

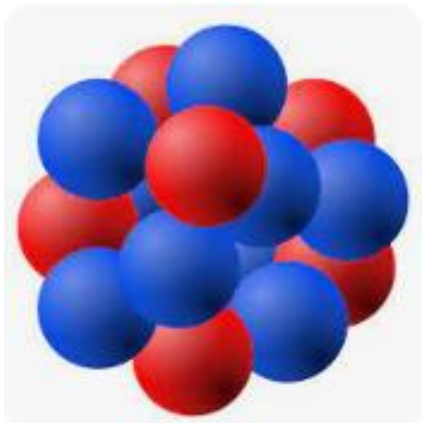
# Ab initio nuclear physics on the lattice

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ShangHai JiaoTong University

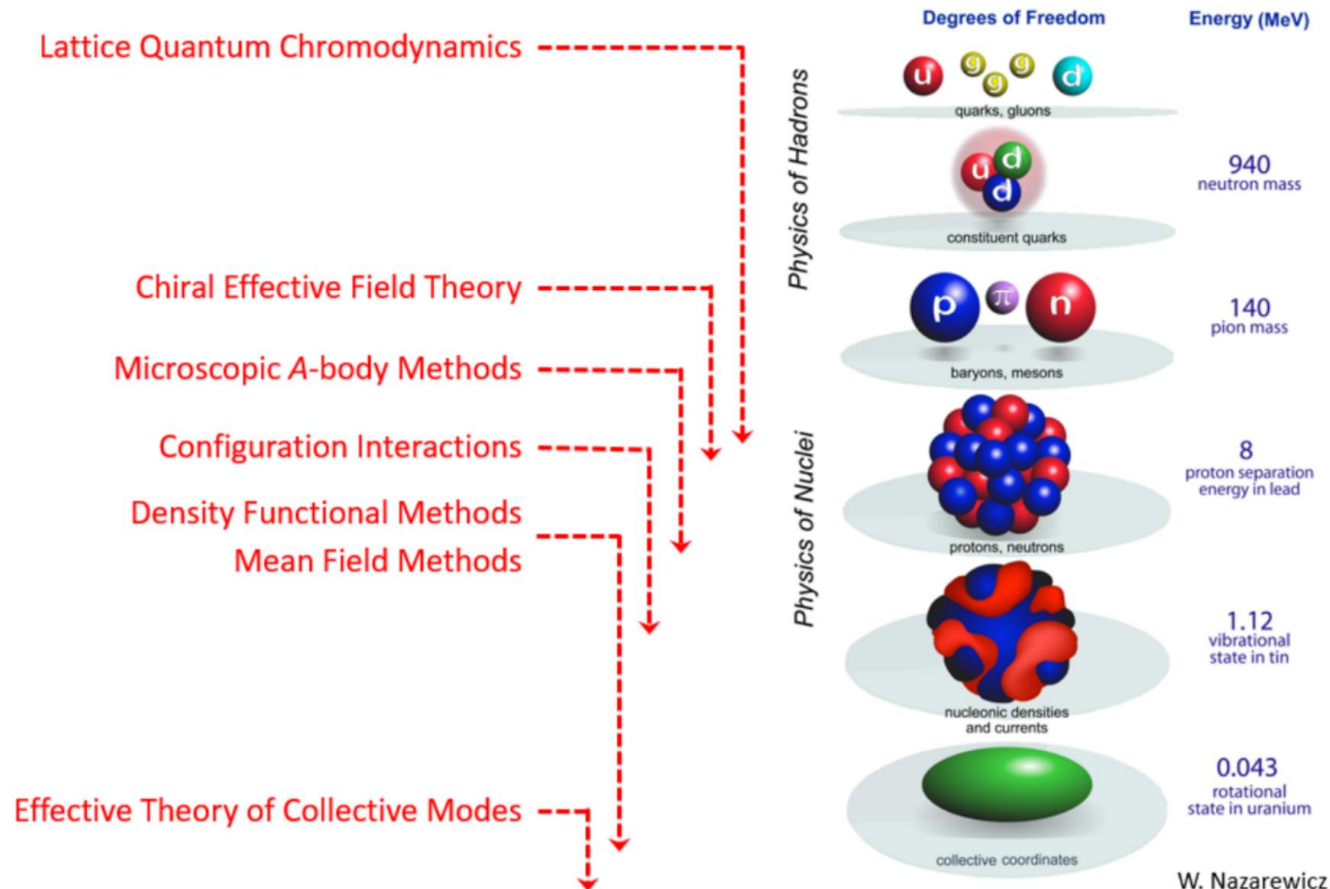
2024-DEC-11, ShangHai



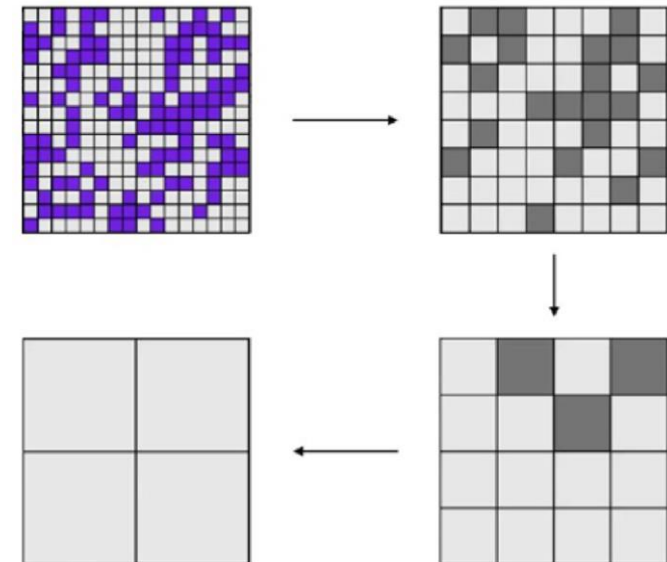
# Contents

- Brief introduction to nuclear lattice EFT
- Nuclear force problem with NLEFT
- Strong correlation I: nuclear clustering
- Strong correlation II: nuclear thermodynamics
- Summary and perspective

# What is a nuclear EFT?



- Modern nuclear force constructions are based on the **Effective Field Theory**
- Theoretical foundation of **EFT** is the **Wilsonian renormalization group**:
  - **High-momentum** details can be integrated out & hidden in LECs
  - **Low-momentum** physics kept invariant under ren. group transformations

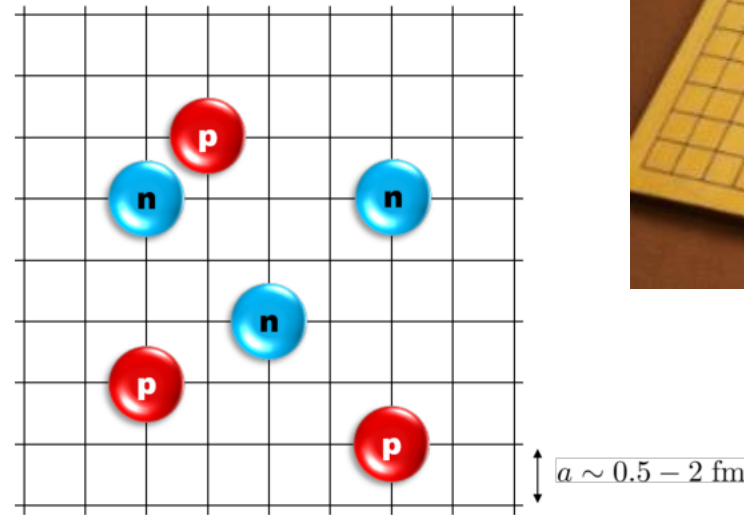


# Lattice EFT: A many-body EFT solver

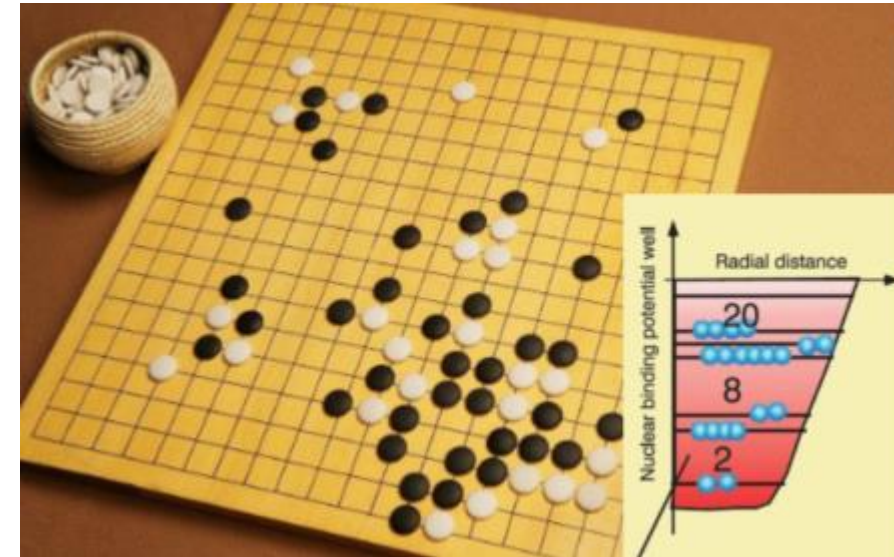
**Lattice EFT = Chiral EFT + Lattice + Monte Carlo**

Review: Dean Lee, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 63, 117 (2009),  
Lähde, Meißner, "Nuclear Lattice Effective Field Theory", Springer (2019)

- Discretized **chiral nuclear force**
- Lattice spacing  $a \approx 1 \text{ fm} = 620 \text{ MeV}$   
( $\sim$ chiral symmetry breaking scale)
- Protons & neutrons interacting via **short-range,  $\delta$ -like** and **long-range, pion-exchange** interactions
- Exact method, **polynomial scaling** ( $\sim A^2$ )



Lattice adapted for nucleus



- Solve the non-perturbative nuclear many-body problem by sampling all configurations

# Lattice EFT: A many-body EFT solver

- Get *interacting g. s.* from imaginary time projection:

$$|\Psi_{g.s.}\rangle \propto \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \exp(-\tau H) |\Psi_A\rangle$$

with  $|\Psi_A\rangle$  representing  $A$  free nucleons.

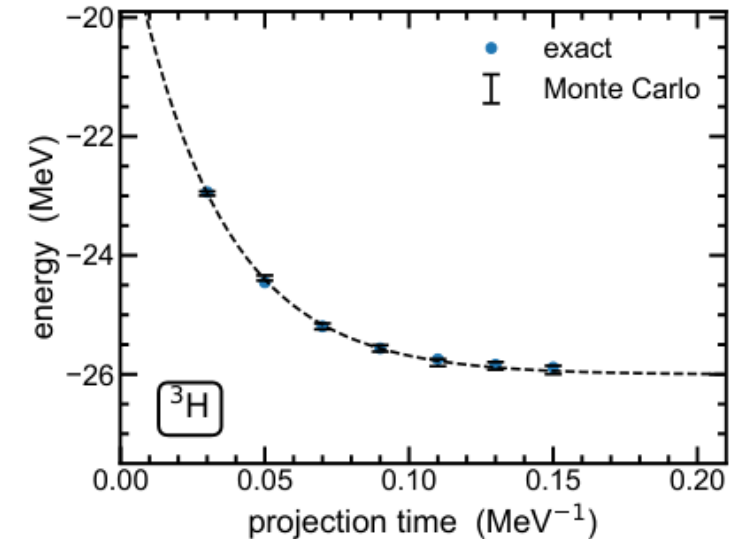
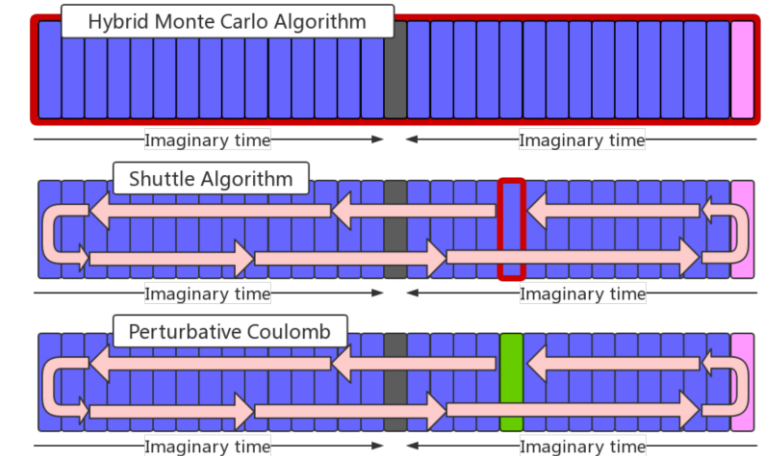
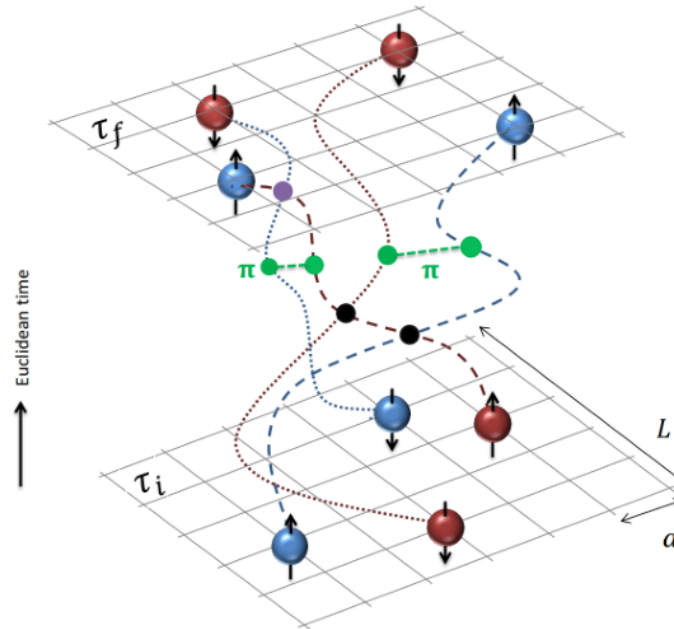
- Expectation value of any operator  $\mathcal{O}$ :

$$\langle O \rangle = \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle \Psi_A | \exp(-\tau H/2) \mathcal{O} \exp(-\tau H/2) | \Psi_A \rangle}{\langle \Psi_A | \exp(-\tau H) | \Psi_A \rangle}$$

- $\tau$  is discretized into time slices:

$$\exp(-\tau H) \simeq \left[ \exp\left(-\frac{\tau}{L_t} H\right) \right]^{L_t}$$

All possible configurations in  $\tau \in [\tau_i, \tau_f]$  are sampled.  
Complex structures like nucleon clustering emerges naturally.

