

Scattering Observables from Few-Body Densities and Application in Light Nuclei

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The dynamics of scattering on light nuclei is well understood, but its calculation is numerically difficult using standard methods. Fortunately, using recent developments, the relevant quantities can be factored into a product of the n -body transition density amplitude (TDA) and the interaction kernel of a chosen probe. These TDAs depend only on the target, and not the probe; they are calculated once and stored. The kernels depend on only the probe and not the target; they can be reused for different targets. The calculation of transition densities becomes numerically difficult for $n \geq 4$, but we discuss a solution through use of a similarity renormalization group transformation. This technique allows for extending the TDA method to ${}^6\text{Li}$. We present preliminary results for Compton scattering on ${}^6\text{Li}$ and compare with available data, anticipating an upcoming thorough study [18]. We also discuss ongoing extensions to pion-photoproduction and other reactions on $A \leq 6$ nuclei.

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*Speaker

This is a comment, (for Dr.Griesshammer's use) a^2 This is a question (for Alex's use)

1. Introduction

my proc will be very similar to EPJ Web Conf. 303 (2024) 04002 MENU 2023 e-Print: 2401.15673 [nucl-th] – you might want to have a look. Effective Field Theories (EFTs) in nuclear physics provide a framework for making precise predictions by employing only those degrees of freedom that are most pertinent to the physical system under consideration, rather than relying on the complete set of intrinsic degrees of freedom present in the underlying theory (typically quarks and gluons in nuclear and particle physics). In this work, we utilize Chiral Effective Field Theory which adopts hadrons as its fundamental degrees of freedom. The present study is concerned with scattering probes off light nuclei. To this end, the Transition Density approximation **Amplitude**(TDA) method was developed by Griesshammer *et al.* and de Vries *et al.* [1, 17]. The TDA formalism describes the interaction of a probe with an A -body target. Consequently, the probe may interact with up to A nucleons. The n nucleons with which the probe interacts are designated as *active*, whereas the remaining $A - n$ nucleons are referred to as *spectators*. The mathematical treatment of these two components is entirely distinct: the active n nucleons contribute to the n -body kernel, while the spectator nucleons contribute to the n -body TDA.

The n -body kernel characterizes the interaction in reduced case in which the probe interacts exclusively with the n -body system. For example, the one-body kernel in Compton scattering encompasses the same contributions as those arising in Compton scattering off a single nucleon. This complete separation of the contributions implies that if one has access to a distinct kernels and b distinct TDAs, then a total of ab different outcomes may be generated. Figure 1 provides an illustrative example for the case $A = 3$.

For scattering off an A -body nucleus, the total scattering amplitude is given by *you want a citation here but I think I am the first person to actually write this down. I can cite the ^3He paper if you want.* **see 4He paper, eq. (2.5) – but it's trivial**

$$A_{M'}^{M'}(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) = \binom{A}{1} \langle M' | \hat{O}_1(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) | M \rangle + \binom{A}{2} \langle M' | \hat{O}_2(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) | M \rangle + \dots + \binom{A}{A} \langle M' | \hat{O}_A(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) | M \rangle \quad (1)$$

$$A_{M'}^{M'}(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) = \left\langle M' \left| \binom{A}{1} \hat{O}_1(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) + \binom{A}{2} \hat{O}_2(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) + \dots + \binom{A}{A} \hat{O}_A(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) \right| M \right\rangle \quad (2)$$

where \hat{O}_i is the i -body kernel, M, M' is the spin projection of the target nucleus, and there are $\binom{A}{i}$ ways for a probe to hit i nucleons. Fortunately, χ EFT provides a hierarchy of scales which predicts decreasing contributions for higher order terms for probe energies greater than $\sim 40\text{MeV}$. Therefore, the 3-body contribution and higher is negligible at this order **you have not yet talked about orders. Here or when you first talk about ChEFT, you also should talk about a small dimless parameter – maybe even write it down?**, and we simply use

$$A_{M'}^{M'}(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) = \binom{A}{1} \langle M' | \hat{O}_3(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) | M \rangle + \binom{A}{2} \langle M' | \hat{O}_2(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) | M \rangle$$

In practice, this is enough for accuracy on roughly the 5% level.

