

# Lattice QCD for Neutrino Oscillation

Aaron S. Meyer (asmeyer.physics@gmail.com)

UC Berkeley/LBNL

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S@INT Seminar

# Outline

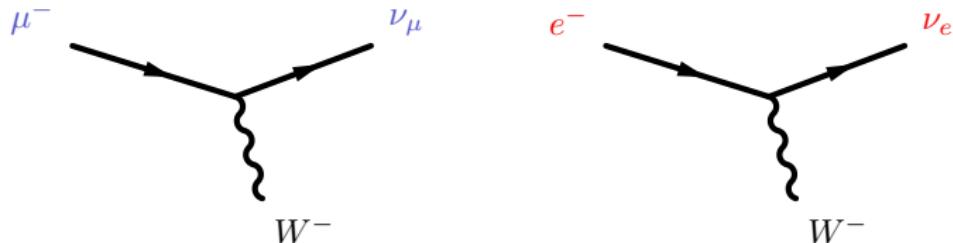
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Quasielastic Scattering from Experiment
  - Constraints from Deuterium Scattering
- ▶  $F_A(Q^2)$  from LQCD
  - CalLat Calculation
  - Excited States
- ▶ LQCD Survey of  $F_A(Q^2)$ 
  - Summary of  $F_A(Q^2)$  Calculations
  - T2K/DUNE Implications
- ▶ Future Directions

Note: all references in online slides are hyperlinked

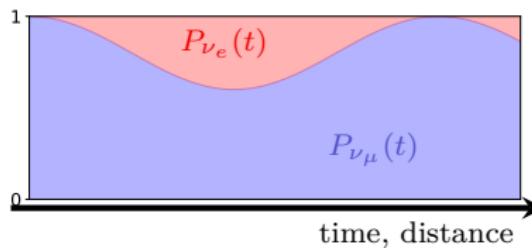
# Neutrino Oscillation

# Neutrino Oscillation (in a slide)

Neutrino flavor defined by charged lepton produced under weak interaction



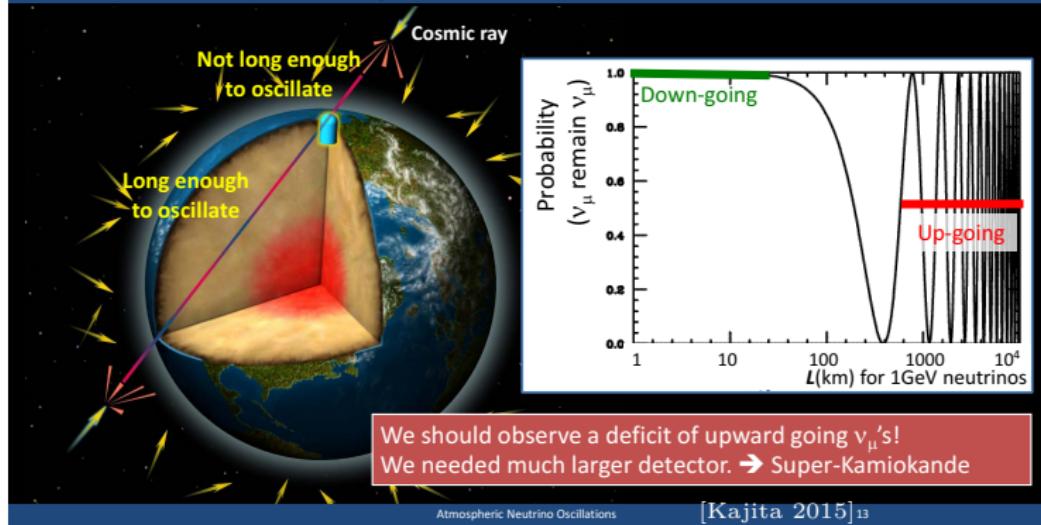
$\nu$  flavor changes spontaneously during near light-speed propagation:  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$



Want to understand the mechanics governing this oscillation

# Discovery of Neutrino Oscillation

*What will happen if the  $\nu_\mu$  deficit is due to neutrino oscillations*

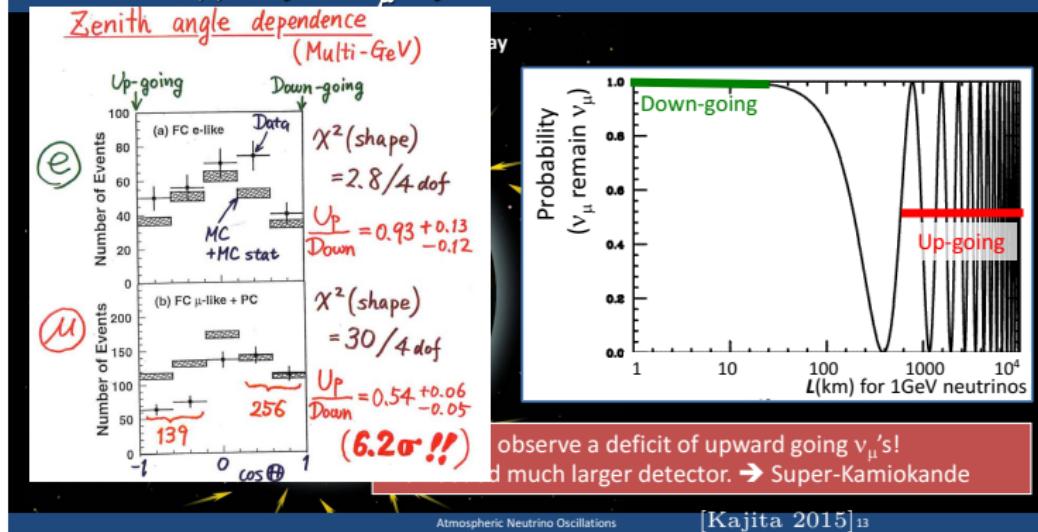


Difference between upward vs downward  $\nu$  at Super-Kamiokande (1998)  
⇒ Neutrinos have mass and oscillate!

2015 Nobel prize to Arthur McDonald, Takaaki Kajita

# Discovery of Neutrino Oscillation

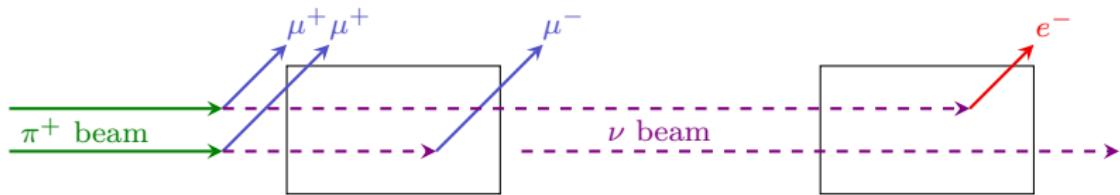
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Difference between upward vs downward  $\nu$  at Super-Kamiokande (1998)  
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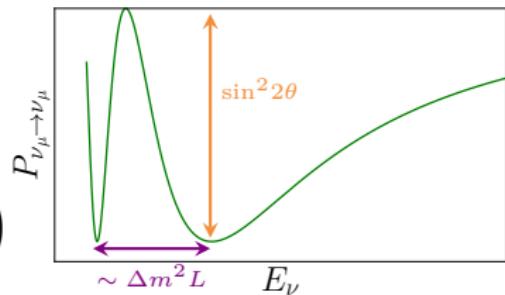
# Neutrino Oscillation (with math)



$$\underbrace{|\nu_\ell\rangle}_{\text{flavor eigenstate}} = \sum_i U_{\ell i}^* \underbrace{|\nu_i\rangle}_{\text{mass eigenstate}} \quad |\nu_i\rangle \rightarrow e^{-iE_i t} |\nu_i\rangle$$

2 flavor model:

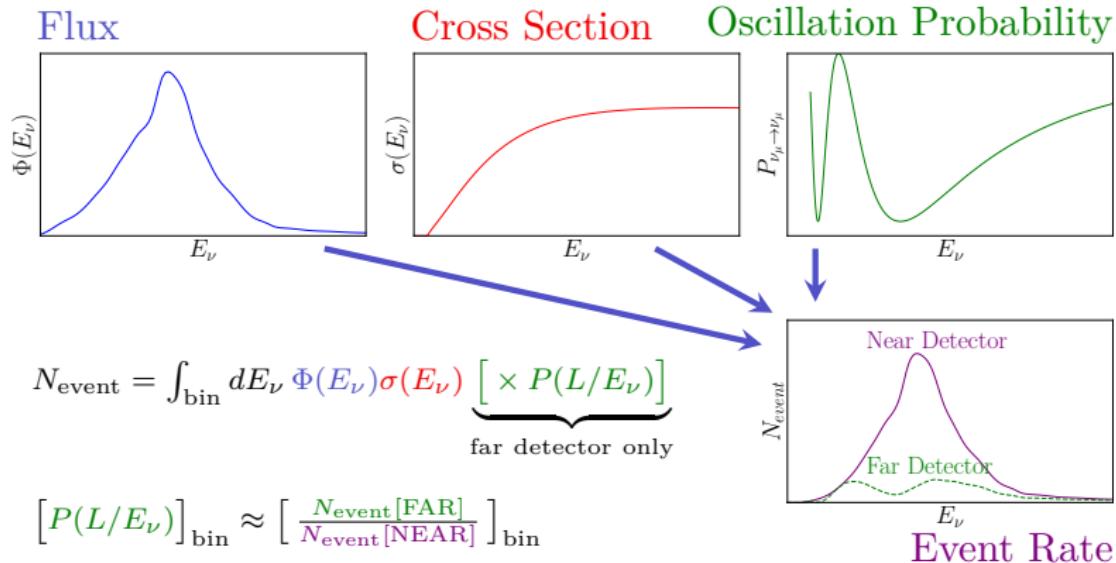
$$P_{\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left( 1.27 \frac{\Delta m^2 [\text{eV}^2] L [\text{km}]}{E_\nu [\text{GeV}]} \right)$$



