

Multi-reference in-medium similarity renormalization group method and its applications

Chenrong Ding (丁晨蓉)

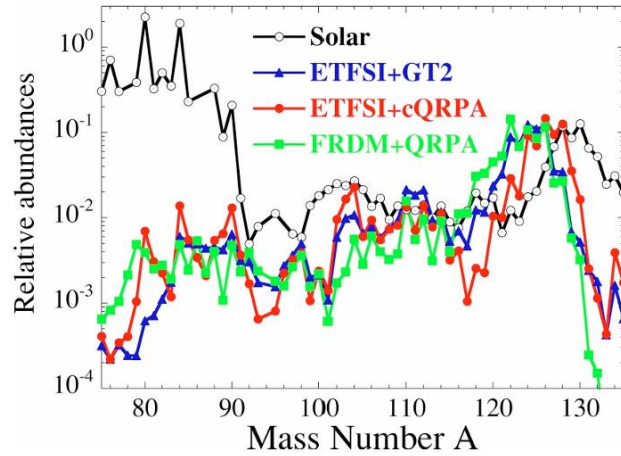
School of Physics and Astronomy, Sun Yat-Sen University

第二届原子核从头计算与贝塔衰变前沿研讨会

重庆 Jan. 11, 2026

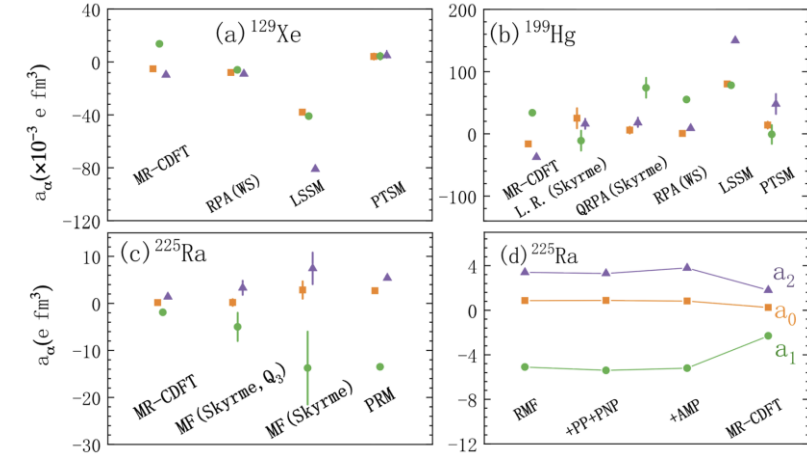
Theoretical description of NMEs: Uncertainties and Challenges

Impact of beta decay on abundances of r-process nuclides



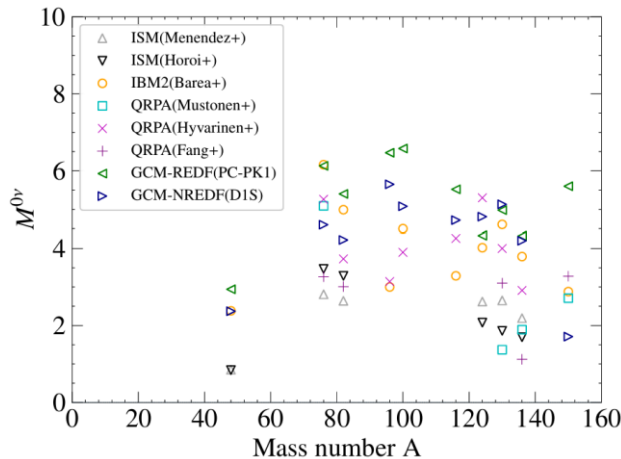
K. Langanke et al, Rev. Mod. Phys 75(2003)

Nuclear Schiff moments

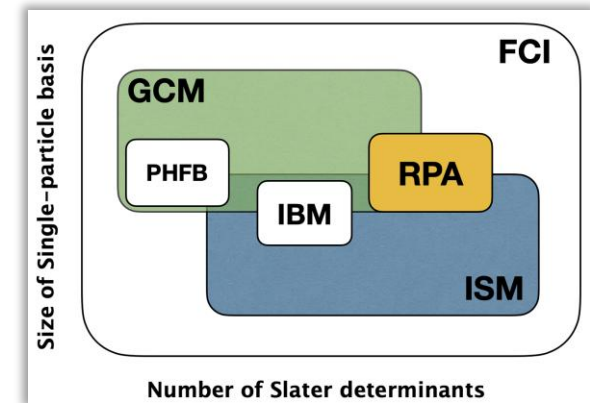


E. F. Zhou et al, arXiv2507.01369

Neutrinoless double-beta decay



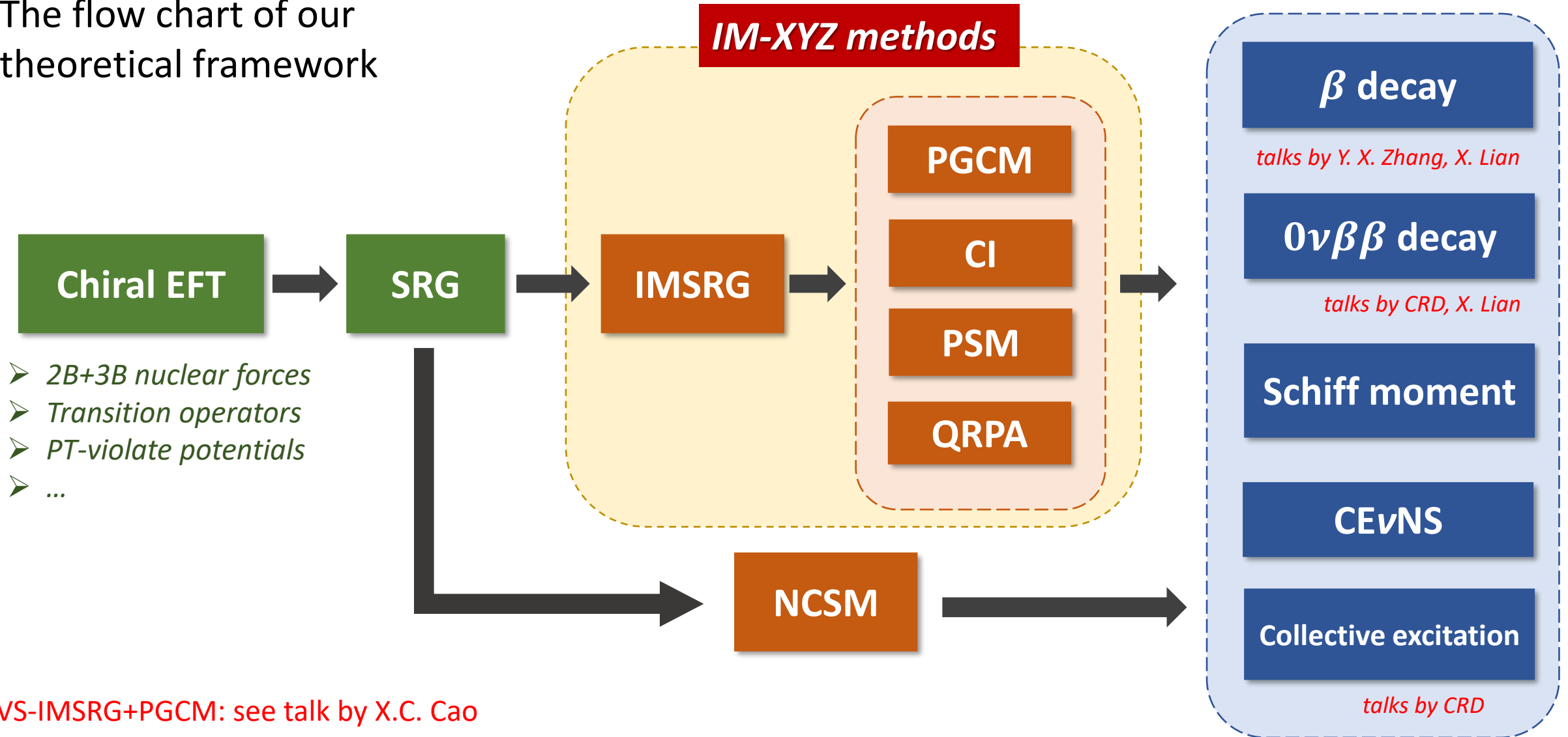
J. M. Yao, J. Meng, Y. F. Niu, P. Ring, PNP 126, 103965 (2022)

