



CHALMERS

# Perturbative calculations of few-nucleon observables in $\chi$ EFT up to $N^3$ LO

INT Seattle, 21 May 2026

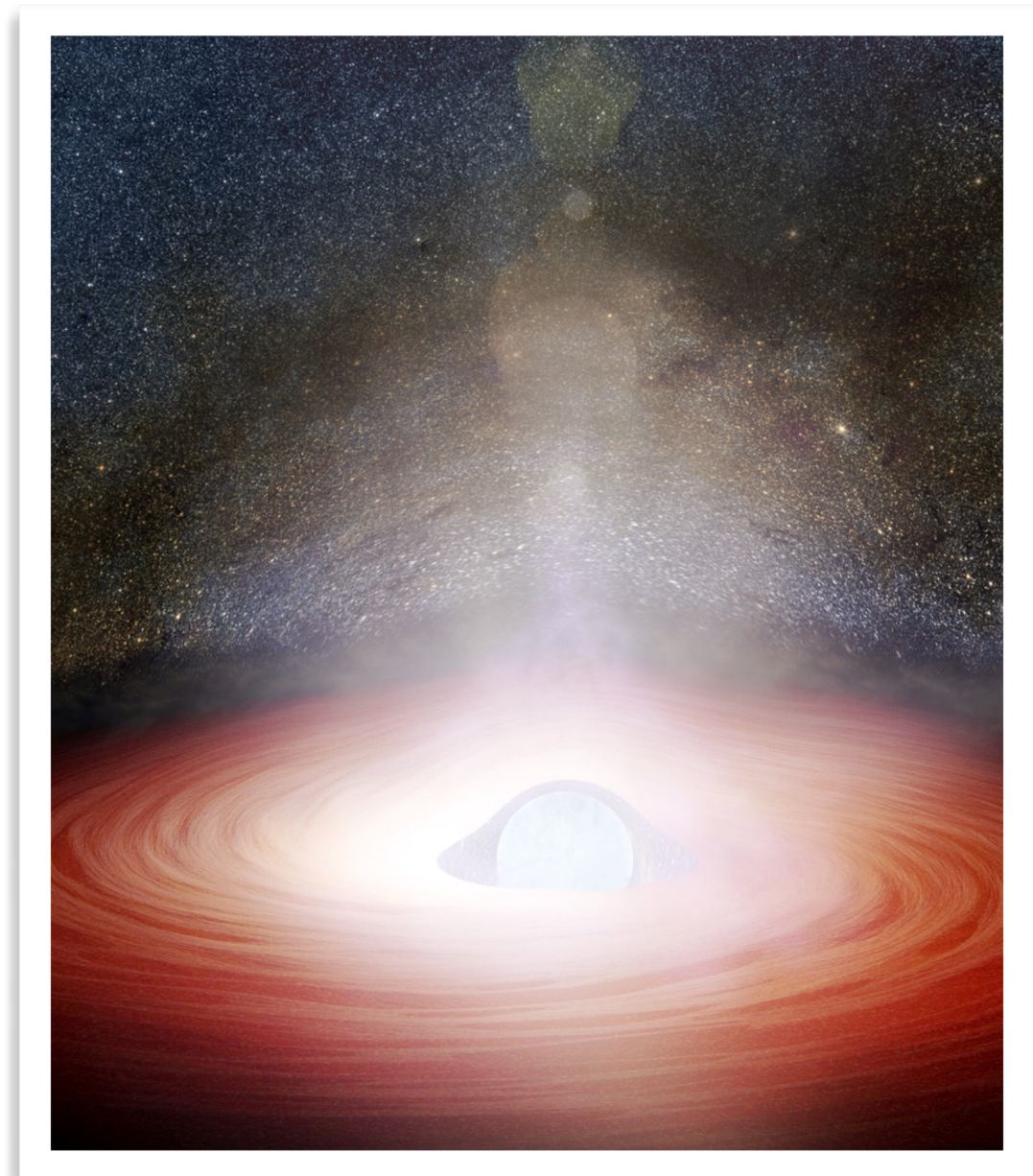
Nuclear Hamiltonians for Advancing Nuclear Physics and Beyond



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Research  
Council

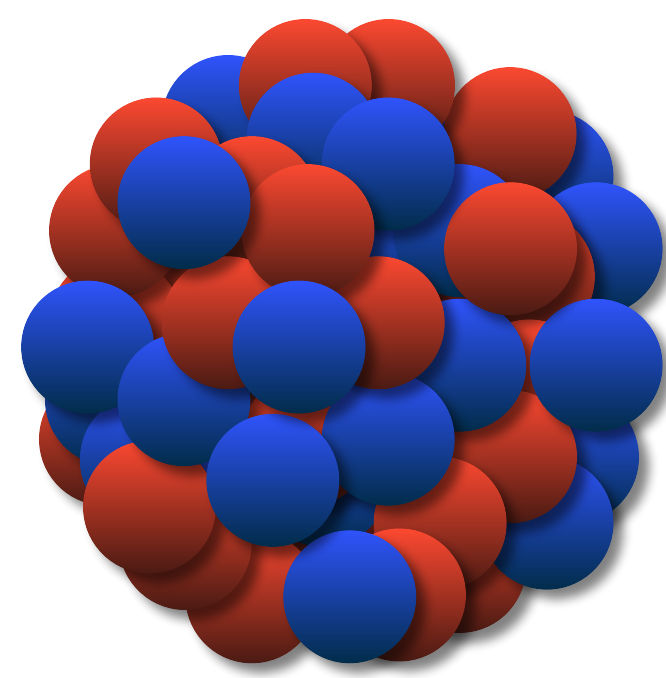
**Oliver Thim** | Theoretical Subatomic Physics | Chalmers University of Technology

# The atomic nucleus

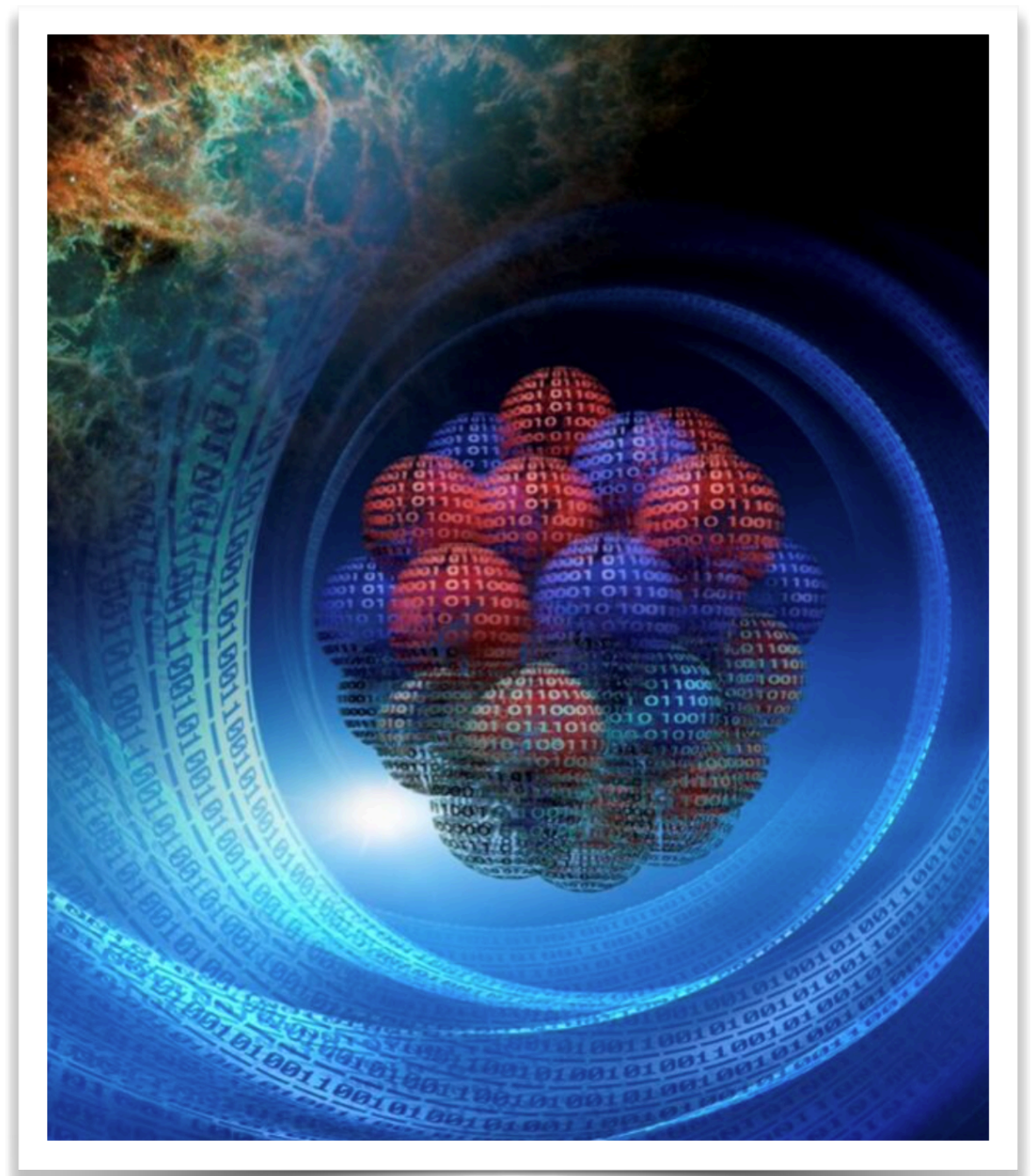


$\sim 10^4$  m

$\sim 10^{-15}$  m



$$H |\psi\rangle = E |\psi\rangle$$

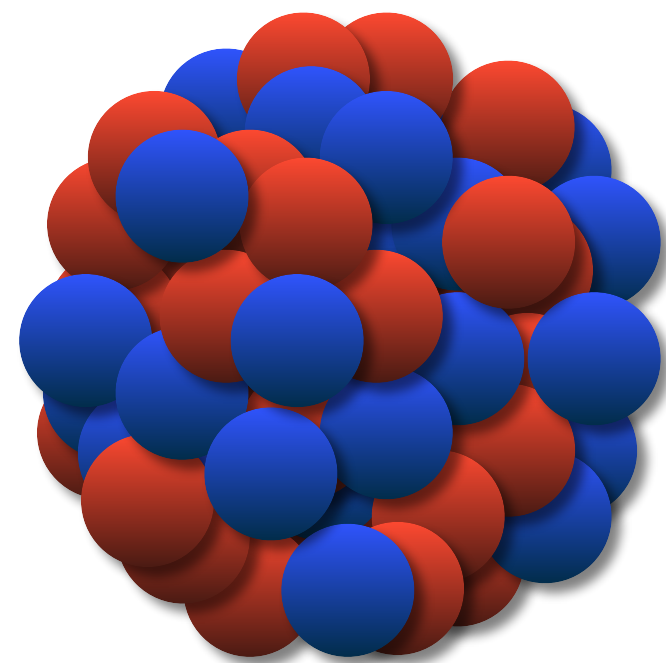


**Standard Model of Elementary Particles**

	three generations of matter (fermions)			interactions / force carriers (bosons)	
	I	II	III		
mass	$\approx 2.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$\approx 1.28 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	$\approx 173.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	0	$\approx 124.97 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
charge	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	0	0
spin	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0
<b>QUARKS</b>	<b>u</b> up	<b>c</b> charm	<b>t</b> top	<b>g</b> gluon	<b>H</b> higgs
	$\frac{1}{3}$	$-\frac{1}{3}$	$-\frac{1}{3}$	0	0
	<b>d</b> down	<b>s</b> strange	<b>b</b> bottom	<b>\gamma</b> photon	
	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	
	<b>e</b> electron	<b>\mu</b> muon	<b>\tau</b> tau	<b>Z</b> Z boson	
<b>LEPTONS</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	
	$< 1.0 \text{ eV}/c^2$	$< 0.17 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$< 18.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$\approx 80.360 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	
	0	0	0	$\pm 1$	
	<b>\nu<sub>e</sub></b> electron neutrino	<b>\nu<sub>\mu</sub></b> muon neutrino	<b>\nu<sub>\tau</sub></b> tau neutrino	<b>W</b> W boson	
	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	



# Ab initio nuclear theory



$$H |\psi\rangle = E |\psi\rangle$$

## Goal

*Simultaneously describe nuclear phenomena across a wide range of energies and mass numbers, starting from nuclear forces with roots in QCD.*

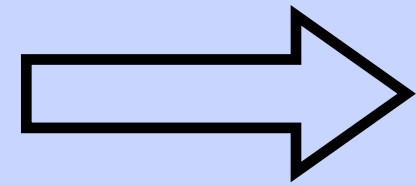
## Key challenges

- Construct  $H$  to keep the connection to QCD.
- Compute precise predictions for nuclear observables.

# An ab initio approach:

## Part I

QCD

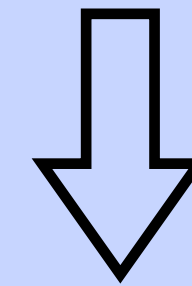


$\mathcal{L} (+\delta\mathcal{L})$   
 $\chi$ EFT (EFT of  $N, \pi$ )

$\delta\mathcal{O}_{\text{exp}}$

## Part II

Data, ( $NN$  scattering)

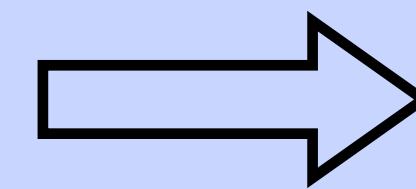


$V_{NN}, V_{3N}, \dots$  forces

## Part III

$\delta E_m$

Method for solving SE

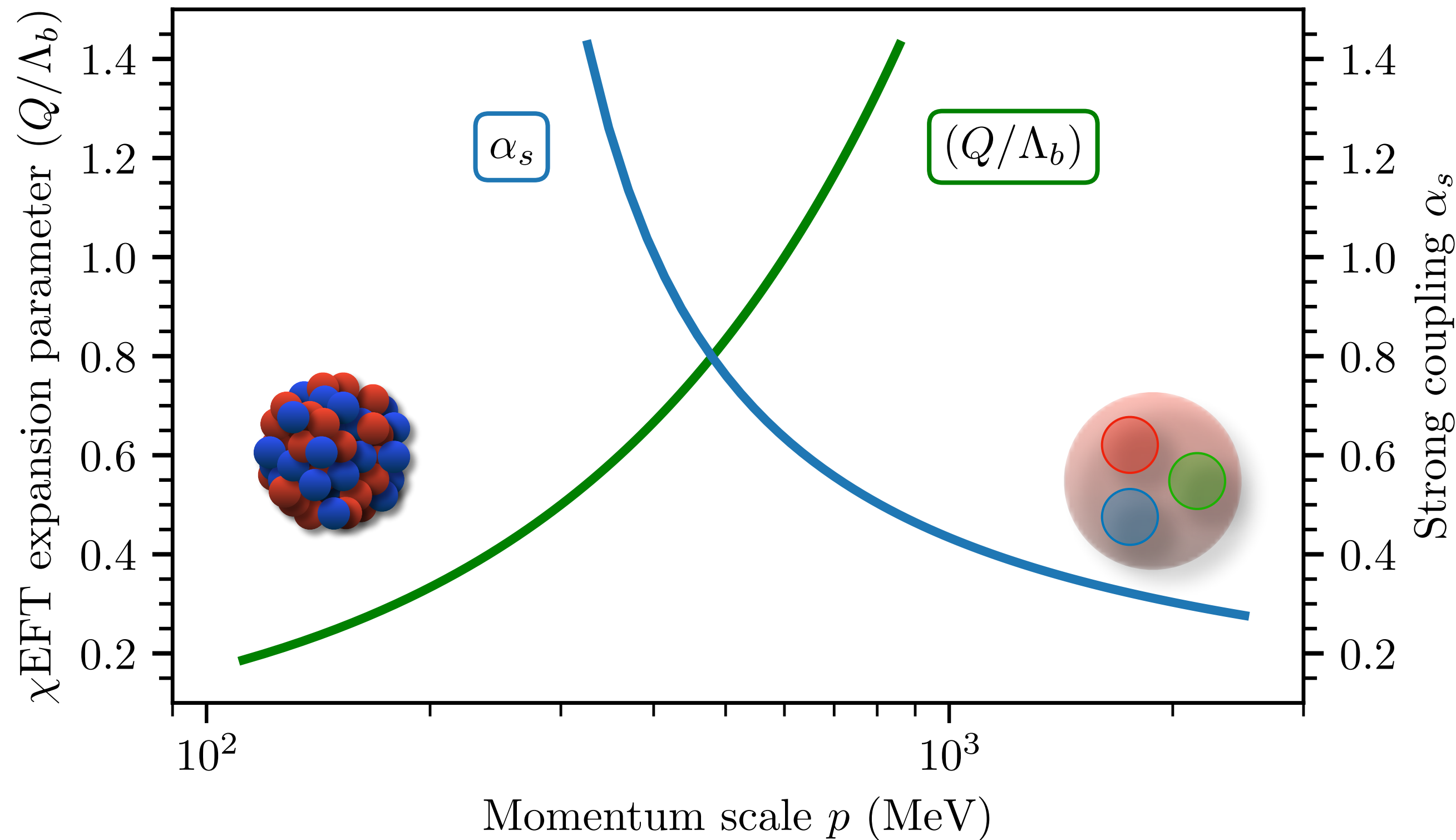


$E_{\text{gs}} + \delta E_{\mathcal{L}} + \delta E_{\mathcal{O}_{\text{exp}}} + \delta E_m$

# **Part I**

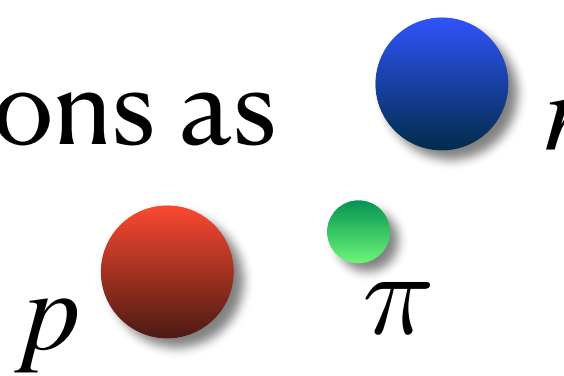
## **The nuclear force from EFT**

# The nuclear force from EFT



$\chi$ EFT

Weinberg 90's: [S. Weinberg, \(1979\), \(1990\), \(1991\)](#)

- Use protons, neutrons, and pions as degrees of freedom. 
- Formulate the most general dynamics consistent with the symmetries of QCD.

$$m_u \approx m_d \approx 0$$

$$SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \longrightarrow SU(2)_V$$

$$\implies \text{Goldstone bosons: } (\pi^0, \pi^+, \pi^-)$$

- Perturbative expansion in  $\frac{m_\pi, p}{\Lambda_b} \equiv \frac{Q}{\Lambda_b}$ .

$$\Lambda_b \sim 1 \text{ GeV}$$

# Weinberg Power Counting (PC)

- Construct nucleon-nucleon (NN) **potentials**:

E. Epelbaum, H.-W. Hammer, and U.-G. Meissner, Rev. Mod. Phys. **81**, (2009)

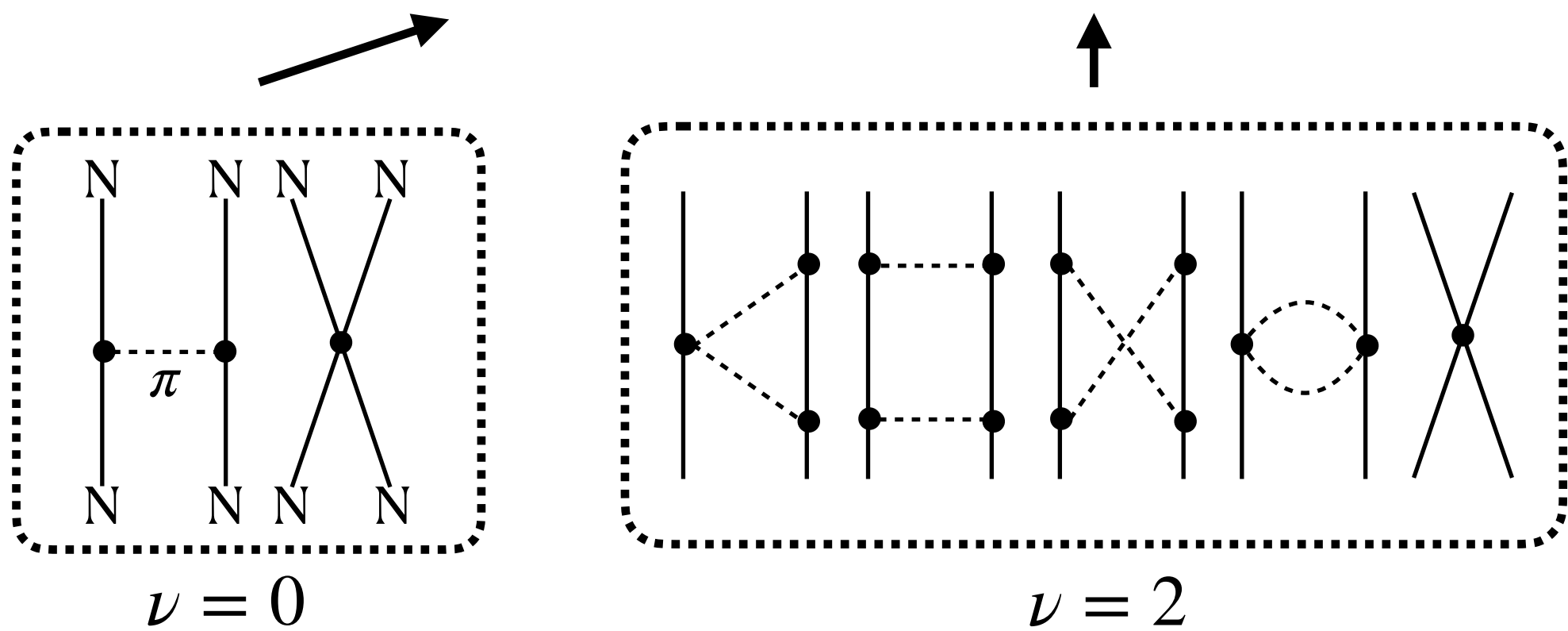
R. Machleidt and D. R. Entem, Phys. Rep. **503** (2011)

H.-W. Hammer, S. König, and U. van Kolck, Rev. Mod. Phys. **92**, (2020)

✓  $\chi$ EFT with WPC: Successful descriptions of two- and three-nucleon forces and interaction currents.

