Necessary ingredients toward a truly model-independent description of light and medium mass nuclei

INT workshop

Chiral EFT: New Perspectives

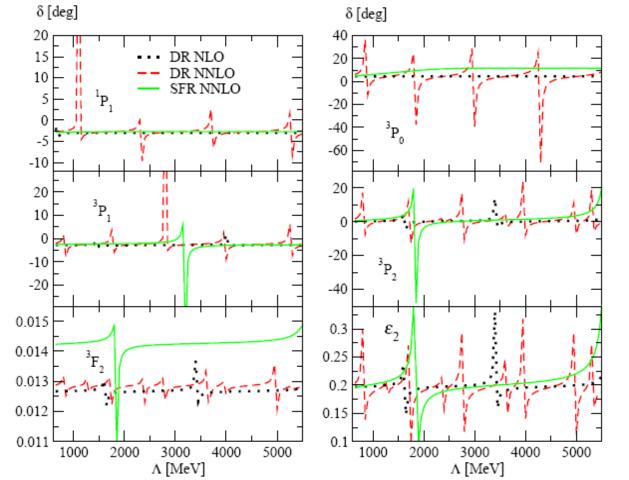
Chieh-Jen (Jerry) Yang

March 19, 2025



Problems of WPC

WPC is wrong at LO ! (Nogga, Timmermans, van Kolck, PRC 72 (2005) 054006)
Beyond LO: (Yang, Elster, Phillips (2008-2010))



Same story for: N3LO WPC

Ch. Zeoli, R. Machleidt and D. R. Entem, Few-body syst., 54, 12, 2191 (2012) In short, WPC might be WPP (pragmatic proposal) (many in-debate issues, but not the topic today) More details/opinions could be found in:

Few Body Syst. 62 (2021) 4, 85

and

Few Body Syst. 63, no.2, 44 (2022)

Nuclear Effective Field Theories: Reverberations of the early days

What Can Possibly Go Wrong?

Harald. W. Grießhammer

U. van Kolck

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Received: date / Accepted: date



July 27, 2021

The cause of the problem

1. The solution of Schrodinger Eq. with a singular V($\sim 1/r^n$ with n ≥ 2) requires suitable boundary conditions (BC) to be meaningful.

2. However, such BC-requirements *contradict* with contact terms given by WPC.

3. At each order: BC-requirements \neq contact terms within WPC.

Root: mathematically they don't match!

This is **not** going to be solved by including higher-order terms in WPC! (though at <u>NN-level</u>, the problem might be tamed by applying a soft-cutoff $\Lambda \leq M_{hi}$) Keep this in mind

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Fully non-perturbative treatment of V

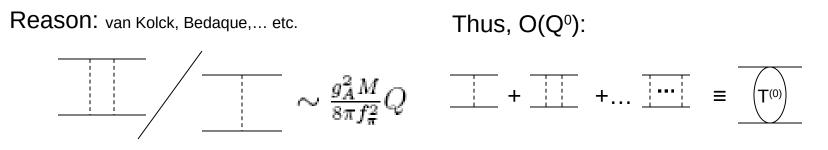
Logical solution: Don't do that, do DWBA instead!

By doing that, need to modify NDA also. NDA is just an estimate, not always works (c.f. Martin's Monday talk for 1 baryon)

New power counting Decided by RG

Long & Yang, (2010-2012)

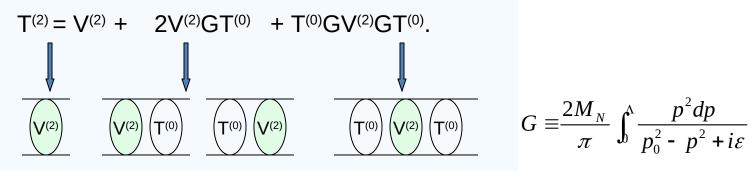
LO: Still iterate to all order (at least for I<2).



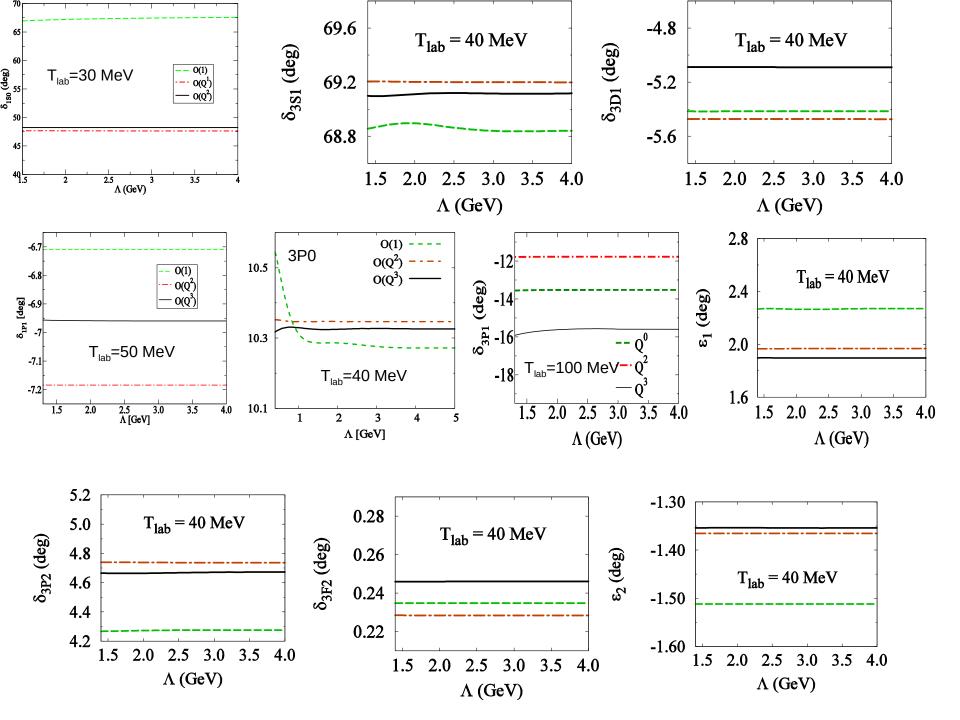
Start at NLO, do perturbation.

 $(\mathsf{T} = \mathsf{T}^{(0)} + \mathsf{T}^{(1)} + \mathsf{T}^{(2)} + \mathsf{T}^{(3)} + \dots)$

If V⁽¹⁾ is absent:



 $\mathsf{T}^{(3)} = \mathsf{V}^{(3)} + 2\mathsf{V}^{(3)}\mathsf{G}\mathsf{T}^{(0)} + \mathsf{T}^{(0)}\mathsf{G}\mathsf{V}^{(3)}\mathsf{G}\mathsf{T}^{(0)}.$



A side note: be careful when renormalizing under DWBA

C.-J. Yang, arXiv:2410.08845 [nucl-th]

- |WF>=|WF_LO>+|WF_NLO>+...
- So when renormalizing the perturbative contribution, .e.g, <WF_LO|Contact term|WF_LO>, demanding an exact accuracy to fix LECs at particular E could lead to contradictions.

