

The Transition Density Formalism in the First Compton Computation on ^4He , and Beyond

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- 1 Two-Photon Response Explores System Dynamics
- 2 A New Hope
- 3 Compton Scattering on ^4He
- 4 Concluding Questions



How do constituents of the nucleon react to external fields?
How to reliably extract proton, neutron, spin polarisabilities?

How to plan effective experiments & test theory?

Exp-Th Compton Roadmap in "Next-Gen γ Source": IJMPG49 (2022) 010502

Review: +G. Feldman: Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 67 (2012) 841

Transition Density Formalism and ^3He : hg/JMcG/AN/DRP: Few-Body Syst. 61 (2020) 61 [2005.12207] [nucl-th]

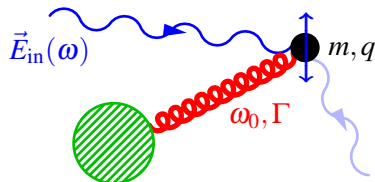
^4He $\mathcal{O}(e^2\delta^3)$: Liao/hg/JMcG/AN/DRP: EPJA 60 (2024) 132 [2401.16995] [nucl-th]



1. Two-Photon Response Explores System Dynamics

(a) Polarisabilities: Stiffness of Charged Constituents in El.- Mag. Fields

Example: induced **electric dipole radiation** from **harmonically bound charge**, damping Γ Lorentz/Drude 1900/1905

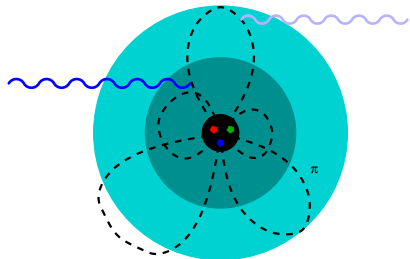


$$\vec{d}_{\text{ind}}(\omega) = \frac{q^2}{m} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 - i\Gamma\omega}}_{=: 4\pi\alpha_{E1}(\omega) \text{ "displaced volume" } [10^{-4} \text{ fm}^3]} \vec{E}_{\text{in}}(\omega)$$

Clean, perturbative probe: χ iral symmetry of pion-cloud & its breaking, $\Delta(1232)$, spin-constituents.

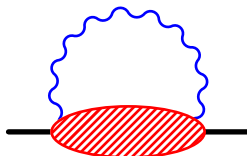
$$2\pi \left[\underbrace{\alpha_{E1} \vec{E}^2 + \beta_{M1} \vec{B}^2}_{\text{electric, magnetic scalar dipole}} \right]$$

Fundamental hadron properties, like charge, mass, mag. moment, $\langle r_N^2 \rangle \dots$ PDG



Community Goal: Unified framework, reliable errors for p, d, $^3\text{He}, \dots$

A2@MAMI, Compton@HIγS, MAXlab Roadmap: JIMPG49 (2022) 010502



Cottingham ΣR explains $M_\gamma^p - M_\gamma^n$ with

$$\alpha_{E1}^{p-n} = [-1.7 \pm 0.4_{\text{tot}}]$$

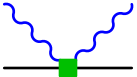
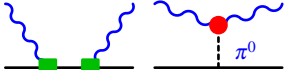
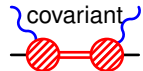
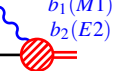
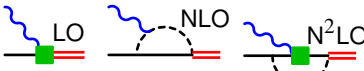
Hoferichter/Gasser/Leutwyler/Rusetsky 2015

data of p-n difference: $[-0.6 \pm 1.2_{\text{tot}}]$

(b) All 1N Contributions to $N^4\text{LO}$

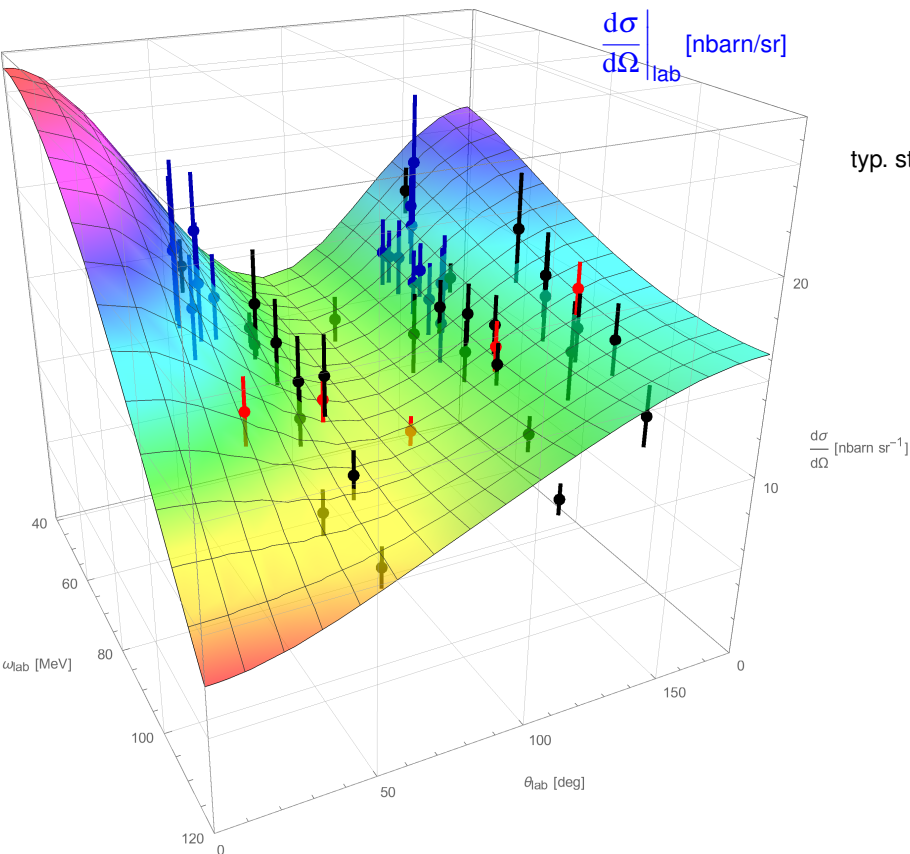
Unified Amplitude: accuracy decreases with ω :

in low régime $\omega \lesssim m_\pi$ at least $N^4\text{LO}$ ($e^2\delta^4$): accuracy $\delta^5 \lesssim 2\%$;
 or in high régime $\omega \sim M_\Delta - M_N$ at least NLO ($e^2\delta^0$): accuracy $\delta^2 \lesssim 20\%$.

