

Theoretically Robust Cross Sections for Neutrino Oscillation Experiments

Aaron S. Meyer

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

March 10, 2023



SLAC Joint Experimental/Theory Seminar

This work is supported by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC
under Contract No. DE-AC52-07NA27344 with the U.S. Department of Energy.

LLNL-PRES-845791

Outline

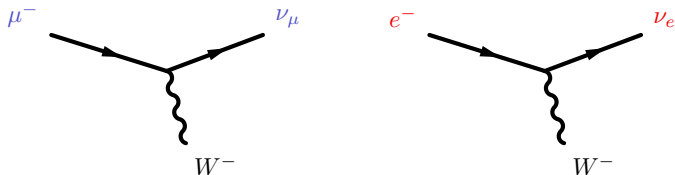
- ▶ Neutrino Oscillation Introduction
- ▶ Neutrino Cross Sections
- ▶ Quasielastic Scattering from Experiment
 - Constraints from Deuterium Scattering
- ▶ LQCD Introduction
- ▶ LQCD Survey of $F_A(Q^2)$
 - Summary of $F_A(Q^2)$ Calculations
 - T2K/DUNE Implications
- ▶ Future Prospects

Note: all references in online slides are hyperlinked

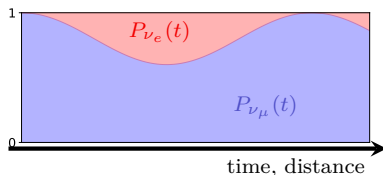
Neutrino Oscillation

Neutrino Oscillation (in a slide)

Neutrino flavor defined by charged lepton produced under weak interaction

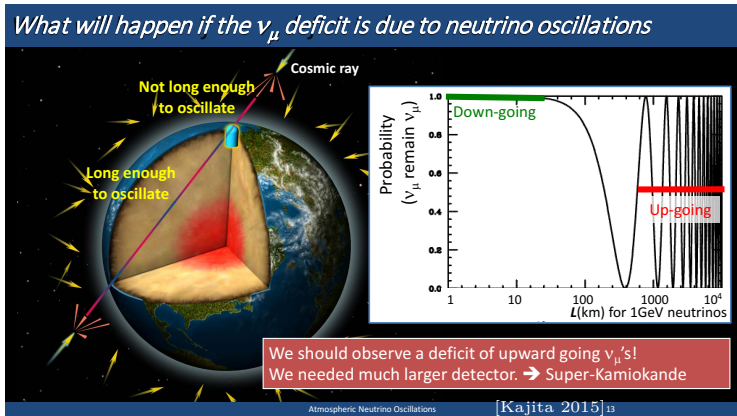


ν flavor changes spontaneously during near light-speed propagation: $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$



Want to understand the mechanics governing this oscillation

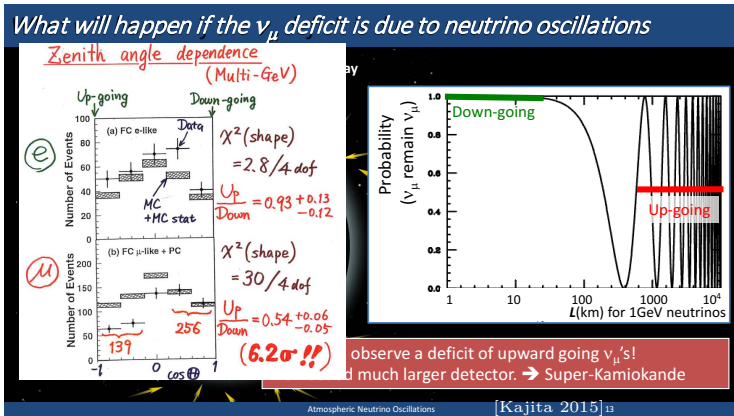
Discovery of Neutrino Oscillation



Difference between upward vs downward ν at Super-Kamiokande (1998)
 \implies Neutrinos have mass and oscillate!

2015 Nobel prize to Arthur McDonald, Takaaki Kajita

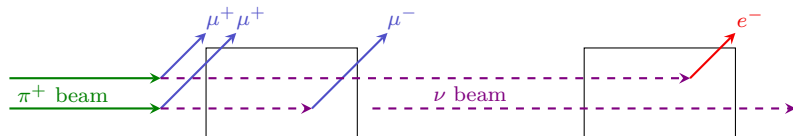
Discovery of Neutrino Oscillation



Difference between upward vs downward ν at Super-Kamiokande (1998)
 \implies Neutrinos have mass and oscillate!

