

$\pi\pi$ scattering

- Connecting Multi-hadrons to Precision Observables

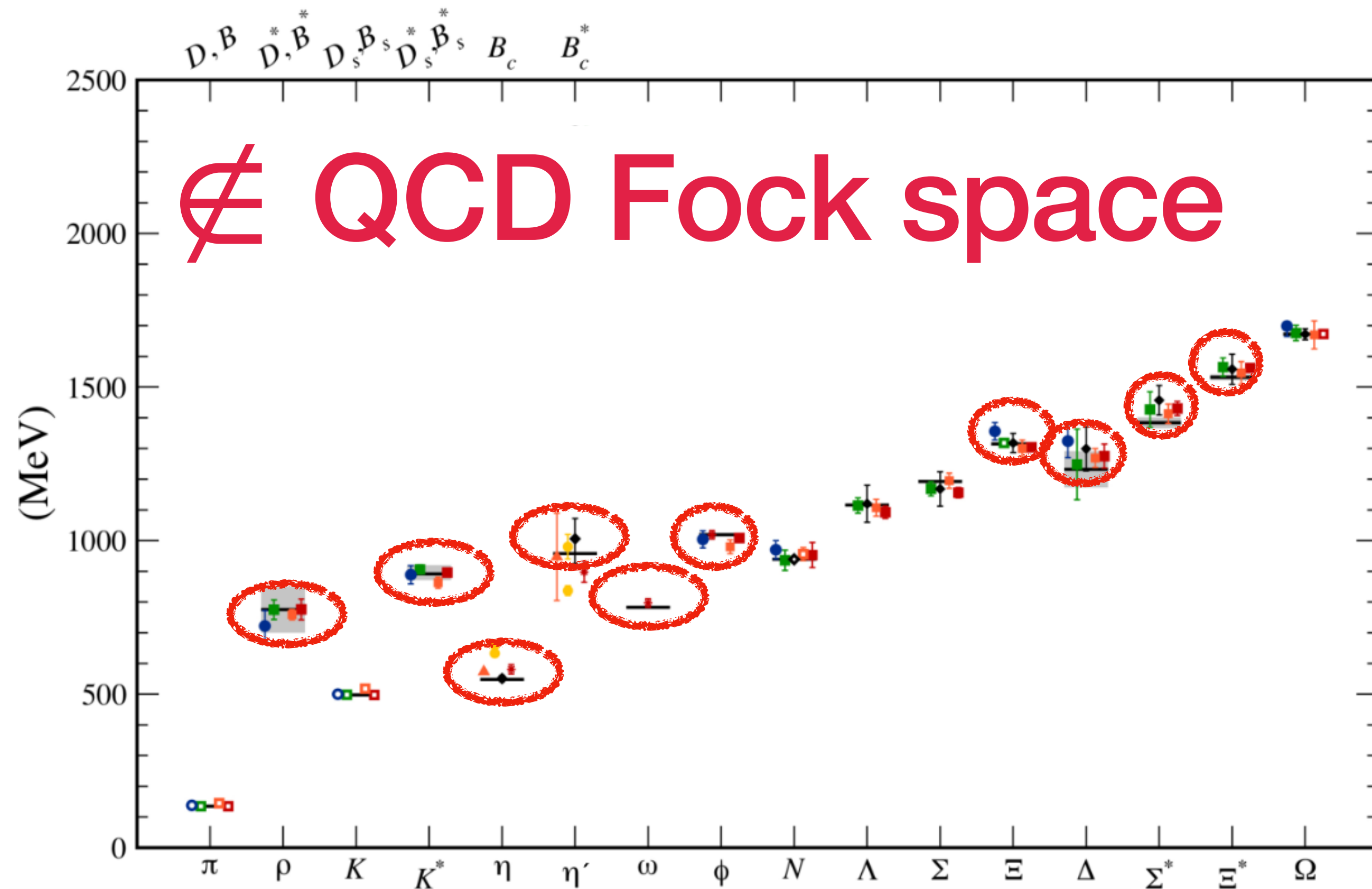
Srijit Paul
Postdoc

ETMC Meeting

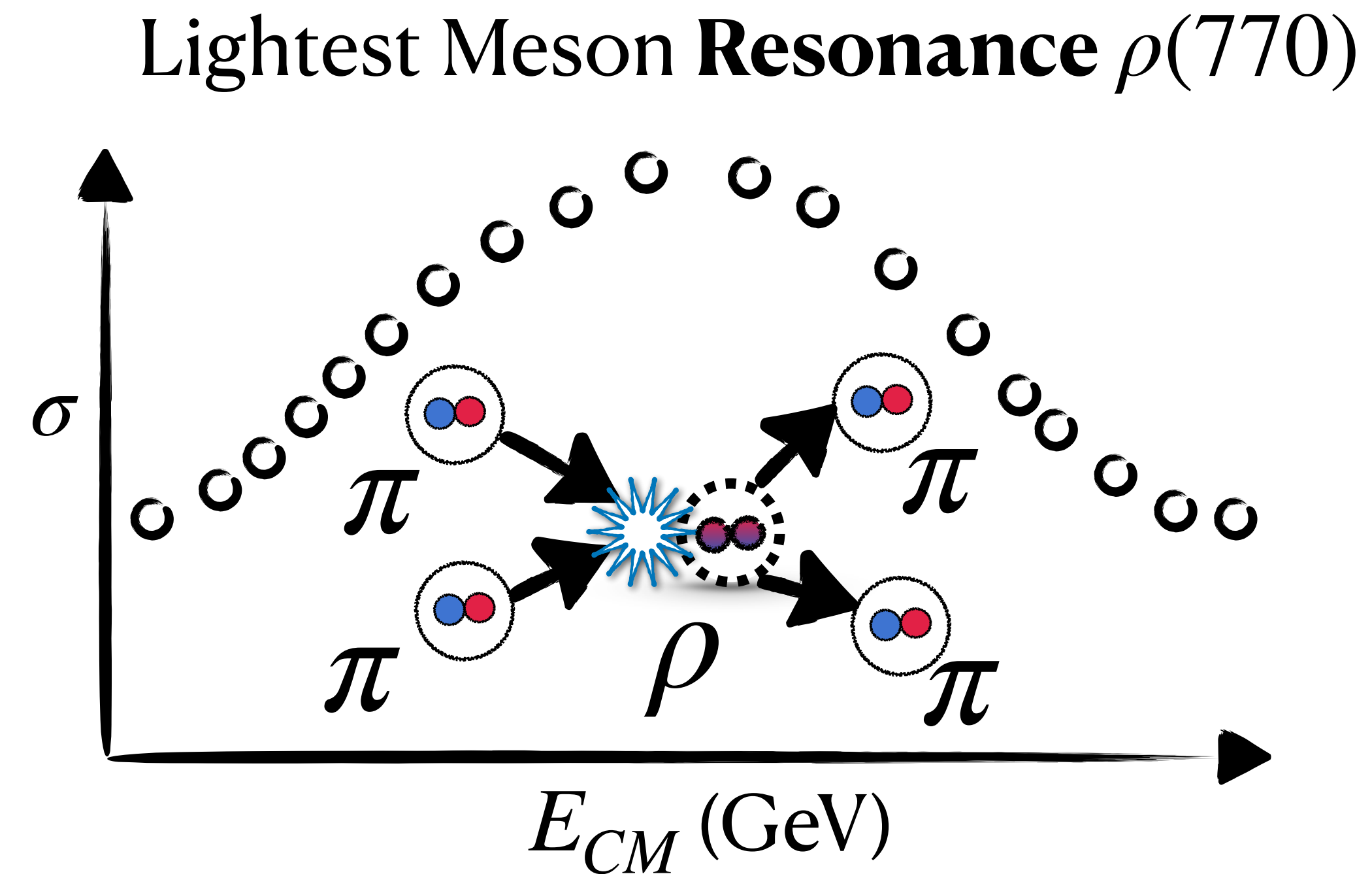
25-27 February 2026



Hadron spectrum



A. S. Kronfeld, *Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci.* 62, 265–284 (2012)
[1203.1204]

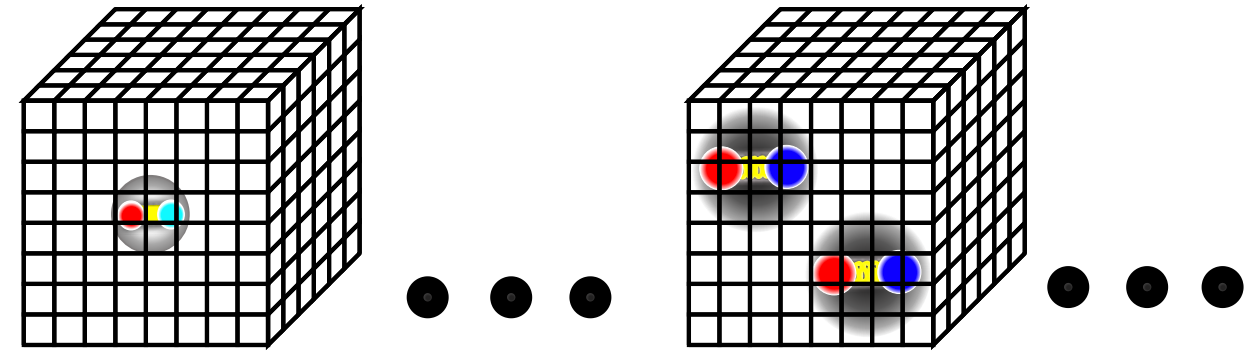


- o Dynamical Observable ~~→~~ Lattice [NOT Asymptotic]
- o Most hadrons are unstable

Hadron spectrum with excited states

Motivated from
the scattering
Experiments

Multihadron Op.

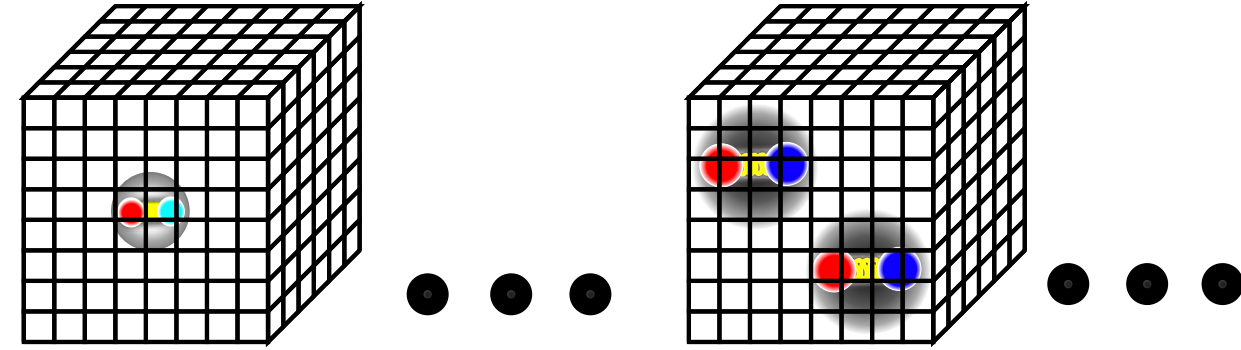


Same Quantum no.?

Hadron spectrum with excited states

Motivated from
the scattering
Experiments

Multihadron Op.



Same Quantum no.?

Same Quantum no.?

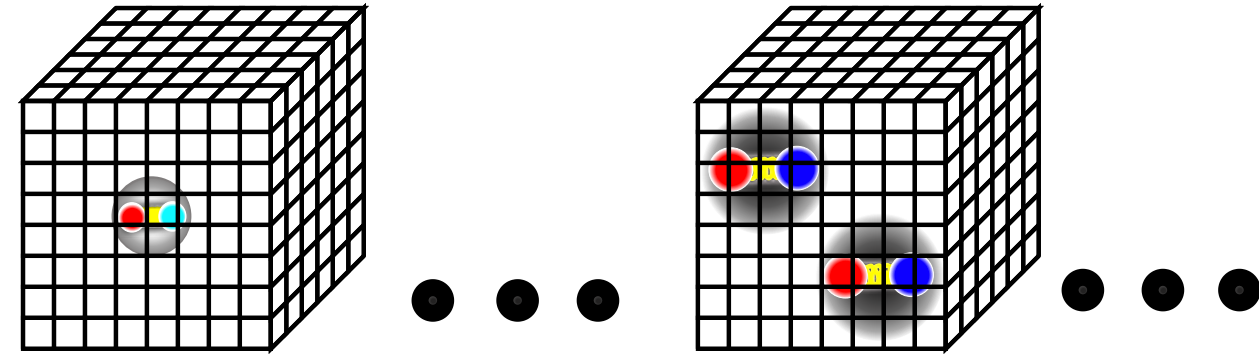
But the two hadrons can't move freely
on the lattice!

Orbital Angular momentum
constrained!

Hadron spectrum with excited states

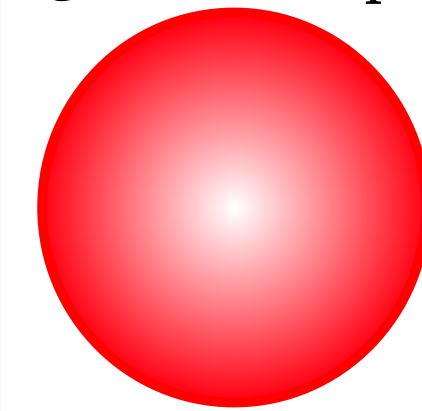
Motivated from
the scattering
Experiments

Multihadron Op.



Same Quantum no.?

Quantized spin



SU(2)