 Thomson term: $-\frac{Z^2\alpha_{EM}}{M}$	$\omega \lesssim m_\pi$	ω $\sim M_\Delta - M_N$ $\approx 300 \text{ MeV}$
 	$e^2\delta^0 \text{ LO}$	$e^2\delta^0 \searrow \text{NLO}$
 with vertex corrections  $b_1(M1)$ $b_2(E2)$  LO NLO $N^2\text{LO}$	$e^2\delta^2 \text{ N}^2\text{LO}$	$e^2\delta^1 \text{ N}^2\text{LO}$
	$e^2\delta^3 \text{ N}^3\text{LO}$	$e^2\delta^{-1} \nearrow \text{LO}$
	$e^2\delta^3 \text{ N}^3\text{LO}$	$e^2\delta^1 \text{ N}^2\text{LO}$
Unknowns: short-distance $\delta\alpha, \delta\beta \longleftrightarrow$ static α_{E1}, β_{M1} (offset) $\implies \omega$-dependence predicted.		

(c) Getting to the Neutron: Deuteron Theory and Data

hg/... 2005-2010
hg/McGovern/Phillips/Feldman PNP 2012
Myers/... 2014



52 points Illinois, Saskatoon, Lund

typ. stat. + uncorrel. sys.: $\pm [7 \dots 10]\%$

typ. correl. sys.: $\pm [3 \dots 5]\%$

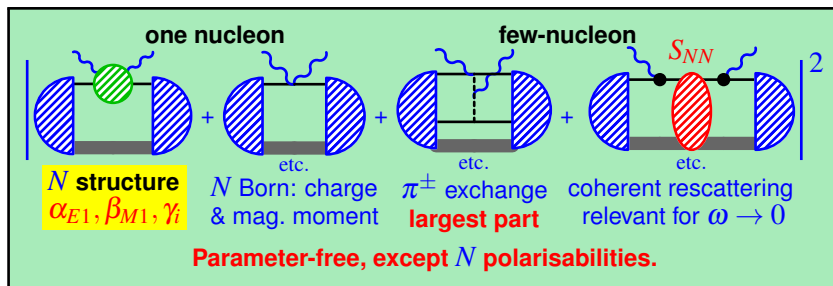
limited energy & angle coverage

(d) How to Get to the Neutron?

deuteron: hg/.../Phillips/McGovern 2004-; MECs: Beane/... 1999-2005

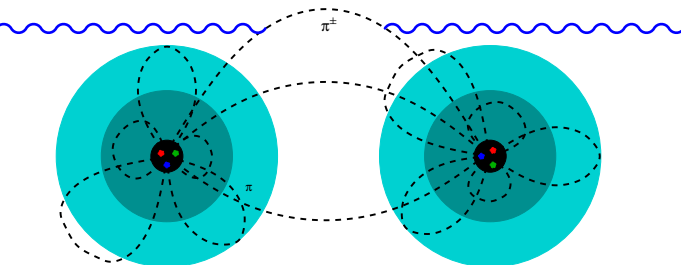
³He: Shukla/... 2009 + Strandberg/Margaryan/hg/... [1804.01206]

⁴He: hg/.../Nogga EPJA 60 (2024) 132 [2401.16995]



Deuteron, ⁴He: sensitive to $\alpha_{E1}^p + \alpha_{E1}^n, \beta_{M1}^p + \beta_{M1}^n \Rightarrow$ **neutron pols**

³He: sensitive to $2\alpha_{E1}^p + \alpha_{E1}^n, 2\beta_{M1}^p + \beta_{M1}^n \Rightarrow$ **neutron pols**



Model-independently subtract binding effects.

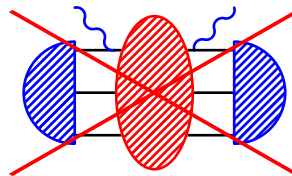
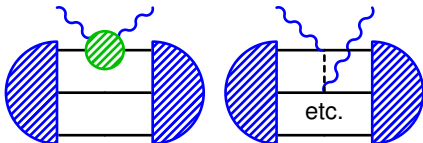
Chirally consistent 1N & few-N: potentials, wave functions, currents, π -exchange.

Test charged-pion component of NN force.

