## First-principles QCD calculation of the neutron lifetime

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INT Chris Monahan
William \& Mary

Kostas Orginos

Neutron Lifetime Measurements

$$
\tau_{n}^{\mathrm{beam}}=888.0 \pm 2.0 \mathrm{~s}
$$

Neutron lifetime "puzzle"

$$
\tau_{n}^{\text {bottle }}=879.6 \pm 0.6 \mathrm{~s}
$$

Serebrov et al. Phys. Rev. C 97 (055503) 2018
Weighted average
$879.5 \pm 0.8$ (error scaled by 1.5)



* The discrepancy of $\sim 4 \sigma$ between different methods is still unresolved.
* Experiments are trying to reduce all their systematics and provide robust estimates for their uncertainties
* Neutron decays to "dark" or "exotic" particles have been invoked to explain the discrepancy
[Fornal\&Grinstein, PRL120(191801)2018]


## Exotic decays of the neutron

## neutron <br> proton



## Exotic decays of the neutron



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## Exotic decays of the neutron

## proton

"bottle"
method also
accounts for this
or

+ ??
* Experiments are already putting constraints on decays including photons and invisible particles
* Theorists are putting bounds on exotic decays by using neutron stars observations
* What else can we do?


## Neutron beta decay

- In the Standard Model, beta decay is driven by the electroweak sector
- The master formula includes the quark mixing matrix element, the neutron lifetime and the axial coupling:


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## Challenging systematics



## Exponentially bad signal-to-noise problem



## Challenging systematics



## Lattice QCD gauge configurations

| HISQ gauge configuration parameters |  |  |  |  |  |  | valence parameters |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| abbr. | $N_{\text {cfg }}$ | volume | $\begin{gathered} \sim a \\ {[\mathrm{fm}]} \end{gathered}$ | $m_{l} / m_{s}$ | $\begin{gathered} \sim m_{\pi_{5}} \\ {[\mathrm{MeV}]} \end{gathered}$ | $\sim m_{\pi_{5}} L$ | $N_{\text {src }}$ | $L_{5} / a$ | $a M_{5}$ | $b_{5}$ | $c_{5}$ | $a m_{l}^{\text {val. }}$ | $\sigma_{\text {smr }}$ | $N_{\text {smr }}$ |
| a15m400 | 1000 | $16^{3} \times 48$ | 0.15 | 0.334 | 400 | 4.8 | 8 | 12 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 0.0278 | 3.0 | 30 |
| a15m350 | 1000 | $16^{3} \times 48$ | 0.15 | 0.255 | 350 | 4.2 | 16 | 12 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 0.0206 | 3.0 | 30 |
| a15m310 | 1960 | $16^{3} \times 48$ | 0.15 | 0.2 | 310 | 3.8 | 24 | 12 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 0.01580 | 4.2 | 60 |
| a15m220 | 1000 | $24^{3} \times 48$ | 0.15 | 0.1 | 220 | 4.0 | 12 | 16 | 1.3 | 1.75 | 0.75 | 0.00712 | 4.5 | 60 |
| a15m130 | 1000 | $32^{3} \times 48$ | 0.15 | 0.036 | 130 | 3.2 | 5 | 24 | 1.3 | 2.25 | 1.25 | 0.00216 | 4.5 | 60 |
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| a09m400 | 1201 | $32^{3} \times 64$ | 0.09 | 0.335 | 400 | 5.8 | 8 | 6 | 1.1 | 1.25 | 0.25 | 0.0160 | 3.5 | 45 |
| a09m350 | 1201 | $32^{3} \times 64$ | 0.09 | 0.255 | 350 | 5.1 | 8 | 6 | 1.1 | 1.25 | 0.25 | 0.0121 | 3.5 | 45 |
| a09m310 | 784 | $32^{3} \times 96$ | 0.09 | 0.2 | 310 | 4.5 | 8 | 6 | 1.1 | 1.25 | 0.25 | 0.00951 | 7.5 | 167 |
| a09m220 | 1001 | $48^{3} \times 96$ | 0.09 | 0.1 | 220 | 4.7 | 6 | 8 | 1.1 | 1.25 | 0.25 | 0.00449 | 8.0 | 150 |