2015 Nobel prize to Arthur McDonald, Takaaki Kajita

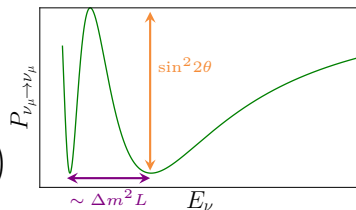
Neutrino Oscillation (with math)



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

2 flavor model:

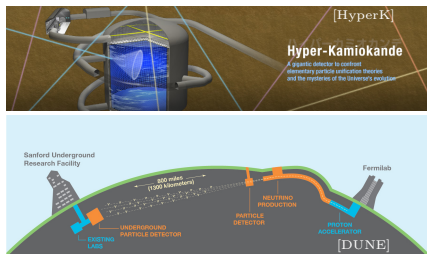
$$P_{\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e} = \sin^2 2\theta \sin^2 \left(1.27 \frac{\Delta m^2 [\text{eV}^2] L [\text{km}]}{E_\nu [\text{GeV}]} \right)$$



$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Mass eigenstates} - \text{propagation} \\ \text{flavor eigenstates} - \text{interaction} \end{array} \right\} \text{Not the same}$

Oscillation probability is **function of L/E_ν at fixed L**

Neutrino Physics Goals



Flagship long baseline
experiments to measure
neutrino oscillation

DUNE: USA, HyperK: Japan

Seek to answer fundamental questions about neutrinos:

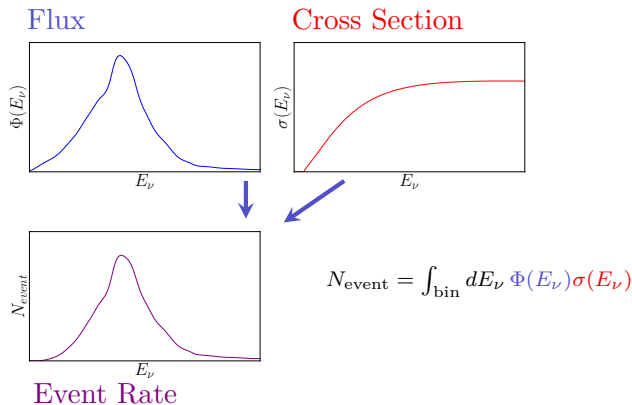
- ▶ mass ordering ($\Delta m_{32}^2 > 0?$)
- ▶ octant ($\sin^2 \theta_{23} = 0.5?$)
- ▶ CP violation ($\delta_{\text{CP}} = ?$)
- ▶ PMNS unitarity?
- ▶ 3 ν flavors?
- ▶ precision constraints

Measurements of solar, supernova ν

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

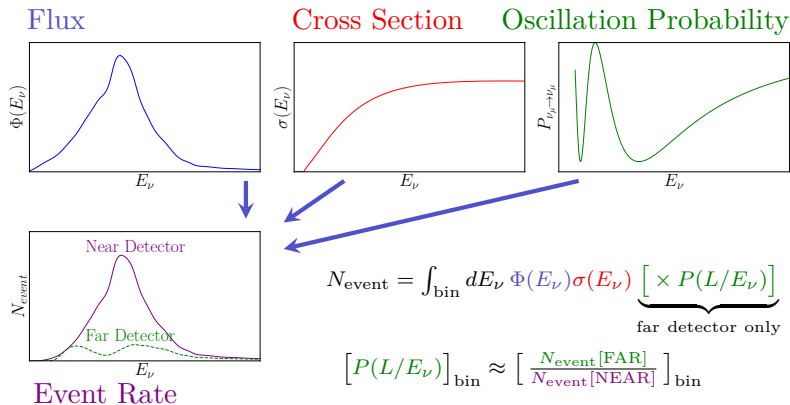
Neutrino Cross Sections

Measuring Oscillation Probability



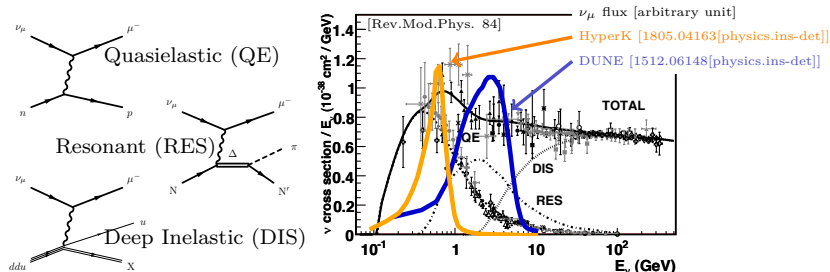
Event rate from convolution over E_ν . Broad flux & distribution of event E_ν

Measuring Oscillation Probability



Event rate from convolution over E_ν . Broad flux & distribution of event E_ν far/near \implies oscillation probability, but picture too simplified...

Neutrino Cross Sections



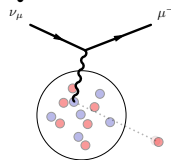
E_ν range spans several kinematic regimes

Different interaction channels contributing to event rates

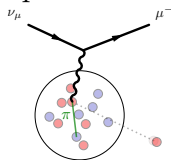
Event rate predictions need **precise, theoretically robust cross sections**
for multiple event topologies

Neutrino Event Topologies

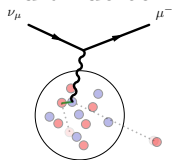
Quasielastic



π production

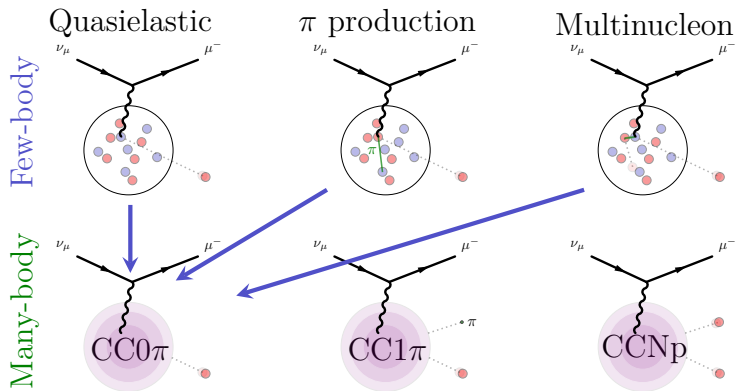


Multinucleon



Many allowed interaction channels, reinteractions within nucleus
Particle kinematics change in nuclear medium
Only particles that escape are detectable