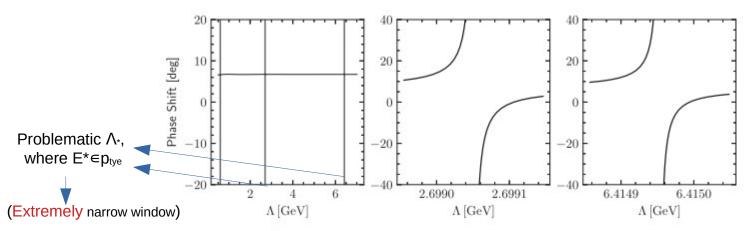
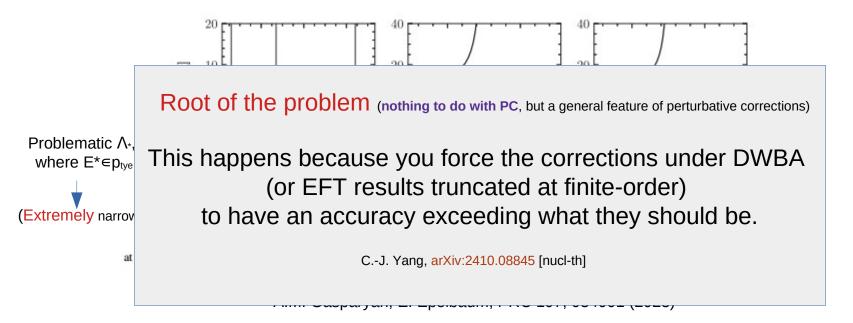


FIG. 5. Cutoff dependence of ${}^{3}P_{0}$ phase shift calculated at the fixed laboratory energy of $T_{lab} = 130$ MeV using the approach of Ref. [30] at NLO. The middle and right panels show zoomed regions in the vicinity of two exceptional cutoffs.

A.M. Gasparyan, E. Epelbaum, PRC 107, 034001 (2023)

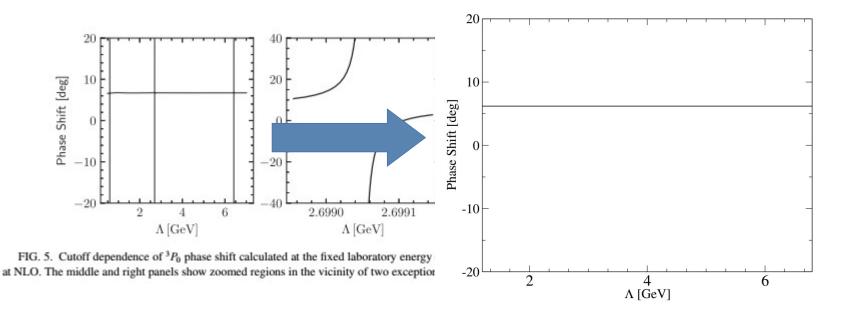
One needs to be careful when renormalizing under DWBA

- |WF>=|WF_LO>+|WF_NLO>+...
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For PC of Long & Yang

• Adopting $xf_a(\Lambda)+(1-x)f_b(\Lambda+\Lambda/1000)$ (or: f_a sharp cutoff, f_b as a super-gaussian) solves the issue.



C.-J. Yang, arXiv:2410.08845 [nucl-th]

So <u>RG is satisfied at NN-level</u> now Question: Is this behavior extendable from interaction-level to all nuclei?

Answer: In principle yes, but...

One example (Pionless EFT)

NN-only \rightarrow fine for deutron \rightarrow Thomas collapsing for triton

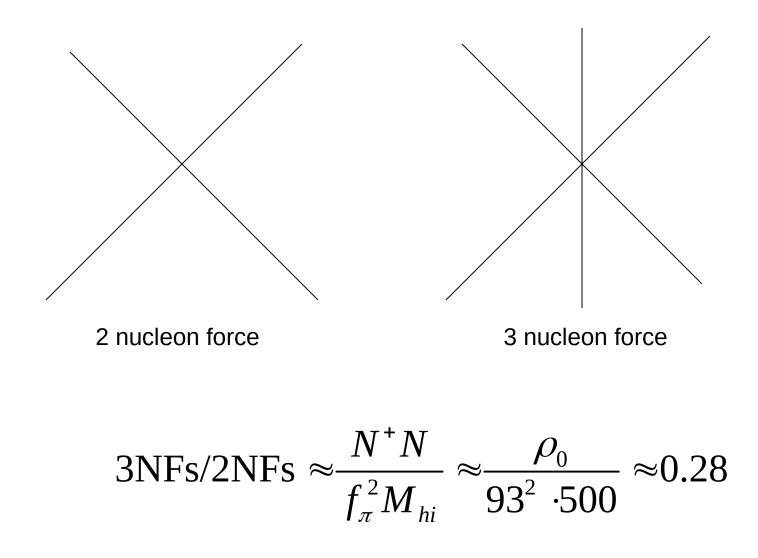
Heuristic reason: (U. van Kolck, Les Houches Lectures on Effective Field Theories for Nuclear and (some) Atomic Physics 2019):

Number of pairs of two-body interactions in an A-body system is A(A-1)/2, while the corresponding appearance of the kinetic term is A-1 (one of the kinetic terms goes into the total c.m. of the system).

For A=3, the interaction pairs consist of v12, v23 and v13, but are only accompanied by two kinetic terms. The extra pair of the purely attractive interaction (becomes sharp δ at $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$) causes the system to collapse.

Solution without destroying PC at NN ---> Promote **3NF** to LO! RG-based promotion

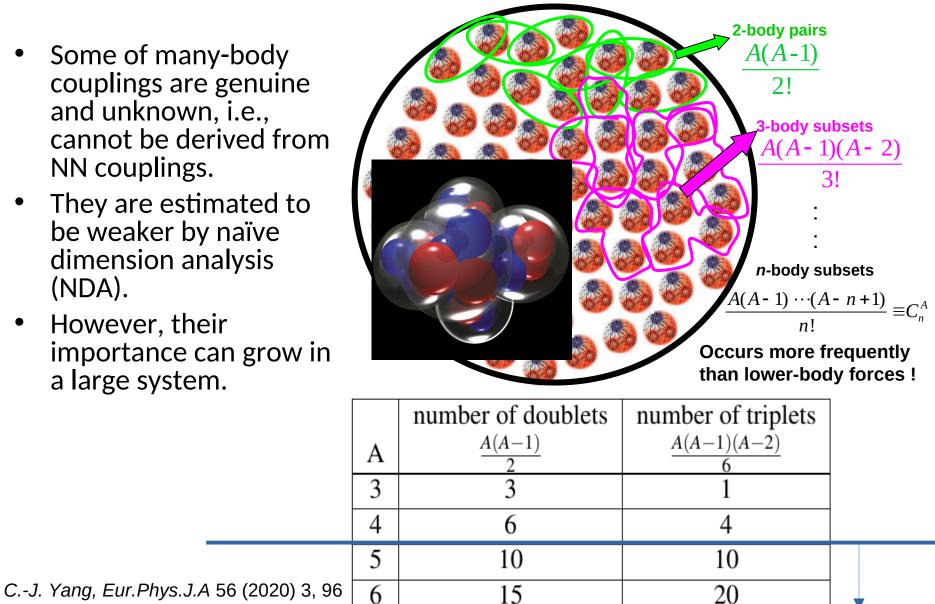
Naïve dimensional analysis (NDA)



However, NDA doesn't take A into account!

