systematics from light nuclei, $^4$He, to heavy nuclei, $^{208}$Pb.

To facilitate calculations for the full mass range from $^4$He to $^{208}$Pb we have to simplify the approach compared to the consistent. The first simplification consists in the use of a phenomenological three-body interaction, which allows for an efficient computation of matrix elements but violates the consistency discussed above. The second simplification consists in the use of Hartree-Fock plus many-body perturbation theory for the approximate solution of the many-body problem. Despite of these simplifications, we will obtain valuable information on the interplay between realistic two-body and phenomenological three-body interactions and on how well the experimental systematics of ground-state energies and charge radii can be reproduced. Furthermore, these studies prepare the ground for calculations with consistently transformed two-plus three-nucleon interactions.

After a brief reminder of the basic concepts of the Unitary Correlation Operator Method and the Similarity Renormalization Group we introduce the phenomenological three-body in-
teration and calculate the matrix elements in the harmonic oscillator basis in the second section. In the third section, we discuss the inclusion of the three-body interaction in Hartree-Fock and many-body perturbation theory and discuss the systematics of ground-state energies and charge rms-radii across the whole nuclear mass range and its dependence on the two- and three-nucleon interaction.

II. FORMALISM

A. Unitary Correlation Operator Method and Similarity Renormalization Group

The Unitary Correlation Operator Method and the Similarity Renormalization Group provide two conceptually different but physically related approaches for the construction of soft phase-shift equivalent interactions.

The Similarity Renormalization Group (SRG) \[7\] aims at the pre-diagonalization of the Hamiltonian for a given basis by means of a unitary transformation implemented through the renormalization-group flow equation:

$$\frac{d H_\alpha}{d \alpha} = [\eta_\alpha, H_\alpha] ,$$

(1)

where \( \alpha \) is the flow parameter and \( H_\alpha \) the evolved Hamiltonian, with \( H_0 = H \) being the initial or ‘bare’ Hamiltonian. The anti-hermitian generator \( \eta_\alpha \) defines the specifics of the flow evolution, e.g. the representation with respect to which the Hamiltonian should become diagonal or block-diagonal. Various choices for this generator have been investigated \[11\], we restrict ourselves to the simple generator \[7, 9\]

$$\eta_\alpha = [T_{\text{int}}, H_\alpha]$$

(2)

with \( T_{\text{int}} = T - T_{\text{cm}} \) being the intrinsic kinetic energy, which leads to a pre-diagonalization of the Hamiltonian with respect to the eigenbasis of the kinetic energy or momentum operator. Once the generator is fixed, the Hamiltonian and all operators of interest can be evolved easily using a matrix representation of the flow equation \[1\].

In A-body space the evolution generates up to A-body operators even if the initial Hamiltonian contains only up to two- or three-body operators. For reasons of practicability one has to truncate the evolution at some low particle number—typically this is done by solving the evolution equation in a matrix representation in two- or three-body space. For the moment we restrict ourselves to transformations in two-body space, i.e., we will discard any induced three-body interactions.

The aim of the Unitary Correlation Operator Method (UCOM) \[10\] is to explicitly treat short-range correlations induced by the nuclear interaction via a static unitary transformation. This transformation can either be used to correlate the many-body states or to similarity transform operators of interest, e.g. the Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = C^\dagger HC ,$$

(3)

and the tensor part of the nuclear interaction. Therefore the correlation operator is written as a product of two unitary operators, \( C_{\tau} \) for the central correlations and \( C_\Omega \) for the tensor correlations. We choose an explicit form of the correlation operators:

$$C = C_\Omega C_{\tau} = \exp\left( -i \sum_{j<k} g_{\Omega,kj} \right) \exp\left( -i \sum_{j<k} g_{\tau,kj} \right)$$

(4)

with the following ansatz for hermitian generators \( g_\tau \) and \( g_\Omega \):

$$g_\tau = \frac{1}{2} \left[ q_\tau \partial (r) + s (r) q_\tau \right],$$

$$g_\Omega = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (\sigma_1 \cdot r)(\sigma_2 \cdot q_\Omega) + (\sigma_1 \cdot q_\Omega)(\sigma_2 \cdot r) \right],$$

(5)

where \( q_\tau = \frac{1}{2} (p_1 - p_2 - q) \), \( q_\Omega = q - \frac{1}{2} q_\tau \), and \( q = \frac{1}{2} (p_1 + p_2) \). The strengths and radial dependencies of the two transformations are governed by the correlation functions \( s(r) \) and \( \theta(r) \) for the central and tensor correlations, respectively. One can obtain these functions via an energy minimization in the two-body system \[10\]. Recently, we have also employed the SRG as tool for the determination of the UCOM correlation functions \( s(r) \) and \( \theta(r) \) as discussed in Refs. \[9, 10\]. Here, we will use these SRG-optimized UCOM correlation functions only.

