

Lattice Calculation of Radiative Corrections to Light Meson Leptonic Decays

Xin-Yu Tuo



In collaboration with Peter Boyle, Norman Christ, Xu Feng,
Taku Izubuchi, Luchang Jin and Christopher Sachrajda
(RBC & UKQCD collaborations)

INT workshop, Testing the Standard Model in Charged-Weak Decays

January 15, 2026

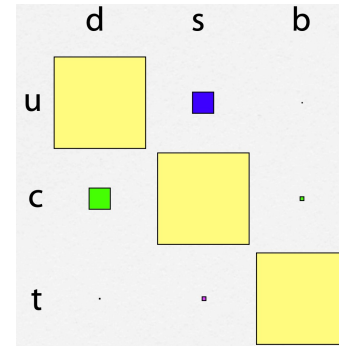
Outline

- 1 Background & Motivation
- 2 Radiative corrections in leptonic decay $K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}$
- 3 Radiative leptonic decays $K/\pi \rightarrow \ell \nu \gamma$
- 4 Radiative Corrections in $R_{e\mu} = P_{e2}/P_{\mu 2}$
- 5 Outlook

First row's CKM unitarity

- CKM matrix: fundamental parameters of the SM

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



- Precision test of CKM unitarity: potential BSM contributions to flavor-changing interactions and CP violation
- First row's CKM unitarity: $\sim 2.4\sigma$ tension

$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 0.9983(6)_{V_{ud}}(4)_{V_{us}}$$

Particle Data Group, PRD 110 (2024) 030001

$0^+ \rightarrow 0^+ \beta$ decays
 $\rightarrow V_{ud} = 0.97367(32)$

$$\frac{K_{l2}}{\pi_{l2}} \rightarrow \frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} = 0.23108(51)$$

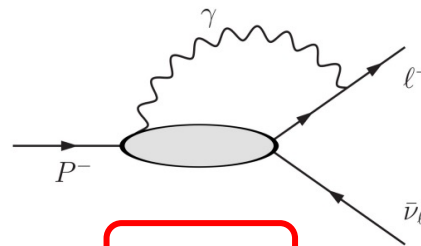
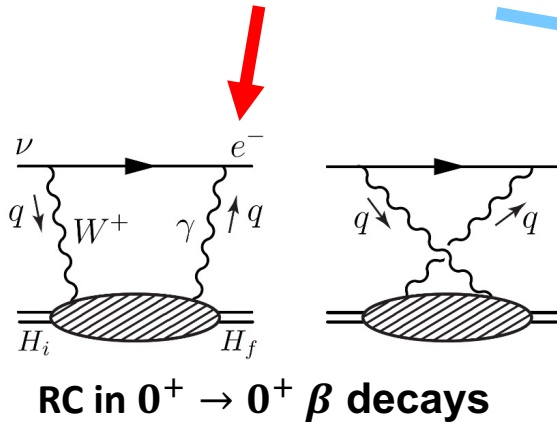
$$K_{l3} \rightarrow V_{us} = 0.22330(53)$$

Theoretical uncertainty: radiative corrections

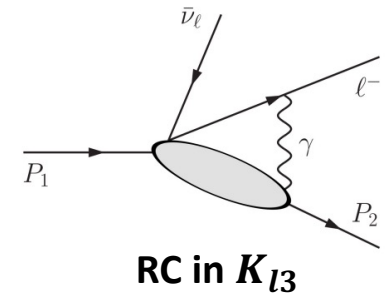
- Radiative corrections (RC):

$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 0.9983(6)V_{ud}(4)V_{us}$$

Precision:
 $\sim 0(0.2\%)$



this talk



$RC \sim 0(1\%)$

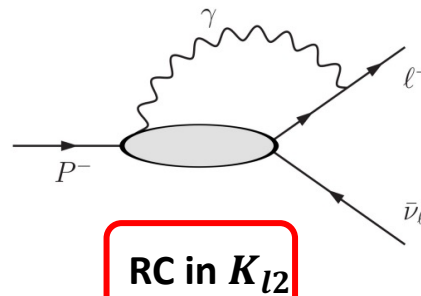
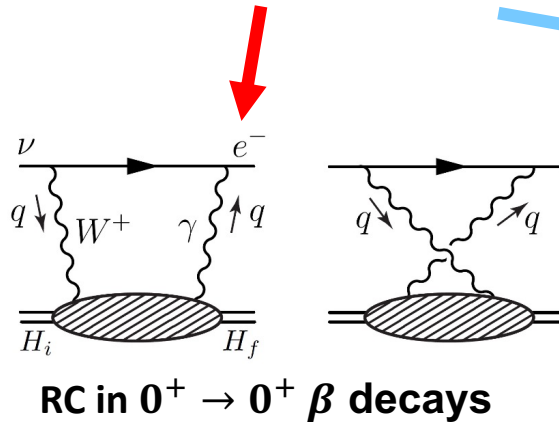
- $RC \sim 0(1\%)$: One of the dominant source of theoretical uncertainties

Theoretical uncertainty: radiative corrections

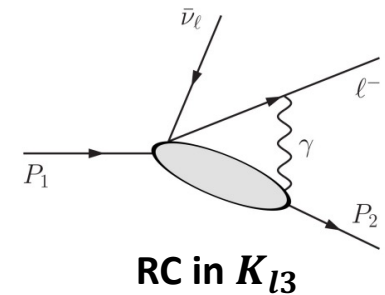
- Radiative corrections (RC):

$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 0.9983(6)V_{ud}(4)V_{us}$$

Precision:
 $\sim \mathcal{O}(0.2\%)$



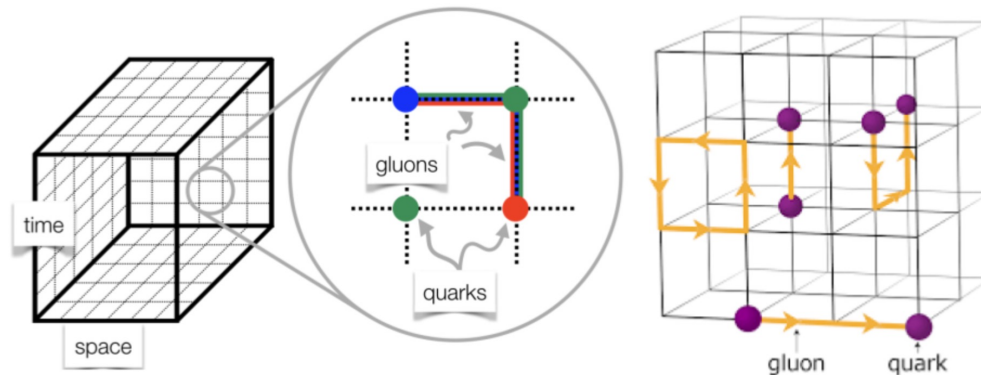
this talk



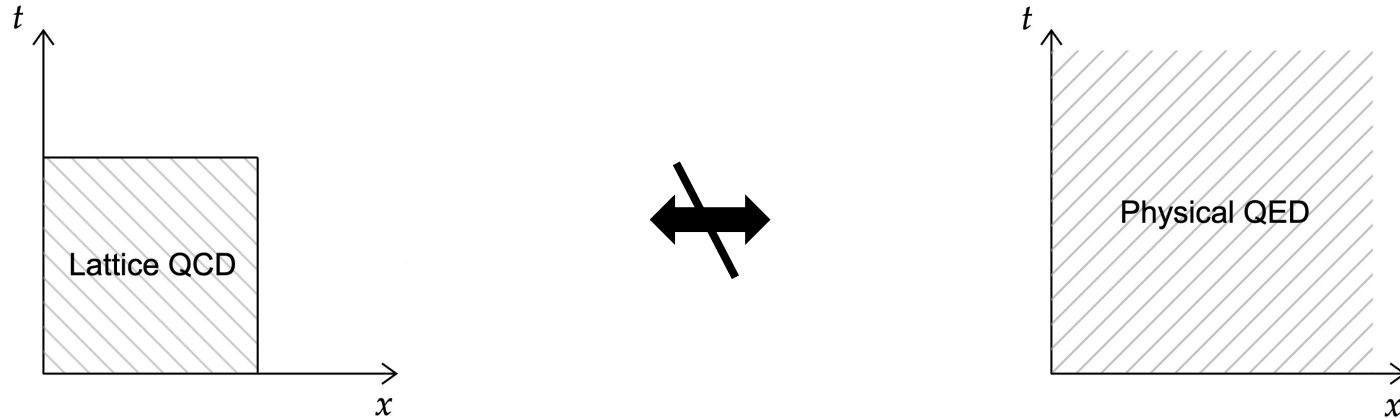
$RC \sim \mathcal{O}(1\%)$

- $RC \sim \mathcal{O}(1\%)$: One of the dominant source of theoretical uncertainties

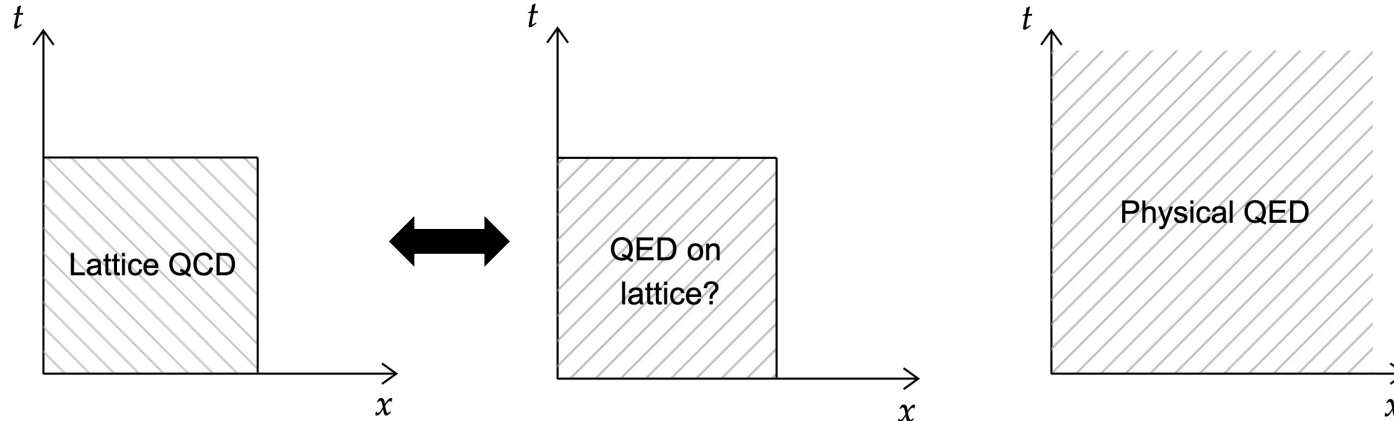
➡ Dispersive method, Chiral PT, **lattice QCD**



Motivation 1: challenge of QED on lattice



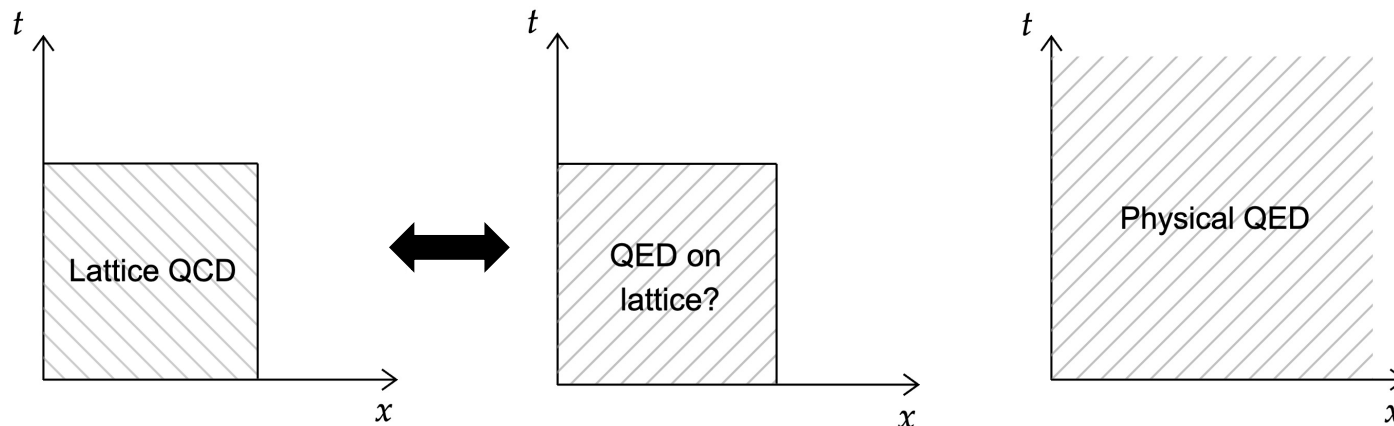
Motivation 1: challenge of QED on lattice



➤ “QED in finite volume”: subtraction of 0 mode (QED_L), finite $m_\gamma, \dots$

