

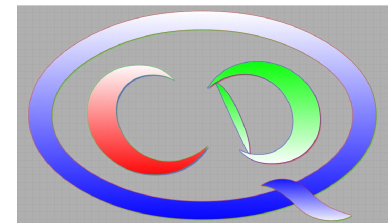
2nd Rencontre PhyNuBE

Structure and Geometry of ^{12}C with Wigner SU(4) Interaction

Shihang Shen
Forschungszentrum Jülich



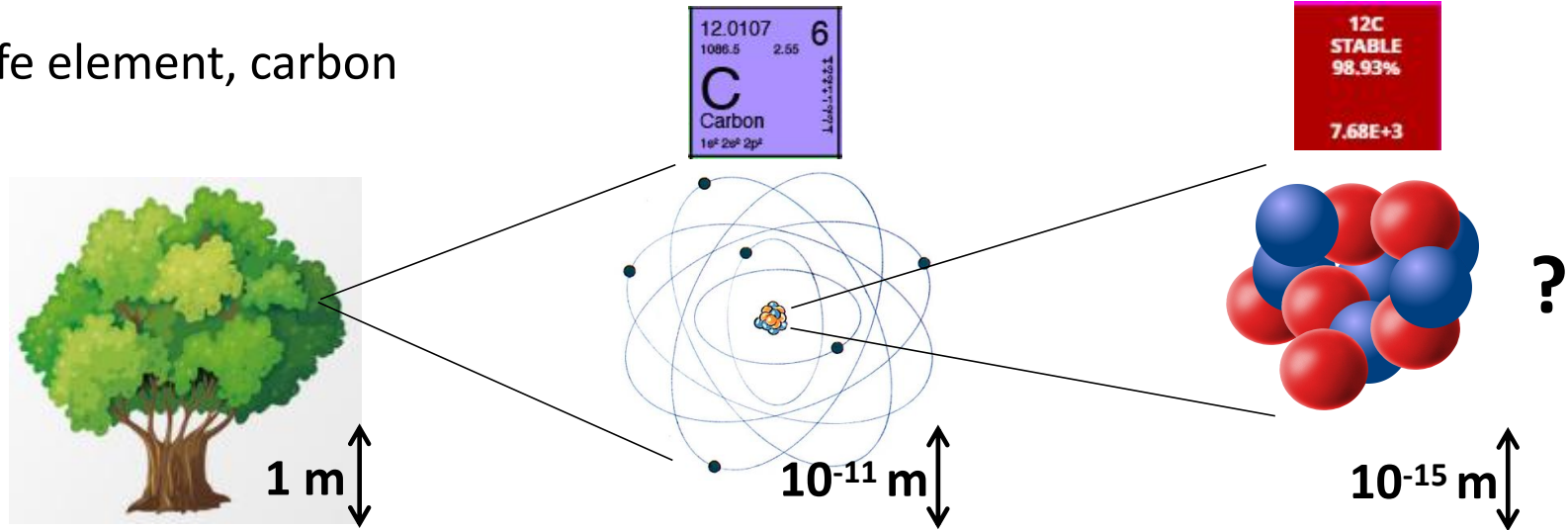
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Collaborators: Serdar Elhatisari, Timo A. Lähde,
Dean Lee, Bing-Nan Lu, and Ulf-G. Meißner

What's Interesting about Carbon-12

- Life element, carbon



- We know little about its shape

8
2
 $1s_{1/2}, 1p_{3/2}$

α

α α

0_2^+

2_1^+

0_1^+

is it like an equilateral triangle of α clusters?
or as independent particles in the shell model?

is the Hoyle state like a linear chain?

F. Hoyle, *Astrophys. J. Suppl. Ser.* 1, 121 (1954)
H. Morinaga, *Phys. Rev.* 101, 254 (1956)

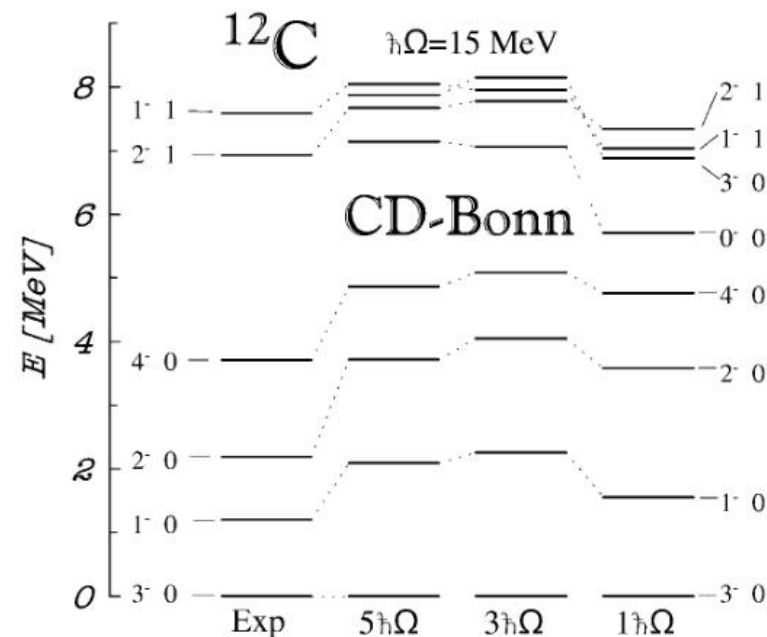
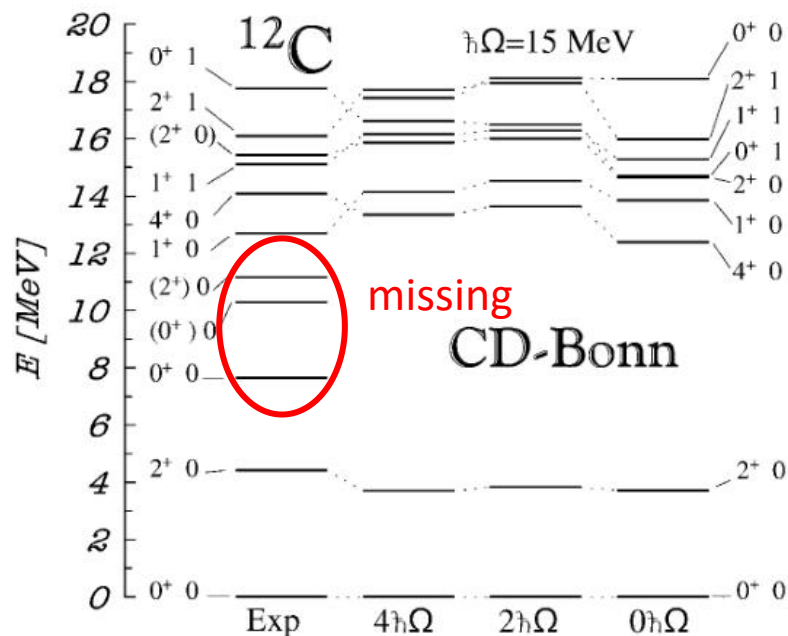
Challenge for Theoretical Calculations

➤ Microscopic models

- density functional theory P. Marevic, J.-P. Ebran, E. Khan, T. Nikšić, and D. Vretenar, Phys. Rev. C 99, 034317 (2019)
- Tohsaki-Horiuchi-Schuck-Röpke wave function Y. Funaki, Phys. Rev. C 92, 021302 (2015)
- antisymmetrized molecular dynamics Y. Kanada-En'yo, Prog. Theor. Phys. 117, 655 (2007)
- fermionic molecular dynamics M. Chernykh et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 032501 (2007)
-

➤ *Ab initio* calculations: solving the exact A-body problem, extremely difficult

e.g. no-core shell model Navrátil, P., J. P. Vary, and B. R. Barrett, Phys. Rev. Lett. 84, 5728 (2000)



Challenge for Theoretical Calculations

- First ab initio calculation for Hoyle state by nuclear lattice effective field theory

PRL **106**, 192501 (2011)

Selected for a *Viewpoint* in *Physics*
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
13 MAY 2011



Ab Initio Calculation of the Hoyle State

Evgeny Epelbaum,¹ Hermann Krebs,¹ Dean Lee,² and Ulf-G. Meißner^{3,4}

PRL **109**, 252501 (2012)

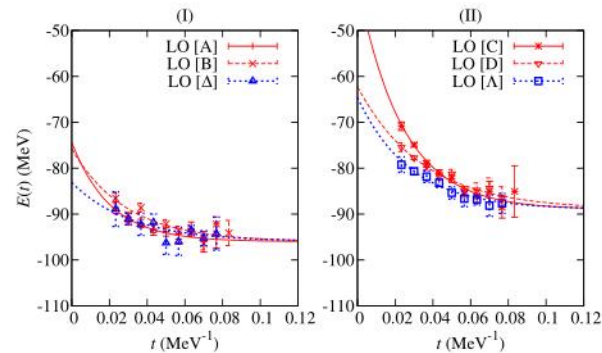
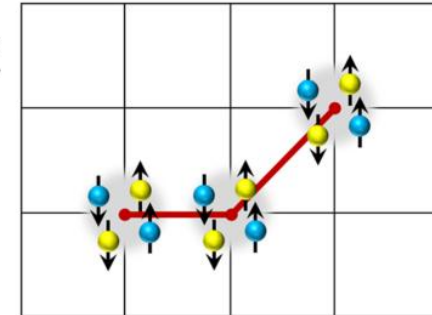
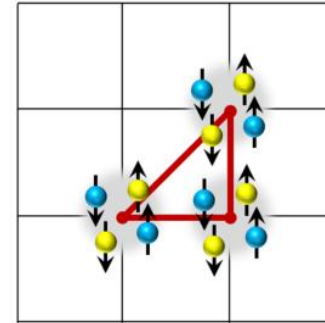
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
21 DECEMBER 2012



Structure and Rotations of the Hoyle State

Evgeny Epelbaum,¹ Hermann Krebs,¹ Timo A. Lähde,² Dean Lee,⁴ and Ulf-G. Meißner^{5,2,3}

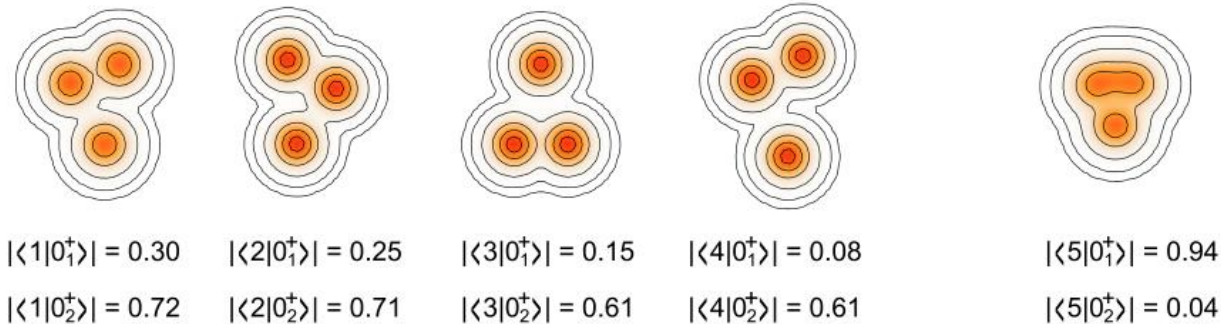


- Further questions:

- Sign problem
- Low-lying spectrum, cluster excitation / single-particle excitation ?
- Can we find a way to see the shape of the final states?

Debate on the Shape of Hoyle State

- Study of the geometry, decomposition of basis states



M. Chernykh et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 98, 032501 (2007)

U(7) model and fermionic molecular dynamic model: equilateral triangle

R. Bijker and F. Iachello *Ann. Phys.* 298, 334 (2002), M. Chernykh et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 98, 032501 (2007)

Configuration-mixing method: superposition of many Slater determinants

Y. Fukuoka et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 88, 014321 (2013)

Green's function Monte Carlo: possibly approximately linear distribution

J. Carlson et al., *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 87, 1067 (2015)

Monte-Carlo Shell model: α -like clusters 2/3 and 1/3 liquid (modestly ellipsoidal)

T. Otsuka et al., *Nature Commu.* 13, 2234 (2022)

... ..

Density Snapshots for the Important Basis

courtesy of D. Lee

➤ Consider 1D linear lattice sites $|1\rangle, |2\rangle, |3\rangle, |4\rangle, |5\rangle$ and let $|3\rangle$ be the answer

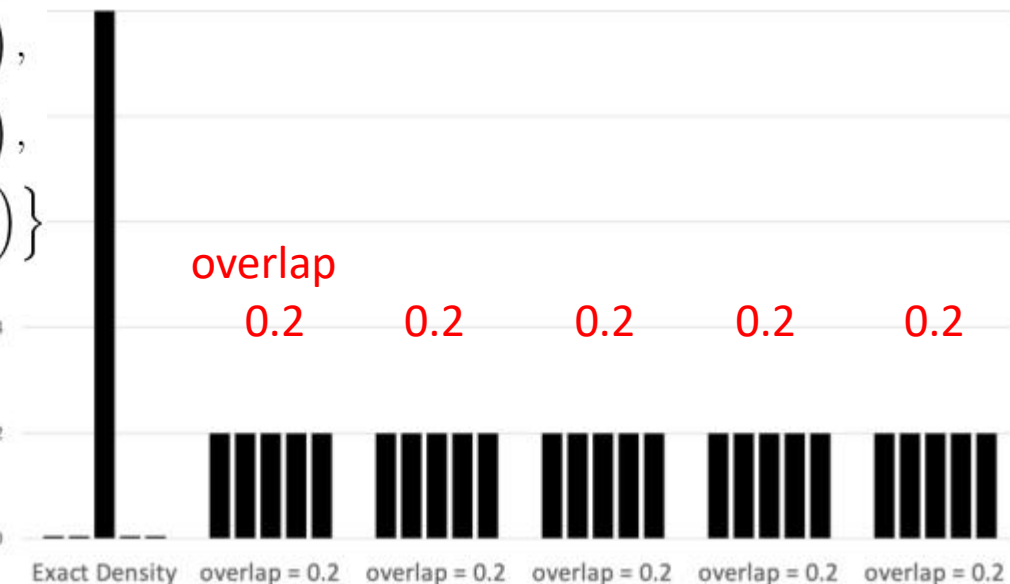
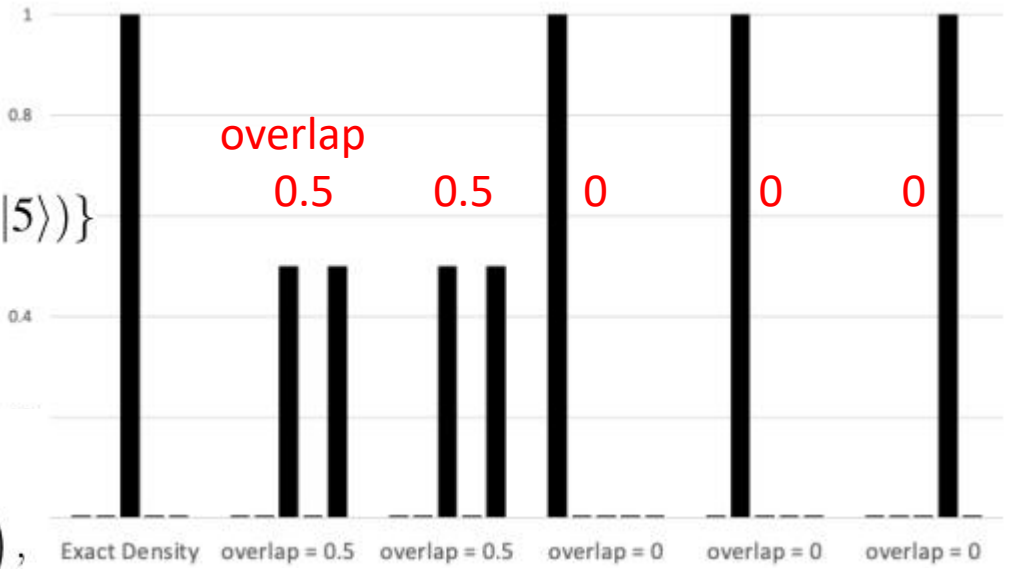
Basis set 1

$$\{|1\rangle, |2\rangle, |4\rangle, 1/\sqrt{2}(|3\rangle + |5\rangle), 1/\sqrt{2}(|3\rangle - |5\rangle)\}$$

Basis set 2

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} &1/\sqrt{5}(|1\rangle + |2\rangle + |3\rangle + |4\rangle + |5\rangle), \\ &1/\sqrt{5}(|1\rangle + e^{i\theta_5}|2\rangle + e^{i2\theta_5}|3\rangle + e^{i3\theta_5}|4\rangle + e^{i4\theta_5}|5\rangle), \\ &1/\sqrt{5}(|1\rangle + e^{i2\theta_5}|2\rangle + e^{i4\theta_5}|3\rangle + e^{i\theta_5}|4\rangle + e^{i3\theta_5}|5\rangle), \\ &1/\sqrt{5}(|1\rangle + e^{i3\theta_5}|2\rangle + e^{i\theta_5}|3\rangle + e^{i4\theta_5}|4\rangle + e^{i2\theta_5}|5\rangle), \\ &1/\sqrt{5}(|1\rangle + e^{i4\theta_5}|2\rangle + e^{i3\theta_5}|3\rangle + e^{i2\theta_5}|4\rangle + e^{i\theta_5}|5\rangle) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

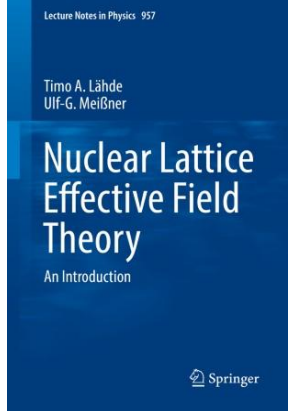
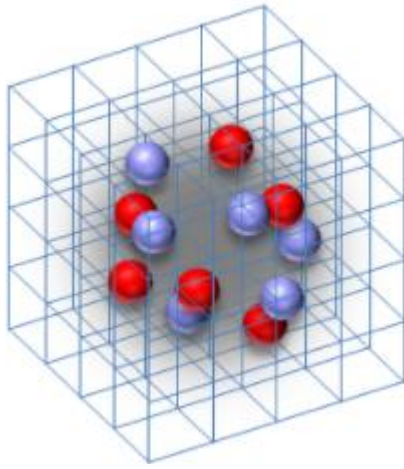
An even more substantial distortion of the basis-state density snapshots can be made using non-orthogonal basis states.