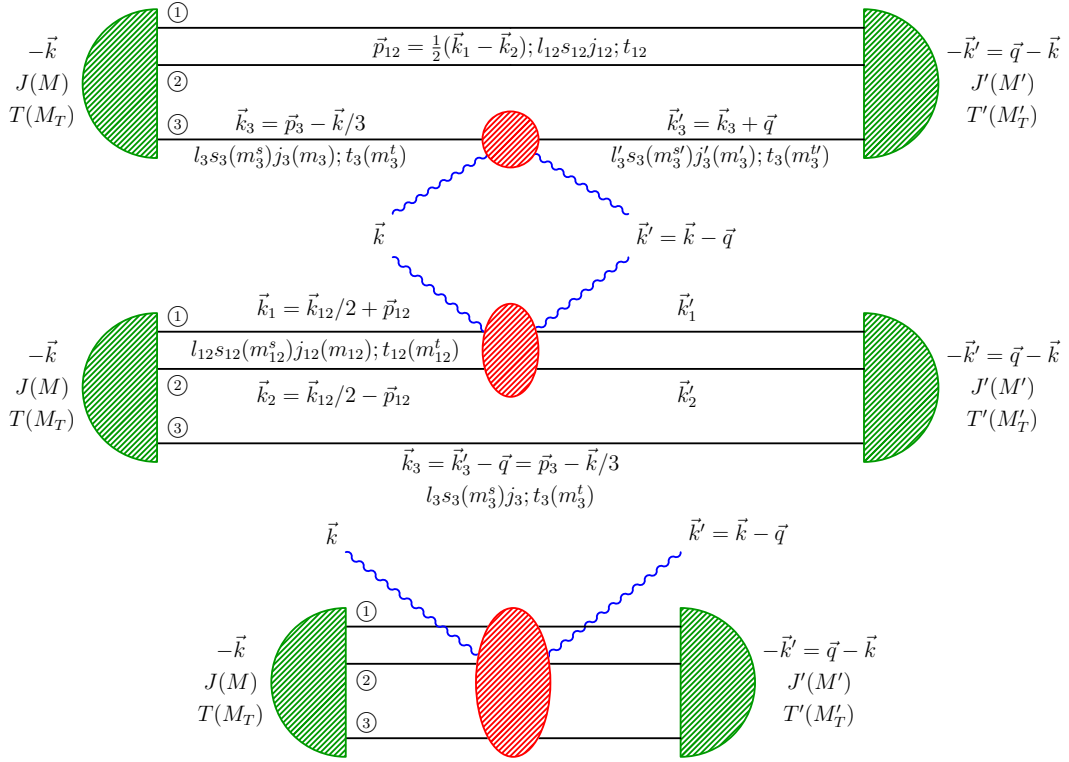


Figure 1: Kinematics in the center of mass frame and quantum numbers for an $A = 3$ system in the case of Compton scattering. Generalization to other reactions only changes the kind of incoming/outgoing probe. Generalization to $A > 3$ would result in more internal lines representing the nucleons. Top: one-body processes \hat{O}_1 (one active nucleon, two spectators), center: two-body processes \hat{O}_2 (two active nucleons, one spectator), bottom: three-body processes \hat{O}_3 (all nucleons active, no spectators). Red represents the kernels; everything else is represented by the densities. Green represents the wavefunction of the nucleons. From Griebhammer *et al.*[1]. **mention also momentum transfer, quantum numbers? Or just in text...**

