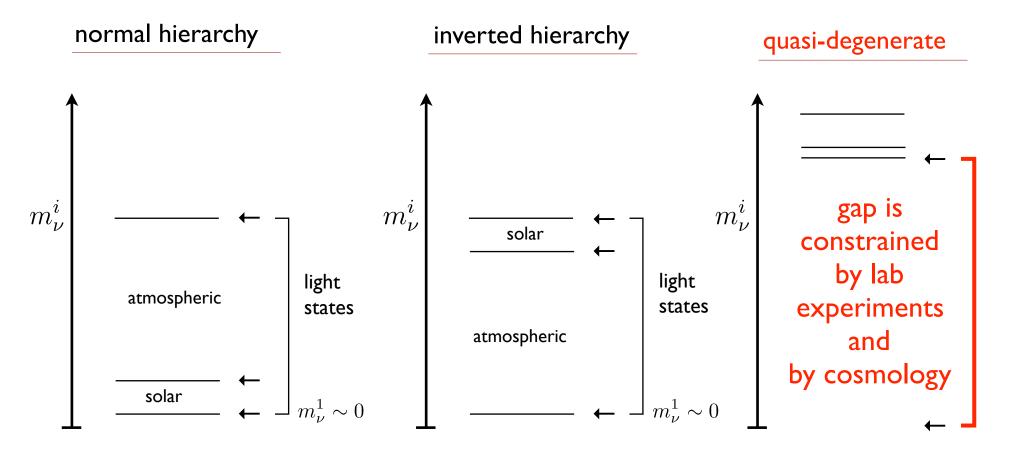
(Valle & Schecter "black box" v mass mechanism)

We have learned a lot about about the pattern of the light masses from the solar, atmospheric, reactor, and accelerator experiments - but two hierarchies remain

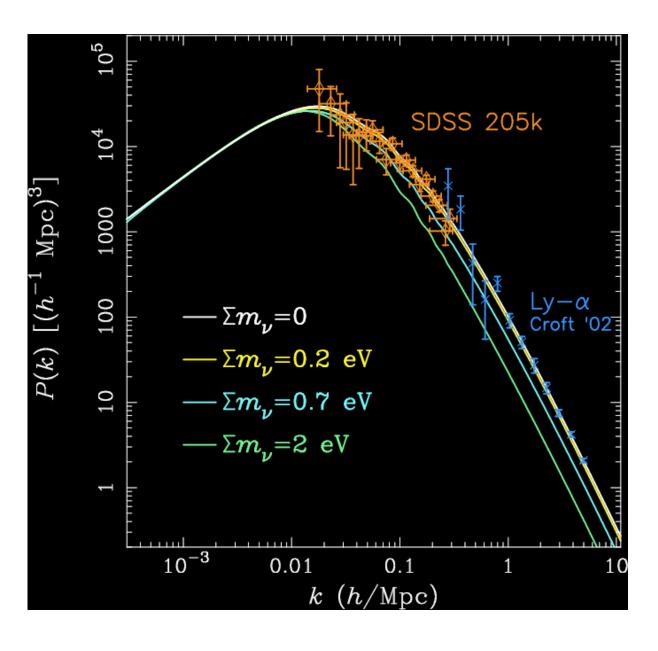


We also do not know the absolute scale of the masses

Oscillations measure mass differences $\delta m_{21}^2 = \delta m_{solar}^2$, $\delta m_{31}^2 = \delta m_{atmos}^2$ The absolute scale is not fixed



how do we measure absolute masses?



Cosmology limits the quasi-degenerate case

v's start off relativistic in the early universe, where they suppress the growth of structure on large scales

Transition to nonrelativistic

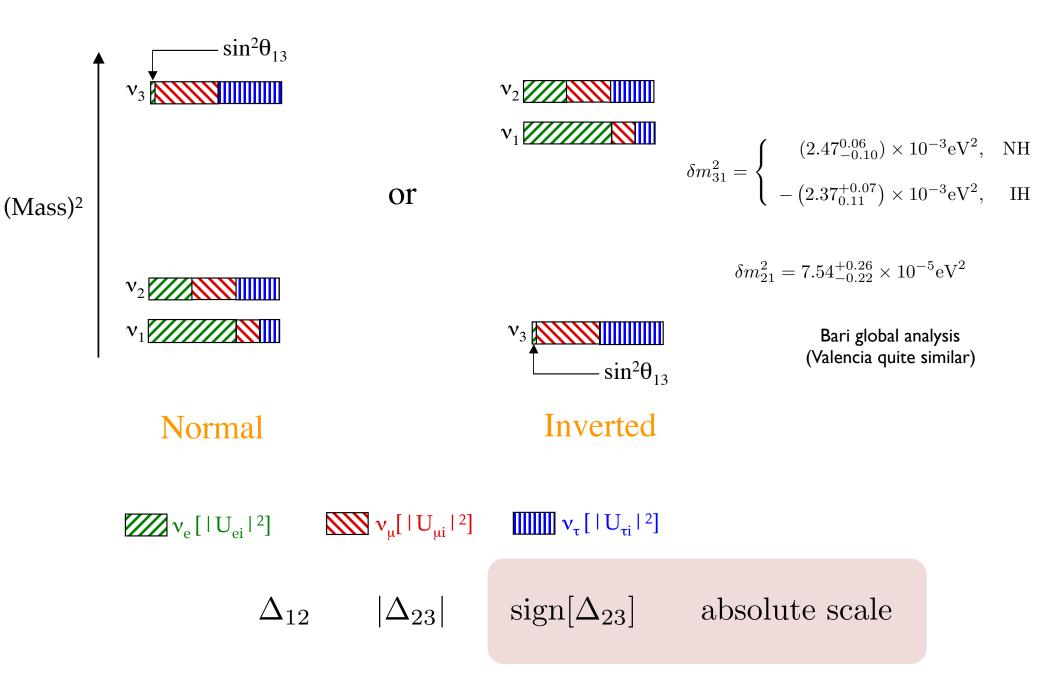
Effects scale and redshift dependent

Current limits (Planck2015) $\frac{1}{3}\sum_{i}m_{i}\lesssim80~{
m meV}$

We have learned a lot about mixing angles:

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{e} \\ v_{\mu} \\ v_{\tau} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{1} \\ e^{i\phi_{1}}v_{2} \\ e^{i\phi_{2}}v_{3} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ c_{23} & s_{23} \\ -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 1 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{1} \\ e^{i\phi_{1}}v_{2} \\ e^{i\phi_{2}}v_{3} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\underbrace{Atmospheric \quad Reactor (Daya Bay/Reno/Double Chooz) \quad Solar}_{0.0241 \pm 0.0025, \quad \text{NH}} \\ \sin^{2}\theta_{23} = \begin{cases} 0.386^{+0.024}_{-0.022}, \quad \text{NH} \\ 0.392^{+0.029}_{-0.022} & \text{IH} \end{cases} \quad \sin^{2}\theta_{13} = \begin{cases} 0.0241 \pm 0.0025, \quad \text{NH} \\ 0.0244^{+0.0023}_{-0.0025}, \quad \text{IH} \end{cases}$$