Though the SRG- and UCOM-transformations have a different formal background, they address the same physics of short-range correlations. A first connection becomes clear at the pre-diagonalization of the Hamiltonian for a given basis or ‘bare’ Hamiltonian. The anti-hermitian generator \( \eta_\alpha \) defines the specifics of the flow evolution, e.g. the representation with respect to which the Hamiltonian should become diagonal or block-diagonal.

The strengths and radial dependencies of the two transformations are governed by the correlation functions \( s(r) \) and \( \theta(r) \) for the central and tensor correlations, respectively. One can obtain these functions via an energy minimization in the two-body system \[10\]. Recently, we have also employed the SRG as tool for the determination of the UCOM correlation functions \( s(r) \) and \( \theta(r) \) as discussed in Refs. \[9, 10\]. Here, we will use these SRG-optimized UCOM correlation functions only.

The flow parameter \( \alpha \) directly spans this family of two-body interactions. For the UCOM-transformation the flow parameter \( \alpha \) spans a family of different transformations for the \( S,T \)-channels. We thus use the SRG-optimized UCOM correlation functions determined from the SRG-evolved two-body wave functions as discussed in Refs. \[9, 10\], thus the flow parameter \( \alpha \) also spans a family of different UCOM-transformed interactions. Note that the standard formulation of UCOM only uses different transformations for the different \( (S,T) \)-channels. We thus use the SRG-evolved wave functions for the lowest partial waves for each \( (S,T) \)-channel to define the correlation functions, leading to a transformed interaction labelled ‘UCOM(SRG)’.
transformation, we can also use an S-wave-only UCOM transformation, denoted ‘S-UCOM(SRG)’ , which acts only in the \(^1\!S_0\) and the coupled \(^3\!S_1 - ^3\!D_1\) partial waves.

So far, we have assumed that both transformations are evaluated in two-body space, leading to a transformed interaction containing two-body terms only. A consistent first-principles treatment requires the transformation to be performed in A-body space, leading to a hierarchy of induced interactions up to the A-body level, as mentioned earlier. The most advanced attempts along these lines use the full SRG-evolution at the three-body level to construct a consistently transformed two-plus three-nucleon interaction \([5]\). The use of those two- plus three-body interactions in many-body calculations is very demanding and presently limited to rather small model spaces.

Therefore, we follow a more pragmatic path in this work. We evaluate the unitary transformations at the two-body level and mimic the three-body contributions (genuine plus induced) through a simple phenomenological three-body interaction. By using a simplified three-nucleon (3N) interaction, e.g., a regularized contact or a Gaussian interaction, the calculation of the three-body matrix elements becomes formally and computationally much less demanding. This allows us to study the impact of 3N interactions on various nuclear structure observables for nuclei and model spaces beyond the domain accessible with realistic 3N interactions. Furthermore, we can develop and benchmark approximate treatments of the main accessible with realistic 3N interactions. Furthermore, we can develop and benchmark approximate treatments of the three-body contributions and establish the technical framework to include 3N interaction into many-body methods.

The parameters of the phenomenological 3N interactions will be adjusted depending on the flow parameter \(\alpha\) of the transformed two-nucleon (NN) interaction. For a wide range of \(\alpha\) parameters the transformed two-body interaction alone produces an overbinding compared to the experimental ground state energy. This is illustrated in Fig. 1 for the ground-state energy of \(^4\!He\) as function of \(\alpha\) obtained in converged no-core shell model calculations for the UCOM(SRG)-

![Figure 1](image-url)

**FIG. 1:** (color online) Binding energy of \(^4\!He\) as function of the flow parameter \(\alpha\) obtained from a converged no-core shell model calculation using the UCOM(SRG)-transformed (●), the S-UCOM(SRG)-transformed (●), the SRG-transformed (▲), or the S-SRG-transformed (■) AV18 potential. The horizontal lines indicate the experimental binding energy (— — — and the exact ground state energy for the bare AV18 two-body interaction (— — — — — — — — — —). Thus the additional phenomenological interaction, which mimics the net effect of the genuine and the induced 3N interaction, has to be repulsive in order to lead to a \(^4\!He\) binding energy consistent with experiment. Note that the phenomenological three-body forces that are used in connection with the bare AV18 interaction are generally attractive. Thus the induced 3N interaction resulting from the unitary transformation of the bare AV18 interaction alone has to be repulsive and sufficiently strong to create an over-all repulsive three-body contribution.

**B. Three-Body Contact Interaction**

The simplest choice for a phenomenological 3N interaction is a spin-isospin-independent contact interaction

\[
V_{3N} = C_{3N} \delta^{(3)}(x_1 - x_2) \delta^{(3)}(x_1 - x_3)
\]

with variable strength \(C_{3N}\). Despite its simplicity it allows us to study the impact of a 3N interaction on bulk observables like ground-state energies or charge radii. Obviously this simplistic choice offers substantial computational advantages.