Many-body forces in complex systems

- Some of many-body couplings are genuine and unknown, i.e., cannot be derived from NN couplings.
- They are estimated to be weaker by naïve dimension analysis (NDA).
- However, their importance can grow in a large system.



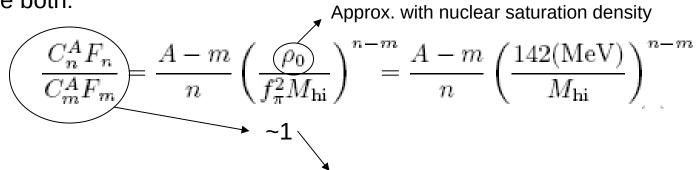
"A choose n" enhancements
$$C_n^A = \frac{A(A-1)(A-2)...(A-n+1)}{n!}$$

- In a self-bound system, the above enhancement won't be fully counted. For example, an n-body subset will have nearly zero contribution if its constituents span a distance much larger than the range of the n-body forces. → density saturates, not → ∞.
- On the other hand, those small contributions could still add up to become sizable, due to the fact that there are many of them.
- Thus, the growth of n-body forces in large systems depends on multiple factors such as the range and the form of interactions, the mass of particles, etc., → Require actual ab-initio calculations to check the PC.

Another ingredient of promoting 3NF and 4NF

• Combine NDA and "A choose n":

Combine both:



NN and NNN becomes the same important starting from A=13-26 (M_{hi}=500-1000 MeV)

*NNN and NNNN becomes the same important starting from A=17-34.

*5⁺-body force is more suppressed (s≥1), only equal to NNNN after A>500.

As nuclear forces are short-range, the enhancement can be weaker.

Opposite opinions (from various resources)

(A2) (A2) $\begin{pmatrix} A \\ i < j < k = 1 \\ V_{ijk} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{6}A(A-1)\langle V(\sqrt{2}\vec{\eta}_{A-1}) \rangle$ Total from NN=(combinatorial factor)*(V_NN) (A4) $\begin{pmatrix} A \\ i < j < k = 1 \\ V_{ijk} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{6}A(A-1)(A-2)\langle V(\vec{\vartheta}_{A-2},\vec{\eta}_{A-1}) \rangle$ Total from NNN=(combinatorial factor)*(V_NN) (A4) $\begin{pmatrix} A \\ i < j < k = 1 \\ V_{ijk} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{6}A(A-1)(A-2)\langle V(\vec{\vartheta}_{A-2},\vec{\eta}_{A-1}) \rangle$ Total from NNN=(combinatorial factor)*(V_NN) Combinatorial factor)*(V_NN)

- 2. Nucleons only interact with nearby nucleons (i.e., the factor is there, but is weaken to a negligible degree)
- => Model space to converge ab-initio ≉ Hartree-Fock → The impact of not nearby interaction in nuclear binding will be ≥ the size of |(converged result) (HF)|.
 => Compare **the same weakening** in NN to NNN (i.e., weakening also applies to NN).
 => The growing of NNN does stop at saturation (A≈56), with the exception of extreme conditions (e.g., the core of a neutron star).
- 3. Not enough evidence (e.g., Bayesian analysis on WPC does not see such a need).

=> So far it also says **WPC is o.k.** on almost everything (if Λ is restricted). => The wrong pole at LO without NNN **only shows up when \Lambda>500 MeV**.

Heuristic opposite opinions (regarding the sign of 3NF)

1. Normally the contribution of 3NF is repulsive (to prevent Thomas collapsing for triton). But for Λ >600 MeV, you need overall attractive 3NF. Maybe a too high Λ causes the LO 2NF (i.e., OPE) to lose "the range".

2. Interactions within EDF have repulsive 3-body/density-dep term.

=> Thus the problem is mainly 2NF instead of 3NF.

Answer to opposite opinions:

1. EDF stops at HF, i.e., finite and low- Λ . For low- Λ , 3NF indeed provides repulsion (which is the case for our Λ =450 MeV), but it needs not to keep the sign always.

2. In EFT everything runs with cutoff. LECs could run from $-\infty$ to ∞ (limit-cycle) across Λ . Since LECs in both 2NF and 3NF run with Λ , there will be a "good" cutoff/regulator that the effect of cD, cE cancels with each other and minimizes 3NF \rightarrow traditionally accounted that "cutoff/regulator/things providing the range" into V_{nn}.

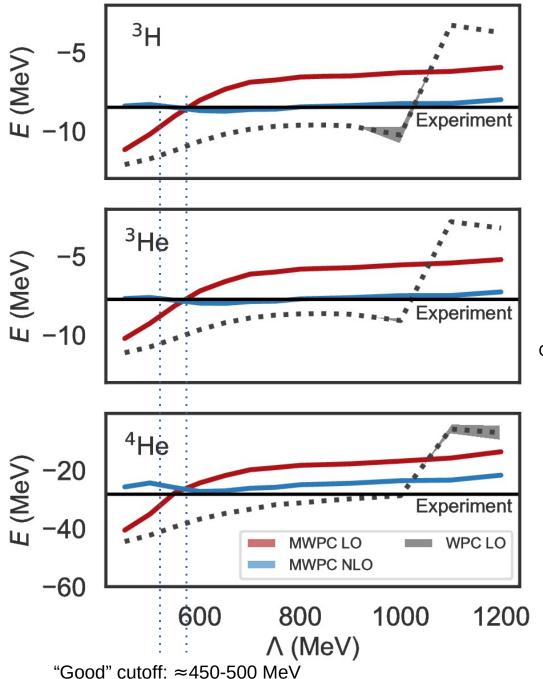
3. So the "imperfect feature" in the 2NF (including "the range") are interchangeable with 3NF, at least to certain degree (c.f. density-dep t3-term in Skyrme).

Trust, but verify

Test NN-only for A=2,3,4. See if they converged reasonably to exp. data.

