



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare



Quy Nhon, 19th August 2025  
Flavour Physics 2025  
21st Rencontres du Vietnam 2025

# Challenges in Rare Kaon decays

## Giancarlo D'Ambrosio

INFN Sezione di Napoli

Predictions for the rare kaon decays  
from QCD in the limit of a large number of colour

With M. Knecht and S.Neshatpour

e-Print: 2409.08568 [hep-ph] MDPI

THANKS to Collaborations Nazila Iyer Neshatpour

- [2311.04878](#) [2404.03643](#)

THANKS to NA48 HIKE LHCb KOTO

T. Kitahara

CP violation in  $K \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$  with and without time dependence through a tagged analysis

Giancarlo D'Ambrosio (INFN, Naples), Avital Dery (CERN), Yuval Grossman (Cornell U., LEPP), Teppei Kitahara (Chiba U. and KMI, Nagoya and Nagoya U.), Radoslav Marchevski (EPFL, Lausanne, LPPC) et al. (Jul 17, 2025)

e-Print: [2507.13445](#) [hep-ph]



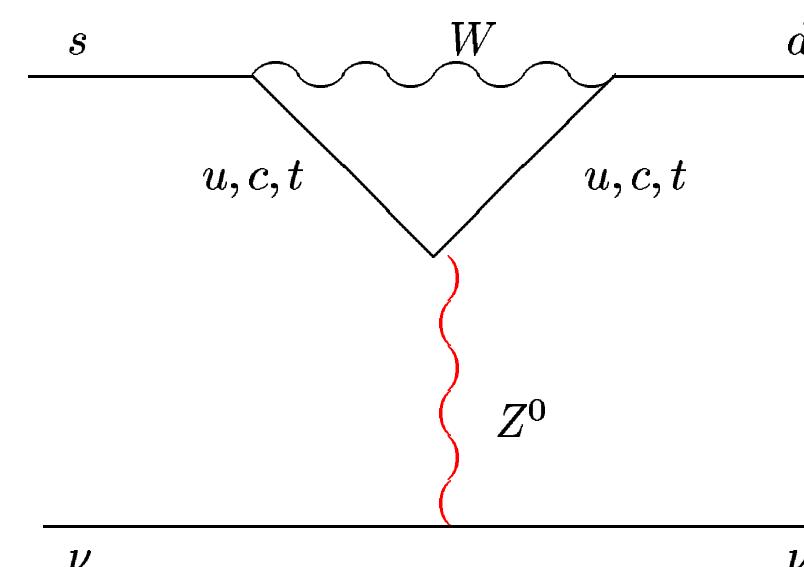
# Outline

- Rare Kaon decays crucial in flavour physics
- Measuring  $K_S K_L$  interference at LHCb
- Large  $N_c$  : may be useful to predict kaon decays  
$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^- \quad K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$$

$$K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$$

*Why we need KOTO and NA62* → NEED KOTO AND HIKE

$$A(s \rightarrow d\nu\bar{\nu})_{\text{SM}} \sim \overline{s}_L \gamma_\mu d_L \quad \overline{\nu}_L \gamma^\mu \nu_L \times \left[ \sum_{q=c,t} V_{qs}^* V_{qd} m_q^2 \right]$$



~

$$[A^2 \lambda^5 (1 - \rho - i\eta) m_t^2 + \lambda m_c^2]$$

SM       $\underbrace{V-A \otimes V-A}_{\Downarrow}$       Littenberg

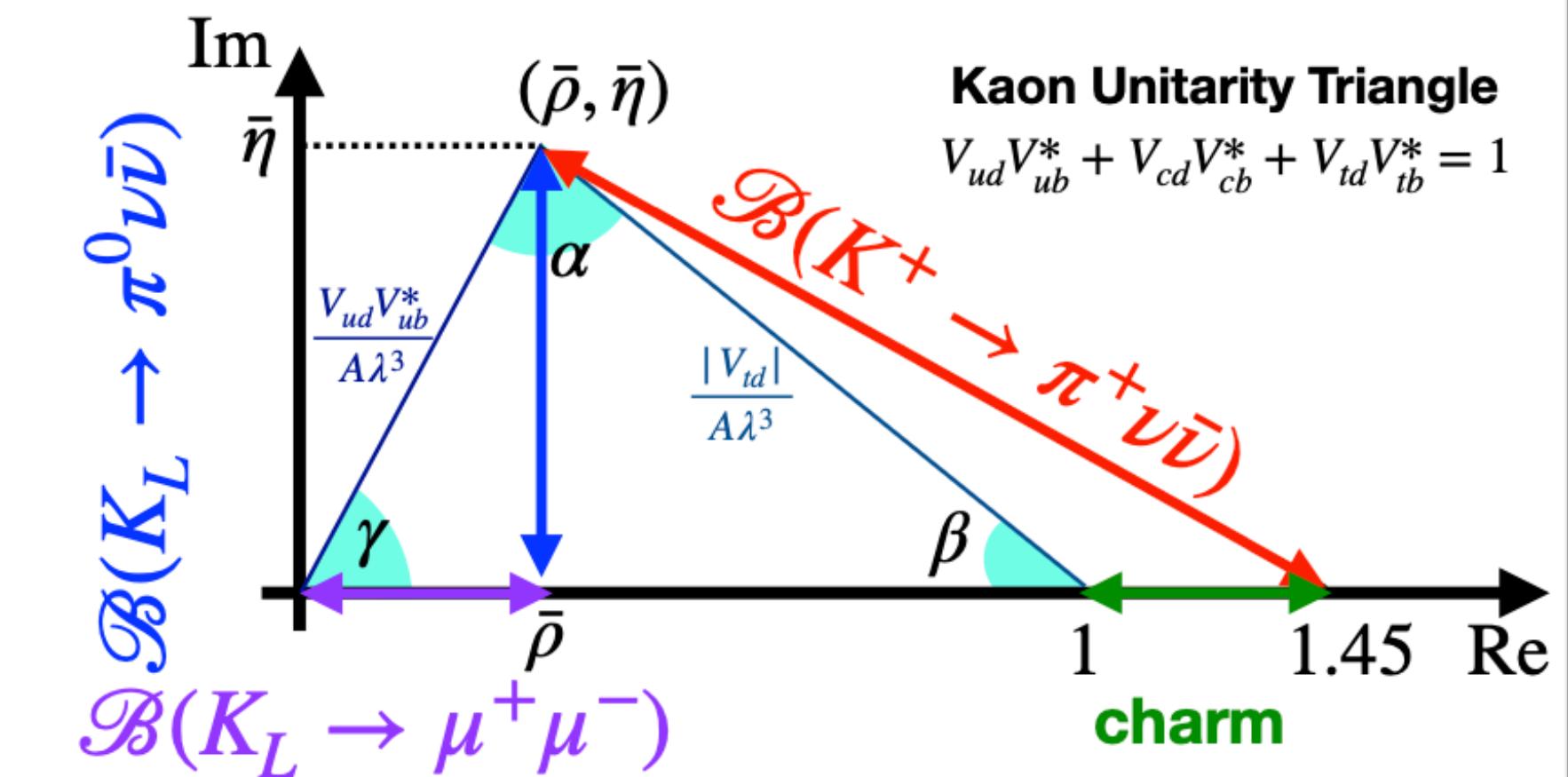
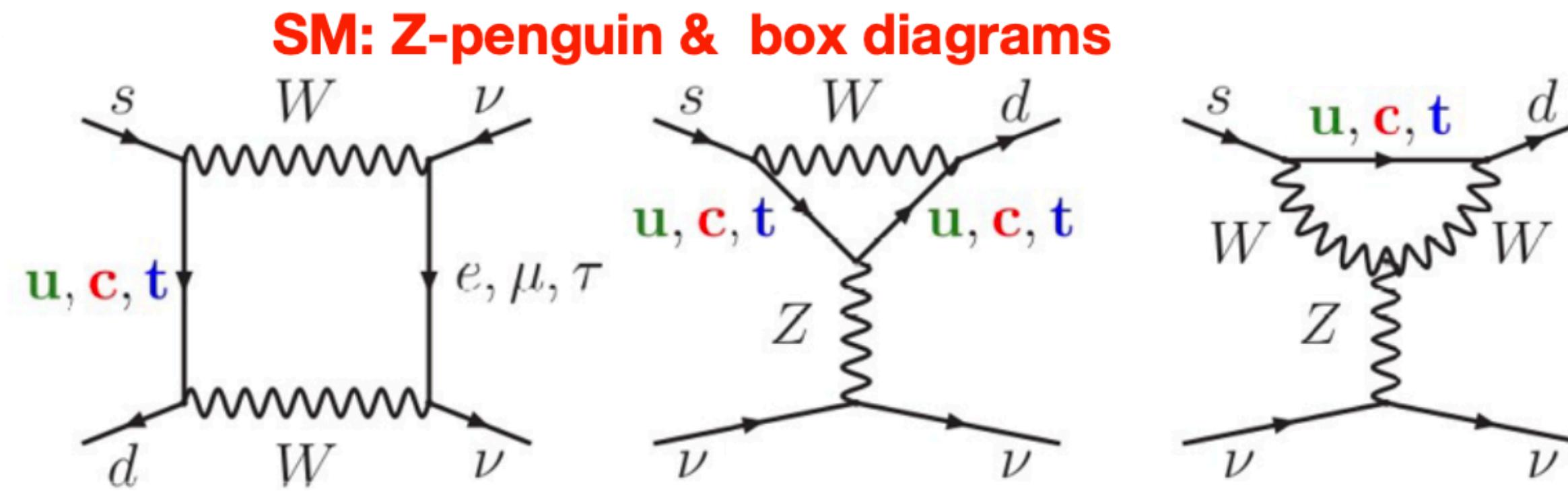
SM

Buchalla and Buras,  
hep-ph/9308272, Buras et al,  
1503.02693.

$$\Gamma(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{CP violating} \\ \Rightarrow J = A^2 \lambda^6 \eta \\ \text{Only top} \end{array} \right.$

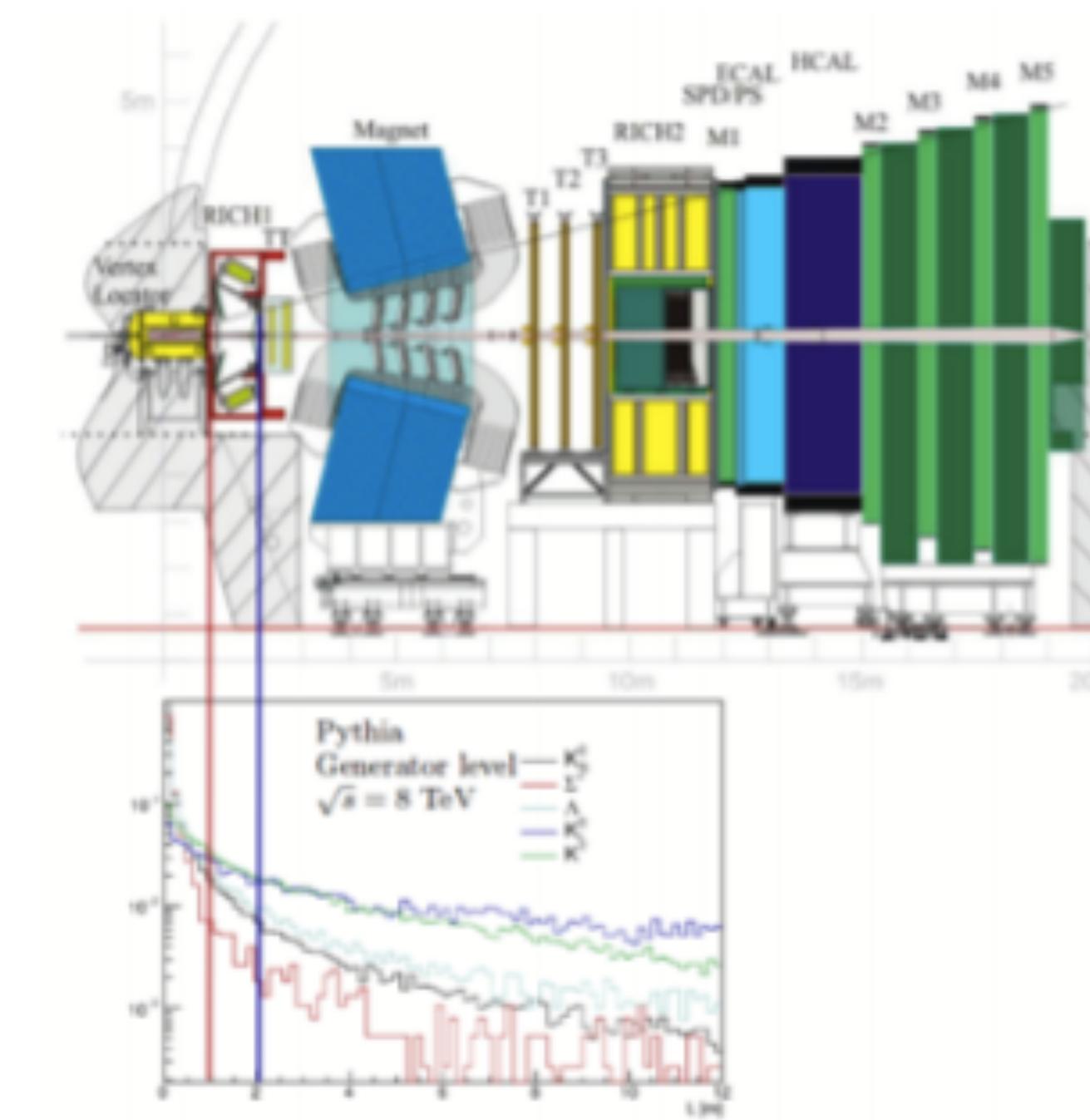
# $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ : Precision test of the Standard Model



- $\mathcal{B}(K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu})$  highly suppressed in SM
  - GIM mechanism & maximum CKM suppression  $s \rightarrow d$  transition:  $\sim \frac{m_t}{m_W} \left| V_{ts}^* V_{td} \right|$
- Theoretically clean  $\Rightarrow$  high precision SM predictions
  - Dominated by short distance contributions.
  - Hadronic matrix element extracted from  $\mathcal{B}(K \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \nu_\ell)$  decays via isospin rotation.

Mode	SM Branching Ratio [1]	SM Branching Ratio [2]	Experimental Status
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$	$(8.60 \pm 0.42) \times 10^{-11}$	$(7.86 \pm 0.61) \times 10^{-11}$	$(10.6 \pm 4.0) \times 10^{-11}$ NA62 16–18
$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$	$(2.94 \pm 0.15) \times 10^{-11}$	$(2.68 \pm 0.30) \times 10^{-11}$	$< 2 \times 10^{-9}$ KOTO (2021 data)

# Kaon in LHCb



- LHCb experiment has been designed for efficient reconstructions of  $b$  and  $c$
- Huge production of strangeness [ $O(10^{13})/\text{fb}^{-1} K^0_S$ ] is suppressed by its trigger efficiency [ $\epsilon \sim 1\text{-}2\%$ @LHC Run-I,  $\epsilon \sim 18\%$ @LHC Run-II]
- LHCb upgrade (LS2=Phase I upgrade, LS4=Phase II upgrade) could realize high efficiency for  $K^0_S$  [ $\epsilon \sim 90\%$ @LHC Run-III] [M. R. Pernas, HL/HE LHC meeting, Fermilab, 2018]
- In LHC Run-III and HL-LHC, we could probe the *ultra* rare decay  $\text{Br} \sim O(10^{-11\text{-}12})$

# Rare Kaon decay program at LHCb

	PDG	Prospects
$K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu$	$< 9 \times 10^{-9}$ at 90% CL	(LD) $(5.0 \pm 1.5) \cdot 10^{-12}$ NP $< 10^{-11}$
$K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu\mu$	—	SM LD $\sim 2 \times 10^{-14}$
$K_S \rightarrow ee\mu\mu$	—	$\sim 10^{-11}$
$K_S \rightarrow eeee$	—	$\sim 10^{-10}$
$K_S \rightarrow \pi^0\mu\mu$	$(2.9 \pm 1.3) \cdot 10^{-9}$	$\sim 10^{-9}$
$K_S \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-e^+e^-$	$(4.79 \pm 0.15) \cdot 10^{-5}$	SM LD $\sim 10^{-5}$
$K_S \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\mu^+\mu^-$	—	SM LD $\sim 10^{-14}$

## Prospects for Measurements with Strange Hadrons at LHCb

A.A. Alves Junior (Santiago de Compostela U., IGFAE), M.O. Bettler (Cambridge U.), A. Brea Rodríguez (Santiago de Compostela U., IGFAE), A. Casais Vidal (Santiago de Compostela U., IGFAE), V. Chobanova (Santiago de Compostela U., IGFAE) et al. (Aug 10, 2018)

Published in: JHEP 05 (2019) 048 • e-Print: 1808.03477 [hep-ex]

$$K_{L,S} \rightarrow \mu\mu$$

# $K_L \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$

- $\Gamma(K_L^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) / \Gamma(K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$

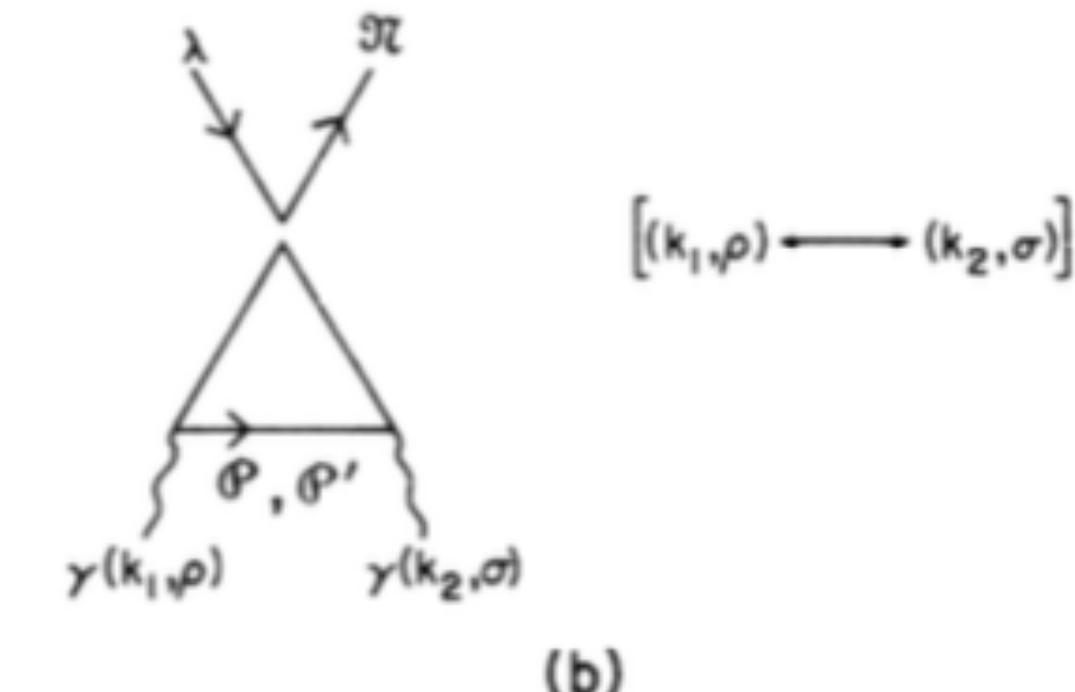
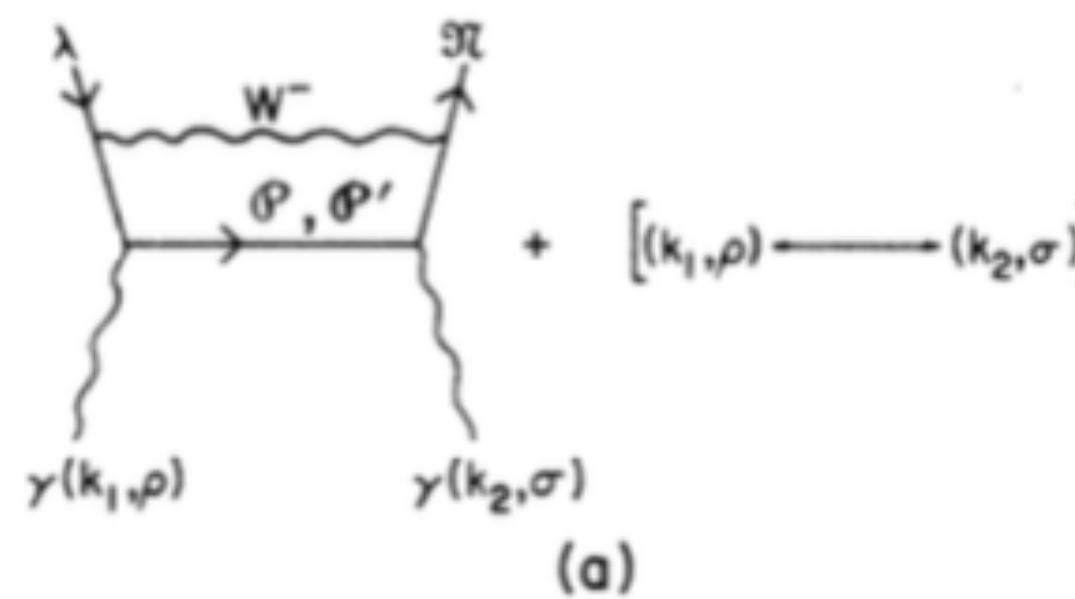
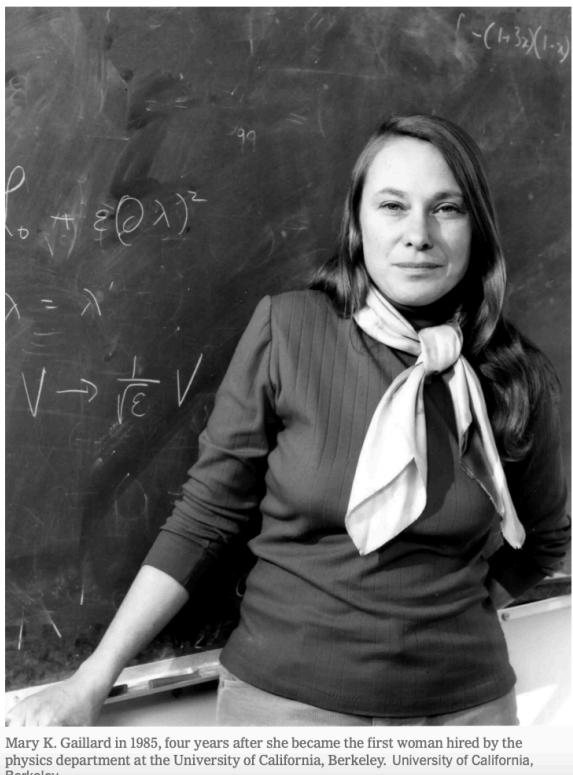
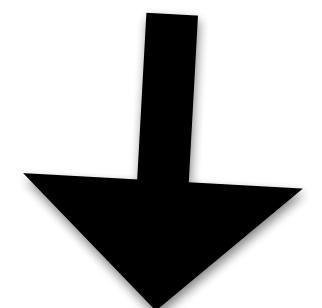


FIG. 7. Leading contributions to  $\lambda + \bar{\pi} \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma$ . To leading order in  $M_W^{-2}$ , the diagrams in (a) reduce to those of (b).