✓ Systematic expansion with quantifiable theoretical error.

$$V = V_{\text{NN}}^{(0)}(\alpha^{(0)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(2)}(\alpha^{(2)}) + \dots$$

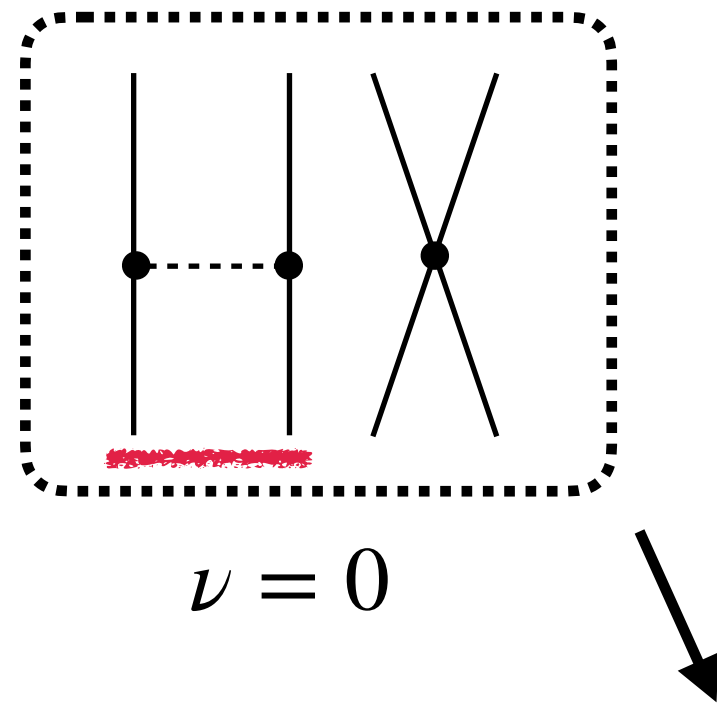


- Organize diagrams:  $(Q/\Lambda_b)^\nu \rightarrow H |\psi\rangle = E |\psi\rangle$   
 $Q \sim m_\pi, \Lambda_b \sim 1 \text{ GeV}$

$$T_{l'l}^{js}(p', p; p_0) = V_{l'l}^{js}(p', p) + \sum_{l''} \int_0^\Lambda dk k^2 V_{l'l''}^{js}(p', k) \frac{m_N}{p_0^2 - k^2 + i\epsilon} T_{l''l}^{js}(k, p; p_0)$$

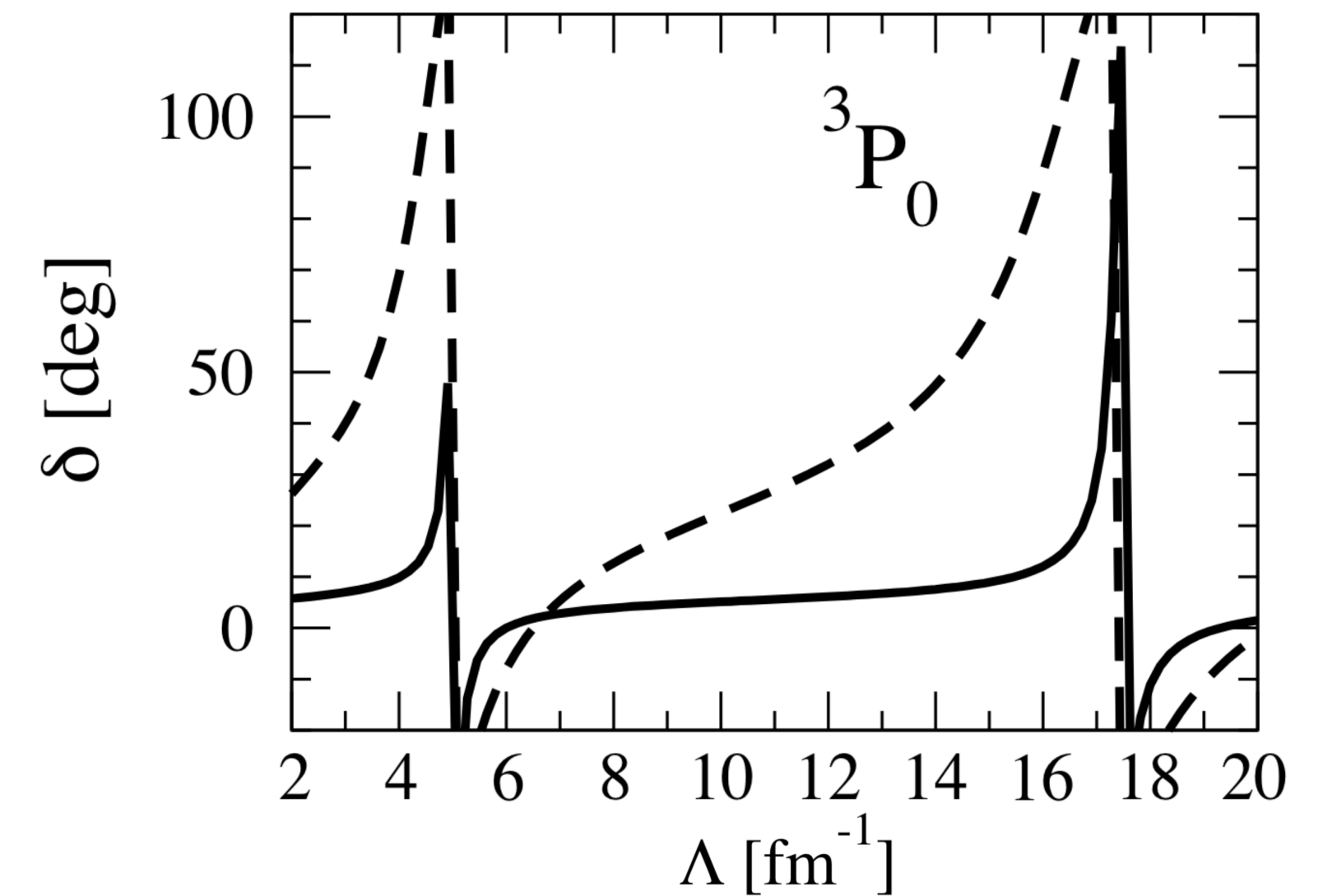
- Predictions of observables **depend on  $\Lambda$** .

# Cutoff dependence in WPC



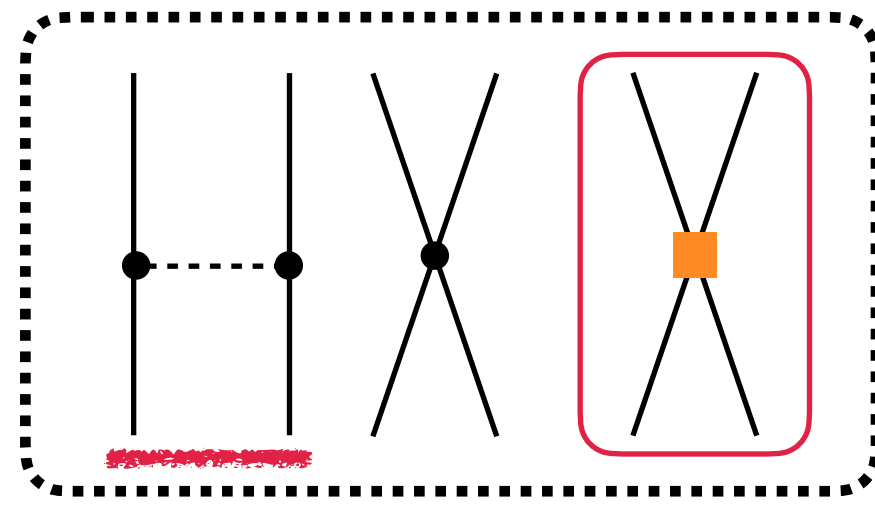
$$T_{l'l}^{js}(p', p; p_0) = V_{l'l}^{js}(p', p) + \sum_{l''} \int_0^{\Lambda} dk k^2 V_{l'l''}^{js}(p', k) \frac{m_N}{p_0^2 - k^2 + i\epsilon} T_{l''l}^{js}(k, p; p_0)$$

Origin: Singular attraction ( $\sim -1/r^3$ )  
due to the tensor force in OPE.



A. Nogga et al., Phys. Rev. C 72, (2005)

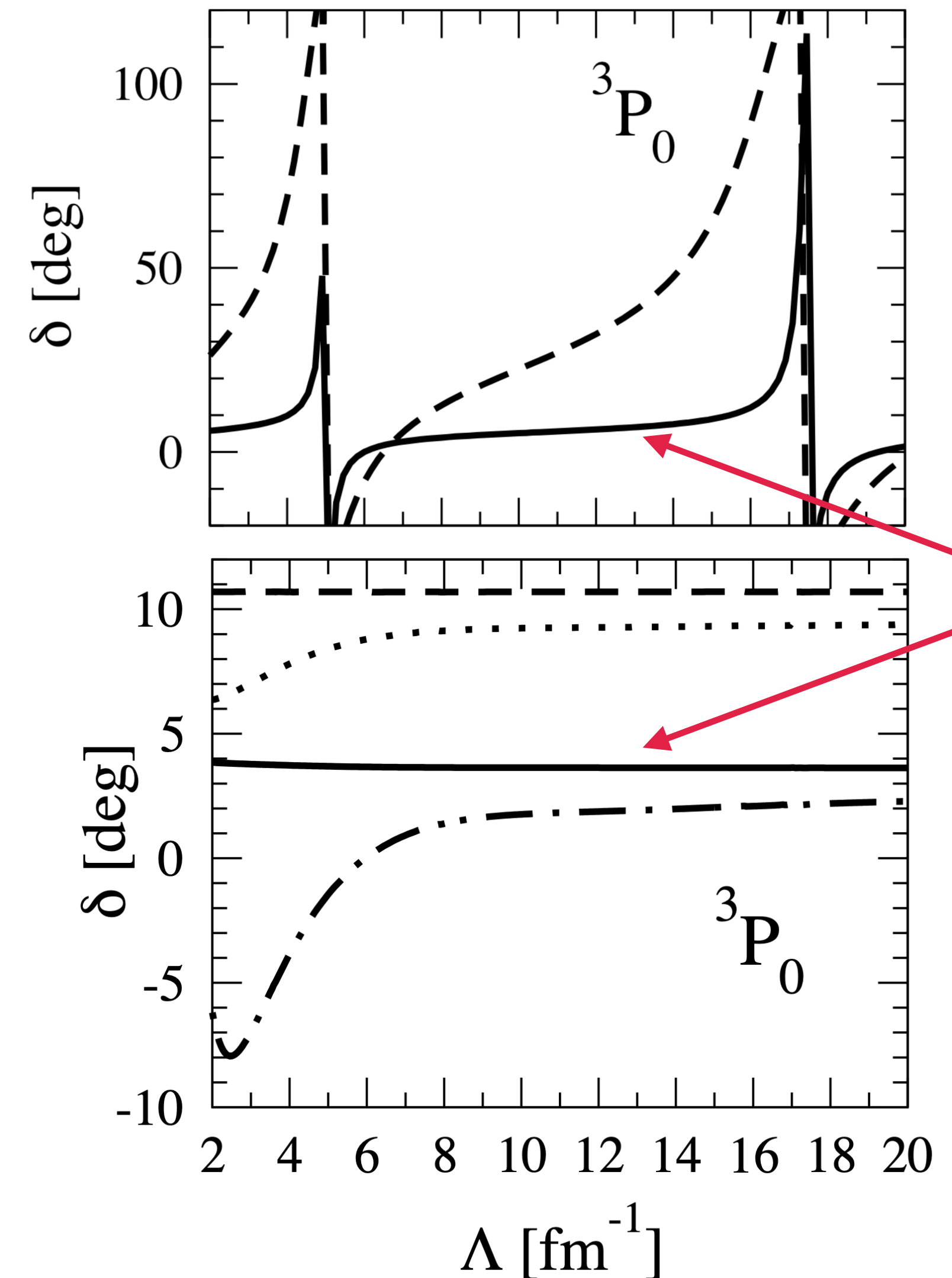
# Cutoff dependence in WPC



$\nu = 0$

$$T_{l'l}^{js}(p', p; p_0) = V_{l'l}^{js}(p', p) + \sum_{l''} \int_0^\Lambda dk k^2 V_{l'l''}^{js}(p', k) \frac{m_N}{p_0^2 - k^2 + i\epsilon} T_{l''l}^{js}(k, p; p_0)$$

Origin: Singular attraction ( $\sim -1/r^3$ )  
due to the tensor force in OPE.



# Possible solutions to the $\Lambda$ dependence

1. Use Weinberg PC and keep the cutoff  $\Lambda \lesssim \Lambda_b$ .

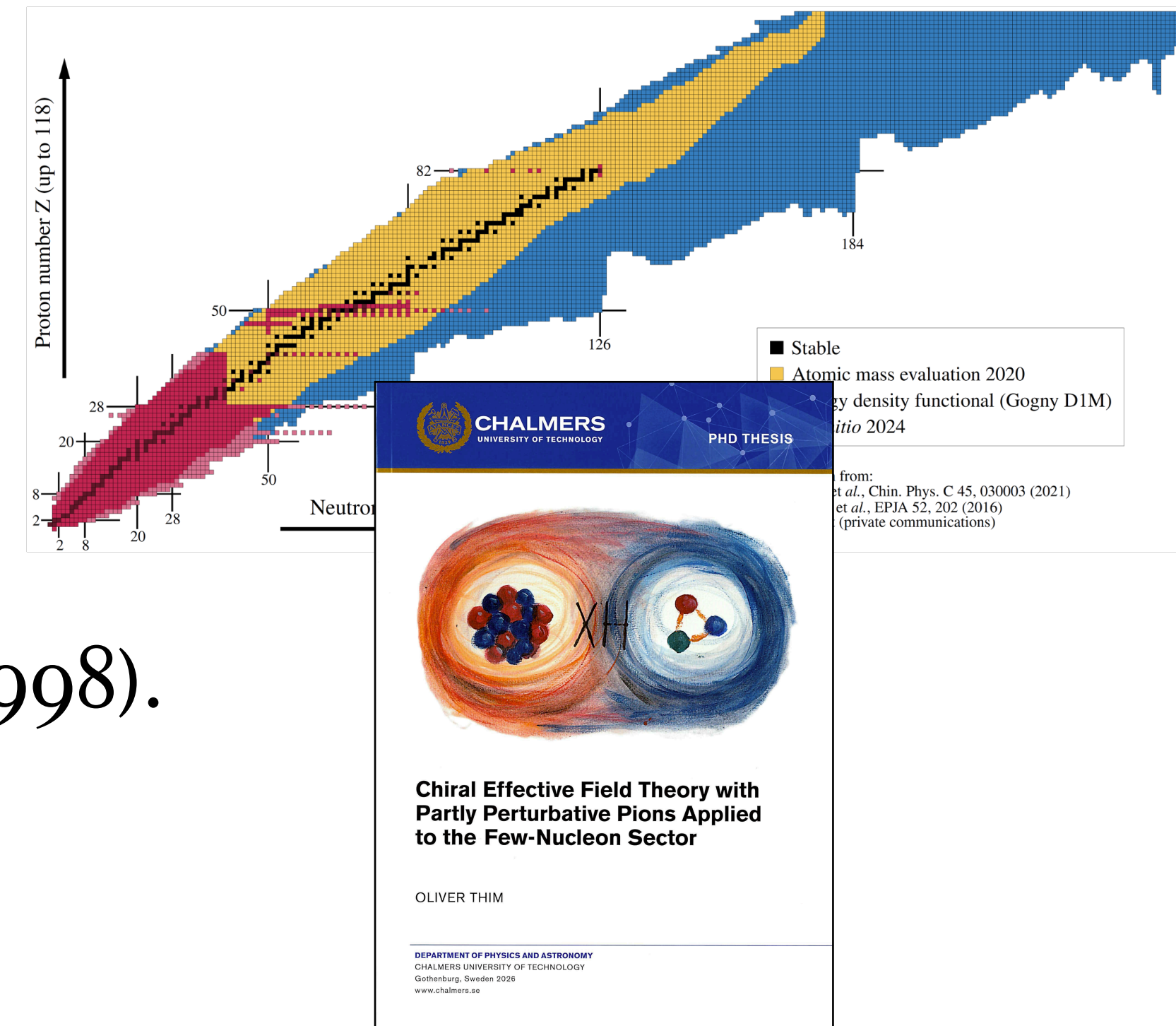
- D. R. Entem, R. Machleidt, *Phys. Rev. C* **68** (2003)
- A. M. Gasparyan, E. Epelbaum, *Phys. Rev. C* **107** (2023)
- E. Epelbaum, *et al.* *Eur. Phys. J. A* **56** (2020)
- P. Reinert, H. Krebs, E. Epelbaum, *Eur. Phys. J. A* **54** (2018)
- ...

2. Treat pions perturbatively (Kaplan, Savage, Wise 1998).

- D. B. Kaplan *et al.*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **534** (1998)
- Y. P. Teng, H.-W. Griesshammer, *Eur. Phys. J. A* **61** (2025)
- S. Lyo *et al.*, *arXiv:2511.12522* (2025)

3. Promote counterterms with LECs to lower orders.

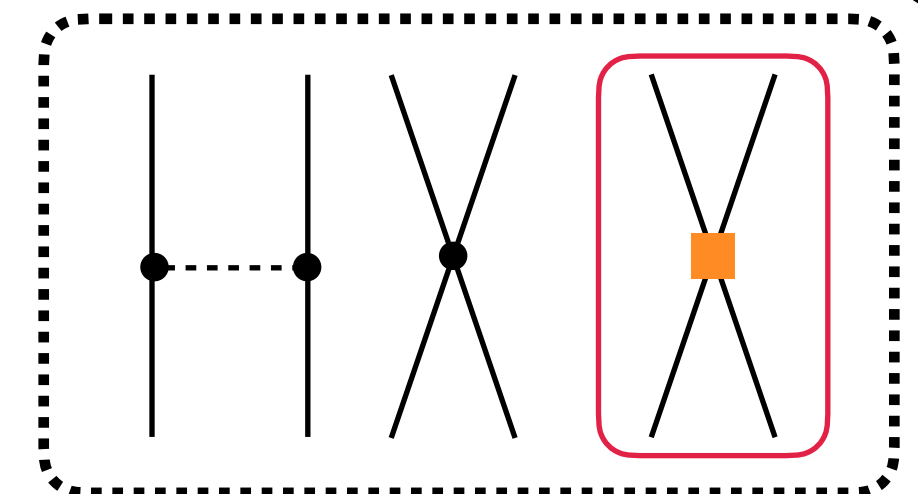
$\Rightarrow$  **All contributions beyond LO need to be treated in perturbation theory.**



A. Nogga *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. C* **72**, (2005)

U. van Kolck, *Front. in Phys.* **8** (2020)

B. Long and U. van Kolck, *Ann. Phys.* **323**, (2008)

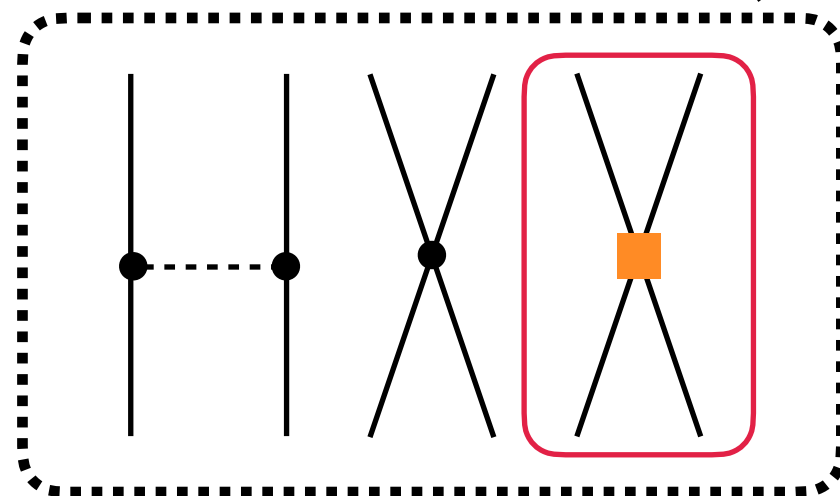


# 3. Modified Weinberg PC (Partly perturbative pions)

- What happens if we impose **RG-invariance** and promote counterterms to lower orders to achieve this?

