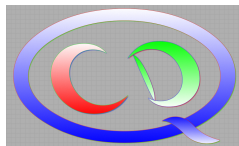


# Towards Nuclear Physics as Precision Science

**Ulf-G. Meißner, Univ. Bonn & FZ Jülich**

**supported by DFG, SFB/TR-110**



by CAS, PIFI



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CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

**by VolkswagenStftung**



Volkswagen**Stiftung**

## 2

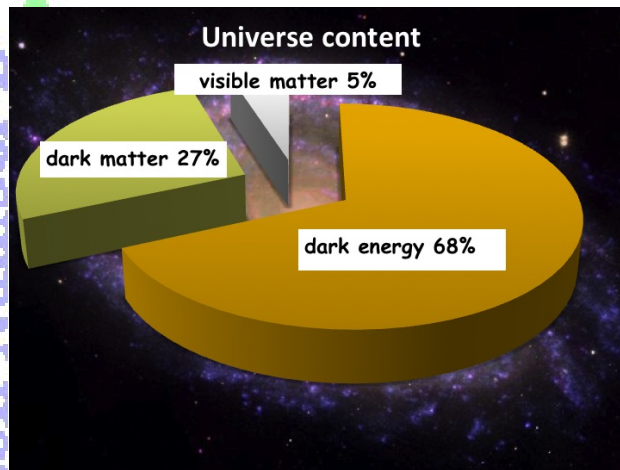
- Towards Nuclear Physics as Precision Science – Ulf-G. Meißner – NTSE18, Oct. 29, 2018

# The BIG Picture

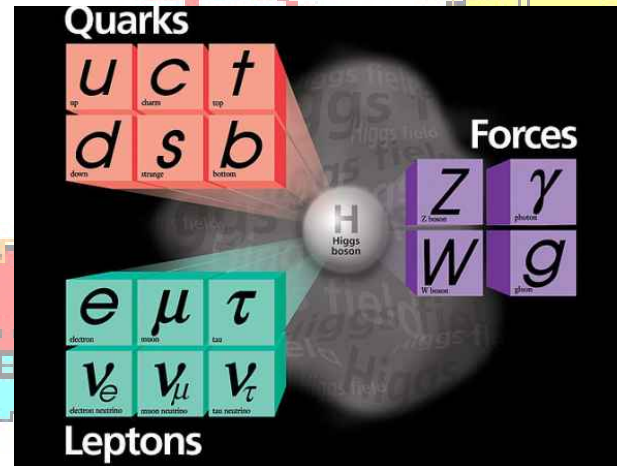
# WHY NUCLEAR PHYSICS?

4

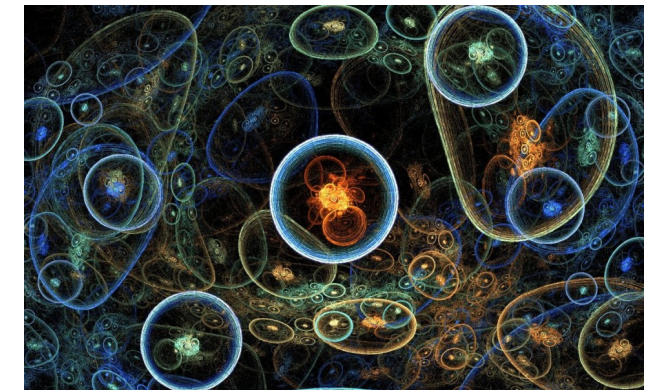
- The matter we are made off



- The last frontier of the SM



- Access to the Multiverse



⇒ Precision mandatory

Neutron Number  $N$

- ★ limits of stability
- ★ 3-nucleon forces
- ★ alpha-clustering
- ⋮



- ★ alpha-particle scattering:  ${}^4\text{He} + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + {}^4\text{He}$
- ★ triple-alpha reaction:  ${}^4\text{He} + {}^4\text{He} + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow {}^{12}\text{C} + \gamma$
- ★ alpha-capture on carbon:  ${}^4\text{He} + {}^{12}\text{C} \rightarrow {}^{16}\text{O} + \gamma$
- ⋮
- ⋮



# Basics of nuclear lattice simulations

for an easy intro, see: UGM, Nucl. Phys. News **24** (2014) 11

for an early review, see: D. Lee, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **63** (2009) 117

upcoming textbook, see: T. Lähde, UGM, Springer Lecture Notes in Physics

# NUCLEAR LATTICE EFFECTIVE FIELD THEORY

Frank, Brockmann (1992), Koonin, Müller, Seki, van Kolck (2000) , Lee, Schäfer (2004), . . . Borasoy, Krebs, Lee, UGM, Nucl. Phys. **A768** (2006) 179; Borasoy, Epelbaum, Krebs, Lee, UGM, Eur. Phys. J. **A31** (2007) 105

- *new method* to tackle the nuclear many-body problem

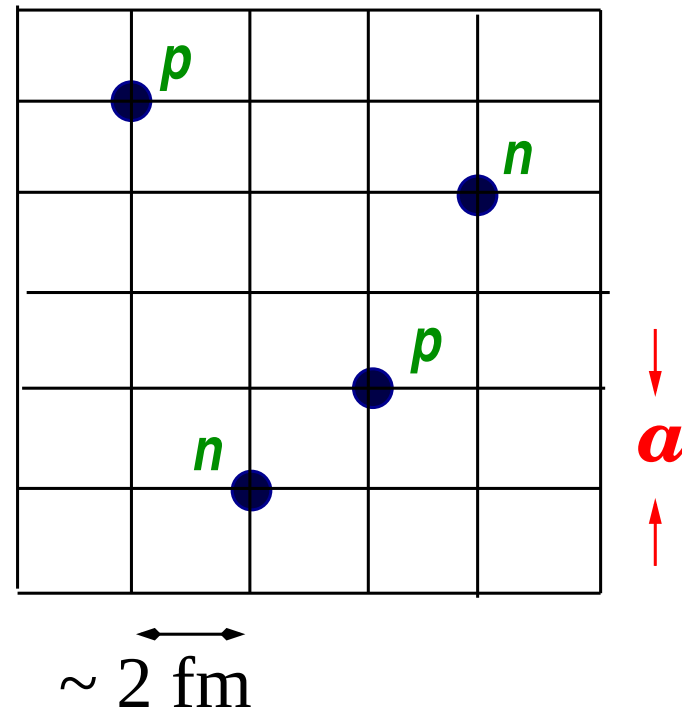
- discretize space-time  $V = L_s \times L_s \times L_s \times L_t$ :  
nucleons are point-like particles on the sites

- discretized chiral potential w/ pion exchanges and contact interactions + Coulomb

→ see Epelbaum, Hammer, UGM, Rev. Mod. Phys. **81** (2009) 1773

- typical lattice parameters

$$p_{\text{max}} = \frac{\pi}{a} \simeq 314 \text{ MeV [UV cutoff]}$$



- strong suppression of sign oscillations due to approximate Wigner SU(4) symmetry

E. Wigner, Phys. Rev. **51** (1937) 106; T. Mehen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **83** (1999) 931; J. W. Chen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **93** (2004) 242302

- physics independent of the lattice spacing for  $a = 1 \dots 2$  fm

Alarcon, Du, Klein, Lähde, Lee, Li, Lu, Luu, UGM, EPJA **53** (2017) 83; Klein, Elhatisari, Lähde, Lee, UGM, EPJA **54** (2018) 121

# TRANSFER MATRIX METHOD

- Correlation-function for A nucleons:  $Z_A(\tau) = \langle \Psi_A | \exp(-\tau H) | \Psi_A \rangle$

with  $\Psi_A$  a Slater determinant for A free nucleons  
[or a more sophisticated (correlated) initial/final state]

- Transient energy

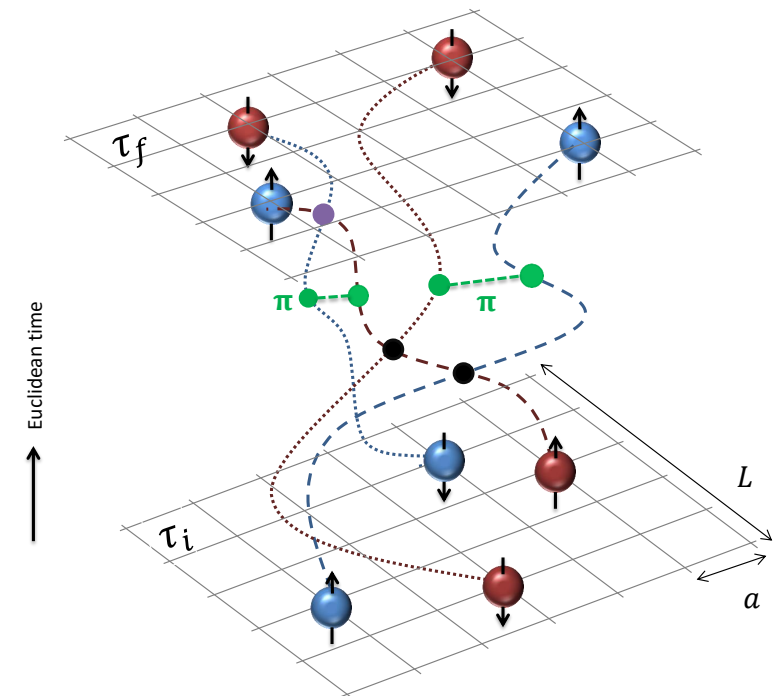
$$E_A(\tau) = -\frac{d}{d\tau} \ln Z_A(\tau)$$

→ ground state:  $E_A^0 = \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} E_A(\tau)$

