

INT Program
Effective Field Theories and the Many-Body Problem
March 23 – June 5, 2009

**The missing three-nucleon forces:
Where are they?**

R. Machleidt
University of Idaho

Outline

- **Nuclear forces from Chiral Perturbation Theory (ChPT): Current status**
- **The 3NF at N2LO**
- **The 3NF at N3LO: Weak expectations**
- **N4LO or Δ -isobars?**
- **Summary**

The ChPT approach to nuclear forces

- Clear connection to QCD: via symmetries
- Degrees of freedom relevant to (low-energy) nuclear physics: pions and nucleons
- Systematic expansion: Q/Λ
- Controlled error, predictive power.
- Explains the empirically known hierarchy of nuclear forces

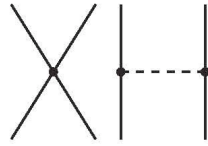
2N forces

3N forces

4N forces

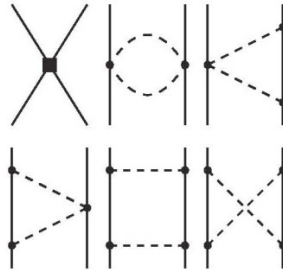
Leading
Order

Q^0
LO



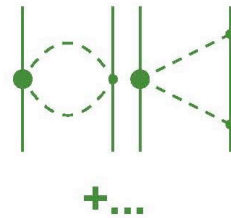
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^2
NLO



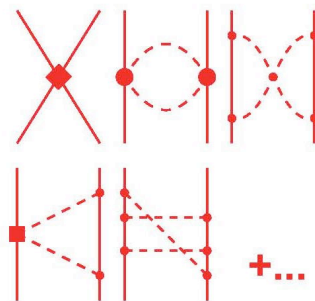
Next-to-
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^3
 N^2LO

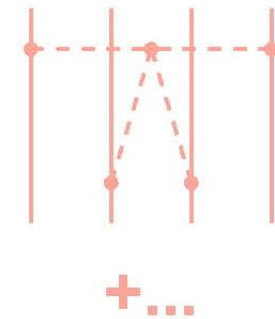
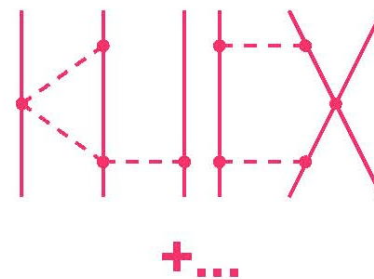
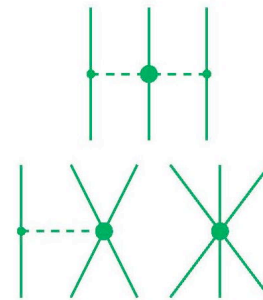


Next-to-
Next-to-
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^4
 N^3LO



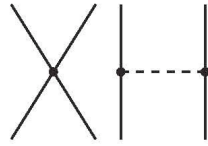
The Hierarchy of
Nuclear Forces



2N forces

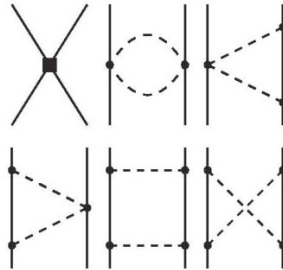
Leading
Order

Q^0
LO



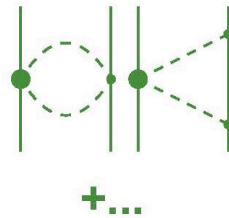
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^2
NLO



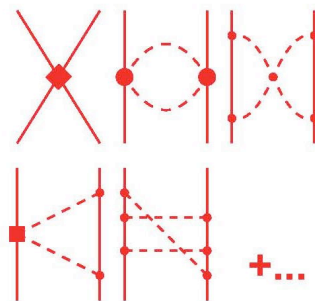
Next-to-
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^3
 N^2LO



Next-to-
Next-to-
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^4
 N^3LO



The Hierarchy of
Nuclear Forces

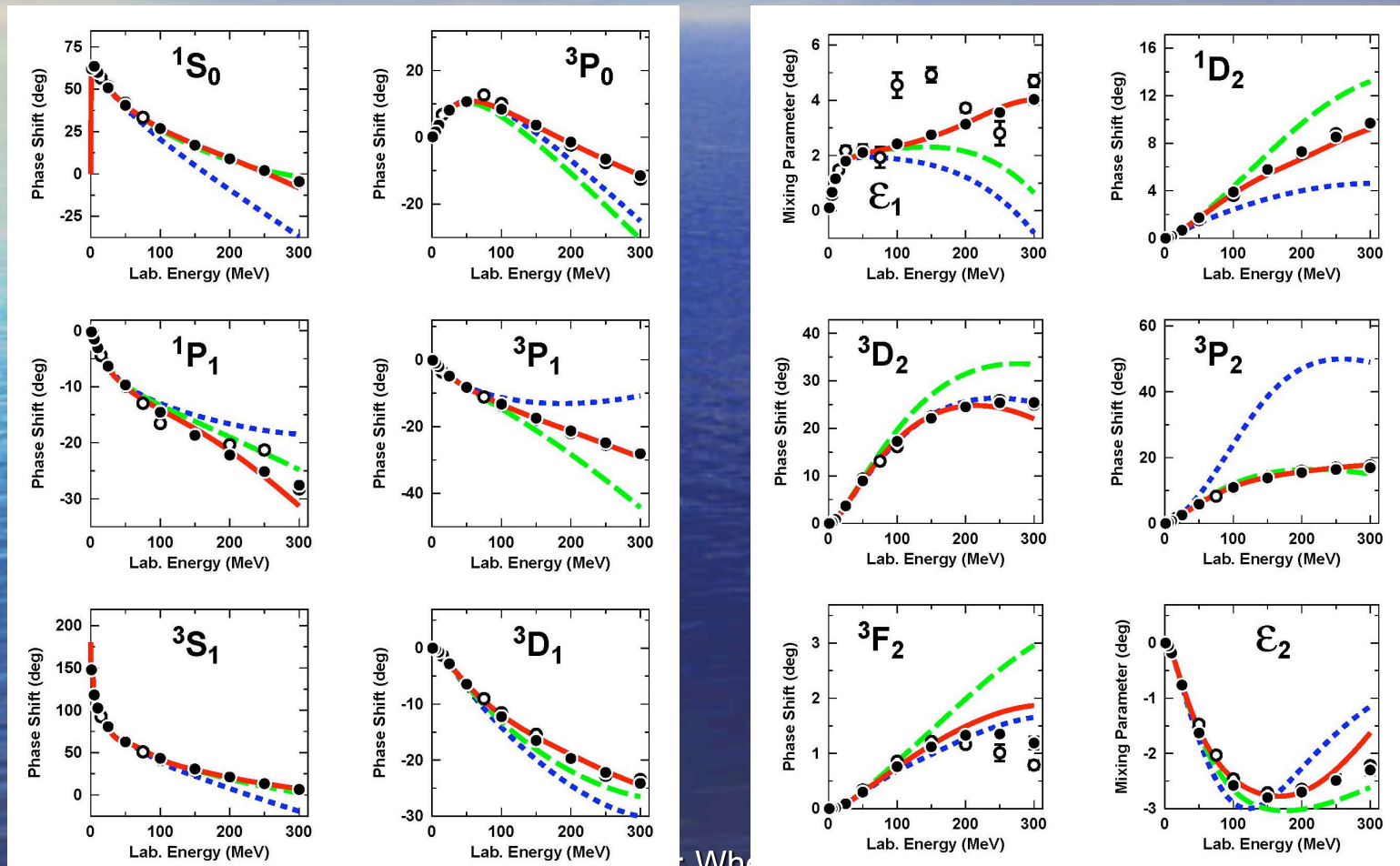
Phase shifts up to 300 MeV

Red Line: N3LO Potential by Entem & Machleidt, PRC 68, 041001 (2003).

Green dashed line: NNLO Potential, and

blue dotted line: NLO Potential

by Epelbaum et al., Eur. Phys. J. A19, 401 (2004).



χ^2/datum for the reproduction of the
1999 *np* database

Bin (MeV)	# of data	N ³ LO	NNLO	NLO	AV18
0–100	1058	1.05	1.7	4.5	0.95
100–190	501	1.08	22	100	1.10
190–290	843	1.15	47	180	1.11
0–290	2402	1.10	20	86	1.04

N³LO Potential by Entem & Machleidt, PRC 68, 041001 (2003).

NNLO and NLO Potentials by Epelbaum et al., Eur. Phys. J. A19, 401 (2004).

Missing 3NFs: Where are they?
INT 09-1, May 26, 2009

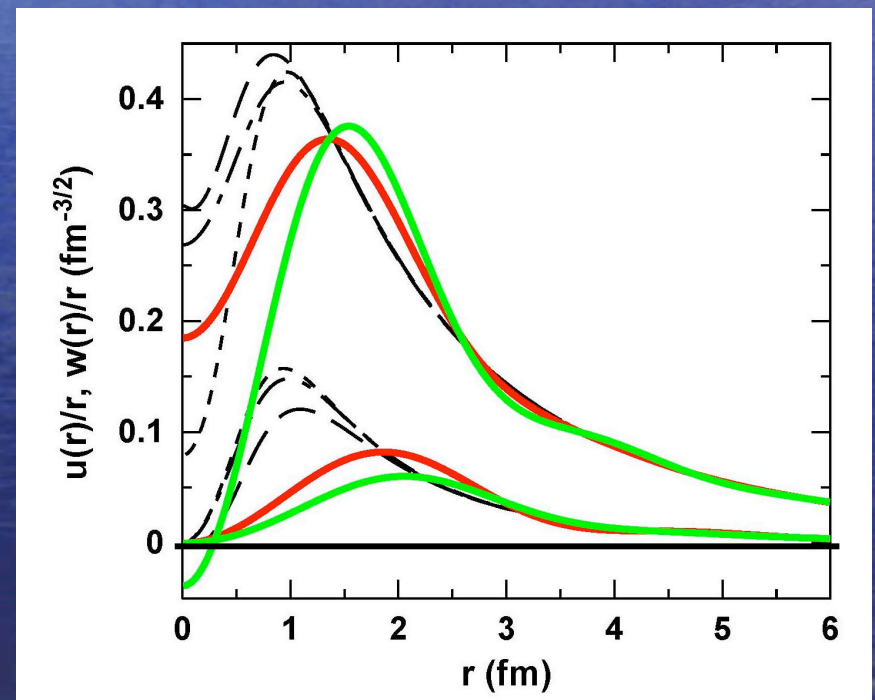
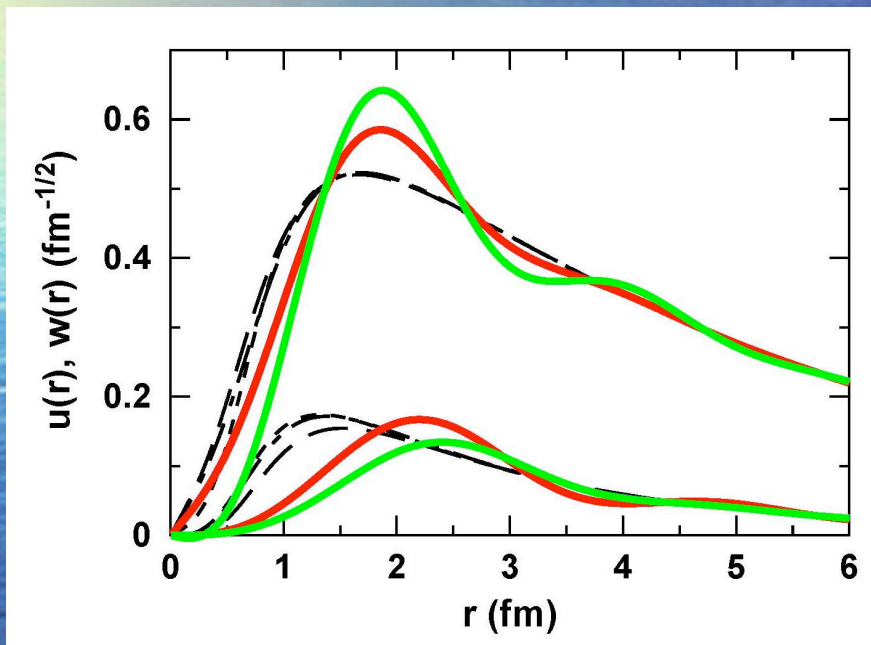
Deuteron Properties

	Idaho N3LO (500)	Bochum/Juelich N3LO (550/600)	CD-Bonn	AV18	Empirical
Binding energy B_d (MeV)	2.224575	2.218279	2.224575	2.224575	2.224575(9)
Asymptotic S state A_S ($\text{fm}^{-1/2}$)	0.8843	0.8820	0.8846	0.8850	0.8846(9)
Asymptotic D/S state η	0.0256	0.0254	0.0256	0.0250	0.0256(4)
Matter radius r_d (fm)	1.978	1.977	1.966	1.967	1.9754(9)
Quadrupole moment Q_d (fm^2)	0.275	0.266	0.270	0.270	0.286(1)
D -state probability P_D (%)	4.51	3.28	4.85	5.76	

Deuteron wave functions of N3LO potentials

red = Idaho, green = Bochum/Juelich

Black lines = high-precision pots.