➡ power-law FV correction $\sim O(1/L)$

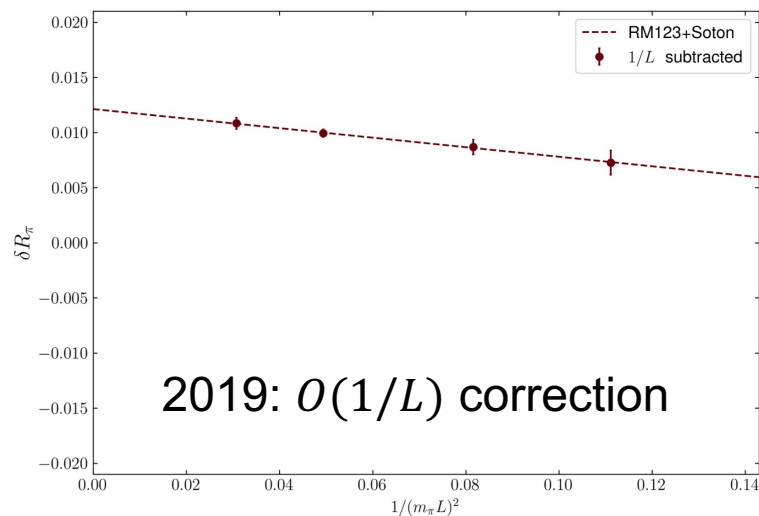
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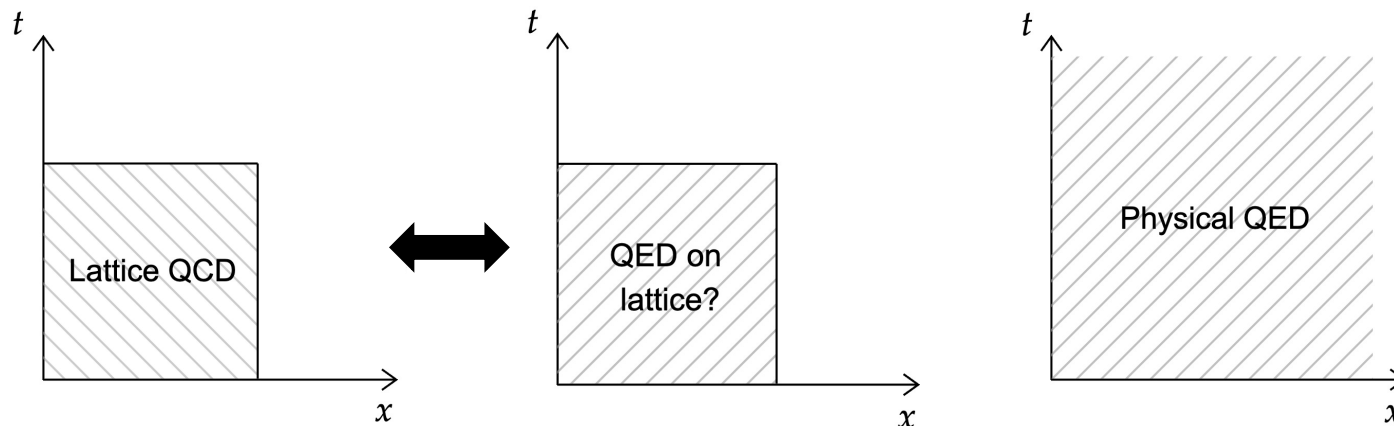
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- QED_L method example: isospin breaking in $K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}$ ($\delta R_{K\pi}$)



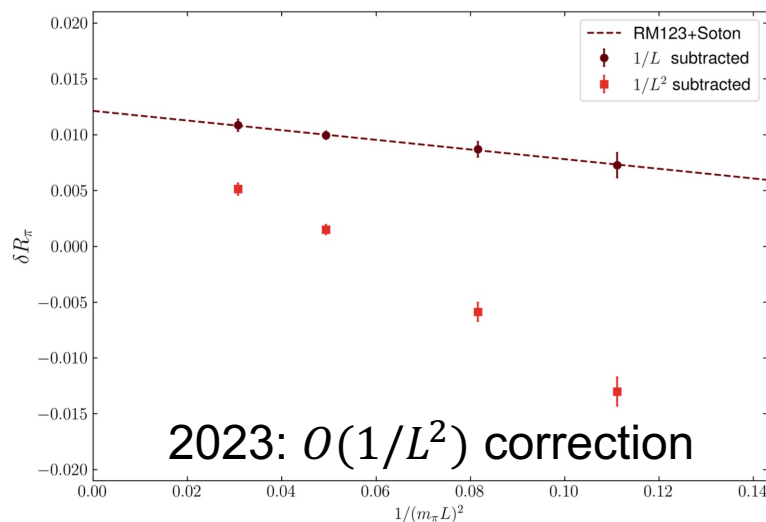
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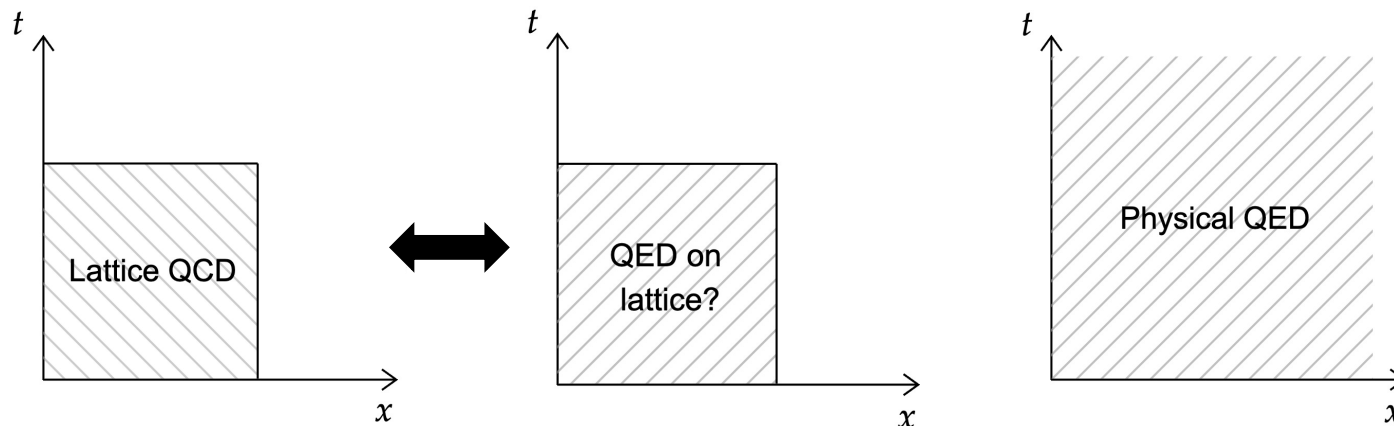
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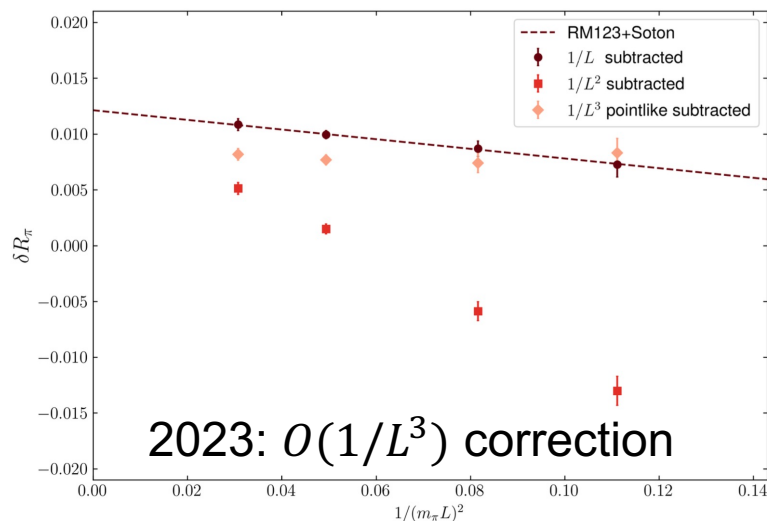
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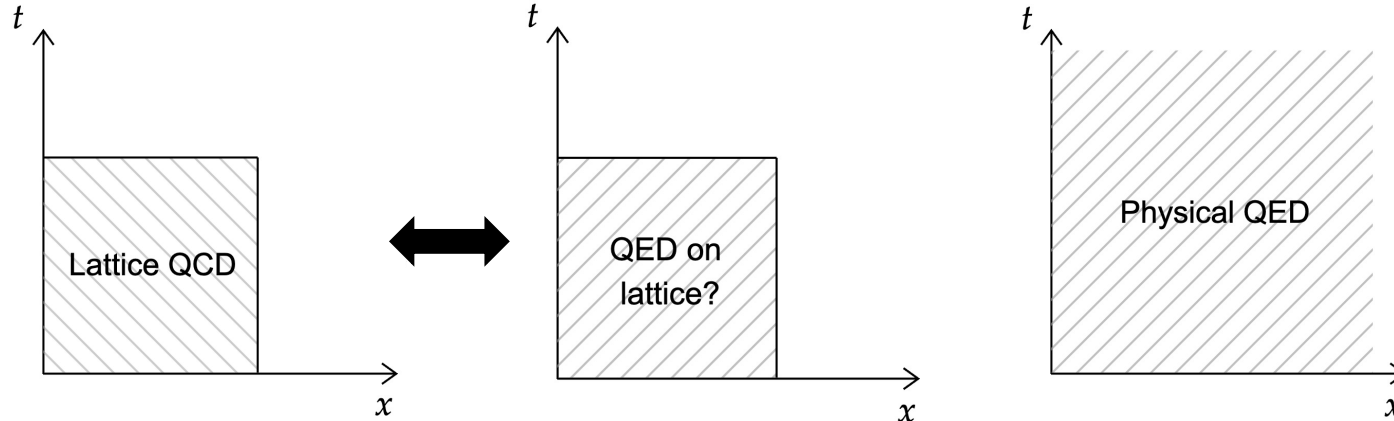
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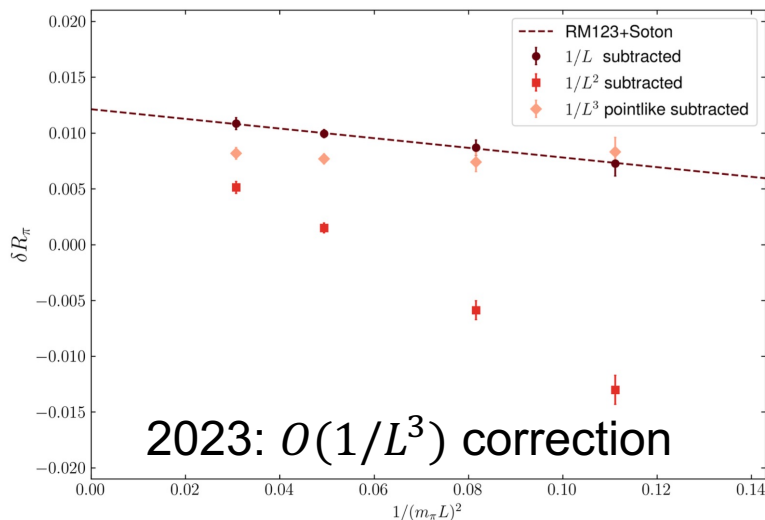
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	$O(1/L)$	$O(1/L^2)$	$O(1/L^3)$
$\delta_{FV}^{QED_L}/0.01$	-46.8%	+26.2%	-39.3%

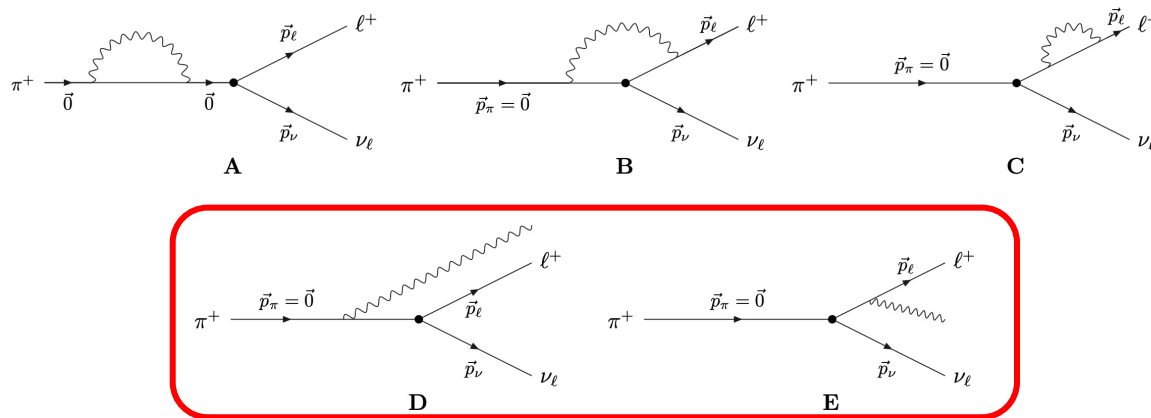
Power-law FV correction is **not well convergent**

$$\delta R_{K\pi} = -0.0086(3)_{\text{stat}} \left(\begin{smallmatrix} +11 \\ -4 \end{smallmatrix} \right)_{\text{fit}} (5)_{\text{disc.}} (5)_{\text{quench.}} \boxed{(39)_{\text{vol.}}}$$

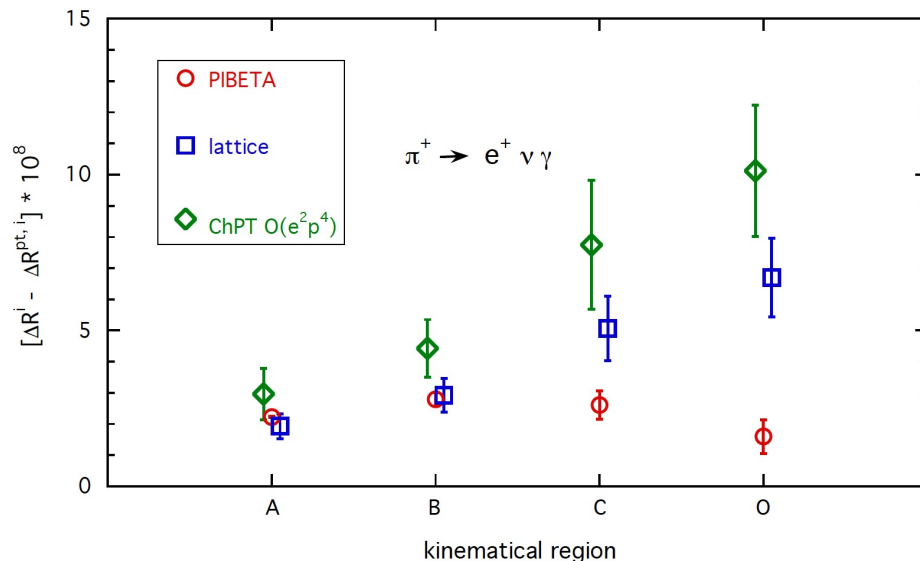
45% FV errors!

