

9th Plenary Workshop of the g-2 Theory Initiative
August 4 2026

Matching short- and long-distance corrections to $\tau \rightarrow \pi\pi\nu_\tau$ to NLL accuracy

Vincenzo Cirigliano



Motivation: rad. corr. to $\tau \rightarrow \pi\pi\nu_\tau$ and HVP

$$\frac{d\Gamma_{\pi\pi[\gamma]}}{ds} = S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi} K_\Gamma(s) \beta_{\pi^\pm\pi^0}^3(s) |f_+(s)|^2 G_{\text{EM}}(s)$$

See Martin
Hoferichter's talk

$\Delta a_\mu^{\text{HVP, LO}}[\pi\pi, \tau]$ (in units of 10^{-10})				
	DMZ	LMR	WP-2025	DISP
Phase space	-7.88	-7.52	$-7.7(2)$	$-7.74(5)$
$S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi}$	$-12.21(15)$	$-12.16(15)$	$-12.2(1.3)$	$-12.2(1.3)$
$G_{\text{EM}}^{\text{full}}$	$-1.92(90)$	$(-1.67)^{+0.60}_{-1.39}$	$-2.0(1.4)$	$-5.4(5)$
Sum	$-22.01(91)$	$(-21.35)^{+0.62}_{-1.40}$	$-21.9(1.9)$	$-25.3(1.4)$

- WP-2025 assigned $\pm\alpha/\pi$ uncertainty to $S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi}$ due to uncontrolled scheme dependence [induced by γ_5 and evanescent operators] that should be canceled by corrections to the long-distance matrix element (G_{EM})
- After the dispersive improvement of G_{EM} , this is the largest uncertainty in radiative corrections

Outline

- Semileptonic charged-current processes beyond leading logarithms
 - Generalities
 - Match 'LEFT' (= V-A Theory + QED + QCD) to χ PT for pion processes
- Applications
 - Pion beta decay ($\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$)
 - $\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$ and implications for tau-based HVP

Based on VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori, Phys. Rev. Lett. 137 (2026) 5, 051902 [e-Print:2602.11253]

Semileptonic charged-current processes beyond leading logarithms

Semileptonic CC processes beyond leading logs

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Fermi}} = -2 \sqrt{2} G_F V_{ud} C_{\beta}^{(f)}(\mu, a) \bar{\ell}_L \gamma_{\rho} \nu_{\ell L} \bar{u}_L \gamma^{\rho} d_L + \text{h.c.}$$

$$\equiv O_{\beta}$$

- **Universal Wilson coefficient $C_{\beta}(\mu)$**
 - Same for all quark and *lepton* flavors
 - Known to NLL in a class of perturbative schemes (MS-bar + NDA (γ_5) + evanescent op. choice) & RI-MOM
- **Process-dependent matrix elements of O_{β}**
 - $\tau \rightarrow \pi \pi \nu_{\tau}$, $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$, n & nuclear β decays
 - Needed to NLL accuracy [$O(\alpha\alpha_s)$], **in the same scheme as Wilson Coefficient**

Only the product $C_{\beta}(\mu, a) \times \langle f | O_{\beta} | i \rangle(\mu, a)$ is physical (scale- and scheme-independent)