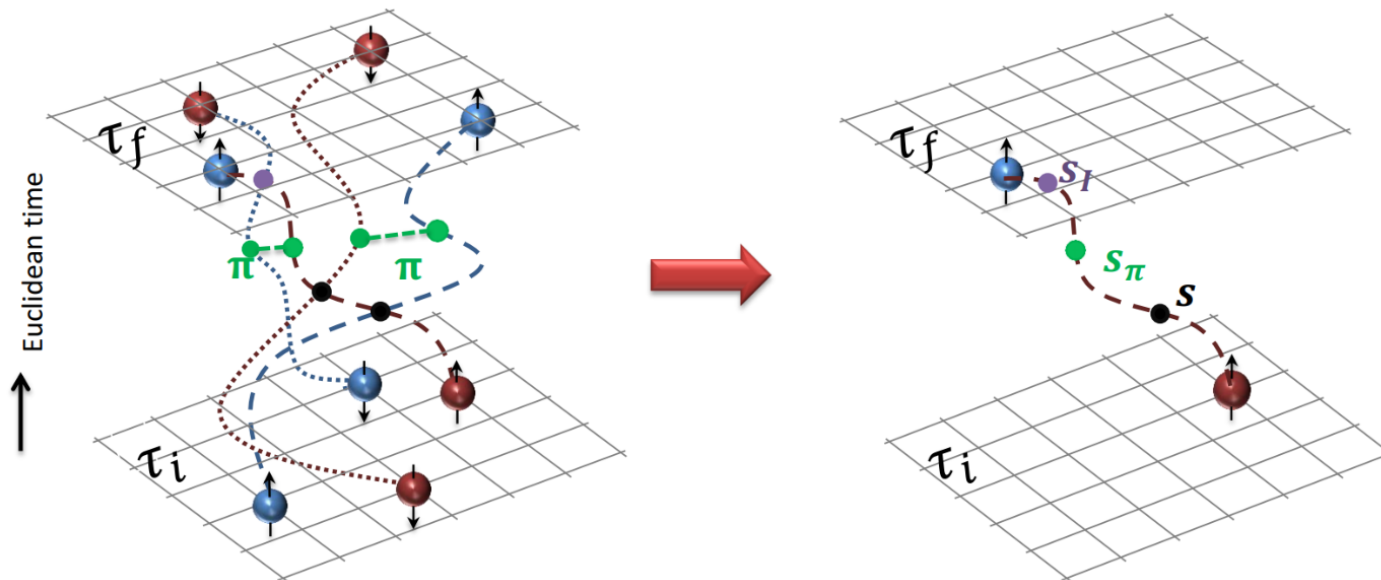


# Lattice EFT: A many-body EFT solver

- Quantum correlations between nucleons are represented by fluctuations of the auxiliary fields.

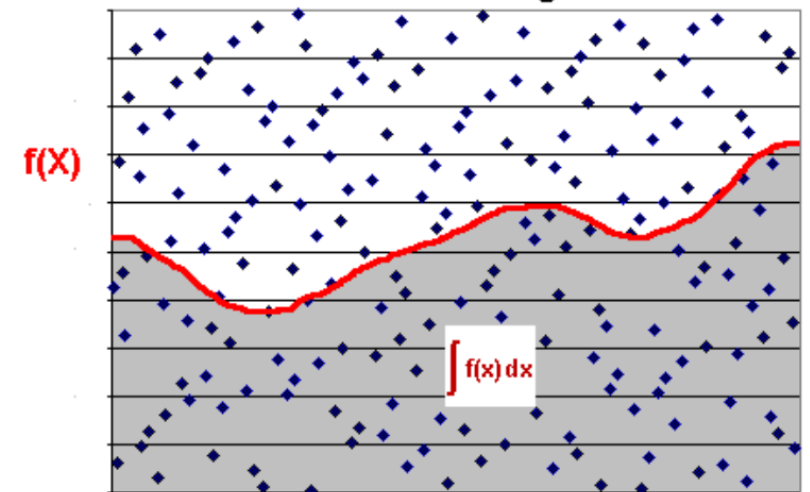
$$: \exp \left[ -\frac{a_t C}{2} (\psi^\dagger \psi)^2 \right] := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int ds : \exp \left[ -\frac{s^2}{2} + \sqrt{-a_t C} s (\psi^\dagger \psi) \right] :$$

- Long-range interactions such as OPEP or more complex interactions can be represented similarly.
- For fixed aux. fields, product of s.p. states (e.g., Slater determinant) keep the form of product of s.p. states in propagations.  $\Leftarrow$  **No N-N interaction**



In lattice EFT, solving a general Hamiltonian consists of 5 steps:

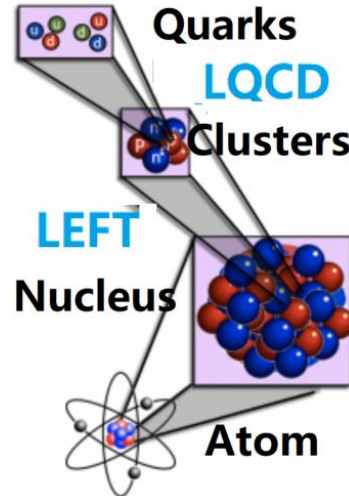
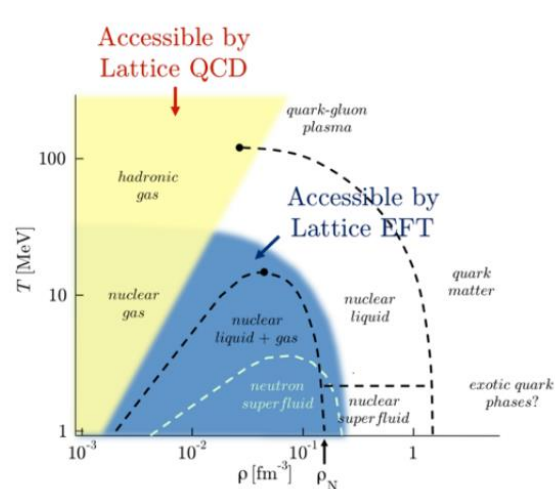
1. Rewrite expectation value as a path integral using auxiliary field transformation.
2. For each field configuration, calculate the amplitude.
3. Integrate over the field variables using Monte Carlo algorithms.
4. Take the limit  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$  to find the true ground state.
5. Take the limit  $L \rightarrow \infty$  to eliminate the finite volume effects.





# Compare Lattice EFT and Lattice QCD

	LQCD	LEFT
degree of freedom	quarks & gluons	nucleons and pions
lattice spacing	$\sim 0.1$ fm	$\sim 1$ fm
dispersion relation	relativistic	non-relativistic
renormalizability	renormalizable	effective field theory
continuum limit	yes	no
Coulomb	difficult	easy
accessibility	high $T$ / low $\rho$	low $T$ / $\rho_{\text{sat}}$
sign problem	severe for $\mu > 0$	moderate



- Lattice EFT share a lot of common features with Lattice QCD. However,
  - Non-rel.  $\rightarrow$  particle number conservation
  - Quadratic dispersion relation  $\rightarrow$  no Fermion doubling problem
  - EFT contains non-renormalizable terms  $\rightarrow$  no continuum limit

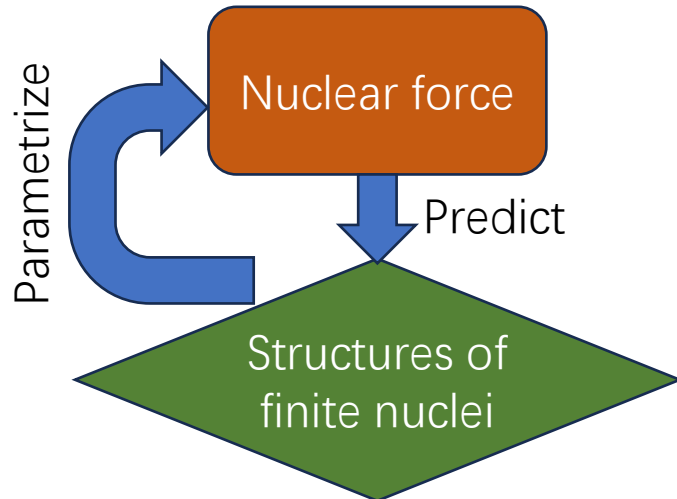
	Two-nucleon force	Three-nucleon force
LO	 2 LECs	—
NLO	 7 LECs	—
N <sup>2</sup> LO	 2 LECs	 2 LECs
N <sup>3</sup> LO	 15 LECs	

# Nuclear Force Problem

**Nuclear Force Problem:** Can the nuclear force calibrated with the **N-N scattering and few-body data** uniquely and correctly predict the **structures of finite nuclei**?

*Ab initio* (Weak form)

Effective nuclear forces  
(Skyrme, RMF, shell model, etc.)



Parametrize

N-N Scattering &  
few-body data

Parametrize

Nuclear force

Predict

Structures of  
finite nuclei

*Ab initio* (Strong form)

N-N Scattering &  
few-body data

Parametrize

Nuclear force

Predict

Structures of  
finite nuclei



# Typical nuclear forces

Nuclear force has strong **spin-isospin dependence**  
 → Reflected by complicated **operator structures**



## AV18 INTERACTION



$$v_{ij} = \sum_{p=1,18} v_p(r_{ij}) o_{ij}^p$$

$$O_{ij}^{p=1,14} = 1, \tau_i \cdot \tau_j, \sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j, (\sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j)(\tau_i \cdot \tau_j), S_{ij}, S_{ij}(\tau_i \cdot \tau_j), L \cdot S, L \cdot S(\tau_i \cdot \tau_j), L^Y, L^Y(\tau_i \cdot \tau_j), L^Y(\sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j), L^Y(\sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j)(\tau_i \cdot \tau_j), (L \cdot S)^Y, (L \cdot S)^Y(\tau_i \cdot \tau_j),$$

**CHARGE DEPENDENT**

$$O_{ij}^{p=15,17} = T_{ij}, (\sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j) T_{ij}, S_{ij} T_{ij}$$

**CHARGE ASYMMETRIC**

$$O_{ij}^{p=18} = (\tau_{zi} + \tau_{zj})$$

R. B. Wiringa, V. G. J. Stoks, and R. Schiavilla, Phys. Rev. C 51, 38, 1995.

## Nuclear chiral EFT

	2N force	3N force	4N force
LO			
NLO			
N <sup>2</sup> LO			
N <sup>3</sup> LO			

# Symmetries of realistic nuclear forces

- A N-N two-body interaction can be uniquely fixed by its matrix elements in a complete basis
- In momentum basis  $|\mathbf{p}_1 s_1 t_1 \mathbf{p}_2 s_2 t_2\rangle$  with  $s_1, s_2 = \pm 1/2$  the spins,  $t_1, t_2 = \pm 1/2$  the isospins, we have the two-by-two matrix elements

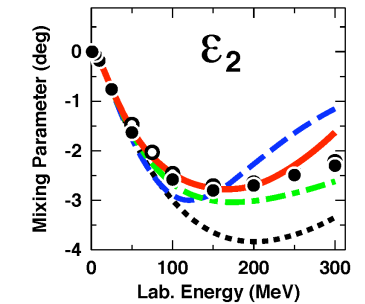
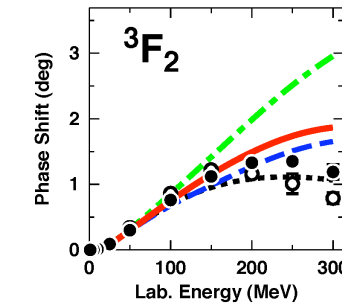
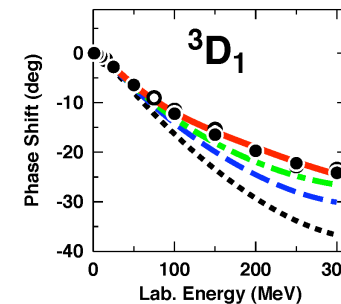
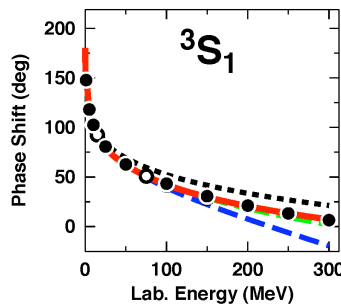
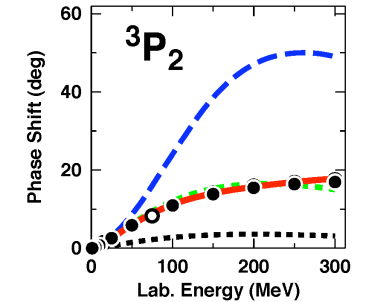
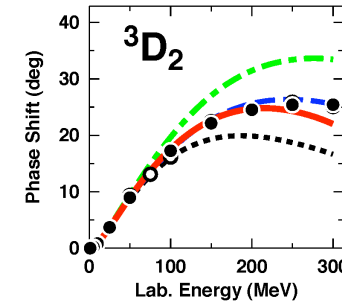
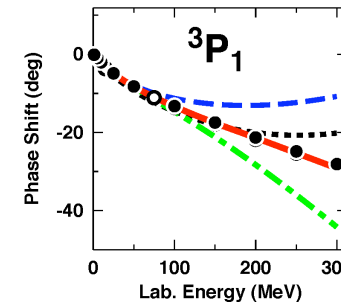
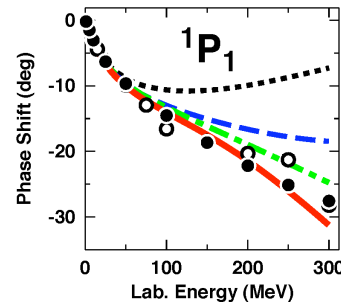
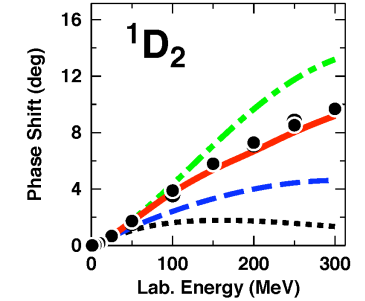
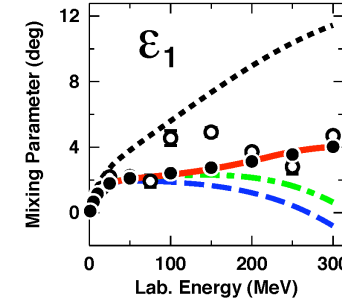
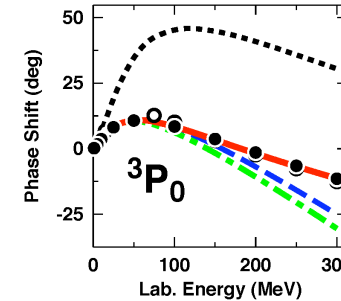
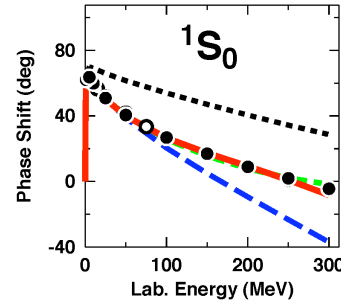
$$\langle \mathbf{p}'_1 s'_1 t'_1 \mathbf{p}'_2 s'_2 t'_2 | V | \mathbf{p}_1 s_1 t_1 \mathbf{p}_2 s_2 t_2 \rangle$$

- These matrix elements are strictly constrained by symmetries
    - Hermicity
    - Exchange symmetry
    - Translational invariance
    - Galilean invariance
    - Parity
    - Time reversal
    - Spatial rotation
    - Isospin symmetry
  - **The QCD respects**
    - Discrete symmetries of PCT (exact)
    - Symmetries of Poincaré group (exact)
      - Spatial translation
      - Temporal translation  $\rightarrow$  Energy conservation
      - Spatial rotation
      - Boosts  $\rightarrow$  Galilean invariance
    - Isospin symmetry (approx.)
- 

