

*Bayes this!*

*Identifying and quantifying theoretical  
uncertainties.*

***Doron Gazit***  
Racah Institute of Physics  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem





# Outline

- In the talk I will present a few recent problems where theoretical uncertainty assessment has become a main part of the challenge:
  - ***Nuclear physics of light nuclei***: tale of two effective field theory descriptions of light nuclei
  - ***Nuclear fusion rates***: predicting the proton-proton fusion rate in the Sun.
  - ***Atomic physics of in extreme density and temperature***: the solar abundance problem.
- In all these problems, my feeling is that I've used the "chi-by-eye" version of theoretical uncertainty assessment:
  - Is there a better, more systematic, approach?



INT Program INT-16-2a  
Bayesian Methods in Nuclear Physics  
June 24, 2016

*Bayes this, please...*

*Identifying and quantifying theoretical uncertainties.*

***Doron Gazit***

Racah Institute of Physics  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem



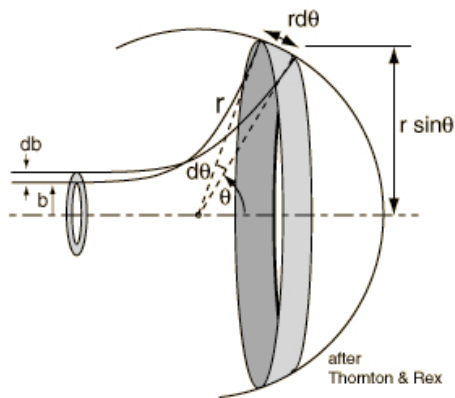
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



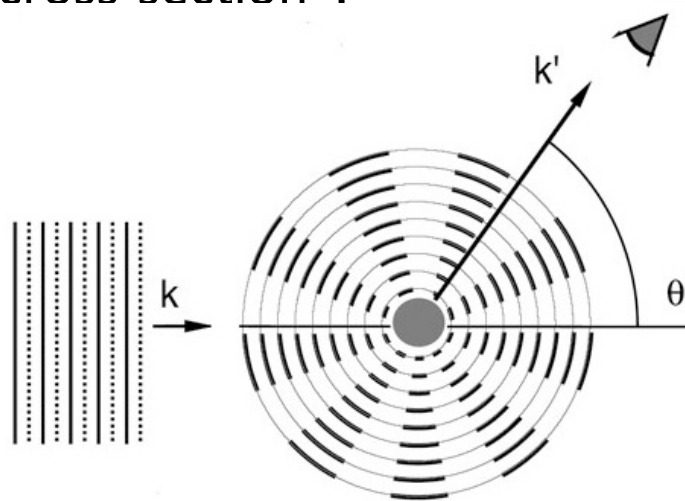
# CORRELATIONS IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS AND FINE TUNING.

# Strong interactions at low-energies:

- Interaction is assessed using the “cross-section”:



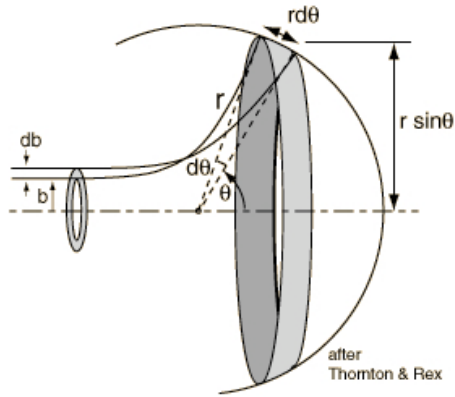
classical



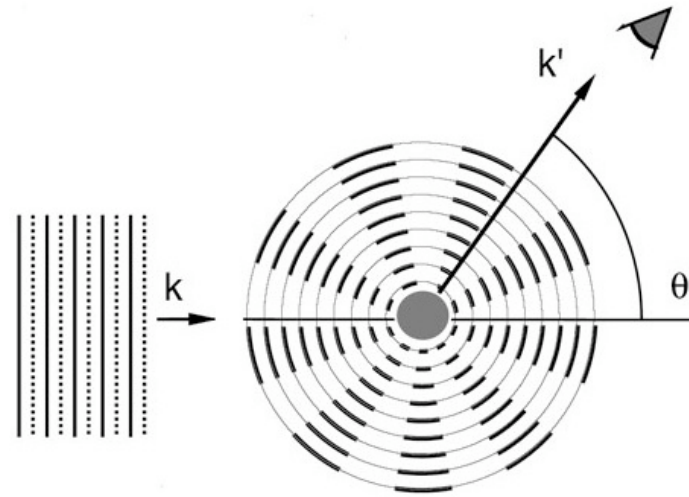
quantum

# Strong interactions at low-energies:

- Interaction is assessed using the “cross-section”:



classical



quantum

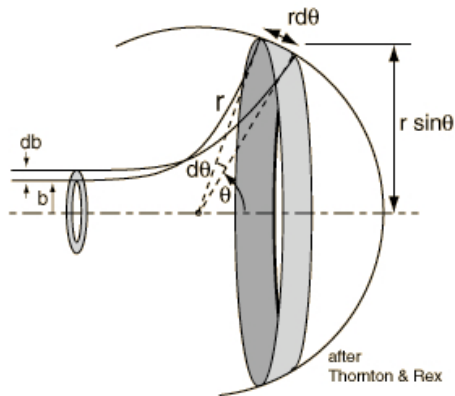
Defining “strong interaction” at low energies:

$$\sigma = 4\pi a^2 \rightarrow \infty$$

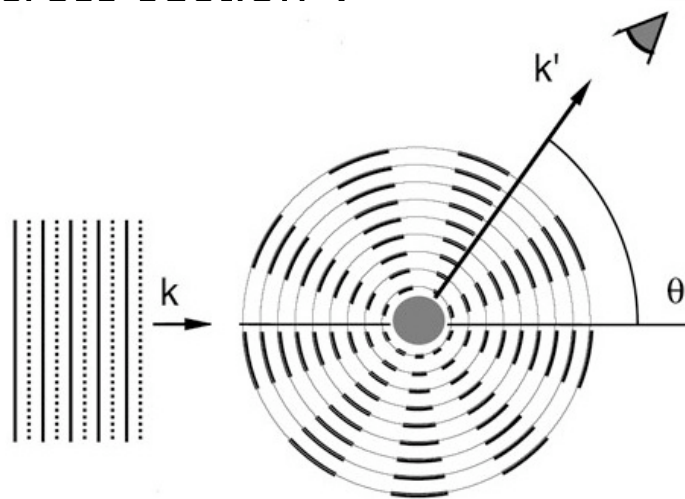
$a$  – “scattering length” – extent of the wave function (layman term)

# Strong interactions at low-energies:

- Interaction is assessed using the “cross-section”:



classical



quantum

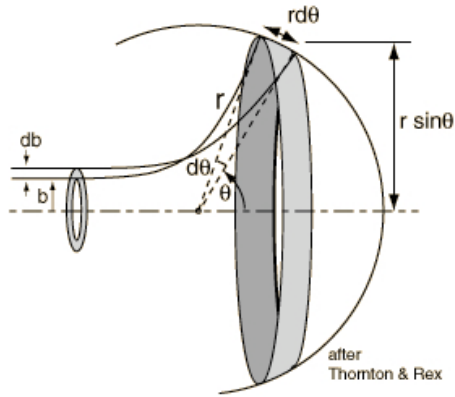
Defining “strong interaction” at low energies:

Infinity in physics:  $\sigma = 4\pi a^2 \gg 4\pi \left( \text{all other length scales} \right)^2$

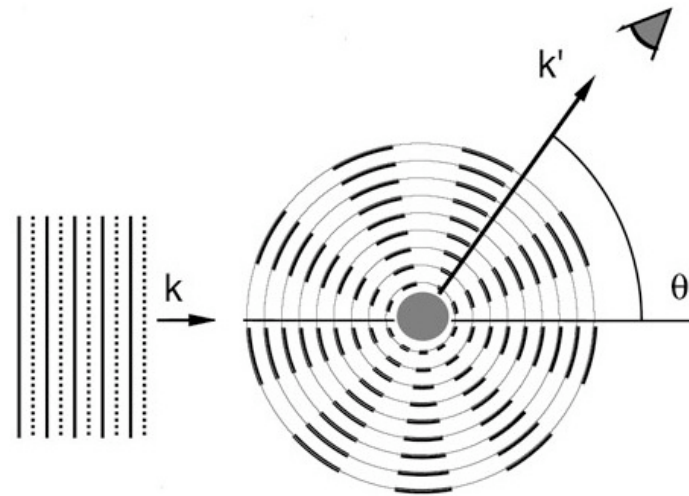
a – “scattering length” – extent of the wave function (layman term)

# Strong interactions at low-energies:

- Interaction is assessed using the “cross-section”:



classical



quantum

$r$  – “effective range of the interaction”

Infinity in physics:

$$\sigma = 4\pi a^2 \gg 4\pi r^2$$

$a$  – “scattering length” – extent of the wave function (layman term)





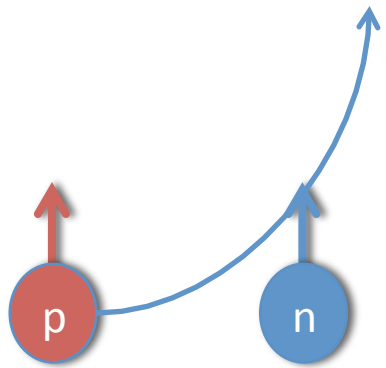
Nuclear physics at very low energies is strongly interacting!

$$\sigma = 4\pi a^2 \gg 4\pi r^2$$

$$a \approx 10 \text{ fm} \gg r \approx 1 \text{ fm}$$



# Nuclear physics at very low energies is strongly interacting!



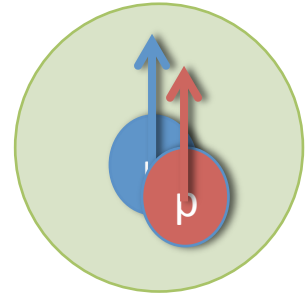
$$\sigma = 4\pi a^2 \gg 4\pi r^2$$

$$a \approx 10 \text{ fm} \gg r \approx 1 \text{ fm}$$

- 1. Nucleon-nucleon scattering experiments,
- 2. deuteron (bound state of neutron and proton) “vanishing” binding energy  $\gg$  from dimensional analysis in the presence of one dominant length scale.

- 1. “Size” of the nucleus.

$$E = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2ma^2} \rightarrow 0$$





# Nuclear physics at very low energies is strongly interacting!

$$\sigma = 4\pi a^2 \gg 4\pi r^2$$

$$a \approx 10 \text{ fm} \gg r \approx 1 \text{ fm}$$

- 1. Nucleon-nucleon scattering experiments,
- 2. deuteron (bound state of neutron and proton) “vanishing” binding energy  $\gg$  from dimensional analysis in the presence of one dominant length scale.

- 1. “Size” of the nucleus.

$$E \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{a^2} \rightarrow 0$$

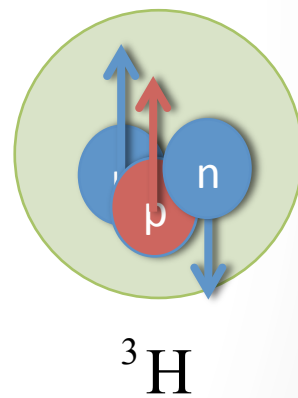
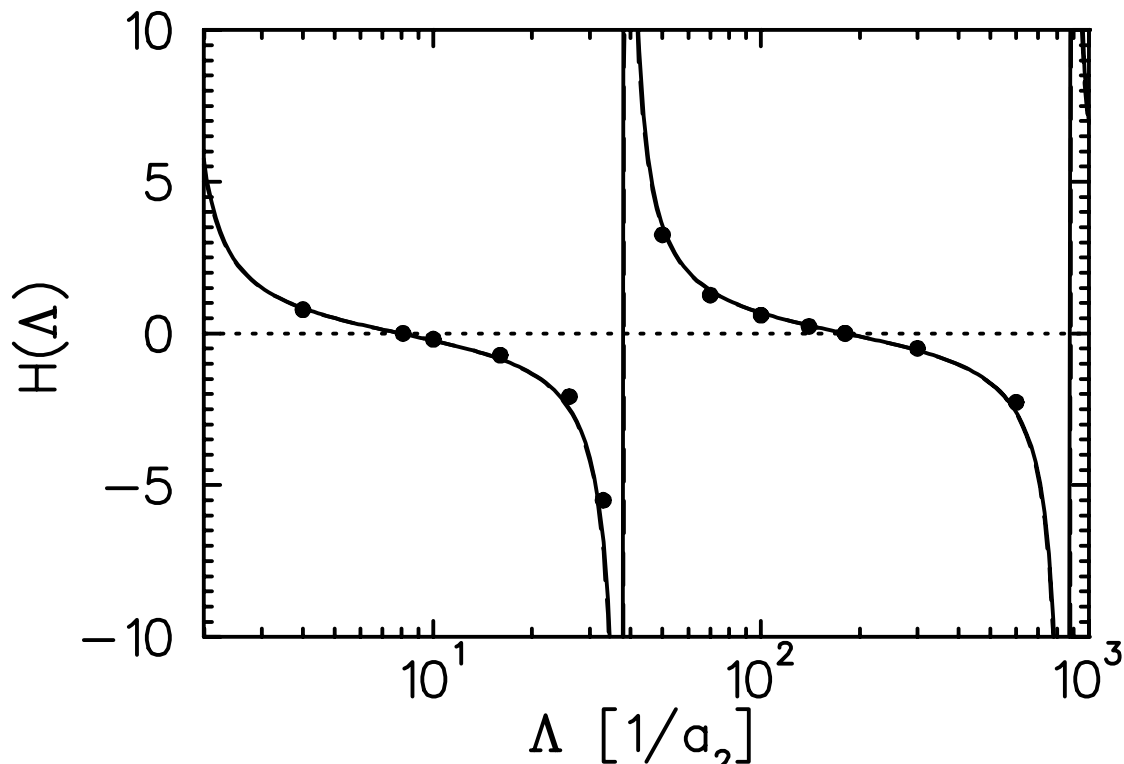
“Pionless” effective field theory of nuclear physics:

- 1. Leading order –  $r/a \rightarrow 0$ ; Next to leading order –  $r/a$  linear corrections
- 2. The EFT is applicable at low energies, in which only nucleons are valid degrees of freedom. Most general interaction consistent with power counting.
- 3. If Lagrangian consistent with QCD symmetries: a QCD prediction.
- 4. Renormalization group invariance: given the EFT Lagrangian, low energy observables are insensitive to details at high energies: introduce a cutoff  $\Lambda$ , and verify that observables are independent of  $\Lambda$ .



# $\hbar$ EFT @ LO: 3 particles ground state

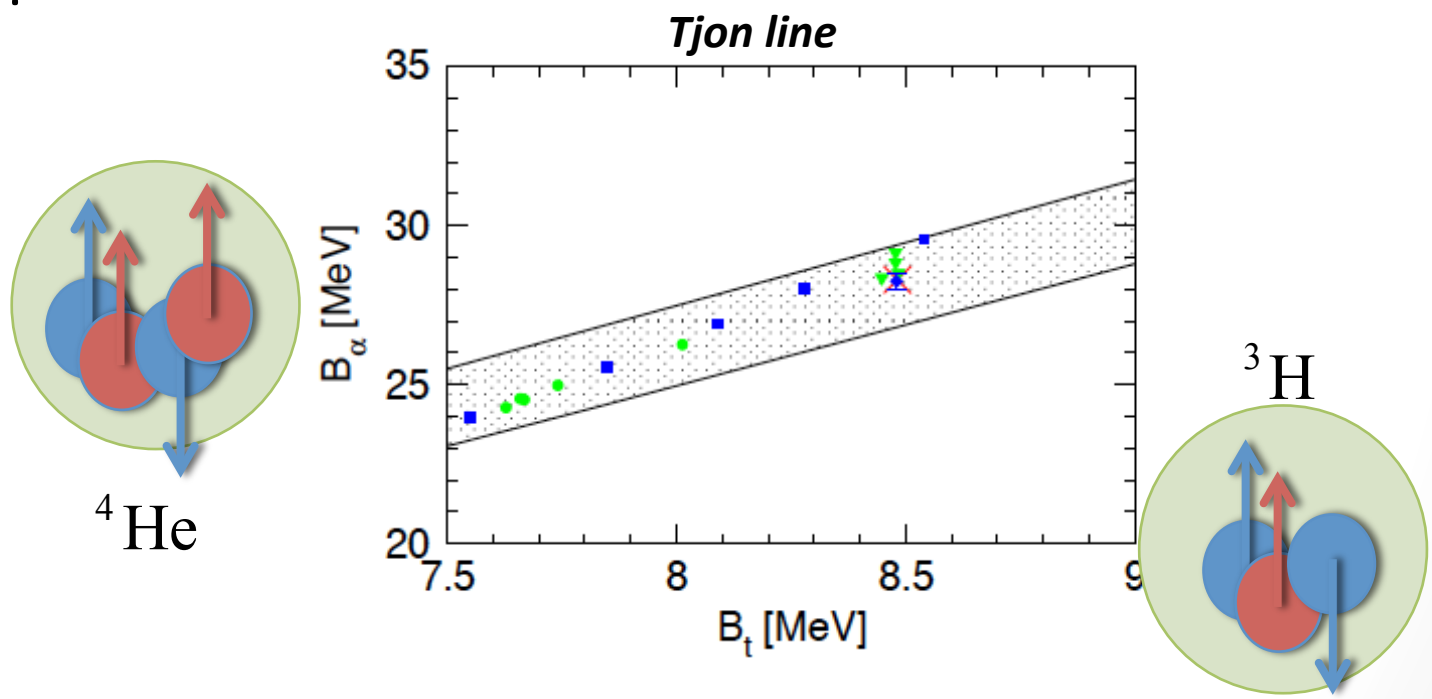
*Bedaque, Hammer, van-Kolck: (1999)  
What is the binding energy of triton?*



*triton B.E. at LO has strong cutoff dependence  $\rightarrow$  add 3-body contact at LO*

# $\pi$ EFT – and Correlations in light nuclei

- No 4 body parameter at LO.
- The binding energy of the 4-body ground state should be correlated to 3-body ground state.
- Phenomenological “Tjon” correlation (1975) originates in Pionless EFT!



Platter (2006), Platter, Hammer, Meissner (2005), Kirscher, Griesshammer, Hofmann (2007)



# Nuclear physics at very low energies is strongly interacting!

$$r \approx 1 \text{ fm}$$

Finite range of the interaction indicates the existence of a massive particle that intermediates the strong force: The pion!

$$m_{\pi} \approx 135 \text{ MeV}/c^2 \sim \frac{1}{r} \frac{\hbar c}{c^2}$$

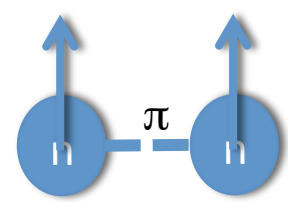


# Nuclear physics at very low energies is strongly interacting!

$$r \approx 1 \text{ fm}$$

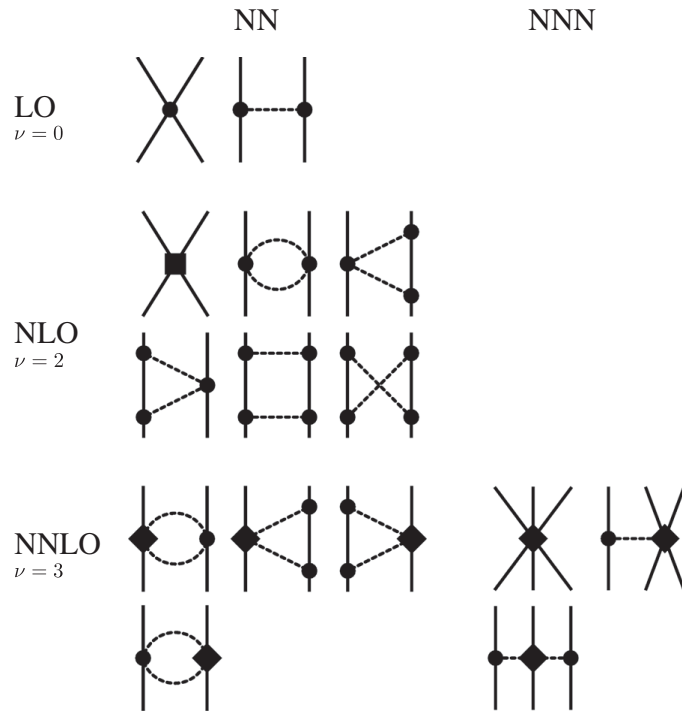
Finite range of the interaction indicates the existence of a massive particle that intermediates the strong force: The pion!

$$m_\pi \approx 135 \text{ MeV}/c^2 \sim \frac{1}{r} \frac{\hbar c}{c^2}$$



- “Chiral” effective field theory of nuclear physics:
1. Expansion about zero momentum and zero pion mass of a theory of nucleons interacting via contacts and pion exchanges.
  2. The EFT is applicable at energies up to few hundred MeV/c.
  3. The Lagrangian is intimately related to QCD fundamental symmetries: a QCD prediction!
  4. The common approach is NOT renormalization group invariant.

# $\chi$ EFT potential



28 total parameters @ NNLO,  
Fitted to hundreds of  
data points!

PHYSICAL REVIEW X **6**, 011019 (2016)

## Uncertainty Analysis and Order-by-Order Optimization of Chiral Nuclear Interactions

B. D. Carlsson,<sup>1,\*</sup> A. Ekström,<sup>2,3,†</sup> C. Forssén,<sup>1,2,3,‡</sup> D. Fahlin Strömberg,<sup>1</sup> G. R. Jansen,<sup>3,4</sup>  
O. Lilja,<sup>1</sup> M. Lindby,<sup>1</sup> B. A. Mattsson,<sup>1</sup> and K. A. Wendt<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-412 96 Göteborg, Sweden

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996, USA

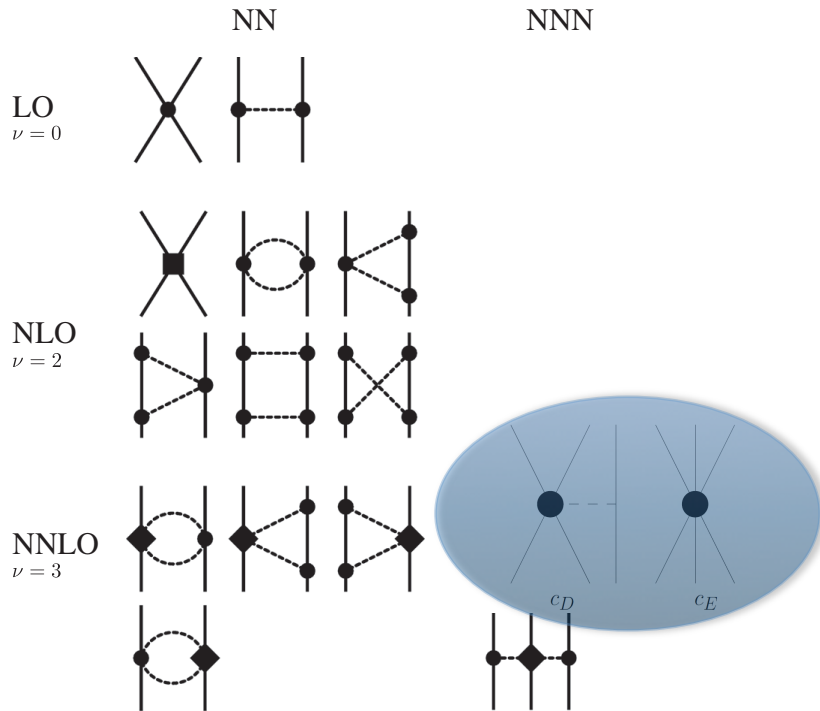
<sup>3</sup>Physics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, USA

<sup>4</sup>National Center for Computational Sciences, Oak Ridge National Laboratory,  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, USA

(Received 18 June 2015; revised manuscript received 6 November 2015; published 24 February 2016)



# $\chi$ EFT potential



28 total parameters @ NNLO,  
Fitted to hundreds of  
data points!

Power counting leads to 3-body forces  
at Next-to-next-to-leading order.

