Hadron interactions from Lattice QCD

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International School of Nuclear Physics 40th Source "The Strong Interaction: From Quarks and Gluons to Nuclei and Stars" Erice-Sicily, Italy, September 16-24, 2018 Blackett Institute (San Domenico)

HAL QCD approach to Nuclear/Astro physics

Potentials from lattice QCD



HAL QCD approach to Nuclear/Astro physics



Plan of my talk

- I. HAL QCD potential method
- II. Recent results (selected)
 - 1. Dibaryons
 - 2. Exotic hadron Zc(3900)
- **III. Discussions**

I. HAL QCD potential method



References

N. Ishii, S. Aoki, T. Hatsuda, Phys. Rev. Lett. 99 (2007) 022001, "The Nuclear Force from Lattice QCD"

S. Aoki, T. Hatsuda, N. Ishii, Prog. Theor. Phys. 123 (2010) 89-128, "Theoretical Foundation of the Nuclear Force in QCD and its applications to Central and Tensor Forces in Quenched Lattice QCD Simulations "

HAL QCD Collaboration (S. Aoki *et al.*,), PTEP 2012 (2012) 01A105, "Lattice QCD approach to Nuclear Physics"



Phenomenological NN potential





Potentials in QCD ?

What are "potentials" in quantum field theories such as QCD ?

"Potentials" themselves can NOT be directly measured. analogy: running coupling

scheme dependent

experimental data of scattering phase shifts





potentials, but not unique



 T_{lab} [Mevgeful to "understand" physics analogy: asymptotic freedom

"Potentials" are useful tools to extract scattering phase shift.



One may adopt a convenient definition for this purpose.

Our strategy in lattice QCD

Step 1 define (Equal-time) Nambu-Bethe-Salpeter (NBS) Wave function

$$\varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \langle 0 | N(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}, 0) N(\mathbf{x}, 0) | NN, W_k \rangle$$
QCD eigen-state

 $N(x) = \varepsilon_{abc}q^a(x)q^b(x)q^c(x)$: local operator "scheme"



energy
$$W_k = 2\sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2 + m_N^2} < W_{\rm th} = 2m_N + m_\pi$$

Elastic threshold

 $NN \rightarrow NN$ only elastic scattering

Main idea



$$q\cot(\delta_0(q)) = 4\pi \frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\vec{p} \in \Gamma} \frac{1}{(\vec{p})^2 - q^2}, \qquad \Gamma = \left\{ \vec{p} = \frac{2\pi}{L} \vec{n} \right\}$$
CM frame

"Lüsher's finite volume formula"

We instead consider the inside region and extract information of interactions there.



define the energy-independent "potential" with derivatives from the NBS wave function as

$$\left[\epsilon_k - H_0\right]\varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x}) = V(\mathbf{x}, \nabla)\varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x}) \qquad \epsilon_k = \frac{\mathbf{k}^2}{2\mu} \qquad H_0 = \frac{-\nabla^2}{2\mu}$$

For NN

$$V(\mathbf{x}, \nabla) = V_0(r) + V_{\sigma}(r)(\sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_2) + V_T(r)S_{12} + V_{\mathrm{LS}}(r)\mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S} + O(\nabla^2)$$

$$L0 \qquad L0 \qquad \text{NLO} \qquad \text{NNLO}$$

$$\text{tensor operator} \quad S_{12} = \frac{3}{r^2}(\sigma_1 \cdot \mathbf{x})(\sigma_2 \cdot \mathbf{x}) - (\sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_2) \qquad \text{spins}$$

By construction

potential $V(\mathbf{x}, \nabla)$ is faithful to QCD phase shift $\delta_l(k)$.

Remark

Non-relativistic approximation is NOT used. We just take the specific (equal-time) frame.

Extraction of the potential (scalar without symmetry)

Define
$$V(\mathbf{x}, \nabla, L) := \sum_{\mathbf{n}}' V_L^{(\mathbf{n})}(\mathbf{x}) \nabla^{(\mathbf{n})} \qquad \nabla^{(\mathbf{n})} := \nabla_x^{n_x} \nabla_y^{n_y} \nabla_z^{n_z}$$

A sum $\sum_{\mathbf{n}}'$ is restricted to $W_{\mathbf{k}} < W_{\text{th}}$, where $\mathbf{k} = \frac{2\pi}{L} \mathbf{n}$.

