

Ab initio studies on muon capture in light nuclei

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CAP Congress
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Canadian Astroparticle Physics Research Institute





P. Navrátil



J. Kotila



K. Kravvaris

Introduction

Muon Capture from No-Core Shell Model

Results

Muon capture on ${}^6\text{Li}$

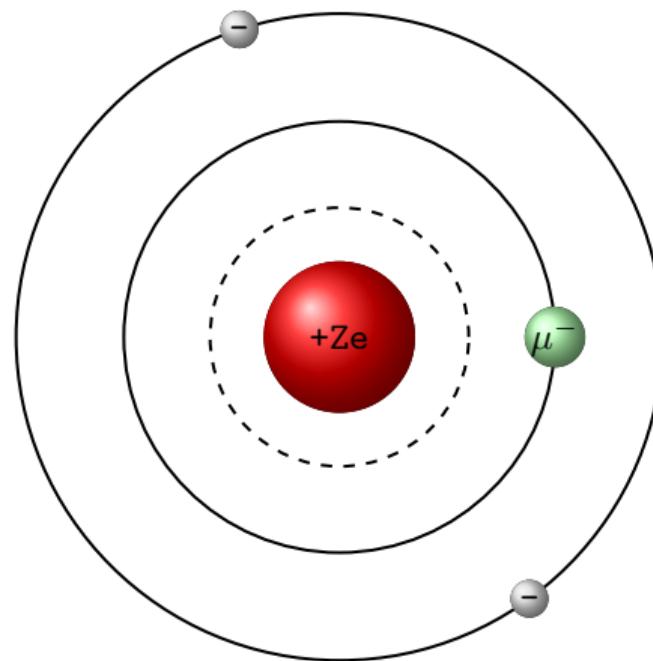
Muon capture on ${}^{12}\text{C}$

Muon capture on ${}^{16}\text{O}$

Summary

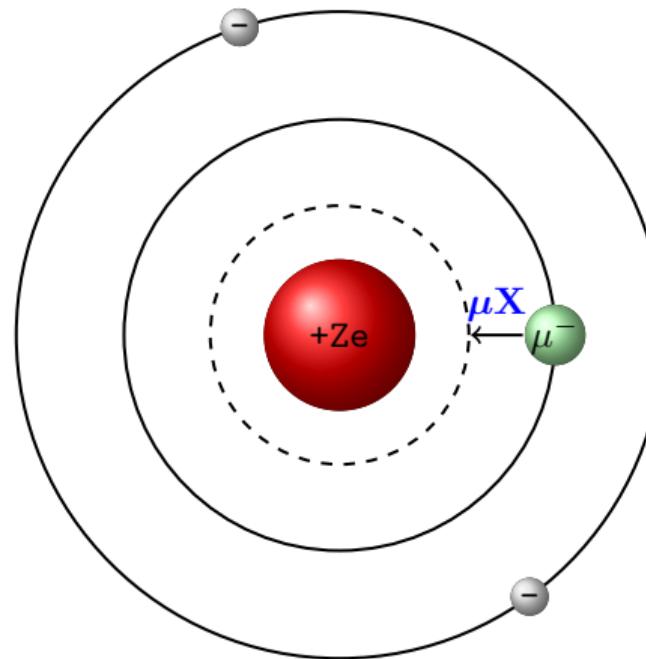
Ordinary Muon Capture (OMC)

- A muon can replace an electron in an atom, forming a *muonic atom*



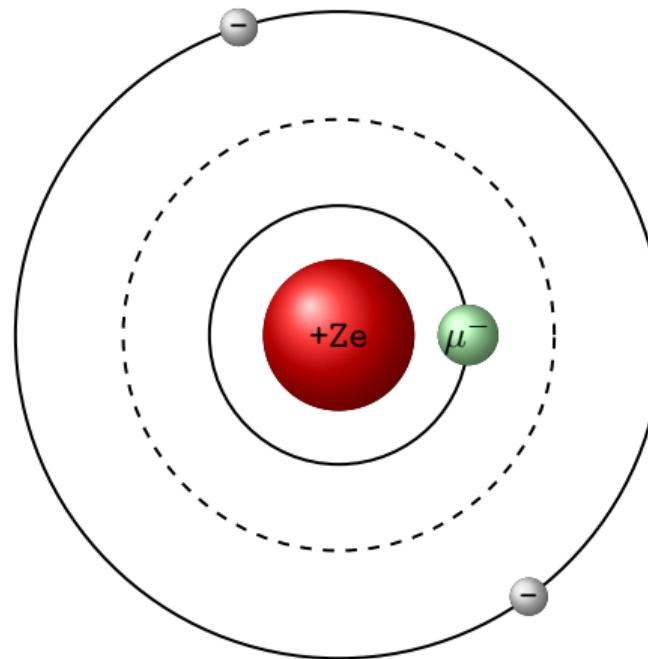
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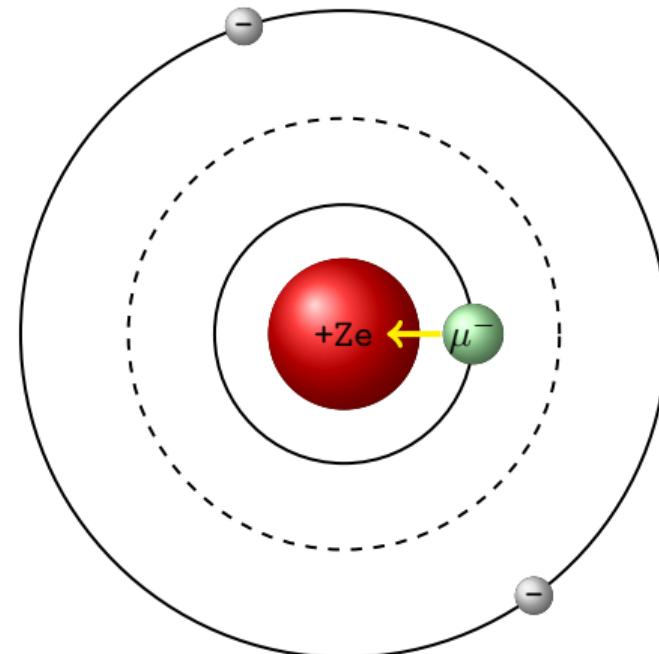
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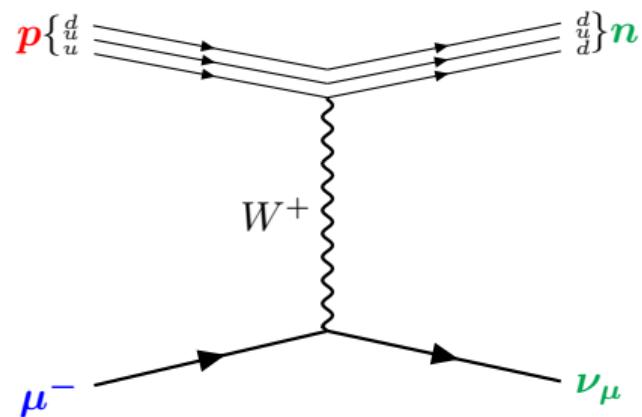
$$\mu^- + {}_Z^A X(J_i^{\pi_i}) \rightarrow \nu_\mu + {}_{Z-1}^A Y(J_f^{\pi_f})$$



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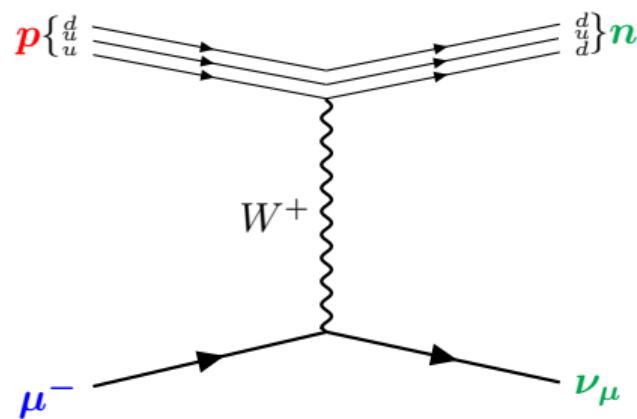
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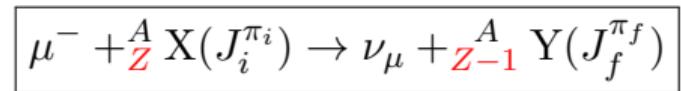
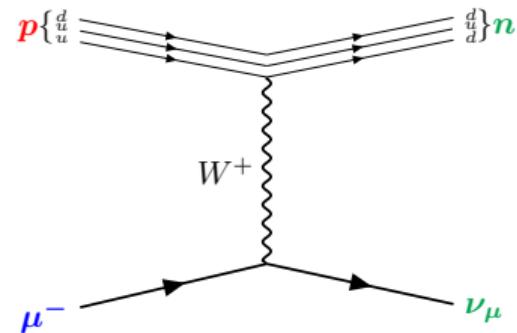
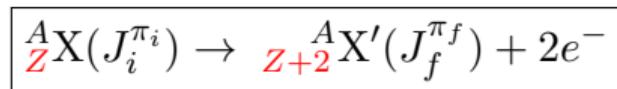
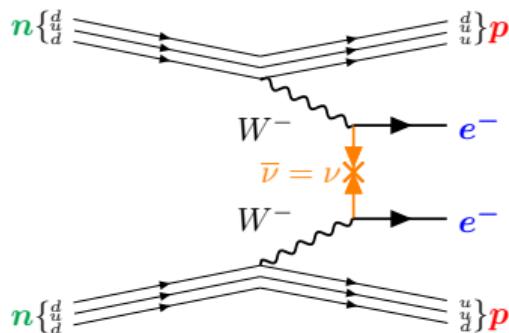
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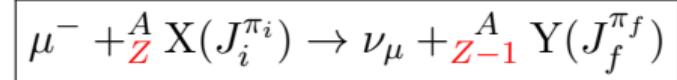
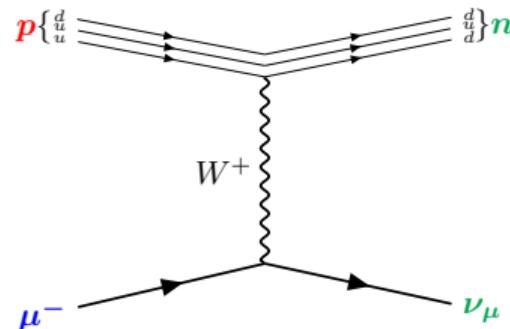
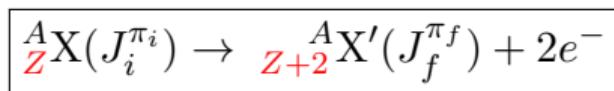
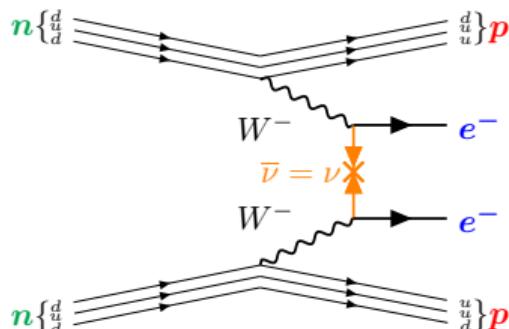
Ordinary = non-radiative

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{Radiative muon capture (RMC):} \\ \mu^- + {}_Z^A X(J_i^{\pi_i}) \rightarrow \nu_\mu + {}_{Z-1}^A Y(J_f^{\pi_f}) + \gamma \end{array} \right)$$



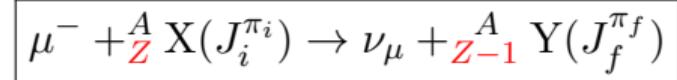
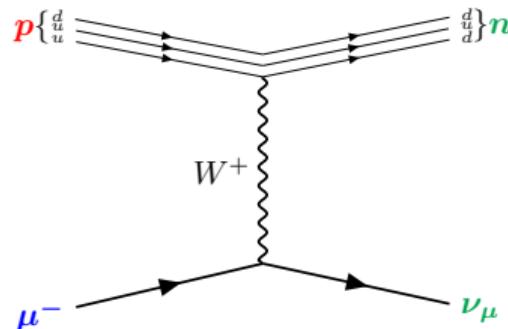
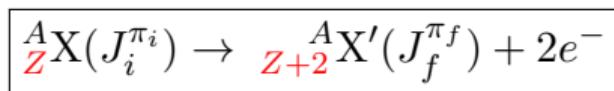
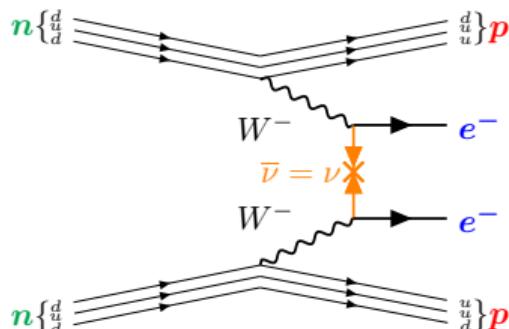
$0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay vs. Muon Capture



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Both involve hadronic current:

$$j^{\alpha\dagger} = \bar{\Psi} [g_V(q^2)\gamma^\alpha + ig_M(q^2)\frac{\sigma^{\alpha\beta}}{2m_p}q_\beta - g_A(q^2)\gamma^\alpha\gamma_5 - g_P(q^2)q^\alpha\gamma_5] \Psi$$