Motivation 2: Puzzles in radiative leptonic decays

- Bloch-Nordsieck theorem:
IR-safe quantity = virtual-photon loop + real photon emission



- Puzzles in radiative leptonic decays:



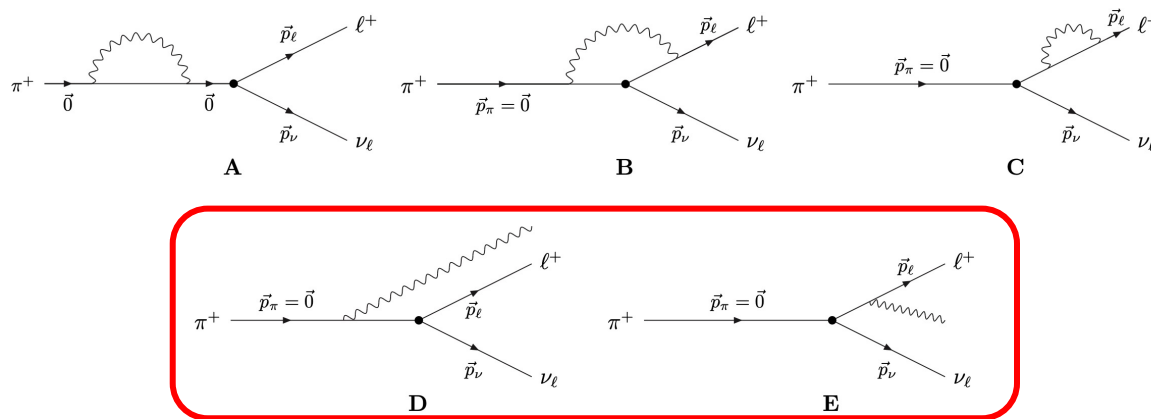
$\pi \rightarrow e \nu \gamma$
lattice v.s. PIBETA: **5 σ discrepancy**

R. Frezzotti, et al. PRD, 2021 [arXiv:2012.02120]

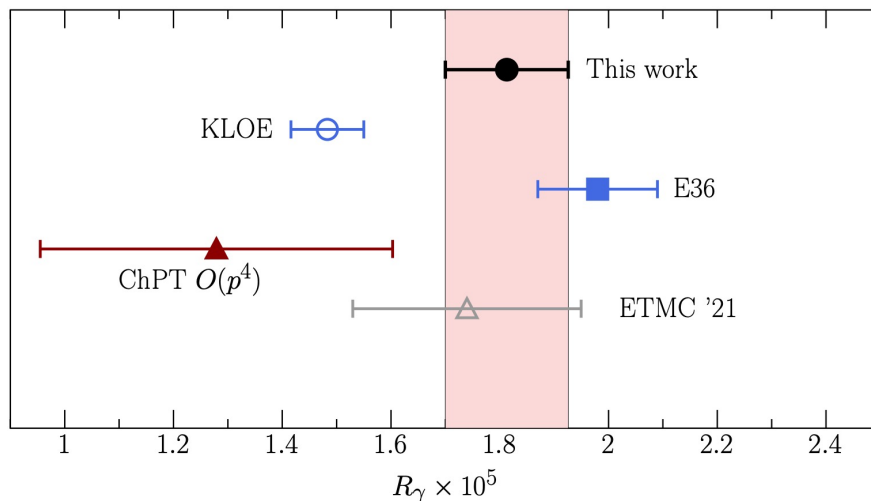
An independent lattice calculation is important to cross check these findings.

Motivation 2: Puzzles in radiative leptonic decays

- Bloch-Nordsieck theorem:
IR-safe quantity = virtual-photon loop + real photon emission



- Puzzles in radiative leptonic decays:



$$K \rightarrow e \nu \gamma$$

KLOE v.s. E36: **4 σ discrepancy**

Previous lattice result close to E36 result

R. Di Palma, et al., PRD, 2025 [arXiv:2504.08680]

An independent lattice calculation is important to cross check these findings.

Motivation 3: $R_{e\mu} = \Gamma(P \rightarrow e\nu(\gamma))/\Gamma(P \rightarrow \mu\nu(\gamma))$

- Helicity suppression: sensitive to new physics, test of lepton flavor universality
- Theoretical clean: structure-dependent (SD) information enters through small radiative corrections. **size $\sim O(0.1\%)$**

		$(P = \pi)$	$(P = K)$
$O(\alpha)$, pt $O(\alpha)$, SD resumming LLs	$\Delta_{e^2 p^2}^{(P)} (\%)$	-3.929	-3.786
	$\Delta_{e^2 p^4}^{(P)} (\%)$	0.053 ± 0.011	0.135 ± 0.011
	$\Delta_{e^2 p^6}^{(P)} (\%)$	0.073	
	$\Delta_{LL} (\%)$	0.055	0.055

V. Cirigliano, I. Rosell, PRL, 2007 [arXiv:0707.3439]

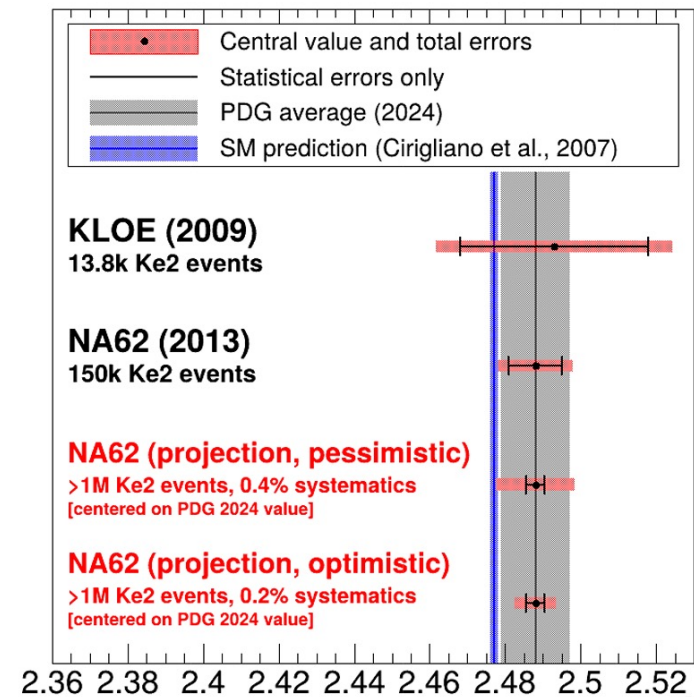
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 $O(\alpha)$, SD
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(Figure from Karim Massri's talk on Kaon 2025, Mainz)

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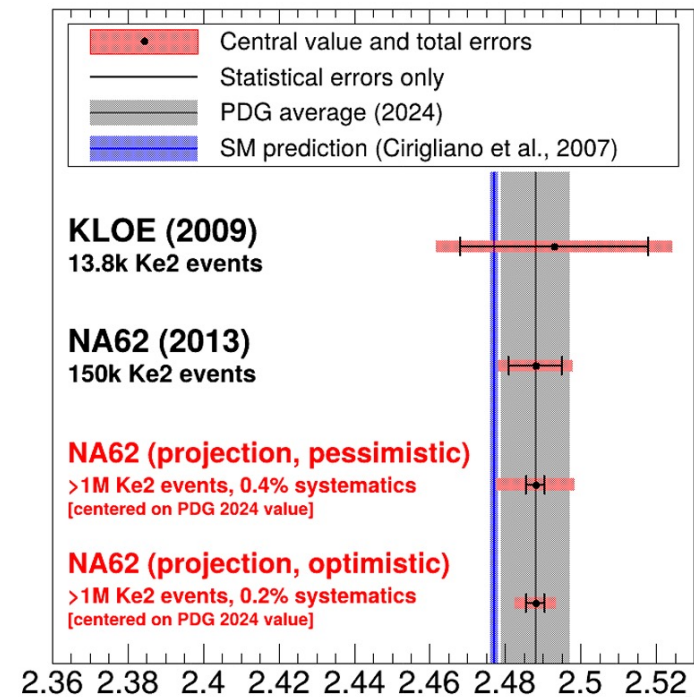
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- Lattice QCD: complement ChPT prediction using first-principles input, can improve precision to percent level for SD.



(Figure from Karim Massri's talk on Kaon 2025, Mainz)

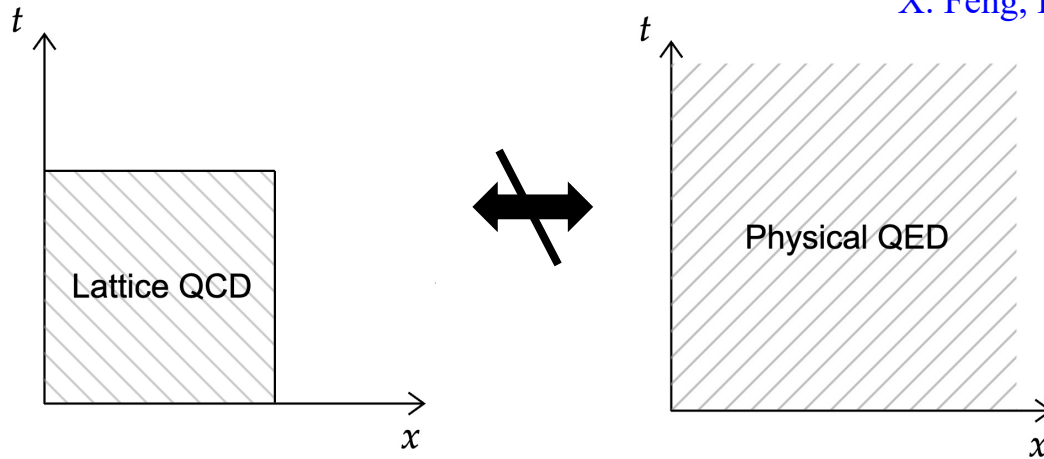
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Infinite-volume reconstruction (IVR)

- Reconstruct hadronic matrix elements outside the lattice box

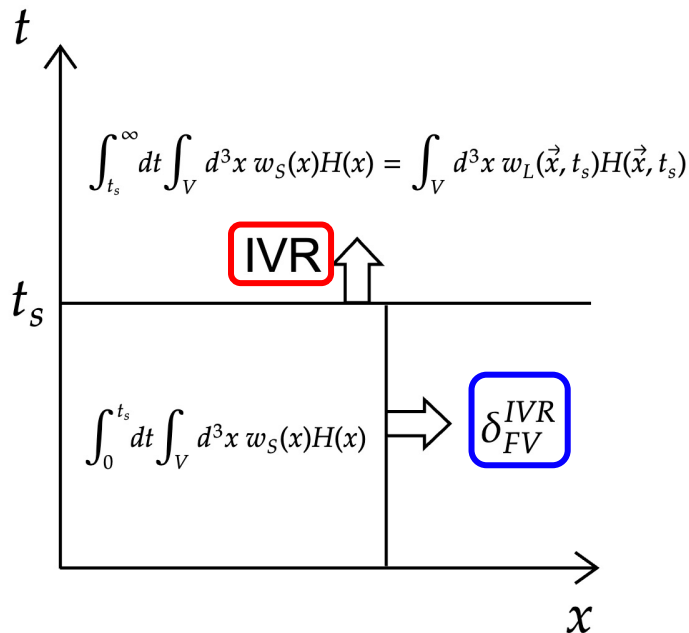
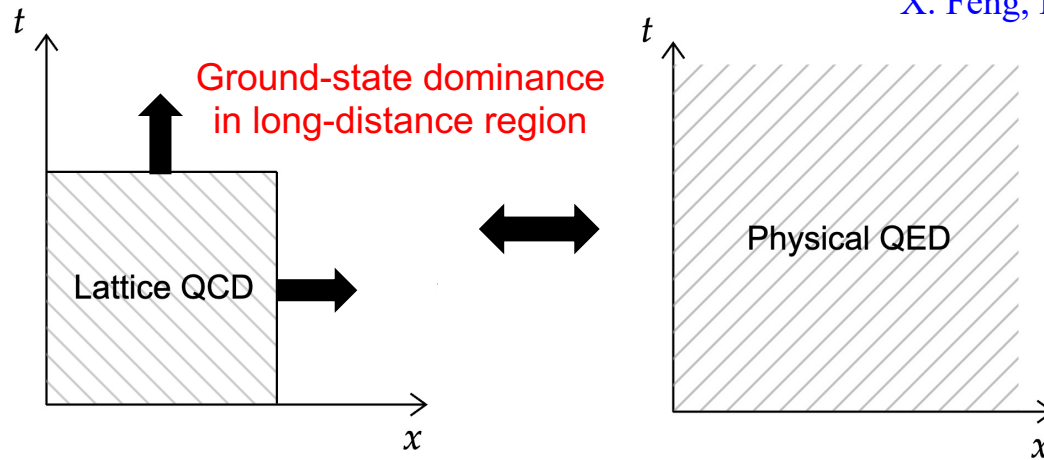
X. Feng, L. Jin. PRD 2019 [arXiv:1812.09817]



