



# Applications of nucleon four-point correlation functions

Xu Feng

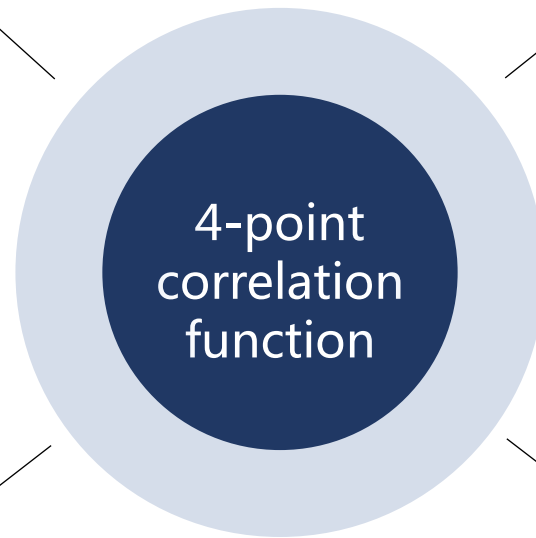
2024.07.01



# 4-point correlation function – frontiers in lattice QCD

➤ E&M corrections including IB effects

➤ Higher-order EW interactions



➤ Hadronic tensor using optical theorem

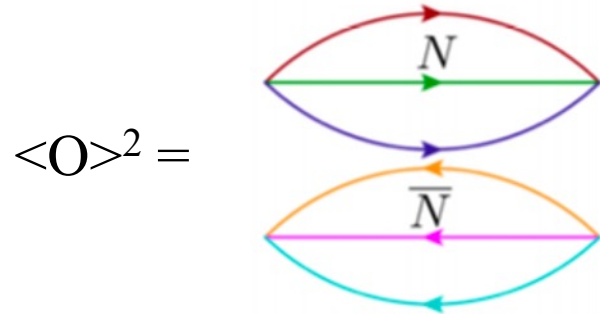
➤ HLbL contributions in muon  $g-2$

# Challenges in nucleon 4pt correlation functions (I)

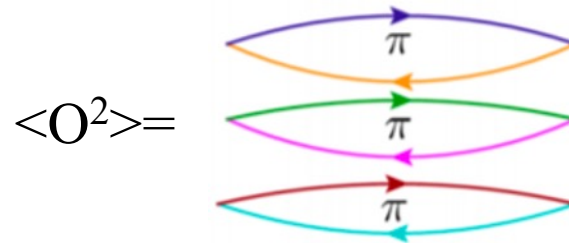
➤ Nucleon system – severe signal/noise (S/N) problem

- Statistics tells us that variance is given by  $\langle O^2 \rangle - \langle O \rangle^2$

Square of signal



Variance is dominated by  $\langle O^2 \rangle$



- S/N is  $\exp \left[ - \left( M_N - \frac{3}{2} M_\pi \right) t \right]$

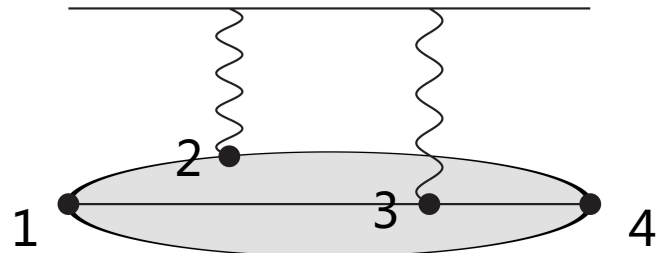


4-pt function requires operators at 4 diff. time slices  
and thus needs large  $t$  separation

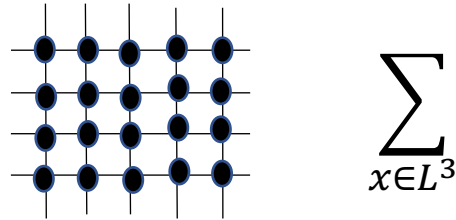
- **Solution: optimized operators, variational analysis, reconstruction of ground/excited states**

# Challenges in nucleon 4pt correlation functions (II)

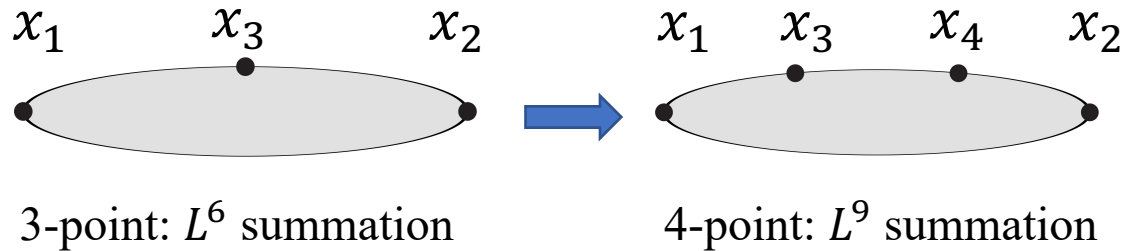
- Hadronic part from a typical 4-point function



- Perform the volume summation for each point



- From 3-point to 4-point function



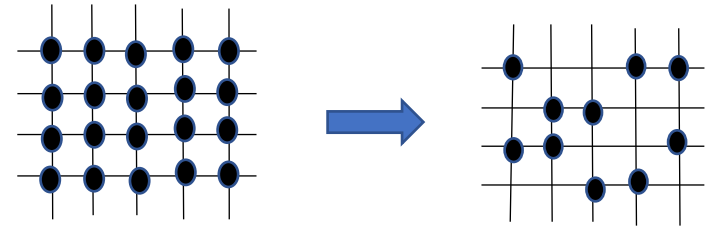
Increasing each point, computational cost increases by  $10^4$ - $10^5$  times!

## Solution : Field sparsening method

【Y. Li, S. Xia, XF, L. Jin, C. Liu, PRD 103 (2021) 014514】

【W. Detmold, D. Murphy, et. al. PRD 104 (2021) 034502】

【See also HLbL calculation in muon  $g-2$ 】



- Less summation points may lead to lower precision
- It is not the case because of high correlation in lattice data
  - ➡  $10^2$ - $10^3$  times less points yields similar precision
- Used for pion, proton,  $g_A$  to verify its application

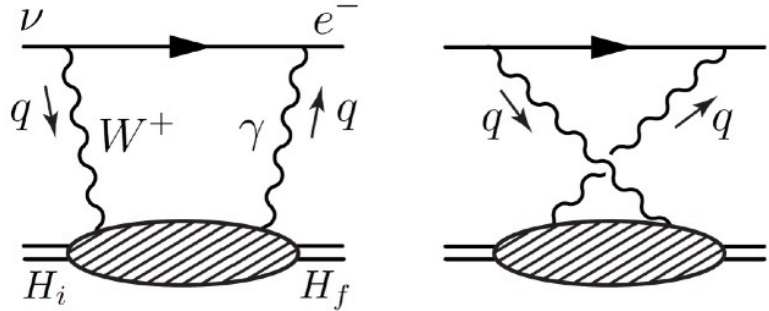
Utilize field sparsening method

- Reduce the computational cost by a factor of  $10^2$ - $10^3$  with almost no loss of precision!

# Challenges in nucleon 4pt correlation functions (III)

## ➤ Short-distance divergence

- $\gamma W$ -box contribution to  $\beta$  decays



$$\square_{\gamma W}^{VA} = \frac{3\alpha_e}{2\pi} \int \frac{dQ^2}{Q^2} \frac{m_W^2}{m_W^2 + Q^2} M_n(Q^2).$$

XF, M. Gorchtein, L. Jin, et.al. PRL124 (2020) 19, 192002

J. Yoo, T. Bhattacharya, R. Gupta et.al. PRD 108 (2023) 034508

P. Ma, XF, M. Gorchtein, et.al. PRL132 (2024) 191901

Low  $Q^2$  - lattice QCD + Large  $Q^2$  - OPE

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x e^{-iQx} T [J_\mu^{em}(x) J_\nu^{W,A}(0)] \\ &= \frac{i}{2Q^2} \{ C_a(Q^2) \delta_{\mu\nu} Q_\alpha - C_b(Q^2) \delta_{\mu\alpha} Q_\nu \\ & \quad - C_c(Q^2) \delta_{\nu\alpha} Q_\mu \} J_\alpha^{W,A}(0) \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{6Q^2} C_d(Q^2) \epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} Q_\alpha J_\beta^{W,V}(0) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Peng-Xiang Ma's talk  
Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14:15-14:35  
Room: LT3

- Non-trivial bilocal operator renormalization in rare kaon decays

$$\langle \{Q_A Q_B\}^{RI} \rangle \Big|_{p_i^2 = \mu_{RI}^2} = \text{Diagram 1} - X(\mu_{RI}, a) \times \text{Diagram 2} = 0$$

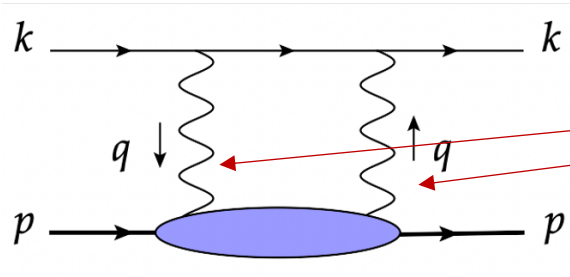
N. Christ, XF, A. Portelli, C. Sachrajda,  
PRD93 (2016) 114517

Z. Bai, N. Christ, XF, et.al.  
PRL118 (2017) 252001

# Challenges in nucleon 4pt correlation functions (IV)

## ➤ IR divergence

- Two-photon exchange contribution to muonic hydrogen Lamb shift



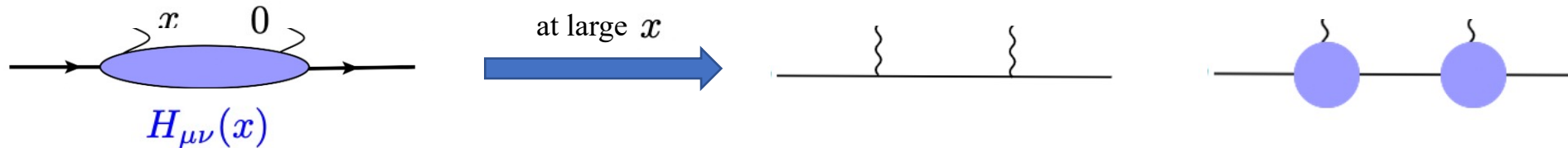
Y. Fu, XF, L. Jin, C. Lu, PRL 128 (2022) 172002

Two photon propagators, very IR divergent!

(IR divergence is related with vector form factor and its derivative at  $q^2=0$ )

**Idea to solve IR divergence:** infinite-volume reconstruction method

【X. Feng, L. Jin, PRD 100 (2019) 094509】



At large  $x$  separation,  $H_{\mu\nu}(x)$  is dominated by intermediate nucleon state

With appropriate weight functions, we can use  $H_{\mu\nu}(x)$  to reproduce charge conservation & charge radius

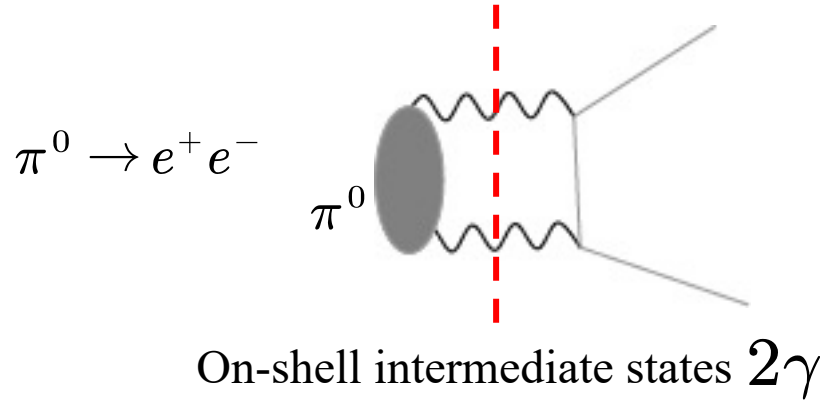
- For  $N\pi$  intermediate state, although no IR divergence, convergence of Euclidean time integral can be very slow

We will see it in this talk ➔  $N+\gamma^* \rightarrow N\pi$  transition by Y. Gao

Yu-Sheng Gao's talk  
July 29<sup>nd</sup>, 14:35-14:55

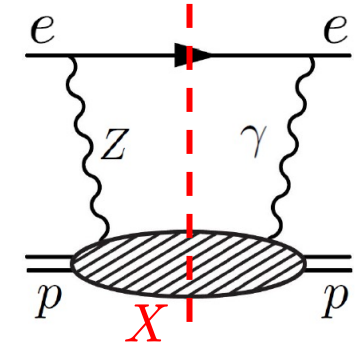
# Challenges in nucleon 4pt correlation functions (V)

- Exponentially growing contamination in Euclidean time



N. Christ, XF, L. Jin, C. Tu, Y. Zhao, PRL 130 (2023) 191901

Parity violating e-p scattering



On-shell intermediate states  $eX$

$X = N, N\pi, N\pi\pi\dots$

Possibly  $E_{2\gamma} < M_{\pi^0}$  or  $E_{eX} < E_e + E_p$

➡ Exponentially growing contamination in temporal integral!

