

The pion form factor through radiative return method

A journey from muon $g-2$ to the radiative return
approach

Speaker: Marco Ghilardi

Supervisors: Prof. G. Montagna
Prof. F. Piccinini

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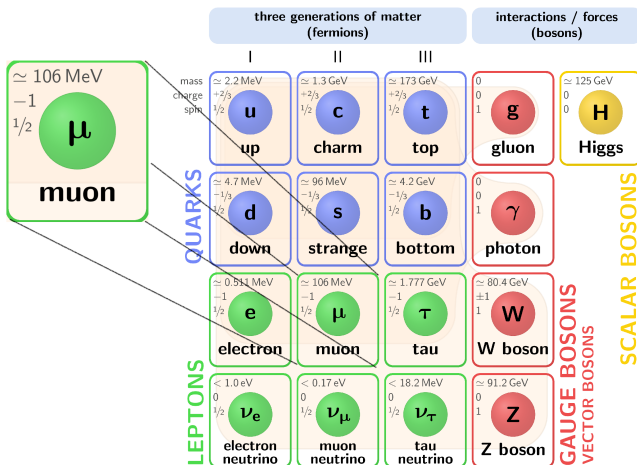
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Outline

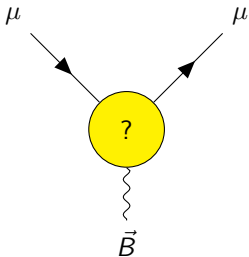


- 1 The muon $g - 2$
- 2 Hadronic contributions
- 3 The pion form factor

The Standard Model of particle physics



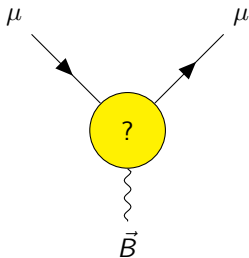
The muon $g - 2$



Muon magnetic moment

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\mu} &= -g_{\mu}\mu_B\vec{S} \\ &= -g_{\mu}\mu_B\frac{\vec{\sigma}}{2}\end{aligned}$$

The muon $g - 2$



The muon anomaly

$$a_\mu = \frac{g_\mu - 2}{2}$$

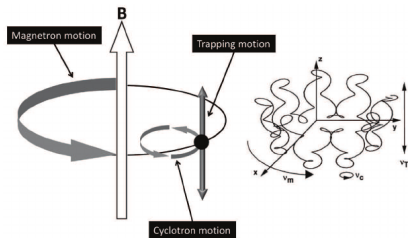
Muon magnetic moment

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\mu}_s &= -g_\mu \mu_B \vec{S} \\ &= -g_\mu \mu_B \frac{\vec{\sigma}}{2}\end{aligned}$$

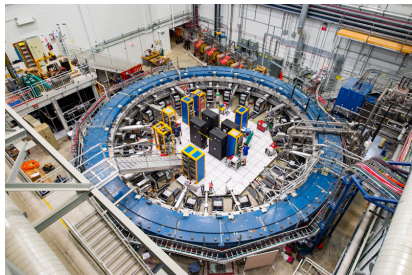
Theoretical predictions:

Dirac	$g_\mu = 2$
Schwinger	$g_\mu \neq 2$

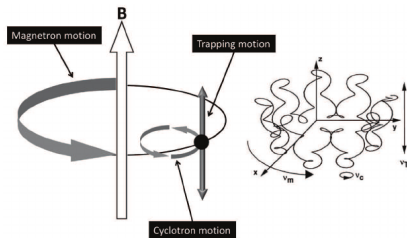
The muon anomaly a_μ - Experiment



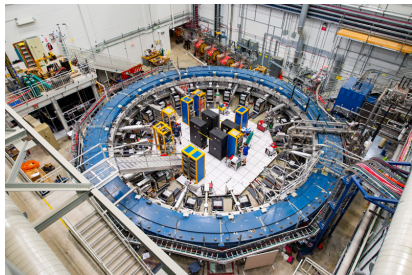
- Circular motion



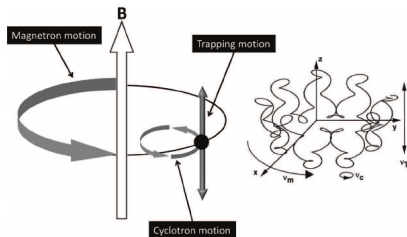
The muon anomaly a_μ - Experiment



- Circular motion
- Cyclotron frequency ω_c

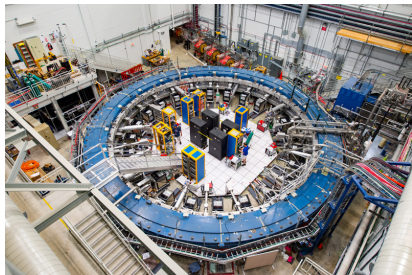


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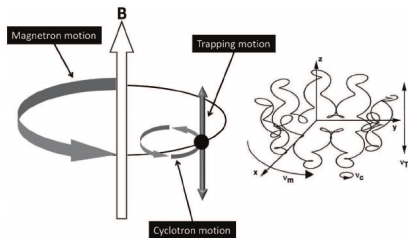


