

## CEvNS nuclear physics aspects

Dimitrios K. Papoulias

University of Ioannina, Greece  
**PANIC 2021, 5–10 Sept., Lisbon, Portugal**



## **Operational Programme Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning**

Co-financed by Greece and the European Union



# Outline

## 1 Introduction

- Experimental status and motivations of CE $\nu$ NS

## 2 CEvNS in the Standard Model

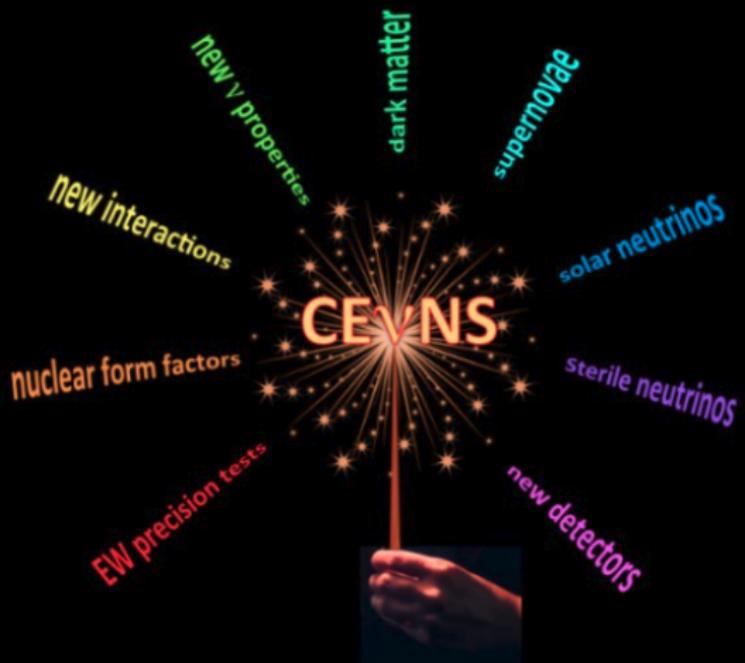
- Reactor, accelerator and astrophysical-induced event rates
- Impact of nuclear form factors
- Beyond CEvNS: Incoherent calculations

## 3 Electromagnetic neutrino properties

- Neutrino magnetic moments & charge radii
- Active-sterile transitions

## 4 Summary

# Physics Motivations of CE $\nu$ NS



E. Lisi  
Neutrino 2018

talks by O. Miranda, N. Cargioli

# $CE\nu NS$ experiments worldwide

## Experiments

- Stopped-pion beams
- Nuclear reactors



18

slide from Carla Bonifazi: TAUP 2021, Valencia

talks by Scholberg (COHERENT), Hakenmüller (CONUS)

# Standard Model physics & nuclear structure

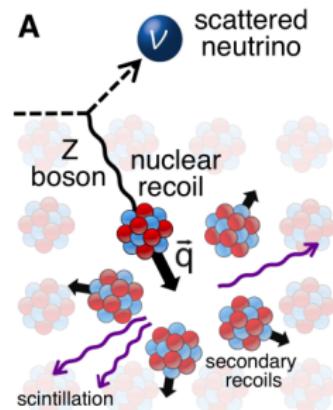
# Standard Model CE $\nu$ NS cross section

CE $\nu$ NS cross section expressed through the nuclear recoil energy  $T_A$

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_A} \right)_{\text{SM}} = \frac{G_F^2 m_A}{\pi} \left[ Q_V^2 \left( 1 - \frac{m_A T_A}{2E_\nu^2} \right) + Q_A^2 \left( 1 + \frac{m_A T_A}{2E_\nu^2} \right) \right] F^2(Q^2)$$

[DKP, Kosmas: PRD 97 (2018)]

- $E_\nu$ : is the incident neutrino energy
- $m_A$ : the nuclear mass of the detector material
- $Z$  protons and  $N = A - Z$  neutrons
- vector  $Q_V$  and axial vector  $Q_A$  contributions
- $F(Q^2)$ : is the nuclear form factor



$$Q_V = \left[ 2(g_u^L + g_u^R) + (g_d^L + g_d^R) \right] Z + \left[ (g_u^L + g_u^R) + 2(g_d^L + g_d^R) \right] N,$$

$$Q_A = \left[ 2(g_u^L - g_u^R) + (g_d^L - g_d^R) \right] (\delta Z) + \left[ (g_u^L - g_u^R) + 2(g_d^L - g_d^R) \right] (\delta N),$$

- $(\delta Z) = Z_+ - Z_-$  and  $(\delta N) = N_+ - N_-$ , where  $Z_+$  ( $N_+$ ) and  $Z_-$  ( $N_-$ ) refers to total number of protons (neutrons) with spin up or down [Barranco et al.: JHEP 0512 (2005)]

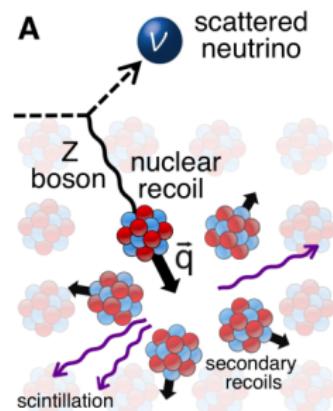
# Standard Model CE $\nu$ NS cross section