Zhao-Long Zhang's talk  
July 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:15-11:35

- If  $X$  contains only single hadron or no hadron, a correct EW weight function in Euclidean time can be constructed
- If  $X$  contains two hadrons, finite-volume effects must be addressed properly

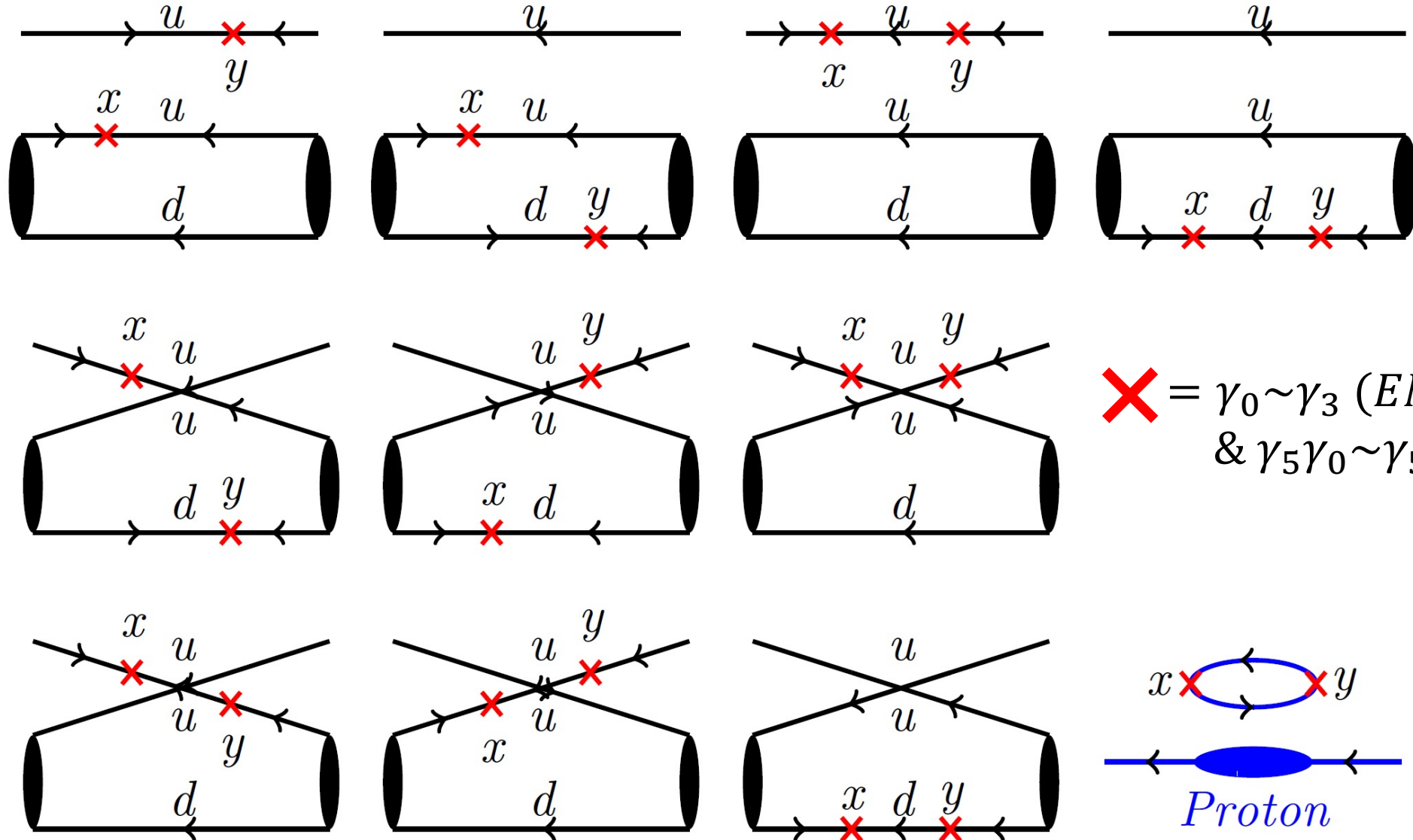
X. Tuo & X. Feng, arXiv:2407.16930

Xin-Yu Tuo's talk  
Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15:15-15:35  
Room: LT3



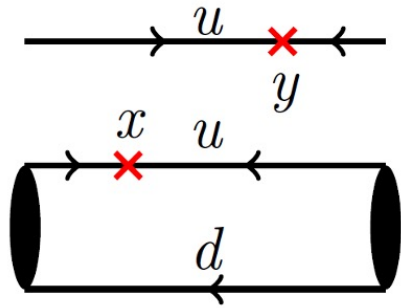
# Numerical calculations

➤ Complicated quark field contractions with two current insertions





# Examination of 4-pt function: charge conservation

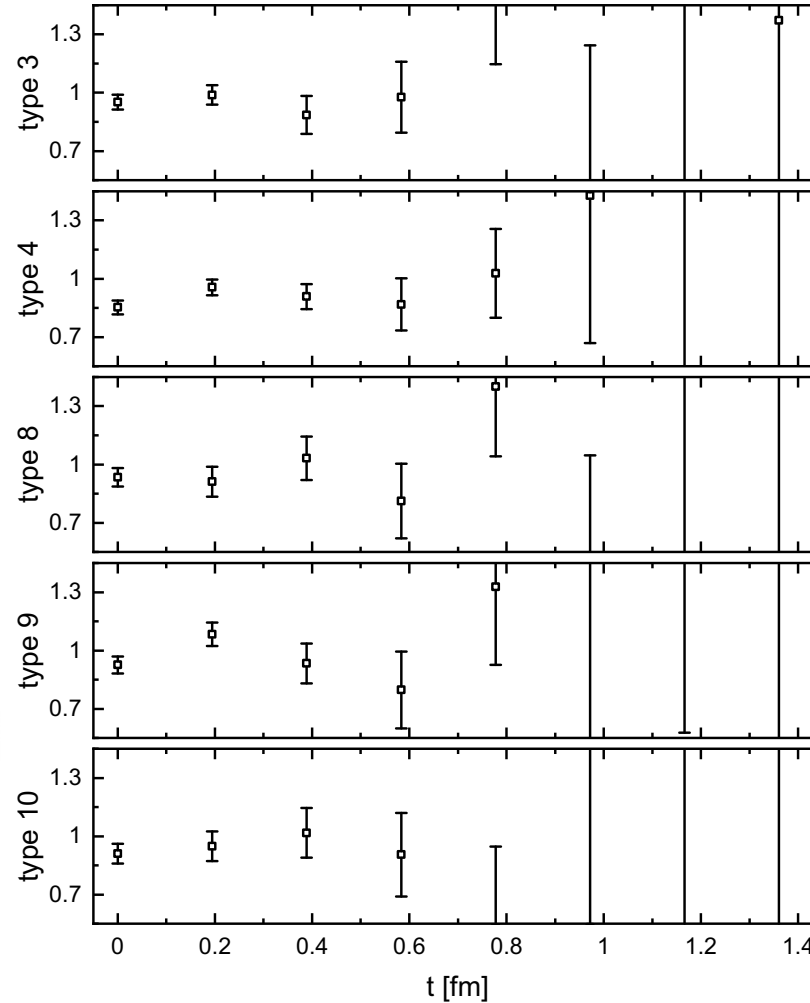


**X** =  $\gamma_0$   $\rightarrow$  charge operator

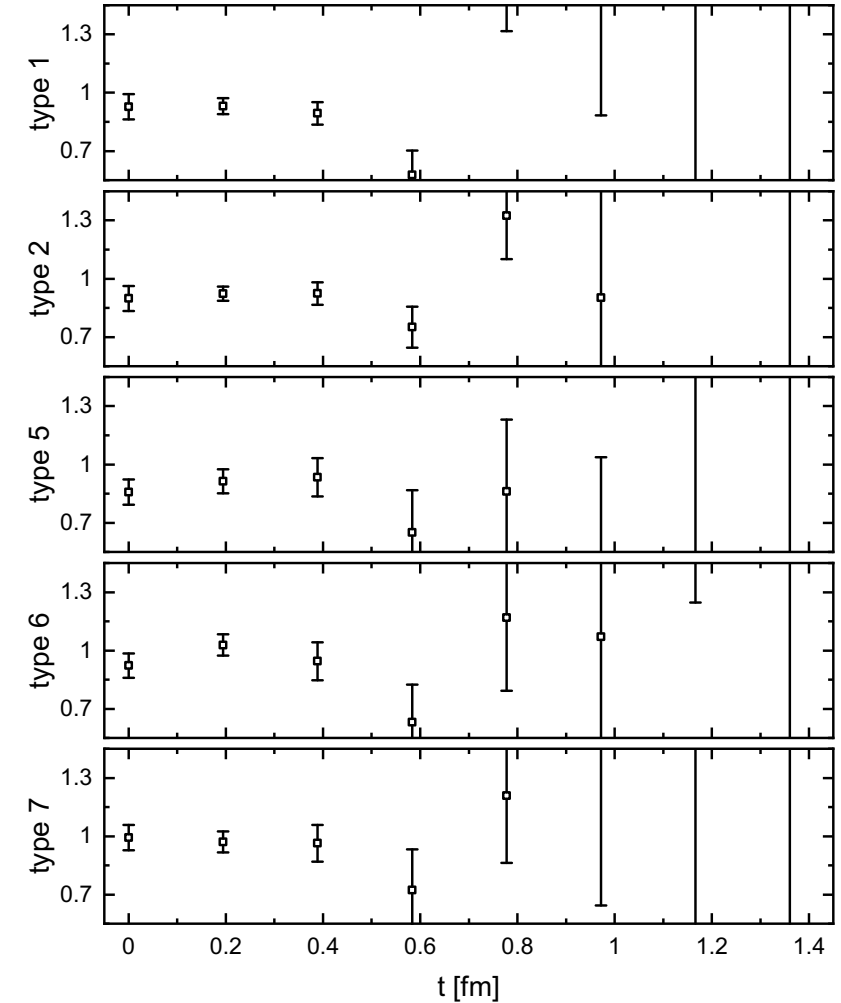
$$\int d^3\vec{x} J_0(\vec{x}) = Q$$

$$\frac{1}{2M} \int d^3\vec{x} H_{00}(t, \vec{x}) = G_E^2(0)$$

For proton:  $G_E(0) = 1$   
 For neutron:  $G_E(0) = 0$



Two currents inserted in one quark line



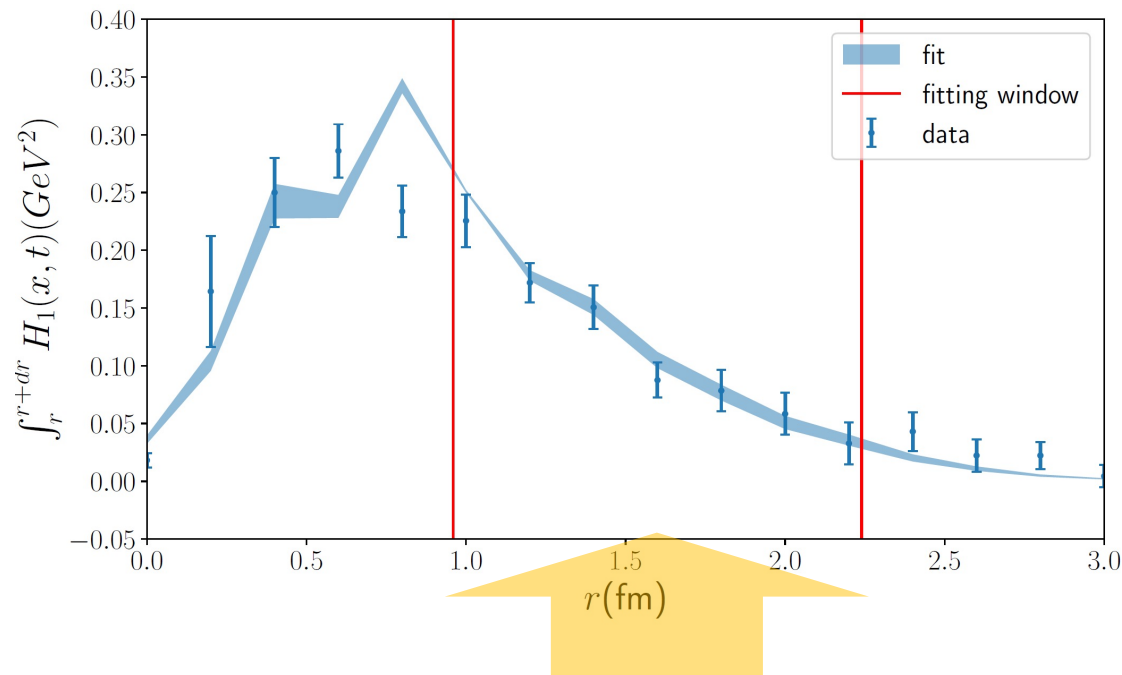
Two currents inserted in two quark lines

Using the charge conservation to verify the contraction code

# Examination of 4-pt function: charge radius

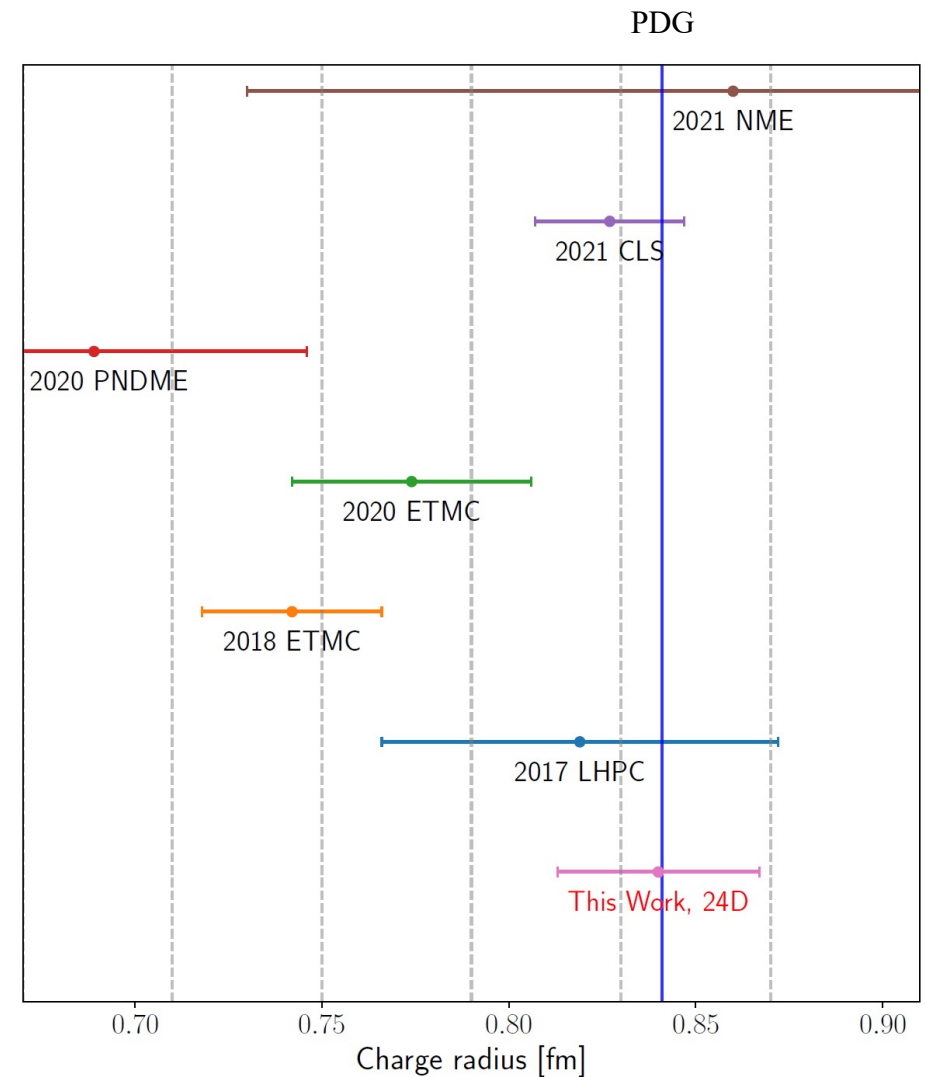
$$\langle N | J^0(x, t) J^0(0) | N \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{long distance}} \int \frac{d^3 Q}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{M(E + M)}{E} G_E^2(Q^2) e^{ipx} e^{-(E-M)t}$$

