

# Unique Forbidden $\beta$ -decays for Precision New Physics Searches

Ayala Glick-Magid

**W**

UNIVERSITY of  
WASHINGTON



INSTITUTE for  
NUCLEAR THEORY



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

Hirschegg  
Jan. 2026

 Introduction: BSM Searches & Forbidden  $\beta$ -decays

 Radiative Effects

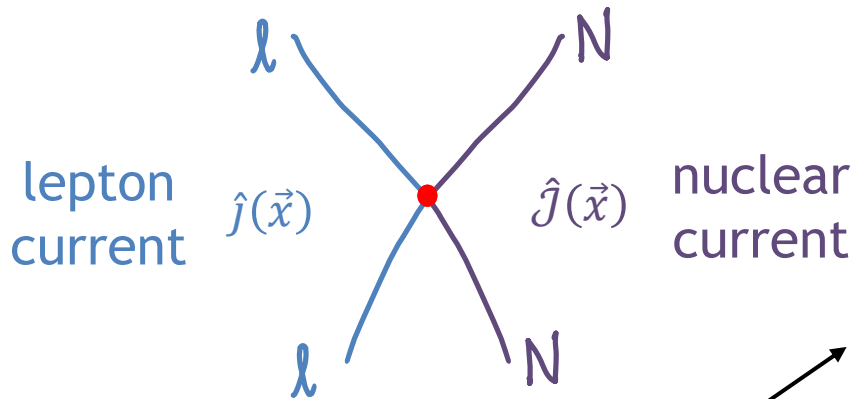
  $\Rightarrow$  ~~Forbidden~~

 Nuclear-structure Corrections

  $\Rightarrow$  New observable: SPAM

 Summary

# Weak interaction



$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_W \sim C \hat{j}(\vec{x}) \cdot \hat{J}(\vec{x})$$

A-priori:

- Scalar ( $C_S$ )
- PseudoScalar ( $C_P$ )
- Vector ( $C_V$ )**
- Axial-vector ( $C_A$ )**
- Tensor ( $C_T$ )

Experiments with *nuclear  $\beta$ -decays*

**Weak SM structure:**

**“V – A”**

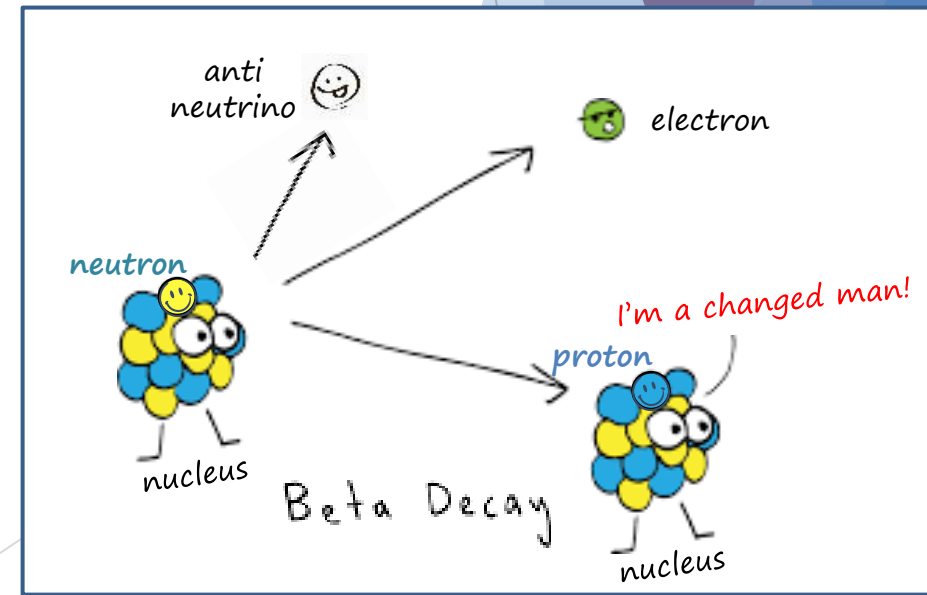
**The SM is incomplete**

>> Ongoing searches for  $C_S, C_P, C_T$   
in precision *nuclear  $\beta$ -decay* experiments

# Nuclear $\beta$ -decay

Low momentum transfer:  $q \sim 0 - 10 \text{ MeV}/c$

Beta decay, Khan Academy, [cdn.kastatic.org/ka-perseus-images/8d978444f15f9bbc3bcadb0549816bc7e264b977.svg](https://cdn.kastatic.org/ka-perseus-images/8d978444f15f9bbc3bcadb0549816bc7e264b977.svg)



# Nuclear $\beta$ -decay

Low momentum transfer:  $q \sim 0 - 10 \text{ MeV}/c$

angular  
momentum      parity

Transitions  $J^{\Delta\pi}$ :

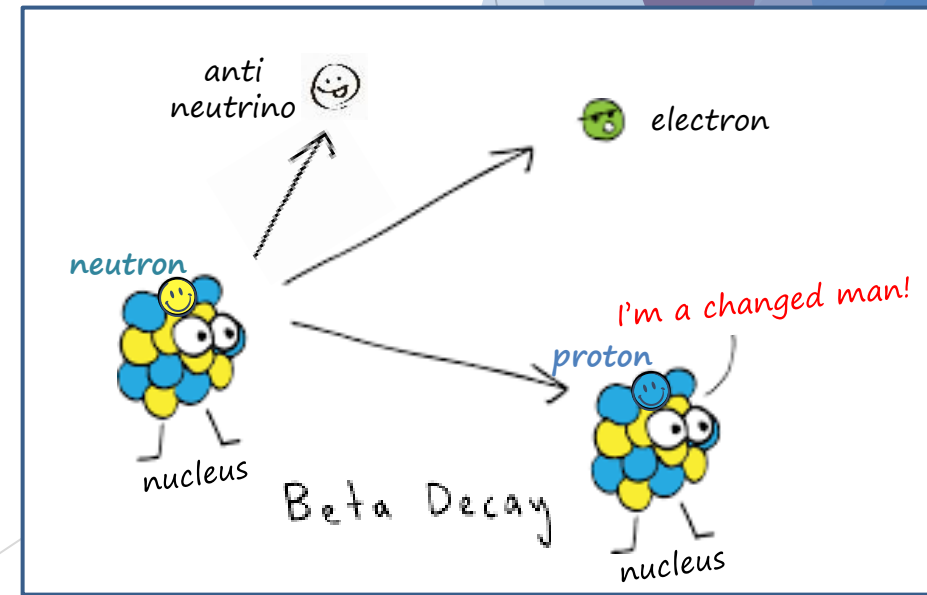
“Allowed”  
(when  $q \rightarrow 0$ )

- Fermi ( $0^+$ )
- Gamow-Teller ( $1^+$ )

“Forbidden”  
(vanish for  $q \rightarrow 0$ )

- All the rest ( $J^{\Delta\pi}$ )

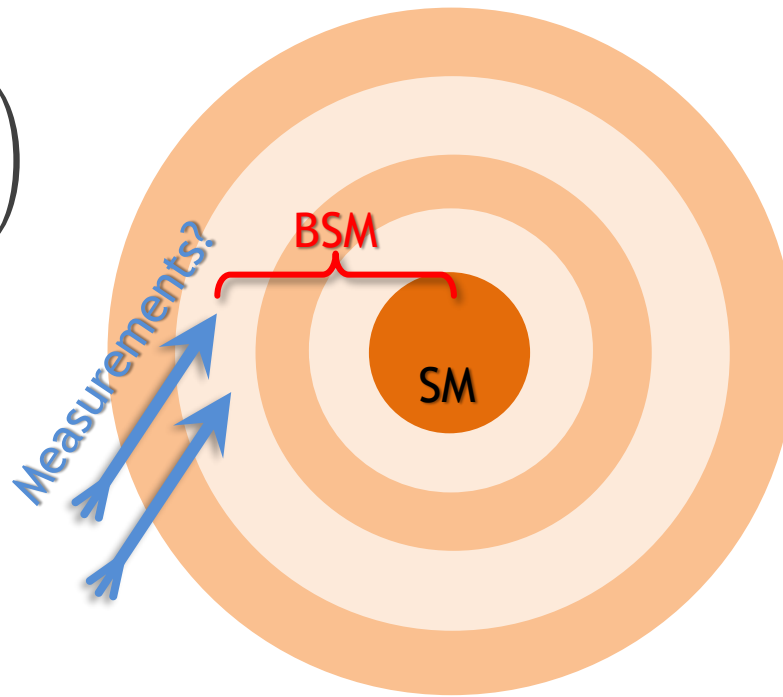
Beta decay, Khan Academy, [cdn.kastatic.org/ka-perseus-images/8d978444f15f9bbc3bcadb0549816bc7c264b977.svg](https://cdn.kastatic.org/ka-perseus-images/8d978444f15f9bbc3bcadb0549816bc7c264b977.svg)



# Allowed decays

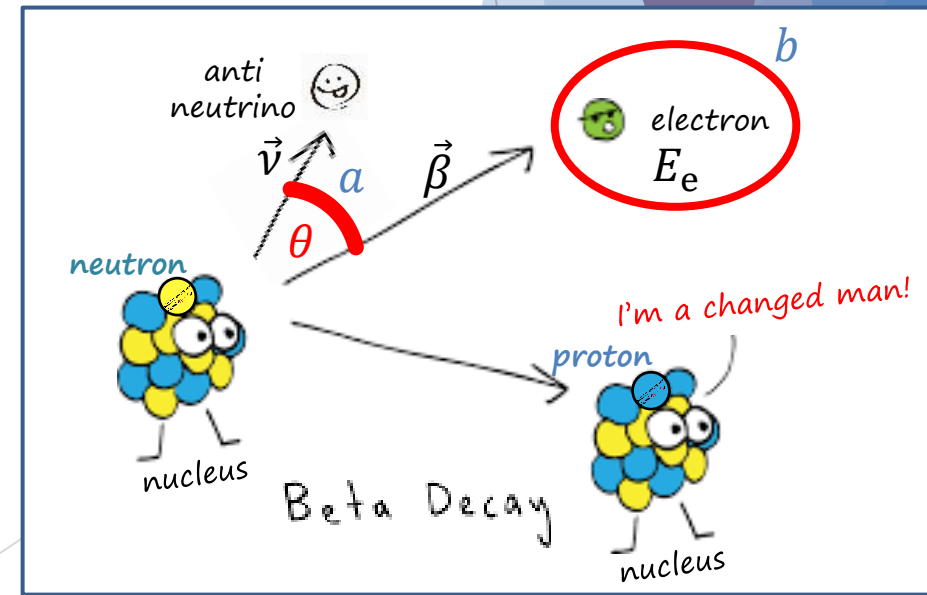
$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu}$$

- 1)  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{matrix} \text{SM} \\ 0 \\ \text{BSM} \\ \pm \frac{C_T^+}{C_A} \end{matrix}$
- 2)  $\mathbf{a} = -\frac{1}{5} \left( 1 - \frac{|C_T^+|^2 + |C_T^-|^2}{4|C_A|^2} \right)$



(E.g., Gamow-Teller)

Beta decay, Khan Academy, [cdn.kastatic.org/ka-perseus-images/8d978444f15f9bbc3bcadb0549816bc7c264b977.svg](https://cdn.kastatic.org/ka-perseus-images/8d978444f15f9bbc3bcadb0549816bc7c264b977.svg)



$C_A = 1.27$  Axial vector coupling constant (SM)

$C_T^+ (C_T^-) \lesssim 10^{-3}$  Tensor left (right) coupling constants (BSM), unknown

# Unique forbidden decays

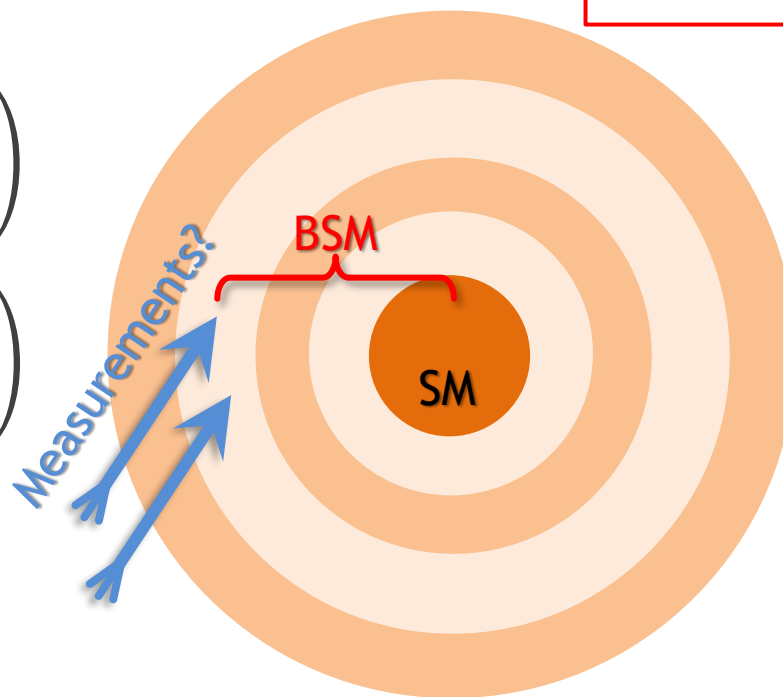
$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}})^2 \right]$$

[AGM & Gazit, PRD 2023](#)

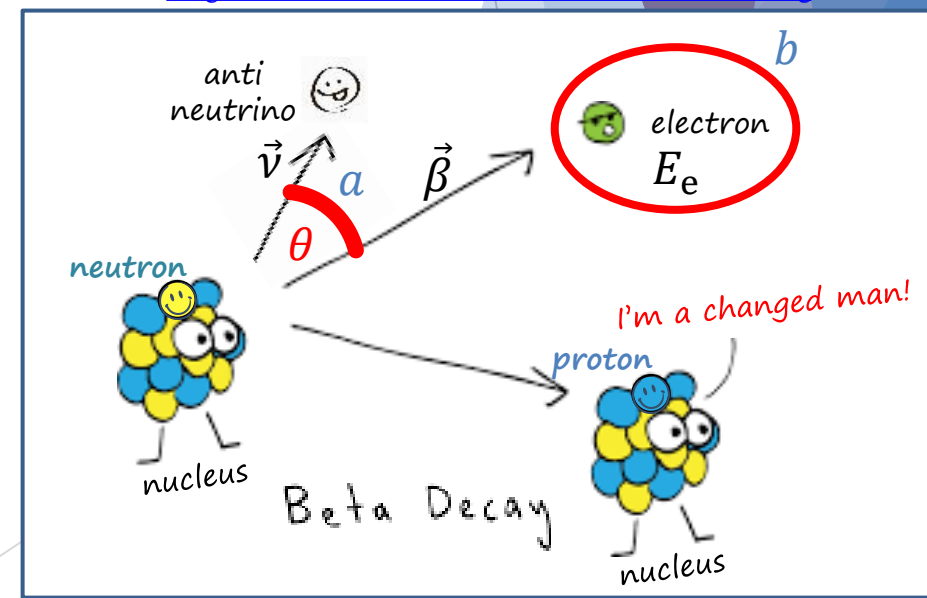
**BSM Predictions & Observables**  
for all **forbidden decays**

- |    |   |                         |
|----|---|-------------------------|
|    | SM  | BSM                     |
| 1) | $b = 0$   | $\pm \frac{C_T^+}{C_A}$ |
| 2) | $a = -\frac{1}{5} \left( 1 - \frac{ C_T^+ ^2 +  C_T^- ^2}{4 C_A ^2} \right)$  |                         |
| 3) | $a_2 = \frac{1}{5} \left( 1 - \frac{ C_T^+ ^2 +  C_T^- ^2}{4 C_A ^2} \right)$ |                         |

(E.g., Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden)



Beta decay, Khan Academy, [cdn.kastatic.org/ka-perseus-images/8d978444f15f9bbc3bcadb0549816bc7e264b977.svg](https://cdn.kastatic.org/ka-perseus-images/8d978444f15f9bbc3bcadb0549816bc7e264b977.svg)



$C_A = 1.27$  Axial vector coupling constant (SM)

$C_T^+ (C_T^-) \lesssim 10^{-3}$  Tensor left (right) coupling constants (BSM), unknown

# Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + b \frac{m_e}{E_e} + a \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{v} + a_2 [\beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{v})^2]$$

[AGM & Gazit, PRD 2023](#)

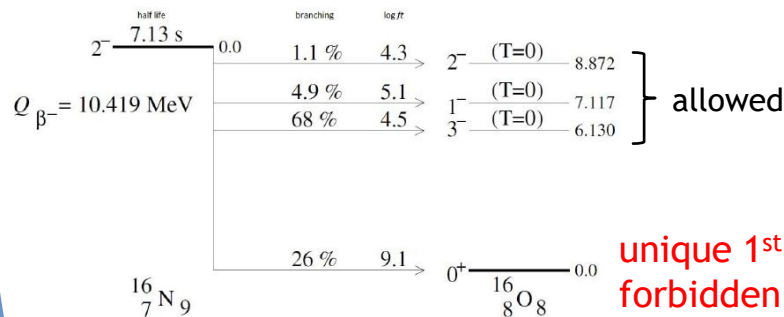
## > Experiments:

Searches for deviations from the SM “V-A” structure

⇒ Development of **MTAS @ ORNL**  
Modular Total Absorption Spectrometer  
to *distinguish between decay transitions*

[Shuai, Rasco, et al., PRD 2022](#)

**<sup>16</sup>N:** Large energy separation between forbidden and allowed branches



[Ohayon, Chocron, Hirsh, AGM, et al., Hyp.Int.2018](#)

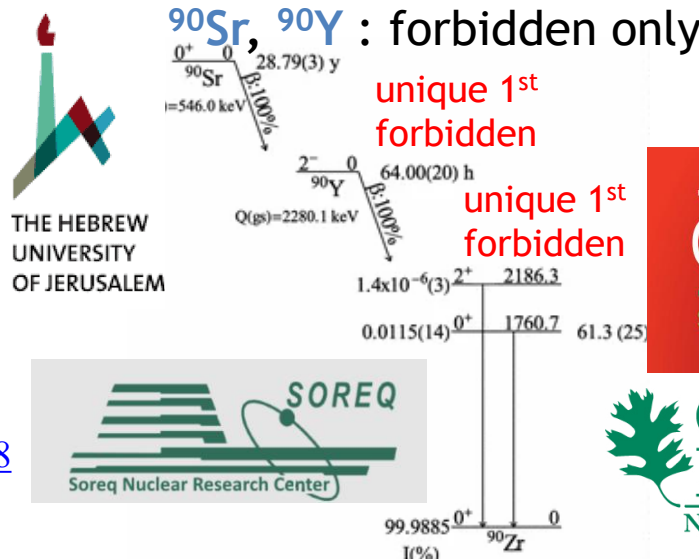


Fig.: [Morozov et al. J.Rad.Nuc.Chem.2010](#)