2. Kernels and Densities

The one-body and two-body kernel must be considered separately. Their form is different, and they require a one- and two-body density respectively. Symbolically, the matrix element \hat{O}_1 is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle M' | \hat{O}_1(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) | M \rangle &= \sum_{\alpha\alpha'} \int dp_{12} p_{12}^2 dp_3 p_3^2 dp'_{12} p'^2_{12} dp'_3 p'^2_3 \psi_{\alpha'}^\dagger(p'_{12} p'_3) \psi_\alpha(p_{12} p_3) \\
 &\quad \times \langle p'_{12} p'_3 [(l'_{12} s'_{12}) j'_{12} (l'_3 s_3) j'_3] J' M' (t'_{12} t_3) T' M_T | \hat{O}_1(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) \\
 &\quad | p_{12} p_3 [(l_{12} s_{12}) j_{12} (l_3 s_3) j_3] J M (t_{12} t_3) T M_T \rangle.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

you introduce here a ton of symbols which are not explained, just to then immediately drop all of it and actually talk about eq (4). So what is the use of this eq? The central result is that up to relativistic

corrections, this can be written as:

$$\langle M' | \hat{O}_1(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) | M \rangle = \sum_{\substack{m_3^{s'} m_3^s \\ m_3^t}} \hat{O}_1(m_3^{s'} m_3^s, m_3^t; \vec{k}, \vec{q}) \rho_{m_3^{s'} m_3^s}^{m_3^t M_T, M' M}(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) . \quad (4)$$

For full details see Griebhammer *et al.* [1] [and 4He paper](#) . Here ρ , is the *one-body transition density amplitude* (TDA) for the nucleus which was discussed previously and can truly be interpreted as the probability amplitude that nucleon m_3^t absorbs momentum \vec{q} , changes its spin projection from m_3^s to $m_3^{s'}$ and changes the spin-projection of the nucleus from M to M' M_T [and \$\vec{k}\$ unexplained](#) ; hence the name "Transition Density Amplitude". Its operator form is

$$\rho_{m_3^{s'} m_3^s}^{m_3^t M_T, M' M}(\vec{k}, \vec{q}) = \langle M' | s_3 m_3^{s'}, t_3 m_3^t \rangle e^{i \vec{q} \cdot \vec{r}_3} \langle s_3 m_3^s, t_3 m_3^t | M \rangle . \quad (5)$$

The two-body case works similarly, and results in

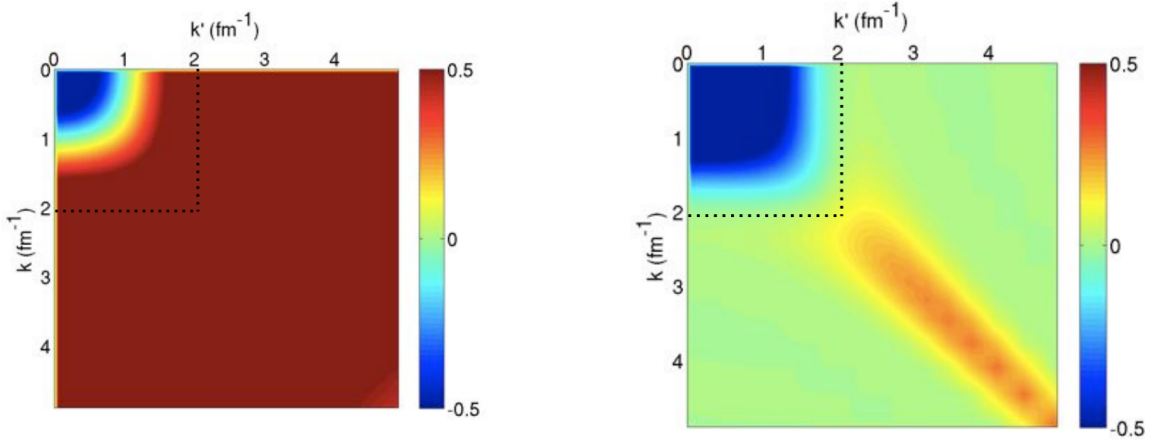
$$\langle M' | \hat{O}_2 | M \rangle = \sum_{\alpha'_{11}, \alpha_{12}} \int dp_{12} p_{12}^2 dp'_{12} p_{12}'^2 O_2^{\alpha'_{12} \alpha_{12}}(p'_{12}, p_{12}) \rho_{\alpha'_{12} \alpha_{12}}^{M_T, M' M}(p'_{12}, p_{12}; \vec{q}) . \quad (6)$$

