Proposal: *conservative merging* of model-independent HVP combination results

- Basic requirements for the *merging* procedure:

- *Conservative* (see tensions between experimental data and differences between combinations based on same datasets)

- *Accounting for correlations between different channels* (understood meaning of systematic uncertainties and identified 15 common ones, DHMZ since arXiv:1010.4180)
Yields *unavoidable increase of total uncertainty* $693.9 \pm 1.0 \pm 3.4 \pm \boxed{1.6} \pm 0.1_{\psi} \pm 0.7_{\mathrm{QCD}}$

- Proposed *merging* procedure:

- *Central value*: simple average of the *DHMZ* and *KNT* sums of channels
(the *DHMZ* and *KNT* central values are, *by chance*, very similar)

- Experimental uncertainties: in each channel/mass range use max(DHMZ, KNT) and see by how much to increase the corresponding DHMZ uncertainty (sq. difference); enhance the DHMZ *sum of channels (with correlations)* by these amounts (sq. sum)

- Use |*DHMZ*(ch.)-*KNT*(ch.)| / 2 as extra systematic in each channel; independent between channels (sign of algebraic difference fluctuates for various channels)

o) $\pi\pi$ BABAR/KLOE systematic: max(DHMZ B./K. syst., |*DHMZ*($\pi\pi$)-*KNT*($\pi\pi$)| / 2)
(stay conservative, but avoid double-counting the effect of this B./K. tension)

o) $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$: do not include this systematic (difference understood: 1st/2nd order interp.)