

QMC with dynamical pions and nucleons

A neural quantum state approach

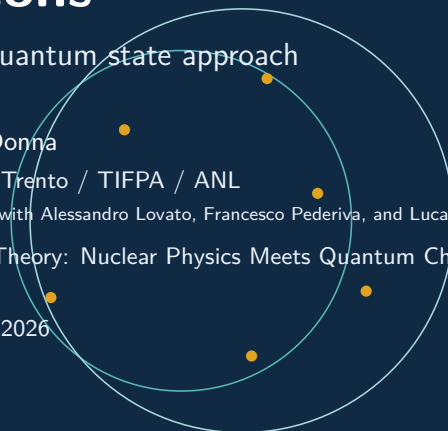
Andrea Di Donna

University of Trento / TIFPA / ANL

In collaboration with Alessandro Lovato, Francesco Pederiva, and Lucas Madeira

Many-Body Theory: Nuclear Physics Meets Quantum Chemistry
MITP, Mainz

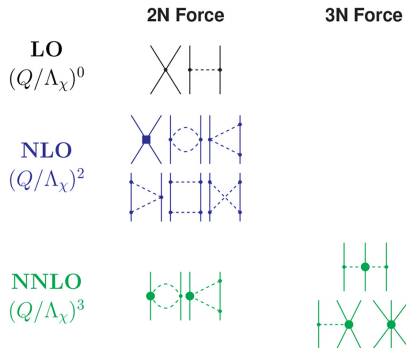
1 September 2026



From chiral EFT diag. expansion to Hamiltonian dynamical pions

$$\nu = -2 + 2A - 2C + 2L + \sum_i V_i \Delta_i, \quad \Delta_i = d_i + \frac{n_i}{2} - 2,$$

$$V_{NN}^{(\nu)} \sim \left(\frac{Q}{\Lambda_\chi} \right)^\nu, \quad Q \sim \{p, m_\pi\} \ll \Lambda_\chi$$



Potential route: diagrams $\rightarrow$ potential

Assign the order. Power counting assigns ν to each irreducible diagram.

Build the potential. Nucleon contacts + Pion propagation encoded into **instantaneous nPE operators**

Truncate. All irreducible diagrams till order ν are collected in $V^{(\leq \nu)}$.

Iterate it. Solve the LS equation $T = V + V G_0 T$ in the **nucleonic Hilbert space** resum this potential non-perturbatively in the nucleonic Hilbert space.

Explicit-pion route: operators $\rightarrow$ Hamiltonian

Retain a selected set* of chiral interaction vertices of the Lagrangian in the Hamiltonian **Resum non-perturbatively** all processes they generate in the **extended Hilbert space** by solving the Schrödinger equation.

Exchange paths (OPE/ $\sim$ TPE):

$$NN \xleftrightarrow{H_{AV}} NN\pi \xleftrightarrow{H_{AV}} NN\pi\pi$$

Figure adapted from D. R. Entem, R. Machleidt, and Y. Nosyk, *Frontiers in Physics* 8, 57 (2020), Fig. 1.

$$\mathcal{L}_0 = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \pi_i \partial^\mu \pi_i - \frac{1}{2} m_\pi^2 \pi_i \pi_i + N^\dagger \left[i \partial_0 + \frac{\nabla^2}{2M_0} - M_0 - \frac{1}{4f_\pi^2} \epsilon_{ijk} \tau_i \pi_j \partial_0 \pi_k - \frac{g_A}{2f_\pi} \tau_i \sigma^i \partial_j \pi_j \right] N - \frac{1}{2} C_S (N^\dagger N) (N^\dagger N) - \frac{1}{2} C_T (N^\dagger \sigma_i N) (N^\dagger \sigma_i N).$$

Field amplitudes as coordinates

In the Schrödinger picture, the operators are time independent. In a periodic box, expand

$$\pi_i(\mathbf{x}) \simeq \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \left[\pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^c \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}) + \pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^s \sin(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}) \right],$$

$$\Pi_i(\mathbf{x}) \simeq \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \left[\Pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^c \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}) + \Pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^s \sin(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}) \right].$$

Each real coefficient $\pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^{c,s}$ is therefore an ordinary quantum-mechanical coordinate.