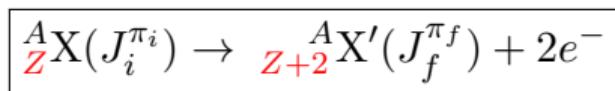
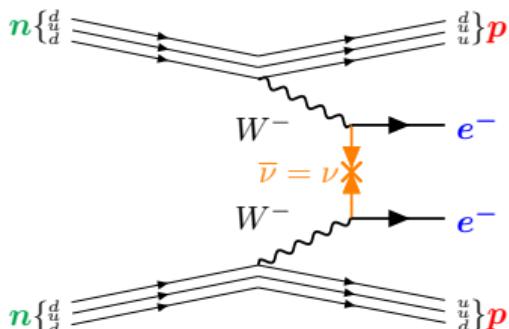
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- $q \approx 1/|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2| \approx 100 - 200 \text{ MeV}$

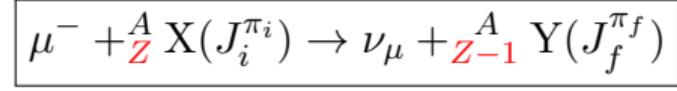
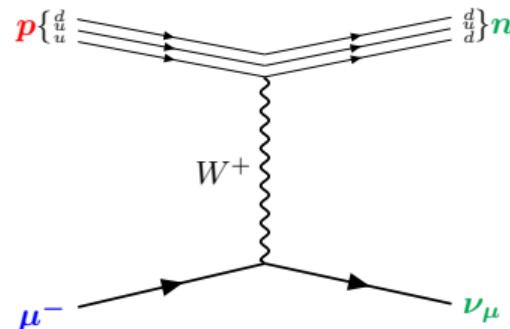
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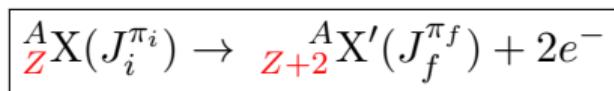
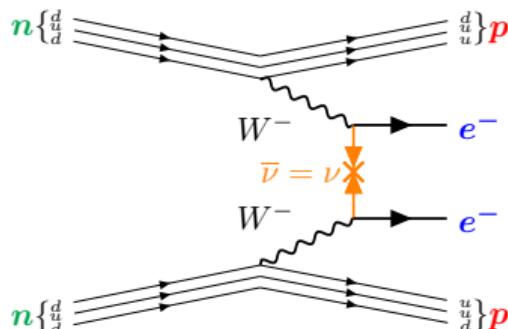


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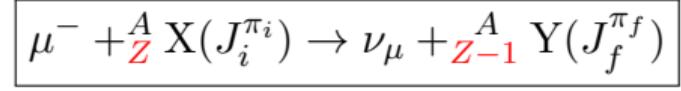
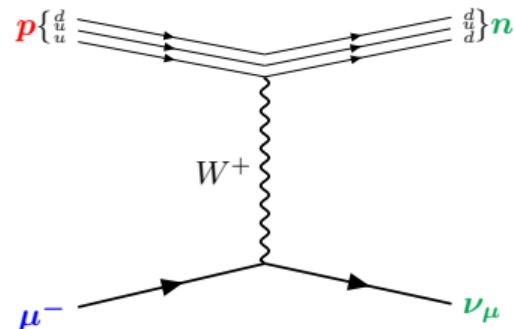
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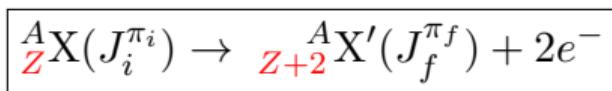
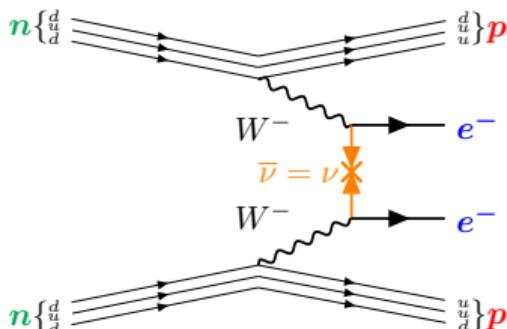
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- Yet hypothetical



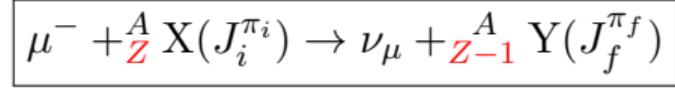
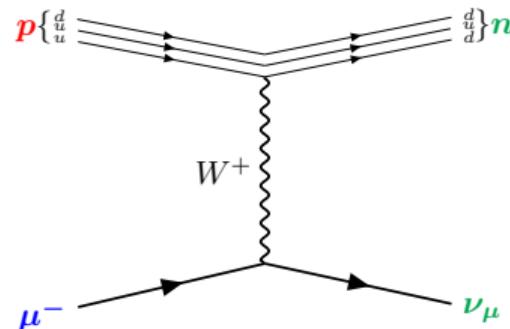
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- $q \approx 1/|r_1 - r_2| \approx 100 - 200 \text{ MeV}$
- Yet hypothetical



- $q \approx m_\mu + E_i - E_f \approx 100 \text{ MeV}$
- Has been measured!

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$$W(J_i \rightarrow J_f) = \frac{1}{2J_i + 1} \left(1 - \frac{q}{m_\mu + AM}\right) q^2 \sum_{\kappa u} |\mathbf{g_V M_V}(\kappa, u) + \mathbf{g_M M_M}(\dots) + \mathbf{g_A M_A}(\dots) + \mathbf{g_P M_P}(\dots)|^2$$

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 118, NUMBER 2

APRIL 15, 1960

Theory of Allowed and Forbidden Transitions in Muon Capture Reactions*

MASATO MORITA

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- + Translationally invariant **nuclear wave functions** from no-core shell model
- + Approximate **two-body currents** via normal-ordering

What is *ab initio*?

Ideally:

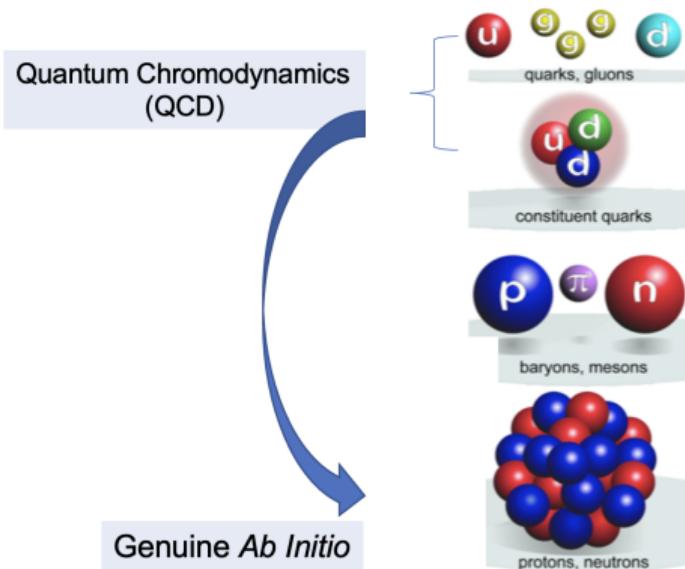
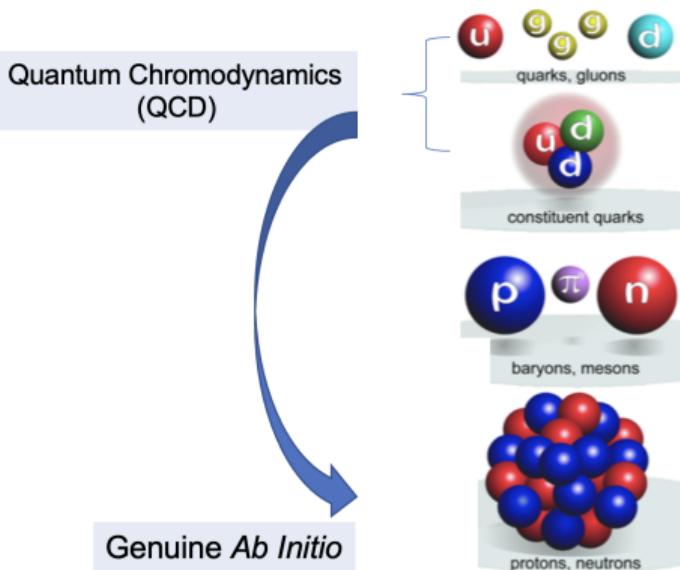


Figure courtesy of P. Navrátil

What is *ab initio*?

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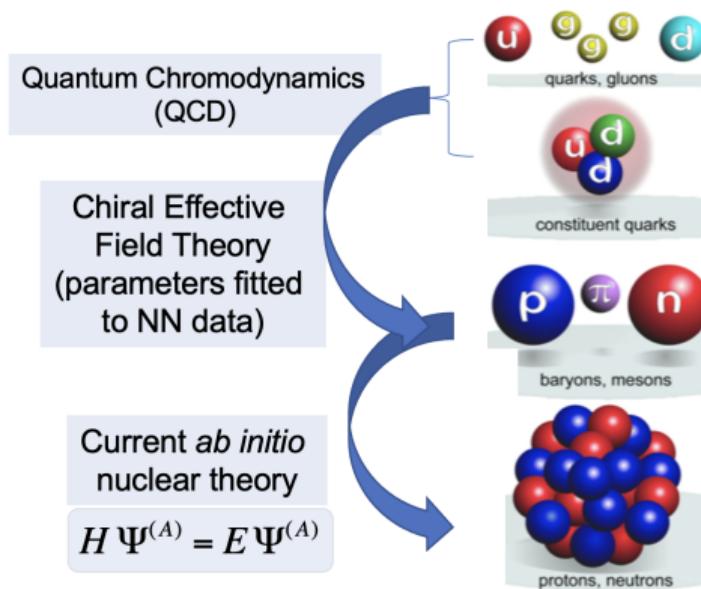


Figure courtesy of P. Navrátil

Discovery,
accelerated

Nuclear Forces from Chiral Effective Field Theory (χ EFT)

- Expansion organized in terms of expansion parameter (Q/Λ_χ)

	NN	3N	4N
LO $(Q/\Lambda_\chi)^0$			
NLO $(Q/\Lambda_\chi)^2$			
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N³LO $(Q/\Lambda_\chi)^4$			

H. Hergert, *Front. Phys.* 8 (2020)

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 - ▶ Currently, fitted to data

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Ab initio No-Core Shell Model (NCSM)

- Solve nuclear many-body problem

$$H^{(A)} \Psi^{(A)}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) = E^{(A)} \Psi^{(A)}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A)$$

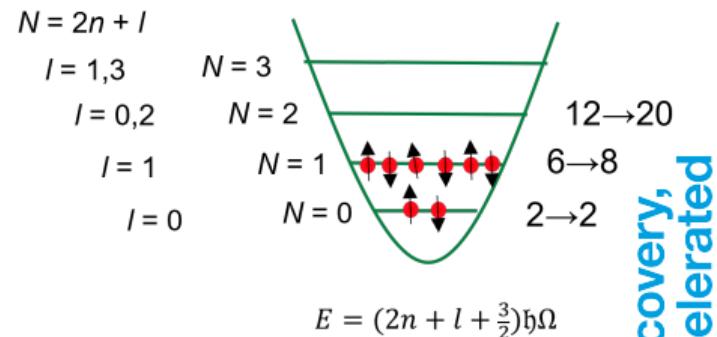
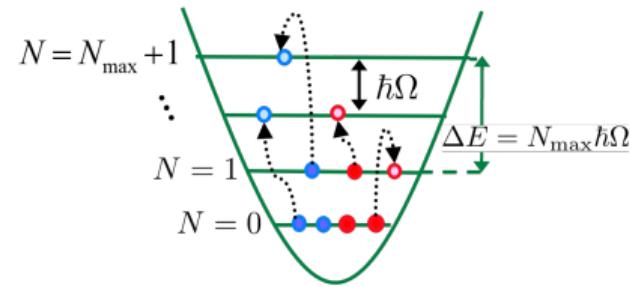


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- Two- (NN) and three-nucleon (3N) forces from χ EFT**

$$H^{(A)} = \sum_{i=1}^A \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + \sum_{i < j=1}^A \mathbf{V}^{NN}(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j) + \sum_{i < j < k=1}^A \mathbf{V}_{ijk}^{3N}$$

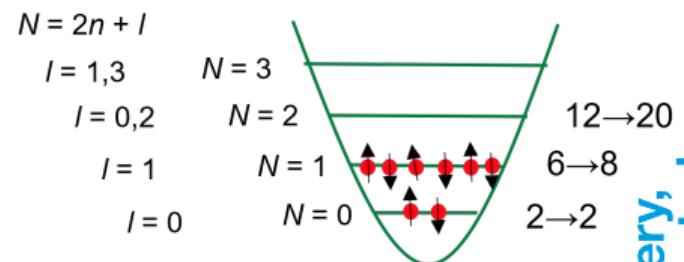
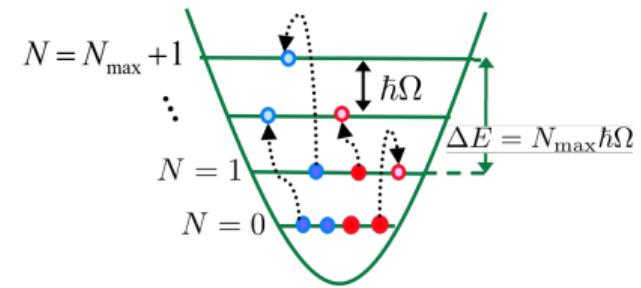


