

# Asymptotic Theory for Short-Range Correlations

**Ronen Weiss**

Washington University in St. Louis

# Nuclear Systems: Theory

- **Significant progress** in the last years  
(numerical methods, computing power,  
interaction models)

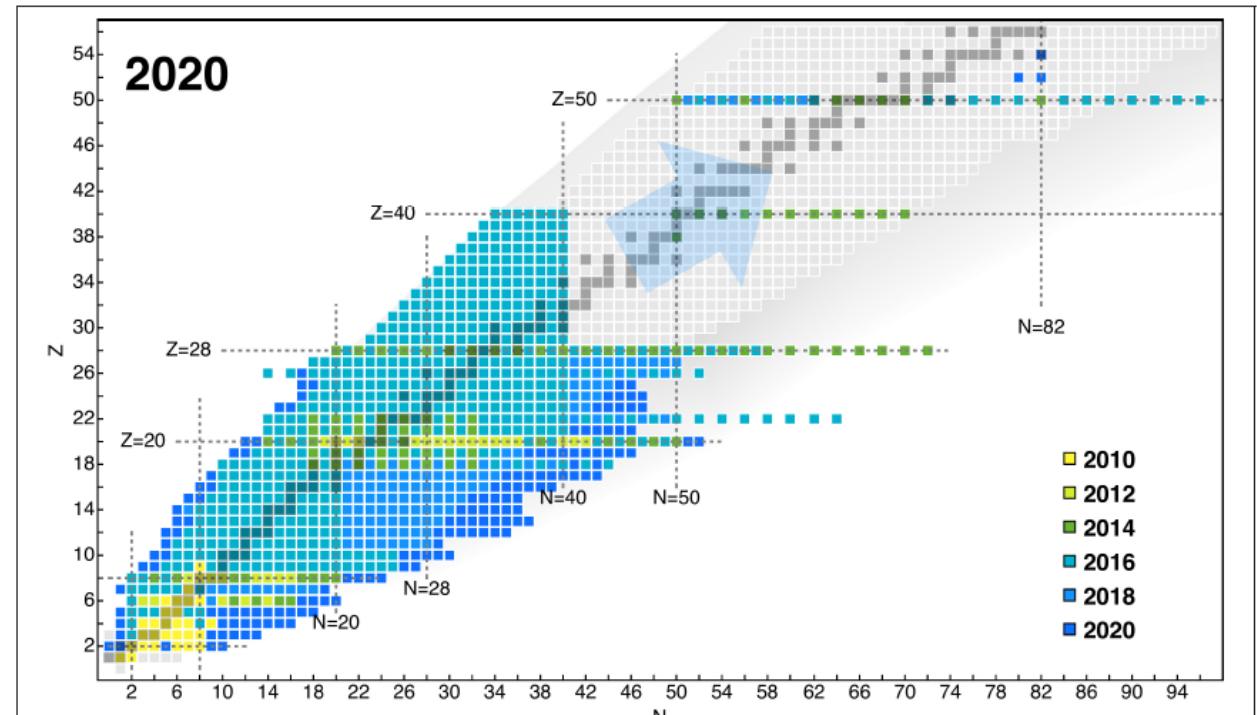
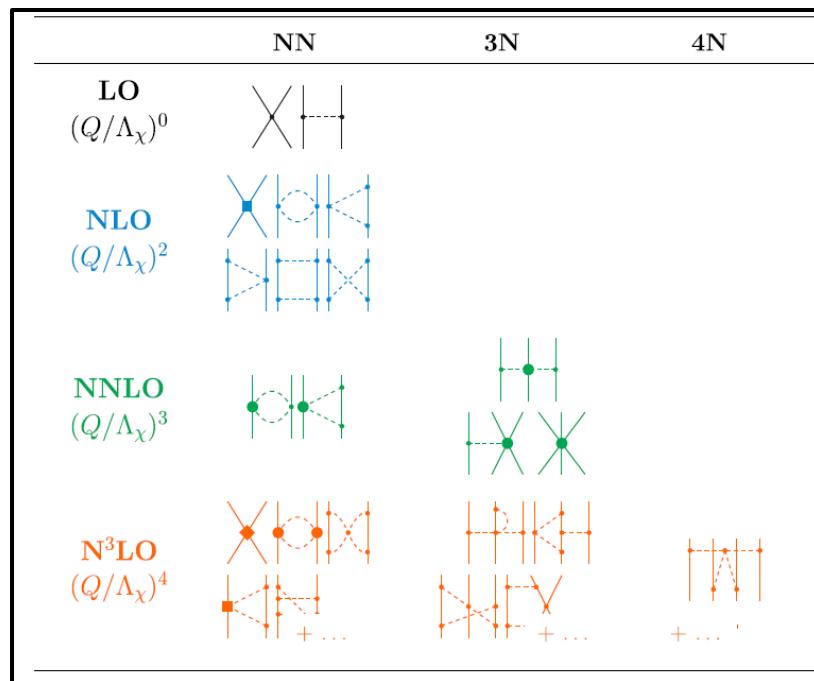
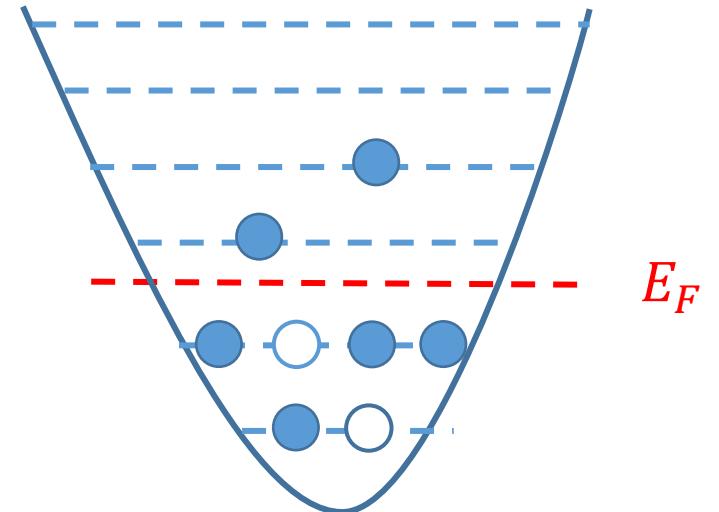


FIGURE 1 | Progress in *ab initio* nuclear structure calculations over the past decade. The blue arrow indicates nuclei that will become accessible with new advances for open-shell nuclei in the very near term (see section 2.3).

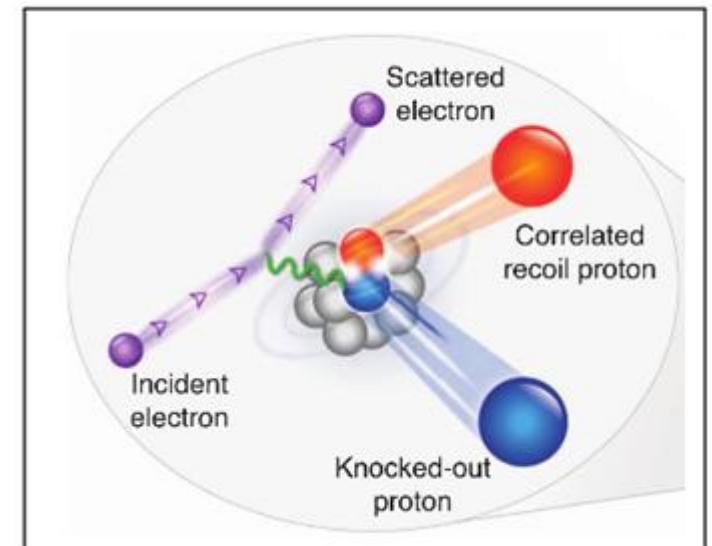
# Nuclear Systems: Theory

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  - Structure calculations beyond medium-mass nuclei: limited to “soft” interaction models



# Nuclear Systems: Theory

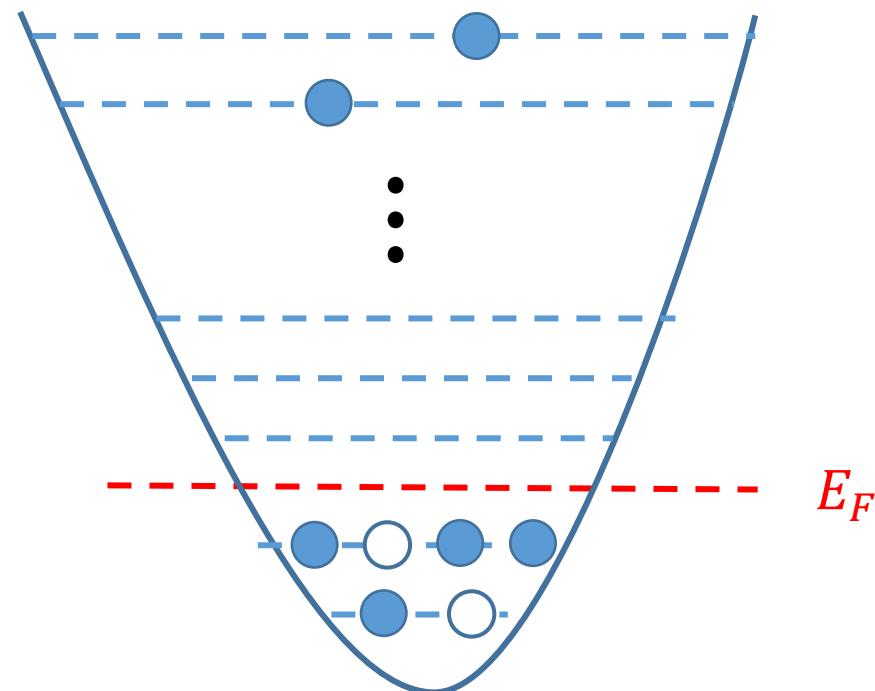
- Significant progress in the last years
- But,
  - Structure calculations beyond medium-mass nuclei: limited to “soft” interaction models
  - Many reactions are limited to light nuclei or involve uncontrolled approximations



O. Hen et al., Science 346, 614 (2014)

# Research Focus

- My current focus:
  - Short-range physics (high energy excitations, universality)



# Research Focus

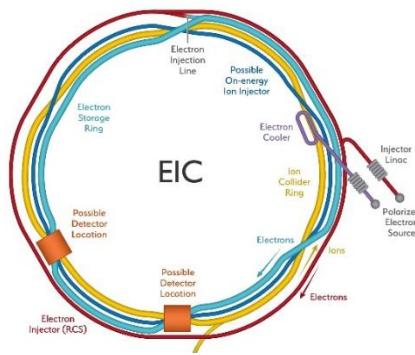
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  - **Classical computing methods** (for reactions)

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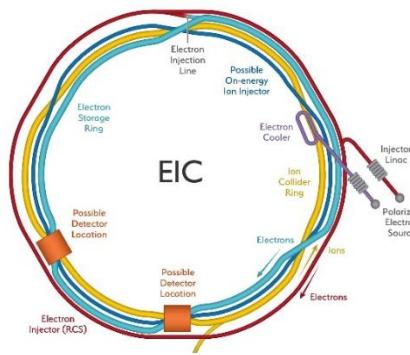
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- Advances are needed to support major experimental efforts



Neutrinoless  
double beta  
decay

# Research Focus

- My current focus:
  - Short-range physics (high energy excitations, universality) ← This talk
  - Quantum computing – Algorithms for reactions
  - Classical computing methods (for reactions) ← See talk by Lorenzo Andreoli: Wed 4:30
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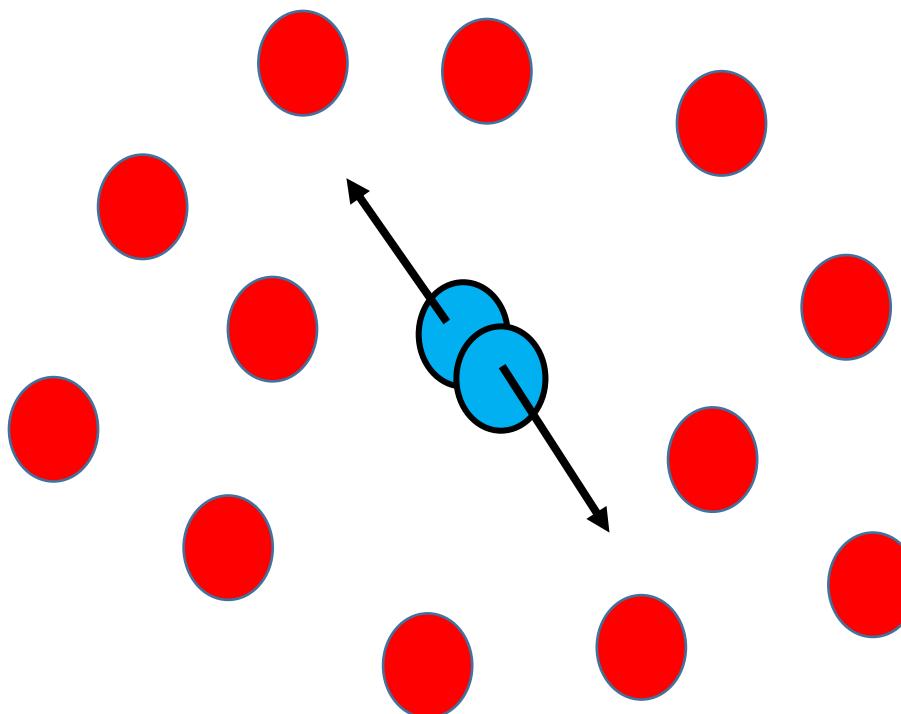


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# **Short-range physics**

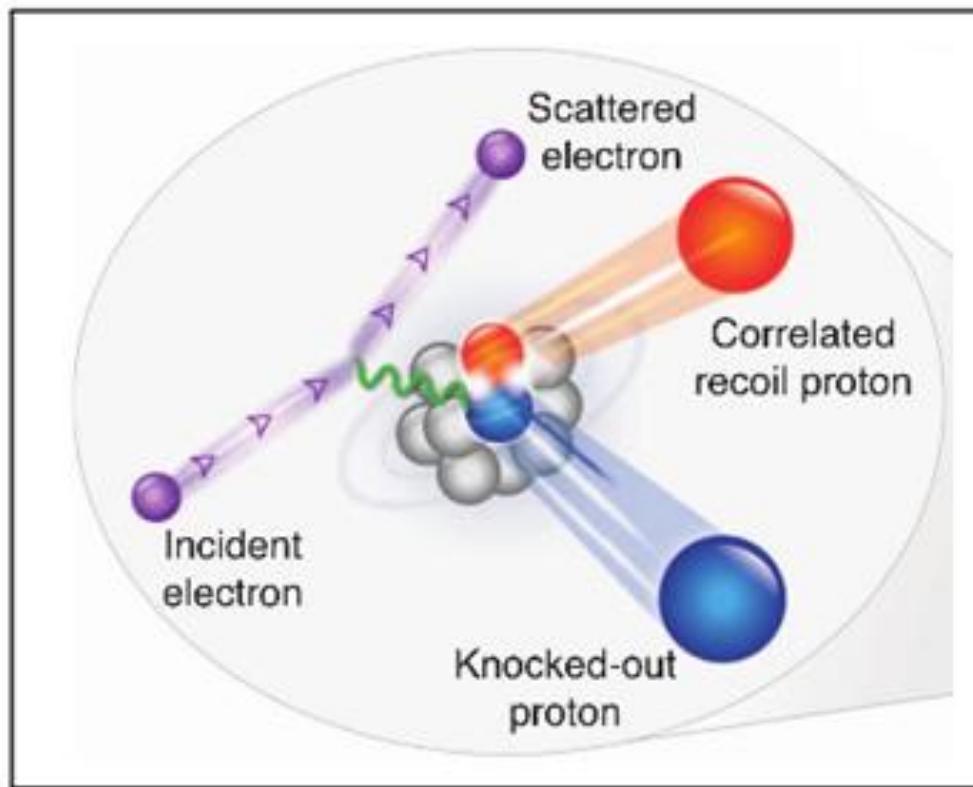
# Short-range correlations (SRCs)

What happens when few particles get close to each other?