Let's start from light systems: where 3NFs are small

Use only 2NF up to next-to leading order, do ³H, ³He, ⁴He



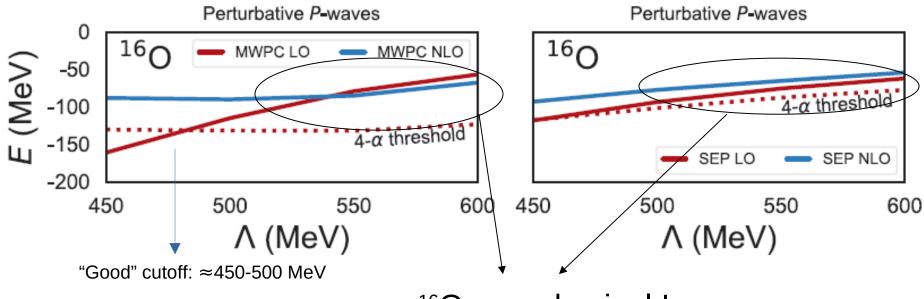
Conclusion: 2NFs up to NLO works for A≤4 systems.

C.-J. Yang, A. Ekstrom, C. Forssen, G. Hagen, PRC 103 (2021) 5, 054304.

> For A up to 3 see also: Nogga et al, PRC 72 (2005), 054006 Song et al, PRC 96 (2017), 024002.

So far so good, let's increase to A=16

¹⁶O results (LO, NN only)



¹⁶O non-physical !

MWPC:

At LO, Nogga, Timmerman, van Kolck PC (Phys.Rev.C 72 (2005) 054006) NLO, plus Long & Yang PC (Phys.Rev.C 86 (2012) 024001) SEP: NN 1s0 adopts dibaryon field (Phys.Rev.C 97 (2018) 2, 024001)

Perturbative P-waves: PC by S. Wu & B. Long (Phys.Rev.C 99 (2019) 2, 024003)

Wrong ¹⁶O pole

The same NN interaction generates ¹⁶O with the wrong pole structure (not stable w.r.t. 4α decay) at LO. Also, deformed state becomes deeper than spherical state.

Same thing for WPC, PC improved with auxiliary dibaryon fields, and pionless EFT.

M. S. Sánchez, C.-J. Yang, Bingwei Long, U. van Kolck, Phys.Rev. C97 (2018) no.2, 024001.

In fact, nobody got ¹⁶O right at LO yet!

 We have exhausted all possibilities (dibaryon, perturbative P-waves, different fitting of LECs) we could think of in the NN sector.

What to do then (to restore the correct pole)?

• "Improved action" applied to LO.

L. Contessi, M. Schäfer, U. van Kolck, Phys.Rev.A 109 (2024) 2, 022814 L. Contessi, M. Pavon Valderrama, and U. van Kolck, arXiv:2403.16596 [nucl-th]

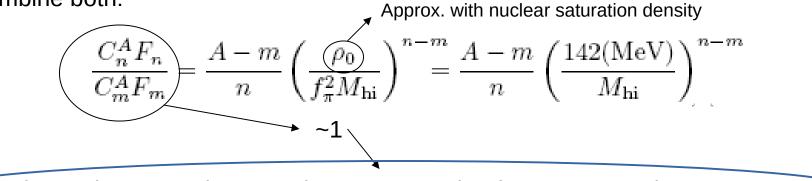
• "Combinatorial factor" should kick in, and promote 3NF to LO.

C.J. Yang, A. Ekström, C. Forssén, G. Hagen, G. Rupak, U. van Kolck, Eur.Phys.J.A 59 (2023) 10, 233

Estimations

• Combine NDA and "A choose n":

Combine both:



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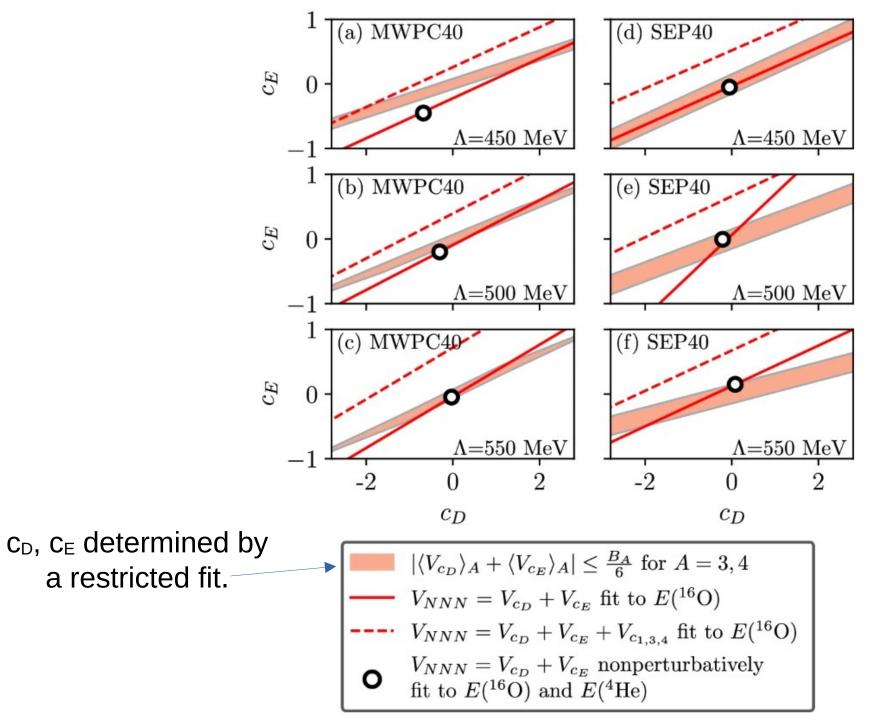
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NNN will be LO for A>13

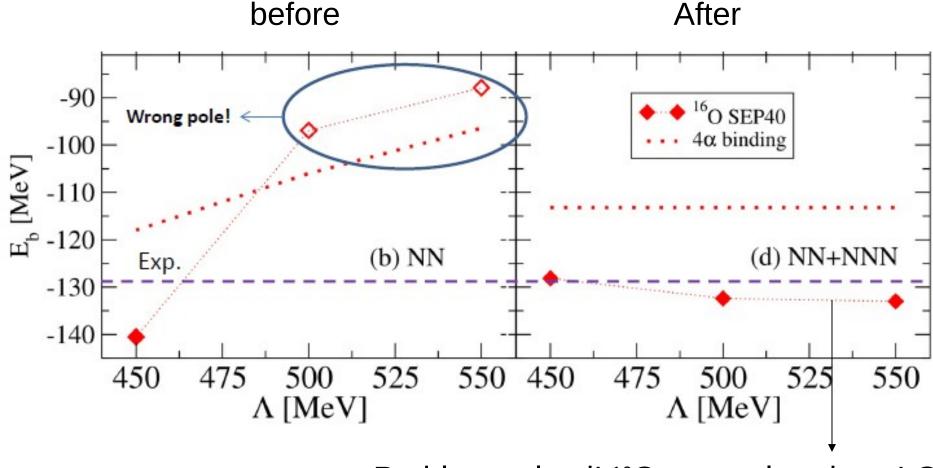
¹⁶O has A=16! => Already need NNN at LO

First, need to fit/renormalize cD, cE, which do not appear at LO for A=2-4, but are there for 16O.



