Short-range correlations in similarity renormalization group calculations

Anthony Tropiano¹

Scott Bogner², Dick Furnstahl³, Mostofa Hisham³, Alessandro Lovato¹, Bob Wiringa¹

¹Argonne National Laboratory, ²Michigan State University, ³Ohio State University

Short-distance nuclear structure and pdfs

ECT* - Trento, Italy

July 18, 2023





Some references:

AJT et al., Phys. Rev. C **104**, 034311 (2021) AJT et al., Phys. Rev. C 106, 024324 (2022) M. A. Hisham et al., Phys. Rev. C 106, 024616 (2022)

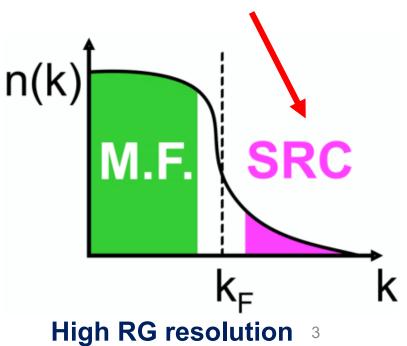
Short-range correlation physics

- How are short-range correlations defined?
 - Depends on the renormalization group (RG) resolution scale!
 - RG resolution scale is set by Λ in the Hamiltonian $H(\Lambda)$
 - $\Lambda \sim max$ momenta in low-energy wave functions

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 - $\Lambda \sim max$ momenta in low-energy wave functions
- SRC physics at high RG resolution
 - SRC pairs are components in the nuclear wave function with relative momenta well above the Fermi momentum k_F and CM momentum $< k_F$

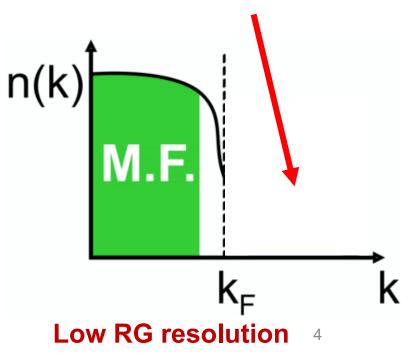
High-momentum tail is required for a high-resolution description



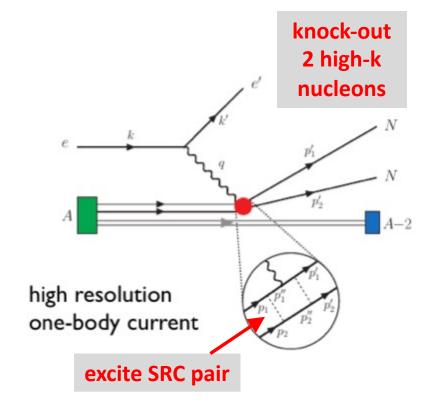
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- SRC physics at high RG resolution
 - SRC pairs are components in the nuclear wave function with relative momenta well above the Fermi momentum k_F and CM momentum $< k_F$
- SRC physics at low RG resolution
 - The SRC *physics* is shifted into the reaction operators from the nuclear wave function (which becomes soft)

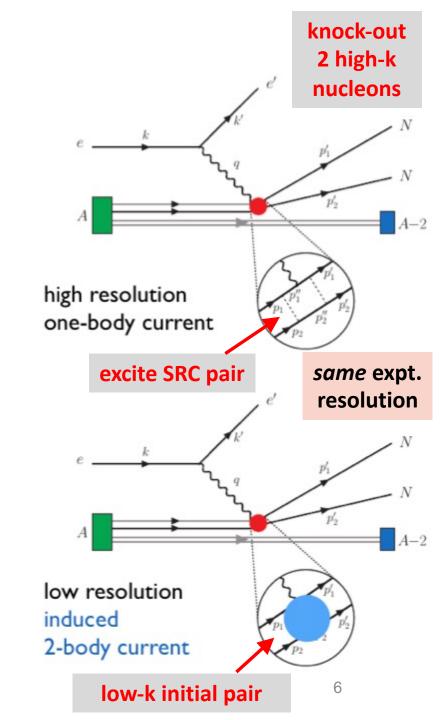
No high-momentum tail in ab initio low RG resolution approaches!



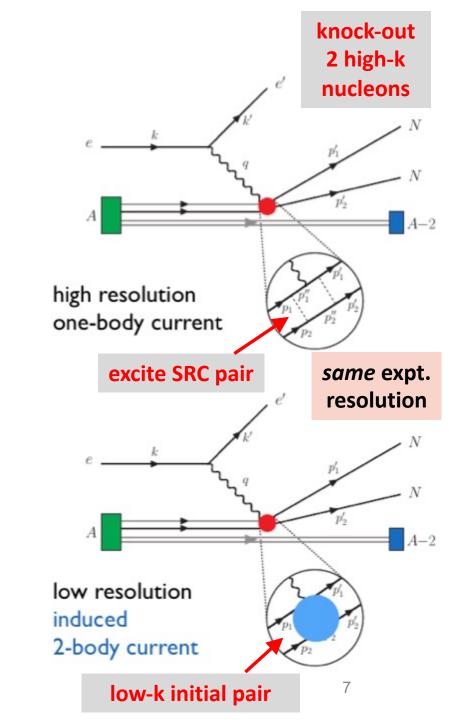
High RG resolution: One-body current operators with correlated wave functions



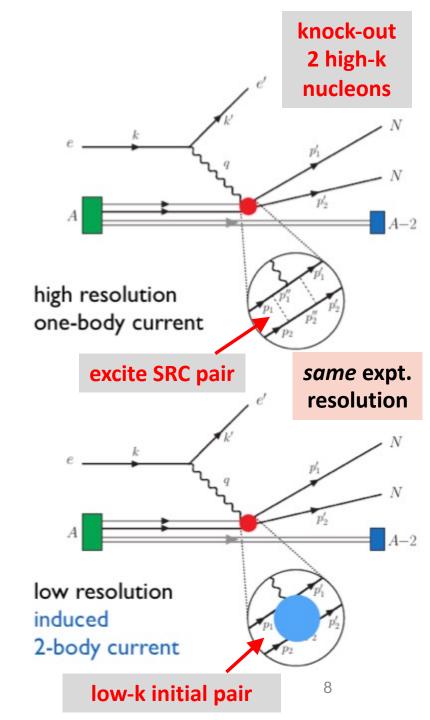
- High RG resolution: One-body current operators with correlated wave functions
- Low RG resolution: Two-body current operators with uncorrelated wave functions
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- Experimental resolution (set by momentum of probe) is the same in both pictures
- Same observables but different physical interpretation!

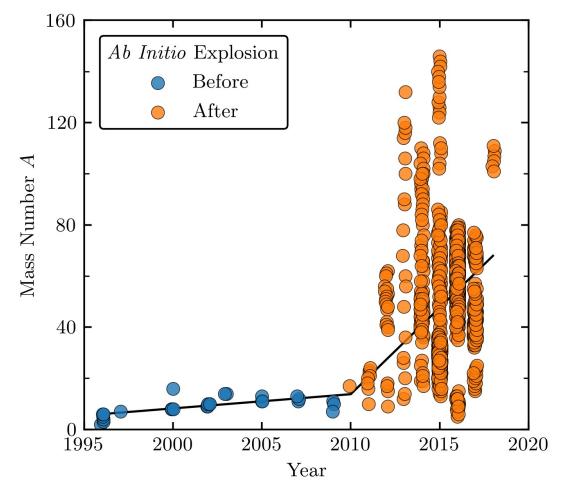


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 - Operators do NOT become hard, which simplifies calculations!
- Experimental resolution (set by momentum of probe) is the same in both pictures
- Same observables but different physical interpretation!
- This talk:
 - How can SRC calculations be carried out at low RG resolution?
 - Momentum distributions, SRC phenomenology, and the quasideuteron model at low RG resolution
 - Scale/scheme dependence of the NN interaction and matching different interactions



Why RG?

- RG transformed nuclear potentials facilitate many-body methods
- Apply low RG approach to nuclear reactions (much less developed)
- Allows for consistent treatments of structure and reaction models for reliable comparison to experiment

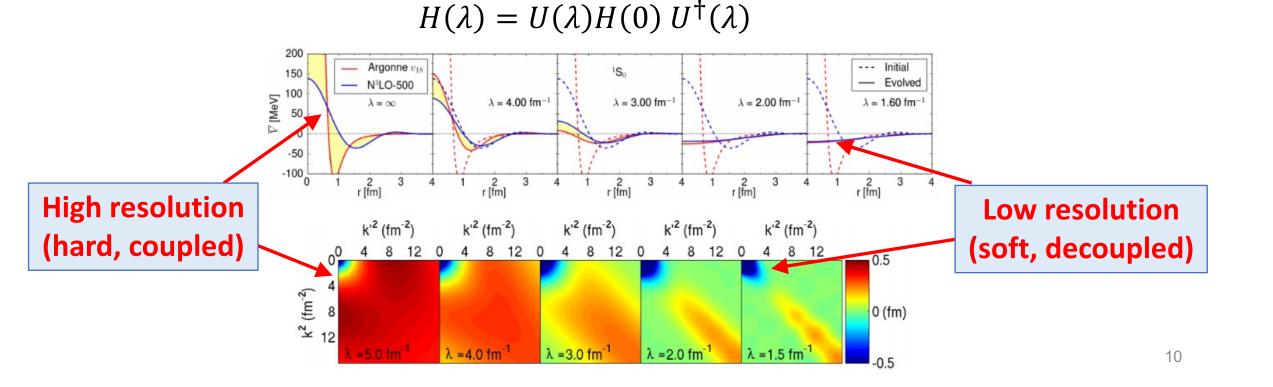


Progression of *ab initio* calculations with respect to mass number A. Figure from Heiko Hergert and Jordan Melendez.