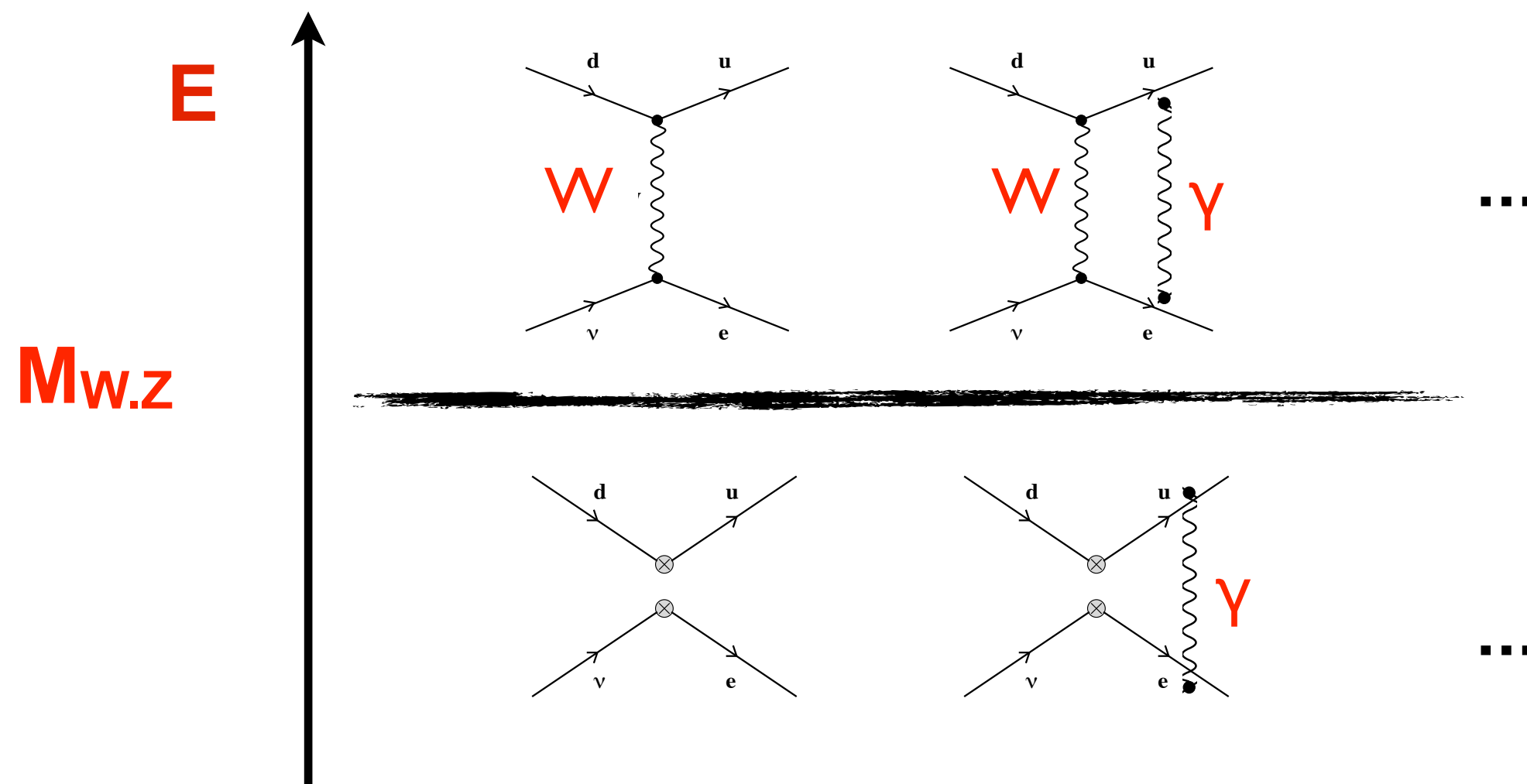
Wilson coefficient to NLL

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$\mu \sim M_W$

$$C_{\beta}^{(5)}(\mu, a) = 1 + \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \log \frac{M_Z}{\mu} + \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} B(a) - \frac{\alpha \alpha_s}{4\pi^2} \log \frac{M_Z}{\mu} + \frac{\alpha \alpha_s}{(4\pi)^2} B_s(a) - \frac{\alpha \alpha_s}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{s_W^2} \left(\frac{c_W^2}{s_W^2} \log \frac{M_W}{M_Z} + 1 \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2, \alpha \alpha_s^2)$$

Evanescent scheme affects finite (non-log) terms and running



$$B(a) = \frac{a}{3} - 4$$

$$B_s(a) = \frac{41}{6} - \frac{14}{9}a$$

$$\gamma^{\alpha} \gamma^{\rho} \gamma^{\beta} P_L \otimes \gamma_{\alpha} \gamma_{\rho} \gamma_{\beta} P_L = 4(4 - a\epsilon) \gamma^{\rho} P_L \otimes \gamma_{\rho} P_L + E(a)$$

$$d = 4 - 2\epsilon$$

Wilson coefficient to NLL

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Running: resummation of large logarithms

$$\text{LL} \sim (\alpha \ln(M_Z/\mu))^n \quad \& \quad \alpha (\alpha_s \ln(M_Z/\mu))^n \quad \leftarrow \text{Sirlin 1982}$$

$$\text{NLL} \sim \alpha (\alpha \ln(M_Z/\mu))^n \quad \& \quad \alpha \alpha_s (\alpha_s \ln(M_Z/\mu))^n$$

NLL: 2-loop anomalous dim. (α^2)

VC, W. Dekens, E. Mereghetti,
O. Tomalak, 2306.03138

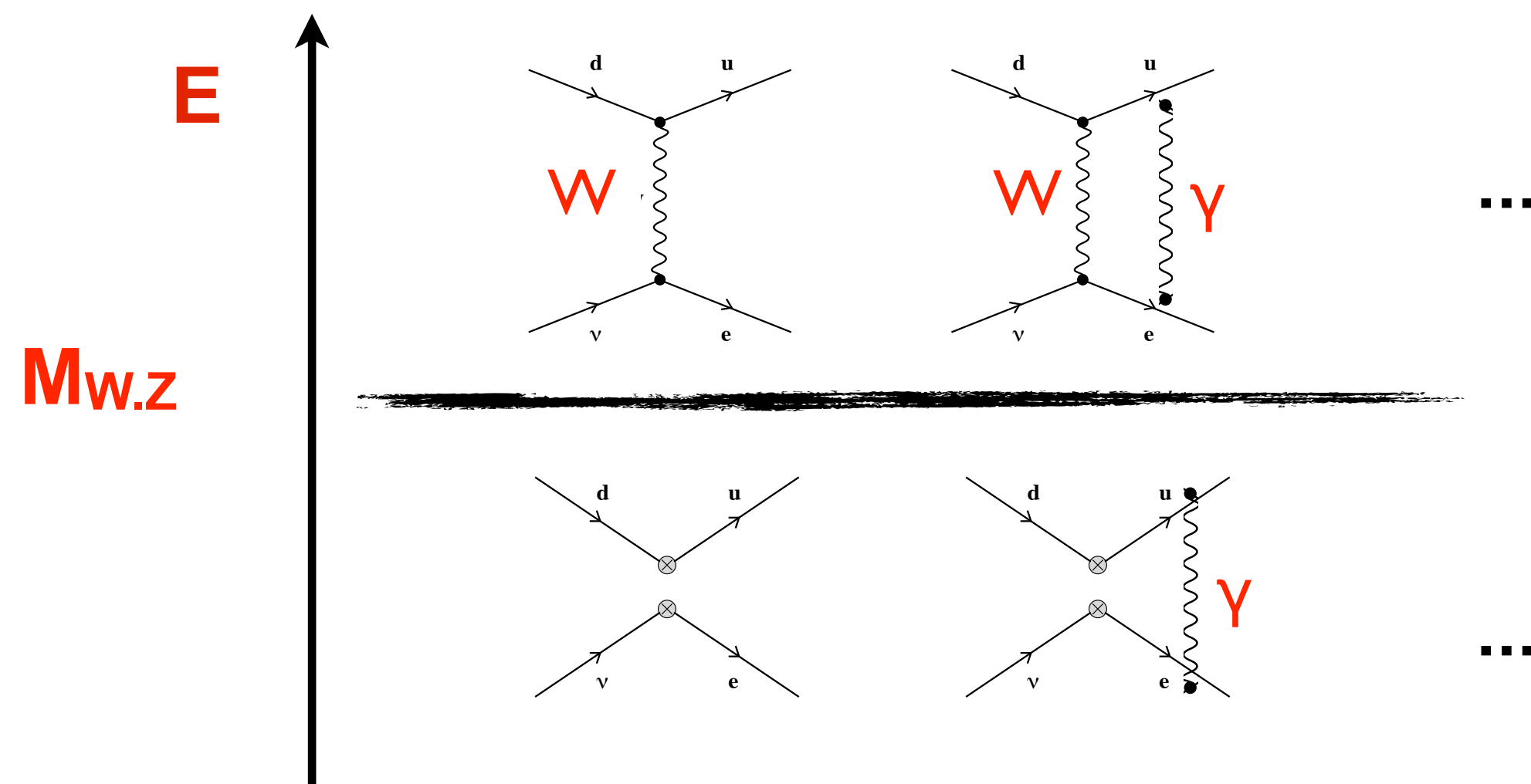
NLLs: 3-loop anomalous dim. ($\alpha \alpha_s^2$)

