

# Large- $N_c$ Methods for Baryons: Nucleon-Nucleon Interactions

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# Why NN interactions?

- Nuclei in test of SM and search for BSM physics
  - Neutrino oscillations
  - Neutrinoless double beta decay
  - Dark matter direct detection
  - ...
- Fundamental ingredient for all processes involving two or more nucleons
- Interesting problem in nonperturbative QCD

# Approaches to the NN interactions

- Phenomenological models
  - Parametrize in terms of meson-exchange, Gaussians,...
- Pionless/chiral effective field theories
  - Connection to QCD through symmetries
  - Ordering of terms based on power counting
  - Short-distance physics encoded in low-energy coefficients (LECs)
- Parameters/LECs
  - Experiment
  - Lattice QCD

Additional constraints from large- $N_c$  analysis?

# Large- $N_c$ QCD

- QCD with number of colors  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$  and  $g^2 N_c$  fixed
- Systematic expansion in  $1/N_c$
- Phenomenologically successful
- Mesons
  - $\bar{q}q$
  - Stable
  - Weakly interacting  $\sim 1/\sqrt{N_c}$

# Large- $N_c$ baryons

- Bound states of  $N_c$  quarks
- Completely antisymmetric in color:  $\epsilon_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{N_c}} q^{i_1} q^{i_2} \dots q^{i_{N_c}}$
- Baryon mass  $M_B \sim N_c$
- In  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$  limit: SU(2F) symmetry in baryon spectrum
- Application to NN interactions:
  - Determine large- $N_c$  scaling of contributions to potential

Combine with EFTs to obtain dual expansion

- Derive  $1/N_c$  hierarchy among low-energy coefficients (LECs)

# NN potential in large- $N_c$ expansion

$$V(p_-, p_+) = \langle N_C(p'_1), N_D(p'_2) | H | N_A(p_1), N_B(p_2) \rangle$$

- Effective Hamiltonian

$$H = N_c \sum_{s,t,u} v_{stu} \left( \frac{S}{N_c} \right)^s \left( \frac{I}{N_c} \right)^t \left( \frac{G}{N_c} \right)^u$$

- Building blocks

$$S^i = q^\dagger \frac{\sigma^i}{2} q, \quad I^a = q^\dagger \frac{\tau^a}{2} q, \quad G^{ia} = q^\dagger \frac{\sigma^i \tau^a}{4} q$$

- Coefficients  $v_{stu}$ 
  - Momentum dependent
  - Constrained by symmetries

# Large- $N_c$ scaling

- Nucleon matrix elements

$$\langle N' | G^{ia} | N \rangle \sim \langle N' | 1 | N \rangle \sim O(N_c)$$

$$\langle N' | S^i | N \rangle \sim \langle N' | I^a | N \rangle \sim O(1)$$

- Momenta (in t-channel)

$$p_- = (p'_1 - p'_2) - (p_1 - p_2) \sim O(1)$$

$$p_+ = (p'_1 - p'_2) + (p_1 - p_2) \sim 1/M_N \sim O(1/N_c)$$

- Coefficients (excluding momenta)

$$\tilde{v}_{stu} \sim 1$$

# Caveats

- Nuclear matter forms classical crystal for  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ ?
  - Assume that symmetries of NN interactions do not change
- Nucleon and  $\Delta$  degenerate in large- $N_c$  limit
- $\Delta$  plays important role in meson-baryon interactions
  - Ignore intermediate  $\Delta$  states (for now)



# Example: central potential

- General form

$$V_c = V_0^0 + V_\sigma^0 \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 + V_0^1 \vec{\tau}_1 \cdot \vec{\tau}_2 + V_\sigma^1 \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 \vec{\tau}_1 \cdot \vec{\tau}_2$$

- Scaling

$$\vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 \sim \hat{S}_1 \cdot \hat{S}_2$$

$$\vec{\tau}_1 \cdot \vec{\tau}_2 \sim \hat{I}_1 \cdot \hat{I}_2$$

$$\vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 \vec{\tau}_1 \cdot \vec{\tau}_2 \sim \hat{G}_1 \cdot \hat{G}_2$$