(e) The Hard Way: ^3He Theory

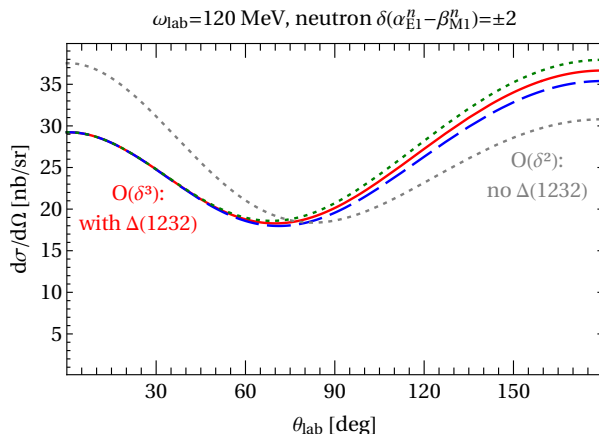
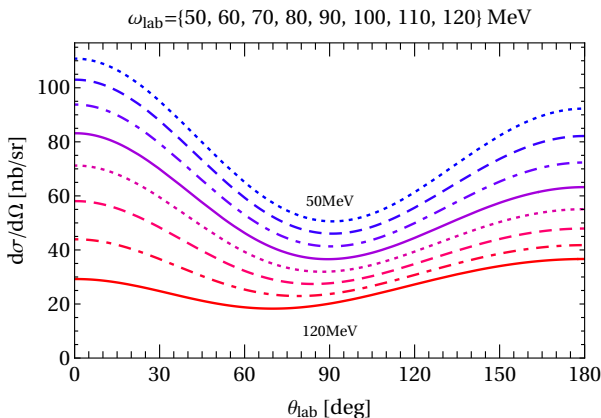
Shukla/Phillips/Nogga 2009, err. PRL **120** (2018) 249901
+ Strandberg/Margaryan/hg/McG/Ph [1804.01206]

$\mathcal{O}(e^2\delta^3)$ by adding $\Delta(1232) \Rightarrow \chi\text{EFT appears convergent; angle-dependence changes substantially.}$



Ongoing:

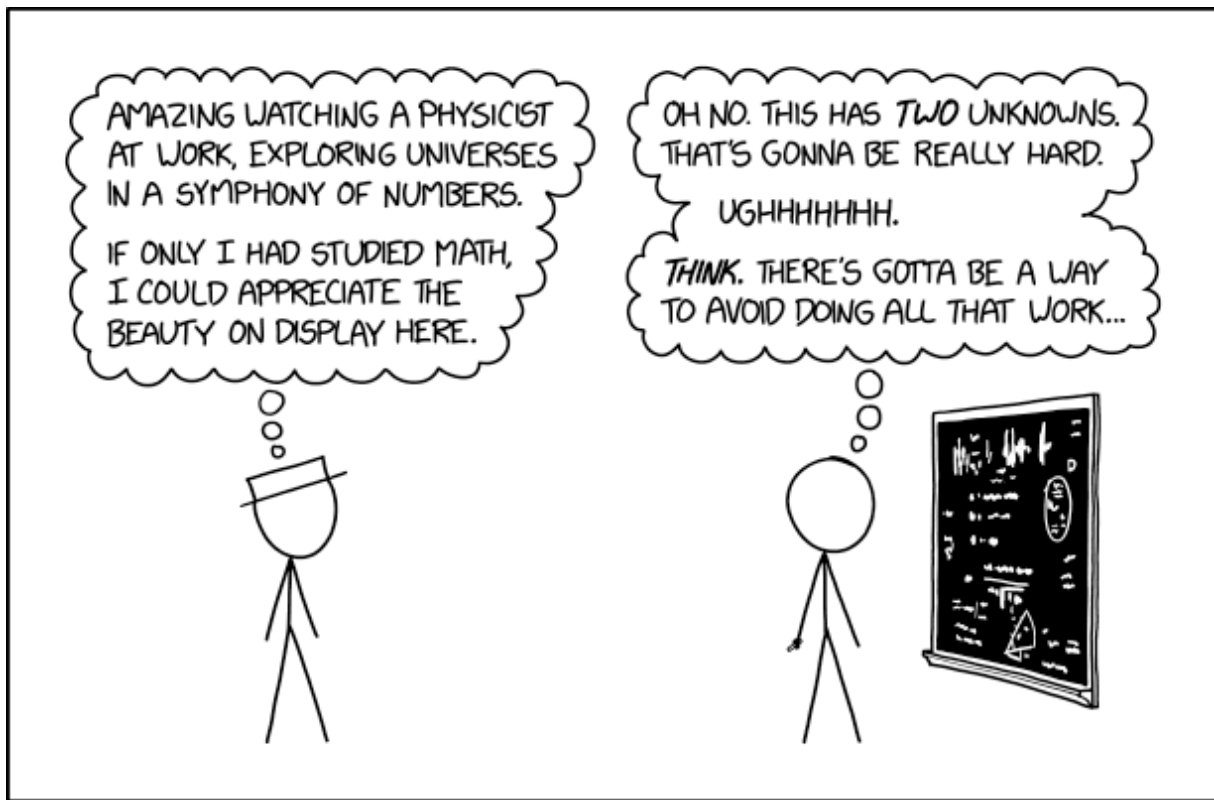
- implement rescattering for Thomson [Waleit/Singh/Kirscher/Birse/hg/...FewB Sys 64 \(2023\) 56 \[2303.09361\]](#);
- implement $\mathcal{O}(e^2\delta^4)$: sub-leading π cloud.



Observables available as *Mathematica* notebook.

(f) “You Never Did A *Real* Calculation In Your Life”

certification of hgrie by an
eminent chiral physicist, 2006



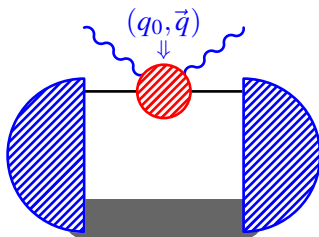
xkcd 2019

2. A New Hope

(a) Idea Of The Transition-Density Formalism

more in next talk: Alex Long

application to Dark Matter in d, ^3He , ^4He :
 de Vries/Köber/Nogga/Shain [2310.11343]

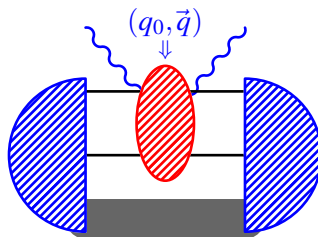


$A - 1$ spectator nucleons

1 Active Nucleon:

one-body density

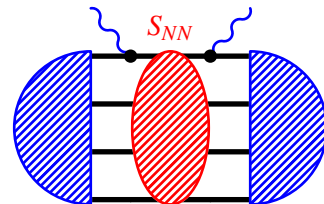
only depends on quantum numbers of actives and mom. transfer