Nuclear Lattice Effective Field Theory

➤ Nuclear lattice effective field theory (NLEFT)

	2N force	3N force	4N force
LO		—	—
NLO		—	—
N ² LO			—
N ³ LO			



Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 63 (2009) 117–154

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ppnp




Review
 Lattice simulations for few- and many-body systems
 Dean Lee
 Department of Physics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, United States

- 16O, E. Epelbaum et al., PRL 112, 102501 (2014)
- α-α scattering, S. Elhatisari et al., Nature 528, 111 (2015)
- thermodynamics, B.-N. Lu et al., PRL 125, 192502 (2020)
-

Upper left figure is in courtesy of E. Epelbaum
 lattice figure from <https://www.physics.ncsu.edu/ntg/leegroup/research.html>

Theoretical Framework

➤ Starting from an initial many-body wave function:

$$|\Phi_0\rangle = \mathcal{A}[\phi_1(\mathbf{r}_1)\phi_2(\mathbf{r}_2)\dots\phi_A(\mathbf{r}_A)]$$

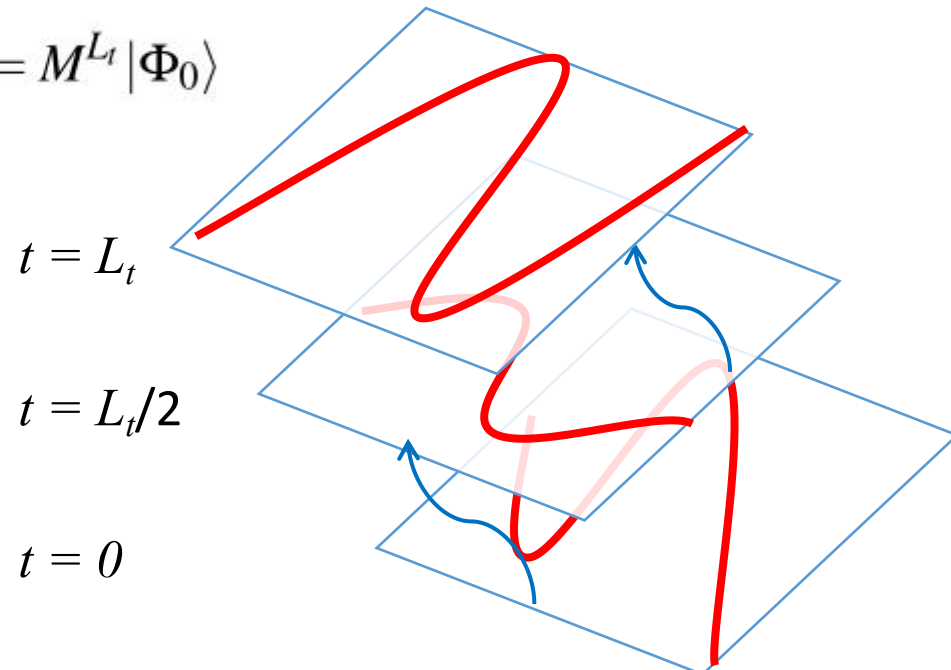
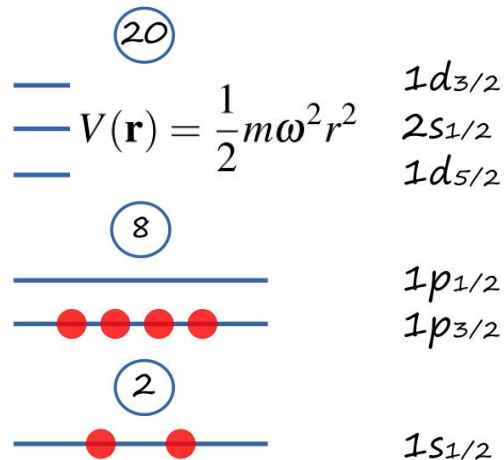
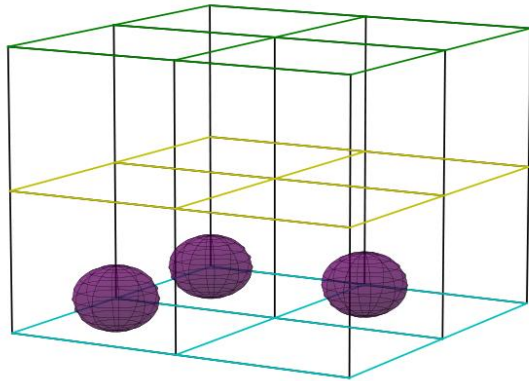
$$\phi(\mathbf{r}) = \exp(-(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0)^2/2w^2)$$

➤ Euclidean time projection with transfer matrix:

$$M =: \exp(-\alpha_t H) : \quad \alpha_t = a_t/a$$

with H the many-body Hamiltonian, a_t and a the temporal and spatial lattice spacing.

$$|\Phi_{L_t}\rangle = M^{L_t} |\Phi_0\rangle$$



Theoretical Framework

- Hamiltonian consists of kinetic energy and nucleon-nucleon interaction

$$H = T + V$$

- In this work we adopt the leading-order simplest possible interaction, Wigner SU(4) symmetric interaction (spin and isospin independent):

$$V = \frac{C_2}{2!} \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathbf{n})^2 + \frac{C_3}{3!} \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathbf{n})^3,$$
$$\tilde{\rho}(\mathbf{n}) = \sum_{i=1}^A \tilde{a}_i^\dagger(\mathbf{n}) \tilde{a}_i(\mathbf{n}) + s_L \sum_{|\mathbf{n}'-\mathbf{n}|=1} \sum_{i=1}^A \tilde{a}_i^\dagger(\mathbf{n}') \tilde{a}_i(\mathbf{n}'),$$
$$\tilde{a}_i(\mathbf{n}) = a_i(\mathbf{n}) + s_{\text{NL}} \sum_{|\mathbf{n}'-\mathbf{n}|=1} a_i(\mathbf{n}').$$

Sign problem is largely suppressed [J.W. Chen, D. Lee, T. Schäfer, PRL, 93, 242302 \(2004\)](#)

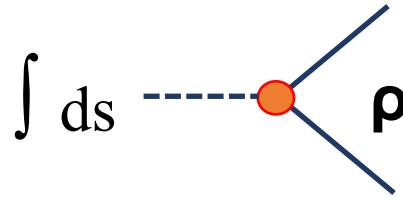
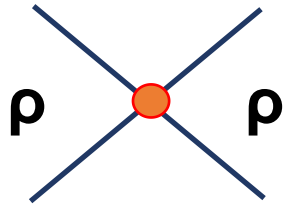
Four parameters C_2 , C_3 , s_L , and s_{NL} will be fitted to binding energy of ${}^4\text{He}$ and ${}^{12}\text{C}$, radius of ${}^{12}\text{C}$, and to some extent transition properties.

Interaction seems too simple? Let's wait to see how the descriptions look like

Theoretical Framework

- Auxiliary field with Monte-Carlo sampling

$$\exp\left(-\frac{C\alpha_t}{2}\rho^2\right) := \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} ds : \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}s^2 + \sqrt{-C\alpha_t} s \rho\right) :$$



- Final states are a superposition of millions of configurations (Slater determinants)

$$|\Phi_{L_t}\rangle = \sum_{s_i} |\Phi_{s_i, L_t}\rangle$$

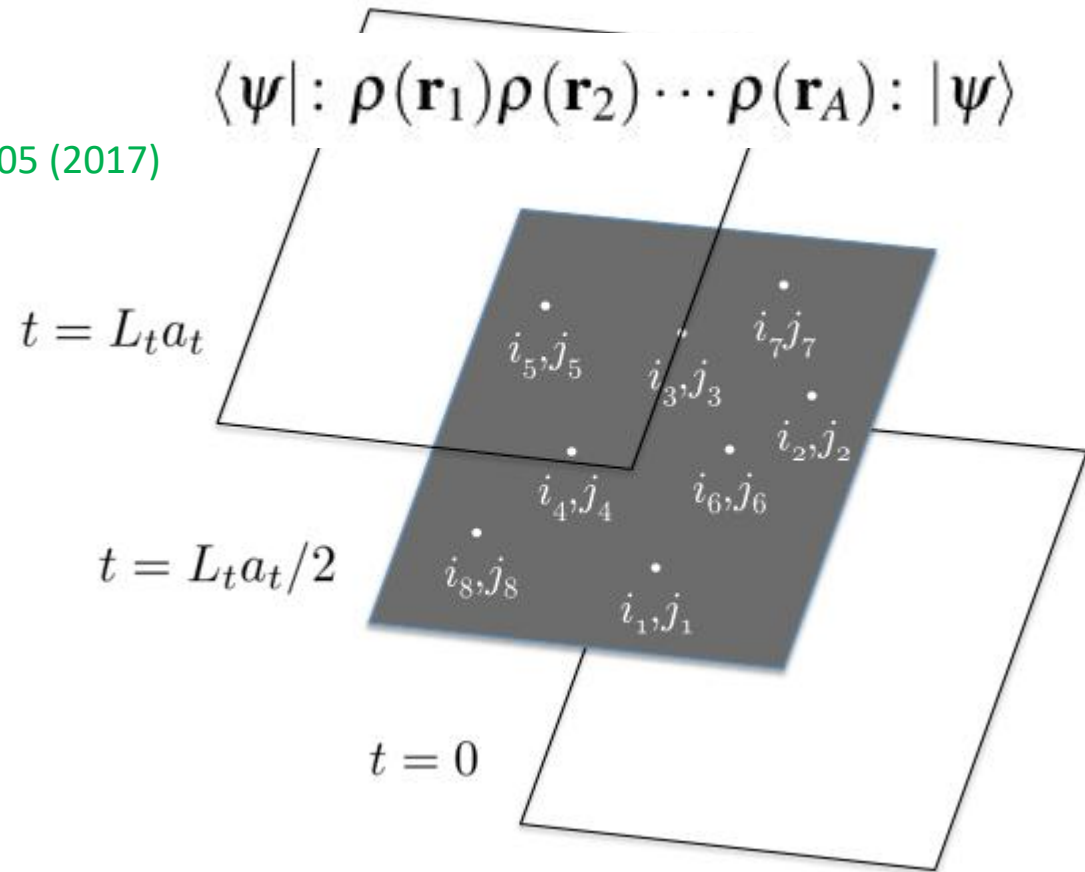
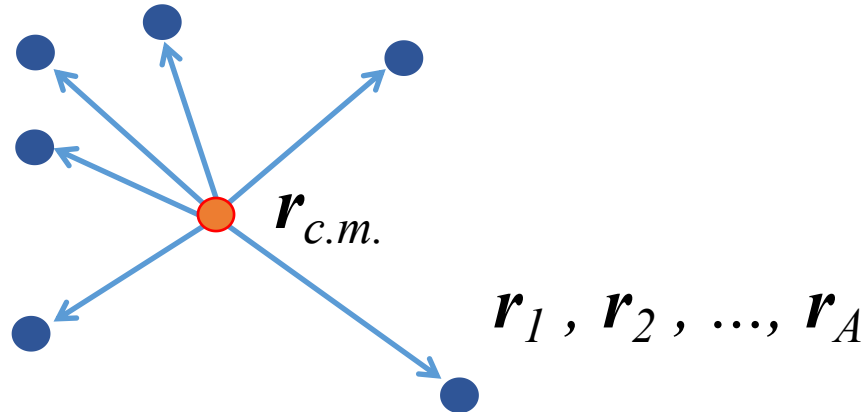
$$|\Phi_{s_i, L_t}\rangle = M_{s_i}^{L_t} |\Phi_0\rangle = \mathcal{A}[\phi_{s_i,1}(\mathbf{r}_1)\phi_{s_i,2}(\mathbf{r}_2)\dots\phi_{s_i,A}(\mathbf{r}_A)]$$

Theoretical Framework

➤ Pinhole algorithm

S. Elhatisari et al., PRL 119, 222505 (2017)

A time slice is inserted to sample the positions and spin-isospin indices in the middle time step.



