

# Few-nucleon contributions to $\pi$ -nucleus scattering

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INT Program on „Simulations and Symmetries: Cold Atoms, QCD, and Few-hadron Systems“

- Motivation
- Q- versus W-counting: a closer look to the deuteron
- Numerical approach
- 3-nucleon corrections
- Results for  $\pi$ - $^3\text{He}$
- 4-nucleon corrections
- Results for  $\pi$ - $^4\text{He}$
- Conclusions & Outlook

S. Liebig, V. Baru, F. Ballout, C. Hanhart, AN, [arXiv:1003.3826](https://arxiv.org/abs/1003.3826)

$\pi$ -N scattering length  $\longleftrightarrow$  pattern of chiral symmetry and its breaking

LO ChPT (PCAC, Weinberg, 1966)

$$a^{(+)} = 0 \qquad a^{(-)} = \frac{1}{8\pi\left(1 + \frac{m_\pi}{m_N}\right)} \frac{m_\pi}{f_\pi^2} \approx 90 \cdot 10^{-3} m_\pi^{-1}$$

Higher order results have been calculated

Experimentally not so well known,

requires very accurate determination of scattering lengths in two isospin channels, e.g.

$$a^{(-)} = \frac{1}{2} (a_{\pi-p} - a_{\pi-n}) \qquad a^{(+)} = \frac{1}{2} (a_{\pi-p} + a_{\pi-n}) \approx 0$$

Most accurate determination from pionic atoms using

$$a_{\pi-A} = \left( \frac{1 + m_\pi/m_N}{1 + m_\pi/Am_N} \right) \left( Aa^{(+)} + 2T_3a^{(-)} \right)$$

+ IV corrections + **few-nucleon corrections**

(for IV corrections see Hoferichter et al., NPA 2010, Baru et al. arXiv:1003.4444 [nucl-th])

ChPT calculation of few-nucleon corrections (Weinberg, 1992)

$$a_{\pi A} \propto \langle \Psi_A | \hat{O} | \Psi_A \rangle$$

perturbative expansion of the transition operator

 $\hat{O}$ 

phenomenological few-nucleon wave functions  
or chiral wave functions (Beane et al., 1998)

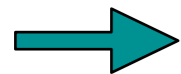
 $|\Psi_A\rangle$ 

Result (for A=2): some of the few-nucleon corrections are smaller than expected  
but they are in general somewhat larger than expected

**Is this a systematic deviation from the power counting?**

Beane et al., 2003 : consequence of a second scale entering

$$q_d = \sqrt{m_N |E_d|} \approx 45 \text{ MeV} \ll m_\pi$$



**„Q-counting“**

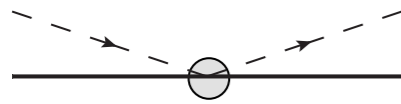


consequences for error estimates,  
power counting in complex nuclei ?

# Contributions to $\pi$ - $^2\text{H}$ scattering

„Weinberg-counting“ - typical momenta  $\propto m_\pi$

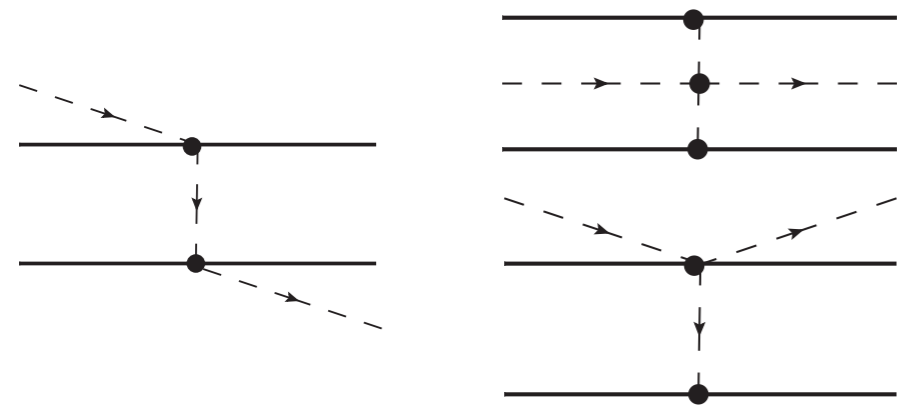
## 1-nucleon contributions



$$a_{\pi-A} = \left( \frac{1 + m_\pi/m_N}{1 + m_\pi/Am_N} \right) \left( Aa^{(+)} + 2T_3a^{(-)} \right) \propto \frac{m_\pi}{f_\pi^2}$$

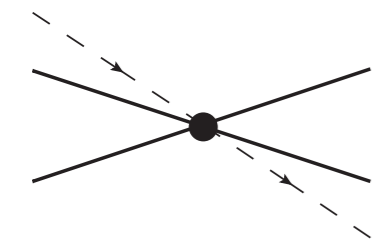
## 2-nucleon contributions

(Beane et al., 2003)



$$\mathcal{O} \left( \left( \frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda_\chi} \right)^2 \right)$$

(Weinberg, 1992; Beane et al. 1998)

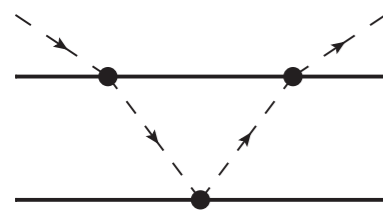


~~$$\mathcal{O} \left( \left( \frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda_\chi} \right)^3 \right)$$~~

(isovector)

$$\mathcal{O} \left( \left( \frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda_\chi} \right)^4 \right)$$

(isoscalar)



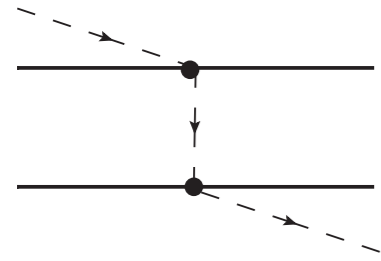
$$\mathcal{O} \left( \left( \frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda_\chi} \right)^4 \right)$$

no  $\mathcal{O} \left( \left( \frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda_\chi} \right)^3 \right)$  contributions

boost & dispersive corrections almost cancel each other (Lensky et al. 2007, Baru et al. 2008)

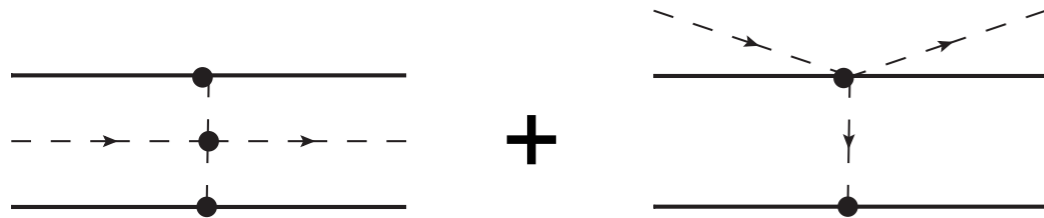
# Numerical results (Beane et al.)

2-nucleon contributions have different sizes than expected by power counting

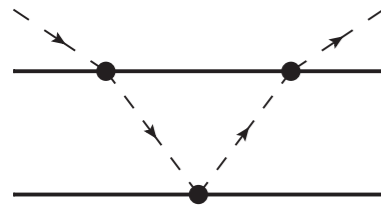


$$\propto 20 \cdot 10^{-3} m_\pi^{-1}$$

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\left(\frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda_\chi}\right)^2\right)$$



$$< 1 \cdot 10^{-3} m_\pi^{-1}$$



$$\propto 2 \cdot 10^{-3} m_\pi^{-1}$$

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\left(\frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda_\chi}\right)^4\right)$$

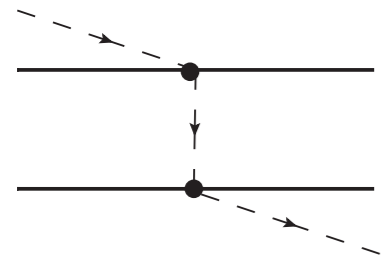
## Solution of Beane et al.

assume that the typical momentum is the binding momenta of the deuteron

$$q_d = \sqrt{m_N |E_d|} \approx 45 \text{ MeV} \ll m_\pi \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{q}{\Lambda} \propto \left(\frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda}\right)^2$$

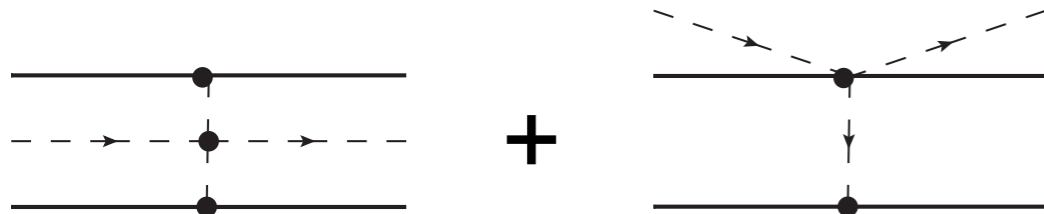
# Q-counting

Numerical results seem to fit expectations!