□  $\langle N | J^0(x, t) J^0(0) | N \rangle$  as a function of  $|x|$



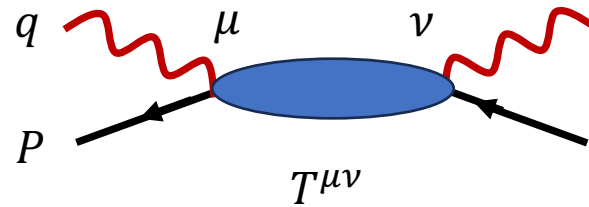
Charge radius fitted at long distance  $r > 1 \text{ fm}$ , with dipole model:

$$G_E(Q^2) = 1 / (1 + Q^2 \langle r_E^2 \rangle / 12)^2$$



# Nucleon polarizability and Compton scattering

- Nucleon E&M polarizability are most central quantities relevant for Compton scattering



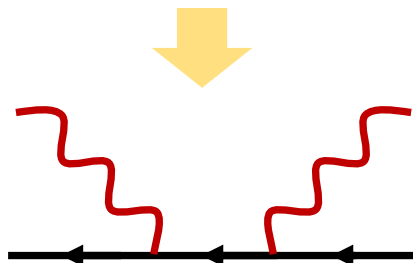
□ Unpolarized doubly virtual Compton scattering

$$K_1^{\mu\nu} = q^\mu q^\nu - g^{\mu\nu} q^2$$

$$T^{\mu\nu}(P, q) = T_{Born}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{8\pi M}{e^2} [ -(\beta_M + O(q)) K_1^{\mu\nu} + (\alpha_E + \beta_M + O(q)) K_2^{\mu\nu} ]$$

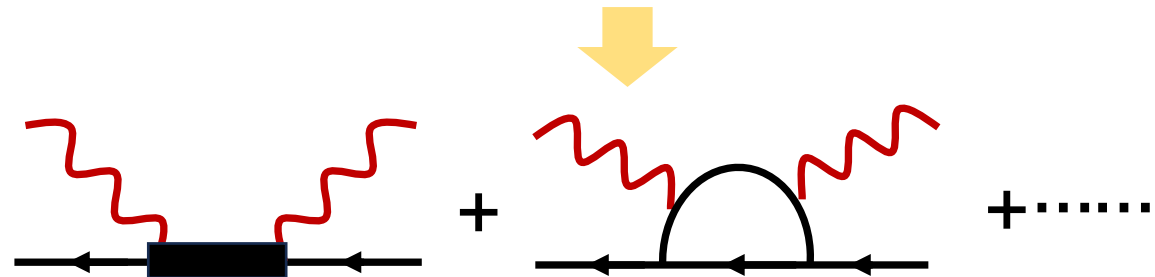
$$K_2^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{M^2} [(P^\mu q^\nu + P^\nu q^\mu) P \cdot q - g^{\mu\nu} (P \cdot q)^2 - P^\mu P^\nu q^2]$$

- Born term



Intermediate states:  $N$

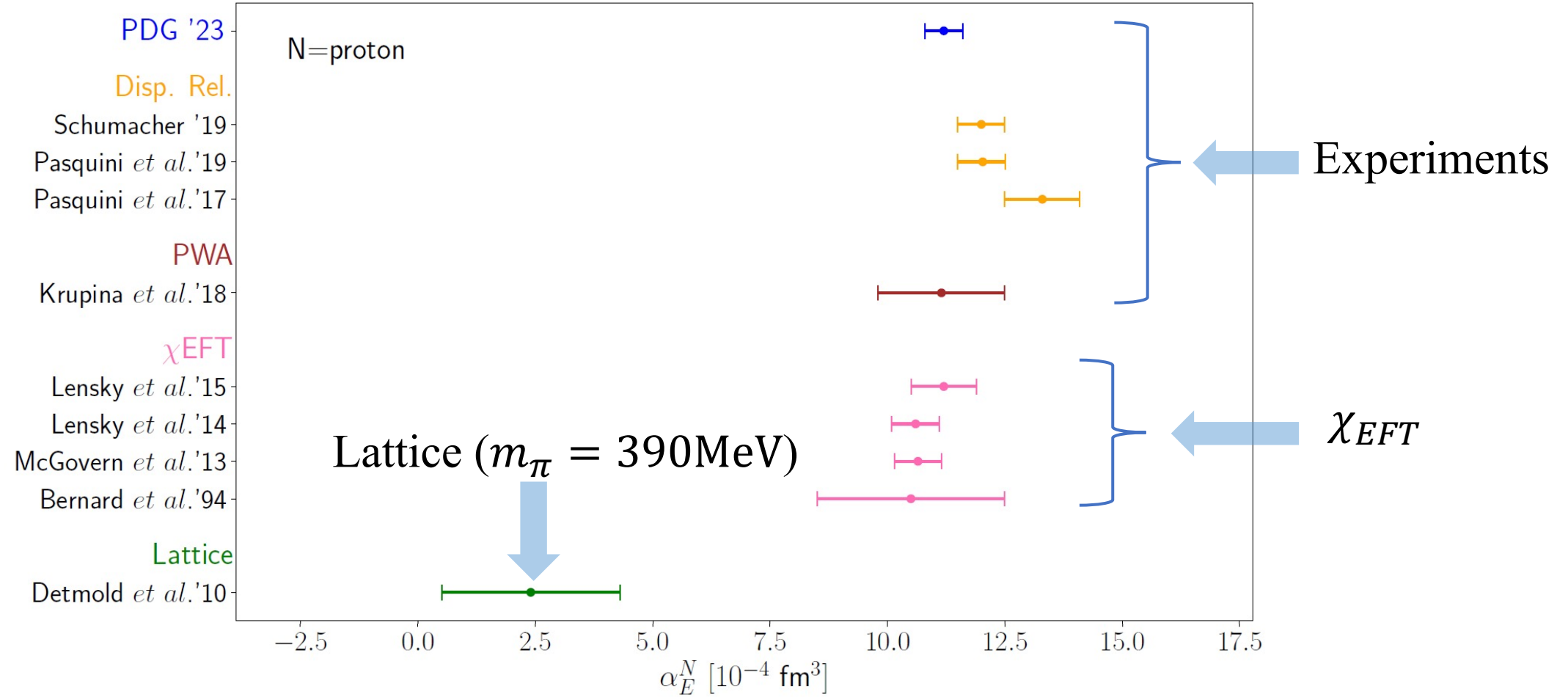
- Polarizabilities



Intermediate states:  $N\pi, N^*, \Delta, \dots$

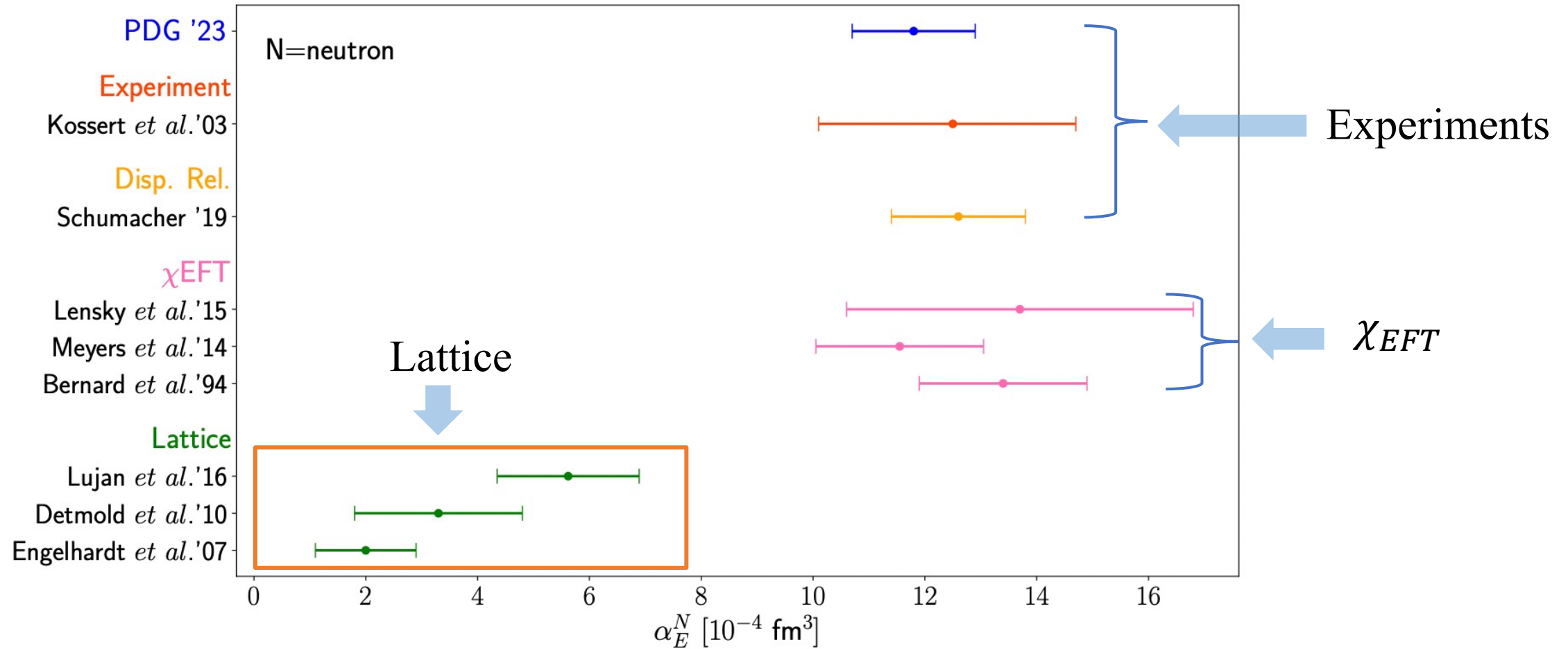
# Determination of electric polarizabilities

➤ For proton



# Determination of electric polarizabilities

➤ For neutron



# Determination of electric polarizabilities

➤ What is the primary source of discrepancy between lattice QCD and other studies?

① Lattice calculations are performed at unphysical pion masses, ranging from 227 - 759 MeV



Unphysical quark mass effects

② Background field technique is used, which converts 4pt function to 2pt function using Feynman-Hellman theorem



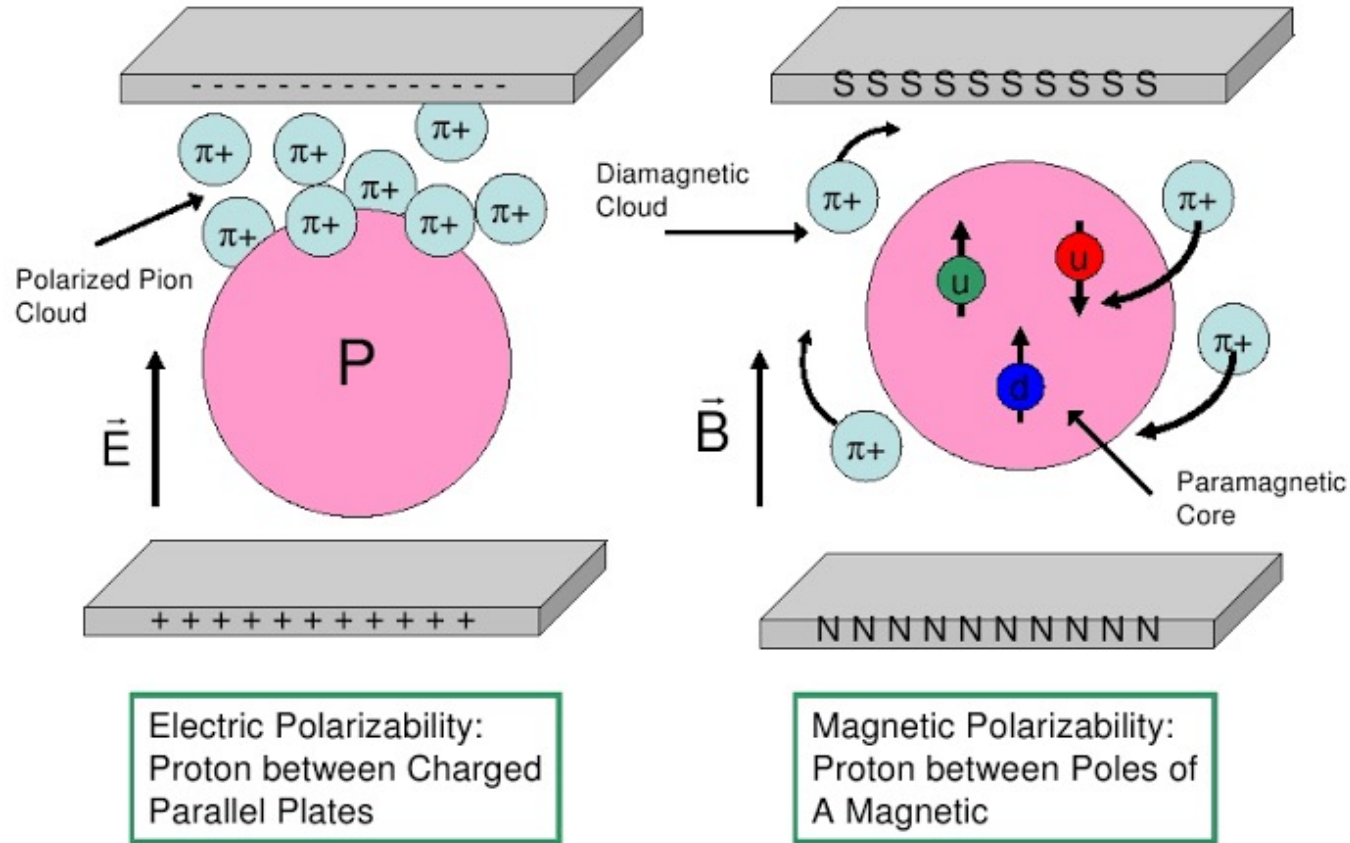
Hard to explore intermediate-state contributions and control systematics