Neutrino Event Topologies

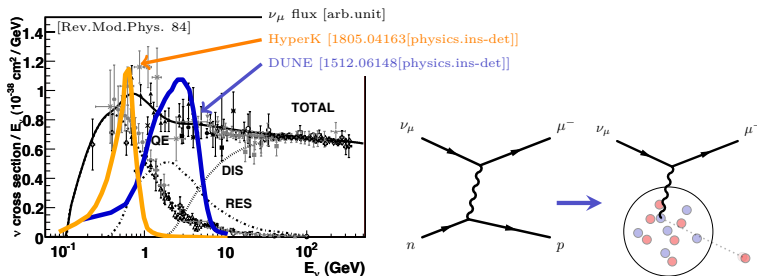


Many allowed interaction channels, reinteractions within nucleus
Particle kinematics change in nuclear medium
Only particles that escape are detectable

Mismatch between *nucleon* amplitudes & *nuclear* cross sections...

- \Rightarrow Event-by-event E_ν measurements are not possible
- \Rightarrow Reconstruct E_ν distributions from measured event rates

Neutrino Oscillation and Quasielastic



Compute *nucleon* amplitudes, ingredients for *nuclear* models

Quasielastic is lowest E_ν , simplest \implies most important

Question:

How well do we know nucleon quasielastic cross section from **elementary target sources**?

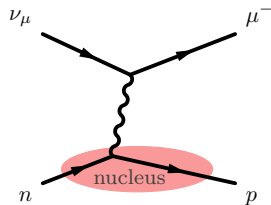
► Deuterium scattering

► Lattice QCD

QE Experimental Constraints

Quasielastic Form Factors

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



$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{nucleon}} = \langle \ell | \mathcal{J}^\mu | \nu_\ell \rangle \langle N' | \mathcal{J}_\mu | N \rangle$$

$$\langle N'(p') | (V - A)_\mu(q) | N(p) \rangle$$

$$= \bar{u}(p') \left[\begin{array}{l} \gamma_\mu F_1(q^2) + \frac{i}{2M_N} \sigma_{\mu\nu} q^\nu F_2(q^2) \\ + \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 F_A(q^2) + \frac{1}{2M_N} q_\mu \gamma_5 F_P(q^2) \end{array} \right] u(p)$$

- ▶ 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

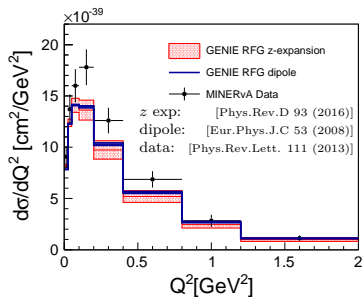
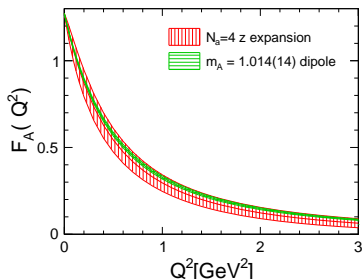
Deuterium Constraints on F_A

- ▶ Outdated bubble chamber experiments:
 - Total $O(10^3)$ ν_μ QE events
 - Digitized event distributions only
 - 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 ν A $\bar{\nu}_\mu p \rightarrow \mu^+ n$ dataset
& updated form factor fits

See [Cai thesis (2021)]



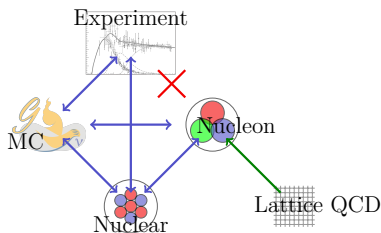
LQCD as Disruptive Technology

How can we improve precision?

Ideal: Modern high stats ν -D₂ scattering bubble chamber experiment

⇒ LQCD as a 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

Matrix Elements from LQCD

Lattice QCD Formalism

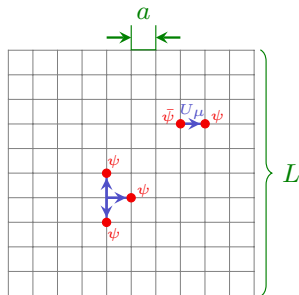
Numerical evaluation of path integral

Quark, gluon DOFs —

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

Parameters: $am_{(u,d),\text{bare}}$
 $am_{s,\text{bare}}$
 $\beta = 6/g_{\text{bare}}^2$

Matching: e.g. $\frac{M_\pi}{M_\Omega}$, $\frac{M_K}{M_\Omega}$, M_Ω
1 per parameter

