

Active Learning Emulators for Nuclear Two-Body Scattering in Momentum Space

Abhinav Giri

Ohio University, Department of Physics and Astronomy

A. Giri, J. Kim, C. Drischler, Ch. Elster, R. J. Furnstahl — *Phys. Rev. C* **113**, 044001 (2026)

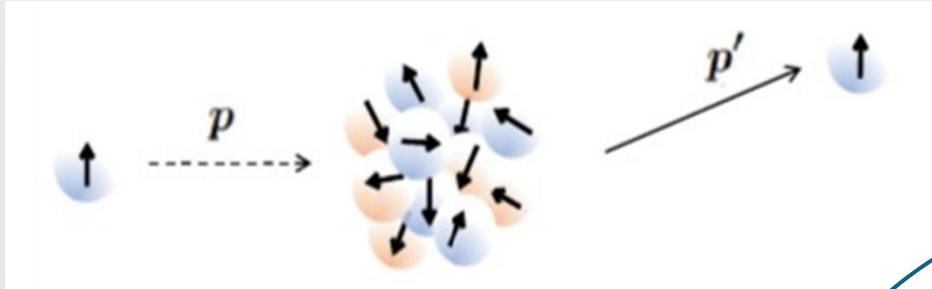
National Nuclear Physics Summer School

University of Washington, Seattle | July 3, 2026



Two-body Nuclear Scattering

The central computational task: solve the **Lippmann–Schwinger equation** for the t-matrix, from which all scattering observables follow.



Credit: Robert Baker

Why it stings

- $(N+1) \times (N+1)$ solve per partial wave
- Coupled channels: $4(N+1) \times 4(N+1)$ matrix
- Repeat for every energy & every θ

$$T_{\ell\ell'}(k, k'; E_{k_0}) = V_{\ell\ell'}(k, k') + \sum_{\ell''} \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_0^\infty dk'' k''^2 \frac{V_{\ell\ell''}(k, k'') T_{\ell''\ell'}(k'', k'; E_{k_0})}{E_{k_0} - E'' + i\epsilon}$$

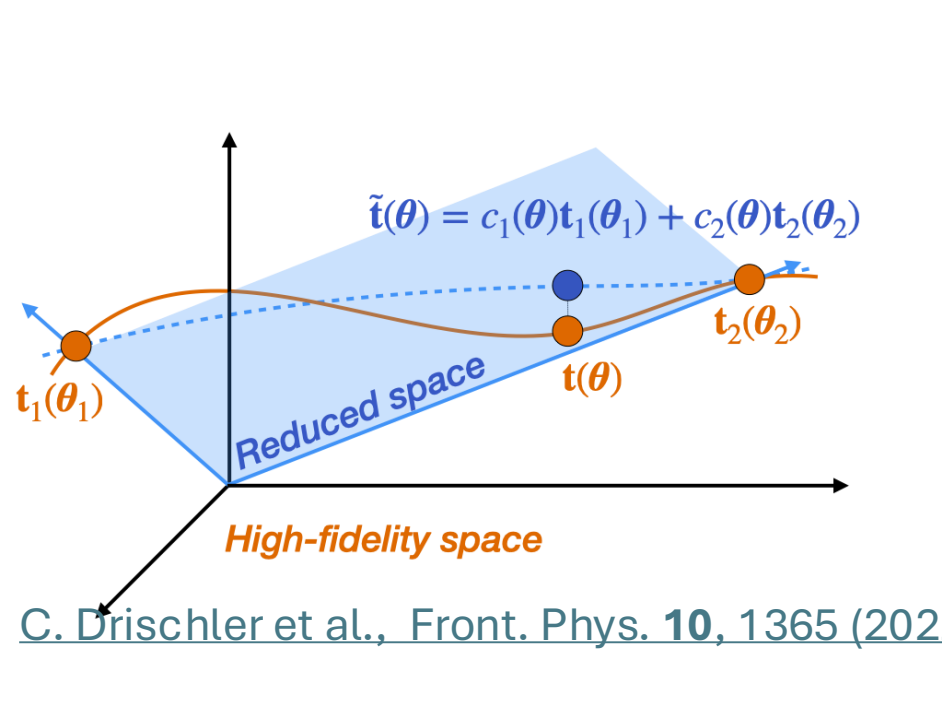
$$A(\theta) \mathbf{t}(\theta) = \mathbf{V}(\theta)$$