Must treat everything at the same RG resolution scale!

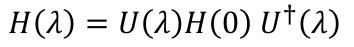
$$\rightarrow \langle \psi_f | \hat{O} | \psi_i \rangle$$

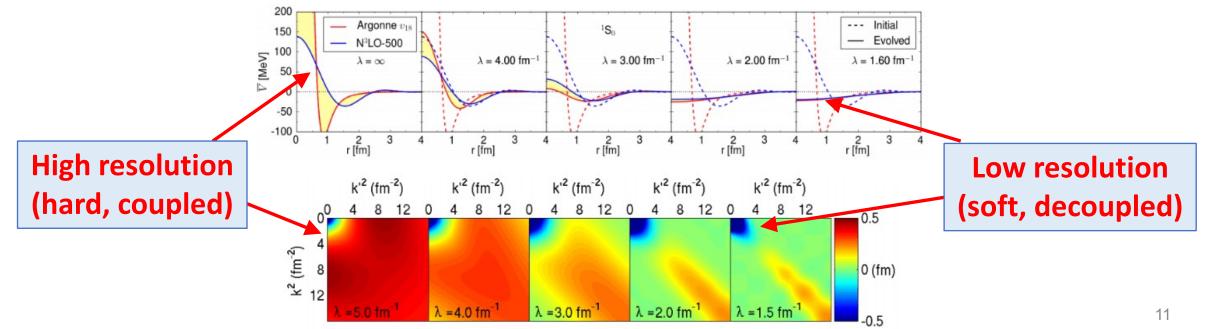
- Evolve to low RG resolution using the similarity RG (SRG)
- SRG transformations decouple high- and low-momenta in the Hamiltonian
- RG resolution scale given by λ



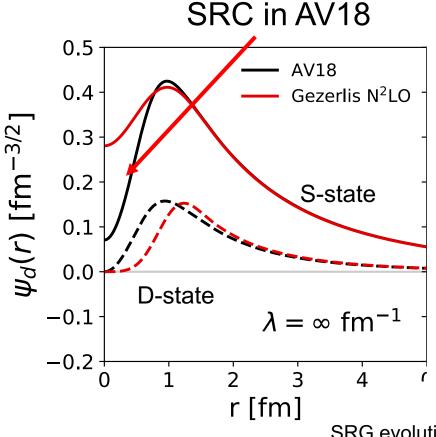
- Evolve to low
- SRG transfor
- RG resolution
- Low-energy states do not retain high momentum components
- Transformations are unitary so observables are preserved

the Hamiltonian



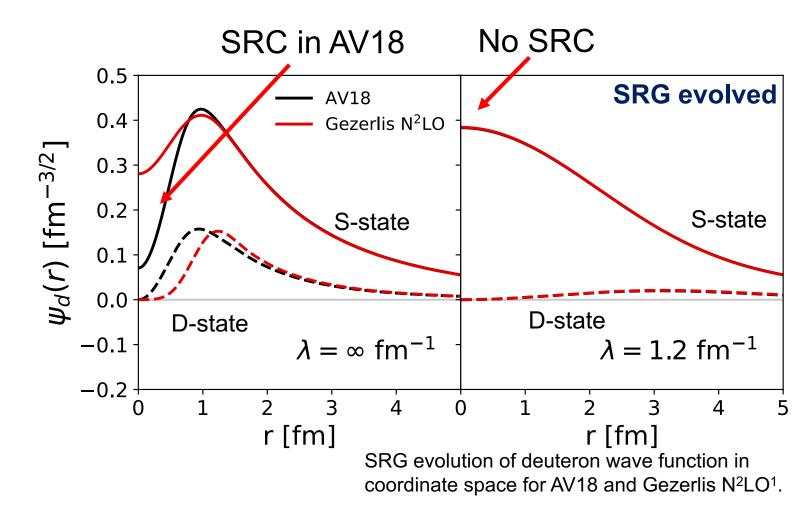


- AV18 wave function has significant SRC
- What happens to the wave function under SRG transformation?



SRG evolution of deuteron wave function in coordinate space for AV18 and Gezerlis N²LO¹.

- SRC physics in AV18 is gone from wave function at low RG resolution
- Deuteron wave functions become soft and D-state probability goes down
- Observables such as asymptotic D-S ratio are the same

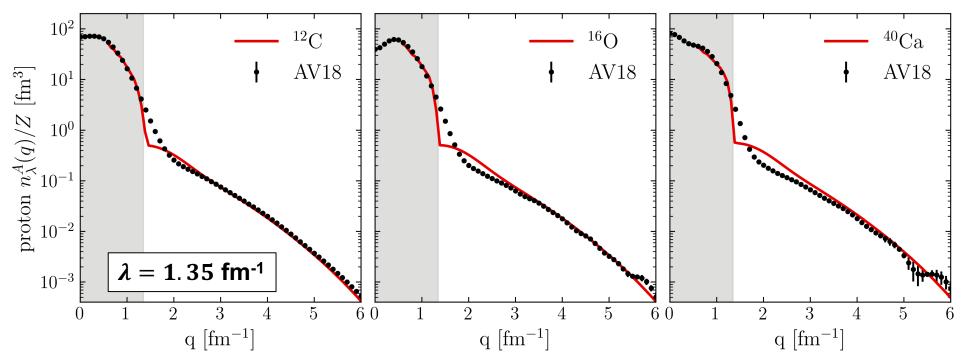


Operator evolution

- Soft wave functions at low RG resolution
 - Where does the SRC physics go?
- SRC physics shifts to the operators $\langle \psi_f^{hi} | U_{\lambda}^{\dagger} U_{\lambda} O^{hi} U_{\lambda}^{\dagger} U_{\lambda} | \psi_i^{hi} \rangle = \langle \psi_f^{low} | O^{low} | \psi_i^{low} \rangle$
- Apply SRG transformations to momentum distribution operator

$$n^{hi}(\boldsymbol{q}) = a_{\boldsymbol{q}}^{\dagger} a_{\boldsymbol{q}}$$
$$U_{\lambda} = 1 + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\boldsymbol{K}, \boldsymbol{k}, \boldsymbol{k}'} \delta U_{\lambda}^{(2)}(\boldsymbol{k}, \boldsymbol{k}') a_{\underline{K}}^{\dagger} a_{\underline{K}}^{\dagger} a_{\underline{K}}^{\dagger} a_{\underline{K}}^{\dagger} a_{\underline{K}}^{\dagger} + \cdots$$

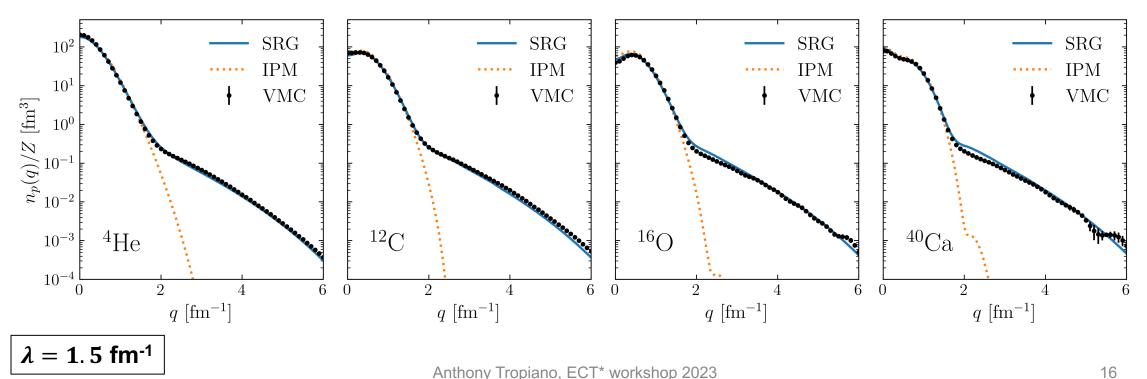
- Approximate low RG resolution wavefunction:
 - Hartree-Fock treated in a local density approximation
- Decent agreement with VMC calculations¹ (high RG resolution)



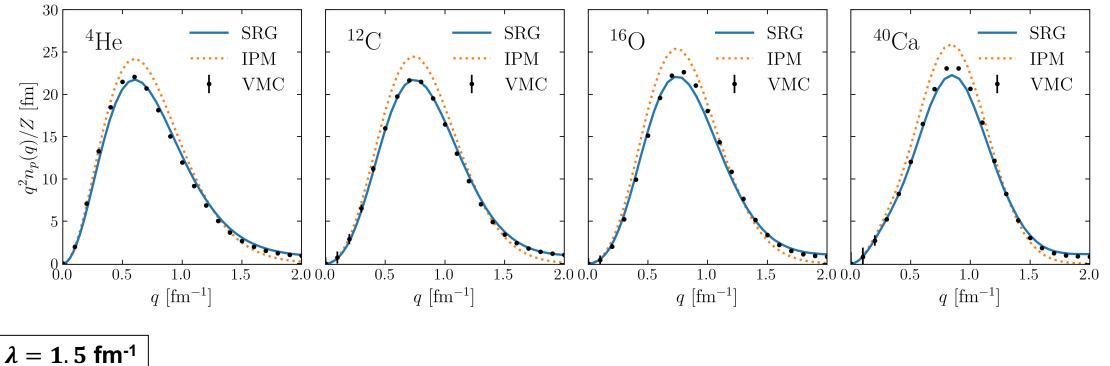
Proton momentum distributions for ¹²C, ¹⁶O, and ⁴⁰Ca under HF+LDA with AV18, $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹, and densities from Skyrme EDF SLy4 using the HFBRAD code².