- Circular motion
- Cyclotron frequency ω_c
- Spin precession frequency ω_s

$$\mathcal{H}_s = -\vec{\mu}_s \cdot \vec{B}$$



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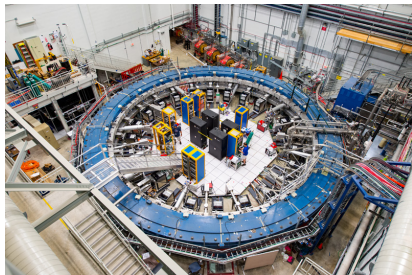


- Circular motion
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$$\mathcal{H}_s = -\vec{\mu}_s \cdot \vec{B}$$

The muon anomaly can be extracted from

$$a_\mu^{\text{exp}} \propto \omega_c - \omega_s$$



The muon anomaly a_μ - Experiment



A recent update in the measurement gives:

$$a_\mu^{\text{exp}} = 116\,592\,071.5(14.5) \times 10^{-11}$$

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Experimental error

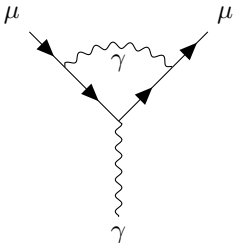
$$\frac{\delta a_\mu}{a_\mu} = 127 \text{ ppb}$$

The muon anomaly a_μ - Theory



In the SM we can write:

$$a_\mu = \underbrace{a_\mu^{\text{QED}}}_{>99.99\%} + a_\mu^{\text{EW}} + \underbrace{a_\mu^{\text{had}}}_{\text{Non-perturbative}}$$



$N^5\text{LO QED}$

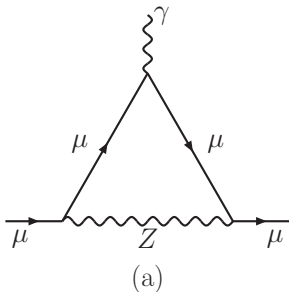
$$a_\mu^{\text{QED}} = 116584718.8(2) \cdot 10^{-11}$$

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N³LO EW

$$a_\mu^{\text{EW}} = 154.4(4) \cdot 10^{-11}$$

Hadronic contributions

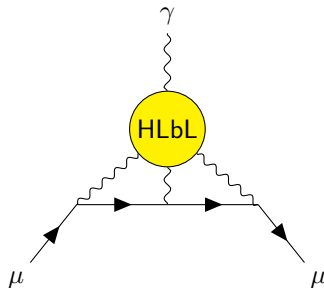
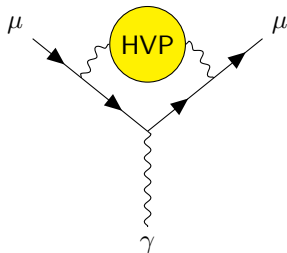


$$a_{\mu}^{\text{had}} = \underbrace{a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP-LO}}}_{\mathcal{O}(7 \cdot 10^{-8})} + \underbrace{a_{\mu}^{\text{HLbL}}}_{\mathcal{O}(10^{-9})} + \underbrace{a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP-NLO}}}_{\mathcal{O}(10^{-9})} + \underbrace{a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP-NNLO}}}_{\mathcal{O}(10^{-10})}$$

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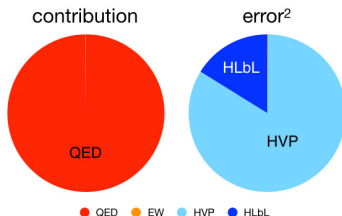


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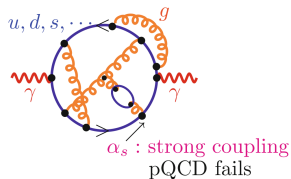
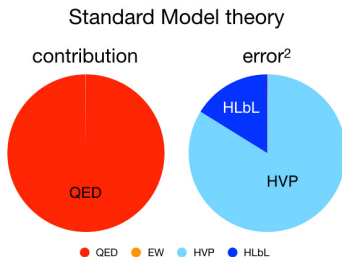
Standard Model theory



$$a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP-LO}} \simeq (5 \cdot 10^{-5}) a_{\mu}$$

$$\delta(a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP-LO}}) \simeq (8 \cdot 10^{-1}) \delta(a_{\mu})$$