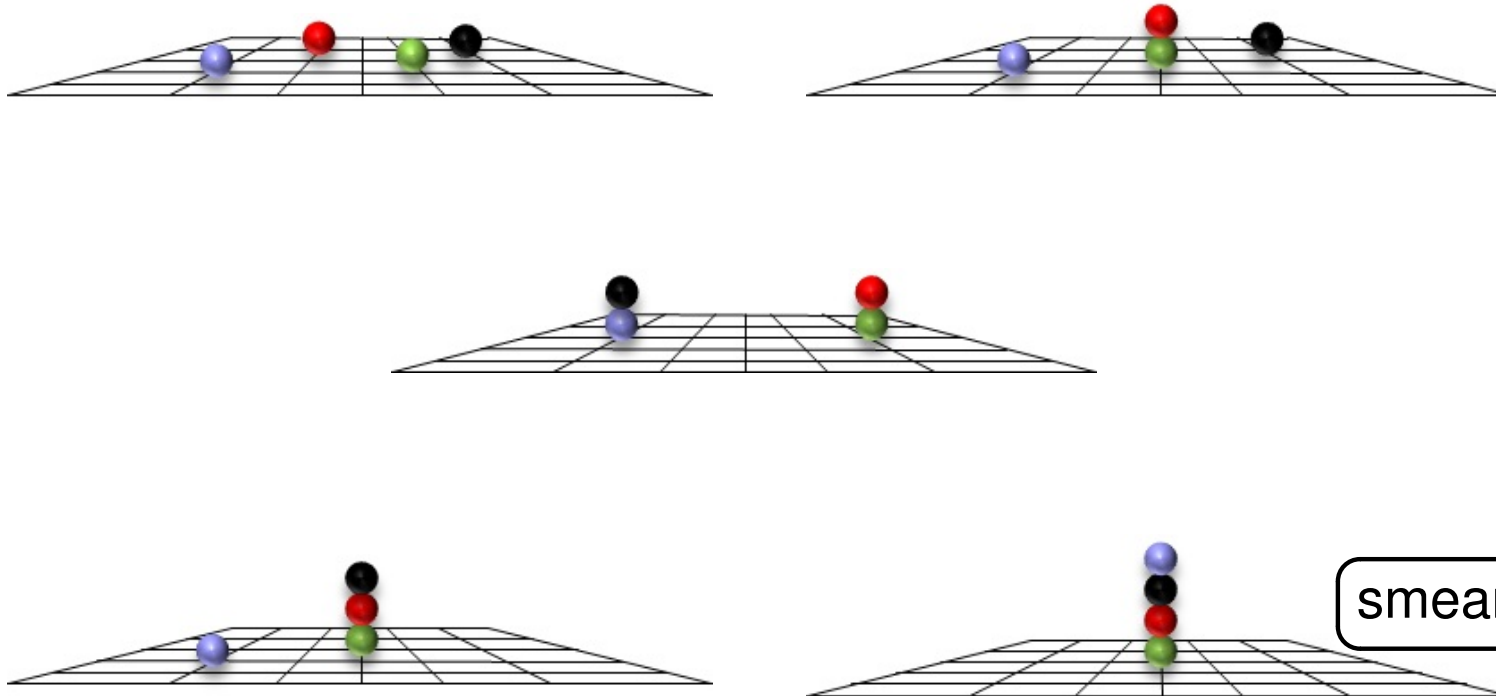
- Exp. value of any normal-ordered operator  $\mathcal{O}$

$$Z_A^{\mathcal{O}} = \langle \Psi_A | \exp(-\tau H/2) \mathcal{O} \exp(-\tau H/2) | \Psi_A \rangle$$

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Z_A^{\mathcal{O}}(\tau)}{Z_A(\tau)} = \langle \Psi_A | \mathcal{O} | \Psi_A \rangle$$



# CONFIGURATIONS



(smearing necessary!)

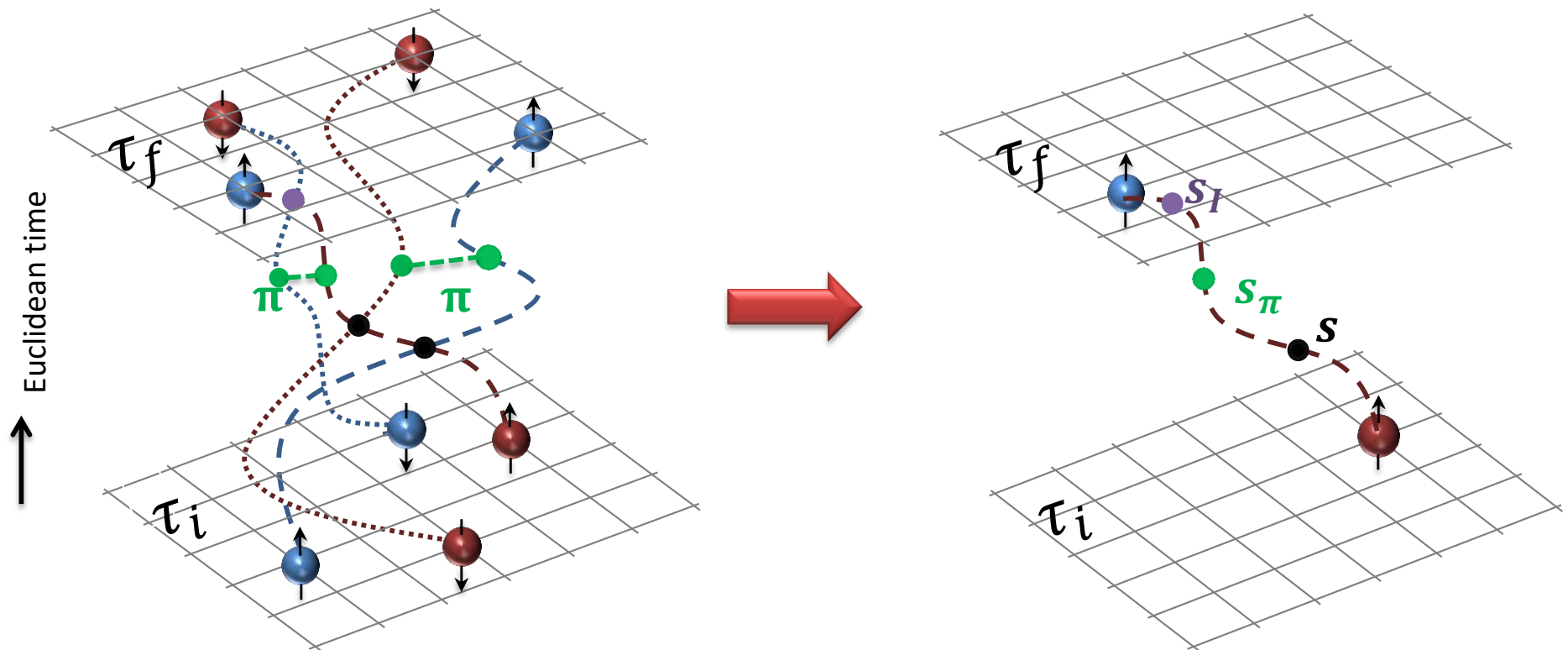
- ⇒ all *possible* configurations are sampled
- ⇒ preparation of *all possible* initial/final states
- ⇒ *clustering* emerges *naturally*

# AUXILIARY FIELD METHOD

11

- Represent interactions by auxiliary fields:

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



# COMPUTATIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Past = JUQUEEN (BlueGene/Q)
- Present = JUWELS (modular system)



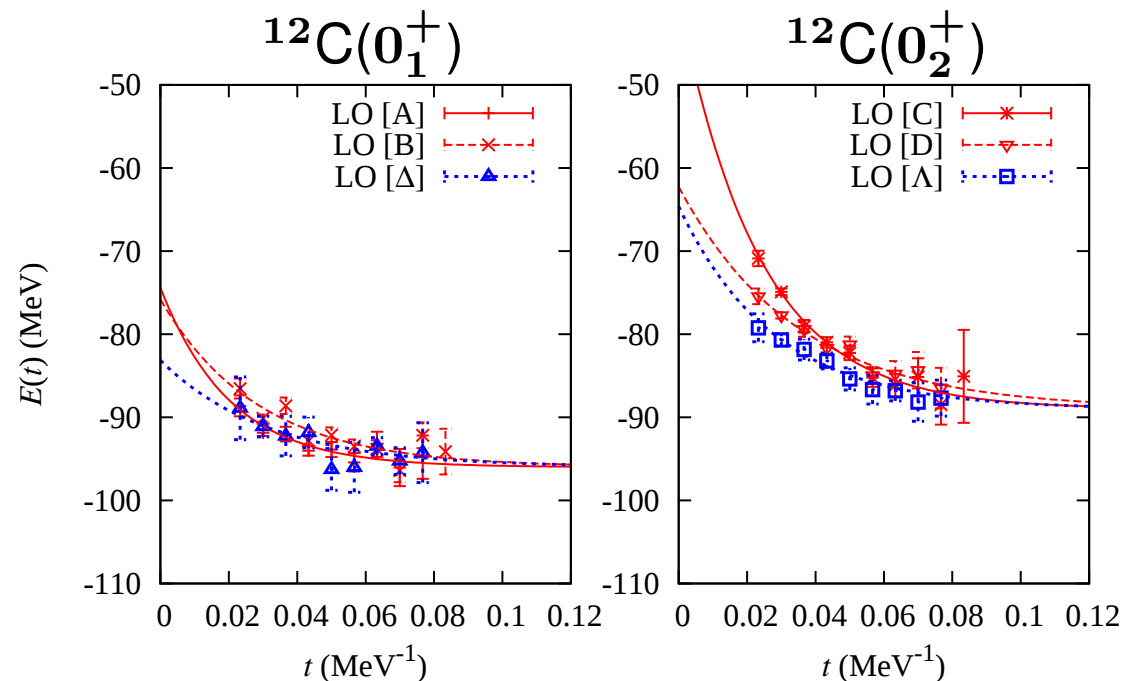
# FIXING PARAMETERS and FIRST RESULTS

14

Epelbaum, Krebs, Lee, UGM, Phys. Rev. Lett. **104** (2010) 142501; Eur. Phys. J. A **45** (2010) 335; ...

