

Finite-volume effects to hadronic observables in lattice QCD+QED

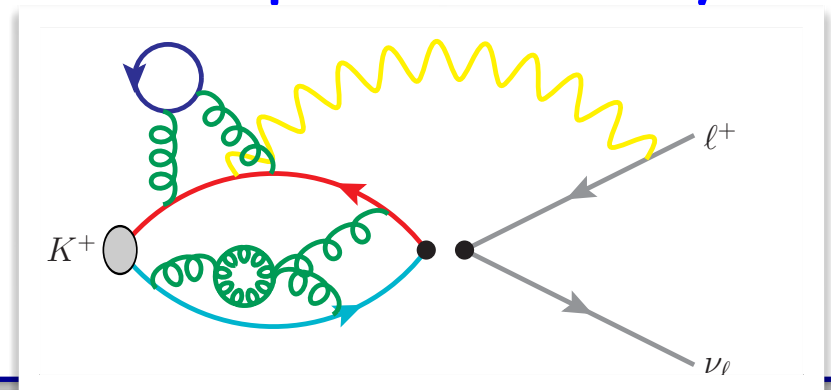
Davide
Giusti



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Symposium on Lattice
Field Theory
University of Maryland
28th July 2026

OUTLINE

- Motivations
- FVEs in light meson leptonic decays



In collaboration with

Volodymyr Biloshytskyi and Laurent Lellouch, for BMWc

paper in preparation

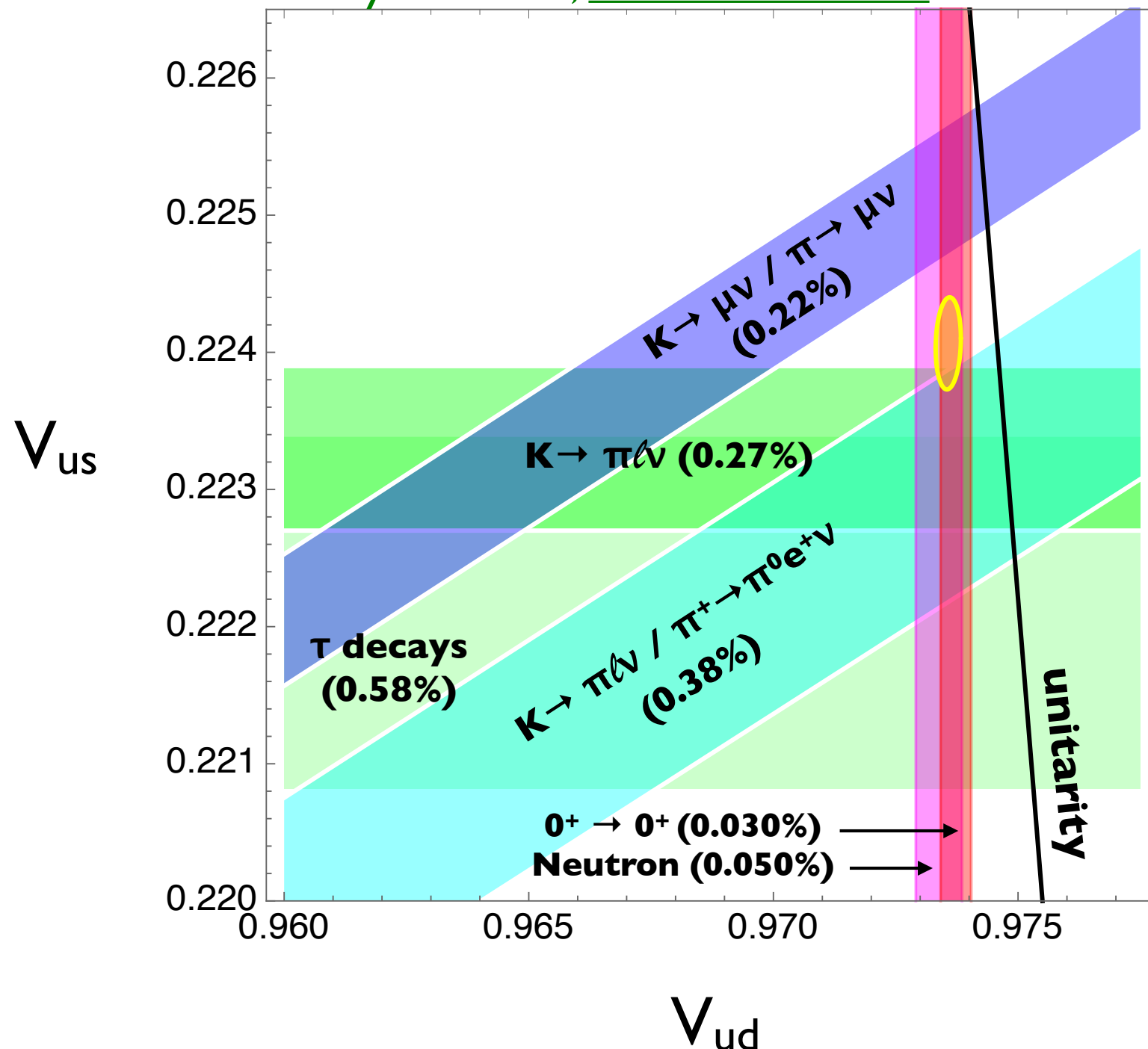
Motivations

down
 $-1/3$

up
 $+2/3$

Cabibbo-angle anomaly

D. Bryman et al., arXiv:2111.05338



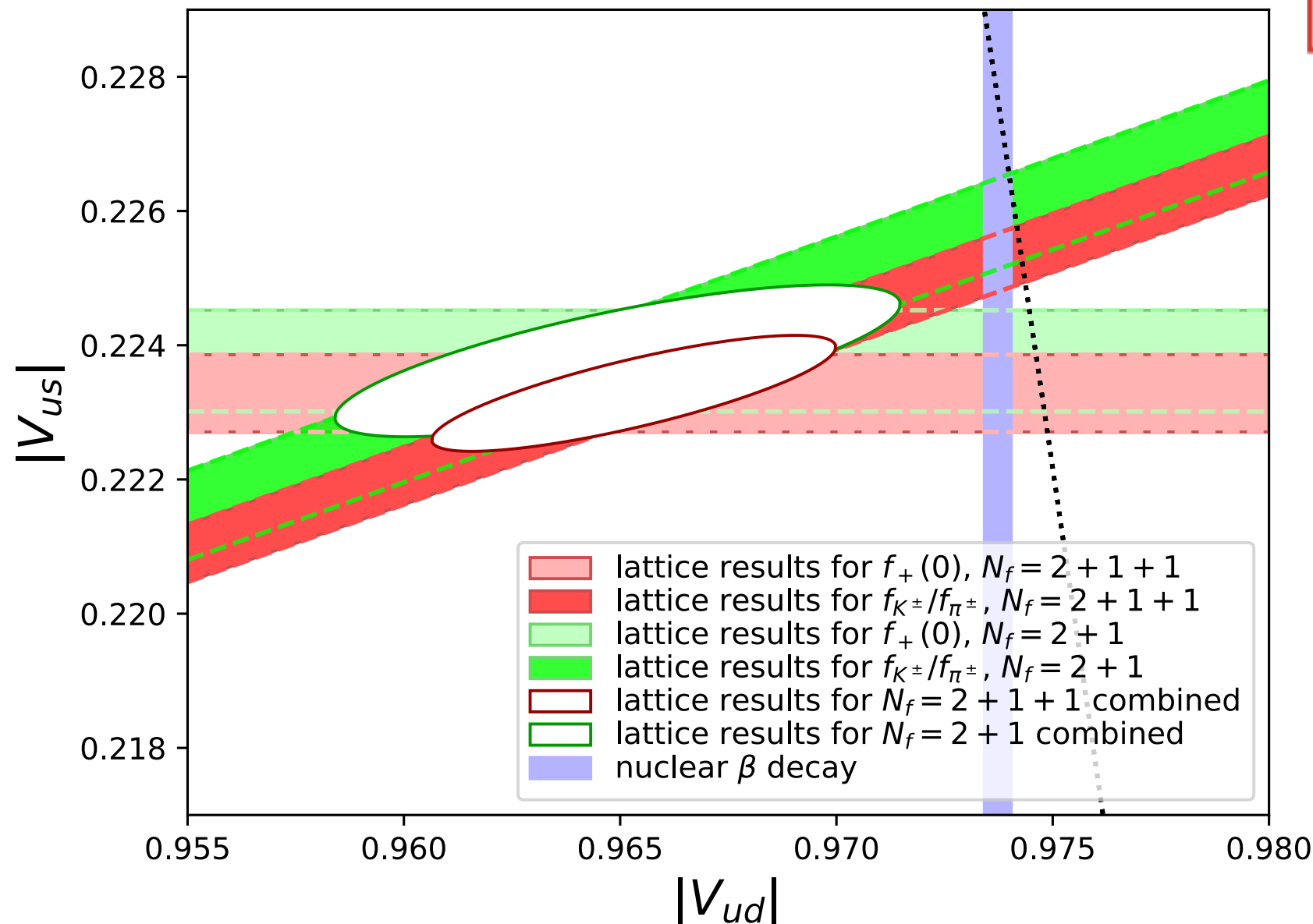
$$|V_u|^2 \equiv |V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2$$

$$|V_u|^2 \simeq 0.9983(7) \quad \text{PDG}$$

From superallowed nuclear β decays and kaon decays the test points to a small but persistent $\approx 2\sigma$ tension

Cabibbo-angle anomaly

FLAG2024



FlaviA
net Kaon WG

$$\frac{|V_{us}|}{|V_{ud}|} \frac{f_{K^\pm}}{f_{\pi^\pm}} = 0.27599(41)$$

$$|V_{us}| f_+(0) = 0.21654(41)$$

< 0.2%

FLAG
Flavour Lattice Averaging Group

$$f_{K^\pm}/f_{\pi^\pm} = 1.1934(19)$$

$$f_+(0) = 0.9698(17)$$

0.2%