Projection

SUBDUCTION

$1/2$ double-valued

$3/2$ Irrep

∞ Irrep

single-valued

∞ Irrep

G_1

G_2

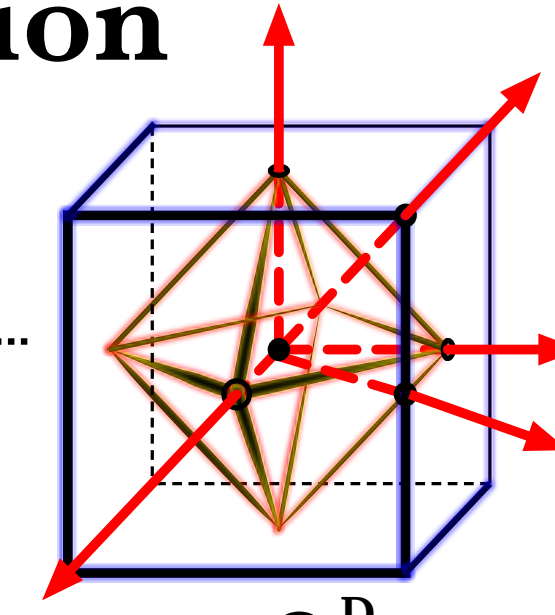
H

A_1

A_2

E_1

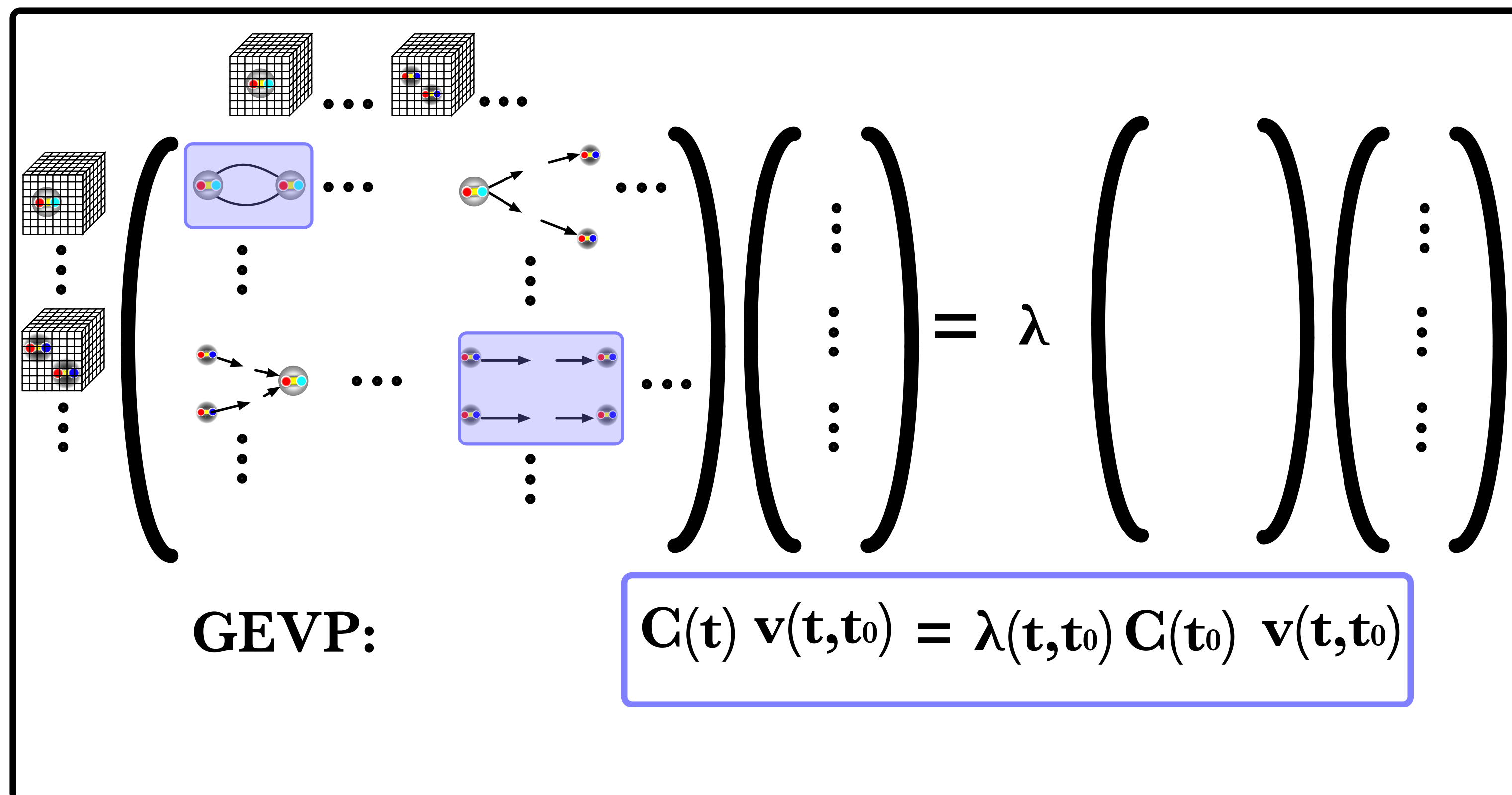
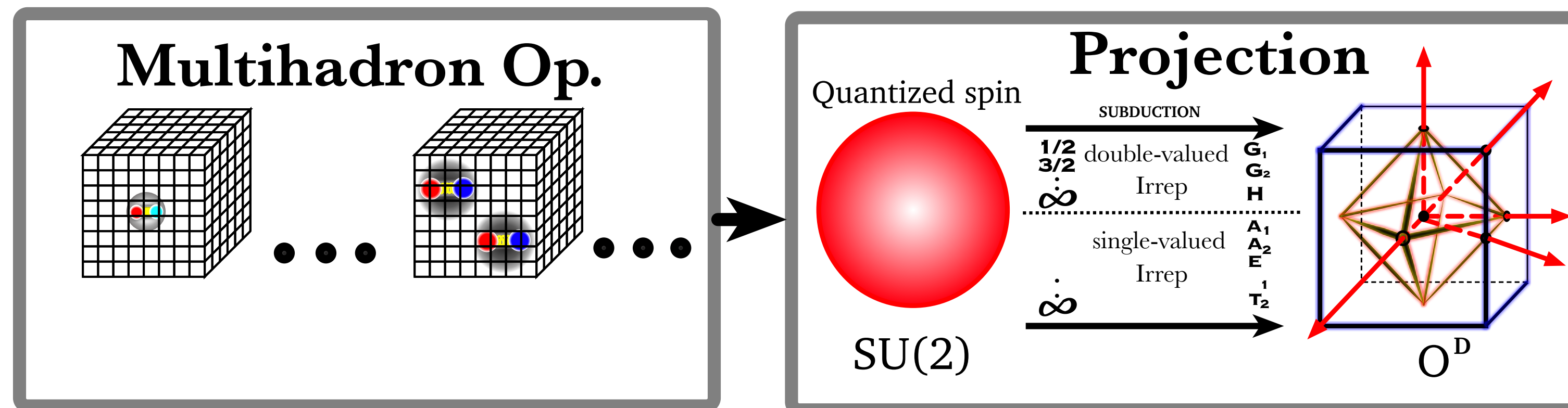
T_2



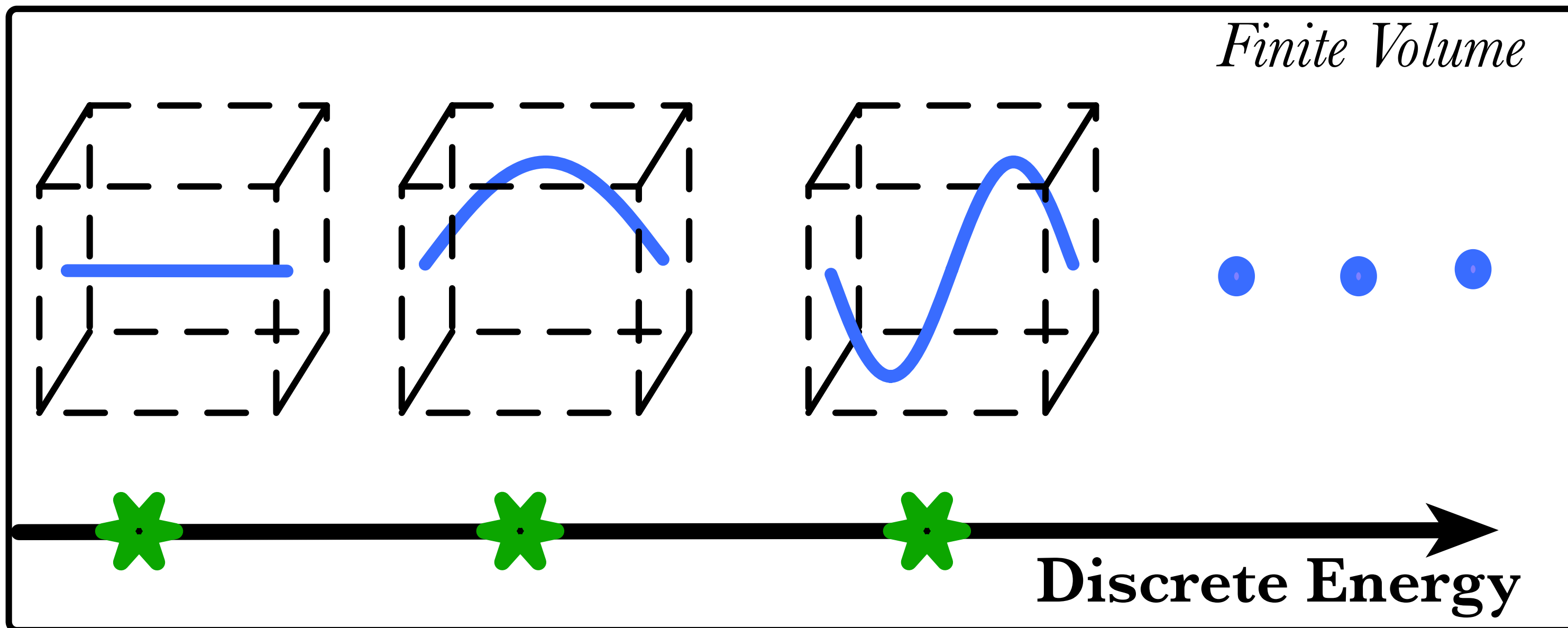
O^D

Hadron spectrum with excited states

Motivated from
the scattering
Experiments

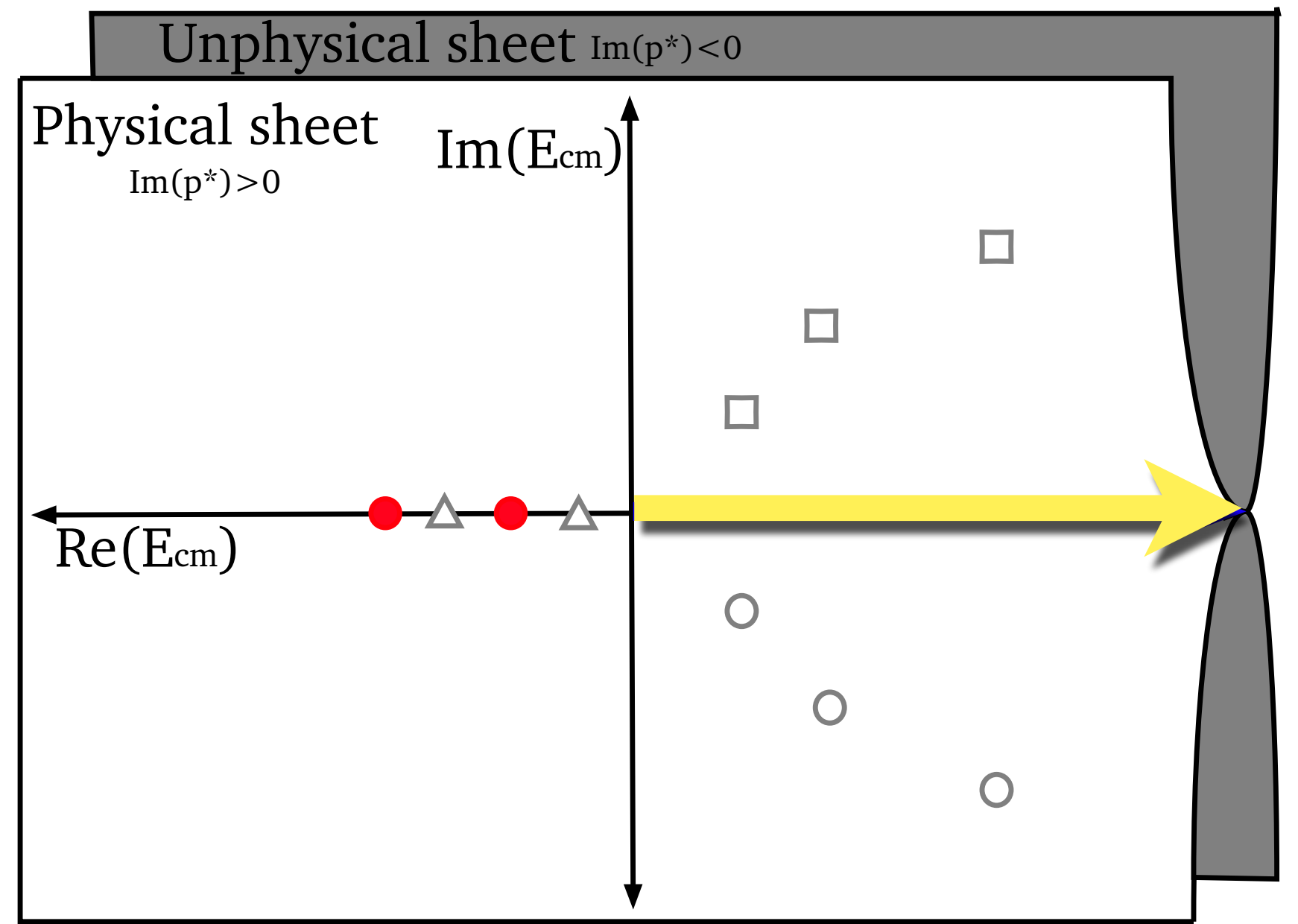
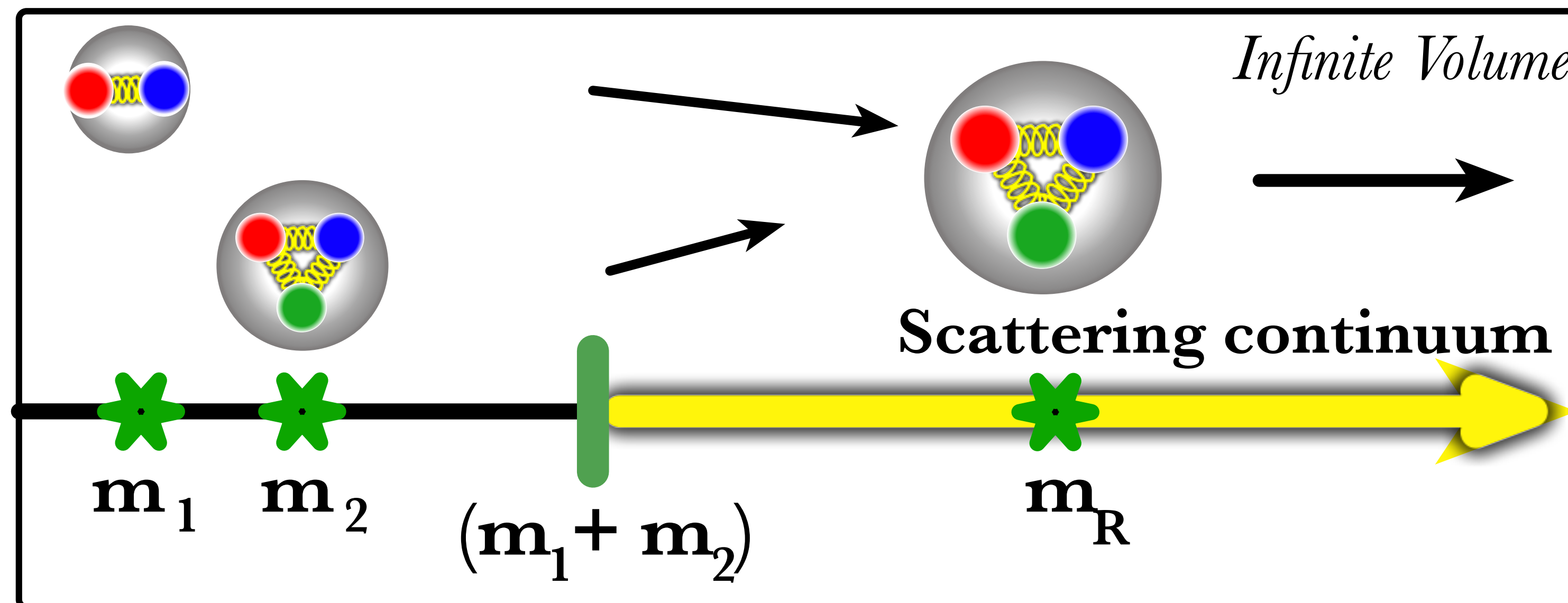


Hadron spectrum with scattering states

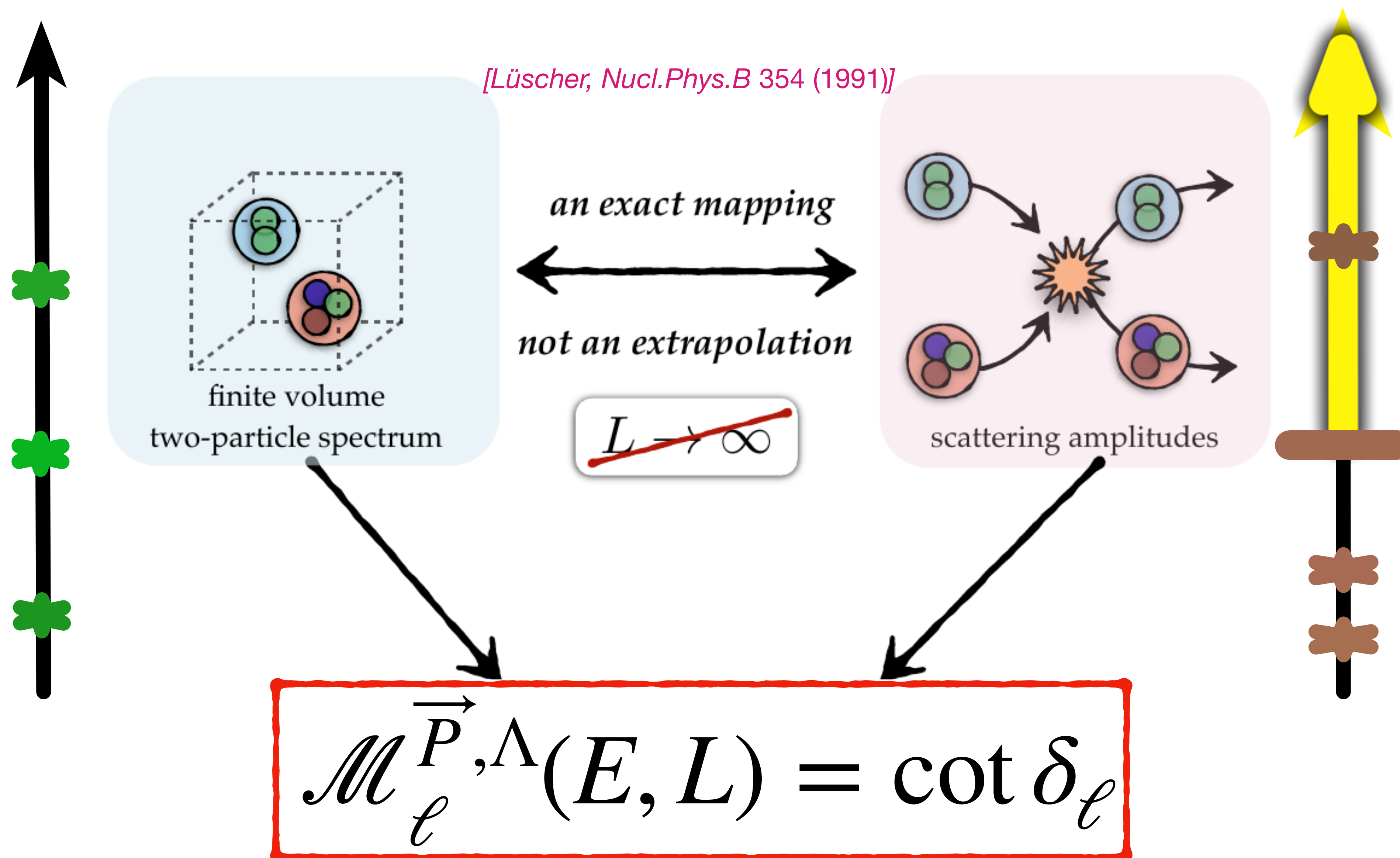


Resonances/unstable states
: Not eigenstates of the system
⇒ Imaginary energies

How to access information about unstable particles in scattering continuum?