CE $\nu$ NS cross section expressed through the nuclear recoil energy  $T_A$

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_A} \right)_{\text{SM}} = \frac{G_F^2 m_A}{\pi} \left[ Q_V^2 \left( 1 - \frac{m_A T_A}{2E_\nu^2} \right) + Q_A^2 \left( 1 + \frac{m_A T_A}{2E_\nu^2} \right) \right] F^2(Q^2)$$

[DKP, Kosmas: PRD 97 (2018)]

- $E_\nu$ : is the incident neutrino energy
- $m_A$ : the nuclear mass of the detector material
- $Z$  protons and  $N = A - Z$  neutrons
- vector  $Q_V$  and axial vector  $Q_A$  contributions
- $F(Q^2)$ : **is the nuclear form factor**



$$Q_V = \left[ \frac{1}{2} - 2 \sin^2 \theta_W \right] Z - \frac{1}{2} N,$$

$$Q_A = \frac{1}{2}(\delta Z) + \frac{1}{2}(\delta N),$$

- weak mixing angle:  $\sin^2 \theta_W$  not well measured at low energies

# Nuclear rms radius

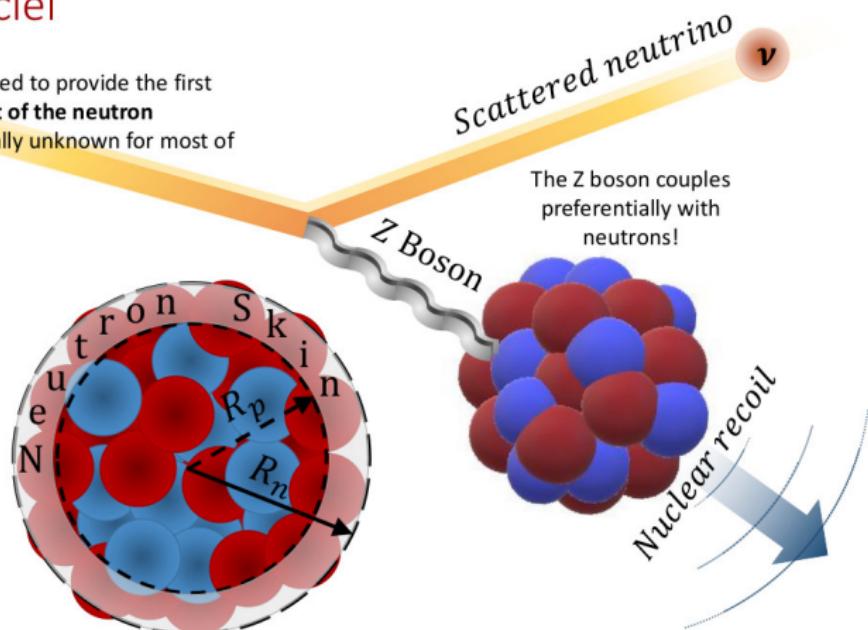
**Phenomenological studies: form factor written in terms of the rms radius**

The CEnNS process as unique probe of the neutron density distribution of nuclei

The CEnNS process itself can be used to provide the first **model independent measurement of the neutron distribution radius**, which is basically unknown for most of the nuclei.

Even if it sounds strange, spatial distribution of neutrons inside nuclei is basically unknown!

The rms neutron distribution radius  $R_n$  and the difference between  $R_n$  and the rms radius  $R_p$  of the proton distribution (the so-called "neutron skin")



# Phenomenological form factors (Klein-Nystrand)

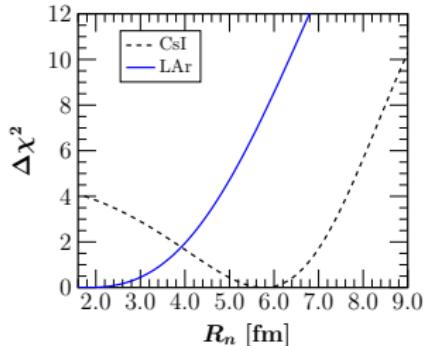
Follows from the convolution of a **Yukawa potential** with range  $a_k = 0.7 \text{ fm}$  over a Woods-Saxon distribution, approximated as a **hard sphere with radius  $R_A$** .

$$F_{\text{KN}} = 3 \frac{j_1(QR_A)}{qR_A} [1 + (Qa_k)^2]^{-1}$$

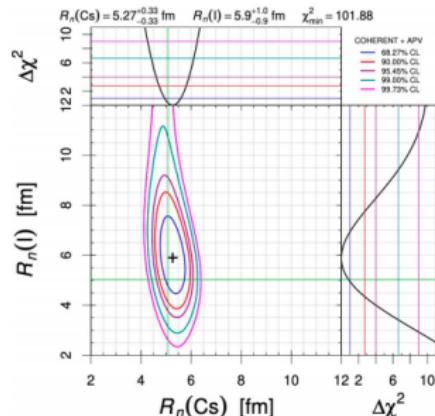
The rms radius is:  $\langle R^2 \rangle_{\text{KN}} = 3/5 R_A^2 + 6a_k^2$

[Klein, Nystrand, PRC 60 (1999) 014903]

[Miranda et al. JHEP 05 (2020) 130]



[Cadeddu et al., arXiv:2102.06153]



- **CEvNS data provides:** a data driven determination of the neutron rms radius
- **COHERENT (CsI) + APV (Cs):** can disentangle the Cs and I contributions

talk by N. Cargioli

# Nuclear structure models: BCS calculations

Within the context of the **quasi-particle random phase approximation (QRPA)** method, the form factors for protons (neutrons) are obtained as

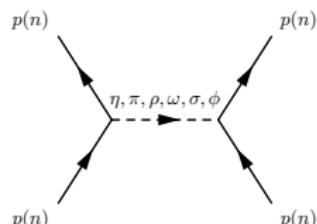
$$F_{N_n} = \frac{1}{N_n} \sum_j \hat{j} \langle g.s. || j_0(|\mathbf{q}|r) || g.s. \rangle \left( v_j^{p(n)} \right)^2$$

where  $\hat{j} = \sqrt{2j+1}$ ,  $N_n = Z$  (or  $N$ ),  $v_j^{p(n)}$  are the BCS probability amplitudes, determined by solving iteratively the **BCS equations**.