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- Expansion in harmonic oscillator (HO) basis



$$\Psi^{(A)} = \sum_{N=0}^{N_{\max}} \sum_j c_{Nj} \Phi_{Nj}^{\text{HO}}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A)$$

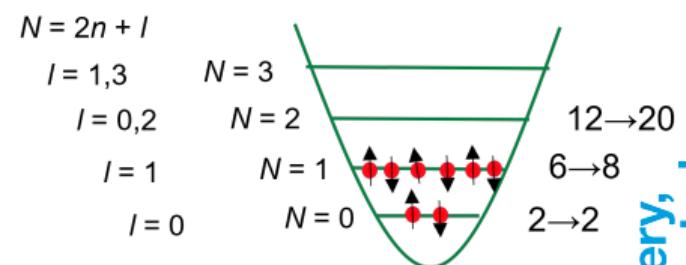
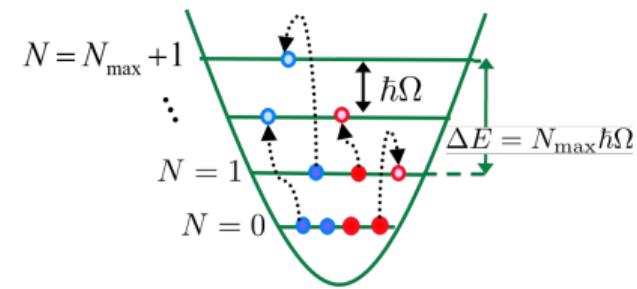


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Dependency on the Harmonic-Oscillator Frequency



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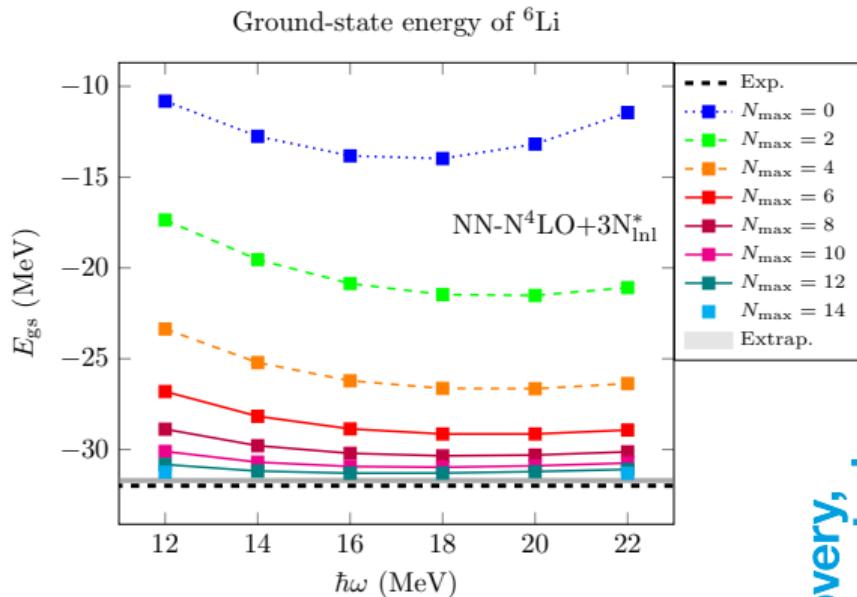
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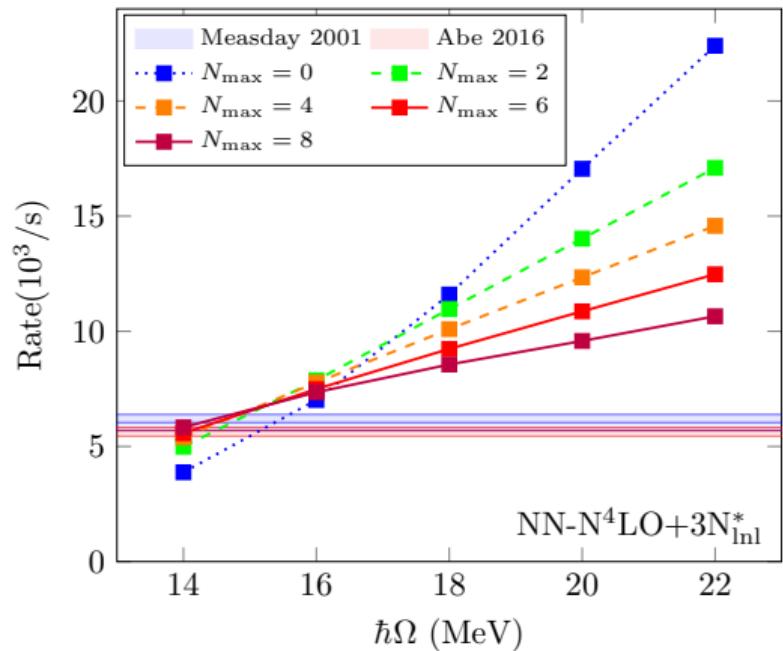
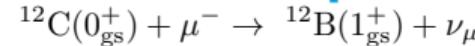
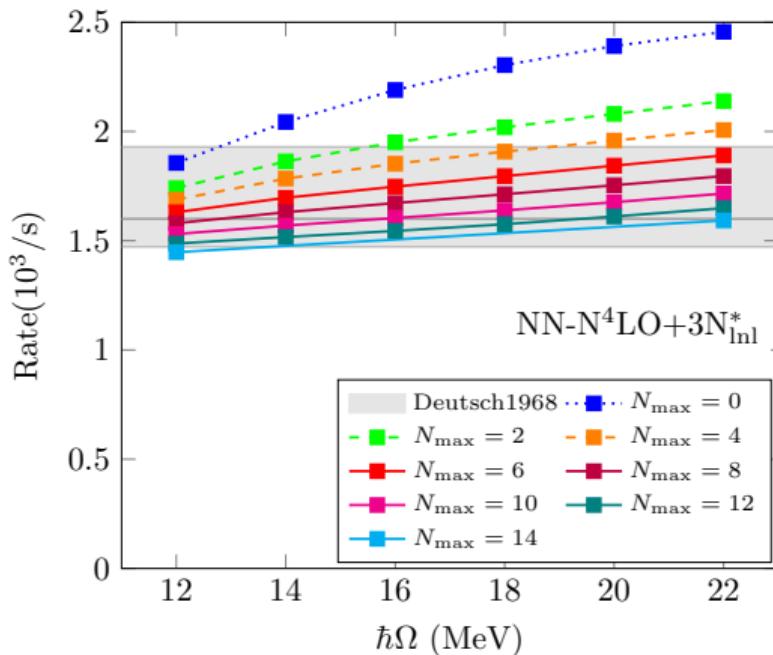
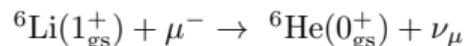
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- The expansion depends on the HO frequency because of the N_{\max} truncation
 - Increasing N_{\max} leads towards converged results**



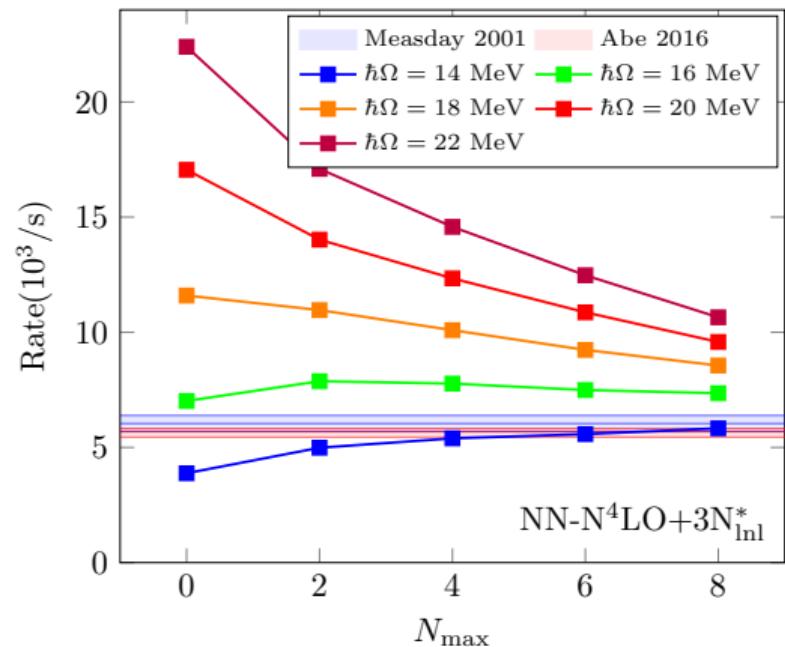
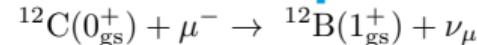
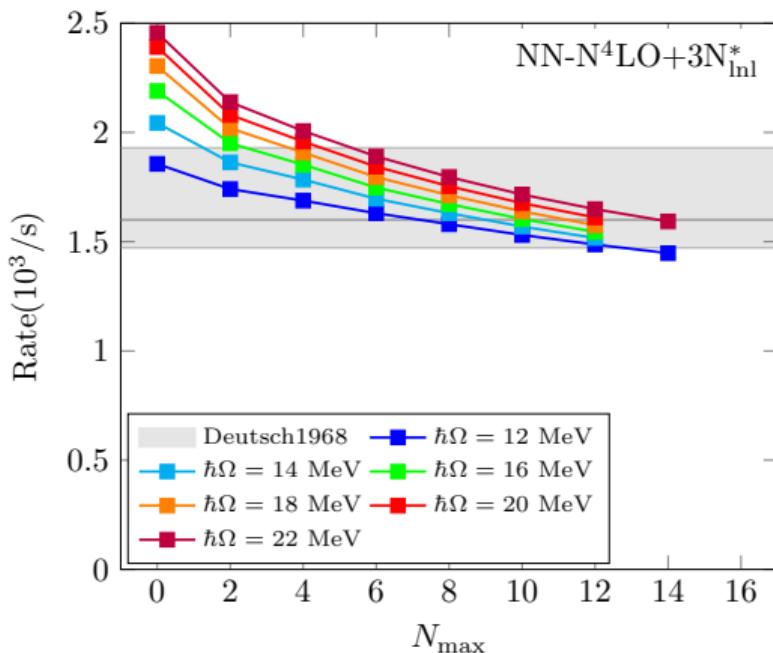
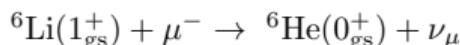
LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776

Harmonic-Oscillator Frequency Dependence of Muon Capture



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila and Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)

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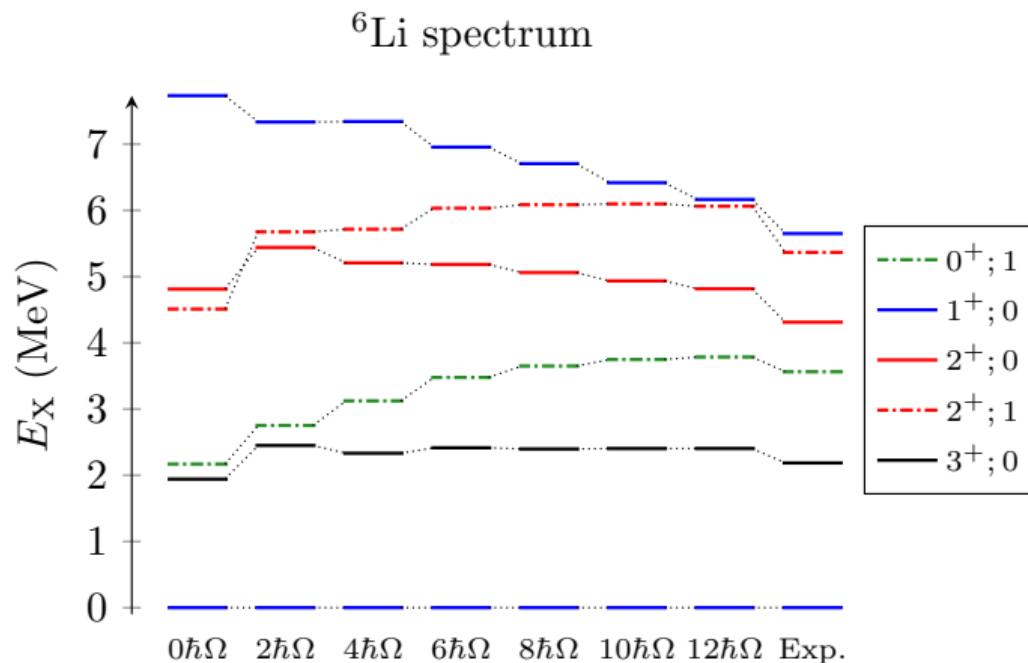
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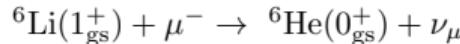
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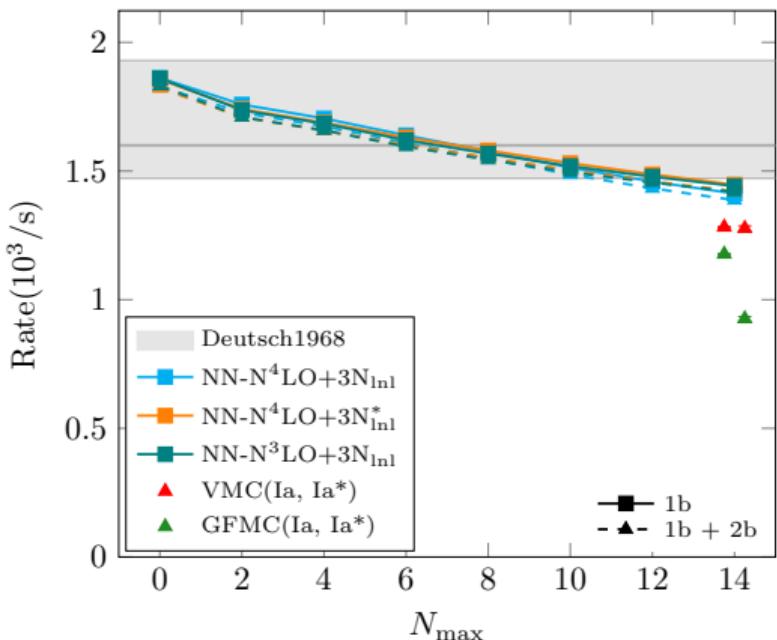
Energy spectrum of ${}^6\text{Li}$ 

LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)

Capture Rates to the Ground State of ${}^6\text{He}$



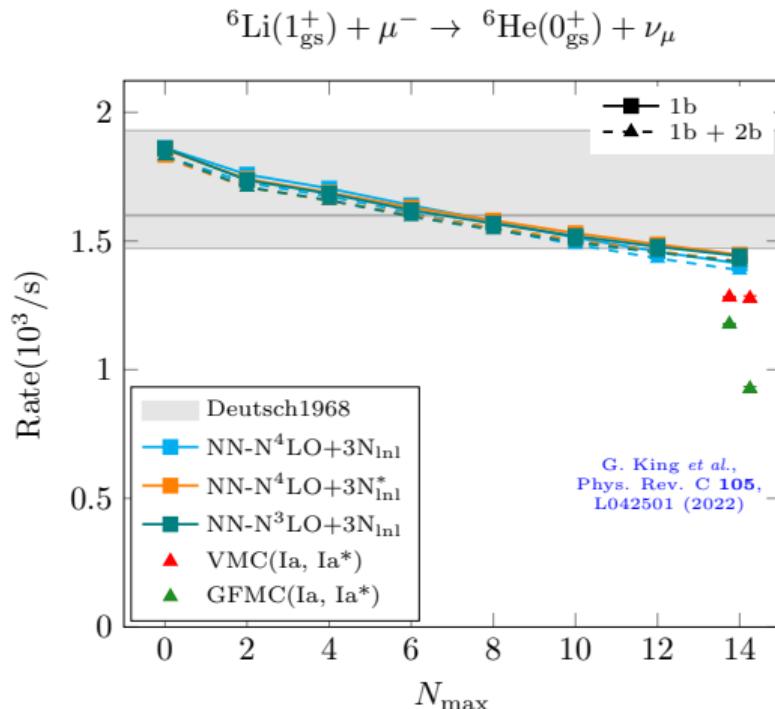
- NCSM slightly underestimating experiment



Capture Rates to the Ground State of ${}^6\text{He}$

- NCSM slightly underestimating experiment
- The results are consistent with the variational (VMC) and Green's function Monte-Carlo (GFMC) calculations

King *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **105**, L042501 (2022)



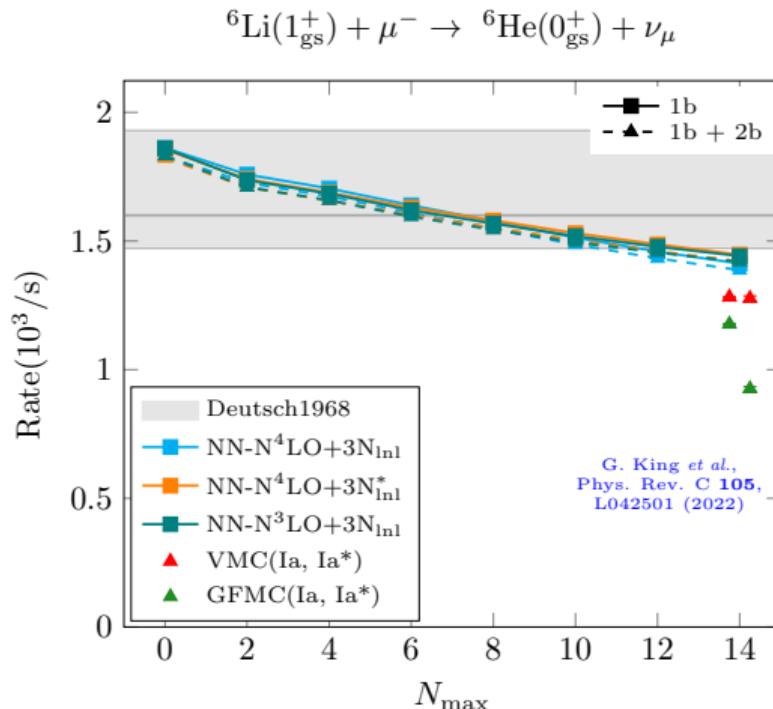
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King *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **105**, L042501 (2022)

- ▶ Slow convergence likely due to cluster-structure



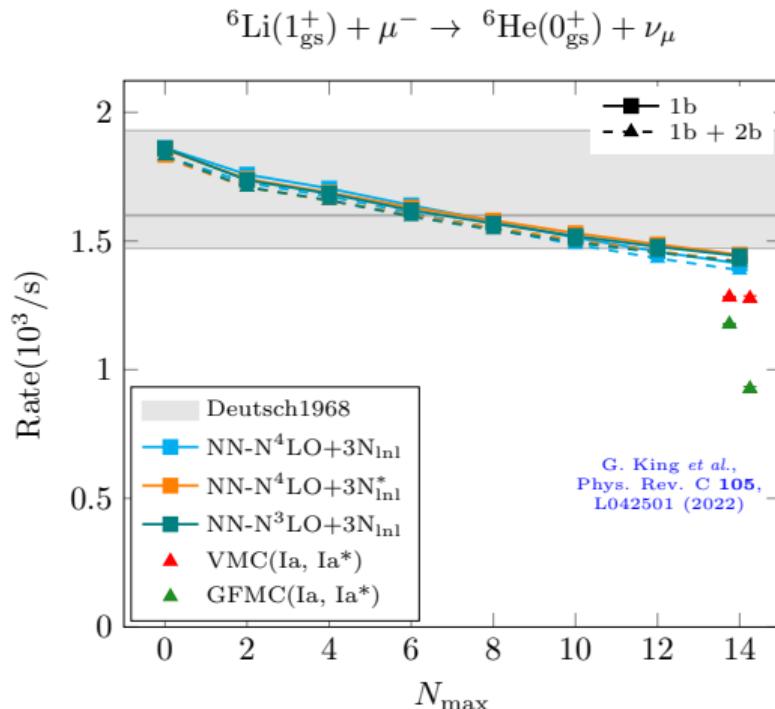
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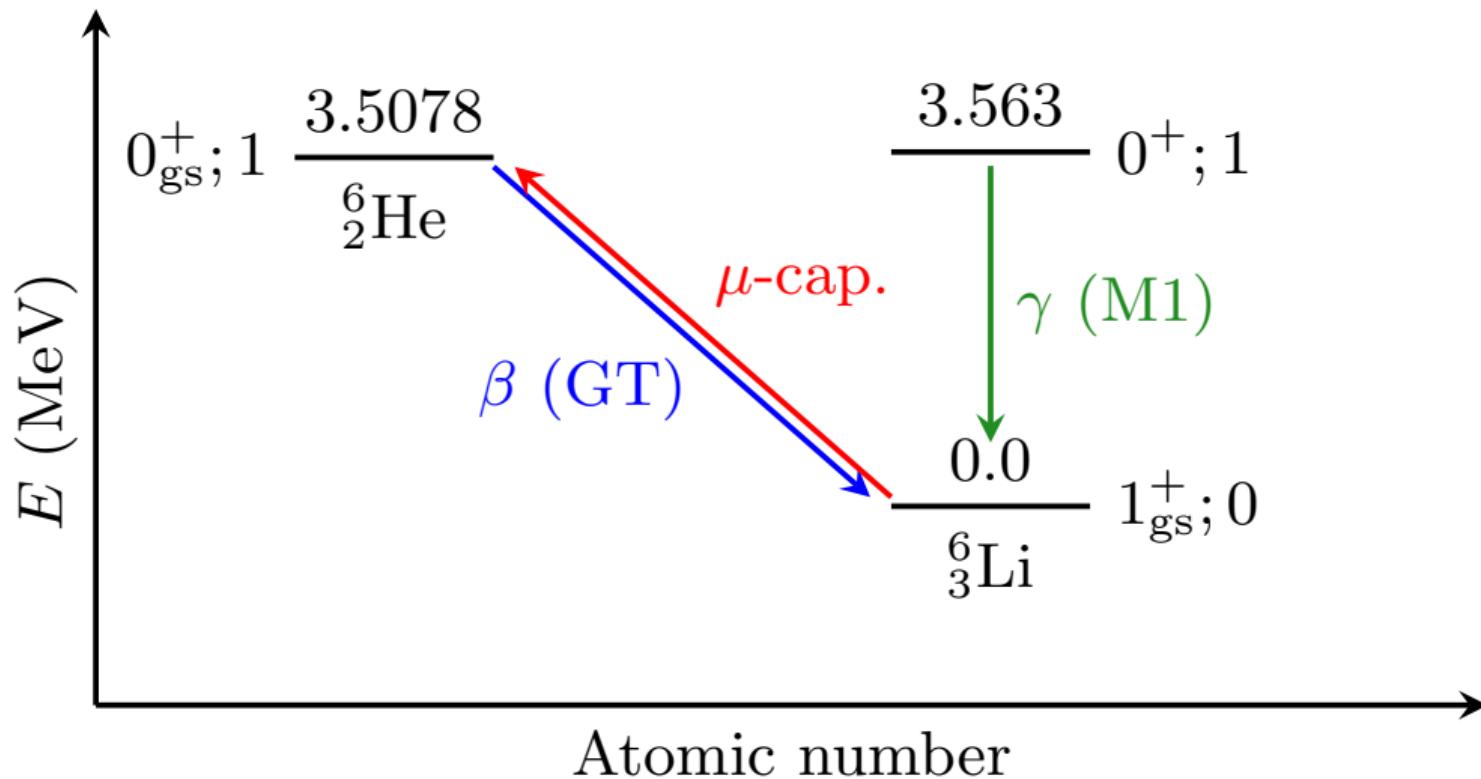
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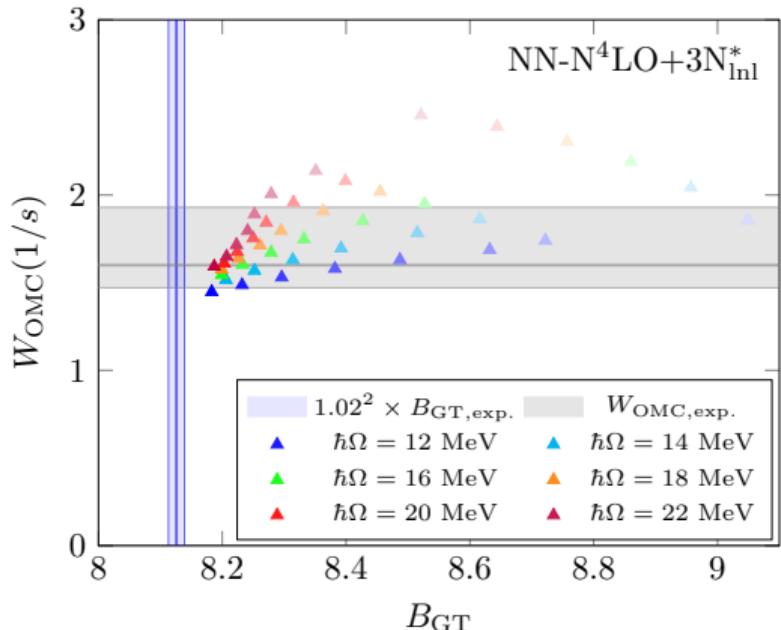
- ▶ Slow convergence likely due to cluster-structure
- ▶ NCSM with continuum (NCSMC) might give better results?



