
Few-Body Current in Effective Field Theory for Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

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New Physics Searches at the Precision Frontier
Institute for Nuclear Theory
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In collaboration with Matthias Schindler, Roxanne Springer, Saori Pastore

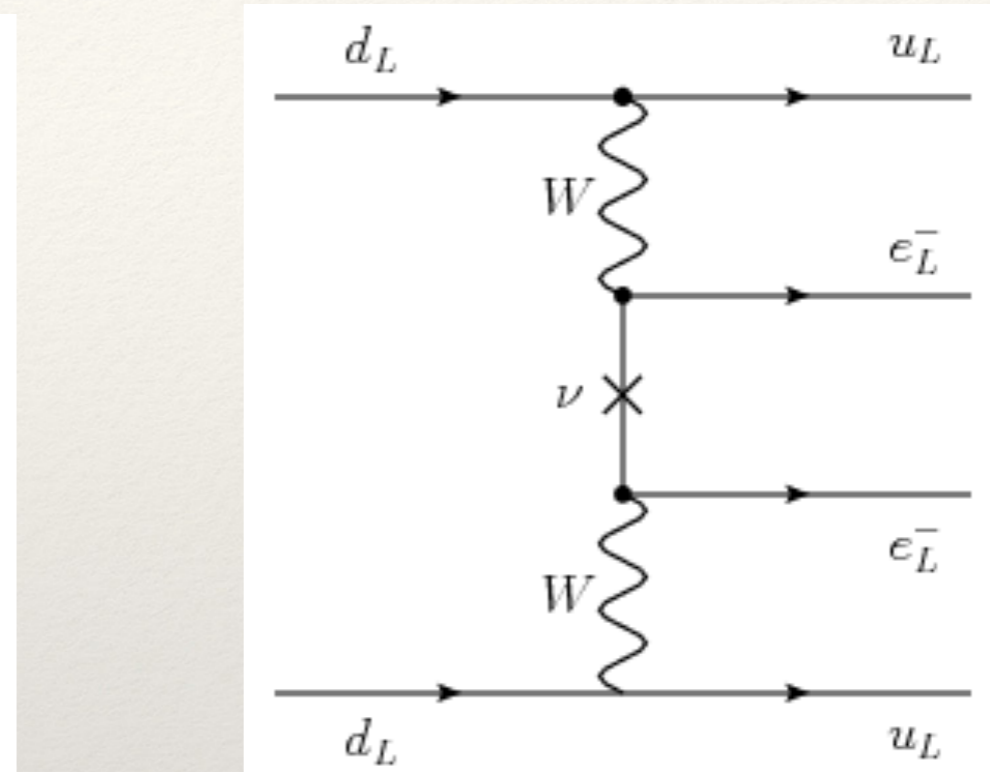
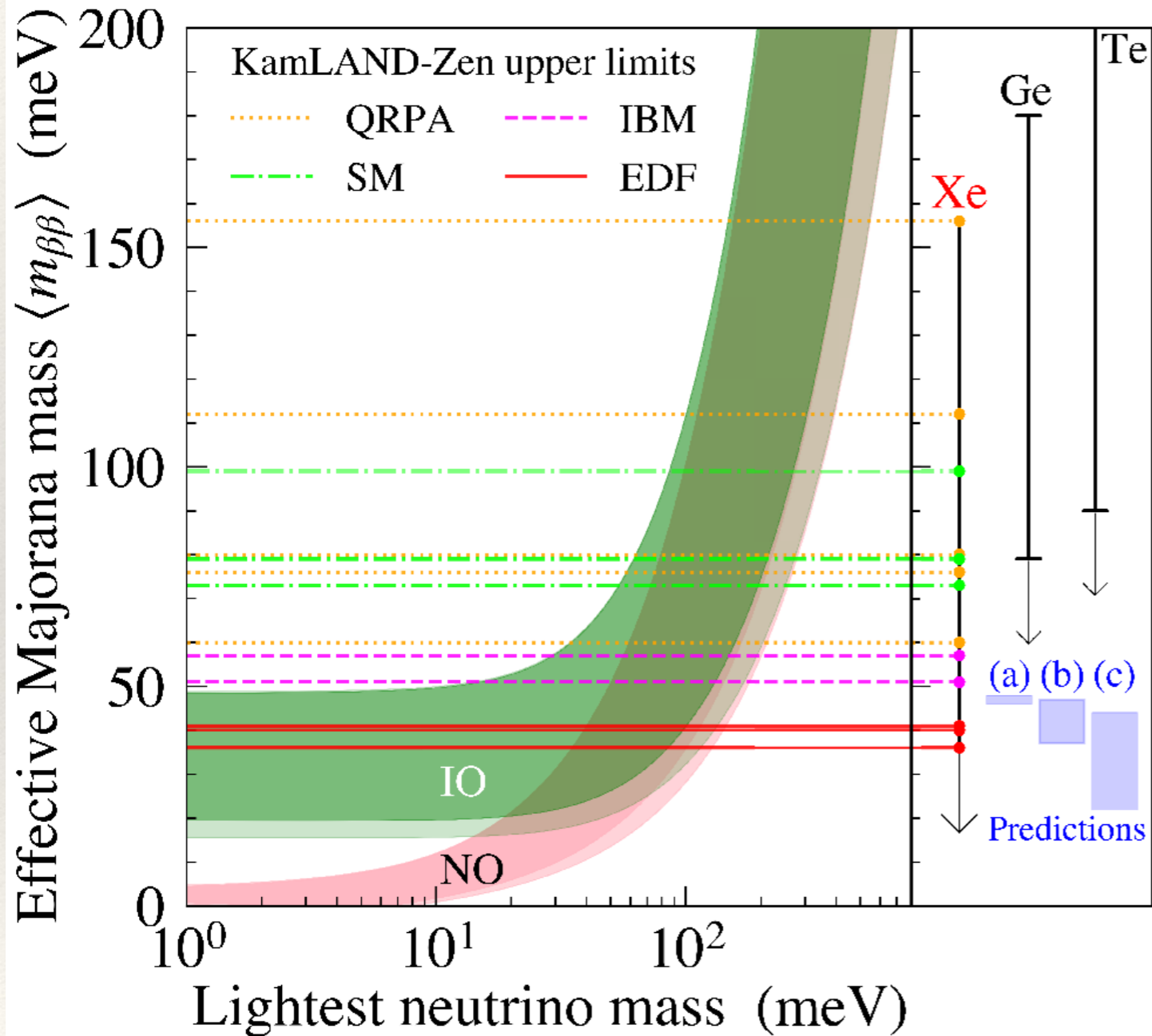
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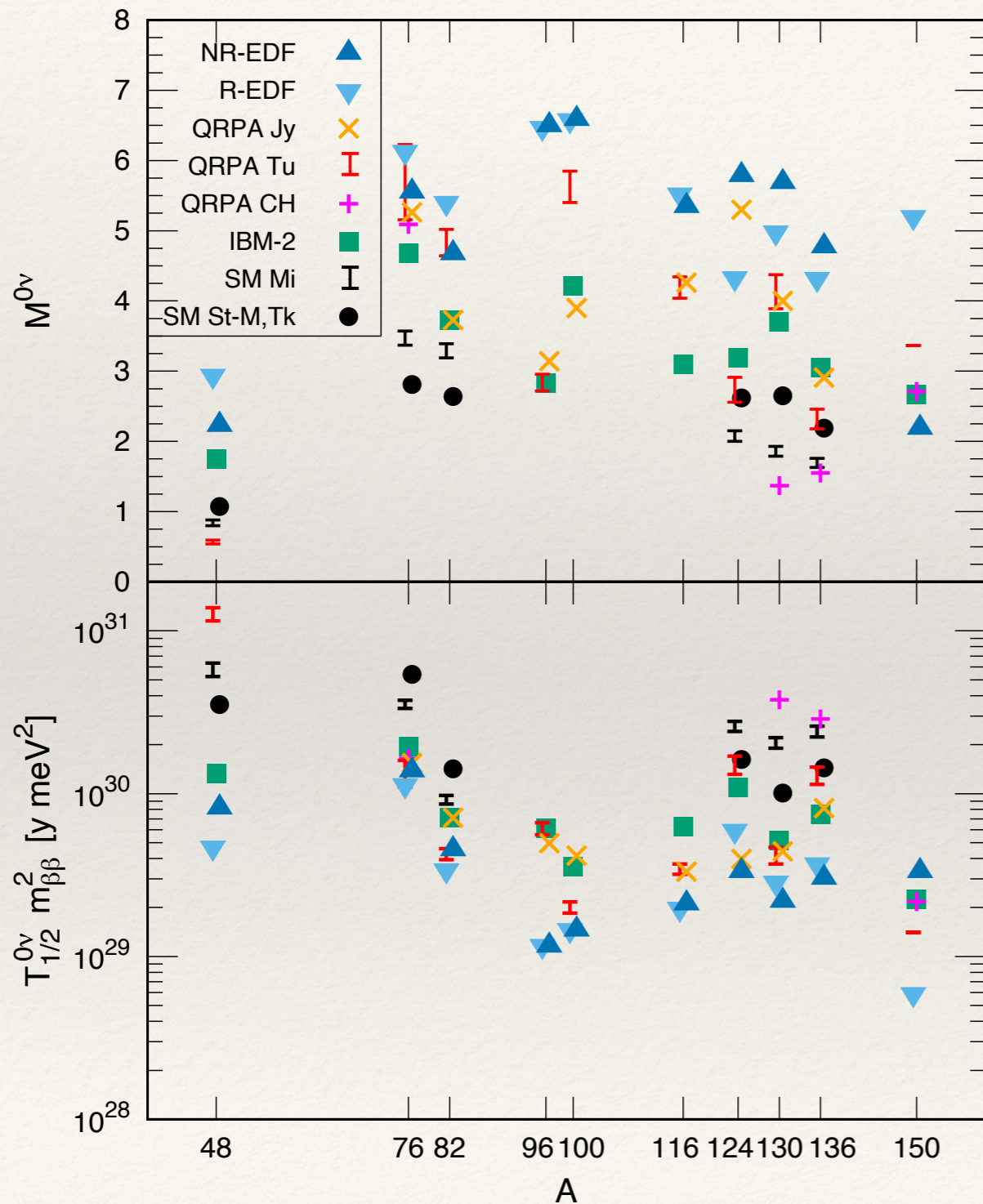
Precision Physics, Fundamental Interactions
and Structure of Matter