Elastic scattering states



Elastic scattering states

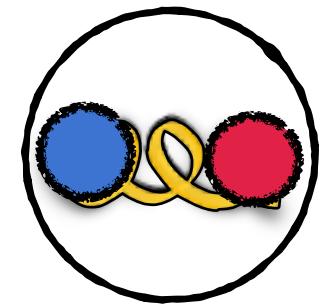
Lüscher Quantization Condition

[Lüscher, Nucl.Phys.B 354 (1991)]

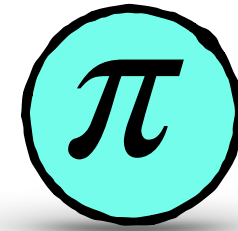
- Interaction range $< L$
- Elastic scattering
- Periodic box
- Upto Exponential corrections
- $a = 0$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\ell}^{\vec{P}, \Lambda}(E, L) = \cot \delta_{\ell}$$

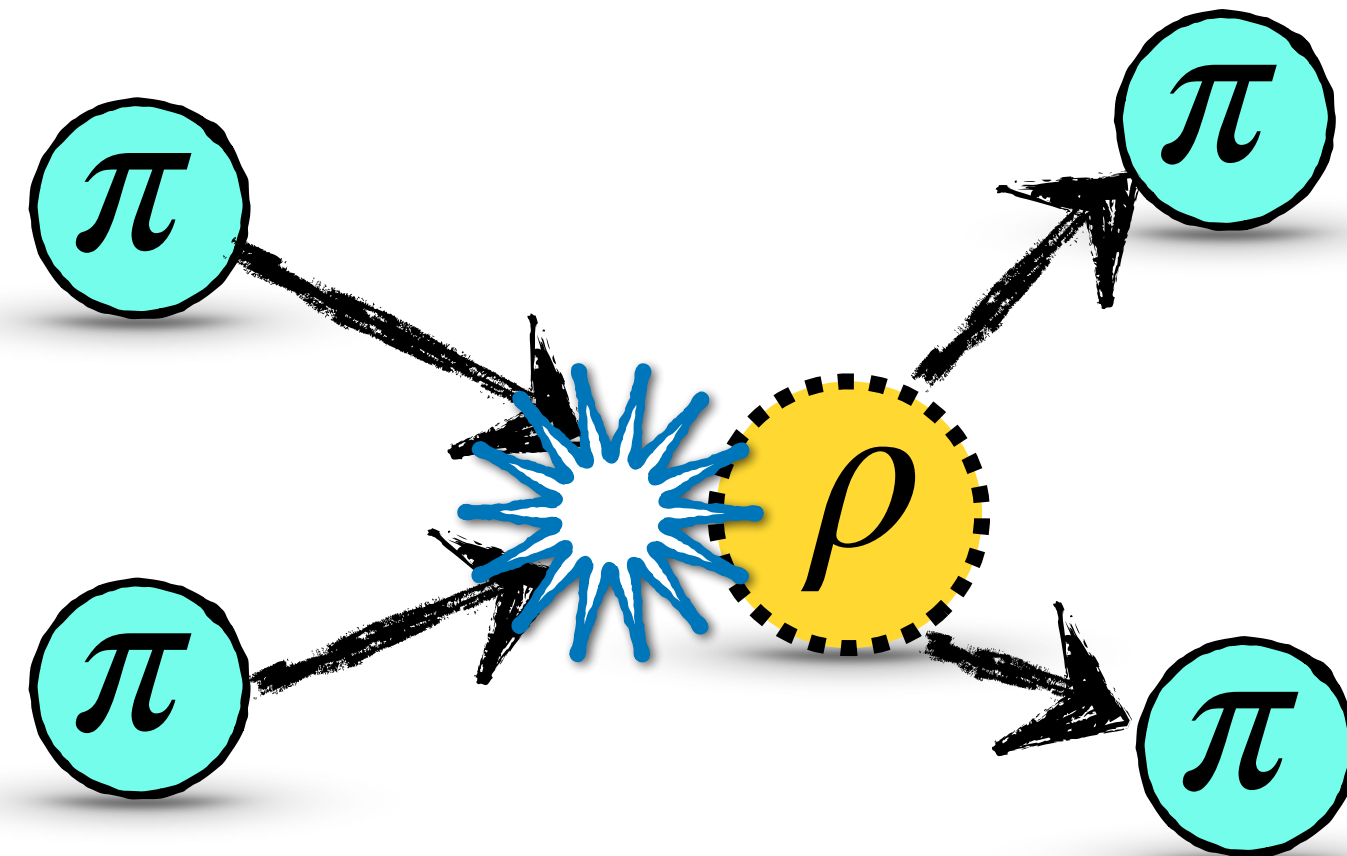
$I=1$ $\pi\pi$ scattering



Lightest

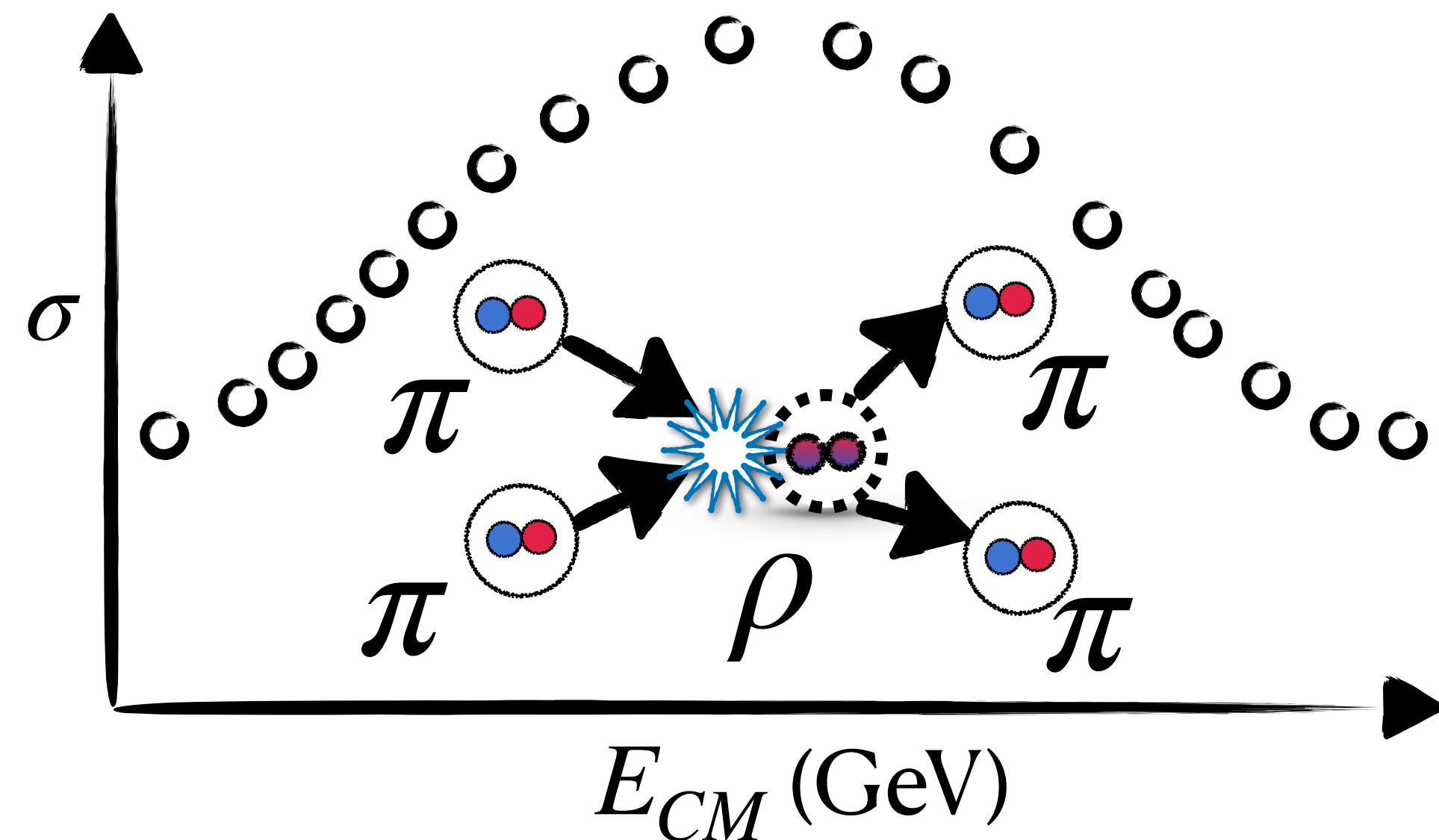


$\pi\pi$ scattering \rightarrow ρ resonance



$$I = 1, J^P = 1^-$$

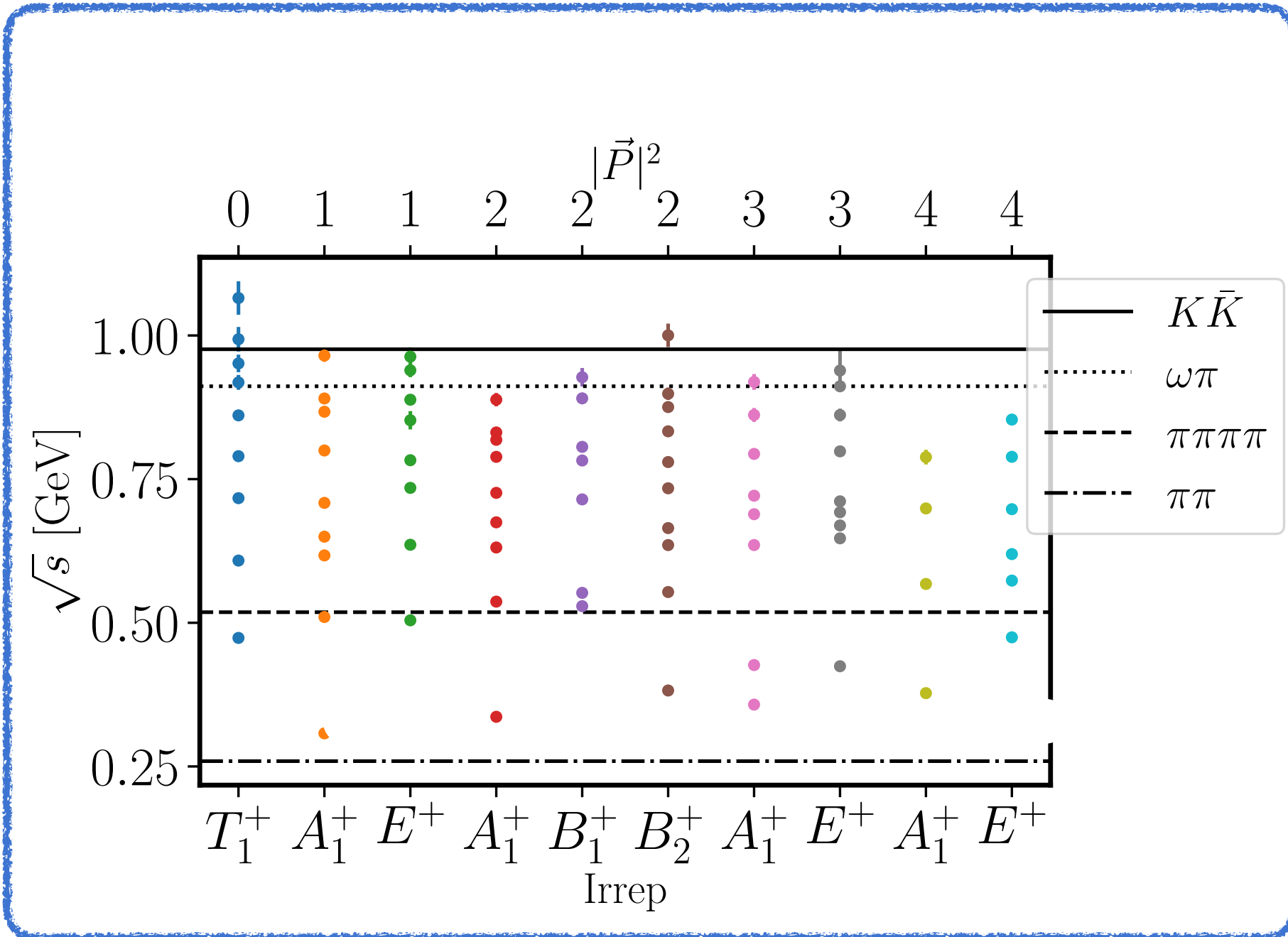
Lightest Meson Resonance $\rho(770)$



Vector Meson Dominance: $\pi\pi$ affects ALL calculations with vector current at **long distances**.

What we can do now...