Coefficient functions $V^{(\mathbf{n})}(\mathbf{x})$ can be determined from

$$\sum_{\mathbf{n}}' V_{L}^{(\mathbf{n})}(\mathbf{x}) \nabla^{(\mathbf{n})} \varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x}) = [\epsilon_{k} - H_{0}] \varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x}) \qquad \qquad W_{\mathbf{k}} \le W_{\mathrm{th}}$$

a number of unknowns = a number of equations

$$V_L^{(\mathbf{n})}(\mathbf{x})$$

$$V(\mathbf{x}, \nabla) := \lim_{L \to \infty} V(\mathbf{x}, \nabla, L) = \lim_{L \to \infty} \sum_{\mathbf{n}}' V_L^{(\mathbf{n})}(\mathbf{x}) \nabla^{\mathbf{n}}$$

If the volume is sufficiently large,

$$V(\mathbf{x},\nabla)\simeq \sum_{\mathbf{n}}' V_L^{(\mathbf{n})}(\mathbf{x})\nabla^{\mathbf{n}}$$

Step 3Determination of local terms
$$V_0^{LO}(r) := V_0(r) + V_\sigma(r)(\sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_2) + V_T(r)S_{12}$$
One $\varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x})$ $V_0^{LO}(r; \varphi_{\mathbf{k}}) = \frac{[\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - H_0] \varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x})}{\varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x})}$ LO approximationAnother $\varphi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{x})$ $V_0^{LO}(r; \varphi_{\mathbf{q}}) = \frac{[\epsilon_{\mathbf{q}} - H_0] \varphi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{x})}{\varphi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{x})}$ LO approximationIf $V_0^{LO}(r; \varphi_{\mathbf{q}}) \simeq V_0^{LO}(r; \varphi_{\mathbf{k}})$ LO approximation is good at $|\mathbf{k}| \le |\mathbf{p}| \le |\mathbf{q}|$ If $V_0^{LO}(r; \varphi_{\mathbf{q}}) \ne V_0^{LO}(r; \varphi_{\mathbf{k}})$ NLO term can be determined from

$$\begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - H_0 \end{bmatrix} \varphi_{\mathbf{k}} = \begin{bmatrix} V_0^{\text{NLO}}(r) + V_1^{\text{NLO}}(r) \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S} \end{bmatrix} \varphi_{\mathbf{k}}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{\mathbf{q}} - H_0 \end{bmatrix} \varphi_{\mathbf{q}} = \begin{bmatrix} V_0^{\text{NLO}}(r) + V_1^{\text{NLO}}(r) \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S} \end{bmatrix} \varphi_{\mathbf{q}}$$

Example in quenched QCD

PTP 125 (2011)1225. K. Murano, N. Ishii, S. Aoki, T. Hatsuda

a=0.137fm, L=4.0 fm $m_{\pi} \simeq 0.53 \,\, {\rm GeV}$

NBS wave functions

potentials

Vc(r)[MeV]

0

Û

0.5

1

r[fm]











1.5

2

$$V_0^{\mathrm{LO}}(r;\varphi_{\mathbf{q}}) \simeq V_0^{\mathrm{LO}}(r;\varphi_{\mathbf{k}})$$

Higher order terms turn out to be very small at low energy in our scheme.



solve the Schroedinger Eq. in the infinite volume with the potential.

phase shifts and binding energy below inelastic threshold



 $\delta_0(\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}})$ is reliable at $\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} < 92$ MeV.

Advantage of potential method

Direct method

$$G_{NN}(t) = \langle N(t)N(t)\bar{N}(0)\bar{N}(0)\rangle = Z_0 e^{-E_0 t} + E_1 - E_0 \simeq \frac{\vec{p}^2}{m_N} \simeq \frac{1}{m_N} \frac{(2\pi)^2}{L^2} \infty$$

Excitation energy
finite volume energy for scattering state $\simeq \frac{1}{m_N} \frac{(2\pi)^2}{L^2}$



 $t \gg 1/(E_1 - E_0) \simeq 4$ fm is needed to suppress excited states.