For evaluating the matrix elements of a realistic 3N interaction for the use in configuration-space Hartree-Fock or no-core shell model type calculations one typically adopts a two-step procedure: First the matrix elements are evaluated in a Jacobi-coordinate basis for the relative motion in the three-nucleon system. Then, through a sequence of Talmi-Moshinsky transformations and angular momentum recouplings, the matrix elements are transformed into the m-scheme to perform the many-body calculation. Both steps are non-trivial and computationally demanding, thus limiting the model-space sizes for which those matrix elements can be handled.

In contrast, the matrix elements of the contact interaction can be directly evaluated in the m-scheme in a straightforward manner. We first consider the matrix elements of the 3N contact interaction with respect to the spatial part of three-particle product states in the harmonic oscillator basis

\[
\langle n_1 l_1 m_{l_1}, n_2 l_2 m_{l_2}, n_3 l_3 m_{l_3} | V_{3N} | n_4 l_4 m_{l_4}, n_5 l_5 m_{l_5}, n_6 l_6 m_{l_6} \rangle \, .
\]

The spin and isospin quantum numbers and the antisymmetrization will be included subsequently. We can insert a unit operator in position representation using cartesian coordinates and directly evaluate the Kronecker-deltas. This leaves us with a single integration over a single-particle coordinate, which can be rewritten in spherical coordinates. Introducing the position representation of the harmonic oscillator single-particle states, \(\phi_{nlm}(x) = R_{nl}(x)Y_{lm}^{(1)}(\Omega)\), with radial wave
functions $R_{nl}(x)$ and spherical harmonics $Y_{lj}(\Omega)$, we obtain:

$$
\langle n_1 l_1 m_1, n_2 l_2 m_2, n_3 l_3 m_3 | V_{3N} | n_4 l_4 m_4, n_5 l_5 m_5 \rangle = C_{3N} \int dx^2 R_{nl_1}(x)R_{nl_2}(x)R_{nl_3}(x) 
\times R_{nl_4}(x)R_{nl_5}(x)
\times \int d\Omega Y^*_l m_l(\Omega) Y^*_l m_l(\Omega) Y^*_l m_l(\Omega) \Omega_{l m_l} \Omega_{l m_l} \Omega_{l m_l} \Omega \ (8)
$$

The integral over the six radial wave functions $R_{nl}(x)$ has to be calculated numerically while the integral over the six spherical harmonics $Y_{lj}(\Omega)$ can be evaluated analytically. The product of three spherical harmonics can be reduced to one spherical harmonic and the integral over the remaining two spherical harmonics can be solved analytically, leading to

$$
\int d\Omega Y^*_l m_l(\Omega) Y^*_l m_l(\Omega) Y^*_l m_l(\Omega) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \sum_{l_1 l_2 l_3} \frac{1}{2L_2 + 1} \times c(l_1 l_2 l_3 c(l_1 l_2 l_3 c(l_1 l_2 l_3 c(l_1 l_2 l_3 c(l_1 l_2 l_3
$$

with $l = \sqrt{2l + 1}$ and $c(l_1 l_2 l_3 c(l_1 l_2 l_3 c(l_1 l_2 l_3 c(l_1 l_2 l_3 c(l_1 l_2 l_3

We adopt the 3N contact interaction together unitarily transformed NN interactions for the study of the systematics of nuclear ground-state energies and charge radii throughout the whole mass range from $^4$He to $^{208}$Pb using Hartree-Fock and many-body perturbation theory.

### A. Hartree-Fock Approximation

We have employed the Hartree-Fock (HF) approximation as a first indicator for the gross systematics of binding energies and charge radii obtained with unitarily transformed two-body interactions in Refs. [10, 13] already. In order to assess the impact of 3N contact interactions we extend our HF framework in a first step.

All calculations are based on the translationally invariant Hamiltonian

$$
H_{\text{int}} = T_{\text{int}} + V_{\text{NN}} + V_{3N} = H_{\text{int}}^{(2)} + V_{3N} \ (10)
$$

with $V_{\text{NN}}$ being the UCOM- or SRG-transformed NN interaction and $T_{\text{int}} = T - T_{\text{cm}}$ the intrinsic kinetic energy. This Hamiltonian includes all charge dependent and electromagnetic terms of the transformed AV18 potential as well as the phenomenological three-body force.

