Three-Nucleon Forces at N3LO in chiral EFT

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- Path-integral approach for derivation of nuclear forces
- Symmetry preserving regularization
- Status report on construction of 3N interactions

Path-Integral Framework for Derivation of Nuclear Forces

HK, Epelbaum, arXiv:2311.10893

Why a new Framework?

Difficulties in formulation of regularized chiral EFT

Regularization should preserve chiral and gauge symmetries

Regularization should not affect long-range pion physics

Pion-propagator in Euclidean space: $q^2 = q_0^2 + q_1^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2$

$$\frac{1}{q^2 + M_\pi^2} \to \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{q^2 + M_\pi^2}{\Lambda^2}\right)}{q^2 + M_\pi^2} = \frac{1}{q^2 + M_\pi^2} - \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} + \frac{q^2 + M_\pi^2}{2\Lambda^4} + \dots$$

all $1/\Lambda$ -corrections are short-range interactions

- q_0 dependence in exponential requires second and higher order time-derivatives in pion field in the chiral Lagrangian
 - Canonical quantization of the regularized theory becomes difficult (Ostrogradski - approach, Constrains, ...)

Canonical vs Path-Integral Quantization

Canonical Quantization of QFT

Hamiltonian & Hilbert space

Creation/annihilation operators

Time-ordered perturbation theory

 \longleftrightarrow

Path-Integral Quantization of QFT

Lagrangian & action

Summation over all classical paths

Loop expansion & Feynman rules

Path-Integral approach is a natural choice in pionic and single-nucleon sector

Gasser, Leutwyler, Annals Phys. 158 (1984) 142; Bernard, Kaiser, Kambor, Meißner, Nucl. Phys. B 388 (1992) 315

In two - and more - nucleon sector Weinberg used canonical quantization language Weinberg Nucl. Phys. B 362 (1991) 3

In using old-fashioned perturbation theory we must work with the Hamil-

tonian rather than the Lagrangian. The application of the usual rules of

canonical quantization to the leading terms in (1) and (9) yields the total

Can we choose a formulation where we can work with the Lagrangian?

Path-Integral over Nucleons and Pions

We start with generating functional:

$$Z[\eta^{\dagger},\eta] = \int [DN^{\dagger}][DN][D\pi] \exp\left(i \int d^4x \left(\mathscr{L} + \eta^{\dagger}(x)N(x) + N^{\dagger}(x)\eta(x)\right)\right)$$

Yukawa toy-model:

$$\mathscr{L} = N^{\dagger} \left(i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} + \frac{\overrightarrow{\nabla}^2}{2m} + \frac{g}{2F} \overrightarrow{\sigma} \cdot \overrightarrow{\nabla} \pi \cdot \tau \right) N + \frac{1}{2} \left(\partial_{\mu} \pi \cdot \partial^{\mu} \pi - M^2 \pi^2 \right)$$

Perform a Gaussian path-integral over the pion fields

$$Z[\eta^{\dagger},\eta] = \int [DN^{\dagger}][DN] \exp\left(iS_N + i\int d^4x \left(\eta^{\dagger}(x)N(x) + N^{\dagger}(x)\eta(x)\right)\right)$$

 $S_N = \int d^4x \, N^{\dagger}(x) \left(i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} + \frac{\vec{\nabla}^2}{2m} \right) N(x) - V_{NN} \quad \longleftarrow \quad \text{Non-instant one-pion-exchange}$

$$V_{NN} = -\frac{g^2}{8F^2} \int d^4x \, d^4y \overrightarrow{\nabla}_x \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(x) \overrightarrow{\sigma} \tau \right] N(x) \, \Delta_F(x-y) \, \overrightarrow{\nabla}_y \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(y) \overrightarrow{\sigma} \tau \right] N(y)$$

with non-instant pion propagator: $\Delta_F(x) = \int \frac{d^4q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{-iq \cdot x}}{q^2 - M^2 + i\epsilon}$

