Deconstructing the " g_A puzzle": effective operators and meson-exchange currents

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New physics searches at the precision frontier

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The quenching of g_A

A major issue in the calculation of quantities related to spin-isospindependent transitions is the need to quench the axial coupling constant g_A by a factor q in order to reproduce the data.





The quenching of g_A

This is an important question when studying $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay – its detection means a violation of the conservation of the leptonic number and provides more informations on the nature of the neutrinos and their effective mass –, in fact the need of a quenching factor largely affects the value of the half-life $T_{1/2}^{0\nu}$, since the latter would be enlarged by a factor q^{-4} .



• The inverse of the $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay half-life is proportional to the squared nuclear matrix element $M^{0\nu}$

$$\left[T_{1/2}^{0\nu}\right]^{-1} = G^{0\nu} \left|M^{0\nu}\right|^2 \left|g_A^2 \frac{\langle m_\nu \rangle}{m_\theta}\right|^2$$

• $M^{0\nu}$ links $\left[T^{0\nu}_{1/2}\right]^{-1}$ to the neutrino effective mass $\langle m_{\nu} \rangle = |\sum_{k} m_{k} U^{2}_{ek}|$ (light-neutrino exchange)

That is why experimentalists are deeply concerned about q, its value has a strong impact on the sensitivity of the experimental apparatus.

The quenching of g_A

The two main sources of the need of a quenching factor *q* may be identified as:

Nucleon internal degrees of freedom

Nucleons are not point-like particles \Rightarrow contributions to the free value of g_A come from two-body meson exchange currents:



Truncation of the nuclear configurations

Nuclear models operate a cut of the nuclear degrees of freedom in order to diagonalize the nuclear Hamiltonian ⇒ effective Hamiltonians and decay operators must be considered to account for the neglected configurations in the nuclear wave function

• K. Shimizu, M. Ichimura, and A. Arima, Nucl. Phys. A 226, 282 (1974)

I. S. Towner, Phys. Rep. 155, 263 (1987)



The effective operators for decay amplitudes

- Ψ_{α} eigenstates of the full Hamiltonian *H* with eigenvalues E_{α}
- Φ_{α} eigenvectors obtained diagonalizing H_{eff} in the model space P and corresponding to the same eigenvalues E_{α}

 $\Rightarrow |\Phi_{lpha}
angle = P |\Psi_{lpha}
angle$

Obviously, for any decay-operator Θ :

 $\left< \Phi_{\alpha} | \Theta | \Phi_{\beta} \right> \neq \left< \Psi_{\alpha} | \Theta | \Psi_{\beta} \right>$

We then require an effective operator Θ_{eff} defined as follows

$$\Theta_{\mathrm{eff}} = \sum_{lphaeta} \ket{\Phi_lpha}ig\langle \Psi_lpha | \Theta | \Psi_etaig
angle ig\langle \Phi_eta |$$

Consequently, the matrix elements of Θ_{eff} are

$$\langle \Phi_{\alpha} | \Theta_{\text{eff}} | \Phi_{\beta} \rangle = \langle \Psi_{\alpha} | \Theta | \Psi_{\beta} \rangle$$

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This means that the parameters characterizing Θ_{eff} are renormalized **V**: with respect to $\Theta \Rightarrow g_A^{\text{eff}} = q \cdot g_A \neq g_A$



Two-body meson exchange currents

A powerful approach to the derivation of two-body currents (2BC) is to resort to effective field theories (EFT) of quantum chromodynamics.

In such a way, both nuclear potentials and 2BC may be consistently constructed, since in the EFT approach they appear as subleading corrections to the one-body Gamow-Teller (GT) operator $\sigma \tau^{\pm}$.