Large time separation is very difficult due to the bad signal-to-noise ratio.

$$\frac{S}{N} := \frac{\langle N^2(t)\bar{N}^2(t)\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle |N^2(t)\bar{N}^2(t)|^2\rangle}} \sim \exp[-(2m_N - 3m_\pi)t]$$

 $V(\mathbf{x}, \nabla)\varphi^{W_0}(\mathbf{x}) = (E_{W_0} - H_0)\varphi^{W_0}(\mathbf{x})$

 $V(\mathbf{x}, \nabla)\varphi^{W_1}(\mathbf{x}) = (E_{W_1} - H_0)\varphi^{W_1}(\mathbf{x})$

. . .

4-pt Correlation function

$$F(\mathbf{r}, t - t_0) = \langle 0 | T\{N(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}, t)N(\mathbf{x}, t)\}\overline{\mathcal{J}}(t_0) | 0 \rangle = \sum_n A_n \varphi^{W_n}(\mathbf{r}) e^{-W_n(t - t_0)} + \cdots$$

source for NN

Normalized 4-pt function

$$R(\mathbf{r},t) \equiv F(\mathbf{r},t)/G_N(t)^2 = \sum_n A_n \varphi^{W_n}(\mathbf{r}) e^{-\Delta W_n t} \quad \text{a sum of many NBS wave functions}$$

$$\left[\frac{\mathbf{k}_n^2}{m_N} - H_0\right]\varphi^{W_n} = V\cdot\varphi^{W_n}$$

$$\Delta W_n = W_n - 2m_N = \frac{\mathbf{k}_n^2}{m_N} - \frac{(\Delta W_n)^2}{4m_N} \longrightarrow -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} R(\mathbf{r}, t) = \left\{ H_0 + V - \frac{1}{4m_N^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \right\} R(\mathbf{r}, t)$$
$$W_n = 2\sqrt{m_N^2 + \mathbf{k}_n^2}$$

$$\left\{-H_0 - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{4m_N^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}\right\}R(\mathbf{r}, t) = V(\mathbf{r}, \nabla)R(\mathbf{r}, t) = V_C(\mathbf{r})R(\mathbf{r}, t) + \cdots$$

1st 2nd 3rd





3rd term(relativistic correction) is negligible.

This time-dependent method overcomes the difficulty of the direct method.



No dineutron at heavier pion mass.

Systematics: derivative expansion

T. Iritani, Talk at Lat2016, arXiv1610.09779[hep-lat]. T. Iritani, Talk at Lat2017

T. Iritani et al., arXiv:1805.02365[hep-lat].

quark wall source vs quark smeared source



Lattice setup 2+1 flavor QCD

$$a = 0.09 \text{ fm } (a^{-1} = 2.2 \text{ GeV})$$

 $m_{\pi} = 0.51 \text{ GeV}, m_N = 1.32 \text{ GeV}, m_K = 0.62 \text{ GeV}, m_{\Xi} = 1.46 \text{ GeV}$

NBS wave function







O(100) MeV cancellation

time-dependent HAL method works well



Small difference **pote**

potentials at NNLO?

NNLO potentials

$$V_{X}^{\text{LO}}(r,t) = \frac{1}{4m} \frac{\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial t^{2}} R^{X}(r,t)}{R^{X}(r,t)} U(\stackrel{\frac{\partial}{\partial t}}{R} \stackrel{R'}{R} \stackrel{(r,t)}{(r,t)} V_{0} \stackrel{R}{R} \stackrel{(r,t)}{R} \stackrel{(r,t)}{(r,t)} (r - r') \qquad X = \text{Wall, Smear} \\ = \frac{V_{0}^{\text{N}^{2}\text{LO}}(r) + \frac{V_{2}^{\text{N}^{2}\text{LO}}}{R^{X}(r,t)} \frac{\nabla^{2} R^{X}(r,t)}{R^{X}(r,t)} \qquad V_{2}^{\text{N}^{2}\text{LO}}(r) \frac{\nabla^{2} R^{\text{wall/smear}}(r,t)}{R^{\text{wall/smear}}(r,t)} \\ U(r,r') \simeq \left[V_{0}^{\text{N}^{2}\text{LO}}(r) + V_{2}^{\text{N}^{2}\text{LO}}(r) \nabla^{2} \right] \delta(r - r') \\ \delta(r - r') \end{cases}$$



 $V_0^{\mathrm{N}^2\mathrm{LO}}(r)$

 $m_\pi^2 V_2^{\rm N^2 LO}(r)$



Phase shift at NNLO analysis





NNLO correction appears at high momentum.