[Kosmas, Vergados, Civitarese, Faessler, NPA 570 (1994) 637]

After choosing the active model space the following important parameters must be properly adjusted

- the harmonic oscillator (h.o.) size parameter  $b$
- the two pairing parameters  $g_{\text{pair}}^{p(n)}$  for proton (neutron) pairs that renormalise the monopole (pairing) residual interaction of the Bonn C-D two-body potential (describing the **strong two-nucleon forces**)



- Realistic proton and neutron form factors*
- The Bonn C-D residual interaction is mediated via one-meson exchange  
[Machleidt, PRC 63 (2001) 024001]

# Nuclear structure models: deformed shell model

Kota & Sahu: *Structure of Medium Mass Nuclei: Deformed Shell Model and Spin-Isospin Interacting Boson Model*, CRC Press

- Assume axial symmetry
- Model space: a set single-particle (sp) orbitals + an effective two-body Hamiltonian
- Lowest-energy intrinsic states: by solving the HF single-particle equation self-consistently.
- Excited intrinsic configurations: via particle-hole excitations over the lowest intrinsic state.
- **Problem!** Intrinsic states  $|\chi_K(\eta)\rangle$ : do not have definite angular momenta

**States of good angular momentum**, projected from an intrinsic state  $|\chi_K(\eta)\rangle$

$$|\psi_{MK}^J(\eta)\rangle = \frac{2J+1}{8\pi^2\sqrt{N_{JK}}} \int d\Omega D_{MK}^{J*}(\Omega) R(\Omega) |\chi_K(\eta)\rangle,$$

where  $N_{JK}$  is the normalization constant given by

$$N_{JK} = \frac{2J+1}{2} \int_0^\pi d\beta \sin \beta d_{KK}^J(\beta) \langle \chi_K(\eta) | e^{-i\beta J_y} | \chi_K(\eta) \rangle.$$

- $R(\Omega) = \exp(-i\alpha J_z) \exp(-i\beta J_y) \exp(-i\gamma J_z)$ : general rotation operator
- $\Omega$ : the Euler angles ( $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ )
- $|\psi_{MK}^J(\alpha)\rangle$  projected from different intrinsic states are not in general orthogonal to each other

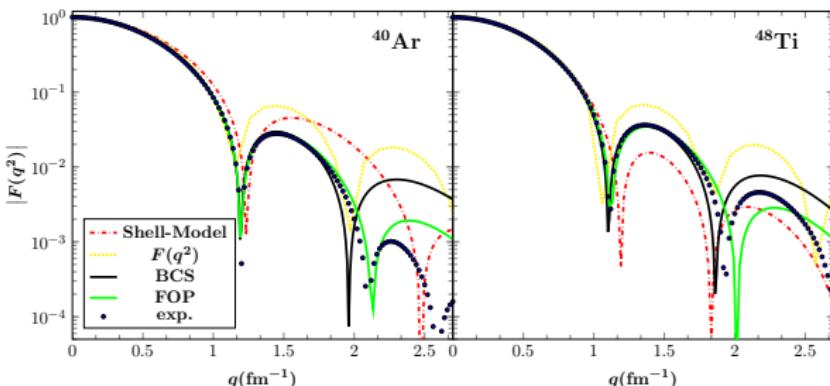
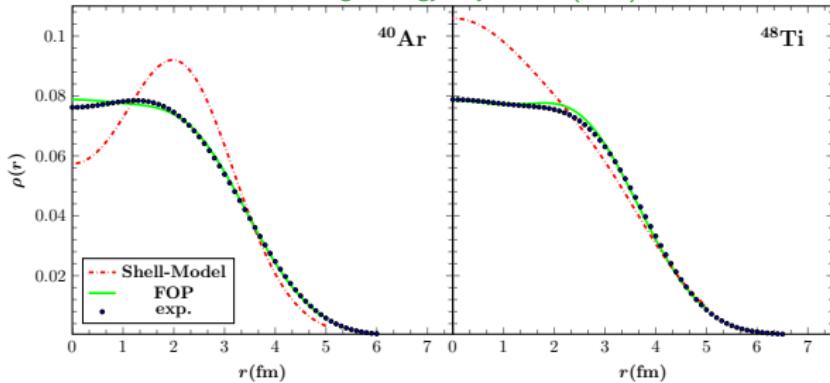
Band mixing calculations are performed after appropriate orthonormalization. The resulting eigenfunctions are of the form

$$|\Phi_M^J(\eta)\rangle = \sum_{K,\alpha} S_{K\eta}^J(\alpha) |\psi_{MK}^J(\alpha)\rangle, \quad S_{K\eta}^J(\alpha) : \text{expansion coefficients}$$