Those millions of A-body positions might be useful to describe the shape and geometry of nuclei

Numerical Details

- Lattice length $L = 14.8$ fm with spacing $a = 1.64$ fm; temporal lattice spacing $a_t = 0.55$ fm/c.
- Fitted results for SU(4) interaction

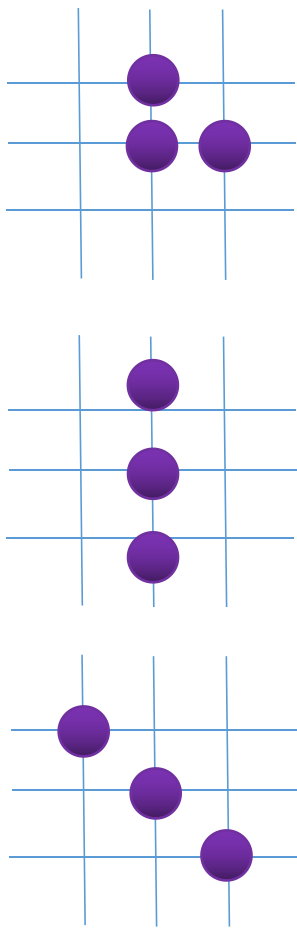
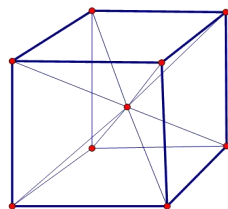
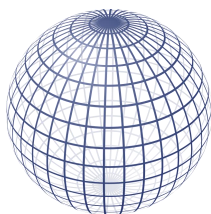
C_2 [MeV ⁻²]	C_3 [MeV ⁻⁵]	s_L	s_{NL}
-2.15×10^{-5}	6.17×10^{-12}	0.08	0.05

	NLEFT	Exp.
$E(^4\text{He})$ [MeV]	-28.1 (1)	-28.3
$E(^{12}\text{C})$ [MeV]	-91.6 (1)	-92.2
$r_c(^{12}\text{C})$ [fm]	2.52 (1)	2.47 (2)

Calculation of the Hoyle State

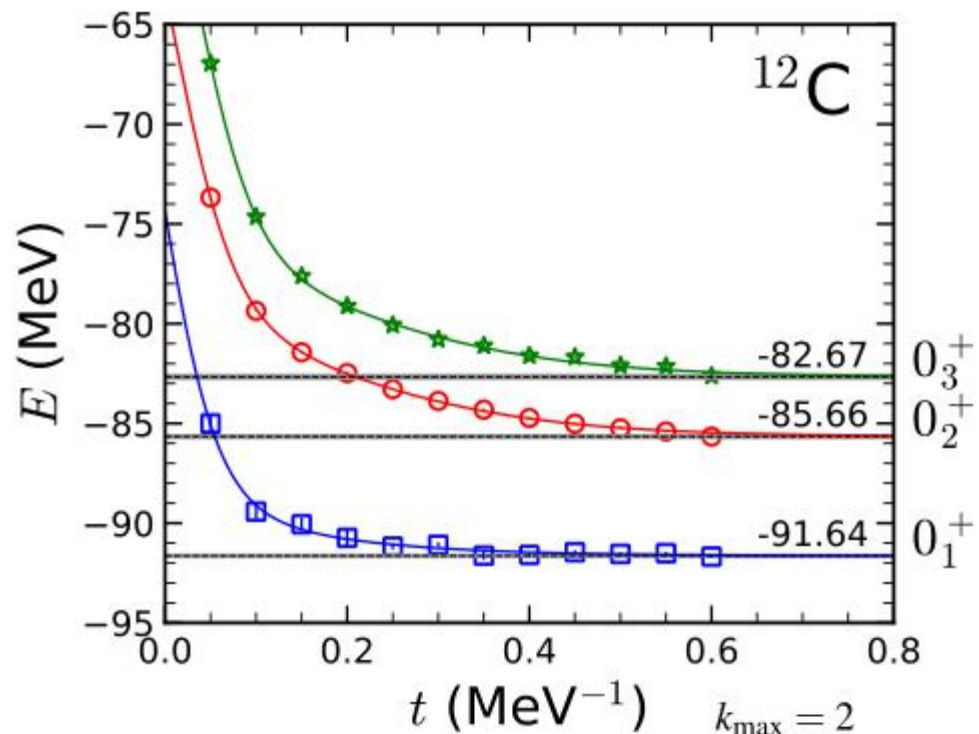
➤ Hoyle state

Angular momentum projection: SO(3) group reduced to cubic group O



J	irrepresentation
0	A ₁
1	T ₁
2	E + T ₂
3	A ₂ + T ₁ + T ₂
4	A ₁ + E + T ₁ + T ₂

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}) = \exp\left(-(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0)^2/2w^2\right)$$

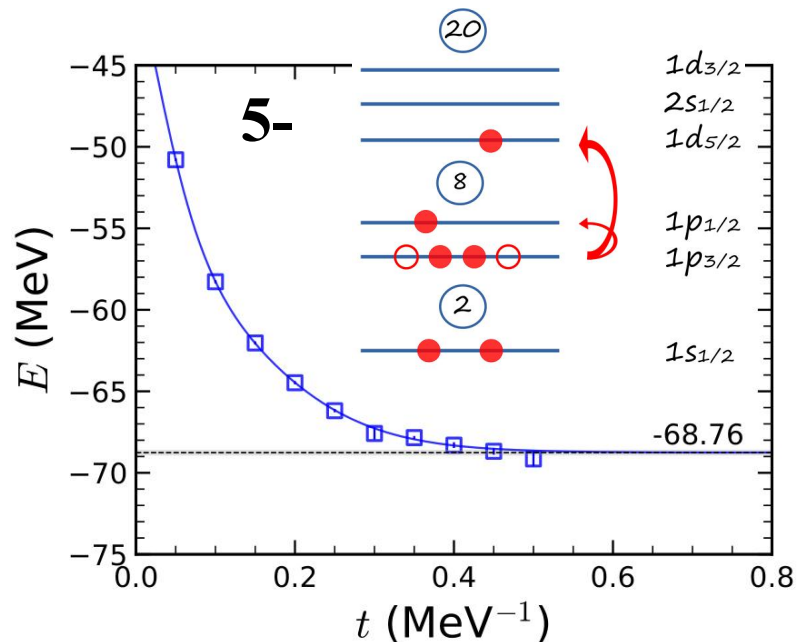
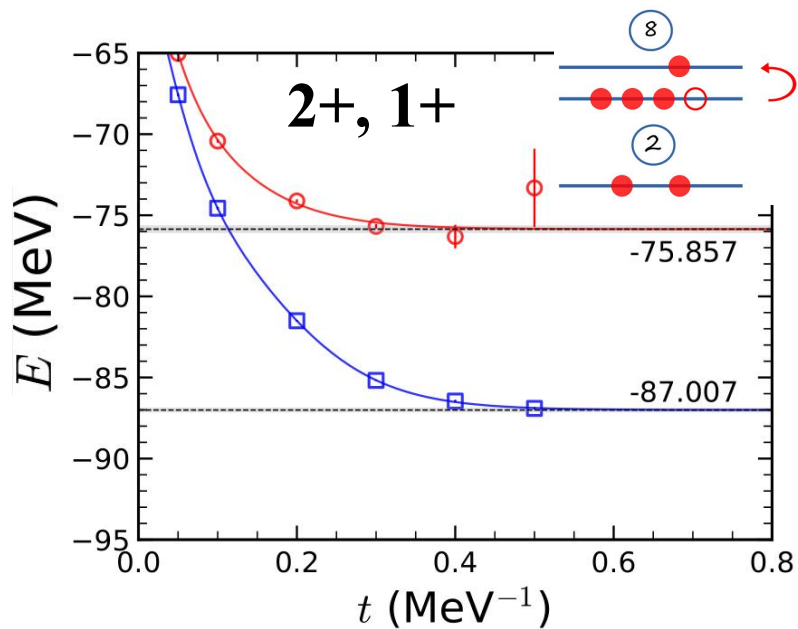
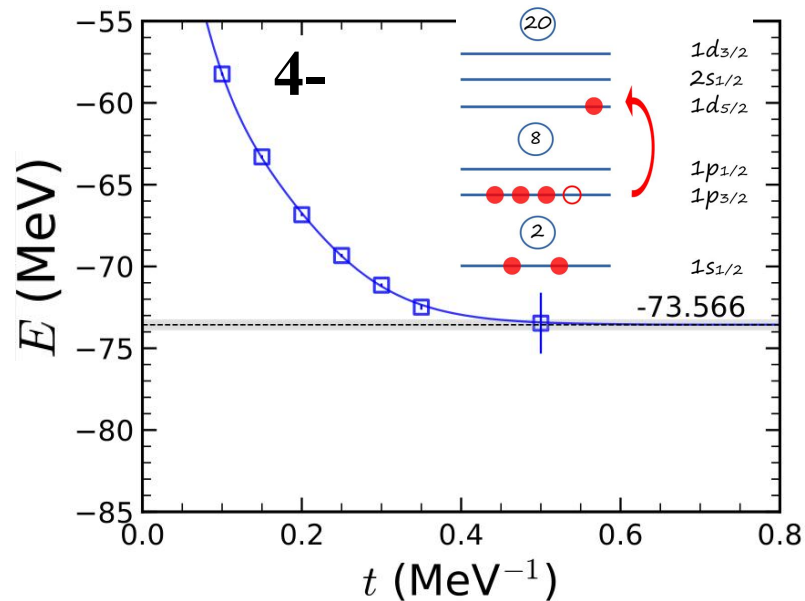
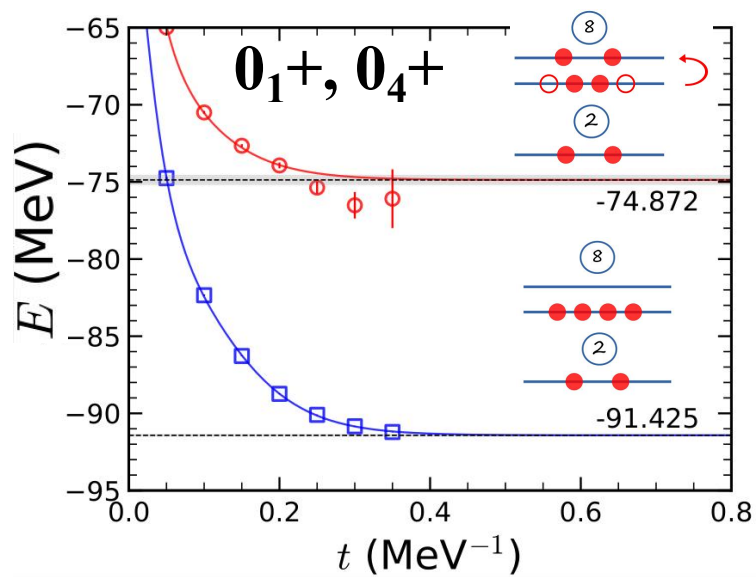


$$E_i(t) = \frac{E_i + \sum_{k=1}^{k_{\max}} (E_i + \Delta E_{i,k}) c_{i,k} e^{-\Delta E_{i,k} t}}{1 + \sum_{k=1}^{k_{\max}} c_{i,k} e^{-\Delta E_{i,k} t}}$$

T. A. Lähde et al., JPG 42 (2015) 034012

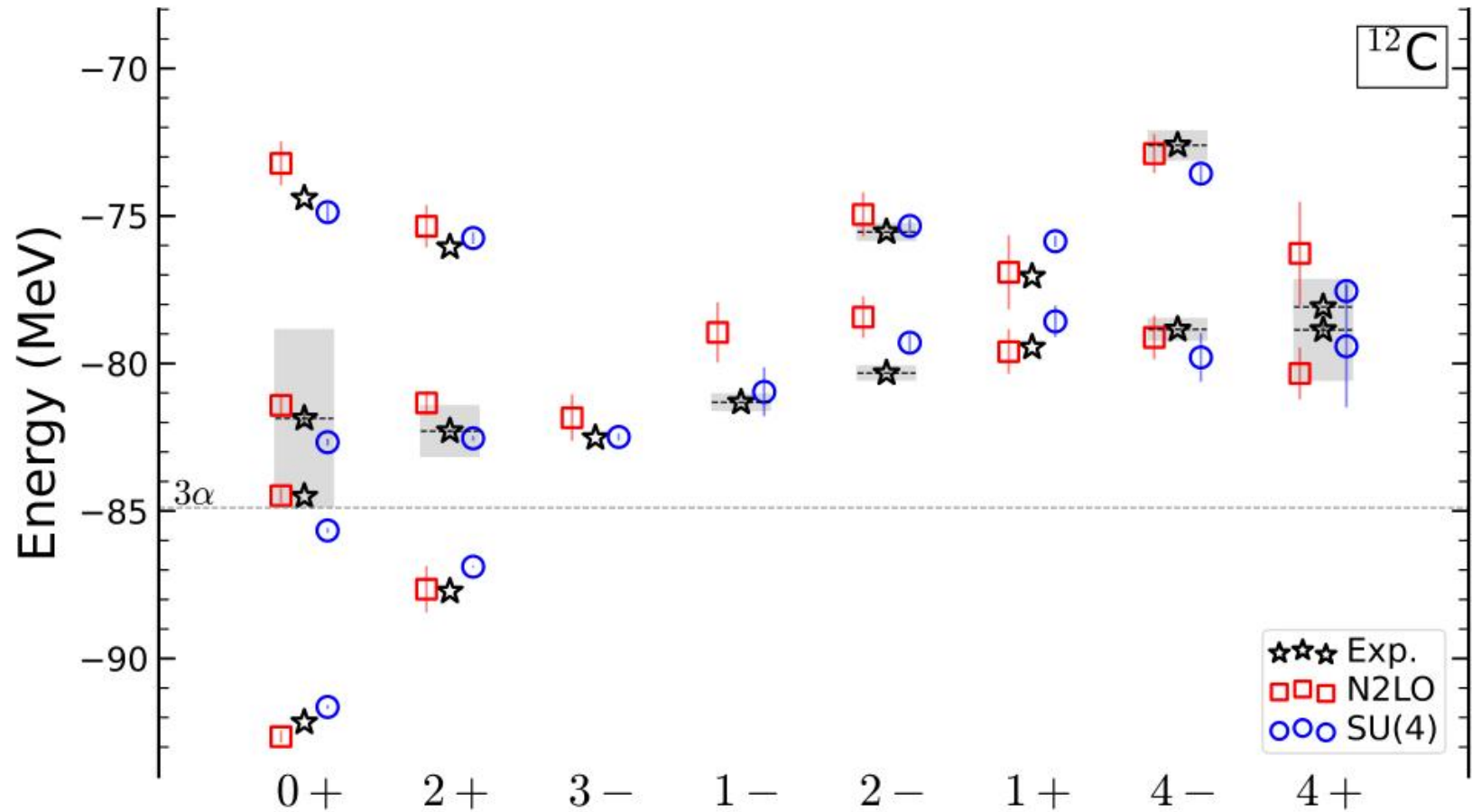
Web figures from: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sphere>
<https://math.ucr.edu/home/baez/icosidodecahedron/7.html>

Shell-Model States Used as Initial Wave



Low-lying Spectrum

- Spectrum of ^{12}C calculated by NLEFT using N2LO and SU(4) interaction in comparison with experimental data.



Electromagnetic Properties

- Quadrupole moment and transition rates of ^{12}C calculated by NLEFT, comparing with other theoretical calculations and Experiments. Units for Q and $M(E0)$ are $e\text{ fm}^2$ and for $B(E2)$ $e^2\text{ fm}^4$.

	NLEFT	FMD	α cluster	NCSM	GCM	Exp.
$Q(2_1^+)$	6.8(3)(1.2)	–	–	6.3(3)	–	8.1(2.3)
$Q(2_2^+)$	–35(1)(1)	–	–	–	–	–
$M(E0, 0_1^+ \rightarrow 0_2^+)$	4.8(3)	6.5	6.5	–	6.2	5.4(2)
$M(E0, 0_1^+ \rightarrow 0_3^+)$	0.4(3)	–	–	–	3.6	–
$M(E0, 0_2^+ \rightarrow 0_3^+)$	7.4(4)	–	–	–	47.0	–
$B(E2, 2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+)$	11.4(1)(4.3)	8.7	9.2	8.7(9)	–	7.9(4)
$B(E2, 2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_2^+)$	2.4(2)(7)	3.8	0.8	–	–	2.6(4)

Future Experiments can be used as a test.

fermion molecular dynamics (FMD) [M. Chernykh et al., PRL 98, 032501 \(2007\)](#)

α cluster [M. Chernykh et al., PRL 98, 032501 \(2007\)](#)

BEC [Y. Funaki et al., PRC 67, 051306 \(2003\)](#); [EPJA 24, 321 \(2005\)](#)

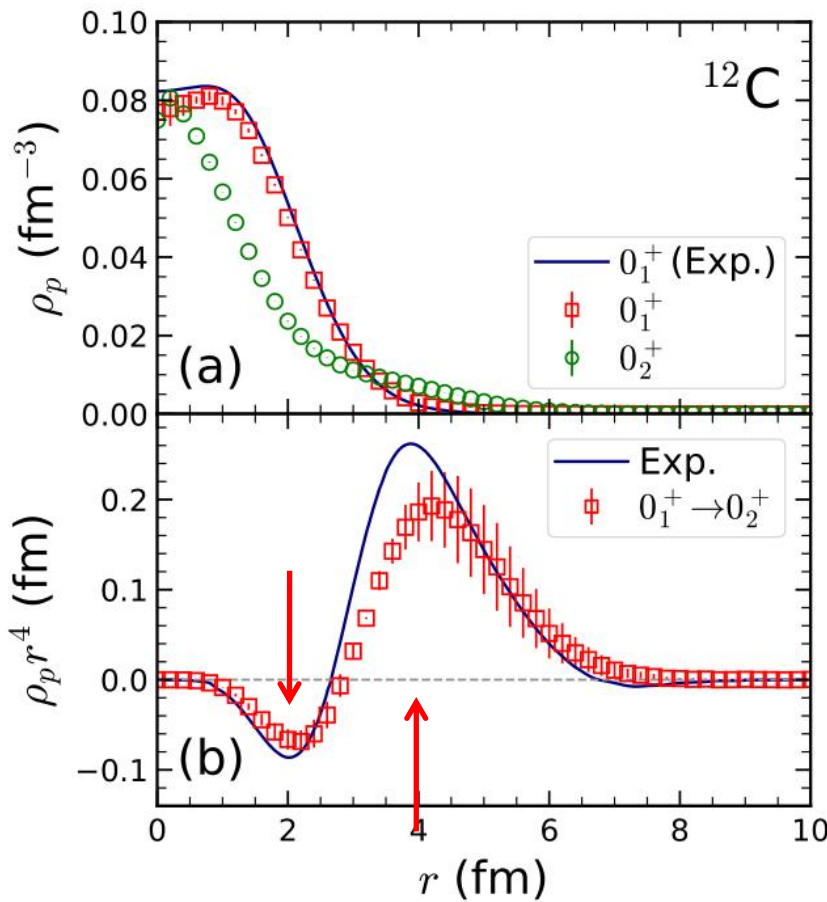
in-medium no-core shell model (NCSM) [A. D'Alessio et al., PRC 102, 011302 \(2020\)](#)

generator coordinate method (GCM) [B. Zhou, PRC 94, 044319 \(2016\)](#)