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16 ensembles with $\mathrm{N}_{\mathrm{f}}=2+1+1$ Highly Improved Staggered Quarks (HISQ) 5 pion masses, 3 lattice spacings, multiple volumes High statistics ensembles, publicly available

(1) SciDAC

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$\because$ Matrix element of the axial current between nucleon ground states

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## $\langle 0| N(t) A_{\mu}(\tau) N\left(t^{\prime}\right)|0\rangle$



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$\because$ Matrix element of the axial current between nucleon ground states

* Calculate a 3-point correlation function:



## $g_{A}$ from LQCD

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$\div 2$ independent time variables

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* Statistical noise increases rapidly with $\mathrm{t}_{\text {sep }}$



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\% Statistical noise increases rapidly with $\mathrm{t}_{\text {sep }}$
※ Excited states contributions disappear at large ( $\mathrm{t}_{\text {sep }}, \tau$ )


## Example of excited states contaminations

## Different lattice discretizations and gauge configurations


[LHPC arXiv:1703.06703]


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Need to fit in 2 variables: increased systematics

Should have a plateau at each $t_{\text {sep }}$ if no exc. states

## Improved method to reduce excited states




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Simple functional form to isolate ground state at small times

## Improved method to reduce excited states



$\checkmark$ Only one time variable parametrizes exc. states

## Simple functional form

 to isolate ground state at small times$=$ Reduced fitting systematics

- Extract exponentially better signal
$\checkmark$ Improved method contains summation of vertex over all space-time:
- Improved statistical sampling


## Extracting $g_{A}$ from LQCD data





## Extracting ga from LQCD data - extrapolations



## Chiral and Continuum Extrapolations

## SU(2) NNLO baryon xPT

 $m_{\pi}^{2}$ analytic $\quad g_{0}+c_{2} \epsilon_{\pi}^{2}+c_{4} \epsilon_{\pi}^{4}$ non-analytic $\quad-\epsilon_{\pi}^{2}\left(g_{0}+2 g_{0}^{3}\right) \ln \left(\epsilon_{\pi}^{2}\right)+g_{0} c_{3} \epsilon_{\pi}^{3}$ $a^{2}$ analytic $\quad a_{2} \epsilon_{a}^{2}+b_{4} \epsilon_{\pi}^{2} \epsilon_{a}^{2}+a_{4} \epsilon_{a}^{4}$$$
\text { NLO FV } \quad(8 / 3) \epsilon_{\pi}^{2}\left[g_{0}^{3} F_{1}\left(m_{\pi} L\right)+g_{0} F_{3}\left(m_{\pi} L\right)\right]
$$

* Try different chiral, continuum and infinite volume extrapolations, averaged under Bayes framework
* Based on ChPT, MAEFT, and a Taylor expansion around the physical point
* Fits with parameters that can not be constrained are neglected
$\star$ Study stability of fits, including variations of Bayes priors, additional discretization effects and cutting data


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$\epsilon_{\pi}=\frac{m_{\pi}}{4 \pi F_{\pi}} \quad \epsilon_{a}^{2}=\frac{1}{4 \pi} \frac{a^{2}}{\omega_{0}^{2}}$
e.g. Taylor exp. in quark mass
$a^{2}$ analytic $\quad a_{2} \epsilon_{a}^{2}+b_{4} \epsilon_{\pi}^{2} \epsilon_{a}^{2}+a_{4} \epsilon_{a}^{4}$

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## Extrapolation stability



$$
g_{A}^{\mathrm{QCD}}=1.2711(103)^{s}(39)^{\chi}(15)^{a}(19)^{V}(04)^{I}(55)^{M}
$$



| statistical | $0.81 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| chiral extrapolation | $0.31 \%$ |
| $a \rightarrow 0$ | $0.12 \%$ |
| $L \rightarrow \infty$ | $0.15 \%$ |
| isospin | $0.03 \%$ |
| model selection | $0.43 \%$ |
| total | $0.99 \%$ |

