

Quantifying errors in effective theories for heavy nuclei

Toño Coello Pérez

Outline



Deformed systems

- Energy spectra
- Characterization of rotational bands

Spherical systems

- Energy spectra
- Electric quadrupole properties

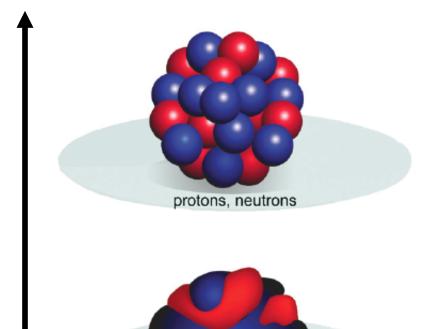
Weak decays

- β decays to excited states
- $2\nu\beta\beta$ decays in the SSD approximation

Relevant energy scales







nucleonic densities and currents

Chiral EFT

Nucleon and pion fields

BREAKDOWN SCALE Λ

ET

Orientation angles

 $\xi \sim 100 \text{keV}$

• Phonons

 $\omega \sim 1000 \mathrm{keV}$

Rotations and vibrations in deformed nuclei



Degrees of freedom

$$v_{\pm 1} \equiv \mp \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\dot{\theta} \pm i \dot{\phi} \sin \theta \right)$$

$$\Psi_0 = \zeta + \psi_0 \qquad \Psi_{\pm 2} = \psi_2 e^{\pm i2\gamma}$$

The Hamiltonian

$$H \approx H^{(0)} + H^{(1)} + H^{(2)} + H^{(3)} + H^{(4)}$$

 $H^{(0)}$: Harmonic excitations

 $H^{(1)}$: Anharmonic corrections

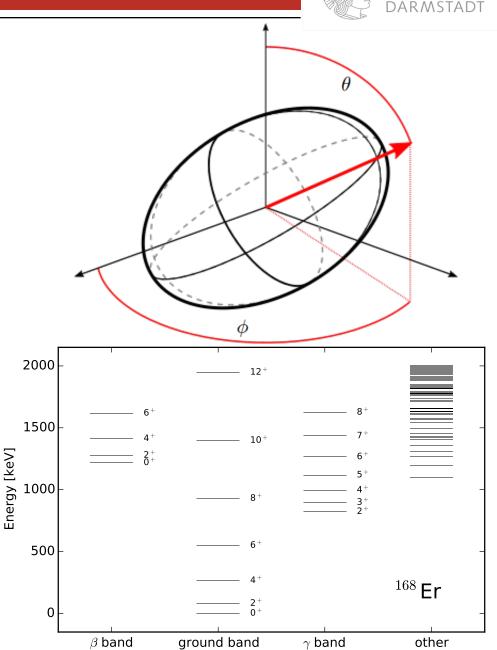
 $H^{(2)}$: Rigid rotor

 $H^{(3)}$: Off-diagonal corrections

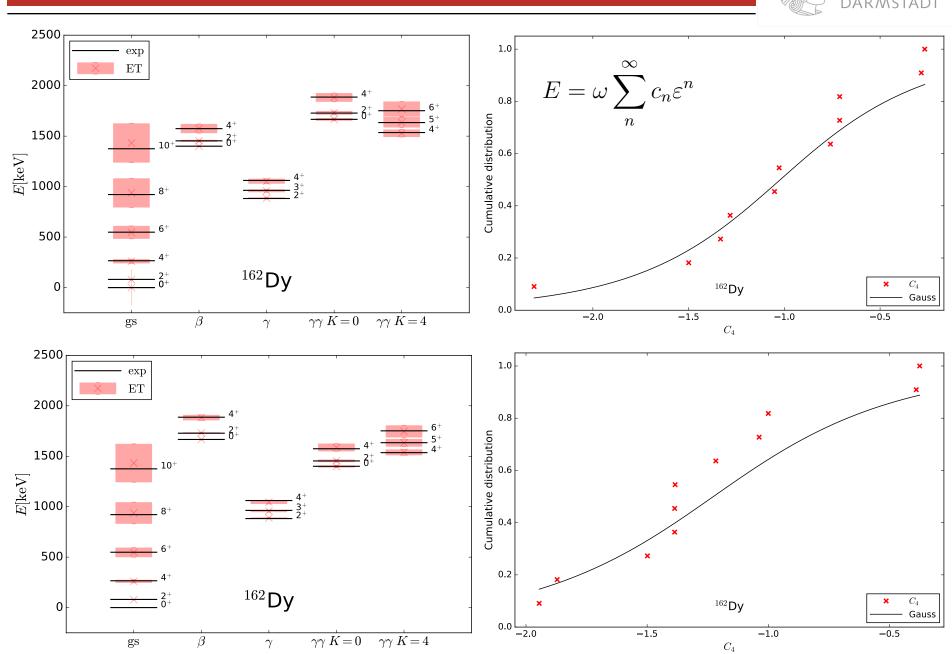
 $H^{(4)}$: Corrections to moment of inertia