Electromagnetic $O(\alpha_{em})$ and strong $O((m_d - m_u)/\Lambda_{QCD})$
isospin-breaking effects must be included

Leptonic decays at $O(\alpha)$

$$\Gamma(E) = \int_{2 \text{ b.p.s.}} \left| \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} + \text{diagram 3} + \text{diagram 4} \right|^2 + \int_{3 \text{ b.p.s.}}^{E_\gamma < E} \left| \text{diagram 5} + \text{diagram 6} \right|^2$$

Γ_0

$\Gamma_1(E)$

$$\Gamma(E) = \Gamma_0 + \Gamma_1(E) \text{ with } 0 \leq E_\gamma \leq E \text{ is infrared finite}$$

F. Bloch and A. Nordsieck, 1937

- Both Γ_0 and $\Gamma_1(E)$ can be evaluated in a fully non-perturbative way in **lattice simulations**
- The first lattice calculations of $\Gamma[\pi, K \rightarrow \ell \nu(\gamma)]$ have been finalized and, within BMWc, we are working on a new one (see A. Cotellucci's contribution)

DG *et al.* M. Di Carlo *et al.* P. Boyle *et al.*
[arXiv:1711.06537](https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.06537) [arXiv:1904.08731](https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.08731) [arXiv:2211.12865](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.12865)