The HF equations are formulated in a harmonic oscillator basis representation, i.e., the single-particle states are expanded in the harmonic oscillator states:

$$
|vljm_m\rangle = \sum_n c_{vljm_m}^{(v)} |nljm_m\rangle \ , \quad (11)
$$

where $|nljm_m\rangle$ denotes the harmonic oscillator eigenstates with radial quantum number $n$, orbital angular momentum $l$, total angular momentum $j$ with projection $m$, and isospin projection quantum number $m_i$. Since we only consider closed-shell nuclei in the following, the expansion coefficients are independent of $m$. The HF equations can now be written as

$$
\sum_n H_{nljm}^{(v)} c_{vljm_m}^{(v)} = \epsilon_{vljm_m}^{(v)} \ c_{vljm_m}^{(v)} \ (12)
$$

with the single-particle energies $\epsilon_{vljm_m}^{(v)}$. The matrix elements of the single-particle HF Hamiltonian

$$
H_{nljm}^{(v)} = \sum_{l' l'' m_i} \sum_{n' n''} \langle nljm_m, n' l' ' m_i | H_{\text{int}}^{(v)} | nljm_m, n'' l' ' m_i \rangle q_{n' n''}^{(v)}
$$

are obtained by contractions of the antisymmetrized matrix elements of the two-body part of the Hamiltonian $H_{\text{int}}^{(v)}$ and the three-body interaction $V_{3N}$ with the one-body density matrix given by

$$
\xi_{nljm}^{(v)} = \sum_v O_{nljm}^{(v)} c_{vljm_m}^{(v)} \ c_{vljm_m}^{(v)} \ (14)
$$

with $O_{nljm}^{(v)}$ being the number of occupied magnetic sublevels which is $2j + 1$ for closed-shell nuclei.

In the following the HF approach is applied to selected closed-shell nuclei from $^4$He to $^{208}$Pb. The HF equations are solved iteratively until full self-consistency is reached. The
model space is truncated at a given major oscillator quantum number \( e = 2n + l \leq e_{\text{max}} \), where \( e_{\text{max}} = 10 \) is sufficient to obtain converged ground-state energies and radii at the HF level. The oscillator parameter is chosen for each nucleus separately such that the experimental charge radius is reproduced by a shell-model Slater determinant built from harmonic oscillator single-particle states.

As a first illustration of the behavior of unitarily transformed two-body interactions Fig. 2 summarizes the ground-state energies per nucleon and radii of selected closed-shell nuclei resulting from HF calculations based on pure two-body interactions for \( e_{\text{max}} = 10 \): UCOM(SRG) with \( \alpha = 0.16 \text{ fm}^4 \) (■), S-UCOM(SRG) with \( \alpha = 0.16 \text{ fm}^4 \) (●), SRG with \( \alpha = 0.10 \text{ fm}^4 \) (▲), and S-SRG with \( \alpha = 0.10 \text{ fm}^4 \) (◆). The bars indicate the experimental values [18, 19].

When increasing the flow parameter entering into the construction of the S-UCOM(SRG) interaction to \( \alpha = 0.12 \text{ fm}^4 \) or \( 0.16 \text{ fm}^4 \) the ground-state energy at the HF level decreases substantially. For most nuclei the binding energy per nucleon more than doubles when going from \( \alpha = 0.04 \text{ fm}^4 \) to \( 0.16 \text{ fm}^4 \). For heavier nuclei the increase is larger, thus leading to a tilt of the ground-state energy systematics with respect to the experimental behavior. Unlike the energies, the charge radii exhibit a very weak \( \alpha \)-dependence as shown in the lower panel of Fig. 3. For all flow parameters considered here, the radii are somewhat underestimated. The situation is very similar for the UCOM(SRG) and the S-SRG interactions.

This general phenomenology of ground-state energies and charge radii of selected closed-shell nuclei resulting from HF calculations for the pure two-body interaction S-UCOM(SRG) for \( e_{\text{max}} = 10 \) and different flow parameters: \( \alpha = 0.04 \text{ fm}^4 \) (■), \( \alpha = 0.12 \text{ fm}^4 \) (●), \( \alpha = 0.16 \text{ fm}^4 \) (◆). The bars indicate the experimental values [18, 19].
phenomenological 3N interaction can be used to improve energies and radii. Since the radii are insensitive to the flow parameter in a certain regime, we can fix the strength of the 3N interaction such that the systematics of the charge radii is in good agreement with experiment. The flow parameter can then be chosen to provide an optimal description of the ground-state energies in a beyond-HF calculation.

The impact of 3N contact interactions with different strength parameters $C_{3N}$ is illustrated in Fig. 4 using the S-UCOM(SRG) interaction for $\alpha = 0.16 \, \text{fm}^3$. As compared to the HF calculation with the pure two-body interaction, the binding energies are reduced significantly and the charge radii are increased as a result of the purely repulsive 3N interaction. It is remarkable, that the charge radii are in excellent agreement with experiment for the whole mass range from $^4\text{He}$ to $^{208}\text{Pb}$ when using a 3N interaction with strength parameters in the range $C_{3N} = 2200$ to $2800 \, \text{MeV fm}^6$. For the same values $C_{3N}$, the ground-state energy systematics at the HF does again resemble the experimental systematics up to a constant shift, i.e., the tilt of the energy curve towards an overbinding for heavier nuclei is cured as well. The missing binding energy of 3 to 4 MeV per nucleon at the HF level can be recovered by including correlations beyond HF, as will be discussed in the next section.