$$V_{\ell,\ell'}(k, k'; \theta) = \sum_{a=0}^{n_\theta} h_a^{(\ell,\ell')}(\theta) V_a^{(\ell,\ell')}(k, k')$$

Solved channel by channel: $^1\mathbf{s}_0, ^3\mathbf{s}_1, ^3\mathbf{D}_1$, higher ℓ — phase shifts δ_ℓ compared to data; all observables follow from T.

For chiral interactions, the LECs enter *linearly*: $h_a(\theta) = \theta_a$. The index $a=0$ absorbs all parameter-independent (e.g., pion-exchange) terms.

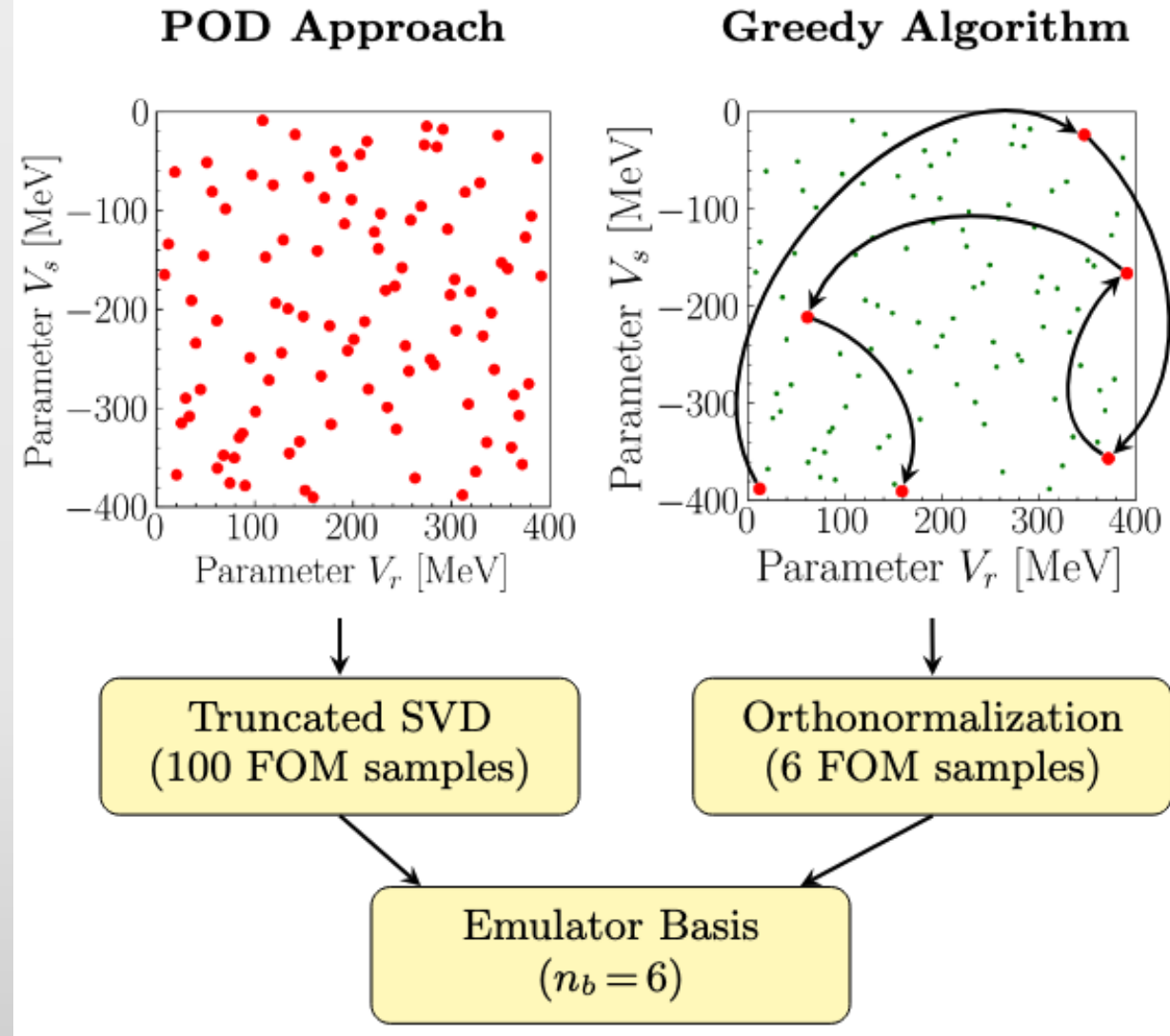
Reduced Order Models