Finite Volume Spectrum

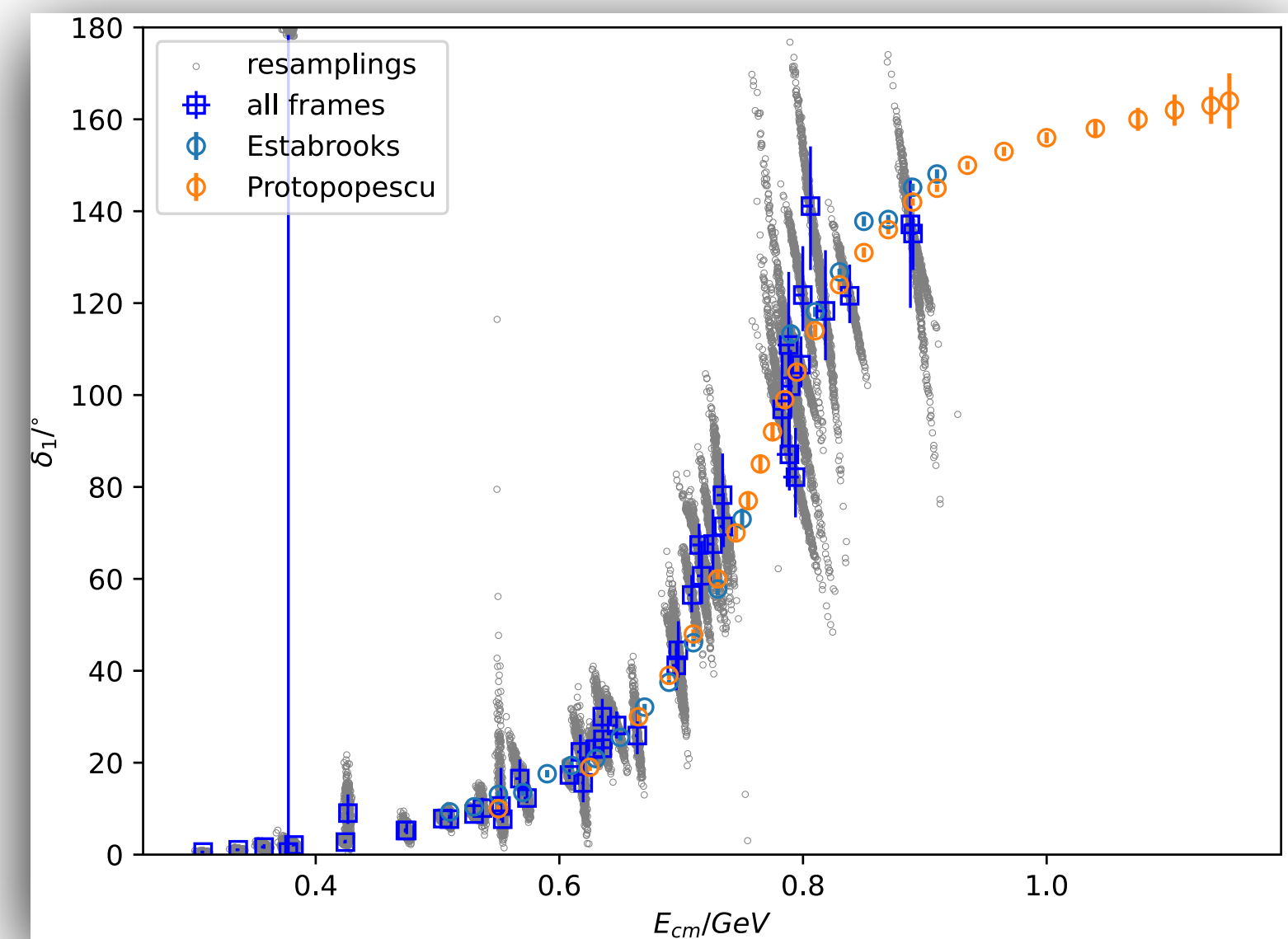


Lattice Box : $96^3 \times 192$
L : 6.2 fm
a : 0.06426 fm
 $m_\pi L :$ 4.1
Number of configurations: 505
 $m_\pi \sim$ Physical

Gauge Action: Lüscher Wiese
 Gauge $\mathcal{O}(a^2)$
Fermion Action: Wilson clover
 $\mathcal{O}(a)$
Boundary: Periodic

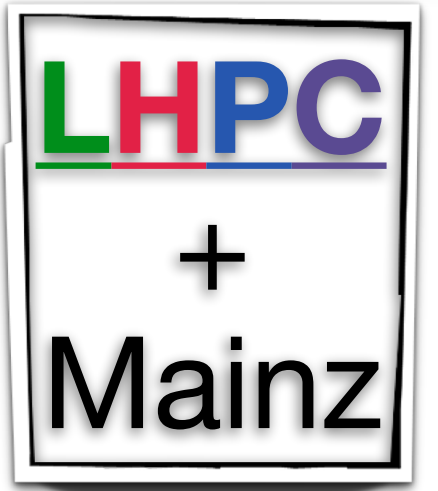
~~$L \rightarrow \infty$~~ ~~$m_{\text{quark}} \rightarrow \text{Phys.}$~~

$E_n(L) \rightarrow \text{Lüscher} \rightarrow \delta_1(E)$



$a \rightarrow 0$

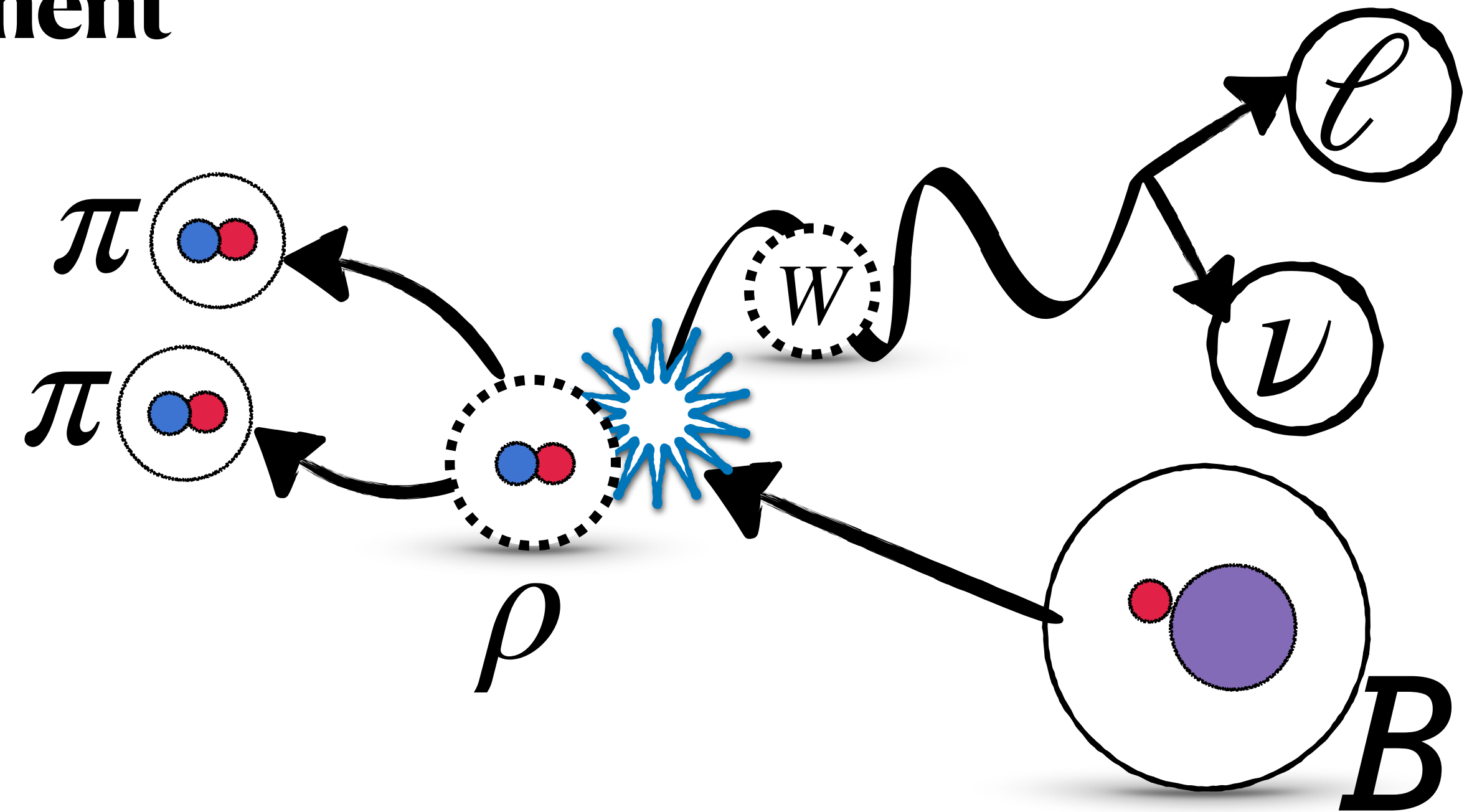
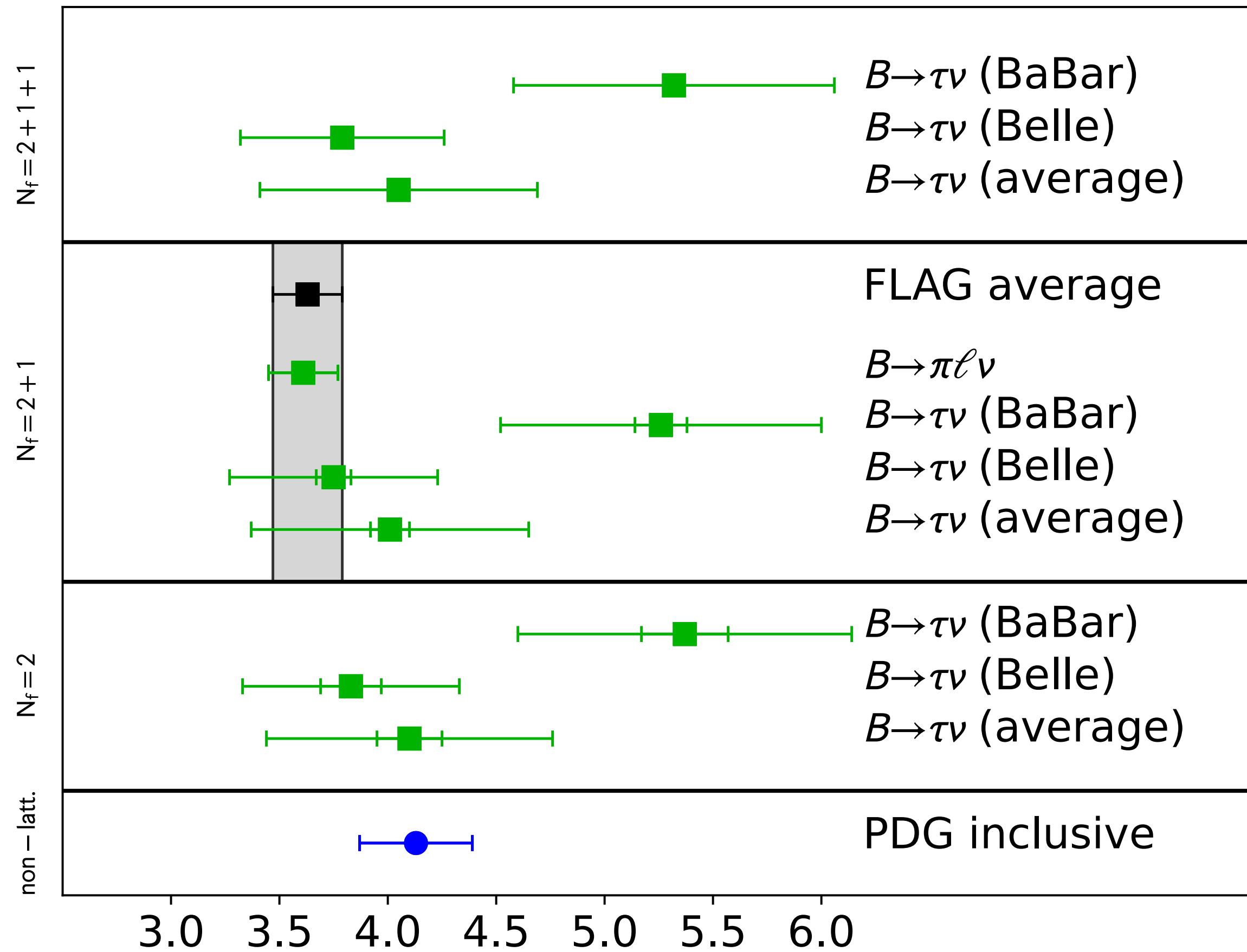
Finite Volume Spectrum is a feature: Scattering \rightarrow Spectroscopy