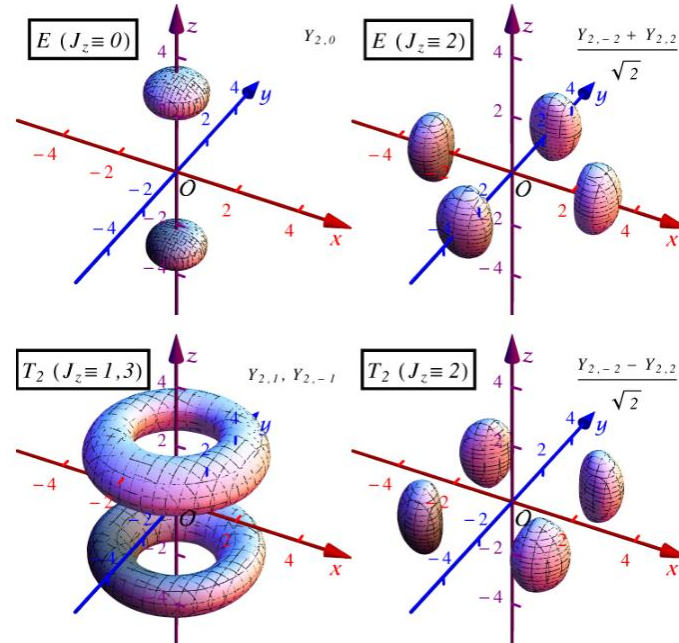
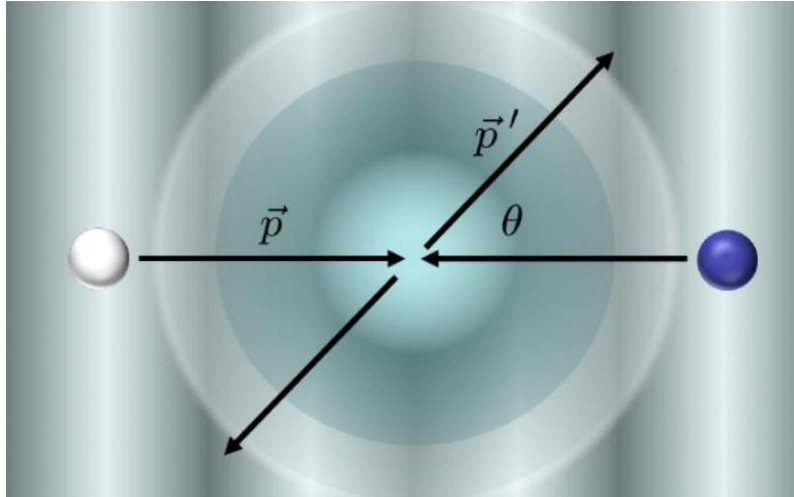
**Spirit of EFT: Use symmetries to write down the most general interactions**

# Parametrization of the nuclear force

- It is conventional to parametrize the nuclear force by matching to the low-energy **nucleon-nucleon scattering data**
- Spin-1/2 + Spin-1/2 + Orbital
- We first couple the spins  
 $1/2 + 1/2 = 0 + 1$   
 Then couple the total spin  $S=s_1+s_2$   
 With the angular momentum  $L$
- Partial wave channels  $^{2S+1}L_J$   
 $S = 0, 1$   
 $L = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$  (S, P, D, F, ...)  
 $J = |L - S|, |L - S| + 1, \dots, L + S$



# Effective Field Theory on the Lattice



Lattice regularization breaks the **rotational symmetry** and **Galilean invariance**, which must be restored

PLB 760, 309 (2016):

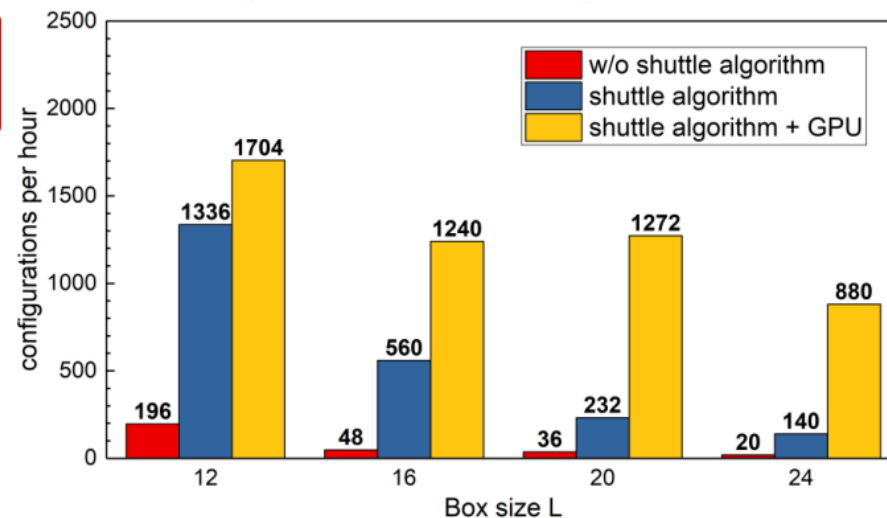
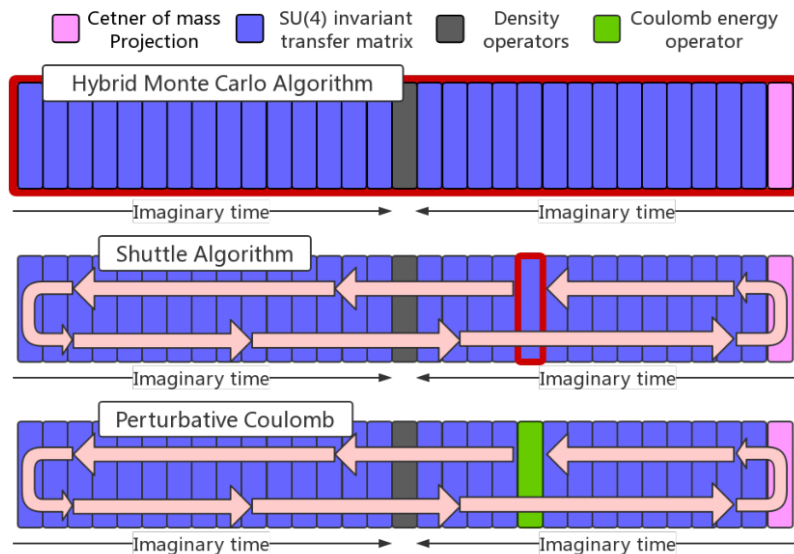
Restoration of rotational symm.

EPJA 53, 83 (2017):

N<sup>2</sup>LO chiral force on lattice

PRC 98, 044002 (2018):

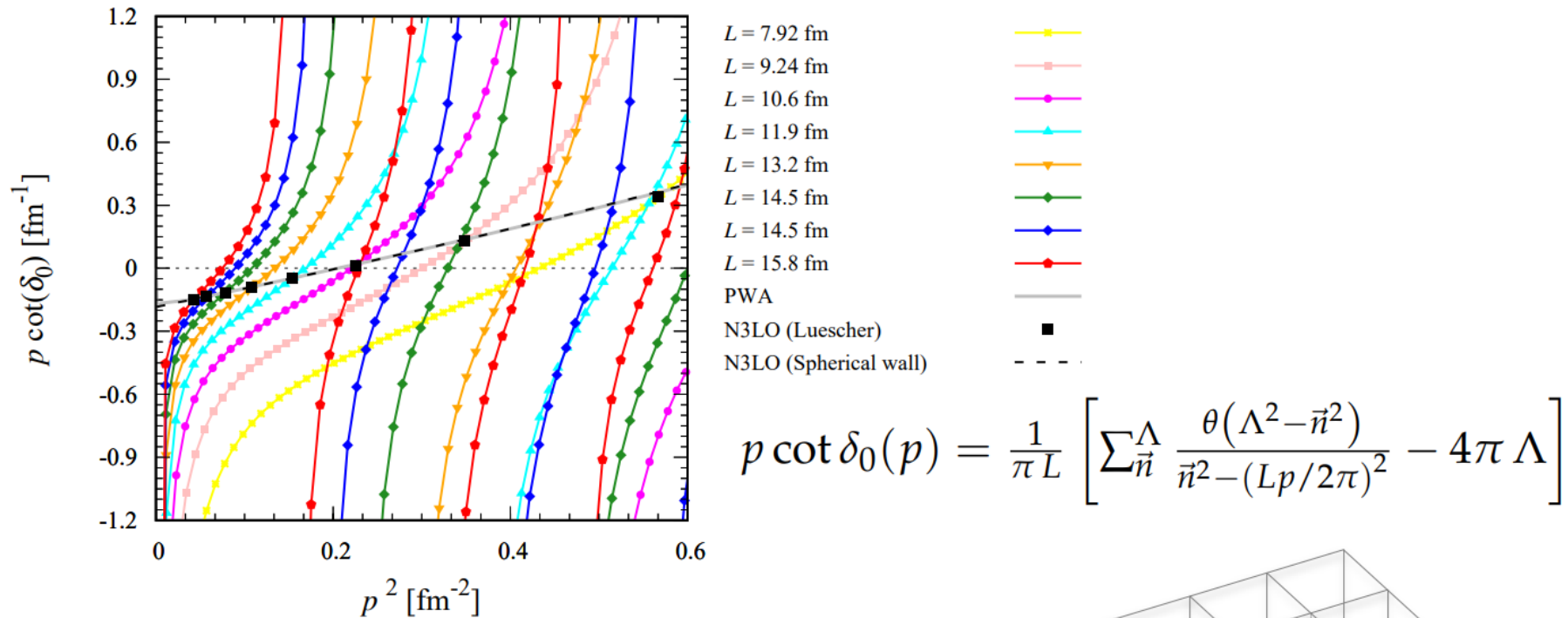
N<sup>3</sup>LO chiral force on lattice



Shuttle Algorithm is 5-10 times faster than conventional algorithms  
Combined with GPU, can speed up by 40-50 times

PLB 797, 134863 (2019)

# Scattering on the lattice



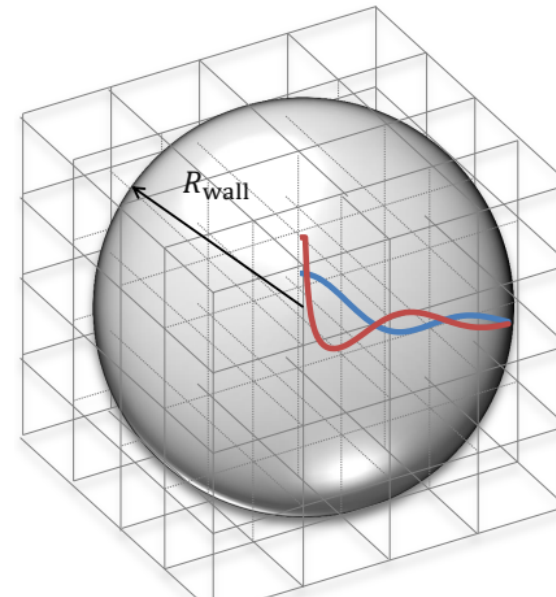
Lüscher's finite volume method:

Lüscher, Comm. Math. Phys. 105 (1986) 153; NPB 354 (1991) 531

Spherical wall method:

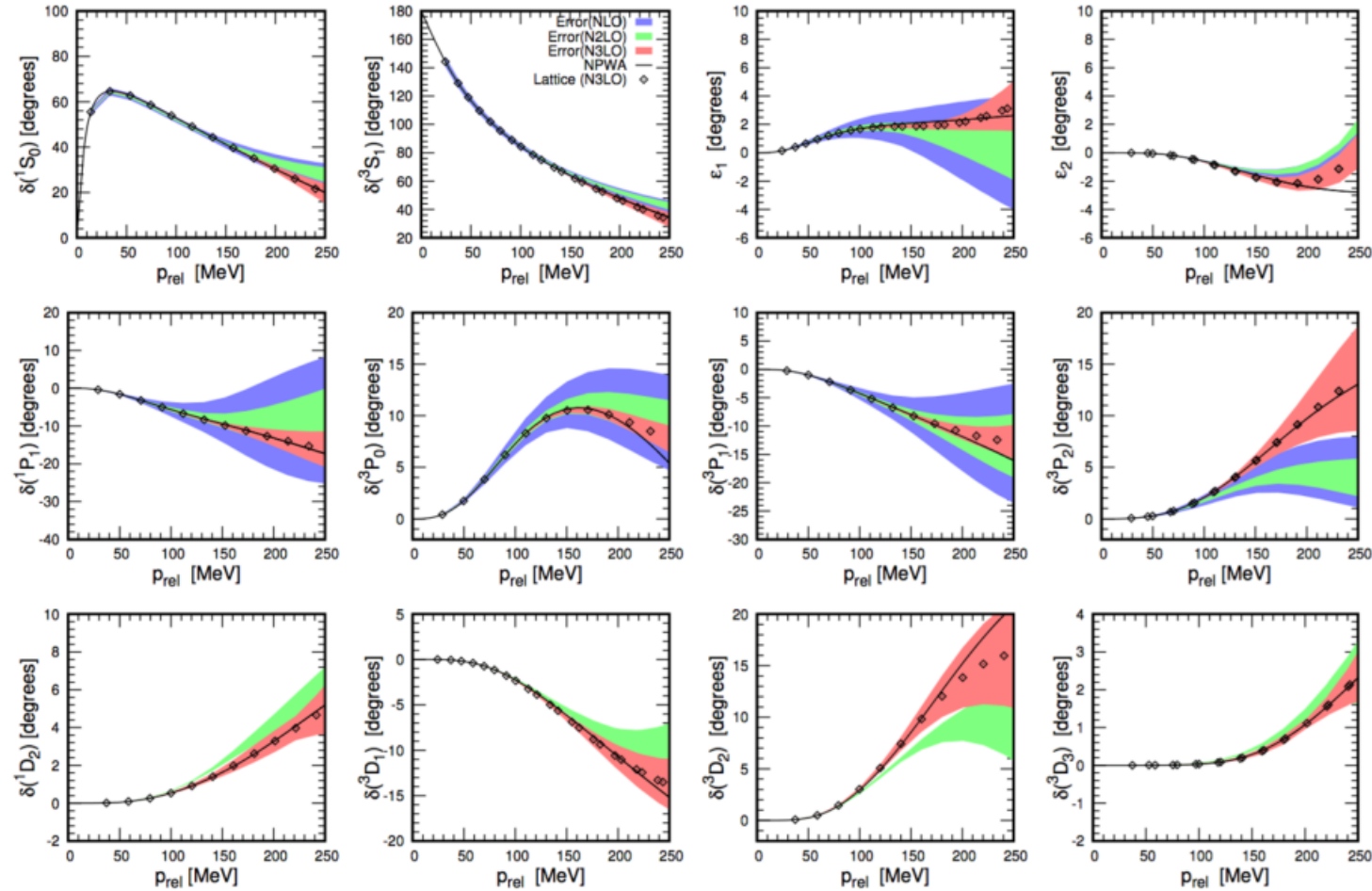
$$R_{\ell}^{(p)}(r) = N_{\ell}(p) \times \begin{cases} \cot \delta_{\ell}(p) j_{\ell}(pr) - n_{\ell}(pr) \\ \cot \delta_{\ell}(p) F_{\ell}(pr) + G_{\ell}(pr) \end{cases}$$

Nucl. Phys. A 424, 47-59 (1984), Eur. Phys. J. A 34, 185-196 (2007).