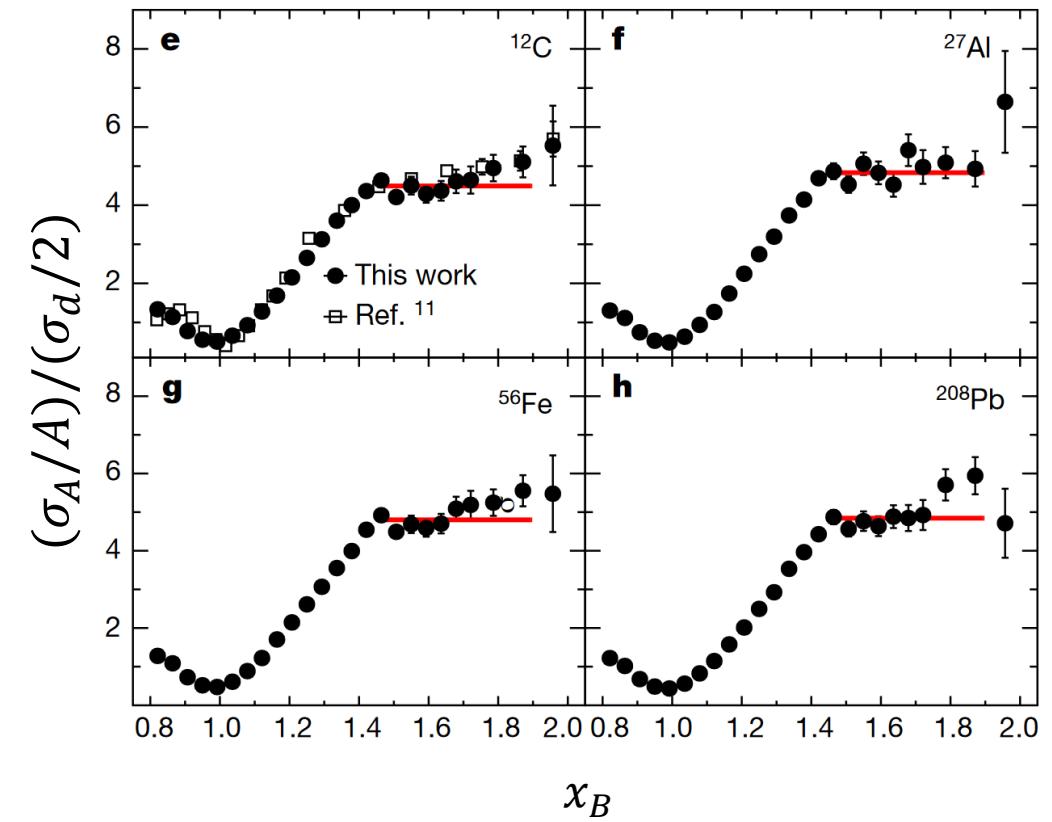


# SRCS in Nuclear Systems

Studied **experimentally** using large momentum transfer quasi-elastic reactions



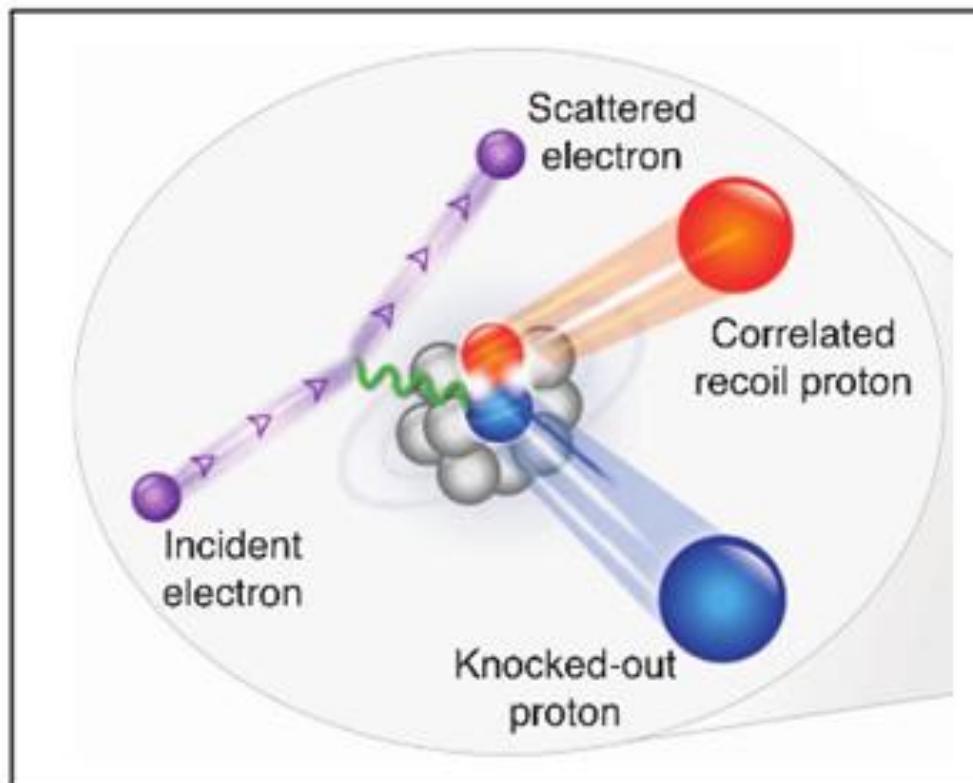
O. Hen et al., Science 346, 614 (2014)



B. Schmookler et. al. (CLAS Collaboration), Nature 566, 354 (2019)

# SRCs in Nuclear Systems

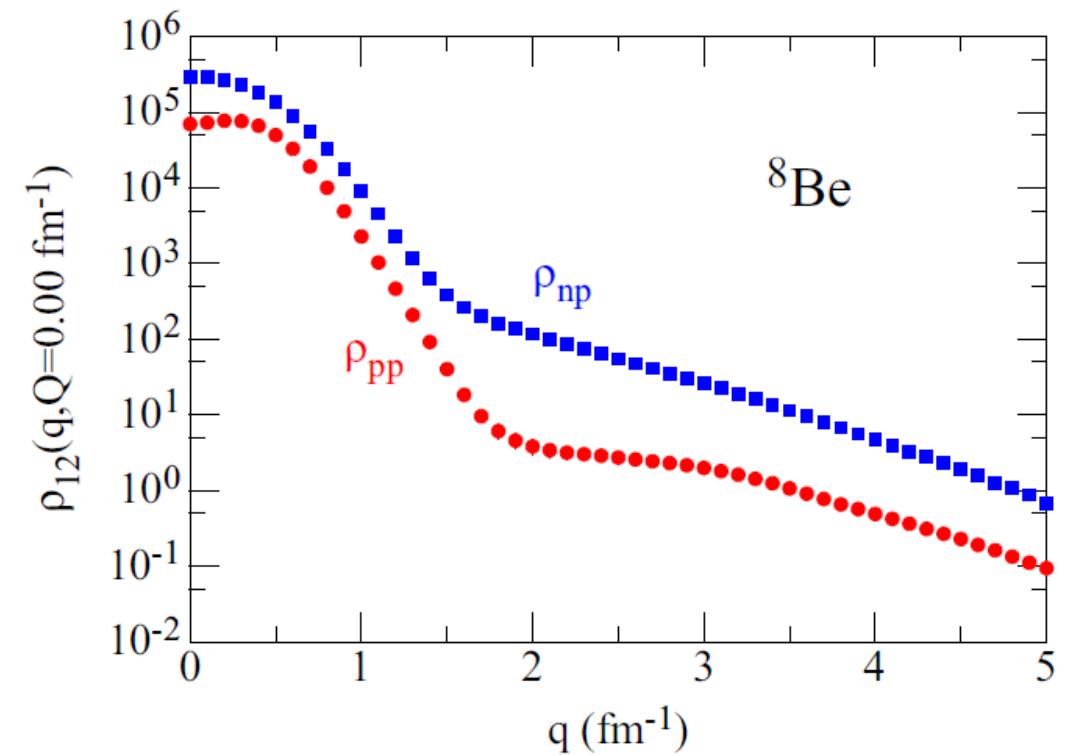
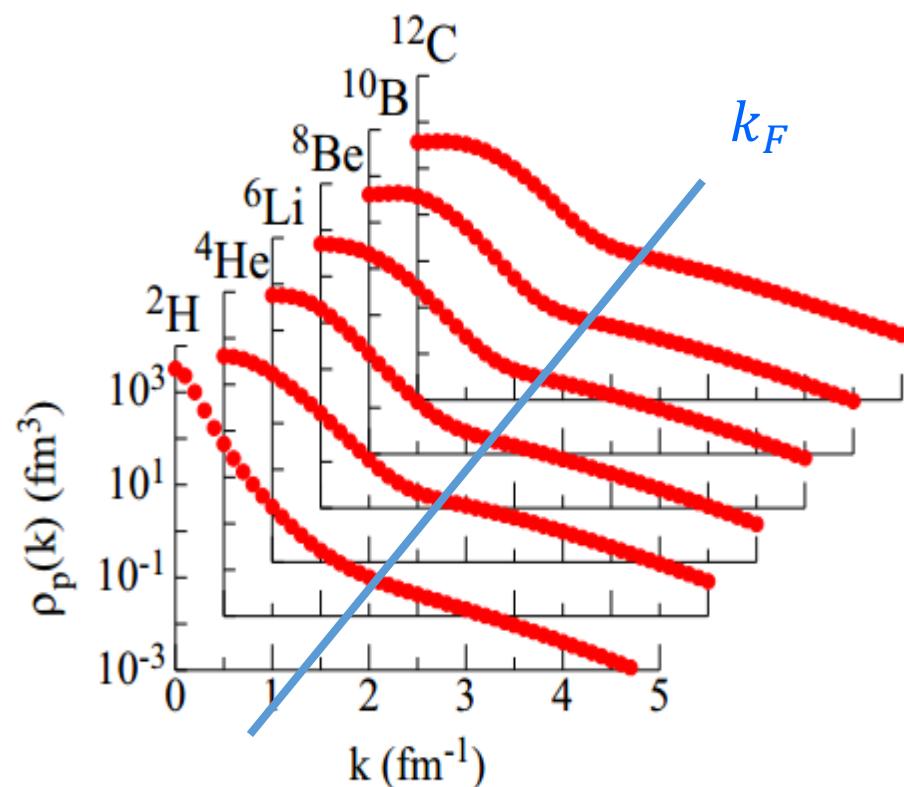
Studied **experimentally** using large momentum transfer quasi-elastic reactions



- **High momentum** particles with **back-to-back** configuration
- Universal behavior – “**isolated pair**”
- Neutron-proton dominance
- Significant **deviations from mean-field models**

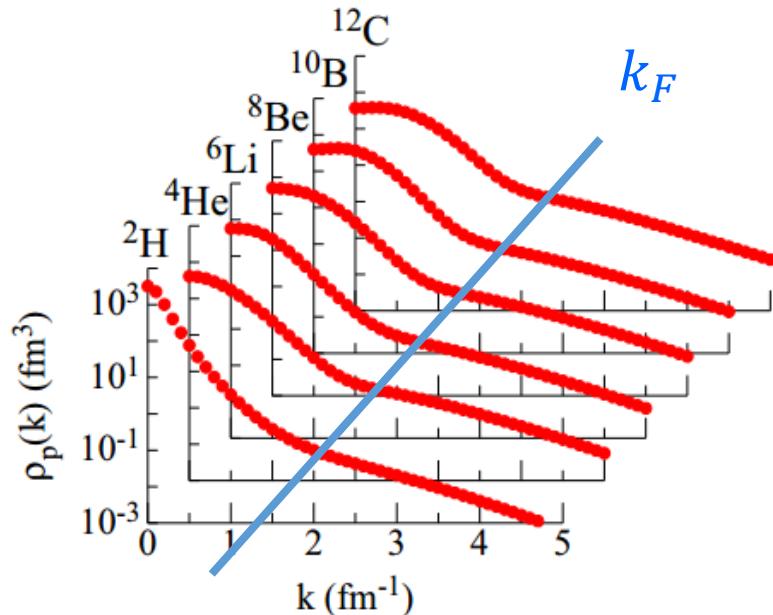
# SRCS in Nuclear Systems

Similar features are seen in **ab-initio calculations**:



# SRCS in Nuclear Systems

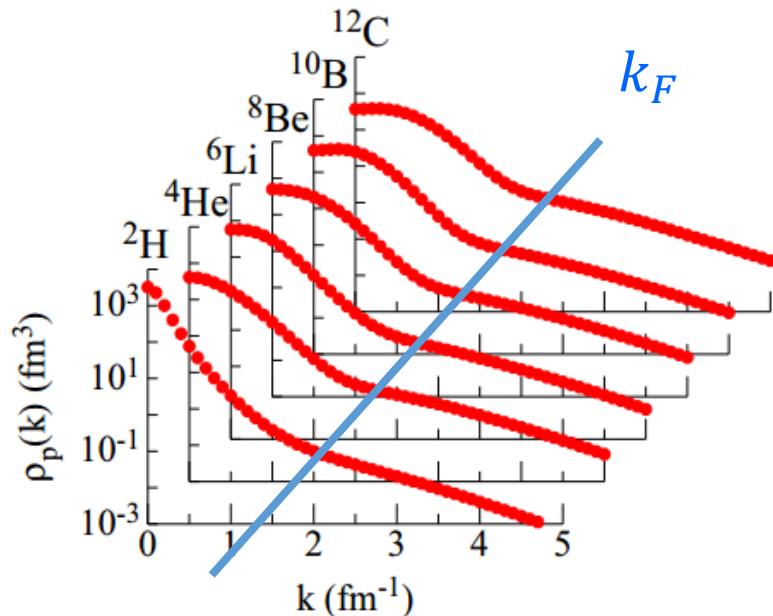
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- **Ground-state properties**
- **Limited to light nuclei**
- **Do not describe relevant reactions**

# SRCS in Nuclear Systems

Similar features are seen in **ab-initio calculations**:



- **Ground-state properties**
- **Limited to light nuclei**
- **Do not describe relevant reactions**
  
- **How to compare theory and experiments?**
- **How to utilize information regarding SRCS?**

# Towards a systematic short-range description

RW, D. Lonardoni, S. Gandolfi, PLB 857, 138974 (2024)

# Short-range expansion – two-body system

- **The two-body system:**

$$\left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{m} \nabla^2 + V(r) \right] \varphi^E(r) = E \varphi^E(r)$$