Missing 3NFs: Where are they?
INT 09-1, May 26, 2009

Results from applications of chiral two-nucleon forces

- Latest Coupled Cluster results for $A \leq 48$ using N3LO

Medium-Mass Nuclei from Chiral Nucleon-Nucleon Interactions

G. Hagen,¹ T. Papenbrock,^{2,1} D. J. Dean,¹ and M. Hjorth-Jensen³

¹Physics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, USA

²Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996, USA

³Department of Physics and Center of Mathematics for Applications, University of Oslo, N-0316 Oslo, Norway
(Received 20 June 2008; published 29 August 2008)

We compute the binding energies, radii, and densities for selected medium-mass nuclei within coupled-cluster theory and employ a bare chiral nucleon-nucleon interaction at next-to-next-to-next-to-leading order. We find rather well-converged results in model spaces consisting of 15 oscillator shells, and the doubly magic nuclei ^{40}Ca , ^{48}Ca , and the exotic ^{48}Ni are underbound by about 1 MeV per nucleon within the coupled-cluster singles-doubles approximation. The binding-energy difference between the mirror nuclei ^{48}Ca and ^{48}Ni is close to theoretical mass table evaluations. Our computation of the one-body density matrices and the corresponding natural orbitals and occupation numbers provides a first step to a microscopic foundation of the nuclear shell model.

**Chiral NN potential at N³LO
underbinds by ~1MeV/nucleon.
(Size extensivity at its best.)**

Nucleus	DE / A [MeV]
^4He	1.08 (0.73 ^{FY})
^{16}O	1.25
^{40}Ca	0.84
^{48}Ca	1.27
^{48}Ni	1.21

V_low-k

λ	E/A	E_{chiral}/A	Q	$\Delta E/A$
1.9	-15.37	-47.59	1.5	-6.82
2.2	-13.67	-44.13	1.23	-4.82
2.5	-12.23	-42.39	1.21	-3.68
≈ 3.5	-7.68	-30.13	1.14	0.87

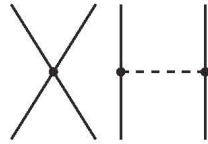
3NF: $\lambda \approx 3.5$
09-1, May 2009

2N forces

4N forces

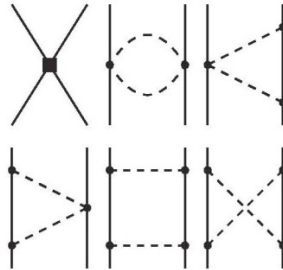
Leading
Order

Q^0
LO



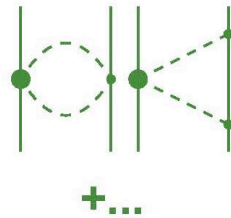
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^2
NLO



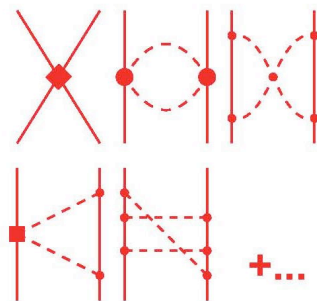
Next-to-
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^3
 N^2LO

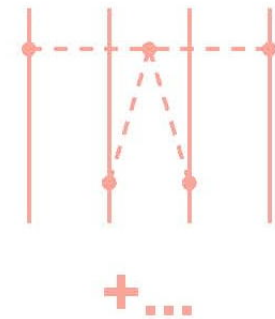


Next-to-
Next-to-
Next-to
Leading
Order

Q^4
 N^3LO

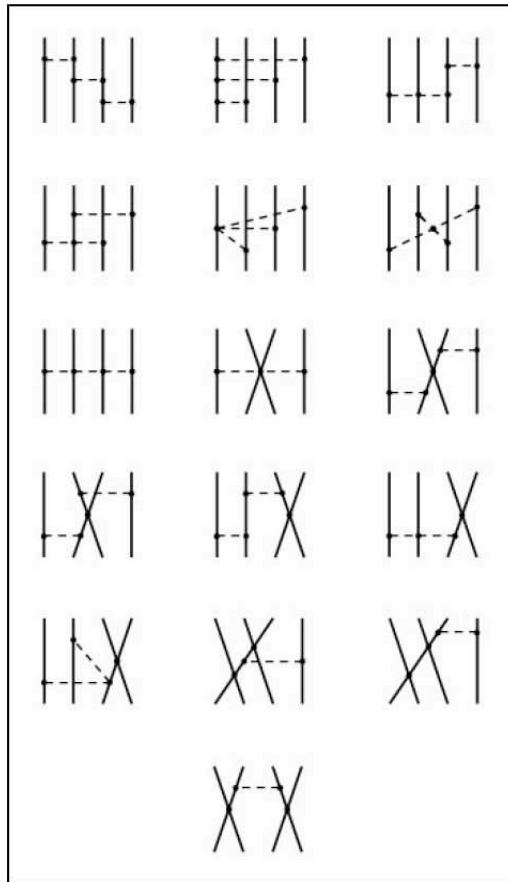


The Hierarchy of
Nuclear Forces



4NF at N3LO (leading order)

Epelbaum, Phys. Lett. **B639** (2006) 456 [nucl-th/0511025]



Note that only vertices from $\mathcal{L}_{\pi\pi}^{(2)}$, $\mathcal{L}_{\pi N}^{(1)}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{NN}^{(0)}$ are involved,

- no new parameters,
- weak.

First rough estimate:

≈ 0.1 MeV to α binding.

**Essentially negligible,
as to be expected.**

Interim summary

- 2NF o.k.
(except for the issue of non-perturbative renormalization)
- 4NF (negligibly) small ...

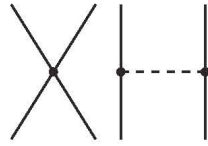
2N forces

3N forces

4N forces

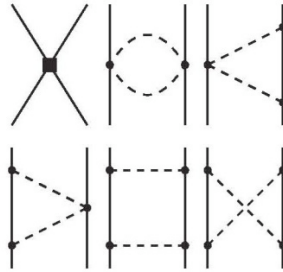
Leading Order

Q^0
LO



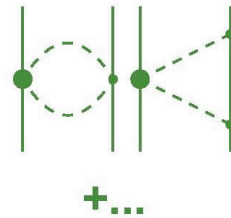
Next-to Leading Order

Q^2
NLO



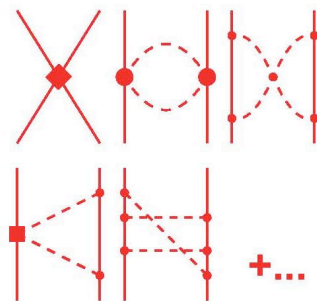
Next-to-Next-to Leading Order

Q^3
 N^2LO



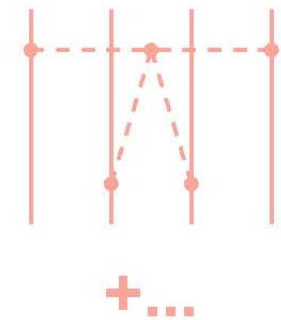
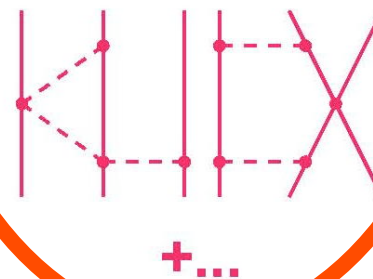
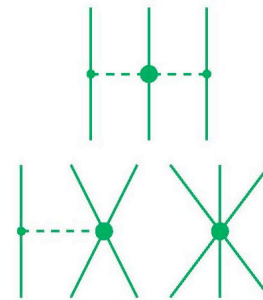
Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order

Q^4
 N^3LO



The Hierarchy of Nuclear Forces

The focus: The 3NF



The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

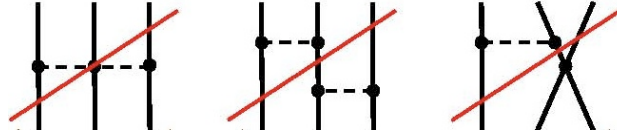
Leading
Order (Q^0)

Next-to
Leading
Order (Q^2)

Next-to-
Next-to
Leading
Order (Q^3)

Next-to-
Next-to-
Next-to
Leading
Order
(Q^4)

N4LO
(Q^5)



$$\text{Power} = 2 + 2L + \sum_{\text{all vertices}} \Delta_i$$

with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

$$\text{Power} = 2 + 2L + \sum_{\text{all vertices}} \Delta_i$$

with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

(1/M)ⁿ corrections

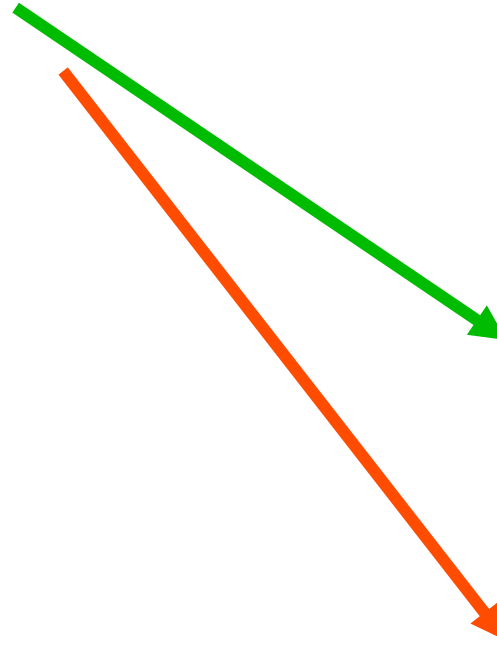
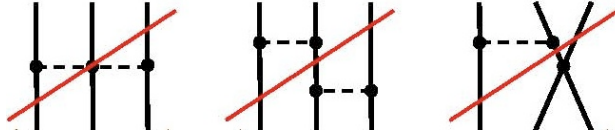
Leading Order (Q⁰)

Next-to Leading Order (Q²)

Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q³)

Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q⁴)

N4LO (Q⁵)



Coon & Friar (1986)

The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

$$\text{Power} = 2 + 2L + \sum_{\text{all vertices}} \Delta_i$$

with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

(1/M)ⁿ corrections

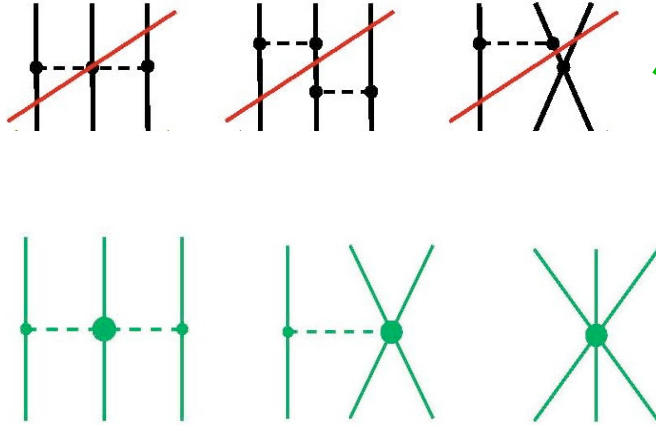
Leading Order (Q⁰)

Next-to Leading Order (Q²)

Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q³)

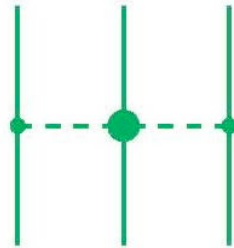
Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q⁴)

N4LO (Q⁵)



Three-nucleon forces at N2LO

TPE-3NF



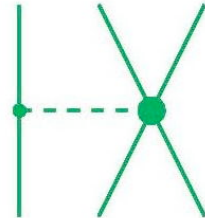
$$V_{\text{TPE}}^{3\text{NF}} = \left(\frac{g_A}{2f_\pi}\right)^2 \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j \neq k} \frac{(\vec{\sigma}_i \cdot \vec{q}_i)(\vec{\sigma}_j \cdot \vec{q}_j)}{(q_i^2 + m_\pi^2)(q_j^2 + m_\pi^2)} F_{ijk}^{\alpha\beta} \tau_i^\alpha \tau_j^\beta$$

with $\vec{q}_i \equiv \vec{p}_i' - \vec{p}_i$, where \vec{p}_i and \vec{p}_i' are the initial and final momenta of nucleon i , respectively, and

$$F_{ijk}^{\alpha\beta} = \delta^{\alpha\beta} \left[-\frac{4c_1 m_\pi^2}{f_\pi^2} + \frac{2c_3}{f_\pi^2} \vec{q}_i \cdot \vec{q}_j \right] + \frac{c_4}{f_\pi^2} \sum_\gamma \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \tau_k^\gamma \vec{\sigma}_k \cdot [\vec{q}_i \times \vec{q}_j]$$

No new parameters!

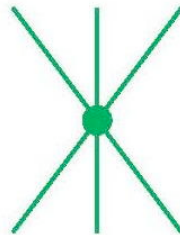
OPE-3NF



$$V_{\text{OPE}}^{3\text{NF}} = D \frac{g_A}{8f_\pi^2} \sum_{i \neq j \neq k} \frac{\vec{\sigma}_j \cdot \vec{q}_j}{q_j^2 + m_\pi^2} (\tau_i \cdot \tau_j) (\vec{\sigma}_i \cdot \vec{q}_j)$$

One new parameter, D.

Contact-3NF



$$V_{\text{ct}}^{3\text{NF}} = E \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq k} \tau_j \cdot \tau_k$$

One new parameter, E.

Strategy: Adjust D and E to two few-nucleon observables, e.g., the triton and alpha-particle binding energies. Then predict properties of other light nuclei.