Bari global analysis (Valencia quite similar) Or graphically:



Plugging in the measured v mass matrix parameters

NH:

$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle \sim \left| \sqrt{\delta m_{21}^2} \; s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 + \sqrt{|\delta m_{31}^2|} \; s_{13}^2 e^{i\phi} \right| \sim |4.8 + 1.2e^{i\phi}| \text{ meV}$$

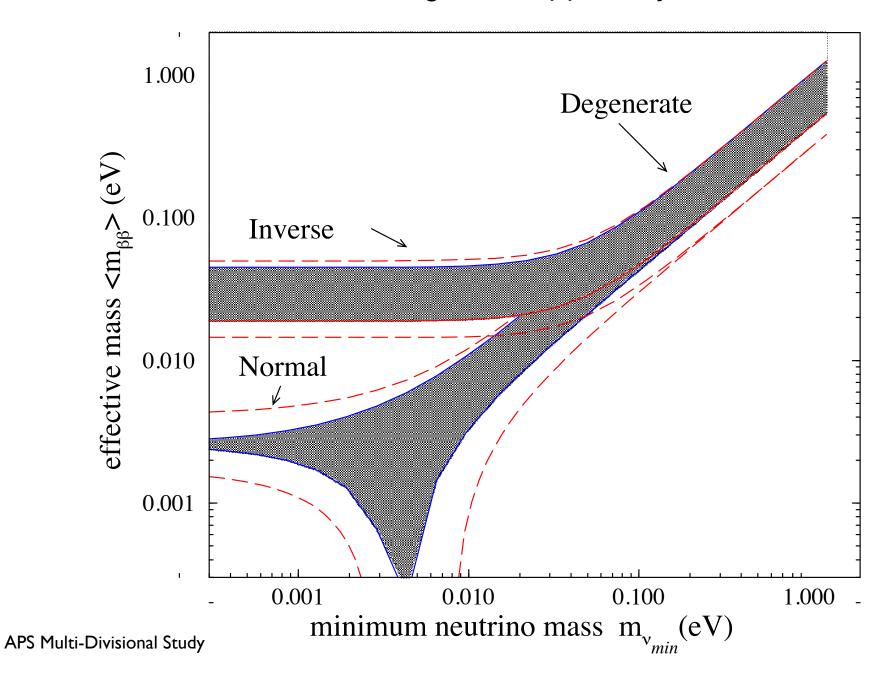
IH:
$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle \sim \sqrt{|\delta m_{31}^2|} \ c_{13}^2 \ \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{12} \sin^2 \phi} = [19 \leftrightarrow 49] \ \mathrm{meV}$$

QD:

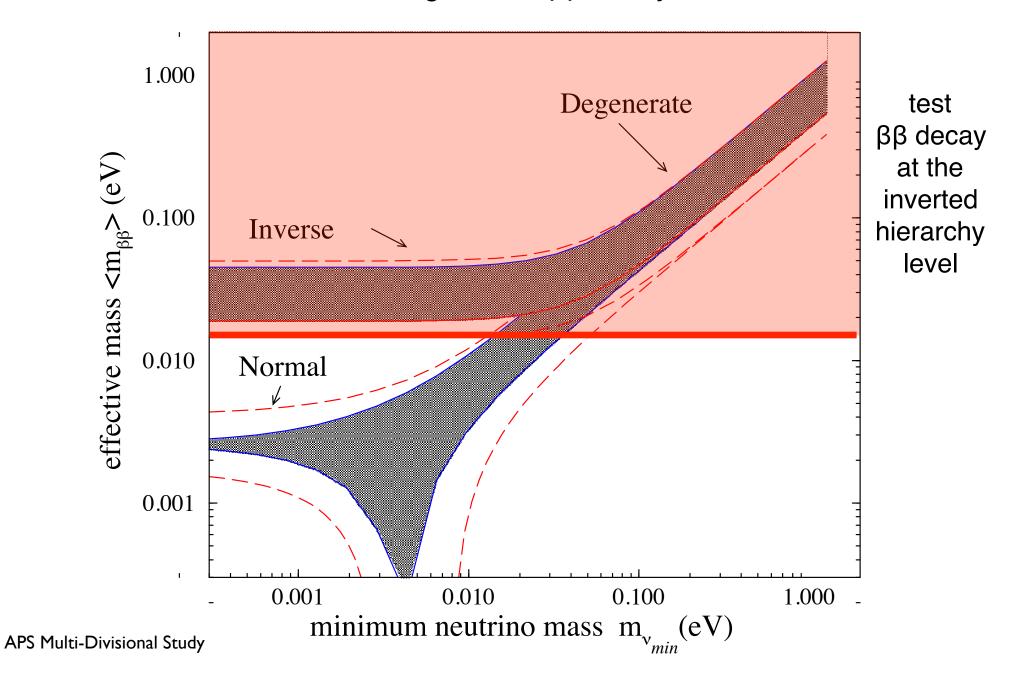
$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle \sim m_0 \left| c_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 e^{i\phi} + s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 e^{i\phi'} + s_{13}^2 \right| \sim m_0 (0.68 \pm 0.32)$$