Nuclear H	lamiltonian			Two-body currents
LO	2N Force	3N Force	4N Force	a) www. LO
$(Q/\Lambda_{\chi})^0$	NH XIXIX			
$(Q/\Lambda_{\chi})^2$				^{b)} ^{www.k} N ² LO
$rac{\mathbf{NNLO}}{(Q/\Lambda_\chi)^3}$				c) twww. d)
				The impact of 2BC on the calcula
$(Q/\Lambda_{\chi})^4$		K↓‡X •	†141† •	β -decay properties has been investigated in terms of <i>ab initio</i> methods

β -decay in light nuclei

GT nuclear matrix elements of the β -decay of *p*-shell nuclei have been calculated with Green's function Monte Carlo (GFMC) and no-core shell model (NCSM) methods, including contributions from 2BC



S. Pastore et al., Phys. Rev. C 97 022501(R) (2018)

The contribution of 2BC improves systematically the agreement between theory and experiment







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G. B. King et al., Phys. Rev. C 102 025501 (2020)

Ab initio methods: β-decay in medium-mass nuclei

Coupled-cluster method CCM and in-medium SRG (IMRSG) calculations have recently performed to overcome the quenching problem g_A to reproduce β -decay observables in heavier systems *P. Gysbers et al., Nat. Phys.* **15** 428 (2019)





In-Medium SRG

Coupled-Cluster Method

A proper treatment of nuclear correlations and consistency between GT two-body currents and 3N forces, derived in terms of ChPT, explains the "quenching puzzle"

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The nuclear shell model

The nucleons are subject to the action of a mean field, that takes into account most of the interaction of the nuclear constituents.

Only valence nucleons interact by way of a residual two-body potential, within a reduced model space.



- Advantage → It is a microscopic and flexible model, the degrees of freedom of the valence nucleons are explicitly taken into account.
- Shortcoming → High-degree computational complexity.
- We perform our calculations employing the KSHELL shell-model code



Our approach to the realistic shell model

 Nuclear Hamiltonian: Entem-Machleidt N³LO two-body potential plus N²LO three-body potential ³P₀ 0.8 Lab. Energy (MeV) Lab. Energy (MeV verage c.,-c., curve 0.6 ¹P₁ ³P4 0.4 ⁴He Exp -28.A ци С -28) -0.2 Lab. Energy (MeV) Lab. Energy (MeV -0.4[m 3S1 ³D₁ -0.6 -0.8

- Axial current J_A calculated at N³LO in ChPT: LECs c₃, c₄, c_D are consistent with the 2NF and 3NF potentials
- H_{eff} calculated at 3rd order in perturbation theory
- Effective operators are consistently derived using MBPT



The effective shell-model Hamiltonian

We start from the many-body Hamiltonian H defined in the full Hilbert space:

$$H = H_0 + H_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{A} (T_i + U_i) + \sum_{i < j} (V_{ij}^{NN} - U_i)$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} PHP & PHQ \\ \hline QHP & QHQ \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{H} = \Omega^{-1} H\Omega} \begin{pmatrix} PHP & PHQ \\ \hline 0 & QHQ \end{pmatrix}$$

 $H_{\rm eff} = P \mathcal{H} P$

Suzuki & Lee $\Rightarrow \Omega = e^{\omega}$ with $\omega = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & 0 \\ \hline Q \omega P & 0 \end{array} \right)$

$$H_1^{ ext{eff}}(\omega) = PH_1P + PH_1Qrac{1}{\epsilon - QHQ}QH_1P -$$

 $-PH_1Q\frac{1}{c-OHO}\omega H_1^{\text{eff}}(\omega)$



The perturbative approach to the shell-model $H^{\rm eff}$



Exact calculation of the \hat{Q} -box is computationally prohibitive for manybody system \Rightarrow we perform a perturbative expansion

$$\frac{1}{\epsilon - QHQ} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(QH_1Q)^n}{(\epsilon - QH_0Q)^{n+1}}$$





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0f1p-shell nuclei

- Model space spanned by 4 proton and neutron orbitals 0f_{7/2}, 0f_{5/2}, 1p_{3/2}, 1p_{1/2}
- Effects of induced 3-body forces have been included
- Single-particle energies and residual two-body interaction are derived from the theory. No empirical input