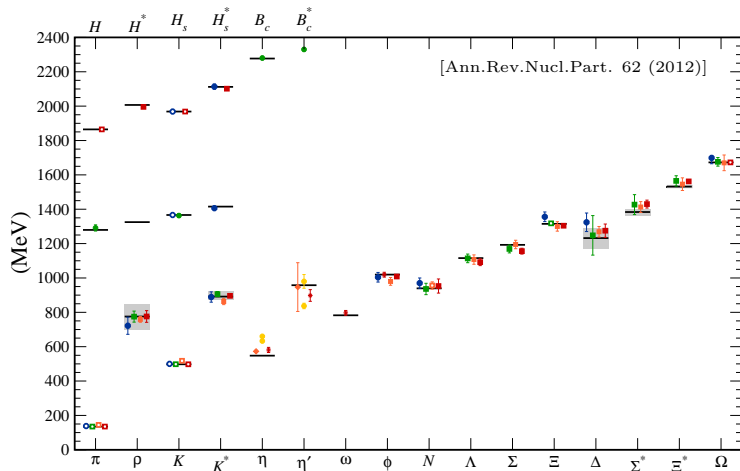


Results — first principles predictions from QCD,
gluons to all orders

“Complete” error budget \implies extrapolation in a , L , M_π guided by EFT, FV χ 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)diction Line: experiment

- ▶ Excellent agreement across board
- ▶ Widely used in flavor physics

LQCD $g_A(Q^2 = 0)$

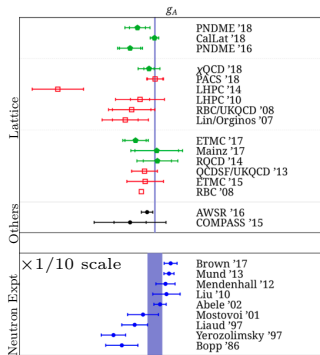
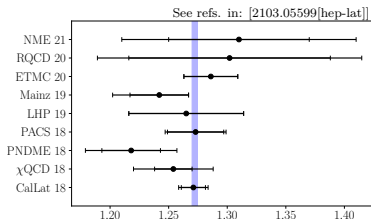
g_A is benchmark for
nucleon matrix elements in LQCD

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

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

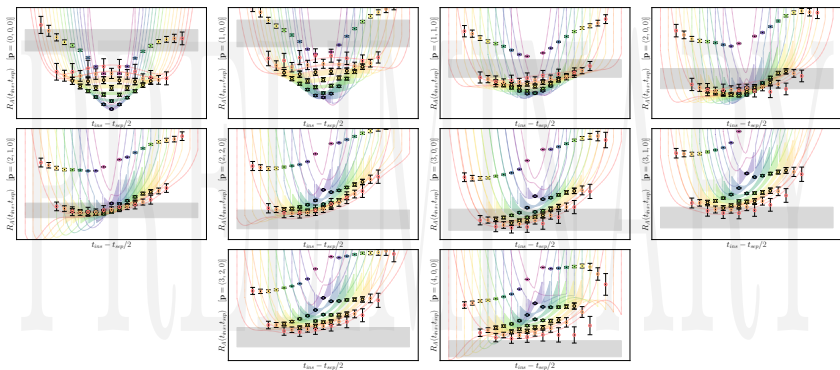
Historically g_A low compared to expt
excited states (+other...)

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



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

LQCD $F_A(Q^2)$

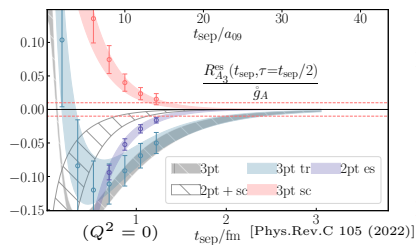


Lots of time separations, lots of momenta \implies fit simultaneously

Low $Q^2 \implies$ fit curves (color) far from posterior (gray)

Curvature \implies excited state contamination

Excited States

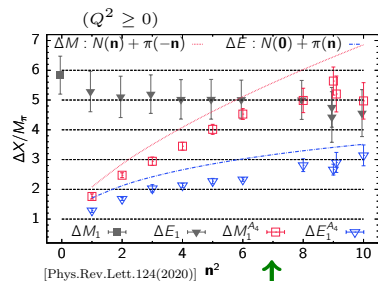


Compare fit to correlator data ratio

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



NME collab:

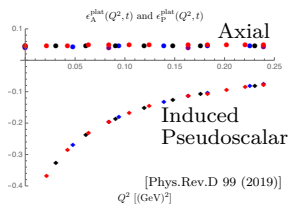
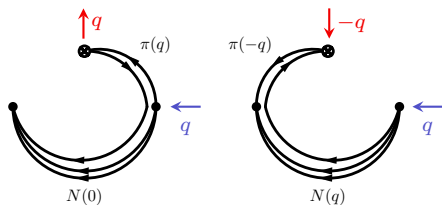
Q^2 contamination from $N \rightarrow N\pi$

Dominant contribution agrees with χ Pt expectation

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

NOTE: expect only approx agreement between data/curves

Excited States - χ PT and $N\pi$



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

Correlator fits without axial current not sensitive to $N\pi$

\implies need simultaneous fits including axial matrix elements

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

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

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

Prediction from χ PT: [Phys.Rev.D 99 (2019)]

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

χ PT-inspired fit methods for fitting form factor data

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

LQCD Survey and Implications



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 8, 2022. (Changes may still occur before final publication.)