Canonical quantization

The equal-time relations are

$$[\pi_i(\mathbf{x}), \pi_j(\mathbf{y})] = [\Pi_i(\mathbf{x}), \Pi_j(\mathbf{y})] = 0,$$

$$[\pi_i(\mathbf{x}), \Pi_j(\mathbf{y})] = i \delta_{ij} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}).$$

Hence, for the independent modes ($i \neq j$),

$$[\pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^c, \Pi_{j\mathbf{k}'}^c] = i \delta_{ij} \delta_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'}, \quad [\pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^s, \Pi_{j\mathbf{k}'}^s] = i \delta_{ij} \delta_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'}.$$

$\pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^{\alpha}$ -conjugate coordinates are: $\rightarrow \boxed{\Pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^{c,s} = -i \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi_{i\mathbf{k}}^{c,s}}}.$

Monte Carlo coordinates: each nonzero $\mathbf{k}$ carries $2 \times 3 = 6$ real amplitudes ($\cos/\sin \times$ isospin); the zero mode carries only 3 $\pi_{a,\mathbf{k}}$.

Schrödinger-picture free pion field in a finite box

$$\mathbf{k} = \frac{2\pi}{L} \mathbf{n}, \quad \omega_k = \sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2 + m_\pi^2}, \quad \mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^3.$$

A real field is represented by one momentum from each $\{\mathbf{k}, -\mathbf{k}\}$ pair:

$$\pi_a(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L^3}} \sum'_{\mathbf{k} \in S^+} \left[\pi_{a\mathbf{k}}^c \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}) + \pi_{a\mathbf{k}}^s \sin(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}) \right].$$

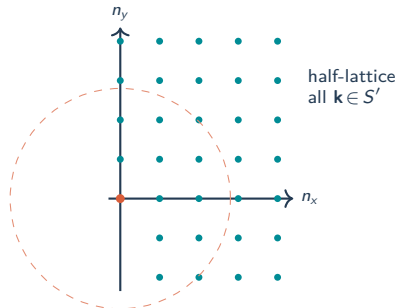
where S^+ is the set of independent half-lattice momenta.

After Legendre transformation, the free field becomes a set of independent oscillators,

$$H_\pi = \sum'_{a, \mathbf{k} \in S^+} \left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial (\pi_{a\mathbf{k}}^c)^2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial (\pi_{a\mathbf{k}}^s)^2} + \frac{\omega_k^2}{2} \left((\pi_{a\mathbf{k}}^c)^2 + (\pi_{a\mathbf{k}}^s)^2 \right) \right].$$

with free-pion vacuum

$$\Psi_{\pi,0}(\boldsymbol{\pi}) = \mathcal{N} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum'_{a, \mathbf{k} \in S^+} \omega_k \left(|\pi_{a,\mathbf{k}}^c|^2 + |\pi_{a,\mathbf{k}}^s|^2 \right) \right],$$



Nonrelativistic nucleons. The nucleon sector uses $\epsilon_N(\mathbf{p}) = M_N + \mathbf{p}^2/(2M_N) + \dots$, while pions keep $\omega_k = \sqrt{k^2 + m_\pi^2}$.

Hamiltonian: interaction structure and counterterms

$$H = H_N + H_\pi + H_{AV} + H_{WT}$$

Nucleon Hamiltonian

$$H_N = \sum_i \left[\frac{\mathbf{P}_i^2}{2M_N} + \beta_K^{\text{ct}} \mathbf{P}_i^2 + \delta M_{\text{ct}} \right] + \sum_{i < j} \delta_\Lambda(\mathbf{r}_{ij}) (C_S + C_T \boldsymbol{\sigma}_i \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_j) .$$

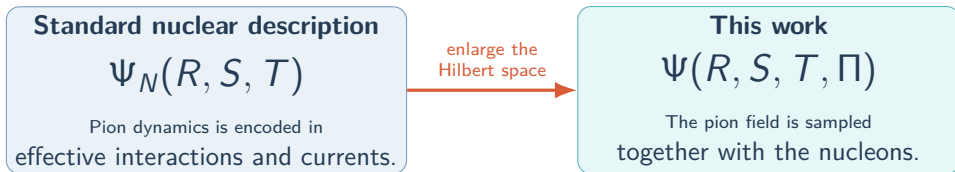
Keeping the nucleon physical: δM_{ct} fixes the pole; β_K^{ct} fixes the dispersion curvature. Both run with the pion cutoff.

The ingredient: axial pion-nucleon vertex

$$H_{AV} = \frac{g_A}{2f_\pi} \sqrt{\frac{2}{L^3}} \sum_{i, \mathbf{k} \in S^+} (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_i \cdot \mathbf{k}) \times \boldsymbol{\tau}_i \cdot \left[\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\mathbf{k}}^s \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_i) - \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\mathbf{k}}^c \sin(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_i) \right] .$$

Each application creates or annihilates one pion.

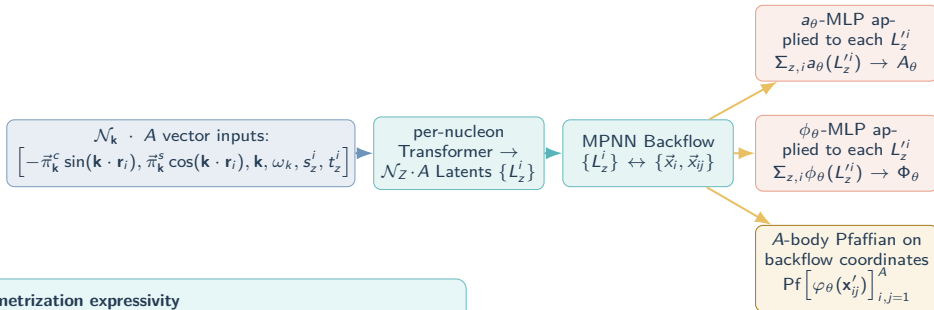
How to represent the enlarged Hilbert space?



**Can we give a parametrization
in terms of neural networks?**

Neural ansatze: π -vacuum $\times$ π -cloud deformation $\times$ A-pfaffian

$$\log \Psi_\theta = \underbrace{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_k \omega_k \pi_k^2}_{\pi\text{-vacuum}} + \underbrace{A_\theta(\{L_z^i\}) + i\Phi_\theta(\{L_z^i\})}_{\pi\text{-cloud deformation}} + \underbrace{\log \text{Pf}[\varphi_\theta(\mathbf{x}'_{ij})]_{i,j=1}^A}_{A\text{-body antisymmetry}}.$$



Parametrization expressivity

The complex π -vacuum deformation generates excited states:

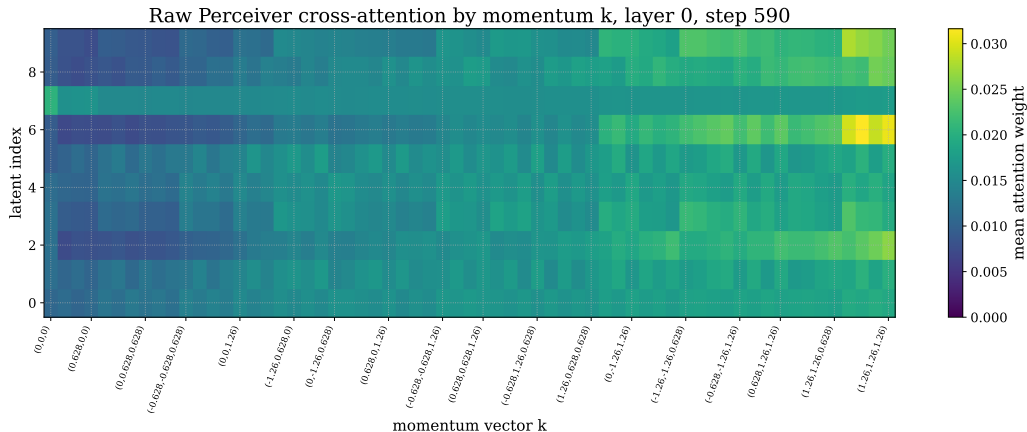
$$A(\pi_k) = \log |\pi_k|, \quad \Phi(\pi_k) = \arg(\pi_k),$$

gives

$$\Psi(\pi_k) \propto \pi_k e^{-\omega_k \pi_k^2/2} \propto \psi_1(\pi_k),$$

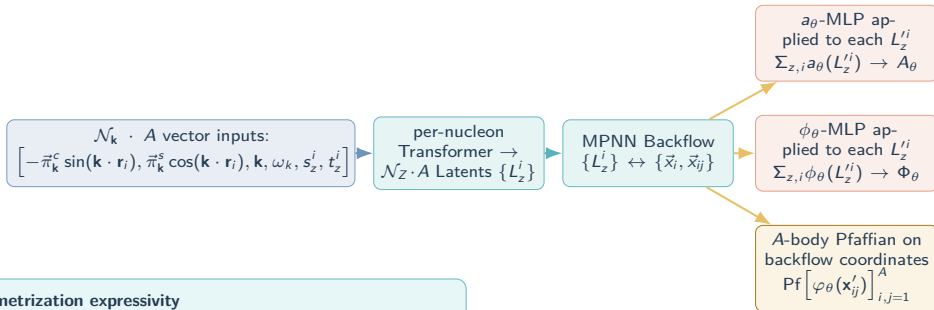
the first excited harmonic-oscillator state.

