

Some of recent progress in standard model effective field theory

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Disclaimer: quoted refs are not always the first ones.

Status of standard model in a few words

- No new particles found up to mass $\sim 1 \text{ TeV} > \Lambda_{\text{EW}} \approx 100 \text{ GeV}$ although some apparent tension exists between SM and expts.
→ SM phenomenologically very healthy
- Still, two practical issues remain to be addressed:
 $m_\nu < 1 \text{ eV}$, believed to originate from phys well above Λ_{EW}
If DM is of particle nature, SM cannot offer a candidate.
- There are more advanced theoretical challenges:
flavor puzzle
origin of electroweak symmetry breaking
.....

Status of standard model in a few words

- Thus new phys is called for, which must involve particles of either mass $\gg \Lambda_{EW}$
 - not directly reachable at colliders
- or mass $\leq \Lambda_{EW}$, interacting feebly with SM particles
 - not yet detected in precision measurements
- Question:
How to investigate new phys in such a circumstance?

Modern view of standard model

- All quantum field theories are effective field theories appropriate to a certain range of energy scales.
- SM is based on QFT.

It should be considered the leading part of an EFT appropriate to $E \leq \Lambda_{EW}$.

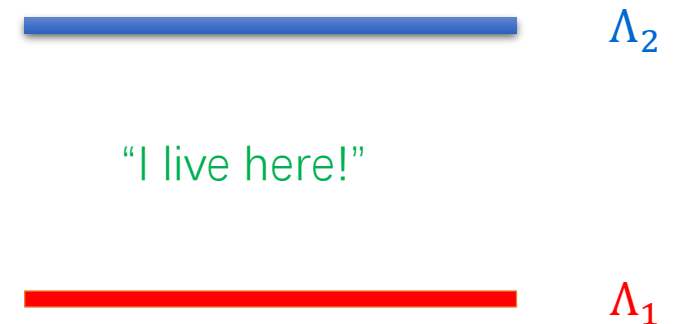
- SM is successful because it **parameterizes all possible interactions** permitted by **gauge symmetry**.

It is self-contained in that it is “closed” under renormalization.

— a very important property for
self-consistency and predictability.

EFT: general discussion

- An EFT is an infinite tower of effective interactions organized by their relative importance.
- Given an accuracy expected for a measurement, only a finite number of effective interactions are important, which are also self-contained in a similar sense as in a renormalizable theory.
- An EFT defined in an energy range $\Lambda_1 < E < \Lambda_2$ is always a low-energy EFT relative to Λ_2 .



EFT: general discussion

Three essential elements to specify an EFT:

- Dynamical degrees of freedom.
 - *what are prepared and produced?*
 - Symmetries as a guiding principle for constructing interactions.
 - *most sacred are gauge symmetries and dynamically broken symmetries*
 - A power counting rule telling what's more important.
 - *low-energy EFT: importance decreases with increasing power of p/Λ_2 in amplitude $\leftrightarrow \partial/\Lambda_2$ in Lagrangian*
- ✓ to establish a **basis of effective interactions/operators**
- ➔ at each order in low-energy expansion;
- ✓ to renormalize them to improve perturbation calc, i.e., **RGE**

EFT: general discussion

- Usually, the characteristic scale of a physical process lies well below the scale at which the mechanism for the process occurs.

— *a sequence of EFTs is required to connect data with physical origin*

→ **matching** is required at the boundary of two neighboring EFTs
to connect them

- Two types of matching:

- ✓ Strong dynamics involved

— completely new dynamical DoFs appear,
e.g., chiral symmetry breaking in QCD at Λ_χ

- ✓ Perturbative interactions only

— from $\mu > \Lambda_2$ to $\mu < \Lambda_2$, integrate out heavy fields of mass $O(\Lambda_2)$.