# Chiral nuclear force up to N<sup>3</sup>LO: fit on the lattice



**fit to N<sup>2</sup>LO:** Alarcon, Du, Klein, Lahde, Lee, Ning Li, B.L., Luu, Meissner, [EPJA 53, 83 \(2017\)](#)

**fit to N<sup>3</sup>LO:** Ning Li, Elhatisari, Epelbaum, Lee, B.L., Meissner, [PRC 98, 044002 \(2018\)](#)



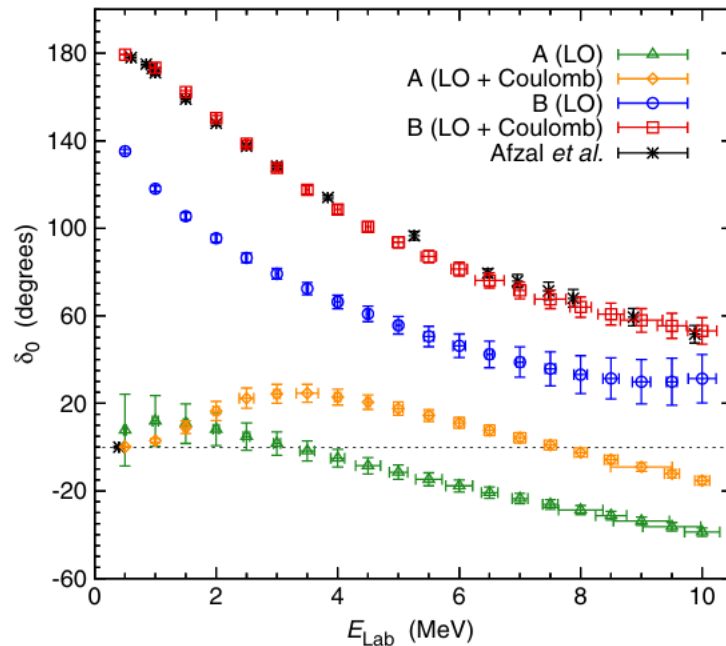
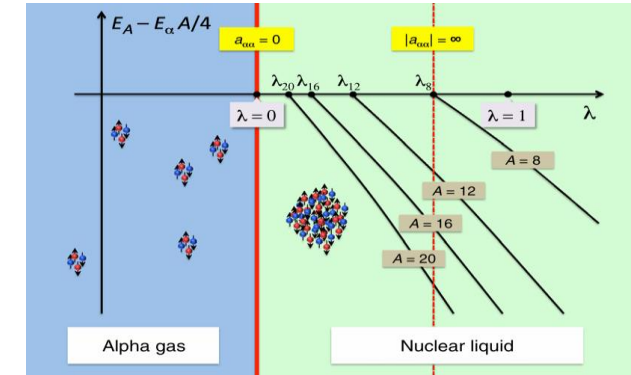
# Nuclear binding near a quantum phase transition

PRL 117, 132501 (2016)  Selected for a Viewpoint in Physics  
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
23 SEPTEMBER 2016

## Nuclear Binding Near a Quantum Phase Transition

Serdar Elhatisari,<sup>1</sup> Ning Li,<sup>2</sup> Alexander Rokash,<sup>3</sup> Jose Manuel Alarcón,<sup>1</sup> Dechuan Du,<sup>2</sup> Nico Klein,<sup>1</sup> Bing-nan Lu,<sup>2</sup>  
Ulf-G. Meißner,<sup>1,2,4</sup> Evgeny Epelbaum,<sup>3</sup> Hermann Krebs,<sup>3</sup> Timo A. Lähde,<sup>2</sup> Dean Lee,<sup>5</sup> and Gautam Rupak<sup>6</sup>



Nucleus	A (LO)	B (LO)	A (LO + Coulomb)	B (LO + Coulomb)	Experiment
<sup>3</sup> H	-7.82(5)	-7.78(12)	-7.82(5)	-7.78(12)	-8.482
<sup>3</sup> He	-7.82(5)	-7.78(12)	-7.08(5)	-7.09(12)	-7.718
<sup>4</sup> He	-29.36(4)	-29.19(6)	-28.62(4)	-28.45(6)	-28.296
<sup>8</sup> Be	-58.61(14)	-59.73(6)	-56.51(14)	-57.29(7)	-56.591
<sup>12</sup> C	-88.2(3)	-95.0(5)	-84.0(3)	-89.9(5)	-92.162
<sup>16</sup> O	-117.5(6)	-135.4(7)	-110.5(6)	-126.0(7)	-127.619
<sup>20</sup> Ne	-148(1)	-178(1)	-137(1)	-164(1)	-160.645

- The nuclear force can be either local (position-dependent) or non-local (velocity-dependent).
- Locality is an essential element for nuclear binding.

# Zeroth order Hamiltonian (perturbative order)

We use a zeroth order lattice Hamiltonian that respects the Wigner-SU(4) symmetry

$$H_0 = K + \frac{1}{2} C_{\text{SU4}} \sum_{\mathbf{n}} : \tilde{\rho}^2(\mathbf{n}) :$$

The smeared density operator  $\tilde{\rho}(\mathbf{n})$  is defined as

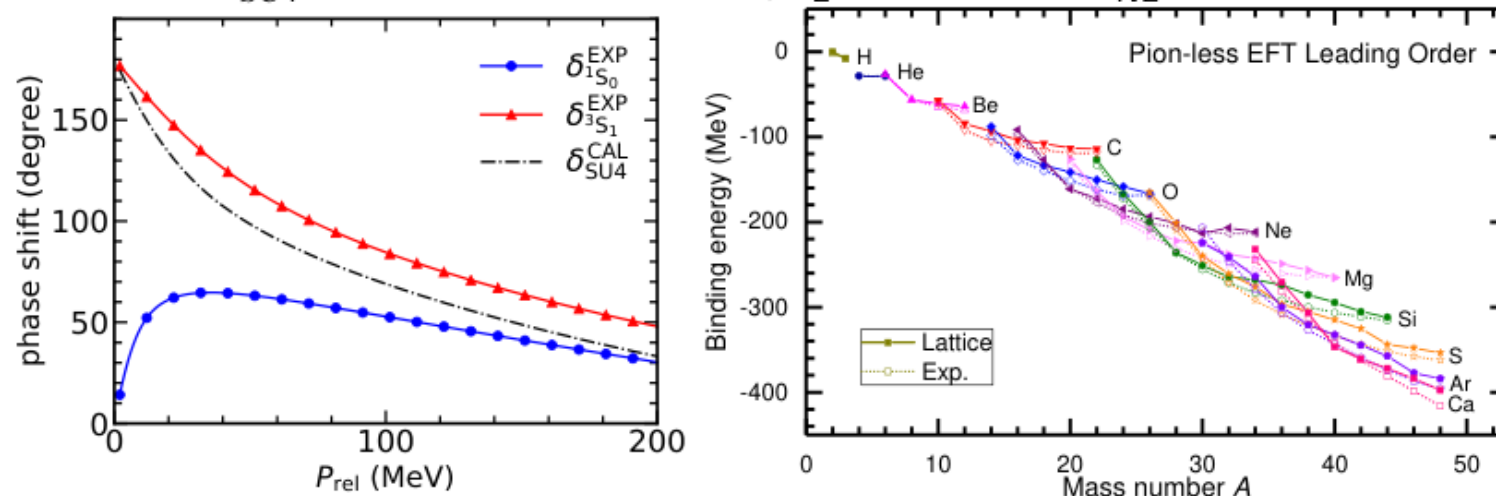
$$\tilde{\rho}(\mathbf{n}) = \sum_i \tilde{a}_i^\dagger(\mathbf{n}) \tilde{a}_i(\mathbf{n}) + s_L \sum_{|\mathbf{n}' - \mathbf{n}|=1} \sum_i \tilde{a}_i^\dagger(\mathbf{n}') \tilde{a}_i(\mathbf{n}'), \quad (1)$$

where  $i$  is the joint spin-isospin index

$$\tilde{a}_i(\mathbf{n}) = a_i(\mathbf{n}) + s_{NL} \sum_{|\mathbf{n}' - \mathbf{n}|=1} a_i(\mathbf{n}'). \quad (2)$$

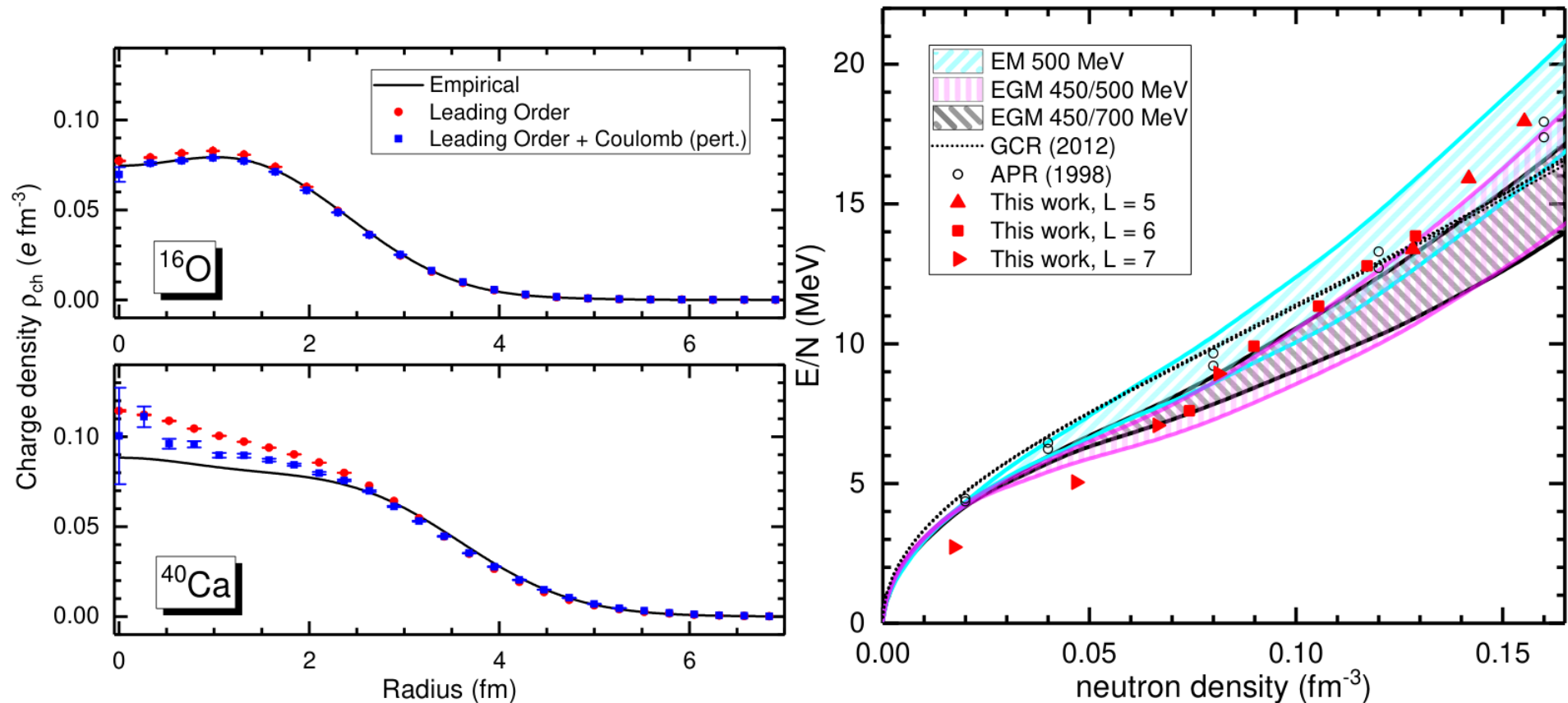
In this work we use a lattice spacing  $a = 1.32$  fm and the parameter set

$$C_{\text{SU4}} = -3.41 \times 10^{-7} \text{ MeV}^{-2}, \quad s_L = 0.061 \text{ and } s_{NL} = 0.5.$$

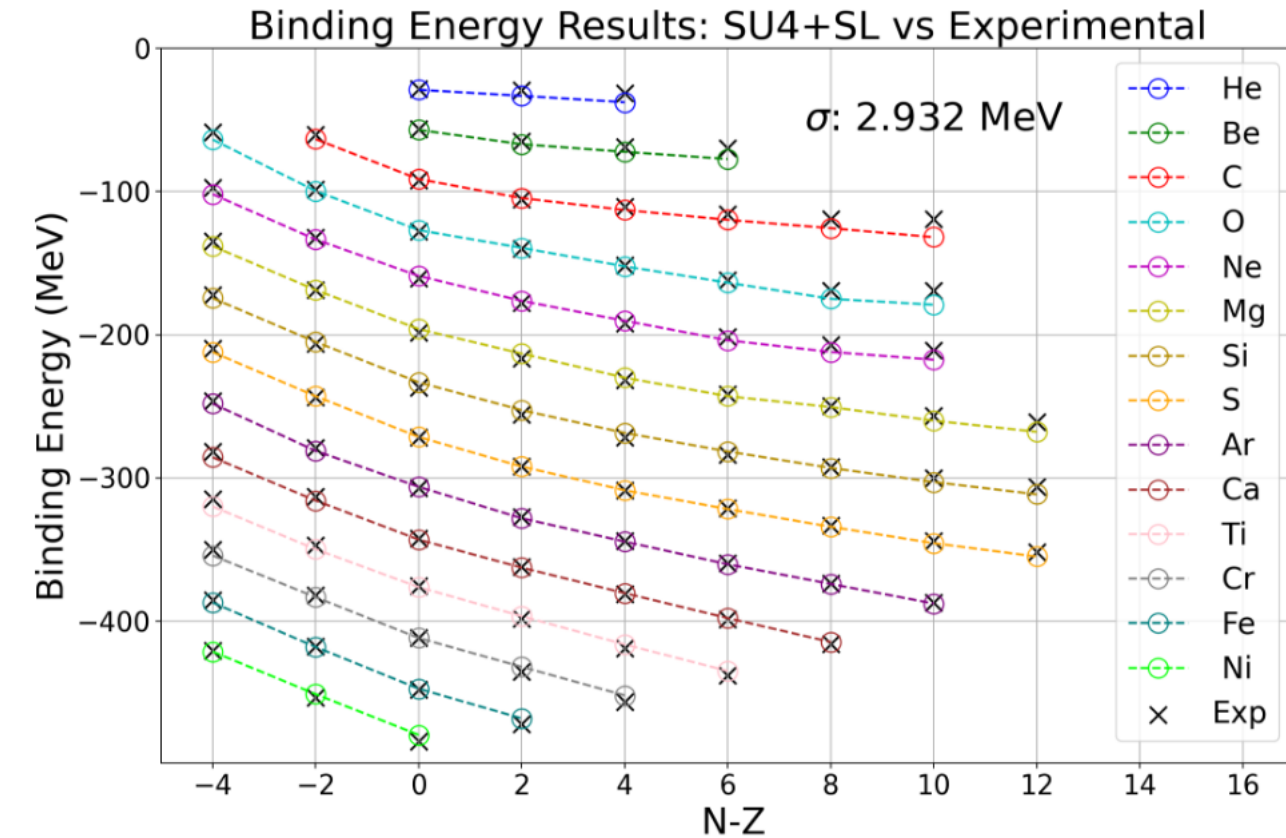


# Essential elements for nuclear binding

Charge density and neutron matter equation of state are important in element creation, neutron star merger, etc.

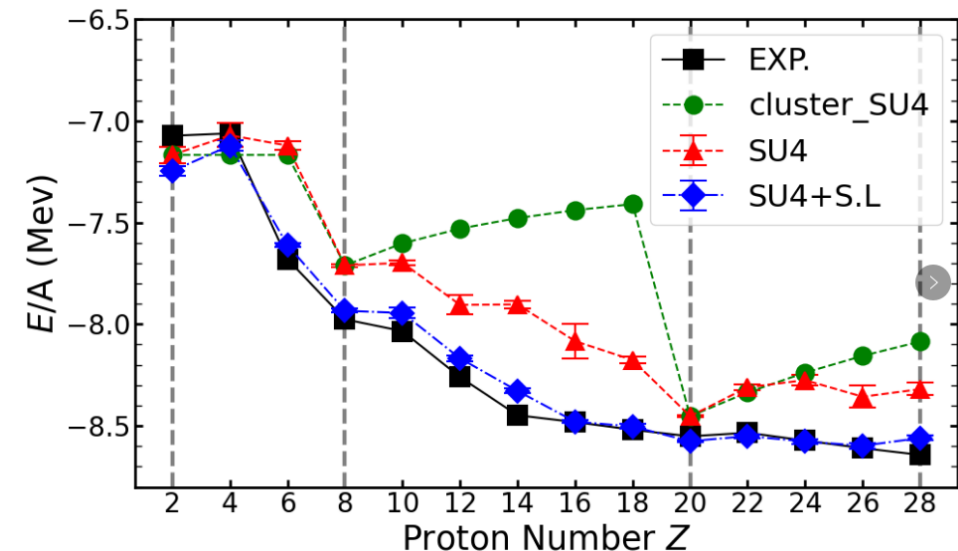


# Nuclear binding energies with spin-orbit term (preliminary)



- **Spin-orbit term** is essential for **shell evolutions**.  
(proper SL term **do not induce sign problem**)
- SU(4) + SL Hamiltonian, **5 parameters** optimized with masses of  $^4\text{He}$ ,  $^{16}\text{O}$ ,  $^{24}\text{Mg}$ ,  $^{28}\text{Si}$ ,  $^{40}\text{Ca}$ , etc.