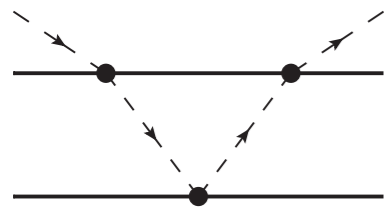
$$\propto 20 \cdot 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1}$$

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\left(\frac{m_{\pi}}{\Lambda_{\chi}}\right)^2\right) \quad \mathcal{O}(Q^3)$$



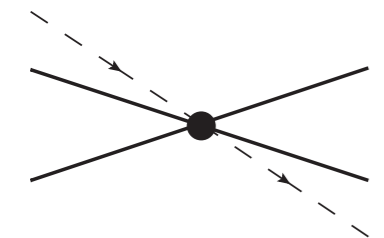
$$< 1 \cdot 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1}$$

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\left(\frac{m_{\pi}}{\Lambda_{\chi}}\right)^2\right) \quad \mathcal{O}(Q^7)$$



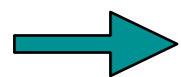
$$\propto 2 \cdot 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1}$$

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\left(\frac{m_{\pi}}{\Lambda_{\chi}}\right)^4\right) \quad \mathcal{O}(Q^6)$$



?

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\left(\frac{m_{\pi}}{\Lambda_{\chi}}\right)^4\right) \quad \mathcal{O}(Q^7)$$



First counter term is very much suppressed compared to few-nucleon contributions

Boost corrections are of the order  $\mathcal{O}(Q^5)$  (Is the kinetic energy measurable?)

Is Weinberg counting restored for  ${}^3\text{He}$ ,  ${}^4\text{He}$  ?

## LO chiral interaction

$$V_{LO} = - \left( \frac{g_a}{2F_\pi} \right)^2 \frac{\vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q} \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}}{q^2 + m_\pi^2} \tau_1 \cdot \tau_2 + C_S + C_T \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2$$

small deuteron binding energy is fine-tuning effect

→ undo fine-tuning of  $C_S$  and fit to range of binding energies (here  $C_T=0$ )

large range of cutoffs in LO to study

→ size of first  $\pi\pi 4N$  contribution

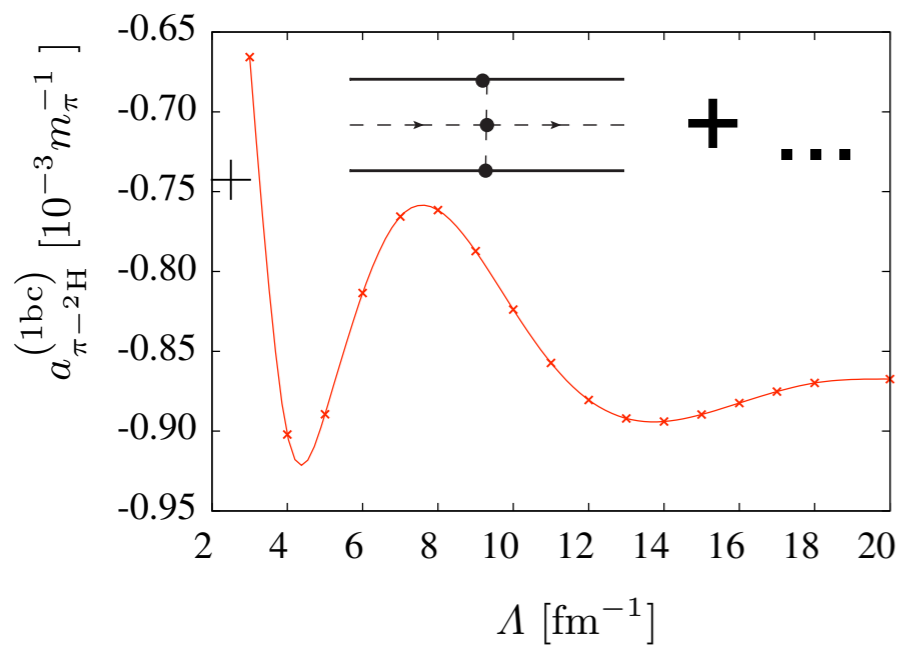
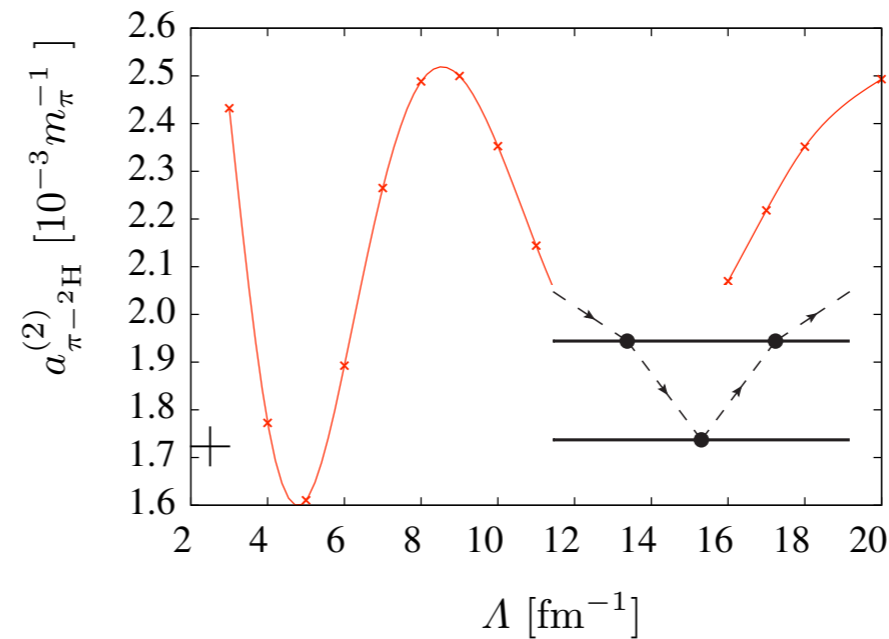
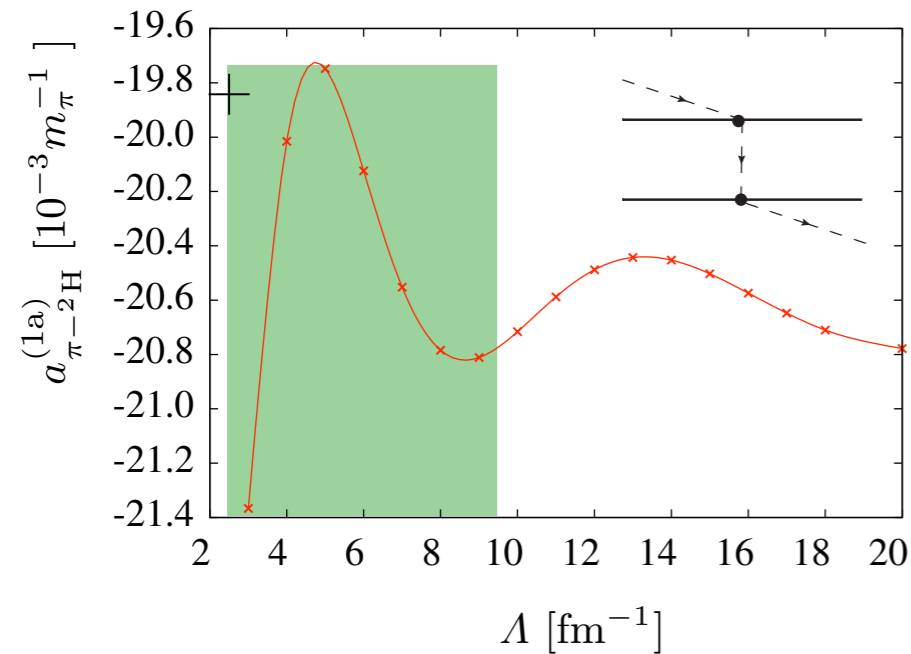
$C_S$  is in general of natural size ( $\approx 100 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$ )  
except close to new spurious bound states

	$E_d[\text{MeV}]$	$C_S[\text{GeV}^{-2}]$
	0.002	-71.7689
	0.005	-72.1400
	0.01	-72.5574
	0.02	-73.1460
	0.05	-74.3088
	0.1	-75.6126
	0.2	-77.4471
	0.5	-81.0703
	1.0	-85.1564
	5.0	-103.225
	10.0	-118.793
	20.0	-147.032
	30.0	-178.149
	40.0	-217.147
	50.0	-271.056

$\Lambda[\text{fm}^{-1}]$	$C_S[\text{GeV}^{-2}]$
3.0	-34.2225
4.0	48.1751
5.0	562.089
10.0	-50.9683
20.0	-92.1179

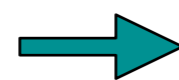
# Cutoff dependence - $\pi$ - $^2\text{H}$



few-nucleon contributions are independent of the cutoff

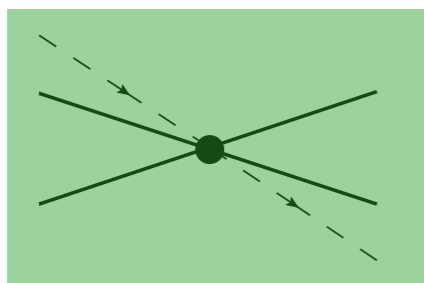
(see also AN, Hanhart, 2005,  
Pavon Valderrama, Ruiz Arriola, 2006  
Platter, Phillips, 2006)

cutoff variation most significant for „double scattering“



estimate of short range contribution  $\approx 1 \cdot 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1}$

naive estimate agrees (Weinberg)