M. Gorbahn, F. Moretti, S. Jaeger
2510.27648

Conversion to RI-(S)MOM schemes

Gorbhan et al, 2209.05289

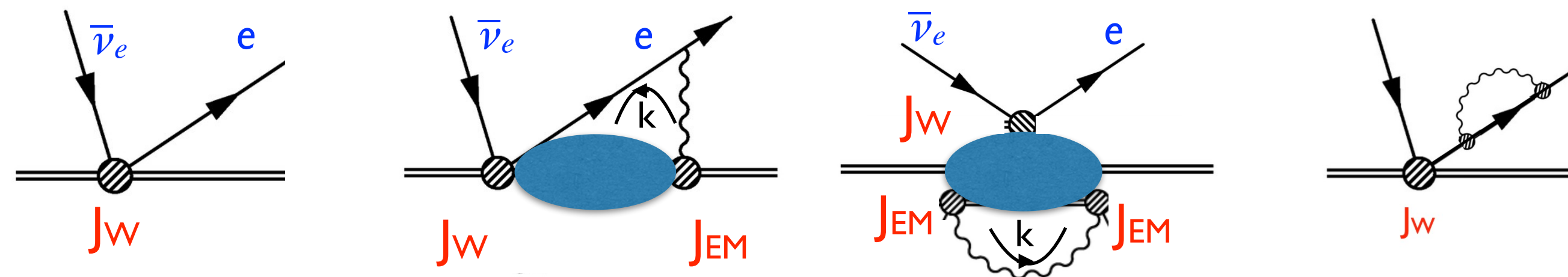
Boyle et al, 2606.04729



Process-dependent matrix element

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Fermi}} = -2 \sqrt{2} G_F V_{ud} C_{\beta}^{(f)}(\mu, a) \bar{\ell}_L \gamma_{\rho} \nu_{\ell L} \bar{u}_L \gamma^{\rho} d_L + \text{h.c.}$$

$\langle f |$ $| i \rangle$ Matrix elements to $O(\alpha)$



hadron state
(For example, π^+ , π^0)

- M.E. depends on hadronic structure & needs to reabsorb the scheme dependence of W.C. — a constant
- For $\tau \rightarrow \pi\pi\nu_{\tau}$, this can be achieved in the region of $\sqrt{s_{\pi\pi}} \ll \text{GeV}$, where χPT applies

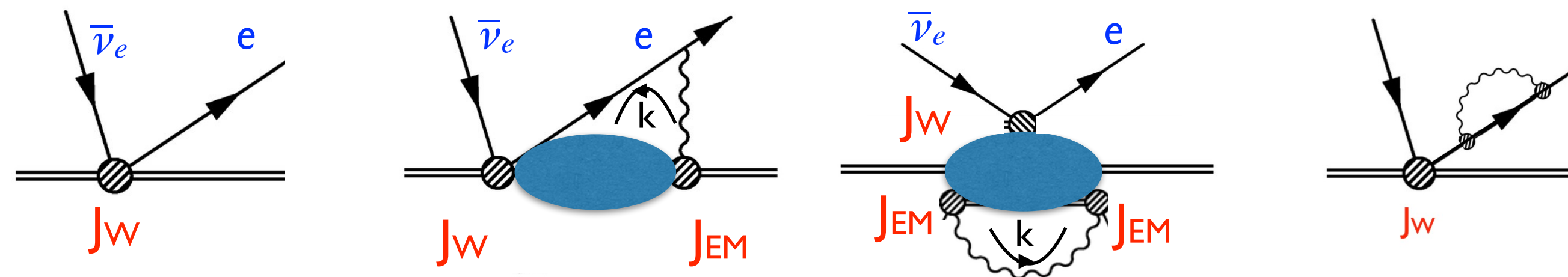
See talk by M. Hoferichter

$$f_{\text{loop}}^{\text{full}}(s, t) = f_{\text{loop}}^{\text{disp}}(s, t) - f_{\text{loop}}^{\text{disp}}(0, 0) + f_{\text{loop}}^{\text{ChPT}}(0)$$

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In this framework, structure-dependence and scheme-dependence are both captured by chiral LECs

χ PT for semi-leptonic processes involving π 's

$$\mathcal{L}_{\chi PT} = i \sqrt{2} G_F V_{ud} g_V^\pi(\mu_\chi) \bar{\nu}_{\ell L} \gamma_\rho \ell_L \left(\pi^0 \partial^\rho \pi^+ - \pi^+ \partial^\rho \pi^0 \right) + \dots$$

- g_V at $\mu_\chi \sim \Lambda_\chi$ encodes the effect of hard photons:

$$g_V^\pi(\mu_\chi) \equiv C_\beta^{(3)}(\mu, a) \left(1 - 2\pi\alpha_\chi(\mu_\chi) X_\ell(\mu_\chi, \mu, a) \right)$$

$$X_\ell(\mu_\chi, \mu, a) \equiv \left(X_6^r - 4K_{12}^r + \frac{4}{3}X_1^r \right)(\mu_\chi, \mu, a). \quad \leftarrow \text{Combination of chiral LECs of } \mathcal{O}(e^2 p^2)$$

