Physics Department, Tohoku University,
June 30 – July 2, 2014

Nuclear Forces
- Lecture 4 -

QCD and Nuclear Forces; Symmetries of Low-Energy QCD

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Prologue

- In Lecture 3, we have seen how beautifully the meson theory of nuclear forces works. This may suggest that we are done with the theory of nuclear forces.
- Well, as it turned out, the fundamental theory of the strong interaction is QCD (and not meson theory). Thus, if we want to understand the nuclear force on the most fundamental level, then we have to base it upon QCD.
- So, we have to start all-over again; this time from QCD.

Lecture 4: QCD and Nuclear Forces; Symmetries of Low-Energy QCD

- The nuclear force in the light of QCD
- QCD-based models ("quark models")
- The symmetries of low-energy QCD

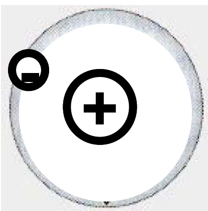
The nuclear force in the light of QCD

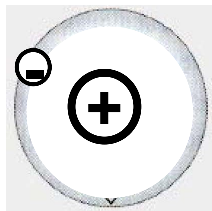
If nucleons do not overlap, ….

then we have two separated colorless objects. In lowest order, they do not interact. This is analogous to the interaction between two neutral atoms. Like the Van der Waals force, **the nuclear force is a residual interaction**. Such interactions are typically weak as compared to the "pure" version of the force (Coulomb force between electron and proton, strong force between two quarks, respectively).

The analogy

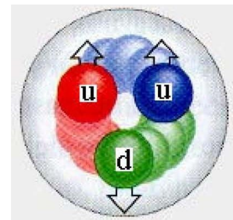
Van der Waals force

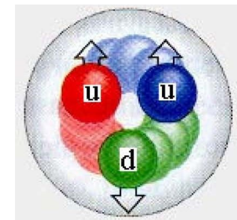




Residual force between two electric charge-neutral atoms

Nuclear force





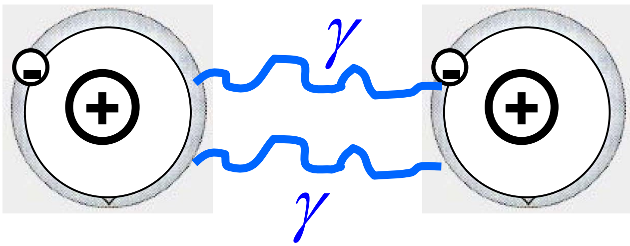
Residual force between two color charge-neutral nucleons

Note that residual forces are typically weak as compared to the “pure” version of the force (order of magnitude weaker).

How far does the analogy go?

What is the mechanism for each residual force?

Van der Waals force	Nuclear force



Residual force between two electric charge-neutral atoms

Two-photon exchange
(=dipole-dipole interaction)

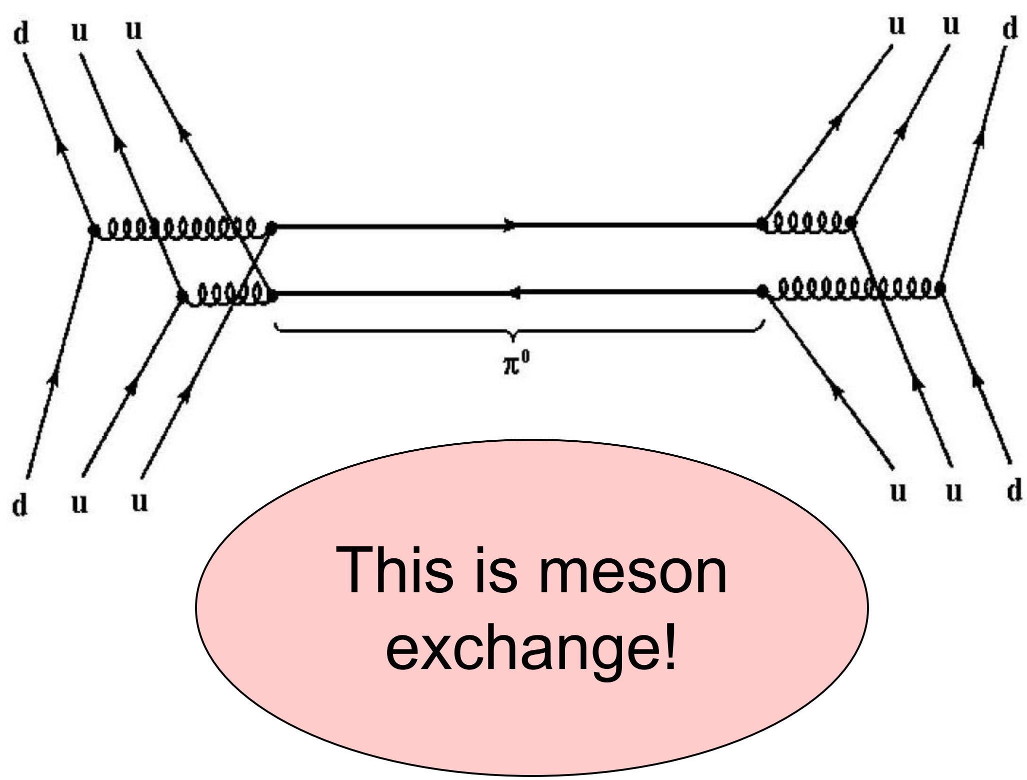
Because it would create a force of infinite range (gluons are massless), but the nuclear force is of finite range.

The [illegible] ogy would be a [illegible] exchange.

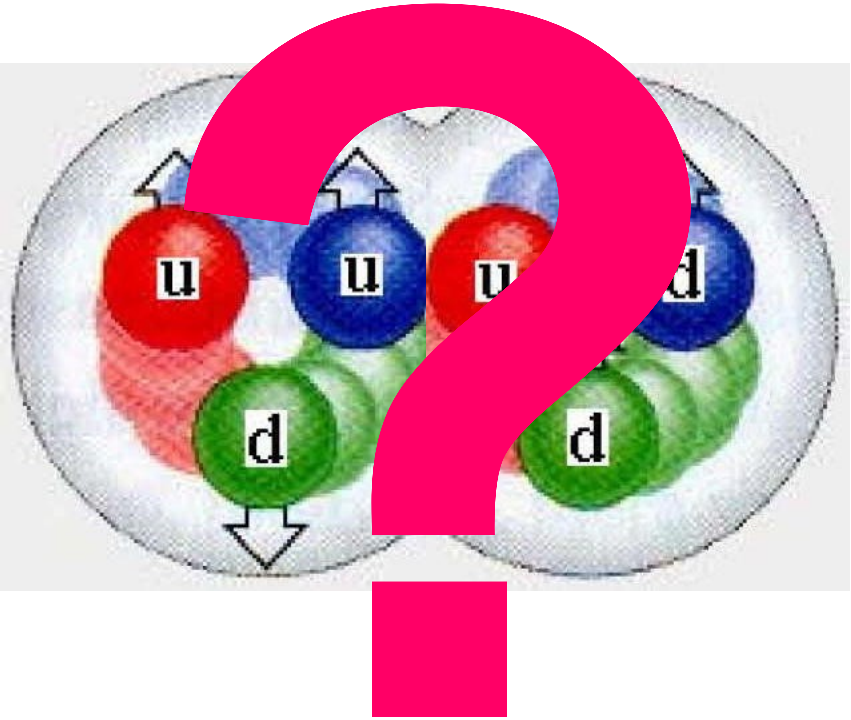
No!

Non-overlapping nucleons, cont' d

But they could interact by quark/anti-quark exchange:



When nucleons DO overlap, we have a six-quark problem with non-perturbative interactions between the quarks (non-perturbative gluon-exchanges). A formidable problem!



Attempts to calculate this by lattice QCD are under way; see e.g., T. Hatsuda, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **67**, 122 (2012); M.J. Savage, *ibid.* **67**, 140 (2012).

QCD-based models (“quark models”)

To make 2- and 3-quark (hadron spectrum) or 5- or 6-quark (hadron-hadron interaction) calculations feasible, simple assumptions on the quark-quark interactions are made. For example, the quark-quark interaction is assumed to be just one-gluon-exchange or even meson-exchange.

This is, of course, not real QCD. It is a model; a “QCD-inspired” model.

The positive thing one can say about these models is that they make a connection between the hadron spectrum and the hadron-hadron interaction.

Conclusion

- **Quark models are not QCD. So, they are not the solution.**
- **Lattice QCD is QCD, but too elaborate for every-day nuclear physics.**
- **What now?**
- **Let’s take another look at QCD.**

The symmetries of low-energy QCD

- The QCD Lagrangian
- Symmetries of the QCD Lagrangian
- Broken symmetries

The QCD Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\rm QCD} = \sum_{f=\substack{u,d,s,\\c,b,t}} \bar{q}_f (i\not{D} - m_f) q_f - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu,a} \mathcal{G}_a^{\mu\nu}$$

with $q_f = \begin{pmatrix} q_{f,r} \\ q_{f,g} \\ q_{f,b} \end{pmatrix}$, where r=red, g=green, and b=blue,

and the gauge-covariant derivative

$$D_\mu \begin{pmatrix} q_{f,r} \\ q_{f,g} \\ q_{f,b} \end{pmatrix} = \partial_\mu \begin{pmatrix} q_{f,r} \\ q_{f,g} \\ q_{f,b} \end{pmatrix} - ig \sum_{a=1}^{8} \frac{\lambda_a^C}{2} \mathcal{A}_{\mu,a} \begin{pmatrix} q_{f,r} \\ q_{f,g} \\ q_{f,b} \end{pmatrix}$$

and the gluon field tensor

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu,a} = \partial_\mu \mathcal{A}_{\nu,a} - \partial_\nu \mathcal{A}_{\mu,a} + g f_{abc} \mathcal{A}_{\mu,b} \mathcal{A}_{\nu,c}$$

Symmetries of the QCD Lagrangian

Quark masses

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_u = 0.005\,\mathrm{GeV} \\ m_d = 0.009\,\mathrm{GeV} \\ m_s = 0.175\,\mathrm{GeV} \end{pmatrix} \ll 1\,\mathrm{GeV} \leq \begin{pmatrix} m_c = (1.15 - 1.35)\,\mathrm{GeV} \\ m_b = (4.0 - 4.4)\,\mathrm{GeV} \\ m_t = 174\,\mathrm{GeV} \end{pmatrix}$$

Assuming $m_u,\, m_d \approx 0,$

the **QCD Lagrangian for just up and down quarks** reads

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L}^0_{\mathrm{QCD}} = \sum_{l=u,d} \bar{q}_l i \not{D}\, q_l - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu,a} \mathcal{G}^{\mu\nu}_a\,.}$$

Symmetries of the QCD Lagrangian, cont'd

Introduce projection operators

"Right-handed" $$\boxed{P_R = \frac{1}{2}(1+\gamma_5) = P_R^\dagger}$$

"Left-handed" $$\boxed{P_L = \frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma_5) = P_L^\dagger}$$

Properties

Complete $$P_R + P_L = 1$$

Idempotent $$P_R^2 = P_R, \quad P_L^2 = P_L$$

Orthogonal $$P_R P_L = P_L P_R = 0$$

Symmetries of the QCD Lagrangian, cont'd

Consider Dirac spinor for a particle of large energy or zero mass:

$$u(\vec{p}, \pm) = \sqrt{E+m} \begin{pmatrix} \chi_\pm \\ \frac{\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{p}}{E+m}\chi_\pm \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{E \gg m} \boxed{\sqrt{E} \begin{pmatrix} \chi_\pm \\ \pm\chi_\pm \end{pmatrix} \equiv u_\pm(\vec{p})}$$

where we assume that the spin in the rest frame is either parallel or antiparallel to the direction of momentum

$$\vec{\sigma} \cdot \hat{p}\chi_\pm = \pm\chi_\pm .$$

Thus, for mass-less particles, helicity/chirality eigenstates exist

$$(\Sigma \cdot \hat{p})\, u_\pm = \gamma_5\, u_\pm = \pm u_\pm$$

and the projection operators project them out

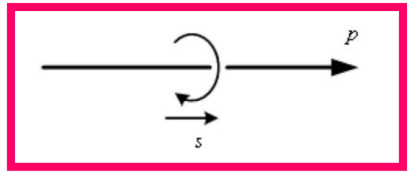
$$u_+ \equiv u_R \equiv P_R\, u$$

$$u_- \equiv u_L \equiv P_L\, u$$

Symmetries of the QCD Lagrangian, cont’d

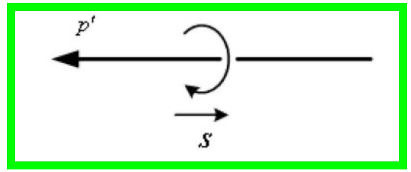
For zero-mass quarks,

quark field of **right-handed chirality**



$$q_R = P_R q,$$

quark field of **left-handed chirality**:



$$q_L = P_L q.$$

the QCD Lagrangian can be written

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L}^0_{\rm QCD} = \sum_{l=u,d} \left(\bar{q}_{R,l} i \not{D}\, q_{R,l} + \bar{q}_{L,l} i \not{D}\, q_{L,l} \right) - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu,a} \mathcal{G}^{\mu\nu}_a .}$$

$\Rightarrow \quad SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ symmetry **= “Chiral Symmetry”**

(Because the mass term is absent; mass term destroys chiral symmetry.)