Perform calculation at physical pion mass, using 4pt function

# Why physical pion mass is important

➤ Pion cloud in nucleon polarizabilities



➤ LO in  $\chi_{PT}$ :

$$\alpha_E = \frac{5}{96} \left( \frac{g_A}{f_\pi} \right)^2 \frac{\alpha_{em}}{m_\pi}$$

V. Bernard et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 67 (1991) 1515



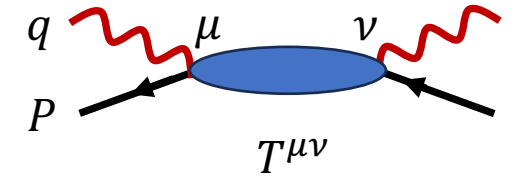
$\alpha_E$  is inversely proportional to pion mass

➤ Use two DWF ensembles @ physical  $\pi$  mass

Ensembles	$m_\pi$ [MeV]	L/a	T/a	a [fm]	$N_{conf}$
24D	142.6(3)	24	64	0.1929	207
32Dfine	143.6(9)	32	64	0.1432	82



# Electric polarizability from 4-pt function



- Compton tensor
- Lattice QCD input  $H^{\mu\nu}(x)$

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle N | J^\mu(x, t) J^\nu(0) | N \rangle = T_{Born}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{8\pi M}{e^2} [ -(\beta_M + O(q)) K_1^{\mu\nu} + (\alpha_E + \beta_M + O(q)) K_2^{\mu\nu} ]$$

- Derive 3 formula to calculate  $\alpha_E$

•  $P = (M, 0), q = (0, \vec{\xi})$ :  $\alpha_E = -\frac{\alpha_{em}}{12M} \int d^4x \vec{x}^2 (H^{00}(x) - H_{GS}^{00}(x)) + \alpha_E^r$

•  $P = (M, 0), q = (\xi, 0, 0, \xi)$ :  $\alpha_E = \frac{\alpha_{em}}{4M} \int d^4x (t + x_i)^2 (H^{0i}(x) - H_{GS}^{0i}(x)) + \alpha_E^r$

•  $P = (M, 0), q = (\xi, 0)$ :  $\alpha_E = -\frac{\alpha_{em}}{12M} \int d^4x t^2 H^{ii}(x) + \alpha_E^r$  ➔ Our choice

- Residual term  $\alpha_E^r$  is analytically known

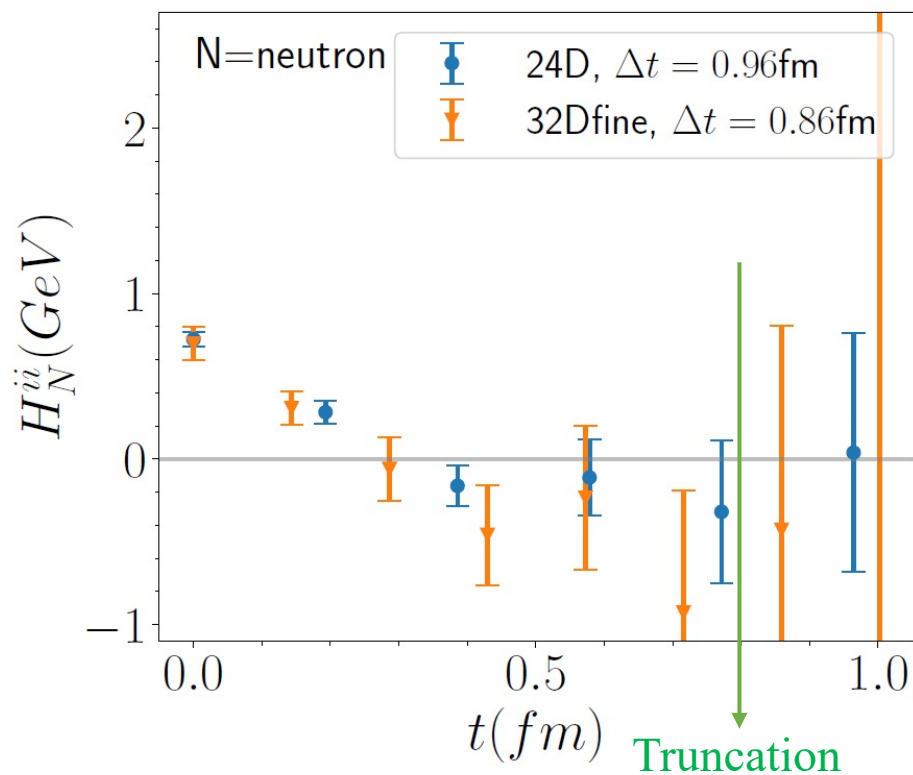
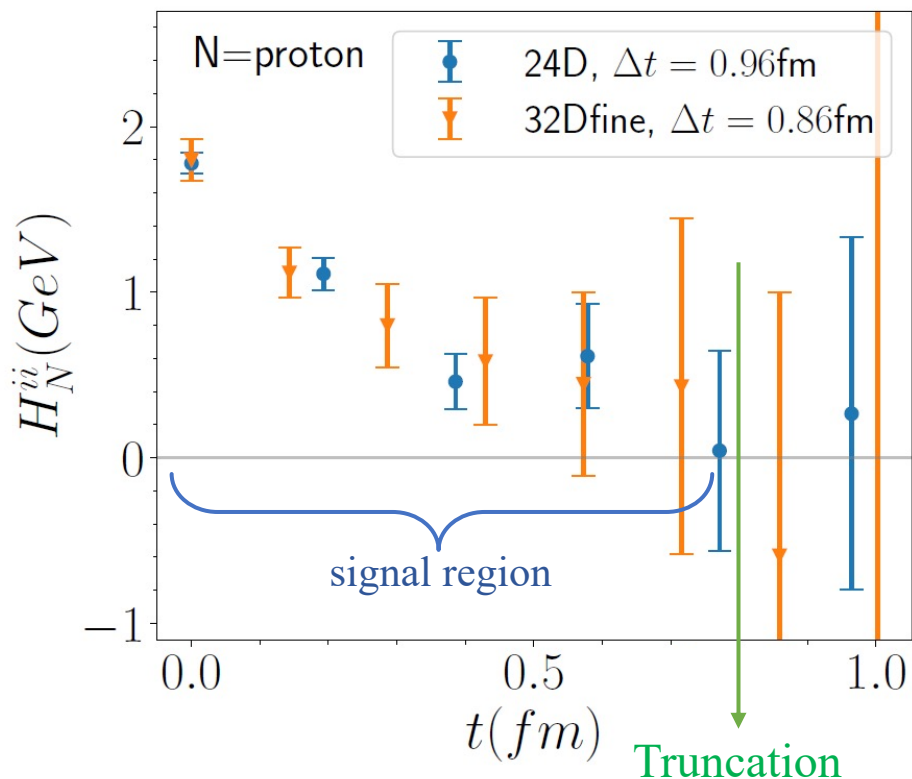
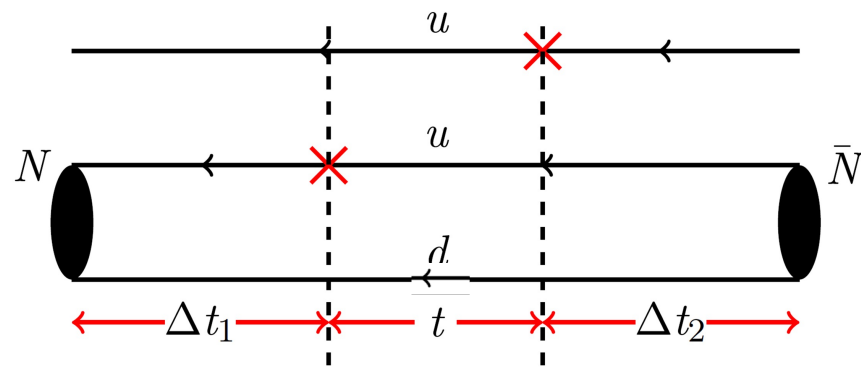
$$H^{ii}(x, t) = \langle N | J^i(x) J^i(0) | N \rangle$$

$$\alpha_E^r = \frac{\alpha_{em}}{M} \left( \frac{G_E^2(0) + \kappa^2}{4M^2} + \frac{G_E(0) \langle r_E^2 \rangle}{3} \right),$$

anomalous magnetic moment & charge radius  
 $G_E(0) = 1/0$ , for proton/neutron

# Signal of hadronic function

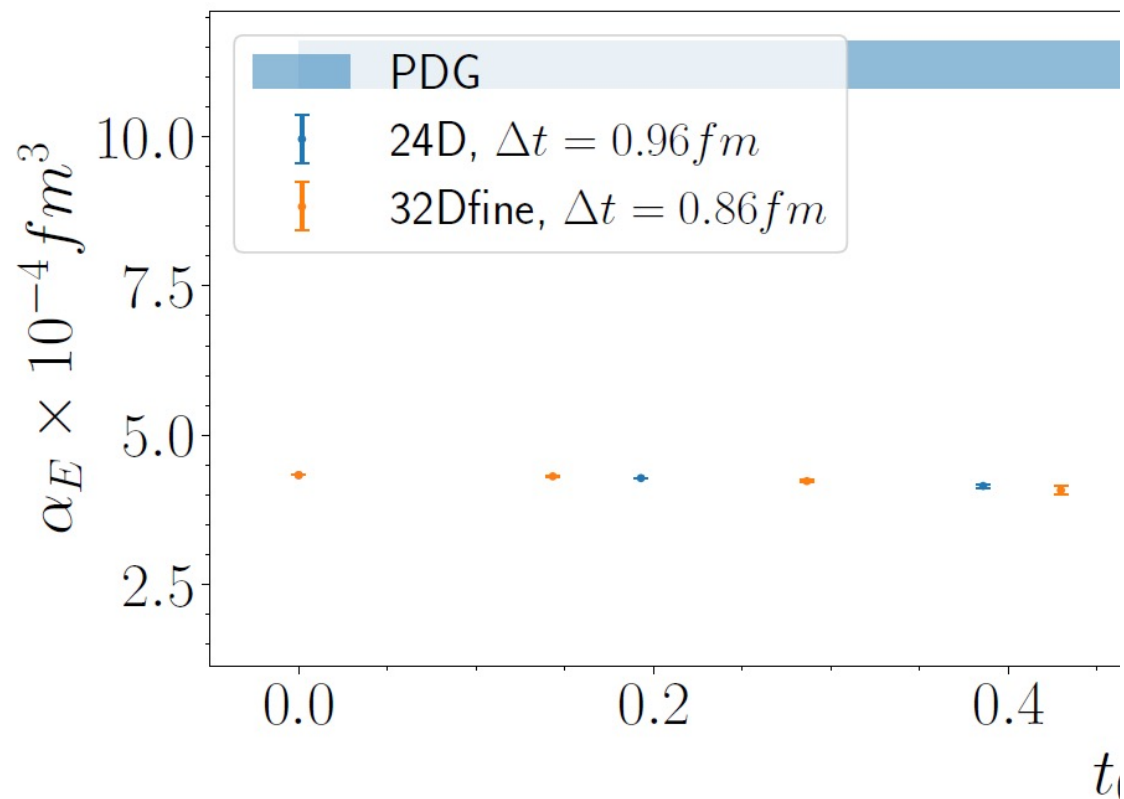
$$\sum_{\vec{x}} H^{ii}(t, \vec{x}) = \sum_k \langle p | J_i(0) | k \rangle e^{-(E_k - M)t} \langle k | J_i(0) | p \rangle$$



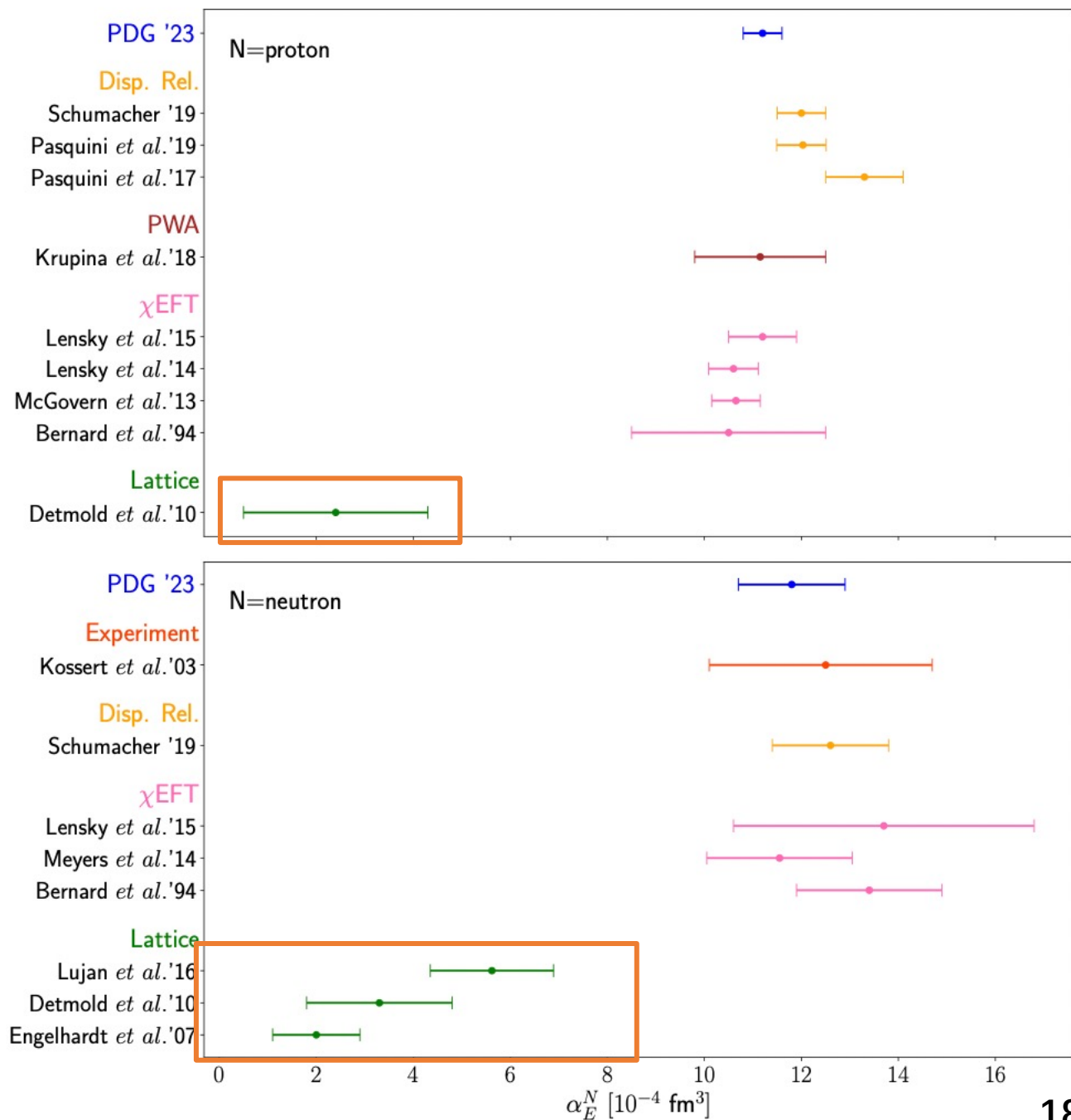
$$\Delta t = \Delta t_1 + \Delta t_2 = \begin{cases} 0.96 \text{ fm (24D)} \\ 0.86 \text{ fm (32Dfine)} \end{cases}, \text{ truncation at } t_0 = \begin{cases} 0.77 \text{ fm (24D)} \\ 0.72 \text{ fm (32Dfine)} \end{cases} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{In total, } \Delta t_1 + \Delta t_2 + t_0 \sim 1.6-1.8 \text{ fm}$$