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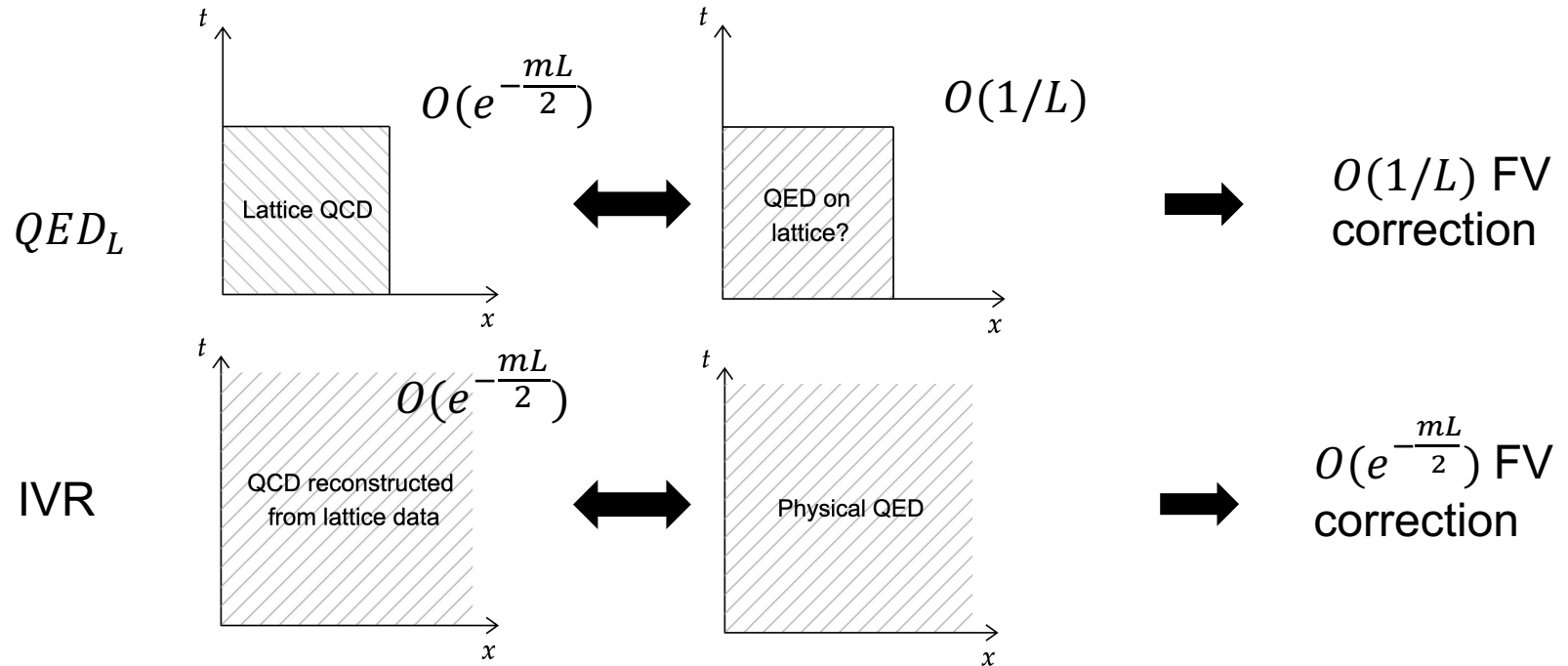
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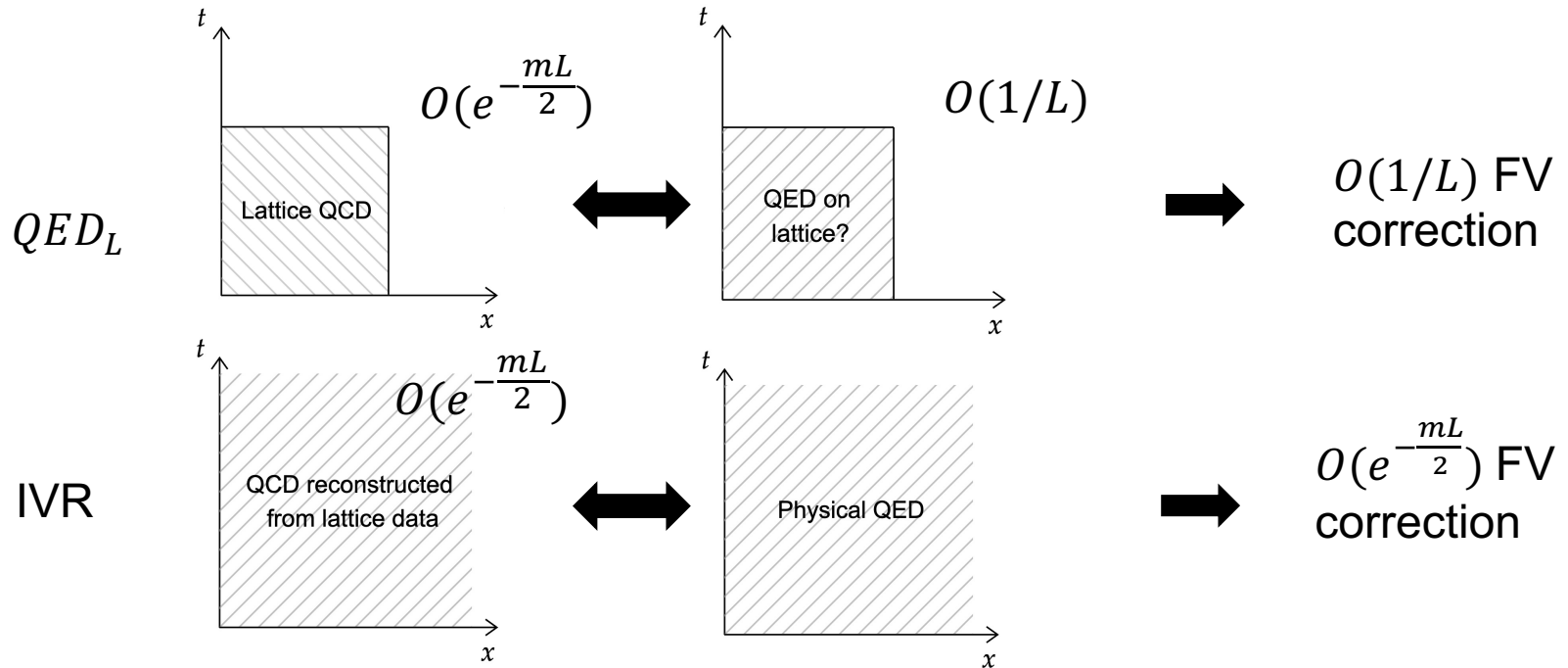
IVR: reconstruction in temporal direction

δ_{FV}^{IVR} : reconstruction in spatial direction
(residue $O(e^{-\frac{mL}{2}})$ FV effects)

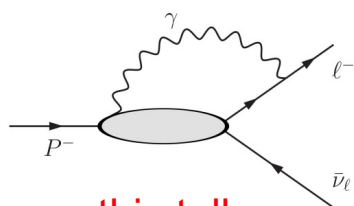
IVR Finite-Volume Scaling: $O(1/L) \rightarrow O(e^{-mL})$



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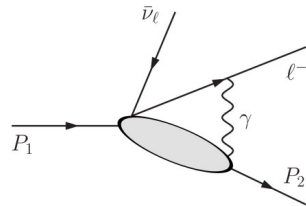


- **A general framework** for radiative corrections & long-distance contributions: γ/ℓ propagators implemented in infinite volume do not generate $O(1/L)$ FV errors for a broad class of diagrams. [Xin-Yu Tuo, Xu Feng, PRD, 2025 \[arXiv:2407.16930\]](#)

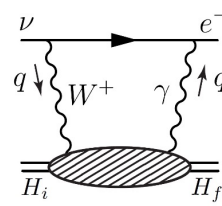


this talk

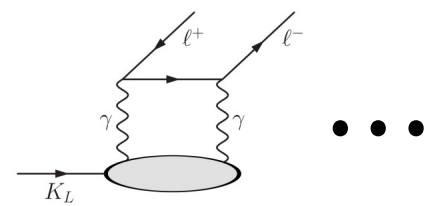
RC in K_{l2}



RC in K_{l3}



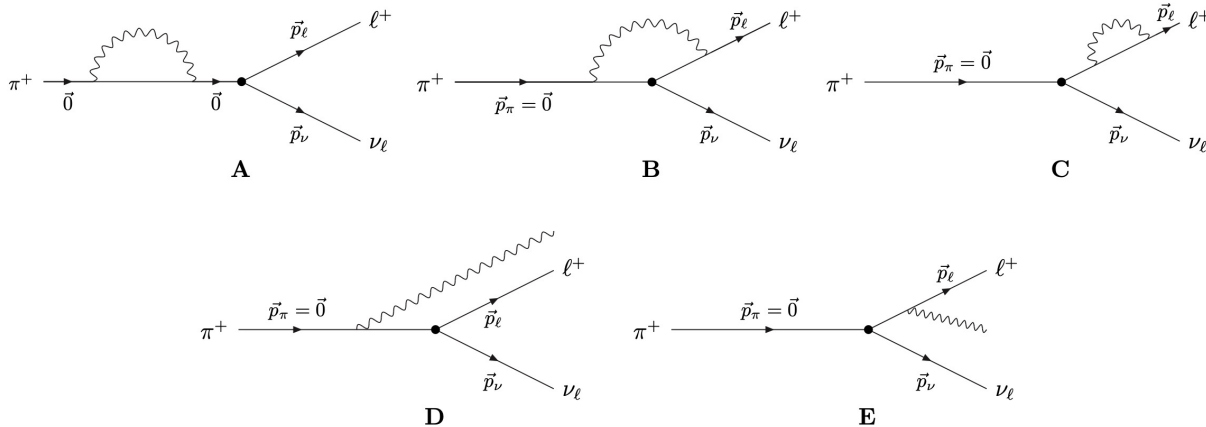
RC in $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+ \beta$ decays
see Xu's talk



$K_L \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$

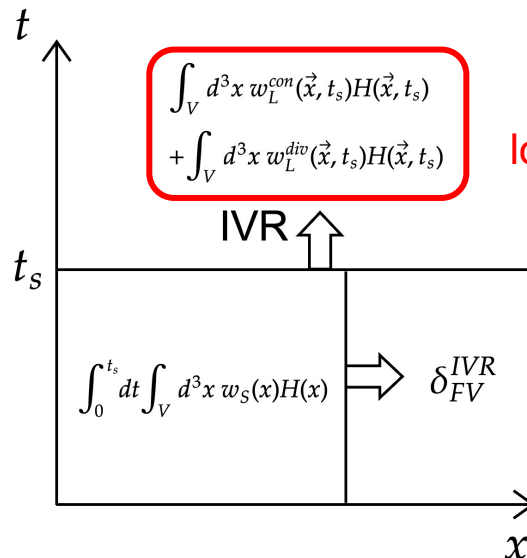
Extending IVR to IR-divergent diagrams

- IR-safe quantity = virtual-photon loop + real photon emission



- Subtraction of IR div. in long-distance part

N. Christ, X. Feng, L. Jin, C. Sachrajda, T. Wang,
PRD, 2023 [arXiv:2304.08026]

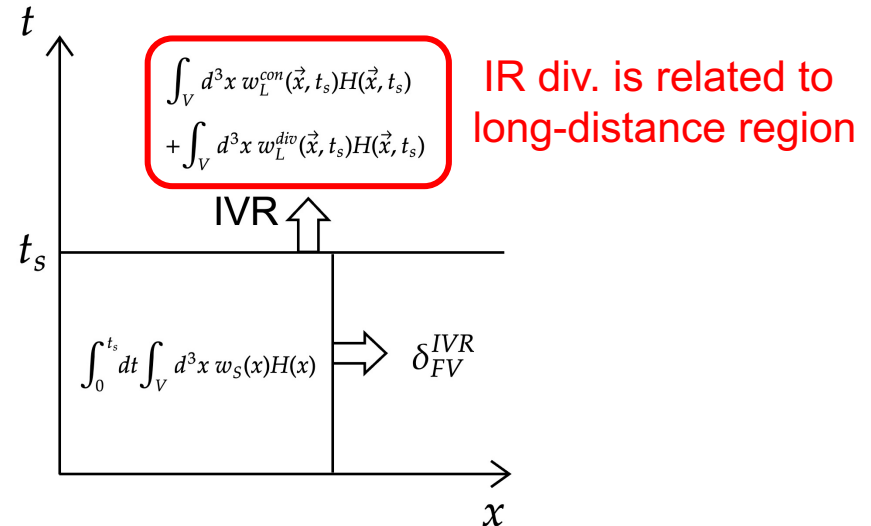
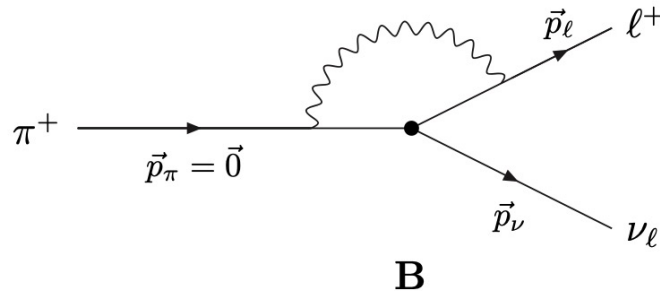


IR div. is related to
long-distance physics

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} I_S + I_L^{\text{con}}: \text{lattice calculation} \\ I_L^{\text{div}}: \text{analytical calculation} \end{array} \right.$$

Extending IVR to IR-divergent decays

- Example: diagram B



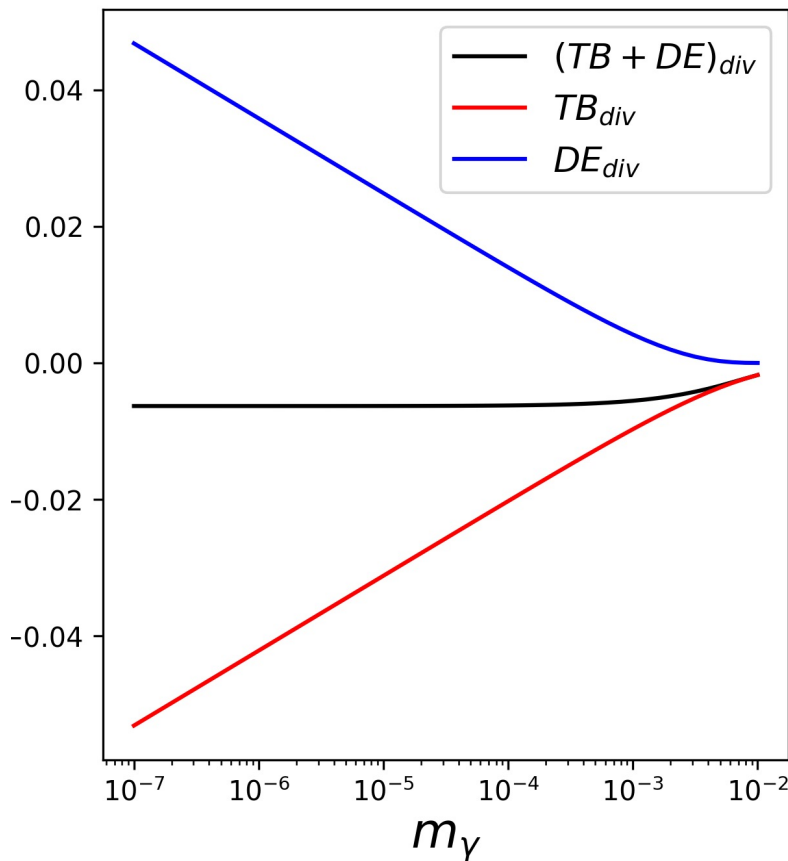
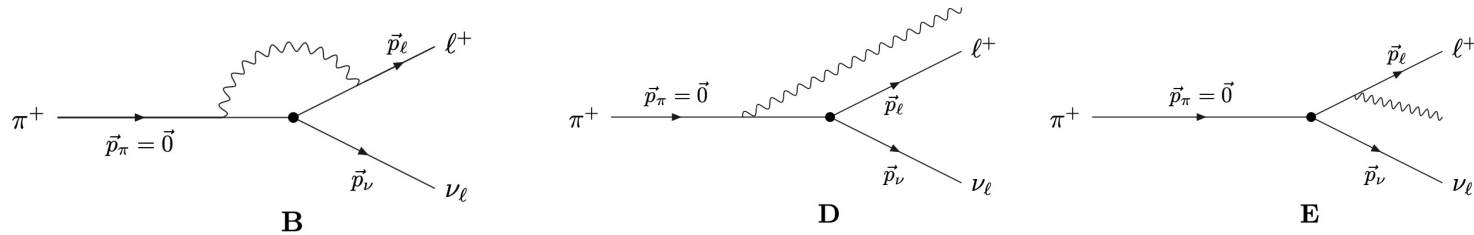
- A special “lattice IR subtraction” : $e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} = (e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} - 1) + 1$ trick

$$w_L^{\mu\rho}(t, \vec{x}) = i \frac{G_F V_{ud}^* e^2}{\sqrt{2}} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{dk_E^0}{2\pi} \frac{\bar{L}^{\mu\rho}(k, p)}{((k_E^0)^2 + E_\gamma^2 - i\epsilon)((p_{\ell,E}^0 - k_E^0)^2 + E_\ell^2 - i\epsilon)} \\ \times \left[\left(e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} - 1 \right) + 1 \right] \frac{e^{ik_E^0 t_s}}{-ik_E^0 + E_\pi(\vec{k}) - m_\pi}$$

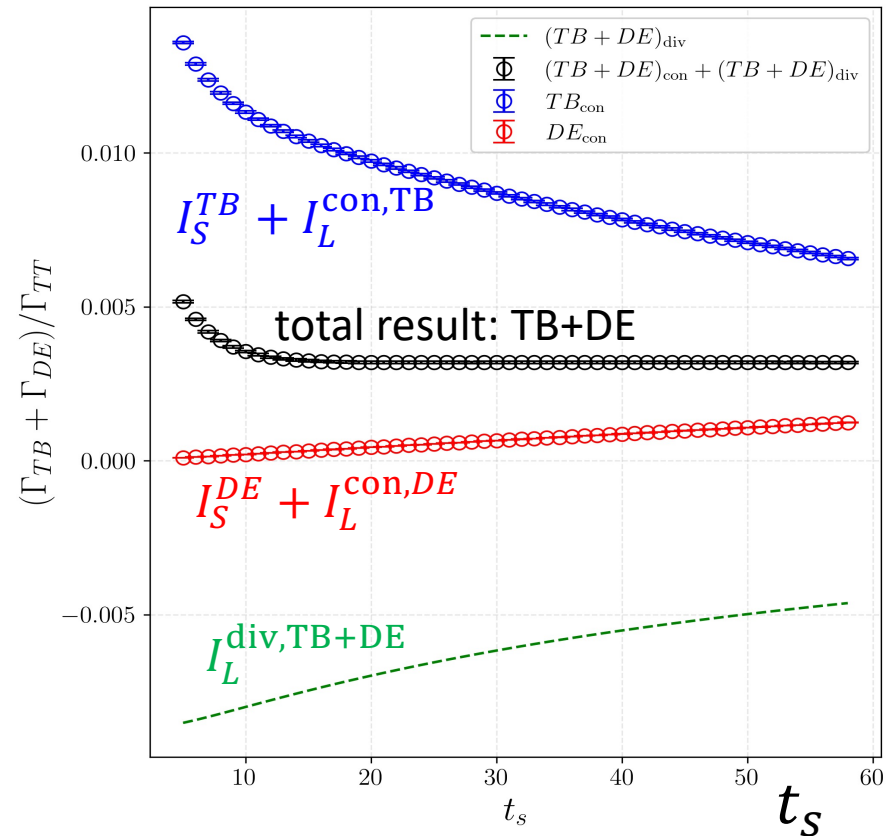
↓ w_L^{con}
↓ w_L^{div}

- Similar IR subtraction can be done for the other diagrams.

Example: IR convergent combination TB+DE



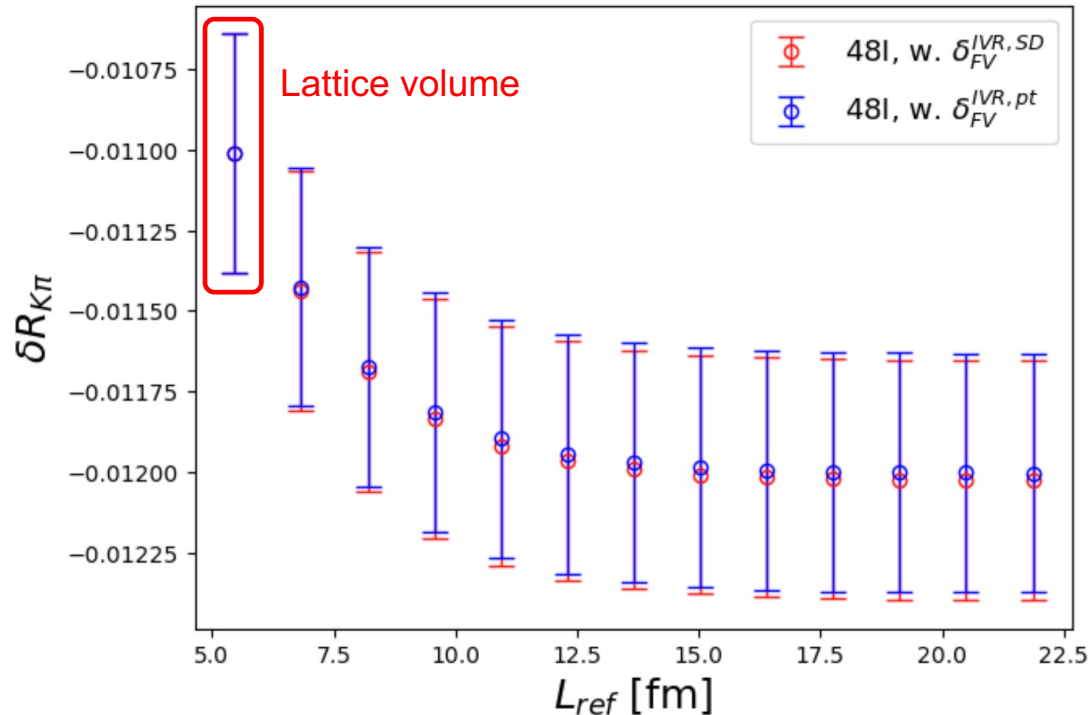
I_L^{div} : analytical calculation



total result for π TB+DE
independent of t_s

IVR Finite-Volume Scaling: $O(1/L) \rightarrow O(e^{-mL})$

- Convergence with volume $V_{\text{ref}} = L_{\text{ref}}^3$

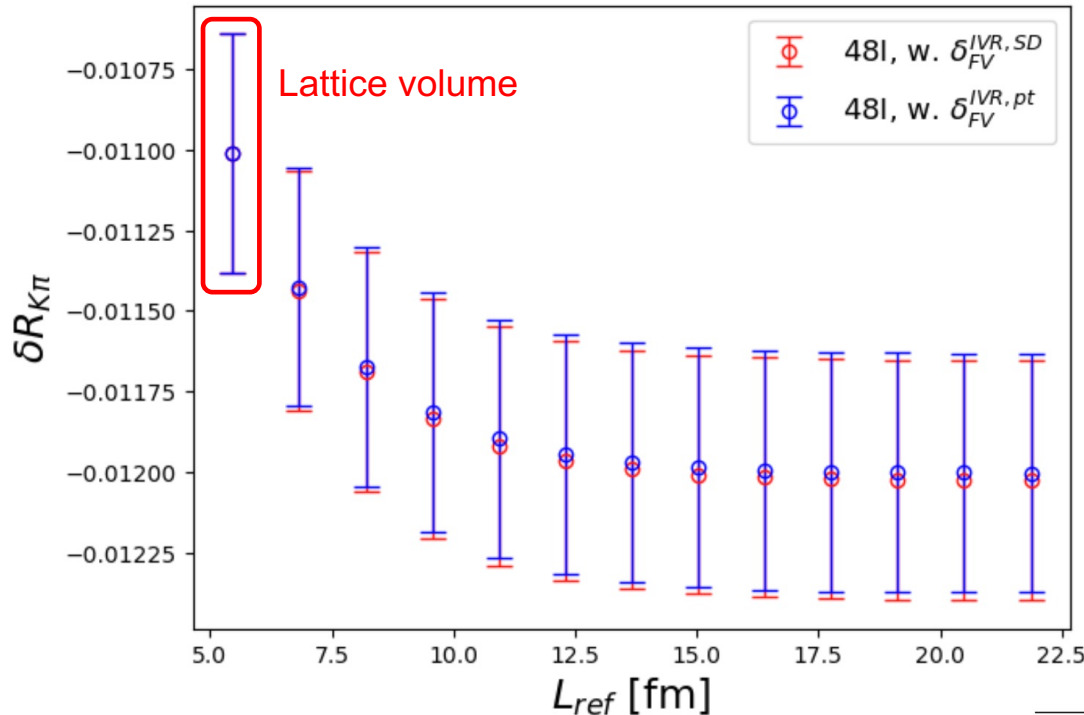


$\delta_{FV}^{\text{IVR},pt}$: point particle

$\delta_{FV}^{\text{IVR},SD}$: including structure
dependent information

IVR Finite-Volume Scaling: $O(1/L) \rightarrow O(e^{-mL})$

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$\delta_{FV}^{IVR,pt}$: point particle

$\delta_{FV}^{IVR,SD}$: including structure
dependent information

- Comparison: $O(1/L) \rightarrow O(e^{-mL})$

	$O(1/L)$	$O(1/L^2)$	$O(1/L^3)$
$\delta_{FV}^{QED_L}/0.01$	-46.8%	+26.2%	-39.3%

QED_L, pt~60% FV effects

	π	K
$\delta_{FV}^{IVR,pt}/0.01$	+7.90%	+0.004%
$\delta_{FV}^{IVR,SD}/0.01$	+7.82%	+0.008%

IVR, pt~8% FV effects

IVR, SD~0.08% residue errors

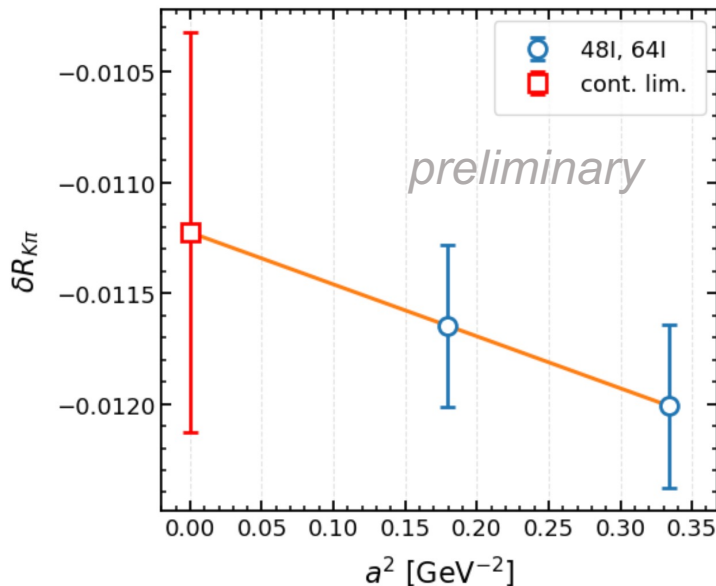
Result for $\delta R_{K\pi}$

P. Boyle, N. Christ, X. Feng, T. Izubuchi, L. Jin, C. Sachrajda, X. Tuo, paper in preparation

- First lattice calculation at physical pion mass with a controlled continuum extrapolation and negligible finite-volume errors.