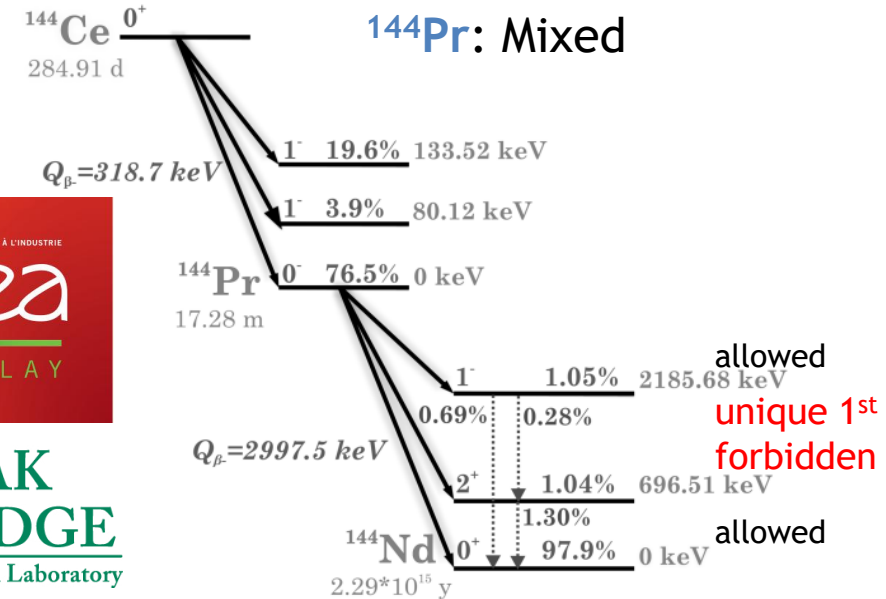
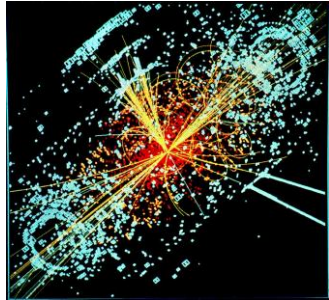


Fig.: [Journal of Physics: Conference Series 1390 \(2019\) 012117](#)

# High energy frontier



Lucas Taylor / CERN - <http://cdsweb.cern.ch/record/628469>  
© 1997-2022 CERN (License: CC-BY-SA-4.0)

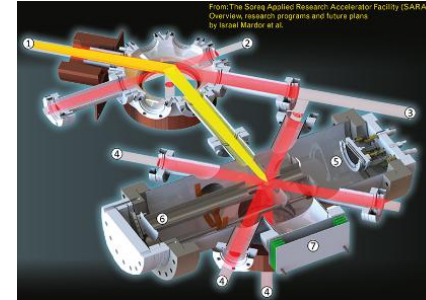
LHC  
TeV scale

# Searches for BSM physics

$C_T^+$  ( $C_T^-$ ) Tensor left (right)  
coupling constants



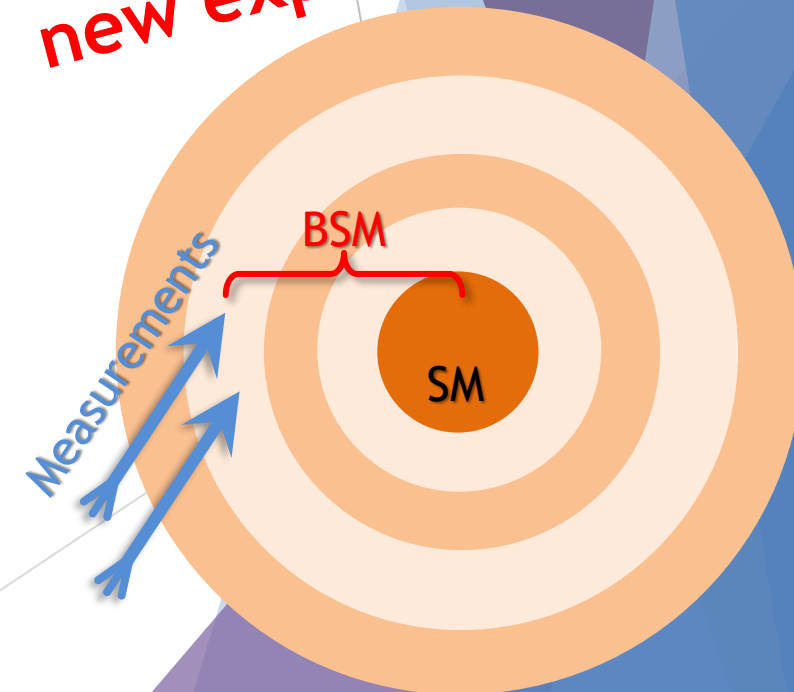
# Precision frontier



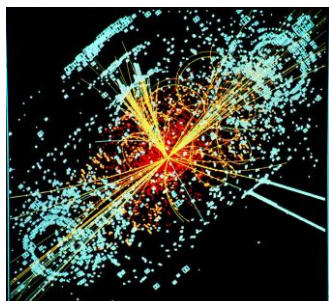
Mardor *et al.*, [Eur. Phys. J. A 54, 91](#) (2018)

Nuclear phenomena  
 $10^{-3}$  precision level

**new experiments**



# High energy frontier



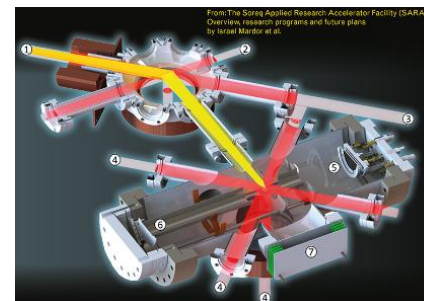
Lucas Taylor / CERN - <http://cdsweb.cern.ch/record/628469>  
© 1997-2022 CERN (License: CC-BY-SA-4.0)

LHC  
TeV scale

# Searches for BSM physics

$C_T^+$  ( $C_T^-$ ) Tensor left (right) coupling constants

# Precision frontier

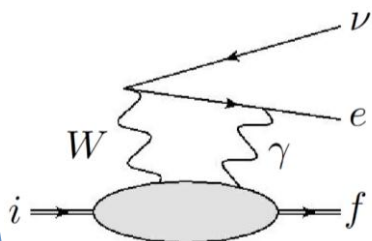


Mardor et al., *Eur. Phys. J. A* 54, 91 (2018)

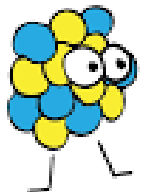
Nuclear phenomena  
 $10^{-3}$  precision level

**new experiments**

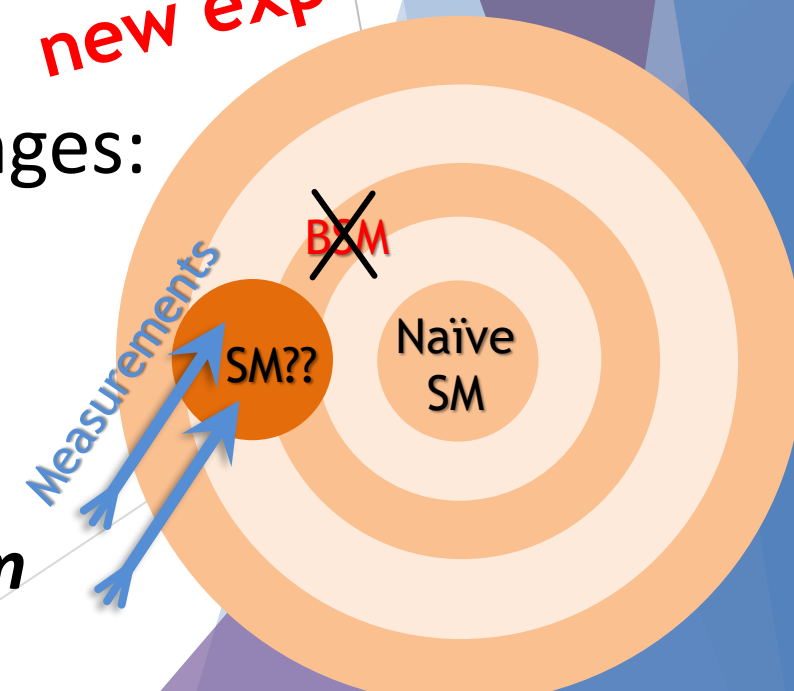
Requires Precision Theory – two challenges:



➤ **High-order radiative effects**



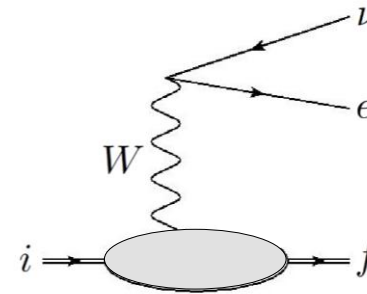
➤ **Nuclear-structure many-body problem**



# Radiative Effects

# Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle 0^+ || \hat{H}_W || 2^- \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu} + \mathbf{a}_2 [\beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu})^2]$$



“Forbidden”  
(vanish for  $q \rightarrow 0$ )

- All the rest ( $J^{\Delta\pi}$ )

angular  
momentum

parity

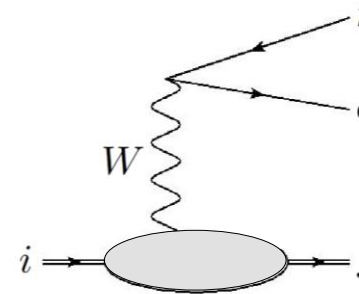
$$J_i^{\pi_i} \rightarrow J_f^{\pi_f}$$

$$|J_i - J_f| \leq J \leq J_i + J_f$$

$$\Delta\pi = \pi_i \cdot \pi_f$$

# Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle 0^+ || \hat{H}_W || 2^- \rangle|^2 \propto \left\{ 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu})^2 \right] \right\} |\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J || 2^- \rangle|^2$$



“Forbidden”  
(vanish for  $q \rightarrow 0$ )

- All the rest ( $J^{\Delta\pi}$ )

angular  
momentum

parity

$$2^- \rightarrow 0^+$$

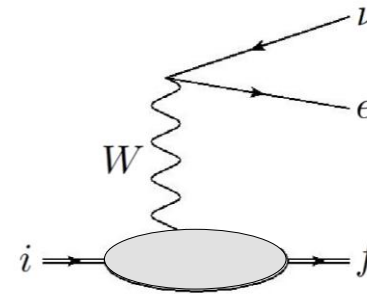
$$|2 - 0| \leq J \leq 2 + 0$$

$$\Delta\pi = -$$

# Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle 0^+ || \hat{H}_W || 2^- \rangle|^2 \propto \left\{ 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu})^2 \right] \right\} |\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J || 2^- \rangle|^2$$

$$\propto q^{J-1} \xrightarrow{q \rightarrow 0} 0$$



**Forbidden!**

“Forbidden”  
(vanish for  $q \rightarrow 0$ )

- All the rest ( $J^{\Delta\pi}$ )

angular momentum

parity

$$2^- \rightarrow 0^+$$

$$|2 - 0| \leq J \leq 2 + 0$$

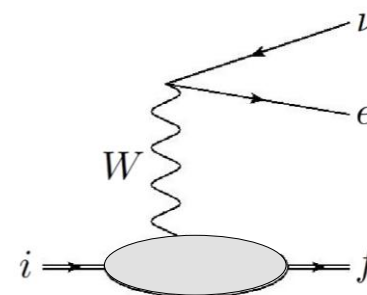
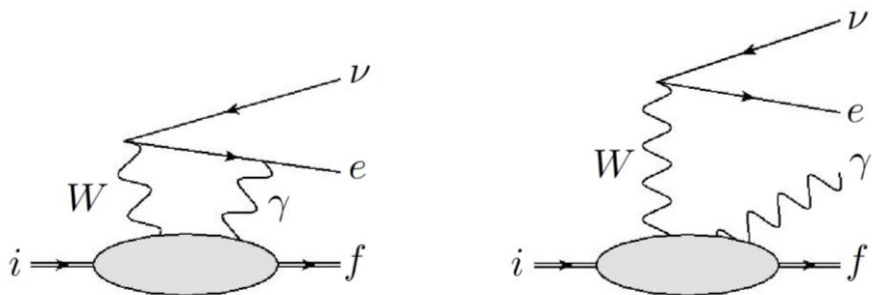
$$\Delta\pi = -$$

# Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle 0^+ || \hat{H}_W || 2^- \rangle|^2 \propto \left\{ 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu})^2 \right] \right\} |\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J || 2^- \rangle|^2$$

$$\propto q^{J-1} \xrightarrow{q \rightarrow 0} 0$$

## Radiative Corrections:



**Forbidden!**

$$\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J^W \hat{Q}_{J'}^{EM} || 2^- \rangle$$

“Forbidden”  
(vanish for  $q \rightarrow 0$ )

• All the rest ( $J^{\Delta\pi}$ )

angular momentum

parity

$$2^- \rightarrow 0^+$$

$$|2 - 0| \leq J \leq 2 + 0$$

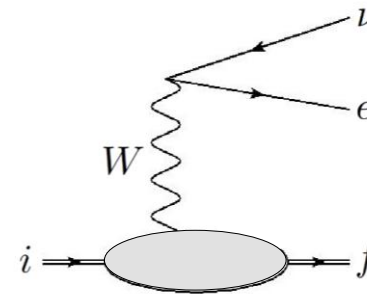
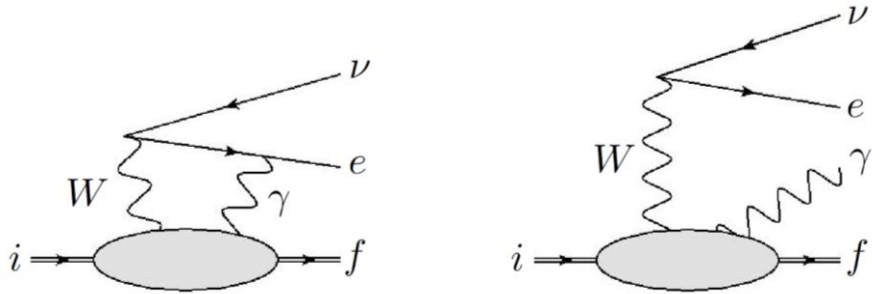
$$\Delta\pi = -$$

# Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle 0^+ || \hat{H}_W || 2^- \rangle|^2 \propto \left\{ 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu})^2 \right] \right\} |\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J || 2^- \rangle|^2$$

$$\propto q^{J-1} \xrightarrow{q \rightarrow 0} 0$$

## Radiative Corrections:



**Forbidden!**

$$\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J^W \hat{Q}_{J'}^{EM} || 2^- \rangle = \sum_X \langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J^W || \psi_X \rangle \langle \psi_X || \hat{Q}_{J'}^{EM} || 2^- \rangle$$

“Forbidden”  
(vanish for  $q \rightarrow 0$ )

• All the rest ( $J^{\Delta\pi}$ )

angular momentum

parity

$$2^- \rightarrow 0^+$$

$$|2 - 0| \leq J \leq 2 + 0$$

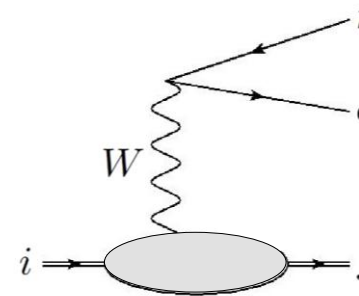
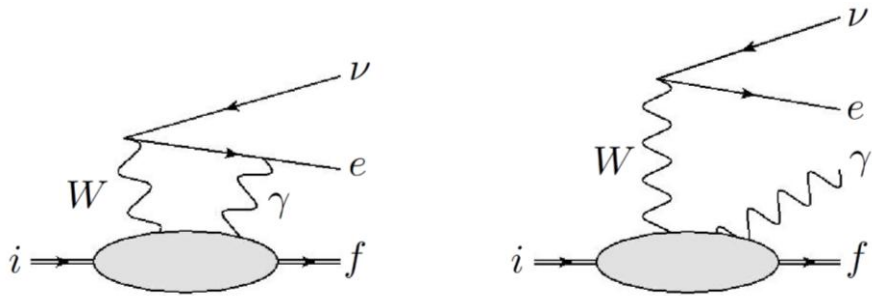
$$\Delta\pi = -$$

# Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle 0^+ || \hat{H}_W || 2^- \rangle|^2 \propto \left\{ 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu})^2 \right] \right\} |\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J || 2^- \rangle|^2$$

$$\propto q^{J-1} \xrightarrow{q \rightarrow 0} 0$$

## Radiative Corrections:



**Forbidden!**

$$\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J^W \hat{Q}_{J'}^{EM} || 2^- \rangle = \sum_X \langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J^W || \psi_X \rangle \langle \psi_X || \hat{Q}_{J'}^{EM} || 2^- \rangle$$

No longer limited to  $J = 2$  operators to satisfy the selection rule!

$$\begin{aligned} |J_X - 0| &\leq J \leq J_X + 0 \\ |2 - J_X| &\leq J' \leq 2 + J_X \end{aligned}$$

angular momentum      parity

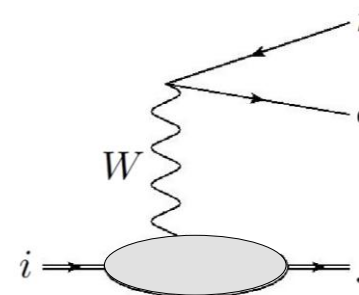
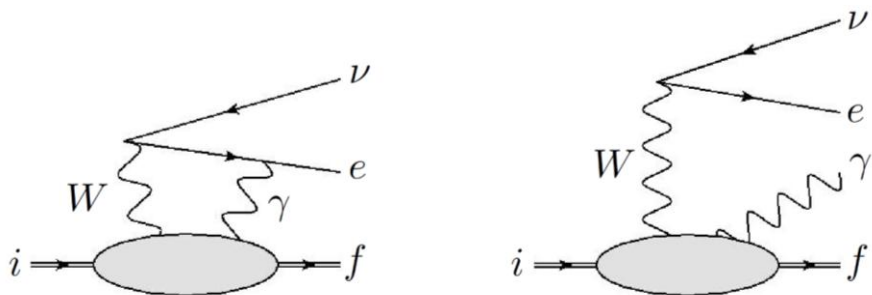
$$\begin{aligned} &2^- \rightarrow 0^+ \\ |2 - 0| &\leq J \leq 2 + 0 \\ \Delta\pi &= - \end{aligned}$$

# Unique 1<sup>st</sup>-forbidden

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle 0^+ || \hat{H}_W || 2^- \rangle|^2 \propto \left\{ 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu})^2 \right] \right\} |\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J || 2^- \rangle|^2$$

$$\propto q^{J-1} \xrightarrow{q \rightarrow 0} 0$$

## Radiative Corrections:



**Forbidden!**

$$\langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J^W \hat{Q}_{J'}^{EM} || 2^- \rangle = \sum_X \langle 0^+ || \hat{O}_J^W || \psi_X \rangle \langle \psi_X || \hat{Q}_{J'}^{EM} || 2^- \rangle$$

No longer limited to  $J = 2$  operators to satisfy the selection rule!