Must be treated perturbatively

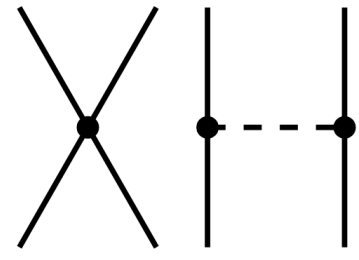

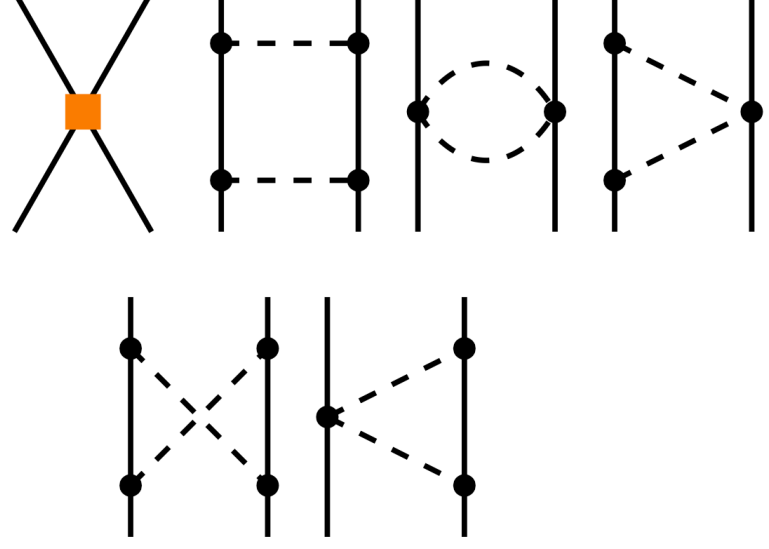
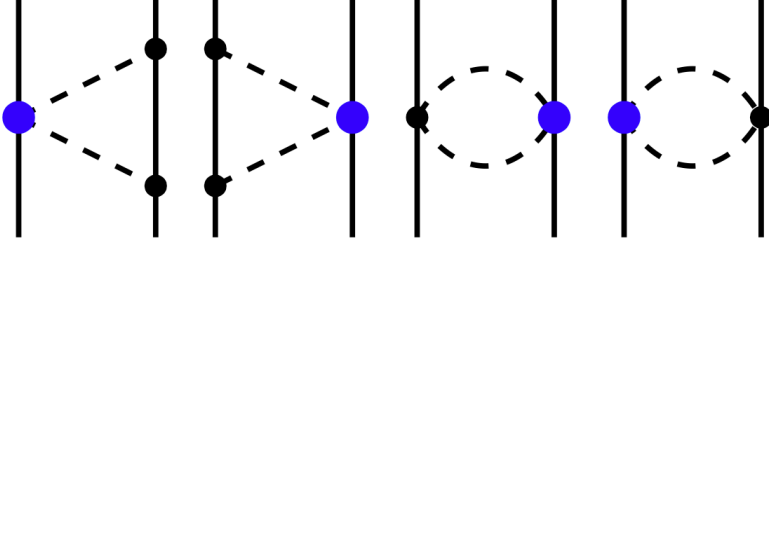
$$V = V_{\text{NN}}^{(0)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(0)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(1)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(2)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(2)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(3)}) + \dots$$



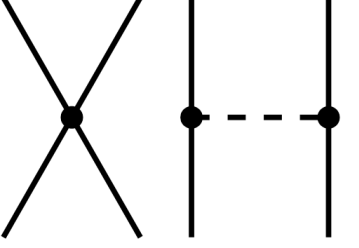
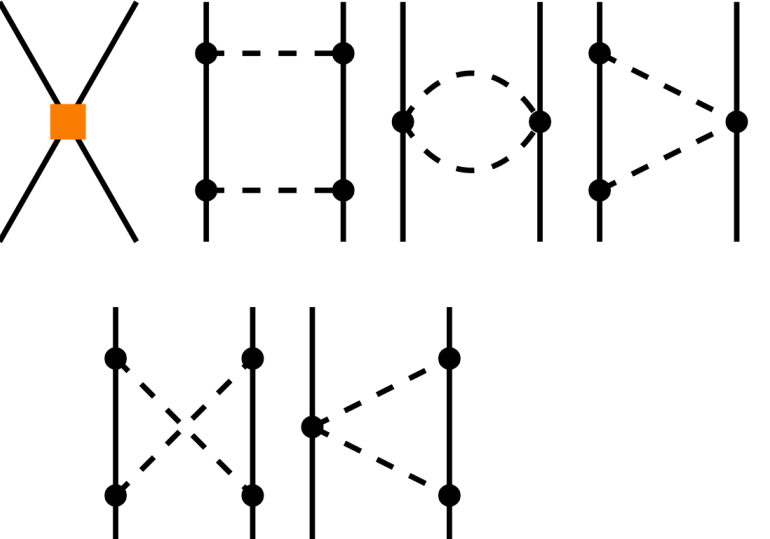
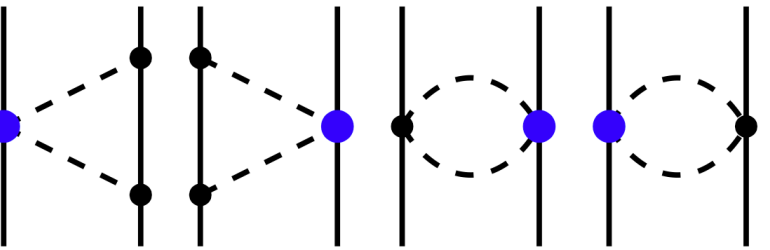
A. Nogga *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **72**, (2005)  
 B. Long and U. van Kolck, Ann. Phys. **323**, (2008)  
 B. Long, C. J. Yang, Phys. Rev. C **84**, (2011),  
 Phys. Rev. C **85**, (2012), Phys. Rev. C **86**, (2012)

# A version of the Long and Yang PC

## Weinberg PC (NN only)

<p>LO <math>(Q/\Lambda_b)^0</math></p>	
<p>NLO <math>(Q/\Lambda_b)^1</math></p>	
<p>N<sup>2</sup>LO <math>(Q/\Lambda_b)^2</math></p>	
<p>N<sup>3</sup>LO <math>(Q/\Lambda_b)^3</math></p>	

# A version of the Long and Yang PC

Order	Channels: $^1S_0, ^3P_0, ^1P_1, ^3P_1, ^3S_1-^3D_1, ^3P_2-^3F_2$
<i>Non-perturbative contributions (LO)</i>	
LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^0$	
NLO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^1$	
N <sup>2</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^2$	
N <sup>3</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^3$	

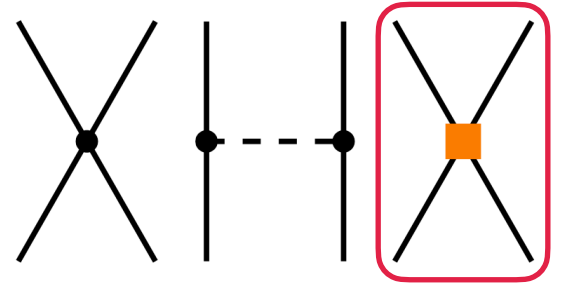
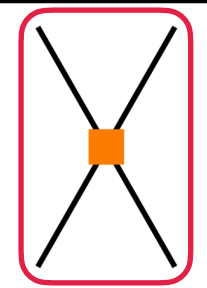
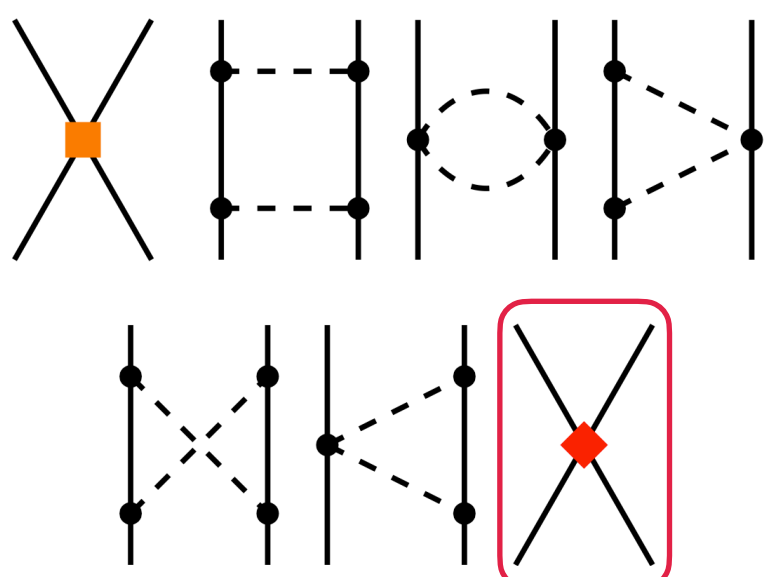
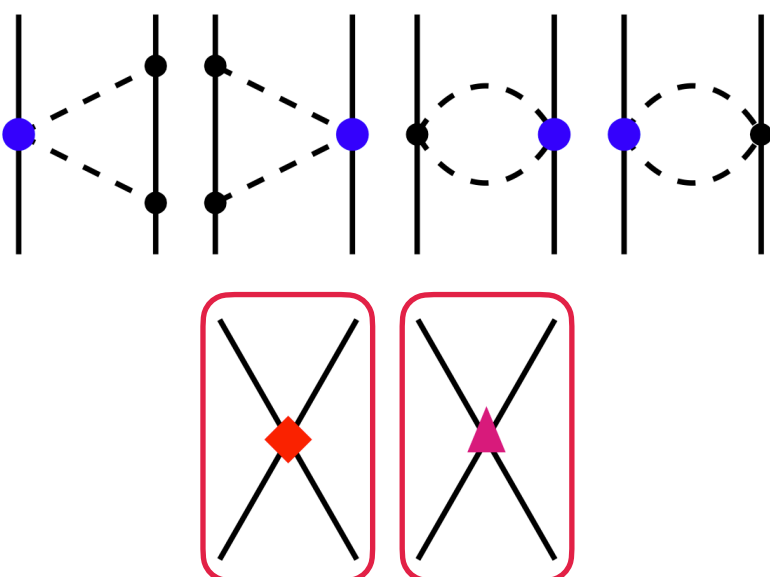
- One-pion exchange at LO only in  $\ell \leq 1$ .

# A version of the Long and Yang PC

Order	Channels: $^1S_0, ^3P_0, ^1P_1, ^3P_1, ^3S_1-^3D_1, ^3P_2-^3F_2$
	<i>Non-perturbative contributions (LO)</i>
LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^0$	
NLO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^1$	
N <sup>2</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^2$	
N <sup>3</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^3$	

- One-pion exchange at LO only in  $\ell \leq 1$ .
- Promote counterterms to lower order.

# A version of the Long and Yang PC

Order	Channels: $^1S_0, ^3P_0, ^1P_1, ^3P_1, ^3S_1-^3D_1, ^3P_2-^3F_2$	Remaining channels
<i>Non-perturbative contributions (LO)</i>		
LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^0$		- <span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">4</span> <span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">0</span>
<i>Perturbative contributions</i>		
NLO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^1$		<span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">1</span> <span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">1</span>
N <sup>2</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^2$		- <span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">8</span> <span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">5</span>
N <sup>3</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^3$		<span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">1</span> <span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">13</span>

- One-pion exchange at LO only in  $\ell \leq 1$ .
- Promote counterterms to lower order.
- Treat all subleading interactions perturbatively.

# A version of the Long and Yang PC

Order	Channels: $^1S_0, ^3P_0, ^1P_1, ^3P_1, ^3S_1-^3D_1, ^3P_2-^3F_2$	Remaining channels
<i>Non-perturbative contributions (LO)</i>		
LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^0$		-
<i>Perturbative contributions</i>		
NLO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^1$		1 1
N <sup>2</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^2$		8 5
N <sup>3</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^3$		1 13

- One-pion exchange at LO only in  $\ell \leq 1$ .
- Promote counterterms to lower order.
- Treat all subleading interactions perturbatively.

Can  $\chi$ EFT with **partly perturbative pions** describe nuclear observables in  $A \geq 2$  systems?

- Studies at LO and NLO for  $A > 2$  observables.  
Y.-H. Song, R. Lazauskas, and U. van Kolck, Phys. Rev. C **96**, (2017)      C. J. Yang et al., Phys. Rev. C **103**, (2021)
- We have developed the machinery to go up to N<sup>3</sup>LO.

# **Part II**

## **Constructing NN potentials**

# Determining the values of LECs

- Compute NN scattering amplitudes perturbatively:

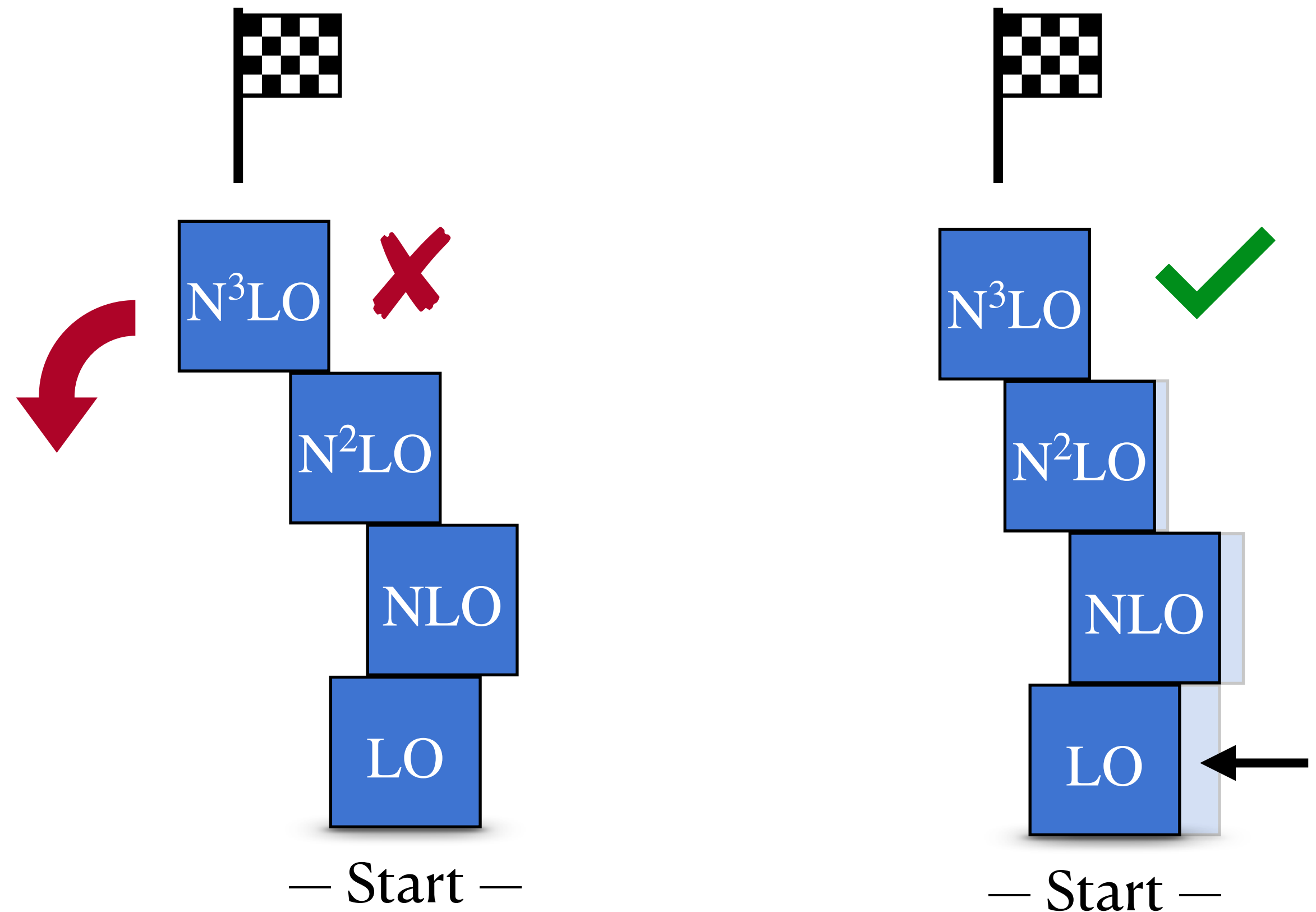
$$\text{LO: } T^{(0)} = V^{(0)} + V^{(0)}G_0^+T^{(0)}$$

$$\text{NLO: } T^{(1)} = \Omega_-^\dagger V^{(1)}\Omega_+$$

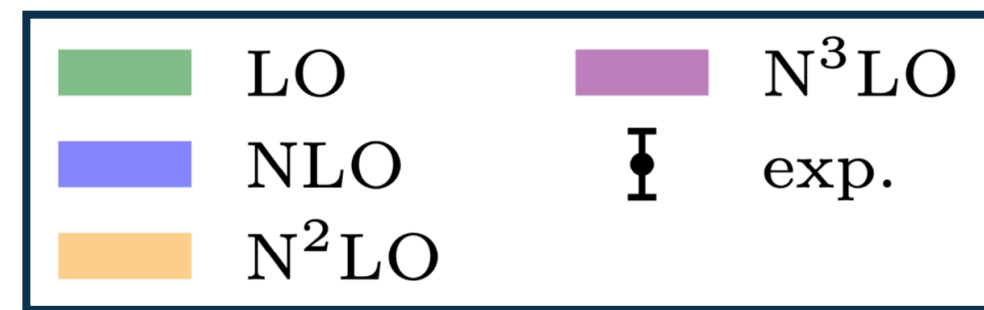
$$\text{N}^2\text{LO: } T^{(2)} = \Omega_-^\dagger \left( V^{(2)} + V^{(1)}G_1^+V^{(1)} \right) \Omega_+$$

$$T = T^{(0)} + T^{(1)} + T^{(2)} + T^{(3)} + \dots$$

- Calibrate LECs to empirical phase shifts.
- Conclusion: **The foundation (LO)** is very important!