where the *n*-th term is of order

$$\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{n/2}) \qquad \varepsilon \equiv \xi/\omega$$

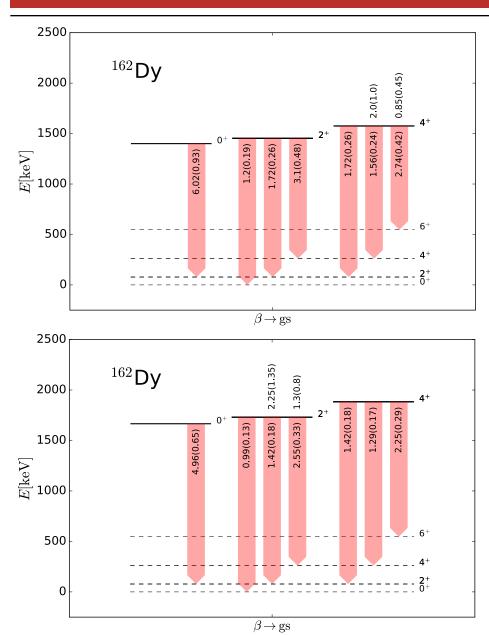






E2 interband transition strengths





Electric quadrupole transition strengths depend on LECs that appear in the Hamiltonian

PDFs for these LECs allow us to estimate transition strengths between states in different bands

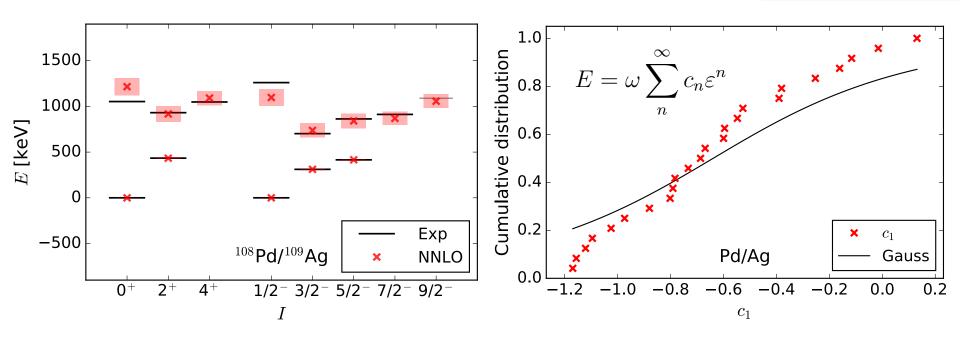
$$B(E2; i_{\beta} \xrightarrow{\beta} f_{gs}) = q^2 \frac{C_{\beta}^2}{4C_0^2 \omega_0} \left(C_{I_i 020}^{I_f 0} \right)^2$$

$$C_{\beta} \sim C_{\gamma} \sim \xi^{-1/2}$$

Data by courtesy of Ani Aprahamian

Vibrations in spherical nuclei





Hamiltonian written in terms of creation and annihilation operators

$$\left[d_{\mu}, d_{\nu}^{\dagger}\right] = \delta_{\mu\nu} \qquad \left\{a_{\mu}, a_{\nu}^{\dagger}\right\} = \delta_{\mu\nu}$$