Experimental Searches



Isotope	$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} (\times 10^{25} \text{ y})$	$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$ (eV)	Experiment
^{48}Ca	$> 5.8 \times 10^{-3}$	$< 3.5 - 22$	ELEGANT-IV
^{76}Ge	> 8.0	$< 0.12 - 0.26$	GERDA
	> 1.9	$< 0.24 - 0.52$	MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR
^{82}Se	$> 3.6 \times 10^{-2}$	$< 0.89 - 2.43$	NEMO-3
^{96}Zr	$> 9.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$< 7.2 - 19.5$	NEMO-3
^{100}Mo	$> 1.1 \times 10^{-1}$	$< 0.33 - 0.62$	NEMO-3
^{116}Cd	$> 1.0 \times 10^{-2}$	$< 1.4 - 2.5$	NEMO-3
^{128}Te	$> 1.1 \times 10^{-2}$	—	—
^{130}Te	> 1.5	$< 0.11 - 0.52$	CUORE
^{136}Xe	> 10.7	$< 0.061 - 0.165$	KamLAND-Zen
	> 1.8	$< 0.15 - 0.40$	EXO-200
^{150}Nd	$> 2.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$< 1.6 - 5.3$	NEMO-3

Landscape of Nuclear Matrix Elements

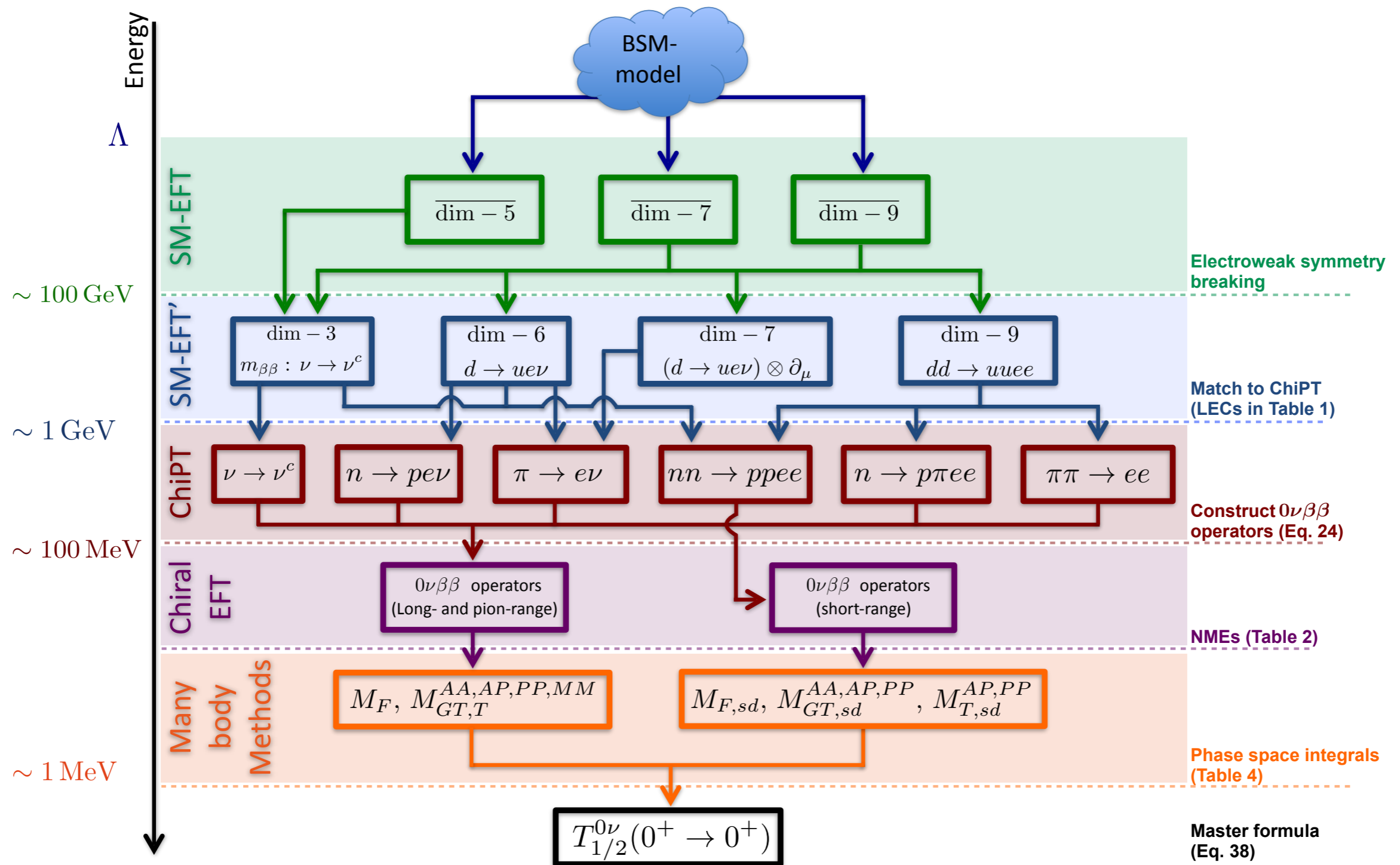


$$\left[T_{1/2}^0 \right]^{-1} = G_{0\nu} |M_{0\nu}|^2 m_{\beta\beta}^2$$

- ❖ Sensitive to nuclear matrix elements—need to be under control theoretically

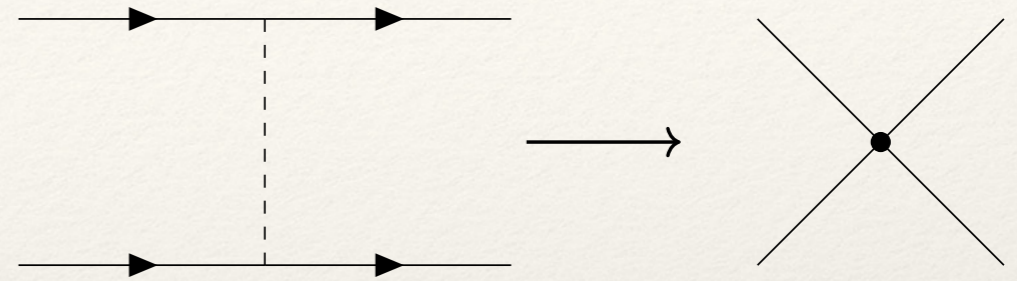
Engel and Menendez, Rept. Prog. Phys. 80

Effective Field Theory From the Top Down



Pionless Effective Field Theory

- ❖ Nucleon degrees of freedom
- ❖ Valid for $p \ll m_\pi$



$$\mathcal{L}_{NN} = N^\dagger \left(iD_0 + \frac{1}{2m_N} D^2 \right) N - C_0 (N^T P N)^\dagger (N^T P N) + \dots$$

- ❖ Tower of contact terms with desired symmetries, i.e. Galilean, gauge, isospin, parity, time-reversal etc.

Chiral Effective Field Theory

- ❖ $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_V$ realised nonlinearly
















$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ChEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_\pi + \mathcal{L}_{\pi N} + \mathcal{L}_{NN} + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{L}_\pi = \frac{F^2}{4} \text{Tr} (D_\mu U D^\mu U^\dagger) + \frac{F^2}{4} \text{Tr} (\chi U^\dagger + U \chi^\dagger) + \dots$$

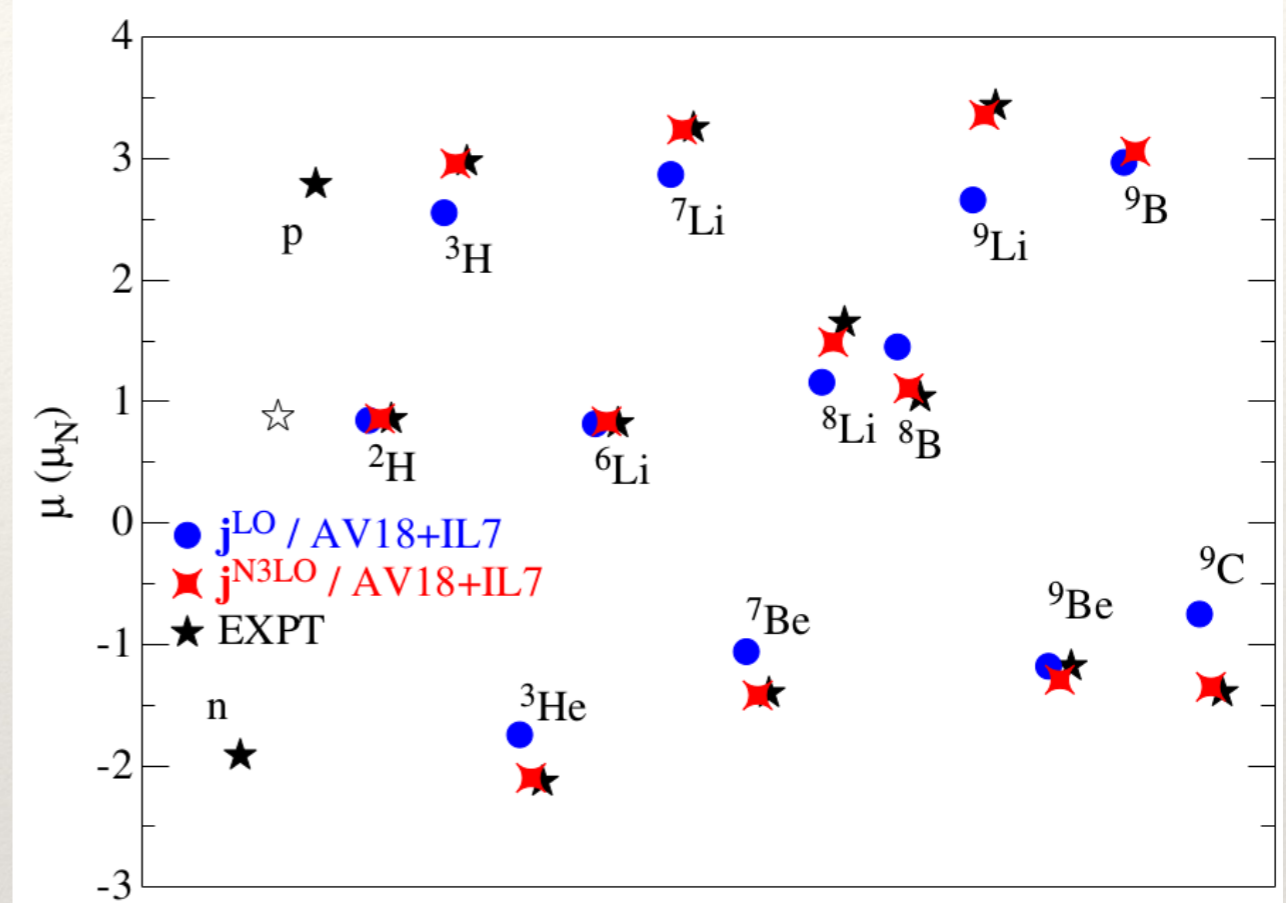
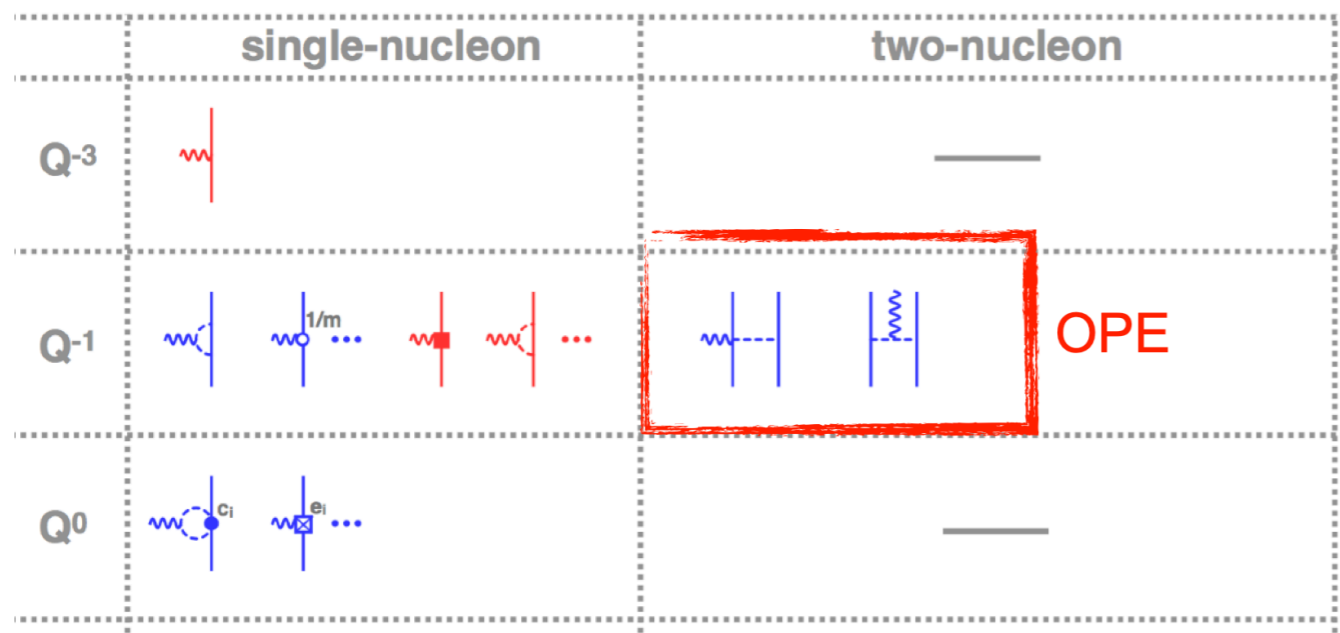
$$\mathcal{L}_{\pi N} = \bar{N}_v (i v \cdot D + g_A S_v \cdot u) N_v + O(1/m_N) + \dots$$