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- Approximate low RG resolution wavefunction:
 - Single Slater determinant of Woods-Saxon single-particle orbitals
- Good reproduction of full VMC calculations



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0.5

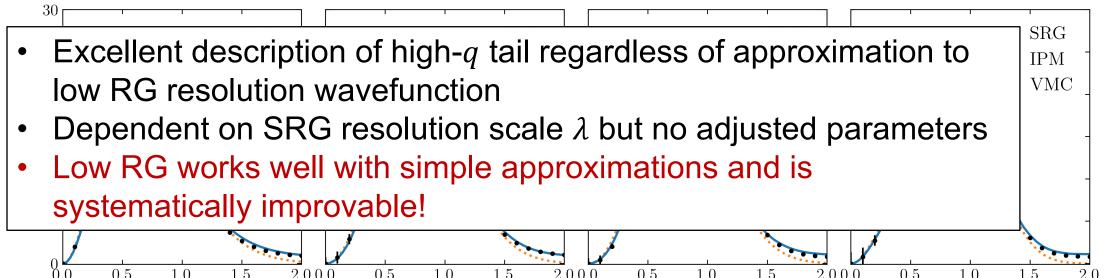
 $\lambda = 1.5 \, \text{fm}^{-1}$

1.0

 $q \, [{\rm fm}^{-1}]$

1.5

 $2.0\,0.0$



 $2.0\,0.0$

0.5

1.5

1.0

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 $2.0\ 0.0$

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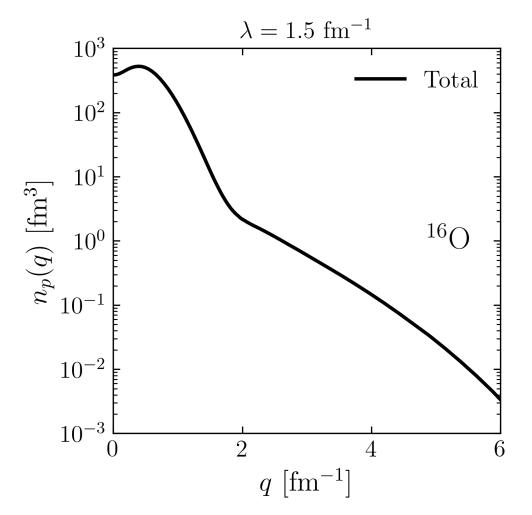
1.0

 $q \, [{\rm fm}^{-1}]$

1.5

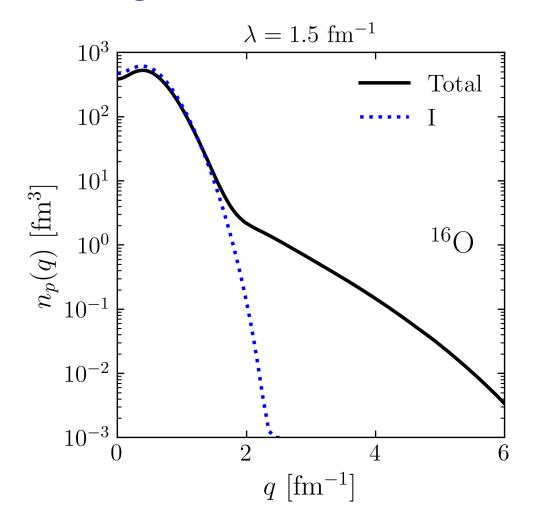
2.0

1.5



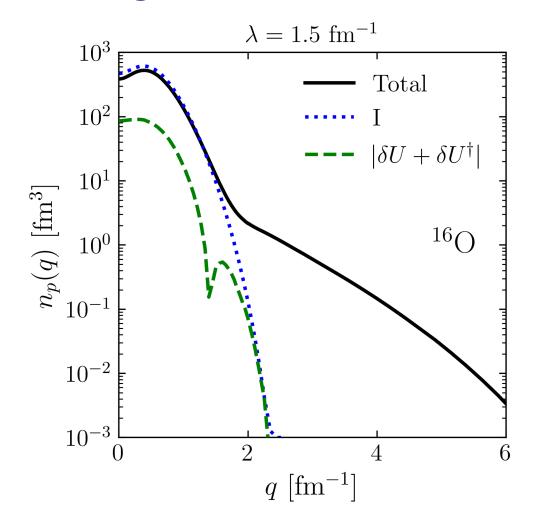
$$n^{lo}(\boldsymbol{q}) = (1 + \delta U)a_{\boldsymbol{q}}^{\dagger}a_{\boldsymbol{q}}(1 + \delta U^{\dagger})$$

 $\langle \psi_A^{hi} | a_q^{\dagger} a_q | \psi_A^{hi} \rangle$



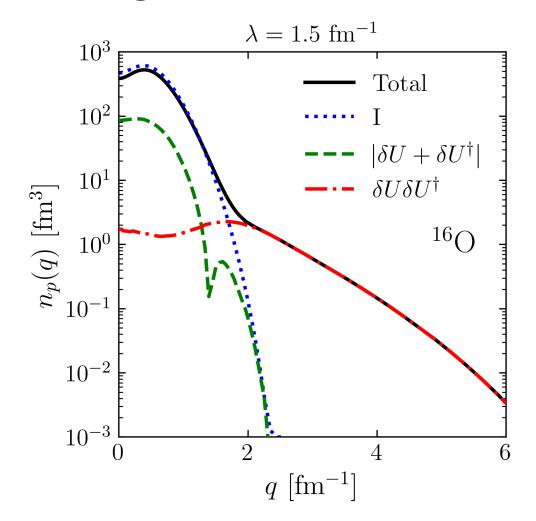
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 $\begin{array}{l} \left\langle \psi_{A}^{hi} \middle| a_{q}^{\dagger} a_{q} \middle| \psi_{A}^{hi} \right\rangle \\ \left\langle \psi_{A}^{lo} \middle| a_{q}^{\dagger} a_{q} \middle| \psi_{A}^{lo} \right\rangle \end{array}$



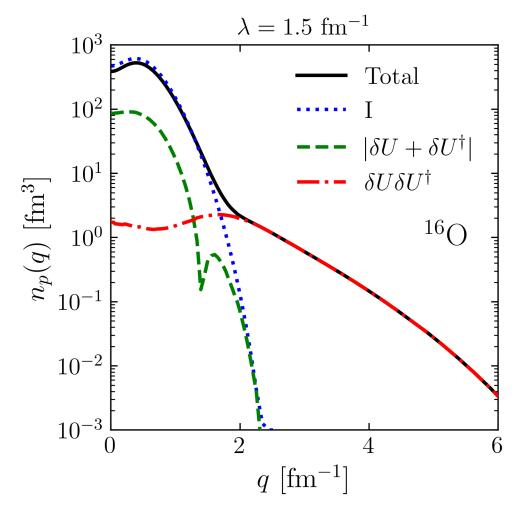
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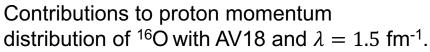
 $\begin{array}{c} \left\langle \psi_{A}^{hi} \middle| a_{q}^{\dagger} a_{q} \middle| \psi_{A}^{hi} \right\rangle \\ \left\langle \psi_{A}^{lo} \middle| a_{q}^{\dagger} a_{q} \middle| \psi_{A}^{lo} \right\rangle \\ \left\langle \psi_{A}^{lo} \middle| \delta U a_{q}^{\dagger} a_{q} + a_{q}^{\dagger} a_{q} \delta U^{\dagger} \middle| \psi_{A}^{lo} \right\rangle \end{array}$

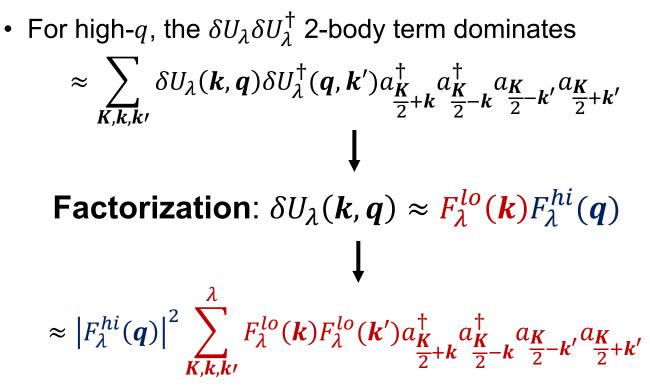


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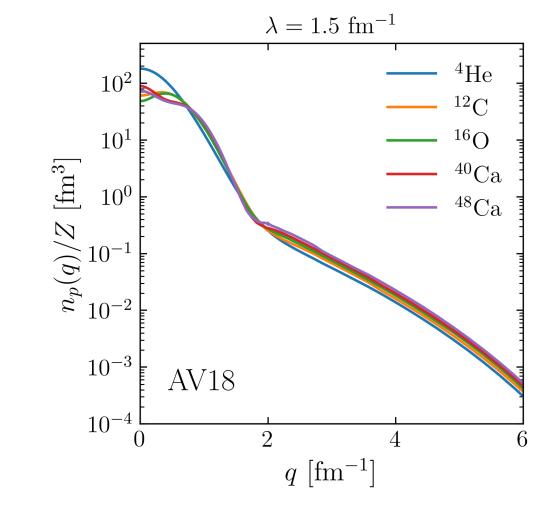
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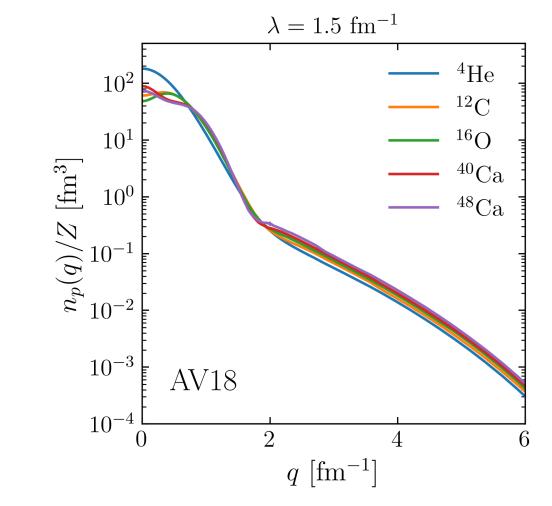