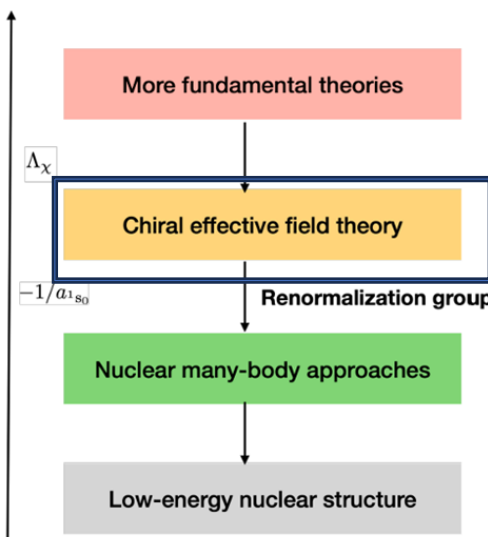
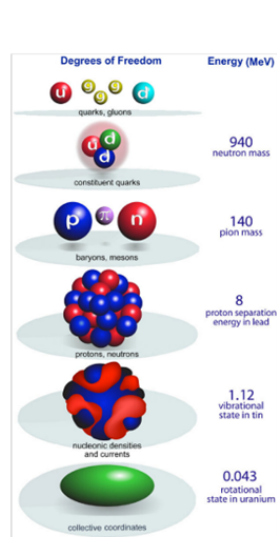
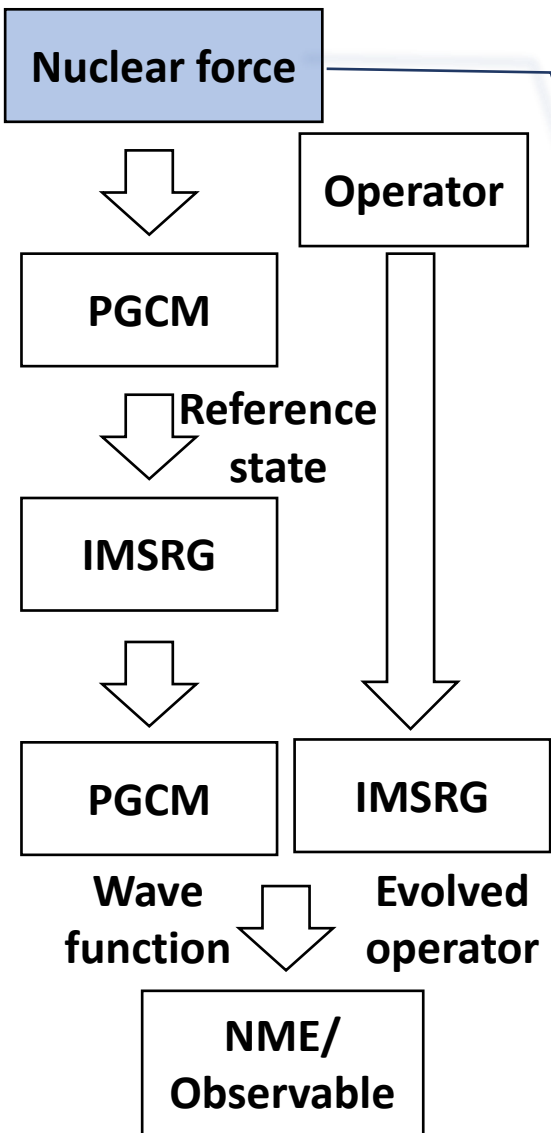


Different models defined differently from the beginning

Modeling NMEs starting from operators from chiral EFT

The flow chart of our theoretical framework





	NN	3N	4N
LO $\mathcal{O}(Q^0/\Lambda^0)$	1990 Weinberg [2]	—	—
NLO $\mathcal{O}(Q^2/\Lambda^2)$	1992 Ordonez, van Kolck [7]	1992, 1994 [166-169]	—
N ² LO $\mathcal{O}(Q^3/\Lambda^3)$	1992 Ordonez, van Kolck [0]	1994 Weinberg, van Kolck, Epelbaum [2]	—
N ³ LO $\mathcal{O}(Q^4/\Lambda^4)$	2000–2002 Kaiser [12]	2008–2011 [183-185]	2006 [186]
N ⁴ LO $\mathcal{O}(Q^5/\Lambda^5)$	2015 [188,189]	2011– [190-192]	—

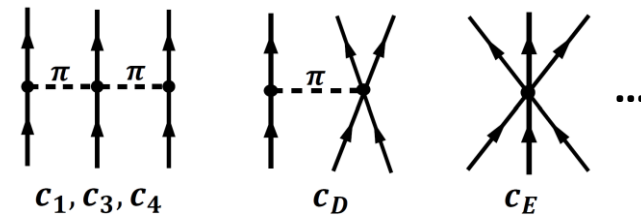
K. Hebeler, Phys. Rep. 890, 1 (2020)

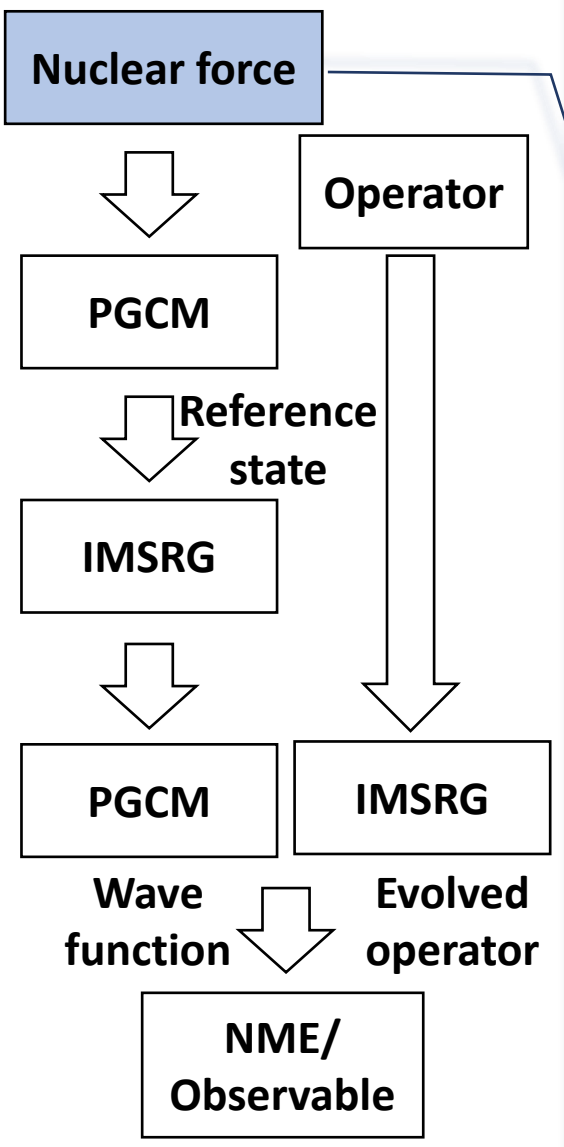
$$\hat{H}_0 = \left(1 - \frac{1}{A}\right) T^{[1]} + \frac{1}{A} T^{[2]} + \sum_{i < j} V_{ij}^{[2]} + \sum_{i < j < k} W_{ijk}^{[3]}$$

$$V_{1\pi} + V_{2\pi} + V_{ct} + \dots$$

$$W_{2\pi} + W_{1\pi} + W_{ct} + \dots$$

* Low energy constants $\tilde{C}_{1S0}, \tilde{C}_{3S1}, C_{1S0}, C_{3P0}, C_{1P1}, C_{3P1}, C_{3S1}, C_{3S1-3D1}, C_{3P2} \dots$
Determined by fitting scattering phase shift.