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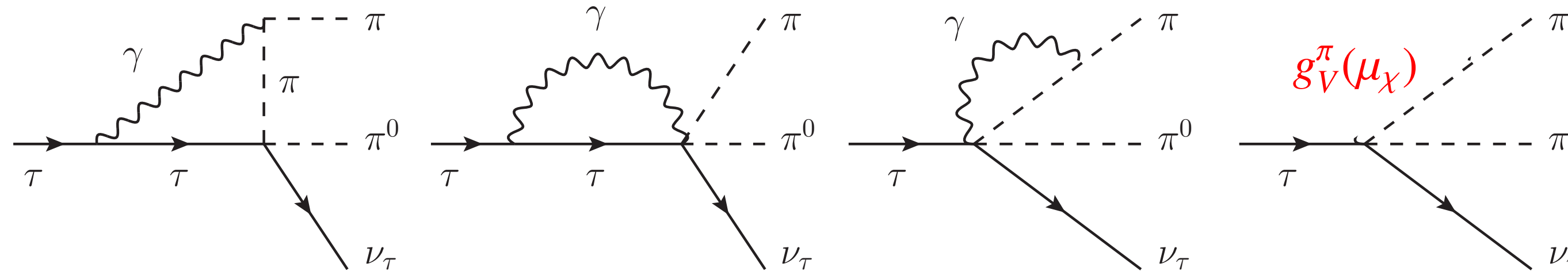
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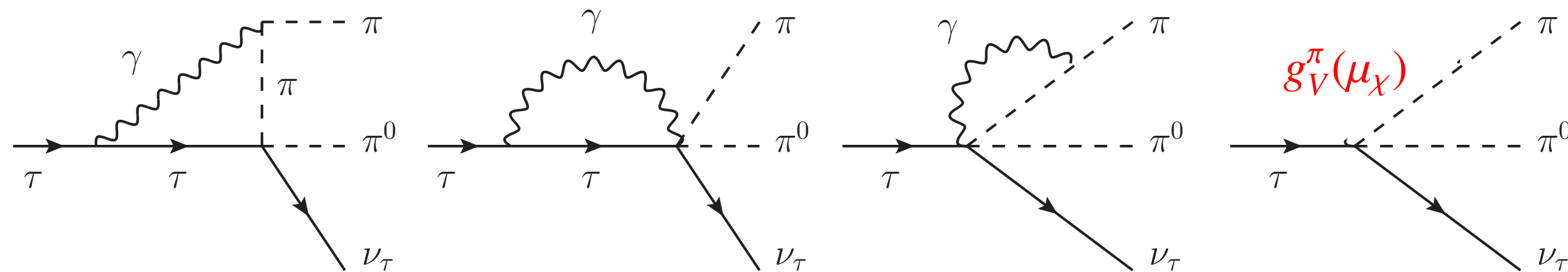
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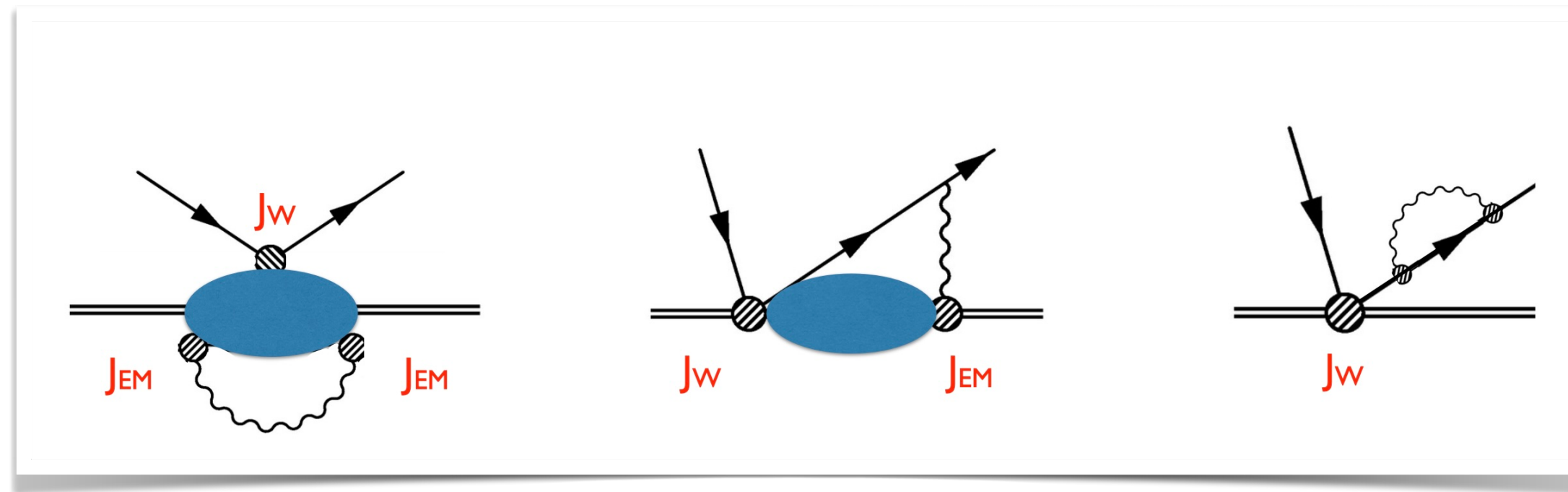


- Get g_V by matching Fermi theory to χ PT, using lattice QCD input — simpler for $\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$

Match 'LEFT' to ChPT

VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.11253

- Compute amplitude $A(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e) \sim C_\beta(\mu, a) \times \langle f | O_\beta | i \rangle(\mu, a)$ in 'LEFT' (= Fermi theory + QED + QCD) and ChPT



- Use dim-reg + MS-bar throughout
- Ward Identities $\rightarrow$ up to $O(q_{\text{ext}}/m_\pi)$ the only non-perturbative input comes from '2pt functions'

Abers, Dicus, Norton, Quinn,
Phys. Rev. D17, 1462 (1968)
 $\rightarrow$ Sirlin 1978 RMP

$$W^{\mu\nu}(k) = i \int d^d x e^{-ik \cdot x} \langle h_f(p_f) | T \{ W^\mu(0) J_{\text{em}}^\nu(x) \} | h_i(p_i) \rangle$$

$W = V, A$

Match 'LEFT' to ChPT

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$$A_0 = -\sqrt{2}G_F V_{ud} C_\beta^{(3)} J_{\text{lept}}^\mu \langle h_f(p_f) | V_\mu(0) | h_i(p_i) \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} A = A_0 & \left[\sqrt{Z_e} - 2e^2 i \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{1}{(k^2 + i\epsilon)(\tilde{k}^2 - m_e^2 + i\epsilon)} \right] \\ & + 2i \sqrt{2}G_F V_{ud} C_\beta^{(3)} J_{\text{lept}}^\mu p_e^\nu e^2 \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{V_{\mu\nu}(k) + V_\alpha^\alpha(k) k_\mu k_\nu / k^2}{(k^2 + i\epsilon)(\tilde{k}^2 - m_e^2 + i\epsilon)} \\ & + \sqrt{2}G_F V_{ud} C_\beta^{(3)} \bar{u}(p_e) \frac{\gamma^\nu \gamma^\alpha \gamma^\mu - \gamma^\mu \gamma^\alpha \gamma^\nu}{2} P_L v(p_\nu) \times e^2 \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{k_\alpha A_{\mu\nu}(k)}{(k^2 + i\epsilon)^2 (\tilde{k}^2 - m_e^2 + i\epsilon)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\tilde{k} = k + p_e$$