- Coefficients

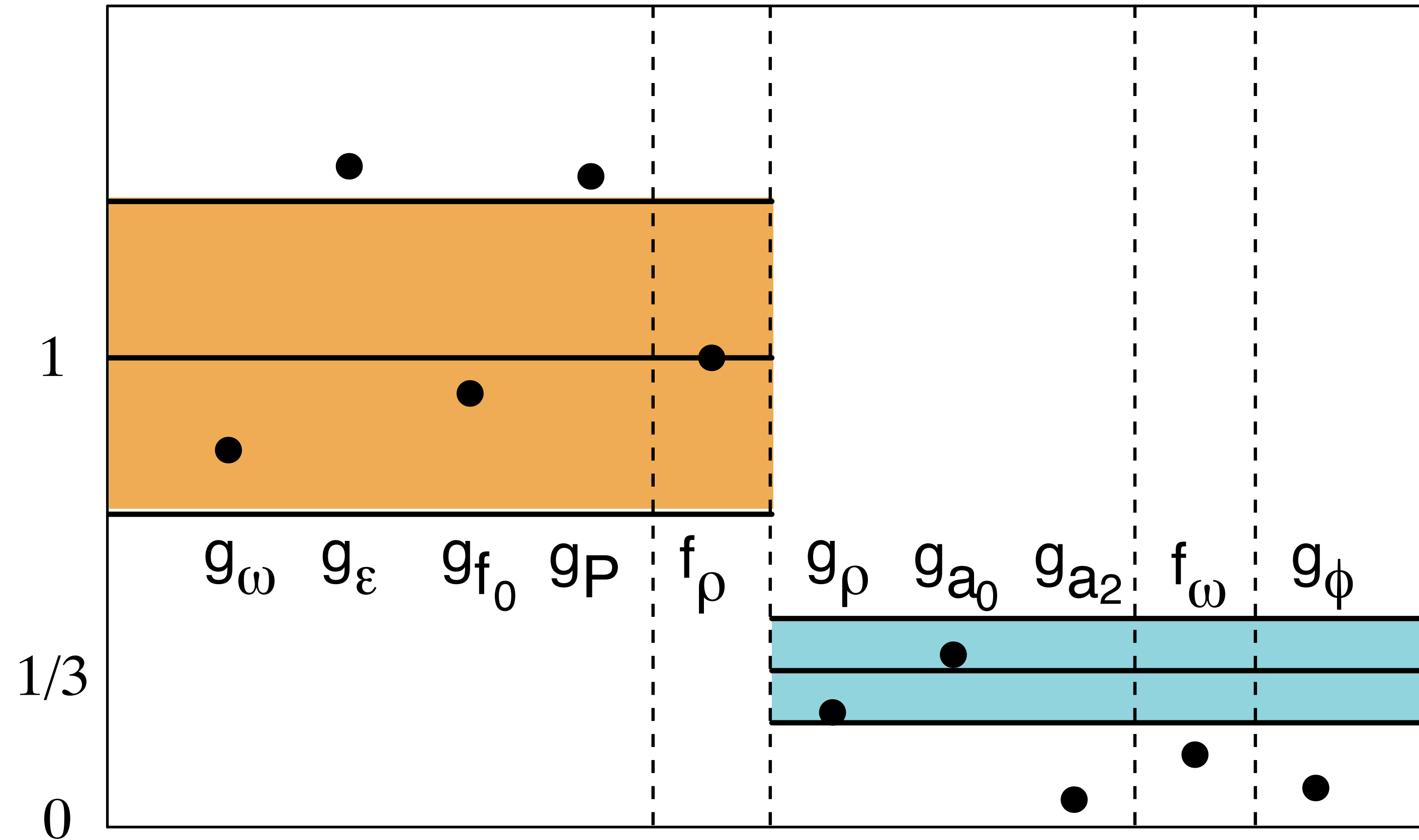
$$V_0^0 \sim N_c$$

$$V_0^1 \sim 1/N_c$$

$$V_\sigma^0 \sim 1/N_c$$

$$V_\sigma^1 \sim N_c$$

# Large- $N_c$ scaling vs Nijmegen



# Pionless EFT

- Very low energies
- Only nucleons and external fields
- LO: S-wave interactions

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}C_S (N^\dagger N)(N^\dagger N) - \frac{1}{2}C_T (N^\dagger \sigma^i N)(N^\dagger \sigma^i N)$$

- LECs  $C_S$ ,  $C_T$  assumed “natural” in EFT
- Alternatively: partial-wave basis

$$C^{({}^1S_0)} = (C_S - 3C_T), \quad C^{({}^3S_1)} = (C_S + C_T)$$

# Pionless EFT and the large- $N_c$ expansion

- Spin-isospin structure of operators

$$(N^\dagger N)(N^\dagger N) \sim 1_1 \cdot 1_2 \quad (N^\dagger \sigma^i N)(N^\dagger \sigma^i N) \sim \hat{S}_1 \cdot \hat{S}_2$$