Y. Z. Ma, L. C., L. De Angelis, T. Fukui, A. Gargano, N. Itaco, and F. R. Xu, Phys. Rev. C 100, 034324 (2019)



0f1p0g-shell nuclei

- Model space spanned by 4 proton and neutron orbitals 0f_{5/2}, 1p_{3/2}, 1p_{1/2}, 0g_{9/2}
- Effects of induced 3-body forces have been included
- Single-particle energies and residual two-body interaction are derived from the theory. No empirical input



L. C., N. Itaco, G. De Gregorio, A. Gargano, Z. H. Cheng, Y. Z. Ma, F. R. Xu, and M. Viviani, to be submitted (2023)



The effective SM operators for decay amplitudes

Any shell-model effective operator may be derived consistently with the \hat{Q} -box-plus-folded-diagram approach to H_{eff}

It has been demonstrated that, for any bare operator Θ , a non-Hermitian effective operator Θ_{eff} can be written in the following form:

$$\Theta_{\rm eff} = (P + \hat{Q}_1 + \hat{Q}_1 \hat{Q}_1 + \hat{Q}_2 \hat{Q} + \hat{Q} \hat{Q}_2 + \cdots)(\chi_0 + \chi_1 + \chi_2 + \cdots) ,$$

where

$$\hat{Q}_m = rac{1}{m!} rac{d^m \hat{Q}(\epsilon)}{d\epsilon^m} \Big|_{\epsilon=\epsilon_0} \; ,$$

 ϵ_0 being the model-space eigenvalue of the unperturbed Hamiltonian H_0

K. Suzuki and R. Okamoto, Prog. Theor. Phys. 93, 905 (1995)



The effective SM operators for decay amplitudes

The χ_n operators are defined in terms of the vertex function $\hat{\Theta}$ as:

$$\begin{split} \chi_{0} &= (\hat{\Theta}_{0} + h.c.) + \Theta_{00} , \\ \chi_{1} &= (\hat{\Theta}_{1}\hat{Q} + h.c.) + (\hat{\Theta}_{01}\hat{Q} + h.c.) , \\ \chi_{2} &= (\hat{\Theta}_{1}\hat{Q}_{1}\hat{Q} + h.c.) + (\hat{\Theta}_{2}\hat{Q}\hat{Q} + h.c.) + \\ & (\hat{\Theta}_{02}\hat{Q}\hat{Q} + h.c.) + \hat{Q}\hat{\Theta}_{11}\hat{Q} , \\ & \cdots \end{split}$$

and

$$\hat{\Theta}(\epsilon) = P\Theta P + P\Theta Q \frac{1}{\epsilon - QHQ} QH_1 P$$
$$\hat{\Theta}(\epsilon_1; \epsilon_2) = PH_1 Q \frac{1}{\epsilon_1 - QHQ} \times Q\Theta Q \frac{1}{\epsilon_2 - QHQ} QH_1 P$$

$$\hat{\Theta}_{m} = \frac{1}{m!} \frac{d^{m}\hat{\Theta}(\epsilon)}{d\epsilon^{m}} \Big|_{\epsilon=\epsilon_{0}}$$
$$\hat{\Theta}_{nm} = \frac{1}{n!m!} \frac{d^{n}}{d\epsilon_{1}^{n}} \frac{d^{m}}{d\epsilon_{2}^{m}} \hat{\Theta}(\epsilon_{1};\epsilon_{2}) \Big|_{\epsilon_{1,2}=\epsilon_{0}}$$

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The effective SM operators for decay amplitudes

The $\hat{\Theta}$ -box is then calculated perturbatively, here are diagrams up to 2nd order of the effective decay operator Θ_{eff} expansion:





The axial current \mathbf{J}_A

The matrix elements of the axial current J_A are derived through a chiral expansion up to N³LO, and employing the same LECs as in 2NF and 3NF

$$\mathbf{J}_{A,\pm}^{ ext{LO}} = -g_A \sum_i \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i au_{i,\pm} \ ,$$

 $\mathbf{J}_{A,\pm}^{ ext{N}^2 ext{LO}} = rac{g_A}{2m_N^2} \sum_i \mathbf{K}_i imes \left(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_i imes \mathbf{K}_i
ight) au_{i,\pm} \ ,$