# Polarizability $\alpha_E$ from $H_{ii}(x)$

Polarizability extraction  $\alpha_E = -\frac{\alpha_{em}}{12M} \int d$

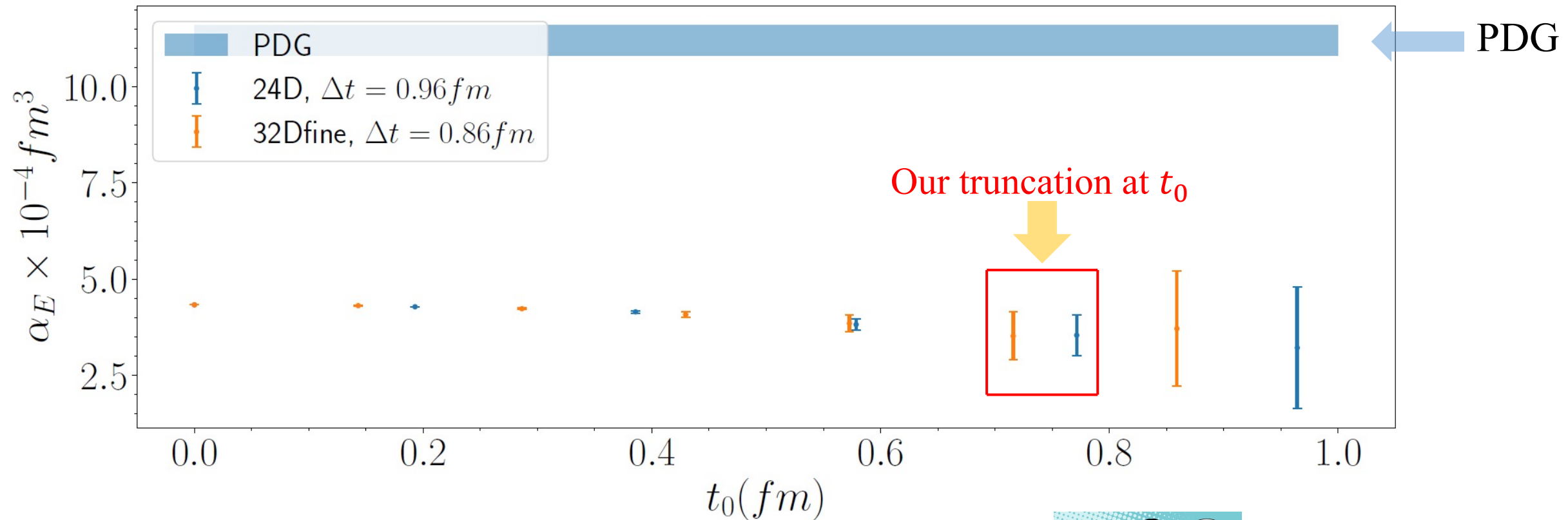


However, lattice results are significantly below



# Polarizability $\alpha_E$ from $H_{ii}(x)$

$$\text{Polarizability extraction } \alpha_E = -\frac{\alpha_{em}}{12M} \int d^4x t^2 H^{ii}(x) + \alpha_E^r$$



However, lattice results are significantly below the PDG value.

Need new insight to turn the decent to the magic!

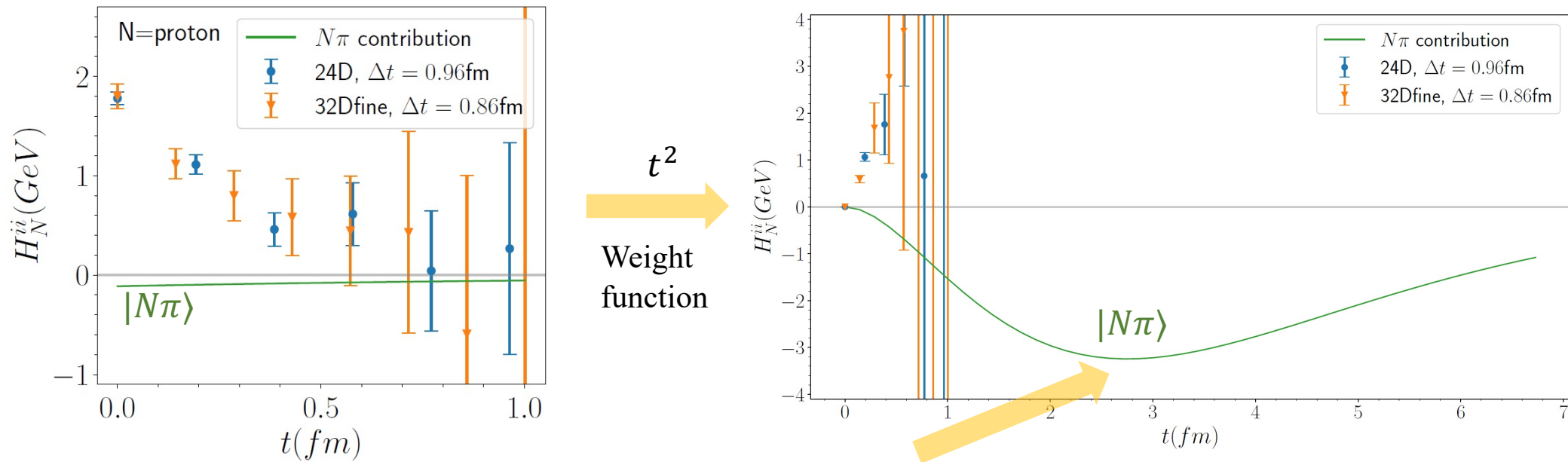


# Nucleon polarizabilities and $N\pi$ scattering

Structure of hadronic function 
$$\int d^4x t^2 H_{ii}(x, t) = \int dt t^2 \sum_k \langle p | J_i(0) | k \rangle e^{-(E_k - M)t} \langle k | J_i(0) | p \rangle$$

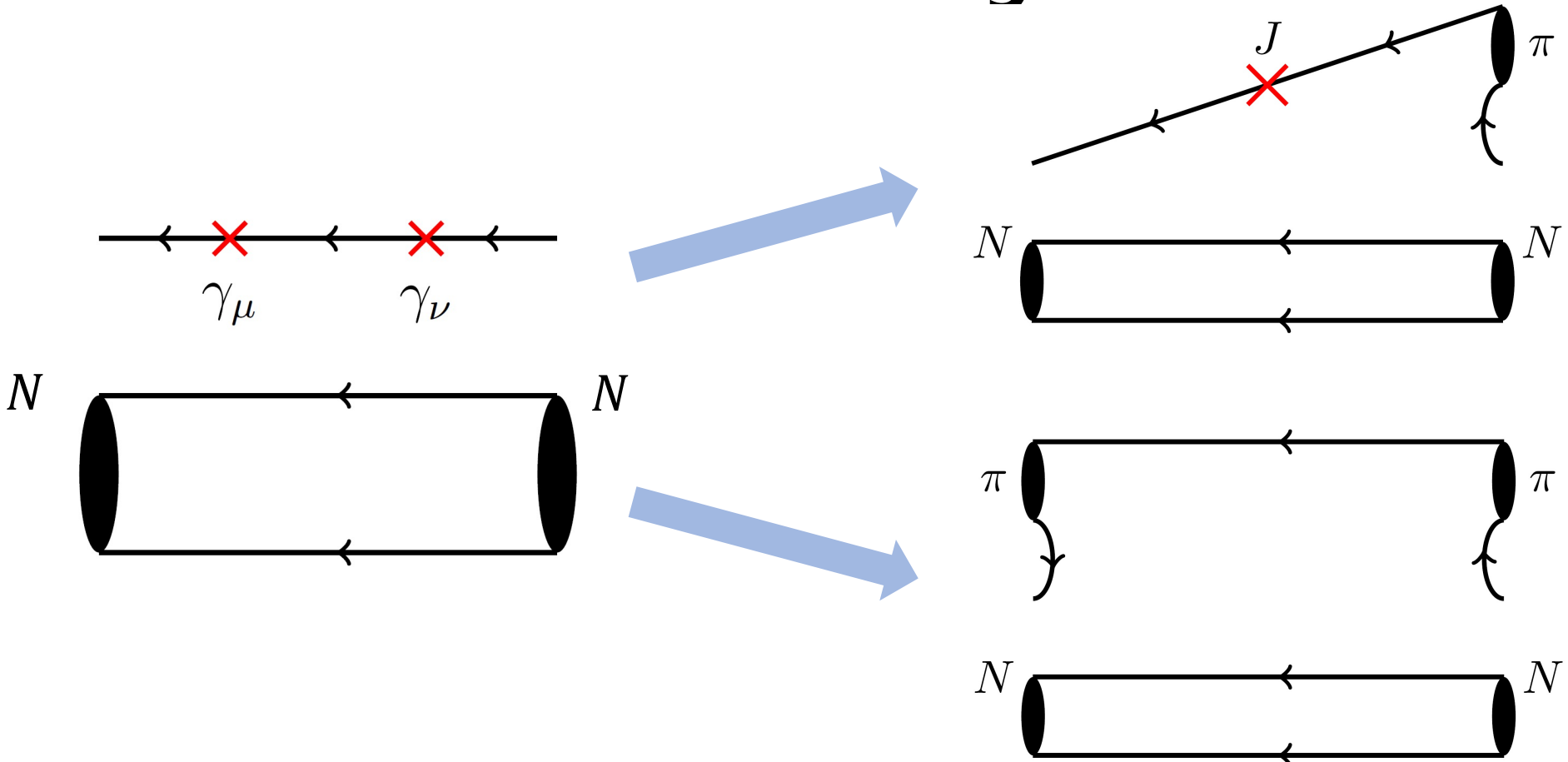
$$= 4 \sum_k \frac{\langle p | J_i(0) | k \rangle \langle k | J_i(0) | p \rangle}{(E_k - M)^3}$$

The dominant contribution is given by  $|k\rangle = |N\pi\rangle$  states



$|N\pi\rangle$  states contribution exhibits a peak at  $t = 2.8$  fm, far exceeding our truncation at  $t_0 \approx 0.75$  fm  
**Must calculate  $N\pi$  contribution directly!**

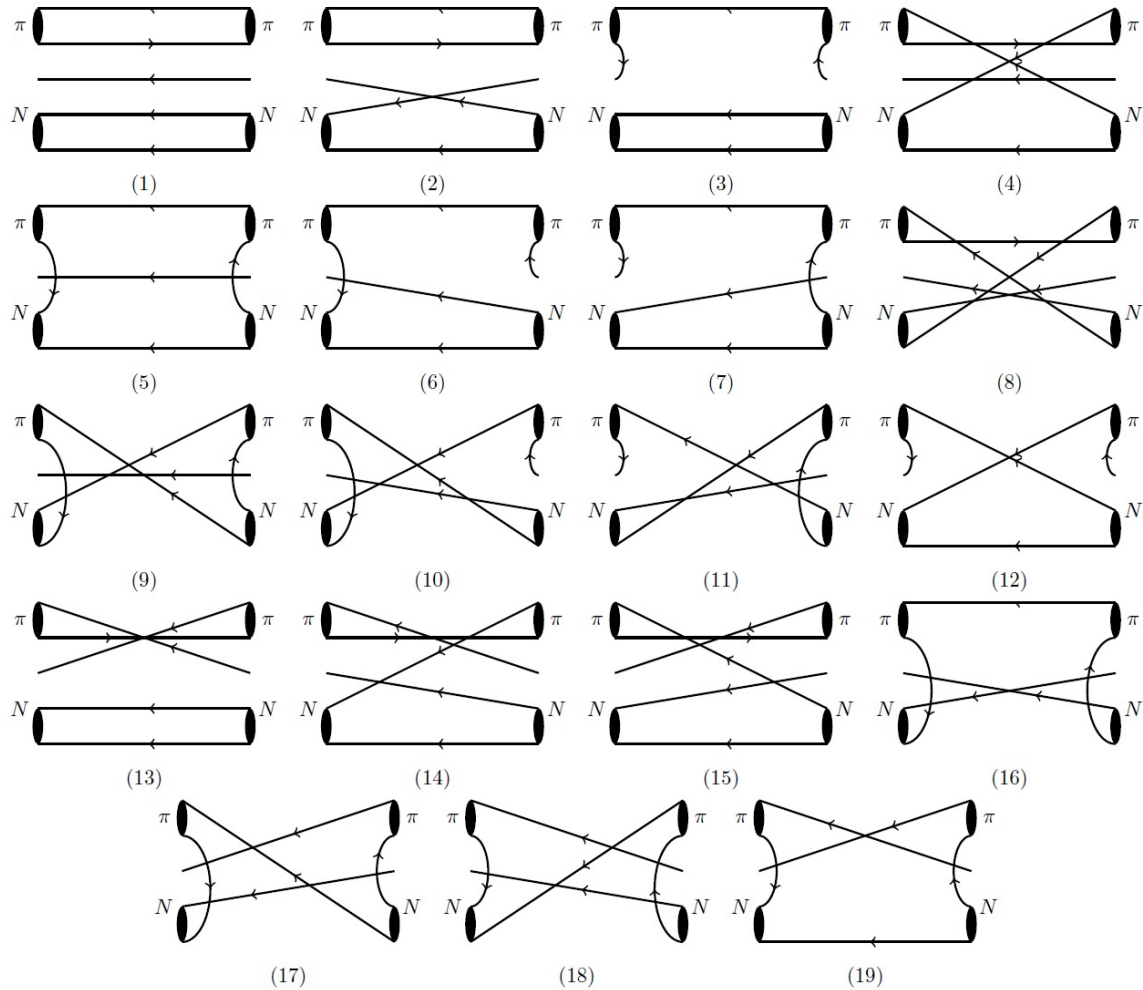
# Wick contraction of $N\pi$ rescattering