- Large- $N_c$  scaling of LECs

$$C_S \sim O(N_c) \quad C_T \sim O(1/N_c)$$

- In large- $N_c$  limit

$$C^{(^1S_0)} = C^{(^3S_1)}$$

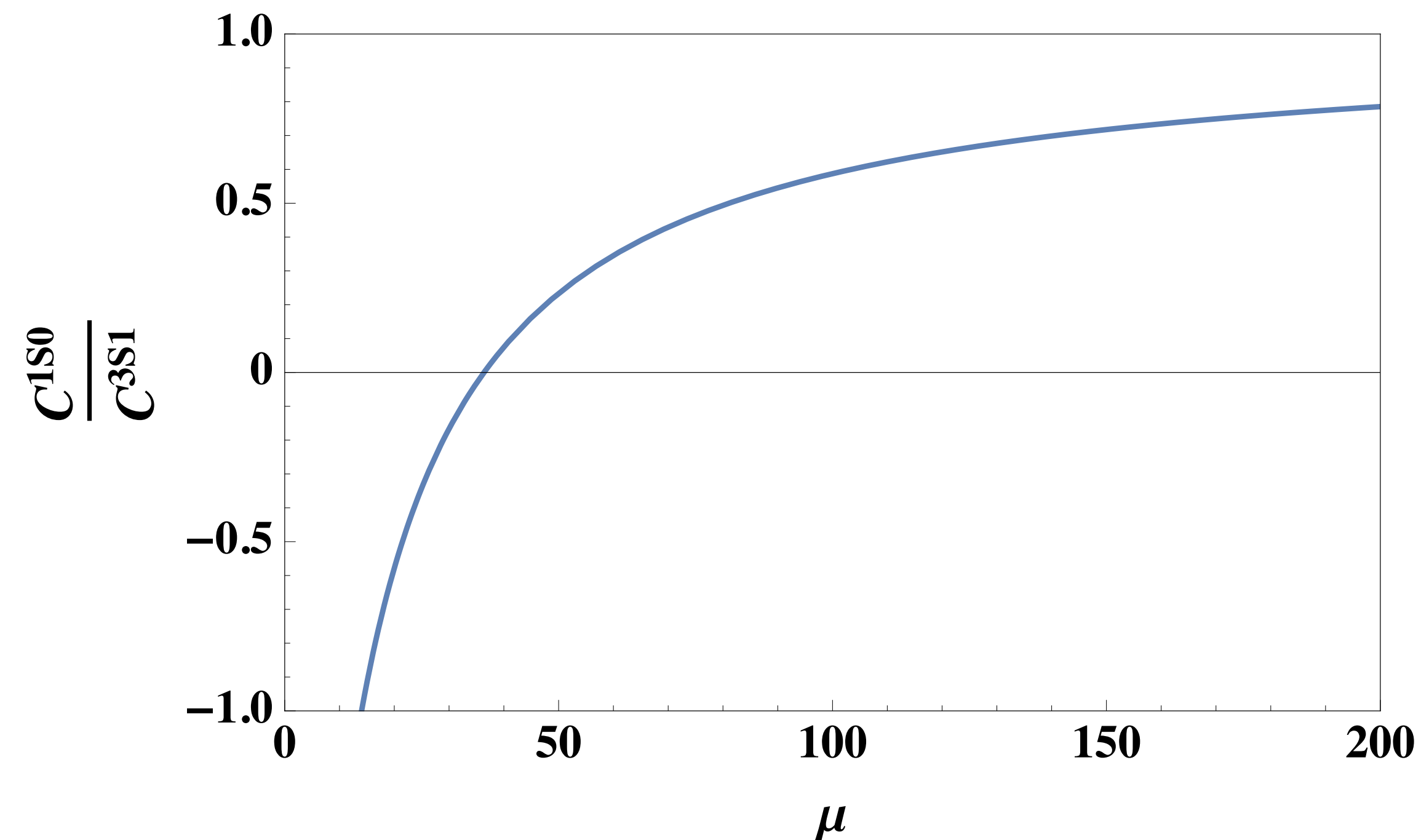
- Wigner SU(4) symmetry (in  $S$  waves)

# Renormalization-point dependence

- In PDS renormalization

$$\frac{C^{1S_0}}{C^{3S_1}} = \frac{1/a^{3S_1} - \mu}{1/a^{1S_0} - \mu} \xrightarrow{\mu \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^{1S_0}}{a^{3S_1}} \approx -4.4$$

- Agreement with large- $N_c$  expected errors for  $\mu \gtrsim m_\pi$



# Higher orders in pionless EFT

- Two-derivative operators:  $S$  waves,  $P$  waves,  $S$ - $D$  mixing
- Fit to phase shifts and mixing parameter ( $\mu=120$  MeV)