With 3NFs' size limited to be NNLO on A≤4 systems

C.J. Yang, A. Ekström, C. Forssén, G. Hagen, G. Rupak, U. van Kolck, Eur.Phys.J.A 59 (2023) 10, 233

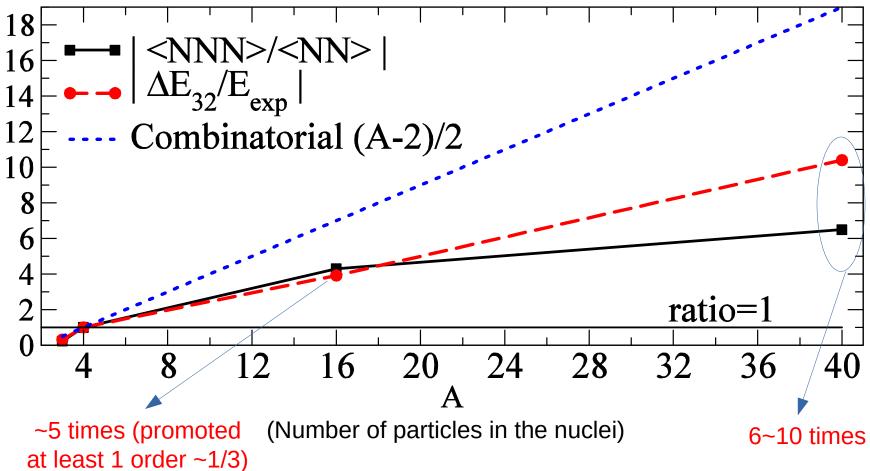


Problem solved! ¹⁶O great already at LO!

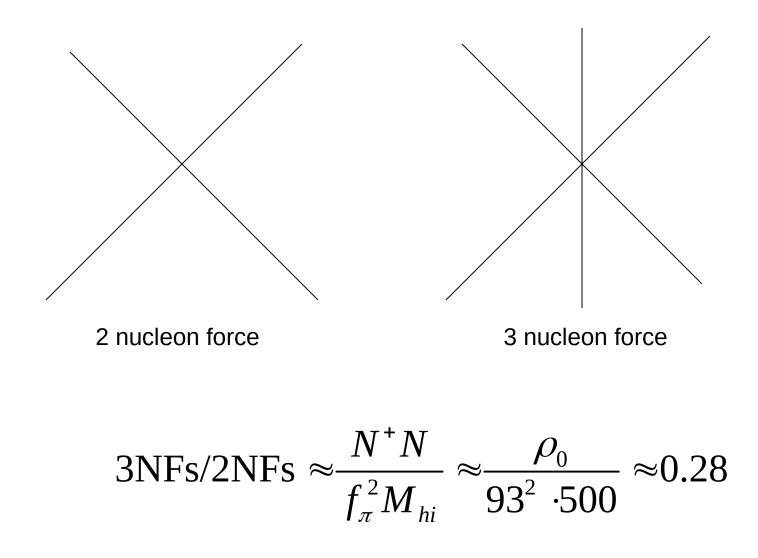
Moreover...

Real Growth (accounting all effects) of 3NF/2NF with A

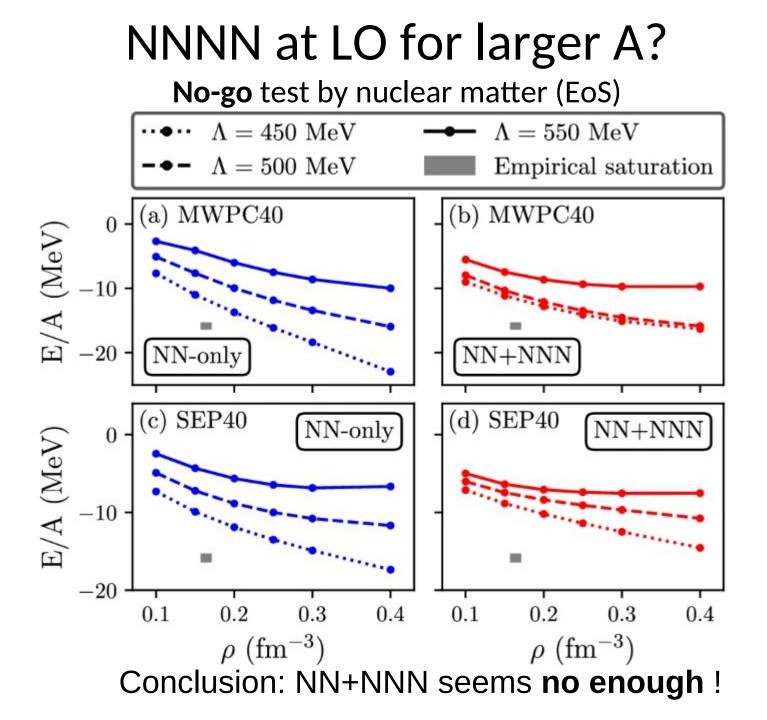
Λ=450 MeV, i.e., NNN provides repulsion



Naïve dimensional analysis (NDA)



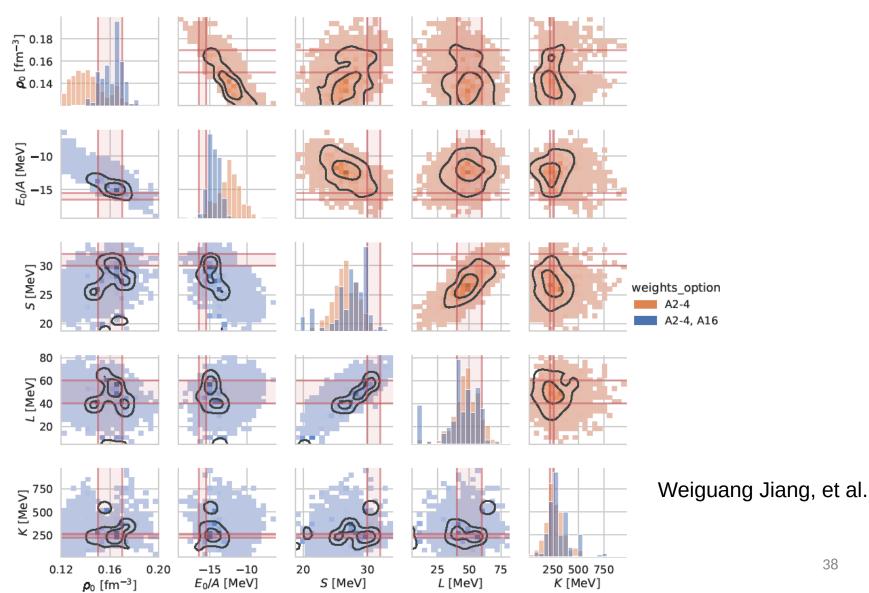
This suggests: 3NFs are LO at least for A≥16



Review of current status: nuclear structure

- Most ab-initio calculations adopt chiral EFT potential organized under Weinberg power counting (WPC).
- Good results (w.r.t. exp. data) for light systems, if low-energy constants (LECs) are renormalized at NN/NNN-level.
- But not quite the same for ¹⁶O (or heavier)→
 need to refit (optimize) the potential and
 sacrifice NN.→ what's ab-inito debate.