The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

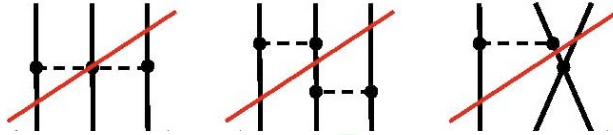
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with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

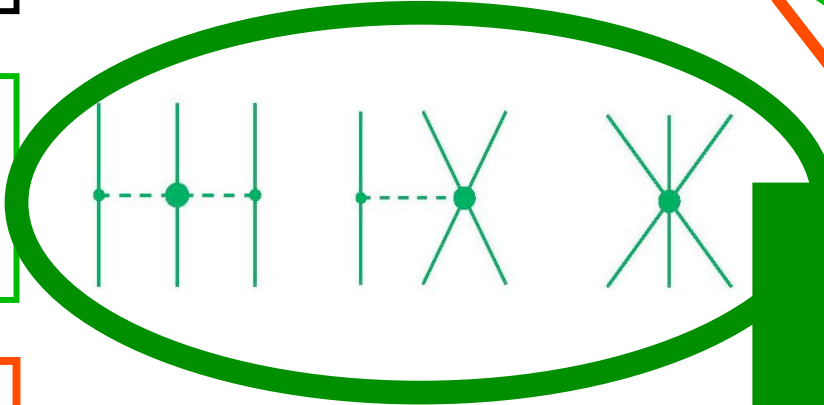
$(1/M)^n$ corrections

Leading Order (Q^0)

Next-to Leading Order (Q^2)



Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^3)



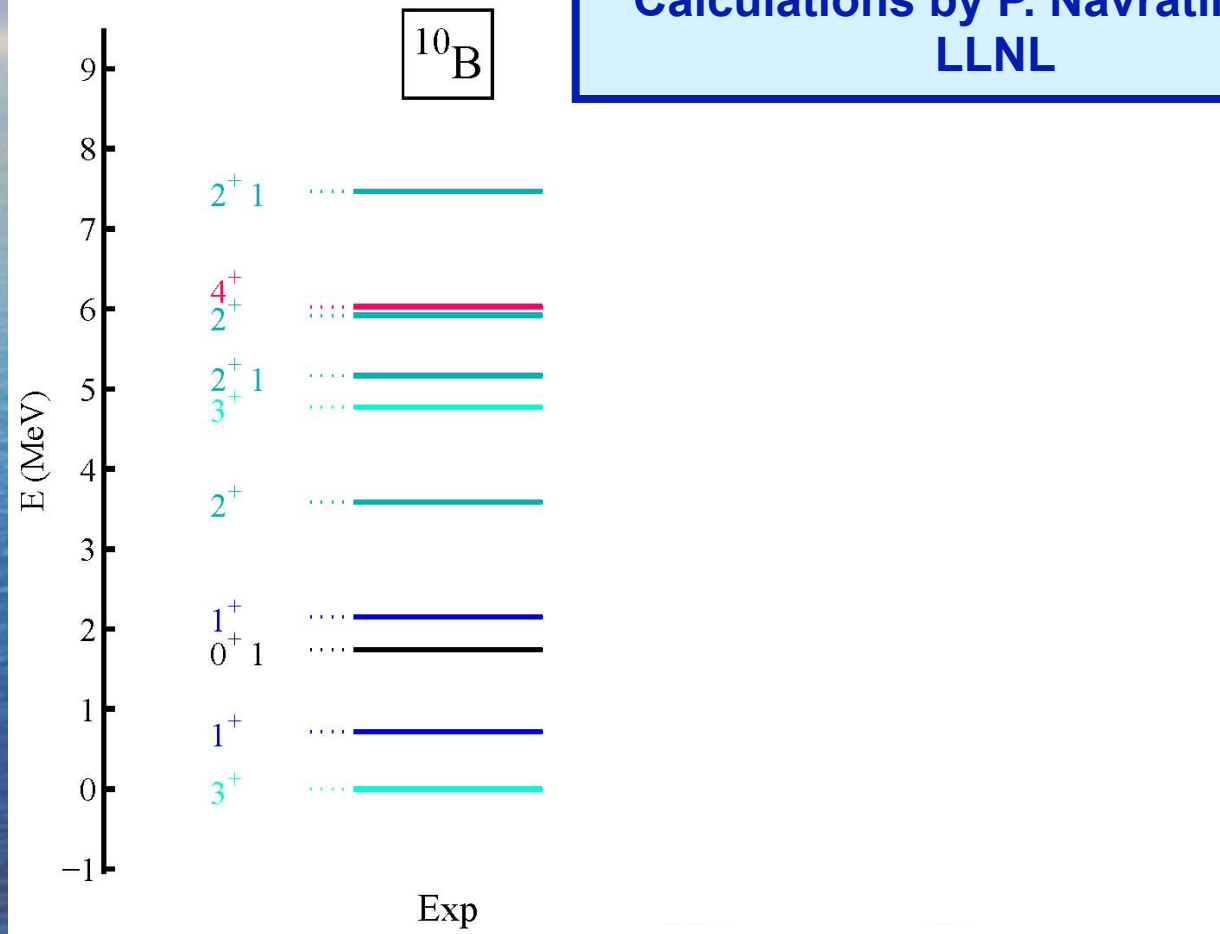
Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^4)

N4LO (Q^5)

The 3NF
At N2LO :
How well does it do?

Calculating the properties of light nuclei using chiral 2N and 3N forces

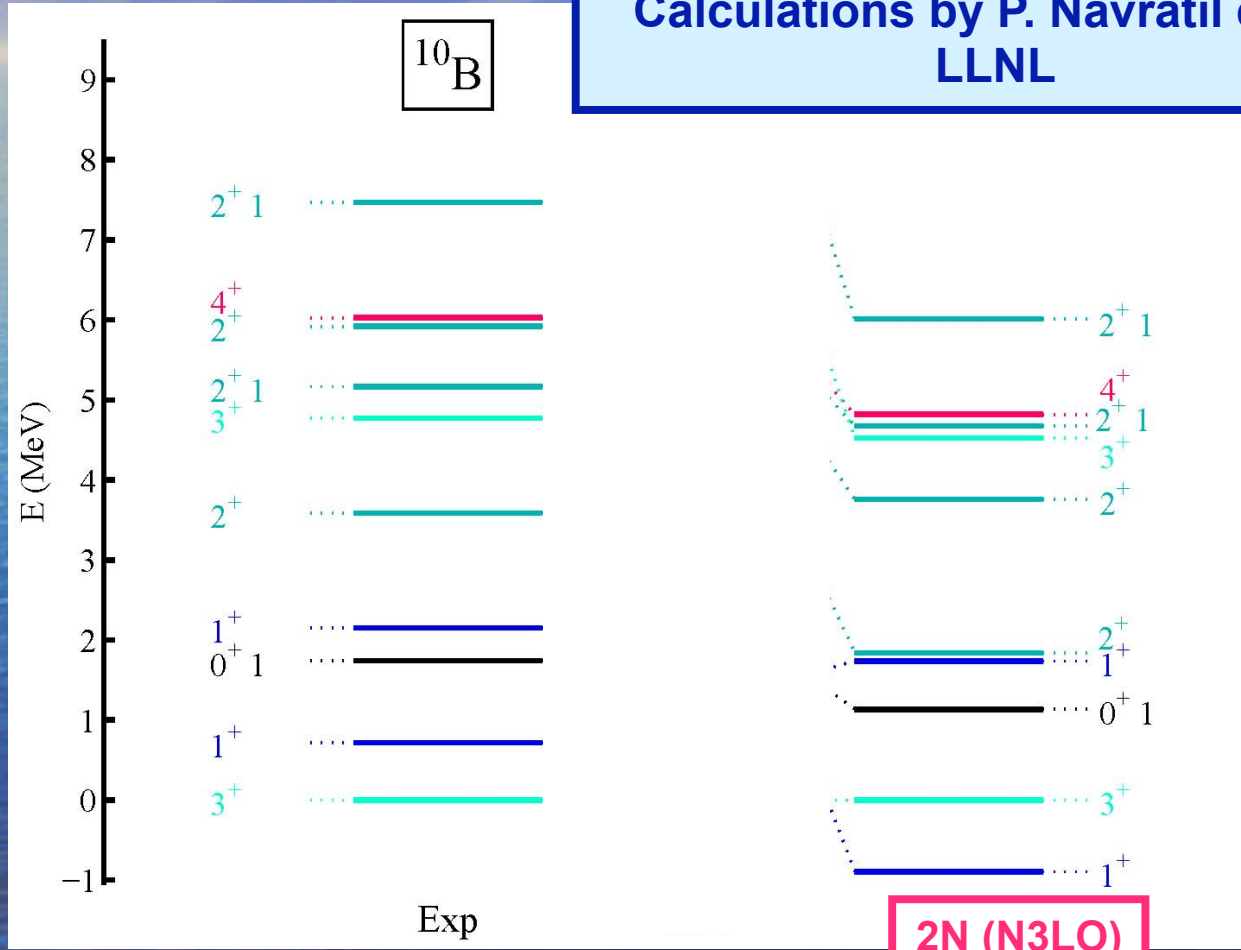
“No-Core Shell Model “
Calculations by P. Navratil et al.,
LLNL



Missing 3NFs: Where are they?
INT 09-1, May 26, 2009

Calculating the properties of light nuclei using chiral 2N and 3N forces

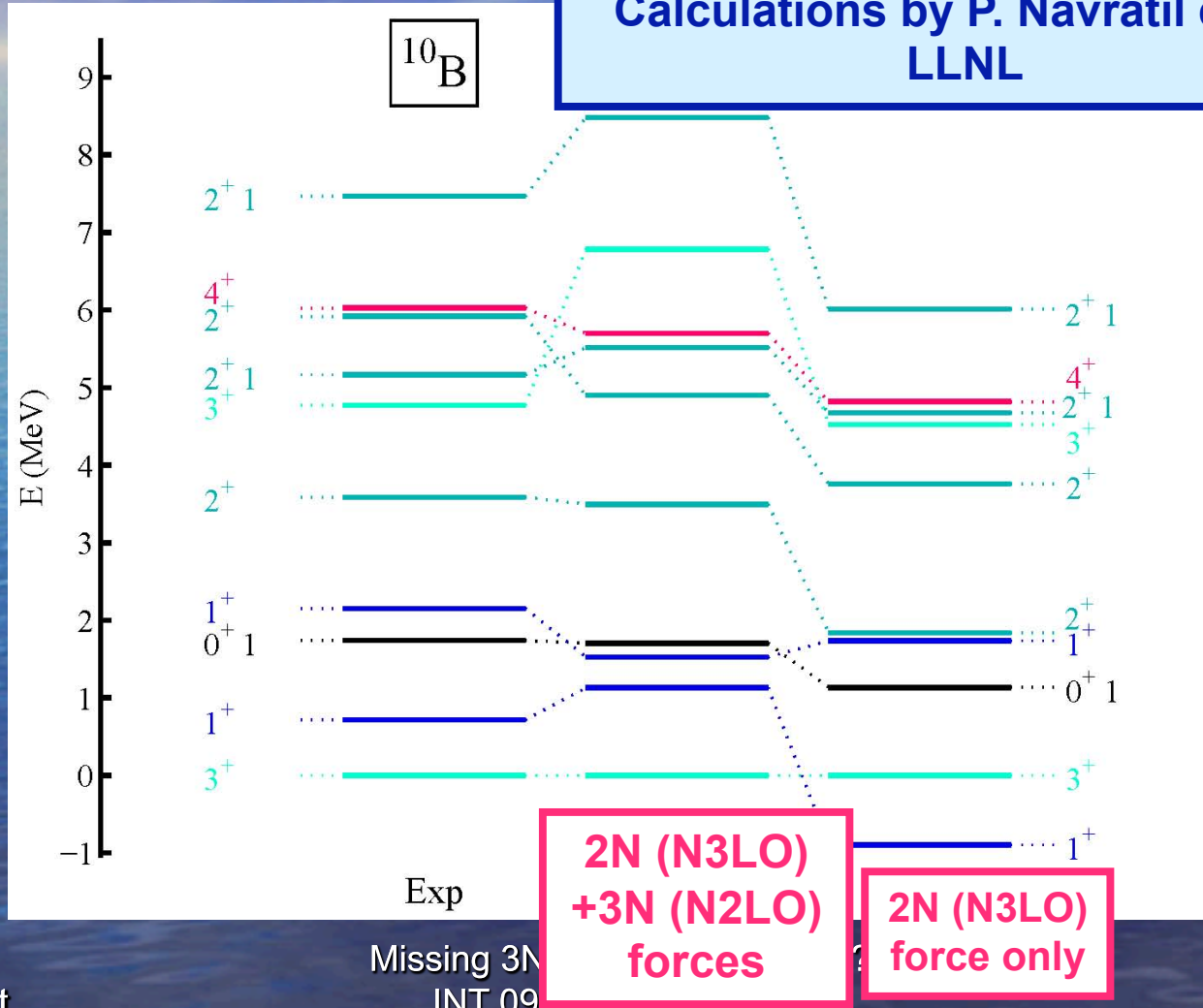
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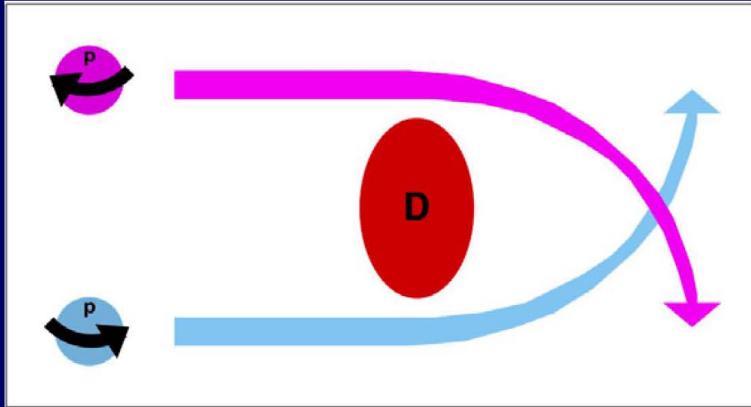
Calculating the properties of light nuclei using chiral 2N and 3N forces

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The A_y puzzle at low energies