This is the two-body equivalent to (4). There is an expression analogous to (3) but it is non-trivial and for our purposes non-enlightening. This two-body density $\rho_{\alpha'_{12} \alpha_{12}}^{M_T, M' M}$ is of course distinct from the one-body density. Moreover, just like the one-body case, it can also be interpreted as a transition probability density amplitude [it's a prob amplitude, not already a prob](#) . It depends on the incoming and outgoing quantum numbers α_{12} and α'_{12} of the 1-2 system, and also on their initial and final relative momenta p_{12} and p'_{12} of the two nucleons which are integrated over [it's not the 2 nucleons which are integrated over but their rel momenta. Need better formulation!](#) . As a result, the file size for the two nucleon densities is approximately 20 MiB [I do not know this as abbreviation from megabytes. I know MB or Mbyte](#) per energy and angle, whereas those of the one nucleon densities are on the order of a few KB. Importantly, the densities ρ can for a given momentum transfer \vec{q} be computed directly from a nuclear potential, such as the chiral SMS potential [2] without reference to the kernel \hat{O}_1 or \hat{O}_2 .

3. SRG Transformation

Previous work using the TDA formalism has analyzed ^3He and ^4He [1, 3], but to extend this to ^6Li involves many-body interactions which are much more complicated and computationally expensive. To make the calculation of a TDA feasible for $A = 6$, a *Similarity Renormalization Group* (SRG) transformation is employed [4, 15]. This is of much experimental interest since ^6Li is a stable solid at room temperature and is therefore relatively simple to conduct an experiment on, even to high precision, due to its relatively large cross section and count rate. There have been many [2 is not many](#) experiments on ^6Li [10, 11], yet to date there is no theory prediction. We seek to fill in this gap. When using nuclear potentials, we approximate the nucleon-nucleon potential to be zero beyond a certain cutoff Λ_{NN} , and consequently neglect contributions above this cutoff in our calculations. In general, a nuclear potential, such as the chiral SMS [also de-acronymise S...M...S... \(SMS\)](#) potential does not fall off rapidly at high momenta [2]. As a result we would have to extend

the cutoff Λ_{NN} much further than is desirable **what is desirable? in eye of beholder. you give the actual argument: comp cost!**, which in turn increases computational cost. The SRG transformation is a unitary transformation that shifts the relevant physics into the low-momentum region, thereby lowering minimum effective Λ_{NN} in the SRG evolved space. This, in turn, significantly improves the convergence rate of calculations for $A = 6$ **you can add that it actually makes them possible**. The SRG transformation can be thought of as a local averaging or smoothing of the potential, resulting in decreased resolution as the SRG is applied. **I like this sentence! Add that this does NOT compromise physics and only kills short-range fluctuation beyond EFT range of applicability?**



(a) High Resolution (before much SRG is applied)

(b) Low Resolution (evolved)

Figure 2: Nuclear potentials $V(k, k')$. Figures from Kai Hebeler: “Chiral Effective Field Theory and Nuclear Forces: overview and applications” presentation at TALENT school at MITP 2022, and modified with permission from Furnstahl *et al.*[15].