- ❖ *Ab initio* program: Construct chiral potentials and solve many-body Schrödinger equation

Chiral forces

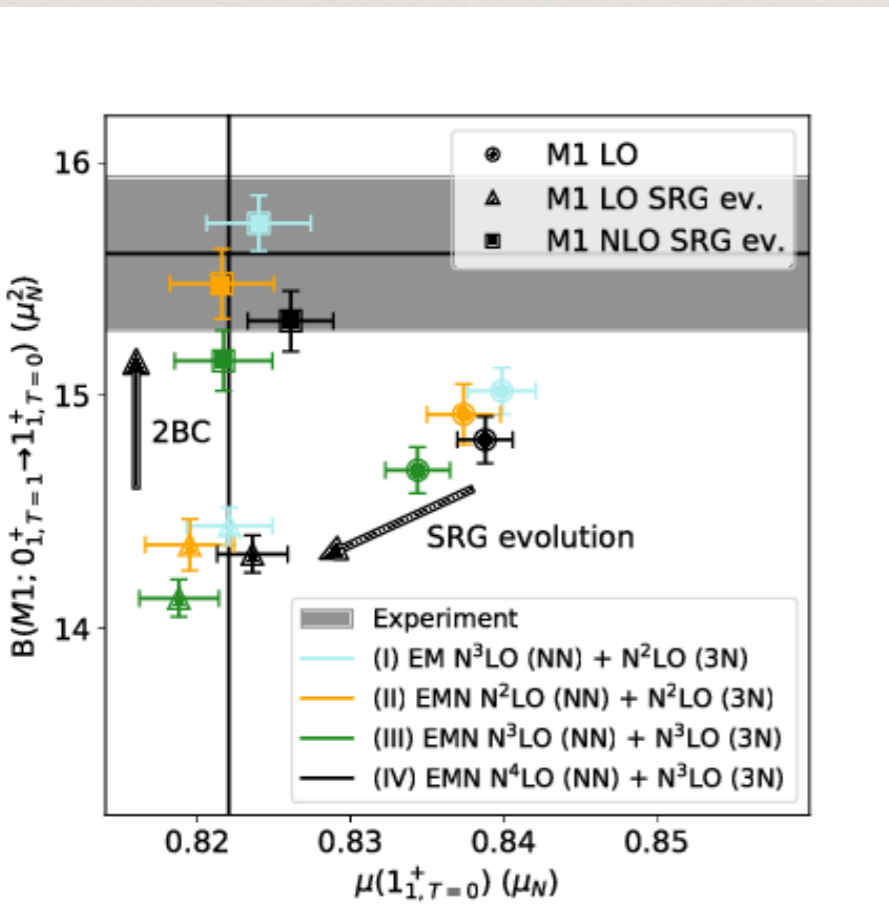
	Two-nucleon force	Three-nucleon force	Four-nucleon force
LO (Q^0)			
NLO (Q^2)			
N ² LO (Q^3)			
N ³ LO (Q^4)			
N ⁴ LO (Q^5)			

Electromagnetic Few-body currents



Pastore et al. PRC 90

2-body currents required to satisfy current conservation

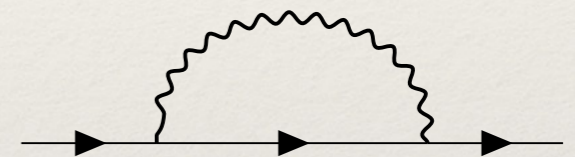


Bacca et al. PRL 126

Spurions

- ❖ Virtual photons/leptons require new counterterms

$$\mathcal{L} = i\bar{q}_L\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu q_L + i\bar{q}_R\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu q_R - \bar{q}_L M^\dagger q_R - \bar{q}_R M q_L + ieA_\mu [\bar{q}_L\gamma^\mu Q_L q_L + \bar{q}_R\gamma^\mu Q_R q_R]$$



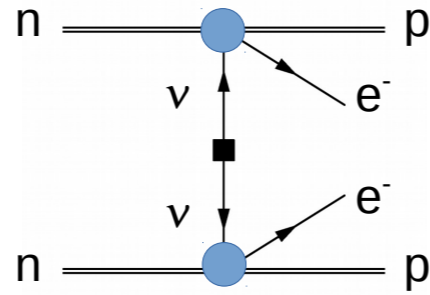
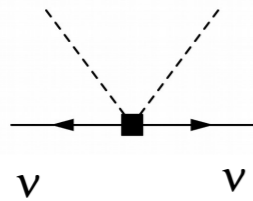
$$M \mapsto RML^\dagger \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} Q_R &\mapsto RQ_R R^\dagger \\ Q_L &\mapsto LQ_R L^\dagger \end{aligned}$$

- ❖ Pion mass splitting

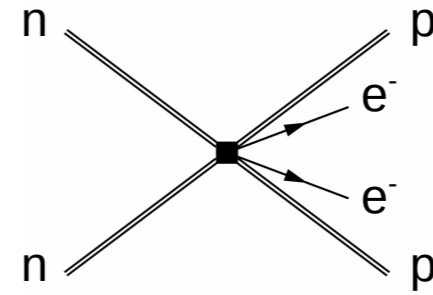
$$\mathcal{L}_\pi^{\text{EM}} = e^2 C \text{Tr} (QUQU^\dagger)$$

Few-body currents for $0\nu\beta\beta$

Dim 5

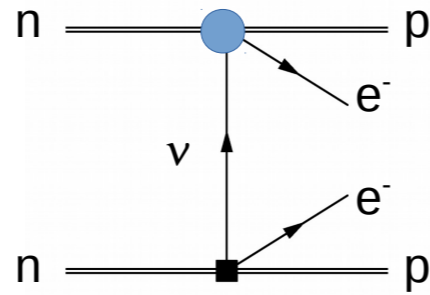
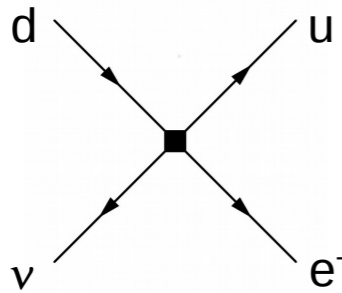


5a)

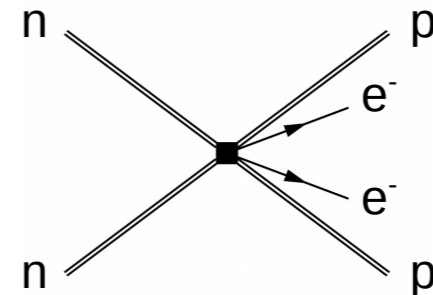


5b)

Dim 7

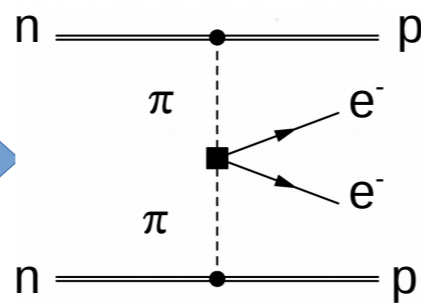
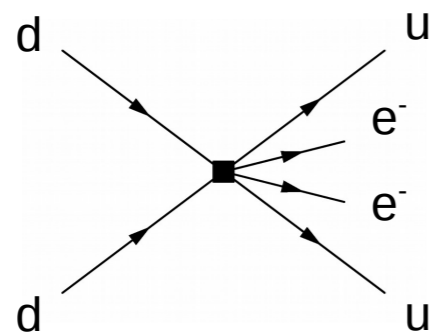


7a)