$A - 2$ spectator nucleons

2 Active Nucleons:

two-body density



no spectators

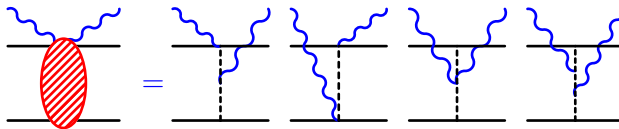
All Nucleons active:

rescattering

important as $\omega \lesssim \frac{1}{R}$

$\mathcal{O}(e^2 \delta^2)$ 2N kernel:

Compton



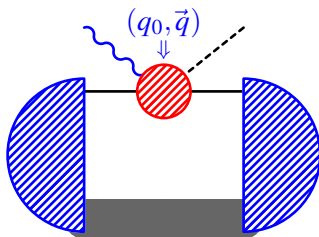
Beane/... 1999-2005

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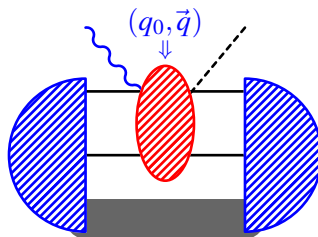


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1 Active Nucleon:

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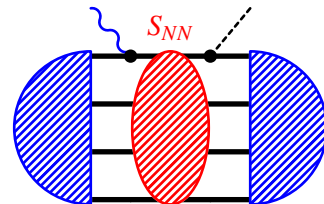
only depends on quantum numbers of actives and mom. transfer



$A - 2$ spectator nucleons

2 Active Nucleons:

two-body density



no spectators

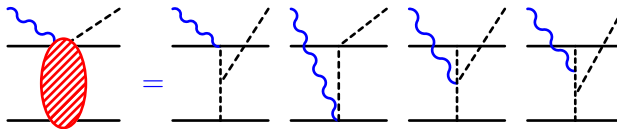
All Nucleons active:

rescattering

important as $\omega \lesssim \frac{1}{R}$

$\mathcal{O}(e^2 \delta^2)$ 2N kernel:

π production



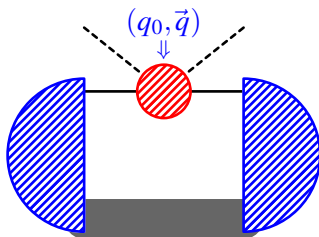
Beane/... 1995-97

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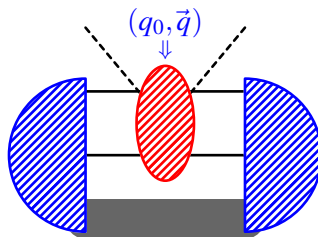


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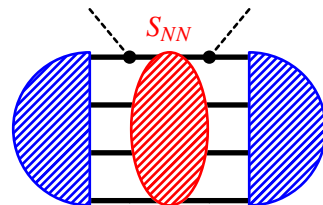
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$A - 2$ spectator nucleons

2 Active Nucleons:

two-body density



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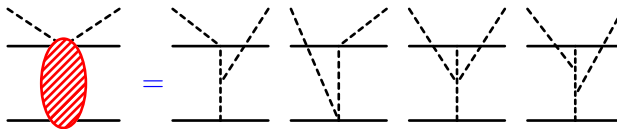
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$\mathcal{O}(e^2 \delta^2)$ 2N kernel:

π scattering



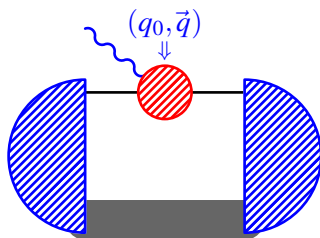
Beane/... 1998

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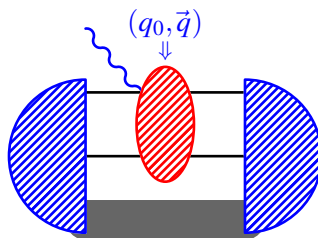
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$A - 1$ spectator nucleons

1 Active Nucleon:

one-body density



$A - 2$ spectator nucleons

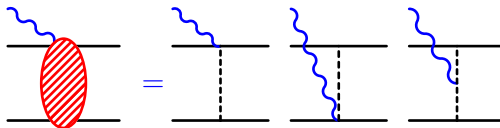
2 Active Nucleons:

two-body density

only depends on quantum numbers of actives and mom. transfer

$\mathcal{O}(e^2 \delta^2)$ 2N kernel:

form factor



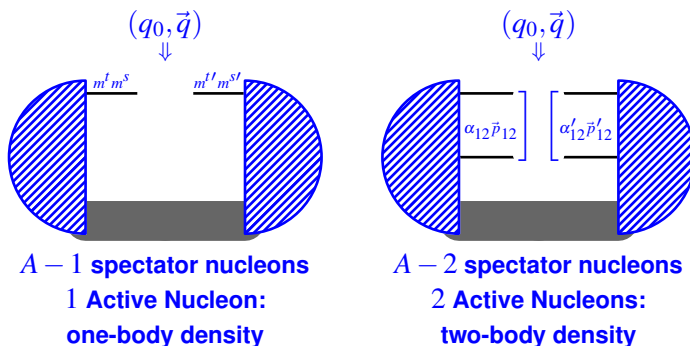
checked for d, ^3He , ^4He in de Vries/Köber/Nogga/Shain [2310.11343]

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application to Dark Matter in d, ^3He , ^4He :
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n -body transition density amplitude:

- n nucleons with intrinsic momenta and specific quantum numbers α
- absorb momentum transfer $(q_0, \vec{q})$;
- re-arrange quantum numbers to α' ;
- get absorbed back into nucleus.

only depends on quantum numbers of actives and mom. transfer

Idea: Split calculation into

kernel: interaction with n active nucleons

recycle same reaction for different nuclei

Compton on ^3He , ^3H , ^4He , ^6Li , ...

structure: $A - n$ spectators

recycle same nucleus for different reactions

^4He Compton, π prod., FFs, dark matter, ...