Final $\pi\pi$ states: Resonance enhancement

FLAG2024

$|V_{ub}| \times 10^3$



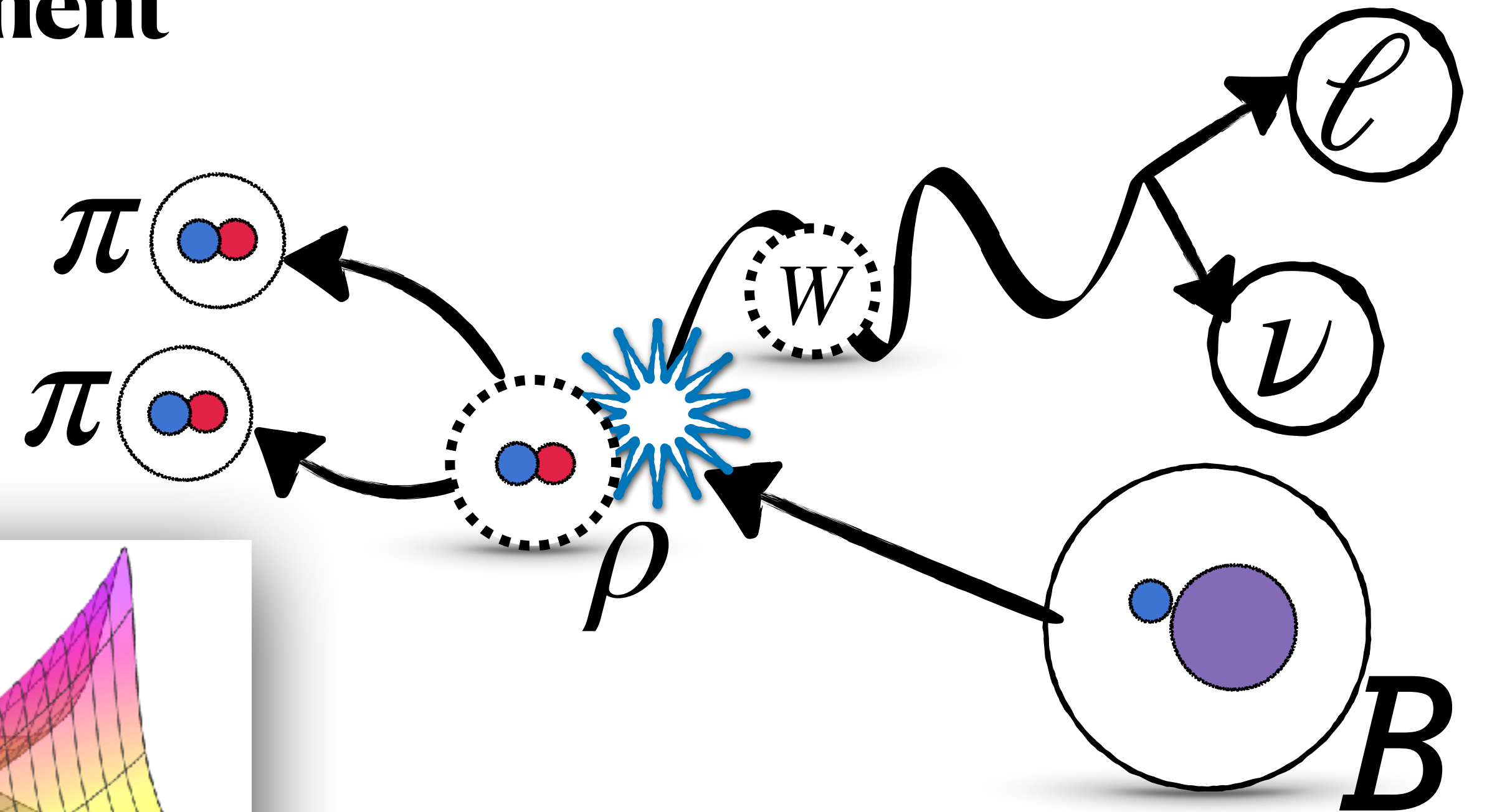
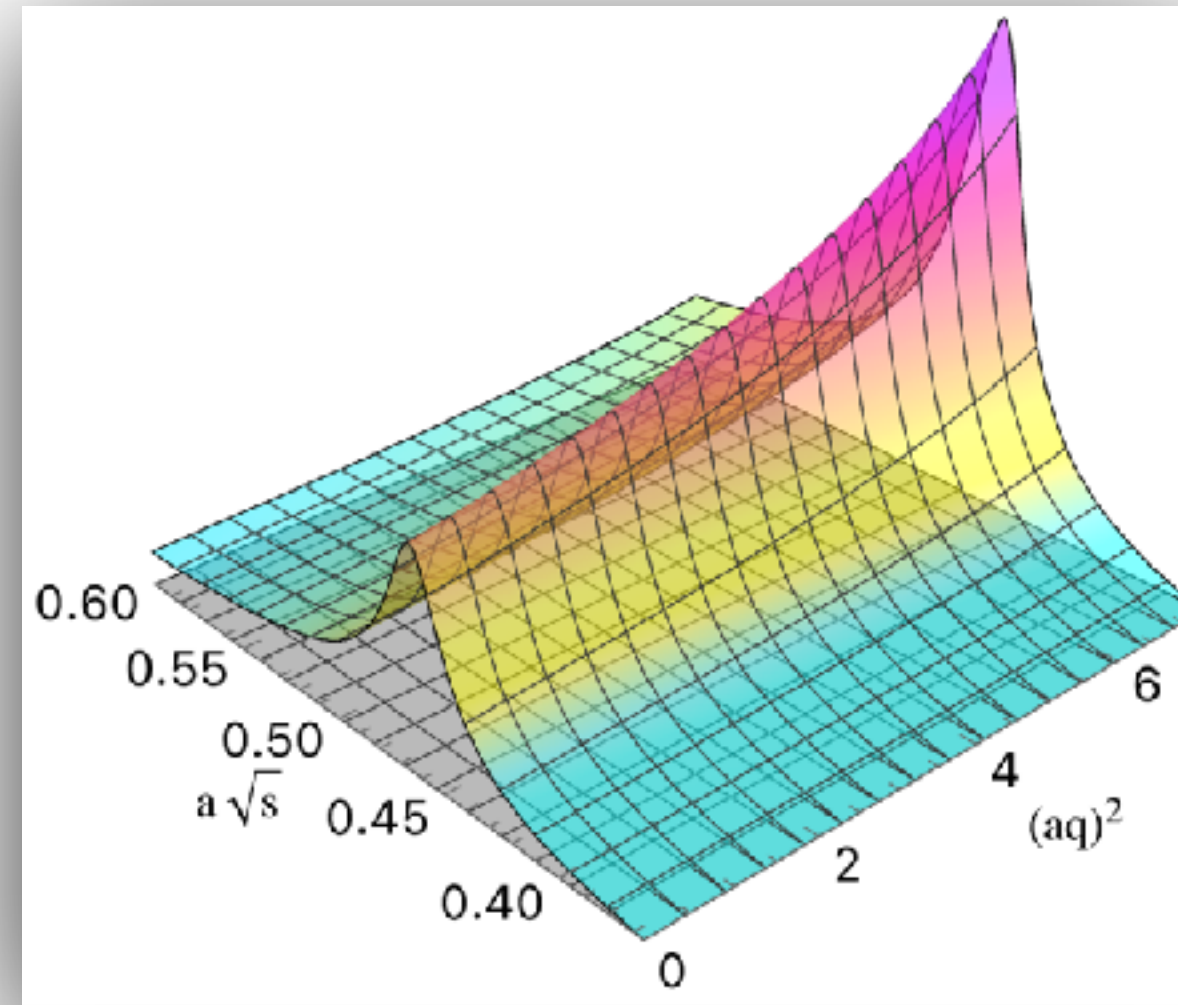
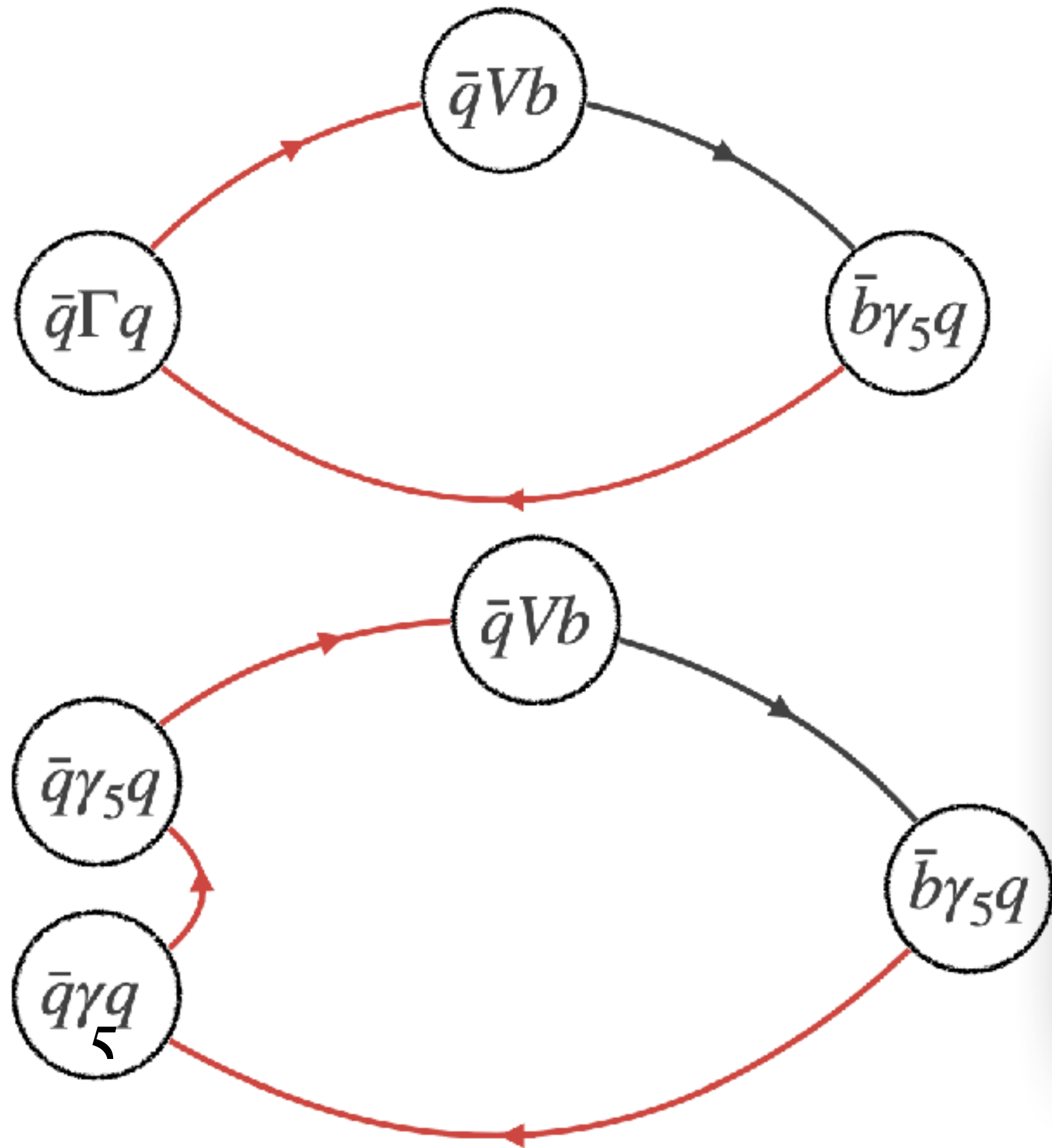
W Boson changes Quark flavor

unitary Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa quark mixing matrix

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix}$$

[Exp.] = [Known] x $[V_{ub}]^2$ x [Hadronic Matrix element]²

Final $\pi\pi$ states: Resonance enhancement



$$[\text{Exp.}] = [\text{Known}] \times [V_{ub}]^2 \times [\text{Hadronic Matrix element}]^2$$

LHPC Cyprus

From Amplitudes to Flavor Physics

$$B \rightarrow (\rho)\pi\pi\ell\nu \rightarrow |V_{ub}|$$



Optimized $\pi\pi$ basis for $B \rightarrow \pi\pi\ell\nu$ 3-pt functions
[Phys. Rev. Lett. (2025)]

Muon Anomalous Magnetic Moment ($g - 2$): Precision Observable

Muon ($g - 2$) Exp.

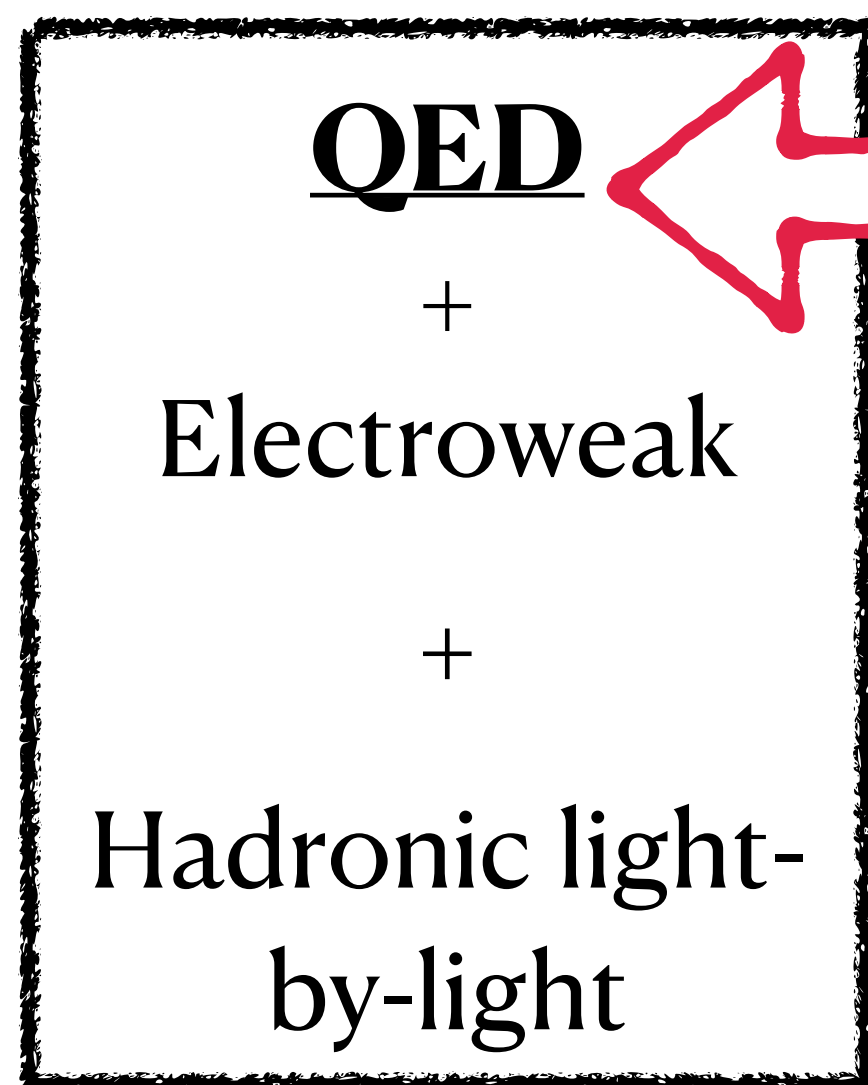
$$a_\mu = \frac{(g - 2)_\mu}{2}$$

Exp.

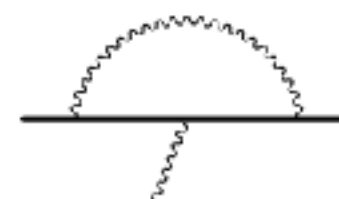
- ✓ Unambiguous
- ✓ Dimensionless
- ✓ Test Standard Model

Extreme Precision

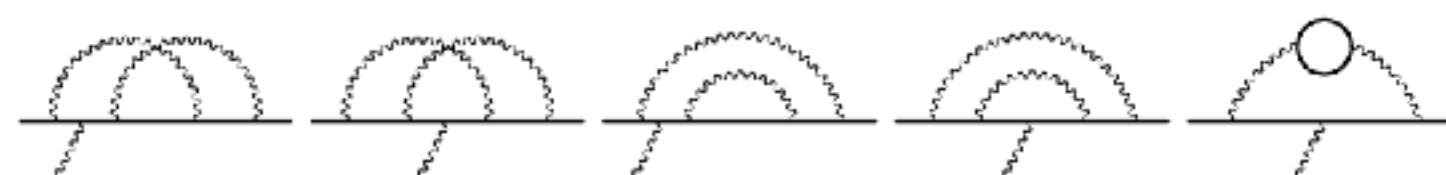
Theory



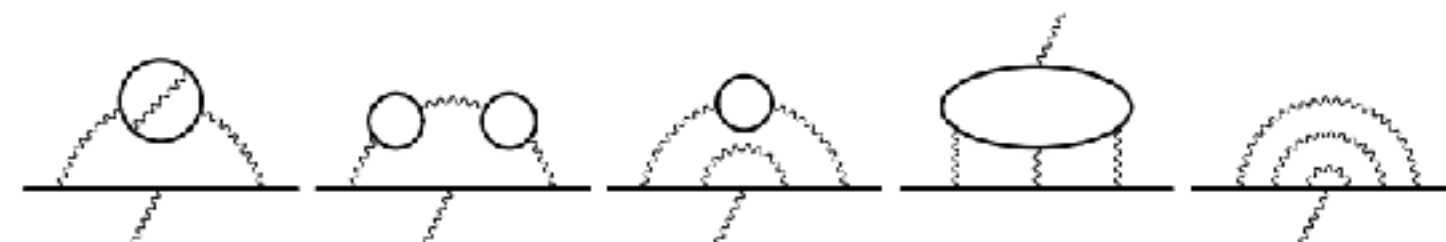
α :



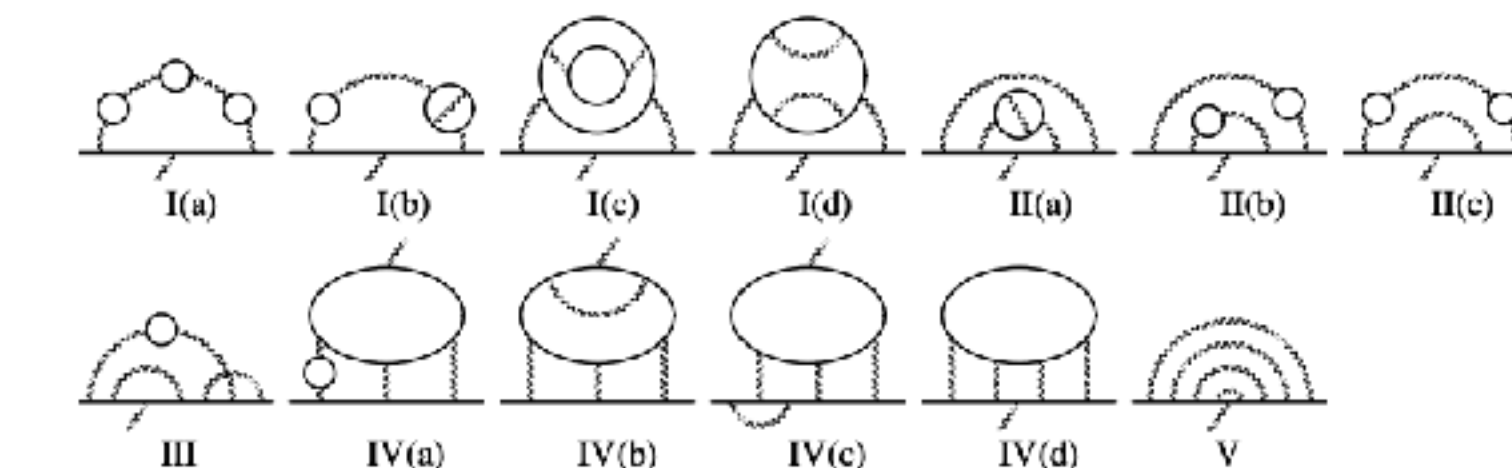
α^2 :