How EFT works: $K^- \rightarrow \pi^+ l^- l^-$

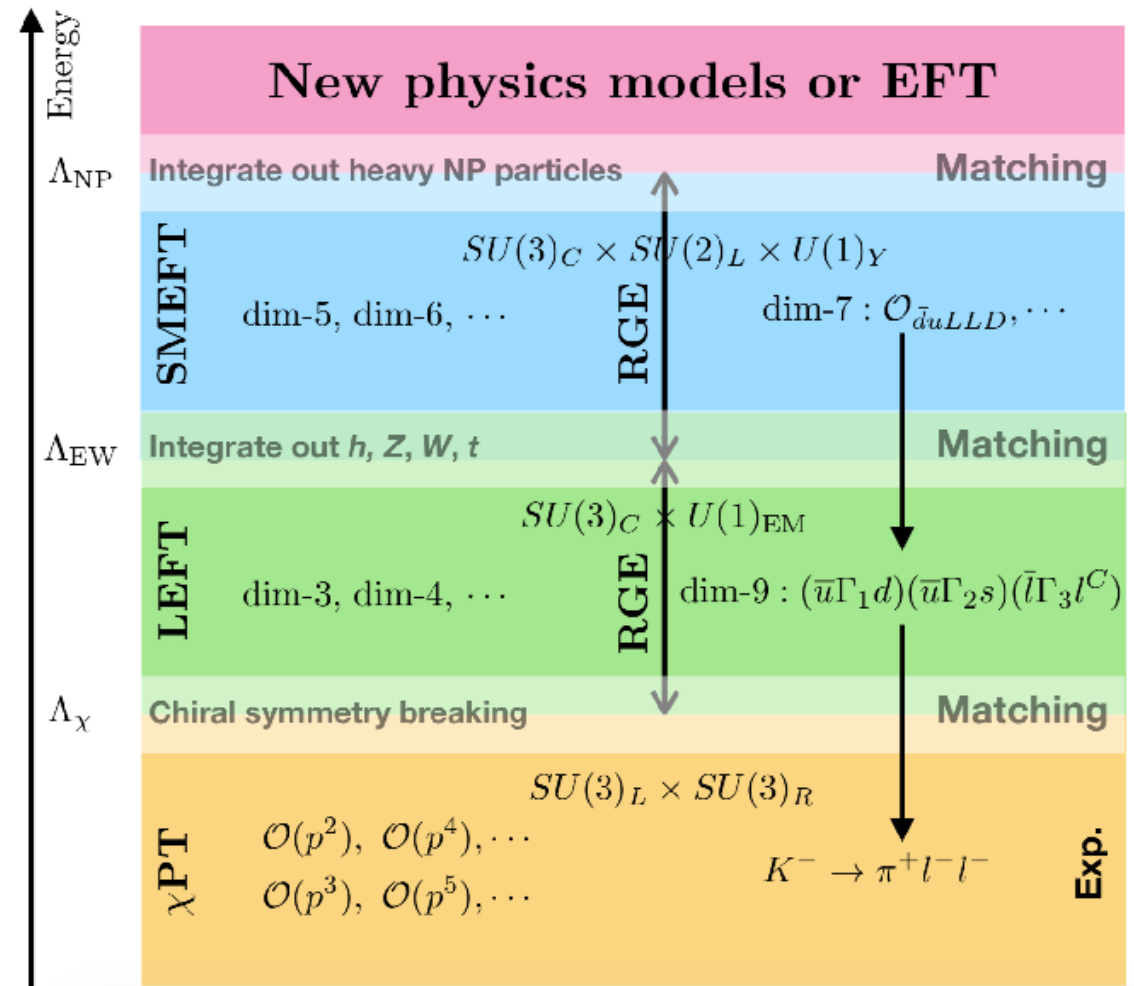
The process occurs at $\mu \sim 10^2$ MeV.

It violates lepton number

— its mechanism is new phys at $\mu \gg \Lambda_{EW}$

→ a sequence of EFTs required to connect them

- A sequence of EFTs: SMEFT, LEFT, χ PT
- ✓ Bases of operators and RGE in each EFT;
- ✓ Matching between SMEFT and LEFT, and between LEFT and χ PT.
- Matching between SMEFT and your desired new phys model.



How EFT works: $K^- \rightarrow \pi^+ l^- l^-$

Symbolically,

LNV Wilson coefficient at Λ_{NP}

$\mathcal{A}(K^- \rightarrow \pi^+ l^- l^-)$ is a sum of products:

\Downarrow

$$f_\chi R_\chi \otimes R_{\text{LEFT}} \otimes R_{\text{SMEFT}} \otimes C_{\text{LNV}}(\Lambda_{\text{NP}})$$

\Uparrow

\Uparrow

\Uparrow

matching between

matching between

matching between

χPT and LEFT

LEFT and SMEFT

SMEFT and NP

f_χ : χPT amplitude with low-energy strong constants (expt's, lattice, etc)

R_χ : RGE in χPT , $\Lambda_\chi \rightarrow m_K$

R_{LEFT} : RGE in LEFT, $\Lambda_{\text{EW}} \rightarrow \Lambda_\chi$

R_{SMEFT} : RGE in SMEFT, $\Lambda_{\text{NP}} \rightarrow \Lambda_{\text{EW}}$

Standard model EFT (SMEFT)

Defined between Λ_{NP} and Λ_{EW} :

- Dynamical degrees of freedom (DoFs) restricted to SM fields;
- Symmetries – $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$, no L or B conservation requirement etc;
- Power counting – expansion in p/Λ_{NP} .

SMEFT is an **infinite tower** of effective interactions involving **higher and higher dimensional operators**:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{L}_5 + \mathcal{L}_6 + \mathcal{L}_7 + \mathcal{L}_8 + \mathcal{L}_9 + \dots$$

Annotations for the equation above:

- \mathcal{L}_{SM} : GSW 1960s
- \mathcal{L}_5 : Weinberg 1979
- \mathcal{L}_6 : Buchmuller-Wyler 1986; Grzadkowski et al 2010 – Warsaw basis
- \mathcal{L}_7 : Lehman 2014, Liao-Ma 2016
- \mathcal{L}_8 : Li et al, arXiv: 2005.00008; Murphy, arXiv: 2005.00059
- \mathcal{L}_9 : Li et al, arXiv: 2007.07899; Liao-Ma, arXiv: 2007.08125

Latest: up to dim-12, Harlander et al, 2305.06832

SMEFT: dim-5

- Unique Weinberg operator for Majorana m_ν , $\Delta L = 2$ [Weinberg 1979](#)

$$\varepsilon_{ij}\varepsilon_{mn}(L_p^i C L_r^m) H^j H^n$$

L : LH lepton doublet

H : Higgs doublet

i, j, m, n : SU(2) indices

p, r, s, t : flavor indices

- 1-loop RGE [Babu et al 1993](#), [Antusch et al 2001](#)
- Responsible for “standard mass mechanism” for nuclear neutrinoless double beta ($0\nu\beta\beta$). [… Cirigliano et al 2017, 2018](#)
- No other interesting phys.

SMEFT: dim-6

- Long history on **basis of operators**.

Started with [Buchmüller-Wyler 1986](#),

Corrected and improved by efforts by many groups,

Culminated with **Warsaw basis** [Grzadkowski et al 2010](#) –

- 63 operators $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 59: \Delta B = \Delta L = 0 \\ 4: \Delta B = \Delta L = 1 \end{array} \right.$

without counting flavors (easy with **trivial flavor relations**) and Hermitian conjugate.

- 1-loop RGE by [UC San Diego group in 2013, 2014](#) [Barcelona group in 2013](#)

- Rich phenomenology, especially for LHC phys, vast literature skipped

Commonly quoted proton decay: $p \rightarrow e^+ \pi^0$

SMEFT: dim-7

- Early partial analysis by [Weinberg 1980](#) [Weldon-Zee 1980](#)
- 1st systematic analysis by [Lehman 2014](#)
- Final answer by [Liao-Ma 2016](#):
18 operators = 12 ($\Delta B = 0, \Delta L = 2$) + 6 ($-\Delta B = \Delta L = 1$)
Flavors not counted above; but must be done for applications –
[Nontrivial flavor relations](#) first appear at [dim 7](#) – involving Yukawas [Liao-Ma 2019](#)
- Consistent with independent counting by Hilbert series approach [Henning et al 2015](#).
- 1-loop RGE [Liao-Ma 2016](#) [Liao-Ma 2019](#)
- Phenomenology limited to L - (and B -) violating phys:
unusual proton decay $p \rightarrow \nu\pi^+$ [Liao-Ma 2016](#)
various long- and short-range contri. to $0\nu\beta\beta$, $M_1^- \rightarrow M_2^+ l^- l^-$, $\tau^- \rightarrow l^+ M_1^- M_2^-$, etc
[Liao et al, 2019,2020,2021](#)
... [Cirigliano et al 2017, 2018, ...](#), [Feng et al 2019](#)

SMEFT: dim-8

- Many independent operators: [Li et al, 2020; Murphy, 2020](#)
mostly conserve L and B , others break $\Delta B = \Delta L = 1$
- RGE done for purely bosonic operators: [Chala et al, 2021; Bakshi et al, 2022](#)
- Phenomenology partly explored, mainly with bosonic operators:
electroweak precision data, triple gauge couplings, diboson production:
[Degrande and Li, 2023; Corbett et al, 2023](#)

SMEFT: higher-dim operators less important?

- Generally yes, **barring one caveat**.
- L - or B -violating effects are much smaller than conserving effects
 - L or B violation should originate at a higher scale
 - Wilson coeffs. for operators of different L or B pattern cannot be compared in a model-independent manner.
- General results on L or B pattern in SMEFT: [Kobach, 2016](#)
- ✓ $(\Delta B - \Delta L)/2$ and dimension d of an operator share the same odd or even nature.
- ✓ Imposing flavor symmetry postpones occurrence of L or B violation at a higher d :
 - L or B violation impossible for $d < 9$ except for $|\Delta L| = 2$; [Helset and Kobach, 2019](#)
 - e.g., **proton decay severely suppressed**:
 - $d = 9$: 2 operators involve $3l3q$ but necessarily with c or $t \rightarrow$ tree level impossible
 - $d = 10$: 4-body decay with $\Delta B = -\frac{\Delta L}{3} = 1$; $d = 11$: 3-body decay with $\Delta B = \frac{\Delta L}{3} = 1$

Low-energy EFT

When $E < \Lambda_{\text{EW}}$, electroweak SSB manifests itself.

Heavy particles (h, W^\pm, Z^0, t) of mass $\sim \Lambda_{\text{EW}}$ are integrated out \rightarrow LEFT

Defined between Λ_{EW} and $\Lambda_\chi \sim 1$ GeV:

- Dynamical DoFs = SM fields other than above heavy ones;
- Symmetries – $SU(3)_C \times U(1)_Q$;
- Power counting – expansion in p/Λ_{EW} .

Actually well applied, e.g., in b phys, although not studied systematically.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_V + \mathcal{L}_{\text{QED}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} + \mathcal{L}_5 + \mathcal{L}_6 + \mathcal{L}_7 + \mathcal{L}_8 + \mathcal{L}_9 + \dots$$

Jenkins et al, 2017 Murphy, 2020 $|\Delta L| = 2$ sector:
Liao et al, 2019

Liao et al, 2020 Li et al, 2020

Important: combined power counting in $1/\Lambda_{\text{EW}}$ and $1/\Lambda_{\text{NP}}$

LEFT: RGE and matching to SMEFT

To get prepared for analysis of precision measurements at low energy, both RGE in LEFT and matching between LEFT and SMEFT are demanded.

- tree-level up to dim-6 operators in both EFTs [Jenkins et al, 1709.04486](#)
- tree-level up to dim-7 operators in both EFTs [Liao et al, 2005.08013](#)
- tree-level up to dim-8 operators in both EFTs: partly done, [Hamoudou et al, 2207.08856](#)
by either setting $H \rightarrow vev$ or integrating out h, W^\pm, Z and keeping p -indep terms
- one-loop up to dim-6 operators in both EFTs [Dekens and Stoffer, 1908.05295](#)
delicacy appears with evanescent operators in DR
- one-loop RGE for dim-6 operators [Jenkins et al, 1711.05270](#)
- one-loop QCD RGE for dim-9 $|\Delta L| = 2$ operators involving $2l$ [Liao et al, 1909.06272](#)
for dim-9 $|\Delta L| = 2$ operators specific to $0\nu\beta\beta$ [Cirigliano et al, 1806.02780](#)
- QCD RGE for dim-9 operators in $n\bar{n}$ oscillation: one-loop [Caswell et al, PLB122](#)
two-loop [Buchhoff and Wagman, 1506.00647](#)

Matching NP to SMEFT

- EFT is useful not only for bottom-up but also for top-down approach.
- Assuming NP lives at $\Lambda_{\text{NP}} \gg \Lambda_{\text{EW}}$ and all new particles have mass $\gg \Lambda_{\text{EW}}$, its low-energy effects on SM particles can be incorporated by integrating out new particles
 - matching NP and SMEFT at $\mu = \Lambda_{\text{NP}}$
- Matching in perturbation theory is a double-expansion:
 - in inverse powers of heavy mass \rightarrow higher-dim operators in SMEFT
 - in loop expansion \rightarrow Wilson coeffi. a series in couplings
- Matching at tree level:
 - substituting in L_{NP} EoMs for heavy particles and expanding in inverse masses
 - \rightarrow tree level Wilson coeffi.

Matching NP to SMEFT at one loop

- Past years have witnessed significant progress in 1-loop matching based on:
 - ✓ Functional approach augmented by covariant derivative expansion
 - ✓ Loop integration by method of regions [.....; Cohen-Lu-Zhang, 2011.02484](#)
- Features:
 - ✓ The result is directly the 1-loop contribution to $\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}}$ whose operators and Wilson coeffs. are obtained simultaneously.
 - ✓ One only has to work with NP theory without computing in SMEFT!

Examples of 1-loop functional matching

Obtain 1-loop contribution to $\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}}$ by integrating out heavy

- ✓ superpartners in MSSM [Henning et al, 2014; ...](#)
- ✓ singlet or triplet scalar [...; Jiang et al, 2018; ...](#) [...; Zhang, 1610.00710](#)
- ✓ vectorlike fermions [Huo, 1506.00840](#)
- ✓ triplet vector boson [Brivio et al, 2108.01094](#) [Zhang-Zhou, 2107.12133](#)
[Du et al, 2201.04646](#)
- ✓ fermions or scalars in type-I, -II, and -III neutrino seesaw models [Li et al, 2201.05082](#)
- ✓ dark-sector particles in scotogenic neutrino mass models [Liao-Ma, 2210.04270](#)
- ✓

Ongoing activities not covered here

- In the existence of new particles of mass $< \Lambda_{EW}$, SMEFT/LEFT has to be enlarged to include them as dynamical DoFs:
 - ✓ ν SMEFT, with sterile neutrinos;
 - ✓ DM EFT, including axion-like particles or particles of various spin, with or without DM discrete symmetry.
- Higgs EFT vs SMEFT:
 - Is *the Higgs boson* completely responsible for electroweak SSB?
 - Do new particles gain mass from electroweak SSB?
- Various extensions of Hilbert series to count operators in theory with nonlinearly realized symmetry, with supersymmetry, with definite CP, etc.
- Evanescent operators in operator reduction and matching at one loop, and in RGE at two loops.
- Phenomenology especially at colliders and global fitting.
- On-shell methods, positivity bounds at tree level \rightarrow one loop