$$\delta R_{K\pi} = -0.01123(91)$$

Continuum extrapolation

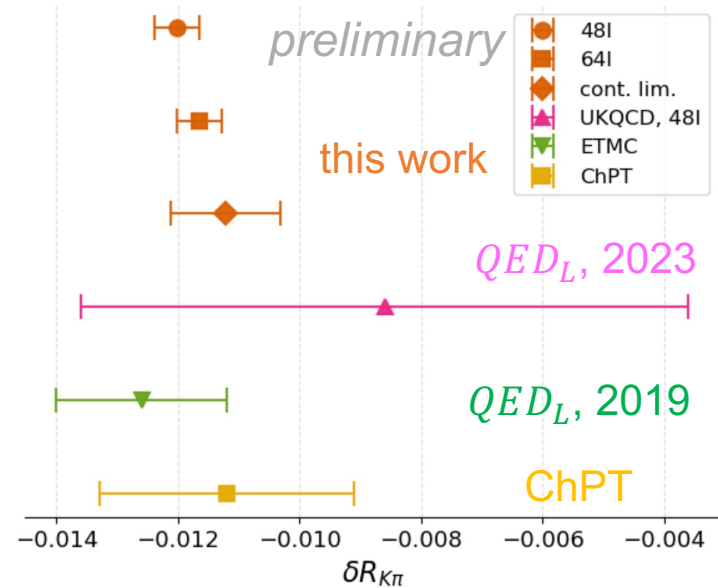


Comparison with literature

M. Di Carlo, et al. PRD, 2019 [arXiv:1904.08731]

P. Boyle, et al. JHEP, 2023 [arXiv:2211.12865]

V. Cirigliano, H. Neufeld, PLB, 2011 [arXiv:1102.0563]



- Impact on $|V_{us}|/|V_{ud}|$ (choose $f_{\pi}^{\text{iso}}/f_K^{\text{iso}}=1.1930(33)$ from FLAG)

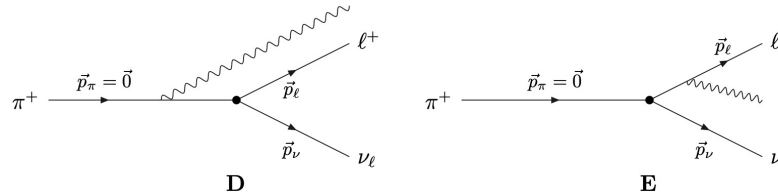
This work: $0.23184(28)_{\text{exp}} (10)_{\delta R_{K\pi}} (65)_{f_P^{\text{iso}}}$

QED_L, 2023: $0.23154(28)_{\text{exp}} (15)_{\delta R_{K\pi}} (45)_{\delta R_{K\pi}, \text{vol}} (65)_{f_P^{\text{iso}}}$

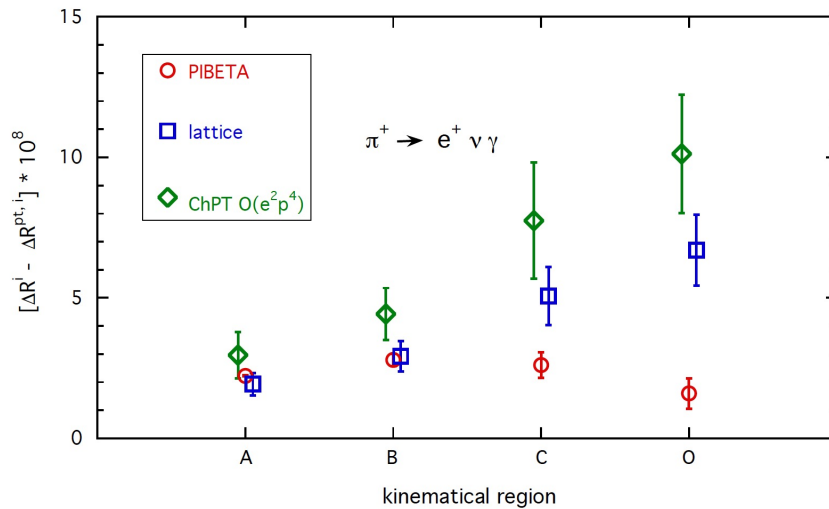
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Puzzles in radiative leptonic decays



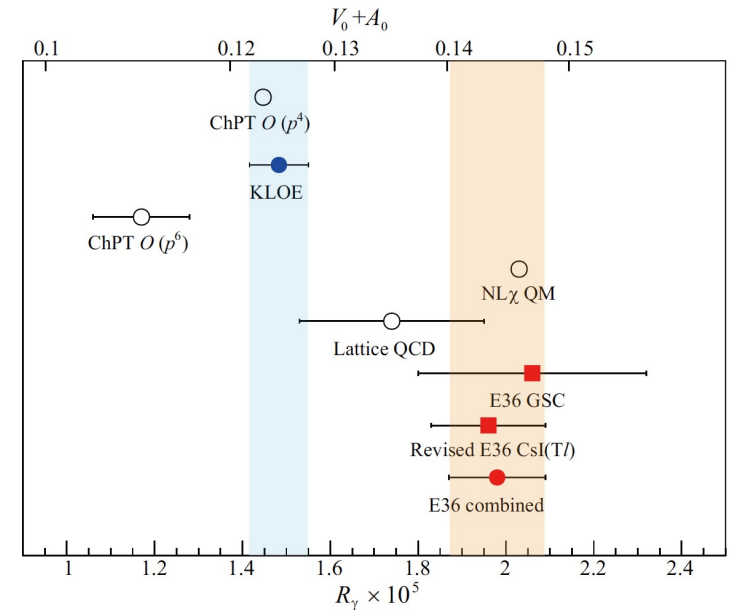
➤ Puzzles in radiative leptonic decays:



$$\pi \rightarrow e \nu \gamma$$

lattice v.s. PIBETA: **5 σ discrepancy**

R. Frezzotti, et al. PRD, 2021 [arXiv:2012.02120]



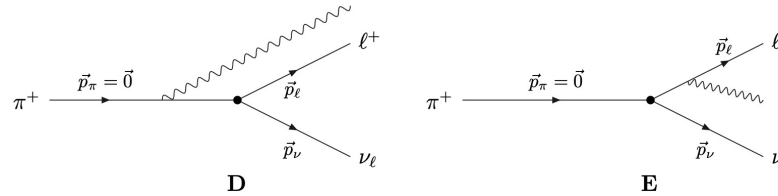
$$K \rightarrow e \nu \gamma$$

KLOE v.s. E36: **4 σ discrepancy**

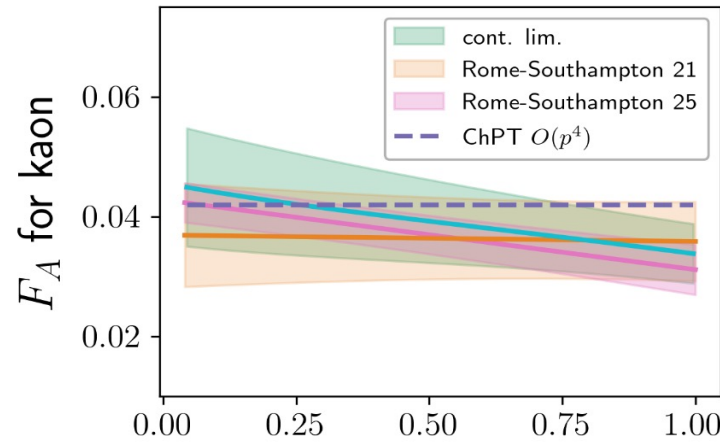
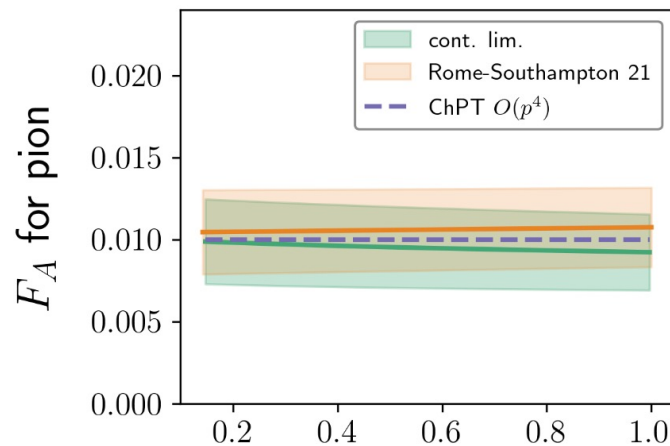
A. Kobayashi, et al. PLB, 2023 [arXiv:2212.10702]

- An independent lattice calculation is important to cross check these findings.

F_V, F_A : consistency between lattice calculations



➤ **Nontrivial consistency check:** different actions, different methods



green: our results

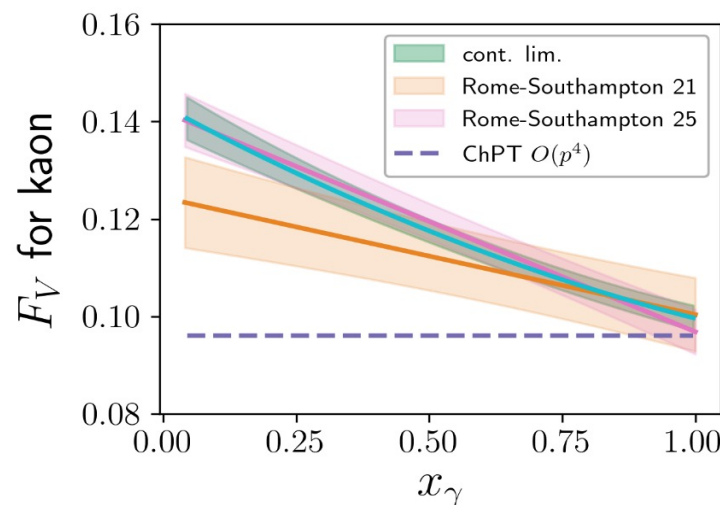
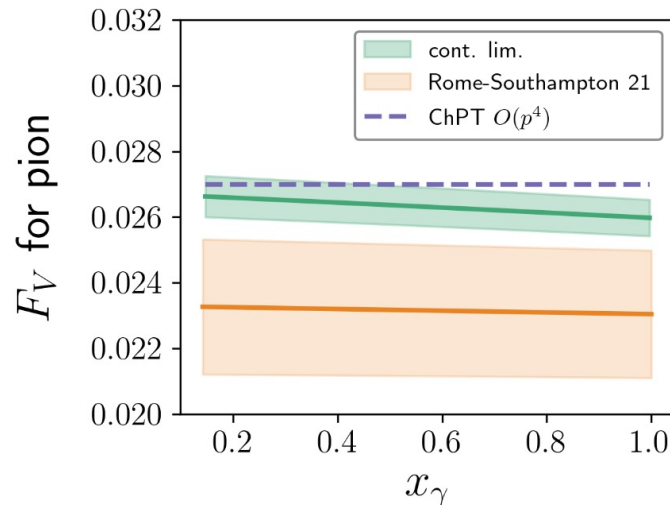
P. Boyle, et al.
[arXiv: 2510.26993]

orange: ETMC 21

R. Frezzotti, et al. PRD, 2021
[arXiv:2012.02120]

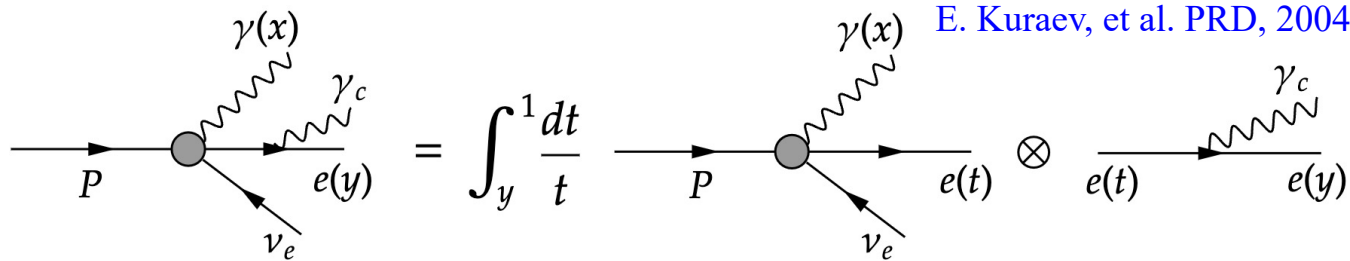
pink: ETMC 25

R. Di Palma, et al., PRD, 2025
[arXiv:2504.08680]



Puzzle 1: solved by collinear photon radiation

- Radiative correction (RC) from additional collinear photon



The diagram illustrates the factorization of a radiative correction. On the left, a hard process with incoming momentum P and outgoing particles $e(y)$ and ν_e is shown with a collinear photon γ_c radiating from the electron line. This is equated to an integral over the soft photon's momentum t from 0 to 1, where the hard part is a process with outgoing $e(t)$ and ν_e , and the soft part is a process with incoming $e(t)$ and outgoing $e(y)$ and γ_c .