- **For  $r \rightarrow 0$ :** The energy becomes negligible  $E \ll \frac{\hbar^2}{mr^2}$

$$\varphi^E(r) = \varphi^{E=0}(r)$$

**Two particles close together behave in the same way,  
regardless of the energy  
(in a two-body system)**

# Short-range expansion – two-body system

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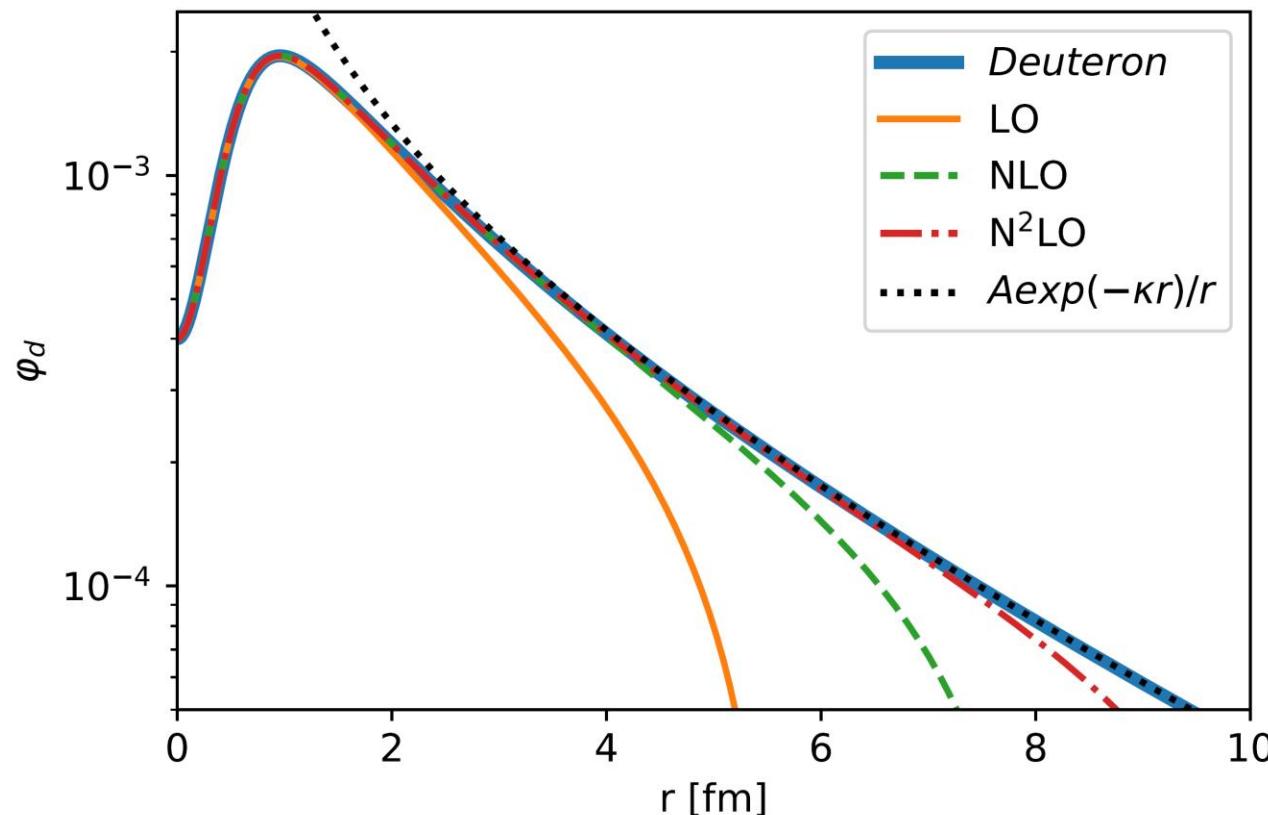
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- Taylor expansion around  $E = 0$ :

$$\varphi^E(r) = \varphi^{E=0}(r) + \left( \frac{d}{dE} \varphi^{E=0}(r) \right) E + \frac{1}{2!} \left( \frac{d^2}{dE^2} \varphi^{E=0}(r) \right) E^2 + \dots$$

# Short-range expansion – two-body system

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AV4'  
Deuteron channel  
Bound state

# Short-range expansion – many-body system

- **The many-body case:** Exact expansion

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) = \sum_{E,\alpha} \varphi_{\alpha}^E(\mathbf{r}_{12}) A_{\alpha}^E(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) \quad (\alpha - \text{quantum numbers})$$



Complete set of  
two-body functions

# Short-range expansion – many-body system

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Leading order factorization

Subleading terms

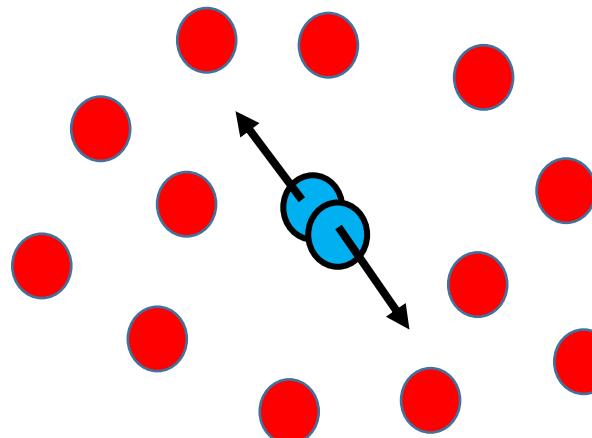
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Leading order factorization

Subleading terms

- Two-body observables:

$$\langle \Psi | \hat{O}_2 | \Psi \rangle = \sum_{\alpha, \beta} \left( \langle \varphi_{\alpha}^{E=0}(r) | \hat{O}_2 | \varphi_{\beta}^{E=0}(r) \rangle C_{\alpha\beta}^{00} + \langle \varphi_{\alpha}^{E=0}(r) | \hat{O}_2 | \frac{d}{dE} \varphi_{\beta}^{E=0}(r) \rangle C_{\alpha\beta}^{01} + \dots \right)$$

- Nuclear “contacts”:

$$C_{\alpha\beta}^{mn} \propto \langle A_{\alpha}^{(m)} | A_{\beta}^{(n)} \rangle$$

See original definition of the contact:

S. Tan, Ann. Phys. (N.Y.) 323, 2952 (2008)

# Short-range expansion – many-body system

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- Two-body dynamics
- Universal for all nuclei

- Depends on the nucleus
- Independent of the operator

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- **Power counting** is needed
- Two relevant parameters:
  - Number of **energy derivatives**
  - **Orbital angular momentum** ( $s, p, d, \dots$ )
- Can be analyzed analytically for the two-body system

# Short-range expansion – many-body system

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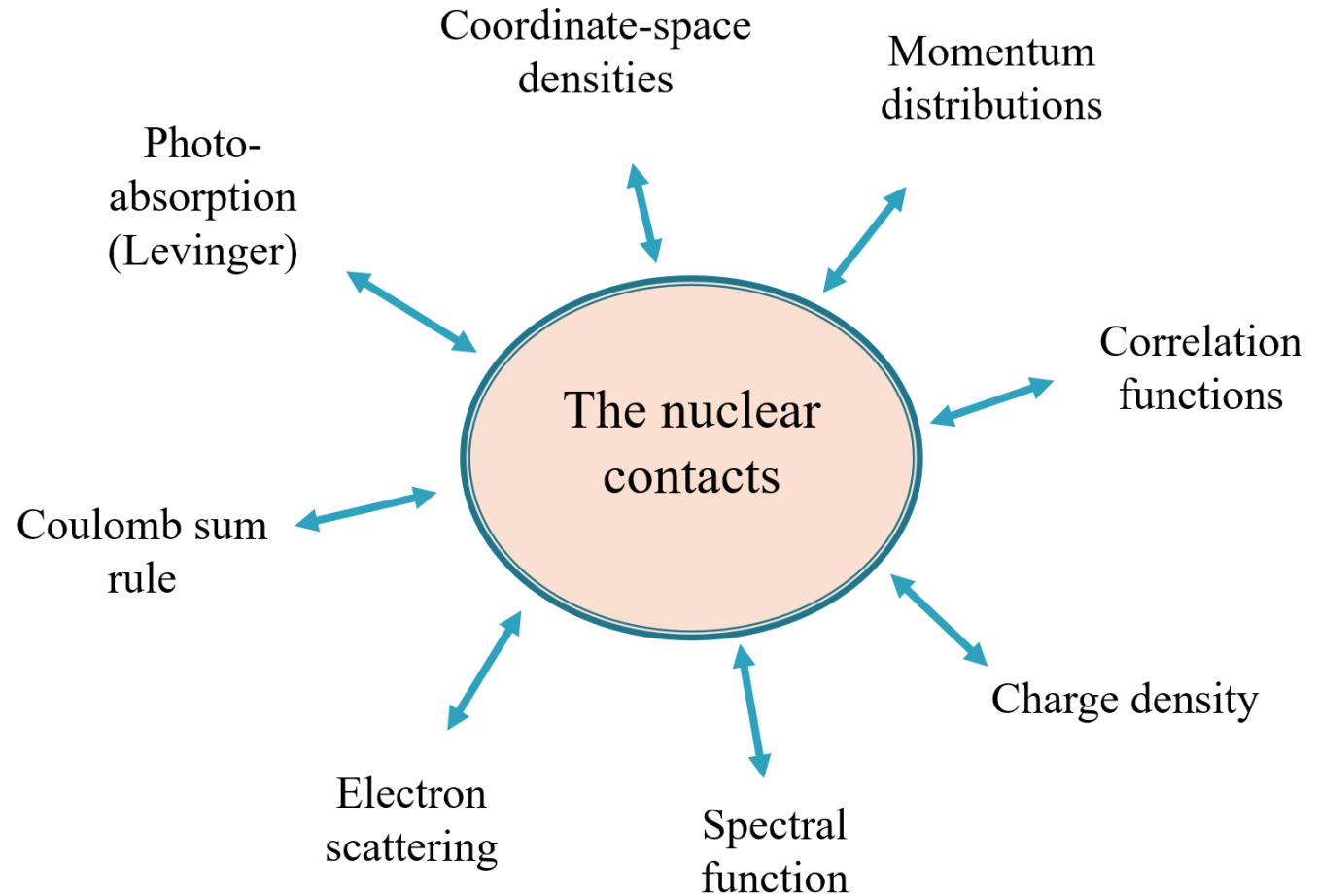
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Leading  
order  
channels

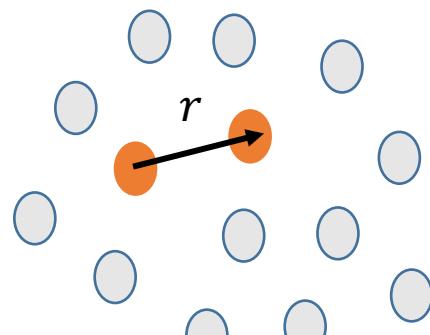
**spin-one:**  $\ell_2 = 0, 2 ; s_2 = 1 ; j_2 = 1 ; t_2 = 0$  (only **np pairs**)

**spin-zero:**  $\ell_2 = 0 ; s_2 = 0 ; j_2 = 0 ; t_2 = 1$  (**All pairs**)

# The nuclear contact relations

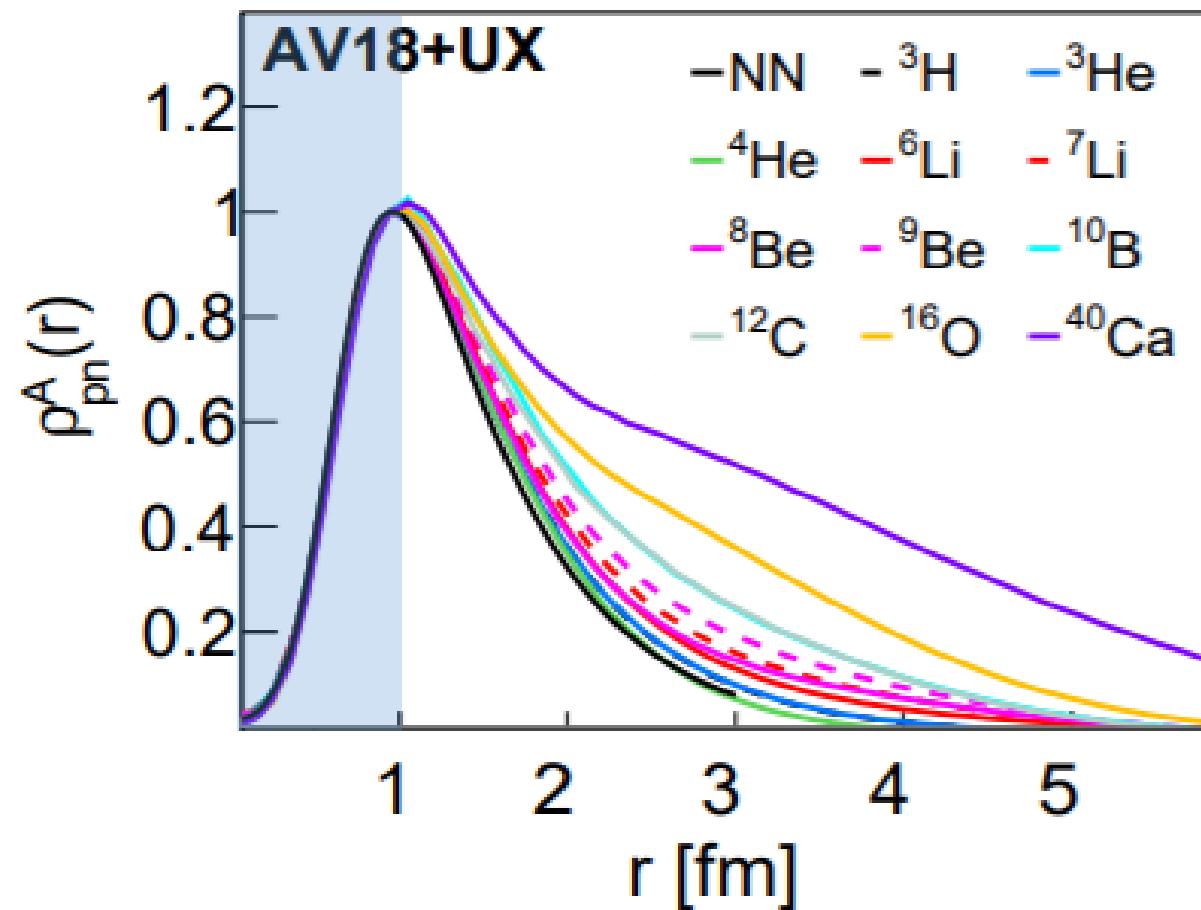


# Two-body density



$$\langle \hat{\theta} \rangle = \langle \varphi | \hat{\theta}(r) | \varphi \rangle C$$

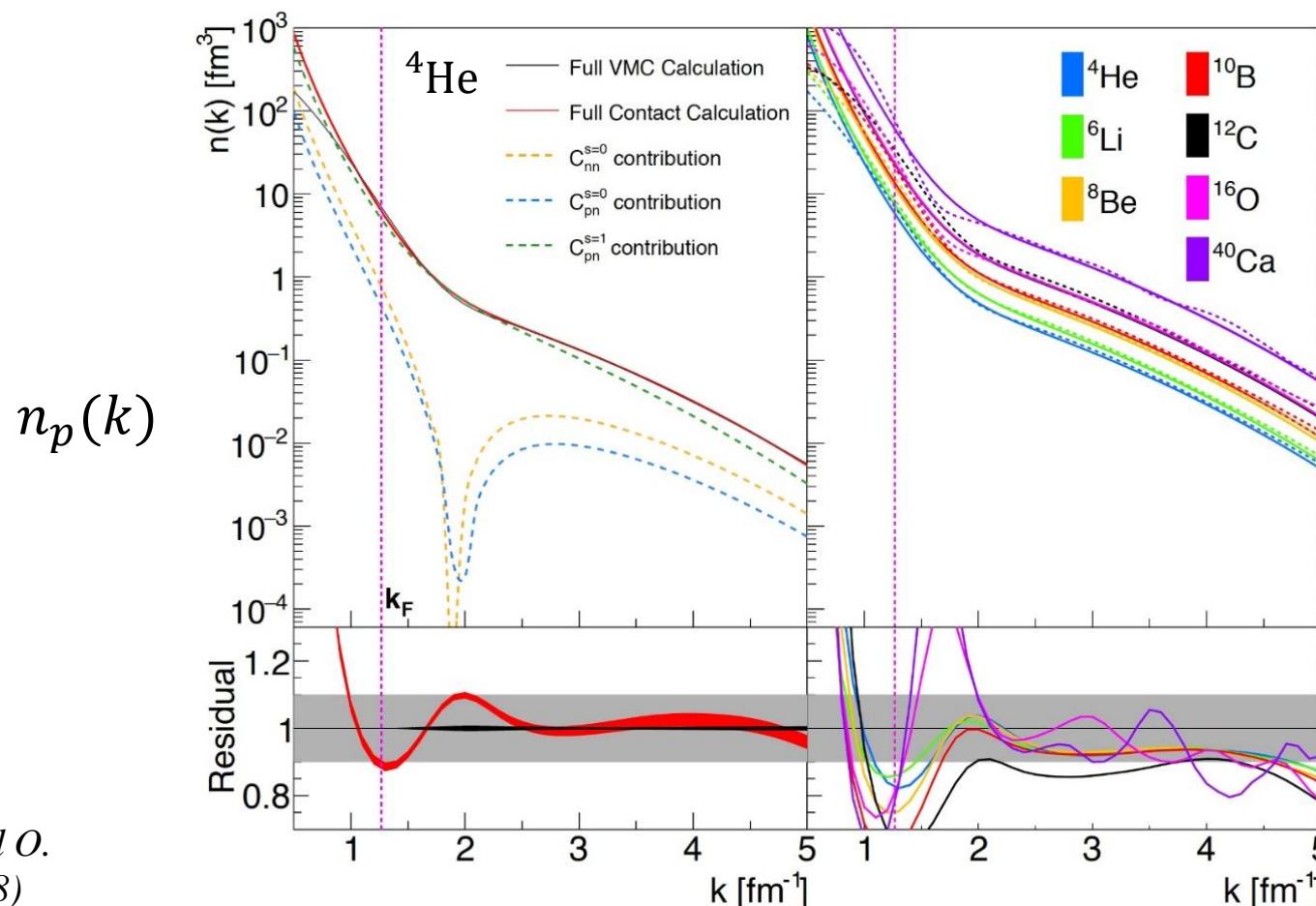
$$\rho_{NN}(r) \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow 0} C |\varphi(r)|^2$$