χ EFT hierarchy of few-body interactions: onebody, twobody $\gg$ threebody $\gg$ fourbody...

Computationally highly efficient: well-developed, sophisticated numerical few-body techniques.

^3He , ^4He : CPU time reduced from days to hours; extensive checks; same result as traditional.

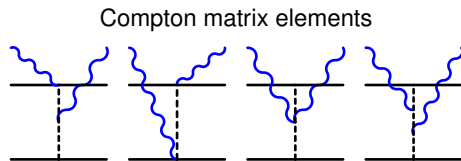
$\Rightarrow$ Compute to higher numerical accuracy (integration mesh, $j_{12}, \dots$): $\approx 1\%$ change in ^3He .

$\Rightarrow$ **Density repository for ^3He , ^4He at pypi.org/project/nucdens/ contains family of**

EFT-inspired potentials χ SMS[400-550]N4LO+N2LO3NI

Reinert/... 2018,
 Maris 2021

, plus IdahoN3LO+3Nla/b, AV18+UIX, ...



$\{M', M; \lambda', \lambda\}$	$\omega = 50 \text{ MeV}, \theta = 30^\circ$				$\omega = 120 \text{ MeV}, \theta = 165^\circ$			
	Idaho N ³ LO+3NFb		AV18+UIX		Idaho N ³ LO+3NFb		AV18+UIX	
	value [fm ³]	rel.dev.	value [fm ³]	rel.dev.	value [fm ³]	rel.dev.	value [fm ³]	rel.dev.
$\{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1, 1\}$	−.07132	0.1%	−.09343	0.2%	−.00149	0.0%	−.00188	0.2%
$\{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; -1, 1\}$	−.00543	0.3%	−.00702	0.3%	−.10220	0.8%	−.12570	0.8%
$\{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1, -1\}$	−.00543	0.3%	−.00702	0.3%	−.10220	0.8%	−.12570	0.8%
$\{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; -1, -1\}$	−.07132	0.1%	−.09343	0.2%	−.00149	0.0%	−.00188	0.2%

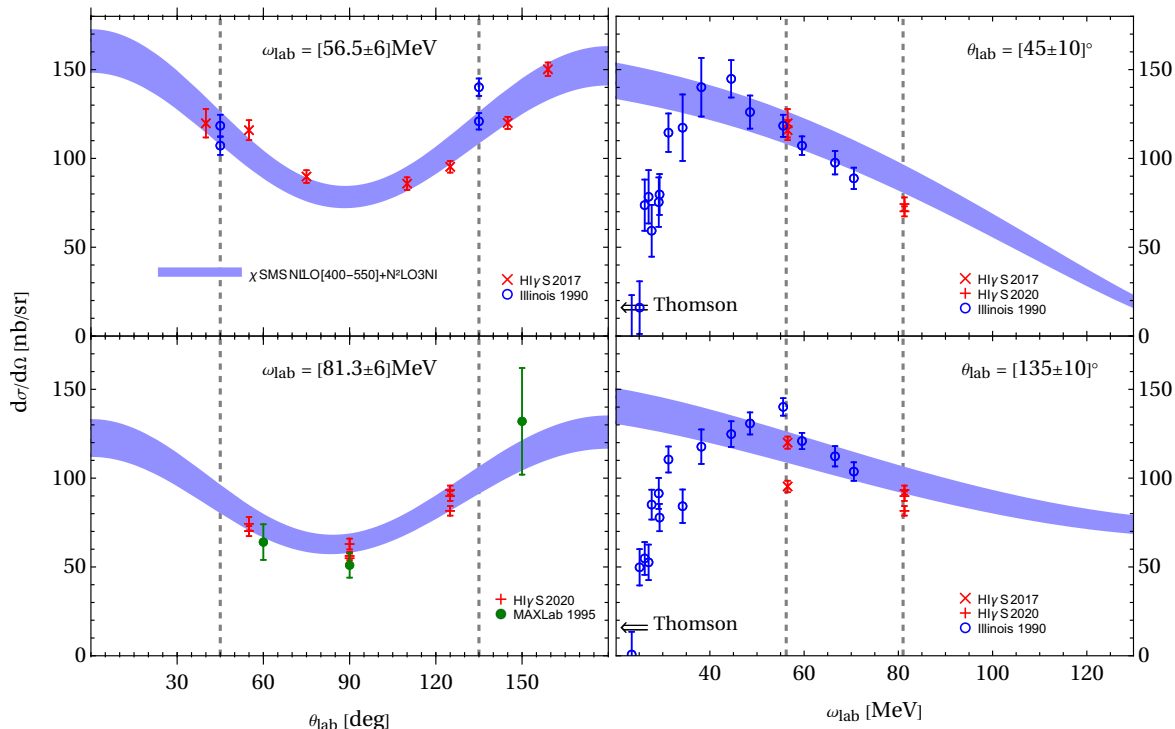
Table 7: Comparison of two-body matrix elements in the “density” approach and the “traditional” approach for potentials Idaho N³LO+3NFb and AV18+UIX with $j_{12} \leq 2$ at $\omega = 50 \text{ MeV}, \theta = 30^\circ$ (where mostly diagonal matrix elements are probed) and $\omega = 120 \text{ MeV}, \theta = 165^\circ$ (where off-diagonal matrix elements are probed more strongly). See also text and captions to tables 5 and 3 for further details.