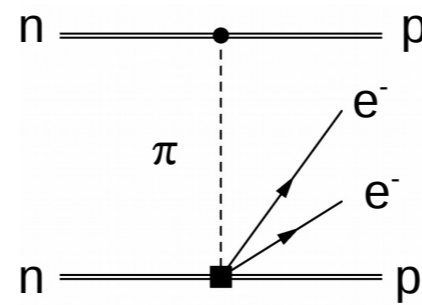


7b)

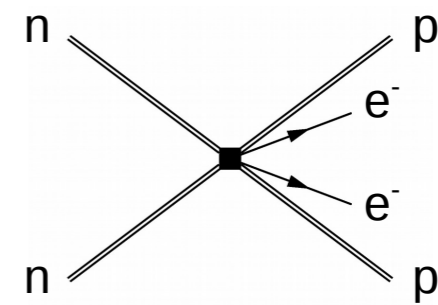
Dim 9



9a)



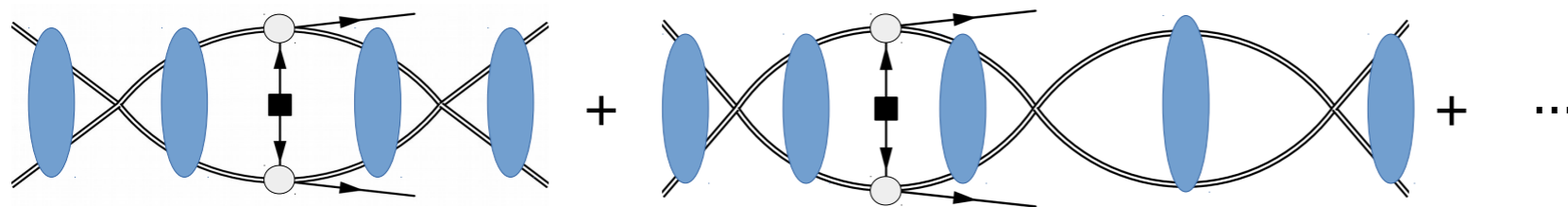
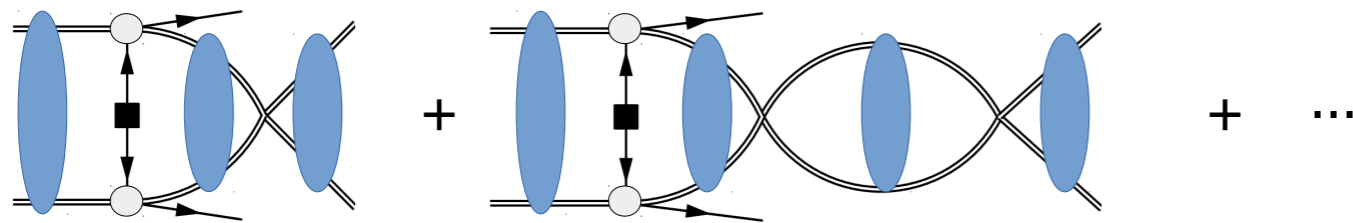
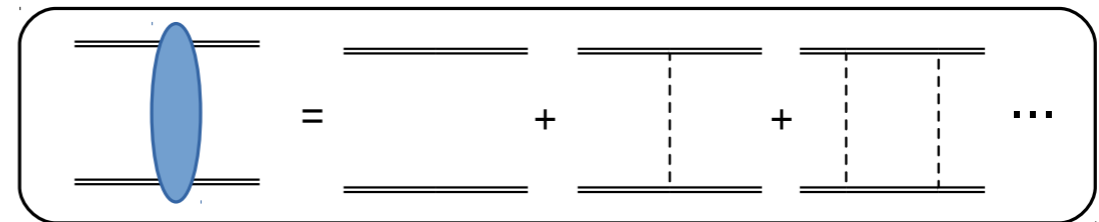
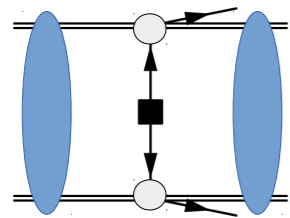
9b)



9c)

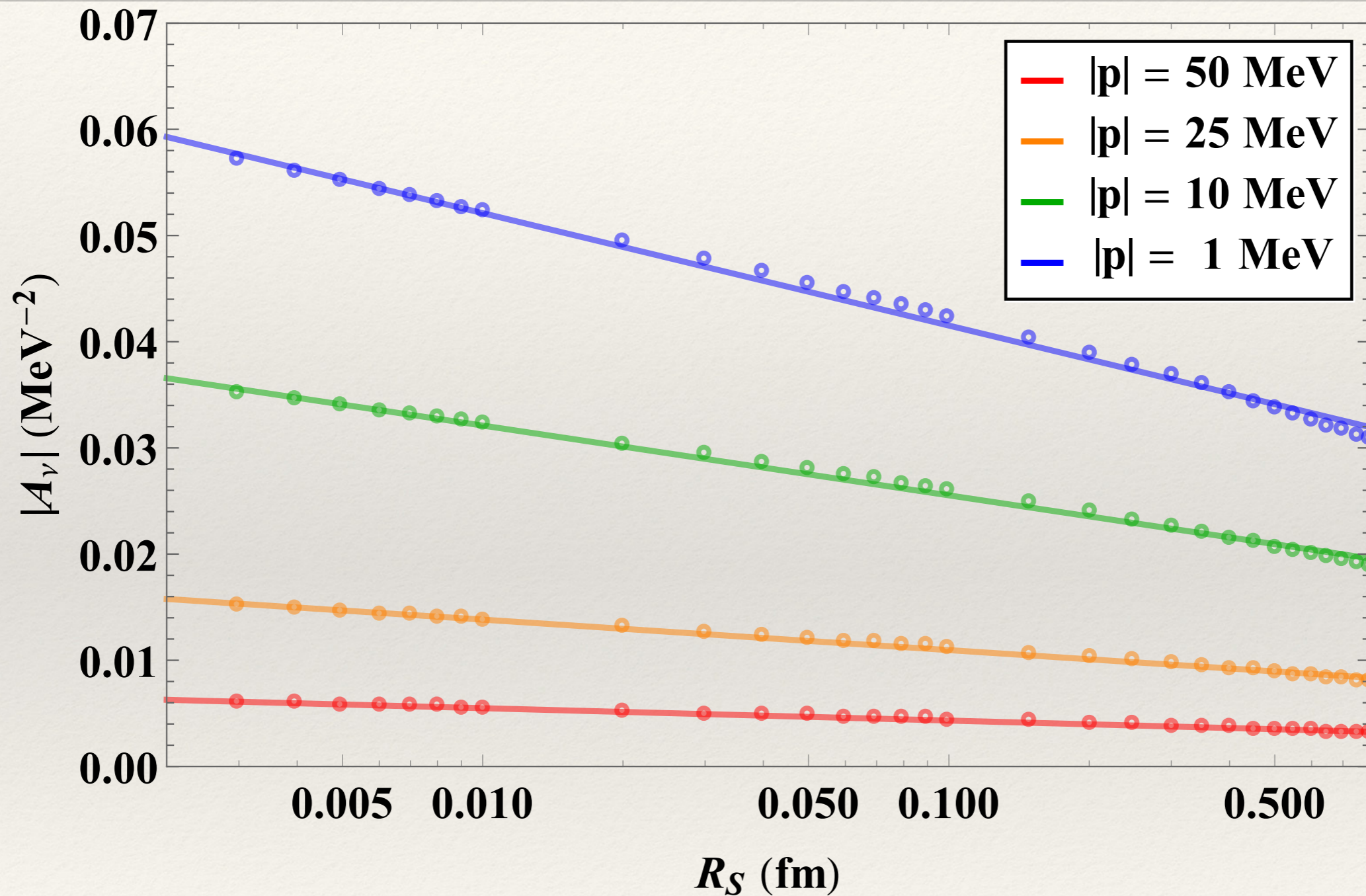
Light Majorana Exchange

LO

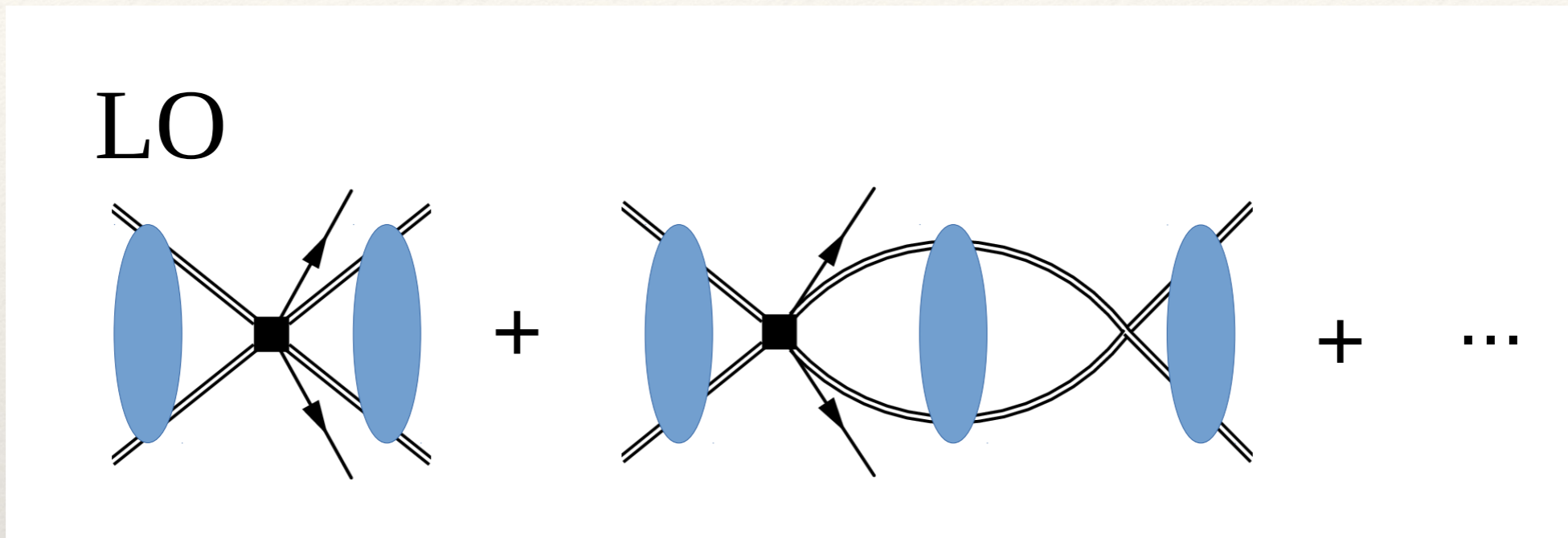


$$V_{\nu L}^{1S_0}(q) = \frac{\tau^{(1)} + \tau^{(2)} +}{q^2} \left[1 + 2g_A^2 + \frac{g_A^2 m_\pi^4}{(q^2 + m_\pi^2)^2} \right]$$