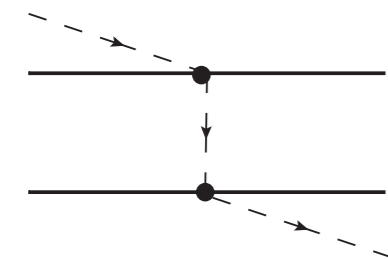




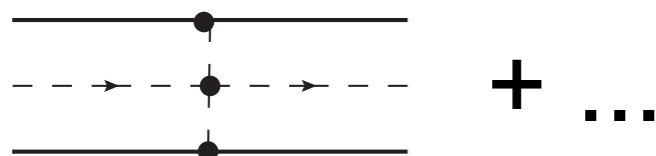
# Energy dependence - $\pi$ - $^2$ H

Q-counting

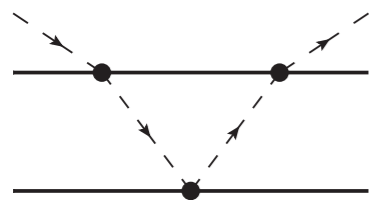
(W-counting  $\propto \text{const}$ )



$$\propto \frac{m_\pi^2}{q^2}$$



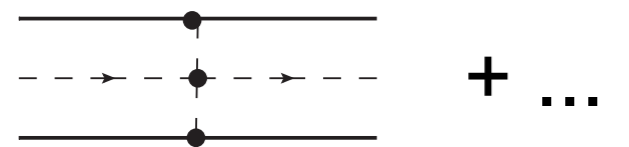
$$\propto \frac{q^2}{m_\pi^2}$$



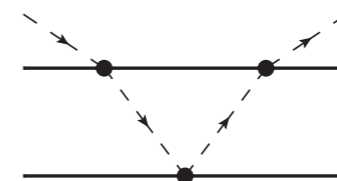
$$\propto \frac{m_\pi}{q}$$



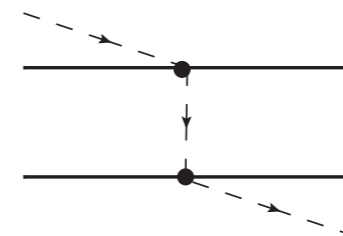
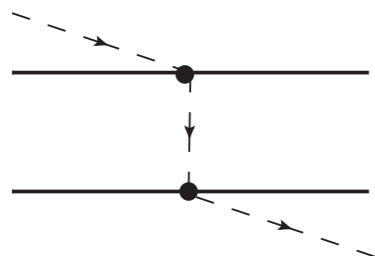
Q-counting: ratios should have distinct binding energy dependence