Instant Interactions from Path-Integral

To transform V_{NN} into an instant form we rewrite a pion propagator

$$\frac{1}{q_0^2 - \omega_q^2} = -\frac{1}{\omega_q^2} + \frac{1}{q_0^2 - \omega_q^2} + \frac{1}{\omega_q^2} = -\frac{1}{\omega_q^2} + q_0^2 \frac{1}{\omega_q^2} \frac{1}{q_0^2 - \omega_q^2}, \quad \omega_q = \sqrt{\vec{q}^2 + M^2}$$

In coordinate space this corresponds to $\Delta_F(x) = \Delta_S(x) - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_0^2} \Delta_{FS}(x)$ with

$$\Delta_{S}(x) = -\int \frac{d^{4}q}{(2\pi)^{4}} \frac{e^{-iq \cdot x}}{\omega_{q}^{2}} = -\delta(x_{0}) \int \frac{d^{3}q}{(2\pi)^{3}} \frac{e^{i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{x}}}{\omega_{q}^{2}}, \quad \Delta_{FS}(x) = \int \frac{d^{4}q}{(2\pi)^{4}} \frac{e^{-iq \cdot x}}{\omega_{q}^{2}(q_{0}^{2} - \omega_{q}^{2})}$$

The decomposition
$$\Delta_F(x) = \Delta_S(x) - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_0^2} \Delta_{FS}(x)$$
can be generalized

$$G(x) = \int \frac{d^4q}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-iq \cdot x} \tilde{G}(q_0^2, q^2) \text{ and } \tilde{G}(q_0^2, q^2) \text{ is differentiable at } q_0 = 0$$

Defining
$$G_{S}(x) = \int \frac{d^{4}q}{(2\pi)^{4}} e^{-iq \cdot x} \tilde{G}(0,q^{2}) \text{ and } G_{FS}(x) = \int \frac{d^{4}q}{(2\pi)^{4}} e^{-iq \cdot x} \frac{\tilde{G}(q_{0}^{2},q^{2}) - \tilde{G}(0,q^{2})}{q_{0}^{2}}$$

 \checkmark $G(x) = G_{S}(x) - \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial x_{0}^{2}} G_{FS}(x)$

Instant Interactions from Path-Integral

Perform an instant decomposition of the pion propagator $\Delta_F(x) = \Delta_S(x) - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_s^2} \Delta_{FS}(x)$

$$V_{NN} = -\frac{g^2}{8F^2} \int d^4x \, d^4y \, \vec{\nabla}_x \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(x) \vec{\sigma} \tau \right] N(x) \, \Delta_F(x-y) \, \vec{\nabla}_y \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(y) \vec{\sigma} \tau \right] N(y)$$

 $V_{NN} = V_{OPE} + V_{FS}$

$$V_{OPE} = -\frac{g^2}{8F^2} \int d^4x \, d^4y \, \vec{\nabla}_x \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(x) \vec{\sigma} \tau \right] N(x) \, \Delta_S(x-y) \, \vec{\nabla}_y \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(y) \vec{\sigma} \tau \right] N(y) \quad \text{is instant}$$

$$V_{FS} = \frac{g^2}{8F^2} \int d^4x \, d^4y \, \vec{\nabla}_x \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(x) \vec{\sigma} \tau \right] N(x) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_0^2} \Delta_{FS}(x-y) \, \vec{\nabla}_y \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(y) \vec{\sigma} \tau \right] N(y) \quad \text{is non-instant}$$

 V_{FS} is time-derivative dependent and thus can be eliminated by a non-polynomial field redefinition

$$N(x) \to N'(x) = N(x) + i \frac{g^2}{8F^2} \int d^4 y \left[\vec{\sigma} \tau N(x) \right] \cdot \left[\vec{\nabla}_x \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} \Delta_{FS}(x-y) \right] \vec{\nabla}_y \cdot \left[N^{\dagger}(y) \vec{\sigma} \tau N(y) \right]$$

 $N^{\dagger}(x) \to N^{\dagger}(x) = N^{\dagger}(x) - i\frac{g^2}{8F^2} \int d^4y \overrightarrow{\nabla}_y \cdot [N^{\dagger}(y)\vec{\sigma}\tau N(y)] [\overrightarrow{\nabla}_y \frac{\partial}{\partial y_0} \Delta_{FS}(y-x)] \cdot [N^{\dagger}(x)\vec{\sigma}\tau]$

Instant Interactions from Path-Integral

Non-local field transformations remove time-derivative dependent two-nucleon interactions but generate time-derivative dependent three-nucleon interactions.