VALUE ( $10^{-6}$ )	EVTS	DOCUMENT ID	TECN	COMMENT
<b><math>3.48 \pm 0.05</math></b>	<b>OUR AVERAGE</b>			
$3.474 \pm 0.057$	6210	AMBROSE	2000	B871
$3.87 \pm 0.30$	179	<sup>1</sup> AKAGI	1995	SPEC
$3.38 \pm 0.17$	707	HEINSON	1995	B791
... We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. ...				
$3.9 \pm 0.3 \pm 0.1$	178	<sup>2</sup> AKAGI	1991B	SPEC
				In AKAGI 1995

$$\mathcal{B}(K_L \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)_{\text{exp}} = (6.84 \pm 0.11) \times 10^{-9}$$

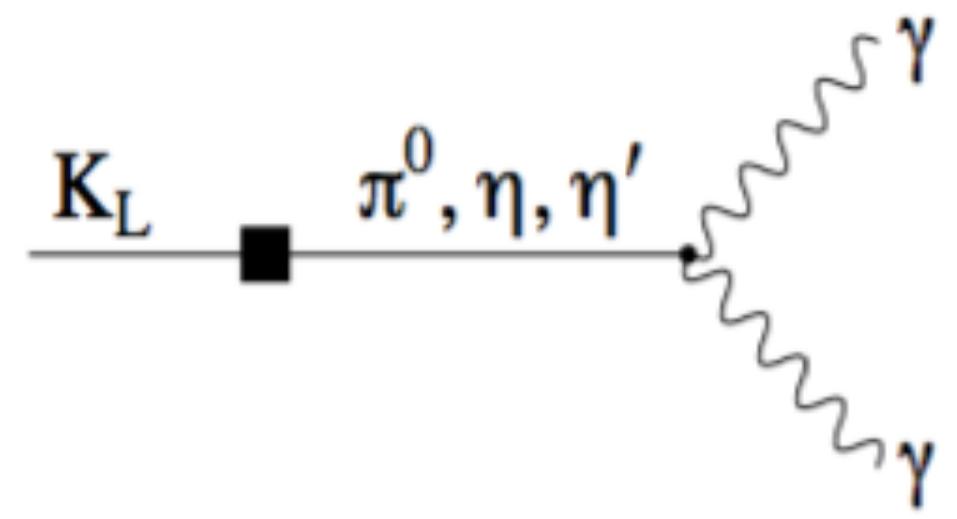
$K_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  |<sub>exp</sub> known



Gaillard Lee

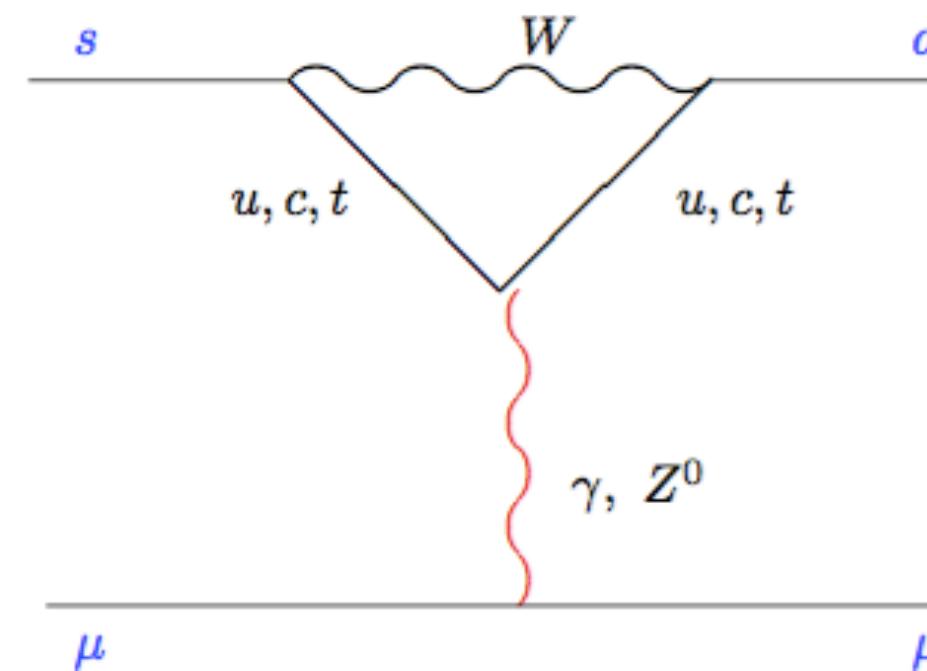
Dispersive calculation: Re A, Im A

We do not know the sign of  $A(K_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$

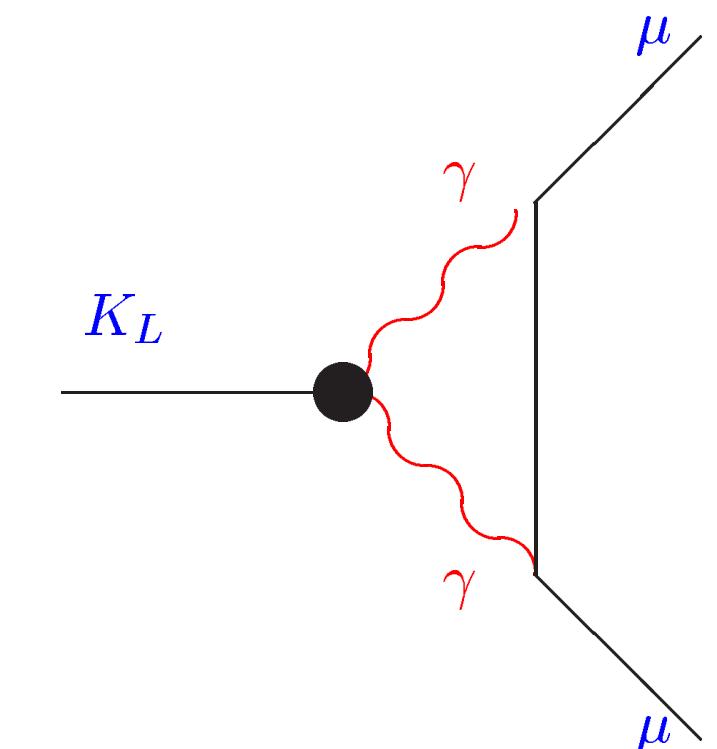


$$\begin{aligned} A(K_L \rightarrow 2\gamma_{\perp})_{O(p^4)} &= A(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \rightarrow 2\gamma_{\perp}) + A(K_L \rightarrow \eta_8 \rightarrow 2\gamma_{\perp}) \\ &= A(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0) A(\pi^0 \rightarrow 2\gamma_{\perp}) \left[ \frac{1}{M_K^2 - M_\pi^2} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{M_K^2 - M_8^2} \right] \simeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# $K_L \rightarrow \mu\mu$



<<



$$\frac{\Gamma(K_L \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})}{\Gamma(K_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)} \sim |ReA|^2 + |ImA|^2$$

Subtracting from expt. the Absorptive contribution

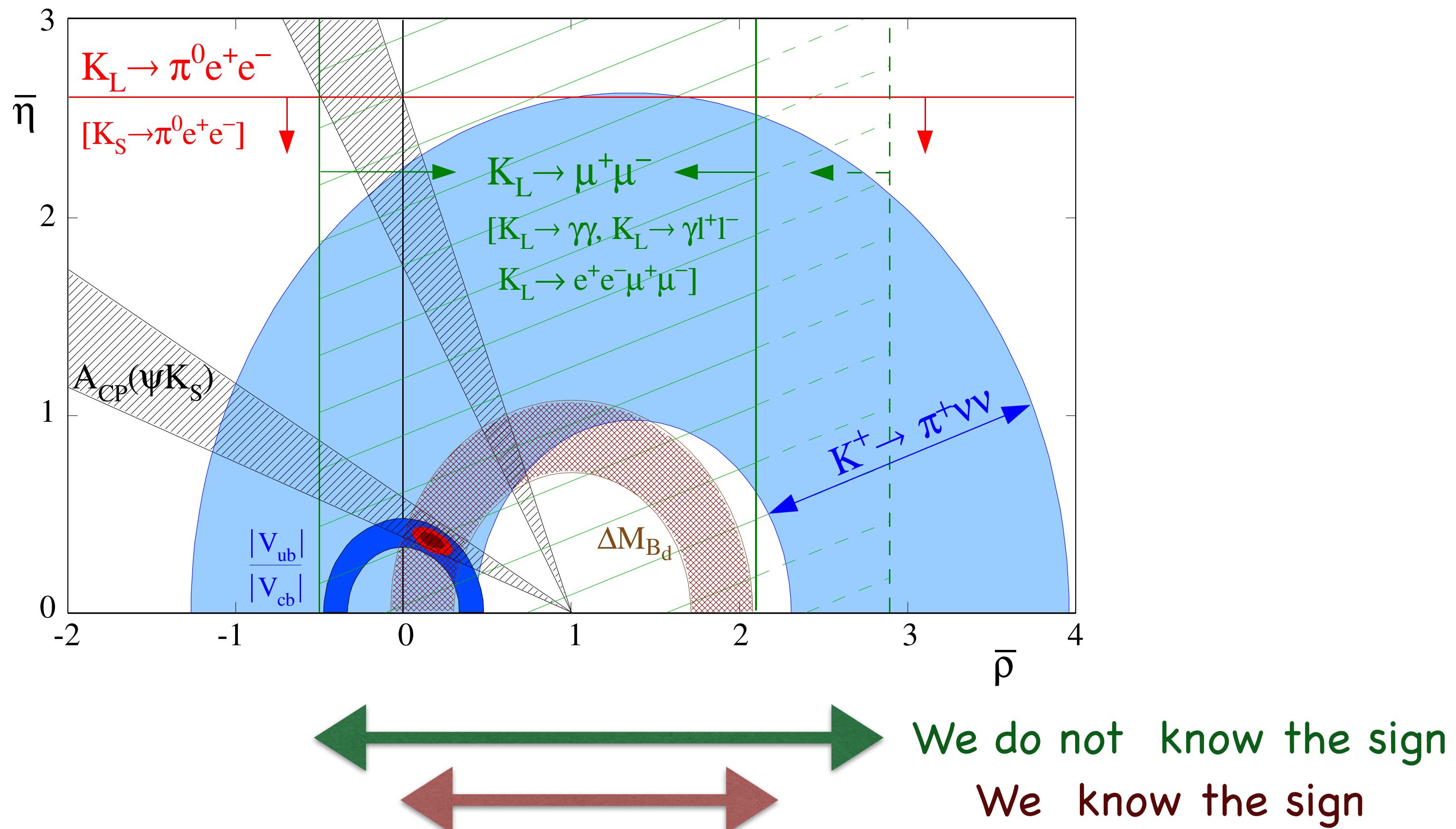
Absorptive calculation  
model independent

27.14

$$0.98 \pm 0.55 = |ReA|^2 = (\chi_{\gamma\gamma}(M_\rho) + \chi_{\text{short}} - 5.12)^2$$

$$|\chi_{\text{short}}^{\text{SM}}| = 1.96(1.11 - 0.92\bar{\rho})$$

# $K_L \rightarrow \mu\mu$ : our sign ignorance



Magically comes LHCB  
measuring  $K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu$

Mostly  $K_L$  decays outside fiducial volume

# $K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu$

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3

1 AUGUST 1974



Dr. Gaillard at Berkeley in the early 1980s. AIP Emilio Segrè Visual Archives, Physics Today Collection

## Rare decay modes of the $K$ mesons in gauge theories

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National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510‡

(Received 4 March 1974)

Rare decay modes of the kaons such as  $K \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$ ,  $K \rightarrow \pi\nu\bar{\nu}$ ,  $K \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ,  $K \rightarrow \pi\gamma\gamma$ , and  $K \rightarrow \pi e\bar{e}$  are of theoretical interest since here we are observing higher-order weak and electromagnetic interactions. Recent advances in unified gauge theories of weak and electromagnetic interactions allow in principle unambiguous and finite predictions for these processes. The above processes, which are “induced”  $|\Delta S|=1$  transitions, are a good testing ground for the cancellation mechanism first invented by Glashow, Iliopoulos, and Maiani (GIM) in order to banish  $|\Delta S|=1$  neutral currents. The experimental suppression of  $K_L \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  and nonsuppression of  $K_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  must find a natural explanation in the GIM mechanism which makes use of extra quark(s). The procedure we follow is the following: We deduce the effective interaction Lagrangian for  $\lambda + \pi \rightarrow l + \bar{l}$  and  $\lambda + \bar{\pi} \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma$  in the free-quark model; then the appropriate matrix elements of these operators between hadronic states are evaluated with the aid of the principles of conserved vector current and partially conserved axial-vector current. We focus our attention on the Weinberg-Salam model. In this model,  $K \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  is suppressed due to a fortuitous cancellation. To explain the small  $K_L - K_S$  mass difference and nonsuppression of  $K_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ , it is found necessary to assume  $m_\phi/m_{\phi'} \ll 1$ , where  $m_\phi$  is the mass of the proton quark and  $m_{\phi'}$  the mass of the charmed quark, and  $m_\phi < 5$  GeV. We present a phenomenological argument which indicates that the average mass of charmed pseudoscalar

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### $K_S^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$

[INSPIRE search](#)

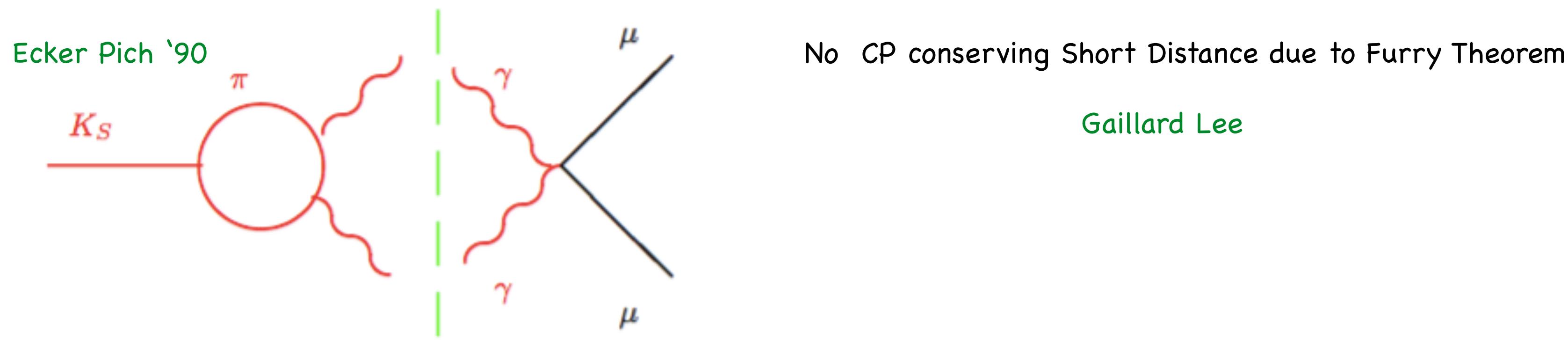
▼  $\Gamma(K_S^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$

$\Gamma_{11}/\Gamma$

Test for  $\Delta S = 1$  weak neutral current. Allowed by first-order weak interaction combined with electromagnetic interaction.

VALUE	CL%	DOCUMENT ID	TECN
$< 2.1 \times 10^{-10}$	90	<a href="#">1 AAIJ</a>	<a href="#">2020AE</a> LHCb
• • • We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. • • •			
$< 8 \times 10^{-10}$	90	<a href="#">2 AAIJ</a>	<a href="#">2017BQ</a> LHCb
$< 9 \times 10^{-9}$	90	<a href="#">3 AAIJ</a>	<a href="#">2013G</a> LHCb
$< 3.2 \times 10^{-7}$	90	<a href="#">GJESDAL</a>	<a href="#">1973</a> ASPK

# $K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu$



LD  $5 \times 10^{-12}$  20% TH err

Dispersive treatment of  $K_S \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  and  $K_S \rightarrow \gamma l^+ l^-$

Gilberto Colangelo, Ramon Stucki, and Lewis C. Tunstall

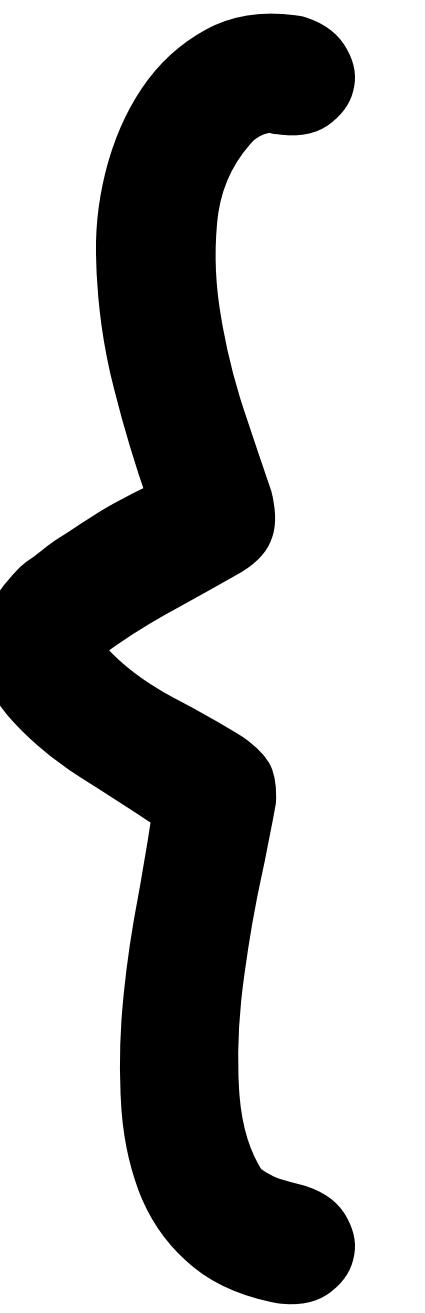
Short Distance		
SM	$10^{-5}  \Im(V_{ts}^* V_{td}) ^2 \sim 10^{-13}$	
NP	few	$10^{-11}$ allowed

Summarizing

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}(K_S^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)_{\text{SM}} &= (5.18 \pm 1.50_{\text{LD}} \pm 0.02_{\text{SD}}) \times 10^{-12} \\ &\approx (4.99_{\text{LD}} + 0.19_{\text{SD}}) \end{aligned}$$

[Ecker, Pich '91; Isidori, Unterdorfer '04; Chobanova, D'Ambrosio, TK, Martínez, Santos, Fernández, Yamamoto '18]

SD??

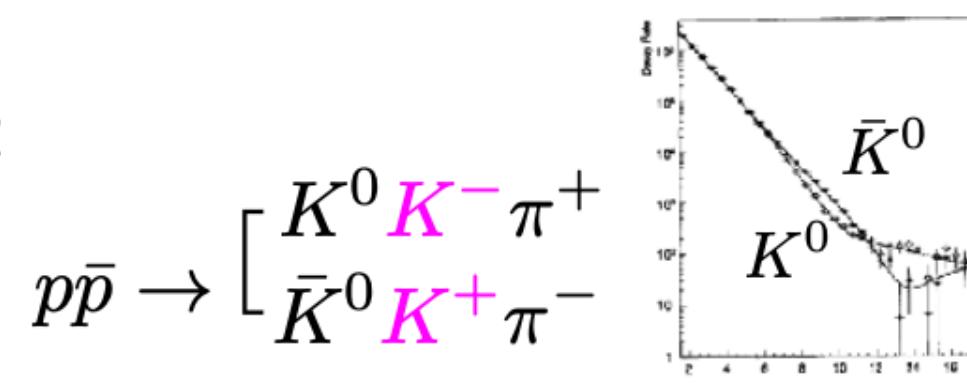


# CLEAR Flavor tagging

Such an interference has been discussed from '67 [Sehgal and Wolfenstein], and has been observed/ utilized in many processes: e.g.,  $K^0 \rightarrow \pi\pi$ ,  $K^0 \rightarrow 3\pi^0$ ,  $K^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ , and  $K^0 \rightarrow \pi^0e^+e^-$