Cutoff Dependence



Renormalization at LO



$$\mathcal{L}_{\Delta L=2}^{NN} = \left(2\sqrt{2}G_F V_{ud}\right)^2 m_{\beta\beta} \bar{e}_L C \bar{e}_L^T \frac{g_\nu^{NN}}{4} \left[(N^\dagger u \tau^+ u^\dagger N)^2 - \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr} (\tau^+ \tau^+) (N^\dagger \tau^a N)^2 \right] + \text{H.c}$$

Relation to Charge Independence Breaking

❖ CIB isotensor Lagrangian



$$\mathcal{L}_{CIB}^{NN} = \frac{e^2}{2} \left\{ (\mathcal{C}_1 + \mathcal{C}_2) \left[\left(N^\dagger \tilde{Q}_+ N \right)^2 - \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr} \left(\tilde{Q}_+^2 \right) \left(N^\dagger \tau^a N \right)^2 \right] \right. \\ \left. (\mathcal{C}_1 - \mathcal{C}_2) \left[\left(N^\dagger \tilde{Q}_- N \right)^2 - \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr} \left(\tilde{Q}_-^2 \right) \left(N^\dagger \tau^a N \right)^2 \right] \right\}$$

Epelbaum and Meißner 1999,
Walzl et al. 2001

❖ Chiral symmetry dictates

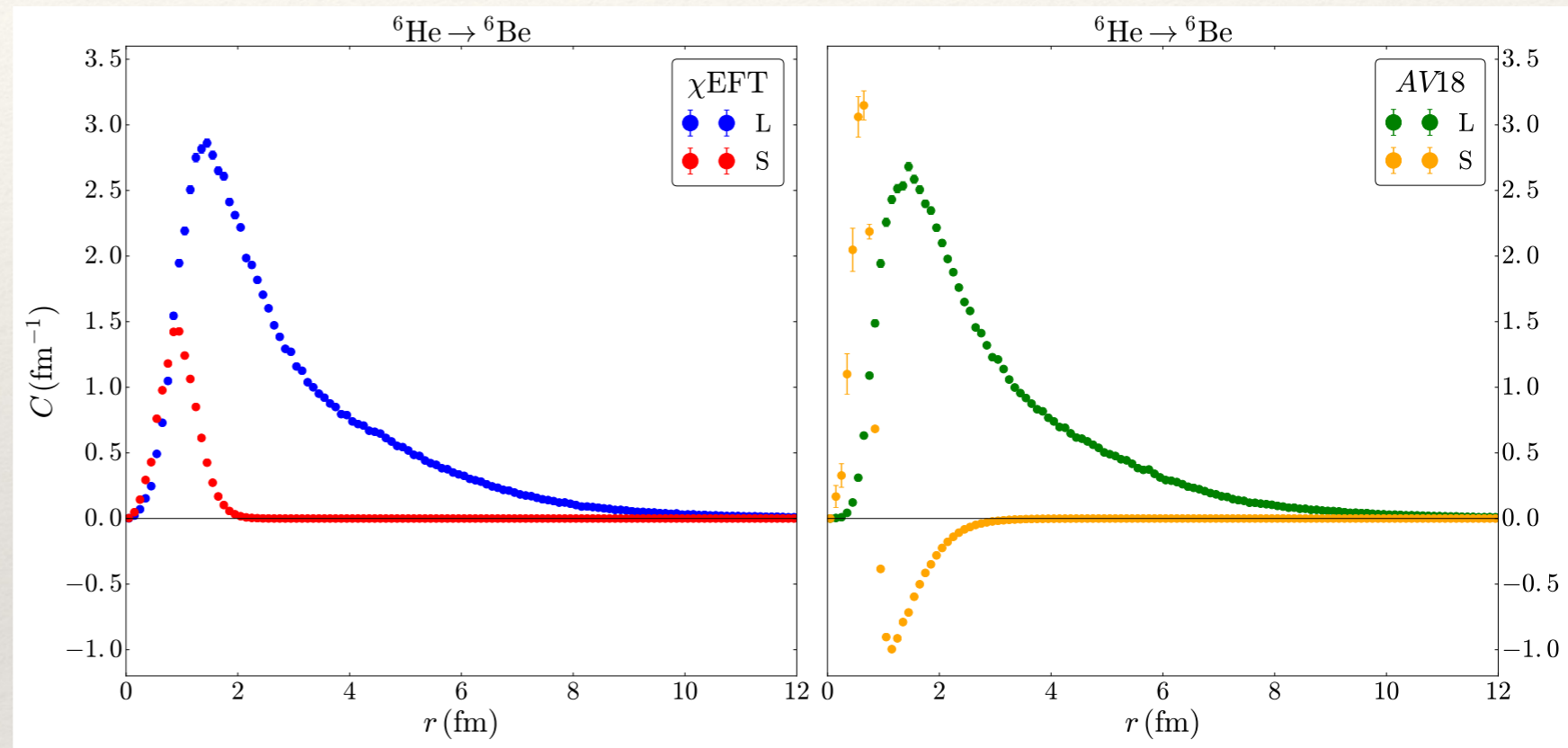
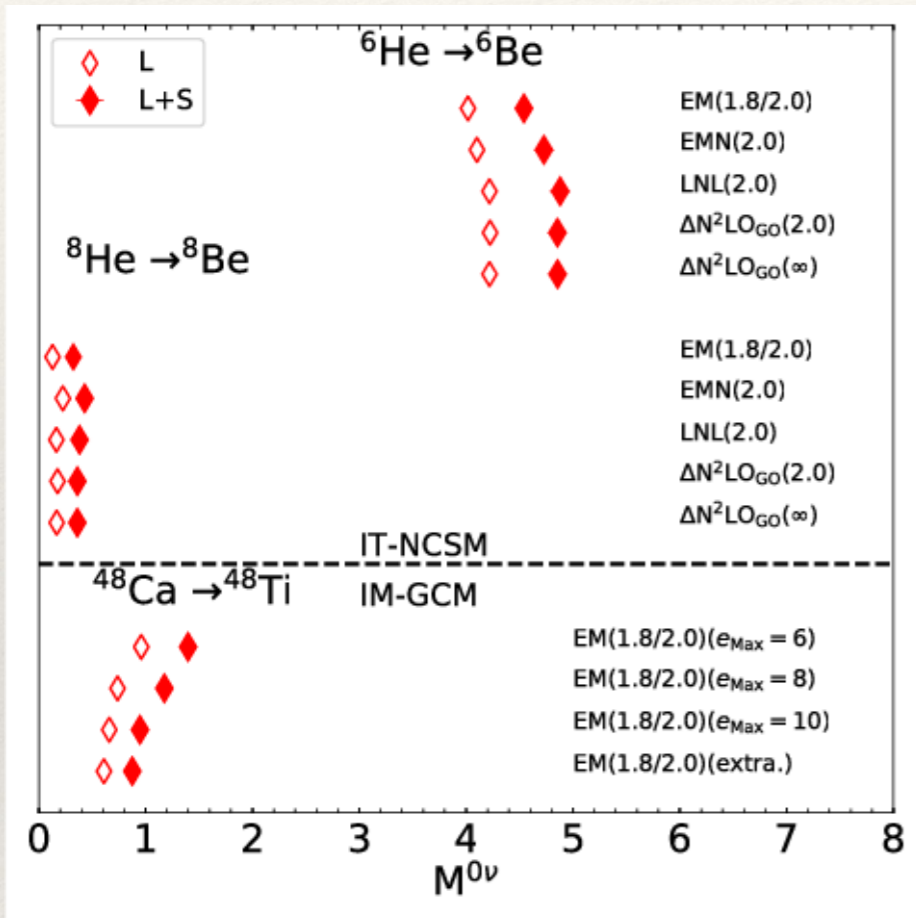
$$g_\nu^{NN} = \mathcal{C}_1$$

❖ Approximate

$$g_\nu^{NN} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{C}_1 + \mathcal{C}_2)$$

Cirigliano et al. 2018a, 2018b, 2019,
2021

Impact on Nuclear Matrix Elements



Cirigliano et al. PRC 100

Wirth et al. PRL 127

Low Energy Coefficients

- ❖ LECs must be obtained from: $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \sum_n \left(\frac{p}{\Lambda}\right)^n c_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{O}_n$
- fit to data
 - lacking for many low-energy processes
 - Matching calculations
 - lattice QCD
- ❖ Theoretical constraints from large- N_c QCD

Large- N_c QCD

- ❖ One-loop beta function

$$\mu \frac{dg}{d\mu} = -\frac{g^3}{(4\pi)^2} \left[\frac{11}{3} N_c - \frac{2}{3} N_f \right]$$

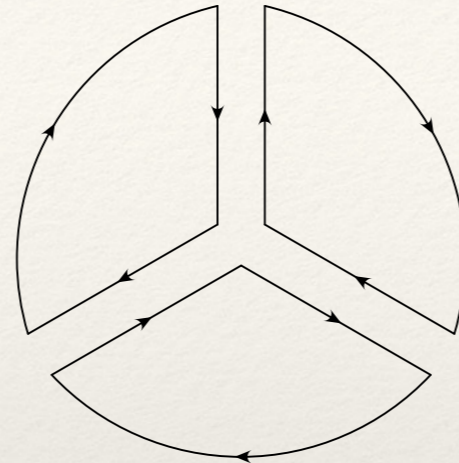
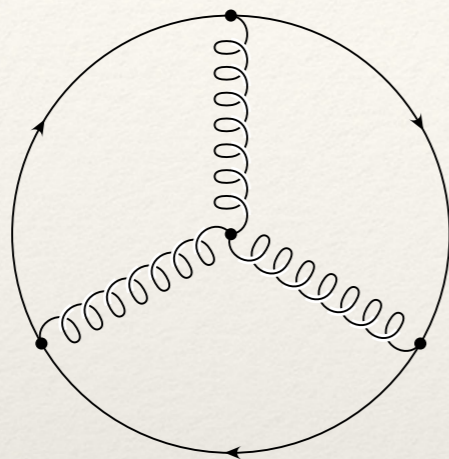
- ❖ Rescale coupling constant

$$g \rightarrow \frac{g}{\sqrt{N_c}} \implies \mu \frac{dg}{d\mu} = -\left(\frac{11}{3} - \frac{2N_f}{3N_c} \right) \frac{g^3}{(4\pi)^2}$$