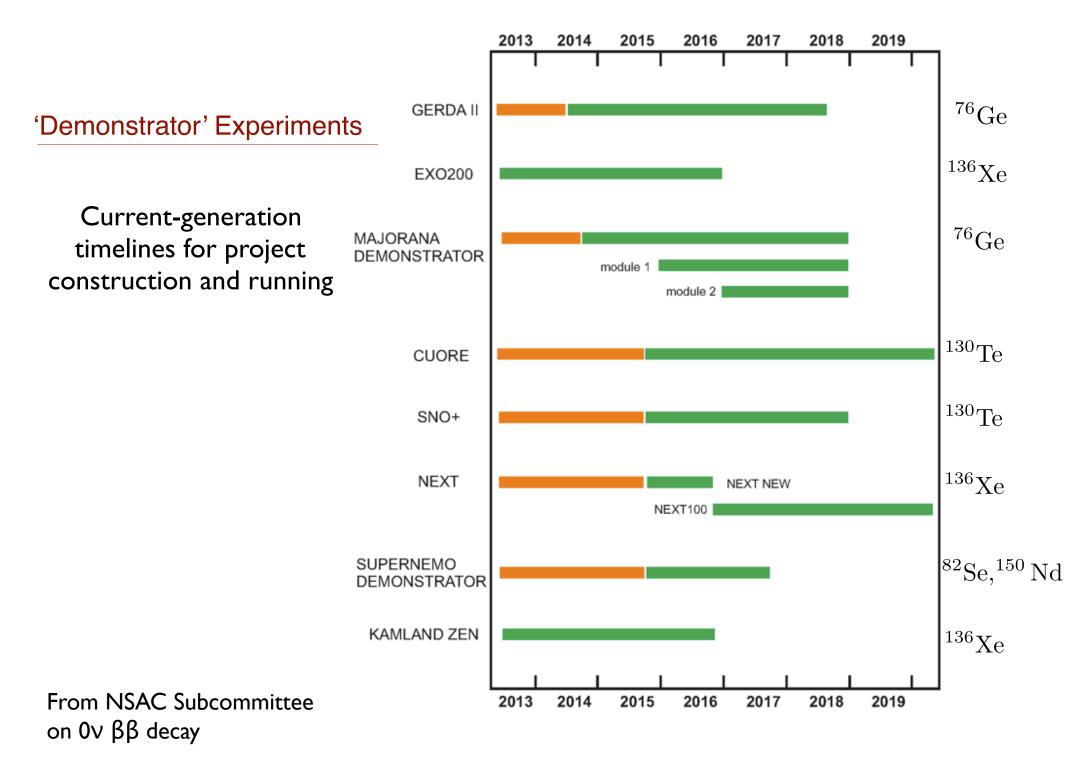
 $m_0 \lesssim 80 \text{ meV}$ Planck, BAO,

Mass scenarios critical to next-generate $\beta\beta$ decay efforts



Mass scenarios critical to next-generate $\beta\beta$ decay efforts

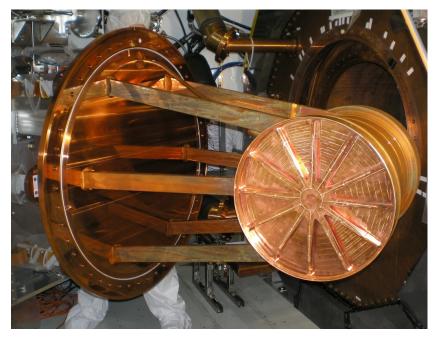




GERDA I, Gran Sasso; Majorana, SL

GERDAI ⁷⁶Ge, 21.6kg-y

 $\tau_{1/2} > 2.1 \times 10^{25} y 90\%$ c.l.



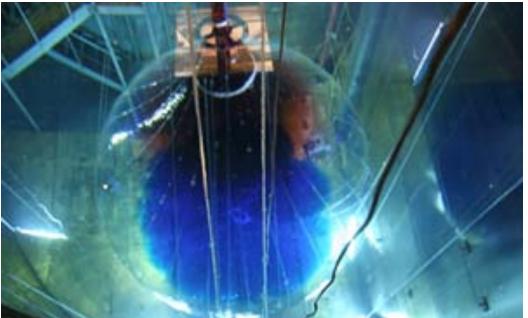
KamLAND-Zen, Kamioka 136 Xe, 89.5 kg-y T_{1/2} > 1.9 × 10²⁵y 90% c.l.

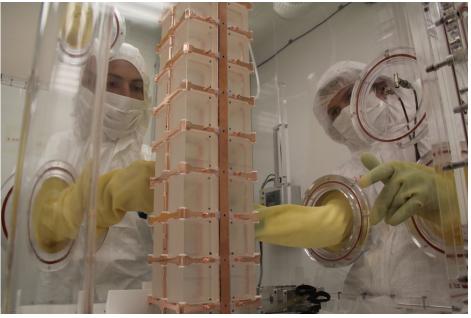


EXO-200, WIPP

¹³⁶Xe, 99.8 kg-y

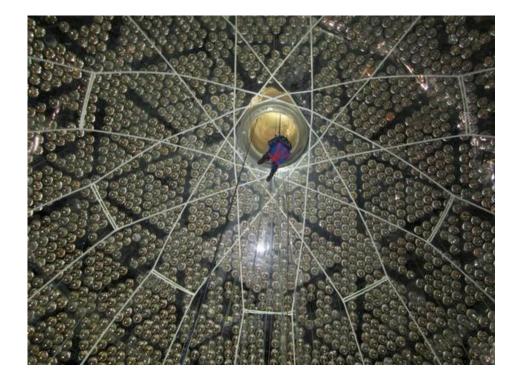
 $\tau_{1/2} > 1.1 \times 10^{25} y 90\%$ c.l.





NEXT, Canfranc Laboratory

Gaseous ¹³⁶Xe TPC , final state i.d.



CUORE-0/Cuoricino, Gran Sasso

¹³⁰Te, 29.6kg-y

 $\tau_{1/2} > 4.0 \times 10^{24}$ y 90% c.l.



SNO+, SNOLab^{Page 1 of 5}

¹³⁰Te-loaded scintillator, to begin in 2016

The benchmarks

1. where we are now

GERDA + other Ge: $\tau_{1/2} > 3.0 \times 10^{25}$ y 90% c.l. $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < 460 \text{ meV}$

The benchmarks

2. where the demonstrator experiments will take us

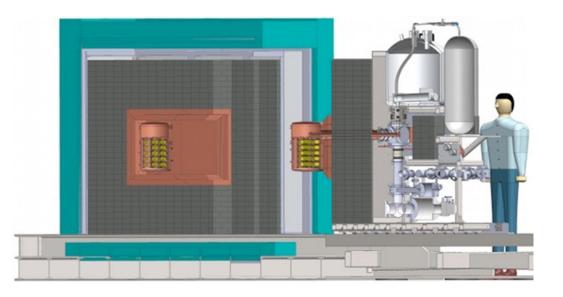
5-year 'demonstrator' experiments: ~1.6 ×10²⁶ y to reach 200 meV

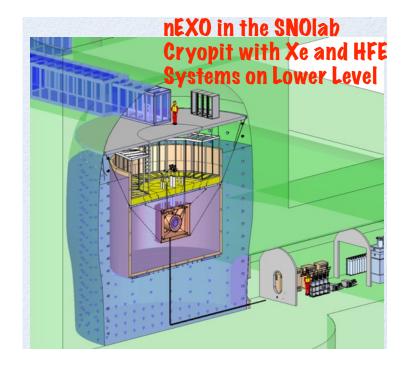
The benchmarks

3. probe the inverted hierarchy mass band of 19-49 meV

ton+ experiments reaching 10²⁸ y after a decade of running

Future: One-ton Experiments 2017 → Probing the IH





Majorana and GERDA joint effort (using the best 'demonstrator' technology) a 1ton enriched ⁷⁶Ge detector EXO \rightarrow nEXO at the 1-ton and then 5-ton level

desirable attributes: excellent resolution, nearly free of backgrounds, feasible costs, final-state tagging, scalability ...