<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-nucl-010622-120608>

Aaron S. Meyer,^{1,2} André Walker-Loud,² and Callum Wilkinson³

¹Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA, email: asmeyer@berkeley.edu

²Nuclear Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA

³Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA

Download PDF

Article Metrics

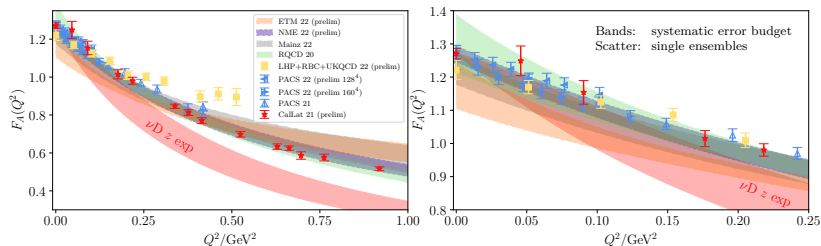
Permissions | Reprints | Download Citation | Citation Alerts

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

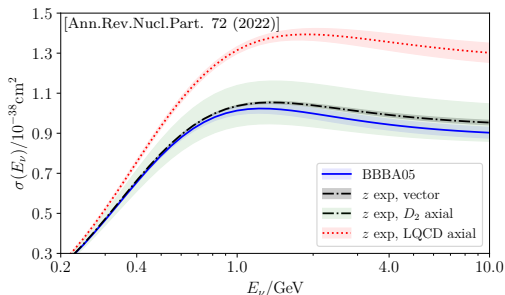


LQCD results maturing:

- ▶ Many results, all physical M_π : *independent data & different methods*
- ▶ Small systematic effects observed (expectation: largest at $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$)
- ▶ Nontrivial consistency checks from PCAC

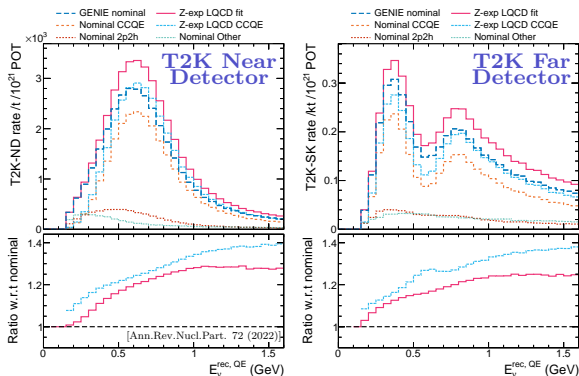
Evidence of slow Q^2 falloff, **situation unlikely to change drastically**

Free Nucleon Cross Section



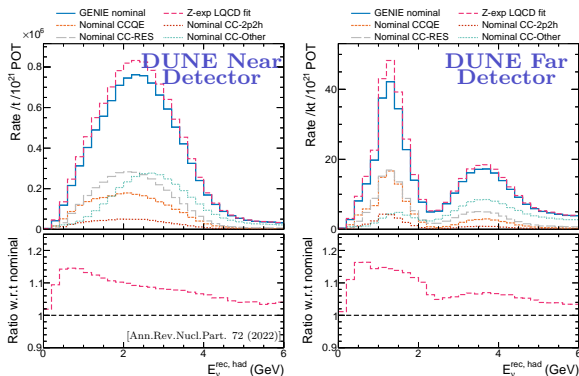
- ▶ LQCD prefers 30-40% enhancement of ν_μ CCQE cross section
- ▶ recent Monte Carlo tunes require 20% enhancement of QE
[Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022)] [2206.11050 [hep-ph]]
similar trend with continuum Schwinger function methods
[Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022)] [2206.12518 [hep-ph]]
- ▶ With improved precision, sensitive 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_ν -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

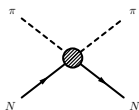


- ▶ Solid dark blue (GENIE nominal) vs dashed magenta (z exp LQCD fit)
- ▶ QE enhancements produce 10-20% event rate enhancement, E_{ν} -dependent
- ▶ Monte Carlo tuning makes more detailed comparisons complicated
⇒ All channels are adjusted to compensate for QE changes
- ▶ cross section changes at ND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

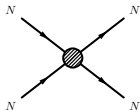
Future Directions

LQCD Target Calculations

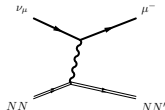
$N\pi$ Scattering



NN Scattering

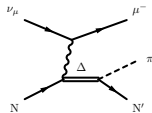


NN Quasielastic

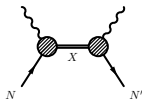


(incomplete list!)