Interim summary

$$\mathcal{L}_{\rm QCD} = \sum_{f=\substack{u,d,s,\\c,b,t}} \bar{q}_f (i\not{D} - m_f) q_f - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu,a} \mathcal{G}^{\mu\nu}_a$$

$$\mathcal{L}^0_{\rm QCD} = \sum_{l=u,d,.} \bar{q}_l i\not{D}\, q_l - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu,a} \mathcal{G}^{\mu\nu}_a \,.$$

$$\mathcal{L}^0_{\rm QCD} = \sum_{l=u,d} (\bar{q}_{R,l} i\not{D}\, q_{R,l} + \bar{q}_{L,l} i\not{D}\, q_{L,l}) - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu,a} \mathcal{G}^{\mu\nu}_a \,.$$

(approximate) Chiral Symmetry

Chiral symmetry and Noether currents

Global $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ symmetry

$$q_L \equiv \begin{pmatrix} u_L \\ d_L \end{pmatrix} \longmapsto \exp\left(-i \sum_{a=1}^{3} \Theta_a^L \frac{\tau_a}{2}\right) \begin{pmatrix} u_L \\ d_L \end{pmatrix}$$

$$q_R \equiv \begin{pmatrix} u_R \\ d_R \end{pmatrix} \longmapsto \exp\left(-i \sum_{a=1}^{3} \Theta_a^R \frac{\tau_a}{2}\right) \begin{pmatrix} u_R \\ d_R \end{pmatrix}$$

where τ_a $(a = 1, 2, 3)$ are the usual Pauli matrices, which—here— play the role of the generators of the $SU(2)$ flavor group. Obviously, right-handed and left-handed mass-less quarks never mix.

Noether's Theorem ⇨ Six conserved currents

3 left-handed currents $\quad L_a^\mu = \bar{q}_L \gamma^\mu \frac{\tau_a}{2} q_L \quad$ with $\quad \partial_\mu L_a^\mu = 0$

3 right-handed currents $\quad R_a^\mu = \bar{q}_R \gamma^\mu \frac{\tau_a}{2} q_R \quad$ with $\quad \partial_\mu R_a^\mu = 0$

Alternatively, …

3 vector currents $V_a^\mu = R_a^\mu + L_a^\mu = \bar{q}\gamma^\mu \frac{\tau_a}{2} q \quad \text{with} \quad \partial_\mu V_a^\mu = 0$

3 axial-vector currents $A_a^\mu = R_a^\mu - L_a^\mu = \bar{q}\gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \frac{\tau_a}{2} q \quad \text{with} \quad \partial_\mu A_a^\mu = 0$

6 conserved "charges"

$$Q_a^V = \int d^3x\, V_a^0 = \int d^3x\, q^\dagger(t,\vec{x}) \frac{\tau_a}{2} q(t,\vec{x}) \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{dQ_a^V}{dt} = 0$$

$$Q_a^A = \int d^3x\, A_a^0 = \int d^3x\, q^\dagger(t,\vec{x}) \gamma_5 \frac{\tau_a}{2} q(t,\vec{x}) \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{dQ_a^A}{dt} = 0$$

Note: "vector" is Isospin!

Explicit symmetry breaking due to non-zero quark masses

The mass term that we neglected breaks chiral symmetry explicitly:

$$-\sum_{l=u,d} \bar{q}_l m_l q_l = -\bar{q} M q = -(\bar{q}_R M q_L + \bar{q}_L M q_R)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} M &= \begin{pmatrix} m_u & 0 \\ 0 & m_d \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(m_u + m_d)\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2}(m_u - m_d)\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(m_u + m_d)\, I + \frac{1}{2}(m_u - m_d)\, \tau_3 \end{aligned}$$

Both terms break chiral symmetry,

but the 1st term is invariant under $SU(2)_V$.

→ if $m_u = m_d$, then there is $SU(2)_V$ symmetry

(= Isospin symmetry).

Spontaneous symmetry breaking

From the chiral symmetry of the QCD Lagrangian, one would expect that "parity doublets" exist; because:

Let $|i, +\rangle$ denote an eigenstate of $H^0_{\rm QCD}$ with eigenvalue E_i,

$$H^0_{\rm QCD}|i, +\rangle = E_i|i, +\rangle,$$

having positive parity,

$$P|i, +\rangle = +|i, +\rangle,$$

such as, e.g., a member of the ground state baryon octet (in the chiral limit). Defining $|\phi\rangle = Q^a_A|i, +\rangle$, because of $[H^0_{\rm QCD}, Q^a_A] = 0$, we have

$$H^0_{\rm QCD}|\phi\rangle = H^0_{\rm QCD}Q^a_A|i, +\rangle = Q^a_A H^0_{\rm QCD}|i, +\rangle = E_i Q^a_A|i, +\rangle = E_i|\phi\rangle,$$

i.e, the new state $|\phi\rangle$ is also an eigenstate of $H^0_{\rm QCD}$ with the same eigenvalue E_i but of opposite parity:

$$P|\phi\rangle = PQ^a_A P^{-1}P|i, +\rangle = -Q^a_A(+|i, +\rangle) = -|\phi\rangle.$$

Spontaneous symmetry breaking, cont'd

What would parity doublets look like?