Shows the validity of the factorization (LO term)

# One-body momentum distribution

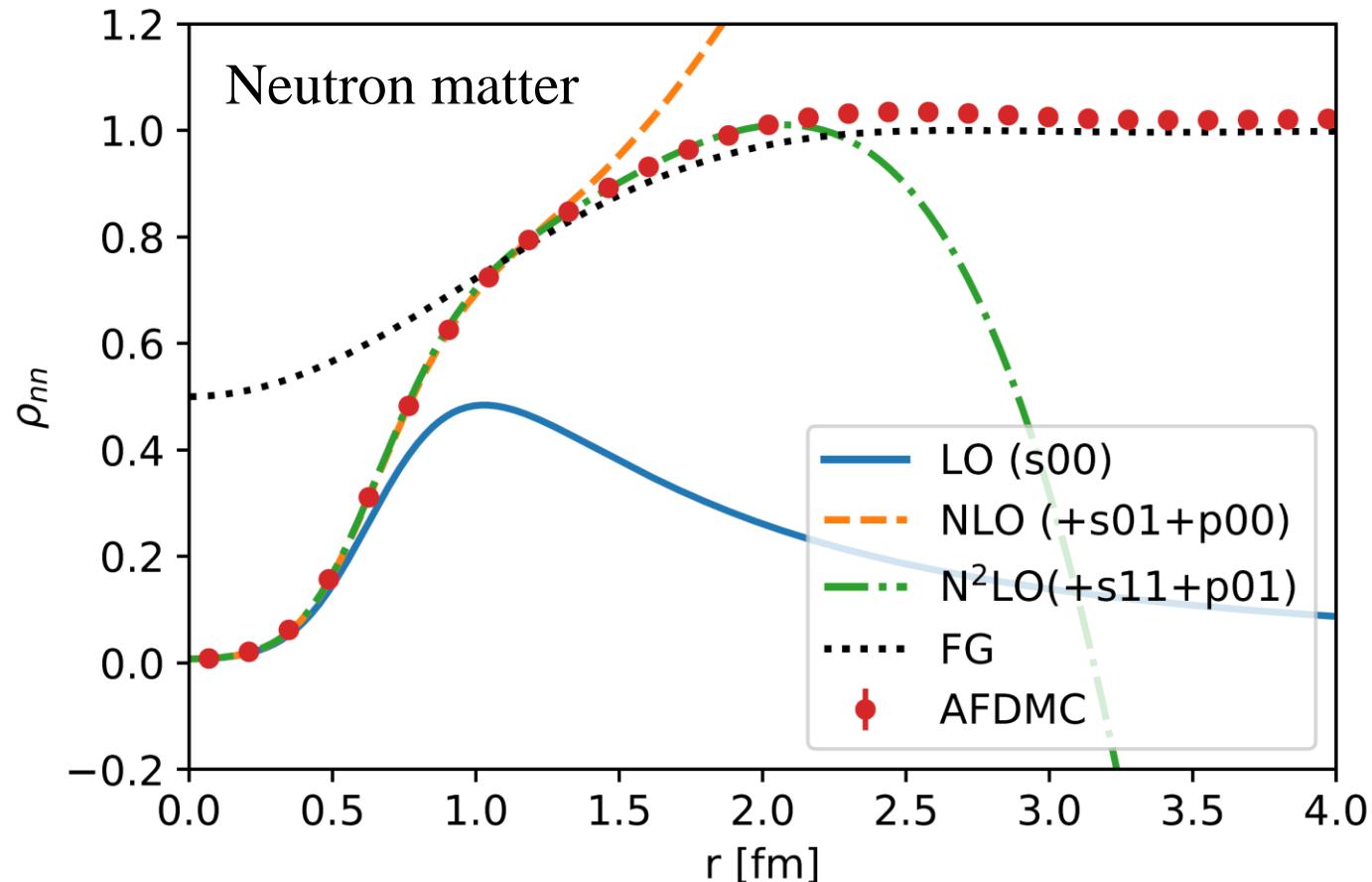
$$n_p(k) \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} C_{pn}^1 |\tilde{\varphi}_{pn}^1(k)|^2 + C_{pn}^0 |\tilde{\varphi}_{pn}^0(k)|^2 + 2C_{pp}^0 |\tilde{\varphi}_{pp}^0(k)|^2$$



No free  
parameters!

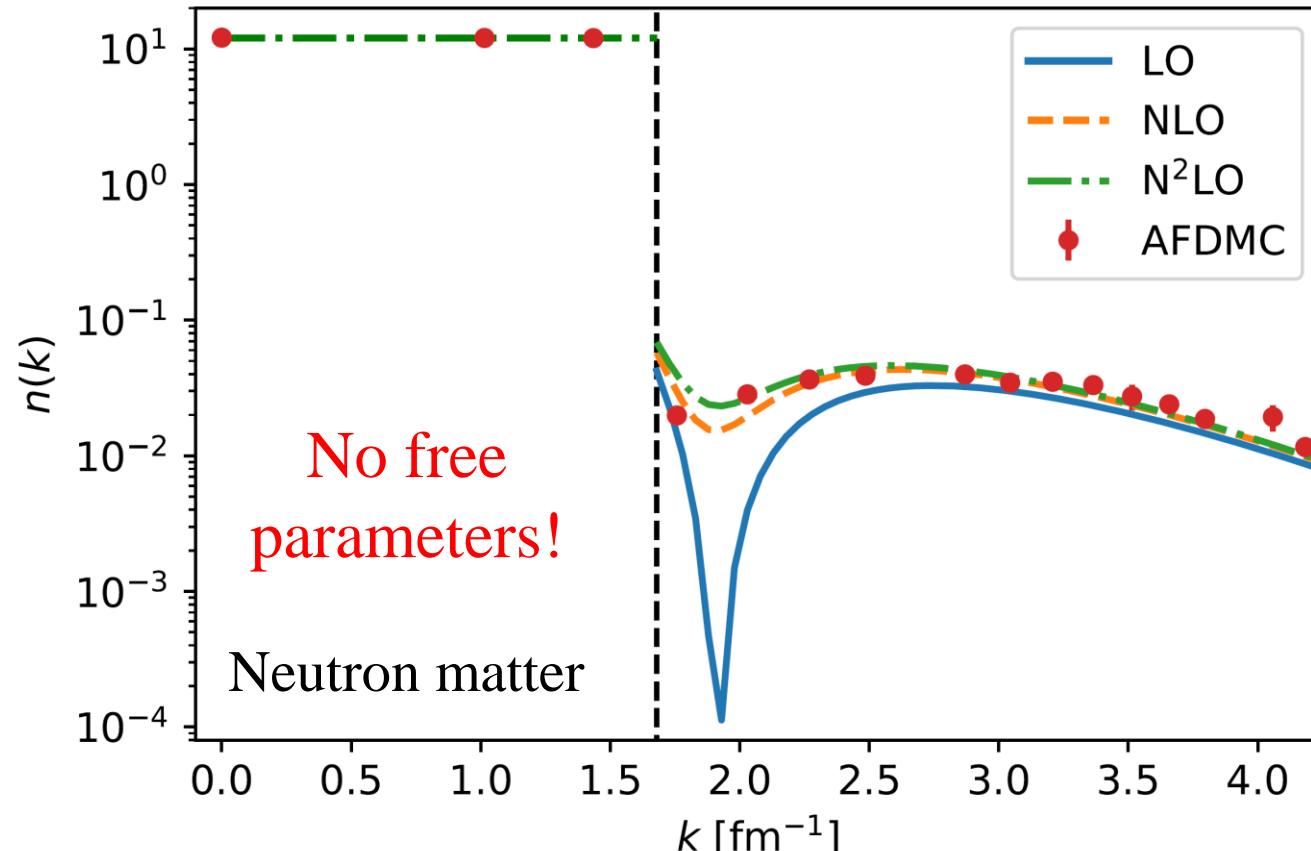
# Beyond leading order

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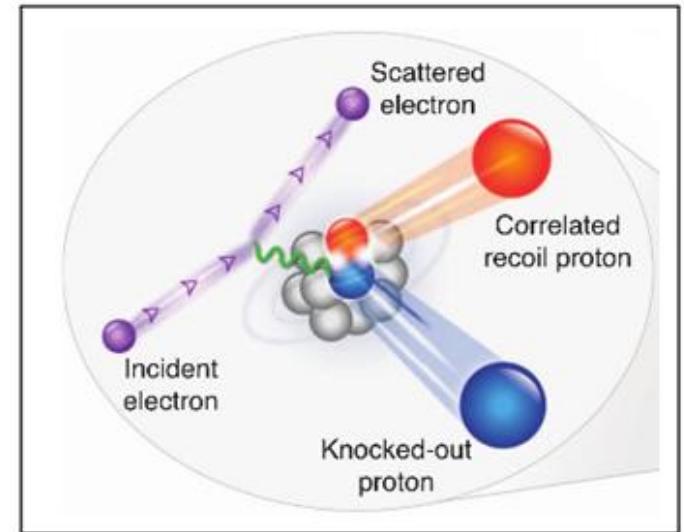
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# Electron-scattering experiments

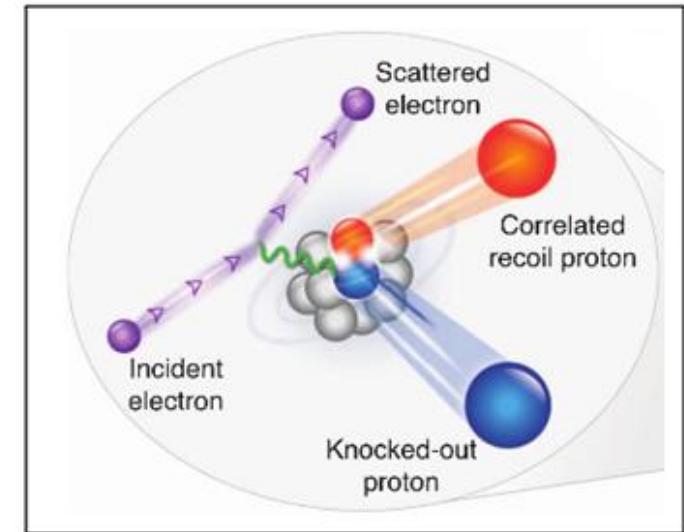
- $A(e, e'N)$  and  $A(e, e'NN)$  cross sections
- $S(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) = \text{spectral function}$   
The probability to find nucleon with momentum  $\mathbf{p}_1$  and energy  $\epsilon_1$  in the nucleus



$$S^N(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) = \sum_{s_1} \sum_f \delta(\epsilon_1 + E_f^{A-1} - E_i^A) \left| \langle \Psi_f^{A-1} | a_{\mathbf{p}_1, s_1}^N | \Psi_i^A \rangle \right|^2$$

# Electron-scattering experiments

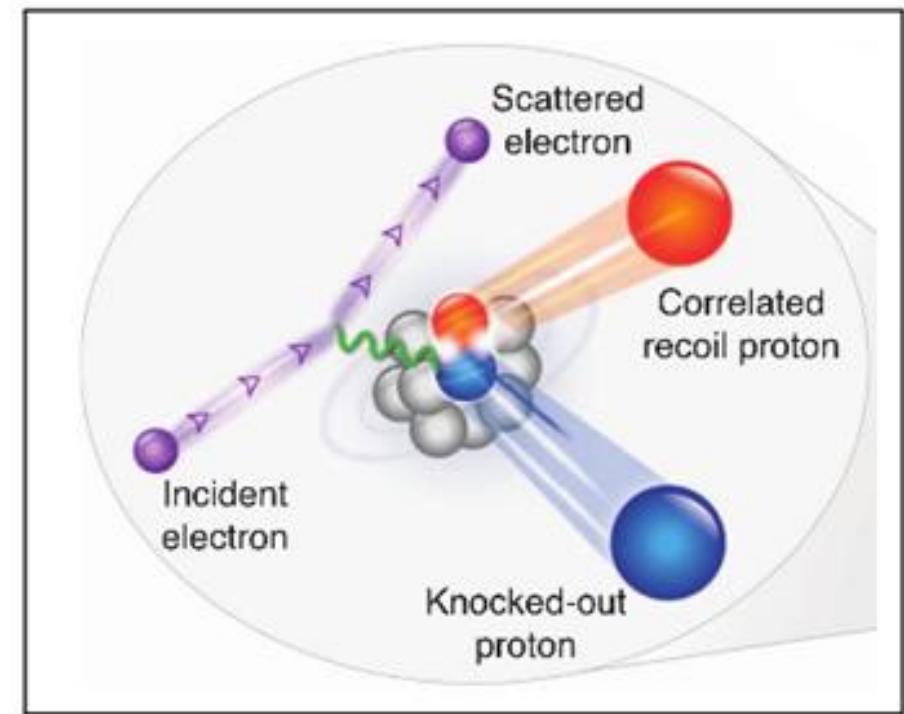
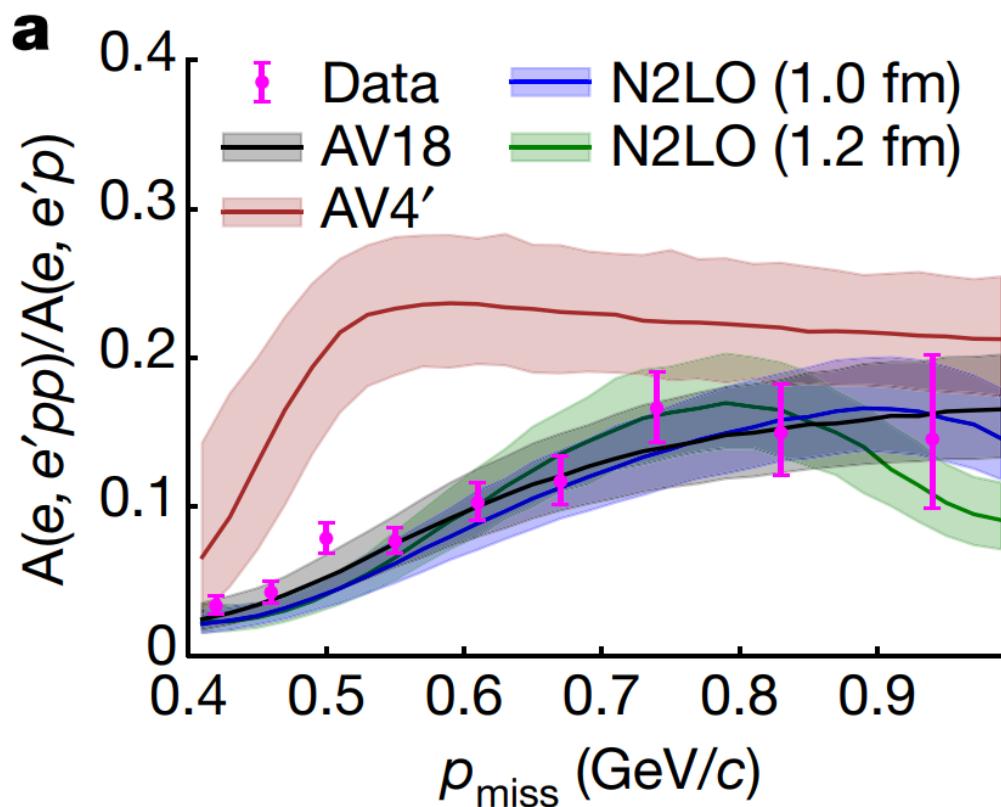
- $A(e, e'N)$  and  $A(e, e'NN)$  cross sections
- $S(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) = \text{spectral function}$   
The probability to find nucleon with momentum  $\mathbf{p}_1$  and energy  $\epsilon_1$  in the nucleus
- Using the leading-order factorization:



$$S^p(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{p}_1 \rightarrow \infty} C_{pn}^1 S_{pn}^1(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) + C_{pn}^0 S_{pn}^0(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) + 2C_{pp}^0 S_{pp}^0(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1)$$