Correlations with Other Observables

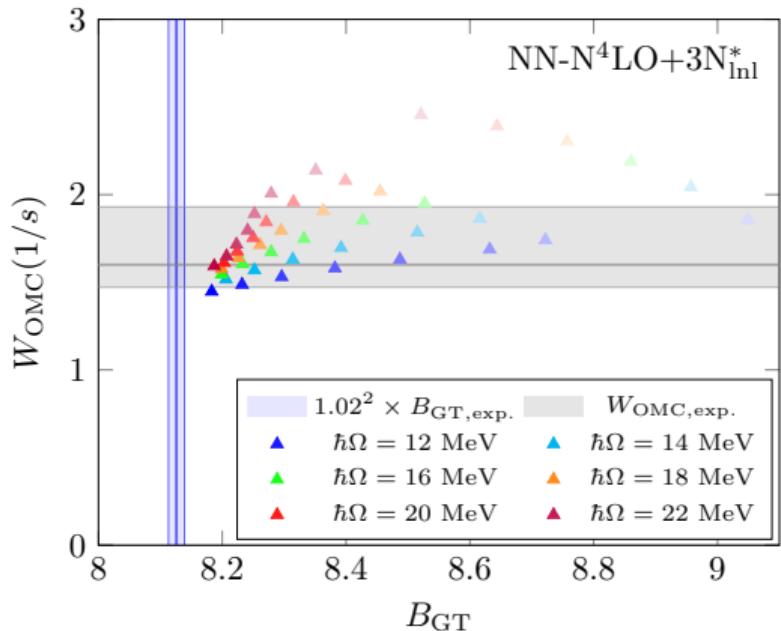
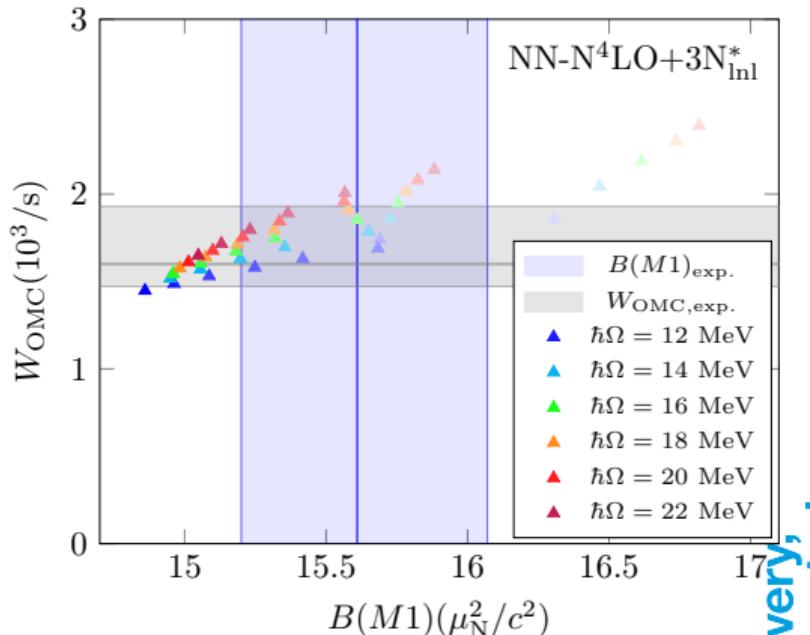


Correlations with Other Observables

GT β decay:

LJ, Navrátil, Kotila and Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)

Correlations with Other Observables

GT β decay:M1 γ decay:*LJ, Navrátil, Kotila and Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)*

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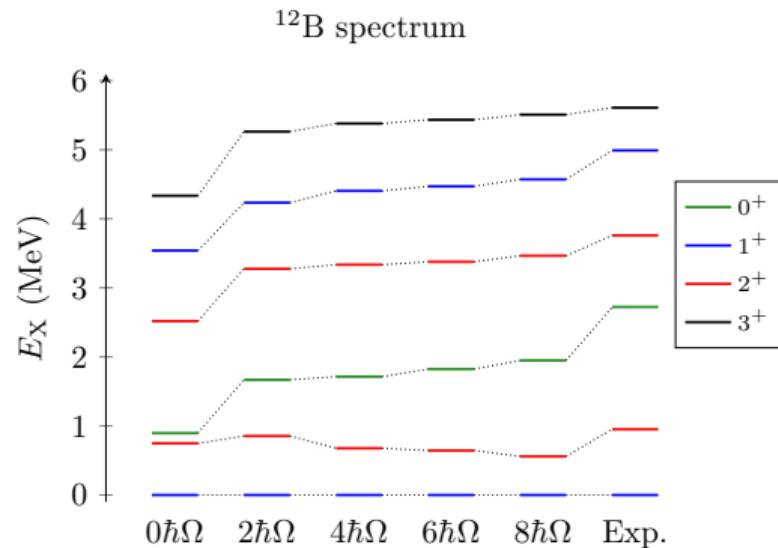
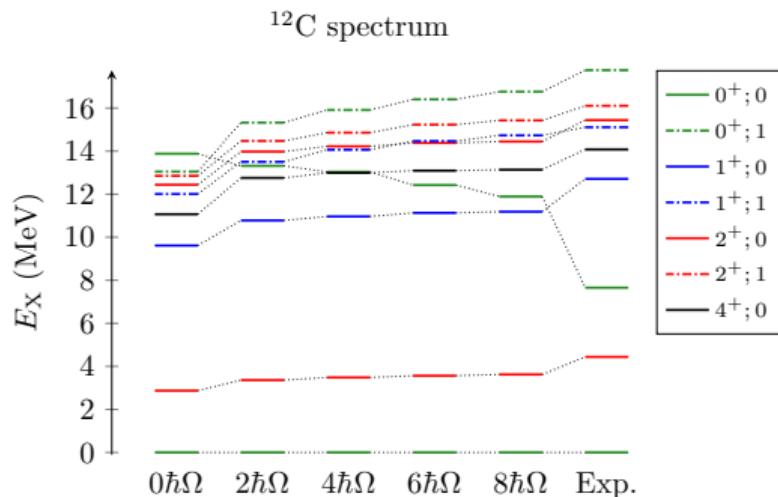
Results

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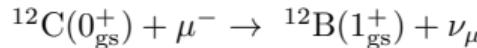
Muon capture on ${}^{12}\text{C}$

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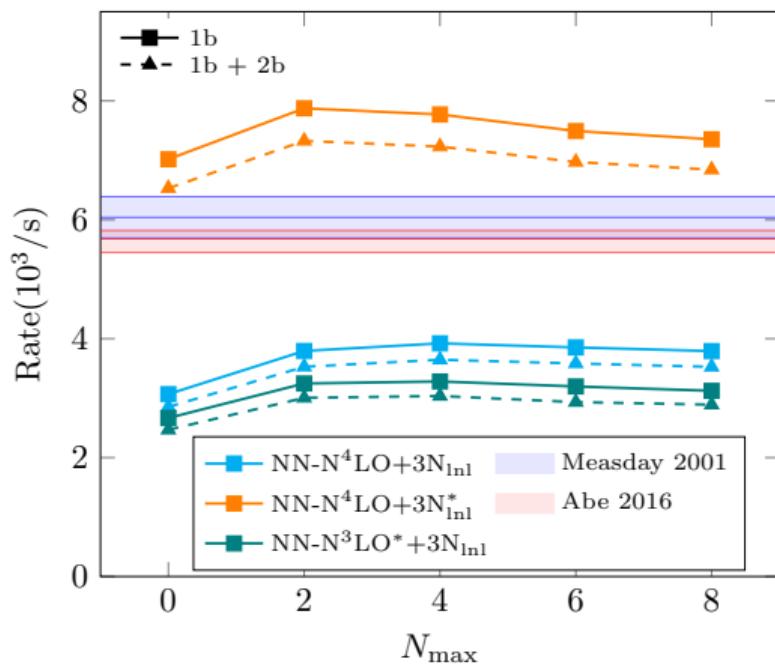
Summary

Energy spectra of ^{12}C and ^{12}B 

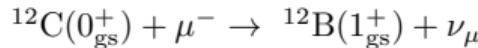
LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)

Capture Rates to the Ground State of ^{12}B 

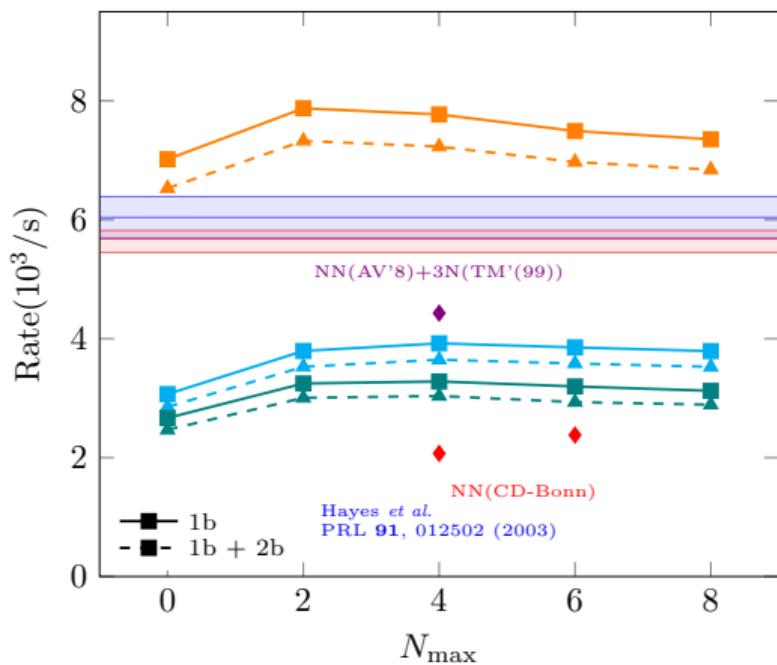
- Significant interaction dependence



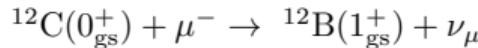
Capture Rates to the Ground State of ^{12}B



- Significant interaction dependence
 - The $\text{NN-N}^4\text{LO+3N}_{\text{lml}}^*$ interaction with the additional spin-orbit term most consistent with experiment

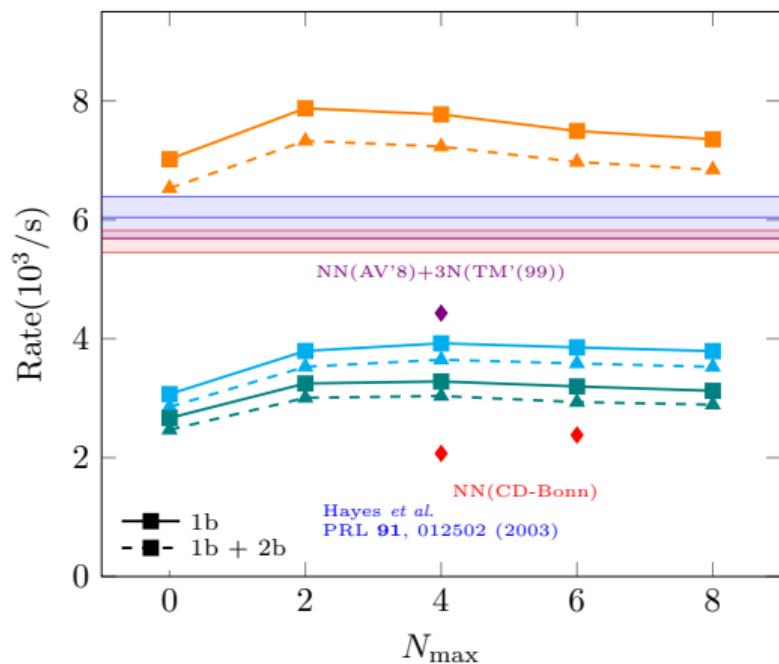


Capture Rates to the Ground State of ^{12}B



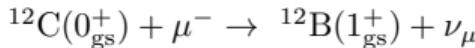
- Significant interaction dependence
 - ▶ The $\text{NN-N}^4\text{LO+3N}_{\text{lml}}^*$ interaction with the additional spin-orbit term most consistent with experiment
- The results can be compared against earlier NCSM calculations with phenomenological interactions

Hayes *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 91, 012502 (2003)



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)

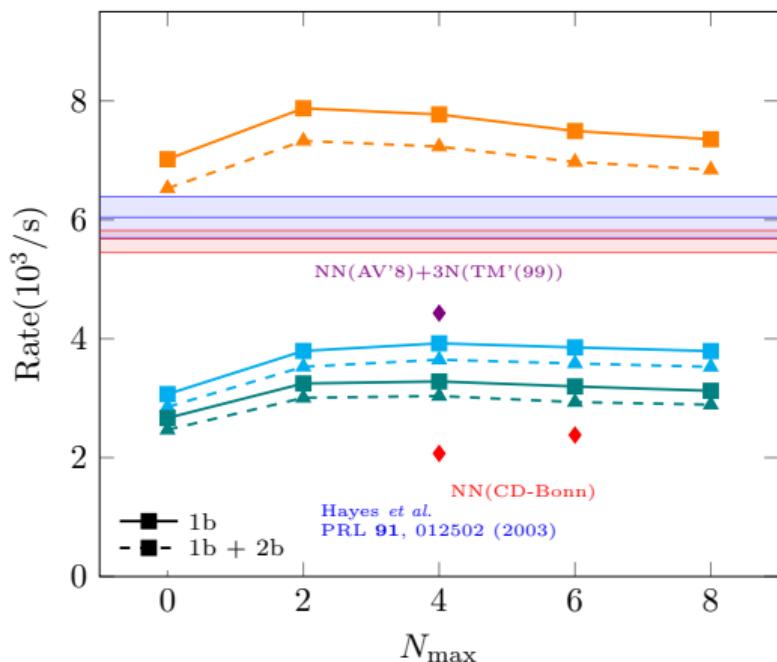
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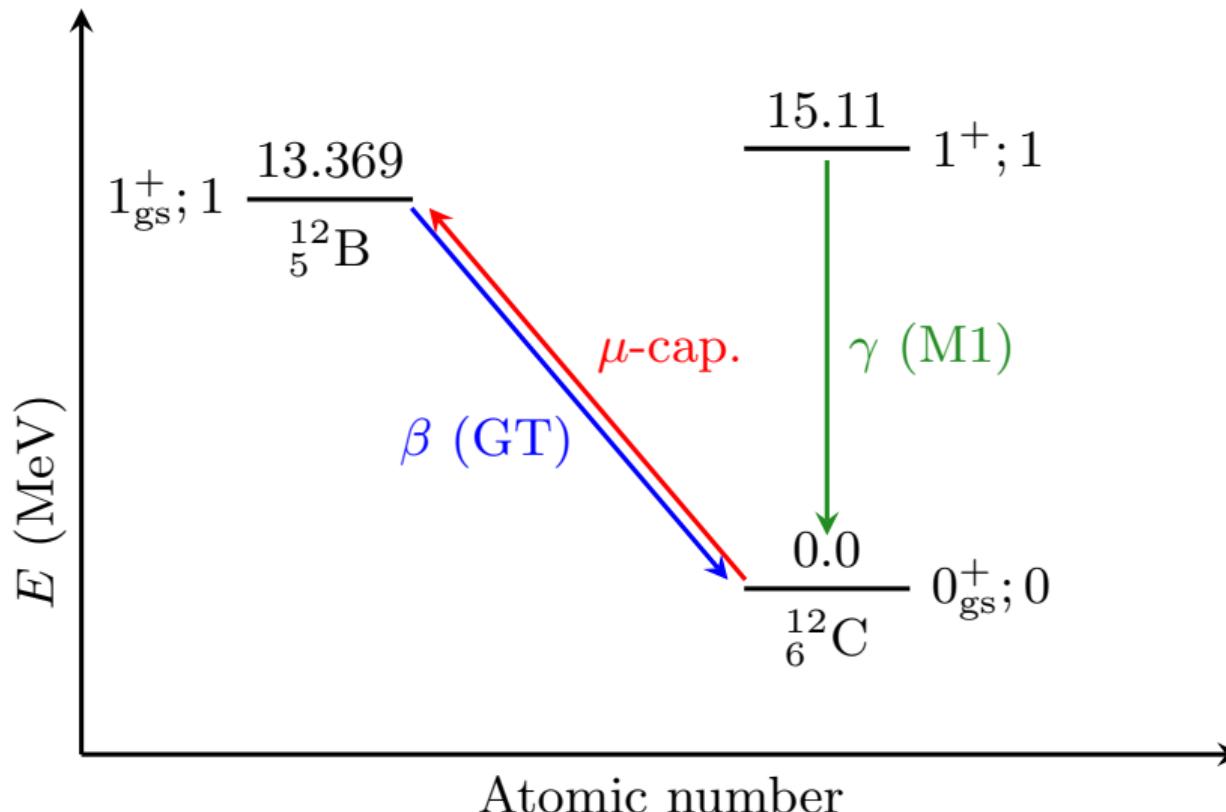
Hayes *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **91**, 012502 (2003)