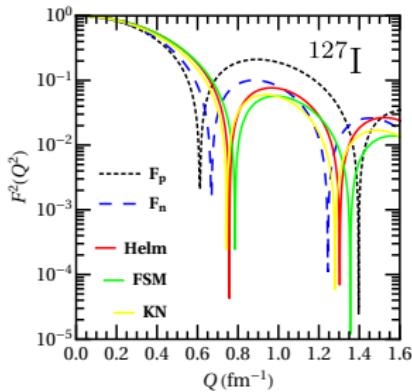
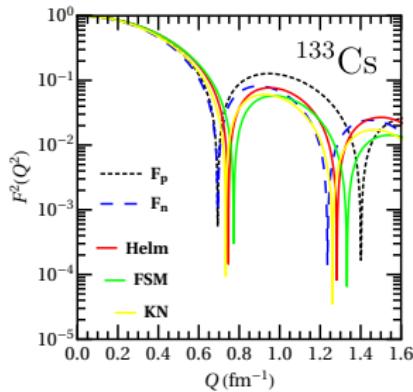
The nuclear matrix elements occurring in the calculation of magnetic moments, elastic and inelastic spin structure functions etc. are evaluated using the wave functions  $|\Phi_M^J(\eta)\rangle$ .

# Comparison of the nuclear methods

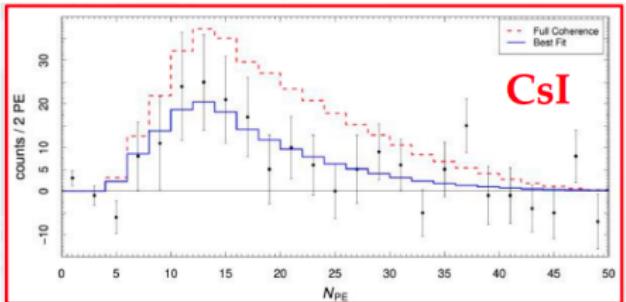
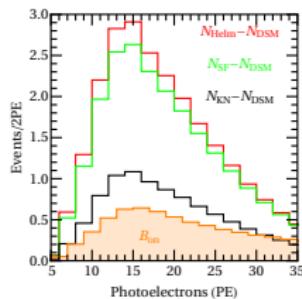
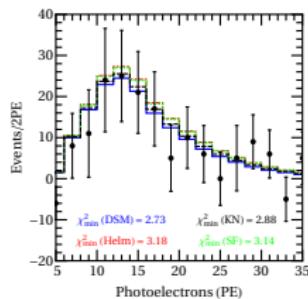
DKP, Kosmas, Adv.High Energy Phys. 2015 (2015) 763648



# Impact of form factor on CE $\nu$ NS: COHERENT exp.

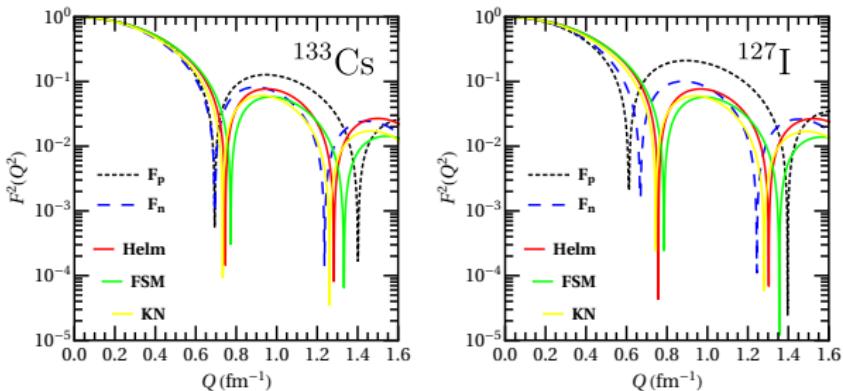


[DKP, Kosmas, Sahu, Kota, Hota PLB 800 (2020) 135133]

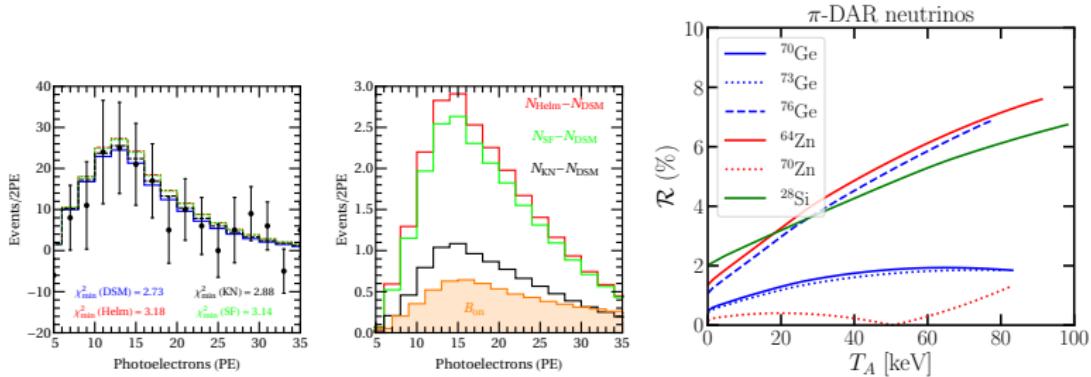


M. Cadeddu et al. - Phys.Rev.D 101 (2020) 3, 033004

# Impact of form factor on CE $\nu$ NS: COHERENT exp.



[DKP, Kosmas, Sahu, Kota, Hota PLB 800 (2020) 135133]