These contributions can be eliminated by similar field transformations

$$Z[\eta^{\dagger},\eta] = \int [DN'^{\dagger}][DN'] \det\left(\frac{\delta(N'^{\dagger},N')}{\delta(N^{\dagger},N)}\right) \exp\left(iS_{N(N'^{\dagger},N')} + i\int d^{4}x \left(\eta^{\dagger}(x)N(N'^{\dagger},N')(x) + N(N'^{\dagger},N')^{\dagger}(x)\eta(x)\right)\right)$$

$$\simeq \int [DN'^{\dagger}][DN'] \det\left(\frac{\delta(N'^{\dagger},N')}{\delta(N^{\dagger},N)}\right) \exp\left(iS_{N(N'^{\dagger},N')} + i\int d^{4}x \left(\eta^{\dagger}(x)N'(x) + N'^{\dagger}(x)\eta(x)\right)\right)$$

Equivalence theorem: nucleon pole-structure is unaffected by the field-transf.

$$S_{N(N^{\dagger},N')} = \int d^4x \, N'^{\dagger}(x) \left(i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} + \frac{\vec{\nabla}^2}{2m} \right) N'(x) - V_{OPE} + \mathcal{O}(g^4)$$

$$V_{OPE} = -\frac{g^2}{8F^2} \int d^4x \, d^4y \, \vec{\nabla}_x \cdot \left[N'^{\dagger}(x) \vec{\sigma} \tau \right] N'(x) \, \Delta_S(x-y) \, \vec{\nabla}_y \cdot \left[N'^{\dagger}(y) \vec{\sigma} \tau \right] N'(y)$$
Instant one-pion-exchange interaction

Generalization to Chiral EFT

We start with generating functional:

 $Z[\eta^{\dagger},\eta] = \int [DN^{\dagger}][DN][D\pi] \exp\left(i \int d^4x \left(\mathscr{L}_{\pi} + \mathscr{L}_{\pi N} + \mathscr{L}_{NN} + \mathscr{L}_{NNN} + \eta^{\dagger}(x)N(x) + N^{\dagger}(x)\eta(x)\right)\right)$

Integrate over pion fields via loop-expansion of the action

 \rightarrow expansion of the action around the classical pion solution

- Perform instant decomposition of the remaining interactions between nucleons
- Perform nucleon-field redefinitions to eliminate non-instant part of the interaction
- Calculate functional determinant to get one-loop corrections to few-nucleon forces

UT & FT path-integral approach lead to the same chiral EFT nuclear forces up to N⁴LO

Fazit: Path-integral formulation of nuclear forces is as powerful as UT technique, however it allows consideration of a wider class of theories

Symmetry Preserving Regulator

HK, Epelbaum, arXiv:2312.13932

Gradient-Flow Equation (GFE)

Yang-Mills gradient flow in QCD: Lüscher, JHEP 04 (2013) 123

 $\partial_{\tau}B_{\mu} = D_{\nu}G_{\nu\mu}$ with $B_{\mu}|_{\tau=0} = A_{\mu} \& G_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}B_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}B_{\mu} + [B_{\mu}, B_{\nu}]$

 B_{μ} is a regularized gluon field

Apply this idea to ChPT: HK, Epelbaum, arXiv:2312.13932 (Proposed in various talks by D. Kaplan for nuclear forces) Introduce a smoothed pion field W with $W|_{\tau=0} = U$ satisfying GFE

$$\partial_{\tau}W = i w \operatorname{EOM}(\tau) w$$
 with $w = \sqrt{W}$ and $\operatorname{EOM}(\tau) = [D_{\mu}, w_{\mu}] + \frac{i}{2}\chi_{-} - \frac{i}{4}\operatorname{Tr}(\chi_{-})$

$$w_{\mu} = i(w^{\dagger}(\partial_{\mu} - ir_{\mu})w - w(\partial_{\mu} - il_{\mu})w^{\dagger}), \quad \chi_{-} = w^{\dagger}\chi w^{\dagger} - w\chi^{\dagger}w, \quad \chi = 2B(s + ip)$$

Note: The shape of regularization is dictated by the choice of the right-hand side of GFE

Our choice is motivated by a Gaussian regularization of one-pion-exchange in NN

Properties under Chiral Transformation

Replace all pion fields in pion-nucleon Lagrangians $\mathscr{L}_{\pi N}^{(1)}, ..., \mathscr{L}_{\pi N}^{(4)}$: $U \to W$

$$\mathscr{L}_{\pi N}^{(1)} = N^{\dagger} \Big(D^0 + g \, u \cdot S \Big) N \to N^{\dagger} \Big(D_w^0 + g \, w \cdot S \Big) N$$

Chiral transformation: by induction, one can show

$$U \to RUL^{\dagger} \longrightarrow W \to RWL^{\dagger}$$

Regularized pion fields transform under τ - independent transformations

Nucleon fields transform in τ - dependent way

 $N \to KN, \quad K = \sqrt{LU^{\dagger}R^{\dagger}}R\sqrt{U} \quad \longrightarrow \quad N \to K_{\tau}N, \quad K_{\tau} = \sqrt{LW^{\dagger}R^{\dagger}}R\sqrt{W}$

Gradient-Flow Equation

Analytic solution is possible of 1/F - expanded gradient flow equation:

$$W = 1 + i\tau \cdot \phi(1 - \alpha \phi^2) - \frac{\phi^2}{2} \left[1 + \left(\frac{1}{4} - 2\alpha\right)\phi^2 \right] + \mathcal{O}(\phi^5), \quad \phi_b = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{F^n} \phi_b^{(n)}$$

In the absence of external sources we have

 $\begin{bmatrix} \partial_{\tau} - (\partial_{\mu}^{x} \partial_{\mu}^{x} - M^{2}) \end{bmatrix} \phi_{b}^{(1)}(x,\tau) = 0, \quad \phi_{b}^{(1)}(x,0) = \pi_{b}(x)$ $\begin{bmatrix} \partial_{\tau} - (\partial_{\mu}^{x} \partial_{\mu}^{x} - M^{2}) \end{bmatrix} \phi_{b}^{(3)}(x,\tau) = (1 - 2\alpha) \partial_{\mu} \phi^{(1)} \cdot \partial_{\mu} \phi_{b}^{(1)} - 4\alpha \partial_{\mu} \phi^{(1)} \cdot \phi^{(1)} \partial_{\mu} \phi_{b}^{(1)}$ M^{2}

$$+\frac{m}{2}(1-4\alpha)\phi^{(1)}\cdot\phi^{(1)}\phi_b^{(1)}, \quad \phi_b^{(3)}(x,0)=0$$

Iterative solution in momentum space: $\tilde{\phi}^{(n)}(q,\tau) = \int d^4x \, e^{iq \cdot x} \phi_b^{(n)}(x,\tau)$

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\phi}_{b}^{(1)}(q) &= e^{-\tau(q^{2}+M^{2})}\tilde{\pi}_{b}(q) \\ \tilde{\phi}_{b}^{(3)}(q) &= \int \frac{d^{4}q_{1}}{(2\pi)^{4}} \frac{d^{4}q_{2}}{(2\pi)^{4}} \frac{d^{4}q_{3}}{(2\pi)^{4}} (2\pi)^{4} \delta(q-q_{1}-q_{2}-q_{3}) \int_{0}^{\tau} ds \, e^{-(\tau-s)(q^{2}+M^{2})} e^{-s\sum_{j=1}^{3} (q_{j}^{2}+M^{2})} \\ &\times \left[4\alpha \, q_{1} \cdot q_{3} - (1-2\alpha)q_{1} \cdot q_{2} + \frac{M^{2}}{2} (1-4\alpha) \right] \tilde{\pi}(q_{1}) \cdot \tilde{\pi}(q_{2}) \tilde{\pi}_{b}(q_{3}) \end{split}$$

Integration over momenta of pion fields with Gaussian prefactor introduces smearing

Iterative solution in Coordinate Space



Light-shaded area visualizes smearing in Euclidean space of size $\sim \sqrt{2\tau}$ Solid line stands for Green-function:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \partial_{\tau} - (\partial_{\mu}^{x}\partial_{\mu}^{x} - M^{2}) \end{bmatrix} G(x - y, \tau - s) = \delta(x - y)\delta(\tau - s)$$

$$G(x, \tau) = \theta(\tau) \int \frac{d^{4}q}{(2\pi)^{4}} e^{-\tau(q^{2} + M^{2})} e^{-iq \cdot x}$$

$$\phi_{b}^{(1)}(x, \tau) = \int d^{4}y G(x - y, \tau)\pi_{b}(y)$$

$$\phi_{b}^{(3)}(x, \tau) = \int_{0}^{\tau} ds \int d^{4}y G(x - y, \tau - s) [(1 - 2\alpha)\partial_{\mu}\phi^{(1)}(y, s) \cdot \partial_{\mu}\phi^{(1)}(y, s)\phi_{b}^{(1)}(y, s) - 4\alpha \partial_{\mu}\phi^{(1)}(y, s) \cdot \phi^{(1)}(y, s)\partial_{\mu}\phi_{b}^{(1)}(y, s) + \frac{M^{2}}{2}\phi^{(1)}(y, s) \cdot \phi^{(1)}(y, s)\phi_{b}^{(1)}(y, s)]$$

Regularization for Nuclear Forces

To regularize long-range part of the nuclear forces and currents

- Leave pionic Lagrangians $\mathscr{L}^{(2)}_{\pi} \& \mathscr{L}^{(4)}_{\pi}$ unregularized (essential)
- Seplace all pion fields in pion-nucleon Lagrangians $\mathscr{L}_{\pi N}^{(1)}, \ldots, \mathscr{L}_{\pi N}^{(4)}$: $U \to W$

$$\mathscr{L}_{\pi N}^{(1)} = N^{\dagger} \Big(D^0 + g \, u \cdot S \Big) N \to N^{\dagger} \Big(D_w^0 + g \, w \cdot S \Big) N$$



For $\tau = \frac{1}{2\Lambda^2}$ this regulator reproduces SMS regularization of OPE

Status Report on 3NF

Status Report on 3N at N³LO

We calculated all long- and short-range contributions to 3NF & 4NF at N³LO

3NF's are given in terms of integrals over Schwinger parameters

$$V_{3N}^{2\pi-1\pi} = \tau_1 \cdot \tau_2 \times \tau_3 \vec{q}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_1 \times \vec{\sigma}_2 \vec{q}_3 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_3 \frac{e^{-\frac{q_3^2 + M_{\pi}^2}{\Lambda^2}}}{q_3^2 + M_{\pi}^2} \left(-\frac{g_A^4}{F_{\pi}^6} \frac{q_1}{2048\pi} \int_0^{\infty} d\lambda \operatorname{erfi}\left(\frac{q_1\lambda}{2\Lambda\sqrt{2+\lambda}}\right) \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{q_1^2 + 4M_{\pi}^2}{4\Lambda^2}(2+\lambda)\right)}{2+\lambda} + \dots \right) + \dots$$