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{J}_{A,\pm}^{\mathrm{N}^{3}\mathrm{LO}}(\mathrm{1PE};\mathbf{k}) &= \sum_{i < j} \frac{g_{A}}{2t_{\pi}^{2}} \left\{ 4c_{3}\tau_{j,\pm}\mathbf{k} + (\boldsymbol{\tau}_{i} \times \boldsymbol{\tau}_{j})_{\pm} \right. \\ & \times \left[\left(c_{4} + \frac{1}{4m}\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{i} \times \mathbf{k} - \frac{i}{2m}\mathbf{K}_{i} \right) \right] \right\} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{j} \cdot \mathbf{k} \frac{1}{\omega_{k}^{2}} \\ & \mathbf{J}_{A,\pm}^{\mathrm{N}^{3}\mathrm{LO}}(\mathrm{CT};\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{i < j} z_{0}(\boldsymbol{\tau}_{i} \times \boldsymbol{\tau}_{j})_{\pm}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{i} \times \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{j}) \; , \end{split}$$

where

$$z_0 = \frac{g_A}{2f_{\pi}^2 m_N} \left[\frac{m_N}{4g_a \Lambda_{\chi}} c_D + \frac{m_N}{3} (c_3 + 2c_4) + \frac{1}{6} \right]$$



A. Baroni, L. Girlanda, S. Pastore, R. Schiavilla, and M. Viviani, Phys. Rev. C **93**, 015501 (2016)

Shell-model calculations and results



RSM calculations, starting from ChPT two- and three-body potentials and two-body meson-exchange currents for spectroscopic and spin-isospin dependent observables of ⁴⁸Ca, ⁷⁶Ge, ⁸²Se

Check RSM approach calculating GT strengths and $2\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

$$\left[T_{1/2}^{2\nu} \right]^{-1} = G^{2\nu} \left| M_{\rm GT}^{2\nu} \right|^2$$
 where

$$M_{2\nu}^{\text{GT}} = \sum_{n} \frac{\langle \mathbf{0}_{f}^{+} || \mathbf{J}_{\mathcal{A}} || \mathbf{1}_{n}^{+} \rangle \langle \mathbf{1}_{n}^{+} || \mathbf{J}_{\mathcal{A}} || \mathbf{0}_{i}^{+} \rangle}{E_{n} + E_{0}}$$

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0f1p-shell nuclei spectroscopic properties



Nucleus	$J_i ightarrow J_f$	bare	effective	B(M1) _{Expt}
⁴⁸ Ca				
	$3^+_1 \rightarrow 2^+_1$	0.090	0.044	0.023 ± 0.004
	1 1			
Nucleus	J^{π}	bare	effective	μ_{Expt}
⁴⁸ Ti				
	2 ⁺	0.26	0.34	$+0.78\pm0.04$
	4 ⁺ 1	1.0	1.1	$+2.2\pm0.5$
timento di Matematica e Fisica				



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$$B(p,n) = \frac{|\langle \Phi_f || \sum \mathbf{J}_A || \Phi_i \rangle|^2}{2J_i + 1}$$

- (a) bare J_A at LO in ChPT (namely the GT operator $g_A \sigma \cdot \tau$);
- (b) effective J_A at LO in ChPT;
- (c) bare J_A at N³LO in ChPT (namely includy 2BC contributions too);
- (d) effective J_A at N³LO in ChPT.

Total GT⁻ strength (a) (b) (c) (d) Expt $\sum B(GT^-)$ 24.0 17.5 20.9 11.2 15.3 ± 2.2

The impact of meson-exchange currents on the GT^ matrix elements is $\approx 20\%$





GT matrix elements of 60 experimental decays of 43 0*f*1*p*-shell nuclei, only yrast states involved

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \hat{x}_i)^2}{n}}$$

- (a) bare J_A at LO in ChPT (namely the GT operator $g_A \sigma \cdot \tau$);
- (b) effective J_A at LO in ChPT;
- (c) bare J_A at N³LO in ChPT (namely includy 2BC contributions too);

NF

(d) effective J_A at N³LO in ChPT.