Hadronic contributions



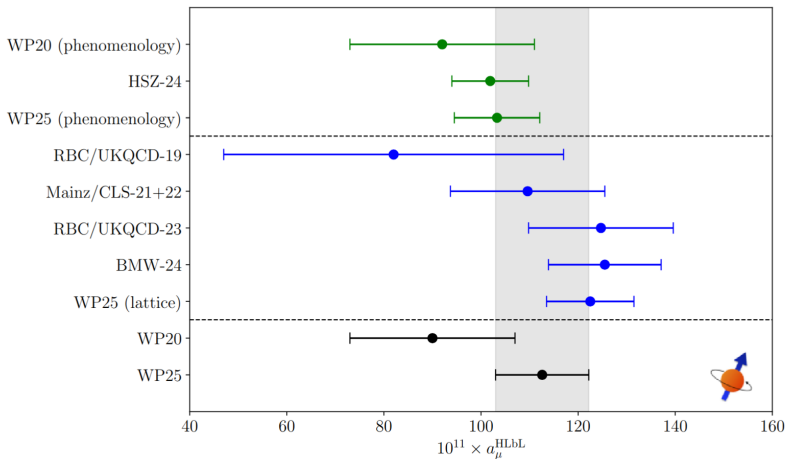
HVP and HLbL are
non-perturbative:

- Lattice QCD
- Data-driven approach

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HLbL contribution



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2505.21476>

Lattice QCD (in a nutshell)



The partition function is defined through the *Path Integral* formulation

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int \mathcal{D}U e^{-S[U]}$$

and any observable can be defined as

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int \mathcal{D}U \mathcal{O}[U] e^{-S[U]}$$

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If we generate

$$U_i \sim e^{-S[U_i]}$$

than the Monte Carlo method (MC) allows to write:

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle \approx \sum_i \mathcal{O}[U_i]$$

Lattice QCD (in a nutshell)



- *Ab initio* calculation, no data-driven approach.

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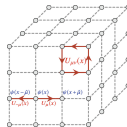


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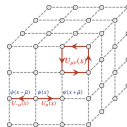
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Time-like approach to HVP



$$a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP-LO}} = \frac{\alpha}{3} \left(\frac{m_{\mu}}{\pi} \right)^2 \int_{m_{\pi_0}^2}^{\infty} \frac{ds}{s^2} \text{Im } \hat{\Pi}_{\gamma}^{\prime \text{had}}(s) \hat{\mathcal{K}}(s)$$



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$$\text{Im} \left[\text{wavy line} \rightarrow \text{HVP} \leftarrow \text{wavy line} \right] \propto \sum_H \left| \text{wavy line} \rightarrow \text{H} \rightarrow \text{H} \right|^2$$

$H = \pi^+ \pi^-, \phi, J/\Psi \dots$

The precise relation reads:

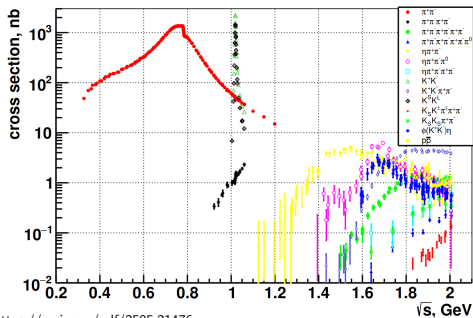
$$\text{Im } \hat{\Pi}'_{\gamma}{}^{\text{had}}(s) = \frac{\alpha}{3} \frac{\sigma_0(e^+ e^- \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow \text{hadrons})}{\sigma_0(e^+ e^- \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)} \mathcal{R}_{\mu}(s) = \frac{\alpha}{3} \mathcal{R}_0^{\text{had}}(s)$$

$e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$ channel

$$a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP-LO}} = \left(\frac{\alpha m_{\mu}}{3\pi} \right)^2 \int_{m_{\pi_0}^2}^{\infty} ds \frac{1}{s^2} \mathcal{R}_0^{\text{had}}(s) \hat{\mathcal{K}}(s)$$

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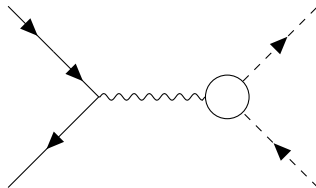
73% of $a_\mu^{\text{HVP-LO}}$

71% of $\delta(a_\mu^{\text{HVP-LO}})$

How to evaluate $\mathcal{R}_0^{\text{had}}(s)$?