3. Compton Scattering on ^4He

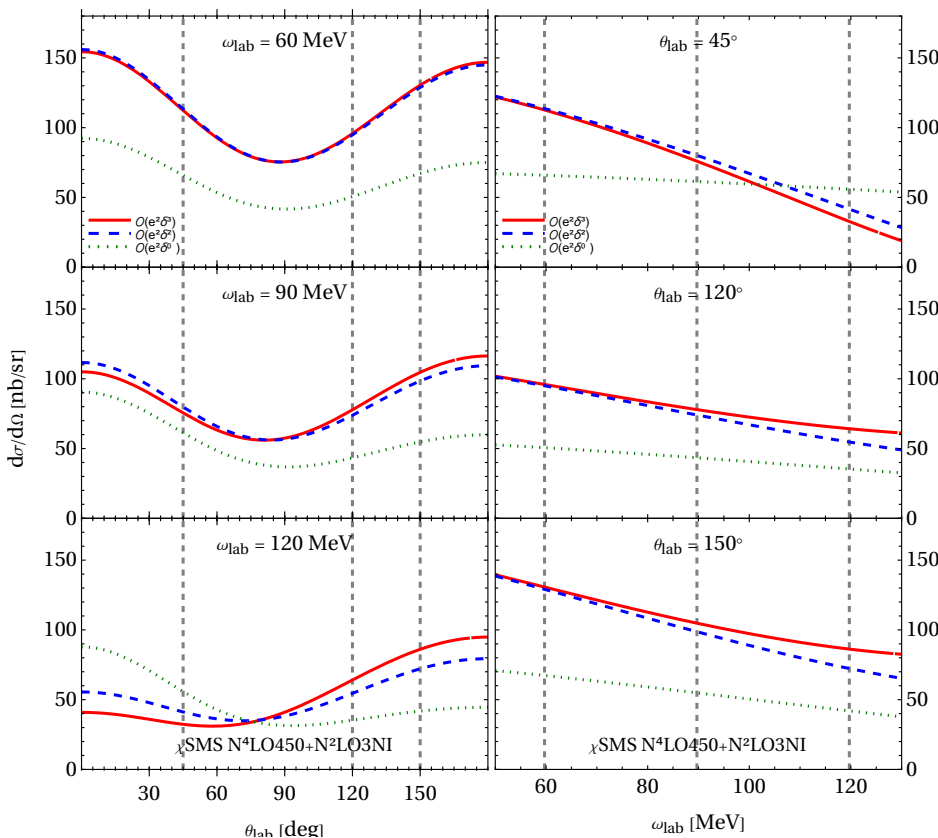
(a) ^4He : Confronting Data

⇒ In principle very clean if binding effects under control: $\mathcal{O}(e^2\delta^3)$ with established α_{E1}, β_{M1} .

Promising but wave-function/potential dependence; some data issues. ⇒ No polarisability extraction (yet).



(b) Order-By-Order Convergence



$O(e^2\delta^0)$: 1N Thomson

$O(e^2\delta^2)$: +πN cloud

$O(e^2\delta^3)$: +Δ + πΔ

Δ(1232) increases
angular tilt, but not
as much as in ³He.

Reasonable
convergence.

Error estimate:

±8% order-by-order;
±8%(12%) cutoff band;

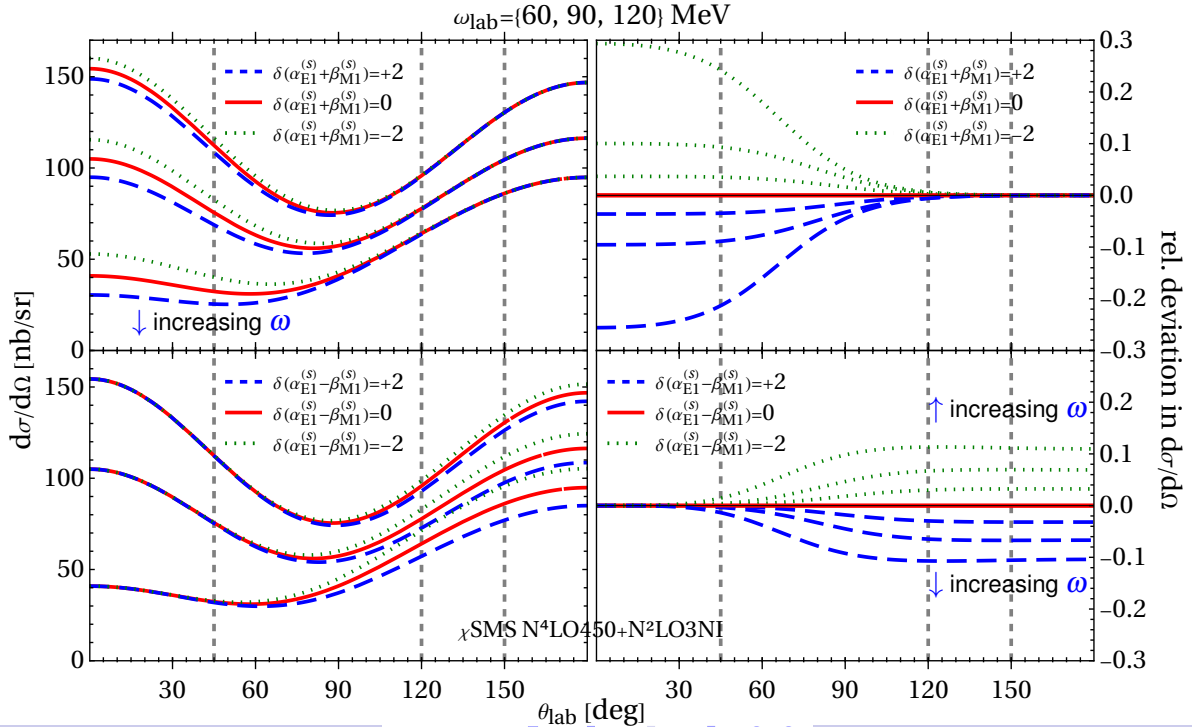
⇒ ±10%
(±12% for ω_{lab} > 120 MeV
∧ θ → 180°)

suffices for rates,
not for extractions.