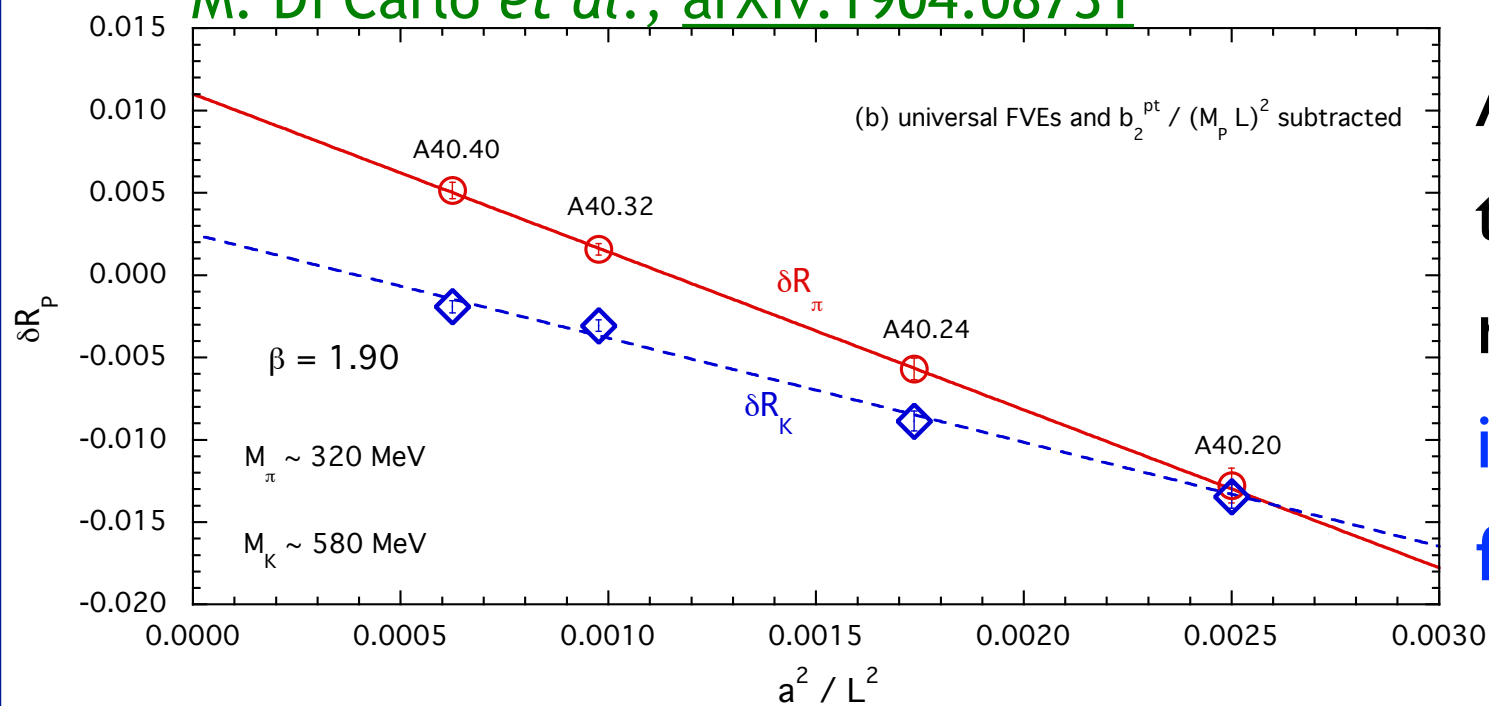
Finite-volume effects

- Available calculations performed using QED_L prescription (photon zero-momentum mode excluded)
- Infinite-volume reconstruction method and QED_r prescription have been recently proposed [N.H. Christ *et al.*, arXiv:2304.08026](#) [M. Di Carlo *et al.*, arXiv:2501.07936](#)

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[M. Di Carlo *et al.*, arXiv:1904.08731](#)

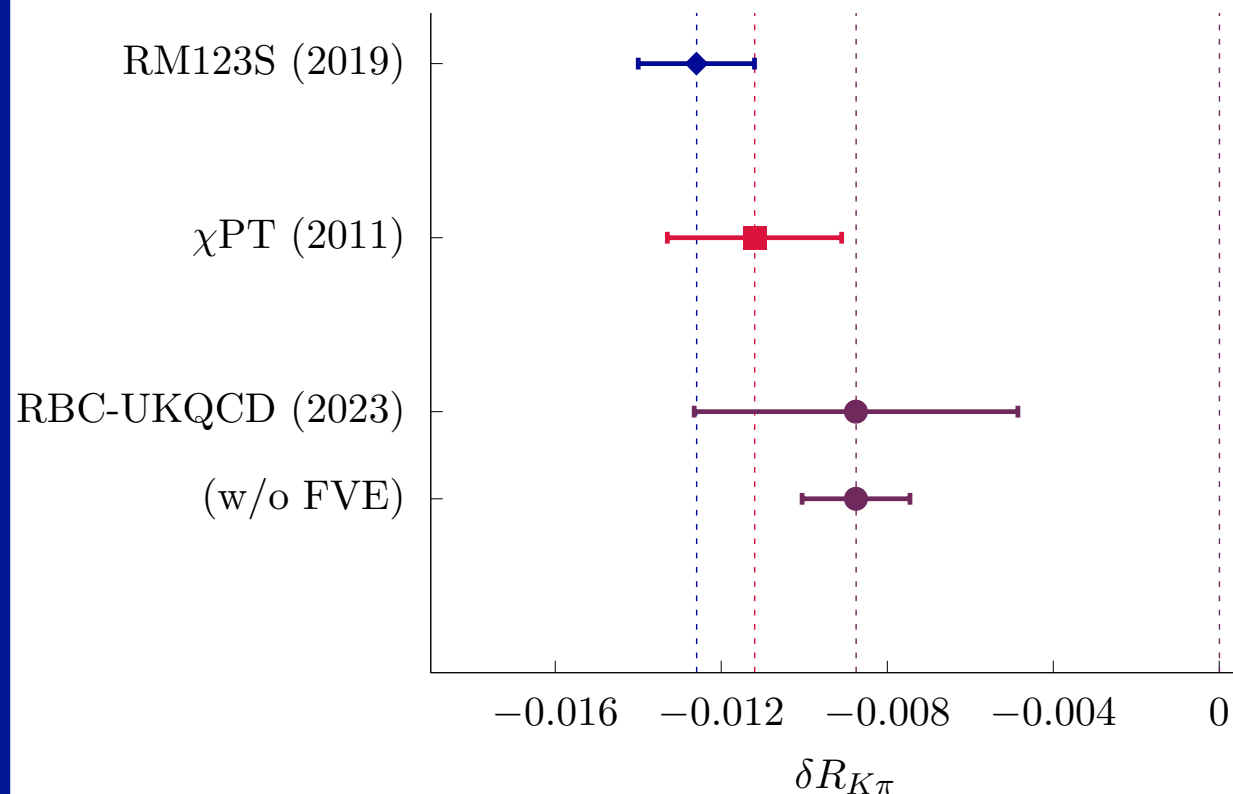


After subtracting universal FVEs up to $O(1/L)$, RMI23S data displayed a residual volume dependence linear in $1/L^2$, interpreted as a sizable SD finite-volume effect

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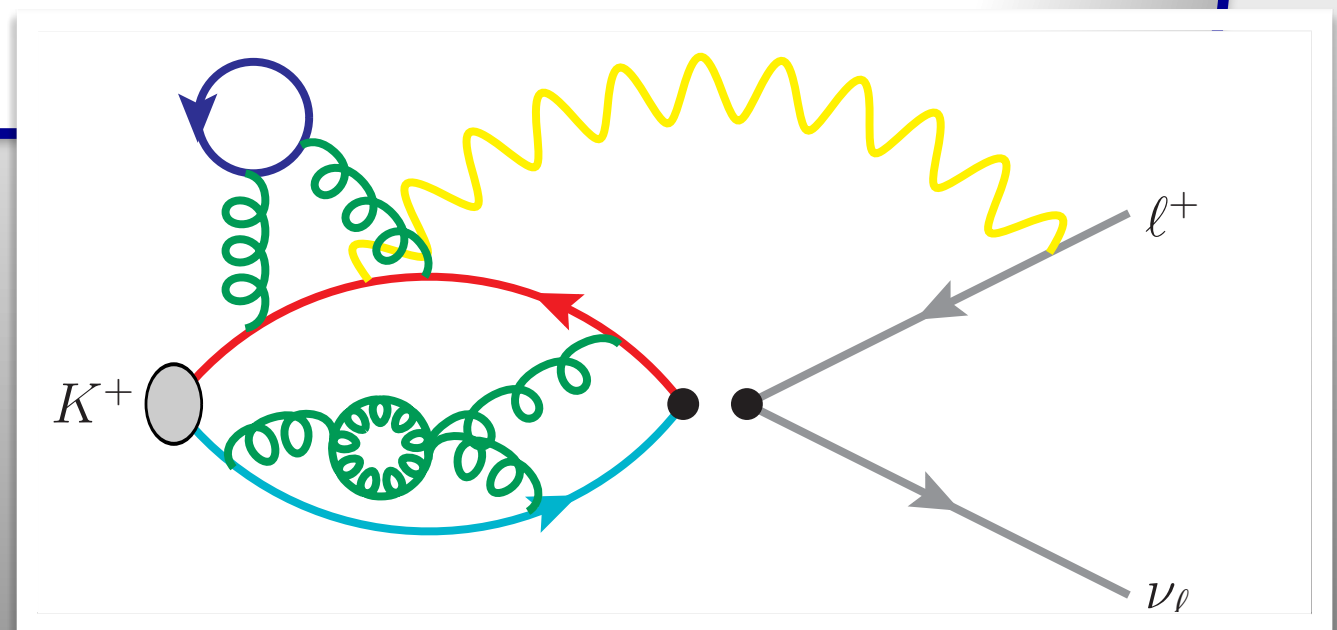
[P. Boyle *et al.*, arXiv:2211.12865](#)