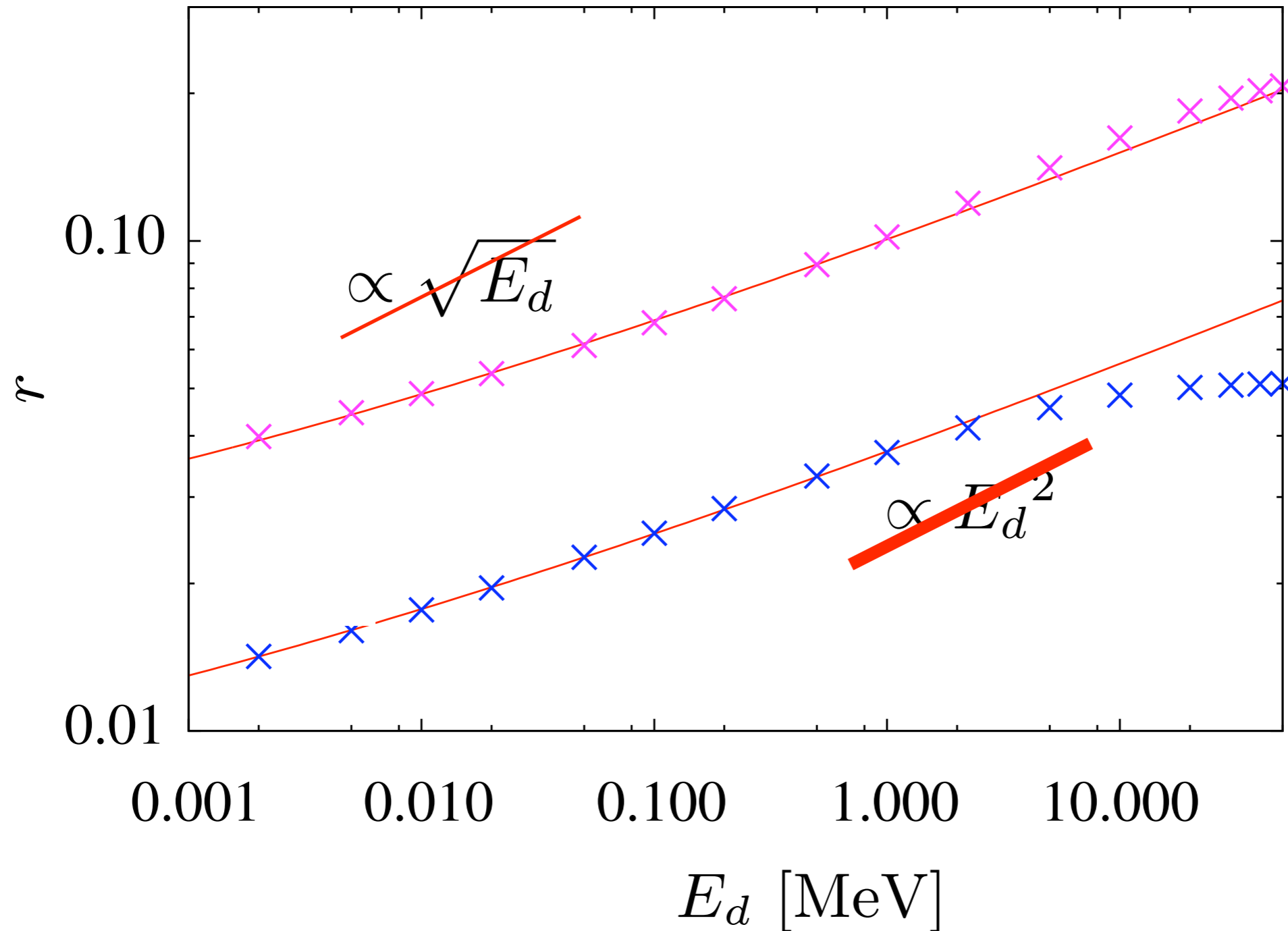


$$\propto E_d^2$$



$$\propto \sqrt{E_d}$$





Explicit calculation strongly disagrees with Q-counting expectations

➔ **Q-counting is not realized in low energy pion scattering**

# Toy model - $\pi$ - $^2\text{H}$ : Hulthén wf

binding momentum is not the only scale entering the deuteron wf

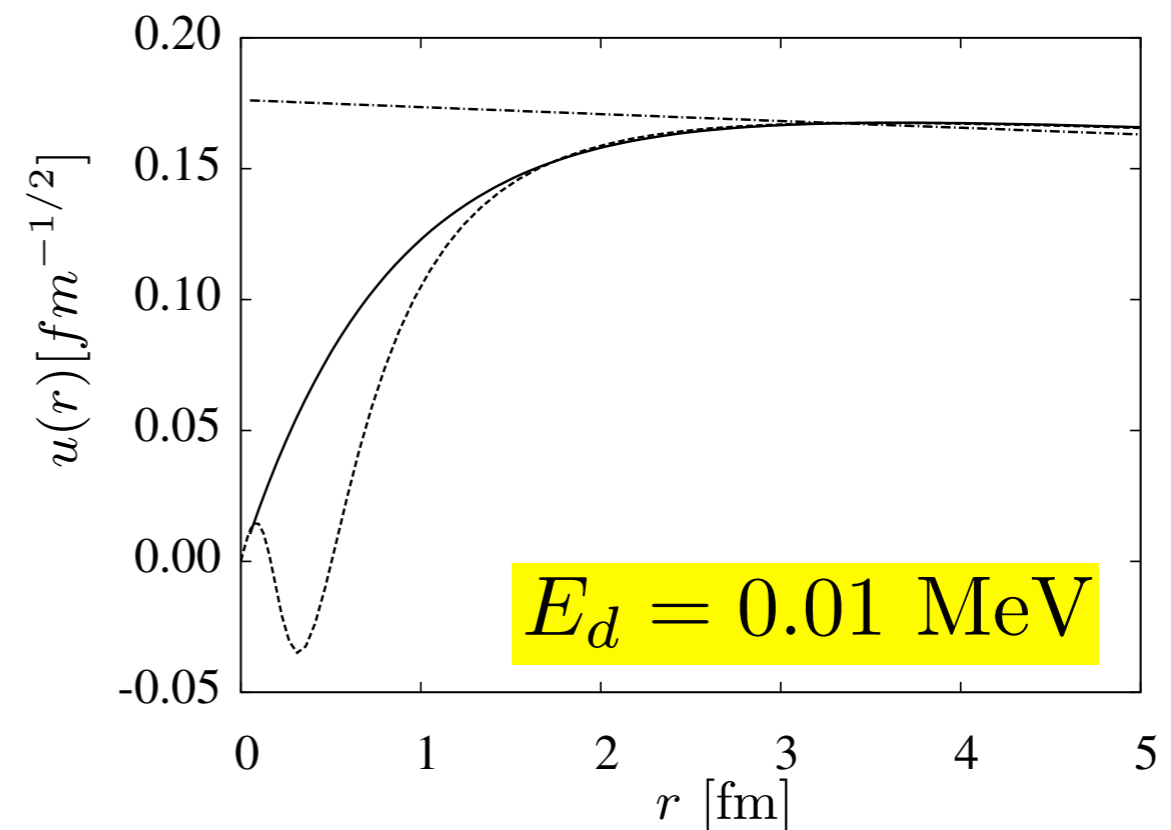
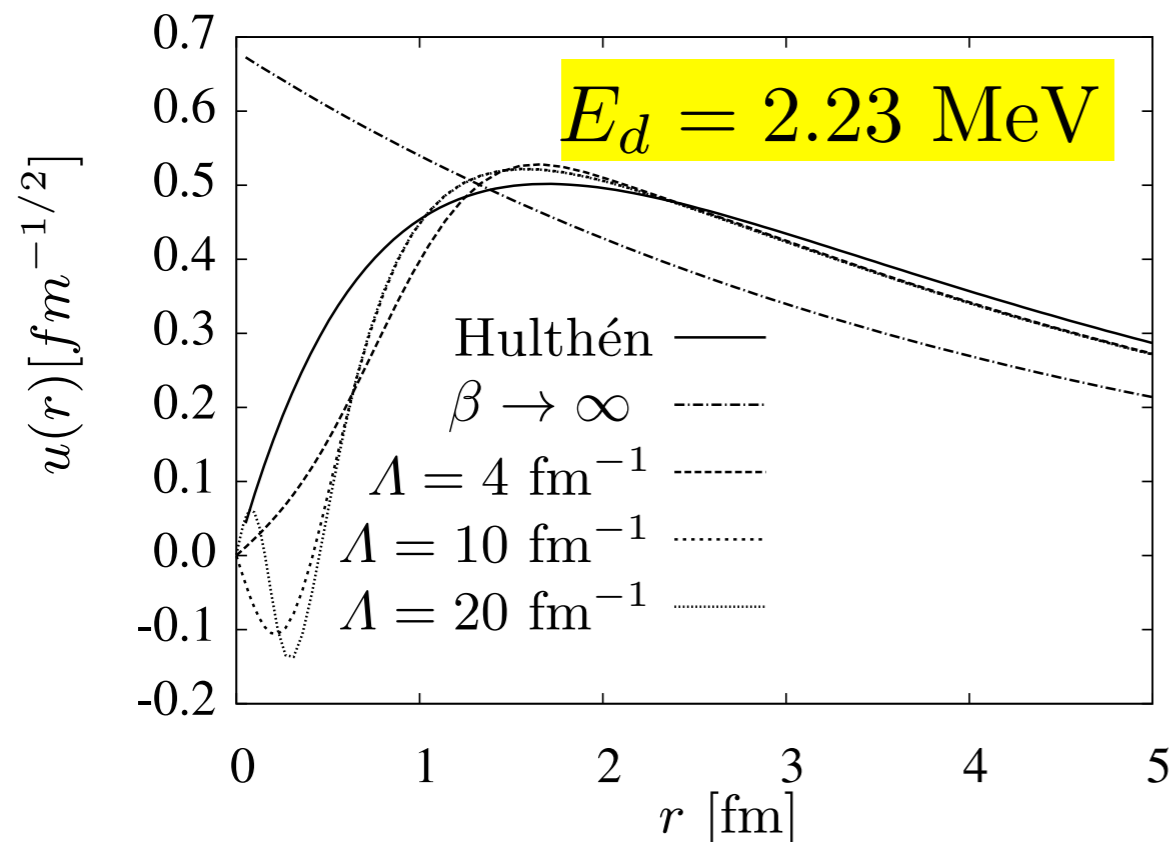
Hulthén wf allows one to incorporate second scale

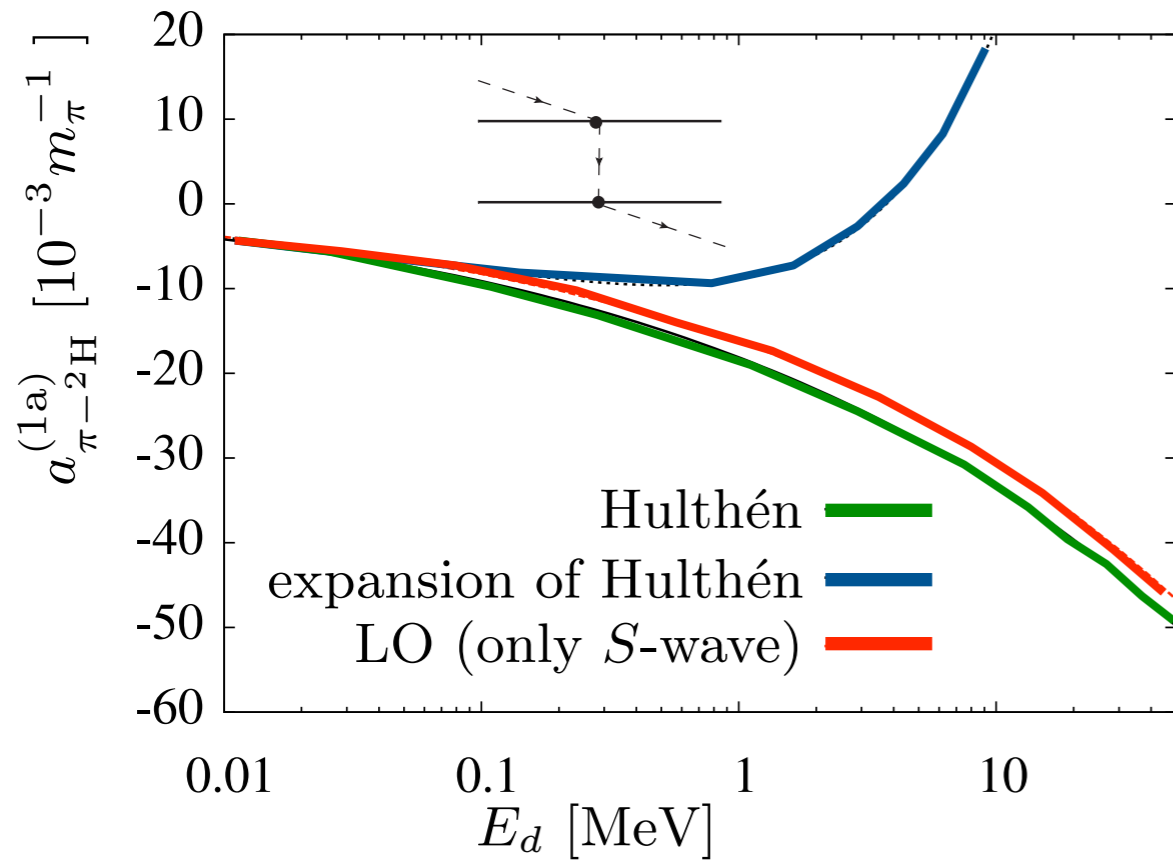
$$\psi(\vec{p}) = N(\gamma, \beta) \frac{1}{\vec{p}^2 + \beta^2} \frac{1}{\vec{p}^2 + \gamma^2}$$

