A Covariant, Chiral, Effective Field Theory for Nuclei

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Outline

• The fundamental theory of nuclei is Quantum Chromodynamics. It contains "colored" quarks and gluons.
• But we can't solve QCD for ordinary nuclei! (Nor do we really want to: it's more complicated than necessary.)
• So how do we simplify the problem to make progress?
• Use Effective Field Theory (EFT)
  • Basic principles are common to many areas of physics.
  • Include dynamics explicitly at large distances and parametrize short-range physics generically.
• Use Density Functional Theory (DFT)
  • Concentrate on a subset of observables.
  • Compute them reliably without the many-body wave function or with a simple one.

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Why Use Hadrons?

- We focus on low-energy, long-range physics, and all observables are colorless.
- Hadrons (baryons and mesons) are the actual particles observed in experiments.
- Colored quarks and gluons participate only in intermediate states, and such "off-shell" behavior is unobservable.
- So pick the most efficient degrees of freedom! We have to parametrize the hamiltonian anyway, since we don't know its true form.
- We are interested primarily in the nuclear many-body problem, so include "collective" degrees of freedom like scalar and vector fields.
- Only nucleons and pions are "real" (stable) particles; other fields are always virtual and just parameterize the NN interaction (or EM form factors).
Why impose Lorentz Covariance?

- The scalar and vector mean fields in nuclei are large (several hundred MeV). This is a new energy scale. The scalar and vector fields cancel to produce a small binding energy.
  - Consistent with QCD sum-rule results (size and density dependence).
  - Consistent with chiral power counting (two-body energy/nucleon is of order $\rho_0/f^2$).

- Large mean fields produce important relativistic interaction effects.
  - Velocity-dependent NN interaction provides a new saturation mechanism.
  - Scalar and vector mean fields add to produce correct spin-orbit force. (Compare “fine” structure in atoms and nuclei.)
  - Successful prediction of nucleon-nucleus spin observables in the CIA and energy dependence of the optical potential.
  - Explains pseudospin symmetry in nuclei.

There really is relativity in nuclei!
Fig 4.8 Low-lying energy levels of atomic hydrogen. The diagram is not drawn to scale.
of $j = 1 - 3/2$ are filled by one particle each and later the $3/2^-$ state of $j = 3/2 - 1/2$. The level pattern, as modified by strong spin-orbit coupling, is shown in Fig. IV.2.
Lorentz-covariant hadronic field theories $\equiv$ Quantum HadroDynamics

- Interpret QHD lagrangians as nonrenormalizable $\mathcal{L}_{EFT}$s
  - known long-range interactions constrained by symmetries;
  - a complete set of generic short-range interactions;
  - the borderline is characterized by breakdown scale $\Lambda$ of EFT.
  For QHD, $\Lambda \approx 600$ MeV (empirically).

- When based on a local, Lorentz-invariant lagrangian density, EFT is 
  the most general way to parameterize observables consistent with 
  the principles of quantum mechanics, special relativity, unitarity, 
  cluster decomposition, microscopic causality, and the desired 
  internal symmetries.

- It's not necessary to derive $\mathcal{L}$ from QCD
  - Use a general $\mathcal{L}$ that respects the symmetries.
  - By construction, this provides a general parametrization for 
    energies $\lesssim \Lambda$ (remove redundancies).

- The freedom to redefine and transform the fields
  $\Rightarrow$ infinitely many representations of low-energy QCD physics
**Strategy**

- Assign an index to each term in the lagrangian: $\nu = d + n/2 + b$.
  - $d = \text{number of derivatives (except on nucleons)}$.
  - $n = \text{number of nucleon fields}$.
  - $b = \text{number of non-Goldstone bosons}$.
- Organize $\mathcal{L}$ in powers of $\nu$ and truncate; this gives a reliable expansion in inverse powers of a "heavy" mass scale $\Lambda \approx M$.