This interpretation became less compelling after the analysis of [M. Di Carlo *et al.*, 2022](#) which determined the $O(1/L^2)$ SD terms and found them numerically small. The dominant uncertainty of RBC/UKQCD calculation is due to incomplete knowledge of the $O(1/L^3)$ FV corrections

An unusual hierarchy of FVEs emerged and here we revisit it in the light of suppressed FV contributions in the pt approximation so far neglected

FVEs in light meson leptonic decays



The lattice strategy [N. Carrasco et al. 2015]

$$\Gamma\left(P_{\ell 2}^{\pm}\right)=\left(\Gamma_0-\Gamma_0^{pt}\right)+\left(\Gamma_0^{pt}+\Gamma_1^{pt}(\Delta E)\right)$$

- The contributions from soft virtual photon to Γ_0 and Γ_0^{pt} in the **first term** are exactly the same and the **IR divergence** cancels in the difference $\Gamma_0 - \Gamma_0^{pt}$.
- The sum $\Gamma_0^{pt} + \Gamma_1^{pt}(\Delta E)$ in the second term is also IR finite since it is a physically well defined quantity. This term can be thus calculated in perturbation theory with a different IR cutoff.
- The two terms are also separately **gauge invariant**.

$$\Delta\Gamma_0(L) = \Gamma_0(L) - \Gamma_0^{pt}(L)$$

$$\Gamma^{pt}(\Delta E) = \lim_{m_\gamma \rightarrow 0} \left[\Gamma_0^{pt}(m_\gamma) + \Gamma_1^{pt}(\Delta E, m_\gamma) \right]$$

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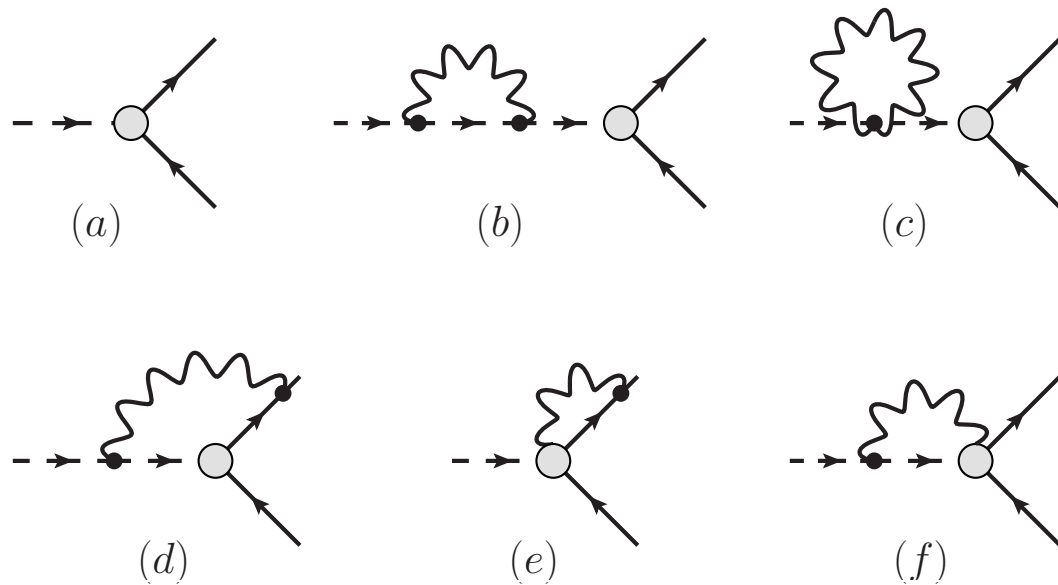
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The point-like meson approximation



$$\Gamma_0^{\text{pt}}(L) = \Gamma_0^{\text{tree}} \left\{ 1 + 2 \frac{\alpha_{\text{em}}}{4\pi} Y(L) \right\}$$

$$\Gamma_0^{\text{tree}} = \frac{G_F^2 |V_q Q|^2}{8\pi} \left[f_P^{(0)} \right]^2 m_P m_\ell^2 \left(1 - \frac{m_\ell^2}{m_P^2} \right)^2$$

$$Y(L) = \tilde{C}_0(r_\ell) \log(m_P L) + C_0(r_\ell) + \frac{C_1(r_\ell)}{m_P L} + \frac{C_2(r_\ell)}{(m_P L)^2} + \frac{C_3(r_\ell)}{(m_P L)^3} + \dots \quad r_\ell = m_\ell / m_P$$

• $\tilde{C}_0$, C_0 , C_1 are universal, although C_0 and C_1 depend on the IR regulator

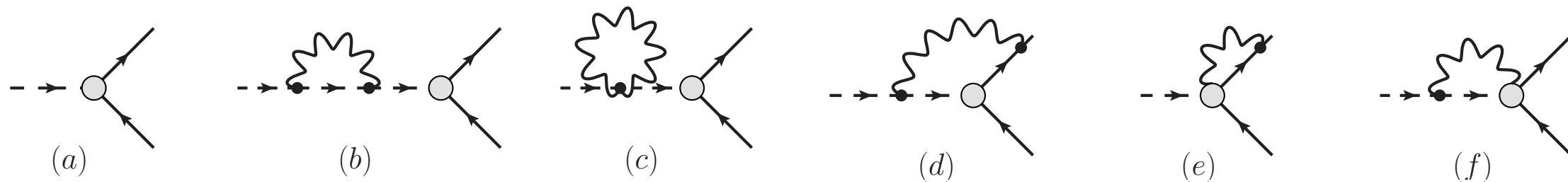
• $\tilde{C}_0, C_0, \dots, C_3$ are known both in QED_L and in QED_r (where $C_3 = 0$)

N. Tantalo *et al.*, [arXiv:1612.00199](https://arxiv.org/abs/1612.00199) M. Di Carlo *et al.*, [arXiv:2501.07936](https://arxiv.org/abs/2501.07936)

QED _L	QED _r
$\dots = O(e^{-\lambda L})$	$\dots = O \left[\frac{1}{(m_P L)^5}, e^{-\lambda L} \right]$

New

The structure of the calculation



The whole effect can be expressed in terms of four one-loop master integrals, plus the meson wave function renormalization

$$Y(L) = 16\pi^2 \left\{ i \frac{1 + r_\ell^2}{1 - r_\ell^2} S_1 - \frac{2ir_\ell^2}{1 - r_\ell^2} S_2 - 2i(1 + r_\ell^2) S_3 + \frac{2i}{1 - r_\ell^2} S_5 + \frac{1}{2} S_P \right\}$$