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 C_{1.1} = (-0.58 \pm 0.11) \text{ fm}^4, & C_{G.G} = (0.40 \pm 0.05) \text{ fm}^4, & C'_{G.G} = (0.84 \pm 0.05) \text{ fm}^4 \\
 C_{\tau.\tau} = (0.15 \pm 0.07) \text{ fm}^4, & C_{\sigma.\sigma} = (-0.39 \pm 0.07) \text{ fm}^4, & C'_{\sigma.\sigma} = (0.78 \pm 0.1) \text{ fm}^4 \\
 \overleftrightarrow{C}_{1.\sigma} = (-0.17 \pm 0.12) \text{ fm}^4 & & 
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{lll}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{LO} \\ \text{NLO} \end{array}$$

- Fit to phase shifts and increase mixing parameter by factor of 3

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 C_{1.1} = (-0.59 \pm 0.10) \text{ fm}^4, & C_{G.G} = (0.11 \pm 0.06) \text{ fm}^4, & C'_{G.G} = (1.72 \pm 0.13) \text{ fm}^4 \\
 C_{\tau.\tau} = (0.16 \pm 0.07) \text{ fm}^4, & C_{\sigma.\sigma} = (-0.10 \pm 0.08) \text{ fm}^4, & C'_{\sigma.\sigma} = (-0.10 \pm 0.16) \text{ fm}^4 \\
 \overleftrightarrow{C}_{1.\sigma} = (-0.17 \pm 0.12) \text{ fm}^4 & & 
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{lll}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{LO} \\ \text{NLO} \end{array}$$

- Other physics can impact size of LECs

# Magnetic couplings in pionless EFT

- NN contact terms coupled to magnetic field  $B$

$$\mathcal{L} = eB_i \left[ \not{n} L_1 (N^T P_i N)^\dagger (N^T \bar{P}_3 N) - i\epsilon^{ijk} \not{n} L_2 (N^T P_j N)^\dagger (N^T P_k N) \right] + \text{h.c.}$$

$P_i/\bar{P}_a$ : projection onto  ${}^3S_1/{}^1S_0$  partial waves

- Contributions to
  - $\not{n} L_1$ : radiative neutron capture  $np \rightarrow d\gamma$
  - $\not{n} L_2$ : deuteron magnetic moment

# Naturalness?

- Extracted values at  $\mu = m_\pi$

$${}^\pi L_1 = 7.24 \text{ fm}^4, \quad {}^\pi L_2 = -0.149 \text{ fm}^4$$

- ${}^\pi L_2$  “significantly smaller than the naively estimated size of  $\sim 1 \text{ fm}^4$ ”
- Simultaneously natural?

$$\left| \frac{{}^\pi L_2}{{}^\pi L_1} \right|_{\text{exp}} \approx 0.021$$



# Large- $N_c$ scaling

- Scaling not manifest in partial-wave basis
- “Large- $N_c$ ” basis

$$\mathcal{L} = eB^i \left[ C_s^{(M)} (N^\dagger \sigma^i N) (N^\dagger N) + C_v^{(M)} \epsilon^{ijk} \epsilon^{3ab} (N^\dagger \sigma^j \tau^a N) (N^\dagger \sigma^k \tau^b N) \right]$$

- Large- $N_c$  scaling of LECs
  - Isoscalar:  $C_s^{(M)} \sim O(N_c^0)$
  - Isovector:  $C_v^{(M)} \sim O(N_c)$

# Naturalness again

- LECs in different bases related by Fierz transformations

$$\not\# L_1 = 8C_v^{(M)} \quad \not\# L_2 = -C_s^{(M)}$$

- Numerical values at  $\mu = m_\pi$

$$C_s^{(M)} = 0.149 \text{ fm}^4 \quad C_v^{(M)} = 0.905 \text{ fm}^4$$

- Assume  $|C_v^{(M)}| \sim N_c |C_s^{(M)}|$ :

$$\left| \frac{\not\# L_2}{\not\# L_1} \right|_{N_c} \approx \frac{1}{8N_c} \approx 0.042 \quad \text{vs} \quad \left| \frac{\not\# L_2}{\not\# L_1} \right|_{\text{exp}} \approx 0.021$$

- Consistent to consider both  $C_v^{(M)}$  and  $C_s^{(M)}$  natural with large- $N_c$  suppression

# Axial-NN LECs

- General axial external fields

$$\mathcal{L} = A^{ia} L_{1,A} (N^T P_i N)^\dagger (N^T \bar{P}_a N) + \text{h.c.} - 2i\epsilon^{ijk} L_{2,A} A^i (N^T P_j N)^\dagger (N^T P_k N)$$