Mass eigenstates – propagation      }  
flavor eigenstates – interaction      } Not the same

Oscillation probability is **function of  $L/E_\nu$  at fixed  $L$**

# Measuring Oscillation Probability



Neutrinos from tertiary beam ( $p \rightarrow \pi^+ \rightarrow \nu_\mu$ ): broad flux

To measure  $\nu$  oscillation, measure number of  $\nu$  at given  $E_\nu$

# Neutrino Event Topologies

Use large nucleus for more nucleons to interact with

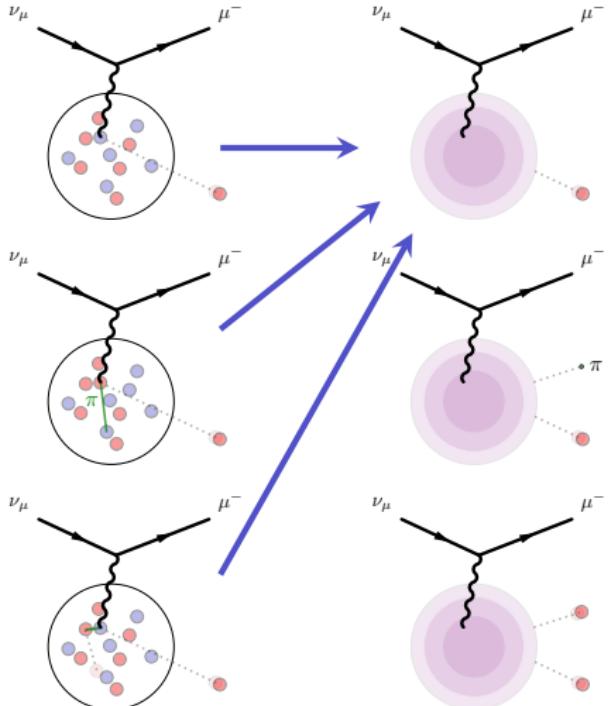
Nuclear environment complicates measurements:

- ▶ Many allowed kinematic channels
- ▶ Reinteractions within nucleus
- ▶ Only final state particles are observable

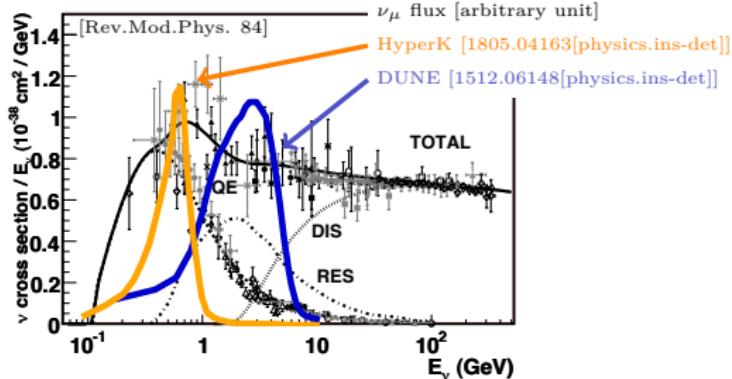
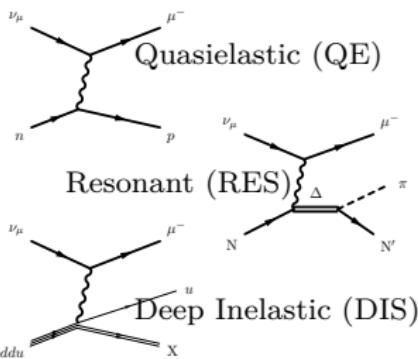
For any event, range of possible  $E_\nu$  depending upon event topology

⇒ **Event-by-event  $E_\nu$  measurements are not possible**

“Reconstruct” event distributions using Monte Carlo simulations



# Neutrino Cross Sections

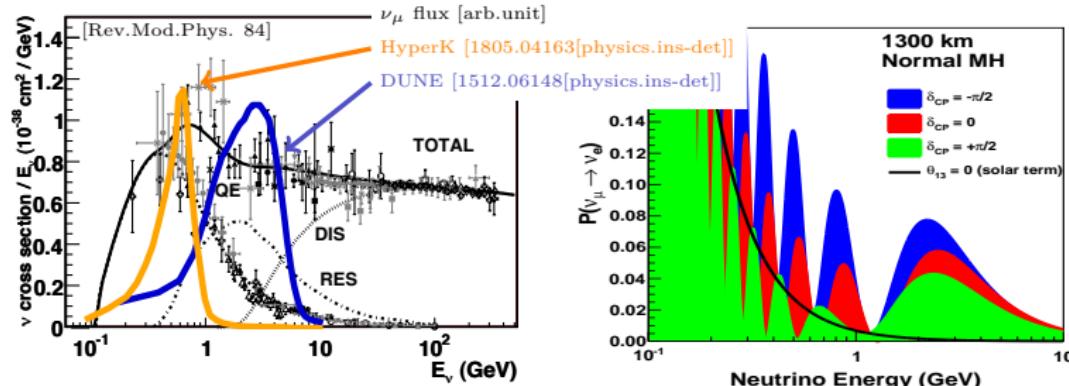


Energy range spans several *nucleon* interaction topologies

*Nucleon* amplitudes used to build *nuclear* cross sections  
⇒ inputs to Monte Carlo simulations,  $E_\nu$  reconstruction

Goal: isolate, quantify, improve *nucleon* amplitudes  
⇒ Precise, theoretically robust *nucleon* inputs  
→ definitive statements about *nuclear* uncertainties

# Summary of Oscillation Experiment Challenges



$E_\nu$  not known per event

⇒ reconstruct  $E_\nu$  from distribution

Primary interaction topologies  
mixed by nuclear effects

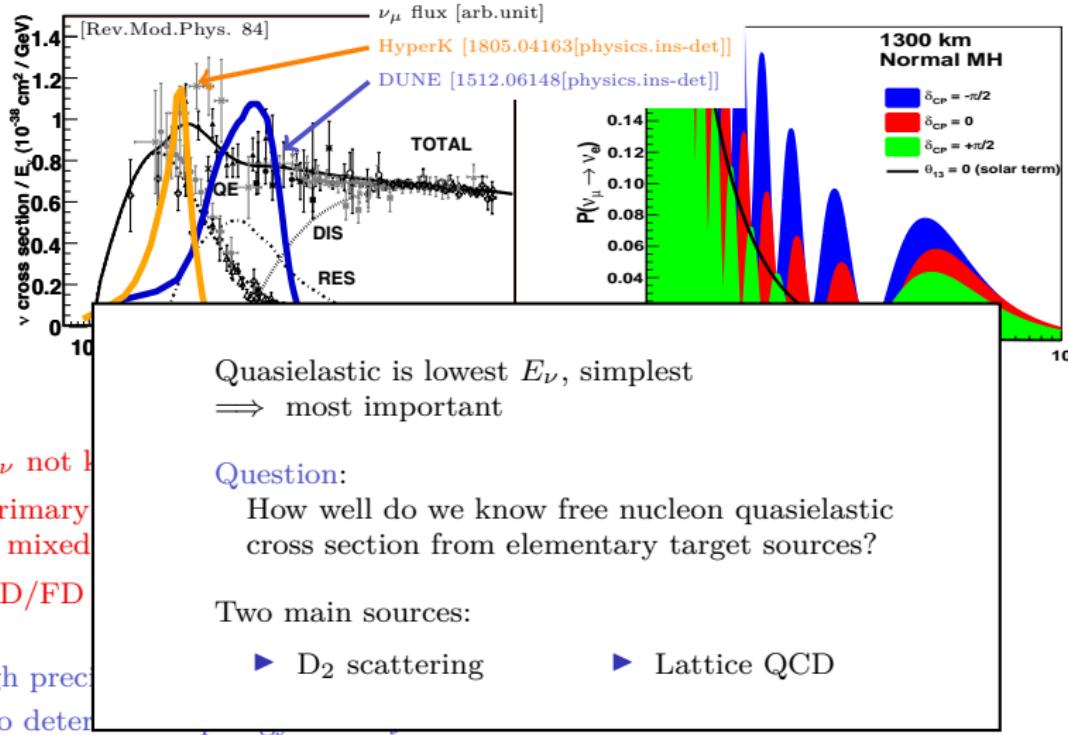
⇒ Counts/kinematics/topologies  
change inside nucleus

ND/FD beam not same

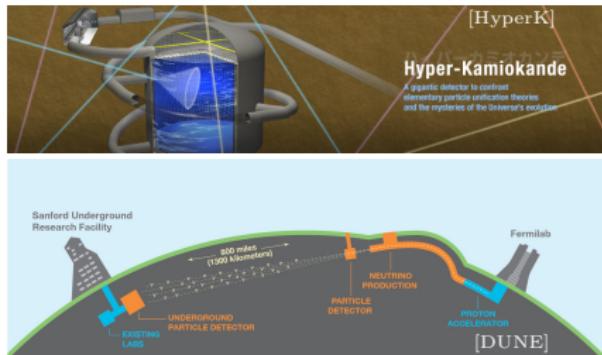
⇒ different efficiency @ near, far

High precision experiments need robust & precise cross sections  
to determine topology and  $E_\nu$  for interaction events

# Summary of Oscillation Experiment Challenges



# Neutrino Physics Goals



Flagship long baseline experiments to measure neutrino oscillation

DUNE: USA, HyperK: Japan

$O(10 - 100 \text{ kton})$  mass

$O(10^2 - 10^3 \text{ km})$  baseline

Seek to answer fundamental questions about neutrinos:

- ▶ mass ordering ( $\Delta m_{32}^2 > 0?$ )
- ▶ octant ( $\sin^2 \theta_{23} = 0.5?$ )
- ▶ CP violation ( $\delta_{\text{CP}} = ?$ )
- ▶ PMNS unitarity?
- ▶ 3  $\nu$  flavors?
- ▶ precision constraints

Measurements of solar, supernova  $\nu$

Data collection starts 2028-2029  $\implies$  need support from theory!

# QE Experimental Constraints

# Quasielastic Form Factors

Quasielastic (QE) scattering assumes quasi-free nucleon inside nucleus

The Feynman diagram illustrates the process of quasielastic scattering. A muon neutrino ( $\nu_\mu$ ) and an antineutrino ( $\mu^-$ ) interact via the weak interaction with a nucleon ( $n$ ) and a nucleus. The nucleus is represented by a red oval labeled "nucleus". The outgoing nucleon is labeled  $p$ . The interaction is shown as a wavy line connecting the incoming neutrinos to the outgoing nucleon.

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{nucleon}} = \langle \ell | \mathcal{J}^\mu | \nu_\ell \rangle \langle N' | \mathcal{J}_\mu | N \rangle$$
$$\begin{aligned} & \langle N'(p') | (V - A)_\mu(q) | N(p) \rangle \\ &= \bar{u}(p') \left[ \begin{array}{lcl} \gamma_\mu F_1(q^2) & + & \frac{i}{2M_N} \sigma_{\mu\nu} q^\nu F_2(q^2) \\ + \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 F_A(q^2) & + & \frac{1}{2M_N} q_\mu \gamma_5 F_P(q^2) \end{array} \right] u(p) \end{aligned}$$

- ▶  $F_1, F_2$ : constrained by  $eN$  scattering
- ▶  $F_P$ : subleading in cross section,  
 $\propto F_A$  from pion pole dominance constraint

Axial form factor  $F_A$  is leading contribution to nucleon cross section uncertainty

# Form Factor Parameterizations

Most common in experimental literature: dipole ansatz —

$$F_A(Q^2) = g_A \left( 1 + \frac{Q^2}{m_A^2} \right)^{-2}$$

- ▶ Overconstrained by both experimental and LQCD data (revisit later)
- ▶ Inconsistent with QCD, requirements from unitarity bounds
- ▶ Motivated by  $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$  limit, data restricted to low  $Q^2$

Model independent alternative:  $z$  expansion [Phys.Rev.D 84 (2011)] —

$$F_A(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^k \quad z(Q^2; t_0, t_{\text{cut}}) = \frac{\sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} + Q^2} - \sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} - t_0}}{\sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} + Q^2} + \sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} - t_0}} \quad t_{\text{cut}} \leq (3M_\pi)^2$$

- ▶ Rapidly converging expansion
- ▶ Controlled procedure for introducing new parameters

# Deuterium Constraints on $F_A$

~ free nucleon constraints on  $F_A$

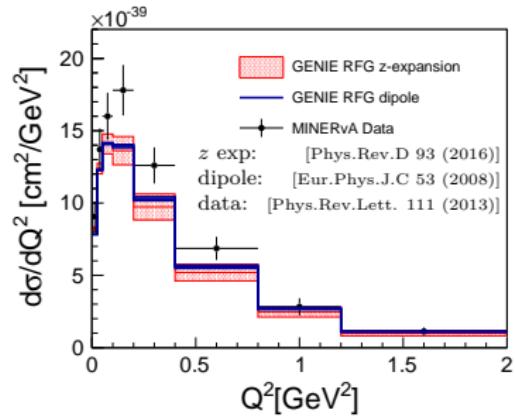
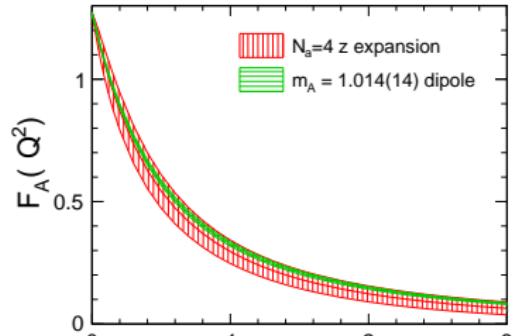
- ▶ Outdated bubble chamber experiments:
  - Total  $O(10^3)$   $\nu_\mu$ QE events
  - Original data lost
  - Unknown corrections to data
  - **Deficient deuterium correction**
- ▶ Dipole overconstrained by data  
underestimated uncertainty  $\times O(10)$
- ▶ Prediction discrepancies could be from  
nucleon and/or nuclear origins

Coming soon:

MINER $\bar{\nu}$ A  $\bar{\nu}_\mu p \rightarrow \mu^+ n$  dataset

Obtained from hydrocarbon target

See [Cai thesis (2021)]



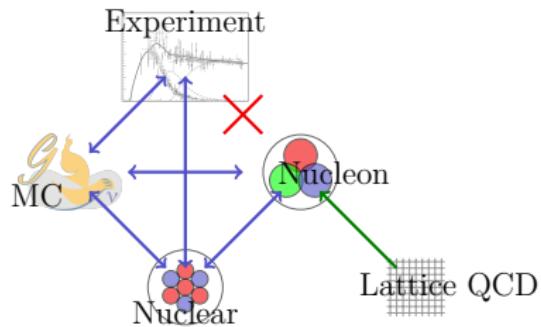
# LQCD as Disruptive Technology

How can we improve precision?

Ideal: Modern high stats  $\nu$ -D<sub>2</sub> scattering bubble chamber experiment

⇒ LQCD as an alternative/complement to experiment,  
especially with experimentally inaccessible quantities

- ✓ No nuclear effects
- ✓ Realistic uncertainty estimates
- ✓ Systematically improvable
- ✓ Computers are (relatively) inexpensive



Build from the ground up:

Nucleon amplitudes from first principles

Robust uncertainty quantification

Well motivated theory inputs to nuclear models/EFTs

# Lattice QCD

# Lattice QCD Formalism

Numerical evaluation of path integral

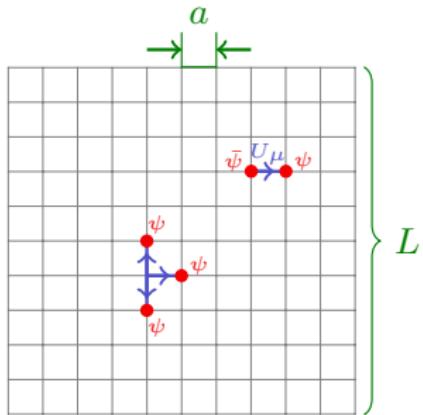
Quark, gluon DOFs —

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}\psi \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \mathcal{D}U \exp(-S) \mathcal{O}_\psi [U]$$

Inputs:

- $am_{(u,d),\text{bare}}$
- $am_s,\text{bare}$
- $\beta = 6/g_{\text{bare}}^2$

Matching: e.g.  $\frac{M_\pi}{M_\Omega}, \frac{M_K}{M_\Omega}, M_\Omega$   
Only 1 per computational input

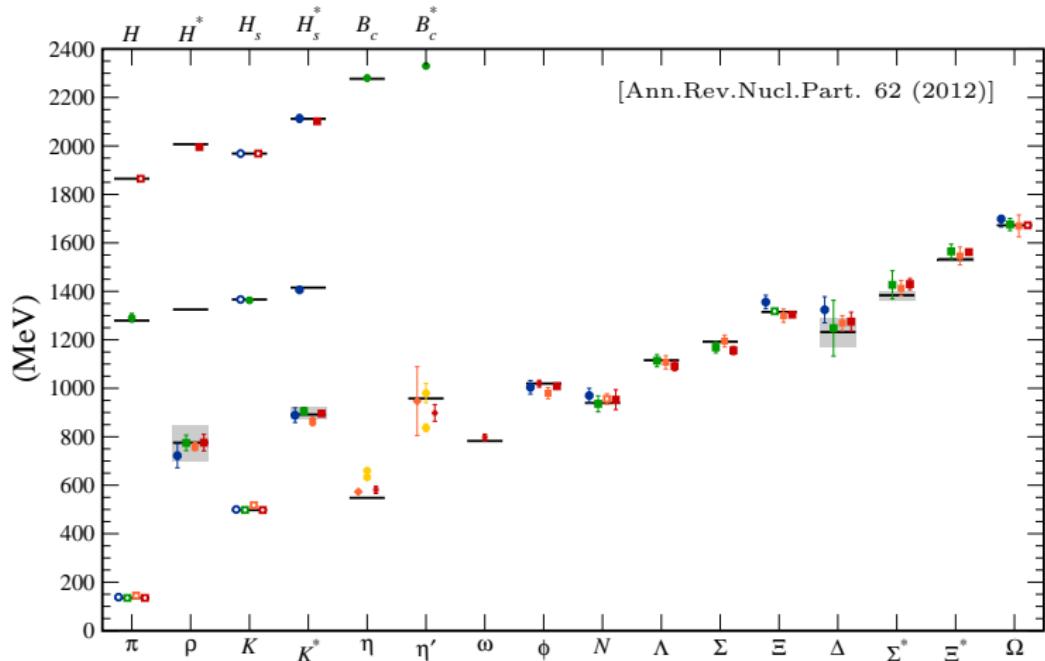


Results — first principles predictions from QCD,  
gluons to all orders

“Complete” error budget  $\implies$  extrapolation in  $a, L, M_\pi$  guided by EFT, FV $\chi$ PT

- ▶  $a \rightarrow 0$  (continuum limit)
- ▶  $L \rightarrow \infty$  (infinite volume limit)
- ▶  $M_\pi \rightarrow M_\pi^{\text{phys}}$  (chiral limit)

# Successes of Lattice QCD



Open symbol: input    Closed symbol: (pre/post)dictions    Line: expt

- Excellent agreement across board
- Widely used in flavor physics

# Axial Vector Coupling: $g_A(Q^2 = 0)$

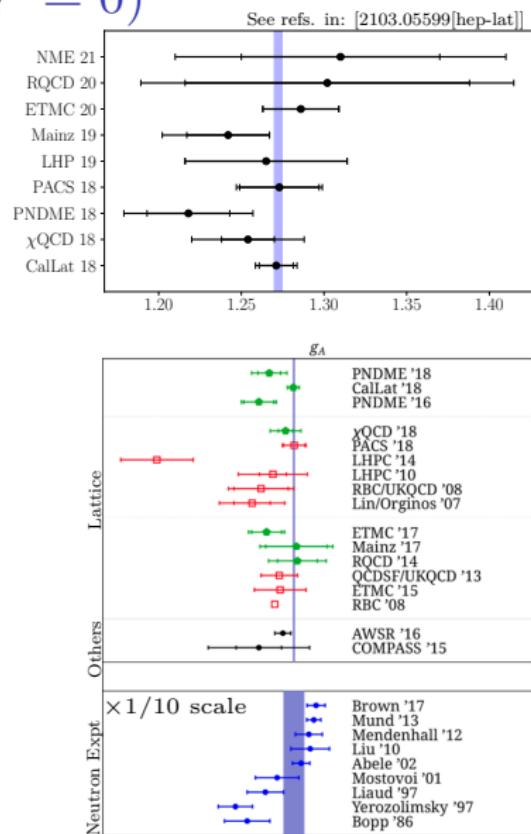
$g_A$  is benchmark for  
nucleon matrix elements in LQCD

Status circa 2018 summarized by  
USQCD white paper  
[Eur.Phys.J.A 55 (2019)]

See also: FLAG review  
[Eur.Phys.J.C 80 (2020)]

Historically  $g_A$  low compared to expt  
**excited states** (+other...)

Lots of activity since 2018,  
consistent agreement with PDG  
full error budgets available



[Eur.Phys.J.A 55 (2019)]

# LQCD Computation Anatomy

Correlation functions in euclidean time:

$$\Rightarrow e^{-E_n t} \text{ decay of excited state contribs}$$

2-point function

$$\langle \blacksquare(t) \blacksquare(0) \rangle = \sum_n \langle 0 | \blacksquare | n \rangle \langle n | \blacksquare | 0 \rangle e^{-E_n t}$$

3-point function

$$\langle \blacksquare(t) \otimes(\tau) \blacksquare(0) \rangle = \sum_{mn} \langle 0 | \blacksquare | n \rangle \langle n | \otimes | m \rangle \langle m | \blacksquare | 0 \rangle e^{-E_n(t-\tau)-E_m\tau}$$

Extract **masses** from 2-point, **matrix elements** from 3-point

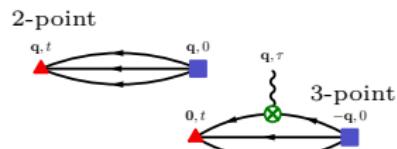
Complications:

- ▶ exponentially degrading signal/noise with  $t$
- ▶  $n > 0$  contaminations from excited states

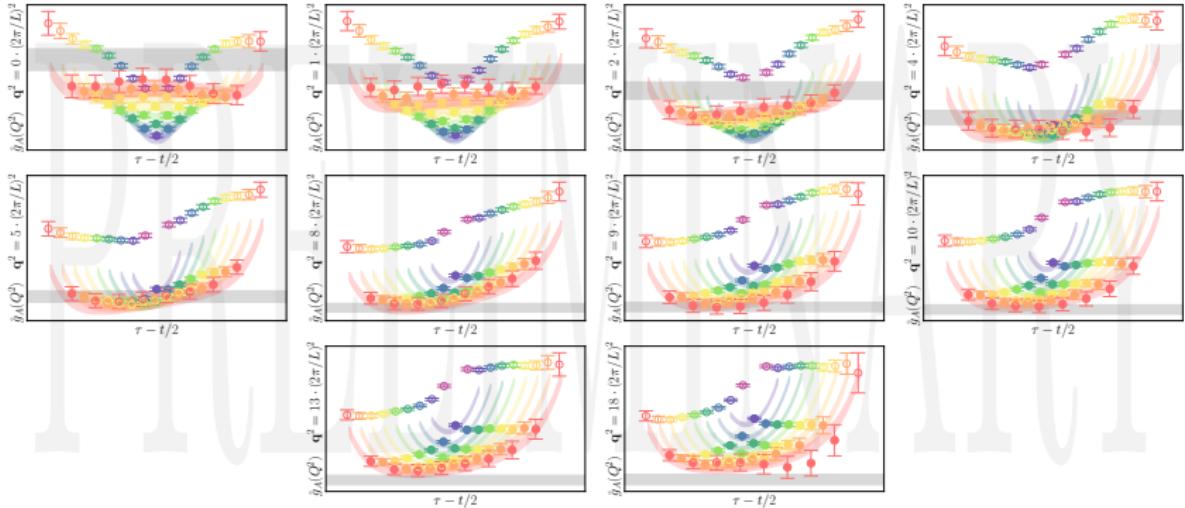
Use many **source/sink** operators ( $\blacksquare, \blacksquare^\dagger$ ) to suppress excited states:

$$C_{ij}(t) = \sum_n z_{i,n} z_{j,n}^\dagger e^{-E_n t}$$

$$\Rightarrow v^T C(t) v \approx e^{-E_0 t} \quad \text{when} \quad \sum_i v_i^T z_{i,n} \approx \delta_{0,n}$$



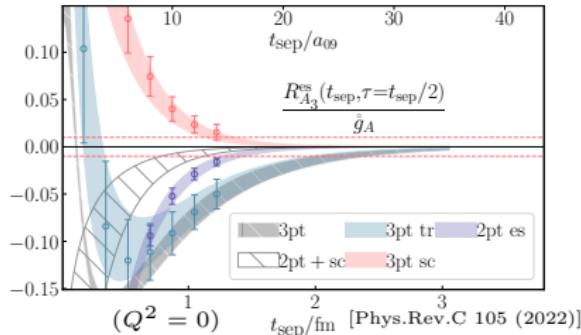
# Three-Point Function Ratios



Global 3-state exponential fit  $\times 10$  momenta w/  $|q_i| \leq 3 \cdot (2\pi/L)$

- ▶ colors:  $t/a \in \{3, \dots, 12\}$  ▶ gray band: fit  $\hat{g}_A(Q^2)$  ▶ All  $q_z = 0$
- ▶ horizontal:  $\tau$ , centered about midpoint
- ▶ vertical:  $\sqrt{2E_{\mathbf{q}}/(E_{\mathbf{q}} + M)} \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}_z}(t_{\text{sep}}, \tau, \mathbf{q}) \rightarrow \hat{g}_A(Q^2)$
- ▶ Minimum time separation:  $\tau/a, (t - \tau)/a \geq 2$

# Excited States in $g_A$

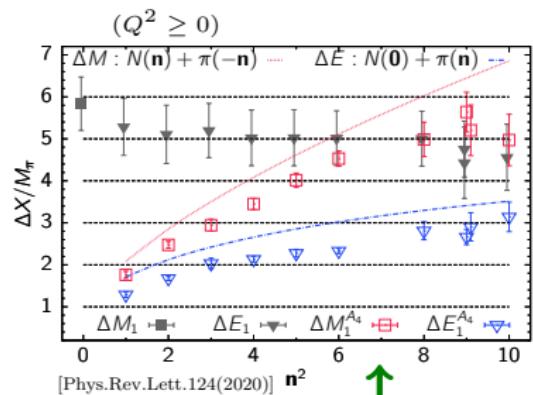


Compare fit to correlator data ratio

Remnant contamination  
dominated by “transition” states  
( $m \rightarrow n$ , violet)

Statistically significant until 2 fm  
typical data  $\lesssim 1$  fm

Excited states still present in  
practically achievable large time limit



NOTE: expect only approx  
agreement between data/curves

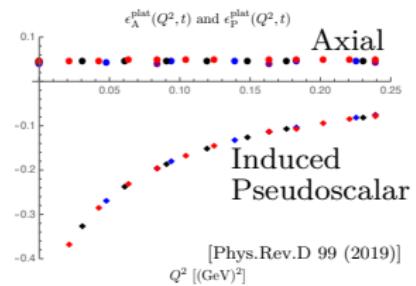
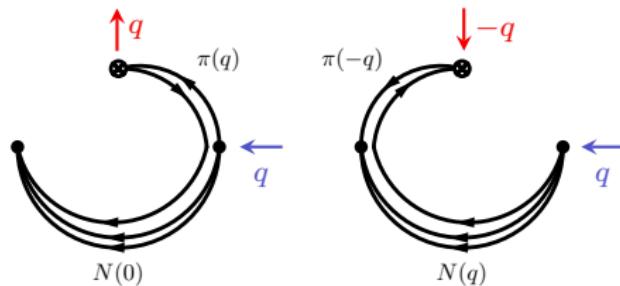
NME collab:

$Q^2$  contamination from  $N \rightarrow N\pi$

Dominant contribution agrees  
with  $\chi$ PT expectation

$N\pi$  is important for  $g_A(Q^2)$

# Excited States - $\chi$ PT and $N\pi$



Contamination primarily from enhanced  $N\pi$ , mostly from induced pseudoscalar

Intermediate fits not sensitive to  $N\pi$

⇒ need simultaneous fits including intermediate correlators

[Phys.Rev.C 105 (2022)] [Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022)]

Alternate fit strategies to remove  $N\pi$  (are they comparable?):

- ▶ Kinematic constraints ( $F_P = 0$ )
- ▶ explicit  $N\pi$  operators
- ▶ include  $\mathcal{A}_4$  (strong  $N\pi$  coupling)

Prediction from  $\chi$ PT: [Phys.Rev.D 99 (2019)]

First demonstration by NME: [Phys.Rev.Lett. 124 (2020)]

$\chi$ PT-inspired fit methods for fitting form factor data

[Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022)] [JHEP 05 (2020) 126]

# LQCD Survey & Implications

Now published!

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Home / Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science / Volume 72, 2022 / Meyer

# Status of Lattice QCD Determination of Nucleon Form Factors and Their Relevance for the Few-GeV Neutrino Program

Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science  
Vol. 72 - (Volume publication date September 2022)  
Review in Advance first posted online on July 6, 2022. (Changes may still occur before final publication.)  
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-nucl-010622-120608>

Aaron S. Meyer,<sup>1,2</sup> André Walker-Loud,<sup>2</sup> and Callum Wilkinson<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA; email: [asmeyer@berkeley.edu](mailto:asmeyer@berkeley.edu)  
<sup>2</sup>Nuclear Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA  
<sup>3</sup>Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA

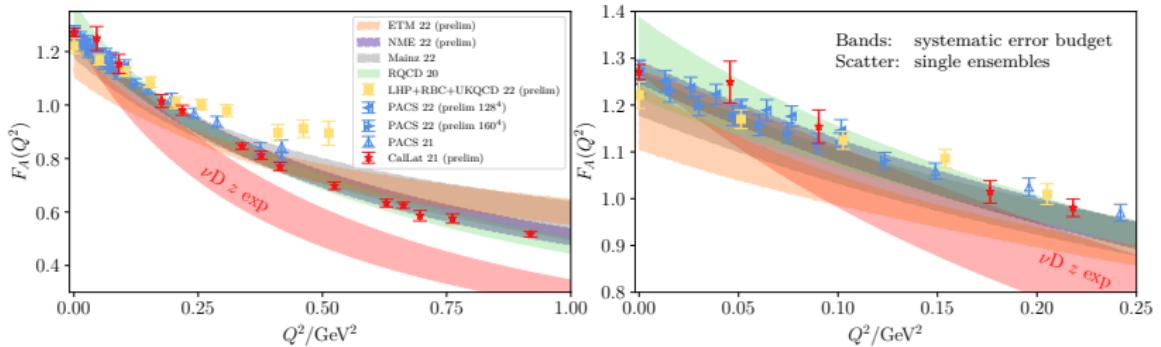
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## Abstract

Calculations of neutrino–nucleus cross sections begin with the neutrino–nucleon interaction, making the latter critically important to flagship neutrino oscillation experiments despite limited measurements with poor statistics. Alternatively, lattice quantum chromodynamics (LQCD) can be used to determine these interactions from the Standard Model with quantifiable theoretical uncertainties. Recent LQCD results of  $g_A$  are in excellent agreement with data, and results for the (quasi-)elastic nucleon form factors with full uncertainty budgets are expected within a few years. We review the status of the field and LQCD results for the nucleon axial form factor,  $F_A(Q^2)$ , a major source of uncertainty in modeling sub-GeV neutrino–nucleon interactions. Results from different LQCD calculations are consistent but collectively disagree with existing models, with potential implications for current and future neutrino oscillation experiments. We describe a road map to solidify confidence in the LQCD results and discuss future calculations of more complicated processes, which are important to few-GeV neutrino oscillation experiments.

Expected final online publication date for the *Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science*, Volume 72 is September 2022. Please see <http://www.annualreviews.org/page/journal/pubdates> for revised estimates.

# Nucleon Axial Form Factor

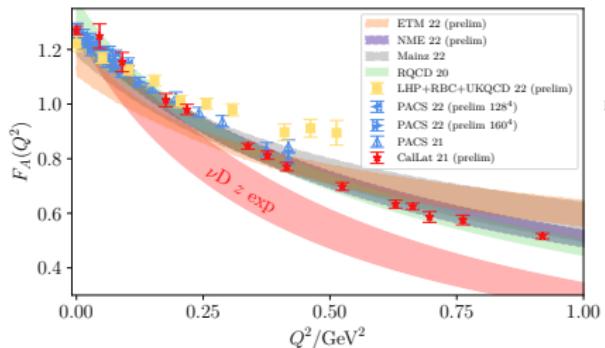


LQCD results maturing:

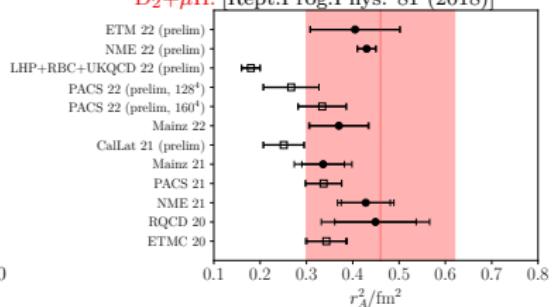
- ▶ Many results, all physical  $M_\pi$ :  
*independent data & different methods*
- ▶ Agreement w/ single ensemble  
⇒ Small systematic effects observed  
(expectation: largest at  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$ )
- ▶ Extrapolated results (bands) satisfy nontrivial PCAC checks  
Lots of recent effort to understand

Evidence of slow  $Q^2$  falloff, **situation unlikely to change drastically**

# Axial Radius ( $r_A^2$ )



Filled circle: full error budget  
 Open square: incomplete  
 $D_2 + \mu H$ : [Rept. Prog. Phys. 81 (2018)]



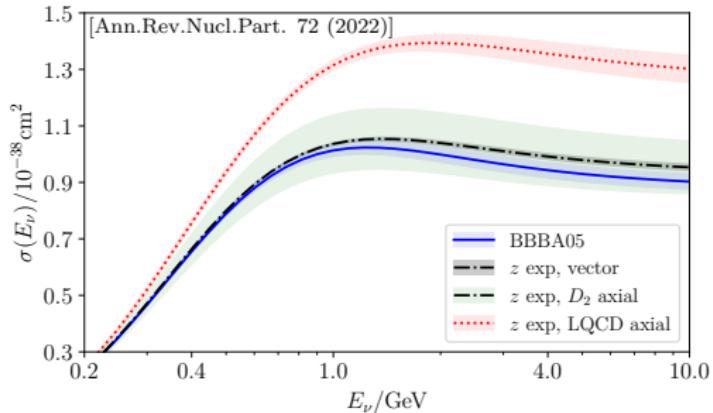
$$\text{Radius related to slope: } r_A^2 = -\frac{6}{g_A} \frac{dF_A}{dQ^2} \Big|_{Q^2=0}$$

Good agreement with  $r_A^2$  from experiment, poor agreement with large  $Q^2$

Fixing radius to agree at large  $Q^2$  would bring radius down to  $r_A^2 \sim 0.25 \text{ fm}^2$

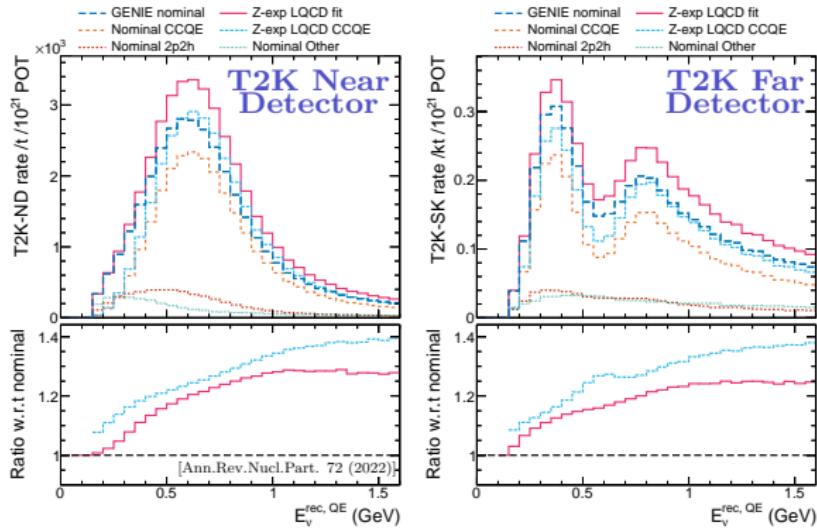
$\implies$  Incompatible with dipole ansatz

# Free Nucleon Cross Section



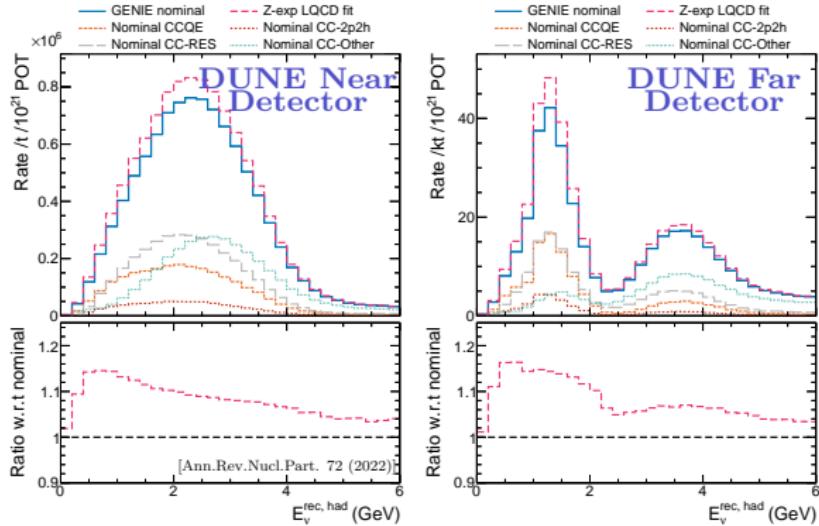
- ▶ Representative LQCD dataset (CalLat 21)
- ▶ Integral over  $Q^2 \implies$  enhancement of discrepancy
- ▶ LQCD prefers 30-40% enhancement of  $\nu_\mu$  CCQE cross section
- ▶ recent Monte Carlo tunes require 20% enhancement of QE  
[Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022)] [2206.11050 [hep-ph]]  
similar trend with continuum Schwinger function methods  
[Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022)] [2206.12518 [hep-ph]]
- ▶ With improved precision, sensitive to vector FF tension (black vs blue)  
[Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020)] vs [Nucl.Phys.B Proc.Suppl. 159 (2006)]

# T2K Implications



- ▶ Dashed dark blue (GENIE nominal) vs solid magenta ( $z$  exp LQCD fit)
- ▶ QE enhancements produce 10-20% event rate enhancement,  $E_{\nu}$ -dependent
- ▶ Monte Carlo tuning makes more detailed comparisons complicated  
     $\implies$  All channels are adjusted to compensate for QE changes
- ▶ cross section changes at ND  $\neq$  effective cross section changes at FD:  
    insufficient CCQE model freedom  $\rightarrow$  bias in FD prediction

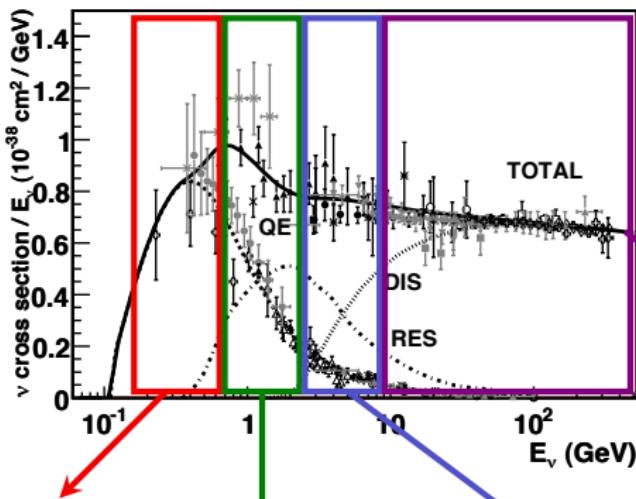
# DUNE Implications



- ▶ Solid dark blue (GENIE nominal) vs dashed magenta ( $z$  exp LQCD fit)
- ▶ QE enhancements produce 10-20% event rate enhancement,  $E_{\nu}$ -dependent
- ▶ Monte Carlo tuning makes more detailed comparisons complicated  
     $\Rightarrow$  All channels are adjusted to compensate for QE changes
- ▶ cross section changes at ND  $\neq$  effective cross section changes at FD:  
    insufficient CCQE model freedom  $\rightarrow$  bias in FD prediction

# Future Directions

# Future Directions



## Quasielastic

- Nucleon Form Factors
- Full Error Budgets
- Detailed Systematics

$N \rightarrow \Delta, N \rightarrow N^*$

- Transition Matrix Elements
- Multiparticle Operators
- Initial Calculations

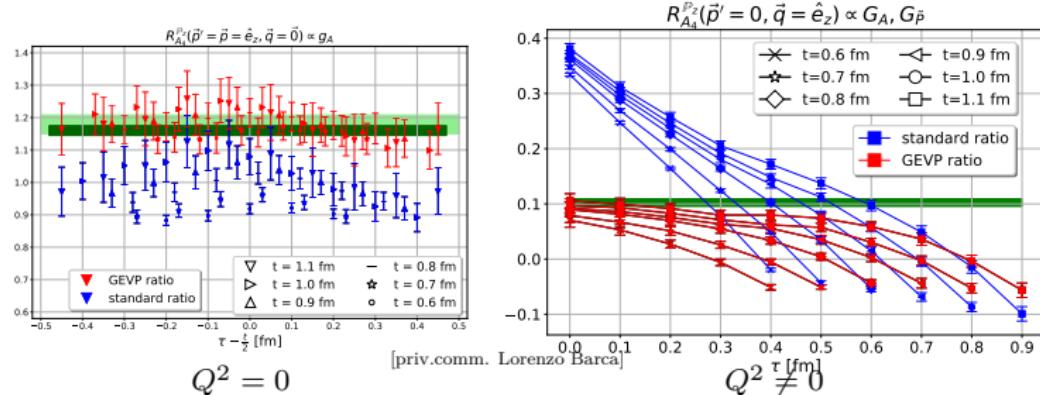
## Deep Inelastic Scattering

- Axial quasi/pseudo PDF
- Not covered here

## “Shallow Inelastic Scattering” (SIS)

- Hadronic Tensor
- Four Point Functions
- Exploration

# Axial FF - $N\pi$ Interpolating Operators

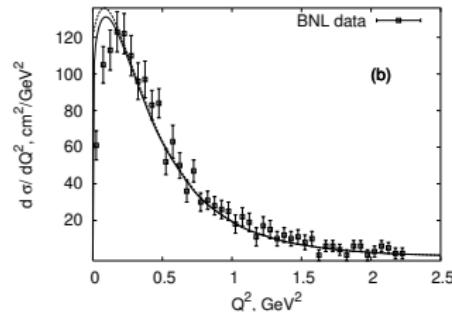
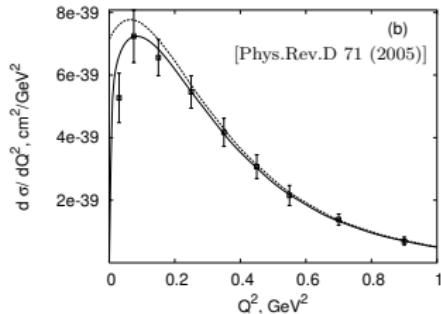


Address primary source of excited state contamination:  $N\pi$   
2  $\times$  2 operator basis, explicit 3- and 5-quark interpolating operators

Significantly flatter ratios, simplified analysis

Will analysis with only 3-quark operators be consistent?

# Resonance Production - $N \rightarrow \Delta$



$N \rightarrow \Delta$  transition form factors are poorly known, but needed

$1\pi$  production cross section known to 30% [Phys.Rev.C 88 (2013)]

DUNE error budget anticipates  $\lesssim 10\%$  precision [2002.03005 [hep-ex]]

Completely unconstrained axial form factors in other  $J^P = 3/2^-$  channels

$\implies$  100% uncertainties from  $V - A$ ,  $A - A$  interference terms

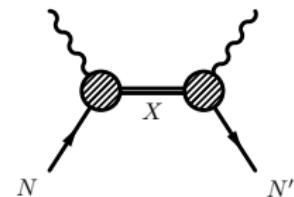
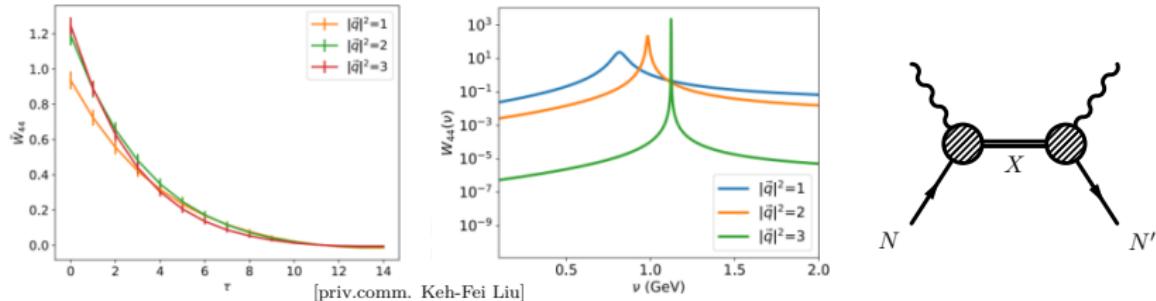
[Phys.Rev.D 74 (2006)]

Previous work by ETM: [Phys.Rev.D 83 (2011)] [Phys.Rev.Lett. 98 (2007)]

Formal developments:

$$\begin{array}{lll} 1 + \mathcal{J} \rightarrow 2 & (N\gamma^* \rightarrow N\pi) & [\text{Phys.Rev.D 103 (2021)}] \\ 1 + \mathcal{J} \rightarrow 2 + \mathcal{J} & (N\gamma^* \rightarrow \Delta \rightarrow N\pi\gamma^*) & [\text{Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022)}] \end{array}$$

# Resonance Production - $N \rightarrow N^*$



See also: [Phys.Rev.D 101 (2020)]

Four point function with  $\langle \mathcal{O}(0)\mathcal{J}_4(-q)\mathcal{J}_4(q)\bar{\mathcal{O}}(0) \rangle$ ,  $M_\pi \sim 370$  MeV

Removed elastic contribution  $\implies$  resonant response (strong overlap with Roper)

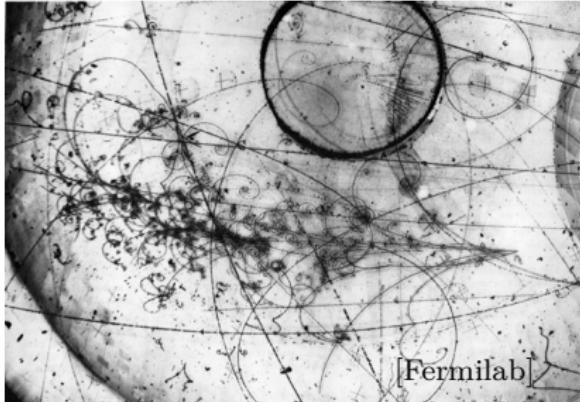
Hadronic tensor methods for addressing SIS ( $1.4 \text{ GeV} \leq W \leq 2.0 \text{ GeV}$ )

Large  $N\pi$ ,  $N\pi\pi$  contributions; strong interferences between resonant/nonresonant

**Currently no practical  $Q^2 \neq 0$  data in this region** [S.Nakamura - NuSTEC S&DIS]

# Concluding Remarks

# Outlook

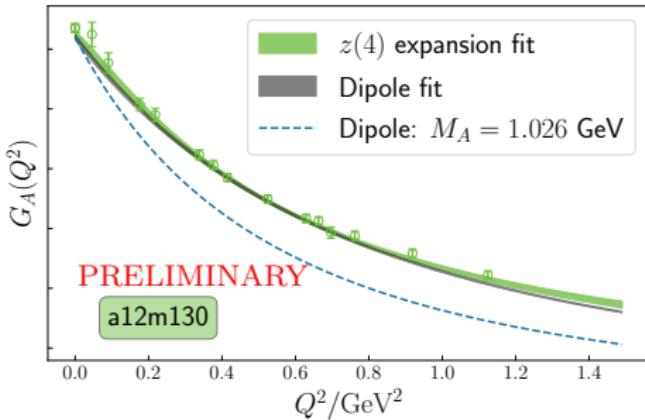


- ▶ *Nucleon* form factor uncertainty significantly underestimated
- ▶ LQCD is a proxy for missing experimental data
- ▶  $N\pi$  states are a major player in LQCD calculations
  - ⇒ Might need explicit treatment in calculations
- ▶ Mounting evidence that  $\nu$  QE cross section underestimated
  - ⇒ Attention needed to avoid biased results
- ▶ **Unfilled niche:** need support for neutrino experimental program
  - resonant transition form factors
  - shallow inelastic scattering

Thank you for your attention!

# Backup

# Axial Form Factor Fit



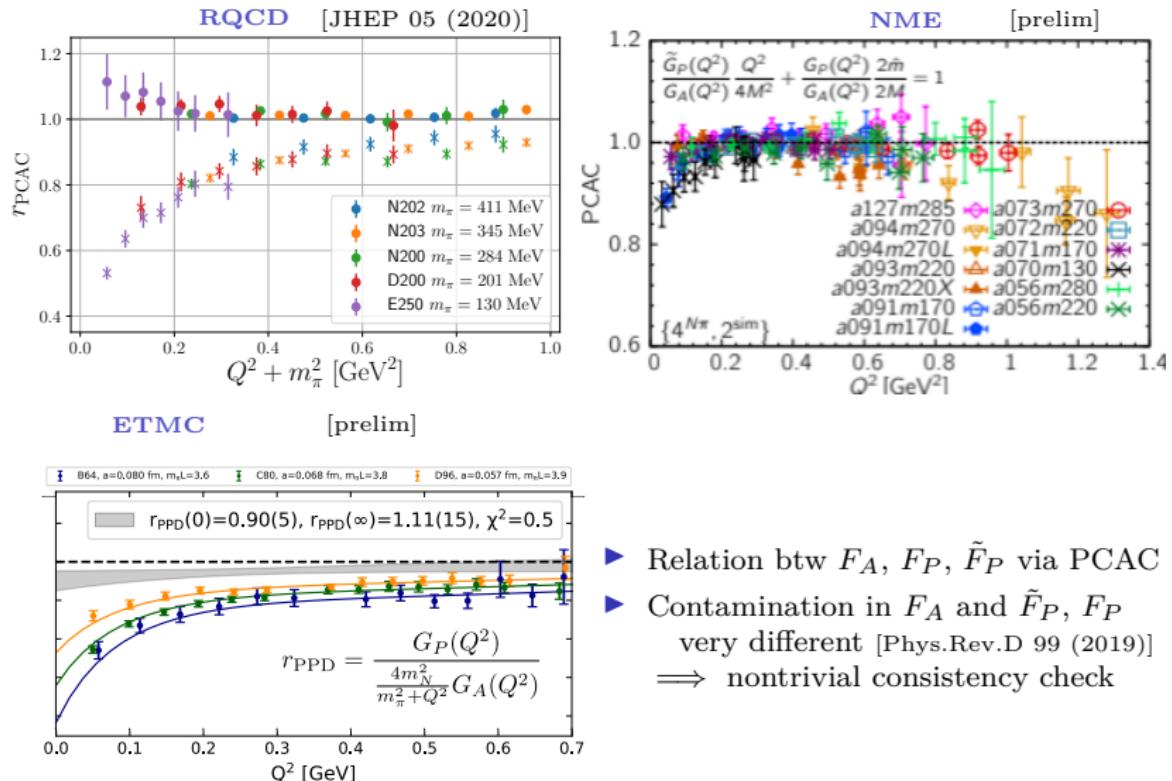
parameter source	$g_A/g_V$	$r_A^2/\text{fm}^2$	value(err)[rel] $m_{A,\text{dipole}}/\text{GeV}$
$k_{\max} = 4$ $z$ expansion	1.6%	18%	8.8%
dipole	1.6%	5.7%	2.8%
PDG	0.2%		
[Phys.Rev.D 93 (2016)]		48%	24%

Dipole underestimates  $r_A^2$  uncertainty by factor  $\sim 3$ ,

Will get worse with increased  $Q^2$  range

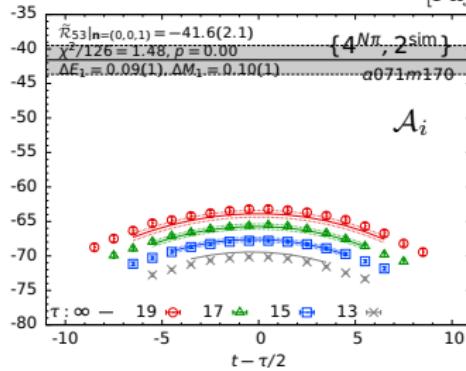
Using data up to  $(qL/2\pi)^2 = 18$ , data exist up to 108

# PCAC Checks

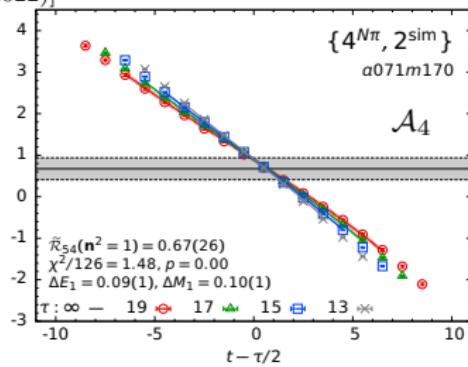


# Excited States in Temporal Axial Current

[Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022)]



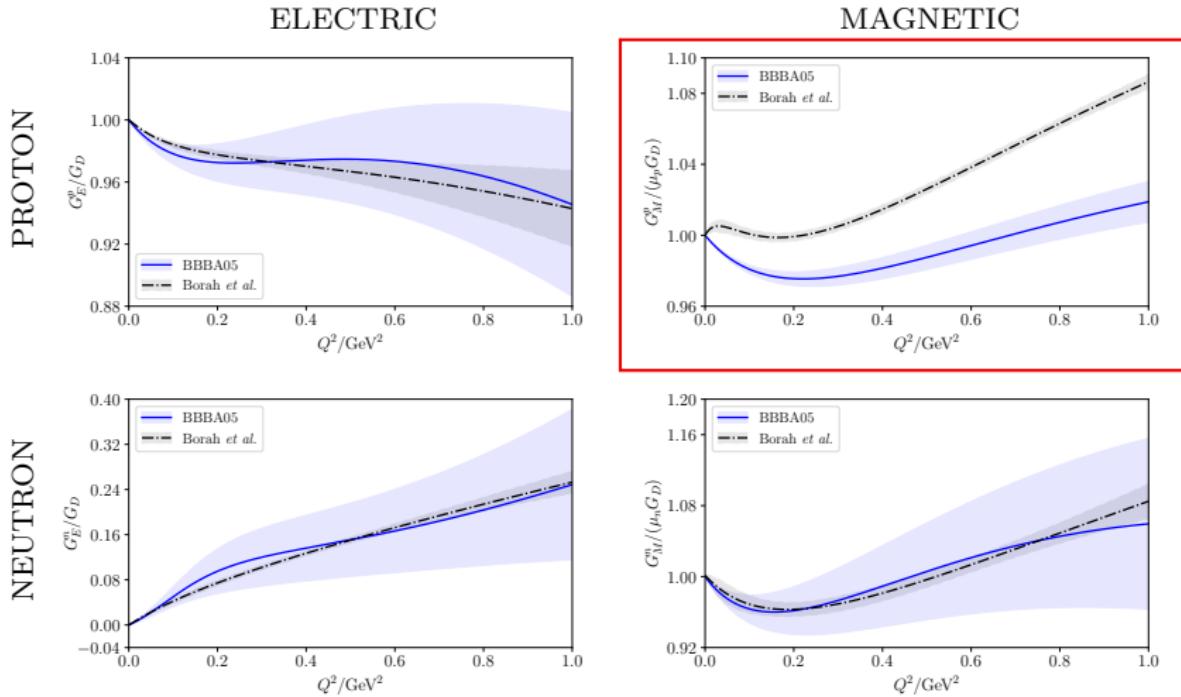
versus



Plotted: ratio combination  $\sim \langle N | \mathcal{A}_\mu | N \rangle$

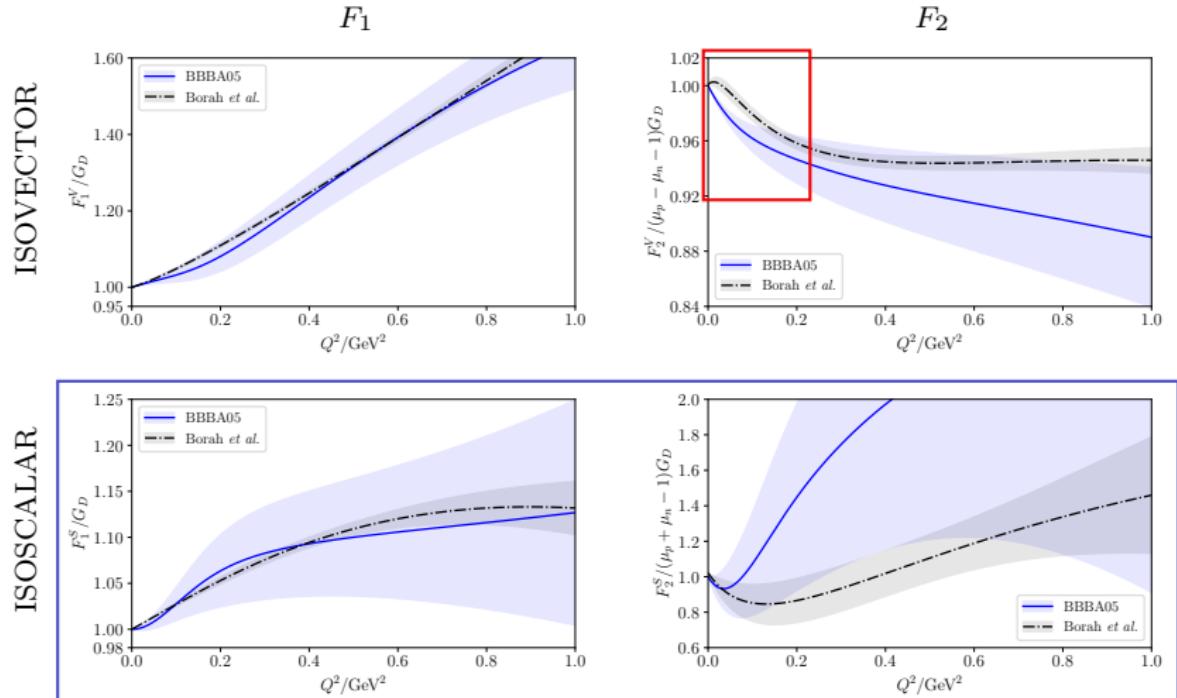
Highly enhanced excited states in  $\mathcal{A}_4$ , use as handle to quantify  $N\pi$

# Vector Form Factors - Proton/Neutron



Large tension in proton magnetic form factor

# Vector Form Factors - Isospin Symmetric



Uncertain slope of  $F_2^V$

Large uncertainty on isoscalar form factors

# $z$ Expansion in $\chi$ PT

[Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part. 72 (2022)]

$$F_A(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^k \quad z(Q^2; t_0, t_{\text{cut}}) = \frac{\sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} + Q^2} - \sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} - t_0}}{\sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} + Q^2} + \sqrt{t_{\text{cut}} - t_0}} \quad t_{\text{cut}} \leq (3M_\pi)^2$$

With nonzero  $t_0$ , chiral expansion is about  $Q^2 = -t_0$  rather than  $Q^2 = 0$ :

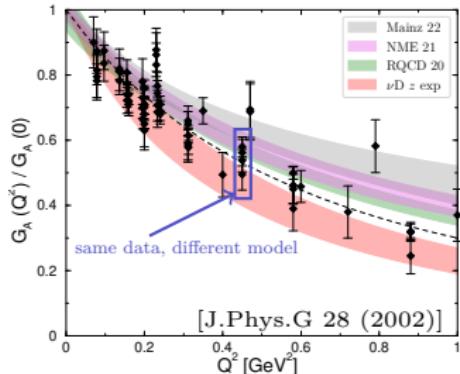
$$x \equiv \frac{Q^2 + t_0}{t_c - t_0} = 4 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kz^k \sim O(z)$$

$$(1+x)^{1/2} - 1 = \frac{x}{2} - 4 \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{(2k-3)!}{k!(k-2)!} \left(-\frac{x}{4}\right)^k$$

$$z = \frac{1}{x} \left( (1+x)^{1/2} - 1 \right)^2 \sim O(x)$$

$$Q^{2m} = ((Q^2 + t_0) - t_0)^m = (t_c - t_0)^m \sum_{n=0}^m \binom{m}{n} x^n \left(\frac{-t_0}{t_c - t_0}\right)^{m-n}$$

# Electro Pion Production



- ▶ Large model uncertainty,  
not included in world averages
- ▶ Valid only in  $M_\pi \rightarrow 0, q \rightarrow 0$  limits
- ▶ Expansion to  $O(M_\pi^2, Q^2)$ :
  - restricted  $Q^2$  validity
  - lacks shape freedom in  $Q^2$
- ▶ Predates Heavy Baryon  $\chi$ PT,  
no systematic power counting

Modern experiments do not report  $F_A(Q^2) \implies$  averages out of date

Possible argument for comparing to  $r_A^2$  from low  $Q^2$ ; high  $Q^2$  untrustworthy

Effort needed to update prediction from photo/electro pion production

# Excited States - PCAC Checks

Nontrivial checks from PCAC:

$$\langle N | \mathcal{A}_\mu | N \rangle = \bar{u} \left[ \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \textcolor{red}{F_A}(q^2) + \frac{q_\mu}{2M_N} \gamma_5 \textcolor{green}{F_P}(q^2) \right] u$$

$$\langle N | \mathcal{P} | N \rangle = \bar{u} \left[ \gamma_5 \textcolor{blue}{F_5}(q^2) \right] u$$

PCAC operator relation:  $q^\mu \mathcal{A}_\mu = 2\hat{m}\mathcal{P}$

$$\implies 2M_N \textcolor{red}{F_A}(Q^2) - \frac{Q^2}{2M_N} \textcolor{green}{F_P}(Q^2) = 2\hat{m} \textcolor{blue}{F_5}(Q^2)$$

Previously: Checks succeed for correlators, fail for form factors

Solution: better excited state quantification

$\implies$  extracted something other than  $\langle N | \mathcal{A}_\mu | N \rangle$ , like  $\langle N\pi | \mathcal{A}_\mu | N \rangle$

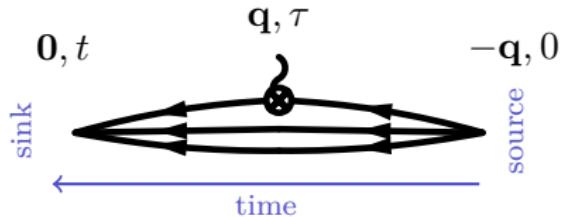
Two general strategies have been used to deal with excited states:

large  $t_{\text{sep}}$ : ground state saturation; signal-to-noise degradation  
e.g. summation method [Phys.Rev.D 86 (2012)]

many  $t_{\text{sep}}$ : isolate, remove excited states; many fit parameters  
[Phys.Rev.C 105 (2022)]

Can we do better?

# Setup



$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}_z}(t, \tau, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{C_{\mathcal{A}_z}^{3\text{pt}}(t, \tau, \mathbf{q})}{\sqrt{C^{2\text{pt}}(t - \tau, \mathbf{0}) C^{2\text{pt}}(\tau, \mathbf{q})}} \sqrt{\frac{C^{2\text{pt}}(\tau, \mathbf{0})}{C^{2\text{pt}}(t, \mathbf{0})} \frac{C^{2\text{pt}}(t - \tau, \mathbf{q})}{C^{2\text{pt}}(t, \mathbf{q})}}$$

$\xrightarrow{t - \tau, \tau \rightarrow \infty}$   $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_{\mathbf{q}}(E_{\mathbf{q}} + M)}} \left[ -\frac{q_z^2}{2M} \mathring{g}_P(Q^2) + (E_{\mathbf{q}} + M) \mathring{g}_A(Q^2) \right]$

$$Q^2 = |\mathbf{q}|^2 - (E_{\mathbf{q}} - M)^2$$

$$\mathcal{A}_z \text{ w/ } q_z = 0 \implies \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{A}_z}(t, \tau, \mathbf{q}) \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{E_{\mathbf{q}} + M}{2E_{\mathbf{q}}}} \mathring{g}_A(Q^2)$$

$\implies$  No induced pseudoscalar

$\implies$  Simplified analysis of  $\mathring{g}_A(Q^2)$