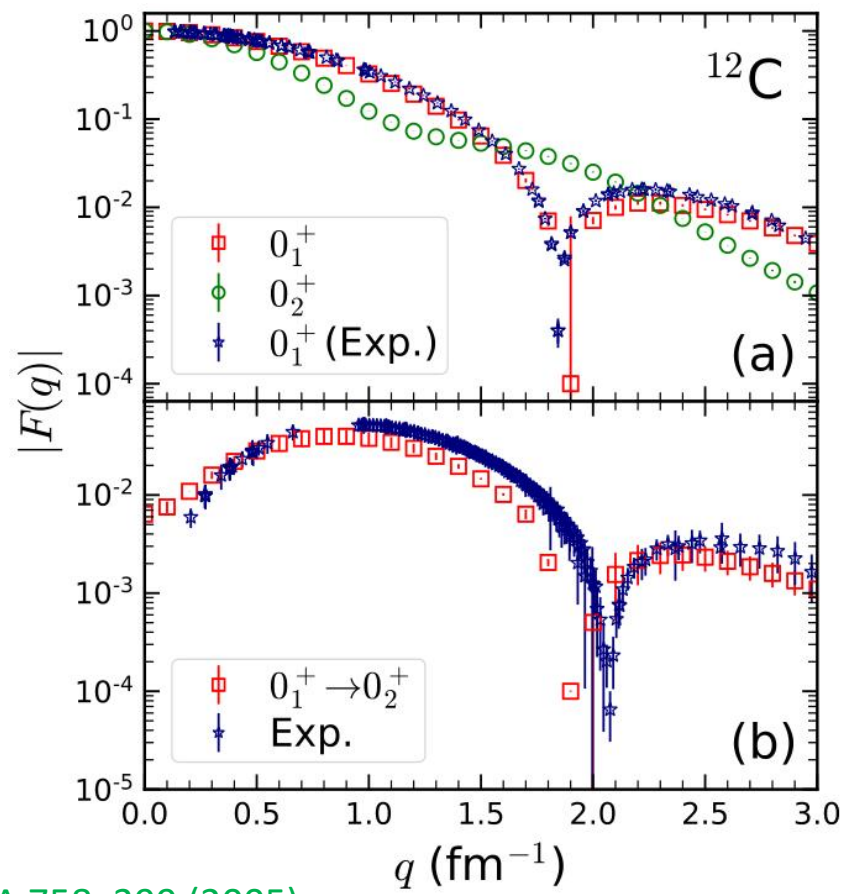
Exp. [F. Ajzenberg-Selove, NPA 506, 1 \(1990\)](#); [J. Saiz Lomas, PhD thesis, University of York, UK \(2021\)](#)

Density Profiles

- Charge density distributions (left) and form factors (right) of ground state, Hoyle state, and transitions between them.



$$F(q) = \frac{4\pi}{Z} \int dr r^2 \rho_p(r) j_0(qr)$$

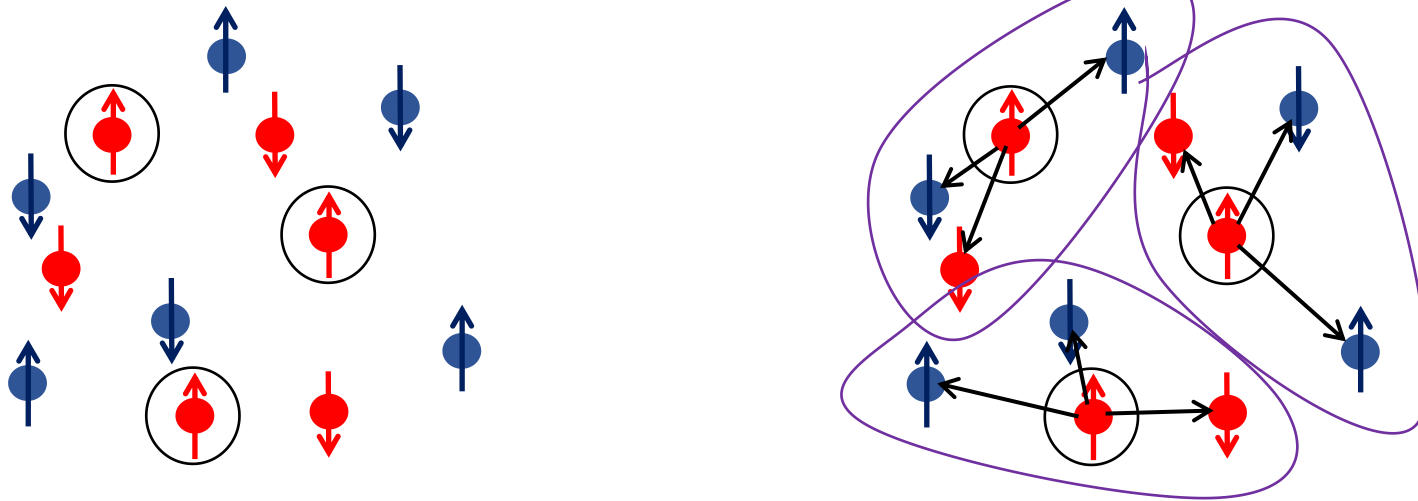


Exp. M. Chernykh et al., PRL 105, 022501 (2010)
 I. Sick and J. S. McCarthy, NPA 150, 631 (1970)
 P. Strehl, Z. Phys. 234 (1970) 416; H. Crannell et al., NPA 758, 399 (2005)

Investigation of the Geometry

➤ Define (α) clusters

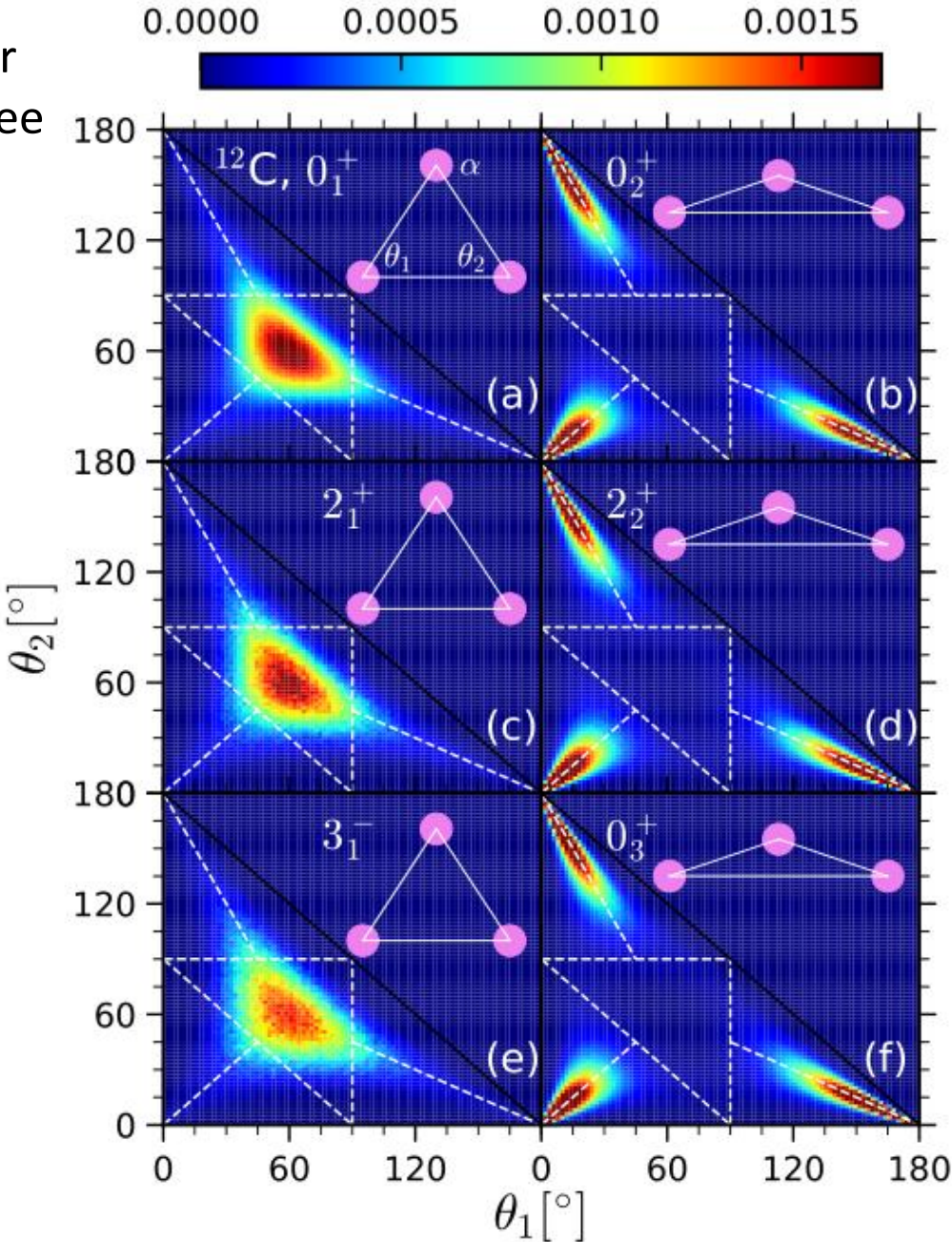
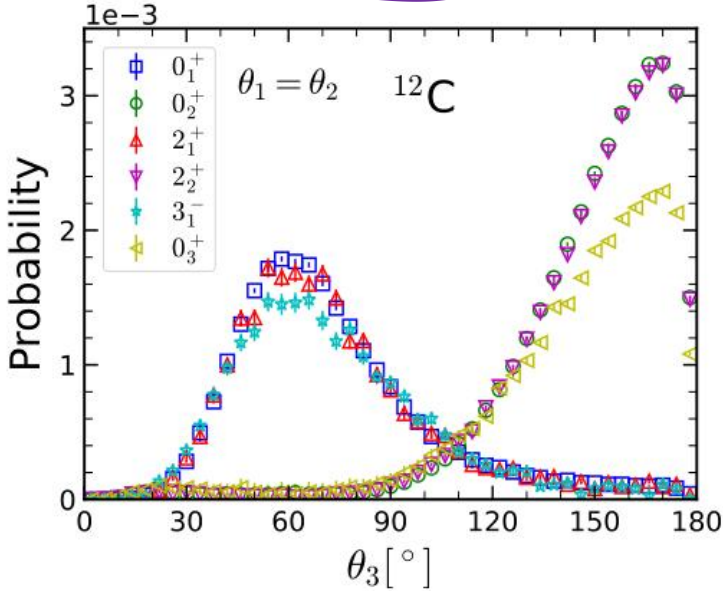
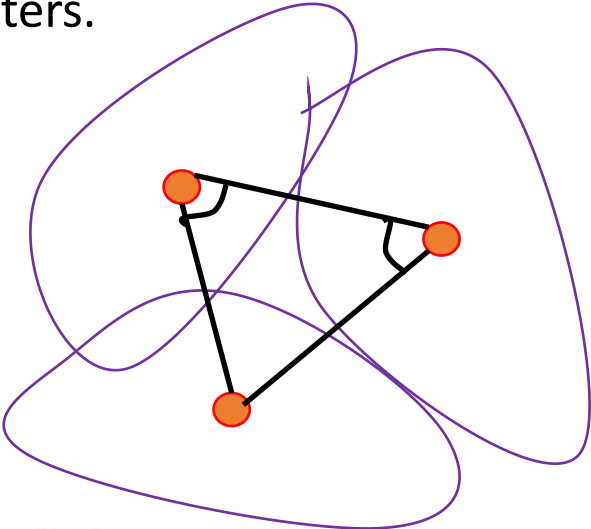
1. Identify 3 spin-up protons;
2. Find the closest possible of the other 3 types of particles (spin-down proton, spin-up neutron, spin-down neutron);
3. Calculate the rms radius of α cluster defined this way and compare with 4He calculation.



	$^{12}\text{C}, 0_1^+$	$^{12}\text{C}, 0_2^+$	4He
rms α cluster [fm]	1.65	1.71	1.63

Distribution of Angles

Probability distribution for the two inner angles of the triangle formed by the three α clusters.



Density Distribution

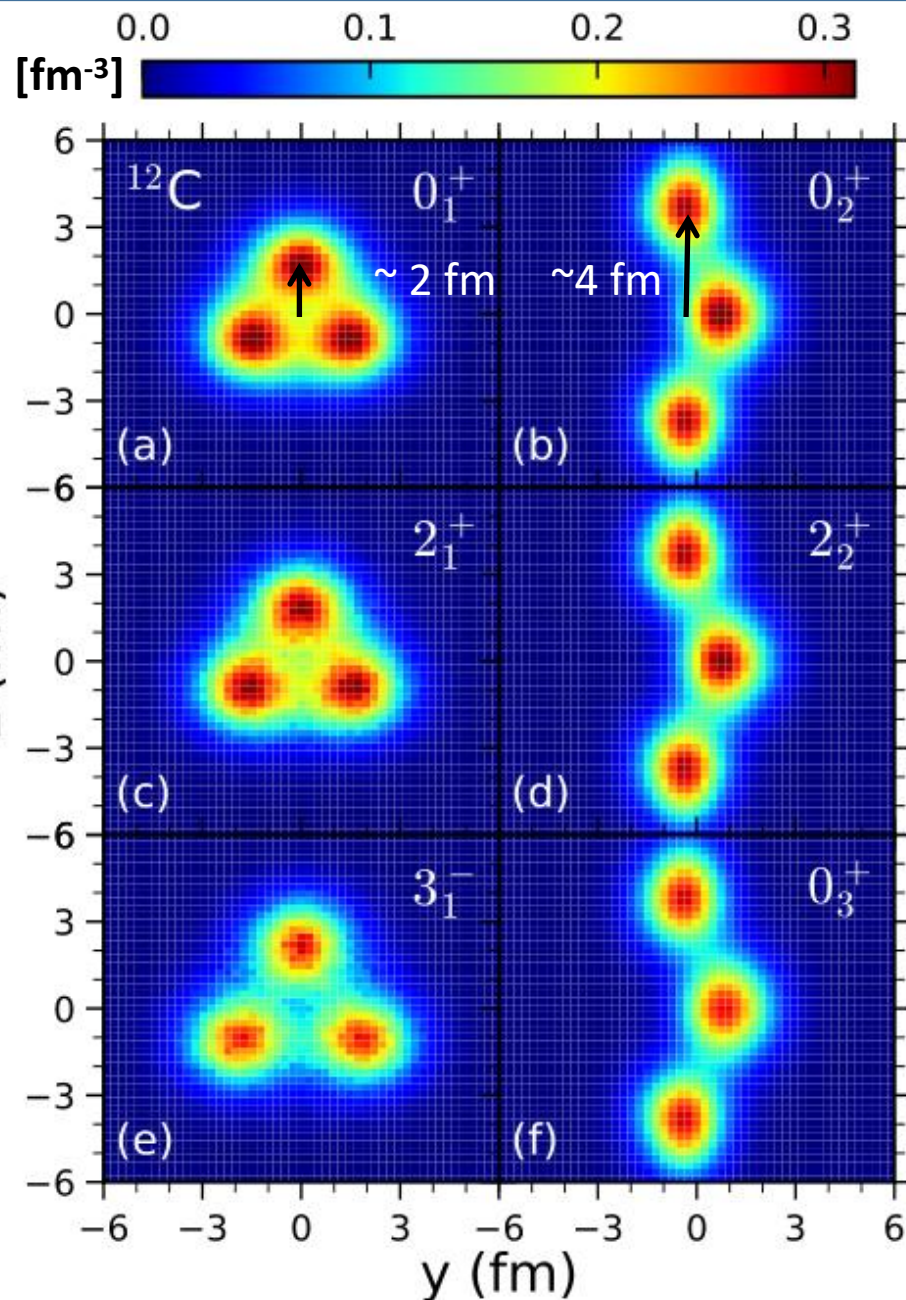
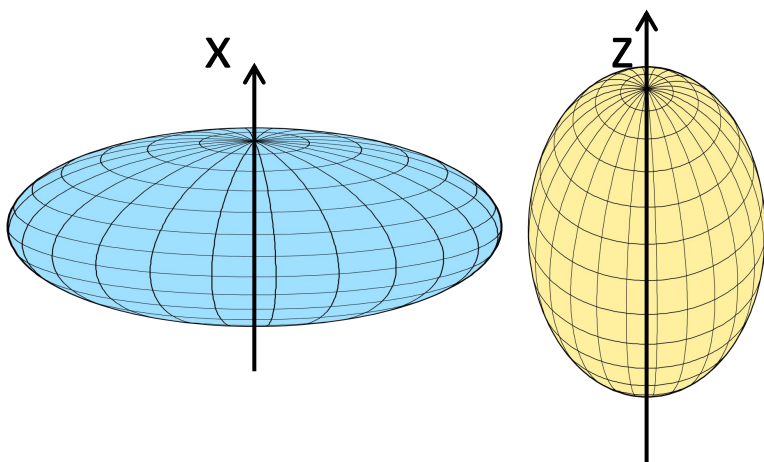
➤ Alignment of configurations:

For equilateral triangle type:

1. Align shortest principal axis to x
2. Rotate 1 α to $y = 0$ (positive z), and (randomly) $\pm 120^\circ$.

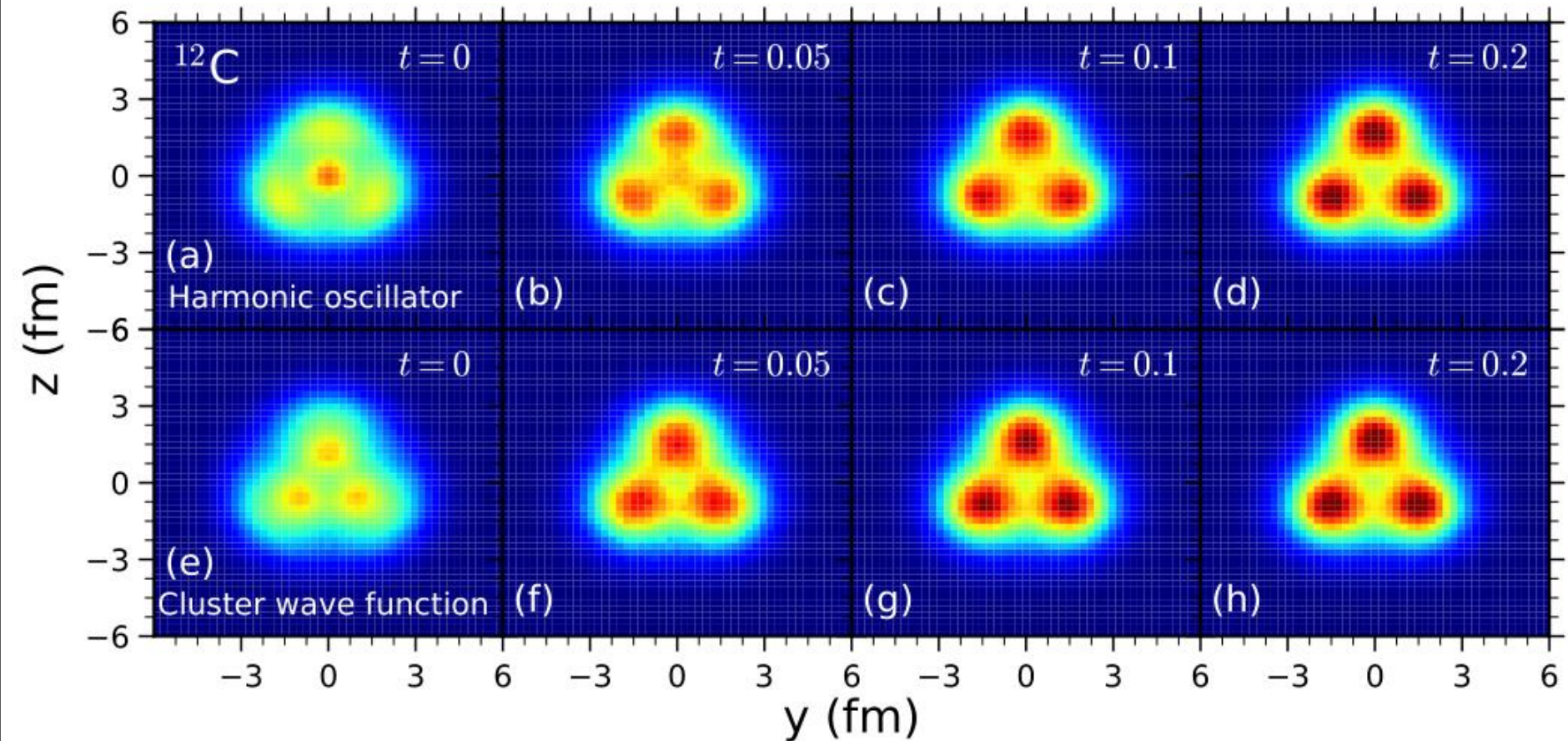
For obtuse triangle type:

1. Align longest principal axis to z ;
2. Rotate central α to $x = 0$ (positive y).



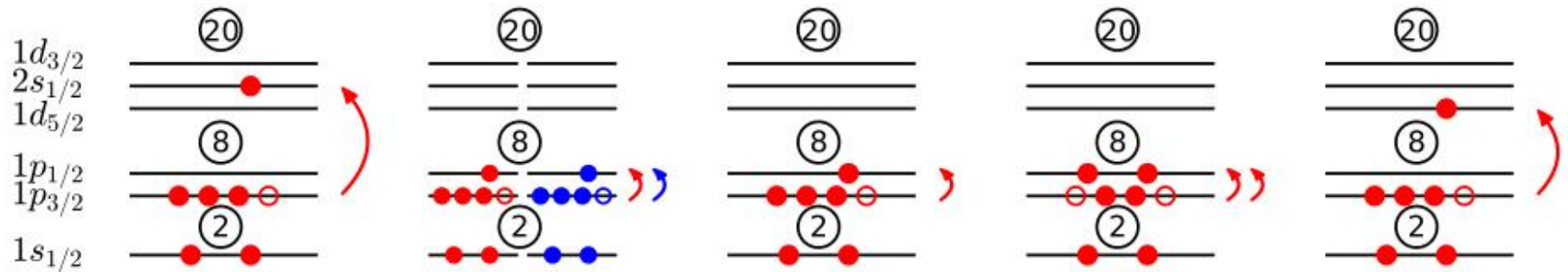
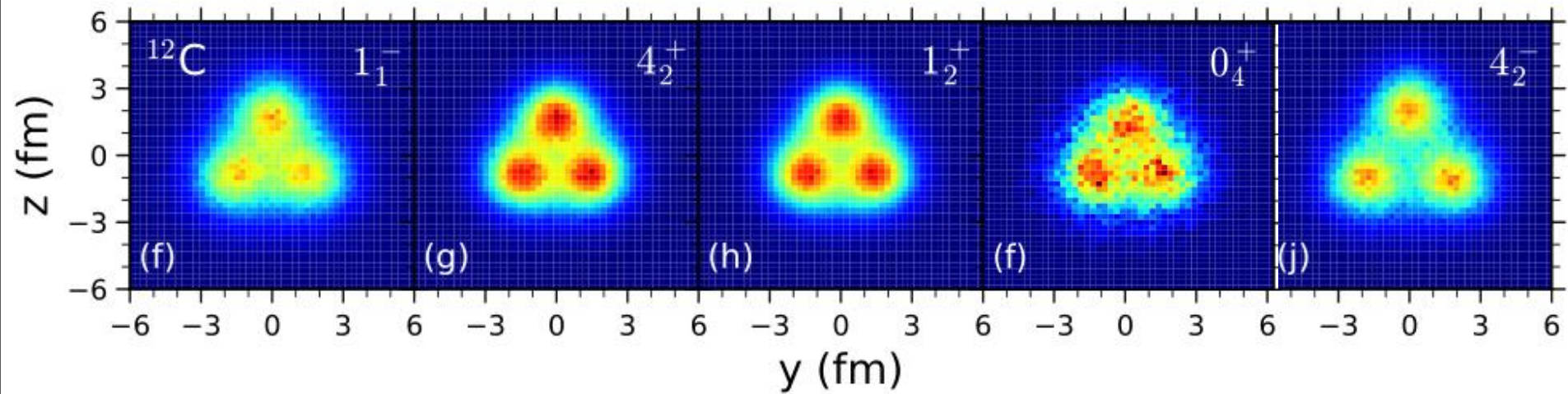
Cluster Formation

- Density distribution of ^{12}C ground state using (a-d) harmonic oscillator or (e-h) cluster wave function as initial states, with Euclidean projection time ranging from $t = 0$ to 0.2 MeV^{-1} .



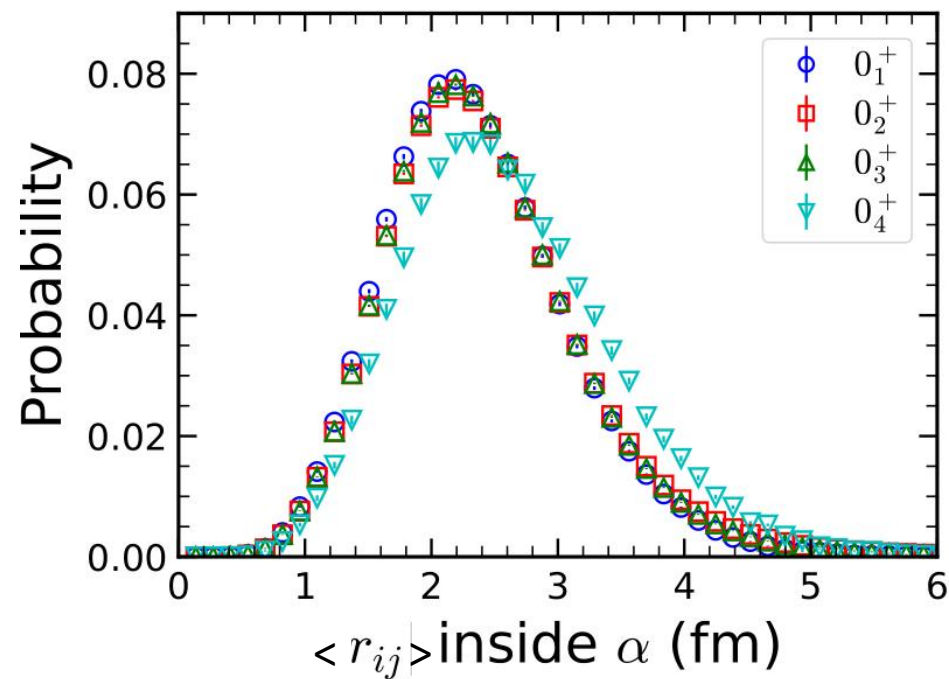
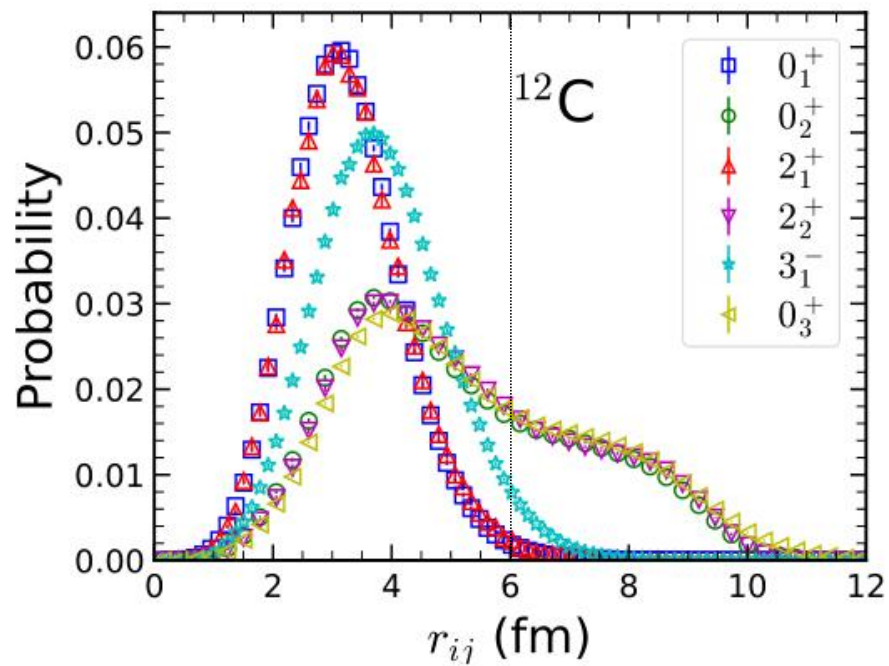
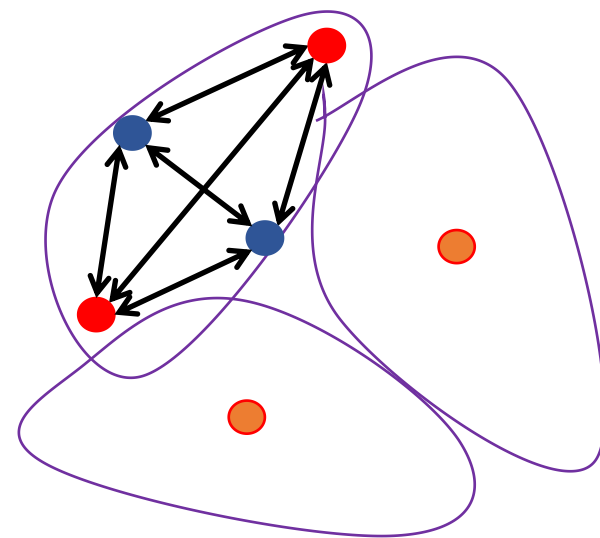
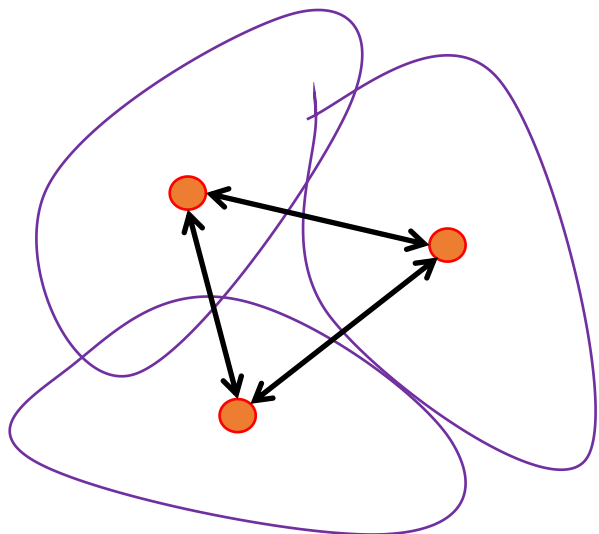
confirms the finding in Ref. [E. Epelbaum et al., PRL 109, 252501 \(2012\)](#)

Shell-Model States as Initial Wave



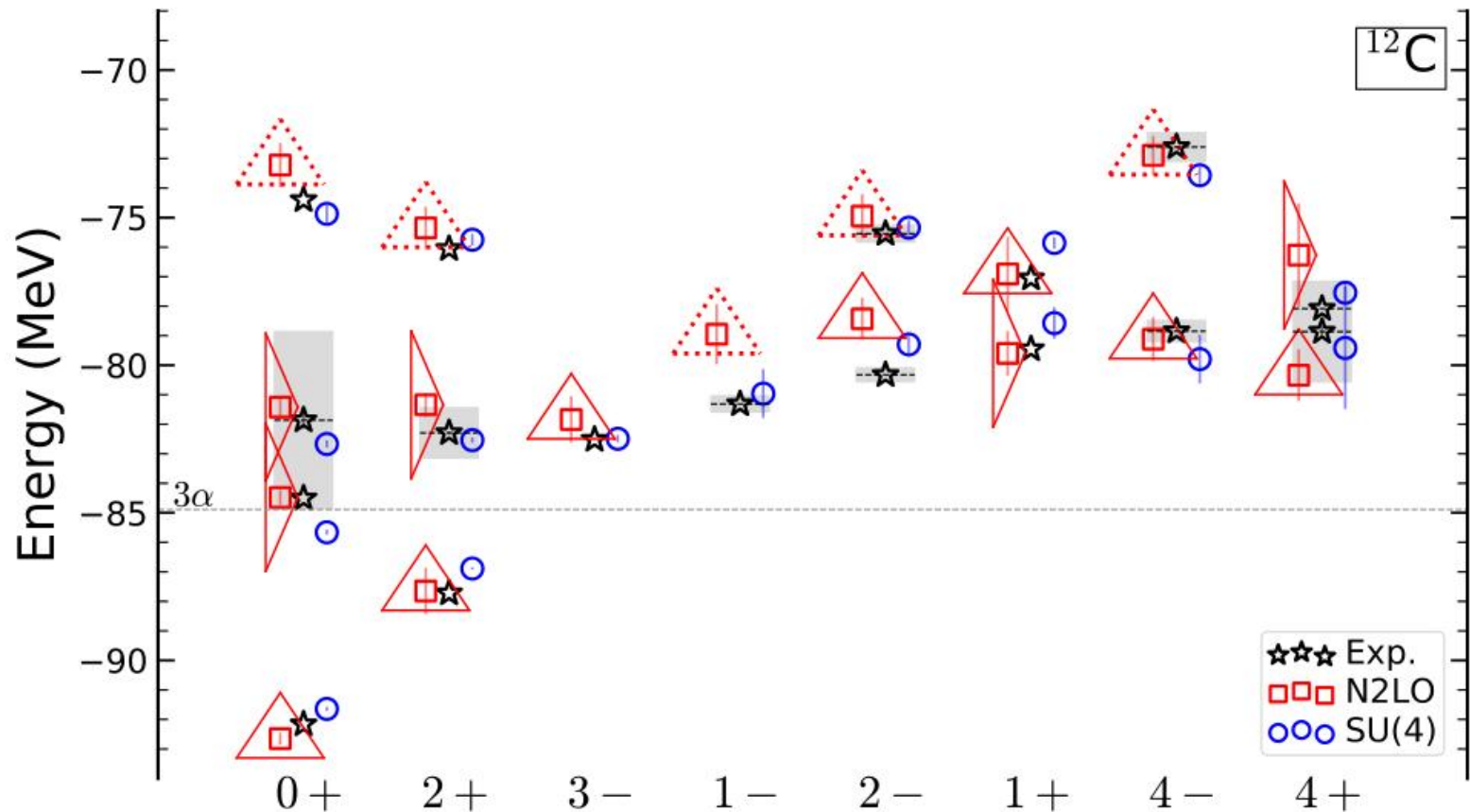
- α cluster structure is less clear due to single-particle excitation, especially when excited to the next shell.

