



Status of lattice QCD determination of nucleon form factors at the physical point and its challenge for the proton charge radius

Shoichi Sasaki for PACS Collaboration



TOHOKU
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PACS Collaboration Members

PACS=Processor Array for Continuum Simulation

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+ R. Tsuji (KEK), K. Sato (Tsukuba) and H. Watanabe (YITP)

PACS10 Nucleon Project

Nucleon structure

- Proton radius puzzle (**electron-nucleon scattering**)
 - ➔ Electric/magnetic **form factor** (**rms radius**)
- Precise knowledge of **neutrino-nucleon scattering**
 - ➔ Axial-vector **form factor** (**axial charge & axial radius**)

An important opportunity to develop our understanding of nucleon structure using **lattice QCD simulations**

Our Physics Targets

Nucleon structure = properties of single nucleon

✓ Nucleon matrix elements

Vector

$$\begin{aligned}\langle p'|V^\mu(q)|p\rangle &= \bar{u}(p') \left[\gamma^\mu F_1(q^2) + i\sigma^{\mu\nu} \frac{q_\nu}{2M} F_2(q^2) \right] u(p) && \text{weak and elemag} \\ &= \bar{u}(p') \left[\frac{(p' + p)^\mu}{2M} \frac{G_E(q^2) - \frac{q^2}{4M^2} G_M(q^2)}{1 - \frac{q^2}{4M^2}} + i\sigma^{\mu\nu} \frac{q_\nu}{2M} G_M(q^2) \right] u(p)\end{aligned}$$

Axial-vector

$$\langle p'|A^\mu(q)|p\rangle = \bar{u}(p') \left[\gamma^\mu \gamma_5 F_A(q^2) + iq^\mu \gamma_5 F_P(q^2) \right] u(p) \quad \text{only weak}$$

Two nucleon matrix elements can be described in terms of
four types of nucleon elastic form factors

$$G_E(q^2), G_M(q^2), F_A(q^2), F_P(q^2)$$

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Axial-vector

$$\langle p'|A^\mu(q)|p\rangle = \bar{u}(p') \left[\gamma^\mu \gamma_5 F_A(q^2) + iq^\mu \gamma_5 F_P(q^2) \right] u(p) \quad \text{only weak}$$

$$\text{axial form factor: } F_A(q^2) = F_A(0) \left(1 - \frac{q^2}{6} \langle r^2 \rangle_A + \mathcal{O}(q^4) \right) \quad F_A(0) = g_A$$

$$\text{axial rms radius: } \sqrt{\langle r_A^2 \rangle} = 0.67(1) \text{ fm} < \sqrt{\langle r_E^2 \rangle_p} = 0.84 - 0.88 \text{ fm}$$

→ Precise knowledge of neutrino-nucleon scattering

→ Search for $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ oscillation at NOvA and T2K

Our Physics Targets

Nucleon structure = properties of single nucleon

✓ Nucleon matrix elements

Vector

$$\begin{aligned}\langle p'|V^\mu(q)|p\rangle &= \bar{u}(p') \left[\gamma^\mu F_1(q^2) + i\sigma^{\mu\nu} \frac{q_\nu}{2M} F_2(q^2) \right] u(p) && \text{weak and elemag} \\ &= \bar{u}(p') \left[\frac{(p'+p)^\mu}{2M} \frac{G_E(q^2) - \frac{q^2}{4M^2} G_M(q^2)}{1 - \frac{q^2}{4M^2}} + i\sigma^{\mu\nu} \frac{q_\nu}{2M} G_M(q^2) \right] u(p)\end{aligned}$$

Axial-vector

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→ Five basic quantities: $g_A = F_A(0)$, $\mu = G_M(0)$, $G_{E,M}(q^2) = G_{E,M}(0) \left(1 - \frac{1}{6} r_{E,M}^2 q^2 + \mathcal{O}(q^4) \right)$

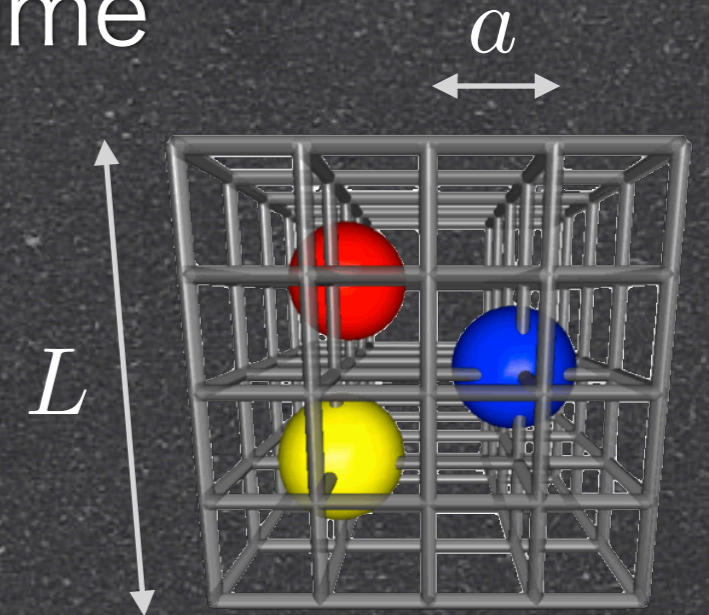
axial charge (g_A), magnetic moment (μ), charge radius (r_E), magnetic radius (r_M), axial radius (r_A)

Lattice Quantum Chromodynamics

- Fields defined on **discrete** space-time

→ introduce cutoff in a **gauge-invariant way**

$$U_{\mu}(n) = e^{iagA_{\mu}(n)}$$



- Euclidean space : **imaginary time** $\tau = it$

- Path integral** quantization

→ compute the quantum expectation value of a physical observable using a **Monte Carlo method**

$$\langle O \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int D[U] \int D[\psi] D[\bar{\psi}] O(U, \psi, \bar{\psi}) e^{-S_{\text{QCD}}(U, \psi, \bar{\psi})}$$

Lattice QCD action

Uncertainties in lattice QCD

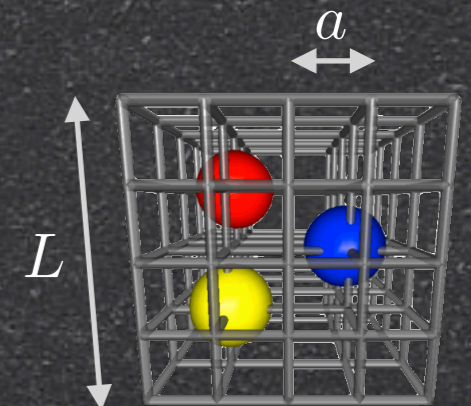
Statistical uncertainties (Monte Carlo Method)

$$\langle O \rangle \approx \langle O \rangle_N + \delta \langle O \rangle_N \quad \langle O \rangle_N \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N O(\{U_k\}), \quad \delta \langle O \rangle_N \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\langle O^2 \rangle_N - \langle O \rangle_N^2}{N-1}}$$

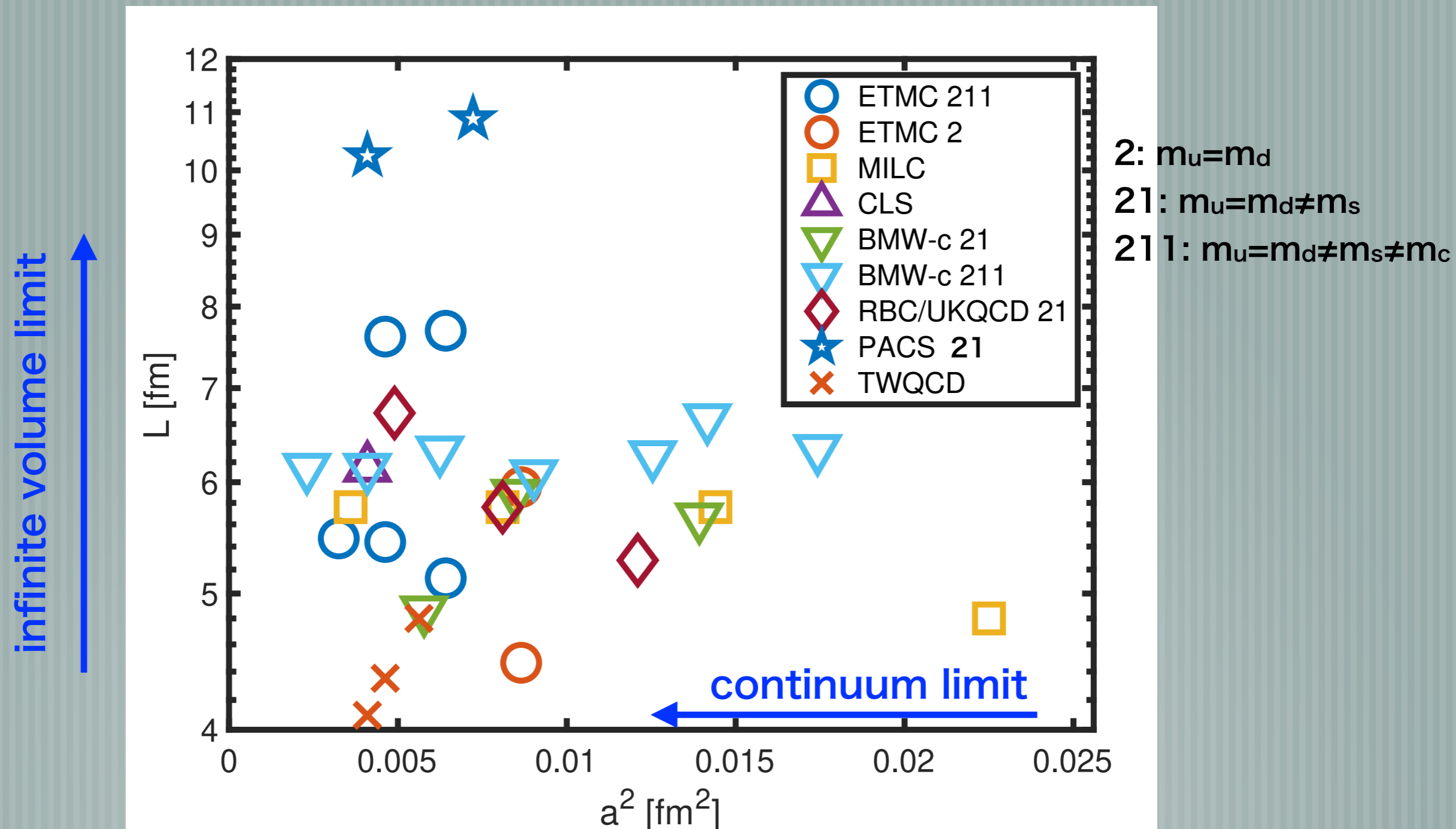
Four main **systematic** uncertainties

- **Quark vacuum polarization** : the number of dynamical quarks (N_f)
- **Finite lattice spacing** (a) : regularization of UV divergence: $\Lambda \sim 1/a$
- **Finite volume** (L) : finite number of lattice grids: $(Ns)^3 \times Nt = L^3 \times T$
- **Chiral (quark mass) extrapolation** to the physical point: M_π

Limited by the size of computing resources

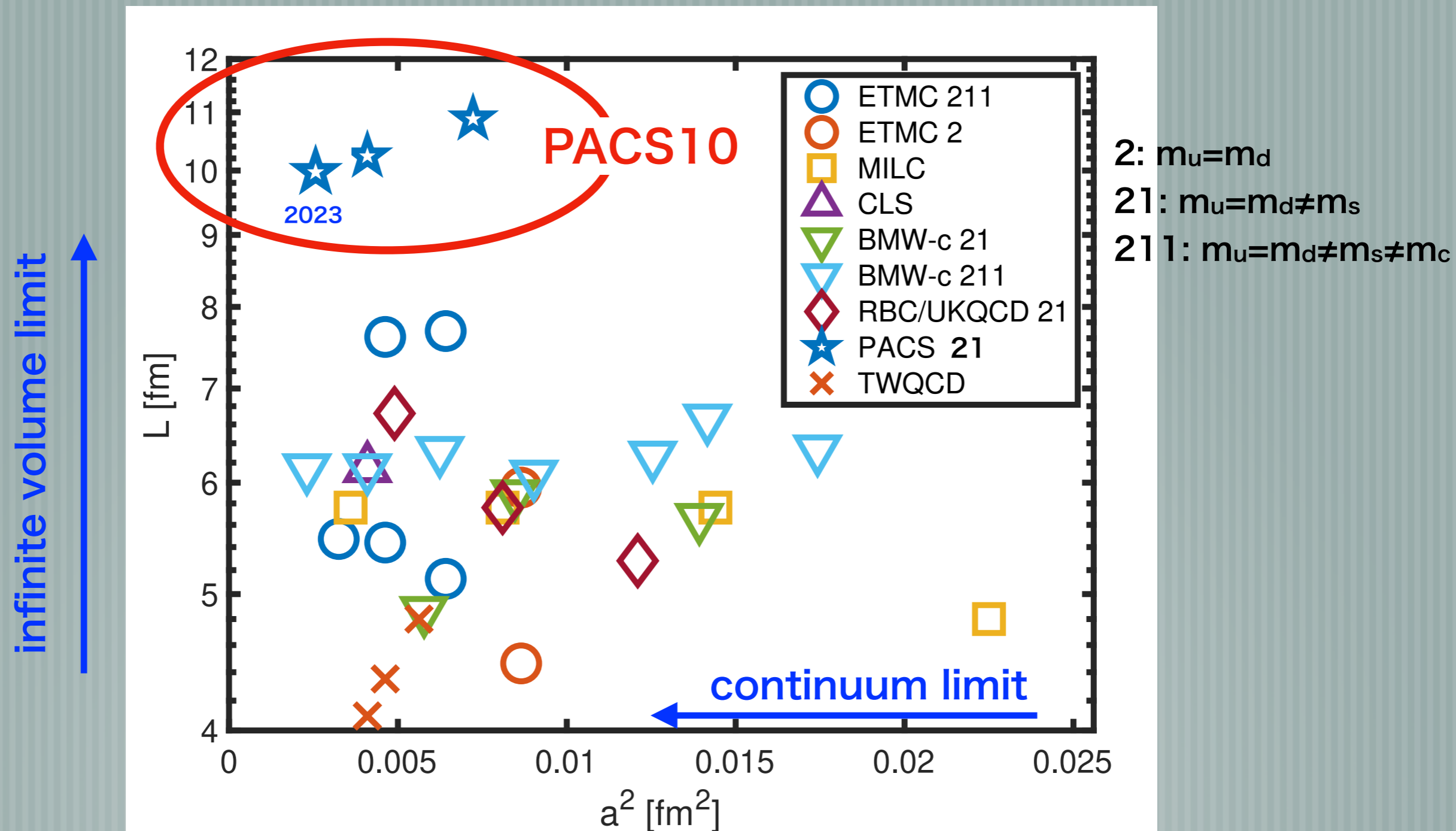


World status of lattice QCD projects near the physical point



Plenary talk at Lattice 2022 given by Finkenrath

World status of lattice QCD projects near the physical point



Plenary talk at Lattice 2022 given by Finkenrath

Our strategy

✓ Use 2+1 flavor **PACS10** gauge configurations

▶ **Physical point** → No chiral extrapolation

▶ **Very large spatial volume (L)** → No finite size effect & **Low q^2 physics**

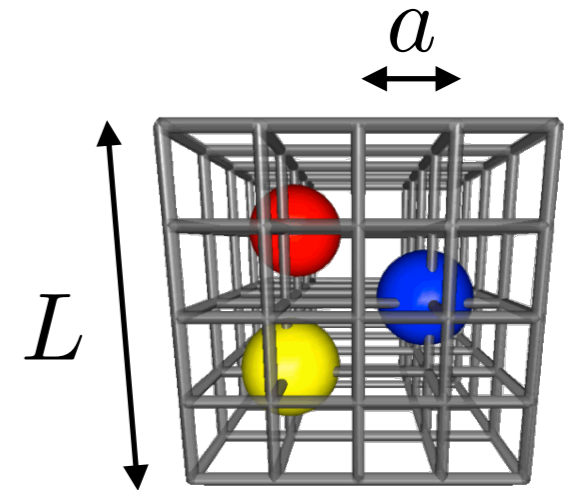
▶ **3 different lattice cut-offs (a)** → Continuum limit (currently not available)