Match 'LEFT' to ChPT

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<VV>
2pt function

$$\tilde{k} = k + p_e$$

Abers, Dicus,
Norton, Quinn, PR
167, 1462 (1968)

- Leading term (unsuppressed by q_{ext}/m_π) given by **IR-singular Born terms** $V_{\mu\nu}^{\text{IR}}(k) = \langle h_f(p_f) | V_\mu(0) | h_i(p_i) \rangle \frac{v_\nu}{v \cdot k} + O(k^0)$
- Same in LEFT and χ PT! Contributes $\sim \# \log(\mu/\mu_\chi)$ to matching

Match 'LEFT' to ChPT

VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.11253

- Compute amplitude $A(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e) \sim C_\beta(\mu, a) \times \langle f | O_\beta | i \rangle(\mu, a)$ in 'LEFT' (= Fermi theory + QED + QCD)

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<AV>
2pt function

$$\tilde{k} = k + p_e$$

- Nonperturbative input not dominated by IR (famous γW box) + dependence on evanescent scheme

Match 'LEFT' to ChPT

VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.11253

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<AV>
2pt function

$$\tilde{k} = k + p_e$$

- Nonperturbative input not dominated by IR (famous γW box) + dependence on evanescent scheme
- **Trick (= new renormalization scheme):** add and subtract UV component of integrand, dictated by $A_{\mu\nu}^{\text{OPE}}$
- Integrate subtracted term in $d=4$ and OPE term in $d \neq 4 \rightarrow$ cancel scheme dependence of Wilson Coefficient

Match 'LEFT' to ChPT

VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.11253

- Compute amplitude $A(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e) \sim C_\beta(\mu, a) \times \langle f | O_\beta | i \rangle(\mu, a)$ in 'LEFT' (= Fermi theory + QED + QCD)

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2pt function

$$\tilde{k} = k + p_e$$

- Nonperturbative input not dominated by IR (famous γW box) + dependence on evanescent scheme

- Trick (= $A_{\mu\nu}$ absent in χ PT loops to $O(e^2 p^2)$: local (LEC) contribution to the matching condition

- Integrat efficient

Result for vector coupling

VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.11253

$$g_V^\pi(\mu_\chi) = \left[1 + \bar{\Box}_\pi^{V(3)}(\mu_0) \right] \times \left[1 + \frac{3\alpha^{(3)}(\mu)}{8\pi} \left(1 - \log \frac{\mu_\chi^2}{\mu^2} \right) \right] \times \left[Z_{O,\dot{O}}^{s.c.}(\mu, \mu_0, a) \right]^{-1} \times C_\beta^{(3)}(\mu, a)$$

<AV> 2pt function (γW box)

<VV> 2pt function

Convert MS-bar to OPE-subtracted scheme

W.C. in MS-bar

M. Gorbahn, F. Moretti, S. Jaeger 2510.27648

VC, W. Dekens, E. Mereghetti, O. Tomalak, 2306.03138

$$\bar{\Box}_\pi^V(\mu_0) = \frac{3\alpha}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{dQ^2}{Q^2} \left[M_\pi(Q^2) - \frac{1}{12} \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + \mu_0^2} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_0)}{\pi} \right) \right]$$

Related to T_3 appearing in
 $A_{\mu\nu}(q) \supset i\epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} q^\alpha p_\pi^\beta T_3(q_0, q^2)$
 & calculated in LQCD

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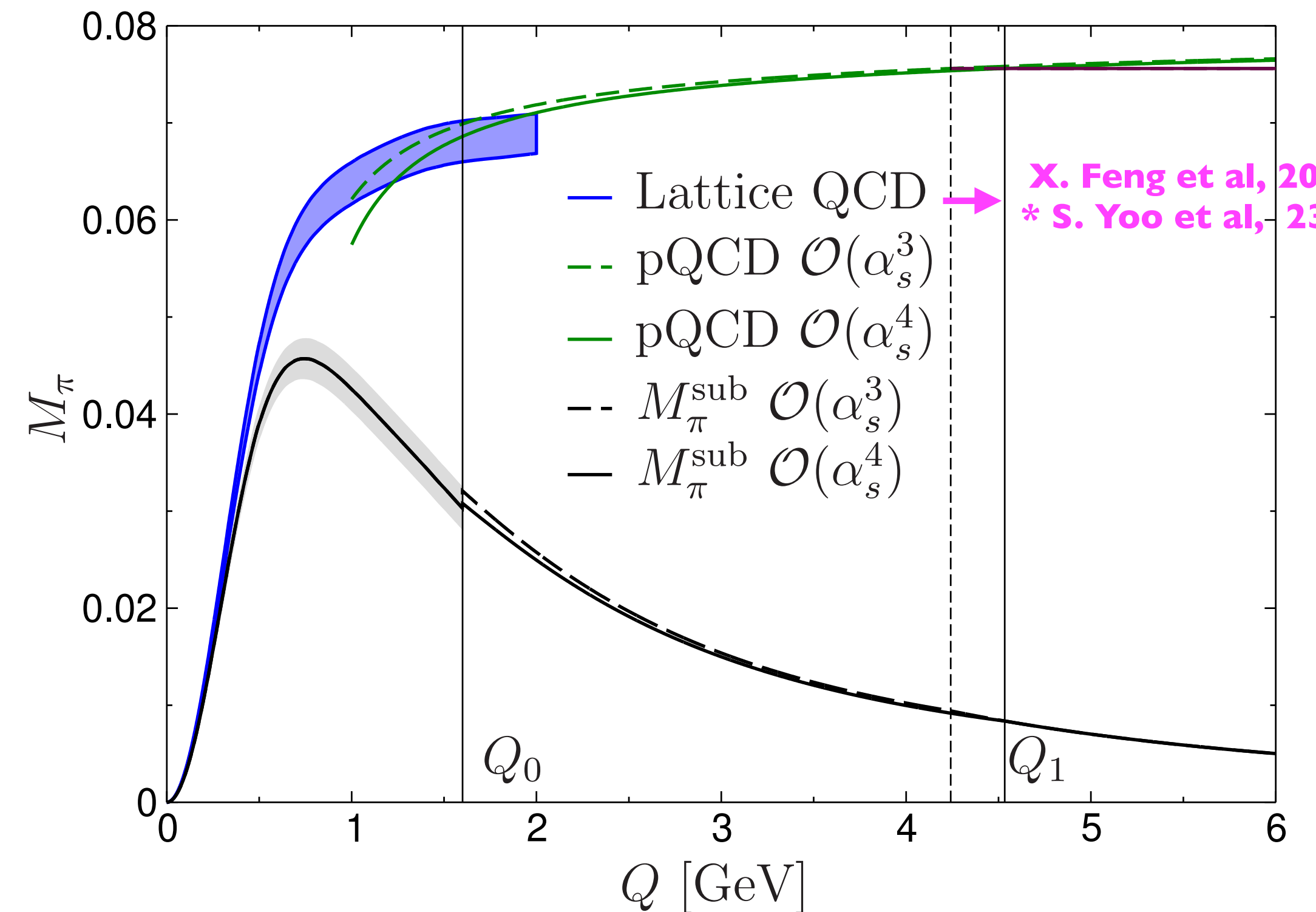
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X. Feng et al, 2003.09798
 * S. Yoo et al, 2305.03198