□ Modeling nuclear structure and decays based on operators derived from **chiral EFT** across the energy scales from 10^2 MeV to 10^{-1} MeV

➤ Similarity renormalization group (SRG)

In the center-of-mass (CM) frame, apply unitary transformations U_s to decouple the coupling between high and low-momentum states

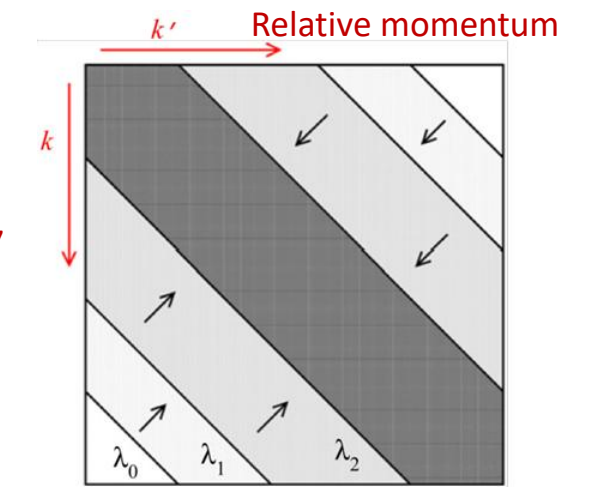
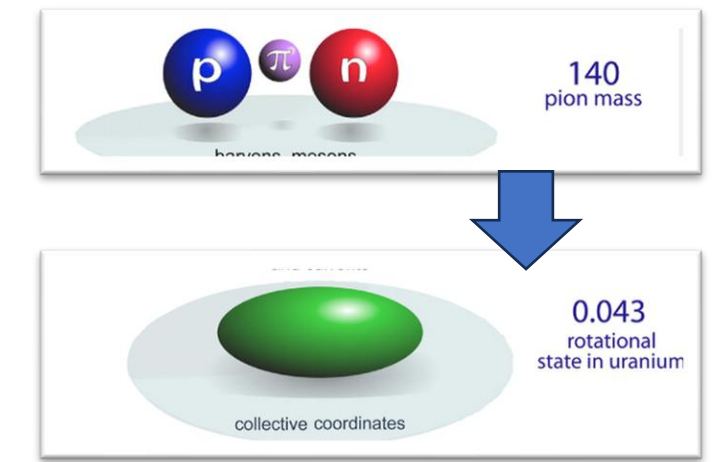
$$H_s = U_s H_0 U_s^\dagger = T_{rel} + V_s.$$

S. K. Bogner et al,
PPNP 65(2010)94-147

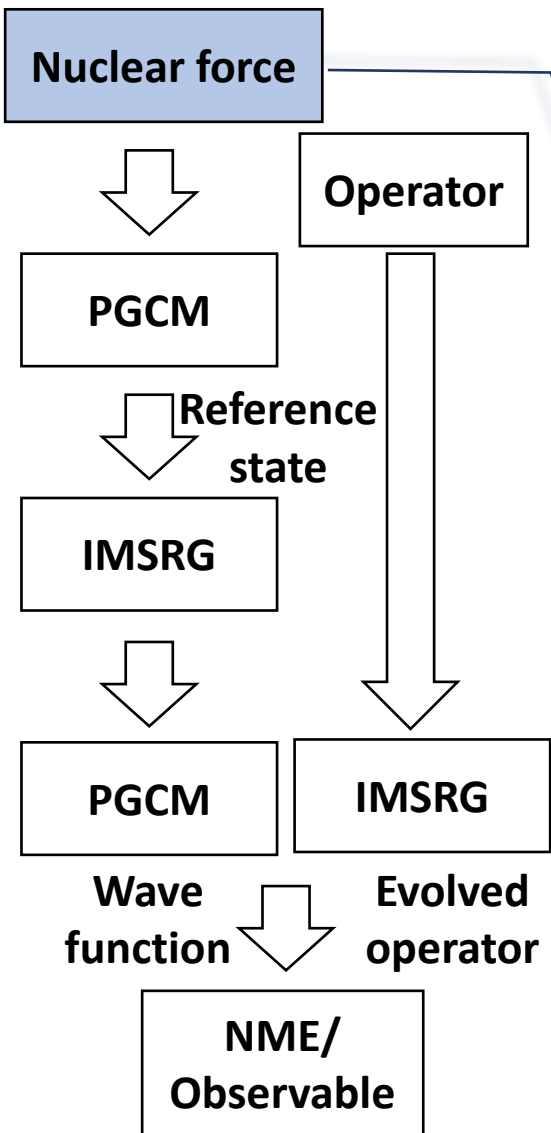
The flow equation $\frac{dH_s}{ds} = [\eta_s, H_s], \quad \eta_s = [T_{rel}, H_s].$

Evolution of the potential

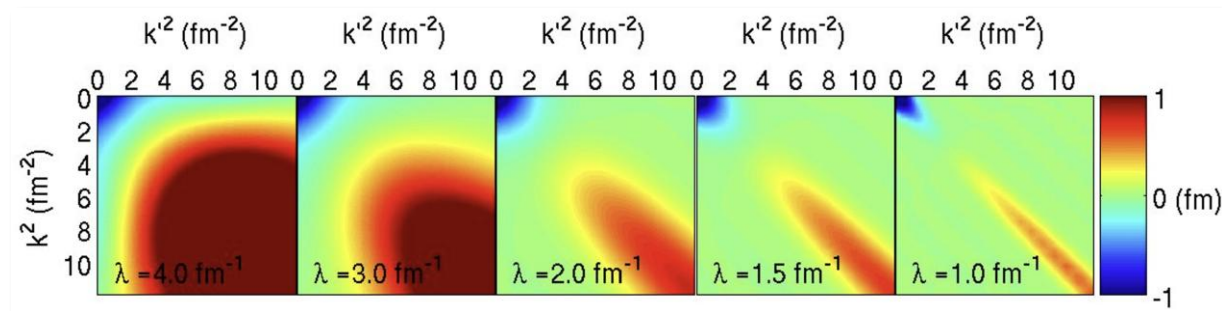
$$\frac{dV_s(k, k')}{ds} = -(k^2 - k'^2)V_s(k, k') + \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty q^2 dq (k^2 + k'^2 - 2q^2)V_s(k, q)V_s(q, k').$$



Flow parameter s is usually replaced with $\lambda = s^{-1/4}$ in units of fm^{-1} .

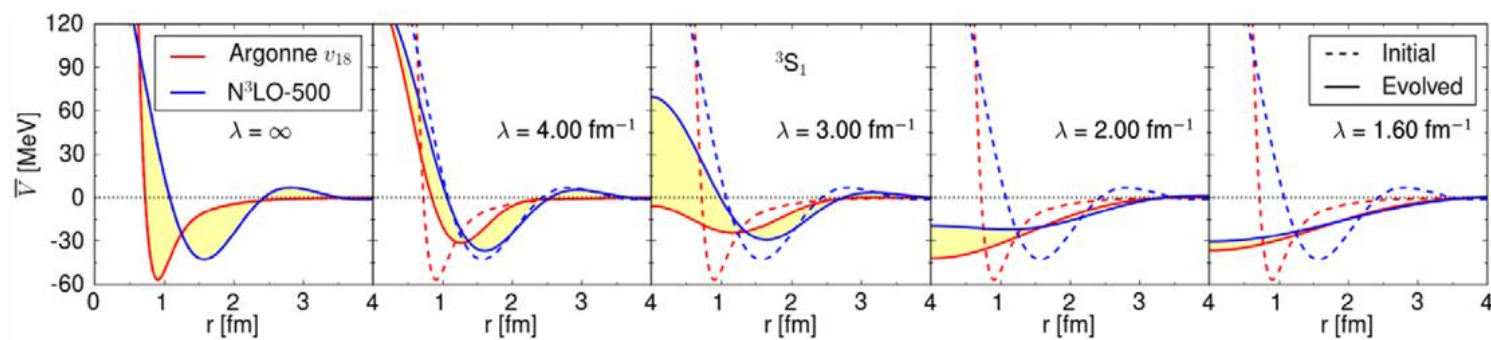


➤ N3LO(600MeV) momentum-space potential (1S0 channel)



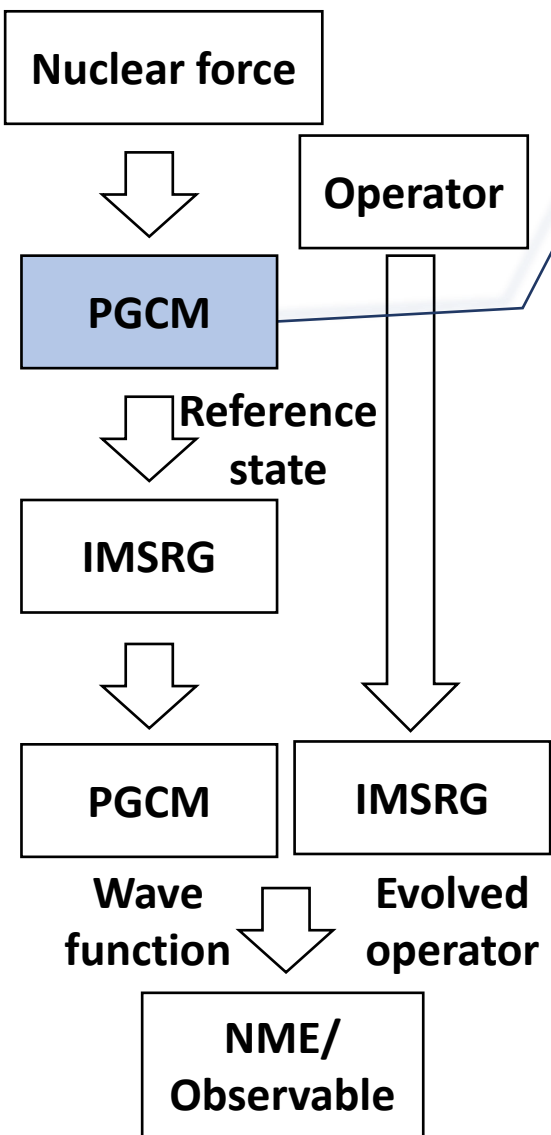
S. K. Bogner et al, PPNP 65(2010)94-147

➤ AV18 and N3LO(500MeV) potential (3S1 channel)



K.A. Wendt et al, Phys.Rev.C 86(2012)014003

The hard core “disappears” in the softened interactions.