$$d\Gamma \propto f_0 q^0 + f_1 q^1 + f_2 q^2$$

interference

angular momentum

parity

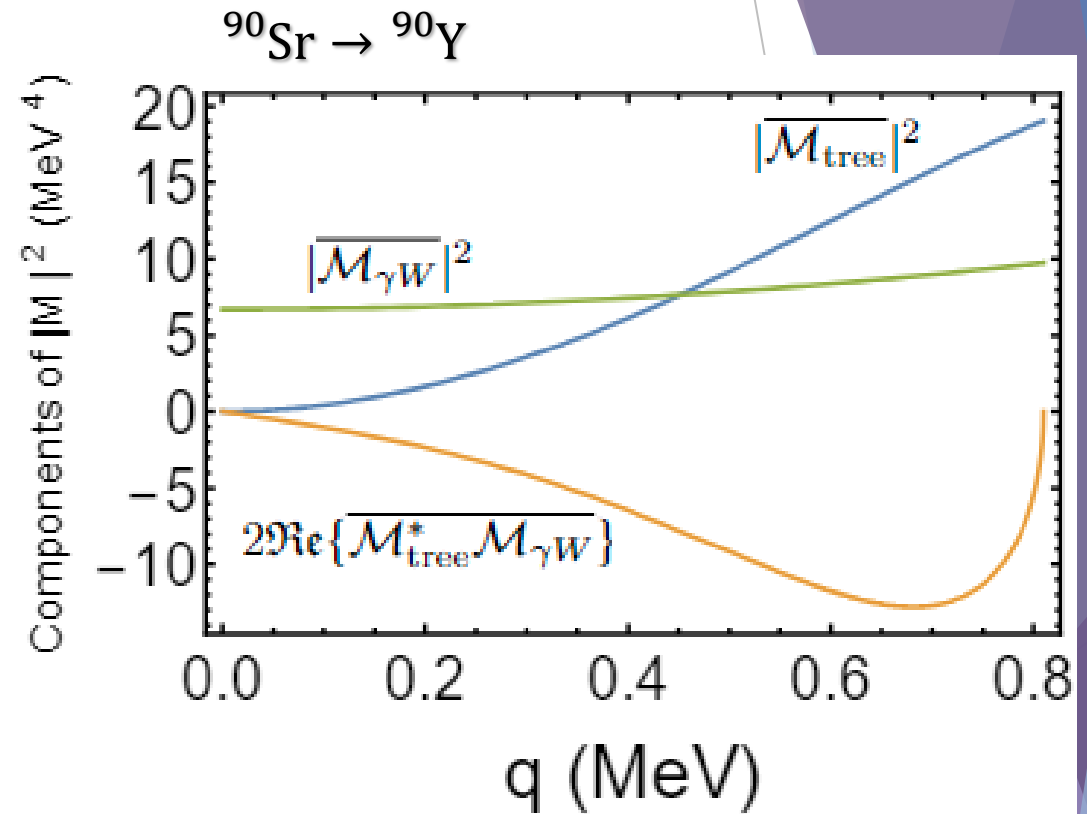
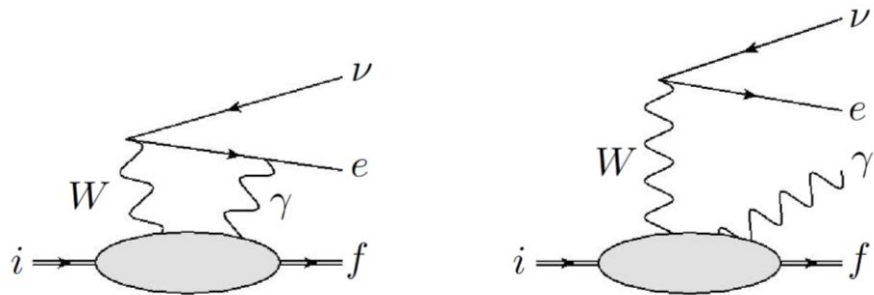
$$2^- \rightarrow 0^+$$

$$|2 - 0| \leq J \leq 2 + 0$$

$$\Delta\pi = -$$

# Unique Forbidden decays

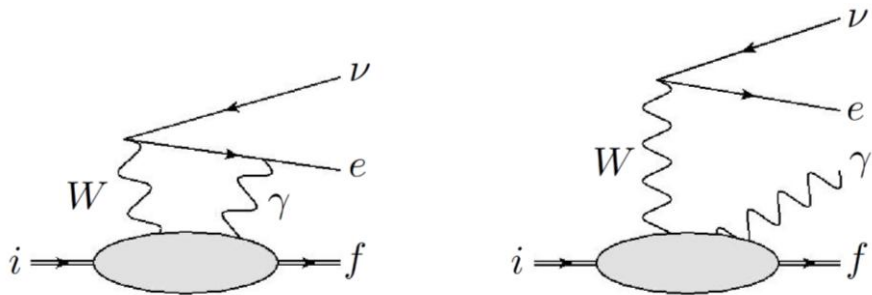
**No decay @  $q \rightarrow 0$**



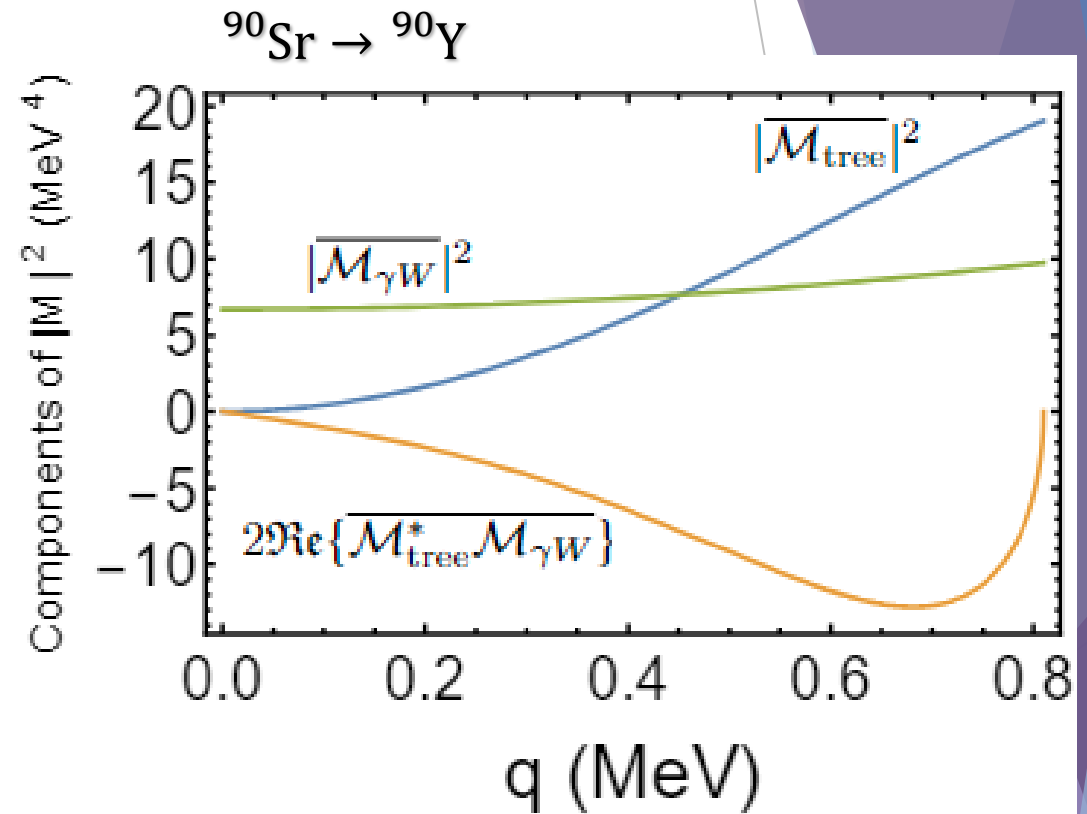
$$d\Gamma \propto \frac{\overline{|\mathcal{M}_{\gamma W}|^2}}{f_0} q^0 + \frac{\overline{|\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}|^2}}{f_1} q^1 + \frac{2\text{Re}\{\overline{\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}^* \mathcal{M}_{\gamma W}}\}}{f_2} q^2$$

# Unique Forbidden decays

**No decay @  $q \rightarrow 0$**



*Light New Physics*



$$d\Gamma \propto \frac{\overline{|\mathcal{M}_{\gamma W}|^2}}{f_0} q^0 + \frac{\overline{|\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}|^2}}{f_1} q^1 + \frac{2\text{Re}\{\overline{\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}^* \mathcal{M}_{\gamma W}}\}}{f_2} q^2$$

# Unique Forbidden decays: Summary & Outlook

**No decay @  $q \rightarrow 0$**

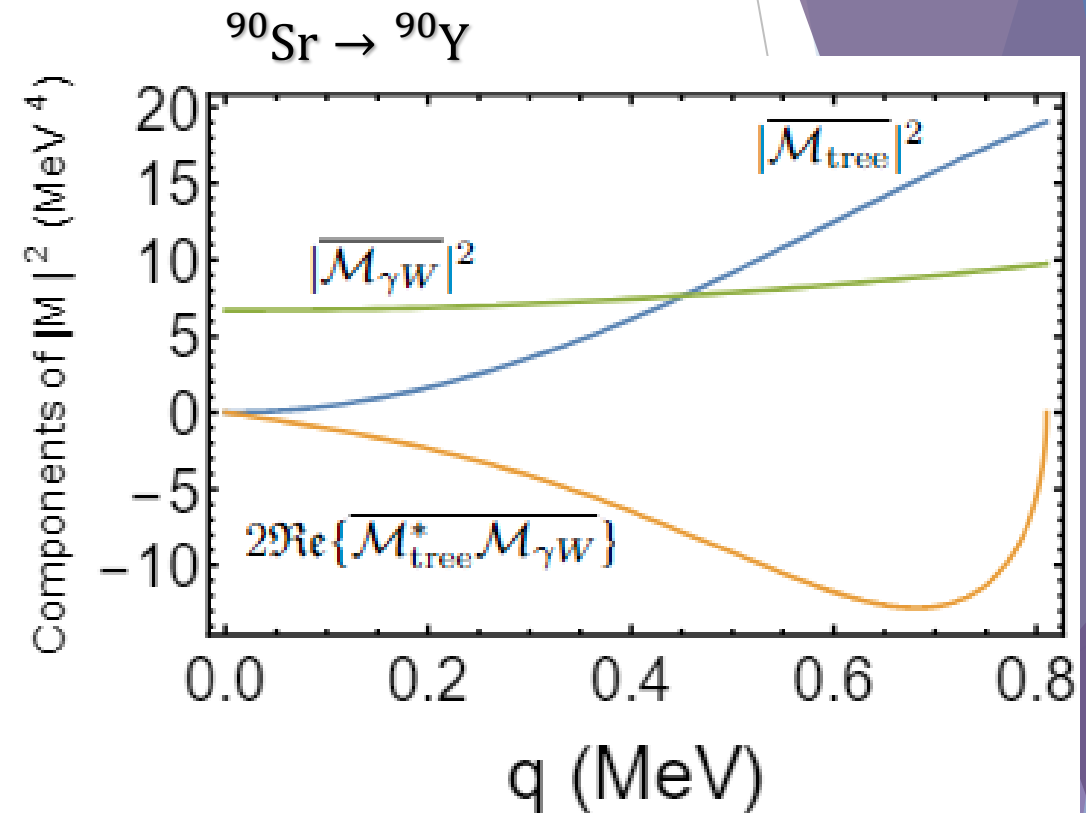
## Experiments

@ ORNL, CEA Saclay, HUJI, SOREQ

▶ New possibilities with MTAS @ORNL

## Spectrum is sensitive to:

- ↳ Exotic Weak Interactions
- ↳ *Light New Physics*



$$d\Gamma \propto \frac{\overline{|\mathcal{M}_{\gamma W}|^2}}{f_0} q^0 + \frac{2\text{Re}\{\overline{\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}^* \mathcal{M}_{\gamma W}}\}}{f_1} q^1 + \frac{\overline{|\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}|^2}}{f_2} q^2$$

The new radiative regime:  
 → Beyond  $q \rightarrow 0$  power counting  
 → With nuclear matrix elements  
 → Light new physics possibilities

# Unique Forbidden decays:

**No decay @  $q \rightarrow 0$**

## Experiments

@ ORNL, CEA Saclay, HUJI, SOREQ

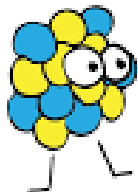
▶ New possibilities with MTAS @ORNL

## Spectrum is sensitive to:

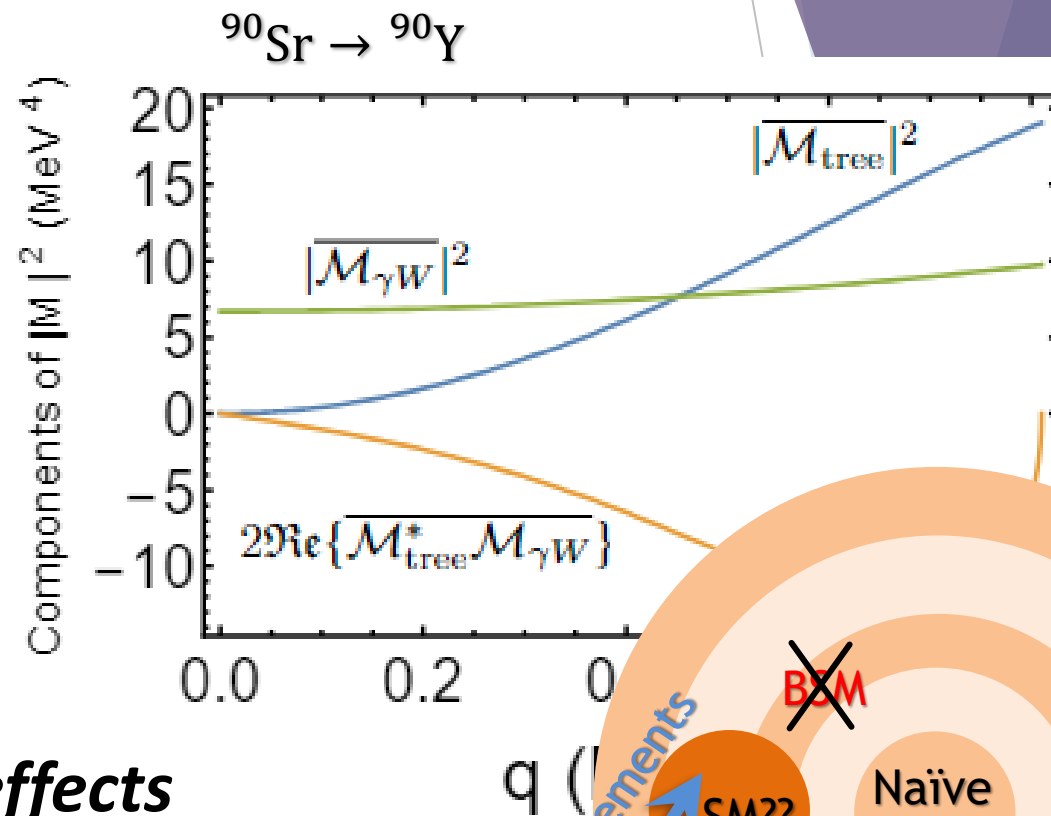
- ↳ Exotic Weak Interactions
- ↳ *Light New Physics*



➤ *High-order radiative effects*



➤ *Nuclear-structure many-body problem*



# Nuclear Structure Corrections

# Accuracy: Nuclear structure corrections

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \underbrace{\mathbf{b}}_{\substack{\text{SM} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{correction} \\ 1 + \delta_1}} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \underbrace{\mathbf{a}}_{\substack{\text{SM} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{correction} \\ 0 + \delta_b}} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{v} + \underbrace{\mathbf{a}_2}_{\substack{\text{SM} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{correction} \\ -\frac{1}{5}(1 + \delta_a)}} \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{v})^2 \right] + \underbrace{\frac{1}{5}}_{\substack{\text{SM} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{correction} \\ \frac{1}{5}(1 + \delta_{a_2})}}$$

Multipole operator's matrix elements between the nuclear states

$$\delta = f \left( \underbrace{\frac{\langle \psi_f || \hat{M}_J^V || \psi_i \rangle}{\langle \psi_f || \hat{L}_J^A || \psi_i \rangle}, \frac{\langle \psi_f || \hat{C}_J^A || \psi_i \rangle}{\langle \psi_f || \hat{L}_J^A || \psi_i \rangle}}_{\sim \epsilon_{NR} \epsilon_{qr} \sim 10^{-2}} \right) + \underbrace{\mathcal{O}(\epsilon_{qr}^2, \epsilon_c^2)}_{\sim 10^{-4}}$$

## Identifying Small Parameters

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{NR} &\sim \frac{p_{\text{fermi}}}{m_N} \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-1} \\ \epsilon_{\text{EFT}} &\sim 1 \cdot 10^{-1} \\ \epsilon_{qr} &\sim qR \approx 5 \cdot 10^{-2} \\ \epsilon_c &\sim \alpha Z_f \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-2} \\ \epsilon_{\text{recoil}} &\sim \frac{q}{m_N} \approx 4 \cdot 10^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

## Multipole Expansion

General Theory -  
for any transition  
& nucleus

Uncertainty  
Quantification

# $^{16}\text{N} \xrightarrow{\beta^-} ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden decay

➤ Nuclear-structure many-body problem

$$\hat{H}$$

Nuclear Hamiltonian

$\chi_{\text{EFT}} @ \text{NN-N}^4(3)\text{LO}$   
 $+3\text{N}_{\text{Inl}}(\text{E7})$

$$\langle \psi_f || \quad || \psi_i \rangle$$

Nuclear wave functions

$$\hat{J}(\vec{x})$$

Nuclear currents

1b currents  
 eff. 2b currents

$$\hat{O}_J$$

Multipole operators

$$\langle \psi_f || \hat{O}_J || \psi_i \rangle$$

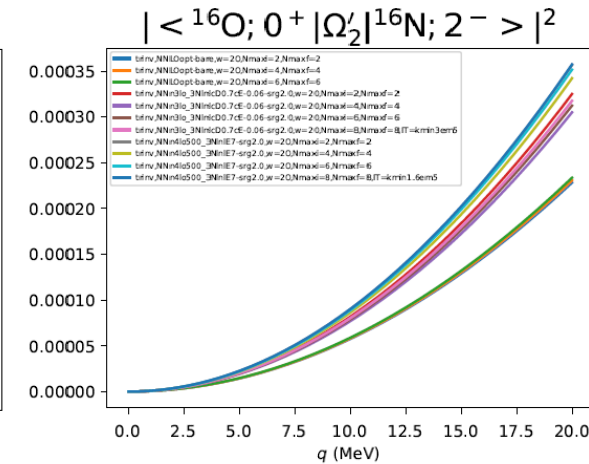
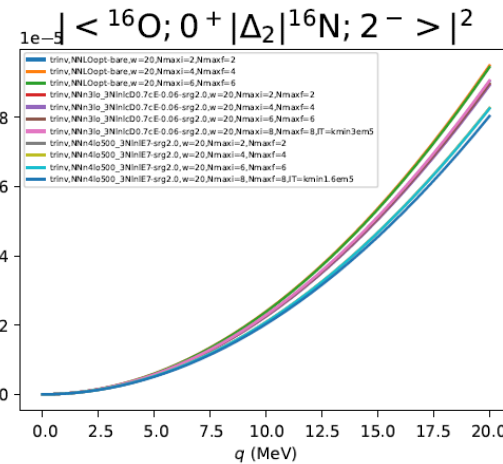
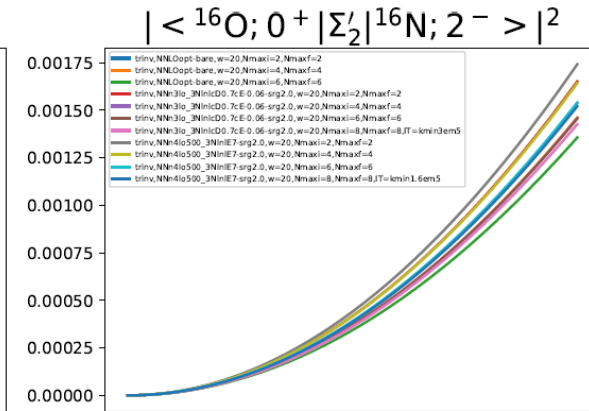
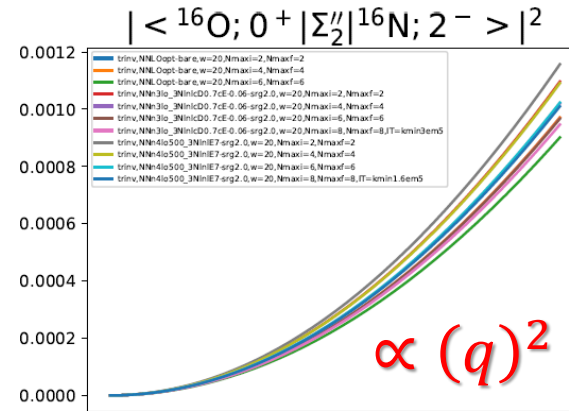
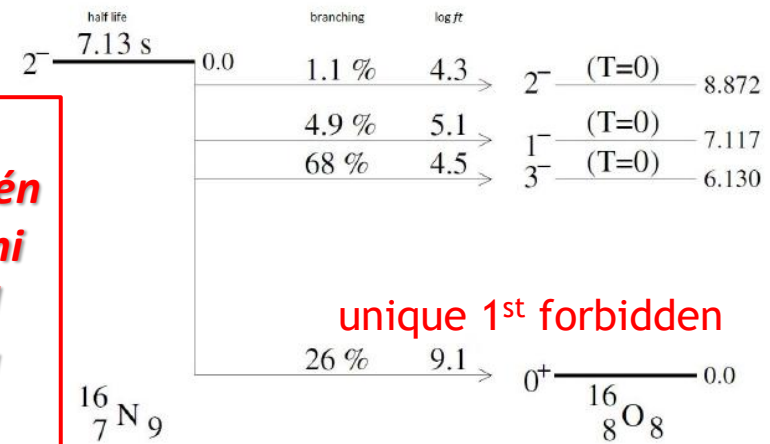
Nuclear matrix elements