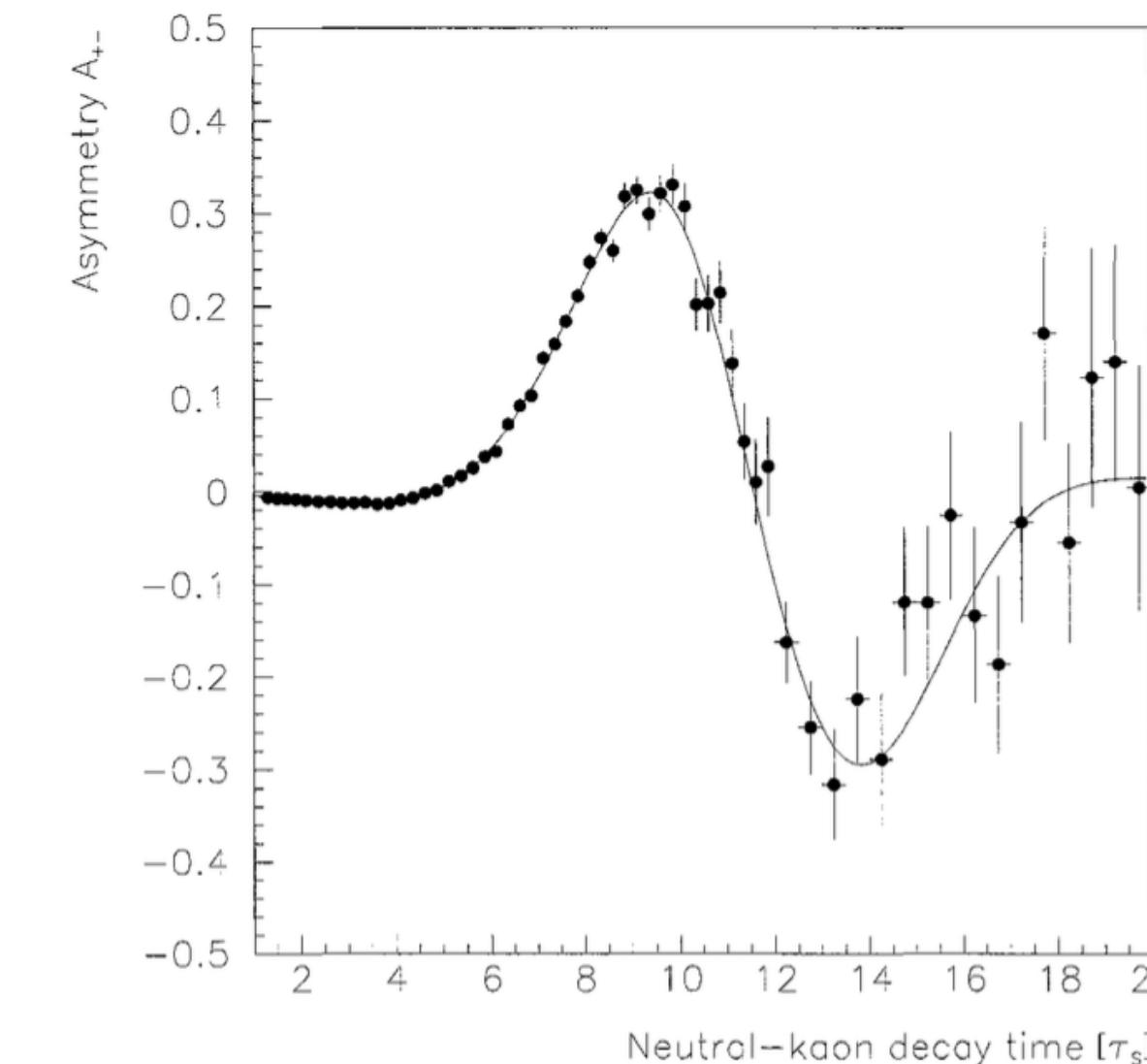
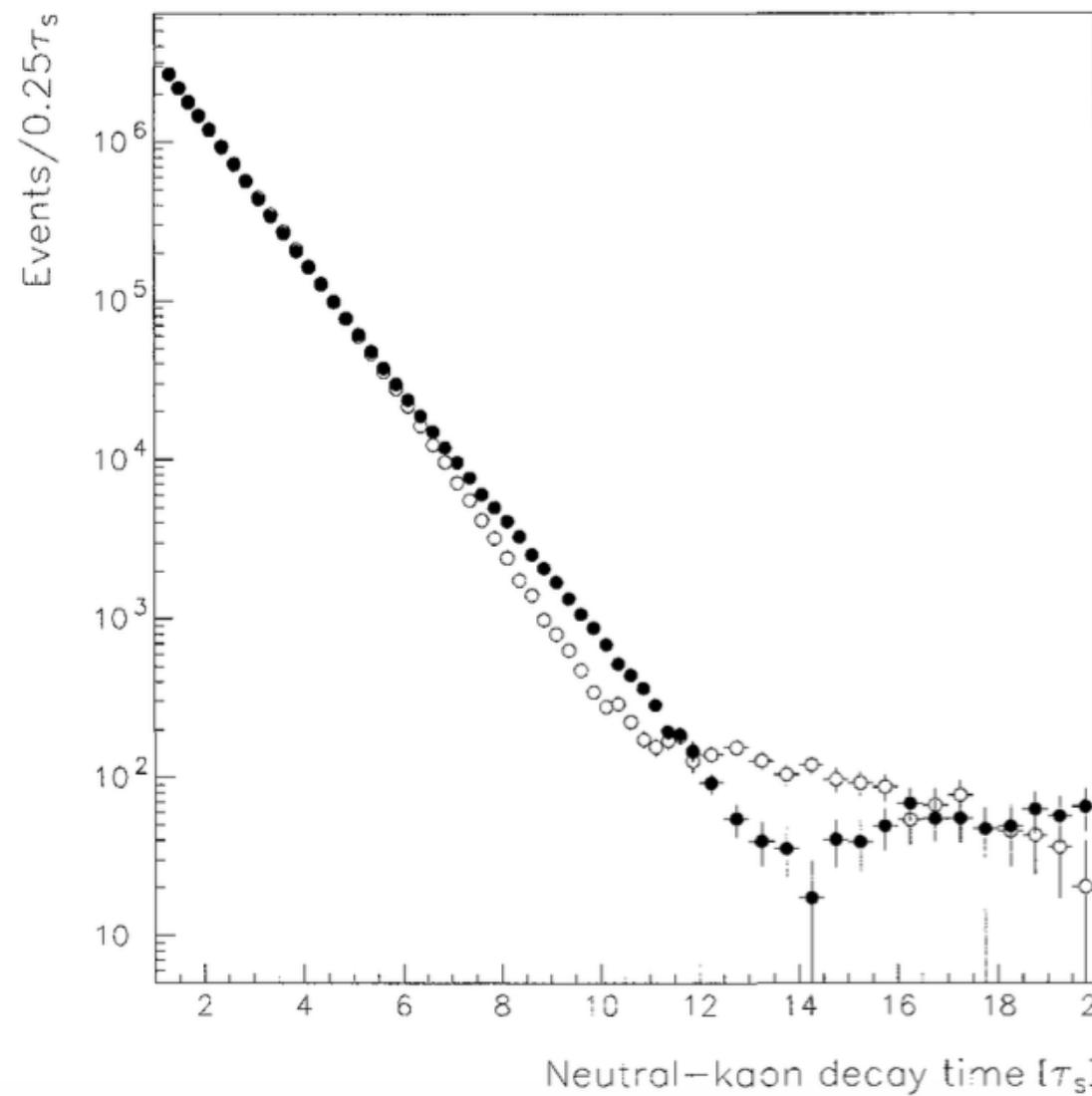
cf. CLEA experiment

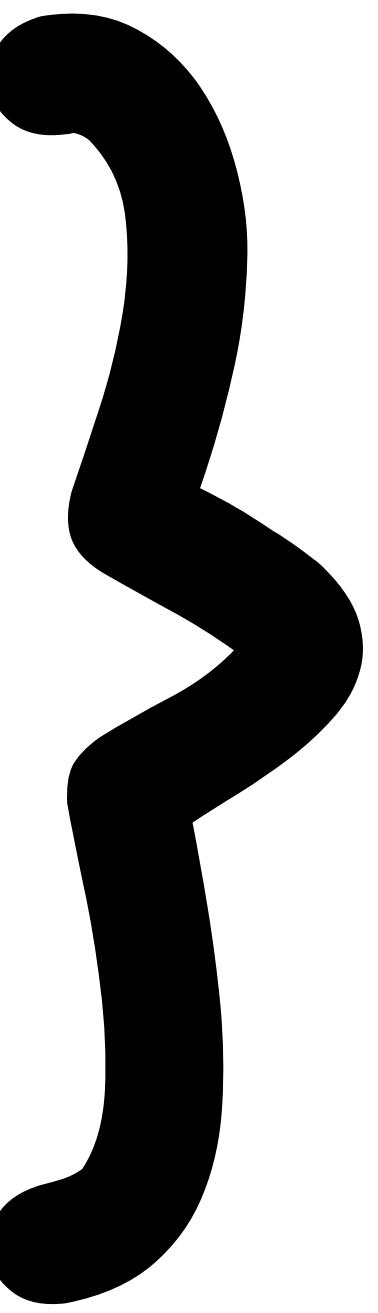
(1990-99@CERN)



$\{K_S, K_L\} \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$

measured the interference between  $K_L$  and  $K_S$   
[CLEA collaboration '95]



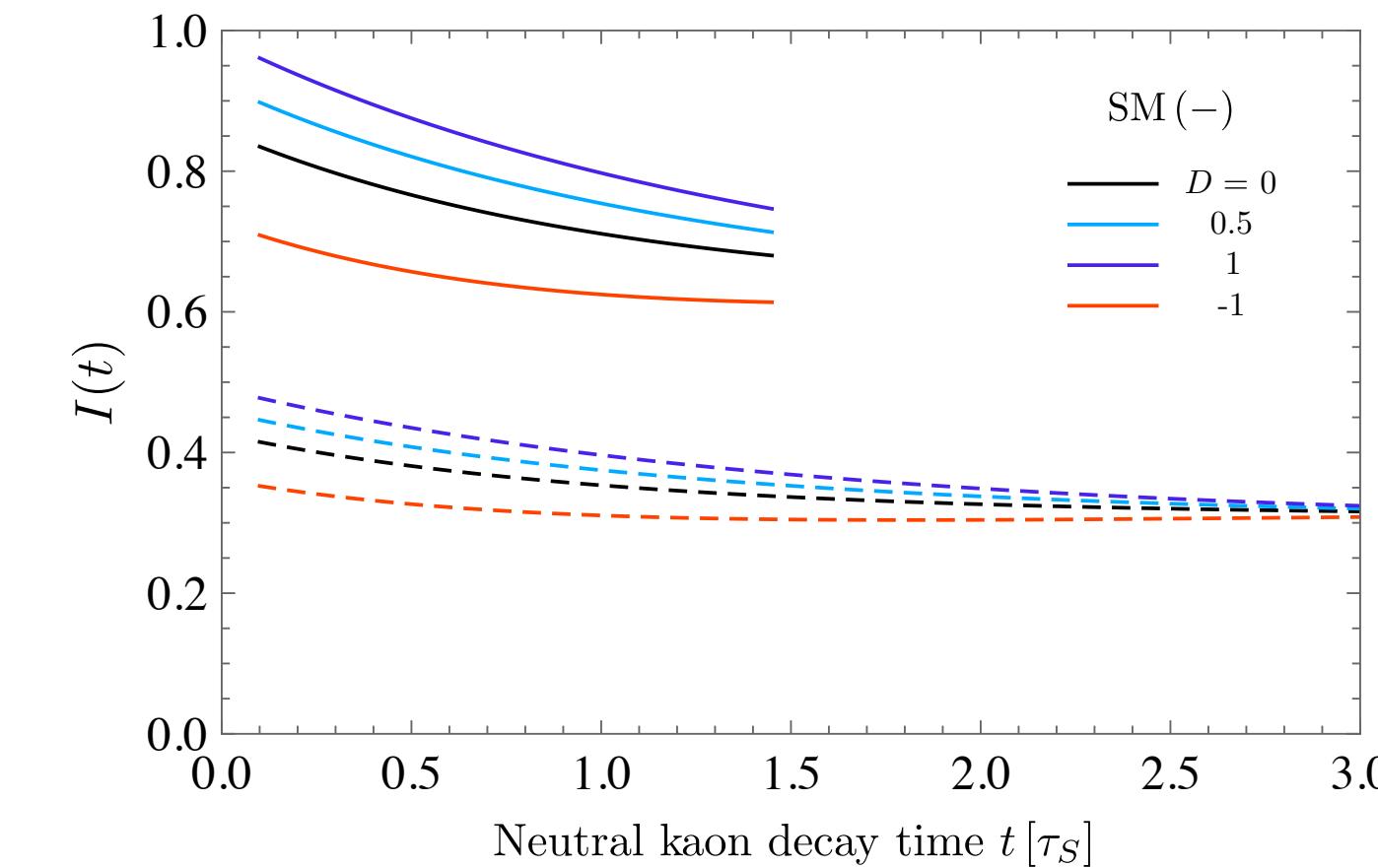
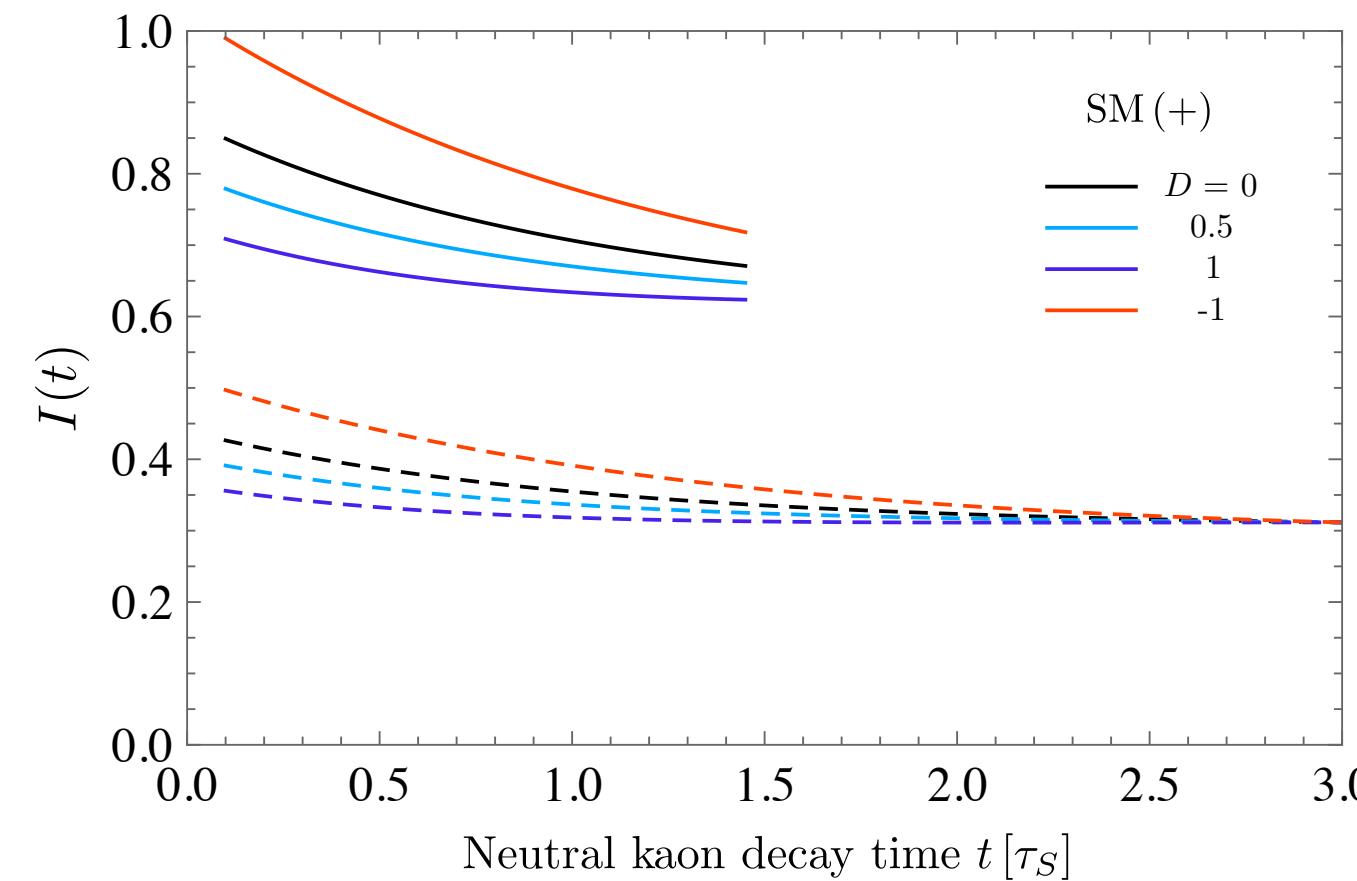


# Can we study $K^0(t)$ ?

GD , Kitahara  
1707.06999 PRL

$$pp \rightarrow K^0 \textcolor{red}{K}^- X$$

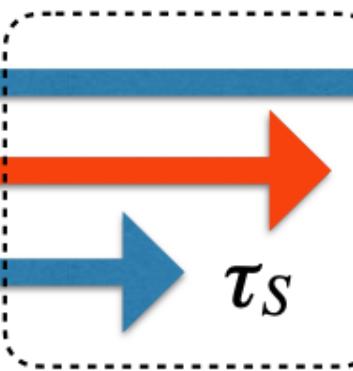
$$pp \rightarrow K^{*+} X \rightarrow K^0 \textcolor{green}{\pi}^+ X$$



$$\begin{aligned} |\bar{K}^0(t)\rangle = & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}(1 \pm \bar{\epsilon})} [e^{-iH_{St}} (|K_1\rangle + \bar{\epsilon}|K_2\rangle) \\ & \pm e^{-iH_Lt} (|K_2\rangle + \bar{\epsilon}|K_1\rangle)] \end{aligned}$$

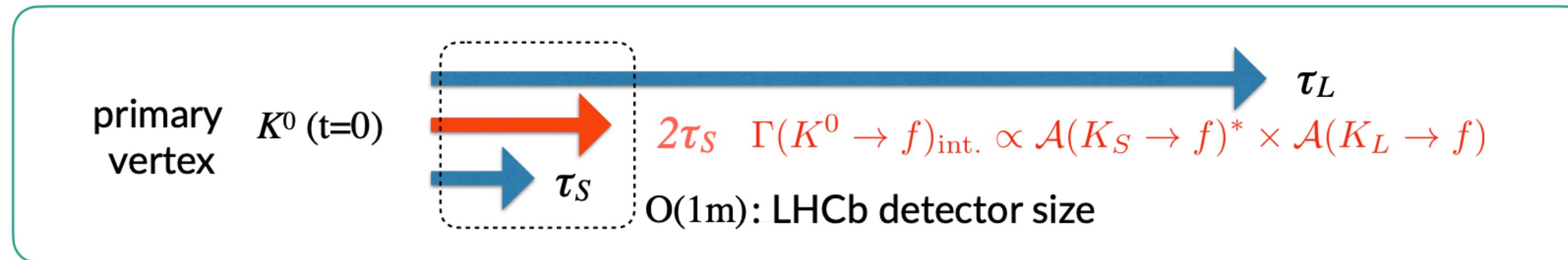
$$D = \frac{K^0 - \overline{K}^0}{K^0 + \overline{K}^0}$$

primary  
vertex  $K^0$  ( $t=0$ )



$2\tau_S \quad \Gamma(K^0 \rightarrow f)_{\text{int.}} \propto \mathcal{A}(K_S \rightarrow f)^* \times \mathcal{A}(K_L \rightarrow f)$   
O(1m): LHCb detector size

$$D = \frac{K^0 - \bar{K}^0}{K^0 + \bar{K}^0}$$



$$I(t) = \frac{1}{2} |\mathcal{A}(K_S)|^2 e^{-\Gamma_S t} + \frac{1}{2} |\mathcal{A}(K_L)|^2 e^{-\Gamma_L t} + D \operatorname{Re} [e^{-i\Delta M_K t} \mathcal{A}(K_S)^* \mathcal{A}(K_L)] e^{-\frac{\Gamma_B + \Gamma_L}{2} t} + \mathcal{O}(\bar{\epsilon})$$

Interference  $\tau \sim 2\tau_S$

$$\sum_{\text{spin}} \mathcal{A}(K_1 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)^* \mathcal{A}(K_2 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) = \frac{16iG_F^4 M_W^4 F_K^2 M_K^2 m_\mu^2 \sin^2 \theta_W}{\pi^3} \operatorname{Im} [\lambda_t] y'_{7A} \left\{ \underset{\gamma\gamma \text{ loop}}{A_{L\gamma\gamma}^\mu} - 2\pi \sin^2 \theta_W (\operatorname{Re} [\lambda_t] y'_{7A} + \operatorname{Re} [\lambda_c] y_c) \right\}$$

Coefficient is  
pure imaginary

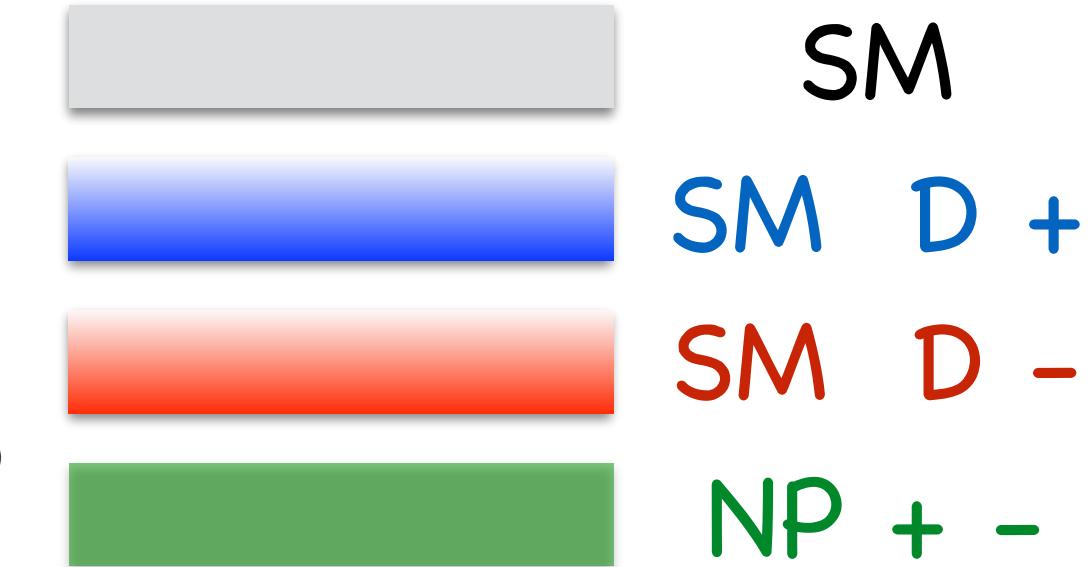
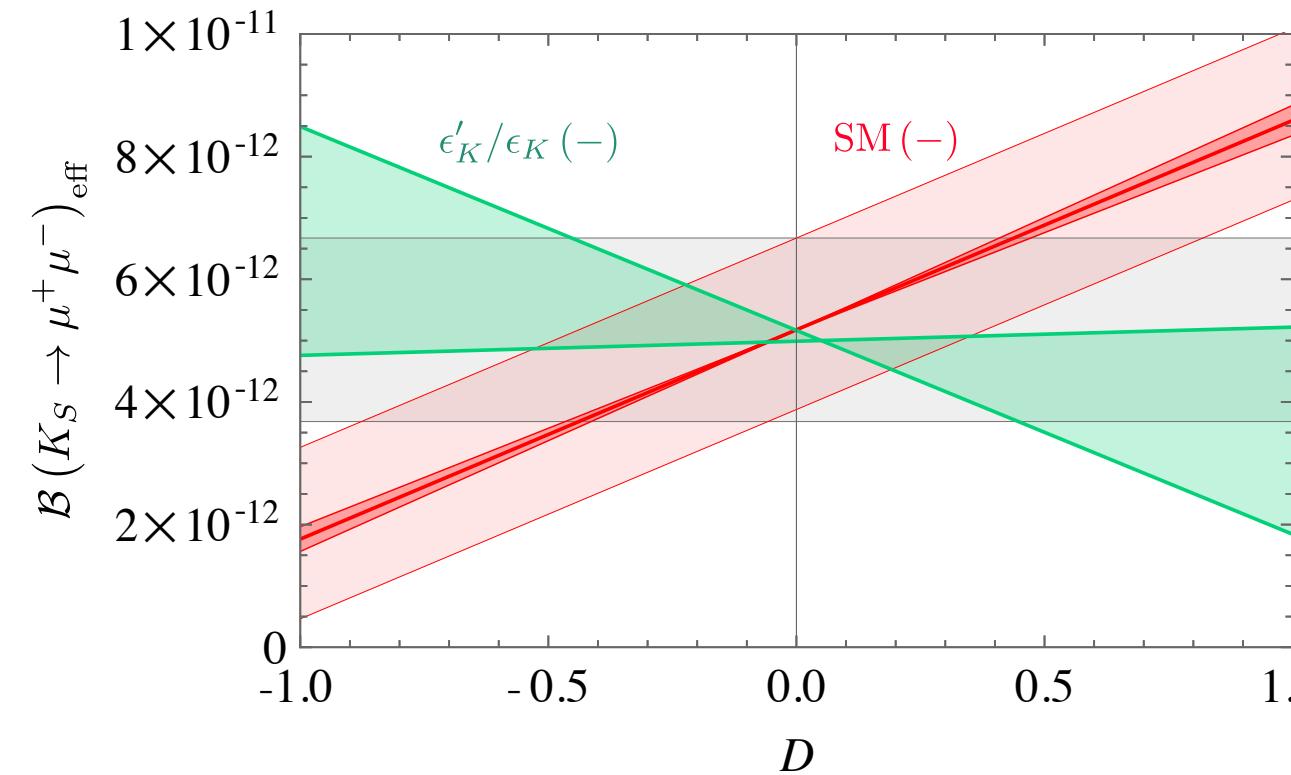
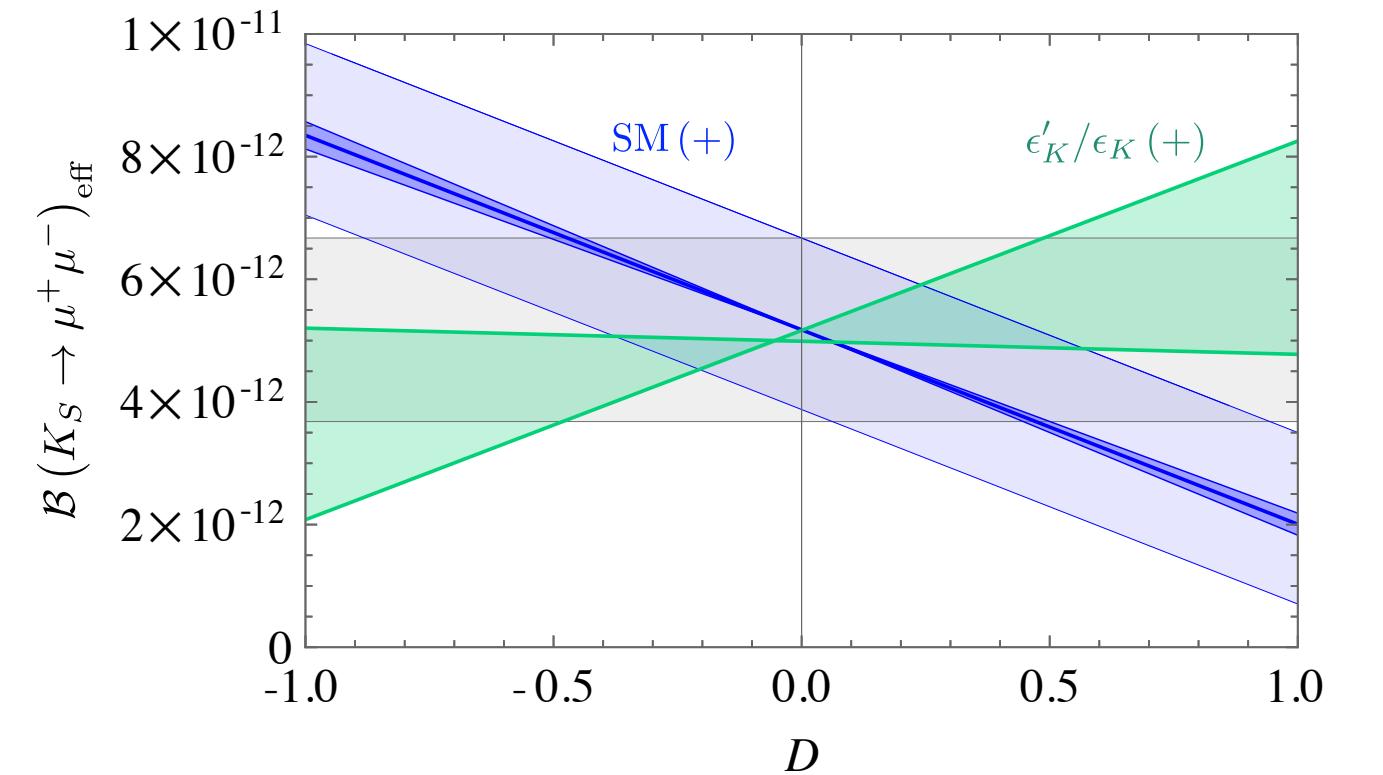
$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{G_F \alpha}{\sqrt{2}} \lambda_t y'_{7A} (\bar{s} \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 d) (\bar{\mu} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \mu) + \text{h.c.}$$