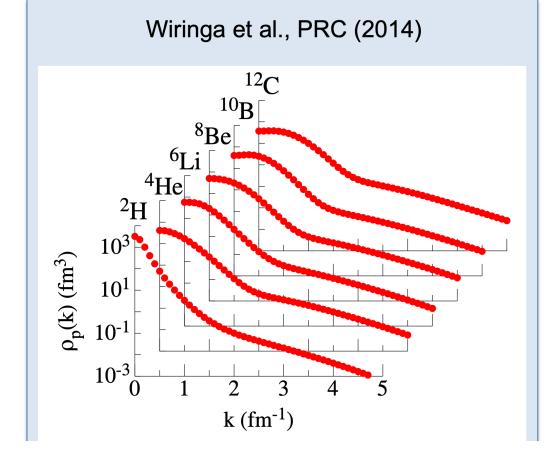


• SRC physics is encapsulated in the 2-body high-*q* piece $|F_{\lambda}^{lo}(q)|^2$ in the evolved operator



- Universality: High-*q* dependence from universal function $\approx \left|F_{\lambda}^{hi}(q)\right|^2$ fixed by 2-body and insensitive to nucleus
- Soft matrix element is dependent on nucleus but not *q*

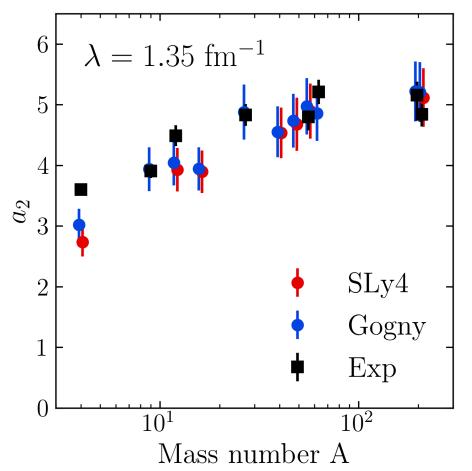




Consistent with universal high-*q* tails from VMC calculations of R. B. Wiringa et al., Phys. Rev. C **89**, 024305 (2014)

¹E. Chabanat et al., Nucl. Phys. A 635, 231 (1998)
²J. Decharge et al., Phys. Rev. C 21, 1568 (1980)
³B. Schmookler et al. (CLAS), Nature 566, 354 (2019)

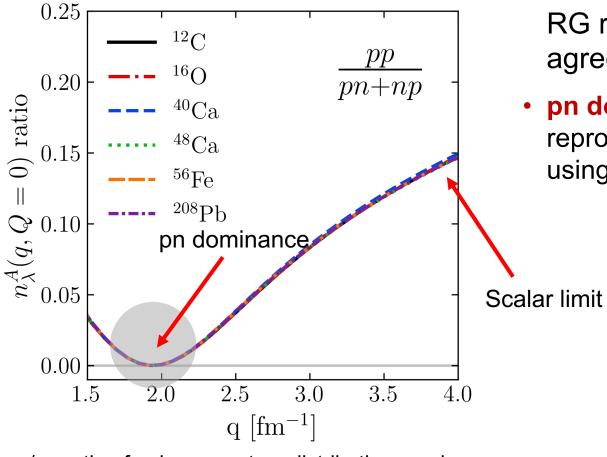
SRC phenomenology



 SRC scaling factors: Extracting a₂ from low RG resolution momentum distribution finds good agreement with experiment

 a_2 scale factors using single-nucleon momentum distributions under HF+LDA (SLy4 in red¹, Gogny² in blue) with AV18 and $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹ compared to experimental values³. AJT et al., Phys. Rev C 104, 034311 (2021)

SRC phenomenology

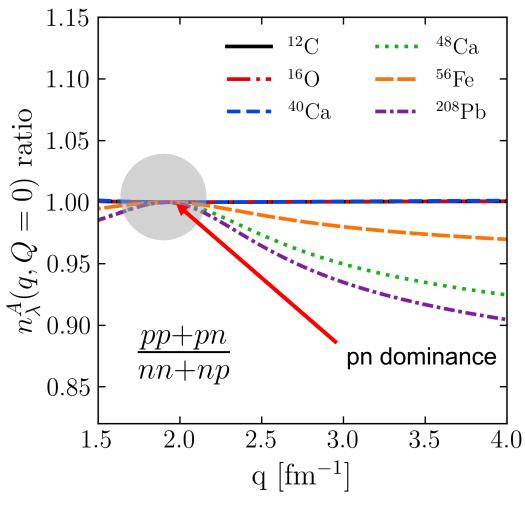


- SRC scaling factors: Extracting a₂ from low RG resolution momentum distribution finds good agreement with experiment
- pn dominance: Low RG resolution picture reproduces the characteristics of cross section ratios using simple approximations



pp/pn ratio of pair momentum distributions under HF+LDA with AV18 and $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹.

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Isospin dependence:

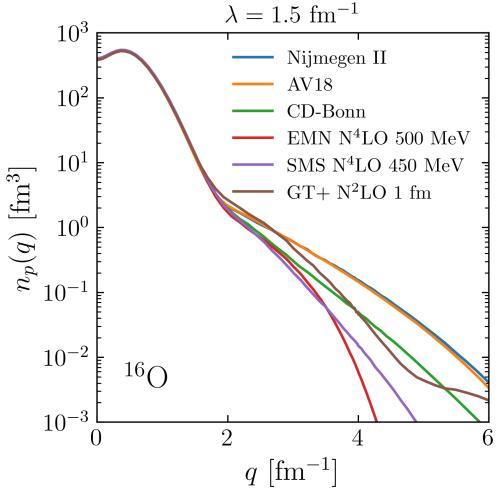
- Ratio ~ 1 independent of N/Z in np dominant region
- Ratio < 1 for nuclei where N > Z and outside np dominant region

AJT et al., Phys. Rev C 104, 034311 (2021)

(pp+pn)/(nn+np) ratio of pair momentum distributions under HF+LDA with AV18 and $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹.

Scale and scheme dependence

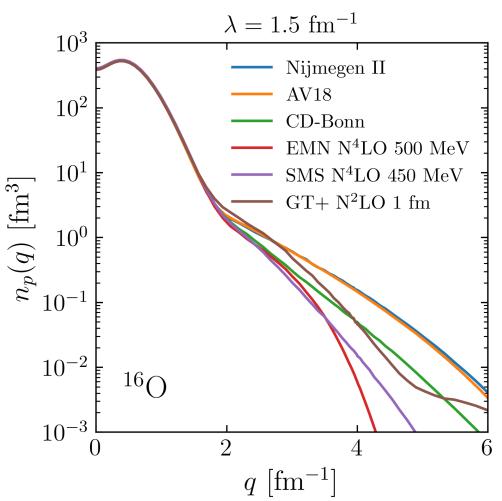
- Previous results used the AV18 interaction; what about other interactions?
- Momentum distributions exhibit scale/scheme dependence of the interaction



Proton momentum distributions of ¹⁶O for several interactions.

Scale and scheme dependence

- Previous results used the AV18 interaction; what about other interactions?
- Momentum distributions exhibit scale/scheme dependence of the interaction
- Observables (e.g., cross sections) should be the same regardless of interaction used!
- Next: Quasi-deuteron example¹
 - How can observables be calculated consistently with different interactions?
 - Use SRG transformations to match interactions!



Proton momentum distributions of ¹⁶O for several interactions.