✓ All-mode averaging technique → **High precision** measurements

✓ Highly tuned smearing → **Suppression of excited-state contributions**

✓ Model-independent Q^2 fit by z-Expansion method

✓ **Disclaimer:** only **iso-vector** quantities are considered



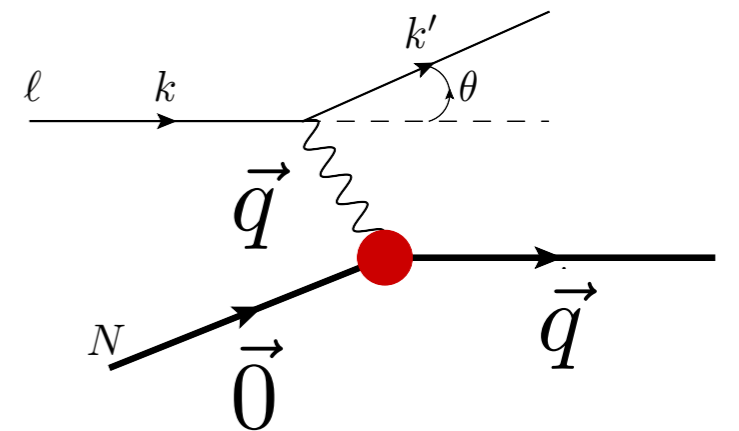
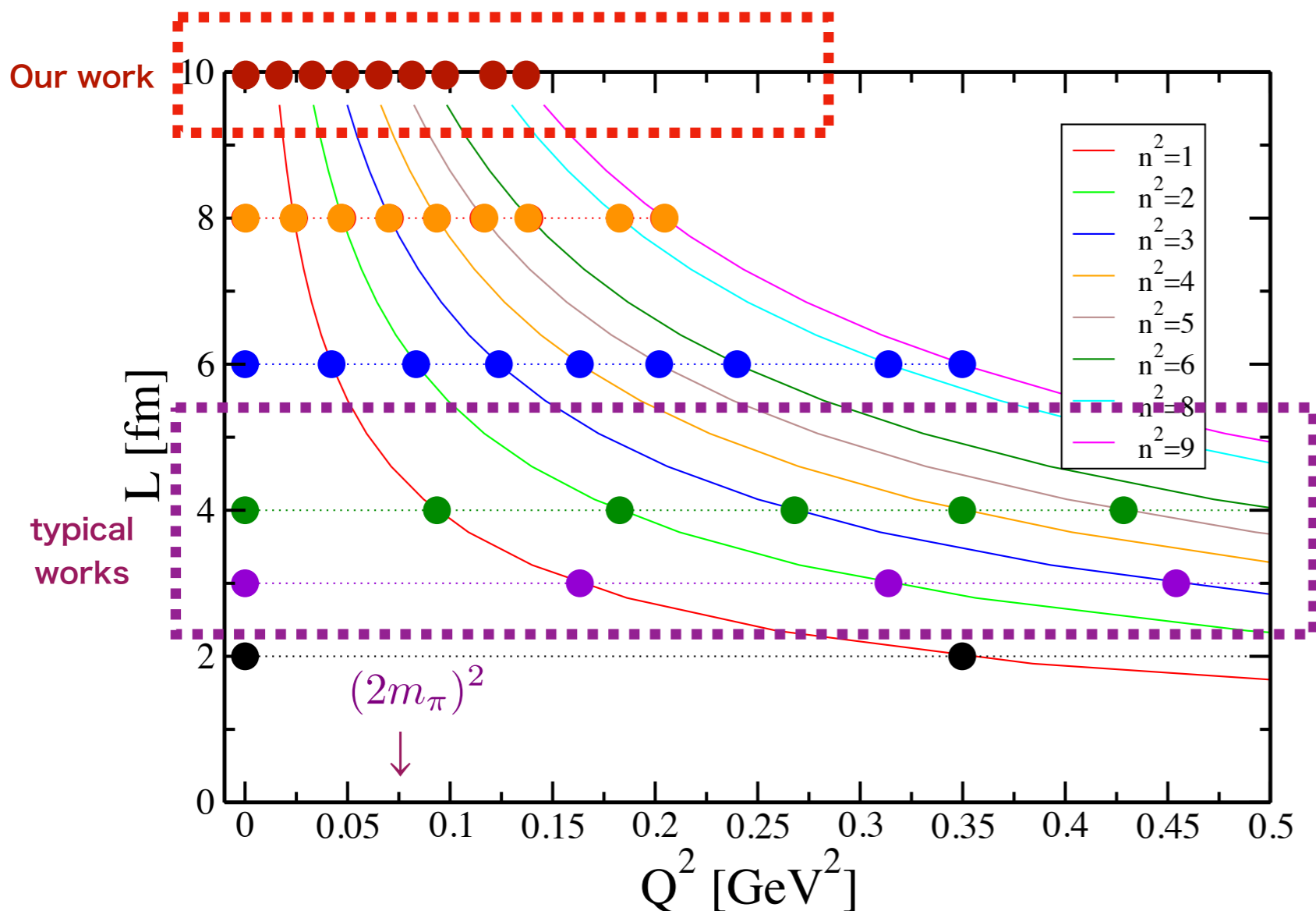
3 points to note

1. Why is such a large spatial size (~ 10 fm) is necessary?
2. What is the significance of the suppression of excited-state contributions?
3. Why only iso-vector quantities are considered?

Why is such a large spatial size
(~10 fm) is necessary?

How Large Spatial Size is Necessary?

Discrete momenta on the lattice are related to the size of the spatial extent L



$$Q^2 = -q^2 = 2M_N(E(\vec{q}) - M_N)$$

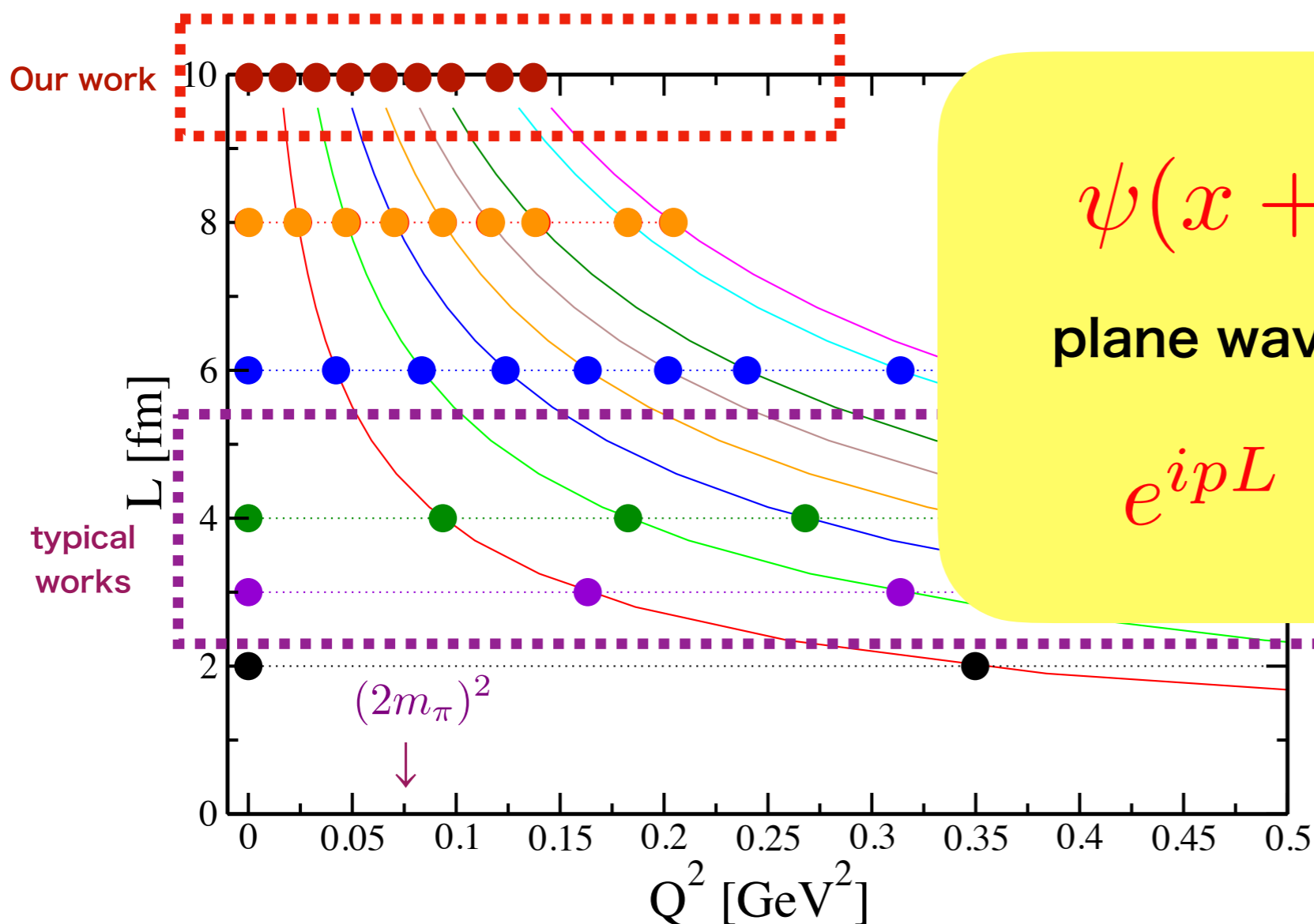
$$E(\vec{q}) = \sqrt{M_N^2 + \vec{q}^2}$$

$$\vec{q}^2 = \left(\frac{2\pi}{L}\right)^2 \vec{n}^2$$

✓ can access the **small** momentum transfer **up to 0.01 [GeV²]** for $L=10$ fm

How Large Spatial Size is Necessary?

Discrete momenta on the lattice are related to the size of the spatial extent L



$$\psi(x + L) = \psi(x)$$

plane wave $\psi(x) = e^{ipx}$

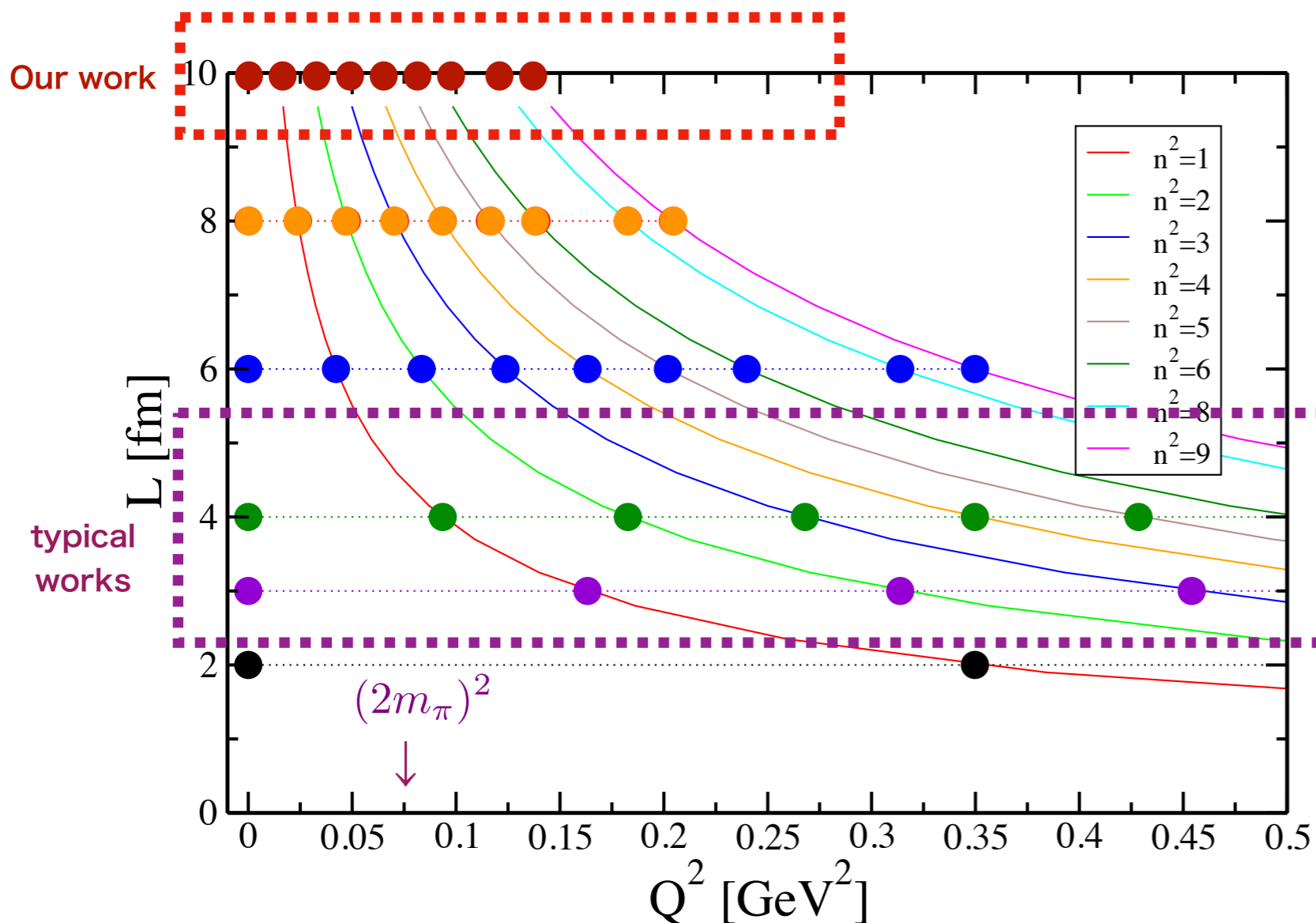
$$e^{ipL} = 1 \rightarrow p = \frac{2\pi}{L}n$$

$$\vec{q}^2 = \left(\frac{2\pi}{L}\right)^2 \vec{n}^2$$

✓ can access the **small** momentum transfer **up to 0.01 [GeV²]** for **L=10 fm**

How Large Spatial Size is Necessary?

Discrete momenta on the lattice are related to the size of the spatial extent L



$$\langle r_E^2 \rangle = - \frac{6}{G_E(0)} \left. \frac{dG_E(q^2)}{dq^2} \right|_{q^2=0}$$

Root-Mean-Square radius

$$R = \sqrt{\langle r_E^2 \rangle} = r_E$$

✓ can access the **small** momentum transfer **up to 0.01 [GeV 2]** for **L=10 fm**

What is the significance of the
suppression of excited-state
contributions?

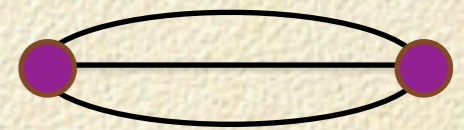
Nucleon correlation functions

- Compute **2-pt** and **3-pt** functions, using nucleon interpolator \mathcal{H} and operator insertion \mathcal{O}

$$\sum_i |i\rangle\langle i| = 1$$

$$\langle \mathcal{H}(t)\mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle = \sum_i |\langle 0|\mathcal{H}(0)|i\rangle|^2 e^{-M_i t}$$

$$\rightarrow |\langle 0|\mathcal{H}|N\rangle|^2 e^{-M_N t}$$



$t_{\text{snk}}=t$

$t_{\text{src}}=0$

a sum of exponentials

$$\langle \mathcal{H}(t)\mathcal{O}(t')\mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle = \sum_{i,j} e^{-M_i(t-t')} \langle 0|\mathcal{H}|i\rangle \langle i|\mathcal{O}|j\rangle \langle j|\mathcal{H}^\dagger|0\rangle e^{-M_j t'}$$

$$\rightarrow |\langle 0|\mathcal{H}|N\rangle|^2 \langle N|\mathcal{O}|N\rangle e^{-M_N t}$$