Optimizing NNLO with $\Delta(1232)$



Necessary ingredients of model-independent EFT

1. A-dependence

This means:

(1a) Need to promote 3- and 4-body forces at A>4

(1b) <u>V and LECs need to change</u> with A (or if you know the ad hoc density)

c.f. NNLO_{opt} NNLO_{sat}, NNLO_{go}, EM_{magic}, etc.

2. RG-invariance

This means:

(2a) Need more contact terms than NDA

(2b) Cannot adopt an <u>entirely non-perturbative</u> treatment

Why? How about using low-cutoffs? Let's see the pros and cons of perturbative correction first

Non-perturbative v.s. perturbative treatment

Non-per. is necessary for bound-states (pole in the S-matrix), but it: •Often (if not always) destroys PC arranged on the potential-level. •Gives rise to m_{π} -dep problem (if OPE is iterated). •Avoided level-crossing.

Good if you want to shift poles across threshold or create a new one. Repels/forbids states to be close to each other (or make it very hard).

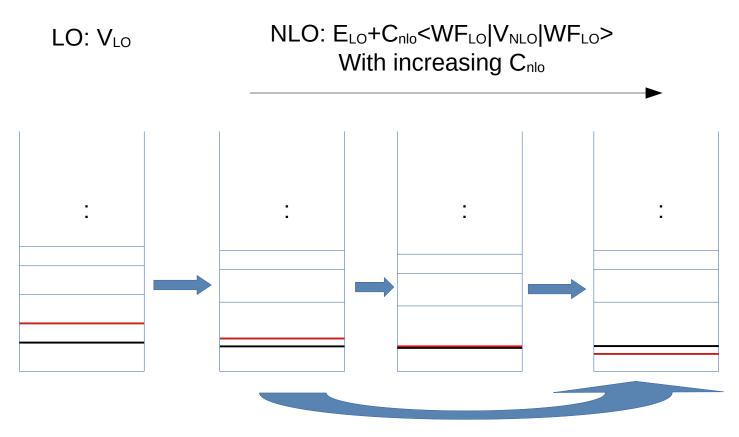
Non-per + perturbative on subleading orders:

•Often (if not always) destroys PC arranged on the potential-level. •Gives rise to m_{π} -dep problem (if OPE is iterated).

•Allow level-crossing.

Good if you want to shift poles across threshold or create a new one. Allows states to be close to each other (or make it very hard).

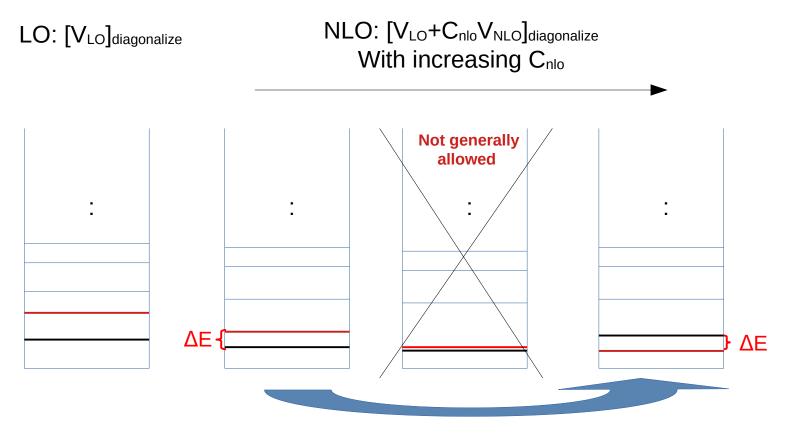
Perturbative treatment of NLO



Level-crossing happened!

Gap between states can be zero

Non-perturbative treatment of NLO



Avoided level-crossing ! There's a minimum and finite separation between levels!

A crucial difference w.r.t. per-treatments (Lower the cutoff in the iteration won't change this characteristic!) In terms of reproducing **ground state** properties, traditional way (non-per.) is o.k.

starts from A>3 But for excited states (maybe for resonances too), depend on the actual data, you might want to have the flexibility to reproduce smaller gaps.

(Adjusting/fine-tuning V_{non-per} is likely to re-shuffle all eigen-energies)

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starting from A>3 So, (low-cutoff + non-per.) ≉ per. correction But for excited states (maybe for resonances too), depend on the actual data, you might want to have the flexibility to reproduce smaller gaps.

(Adjusting/fine-tuning V_{non-per} is likely to re-shuffle all eigen-energies)

Summary

Why modified PC?

 Because it provides solutions/improvements of conceptual problem of WPC (allow RG to be o.k., or aka, a systematical control of the uncertainty).

Why A-dep PC?

 The combinatorial enhancement becomes important for A>10. This makes the promotion of many-body forces (NNN and NNNN) *necessary*!

I don't like it either, but sometimes the correct way happens to be the painful way.

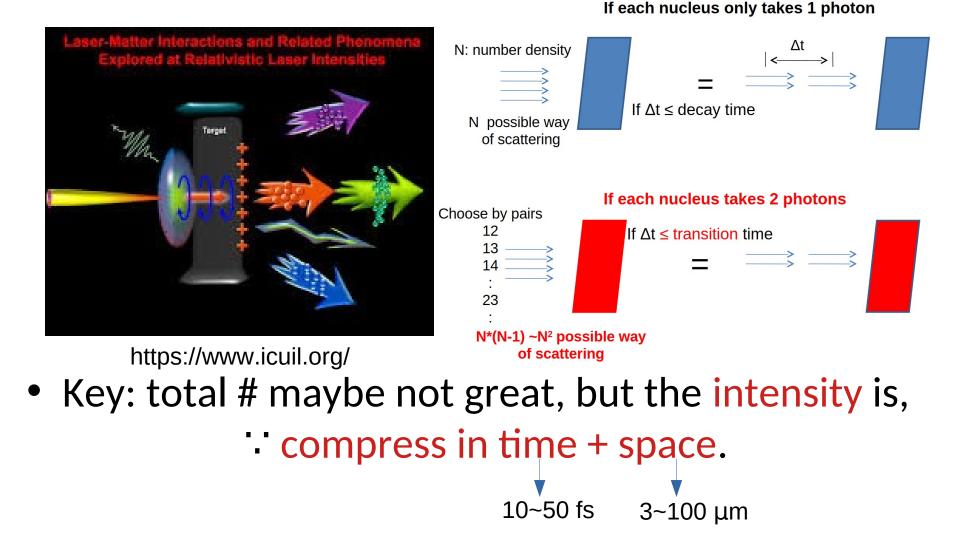
Advertisement: An extreme scenario

What if we irradiate nuclei with very intensive neutron/proton/gamma/ion beams? Combinactorial enhancement will be enlarged further, with 3- and higher-body force not just promoted, but dominated!