- Average error for **76** even-even nuclei: **2.932 MeV**  
**Applicable to light/medium mass nuclei**  
[Zhong-Wang Niu et al., in preparation](#)
- Errors in other models
  - Relativistic mean field (PC-PK1): **2.258 MeV**  
[Peng-Wei Zhao et al., PRC82, 054319 \(2010\)](#)
  - Non-rel. mean field (UNDEF1): **3.380 MeV**  
[Kortelainen et al., PRC 85, 024304 \(2012\).](#)
  - Finite range droplet model: **1.142 MeV**  
[P. Moller et al., Atom. Data Nucl. Data Tables 109, 1 \(2016\)](#)

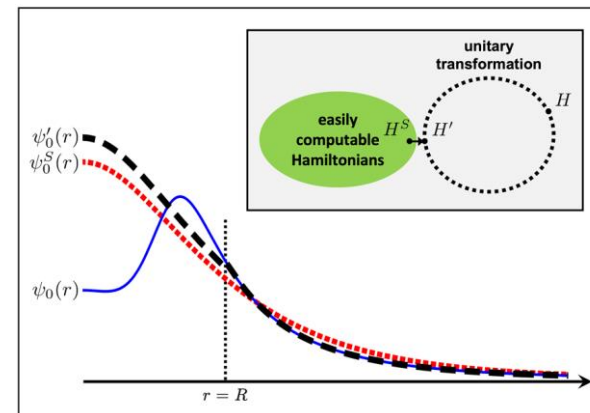
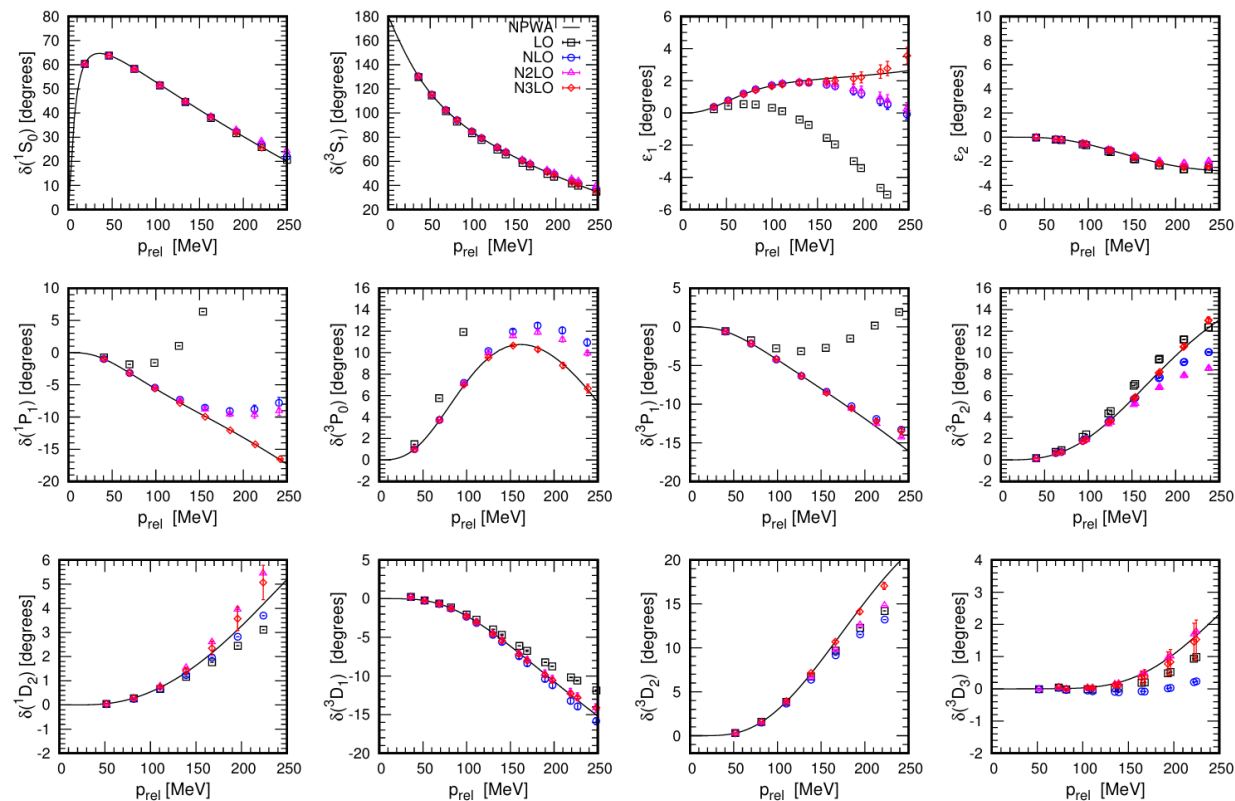


# Precision lattice chiral nuclear forces

- High-precision fit to N-N scattering phase shifts at N<sup>3</sup>LO

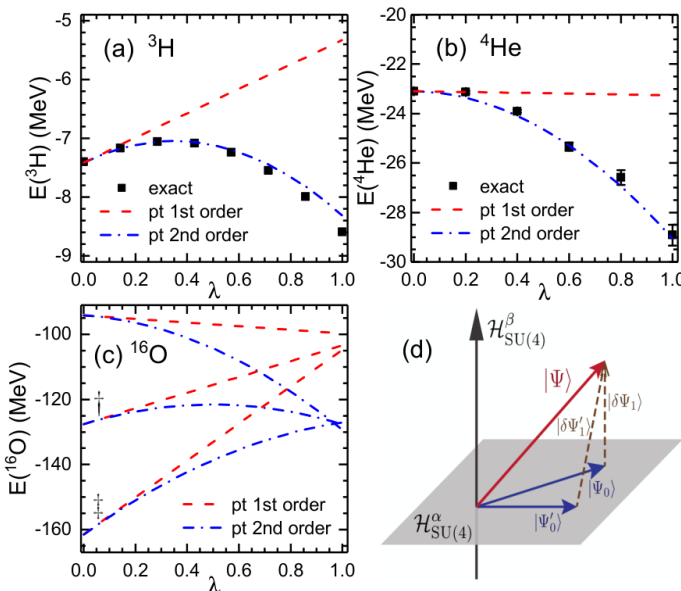
Alarcon et al., EPJA 53, 83 (2017)

Li et al., PRC 98, 044002 (2018)



Implementation in lattice calculations:

- Wave function matching method  
Elhatisari et al.,  
Nature 630, 59 (2024)
- Perturbative quantum Monte Carlo method  
Lu et al.,  
PRL 128, 242501 (2022)
- Rank-one operator method  
Ma et al.,  
PRL 132, 232502 (2024)



# Pinhole algorithm: Schematic

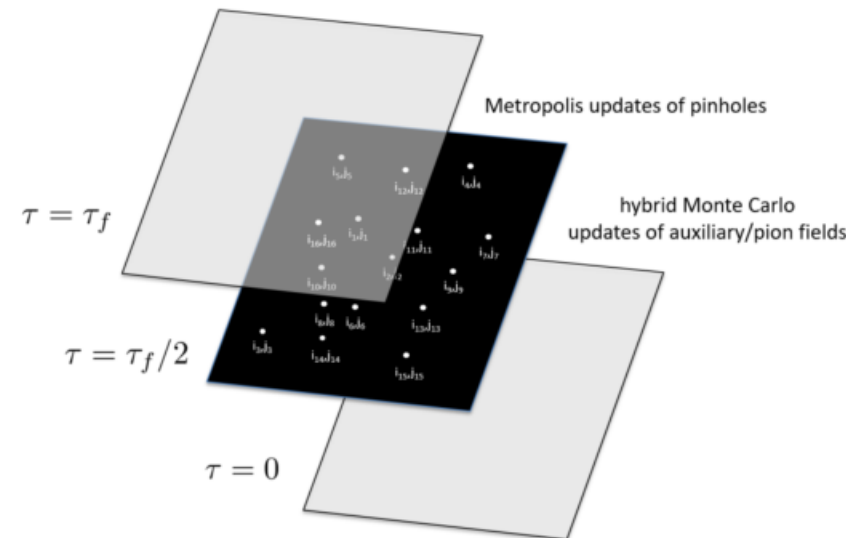
In terms of auxiliary fields, the amplitude  $Z$  can be written as a path-integral,

$$Z_{f,i}(i_1, j_1, \dots, i_A, j_A; \mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A; L_t) \\ = \int \mathcal{D}s \mathcal{D}\pi \langle \Psi_f(s, \pi) | \rho_{i_1 j_1, \dots, i_A j_A}(\mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A) | \Psi_i(s, \pi) \rangle.$$

We generate a combined probability distribution

$$P(s, \pi, i_1, j_1, \dots, i_A, j_A; \mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A) = |\langle \Psi_f(s, \pi) | \rho_{i_1 j_1, \dots, i_A j_A}(\mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A) | \Psi_i(s, \pi) \rangle|$$

by updating both the auxiliary fields and the pinhole quantum numbers.





# Pinhole algorithm: Intrinsic density distributions

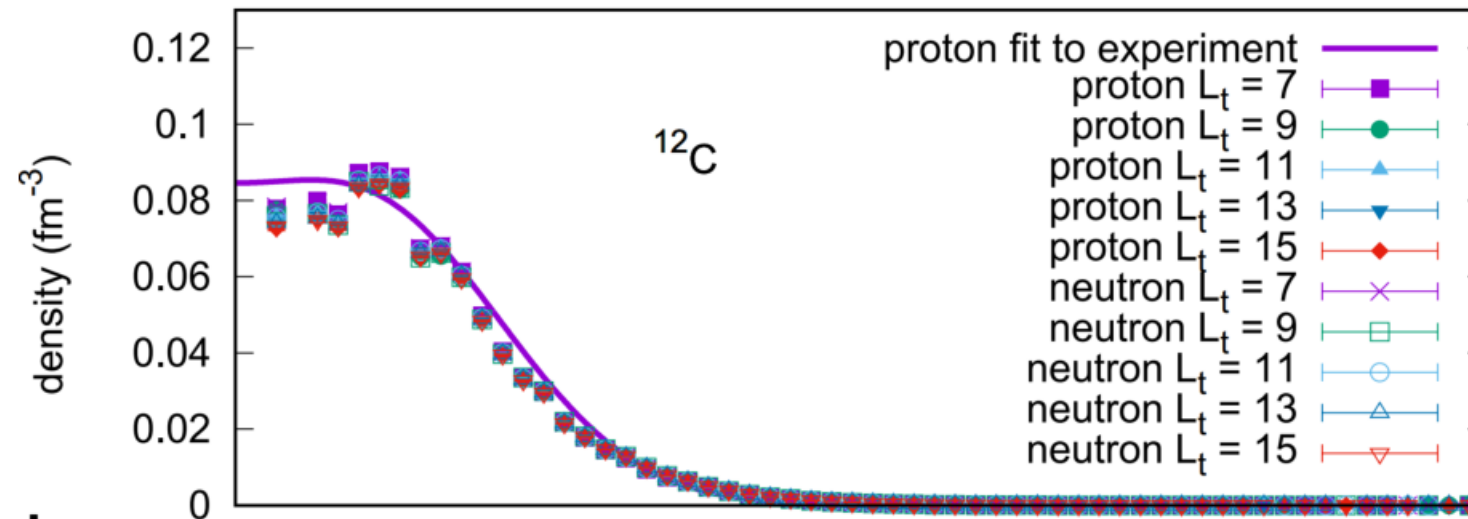
- Densities relative to the **center of mass**:

$$\rho_{\text{c.m.}}(r) = \sum_{n_1, \dots, n_A} |\Phi(n_1, \dots, n_A)|^2 \sum_{i=1}^A \delta(r - |r_i - R_{\text{c.m.}}|)$$

- First LEFT calculation of **nuclear intrinsic densities**.

- Proton radius** is included by **numerical convolution**

$$\rho(r) = \int \rho_{\text{Point}}(r') e^{-(r-r')/(2a^2)} d^3 r', \text{ proton radius } a \approx 0.84 \text{ fm.}$$



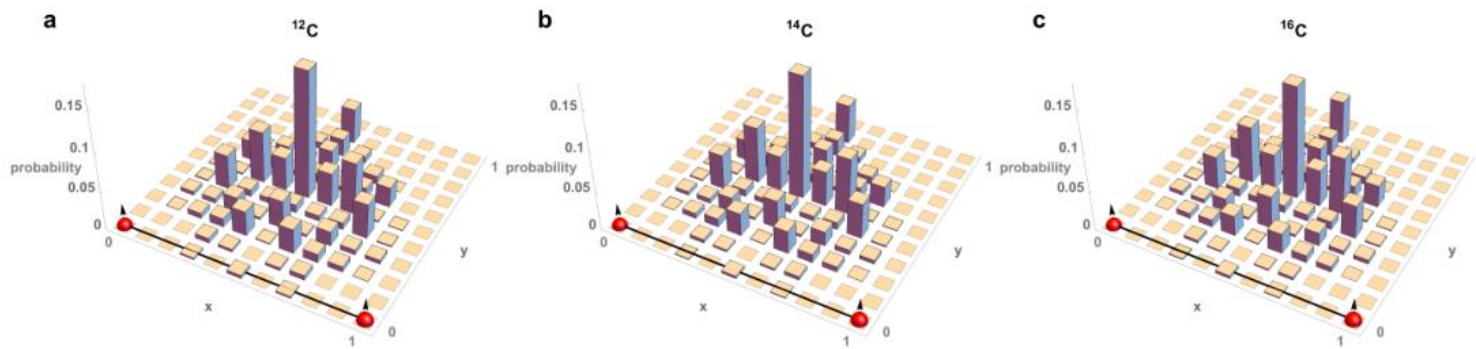
- Independent of projection time  $L_t \iff$  In **ground state**

- Sign problem** suppressed  $\rightarrow$  Small errorbars

Elhatisari et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 222505 (2017)

# Alpha clustering in nucleus

Positions of 3rd **proton** relative to the other two in  $^{12,14,16}\text{C}$



Alpha clusters seem to be **fundamental unit** in several important scenarios.

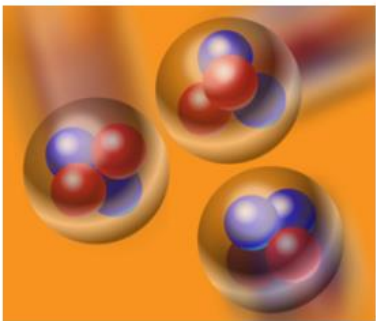
E.g., the 2<sup>nd</sup> 0<sup>+</sup> state of C12, or the **Hoyle state**, sensitively determines the abundance of Carbon in our universe.