In the under-evolved, high resolution panel, fig. 2a, the potential does not go to zero rapidly at large momenta, whereas it does once the transformation is applied in the right panel, fig. 2b. As a result, a cutoff can be made at $\Lambda_{\text{NN}} = 2\text{fm}^{-1}$ without losing much accuracy, whereas the under-evolved potential required at least $\Lambda_{\text{NN}} = 5\text{fm}^{-1}$. The time complexity is at a minimum proportional to the number of array elements present, therefore we gain at least a factor of $(5/2)^2 = 6.25$ in efficiency; in practice the gains are even higher because near-zero values of the potential at large momenta means sparser grids can be used there. **I added the "killer" sentence. Don't forget that you need to TELL the reader what to see and what to think. You CANNOT rely that they will make the inferences you think are trivial.**

where are you talking about the NCSM as a method to compute 6Li?

The SRG transformation is essential, but it also creates a change in the physical meaning of the free variables. In fact, any unitary transformation ($U^\dagger U = \mathbb{1}$) also transforms the coordinates:

$$\langle p' | V | p \rangle = \langle p' | U^\dagger U V U^\dagger U | p \rangle = \langle p' | U^\dagger (U V U^\dagger) U | p \rangle = \langle \tilde{p}' | V_{\text{eff}} | \tilde{p} \rangle = V_{\text{eff}}(\tilde{p}, \tilde{p}') \quad (7)$$

So referring to the free variables in an SRG-transformed potential as “momenta” is, to some extent, incorrect. They do not represent physical states in the sense that they are not eigenstates to physical

momenta. The Lagrangeans that generate the Feynman diagrams in the kernel, however, depend on physical momenta, and therefore we cannot directly use an SRG evolved potential in the non-SRG evolved kernel. To solve this, previous work with SRG transformations has transformed the Lagrangeans - and therefore the kernels - into the SRG evolved space as well *get citation*. However, in the context of the density formalism this would mean adding SRG dependence into the kernel, thereby breaking kernel-density independence. **be explicit why this is bad: one has to transform the kernel with the same SRG every time one applies a kernel with the SRGd density: can lead to mismatches, more work for user,... (you elaborated on that in your talk at ChiDyn!)** Additionally, the SRG transformation can take many different forms [4, 15]; we wish to allow for these developments without having to re-write the kernel code. Therefore we have ~~chosen~~ **developed a method** to apply an inverse transformation to the densities [16]. **be more explicit: therefore, we chose to first perform the SRG, then compute the densities via the SRG potential, and then apply the inverse SRG trafo to find the densities without SRG.**

The SRG evolution has parameters that must be fine-tuned, but this allows for uncertainty estimation. In particular, one must solve for the nucleus wavefunction; to this end an expansion in the harmonic oscillator basis is used **this is not SRG but NCSM – mention, reference, de-acronymise! – see above**. When expanded to infinite order, this basis forms a complete set, however, we truncate this expansion by including harmonic oscillator excitations up to N_{tot} . Additionally, the harmonic oscillator basis has a characteristic width, denoted by ω_H , and finally, the parameter Λ_{SRG} represents the SRG evolution of the potential, as seen in figure 2. $\Lambda_{\text{SRG}} = \infty$ corresponds to no evolution. All of these parameters affect the resulting cross-section. **why? is this the moment to mention induced many-body interactions in SRG? Or later?** We note that uncertainty decreases monotonically **are you sure it's monotonically?** with increasing N_{tot} , and at $N_{\text{tot}} = \infty$ the associated uncertainty goes to zero.

this is a comment on the next paragraphs. You state a thesis like a mathematician states a theorem, and then you provide evidence for the thesis (like a proof). I think a Physicist's reaction is "why does he say this?" – and then as to read to the end to see that this is actually covered by the facts. I propose to write this starting from the facts (SRG is not unitary, so we must check. Do ^4He to test - we see small deviations...