fit to normalized s-wave part of the LO wave function

second scale is binding energy independent

→  $\beta = 1.7m_\pi$





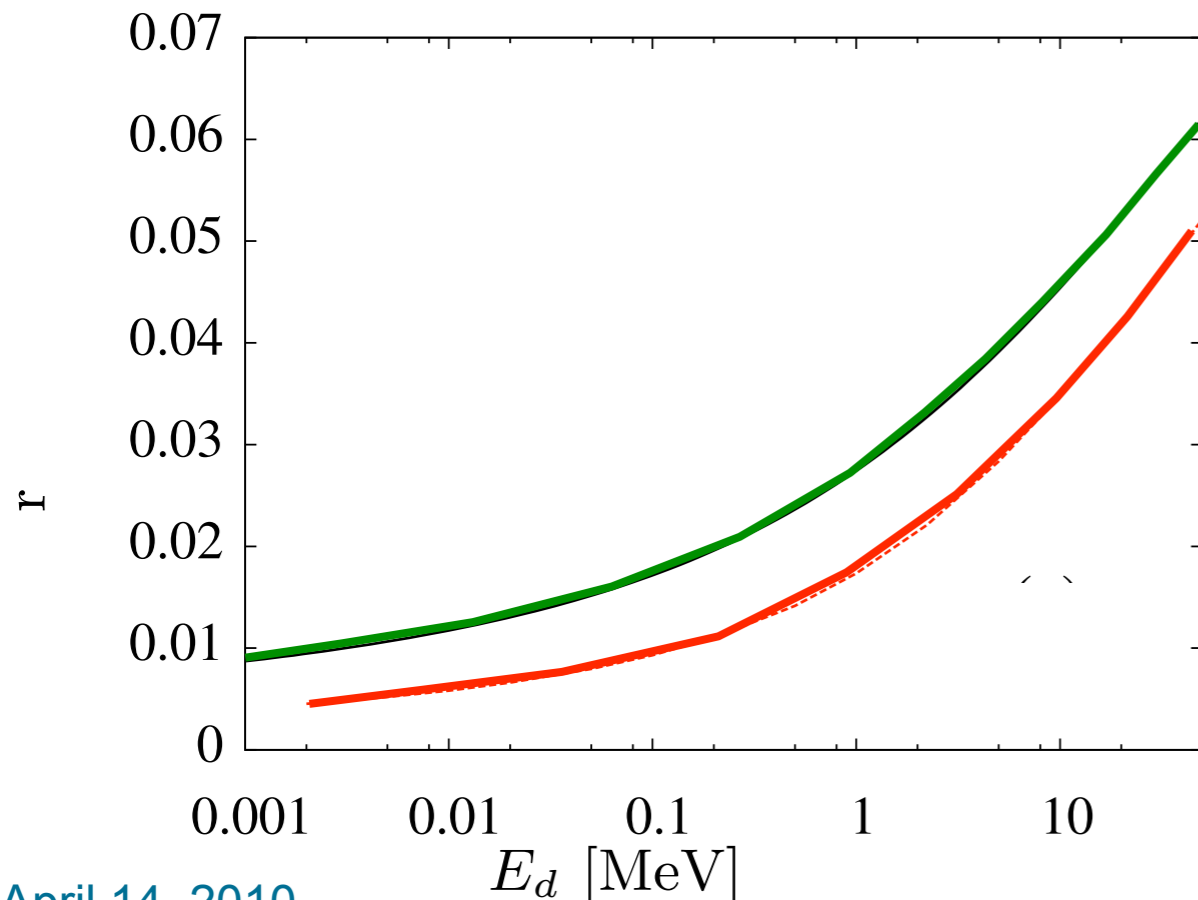
$$a_{\pi-^2\text{H}}^{(1a)} = \kappa x \frac{(1+x)}{(1-x)^2} \ln \left( \frac{4x}{(1+x)^2} \right)$$

$$\kappa = \beta \frac{1}{8\pi^2 (1 + m_{\pi}/2m_N)} \frac{m_{\pi}^2}{f_{\pi}^4} \quad x = \gamma/\beta$$

$\beta \rightarrow \infty$



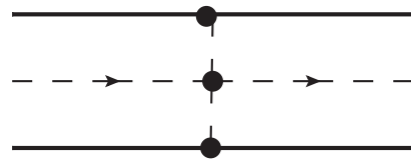
$$a_{\pi-^2\text{H,LO}}^{(1a)} = \kappa x \ln(4x)$$



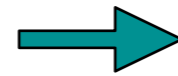
- for double scattering diagram:  
     Hulthén wf is a reasonable approximation
- energy dependence is logarithmic
- ratio is qualitatively reproduced  
     (if restricted to  $S$ -wave)
- „contact wf“ is not a good approximation  
     convergence of HPEFT breaks down  
     much earlier than expected

Q-counting is not confirmed!

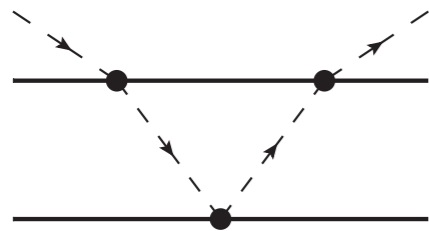
How to explain deviations of the numerical results from W-counting expectations?



+ ...



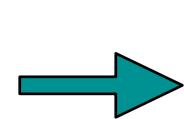
probably accidental cancelations



look at the corresponding loop function

$$I_0(\omega, v \cdot Q, Q^2) = \frac{1}{i} \int \frac{d^d l}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{1}{v \cdot l - \omega - i\epsilon} \frac{1}{m_\pi^2 - l^2 - i\epsilon} \frac{1}{m_\pi^2 - (l - Q)^2 - i\epsilon}$$

(Dmitrasinovic et al., 1999)



$$I_0(m_\pi, 0, -\vec{q}^2) = \frac{1}{8|\vec{q}|} + \delta I_0 \gg \frac{1}{8\pi^2|\vec{q}|} \quad \text{naive dimensional analysis}$$



**$\pi^2$  enhancement compared to power counting from integrable singularities**

Similar topologies lead to similar enhancements in NN interaction,  
nucleon form factor,  $\pi^0$  photoproduction

(Friar et al., 2003; Becher et al., 1999; Bernard et al., 1991)

# $\pi$ scattering on $A=3$ and $A=4$

same strategy as before

obtain wave functions from solutions of the Schrödinger equation

(or Faddeev/Yakubovsky equations)

fold with  $\pi$  scattering operator (based on W-counting)

following calculations are based on a set of wf

**LO** to check dependence on cutoffs

$\Lambda[\text{fm}^{-1}]$	$C_S[\text{GeV}^{-2}]$	$C_T[\text{GeV}^{-2}]$
2.0	-83.6941	2.63787
3.0	-29.0931	16.3942
4.0	86.3303	52.6427
5.0	-435.354	-122.611
10.0	-39.8356	6.36715
20.0	-66.2861	-4.03158

**NLO/N<sup>2</sup>LO** consistent with operator  
3nf in N<sup>2</sup>LO  
binding energies well described

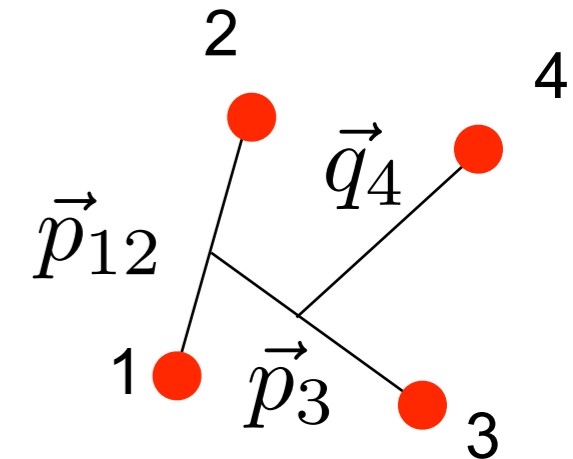
**models** include 3nf's  
describe binding energies well

	$\Lambda / \tilde{\Lambda}$	$B(^3\text{He})$	$B(^4\text{He})$
LO	2.0 / -	11.042	39.88
LO	3.0 / -	6.878	20.25
LO	4.0 / -	6.068	17.08
LO	5.0 / -	5.987	16.48
LO	10.0 / -	5.611	15.05
LO	20.0 / -	5.429	—
NLO	400/500	7.678	28.57
NLO	550/500	6.991	24.38
NLO	550/600	7.051	24.72
NLO	400/700	7.699	28.77
NLO	550/700	7.090	24.94
N <sup>2</sup> LO	450/500	7.717	28.04
N <sup>2</sup> LO	600/500	7.740	28.11
N <sup>2</sup> LO	550/600	7.722	28.28
N <sup>2</sup> LO	450/700	7.726	27.65
N <sup>2</sup> LO	600/700	7.808	28.57
CD-Bonn	—	7.719	28.28
AV18	—	7.736	28.36
Expt.	—	7.718	28.30

# Numerical approach

- Most involved calculation: 4-nucleon operator in 4-nucleon system
- **Avoid partial wave decomposition** (tedious!)
- Need to calculate expectation value

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{O} \rangle &= \sum_{\alpha\alpha'} \int d^3 p_{12} d^3 p_3 d^3 q_4 d^3 p'_{12} d^3 p'_3 d^3 q'_4 \langle \Psi | \vec{p}_{12} \vec{p}_3 \vec{q}_4 \alpha \rangle \langle \dots | \hat{O} | \dots \rangle \langle \vec{p}'_{12} \vec{p}'_3 \vec{q}'_4 \alpha' | \Psi \rangle \\ &= \sum_{\alpha\alpha'} \int d^3 p_{12} d^3 p_3 d^3 q_4 d^3 p'_{12} d^3 p'_3 d^3 q'_4 w(p_{12}, p_3, q_4; p'_{12}, p'_3, q'_4) \\ &\quad \frac{\langle \Psi | \vec{p}_{12} \vec{p}_3 \vec{q}_4 \alpha \rangle \langle \dots | \hat{O} | \dots \rangle \langle \vec{p}'_{12} \vec{p}'_3 \vec{q}'_4 \alpha' | \Psi \rangle}{w(p_{12}, p_3, q_4; p'_{12}, p'_3, q'_4)} \end{aligned}$$



- $^4\text{He}$  wave function  $\Psi(\vec{p}_{12} \vec{p}_3 \vec{q}_4, \alpha)$
- **spin-isospin channels**  $|\alpha\rangle \equiv |m_1 m_2 m_3 m_4 m_1^t m_2^t m_3^t m_4^t\rangle$
- 4NF matrix element  $\langle \vec{p}_{12} \vec{p}_3 \vec{q}_4 \alpha | \hat{O} | \vec{p}'_{12} \vec{p}'_3 \vec{q}'_4 \alpha' \rangle$  generated using **Maple/Mathematica**