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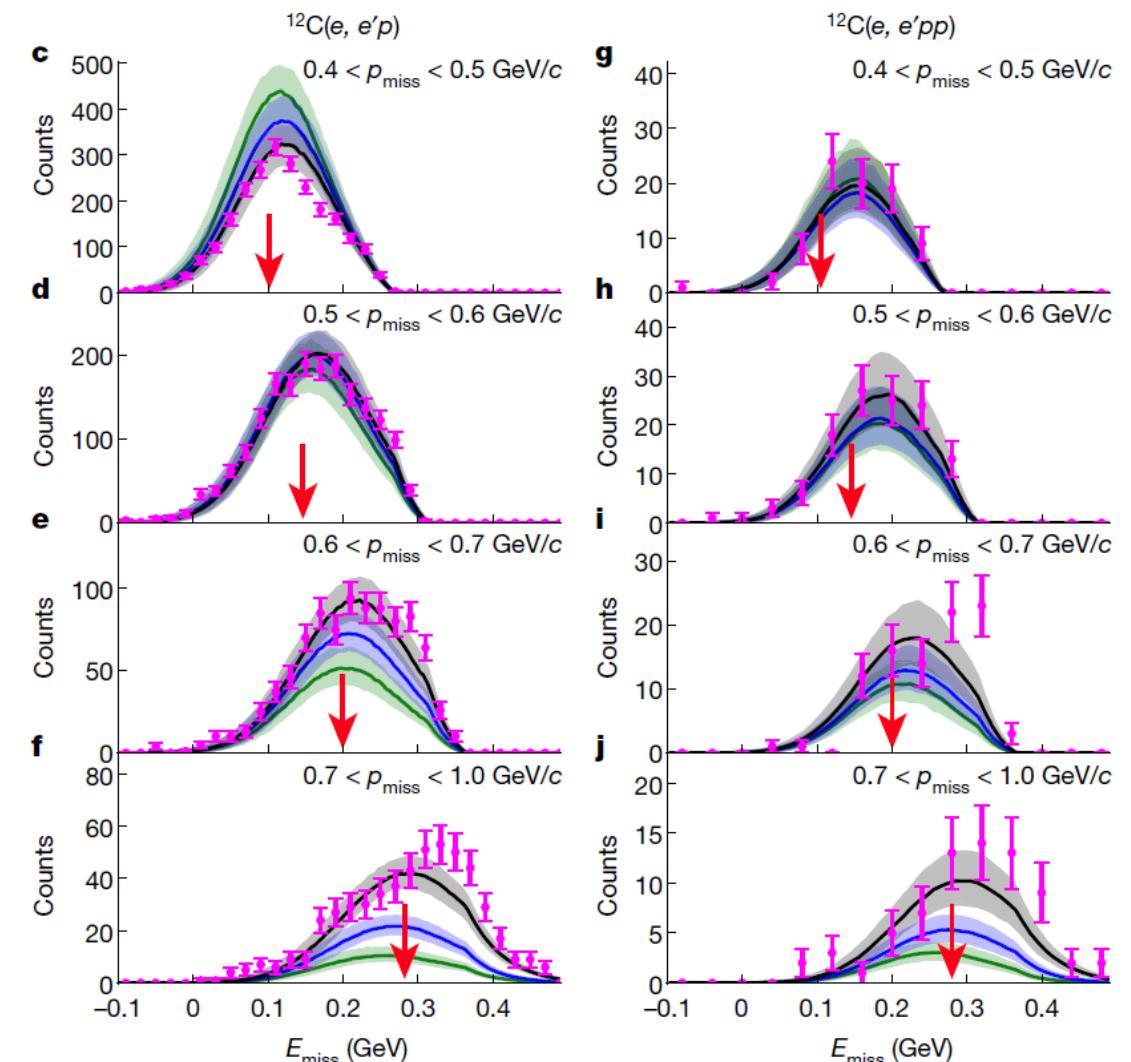
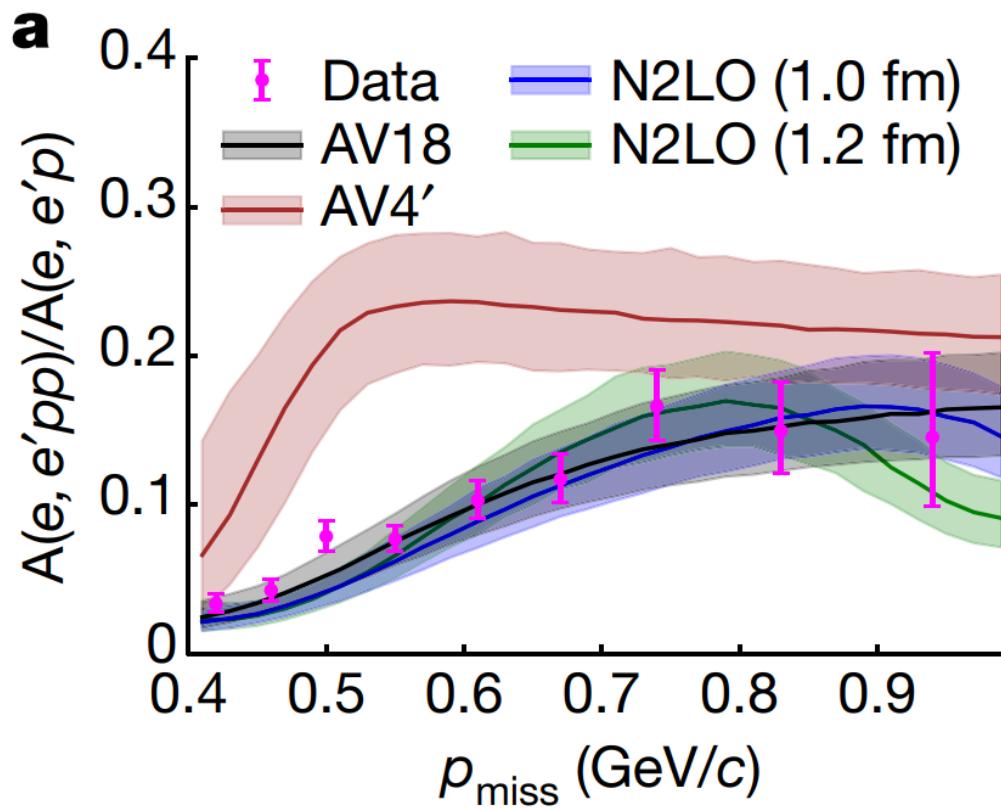
- Good description of experimental data ( $^{12}\text{C}$ ):



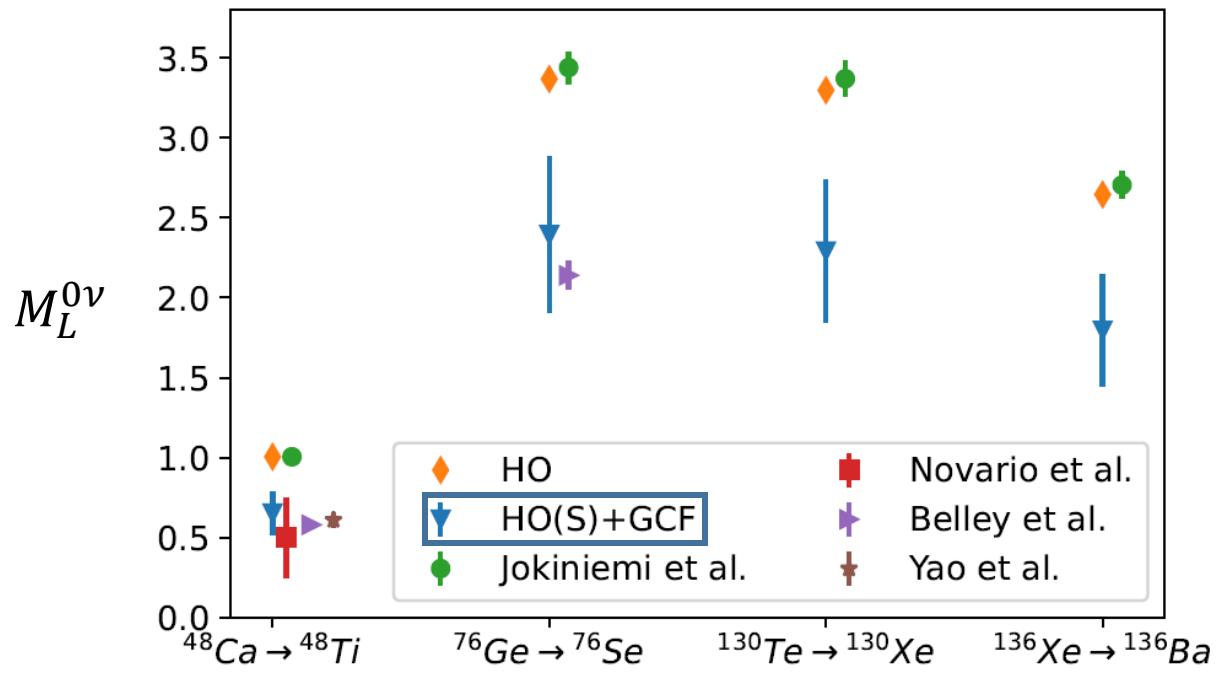
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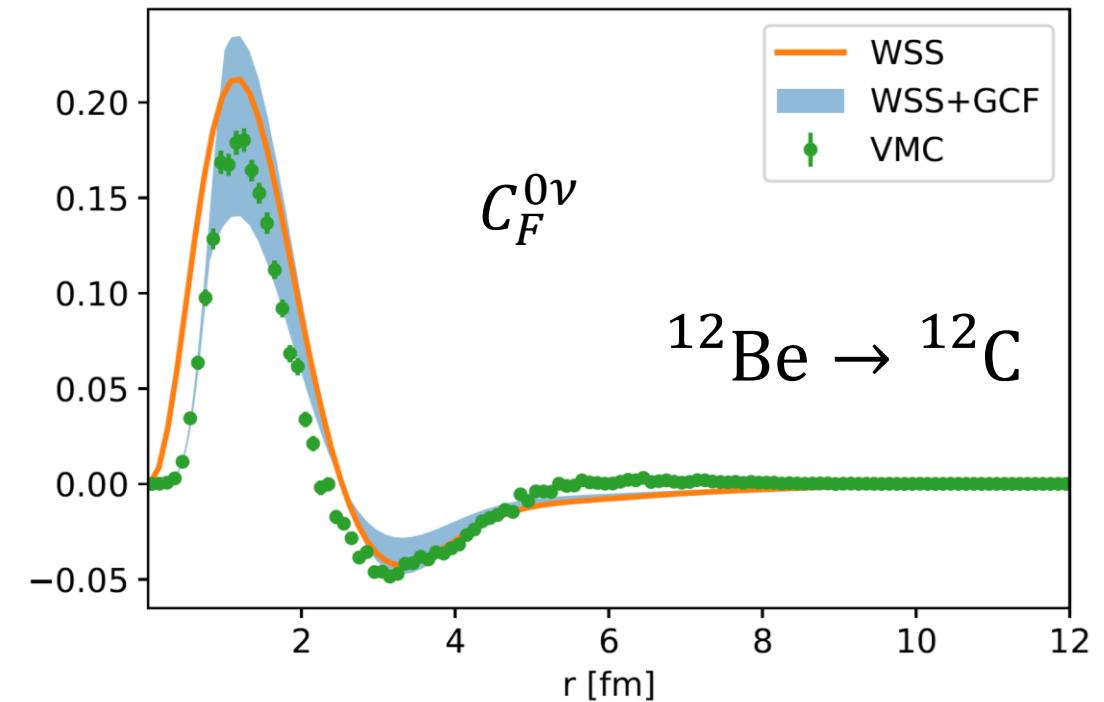


# Neutrinoless double beta decay



$$M_F + M_{GT} + M_T$$

Significant reduction due to SRCs



RW, P. Soriano, A. Lovato, J. Menendez, R. B. Wiringa, PRC 106, 065501 (2022)

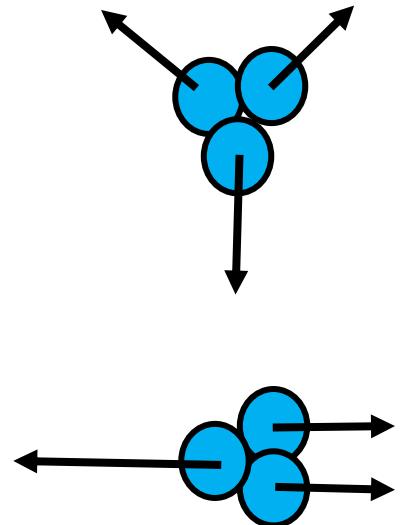
# Three-body correlations

RW and S. Gandolfi, Phys. Rev. C 108, L021301 (2023)

# Three-body correlations

## Various open questions:

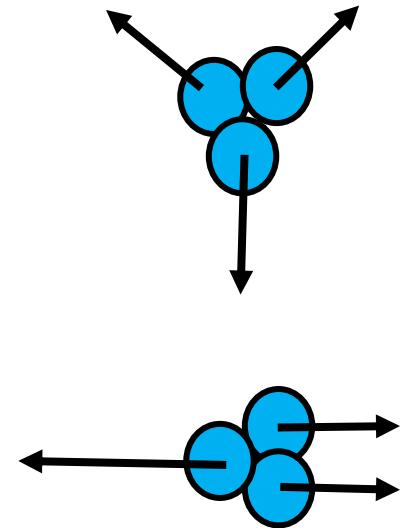
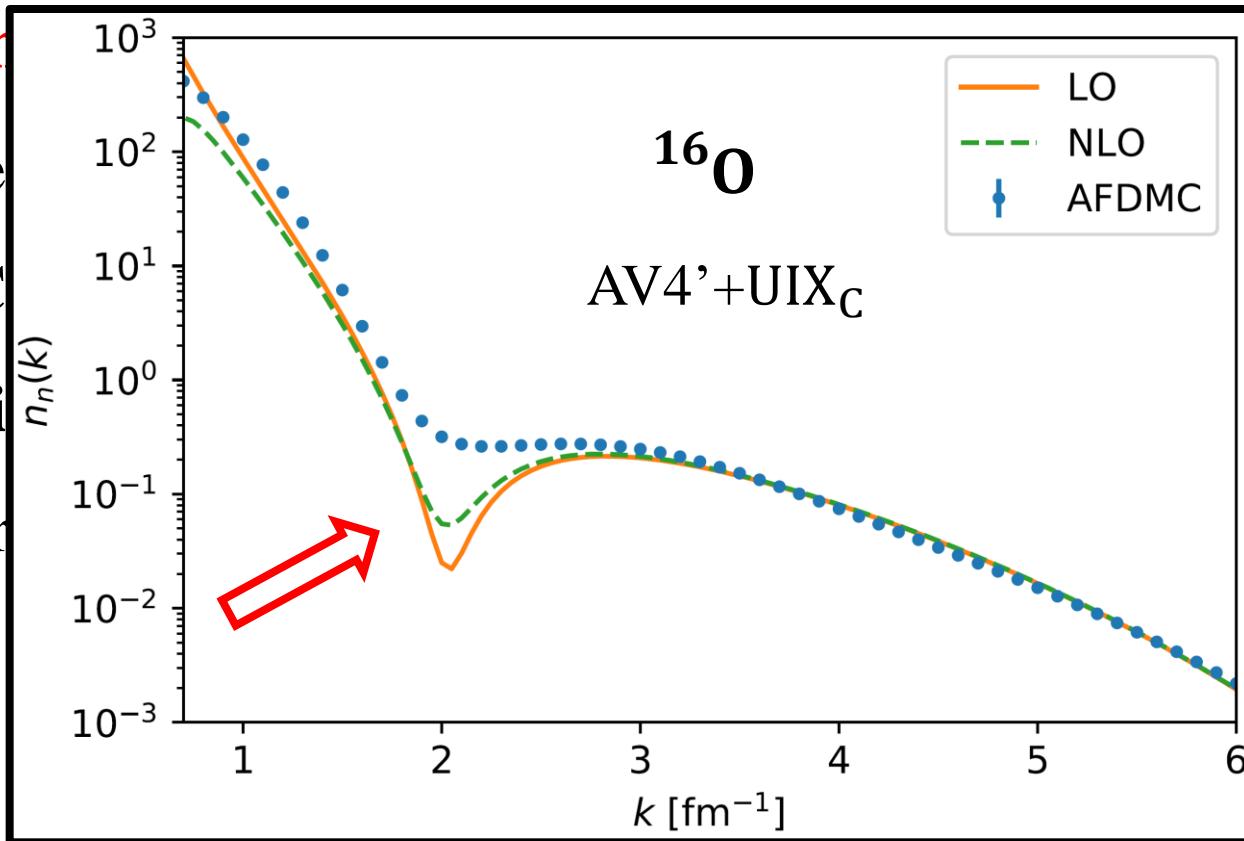
- What are the **dominant configurations**?
- Are 3N SRCs sensitive to the **three-body force**?
- Are they **universal**? What is their **abundance**?
- What is their **contribution to different observables**?