*Ab initio* NCSM

$$\delta_1, \delta_b, \delta_a, \delta_{a_2}$$

Observables' corrections

In prep. with:  
**Christian Forssén**  
**Lotta Jokiniemi**  
**Petr Navrátil**  
**Daniel Gazda**  
**Doron Gazit**

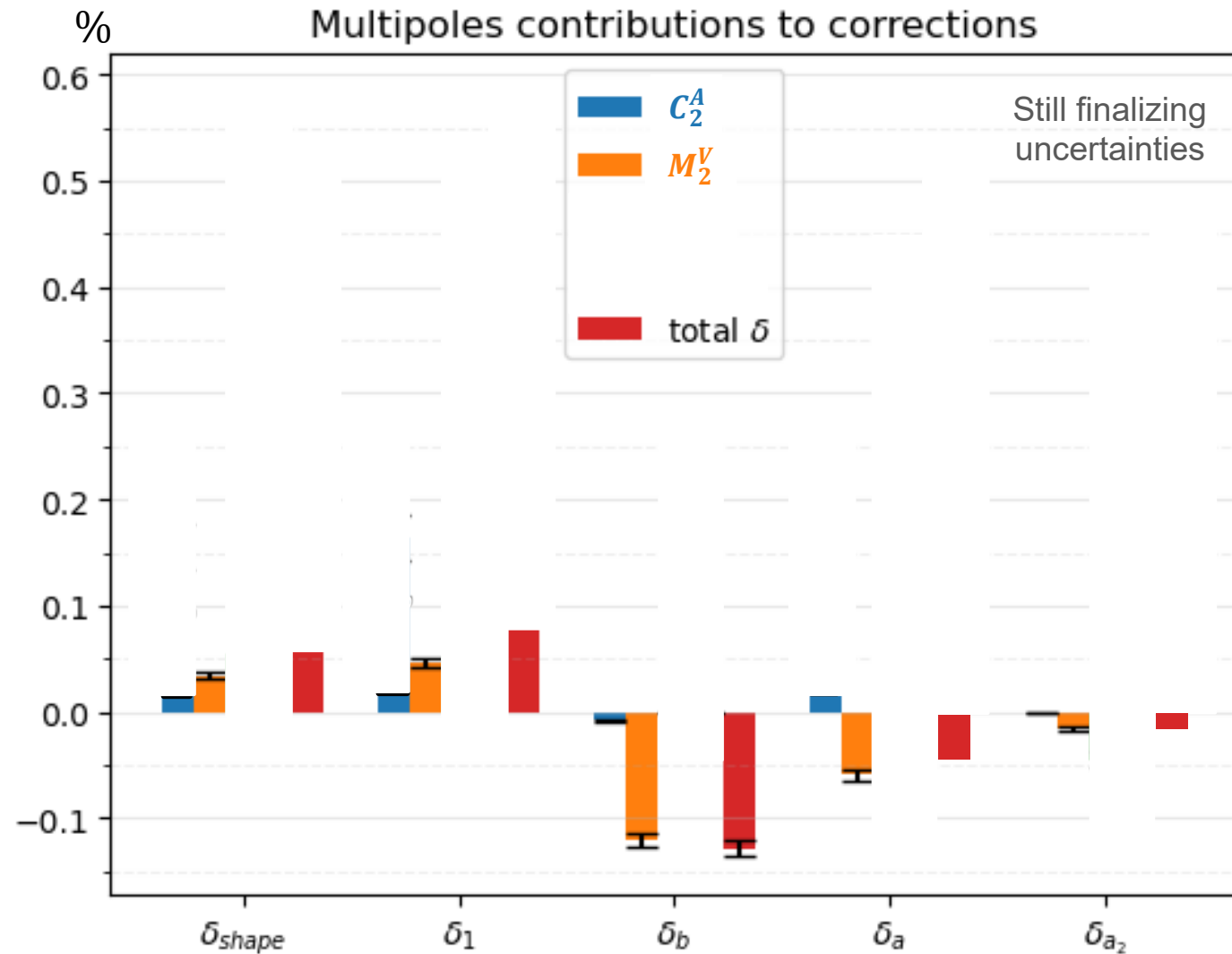


# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

Leading Order:  $L_2^{A(0)}$  (~ Holstein's  $c$ )

The known corrections:

- ▶ Weak Magnetism  $M_2^V$  (~ Holstein's  $b$ )
- ▶ Induced Tensor  $C_2^A$  (~ Holstein's  $d$ )



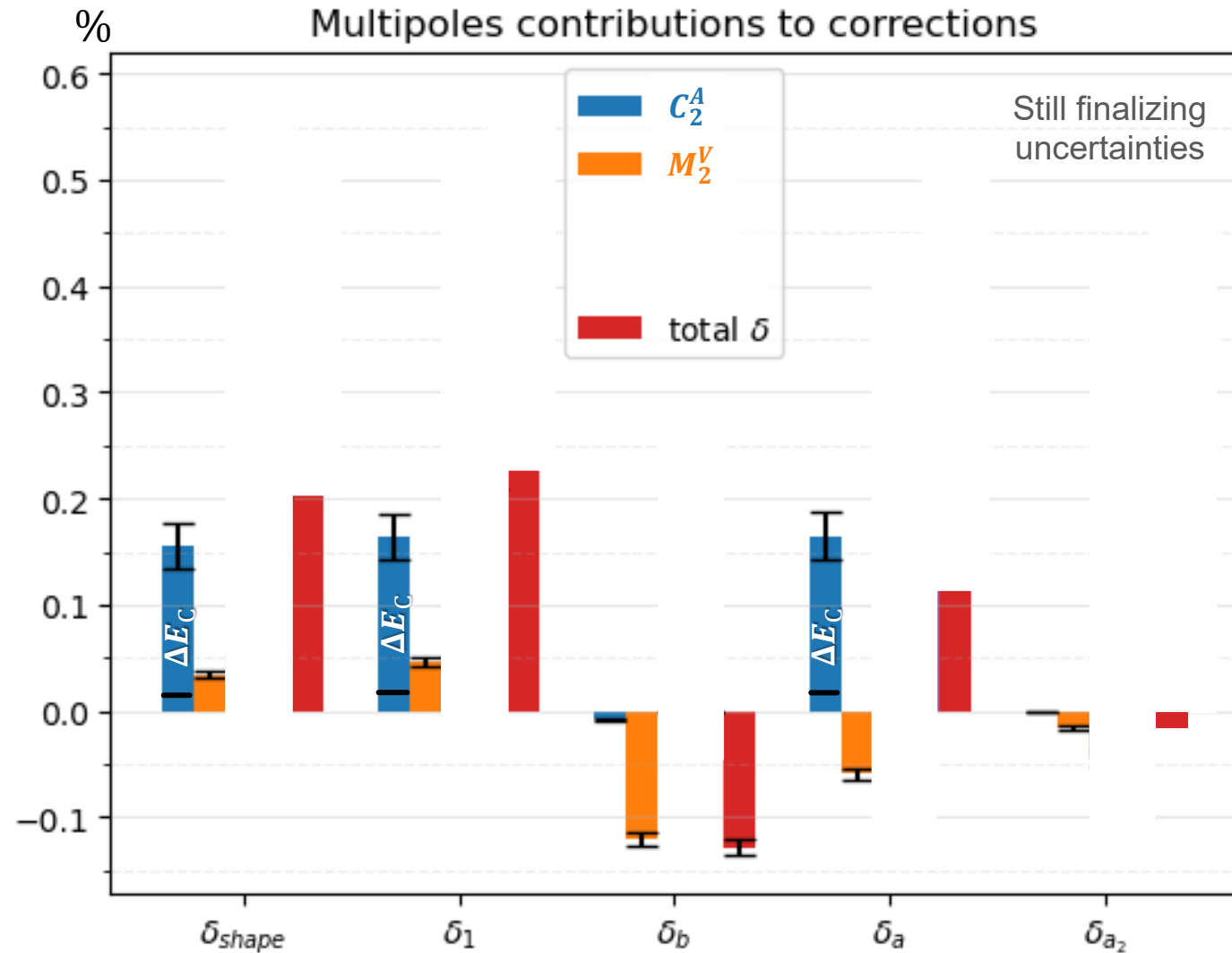
# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

Leading Order:  $L_2^{A(0)}$  (~ Holstein's  $c$ )

The known corrections:

- ▶ Weak Magnetism  $M_2^V$  (~ Holstein's  $b$ )
- ▶ Induced Tensor  $C_2^A$  (~ Holstein's  $d$ )
- ▶  $C_2^A \propto E_0 + \Delta E_c$

*Coulomb Displacement Energy!*



# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

Leading Order:  $L_2^{A(0)}$  (~ Holstein's  $c$ )

The known corrections:

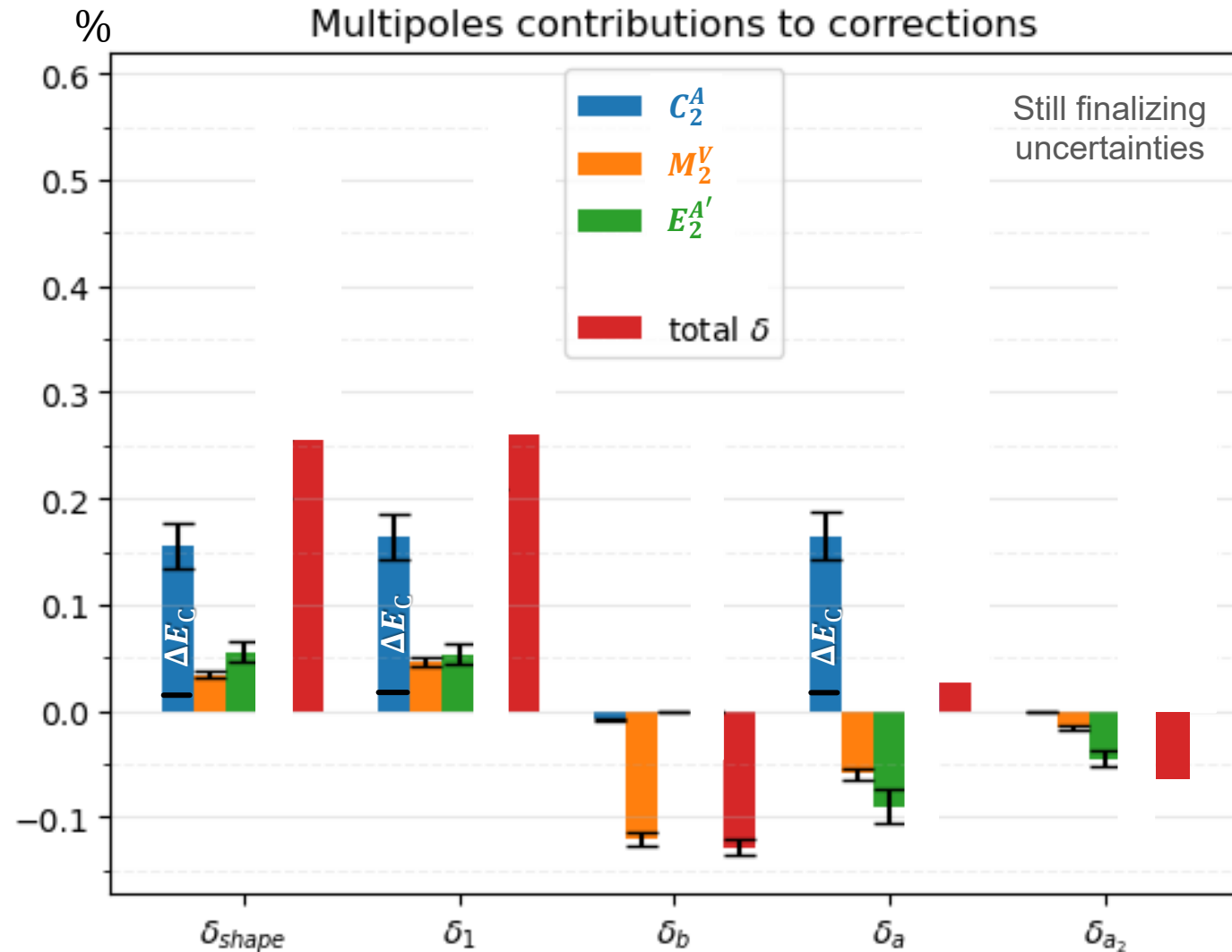
▶ Weak Magnetism  $M_2^V$  (~ Holstein's  $b$ )

▶ Induced Tensor  $C_2^A$  (~ Holstein's  $d$ )

▶  $C_2^A \propto E_0 + \Delta E_c$

*Coulomb Displacement Energy!*

▶  $E_2^A \propto L_2^A + \underbrace{\mathcal{O}(\epsilon_{qr}^2)}_{E_2^{A'} \sim 10^{-3}}$



# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

Leading Order:  $L_2^{A(0)}$  (~ Holstein's  $c$ )

The known corrections:

▶ Weak Magnetism  $M_2^V$  (~ Holstein's  $b$ )

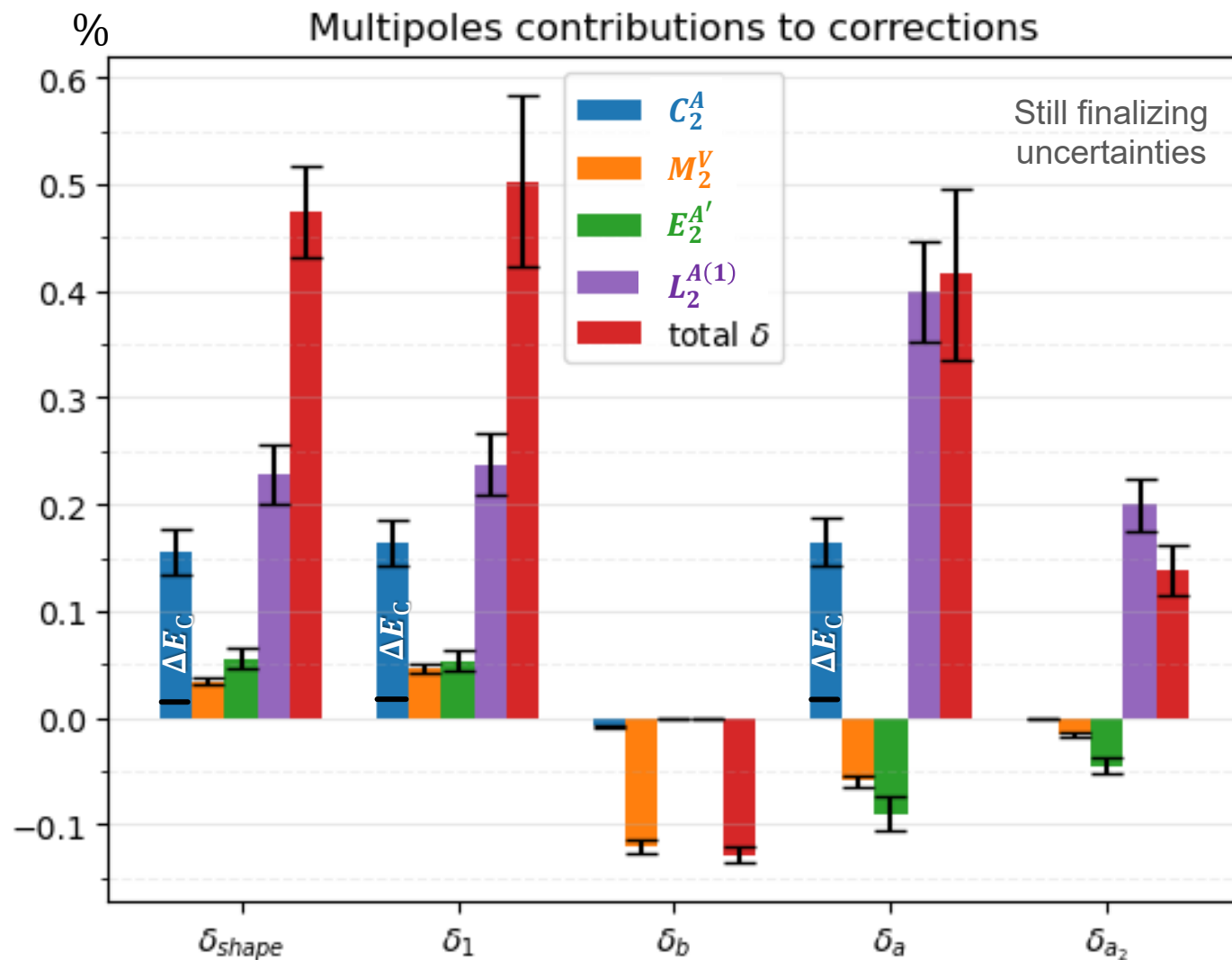
▶ Induced Tensor  $C_2^A$  (~ Holstein's  $d$ )

▶  $C_2^A \propto E_0 + \Delta E_c$

*Coulomb Displacement Energy!*

▶  $E_2^A \propto L_2^A + \underbrace{\mathcal{O}(\epsilon_{qr}^2)}_{E_2^{A'} \sim 10^{-3}}$

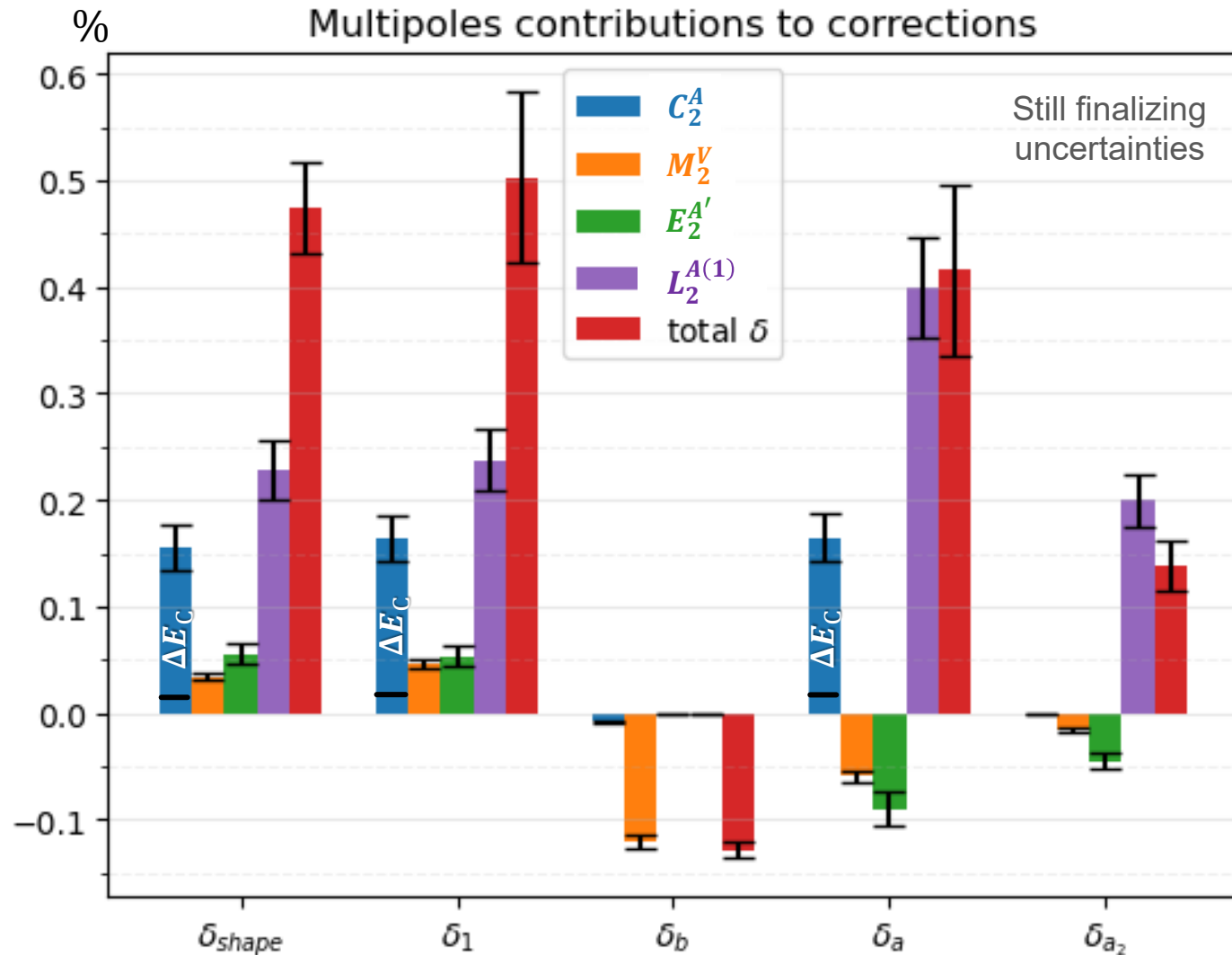
▶  $L_2^A \propto L_2^{A(0)} + L_2^{A(1)} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_{qr}^4)$



# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}})^2 \right]$$

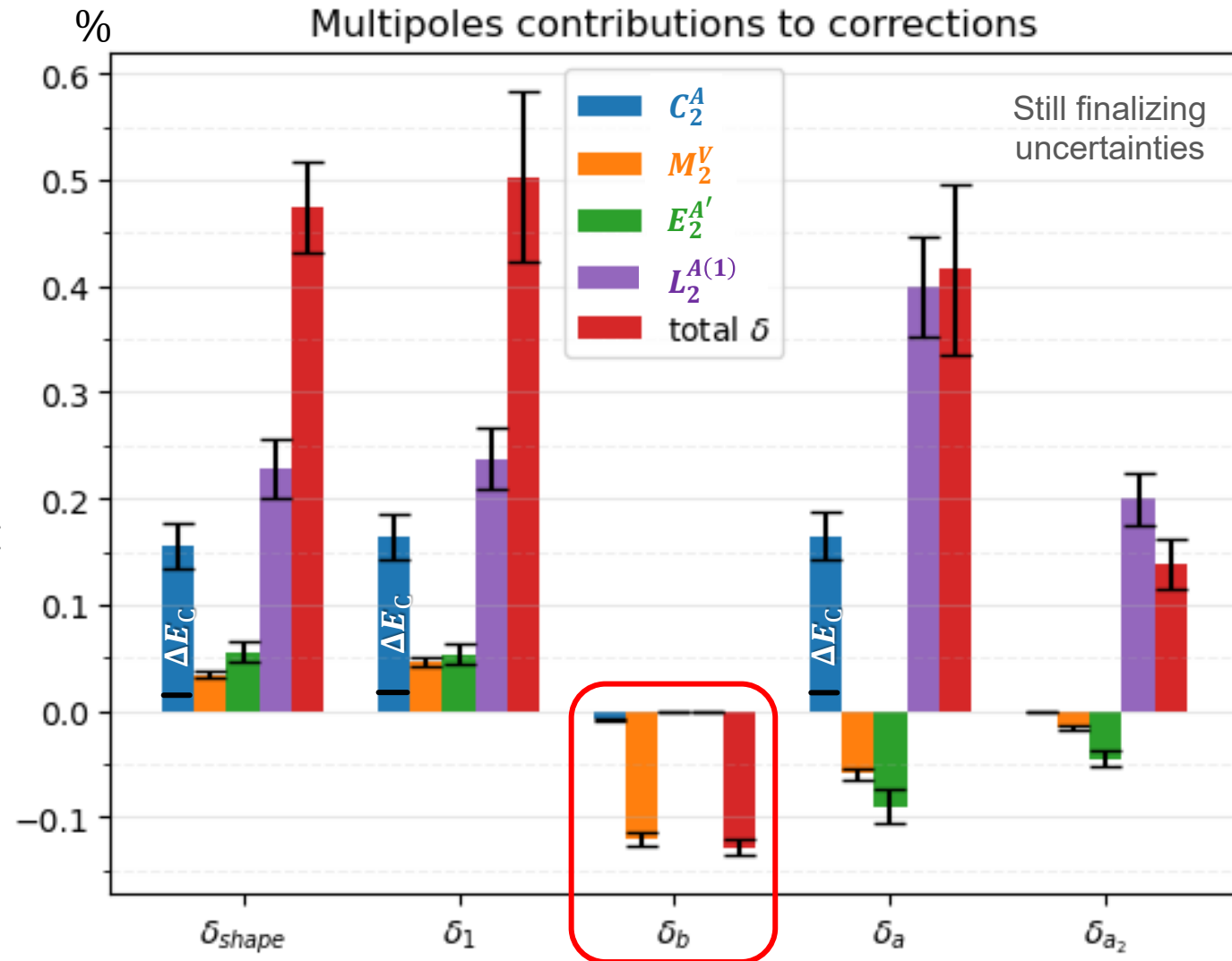
- ▶ Well-known WM  $M_2^V$  &  $C_2^A$  are relatively small
- ▶ Dominant Coulomb correction  $\Delta E_c$
- ▶ Higher-order axial corrections  $E_2^{A'}$  &  $L_2^{A(1)}$  are the dominant



# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \beta^2 - (\hat{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}})^2 \right]$$

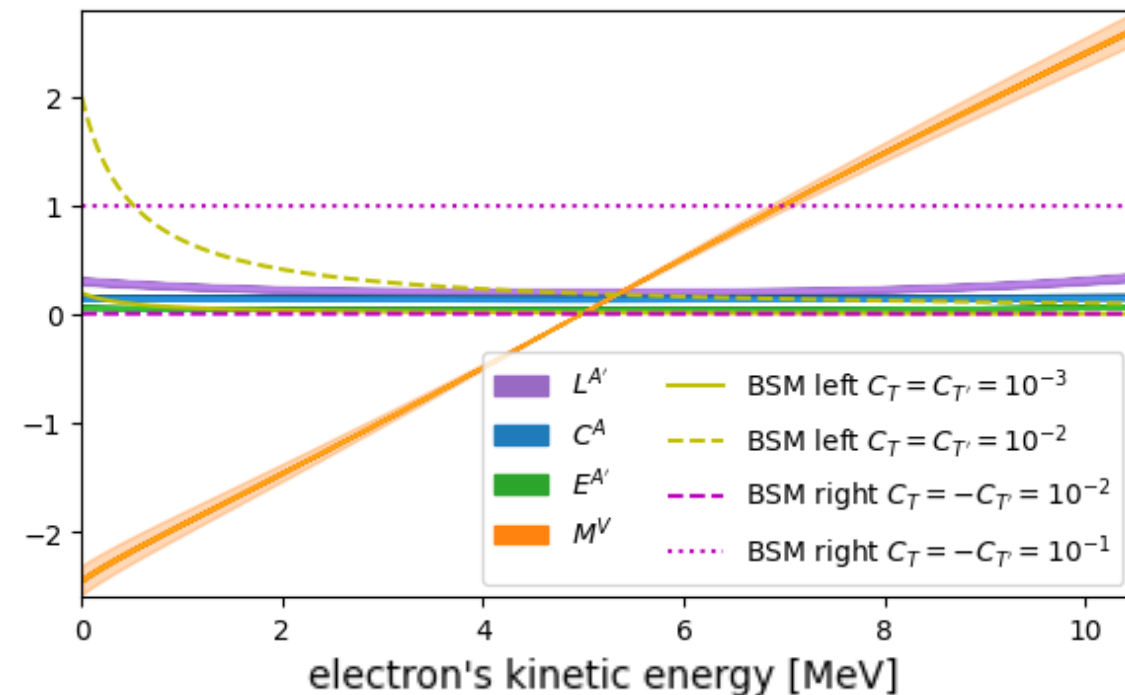
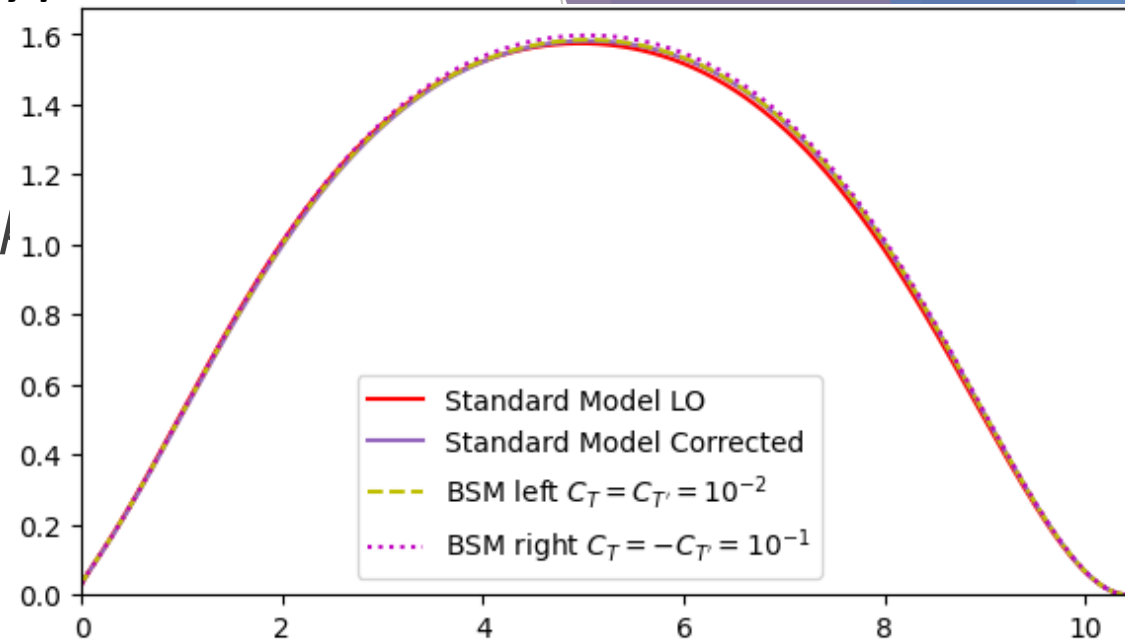
- ▶ Well-known WM  $M_2^V$  &  $C_2^A$  are relatively small
- ▶ Dominant Coulomb correction  $\Delta E_c$
- ▶ Higher-order axial corrections  $E_2^{A'}$  &  $L_2^{A(1)}$  are the dominant
- ▶  $\mathbf{b}$ 's structure corrections are different:
  - ▶ Not affected by the dominant higher-order axial contributions  $E_2^{A'}$  &  $L_2^{A(1)}$
  - ▶ Suppressed Coulomb correction  $C_2^A$
  - ▶ leaving only the weak magnetism  $M_2^V$



# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\nu} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \dots \right]$$

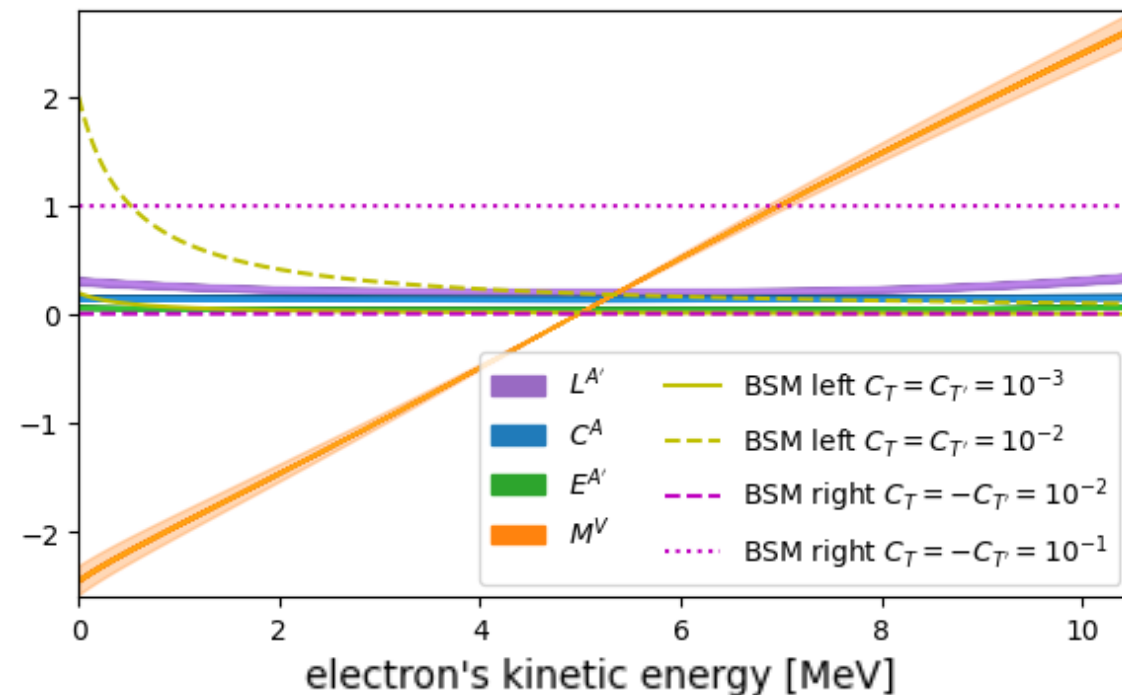
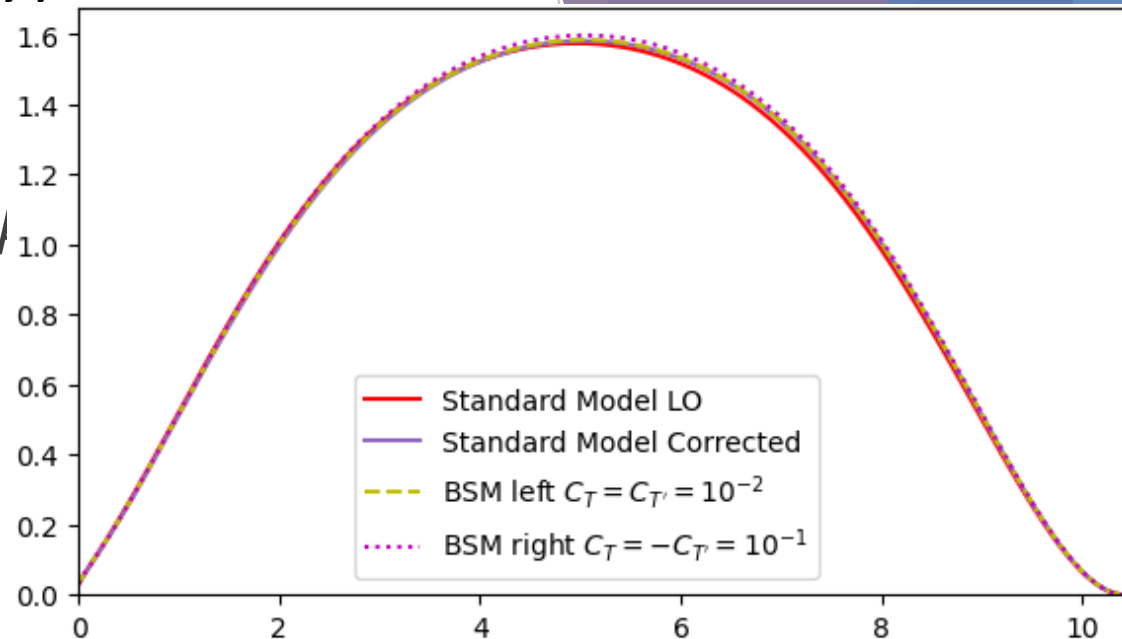
- ▶ Well-known WM  $M_2^V$  &  $C_2^A$  are relatively small
- ▶ Dominant Coulomb correction  $\Delta E_c$
- ▶ Higher-order axial corrections  $E_2^{A'}$  &  $L_2^{A(1)}$  are the dominant
- ▶  $\mathbf{b}$ 's structure corrections are different:
  - ▶ Not affected by the dominant higher-order axial contributions  $E_2^{A'}$  &  $L_2^{A(1)}$
  - ▶ Suppressed Coulomb correction  $C_2^A$
  - ▶ leaving only the weak magnetism  $M_2^V$



# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \dots \right]$$

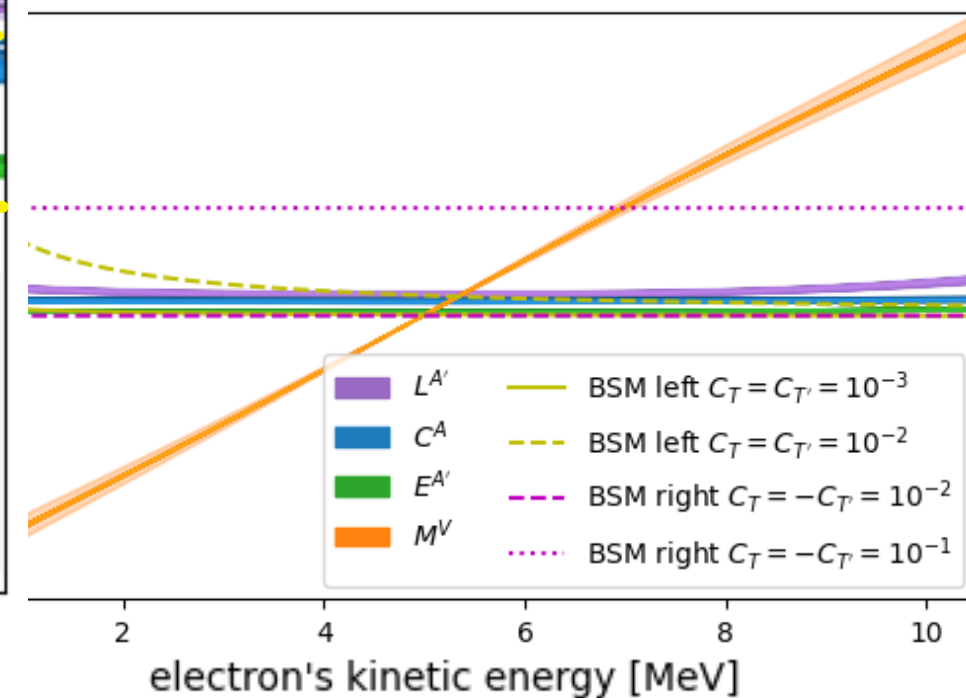
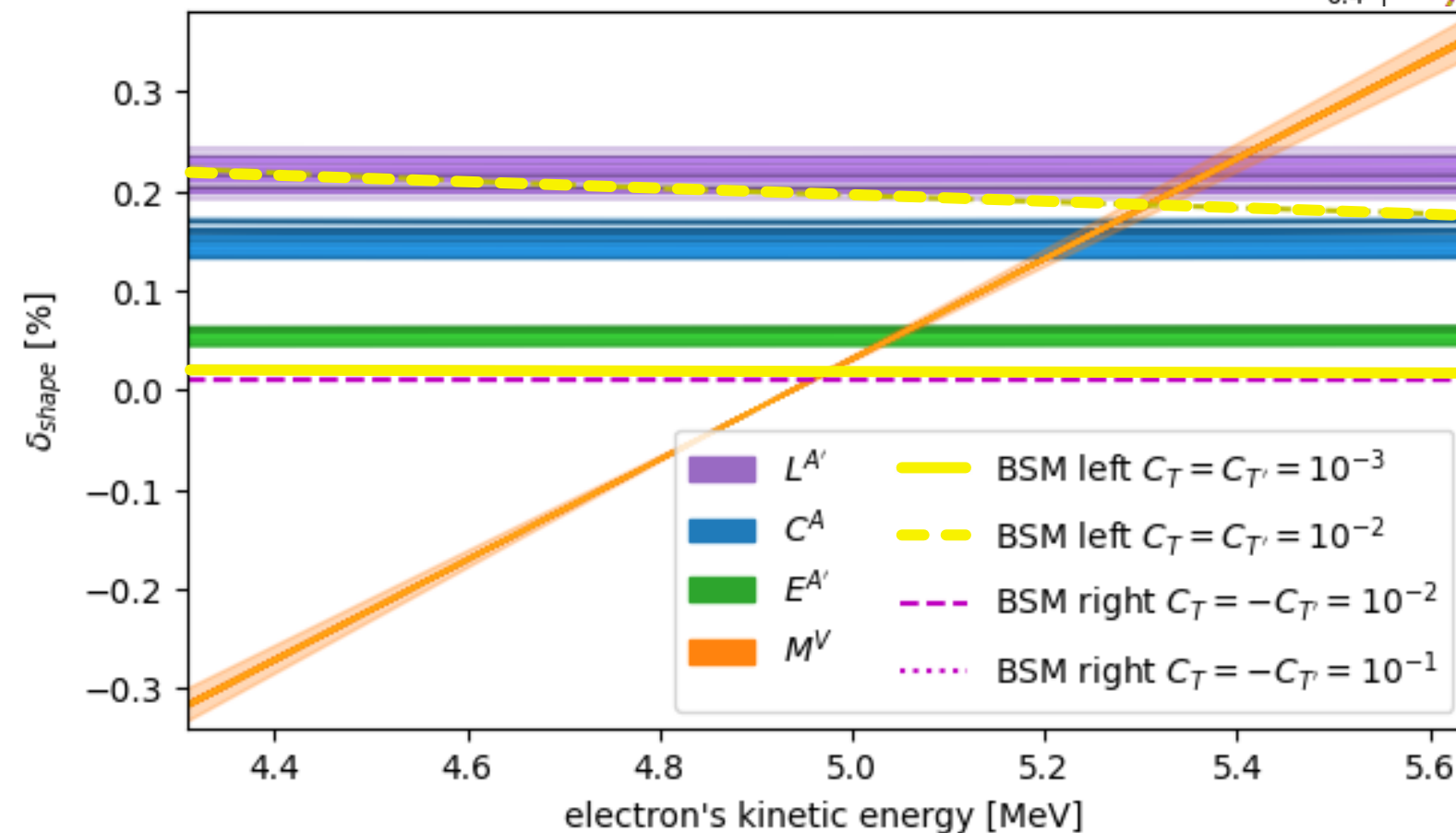
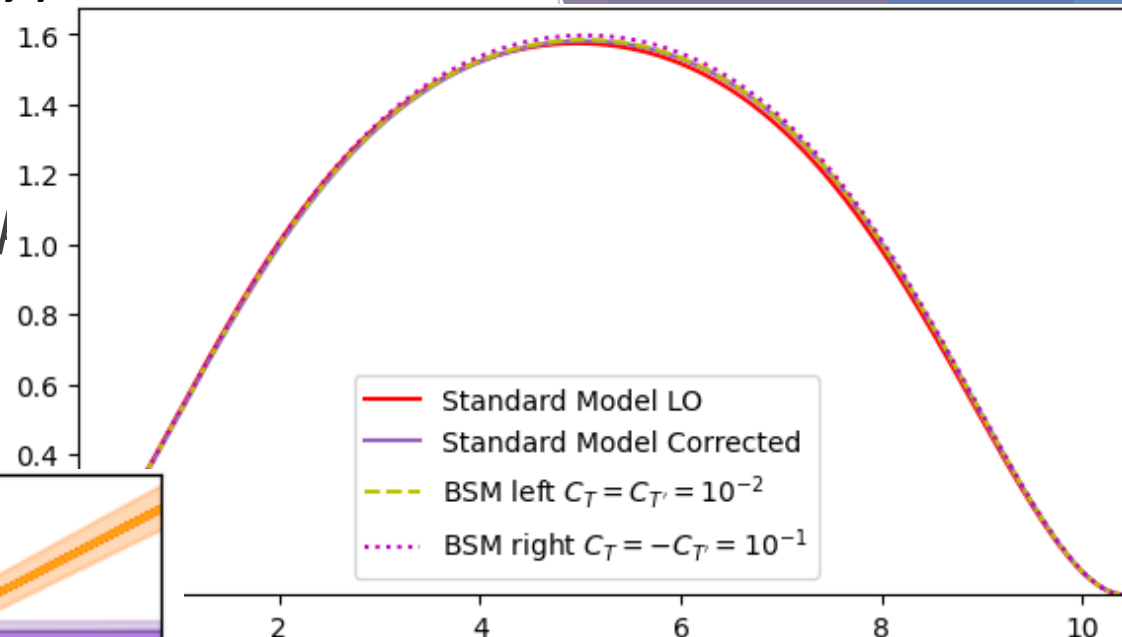
- ▶ Corrections are smaller near the spectral maximum ("peak")
- ▶ LO spectrum is symmetric around the peak
- ▶ **BSM**  $\mathbf{b}$  produces an energy distortion  $\propto \frac{m_e}{E_e}$
- ▶ Corrections (but  $M_2^V$ ) are independent of  $E_e$

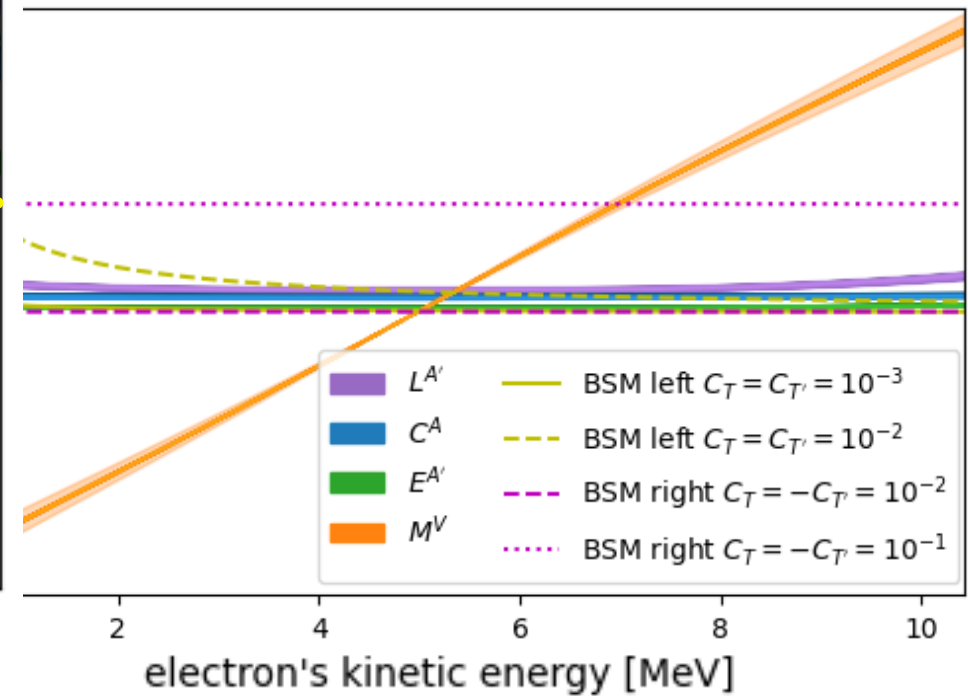
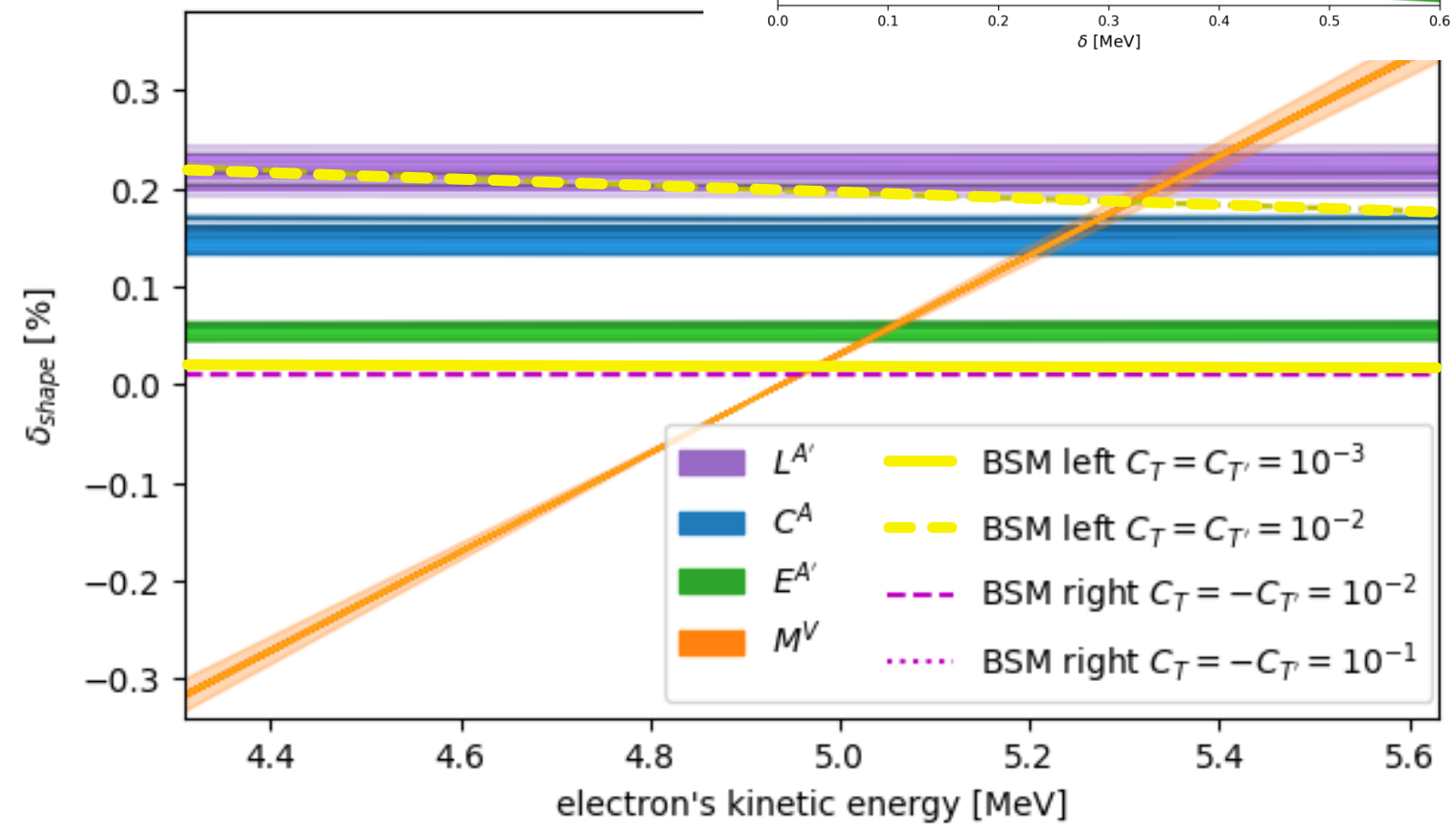
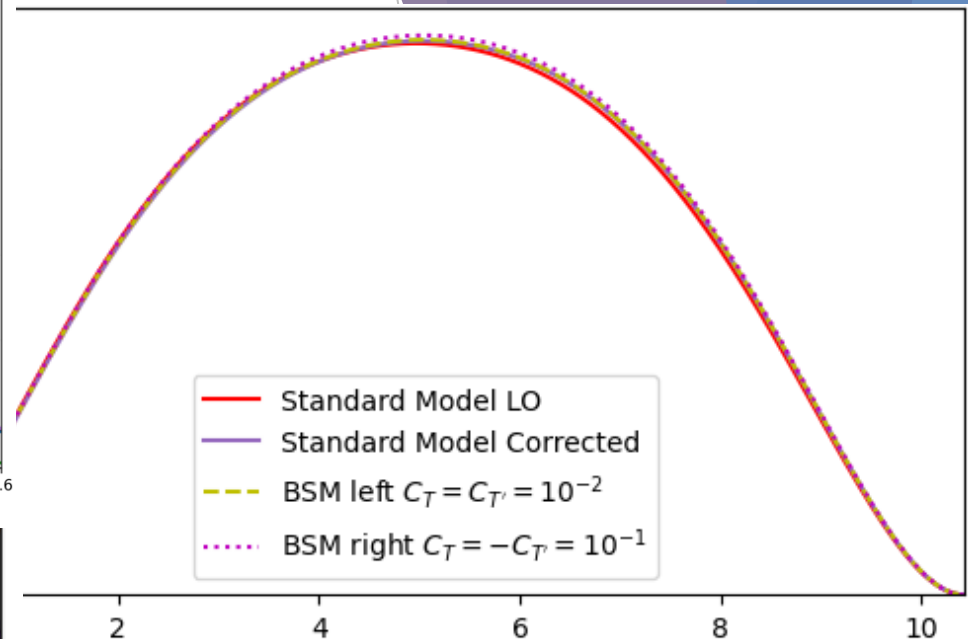
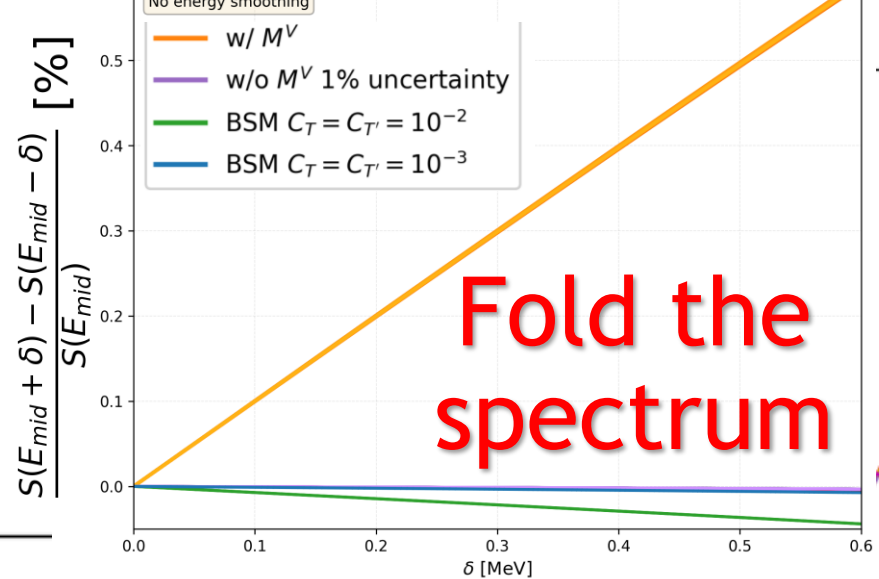