Derivative expansion works well at NNLO.

LO approximation from the wall source also works rather well.

Phase shift from finite volume spectra

 $H = H_0 + V_0^{N^2 LO} + V_2^{N^2 LO}$ finite volume spectra



phase shift



II. Recent results (selected)

1. Dibaryons

Dibaryon = a bound state with baryon number B=2

Only deuteron is the dibaryon observed in Nature so far.

Other candidates.

H-dibaryon (uuddss)

Omega-Omega (sssss)

N-Omega

Delta-Delta

Some of them are investigated in the potential method.

$\Omega\Omega$ (sssss)

S. Gongyo et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 120 (2018) 212001.

Lattice QCD at (almost) physical pion mass

2+1 flavor QCD, $m_{\pi} \simeq 145$ MeV) $a \simeq 0.085$ fm, $L \simeq 8$ fm



K-computer [10PFlops]



Vicinity of bound/unbound (~ unitary limit)

Binding energy



Root-mean-square distance [fm]

The most strange (sss sss) dibaryon ?



$N\Omega$

T. Iritani, Lat2018

T. Iritani et al., in preparation.

$N\Omega$ potential in ${}^{5}S_{2}$ channel

at physical pion mass





Proton- Ω correlation in RHIC

STAR collaboration, arXiv:1808.0251[hep-ex]



centrality

40-80% (small) 0-40% (large)

Morita et al., PRC94(2016)031901 V_I : unbound V_{II} : $E_B = 6.3$ MeV V_{III} : $E_B = 26.9$ MeV

Data at $k^* < 40$ MeV favor V_{III} .

potential at $m_{\pi} = 875 \text{ MeV}$

H-dibaryon

(uuddss)

flavor SU(3) singlet potential

Lattice QCD in the flavor SU(3) limit

 $m_u = m_d = m_s$

Inoue et al. (HAL QCD Coll.), Progress of Theoretical Physics 124(2010)591



Force is attractive at all distances. Bound state ?



An H-dibaryon exists in the flavor SU(3) limit. Binding energy = 25-50 MeV at this range of quark mass. Real world ? A mild quark mass dependence.

H-dibaryon with the flavor SU(3) breaking



Preliminary results from HAL QCD Collaboration

Sasaki for HAL CCD Japan Lattice Gata Grid

Gauge ensembles

In unit	Esb 1	Esb 2	Esb 3
of MeV			
π	701±1	570±2	411±2
Κ	789±1	713±2	635±2
$m_{_{\pi}}/m_{_{K}}$	0.89	0.80	0.65
Ν	1585±5	1411±12	1215±12
Λ	1644±5	1504 ± 10	1351 ± 8
Σ	1660±4	1531±11	1400±10
Ξ	1710±5	1610 ± 9	$1503\pm$ 7

u,d quark masses lighter



thresholds

coupled channel 3x3 potentials



$\Lambda\Lambda$ and $N\Xi$ phase shift

Preliminary !



This suggests that H-dibaryon becomes resonance at physical point. Below or above N Ξ ?

=> Simulation at physical point on K-computer

Physically, it is essential that H-dibaryon is a bound state in the flavor SU(3) limit.

2. Exotic hadron Zc(3900)

Charmonium(-like) spectrum



Quark model well describes observed mass spectra below 3.8 GeV.

Several states above 3.8 GeV are not discovered.

New (X,Y,Z) states, not predicted by QM, are experimentally observed.

Exotic ?

Charmonium(-like) spectrum



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Several states above 3.8 GeV are not discovered.

New (X,Y,Z) states, not predicted by QM, are experimentally observed.

Exotic ?