Many evidences suggest that the Hoyle state is a **clustering state**.

Can be explored from ab initio lattice EFT calculations.

Recent review for nuclear clustering:  
M. Freer, H. Horiuchi, Y. Kanada-En'yo,  
Dean Lee, U.-G. Meißner,  
Rev. Mod. Phys. 90, 035004 (2018).

- **Hoyle state**: Triple- $\alpha$  resonance, essential for creating  $^{12}\text{C}$  in stars (Hoyle, 1954). *Fine-tuning for life?*  
Epelbaum et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 106, 192501 (2011)
- **Perspective**: important many-body correlations, understand **internal structures** of ground and excited states by *ab initio calculations*.
- **Next step**: high-precision chiral interaction  $\rightarrow$  EM form factors, shape coexistence, clustering, ...  
Elhatisari et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 222505 (2017)



# Alpha clustering in nucleus

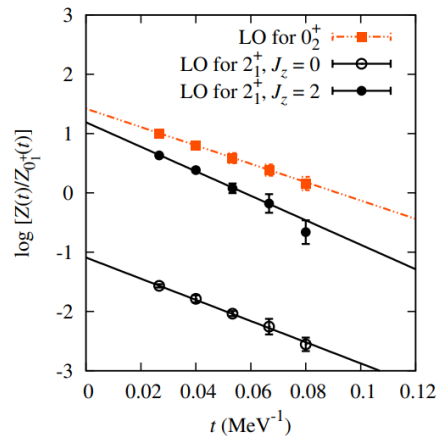
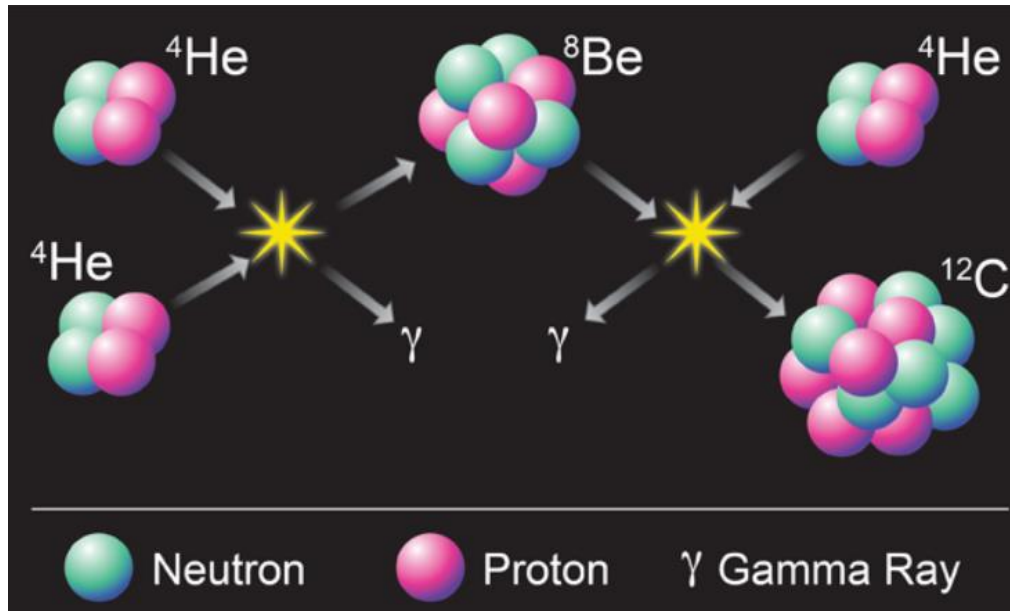
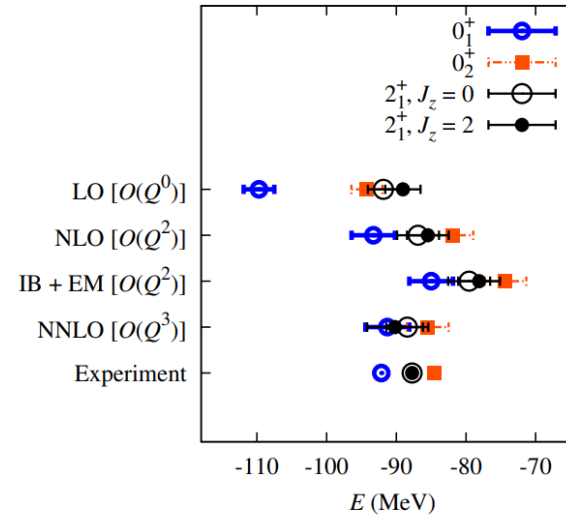


FIG. 1: Extraction of the excited states of  $^{12}\text{C}$  from the time dependence of the projection amplitude at LO. The slope of the logarithm of  $Z(t)/Z_{0+}(t)$  at large  $t$  determines the energy relative to the ground state.



Lattice EFT can capture the essential many-body correlations  
In clustering states, e.g, Hoyle state

Beyond-mean-field effects:  
Clustering states are difficult for mean-field calculations -> call for precision ab initio methods

## Ab initio calculation of the Hoyle state

E Epelbaum, H Krebs, D Lee, UG Meißner  
Phys. Rev. Lett 106, 192501

424 2011

## Lattice simulations for few-and many-body systems

D Lee  
Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 63 (1), 117-154

327 2009

## Structure and rotations of the Hoyle state

E Epelbaum, H Krebs, TA Lähde, D Lee, UG Meißner  
Physical Review Letters 109 (25), 252501

312 2012

## Microscopic clustering in light nuclei

M Freer, H Horiuchi, Y Kanada-En'yo, D Lee, UG Meißner  
Review of Modern Physics 90, 035004

274 2018

## Ab initio alpha-alpha scattering

S Elhatisari, D Lee, G Rupak, E Epelbaum, H Krebs, TA Lähde, T Luu, ...  
Nature 528 (7580), 111-114

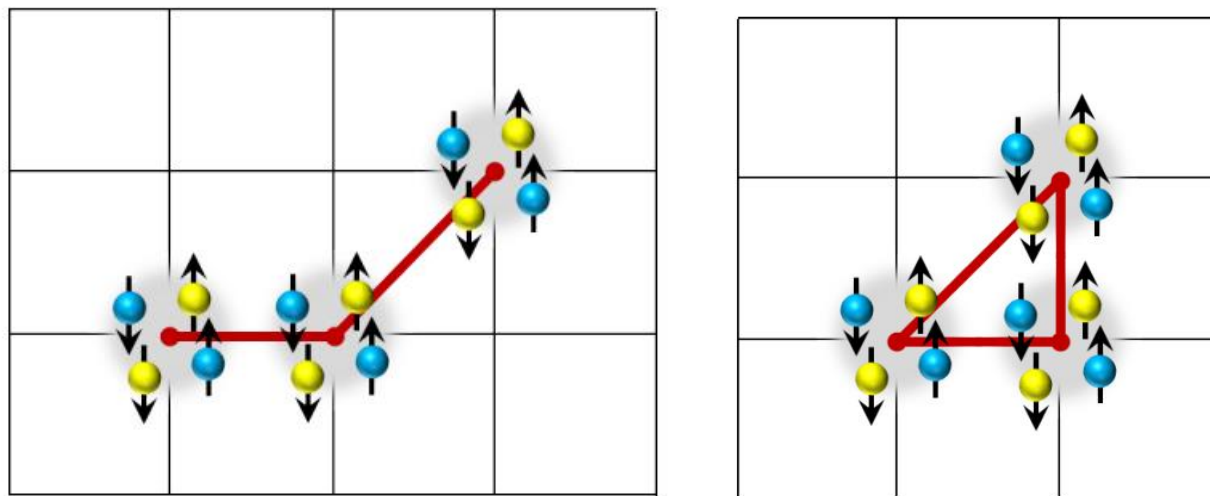
171 2015

## Ab Initio Calculation of the Spectrum and Structure of O 16

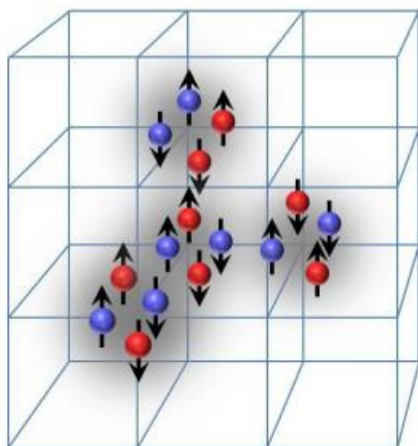
E Epelbaum, H Krebs, TA Lähde, D Lee, UG Meißner, G Rupak  
Physical review letters 112 (10), 102501

168 2014

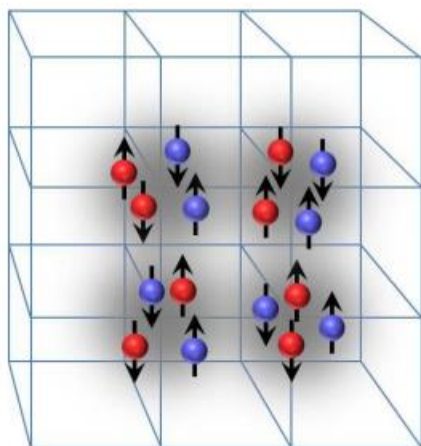
# Intrinsic structures of alpha clustering states



- Structure of clustering states can be inferred by preparing different initial state configurations.
- Educated guess for the shape of the state:  
Best guess has largest overlap with true eigenstate  
→ Converges quickly
- Provides indirect evidences of the nuclear shapes



(a) Initial state "A",  
8 equivalent orientations.



(b) Initial states "B" and "C",  
3 equivalent orientations.

Structure and rotations of the Hoyle state,  
Evgeny Epelbaum, Hermann Krebs, Timo A Lähde, Dean Lee,  
Ulf-G Meißner, PRL 109, 252501 (2012)

Ab Initio Calculation of the Spectrum and Structure of O 16  
Evgeny Epelbaum, Hermann Krebs, Timo A Lähde, Dean Lee,  
Ulf-G Meißner, Gautam Rupak, PRL112, 102501 (2014)

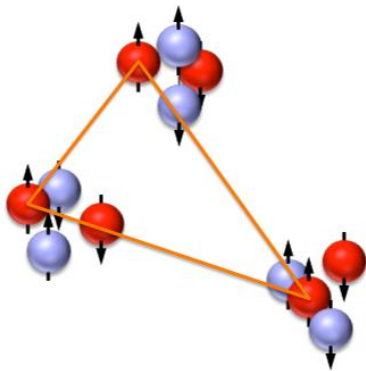


# Clustering state tomography

- With **pinhole algorithm**, the clustering geometry can be extracted from the true ab initio eigenstates. E.g., relative configurations of alpha clusters in Carbon-12.

We always align the longest edge with the x-axis and keep the triangle in the x-y plane.

$$\rho(d_1, d_2, d_3) = \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3} \sum_{\mathbf{n}_1, \mathbf{n}_2, \mathbf{n}_3} |\Phi_{\uparrow j_1, \uparrow j_2, \uparrow j_3}(\mathbf{n}_1, \mathbf{n}_2, \mathbf{n}_3)|^2 \times \sum_{P(123)} \delta(|\mathbf{n}_1 - \mathbf{n}_2| - d_3) \delta(|\mathbf{n}_1 - \mathbf{n}_3| - d_2) \delta(|\mathbf{n}_2 - \mathbf{n}_3| - d_1),$$

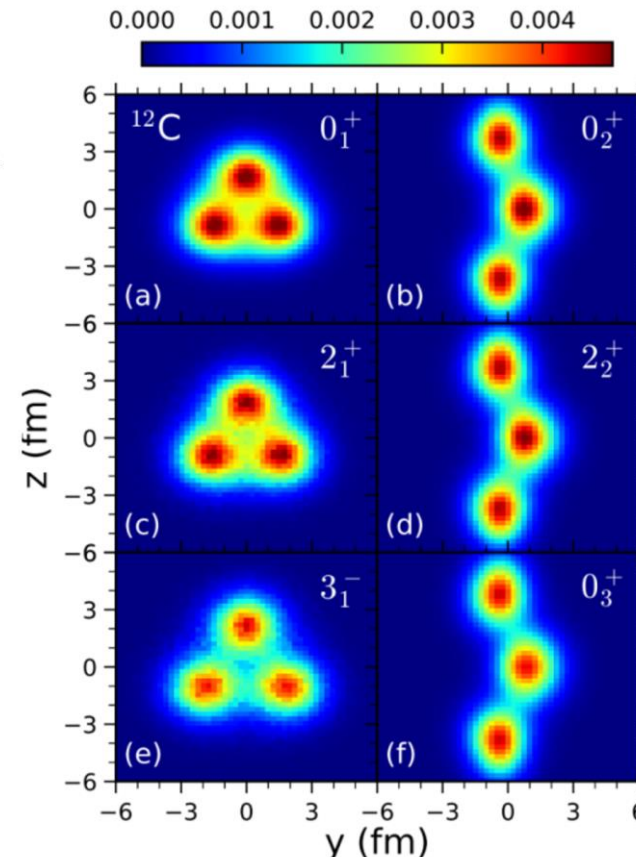


Three-body correlation in Carbon isotopes  
Elhatisari et al., PRL 119, 222505 (2017)