Nuclear/particle physics at intense limit



A very simple explanation (beams from laser-plasma interaction)



Result in some new phenomena/applications:

Isomer pumping: arXiv: 2404.07909 [nucl-th]

Graser: 2404.10025 [physics.optics]

And more to be explored!

Thank you!

A few thought-provoking questions

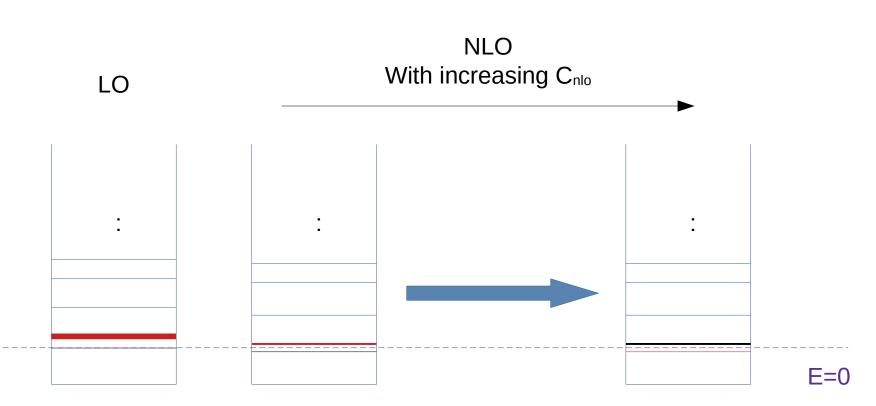
1. Are we going back to (EFT-inspired) models \rightarrow i.e., build whatever describes data? \rightarrow The error might be controlled (and even reduced at higher-orders to some degree) by a carefully chosen Λ + fitting procedure + Bayesian analysis?

Or, we insist to do the truly EFT-based approach (there might be more things to learn with try & error)?

2. Can WPC (and it's rel. version) solve Ay puzzle?

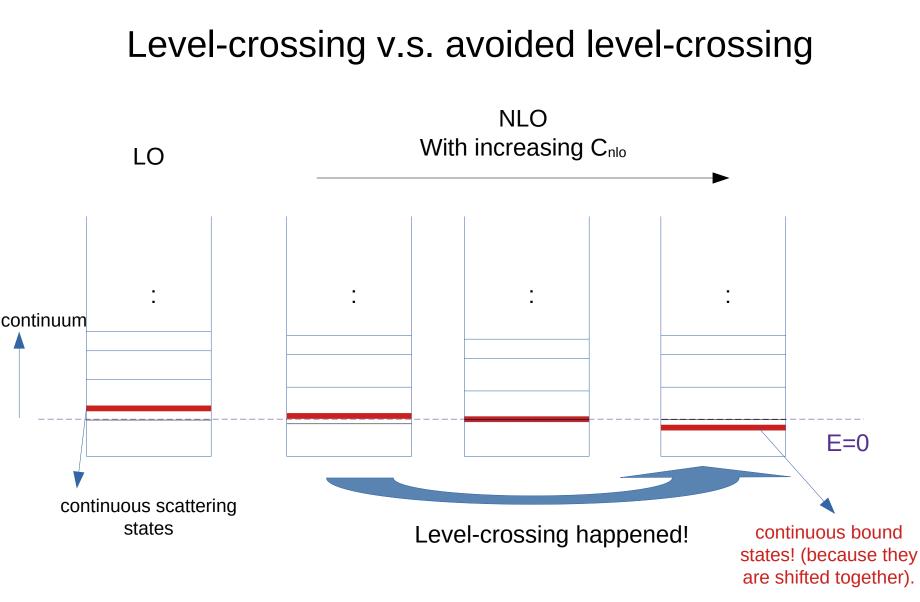
3. Any doubt on 'the importance of many-body forces' and it's dependence on the number of nucleons?

Level-crossing v.s. avoided level-crossing



Avoided level-crossing ! There's a minimum and finite separation between levels!

Non-perturbative treatment allows stand-alone bound-states.

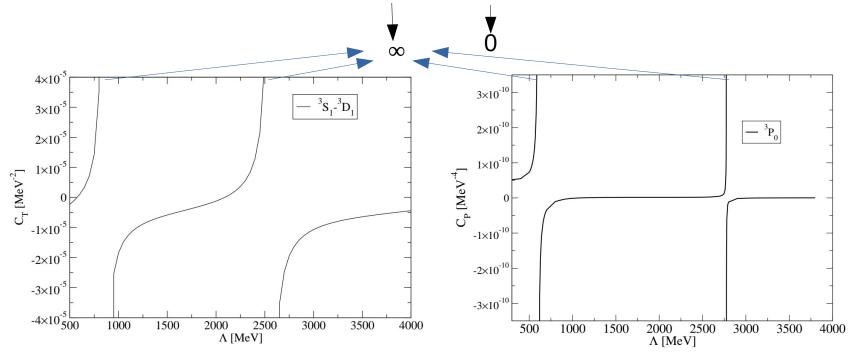


Perturbative treatment of NLO

Origin of the issue

- LECs at LO (non-per. treatment) could have limit-cycle running.
- At LO, this is ok, even exactly at Λ_e where $c(\Lambda_e)=\infty$. Because: (non-per) = (matrix diagonalization), which guarantee that **each eigenvalue** $\langle \Phi_{LO,i} | H_{LO} | \Phi_{LO,i} i \rangle = E_i$ is finite.

 \therefore <KE> and <V_{LO}> are finite, => c(Λ_e)< $\Phi_{LO,i}$ | \hat{O}_{ct} | $\Phi_{LO,i}$ >=finite for all i.



However, the same **won't hold** for NLO or higher-orders, if **DWBA** is adopted.

Origin of the issue

At NLO (or higher), additional CT enters, but unlike LO, where c(Λ_e)<Φ_{LO,i}|Ô_{LO,ct}|Φ_{LO,i}>=finite for all i, the DWBA correction d(Λ·)<Φ_{LO,i}|Ô_{NLO,ct}|Φ_{LO,i}>≠finite for all i (as we are not protected by the eigenvalue feature).