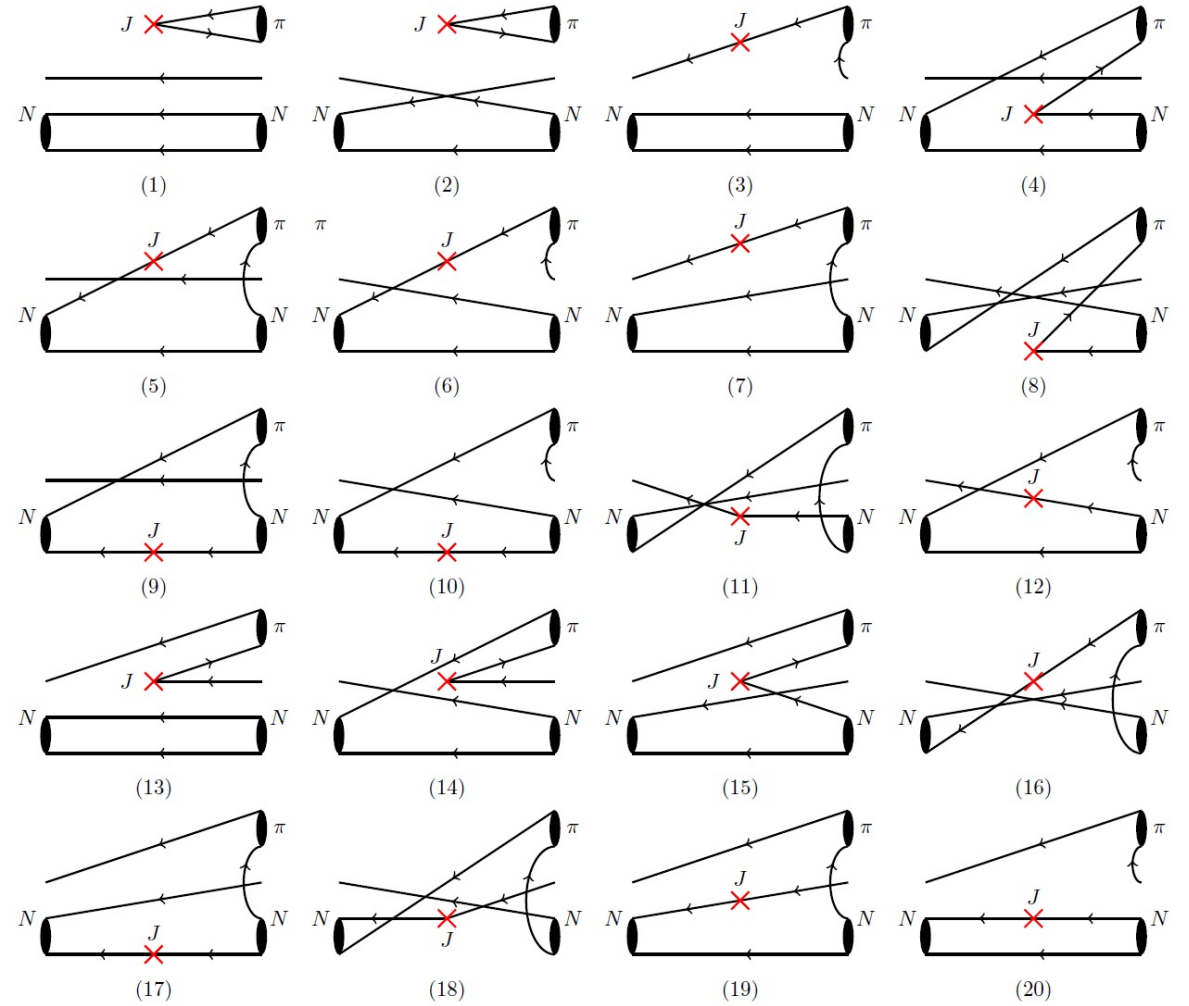
$$\begin{aligned}
 I = 1/2: & \quad O_{N\pi}^{I_3=+\frac{1}{2}} = O_p O_{\pi^0} - \sqrt{2} O_n O_{\pi^+}, \quad O_{N\pi}^{I_3=-\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{2} O_n O_{\pi^0} - O_p O_{\pi^-} \\
 I = 3/2: & \quad O_{N\pi}^{I_3=+\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{2} O_p O_{\pi^0} + O_n O_{\pi^+}, \quad O_{N\pi}^{I_3=-\frac{1}{2}} = O_n O_{\pi^0} + \sqrt{2} O_p O_{\pi^-}
 \end{aligned}
 \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} I = 1/2: \\ I = 3/2: \end{aligned}} \right\} \text{Operators}$$

# Wick contraction of $N\pi$ Rescattering

➤ 19 diagrams for  $N\pi$  rescattering



➤ 20 diagrams for  $N + \gamma \rightarrow N\pi$





# Matrix elements of $N\gamma \rightarrow N\pi$

- Normalization for  ${}_I\langle N\pi | J_i^{I'} | N \rangle$

$$R = \frac{C_{NJN\pi}(t_1, t_2)}{C_{N\pi}(t_1 + t_2)} \times \sqrt{\frac{C_N(t_1)C_{N\pi}(t_2)C_{N\pi}(t_1 + t_2)}{C_{N\pi}(t_1)C_N(t_2)C_N(t_1 + t_2)}}$$

- Summed insertion

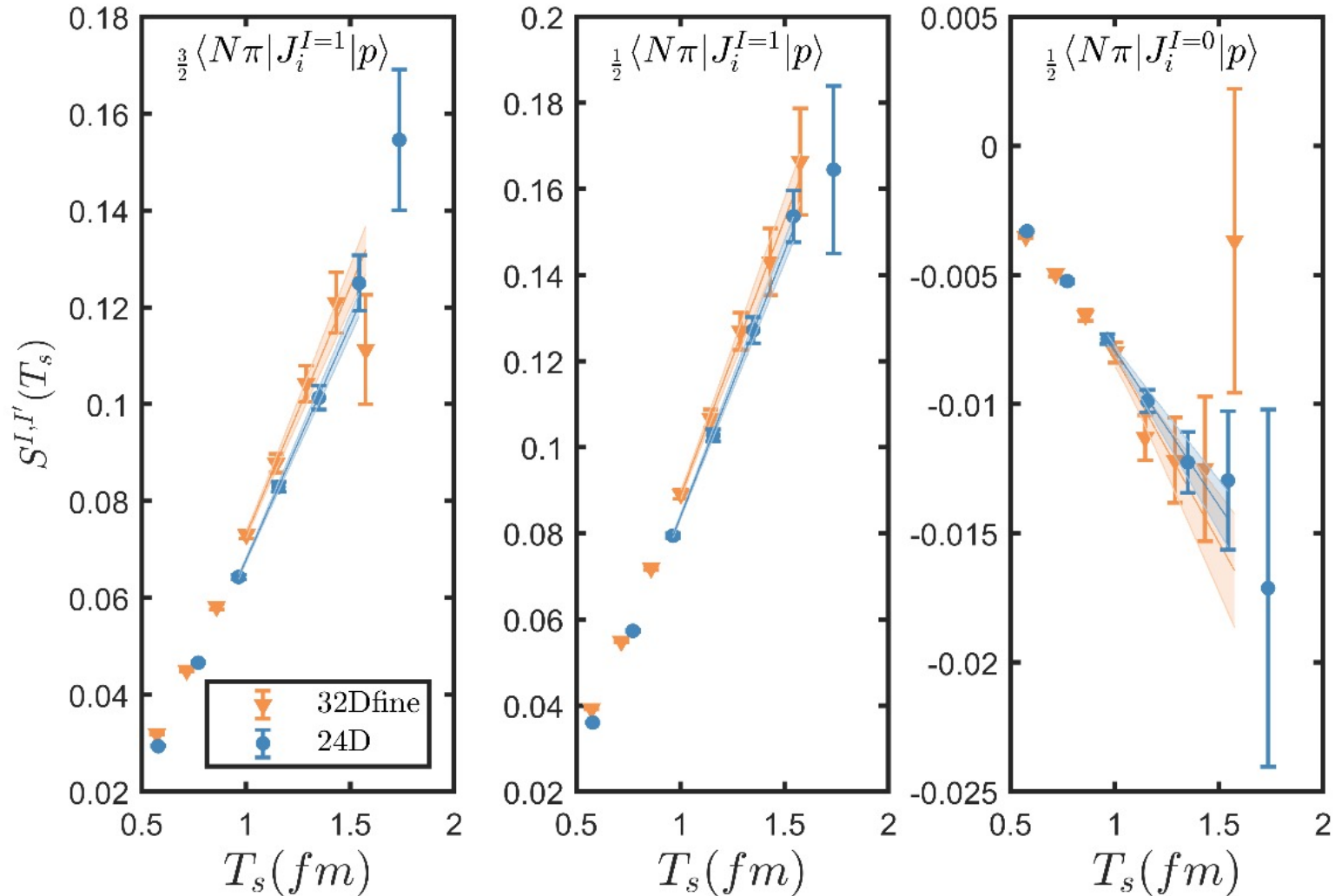
Maiani L. NPB, 293, 420(1987)

$$S(T_s) = \sum_{t_1+t_2=T_s} R(t_1, t_2)$$

$$\xrightarrow{T_s \rightarrow \infty} c_0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2M}} {}_I\langle N\pi | J_i^{I'} | N \rangle \cdot T_s$$

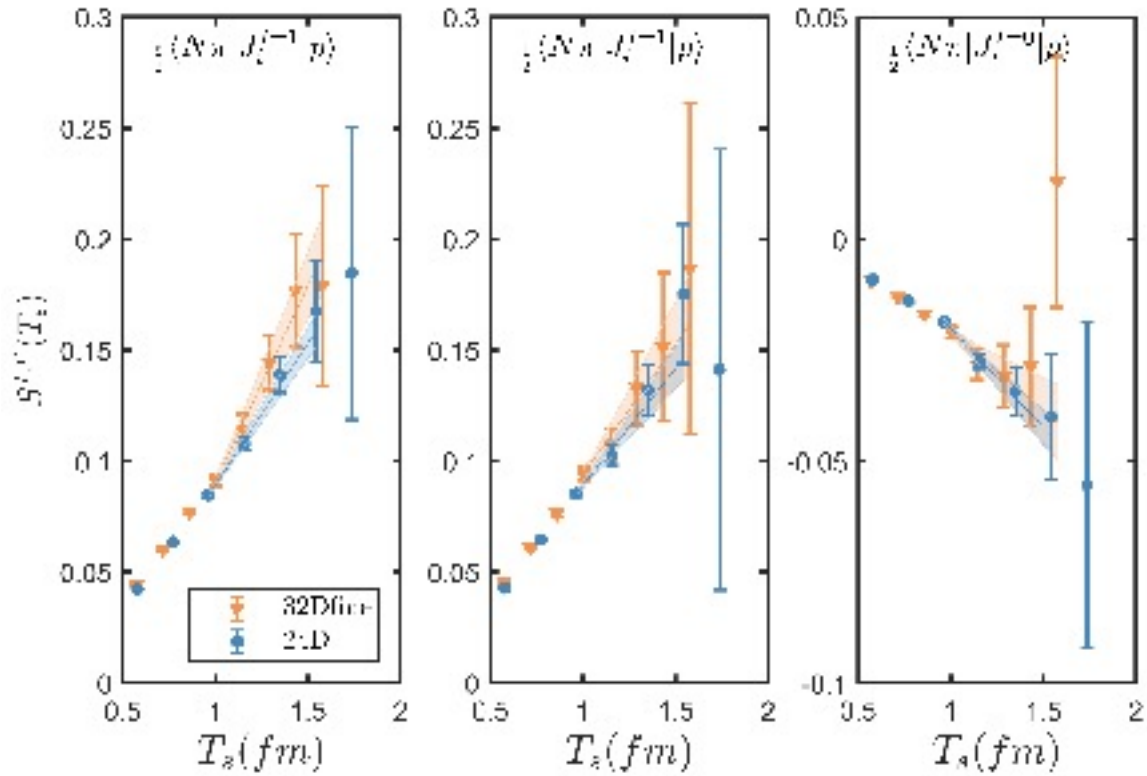
- Linear fit  $S(T_s)$  with  $T_s$  to extract

$N\pi$  at the threshold

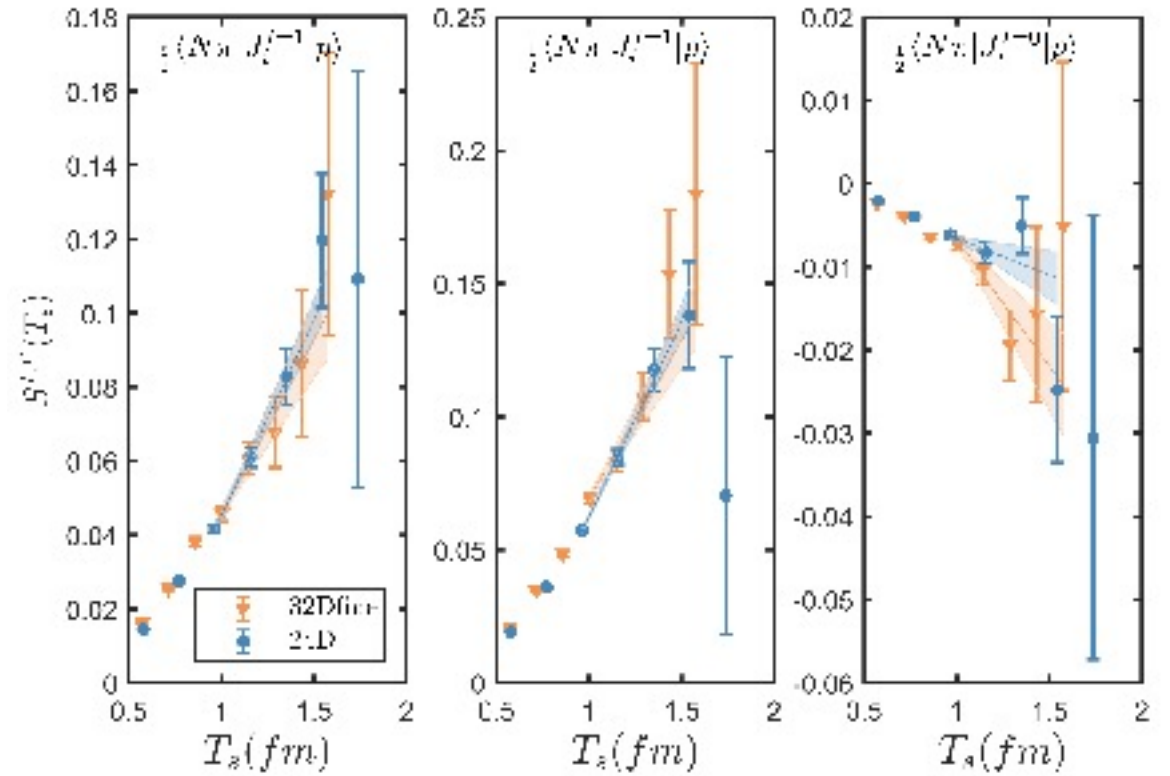


# Matrix elements of $N\gamma\rightarrow N\pi$

$N\pi$  in the center of mass frame with mom. mode (100)