Charmonium(-like) spectrum



 \approx All new states are found above 3.8 GeV

▶Lowest open charm threshold (D^{bar}D) is 3.75 GeV

▶All new states embedded in two-meson continuum(D^{bar}D, D^{bar}D*, D^{bar*}D*,…)

Channel coupling is a key to investigate X, Y, Z states

Tetra quark candidate Z_c(3900)



peak in $\pi^{\pm} J/\psi$ invariant mass (minimal quark content $c\bar{c}u\bar{d}$) terra quark candidate $M + i\Gamma \sim 3900 + i60 \text{ MeV}$ (Breit-Wigner) just above D^{bar}D* threshold



coupled channel potential and Z_c(3900)

Y. Ikeda et al. [HAL QCD], PRL117, 24001 (2016)

coupled channel potential

$$V_{AB}(\vec{r})$$
 $A, B = \pi J/\psi, \rho \eta_c, \bar{D}D^*$

 D^*D^* $Z_c(3900)$ $\bar{D}D^* \quad \bar{D} = \bar{c}u \text{ (spin 0)} \qquad D^* = \bar{d}c \text{ (spin 1)}$ $m_{\pi} = 411,572,701 \text{ MeV}$ $m_{\pi} = 411,572,701 \text{ MeV}$ $m_{\pi} = 411,572,701 \text{ MeV}$ $a \simeq 0.09 \text{ fm}, L \simeq 2.9 \text{ fm}$ $m_{\pi} = 411,572,701 \text{ MeV}$ $a \simeq 0.09 \text{ fm}$ $m_{\pi} = 411,572,701 \text{ MeV}$ $a \simeq 0.09 \text{ fm}$

 3×3 potential matrix $(\pi J/\psi - \rho \eta_c - \bar{D}D^*)$



 3×3 potential matrix $(\pi J/\psi - \rho \eta_c - \bar{D}D^*)$



 3×3 potential matrix $(\pi J/\psi - \rho \eta_c - \bar{D}D^*)$



Structure of Z_c(3900)

S-wave $\pi J/\psi - \rho \eta_c \cdot S(\psi)$ oupled channel scattering

1. invariant mass distribution of 2-body scattering $N_{\rm sc} \propto N_{\rm flag} (flag) \ll M_{\rm flag} f(W) = N_{\rm sc} (M_{\rm flag}) (flag) = N_{\rm sc} (M_{\rm flag}) + N_{\rm sc} (M_{\rm flag}) = N_{\rm sc} (M_{\rm flag}) + N_{\rm sc} (M_{\rm f$

2. pole position of S-matrix





bound state (1st sheet)

- pole position --> binding energy
- residue --> coupling to scattering state

resonance (2nd sheet)

- analytic continuation onto 2nd sheet
- pole position --> resonance energy
- residue --> coupling to scat. state, partial decay

Invariant mass distribution



 $\stackrel{\Gamma(Zc(3900) \to \bar{D}D^*)}{\longrightarrow} = 6.2(1.1)(2.7)$

effect of strong off-diagonal parts (black—>off-diagonal=0)

peak is not the Breit-Wigner shape

***** Is Z_c(3900) conventional resonance? —> pole of S-matrix

Pole of S-matrix

 $(\pi J/\psi:2nd, \rho\eta_c:2nd, \overline{D}D^*:2nd)$



☆Pole corresponds to "virtual state"

Pole contribution to scat. observable is small (far from scat. axis)



Z_c(3900) is not a resonance but "threshold cusp" induced by strong channel couplings

Contributions from the pole to T-matrices S = 1 + iT S(k) = 1 + 2iT(k) $\pi J/\psi - \pi J/\psi$ $\overline{D}D^* - \overline{D}D^*$



☆ contribution from virtual pole to T-matrix is small

0.1

 $rac{1}{\sim}$ Z_c(3900) is "threshold cusp" induced by strong channel couplings

Comparison with experimental data

spectrum of Y(4260) 3-body decay



$Y(4260) \rightarrow \pi \pi J/\psi, \pi \bar{D}D^*$

 $d\mathbf{f}_{Y\to\pi^+f}^{\Gamma} = (2\pi)^4 \delta(W_3 - E_{\pi}(\vec{p}_{\pi})) - E_{f}(\vec{q}_{f})) d^3 p_{\pi} d^3 q_{f} |T_{Y\to\pi^+f}(\vec{p}_{\pi}, \vec{q}_{f}; W_3)|^2$