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First percent-level * result is limited by statistics determination of $g_{A}$ from LQCD

* new supercomputers help!
* all data is publicly available https://github.com/callat-qcd/project gA


## LQCD neutron lifetime

- Use LQCD values of the axial coupling and the light quark mixing matrix element

$$
\tau_{n}=\frac{4908.6(1.9) s}{\left|V_{u d}\right|^{2}\left(1+3 g_{A}{ }^{2}\right)}
$$

[Czarnecki, Marciano and Sirlin, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 202002 (2018)]

$$
\left|V_{u d}\right|=0.97438(12)
$$

[mLLC, Phys.Rev. D90, 077500 (2014)]

$$
g_{A}=1.271(13)
$$

[CalLat Nature 558, 91-94 (2018), arxiv:1805.12130]


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[Czarnecki, Marciano and Sirlin, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 202002 (2018)]

$$
\left|V_{u d}\right|=0.97438(12)
$$

[mLLC, Phys.Rev. D90, 077509 (2014)]

$$
g_{A}=1.271(13)
$$

[CalLat Nature 558, 91-94 (2018), arxiv:1805.12130]

## $\tau_{n}=884(15) s$




2018 Gordon Bell Finalist sc18.supercomputing.org/ presentation/?
id=gb101\&sess=sess467


Simulating the weak death of the neutron in a femtoscale universe with near-Exascale computing Evan Berkowitz, M.A. Clark, Arjun Gambhir, Ken McElvain, Amy Nicholson, Enrico Rinaldi, Pavlos Vranas, André Walker-Loud, Chia Cheng Chang, Bálint Joó, Thorsten Kurth, Kostas Orginos


Code development from Gordon Bell + initial Sierra Early Science time result. Increase 0.12 fm physical mass statistics by $\sim 5 x, 50 \%$ reduction in uncertainty. New 0.09 fm physical mass 322 configs $\times 4$ sources.
Preliminary update for $\mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{A}}=1.2670(97)$ $23 \%$ reduction in uncertainty $\rightarrow 0.77 \%$ relative error


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## Summary

$\checkmark$ The neutron lifetime is showing a discrepancy of $\sim 4 \sigma$ between different experimental methods
$\checkmark$ The Standard Model predicts a precise relation which allows us to obtain a theoretical value of the neutron lifetime using Lattice QCD nonperturbative calculations
$\checkmark$ The first percent-level calculations of the nucleon axial coupling has been obtained this year, ahead of expectations https://www.nature.com/ articles/s41586-018-0161-8
$\checkmark$ Statistical uncertainties $\sim 0.8 \%$ can be reduced with the next generation of supercomputers (we "only" used the no. 7 and 33 of the June 2018 top500 list of supercomputers: https:// www.top500.org/lists/2018/061)
$\checkmark$ A more accurate calculation at the physical point using the no. 1 and 3 top500 has been accepted as one of the six finalists in the Gordon Bell competition, recognizing outstanding achievement in high-performance computing (https://awards.acm.org/bell)


## thank you

## extra slides

background and more plots



Taylor in $\mathrm{m}_{\pi}$


Taylor in $\left(m_{\pi}\right)^{2}$


XPT

## Different models for extrapolation

| Fit |  |  |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\chi^{2} /$ dof | $\mathcal{L}\left(D \mid M_{k}\right)$ | $P\left(M_{k} \mid D\right)$ | $P\left(g_{A} \mid M_{k}\right)$ |  |
| NNLO $\chi$ PT | 0.727 | 22.734 | 0.033 | $1.273(19)$ |
| NNLO+ct $\chi$ PT | 0.726 | 22.729 | 0.033 | $1.273(19)$ |
| NLO Taylor $\epsilon_{\pi}^{2}$ | 0.792 | 24.887 | 0.287 | $1.266(09)$ |
| NNLO Taylor $\epsilon_{\pi}^{2}$ | 0.787 | 24.897 | 0.284 | $1.267(10)$ |
| NLO Taylor $\epsilon_{\pi}$ | 0.700 | 24.855 | 0.191 | $1.276(10)$ |
| NNLO Taylor $\epsilon_{\pi}$ | 0.674 | 24.848 | 0.172 | $1.280(14)$ |
| average |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $1.271(11)(06)$ |  |