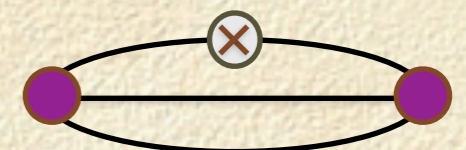
$$t - t' \gg 0$$

and

$$t' \gg 0$$

no t' -dependence

$t_{\text{op}}=t'$



$t_{\text{snk}}=t$

$t_{\text{src}}=0$

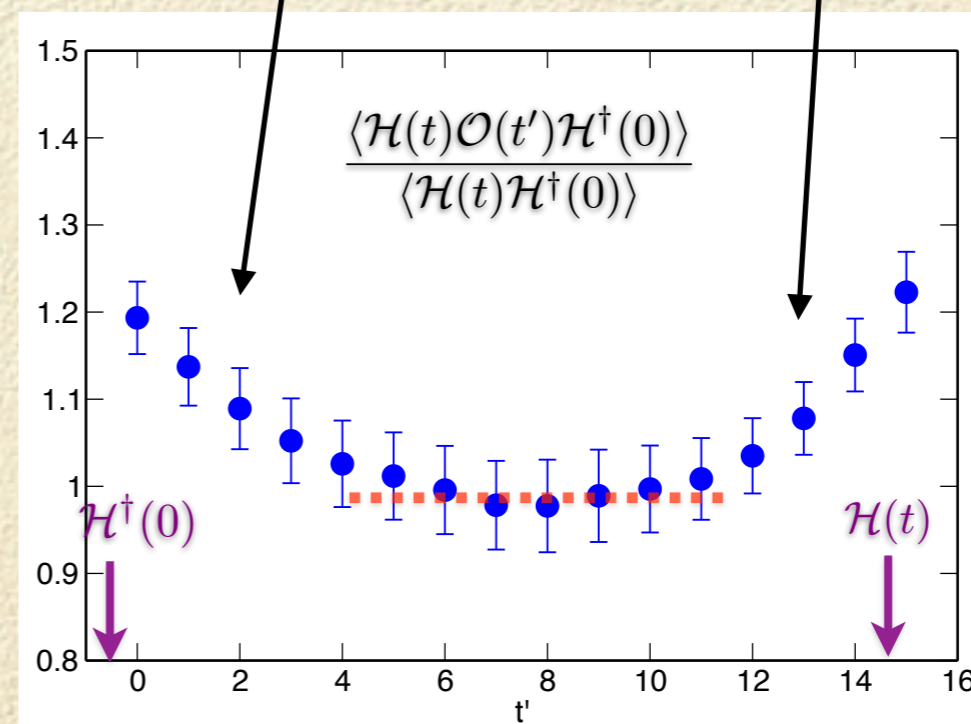
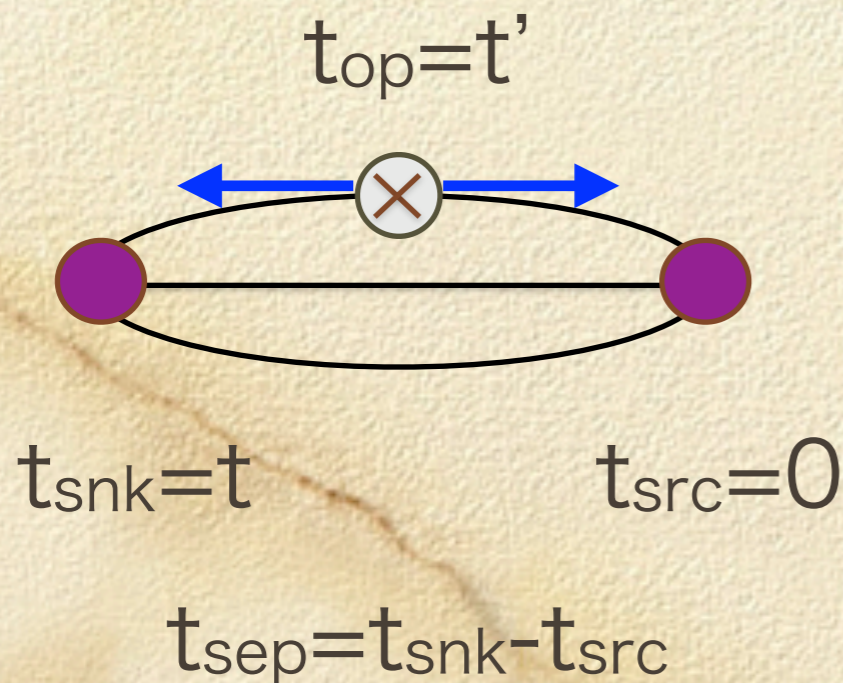
Ratio of 2-pt and 3-pt functions

- ✓ matrix elements (form factors) can be determined from ratios of the 3-pt and 2-pt functions

$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{O}(t') \mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle} \rightarrow \langle N | \mathcal{O} | N \rangle + B e^{-\Delta E(t' - t_{\text{src}})} + C e^{-\Delta E(t_{\text{snk}} - t')}$$

$$\Delta E = E_1 - M_N$$

E_1 (Excited-state energy)



$t = 15$ is fixed

Ratio of 2-pt and 3-pt functions

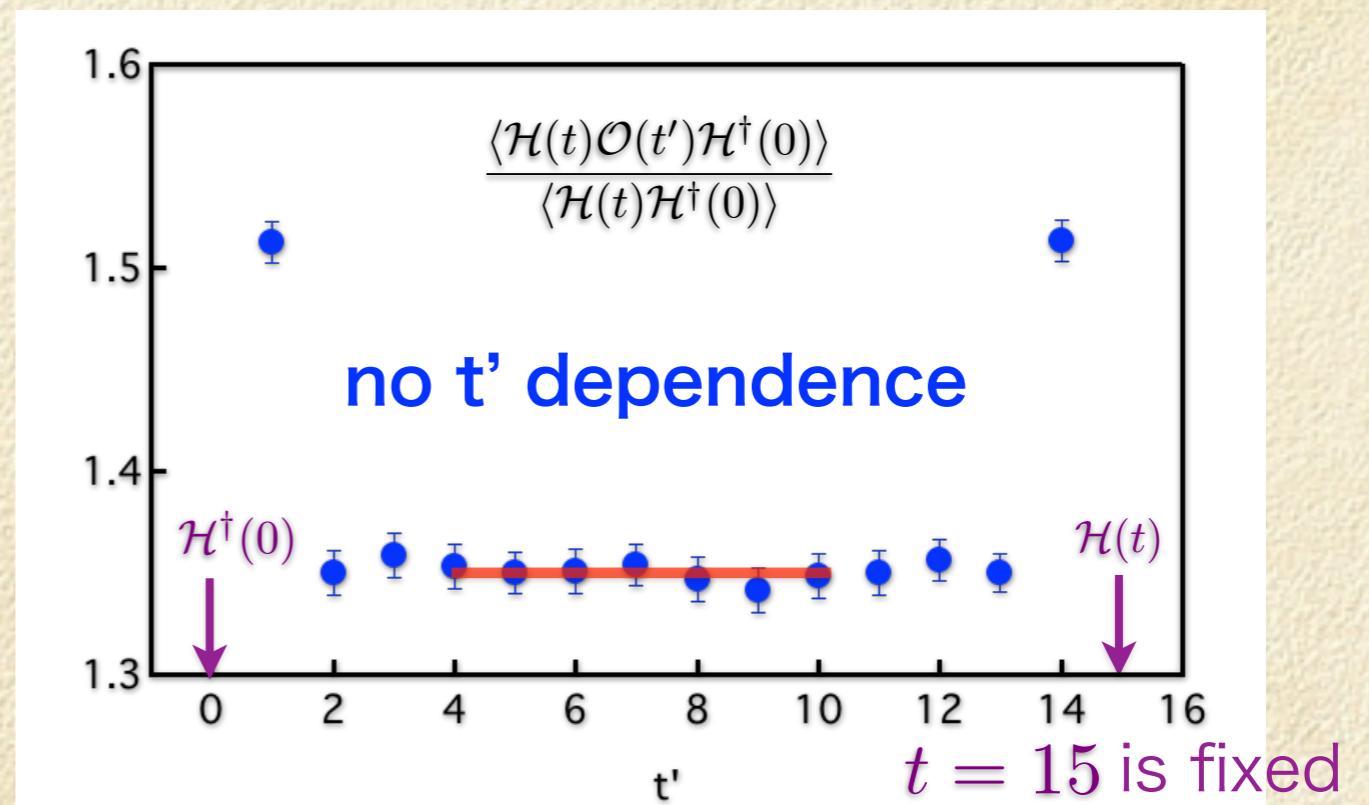
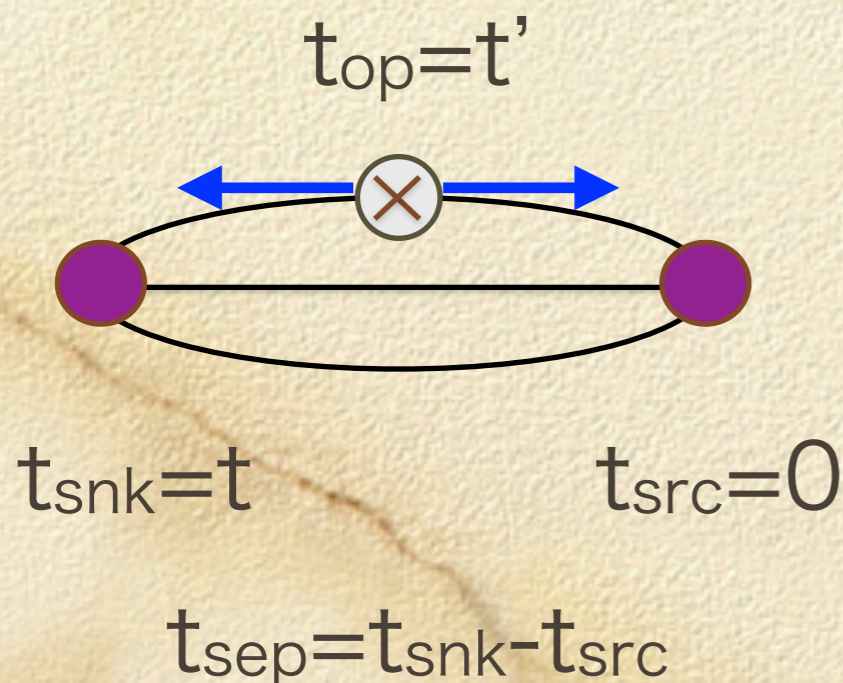
- ✓ matrix elements (form factors) can be determined from ratios of the 3-pt and 2-pt functions

Highly tuned smearing

$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{O}(t') \mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle} \rightarrow \langle N | \mathcal{O} | N \rangle + \cancel{B e^{-\Delta E(t' - t_{\text{src}})}} + \cancel{C e^{-\Delta E(t_{\text{snk}} - t')}}$$

$$\Delta E = E_1 - M_N$$

E_1 (Excited-state energy)



Why only **iso-vector quantities** are
considered?

Iso-vector quantities

electromagnetic
current

$$J_\mu^{\text{em}} = \frac{2}{3} \bar{u} \gamma_\mu u - \frac{1}{3} \bar{d} \gamma_\mu d + \dots$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \boxed{(\bar{u} \gamma_\mu u - \bar{d} \gamma_\mu d)} + \frac{1}{6} \boxed{(\bar{u} \gamma_\mu u + \bar{d} \gamma_\mu d)} = J_\mu^V + \frac{1}{3} J_\mu^S$$

iso-vector iso-scalar

matrix element (ME)

proton $\langle p | J_\mu^{\text{em}} | p \rangle = \langle p | J_\mu^V | p \rangle + \frac{1}{3} \langle p | J_\mu^S | p \rangle$

neutron $\langle n | J_\mu^{\text{em}} | n \rangle = \langle n | J_\mu^V | n \rangle + \frac{1}{3} \langle n | J_\mu^S | n \rangle$

iso-spin symmetry

$$\langle p | J_\mu^S | p \rangle = \langle n | J_\mu^S | n \rangle$$

$$\langle p | J_\mu^V | p \rangle = -\langle n | J_\mu^V | n \rangle$$

$$\langle p | J_\mu^{\text{em}} | p \rangle - \langle n | J_\mu^{\text{em}} | n \rangle = \boxed{\langle p | \bar{u} \gamma_\mu u - \bar{d} \gamma_\mu d | p \rangle} = \boxed{\langle p | \bar{u} \gamma_\mu d | n \rangle}$$

proton ME

neutron ME

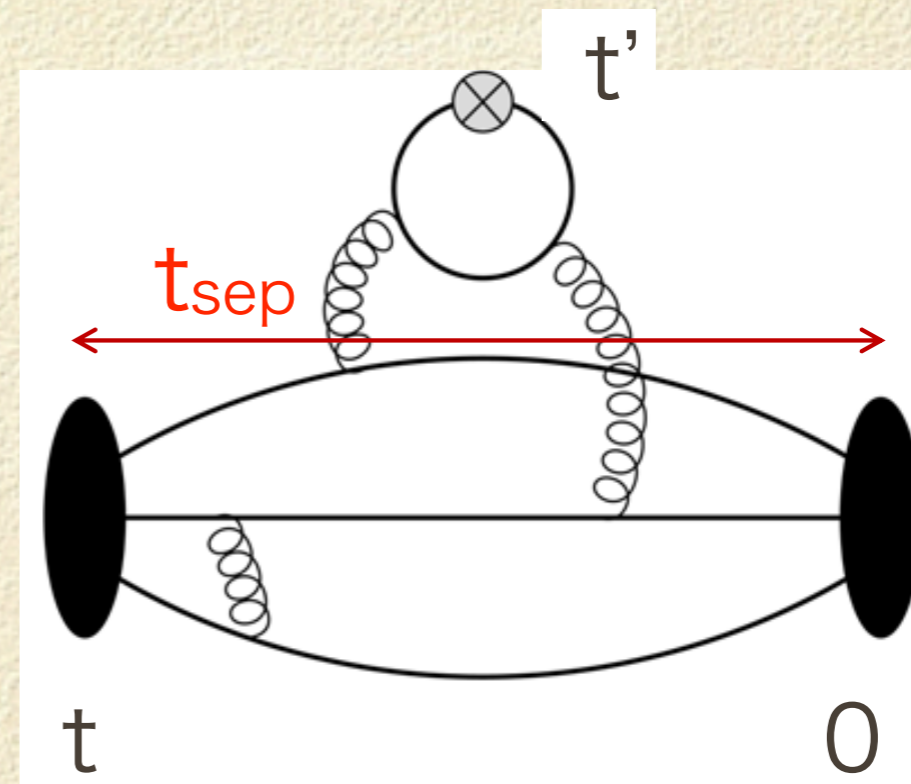
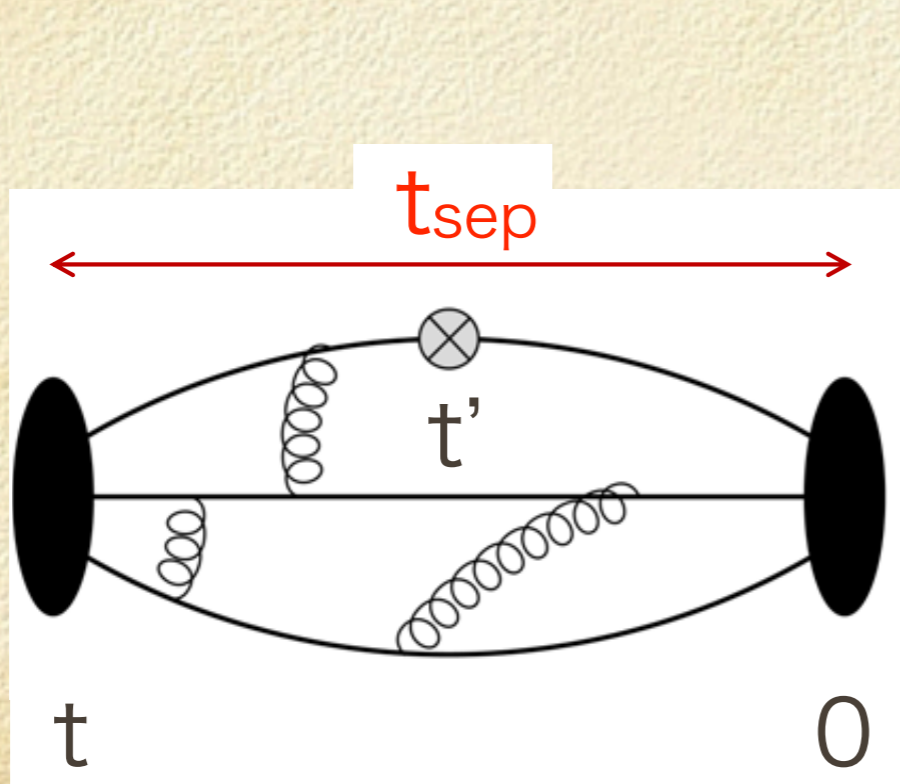
iso-vector

Weak process

Iso-vector part receives NO disconnected contribution in 2+1 flavor QCD

Connected/disconnected diagrams

$\langle \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{O}(t') \mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle$ has **two** types of **quark contraction diagrams** (Wick contractions)