V. Lubicz *et al.*, [arXiv:1611.08479](https://arxiv.org/abs/1611.08479)

Each FV MI is decomposed in terms of the IV part, the finite-infinite volume difference ξ and a part specific of the QED formulation used

$$S_i^{\text{FV}}(L) = S_i^{\text{IV}} - \Delta S_i(L) + \xi_i(L)$$

minimal QED_r:

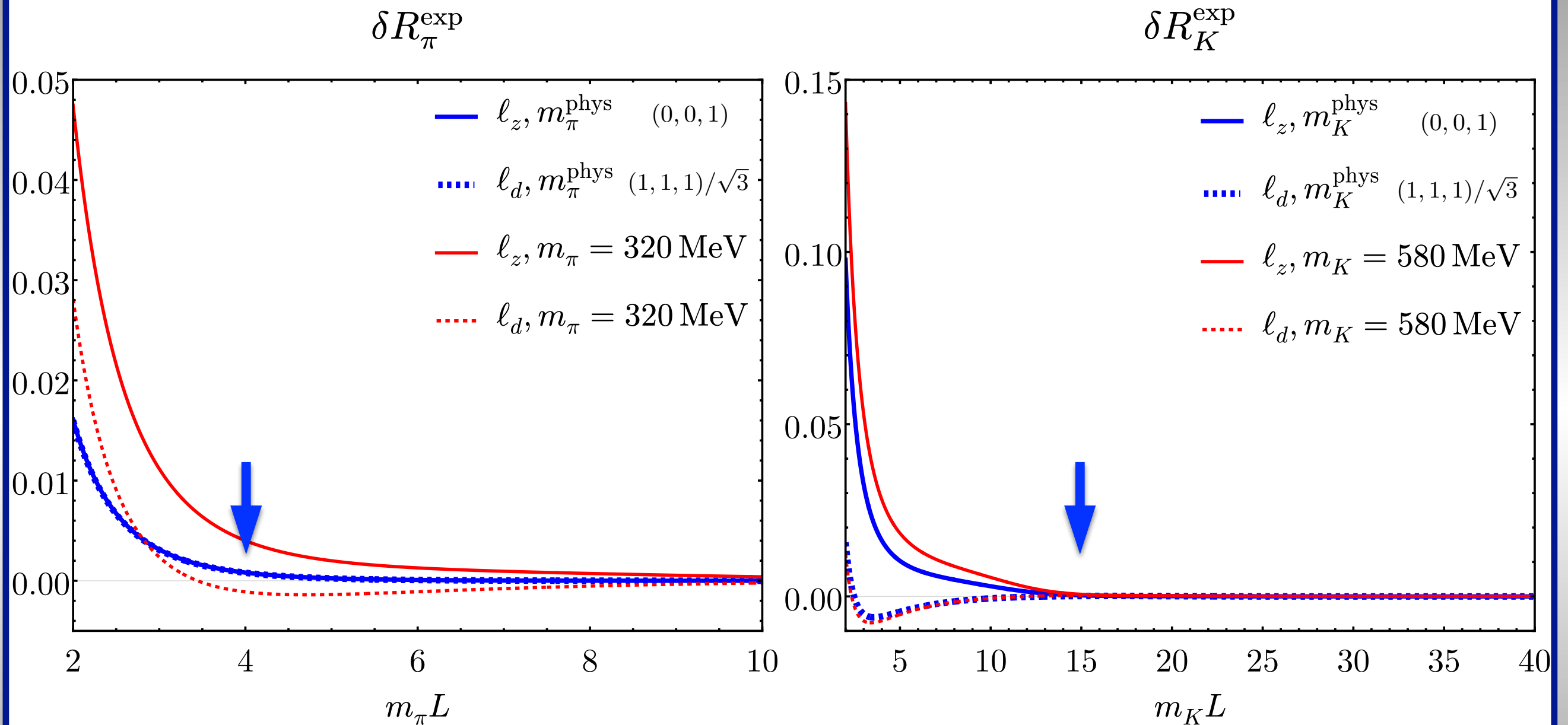
$$D_{\mu\nu}^r(x) = \frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\vec{k} \neq 0} \int \frac{dk_0}{2\pi} e^{ikx} \frac{\delta_{\mu\nu}}{k_0 + \vec{k}^2} [1 + h(\vec{n}, R)] \Big|_{\vec{n} = \vec{k}L/(2\pi)} \quad h(\vec{n}) = \delta_{|\vec{n}|,1}/6$$

M. Di Carlo *et al.*, [arXiv:2501.07936](https://arxiv.org/abs/2501.07936)

W-regularization to cure UV divergences:

$$\frac{1}{k^2 + i0^+} \rightarrow \frac{1}{k^2 + i0^+} - \frac{1}{k^2 - M_W^2 + i0^+}$$