Applying a stronger **"longer"? "evolving to smaller Λ_{SRG} "** SRG evolution (lower Λ_{SRG}) to the potential results in larger induced many-body forces **see above: yes, but elaborate in 1/2 sentence why that is!:** your SRG is actually not quite unitary because we leave induced $A > 3$ body interactions out. ; however, we show in figure 3 the effect of this uncertainty is small **in ^4He , where the numerical cost is small enough that we can compare potentials with and without SRG evolution**. These induced forces exist because due to the cutoff Λ_{NN} the SRG transformation is only approximately unitary. **this explanation comes too late.** Fortunately, when the TDA is calculated we also gain access to the binding energy of the simulated system. From this, we can estimate ~~required~~ **optimal** values for ω_H and N_{tot} **right now, we take the "optimal" ω_H to get a good binding energy but make N_{tot} as large as possible. So we do not optimise N_{tot}** by comparing the experimental binding energy to the computed binding energy. In order to gain confidence we first applied this methodology to ^4He , where we can compare SRG and non-SRG evolved results. With this completed we have now moved to ^6Li where we only have access to the SRG evolved form. **here or later: we will carefully investigate to which extent different Λ_{SRG} extrapolate to compatible values...**

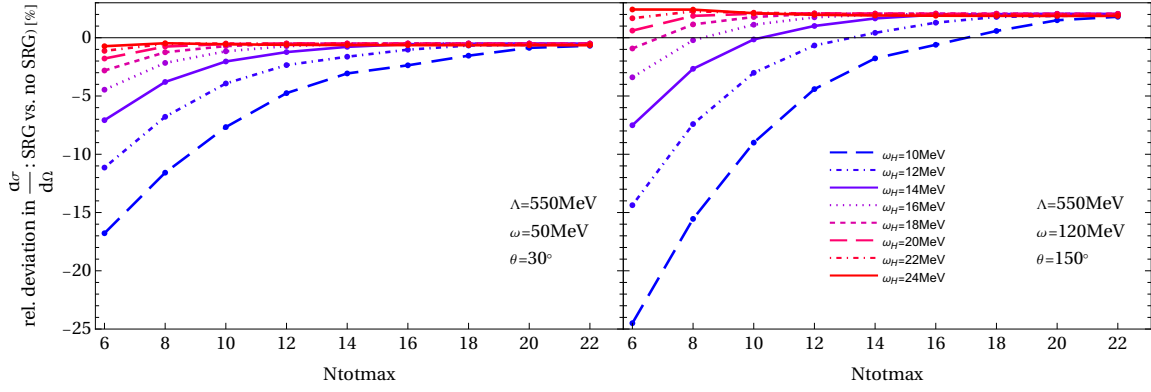


Figure 3: ^4He Compton scattering SRG convergence **discuss deviation between "exact" and "SRGd" results: exists because of..., but small, so induced manybody small.**

needs text

$$\text{"Relative deviation, (Rel. deviation) of } A \text{ from } M\text{"} := \frac{A}{M} - 1 \quad (8)$$

In figure 3, we see the effectiveness of the results in the ^4He case. We expect the deviation to decrease as N increases, and importantly for our analysis, this shows what value of N is required. The small error present at high N_{tot} is present do to the induced many body forces.