Leading contribution is proportional to  $D \times \operatorname{Im}[\lambda_t] \times \operatorname{Im}[A(K_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \rightarrow \mu\mu)]$

It looks like [weak phase]  $\times$  [strong phase], namely the direct CPV in meson decay

# Short distance window

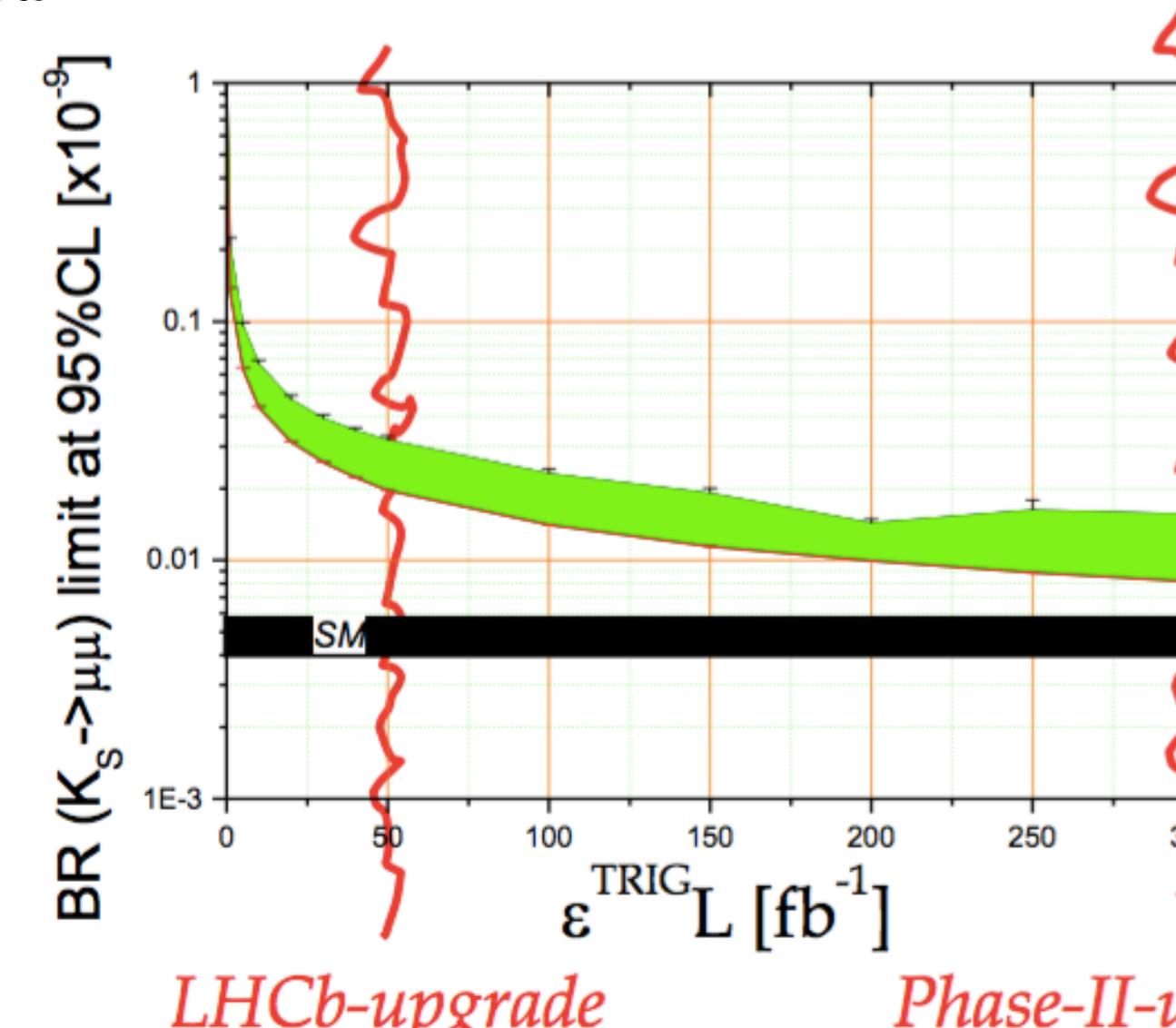
GD , Kitahara  
1707.06999 PRL



$\mathcal{B}(K_S \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)_{\text{eff}}$

$$= \tau_S \left[ \int_{t_{min}}^{t_{max}} dt \left( \Gamma(K_1) e^{-\Gamma_S t} + \frac{D}{8\pi M_K} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\mu^2}{M_Z^2}} \sum \text{Re} [e^{-i\Delta M_K t} \mathcal{A}(K_1)^* \mathcal{A}(K_2)] e^{-\frac{\Gamma_S + \Gamma_L}{2} t} \right) \varepsilon(t) \right] \\ \times \left( \int_{t_{min}}^{t_{max}} dt e^{-\Gamma_S t} \varepsilon(t) \right)^{-1},$$

modified Z-coupling model.  $\epsilon'_K/\epsilon$



# KAONS: RICH POTENTIAL

## Rare Kaon decay program at LHCb

	PDG	Prospects
$K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu$	$< 9 \times 10^{-9}$ at 90% CL	(LD) $(5.0 \pm 1.5) \cdot 10^{-12}$ NP $< 10^{-11}$
$K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu\mu$	—	SM LD $\sim 2 \times 10^{-14}$
$K_S \rightarrow e e \mu \mu$	—	$\sim 10^{-11}$
$K_S \rightarrow e e e e$	—	$\sim 10^{-10}$
$K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu\mu$	$(2.9 \pm 1.3) \cdot 10^{-9}$	$\sim 10^{-9}$
$K_S \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$	$(4.79 \pm 0.15) \cdot 10^{-5}$	SM LD $\sim 10^{-5}$
$K_S \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \mu^+ \mu^-$	—	SM LD $\sim 10^{-14}$

HIKE

$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$	$\sigma_{\mathcal{B}}/\mathcal{B} \sim 5\%$	BSM physics, LFUV
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$	Sub-% precision on form-factors	LFUV
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^- \ell^+ \ell^+, K^+ \rightarrow \pi \mu e$	Sensitivity $\mathcal{O}(10^{-13})$	LFV / LNV
Semileptonic $K^+$ decays	$\sigma_{\mathcal{B}}/\mathcal{B} \sim 0.1\%$	$V_{us}$ , CKM unitarity
$R_K = \mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu)/\mathcal{B}(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu)$	$\sigma(R_K)/R_K \sim \mathcal{O}(0.1\%)$	LFUV
Ancillary $K^+$ decays (e.g. $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma \gamma, K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 e^+ e^-$ )	% – % <sub>00</sub>	Chiral parameters (LECs)
$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$	$\sigma_{\mathcal{B}}/\mathcal{B} < 20\%$	Im $\lambda_t$ to 20% precision, BSM physics, LFUV
$K_L \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	$\sigma_{\mathcal{B}}/\mathcal{B} \sim 1\%$	Ancillary for $K \rightarrow \mu\mu$ physics
$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 (\pi^0) \mu^\pm e^\mp$	Sensitivity $\mathcal{O}(10^{-12})$	LFV
Semileptonic $K_L$ decays	$\sigma_{\mathcal{B}}/\mathcal{B} \sim 0.1\%$	$V_{us}$ , CKM unitarity
Ancillary $K_L$ decays (e.g. $K_L \rightarrow \gamma \gamma, K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma \gamma$ )	% – % <sub>00</sub>	Chiral parameters (LECs), SM $K_L \rightarrow \mu\mu, K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ rates

# Long Distance enhancement

$$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm l^+ l^- \quad K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$$

Gilman Wise 1980

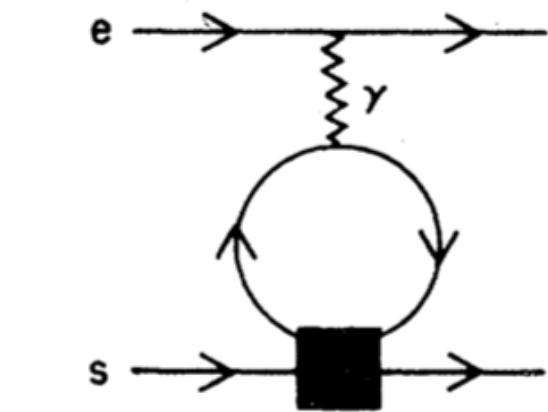
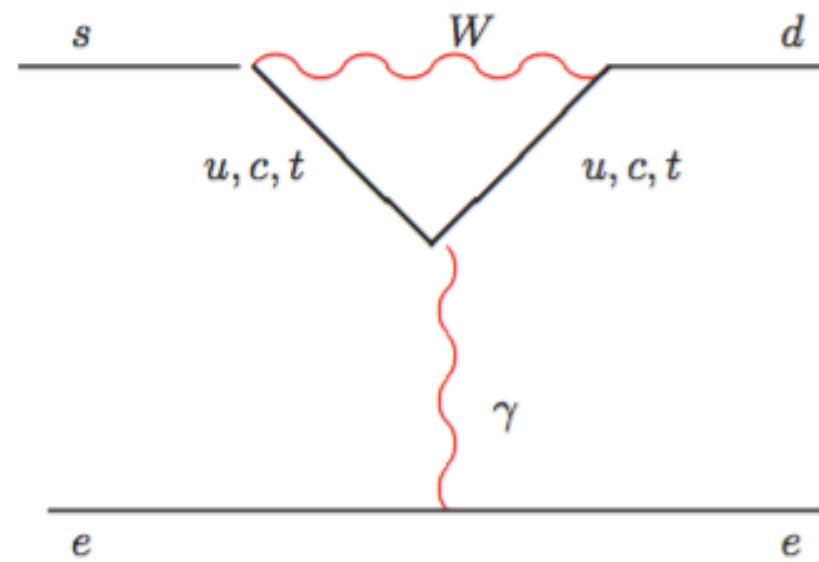
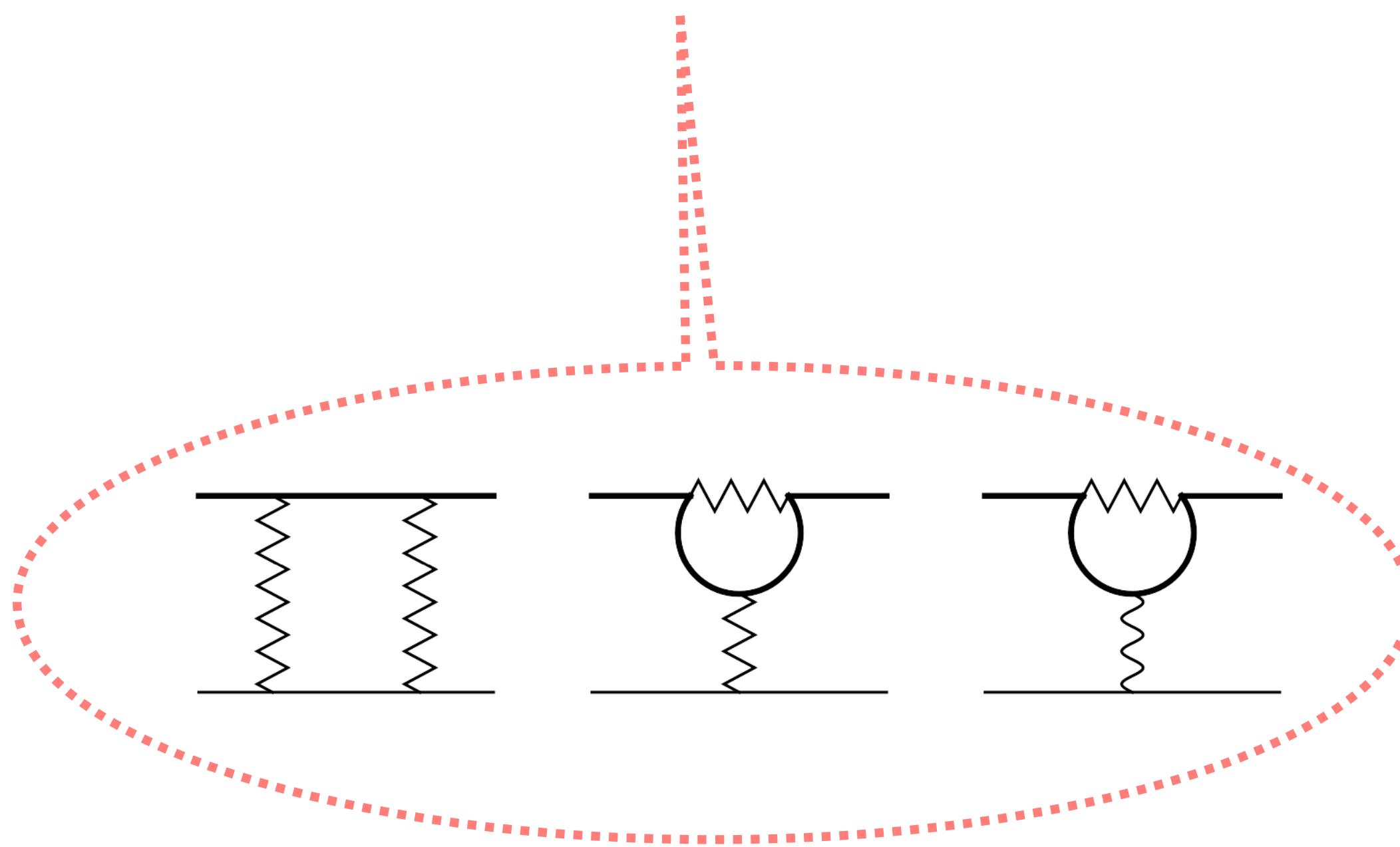


FIG. 1. Diagram contributing to  $C_7$ . The black box represents  $W$  exchange plus all strong-interaction corrections.

Short distance

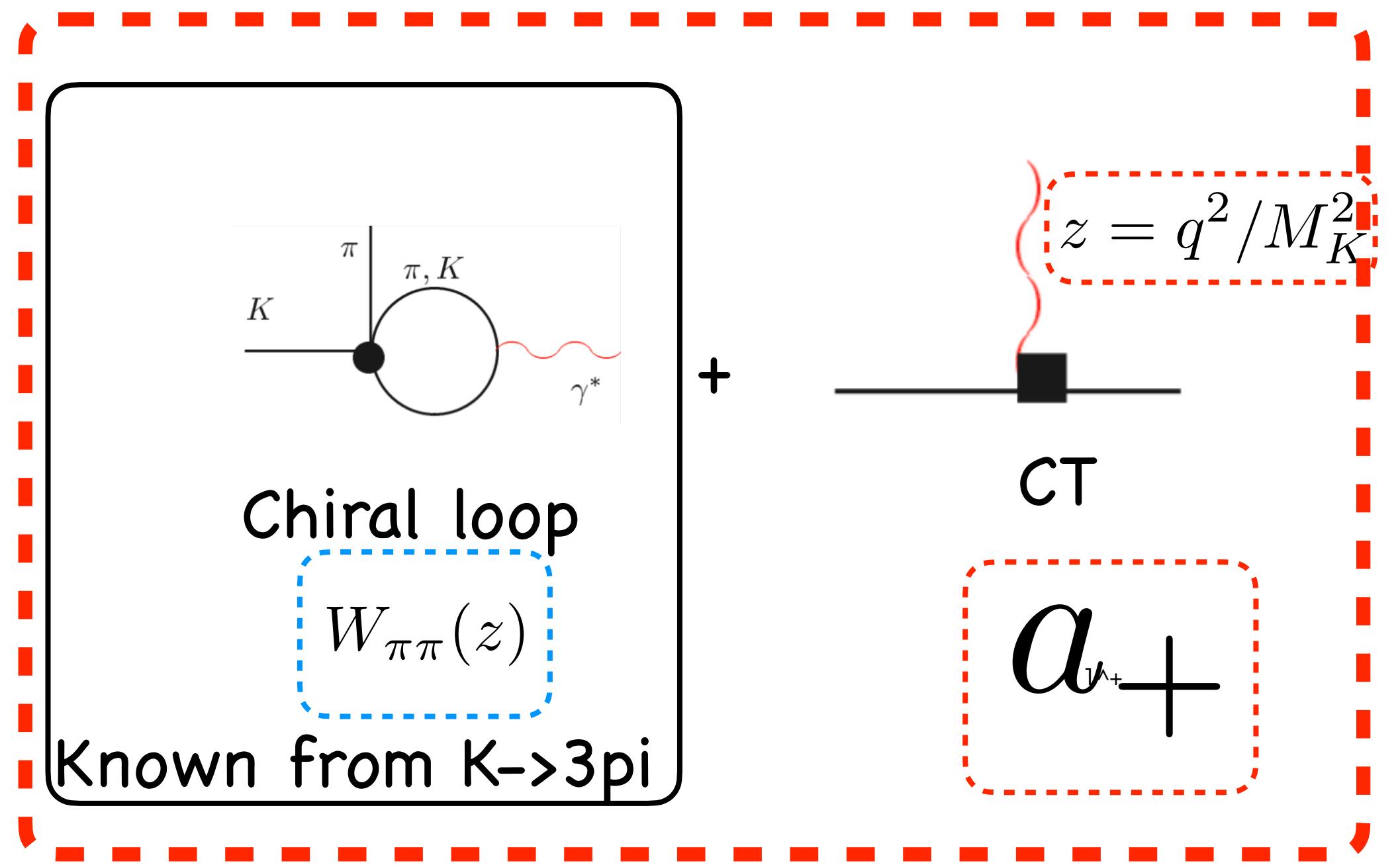


$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = & -\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} s_1 c_1 c_3 (\bar{s}_\alpha u_\alpha)_{V-A} (\bar{u}_\beta d_\beta)_{V-A} \\ & - \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{2}{9\pi} \frac{e^2}{4\pi} \left[ A_c \ln\left(\frac{m_c^2}{\mu^2}\right) + A_t \ln\left(\frac{m_t^2}{\mu^2}\right) \right] \\ & \times (\bar{s}_\alpha d_\alpha)_{V-A} (\bar{e} e)_V \\ & + \text{H.c.} \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{O}(p^4)$  CHPT

$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$$

'87 Ecker Pich de Rafael



KS No pion loop

$\mathcal{O}(p^4)$   $a_+$

$$k^2 = M_K^2, \quad p^2 = M_\pi^2, \quad q = k - p, \quad z = q^2/M_K^2, \quad r_\pi = M_\pi/M_K$$

Gauge and Lorentz invariance

$$\frac{W(z)}{(4\pi)^2} [z(k+p)^\mu - (1 - r_\pi^2)q^\mu]$$

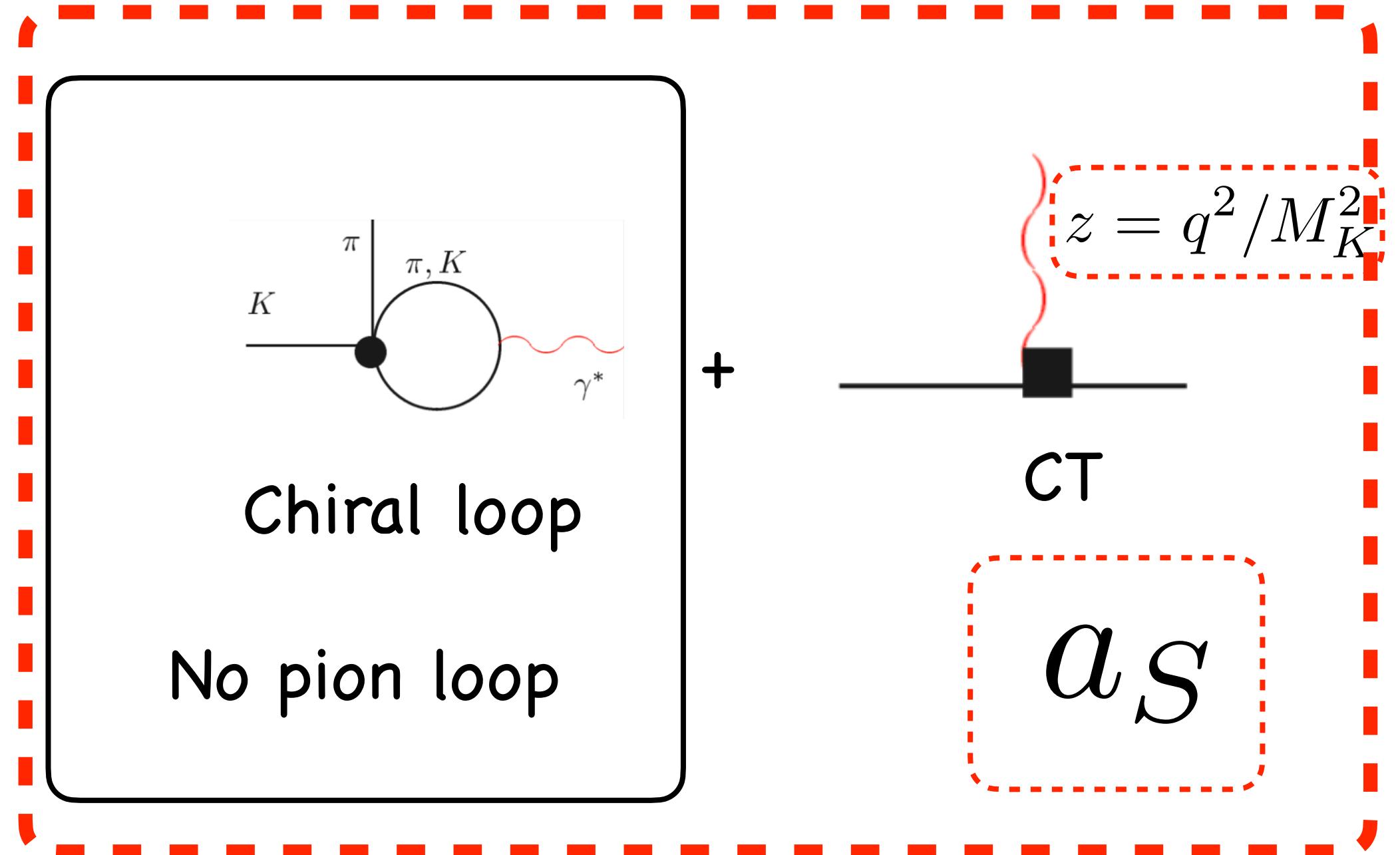
$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dz} \sim \lambda^{3/2}(1, z, r_\pi^2) \sqrt{1 - 4\frac{r_\ell^2}{z}} \left(1 + 2\frac{r_\ell^2}{z}\right) |W(z)|^2,$$