 $2\nu\beta\beta$ nuclear matrix element $M^{2\nu}$ ⁴⁸Ca \rightarrow ⁴⁸Ti

$J^\pi_i o J^\pi_f$	(a)	(b)	(C)	(d)	Expt
$0^+_1 ightarrow 0^+_1$	0.057	0.048	0.033	0.019	0.042 ± 0.004
$0^+_1 ightarrow 2^+_1$	0.131	0.102	0.097	0.057	\leq 0.023
$0^+_1 ightarrow 0^+_2$	0.102	0.086	0.073	0.040	\leq 2.72
stimento di Matematica e Fisica					

$0f_{5/2}1p0g_{9/2}$ -shell nuclei spectroscopic properties





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degli Studi della Campania

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$$B(p,n) = \frac{|\langle \Phi_f || \sum \mathbf{J}_A || \Phi_i \rangle|^2}{2J_i + 1}$$

- (a) bare J_A at LO in ChPT (namely the GT operator $g_A \sigma \cdot \tau$);
- (b) effective J_A at LO in ChPT;
- (c) bare J_A at N³LO in ChPT (namely includy 2BC contributions too);
- (d) effective J_A at N³LO in ChPT.

Total GT⁻ strength (a) (b) (c) (d) Expt $\sum B(GT^-)$ 15.8 10.6 12.8 7.1 \sim

The impact of meson-exchange currents on the GT^- matrix elements is $\approx 18\%$





$$B(p,n) = \frac{|\langle \Phi_f || \sum \mathbf{J}_A || \Phi_i \rangle|^2}{2J_i + 1}$$

- (a) bare J_A at LO in ChPT (namely the GT operator $g_A \sigma \cdot \tau$);
- (b) effective J_A at LO in ChPT;
- (c) bare J_A at N³LO in ChPT (namely includy 2BC contributions too);
- (d) effective J_A at N³LO in ChPT.

Total GT⁻ strength (a) (b) (c) (d) Expt $\sum B(GT^-)$ 19.0 11.9 14.9 7.6 ~

The impact of meson-exchange currents on the GT^- matrix elements is $\approx 20\%$



 $2\nu\beta\beta$ nuclear matrix element $M^{2\nu}$ ⁷⁶Ge \rightarrow ⁷⁶Se

$J^\pi_i o J^\pi_f$	(a)	(b)	(C)	(d)	Expt
$0^+_1 ightarrow 0^+_1$	0.211	0.187	0.160	0.137	0.129 ± 0.004
$0^+_1 ightarrow 2^+_1$	0.023	0.067	0.025	0.061	\leq 0.035
$0^+_1 ightarrow 0^+_2$	0.009	0.069	0.016	0.062	\leq 0.089

 $2\nu\beta\beta$ nuclear matrix element $M^{2\nu} {}^{82}\text{Se} \rightarrow {}^{82}\text{Kr}$

$J^{\pi}_i ightarrow J^{\pi}_f$	(a)	(b)	(C)	(d)	Expt
$0^+_1 ightarrow 0^+_1$	0.173	0.159	0.136	0.115	0.103 ± 0.001
$0^+_1 ightarrow 2^+_1$	0.003	0.011	0.008	0.037	\leq 0.020
$0^+_1 \rightarrow 0^+_2$	0.018	0.001	0.013	0.002	\leq 0.052



Conclusions and Outlook

- The role of many-body correlations prevails on the meson-exchange currents for the renormalization of GT operator, the latter contribute ≈ 20%
- The explanation of the "quenching puzzle" can be achieved by focusing theoretical efforts on two main goals:
 - a) improving our knowledge of nuclear forces and exchange currents;
 - b) deriving effective Hamiltonians and decay operators from many-body theory.
- We plan to expand soon our study by:
 - including meson-exchange two-body currents for the *M*1 transitions;
 - performing calculations for heavier-mass systems (¹⁰⁰Mo, ¹³⁰Te, ¹³⁶Xe);
 - calculating $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay $M^{0\nu}$ including also the LO contact term.