Dimension of integrals over Schwinger parameters depends on topology



Subtraction Scheme

Choice of the short-range scheme

NN case: local part of NN force vanishes if distance between nucleons vanishes



3N case: vanishing of the local part of 3NF is topology dependent

$$\oint - \oint - \oint = 0 \text{ if } r_{12} = 0 \text{ or } r_{23} = 0$$

$$\int - \oint - \oint = 0 \text{ if } r_{12} = 0$$

$$\int - \oint - \oint = 0 \text{ if } r_{12} = 0$$

$$\int - \oint - \oint = 0 \text{ if } r_{12} = r_{23} = 0$$

$$\int - \oint - \oint = 0 \text{ if } r_{12} = r_{23} = 0$$

Can be achieved by adjustment of D- and E-like terms:



Vanishing of 3NF for any $r_{ii} = 0$ would require inclusion of two-pion-contact terms

Appear first at N⁵LO and are expected to be small

Selected Profile Functions



By construction: subtracted & unsubtracted forces differ in the short-range region

At $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ regularized 3NF reproduce dim. reg. results from Bernard et al. PRC77 (08)



Non-locality introduces additional momenta

 \bullet To get a finite 3NF in $\Lambda \to \infty$ limit we have to perform 5 additional field-transformations which include second power of the pion propagator

more extensive calculation

Short-range parts are given in terms of 1-dim integrals over Schwinger parameters



Selected structure & configuration *c*:

$$\hat{q}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 \hat{q}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_3 \tau_1 \cdot \tau_3 C_S \int_0^\infty d\lambda f(\lambda; \mathbf{c})$$

c includes momenta in MeV & cosines of angles:

Short-Range Part on 3NF at N3LO

Immaginary part of the 3NF due non-local angular-dependent regulator

Configuration *c* includes momenta q_1, k_1, k_{23}, q_{23} in MeV & cosines of angles:



Homework

Relativistic corrections due to new 5 short-range field transformations

 \leftarrow Pion-nucleon amplitude with gradient-flow regulator depends on c_i 's

TPE topology includes pion-nucleon amplitude as a subprocess

Fit c_i 's to pion-nucleon sub-threshold coefficients which are determined from Roy-Steiner equation

Calculation of pion-nucleon scattering with gradient-flow regulator required

Partial wave decomposition (PWD): K. Hebeler, A. Nogga & R. Skibinski

PWD is computationally more expensive, due to higher dimension of integrals over Schwinger parameters

Summary

Path-integral approach for derivation of nuclear forces

- Gradient flow regularization preserves chiral symmetry
- Long- & short-range part of 3NF at N³LO is calculated

Outlook

- Pion-nucleon scattering with gradient-flow regulator
- Partial wave decomposition
- Symmetry preserving regularized nuclear currents

One-Loop Corrections to Interaction

One loop corrections to NN & NNN interaction come from functional determinant

$$\det\left(\frac{\delta(N^{\dagger}, N')}{\delta(N^{\dagger}, N)}\right) = \exp\left(\operatorname{Tr}\log\frac{\delta(N^{\dagger}, N')}{\delta(N^{\dagger}, N)}\right)$$

Due to non-local structure of field transformations det $\left(\frac{\delta(N^{\dagger}, N')}{\delta(N^{\dagger}, N)}\right) \neq 1$

$$S_{N(N'^{\dagger},N')} = \int d^4x \, N'^{\dagger}(x) \left(i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} + \frac{\overrightarrow{\nabla}^2}{2m} + \frac{3g^2 M^3}{32\pi F^2} \right) N'(x) - V_{OPE} + \mathcal{O}(g^4)$$

Nucleon mass-shift Langacker, Pagels, PRD 10 (1974) 2904; Gasser, Zepeda, NPB 174 (1980) 445 is reproduced from functional determinant

Note: The Z-factor of the nucleon is equal to one. This is due to the replacement $\eta^{\dagger}N + N^{\dagger}\eta \rightarrow \eta^{\dagger}N' + N'^{\dagger}\eta$ in the generating functional $Z[\eta^{\dagger}, \eta]$

The original Z-factor of the nucleon is reproduced if we remove this replacement

$$Z = 1 - \frac{9M^2g^2}{2F^2} \left(\bar{\lambda} + \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left(\log \frac{M}{\mu} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{M}{\mu} \right) \right) \right)$$