Data: the rate and spectrum  
not consistent with pheno

$\mathcal{O}(p^4)$  CHPT

$K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$

'87 Ecker Pich de Rafael



KS No pion loop for KS, CT

$\mathcal{O}(p^4)$   $a_S$

$$k^2 = M_K^2, \quad p^2 = M_\pi^2, \quad q = k - p, \quad z = q^2/M_K^2, \quad r_\pi = M_\pi/M_K$$

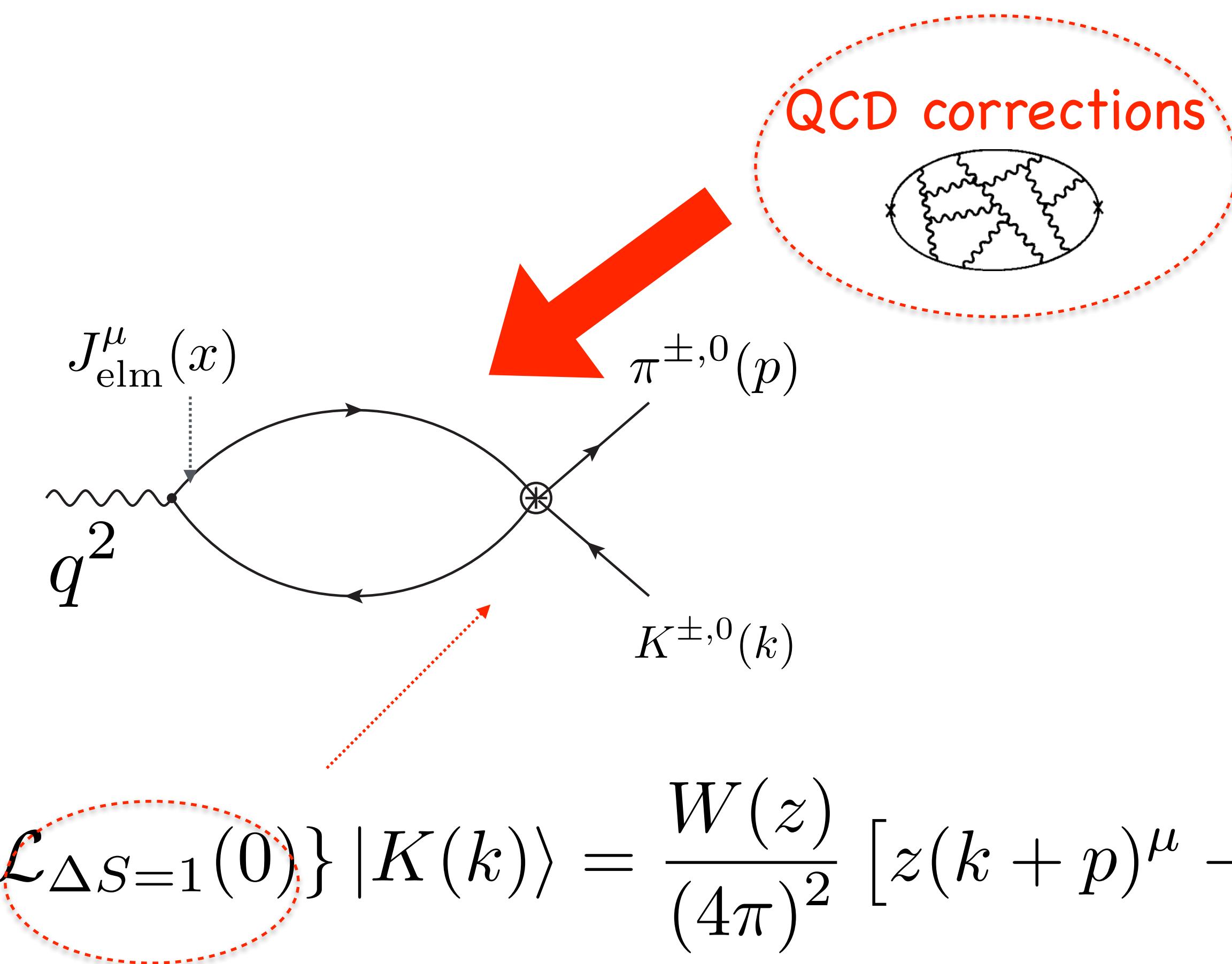
Gauge and Lorentz invariance

$$\frac{W(z)}{(4\pi)^2} [z(k+p)^\mu - (1 - r_\pi^2)q^\mu]$$

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dz} \sim \lambda^{3/2}(1, z, r_\pi^2) \sqrt{1 - 4\frac{r_\ell^2}{z}} \left(1 + 2\frac{r_\ell^2}{z}\right) |W(z)|^2,$$

# General consideration on the form factor

Lorentz and gauge invariance tell us on the structure of the amplitude and ff



$$i \int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle \pi(p) | T \{ J_{\text{elm}}^\mu(x) \mathcal{L}_{\Delta S=1}(0) \} | K(k) \rangle = \frac{W(z)}{(4\pi)^2} [z(k+p)^\mu - (1 - r_\pi^2)q^\mu]$$

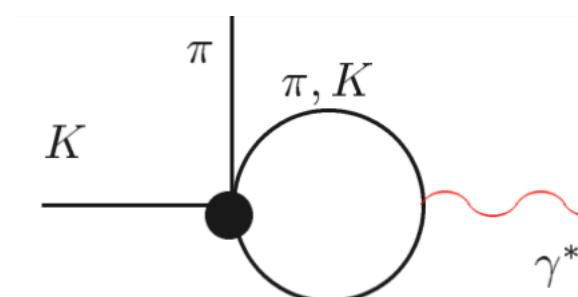
The integral at very short distances QCD quark loop

# Pragmatic decision for $O(p^6)$ ff

GD,Ecker,Isidori,Portoles 98

$$W_i(z) = G_F M_K^2 W_i^{\text{pol}}(z) + W_i^{\pi\pi}(z)$$

$$W_i^{\text{pol}}(z) = a_i + b_i z \quad (i = +, S)$$

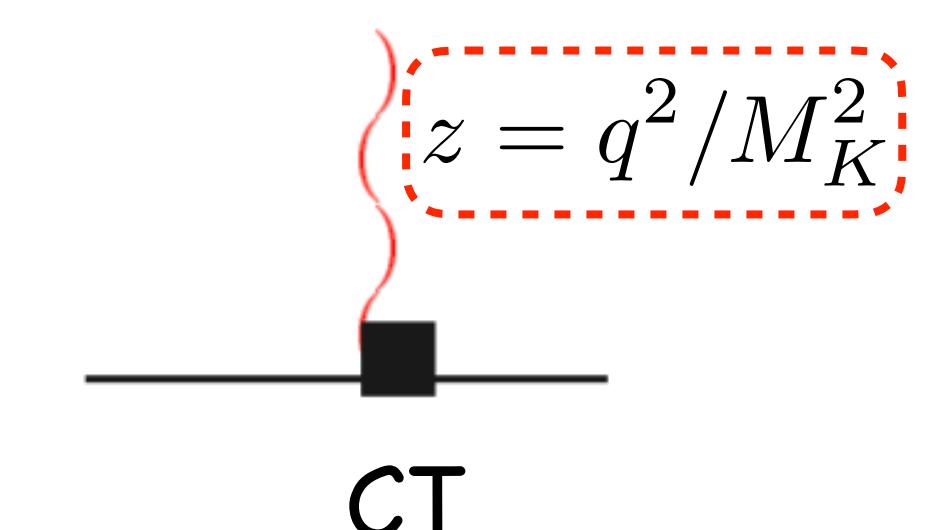


Chiral loop

$$W_{\pi\pi}(z)$$

Known from  $K \rightarrow 3\pi$

$$a_i + b_i z$$



$$a_i + b_i z$$

Determined expt.

Extremely good agreement with data few %

$$\text{LFUV test } a_+^{\mu\mu} - a_+^{ee}$$

Crivellin et al '16, Nazila et al '22

## $K \rightarrow \pi\gamma^*$ : Experimental situation

exp.	mode	number of events	$a_+$	$b_+$
BNL-E865	$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ e^+ e^-$	10 300	-0.587(10)	-0.655(44)
NA48/2	$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm e^+ e^-$	7 253	-0.578(16)	-0.779(66)
NA48/2	$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \mu^+ \mu^-$	3120	-0.575(39)	-0.813(145)
NA62	$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$	27679	-0.575(13)	-0.722(43)

E. Cortina Gil et al. [NA62 Collaboration], JHEP 11, 011 (2022)

exp.	mode	number of events
NA48/1	$K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-$	7
NA48/1	$K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \mu^-$	6

$$a_S = -1.29(3.15) \quad b_S = +17.8(10.6)$$

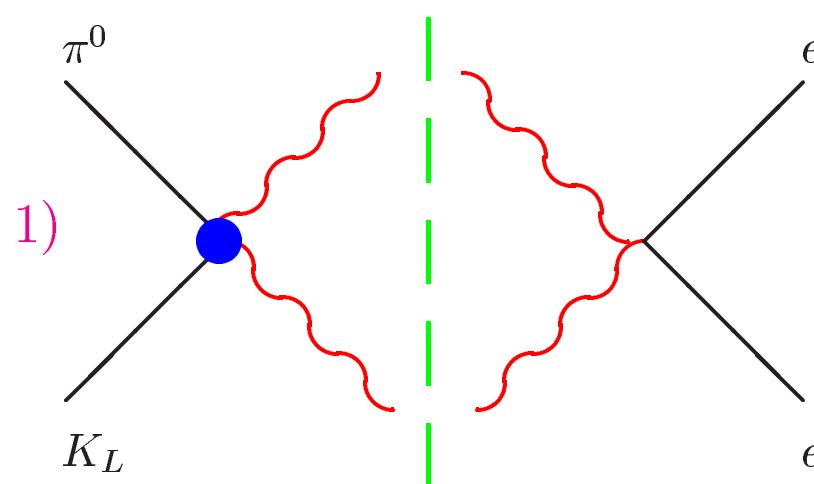
or

$$a_S = +1.28(3.16) \quad b_S = -17.6(10.6)$$

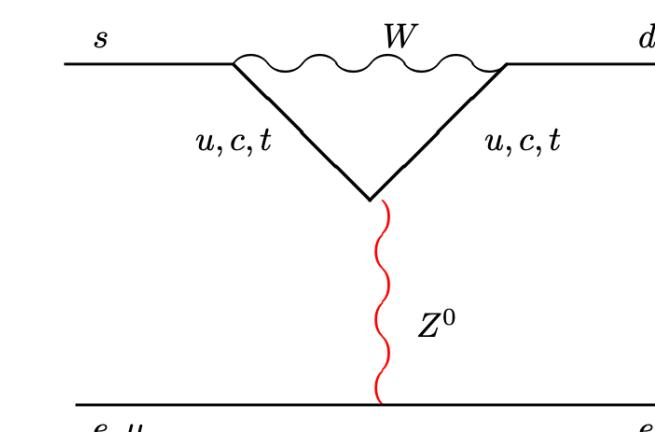
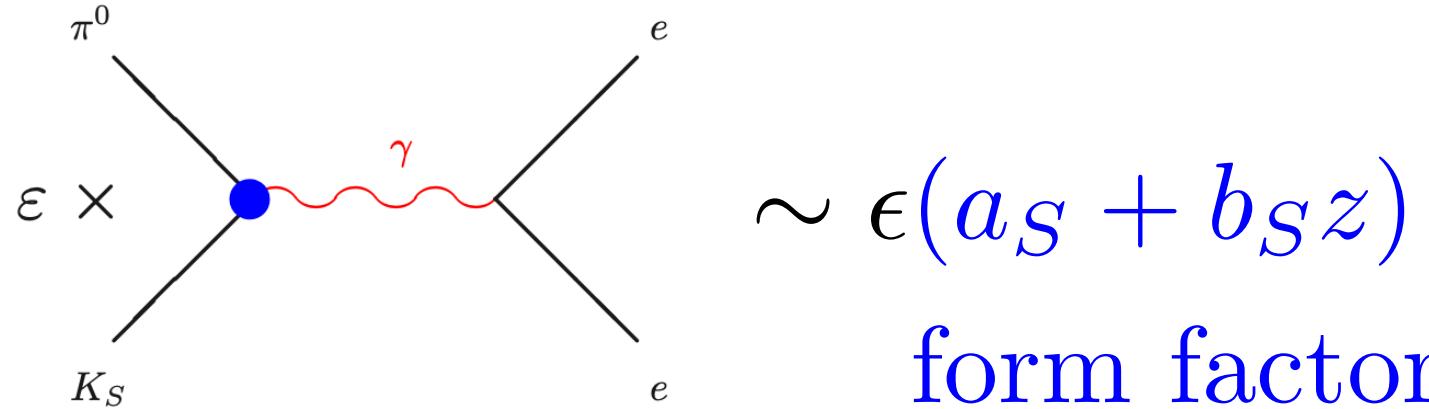
G. D'Ambrosio, D. Greynat, MK, JHEP 02, 049 (2019)

- Neither the sign of  $a_S$  nor the sign of  $a_S/b_S$  are fixed by data

# Why interesting $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$ ?



Negligible for  $e$ , calculable for  $\mu$



$$\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell \bar{\ell}) = (C_{\text{dir}}^\ell \pm C_{\text{int}}^\ell |a_S| + C_{\text{mix}}^\ell |a_S|^2 + C_{\gamma\gamma}^\ell) \cdot 10^{-12}$$

$$|a_S| = 1.20 \pm 0.20,$$

$$\text{BR}^{\text{SM}}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e \bar{e}) = 3.46^{+0.92}_{-0.80} (1.55^{+0.60}_{-0.48}) \times 10^{-11}$$

$$\text{BR}^{\text{SM}}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu \bar{\mu}) = 1.38^{+0.27}_{-0.25} (0.94^{+0.21}_{-0.20}) \times 10^{-11}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BR}^{\text{exp}}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e \bar{e}) &< 28 \times 10^{-11} & \text{at 90% CL} \\ \text{BR}^{\text{exp}}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu \bar{\mu}) &< 38 \times 10^{-11} & \text{at 90% CL} \end{aligned}$$

	$C_{\text{dir}}^\ell$	$C_{\text{int}}^\ell$	$C_{\text{mix}}^\ell$	$C_{\gamma\gamma}^\ell$
$\ell = e$	$(4.62 \pm 0.24)(w_{7V}^2 + w_{7A}^2)$	$(11.3 \pm 0.3)w_{7V}$	$14.5 \pm 0.5$	$\approx 0$
$\ell = \mu$	$(1.09 \pm 0.05)(w_{7V}^2 + 2.32w_{7A}^2)$	$(2.63 \pm 0.06)w_{7V}$	$3.36 \pm 0.20$	$5.2 \pm 1.6$

Buchalla et al 03, Isidori et al 06

Nazila et al 22, Knecht GD 24 , Hoferichter et al.24

$$w_{7A,7V} = \text{Im}(\lambda_t y_{7A,7V}) / \text{Im} \lambda_t$$

# LARGE N QCD

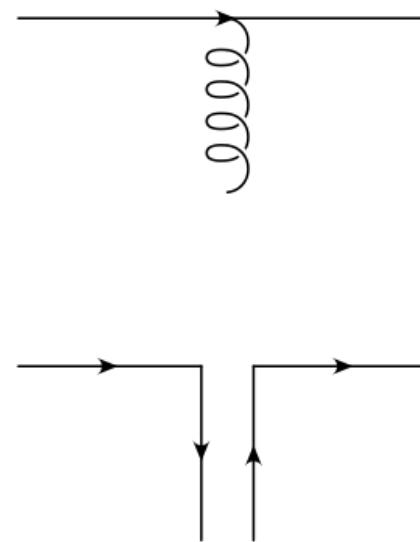
't Hooft, Witten, Coleman

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{QCD} = \sum_{q=u,d,s} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \left( i\partial_\mu - g_s \frac{\lambda_a}{2} G_\mu^a \right) q - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu}$$

QCD properties OK: asympt. Freedom

$$\mu \frac{dg}{d\mu} = -b_0 \frac{g^3}{16\pi^2} + \mathcal{O}(g^5), \quad b_0 = \frac{11}{3}N - \frac{2}{3}N_F$$

Confinement assumed



$$8 + 1 = 3 + \bar{3}$$

Large N => correct expansion parameter? Geometric interpretation of this expansion: planar diagrams  
Question in Large N: The leading order term in N of your amplitude

't Hooft model QCD<sub>2</sub> Exactly solved  
Gross Neveu model SSB+ mass Gap

- Successes:
- Zweig's rule (suppression of gluon exchange decays)
- VMD, computability..

# Witten '79 Large N QCD

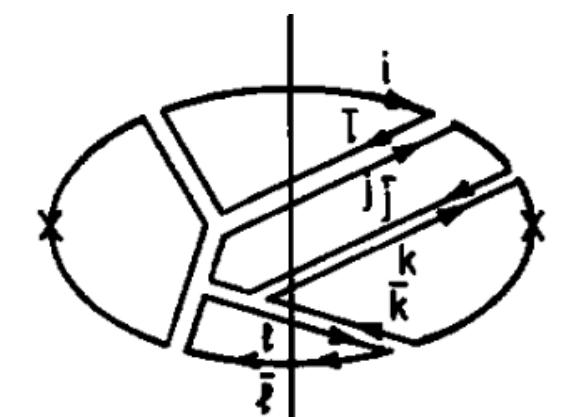
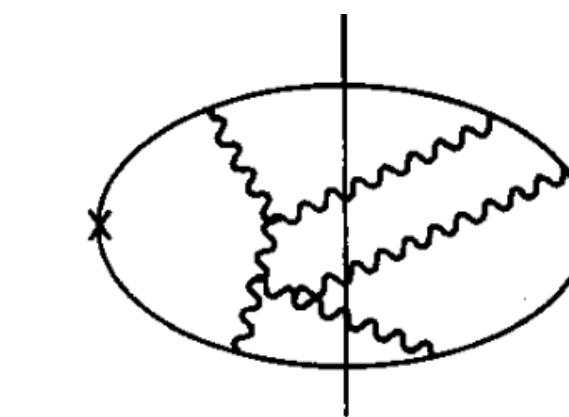
## Section 3

- Meson are free, stable, non-interacting, the number of states infinite
- Meson decay amplitudes  $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{N})$
- One meson exchange leading (see two point function with  $J$  bilinear)

$$\langle JJ \rangle = \sum_n \frac{a_n}{x} \frac{a_n}{x}$$

$\frac{1}{k^2 - m_n^2}$

Fig. 21.  $\langle JJ \rangle$  represented as a sum of one-meson poles.



$$\langle J(q)J(-q) \rangle = \sum_n \frac{a_n^2}{q^2 - m_n^2} .$$

$$\langle J(q)J(-q) \rangle \underset{q_2 \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \log q^2$$

# $K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$ : determination of the form factor

$$i \int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle \pi(p) | T \{ J_{\text{elm}}^\mu(x) \mathcal{L}_{\Delta S=1}(0) \} | K(k) \rangle = \frac{W(z)}{(4\pi)^2} [z(k+p)^\mu - (1 - r_\pi^2) q^\mu]$$

$$k^2 = M_K^2 , \quad p^2 = M_\pi^2 , \quad q = k - p , \quad z = q^2/M_K^2 , \quad r_\pi = M_\pi/M_K ,$$

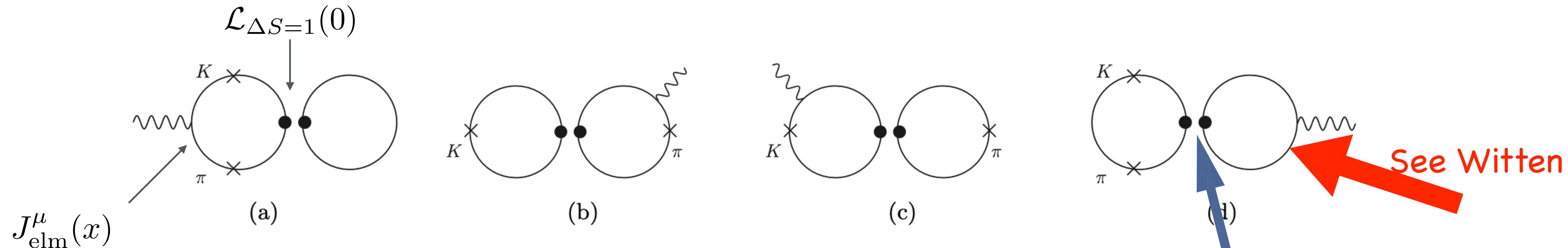


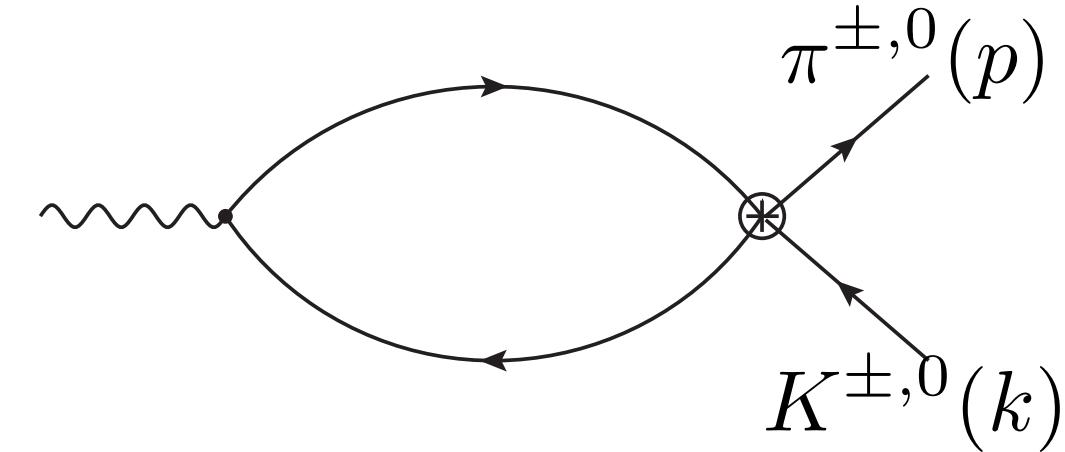
Figure 1: Potential diagrams contributing at leading order in large  $N_c$  (all at the order  $(N_c)^2/(\sqrt{N_c})^2 = N_c$ ). The dots represent the effective  $\Delta S = 1$  operators.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{non-lept}}^{\lvert \Delta S \rvert = 1} = -\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{us} V_{ud} \sum_{I=1}^6 C_I(\nu) Q_I(\nu) + \text{H.c}$$

$$Q_1 = (\bar{s}^i u_j)_{V-A} (\bar{u}^j d_i)_{V-A}, \quad Q_2 = (\bar{s}^i u_i)_{V-A} (\bar{u}^j d_j)_{V-A}$$