# Three-body correlations

## Various operators

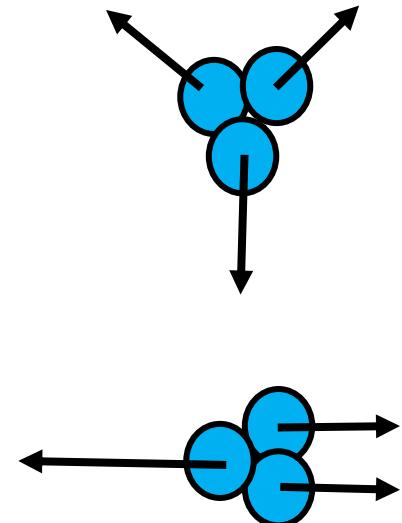
- What are the operators?
- Are 3N SRC universal?
- Are they unique?
- What is their origin?



# Three-body correlations

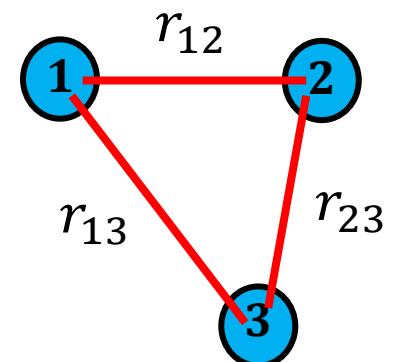
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We performed first ab-initio calculations of 3N SRC

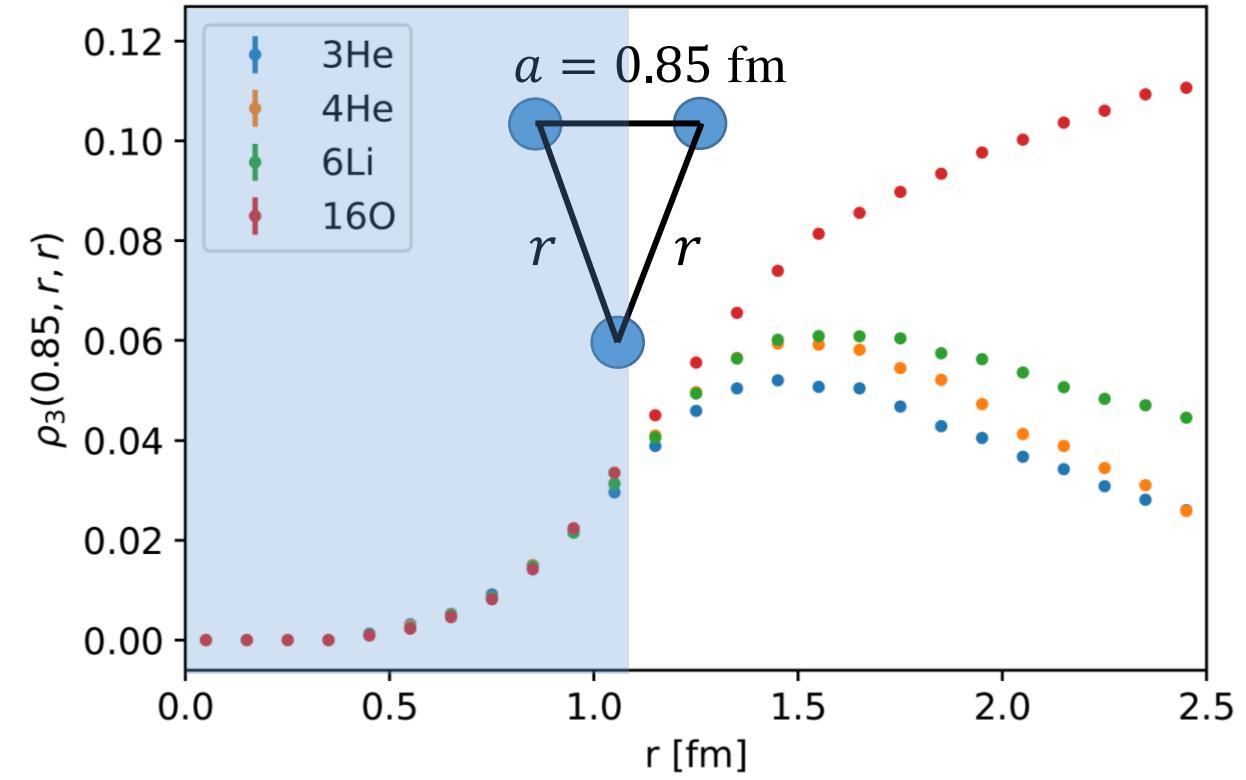
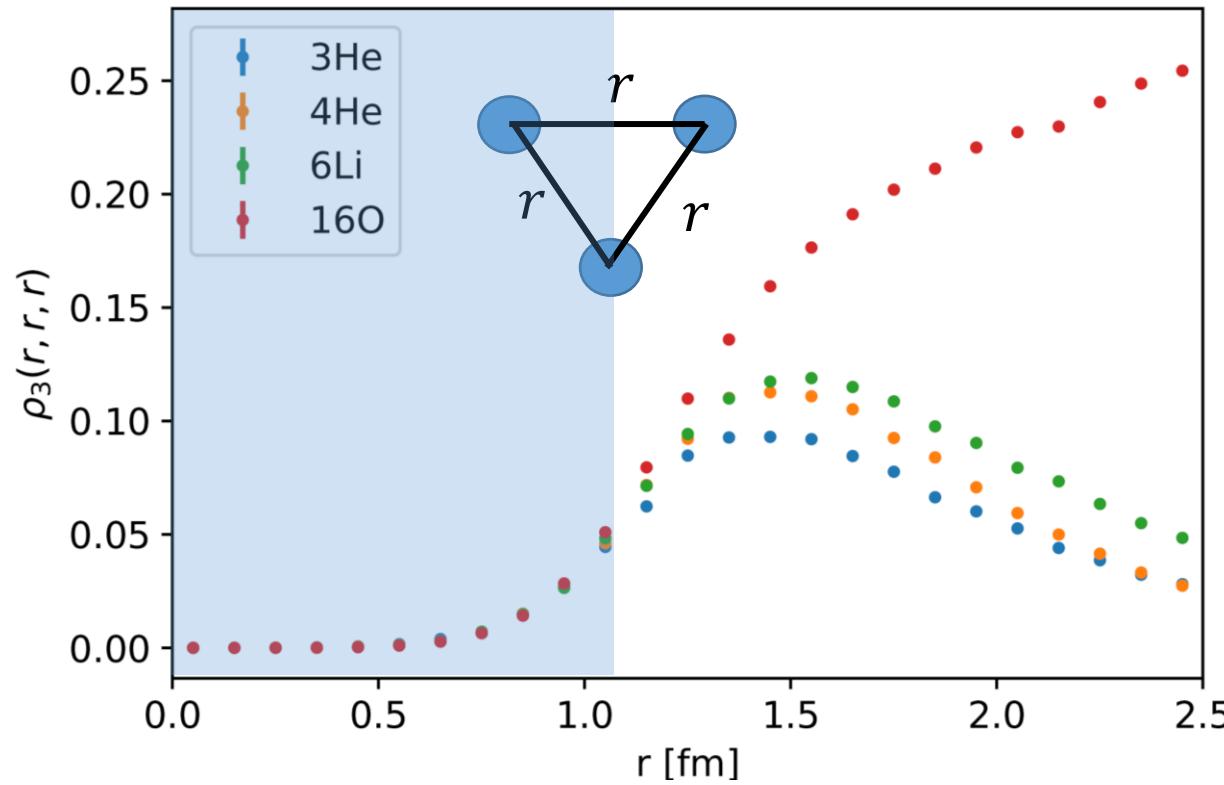
$$\rho_3(r_{12}, r_{13}, r_{23}) \equiv \binom{A}{3} \langle \Psi | \delta(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2| - r_{12}) \delta(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_3| - r_{13}) \delta(|\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_3| - r_{23}) | \Psi \rangle$$



Same scaling  
factor for all  
geometries!

# Three-body density

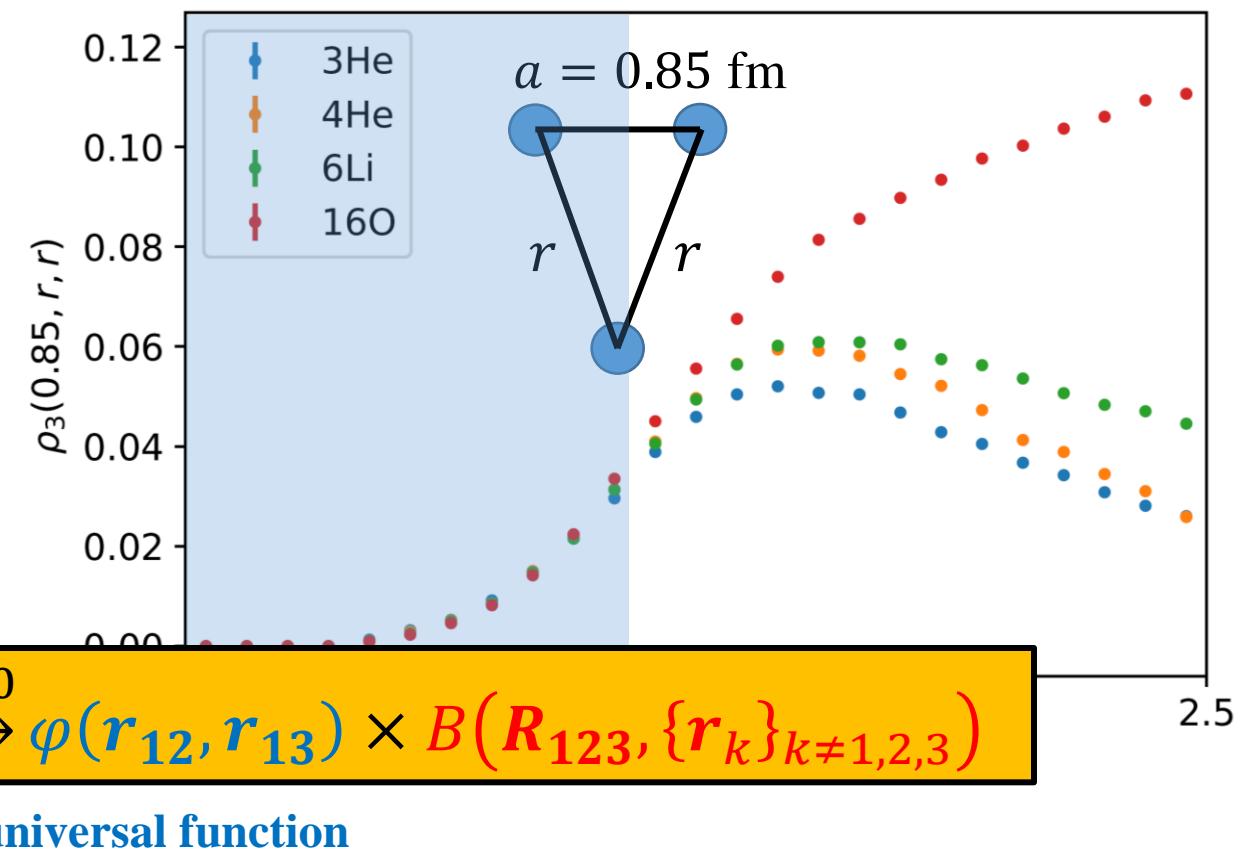
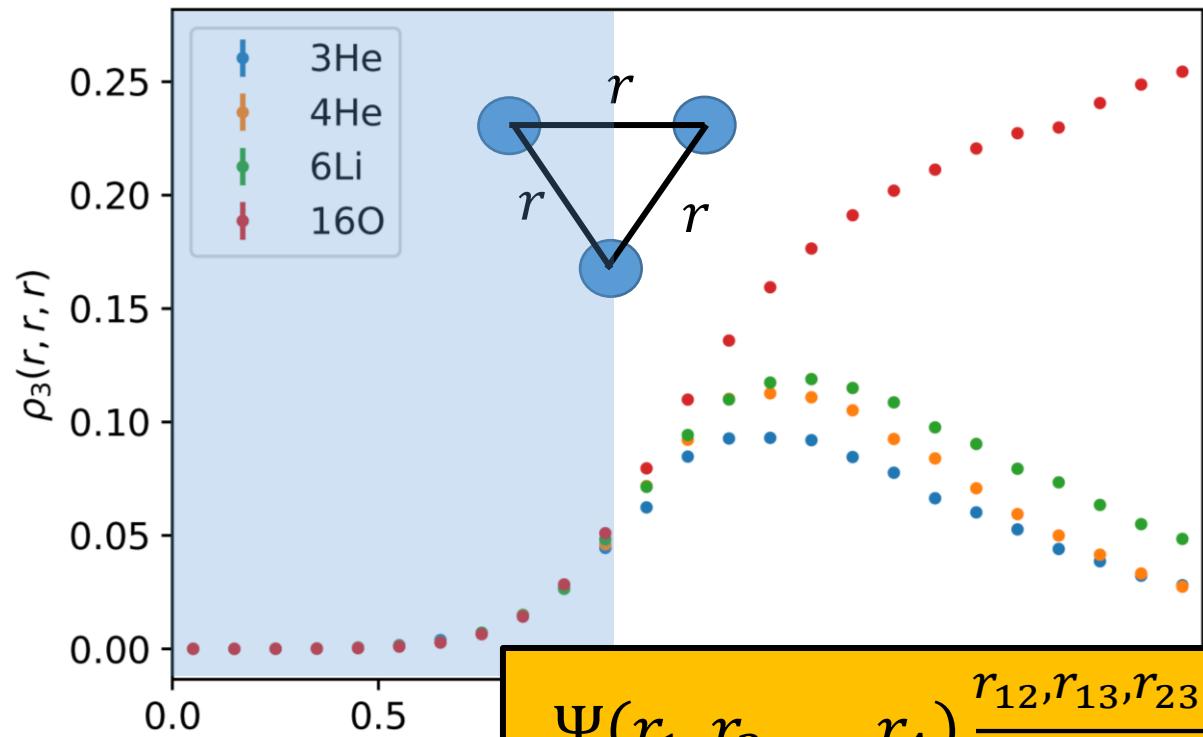
## Universality



Same scaling  
factor for all  
geometries!