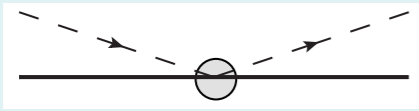
- Metropolis walk for evaluation based on weight function

$$w(p_{12}, p_3, q_4; p'_{12}, p'_3, q'_4) \propto \prod_{i=12,3,4,12',3',4'} \frac{1}{(p_i + C_i)^{n_i}}$$

# Contributions to $\pi$ - $^3\text{He}$ scattering

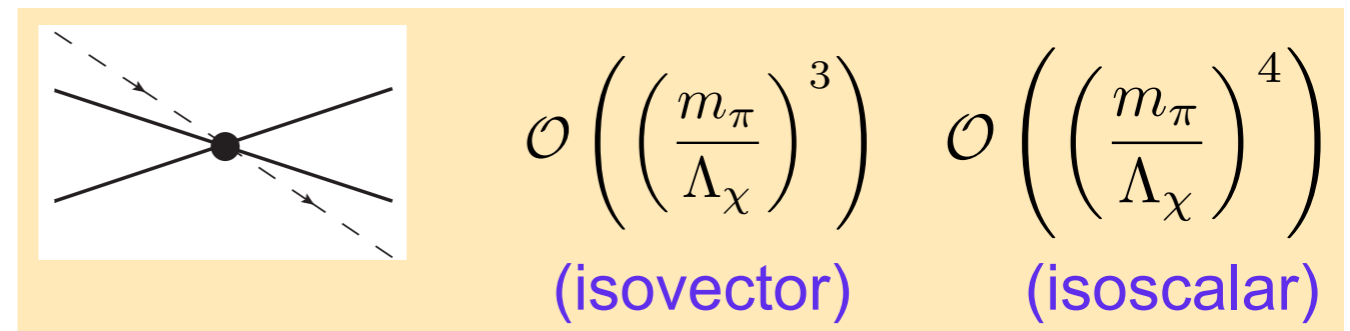
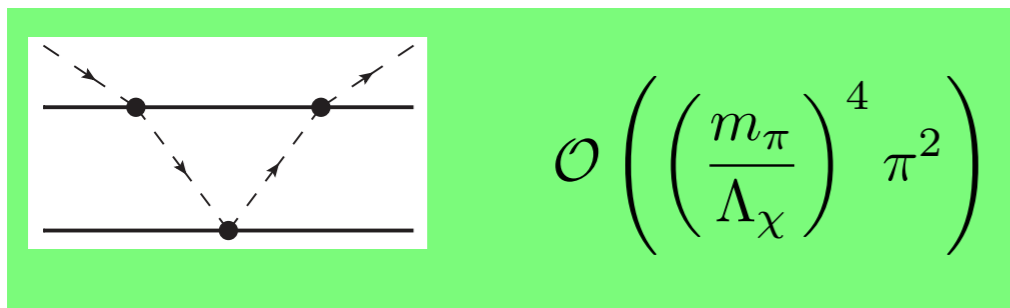
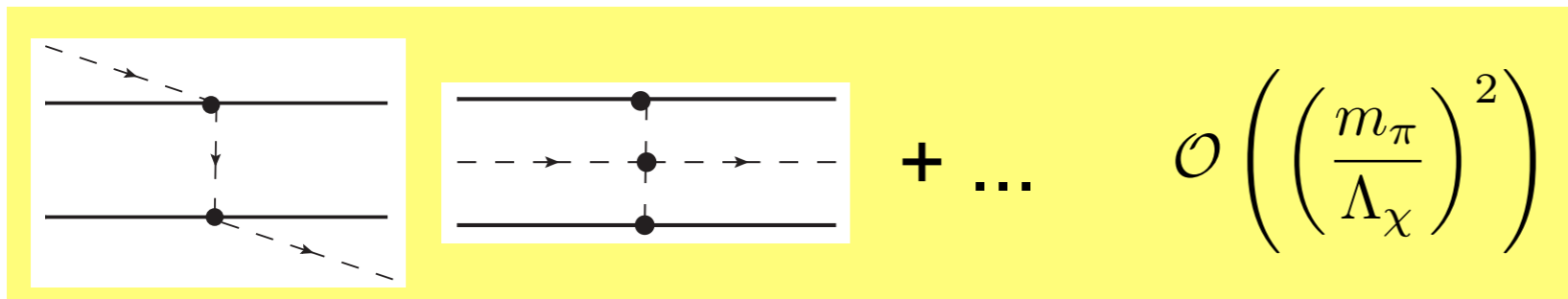
„Weinberg-counting“ - typical momenta  $\propto m_\pi$

## 1-nucleon contributions

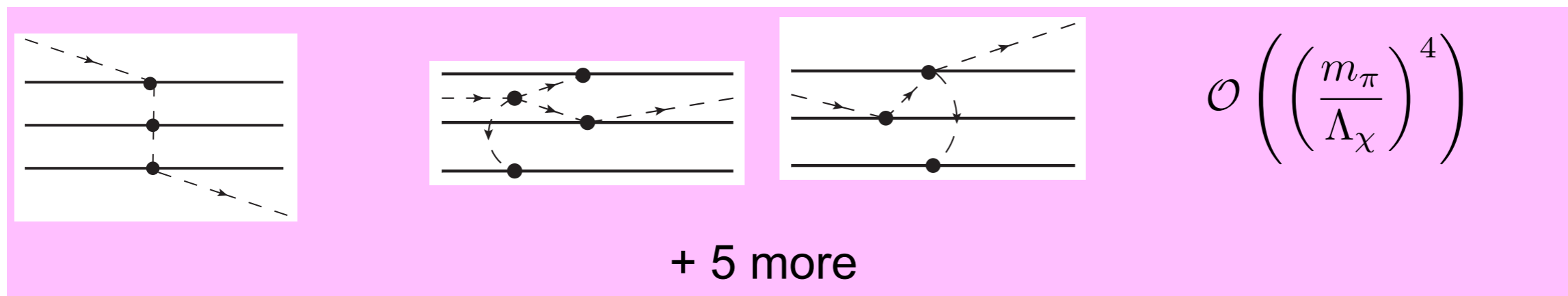


$$a_{\pi-A} = \left( \frac{1 + m_\pi/m_N}{1 + m_\pi/Am_N} \right) \left( Aa^{(+)} + 2T_3a^{(-)} \right) \propto \frac{m_\pi}{f_\pi^2}$$

## 2-nucleon contributions



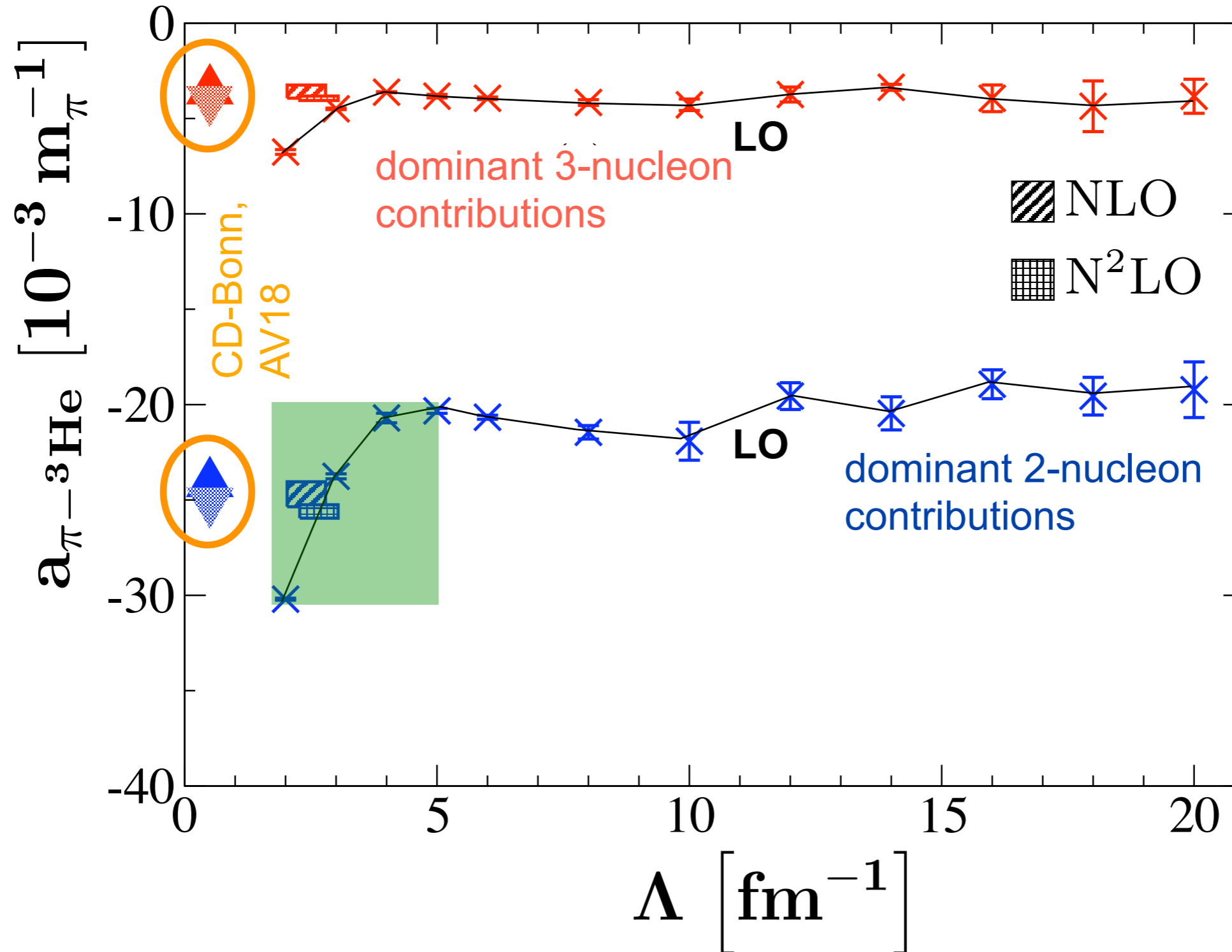
## 3-nucleon contributions



Does the explicit calculation support this power counting?