Cluster Excitation? Single-Particle Excitation?



Geometry Information in the Low-Lying Spectrum

- To summarize the geometry properties of each states in the low-lying spectrum of ^{12}C calculated by NLEFT:
- 2 types of shape: equilateral or large angle obtuse triangle.
 - α cluster is well maintained (solid triangles) or diminished (dashed ones).



Summary

Summary

- ❑ Low-lying spectrum of ^{12}C have been studied by NLEFT using SU(4) interaction, the agreement with experiment is impressive, not only energies, but also electromagnetic transitions and density profiles.
- ❑ A model-independent tomographic scan of the three-dimensional geometry of the nuclear states has been introduced. The Hoyle state and its rotational/vibrational excitations, as already stated in [E. Epelbaum et al., PRL 109, 252501 \(2012\)](#), are found to be an obtuse isosceles triangle with large angle.

Perspectives

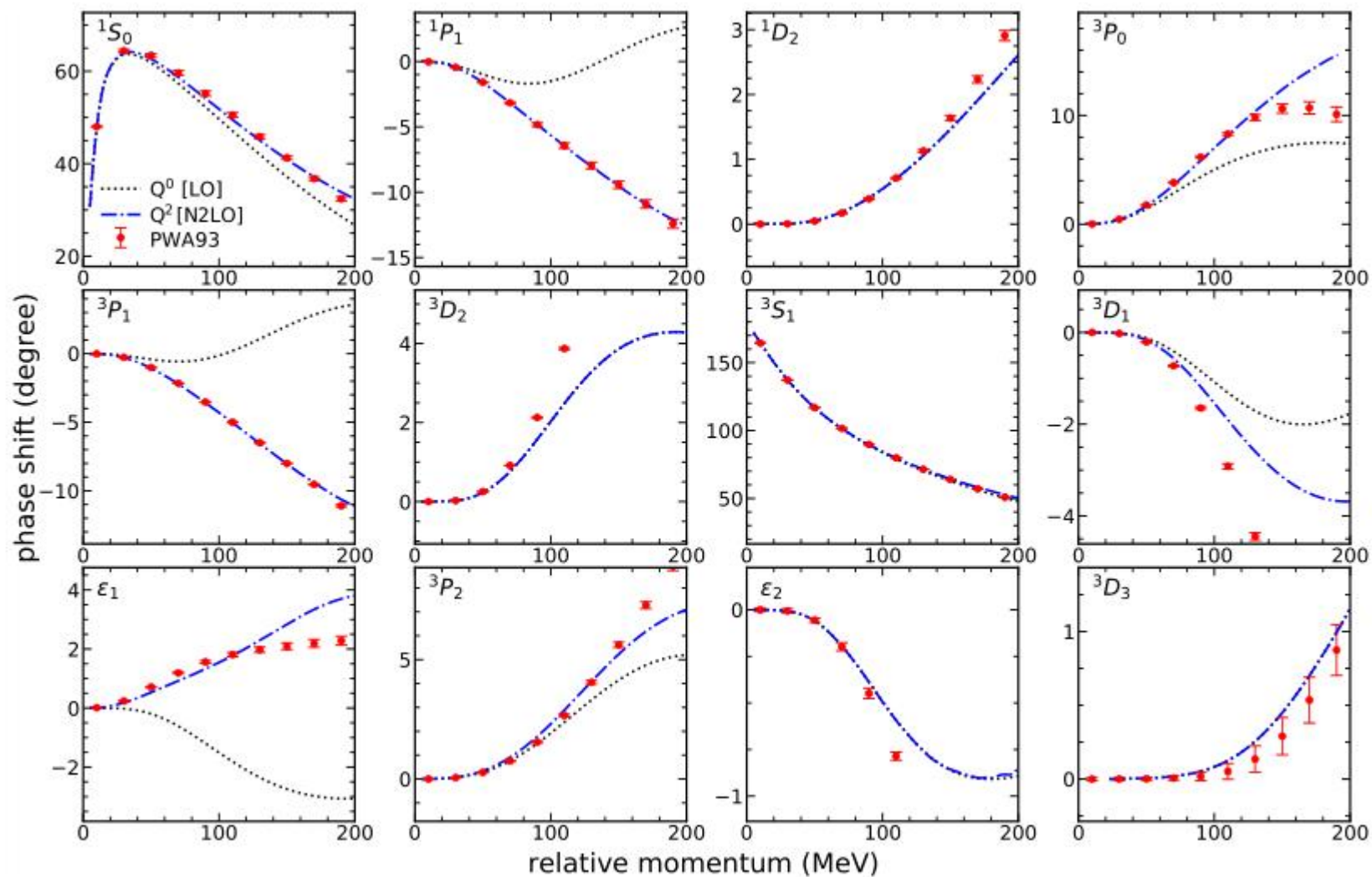
- ❑ ^{16}O
- ❑ full N3LO interaction [Elhatisari et al., arXiv:2210.17488](#)
- ❑

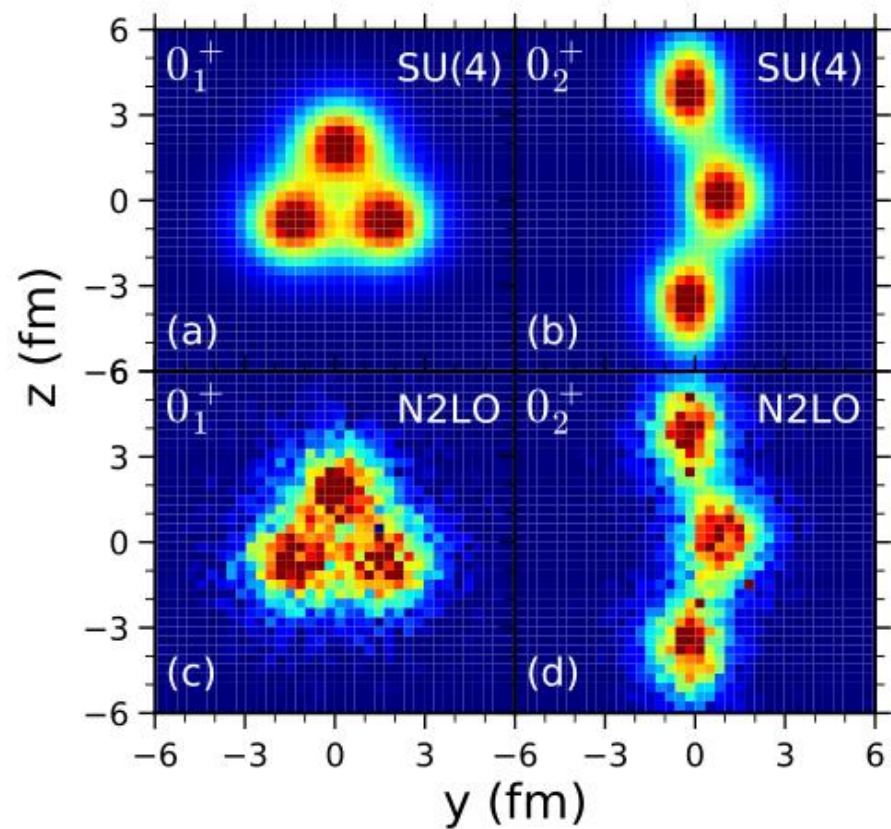
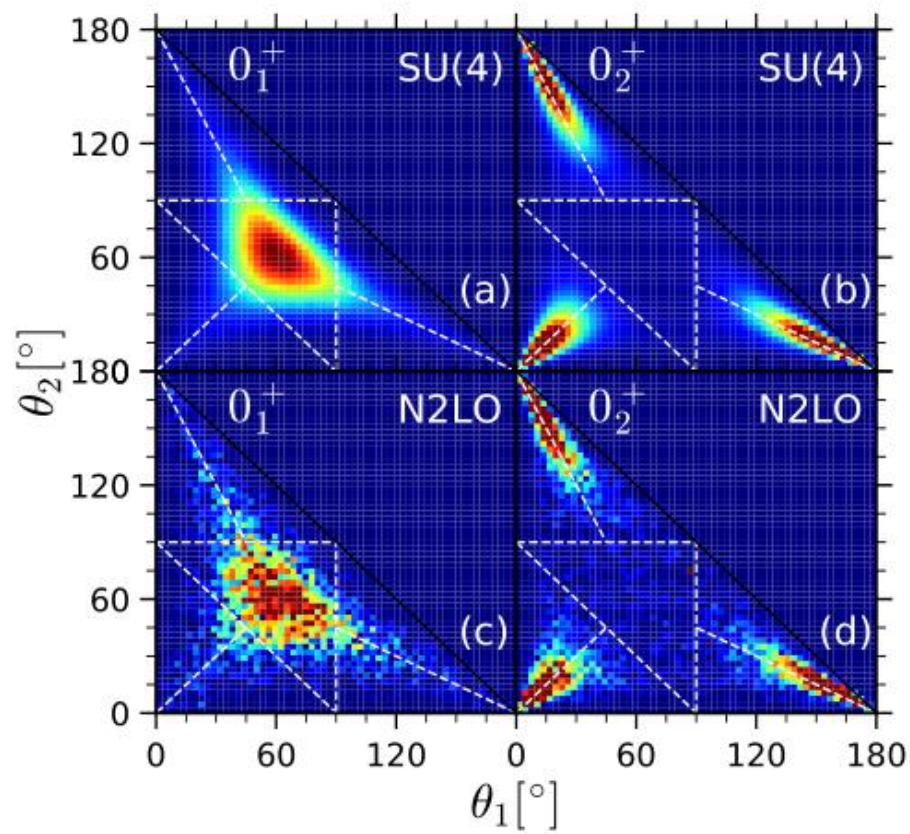
THANK YOU!

	C_0	$C_{\text{GIR},0}$	$C_{\text{GIR},1}$	$C_{\text{GIR},2}$	s_{NL}	s_{L}
SU(4)	-0.17395	-0.07001	0.01417	-0.00125	0.1	0.06

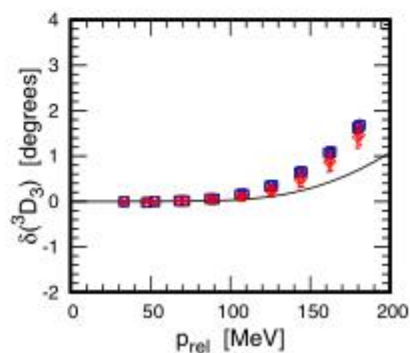
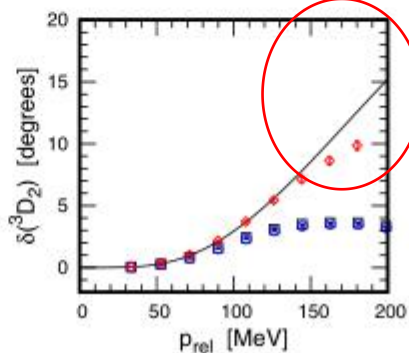
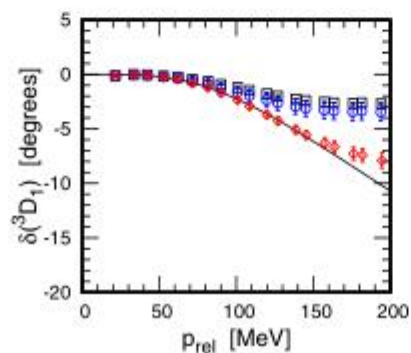
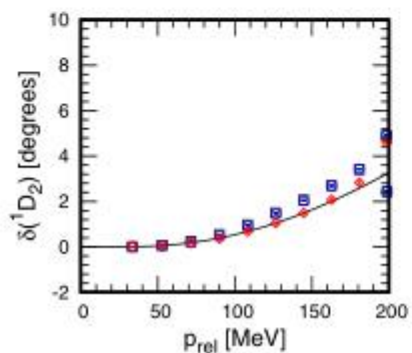
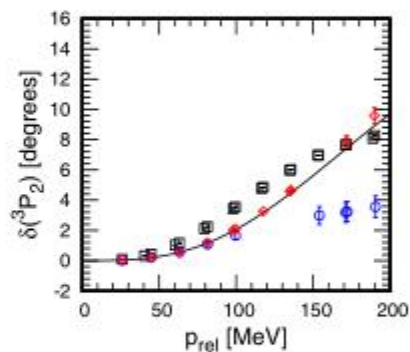
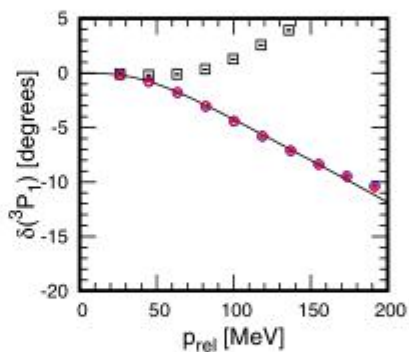
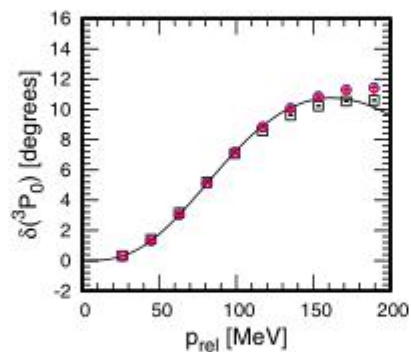
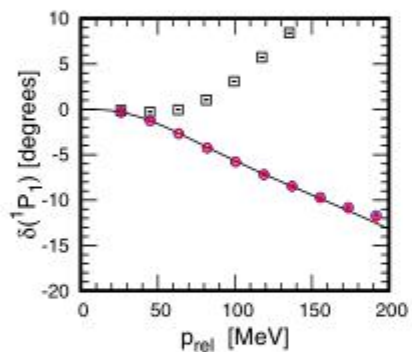
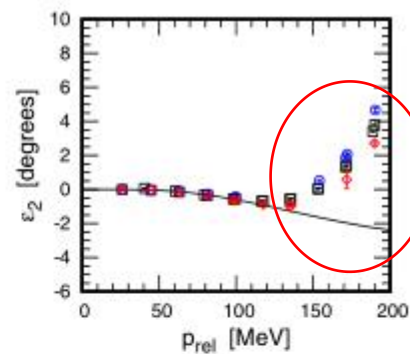
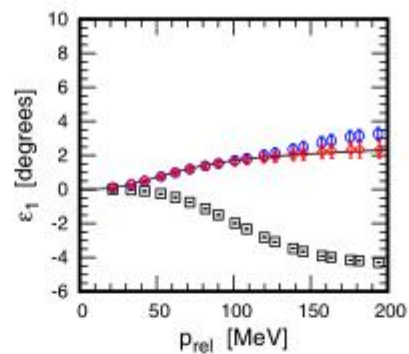
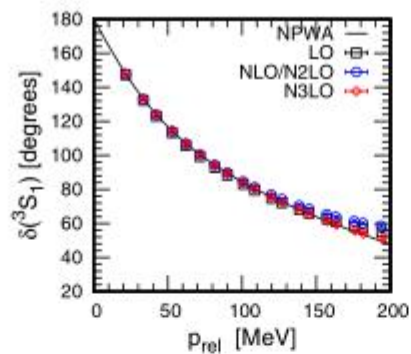
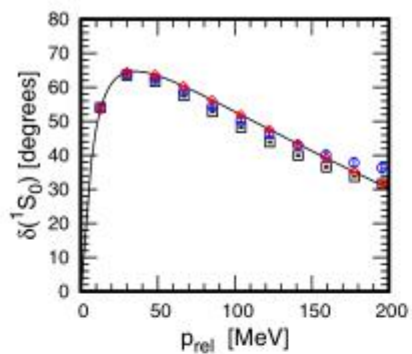
	C_0	$C_{\text{GIR},0}$	$C_{\text{GIR},1}$	$C_{\text{GIR},2}$
$Q^0, {}^1S_0$	0.44365	0.07410	-0.00980	-0.00128
$Q^0, {}^3S_1$	-0.25149	-0.04505	0.01092	-0.00170
$Q^2, {}^1S_0$	0.55249	0.02521	0.01665	-0.01042
$Q^2, {}^3S_1$	-0.01090	1.15209	-0.64469	0.22634
$Q^2, {}^1S_0^{0,1}$	0.03241	-0.03062	0.00780	-0.00135
$Q^2, {}^3S_1^{0,1}$	0.02738	0.18172	-0.09556	0.03264
$Q^2, {}^3S_1 - {}^3D_1$	-0.49342	0.09280	0.03828	-0.02687
$Q^2, {}^1P_1$	0.96569	0.95481	-0.21826	0.02956
$Q^2, {}^3P_0$	-0.19448	-0.07901	0.01729	-0.00206
$Q^2, {}^3P_1$	0.92671	0.91735	-0.20962	0.02836
$Q^2, {}^3P_2$	-0.04801	-0.03012	0.00730	-0.00114