PHYSICAL REVIEW X **6**, 011019 (2016)

## Uncertainty Analysis and Order-by-Order Optimization of Chiral Nuclear Interactions

B. D. Carlsson,<sup>1,\*</sup> A. Ekström,<sup>2,3,†</sup> C. Forssén,<sup>1,2,3,‡</sup> D. Fahlin Strömberg,<sup>1</sup> G. R. Jansen,<sup>3,4</sup>  
O. Lilja,<sup>1</sup> M. Lindby,<sup>1</sup> B. A. Mattsson,<sup>1</sup> and K. A. Wendt<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-412 96 Göteborg, Sweden

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996, USA

<sup>3</sup>Physics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, USA

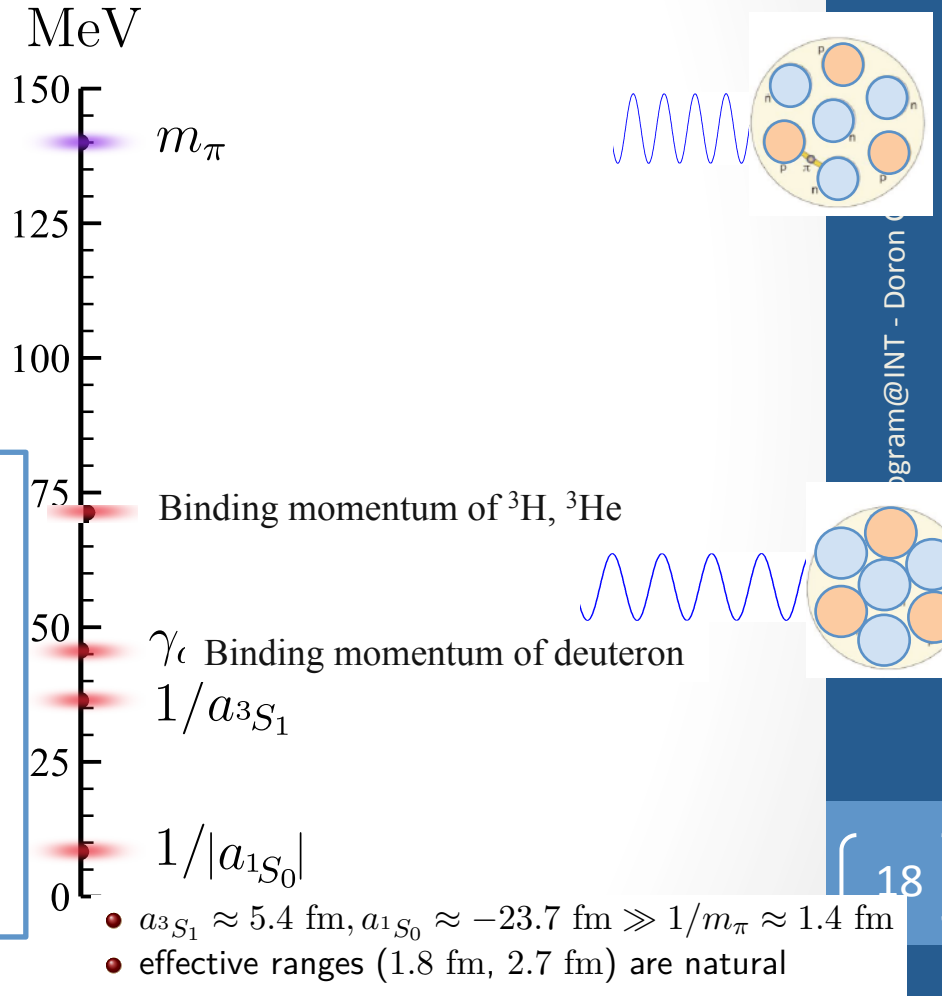
<sup>4</sup>National Center for Computational Sciences, Oak Ridge National Laboratory,  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, USA

(Received 18 June 2015; revised manuscript received 6 November 2015; published 24 February 2016)

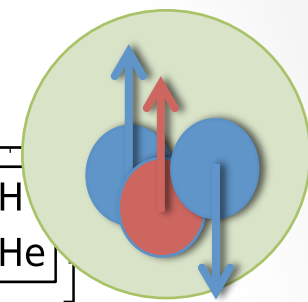
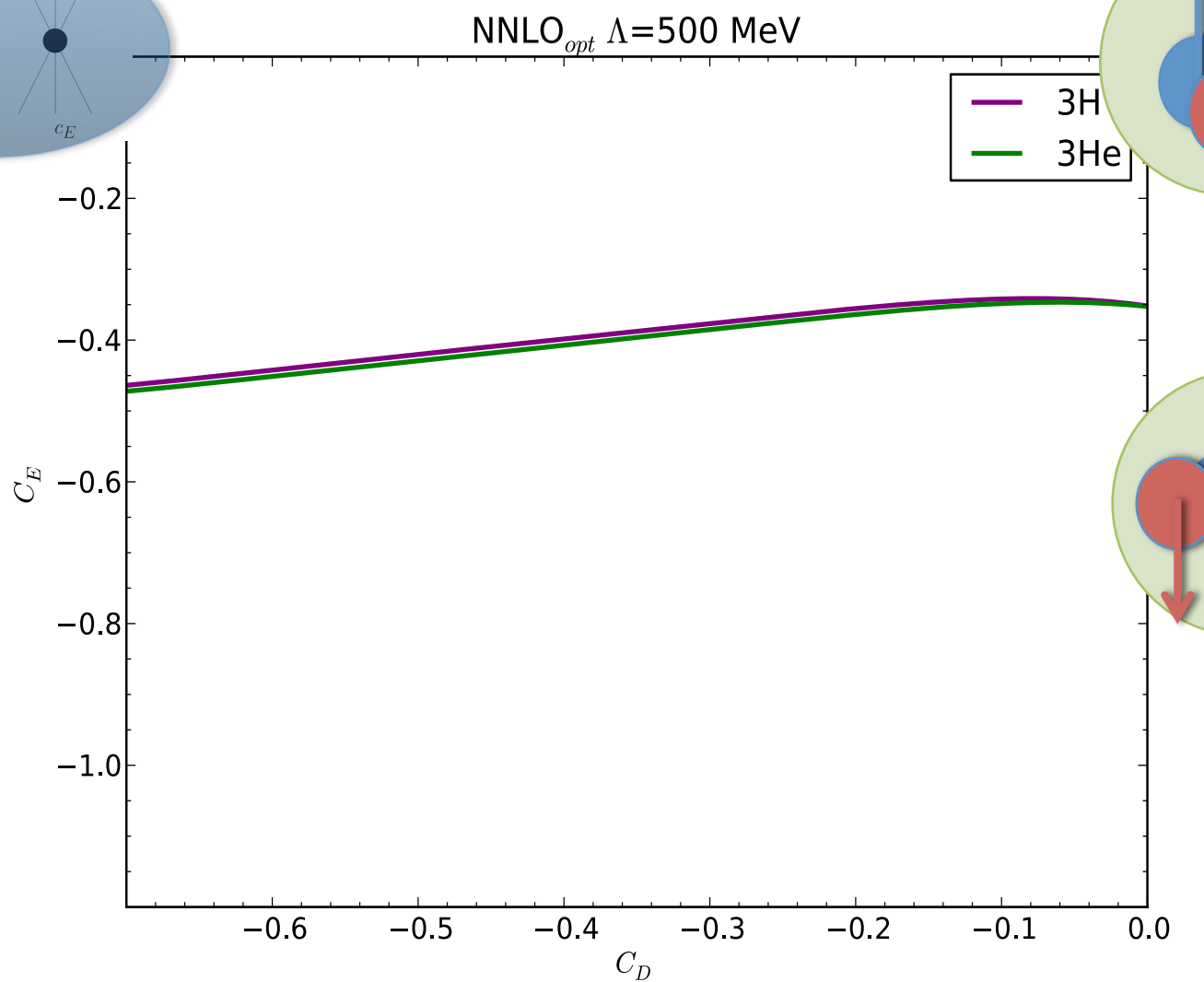
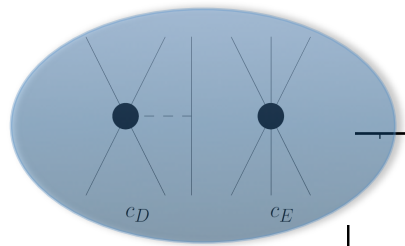
# Two QCD EFTs

At very low energies both EFTs are applicable!  
Can we learn something from that?

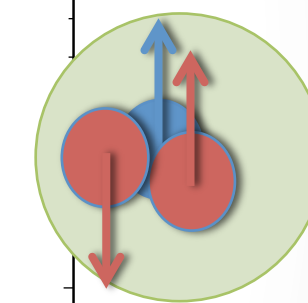
1. EFTs have inherent inaccuracy, as they include neglected orders.
  2. However, often higher orders include new parameters, that need to be fitted to observables.
- EFT Uncertainty Challenge 1:**
1. How does one choose the observable to fit?
  2. Are there right/wrong choices?



# $\chi$ EFT – three body problem in the $(c_D, c_E)$ plane.



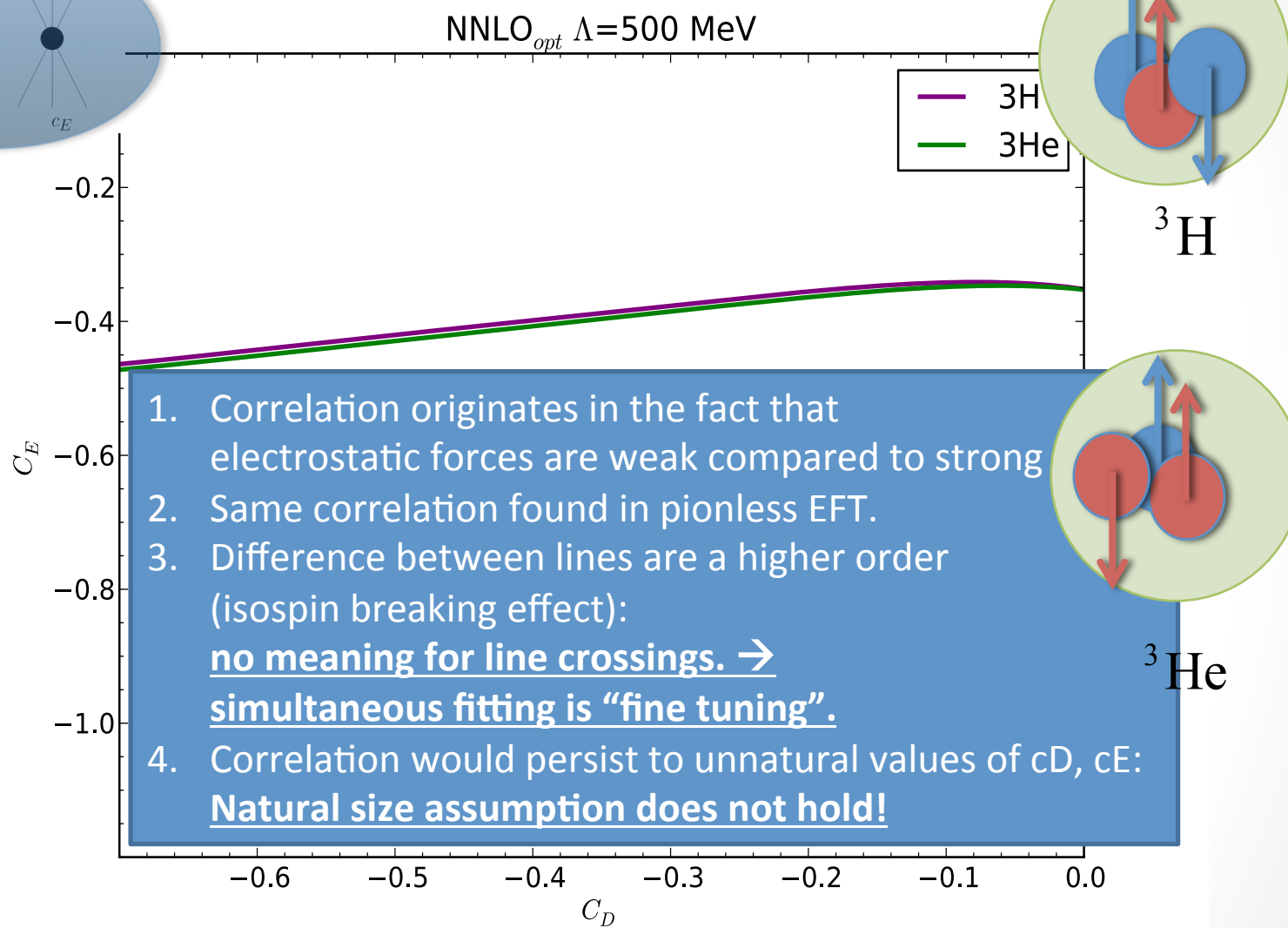
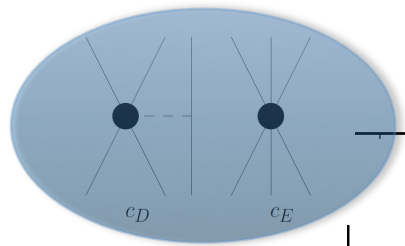
$^3\text{H}$



$^3\text{He}$

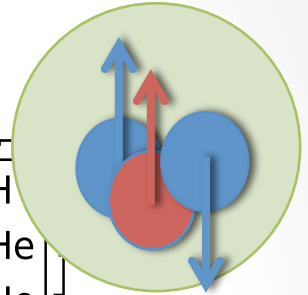
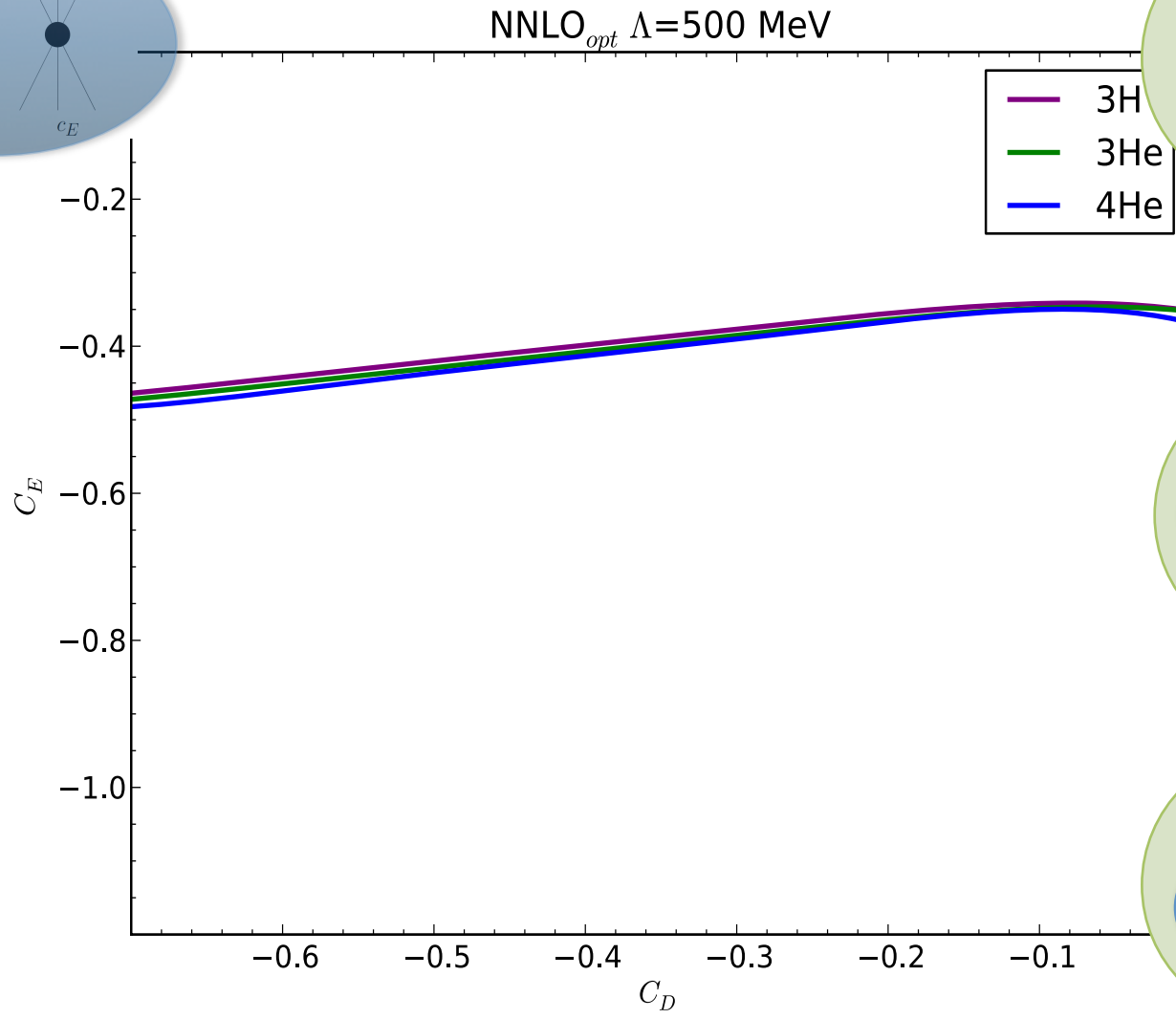
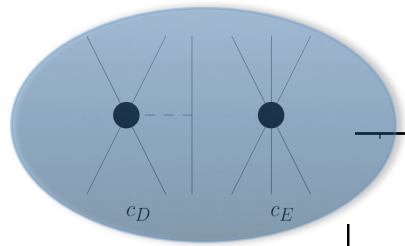
Lupu, Barnea, DG, arXiv: arXiv: 1508.05654

# $\chi$ EFT – three body problem in the $(c_D, c_E)$ plane.

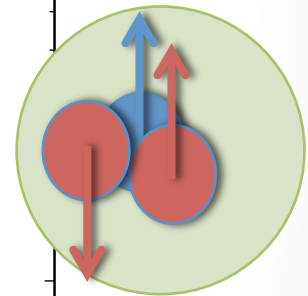


Lupu, Barnea, DG, arXiv: arXiv: 1508.05654

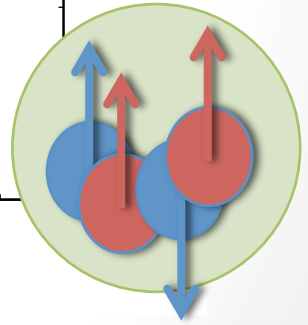
# $\chi$ EFT – a Tjon line representation



${}^3\text{H}$



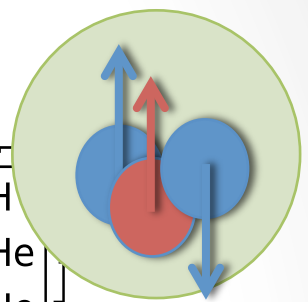
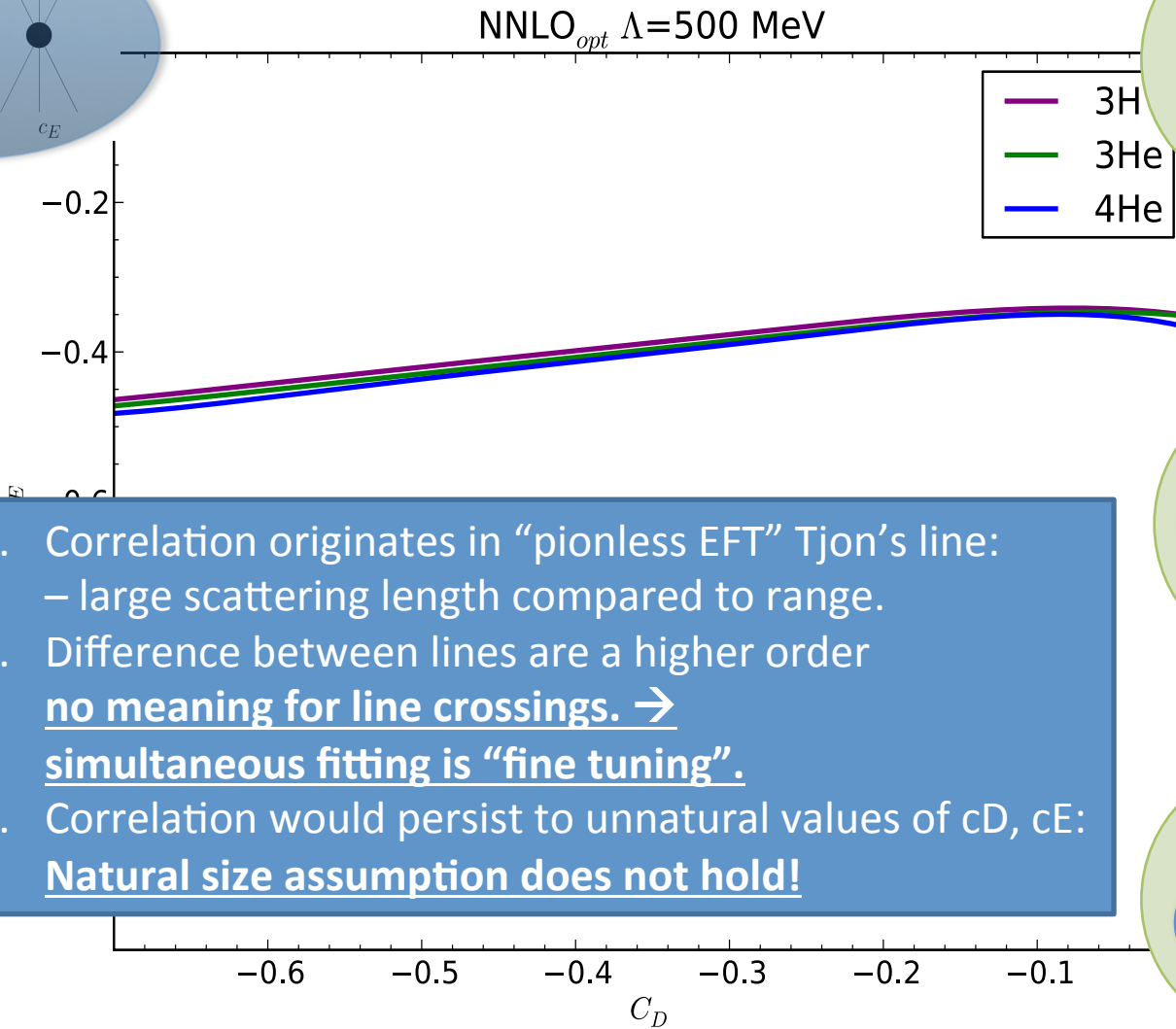
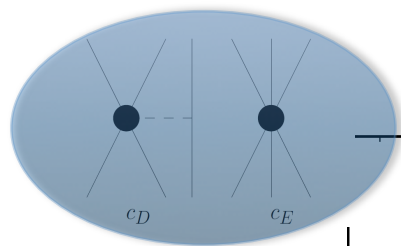
${}^3\text{He}$



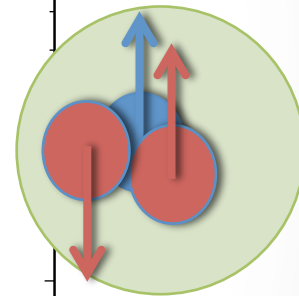
${}^4\text{He}$

Lupu, Barnea, DG, arXiv: arXiv: 1508.05654

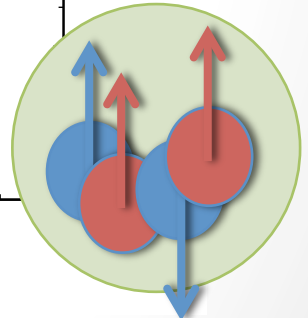
# $\chi$ EFT – a Tjon line representation



${}^3\text{H}$



${}^3\text{He}$

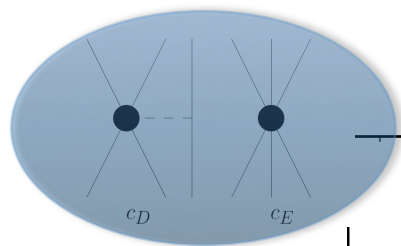


${}^4\text{He}$

1. Correlation originates in “pionless EFT” Tjon’s line:
  - large scattering length compared to range.
2. Difference between lines are a higher order no meaning for line crossings.  $\rightarrow$  simultaneous fitting is “fine tuning”.
3. Correlation would persist to unnatural values of  $c_D, c_E$ : Natural size assumption does not hold!

Lupu, Barnea, DG, arXiv: arXiv: 1508.05654

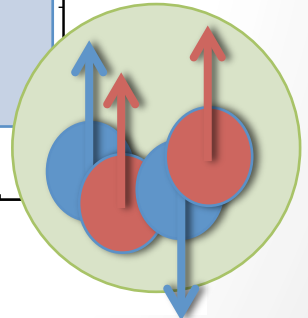
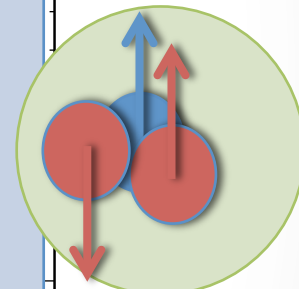
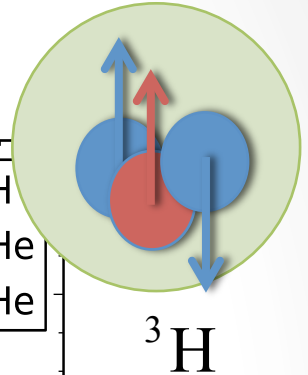
# $\chi$ EFT – a Tjon line representation



NNLO<sub>opt</sub>  $\Lambda=500$  MeV

-0.2

- 3H
- 3He
- 4He



i.e., <sup>3</sup>H, <sup>3</sup>He and <sup>4</sup>He b.e.s are not independent observables, and cannot be used as such to fix the 3NF LECs. Choosing them simultaneously is fine tuning.