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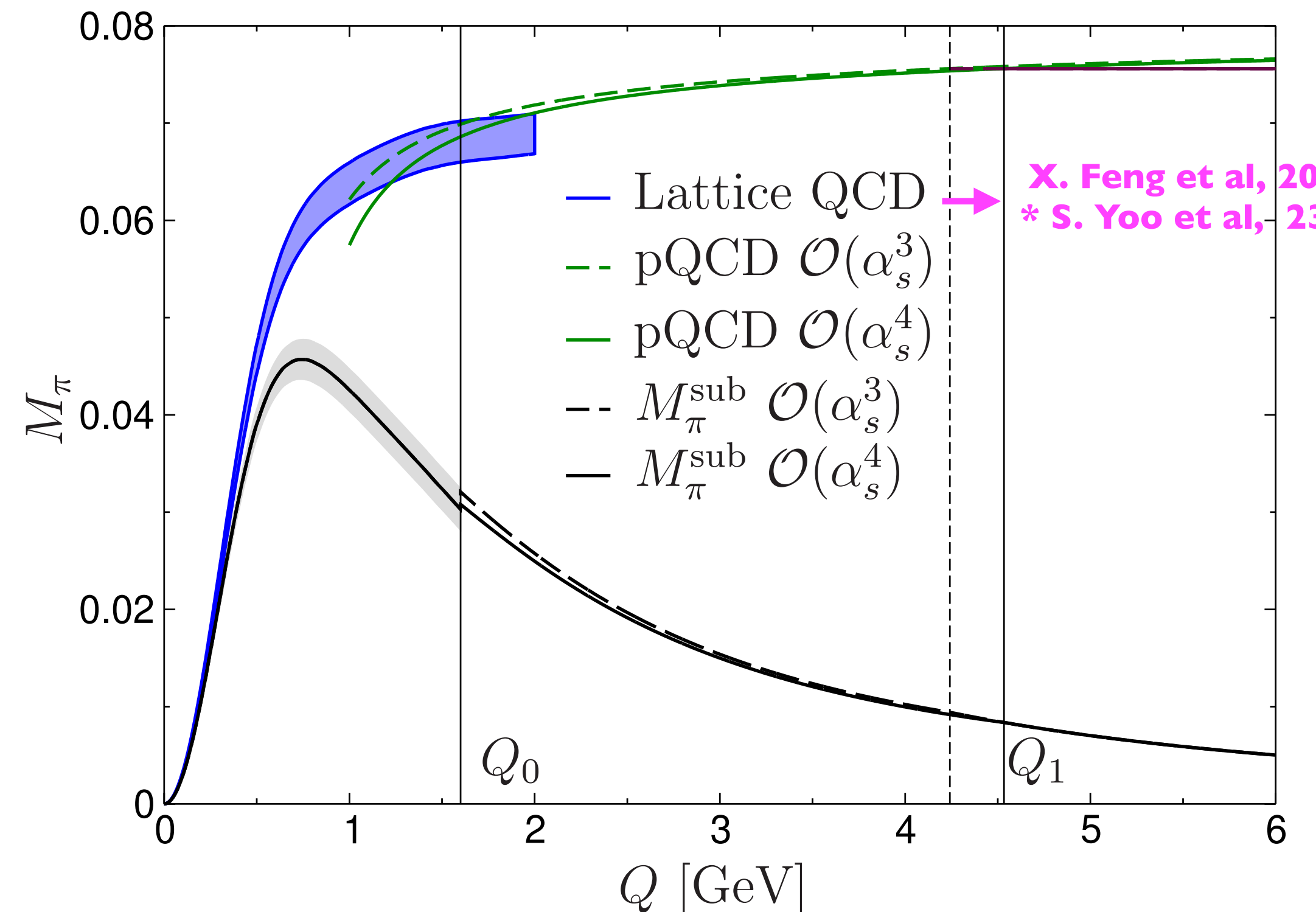
W.C. in MS-bar

$$\bar{\square}_\pi^V(\mu_0) = \frac{3\alpha}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{dQ^2}{Q^2} \left[M_\pi(Q^2) - \frac{1}{12} \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + \mu_0^2} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_0)}{\pi} \right) \right]$$