**Fields**

- Nucleon ($N$), Lorentz scalar ($\phi = \text{"sigma"}$) [chiral scalar]
- Lorentz vector ($V^{\mu}_e = \text{"omega"}$: $V^{\mu}_e = \partial_e V^e - \partial^e V^\mu$) [ " ]
- Pion: $U \equiv \exp(i\tau\cdot\pi/f_\pi)$, $\xi \equiv \exp(i\tau\cdot\pi/2f_\pi)$, together with $a_\mu \equiv -\frac{1}{2} (\xi^\dagger \partial_\mu \xi - \xi \partial_\mu \xi^\dagger)$, $v_\mu \equiv -\frac{1}{2} (\xi^\dagger \partial_\mu \xi + \xi \partial_\mu \xi^\dagger)$, $v_{\mu\nu} \equiv -i[a_\mu, a_\nu]$.
- Rho: $\rho_\mu \equiv \frac{1}{2} \tau\cdot\rho_\mu$, $D_\mu \rho_\nu \equiv \partial_\mu \rho_\nu + i[v_\mu, \rho_\nu]$, $\rho_{\mu\nu} = D_\mu \rho_\nu - D_\nu \rho_\mu + i\tilde{\gamma}_\mu \rho_{\nu\rho_0}$. 
\[ \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{QHD}} = \mathcal{L}_N + \mathcal{L}_{\pi N}^{(4)} + \mathcal{L}_M \]

\[
= \bar{N} \left( i \gamma^\mu \left[ D_\mu + i g_\rho \rho_\mu + i g_\omega \omega_\mu \right] + g_A \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 a_{\mu} - M + g_5 \phi \right) N \\
- \frac{f_\rho}{4M} \bar{N} \rho_{\mu\nu} \gamma^\mu N - \frac{f_\omega}{4M} \bar{N} \omega_{\mu\nu} \gamma^\mu N - \frac{\kappa_5}{M} \bar{N} v_{\mu\nu} \gamma^\mu N \\
+ \frac{4 \partial_\mu N \bar{N} \gamma^\mu \omega^\nu N}{M} \left( a_\omega \alpha^\nu \right) + \mathcal{L}_{\pi N}^{(4)} \\
+ \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + \frac{1}{4} f_2^2 \text{Tr} \left( \partial_\mu U \partial^\mu U^\dagger \right) \\
- \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} (\rho_{\mu\nu} \rho^{\mu\nu}) - \frac{1}{4} V_{\mu\nu} V^{\mu\nu} \\
- g_{\rho\pi\pi} \frac{2 f_2^2}{m_\rho^2} \text{Tr} (\rho_{\mu\nu} \rho^{\mu\nu}) + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \eta_3 \frac{g_5 \phi}{M} + \eta_4 \frac{g_5^2 \phi^2}{M^2} \right) m_\rho^2 \bar{V}_\mu V^\mu \\
+ \frac{1}{4} \xi_0 g_\rho^2 (V_\mu V^\mu)^2 + \left( 1 + \eta_3 \frac{g_5 \phi}{M} \right) m_\rho^2 \text{Tr} (\rho_{\mu\nu} \rho^{\mu\nu}) \\
- m_\phi^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\kappa_3}{3} \frac{g_5 \phi}{M} + \frac{\kappa_4}{4} \frac{g_5^2 \phi^2}{M^2} \right) .
\]

- \[ \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{QHD}} \text{ contains all nonredundant terms through order } \nu = 4. \]
- We see standard noninteracting hadron terms \( \oplus \) Yukawa nucleon–meson couplings \( \oplus \) anomalous-moment interactions \( \oplus \) nucleon–meson and meson nonlinearities: nontrivial dynamics.
In our EFT (QHD) lagrangian:

- Chiral $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ symmetry is nonlinear.
- Isovector subgroup $SU(2)_V$ symmetry is linear.
- These are global symmetries.