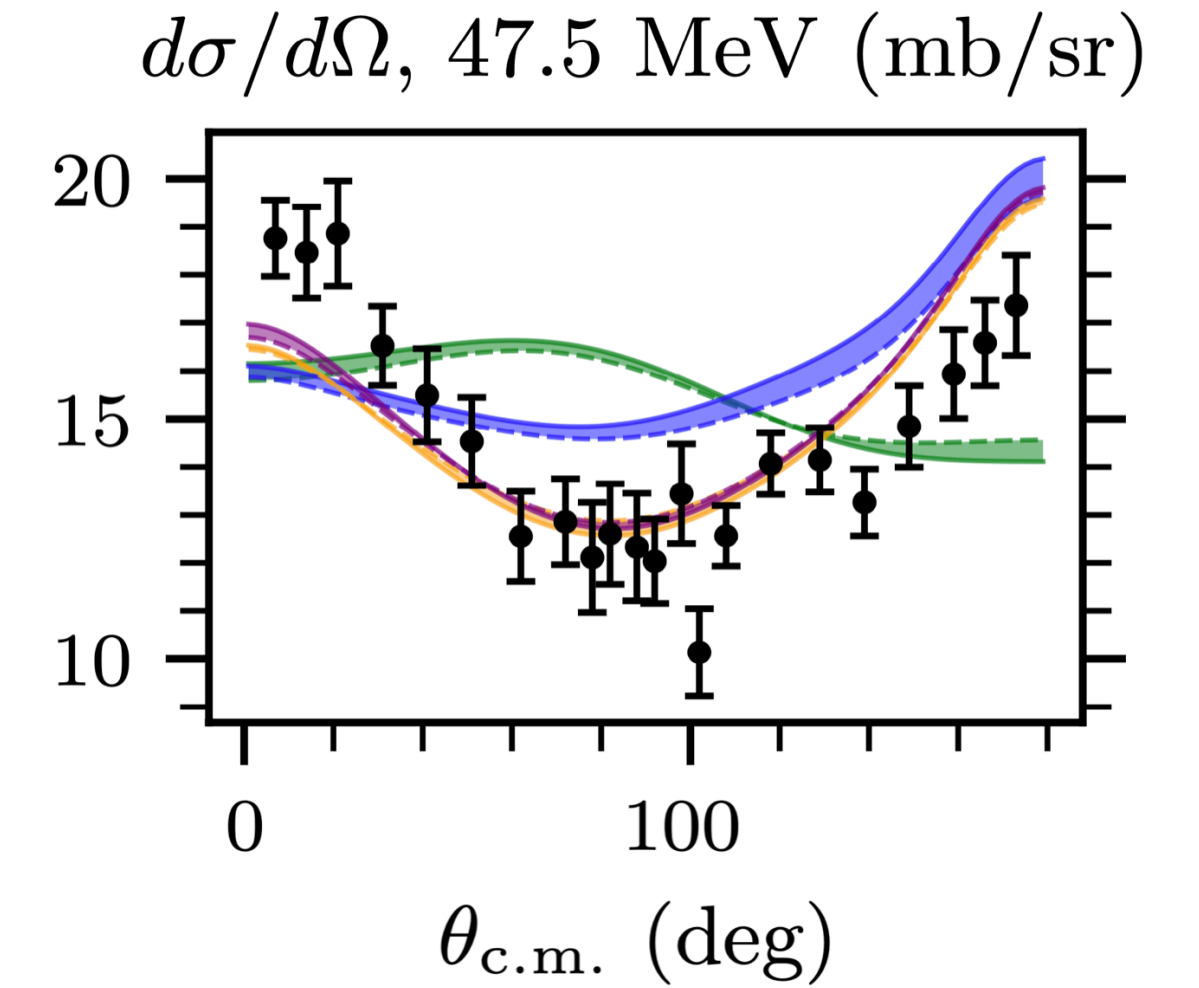
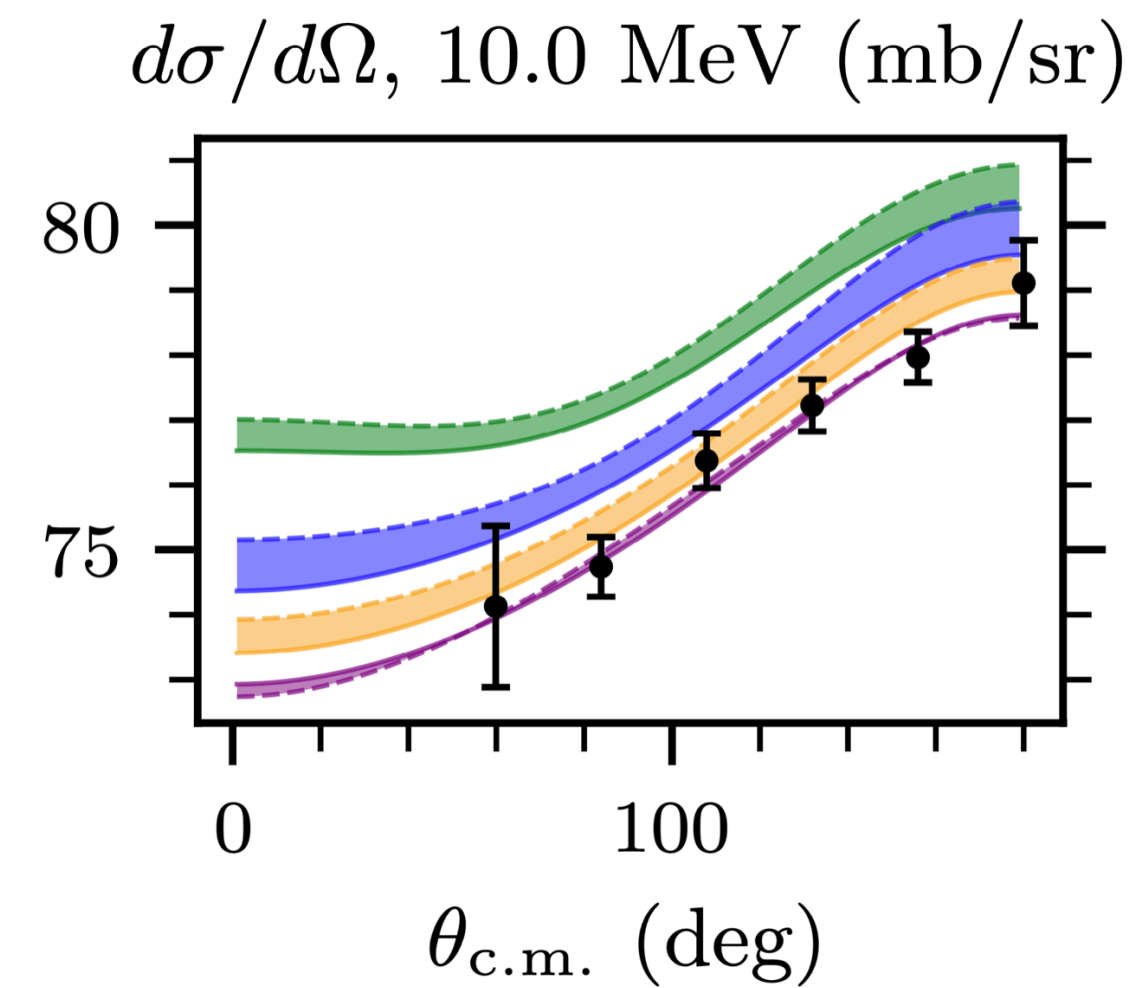
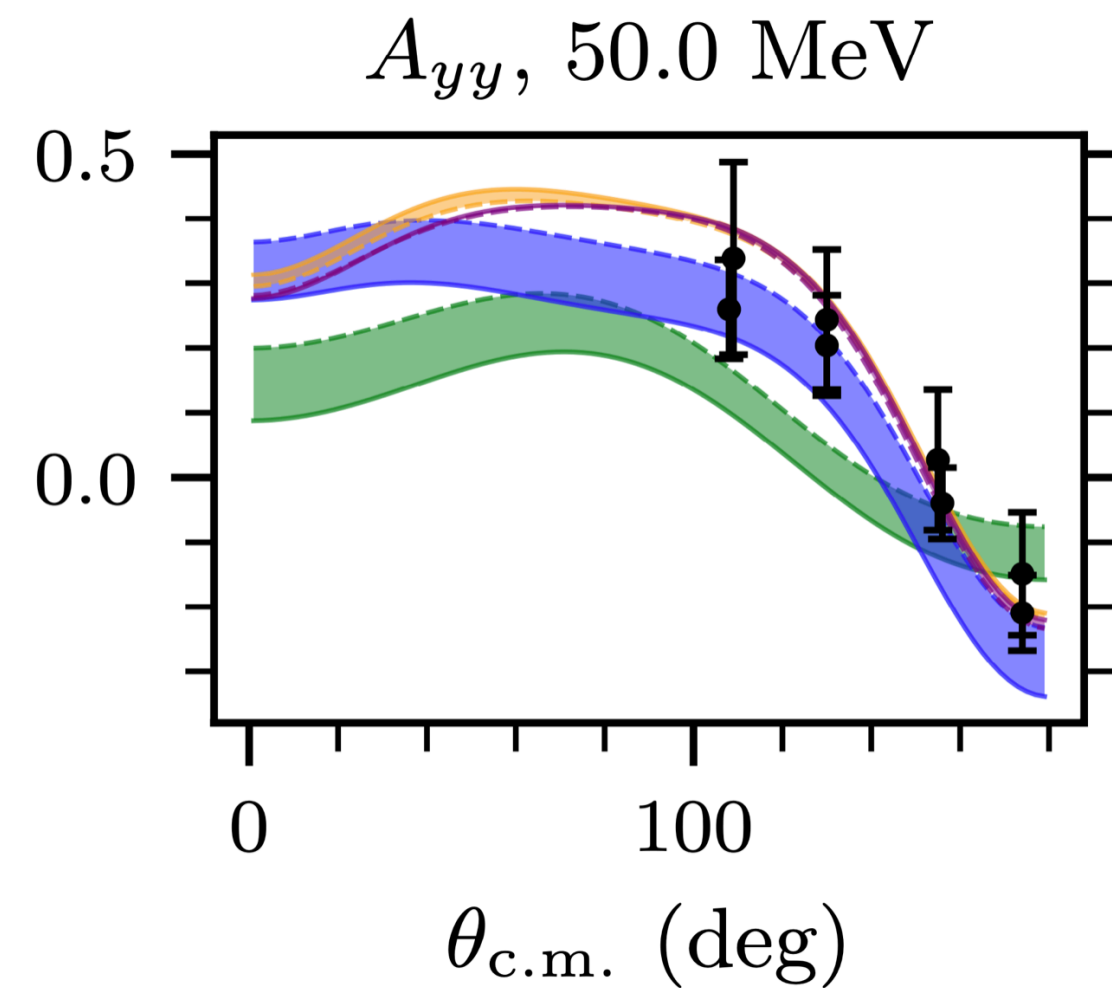


# Predicted NN scattering observables



$\Lambda = 500 \text{ MeV}, \Lambda = 2500 \text{ MeV}$

OT, A. Ekström, and C. Forssén,  
Phys. Rev. C **109**, (2024)



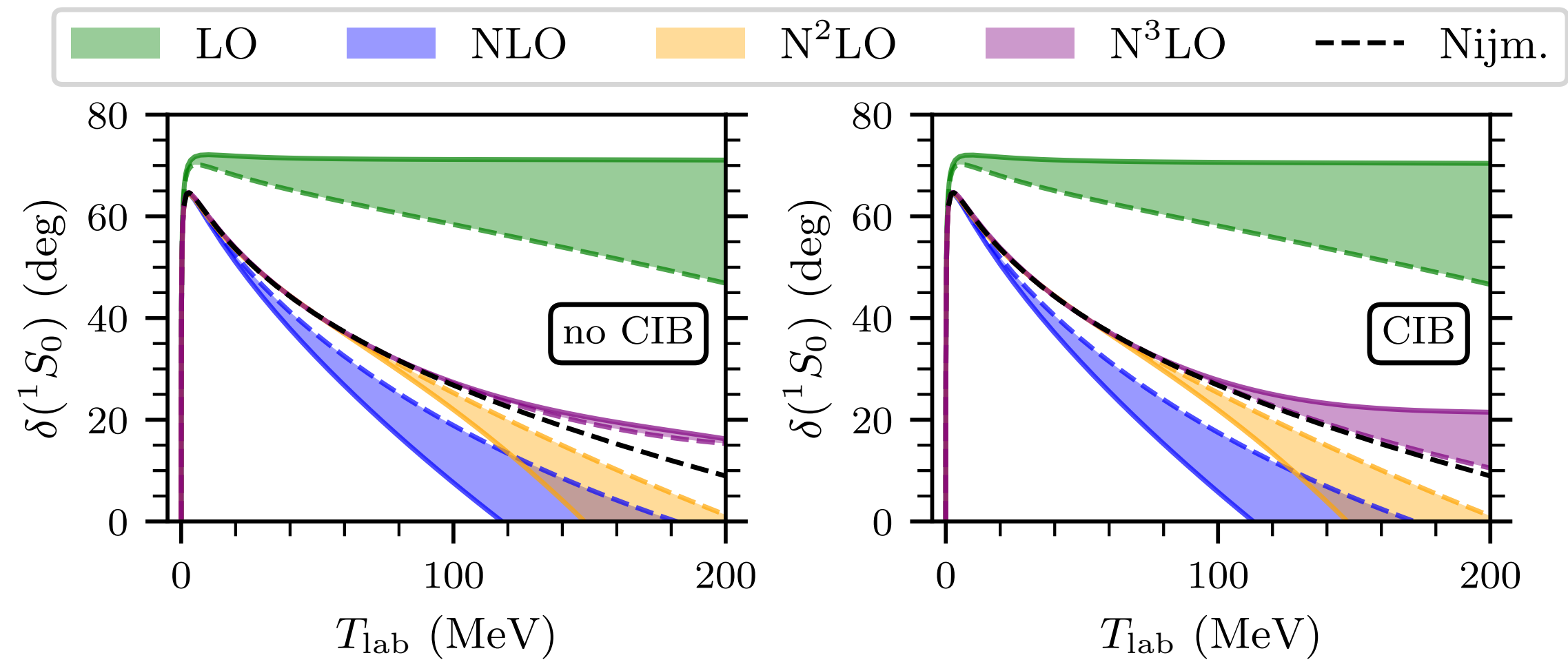
- Clear improvement order-by-order.
- Energy-dependent accuracy.
- Residual cutoff dependence gets smaller with increasing order.

*But what about exceptional cutoffs?*

A. M. Gasparyan and E. Epelbaum, Phys. Rev. C. **107** (2023)

# Low-energy theorems: $^1S_0$

Phase shifts in  $^1S_0$



Predicted effective range parameters (LETs)

$^1S_0$ partial wave	$a$ [fm]	$r$ [fm]	$v_2$ [fm <sup>3</sup> ]	$v_3$ [fm <sup>5</sup> ]	$v_4$ [fm <sup>7</sup> ]
Empirical (Ref. [27])	-23.735(16)	2.68(3)	-0.48(2)	3.9(1)	-19.6(5)
$\Lambda = 500$ MeV, (no CIB)					
LO	*	1.71(0)	-1.77(0)	8.54(0)	-47.0(3)
NLO	*	*	-0.64(0)	4.79(0)	-29.9(2)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	*	2.72(0)	-0.71(0)	5.05(0)	-29.3(2)
N <sup>3</sup> LO	*	2.69(0)	-0.66(0)	5.42(0)	-31.0(2)
$\Lambda = 500$ MeV, (CIB)					
LO	*	1.68(0)	-1.55(0)	6.63(0)	-31.64(8)
NLO	*	*	-0.45(0)	3.42(0)	-18.95(8)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	*	2.70(0)	-0.55(0)	3.77(0)	-18.8(2)
N <sup>3</sup> LO	*	2.68(0)	-0.50(0)	4.02(0)	-19.8(2)

OT, Few-Body Syst. 65, 69 (2024)

$$F(k) \equiv k \cot \delta(k) = -\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{2}rk^2 + v_2k^4 + v_3k^6 + v_4k^8 + \mathcal{O}(k^{10})$$

- Leading **CIB** (pion mass splitting) in the one-pion exchange is **significant** in  $^1S_0$ .

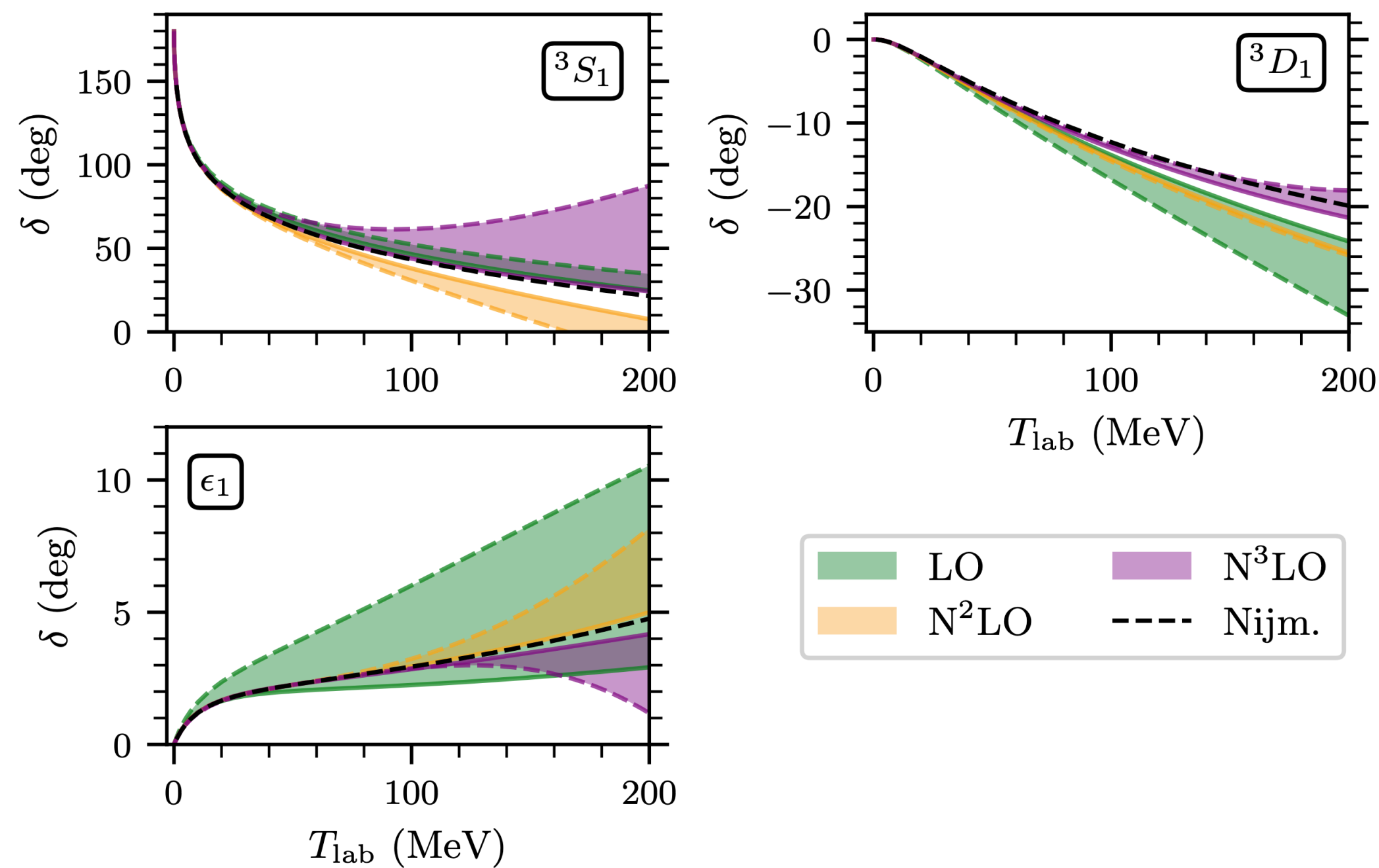
## KSW: Perturbative pions

$\delta$ ( $^1S_0$ channel)	$v_2$ (fm <sup>3</sup> )	$v_3$ (fm <sup>5</sup> )	$v_4$ (fm <sup>7</sup> )
low energy theorem	-3.3	17.8	-108.0
partial wave analysis	-0.48	3.8	-17.0

T.D. Cohen, J.M. Hansen, Phys. Rev. C 59, (1999)

# Low-energy theorems: ${}^3S_1$

Phase shifts in  ${}^3S_1 - {}^3D_1$



Predicted effective range parameters (LETs)

${}^3S_1$ partial wave	$a$ [fm]	$r$ [fm]	$v_2$ [fm <sup>3</sup> ]	$v_3$ [fm <sup>5</sup> ]	$v_4$ [fm <sup>7</sup> ]
Empirical (Ref. [27])	5.42	1.75	0.045	0.67	-3.94
$\Lambda = 500$ MeV					
LO	*	1.58(0)	-0.10(0)	0.89(0)	-5.5(2)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	*	*	0.14(0)	0.80(0)	-4.2(2)
N <sup>3</sup> LO	*	*	-0.06(0)	0.46(0)	-3.7(2)
$\Lambda = 2500$ MeV					
LO	*	1.66(0)	-0.01(0)	0.79(0)	-4.7(2)
N <sup>2</sup> LO	*	*	0.09(0)	0.74(0)	-4.2(7)
N <sup>3</sup> LO	*	*	0.04(0)	0.67(2)	-4.0(9)

- CIB in one-pion exchange is **not significant** in  ${}^3S_1$ .
- Cutoff independence for  $\Lambda \gtrsim 750$  MeV.
- ✓ Both phase shift and LETs are accurate, and improved for high cutoffs.

# In summary

Constructed potentials show consistency in the two-nucleon sector.

Order	Channels: $^1S_0, ^3P_0, ^1P_1, ^3P_1, ^3S_1-^3D_1, ^3P_2-^3F_2$	Remaining channels
<i>Non-perturbative contributions (LO)</i>		
LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^0$		-
<i>Perturbative contributions</i>		
NLO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^1$		
N <sup>2</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^2$		-
N <sup>3</sup> LO $(Q/\Lambda_b)^3$		

Treated perturbatively

$$V = V_{\text{NN}}^{(0)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(0)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(1)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(2)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(2)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(3)}) + \dots$$

Code for perturbative NN computations available:

<https://github.com/othim/nn-mwpc>

# Part III

**Predicting ground-state  
energies for  $A \leq 6$ .**

# Bound-state computations in perturbation theory

$$H |\psi\rangle = E |\psi\rangle$$

Treated perturbatively

$$V = V_{\text{NN}}^{(0)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(0)}) + \overbrace{V_{\text{NN}}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(1)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(2)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(2)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(3)}) + \dots}$$

- Desired features:
  - Straightforward to implement in existing code frameworks.
  - Small computational overhead.
- Plan: Benchmark in  ${}^3\text{H}$  with both the **Rayleigh-Schrödinger (RS)** and the **Finite Difference (FD)** method.
- Question: How well do the perturbative calculations converge?

# The Rayleigh-Schrödinger approach

Treated perturbatively

Potential:  $V = V_{\text{NN}}^{(0)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(0)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(1)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(1)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(2)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(2)}) + V_{\text{NN}}^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}^{(3)}) + \dots$

LO:

$$H^{(0)} |\Psi_n^{(0)}\rangle = E_n^{(0)} |\Psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$$

NLO:

$$E^{(1)} = \langle \Psi_0^{(0)} | V_{\text{NN}}^{(1)} | \Psi_0^{(0)} \rangle$$

N<sup>2</sup>LO:

$$E^{(2)} = \langle \Psi_0^{(0)} | V_{\text{NN}}^{(2)} | \Psi_0^{(0)} \rangle + \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{|\langle \Psi_0^{(0)} | V_{\text{NN}}^{(1)} | \Psi_n^{(0)} \rangle|^2}{E_0^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)}}$$

⋮

- Need full LO spectrum beyond NLO!
- + Easy to implement for <sup>3</sup>H in the NCSM.