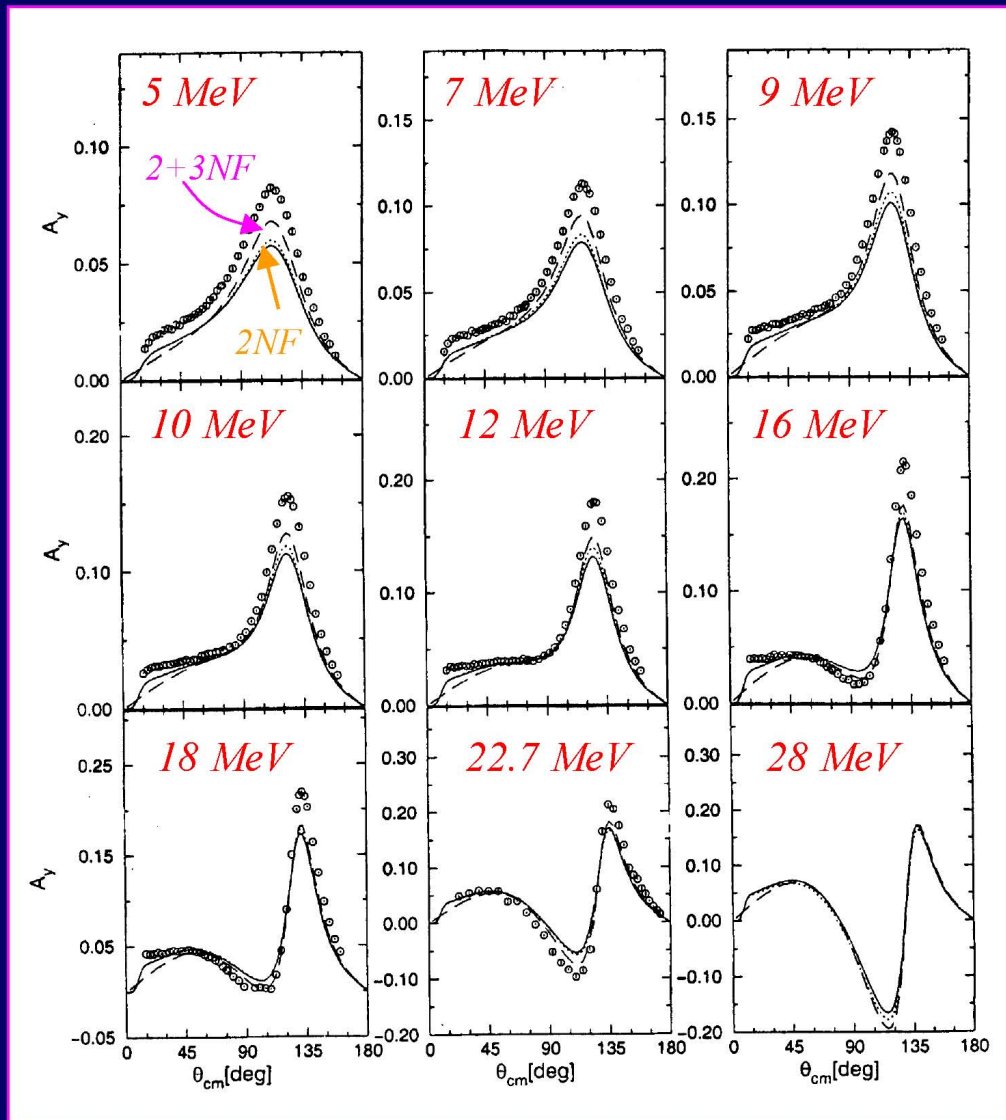
$$\vec{p} + d \rightarrow p + d$$



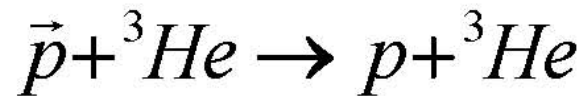
$$\sigma = \sigma_0(1 + pA_y \cos \phi)$$

$$\Rightarrow A_y = \frac{\sigma_L - \sigma_R}{\sigma_L + \sigma_R}$$

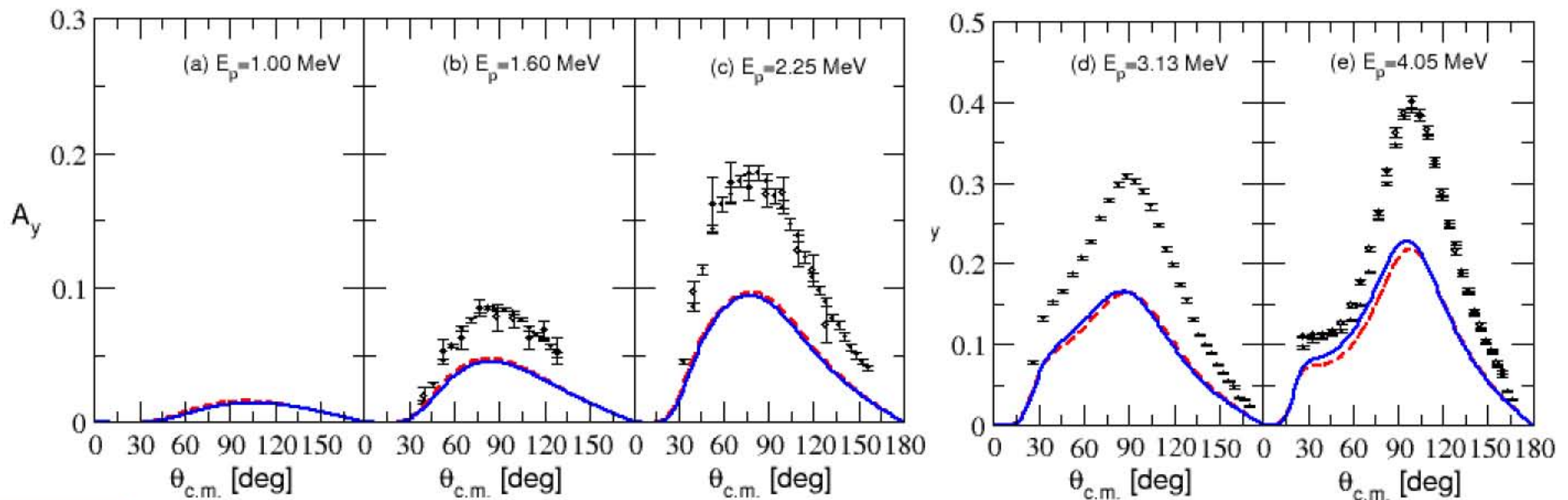
Calculations by Pisa group



Very small effects from the
(standard) 3N forces
p-³He elastic scattering



Analyzing power



FB18
August
2006

----- AV18

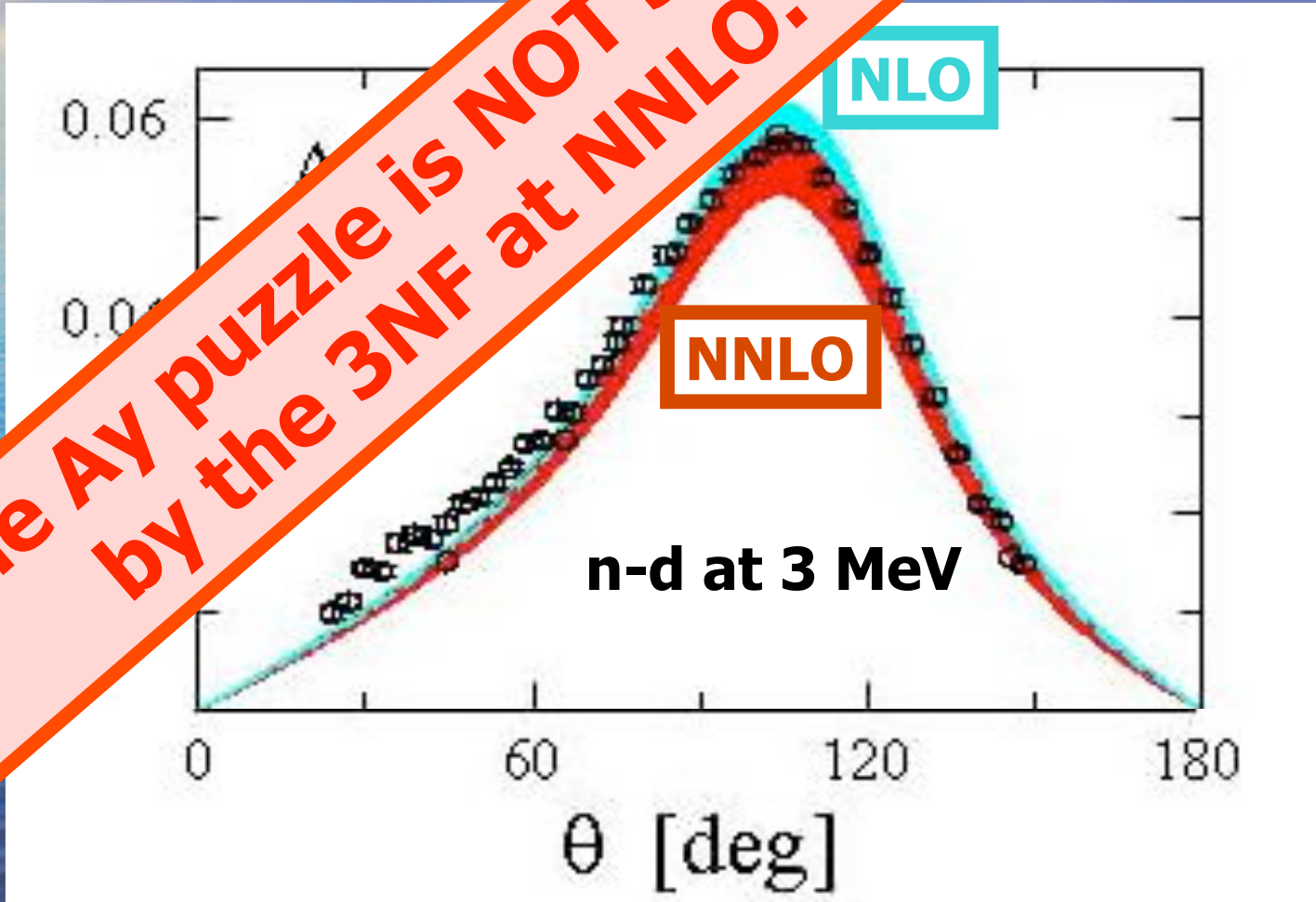
———— AV18+UIX

MV, Marcucci, Kievsky & Rosati, PRC in press

Courtesy of M. Viviani;
latest data from TUNL.

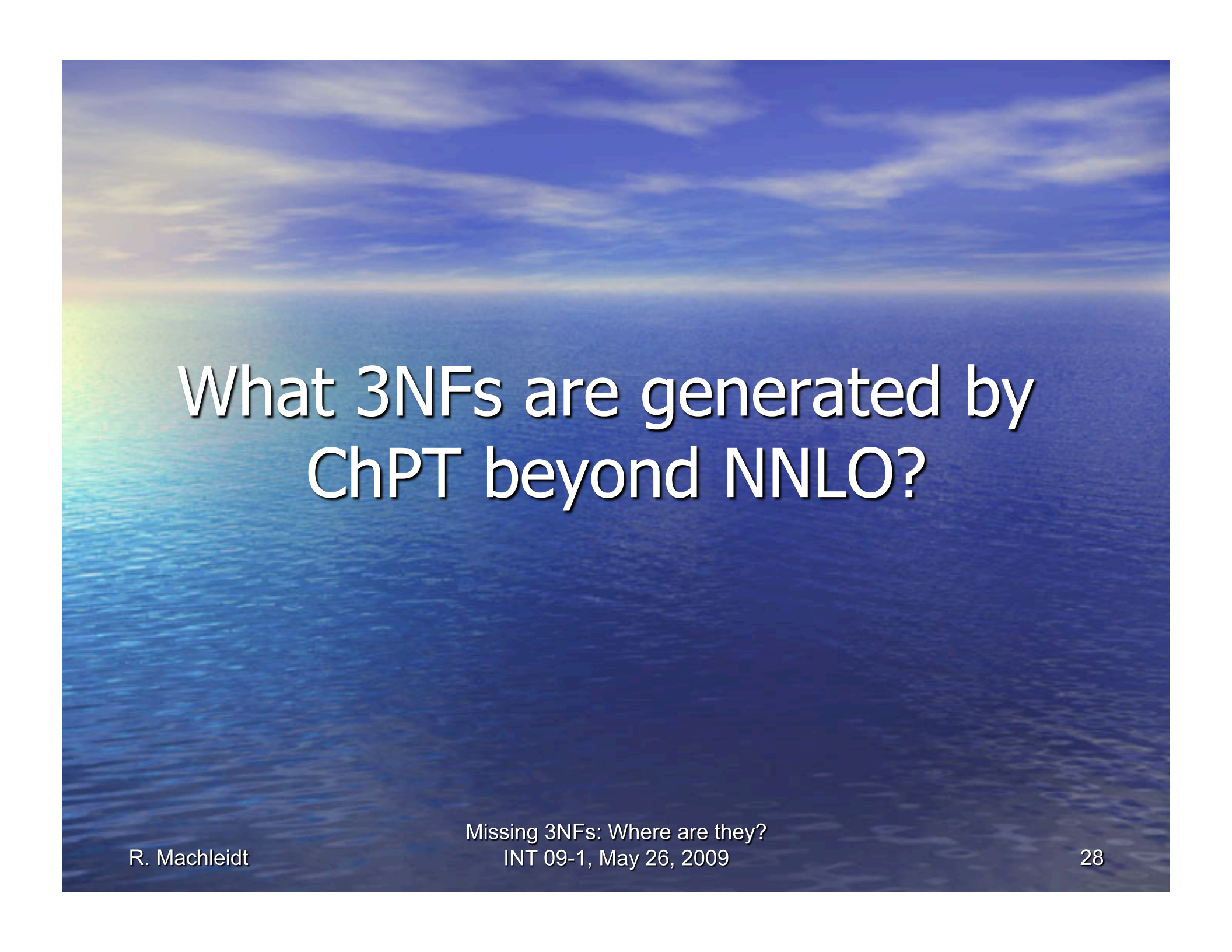
Ay puzzle at NNLO and NNLO (2N)

The Ay puzzle is NOT solved by the 3NF at NNLO.



Why do we need 3NFs beyond NNLO?

- The 2NF is N3LO;
consistency requires that all contributions are at the same order.
- There are unresolved problems in 3N, 4N scattering and nuclear structure.