**EFT Uncertainty Challenge 1:**

1. Are there right/wrong choices of fitting observables?  
→ **yes there are!**
2. Can one choose the correct fitting observable in advance?  
→ **Look for Leading order correlations in other theoretical descriptions of the problem.**

-0.6    -0.5    -0.4    -0.3    -0.2    -0.1

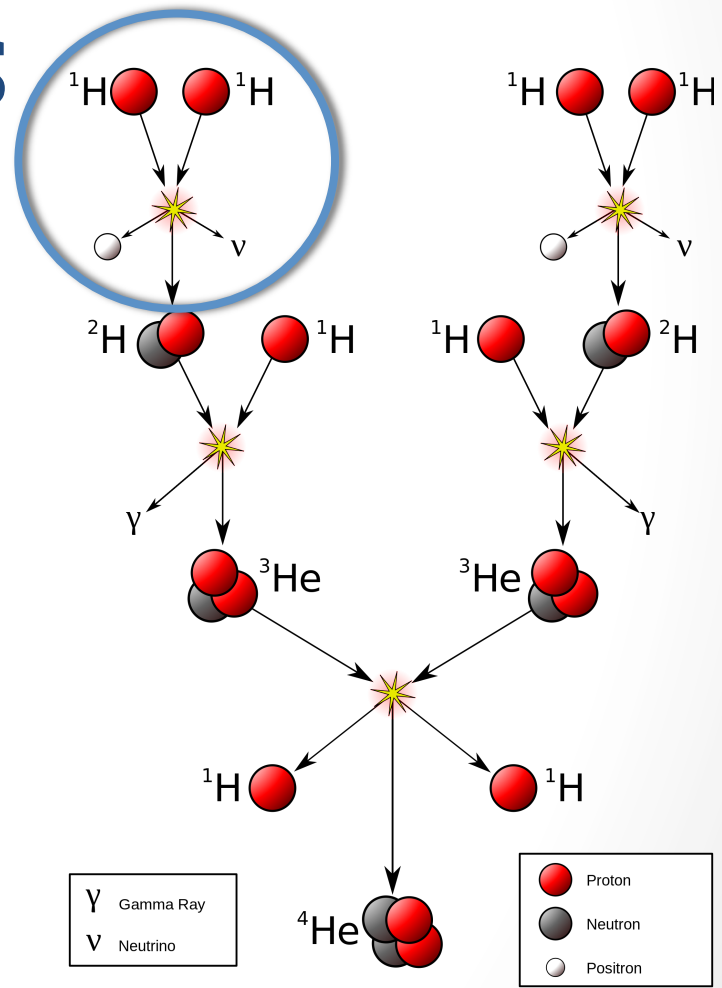
$c_D$

Lupu, Barnea, DG, arXiv: arXiv: 1508.05654



# NUCLEAR FUSION REACTION RATES IN THE SUN: ASSESSING THE ACCURACY OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS PREDICTIONS

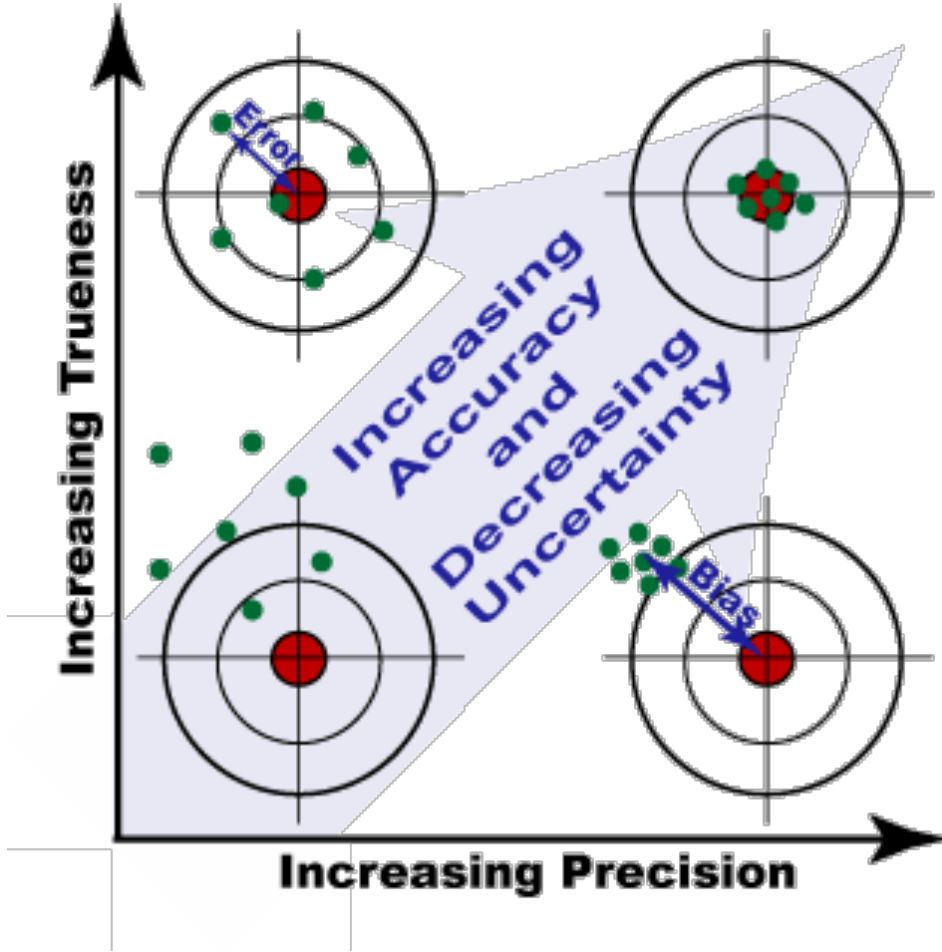
Proton-proton fusion in the Sun cannot be measured terrestrially.  
Reliable theoretical prediction needed.







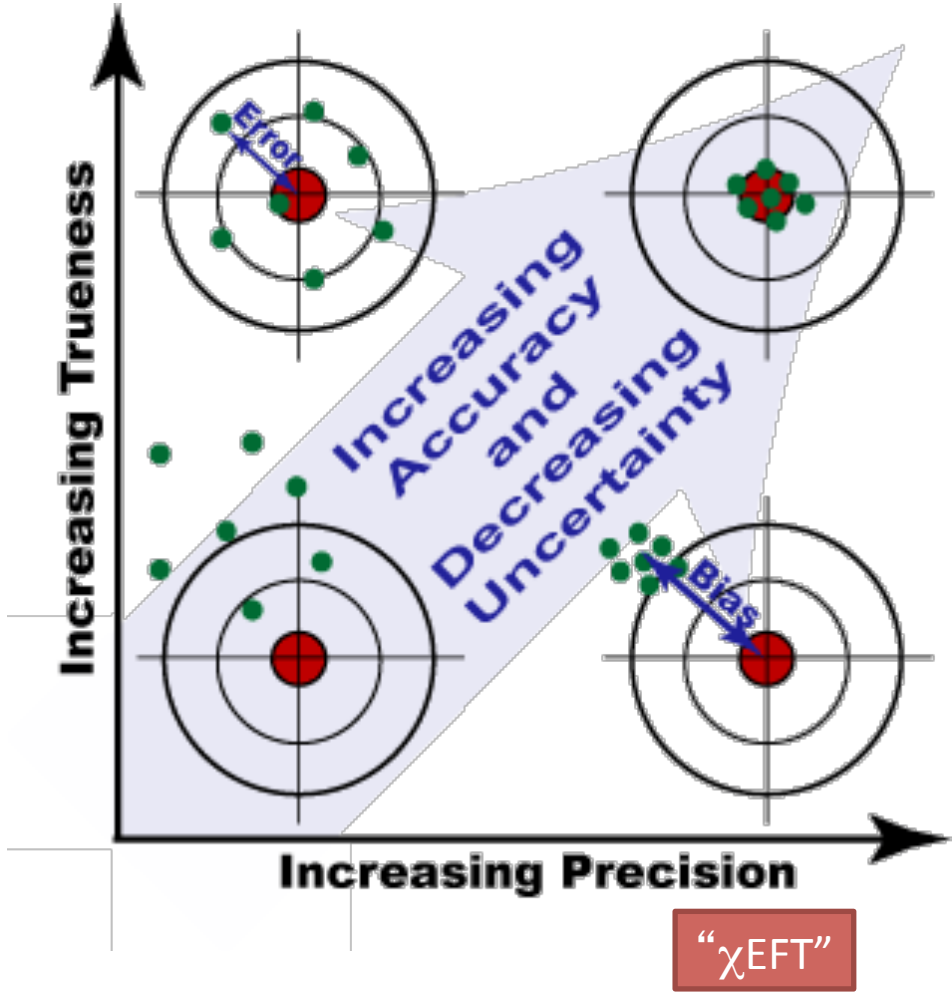
# Precision, Uncertainty, and predictions





# Precision, Uncertainty, and predictions

*Widely believed:*





# Weak proton-proton fusion in the Sun – theory standards

SFII – Adelberger et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. 83, 195 (2011)

- $4.01(1 \pm 0.009) \times 10^{-25}$  MeV b potential models,
- $4.01(1 \pm 0.009) \times 10^{-25}$  MeV b EFT\*,
- $3.99(1 \pm 0.030) \times 10^{-25}$  MeV b pionless EFT.



SFII recommended value (2011):  $S_{11}(0) = 4.01(1 \pm 0.009) \times 10^{-25}$  MeV b.

“ $\chi$ EFT” calculation by Marcucci et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. (2013):  
Use consistent  $^3\text{H}$  decay-rate to constrain consistently axial MEC (DG, Quaglioni, Navratil, PRL 2009), and predict pp-fusion rate.

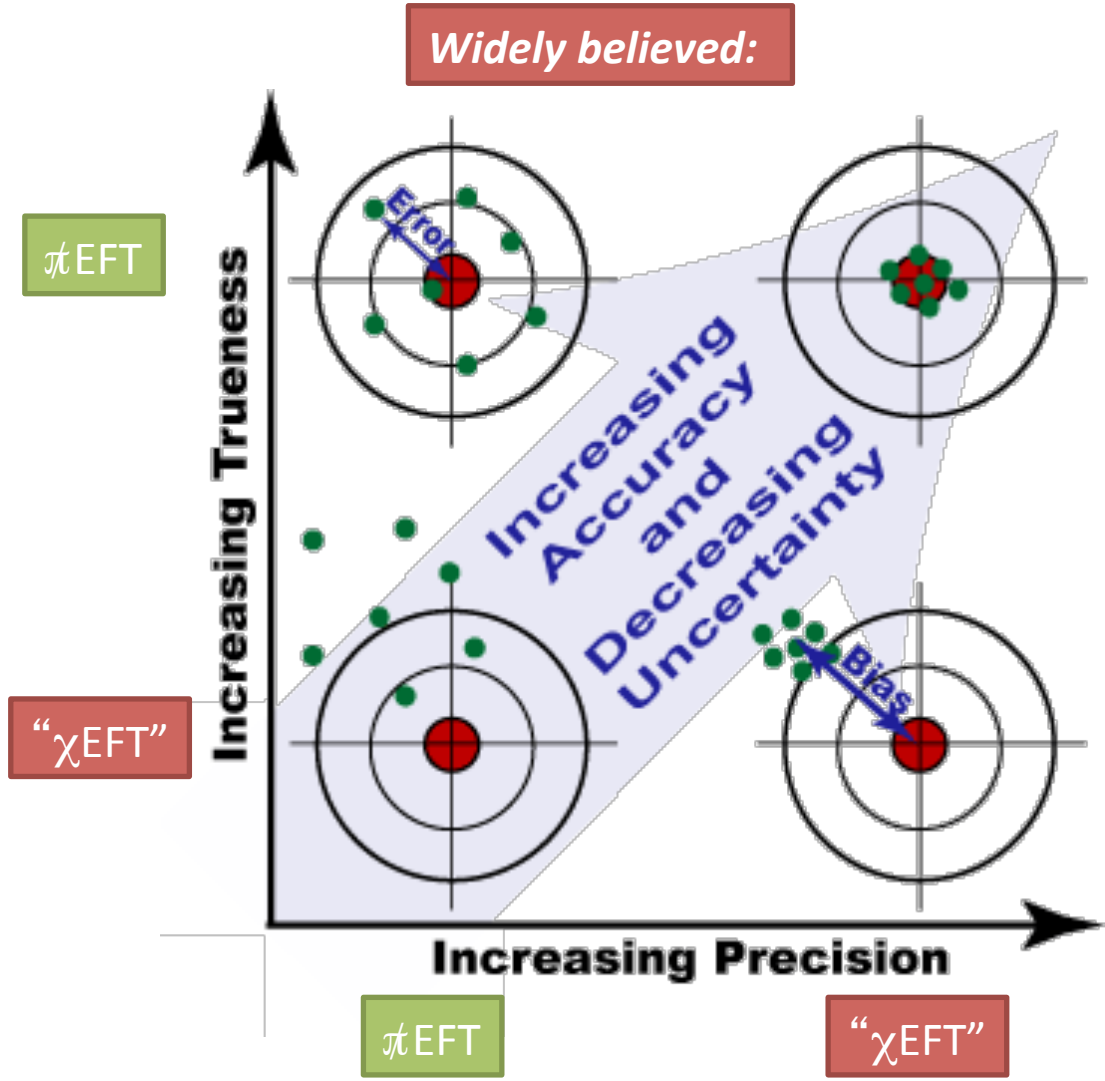
$$S(0) = (4.030 \pm 0.006) \times 10^{-23} \text{ MeV fm}^2$$

Including: p-wave contribution (+0.5%), full EM (-0.25-(-0.75)%), difference between 500 and 600 MeV cutoff and potential models.

Recently Archaya et al (1603.01593)  $\chi$ EFT:  $S(0) = (4.081^{+0.024}_{-0.032}) \times 10^{-23} \text{ MeV fm}^2$



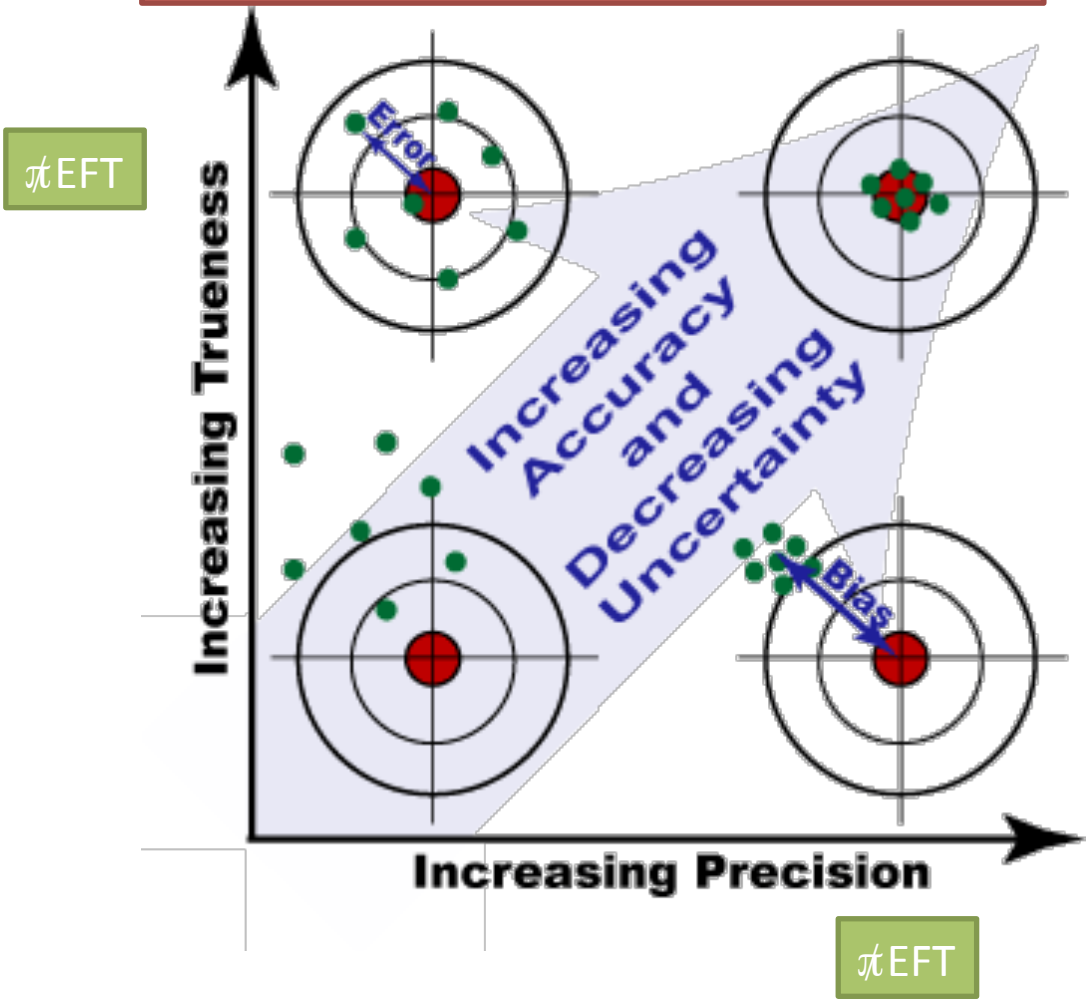
# Precision, Uncertainty, and predictions





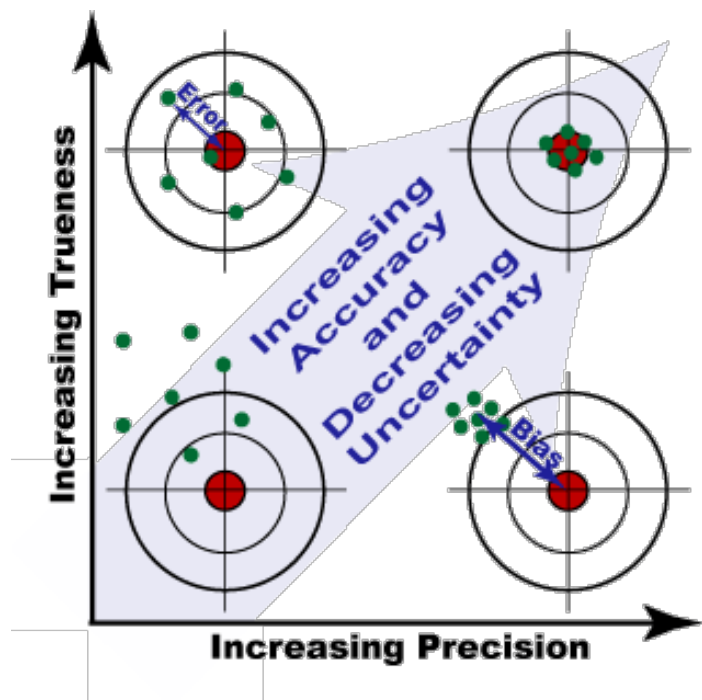
# Precision, Uncertainty, and predictions

Can we reach precision physics with  $\pi$ EFT?





# Precision, Uncertainty, and predictions



Role of  $\pi$ EFT:  
Coherent and systematic (theoretical) uncertainty quantification.  
Big question: is precision physics a possible frontier of  $\pi$ EFT?

*We revisit the pp-fusion problem within pionless EFT, fixing the unknown LEC using triton decay.*



# Advantages of $\pi$ EFT for proton-proton fusion:

1. Small number of parameters.
2. Two NLO  $\pi$  EFT arrangements.
3. A “cheat-sheet” in the electromagnetic sector.
4. Cutoff independence up to infinity.



# A fully perturbative pionless EFT $A=2, 3$ calculation @NLO

- LO Parameters:
  - nn and 2-np Scattering lengths:  $^3S_1, ^1S_0$ .
  - pp scattering length.
  - Fine structure constant.
  - Three body force.
- NLO parameters:
  - 2 effective ranges.
  - Renormalizations of pp and 3NF.
  - (isospin dependent NLO 3NF to prevent logarithmic divergence in the binding energy of  $^3\text{He}$ ).
- **Weak Interaction: LO ( $g_A - 1$  body), NLO ( $L_{1A} - 2$  body)**

From neutron decay

De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)

These parameters fixed using nuclear data





# Weak observables in two and three body nuclear systems:

$p + p \rightarrow d + \nu_e + e^+$

Proton-proton fusion – needs to be predicted

${}^3\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$

triton decay:  
measured

$n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$

neutron decay:  
measured



# A fully perturbative pionless EFT $A=2, 3$ calculation @NLO

De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)

- LO Parameters:
  - nn and 2-np Scattering lengths:  ${}^3S_1, {}^1S_0$ .
  - pp scattering length.
  - Fine structure constant.
  - Three body force.
- NLO parameters:
  - 2 effective ranges.
  - Renormalizations of pp and 3NF.
  - (isospin dependent NLO 3NF to prevent logarithmic divergence in the binding energy of  ${}^3\text{He}$ ).

These parameters fixed using nuclear data

- **Weak Interaction: LO ( $g_A - 1$  body), NLO ( $L_{1A} - 2$  body)**
  - From neutron decay
  - From triton decay!



# Advantages of $\pi$ EFT for proton-proton fusion:

1. Small number of parameters.
2. Two NLO  $\pi$ EFT arrangements.
3. A “cheat-sheet” in the electromagnetic sector.
4. Cutoff independence up to infinity.

# The role of the deuteron tail

- Many low energy reactions depend on deuteron normalization.

$$Z_d^{-1} = i \frac{\partial}{\partial p_0} \frac{1}{i\mathcal{D}_t(p_0, p)} \Big|_{p_0 = \frac{\gamma_t^2}{M_N}, p=0}$$

- One has a choice of rearranging the expansion:

- rho-parameterization:  $Z_d = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma\rho} \approx 1 + \gamma\rho + (\gamma\rho)^2 + \dots$
- Z-parameterization:  $Z_d = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma\rho} \approx 1 - (Z_d - 1) + 0 + \dots$

Both are valid rearrangements!  
 Z-parameterization has quicker convergence, especially for observables sensitive to the deuteron tail.