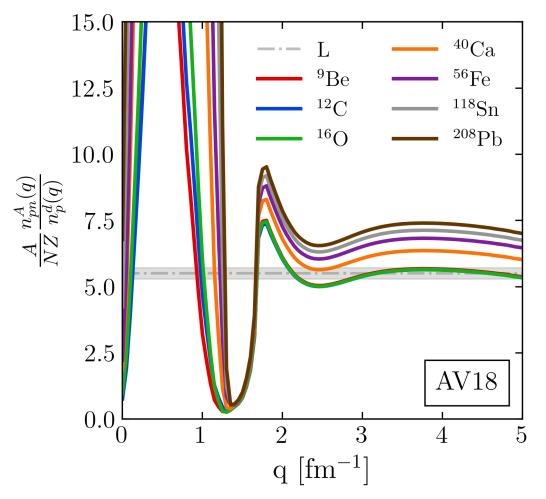
²AJT et al., Phys. Rev. C **106**, 024324 (2022)

Quasi-deuteron

- The quasi-deuteron model was introduced ~1950 by Levinger to explain cross sections for knocking out high-momentum protons in photo-absorption on nuclei $\sigma_A(E_{\gamma}) = L \frac{NZ}{A} \sigma_d(E_{\gamma})$
- Assuming a one-body reaction operator, the nuclear wave function must include two-body SRCs with deuteron-like quantum numbers → high-resolution model
- Modern treatment of SRCs by Weiss¹ and collaborators relates momentum distributions at high momentum to the Levinger constant L

$$\frac{n_{pn}^A(q)}{n^d(q)} \approx L \frac{NZ}{A}$$

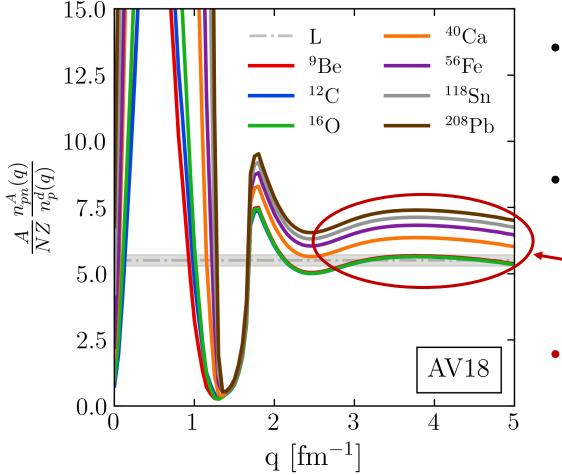
 At low RG resolution, the quasi-deuteron model is manifested as an RG-evolved two-body operator that is common to nuclear photo-absorption and deuteron photo-disintegration² Anthony Tropiano, ECT* workshop 2023



- High momentum behavior $|F_{\lambda}^{hi}(q)|^2$ cancels leaving ratio of mean-field (low-k) physics similar to a_2
- Gray band is average Levinger constant value $L \approx 5.5$ across several nuclei

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Ratios of pn nuclear momentum distributions over the deuteron momentum distribution as a function of relative An momentum.

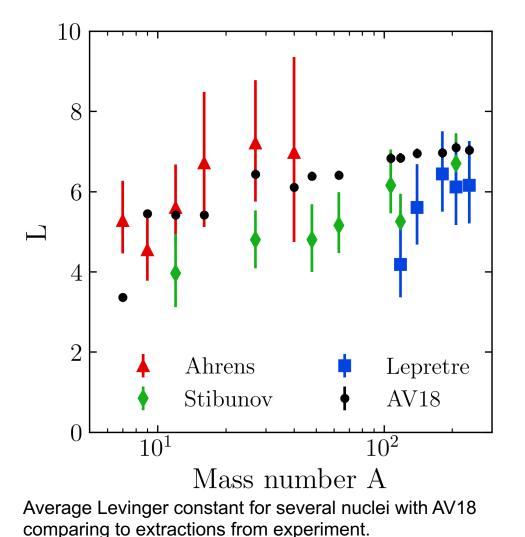


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 $\frac{n_{pn}^{A}(q)}{n^{d}(q)} \approx L \frac{NZ}{A}$

• Determine *L* by averaging the ratio over momentum where factorization holds

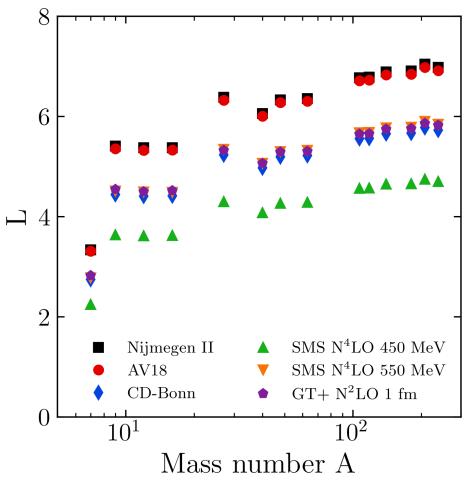
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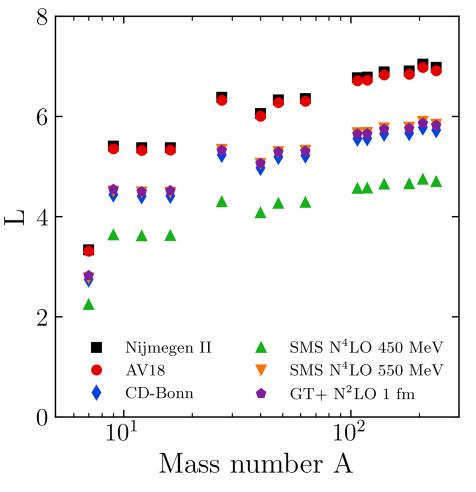
$$\frac{n_{pn}^{A}(q)}{n^{d}(q)} \approx L \frac{NZ}{A}$$

• Determine *L* by averaging the ratio over momentum where factorization holds



- Varying the NN interaction changes the values of L
- Hard interactions give high *L* values and soft interactions give low *L* values
- Ratio of cross sections should be RG invariant, so why is there sensitivity to the interaction?
 - Assuming the same initial one-body operator for all Hamiltonians!

Average Levinger constant for several nuclei comparing different NN interactions.



Average Levinger constant for several nuclei comparing different NN interactions.

- Varying the NN interaction changes the values of L
- Hard interactions give high *L* values and soft interactions give low *L* values
- Ratio of cross sections should be RG invariant, so why is there sensitivity to the interaction?
 - Assuming the same initial one-body operator for all Hamiltonians!
- **Strategy**: Match results using a reference momentum distribution (AV18)
 - One-body initial operator for AV18
 - Two-body initial operator for soft potentials

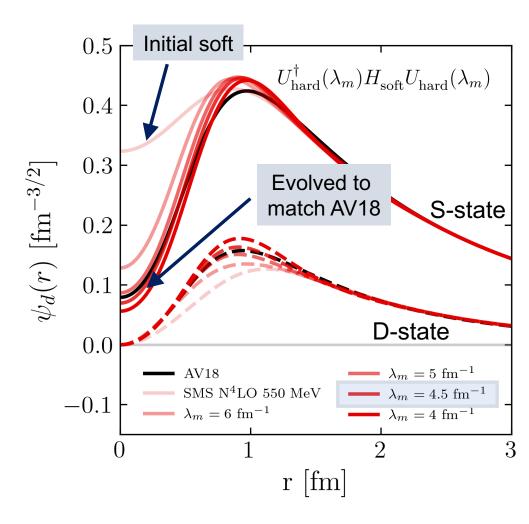
Matching interactions

• Use SRG transformations to match potentials at a scale λ_m

 $H_{soft}(\lambda_m) = U_{hard}^{\dagger}(\lambda_m)H_{soft}(\infty)U_{hard}(\lambda_m)$

• Deuteron wave functions identify the matching scale λ_m (other matching procedures also work)

Inverse-SRG evolution of the deuteron wave function from SMS N⁴LO 550 MeV comparing to AV18. The solid lines correspond to the S states, and the dashed lines correspond to the D states.



Matching interactions

• Use SRG transformations to match potentials at a scale λ_m

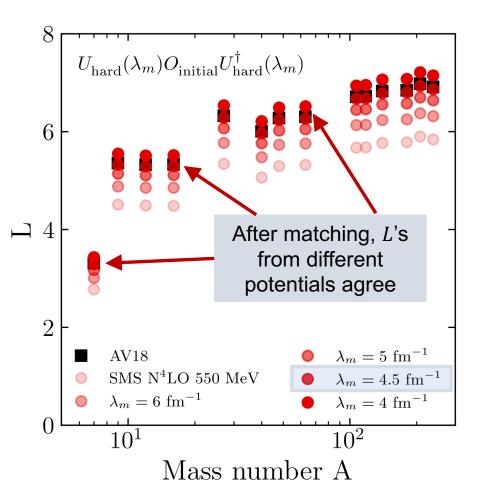
 $H_{soft}(\lambda_m) = U_{hard}^{\dagger}(\lambda_m)H_{soft}(\infty)U_{hard}(\lambda_m)$

- Deuteron wave functions identify the matching scale λ_m (other matching procedures also work)
- Transformations of the harder potential (AV18) determine the additional 2-body operator for use with soft potentials

 $O_{soft}^{2-body}(\lambda_m) = U_{hard}(\lambda_m)O_{hard}^{1-body}(\infty)U_{hard}^{\dagger}(\lambda_m)$

- Lowering the value of $\lambda_m \rightarrow 4.5 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ raises soft *L* to match hard *L*
- Moral: *additional* 2-body operator needed to calculate consistent values of *L* for soft potentials; find by matching!

Average Levinger constant for several nuclei comparing the SMS N⁴LO 550 MeV and AV18 potentials. Results are also shown for the SMS N⁴LO 550 MeV potential with an additional two-body operator due to SRG transformations from AV18.