What 3NFs are generated by ChPT beyond NNLO?

The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

$$\text{Power} = 2 + 2L + \sum_{\text{all vertices}} \Delta_i$$

with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

(1/M)ⁿ corrections

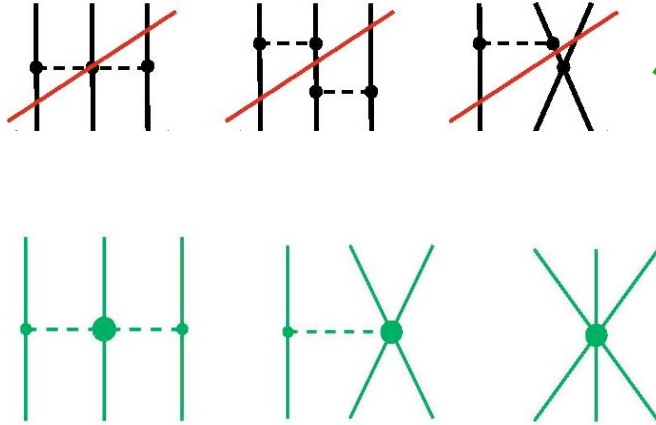
Leading Order (Q⁰)

Next-to Leading Order (Q²)

Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q³)

Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q⁴)

N4LO (Q⁵)



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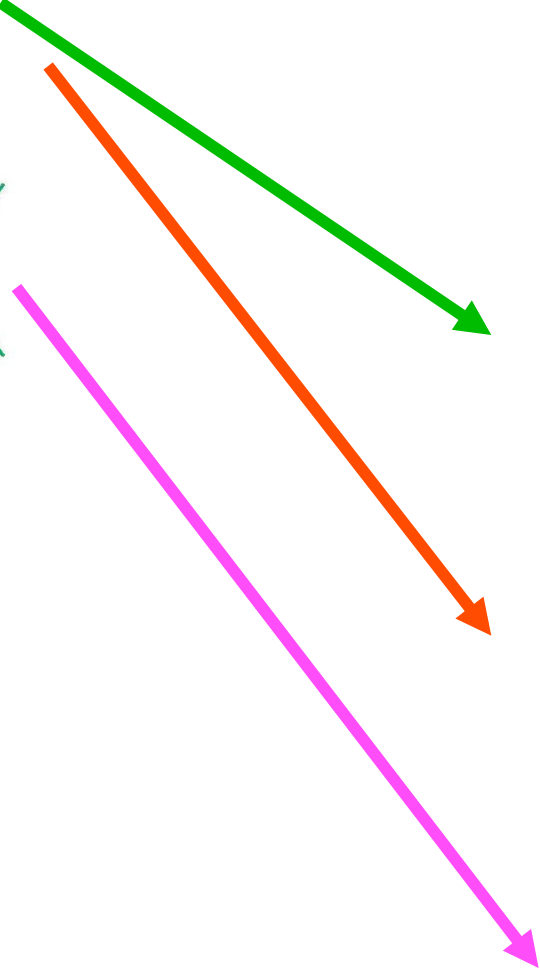
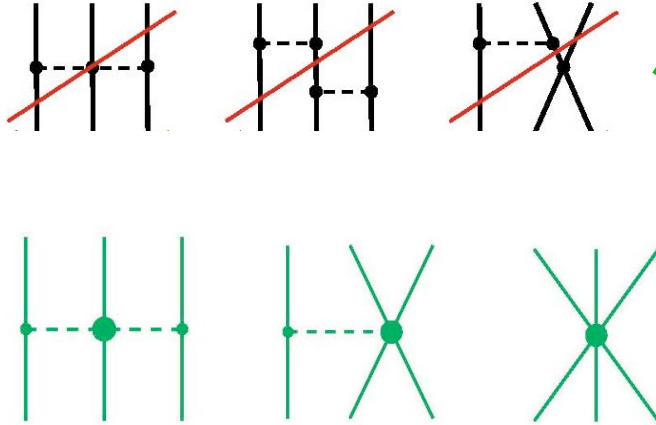
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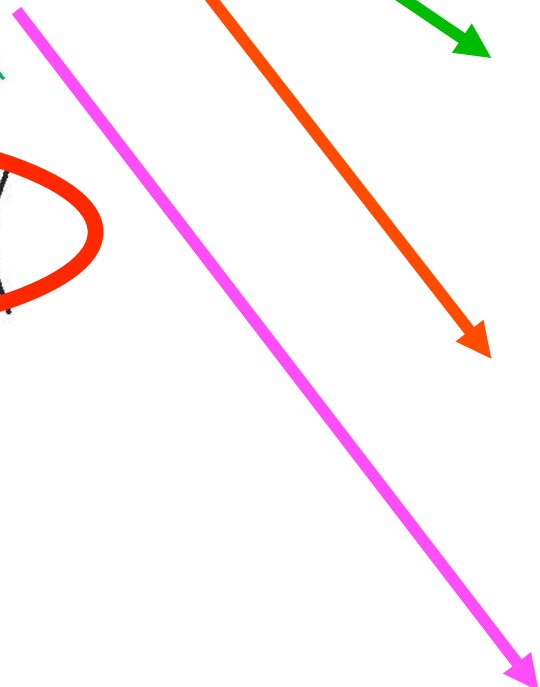
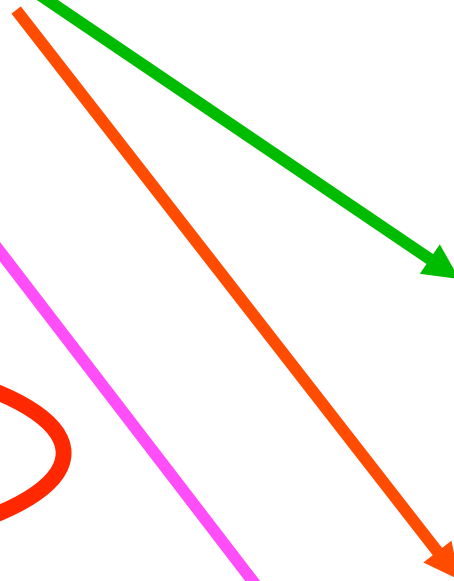
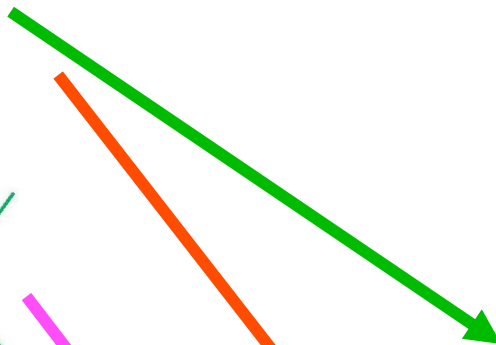
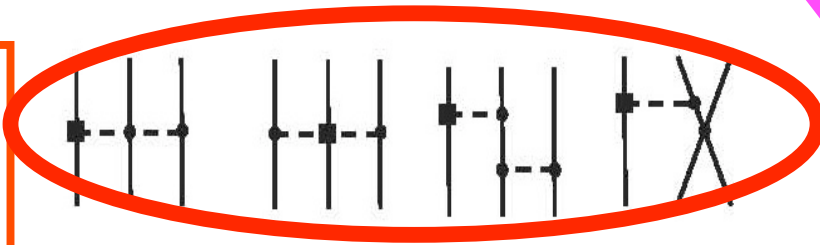
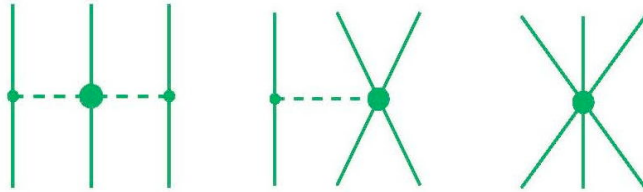
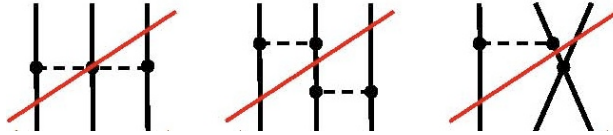
Leading Order (Q⁰)

Next-to Leading Order (Q²)

Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q³)

Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q⁴)

N4LO (Q⁵)



The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

$$\text{Power} = 2 + 2L + \sum_{\text{all vertices}} \Delta_i$$

with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

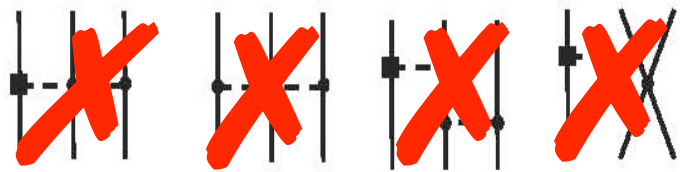
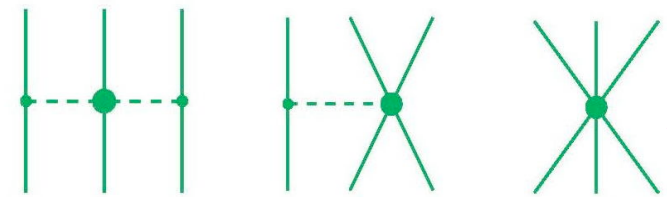
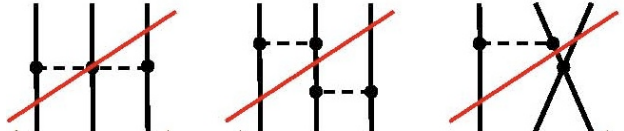
Leading Order (Q^0)

Next-to Leading Order (Q^2)

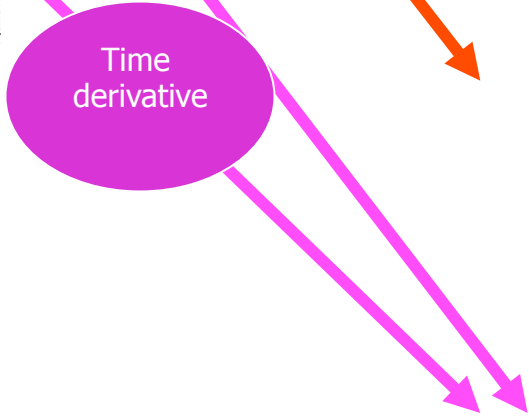
Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^3)

Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^4)

N4LO (Q^5)



$(1/M)^n$ corrections



The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

$$\text{Power} = 2 + 2L + \sum_{\text{all vertices}} \Delta_i$$

with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

(1/M)ⁿ corrections

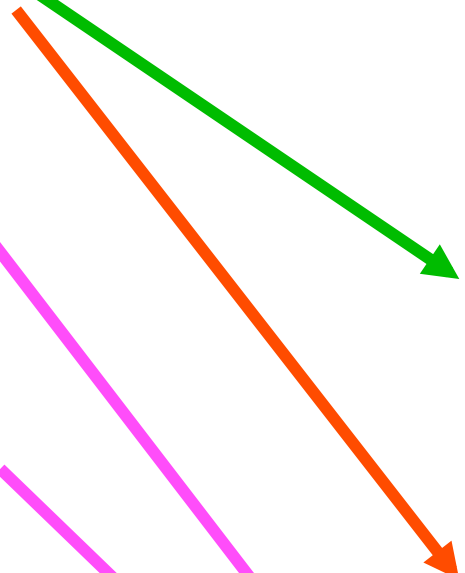
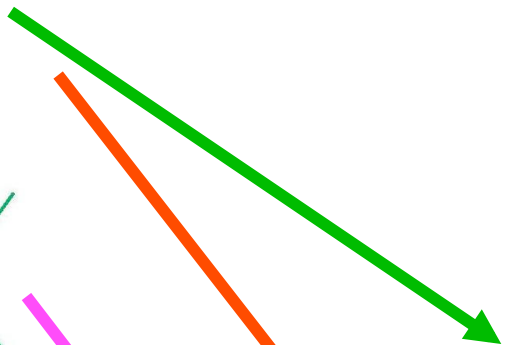
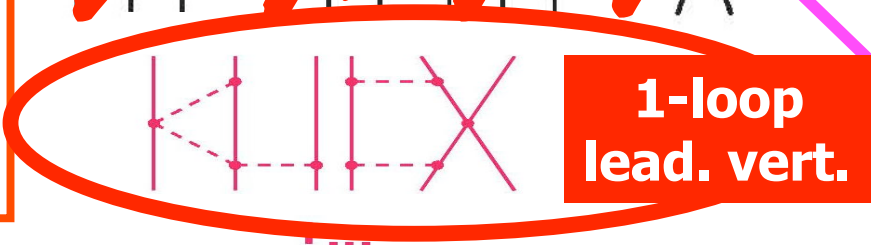
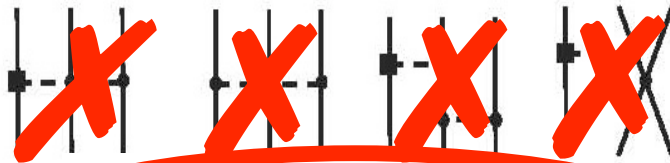
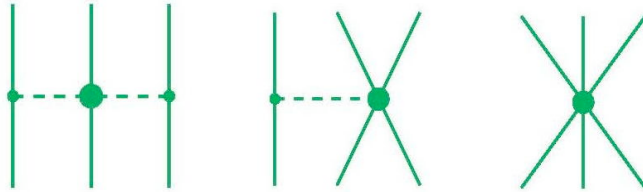
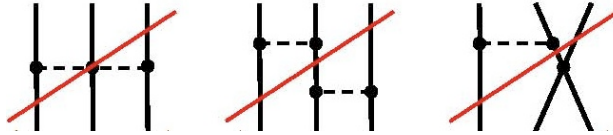
Leading Order (Q⁰)

Next-to Leading Order (Q²)

Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q³)

Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q⁴)

N4LO (Q⁵)



The 3NF at N3LO explicitly

One-loop, leading vertices

2π -exchange

Diagrammatic equation for 2π -exchange: A tree-level diagram with three external lines and a loop is equal to a sum of one-loop diagrams with various internal line topologies, including a box diagram and a triangle diagram with a loop on the top or bottom edge.