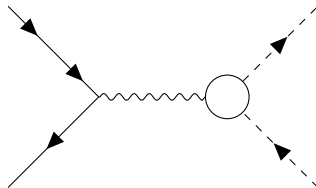


The quantity $\mathcal{R}_0^{\text{had}}(s)$ is the hadronic ratio of **Leading Order** cross sections. Namely this means that we must be able to compute the Lowest-Order (in α) Feynman diagram:



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NOT EASY!!!

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WHY?

How to evaluate $\mathcal{R}_0^{\text{had}}(s)$?



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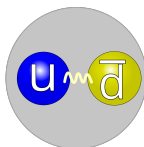
- The pion has an intrinsic non-perturbative nature.
- The measured cross section $\sigma(e + e^- \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$ **IS NOT** $\sigma_0(e + e^- \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$.

Nature knows nothing of the perturbative order

How to treat the pion?



Parametrize the pion interaction to the photon field in a suitable way.



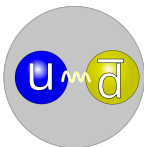
- Model**

$$\underbrace{\text{sQED}}_{\text{pert}} \oplus \underbrace{F_\pi(q^2)}_{\text{non-pert}}$$



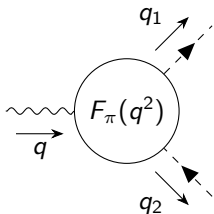
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$$\langle \pi^+(q_2) \pi^-(q_1) | J_\pi^\mu(0) | 0 \rangle = e(q_1 - q_2)^\mu F_\pi(q^2)$$

What can we do then?



The best we can:

- Perform the perturbative calculation at the highest possible order (Next-To-Leading-Order at the state of the art)

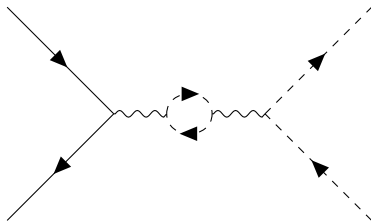
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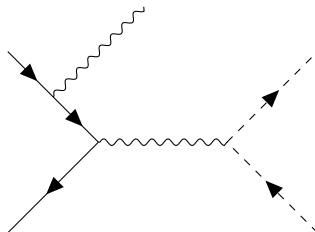
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$$\sigma_{\text{NLO}} = \sigma_0(\alpha^2) + \sigma_1(\alpha^3)$$

Virtual corrections



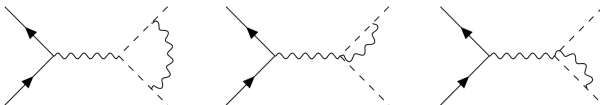
Real corrections



- Consider (approximately) the emission of **any** number of additional photons through resummation technique (e.g. PS).

The pion form factor

What seen above is not enough to solve all the ambiguities. What about
loops diagram?

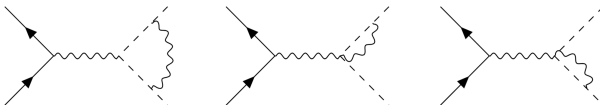


<https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.03469>
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.03495>
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.12235>



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- Multiply the point-like amplitude to $F_\pi(Q^2)$

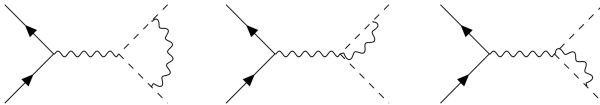
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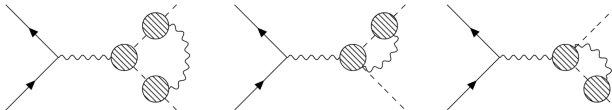
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The pion form factor

What seen above is not enough to solve all the ambiguities. What about **loops diagram**?



- Multiply the point-like amplitude to $F_\pi(Q^2)$
- Include $F_\pi(Q^2)$ into loop integration.