# A numerical finite difference approach

**1.** Define a Hamiltonian:

$$H(\mathbf{x}) = H^{(0)} + \sum_{\nu=1}^3 x_{\nu} V^{(\nu)}$$

**2.** Solve the Schrödinger equation for multiple values of  $\mathbf{x}$ :

$$H(\mathbf{x})|\Psi_n(\mathbf{x})\rangle = E_n(\mathbf{x})|\Psi_n(\mathbf{x})\rangle$$

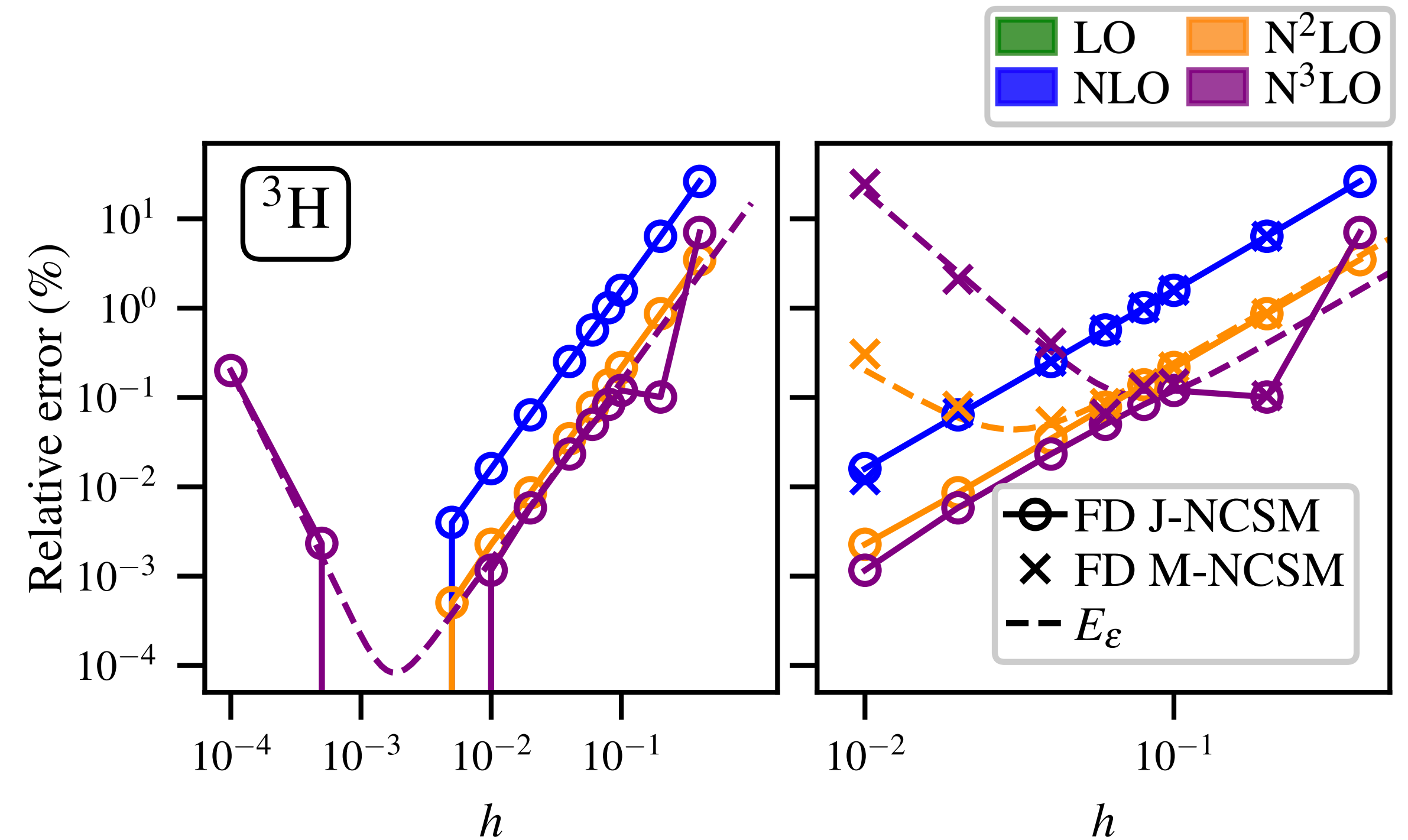
**3.** Compute derivatives numerically:

$$E_0^{(1)} = \partial_1 E_0(\mathbf{x})$$

$$E_0^{(2)} = \partial_2 E_0(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{1}{2} \partial_1^2 E_0(\mathbf{x})$$

$$E_0^{(3)} = \partial_3 E_0(\mathbf{x}) + \partial_1 \partial_2 E_0(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{1}{6} \partial_1^3 E_0(\mathbf{x})$$

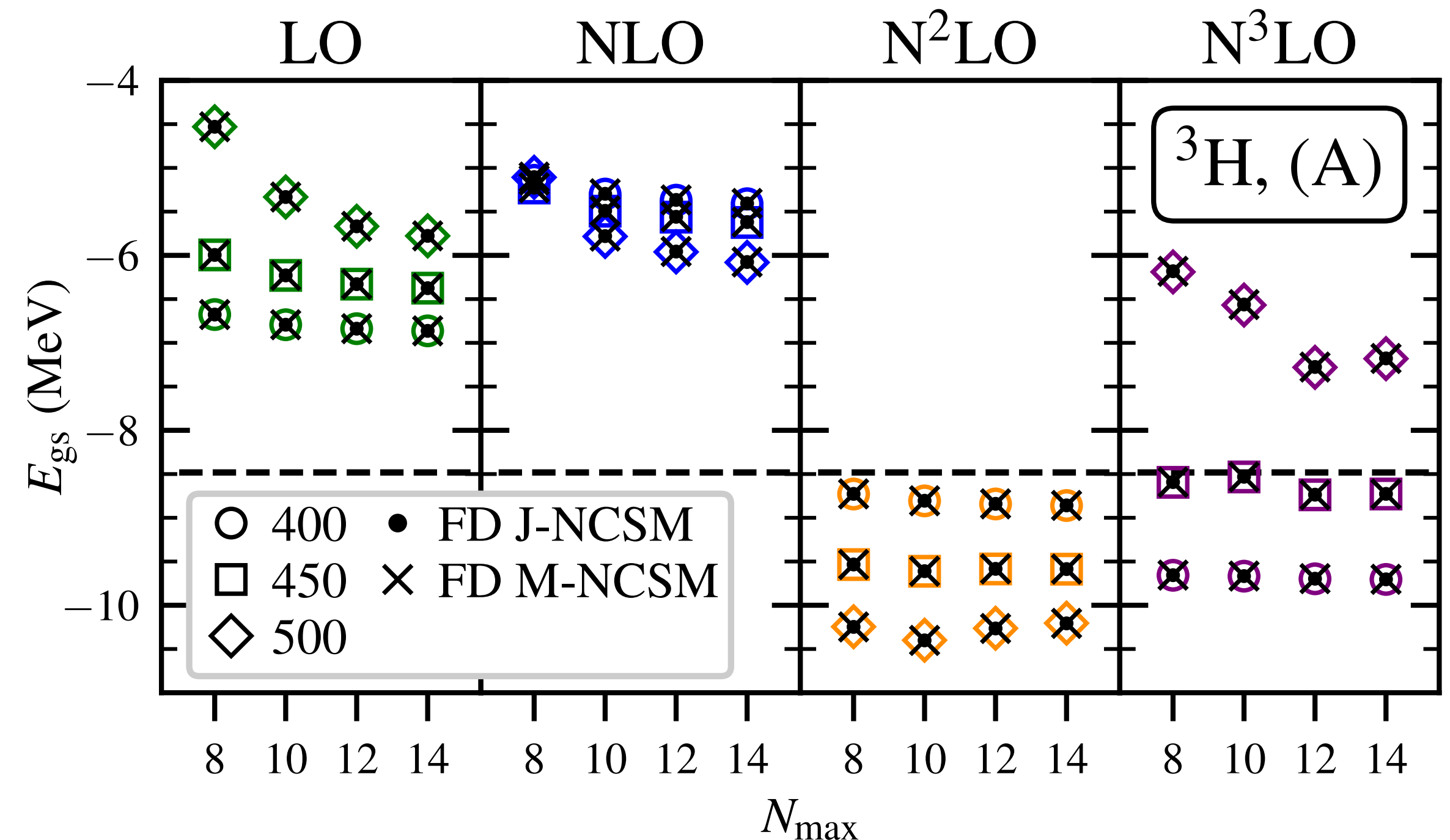
Compare to the exact Rayleigh-Schrödinger computations in  ${}^3\text{H}$ .



$$E_{\epsilon}(h) = \epsilon h^{-n} + K h^p$$

# Validation of the FD method up to N<sup>3</sup>LO

- Validate the **FD** method against exact **RS** computations in <sup>3</sup>H.
  - Can perform computation up to  $\Lambda = 1200$  MeV at N<sup>3</sup>LO.
  - See big effects from exceptional cutoffs beyond  $\Lambda \gtrsim 600$  MeV.
- OT, A. Ekström, and C. Forssén, Phys. Rev. C **112** (2025)
- ... but need to be at low cutoffs to converge many-body computations.



- Sub-percent errors.
- Need **13 exact solutions** at  $h^2$ .

Code available:

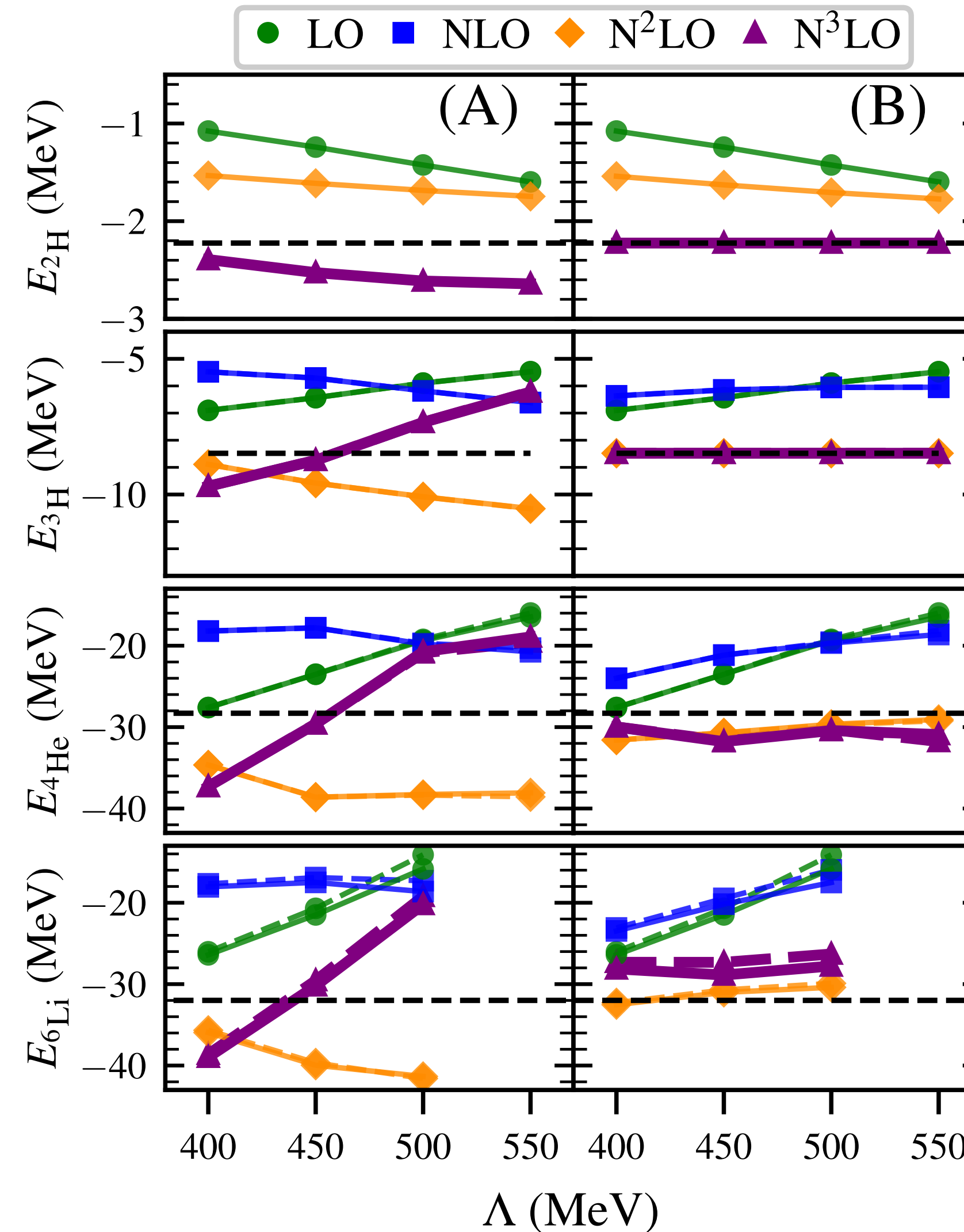
<https://github.com/othim/py-ncsm>

# Calibrating LECs using few-body observables

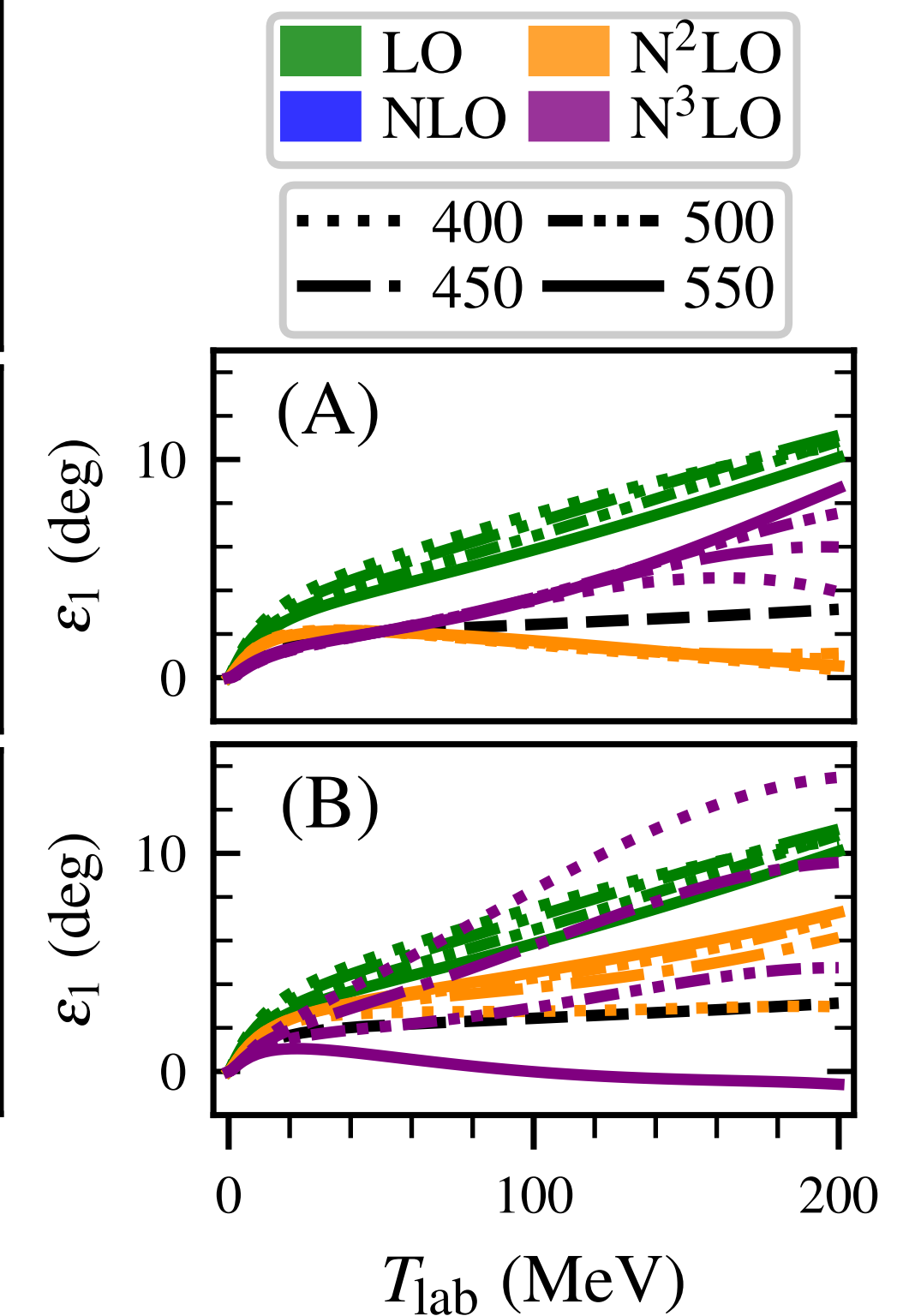
- Interaction **(A)**: Calibrated solely using NN **phase shifts**.
- Interaction **(B)**: Additionally use **few-body input**:  ${}^3\text{H}$  @  $\text{N}^{2,3}\text{LO}$  and  ${}^2\text{H}$  @  $\text{N}^3\text{LO}$ .

⇒

- Eliminates cutoff dependence in  ${}^4\text{He}$  and  ${}^6\text{Li}$ .
- Induces cutoff dependence in  $\varepsilon_1$  (largely influenced by the calibration scheme).



OT, A. Ekström, and C. Forssén, arXiv:2604.14985 (2026)

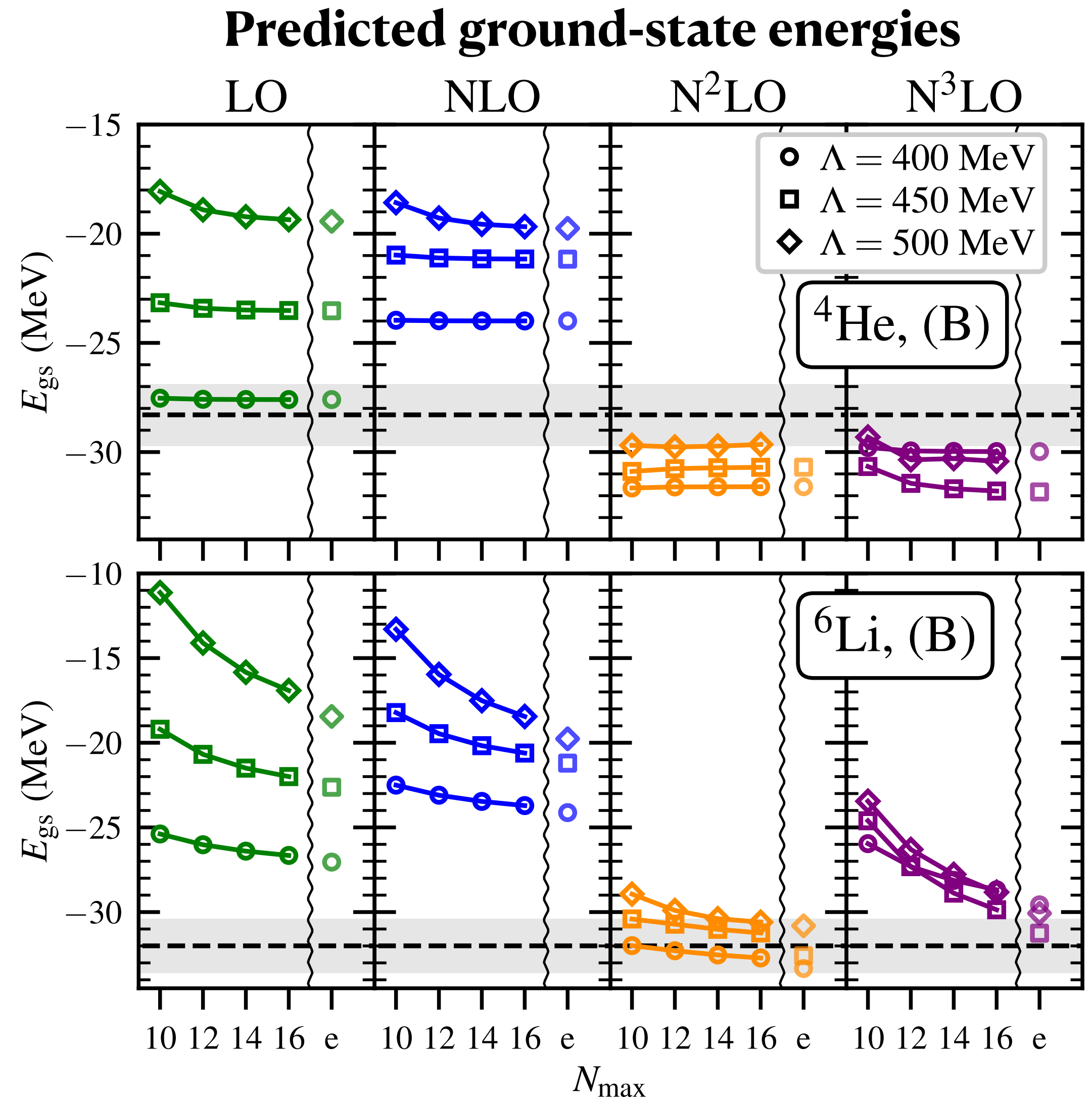


# Predictions in ${}^4\text{He}$ and ${}^6\text{Li}$

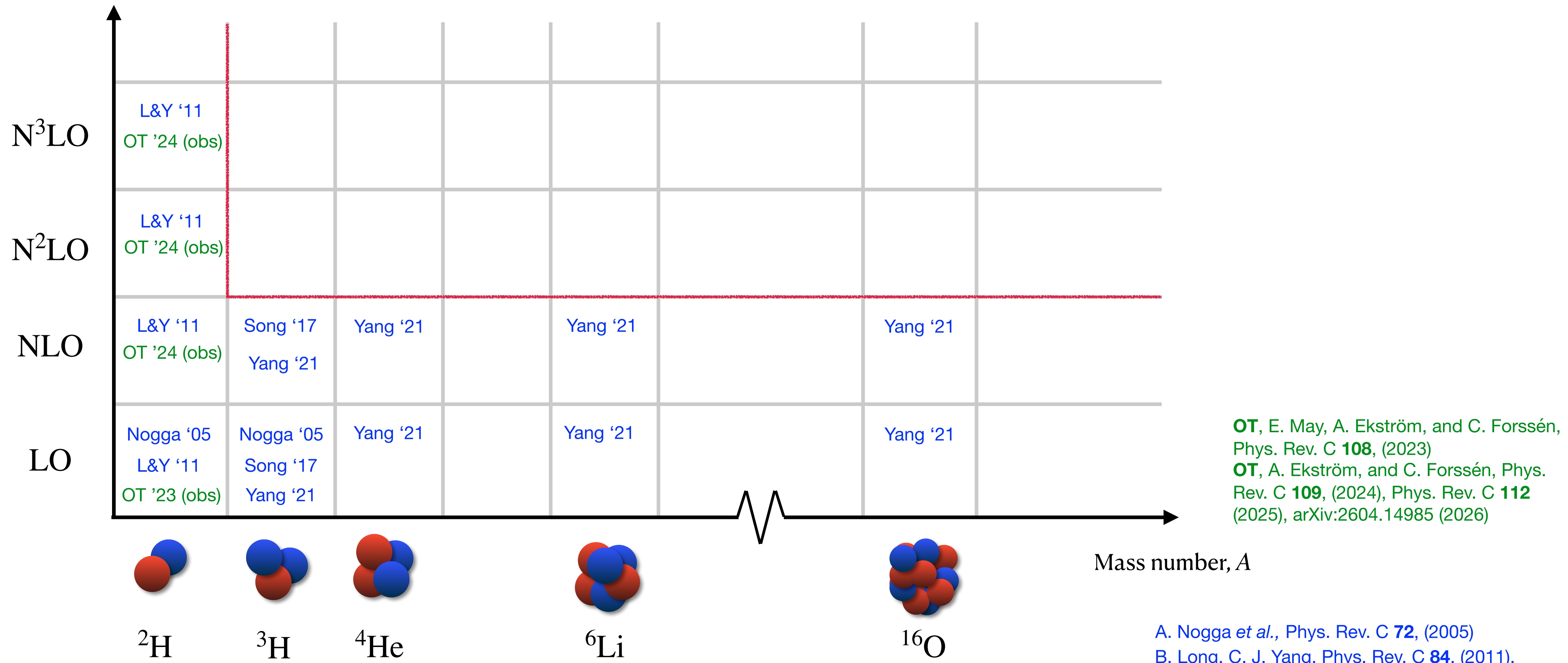
- Predictions at  $\text{N}^{2,3}\text{LO}$  close to or **within expected EFT** truncation error.

$$\sim \left( \frac{Q}{\Lambda_b} \right)^{\nu+1}$$

- Only **marginally slower** convergence in  $N_{\text{max}}$  at higher orders.