Related to T_3 appearing in
 $A_{\mu\nu}(q) \supset i\epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} q^\alpha p_\pi^\beta T_3(q_0, q^2)$
 & calculated in LQCD

$$g_V^\pi(M_\rho) = 1.01084(2)_{\bar{\square}_\pi(3)} \mu[4]_{\text{tot}}$$

Average input of both LQCD calculations



X. Feng et al, 2003.09798
 * S. Yoo et al, 2305.03198

Applications:
pion beta decay & $\tau \rightarrow \pi\pi\nu_\tau$

Pion β decay

VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.I 1253

$$\Gamma[\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e(\gamma)] = \frac{G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2 M_\pi^5 |f_+^\pi(0)|^2}{64\pi^3} (1 + \Delta_{\text{RC}}^{\pi\ell}) I_{\pi\ell}$$

- Form factor & phase space : $f_+^\pi(0) \simeq 1 - 7 \times 10^{-6}$ $I_{\pi\ell} = 7.3767(41) \times 10^{-8}$

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VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.11253

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- Radiative corrections:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\text{RC}}^{\pi\ell} &= \left(g_V^\pi(\mu_\chi)\right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{3\alpha_\chi(\mu_\chi)}{2\pi} \log \frac{\mu_\chi}{2E_0} + \Delta I_{\pi\ell}\right) - 1 \\ &= 0.03403(4)_{\square_\pi} (5)_\mu (5)_{\mu_\chi} (8)_{\text{ChPT}} [11]_{\text{tot}} \end{aligned}$$

μ : varied around all thresholds
2510.27648

μ_χ : varied around M_ρ and $2E_0$

ChPT: $\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left(\frac{M_\pi}{M_\rho}\right)^2$

Difference from $0.0332(1)_{\text{box}}(3)_{\text{HO, QED}}$ [2003.09798] understood in terms of (N)LL and gv running in ChPT

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- Extraction of V_{ud} :

$$V_{ud}^\pi = 0.97346(281)_{\text{Br}} (9)_{\tau_\pi} (5)_{\Delta_{\text{RC}}^{\pi\ell}} (27)_{I_{\pi\ell}} [283]_{\text{tot}}$$

Reduced rad. corr. uncertainty by factor of 3, below all experimental uncertainties (BR, pion masses, lifetime)

Radiative corrections to $\tau \rightarrow \pi\pi\nu_\tau$

VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.I 1253

$$\frac{d\Gamma_{\pi\pi[\gamma]}}{ds} = S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi} K_\Gamma(s) \beta_{\pi^\pm\pi^0}^3(s) |f_+(s)|^2 G_{\text{EM}}(s)$$

$$K_\Gamma(s) = \frac{\Gamma_e |V_{ud}|^2}{2m_\tau^2} \left(1 - \frac{s}{m_\tau^2}\right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{2s}{m_\tau^2}\right)$$
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Prior to this work

Colangelo, Cottini, Hoferichter, Holz,
2510.26871, 2511.07507

$$S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi} = S_{\text{EW}}(m_\tau) - \Delta S_{\text{EW}}^e \equiv 1 + \Delta \bar{S}_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi}$$

$$S_{\text{EW}}(\mu) = [C_\beta^{\text{LL}}(\mu)]^2 \quad \Delta S_{\text{EW}}^e = \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \left(\frac{25}{4} - \pi^2 \right)$$

$$G_{\text{EM}}(s) = G_0(s) + \Delta \bar{G}$$

$$\Delta \bar{G} = -4\pi\alpha \left(\bar{X}_\ell(m_\rho) - \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \log \frac{m_\tau^2}{m_\rho^2} \right) \quad \bar{X}_\ell(m_\rho) = 14 \times 10^{-3}$$

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$$G_{\text{EM}}(s) = G_0(s)$$

$$\Delta \left(S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi} G_{\text{EM}}(s) \right)_{\text{NEW-OLD}} = \Delta S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi} - (\Delta \bar{S}_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi} + \Delta \bar{G})$$

Impact on HVP

VC, M. Hoferichter, N. Valori 2602.11253

- Impact of a constant shift in $S_{EW}^{\pi\pi} G_{EM}(s)$ can be evaluated by scaling the ‘old’ correction induced by $S_{EW}^{\pi\pi}$

$$\Delta a_\mu[\pi\pi, \tau] - \Delta \bar{a}_\mu[\pi\pi, \tau] = \left(\frac{\Delta S_{EW}^{\pi\pi} - \Delta \bar{G}_{EM}}{\Delta \bar{S}_{EW}^{\pi\pi}} - 1 \right) \Delta \bar{a}_\mu[S_{EW}^{\pi\pi}] = -0.07(4) \times 10^{-10}$$

$$\Delta \bar{a}_\mu[S_{EW}^{\pi\pi}] = -12.166(56)(8) \times 10^{-10}$$

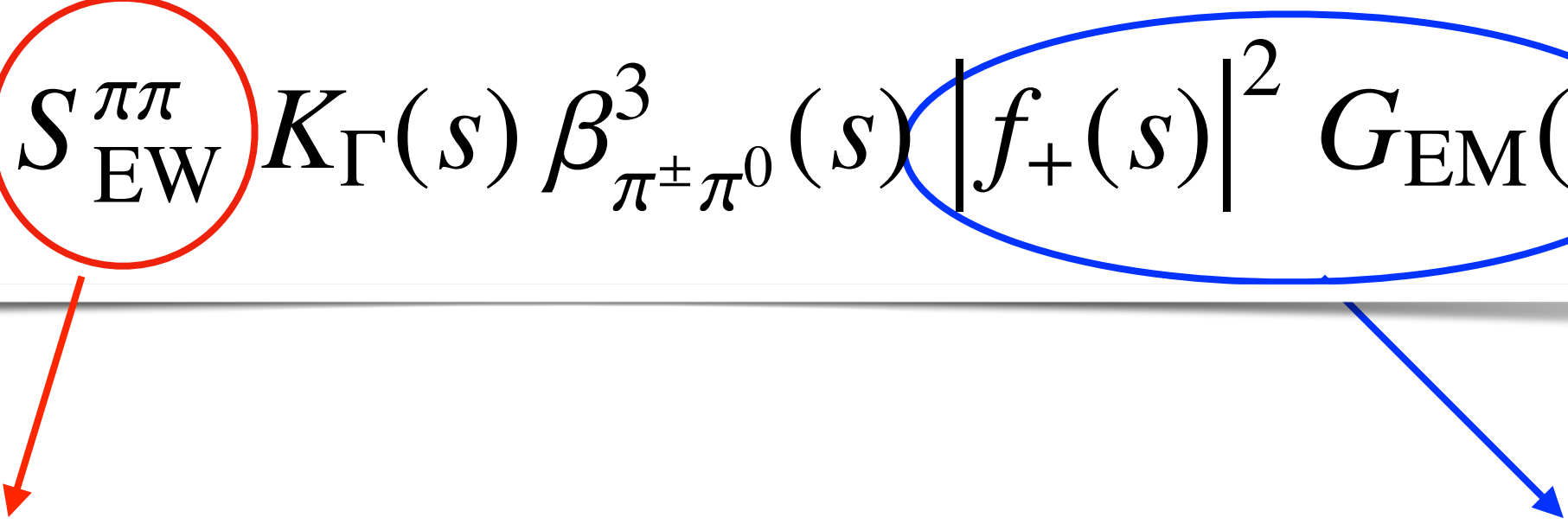
- Putting together tau-specific corrections [phase space and $S_{EW}^{\pi\pi} G_{EM}(s)$]