The pion form factor



Finally what we see is that:

$$\sigma_0(e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-, Q^2) \iff F_\pi(Q^2)$$

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$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$$

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

The radiative return



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

The radiative return



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How to link

$$\sigma(e^+ e^- \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-, Q^2) \iff \sigma(e^+ e^- \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma)$$

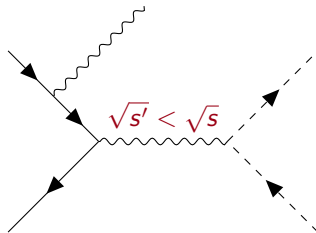


The radiative return

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

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The radiative return



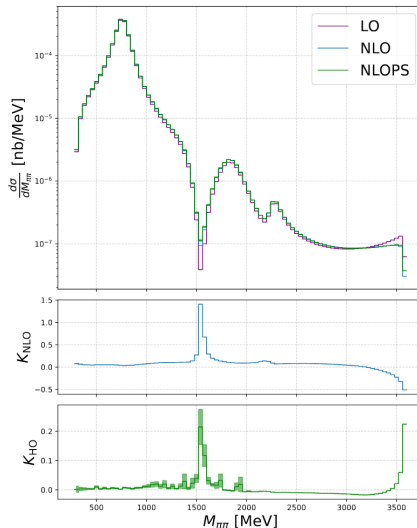
Since QED is well known, we can describe Initial-State-Radiation effects at the best we can through a function, called **radiator**

$$H(s')$$

and finally we can link the two processes through

$$s' \frac{d\sigma_{\pi^+\pi^-\gamma}}{ds'} = \sigma_{\pi^+\pi^-}(s') \times H(s')$$

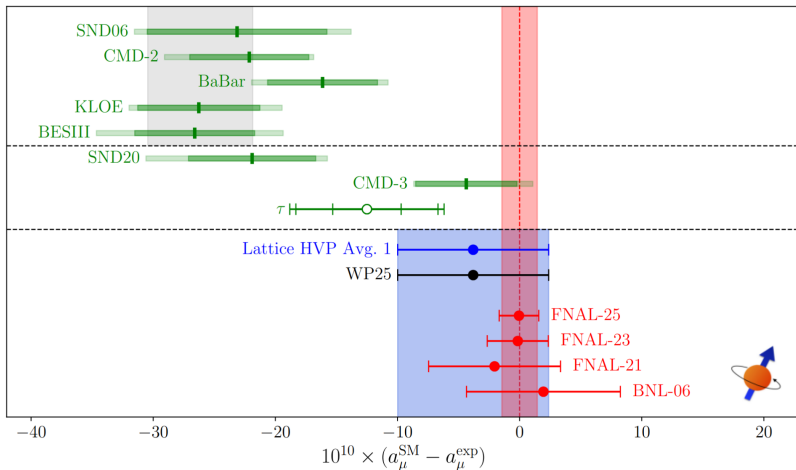
The radiative return - Preliminary results



Budassi et al. (WIP)



The final picture



Conclusions



- The official theory prediction (LQCD) is now consistent with experimental results.

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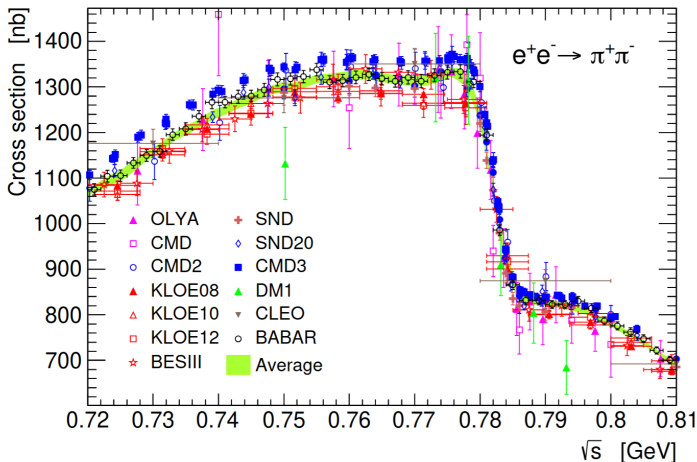
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Careful review of all data analysis through new MC generators (WIP)

Backup



Pion Form Factor inconsistency



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2312.02053>

Space-like approach



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where

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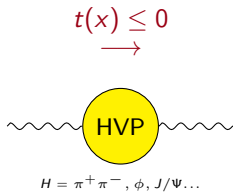
Switching the integration order

$$s \longleftrightarrow x$$

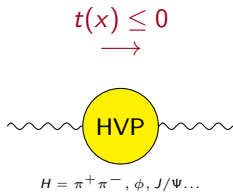
we can rewrite the master formula as:

$$a_{\mu}^{\text{HVP-LO}} = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int_0^1 dx (x-1) \hat{\Pi}'_{\gamma} [t(x)] \quad t(x) \leq 0$$

Space-like approach



Space-like approach



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Space-like approach