On HO basis, constrained Hamiltonian

Ring and Schuck, *The nuclear many-body problem*, 1980

$$\langle \Phi | \hat{H} | \Phi \rangle = \left\langle \Phi \left| \hat{H}_0 - \sum_{\tau=n,p} \lambda_{\tau} \hat{N} \right| \Phi \right\rangle - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_Q (\langle \Phi | \hat{Q}_{20} | \Phi \rangle - q_{20})^2$$

Solve HFB equation and obtain HFB states with different deformations.

$$|\Phi(q)\rangle =$$

Wave function of a nuclear state

$$|\Psi_{\sigma}^{JMNZ}\rangle = \sum_q f_{\sigma}^J(q) |JMNZ, q\rangle$$

Solve Hill-Wheeler-Griffin (HWG) equation

$$\sum_q [H_{00}^J(q, q') - E_{\sigma}^J N_{00}^J(q, q')] f_{\sigma}^J(q') = 0$$

Projection

$$|JMNZ, q\rangle = \hat{P}_{M0}^J \hat{P}^N \hat{P}^Z |\Phi(q)\rangle$$



$$H_{00}^J(q, q') = \langle \Phi(q) | \hat{H} \hat{P}_{00}^J \hat{P}^N \hat{P}^Z | \Phi(q') \rangle$$

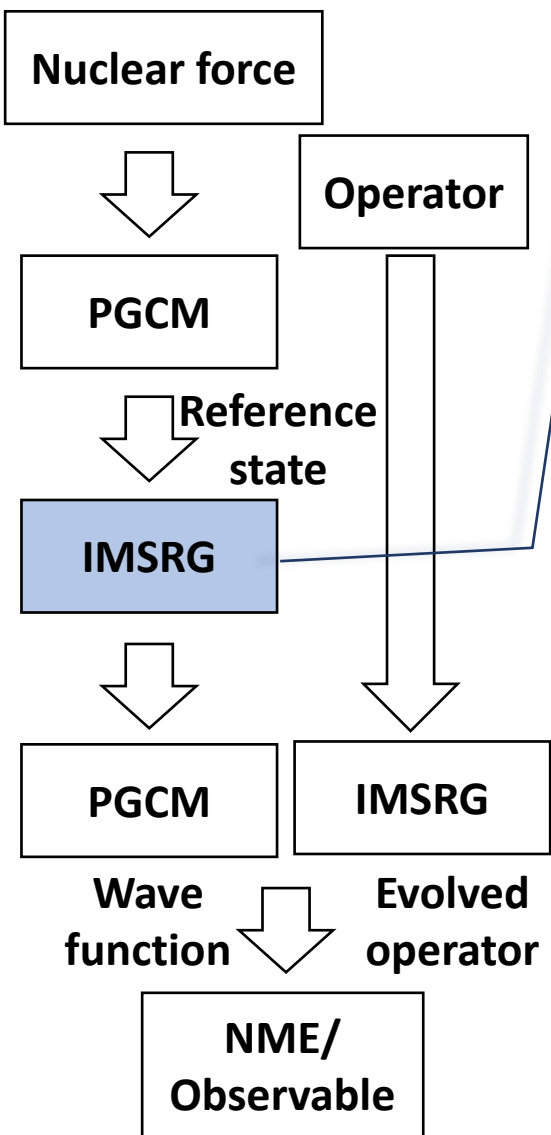
$$N_{00}^J(q, q') = \langle \Phi(q) | \hat{P}_{00}^J \hat{P}^N \hat{P}^Z | \Phi(q') \rangle$$

The 1B density

$$[\rho_{ij}]_{\mu}^{\lambda} = \langle \Psi_{\sigma}^{J'M'NZ} | [c_i^{\dagger} c_j]_{\mu}^{\lambda} | \Psi_{\sigma}^{JMNZ} \rangle$$

The 2B density

$$[\rho_{ijkl}]_{\mu}^{\lambda} = \langle \Psi_{\sigma}^{J'M'NZ} | [c_i^{\dagger} c_j^{\dagger} c_l c_k]_{\mu}^{\lambda} | \Psi_{\sigma}^{JMNZ} \rangle$$



□ **Unitary transformation** $H_s = U_s H U_s^\dagger$

Flow equation $\frac{dH_s}{ds} = [\eta_s, H_s]$

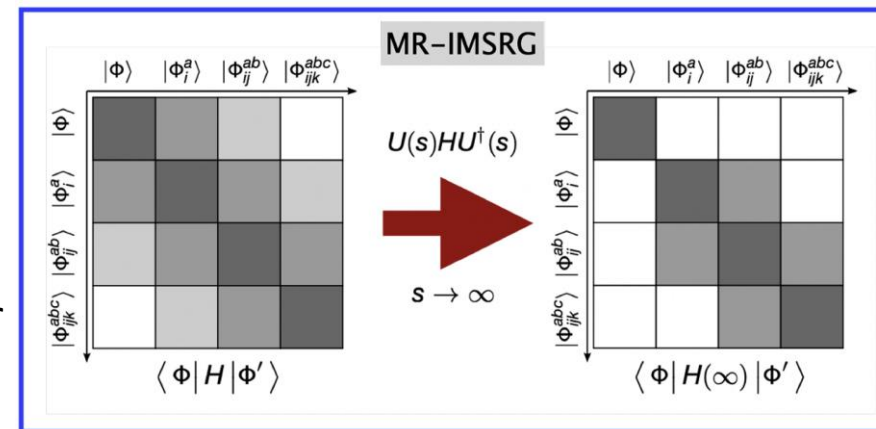
□ **Generator η_s** : chosen either to decouple a given reference state from its excitations or to decouple the valence space from the excluded spaces.

If choosing a HF state as the reference state, one has

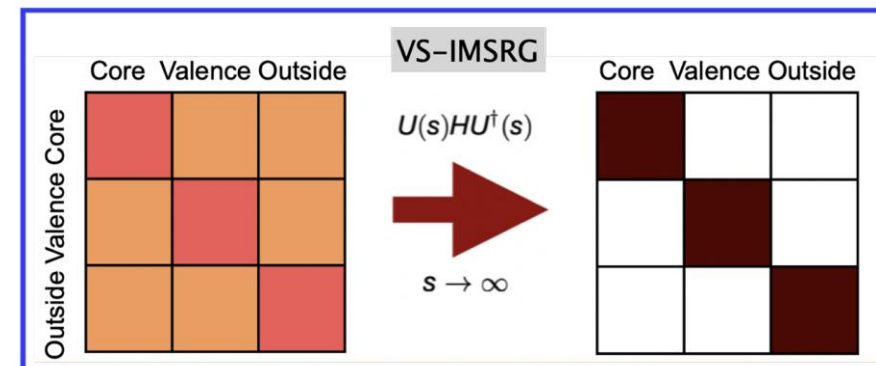
$$\hat{H}_0 |\psi_{\text{Exact}}^{(0)}\rangle = E_0 |\psi_{\text{Exact}}^{(0)}\rangle$$