In addition to ground-state energies and radii, the HF approximation provides us with an estimate for the single-particle energies that can be used to diagnose the various NN+3N interactions. Examples for the single particle spectra obtained with the various unitarily transformed interactions for $^{40}\text{Ca}$ and $^{90}\text{Zr}$ are shown in Figs. 5 and 6, respectively. We use the UCOM(SRG) and the S-UCOM(SRG) interactions for $\alpha = 0.16 \, \text{fm}^3$ and the S-SRG interaction for $\alpha = 0.10 \, \text{fm}^3$ each supplemented with a 3N contact interaction with strength parameter adjusted to provide a good overall description of the charge radii at the HF level, i.e., $C_{3N} = 1600 \, \text{MeV fm}^6$ for UCOM(SRG), $C_{3N} = 2200 \, \text{MeV fm}^6$ for S-UCOM(SRG), and $C_{3N} = 2000 \, \text{MeV fm}^6$ for S-SRG.

The gross structure of the single-particle spectra obtained with the S-UCOM(SRG)+3N and the S-SRG+3N interactions agrees rather well with the single-particle energies extracted from experiment. The quality of the agreement is comparable with other mean-field type calculations and some of the characteristic deviations, e.g. the overestimation of the gaps at...
the Fermi energy, are expected to be remedied by the inclusion of beyond HF corrections. Other important quantities, e.g., the splittings between spin-orbit partner states, are reproduced rather well at the HF level already.

The picture is different for the UCOM(SRG)+3N interaction. In particular for the single-particle spectrum of $^{90}$Zr shown in Fig. 6 and for all heavier nuclei we observe a collapse of the spin-orbit splittings. Since this problem does not appear in the corresponding S-UCOM(SRG) calculation, it has to be caused by the UCOM-transformation of the higher partial waves. The problem is also absent in UCOM(SRG) interaction for smaller flow parameters $\alpha$, e.g., for the UCOM(SRG) interaction at $\alpha = 0.04$ fm$^4$ that was used in Fig. 3. Thus the long-range character of the tensor correlation functions as they appear for larger $\alpha$ (cf. Refs. 2, 11) acting on the higher partial wave leads to this unphysical behavior. We will, therefore, restrict ourselves for the following discussion to the S-UCOM(SRG) and S-SRG interactions.

B. Many-Body Perturbation Theory

A simple means to estimate the impact of correlations beyond the HF approximation is many-body perturbation theory (MBPT). In particular low-order MBPT corrections to the energy $E_{\text{HF}} + \sum_{\text{MBPT}}$ can be computed quite efficiently for the whole mass range up to $^{208}$Pb. We have used second- and third-order MBPT to investigate various two-body Hamiltonians and the importance and systematics of correlations beyond HF in Refs. 10, 15. One should be aware, however, that low-order MBPT can only provide an estimate for the exact ground-state energies and that the order-by-order convergence is not guaranteed, as we have shown in Ref. 27 using an harmonic oscillator single-particle basis.

Because of its computational simplicity we adopt second-order MBPT as a guideline for the effect of beyond-HF correlations on the energy in the presence of a phenomenological 3N interaction. The second-order energy correction to the HF ground state energy for the intrinsic Hamiltonian including the 3N interaction reads

$$
E^{(2)} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{h} \sum_{h'} \sum_{p} \sum_{p'} \left| \langle hh' | H_{\text{int}}^{(2)} | pp' \rangle \right|^2 \left[ \epsilon_h + \epsilon_{h'} - \epsilon_p - \epsilon_{p'} \right] + \frac{1}{36} \sum_{h} \sum_{h'} \sum_{p} \sum_{p'} \sum_{p''} \left| \langle hh'h'' | V_{3N} | pp'p'' \rangle \right|^2 \left[ \epsilon_h + \epsilon_{h'} + \epsilon_{p} + \epsilon_{p'} - \epsilon_{p''} - \epsilon_{p'''} \right],
$$

where $h, h', ...$ denote the HF single-particle states below the Fermi energy $\epsilon_F$ (hole states) and $p, p', ...$ the corresponding HF single-particle states above the Fermi energy (particle states). All two- and three-body matrix elements appearing here are understood to be antisymmetrized matrix elements.

Already the structure of the second-order energy correction $E^{(2)}$ is interesting. Obviously, if we set all matrix elements of the 3N interaction to zero we recover the well known form of the second-order correction for a pure two-body Hamiltonian.