# Three-body density

## Universality



$$\Psi(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_A) \xrightarrow{r_{12}, r_{13}, r_{23} \rightarrow 0} \varphi(\mathbf{r}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_{13}) \times B(R_{123}, \{\mathbf{r}_k\}_{k \neq 1,2,3})$$

universal function

# Three-body contact values

$$\frac{c(^4\text{He})}{c(^3\text{He})} \times \frac{3}{4} = 3.8 \pm 0.3$$

$$\frac{c(^6\text{Li})}{c(^3\text{He})} \times \frac{3}{6} = 3.1 \pm 0.3$$

$$\frac{c(^{16}\text{O})}{c(^3\text{He})} \times \frac{3}{16} = 4.2 \pm 0.5$$

Can be compared **to inclusive cross section ratios** (in the appropriate kinematics)

$$a_3(A) = \frac{3}{A} \frac{\sigma_{eA}}{(\sigma_{e^3\text{He}} + \sigma_{e^3\text{H}})/2}$$

For a **symmetric nucleus  $A$**

$$a_3(A) = \frac{3}{A} \frac{C(A)}{C(^3\text{He})}$$

# Future work: short-range physics

- Three-body correlations
- Improved reaction dynamics
- Imbedding SRC features in ab-initio approaches
- Applications:
  - Beta decay
  - Neutrino-nucleus scattering
  - ...



# Summary

- Nuclear short-range correlations
- Short-range expansion:  $\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) = \sum_{\alpha} \varphi_{\alpha}^{E=0}(\mathbf{r}_{12}) A_{\alpha}^{(0)}(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_3, \mathbf{r}_4, \dots) + \dots$ 
  - Systematic and comprehensive description of short-range physics
  - Allows to compare nuclear interactions, ab-initio structure calculations, and experiments
  - Different applications (neutrinoless double beta decay)
  - First result about three-body correlations

# BACKUP

# Generalized Contact Formalism

$$\Psi(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_N) \xrightarrow{r_{12} \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{r_{12}} - \frac{1}{a} \right) \times A(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \{r_k\}_{k \neq 1,2}) \quad r_0 \ll a, d$$



$$\Psi(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_N) \xrightarrow{r_{12} \rightarrow 0} \varphi(\mathbf{r}_{12}) \times A(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \{r_k\}_{k \neq 1,2}) \quad r_0 \lesssim d$$

$$\Psi \xrightarrow{r_{ij} \rightarrow 0} \sum_{\alpha} \varphi_{ij}^{\alpha}(\mathbf{r}_{ij}) A_{ij}^{\alpha}(\mathbf{R}_{ij}, \{r_k\}_{k \neq i,j}) ; \quad C_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \propto \langle A_{ij}^{\alpha} | A_{ij}^{\beta} \rangle$$

Channels  $\alpha$   
 $= (\ell_2 S_2) j_2 m_2$

Two-body  
functions

The pair kind  
 $ij \in \{pp, nn, pn\}$

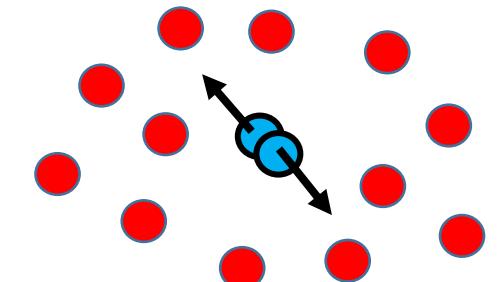
3 matrices of  
Nuclear Contacts

Nuclear  
systems

# Generalized Contact Formalism

$$\Psi(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_A) \xrightarrow{r_{12} \rightarrow 0} \varphi(\mathbf{r}) \times A(R, \{r_k\}_{k \neq 1,2})$$

universal  
function



For any **short-range** two-body operator  $\hat{O}$

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \langle \varphi | \hat{O}(r) | \varphi \rangle C$$

$$C \propto \langle A | A \rangle$$

- Two-body dynamics
- Universal for all nuclei
- Simply calculated

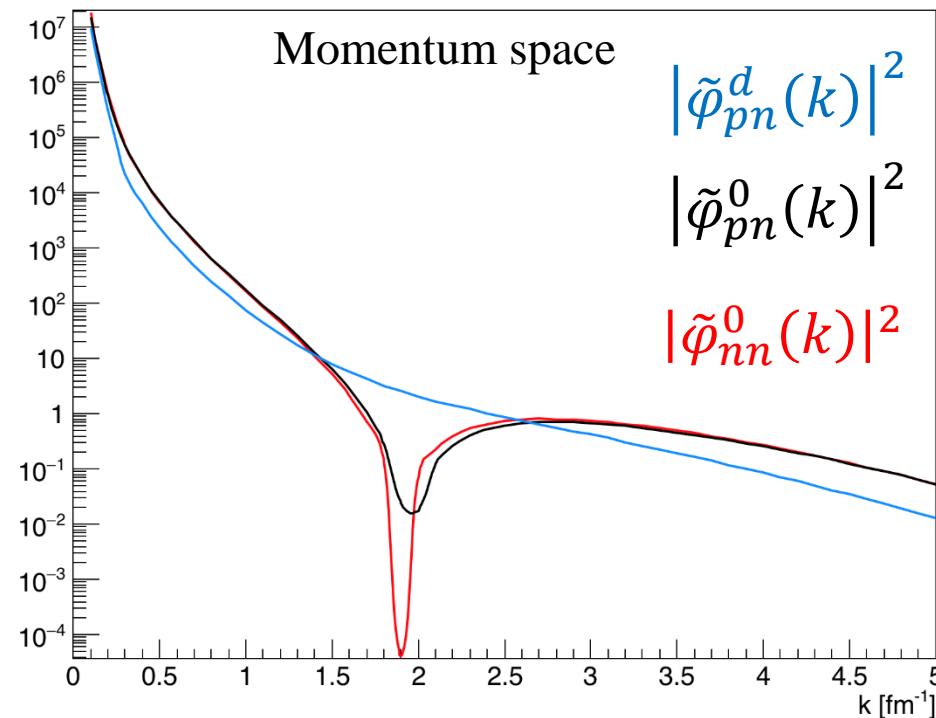
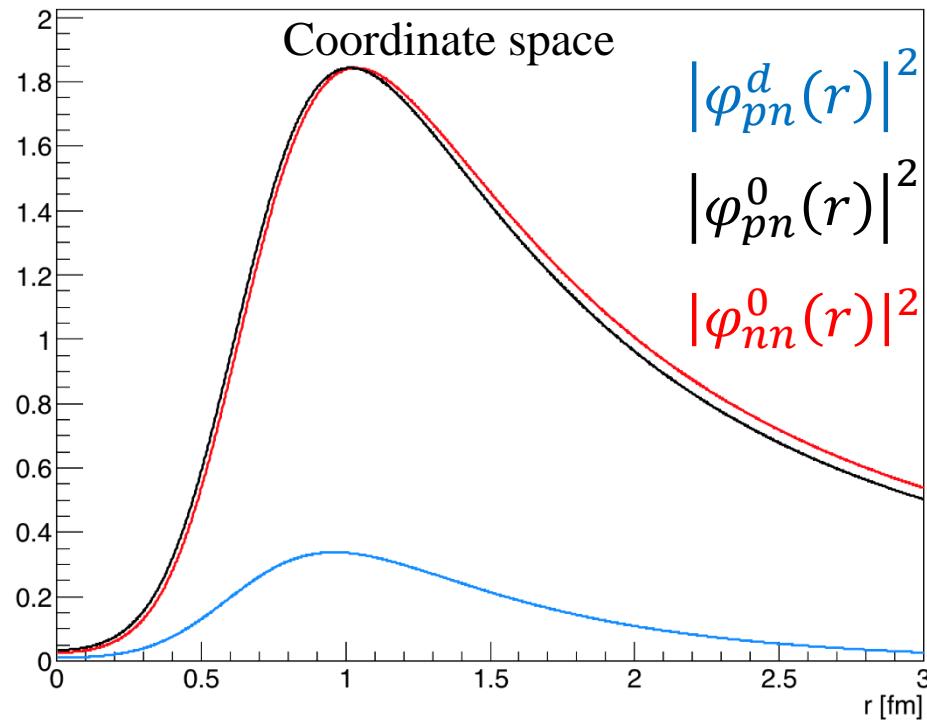


- The “contact”
- Number of correlated pairs
- Depends on the nucleus
- Independent of the operator

# Generalized Contact Formalism

$$\Psi \xrightarrow{r_{ij} \rightarrow 0} \sum_{\alpha} \varphi_{ij}^{\alpha}(r_{ij}) A_{ij}^{\alpha}(R_{ij}, \{r_k\}_{k \neq i,j}) \quad ; \quad C_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \propto \langle A_{ij}^{\alpha} | A_{ij}^{\beta} \rangle$$

The universal functions using the AV18 potential



# The spectral function

$$S(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) = \sum_s \sum_{f_{A-1}} \delta(\epsilon_1 + E_f^{A-1} - E_0) |\langle f_{A-1} | a_{\mathbf{p}_1, s} | \psi_0 \rangle|^2$$

The initial  
wave function

$$\psi_0 \rightarrow \sum_{\alpha} \varphi_{ij}^{\alpha}(\mathbf{r}_{ij}) A_{ij}^{\alpha}(\mathbf{R}_{ij}, \{\mathbf{r}_k\}_{k \neq i,j})$$

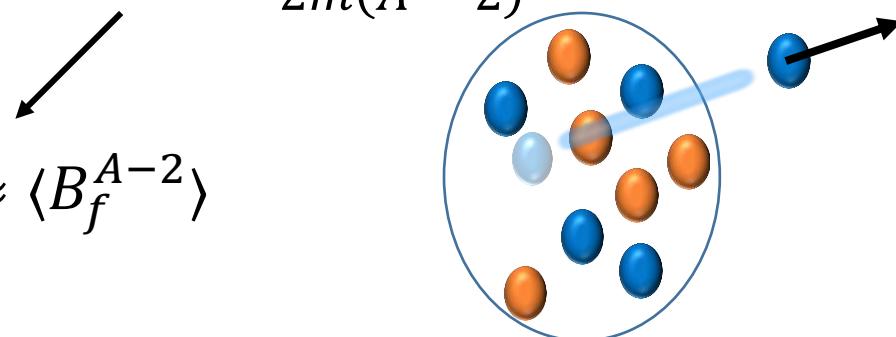
The final wave  
function

$$|\psi_f^{12}\rangle = a_{\mathbf{p}_1, s}^{\dagger} |f_{A-1}\rangle \propto |\Psi_v^{A-2}\rangle e^{i\mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}_1 + i\mathbf{p}_2 \cdot \mathbf{r}_2} \chi_{s_1} \chi_{s_2}$$

Energy  
conservation:

$$E_f^{A-1} = \epsilon_2 + (A-2)m - B_f^{A-2} + \frac{P_{12}^2}{2m(A-2)}$$

$$B_f^{A-2} \approx \langle B_f^{A-2} \rangle$$



# The spectral function

$$p_1 > k_F$$

$$S^p(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) = C_{pn}^1 S_{pn}^1(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) + C_{pn}^0 S_{pn}^0(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) + 2C_{pp}^0 S_{pp}^0(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1)$$

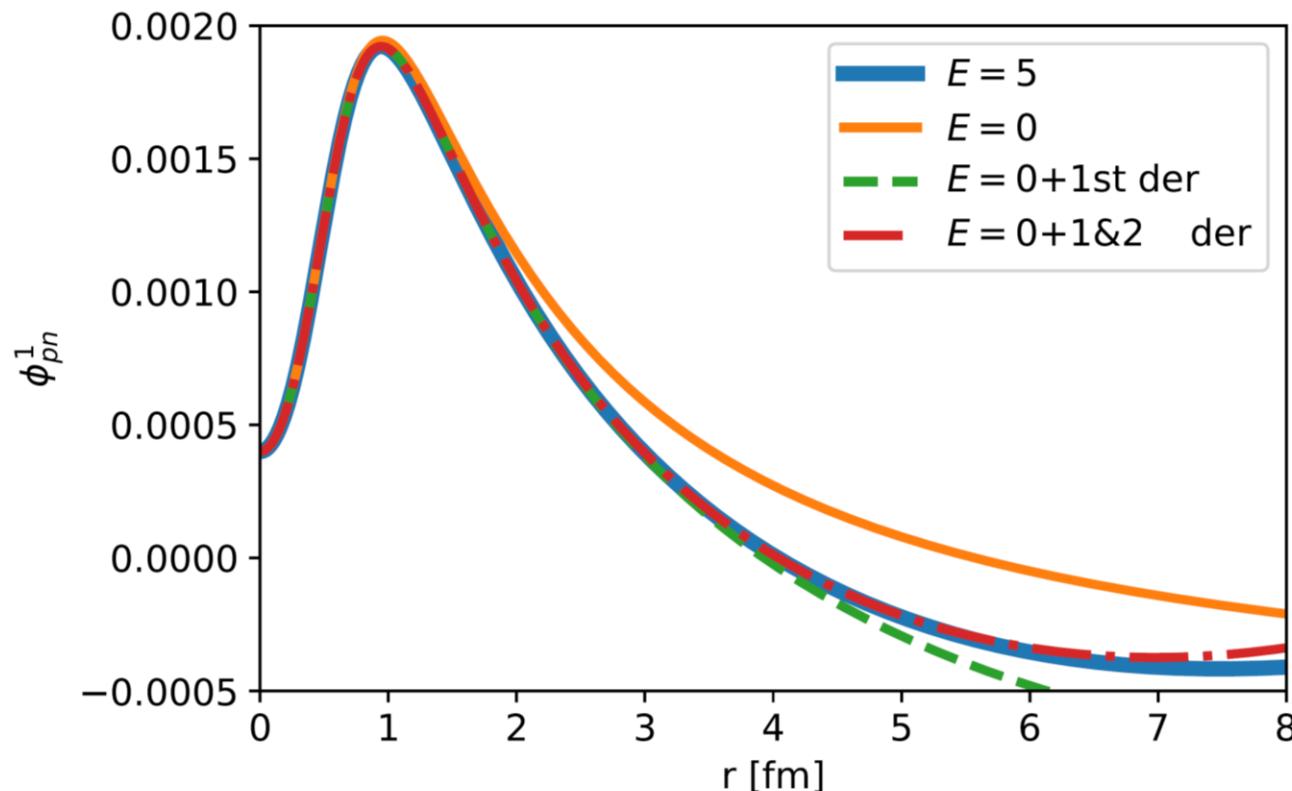
$$S_{ab}^\alpha(\mathbf{p}_1, \epsilon_1) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \frac{d^3 p_2}{(2\pi)^3} \underbrace{\delta(f(\mathbf{p}_2))}_{\text{Energy conservation}} \underbrace{n_{CM}(\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2)}_{\text{CM momentum distribution (Gaussian)}} \underbrace{|\tilde{\varphi}_{ab}^\alpha(|\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2|/2)|^2}_{\text{Two-body function}}$$

Similar to the convolution model

*C. Ciofi degli Atti, S. Simula, L. L. Frankfurt, and M. I. Strikman, Phys. Rev. C 44, R7(R) (1991),  
C. Ciofi degli Atti and S. Simula PRC 53, 1689 (1996)*

# Short-range expansion

$$\varphi^E(\mathbf{r}) = \varphi^{E=0}(\mathbf{r}) + \left( \frac{d}{dE} \varphi^{E=0}(\mathbf{r}) \right) E + \frac{1}{2!} \left( \frac{d^2}{dE^2} \varphi^{E=0}(\mathbf{r}) \right) E^2 + \dots$$



AV4'  
Deuteron channel  
Scattering state

# Short-range expansion: Next order terms

**The many-body case:**

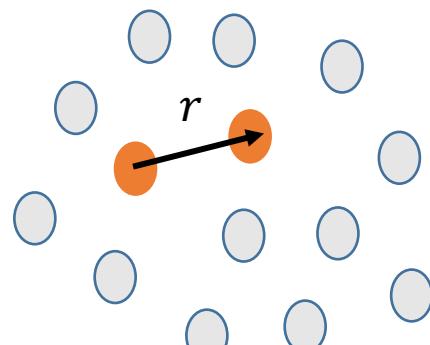
$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) = \sum_{\alpha} \varphi_{\alpha}^{E=0}(\mathbf{r}_{12}) A_{\alpha}^{(0)} + \sum_{\alpha} \left( \frac{d}{dE} \varphi_{\alpha}^{E=0}(\mathbf{r}) \right) A_{\alpha}^{(1)} + \sum_{\alpha} \left( \frac{d^2}{dE^2} \varphi_{\alpha}^{E=0}(\mathbf{r}) \right) A_{\alpha}^{(2)} + \dots$$

$$A_{\alpha}^{(0)}(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) = \sum_E A_{\alpha}^E(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A)$$

$$A_{\alpha}^{(1)}(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) = \sum_E E A_{\alpha}^E(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A)$$