Phillips, Rupak, Savage, Phys. Lett. **B473**, 209 (2000)  
 Grieshammer, Nucl. Phys. **A744**, 192 (2004)

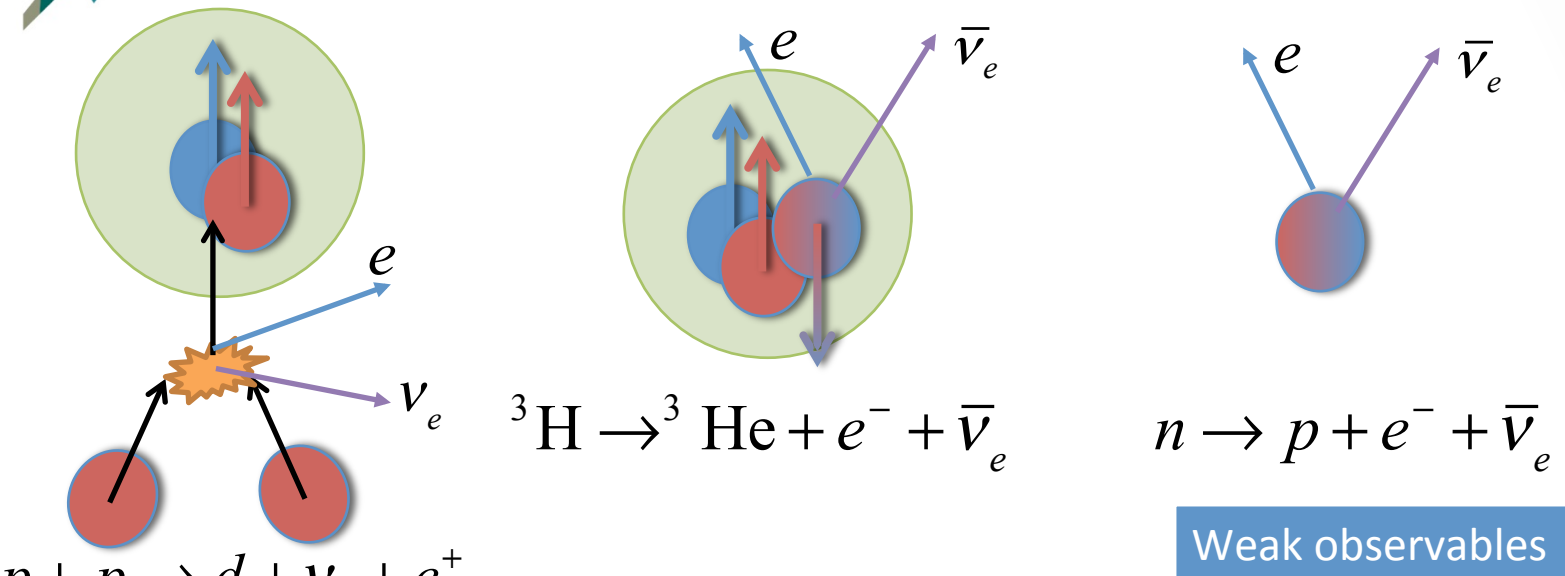
De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)



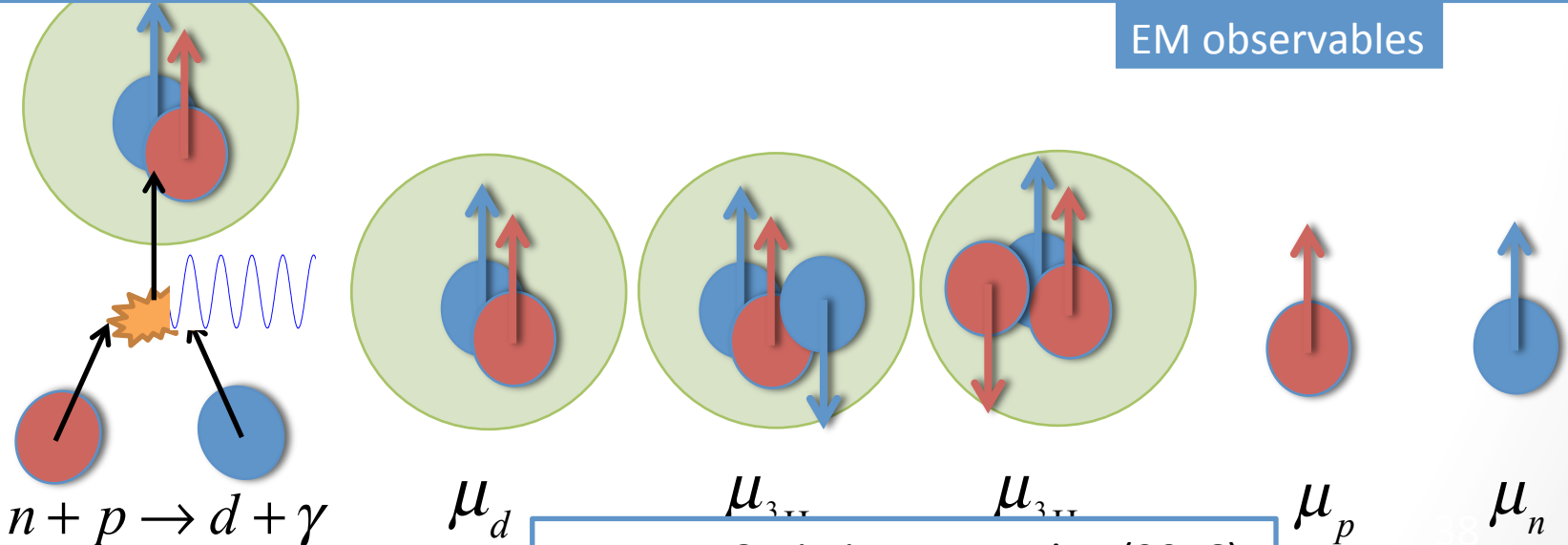
# Advantages of $\pi$ EFT for proton-proton fusion:

1. Small number of parameters.
2. Two NLO  $\pi$ EFT arrangements.
3. A “cheat-sheet” in the electromagnetic sector.
4. Cutoff independence up to infinity.

# Analogy between weak and EM:

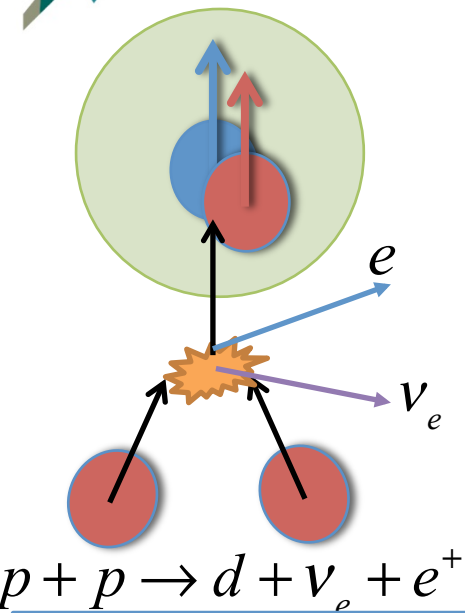


Use the same strategy in both cases: fix probe LECs at A=3 and predict A=2.

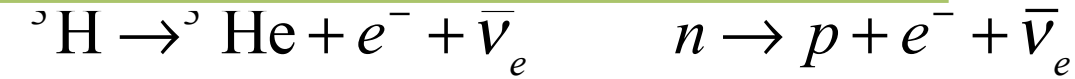


De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)

# Analogy between weak and EM:



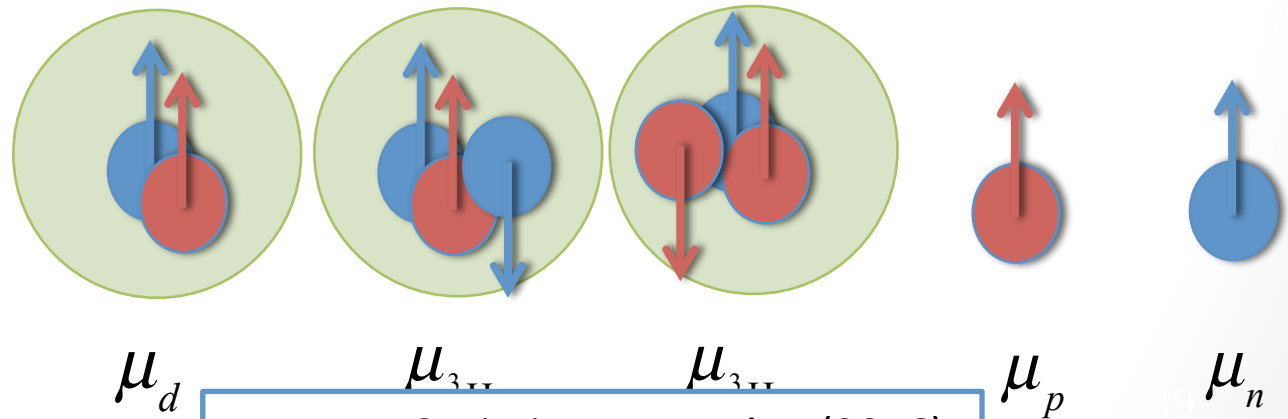
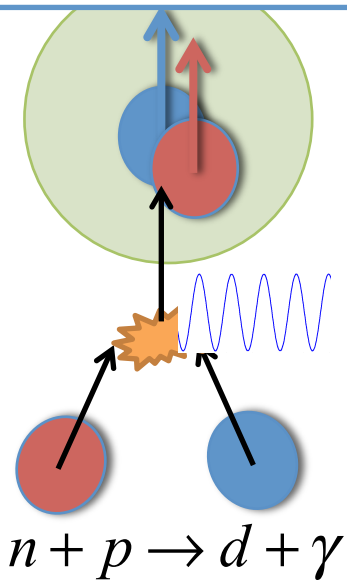
Pionless EFT reproduces low-energy electromagnetic  $A=2$  observables when using  $A=3$  observables as input, to a very good precision ( $\sim 1\%$ ), with assessed theoretical uncertainty of about 3%.



Weak observables

Use the same strategy in both cases: fix probe LECs at  $A=3$  and predict  $A=2$ .

EM observables



De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)



# Advantages of $\pi$ EFT for proton-proton fusion:

1. Small number of parameters.
2. Two NLO  $\pi$  EFT arrangements.
3. A “cheat-sheet” in the electromagnetic sector.
4. Cutoff independence up to infinity.



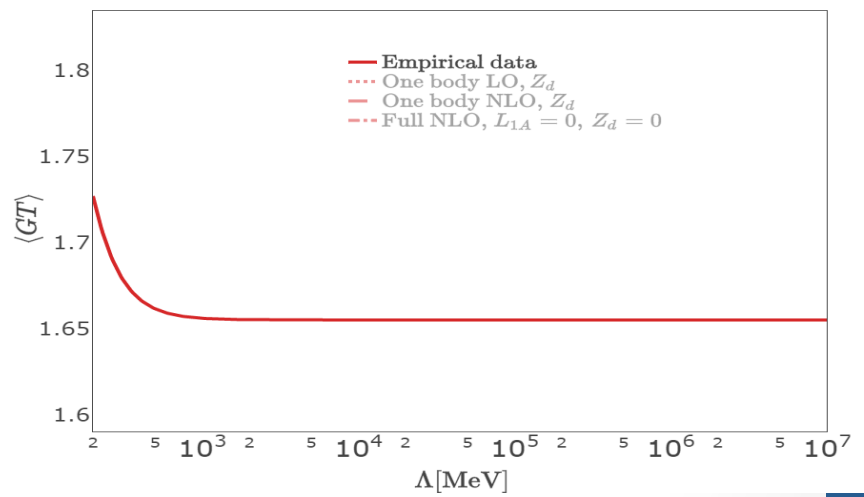
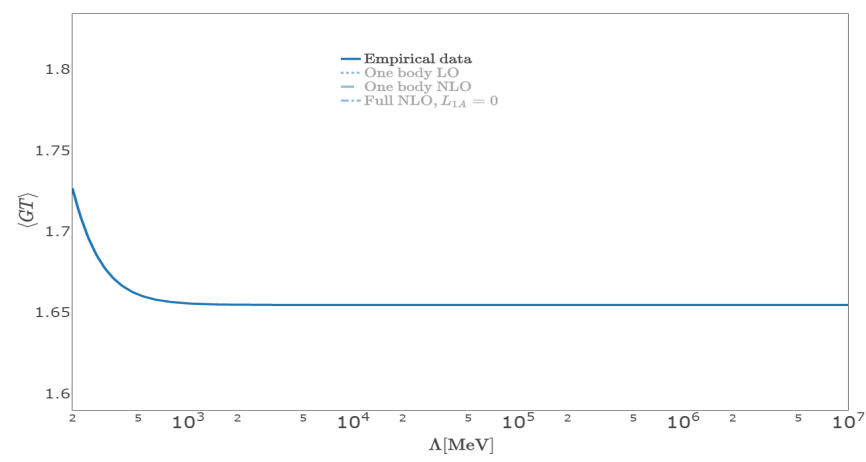


# Triton decay – GT cutoff independence

## Rho-parameterization

## Z-parameterization

$$ft = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 \left[ \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{V}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{A}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 \right]}$$



“Empirical” extraction of GT (using calculated F strength)

De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)

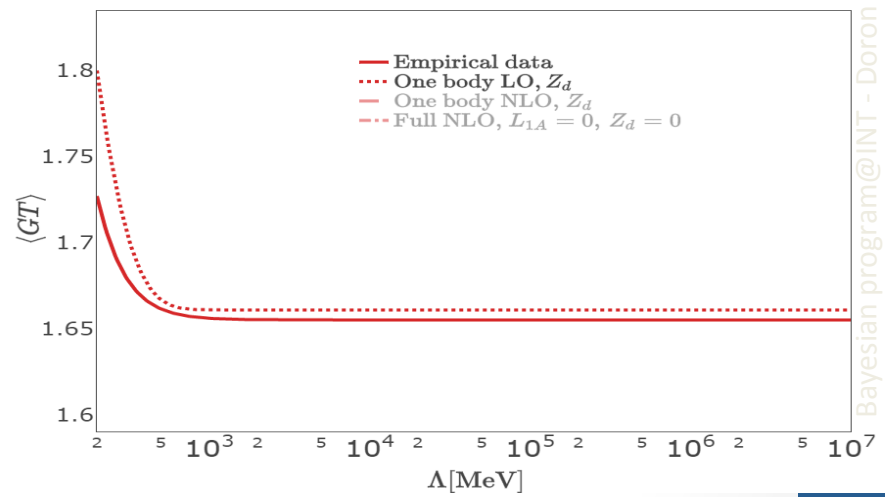
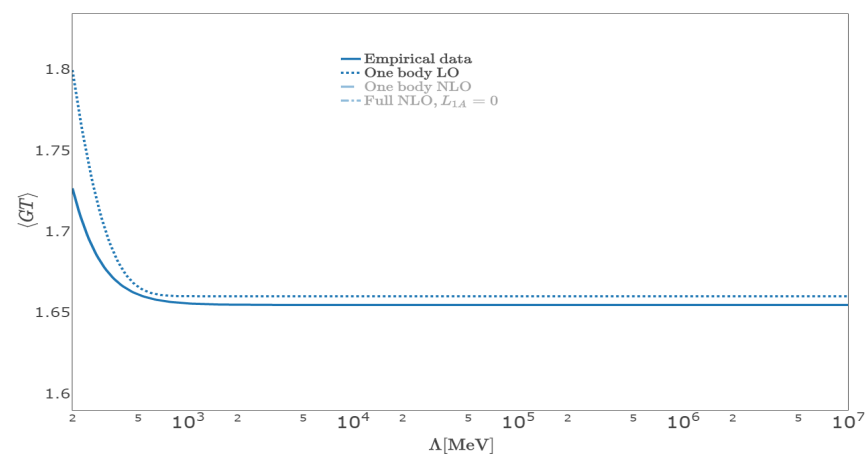


# Triton decay – GT cutoff independence

## Rho-parameterization

## Z-parameterization

$$ft = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 \left[ \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{V}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{A}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 \right]}$$



Adding the LO 1-body contribution

De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)

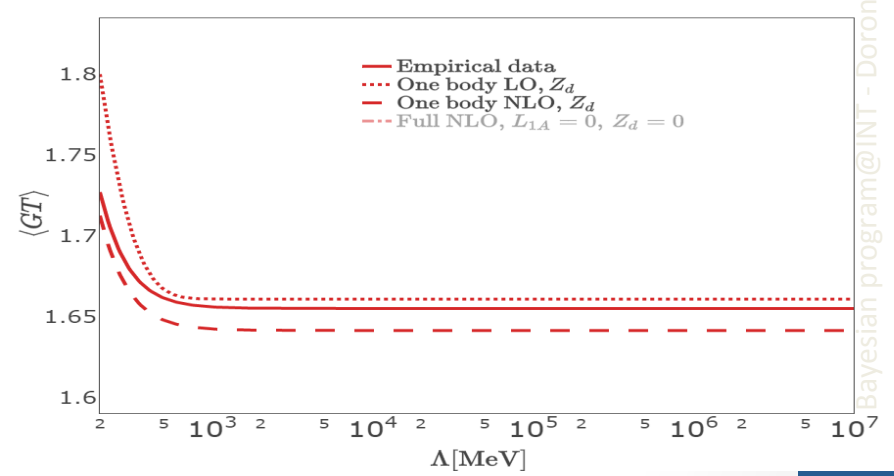
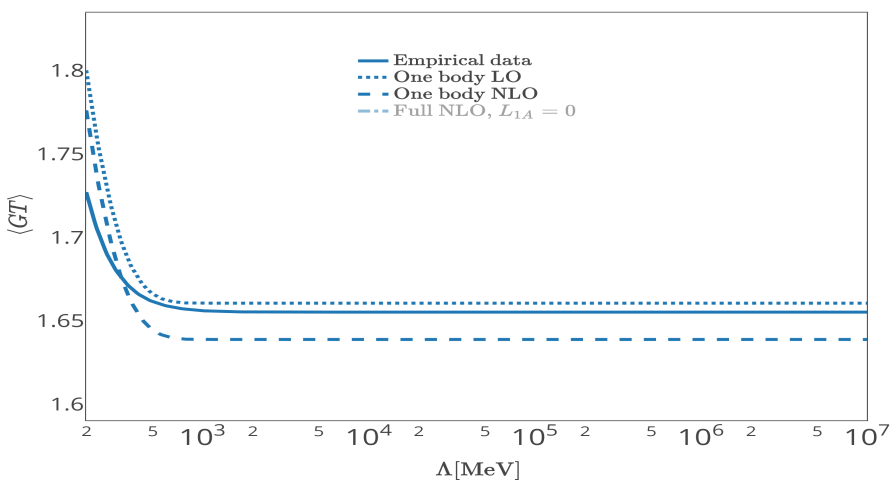


# Triton decay – GT cutoff independence

## Rho-parameterization

## Z-parameterization

$$ft = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 \left[ \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{V}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{A}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 \right]}$$



Adding the NLO 1-body contributions

De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)

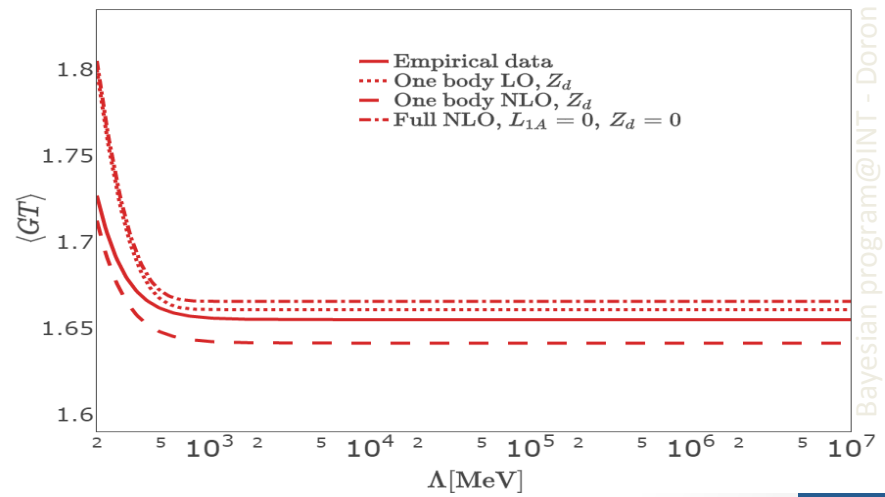
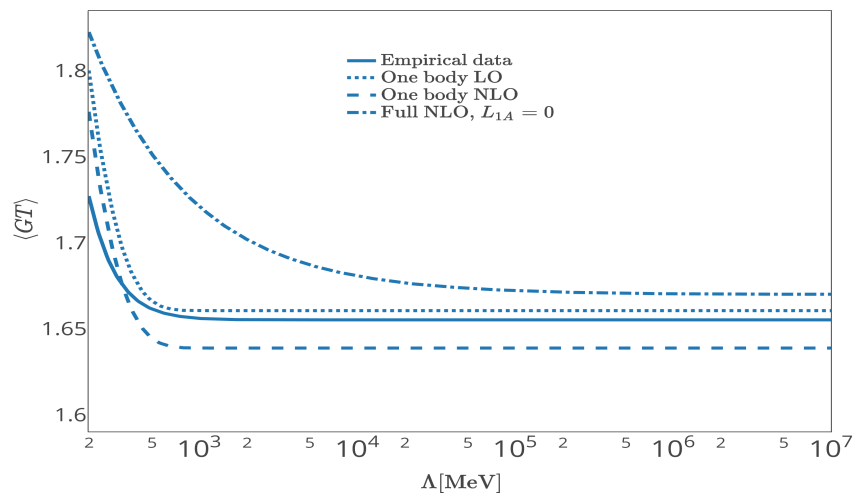


# Triton decay – GT cutoff independence

## Rho-parameterization

## Z-parameterization

$$ft = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 \left[ \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{V}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{A}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 \right]}$$



Adding all contribution, but  $L_{1A}$

1<sup>st</sup> estimate of theoretical uncertainty:  
All NLO contributions are of the same order (1-2%),  
one can estimate higher order effects as the NLO contribution.

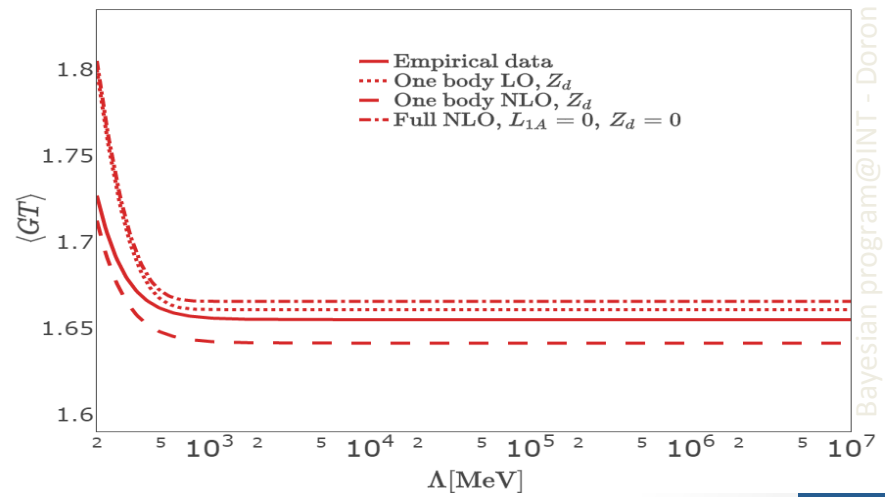
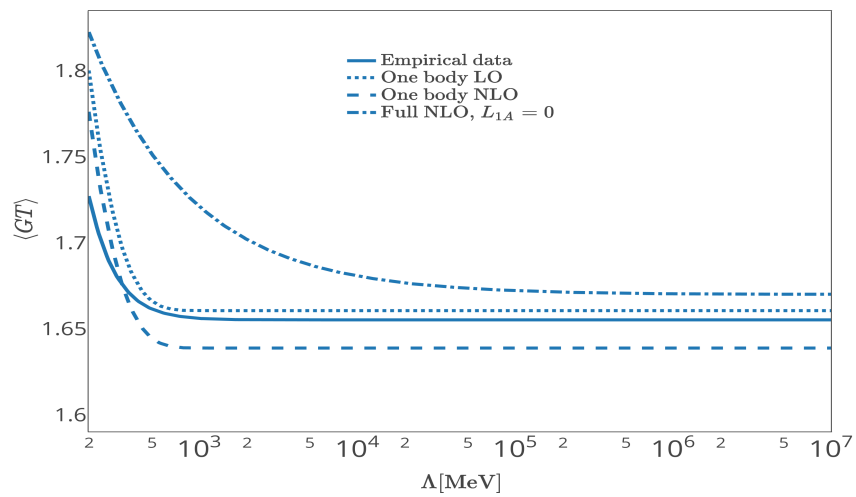


# Triton decay – GT cutoff independence

## Rho-parameterization

## Z-parameterization

$$ft = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 \left[ \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{V}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{A}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 \right]}$$



Adding all contributions

Translates to ±2% difference in pp fusion

1<sup>st</sup> estimate of theoretical uncertainty:  
 All NLO contributions are of the same order (1-2%),  
 one can estimate higher order contributions  
 De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)

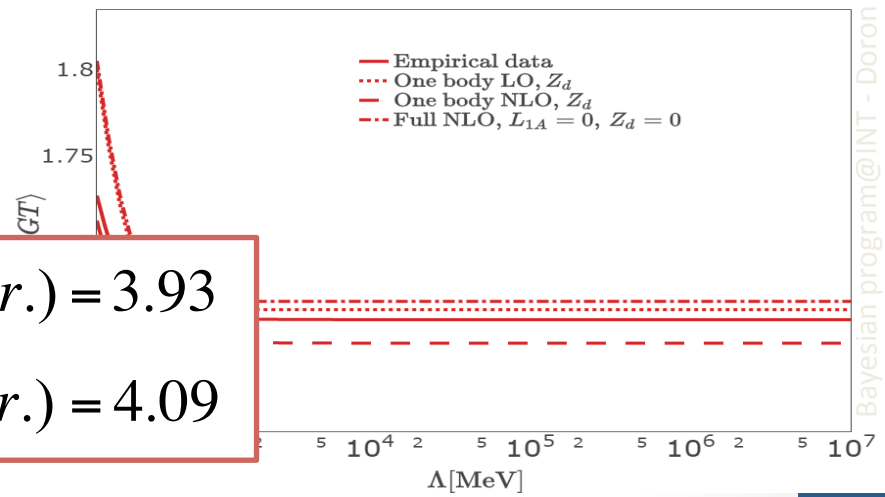
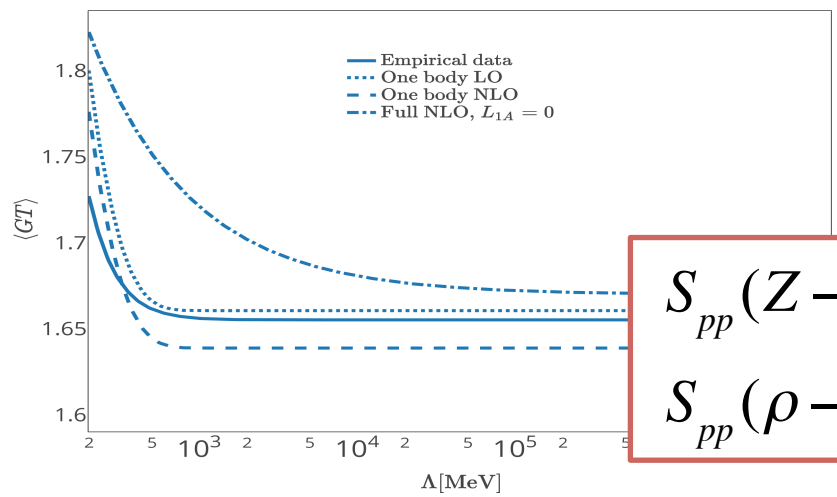


# Triton decay – GT cutoff independence

## Rho-parameterization

## Z-parameterization

$$ft = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 \left[ \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{V}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{A}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 \right]}$$



$S_{pp} (Z - par.) = 3.93$   
 $S_{pp} (\rho - par.) = 4.09$

2<sup>nd</sup> estimate of theoretical uncertainty:  
difference between Zed and Rho Parameterizations.