=> At a certain i^{*} (correspond to E^{*}), $\langle \Phi_{LO,i} | \hat{O}_{NLO,ct} | \Phi_{LO,i} \rangle$ =0, but for other i it's not!

• This means, if one choose to renormalize at $E=E^*$, one faces the choice of using $d \rightarrow \infty$, in order to have a non-zero NLO correction. But then observable at other E blow up. On the other hand, using $d \neq \infty$ will make this CT have zero contribution (not good either).

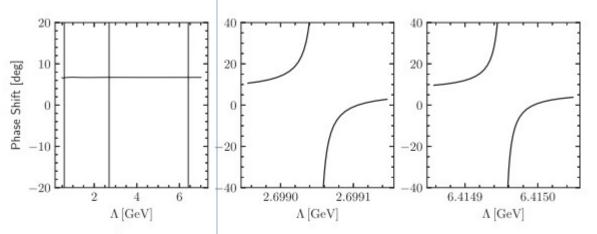


FIG. 5. Cutoff dependence of ${}^{3}P_{0}$ phase shift calculated at the fixed laboratory energy of $T_{lab} = 130$ MeV using the approach of Ref. [30] at NLO. The middle and right panels show zoomed regions in the vicinity of two exceptional cutoffs.



In practice (on Long & Yang)

At NLO (or higher), additional CT enters, but unlike LO, where c(Λ_e)<Φ_{LO,i}|Ô_{LO,ct}|Φ_{LO,i}>=finite for all i, the DWBA correction d(Λ_{*})<Φ_{LO,i}|Ô_{NLO,ct}|Φ_{LO,i}>≠finite for all i (as we are not protected by the eigenvalue feature).

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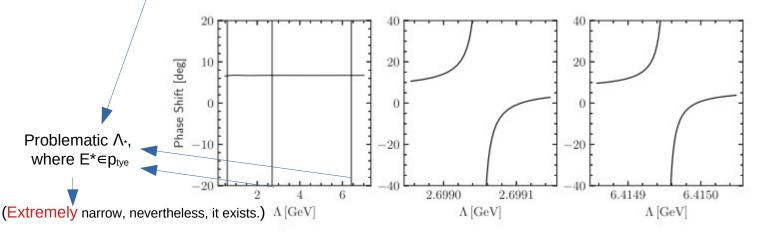


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Conditions of the breakdown (for the above case_{Long&Yang}): 1. $\hat{O}_{NLO,ct} \neq \hat{O}_{LO,ct}$

2. Adopt Λ very close (>4 significant digits the same) to those problematic Λ_* . 3. Choose to renormalize **exactly** at E* (or exactly on a set of particular E_i, if number of LECs≥2).

In practice (on Long & Yang)

At NLO (or higher), additional CT enters, but unlike LO, where c(Λ_e)<Φ_{LO,i}|Ô_{LO,ct}|Φ_{LO,i}>=finite for all i, the DWBA correction d(Λ₂)<Φ_{LO,i}|Ô_{NLO,ct}|Φ_{LO,i}>≠finite for all i (as we are not protected by the eigenvalue feature).

=> At a certain i* (correspond to E*), $\langle \Phi_{LO,i} | \hat{O}_{NLO,ct} | \Phi_{LO,i} \rangle$ =0, but for other i it's not!

This means, if one choose to renormalize at E=E*, one faces the choice of using d→∞, in order to have a non-zero NLO correction. But then observable at other E blow up. On the other hand, using d ≠∞ will make this CT have zero contribution (not good either).

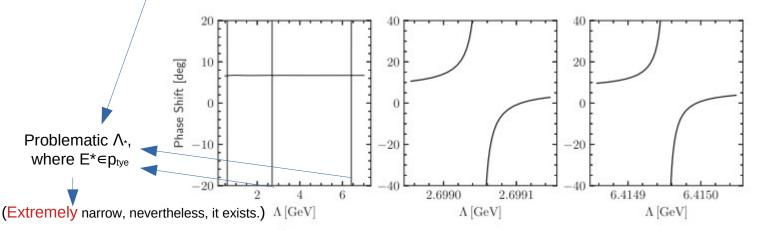


FIG. 5. Cutoff dependence of ${}^{3}P_{0}$ phase shift calculated at the fixed laboratory energy of $T_{lab} = 130$ MeV using the approach of Ref. [30] at NLO. The middle and right panels show zoomed regions in the vicinity of two exceptional cutoffs.

Conditions of the breakdown (for the above caseLong&Yang):

1. Ô_{NLO,ct}≠Ô_{LO,ct}

2. Adopt Λ very close (>4 significant digits the same) to those problematic Λ_* . 3. Choose to renormalize **exactly** at E^{*} (or exactly on a set of particular E_i, if number of LECs≥2).

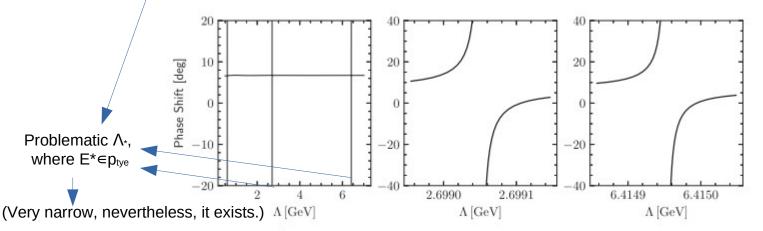
Key word!

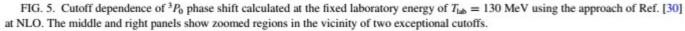
Origin of the issue

At NLO (or higher), additional CT enters, but unlike LO, where c(Λ_e)<Φ_{LO,i}|Ô_{LO,ct}|Φ_{LO,i}>=finite for all i, the DWBA correction d(Λ₁)<Φ_{LO,i}|Ô_{NLO,ct}|Φ_{LO,i}>≠finite for all i (as we are not protected by the eigenvalue feature).

=> At a certain i* (correspond to E*), $\langle \Phi_{LO,i} | \hat{O}_{NLO,ct} | \Phi_{LO,i} \rangle$ =0, but for other i it's not!

This means, if one choose to renormalize at E=E*, one faces the choice of using d→∞, in order to have a non-zero NLO correction. But then observable at other E blow up. On the other hand, using d ≠∞ will make this CT have zero contribution (not good either).





However, the issue occurs only when one treats those incomplete, truncated amplitudes exactly or beyond the degree to which they should be trusted.

Root of the problem (nothing to do with PC, but a general feature of perturbative corrections) The above has taken $\langle \Phi_{LO,i} |$ (and therefore the NLO matrix element) too exact. Under EFT, it should always be accompanied by an uncertainty $\sim O(p/M_{hi})^n$.

Further fine-tune (LO, NN only)