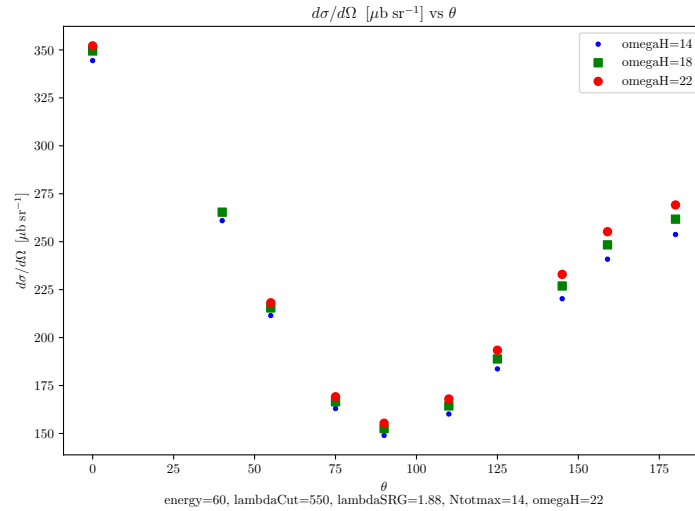
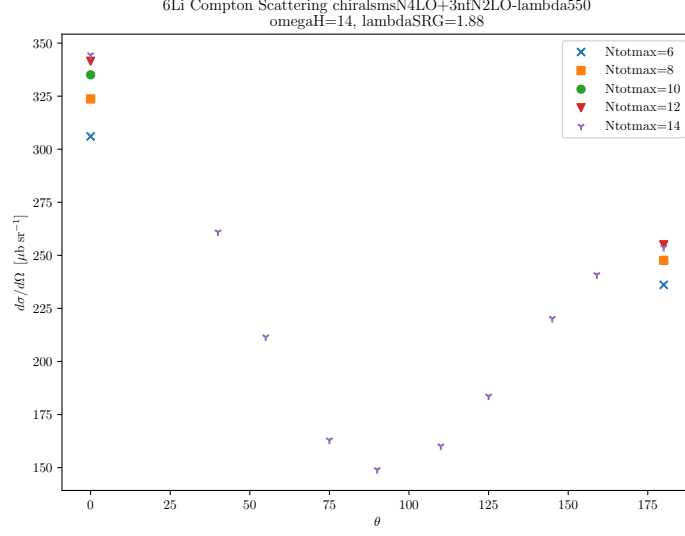


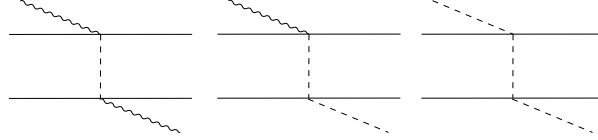
Figure 4: Caption

from here on, presentation needs a lot more verbiage and detail – but I guess you know that
 discuss input: kernels same as in ^4He (reference), central values of polarisabilities same as there (aae central values of most recent extractions, reference). Comparison to HIGS data is good/bad/undecided. Will study convergence in detail. Here assumed overall 10% error as in ^4He from potential/cutoff variations plus order-by-order convergence plus numerics plus extrapolations in LambdaSRG/Ntotmax/omegaH,... get inspired by 1-paragraph summary in ^4He paper.

**Figure 5:** Caption

4. Using TDAs in different processes

With the TDAs calculated for Compton scattering, we now wish to recycle them for new processes. In particular pion-photoproduction, and pion scattering are of interest. Fortunately their kernels share remarkable similarity since if one ignores the type of incoming/outgoing particle the processes are topologically identical.

**Figure 6:** Topologically identical diagrams in Compton scattering, pion-photoproduction, and pion scattering
twobody only – add onebody?

4.1 Pion-Photoproduction

For the pion-photoproduction one-body kernel, we use the results from single-nucleon scattering, $\gamma N \rightarrow \pi N$ which has been studied extensively both in CHiEFT and phenomenologically [5, 7, 13, 14]. Its differential cross section can be decomposed into the electric and magnetic multipoles $E_{l\pm}, M_{l\pm}$ [5]. Over the years, many experiments have measured these multipoles to high order and with good precision [6]. The resulting scattering matrices \mathcal{M} are exactly what enters as \hat{O}_1 in equation (4). This approach solves a significant problem since the calculation of the one-body pion-photoproduction kernel to high accuracy directly from Feynman diagrams requires including many terms in the chiral expansion due to the proximity of the $\Delta(1232)$ resonance at $\sim 200\text{MeV}$.

That has been reported by Rijnneeven et al [7], and we add that to our stuff as well (I get tired, so no nice wording here).