De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)

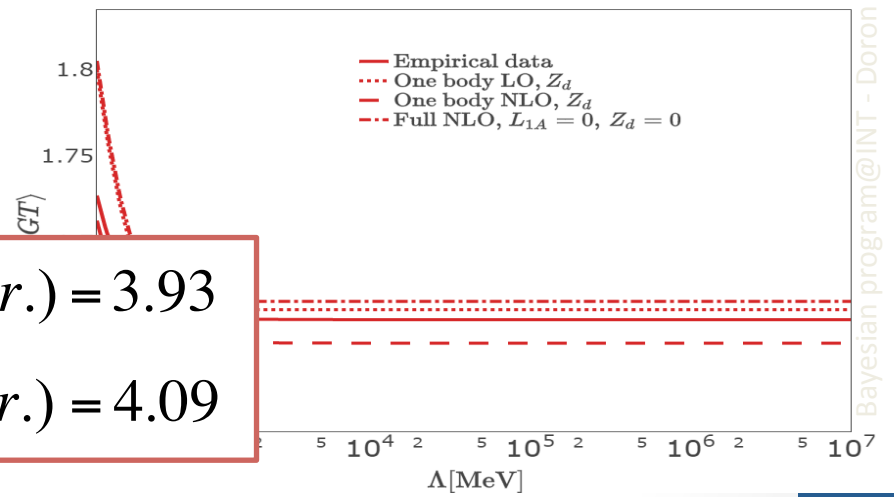
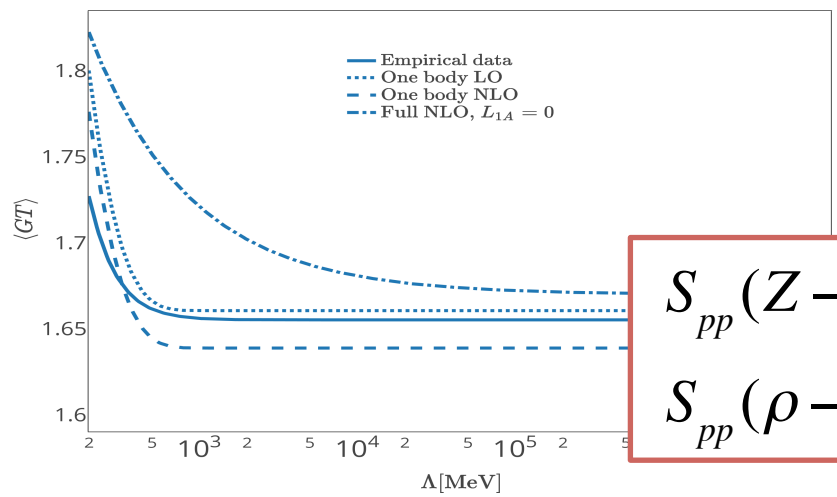


# Triton decay – GT cutoff independence

## Rho-parameterization

## Z-parameterization

$$ft = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 \left[ \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{V}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \left| \langle {}^3\text{H} \| \mathcal{A}_\mu^+ \| {}^3\text{He} \rangle \right|^2 \right]}$$



$S_{pp} (Z - par.) = 3.93$   
 $S_{pp} (\rho - par.) = 4.09$

Translates to  $\pm 2\%$  difference in pp fusion

2<sup>nd</sup> estimate of theoretical uncertainty:  
 difference between Zed and Rho Parameterizations.

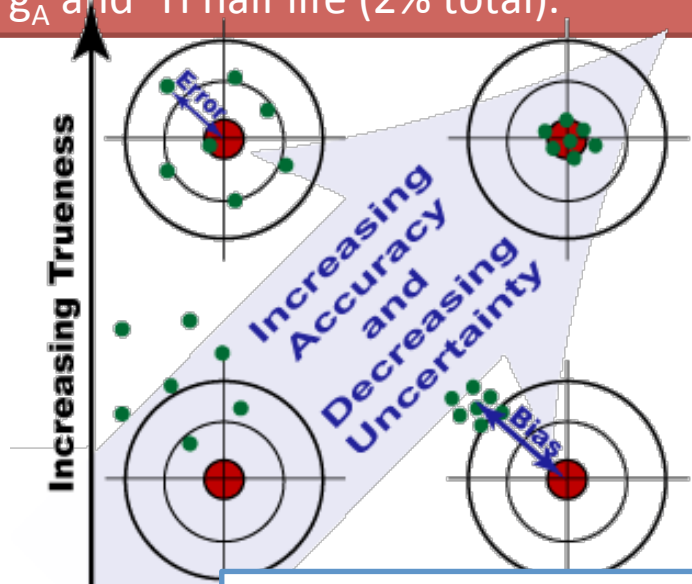
De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)



# So... is 3% too big to be called precision physics?

|  |      |       |  |   |   |
|--|------|-------|--|---|---|
| $S_{pp}(g_A = 1.2701) =$   | 4.01 | $\pm$ | 0.08 $\pm$   | 0.07 $\pm$  | 0.04  |
| $S_{pp}(g_A = 1.276) =$  | 4.14 | $\pm$ | 0.08 $\pm$   | 0.07 $\pm$  | 0.04  |
| <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <math>g_A</math> systematic uncertainty (since ~2010)         </div> |      |       | <div style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">           theoretical uncertainty         </div> | <div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <math>g_A</math> stat. unc.         </div> | <div style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <math>^3\text{H}</math> half-life syst. unc.         </div> |

i.e., theoretical uncertainty of the same order of systematic experimental error due to  $g_A$  and  $^3\text{H}$  half life (2% total).



De-Leon, Gazit, in preparation (2016)



# Thus,

- Pionless EFT reproduces low-energy ***electromagnetic*** observables to a very good precision ( $\sim 1\%$ ), even at NLO.
- Theoretical uncertainty estimated from:
  - (Natural) Size of NLO contribution (all NLO contributions are of the same order of magnitude).
  - Difference between different arrangements of perturbative expansion.
  - Both error estimates lead to about 2% uncertainty.
- Proton-proton fusion NLO prediction and error assessment reliable!
- Uncertainty quantification challenges:

***Is there a way to assign some confidence level to the theoretical uncertainty?***

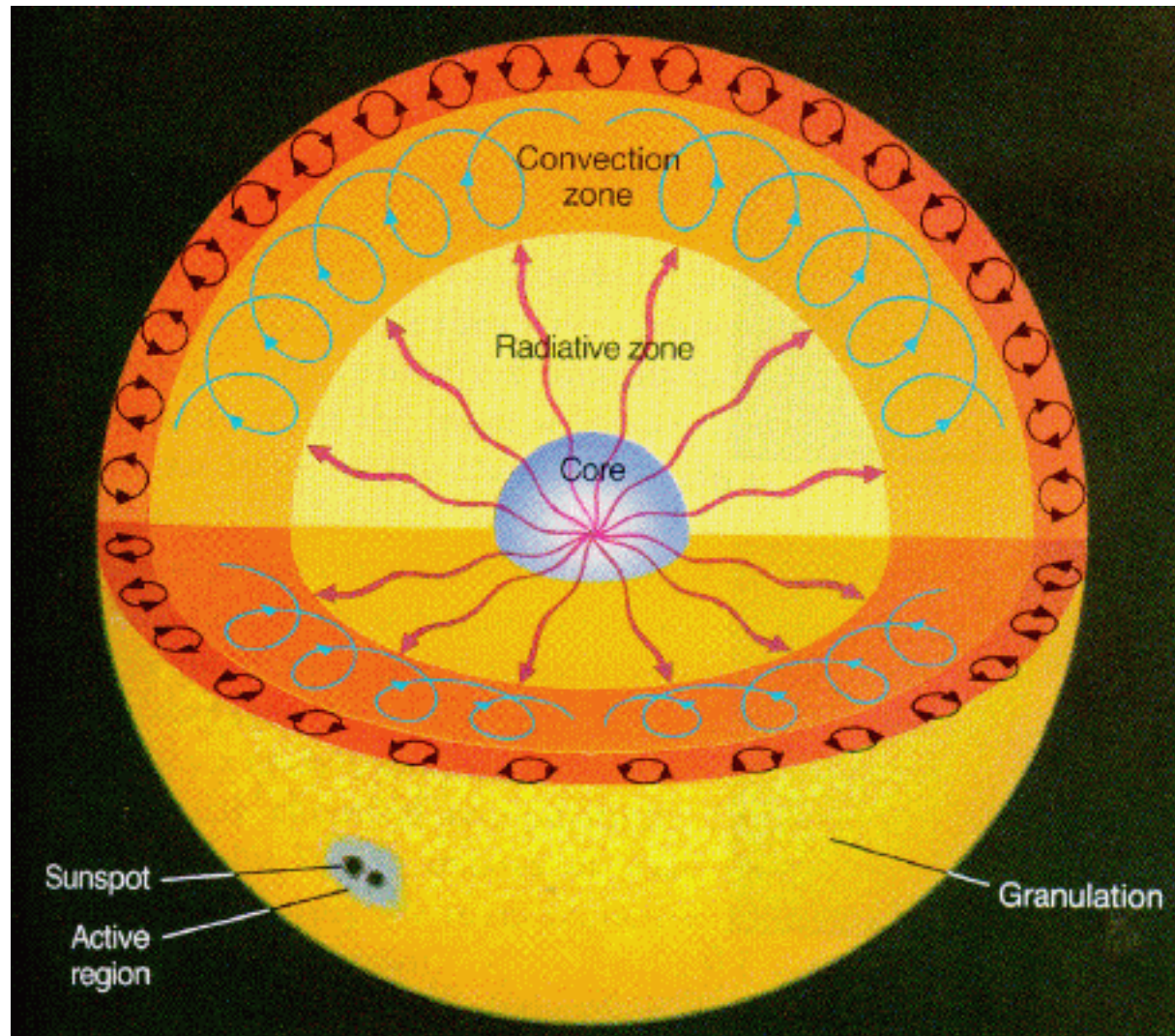
***Is there a better way to incorporate experimental systematic uncertainties?***



# ATOMIC PHYSICS AT THE SOLAR INTERIOR: HOW WELL DO WE KNOW OUR SUN?

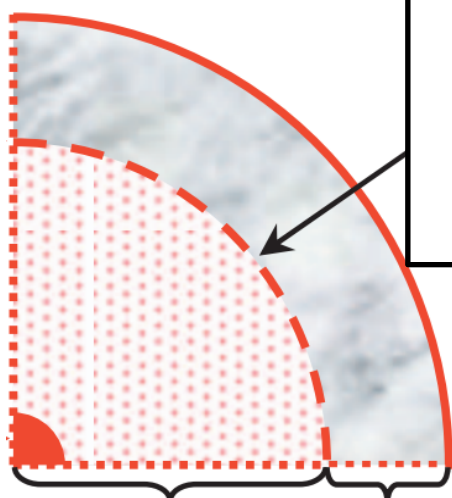
# The Solar Interior

- Radiative zone: energy transport by photon diffusion.



# A solar recipe

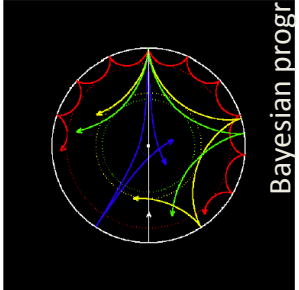
Helioseismology:  
outer constraint



Convection zone radius: a prediction of both constraints...

radiation convection

Bailey, J. E., et al. 2009



differential probing of solar structure

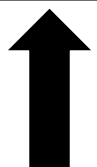
# A solar recipe

Abundances



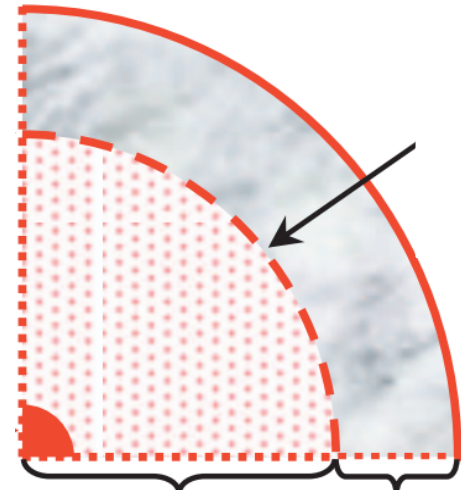
Standard Solar Model (SSM)

- Hydrostatic
- 1D
- **Opacities**
- Eqs. of state (EOS)
- Nuclear rates
- .....



- Solar atmosphere spectra (1D\3D)
- Meteorites

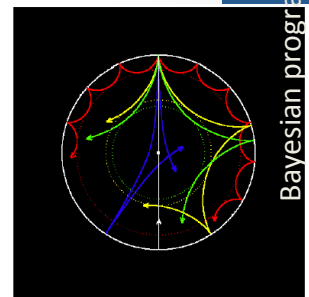
Helioseismology:  
outer constraint



**radiation convection**

Bailey, J. E., et al. 2009

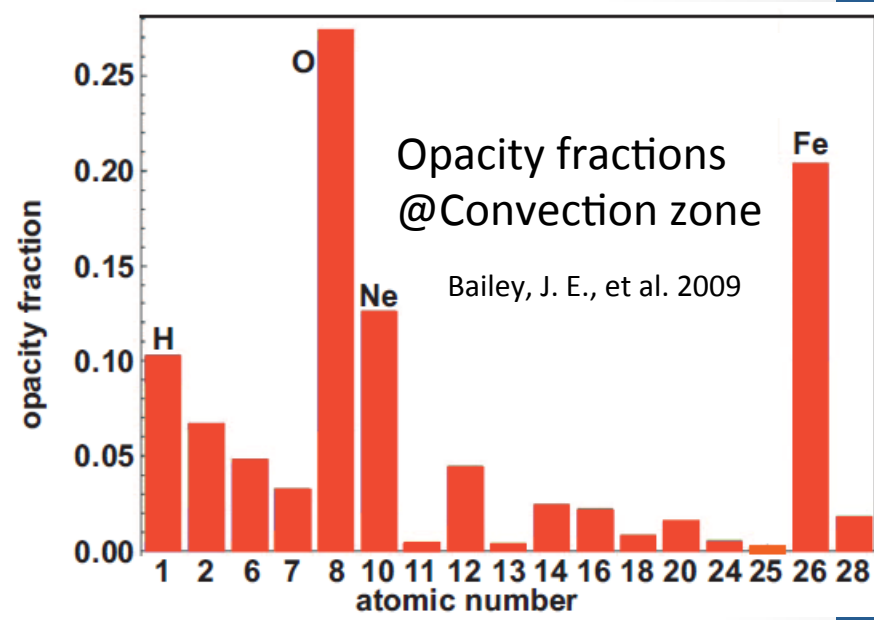
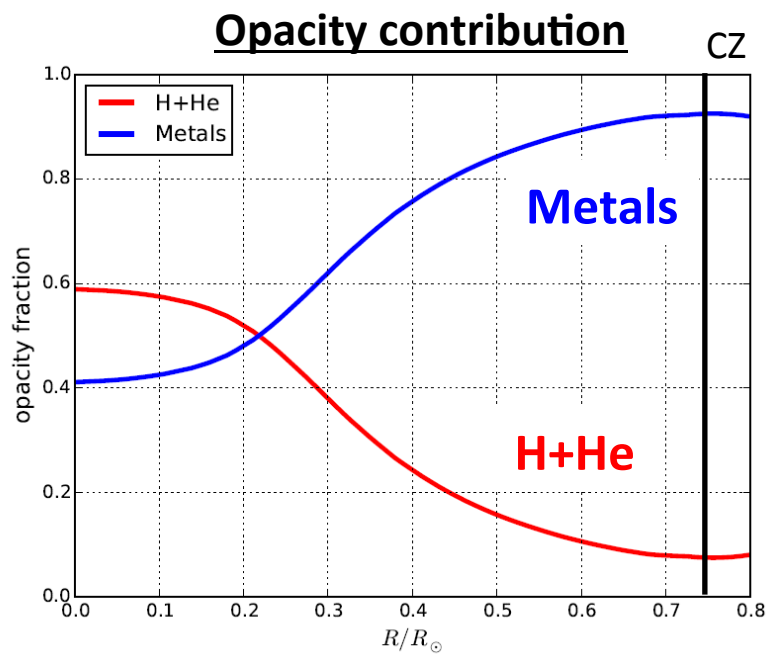
Neutrinos:  
inner temperature



differential probing of solar structure



# Metals are a major source of opacity in the Sun



- 98% H+He
- Other ~2% – “**Metals**”
- A **Hot-Dense** Plasma (@ $R_{cz}$ : 180 eV, 0.5 g/cc; @center: 1.5 keV, 150 g/cc)
- Pressure is not affected by these “metals”.
- However “metals” have many bound electrons: contribute to opacity!

M. Krief, A. Feigel, and D. Gazit, “Line broadening and the solar opacity problem”, ApJ 2016

# The Rosseland Opacity

- Photon mean-free-path

$$l_v = \frac{1}{k_v} = \frac{1}{\rho \kappa_v}$$

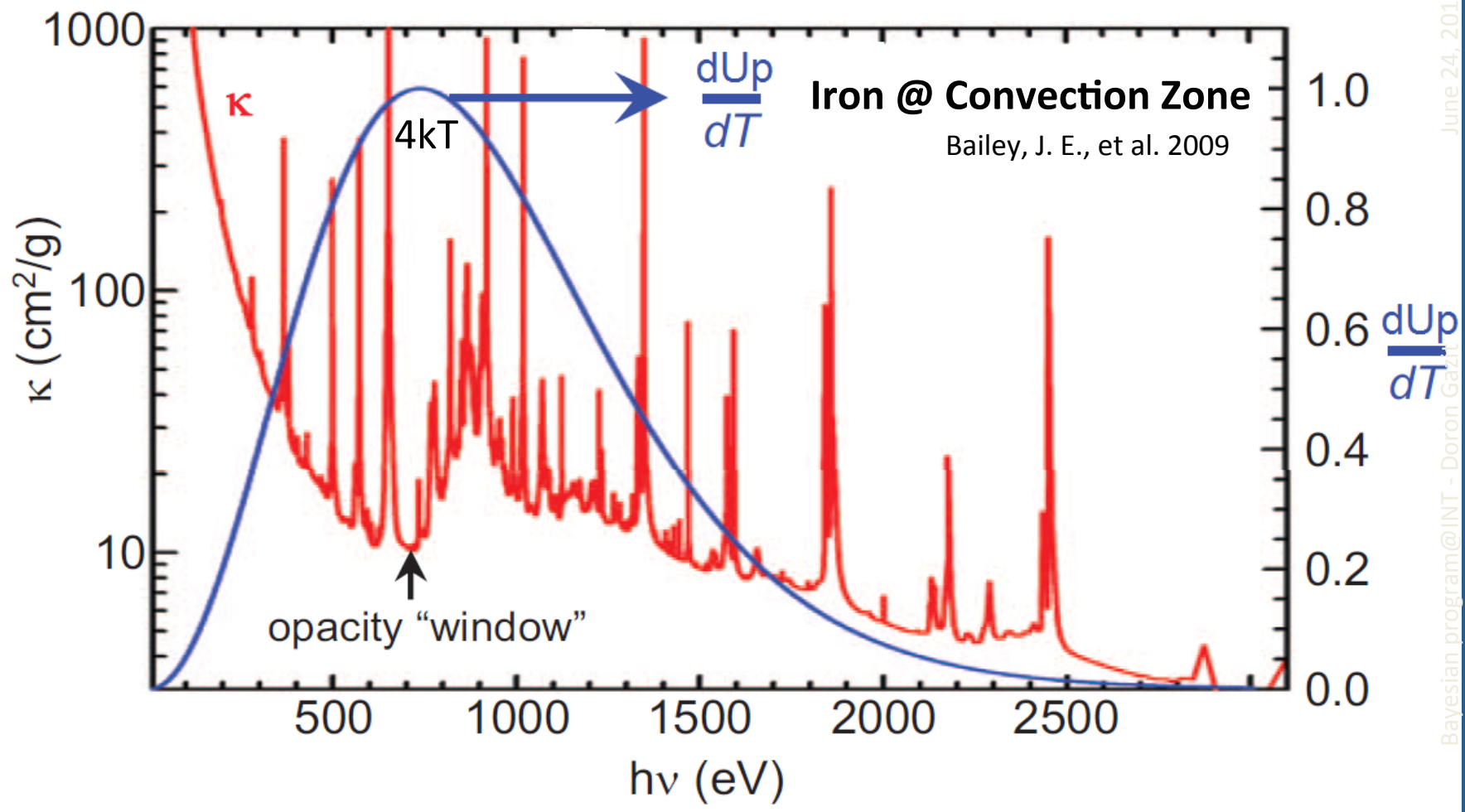
- **Rosseland Mean**

Energy Flux → 
$$\mathbf{S}_v = -\frac{cl_v}{3} \nabla U_{P,v} = -\frac{c}{3k_v} \frac{dU_{P,v}}{dT} \nabla T$$

↑  
Planck Energy Density

$$\mathbf{S} = -\frac{cl_R}{3} \nabla U_P$$

$$l_R = \frac{1}{k_R} = \frac{\int_0^\infty dv \frac{1}{k_v} \frac{dU_P}{dT}}{\int_0^\infty dv \frac{dU_P}{dT}}$$