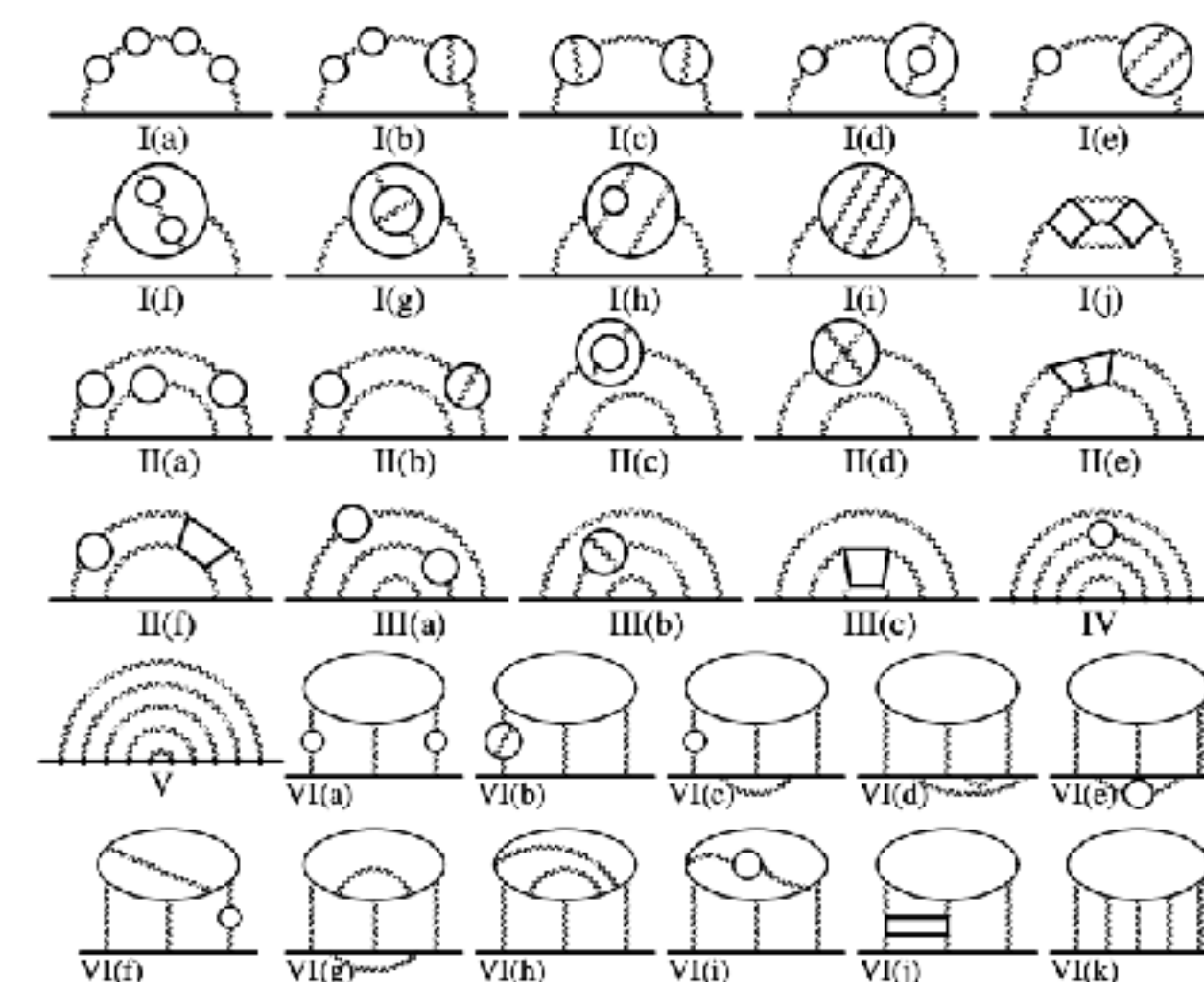
α^3 :



α^4 :



α^5 :



[Laporta 2017, Kinoshita 2019]

Muon Anomalous Magnetic Moment ($g - 2$): Precision Observable

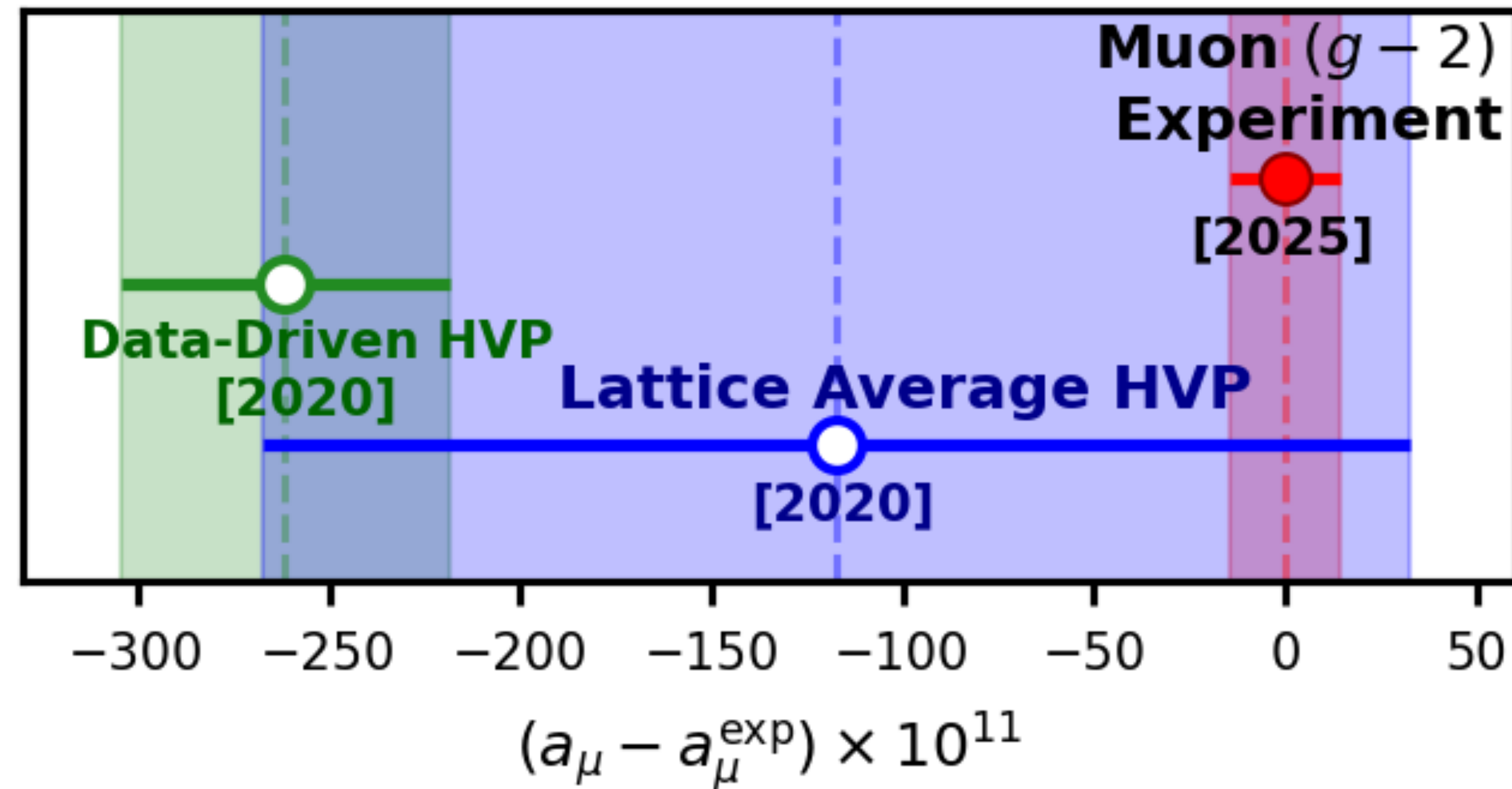
Muon ($g - 2$) Exp.

$$a_\mu = \frac{(g - 2)_\mu}{2}$$

Exp.