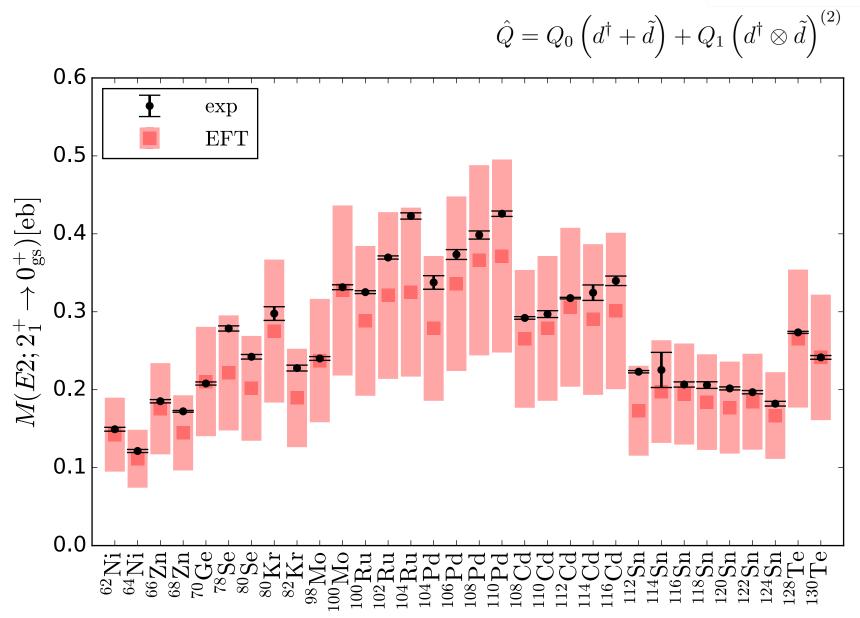
LO: Bohr and Mottelson model

NLO: Core-fermion interactions

NNLO: Anharmonicities

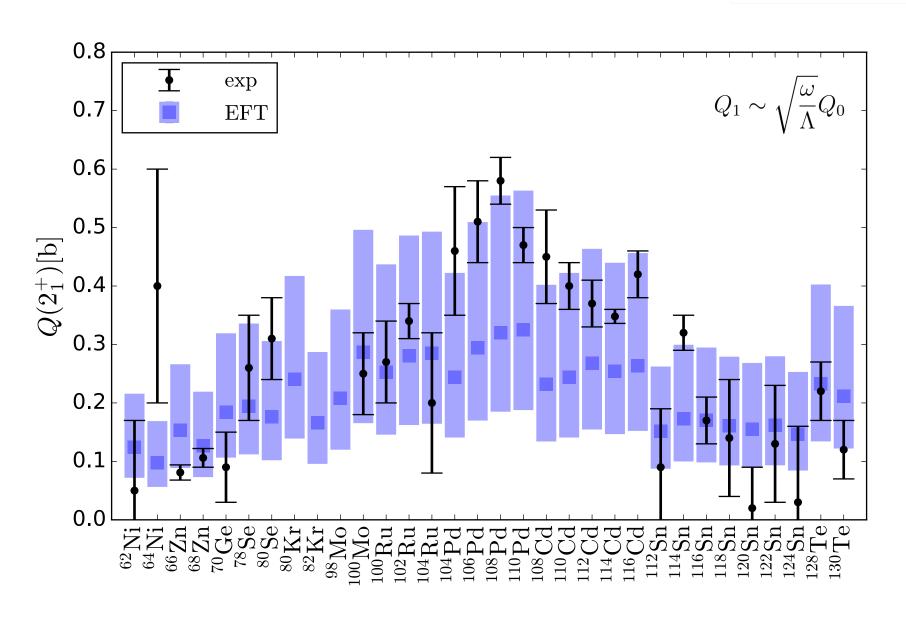
E2 transition matrix elements





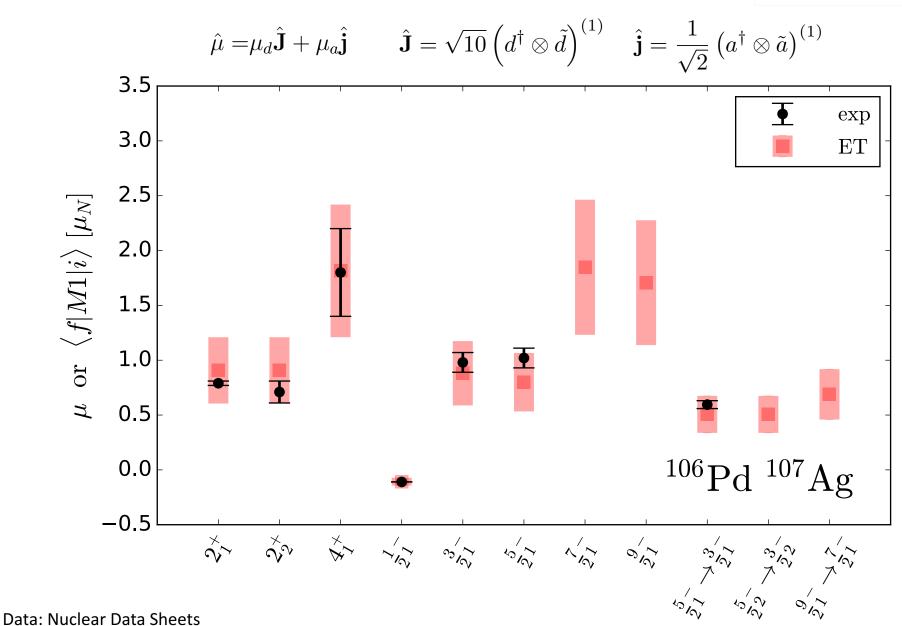
Static E2 moments





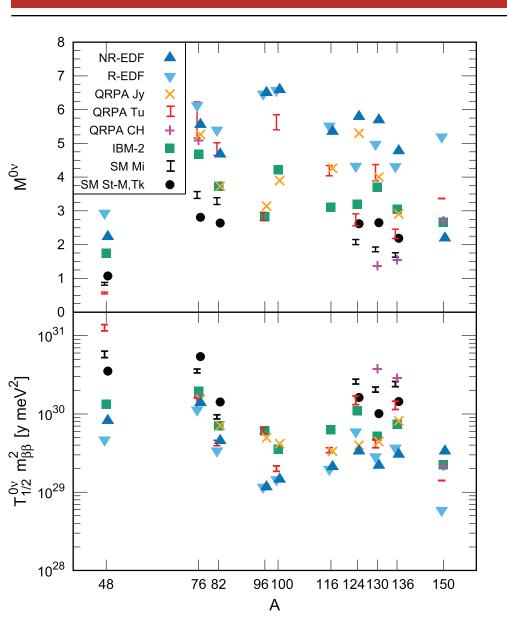
Static M1 static moments and M1 transition matrix elements





Study of β and $2\nu\beta\beta$ decays





Matrix elements for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decays exhibit large disagreement from model to model

Provide $0\nu\beta\beta$ matrix elements with associated theoretical uncertainties

We start studying β and $2\nu\beta\beta$ for which experimental data is available

Engel, Menéndez; Rep. Prog. Phys. 80, 046301 (2017)

Effective Gamow-Teller operator



Low-lying odd-odd states

$$|IM; j_p; j_n\rangle = \sum_{\mu\nu} C^{IM}_{j_n\mu j_p\nu} n^{\dagger}_{\mu} p^{\dagger}_{\nu} |0\rangle$$

Effective Gamow-Teller operator

$$\hat{O}_{\beta} = C_{\beta} \left(\tilde{p} \otimes \tilde{n} \right)^{(1)}$$

$$+ \sum_{\ell} C_{\beta\ell} \left[\left(d^{\dagger} + \tilde{d} \right) \otimes \left(\tilde{p} \otimes \tilde{n} \right)^{(\ell)} \right]^{(1)}$$

$$+ \sum_{L\ell} C_{\beta L\ell} \left[\left(d^{\dagger} \otimes d^{\dagger} + \tilde{d} \otimes \tilde{d} \right)^{(L)} \otimes \left(\tilde{p} \otimes \tilde{n} \right)^{(\ell)} \right]^{(1)}$$

LO term:

• Couples states with $\Delta \mathcal{N} = 0$

NLO term:

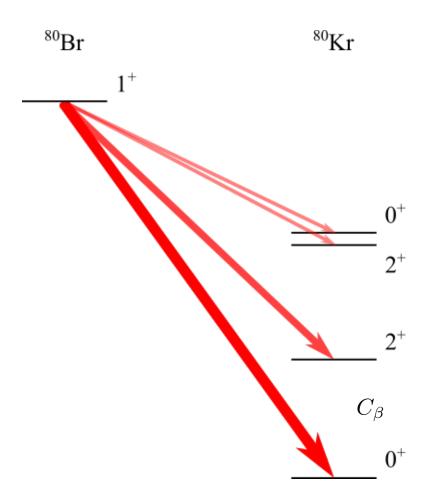
• Couples states with $\Delta \mathcal{N}=1$

NNLO term:

• Couples states with $\,\Delta\mathcal{N}=2\,$

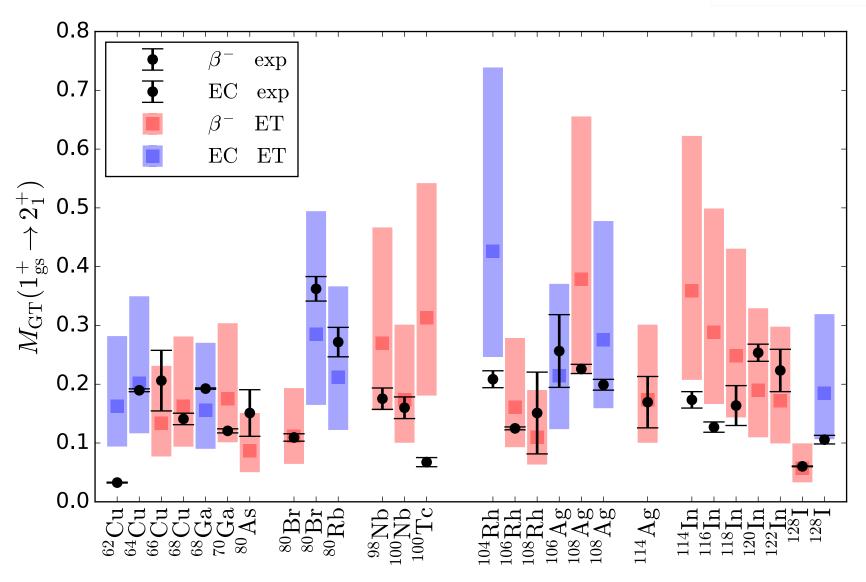
From the power counting

$${C_{eta\ell}\over C_{eta}}~\sim~0.58~$$
 and ${C_{eta L\ell}\over C_{eta}}~\sim~0.33$