^4He : perfect scalar-isoscalar $\Rightarrow$ sensitive *only* to α^{p+n} , β^{p+n} , *not* to spin-polarisabilities γ_i .

$\mathcal{O}(e^2\delta^3)$ with $\chi_{\text{SMSN}^4\text{LO}450+\text{N}^2\text{LO}3\text{NI}}$ (other potentials: $\lesssim \pm 8\%$). Suffices for *planning*, not for *analysis*!

Increasing ω gives bigger relative signals, but smaller rates.



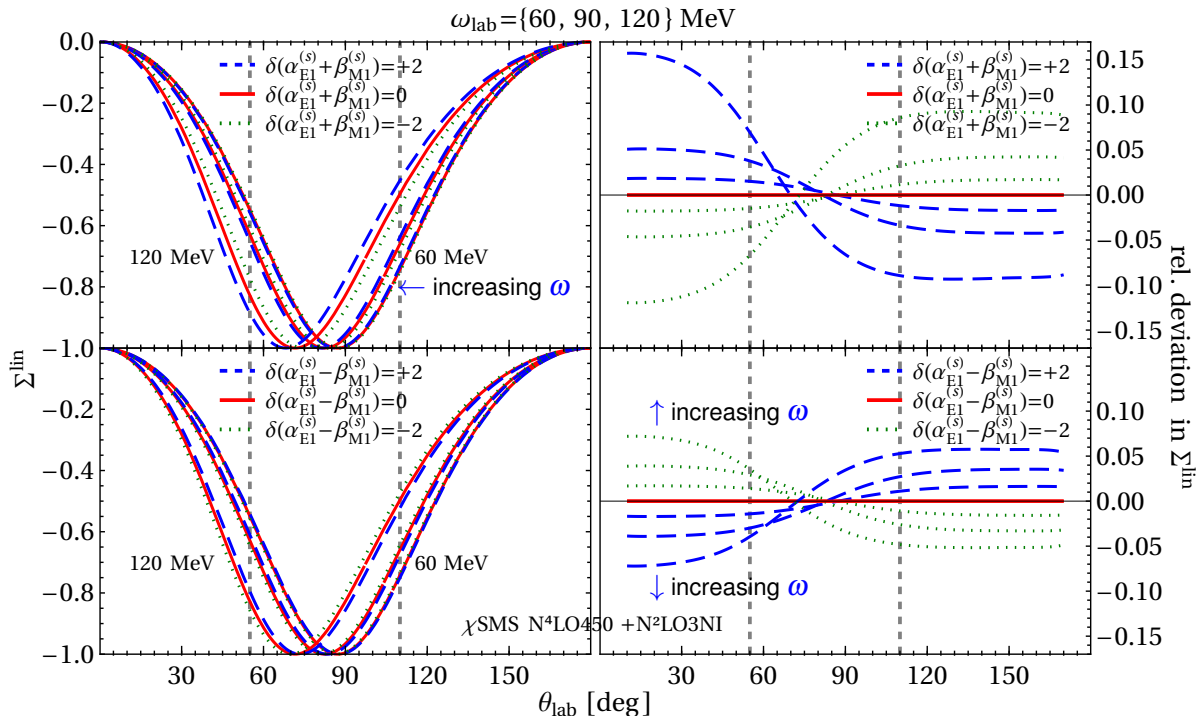
(d) The “Only” Other Observable: Beam Asymmetry Σ^{lin}

hg/J. Liao/JAMcG/A. Nogga/DRP:
EPJA 60 (2024) 132 [2401.16995], math.nrb

^4He : perfect scalar-isoscalar $\Rightarrow$ sensitive *only* to $\alpha^{p+n}, \beta^{p+n}$, not to spin-polarisabilities γ_i .

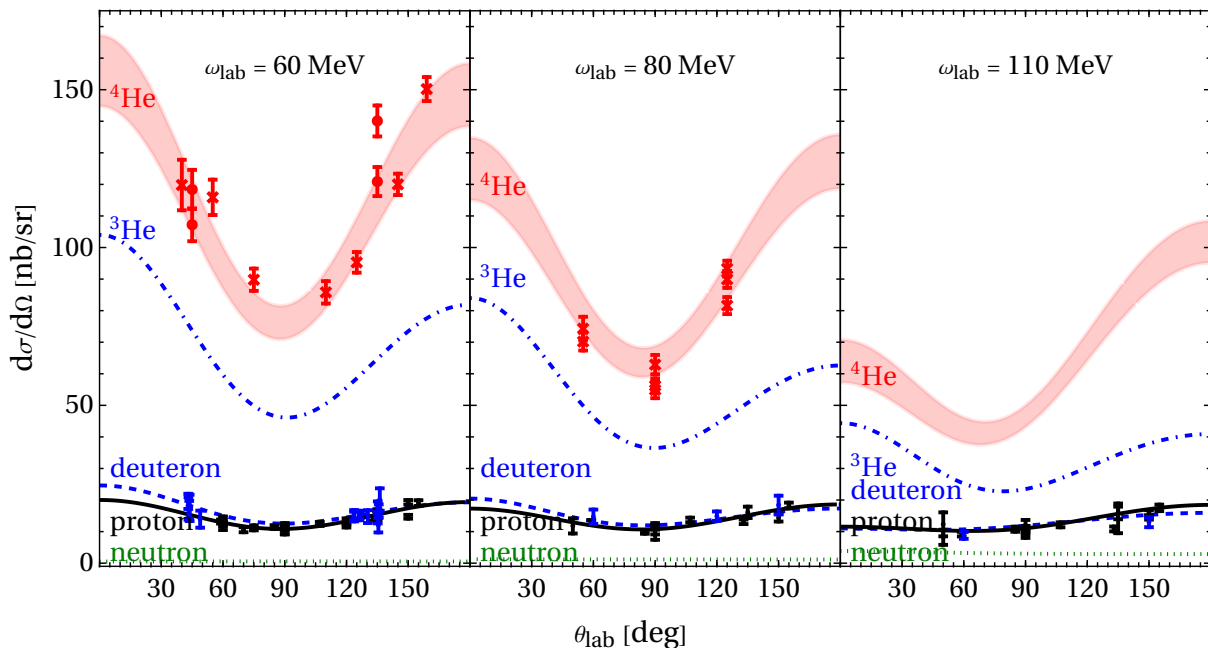
$\mathcal{O}(e^2\delta^3)$ with $\chi_{\text{SMSN}^4\text{LO}450+\text{N}^2\text{LO}3\text{NI}}$ (other potentials: $\lesssim \pm 4\%$). **Suffices for planning, not for analysis!**