Nuclear Physics: why us (theorists), why now

Rates depend on matrix elements for complex, heavy nuclei

$$M_{F}^{0\nu} \sim \langle 0_{f}^{+} || \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{A} \tau_{+}(i)\tau_{+}(j)F(r_{ij})||0_{i}^{+}\rangle$$

$$F(r_{ij}), \ G(r_{ij}) \sim \frac{1}{r_{ij}}$$

$$M_{GT}^{0\nu} \sim \langle 0_{f}^{+} || \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{A} \vec{\sigma}(i) \cdot \vec{\sigma}(j)\tau_{+}(i)\tau_{+}(j)G(r_{ij})||0_{i}^{+}\rangle$$

- the ground-state-to-ground-state transitions exhaust a tiny fraction of the underlying spin-spin sum rule ~ 0.1%
- results depend both on the quality of nuclear calculation, but also on phenomenological corrections that must be introduced to account for missing physics, such as absent high-momentum degrees of freedom, poorly understood operator renormalizations, etc

all model-based ... can we do better? this is the workshop's purpose Some straightforward questions about NP seem to lack crisp answers

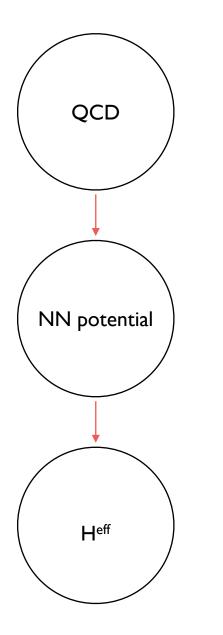
- we produce a wave function, say, in a shell model: what precisely is its relationship to the true wave function? If we cannot answer this question in a precise mathematical way, should we worry?
- our answers depend on parameter choices: how can this be?
- our wave functions are normalized to 1 and are orthogonal. As they must be low-momentum projections of the true wave functions, how can this possibly be?
- we construct an NN potential by inverting phase shifts: the detailed information in those phase shifts comes from their sharp energy dependence
 - yet our nuclear effective interactions are energy independent
 - isn't nature analytically continuous in E? Shouldn't reaction channels and bound state channels have the same properties? Shouldn't they be aspects of one theory?

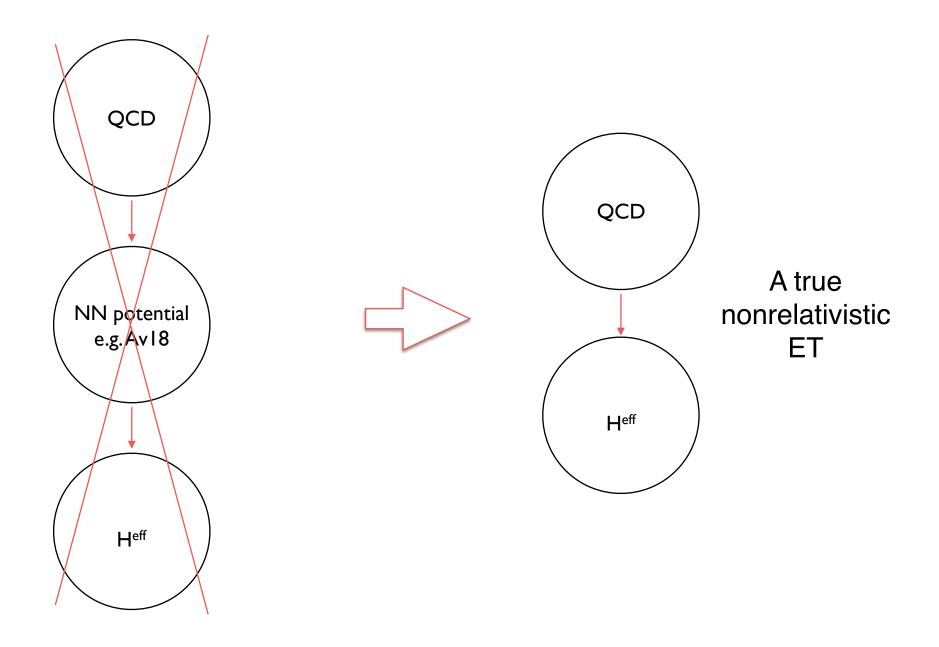
the NN potential we so derive is awful: singular, nonperturbative

- impossibly difficult to renormalize rigorously for SM-like work
- why the two-step? what is this necessary? why not QCD -> many-body space directly??
- TRIUMF, RIKEN, MSU, ... have built/are building new facilities to manufacture rare isotopes, to probe toward the drip line
 - is this nuclei collecting, like butterfly collecting?
 - or is there something special about all of NP that we can learn by studying the limit of weak binding?

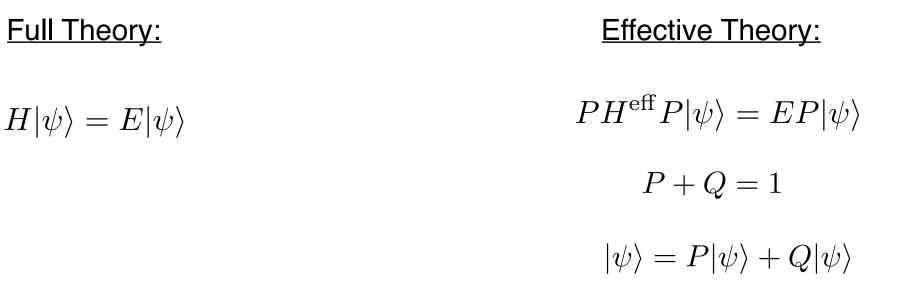
Can we re-engineer our approach to nuclear physics?

Deconstruct and reconstruct: take all of the existing parts, hook them up differently, to see if a better theory exists From a modern perspective (ET) , NP is weird





What is an effective theory?

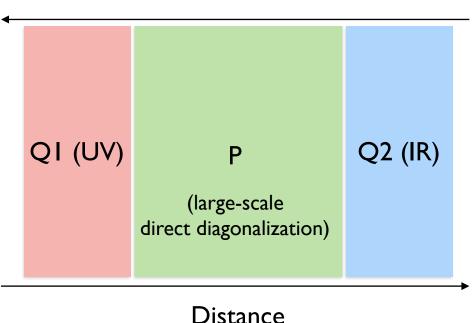


what do we choose for P?

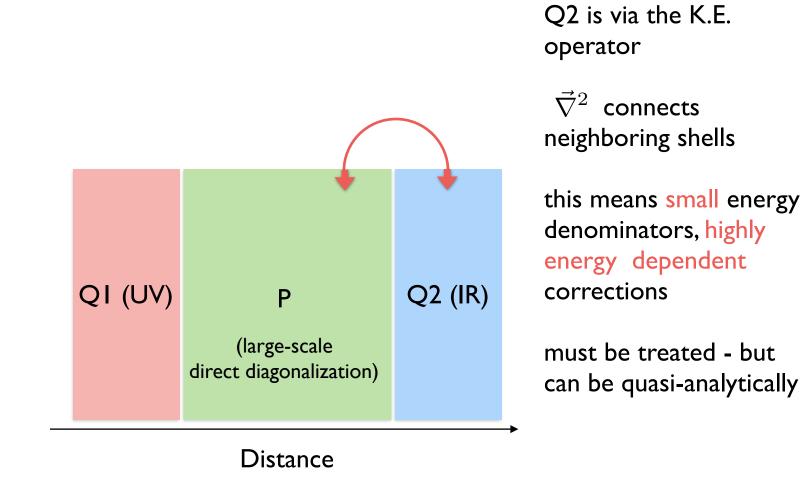
translational invariance: two choices

discrete (so we can NP numerical technology): the harmonic oscillator (compact) The Requires One to Understanding the Functional Form of the H^{eff}

- Nuclear ground states are a compromise between the UV and the IR: kinetic energy is minimized by delocalization; potential by localizing at the strong interaction scale
- This is the essential physics of the ET: corrections due to omitted IR and UV physics are roughly comparable in importance



Energy

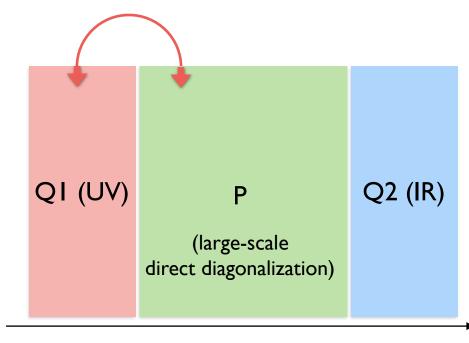


Coupling between P and

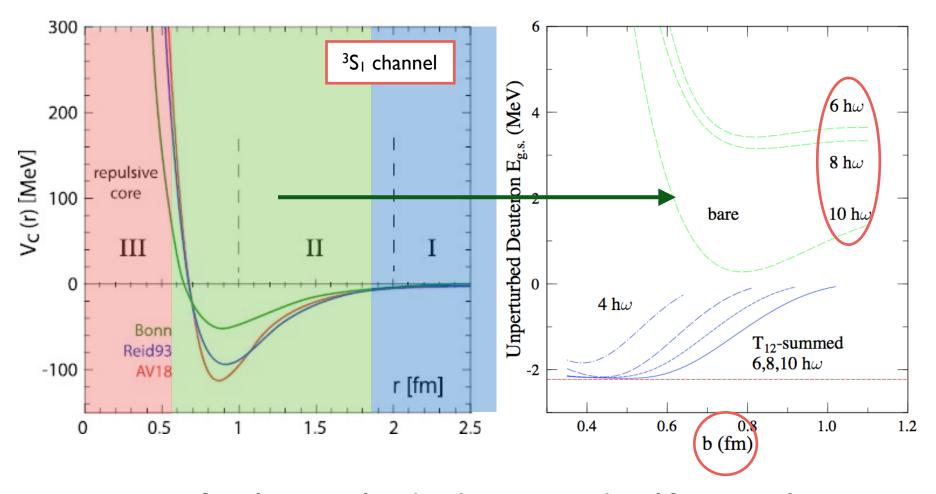
Coupling between P and Q2 is via short-range strong interactions

Large energy denominators: energy independent corrections

Can be treated by a standard short range expansion

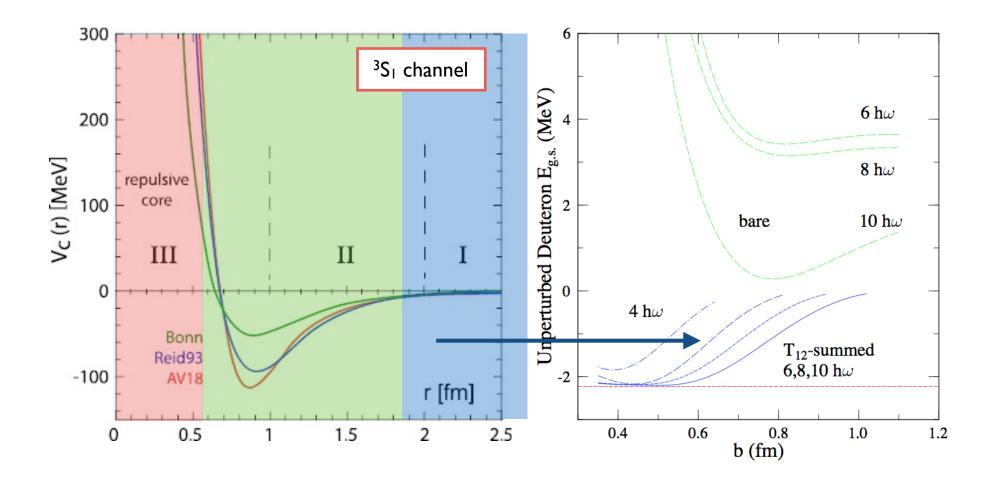


Distance



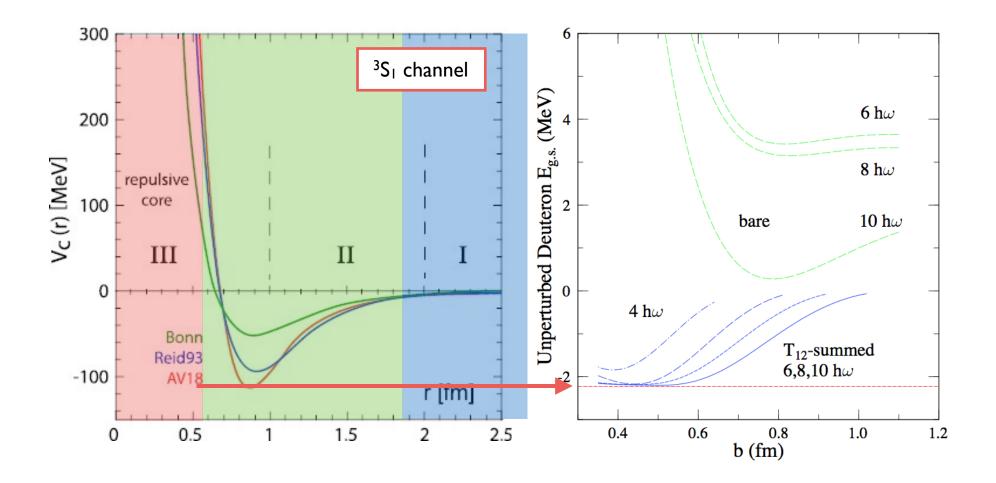
Simple example: the deuteron with av18 potential standard C.I. approach requires ~100 $\hbar\omega$ to achieve 1 keV accuracy