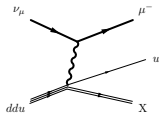
Resonant $N\pi$



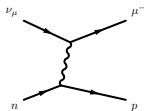
Four-point Inclusive



Deep Inelastic



Quasielastic

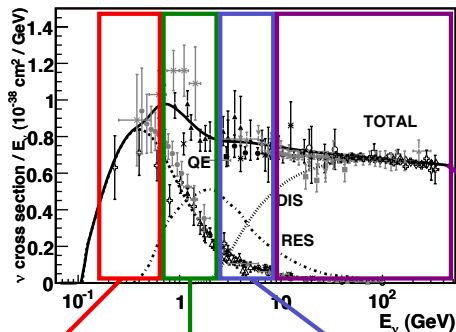


Nuclear

Nucleon



Energy Regimes



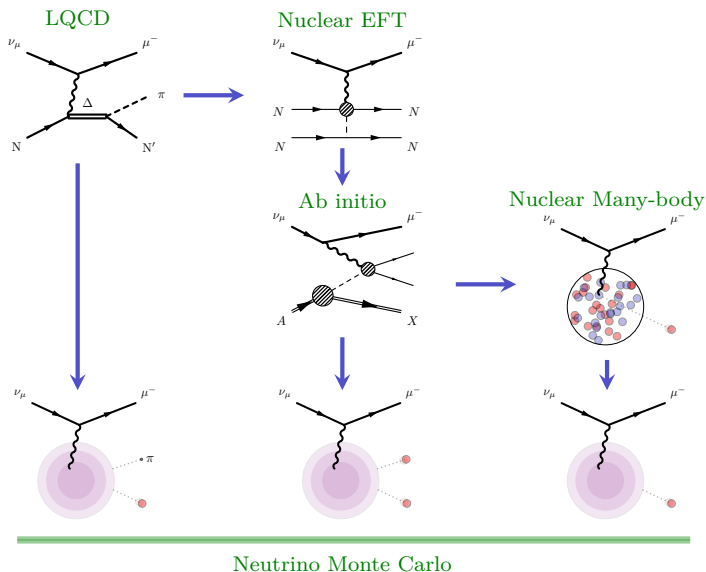
Deep Inelastic Scattering
-Axial quasi/pseudo PDF

“Shallow Inelastic Scattering” (SIS)
-Hadronic Tensor
-Four Point Functions

Quasielastic
-Nucleon Form Factors
-Full Error Budgets

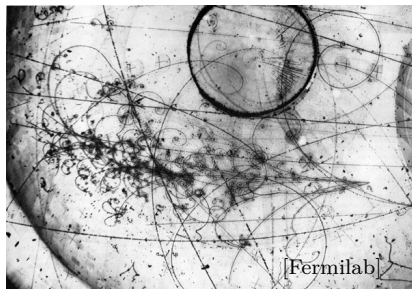
$N \rightarrow \Delta, N \rightarrow N^*$
-Transition Matrix Elements
-Multiparticle Operators

Roadmap To Nuclear



Concluding Remarks

Outlook

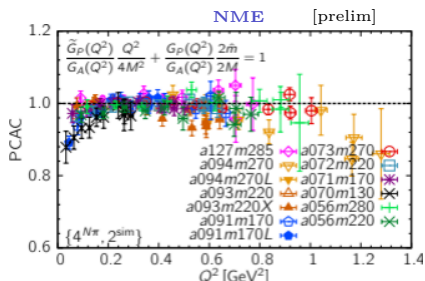
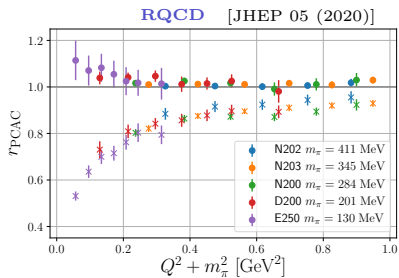


- ▶ *Nucleon* form factor uncertainty significantly underestimated
- ▶ LQCD is a proxy for missing experimental data
- ▶ Mounting evidence that ν QE cross section underestimated
 \implies Attention needed to avoid biased results
- ▶ Unfilled niche: need support for neutrino experimental program
- ▶ **Nucleon-pion effects** are the next frontier...
 - Transition form factors
 - Low-energy constants for meson exchange
 - Pion production

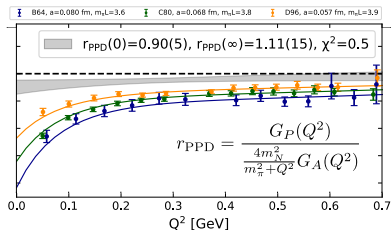
Thank you for your attention!

Backup

PCAC Checks

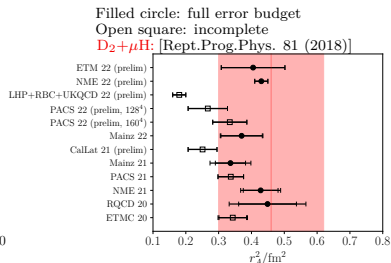
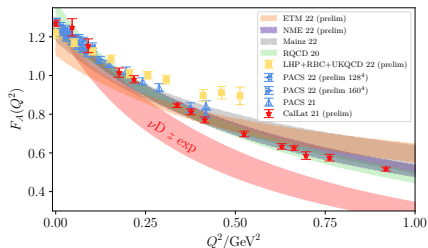


ETMC [prelim]



- ▶ Relation btw F_A , F_P , \tilde{F}_P via PCAC
- ▶ Contamination in F_A and \tilde{F}_P , F_P very different [Phys.Rev.D 99 (2019)]
 \Rightarrow nontrivial consistency check

Axial Radius (r_A^2)