Up to 8% difference in the theoretical event rates

# Incoherent neutrino-nucleus scattering

## Naumov Bednyakov formalism

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{inc}}}{dT_A} = \frac{4G_F^2 m_A}{\pi} \sum_{f=n,p} g_{\text{inc}}^f (1 - |F_f|^2) \times \left[ A_+^f \left( (g_{L,f} - g_{R,f} ab^2)^2 + g_{R,f}^2 ab^2 (1-a) \right) + A_-^f g_{R,f}^2 (1-a) (1-a+ab^2) \right]. \quad (1)$$

$$a = \frac{q^2}{q_{\min}^2} \simeq \frac{T_A}{T_A^{\max}}, \quad b^2 = \frac{m_f^2}{s}. \quad (2)$$

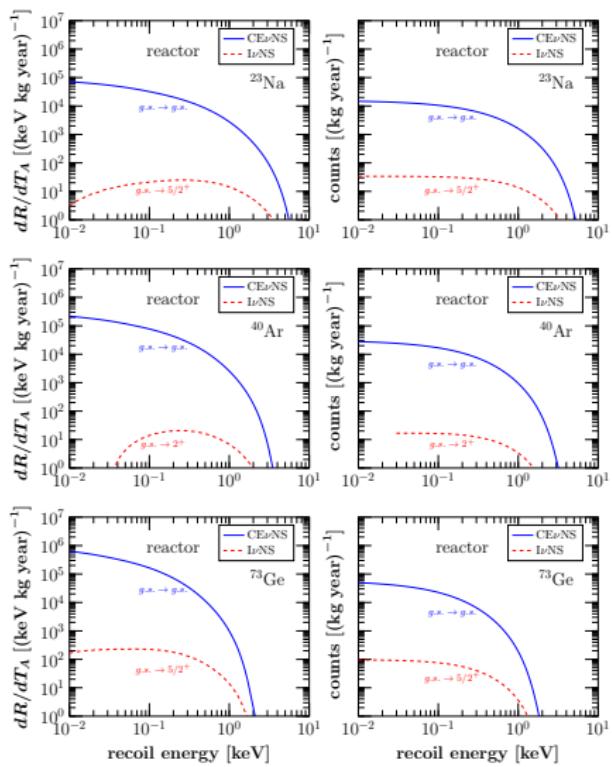
Here,  $A_{\pm}^p \equiv Z_{\pm}$  ( $A_{\pm}^n \equiv N_{\pm}$ ) represents the number of protons (neutrons) with spin  $\pm 1/2$  and  $s = (p+k)^2$  is the total energy squared in the center-of-mass frame ( $p$  denotes an effective 4-momentum of the nucleon).

[Bednyakov, Naumov, PRD 98 (2018) 053004]

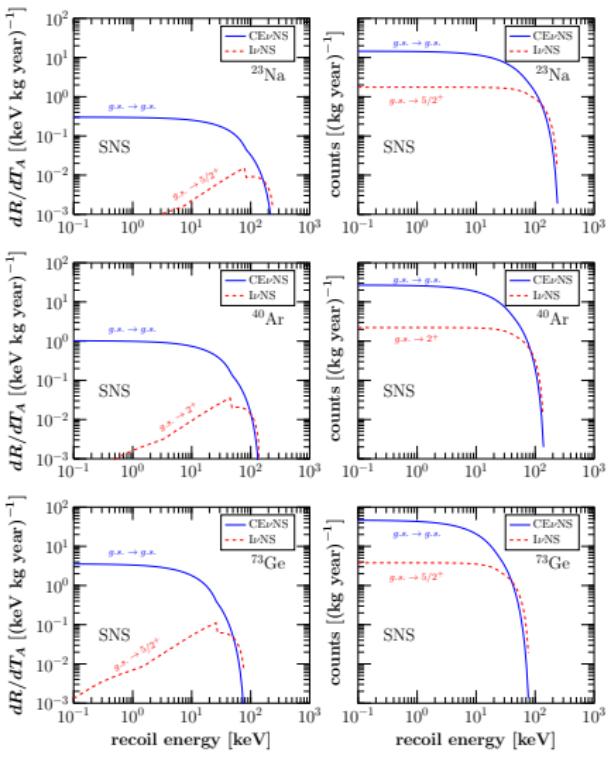
For a more detailed study see: [Hoferichter, Menéndez, Schwenk PRD 102, 074018]