- $L_{1,A}$ : proton-proton fusion, neutrino-deuteron reactions, tritium  $\beta$ -decay

$$L_{1,A}^{\text{NPLQCD}}(\mu = m_\pi) = 3.9(0.2)(1.0)(0.4)(0.9) \text{ fm}^3$$

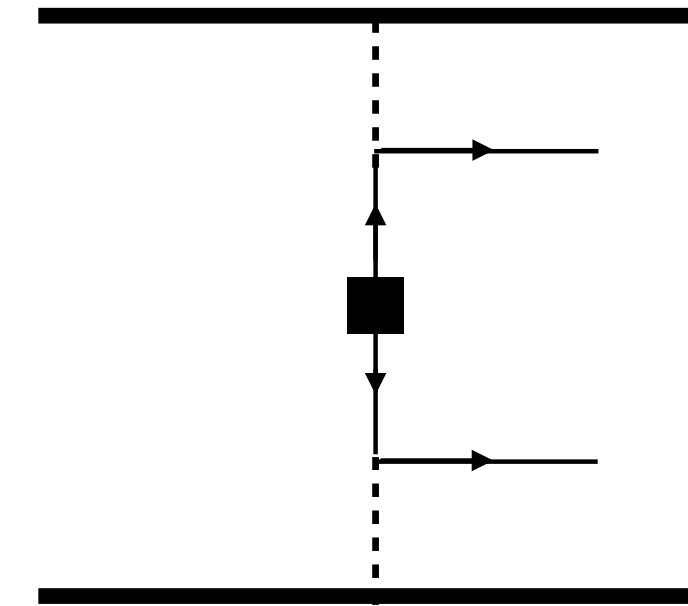
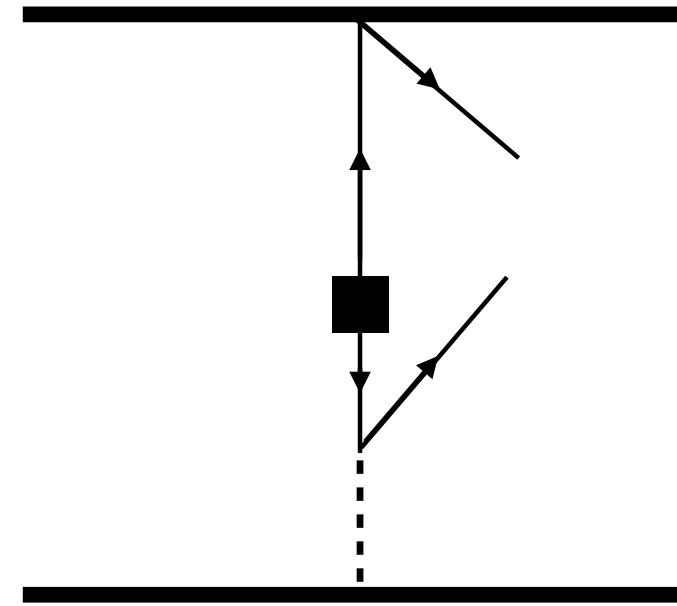
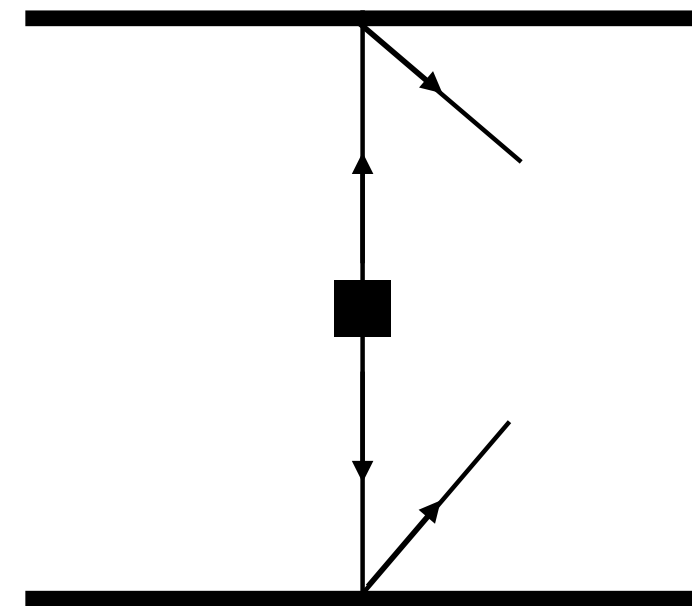
- $L_{2,A}$ : neutrino-deuteron reactions (negligible), deuteron strange axial form factor

