

# Electromagnetic form factors and charge radii of light nuclei from chiral effective field theory

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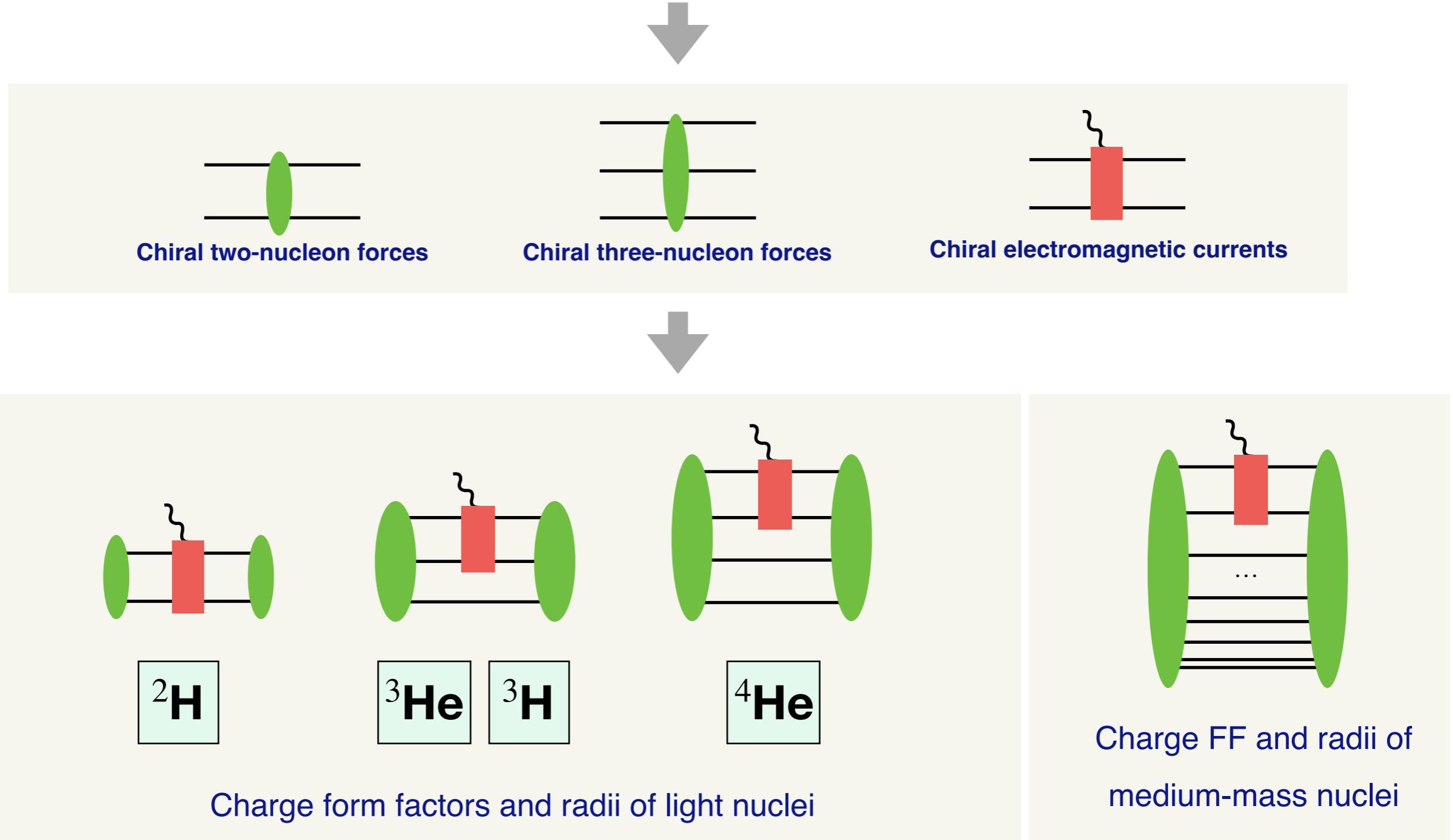
in collaboration with

V. Baru, E. Epelbaum, C. Körber, H. Krebs, D. Möller, A. Nogga, and P. Reinert

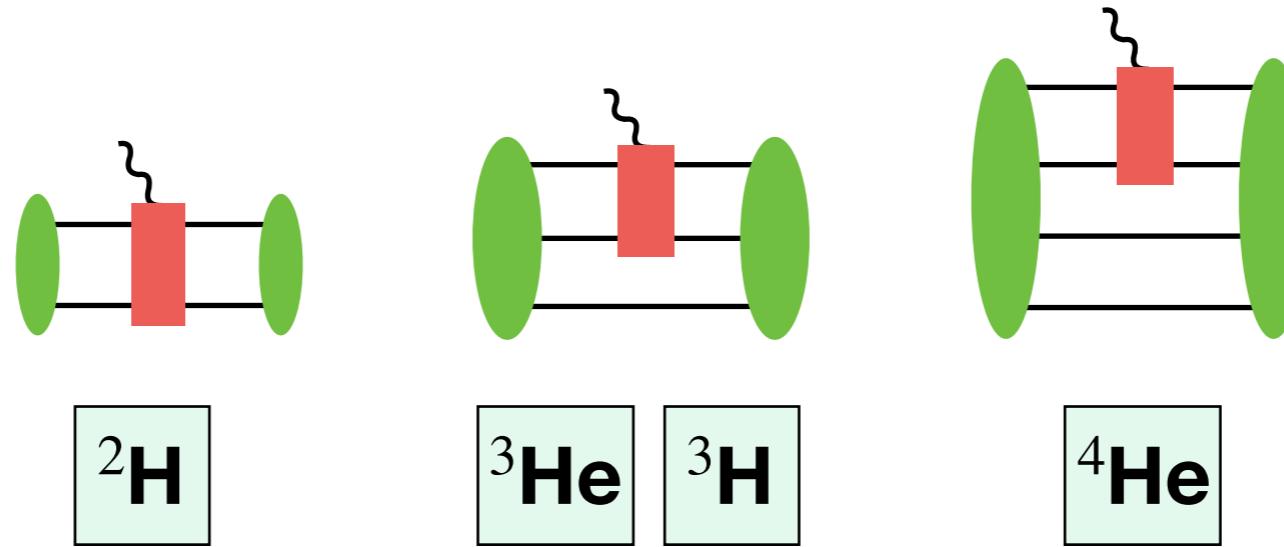
PRL 124 082501 (2020)  
Phys.Rev.C 103 024313 (2021)

# Nuclear charge radii from chiral effective field theory

Low-energy chiral effective field theory of the standard model



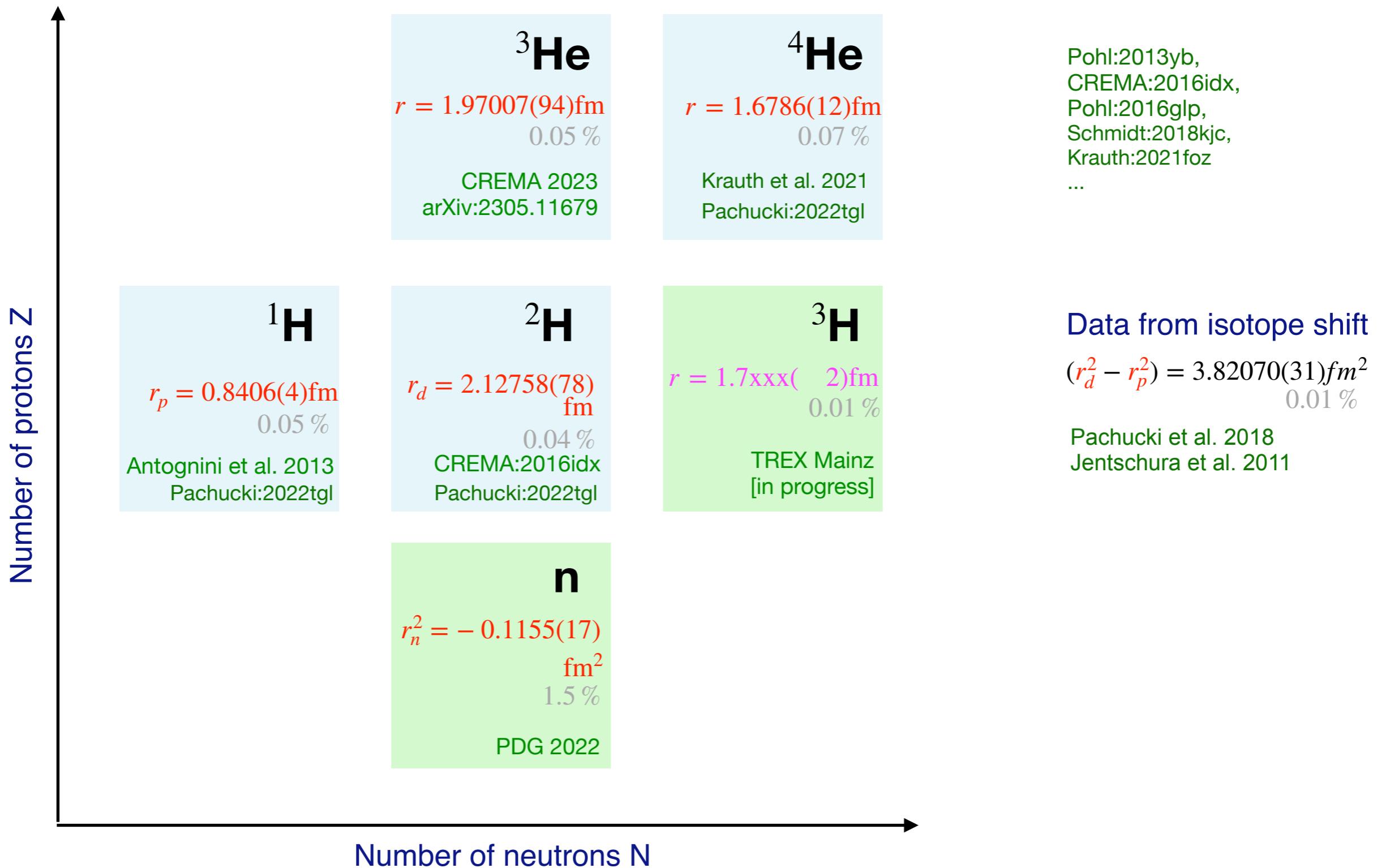
# Precise calculations of charge radii of super-light nuclei



## Motivation:

- Precision **tests of nuclear chiral effective field theory (Chiral EFT)**
- A new way to **extract the neutron and the proton charge radii** from few-nucleon data
- Help to resolve long-standing issue with **underpredicted radii of medium-mass and heavy nuclei**
- Search for **Beyond-Standard-Model** physics (lepton universality breaking)

# Charge radii of $A \leq 4$ nuclei – experimental data



# Basic features of chiral effective field theory

## Chiral effective field theory

- Low-energy **effective field theory of QCD**
- Degrees of freedom are **pions and nucleons**
- Most general Lagrangian consistent with **symmetries and symmetry-breaking pattern of QCD**

- Expansion parameter  $Q = \frac{\max(m_\pi, p)}{\Lambda_\chi}$

$m_\pi$  = pion mass

$p$  = typical momentum scale

$\Lambda_\chi$  = chiral symmetry breaking scale

- **Systematically improvable**

- Observables are calculated order by order

LO = Leading Order

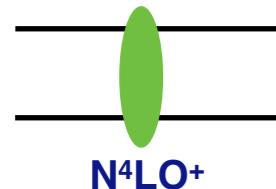
NLO = Next-to-leading order

$N^2LO$  = Next-to-next-to-leading order

...

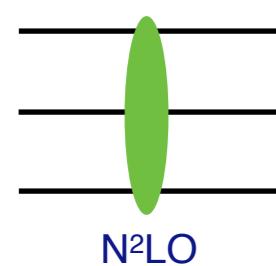
- Higher orders contain more free parameters, which have to be fitted to data

# Chiral effective field theory - precise, accurate and consistent



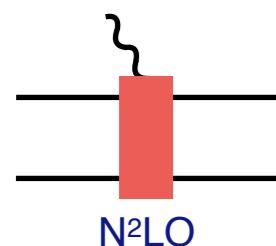
**New high-precision chiral NN forces (N<sup>4</sup>LO<sup>+</sup>)** Reinert et al. PRL 126, 092501 (2021)

- Nearly perfect description of pp and pn scattering data up to pion production threshold



**Chiral 3N forces (general N<sup>2</sup>LO; selected terms at N<sup>4</sup>LO)** Epelbaum:2019kcf

- LECs cD and cE (N<sup>2</sup>LO) are fitted to RIKEN Nd DCS data and <sup>3</sup>He binding energy
- **Consistent** regularisation of N<sup>3</sup>LO is in progress
- Inclusion of the N<sup>3</sup>LO off-shell effects are in progress (talk by Sven Heihoff on Tuesday)

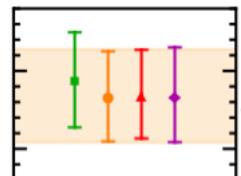


**Isoscalar: N<sup>4</sup>LO**

**2N Chiral electromagnetic currents (general N<sup>2</sup>LO; isoscalar N<sup>4</sup>LO)**

- N<sup>2</sup>LO (**isoscalar N<sup>4</sup>LO**) is derived and regularised consistently with the chiral NN forces
- Consistent regularisation of N<sup>3</sup>LO (isovector) is in progress

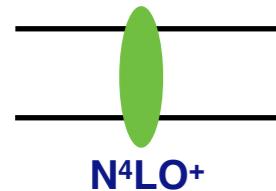
Kolling:2009iq  
Kolling:2012cs  
Krebs:2019aka  
Krebs:2020pii (Review)



**Reliable methods to quantify truncation uncertainty of the EFT expansion**

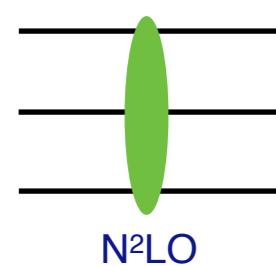
Epelbaum et al. EPJA 51 (2015); Furnstahl et al. PRC 92, 024005 (2015); Melendez et al. PRC 96, 024003 (2017),  
Wesolowski et al. J. Phys. G 46, 045102 (2019); Melendez et al. PRC 100, 044001 (2019), ...

# Chiral effective field theory - precise, accurate and consistent



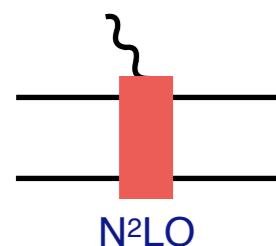
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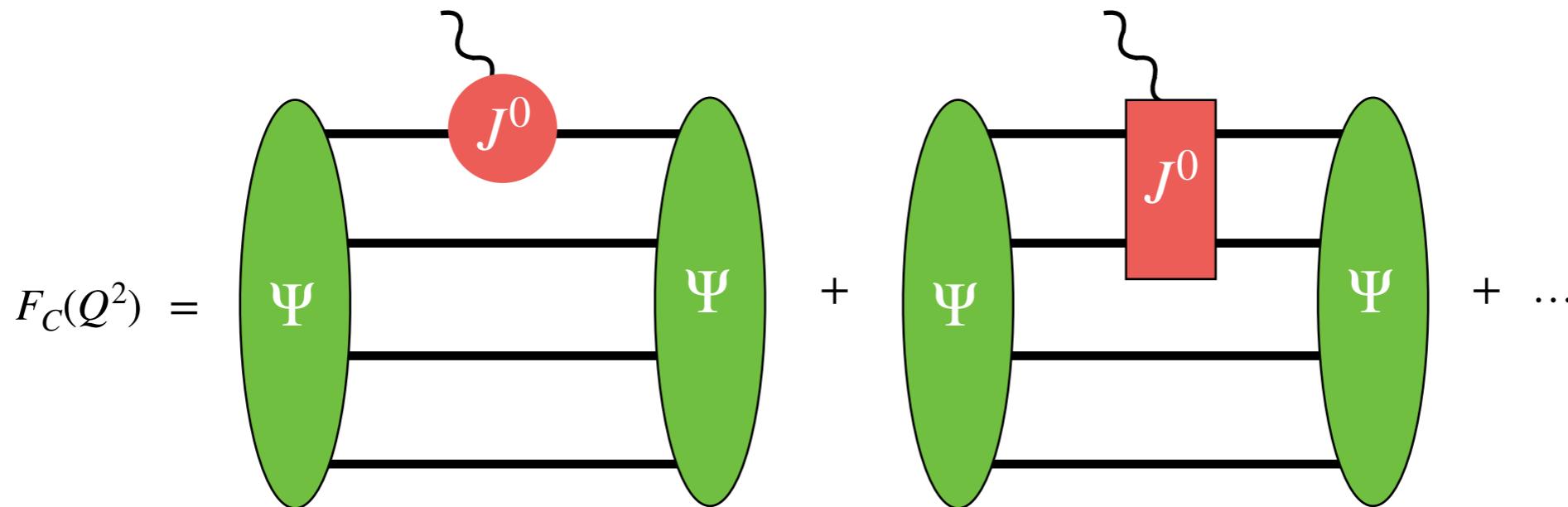
## Goals of this study:

- consistent xEFT calculation of isoscalar structure radii of A = 2, 3, 4 nuclei
- aim at N<sup>4</sup>LO level of accuracy even in the incomplete calculation
- careful estimation of uncertainties (truncation, statistical, numerical and other)

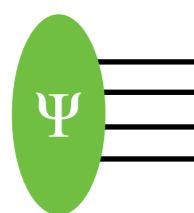
# Chiral EFT calculation of the nuclear charge radius

Charge radius  $r_C$  is related to the charge form factor  $F_C(Q)$

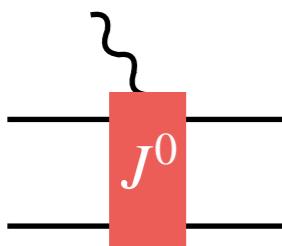
$$r_C^2 = (-6) \frac{\partial}{\partial Q^2} F_C(Q^2) \Big|_{Q=0}$$



The matrix element is a convolution of nuclear wave function and charge density operator



Nuclear wave function based on high-precision chiral EFT interactions

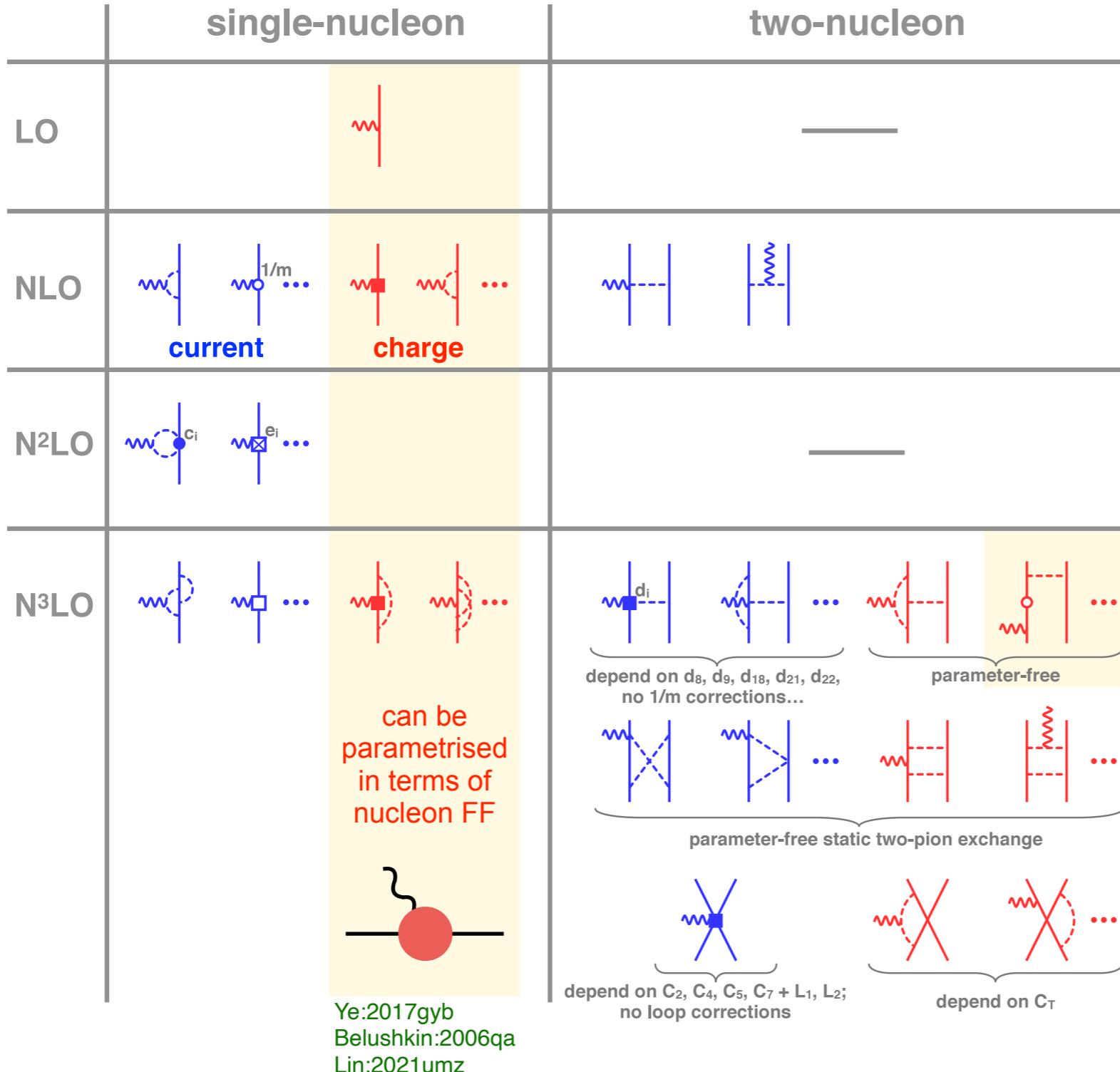
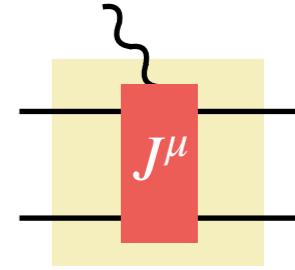


Charge density operator - consistent with chiral nuclear forces

# Nuclear electromagnetic currents

Kolling:2009iq, Kolling:2012cs, Krebs:2019aka

Review: H. Krebs, EPJA 56 (2020) 240

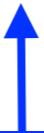


depend on **3 parameters (LECs)**  
 $3S_1-3S_1$  - fitted to deuteron FF data  
 $3S_1-3D_1$  - fitted to deuteron FF data too  
 $1S_0-1S_0$  - fitted to  ${}^4\text{He}$  FF data  
  
 Chen, Rupak, Savage '99;  
 Phillips '07  
 AF et al. '20

# Structure radius

Nuclear **charge radius** can be decomposed into structure, **proton** and **neutron** radii

$$r_C^2 = r_{str}^2 + \left( r_p^2 + \frac{3}{4m_p^2} \right) + \frac{N}{Z} r_n^2$$



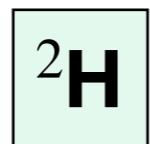
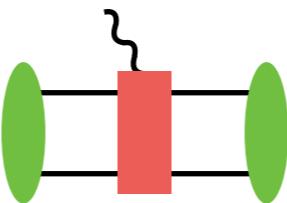
## Nuclear structure radius

- depends on distribution of matter (proton and neutrons) inside the nuclei
- depends on many-body electromagnetic currents (meson-exchange currents)
- can be accurately calculated using chiral nuclear forces and EM currents**

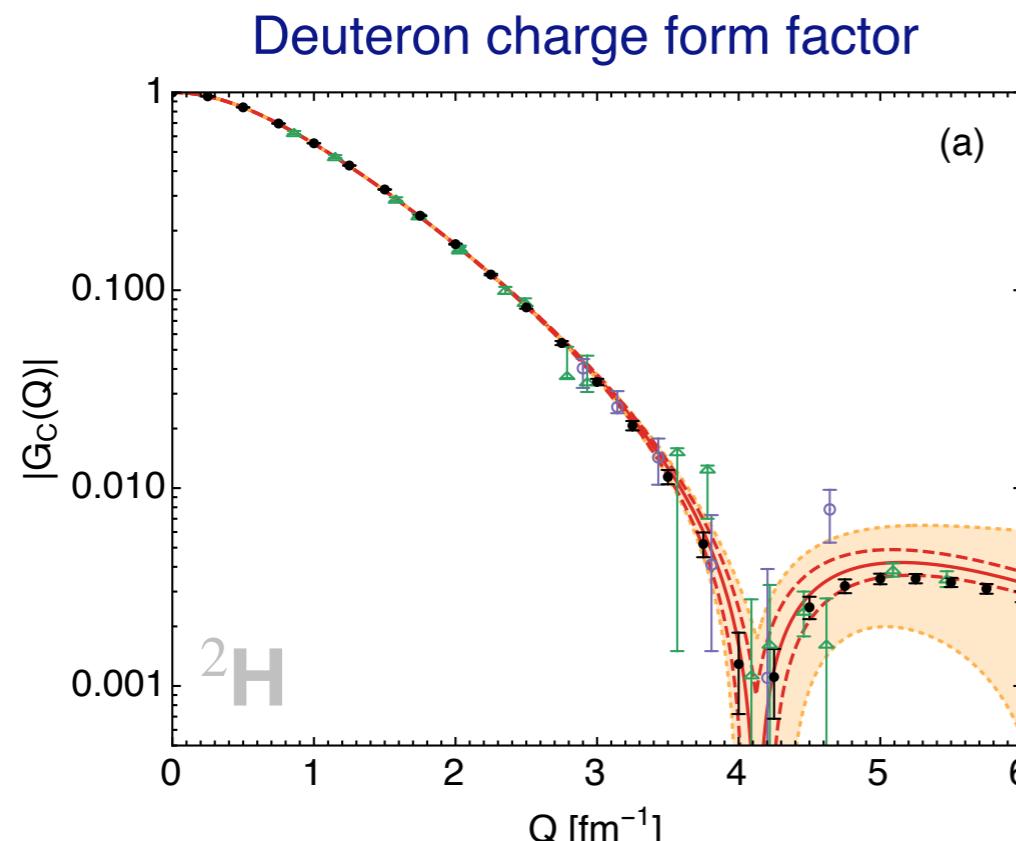
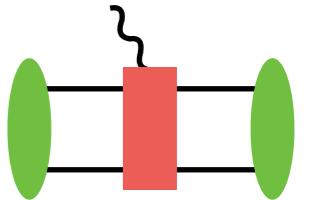
Structure radius = charge radius if protons and neutrons have point-like charge distributions

# Deuteron structure radius

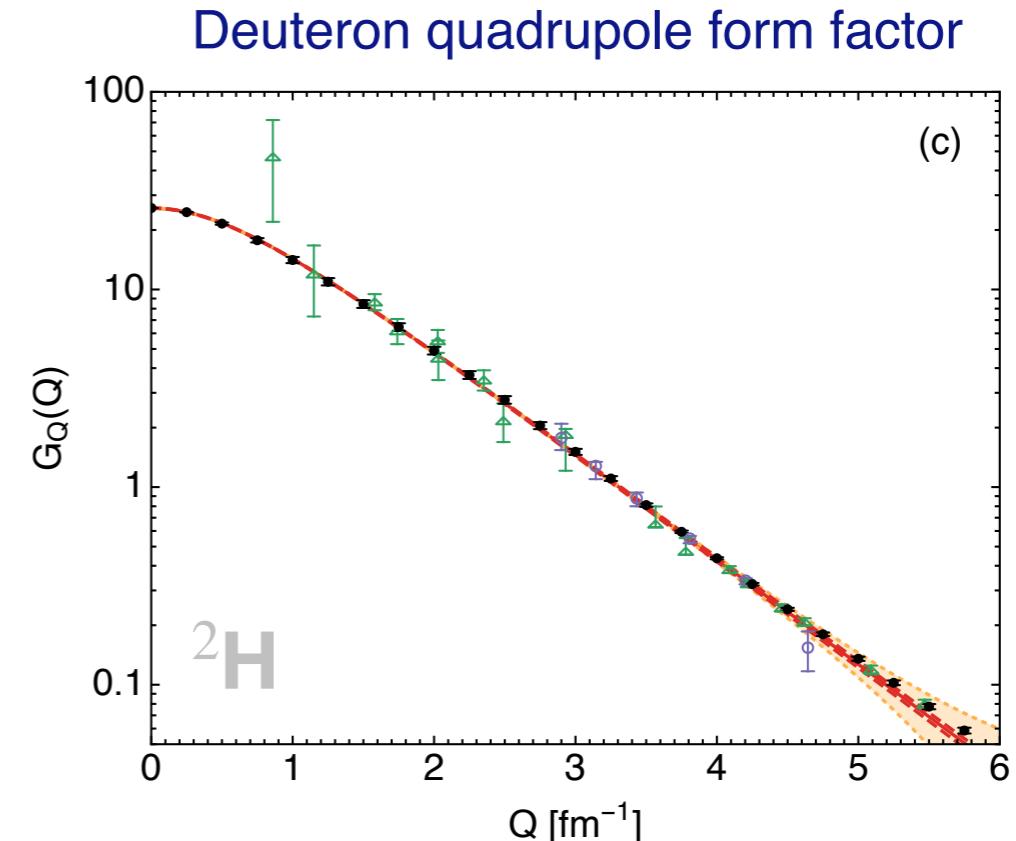
& extraction of the neutron charge radius



# Deuteron charge and quadrupole form factors



  our result +  $N^4LO$  truncation uncertainty  
  statistical uncertainty



  Experimental data  
  Parameterisation by I.Sick (not used in the fit)

## Extraction of deuteron structure radius and quadrupole moment

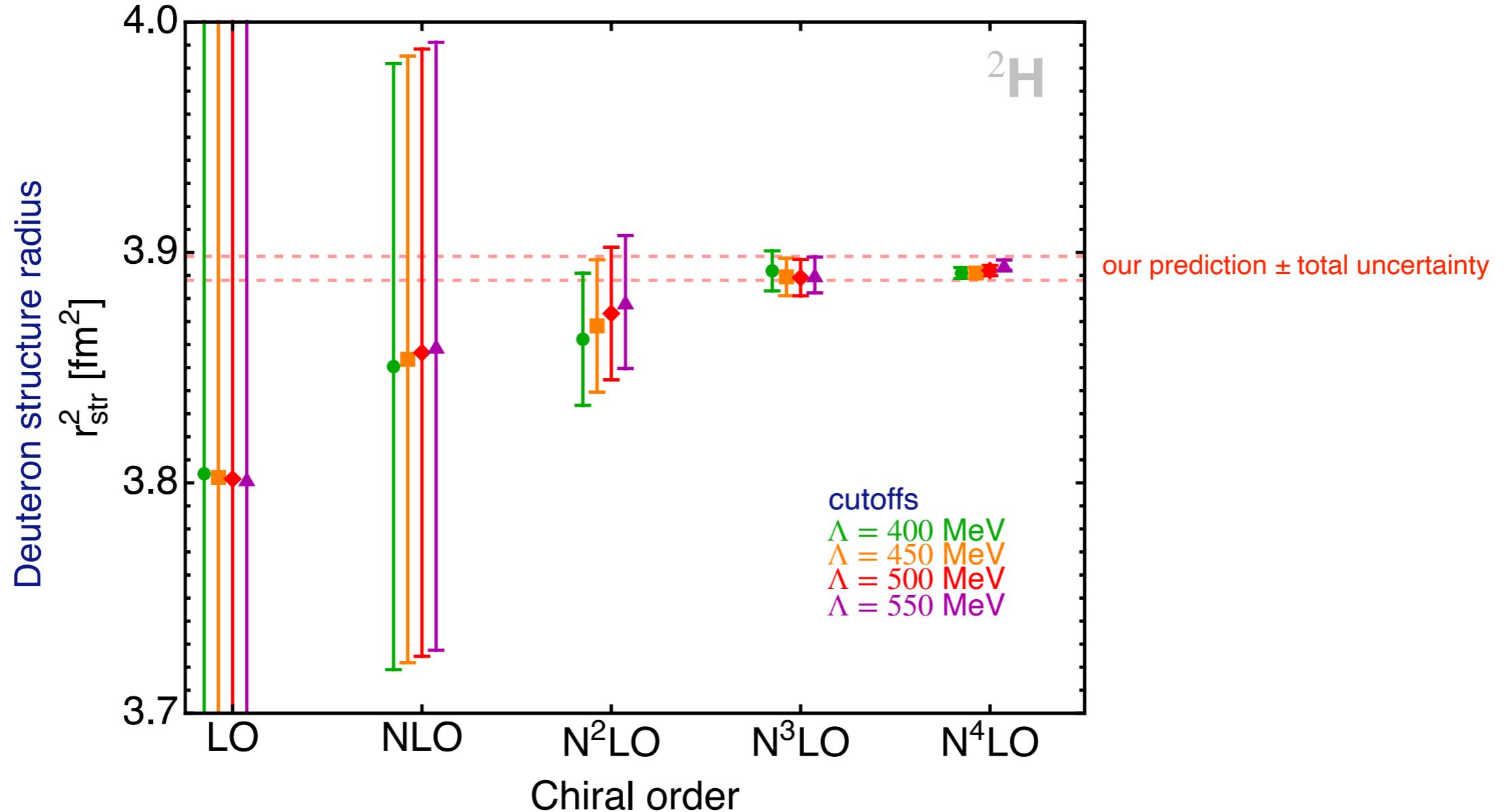
$$r_{str} = 1.9729^{+0.0015}_{-0.0012} \text{ fm}$$

$$Q_d = 0.2854^{+0.0038}_{-0.0017} \text{ fm}^2$$

AF, Möller, Baru, Epelbaum, Krebs, Reinert, PRL 124 (2020) 082501; PRC 103 (2021) 024313

# Truncation uncertainty of $^2\text{H}$ structure radius

Using Bayesian model to estimate truncation uncertainty at each order [Epelbaum et al. EPJA 56, 92 \(2020\)](#)

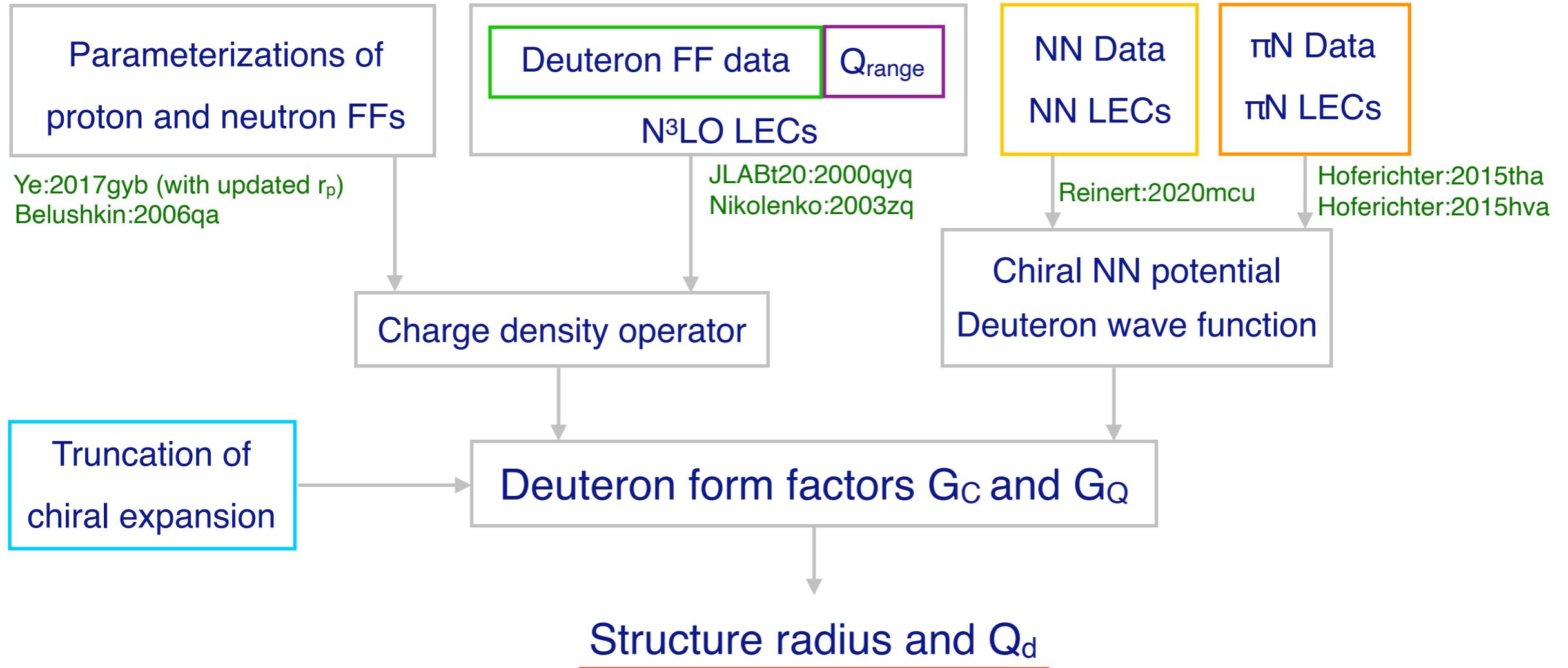


Chiral EFT expansion converges very well

Cutoff dependence is smaller than the truncation uncertainty

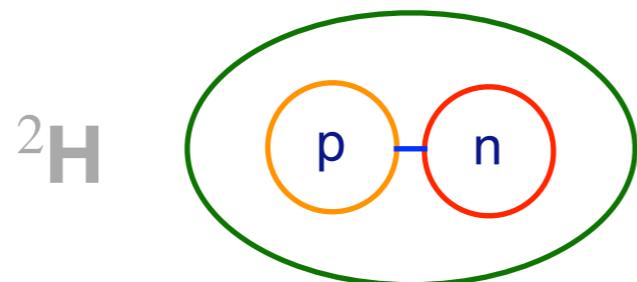
# Uncertainty analysis of deuteron structure radius

We propagate uncertainties from multiple sources



	<u>Central</u>	Truncation	$\rho_{\text{Cont}}^{\text{reg}}$	$\pi\text{N LECs RSA}$	$2\text{N LECs and } f_i^2$	$Q$ range	Total
$r_{\text{str}}^2 (\text{fm}^2)$	3.8925	$\pm 0.0030$	$\pm 0.0024$	$\pm 0.0003$	$\pm 0.0025$	$+0.0035$ $-0.0005$	$+0.0058$ $-0.0046$
$Q_d (\text{fm}^2)$	0.2854	$\pm 0.0005$	$\pm 0.0007$	$\pm 0.0003$	$\pm 0.0016$	$+0.0035$ $-0.0005$	$+0.0038$ $-0.0017$

# Neutron charge radius from high-accuracy $\chi$ EFT calculation of deuteron structure radius



$$r_d^2 = r_{str}^2(^2\text{H}) + \left( r_p^2 + \frac{3}{4m_p^2} \right) + r_n^2$$

Deuteron-proton radius difference

$$(r_d^2 - r_p^2) = 3.82070(31) \text{ fm}^2$$

Atomic spectroscopy

Hydrogen-deuterium 1S-2S isotope shift

+ QED corrections

Pachucki et al., PRA 97, 062511 (2018)  
Jentschura et al. PRA 83 (2011)

Our accurate  $\chi$ EFT calculation  
of the deuteron structure radius

New method of determination  
of the neutron charge radius

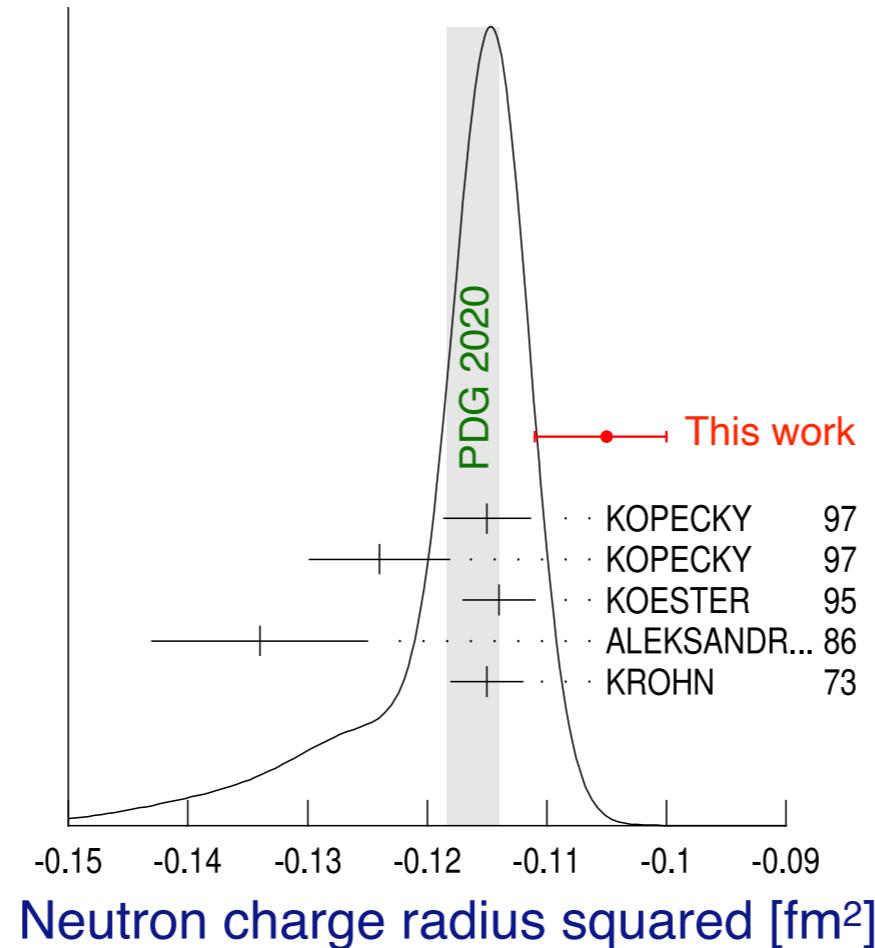
$$r_n^2 = (r_d^2 - r_p^2) - \frac{3}{4m_p^2} - r_{str}^2(^2\text{H})$$

$$r_n^2 = -0.105^{+0.005}_{-0.006} \text{ fm}^2$$

# Our extraction of the neutron charge radius

$$r_n^2 = -0.105^{+0.005}_{-0.006} \text{ fm}^2$$

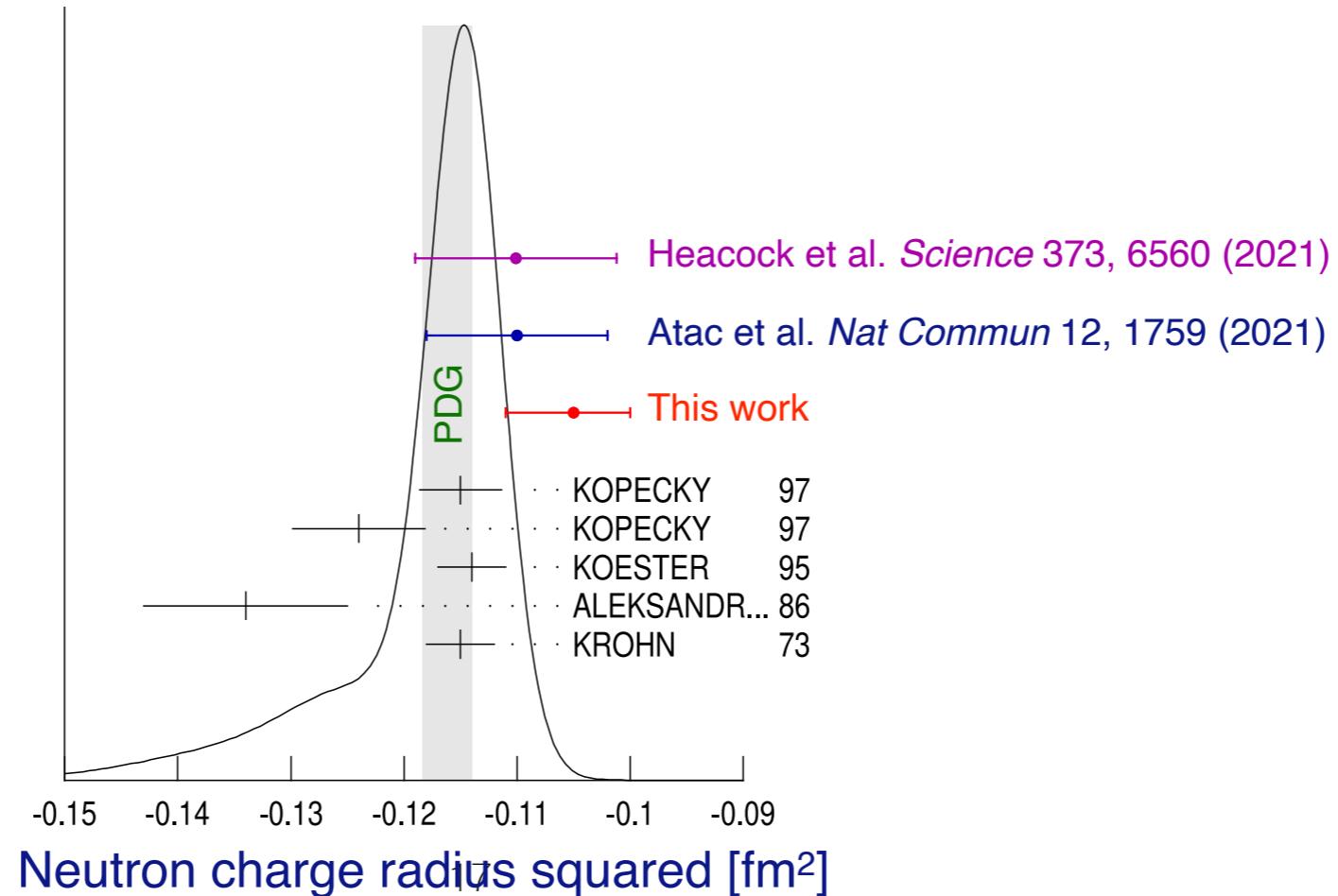
~ $2\sigma$  deviation from the PDG (2022) weighted average  $r_n^2 = -0.1155(17) \text{ fm}^2$



# Our extraction of the neutron charge radius

$$r_n^2 = -0.105^{+0.005}_{-0.006} \text{ fm}^2$$

~ $2\sigma$  deviation from the PDG (2022) weighted average  $r_n^2 = -0.1155(17) \text{ fm}^2$



# Neutron charge radius in PDG 2022

R.L. Workman et al. (Particle Data Group), Prog.Theor.Exp.Phys. 2022, 083C01 (2022) and 2023 update

## $\eta$ MEAN-SQUARE CHARGE RADIUS

VALUE (fm <sup>2</sup> )	DOCUMENT ID	COMMENT
<b>-0.1155±0.0017 OUR AVERAGE</b>		
-0.115 ±0.002 ±0.003	KOPECKY 97	$n e$ scattering (Pb)
-0.124 ±0.003 ±0.005	KOPECKY 97	$n e$ scattering (Bi)
-0.114 ±0.003	KOESTER 95	$n e$ scattering (Pb, Bi)
-0.115 ±0.003	<sup>1</sup> KROHN 73	$n e$ scattering (Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe)
• • • We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. • • •		
-0.1101±0.0089	<sup>2</sup> HEACOCK 21	$n$ interferometry
-0.106 <sup>+0.007</sup> <sub>-0.005</sub>	<sup>3</sup> FILIN 20	chiral EFT analysis
-0.117 <sup>+0.007</sup> <sub>-0.011</sub>	BELUSHKIN 07	Dispersion analysis
-0.113 ±0.003 ±0.004	KOPECKY 95	$n e$ scattering (Pb)
-0.134 ±0.009	ALEKSANDR... 86	$n e$ scattering (Bi)
-0.114 ±0.003	KOESTER 86	$n e$ scattering (Pb, Bi)
-0.118 ±0.002	KOESTER 76	$n e$ scattering (Pb)
-0.120 ±0.002	KOESTER 76	$n e$ scattering (Bi)
-0.116 ±0.003	KROHN 66	$n e$ scattering (Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe)

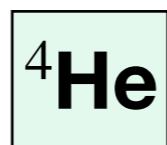
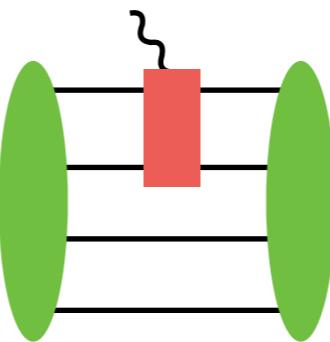
<sup>1</sup> KROHN 73 measured  $-0.112 \pm 0.003$  fm<sup>2</sup>. This value is as corrected by KOESTER 76.

<sup>2</sup> HEACOCK 21 extract the value from Pendelloesung interferometry to measure the neutron structure factors of silicon. This value is strongly anti-correlated with the mean-square thermal atomic displacement.

<sup>3</sup> FILIN 20 extract the value based on their chiral-EFT calculation of the deuteron structure radius and use as input the atomic data for the difference of the deuteron and proton charge radii.

# $^4\text{He}$ charge radius

Precision test of the chiral EFT for  $^4\text{He}$

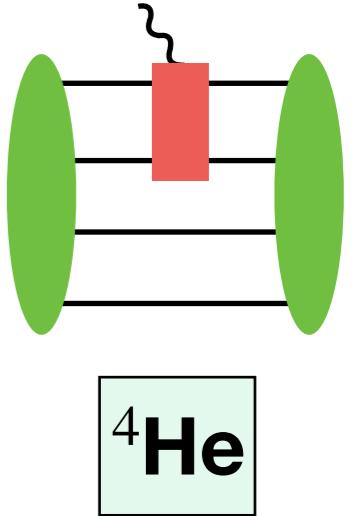


Preliminary results

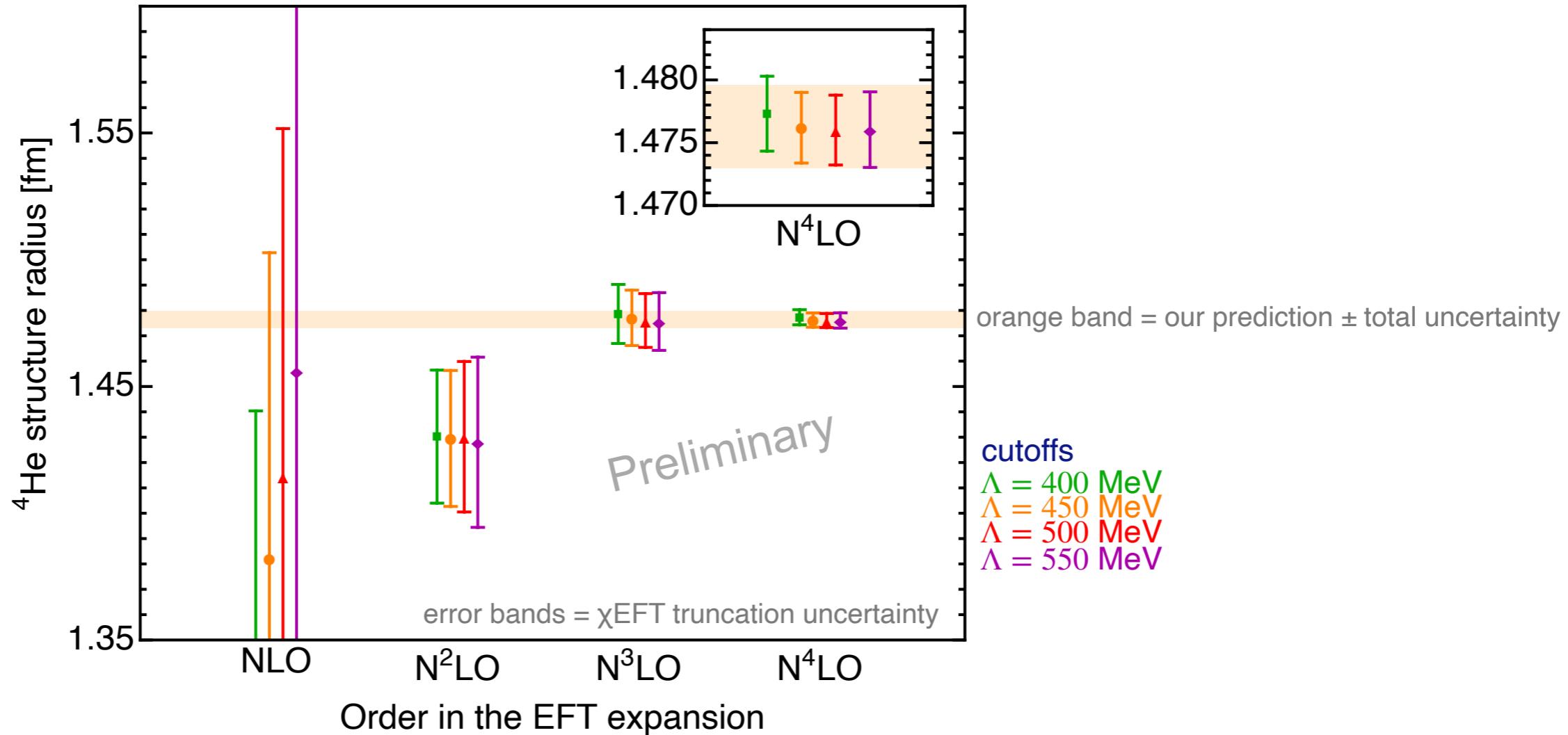
# Prediction of ${}^4\text{He}$ structure radius

Our preliminary prediction for  ${}^4\text{He}$  structure radius:

$$r_{str}({}^4\text{He}) = 1.4763 \pm 0.0030_{\text{trunc}} \pm 0.0013_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.0007_{\text{num}} \text{ fm} \text{ (Preliminary)}$$



Estimation of truncation error:

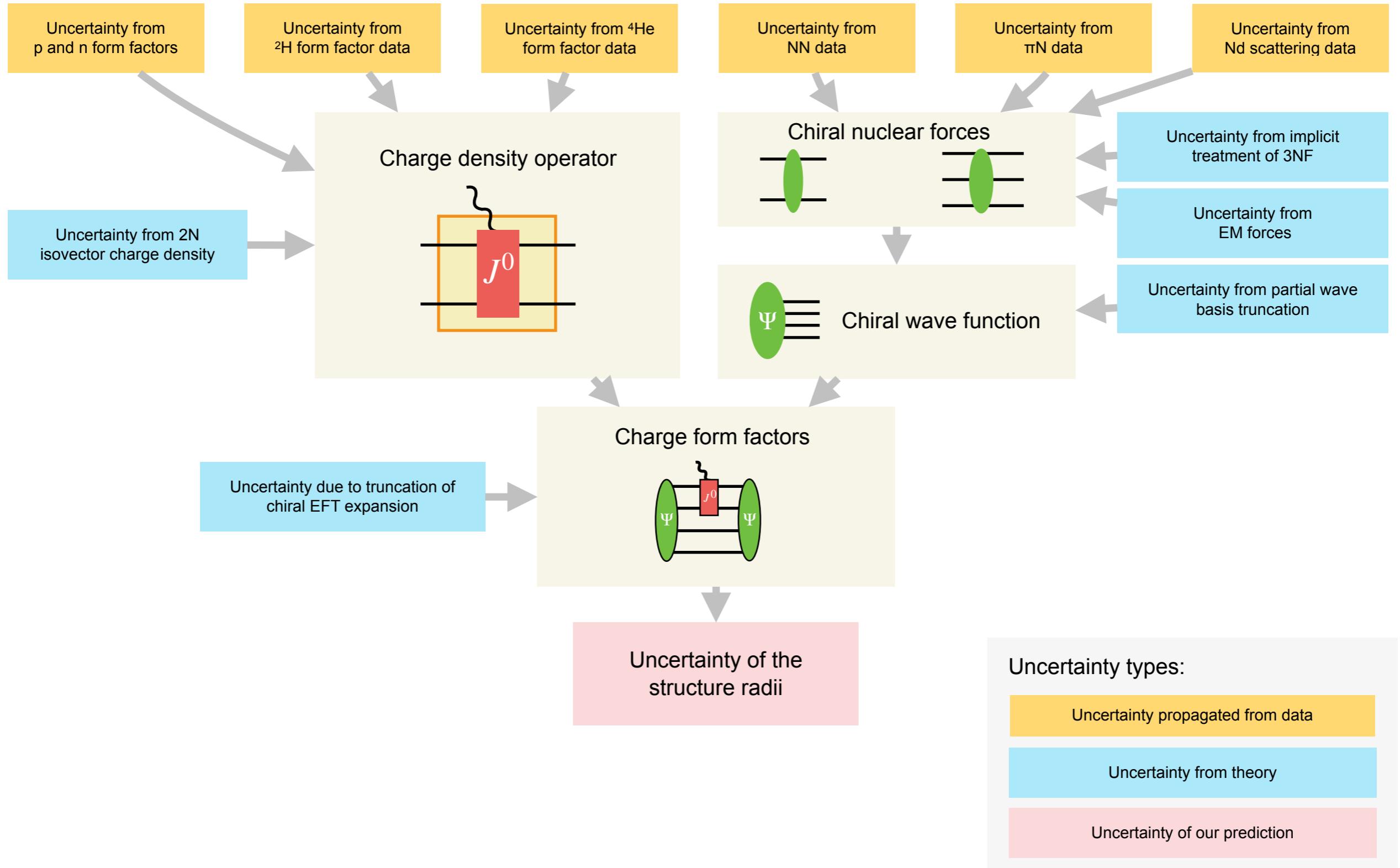


Cutoff dependence is smaller than the truncation uncertainty

Chiral EFT expansion converges well

# Extensive uncertainty analysis

## Propagation of uncertainties from data and theory



# Prediction for ${}^4\text{He}$ charge radius

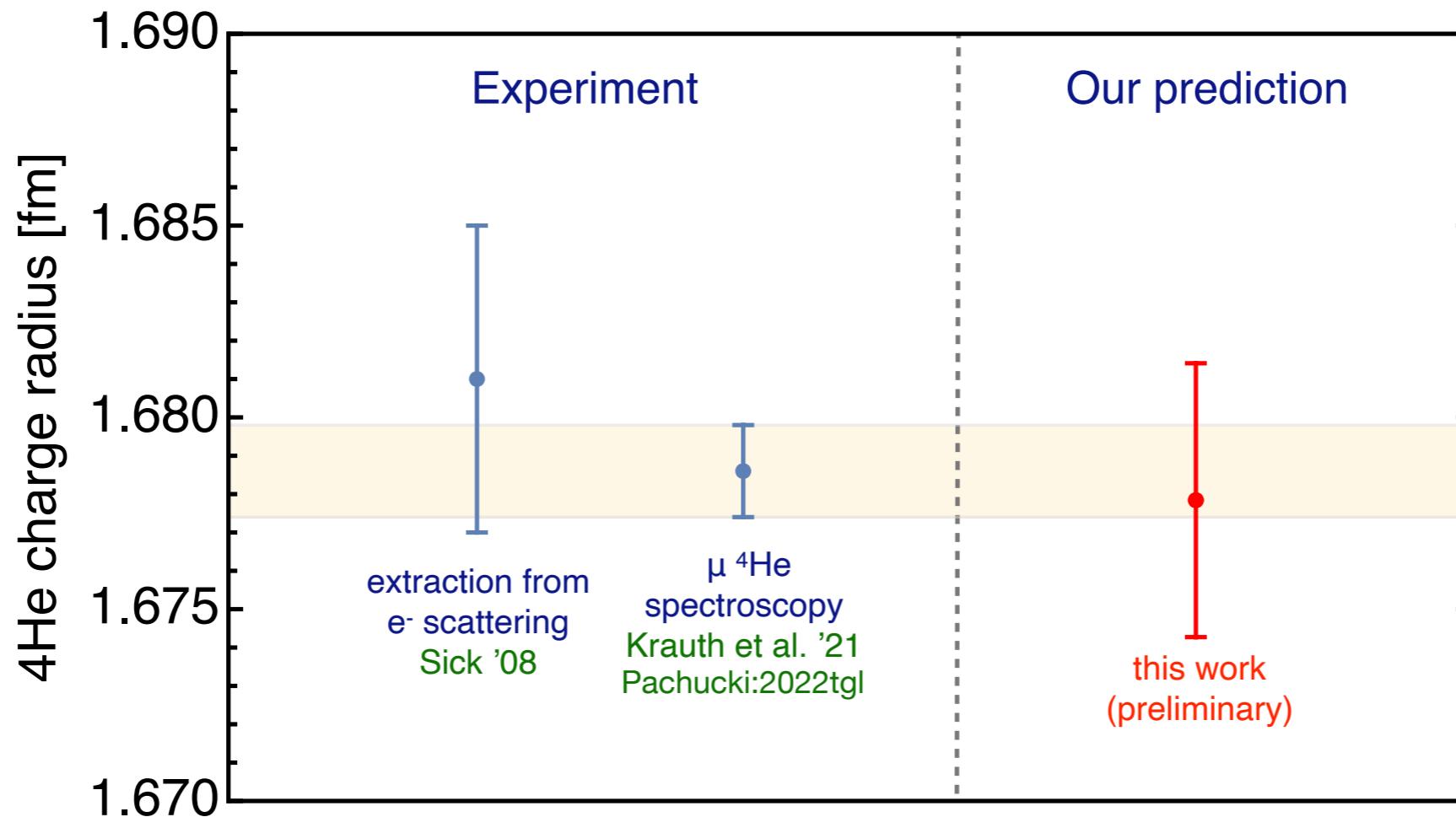
$$r_{str}({}^4\text{He}) = 1.4763 \pm 0.0030_{\text{trunc}} \pm 0.0013_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.0007_{\text{num}} \text{ fm} \quad (\text{Preliminary})$$

Our prediction for  ${}^4\text{He}$  **charge** radius

$$r_C({}^4\text{He}) = (1.6778 \pm 0.0036) \text{ fm}$$

$$r_C({}^4\text{He}) = r_{str}^2({}^4\text{He}) + \left( \frac{3}{4m_p^2} + r_p^2 \right) + r_n^2$$

preliminary, using CODATA 2018  $r_p$  and own determination of  $r_n$



Our prediction for  ${}^4\text{He}$  charge radius is fully consistent with the muonic-atom spectroscopy

# Indications of BSM physics?

All data used to constrain chiral EFT LECs are from strong interaction / electron-based experiments:

$\pi N$  Roy-Steiner analysis [Hoferichter:2015tha](#), [Hoferichter:2015hva](#)

NN pn and pp scattering data, deuteron BE [Reinert:2020mcu](#)

Deuteron charge and quadrupole FF data [JLABt20:2000qyq](#), [Nikolenko:2003zq](#)

Deuteron-proton radii difference from atomic spectroscopy [Pachucki:2018yxg](#), Jentschura et al. PRA 83 (2011)

Proton charge radius CODATA2018

$^4\text{He}$  form factor data [Erich:1971rhg](#), [Mccarthy:1977vd](#), [VonGunten:1982yna](#), [Ottermann:1985km](#), [Frosch:1967pz](#),  
[Arnold:1978qs](#), [Camsonne:2013df](#)

Binding energies of  $^3\text{He}$  and  $^4\text{He}$

Nd DCS minimum @ 70 MeV [RIKEN](#) data

No muonic data is used in our chiral EFT predictions

Our prediction for  $^4\text{He}$  charge radius is consistent with the muonic experiment

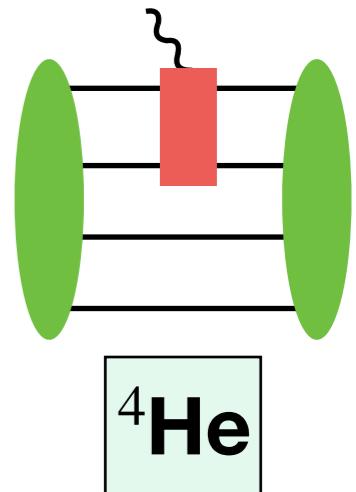
**No indication of lepton universality breaking** at this accuracy level

# Isoscalar nucleon charge radius from data on ${}^4\text{He}$

Our prediction for  ${}^4\text{He}$  **structure** radius

Experimental  ${}^4\text{He}$  charge radius  
Krauth et al., Nature 589 (2021) 7843, 527-531  
+ theory update from Pachucki et al. (2022)

$$r_C({}^4\text{He}) = r_{str}^2({}^4\text{He}) + \left( \frac{r_p^2}{4m_p^2} + \frac{3}{4m_p^2} \right) + r_n^2$$



Determination  
of the isoscalar nucleon charge radius  
 $(r_n^2 + r_p^2) = (0.605 \pm 0.011) \text{ fm}$

preliminary

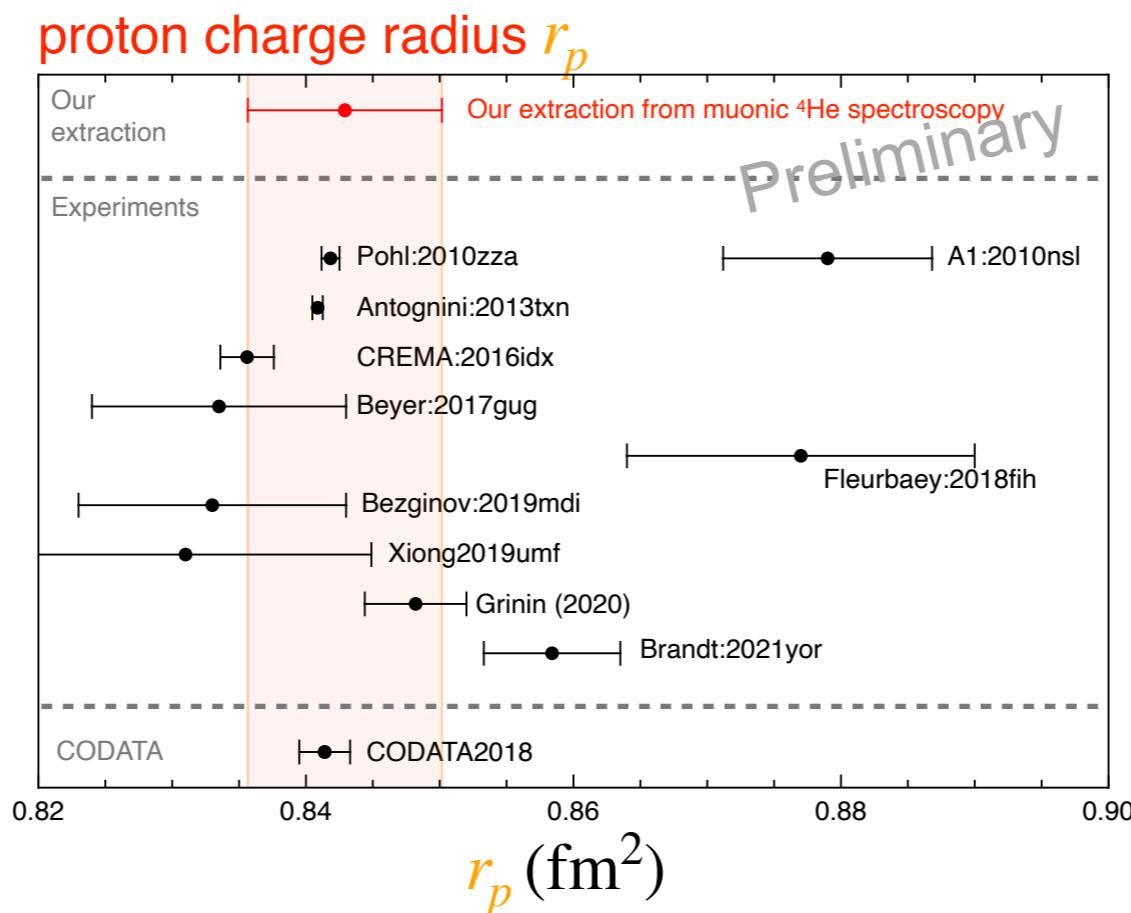
# Proton charge radius from isoscalar nucleon radius

Our determination of the  
isoscalar nucleon charge radius from  ${}^4\text{He}$   
 $(r_n^2 + r_p^2) = (0.605 \pm 0.011)\text{fm}$  preliminary

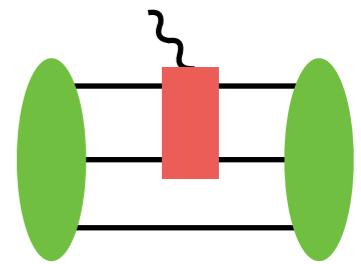
Our determination of the  
neutron charge radius from  ${}^2\text{H}$   
 $r_n^2 = -0.105^{+0.005}_{-0.006}\text{fm}^2$   
AF, Möller, Baru, Epelbaum, Krebs, Reinert,  
PRL 124 (2020) 082501; PRC 103 (2021) 024313

New determination of the proton charge radius:  $r_p = (0.843 \pm 0.007)\text{fm}$

preliminary



Our extraction supports the „small“ proton radius



## Prediction for isoscalar 3N charge radius

With all LECs being fixed, we can predict the isoscalar 3N charge radius:

$$r_C^{isoscalar3N} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}(r_C^{^3H})^2 + \frac{2}{3}(r_C^{^3He})^2}$$

$$r_C^{isoscalar3N} = (1.9062 \pm 0.0026) \text{ fm}$$

preliminary, using CODATA 2018  $r_p$  and own determination of  $r_n$

Our result is 10x more precise than current experimental data:

the  ${}^3\text{H}$  charge radius from  $e^-$  scattering experiments:

$r_C^{^3H} = (1.7550 \pm 0.0860) \text{ fm}$  Amroun et al. '94 (world average)

the  ${}^3\text{He}$  charge radius from muonic  ${}^3\text{He}$ :

$r_C^{^3He} = (1.9701 \pm 0.0009) \text{ fm}$  CREMA 2023 arXiv:2305.11679  
5 %  
0.05 %

**Exp. 3N isoscalar charge radius:** (using muonic  ${}^3\text{He}$  and old  ${}^3\text{H}$ )

$r_{C, exp.}^{isoscalar3N} = (1.9010 \pm 0.0260) \text{ fm}$   
1.4 %

T-REX experiment in Mainz [Pohl et al.] aims at measuring  $r_C^{^3H}$  within  $\pm 0.0002 \text{ fm}$  (400x more precise)

The isoscalar 3N radius will be then known within  $\pm 0.0009 \text{ fm}$

⇒ precision tests of nuclear chiral EFT!

# Summary

Precise and accurate calculation of  $A = 2, 3, 4$  isoscalar charge radii in chiral effective field theory

Extensive uncertainty analysis

**Nuclear structure calculations with sub-percent accuracy!**

Charge radii of neutron and proton from light nuclei:

- ${}^2\text{H}$   $r_{\text{str}}$  combined with isotope-shift data => extracted the neutron charge radius (2 $\sigma$  tension with PDG)
- ${}^4\text{He}$   $r_{\text{str}}$  combined with spectroscopic data => extracted isoscalar nucleon and proton charge radii preliminary

${}^4\text{He}$  calculation: preliminary

- calculated  ${}^4\text{He}$  charge radius (0.2% accuracy) agrees with the new  $\mu{}^4\text{He}$  measurement
- no indications of lepton universality breaking at this accuracy level

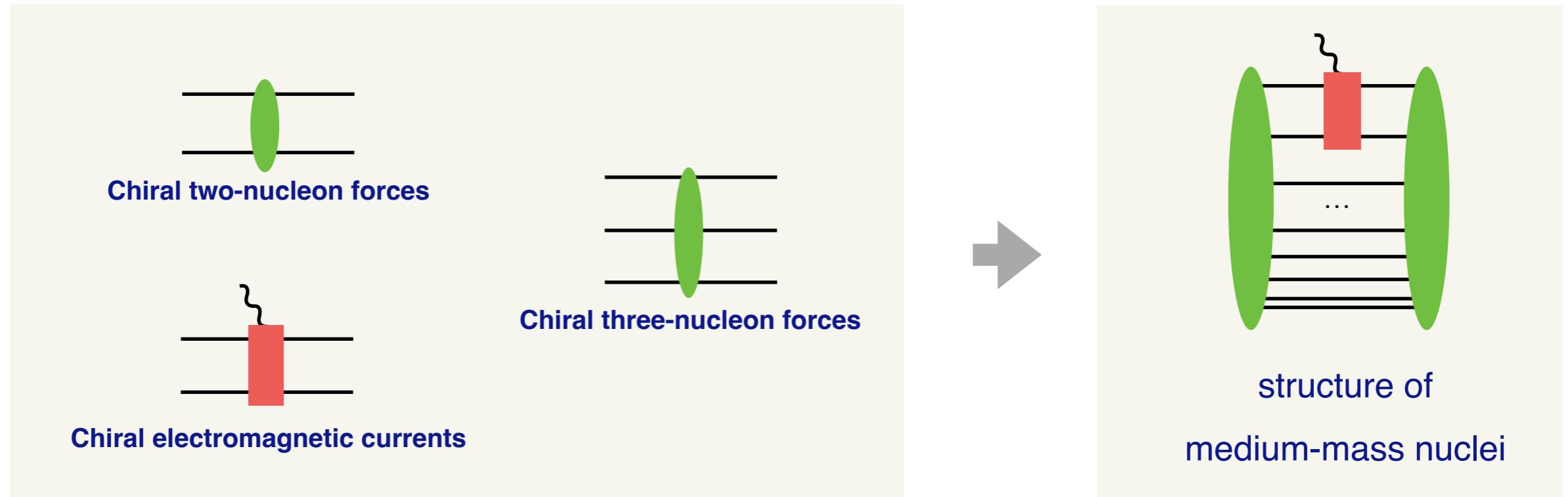
${}^3\text{H}$ - ${}^3\text{He}$ : preliminary

- predicted the isoscalar 3N charge radius  $r_C$  (0.1% accuracy)
- our  $r_C$  is in agreement with the current exp. value (which has 10x larger errors)
- the ongoing T-REX ( ${}^3\text{H}$ ) exp. in Mainz will allow for a precision test of nuclear chiral EFT

# Outlook

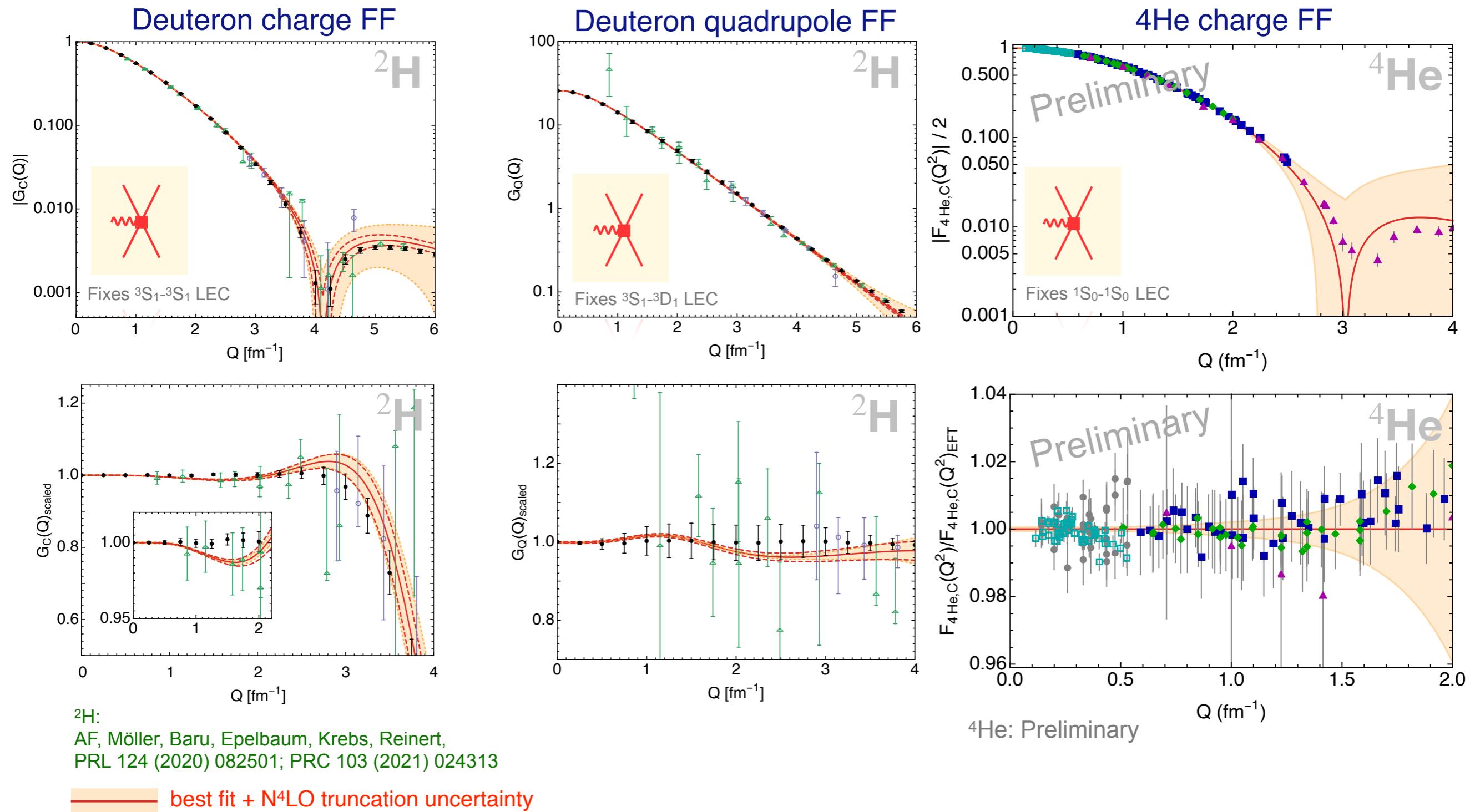
## In progress:

- Consistent inclusion of **isovector 2N currents at N<sup>3</sup>LO and N<sup>4</sup>LO**
- Consistent inclusion of **N<sup>3</sup>LO and N<sup>4</sup>LO three-nucleon forces**
- Analysis of **magnetic form factors** (PhD thesis of D. Möller)
- Application to processes with two photons (**polarizabilities, ...**)
- Calculation of isoscalar N4LO **charge radii for nuclei with A>4** (work in progress by LENPIC collaboration)



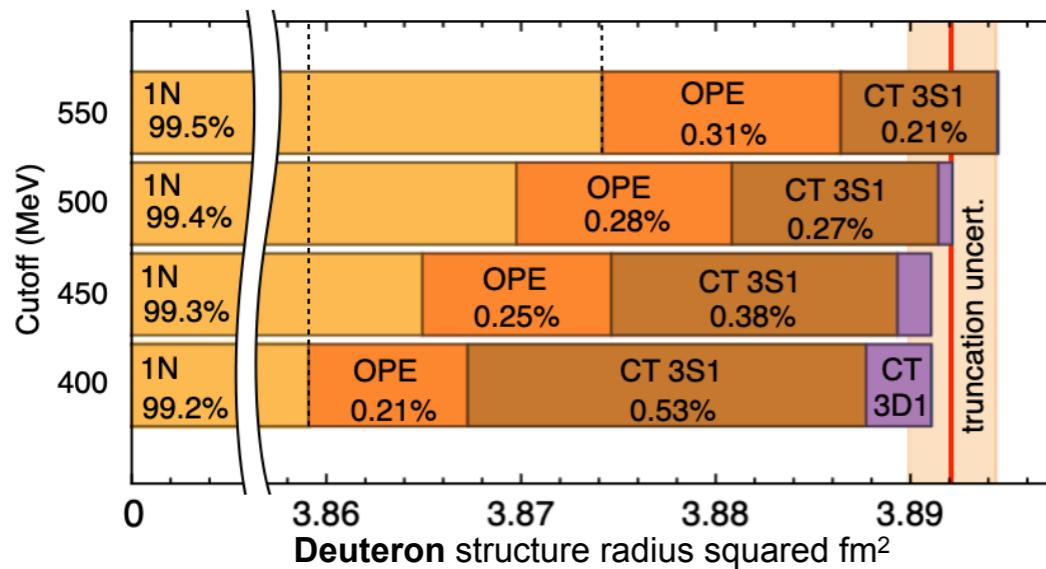
# Spares

# Low-energy constants from a fit to charge and quadrupole form factors



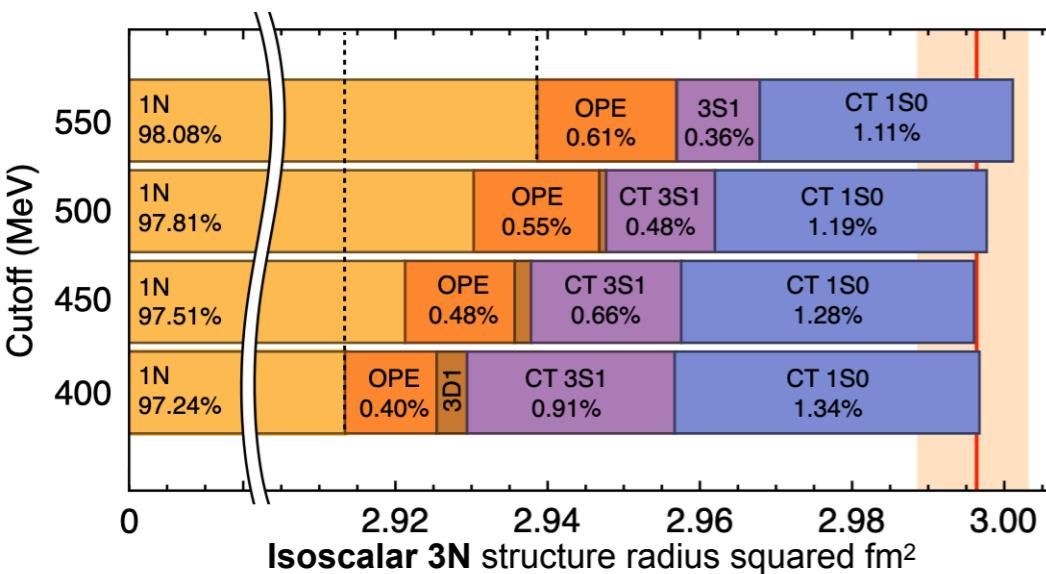
3 parameters (LECs) in 2N charge density  $J^0$  are fixed from the form factor data of deuteron and  ${}^4\text{He}$

# Importance of 2N charge density



Individual contributions to A=2,3,4 structure radii from

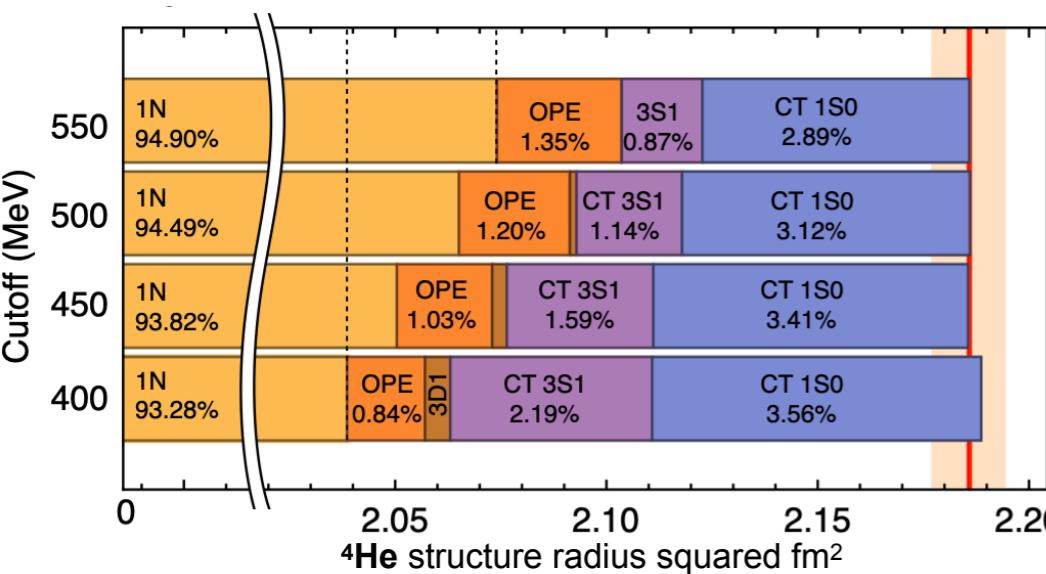
- single-nucleon charge density (1N)
- 2N one-pion exchange density (OPE)
- 2N contact densities (CT 3S1, 3D1, 1S0)



2N charge density contribution to structure radii squared:

deuteron	$\sim 0.7\%$
isoscalar 3N	$\sim 2.5\%$
<sup>4</sup> He	$\sim 6\%$

For A=2,3,4 importance of 2N charge grows with A



# Estimation of $^3\text{H}$ charge radius

Our preliminary prediction for **isoscalar 3N charge radius**:

$$r_C^{isoscalar3N} = (1.9062 \pm 0.0026) \text{ fm}$$

preliminary, using CODATA 2018  $r_p$  and own determination of  $r_n$

Isoscalar 3N charge radius definition:

$$(r_C^{isoscalar3N})^2 = \frac{(r_C^{^3\text{H}})^2 + 2(r_C^{^3\text{He}})^2}{3}$$

Expression for  $^3\text{H}$  radius:

$$(r_C^{^3\text{H}})^2 = 3(r_C^{isoscalar3N})^2 - 2(r_C^{^3\text{He}})^2$$

$^3\text{He}$  charge radius [CREMA 2023 2305.11679]

$$r_C^{^3\text{He}} = (1.9701 \pm 0.0009) \text{ fm}$$

Coefficients 2 and 3 amplify both theoretical and experimental uncertainties

Our  $^3\text{H}$  radius estimation:

$$r_C^{(3\text{H})} = (1.7714 \pm 0.0087) \text{ fm}$$

preliminary

This estimation is 10x more precise than e- data  $r_C^{^3\text{H}} = (1.7550 \pm 0.0860) \text{ fm}$  Amroun et al. '94 (world average)

But it suffers from parametric amplification of uncertainties (both from theory and from  $^3\text{He}$  data)

=> isoscalar 3N charge radius should be used for precision tests

# Prediction for ${}^4\text{He}$ charge radius

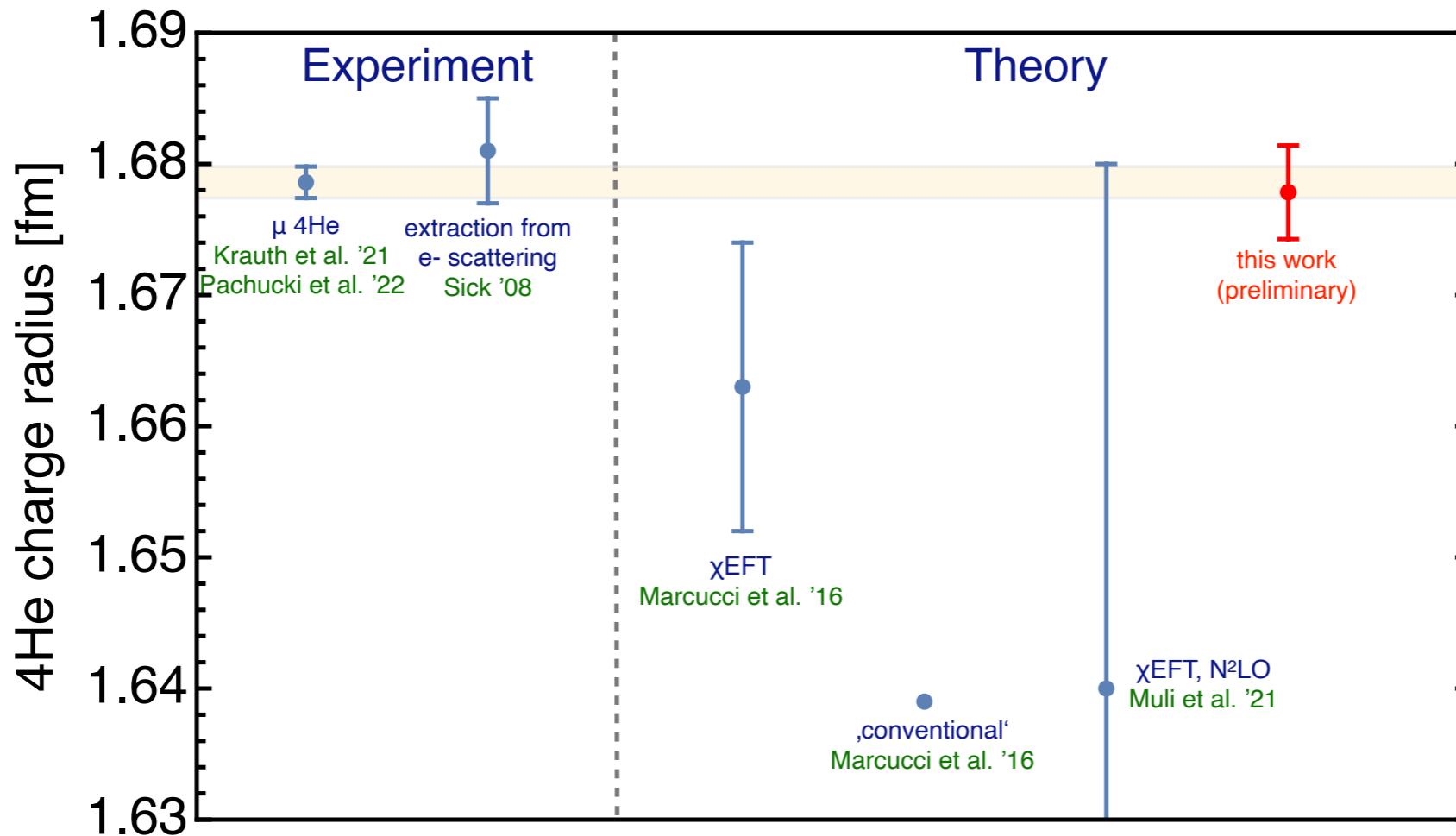
$$r_{str}({}^4\text{He}) = 1.4763 \pm 0.0030_{\text{trunc}} \pm 0.0013_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.0007_{\text{num}} \text{ fm} \quad (\text{Preliminary})$$

Our prediction for  ${}^4\text{He}$  **charge** radius

$$r_C({}^4\text{He}) = (1.6778 \pm 0.0036) \text{ fm}$$

$$r_C({}^4\text{He}) = r_{str}^2({}^4\text{He}) + \left( \frac{3}{4m_p^2} + r_p^2 \right) + r_n^2$$

preliminary, using CODATA 2018  $r_p$  and own determination of  $r_n$



Our prediction for  ${}^4\text{He}$  charge radius is fully consistent with the muonic-atom spectroscopy