# Incoherent vs. Coherent rates: $\pi$ DAR and reactors

## reactor neutrinos

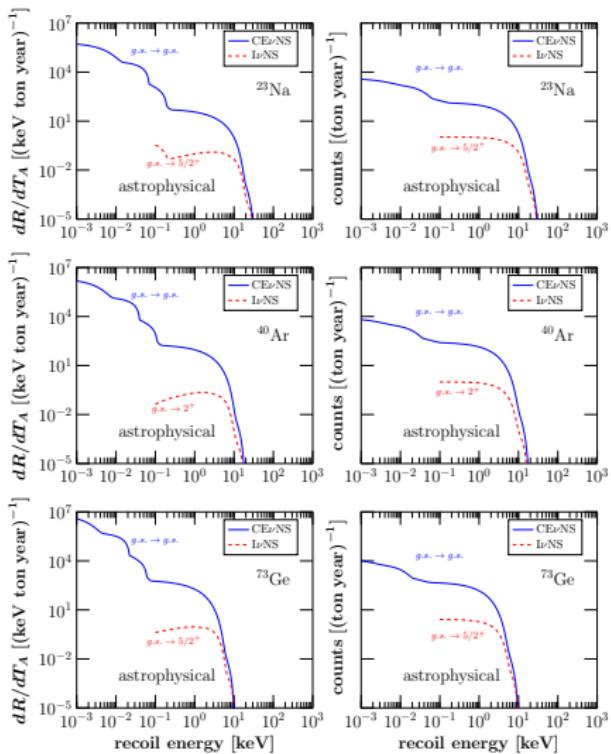
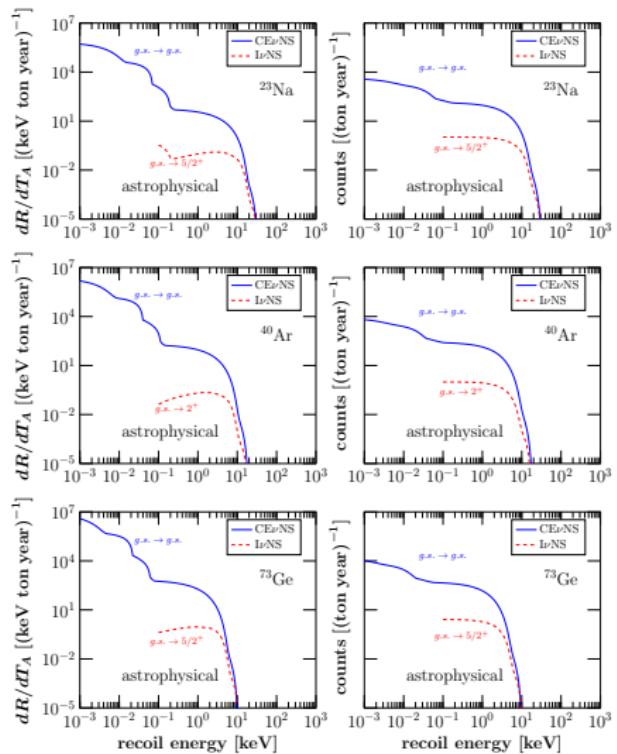


## $\pi$ DAR neutrinos



# Incoherent vs. Coherent rates: solar neutrinos

## Solar neutrinos



[Sahu, DKP, Kota, Kosmas, PRC 102 (2020) 3, 035501]

# Incoherent calculations: multipole expansion

- Interaction Hamiltonian for neutral-current (NC) neutrino-nucleus scattering

$$\langle f | \hat{H}_{\text{eff}} | i \rangle = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \int d^3x \langle \ell_f | \hat{j}_\mu^{\text{lept}}(x) | \ell_i \rangle \langle J_f | \hat{\mathcal{J}}^\mu(x) | J_i \rangle$$

with  $\langle \ell_f | \hat{j}_\mu^{\text{lept}} | \ell_i \rangle = \bar{\nu}_\alpha \gamma_\mu (1 - \gamma_5) \nu_\alpha e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$ ,  $\mathbf{q}$ : 3 – momentum transfer

- In the Donnelly-Walecka multipole decomposition method, the NC, double diff. SM cross section from an initial  $|J_i\rangle$  to a final  $|J_f\rangle$  nuclear state ([constructed explicitly through QRPA realistic nuclear structure calculations](#)), reads

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2\sigma_{i \rightarrow f}}{d\Omega d\omega} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi} \frac{\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_f}{(2J_i + 1)} \left( \sum_{J=0}^{\infty} \sigma_{\text{CL}}^J + \sum_{J=1}^{\infty} \sigma_{\text{T}}^J \right)},$$

$\varepsilon_i$  ( $\varepsilon_f$ ) is the initial (final) neutrino energy and  $\omega$  is the nucleus excitation energy.

- Contributions to  $\sigma_{\text{CL}}^J$  (Coulomb-longitudinal) and  $\sigma_{\text{T}}^J$  (transverse electric-magnetic) components [[Donnelly and Peccei, Phys. Rept. 50 \(1979\) 1](#)]

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{CL}}^J &= (1 + a \cos \theta) |\langle J_f || \hat{\mathcal{M}}_J(\kappa) || J_i \rangle|^2 + (1 + a \cos \theta - 2b \sin^2 \theta) |\langle J_f || \hat{\mathcal{L}}_J(\kappa) || J_i \rangle|^2 \\ &\quad + \left[ \frac{\omega}{\kappa} (1 + a \cos \theta) + d \right] 2\Re e |\langle J_f || \hat{\mathcal{L}}_J(\kappa) || J_i \rangle| |\langle J_f || \hat{\mathcal{M}}_J(\kappa) || J_i \rangle|^*, \\ \sigma_{\text{T}}^J &= (1 - a \cos \theta + b \sin^2 \theta) \left[ |\langle J_f || \hat{\mathcal{T}}_J^{\text{mag}}(\kappa) || J_i \rangle|^2 + |\langle J_f || \hat{\mathcal{T}}_J^{\text{el}}(\kappa) || J_i \rangle|^2 \right] \\ &\quad \mp \left[ \frac{(\varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_f)}{\kappa} (1 - a \cos \theta) - d \right] 2\Re e |\langle J_f || \hat{\mathcal{T}}_J^{\text{mag}}(\kappa) || J_i \rangle| |\langle J_f || \hat{\mathcal{T}}_J^{\text{el}}(\kappa) || J_i \rangle|^* \end{aligned}}$$

from kinematics:  $a = 1$ ,  $b = \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_f / \kappa^2$ ,  $d = 0$  and  $\kappa = |\mathbf{q}|$