Axial coupling, $\mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{A}}$

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* Relates the nucleon spin to its contribution from light quarks
$\because$ Fundamental property in lowenergy nuclear physics that dictates how the neutron decays (via $\beta$ decay)
* Very well determined experimentally $\sim 0.2 \%$ (from angular correlations in cold neutron decays)


## Practical implementation

$$
\left.\frac{\partial m_{\lambda}^{e f f}(t, \tau)}{\partial \lambda}\right|_{\lambda=0}=\frac{1}{\tau}\left[\frac{-\partial_{\lambda} C_{\lambda}(t+\tau)}{C(t+\tau)}-\frac{-\partial_{\lambda} C_{\lambda}(t)}{C(t)}\right]
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## Feynman-Hellmann propagator

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\mathcal{O}=S_{F H}(y, x)=\sum_{z} S(y, z) \Gamma(z) S(z, x)
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$$
N_{J}(t)=\sum_{t^{\prime}}\langle\Omega| T\left\{O(t) J\left(t^{\prime}\right) O^{\dagger}(0)\right\}|\Omega\rangle
$$

3-pt function becomes a 2pt function with FH-prop

## Smeared Möbius Domain Wall fermions - I

$\checkmark$ Mixed Action (MA) Lattice QCD

- tradeoff between
"economical" gauge
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## Smeared Möbius Domain Wall fermions - ।

$\checkmark$ Mixed Action (MA) Lattice QCD

- tradeoff between "economical" gauge configurations and good precision
$\checkmark$ Good chiral symmetry properties:
- reduce sources of systematics (small lattice artifacts)
- simplify treatment of the EFT needed to extrapolate to the continuum and physical pion limit



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## Smeared Möbius Domain Wall fermions - II

$\checkmark$ Gradient flow smeared gauge links

- parametrized by $\mathrm{tgf}_{\mathrm{gf}}$
$\checkmark$ Reduces sources of residual chiral symmetry breaking
- mres is exponentially damped with $L_{5}$
- $Z_{A}$ has suppressed lattice spacing dependence and is
 close to unity
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## Improvement of statistical and extrapolation uncertainties

## Smeared Möbius Domain Wall fermions - III

$\checkmark$ Chiral and continuum extrapolation at various $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{gf}}$ values:

- 3 lattice spacings, 2 pion masses
- include $\mathrm{a}^{2}$ effects and NLO ChiralPT terms
- negligible finite volume effects
$\checkmark$ No dependence on $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{gf}}$ and results are consistent with "world average" from FLAG



## Extracting ga from LQCD data






New method for matrix elements

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*relates matrix elements to linear variations in the energy spectrum with respect to external source

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& \frac{\partial E_{n}}{\partial \lambda}=\langle n| H_{\lambda}|n\rangle \\
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* related to the background field method (but no need for multiple field values) [NPLQCD arxiv:1610.04545]

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## References related to the new method

## Similar methods (other FH / GEVP):

J. Bulava et. al. JHEP 01,140 (2012)
F. Bernardoni et. al. Phys. Lett. B740, 278-284 (2015)
A.J. Chambers et. al. Phys. Rev. D 90, 014510
A.J. Chambers et. al. Phys. Rev. D 92, 114517
M.J. Savage et. al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 062002

Similar fit function:
S. Capitani et. al. Phys. Rev. D 86, 074502

Similar propagator construction:
L. Maiani et. al. Nucl. Phys. B293 (1987)
G.M. de Divitiis et. al. Phys. Lett. B718 (2012)

## Lattice QCD - basics




- Discretize space and time
- lattice spacing "a"
- lattice size "L"
- Keep all d.o.f. of the theory
- not a model!
- no simplifications
- Amenable to numerical methods
- Monte Carlo sampling
- use supercomputers
- Precisely quantifiable and improvable errors
- Systematic
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