- ✓ Unambiguous
- ✓ Dimensionless
- ✓ Test Standard Model

Extreme Precision

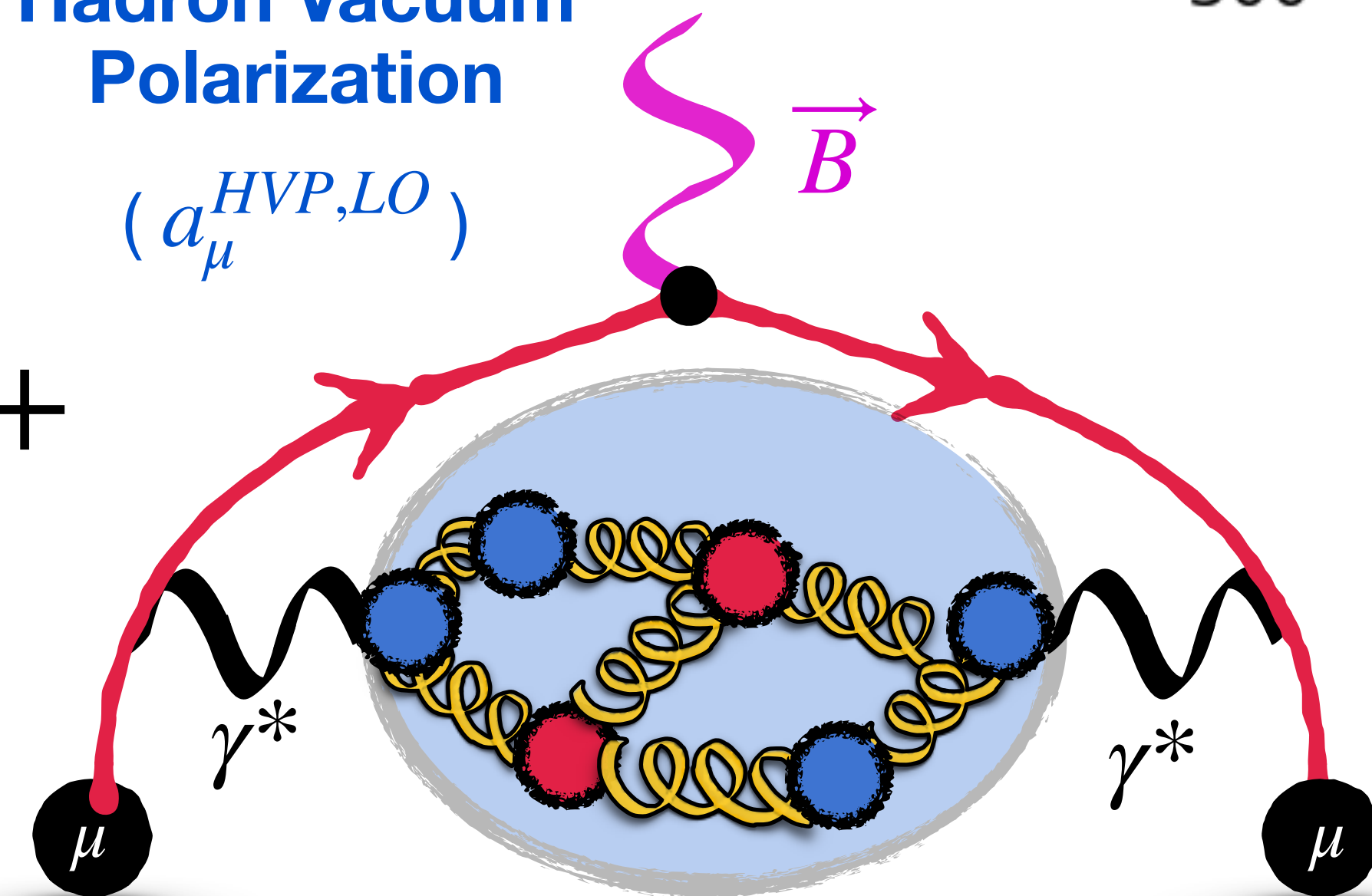


Theory

QED
+
Electroweak
+
Hadronic light-by-light

Hadron Vacuum Polarization

$(a_\mu^{\text{HVP,LO}})$

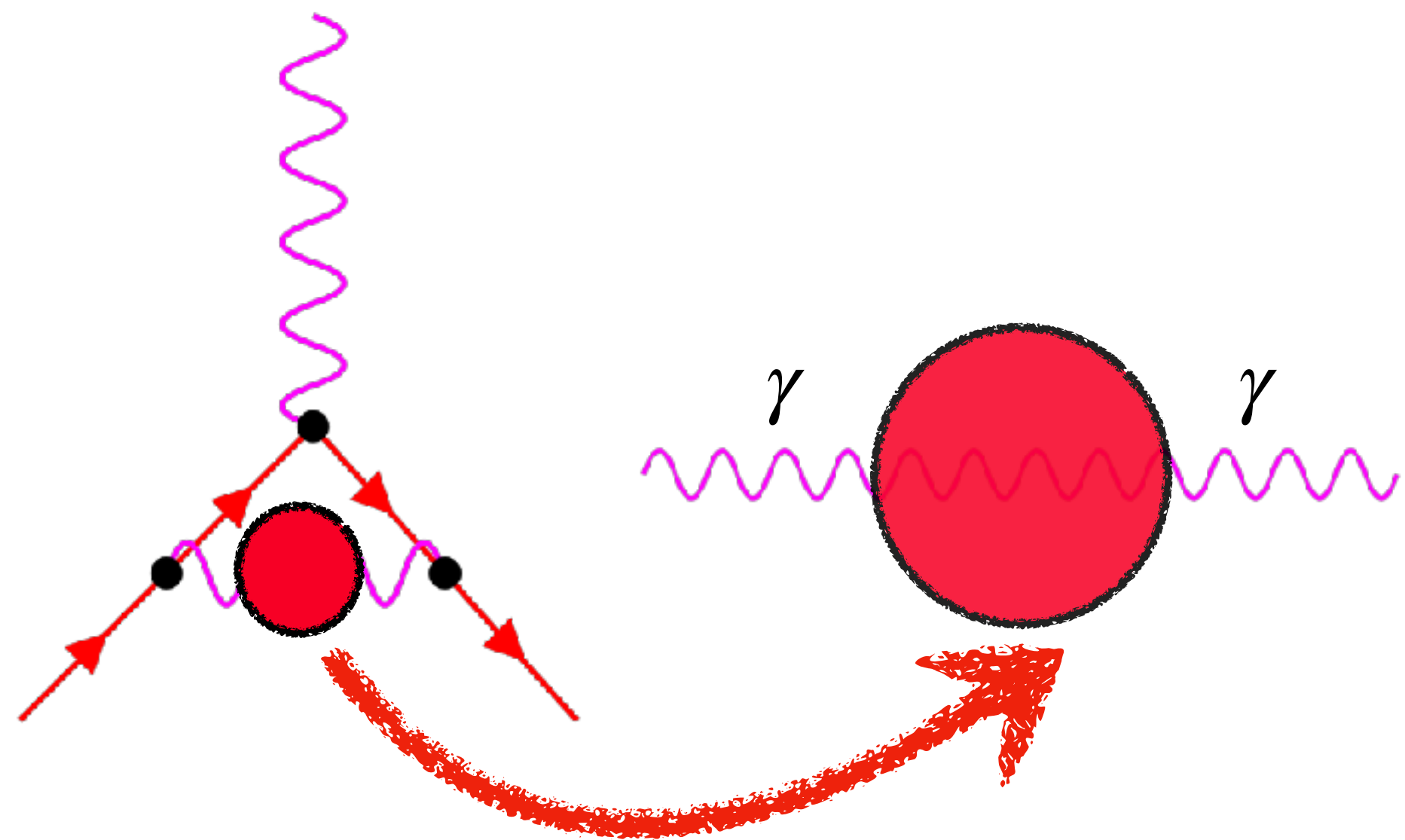


Lattice HVP dominates Error



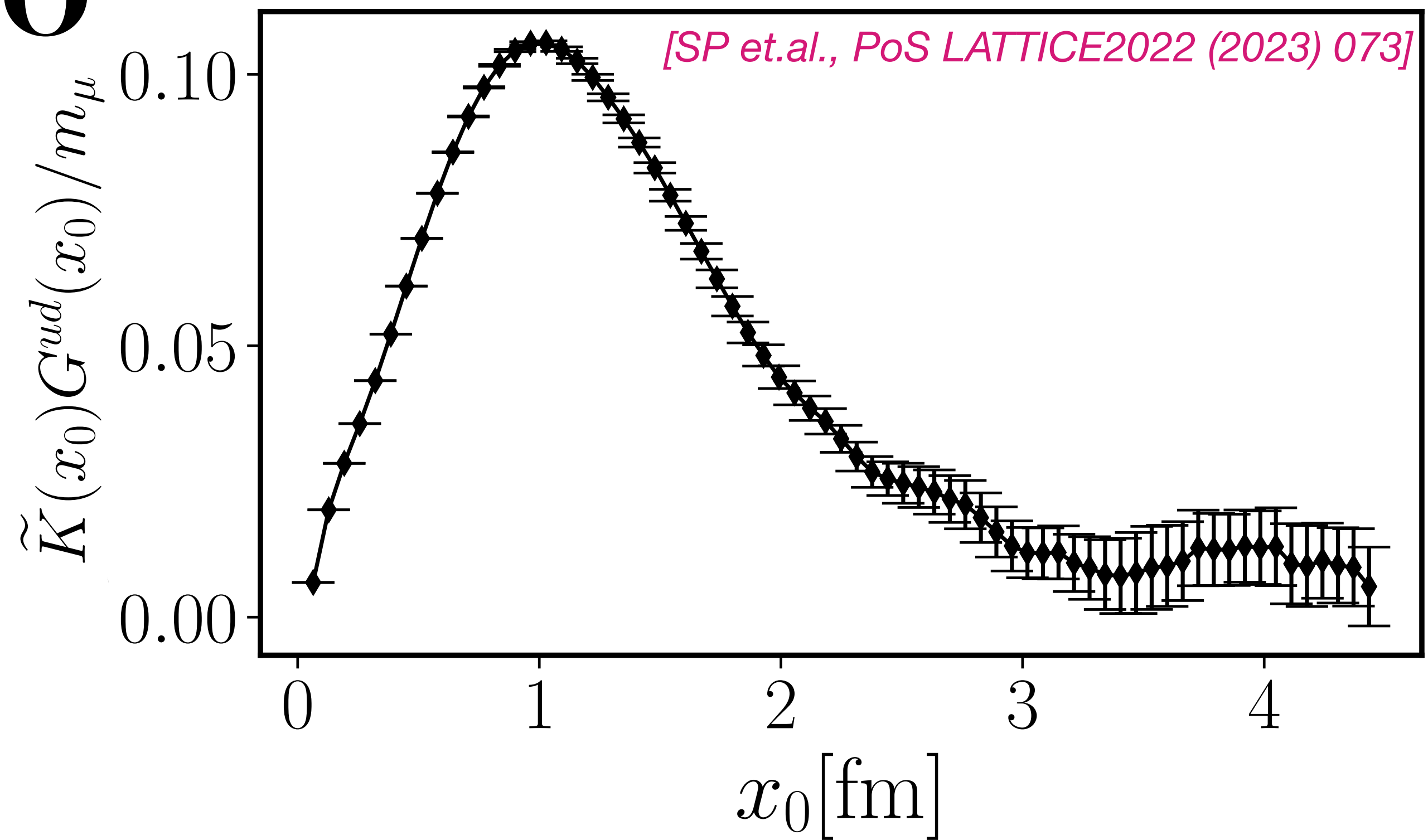
Window to control and disentangle
short • intermediate • long

Computing the $a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP, LO}}$



Challenge

- Exponentially decreasing Signal-to-Noise $x_0 \rightarrow \infty$
- Correct Finite Volume effects
- Correct discretization effects
- Quark disconnected diagrams: stat & stoch noise
- Isospin breaking



$$\left(a_{\mu}^{\text{hvp}}\right)^f = \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^2 \int_0^\infty dx_0 \frac{G(x_0) \tilde{K}(x_0)}{m_\mu}$$

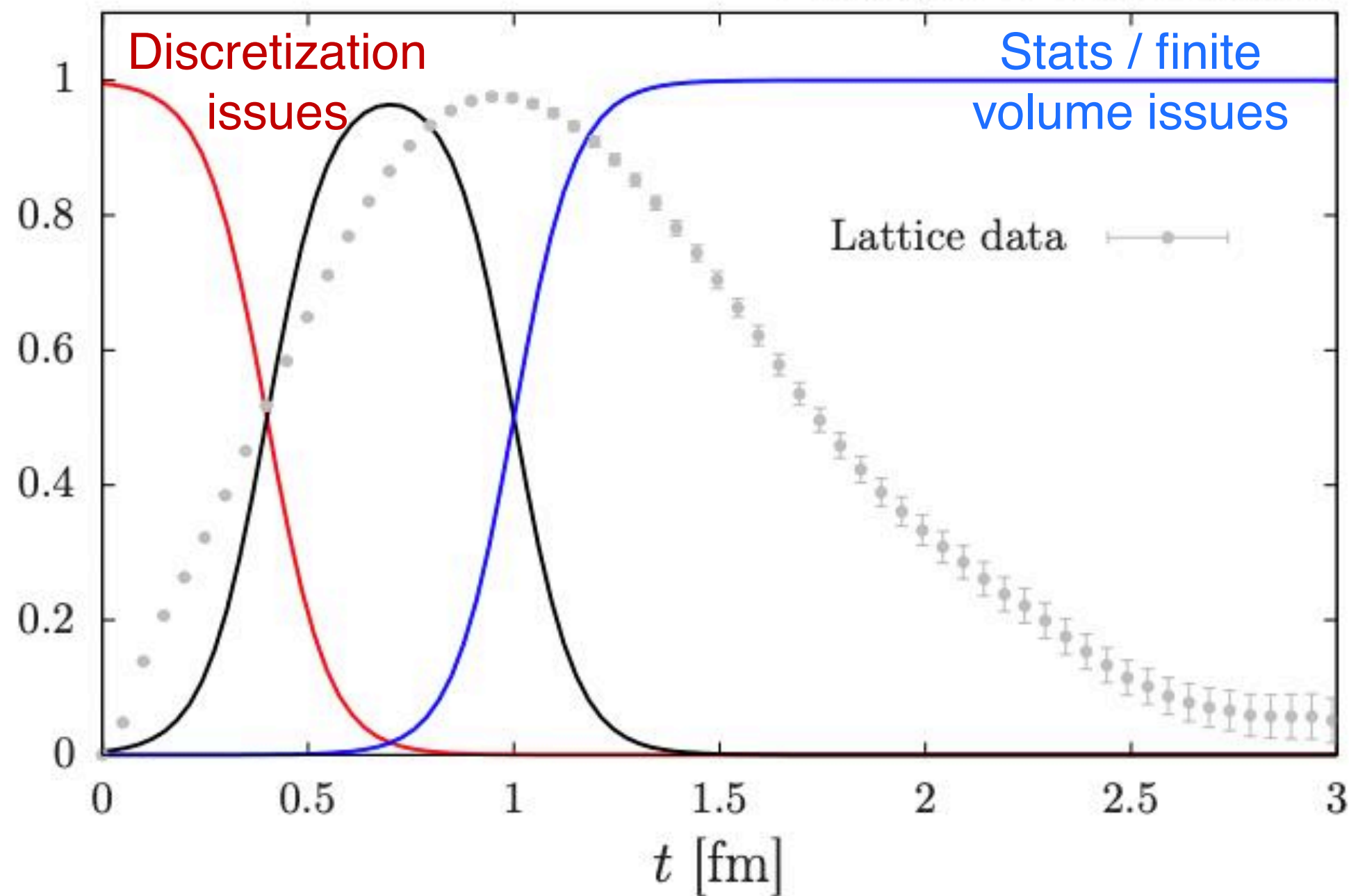
$$G(x_0) = \sum_k \sum_{\vec{x}} \langle j_k^{\text{em}}(x) j_k^{\text{em}}(0) \rangle$$

HVP Windows: Where the uncertainty lives

H. Wittig @ Lattice 2021

- Short distance window.
- Intermediate window
- Long Distance window

[UKQCD, arXiv:1801.07224]

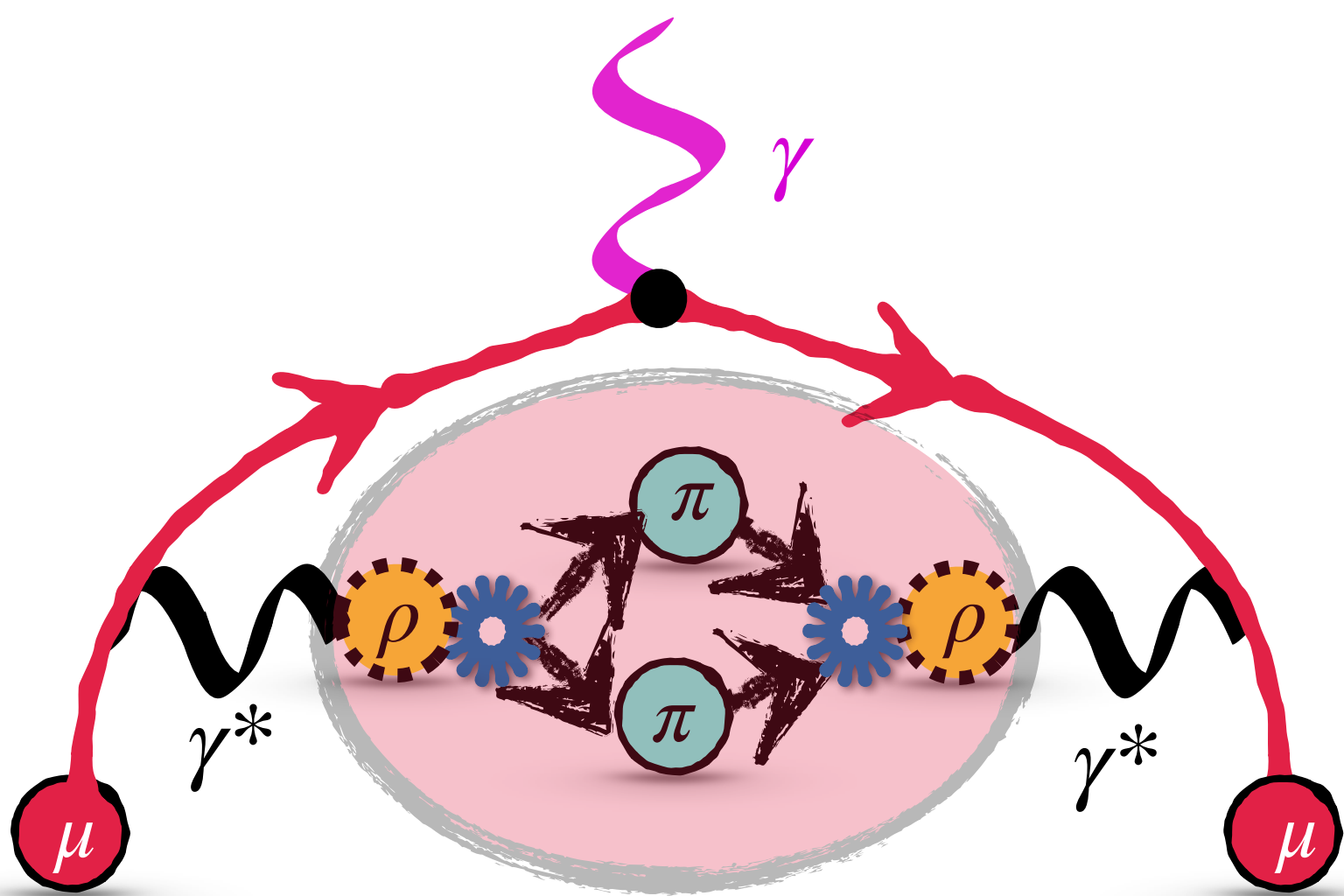


Why the $\pi\pi$ states have the most overlap in the tail?

Pions: Compton λ

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{m_\pi}$$

Their contributions to long-distance part of all correlators is the most.



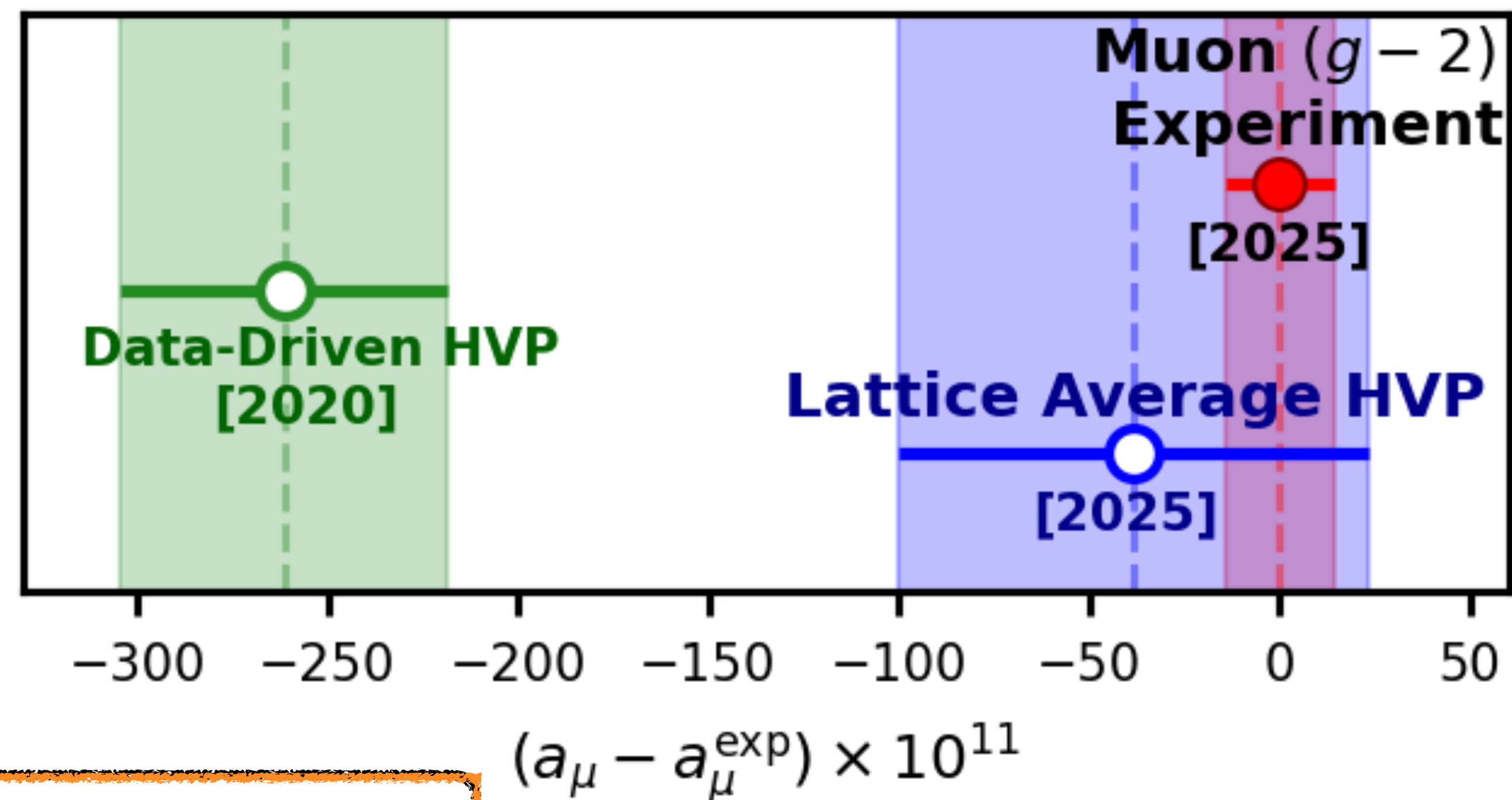
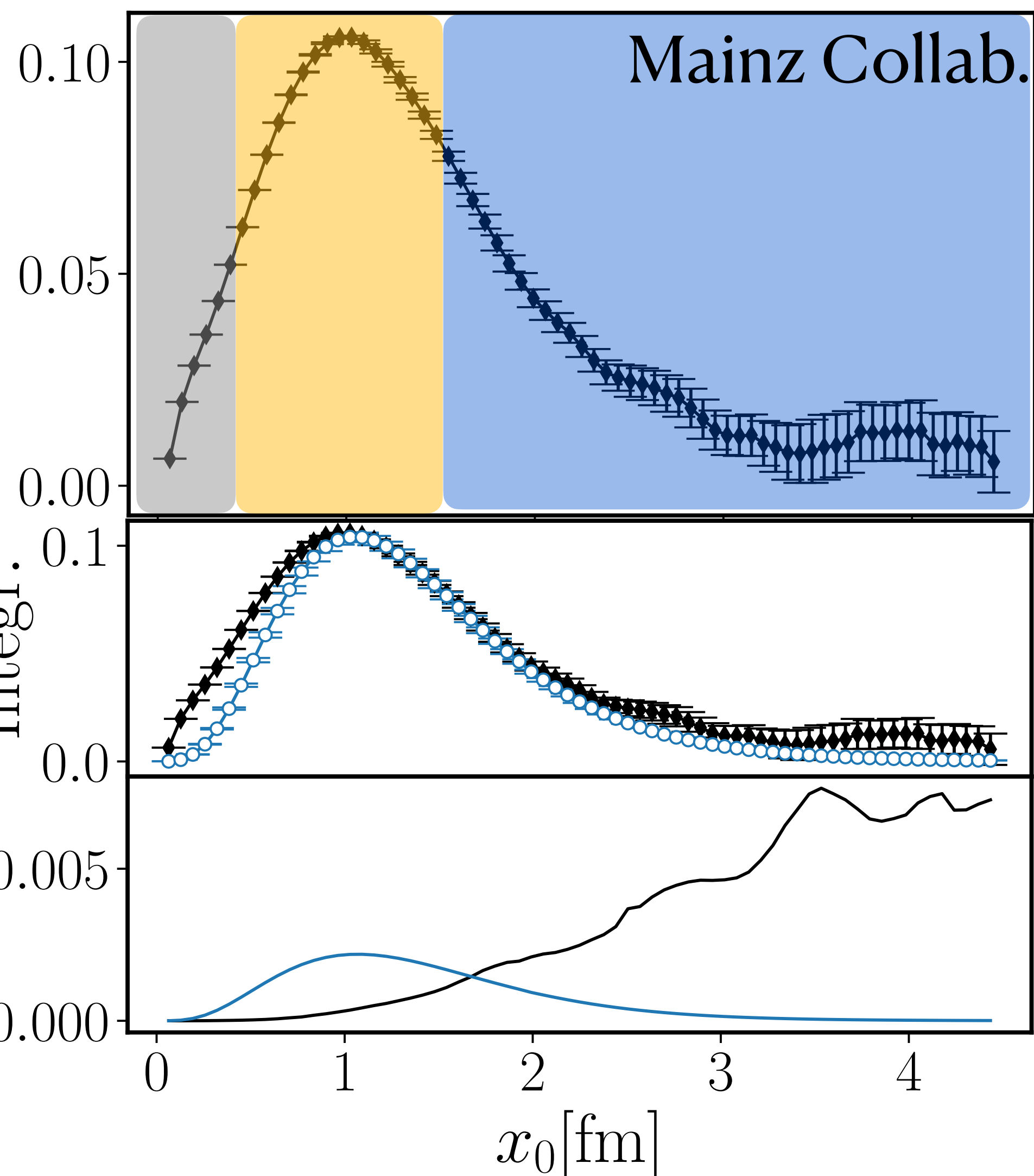
$$I = 1, J^P = 1^-$$