Colangelo, Cottini, Hoferichter, Holz,
2510.26871, 2511.07507

$$\Delta a_\mu[\pi\pi, \tau] = -24.9(1)_{\text{exp}}(5)_{\text{th}}(1)_{\text{SD}} \times 10^{-10}$$

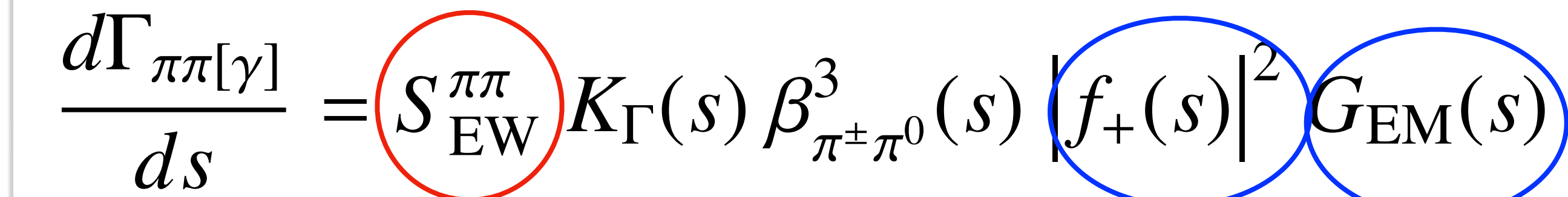
- Uncertainty from short-distance matching reduced from 1.3×10^{-10} to 0.1×10^{-10}
- Dominant uncertainty arises from the ratio of form factors, and was estimated as $\sim 5 \times 10^{-10}$ in WP-2025

Challenge: isolating 'form factor'

$$\frac{d\Gamma_{\pi\pi[\gamma]}}{ds} = S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi} K_{\Gamma}(s) \beta_{\pi^{\pm}\pi^0}^3(s) |f_+(s)|^2 G_{\text{EM}}(s)$$


- Factorization into **Wilson coefficient** $\times$ **hadronic threshold correction** and **Hadronic Matrix Element** is now under control at NLL
- Further factorization into '**long-distance radiative corrections**' and '**form factor**' (matrix element of the hadronic current, which still contains IB) entails some additional choice (scheme)
 - ChPT and dispersive approach define form factor corrections as whatever is left after removing from the amplitude the long-distance radiative corrections and short-distance effects (LECs)
 - To compare, need a definition that can be implemented in any method, including Lattice QCD

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The equation is displayed within a light gray rectangular box. A red circle highlights the term $S_{\text{EW}}^{\pi\pi}$, with a red arrow pointing downwards from the circle. A blue circle highlights the term $|f_+(s)|^2$, with a blue arrow pointing downwards from the circle. Another blue circle highlights the term $G_{\text{EM}}(s)$, with a blue arrow pointing downwards from the circle.

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Conclusions

- Described semileptonic CC processes involving low-energy pions beyond leading logarithms
 - Matched 'LEFT' to χ PT to NLLs ($\alpha\alpha_s$) accuracy
 - Used lattice QCD results to evaluate the non-perturbative input
- Pion beta decay ($\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$):
 - Reduced theory uncertainty by factor of 3, now below the smallest expt. uncertainties
 - Even 'cleaner' avenue to extract V_{ud} — need ten-fold exp. improvement (PIONEER)
- $\tau \rightarrow \pi\pi\nu_\tau$ and implications for tau-based HVP:
 - Uncertainty from short-distance matching reduced from 1.3×10^{-10} to 0.1×10^{-10}
 - Dominant uncertainty is in the form factor ratio: need definition of 'form factor' corrections that can be implemented in multiple methods, including LQCD

Backup

Impact of NLL corrections

- From weak scale to hadronic scale

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta g_V|_{LL(\alpha)} &\sim +3 \cdot 10^{-4} \\ \Delta g_V|_{LL(\alpha\alpha_s)} &\sim -1.6 \cdot 10^{-4} \\ \Delta g_V|_{NLL(\alpha)} &\sim -1.0 \cdot 10^{-4} \\ \Delta g_V|_{NLL(\alpha\alpha_s)} &\sim -0.6 \cdot 10^{-4}\end{aligned}$$

- From hadronic scale to endpoint

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta g_V|_{LL(\alpha)} &\sim +1.7 \cdot 10^{-4} \\ \Delta g_V|_{NLL(\alpha)} &\sim +0.5 \cdot 10^{-4}\end{aligned}$$

More details on matching

$$g_V^\pi(\mu_\chi) = \left[1 + \bar{\square}_\pi^{V(3)}(\mu_0) \right] \times \left(Z_{\bar{O},\bar{O}}^{s.c.}(\mu, \mu_0, a) \right)^{-1} \\ \times \left[1 + \frac{3\alpha^{(3)}(\mu)}{8\pi} \left(1 - \log \frac{\mu_\chi^2}{\mu^2} \right) \right] \times C_\beta^{(3)}(\mu, a).$$

$$Z_{\bar{O},\bar{O}}^{s.c.}(\mu, \mu_0, a) = 1 + \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \left[\frac{a}{3} - \frac{5}{4} - \log \frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(-\frac{14a}{9} + \frac{29}{6} + 4 \log \frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \right) \right].$$