$$\frac{E}{E-QT}P = \frac{1}{E-T}\left\{P\frac{1}{E-T}P\right\}^{-1}P$$



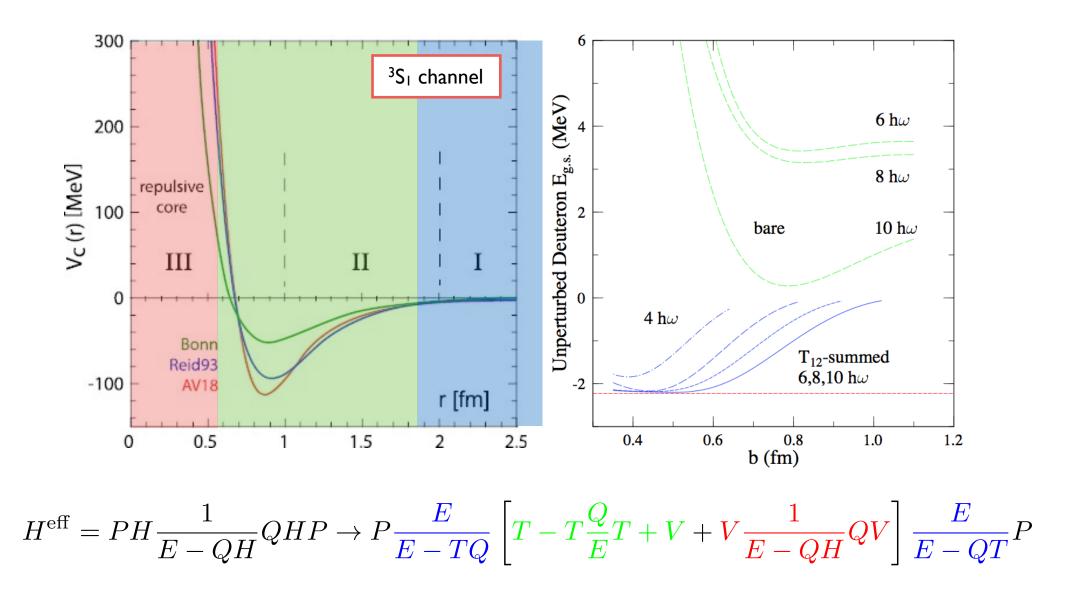
add HOBET's infrared summation

$$\frac{E}{E-QT}P = \frac{1}{E-T}\left\{P\frac{1}{E-T}P\right\}^{-1}P$$



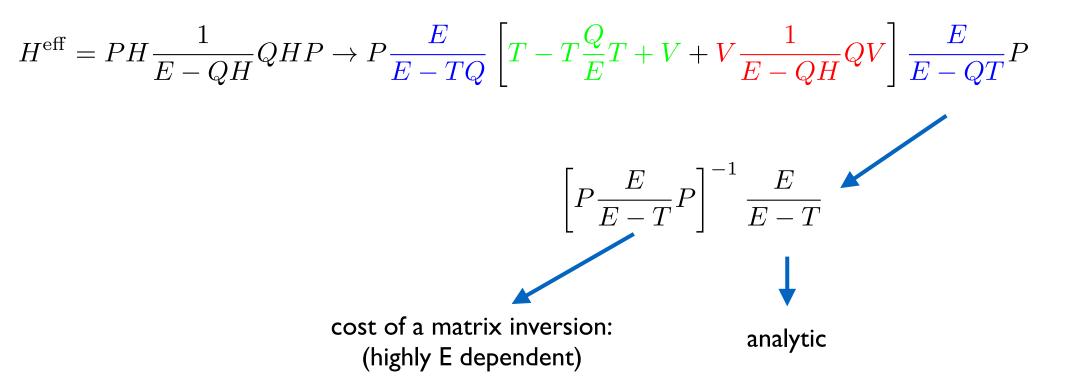
Once the theory has been made "infra-red correct", an rapidly convergent short-range ET yields the exact result independent of the choice of b or Λ

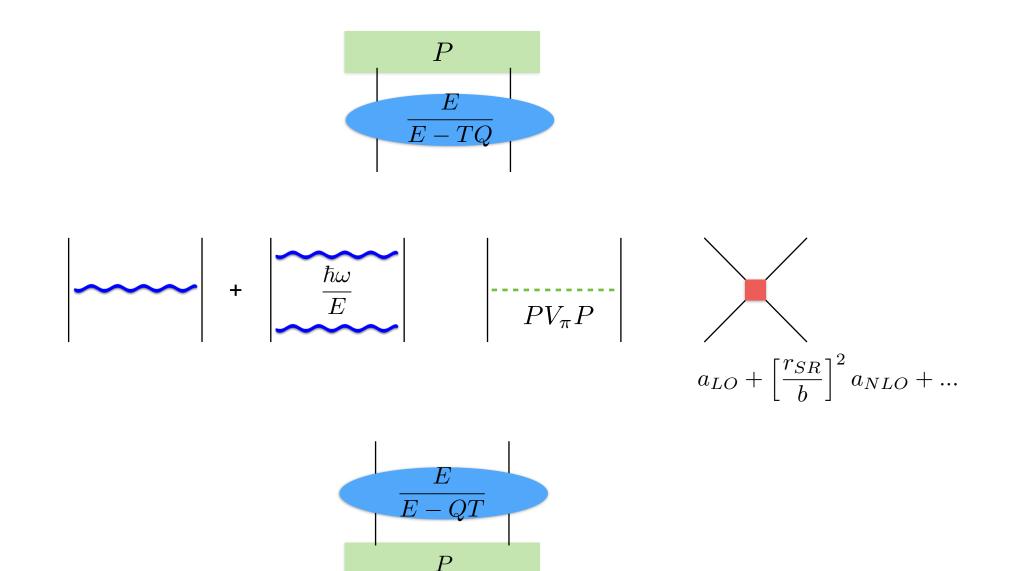
$$\frac{E}{E-QT}P = \frac{1}{E-T}\left\{P\frac{1}{E-T}P\right\}^{-1}P$$