- 3-body forces essential to reproduce the measured rate

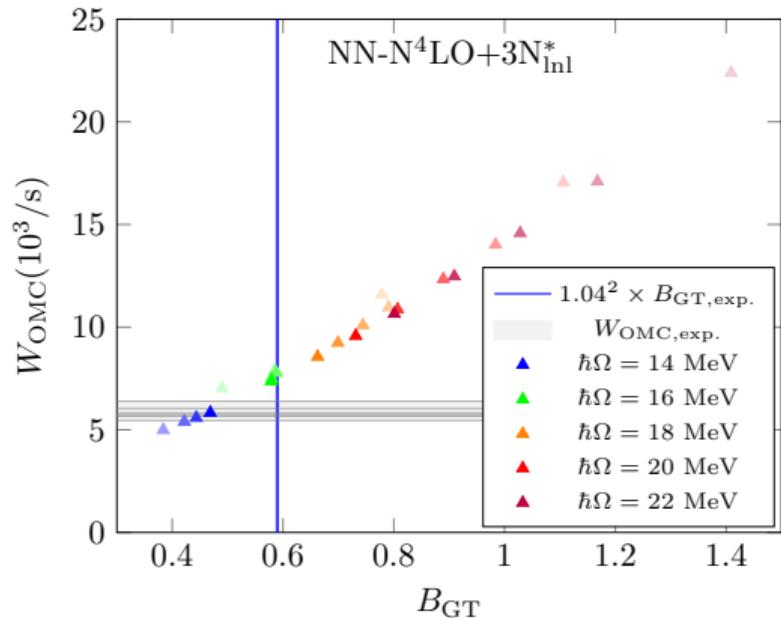


LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)

Correlations with Other Observables

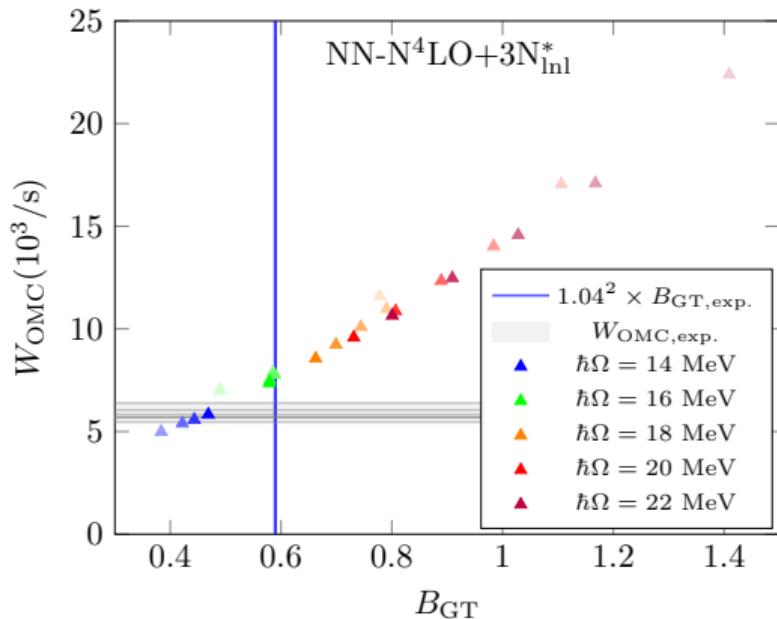


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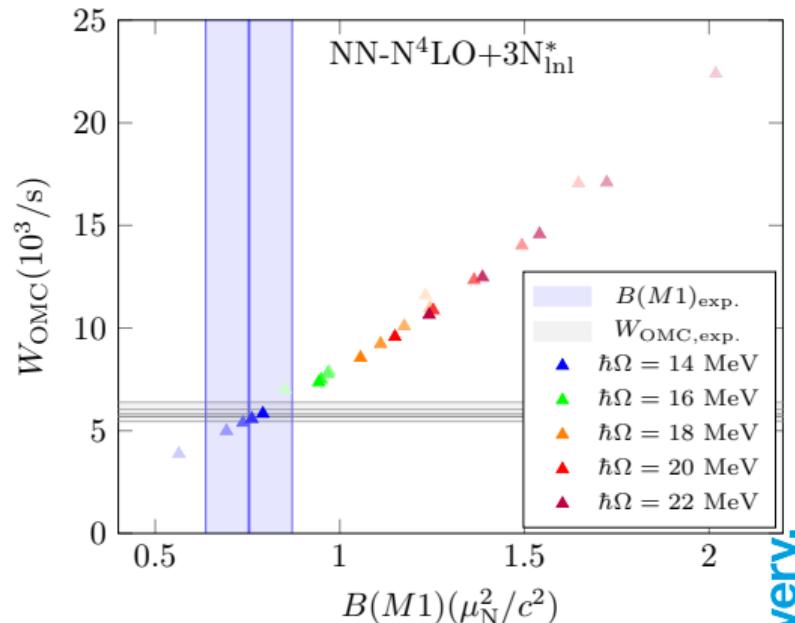
GT β decay:*LJ, Navrátil, Kotila and Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.95776*

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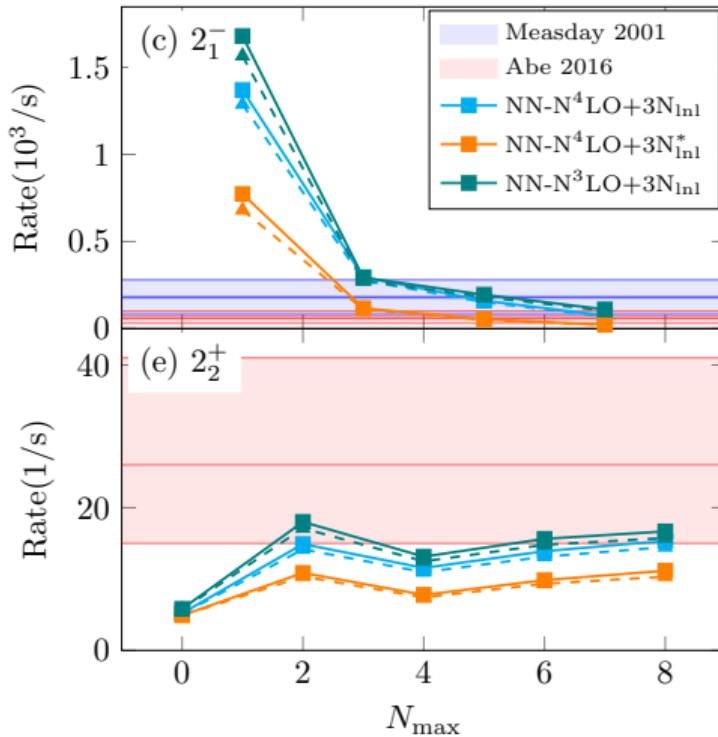
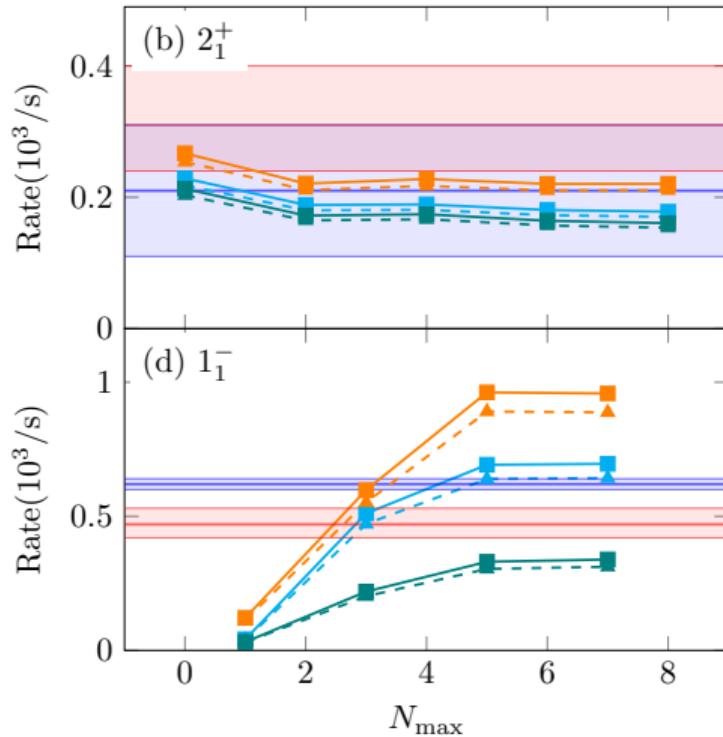
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Capture Rates to Low-Lying States in ^{12}B 

LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)

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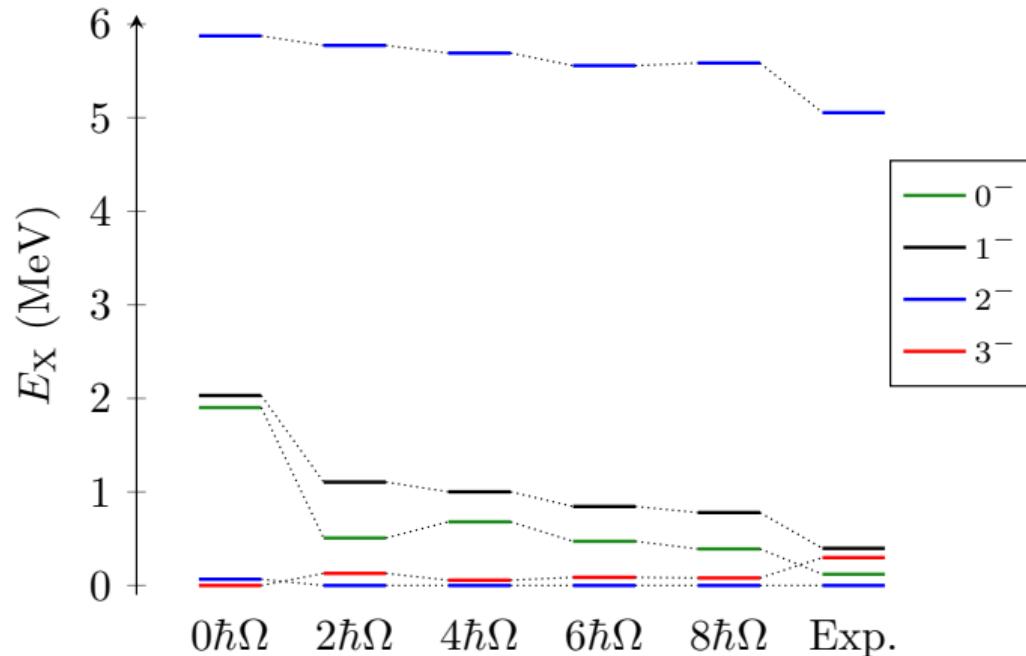
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Muon capture on ${}^6\text{Li}$