2π - 1π -exchange

Diagrammatic equation for 2π - 1π -exchange: A tree-level diagram with two shaded external lines and one unshaded external line is equal to a sum of one-loop diagrams with various internal line topologies, including a box diagram and a triangle diagram with a loop on the top or bottom edge.

ring diagrams

Diagrammatic equation for ring diagrams: A tree-level diagram with two shaded external lines and one unshaded external line is equal to a sum of one-loop diagrams with various internal line topologies, including a box diagram and a triangle diagram with a loop on the top or bottom edge.

contact- 1π -exchange

Diagrammatic equation for contact- 1π -exchange: A tree-level diagram with a contact vertex and one external line is equal to a sum of one-loop diagrams with various internal line topologies, including a box diagram and a triangle diagram with a loop on the top or bottom edge.

contact- 2π -exchange

Diagrammatic equation for contact- 2π -exchange: A tree-level diagram with a contact vertex and two external lines is equal to a sum of one-loop diagrams with various internal line topologies, including a box diagram and a triangle diagram with a loop on the top or bottom edge.

Ishikawa & Robilotta,
PRC 76, 014006 (2007)

Bernard,
Epelbaum,
Krebs,
Meissner,
PRC 77, 064004
(2008)

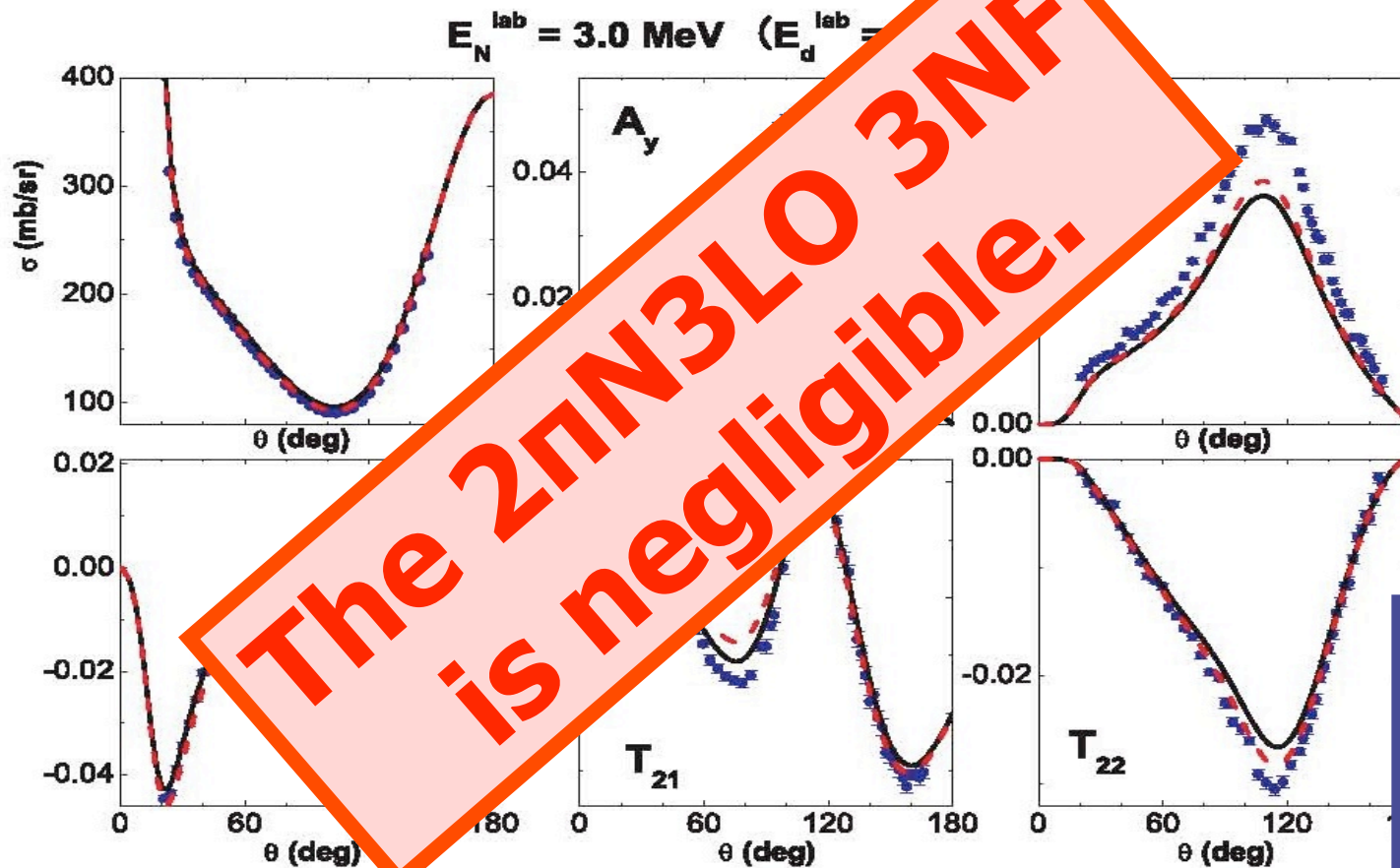
In
progress

Missing 3NFs: Where are they?
INT 09-1, May 26, 2009

Proton-deuteron elastic scattering

Black line: 2NF only

Red dashed line: 2NF + 3NF(N2LO+2 π N3LO) \approx 2NF + 3NF(N2LO)



From:
Ishikawa &
Robilotta,
PRC 76, 014006
(2007)

Missing 3NFs: Where are they?
INT 09-1, May 26, 2009

Interim balance

- The 3NF at N3LO may be generally weak.
- Reason: only “leading” vertices are involved, which are known to be weak (e.g., from NN).
- Thus, the 3NF at N3LO may not solve any of the outstanding problems.



What now?

Go to the next order!

The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

$$\text{Power} = 2 + 2L + \sum_{\text{all vertices}} \Delta_i$$

with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

(1/M)ⁿ corrections

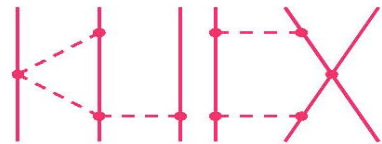
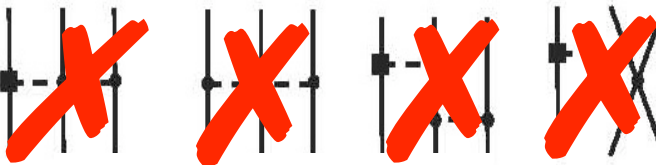
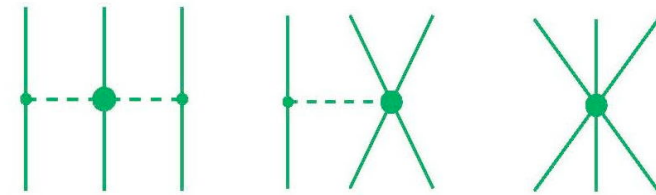
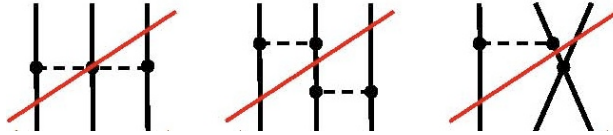
Leading Order (Q⁰)

Next-to Leading Order (Q²)

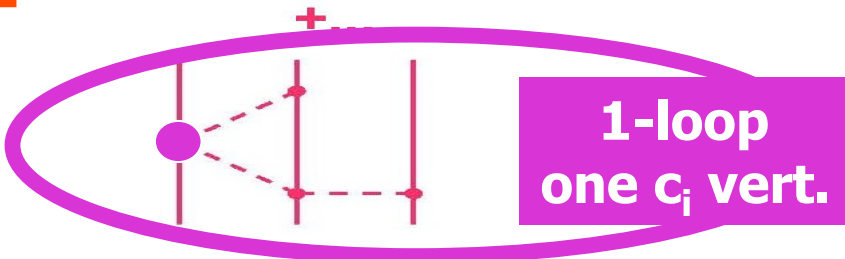
Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q³)

Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q⁴)

N4LO (Q⁵)



1-loop lead. vert.



1-loop one c_i vert.



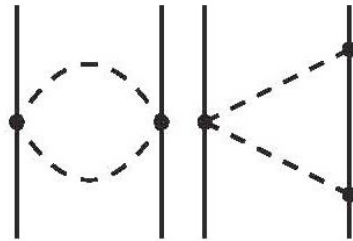
What to expect from those N4LO 1-loop diagrams?

Compare to “similar” 2NF diagrams.

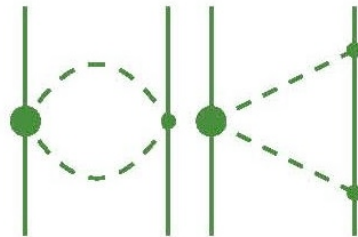
Corresponding 2NF contributions

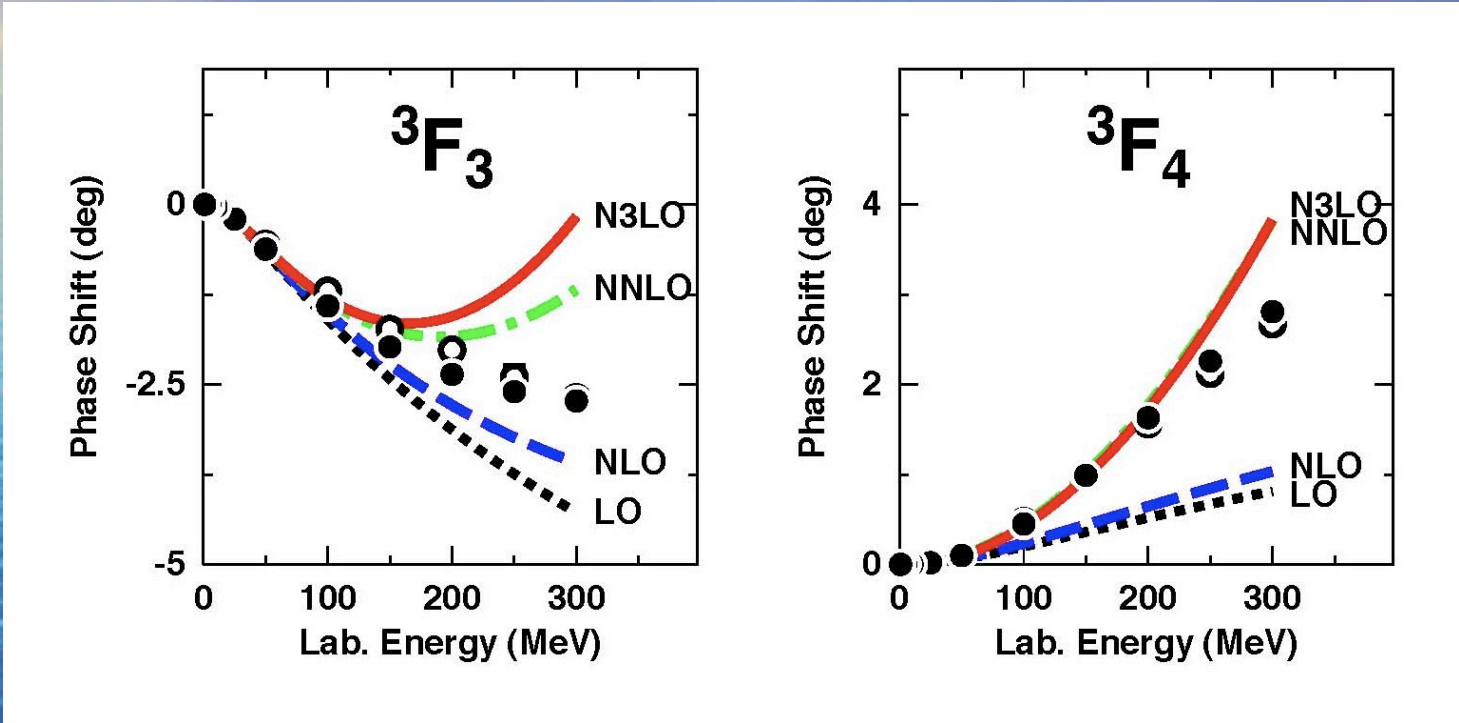
2π

**1-loop
lead. vert.**



**1-loop
One c_i vert.**





Missing 3NFs: Where are they?
 INT 09-1, May 26, 2009

Corresponding 2NF contributions

2π

3π

1-loop
lead. vert.



Kaiser (2000)

1-loop
One c_i vert.