	c_D	c_E	s_{L}
3N	-0.77527	0.67901	0.2

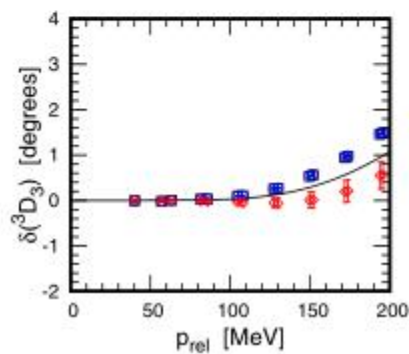
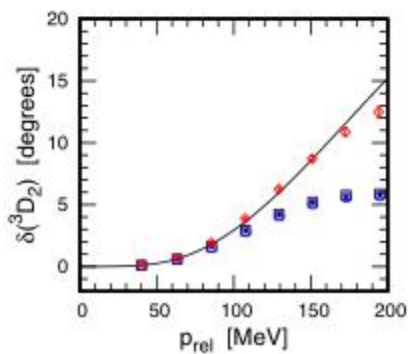
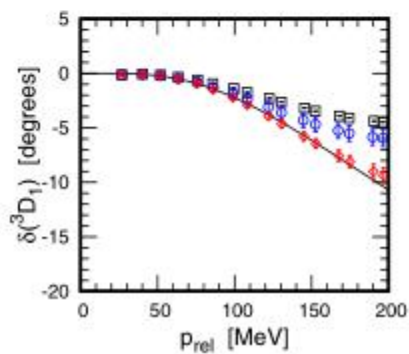
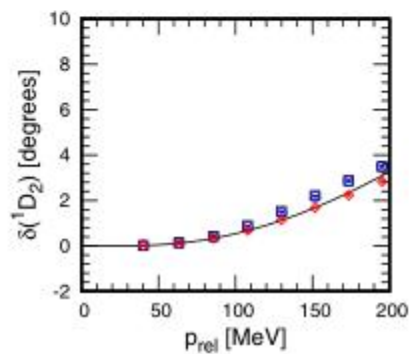
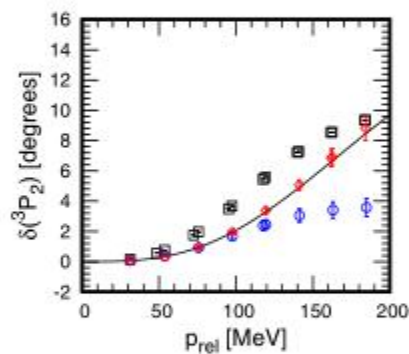
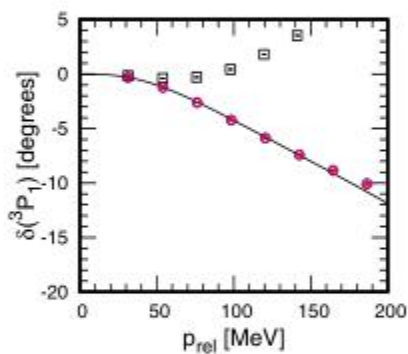
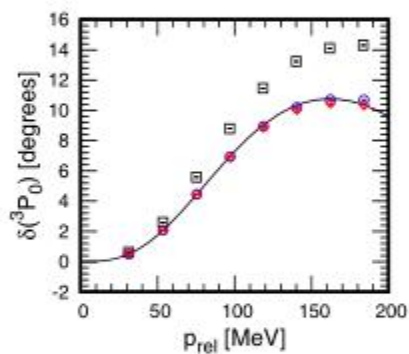
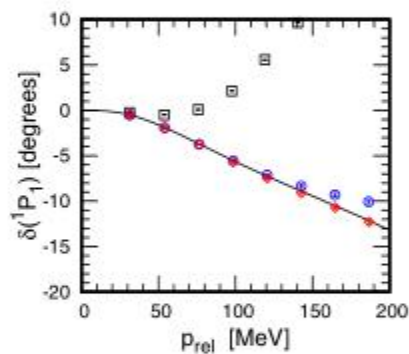
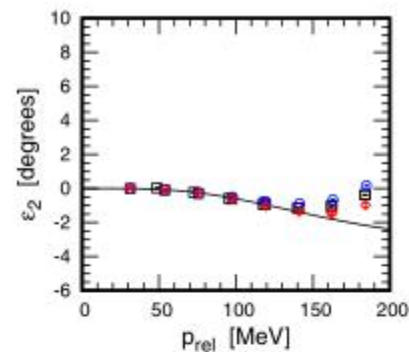
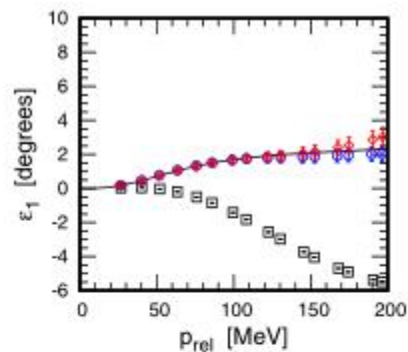
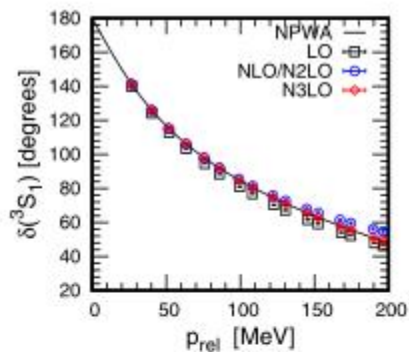
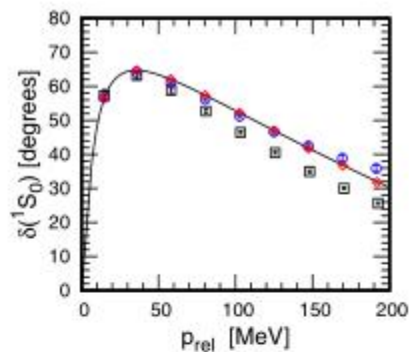




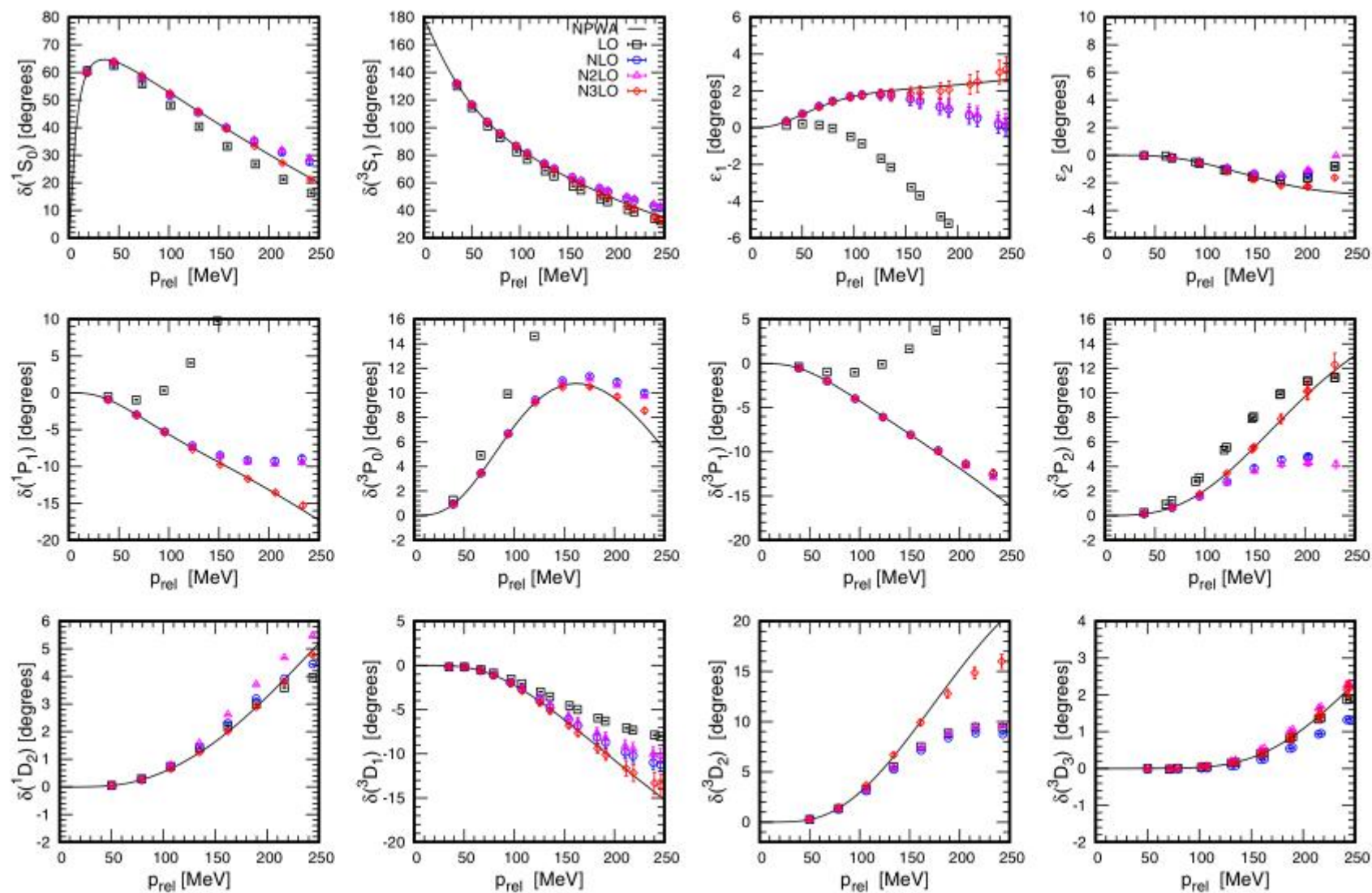
$a = 1.97 \text{ fm}$ $\pi/a \sim 314 \text{ MeV}$



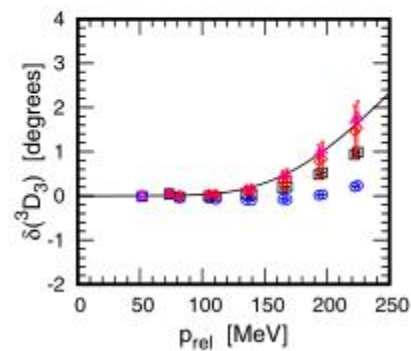
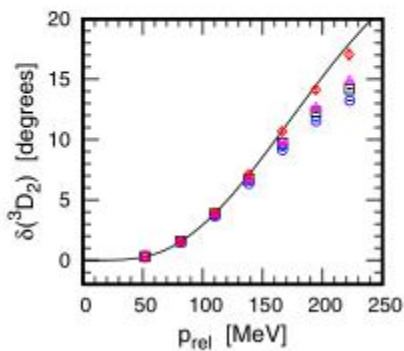
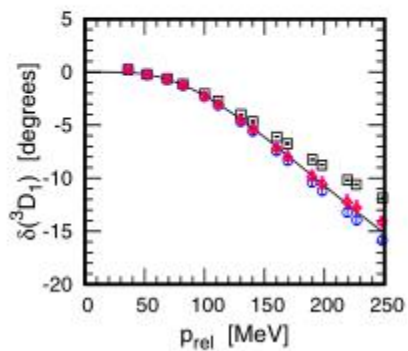
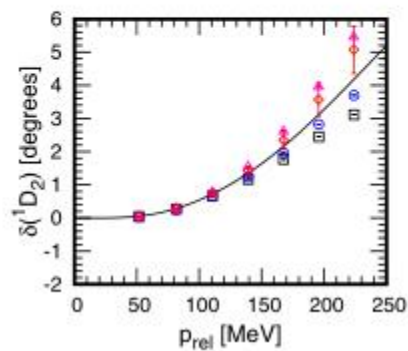
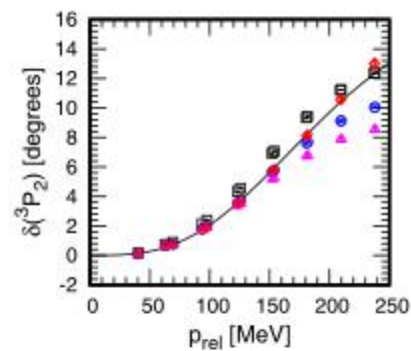
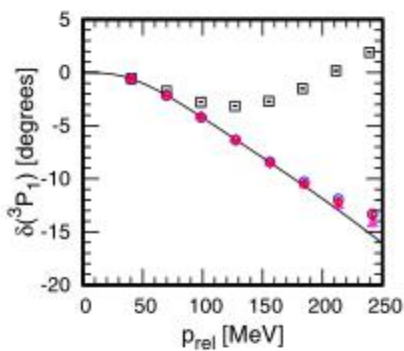
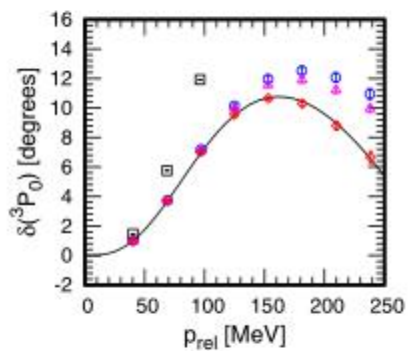
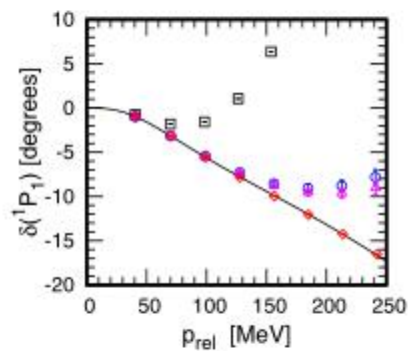
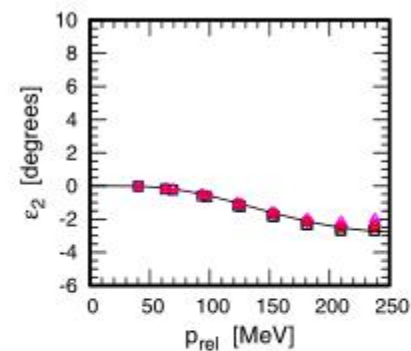
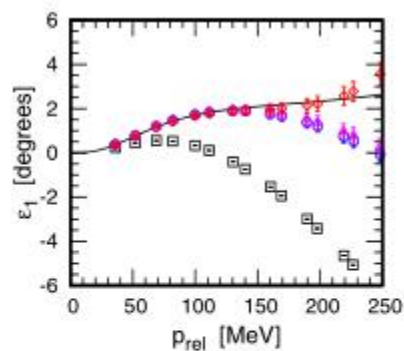
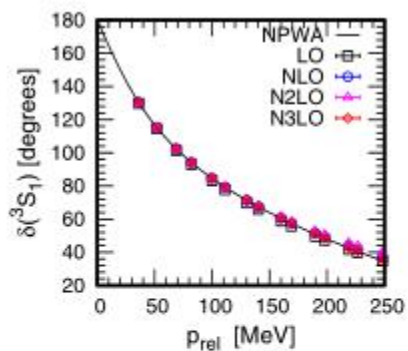
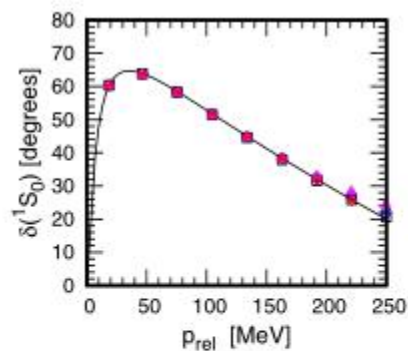
$a = 1.64 \text{ fm}$ $\pi/a \sim 378 \text{ MeV}$