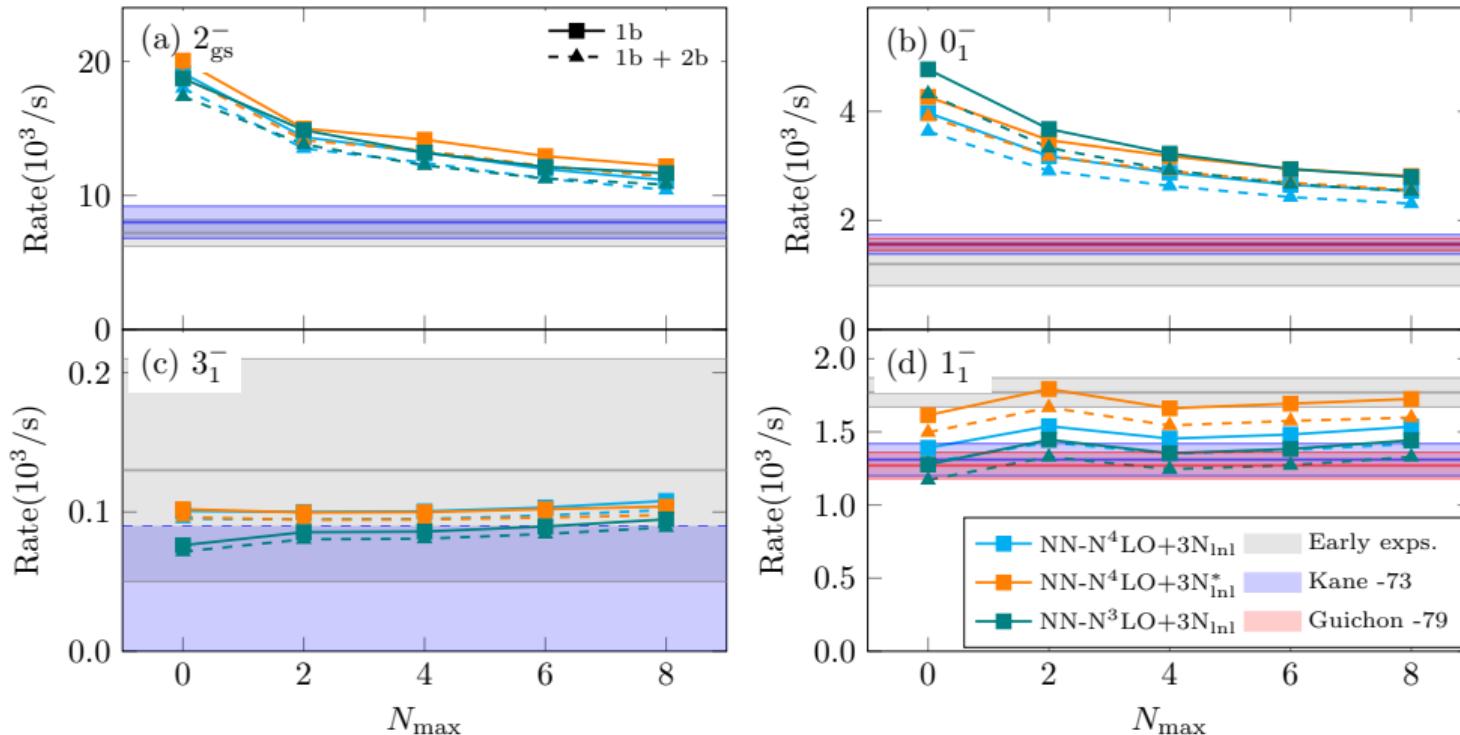
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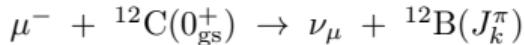
Summary

Energy spectra of ^{16}N ^{16}N spectrum

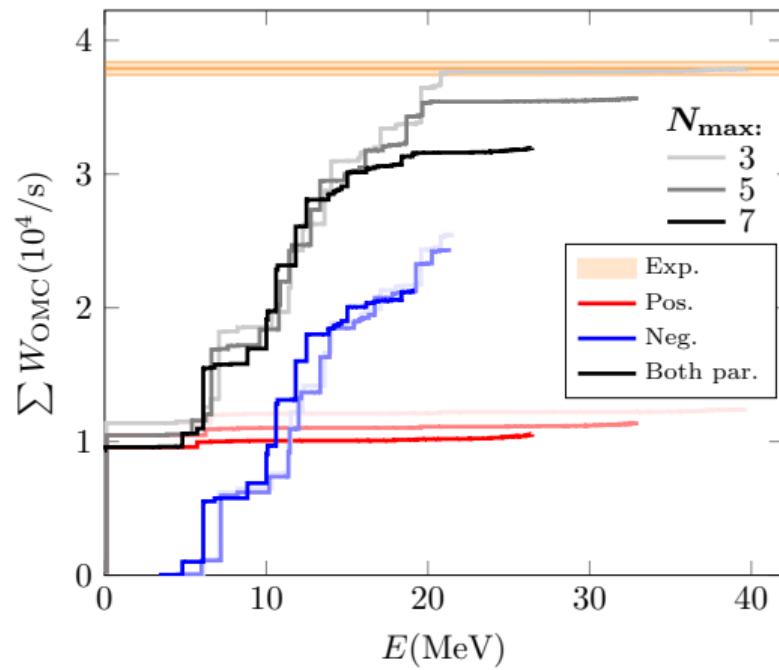
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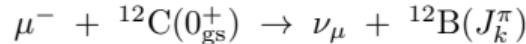
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Total Muon-Capture Rates in ^{12}B and ^{16}N 

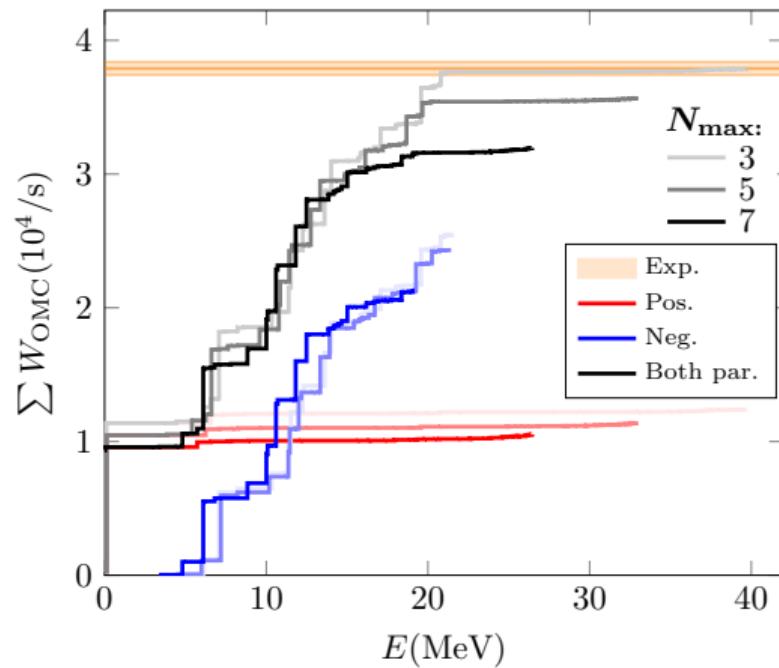
- Rates obtained summing over ~ 50 final states of each parity



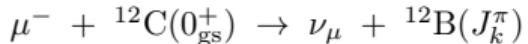
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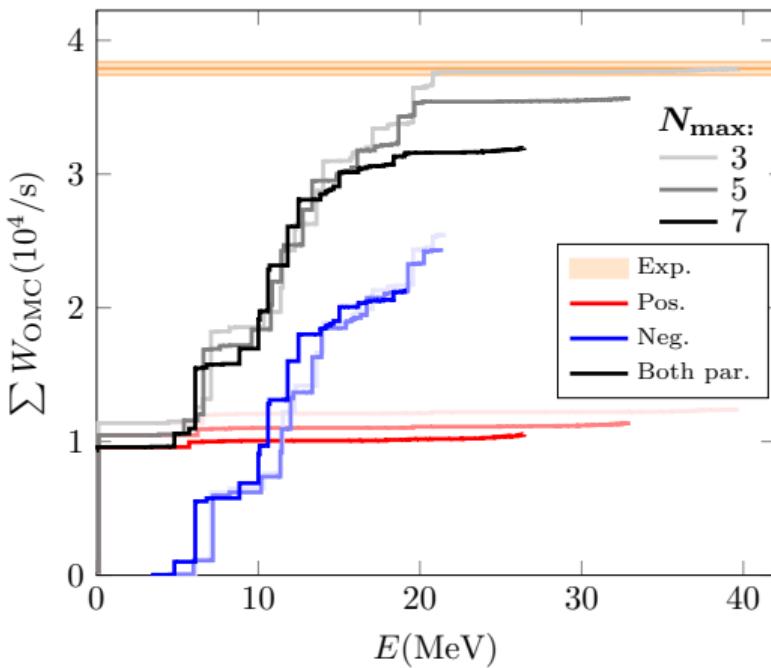
- Rates obtained summing over ~ 50 final states of each parity
- Summing up **the rates up to ~ 20 MeV**, we capture $\sim 85\%$ of the total rate in both ${}^{12}\text{B}$ and ${}^{16}\text{N}$



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- Rates obtained summing over ~ 50 final states of each parity
- Summing up **the rates up to ~ 20 MeV**, we capture $\sim 85\%$ of the **total rate** in both ${}^{12}\text{B}$ and ${}^{16}\text{N}$
- Better estimation with the Lanczos strength function method ongoing



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776 (accepted to PRC)

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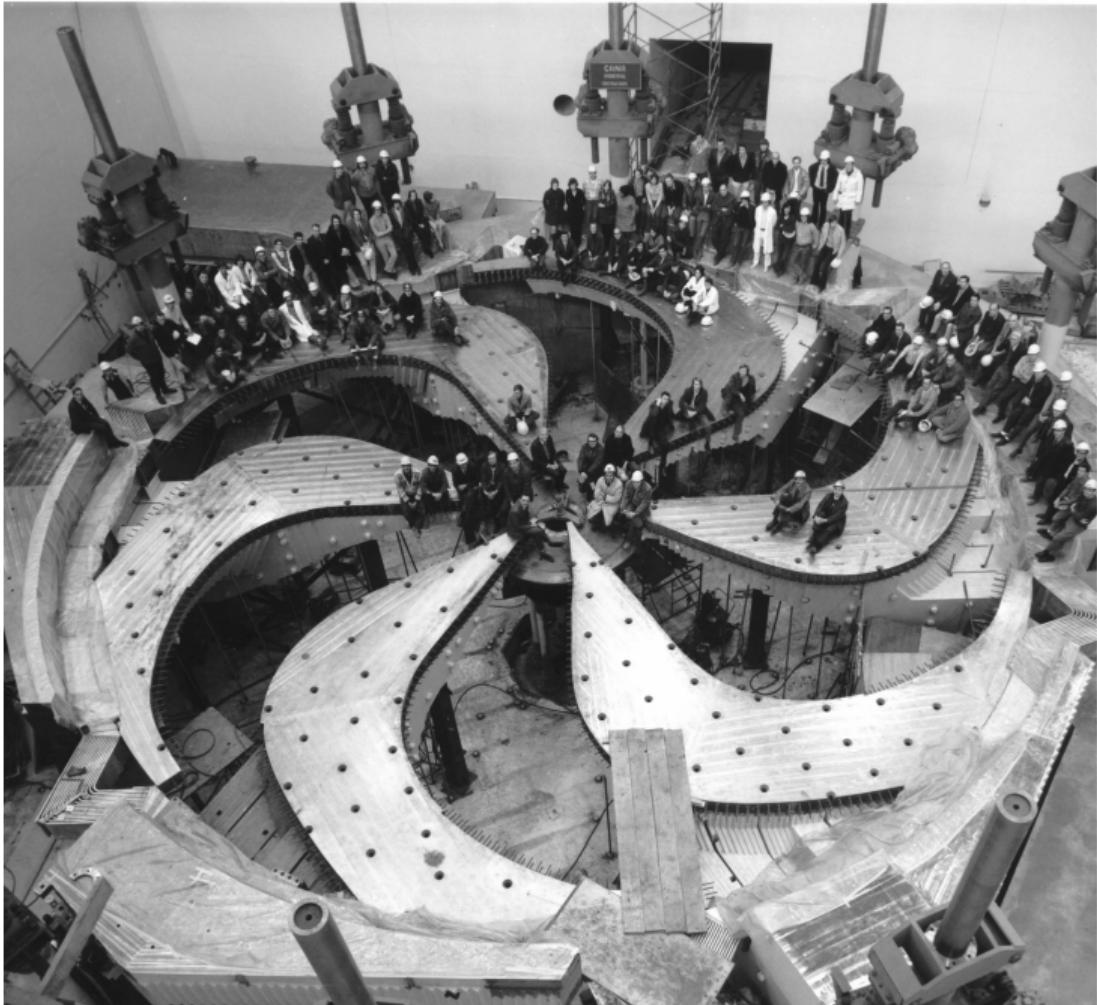
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- No-core shell-model describes well partial muon-capture rates in light nuclei ${}^6\text{He}$, ${}^{12}\text{B}$ and ${}^{16}\text{N}$
- Calculation of total capture rates currently in progress in NCSM

Thank you
Merci



- Rates written in terms of reduced one-body matrix elements:

$$\langle \Psi_f | \sum_{s=1}^A \hat{O}_{kwux}(\mathbf{r}_s, \mathbf{p}_s) | \Psi_i \rangle = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2u+1}} \sum_{pn} (n | \hat{O}_{kwux}(\mathbf{r}_s, \mathbf{p}_s) | p) (\Psi_f | [a_n^\dagger \tilde{a}_p]_u | \Psi_i)$$