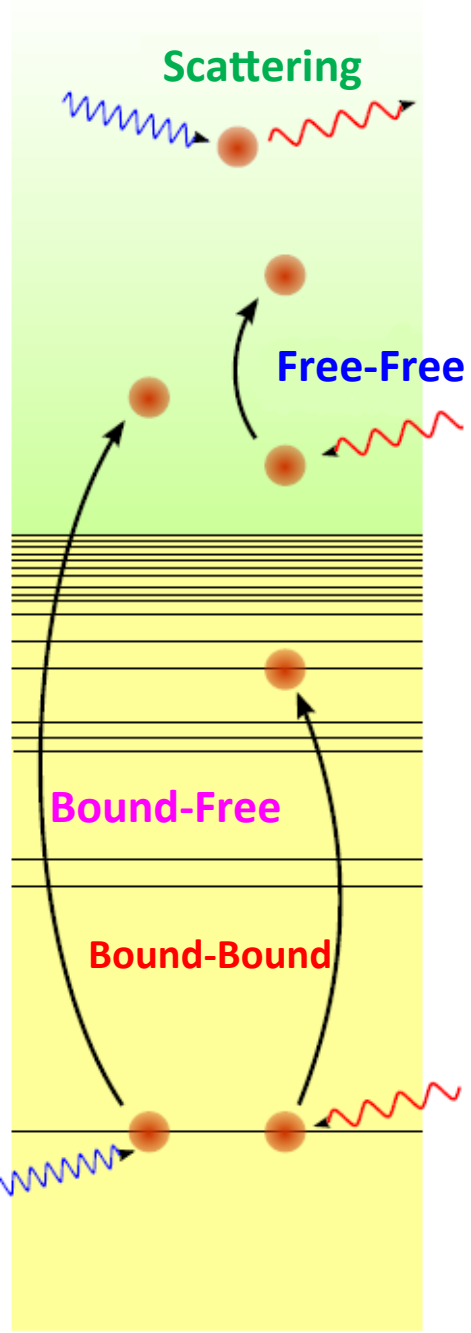
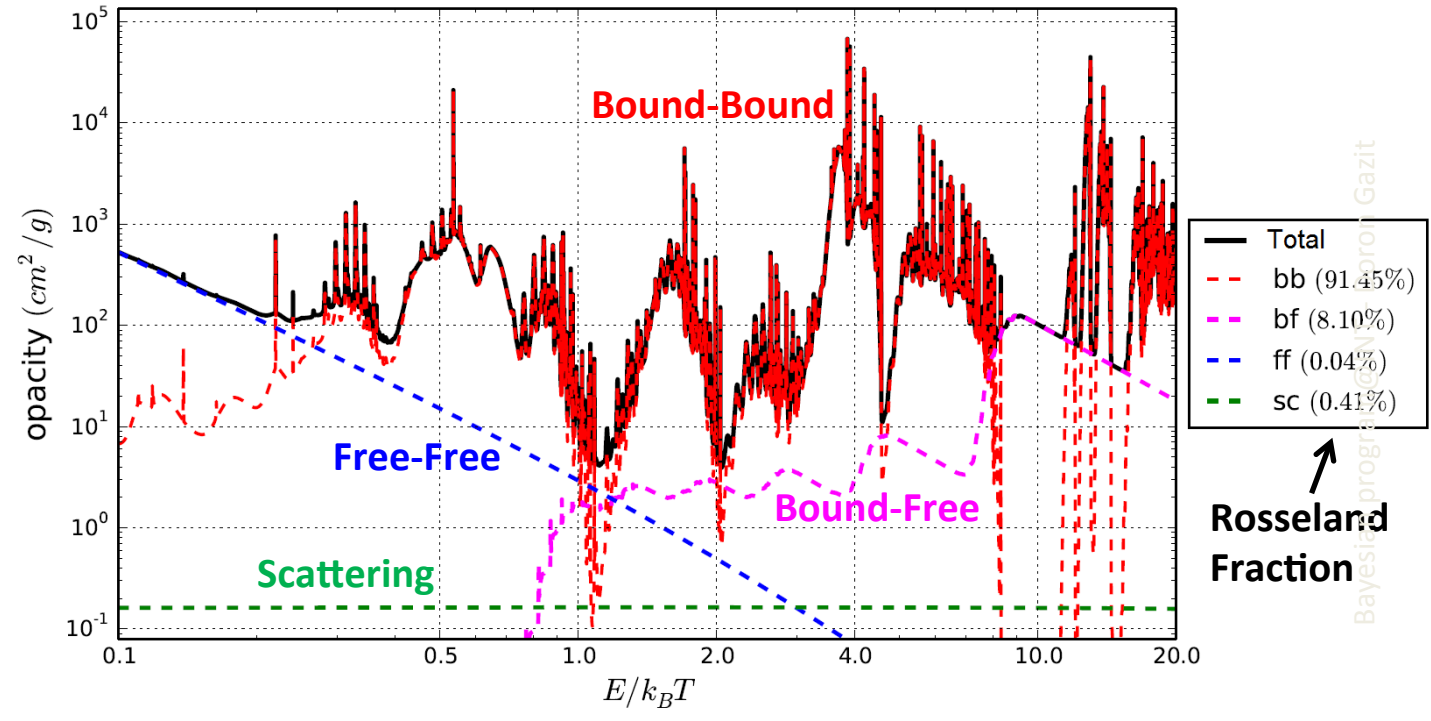
$$\mathbf{S} = -\frac{cl_R}{3} \nabla U_P$$

$$l_R = \frac{1}{k_R} = \frac{\int_0^\infty dv \frac{1}{k_v} \frac{dU_P}{dT}}{\int_0^\infty dv \frac{dU_P}{dT}}$$



# Atomic Transitions

Typical opacity spectra of a mid-Z element



- Bound-Bound and Bound-Free dominate by orders of magnitude
- Existence of bound electrons strongly increases opacity

Bayesian program by Prof. Gazit

↑  
Rosseland  
Fraction



# The Bound-Bound Opacity Spectra

$$\kappa_{bb}(E) = \sum_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta} \sum_{C^\alpha \rightarrow C^\beta} \sum_{\substack{a \in C^\alpha \\ b \in C^\beta}} N_a W_{ab} P_{ab} (E - E_{ab})$$

Diagram illustrating the components of the bound-bound opacity spectrum equation:

- $\sum_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta}$ : Orbital Jumps (10-1000)
- $\sum_{C^\alpha \rightarrow C^\beta}$ : Configurations ( $O(1) - O(10^{30})$ )
- $\sum_{a \in C^\alpha, b \in C^\beta}$ : Levels ( $O(1) - O(10^{10})$ )
- $N_a$ : Level Population
- $W_{ab}$ : Transition Amplitude
- $P_{ab}$ : Lineshape
- $(E - E_{ab})$ : Transition Energy

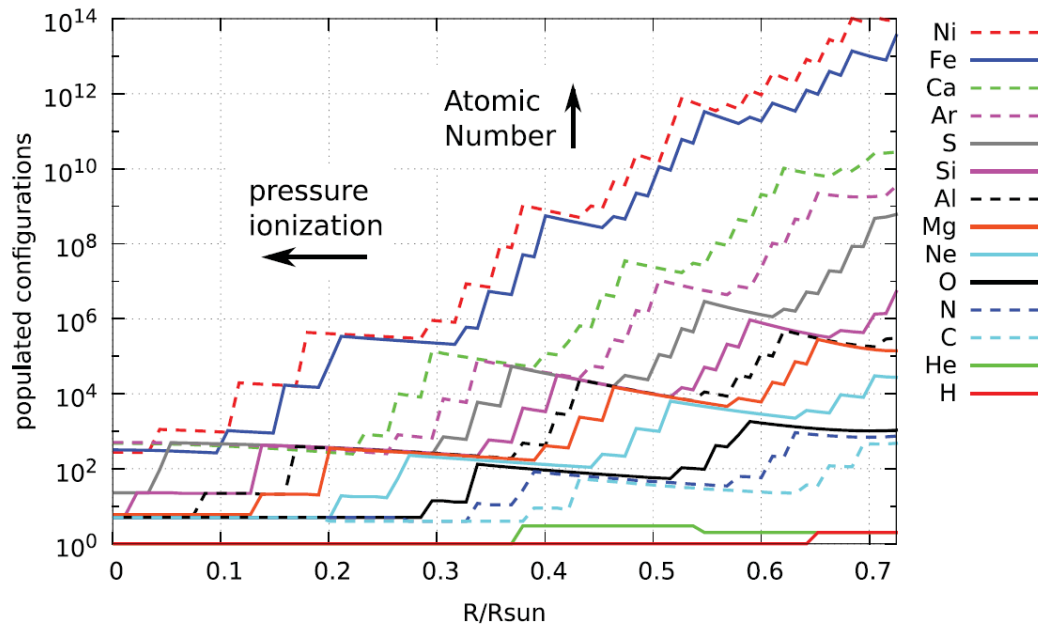
## Two major difficulties:

1. For mid-Z and high-Z elements - a **HUGE** number of lines for each pair of configurations
2. For hot plasmas - a **HUGE** number of atomic configurations must be included

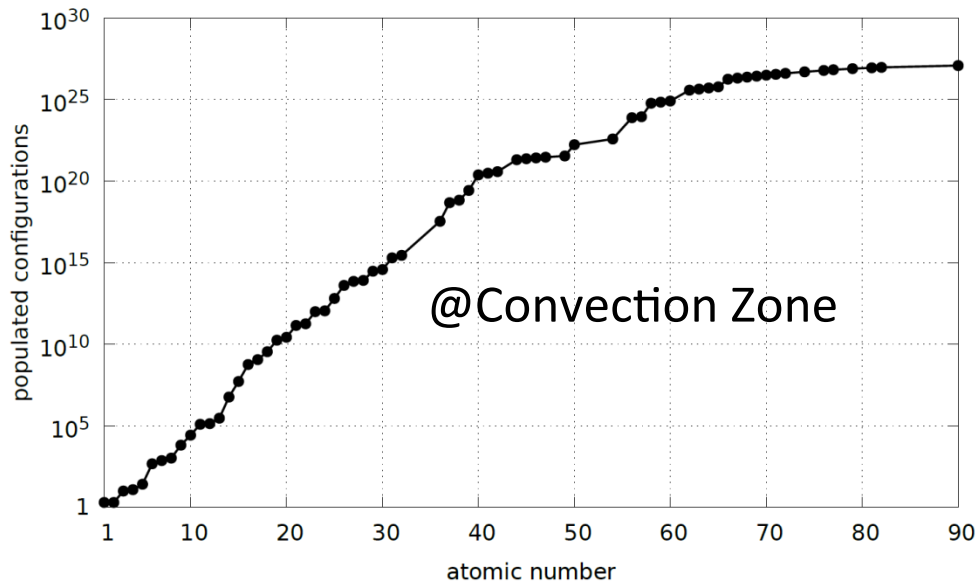


# A Huge Number of Configurations In The Solar Interior

Most abundant elements across the sun



All elements at the CZ boundary





# Unresolved Transition Arrays (UTA)

- In a hot plasma, the large number of lines between pairs of configurations often overlap and can be approximated by a single “effective” line
- Calculate only the moments of the effective lines

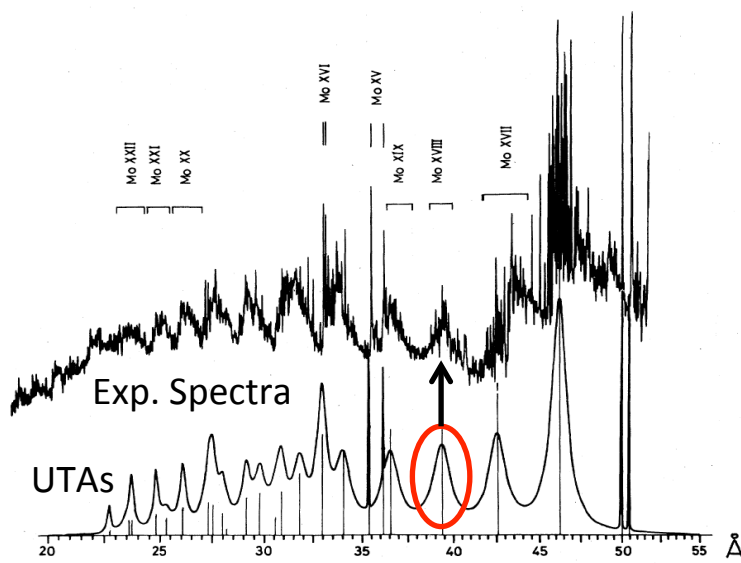
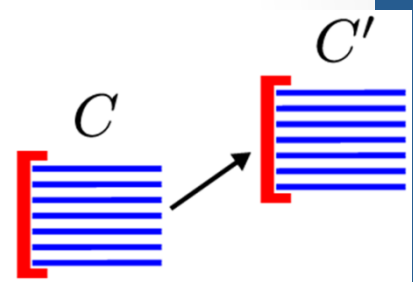
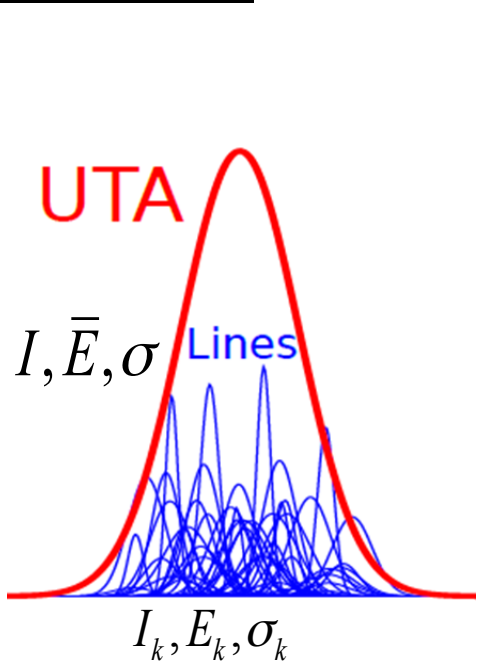


FIG. 3. Comparison between experimental (above) and theoretical (below) spectrum of Mo XV–Mo XXII.



Intensity  

$$I = \sum_k I_k$$

Transition Energy  

$$\bar{E} = \frac{1}{I} \sum_k I_k E_k$$

Energy Variance

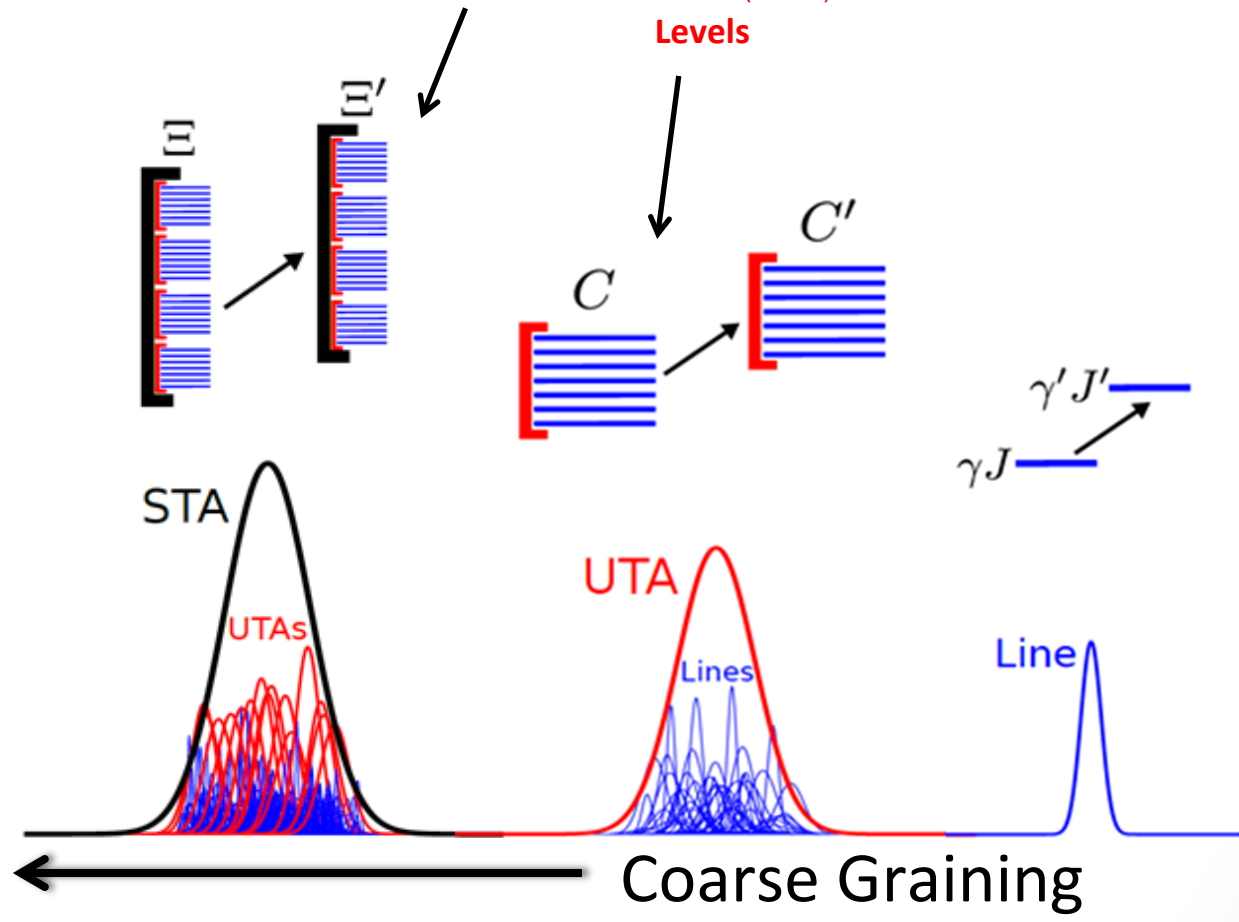
$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{I} \sum_k I_k \left[ (\bar{E} - E_k)^2 + \sigma_k^2 \right]$$

Bauche-Arnoult, C., J. Bauche, and M. Klapisch. *PRA* 1979

# The Coarse-Graining Hierarchy

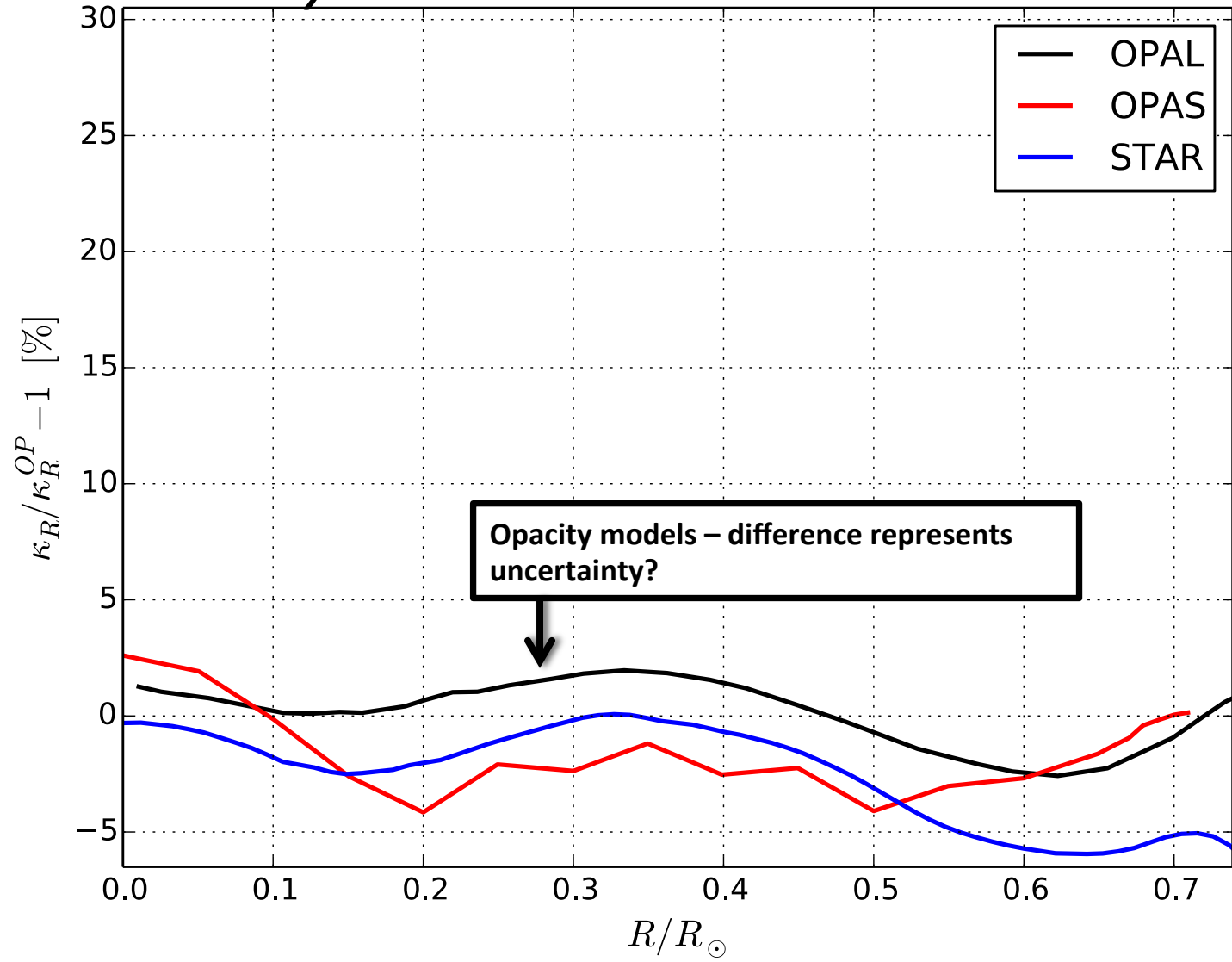
$$K_{bb}(E) = \sum_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta} \sum_{C^\alpha \rightarrow C^\beta} \sum_{\substack{a \in C^\alpha \\ b \in C^\beta}} N_a w_{ab} P_{ab} (E - E_{ab})$$

$O(1) - O(10^{30})$  Configurations:  $O(1) - O(10^{10})$  Levels





# The problem is challenging – but many methods lead to the same result!



We have developed a STA atomic code (STAR)

Our Model

M. Krief, A. Feigel, and D. Gazit, "Line broadening and the solar opacity problem", ApJ 2016  
Blancard, et. Al ApJ 745.1 (2011): 10 & Iglesias et al. ApJ 464 (1996): 943.

# A solar recipe

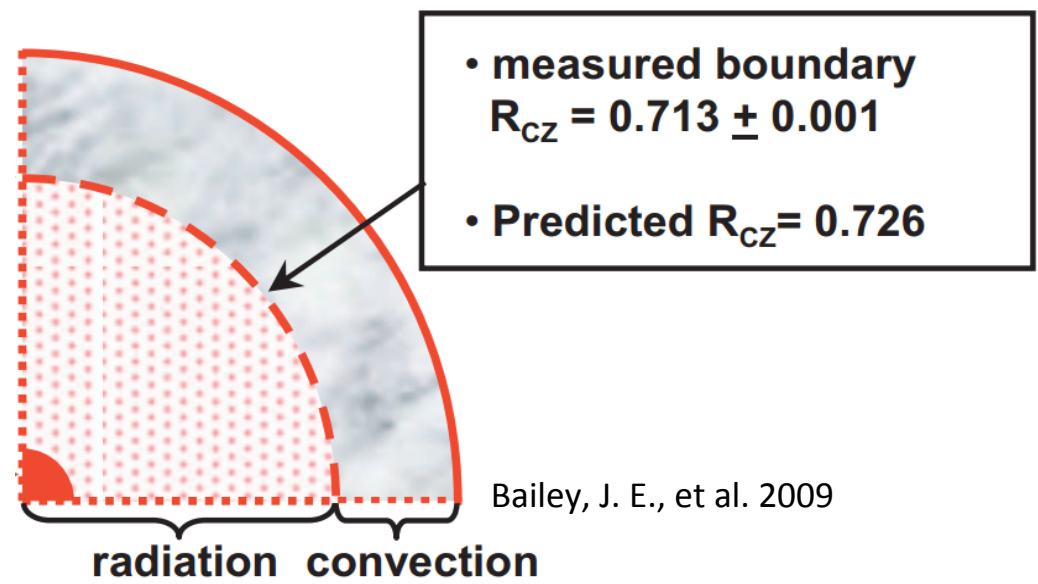
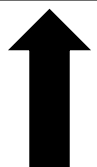
Abundances



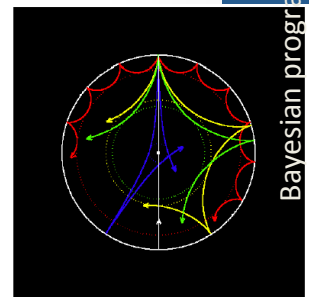
Standard Solar Model (SSM)

- Hydrostatic
- 1D
- **Opacities**
- Eqs. of state (EOS)
- Nuclear rates
- .....

- Solar atmosphere spectra (1D\3D)
- Meteorites



Bailey, J. E., et al. 2009



differential probing of solar structure

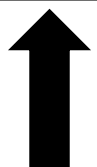
# A solar recipe

Abundances

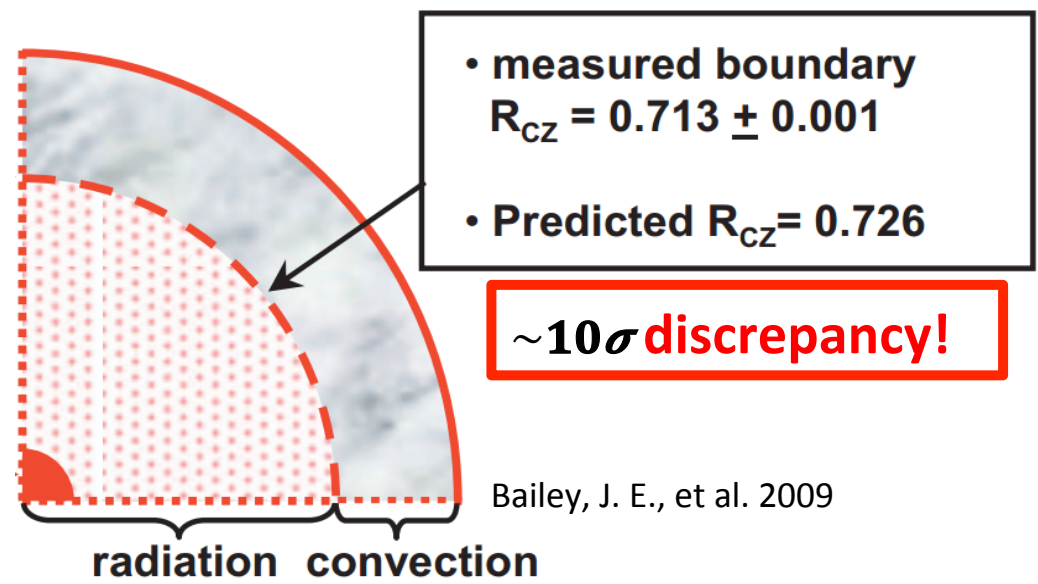


Standard Solar Model (SSM)

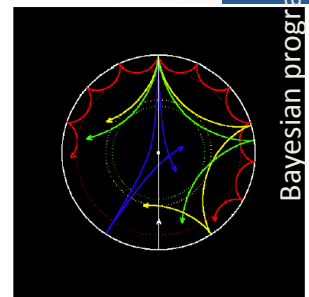
- Hydrostatic
- 1D
- **Opacities**
- Eqs. of state (EOS)
- Nuclear rates
- .....