Increasing ω gives bigger relative signals, but only around centres of rise/fall.



(e) Comparing ^4He , ^3He , Deuteron, Proton, Neutron

hg/J. Liao/JAMcG/A. Nogga/DRP:
EPJA 60 (2024) 132 [2401.16995], math.nb



Experiment: More charge & MECs $\Rightarrow$ more counts

$\Rightarrow$ heavier nuclei

Theory: Reliable only if nuclear binding & levels accurate

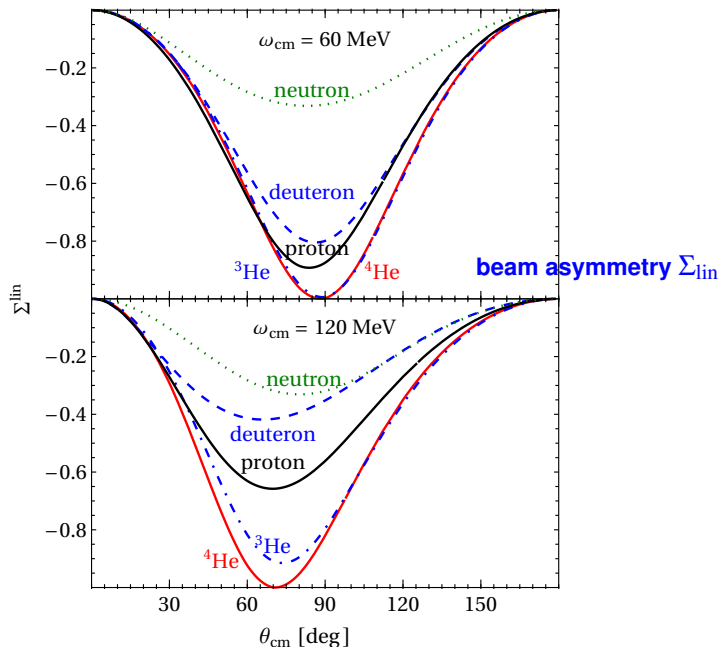
$\Rightarrow$ lighter nuclei

Sweet-spot: Complementing Targets of Opportunity.

Comprehensive *mathematica* notebooks for observables and sensitivities on p, d, ^3He , fourHe available.

(e) Comparing ^4He , ^3He , Deuteron, Proton, Neutron

hg/J. Liao/JAMcG/A. Nogga/DRP:
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Sweet-spot: Complementing Targets of Opportunity.

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4. Concluding Questions

Transition Density Method: separate kernels with n actives from spectators in external probes.
Efficient recycling: χ SMS[400-550]N4LO+N2LO3NI densities from pypi.org/project/nucdens/.

Polarisabilities: χ iral symmetry of pion-cloud, $\Delta(1232)$ properties. Impact on $M_p - M_n, \dots$
 χ EFT: systematic, parameter-free predictions with uncertainties; lattice QCD catching up.

Target	Opportunities	Theory Status for All Observables
proton & neutron	nucleon spin polarisabilities	“done”: $N^4LO \ \omega \lesssim 230 \text{ MeV}$ for pols. math.nyu.edu/jupyter.py
deuteron	sensitive to $p+n$ average polarised, d-wave interference: mixed spin pols $\gamma_{E1M2}, \gamma_{M1E2}$	$\omega < m_\pi$ N^3LO done, N^4LO this year math.nyu.edu $\omega \gtrsim m_\pi$ needs resources
^3He : increased rates	unpolarised: sensitive to $2p+n$ polarised: “ n -spin” $\Rightarrow \gamma_i^n$ only	densities method [2005.12207] $^3\text{He}, ^4\text{He}$: math.nyu.edu $\omega \in [50 \text{ MeV}; m_\pi]$ N^3LO ✓, N^4LO like d $\omega \rightarrow 0$ under way — $\omega \gtrsim m_\pi$ needs resources
^4He : increased rates	sensitive to $p+n$ average, not γ ’s	
$\gamma X \rightarrow NY\gamma$ quasifree	tag n or p directly – both at once?	$\gamma d \rightarrow np\gamma$ N^4LO done; more needs resources

We Need Data: elastic & inelastic cross-sections & asymmetries – **reliable systematics!**

Low- ω for scalar, high- ω for spin-polarisabilities, but always $\omega \lesssim 230 \text{ MeV}$.

Only combination of dedicated experiments meaningful! (Not “one datum for one answer”).

$\Rightarrow$ **Synergy of Experiment, Low-Energy Theory & Lattice QCD, competitive uncertainties!**

$\Rightarrow$ Compton Community programme outlined in White Paper for a
Next Generation Laser Compton Gamma-ray Beam Facility [\[2012.10843\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.10843) and DOE.

The efficient person gets the job done right. The effective person gets the right job done.