

Introduction to Nuclear Forces, a birdseye on Quantum Chromodynamics

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Brief overview of Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD)

- ▶ Quark-gluon degrees of freedom (DOF) are optimal to describe the strong force dynamics of nuclei.
- ▶ Nevertheless, the low-energy Effective Field Theory (EFT) that underpin our modern understanding of internucleon forces are clearly related to the underlying symmetries of QCD
- ▶ Moreover, as we will see later in the course, remarkable progress is being made in lattice QCD so that *direct* calculations of few-nucleon systems with nucleon forces are becoming closer to reality.
- ▶ Therefore, even though 95% of this course will be devoted to a description in terms of nucleons and pions, it is useful to give a birdseye view of QCD.
- ▶ If you are not too familiar with quantum field theory or QCD. Our presentation here is necessarily impressionistic and meant only to remind you of what is governing things at a fundamental level.

QCD Lagrangian