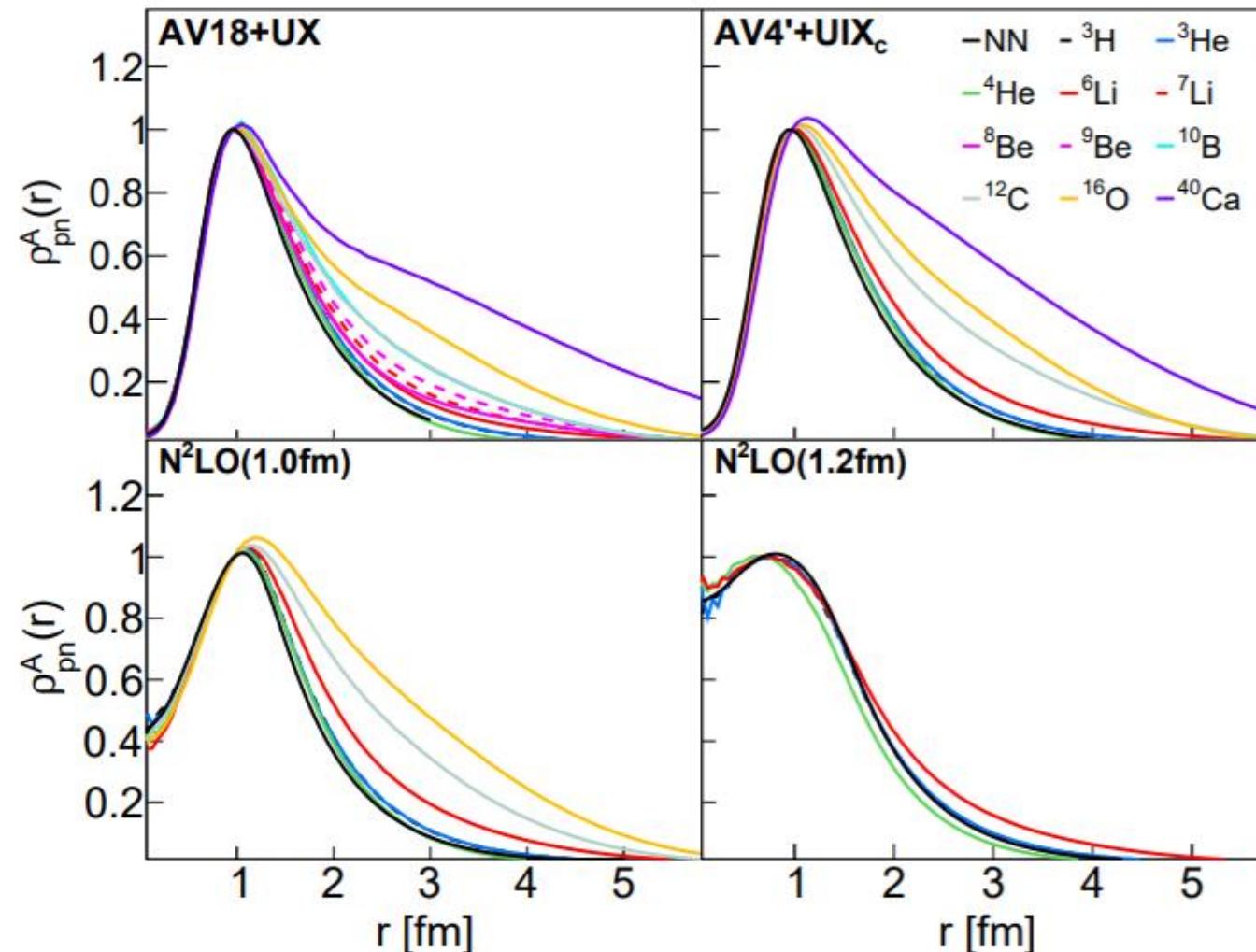
$$A_{\alpha}^{(2)}(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A) = \frac{1}{2!} \sum_E E^2 A_{\alpha}^E(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_A)$$

# Two-body density



$$\langle \hat{\theta} \rangle = \langle \varphi | \hat{\theta}(r) | \varphi \rangle C$$

$$\rho_{NN}(r) \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow 0} C |\varphi(r)|^2$$



Shows the validity of the factorization

# The Contact Theory

- Dilute systems - with **negligible interaction range**
- Zero-range condition:

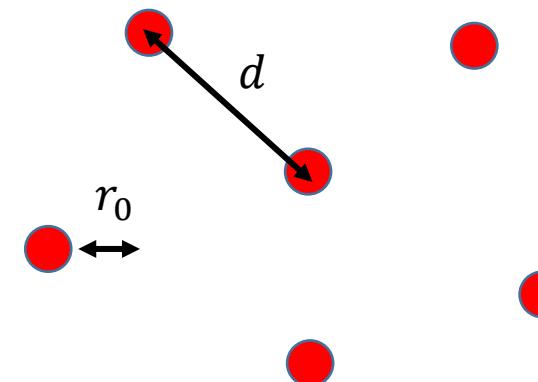
$$r_0 \ll a, d$$

Interaction range      Scattering length      Average distance between particles

- Zero-range model: Non-interacting particles with boundary condition

Independent of  
the details of the  
interaction

$$\Psi(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_N) \xrightarrow{r_{12} \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{r_{12}} - \frac{1}{a} \right) \times A(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \{\mathbf{r}_k\}_{k \neq 1,2})$$



# The Contact Theory

$$\Psi(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_N) \xrightarrow{r_{12} \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{r_{12}} - \frac{1}{a} \right) \times A(\mathbf{R}_{12}, \{\mathbf{r}_k\}_{k \neq 1,2})$$

- A parameter – **the contact** – can be defined:

$$\mathcal{C} \propto \langle A | A \rangle$$

- $\mathcal{C} \approx$  number of SRC pairs in the system

- Connected to many quantities in the system

$$n(k) \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{C}/k^4$$

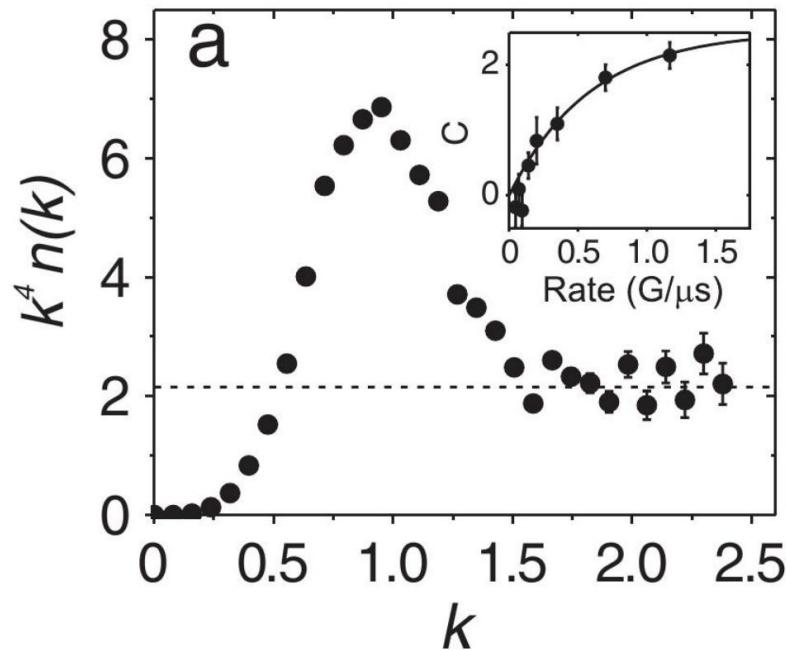
$$T + U = \frac{\hbar^2}{4\pi ma} \mathcal{C} + \sum_{\sigma} \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} \left( n_{\sigma}(\mathbf{k}) - \frac{\mathcal{C}}{k^4} \right)$$

...

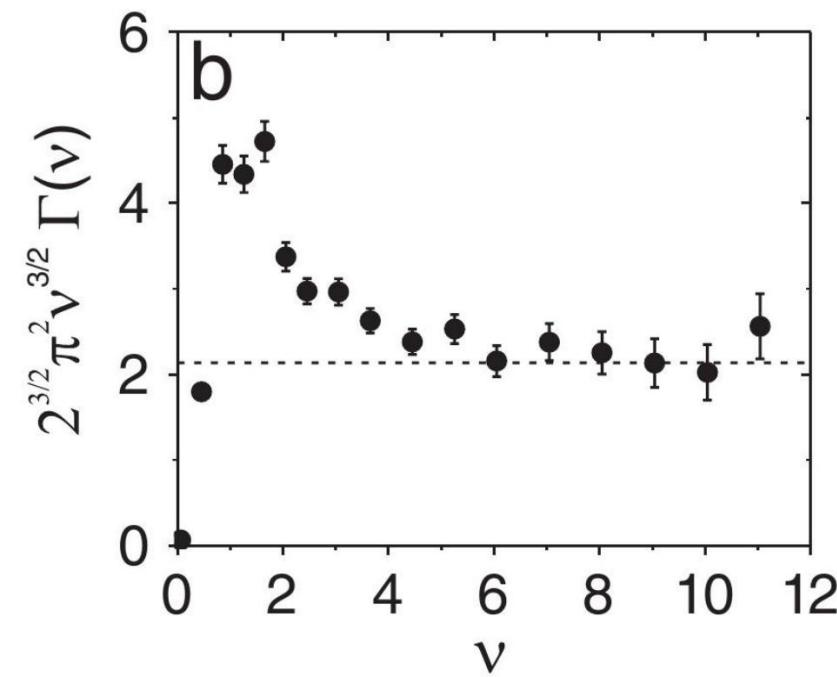
# The Contact Theory

- Verified experimentally: (ultra-cold atomic systems)

Momentum distribution

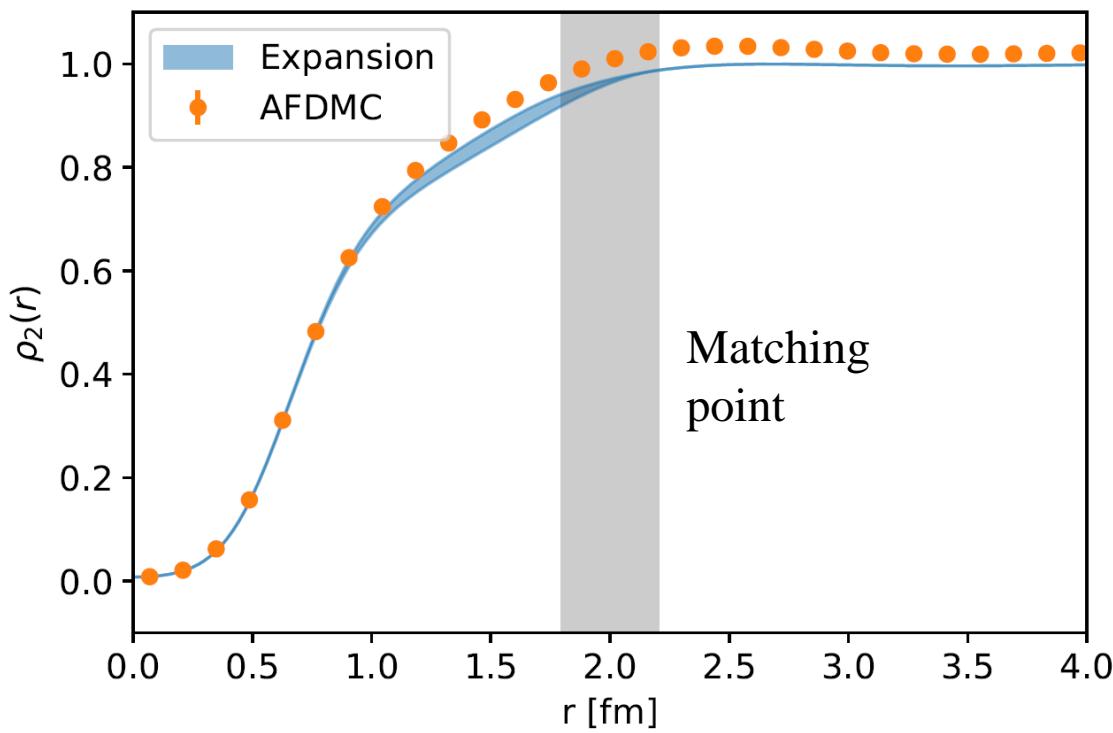


RF line shape

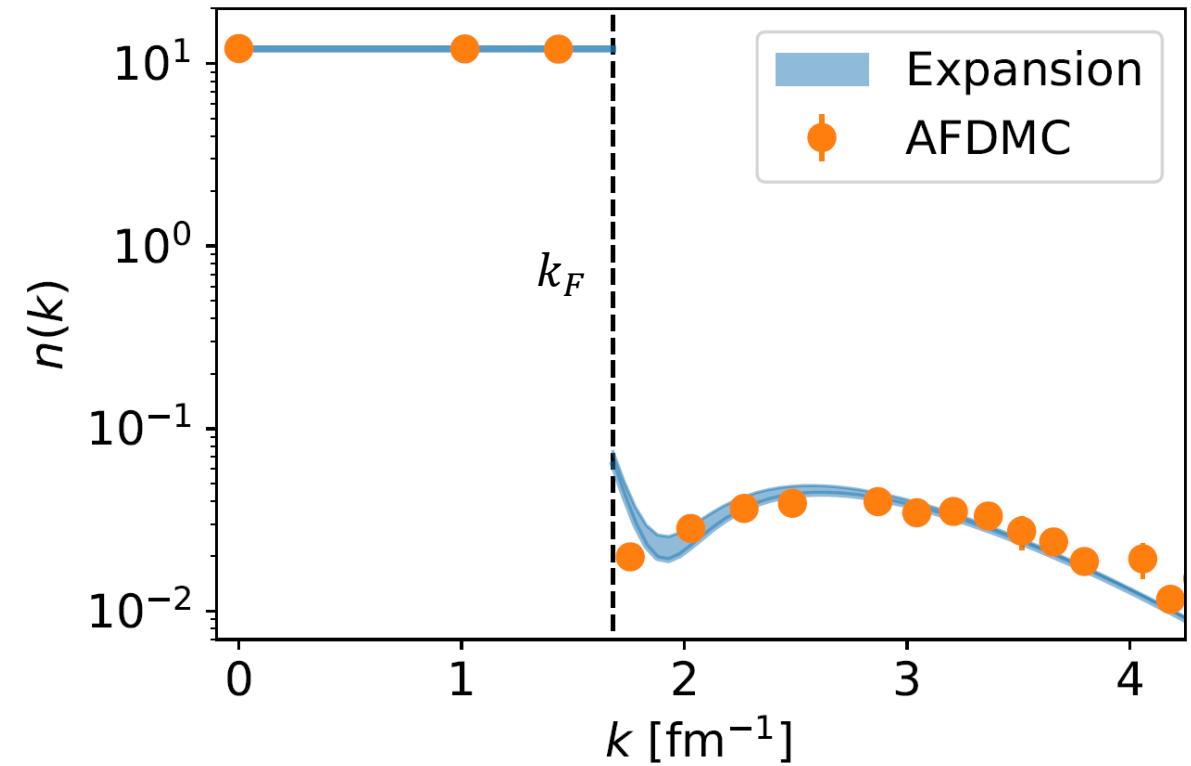


# Matching to long-range model

Fitting only the LO contact and matching to FG:



Obtained NN Potential Energy  $\langle V_2 \rangle = -29.2 \pm 1.2$  MeV  
Exact NN Potential Energy  $\langle V_2 \rangle = -30.1$  MeV



Obtained Kinetic Energy  $\langle T \rangle = 43.3 \pm 0.2$  MeV  
Exact Kinetic Energy  $\langle T \rangle = 43.3$  MeV