E. Kuraev, et al. PRD, 2004 [arXiv:0310275]

size $\sim O\left(\alpha^2 \log \frac{m_{\pi/K}^2}{m_e^2}\right)$: enhanced by $\log \frac{m_{\pi/K}^2}{m_e^2} \sim O(10)$

Puzzle 1: solved by collinear photon radiation

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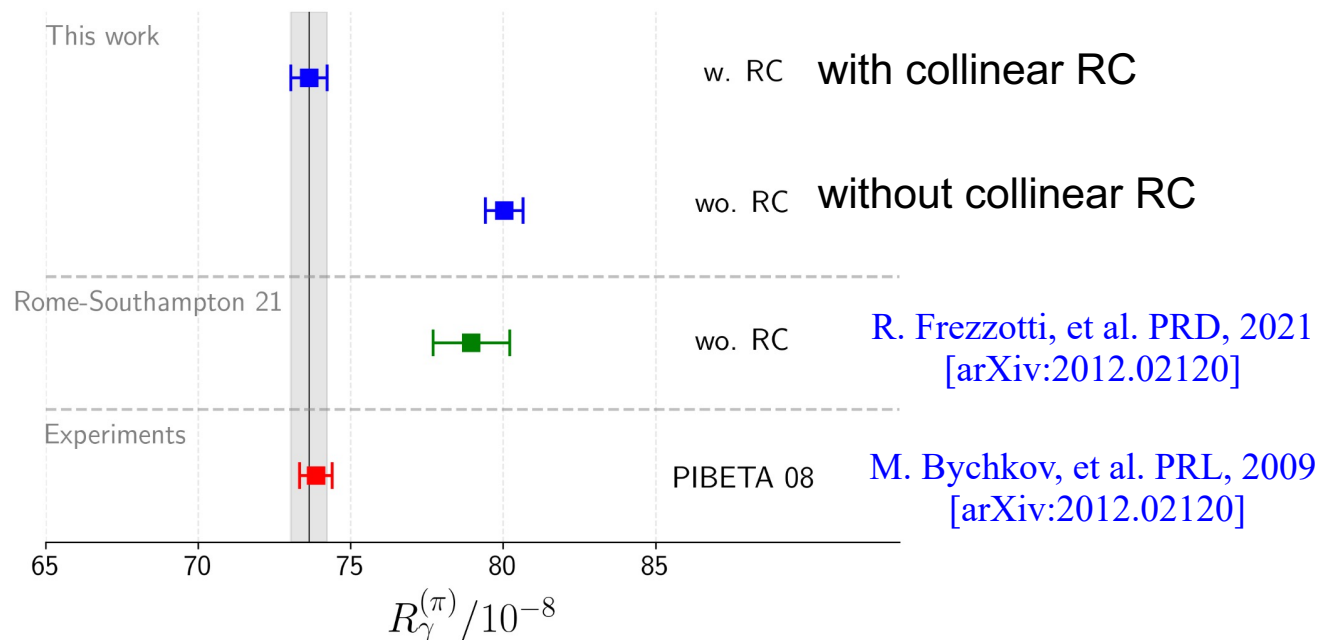
$$\begin{array}{c} \gamma(x) \\ \gamma_c \\ P \rightarrow \text{vertex} \rightarrow e(y) \\ \nu_e \end{array} = \int_y^1 \frac{dt}{t} \begin{array}{c} \gamma(x) \\ P \rightarrow \text{vertex} \rightarrow e(t) \\ \nu_e \end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{c} \gamma_c \\ e(t) \rightarrow \text{vertex} \rightarrow e(y) \\ \nu_e \end{array}$$

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size $\sim O\left(\alpha^2 \log \frac{m_{\pi/K}^2}{m_e^2}\right)$: enhanced by $\log \frac{m_{\pi/K}^2}{m_e^2} \sim O(10)$

- Lattice results

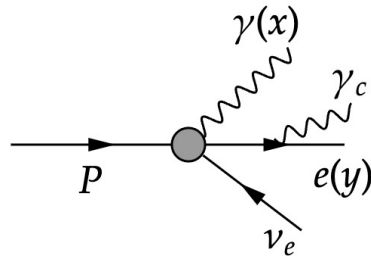
Our work:
P. Boyle, et al.
[arXiv: 2510.26993]



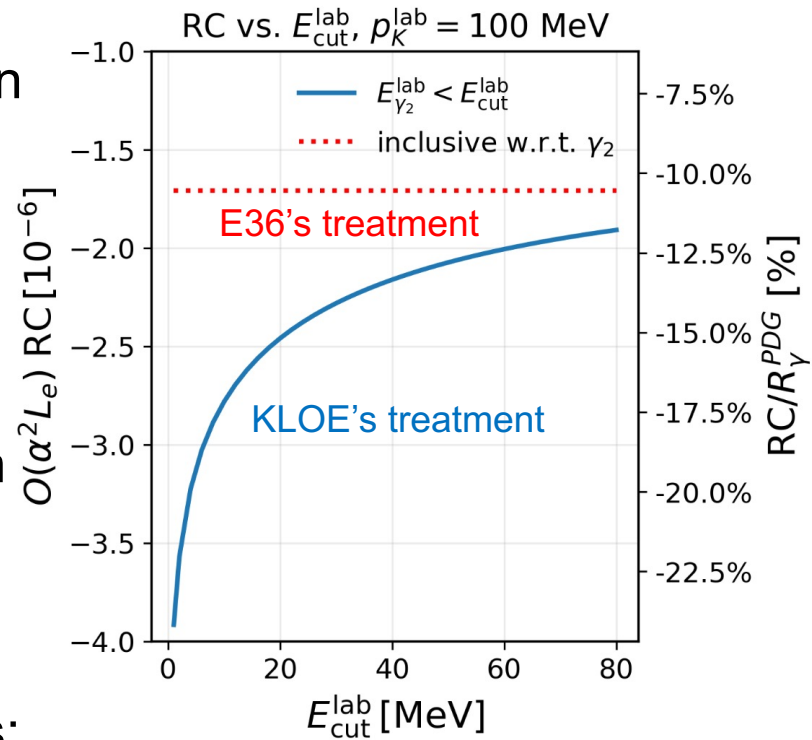
- No discrepancy between lattice QCD and PIBETA experiments.

Collinear radiative corrections in $K \rightarrow e\nu\gamma$

- The event selection method for the bremsstrahlung photons are different in KLOE and E36:



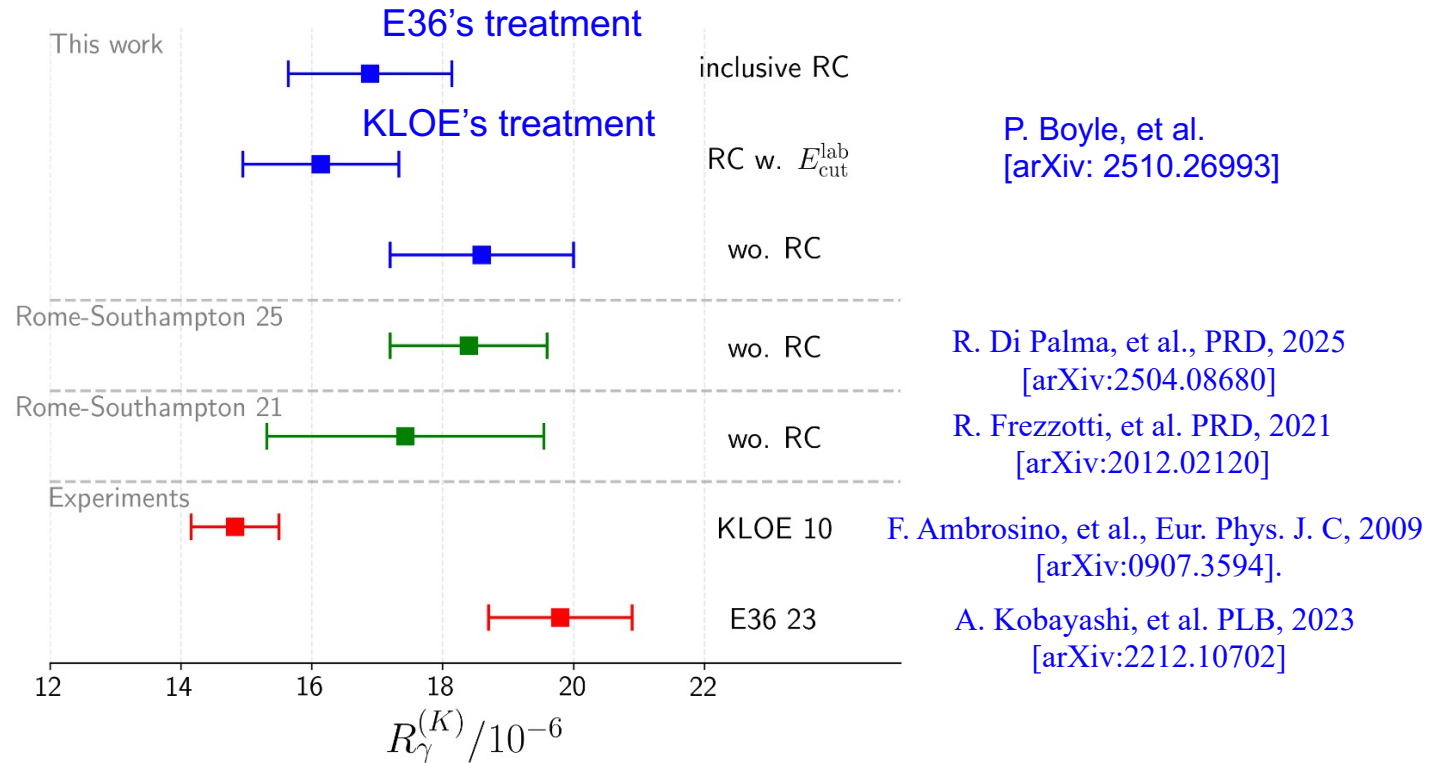
- KLOE require **exactly one photon**, with condition $E_{\gamma}^{\text{lab}} > 20 \text{ MeV}$
- E36 measurements are **inclusive** with respect to the bremsstrahlung photons:
 $K \rightarrow e\nu\gamma(\gamma)$
- The radiative corrections as large as $O(10\%)$ are important for a meaningful comparison between KLOE's and E36's measurements.



P. Boyle, et al.
[arXiv: 2510.26993]

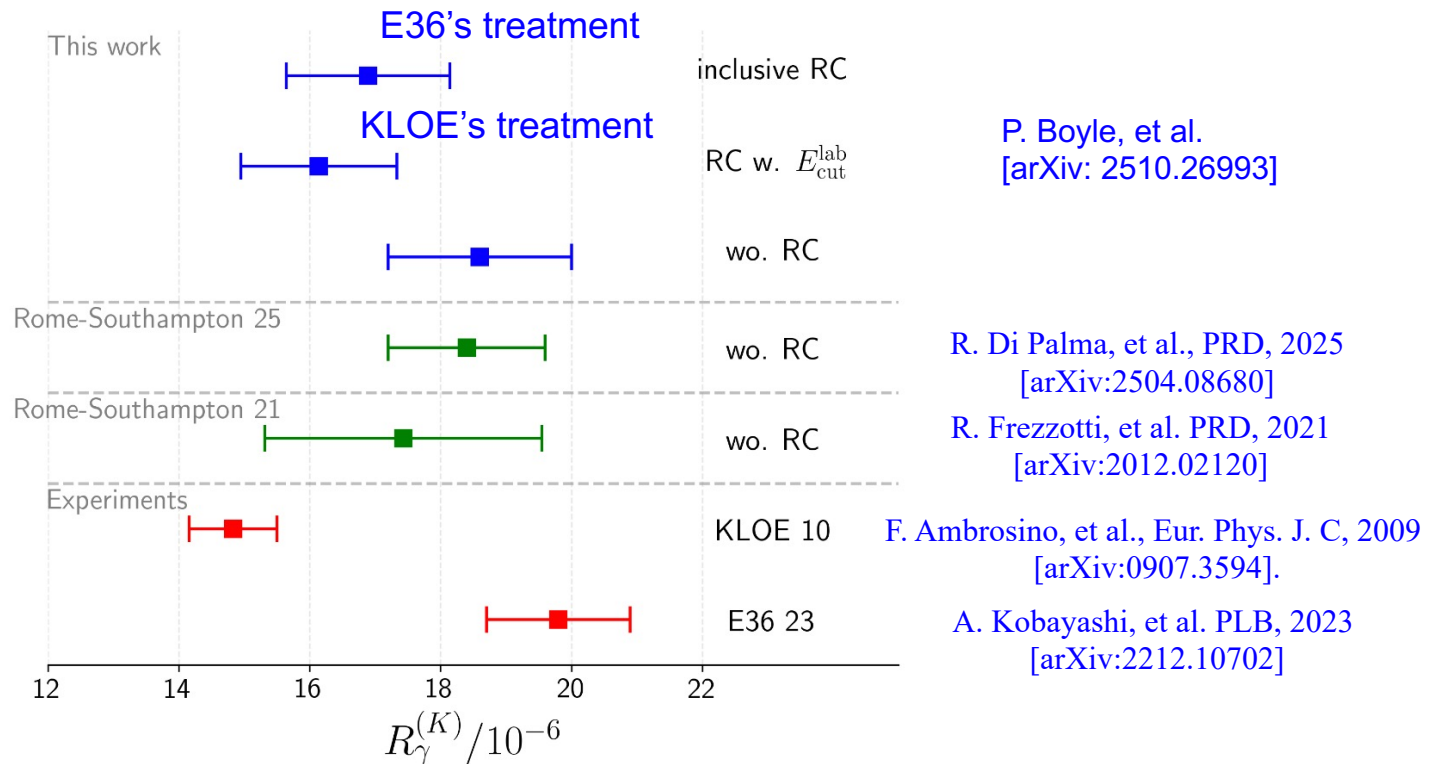
Lattice result: $K \rightarrow e\nu\gamma$

➤ Lattice results with different treatments



Lattice result: $K \rightarrow e\nu\gamma$

➤ Lattice results with different treatments



- New experiment ongoing: NA62.
- Following recent discussions between us and NA62 group, they plan to include collinear radiative corrections in Monte Carlo simulations of $K \rightarrow e\nu\gamma$ to ensure more direct comparison with theory.