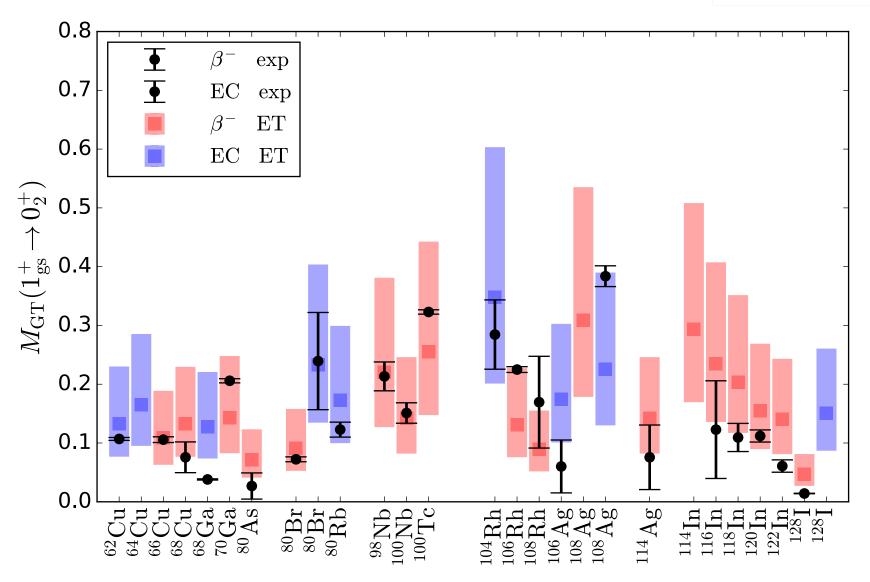
β decays to excited states





β decays to excited states





Error due to the SSD approximation



GT matrix elements for $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay

$$M_{\rm GT}^{2\nu} = \sum_{n} \frac{\langle f || \sum_{a} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{a} \tau_{a}^{+} || 1_{n}^{+} \rangle \langle 1_{n}^{+} || \sum_{b} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{b} \tau_{b}^{+} || i \rangle}{D_{nf} / m_{e}}$$

SSD approximation

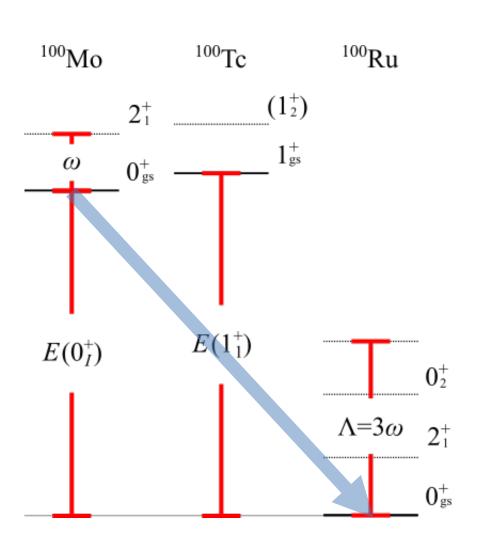
$$M_{\rm GT}^{2\nu}(i \to f) \approx \frac{M_{\rm GT}(1_1^+ \to 0_f^+) M_{\rm GT}(0_i^+ \to 1_1^+)}{D_{1f}/m_e c^2}$$

Percentual uncertainty estimate

$$\delta(gs \to gs) = \frac{D_{11}}{\Lambda} \Phi\left(\frac{\omega}{\Lambda}, 1, \frac{D_{11} + \omega}{\omega}\right)$$

where

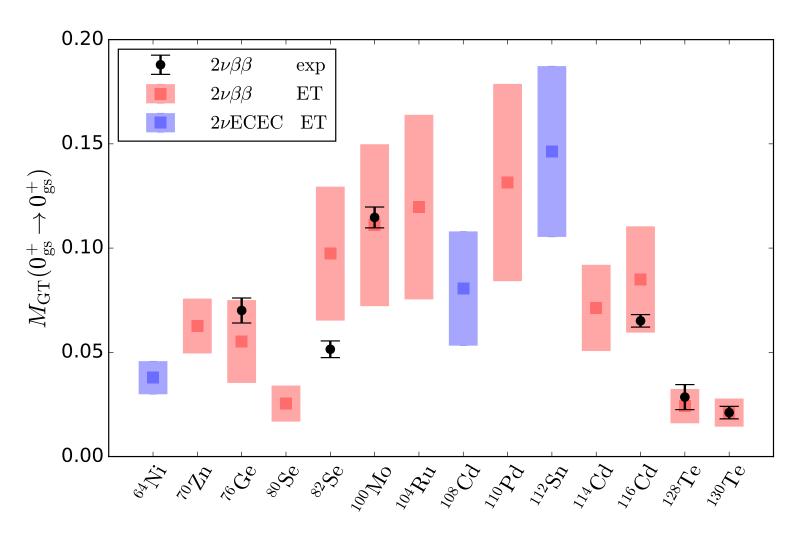
$$\Phi(z, s, a) \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{(a+n)^s}$$