Reduced Basis Methods construct a low-dimensional subspace from high-fidelity solutions called snapshots.

Greedy Algorithm aims to give high accuracy with fewer samples compared to POD along with error estimator

- Offline: expensive basis construction
- Online: fast evaluations for new parameters.



Greedy Algorithm in Action (2d Parameter Space)

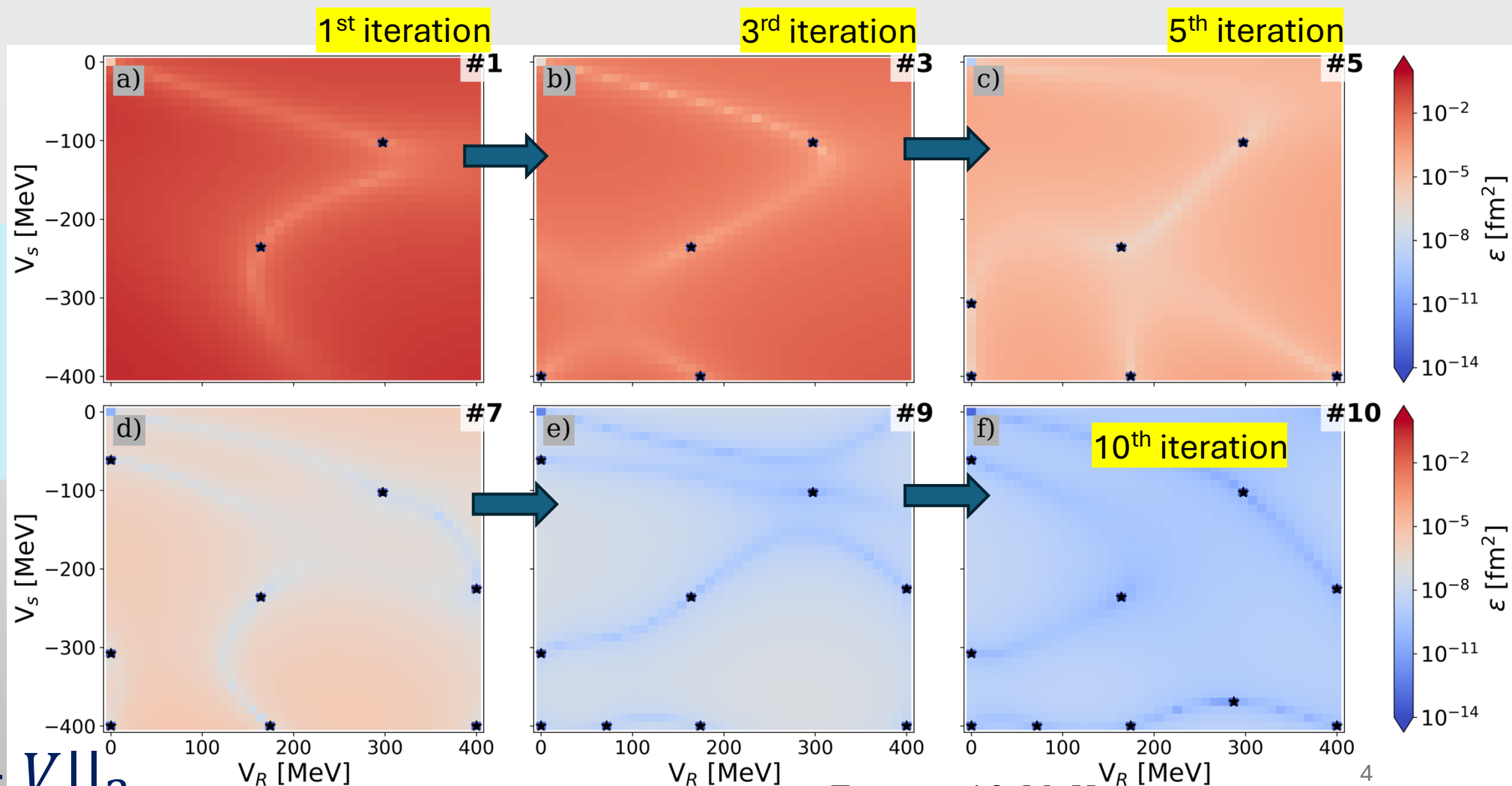
$$V(r; \theta) = \theta_1 e^{-\kappa_R r^2} + \theta_2 e^{-\kappa_s r^2}, \quad \text{where } \theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2) = (V_R, V_s)$$