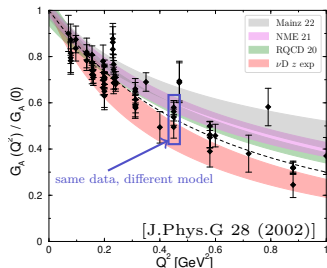
Radius related to slope: $r_A^2 = -\frac{6}{g_A} \frac{dF_A}{dQ^2} \Big|_{Q^2=0}$

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 $r_A^2 \sim 0.25 \text{ fm}^2$

\Rightarrow Incompatible with dipole ansatz

Electro Pion Production



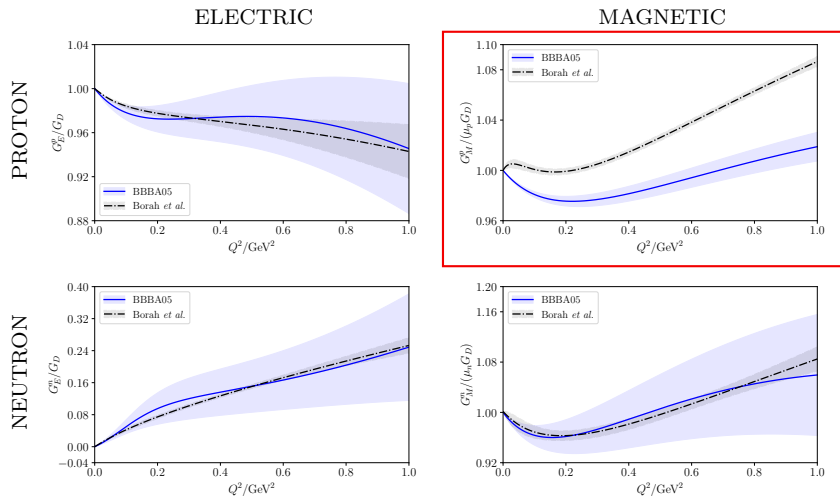
- ▶ Large model uncertainty, not included in world averages
- ▶ Valid only in $M_\pi \rightarrow 0, q \rightarrow 0$ limits
- ▶ Expansion to $O(M_\pi^2, Q^2)$:
 - restricted Q^2 validity
 - lacks shape freedom in Q^2
- ▶ Predates Heavy Baryon χ PT, no systematic power counting

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

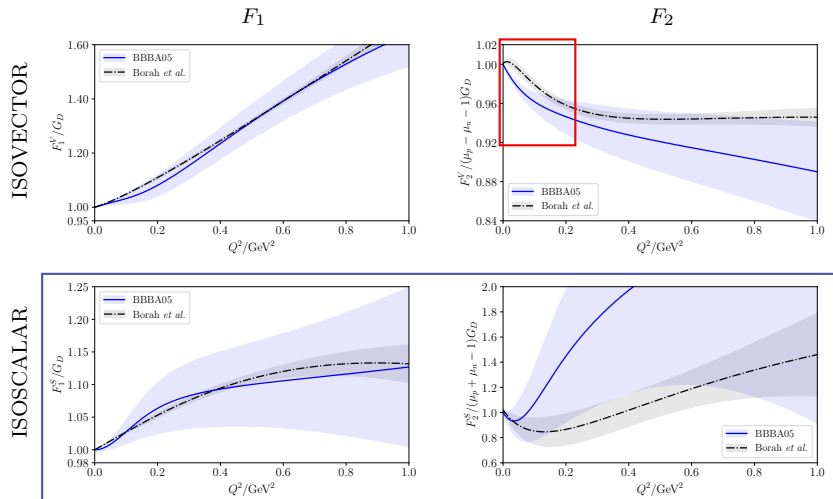
Effort needed to update prediction from photo/electro pion production

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

LQCD Computation Anatomy

Correlation functions in euclidean time:

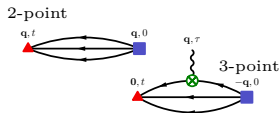
$\implies e^{-E_n t}$ decay of excited state contribs

2-point function

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

3-point function

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



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

Complications:

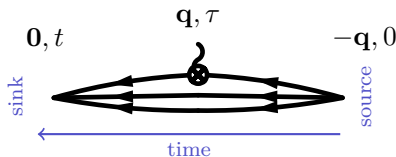
- ▶ exponentially degrading signal/noise with t
- ▶ $n > 0$ contaminations from excited states

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

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

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

Setup



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

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

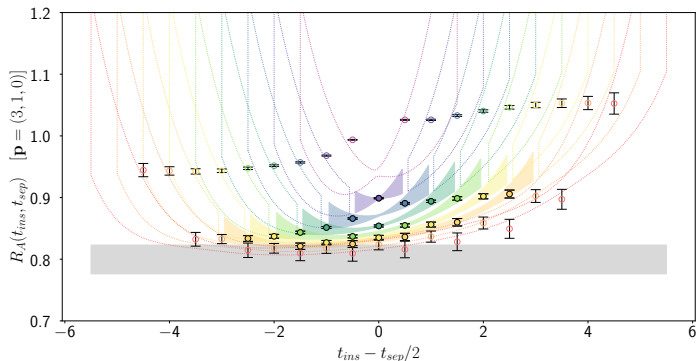
$$Q^2 = |\mathbf{q}|^2 - (E_{\mathbf{q}} - M)^2$$