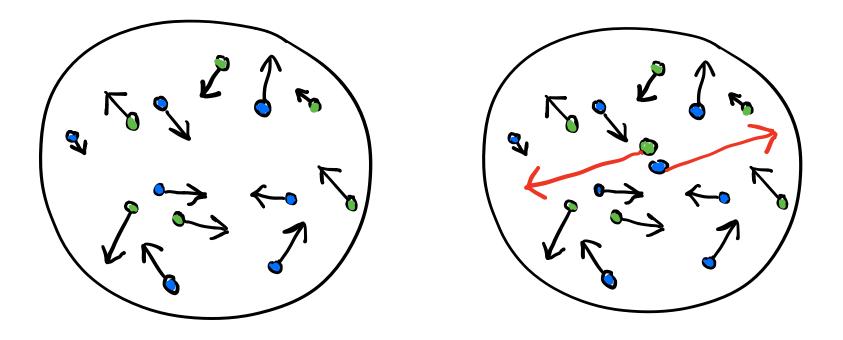
Summary

- RG provides a tool for consistent treatments of structure and reactions
- RG enables comparisons of process independent (but scale and scheme dependent) quantities
- Simple approximations to SRC physics work and are systematically improvable at low RG resolution
- NN interactions can be "smoothly" connected by RG transformations

Outlook

- Improve description of pair momentum distributions with respect to CM momentum Q
- Extend to (e, e'p) knockout cross sections and test scale/scheme dependence of extracted properties
- Analyze scale/scheme dependence of spectroscopic factors
- Apply low RG resolution methods to neutrinoless double beta decay
- Investigate follow-ups to matching interactions using unitary transformations
- Test RG evolution of optical potentials (led by Mostofa Hisham)¹





Cartoon snapshots of a nucleus at (left) low-RG and (right) high-RG resolutions. The back-to-back nucleons at high-RG resolution are an SRC pair with small center-of-mass momentum.

Similarity renormalization group

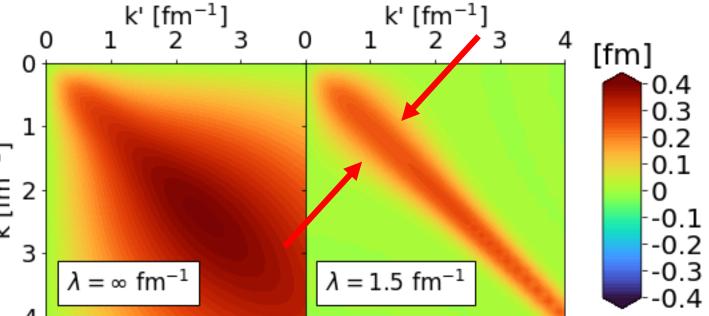
• Evolve to low RG resolution using the SRG $O(s) = U(s)O(0)U^{\dagger}(s)$

where $s = 0 \rightarrow \infty$ and U(s) is unitary

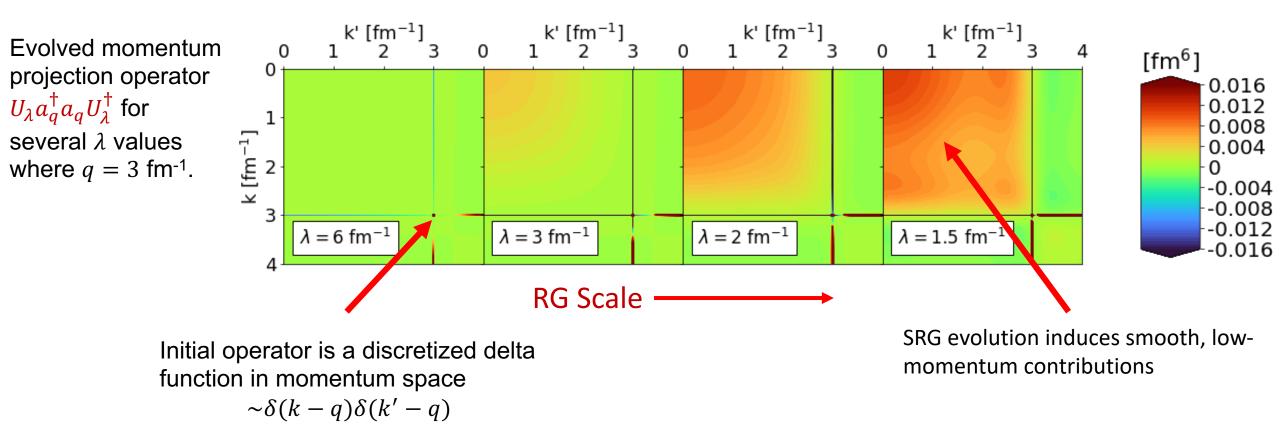
- SRG transformations decouple high- and low-momenta in the Hamiltonian
- In practice, solve differential flow equation $\frac{dO(s)}{ds} = [\eta(s), O(s)]$

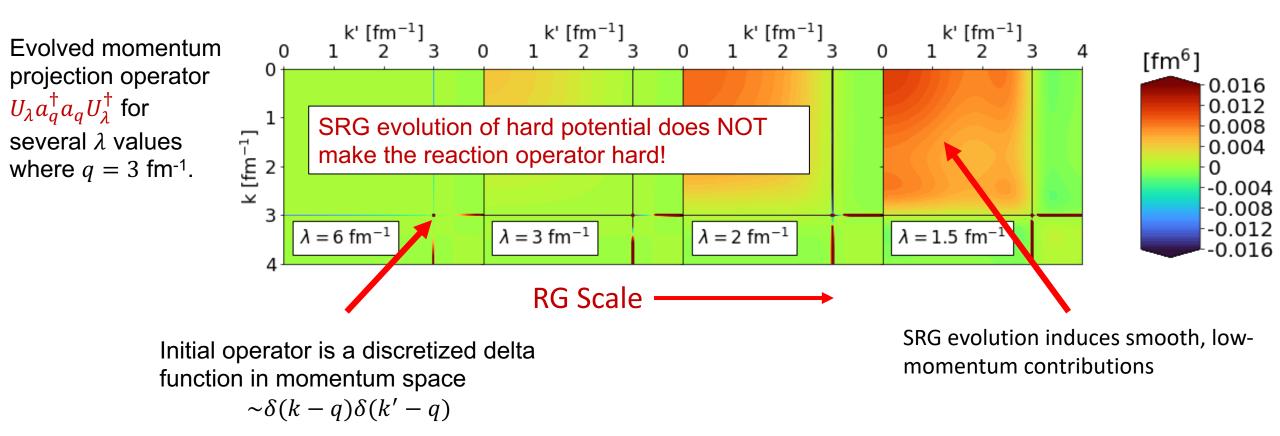
where
$$\eta(s) \equiv \frac{dU(s)}{ds}U^{\dagger}(s) = [G, H(s)]$$
 is the SRG generator

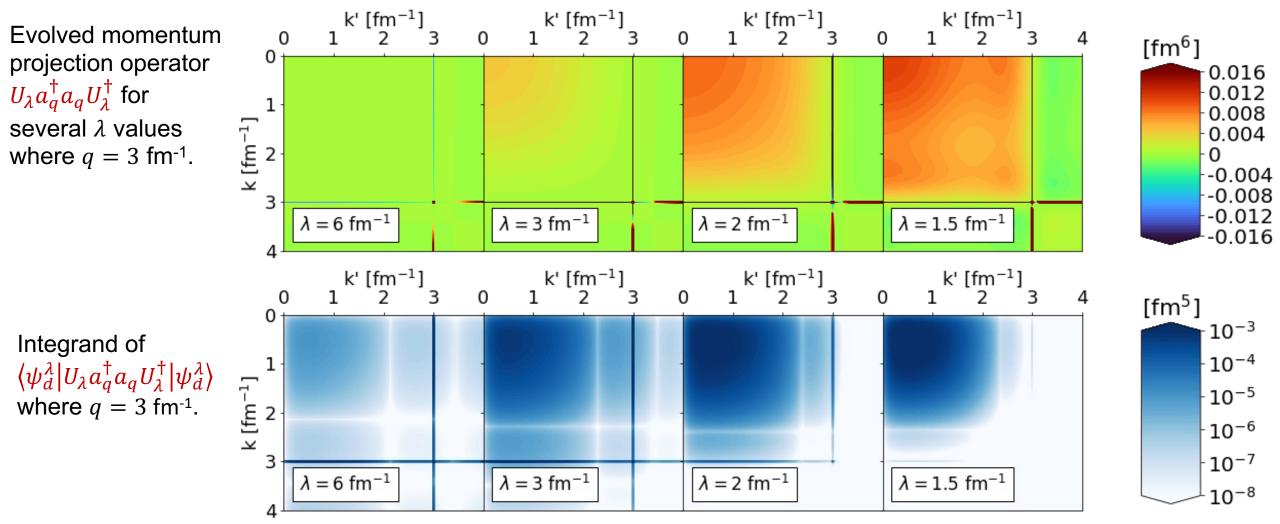
• Decoupling scale given by $\lambda = s^{-1/4}$



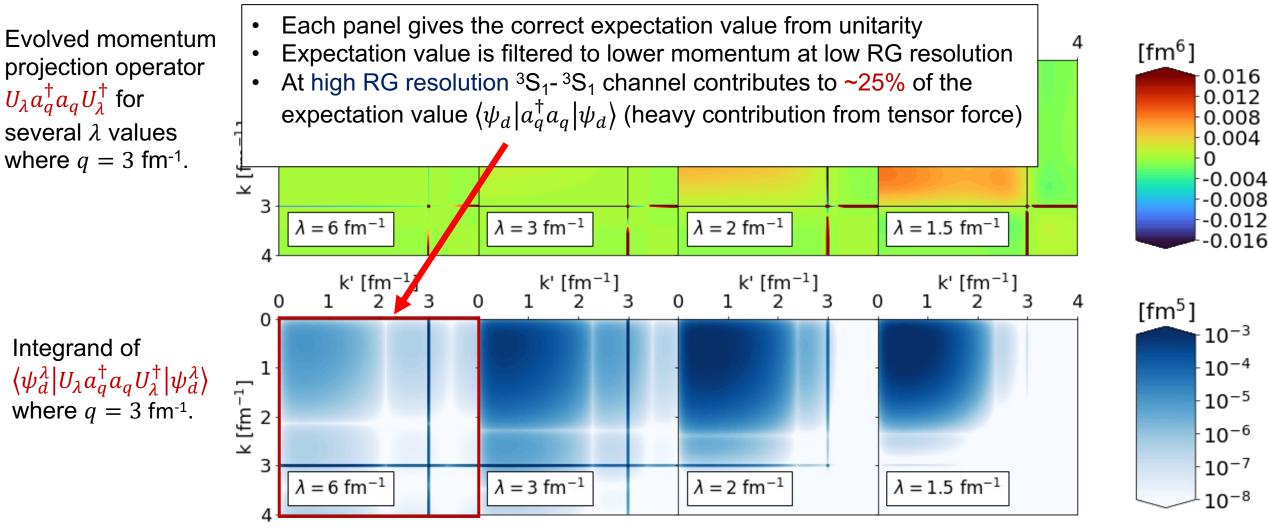
Momentum-space matrix elements of Argonne v18 (AV18) under SRG evolution in ${}^{1}P_{1}$ channel. Figure adapted from AJT et al., Phys. Rev. C **102**, 034005 (2020).