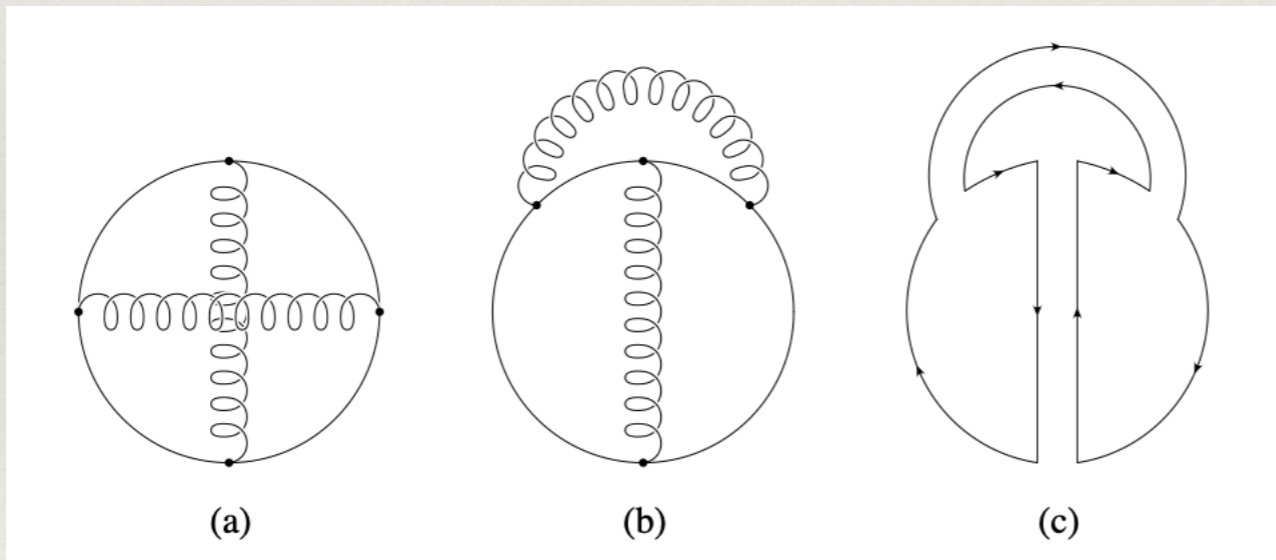
- ❖ QCD becomes expansion of planar diagrams

- ▶ Planar gluons $\lesssim O(N_c^2)$
- ▶ Single quark along edge with planar gluons $\lesssim O(N_c)$

Double Line Feynman Diagrams



$$\sim N_c$$



$$\sim 1/N_c$$

Manohar, 1998

Large-N Constraints in Nuclear EFTs

- ❖ Undetermined coefficients must be determined for the EFT to be predictive
- ❖ Chiral EFT and pionless EFT possess symmetries of QCD
 - ▶ Map scalings to operators with same spin-flavor structure
- ❖ Caveats:
 - ❖ Δ degenerate with nucleon
 - ❖ chiral limit vs. large-N limit $\frac{m_\pi}{m_\Delta - m_N}$
- ❖ **Fierz transformations can obscure large- N_c scaling**

Mesons

- ❖ Stable, fixed mass
- ❖ Infinite number of meson states

Witten NPB 160

- ❖ Weakly interacting

$$F_0 \sim \sqrt{N_c}$$

- 3-meson vertex $\sim 1/\sqrt{N_c}$

- 4-meson vertex $\sim 1/N_c$

- ❖ Exotics suppressed?

Weinberg PRL 110, Knecht and Peris PRD 88

Large- N_c Baryons

- ❖ Baryon must be made of N_c quarks
- ❖ Baryon mass $m_B \sim O(N_c)$
- ❖ Meson-baryon amplitude $O(N_c^0)$
- ❖ Two-baryon interaction $O(N_c)$

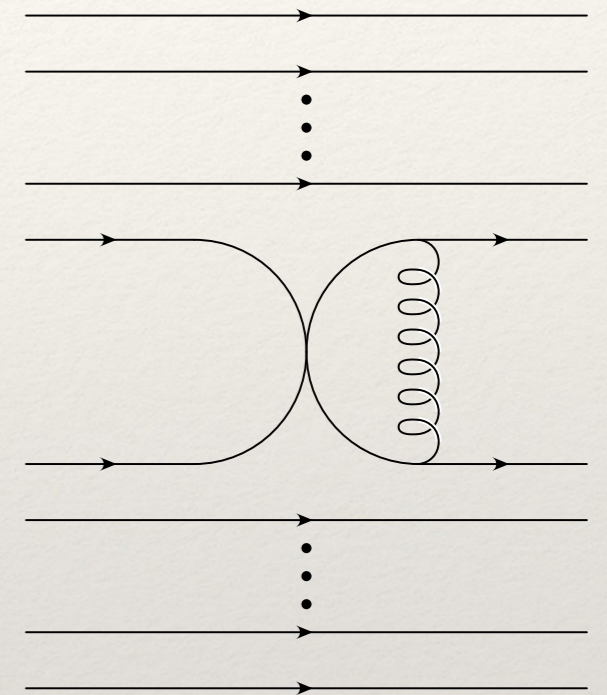


Figure: Baryon-baryon scattering
Manohar, 1998

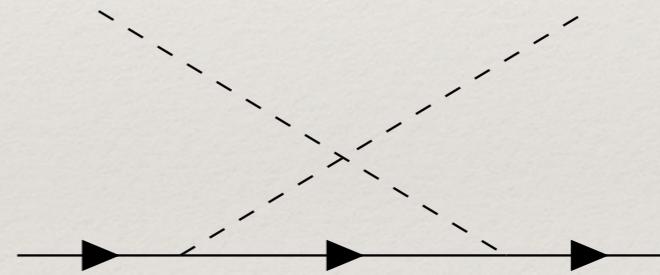
Witten NPB 160

Consistency Conditions

- ❖ Axial current matrix elements

$$\langle B' | \bar{q} \gamma^i \gamma^5 \tau^a q | B \rangle = \hat{g}_A N_c \langle B' | X^{ia} | B \rangle$$

- ❖ Baryon-meson scattering amplitude *should be* $O(1)$



$$\frac{\hat{g}_A^2}{F^2} N_c^2 [X^{ia}, X^{jb}] \Rightarrow [X^{ia}, X^{jb}] \lesssim O(1/N_c^2)$$

- ❖ Baryons transform under contracted $SU(2N_F)$

Spin-Flavor Symmetry

- ❖ Large- N_c baryons transform under SU(4)

$$S^i = q^\dagger \frac{\sigma^i}{2} q \quad I^a = q^\dagger \frac{\tau^a}{2} q \quad G^{ia} = q^\dagger \frac{\sigma^i \tau^a}{4} q$$

$$\langle B' | \frac{\mathcal{O}^{(n)}}{N_c^n} | B \rangle \sim N_c^{-|I-S|} \quad \langle B' | \hat{1} | B \rangle \sim \mathcal{O}(N_c)$$

- ❖ Expand QCD operators in basis of SU(4) generators

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{QCD}}^{(m)} = N_c^m \sum_{n,s,t} c_n \left(\frac{S^i}{N_c} \right)^s \left(\frac{I^a}{N_c} \right)^t \left(\frac{G^{ia}}{N_c} \right)^{n-s-t}$$

Example: Mass Operator

- ❖ Mass operator is a spin-isospin singlet

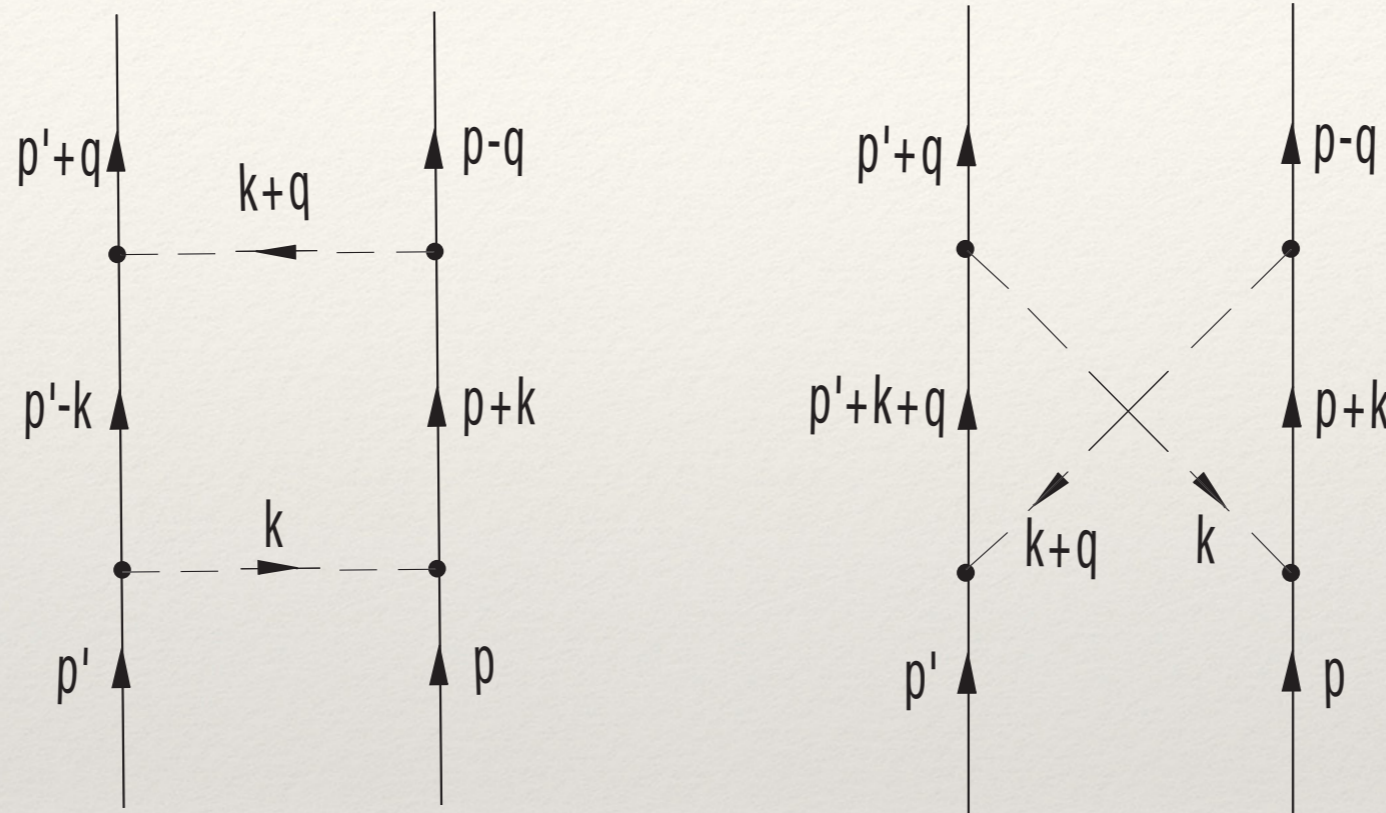
$$M = N_c m_0 + m_2 \frac{J^2}{N_c}$$

$$m_N = N_c m_0 + \frac{3}{4N_c} m_2$$

$$m_\Delta = N_c m_0 + \frac{15}{4N_c} m_2$$

- ❖ Mass splitting is $O(10\%)$

Large-N Forces and Δ



- ❖ Explicit Δ leads to correct scaling

Large-N Lagrangian

TRR et al. PRC 103

❖ LNV contact term

$$(N^\dagger \sigma^i \tau^+ N) (N^\dagger \sigma^i \tau^+ N) = -3 (N^\dagger \tau^+ N) (N^\dagger \tau^+ N)$$