# Cutoff dependence for $\pi$ - $^3\text{He}$

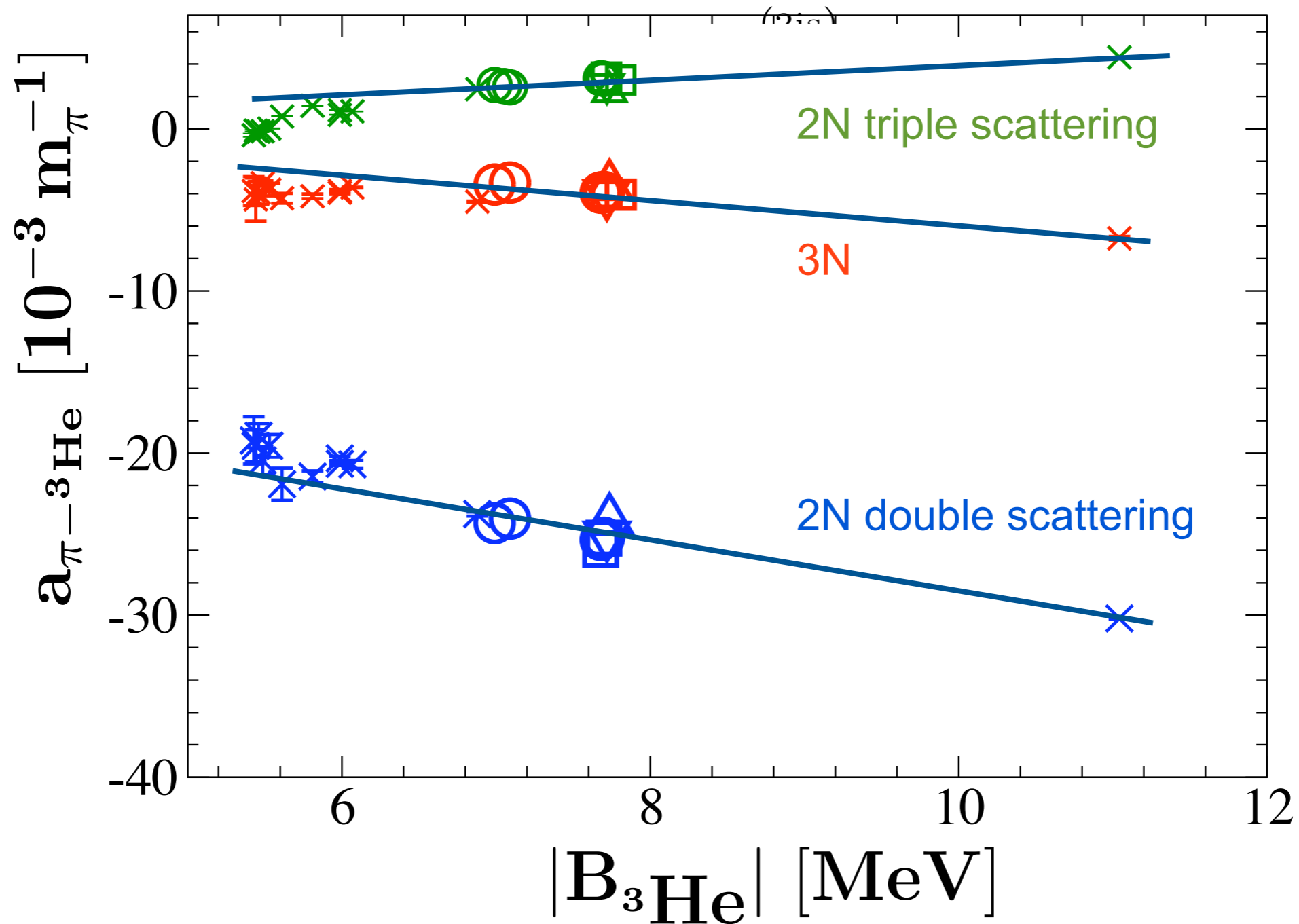


- no unexpected cutoff dependences for LO wave functions
- cutoff dependence seems to be relevant: much larger variation than for deuteron

# Binding energy dependence

Bulk of cutoff dependence is result of low order NN interaction

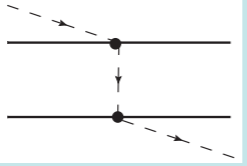
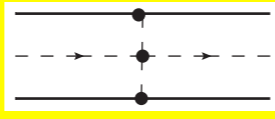
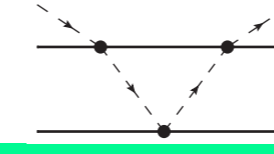
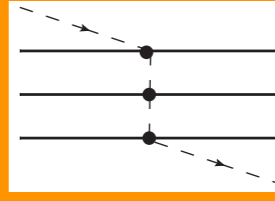
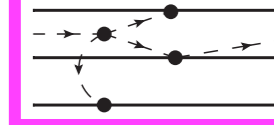
→ binding energy dependence



Estimate cutoff dependence from variation of N<sup>2</sup>LO interactions

# Results for $\pi^{-3}\text{He}$

- results do not strongly dependent on cutoff when binding energies are OK
- counter term estimate based on naive dimensional analysis larger
- cutoff dependence might result in low estimate since leading few-nucleon contribution is isoscalar

	$\Lambda/\tilde{\Lambda}$						
CD Bonn	—	-25.08(6)	-0.329(1)	2.769(2)	0.890(1)	-4.020(73)	-0.789(6)
AV18	—	-24.13(9)	-0.884(1)	2.286(3)	0.788(1)	-3.536(36)	-0.728(4)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	450/500	-25.76(4)	0.642(1)	3.189(2)	0.987(1)	-3.979(7)	-0.721(2)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	600/500	-25.60(5)	-0.021(1)	3.039(3)	0.779(1)	-3.826(58)	-0.496(4)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	550/600	-25.55(2)	0.233(1)	3.104(3)	0.952(1)	-4.057(75)	-0.708(4)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	450/700	-25.25(4)	0.611(1)	3.104(1)	1.052(1)	-4.038(15)	-0.806(1)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	600/700	-25.51(7)	0.094(1)	3.022(2)	0.985(1)	-4.056(53)	-0.734(2)

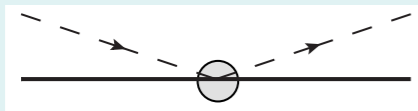
$$\rightarrow a_{\pi^{-3}\text{He}}^{(2N+3N)} = ((-25.6 + 4.0 + 0.3) + (-4.0 - 0.7) \pm 7) \cdot 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1} = (-26.0 \pm 7) \cdot 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1}.$$

$$\tilde{a}^{(+)} = (1 \pm 1) \times 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1}, \quad a^{(-)} = (86.5 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1} \quad (\text{from Hoferichter et al., 2009})$$

$$\rightarrow a_{\pi^{-3}\text{He}}^{(1N+2N+3N)} = (62 \pm 4 \pm 7) \times 10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1}$$