Thanks a lot for your attention!







Backup slides





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Perturbative properties







Y. Z. Ma, L. C., L. De Angelis, T. Fukui, A. Gargano, N. Itaco, and F. R. Xu, Phys. Rev. C 100, 034324 (2019)

	Order-by-order convergence for $M^{2\nu}$ calculation					
	Decay	1st order	2nd order	3rd order	Expt.	
	$^{130} ext{Te} ightarrow ^{130} ext{Xe}$	0.142	0.040	0.044	0.034 ± 0.003	
i pania Mi	$^{136} ext{Xe} ightarrow ^{136} ext{Ba}$	0.0975	0.0272	0.0285	0.0218 ± 0.0003	Auto Nazionale di Fr



Shell-evolution properties



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Induced three-body forces



For many-valence nucleon systems (\geq 3) $H_{\rm eff}$ has to include the induced many-body components

Namely, at least three-body diagrams needs to be included in the perturbative expansion of the vertex function \hat{Q} box

Shell model codes, at present, cannot manage three-body components of the shell-model Hamiltonian in large model spaces

We then resort to normal-ordering approximation, this means that TBME are different for each nuclear system



Results with CD-Bonn $V_{\text{low-}k}$





 LC, L. De Angelis, T. Fukui, A. Gargano, N. Itaco, and F. Nowacki, Phys. Rev. C 100, 014316 (2019).

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Results with CD-Bonn $V_{\text{low}-k}$





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Results with CD-Bonn Vlow-k



Red symbols: bare GT operator

Decay	Expt.	Bare			
	$\begin{array}{c} 0.042 \pm 0.004 \\ 0.129 \pm 0.005 \\ 0.103 \pm 0.001 \\ 0.224 \pm 0.002 \\ 0.183 \pm 0.006 \\ 0.036 \pm 0.001 \end{array}$	0.030 0.304 0.347 0.896 0.479 0.131			
136 Xe ₁ \rightarrow 136 Ba ₁	0.0219 ± 0.0007	0.0910			
Experimental data from Thies et al, Phys. Rev. C 86, 044309 (2012); A. S. Barabash, Universe 6, (2020)					



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Results with CD-Bonn V_{low-k}



 LC, L. De Angelis, T. Fukui, A. Gargano, N. Itaco, and F. Nowacki, Phys. Rev. C 100, 014316 (2019).



Red symbols: bare GT operator Black symbols: effective GT operator

Decay	Expt.	Eff.
⁴⁸ Ca₁ → ⁴⁸ Ti₁	0 042 + 0 004	0.026
$^{76}\text{Ge}_1 \rightarrow ^{76}\text{Se}_1$	0.129 ± 0.005	0.104
$^{82}\text{Se}_1 \rightarrow ^{82}\text{Kr}_1$	0.103 ± 0.001	0.109
$^{100}Mo_1 \rightarrow ^{100}Ru_1$	0.224 ± 0.002	0.205
$^{100}Mo_1 \rightarrow ^{100}Ru_2$	0.183 ± 0.006	0.109
$^{130}\text{Te}_1 \rightarrow ^{130}\text{Xe}_1$	0.036 ± 0.001	0.061
$^{136}\mathrm{Xe}_1 \rightarrow ^{136}\mathrm{Ba}_1$	0.0219 ± 0.0007	0.0341
	Thiss stal Dhus Day	0.00

Experimental data from *Thies et al, Phys. Rev. C* 86, 044309 (2012); A. S. Barabash, Universe 6, (2020)

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \hline Decay & q \\ \hline 4^8 Ca \rightarrow {}^{48} Ti & 0.83 \\ \hline 7^6 Ge \rightarrow {}^{76} Se & 0.58 \\ 8^{22} Se \rightarrow {}^{82} Kr & 0.56 \\ 1^{00} Mo \rightarrow {}^{100} Ru & 0.48 \\ 1^{30} Te \rightarrow {}^{130} Xe & 0.68 \\ 1^{36} Xe \rightarrow {}^{136} Ba & 0.61 \\ \hline \end{array}$$