- some groundstate energies and differences [NNLO, 11+2 LECs]

|               | E [MeV]                        | NLEFT    | Exp.   |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------|
| old algorithm | ${}^3\text{He} - {}^3\text{H}$ | 0.78(5)  | 0.76   |
|               | ${}^4\text{He}$                | -28.3(6) | -28.3  |
|               | ${}^8\text{Be}$                | -55(2)   | -56.5  |
|               | ${}^{12}\text{C}$              | -92(3)   | -92.2  |
| new algorithm | ${}^{16}\text{O}$              | -131(1)  | -127.6 |
|               | ${}^{20}\text{Ne}$             | -166(1)  | -160.6 |
|               | ${}^{24}\text{Mg}$             | -198(2)  | -198.3 |
|               | ${}^{28}\text{Si}$             | -234(3)  | -236.5 |



- promising results  $\Rightarrow$  uncertainties down to the 1% level
- excited states more difficult  $\Rightarrow$  projection MC method + triangulation

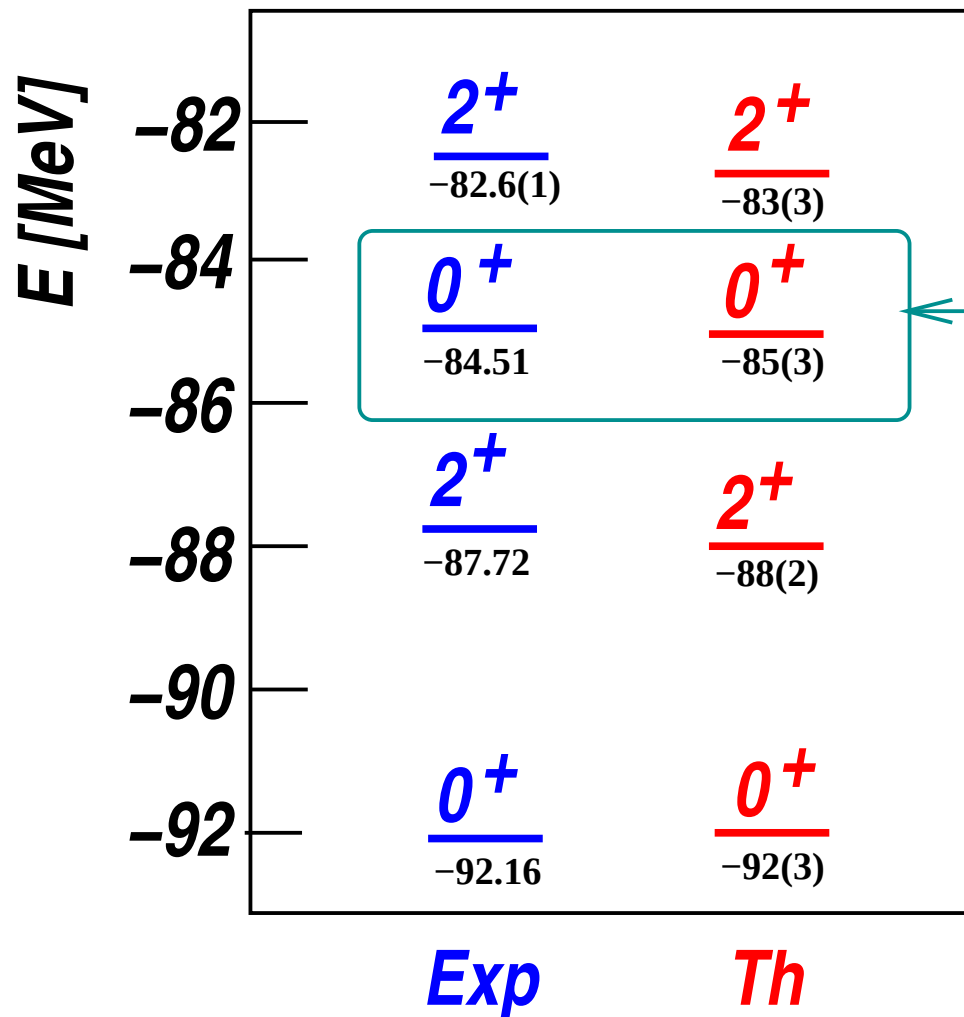
# BREAKTHROUGH: SPECTRUM of CARBON-12

15

Epelbaum, Krebs, Lee, UGM, Phys. Rev. Lett. 106 (2011) 192501

Epelbaum, Krebs, Lähde, Lee, UGM, Phys. Rev. Lett. 109 (2012) 252501

- After  $8 \cdot 10^6$  hrs JUGENE/JUQUEEN (and “some” human work)

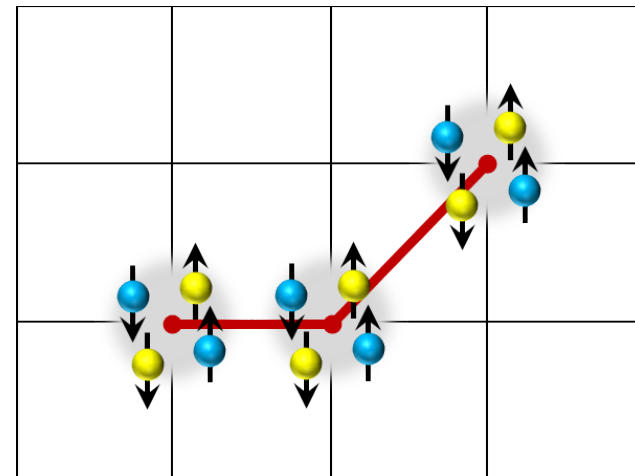


⇒ First ab initio calculation of the Hoyle state ✓

[see also Feldmeier & Neff, FMD]

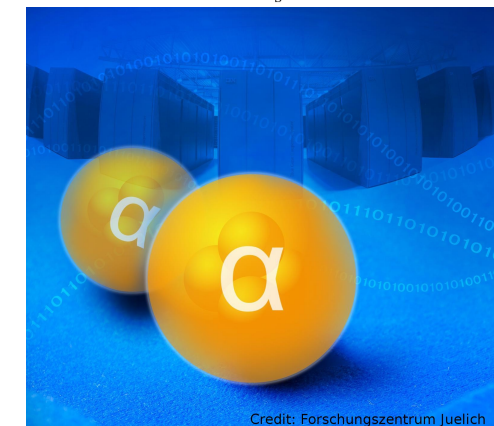
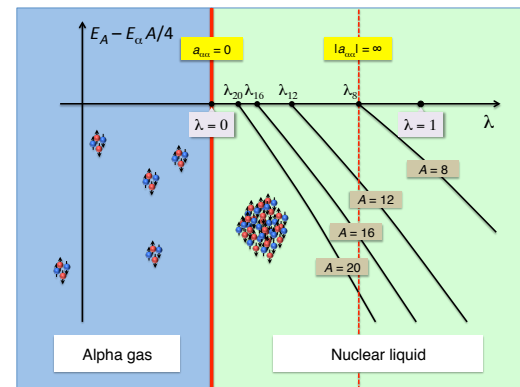
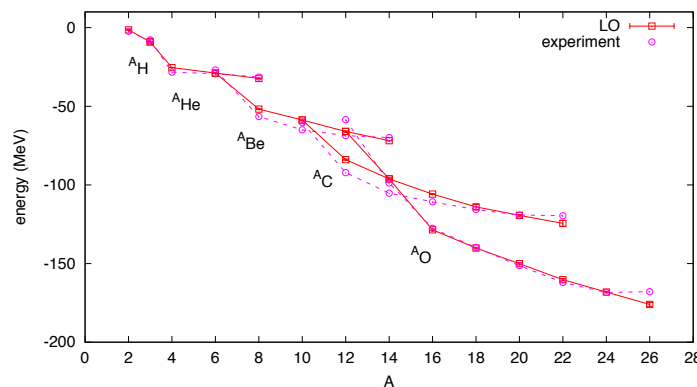
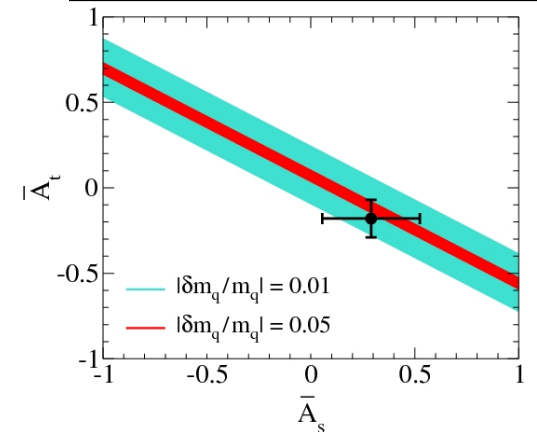
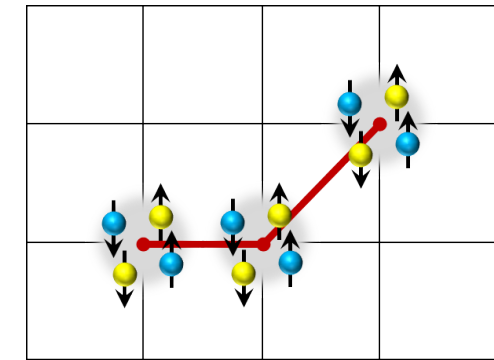
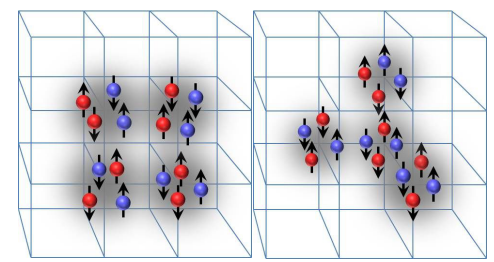
**Hoyle**

*Structure of the Hoyle state:*



# RESULTS from LATTICE NUCLEAR EFT

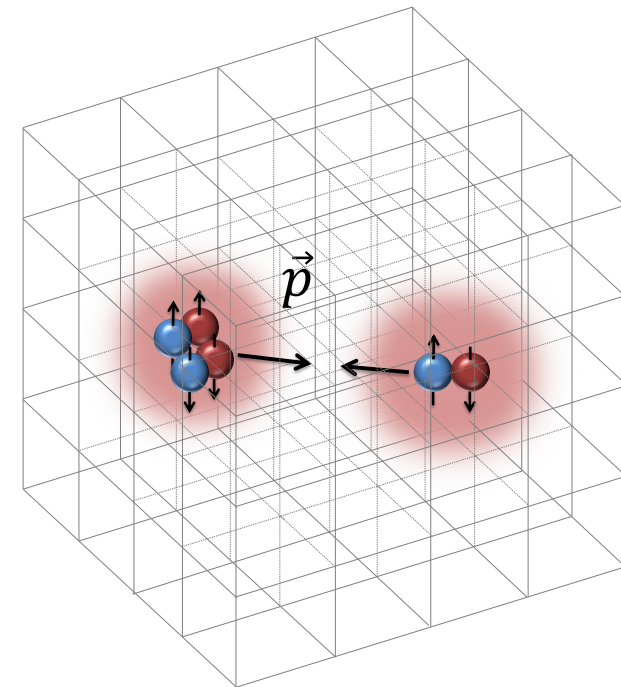
- Lattice EFT calculations for  $A=3,4,6,12$  nuclei, [PRL 104 \(2010\) 142501](#)
- *Ab initio* calculation of the Hoyle state, [PRL 106 \(2011\) 192501](#)
- Structure and rotations of the Hoyle state, [PRL 109 \(2012\) 142501](#)
- Validity of Carbon-Based Life as a Function of the Light Quark Mass  
[PRL 110 \(2013\) 142501](#)
- *Ab initio* calculation of the Spectrum and Structure of  $^{16}\text{O}$ ,  
[PRL 112 \(2014\) 142501](#)
- *Ab initio* alpha-alpha scattering, [Nature 528 \(2015\) 111](#)
- Nuclear Binding Near a Quantum Phase Transition, [PRL 117 \(2016\) 132501](#)
- *Ab initio* calculations of the isotopic dependence of nuclear clustering,  
[PRL 119 \(2017\) 222505](#)





# NUCLEUS–NUCLEUS SCATTERING on the LATTICE

- Processes involving  $\alpha$ -particles and  $\alpha$ -type nuclei comprise a major part of stellar nucleosynthesis, and control the production of certain elements in stars
- Ab initio calculations of scattering and reactions suffer from computational scaling with the number of nucleons in the clusters



Lattice EFT computational scaling  $\Rightarrow (A_1 + A_2)^2$

Rupak, Lee, Phys. Rev. Lett. **111** (2013) 032502  
 Pine, Lee, Rupak, Eur. Phys. J. A **49** (2013) 151  
 Elhatisari, Lee, Phys. Rev. C **90** (2014) 064001  
 Elhatisari et al., Phys. Rev. C **92** (2015) 054612  
 Elhatisari, Lee, UGM, Rupak, Eur. Phys. J. A **52** (2016) 174

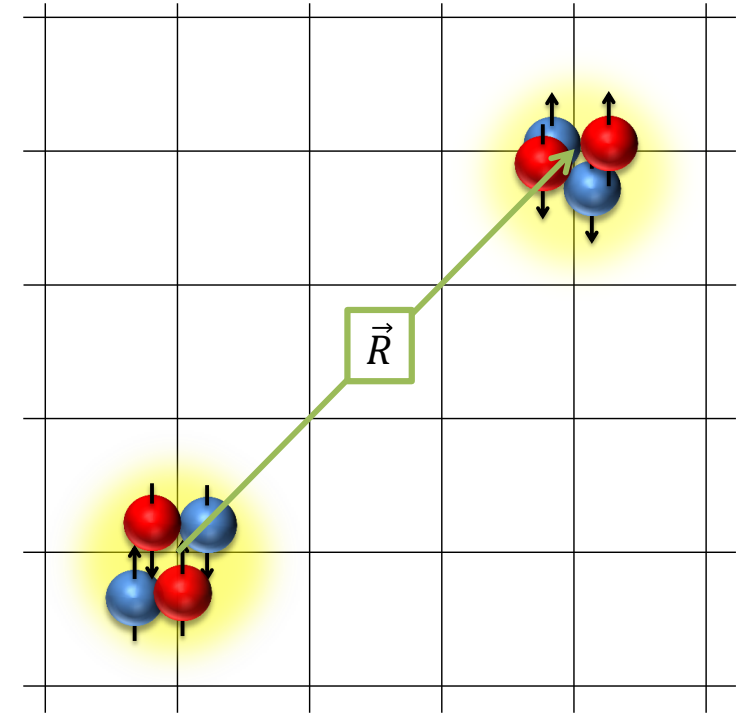


- $$|\vec{R}\rangle = \sum_{\vec{r}} |\vec{r} + \vec{R}\rangle \otimes \vec{r}$$

- $$|\vec{R}\rangle_\tau = \exp(-H\tau)|\vec{R}\rangle$$

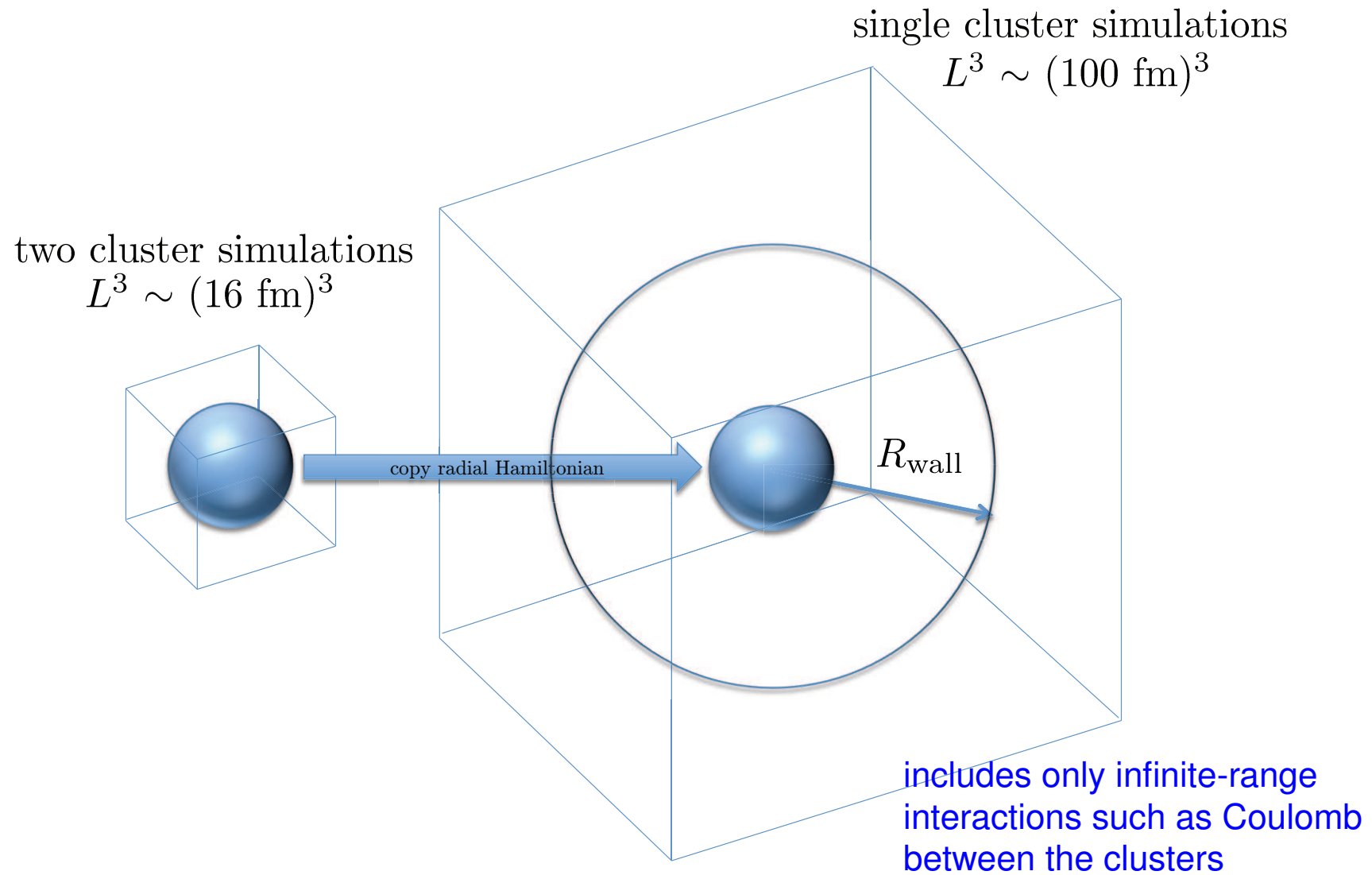
- Adiabatic Hamiltonian (requires norm matrices)

$$[H_\tau]_{\vec{R}\vec{R}'} = {}_\tau\langle\vec{R}|H|\vec{R}'\rangle_\tau$$



## ADIABATIC HAMILTONIAN plus COULOMB

21

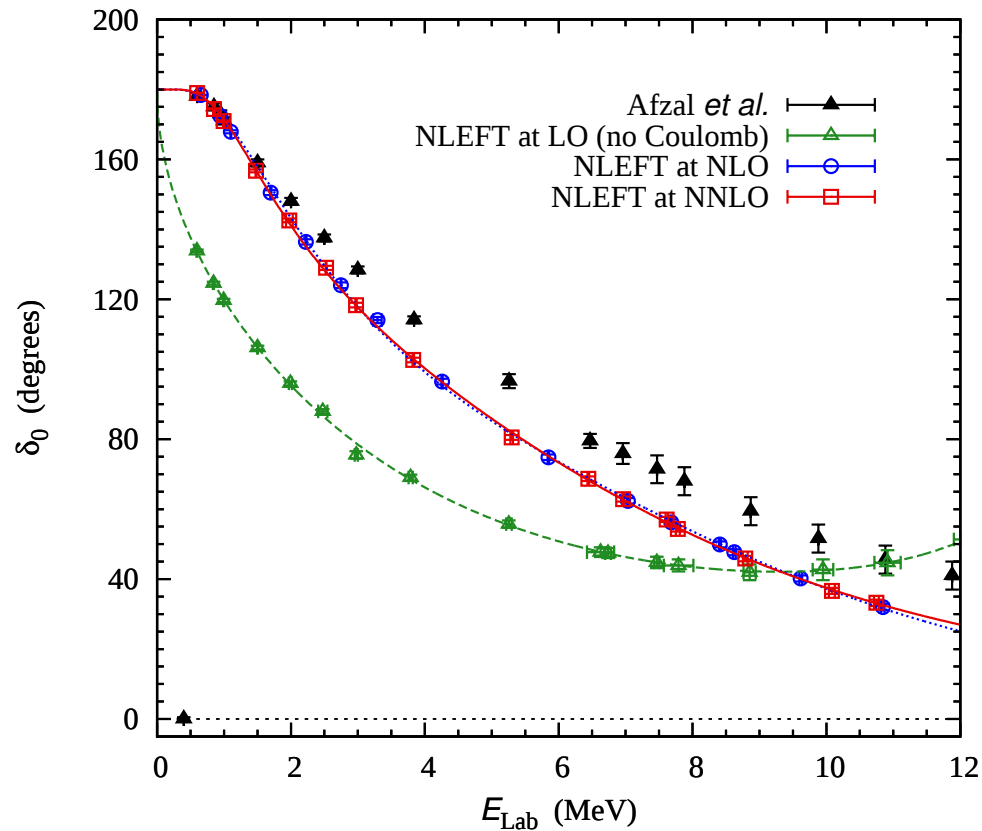


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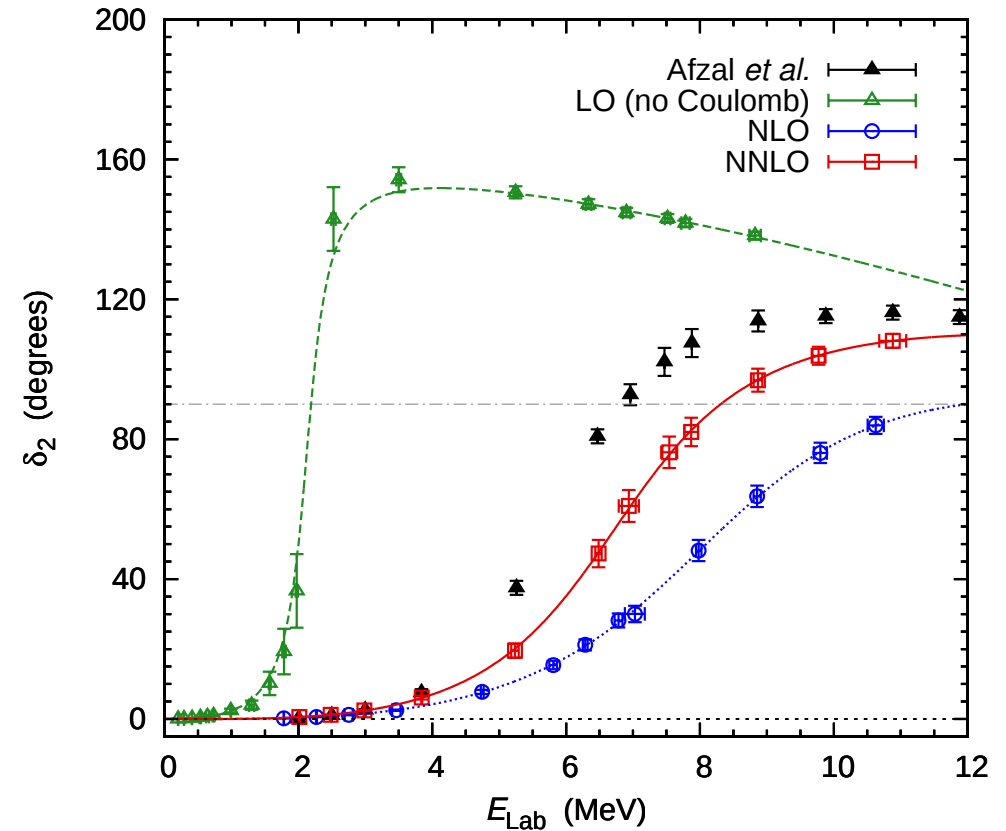
# PHASE SHIFTS

22

- Same NNLO Lagrangian as used for the study of  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{16}\text{O}$



$$E_R^{\text{NNLO}} = -0.11(1) \text{ MeV } [+0.09 \text{ MeV}]$$



$$E_R^{\text{NNLO}} = 3.27(12) \text{ MeV } [2.92(18) \text{ MeV}]$$

$$\Gamma_R^{\text{NNLO}} = 2.09(16) \text{ MeV } [1.35(50) \text{ MeV}]$$

Data: Afzal *et al.*, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **41** (1969) 247

# New insights into nuclear clustering

Elhatisari, Epelbaum, Krebs, Lähde, Lee, Li, Lu, UGM, Rupak  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **119** (2017) 222505 [arXiv:1702.05177]

for a review: Freer, Horiuchi, Kanada-En'yo, Lee, UGM  
Rev. Mod. Phys. **90** (2018) 035004 [arXiv:1705.06192]

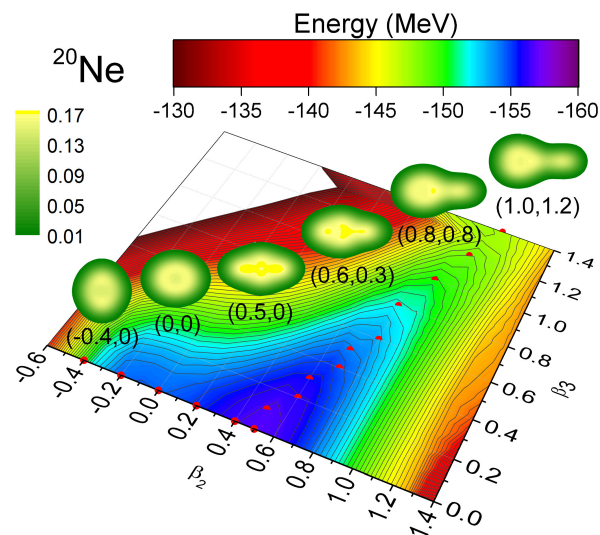
# CLUSTERING in NUCLEI

24

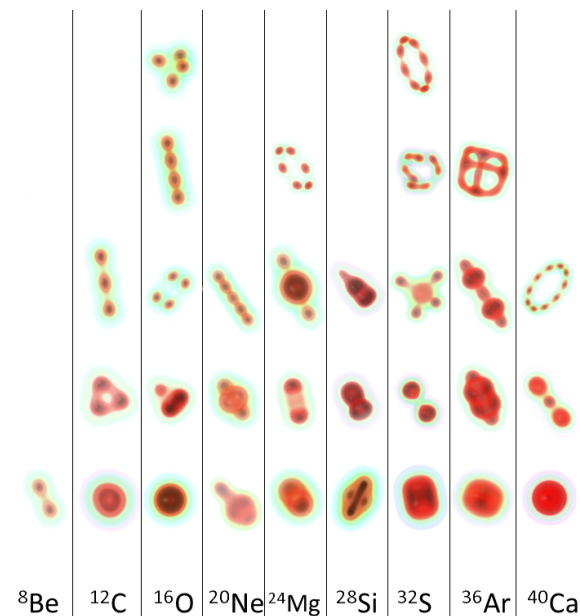
- Introduced theoretically by Wheeler already in 1937:

John Archibald Wheeler, “Molecular Viewpoints in Nuclear Structure,”  
Physical Review **52** (1937) 1083

- many works since then... Ikeda, Horiuchi, Freer, Ring, Schuck, Röpke, Khan, Zhou, Iachello, . . .



Zhou, Yao, Li, Ring, Meng (2015)



Ebran, Khan, Niksic, Vretenar (2014)

$\alpha$ -clusters

⇒ can we understand this phenomenon from *ab initio* calculations?

# EARLIER RESULTS on NUCLEAR CLUSTERING

25

- Already a number of intriguing results on clustering:

Ab initio calculation of the spectrum and structure of  $^{12}\text{C}$  (esp. the Hoyle state)

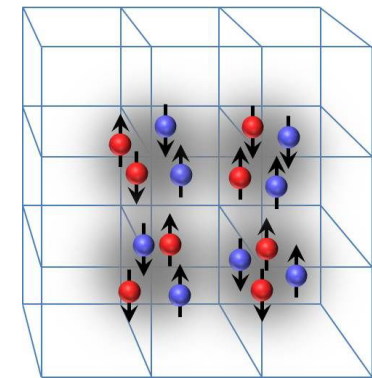
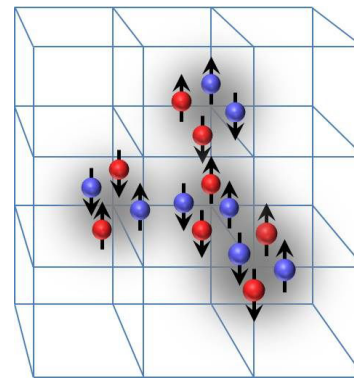
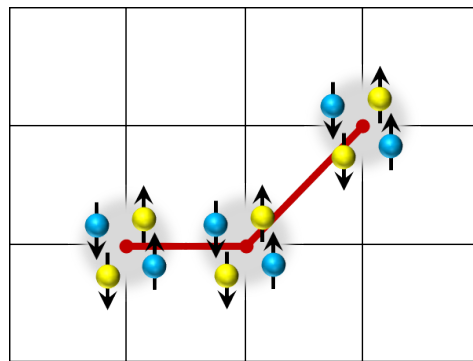
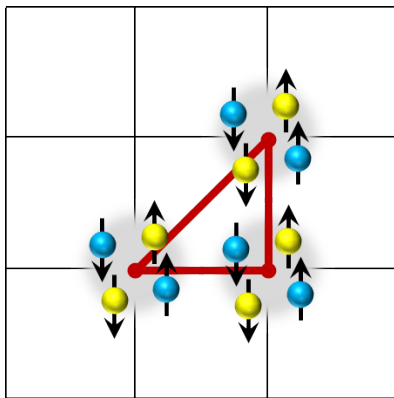
Ab initio calculation of the spectrum and structure of  $^{16}\text{O}$

Ground state energies of  $\alpha$ -type nuclei up to  $^{28}\text{Si}$  within 1%

Ab initio calculation of  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$  scattering

Quantum phase transition from Bose gas of  $\alpha$ 's to nuclear liquid for  $\alpha$ -type nuclei

- However: clustering probed through overlap with initial states



↪ Need a more **quantitative**/ regulator-independent measure

# PROBING NUCLEAR CLUSTERING

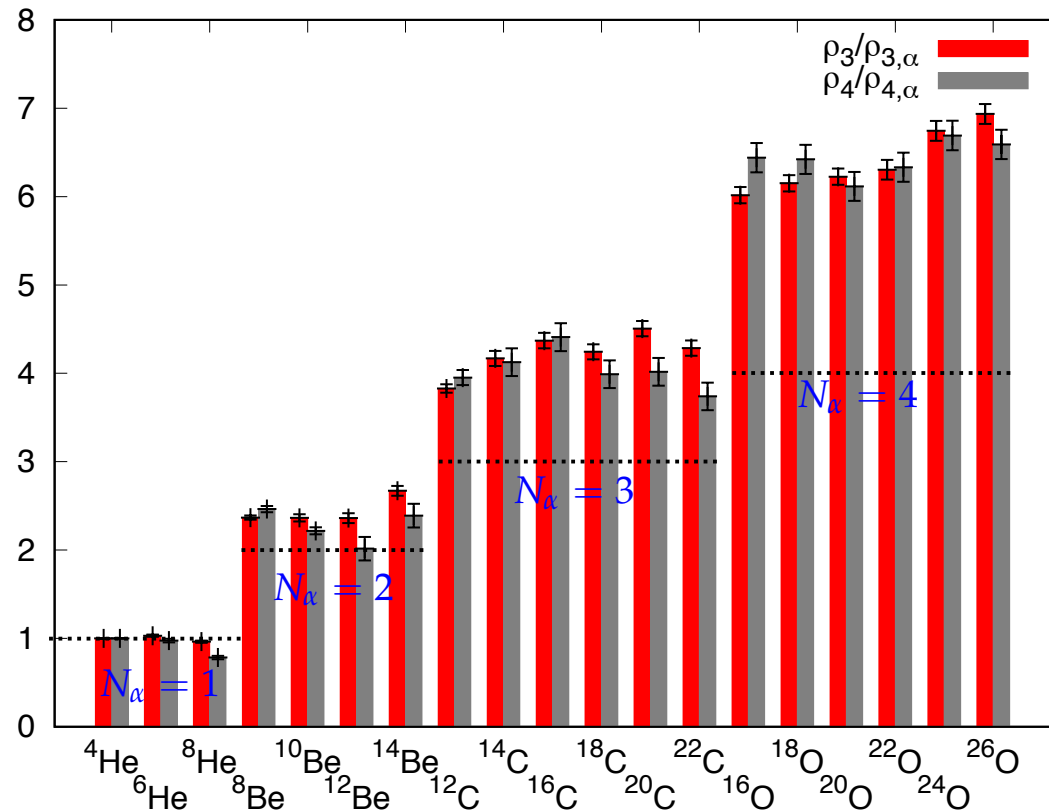
- Local densities on the lattice:  $\rho(\mathbf{n})$  ,  $\rho_p(\mathbf{n})$  ,  $\rho_n(\mathbf{n})$
- Probe of alpha clusters:  $\rho_4 = \sum_{\mathbf{n}} : \rho^4(\mathbf{n})/4! :$
- Another probe for  $Z = N = \text{even nuclei}$ :  $\rho_3 = \sum_{\mathbf{n}} : \rho^3(\mathbf{n})/3! :$
- $\rho_4$  couples to the center of the  $\alpha$ -cluster while  $\rho_3$  gets contributions from a wider portion of the alpha-particle wave function
- Both  $\rho_3$  and  $\rho_4$  depend on the regulator,  $a$ , but not on the nucleus
- The ratios  $\rho_3/\rho_{3,\alpha}$  and  $\rho_4/\rho_{4,\alpha}$  free of short-distance ambiguities and model-independent
- $\rho_3/\rho_{3,\alpha}$  [or  $\rho_4/\rho_{4,\alpha}$  ] measures the effective number of alpha-cluster  $N_\alpha$   
 $\Rightarrow$  Any deviation from  $N_\alpha = \text{integer}$  measures the entanglement of the  $\alpha$ -clusters in a given nucleus

# PROBING NUCLEAR CLUSTERING

27

- $\rho_3$ -entanglement of the  $\alpha$ -clusters:

$$\frac{\Delta \rho_3}{N_\alpha} = \frac{\rho_3 / \rho_{3,\alpha}}{N_\alpha} - 1$$



| Nucleus                    | 4,6,8He     | 8,10,12,14Be | 12,14,16,18,20,22C | 16,18,20,22,24,26O |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| $\Delta \rho_3 / N_\alpha$ | 0.00 - 0.03 | 0.20 - 0.35  | 0.25 - 0.50        | 0.50 - 0.75        |

- 
- A 3D visualization of a quantum system, likely a spin Hall of light or a similar quantum optics phenomenon. The scene is set against a blue grid background. It features several red and blue spheres of varying sizes. Each sphere has a black arrow indicating its direction of motion or spin. Wavy white lines connect some of the spheres, representing interactions or the exchange of particles. The spheres are arranged in a way that suggests a complex, non-linear path or interaction network.

# PINHOLE ALGORITHM

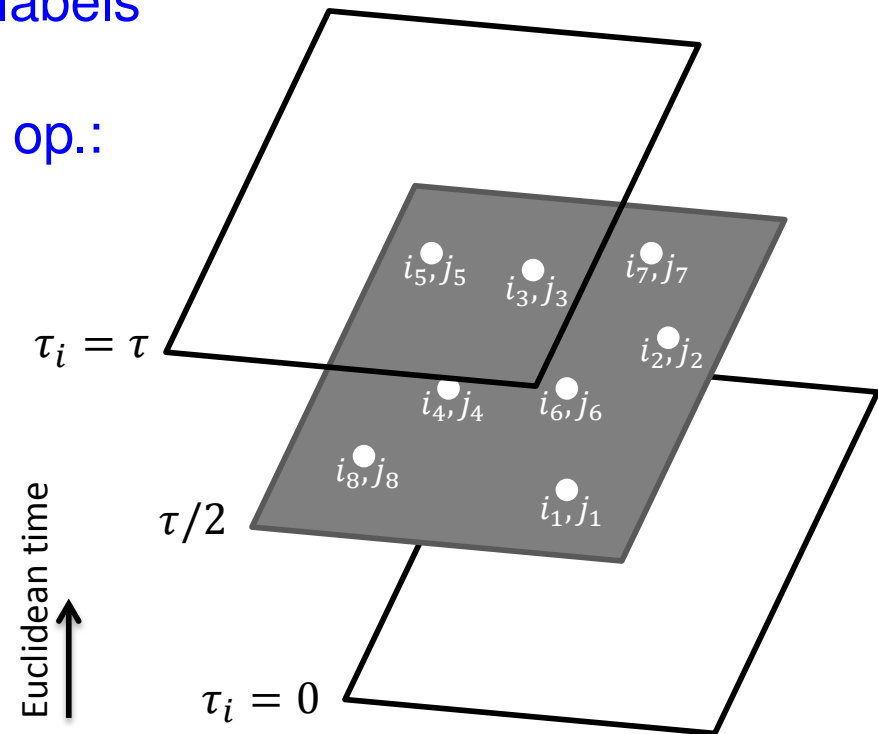
- AFQMC calculations involve states that are superpositions of many different center-of-mass positions  
→ density distributions of nucleons can not be computed directly

- Insert a screen with pinholes with spin & isospin labels that allows nucleons with corresponding spin & isospin to pass = insertion of the A-body density op.:

$$\begin{aligned} & \rho_{i_1, j_1, \dots, i_A, j_A}(\mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A) \\ &= : \rho_{i_1, j_1}(\mathbf{n}_1) \cdots \rho_{i_A, j_A}(\mathbf{n}_A) : \end{aligned}$$

- MC sampling of the amplitude:

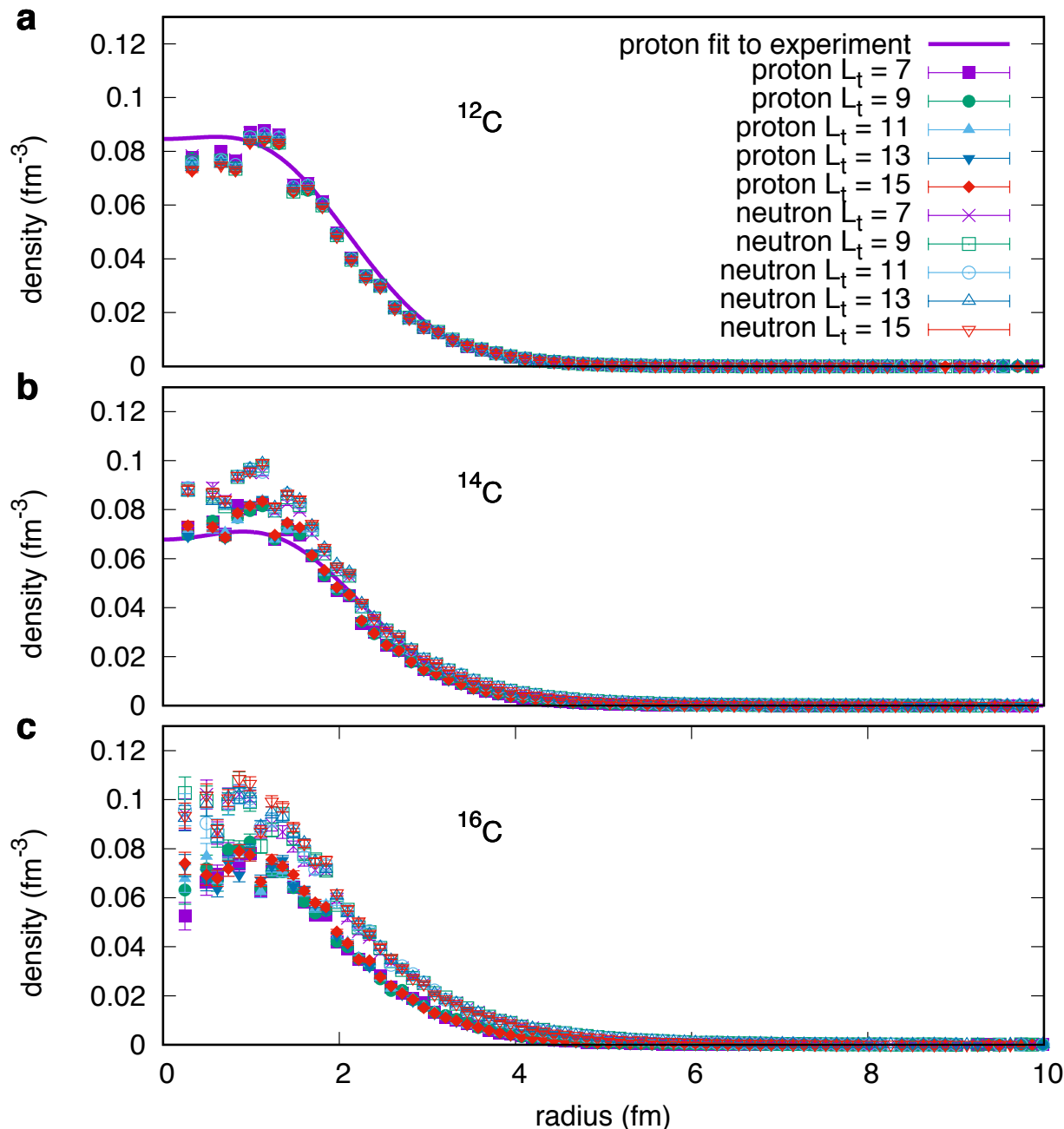
$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{A}_{i_1, j_1, \dots, i_A, j_A}(\mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A, L_t) \\ &= \langle \psi(\tau/2) | \rho_{i_1, j_1, \dots, i_A, j_A}(\mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_A) | \psi(\tau/2) \rangle \end{aligned}$$



- Allows to measure proton and neutron distributions
- Resolution scale  $\sim a/A$  as cm position  $r_{\text{cm}}$  is an integer  $n_{\text{cm}}$  times  $a/A$

# PROTON and NEUTRON DENSITIES in CARBON

30



• open symbols: neutron

• closed symbols: proton

• proton size accounted for

• asymptotic properties of the distributions from the volume dependence of N-body bound states

König, Lee, Phys. Lett. B779 (2018) 9

• consistent with data

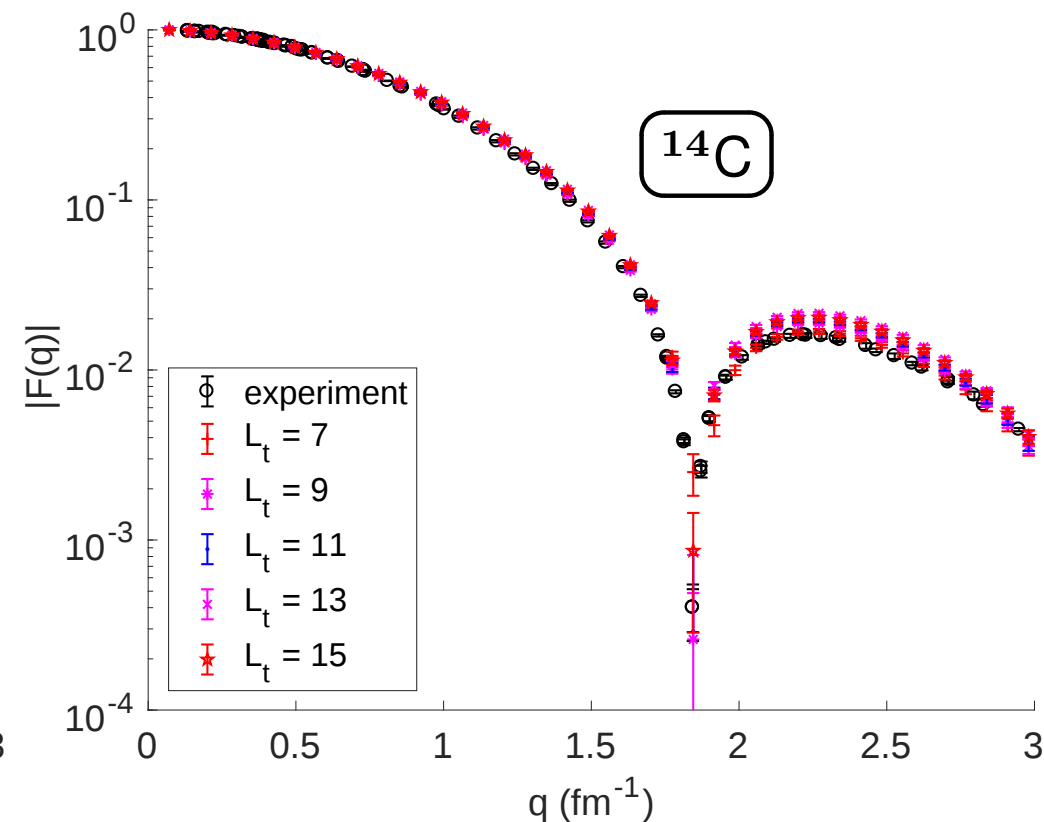
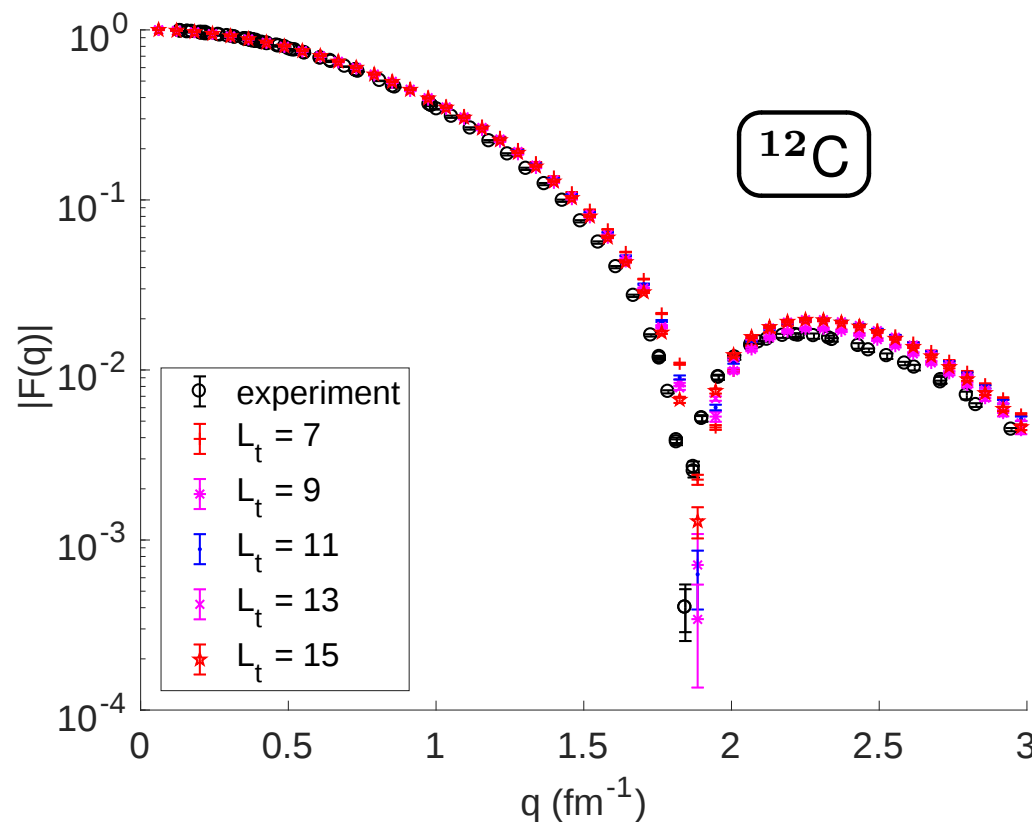
• fit to data from

Kline et al., Nucl. Phys. A209 (1973) 381

# FORM FACTORS

31

- Fit charge distributions by a Wood-Saxon shape
  - ↳ get the form factor from the Fourier-transform (FT)
  - ↳ uncertainties from a direct FT of the lattice data



⇒ detailed structure studies become possible

# Fine-tunings and the multiverse

UGM, Sci. Bull. **60** (2015) no.1, 43-54

Epelbaum, Krebs, Lähde, Lee, UGM, Phys. Rev. Lett. **110** (2013) 112502

Epelbaum, Krebs, Lähde, Lee, UGM, Eur. Phys. J. **A 49** (2013) 82



## 34

- 
- The diagram illustrates two types of interactions between nucleons:
- Pion Exchange:** Two vertical lines represent nucleons. A dashed horizontal line connects them, representing a pion propagator. Labels include:
    - pion propagator**  $1/(q^2 - M_\pi^2)$
    - pion-nucleon coupling**  $g(M_\pi)$
    - nucleon mass**  $m_N(M_\pi)$
  - Four-nucleon couplings:** Four lines intersect at a central point, representing a contact interaction. The label is **four-nucleon couplings**  $C(M_\pi)$ .

- $$M_{\pi^\pm}^2 \sim (m_u + m_d)$$

- Colangelo, Gasser, Leutwyler 2001

Towards Nuclear Physics as Precision Science – Ulf-G. Meißner – NTSE18, Oct. 29, 2018

Epelbaum, Krebs, Lähde, Lee, UGM, PRL **110** (2013) 112502

- consider first QCD only  $\rightarrow$  calculate  $\partial \Delta E / \partial M_\pi$
- relevant quantities (energy *differences*)

$${}^4\text{He} + {}^4\text{He} \leftrightarrow {}^8\text{Be} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \boxed{\Delta E_b \equiv E_8 - 2E_4}$$

$${}^4\text{He} + {}^8\text{Be} \rightarrow {}^{12}\text{C}^* \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\Delta E_h \equiv E_{12}^* - E_8 - E_4}$$

- energy differences depend on parameters of QCD (LO analysis)

$$E_i = E_i \left( M_\pi^{\text{OPE}}, m_N(M_\pi), g_{\pi N}(M_\pi), C_0(M_\pi), C_I(M_\pi) \right)$$

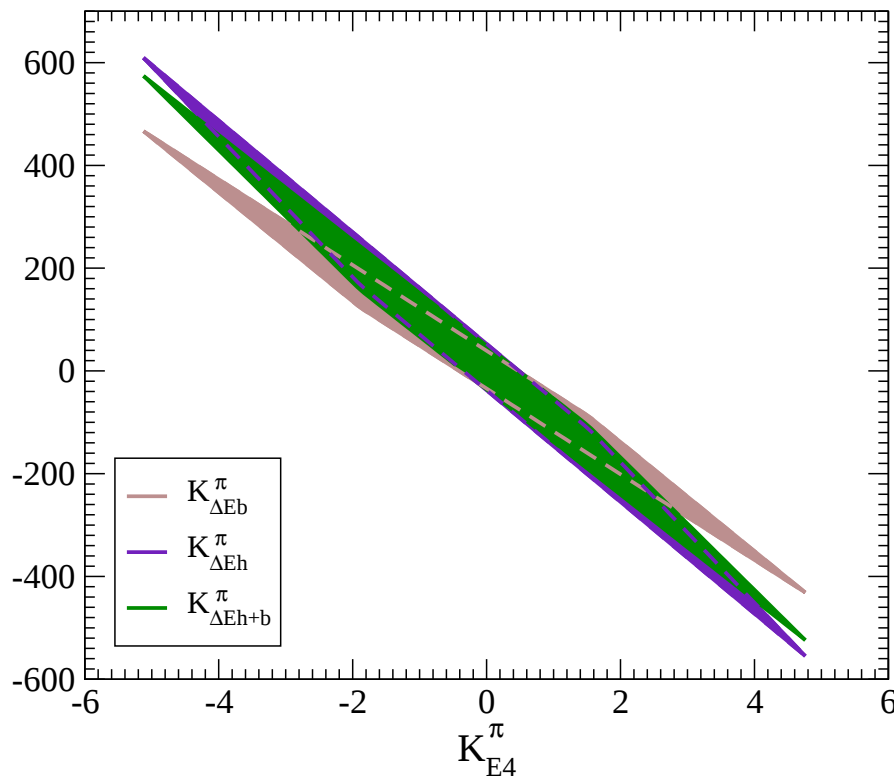
$$g_{\pi N} \equiv g_A/(2F_\pi)$$

- QED in the same manner  $\rightarrow$  calculate  $\partial \Delta E / \partial \alpha_{\text{EM}}$

# CORRELATIONS

36

- map  $C_{0,I}(M_\pi)$  onto  $\bar{A}_{s,t} \equiv \partial a_{s,t}^{-1} / \partial M_\pi |_{M_\pi^{\text{phys}}}$  [singlet/triplet scatt. length]
- vary the derivatives  $\bar{A}_{s,t} \equiv \partial a_{s,t}^{-1} / \partial M_\pi |_{M_\pi^{\text{phys}}}$  within  $-1, \dots, +1$ :



$$\Delta E_b = E(^8\text{Be}) - 2E(^4\text{He})$$

$$\Delta E_h = E(^{12}\text{C}^*) - E(^8\text{Be}) - E(^4\text{He})$$

$$\Delta E_{h+b} = E(^{12}\text{C}^*) - 3E(^4\text{He})$$

$$\frac{\partial O_H}{\partial M_\pi} = K_H^\pi \frac{O_H}{M_\pi}$$

⇒ the fine-tunings in the triple-alpha process are *correlated*, as speculated

Weinberg (2000)