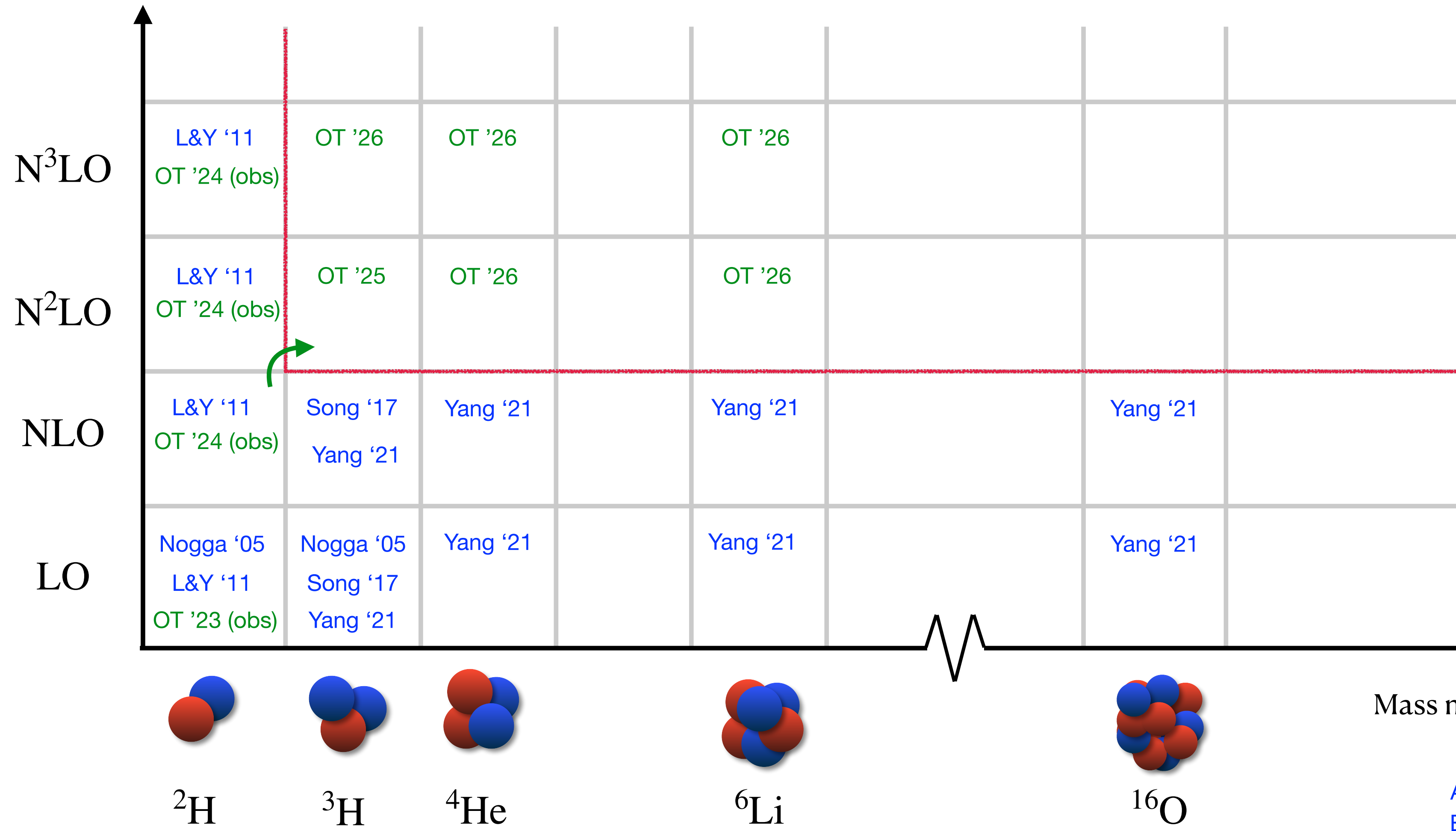
# Partly perturbative pions: progress



OT, E. May, A. Ekström, and C. Forssén, Phys. Rev. C **108**, (2023)  
 OT, A. Ekström, and C. Forssén, Phys. Rev. C **109**, (2024), Phys. Rev. C **112** (2025), arXiv:2604.14985 (2026)

A. Nogga *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **72**, (2005)  
 B. Long, C. J. Yang, Phys. Rev. C **84**, (2011), Phys. Rev. C **85**, (2012), Phys. Rev. C **86**, (2012)  
 Y.-H. Song, R. Lazauskas, and U. van Kolck, Phys. Rev. C **96**, (2017)  
 C. J. Yang *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **103**, (2021)

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 C. J. Yang *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **103**, (2021)

# Exceptional cutoffs

# Origin of exceptional cutoffs

- Compute NN scattering amplitudes perturbatively in  ${}^3S_1 - {}^3D_1$ :

$$\text{LO: } T^{(0)} = V^{(0)} + V^{(0)}G_0^+T^{(0)}$$

$$\text{NLO: } \cancel{T^{(1)} = \Omega_-^\dagger V^{(1)} \Omega_+}$$

$$\text{N}^2\text{LO: } T^{(2)} = \Omega_-^\dagger \left( V^{(2)} + \cancel{V^{(1)}G_1^+V^{(1)}} \right) \Omega_+$$

$$V^{(2)} = V_{2\pi}^{(2)} + V_{\text{ct}}^{(2)}$$

$$V_{\text{ct}}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \begin{pmatrix} C_{{}^3S_1}^{(1)} + D_{{}^3S_1}^{(0)}(p'^2 + p^2) & D_{SD}^{(0)}p^2 \\ D_{SD}^{(0)}p'^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Compute phase shifts perturbatively:

$$\delta^{(2)}(k) = -\frac{\rho(k)T^{(2)}(k, k; k)}{2i \exp(2i\delta^{(0)}(k))}$$

Renormalization conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^3S_1: & \left( \delta_0^{(0)}(k_1) + \delta_0^{(2)}(k_1) \right) \\ {}^3S_1: & \left( \delta_0^{(0)}(k_2) + \delta_0^{(2)}(k_2) \right) \\ \epsilon_1: & \left( \epsilon^{(0)}(k_2) + \epsilon^{(2)}(k_2) \right) \end{aligned} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{0,\text{exp}}(k_1) \\ \delta_{0,\text{exp}}(k_2) \\ \epsilon_{\text{exp}}(k_2) \end{pmatrix}$$

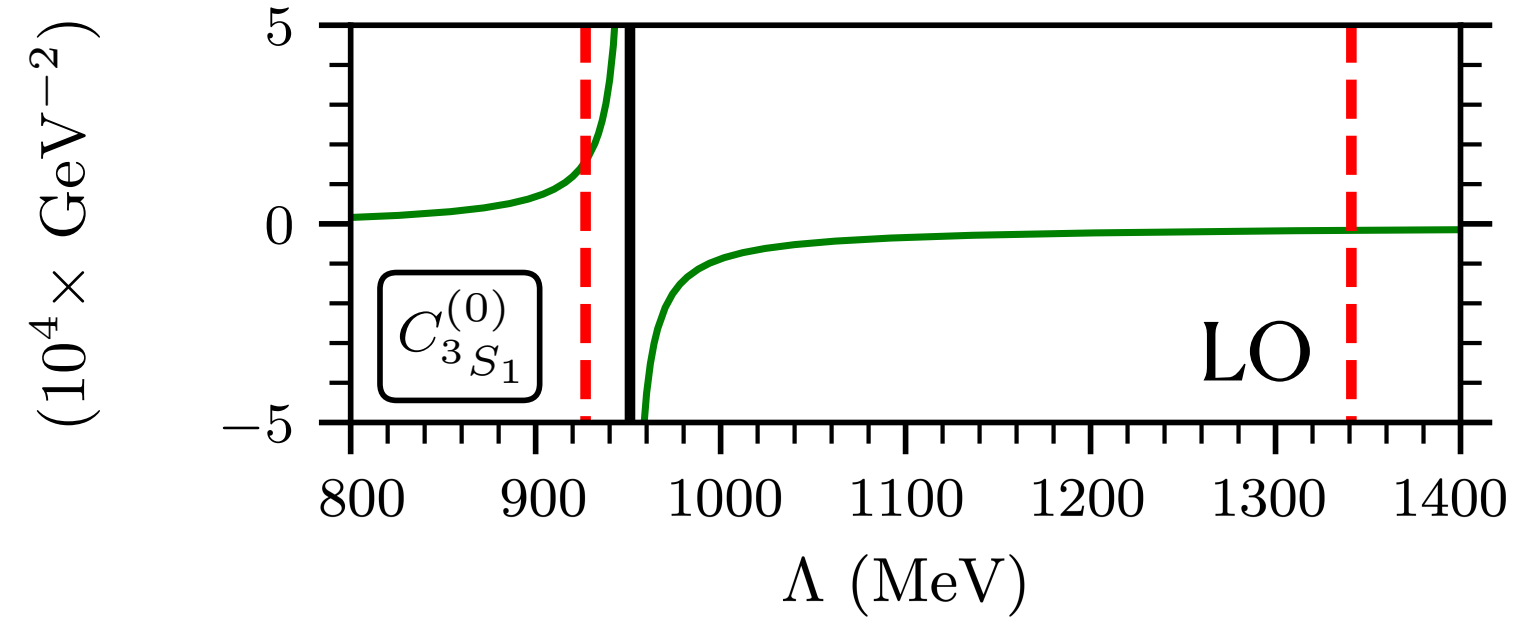
$$(\vec{\alpha}^{(2)})^T \equiv (C_{{}^3S_1}^{(1)}, D_{{}^3S_1}^{(0)}, D_{SD}^{(0)})$$

$$A_\Lambda \vec{\alpha}^{(2)}(\Lambda) = \vec{\delta}_\Lambda$$

Linear equation for the LECs!

# Exceptional cutoffs in ${}^3S_1 - {}^3D_1$

LECs

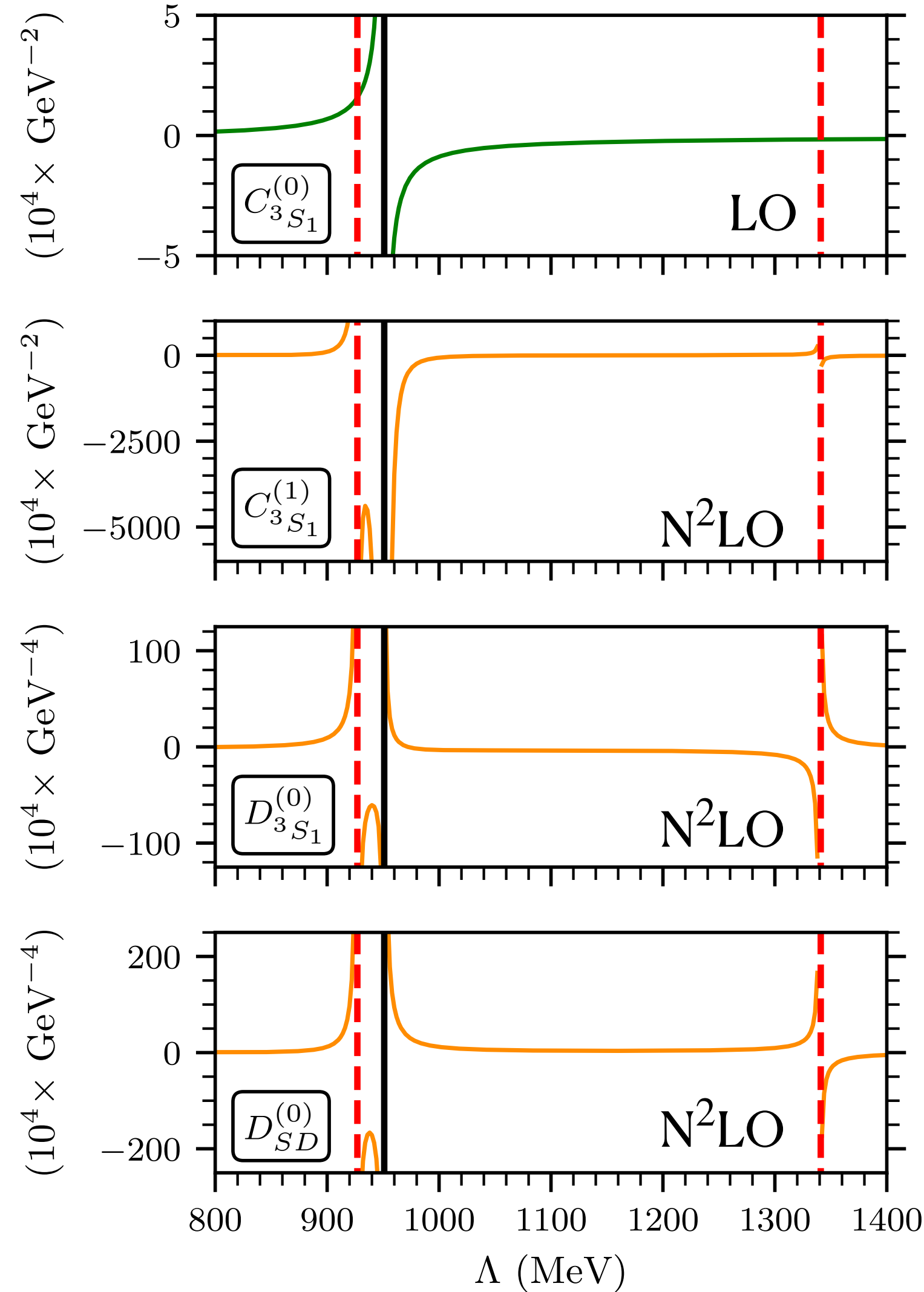


Limit-cycle-like cutoff

Exceptional cutoff

# Exceptional cutoffs in ${}^3S_1 - {}^3D_1$

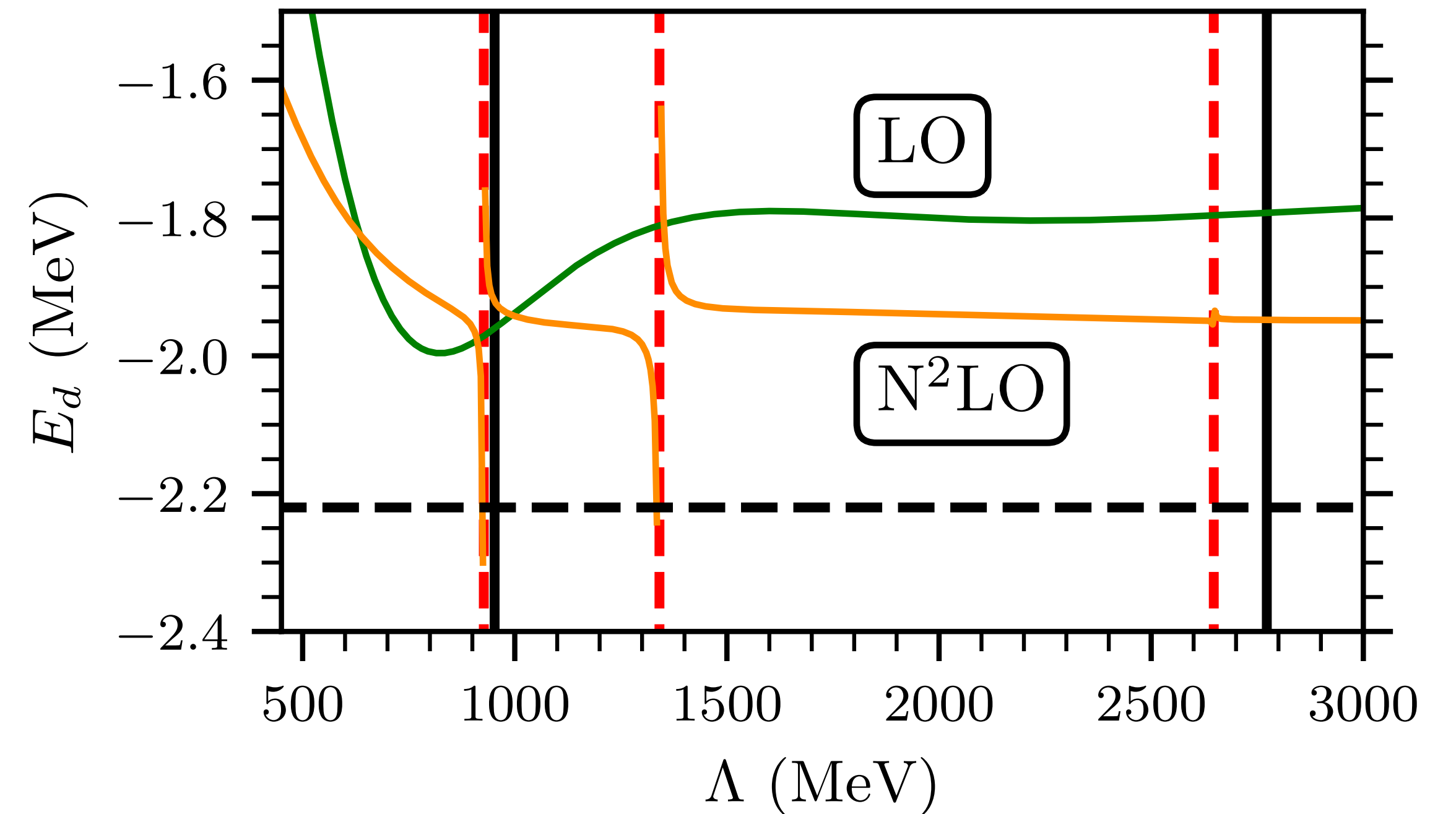
LECs



Limit-cycle-like cutoff

Exceptional cutoff

Deuteron prediction:

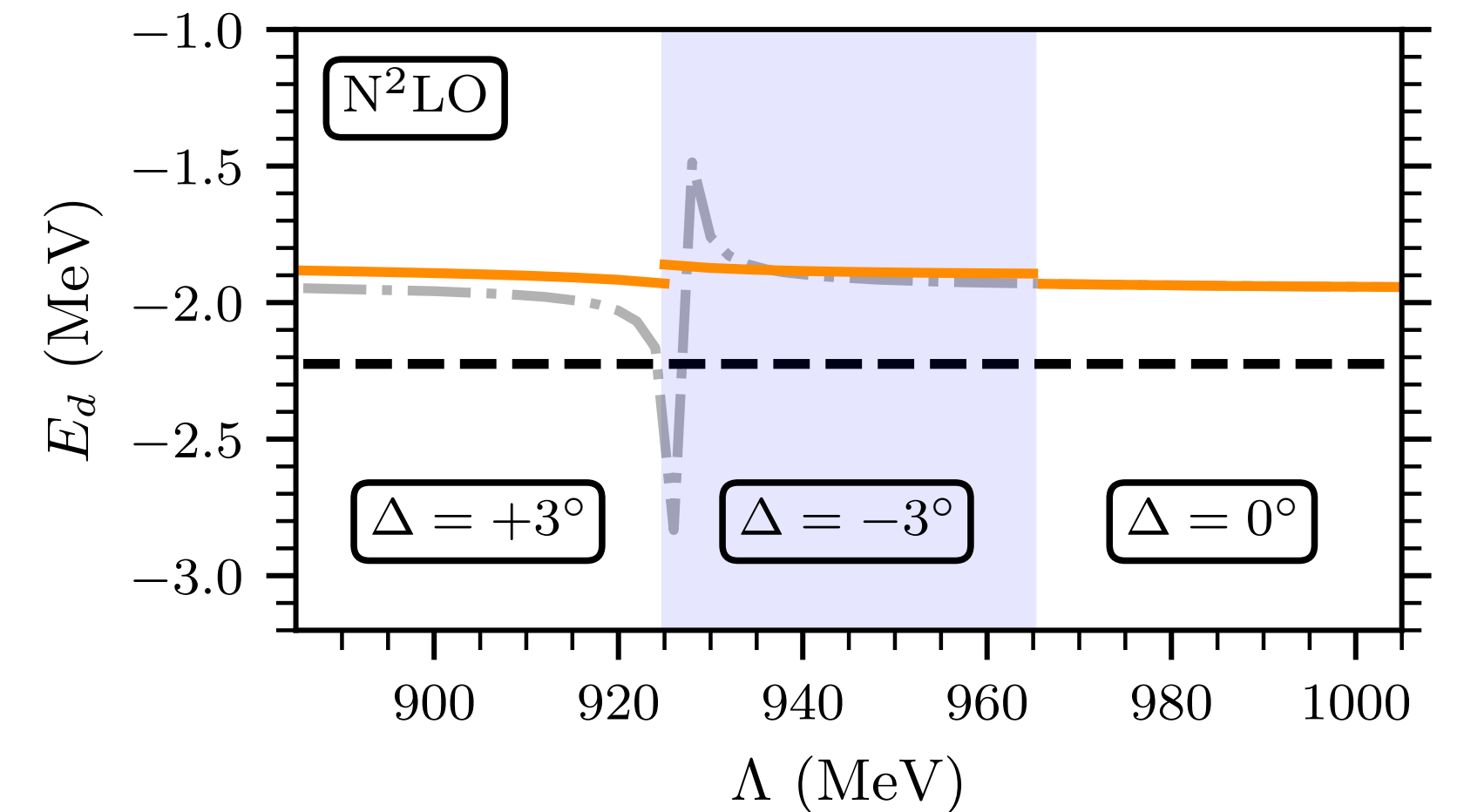
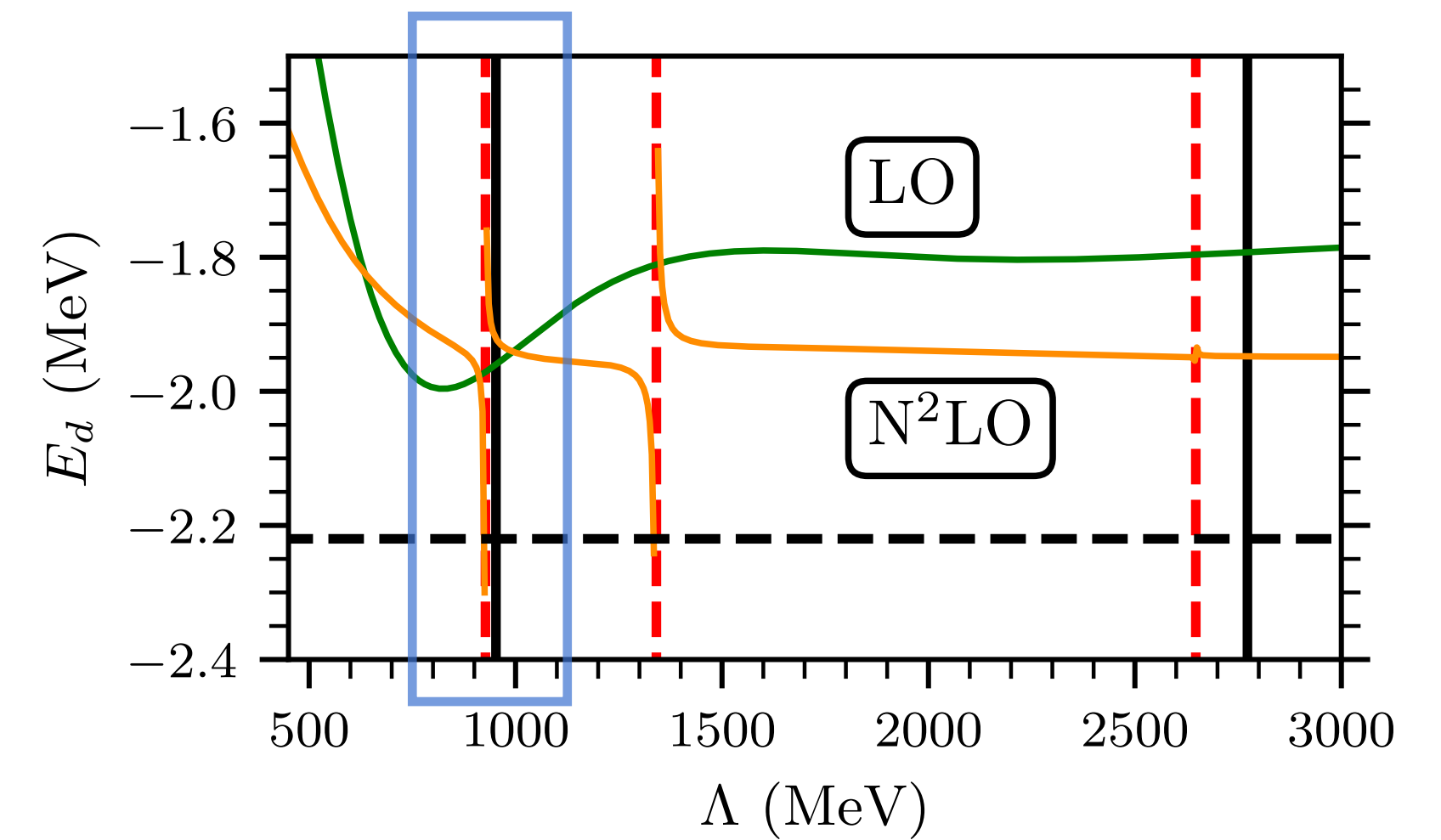
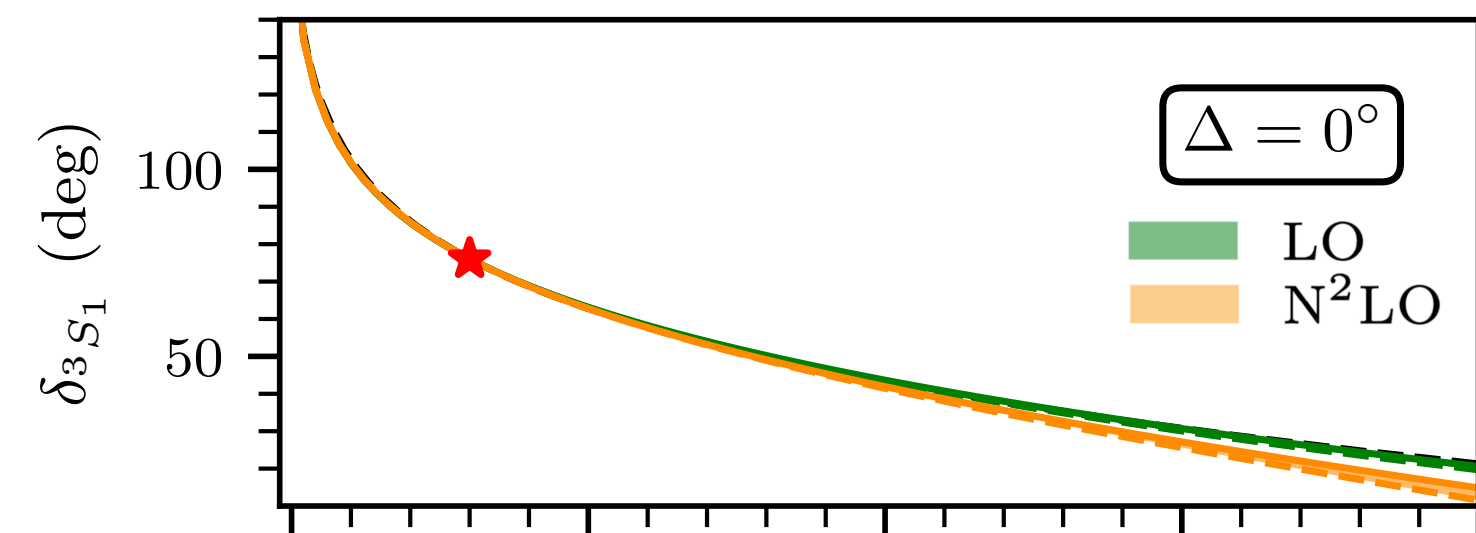
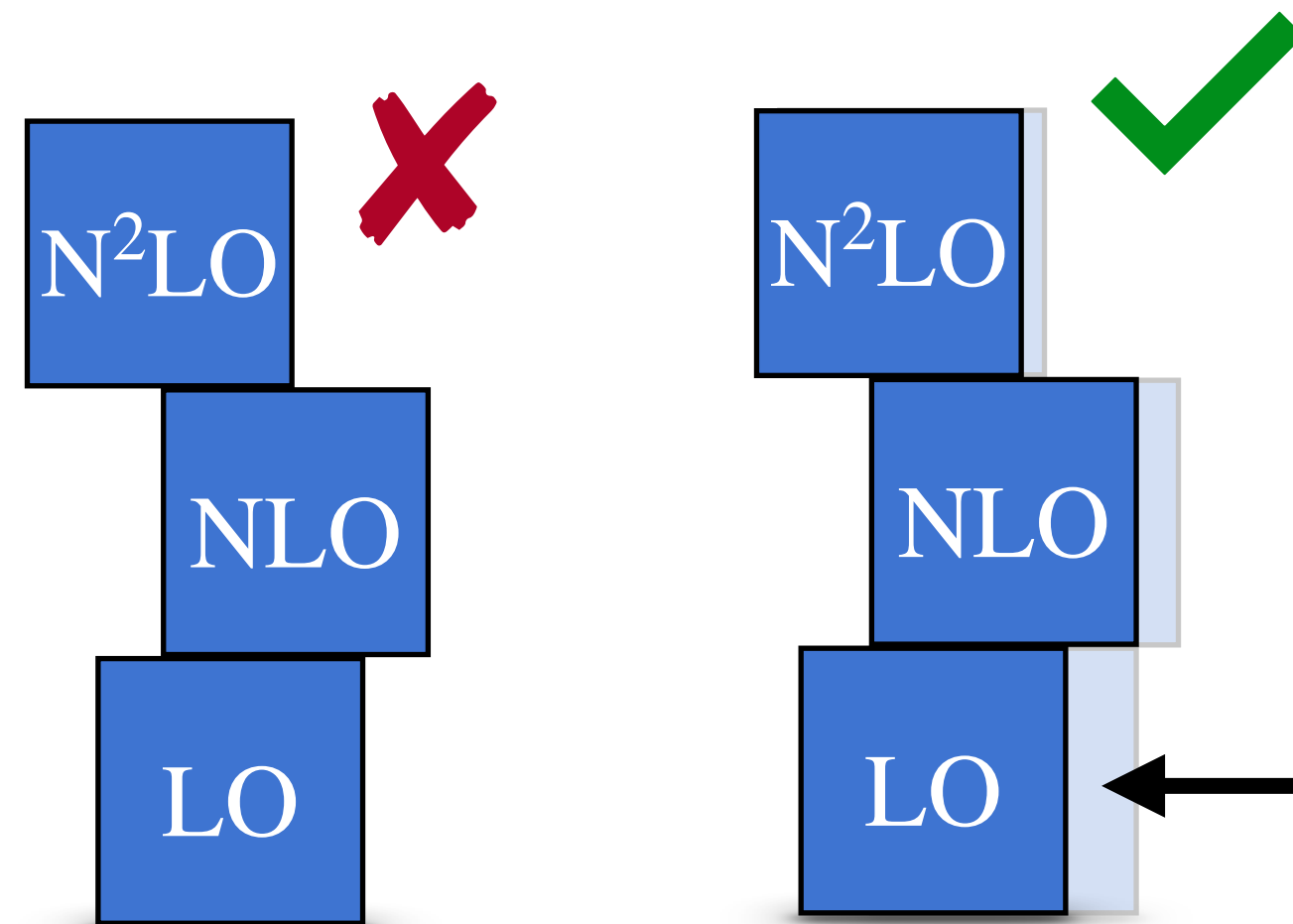


- Limit-cycle-like cutoffs — no divergence in predictions.
- **Exceptional** cutoffs — **diverging** predictions.

# Deuteron at $N^2LO$

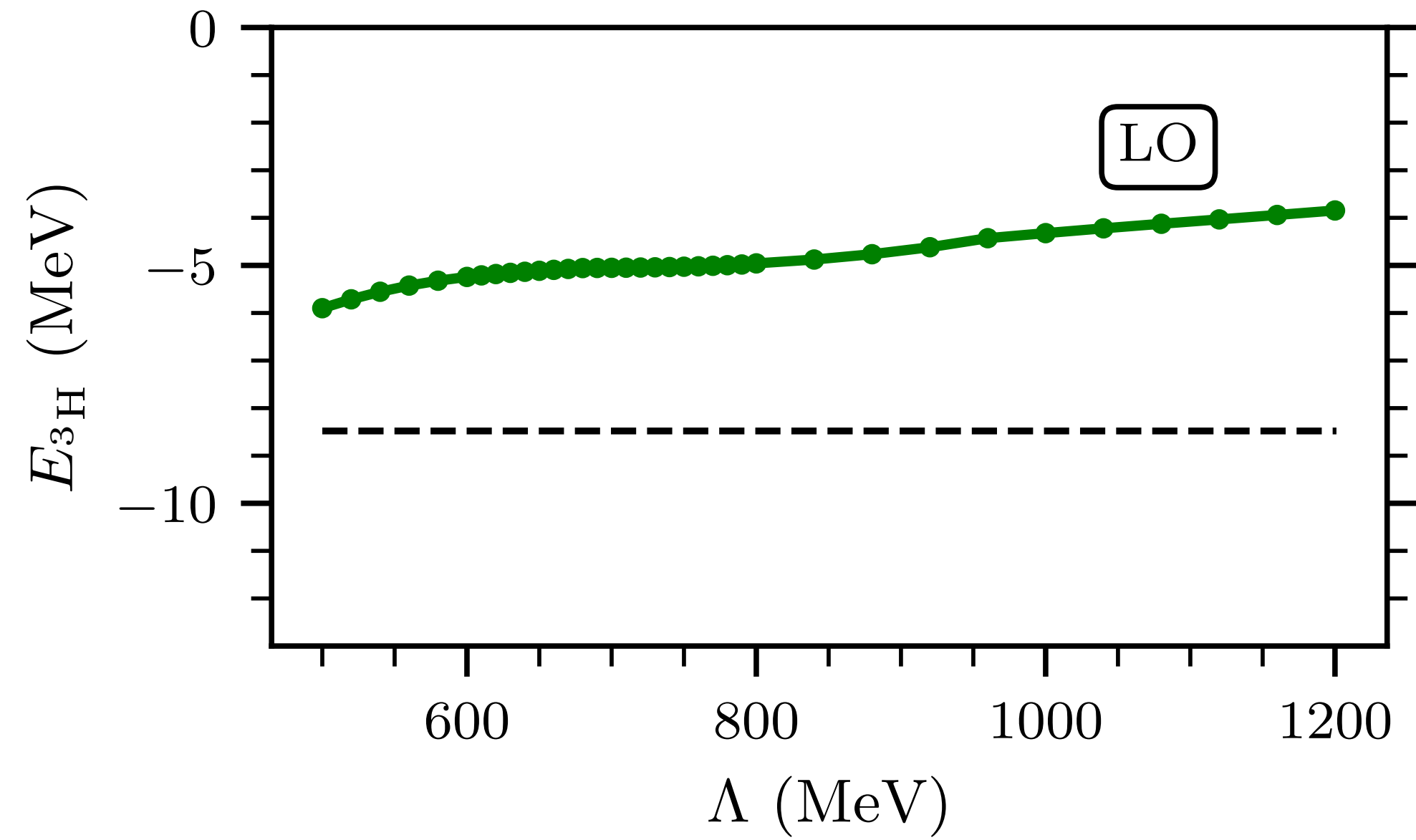
Suggested solution: **Modify LO** within the EFT error.

R. Peng, B. Long, and F.-R. Xu, Phys. Rev. C **110** (2024)

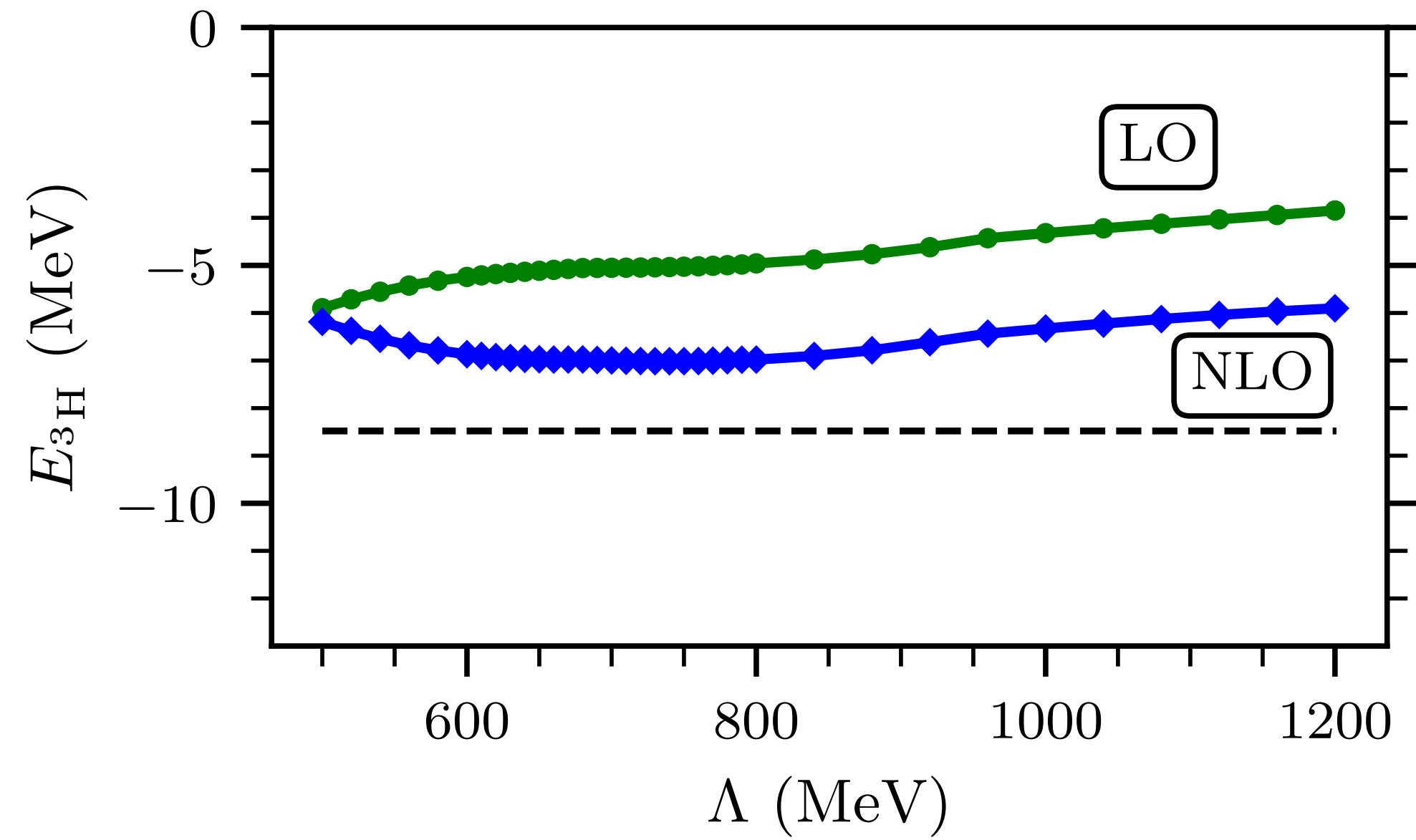


- Divergence mitigated — within EFT error.