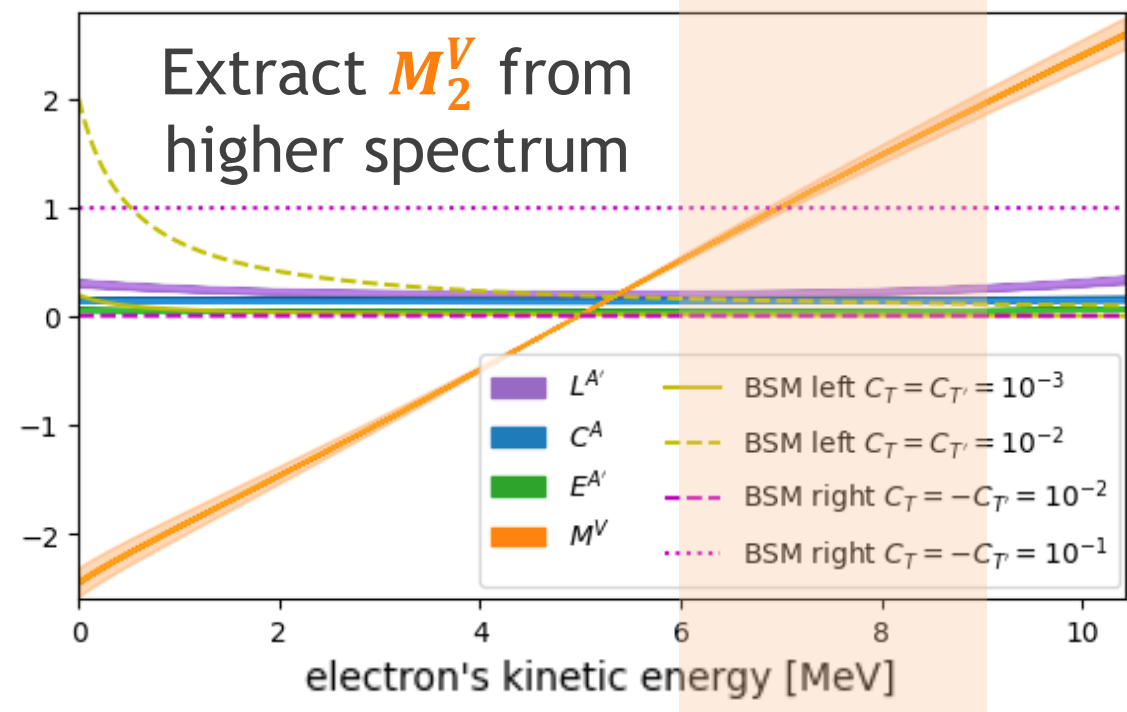
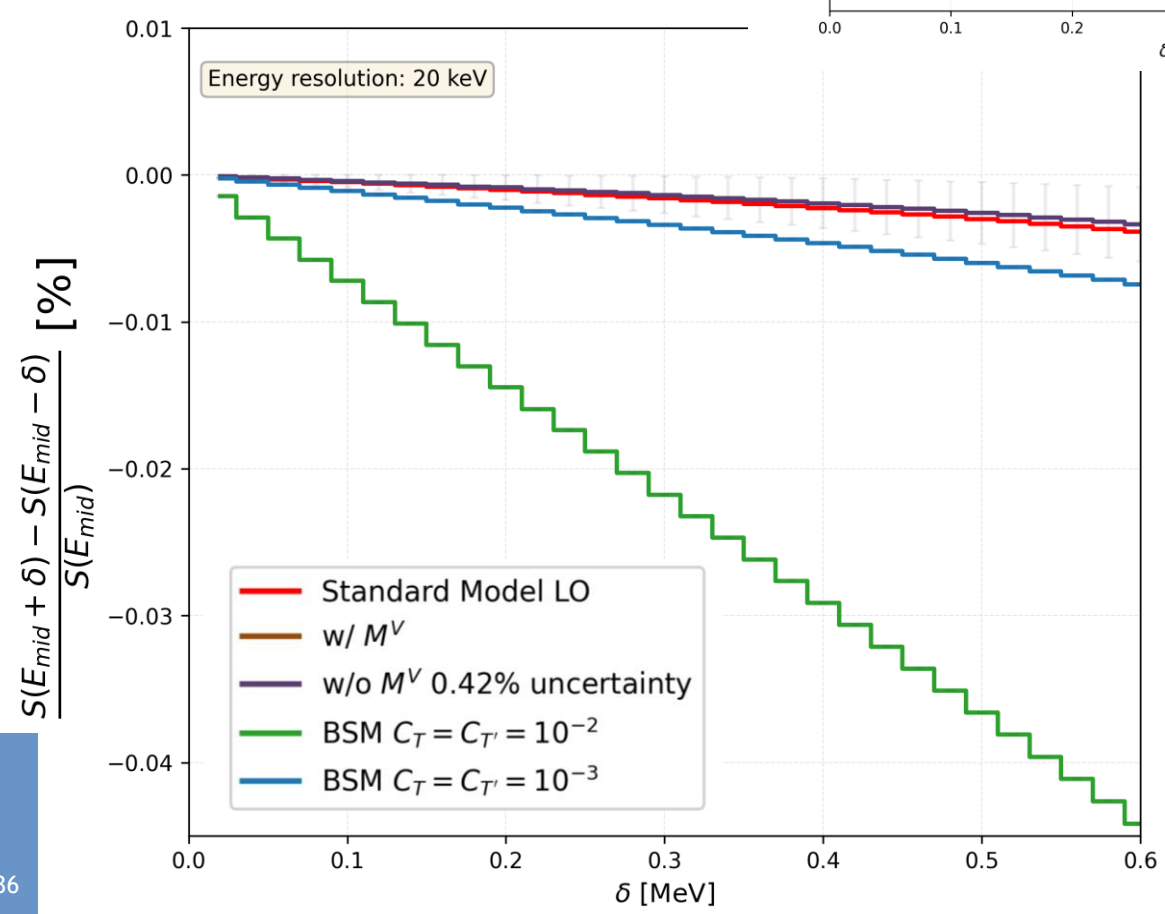
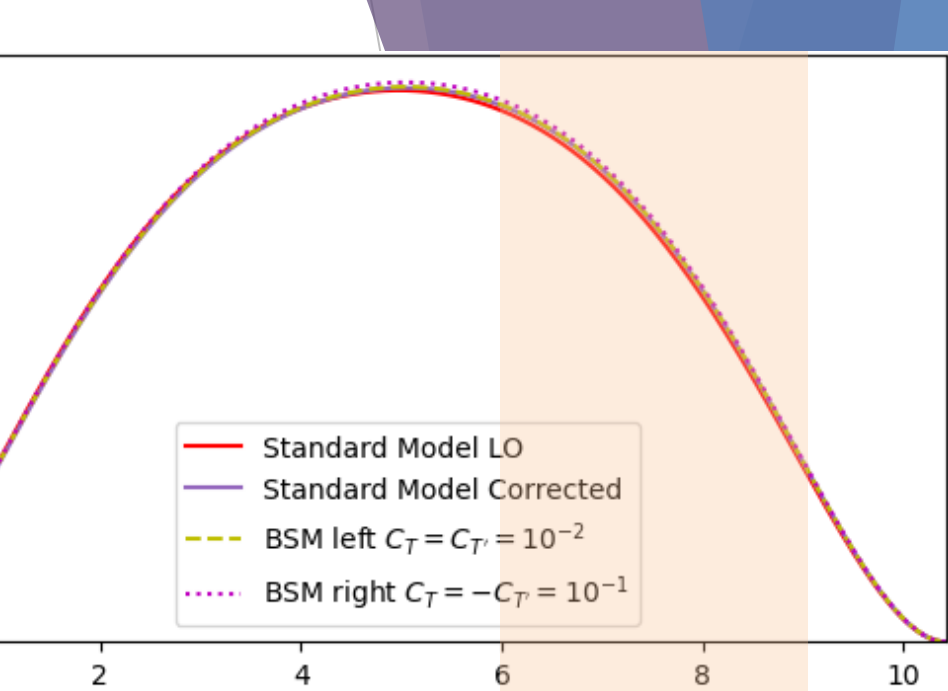
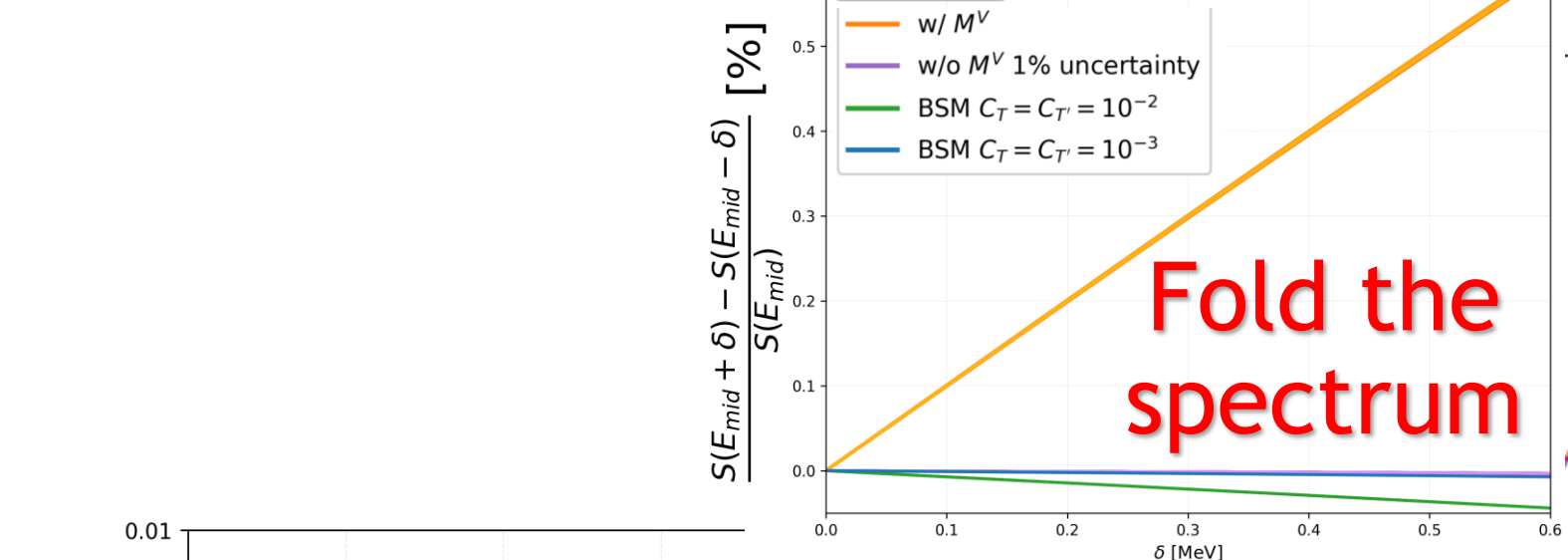
# $^{16}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O}$ forbidden spectrum

$$d\Gamma \propto |\langle \psi_f || \hat{H}_W || \psi_i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 + \mathbf{b} \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \mathbf{a} \vec{\beta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}} + \mathbf{a}_2 \left[ \dots \right]$$

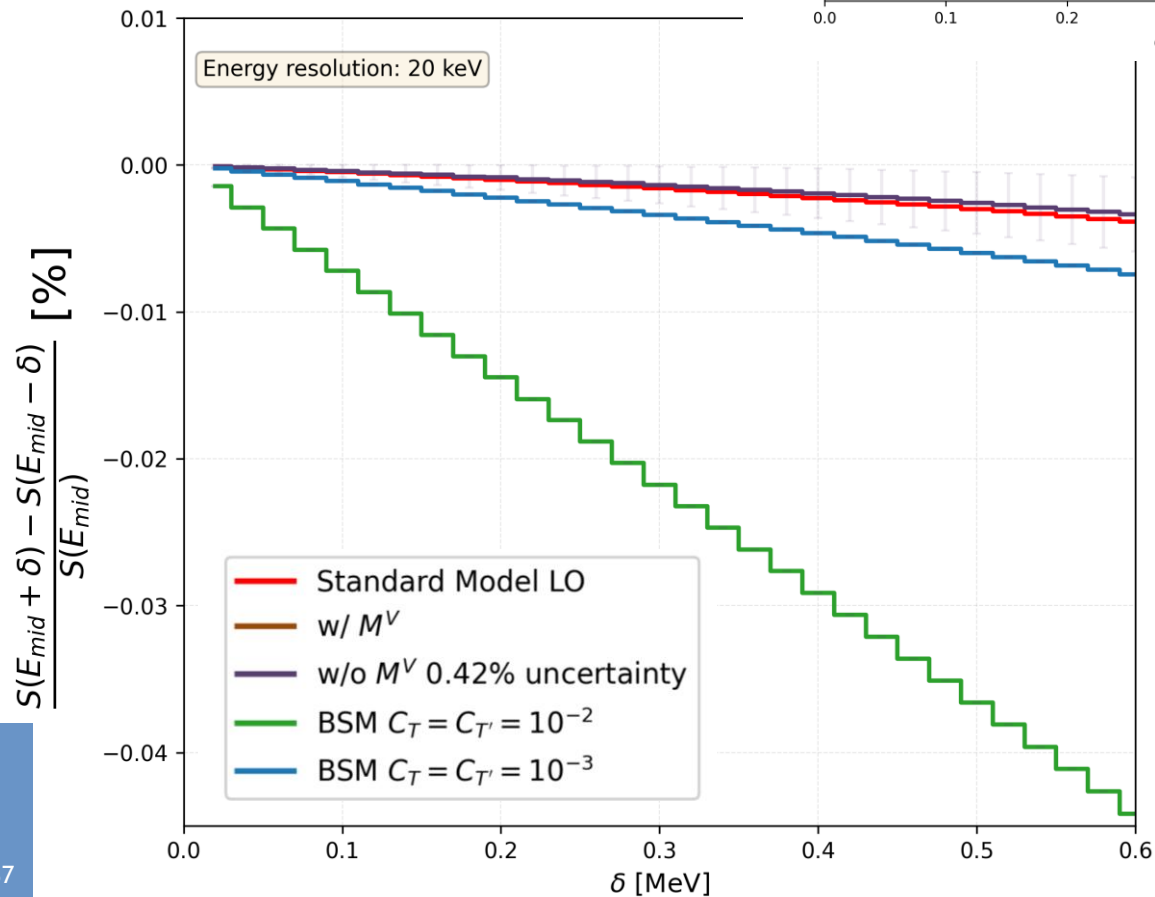
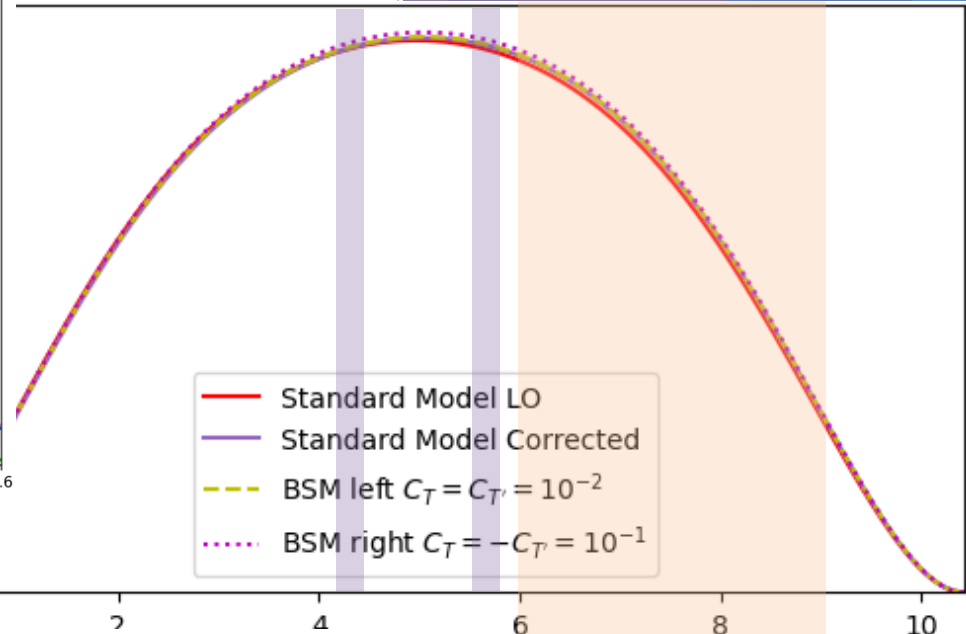
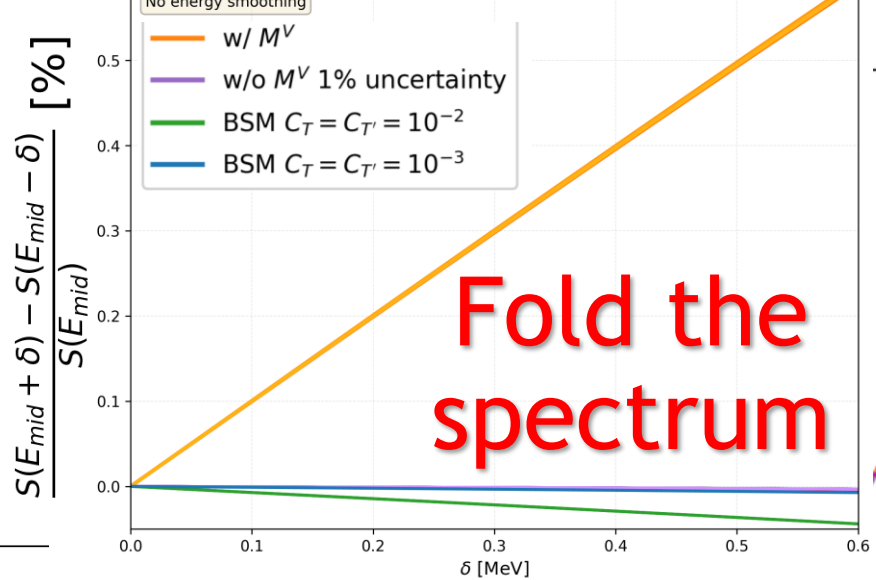
- ▶ Corrections are smaller near the spectral maximum ("peak")



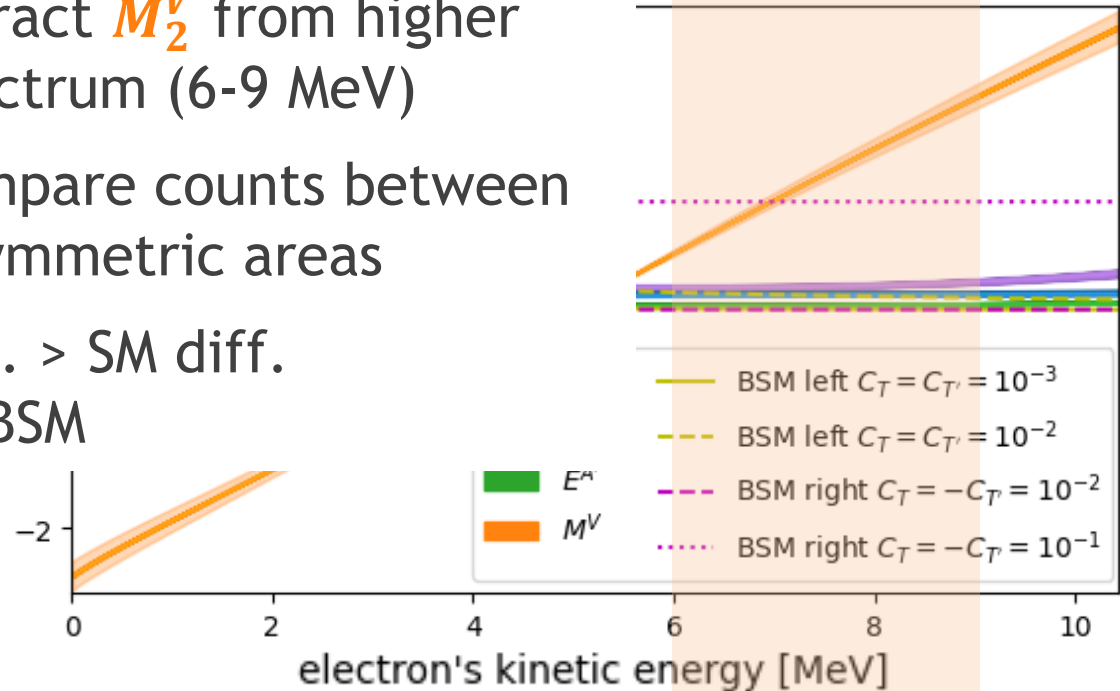




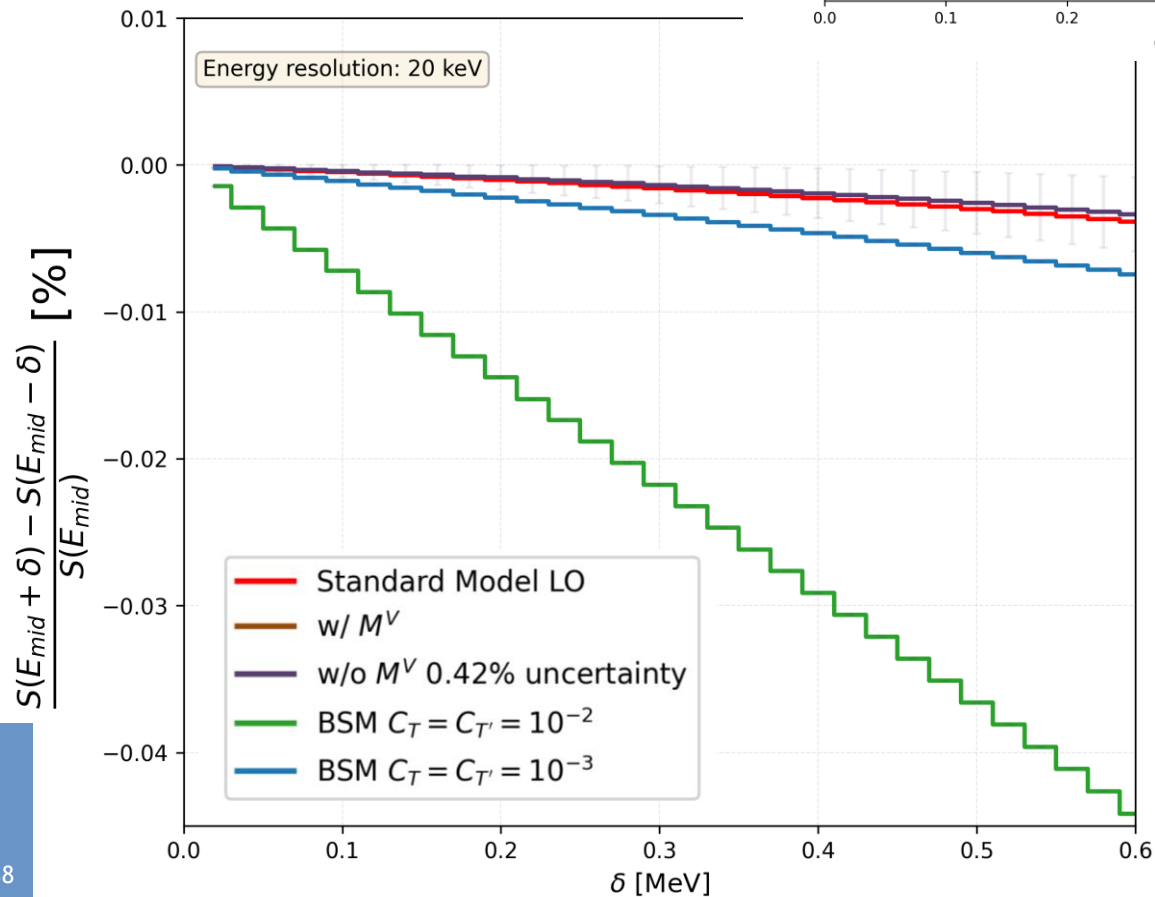
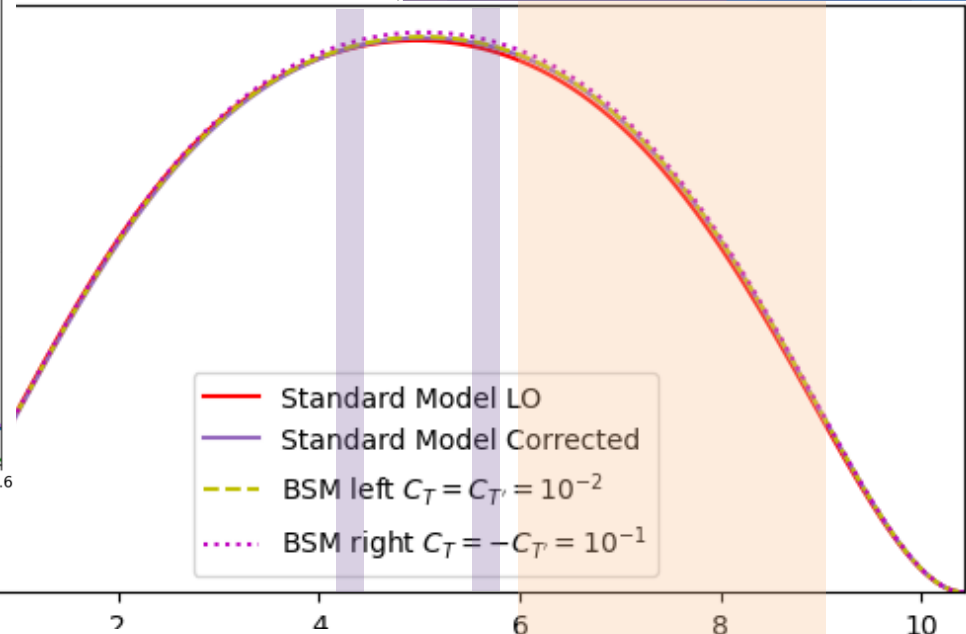
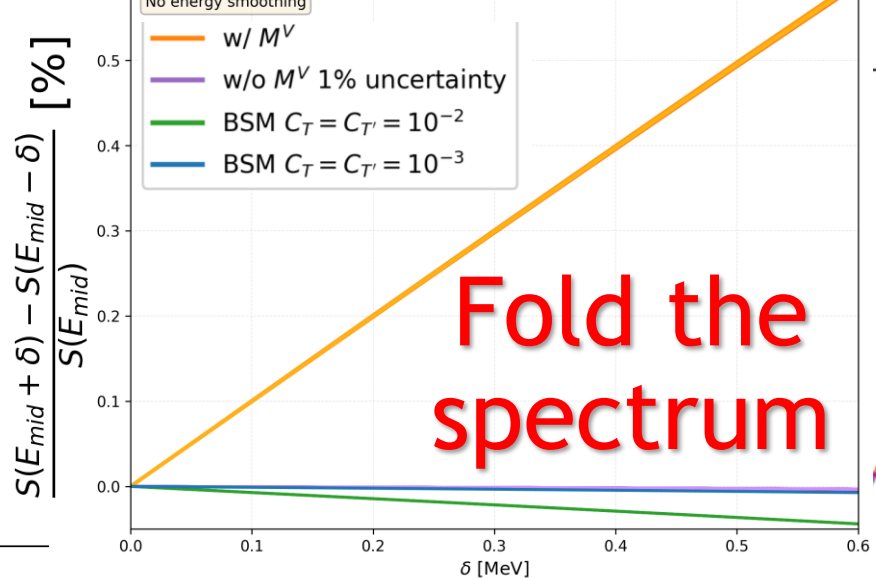
# Spectrum Peak Asymmetry Method (SPAM)