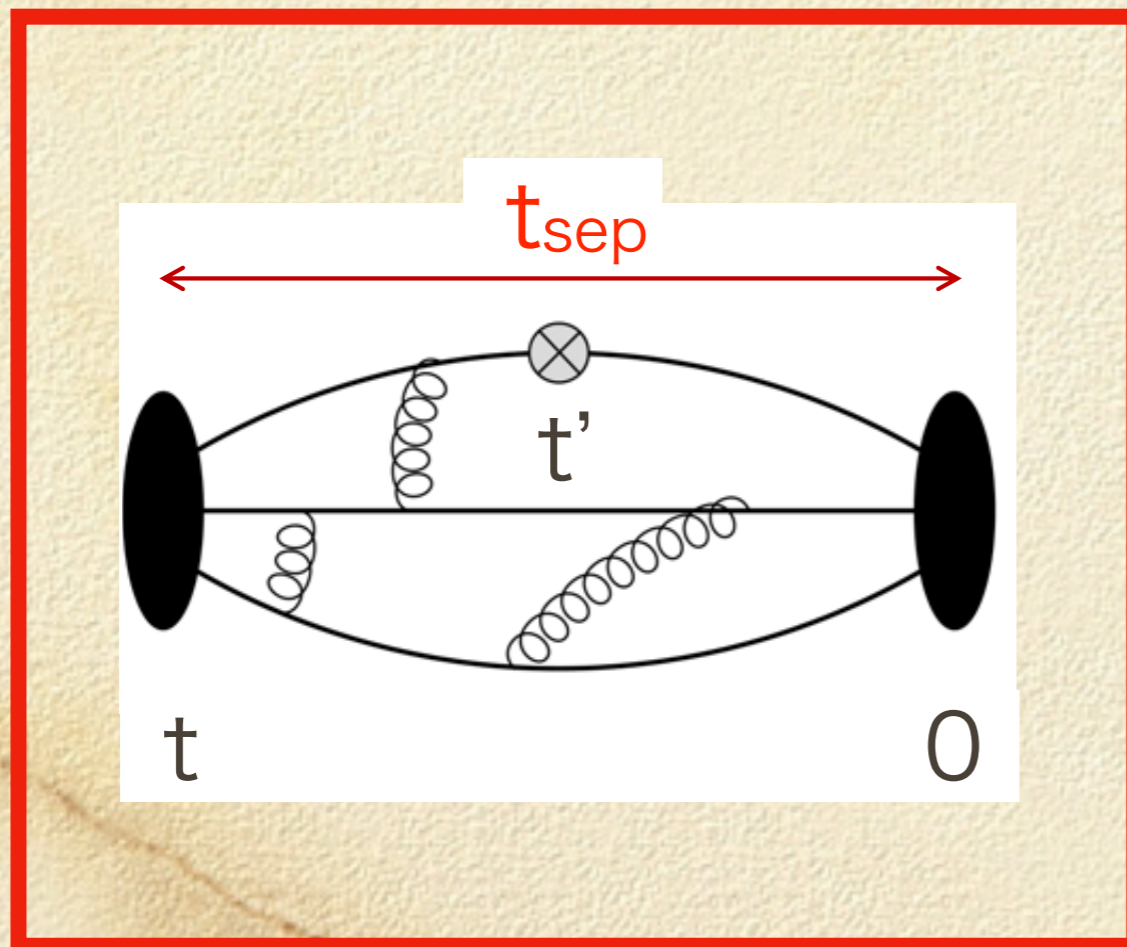


- ✓ **iso-vector** quantities
- ✓ β -decay (**weak matrix** elements)

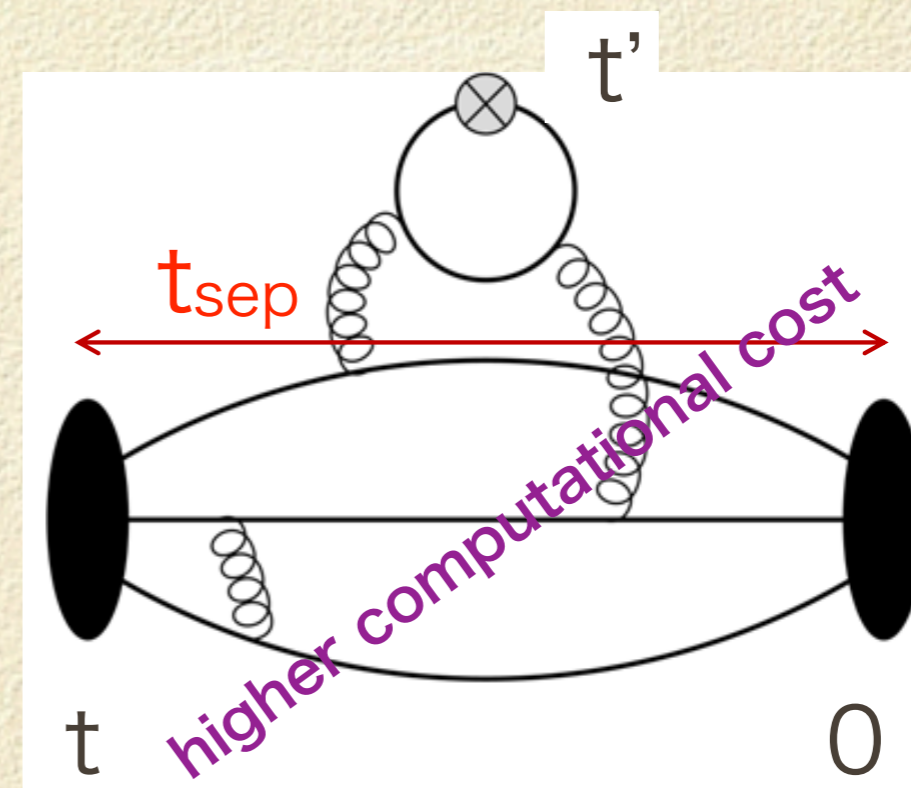
- ✓ **iso-scalar** quantities
- ✓ **electro-magnetic** matrix elements

Connected/disconnected diagrams

$\langle \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{O}(t') \mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle$ has **two** types of **quark contraction diagrams** (Wick contractions)



- ✓ **iso-vector** quantities
- ✓ β -decay (**weak matrix elements**)



Typically **10 to 100 times** higher

- ✓ **iso-scalar** quantities
- ✓ **electro-magnetic** matrix elements

Numerical results

Status of PACS10 projects

Configuration	PACS10			HPCI
Resource	Oakforest-PACS → Fugaku			K-computer
N_f	2+1			2+1
m_π [MeV]	135	138	142	146
L [fm]	10 fm			8.1 fm
$L^3 \times T$	128 ⁴ (64 ⁴)	160 ⁴	256 ⁴	96 ⁴
a [fm]	0.085	0.063	0.041	0.085
Status	done	done	done	done
Nucleon FF	done	done	running	done
Renorm (SF, NPR)	done	partly done	planning	done

- K.I. Ishikawa et al., Phys. Rev. D98 (2018) 074510. (HPCI)
- E. Shintani et al., Phys. Rev. D99 (2019) 014510. (PACS10)
- K.I. Ishikawa et al., Phys. Rev. D104 (2021) 074514. (PACS10)
- R. Tsuji et al., Phys. Rev. D106 (2022) 094505. (PACS10)
- R. Tsuji et al., Phys. Rev. D109 (2024) 094505. (PACS10)

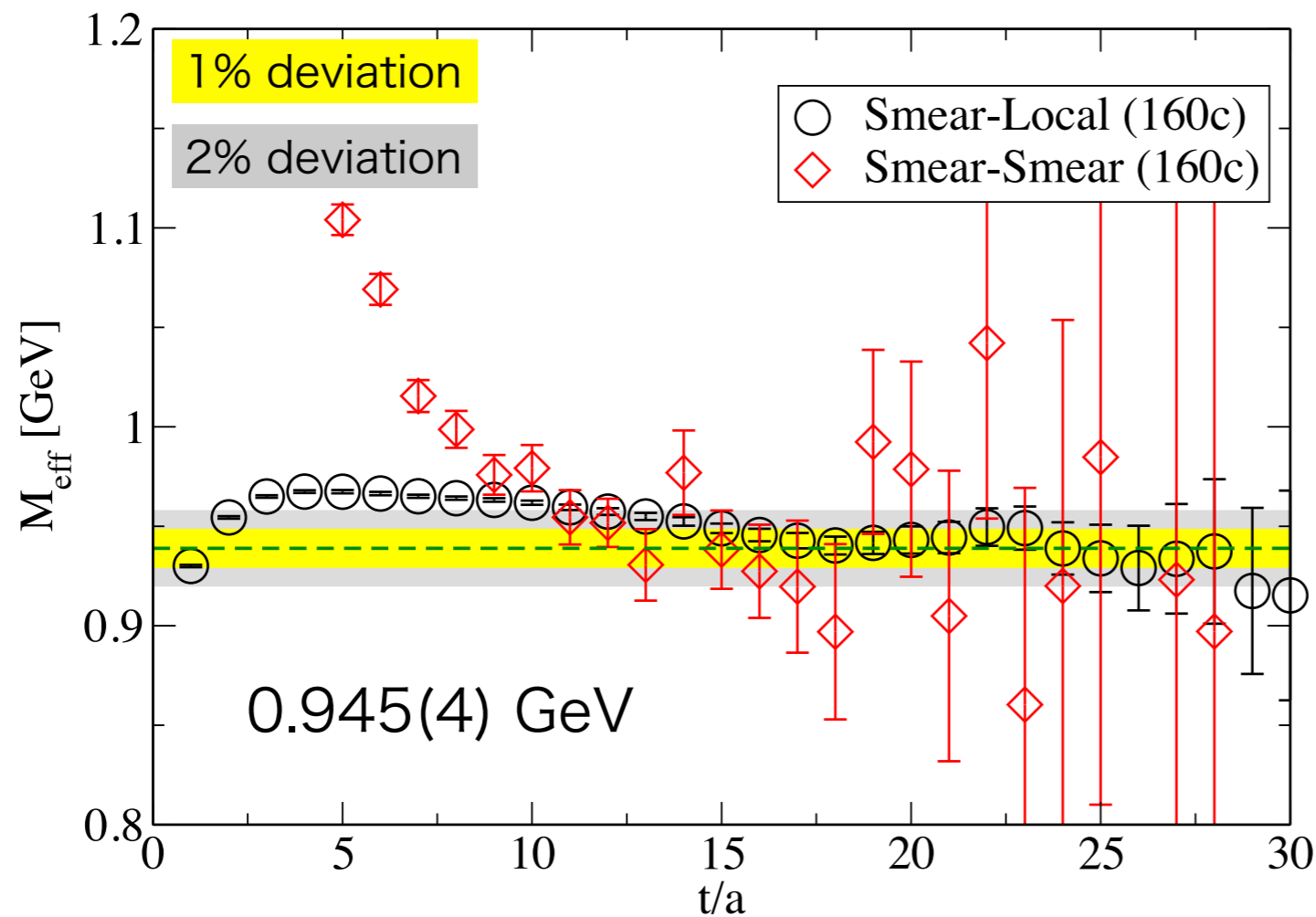
m_π [MeV]	135	138	142	146
L [fm]		10 fm		8.1 fm
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Nucleon mass

M_N

Effective mass plot for M_N

Smearing parameters are **highly tuned to maximize the ground-state dominance.**



$L^4=160^4, a=0.063$ fm

$$G(t) = \sum_i A_i \exp(-M_i t)$$

A sum of exponential func.

$$M_0 < M_1 < \dots$$

$$M_{\text{eff}}(t) = \ln\{G(t)/G(t+1)\}$$

$$\xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} M_0$$

$$A_0 \gg A_i > 0$$

Achieving a percent level precision on the nucleon mass

Axial charge

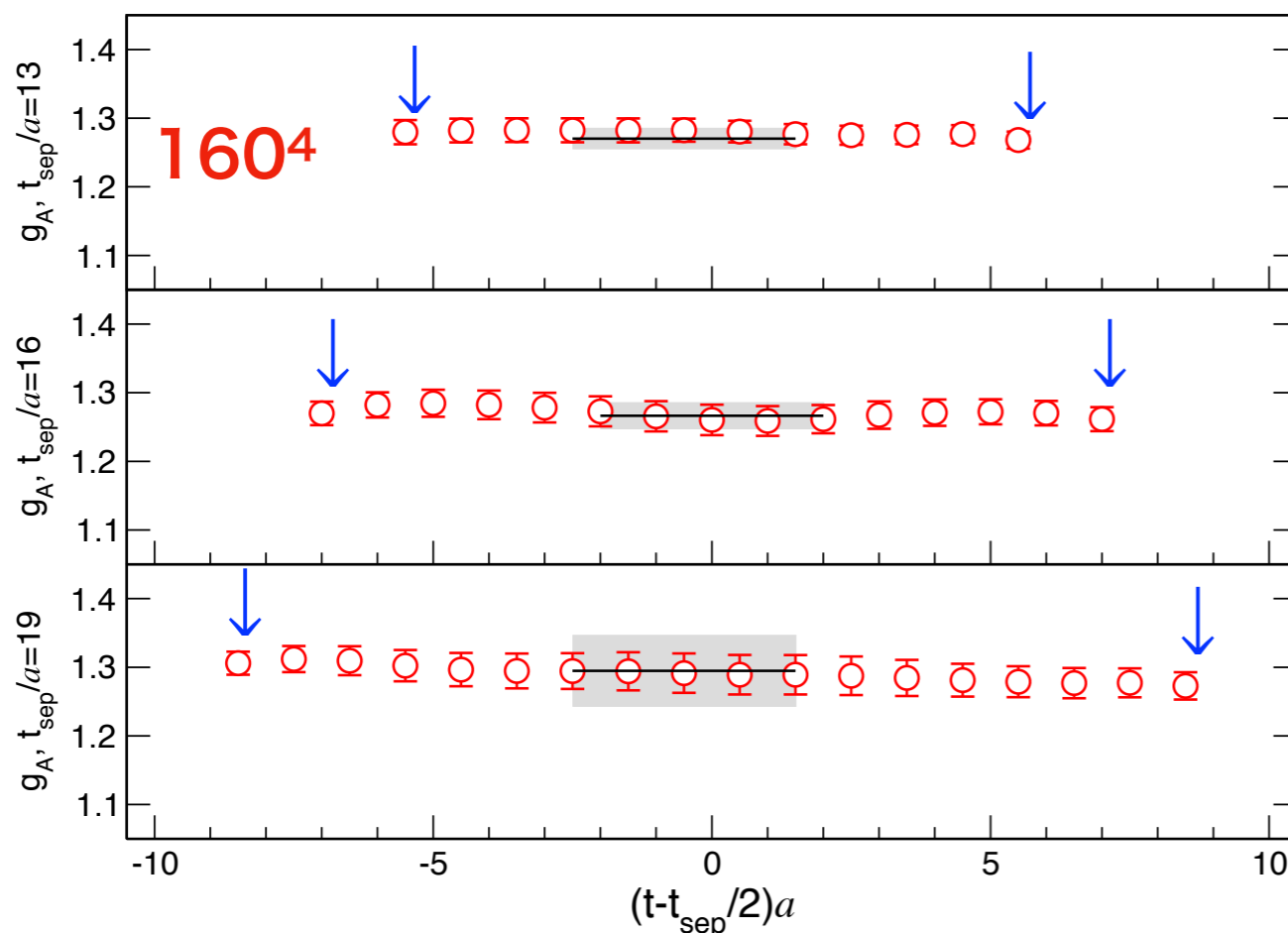
g_A

Ratio for axial charge g_A

R. Tsuji et al., PRD109 (2024) 094505

* Highly tuned smearing

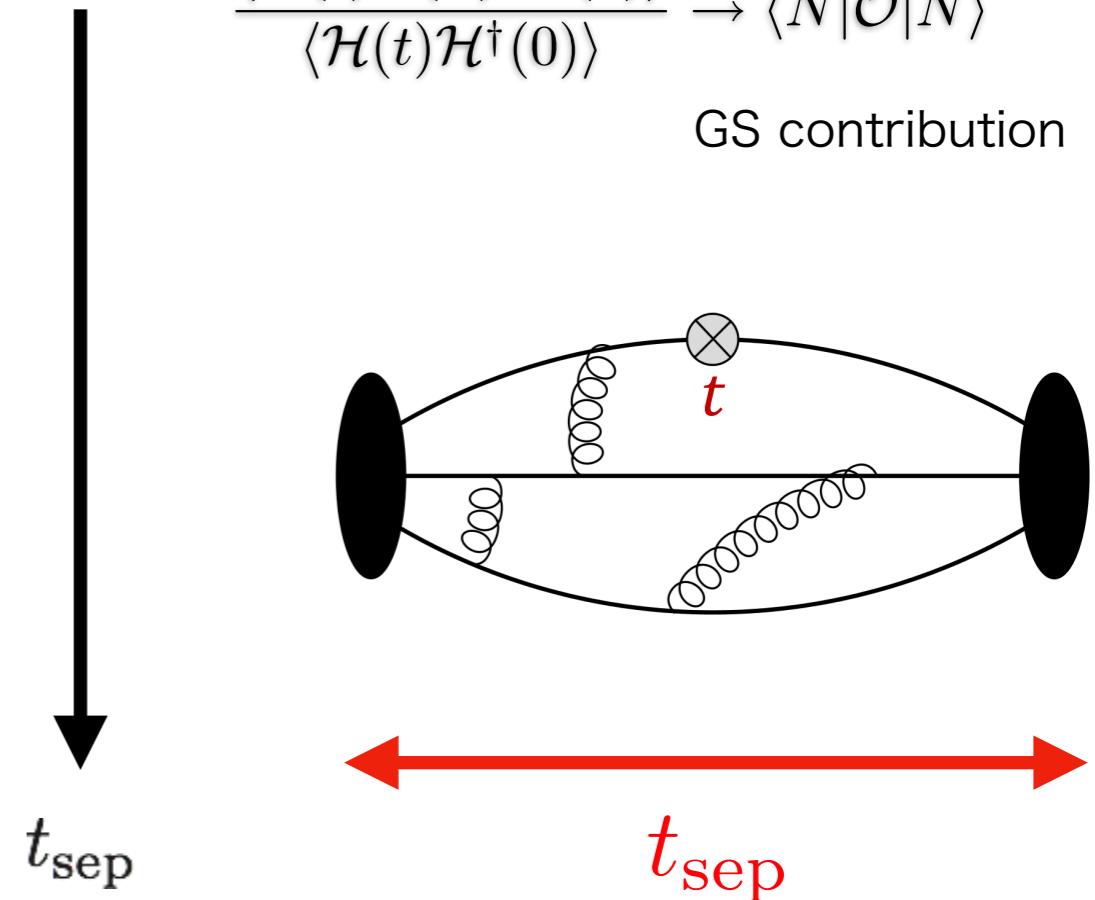
→ Suppression of excited-state contributions