Kaiser (2001)

The chiral 3NF

Basic Diagrams

$$\text{Power} = 2 + 2L + \sum_{\text{all vertices}} \Delta_i$$

with $\Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2$

(1/M)ⁿ corrections

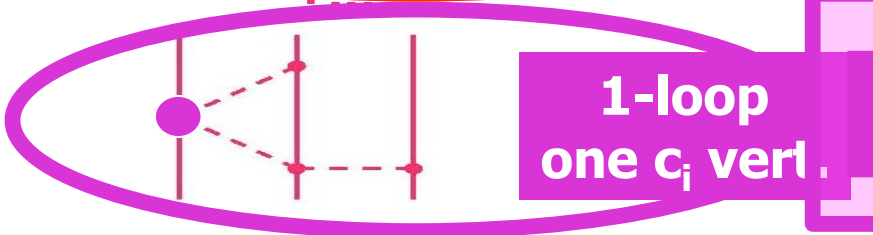
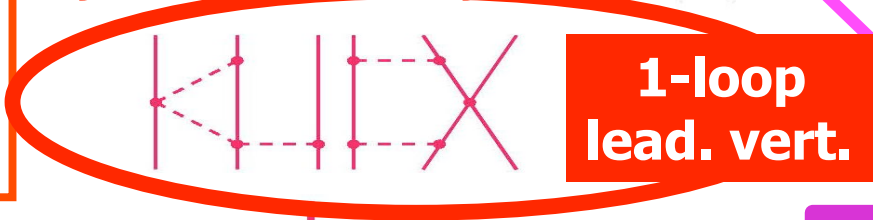
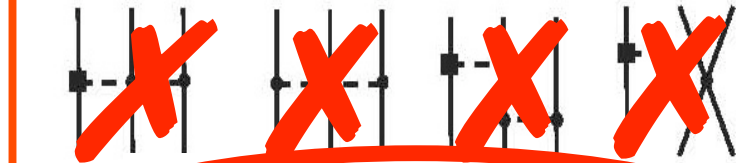
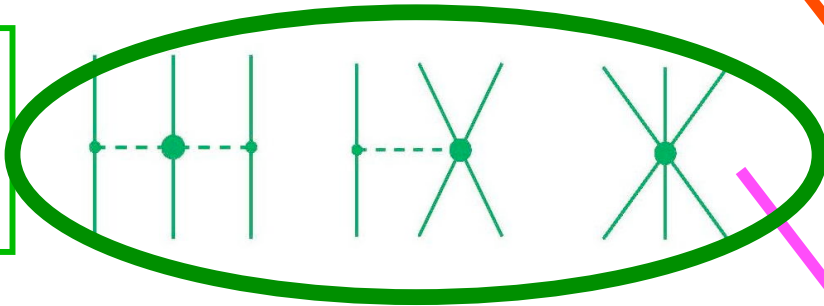
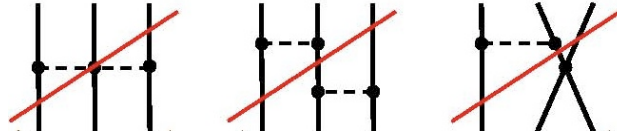
Leading Order (Q⁰)

Next-to Leading Order (Q²)

Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q³)

Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q⁴)

N4LO (Q⁵)



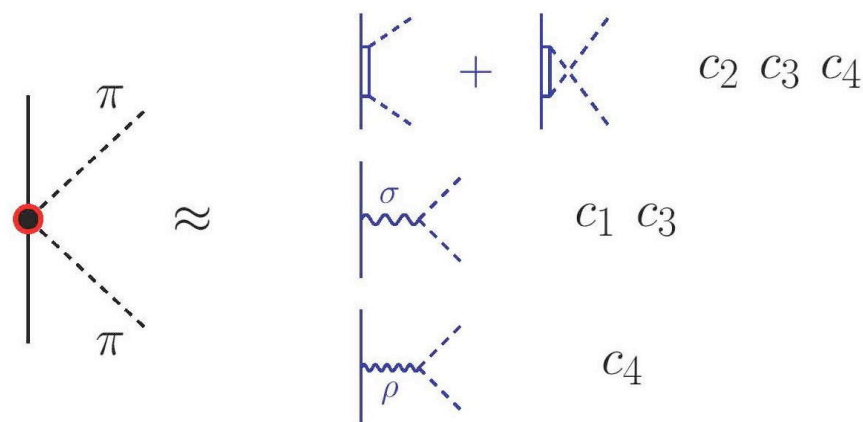
Large!!

So, we will have to go to N4LO!?

- No, not necessarily.
- There is an alternative:
go to N3LO, but include $\Delta(1232)$ isobars explicitly.

pi-N Lagrangian with two derivatives ("next-to-leading" order)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\pi N, c_i}^{(2)} = & \bar{N} \left[2 c_1 m_\pi^2 (U + U^\dagger) \right. \\ & + \left(c_2 - \frac{g_A^2}{8M_N} \right) u_0^2 \\ & + c_3 u_\mu u^\mu \\ & \left. + \frac{i}{2} \left(c_4 + \frac{1}{4M_N} \right) \vec{\sigma} \cdot (\vec{u} \times \vec{u}) \right] N \end{aligned}$$



Bernard et al. '97

Missing 3NFs: Where are they?
INT 09-1, May 26, 2009

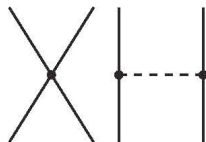
Chiral 2NF

Δ less

Additional in Δ full

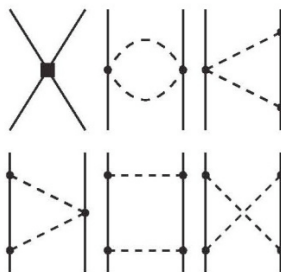
Leading Order

Q^0
LO



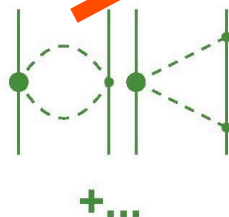
Next-to Leading Order

Q^2
NLO



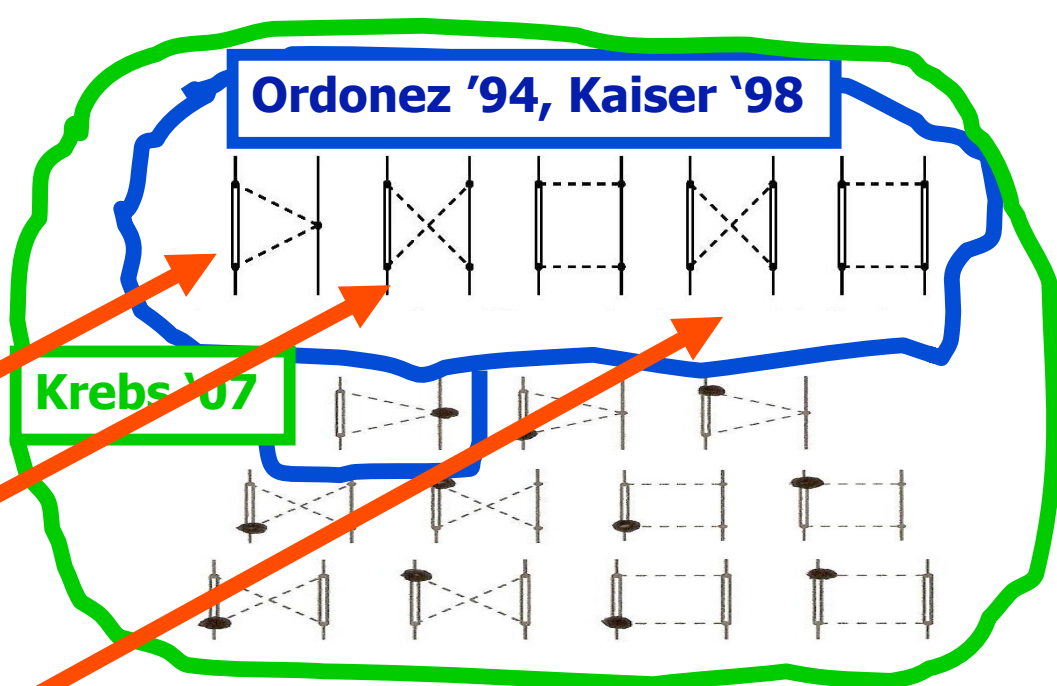
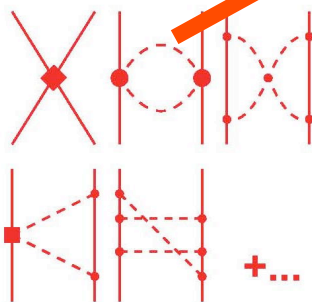
Next-to-Next-to Leading Order

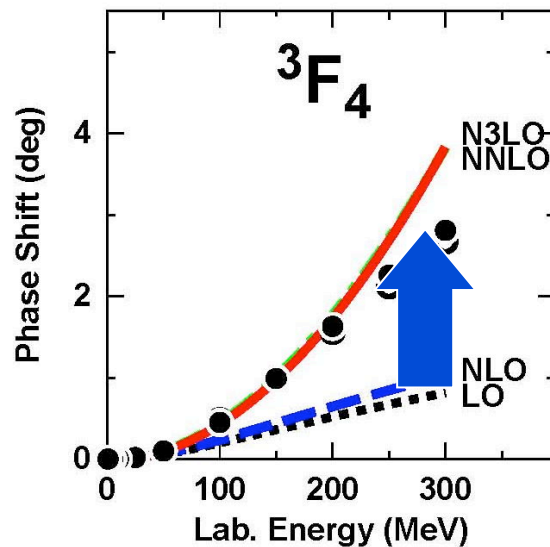
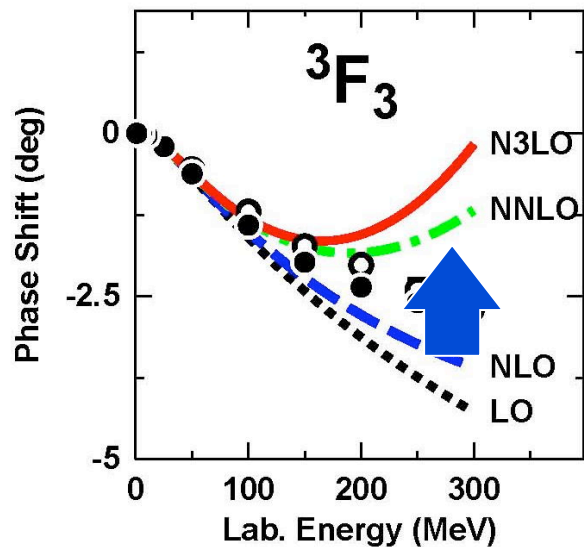
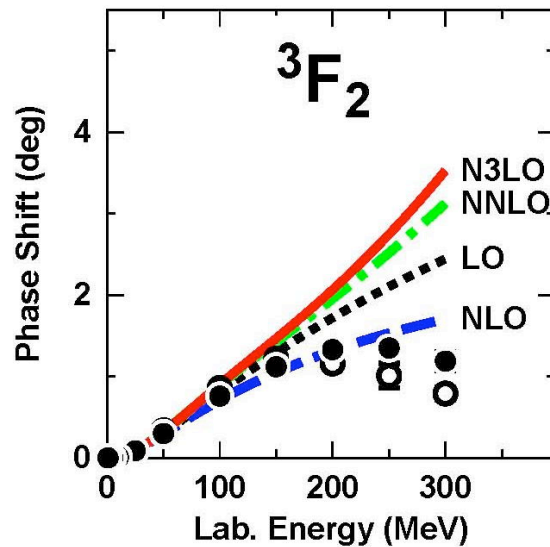
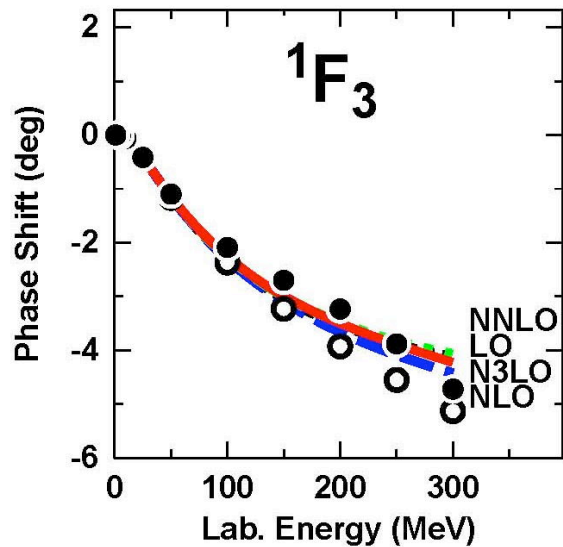
Q^3
 N^2LO



Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order

Q^4
 N^3LO





**Δ -full theory
Raises NLO,
Better
convergence**

Missing 3NFs: Where are they?
INT 09-1, May 26, 2009



The 3NF in the Δ -full theory

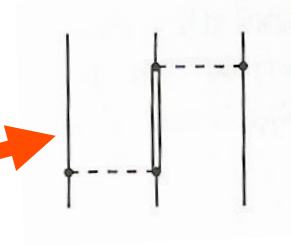
The chiral 3NF: Δ -less vs. Δ -full

Leading Order (Q^0)

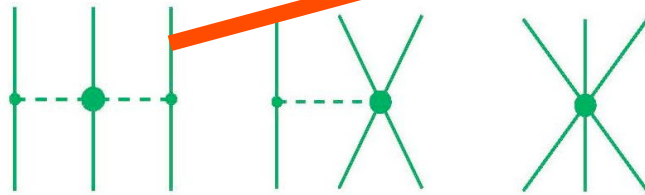
Δ less

Additional in Δ full

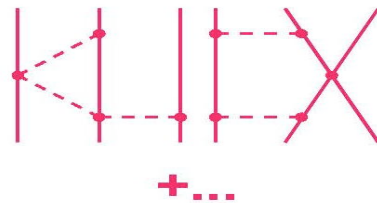
Next-to Leading Order (Q^2)



Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^3)

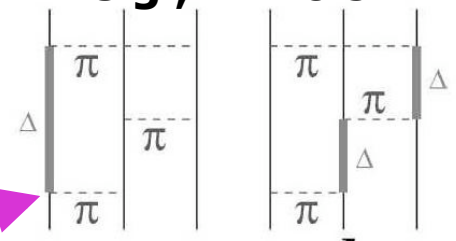


Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^4)

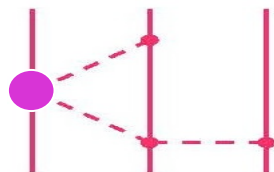


1-loops with Δ

e.g., Illinois



N4LO (Q^5)



However, there is a however ...

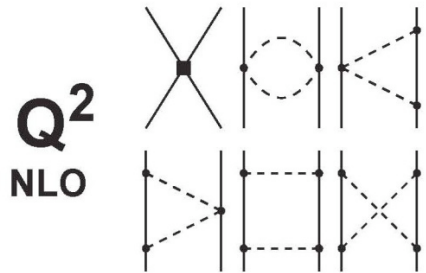
- For reasons of consistency, the 2NF must then also include Δ 's---up to N3LO!
- So, what does that look like?