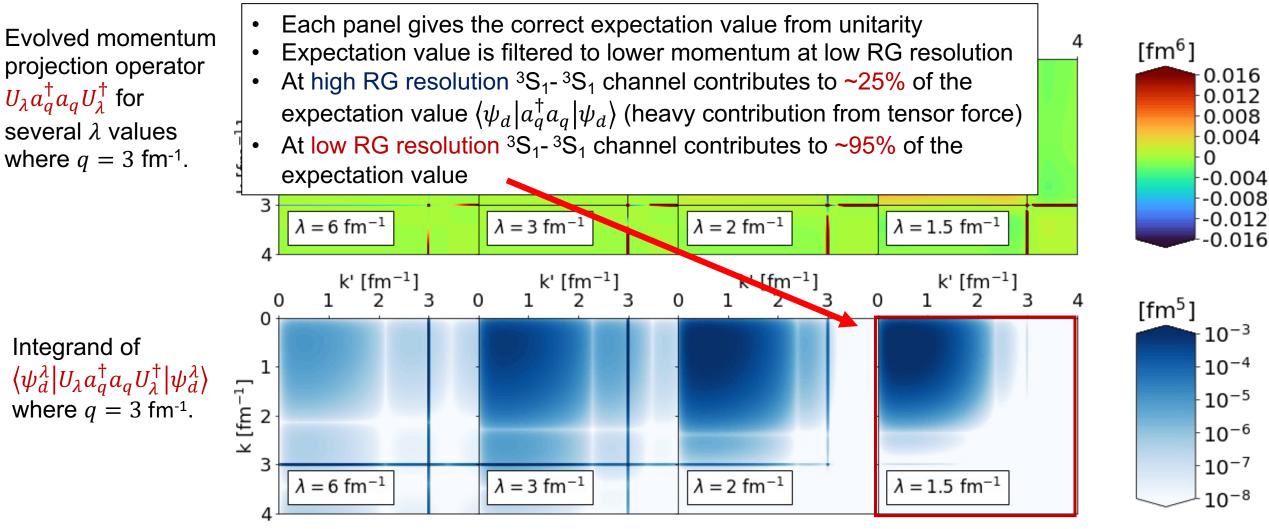




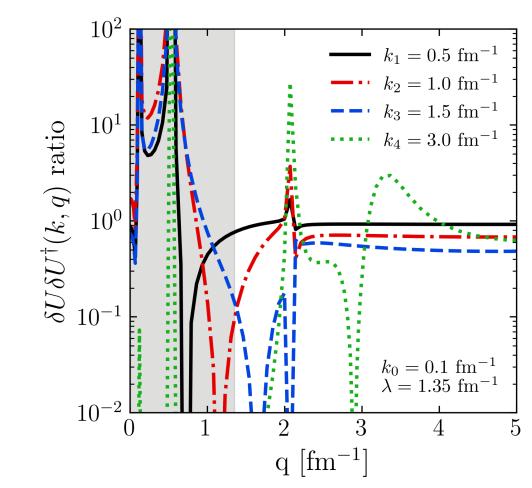


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Ratio of $\delta U \delta U^{\dagger}(k,q)$ for fixed k and λ .

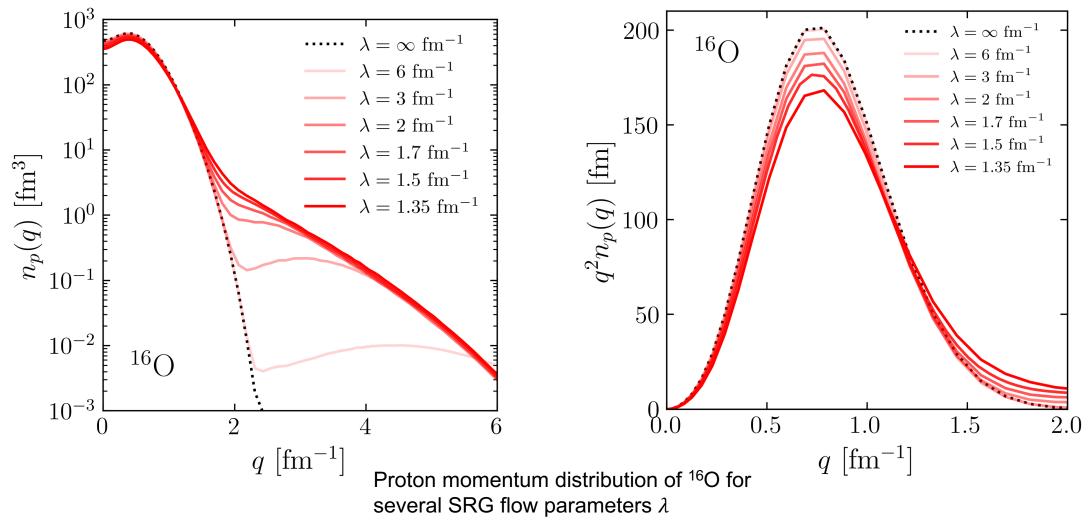
- Consider an operator dominated by high momentum q where $k < \lambda$ and $q \gg \lambda$
- Expand the eigenstates ψ_{α}^{∞} of the initial NN Hamiltonian in terms of the SRG-evolved states ψ_{α}^{λ}

$$\psi^\infty_\alpha(q)\approx \gamma^\lambda(q)\int_0^\lambda d\tilde p Z(\lambda)\psi^\lambda_\alpha(p)+\eta^\lambda(q)\int_0^\lambda d\tilde p p^2 Z(\lambda)\psi^\lambda_\alpha(p)+\cdots$$

 Substitute leading-order term of operator product expansion (OPE) in spectral representation of SRG transformation

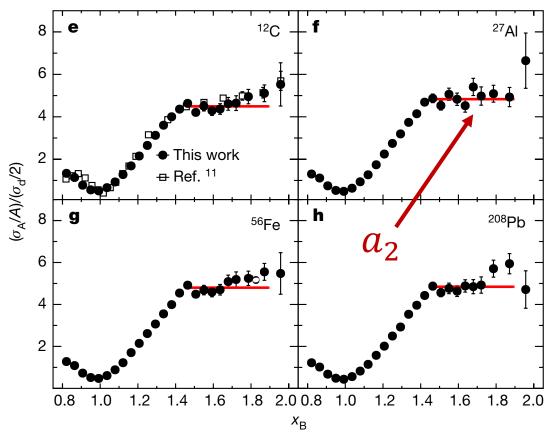
$$\begin{aligned} U_{\lambda}(k,q) &= \sum_{\alpha}^{\infty} \langle k | \psi_{\alpha}^{\lambda} \rangle \langle \psi_{\alpha}^{\infty} | q \rangle \\ &\approx \left[\sum_{\alpha}^{|E_{\alpha}| \ll |E_{QHQ}|} \langle k | \psi_{\alpha}^{\lambda} \rangle \int_{0}^{\lambda} d\tilde{p} Z(\lambda) \psi_{\alpha}^{\lambda\dagger}(p) \right] \gamma^{\lambda}(q) \\ &\equiv K_{\lambda}(k) Q_{\lambda}(q) \end{aligned}$$

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SRC scaling factors



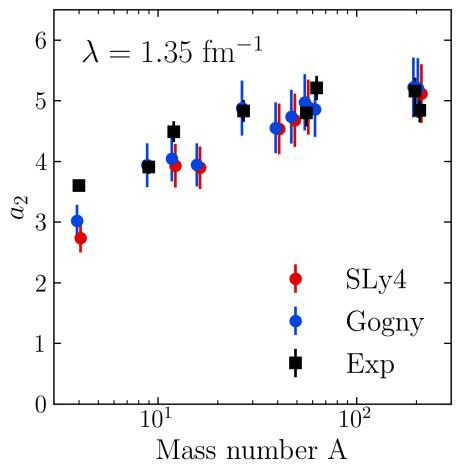
Ratio of per-nucleon electron scattering cross section of nucleus A to that of deuterium, where the red line indicates a constant fit. Figure from B. Schmookler et al. (CLAS), Nature **566**, 354 (2019).