NME	$\hat{O}_{kwux}(\mathbf{r}_s, \mathbf{p}_s)$
$\mathcal{M}[0w u]$	$j_w(qr_s) \mathcal{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s) \mathcal{Y}_{0wu}^{M_f - M_i}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_s) \delta_{wu}$
$\mathcal{M}[1w u]$	$j_w(qr_s) \mathcal{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s) \mathcal{Y}_{1wu}^{M_f - M_i}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_s, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_s)$
$\mathcal{M}[0w u \pm]$	$[j_w(qr_s) \mathcal{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s) \mp \frac{1}{q} j_{w\mp 1}(qr_s) \frac{d}{dr_s} \mathcal{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s)] \mathcal{Y}_{0wu}^{M_f - M_i}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_s) \delta_{wu}$
$\mathcal{M}[1w u \pm]$	$[j_w(qr_s) \mathcal{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s) \mp \frac{1}{q} j_{w\mp 1}(qr_s) \frac{d}{dr_s} \mathcal{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s)] \mathcal{Y}_{1wu}^{M_f - M_i}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_s, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_s)$
$\mathcal{M}[0w up]$	$i j_w(qr_s) \mathcal{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s) \mathcal{Y}_{0wu}^{M_f - M_i}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_s) \boldsymbol{\sigma}_s \cdot \mathbf{p}_s \delta_{wu}$
$\mathcal{M}[1w up]$	$i j_w(qr_s) \mathcal{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s) \mathcal{Y}_{1wu}^{M_f - M_i}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_s, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_s)$

Morita, Fujii, *Phys. Rev.* **118**, 606 (1960)

Bound-Muon Wave Functions

- Expand the muon wave function in terms of spherical spinors

$$\psi_\mu(\kappa, \mu; \mathbf{r}) = \psi_{\kappa\mu}^{(\mu)} = \begin{bmatrix} -i\mathbf{F}_\kappa(\mathbf{r})\chi_{-\kappa\mu} \\ \mathbf{G}_\kappa(\mathbf{r})\chi_{\kappa\mu} \end{bmatrix},$$

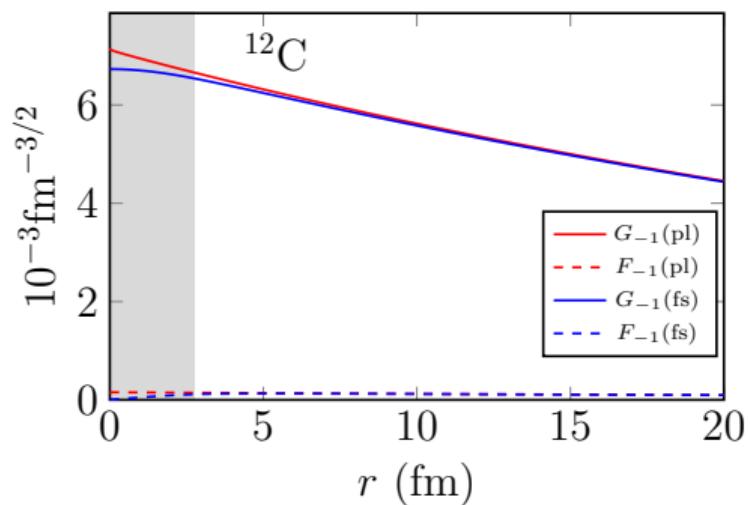
where $\kappa = -j(j+1) + l(l+1) - \frac{1}{4}$
 $(\kappa = -1$ for the $1s_{1/2}$ orbit)

- Solve the Dirac equations in the Coulomb potential $\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r})$:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dr}\mathbf{G}_{-1} + \frac{1}{r}\mathbf{G}_{-1} = \frac{1}{\hbar c}(mc^2 - E + \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}))\mathbf{F}_{-1} \\ \frac{d}{dr}\mathbf{F}_{-1} - \frac{1}{r}\mathbf{F}_{-1} = \frac{1}{\hbar c}(mc^2 + E - \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}))\mathbf{G}_{-1} \end{cases}$$

$$\rightarrow (J_f || \sum_{s=1}^A \mathbf{G}_{-1}(\mathbf{r}_s) \mathcal{O}_s(q_s, r_s, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_s) || J_i)$$

pl = pointlike
fs = finite size nucleus



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravaris, arXiv:2403.05776

Translationally invariant wave function

- We are not interested in the motion of the center of mass (CM) of the HO potential but only the intrinsic motion
- Translationally invariant wave functions can be achieved in two ways:
 - ▶ Working with $A - 1$ Jacobi coordinates $\xi_s = -\sqrt{A/(A-1)}(\mathbf{r}_s - \mathbf{R}_{\text{CM}})$:


$$\Psi^A = \sum_{N=0}^{N_{\max}} \sum_i c_{Ni} \Phi_{Ni}^{\text{HO}}(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_{A-1})$$

- ▶ Working with A single-particle coordinates and separating the center-of-mass motion:


$$\Psi_{\text{SD}}^A = \sum_{N=0}^{N_{\max}} \sum_i c_{Nj}^{\text{SD}} \Phi_{\text{SD} Nj}^{\text{HO}}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) = \Psi^A \Psi_{\text{CM}}(\mathbf{R}_{\text{CM}})$$

Translationally Invariant Operators

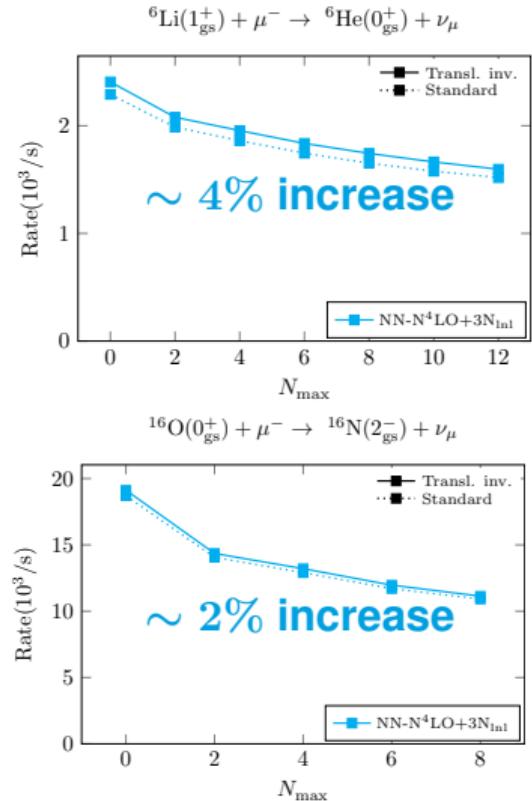
- Operators depend on coordinates \mathbf{r}_s and \mathbf{p}_s w.r.t. the center of mass (CM) of the HO potential
- We remove CM contamination as:

Navrátil, *Phys. Rev. C* **104**, 064322 (2021)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\Psi_f || \sum_{s=1}^A \hat{O}_s(\mathbf{r}_s - \mathbf{R}_{\text{CM}}, \mathbf{p}_s - \mathbf{P}) || \Psi_i) \\
 &= \sum_{pnp'n'} (n' || \hat{O}_s \left(-\sqrt{\frac{A-1}{A}} \boldsymbol{\xi}_s, -\sqrt{\frac{A-1}{A}} \boldsymbol{\pi}_s \right) || p') \\
 &\quad \times (\mathbf{M}^u)^{-1}_{n'p',np} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2u+1}} (\Psi_f || [a_n^\dagger \tilde{a}_p]_u || \Psi_i) ,
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_s = -\sqrt{A/(A-1)}(\mathbf{r}_s - \mathbf{R}_{\text{CM}}) ; \boldsymbol{\pi}_s = -\sqrt{A/(A-1)}(\mathbf{p}_s - \mathbf{P})$$



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila and Kravaris, arXiv:2403.05776

Axial-Vector Two-Body Currents (2BCs)

- One-body (1b) axial-vector currents given by

$$\mathbf{J}_{i,1b}^3 = \frac{\tau_i^3}{2} \left(g_A \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i - \frac{g_P}{2m_N} \mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i \right),$$

where $g_P = (2m_N q / (q^2 + m_\pi^2)) g_A$

- Additional **pion-exchange, pion-pole, and contact** two-body (2b) currents

[Hoferichter, Klos, Schwenk *Phys. Lett. B* **746**, 410 \(2015\)](#)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{J}_{12}^3 = & -\frac{g_A}{2F_\pi^2} [\tau_1 \times \tau_2]^3 \left[c_4 \left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{q}^2 + M_\pi^2} \mathbf{q} \cdot \right) (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 \times \mathbf{k}_2) + \frac{c_6}{4} (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 \times \mathbf{q}) + i \frac{\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}'_1}{4m_N} \right] \frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2}{M_\pi^2 + k_2^2} \\ & - \frac{g_A}{F_\pi^2} \tau_2^3 \left[c_3 \left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{q}^2 + M_\pi^2} \mathbf{q} \cdot \right) \mathbf{k}_2 + 2c_1 M_\pi^2 \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{q}^2 + M_\pi^2} \right] \frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2}{M_\pi^2 + k_2^2} \\ & - d_1 \tau_1^3 \left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{q}^2 + M_\pi^2} \mathbf{q} \cdot \right) \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 + (1 \leftrightarrow 2) - d_2 (\tau_1 \times \tau_2)^3 (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 \times \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2) \left(1 - \mathbf{q} \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{q}^2 + M_\pi^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{k}_i = \mathbf{p}'_i - \mathbf{p}_i$ and $\mathbf{q} = -\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2$

Axial-Vector Two-Body Currents (2BCs)

- Approximate 2BCs by normal-ordering w.r.t. spin-isospin-symmetric reference state with $\rho = 2k_F^3/(3\pi^2)$:

Hoferichter, Menéndez, Schwenk, *Phys. Rev. D* **102**, 074018 (2020)

$$\mathbf{J}_{i,2b}^{\text{eff}} = \sum_j (1 - P_{ij}) \mathbf{J}_{ij}^3$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{J}_{i,2b}^{\text{eff}} = g_A \frac{\tau_i^3}{2} \left[\delta a(\mathbf{q}^2) \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i + \frac{\delta a^P(\mathbf{q}^2)}{\mathbf{q}^2} (\mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i) \mathbf{q} \right]},$$

where

$$\delta a(\mathbf{q}^2) = -\frac{\rho}{F_\pi^2} \left[\frac{c_4}{3} [3I_2^\sigma(\rho, \mathbf{q}) - I_1^\sigma(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|)] - \frac{1}{3} \left(c_3 - \frac{1}{4m_N} \right) I_1^\sigma(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|) - \frac{c_6}{12} I_{c6}(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|) - \frac{c_D}{4g_A \Lambda_\chi} \right],$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta a^P(\mathbf{q}^2) = & \frac{\rho}{F_\pi^2} \left[-2(c_3 - 2c_1) \frac{m_\pi^2 \mathbf{q}^2}{(m_\pi^2 + \mathbf{q}^2)^2} + \frac{1}{3} \left(c_3 + c_4 - \frac{1}{4m_N} \right) I^P(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|) - \left(\frac{c_6}{12} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{c_1 m_\pi^2}{m_\pi^2 + \mathbf{q}^2} \right) I_{c6}(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|) \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{\mathbf{q}^2}{m_\pi^2 + \mathbf{q}^2} \left(\frac{c_3}{3} [I_1^\sigma(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|) + I^P(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|)] + \frac{c_4}{3} [I_1^\sigma(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|) + I^P(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|) - 3I_2^\sigma(\rho, |\mathbf{q}|)] \right) - \frac{c_D}{4g_A \Lambda_\chi} \frac{\mathbf{q}^2}{m_\pi^2 + \mathbf{q}^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Axial-Vector Two-Body Currents (2BCs)

- One-body currents

$$\mathbf{J}_{i,1b}^3 = \tau_i^- \left(g_A(q^2) \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i - \frac{g_P(q^2)}{2m_N} \mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i \right)$$

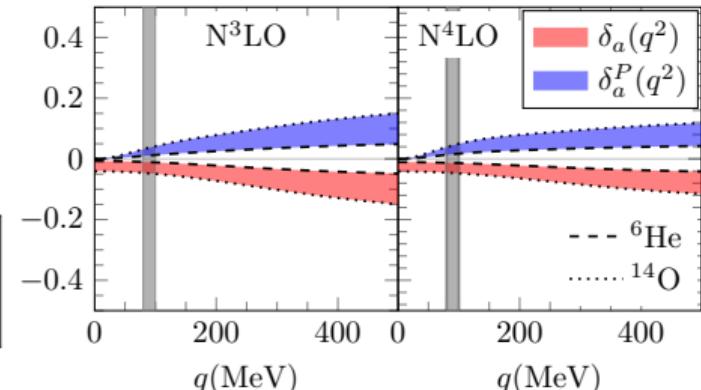
+ two-body currents

$$\mathbf{J}_{i,2b}^{\text{eff}} = g_A \tau_i^- \left[\delta a(\mathbf{q}^2) \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i + \frac{\delta a^P(\mathbf{q}^2)}{\mathbf{q}^2} (\mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i) \mathbf{q} \right]$$

Hoferichter, Klos, Schwenk Phys. Lett. B 746, 410 (2015)

- Two-body currents approximated by

$$\begin{cases} g_A(q^2, 2b) \rightarrow g_A(q^2) + g_A \delta_a(q^2), \\ g_P(q^2, 2b) \rightarrow g_P(q^2) - \frac{2m_N g_A}{q} \delta_a^P(q^2) \end{cases}$$



LJ, Navrátil, Kotila, Kravvaris, arXiv:2403.05776