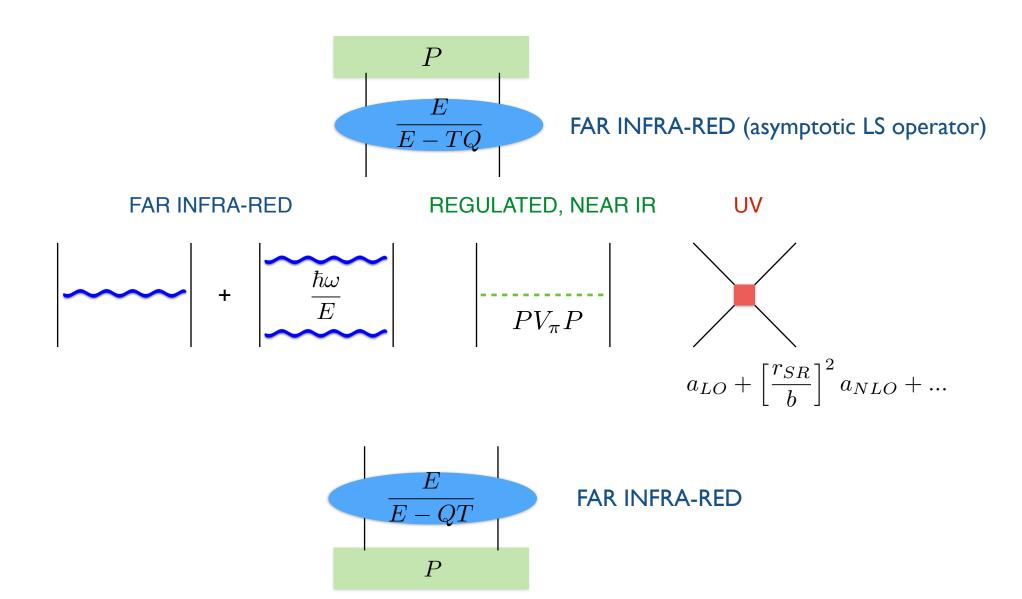
SOLVE SELF-CONSISTENTLY IN E: WH/Tom Luu Form of the BH Equation

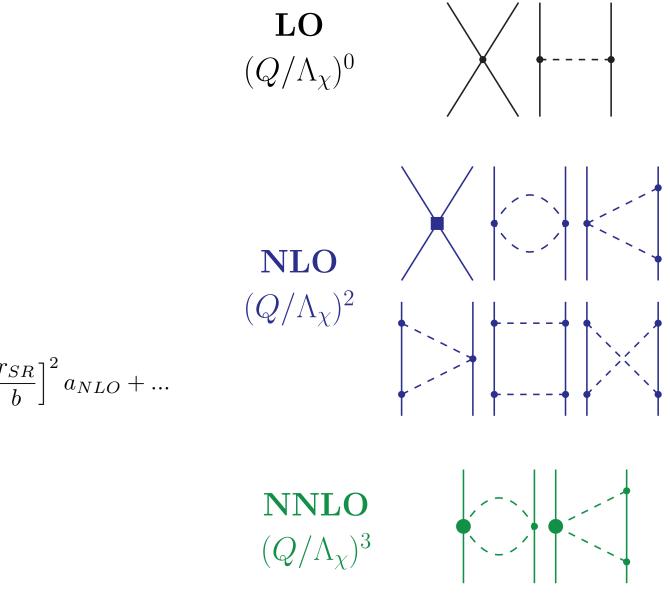
$$\frac{E}{E-QT}P = \frac{1}{E-T}\left\{P\frac{1}{E-T}P\right\}^{-1}P$$



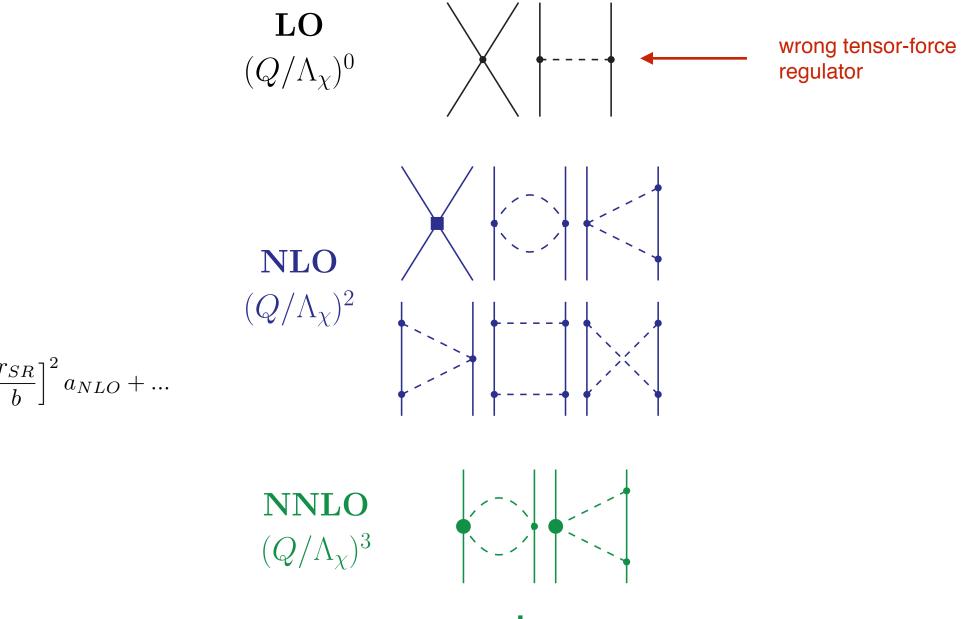


the <u>correct</u> chiral interaction for the HO "SM" - not the form folks use rapidly convergent