- Assuming  $|C_v^{(A)}| \approx N_c |C_s^{(A)}|$

$$|L_{2,A}| \sim 0.16 \text{ fm}^3$$

# Neutrinoless double beta decay in chiral EFT

- Light Majorana neutrino exchange mechanism
- Long-range contributions to LO “neutrino potential”
  - direct neutrino exchange
  - neutrino exchange via pions

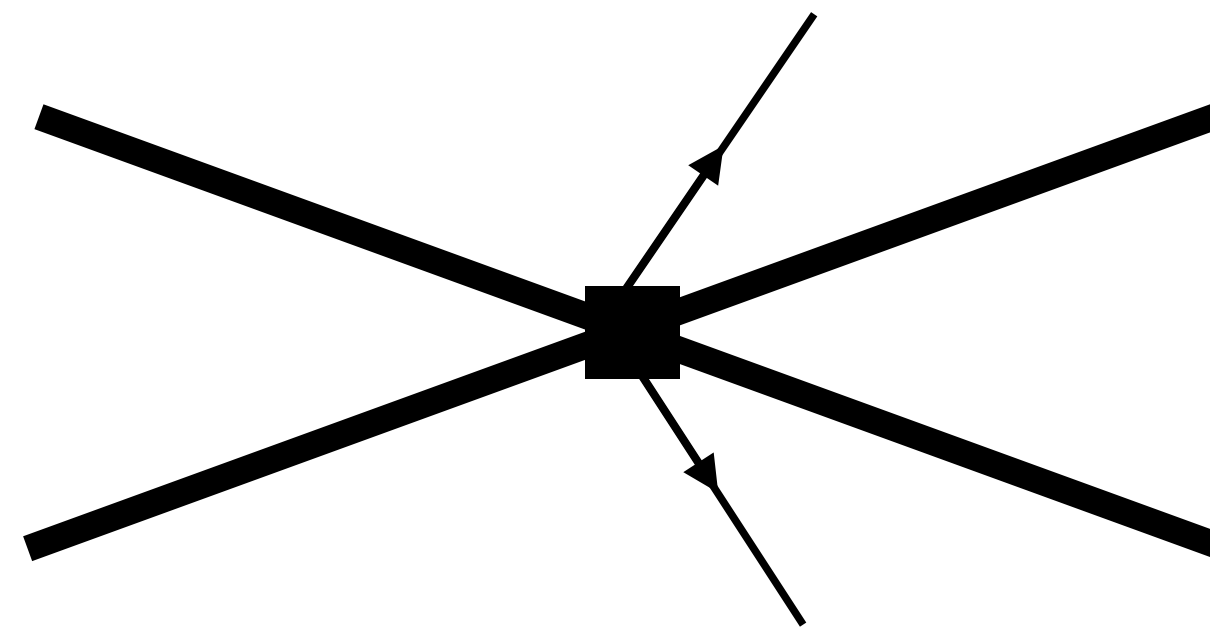


# Contact term for neutrinoless double beta decay

- For  $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1S_0$  transition

$$V_{\nu,L}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{\tau_1^+ \tau_2^+}{\mathbf{q}^2} \left[ 1 + 2g_A^2 + \frac{g_A^2 m_\pi^4}{(\mathbf{q}^2 + m_\pi^2)^2} \right]$$

- Evaluation between  $^1S_0$   $nn$  and  $pp$  states  $\rightarrow$  regulator dependence
- New short-range contribution  $V_{\nu,S}$  with new LEC  $g_\nu^{NN}$



$g_{\nu}^{NN}$

- Encodes short-range contribution from light Majorana exchange
- Previously not considered
- Determination would require data and/or lattice QCD
- Related to charge-independence-breaking (CIB) LEC  $C_1$  by chiral symmetry
- $C_1$  currently not determined, only linear combination  $C_1 + C_2$  with second CIB LEC  $C_2$
- $C_1 - C_2$  sensitive to two-nucleon–multipion interactions
- Numerical impact estimated by assumption  $g_{\nu}^{NN} \approx (C_1 + C_2)/2$

# $g_\nu^{NN}$ and large $N_c$

- Contact term Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\Delta L=2}^{NN} = \left(2\sqrt{2}G_F V_{ud}\right)^2 m_{\beta\beta} \bar{e}_L C \bar{e}_L^T \frac{g_\nu^{NN}}{4} \left[ \left(\bar{N} u \tilde{Q}_L^w u^\dagger N\right)^2 - \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr}(\tilde{Q}_L^w \tilde{Q}_L^w) (\bar{N} \tau^a N)^2 \right] + \text{H.c.}$$

with  $\tilde{Q}_L^w = \tau^+ = (\tau^1 + i\tau^2)/2$

- Fierz relationship

$$(N^\dagger \sigma^i \tau^+ N)^2 = -3 (N^\dagger \tau^+ N)^2$$

- $g_\nu^{NN}$  is LO in large- $N_c$  expansion
- So what?