Tomography of nuclear clustering

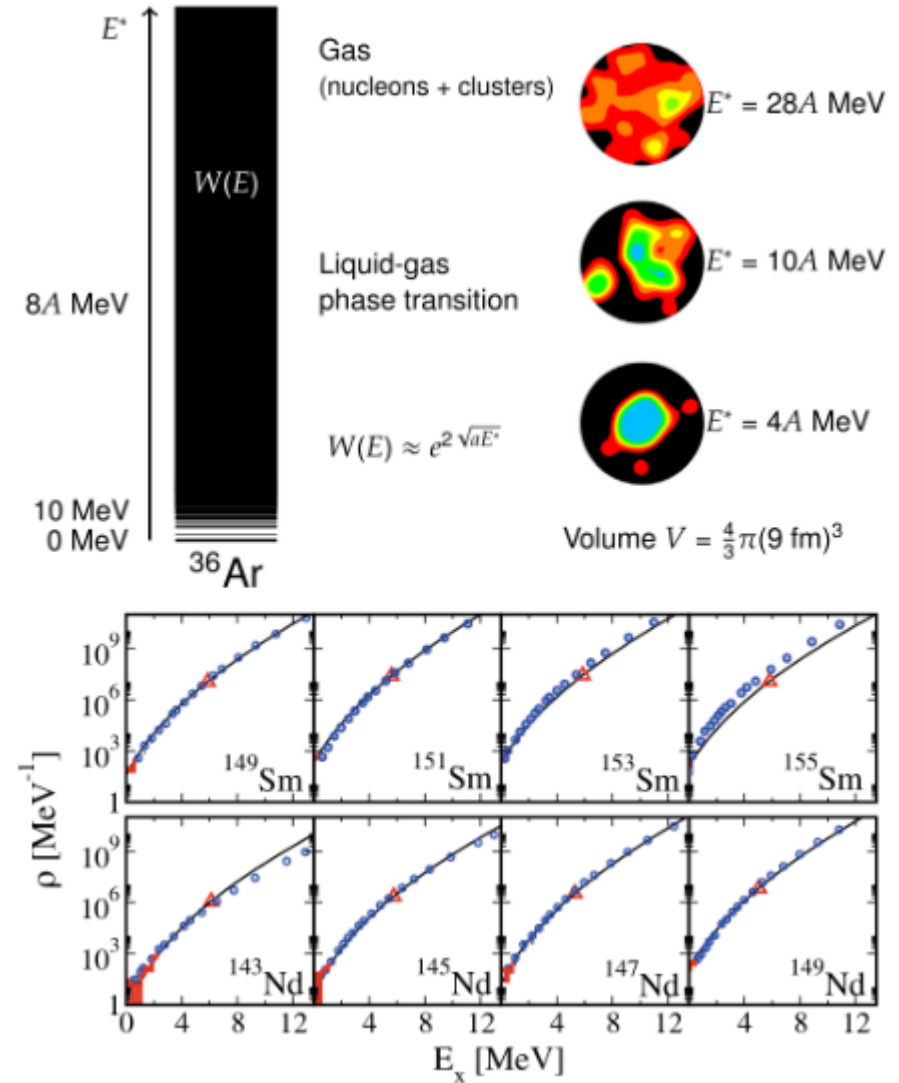
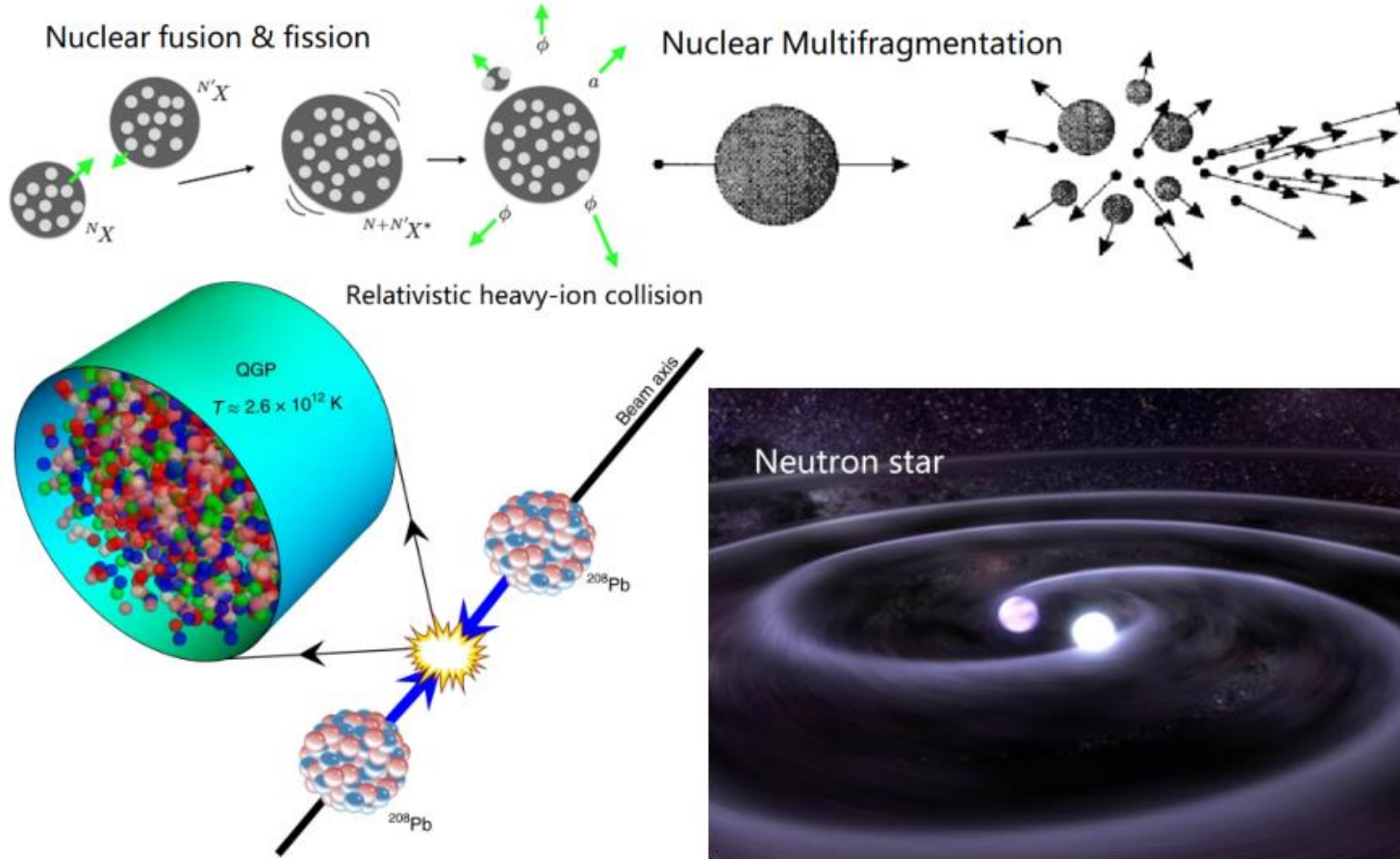
Shen et al.,

Nat. Commun. 14, 2777 (2023)



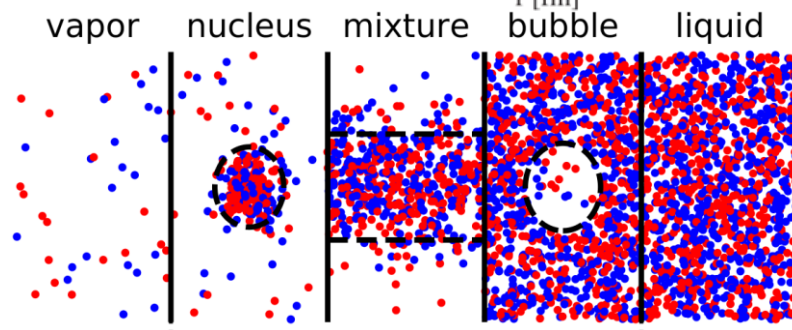
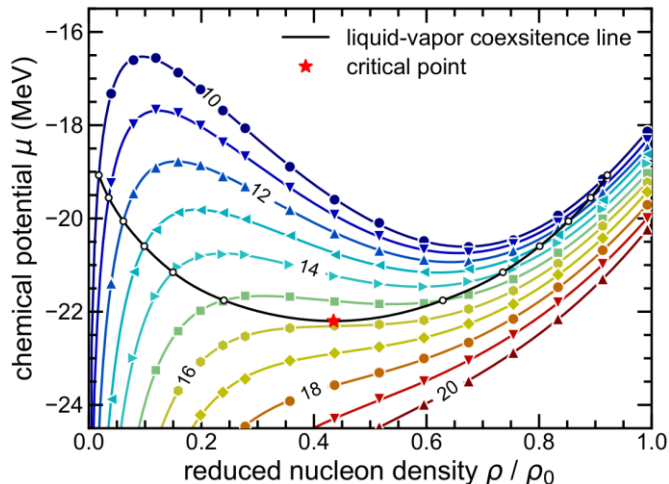
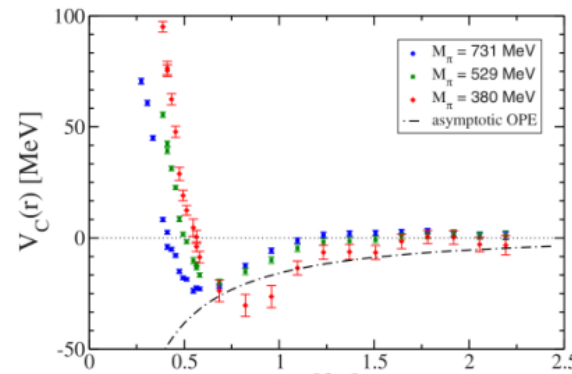
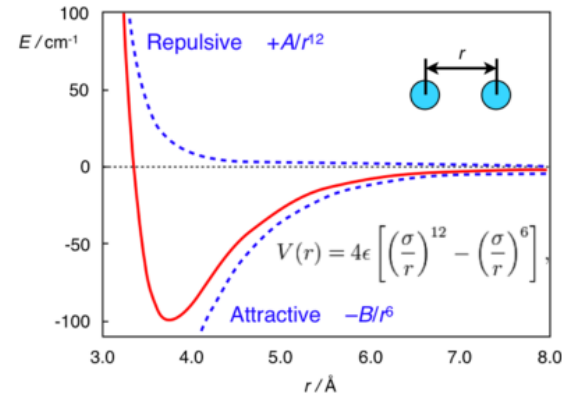
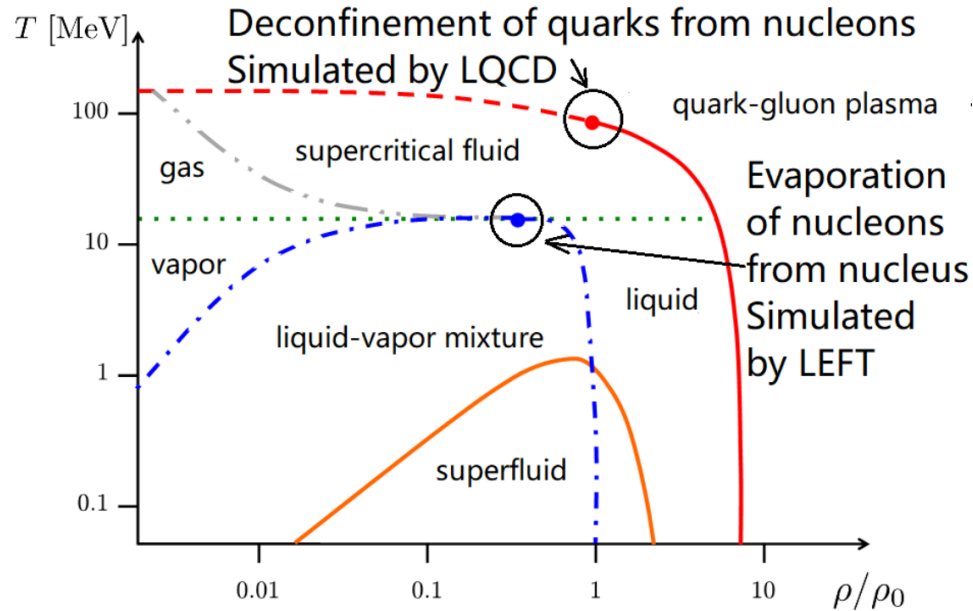
- Hoyle state is composed of a “bent-arm” or obtuse triangular arrangement of alpha clusters.
- The low-lying states of  $^{12}\text{C}$  are either equilateral triangle or obtuse triangle.
- The states with the equilateral triangle formation also have a dual description in terms of particle-hole excitations in the mean-field picture.

# Nuclear thermodynamics





# Nuclear thermodynamics from lattice EFT



nuclear liquid v.s. normal liquid  
nuclear force v.s. van der Waals force  
nuclear liquid-gas phase transition  
v.s. water liquid-gas phase transition

Ab initio calculation for liquid-gas phase transition in symmetric nuclear matter based on lattice EFT

Lu et al., PRL 125, 192502 (2020)

10~1000 times speed up with new Pinhole-trace algorithm

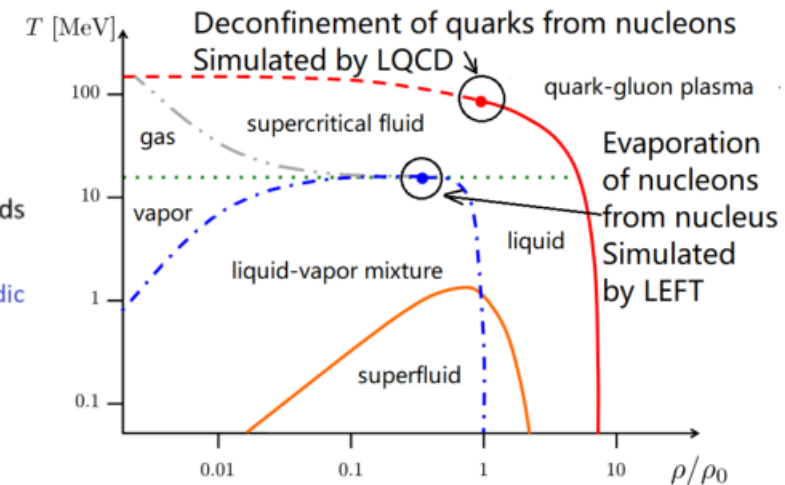
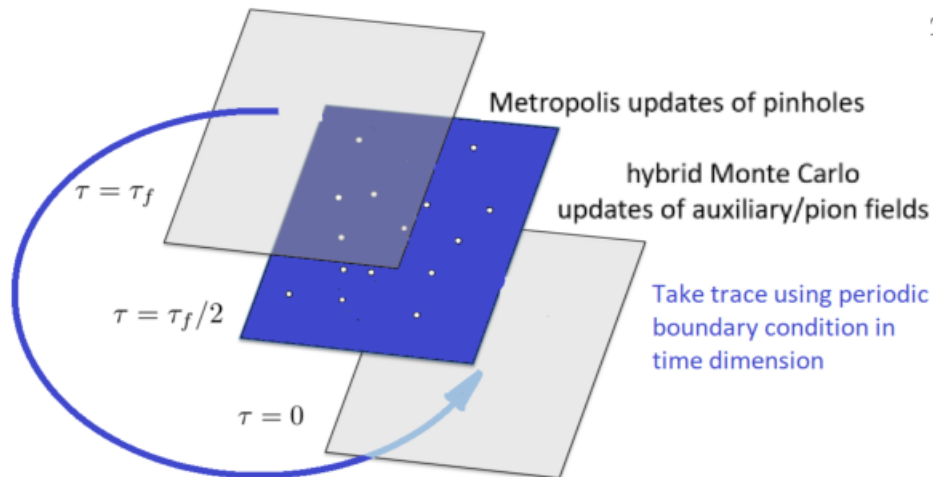


# Simulate canonical ensemble with pinhole trace algorithm

- All we need: **partition function**  $Z(T, V, A) = \sum_k \langle \exp(-\beta H) \rangle_k$ , sum over all orthonormal states in Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}(V, A)$ .
- The **basis states**  $|\mathbf{n}_1, \mathbf{n}_2, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A\rangle$  span the whole **A-body Hilbert space**.  $\mathbf{n}_i = (\mathbf{r}_i, s_i \sigma_i)$  consists of **coordinate, spin, isospin** of  $i$ -th nucleon.
- **Canonical partition function** can be expressed in this **complete basis**:

$$Z_A = \text{Tr}_A [\exp(-\beta H)] = \sum_{\mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A} \int \mathcal{D}s \mathcal{D}\pi \langle \mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A | \exp[-\beta H(s, \pi)] | \mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A \rangle$$