- Solar atmosphere spectra (1D\3D)
- Meteorites



Bailey, J. E., et al. 2009



differential probing of solar structure





# Solar abundance problem

- 20%~ less metals in new abundance determination
- Metals determine most of the opacity, but not EOS
- Solar opacities are exclusively theoretical
- **Opacities are believed to be the “source” of the problem**
- Other ideas – revised solar models (magnetic fields, rotation, dark matter... etc.) no satisfactory model exists

1. *F.L. Villante and B. Ricci - APJ 2010*
2. *F.L. Villante - APJ 2010*
3. *Bergemann, and A Serenelli. 2014*



# Solar ~~abundance~~ problem

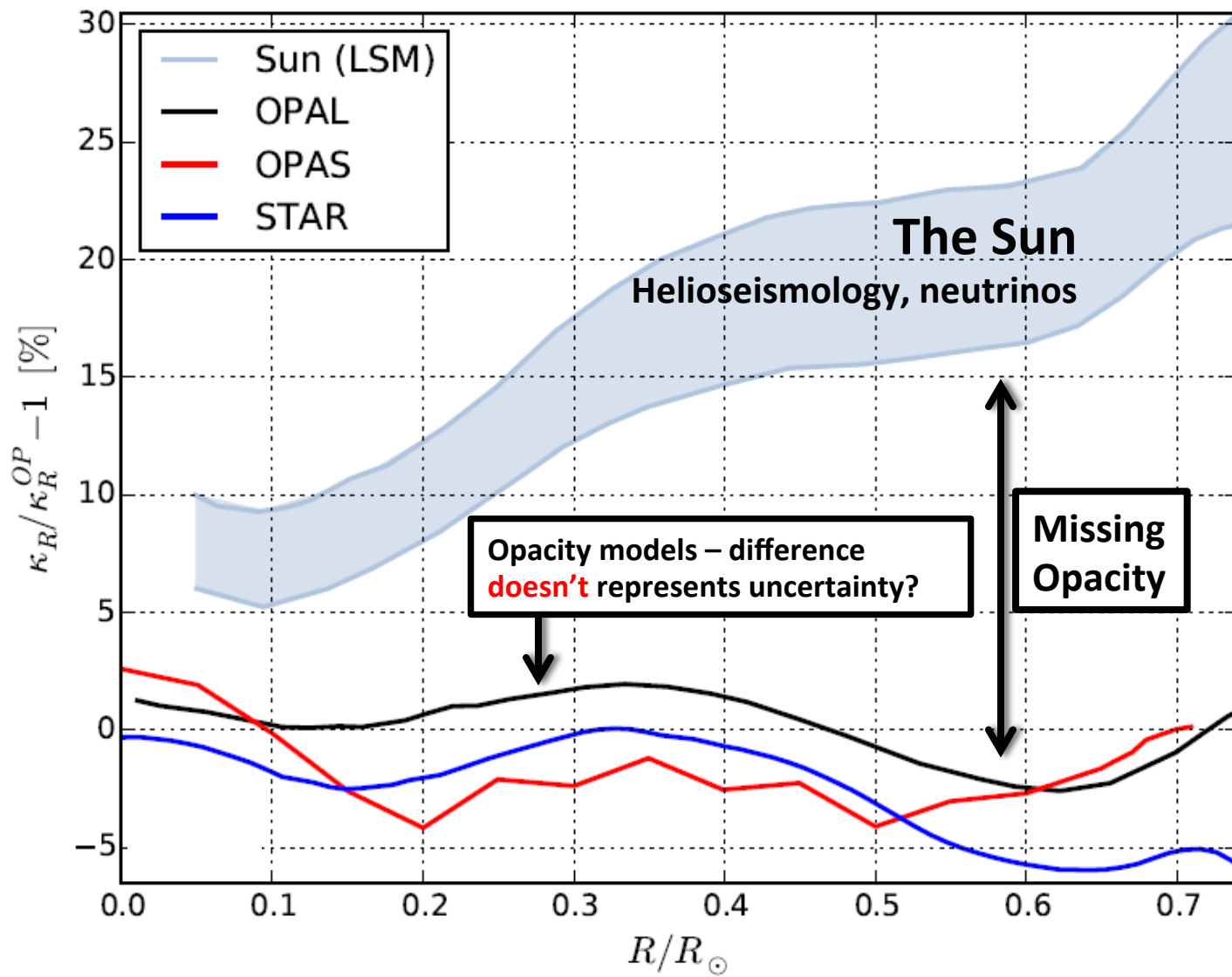
*opacity*

- 20%~ less metals in new abundance determination
- Metals determine most of the opacity, but not EOS
- Solar opacities are exclusively theoretical
- **Opacities are believed to be the “source” of the problem**
- Other ideas – revised solar models (magnetic fields, rotation, dark matter... etc.) no satisfactory model exists

1. F.L. Villante and B. Ricci - APJ 2010
2. F.L. Villante - APJ 2010
3. Bergemann, and A Serenelli. 2014



# Missing Opacity – a “Solar **OPACITY** Problem”



M. Krief, A. Feigel, and D. Gazit, “Line broadening and the solar opacity problem”, ApJ 2016  
Blancard, et. Al ApJ 745.1 (2011): 10 & Iglesias et al. ApJ 464 (1996): 943.



# Steps Towards Solution

- Point out and check physics “beyond” current state of the art atomic models
- Alternatively, point out and quantify sources of uncertainty in atomic models and check sensitivities
- We have developed state of the art atomic models in order to investigate the source of the solar opacity problem

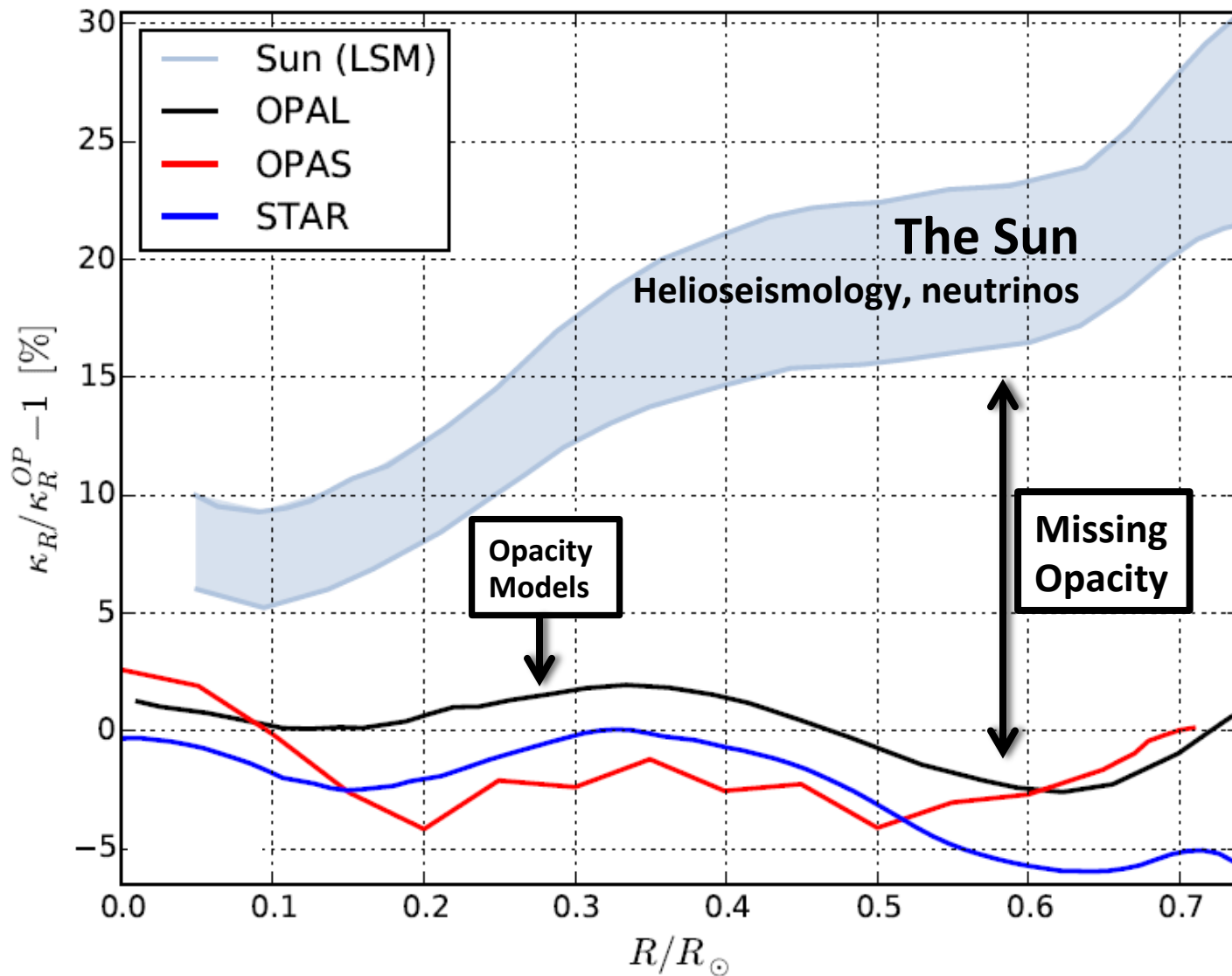
1. M. Krief, A. Feigel, and D. Gazit, “Line broadening and the solar opacity problem”, ApJ 2016
2. M. Krief, A. Feigel, and D. Gazit, “Solar opacity calculations using the super-transition-array method” ApJ , 2016
3. M. Krief, A. Feigel “Variance and shift of transition arrays for electric and magnetic multipole transitions”, HEDP 2015
4. M. Krief, A. Feigel “The effect of first order superconfiguration energies on the opacity of hot dense matter”, HEDP 2015



# Missing Opacity – a “Solar **OPACITY** Problem”

June 24, 2016

rogram@INT - Doron Gazit

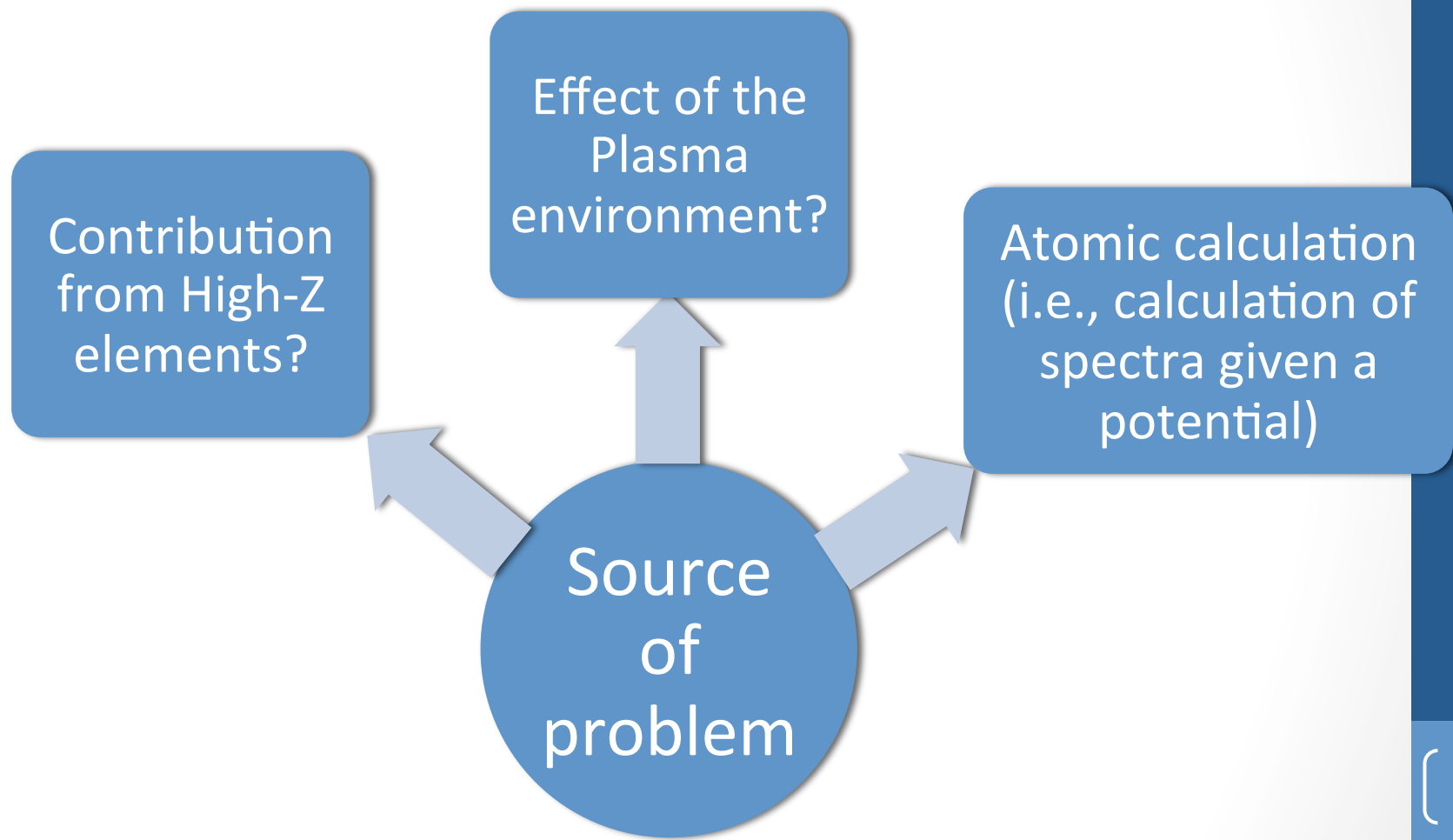


We have developed a STA atomic code (STAR)

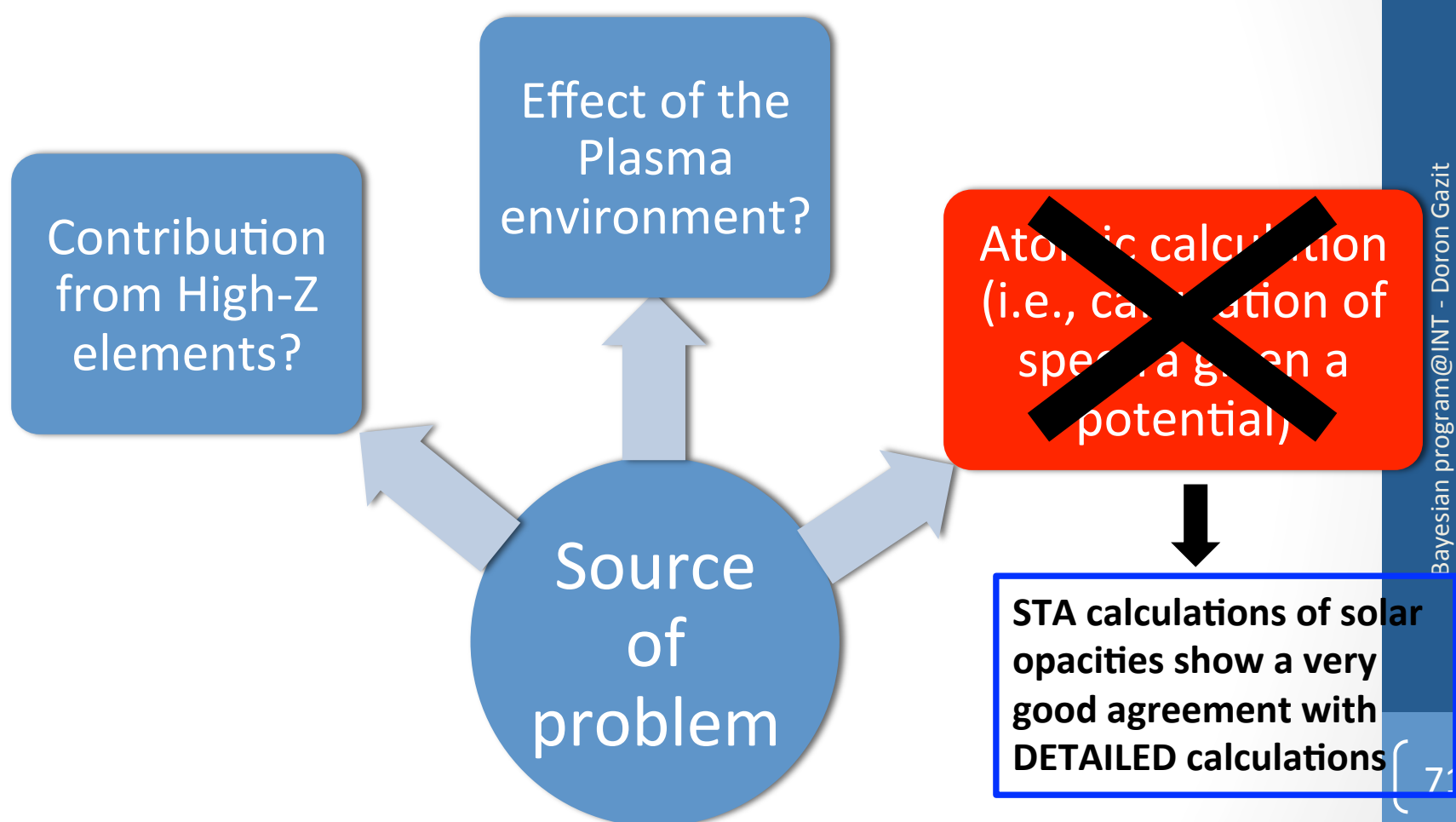
Our Model

( 69 )

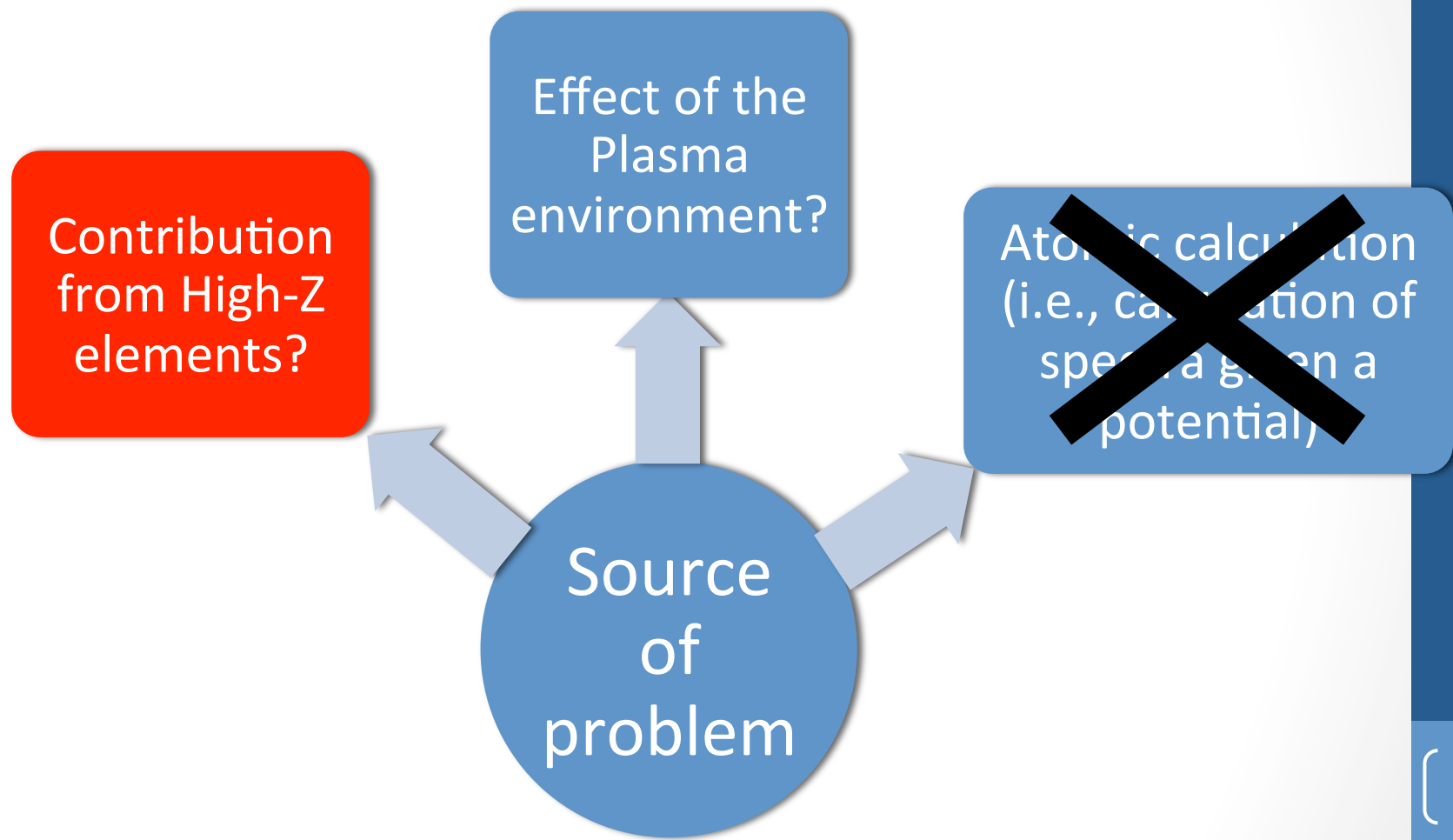
# Possible explanations?