# Evaluation of the Nuclear Matrix Elements

- Seven new operators are defined (proton-neutron representation) as

$$\begin{aligned} T_1^{JM} &\equiv M_M^J(\kappa r) = \delta_{LJ} j_L(\kappa r) Y_M^L(\hat{r}), \\ T_2^{JM} &\equiv \Sigma_M^J(\kappa r) = \mathbf{M}_M^{JJ} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \\ T_3^{JM} &\equiv \Sigma'^J_M(\kappa r) = -i \left[ \frac{1}{\kappa} \nabla \times \mathbf{M}_M^{JJ}(\kappa r) \right] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \\ T_4^{JM} &\equiv \Sigma''^J_M(\kappa r) = \left[ \frac{1}{\kappa} \nabla M_M^J(\kappa r) \right] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \\ T_5^{JM} &\equiv \Delta_M^J(\kappa r) = \mathbf{M}_M^{JJ}(\kappa r) \cdot \frac{1}{\kappa} \nabla, \\ T_6^{JM} &\equiv \Delta'^J_M(\kappa r) = -i \left[ \frac{1}{\kappa} \nabla \times \mathbf{M}_M^{JJ}(\kappa r) \right] \cdot \frac{1}{\kappa} \nabla, \\ T_7^{JM} &\equiv \Omega_M^J(\kappa r) = M_M^J(\kappa r) \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \frac{1}{\kappa} \nabla. \end{aligned}$$

Closed compact analytic formulae for the single-particle reduced ME (upper) and many-body reduced ME (lower) for QRPA calculations, are deduced.

$$\langle (n_1 \ell_1) j_1 || T_i^J || (n_2 \ell_2) j_2 \rangle = e^{-y} y^{\beta/2} \sum_{\mu=0}^{n_{max}} \mathcal{P}_{\mu}^{i, J} y^{\mu}, \quad y = (\kappa b/2)^2, \quad n_{max} = (N_1 + N_2 - \beta)/2, \quad N_i = 2n_i + \ell_i$$

$$\langle f || \widehat{T}^J || 0_{gs}^+ \rangle = \sum_{j_2 \geq j_1} \frac{\langle j_2 || \widehat{T}^J || j_1 \rangle}{\hat{J}} \left[ X_{j_2 j_1} u_{j_2}^{p(n)} v_{j_1}^{p(n)} + Y_{j_2 j_1} v_{j_2}^{p(n)} u_{j_1}^{p(n)} \right]$$

[Chasioti, Kosmas NPA 829 (2009) 234]

P.G. Giannaka, D.K. Papoulias, T.S. Kosmas, unpublished (for any configuration  $(j_1, j_2)J$ )

# Electromagnetic neutrino properties

# Electromagnetic contribution to CE $\nu$ NS cross section

The Electromagnetic CE $\nu$ NS cross section reads [Vogel, Engel.: PRD 39 [1989] 3378]

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_A} \right)_{\text{EM}} = \frac{\pi a_{\text{EM}}^2 \mu_\nu^2 Z^2}{m_e^2} \left( \frac{1 - T_A/E_\nu}{T_A} \right) F^2(Q^2).$$

- can be dominant for sub-keV threshold experiments
- may lead to detectable distortions of the recoil spectrum

The helicity preserving SM cross section adds incoherently with the helicity-violating EM cross section

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_A} \right)_{\text{tot}} = \left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_A} \right)_{\text{SM}} + \left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_A} \right)_{\text{EM}}$$

$\mu_\nu^2$  is the effective neutrino magnetic moment in the mass basis relevant to a given neutrino beam (reactor, SNS, etc.)

- Experimental measurements usually constrain some process-dependent effective parameter combination
- needs to be expressed in terms of fundamental parameters (TMMs + CP phases + mixing-angles)
- Even in the case of laboratory neutrino experiments, where the initial neutrino flux is fixed to have a well determined given flavor, there is no sensitivity to the final neutrino state

# Analysis of the COHERENT data: EM properties

- Neutrino magnetic moment contribution

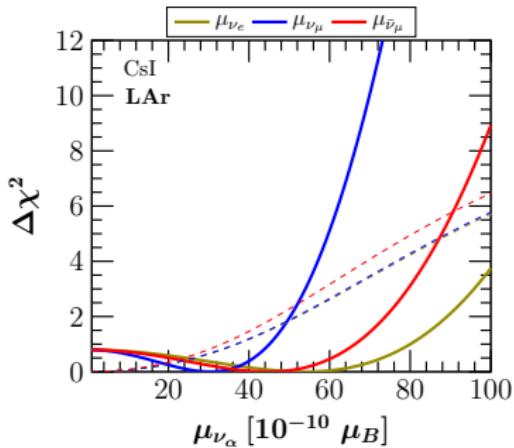
$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{dT_N} \right)_{\text{SM+EM}} = \mathcal{G}_{\text{EM}}(E_\nu, T_N) \frac{d\sigma_{\text{SM}}}{dT_N},$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{\text{EM}} = 1 + \frac{1}{G_F^2 M} \left( \frac{\mathcal{Q}_{\text{EM}}}{\mathcal{Q}_W^V} \right)^2 \frac{\frac{1-T_N/E_\nu}{T_N}}{1 - \frac{MT_N}{2E_\nu^2}}.$$