Nucleons of positive parity: p(1/2+,938.3), n(1/2+,939.6), I=1/2;

nucleons of negative parity: N(1/2-,1535), I=1/2.

But, the masses are very different: NOT a parity doublet!

A meson of negative parity: $\rho(1-,770),\ I=1.$

the "same" with positive parity: $a_1(1+,1260),\ I=1.$

But again, the masses are very different: NOT a parity doublet!

Conclusion: Parity doublets are not observed in the low-energy hadron spectrum.

$\Rightarrow$ **Chiral symmetry is spontaneously broken.**

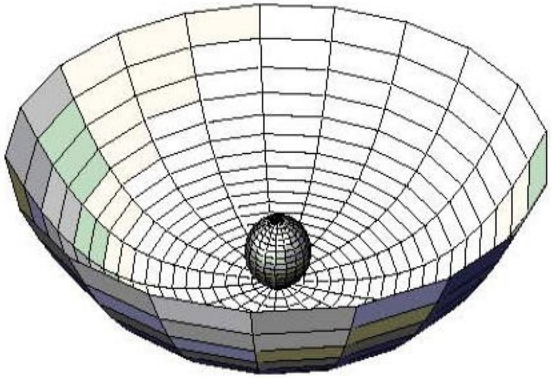
Definition:

When the ground state does not have the same symmetries as the Langrangian, then one speaks of "spontaneous symmetry breaking".

Classical examples

Lagrangian and ground state have both rotational symmetry.

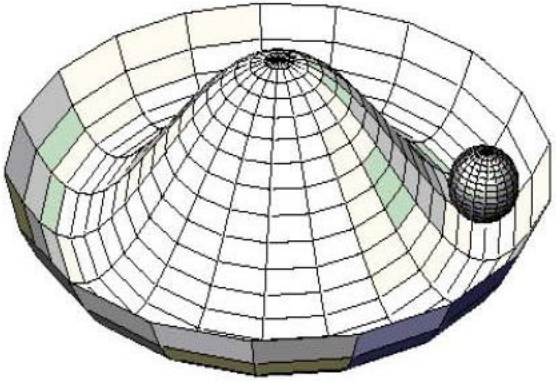
No symmetry breaking.



Lagrangian has rot. symmetry;

groundstate has not.

Symmetry is spontaneously broken.



Goldstone's Theorem

When a continuous symmetry is broken, then there exists a (massless) boson with the quantum numbers of the broken generator.

Here: The 3 axial generators $Q_a^A \; (a = 1,2,3)$ are broken, therefore, 3 pseudoscalar bosons exist: the 3 pions π^+, π^0, π^-

This explains the small mass of the pion. The pion mass is not exactly zero, because the u and d quark masses are no exactly zero either.

More about Goldstone Bosons

The breaking of the axial symmetry in the QCD ground state (QCD vacuum) implies that the ground state is not invariant under axial transformations, i.e.

$$Q_a^A \mid 0\rangle \neq 0 \ .$$

Thus, a physical state must be generated by the axial charge,

$$\mid \phi_a \rangle \equiv Q_a^A \mid 0\rangle \ .$$

Since H^0_{QCD} commutes with Q_a^A, we have

$$H^0_{QCD} \mid \phi_a \rangle = Q_a^A \ H^0_{QCD} \mid 0\rangle = 0 \ .$$

The energy of the state is zero. The state is energetically degenerate with the vacuum.

It is a massless pseudoscalar boson with vanishing interaction energy.

$\Rightarrow$ **Goldstone bosons interact weakly.**

Summary

QCD in the u/d sector has approximate chiral symmetry; but this symmetry is broken in two ways:

- **explicitly broken,**

  because the u and d quark masses are not exactly zero;

- **spontaneously broken:** $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \longrightarrow SU(2)_V$

  i.e., axial symmetry is broken,

  while isospin symmetry is intact.

- **There exist 3 Goldstone bosons: the pions**

End Lecture 4