- Vector transformations: $L = \exp(i\beta \cdot \tau/2) = R$
- Axial-vector transformations: $L = \exp(i\alpha \cdot \tau/2)$, $R = \exp(-i\alpha \cdot \tau/2)$

- Field transformations:
  (all objects are matrices)

  $U(x) \rightarrow LU(x)R^\dagger$,

  $\xi(x) \rightarrow LE(x)h^\dagger(x) = h(x)\xi(x)R^\dagger$ \quad [defines $h(x)$]

  $N(x) \rightarrow h(x)N(x)$ \quad [generally, $h(x)$ is local]

  $\rho_\mu(x) \rightarrow h(x)\rho_\mu(x)h^\dagger(x)$.

- Chirally covariant derivatives:

  $D_\mu N \equiv (\partial_\mu + i\nu_\mu)N : \quad D_\mu N \rightarrow h(x)(D_\mu N)$,

  $D_\mu \rho_\nu \equiv \partial_\mu \rho_\nu + i[\nu_\mu, \rho_\nu] : \quad D_\mu \rho_\nu \rightarrow h(x)(D_\mu \rho_\nu)h^\dagger(x)$
To realize the nonlinear $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ symmetry, the lagrangian must include pions explicitly.

Note that $U$, $\xi$, and $\rho_{\mu}$ are $2 \times 2$ matrices.

For isospin transformations, $L = R = h$ (constants); the transformations are linear.

For general transformations: $L \neq R$. (Axial transformations have $L = R^1$.)

Now $h(x)$ is nontrivial and contains pion fields.

So $h(x)N(x)$ mixes nucleons with any number of pions; the transformation is nonlinear.

The only field or tensor that transforms inhomogeneously is $v_{\mu} \rightarrow hv_{\mu}h^\dagger - ih\partial_{\mu}h^\dagger$. This allows for the construction of chirally covariant derivatives.

This is NOT the linear sigma model; the scalar field $\phi$ is a chiral scalar. It is NOT the chiral partner of the pion.
- Off-shell behavior is not observable. Choose the dynamical variables that are most efficient.

- Vacuum dynamics involves short-range physics. Don't calculate it, but parametrize it in a few fitted constants. (Computation of hadronic loops \( \Rightarrow \) unnatural coefficients.) Use valence nucleons only.

- Although fields and couplings are local, nucleon substructure is also included:
  - Example: \( \bar{N}N\sigma \rightarrow g(\sigma)\bar{N}N\sigma \)
  - But define: \( \phi \equiv g(\sigma)\sigma \), \( [g(0) = 1] \); then invert for \( \sigma(\phi) \).
  - Then: \( g(\sigma)\bar{N}N\sigma + p(\sigma) = \bar{N}N\phi + a\phi^2 + b\phi^3 + c\phi^4 + \cdots \)

- Nucleon EM structure included in a derivative expansion:

\[
L_{EM} = -\frac{e}{2} \bar{N} F^{\mu\nu} \gamma_\nu (1 + \tau_3) N - \frac{e}{4M} F^{\mu\nu} \bar{N} \{ \lambda_+ + \lambda_\tau \gamma_5 \} \sigma_{\mu\nu} N
- \frac{e}{2M^2} \partial_\mu F^{\nu\rho} \bar{N} ((\tilde{\beta} + \tilde{\beta}_\tau) \gamma_\rho) \gamma_\mu N
- \frac{e}{M^2} \partial_\mu F^{\nu\rho} \bar{N} ((\tilde{\delta} + \tilde{\delta}_\tau) \gamma_\rho) \gamma_\mu N + \cdots + \text{VMD,}
\]

which generates \( e, \lambda, \tau^{\text{max}}, \ldots \).

This works at long distances (low momenta).
Low-energy QCD is expected to contain two mass scales:

\[ f \approx 93 \text{ MeV}, \quad \Lambda \approx 500 \text{ to } 800 \text{ MeV} \]

NDA rules for a generic term in the energy functional:

\[ C \left[ f^2 \Lambda^2 \right] \left[ \left( \frac{NN}{\Lambda} \right) \frac{1}{m!} \left( \Phi \right)^m \frac{1}{n!} \left( W \right)^n \left( \frac{\partial}{\Lambda} \right)^p \right] \]

"Naturalness" \( \implies \) dimensionless \( C \) is of order unity.