For demonstration, the Minnesota potential in momentum space is used.

Greedy algorithm chooses **new points** where estimated emulator error is largest.

Stops when **all errors** below tolerance.

$$\varepsilon = \|At_{emu} - V\|_2$$



$E_{c.m.} = 10 \text{ MeV}$

Phase Shifts

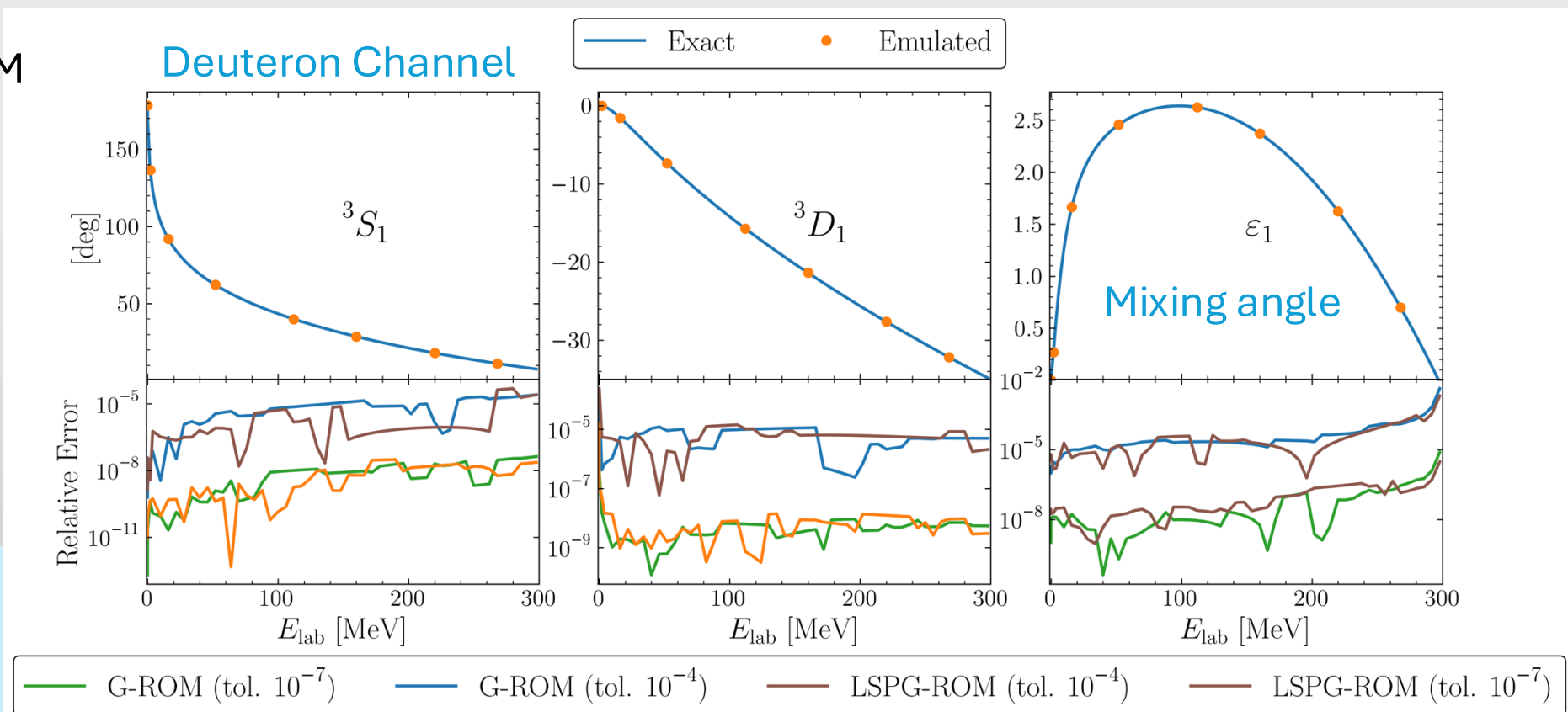
- Obtained from the emulated on-shell t-matrix and compared with exact calculations from the chiral potential at the best-fit LECs