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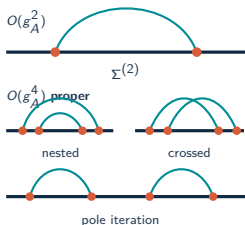
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Fourth order tracks the variational result as the cutoff grows

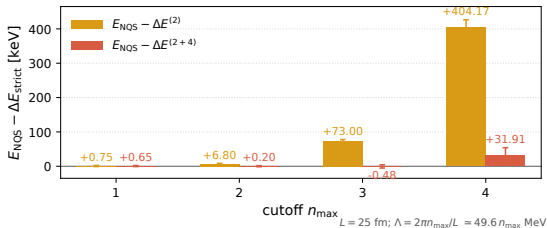
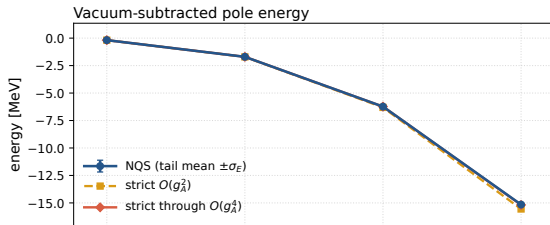
Terms retained in the Self Energy



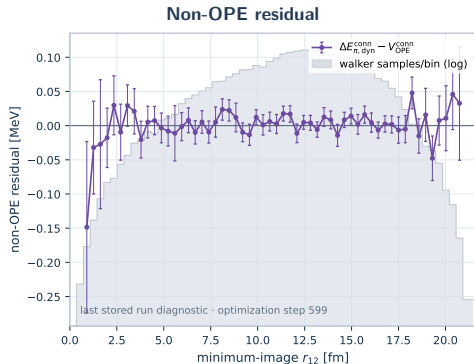
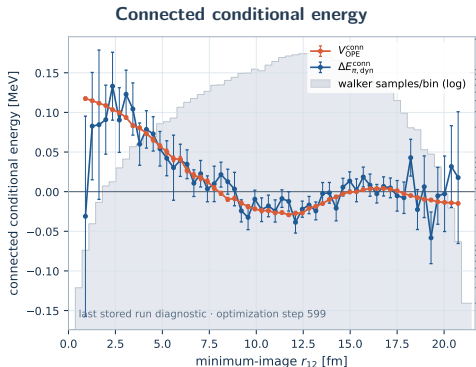
Expansion of Σ at 4-th Order

$$\Delta E_{\text{pole}}^{(2+4)} = \Sigma^{(2)} + \Sigma_{\text{nested}}^{(4)} + \Sigma_{\text{crossed}}^{(4)} + \Sigma^{(2)} \partial_E \Sigma^{(2)}.$$

The last term is generated by expanding the pole equation; it is not a new proper topology.



The dynamical pion field reproduces the sampled OPE contribution



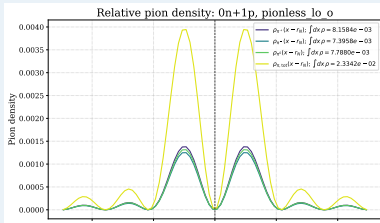
$$V_{\text{OPE}}(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{1}{L^3} \frac{g_A^2}{2f_\pi^2} \tau_1 \cdot \tau_2 \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k})(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k})}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}}'^2} \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}), \quad \omega_{\mathbf{k}}'^2 = \mathbf{k}^2 + m_\pi^2$$

$$\Delta E_{\pi, \text{dyn}} \equiv H_{\text{full}} - T_N$$

Connected Expectation value: $X^{\text{conn}}(r) = \langle X \rangle_r - \langle X \rangle_{\text{ref}}$.

What becomes accessible once the pion is dynamical?

Already accessible ground-state and elastic information



Charge-resolved pion density $\rho_{\pi^+}, \rho_{\pi^0}, \rho_{\pi^-}$

from $|\Psi_0|^2$; $L = 10 \text{ fm}$, $n_{\text{max}} = 3$

Equal-time connected correlation

$$C_O(q) = \langle \delta O^\dagger(q) \delta O(q) \rangle$$

total connected strength, without resolving ω

Elastic form factors

axial $G_A(Q^2)$, isovector charge $F_C^{(V)}(Q^2)$

Requires energy resolution

how the strength is distributed in ω

For a chosen current or operator $O(q)$:

Lorentz integral transform (LIT)

$$L_O(\sigma_R, \sigma_I) \xrightarrow{\text{inversion}} R_O(q, \omega)$$

continuum information without constructing each final state

Responses determine the cross section

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega d\omega} = \sigma_0 \sum_{\alpha} v_{\alpha} R_{\alpha}(q, \omega)$$

Neutrino–nucleus
inclusive R_V, R_A, R_{VA}

Pion production
spectral strength
above the
 $N\pi$ threshold

Takeaways

01 Recovered at $O(g_A^4)$ nucleon self energy

02 A scalable N-body representation
for the pion-nuclon neural ansatz

03 The long-range mechanism emerges
The dynamical effect of OPE emerges at small cutoffs, without inserting it as an instantaneous NN potential.

→ **NEXT** contact refit and deuteron → consistent currents and response functions

Thank you