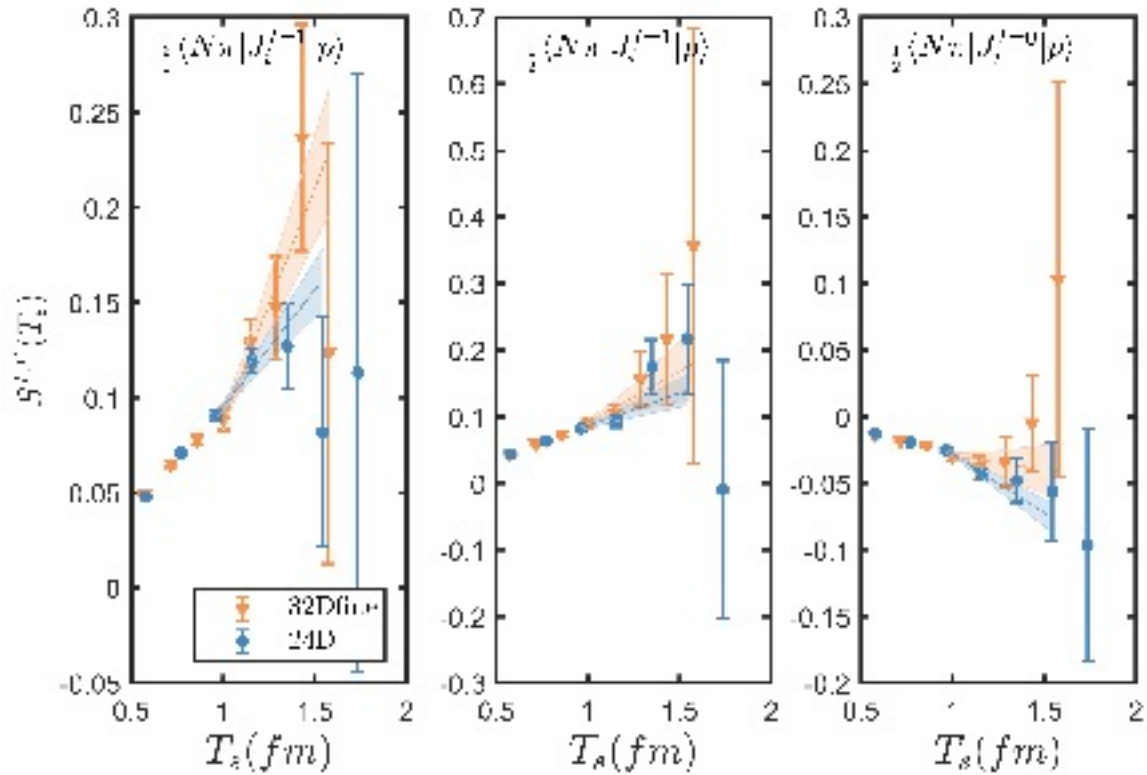
$G_1^-$  representation



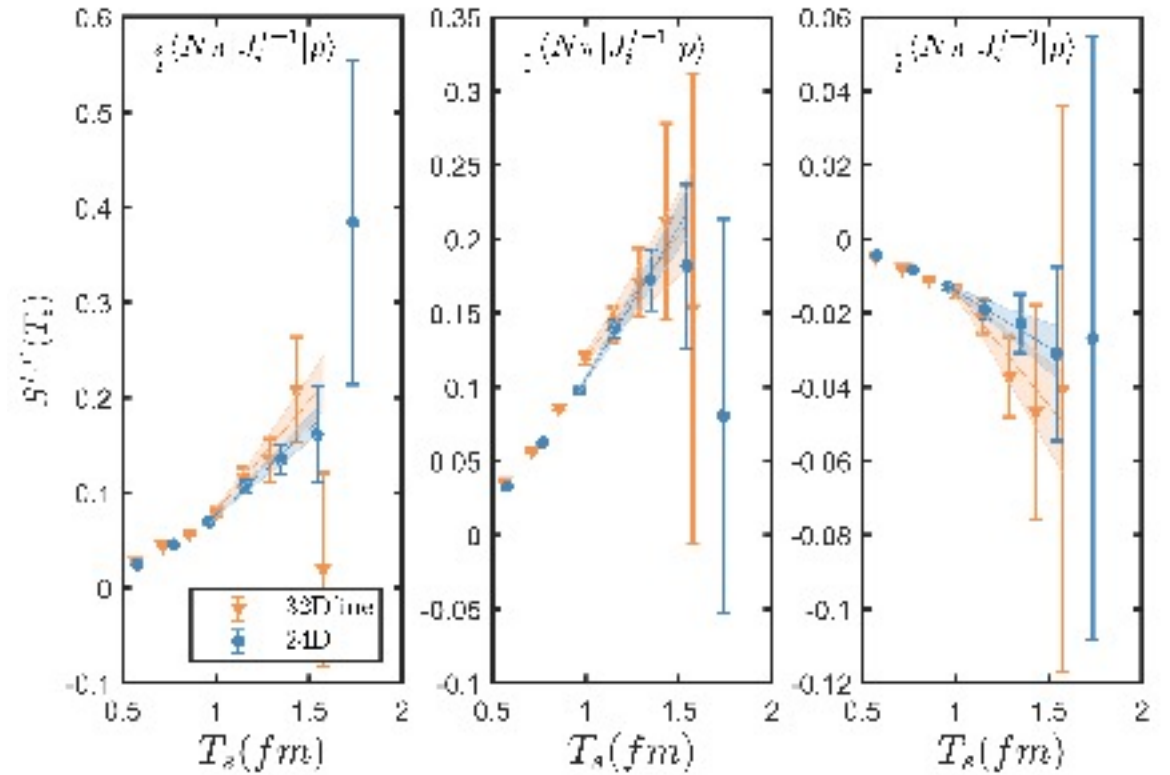
$H^-$  representation

# Matrix elements of $N\gamma \rightarrow N\pi$

$N\pi$  in the center of mass frame with mom. mode (110)



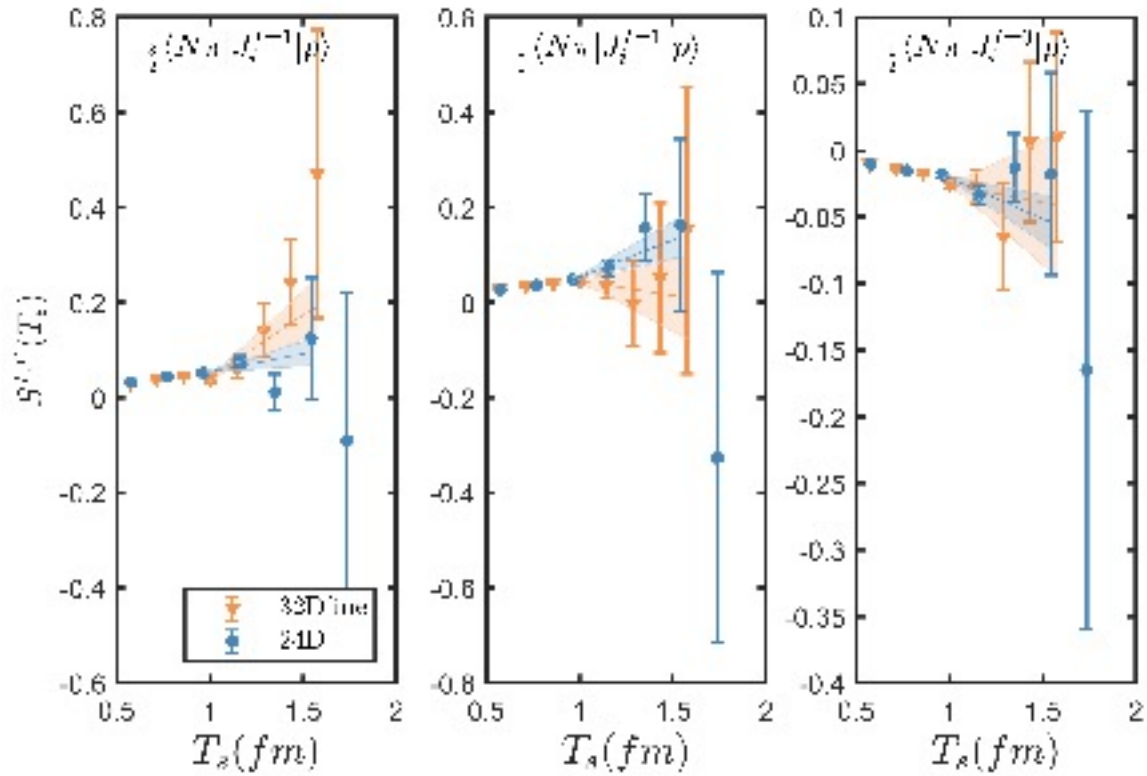
$G_1^-$  representation



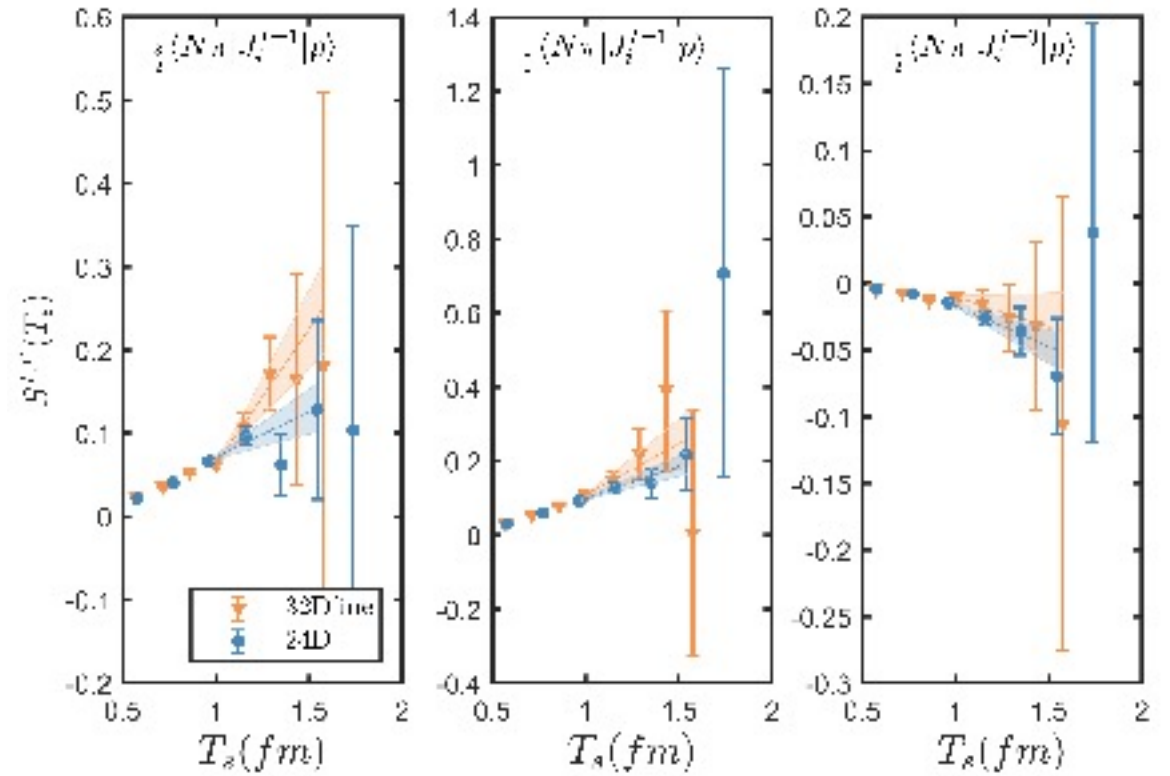
$H^-$  representation

# Matrix elements of $N\gamma \rightarrow N\pi$

$N\pi$  in the center of mass frame with mom. mode (111)