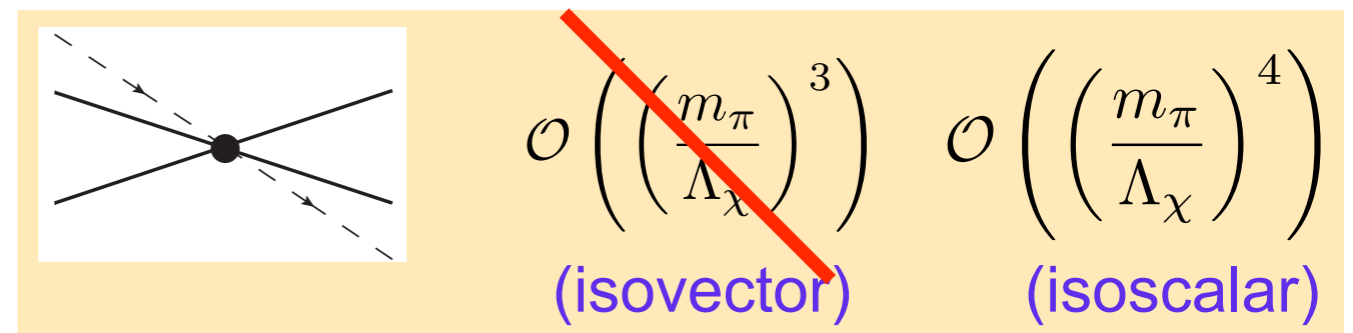
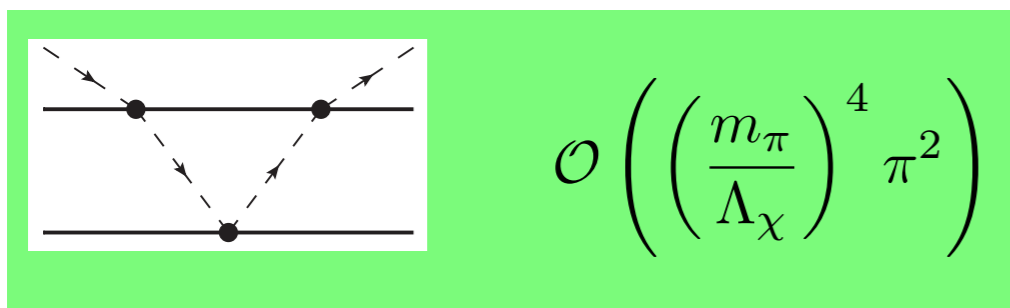
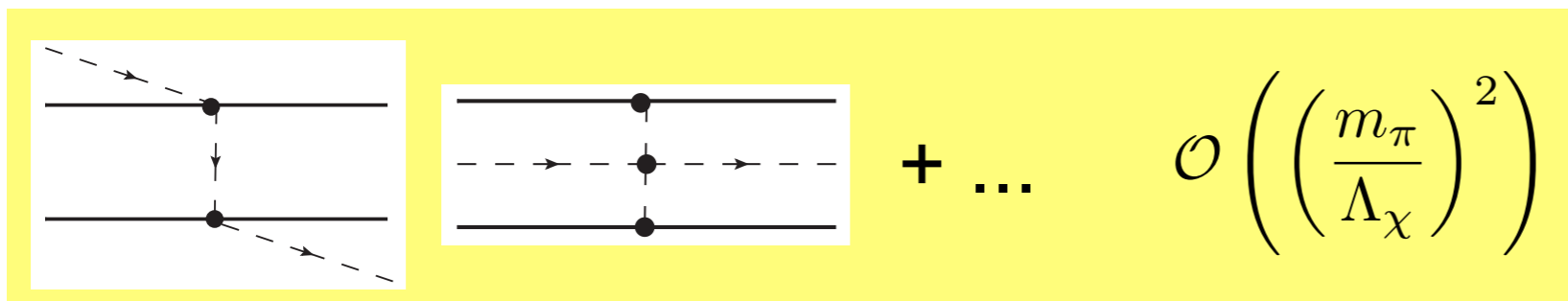
	$a_{\pi^{-3}\text{He}} [10^{-3} m_{\pi}^{-1}]$
R. Abela <i>et al.</i>	$56 \pm 6$
G. R. Mason <i>et al.</i>	$43 \pm 5$
I. Schwanner <i>et al.</i>	$41 \pm 4$

## 1-nucleon contributions



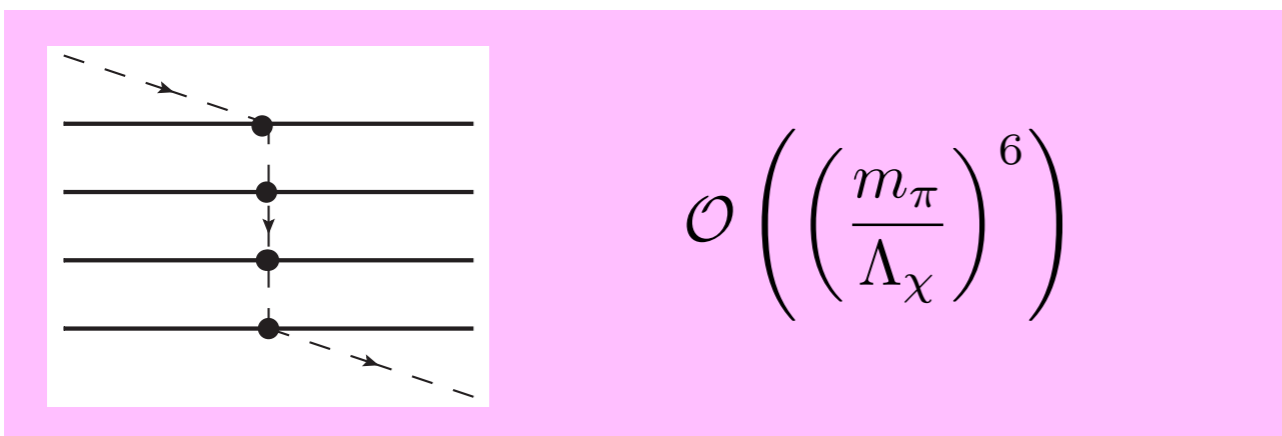
$$a_{\pi-A} = \left( \frac{1 + m_{\pi}/m_N}{1 + m_{\pi}/Am_N} \right) \left( Aa^{(+)} + 2T_3a^{(-)} \right)$$

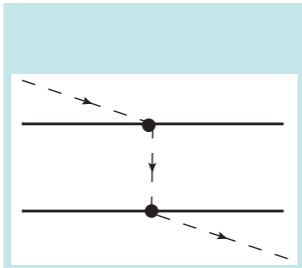
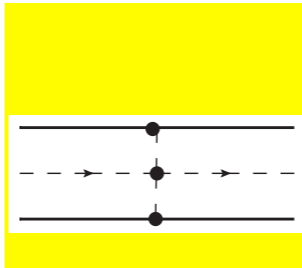
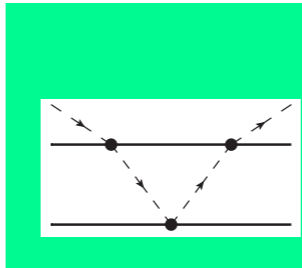
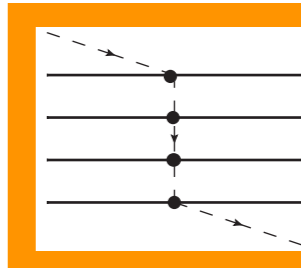
## 2-nucleon contributions



## ~~3-nucleon contributions~~ (isovector)

## 4-nucleon contributions (incomplete)



	$\Lambda/\tilde{\Lambda}$				
AV18	—	-49.5(7)	-1.29(2)	5.00(5)	2.73(84)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	450/500	-54.4(4)	1.92(1)	6.98(2)	3.00(20)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	600/500	-52.0(8)	-0.09(2)	6.16(3)	2.13(11)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	550/600	-52.7(6)	0.50(1)	6.42(3)	2.31(31)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	450/700	-52.7(7)	1.81(1)	6.68(3)	2.56(10)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	600/700	-53.9(8)	0.36(1)	6.34(2)	2.81(17)

- **cutoff dependence in line with naive expectations**  
(below 5 % of leading 2N contribution)
- **2N contribution only twice as large as for the deuteron**  
(np and pp/nn pairs enter with opposite sign)
- **4N term finally comparable to counter term contribution** (can be neglected)
- **few-nucleon contributions larger than naively expected**

- relative suppression of two-nucleon contributions are completely in agreement with expansion parameter  $\frac{m_\pi}{\Lambda_\chi} \approx \frac{1}{5}$  & naive dimensional analysis  
(cutoff dependence, triple scattering)
- few-nucleon contributions are suppressed by much less than expected
- suppression is comparable for 1N:2N:3N:4N

	$\Lambda/\tilde{\Lambda}$	$a_{\pi-^3\text{He}}^{(2\text{N})}/a_{\pi-^3\text{He}}^{(1\text{N})}$	$a_{\pi-^3\text{He}}^{(3\text{N})}/a_{\pi-^3\text{He}}^{(2\text{N})}$	$a^{(4\text{N})}/a^{(3\text{N})}$
AV18	—	0.222	0.194	0.307
N <sup>2</sup> LO	450/500	0.212	0.222	0.297
N <sup>2</sup> LO	600/500	0.220	0.194	0.239
N <sup>2</sup> LO	550/600	0.215	0.224	0.225
N <sup>2</sup> LO	450/700	0.207	0.236	0.245
N <sup>2</sup> LO	600/700	0.216	0.224	0.266

systematically understandable?

impact for other few-nucleon operators / three-nucleon interactions?

- systematic overview of few-nucleon contributions to  $\pi A$  scattering at low energies
- $\pi$ - $^2\text{H}$ 
  - no significant cutoff dependence of the most prominent diagrams
  - binding momentum is not driving the power counting (no Q-counting)
  - toy model based on Hulthén wf indicates early breakdown of  $\text{H}\pi$ -EFT
  - enhancement of specific topology could be visible in other processes
- $\pi$ - $^3\text{He}$ 
  - complete set of 3-nucleon diagrams
  - leading 3-nucleon diagrams are isovector
  - no significant cutoff dependence
  - prediction of  $\pi$ - $^3\text{He}$  scattering length up to the accuracy possible
- $\pi$ - $^4\text{He}$ 
  - studied the probably most important 4-nucleon contribution
  - accurate results for all relevant few-nucleon contributions
  - isospin violation needs to be taken into account
  - check systematics of  $\pi$ - $^2\text{H}$ , probably no further constraints on  $\pi$ -N
- naive counting good for estimate of subleading A-nucleon contributions
- relative suppression of A and A+1-nucleon contributions smaller than expected