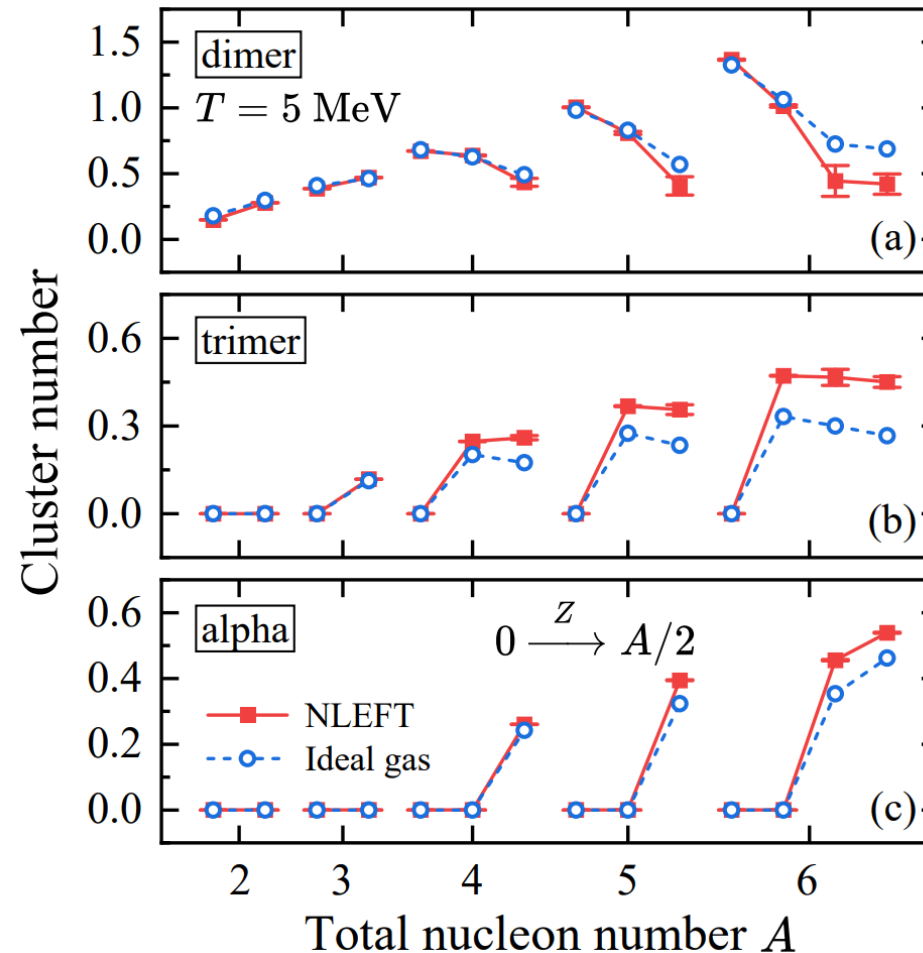
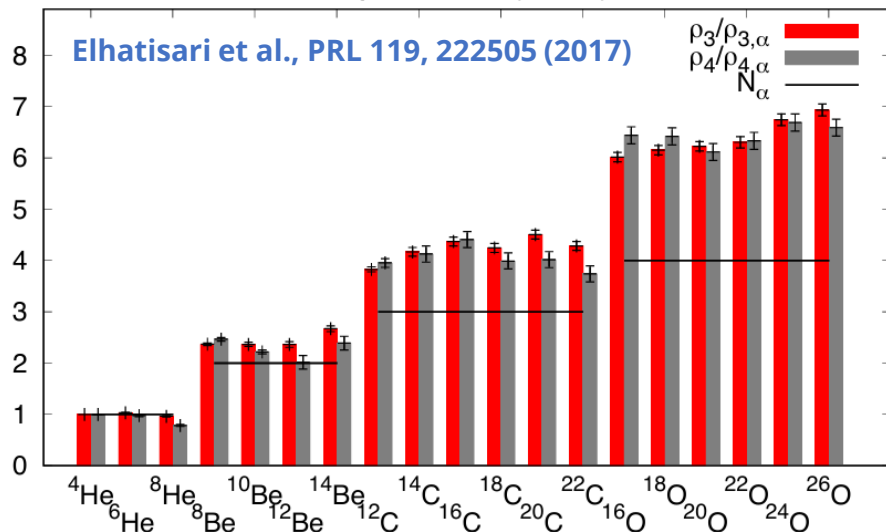
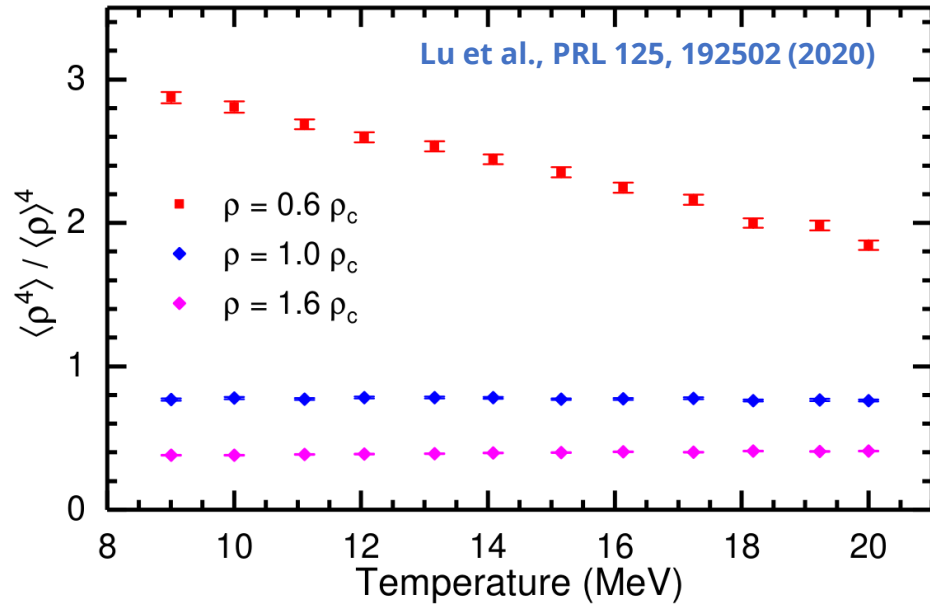
- **Pinhole algorithm** + **periodicity in  $\beta$**  = **Pinhole trace**
- Apply **twisted boundary condition** in 3 spatial dimensions to remove finite volume effects. Twist angle  $\theta$  averaged with MC.



# Clustering in ground states and hot nuclear matter

Many clustering indicator can be built from wave functions.  
Works for ground states / excited states / finite temperature.

Monitoring how clustering evolves with  $N/Z$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $T$ , ...



$$G_{11}(n) = L^3 \sum_{\{\sigma_i \tau_i\}} : \rho_{\sigma_1 \tau_1}(0) \rho_{\sigma_2 \tau_2}(n) :,$$

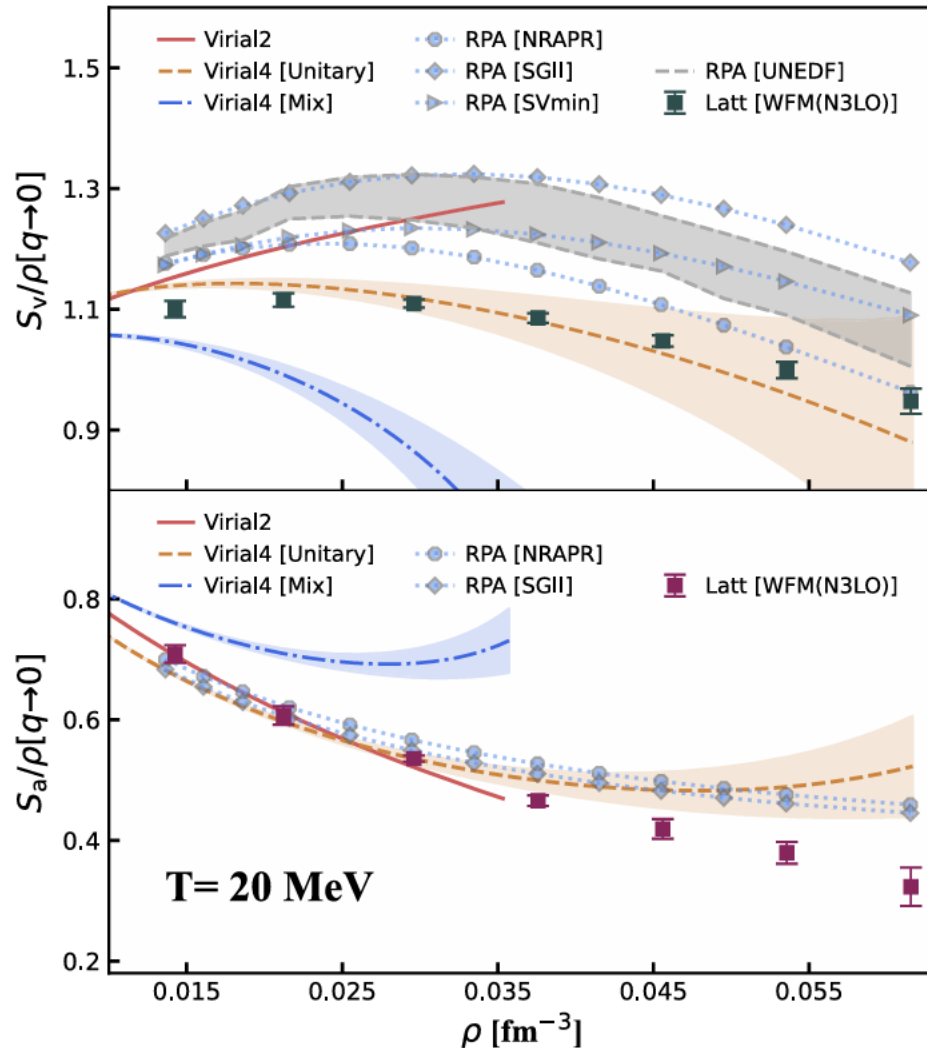
$$G_{21}(n) = L^3 \sum_{\{\sigma_i \tau_i\}} : \rho_{\sigma_1 \tau_1}(0) \rho_{\sigma_2 \tau_2}(0) \rho_{\sigma_3 \tau_3}(n) :,$$

$$G_{31}(n) = L^3 \sum_{\{\sigma_i \tau_i\}} : \rho_{\sigma_1 \tau_1}(0) \rho_{\sigma_2 \tau_2}(0) \rho_{\sigma_3 \tau_3}(0) \rho_{\sigma_4 \tau_4}(n) :,$$

$$G_{22}(n) = L^3 \sum_{\{\sigma_i \tau_i\}} : \rho_{\sigma_1 \tau_1}(0) \rho_{\sigma_2 \tau_2}(0) \rho_{\sigma_3 \tau_3}(n) \rho_{\sigma_4 \tau_4}(n) :.$$

Ren et al., PLB 850, 138463 (2024)

# Correlations in hot nuclear matter



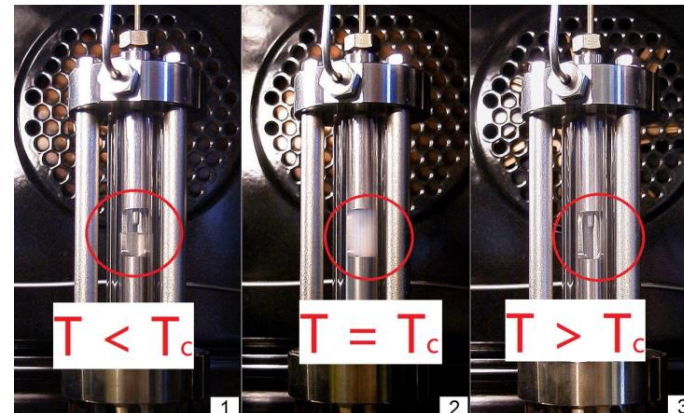
- Structure factors are Fourier transforms of correlation functions

$$S_V(\mathbf{q}) = \int d^3r [\langle \hat{\rho}(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}') \hat{\rho}(\mathbf{r}') \rangle - \rho_0^2] e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$$

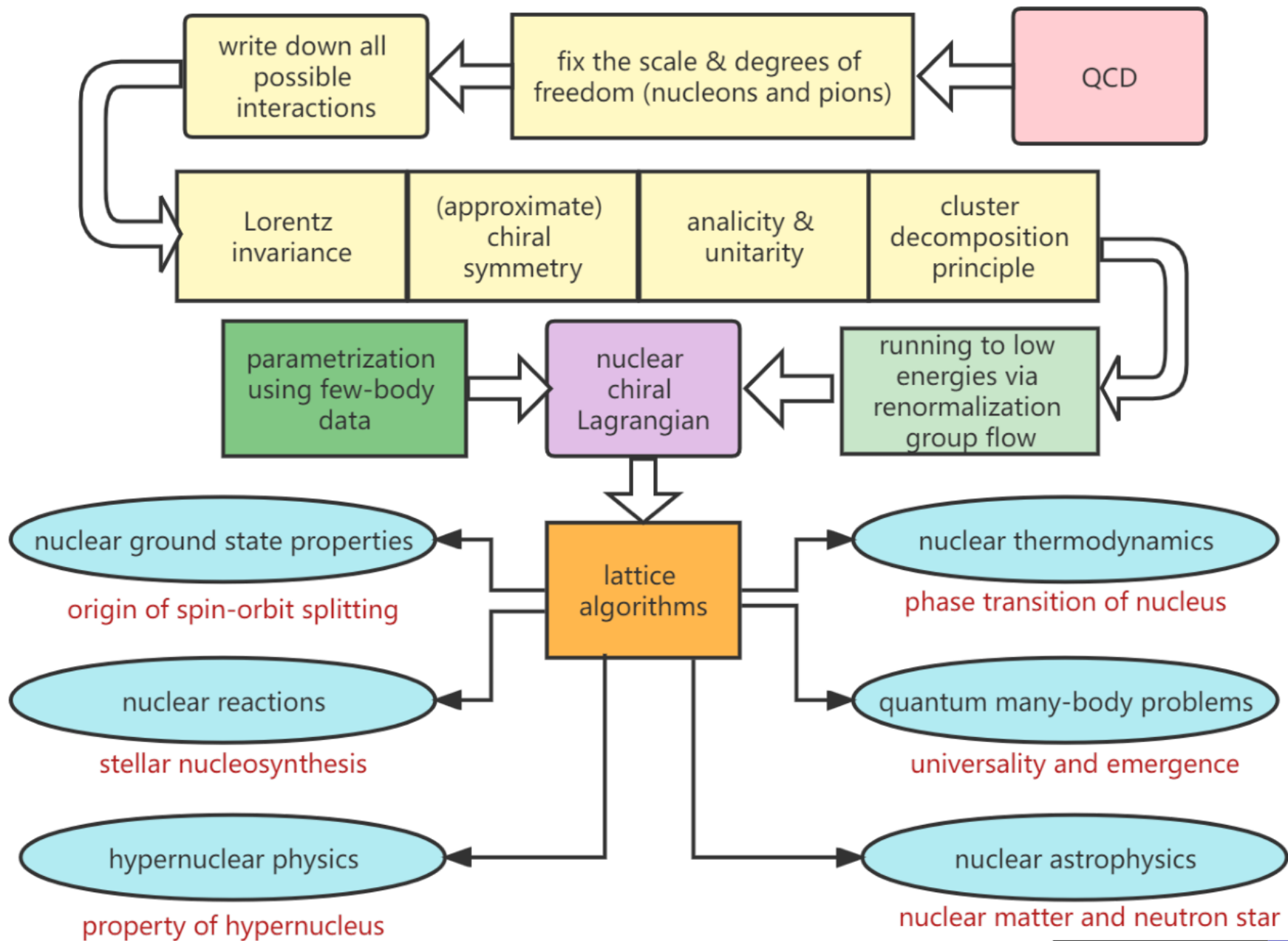
$$S_a(\mathbf{q}) = \int d^3r [\langle \hat{\rho}_z(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}') \hat{\rho}_z(\mathbf{r}') \rangle - \rho_{z0}^2] e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$$

- Key for modeling Core-collapse supernovae explosions via neutrino-nucleon scattering
- Lattice EFT provides ab initio calculation with a N<sup>3</sup>LO chiral interaction based on a rank-one operator method

[Ma et al., PRL 132, 232502 \(2024\)](#)







# Summary and perspective

- Nuclear Lattice EFT is a quantum many-body problem solver designed for low-energy nuclear physics.
- The **wave functions for ground state / excited states** and **density matrices for finite temperature systems** can be solved exactly. **Collective correlations** can be extracted accordingly.
- Future with NLEFT:
  - More precision nuclear forces
  - Advanced quantum many-body algorithms
  - Ab initio nuclear spectroscopy
  - Ab initio nuclear thermodynamics
  - Ab initio calculation of electroweak observables
  - ...



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- Future with NLEFT:
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  - Renormalization of effective field theory
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  - Ab initio nuclear thermodynamics
  - Ab initio calculation of electroweak observables
  - ...

Thank you for you attention!