# Large Nc results for $K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$

GD Knecht, Neshatpour '24



$$W_i(z) = G_F M_K^2 W_i^{\text{pol}}(z) + W_i^{\pi\pi}(z)$$

$$W_i^{\text{pol}}(z) = a_i + b_i z \quad (i = +, S)$$

TH  $\text{Br}(K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-)|_{m_{ee} > 165 \text{ MeV}} = 2.9(1.0) \cdot 10^{-9}$

NA48/1  $\text{Br}(K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-)|_{m_{ee} > 165 \text{ MeV}} = (3.0^{+1.5}_{-1.2} \pm 0.2) \cdot 10^{-9}$

$$\text{Br}(K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-) = 5.1(1.7) \cdot 10^{-9}$$

Large Nc predictions => Wilson coefficients + hadr. parameters

TH

$$\text{Br}(K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \mu^-) = 1.3(0.4) \cdot 10^{-9}$$

# Conclusions

- We have focused maybe too much on

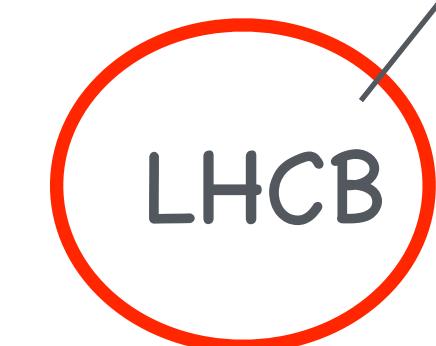
$\Delta I = 1/2$  rule

$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\Delta S=1} = \mathcal{L}_{\Delta S=1}^2 + \mathcal{L}_{\Delta S=1}^4 + \dots = G_8 F^4 \underbrace{\langle \lambda_6 D_\mu U^\dagger D^\mu U \rangle}_{K \rightarrow 2\pi/3\pi} + \underbrace{G_8 F^2 \sum_i N_i W_i}_{K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma\gamma, K \rightarrow \pi l^+ l^-} + \dots$$

$\pi$	$2\pi$	$3\pi$	$N_i$
$\pi^+ \gamma^*$	$\pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma^*$		$N_{14}^r - N_{15}^r$
$\pi^0 \gamma^* (S)$	$\pi^0 \pi^0 \gamma^* (L)$		$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$
$\pi^+ \gamma\gamma$	$\pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma\gamma$		$2N_{14}^r + N_{15}^r$
	$\pi^+ \pi^- \gamma\gamma (S)$		$K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$
	$\pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma$	$\pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$	$N_{14} - N_{15} - 2N_{18}$
	$\pi^+ \pi^- \gamma (S)$	$\pi^+ \pi^0 \pi^0 \gamma$	"
		$\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \gamma (L)$	$N_{14} - N_{15} - N_{16} - N_{17}$
		$\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \gamma (S)$	"
			$7(N_{14}^r - N_{16}^r) + 5(N_{15}^r + N_{17})$
	$\pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^* (L)$		$N_{14}^r - N_{15}^r - 3(N_{16}^r - N_{17})$
	$\pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^* (S)$		$N_{14}^r - N_{15}^r - 3(N_{16}^r + N_{17})$
	$\pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma^*$		$N_{14}^r + 2N_{15}^r - 3(N_{16}^r - N_{17})$
		$\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \gamma (S)$	$N_{29} + N_{31}$
		$\pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$	"
		$\pi^+ \pi^0 \pi^0 \gamma$	$3N_{29} - N_{30}$
		$\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \gamma (S)$	$5N_{29} - N_{30} + 2N_{31}$
		$\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \gamma (L)$	$6N_{28} + 3N_{29} - 5N_{30}$

- $K_{S,L} \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- (e^+ e^-)$  3-point function



# Conclusions II

$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$$

3-point function  
 $K_{S,L} \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- (e^+ e^-)$

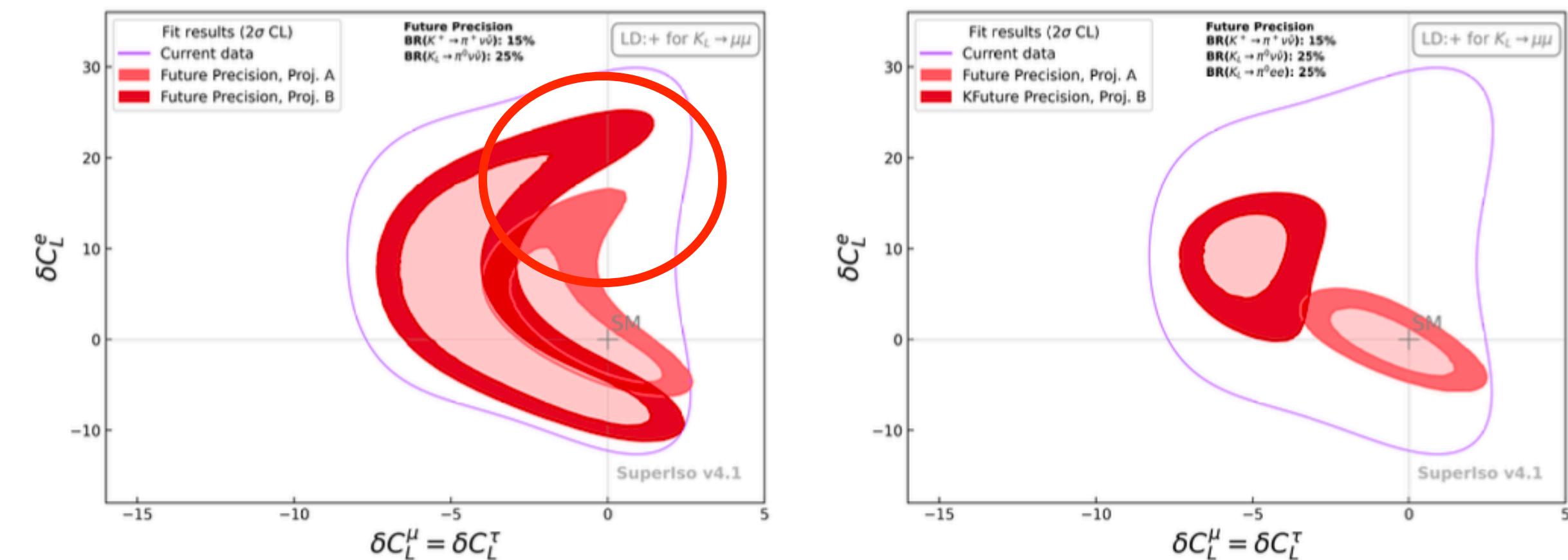
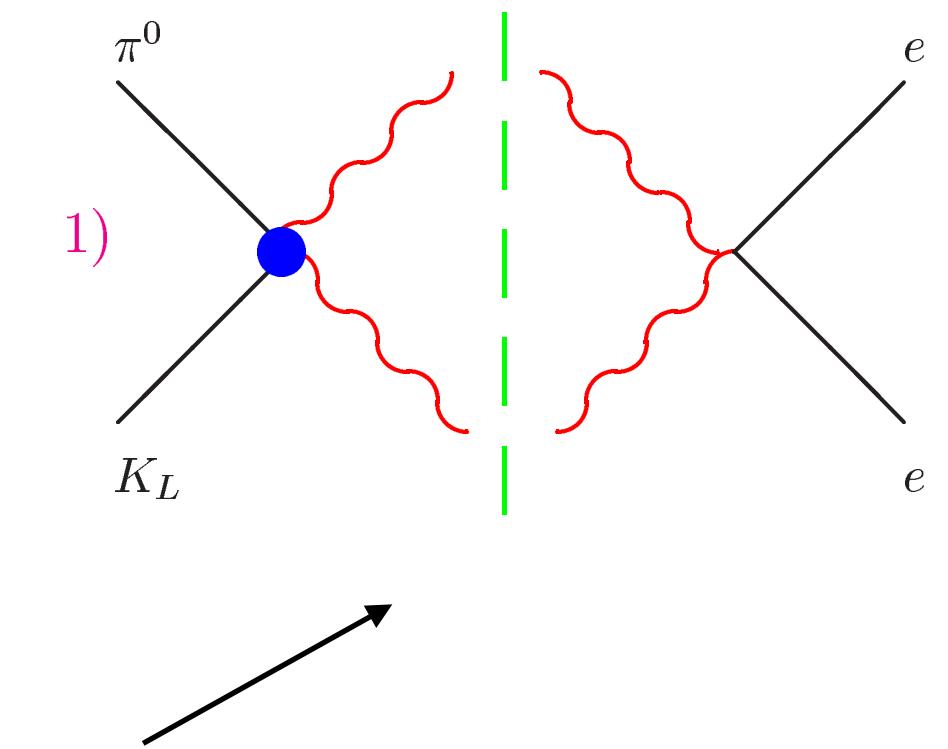
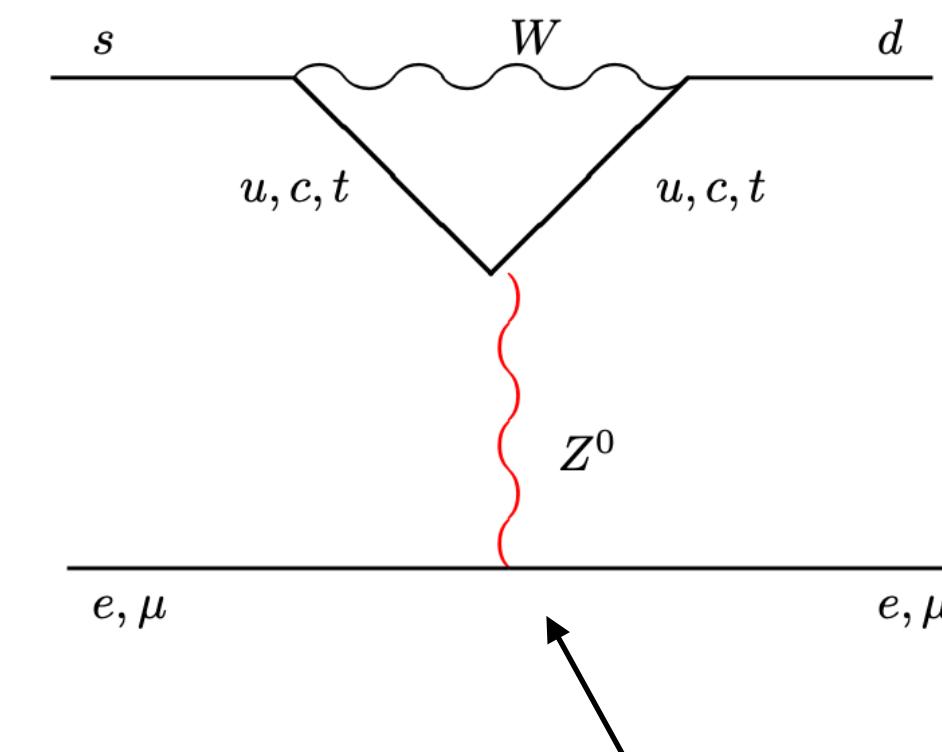
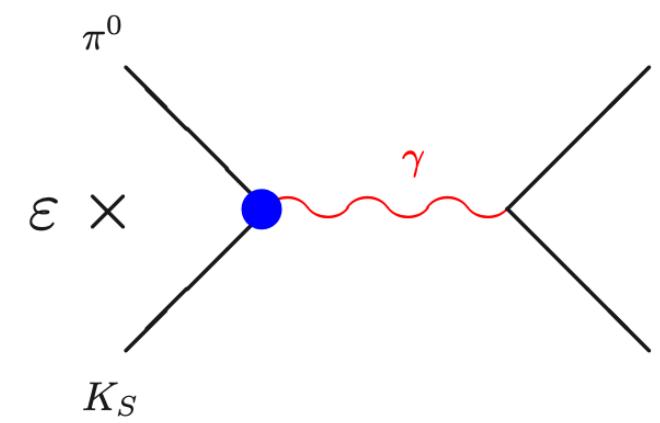


Figure 5: BSM parameter space for Wilson coefficients in scenarios with LFU violation where the NP effects for electrons are different from those for muons and taus [18, 19]. Left: Impact on allowed parameter space from measurements of the golden channels  $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$  from NA62 and KOTO II with the expected final precision. Right: Impact on the parameter space by the inclusion in the fits of a measurement of the  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-$  branching ratio with 25% precision.



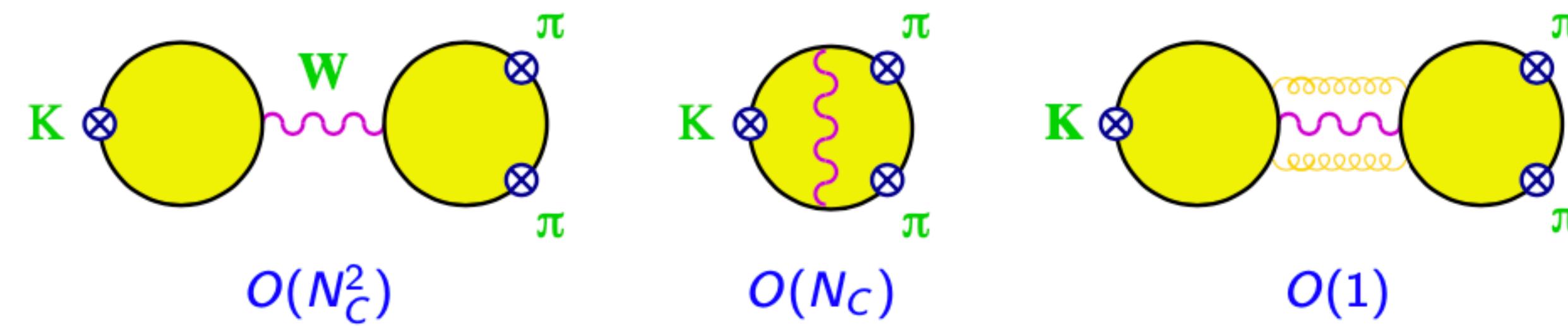
$$\text{Br}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \ell^-) = 10^{-12} \left[ C_{\text{mix}}^{(\ell)} + C_{\text{int}}^{(\ell)} \frac{\text{Im } \lambda_t}{10^{-4}} + C_{\text{dir}}^{(\ell)} \left( \frac{\text{Im } \lambda_t}{10^{-4}} \right)^2 + C_{\gamma^* \gamma^*}^{(\ell)} \right]$$

$$C_{\text{int}}^{(e)} = +7.8(2.6) \frac{y_{7V}}{\alpha}, \quad C_{\text{int}}^{(\mu)} = +1.9(0.6) \frac{y_{7V}}{\alpha}$$

$$K \rightarrow 2\pi$$

## Weak Currents Factorize at Large $N_C$

- Large sub



- Failing understanding       $\Delta I = 1/2$  rule
- Lattice

# Outline

- Motivations for  $K \rightarrow \pi ll$  
$$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm l^+ l^- \quad K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$$
- $K \rightarrow \pi ll$  phenomenology
- Large N QCD: the dream '70s '80s '90s 't Hooft, Witten, Coleman
- Ideas, Successes, some undelivered messages 
$$K \rightarrow \pi\pi : \Delta I = \frac{1}{2} \text{ rule} \quad \epsilon'$$

---
- $K \rightarrow \pi ll$  phenomenology and large N
- conclusions

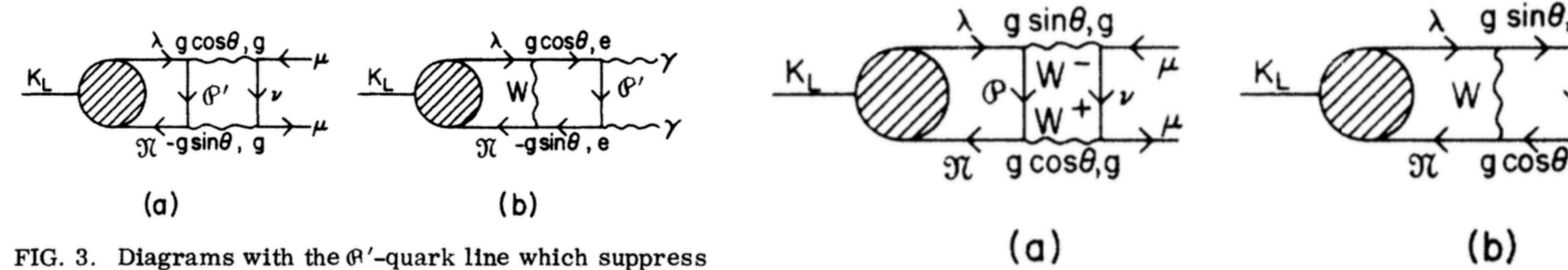
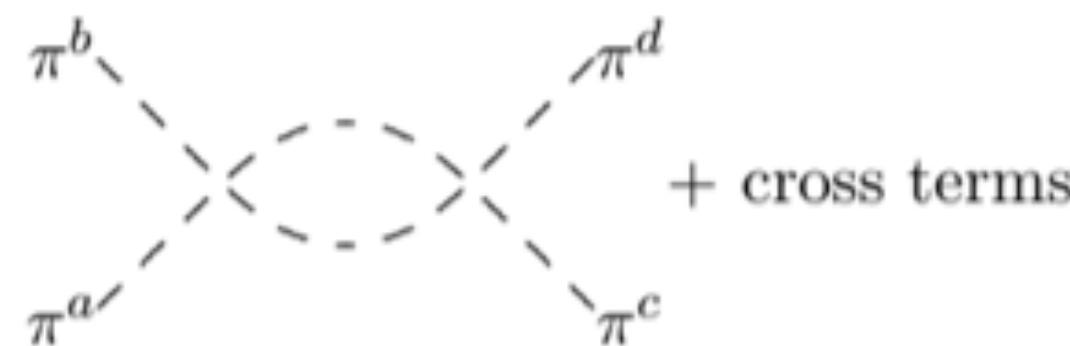


FIG. 3. Diagrams with the  $\Phi'$ -quark line which suppress the contributions of the diagrams in Fig. 1.

FIG. 1. Important diagrams for (a)  $K_L \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  and (b)  $K_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ .

- GIM Gaillard Lee "3 months to understand the calculation, one day to do it"
  - Weinberg Effective field theories , chiral loops '76



The kaon community requests to

- protect and amplify the European kaon-physics programme, exploring opportunities for
  - $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$
  - $K_{S,L} \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$  decay and interference,
- enable European contributions for KOTO II for  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$  and  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ , spanning both analysis and hardware development,  
.....
- maintain the European leadership on theory computations for kaon physics (phenomenology, dispersion theory, effective theory and lattice QCD, including high-performance computing).

## European Strategy for Particle Physics 2026: Kaon physics input document

EU strategy group

Lazzeroni

The contribution "Kaon Physics: A Cornerstone for Future Discoveries" has been drafted by:

M. Bordone, A. Ceccucci, A. Dery, M. Gorbahn, E. Goudzovski, M. Hoferichter, A. Jüttner, C. Lazzeroni, Z. Ligeti, D. Martinez, F. Mahmoudi, R. Marchevski, M. Moulson, G. Ruggiero.

Year	Main object
1	Beam line survey
2	Construction of the rest of the detector
3-6	Phase I: Physics run for mainly $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$
7	Single event sensitivity will reach $8.5 \times 10^{-13}$ for the $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$ search
8	Detector upgrade
9-12	Phase II: Physics run mainly for $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ with an optimized setup .....
13	End of Phase II

Moulson



# QCD theoretical tools

- analytic calculation 't Hooft, large  $N_c$  (it explains basic phenomenological facts of QCD, i.e. Zweig's rule) many implications: Skyrme model, VMD, Maldacena
- G. Parisi, '80s lattice: can we predict from QCD the proton mass at 10% level?
- Precise calculation of low energy QCD?

$\pi$	$2\pi$	$3\pi$	$N_i$
$\pi^+\gamma^*$	$\pi^+\pi^0\gamma^*$		$N_{14}^r - N_{15}^r$
$\pi^0\gamma^* (S)$	$\pi^0\pi^0\gamma^* (L)$		$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$
$\pi^+\gamma\gamma$	$\pi^+\pi^0\gamma\gamma$		$2N_{14}^r + N_{15}^r$
	$\pi^+\pi^-\gamma\gamma (S)$		$K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$
	$\pi^+\pi^0\gamma$	$\pi^+\pi^+\pi^-\gamma$	$N_{14} - N_{15} - 2N_{18}$
	$\pi^+\pi^-\gamma (S)$	$\pi^+\pi^0\pi^0\gamma$	-----
		$\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0\gamma (L)$	"
		$\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0\gamma (S)$	"
	$\pi^+\pi^-\gamma^* (L)$		$7(N_{14}^r - N_{16}^r) + 5(N_{15}^r + N_{17}^r)$
	$\pi^+\pi^-\gamma^* (S)$		$N_{14}^r - N_{15}^r - 3(N_{16}^r - N_{17}^r)$
	$\pi^+\pi^0\gamma^*$		$N_{14}^r - N_{15}^r - 3(N_{16}^r + N_{17}^r)$
	$\pi^+\pi^-\gamma (L)$	$\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0\gamma (S)$	$N_{14}^r + 2N_{15}^r - 3(N_{16}^r - N_{17}^r)$
	$\pi^+\pi^0\gamma$	$\pi^+\pi^+\pi^-\gamma$	
		$\pi^+\pi^0\pi^0\gamma$	
		$\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0\gamma (S)$	$N_{29} + N_{31}$
		$\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0\gamma (L)$	"
			$3N_{29} - N_{30}$
			$5N_{29} - N_{30} + 2N_{31}$
			$6N_{28} + 3N_{29} - 5N_{30}$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\Delta S=1} = \mathcal{L}_{\Delta S=1}^2 + \mathcal{L}_{\Delta S=1}^4 + \dots = G_8 F^4 \underbrace{\langle \lambda_6 D_\mu U^\dagger D^\mu U \rangle}_{K \rightarrow 2\pi/3\pi} + \underbrace{G_8 F^2 \sum_i N_i W_i}_{K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma\gamma, K \rightarrow \pi l^+ l^-} + \dots$$





$$K_L(p) \rightarrow \pi^0(p_3)\gamma(q_1)\gamma(q_2)$$

Lorentz + gauge invariance $y = p \cdot (q_1 - q_2)/m_K^2$ , $z = (q_1 + q_2)^2/m_K^2$ $r_\pi = m_\pi/m_K$	$\Rightarrow$	$M \sim A(y, z)$ $\gamma\gamma$ $J = 0$ $F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$	$B(y, z)$ $\gamma\gamma$ $D - \text{wave too}$ $F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\lambda} \partial_\nu K_L \partial^\lambda \pi^0$
--	---------------	--	---

- $\frac{d^2\Gamma}{dydz} \sim z^2 |A + B|^2 + \left( y^2 - \left( \frac{(1 + r_\pi^2 - z)^2}{4} - r_\pi^2 \right) \right)^2 |B|^2$   $S, B$
- Different gauge structure  $\Rightarrow B \neq 0$  at  $z \rightarrow 0$  (collinear photons).