Ratio method

$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{O}(t') \mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{H}(t) \mathcal{H}^\dagger(0) \rangle} \rightarrow \langle N | \mathcal{O} | N \rangle$$

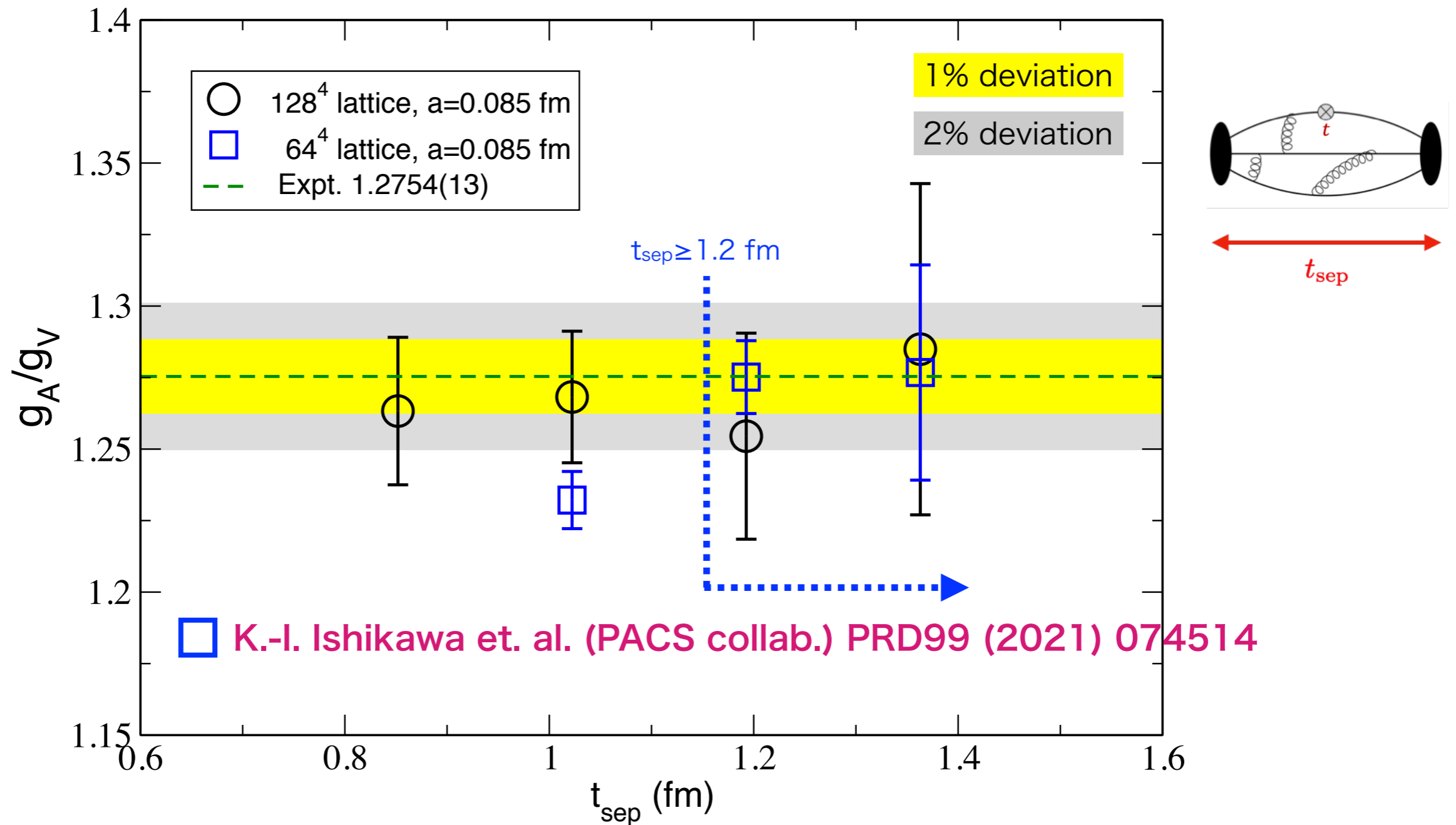
GS contribution



Effect of excited-state contamination is negligible

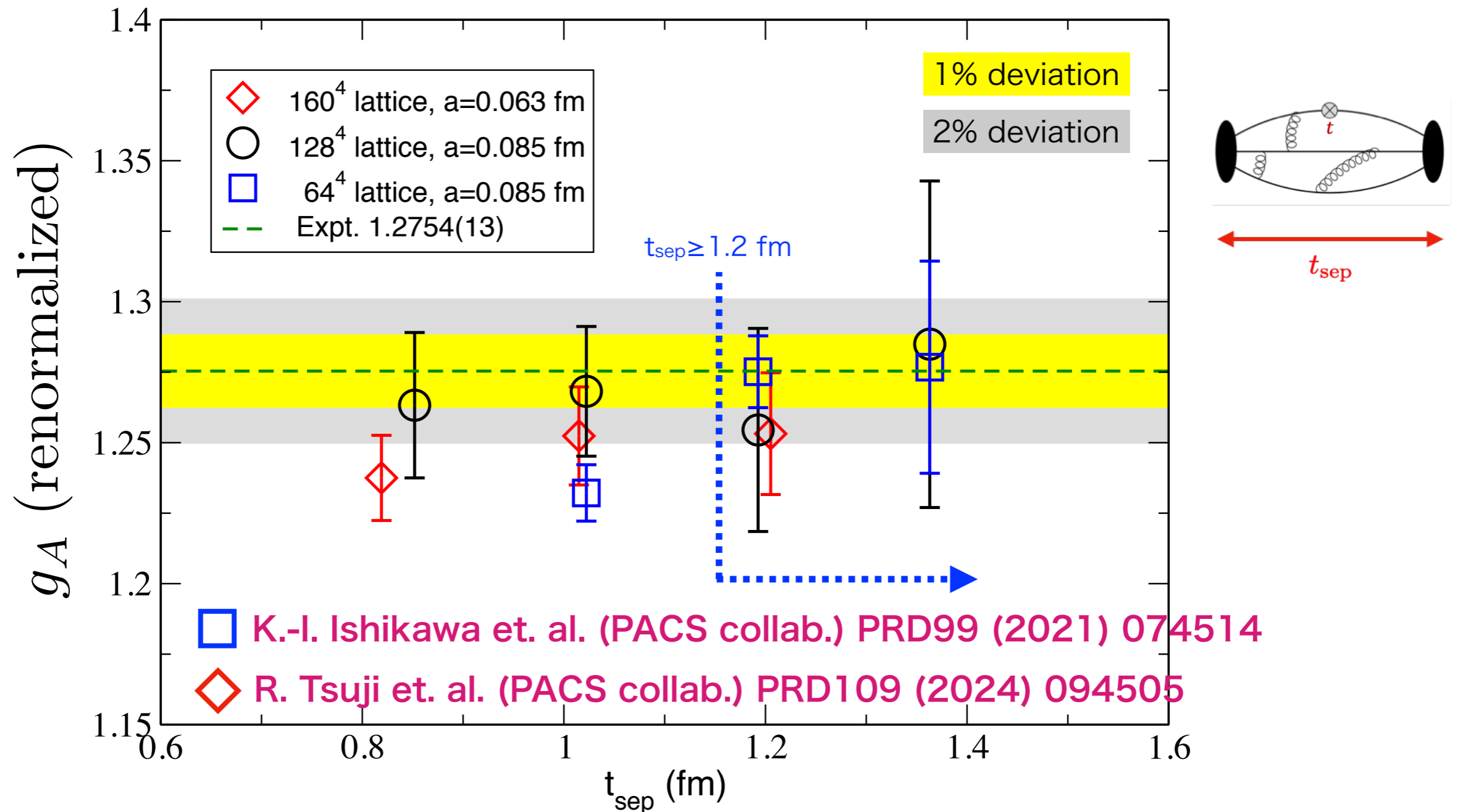
Good plateau for $t_{\text{sep}}=19, 16, 13$ and no t_{sep} dependence

A precent-level determination of g_A



Effect of excited state contamination is negligible for $t_{\text{sep}} \geq 1.2$ fm.
Finite volume error is less than 1%.

A precent-level determination of g_A



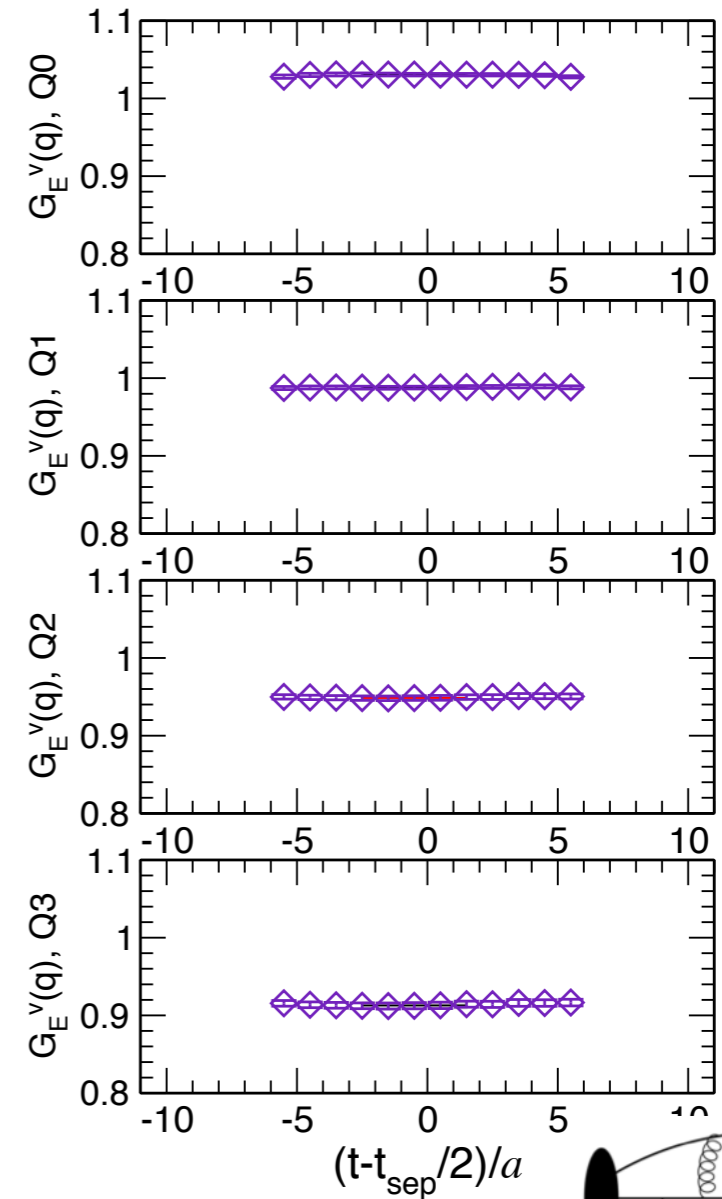
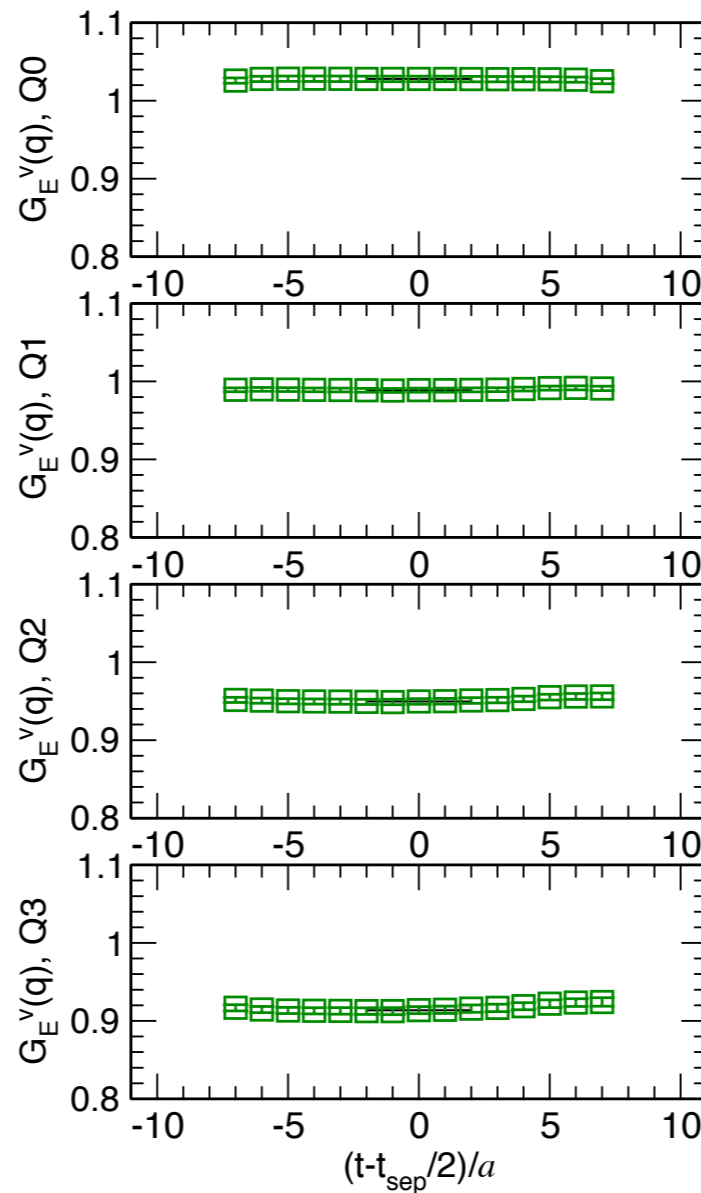
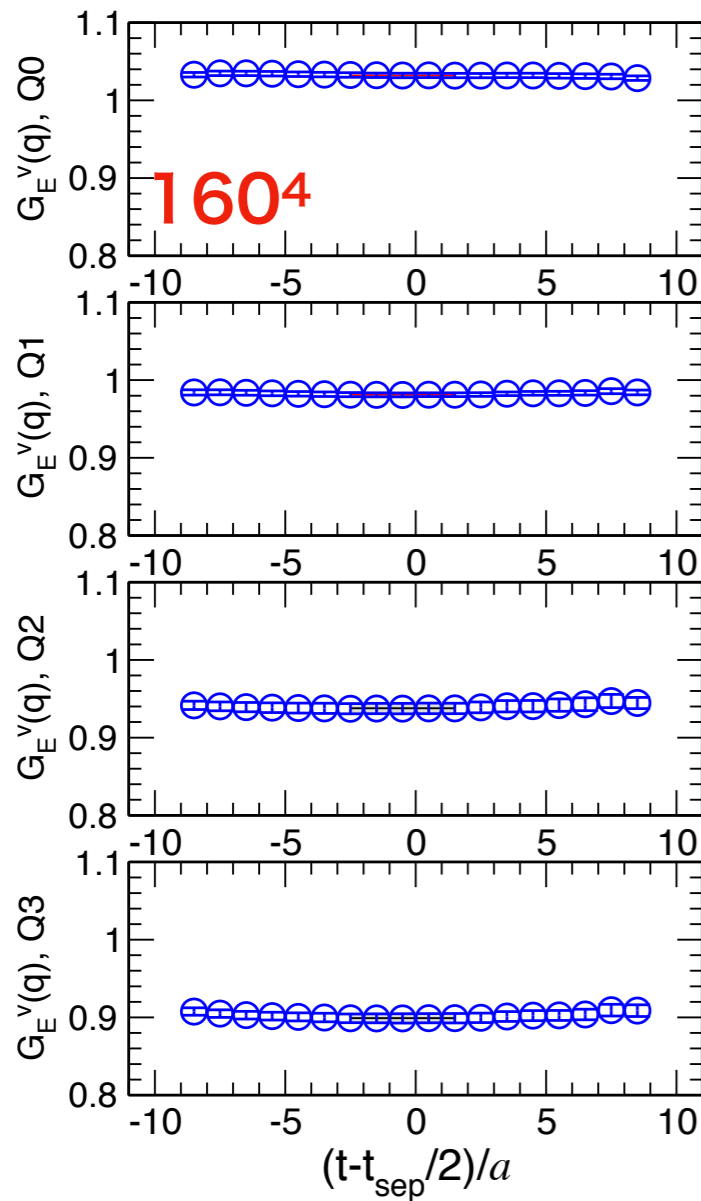
Effect of excited state contamination is negligible for $t_{\text{sep}} \geq 1.2$ fm.
Finite volume error is less than 1%.
Discretization error is less than 1%.