Provides expansion parameters at finite density:

\[ \frac{\Phi}{\Lambda} \approx \frac{W}{\Lambda} \approx 1/2, \quad \frac{\rho_n}{\Lambda} \approx \frac{\rho_n}{\Lambda} \approx 1/5 \text{ at } \rho_n^0 \]

Allows truncation and calibration with quantitatively accurate fits to bulk nuclear observables or "properties of nuclear matter" (plus "\( m_n \) in nuclei").
Density Functional Theory

- Construct the ground-state energy functional from the lagrangian using a mean-field ("factorized") approximation:
  - A functional of scalar ($\rho_s$) and baryon ($\rho_b$) densities.
  - Lorentz scalar and vector fields are interpreted as Kohn–Sham single-particle potentials. Dirac (quasi)nucleons move in these local potentials.

- Kohn–Sham theorem [1965]: The exact ground-state scalar and vector densities, energy, and chemical potential for the fully interacting many-fermion system can be reproduced by a collection of (quasi)fermions moving in appropriately defined, self-consistent, local, classical fields.

- Mean-field energy functional provides a parametrization of the exact energy functional. Fit the parameters (define $\chi^2$) to (29) nuclear observables from $^{16}$O, $^{40}$Ca, $^{48}$Ca, $^{88}$Sr, and $^{208}$Pb. There are more than enough parameters at the typical level of truncation. Parameters encode both short-range (vacuum, QCD) effects and long-range (many-body) effects.
• Kohn–Sham quasi-particle orbitals are tailored to the generation of the ground-state density, so they include exchange, correlation, and short-range effects (approximately).

• Verify naturalness by examining the convergence of the truncation (and make predictions).

• Note the large scalar and vector fields! The scale of the lowest-order term in the energy/particle is given by

$$\rho_{\text{coul}} f^2 \approx 130 \text{ MeV}$$

and is independent of $\Lambda$. This is a general result!
Table 1: Parameter sets from fits to finite nuclei. The parameters in the lower portion of the table are fitted to the (free) nucleon charge and magnetic form factors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$\nu$</th>
<th>$W_1$</th>
<th>$C_1$</th>
<th>$Q_1$</th>
<th>$Q_2$</th>
<th>$G_1$</th>
<th>$G_2$</th>
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<tr>
<td>$m_0/M$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.80306</td>
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<td>0.52735</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>$g_1$</td>
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<tr>
<td>$f_{x}/A$</td>
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<td>$\beta^{(0)}$</td>
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<td>-0.18470</td>
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</table>
Meson Field Models

- full
- $\phi^n$ only
- $\phi^n + \nabla^4$
FIG. 3. Comparison between experimental and calculated total binding energies for Sn isotopes using the G2 parameter set.

**Predictions!**
FIG. 4. Percentage deviation of the total binding energy for Sn isotopes using Q1, G1, and G2 parameter sets. The stable isotopes are indicated in the plot.

PREDICTIONS!
FIG. 5. Level spectrum of isotopes of $^{132}\text{Sn}_{50}$ differing by one neutron.
FIG. 6. Level spectrum of isotones of $^{132}$Sn differing by one proton.
Summary

- We described a strong-coupling relativistic quantum field theory for nuclei that is manifestly Lorentz covariant and that embodies the symmetries of QCD.

- The primary focus of this QHD/EFT lagrangian is on the nuclear many-body problem.

- One can systematically expand and truncate the EFT lagrangian in powers of the fields and their derivatives.

- The mean-field approximation is really DFT, implemented through Kohn–Sham quasi-particle orbitals. The tested validity and accuracy of our truncation procedure (for fitted and predicted results) shows that we really know something about the energy functional for cold nuclear matter near equilibrium density.

- The energy functional can be extended beyond the mean-field parametrization using well-defined rules of EFT compute loops. And it has been [Hu, McIntire, BOS (2000, 2007)].

- The QHD/EFT/DFT/KS formalism provides a true representation of QCD in the low-energy nuclear domain.