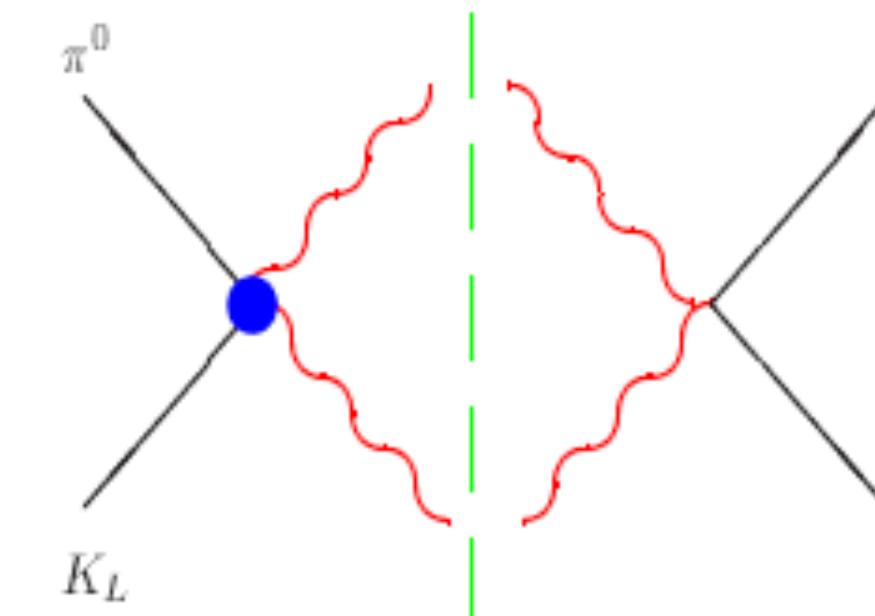
Crucial role in  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-$

A suppressed by  $m_e/m_K$

B is not

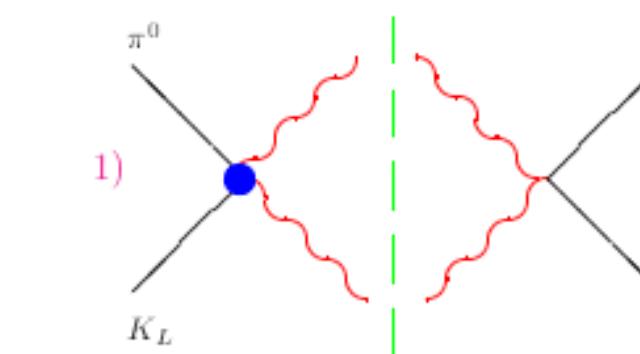
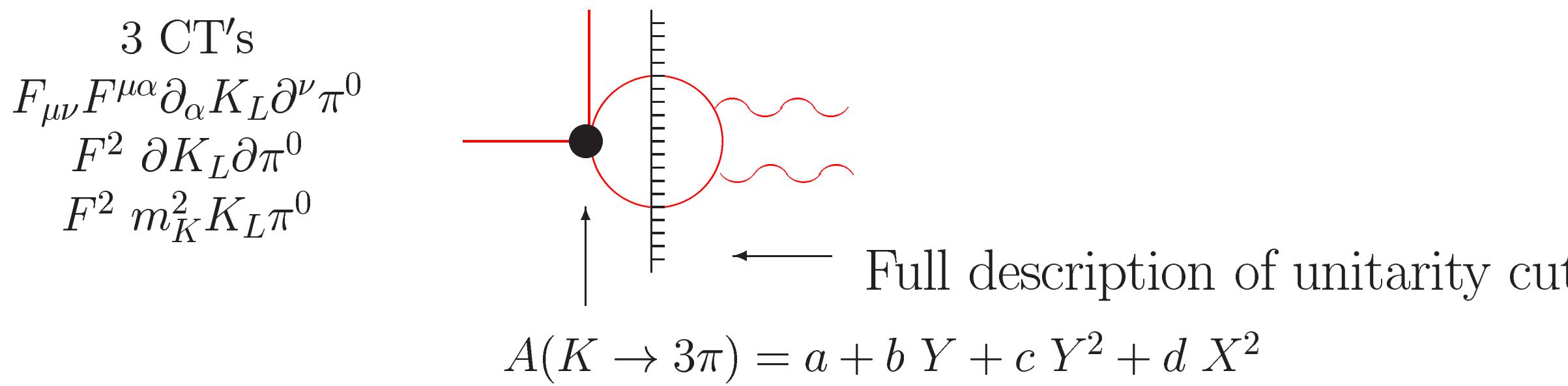
Morozumi et al, Flynn Randall

Sehgal Heiliger, Ecker et al., Donoghue et al.



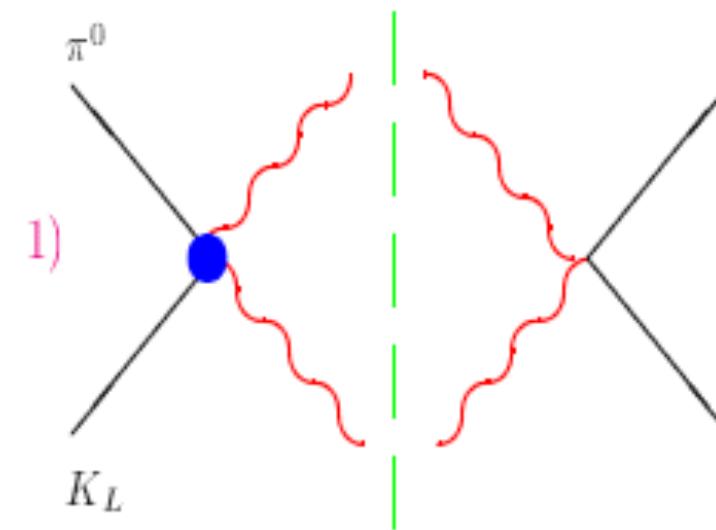
# KTeV and NA48 not only $\epsilon'$

Actually the study of unit. cut was crucial to i) to bring **agreement** expt vs Theory in  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma\gamma$  and ii) show that  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 ee$  CP conserving was **negligible**



$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-$  : summary

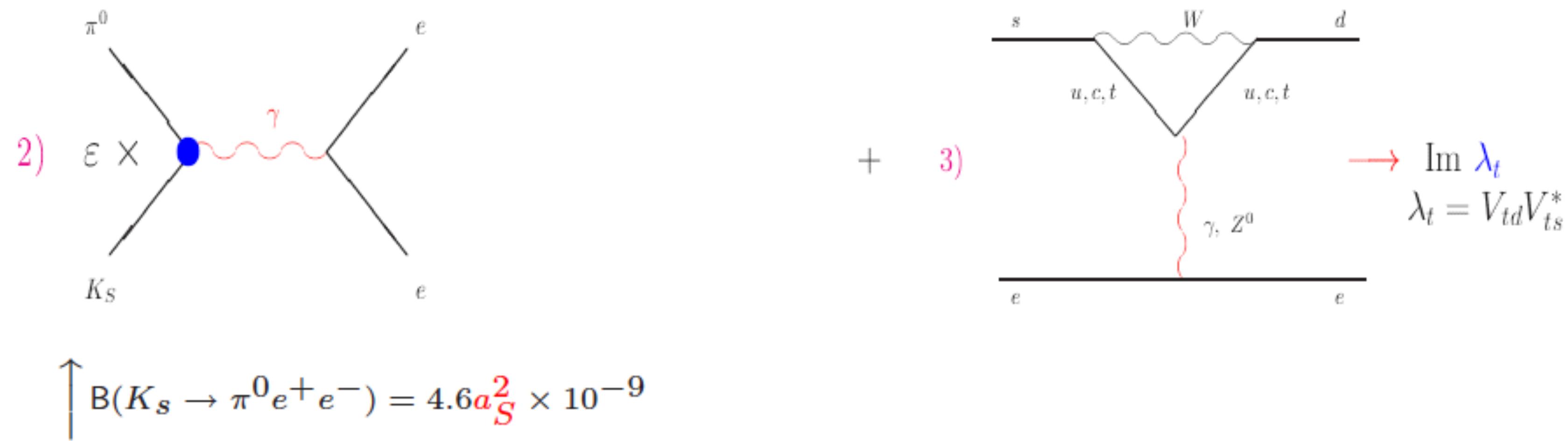
$\text{Br}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-) \leq 2.8 \cdot 10^{-10}$  at 90% CL KTeV



CP conserving NA48

$\text{Br}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-) < 3 \cdot 10^{-12}$

V-A  $\otimes$  V-A  $\Rightarrow \langle \pi^0 e^+ e^- | (\bar{s}d)_{V-A} (\bar{e}e)_{V-A} | K_L \rangle$  violates CP



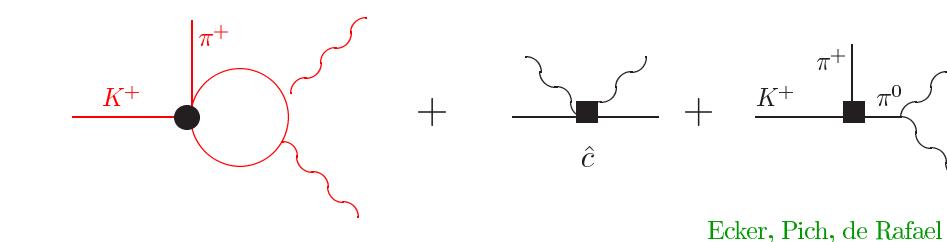
Possible large interference:  $a_S < -0.5$  or  $a_S > 1$ ; short distance probe even for  $a_S$  large

$$|2) + 3)|^2 = \left[ 15.3 a_S^2 - 6.8 \frac{\text{Im } \lambda_t}{10^{-4}} a_S + 2.8 \left( \frac{\text{Im } \lambda_t}{10^{-4}} \right)^2 \right] \cdot 10^{-12}$$

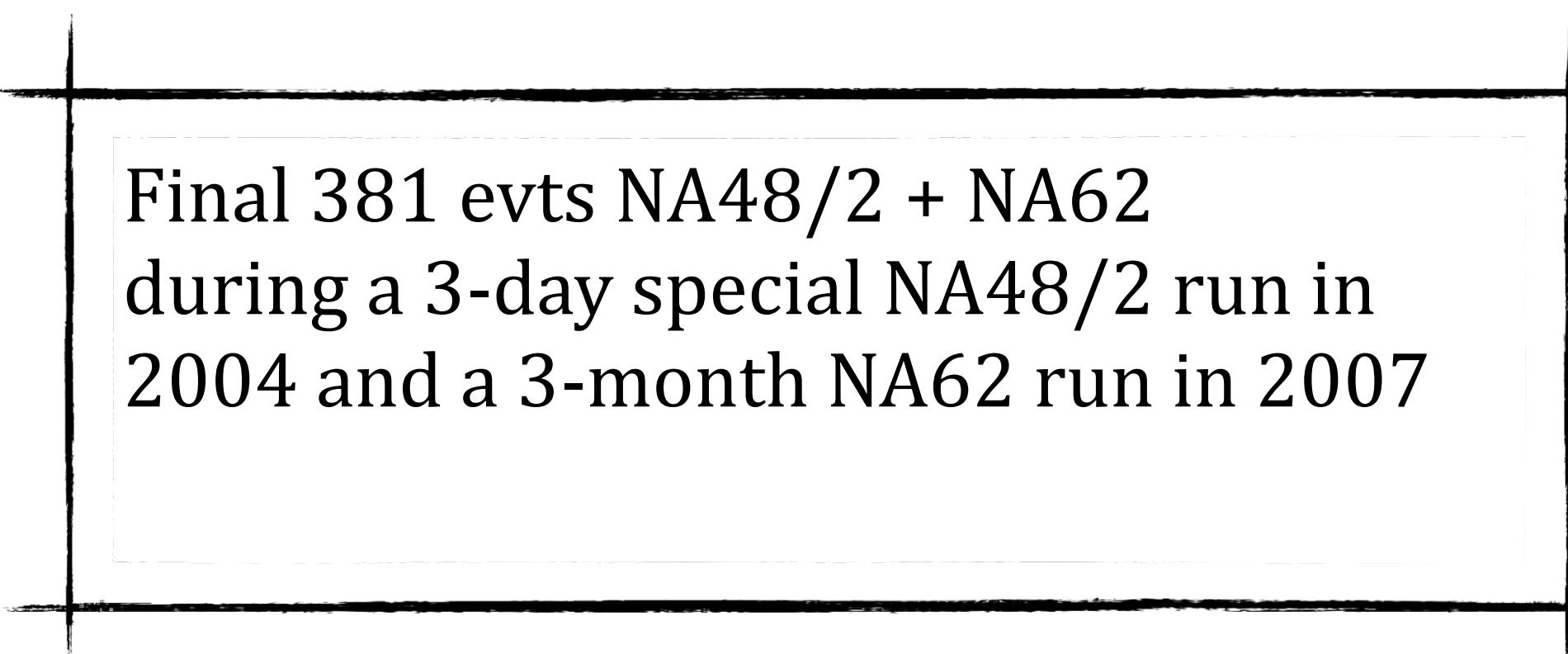
[17.7 ±	9.5 +	4.7] · 10 <sup>-12</sup>
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$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma\gamma \quad \text{NA48/2 + NA62 ('14)}$$

Auxiliary channel useful to assess the CP conserving contribution to  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 ee$

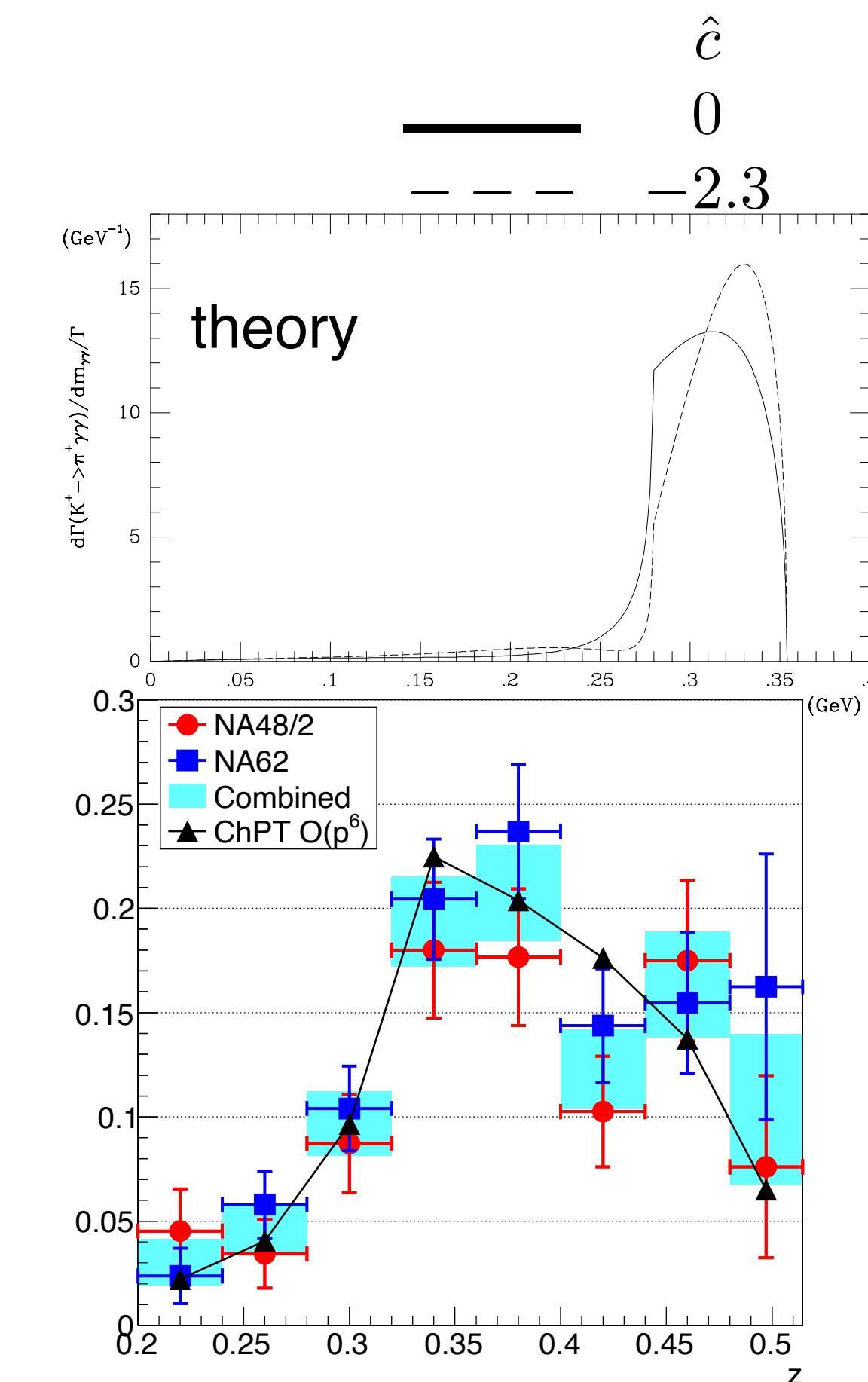


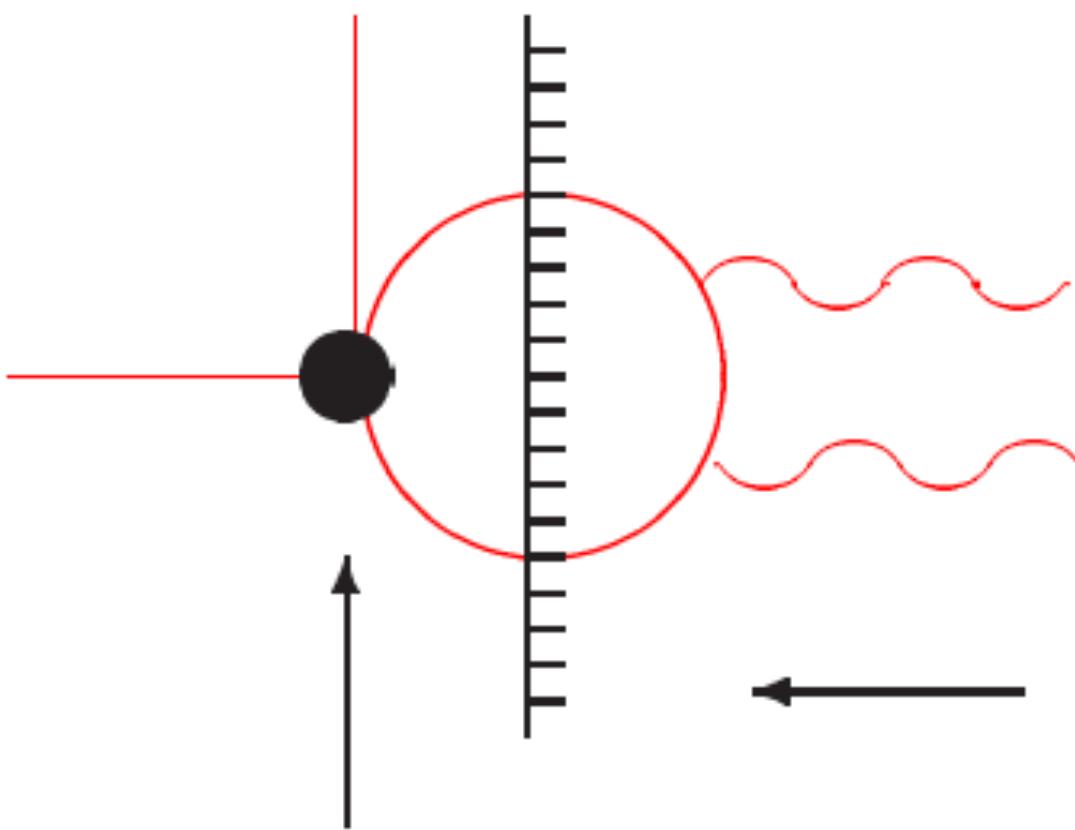
Ecker, Pich, de Rafael



$$B = (1.003 \pm 0.051_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.024_{\text{syst}}) \cdot 10^{-6}$$

$$\hat{c} = 1.86 \pm 0.26$$



$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma\gamma$  NA62 sensitivity

Full description of unitarity cut

$$A(K \rightarrow 3\pi) = a + b Y + c Y^2 + d X^2$$

This decay  $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma\gamma$  : The error obtained in the form factor ( $\hat{c}$ ) is dominated by the expt K- > 3pi error in the quadratic slope !