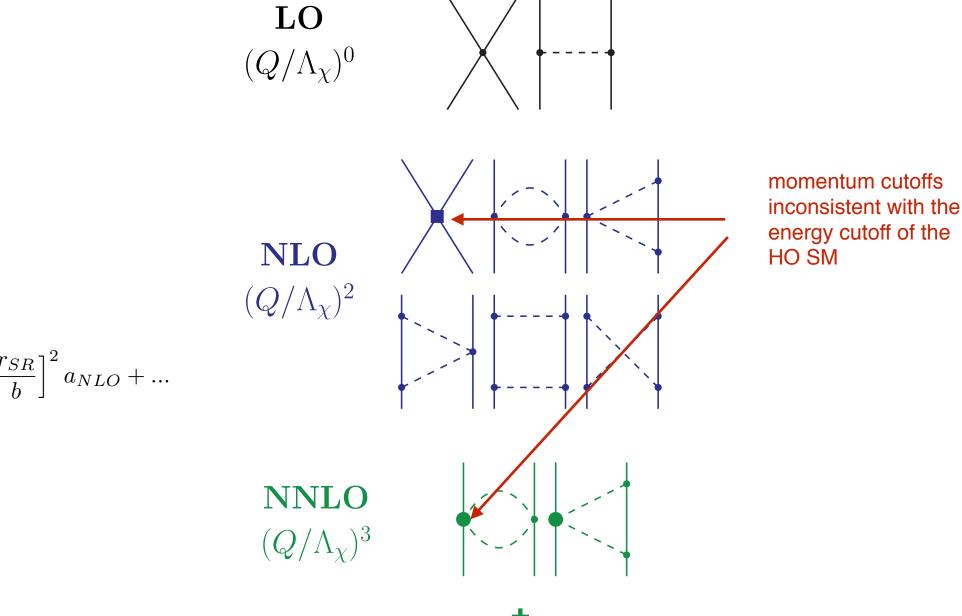




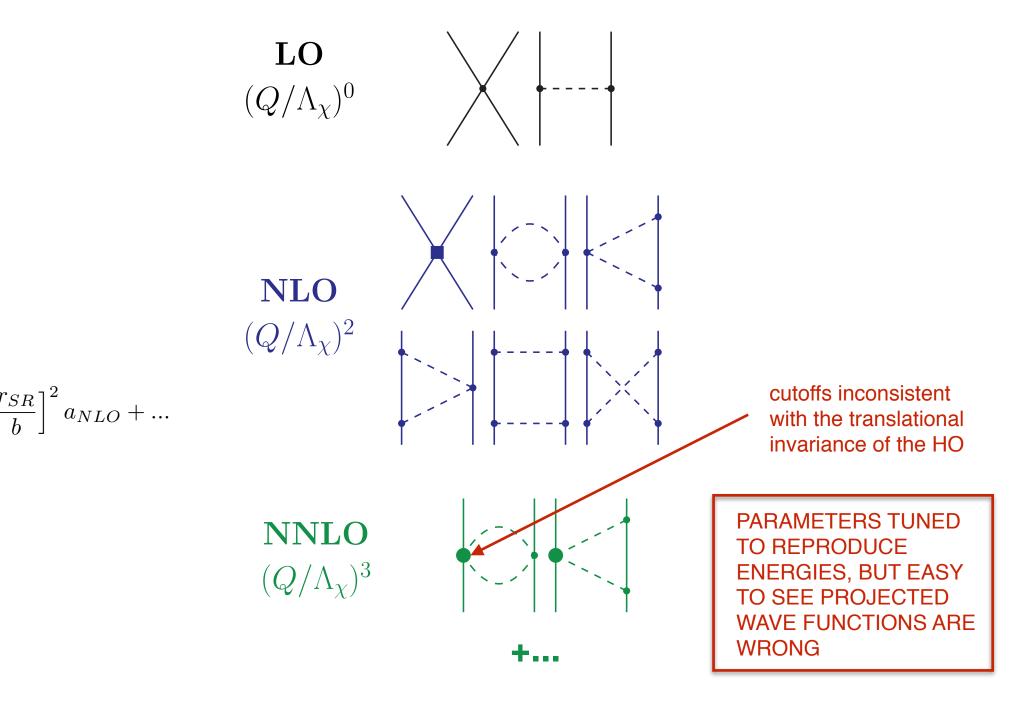
+...



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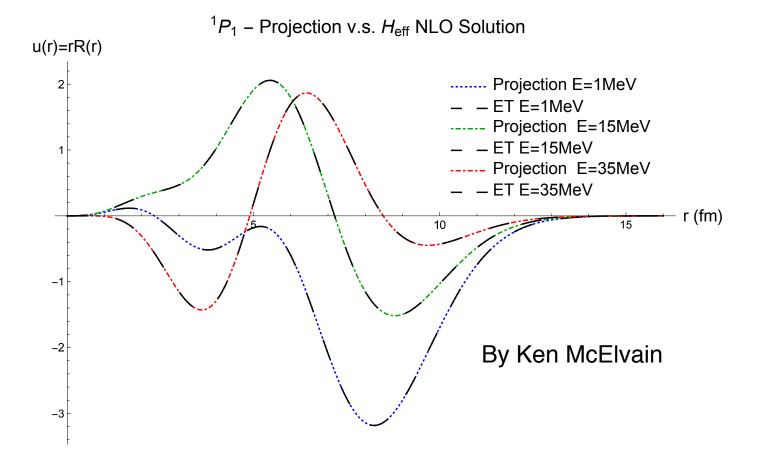
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Love the energy dependence: it is your best friend

- it is a theorem that no short-range effective theory can succeed if one fails to build in the correct IR (long-distance) behavior
- Chiral HOBET is explicitly analytic in E: it is a seamless and exact ET of both bound states and reactions
- □ it thus produces the exact restriction of states to the HO, for E<0 & E>0
- * IR Green's functions for bound states are determined by E Thus solving the BH equation self consistently yields eigenvalues
- * Continuum solutions exist at every E>0, while their IR Green's functions depend on E and $\delta(E)$

Pick E, look up $\delta(E)$, diagonalize: if the eigenvalue fails to = E, the only unused degree of freedom is UV - so pick an a_{LO} . Repeat ...

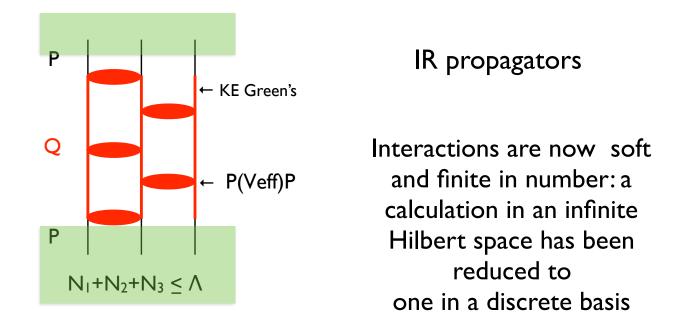


A "SM" interaction has been constructed directly from phase shifts, yielding the exact restriction of the true wave function to P information previously encoded in, decoded from an NN potential

Also, bound state properties are obtained similarly: from ${}^{3}S_{1}$ - ${}^{3}D_{1}$ phase shifts find a deuteron binding energy of -2.2245 MeV

Results are independent of the choices made in defining P

The two-body physics so determined can then be subtracted exactly out of the N-body problem (not yet done):



Much left to be done in this "reconstruction" phase, but ...

The double beta decay effective interactions problem is essentially identical to that just described...