![FIG. 7: (color online) Contributions to the ground state energy resulting from MBPT based on the S-UCOM(SRG) interaction for $\alpha = 0.16$ fm$^4$, $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 10$, $C_{3N} = 2200$ MeV fm$^6$ as function of the cut-off parameter $\epsilon_{3N}$ for HF (●), HF+MBPT(2B) (▲), HF+MBPT(2B+3Bpphh) (●), and HF+MBPT(2B+3B) (▲).](image-url)

The inclusion of the 3N interaction affects this expression in two ways: (i) The matrix elements of the two-body Hamiltonian are modified by an effective or in-medium two-body term that results from the three-body matrix elements by a contraction of the third single-particle index. (ii) An additional pure three-body term involving three particle and three hole indices appears.

To separate the effect of these two contributions we study three variants of the second-order energy correction: MBPT(2B) includes only the contribution of the two-body Hamiltonian, i.e., the first matrix element in Eq. 15. MBPT(2B+3Bpphh) includes the in-medium two-body contribution generated by the 3N interaction, i.e., the complete first term in Eq. 15. Finally, MBPT(2B+3B) includes all terms of Eq. 15.

The ground-state energies of $^4$He, $^{16}$O, and $^{40}$Ca obtained with MBPT(2B), MBPT(2B+3Bpphh), and MBPT(2B+3B) on top of the HF result for the S-UCOM(SRG) interaction are shown in Fig. 7 as function of the cutoff parameter $\epsilon_{3N}$. For the HF calculations presented so far we had fixed this cutoff to $\epsilon_{3N} = 20$, which was sufficiently large to guarantee that the HF energies were practically independent of this cutoff for all nuclei. As soon as we include the second-order perturbative correction we cannot expect the results to be independent of $\epsilon_{3N}$, because the sums over particle states above the Fermi energy directly probe high-lying matrix elements. Eventually we will have to fix $\epsilon_{3N}$ to a certain value as part of the definition of the phenomenological 3N interaction.

For the study of the different contributions a cutoff variation nevertheless provides a useful diagnostic tool. As seen in Fig. 7 the HF energies are practically independent of $\epsilon_{3N}$ as mentioned earlier. When including the second-order correction due to the two-body Hamiltonian, MBPT(2B), the ground-state energies are lowered by about 1 MeV per nucleon for $^4$He and by about 2.5 MeV per nucleon for $^{16}$O and $^{40}$Ca. The MBPT(2B) energies are sensitive to $\epsilon_{3N}$ only indirectly via high-lying HF single-particle states, therefore, the dependence is marginal. For MBPT(2B+3Bpphh) and MBPT(2B+3B) the cutoff directly affects the perturbative correction via the three-body matrix elements and the $\epsilon_{3N}$-dependence becomes more pronounced. Generally, the
step from MBPT(2B) to MBPT(2B+3Bpphh) can modify the ground-state energy in either direction, whereas the change from MBPT(2B+3Bpphh) to MBPT(2B+3B) always results in a lowering of the ground-state energy, as evident from Eq. (15).

For $^4$He we obtain a significantly lower ground-state energy when fully including the three-body terms. For the heavier nuclei the ground-state energy is increased at small $\varepsilon_{3N}$ and remains almost unchanged for larger $\varepsilon_{3N}$. Generally, the change in the ground-state energy per nucleon when going from MBPT(2B) to MBPT(2B+3B) for fixed and sufficiently large $\varepsilon_{3N}$ decreases with increasing particle number. Beyond $^{40}$Ca the impact of the three-body terms to the second-order energy correction is smaller than other uncertainties of the calculation, e.g., the degree of convergence with respect to the model-space. Therefore, we will limit ourselves to the MBPT(2B) corrections and will continue using $\varepsilon_{3N} = 20$ in the following. One should keep in mind, however, that for nuclei below $^{40}$Ca and in particular for $^4$He the full second-order correction MBPT(2B+3B) leads to a lower ground-state energy than MBPT(2B) and thus to a much better agreement with experiment.

As discussed earlier, we can fix the strength of the three-body interaction based on the systematics of the charge radii and use the flow parameter entering into the two-body interaction to control the binding-energy systematics. In Fig. 8 we illustrate the influence of $\alpha$ on the energies obtained in MBPT(2B) using the S-UCOM(SRG) interaction with $\alpha = 0.12$ fm$^4$ and 0.16 fm$^4$ and a 3N contact interaction with $C_{3N} = 2200$ MeV fm$^6$. Whereas the charge radii are practically identical for both values of $\alpha$, the HF and the MBPT(2B) ground state energies are systematically lower for the larger flow parameters. The difference is smaller for the MBPT(2B) energies than for the HF energies, as to be expected. The unitary transformation for larger $\alpha$ accounts for more of the correlations explicitly, thus the ground-state energy at the HF level is lower and the gain due to the inclusion of residual correlations through MBPT(2B) is smaller. Thus we can still use the $\alpha$-dependence to control the binding-energy systematics.