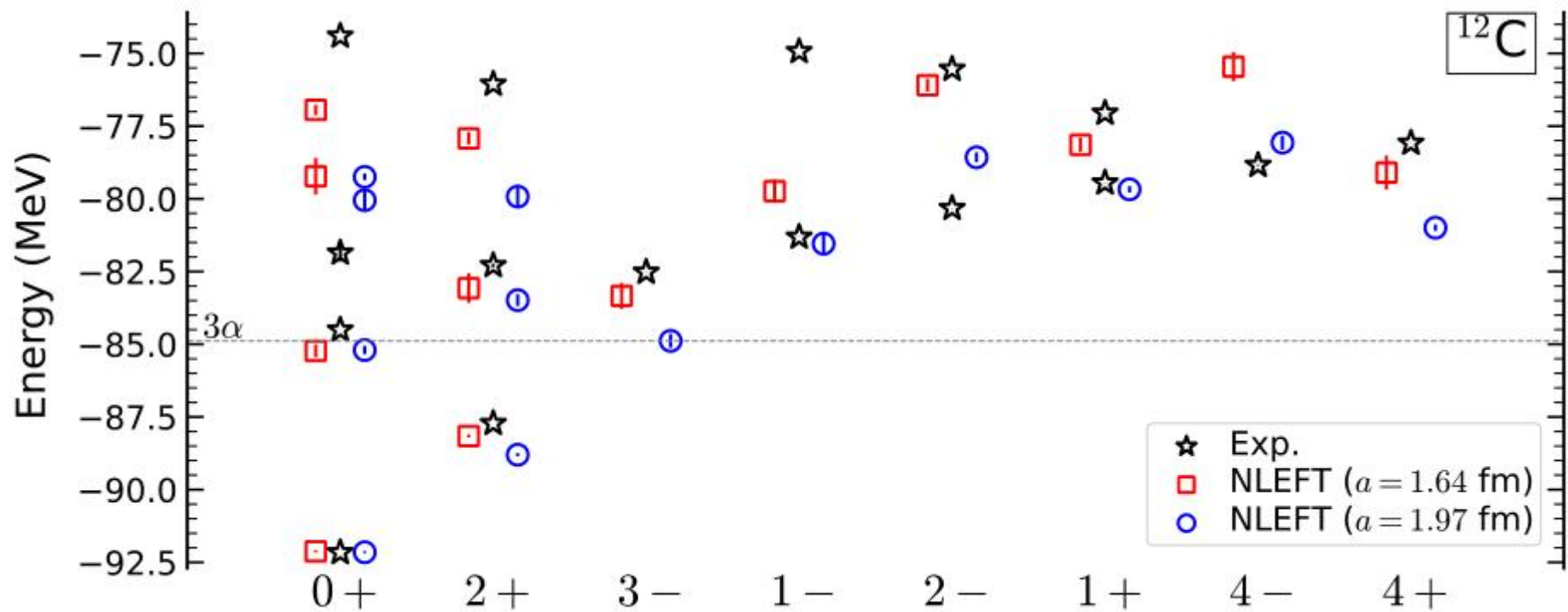


$a = 1.32 \text{ fm}$ $\pi/a \sim 469 \text{ MeV}$



$a = 0.99 \text{ fm}$ $\pi/a \sim 626 \text{ MeV}$



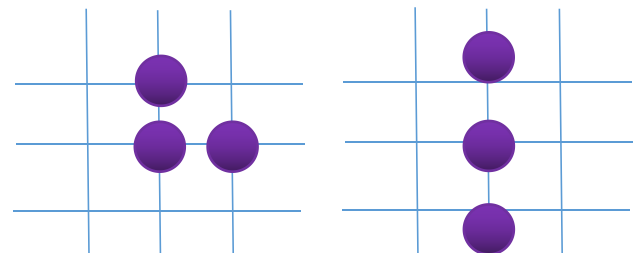


S. Shen, T. A. Lähde, D. Lee, U.-G. Meißner, EPJA 57, 276 (2021)

Decomposition of Hoyle State

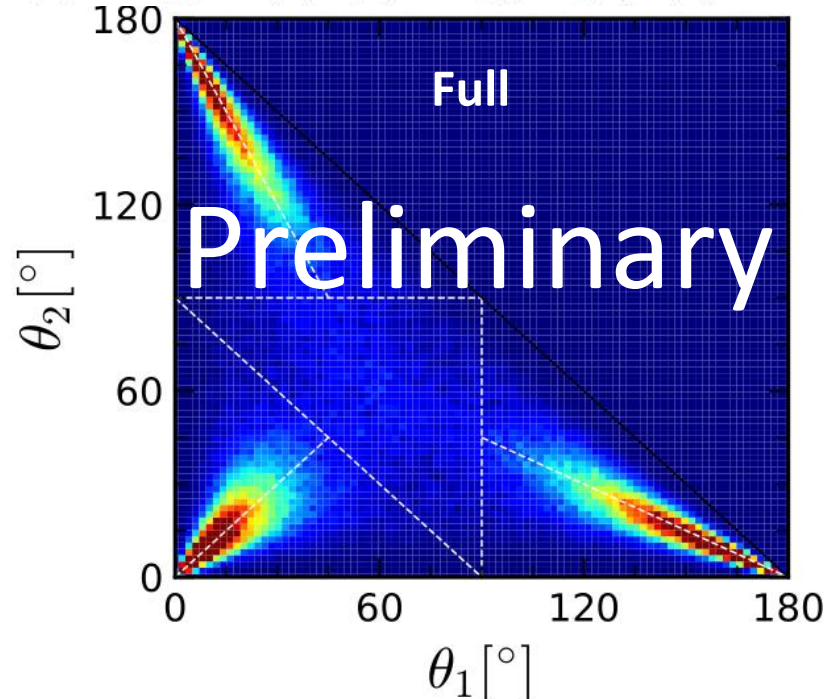
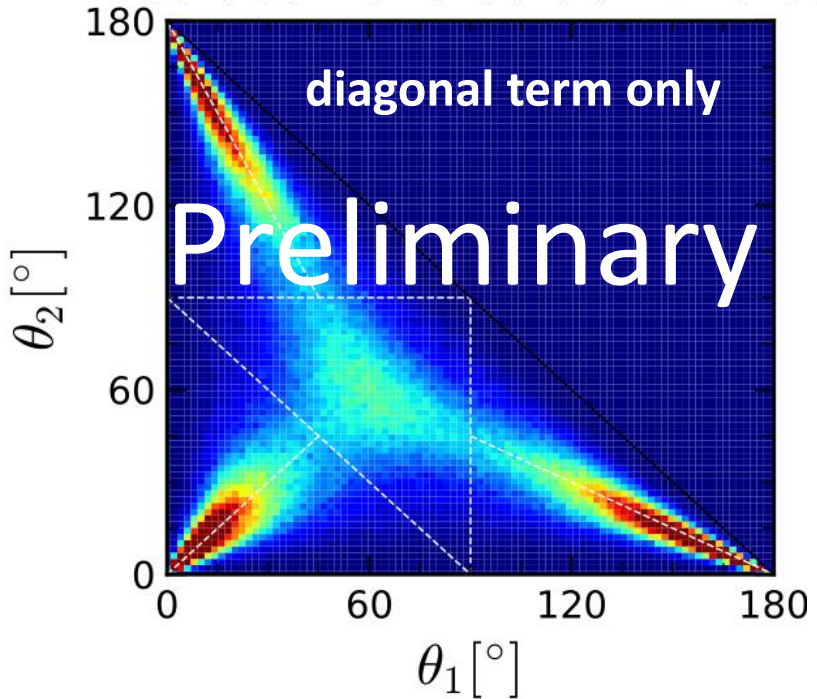
$$|0_1^+\rangle = c_{11}|1\rangle + c_{12}|2\rangle$$

$$|0_2^+\rangle = c_{21}|1\rangle + c_{22}|2\rangle$$



$c_{\{ij\}}$	1	2
0_{1+}	164.8	8.7
0_{2+}	-79.0	301.8

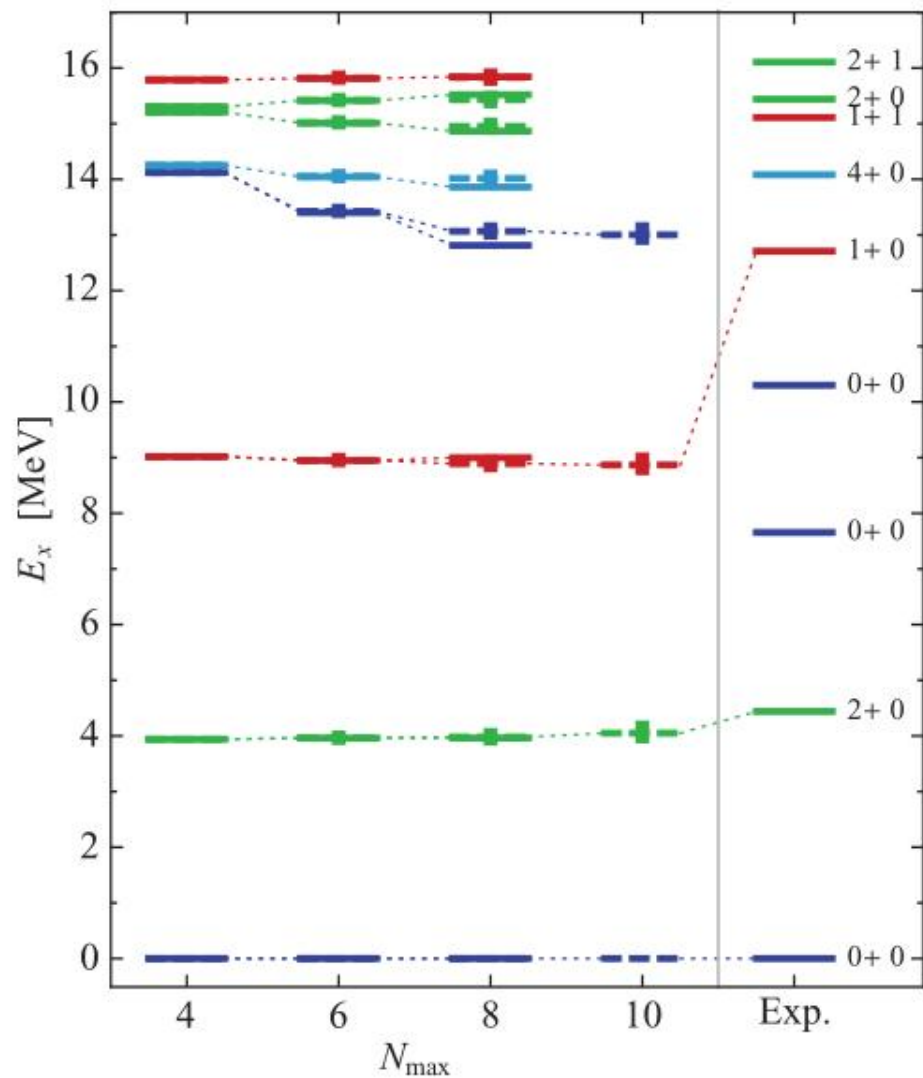
$$\langle 0_2^+ | O | 0_2^+ \rangle = |c_{21}|^2 \langle 1 | O | 1 \rangle + |c_{22}|^2 \langle 2 | O | 2 \rangle + c_{21}^* c_{22} \langle 1 | O | 2 \rangle + c_{22}^* c_{21} \langle 2 | O | 1 \rangle$$



three α -like clusters with the probability 2/3, and 1/3 in a modestly ellipsoidal shape of $\beta_2 \sim 0.3$

T. Otsuka et al., Nature Commu. (2022) 13:2234

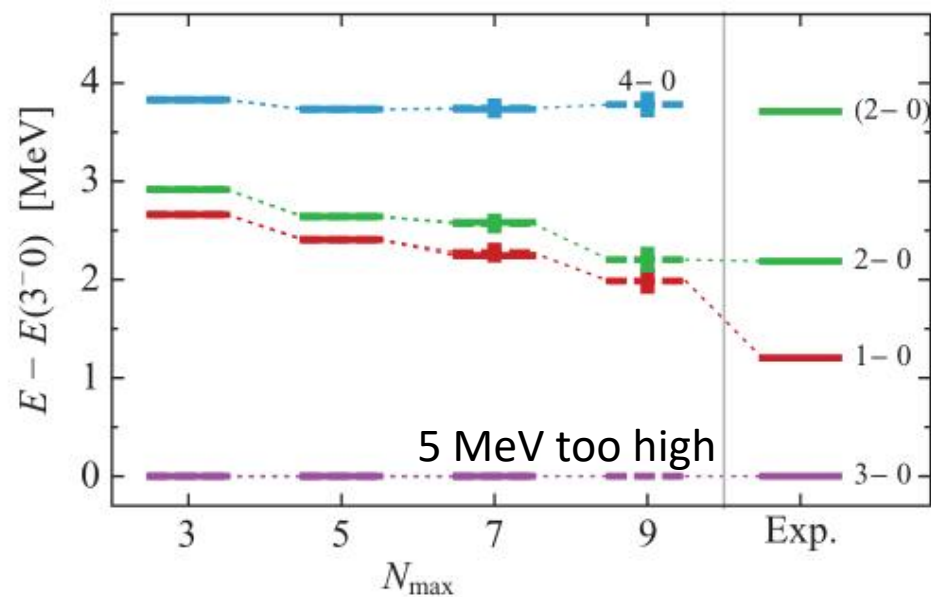
Maris P, Vary JP, Calci A, Langhammer J, Binder S, Roth R., Phys Rev C. (2014) 90:014314
 D. R. Entem and R. Machleidt, Phys. Rev. C 68, 041001 (2003)



PHYSICAL REVIEW C 90, 014314 (2014)

^{12}C properties with evolved chiral three-nucleon interactions

P. Maris,^{1,*} J. P. Vary,^{1,†} A. Calci,^{2,‡} J. Langhammer,^{2,§} S. Binder,^{2,||} and R. Roth^{2,¶}



Cluster Formation

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + \frac{m}{2} (\omega_x x^2 + \omega_y y^2 + \omega_z z^2)$$

$$\omega_\rho^2 = \omega_x^2 = \omega_y^2 = \omega_0^2 \left(1 + \frac{2}{3} \delta^2\right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{2}{3} \delta\right),$$

$$\omega_z^2 = \omega_0^2 \left(1 + \frac{2}{3} \delta^2\right)^2 \left(1 - \frac{4}{3} \delta\right).$$