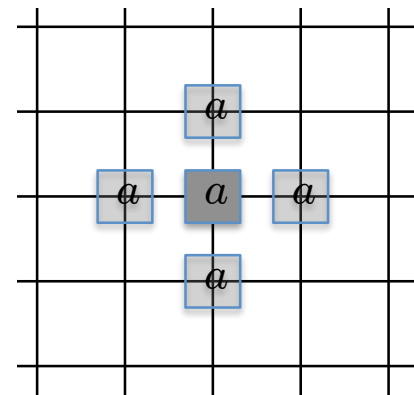
- the “holy grail” of nuclear astrophysics  ${}^4\text{He}+{}^{12}\text{C} \rightarrow {}^{16}\text{O} + \gamma$

# SPARES

- Already a number of intriguing results on clustering:
  - Ab initio calculation of the spectrum and structure of  $^{12}\text{C}$  (esp. the Hoyle state)
  - Ab initio calculation of the spectrum and structure of  $^{16}\text{O}$
  - Ground state energies of  $\alpha$ -type nuclei up to  $^{28}\text{Si}$  within 1%
  - Ab initio calculation of  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$  scattering
  - Quantum phase transition from Bose gas of  $\alpha$ 's to nuclear liquid for  $\alpha$ -type nuclei
- However: when adding extra neutrons/protons, the precision quickly deteriorates due to sign oscillations
- New LO action with smeared SU(4) local+non-local symmetric contact interactions & smeared one-pion exchange

$$a_{\text{NL}}(\mathbf{n}) = a(\mathbf{n}) + s_{\text{NL}} \sum_{\langle \mathbf{n}' \mathbf{n} \rangle} a(\mathbf{n}')$$

$$a_{\text{NL}}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{n}) = a^{\dagger}(\mathbf{n}) + s_{\text{NL}} \sum_{\langle \mathbf{n}' \mathbf{n} \rangle} a^{\dagger}(\mathbf{n}')$$



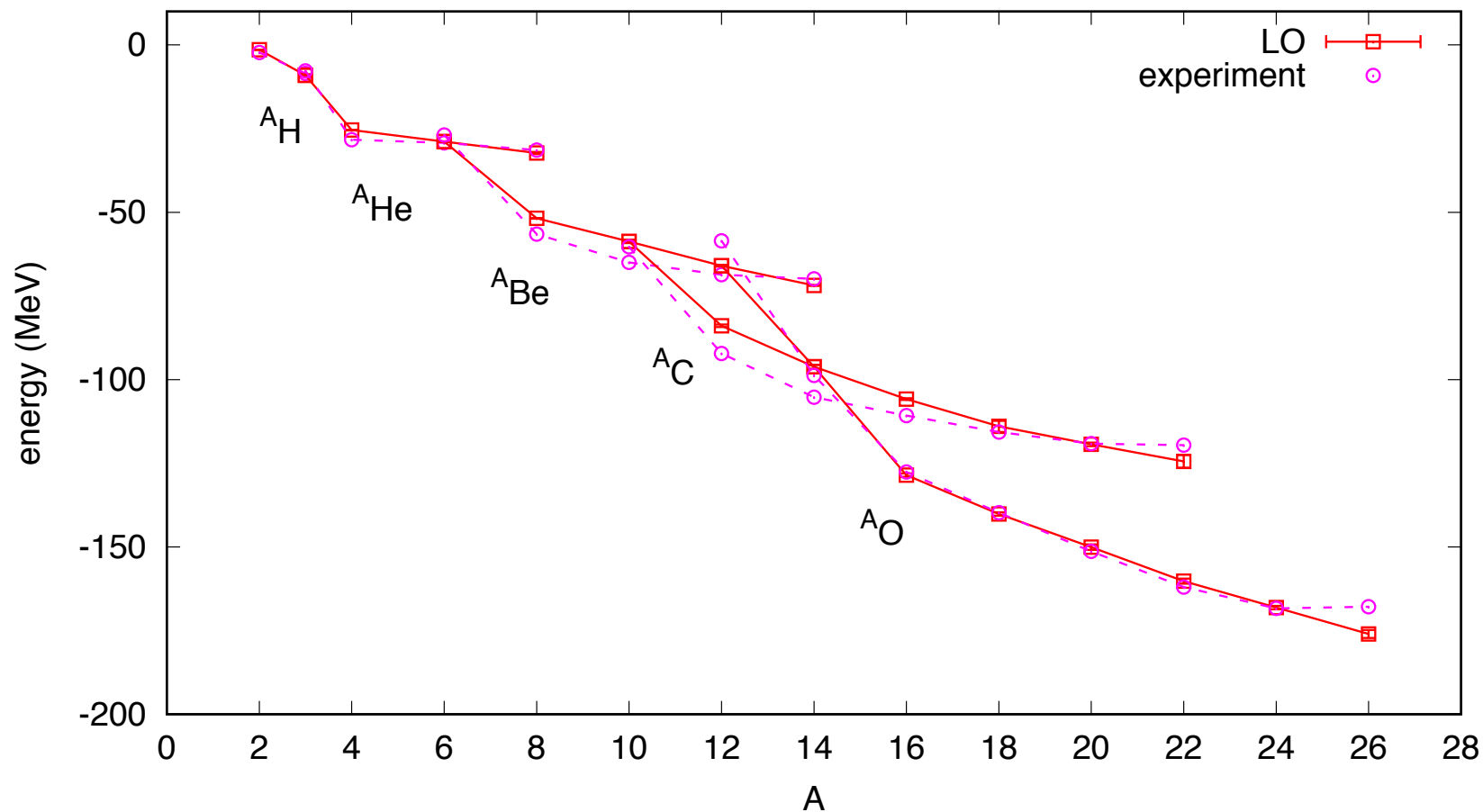
→ Dean Lee's talk

# GROUND STATE ENERGIES

40

- Fit parameters to average NN S-wave scattering length and effective range and  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$  S-wave scattering length

→ predict g.s. energies of H, He, Be, C and O isotopes → quite accurate (LO)



Subject: Re: Hoyle state in  $^{12}\text{C}$

Thanks for the colorful graph. It makes a nice Christmas card. But I have a detailed question. Suppose you calculate not only the energy of the Hoyle state in  $C^{12}$ , but also of the ground states of  $He^4$  and  $Be^8$ . How sensitive is the result that the energy of the Hoyle state is near the sum of the rest energies of  $He^4$  and  $Be^8$  to the parameters of the theory? I ask because I suspect that for a pretty broad range of parameters, the Hoyle state can be well represented as a nearly bound state of  $Be^8$  and  $He^4$ .

# Steve Weinberg



- How does the Hoyle state move relative to the  ${}^4\text{He}+{}^8\text{Be}$  threshold, if we change the fundamental parameters of QCD+QED?
- not possible in nature, *but on a high-performance computer!*

# EARLIER STUDIES of the ANTHROPIC PRINCIPLE

- rate of the  $3\alpha$ -process:  $r_{3\alpha} \sim \Gamma_\gamma \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta E_{h+b}}{kT}\right)$

$$\Delta E_{h+b} = E_{12}^* - 3E_\alpha = 379.47(18) \text{ keV}$$

- how much can  $\Delta E_{h+b}$  be changed so that there is still enough  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{16}\text{O}$ ?

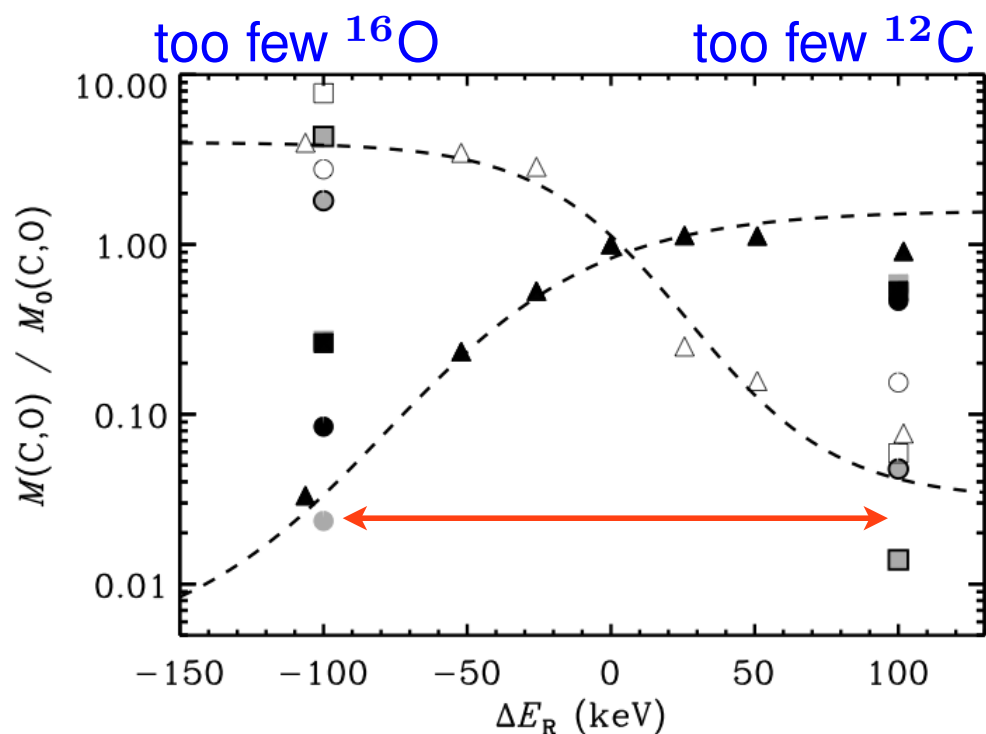
$$\Rightarrow \delta|\Delta E_{h+b}| \lesssim 100 \text{ keV}$$

Oberhummer et al., Science **289** (2000) 88

Csoto et al., Nucl. Phys. A **688** (2001) 560

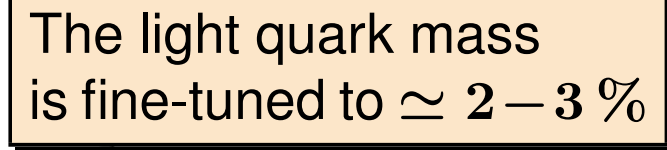
Schlattl et al., Astrophys. Space Sci. **291** (2004) 27

[Livio et al., Nature **340** (1989) 281]



- Oberhummer et al., Science (2000)

$$\bar{A}_{s,t} \equiv \left. \frac{\partial a_{s,t}^{-1}}{\partial M_\pi} \right|_{M_\pi^{\text{phys}}}$$



Similarly:  
 $\alpha_{\text{EM}}$  is fine-tuned  
 to  $\simeq 2.5\%$

1  Berengut et al.,  
Phys. Rev. **D 87** (2013) 085018