The chiral 2NF: Δ -less vs. Δ -full

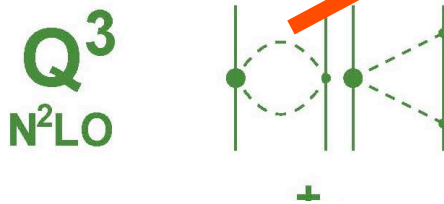
Leading Order

Q^0
LO **Δ less**

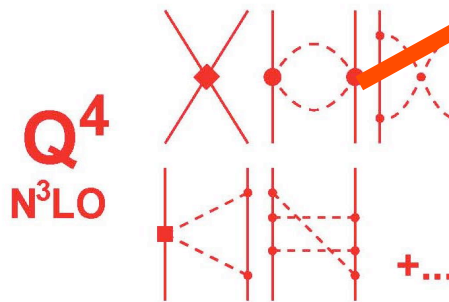
Next-to Leading Order



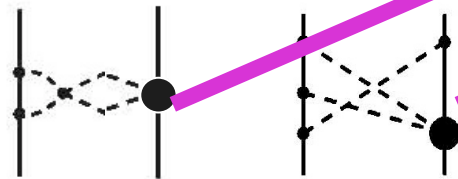
Next-to-Next-to Leading Order



Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order



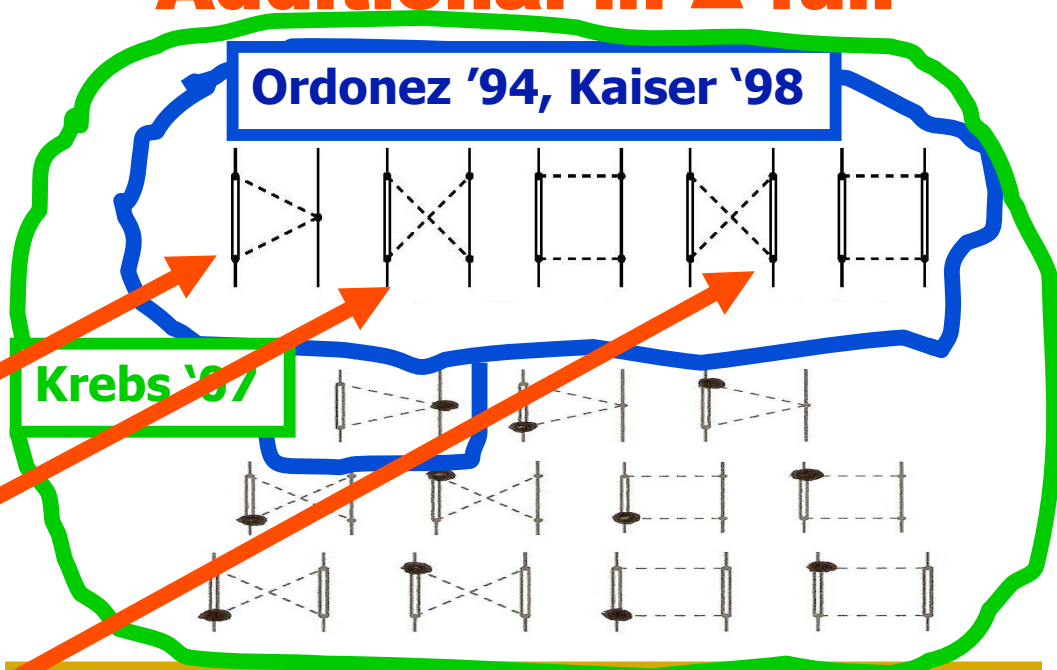
N4LO
(Q^5)



Additional in Δ full

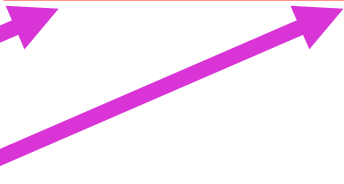
Ordenez '94, Kaiser '98

Krebs '87



+ 1/M corrections, Kaiser '98: large?

2pi & 3pi 2-loops with Δ





In summary:

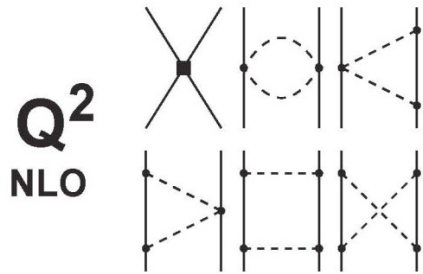
Either

The chiral 2NF: Δ -less vs. Δ -full

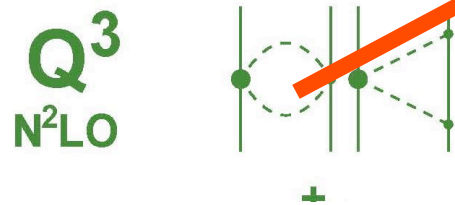
Leading Order

Q^0
LO **Δ less**

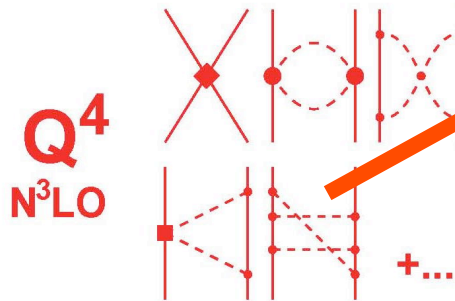
Next-to Leading Order



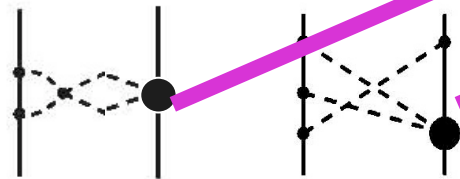
Next-to-Next-to Leading Order



Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order



N4LO
(Q^5)



Additional in Δ full

Ordenez '94, Kaiser '98

Krebs '07

+ $1/M$ corrections, Kaiser '98: large?

2π & 3π 2-loops with Δ

The chiral 3NF: Δ -less vs. Δ -full

Leading Order (Q^0)

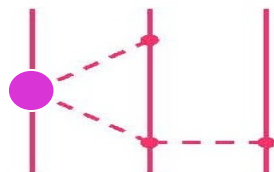
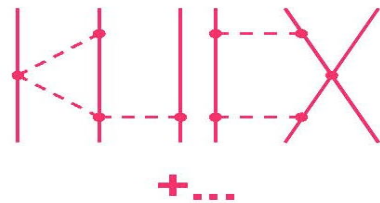
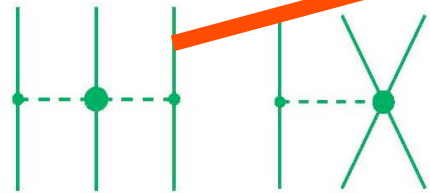
Next-to Leading Order (Q^2)

Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^3)

Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^4)

N4LO (Q^5)

Δ less

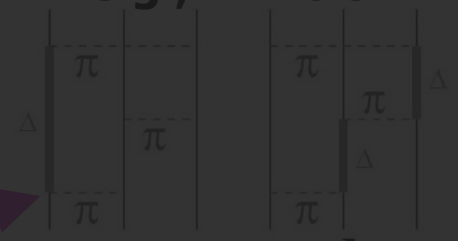


Additional in Δ full



1-loops with Δ

e.g., Illinois





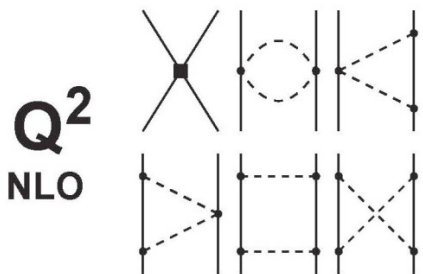
Or

The chiral 2NF: Δ -less vs. Δ -full

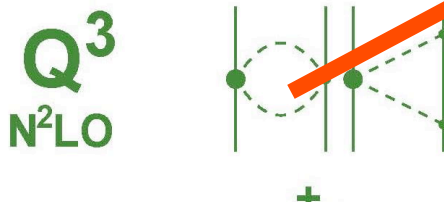
Leading Order

Q^0
LO **Δ less**

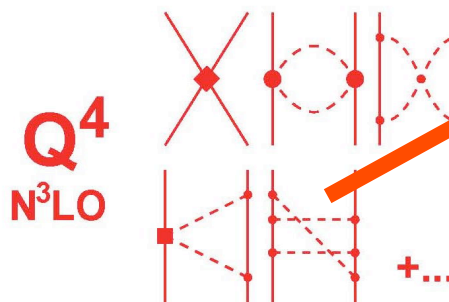
Next-to Leading Order



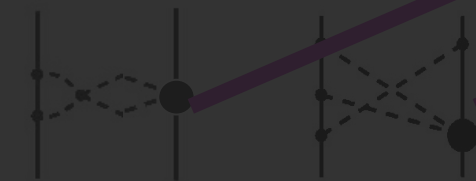
Next-to-Next-to Leading Order



Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order



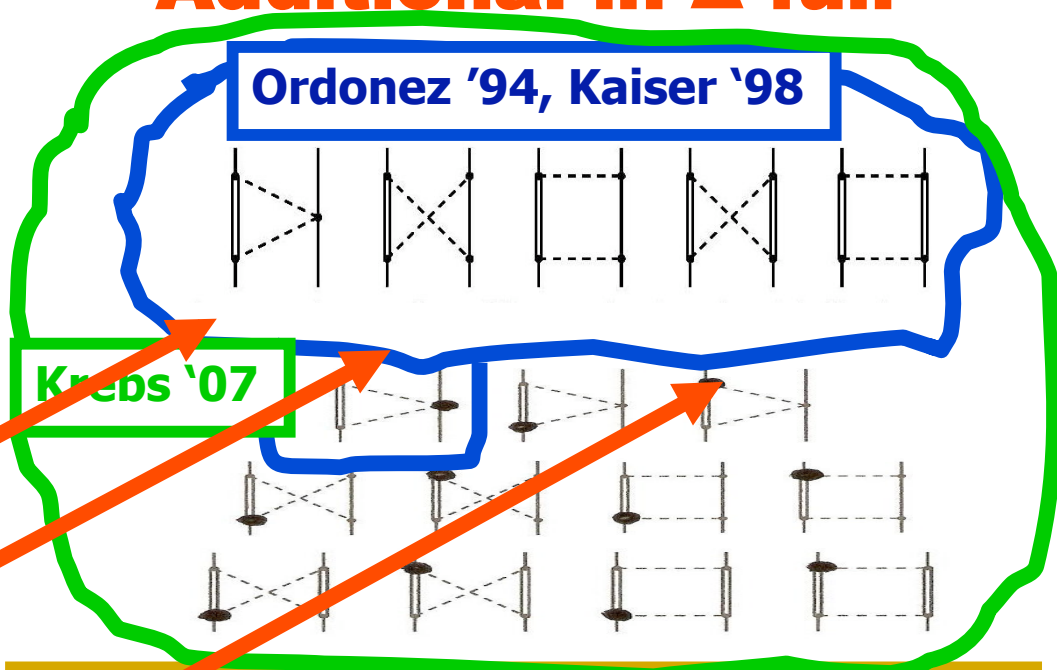
N4LO
(Q^5)



Additional in Δ full

Ordenez '94, Kaiser '98

Krebs '07



+ $1/M$ corrections, Kaiser '98: large?

2pi & 3pi 2-loops with Δ

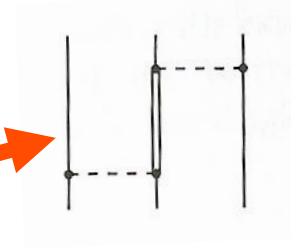
The chiral 3NF: Δ -less vs. Δ -full

Leading Order (Q^0)

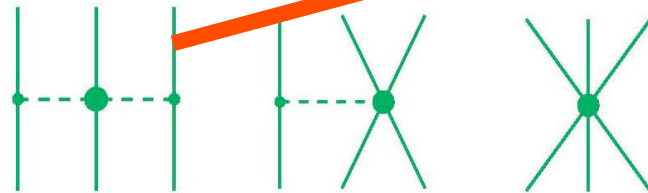
Δ less

Additional in Δ full

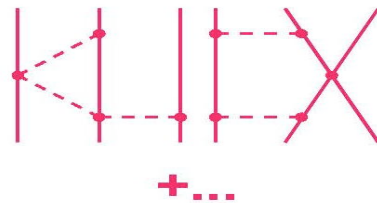
Next-to Leading Order (Q^2)



Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^3)

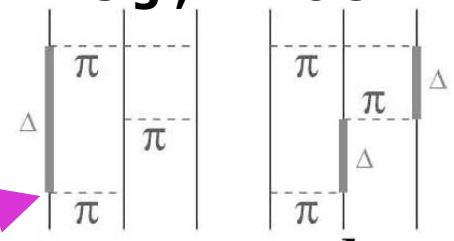


Next-to-Next-to-Next-to Leading Order (Q^4)

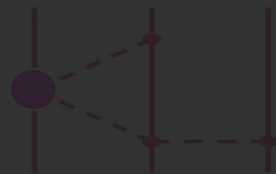


1-loops with Δ

e.g., Illinois



N4LO (Q^5)



Whatever we decide (Δ -less or Δ -full), it will be impossible to do a complete calculation anytime soon; so what's a good strategy?

- Assume "resonance saturation" for the 2NF, i.e., stay with the present Δ -less N3LO 2NF (this has flaws!)
- Add the Δ -full 3NF at N3LO.

Conclusions

- **3NFs beyond N2LO are needed!**
- **The 3NF at N3LO of the Δ -less theory may be weak and useless.**
- **This calls for further 3NF contributions:**
 - **Δ -less N4LO or**
 - **Δ -full N3LO,****they will be large, but none will be easy.**
- **ChPT of nuclear forces has been fairly easy and straightforward, so far; but what's left won't be easy, no matter how you do it.**

The missing three-nucleon forces: Where are they?

They are

- at N4LO in Δ -less or
- at N3LO in Δ -full.