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

\implies No induced pseudoscalar

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

Correlation Function Ratio

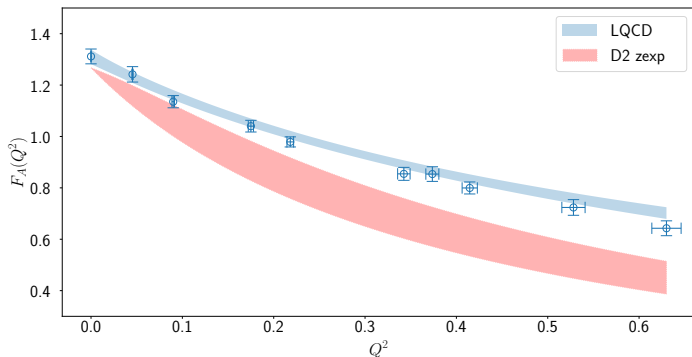


- ▶ Horizontal: source-insertion time, centered about midpoint
- ▶ Vertical: correlator ratio \sim axial matrix element
- ▶ Color: source-sink separation time
- ▶ Colored bands: fit range
- ▶ Gray band: \hat{g}_A posterior value

Curvature \implies excited state contamination

Left-right asymmetry \implies different momentum, different spectrum

Axial Form Factor Fit



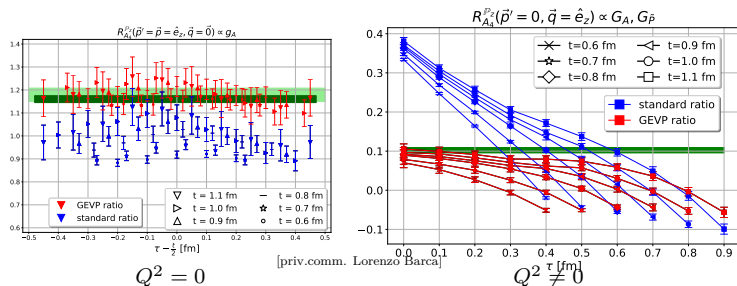
Trend of high- Q^2 enhancement seen in other LQCD results

2–4% LQCD uncertainty vs 10% uncertainty on D_2 result

Single-ensemble result — could be systematically biased

(comparing to other LQCD results \implies bias is likely small)

Axial FF - $N\pi$ Interpolating Operators



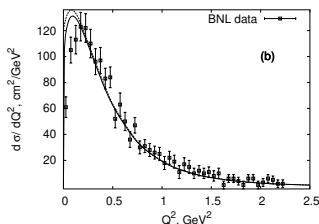
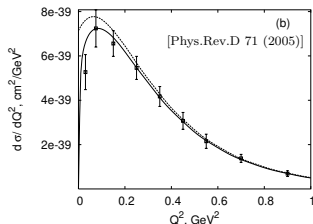
Address primary source of excited state contamination: $N\pi$

2×2 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

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

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

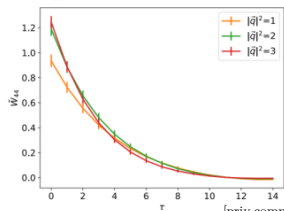
Completely unconstrained axial form factors in other $J^P = 3/2^-$ channels

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

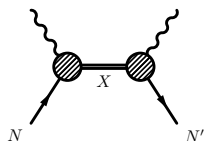
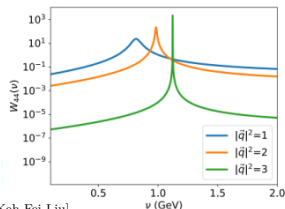
[Phys.Rev.D 74 (2006)]

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

Resonance Production - $N \rightarrow N^*$



[priv.comm. Keh-Fei Liu]



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

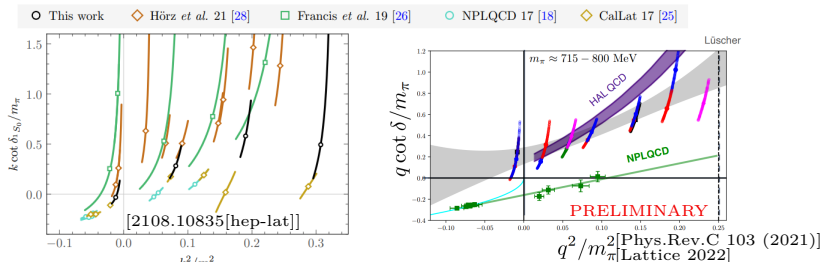
Removed elastic contribution \implies resonant response (strong overlap with Roper)

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]

NN Scattering: D_2 Binding



Controversy over whether deuteron (un)bound at unphysically heavy M_π

Lüscher method (bound) vs potential method (unbound)

Bound: $\lim_{q^2 \rightarrow 0} q \cot \delta < 0$ Unbound: $\lim_{q^2 \rightarrow 0} q \cot \delta > 0$

Recent updates:

- ▶ updated Lüscher calculations \rightarrow unbound
- ▶ both methods on same ensemble, agree on unbound deuteron
- ▶ large q^2 departure of potential from Lüscher

Still claims of bound deuteron; to be continued...