Electric form factor

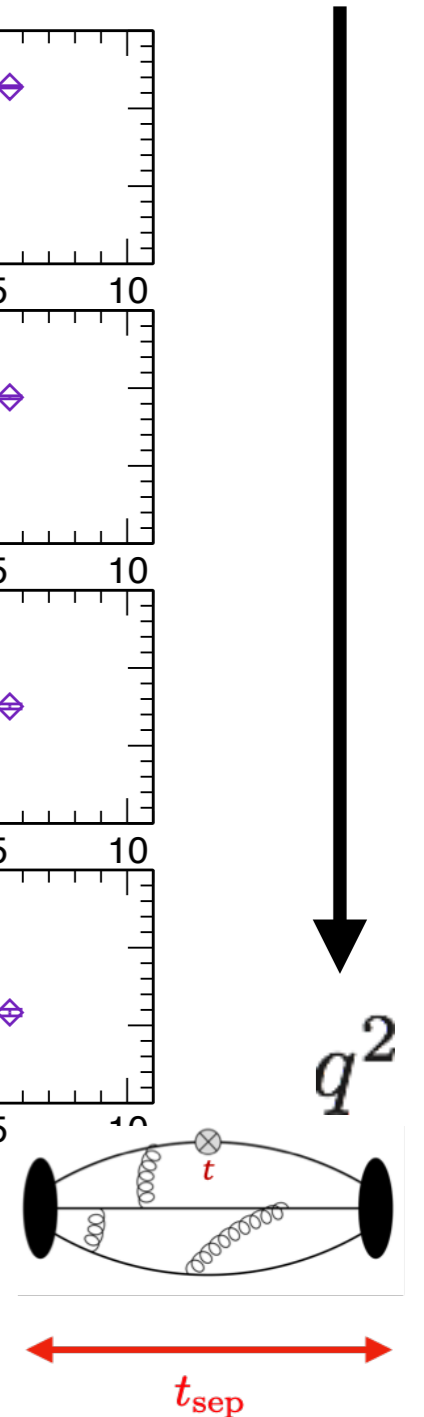
G_E

Ratio for iso-vector $G_E(q^2)$

t_{sep}

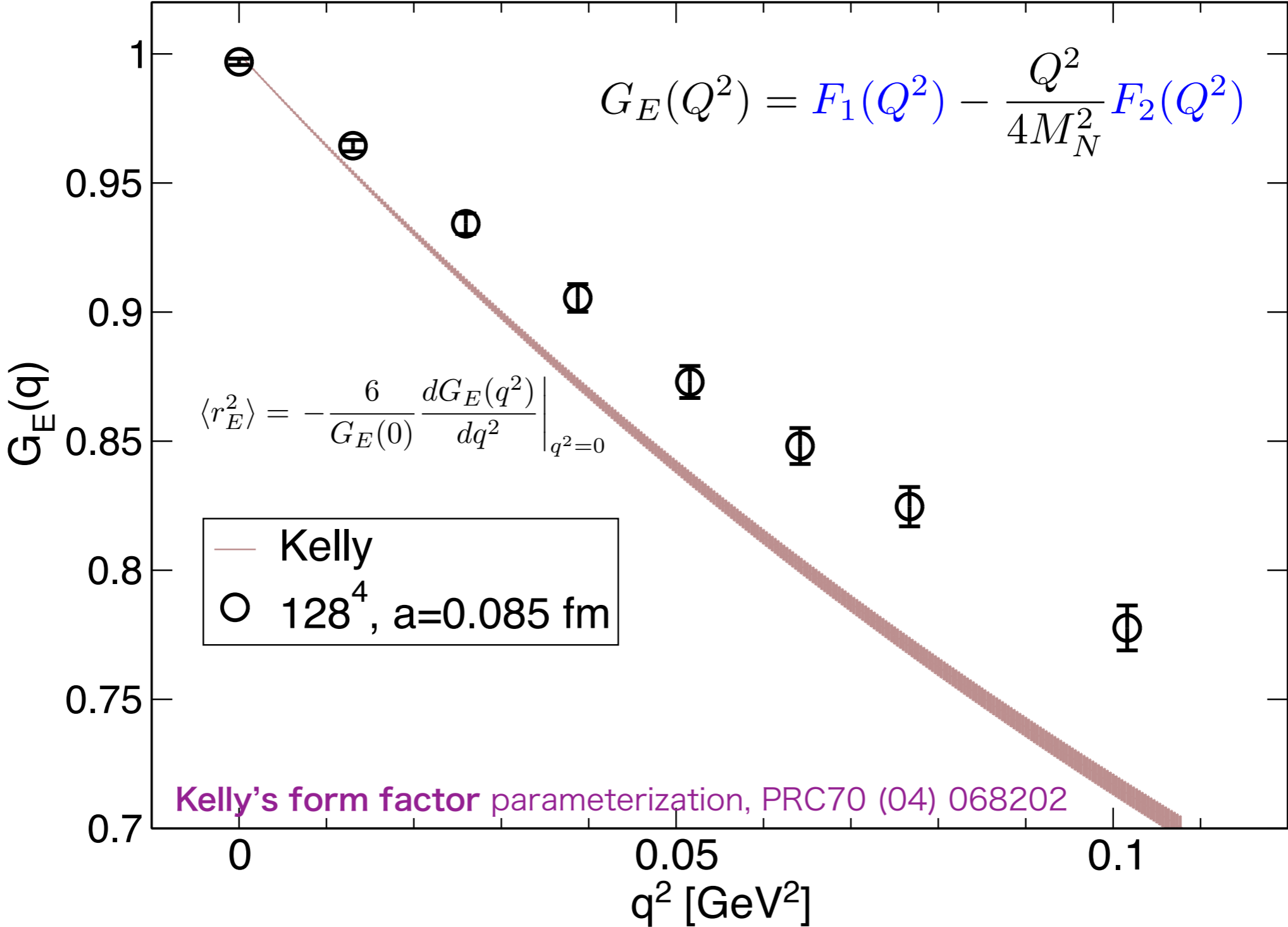


Good plateau for $t_{\text{sep}}=13, 16, 19$



Iso-vector electric form factor G_E

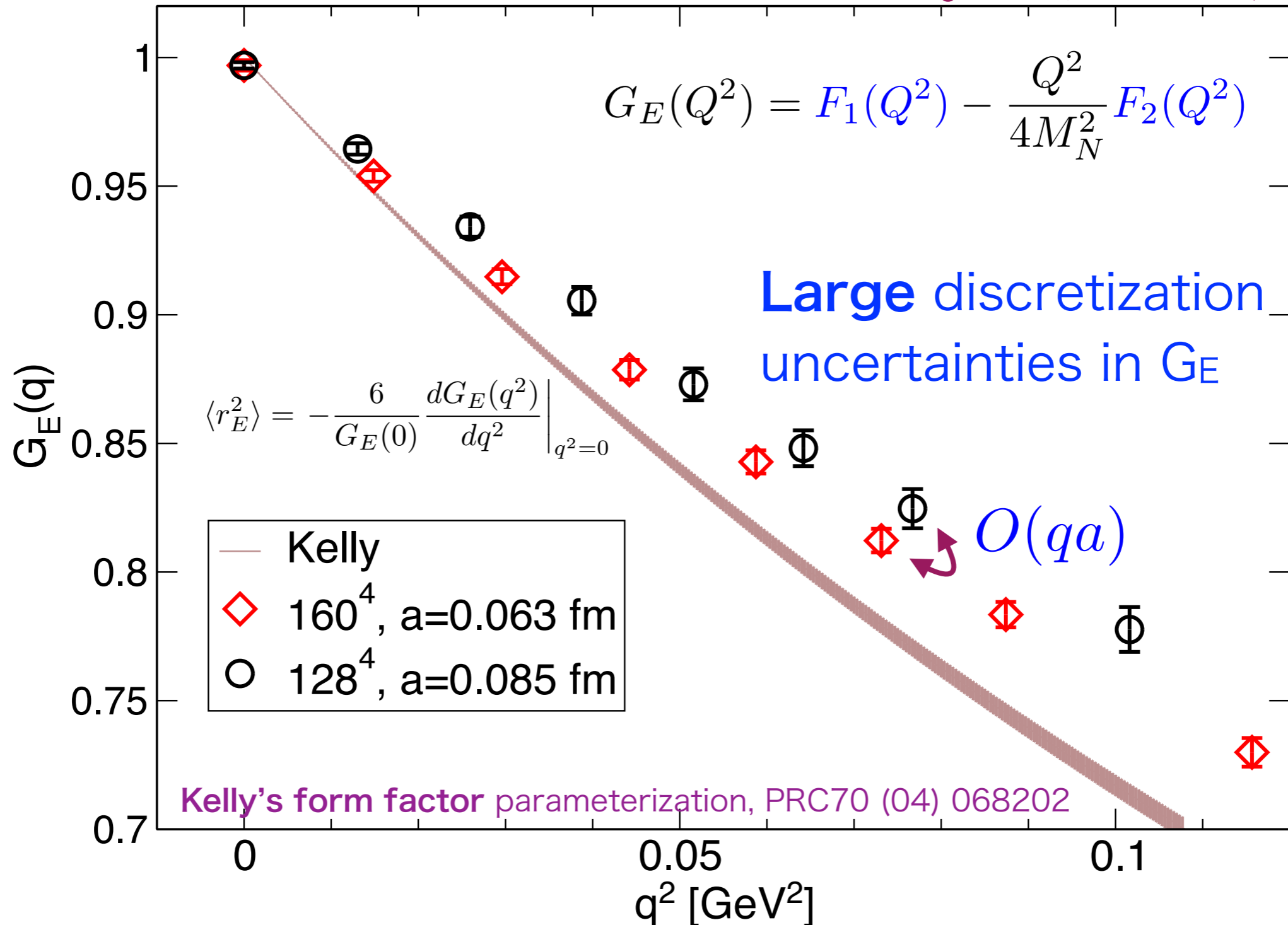
E. Shintani et al., Phys. Rev. D99 (2019) 014510



The previous results disagree with the Kelly's curve

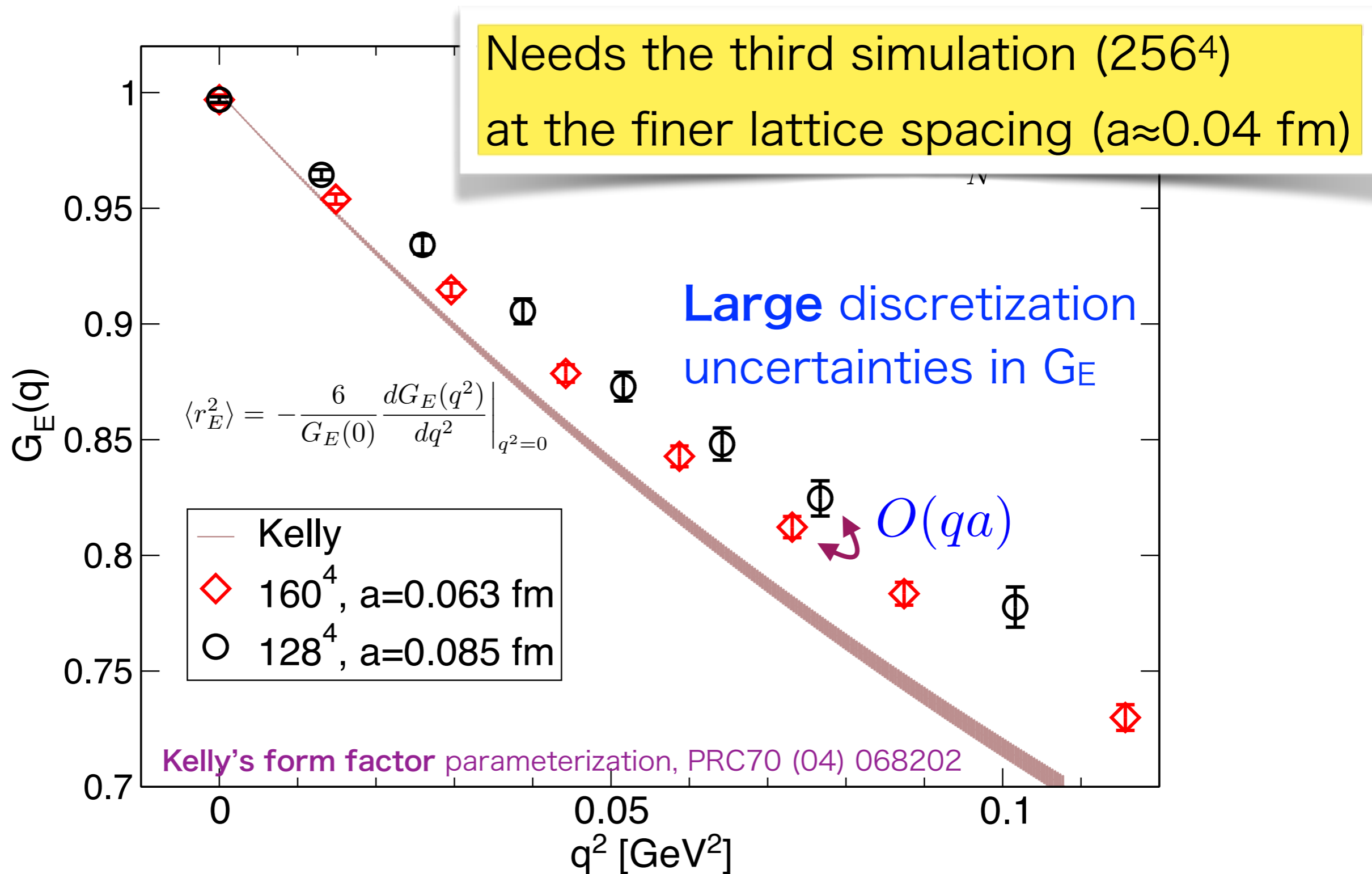
Iso-vector electric form factor G_E

R. Tsuji et al., PRD109 (2024) 094505



The new results obtained with the fine lattice spacing ($a \approx 0.06$ fm) approaches to the Kelly's curve