The two-body contributions do not easily decompose into multipoles, ~~therefore~~ **so** we perform the calculation through expansions in the chiral Lagrangean through **"through" twice in same sentence** calculation of Feynman diagrams. ~~com~~ **you** **MUST** include here that this 2B kernel is well-known, ~~wee~~ Weinberg, Beane, etc! **YOU** will be hung when you do not reference these in a talk/paper because this process was absolutely instrumental to make ChiEFT credible. The non-chiral attempts all got the magnitude of the twobody effect wrong and laughed about the ChiEFT number – until MAMI did the deuteron experiment, and that found the ChiEFT value. So this is a "milestone" kernel!! **YOU** write below about the Beane kernel – so here too! It is likely this will lead to large uncertainties, as in the one-body case. **I would cut the preceding. We can do order-by-order error estimate – but not here. Don;t be defensive if you do not yet know the result!** At threshold energy, this reaction kernel has been analyzed by Lenkewitz *et al.* [8, 9]. We now have a numerically stable result for ^3He and seek to extend this approach to new targets. **Include some numbers, need to discuss with you uncertainty analysis. yes!!!!**

4.2 Pion scattering and other reactions

Beane *et al.* have developed the pion-pion **yu always write pion-pion scattering, YOU scatter one pion: it comes in and then goes out again. pion-pion makes it sound as if you scatter two pions on each other, or two pions on a nucleus.** kernel at threshold for both one-body and two-body interactions [12]. We ~~may~~ **anticipate to** extend this analysis to finite energy **in <target nuclei>**. Once the pion-photoproduction and pion-pion scattering kernels have successfully been developed, we will be able to calculate all of these reactions on previously analyzed targets in the density formalism since we already have produced **most of** the TDAs required. In particular, we will calculate all of these reactions with the targets ^3H , ^3He , ^4He , and ^6Li . **relocate to 2 sentences prior**

why is this interesting? first study (?) of ChiSym in these processes at heavier nucei. But beware Braun PhD thesis: maybe cite to reflect literature?

5. Conclusion

We have ~~developed and demonstrated~~ **described this is a proceeding, and you gave an overview and talked about upcoming work.** a comprehensive framework for computing scattering observables in light nuclei by factorizing the full amplitude into target-dependent few-body transition density amplitudes (TDAs) and probe-dependent interaction kernels, **summarising and expanding work in refs[]**. This separation allows us to treat the nuclear structure and the reaction mechanism independently, thereby streamlining the calculation of observables. The central ~~achievement of this work~~ **again: you report on ongoing work.** is the successful extension of the density formalism to heavier targets like ^6Li by incorporating a similarity renormalization group (SRG) transformation. The SRG not only accelerates the convergence of our calculations by lowering the effective momentum cutoff, but—when combined with an appropriate inverse transformation of the densities—also preserves the kernel–density independence that is crucial for the versatility of our approach. Furthermore, we have presented **you could write sth like "we presented first and preliminary results on.... Compton 6Li, summarising some key findings of an upcoming publication [] which will also address pols sensitivity,**

detailed convergence study, detailed study of numerical and theory uncertainties, of world peace,... the computation of Compton scattering on ${}^6\text{Li}$ which agrees well with data, and we have outlined the ongoing extension of the formalism to other reactions, such as pion-photoproduction and pion-pion scattering **on ${}^{34}\text{He}$, ${}^6\text{Li}$ and possibly other light nuclei** [?]. The ability to plug in different reaction kernels into the same TDA framework , **and vice versa**, not only enhances the predictive power of our approach but also paves the way for a unified treatment of various scattering processes in **a wide range of** few-body systems. Ultimately, this framework provides a promising route toward high-precision theoretical predictions, deepening our understanding of nuclear dynamics in light nuclei. **very nice final sentence – catchy, worldly**

acknowledgments: Andreas+, supercomputer usage, DOE and DFG grants – see ${}^4\text{He}$ paper

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