$$g_\nu^{NN} \sim O(N_c)$$

❖ CIB contact terms

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LO-in-}N_c}^{\Delta I=2} = \bar{\mathcal{C}}_3 \left[\left(N^\dagger \sigma^i \tilde{Q}_+ N \right)^2 - \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr} \left(\tilde{Q}_+^2 \right) \left(N^\dagger \sigma^i \tau^a N \right)^2 \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NLO-in-}N_c}^{\Delta I=2} = \bar{\mathcal{C}}_6 \left[\left(N^\dagger \sigma^i \tilde{Q}_- N \right)^2 - \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr} \left(\tilde{Q}_-^2 \right) \left(N^\dagger \sigma^i \tau^a N \right)^2 \right]$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{C}}_3 \sim O(N_c) \quad \bar{\mathcal{C}}_6 \sim O(1)$$

Large- N_c Consistency

- ❖ CIB LECs same size and sign

$$\mathcal{C}_1 = -3\bar{\mathcal{C}}_3 - 3\bar{\mathcal{C}}_6 = -3\bar{\mathcal{C}}_3 [1 + O(1/N_c)]$$

$$\mathcal{C}_2 = -3\bar{\mathcal{C}}_3 + 3\bar{\mathcal{C}}_6 = -3\bar{\mathcal{C}}_3 [1 + O(1/N_c)]$$

- ❖ LNV and CIB scale the same way

$$g_\nu^{NN} \sim O(N_c) \qquad \mathcal{C}_1 + \mathcal{C}_2 \sim O(N_c)$$

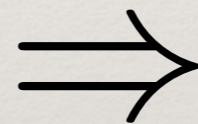
$$\Rightarrow g_\nu^{NN} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{C}_1 + \mathcal{C}_2)$$

Comparison to Cottingham

Cirigliano et al., PRL 126, JHEP 05

- ❖ Central Cottingham values fall within large- N_c estimate

$$\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_1 (\mu = m_\pi) = 1.3(6)$$



$$\frac{\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_1}{\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_2} \approx 0.81$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_1 + \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_2 (\mu = m_\pi) = 2.9(1.2)$$

$$\frac{\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_1 - \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_2}{\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_1 + \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_2} \approx 0.1$$

Comparison to CIB Scattering

- ❖ Large- N_c with experiment

Cirigliano et al., PRL 126, JHEP 05

$$\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_1 + \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_2 (\mu = m_\pi) = 5.1$$

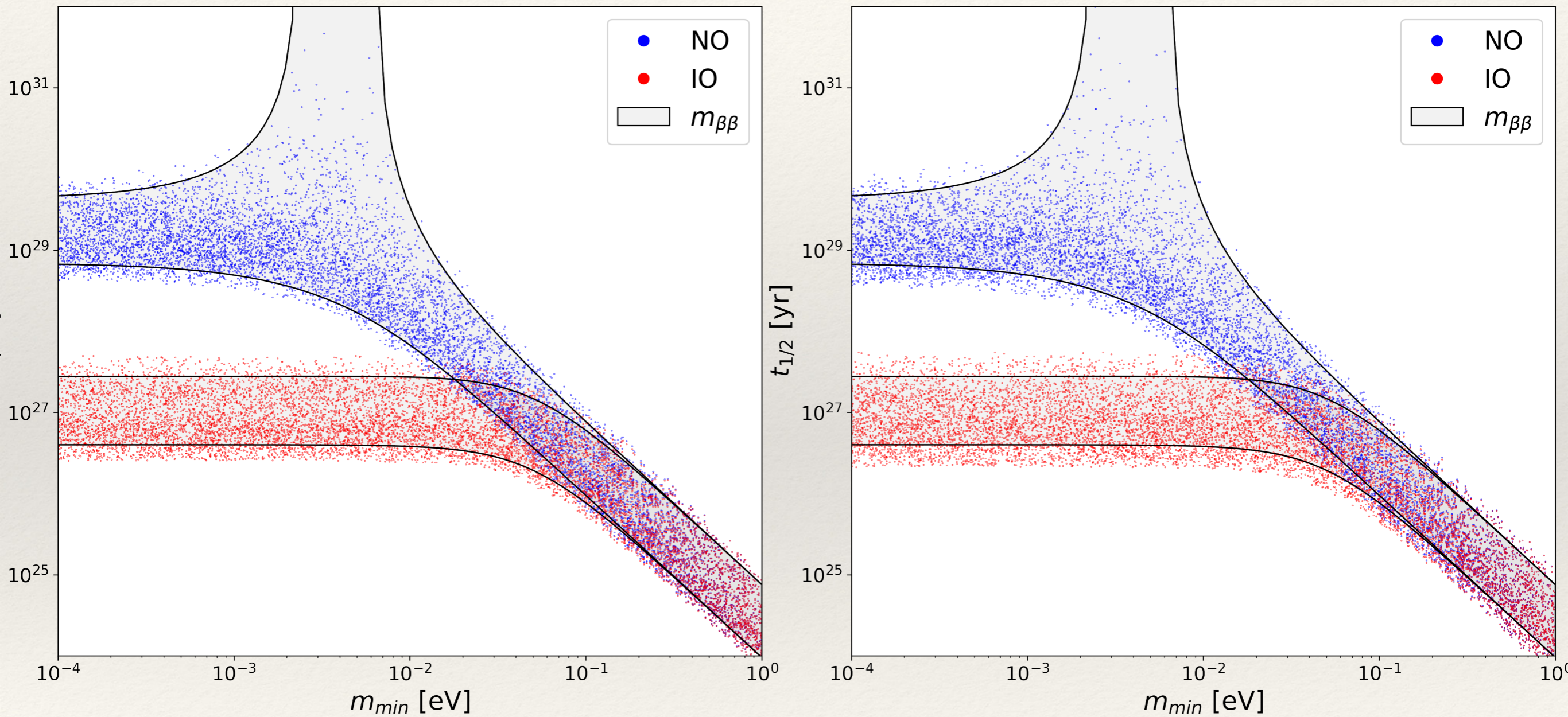
$$\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_1 \Big|_{\text{Large-}N_c} \approx 2.5$$

- ❖ With room for 30% corrections

$$1.7 \lesssim \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_1 \lesssim 3.3$$

$$1.8 \lesssim \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_2 \lesssim 3.4$$

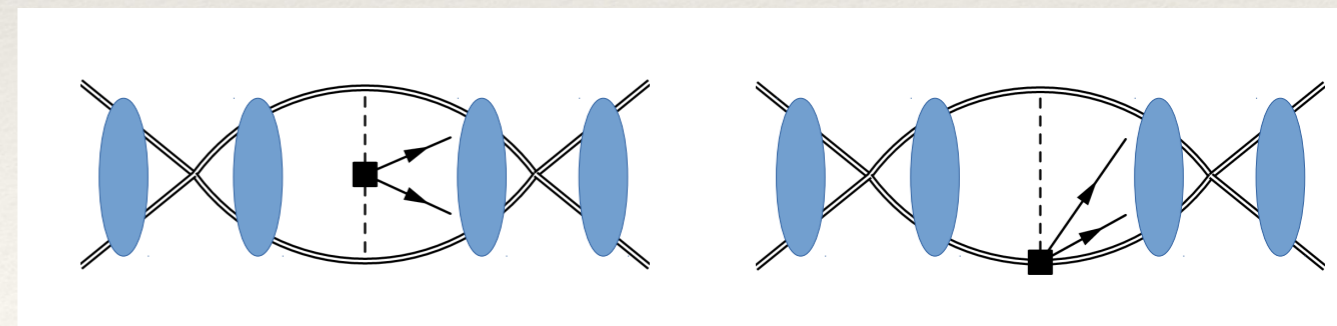
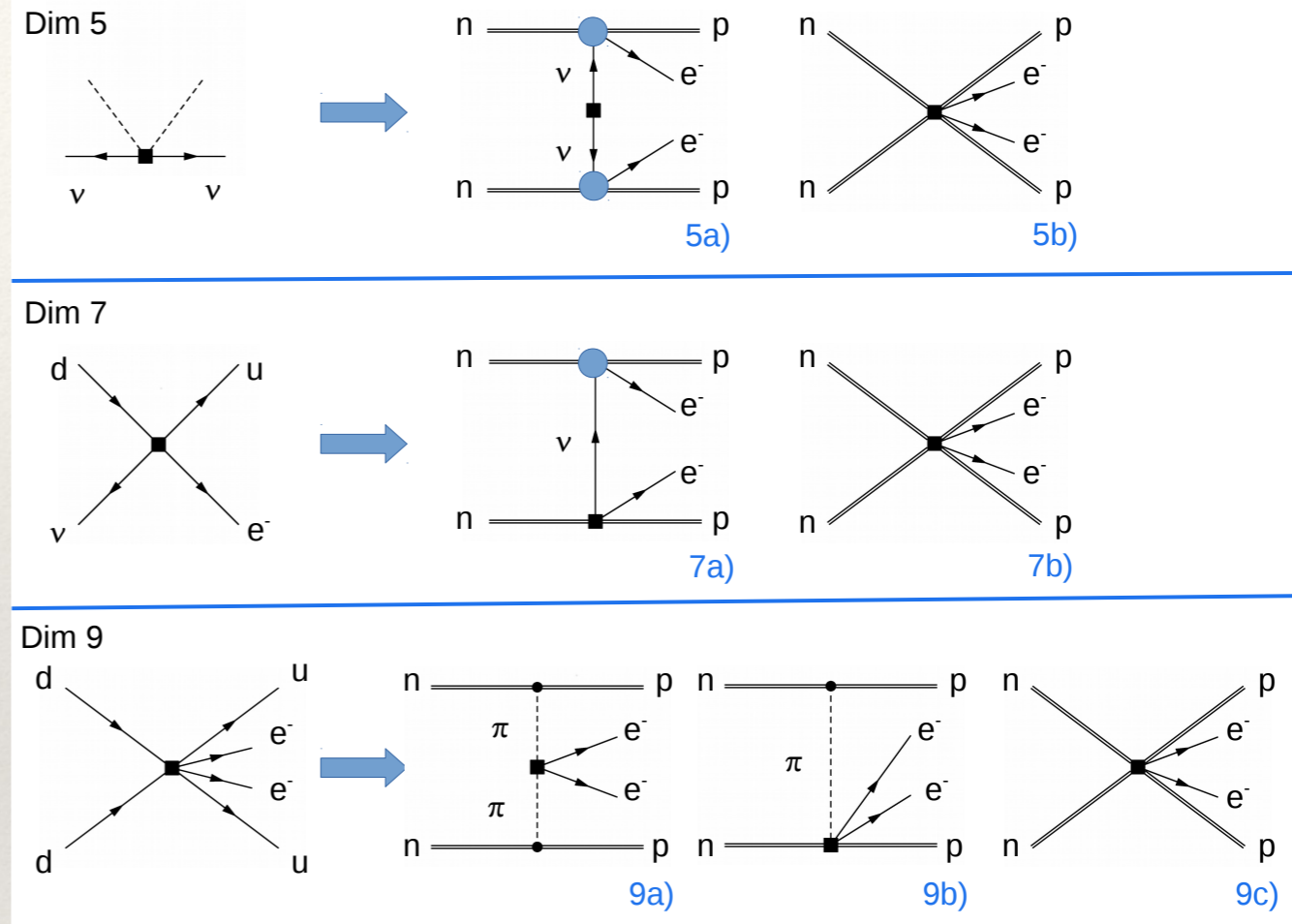
Impact on the half-life: ν DoBe



