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Constraining the nonanalytic terms of the nuclear symmetry energy with chiral nuclear forces. PENGSHENG WEN, JEREMY W. HOLT, Cyclotron Institute and Department of Physics and Astronomy, Texas AM University — The nuclear symmetry energy, defined as the difference between the pure neutron matter energy per particle and the symmetric nuclear matter energy per particle at a fixed density, is crucial for understanding the properties of neutron-rich nuclei and neutron stars. The expansion of the nuclear symmetry energy in even powers of the isospin asymmetry has recently been shown to breakdown in beyond-mean-field-theory calculations of the nuclear equation of state. In this talk we will describe a new finite difference method to extract the fourth- and sixth-order regular and logarithmic contributions to the nuclear symmetry energy starting from microscopic chiral two- and three-body forces. We find that in general the expansion coefficients of the nonanalytic logarithm terms are larger in magnitude than those of the corresponding regular (even-power) terms for the energy from the second-order perturbation calculation.

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