- SRC scaling factors a_2 defined by plateau in cross section ratio $\frac{2\sigma_A}{A\sigma_d}$ at $1.45 \le x \le 1.9$
- Closely related to the ratio of bound-nucleon probability distributions in the limits of vanishing relative distance (infinitely high relative momentum)
 - Extract a_2 from momentum distributions $a_2 = \lim_{q \to \infty} \frac{P^A(q)}{P^d(q)} \approx \frac{\int_{\Delta q^{high}} dq P^A(q)}{\int_{\Delta q^{high}} dq P^d(q)}$

where $P^{A}(q)$ is the single-nucleon probability distribution in nucleus A

¹E. Chabanat et al., Nucl. Phys. A 635, 231 (1998)
²J. Decharge et al., Phys. Rev. C 21, 1568 (1980)
³B. Schmookler et al. (CLAS), Nature 566, 354 (2019)
⁴J. Ryckebusch et al., Phys. Rev. C 100, 054620 (2019)

SRC scaling factors



 a_2 scale factors using single-nucleon momentum distributions under HF+LDA (SLy4 in red¹, Gogny² in blue) with AV18 and $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹ compared to experimental values³. Figure from AJT et al., Phys. Rev. C **104**, 034311 (2021).

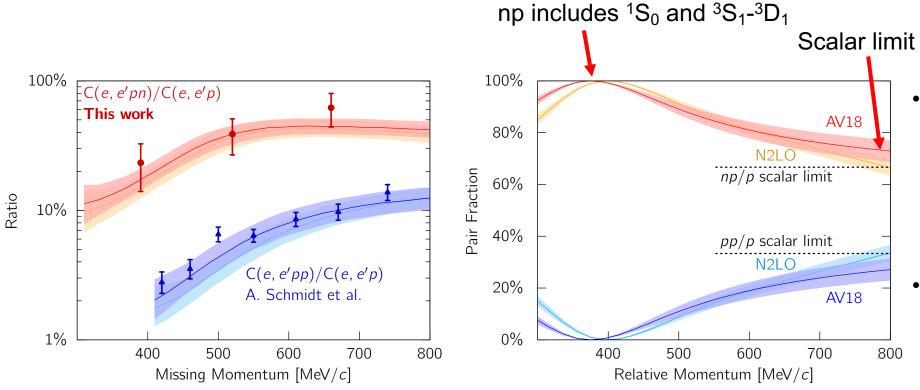
• Extract SRC scaling factor a_2 from momentum distributions

 $a_{2} = \lim_{q \to \infty} \frac{P^{A}(q)}{P^{d}(q)} \approx \frac{\int_{\Delta q^{high}} dq P^{A}(q)}{\int_{\Delta q^{high}} dq P^{d}(q)}$

where $P^{A}(q)$ is the single-nucleon probability distribution in nucleus A

- High momentum behavior is characterized by 2-body $\left|F_{\lambda}^{hi}(q)\right|^{2}$ which cancels leaving ratio of mean-field (low-*k*) physics
- Good agreement with a₂ values from experiment³ and LCA calculations⁴ using two different EDFs
- Error bars from varying Δq^{high}

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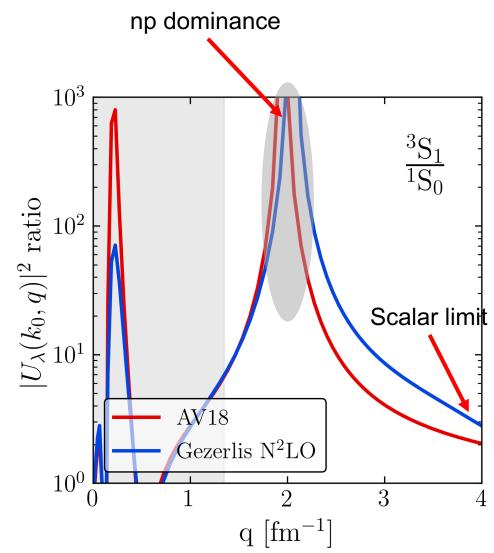
- At high RG resolution, the tensor force and the repulsive core of the NN interaction kicks nucleon pairs into SRCs
- np dominates because the tensor force requires spin triplet pairs, whereas pp are spin singlets
- Do we describe this physics at low RG resolution?

(a) Ratio of two-nucleon to single-nucleon electron-scattering cross sections for carbon as a function of missing momentum. (b) Fraction of np to p and pp to p pairs versus the relative momentum. Figure from CLAS collaboration publication¹.

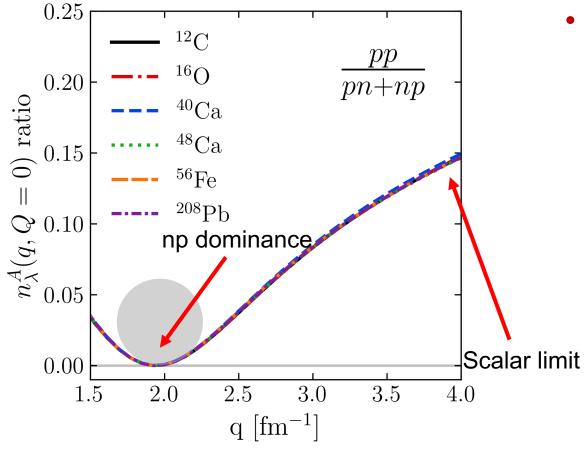
• At low RG resolution, SRCs are suppressed in the wave function and shifted into the operator

$$\widehat{n}^{lo}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \widehat{U}_{\lambda} a_{\boldsymbol{q}}^{\dagger} a_{\boldsymbol{q}} \widehat{U}_{\lambda}^{\dagger} = U_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{k}, \boldsymbol{q}) U_{\lambda}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{q}, \boldsymbol{k}')$$

- Take ratio of ${}^{3}S_{1}$ and ${}^{1}S_{0}$ SRG transformations fixing low-momenta to $k_{0} = 0.1$ fm⁻¹
- This physics is established in the 2-body system can apply to any nucleus!



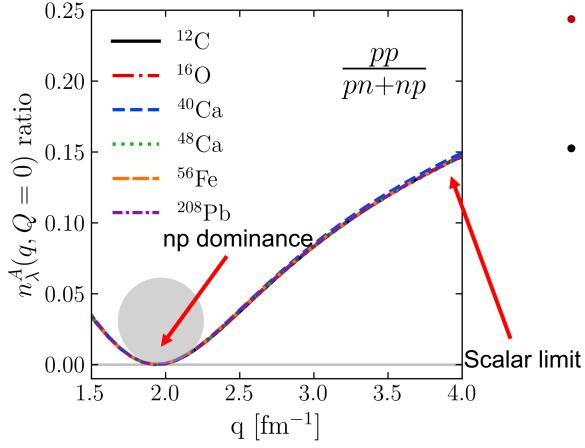
 ${}^{3}S_{1}$ to ${}^{1}S_{0}$ ratio of SRG-evolved momentum projection operators $a_{q}^{\dagger}a_{q}$ where $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹. Figure from AJT et al., Phys. Rev. C **104**, 034311 (2021).



pp/pn ratio of pair momentum distributions under HF+LDA with AV18 and $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹. Figure from , AJT et al., Phys. Rev. C **104**, 034311 (2021).

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 Low RG resolution picture reproduces the characteristics of cross section ratios using simple approximations

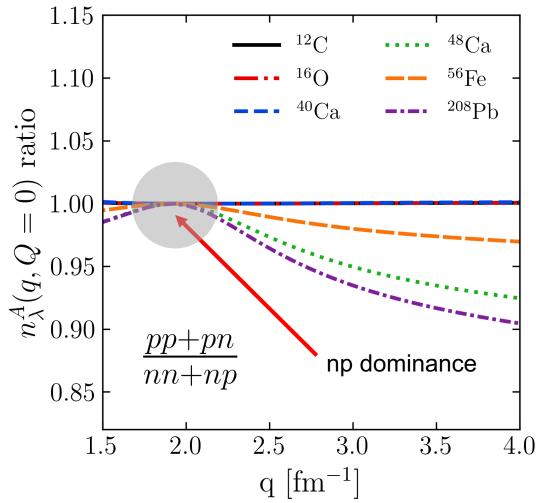


- Low RG resolution picture reproduces the characteristics of cross section ratios using simple approximations
- Weak nucleus dependence from factorization

$$\mathsf{Ratio} \approx \frac{\left|F_{pp}^{hi}(q)\right|^{2}}{\left|F_{np}^{hi}(q)\right|^{2}} \times \frac{\left|\Psi_{\lambda}^{A}\right| \sum_{k,k'}^{\lambda} a_{\frac{Q}{2}+k}^{\dagger} a_{\frac{Q}{2}-k'}^{\dagger} a_{\frac{Q}{2}-k'}^{\dagger} a_{\frac{Q}{2}+k'}^{\dagger} \left|\Psi_{\lambda}^{A}\right|}{\left|\Psi_{\lambda}^{A}\right| \sum_{k,k'}^{\lambda} a_{\frac{Q}{2}+k}^{\dagger} a_{\frac{Q}{2}-k'}^{\dagger} a_{\frac{Q}{2}-k'}^{\dagger} a_{\frac{Q}{2}+k'}^{\dagger} \left|\Psi_{\lambda}^{A}\right|}$$

pp/pn ratio of pair momentum distributions under HF+LDA with AV18 and $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹. Figure from AJT et al., Phys. Rev. C **104**, 034311 (2021).

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- Ratio ~1 independent of N/Z in np dominant region
- Ratio < 1 for nuclei where N > Z and outside np dominant region

(pp+pn)/(nn+np) ratio of pair momentum distributions under HF+LDA with AV18 and $\lambda = 1.35$ fm⁻¹. Figure from AJT et Anthony Tropiano, ECT* workshop 2023 al., Phys. Rev. C **104**, 034311 (2021).