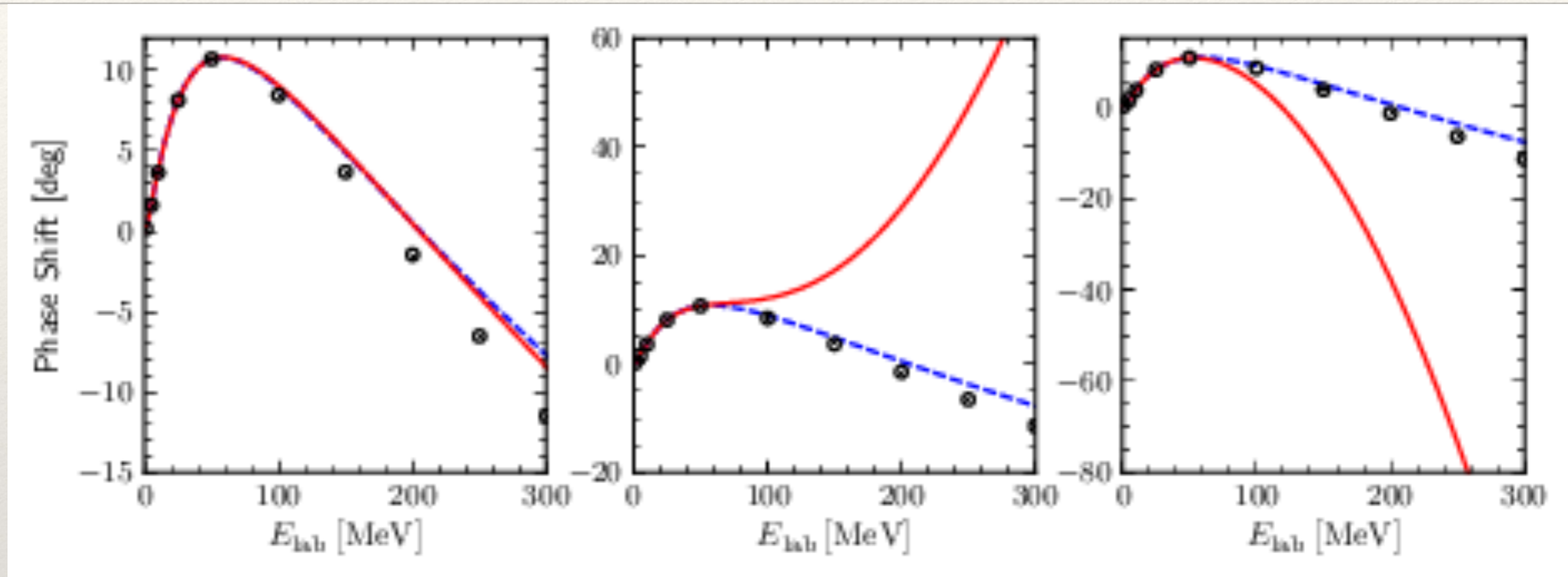
Scholer, de Vries, Graf arXiv:2304.05415 [hep-ph]

Higher dimension operators

- ❖ Large-N can be used to estimate sizes of other matrix elements
- ❖ Higher dimensional operators come with suppressions

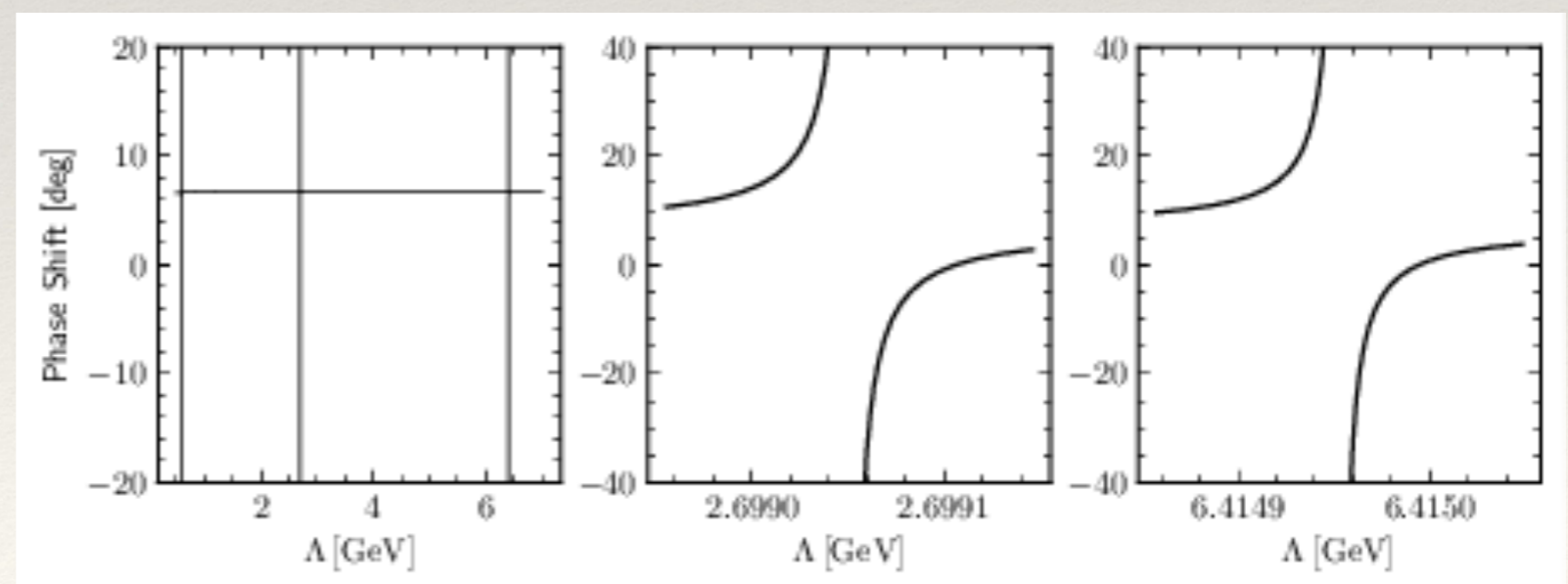


Renormalization Past LO?



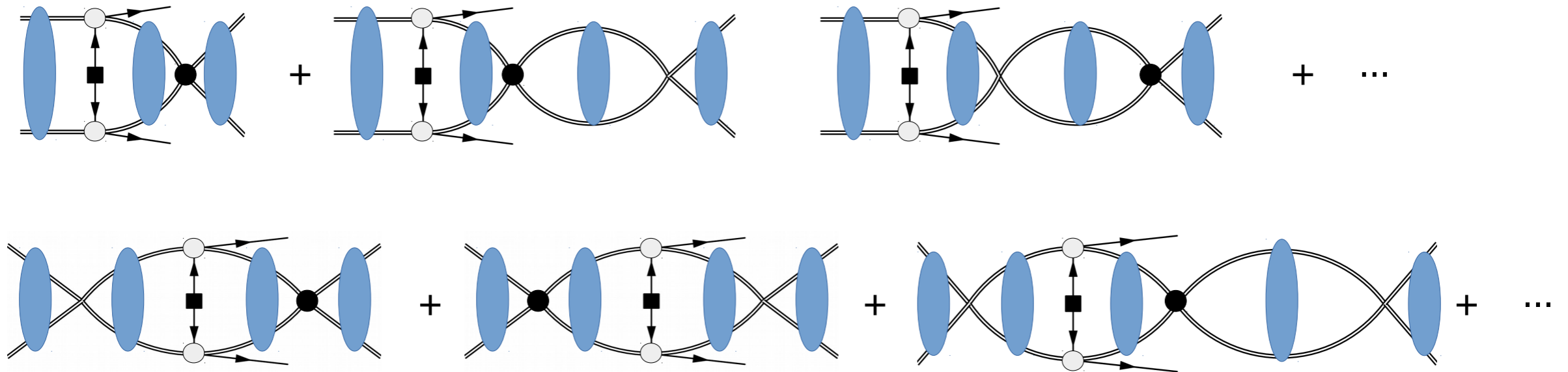
$$\Lambda = 12500, 12249.69, 12249.73 \text{ MeV}$$

$$T_{\text{lab}} = 130 \text{ MeV}$$



Light Majorana Exchange: NLO

NLO



- ❖ Are there “exceptional points” for this correction?

Summary

- ❖ Few-body currents have a significant impact in nuclear matrix elements
- ❖ Short range part must be determined from lattice, data, or something else...
- ❖ Large-N QCD indicates patterns/trends based on *symmetry*
 - ➔ Estimate size of contact for $0\nu\beta\beta$ and CIB