# CIB Lagrangian and large $N_c$

- Construct most general CIB Lagrangian with two EM spurion insertions
- Determine large- $N_c$  scaling of each term
- Reduce to minimal set using Fierz identities, trace identities, etc
- Isotensor Lagrangian at LO and NLO in  $N_c$  expansion

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LO-in-}N_c}^{\Delta I=2} = -3e^2 \bar{\mathcal{C}}_3 \left[ \left( N^\dagger \tilde{Q}_+ N \right)^2 - \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr}(\tilde{Q}_+^2) \left( N^\dagger \tau^a N \right)^2 \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NLO-in-}N_c}^{\Delta I=2} = -3e^2 \bar{\mathcal{C}}_6 \left[ \left( N^\dagger \tilde{Q}_- N \right)^2 - \frac{1}{6} \text{Tr}(\tilde{Q}_-^2) \left( N^\dagger \tau^a N \right)^2 \right]$$

with  $\tilde{Q}_\pm = \frac{1}{4} [u^\dagger \tau^3 u \pm u \tau^3 u^\dagger]$



# Justification for approximation

- Comparison with Lagrangian of Cirigliano et al. gives

$$C_1 = -3\bar{C}_3 - 3\bar{C}_6 = -3\bar{C}_3 [1 + O(1/N_c)]$$

$$C_2 = -3\bar{C}_3 + 3\bar{C}_6 = -3\bar{C}_3 [1 + O(1/N_c)]$$

- Supports assumption  $g_\nu^{NN} \approx (C_1 + C_2)/2$
- Also supported by independent calculation using analog to Cottingham formula

# Conclusions

- Large- $N_c$  analysis
  - Captures nonperturbative QCD effects
  - Based on symmetry in baryon sector
  - Constraints in absence of data
  - Trends, not predictions
  - Only upper limits on size
  - Other scales can impact relative sizes

# Conclusions

- Other applications
  - Three-nucleon interactions
  - Parity-violating NN interactions
  - Time-reversal-invariance-violating NN interactions
  - Two-nucleon EM and axial current operators
  - Dark matter couplings



*Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science*

Implications of Large- $N_c$

QCD for the  $NN$

Interaction

Thomas R. Richardson,<sup>1,2</sup> Matthias R. Schindler,<sup>3</sup>  
and Roxanne P. Springer<sup>2</sup>

# Parity-violating NN interactions

- Manifestation of PV quark interactions at hadronic level
- Interplay of weak and nonperturbative strong interactions
- Range of weak interactions  $\sim 0.002$  fm
- Relative strength in NN case  $\sim G_F m_\pi^2 \approx 10^{-7}$
- Very low energies (pionless EFT): five S-P transition operators

$$\mathcal{C}({}^3S_1 - {}^1P_1), \quad \mathcal{C}_{(\Delta I=0)}({}^1S_0 - {}^3P_0), \quad \mathcal{C}_{(\Delta I=1)}({}^1S_0 - {}^3P_0), \quad \mathcal{C}_{(\Delta I=2)}({}^1S_0 - {}^3P_0), \quad \mathcal{C}({}^3S_1 - {}^3P_1)$$

# PV NN interactions in the large- $N_c$ expansion

- General operators structure

▸ LO in  $N_c$  [ $\mathcal{O}(N_c)$ ]

$$\mathbf{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \times \vec{\sigma}_2) \vec{\tau}_1 \cdot \vec{\tau}_2$$

$$\mathbf{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \times \vec{\sigma}_2) [\tau_1 \tau_2]_2^{zz}$$

▸ NLO in  $N_c$  [ $\mathcal{O}(N_c^0)$ ]

$$\mathbf{p}_+ \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \tau_1^3 - \vec{\sigma}_2 \tau_2^3)$$

$$\mathbf{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 + \vec{\sigma}_2) (\vec{\tau}_1 \times \vec{\tau}_2)^3$$

$$\mathbf{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \times \vec{\sigma}_2) (\vec{\tau}_1 + \vec{\tau}_2)^3$$

$$[(\mathbf{p}_+ \times \mathbf{p}_-) \cdot \vec{\sigma}_1 \mathbf{p}_- \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 + (\mathbf{p}_+ \times \mathbf{p}_-) \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 \mathbf{p}_- \cdot \vec{\sigma}_1] (\vec{\tau}_1 \times \vec{\tau}_2)^3$$