$$\hat{H}(\infty) |\phi_{\text{HF}}\rangle = E_0 |\phi_{\text{HF}}\rangle$$

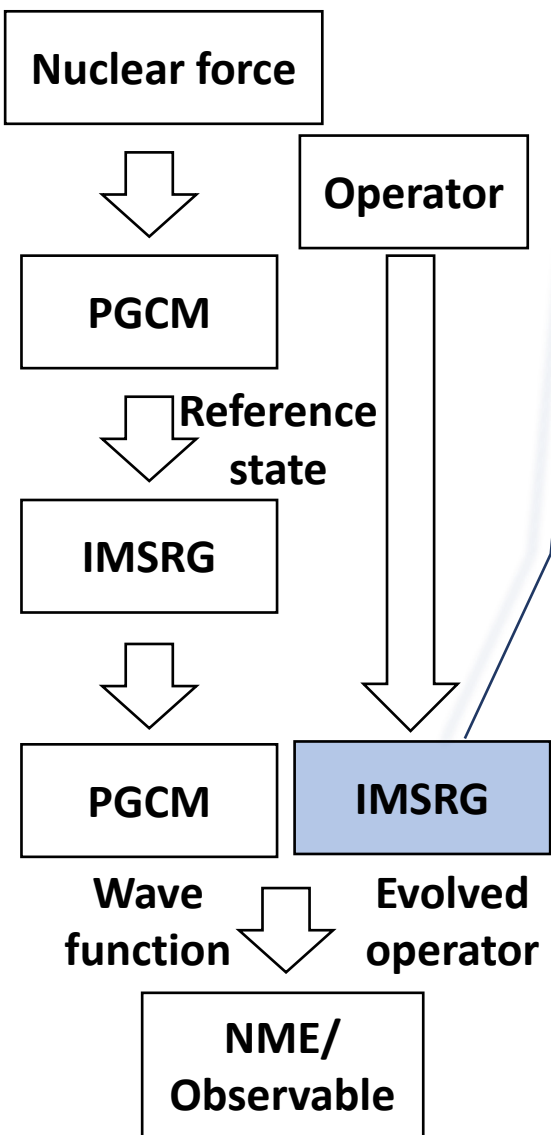


H. Hergert et al., Phys. Rep. 621, 165 (2016)



S. R. Stroberg et al., Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 69, 307 (2019)

About VS-IMSRG: also see the talk by X.C. Cao



□ During IMSRG process

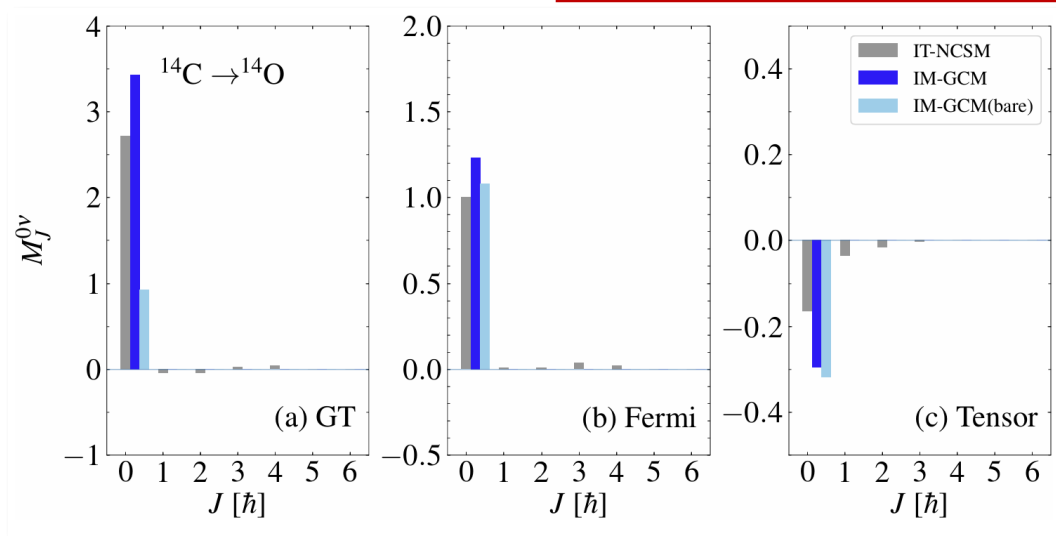
$$\langle \Phi_0 | \hat{H}_0 | \Phi_0 \rangle = \langle \Phi_s | U_s \hat{H}_0 U_s^\dagger | \Phi_s \rangle = \langle \Phi_s | \hat{H}_s | \Phi_s \rangle \Rightarrow |\Phi_s\rangle = U_s |\Phi_0\rangle$$

□ For operators

$$\langle \Phi_0 | \hat{O}_0 | \Phi_0 \rangle = \langle \Phi_s | U_s \hat{O}_0 U_s^\dagger | \Phi_s \rangle = \langle \Phi_s | \hat{O}_s | \Phi_s \rangle \Rightarrow \hat{O}_s = U_s \hat{O}_0 U_s^\dagger$$

↓ In Magnus expansion

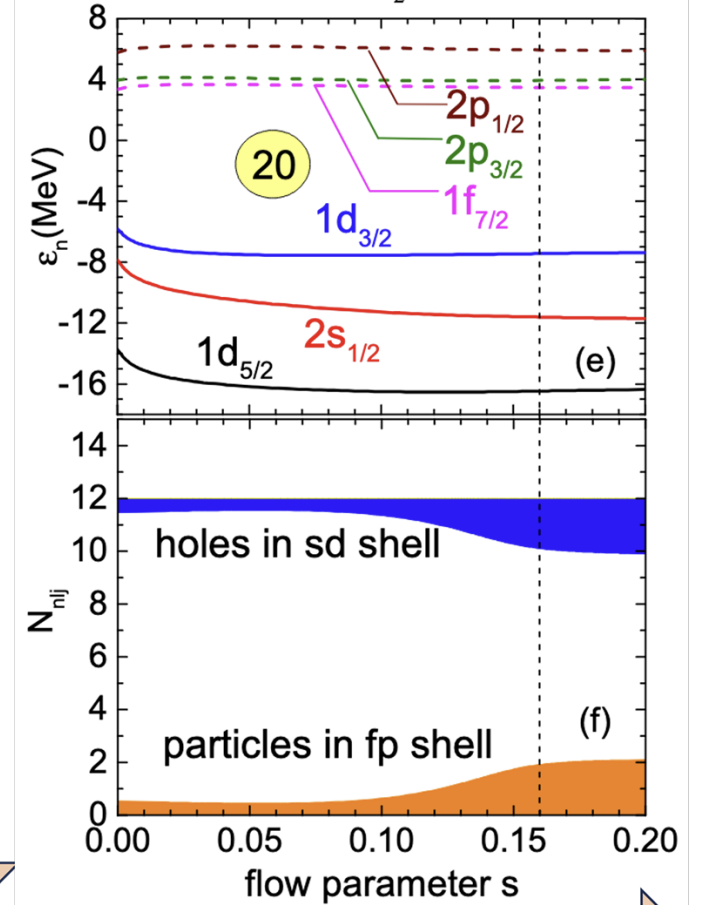
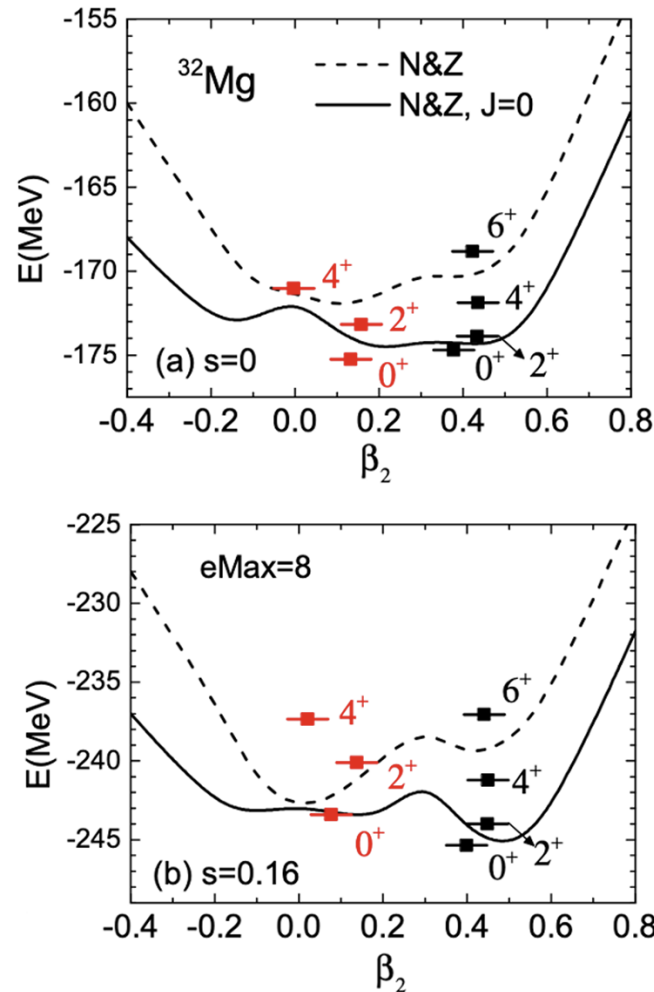
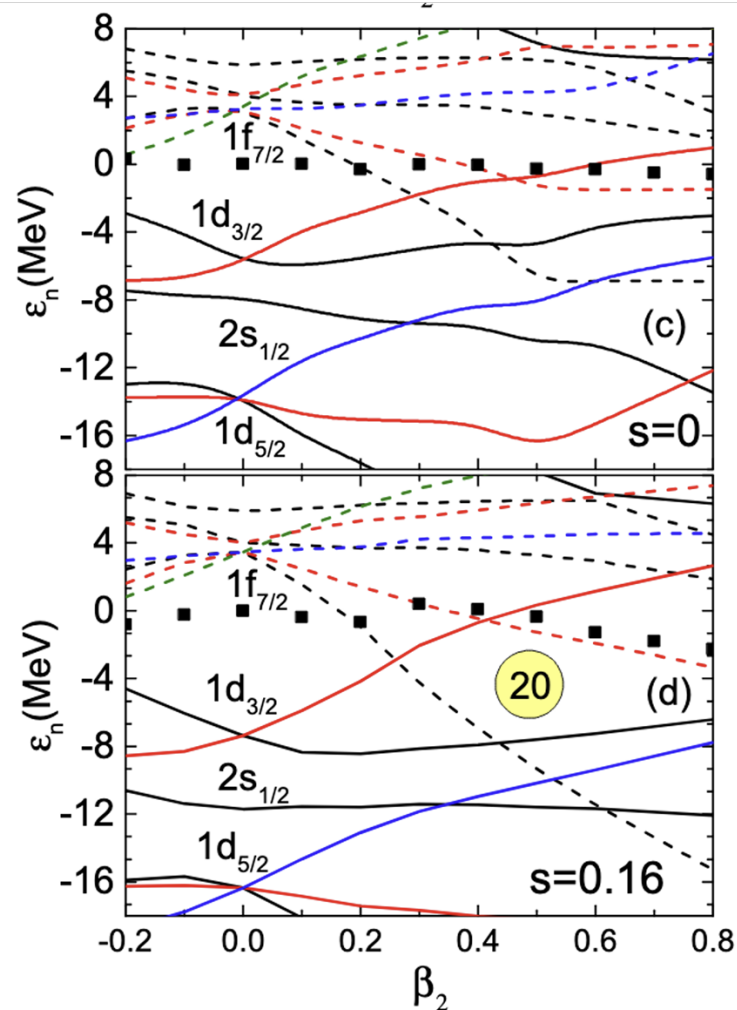
$$e^{\Omega(s)} \hat{O} e^{-\Omega(s)} = \hat{O} + [\Omega(s), \hat{O}] + \frac{1}{2!} [\Omega(s), [\Omega(s), \hat{O}]] + \dots$$



□ $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay NME

J. M. Yao et al., Phys.Rev.C
103 (2021) 1, 014315

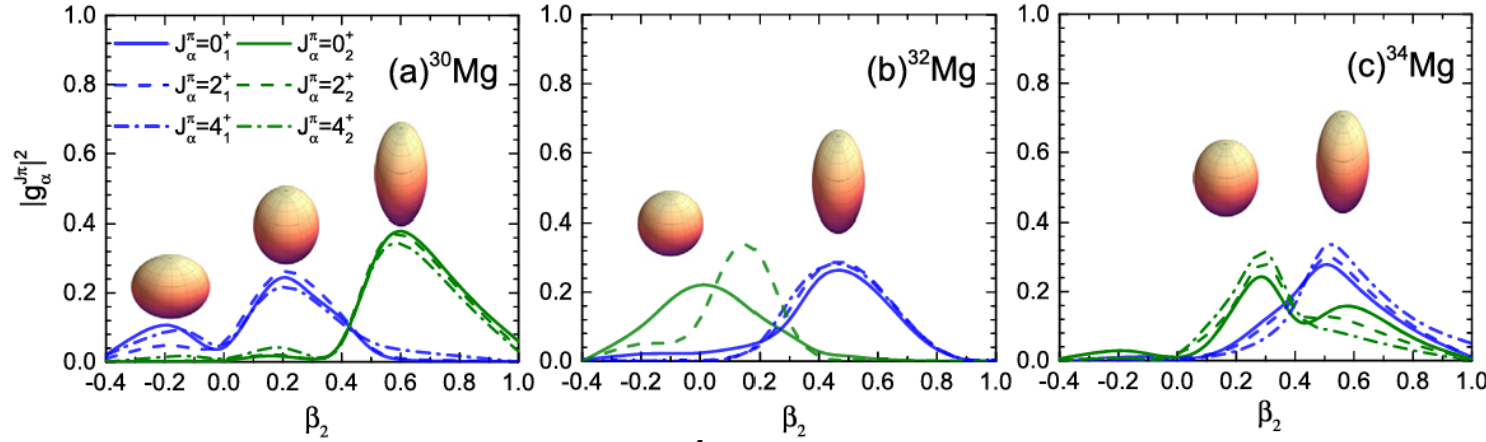
Application: Low-lying States



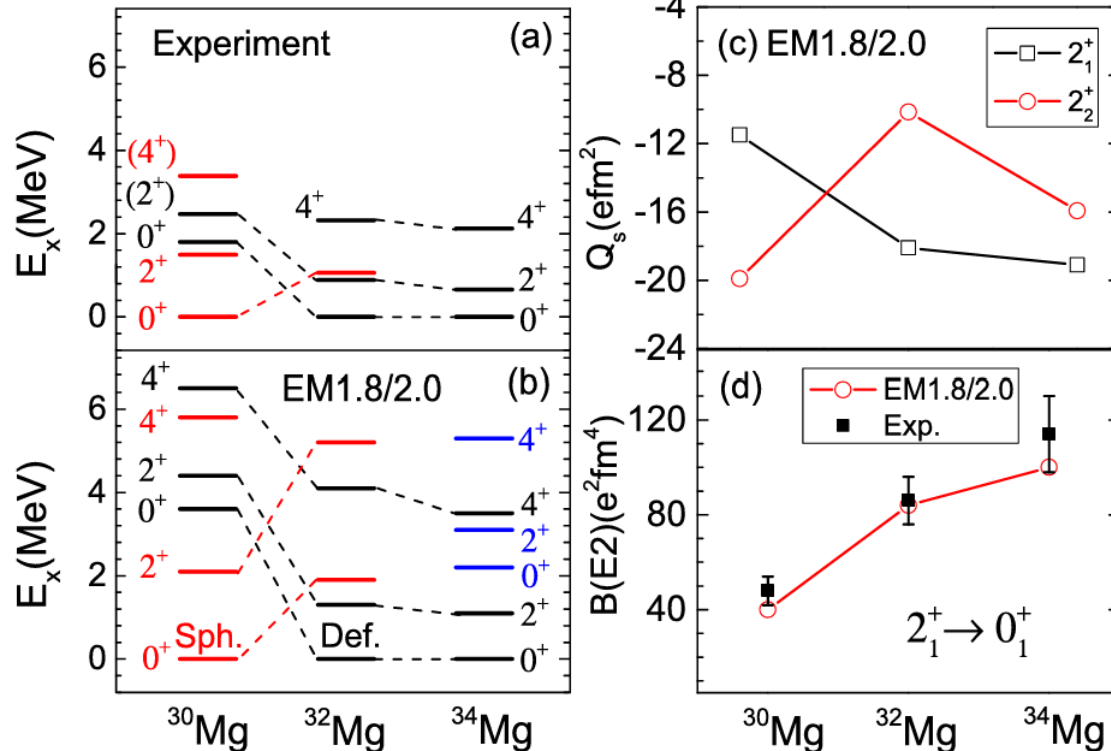
E. F. Zhou, CRD et al., Phys.Lett.B 864 (2025) 139464

❑ These pictures reveal how deformed ground states emerge naturally with the IMSRG evolution of the initial chiral two- plus three-nucleon interaction EM1.8/2.0.

Shape Coexistence in Mg Isotopes



E. F. Zhou, CRD et al.,
Phys.Lett.B 864 (2025) 139464



- Onset of strong collectivity from 30Mg to 34Mg: increase in $B(E2)$ and decrease in $E_x(2_1^+)$.
- The weakly prolate and oblate deformed ground state of 30Mg, coexisting with strongly prolate deformed second 0^+ state.
- The strongly prolate deformed ground states of 32Mg, 34Mg, coexisting with weakly deformed second 0^+ state.

Boundary of Island of Inversion

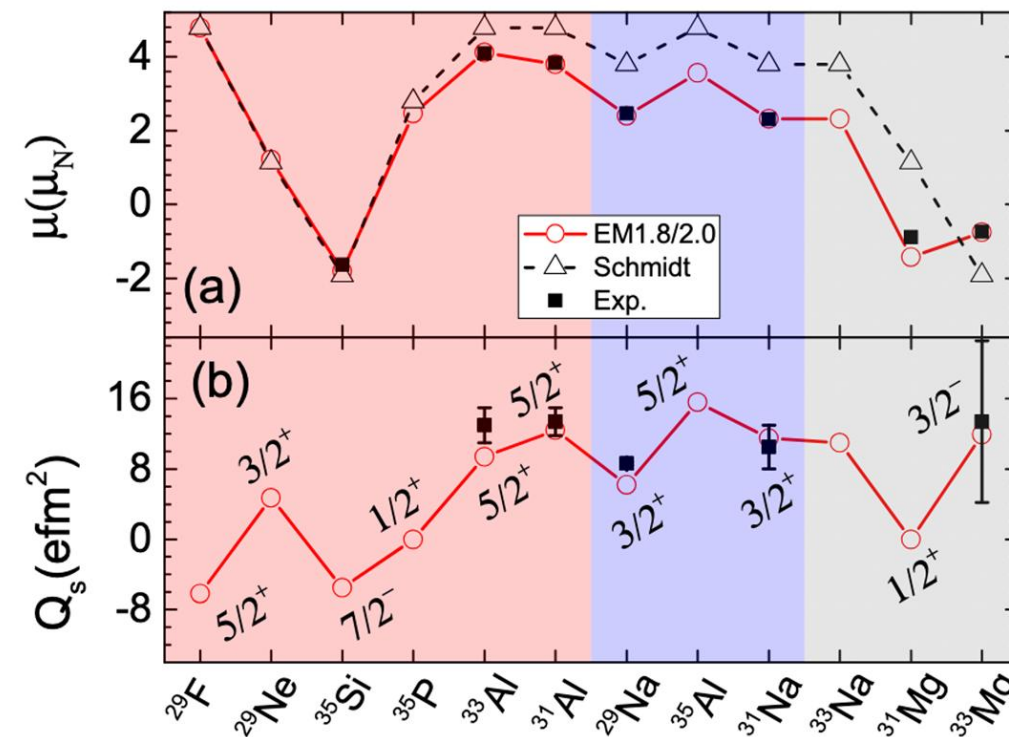
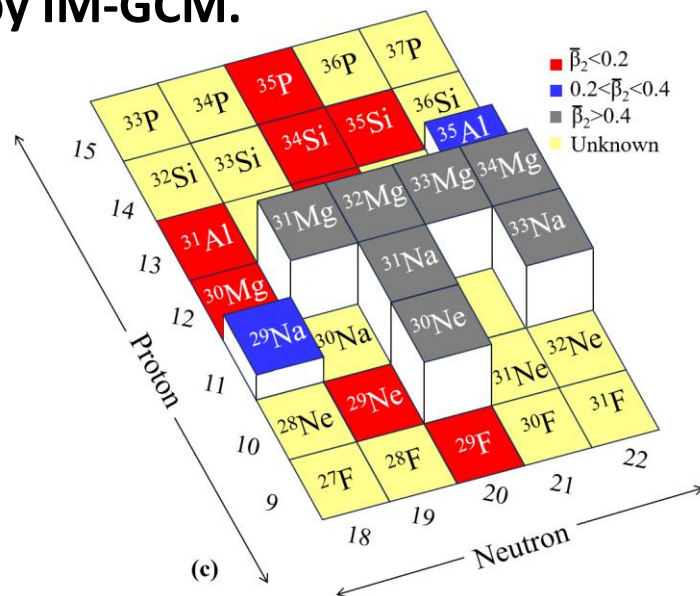


* **Island of inversion (IOI):** a part of an “archipelago of islands” associated with **the breaking of magic numbers**



The intrusion of fp orbitals into the sd shell in deformed Nilsson levels

□ For nuclei around $N=20$, the boundary of the IOI is predicted by IM-GCM.



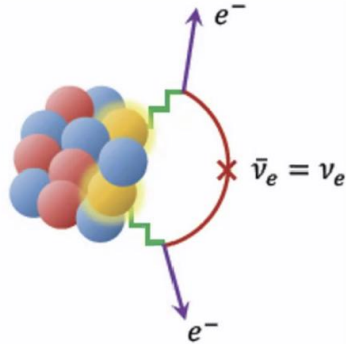
E. F. Zhou, CRD et al., in preparation

- Nuclei inside the island of inversion: 30Ne, 29,31,33Na, 31,32,33,34Mg, and 35Al.
- Nuclei outside: 29F, 29Ne, 30Mg, 31,33Al, 34,35Si, and 35P.

Application to $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

□ $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay:

$$X_Z^A \rightarrow Y_{Z+2}^A + e^- + e^-$$



□ Effective neutrino mass:

$$|\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle| = \left| \sum_{j=1}^3 U_{ej}^2 m_j \right| = \left[\frac{m_e^2}{g_A^4 G_{0\nu} T_{1/2}^{0\nu} |M^{0\nu}|^2} \right]^{1/2}$$

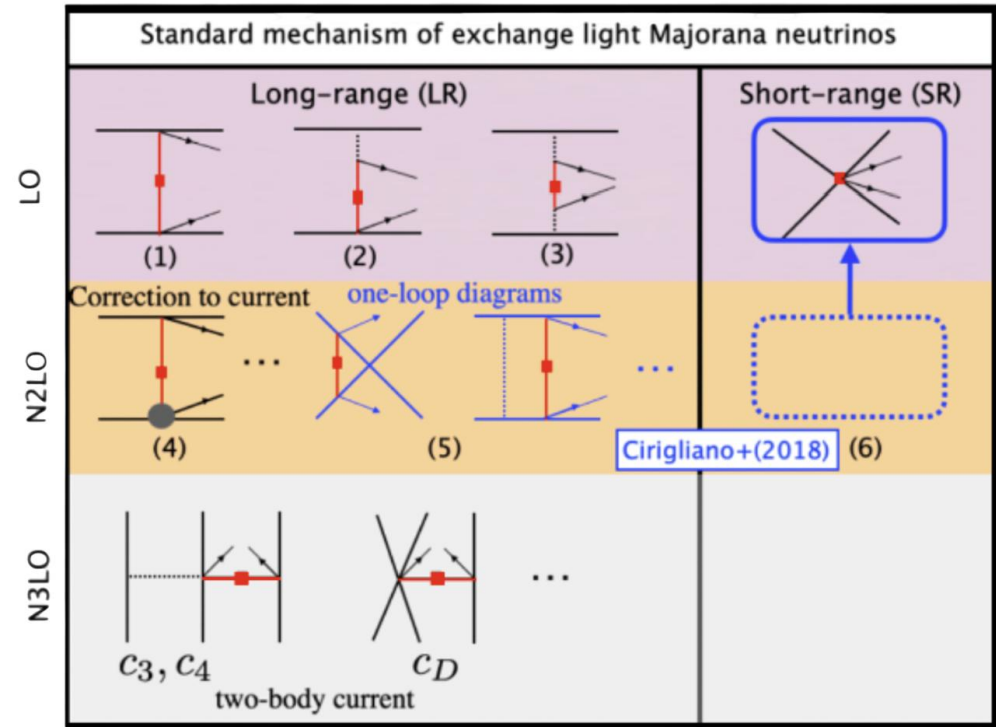
□ Nuclear matrix element(NME):

$$M^{0\nu} = \langle \Psi_F | \hat{O}^{0\nu} | \Psi_I \rangle$$

Decay operator

The $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay operators in the chiral EFT

Power Counting: $\nu = 2A + 2L - 2 + \sum_i \left(\frac{n_f}{2} + d - 2 + n_e \right)_i$

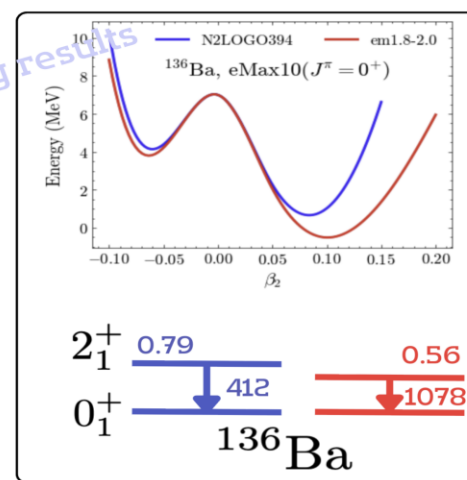
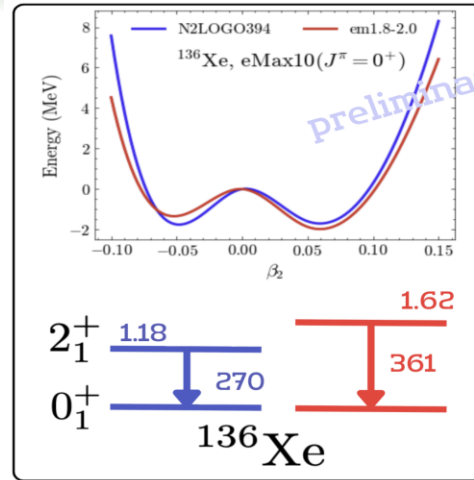


IM-GCM for the NME of ^{136}Xe

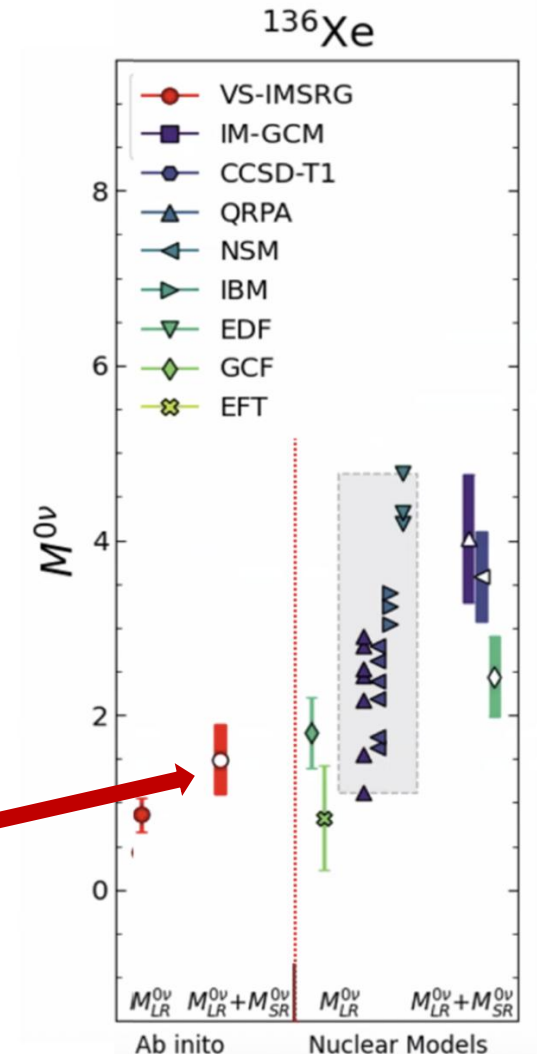


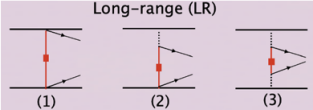
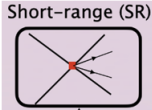
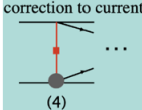
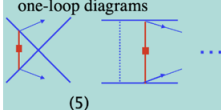
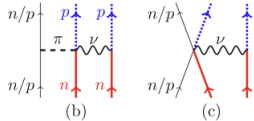
□ The NME by the MR-IMSRG + PGCM

CRD et al., in progress



The NME by the VS-IMSRG: [1.08-1.90]
a factor of about two uncertainty



	q^0/Λ^0	q^2/Λ^2	q^3/Λ^3			
	Long-range (LR)  (1) (2) (3)	Short-range (SR)  (4)	correction to current  (4)	one-loop diagrams  (5)	 (b) (c)	
	LO long-range neutrino potential	LO contact term neutrino potential	Part of N ² LO neutrino potential	Residual N ² LO neutrino potential	NO2B N3LO neutrino potential	Total NME
EM1.8-2.0 eMax10 $q^{4/3}/\Lambda^{4/3}$	1.07	0.42(8)	-0.07	0.17	-0.32(3)	1.27(11)
N2LOGO394 eMax10 q^3/Λ^3	0.88	0.39 (7)	-0.07	0.17	-0.09(1)	1.28(8)

Hoferichter et al, PhysRevD.102.074018(2020)

$$g_A(q^2, 2b) = g_A(q^2) + \delta_a(q), \quad g_P(q^2, 2b) = g_P(q^2) - \frac{2m_N}{q^2} \delta_a^P(q).$$

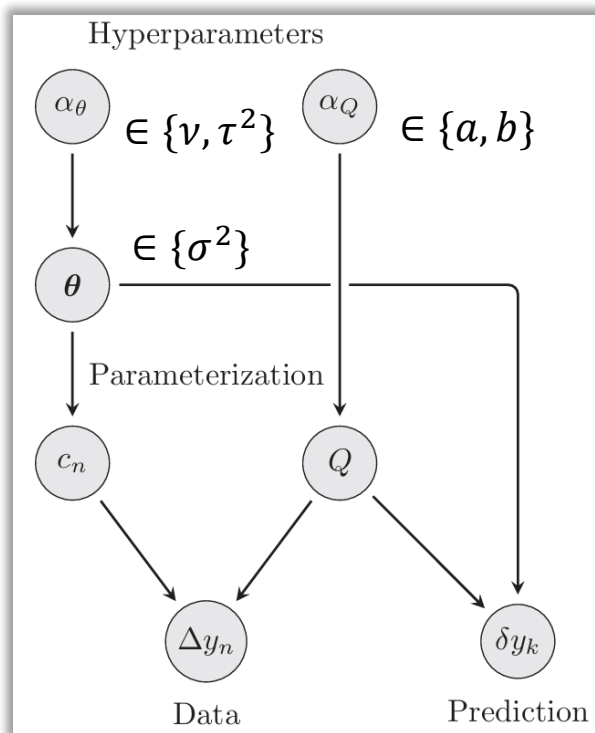
A. Belley et al., arXiv:2307.15156(2023)

Assume the NME could be described order by order by $y = y_{ref} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n Q^n$

- c_n is the coefficient with natural size.
- Q is the expansion factor.

If we can calculate NME up to k -th order, how to predict the truncation error $\Delta y_k = y_{ref} \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} c_n Q^n$

Bayesian inference



$$P(A|B) \propto P(B|A)P(A) \quad \text{Prior}$$

Posterior Likelihood

$$\theta | \alpha_\theta \sim \chi^{-2}(\nu_0, \tau_0^2)$$

$$c_\theta | \theta \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

Conjugate Prior

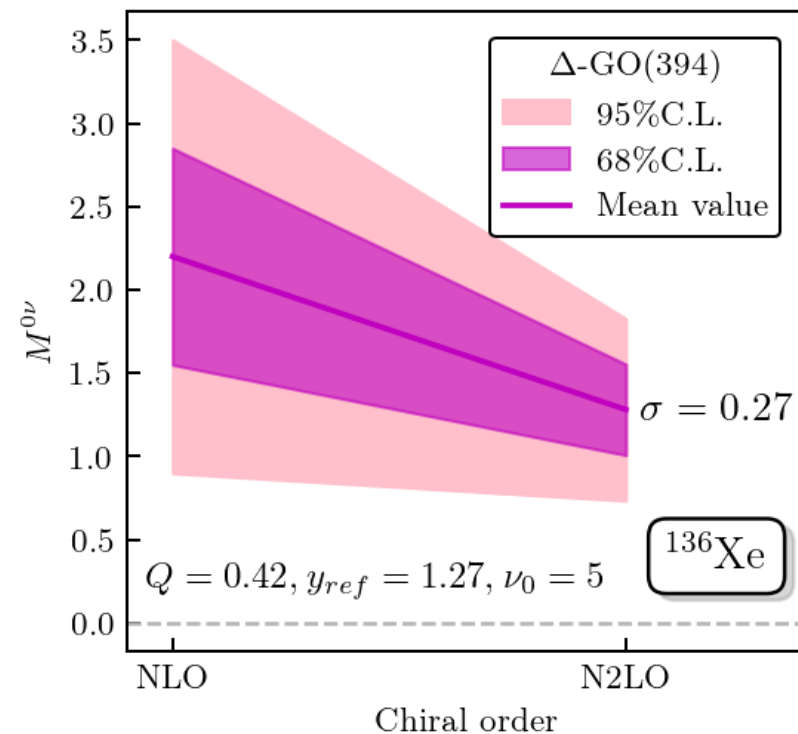
J. A. Melendez et al.,
PRC100(2019)044001

After the inference

$$\theta | \vec{c}_k \sim \chi^{-2}(\nu, \tau^2),$$

$$\nu = \nu_0 + n_k, \nu \tau^2 = \nu_0 \tau_0^2 + \vec{c}_k^2$$

CRD et al., in progress



* Uncertainty quantification by the BUQEYE method.

Developments

MR-IMSRG(3)

Led by L. H. Chen

**Quasi-particle
excitations**

Led by Y. Li

Emulator

Led by CRD

**MR-IMSRG
+GCM**

Applications

Beta decay

Led by Y. X. Zhang

Schiff moment

Led by Q. Y. Luo

Neutrino scattering

Led by Q. L. Feng,
B. L. Zhang

*Collaborators: B. Bally, S. K. Bogner, H. Hergert, C. F. Jiao, H. Z. Liang,
T. R. Rodríguez, C. C. Wang, J. M. Yao, E. F. Zhou.*

Thank you for your attention!