The pt exp-suppressed corrections

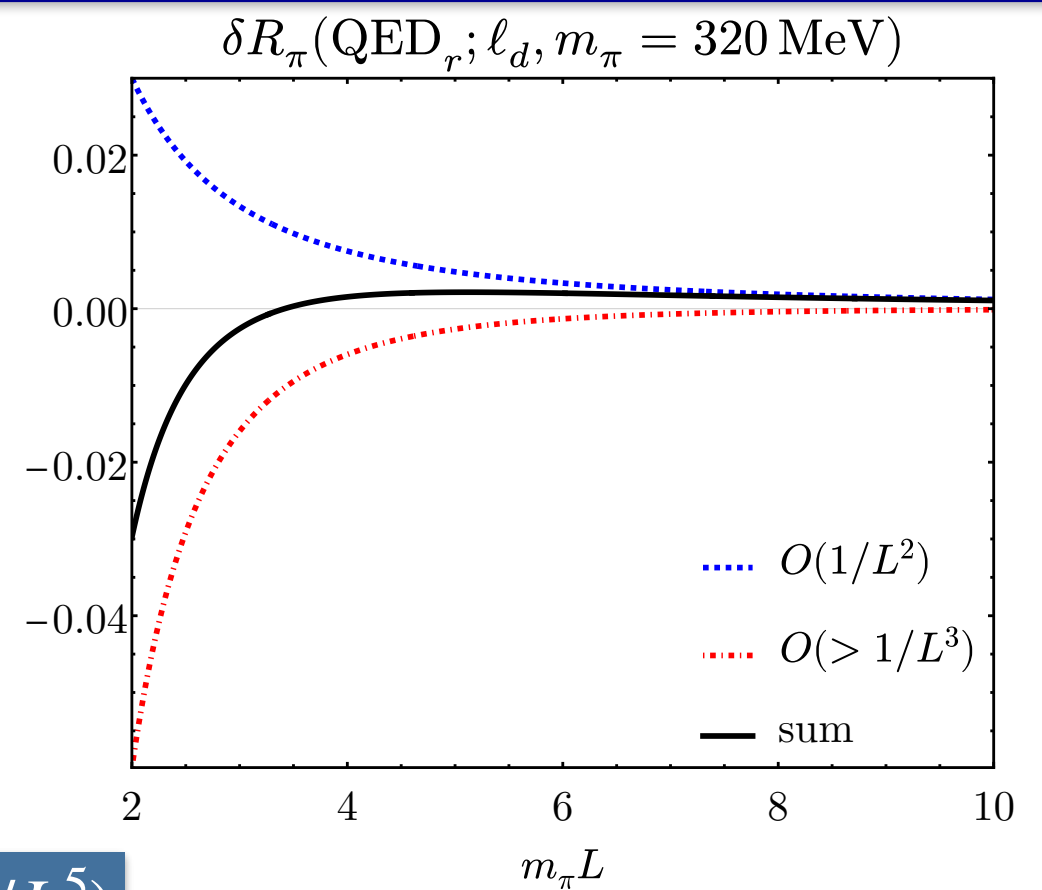
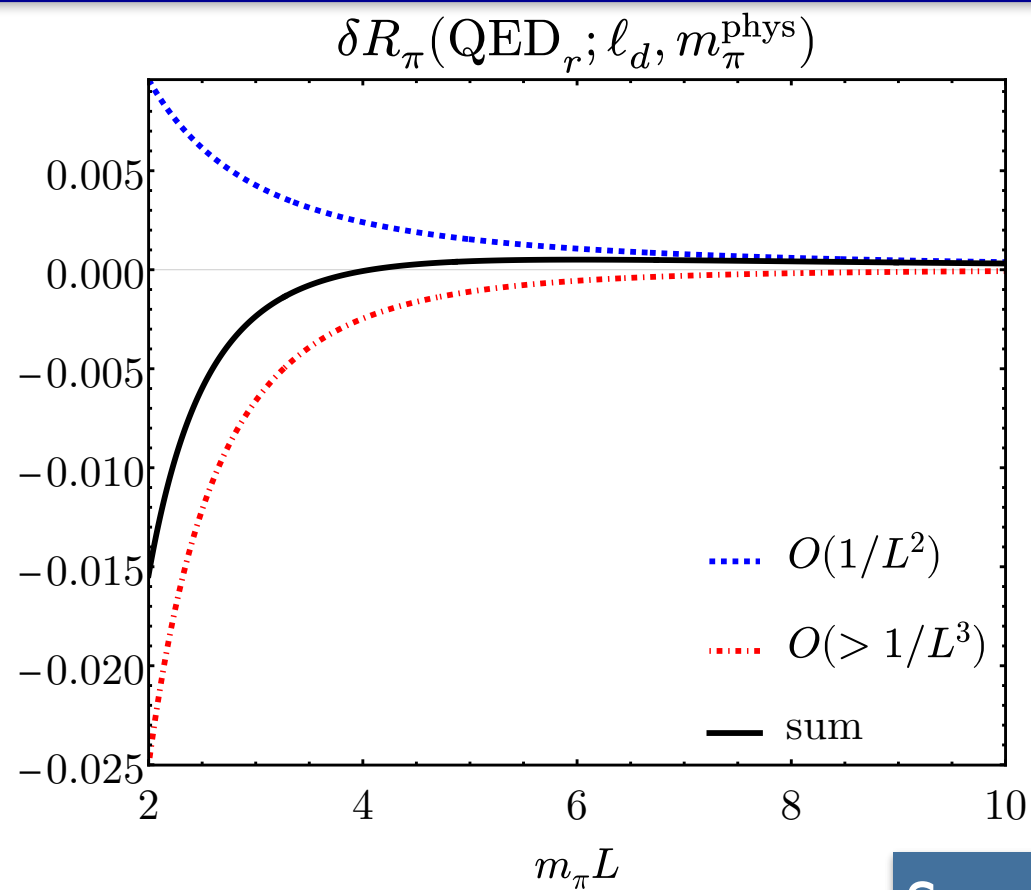


Non-trivial competition between $O(e^{-m_{\ell}L})$ and $O(e^{-m_pL})$ asymptotic behaviors