Matrix elements for $2\nu\beta\beta$ decays



Good agreement with experiment where data exist

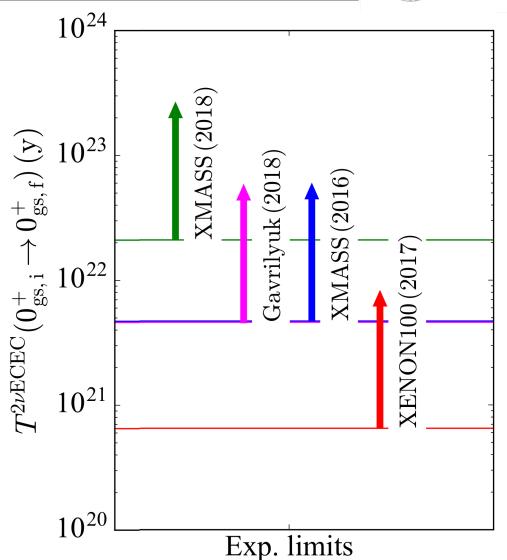


Half-life for the 2ν ECEC on 124 Xe



Large xenon detectors for dark matter experiments have enough sensitivity to observe the double-EC on ¹²⁴Xe

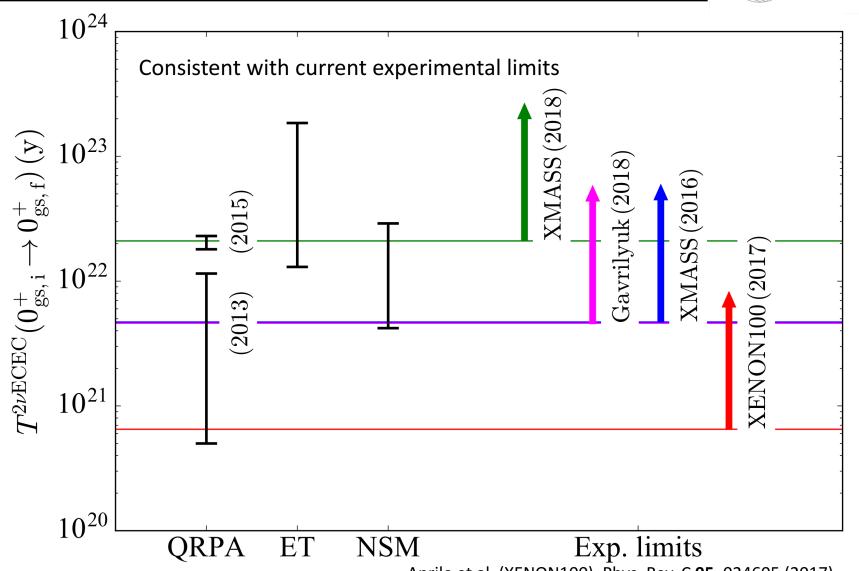
The most recent experimental lower limit for its half-life excludes theoretical calculations (most of them performed with the QRPA)



Aprile et al. (XENON100), Phys. Rev. C **95**, 024605 (2017) Abe et al. (XMASS), Progr. Theor. Exp. Phys. **2018**, 053D03 (2018) Gavrilyuk et al., Phys. Part. Nucl. **49**, 36 (2018)

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Summary



We constructed effective theories to describe the low-energy properties of heavy nuclei The systematic construction of the operators allows us to employ Bayesian methods to quantify the theoretical uncertainty associated to their matrix elements

The low-energy spectra and electromagnetic properties of heavy nuclei is consistently described once the theoretical uncertainty is taken into account

In spherical systems, the ET consistently describes observed $2\nu\beta\beta$ decays once the SSD approximation error is taken into account

A correlation between the double GT and the $0\nu\beta\beta$ matrix elements might allow us to provide an uncertainty for the latter

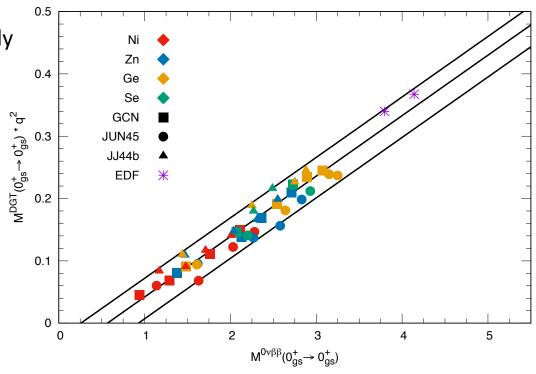


Figure by courtesy of Javier Menéndez