# Possible explanations?



# Possible explanations?



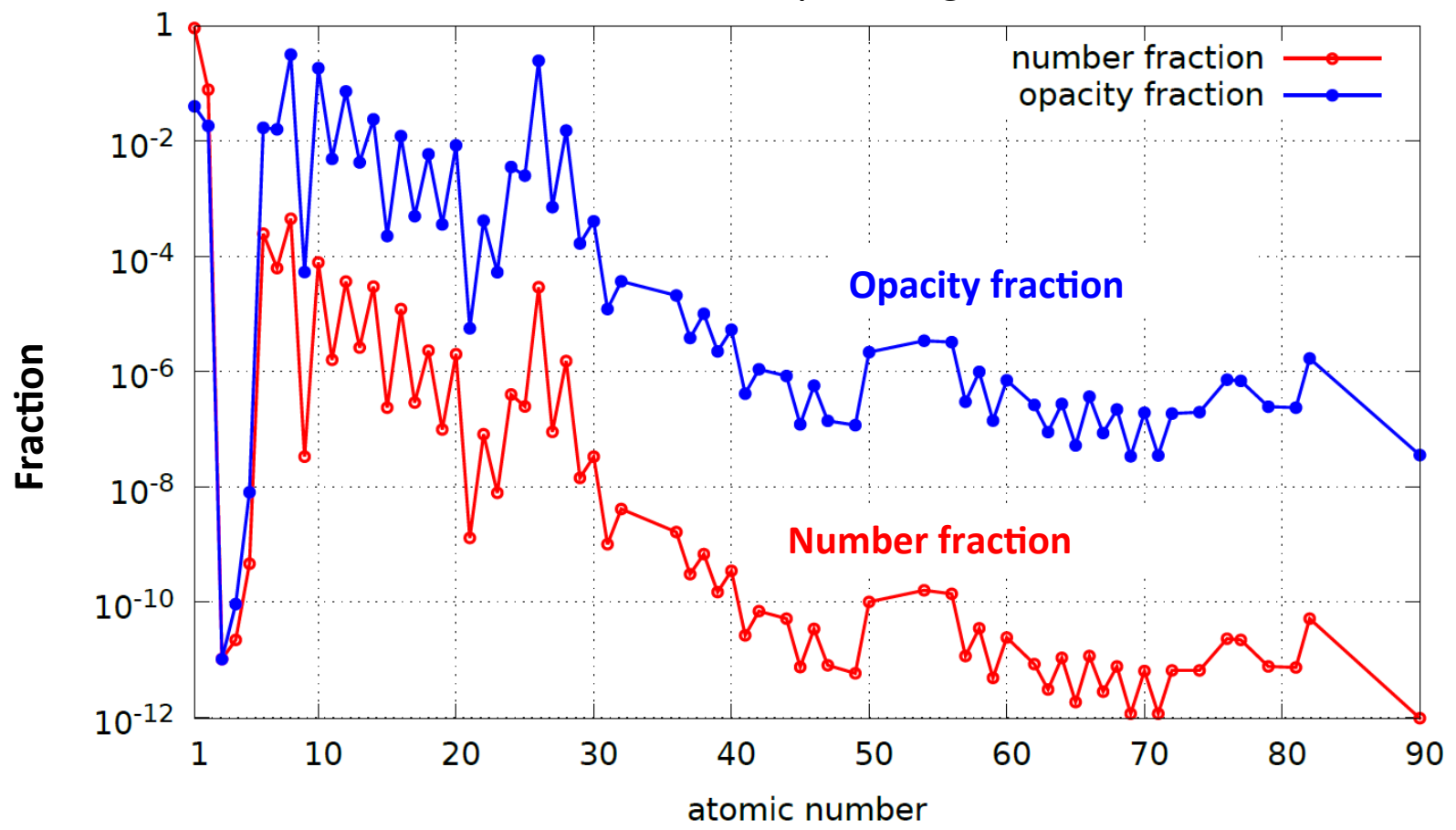




# Effect of heavy elements?

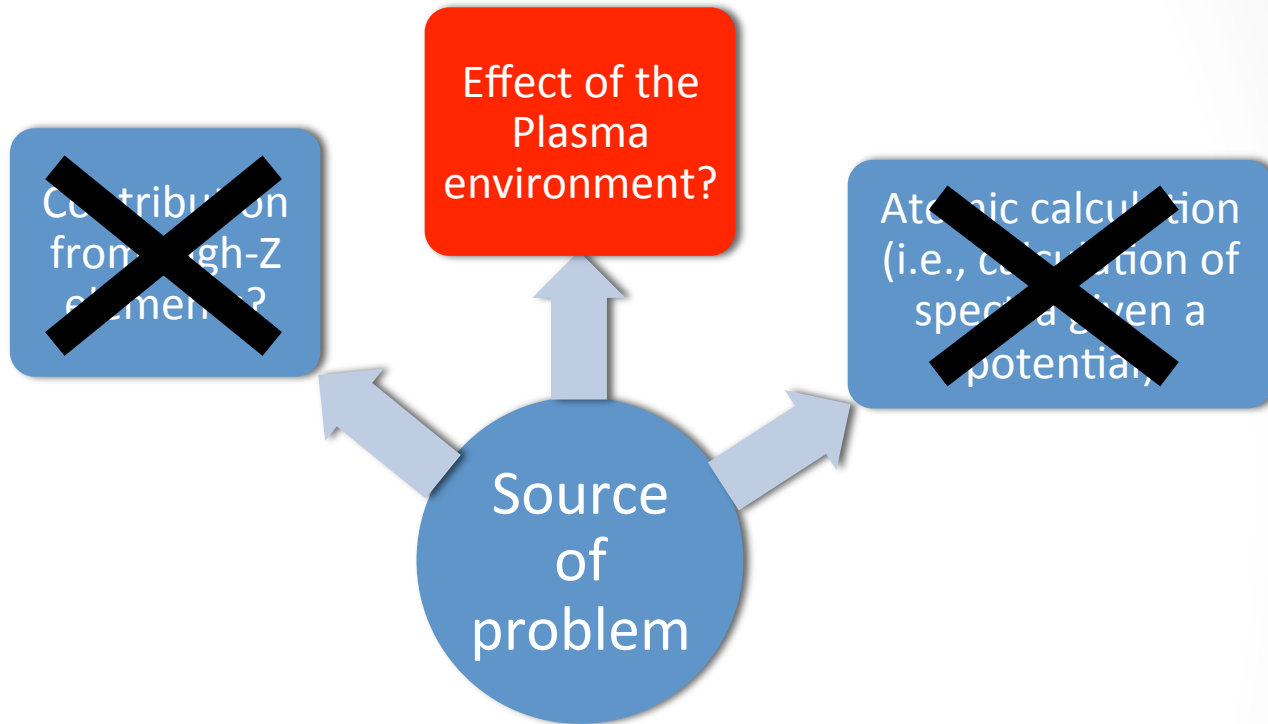
Calculation is possible only with STA

$$T = 176eV, \quad \rho \approx 0.16g/cm^3$$

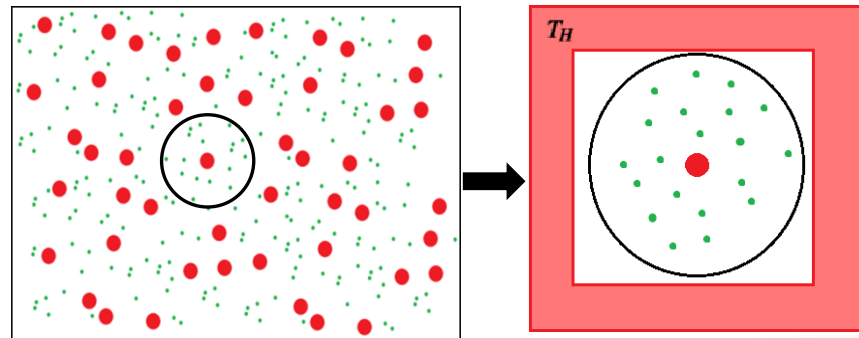


1. M. Krief, A. Feigel, and D. Gazit, "Solar opacity calculations using the super-transition-array method" ApJ, 821:45, 2016  
2. Iglesias, C. A., Wilson, B. G., Rogers, F. J., Goldstein, W. H., Bar-Shalom, A., & Oreg, J. (1995). APJ, 445, 855-860.

# Possible explanations?



- Line Shapes
- Level populations
- Line-Shifts (screening)





# Photons Escape Through Opacity “Windows”



June 24, 2016

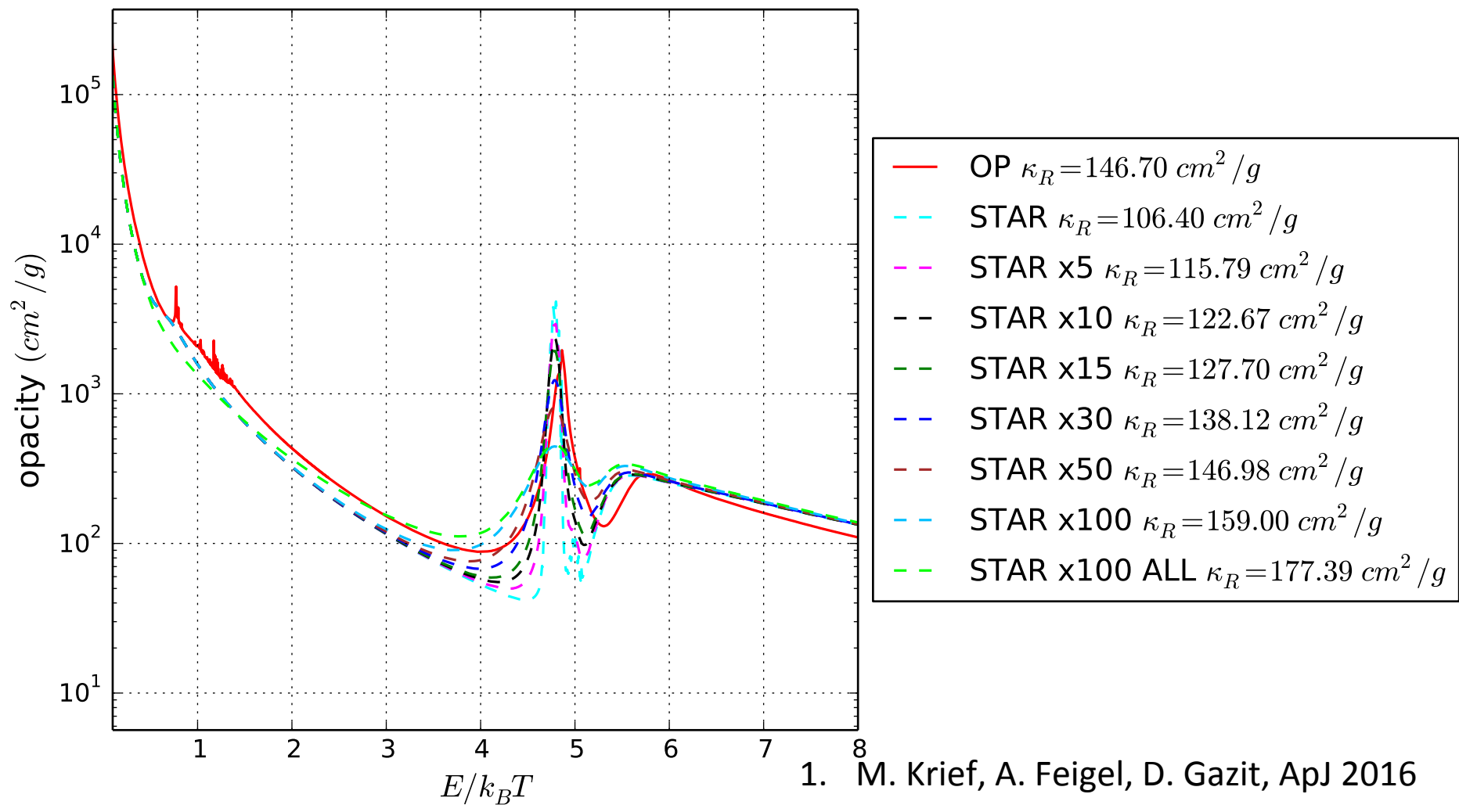
Bayesian program@INT - Doron Gazit

( 75 )



# Uncertainties in collisional line broadening: enormous differences between models

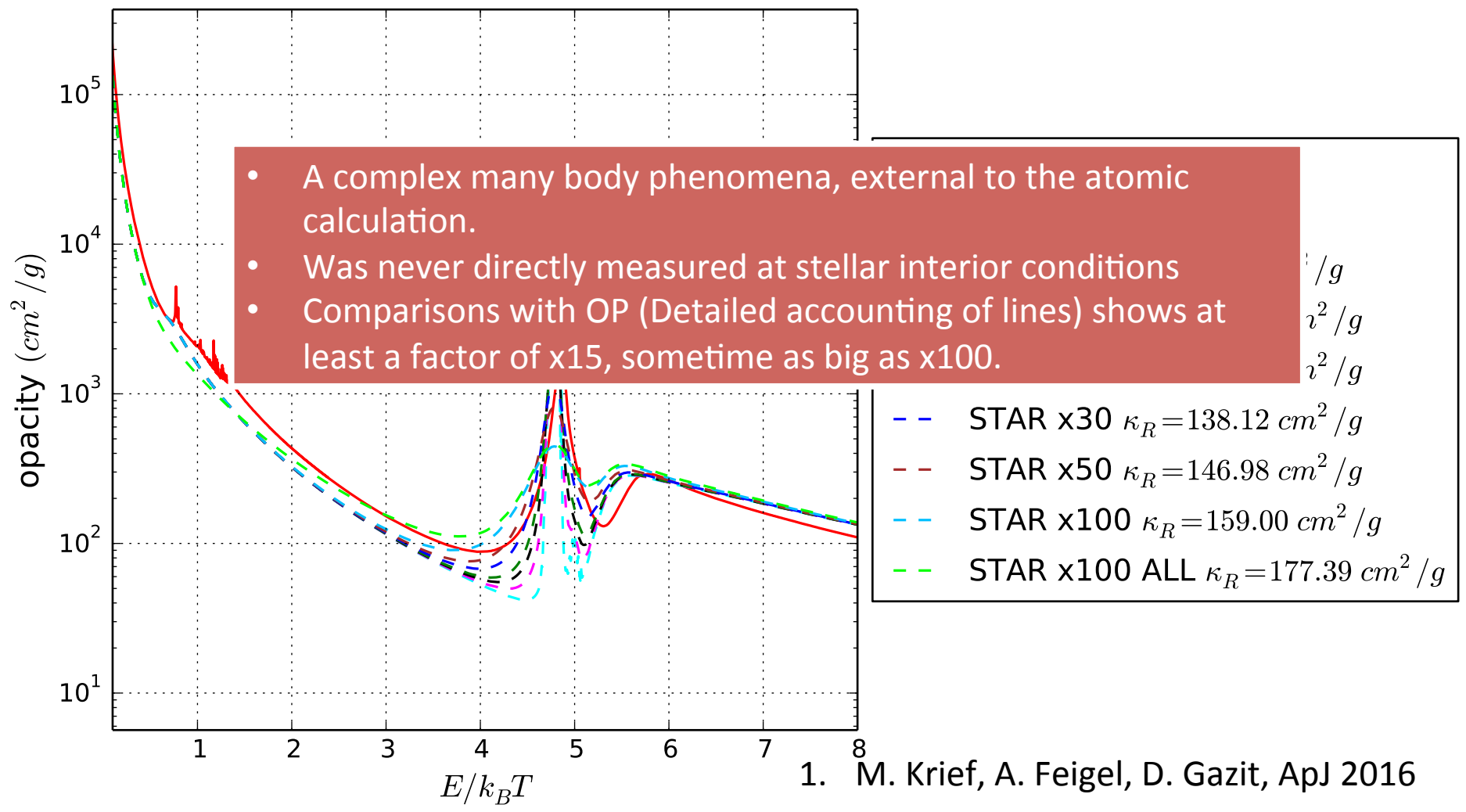
$Fe (Z=26)$  ,  $T=1365.76eV$  ,  $n_e = 10^{26} cm^{-3}$





# Uncertainties in collisional line broadening: enormous differences between models

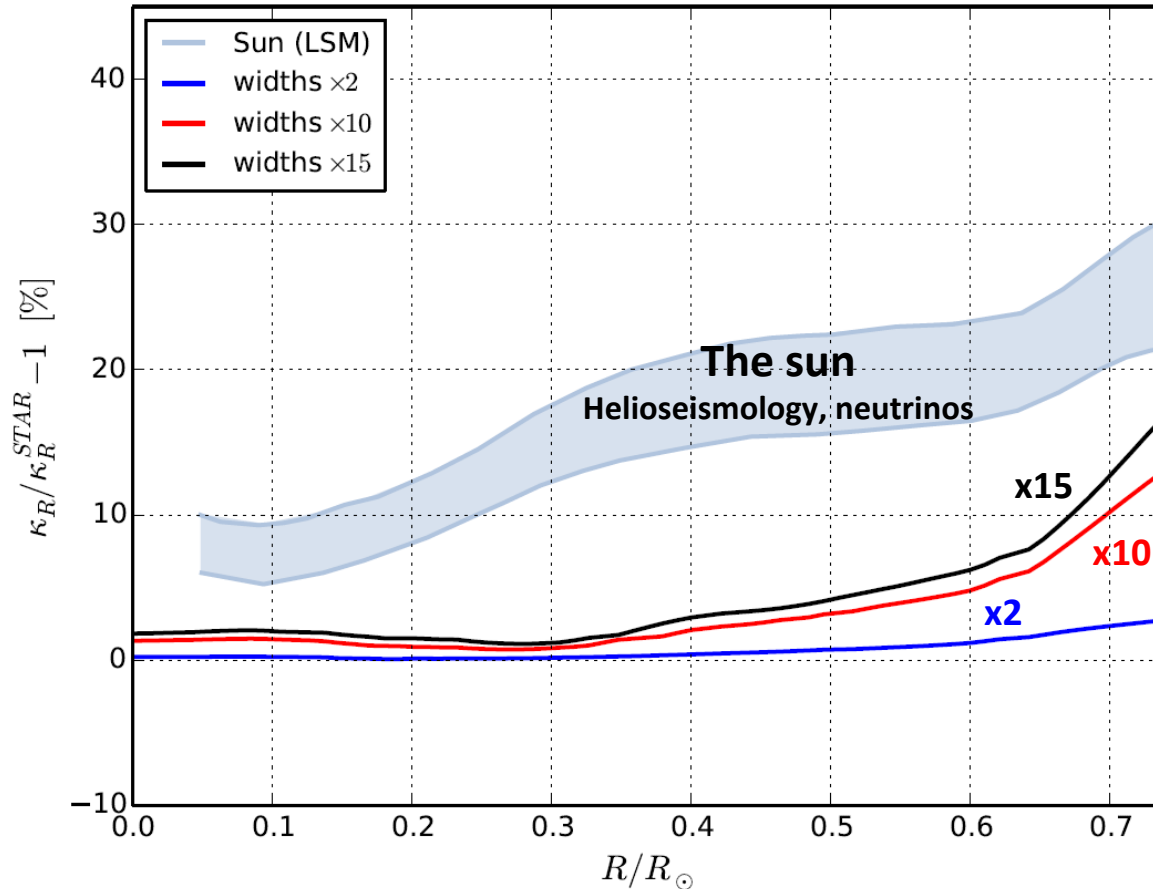
$Fe (Z=26), T=1365.76eV, n_e=10^{26} cm^{-3}$



1. M. Krief, A. Feigel, D. Gazit, ApJ 2016



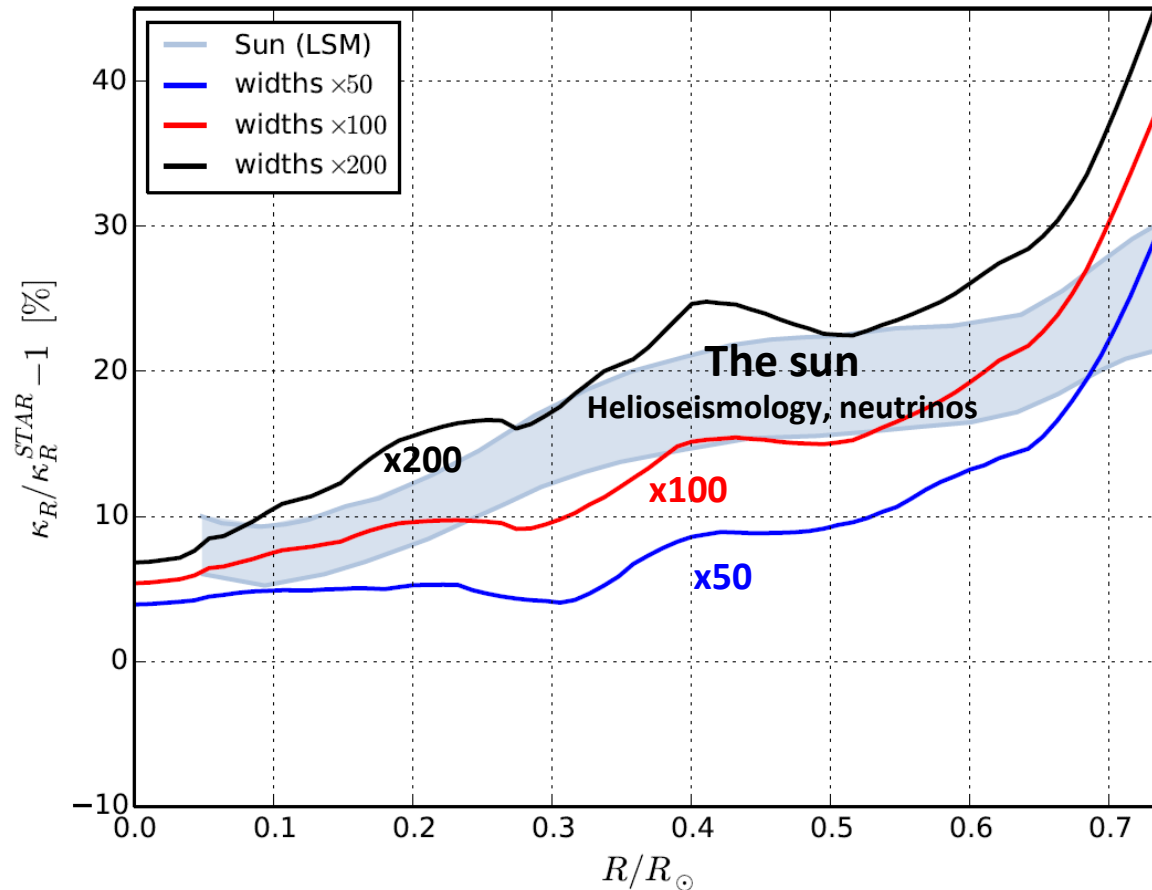
# Opacity variations resulting from uncertainties in collisional line broadening



- No experimental data - what is the actual uncertainty of current models?



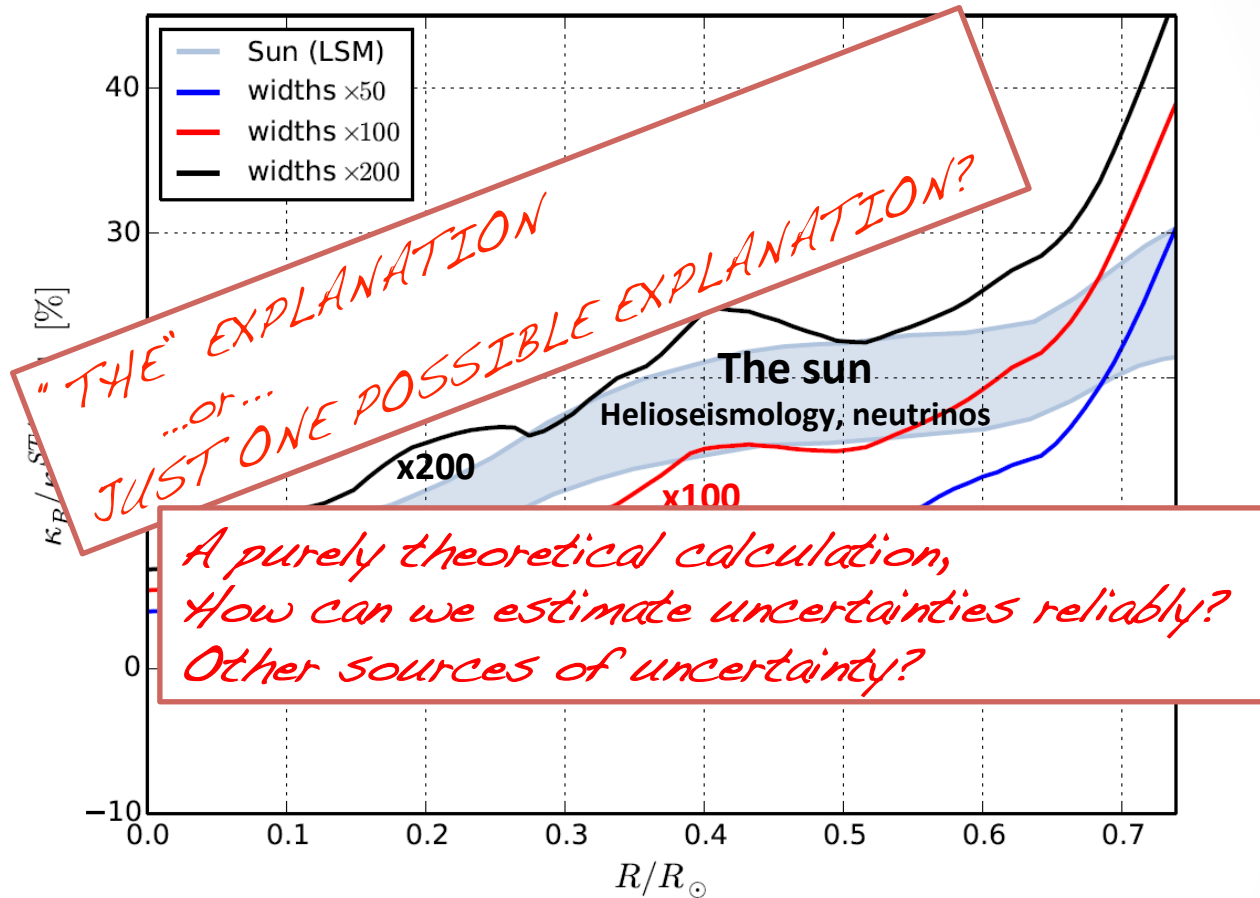
# A factor of $\sim 100$ is needed to solve the problem quantitatively and qualitatively



- The uncertainty may depend on the line, atomic number, temperature and density



# A factor of $\sim 100$ is needed to solve the problem quantitatively and qualitatively



- The uncertainty may depend on the line, atomic number, temperature and density



# A Rumsfeld type of summary ☺



Well, there are known knows... and known unknowns... and of course, unknown unknowns...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiPe1OiKQuk>

# Summary...

- I showed a few “qualitative” approaches to “quantitatively” assess theoretical uncertainties:

“Known-knowns”:

## *Correlations in light nuclei:*

Predictions of one EFT should be reflected in other EFT: disregarding it may result in fine tuning. There are right and wrongs in choosing fitting observables.

“Known-unknowns”:

## *Prediction of the proton-proton fusion rate:*

*Reliable theoretical uncertainty*

- 1. Natural size of sub-leading contribution.*
- 2. RG invariance.*
- 3. Rearranging perturbation exp*
- 4. An analogue reaction where experiment exists.*
- 5. (theoretical physicist’s) heaven lies where large experimental uncertainty exists*

“Unknown-unknowns”

## *Solar opacity problem:*

- 1. Clearly – range of models cannot be used as uncertainty quantification.*
- 2. The fact that theory fits experiment doesn’t mean it’s right...*



# The Ion-Sphere model

- The plasma is divided into spherical cells
- The density dictates the size of the “Wigner-Seitz” cell, in which neutrality is imposed
- The surrounding plasma of each cell is considered a heat bath