3-body T-matrix



t-matrix from potential matrix

employ physical hadron masses for a comparison with experimental data

potential matrix is used to calculate t-matrix in subsystem

▶ fix free parameters by fitting Y(4260) —> $\pi \pi J/\psi$ experimental data

Invariant mass of 3-body decay



3.85

3.90

3.95

4.00

M_D^{bar}_{D*} (GeV)

4.05

4.10

strong channel coupling

III. Discussion

Pros and Cons of HAL QVD potential method

Pros

- phase shift as a function of momentum and S-matrix in complex momentum (with approximation)
- no ground state saturation is required with t-dep. method
- extension to coupled channel is easy
- less finite volume effect, can be checked, partial wave mixing does not matter
- more NBS wave functions give more higher order terms in the derivative expansion

Cons

- potential is scheme-dependent
- some errors from the truncation of the derivative expansion.
- approximated phase shift with tdep. method
- more numerical costs

Summary

- Currently the HAL QCD Potential method is the only way to investigate baryon interactions reliably in lattice QCD.
- Nuclear potentials, Hyperon potentials and more
- Omega-Omega : shallow bound state at physical pion mass
- N-Omega: bound state at physical pion mass ?
- H-dibaryon: bound state at SU(3) limit, resonance with SU(3) breaking
 - physical point simulation is on-going with K-computer.
- Application to exotic hadron: Zc(3900) is the threshold effect
- Other applications (rho & sigma resonances, heavy baryons, Tetra quark, Penta quark, 3 body forces and more)

HAL QCD Collaboration



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Backup slides

Failure of the direct method for baryons



strong source operator dependence

strong sink operator dependence

Fake plateau problem

Mock-up data @ $m_{\pi} = 0.5 \text{ GeV}, L = 4 \text{ fm (setup of YIKU2012)}$

$$R(t) = e^{-\Delta Et} \left(1 + b \ e^{-\delta E_{\rm el}t} + c \ e^{-\delta E_{\rm inel}t} \right)$$

 $\delta E_{\rm el} \propto \frac{1}{T^2}$ the lowest excitation energy of elastic scattering state $\delta E_{\rm el} = 50 \text{ MeV} \text{ at } L \simeq 4 \text{ fm}$ $b = \pm 0.1$ 10 % contamination b = 0 for a comparison $e^{2m_N \cdot t} \langle 0 | T[N(\vec{x},t)N(\vec{y},t) \cdot \overline{\mathcal{J}}_{NN}(t=0)] | 0 \rangle$ $\sum_{\vec{k}}^{\delta E_{\text{inel}} = 500 \text{ MeV}} \text{ the inelastic energy from heavy pions}$ $a_{\vec{k}} \exp\left(-t\Delta W(\vec{k})\right) \psi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{x})$ 1% contaminationInelastic region Elastic region 2m_N +m π 2m_N





"Plateaux" at t ~ 1 fm but some are fake.

One can not tell which is correct by its plateau behavior at small t.

[Q1] Scheme/Operator dependence of the potential

- The potential depends on the definition of the wave function, in particular, on the choice of the nucleon operator N(x). (Scheme-dependence)
 - local operator -> manifest causality
 - a similar example: running coupling is scheme-dependent
- Moreover, the potential itself is NOT a physical observable. Therefore it is NOT unique and is naturally scheme-dependent.
 - Observables: scattering phase shift of NN, binding energy of deuteron

QM: (wave function, potential) -> observables QFT: (asymptotic field, vertex) -> observables EFT: (choice of field, vertex) -> observables

- Is the scheme-dependent potential useful ? Yes !
 - useful to understand/describe physics
 - cf. running coupling: it is useful to understand the deep inelastic scattering data (asymptotic freedom)
- "good" scheme ?
 - good convergence of the perturbative expansion for the running coupling
 - good convergence of the velocity expansion for the potential ?
 - local operator is found to be "good" (see later)
 - completely local and energy-independent one is the best (Inverse scattering method)