These corrections are independent of the FV QED prescription adopted

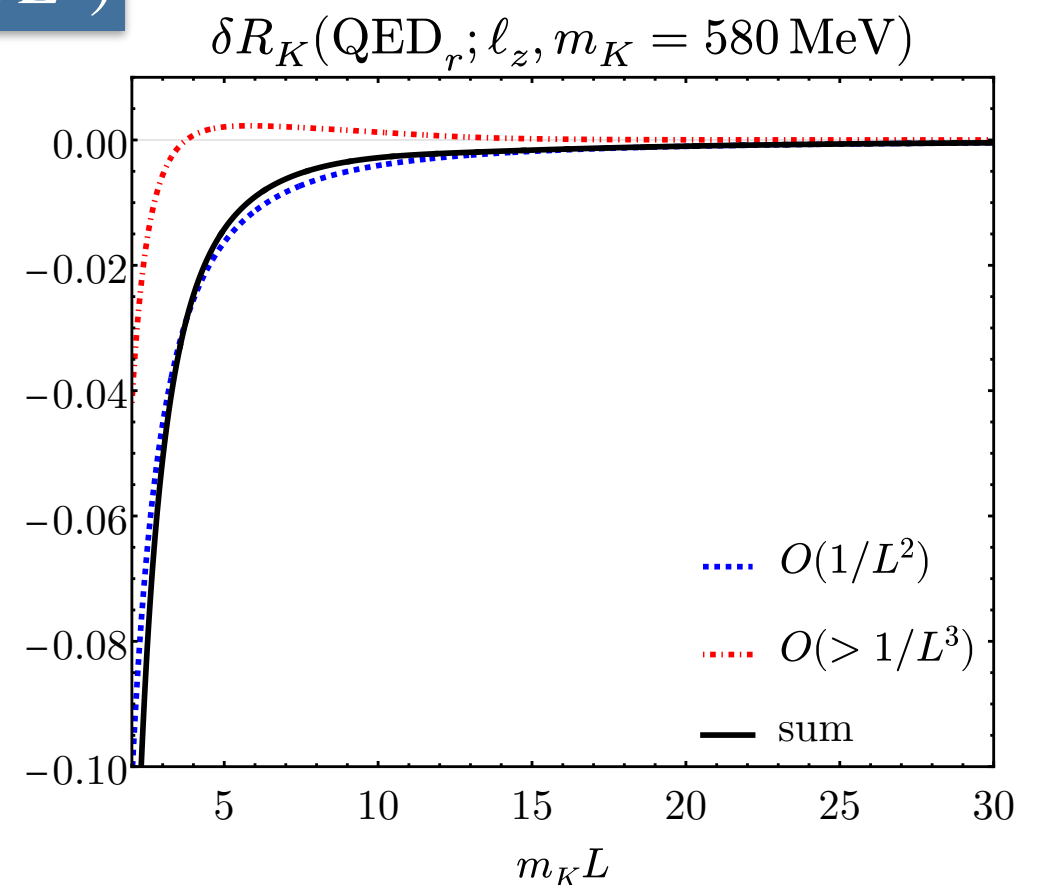
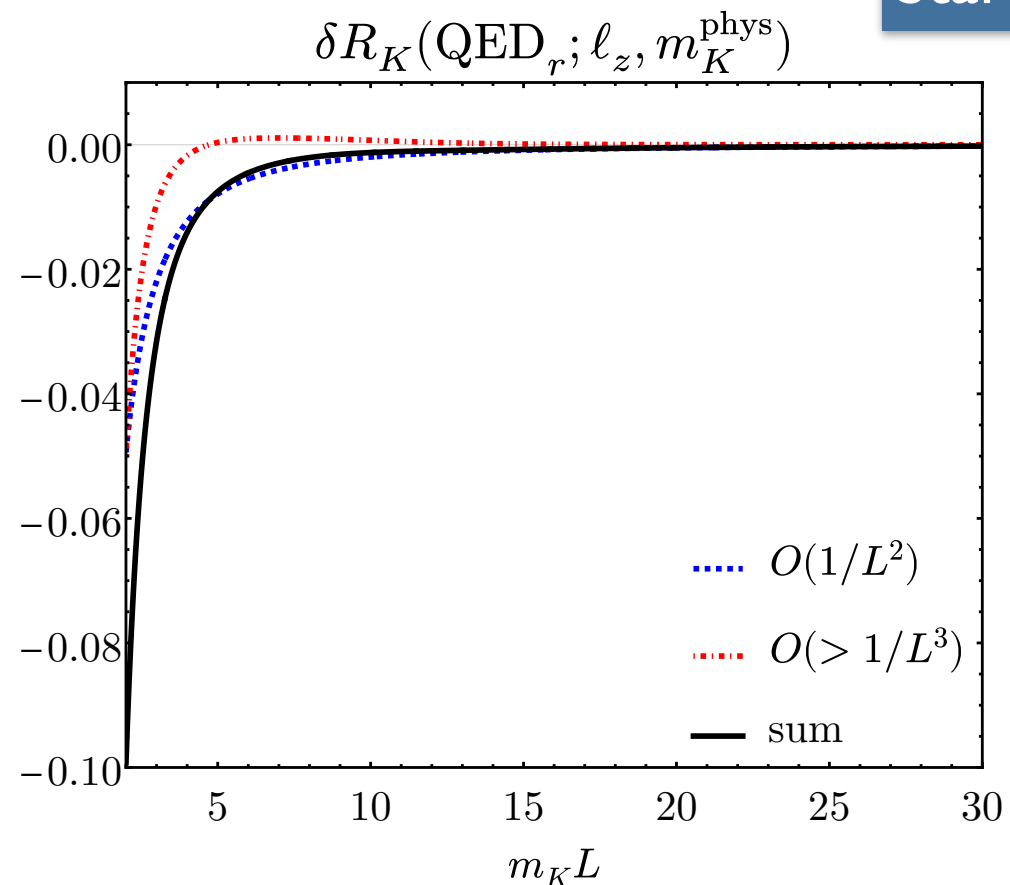
The pt HO power-law corrections for QED_r

π



Start at $O(1/L^5)$

K



Numerical impact

π

Finite-volume contributions to the IB correction δR_π , in units of 10^{-4} , for the physical charged-pion and muon masses at $L = 6$ fm.

1/L expansion	$\hat{\ell} = (0, 0, 1)$		$\hat{\ell} = (1, 1, 1)/\sqrt{3}$	
	QED _L	QED _r	QED _L	QED _r
$c + \log L$	-150.4	-152.3	-150.4	-152.3
$1/L$	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.0
$1/L^2$	32.6	21.0	32.8	21.3
$1/L^3$	-31.7	$\equiv 0$	-31.7	$\equiv 0$
$> 1/L^3$	$\equiv 0$	-20.0	$\equiv 0$	-20.0
exp	6.0		5.9	
total	-139.0	-141.2	-138.9	-141.2

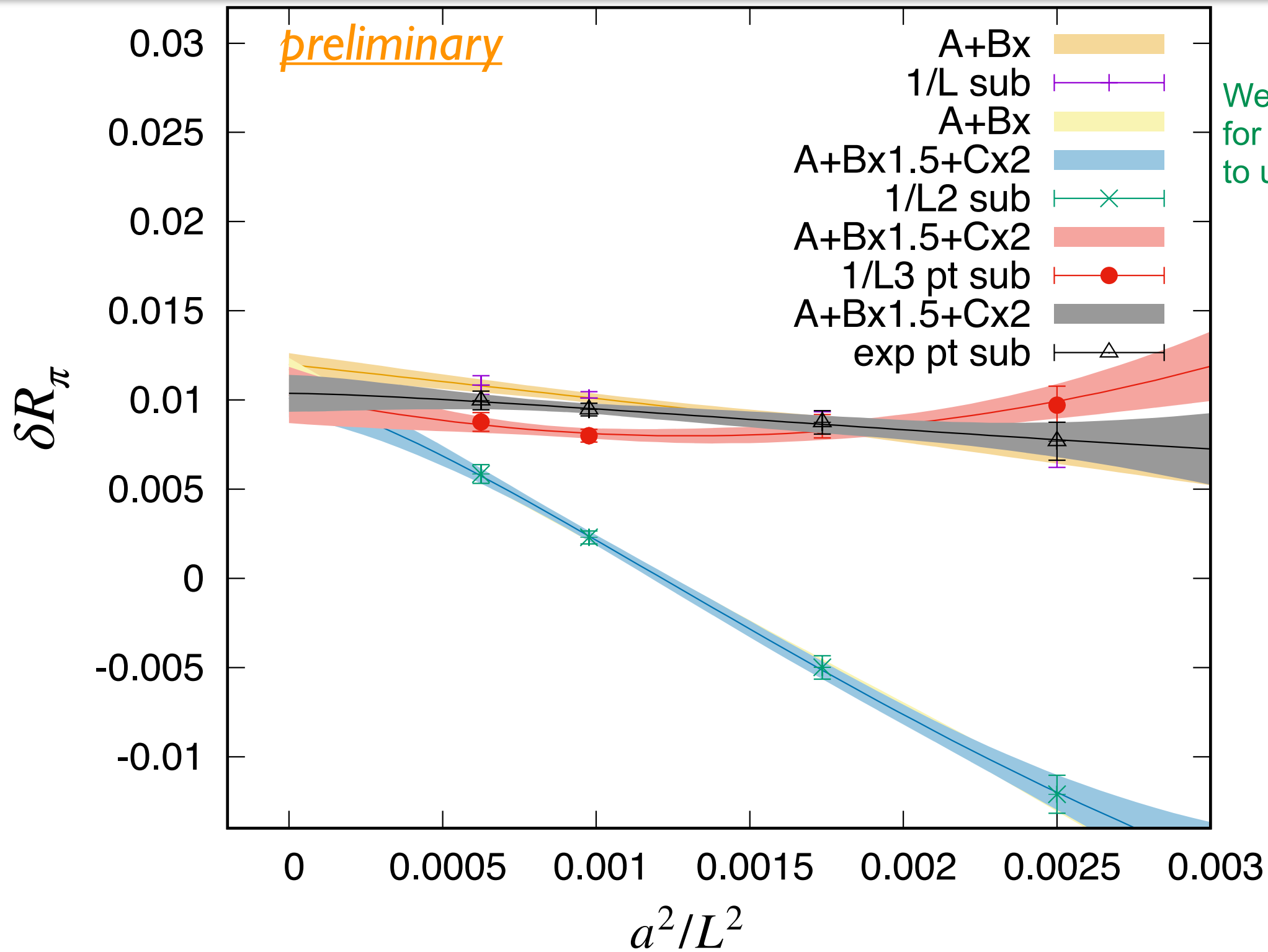
K

Finite-volume contributions to the IB correction δR_K , in units of 10^{-4} , for the physical charged-kaon and muon masses at $L = 6$ fm.