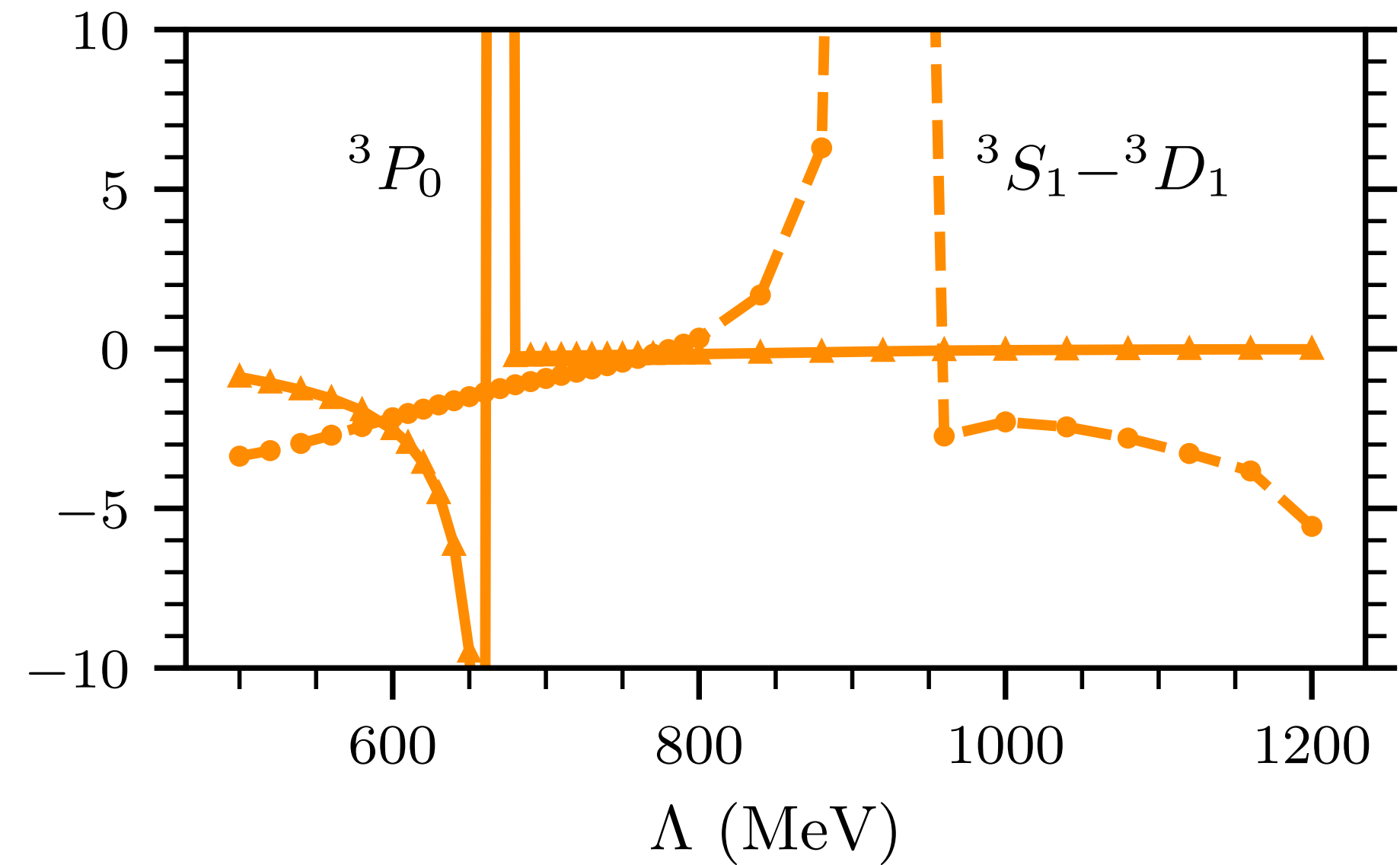
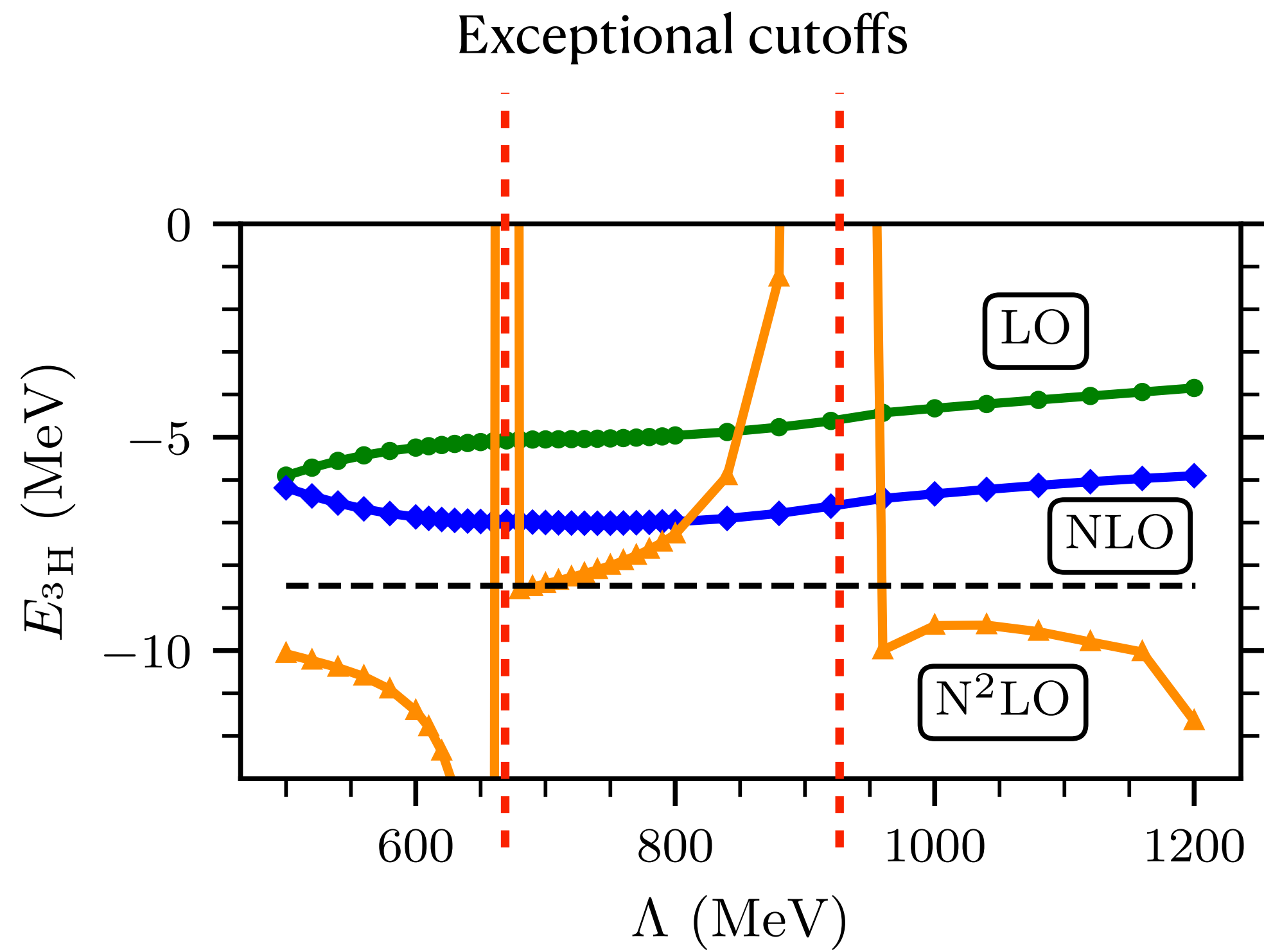
# Cutoff dependence of ${}^3\text{H}$ ground state energy



# Cutoff dependence of ${}^3\text{H}$ ground state energy



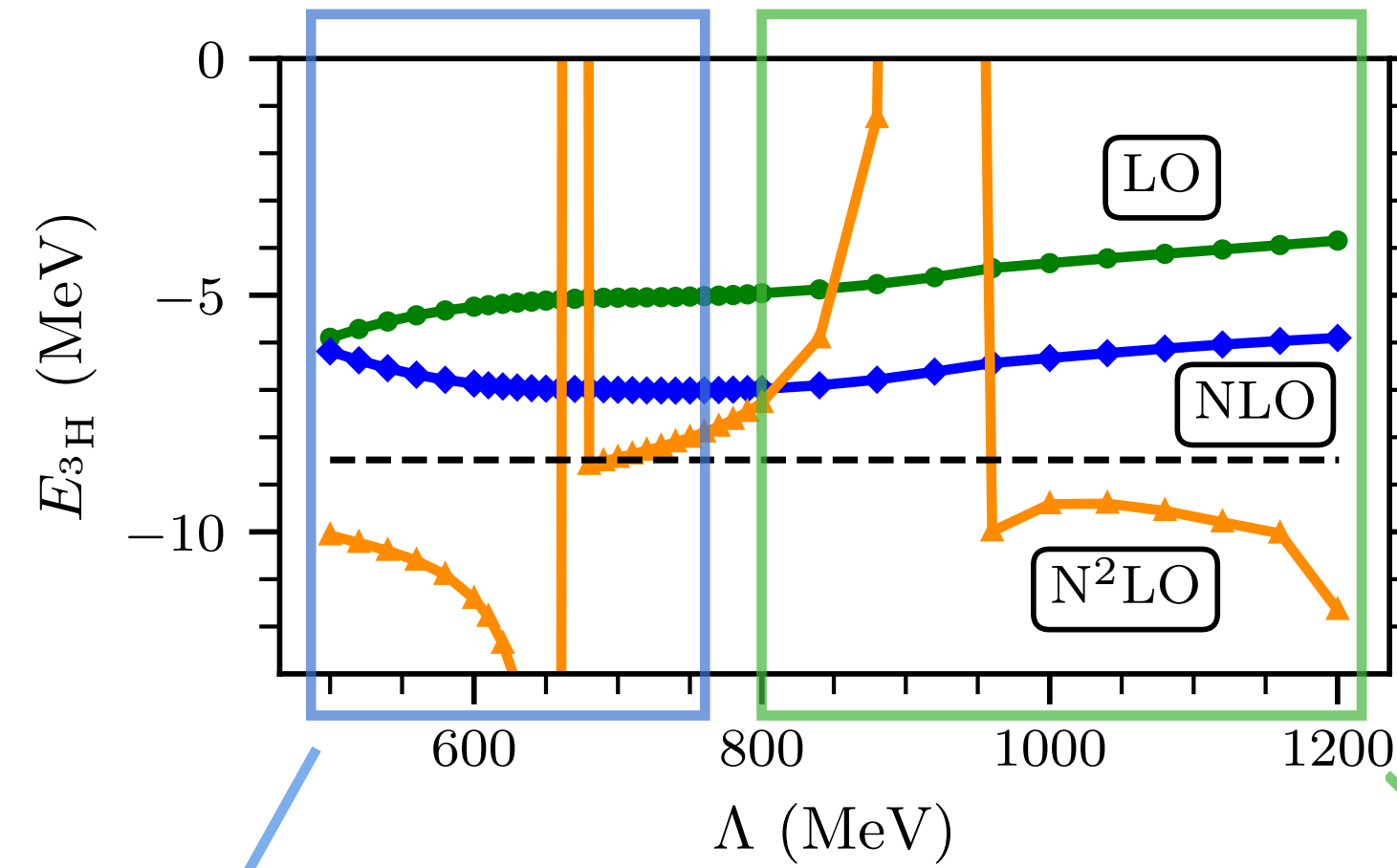
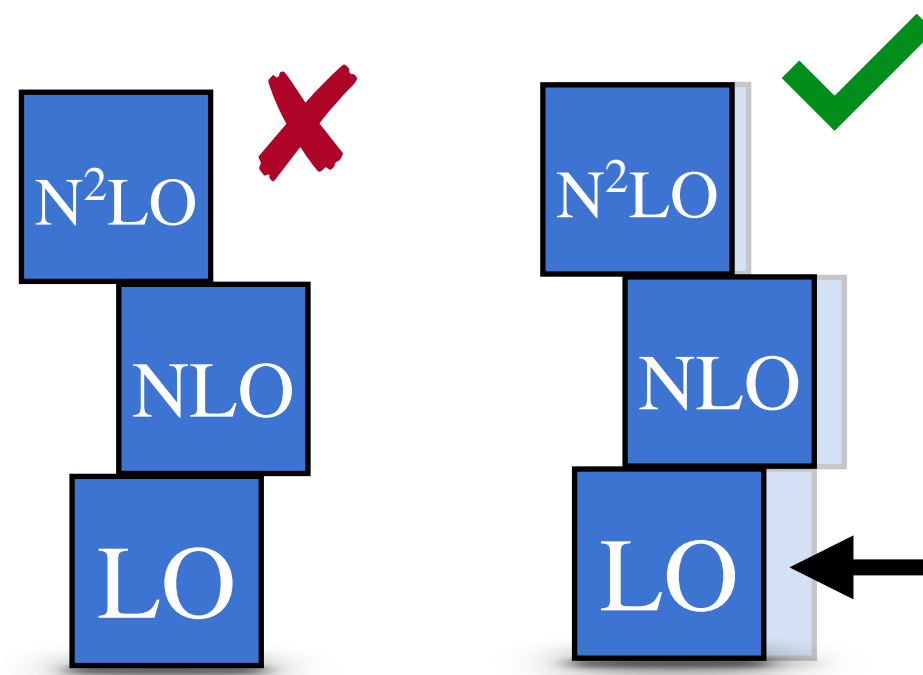
# Cutoff dependence of ${}^3\text{H}$ ground state energy



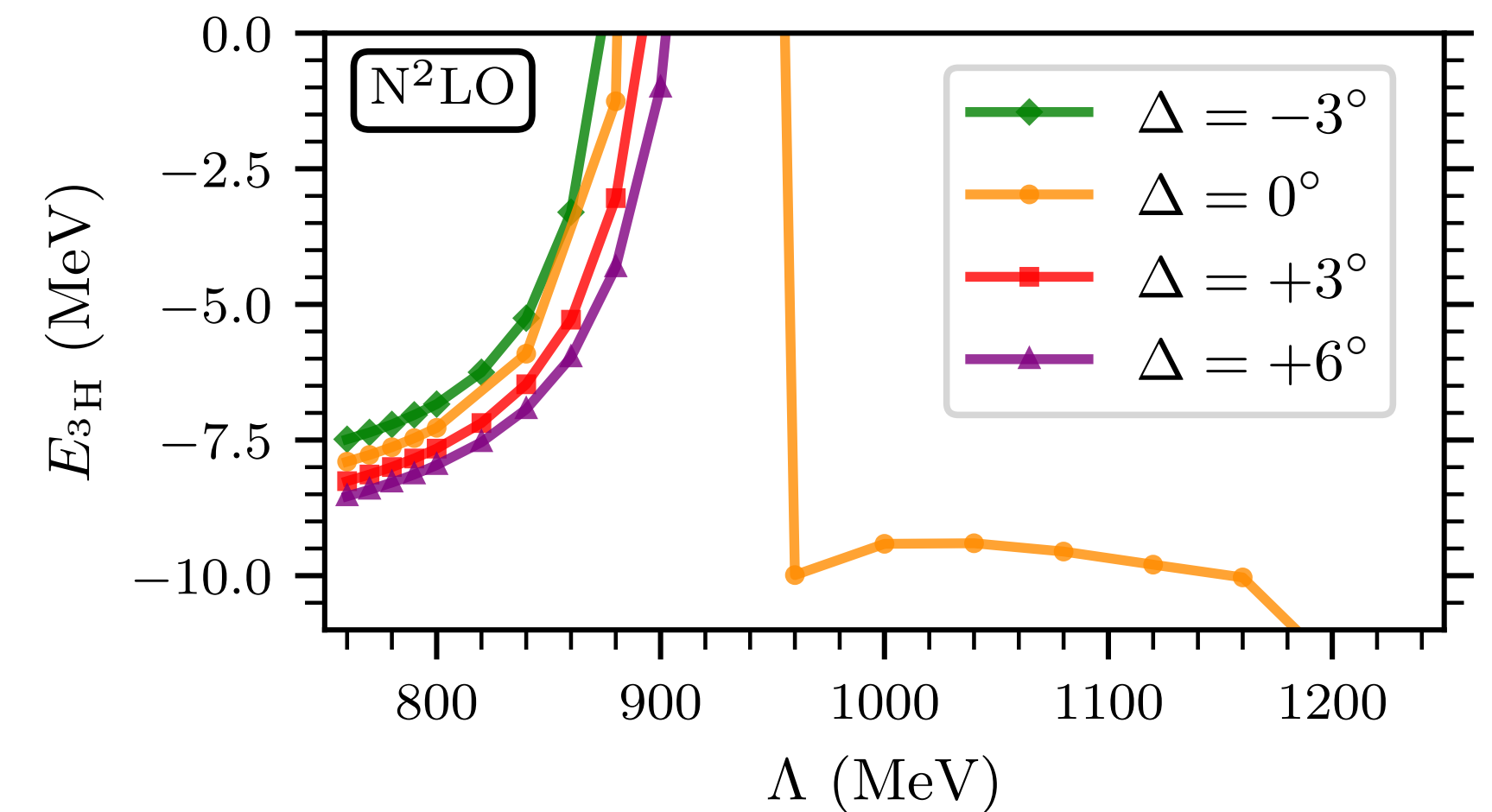
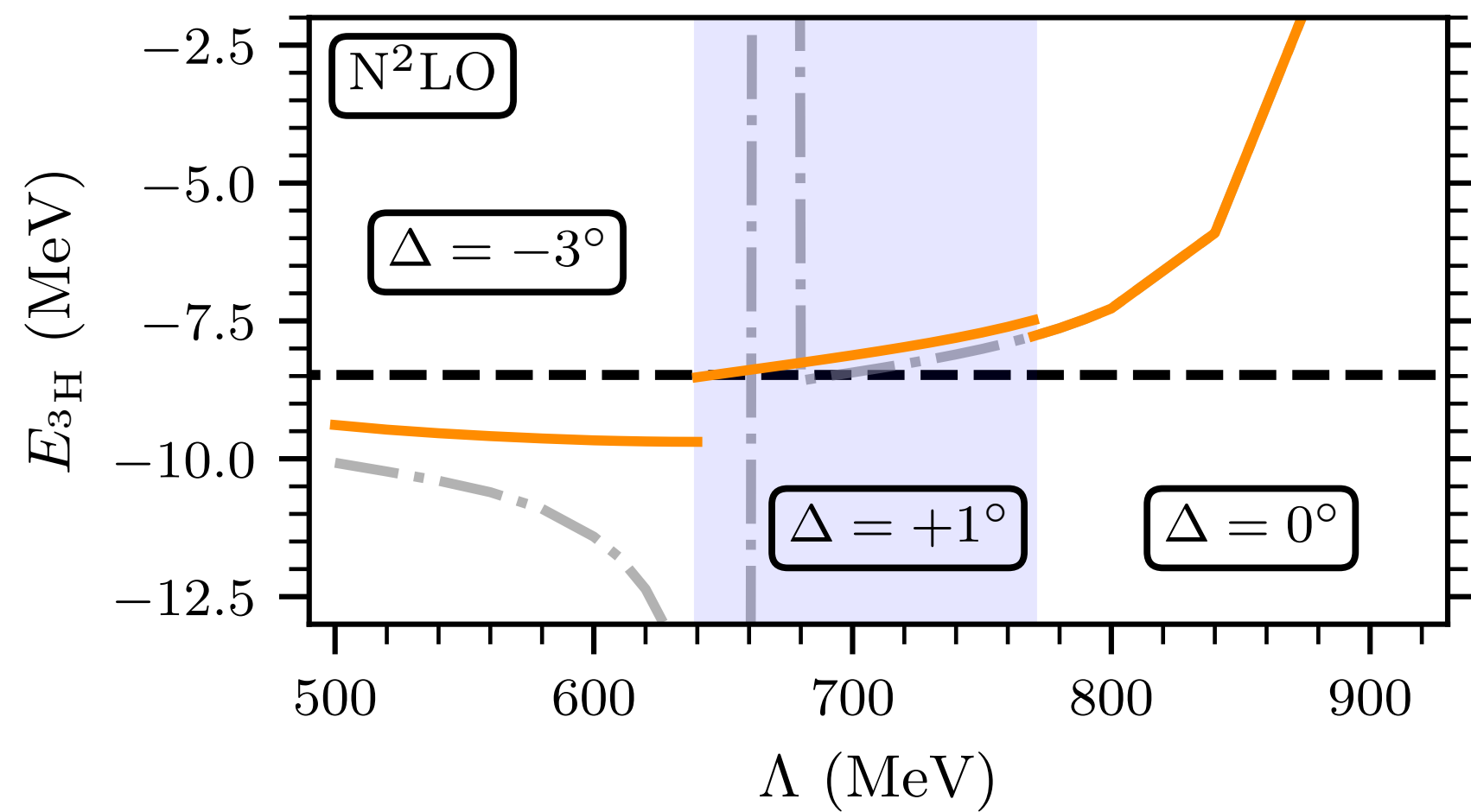
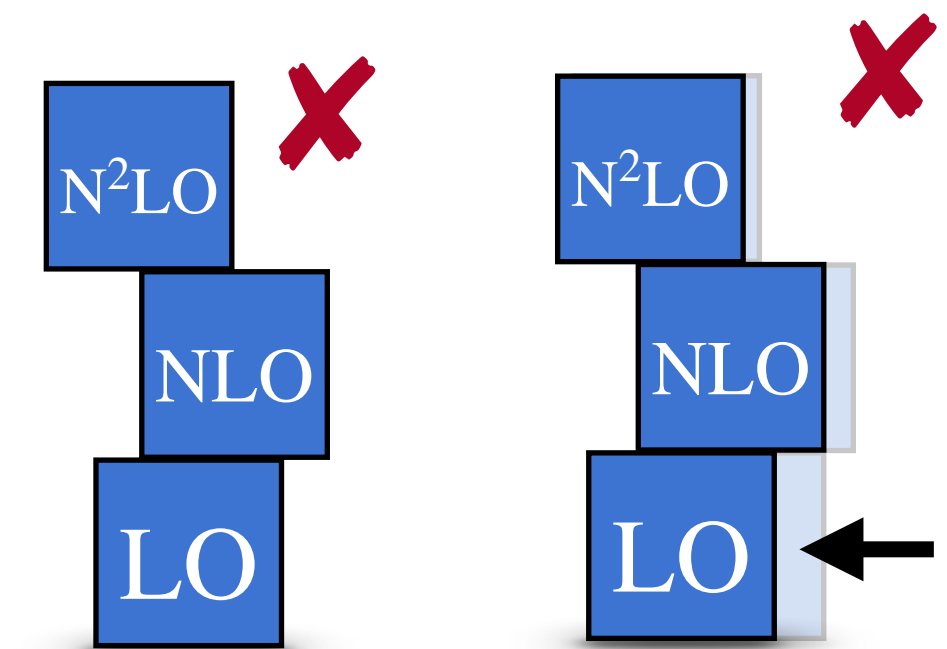
$$E_X^{(2)} \equiv \langle \Psi_0^{(0)} | \sum_{i<j=1}^3 P_X V_{ij}^{(2)} P_X | \Psi_0^{(0)} \rangle + \sum_{m \neq 0} \frac{|\langle \Psi_0^{(0)} | \sum_{i<j=1}^3 P_X V_{ij}^{(1)} P_X | \Psi_m^{(0)} \rangle|^2}{E_0^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}}$$

# Apply the same principle as in the deuteron

In  $^3P_0$



In  $^3S_1 - ^3D_1$



# Is this the end?

- Origin of exceptional cutoffs:

A. M. Gasparyan and E. Epelbaum, Phys. Rev. C. **107** (2023)

$$A_{\Lambda} \vec{\alpha}^{(2)}(\Lambda) = \vec{\delta}_{\Lambda}$$

Linear equation for the LECs!

- $A_{\Lambda}$  — related to derivatives of the LO NN wave function at  $r = 0$ .

- Appearance of exceptional cutoffs related to a **non-local** LO interaction, which induces a non-trivial **energy dependence**.

M. Pavon Valderrama, Regulator constraints for the perturbative renormalizability of attractive triplets, arXiv:2509.23855 (2025)

- Indicates that the problem is with the regulation in the PC.
- Interesting to investigate other regulations.

# Summary

## Part I/II

- Chiral symmetry constrains the NN interaction.
- Choosing a Power Counting + experimental data  $\implies V_{\text{NN}}$  ([nn-mwpc](#)).
- Showed that the long-range potential fulfills Low Energy Theorems.

## Part III

- Perturbative computations in  ${}^3\text{H}$  up to  $\text{N}^3\text{LO}$ : [py-ncsm](#)!
- Demonstrate reliable computations with **partly perturbative pions** up to  ${}^6\text{Li}$  at  $\text{N}^3\text{LO}$  using the NCSM.
- Exceptional cutoffs cause divergences in the  ${}^3\text{H}$  computations.

# Directions to explore further

- Include **three-nucleon** forces and **isospin breaking**.
- Further study the **exceptional cutoffs**.
- Include **uncertainty quantification**.
- Investigate other **perturbative** schemes.

**Thank you!**