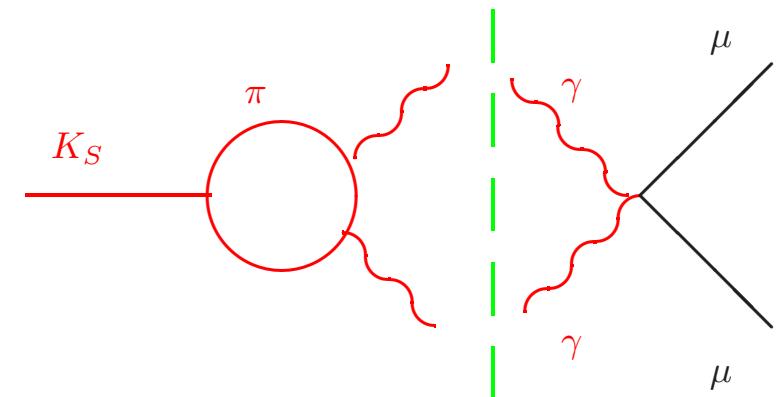
$K_S \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  LHCB

After 40 years improvement by 3  
orders of magnitudes from LHCB

$$B(K_S \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}) < 11 \times 10^{-9} \\ 95\% \text{ CL}$$

Isidori Underdorfer

SM  
 $\sim 5 \times 10^{-12}$



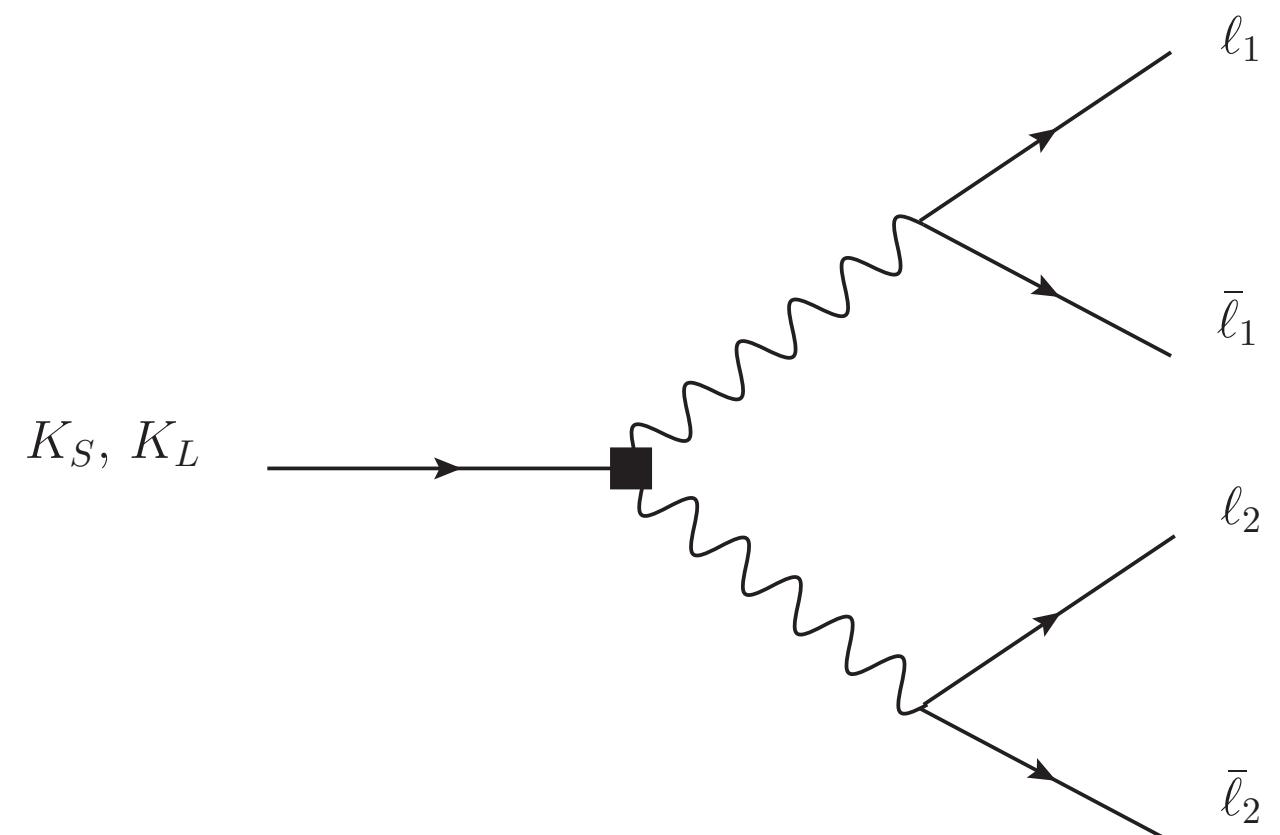
SD  $1.5 \times 10^{-12}$

NP  $1.5 \times 10^{-11}$   
Allowed

NP Limits from  
CPviol in  $K_L \rightarrow \mu\mu$

# Other interesting channels

$K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu\mu$	-	SM LD	$\sim 2 \times 10^{-14}$
$K_S \rightarrow ee\mu\mu$	-		$\sim 10^{-11}$
$K_S \rightarrow eeee$	-		$\sim 10^{-10}$



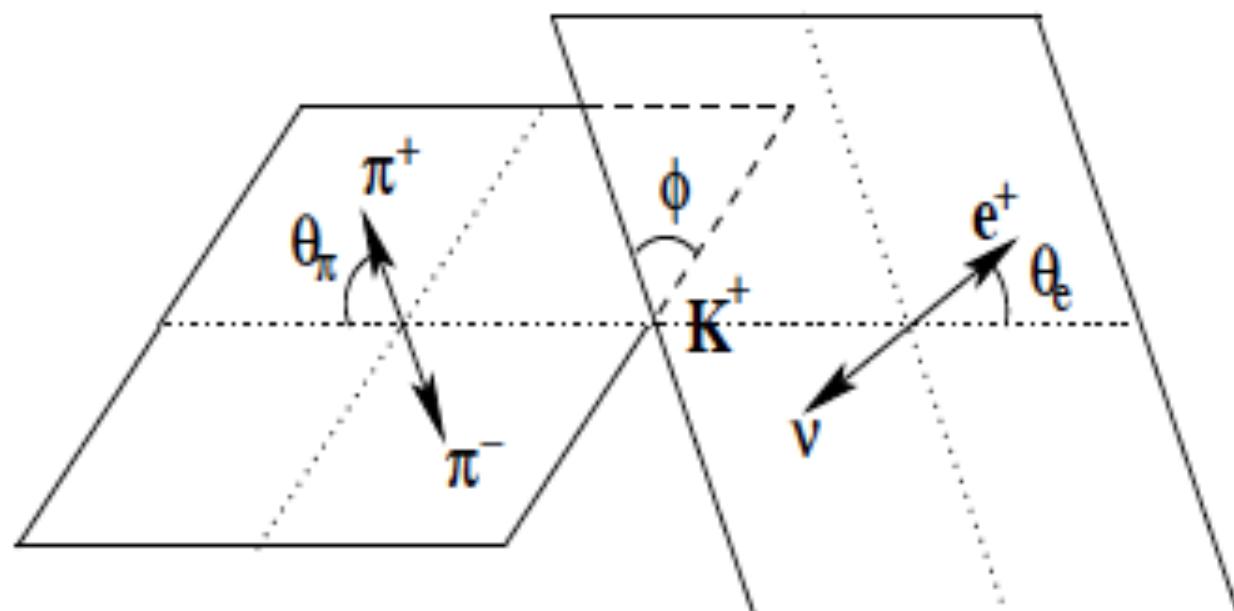
GD, Greynat, Vulvert

# $K_{l4}$ and $\pi\pi$ strong phases $\delta_I^l(s)$

Cabibbo Maksymowicz

$$\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{us} \bar{e} \gamma^\mu (1 - \gamma^5) \nu H_\mu(p_1, p_2, q)$$

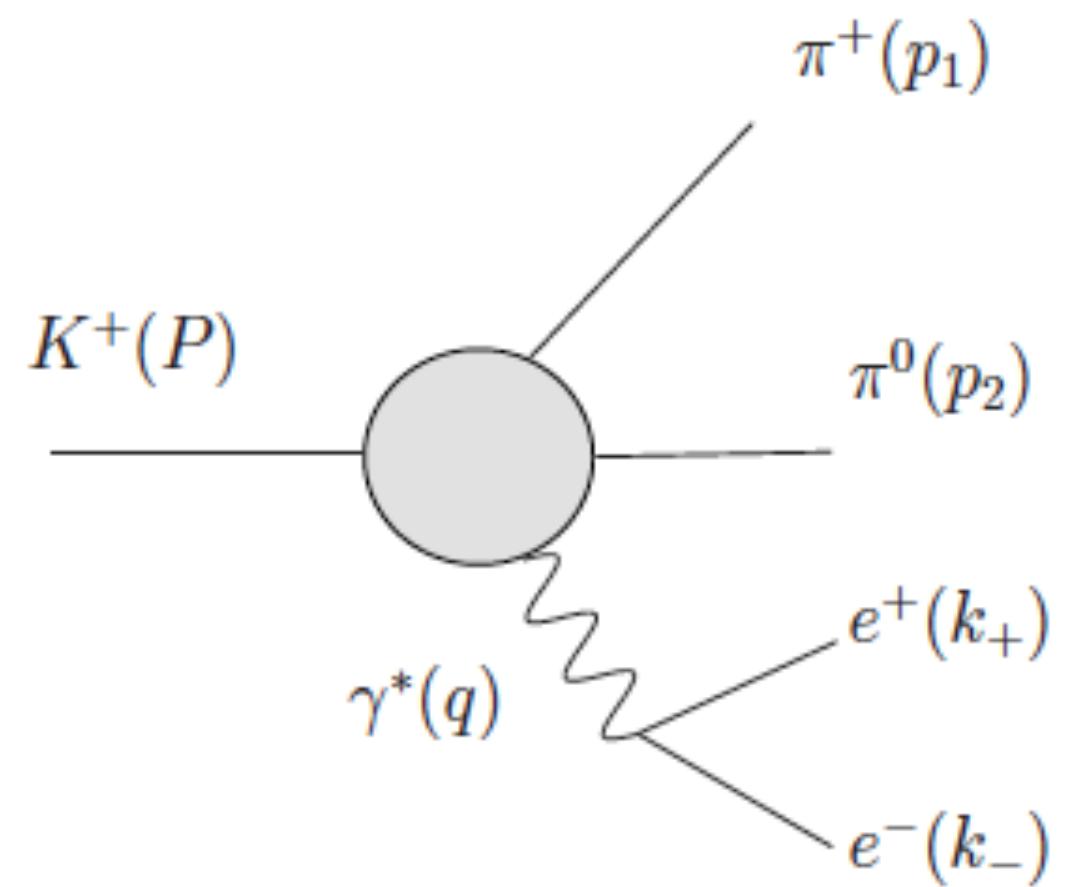
$$H^\mu = F_1 p_1^\mu + F_2 p_2^\mu + \textcolor{red}{F}_3 \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} p_{1\nu} p_{2\alpha} q_\beta. \quad F_i(s) = f_i(s) e^{i\delta_0^0(s)} + ..$$



- crucial to measure  $\sin \delta \implies$  interf  $\textcolor{red}{F}_3$
- Look angular plane asymmetry

$$K_L \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma^* \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ e^-$$

Sehgal et al; Savage,Wise et al



- $\mathcal{M}_{LD} = \frac{e}{q^2} \bar{e} \gamma^\mu (1 - \gamma^5) e H_\mu$
- $H^\mu = F_1 p_1^\mu + F_2 p_2^\mu + F_3 \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} p_{1\nu} p_{2\alpha} q_\beta$
- $F_{1,2} \sim E \quad F_3 \sim M$

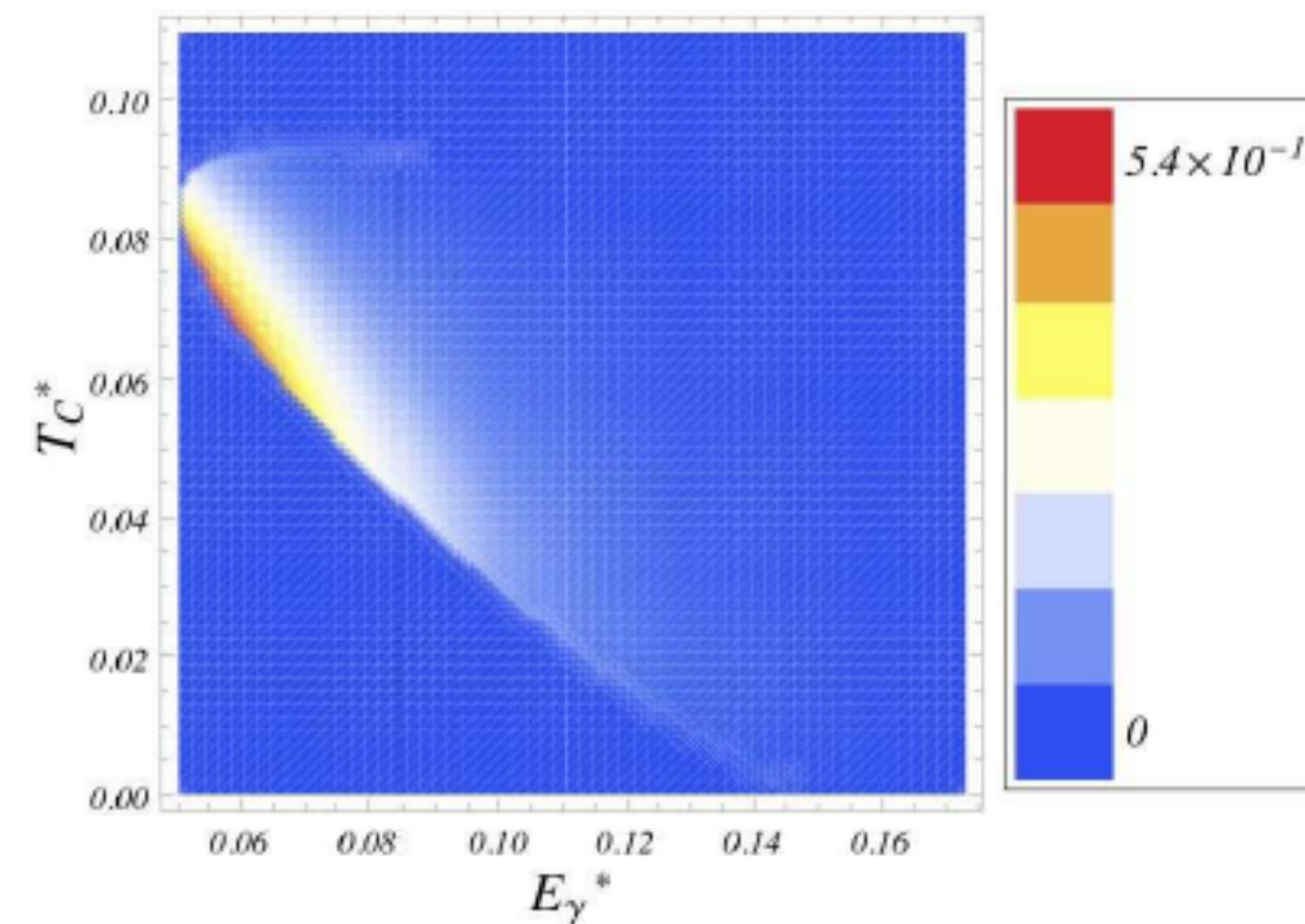
- Interference  $E \cdot M$  novel compared to  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$
- $E \cdot M$  known from  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$  (IB and DE)

$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 \gamma^* \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0 e^+ e^-$$

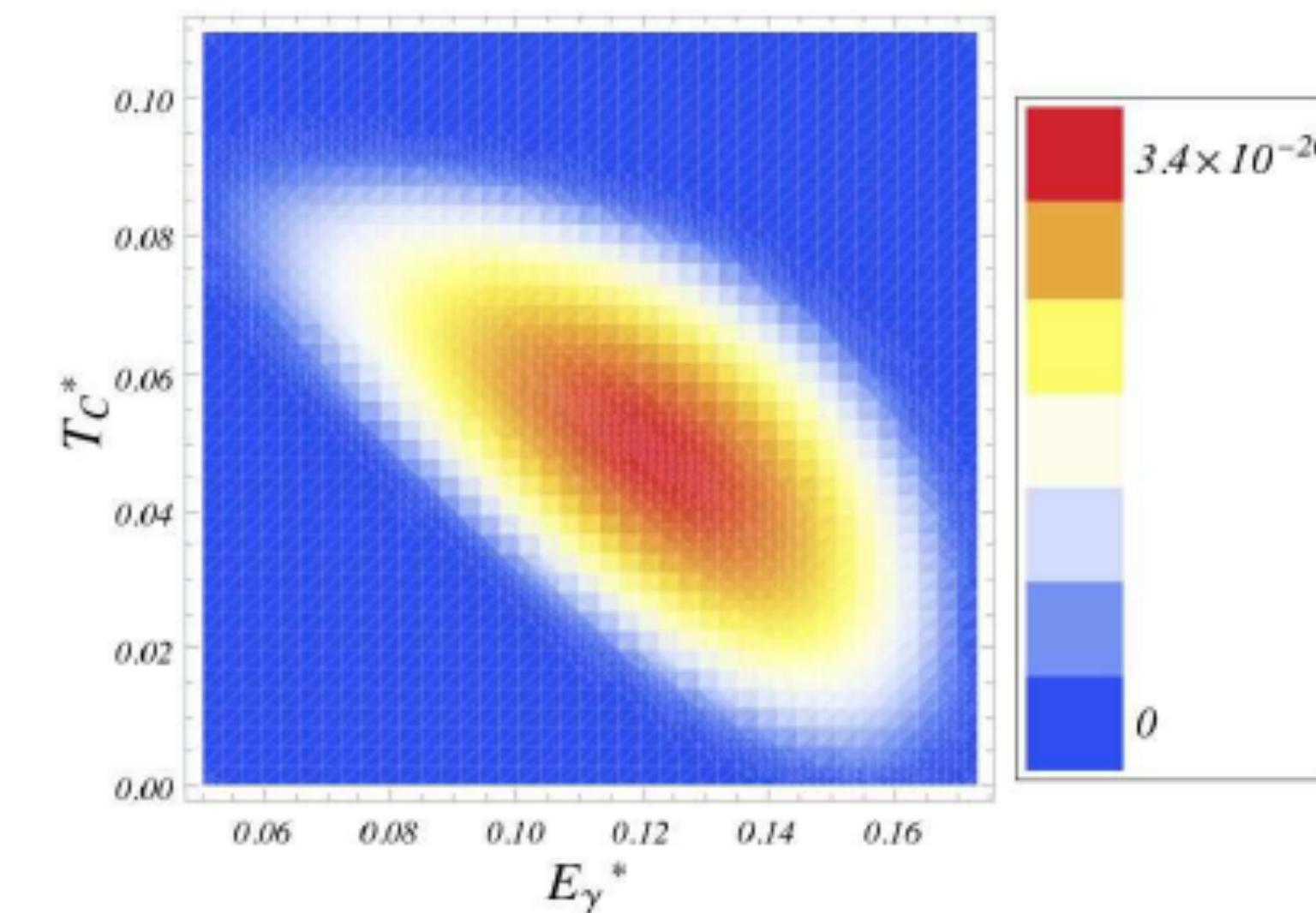
Cappiello, Cata,G.D. and Gao,

- the asymm. ,  $\frac{\Re(E_B M^*)}{|E_B|^2 + |M|^2}$ , not as lucky  $E_B \gg M$ :
- $B(K^+)_{IB} \sim 3.3 \times 10^{-6} \sim 50 B(K^+)_M$
- Short distance info without having simultaneously  $K^+$  and  $K^-$ , asymm. in phase space, ( P-violation) interesting! No  $\epsilon$ -contamination
- interesting Dalitz plots (at fixed  $q^2$ ) to disentangle  $M$  from  $E_B$
- at  $q^2 = 50\text{MeV}$  IB only 10 times larger than DE

$q_c$ (MeV)	B [ $10^{-8}$ ]	B/M	B/E	B/BE	B/BM
$2m_l$	418.27	71	4405	128	208
55	5.62	12	118	38	44
100	0.67	8	30	71	36
180	0.003	12	5	-19	44



IB



DE









# Outline

- Motivations for  $K \rightarrow \pi ll$  
$$K^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm l^+ l^- \quad K_S \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$$
- $K \rightarrow \pi ll$  phenomenology
- Large N QCD: the dream '70s '80s '90s 't Hooft, Witten, Coleman
- Ideas, Successes, some undelivered messages 
$$K \rightarrow \pi\pi : \Delta I = \frac{1}{2} \text{ rule} \quad \epsilon'$$

---
- $K \rightarrow \pi ll$  phenomenology and large N
- conclusions

The kaon community requests to

- protect and amplify the European kaon-physics programme, exploring opportunities for
  - $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$
  - $K_{S,L} \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$  decay and interference,
- enable European contributions for KOTO II for  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$  and  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ , spanning both analysis and hardware development,  
.....
- maintain the European leadership on theory computations for kaon physics (phenomenology, dispersion theory, effective theory and lattice QCD, including high-performance computing).

## European Strategy for Particle Physics 2026: Kaon physics input document

EU strategy group

Lazzeroni

The contribution "Kaon Physics: A Cornerstone for Future Discoveries" has been drafted by:

M. Bordone, A. Ceccucci, A. Dery, M. Gorbahn, E. Goudzovski, M. Hoferichter, A. Jüttner, C. Lazzeroni, Z. Ligeti, D. Martinez, F. Mahmoudi, R. Marchevski, M. Moulson, G. Ruggiero.

Year	Main object
1	Beam line survey
2	Construction of the rest of the detector
3-6	Phase I: Physics run for mainly $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$
7	Single event sensitivity will reach $8.5 \times 10^{-13}$ for the $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$ search
8	Detector upgrade
9-12	Phase II: Physics run mainly for $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ with an optimized setup .....
13	End of Phase II

Moulson

# Conclusions

Interesting TH CP violating and CP conserving

$$K_{S,L} \rightarrow \pi^0 l^+ l^-$$

Crucial to study

$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$$

3-point function

$$K_{S,L} \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- (e^+ e^-)$$

EU strategy Group '25, Nazila et al '22

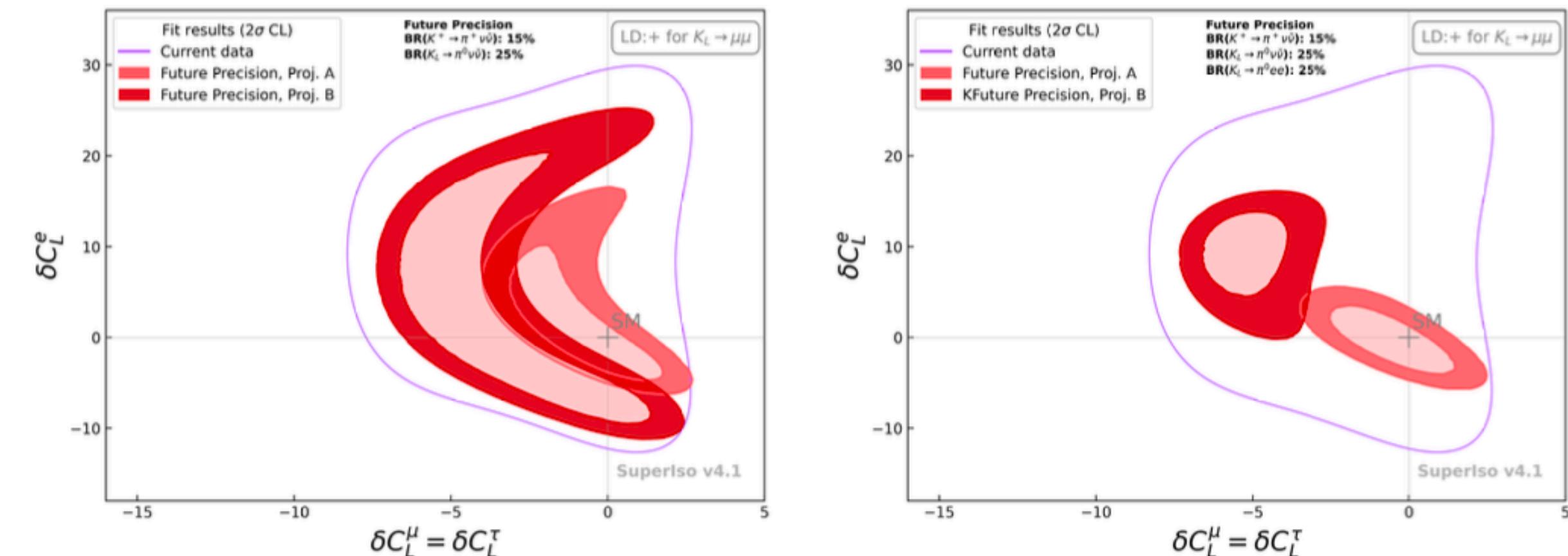


Figure 5: BSM parameter space for Wilson coefficients in scenarios with LFU violation where the NP effects for electrons are different from those for muons and taus [18, 19]. Left: Impact on allowed parameter space from measurements of the golden channels  $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$  from NA62 and KOTO II with the expected final precision. Right: Impact on the parameter space by the inclusion in the fits of a measurement of the  $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ e^-$  branching ratio with 25% precision.