So far we have used a model space with $e_{\text{max}} = 10$ for all calculations. This is absolutely sufficient to obtain converged HF results, but it is not enough to obtain con-

FIG. 8: (color online) Binding energies per nucleon and charge radii of selected closed-shell nuclei resulting from HF calculations (filled symbols) and MBPT (open symbols) based on the S-UCOM(SRG) interaction for $e_{\text{max}} = 10$, $C_{3N} = 2200$ MeV fm$^6$, $\varepsilon_{3N} = 20$ and different flow parameters: $\alpha = 0.12$ fm$^4$ (▲), $\alpha = 0.16$ fm$^4$ (●). The bars indicate the experimental values [18, 19].

FIG. 9: (color online) Binding energies per nucleon and charge radii of selected closed-shell nuclei resulting from HF calculations (filled symbols) and MBPT (open symbols) based on the S-UCOM(SRG) interaction for $\alpha = 0.16$ fm$^4$, $C_{3N} = 2200$ MeV fm$^6$, $\varepsilon_{3N} = 20$ and different basis sizes: $e_{\text{max}} = 10$ (●); $e_{\text{max}} = 12$, $l_{\text{max}} = 10$ (■); $e_{\text{max}} = 14$, $l_{\text{max}} = 10$ (▲). The bars indicate the experimental values [18, 19].

FIG. 10: (color online) Binding energies per nucleon and charge radii of selected closed-shell nuclei resulting from HF calculations (filled symbols) and MBPT (open symbols) based on the S-SRG interaction for $\alpha = 0.10$ fm$^4$, $C_{3N} = 2000$ MeV fm$^6$, $\varepsilon_{3N} = 20$ and different basis sizes: $e_{\text{max}} = 10$ (●); $e_{\text{max}} = 12$, $l_{\text{max}} = 10$ (■); $e_{\text{max}} = 14$, $l_{\text{max}} = 10$ (▲). The bars indicate the experimental values [18, 19].
verged HF+MBPT energies. The convergence behavior of the HF+MBPT(2B) energies is illustrated in Fig. 9 for the S-UOM(SRG) interaction with $\sigma = 0.16$ fm$^4$ and in Fig. 10 for the S-SRG interaction with $\sigma = 0.10$ fm$^4$ using $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 10, 12,$ and 14. The HF energies and charge radii are fully converged in all cases, but not the HF+MBPT(2B) energies. Although the largest model space includes 15 major oscillator shells, this is still not sufficient to obtain convergence of the MBPT(2B) contribution for heavier nuclei. The change of energy per nucleon between successive model-space sizes increases with increasing nucleon number.

The slow convergence is partly due to the use of S-wave only UCOM and SRG transformations for the construction of the two-nucleon interactions. For all higher-partial waves the transformed interactions are thus identical to the initial interaction. Since those partial waves become increasingly important for heavier nuclei, the deterioration of the convergence is unsurprising. The use of a softer all-channel transformed interactions, e.g., the standard SRG-interaction discussed in Fig. 2, would help with the convergence. However, for those interactions a simple contact force is not sufficient to provide reasonable energy and radius systematics.

Despite the non-optimal convergence, the results presented in Figs. 9 and 10 show that after inclusion of beyond-HF correlations also the systematics of the ground-state energy is reproduced quite well. Given the additional gain in binding energy that is expected until convergence, as estimated from an extrapolation $\epsilon_{\text{max}} \to \infty$, for heavier nuclei and the additional binding resulting from the three-body contributions to the second-order correction for light isotopes the energies are in good systematic agreement with experiment. The charge radii follow the experimental results very closely already at the HF level. Perturbative corrections to the radii, as studied in Ref. [10], are very small and will not affect the general agreement.

**IV. CONCLUSIONS & OUTLOOK**

We have investigated the systematics of binding energies and charge radii for closed-shell nuclei from $^4\text{He}$ to $^{208}\text{Pb}$ starting from unitarily transformed realistic NN interactions supplemented by phenomenological 3N forces. We have shown that already a simplistic 3N contact interaction is sufficient to cure the systematic deviations from experiment that the UCOM- and SRG-transformed two-body interactions exhibit. By supplementing an S-UOM or S-SRG-transformed interaction for sufficiently large flow parameters $\sigma$ with a repulsive 3N contact interaction we were able to reproduce the experimental charge radius and ground-state energy systematics simultaneously. Only for cases where the two-body interaction exhibits a pathological energy systematics a contact force is clearly not sufficient to arrive at a reasonable behavior.