Iso-vector electric form factor G_E

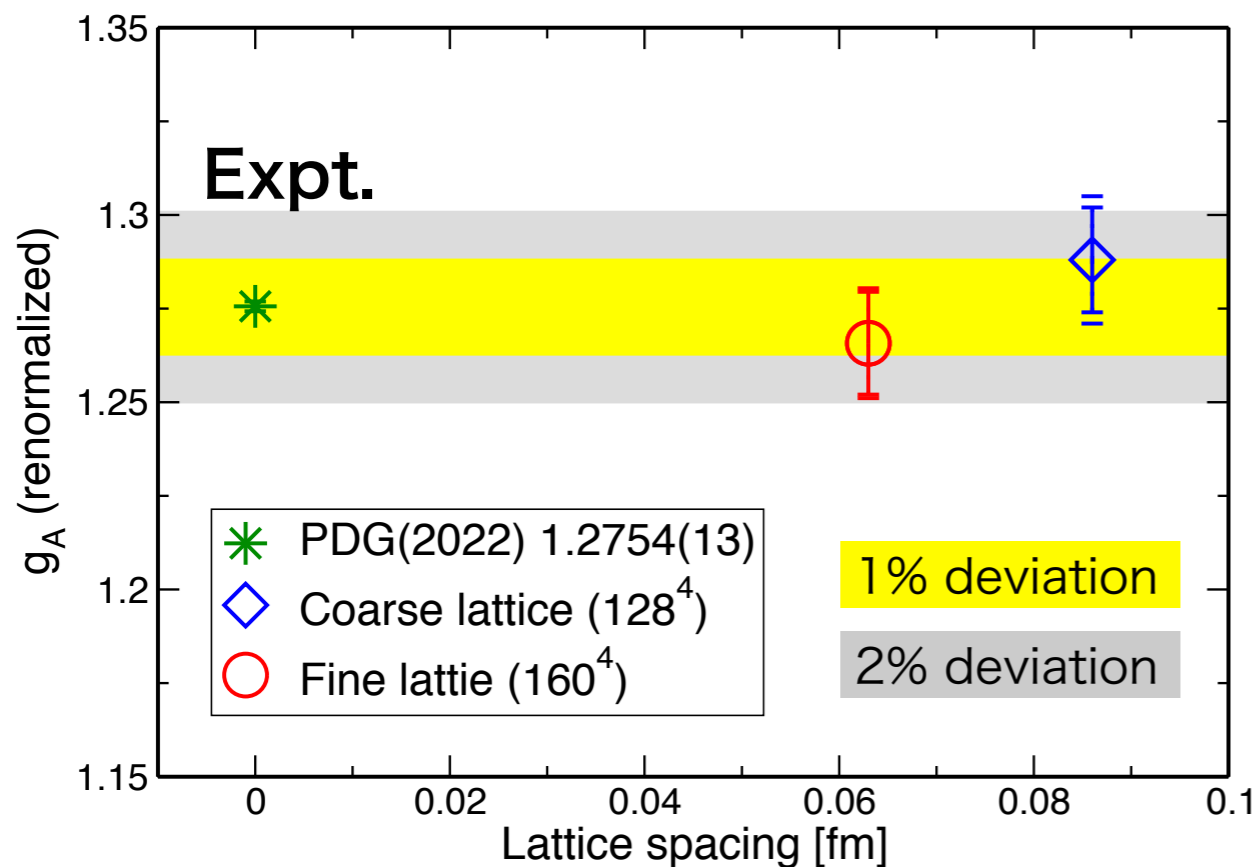


The new results obtained with the fine lattice spacing ($a \approx 0.06$ fm) approaches to the Kelly's curve

Lattice discretization uncertainties

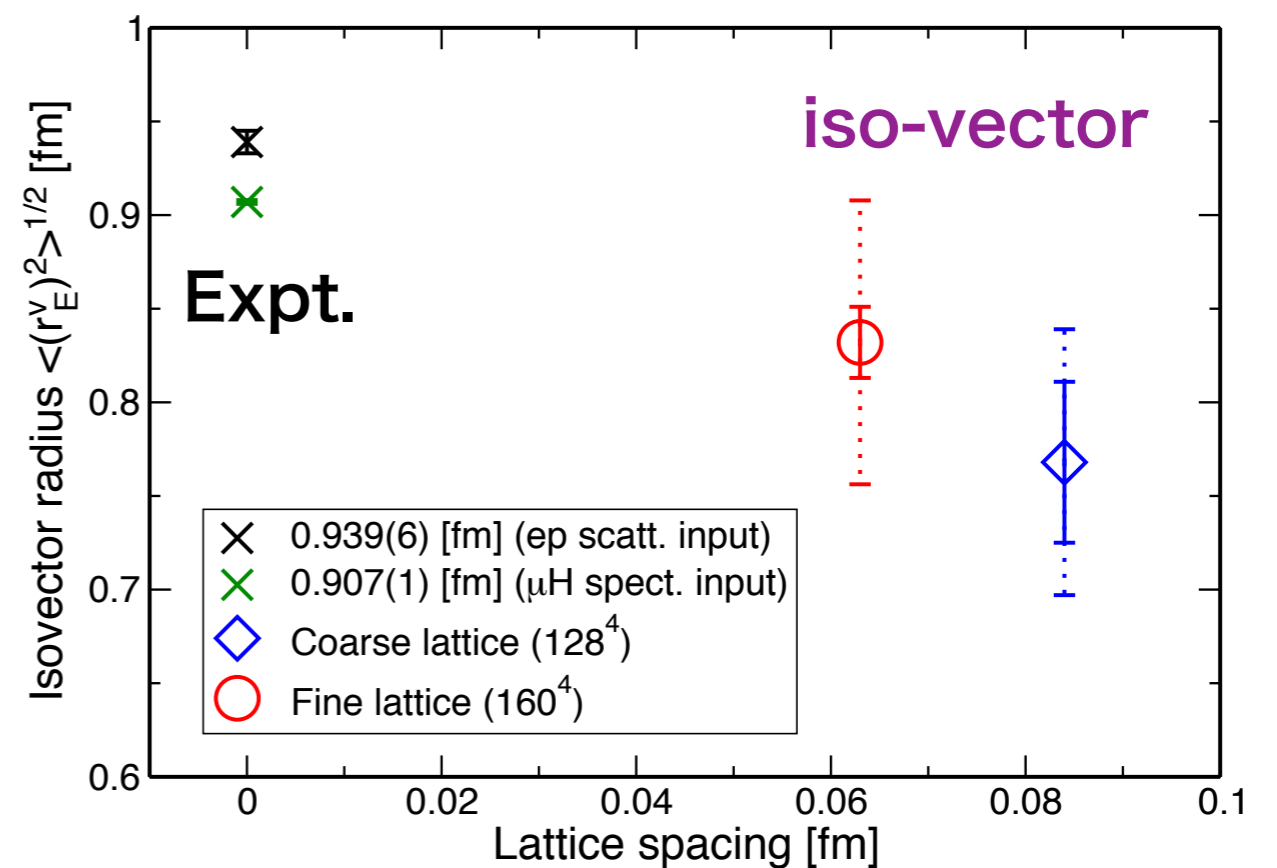
► Lattice discretization uncertainties on g_A and r_E

axial charge g_A



Negligibly small ($< 1\%$)

rms charge radius r_E

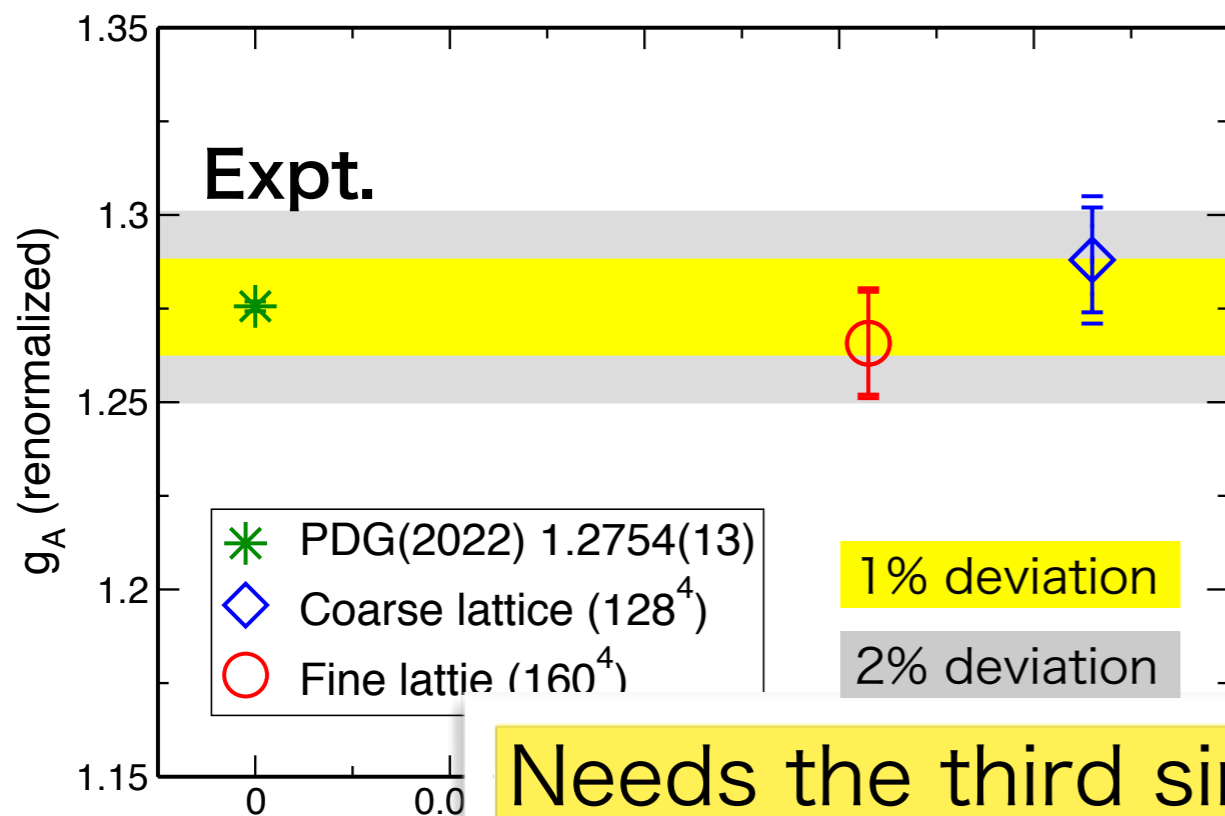


Significantly large ($\sim 10\%$)

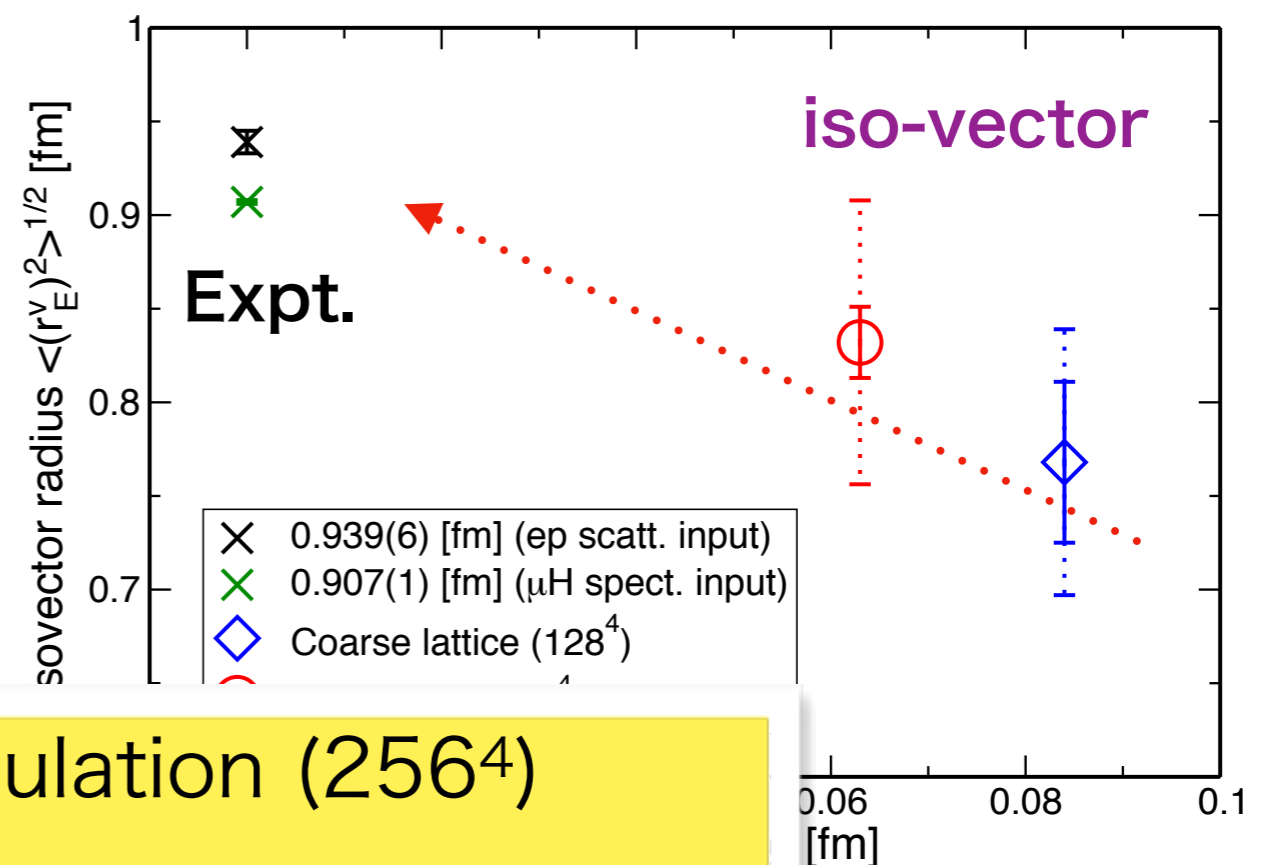
Lattice discretization uncertainties

► Lattice discretization uncertainties on g_A and r_E

axial charge g_A



rms charge radius r_E



Negl

Needs the third simulation (256^4)
at the finer lattice spacing ($a \approx 0.04$ fm)

~10%

Summary

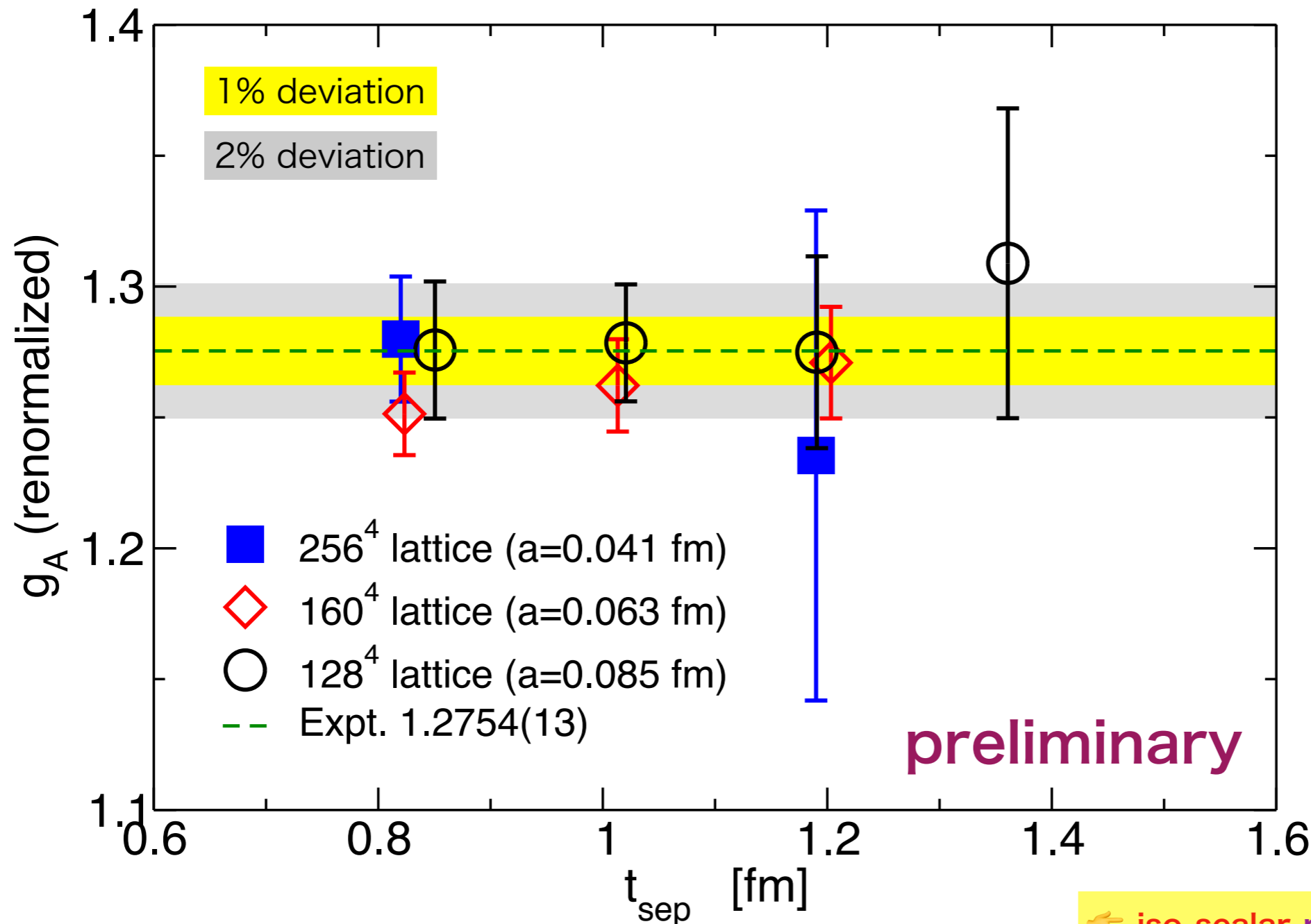
- We have studied **iso-vector** nucleon form factors calculated in 2+1 flavor QCD **at the physical point** on **(10 fm)⁴** lattice at **two lattice spacings (a=0.085 and 0.063 fm)**
 - ✓ Large spatial volume allows investigation in the **small momentum transfer region**, $0.01 < q^2 < 0.1$ [GeV²] with $q^2=0$
 - ✓ t_{sep} dependence is systematically investigated
 - ➔ g_A and G_E , G_M show **no t_{sep} dependence**
 - ➔ excited-state contributions are negligible for $t_{\text{sep}} \geq 1.2$ fm
 - ✓ **Large discretization uncertainty is observed in G_E , but not in g_A**
 - ➔ needs the third simulation at the **finer** lattice spacing