$$G^{I=1}(x_0) = \sum_{\vec{p}} \langle j^{\text{em}} | \pi(\vec{p})\pi(-\vec{p}) \rangle e^{-E_{\pi\pi}(\vec{p})x_0}$$

Bernecker and Meyer, [1107.4388]

HVP Windows: Where the uncertainty lives

Lattice HVP (Area under curve)
 short • **intermediate** • long



Intermediate Window

- ✓ Computed light-quark connected at sub-percent stat. precision on GPUs.
- ✓ Light quark propagators using *Multigrid Solver*.

Long distance Window

- ✓ Exponential error reduction in tail.
- ✓ Reconstructed tail using **multi-hadron** $\pi\pi$ states

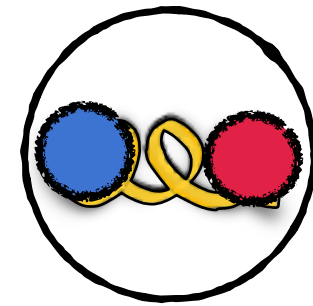
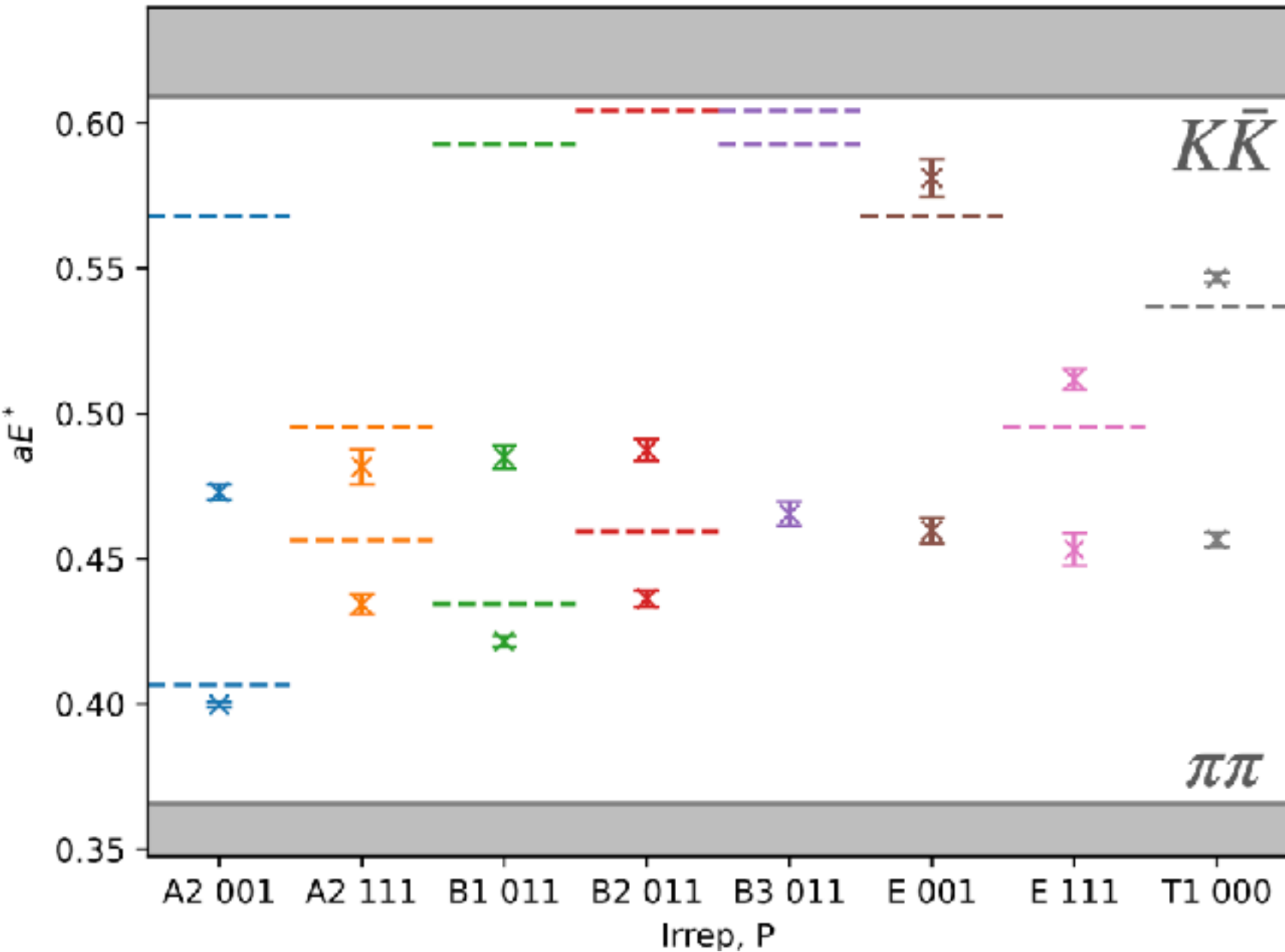
Outlook

- π scattering states **contaminate** correlators at **long distances** when **projected** with **correct quantum numbers**.
- **Resonance enhancement** when $\pi\pi$ final state, important for **CKM matrix elements**.
- **Non-resonant maximal isospin** $K \rightarrow \pi\pi$ channel ($I=2$), possible with ETMC lattices
- Variational method (**GEVP**) gives a clean way to obtain **Finite Volume Spectrum**.
- **GEVP optimized eigenvectors** can be used eliminate **excited state contamination**.

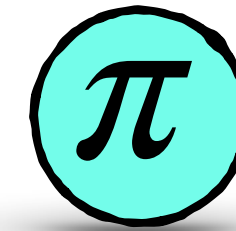
What have been done: Benchmark

Finite Volume Spectrum

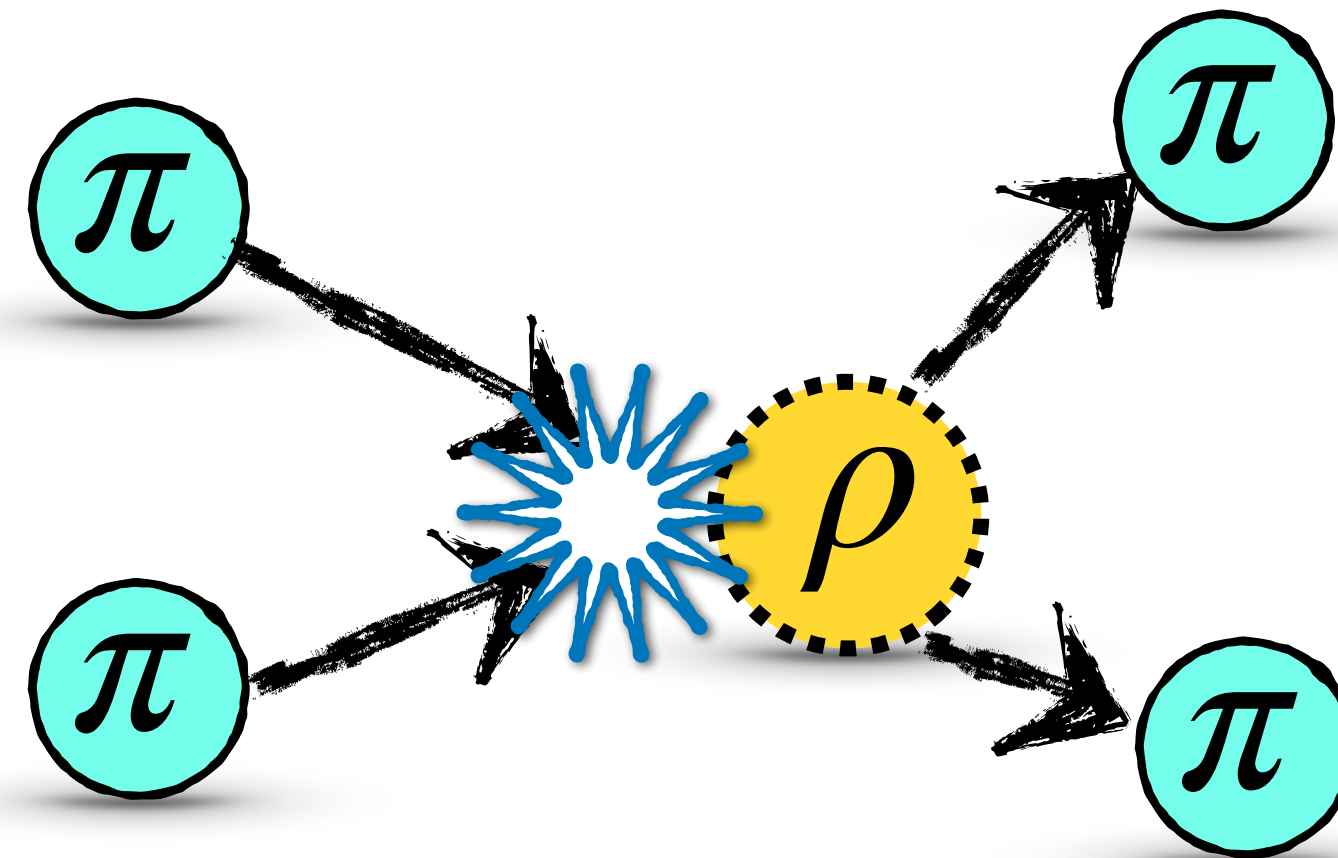
Energy spectrum fit C13



Lightest



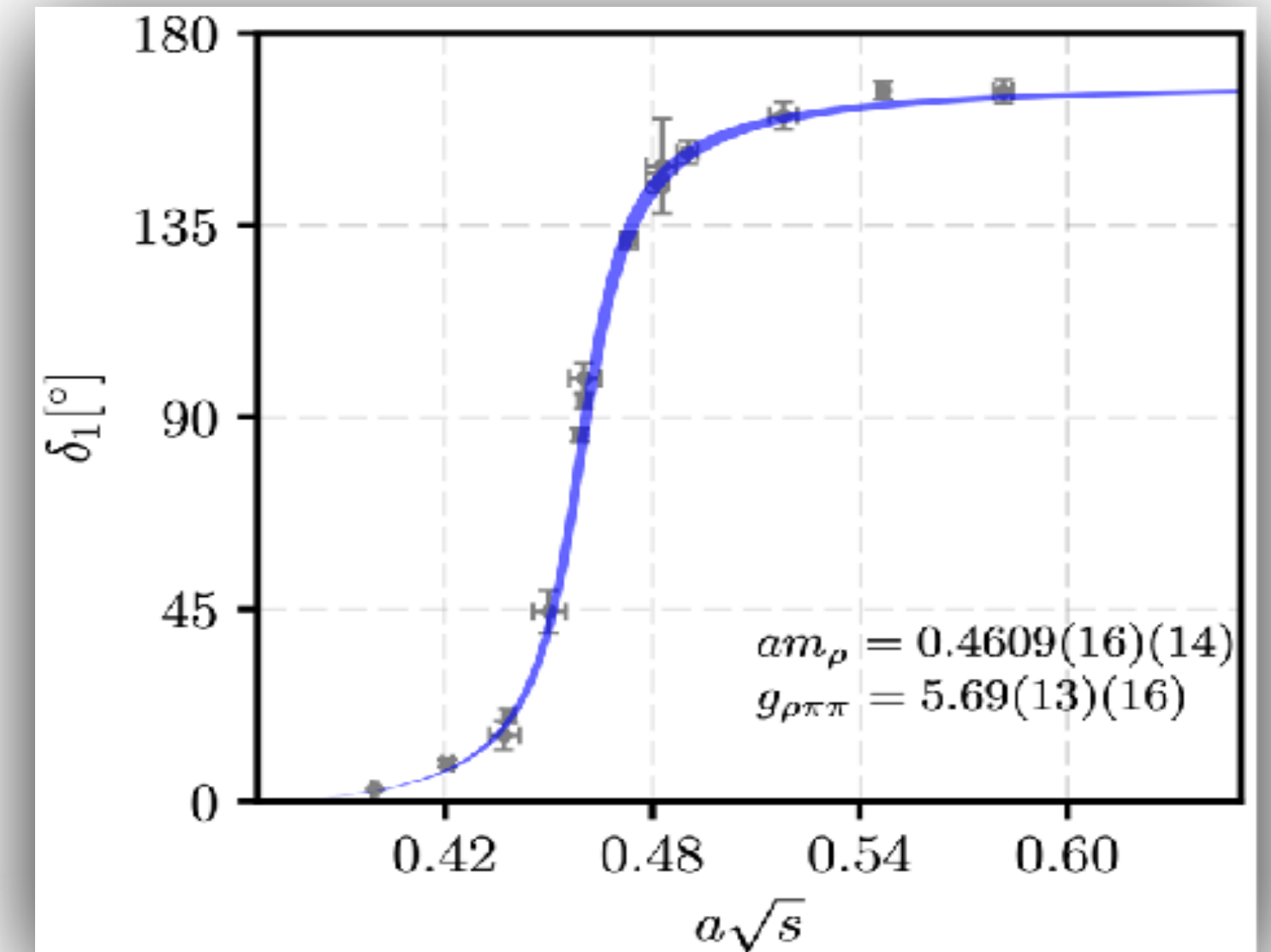
$\pi\pi$ scattering \rightarrow ρ resonance



$I = 1, J^P = 1^-$

~~$L \rightarrow \infty$~~

$E_n(L) \rightarrow$ Lüscher $\rightarrow \delta_1(E)$



$m_{\text{quark}} \rightarrow$ Phys.

$a \rightarrow 0$

Finite Volume Spectrum is a feature: Scattering \rightarrow Spectroscopy