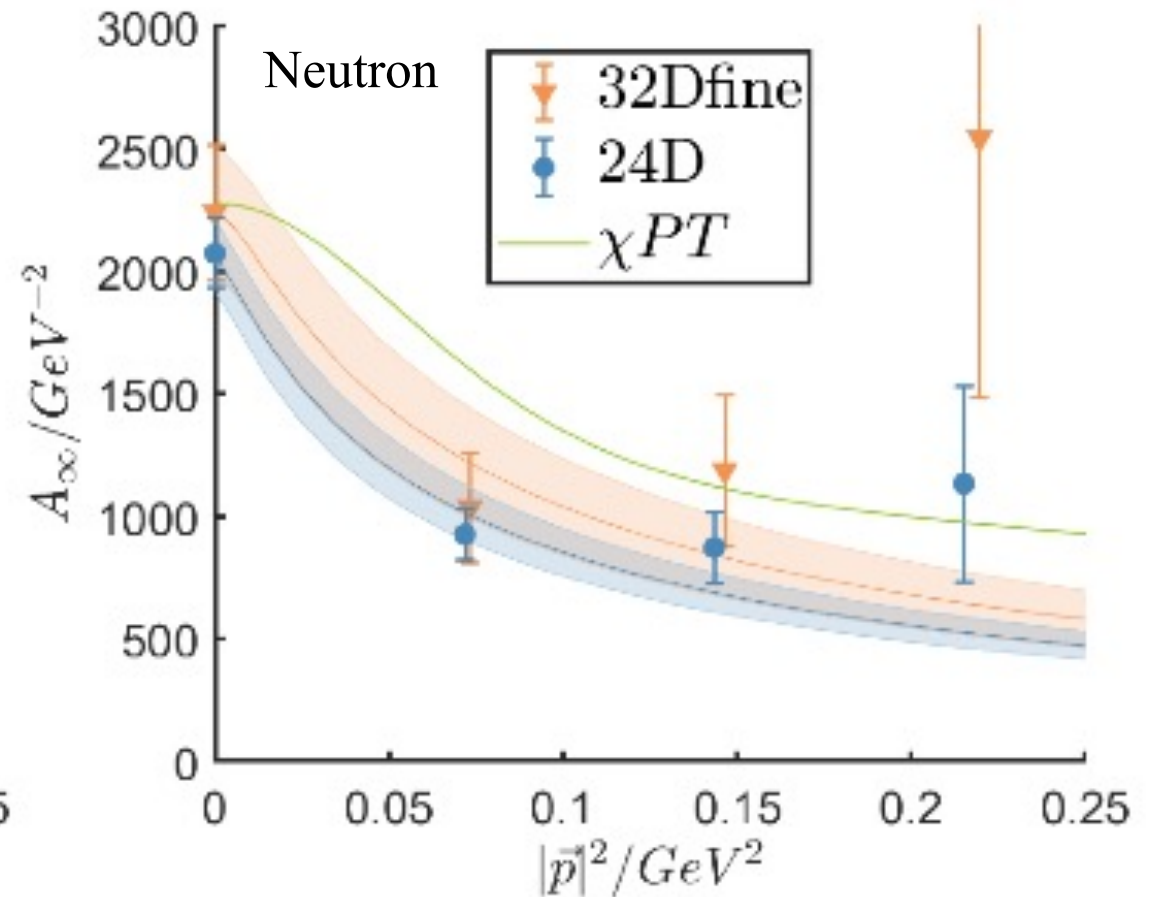
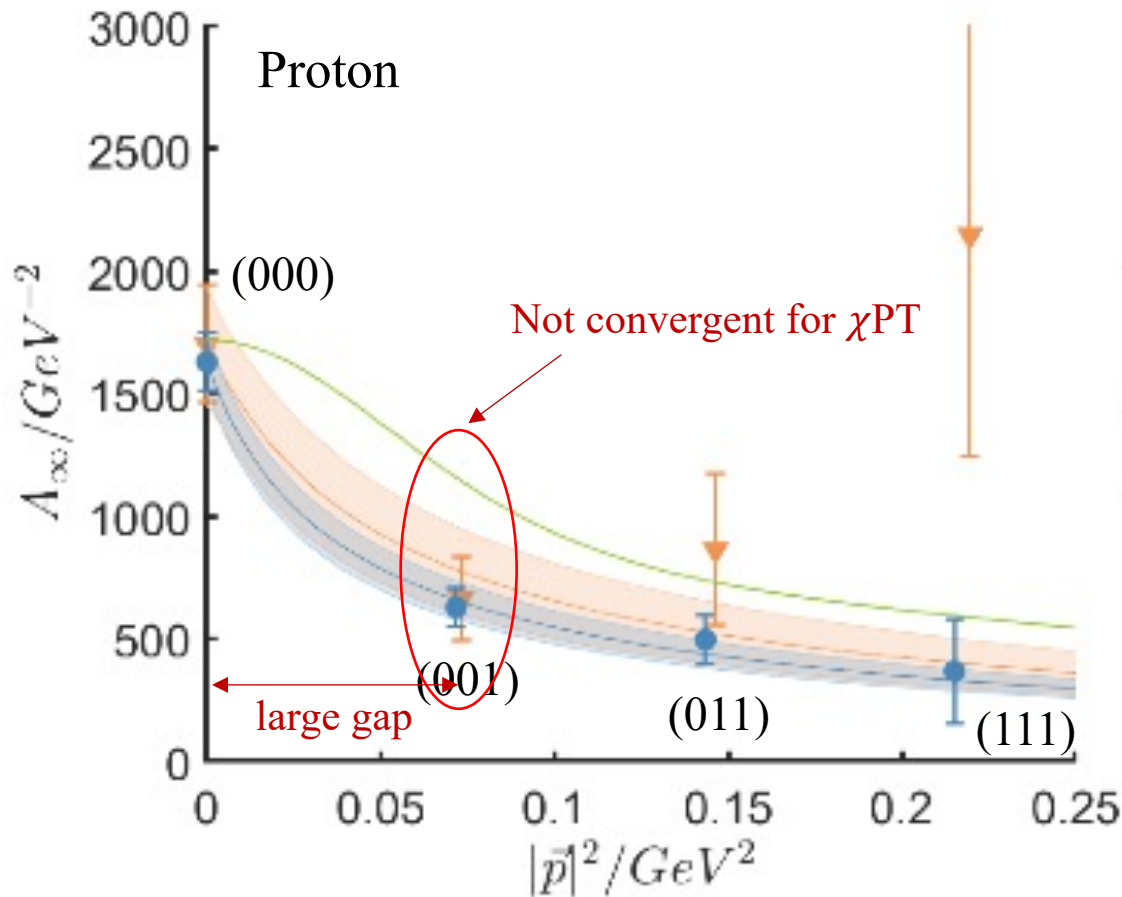
$G_1^-$  representation



$H^-$  representation

# Matrix elements of $N\gamma\rightarrow N(\mathbf{p})\pi(-\mathbf{p})$ with 4 lowest mom modes

$$A_\infty = \sum_{I=\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}} \sum_{\Gamma=G_1^-, H^-} \sum_{r=1}^{\dim(\Gamma)} \sum_{i=1,2,3} |\infty\langle N\pi, I, \Gamma, r, n | J^i | N \rangle|^2$$



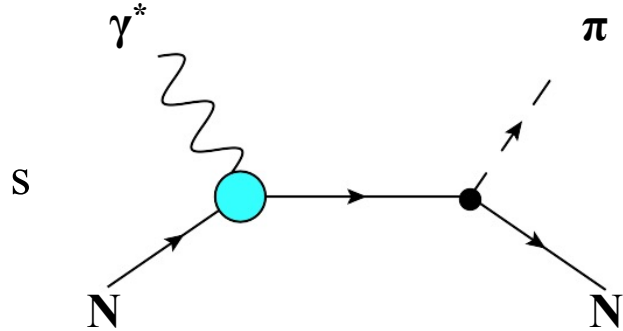
Limitations in the comparison between lattice QCD and  $\chi PT$ :

For lattice, momentum modes are limited

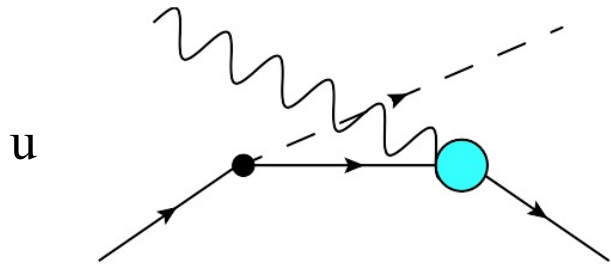
For  $\chi PT$ , photon is very timelike &  $\chi PT$  does not work well 27

# Momentum dependence of $A_\infty$

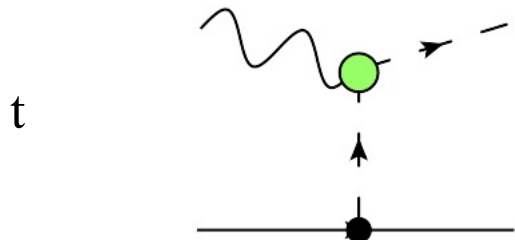
$$N(p_1) + \gamma^*(k) \rightarrow \pi(q) + N(p_2)$$



$$\frac{1}{s - M_N^2} = \frac{1}{E_\pi + E_N + M_N} \frac{1}{E_\pi + E_N - M_N}$$



$$\frac{1}{u - M_N^2} = -\frac{1}{M_N - E_\pi + E_N} \frac{1}{-M_N + E_\pi + E_N}$$



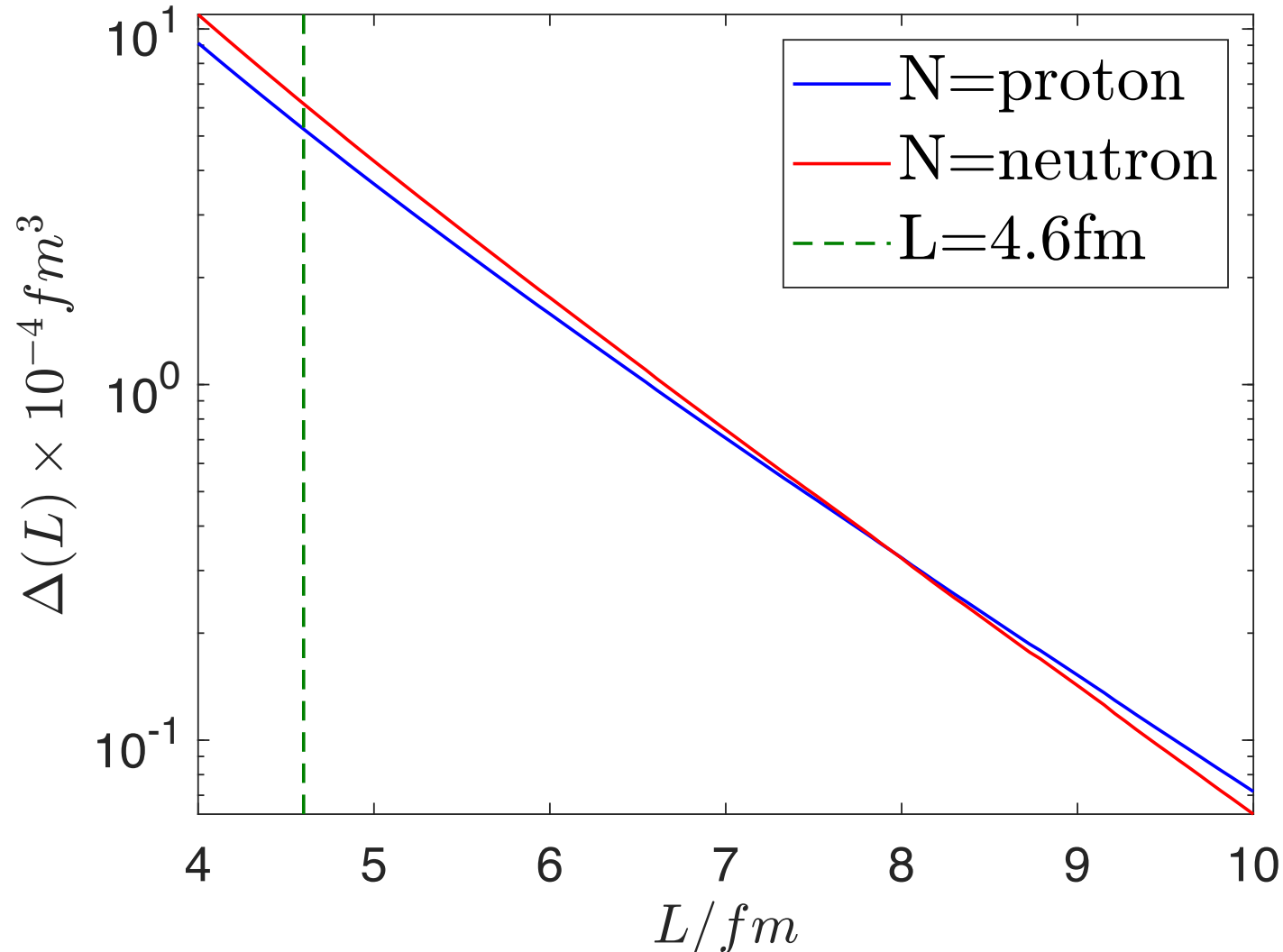
$$\frac{(q + p_1 - p_2)_\mu}{t - M_\pi^2} = -\frac{\delta_{\mu 0}}{-M_N + E_N + E_\pi}$$

$$A_\infty = \frac{\sum_s a_s (\vec{p}^2)^s}{(2E)(2E_\pi)(E_N + E_\pi - M_N)^2}$$

- Keep quasi-singular in denominator
- Taylor expansion in numerator

# Finite-volume effects

$$\Delta(L) = \alpha_E^{ii, N\pi}(L) - \alpha_E^{ii, N\pi} = \frac{1}{3} \frac{\alpha_{em}}{M_N} \left( \frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\vec{p}=\frac{2\pi}{L}\vec{m}} - \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \right) \frac{A_\infty}{(E_N + E_\pi - M_N)^3}$$



- Always positive and thus only exponentially suppressed FV effects
- It is crucial to replace mom. summation by mom. integral

$$\alpha_E^{ii, N\pi} = \frac{1}{3} \frac{\alpha_{em}}{M} \int_{|\vec{p}|<\Lambda} \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{A_\infty}{(E + E_\pi - M)^3}$$

After replacement, residual FV effects are estimated to be  $< 10^{-5} \text{ fm}^3$



# Numerical results

➤ Our results of  $\alpha_E$ , in units of  $10^{-4} fm^3$

X. Wang, Z. Zhang, et. al., arXiv:2310.01168

		24D	32Dfine	PDG
Proton	$\alpha_E^{N\pi}$	5.65(53)	6.5(1.2)	
	$\alpha_E$	10.0(1.3)	9.3(2.2)	11.2(4)
Neutron	$\alpha_E^{N\pi}$	8.33(75)	9.8(1.5)	
	$\alpha_E$	9.7(1.4)	10.1(2.4)	11.8(1.1)

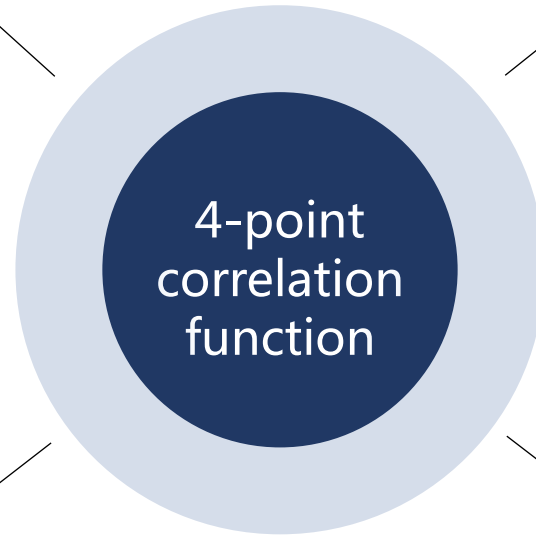
- Confirm large contributions of  $N\pi$  states → pion cloud picture
- Develop the methodology for lattice QCD computation of polarizabilities
- More sophisticated study to control systematic effects

➔ {  
Larger volume to have more momentum modes  
Excited-state contamination from initial and final states  
Finer lattice spacing for continuum extrapolations

# Conclusion and outlook

➤ E&M corrections including IB effects

➤ Higher-order EW interactions



➤ Hadronic tensor using optical theorem

➤ HLbL contributions in muon  $g-2$



New frontiers, new methodology and new findings!