# Parity violation in pionless EFT + large $N_c$

- Comparison with pionless EFT Lagrangian  $\rightarrow$  three terms at LO-in- $N_c$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}^{(^3S_1-^1P_1)} &\sim N_c & \mathcal{C}_{(\Delta I=0)}^{(^1S_0-^3P_0)} &\sim N_c & \mathcal{C}_{(\Delta I=2)}^{(^1S_0-^3P_0)} &\sim N_c \\ \mathcal{C}_{(\Delta I=1)}^{(^1S_0-^3P_0)} &\sim N_c^0 & \mathcal{C}^{(^3S_1-^3P_1)} &\sim N_c^0 \end{aligned}$$

- EFT Lagrangian forms minimal set of operators
- Different terms related by Fierz transformations

$$\mathcal{C}^{(^3S_1-^1P_1)} = 3 \mathcal{C}_{(\Delta I=0)}^{(^1S_0-^3P_0)} \left[ 1 + O(1/N_c^2) \right]$$

# 1/N<sub>c</sub> expansion of TV potential

- Leading order  $O(N_c)$

$$\vec{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \tau_1^z - \vec{\sigma}_2 \tau_2^z)$$

- Next-to-leading order  $O(N_c^0)$

$$\vec{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 - \vec{\sigma}_2)$$

$$\vec{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 - \vec{\sigma}_2) \vec{\tau}_1 \cdot \vec{\tau}_2$$

$$\vec{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 - \vec{\sigma}_2) [\tau_1 \tau_2]_2^{zz}$$

$$\vec{p}_+ \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \times \vec{\sigma}_2) [\tau_1 \tau_2]_2^{zz}$$

$$\vec{p}_+ \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \times \vec{\sigma}_2) \vec{\tau}_1 \cdot \vec{\tau}_2$$



# 1/N<sub>c</sub> expansion of TV potential

- Next-to-next-leading order  $O(N_c^{-1})$

$$\vec{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \tau_2^z - \vec{\sigma}_2 \tau_1^z)$$

$$\vec{p}_+^2 \vec{p}_- \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \tau_1^z - \vec{\sigma}_2 \tau_2^z)$$

$$\vec{p}_+ \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 + \vec{\sigma}_2) (\vec{\tau}_1 \times \vec{\tau}_2)^z$$

$$\vec{p}_+ \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 \times \vec{\sigma}_2) (\vec{\tau}_1 + \vec{\tau}_2)^z$$

$$[(\vec{p}_+ \times \vec{p}_-) \vec{p}_-]_2^{ij} \cdot [\sigma_1 \sigma_2]_2^{ij} (\vec{\tau}_1 - \vec{\tau}_2)^z$$

$$[(\vec{p}_+ \times \vec{p}_-) \vec{p}_+]_2^{ij} \cdot [\sigma_1, \sigma_2]_2^{ij} (\vec{\tau}_1 \times \vec{\tau}_2)^z$$

- Can be multiplied by functions of  $\vec{p}_-^2$
- No Fierz identities imposed

# Chiral EFT for T violation

- LO TV potential

$$\begin{aligned} V_{T\bar{p}}^{\text{EFT}} = & -i \frac{\bar{C}_1}{2} (\vec{\sigma}_1 - \vec{\sigma}_2) \cdot \vec{p}_- \\ & - i \left( \frac{g_A [\bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} - \bar{g}_\pi^{(2)}]}{2F_\pi} \frac{1}{(\vec{p}_-^2 + M_\pi^2)} + \frac{\bar{C}_2}{2} \right) \vec{\tau}_1 \cdot \vec{\tau}_2 (\vec{\sigma}_1 - \vec{\sigma}_2) \cdot \vec{p}_- \\ & - i \frac{g_A \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)}}{2F_\pi} \frac{1}{(\vec{p}_-^2 + M_\pi^2)} (\vec{\sigma}_1 \tau_1^z - \vec{\sigma}_2 \tau_2^z) \cdot \vec{p}_- \end{aligned}$$

- Large- $N_c$  scalings

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} & \sim N_c^{1/2} \\ \bar{C}_1, \bar{C}_2 & \sim N_c^0 \\ \bar{g}_\pi^{(0,2)} & \sim N_c^{-1/2} \end{aligned}$$

# T violation summary

- One-pion exchange LO in  $N_c$
- $\bar{g}_\pi^{(1)} > \bar{g}_\pi^{(0)} \sim \bar{g}_\pi^{(2)}$
- Suppression at NLO only  $1/N_c$
- Expansion in given isospin sector in  $1/N_c^2$
- Independent of/complementary to
  - Chiral suppressions
  - Hierarchy at quark level
  - ...
- Also applied to meson-exchange models, pionless EFT