3rd simulation performed on Fugaku

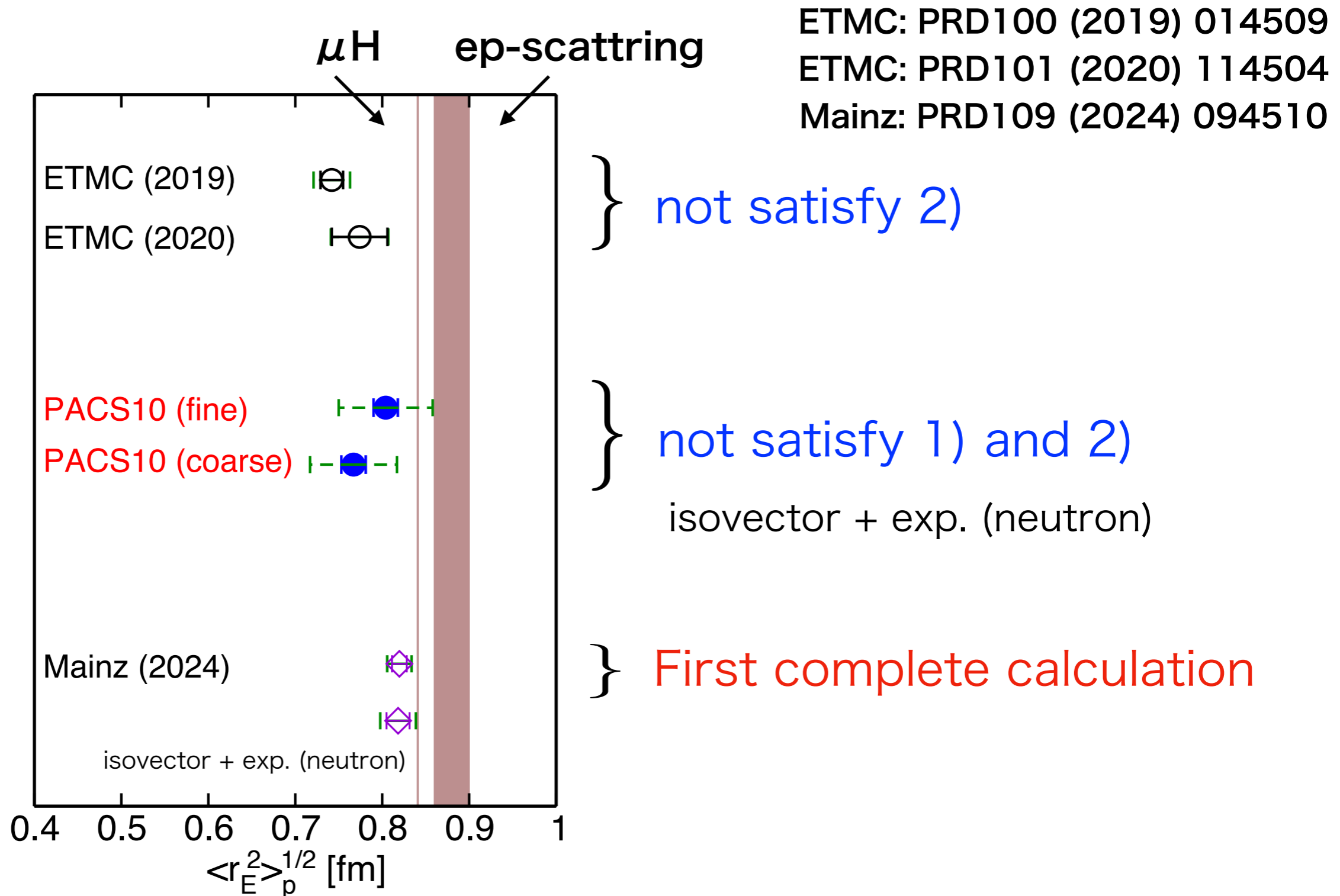
iso-vector

2023 16M node-hour@Fugaku

2024 10M node-hour@Fugaku



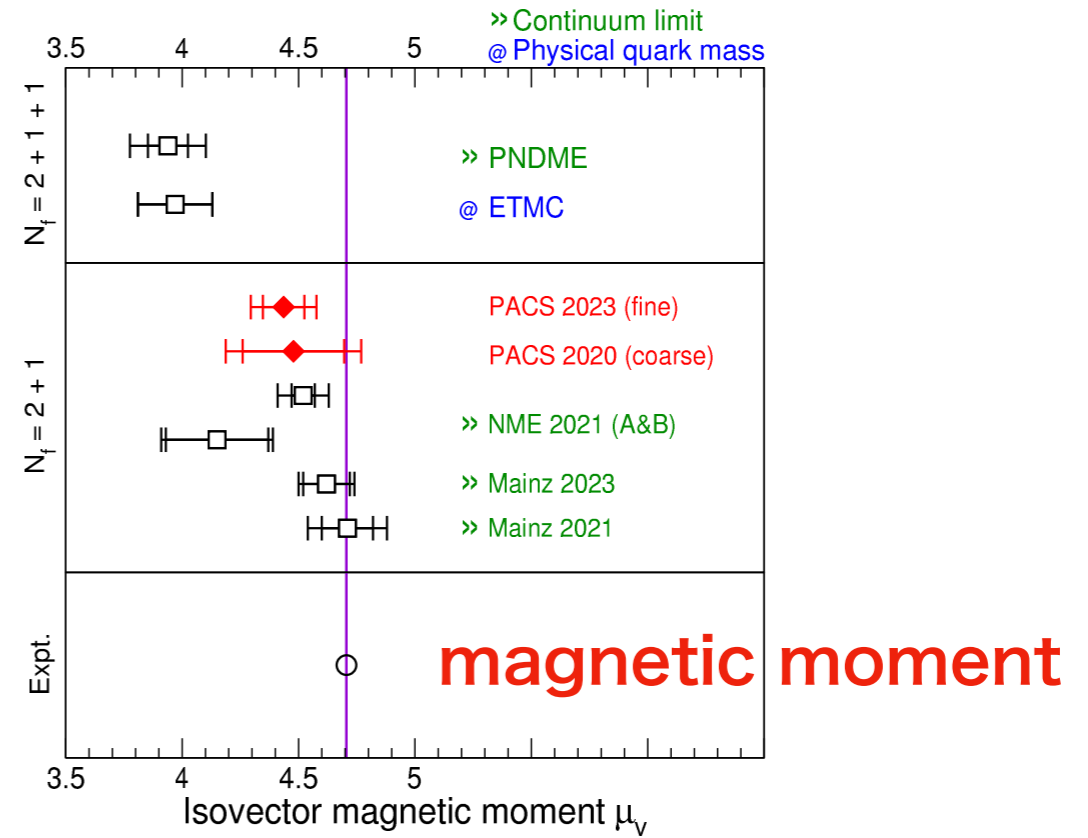
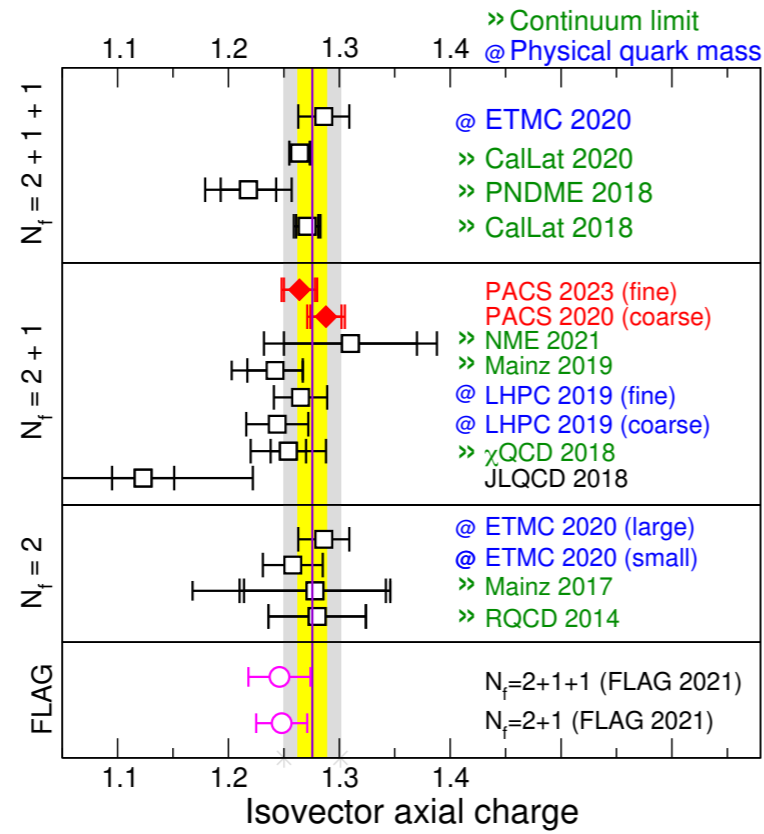
Current status for proton's charge radius from lattice QCD



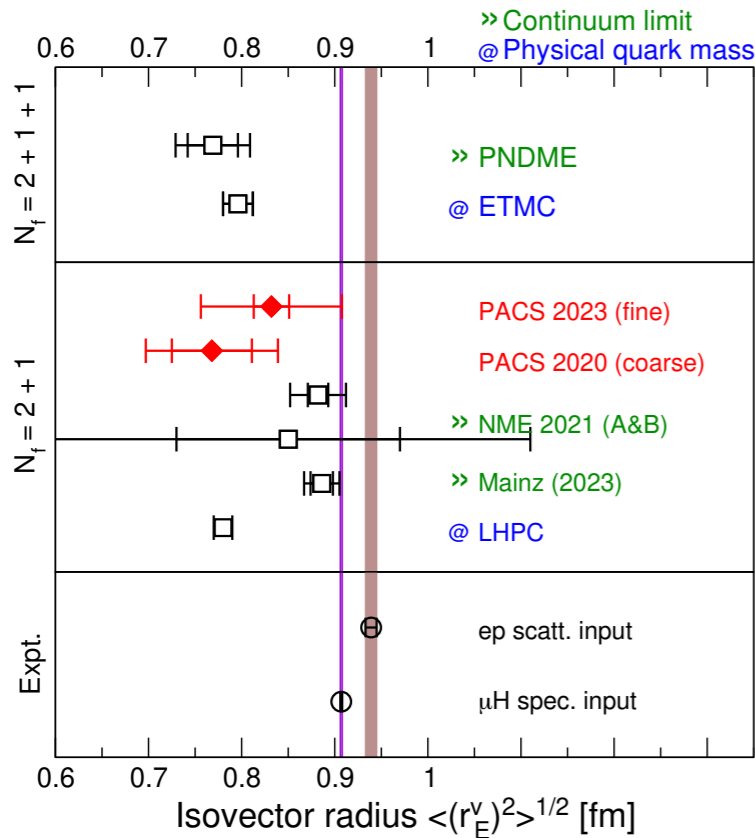
- 1) including the disconnected contribution
- 2) taking the continuum limit

Back up slides

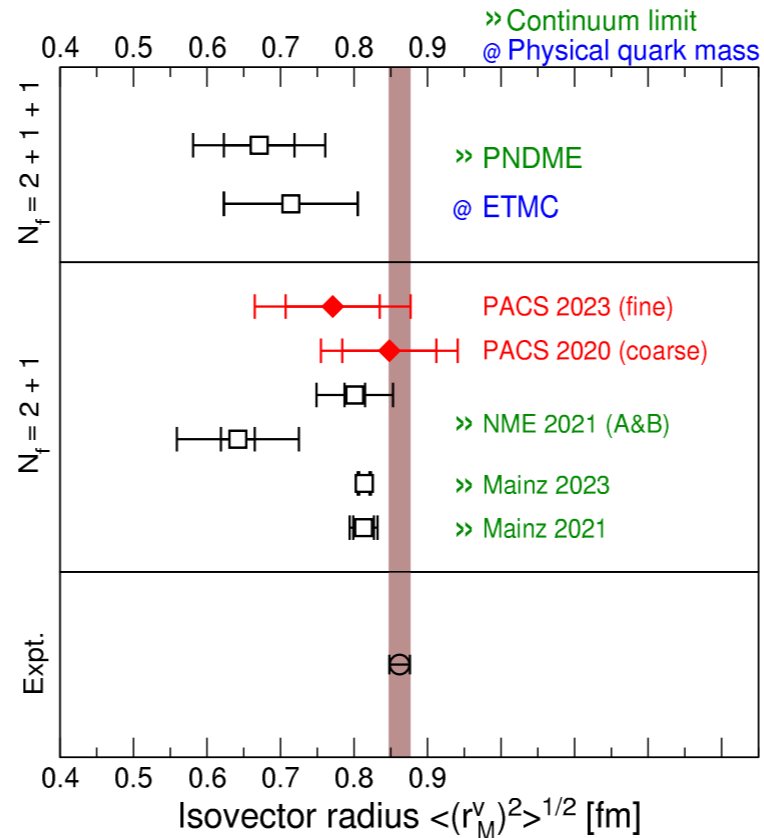
axial charge



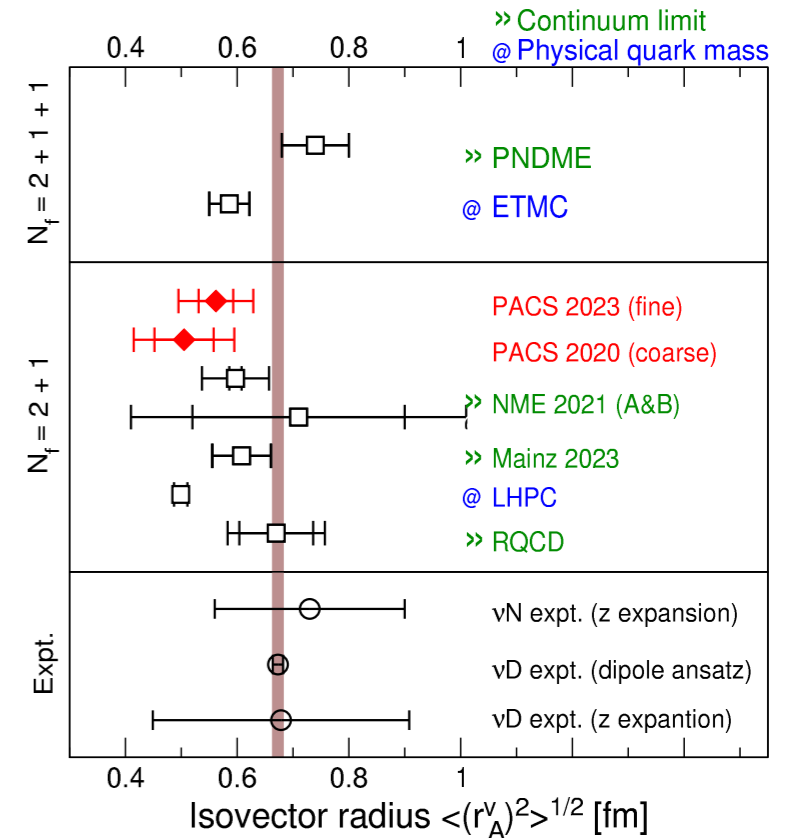
R. Tsuji et al., PRD109 (2024) 094505



electric rms radius



magnetic rms radius



axial rms radius

Mainz Group

N_f	2+1			
a [fm]	0.086	0.073	0.064	0.050
m_π [MeV]	227, 283	218, 289	130 , 207, 281, 295	176, 266
L [fm]	4.1, 2.8	4.9, 3.7	6.1 , 4.1 3.1, 2.0	4.8, 3.2

Discretization effects are statistically less precise, especially for RMS radii.

Our Group (PACS)

N_f	2+1		
a [fm]	0.085	0.063	0.04
m_π [MeV]	135	138	138
8	10.8	10.1	10

Discretization effects are observed at fixed m_π with a fixed physical volume.