In a next step, we can apply these interactions in a variety of many-body schemes and study the elementary effects of 3N interactions on nuclear observables. We will employ the phenomenological 3N interactions in exact no-core shell model calculations for the spectroscopy of light nuclei and in approximate many-body approaches such as RPA for the study of the collective response of heavier nuclei. The fundamental advantage of 3N contact interactions is that the computation of three-body matrix elements itself is not a limiting factor and thus a larger range of nuclei and observables can be explored.

A major goal, however, it to go beyond phenomenological 3N interactions for supplementing a unitarily transformed NN interaction towards a consistent two- plus three-body interaction resulting from a combined unitary transformation of an initial two- plus three-body interaction. This can be done, e.g., using an SRG-evolution of the chiral NN plus 3N interaction. A study of the ground-state energy and radius systematics for those interactions, even in a simple framework like HF+MBPT, will provide crucial information on the quality of the presently available chiral interactions for nuclear structure studies beyond the light isotopes and it will serve as a test-case for the SRG-evolution in the NN plus 3N sector. Based on our developments for phenomenological 3N interactions discussed here, we will perform a similar analysis with fully realistic NN plus 3N interactions next.

**Acknowledgments**

This work is supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft through contract SFB 634, by the Helmholtz International Center for FAIR (HIC for FAIR) within the framework of the LOEWE program launched by the State of Hesse, by the BMBF through contract 06DA9040L, and by the GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung.

[1] D. R. Entem and R. Machleidt, Phys. Rev. C68, 041001(R) (2003).
[2] E. Epelbaum, A. Nogga, W. Glockle, H. Kamada, Ulf-G. Meissner, and H. Witala, Phys. Rev. C66, 064001 (2002).
[3] E. Epelbaum, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 57, 654 (2006).
[4] P. Navrátil, V. G. Guerguev, J. P. Vary, W. E. Ormand, and A. Nogga, Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 042501 (2007).
[5] E. D. Jurgenson, P. Navratil, and R. J. Furnstahl, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 082501 (2009).
[6] R. B. Wiringa, V. G. J. Stoks, and R. Schiavilla, Phys. Rev. C51, 38 (1995).
[7] S. K. Bogner, R. J. Furnstahl, and R. J. Perry, Phys. Rev. C75, 061001(R) (2007).
[8] H. Hergert and R. Roth, Phys. Rev. C75, 051001(R) (2007).
[9] R. Roth, S. Reinhardt, and H. Hergert, Phys. Rev. C77, 064003 (2008).
[10] R. Roth, T. Neff, and H. Feldmeier, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 64, in press (2010), arXiv:1003.3624.
[11] S. Bogner, R. Furnstahl, and A. Schwenk, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 64, in press (2010), arXiv:0912.3688.
[12] H. Feldmeier, T. Neff, R. Roth, and J. Schnack, Nucl. Phys. A632, 61 (1998).
[13] T. Neff and H. Feldmeier, Nucl. Phys. A713, 311 (2003).
[14] R. Roth, T. Neff, H. Hergert, and H. Feldmeier, Nucl. Phys. A745, 3 (2004).
[15] R. Roth, P. Papakonstantinou, N. Paar, H. Hergert, T. Neff, and H. Feldmeier, Phys. Rev. C73, 044312 (2006).
[16] R. Roth, H. Hergert, P. Papakonstantinou, T. Neff, and H. Feldmeier, Phys. Rev. C72, 034002 (2005).
[17] A. Nogga, H. Kamada, and W. Glöckle, Phys. Rev. Lett. 85, 944 (2000).
[18] G. Audi and A. H. Wapstra, Nucl. Phys. A595, 409 (1995).
[19] H. d. Vries, C. W. d. Jager, and C. d. Vries, At. Data Nucl. Data Tables 36, 495 (1987).
[20] V. I. Isakov, K. I. Erokhina, H. Mach, M. Sanchez-Vega, and B. Fogelberg, Eur. Phys. J. A14, 29 (2002).
[21] Y. Wang, C. C. Foster, R. D. Polak, J. Rapaport, and E. J. Stephenson, Phys. Rev. C47, 2677 (1993).
[22] J. P. Delaroche, Y. Wang, and J. Rapaport, Phys. Rev. C39, 391 (1989).
[23] J. Goldstone, Proc. R. Soc. London A239, 267 (1957).
[24] H. Feldmeier and P. Manakos, Z. Physik A281, 379 (1977).
[25] P. Stevenson, M. R. Strayer, and J. R. Stone, Phys. Rev. C63, 054309 (2001).
[26] L. Coraggio, N. Itaco, A. Covello, A. Gargano, and T. T. S. Kuo, Phys. Rev. C68, 034320 (2003).
[27] R. Roth and J. Langhammer, Phys. Lett. B683, 272 (2010).