1/L expansion	$\hat{\ell} = (0, 0, 1)$		$\hat{\ell} = (1, 1, 1)/\sqrt{3}$	
	QED _L	QED _r	QED _L	QED _r
$c + \log L$	-224.0	-232.0	-200.0	-203.3
$1/L$	6.1	5.6	5.2	4.6
$1/L^2$	-3.2	-8.8	11.0	8.8
$1/L^3$	-1.9	$\equiv 0$	-1.9	$\equiv 0$
$> 1/L^3$	$\equiv 0$	1.3	$\equiv 0$	-0.0
exp	3.1		1.2	
total	-220.0	-230.8	-184.5	-188.7

- The pt exp-suppressed FVEs for both channels are comparable in magnitude to the combined power-law corrections and to the size of the $1/L$ ones
- QED_r redistributes a significant part of the large $1/L^3$ correction (especially for pion channel) into the HO power-law tail. Like the $1/L^3$ term in QED_L, this remainder is largely canceled by the $1/L^2$ contribution

First application to RM123S data



We thank G. Martinelli
for giving us permission
to use RM123S data

Remaining FV dep. is mild and compatible with an $O(1/L^3)$ term and HO SD effects

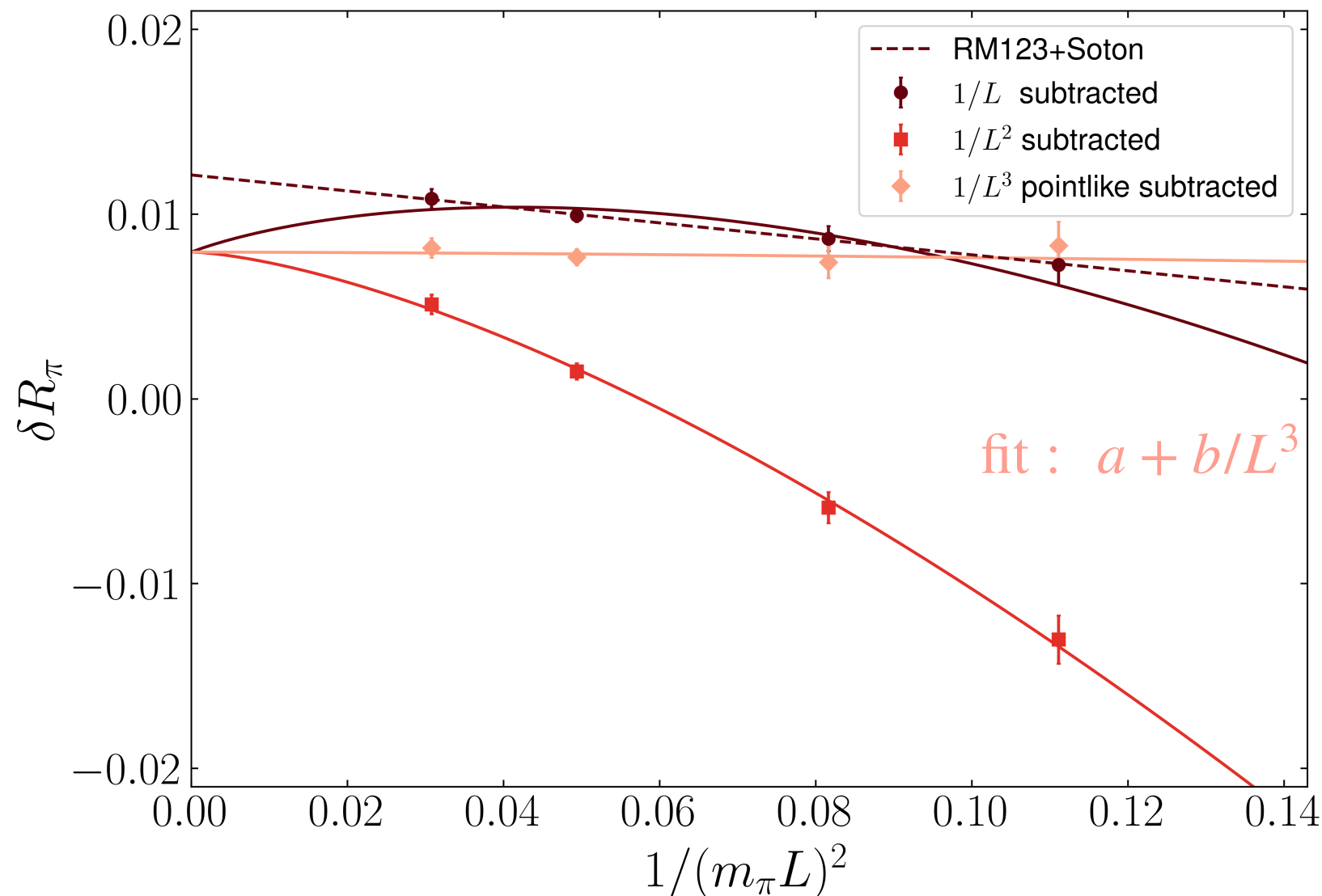
Conclusions and future perspectives

- We have computed the exp-suppressed FV corrections to the pt em contribution to the inclusive leptonic decay rates of charged pions and kaons. A paper on that will appear soon!
- Our exact expressions reveal a subtle interplay among terms governed by different exponential scales, which can be removed analytically from lattice data.
- QED_r redistributes a significant part of the large $1/L^3$ correction into the HO power-law remainder
- At the volumes used in present lattice simulations, these corrections are numerically comparable to the combined power-law contributions and subtracting them improves FV extrapolation

Backup slides

Observation raised by RBC/UKQCD

P. Boyle *et al.*, [arXiv:2211.12865](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.12865)



RBC/UKQCD argues that the RM123S data can be described by $1/L^3$ behavior in order to get an estimate of the residual SD FVEs. This leads to a change in the FV extrapolated value, according to P. Boyle *et al.*

This puzzle is solved once the pt exp-suppressed FV terms are subtracted from the data, as we have shown here