Outline

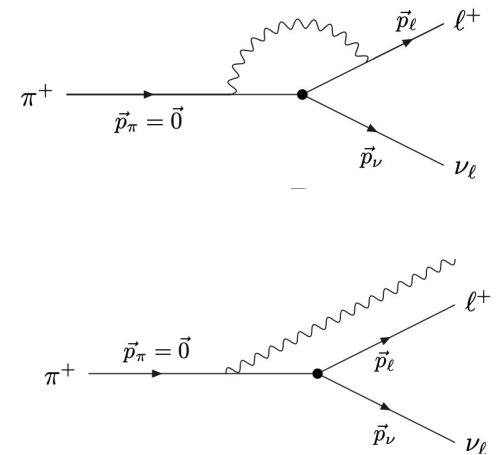
- 1 Background & Motivation
- 2 Radiative corrections in leptonic decay $K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}$
- 3 Radiative leptonic decays $K/\pi \rightarrow \ell \nu \gamma$
- 4 Radiative Corrections in $R_{e\mu} = P_{e2}/P_{\mu 2}$**
- 5 Outlook

Ongoing work: lattice calculation of SD part in $R_{e\mu}$

- Hadronic structure-dependent (SD) information enters through small radiative corrections. **size $\sim \mathcal{O}(0.1\%)$**

		$(P = \pi)$	$(P = K)$
$\mathcal{O}(\alpha)$, pt	$\Delta_{e^2 p^2}^{(P)} (\%)$	-3.929	-3.786
$\mathcal{O}(\alpha)$, SD {	$\Delta_{e^2 p^4}^{(P)} (\%)$	0.053 ± 0.011	0.135 ± 0.011
	$\Delta_{e^2 p^6}^{(P)} (\%)$	0.073	
resumming LLs	$\Delta_{LL} (\%)$	0.055	0.055

V. Cirigliano, I. Rosell, PRL, 2007 [arXiv:0707.3439]



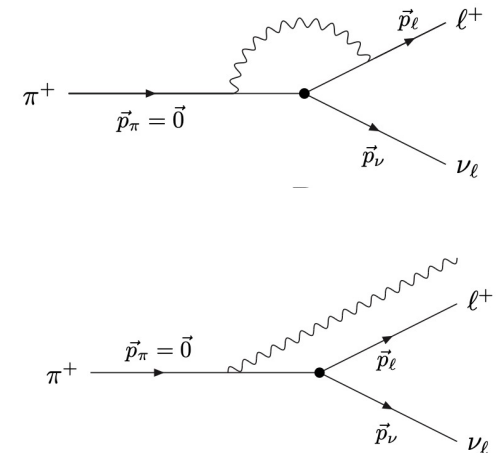
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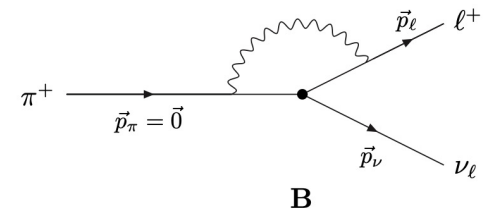
- Based on F_V and F_A calculated on lattice, SD contributions from real-photon emission can be determined with 3% relative error:

meson	ChPT	Lattice QCD
$P = \pi$	0.073%	0.0596(20)%
$P = K$	1.289	1.271(20)

- $\Gamma_{SD}(K \rightarrow e\nu\gamma)$ has similar size compared to $\Gamma(K \rightarrow e\nu)$ without radiative correction. Its effects is excluded in $R_{e\mu}^{(K)}$.

Ongoing work: SD part in $R_{e\mu}$ from virtual loop

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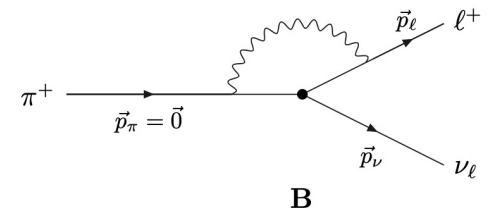


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- Challenge on lattice: errors dominated by point-particle contribution. Naïve calculation: $O(10\%)$ relative error for SD, similar to ChPT precision.
- Improvement by gauge invariance: compared to Feynman gauge, point-particle contribution for TB is greatly reduced in Coulomb gauge (no IR divergence).



Ongoing work: lattice can improve precision to percent level for SD, complement ChPT prediction using first-principles input.

Conclusions and Outlook

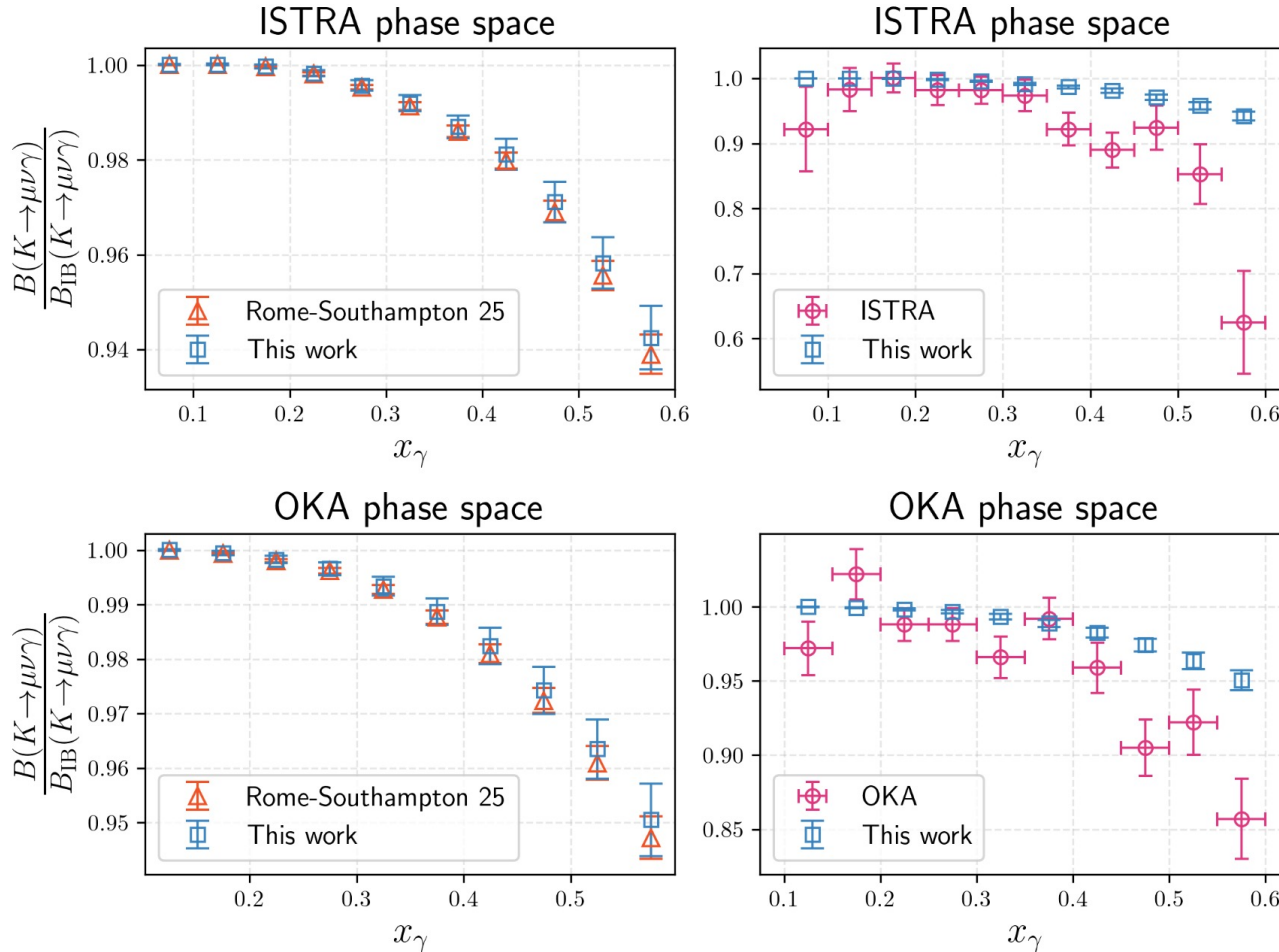
- A general lattice toolbox for QED & long-distance contribution with only exponentially small finite-volume effects: IVR method.
- For radiative corrections in leptonic decay $K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}$, our work reduces the theoretical uncertainty in $|V_{us}|/|V_{ud}|$:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{This work: } & 0.23184(28)_{\text{exp}} \text{ (10)}_{\delta R_{K\pi}} (65)_{f_P^{\text{iso}}} \\ QED_L, 2023: & 0.23154(28)_{\text{exp}} \text{ (15)}_{\delta R_{K\pi}} \text{ (45)}_{\delta R_{K\pi, \text{vol}}} (65)_{f_P^{\text{iso}}} \end{aligned}$$

- For $K/\pi \rightarrow e\nu\gamma$, the collinear radiative corrections are the key to understand current puzzles in lattice and experiments.
- For radiative corrections to $R_{e\mu}$, we plan to calculate SD contributions with percent level precision.
- Outlook: A key next step is the lattice determination of radiative corrections in semileptonic decays, $K_{\ell 3}$ and $\pi_{\ell 3}$.

Backup Slides

Results for $K \rightarrow \mu\nu\gamma$: OKA, ISTRA

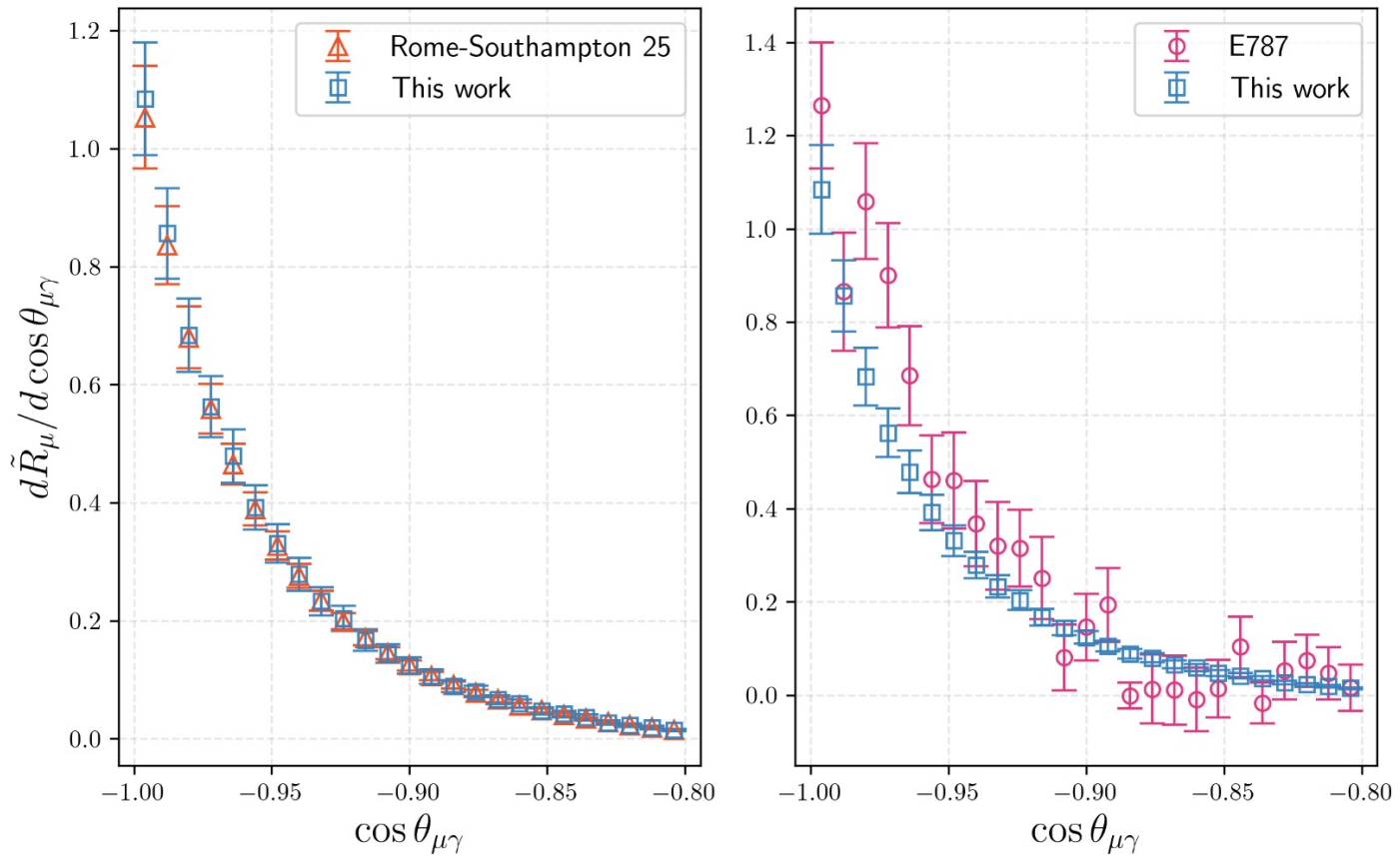


R. Di Palma, et al. [arXiv:2504.08680]

V. I. Kravtsov et al. (OKA), Eur. Phys. J. C, 2019 [arXiv:1904.10078]

V. A. Duk, et al. (ISTRA+), PLB, 2011 [arXiv:1005.3517]

Results for $K \rightarrow \mu\nu\gamma$: E787



R. Di Palma, et al. [arXiv:2504.08680]

S. Adler, et al. (E787), PRL, 2000 [arXiv:0003019]