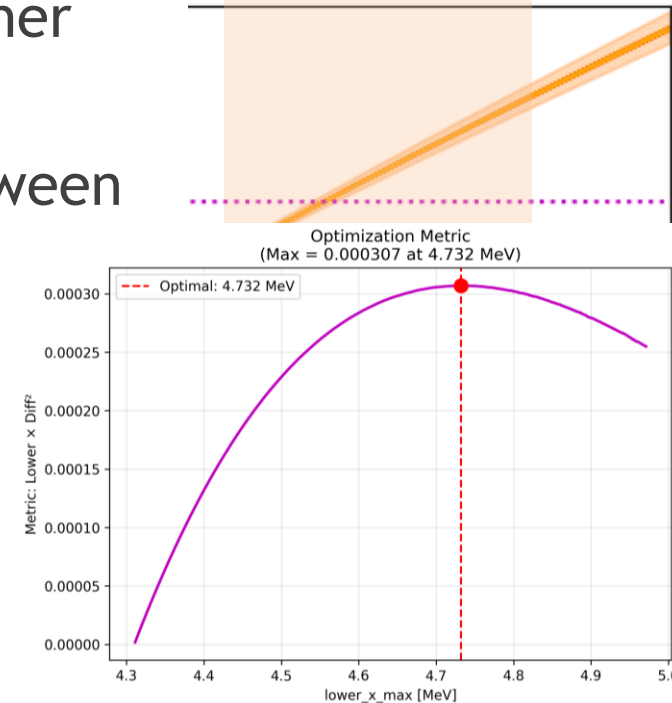
- ▶ Extract  $M_2^V$  from higher spectrum (6-9 MeV)
- ▶ Compare counts between 2 symmetric areas
- ▶ Diff. > SM diff. => BSM



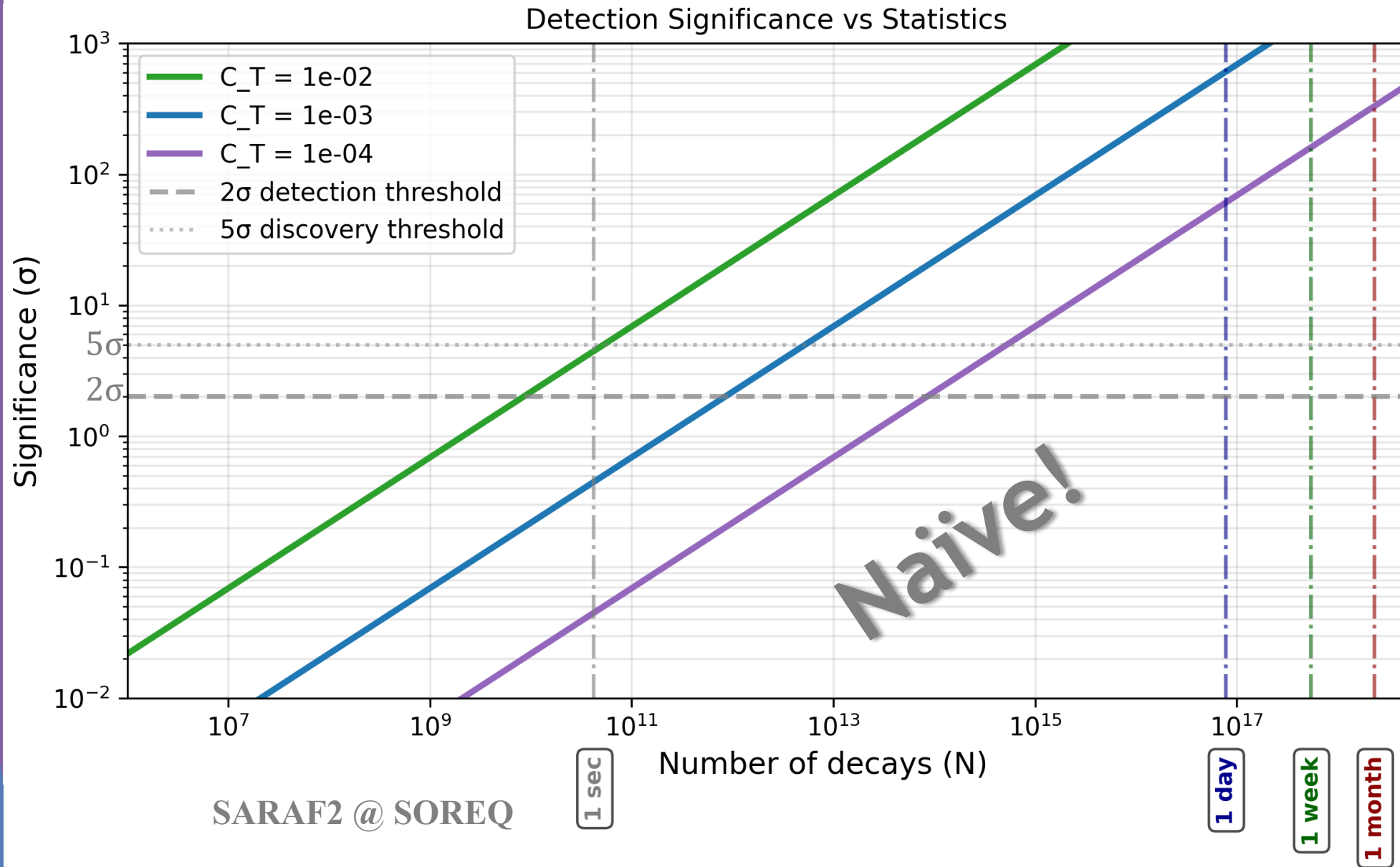
# Spectrum Peak Asymmetry Method (SPAM)



- ▶ Extract  $M_2^V$  from higher spectrum (6-9 MeV)
- ▶ Compare counts between 2 symmetric areas
- ▶ Diff. > SM diff. => BSM
- ▶ Optimize the areas for effect vs. noise



# Spectrum Peak Asymmetry Method (SPAM)



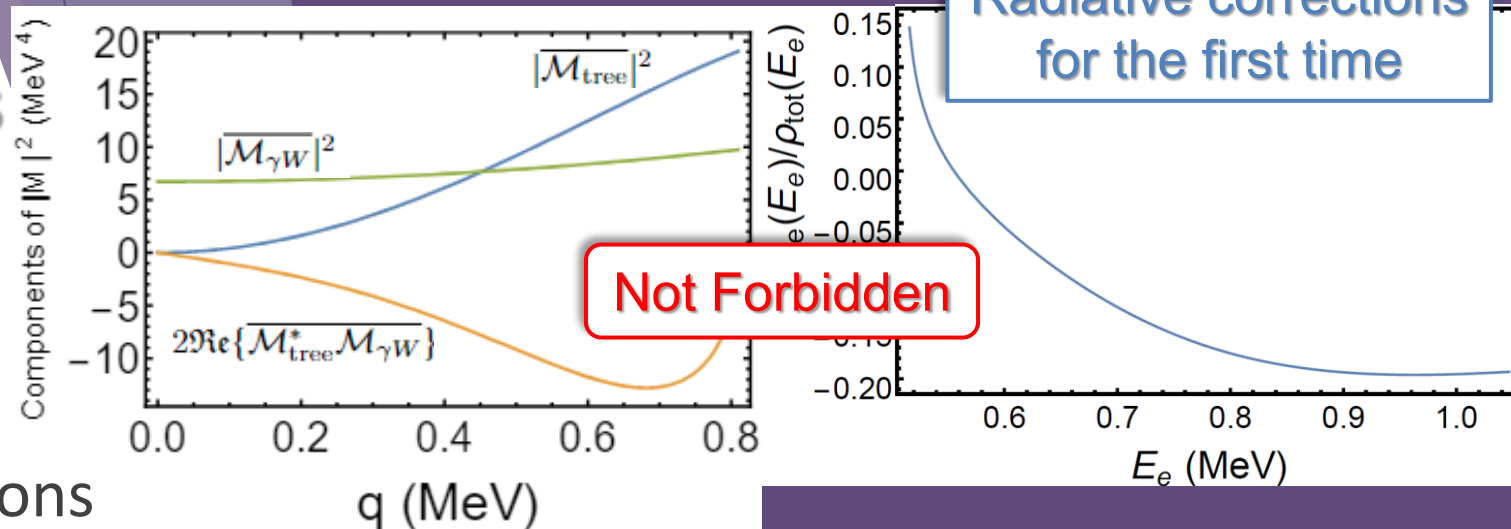
# Summary: Unique Forbidden $\beta$ -decays

**No** decay @  $q \rightarrow 0$

Spectrum is sensitive to:

- Light New Physics
- SPAM for Tensor Weak Interactions

➤ High-order quantum effects:



## Experiments

@ ORNL, CEA Saclay, HUJI, SOREQ

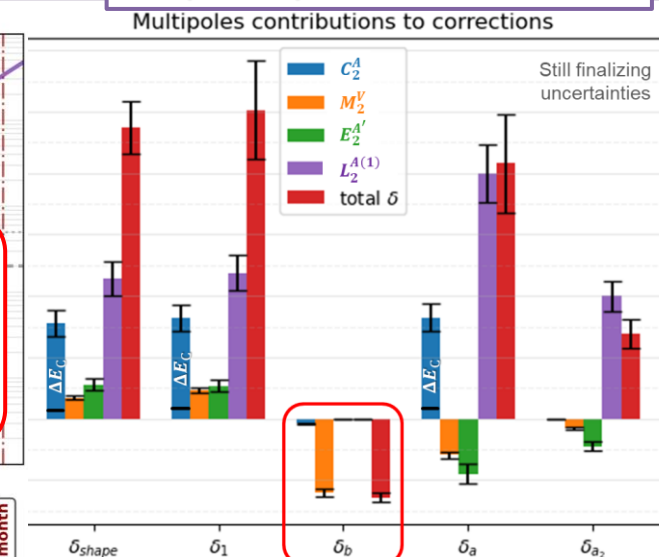
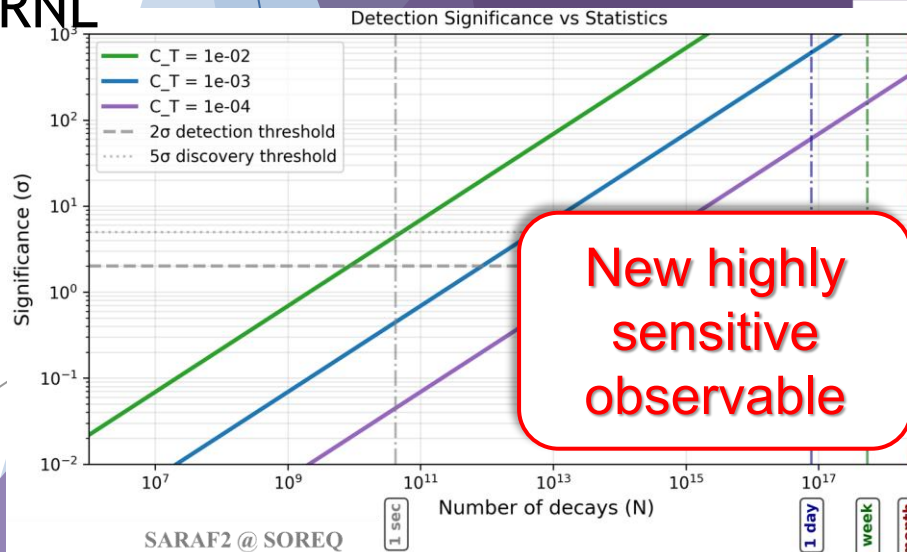
- New possibilities with MTAS @ORNL

➤ Nuclear-structure corrections:

Observables vs. (new) corrections

Precision theory – 2 challenges:

- High-order quantum effects
- Nuclear-structure corrections
- Outlook: Combining!



# Thanks!

*Chalmers U.*  
Christian Forssén

*TU Darmstadt*  
Lotta Jokiniemi

*TRIUMF*  
Petr Navrátil

*ÚJF Rez*  
Daniel Gazda

*Hebrew U.*  
Doron Gazit  
Daniel Ben Atar  
Guy Ron

*SOREQ*  
Sergey Vaintraub

*INT*  
Vincenzo Cirigliano

*UTK*  
Chien-Yeah Seng

*ORNL*  
Charlie Rasco

*Caen U. & FRIB*  
Oscar Naviliat-Cuncic

*LPC Caen*  
Leendert Hayen

*Mainz U.*  
Mikhail Gorchtein

*LLNL*  
Kostas Kravvaris

# Some Details

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_W \sim C_{\text{sym}} \hat{j}(\vec{x}) \cdot \hat{j}(\vec{x})$$

Lepton current
Nuclear current

# Required accuracy

Nuclear charges  
Nuclear currents:

$$C_{\text{sym}} \sim g_{\text{sym}} \epsilon_{\text{sym}}$$

$$\langle p | \bar{u} \sigma^{\mu\nu} d | n \rangle \approx g_T \bar{u}_p \sigma^{\mu\nu} u_n$$

$$g_V = 1$$

Similar terms for  
the other sym

Charge	Value
$g_A$	1.278(33)
$g_T$	0.987(55)
$g_S$	1.02(11)
$g_P$	349(9)

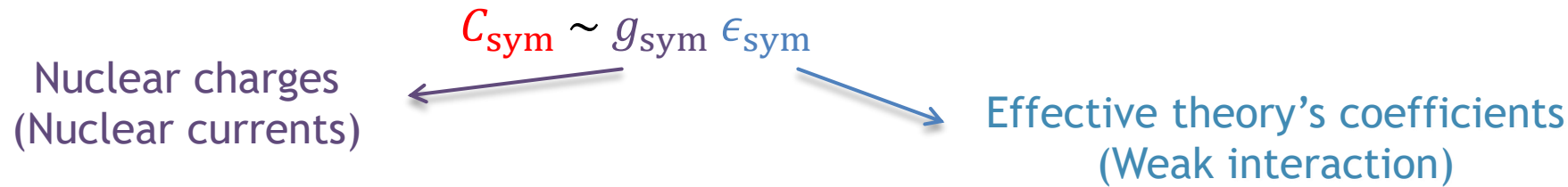
M. Gonzalez-Alonso *et al.*, PPNP 104 165-223 (2019)

> **Same nuclear charges for SM & BSM**

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_W \sim C_{\text{sym}} \hat{j}(\vec{x}) \cdot \hat{\mathcal{J}}(\vec{x})$$

Lepton current
Nuclear current

# Required accuracy



Low energy effective Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_{udev}^{\text{eff}} = \epsilon_T \bar{e} \sigma_{\mu\nu} \nu_e \cdot \bar{u} \sigma^{\mu\nu} d + \dots$$

$$M_W \approx 80 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{sym}} \propto \left( \frac{M_W}{\Lambda} \right)^n$$

Similar terms for the other *sym*

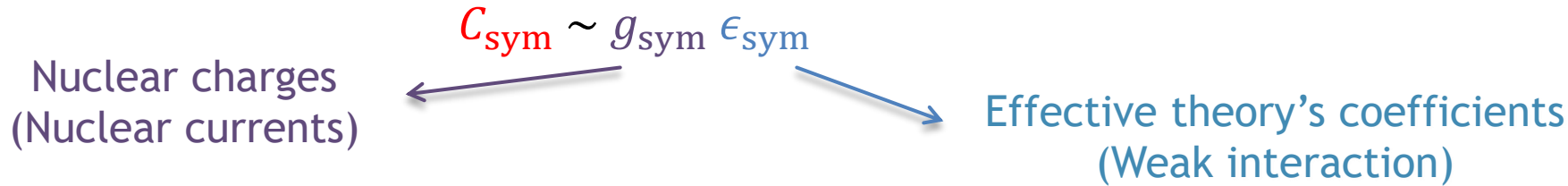
The effective theory's cutoff  
↔ New physics scale

$n = 0$  for *sym* in SM  
 $n \geq 2$  for *sym* ≠ SM

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_W \sim C_{\text{sym}} \hat{j}(\vec{x}) \cdot \hat{j}(\vec{x})$$

Lepton current
Nuclear current

# Required accuracy



Low energy effective Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_{udev}^{\text{eff}} = \epsilon_T \bar{e} \sigma_{\mu\nu} \nu_e \cdot \bar{u} \sigma^{\mu\nu} d + \dots$$

$$M_W \approx 80 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{sym}} \propto \left( \frac{M_W}{\Lambda} \right)^n$$

Similar terms for the other *sym*

The effective theory's cutoff  
↔ New physics scale

$$n = 0 \text{ for } \text{sym in SM}$$

$$n \geq 2 \text{ for } \text{sym} \neq \text{SM}$$

For the simplest BSM operator ( $n = 2$ ):  $\text{TeV} \leftrightarrow C_{\text{sym}} \sim \epsilon_{\text{sym}} \sim 10^{-3}$

New experiments will have a  $10^{-3}$  level of precision

- ▶ Sensitive to new physics at the TeV scale

16N