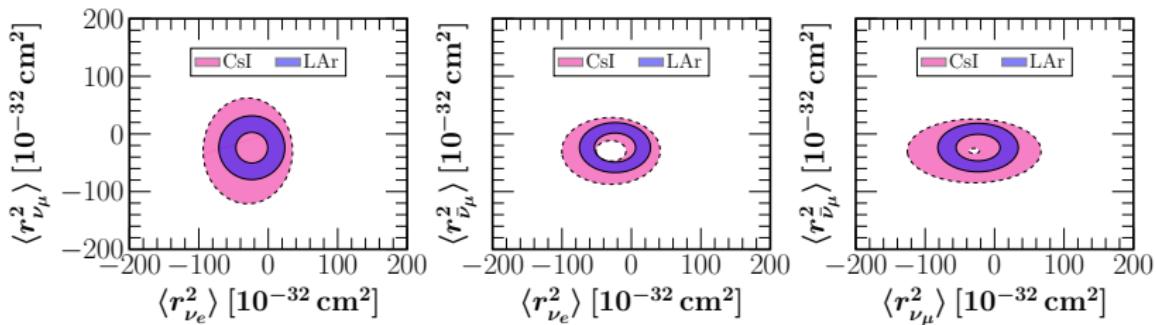
- EM charge:  $\mathcal{Q}_{\text{EM}} = \frac{\pi a_{\text{EM}} \mu \nu \alpha}{m_e} Z$   
[Vogel, Engel: PRD 39 [1989] 3378]

- Neutrino charge radius

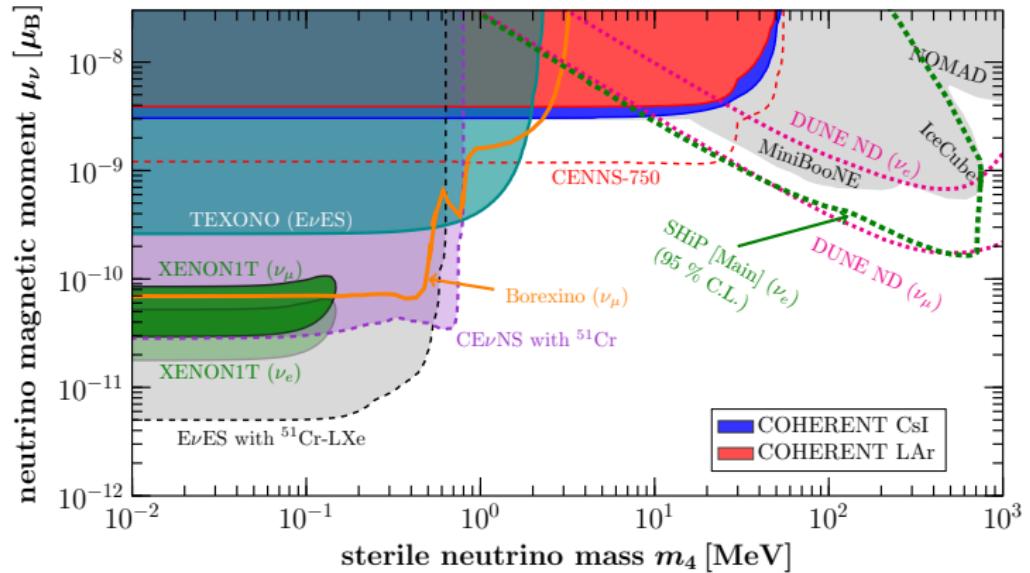
$$\sin^2 \theta_W \rightarrow \sin^2 \overline{\theta_W} + \frac{\sqrt{2}\pi a_{\text{EM}}}{3G_F} \langle r_{\nu\alpha}^2 \rangle.$$



Miranda et al. JHEP 05 (2020) 130



# Active-sterile transitions via magnetic moment



stay tuned! [Miranda, DKP, Sanders, Tórtola, arXiv:2109.XXXX]

poster ID#58 (room E) by Oscar Sanders

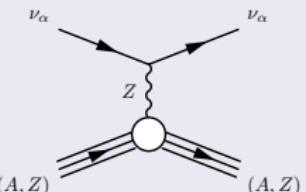
**SPOILER ALERT!**

# Summary

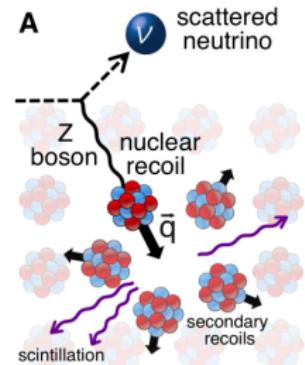
## CE $\nu$ NS

$$\nu_\alpha + (A, Z) \rightarrow \nu_\alpha + (A, Z), \quad \alpha = (e, \mu, \tau)$$

- Finally observed on CsI (2017) and LAr (2020)  
(other: MINER, TEXONO, CONNIE, Ricochet,  $\nu$ GEN,  $\nu$ -cleus etc.)
- CONUS, CONNIE (hints)
- Very high experimental sensitivity (low detector threshold) is required



- largest theoretical uncertainty coming nuclear physics
- sensitive to nuclear charge radii
- can probe electromagnetic neutrino properties



Thank you for your attention !