[Gezerlis et al., Phys. Rev. C **90**, 054323 \(2014\)](#)

- The G-ROM and LSPG-ROM were tested at two tolerance levels:

- $\eta = 10^{-4} \rightarrow$ relative error mostly below 10^{-5}
- $\eta = 10^{-7} \rightarrow$ relative error mostly below 10^{-8}

- Both the phase shifts and mixing angle from the emulator **show excellent agreement with the exact t-matrix results**



Bayesian Calibration to Total Cross Sections

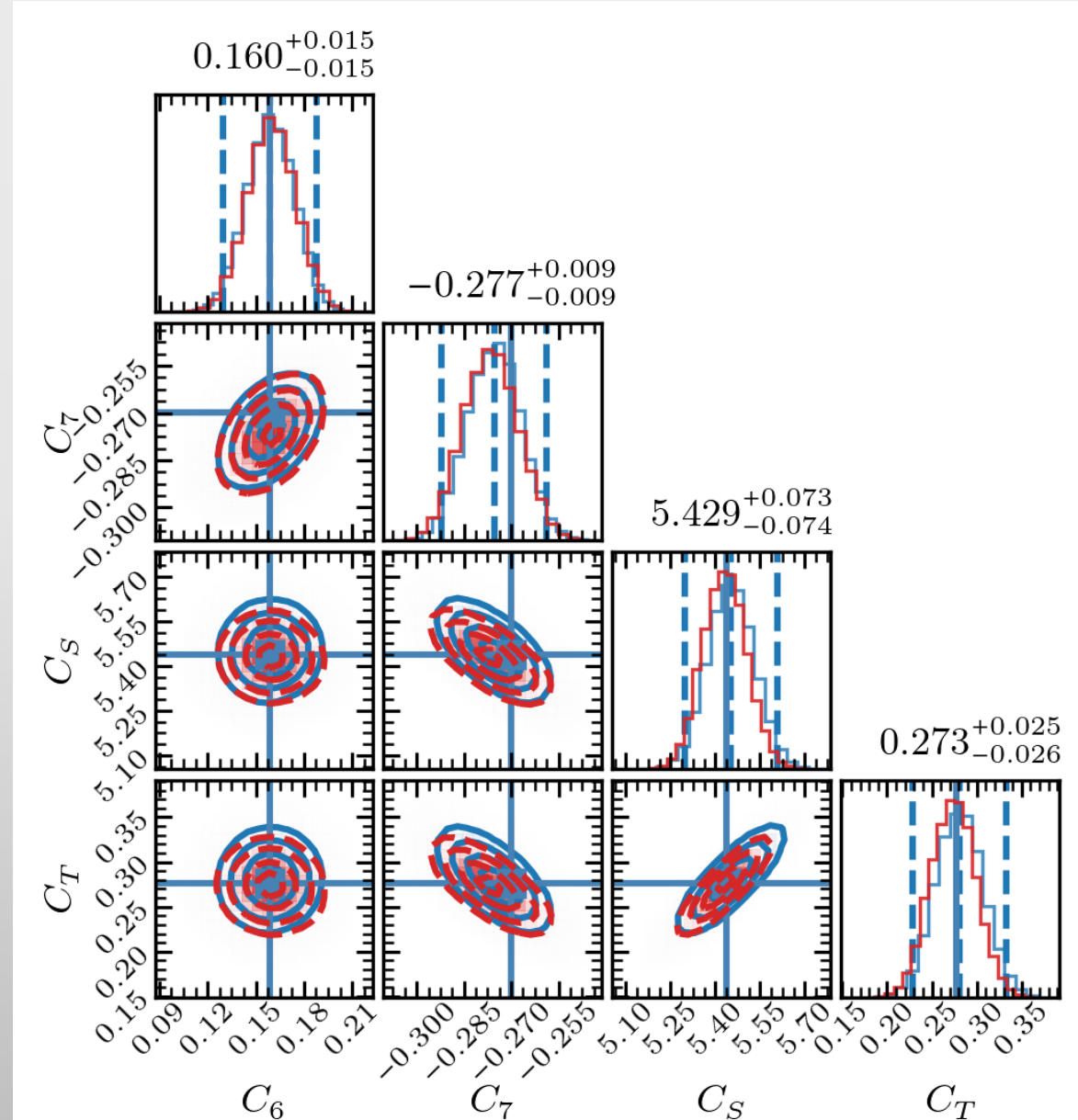
DATA

- PWA93 total np cross sections
- 12 energies: 0.1–25.1 MeV + 60 MeV
- Prior: $N(\theta^*, (\kappa\theta^*)^2)$, $\kappa=0.1$

SAMPLER

- emcee — 32 walkers
- 5k warm-up + 20k production, thin×15
- MAP-init: basin-hopping + L-BFGS-B

*Even at deliberately loose $\alpha = 10^{-2}$ —much looser than the EFT truncation error—the LEC inference is **not distorted**.*



Summary and Outlook

Developed active learning emulators for two-body scattering in momentum space, based on the **Lippmann–Schwinger equation**.

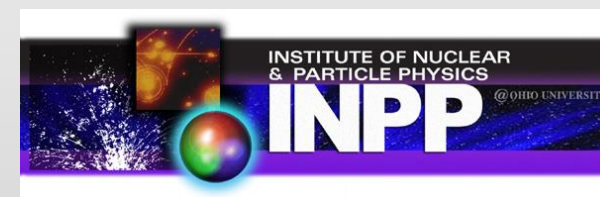
→ **gives access to wide range of chiral NN interactions**

The models reproduce phase shifts and cross sections with errors below 10^{-5} (and 10^{-8}), while conserving unitarity.

Applied Bayesian calibration of chiral NN potential with quantified emulator errors and achieved **26–92× speedup** over the full-order model

Software based on Google JAX made publicly available, setting the stage for calibrating chiral and optical models to scattering experiments

[A. Giri et al., Phys. Rev. C **113**, 044001 \(2026\)](#)



FUTURE WORK:

Extend emulator to all spin-dependent scattering observables + GP truncation error model (SMS only)

Full **Bayesian calibration with SMS** (Δ -less), order-by-order $LO \rightarrow N^4 LO^+$

Extend to WUSTL for **Δ -full vs Δ -less comparison**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY