



## Neutrino-nucleon interactions

Alexis Nikolakopoulos

NuINT school, Sao Paolo, Brazil

11 April 2024

# Neutrino-nucleon interactions

A very birds-eye view

Some examples based on introductory works:

E.A. Paschos, Electroweak theory

M. Thomson, Modern particle physics

Recent research

And lectures from N. Rocco at the last NuSTEC school at Fermilab

For more in-depth overviews:

References in this presentation

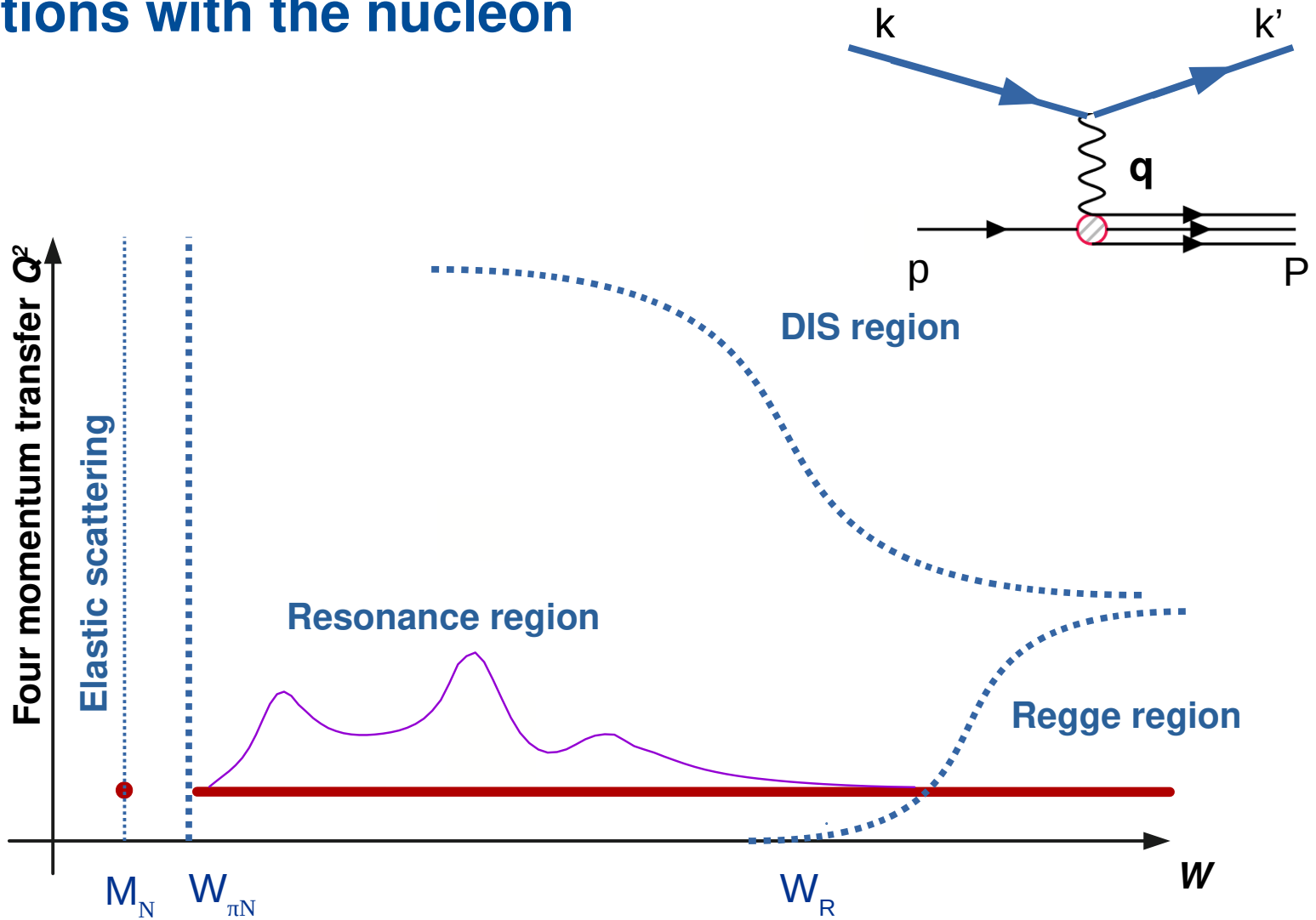
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NuSTEC White Paper : [arxiv.org/abs/1706.03621](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.03621)

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Snowmass 2021 white paper : [arxiv.org/abs/2203.09030](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.09030)

# Interactions with the nucleon

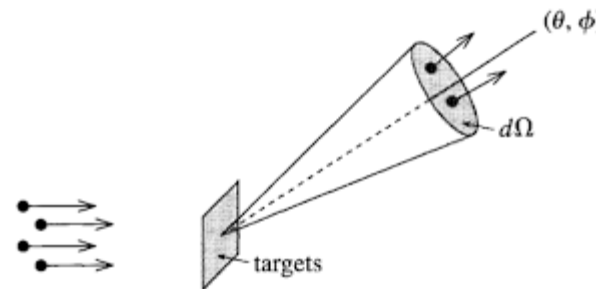


$$Q^2 = -q^2 = (k - k')^2$$

$$W^2 = P^2 = (q + p)^2 = Q^2 - 2M_N\omega + M_N^2$$

# Interaction cross section

$$N_{\text{interaction}} = \text{flux} \int_{\Delta\Omega} d\Omega \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}$$



[Taylor, ISBN:0486450139]

2 → N-2 exclusive scattering

$$p_1 + p_2 \rightarrow p_3 + p_4 + \dots + p_n$$

$$d\sigma = \underbrace{\frac{1}{F}}_{\text{flux}} \underbrace{\prod_i^n \frac{d\mathbf{p}_i}{(2\pi)^3 E_i}}_{\text{Phase space}} \underbrace{\delta^4(p_1 + p_2 - \sum_i^n p_i)}_{\text{Energy-momentum conservation}} (2\pi)^4 |\mathcal{M}|^2$$

$$F^2 = 16 ((p_1 \cdot p_2)^2 - m_1^2 m_2^2)$$

# Interaction cross section: degrees of freedom

2 → N-2 exclusive scattering

$$p_1 + p_2 \rightarrow p_3 + p_4 + \dots + p_n$$

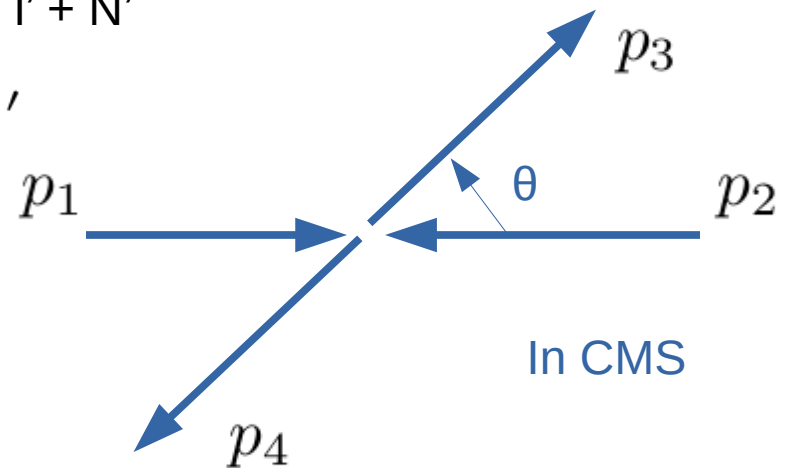
$$N_{\text{d.o.f}} = 4N - N \quad (\text{mass-shell conditions})$$

- 3 (choice of reference system)
- 3 (choice of coordinates)
- 4 (Energy-momentum conservation)

For Elastic lepton-nucleon scattering :  $l + N \rightarrow l' + N'$

$$2 \rightarrow 2 : N_{\text{d.o.f}} = 2 \quad \text{dof} = E_i, \cos \theta_{l'}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma(E)}{d\cos\theta} = \frac{1}{32\pi} \left( \frac{E'}{M_N E} \right)^2 |\mathcal{M}|^2$$



# Matrix element for lepton-hadron scattering

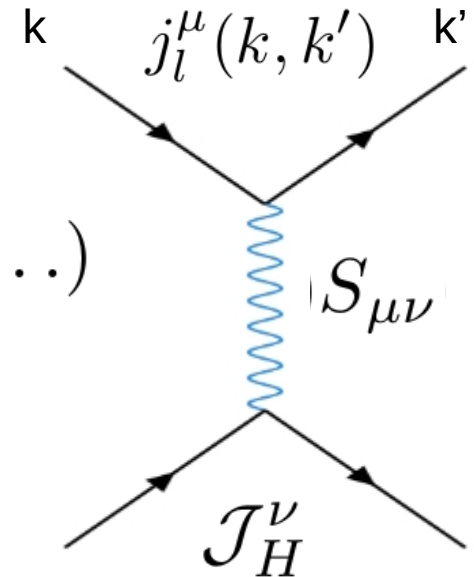
Feynman rules for one-boson exchange:

$$\mathcal{M} = j_l^\mu(k, k') S_{\mu\nu}(q = k - k') \mathcal{J}_H^\nu(q, \dots)$$

$$S_{\mu\nu}^{W/Z} = -i \frac{g_{\mu\nu} - q_\mu q_\nu / M_{W/Z}^2}{q^2 - M_{W/Z}^2} \approx -i \frac{g_{\mu\nu}}{M_{W/Z}^2}$$

$$S_{\mu\nu}^\gamma = \frac{-i g_{\mu\nu}}{q^2},$$

$$\overline{\sum}_{\lambda_l, \lambda_h} |\mathcal{M}|^2 = F_X^2 \overline{\sum} |j_l^\mu \mathcal{J}_\mu|^2 = F_X^2 \overline{\sum}_{\lambda_l} [j_l^\mu]^* j_l^\nu \sum_{\lambda_h} [\mathcal{J}_\mu]^* \mathcal{J}_\nu \equiv F_X^2 L^{\mu\nu} H_{\mu\nu}$$



# Matrix element for lepton-hadron scattering

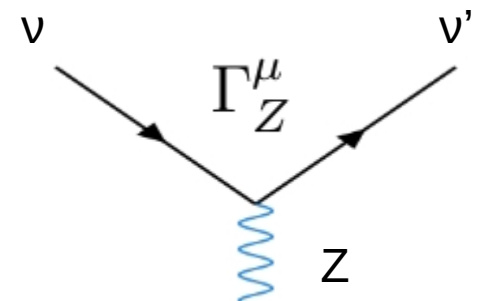
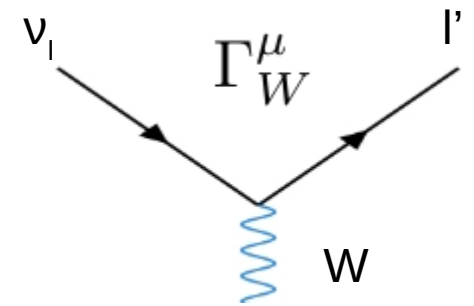
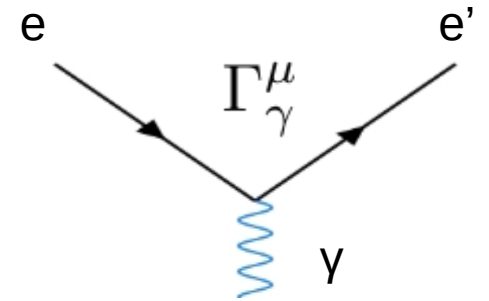
For one-boson exchange:  $j_l^\mu = \bar{u}(k')\Gamma^\mu u(k)$

$$\Gamma_\gamma^\mu = e\gamma^\mu$$

$$\Gamma_Z^\mu = \frac{g}{4\cos\theta_W}\gamma^\mu(1-\gamma^5)$$

$$\Gamma_W^\mu = \frac{g}{2\sqrt{2}}\gamma^\mu(1-\gamma^5)$$

If you calculate the lepton tensor with  $\Gamma_W$  once  
→ get all the other cases for free



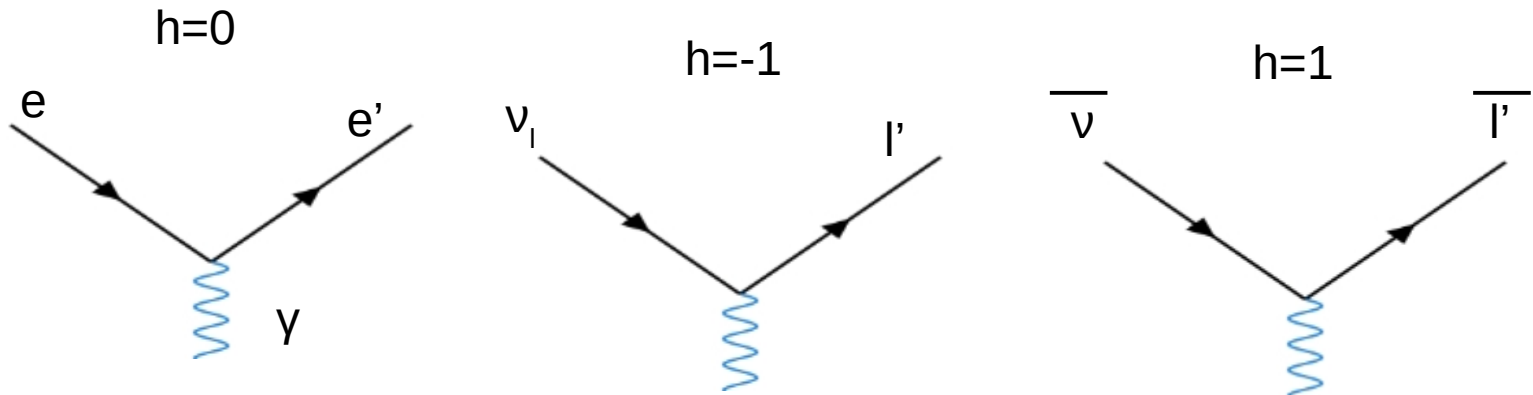
# Matrix element for lepton-hadron scattering

For one-boson exchange:

$$\overline{\sum}_{\lambda_l, \lambda_h} |\mathcal{M}|^2 = F_X^2 L^{\mu\nu} H_{\mu\nu}$$

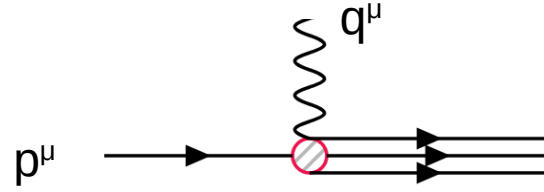
$$\mathcal{L}^{\mu\nu}(s, s') = [\bar{u}(k', s') \gamma^\mu (1 \pm \gamma^5) u(k, s)] [\bar{u}(k', s') \gamma^\nu (1 \pm \gamma^5) u(k, s)]^\dagger$$

$$\sum_{s, s'} \mathcal{L}_{s, s'}^{\mu\nu} \equiv L^{\mu\nu}(k, k', h) = 4 [k^\mu k'^\nu + k^\nu k'^\mu + g^{\mu\nu} (mm' - k \cdot k') \mp ih \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} k_\alpha k'_\beta]$$



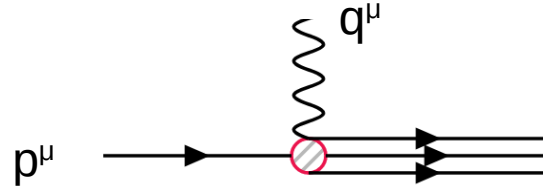


# General expression for the (inclusive) hadron tensor



$$H^{\mu\nu} = \underbrace{-g^{\mu\nu} W_1}_{\text{blue}} + \underbrace{\frac{P^\mu P^\nu}{M_N^2} W_2}_{\text{red}} + \underbrace{i \frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} P_\alpha Q_\beta}{2M_N^2} W_3}_{\text{red}} + \underbrace{\frac{Q^\mu Q^\nu}{M_N^2} W_4}_{\text{green}} + \underbrace{\frac{P^\mu Q^\nu + P^\nu Q^\mu}{M_N^2} W_5}_{\text{green}}$$

# General expression for the inclusive hadron tensor



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$$L_{\mu\nu}(h = -1)H^{\mu\nu} = 2E_i E_f \left[ 2W_1 \sin^2 \frac{\chi}{2} + W_2 \cos^2 \frac{\chi}{2} \right. \\ \left. - h \frac{W_3}{M_N} \left( \underbrace{(E_i + E_f) \sin^2 \frac{\chi}{2} - \frac{m_f^2}{2E_f}}_{\text{red}} \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{W_4}{M_N^2} m_f^2 \sin^2 \frac{\chi}{2} + \frac{W_5}{M_N} \frac{m_f^2}{E_f} \right]$$

Completely general and well-defined, but structure functions  $W_i$  depend on interaction

→ **Constraints come at level of the current**

# Elastic lepton-nucleon scattering: amplitude level

quarks

nucleons

$$\bar{u}(p')\gamma^\mu(1-\gamma^5)u(p) \rightarrow \bar{u}(p')\Gamma_V^\mu - \Gamma_A^\mu u(p)$$

Structure of vector and axial current

$$\Gamma_V^\mu = F_1(Q^2)\gamma^\mu - \frac{F_2(Q^2)}{2m_N}(\gamma^\mu \not{Q} - \not{Q}\gamma^\mu)$$

$$\Gamma_A^\mu = F_A(Q^2)\gamma^\mu\gamma^5 + \frac{F_P(Q^2)}{2m_N}Q^\mu\gamma^5$$

# Elastic lepton-nucleon scattering

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$$\Gamma_A^\mu = F_A(Q^2)\gamma^\mu\gamma^5 + \frac{F_P(Q^2)}{2m_N}Q^\mu\gamma^5$$

$$\begin{aligned} W_1 &= -\tau(F_1 + F_2)^2 - F_A^2(\tau + 1), \\ W_2 &= F_1^2 + \tau F_2^2 + G_A^2, \\ W_3 &= G_A(F_1 + F_2), \\ W_4 &= \frac{\tau - 1}{4}F_2^2 - \frac{F_1 F_2}{2} - F_P G_A M_N + \tau M_N^2 F_P^2, \\ W_5 &= \frac{W_2}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

e-N scattering

$$\begin{aligned} W_1 &= -\tau(F_1 + F_2)^2 \\ W_2 &= F_1^2 + \tau F_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

# Relativistic electron scattering with Dirac fermion

$$\mathcal{J}^\mu = e \bar{u}(k', s') \gamma^\mu u(k, s)$$

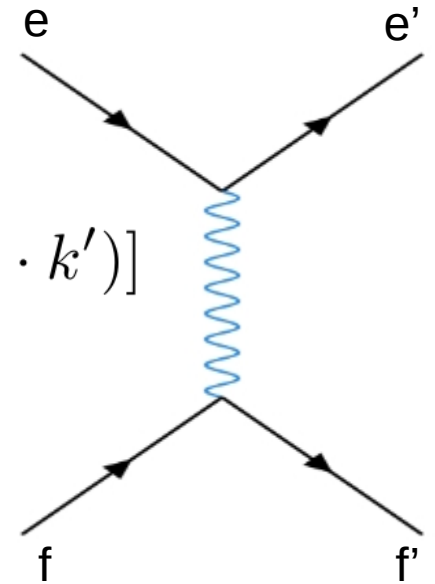
= same as the lepton-current calculated previously

$$H^{\mu\nu}(k, k') = e^2 4 [k^\mu k'^\nu + k^\nu k'^\mu + g^{\mu\nu} (mm' - k \cdot k')]$$

$$\rightarrow W_1 = Q^2/2, \quad W_2 = 2 M_p^2$$

The differential cross section is:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_{e'}} = \left(\frac{\alpha}{Q^2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{E'}{E}\right)^2 \left[ \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + \frac{Q^2}{2m_p^2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right]$$



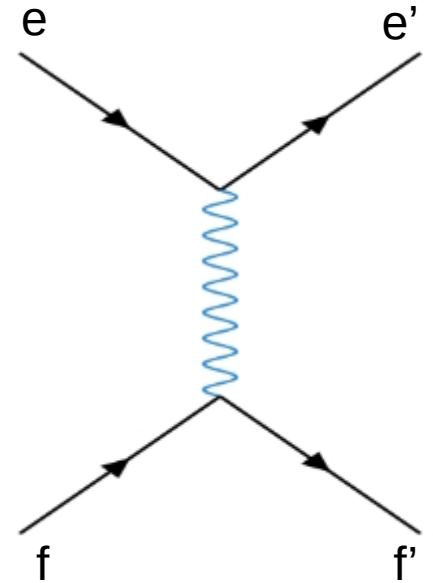
# Relativistic electron scattering with Dirac fermion

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_{e'}} = \left(\frac{\alpha}{Q^2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{E'}{E}\right)^2 \left[ \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + \frac{Q^2}{2m_p^2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right]$$

Compare to the **Mott cross section**  
= scattering off a spinless point-charge

$$\frac{d\sigma_{Mott}}{d\Omega} = \frac{\alpha^2}{(Q^2)^2} \left(\frac{E'}{E}\right)^2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

→ Dirac particle includes magnetic moment gives  $\sin^2$  term



# Electron scattering with nucleons

Spinless point charge:

$$\frac{d\sigma_{Mott}}{d\Omega} = \frac{\alpha^2}{(Q^2)^2} \left(\frac{E'}{E}\right)^2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

Point-like fermion with Dirac magnetic moment

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_{e'}} = \left(\frac{\alpha}{Q^2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{E'}{E}\right)^2 \left[ \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + \frac{Q^2}{2m_p^2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right]$$

Nucleon:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{d\sigma_{Mott}}{d\Omega} \left[ G_E^2(Q^2) + \frac{\tau}{\epsilon} G_M^2(Q^2) \right] \frac{1}{1 + \tau}$$

$$1/\epsilon = 1 + 2(1 + \tau) \tan^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \quad \tau = \frac{Q^2}{4m_p^2}$$

# Nucleon form factors: electron scattering

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{d\sigma_{Mott}}{d\Omega} \left[ G_E^2(Q^2) + \frac{\tau}{\epsilon} G_M^2(Q^2) \right] \frac{1}{1 + \tau}$$

**Electric and Magnetic form factors** of the nucleon

At small  $Q^2$  :  $G_E(Q^2) \sim G_E(q) \sim$  'the Fourier-transform of the charge density'  
(not strictly true)

Charge and magnetic moment of the nucleon:

$$G_E^p(0) = 1, \quad G_M^p(0) = \mu/\mu_B = 2.7928$$

→ Anomalous  $\mu$

$$G_E^n(0) = 0, \quad G_M^n(0) = \mu/\mu_B = -1.9130$$

Point-like fermion (no higher-order corrections)

$$G_E(0) = 1, \quad G_M(0) = \mu/\mu_B = 1$$



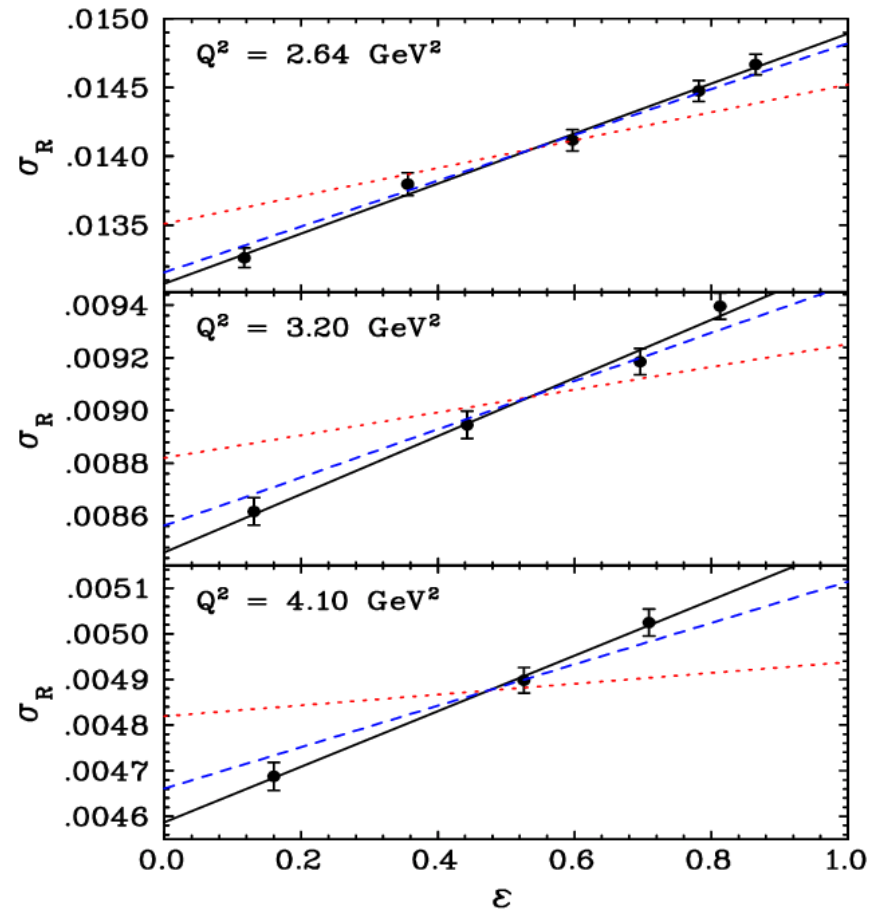
# Nucleon form factors: measurement

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{d\sigma_{Mott}}{d\Omega} \left[ G_E^2(Q^2) + \frac{\tau}{\epsilon} G_M^2(Q^2) \right] \frac{1}{1 + \tau}$$

$$1/\epsilon = 1 + 2(1 + \tau) \tan^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

Measure the cross section  
At different combinations of  $\theta$ ,  $E_i$   
with  $Q^2 = \text{constant}$

→ Can separate electric and magnetic  
form factors



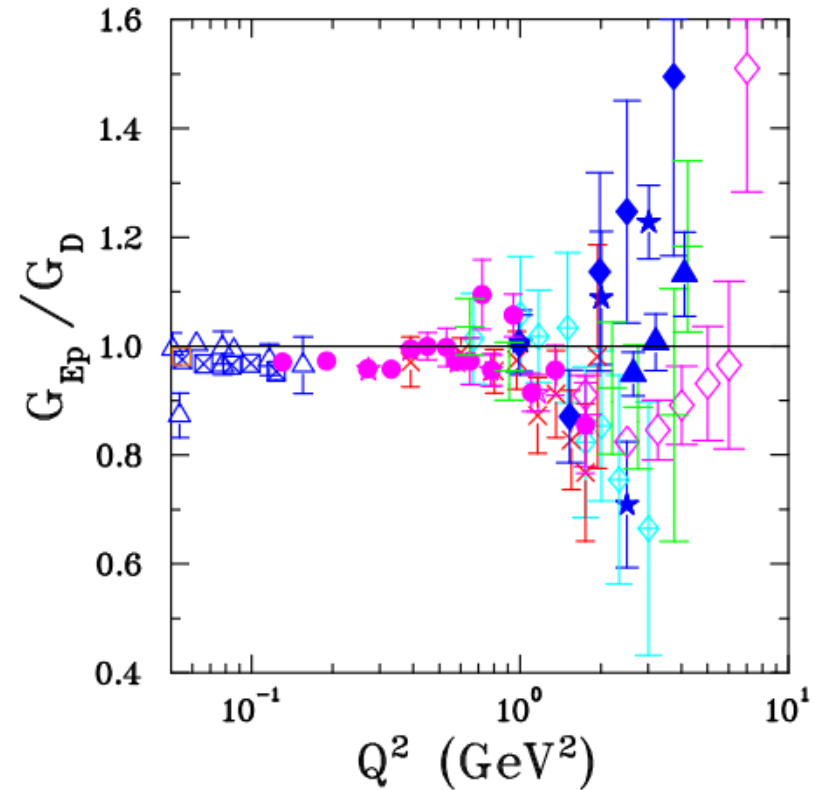
[Qattan et al., PRL 94, 142301 (2005)]

# Nucleon EM form factors

Early analysis found form-factors consistent with dipole-form

$$G_E^p(Q^2) = G_D(Q^2), \quad G_M^p(Q^2) = \mu^p G_D(Q^2), \quad G_M^n(Q^2) = \mu^n G_D(Q^2)$$

$$G_D(Q^2) = (1 + Q^2/M_V^2)^{-2}$$



[Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 59 (2007) 694-764]

# Nucleon EM form factors

Early analysis found form-factors consistent with dipole-form

Modern analyses: deviation from dipoles

Often used in generators:

Kelly form [Phys. Rev. C 70, 068202]

BBBA07 [Eur.Phys.J.C53:349-354,2008]

Z-expansion [Phys. Lett B 777, 8-15]

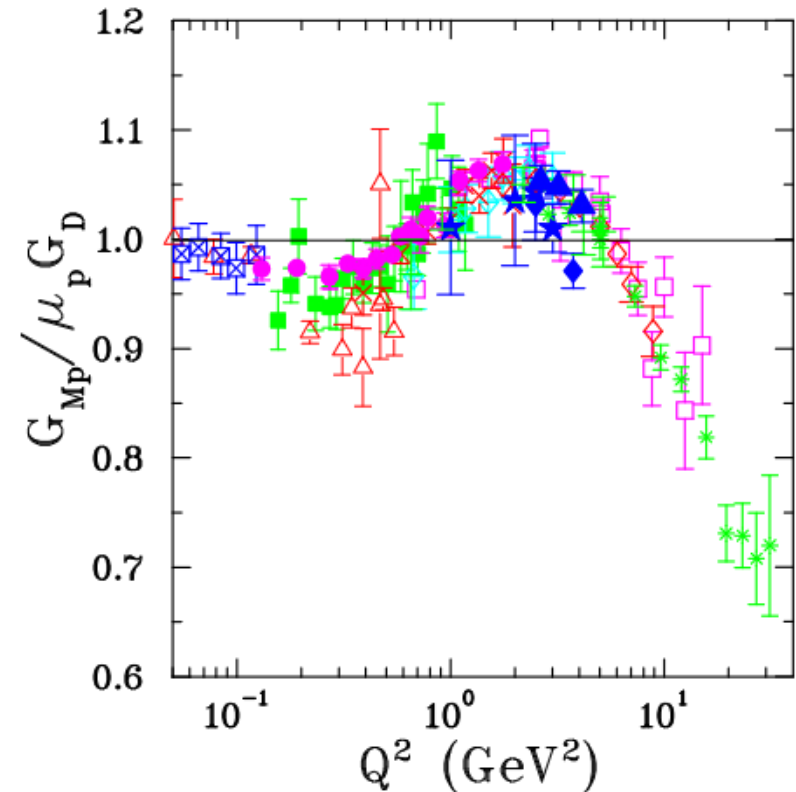
Modern measurements and analyses are of high precision:

[Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 59 (2007) 694-764]

&

[Rev. Mod. Phys. 94, 015002]

Uncertainty is not dominant for neutrino experiments



[Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 59 (2007) 694-764]

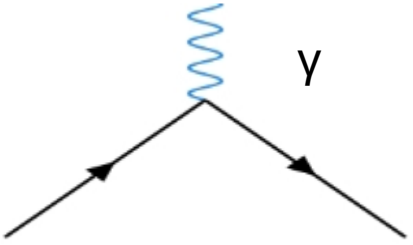
# Nucleon form factors: vector and axial currents

The Dirac structure: 2 vector and 2 axial form factors

The vector current is assumed to be an isovector operator:

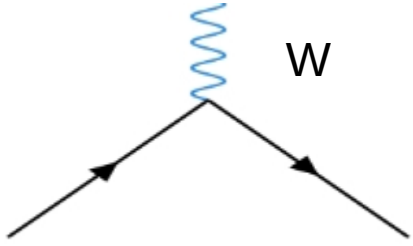
$$J_{EM}^\mu = \langle N | V_3^\mu + S^\mu | N \rangle$$

$$J_{CC\pm}^\mu = \langle N | V_\pm^\mu + A_\pm^\mu | N \rangle$$

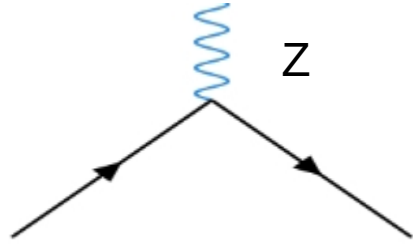


$V$

$$F_i = F_i^V \tau_3 + F_i^S$$



$$F_i^V \tau_\pm$$



$$F_i^V \tau_3 - 2 \sin^2 \theta_W (F_i^V \tau_3 + F_i^S)$$

→ Vector form factors determined from e-p and e-n scattering

# Axial form factor

-Neutrino data is less precise  
→ ANL/BNL/FNAL bubble  
chambers from 80's

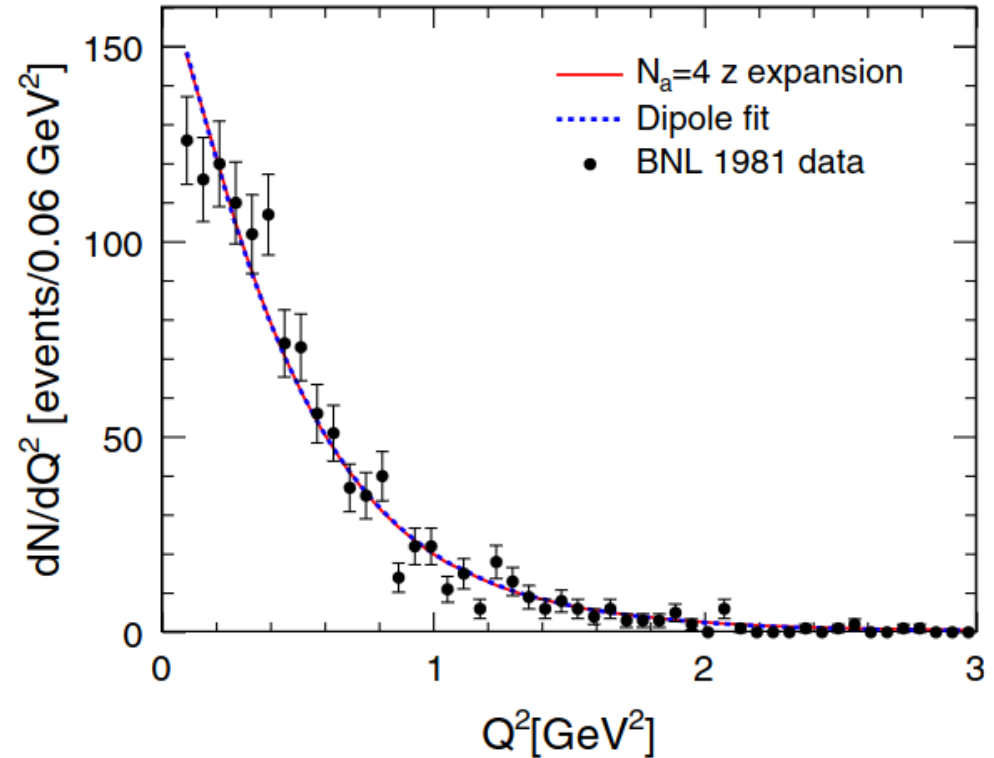
-Original fits done with dipole form:

$$G_A(Q^2) = g_A (1 + Q^2/M_A^2)^{-2}$$

$$M_A \approx 1 \text{ GeV}$$

- Modern analysis with  
Model-independent parametrization  
[Meyer et al. PhysRevD.93.113015]  
'z-expansion'

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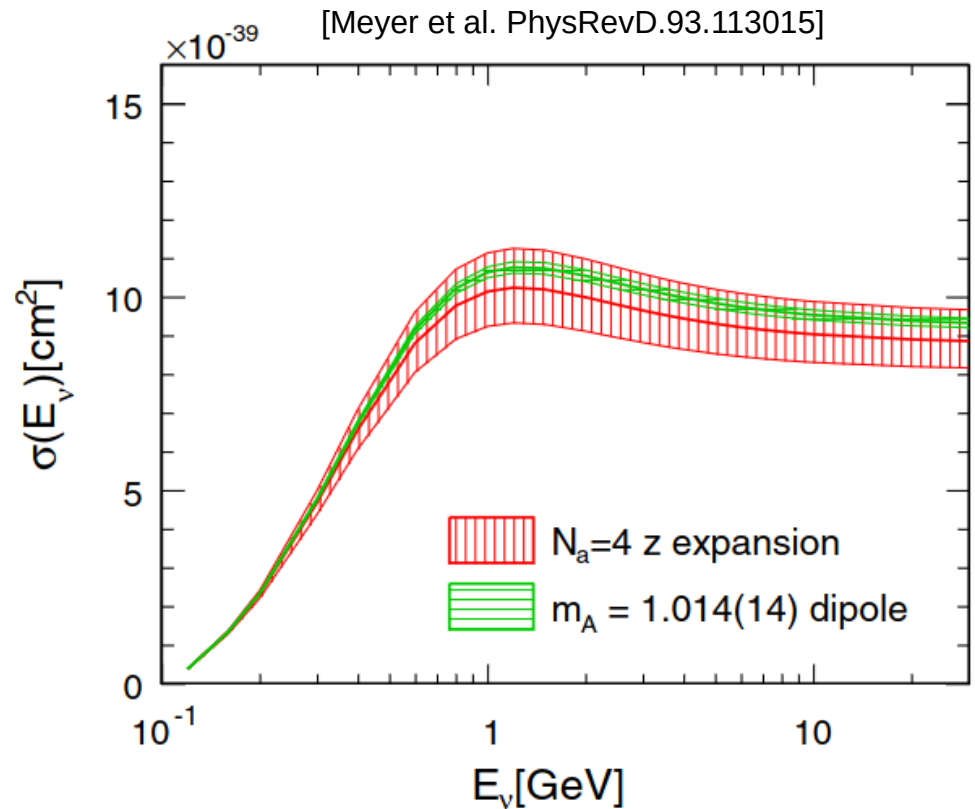
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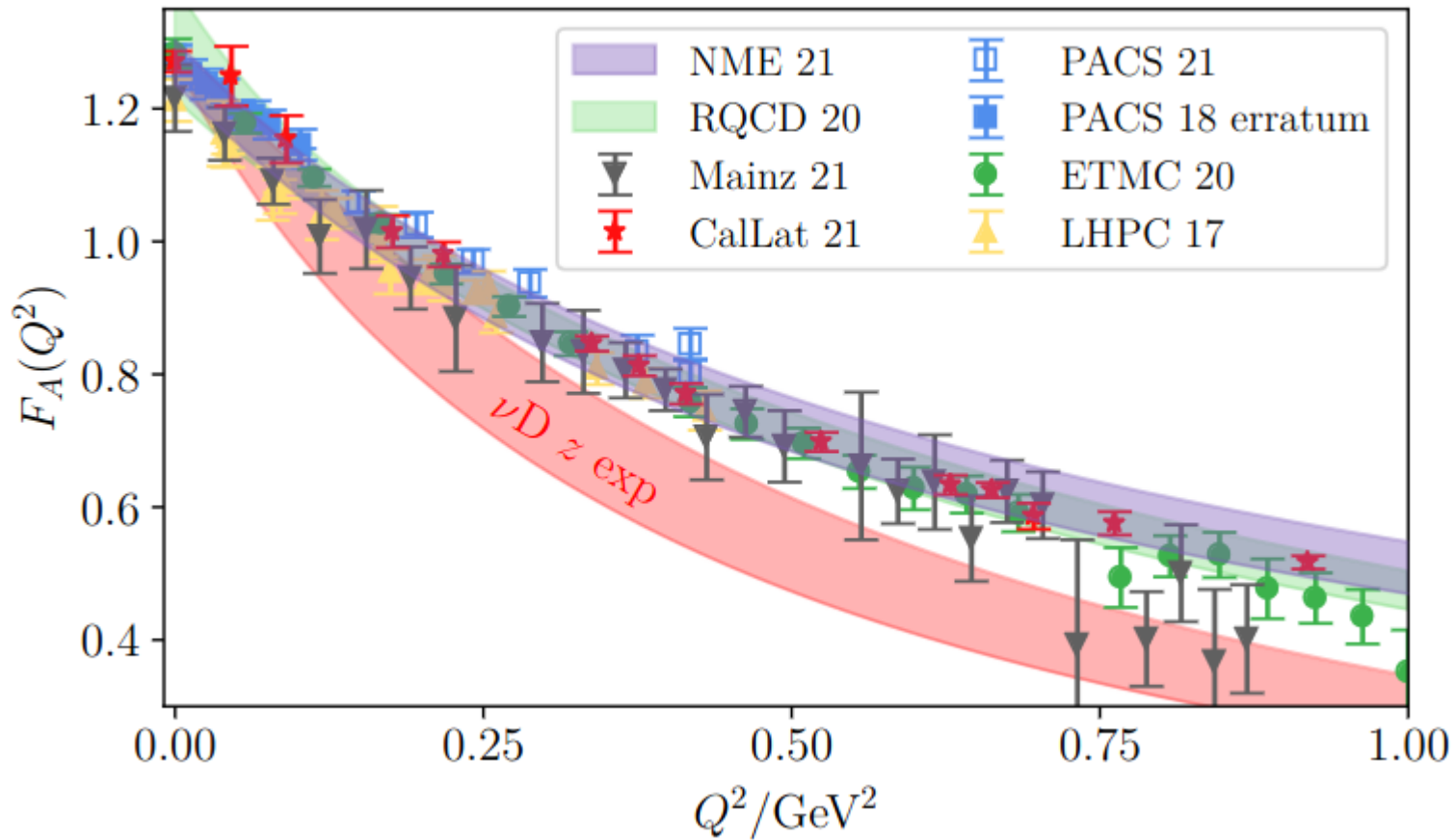
- Modern analysis with  
Model-independent parametrization  
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'z-expansion'

- More realistic error budget !



# Axial form factor: Lattice QCD

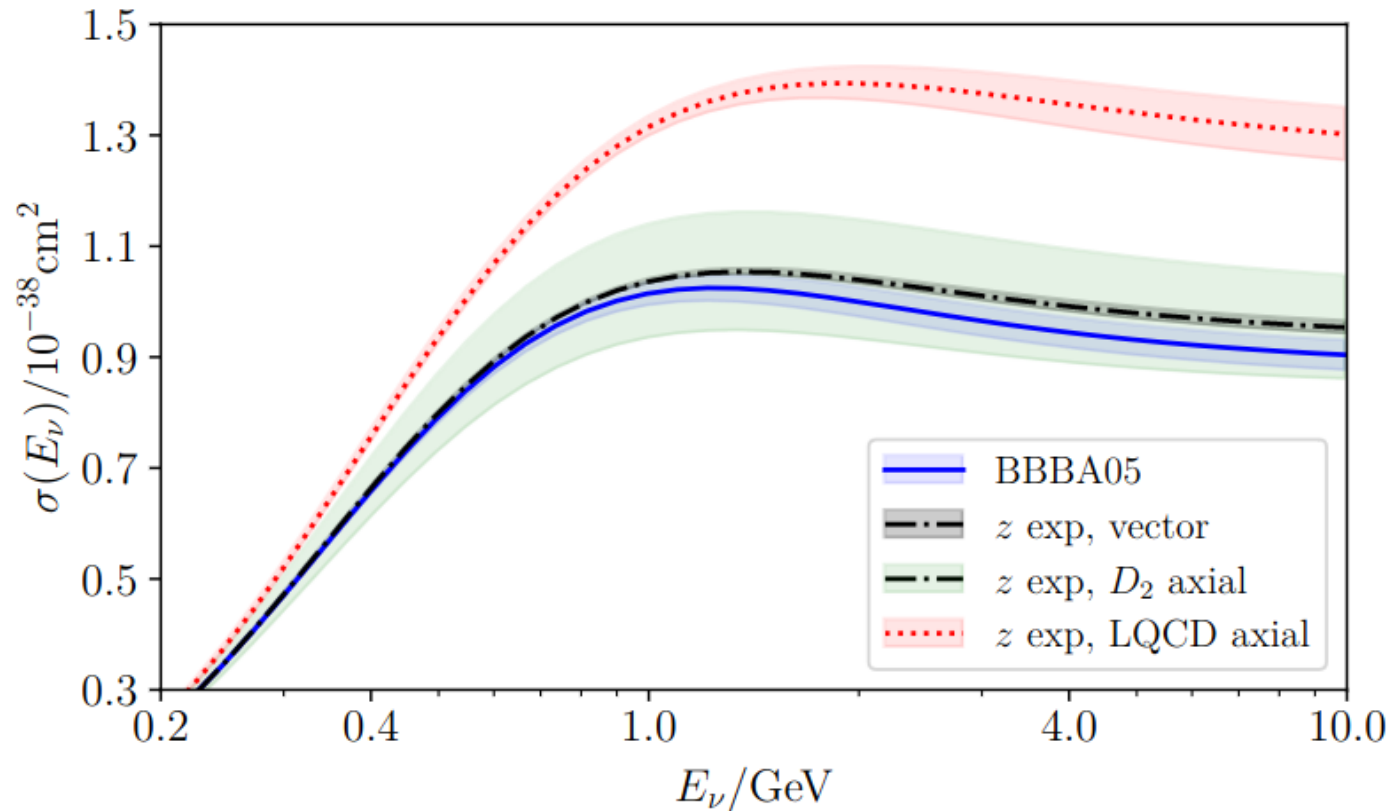
- Recent Lattice QCD calculations for the axial form factor
- **deviation from deuteron bubble chamber data**



[Meyer et al. arxiv:2201.01839]

# Axial form factor: Lattice QCD

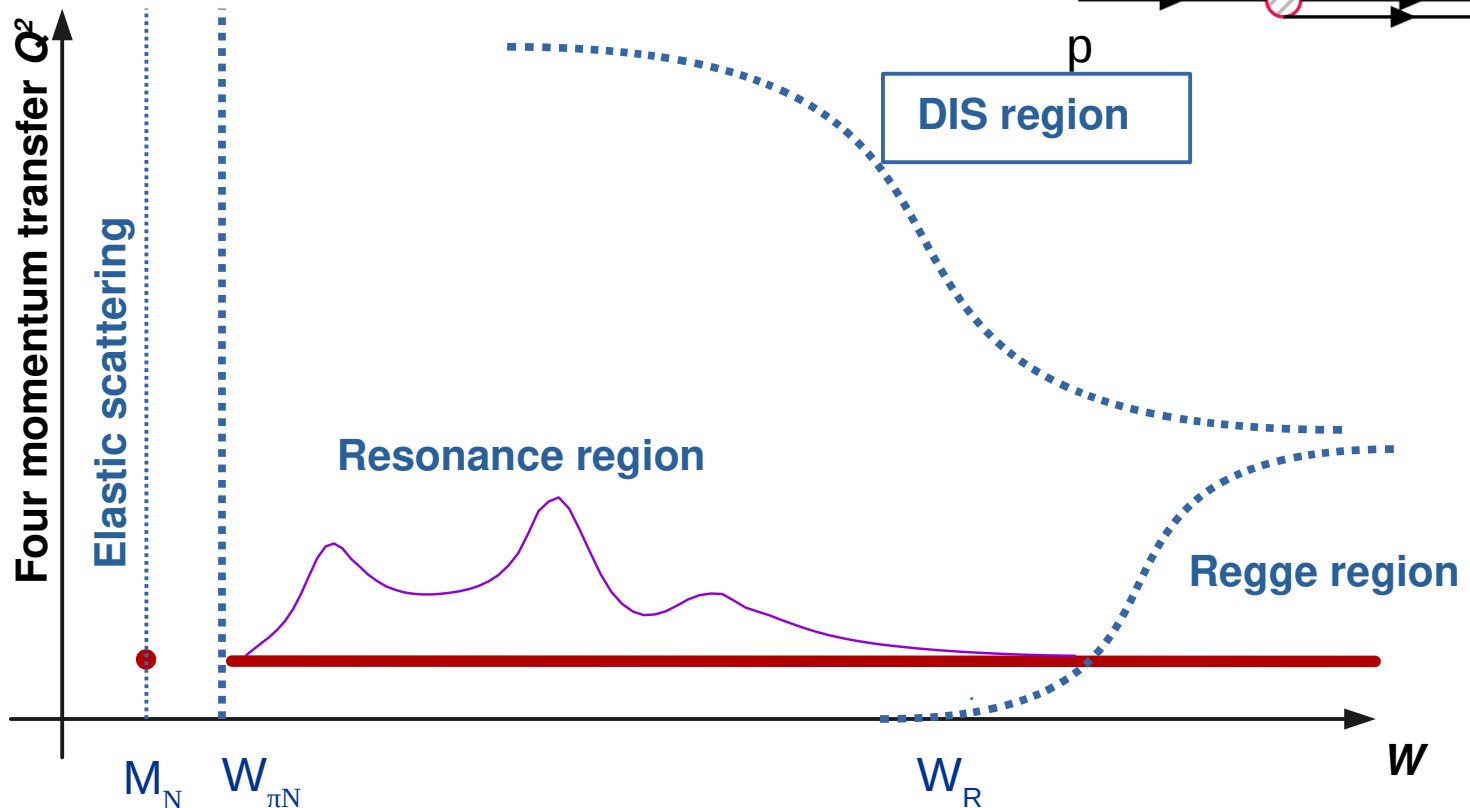
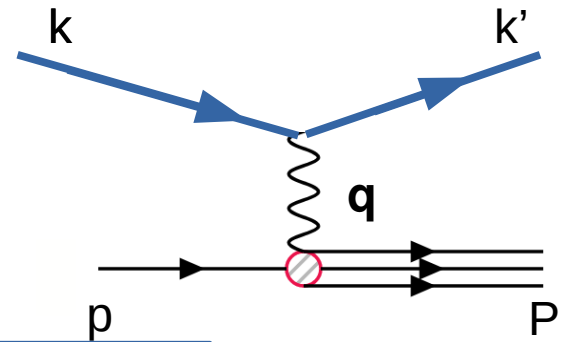
- Recent Lattice QCD calculations for the axial form factor
  - **Significant increase for the total elastic cross section**
  - **Status currently unclear**



[Meyer et al. arxiv:2201.01839]



# Interactions with the nucleon: DIS



$$Q^2 = -q^2 = (k - k')^2$$

$$W^2 = P^2 = (q + p)^2 = Q^2 - 2M_N\omega + M_N^2$$

Bjorken  $x$  :  $0 < x < 1$

$$x \equiv \frac{Q^2}{2p \cdot q} = \frac{Q^2}{2M_N(E - E')}$$

# Deep inelastic scattering

$$H^{\mu\nu} = -g^{\mu\nu}W_1 + \frac{P^\mu P^\nu}{M_N^2}W_2 + i\frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}P_\alpha Q_\beta}{2M_N^2}W_3 + \cancel{\frac{Q^\mu Q^\nu}{M_N^2}W_4} + \cancel{\frac{P^\mu Q^\nu + P^\nu Q^\mu}{M_N^2}W_5}$$

$$W_i^{elastic}(q^2) \rightarrow W_i^{inelastic}(q^2, p \cdot q) = W_i(Q^2, x)$$

$$\frac{d\sigma(E)}{dQ^2} \rightarrow \frac{d\sigma(E)}{dQ^2 dx}$$

# Deep inelastic scattering

## Bjorken scaling

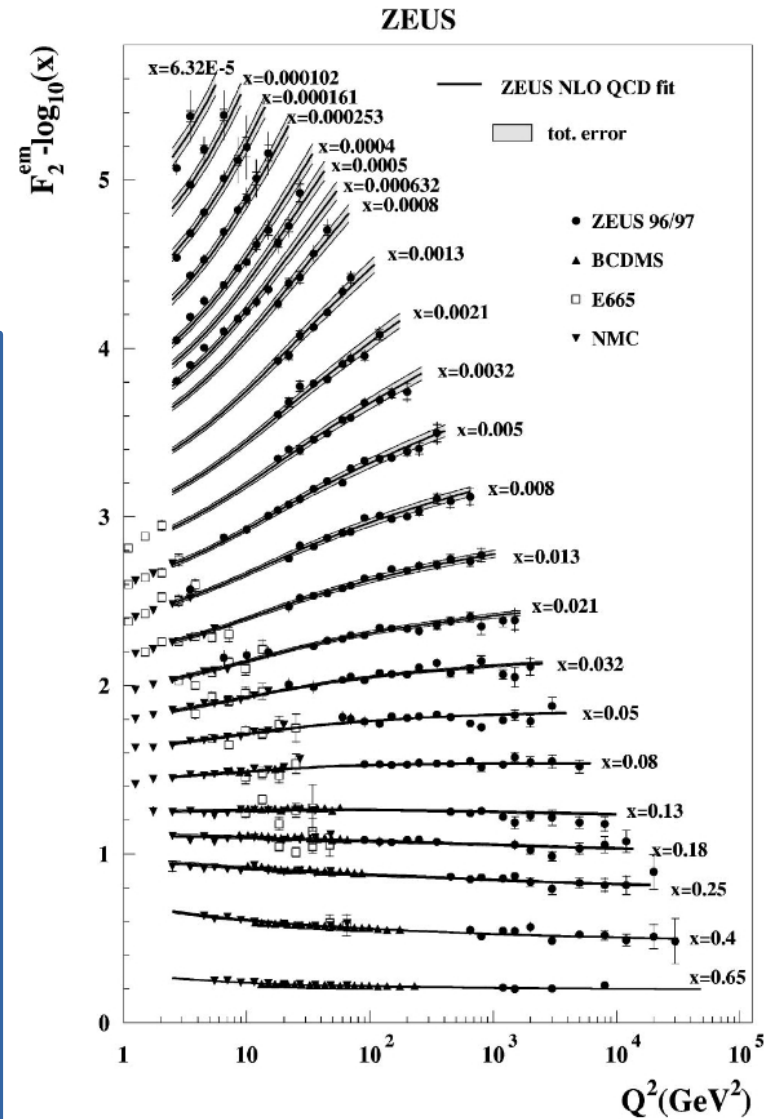
In the limit

$$\omega \rightarrow \infty, \quad Q^2 \rightarrow \infty, \quad 0 < x = \frac{Q^2}{2M_N\omega} < 1$$

Structure functions  $F_i$  become independent of  $Q^2$

$$\omega W_{2,3}(x, Q^2) \equiv F_{2,3}(x, Q^2) \rightarrow F_{2,3}(x)$$

$$MW_1(x, Q^2) \equiv F_1(x, Q^2) \rightarrow F_1(x)$$



[Phys. Rev. D 67, 012007]

# Deep inelastic scattering

Simple explanation of **Bjorken scaling** is the parton picture:  
“Scattering of point-like fermions with momentum fraction  $x$ ”

$$\frac{d\sigma^\gamma}{dx dQ^2} = 4\pi \left( \frac{\alpha}{Q^2} \right)^2 [(1-y) + y^2/2] n_p(x)$$

$$\frac{d\sigma^\gamma}{dx dQ^2} = 4\pi \left( \frac{\alpha}{Q^2} \right)^2 \left[ (1-y) \frac{F_2(x, Q^2)}{x} + y^2 F_1(x, Q^2) \right] n_p(x)$$

$$\rightarrow \underline{F_2 = 2xF_1 = xn_p(x)}$$

Callan-Gross relation

See e.g. [E.A. Paschos, Electroweak theory]  
[Thomson, Modern particle physics]

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## In practice

Rigorous factorization theorems

[Collins et al. Factorization of Hard Processes in QCD]

Higher order QCD + non-perturbative corrections

Relevance of and overlap with neutrino program:  
[NuSTEC white paper, arXiv:1706.03621]

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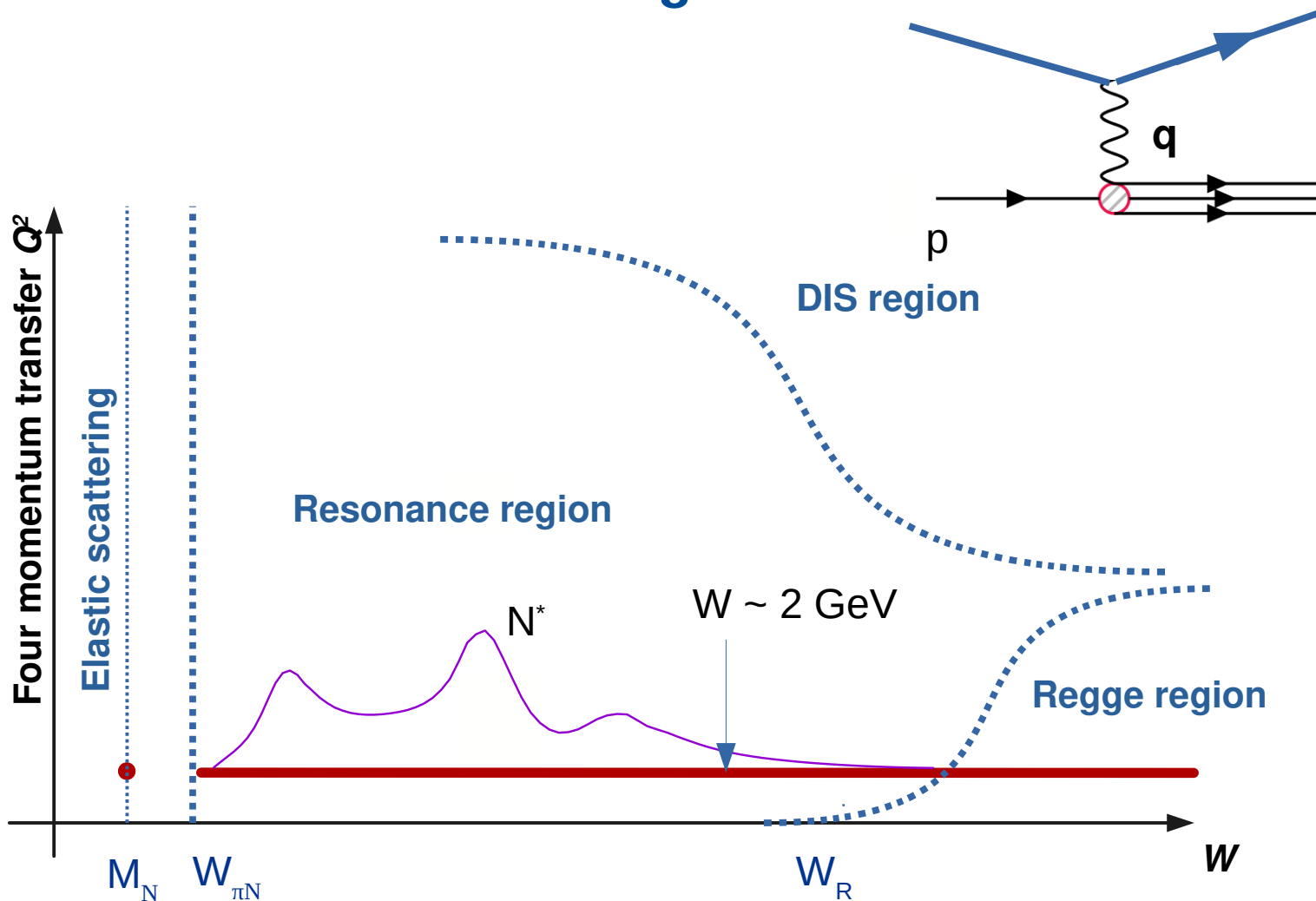
Higher order QCD + non-perturbative corrections

Relevance of and overlap with neutrino program:  
[NuSTEC white paper, arXiv:1706.03621]

Neutrino generators use DIS at low  $Q^2$  and  $W \sim 1.5$  GeV

- ➔ Often called ‘Shallow inelastic scattering’ (SIS)  
‘transition’ between hadronic and parton degrees of freedom
- ➔ Brings us to the resonance region

# Interactions in the resonance region

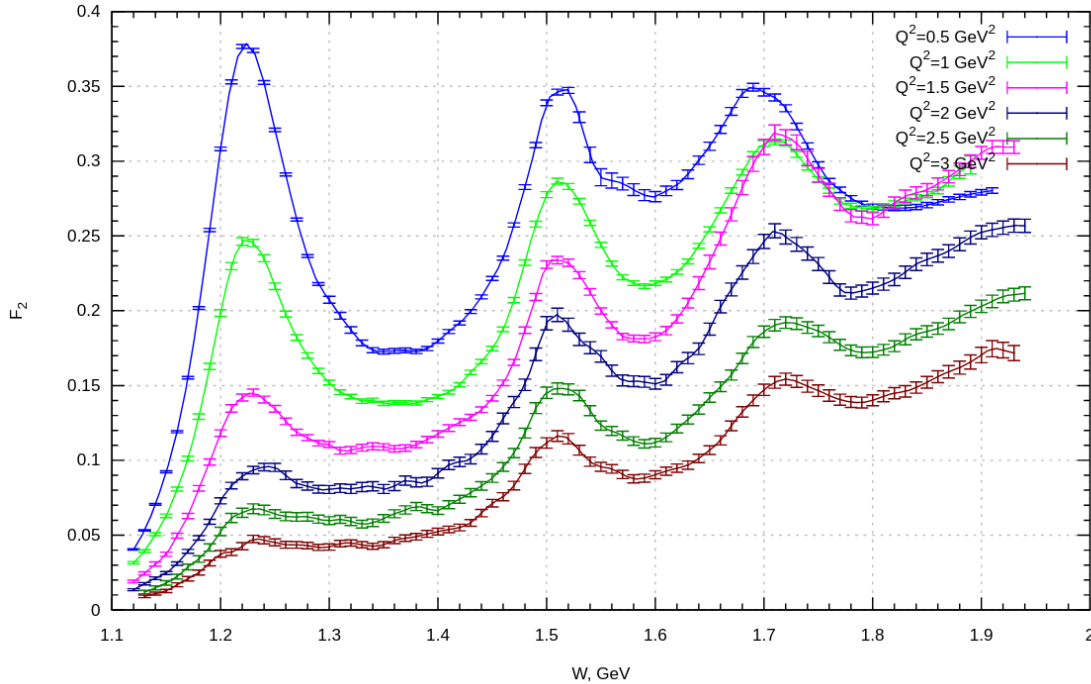


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$$W^2 = P^2 = (q + p)^2 = Q^2 - 2M_N\omega + M_N^2$$

# Interactions in the nucleon resonance region

- Significant contribution to event rate in  $\sim 1$  GeV experiments



Proton  $F_2$  structure functions ( $e, e'$ ) CLAS

From [[clas.sinp.msu.ru/strfun/](http://clas.sinp.msu.ru/strfun/)]

GENIE estimates for **SBND**:

$\sim 23$  % of the signal has a pion

Of which  $\sim 80$  % in resonance region

**Non-perturbative, no factorization**  
 $\rightarrow$  **Hadron d.o.f**



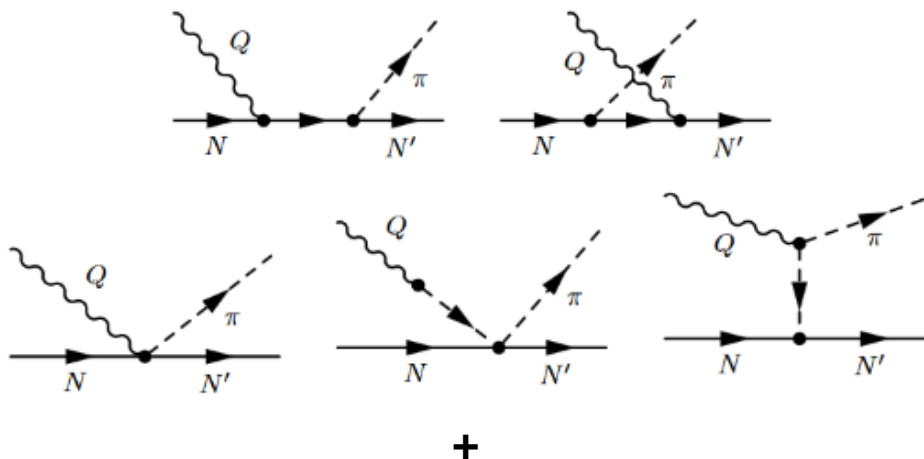
# Electro and photoproduction of pions

**Much expertise from electromagnetic interactions with hadrons**

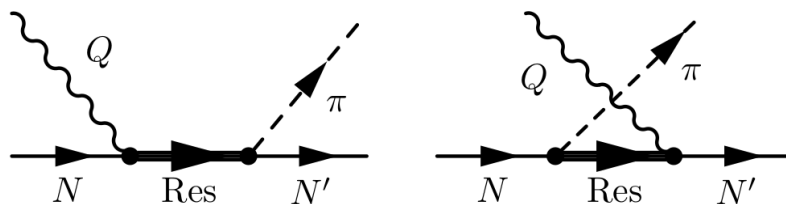
Many approaches available in the literature

- MAID07, CLAS analyses ('unitary isobar model')
- Julich-Bonn, ANL-Osaka, ... (Dynamical models)
- ...

Non-resonant



Baryon resonances



## Electro and photoproduction

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Supported by a large amount of data!

### MAID07

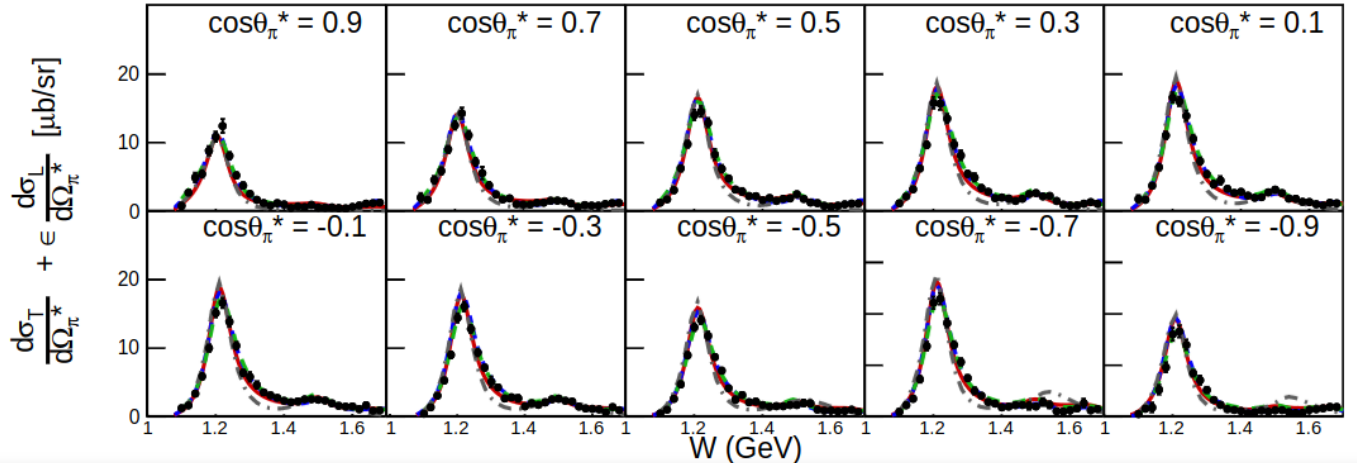
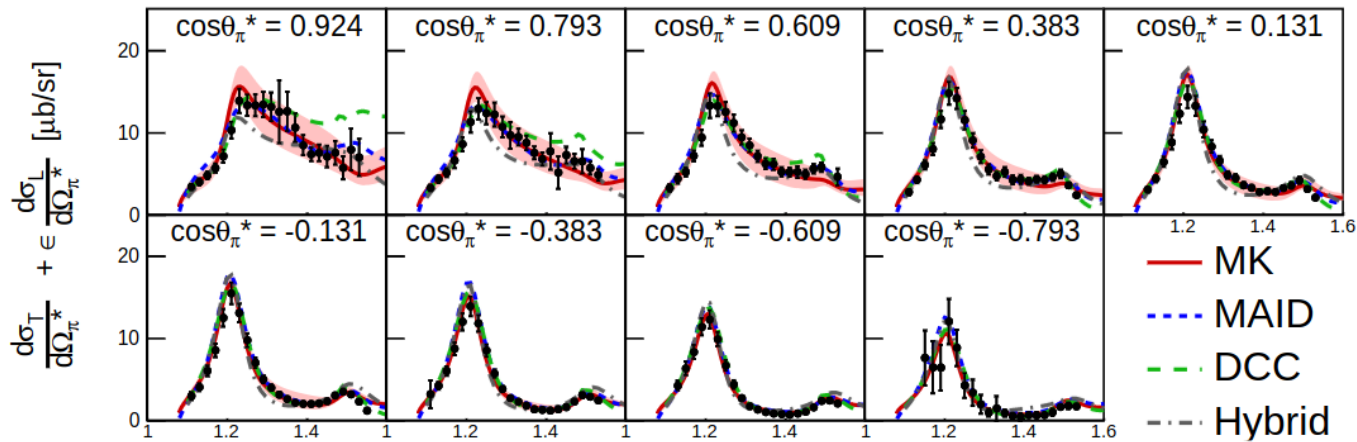
~18 000 points for photon processes

$n\pi^+$	0.4-0.65	$d\sigma_{LT'}$
CLAS06 [46] $n\pi^+$	1110-1570	4179
CLAS06 [13] $p\pi^0$	1110-1390	8491
total $p\pi^0, n\pi^+$	1074-1975	68457 $d\sigma, \dots$

Electron-proton data in MAID07

# Electron-induced SPP: high quality proton target data

Figures from M. Kabirnezhad [arxiv:2203.15594]

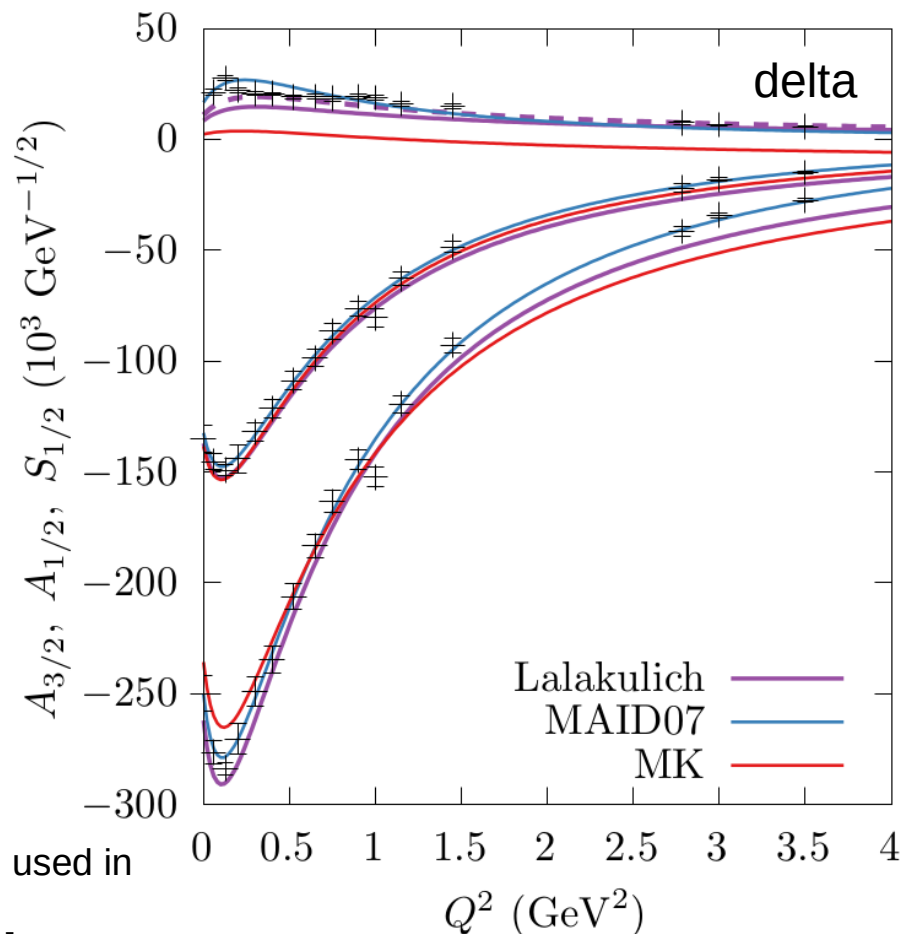
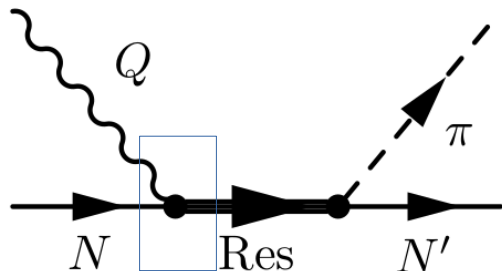


, CLAS data

Differential exclusive cross sections are abundant for large kinematic range

# Form factors for resonance excitation extracted from data

Model of background + resonances  
can be used to determine  
 $\gamma^*p \rightarrow R$  form-factors  
(model-dependent!)



Helicity amplitudes from CLAS and MAID07 analyses used in  
Neutrino pion production models :

- Lalakulich et al [Phys. Rev. D74, 014009 (2006)]
- Hernandez et al. [Phys Rev D 77 053009 (2008)]
- Nikolakopoulos et al. [Phys Rev D 107, 05300 (2023)]

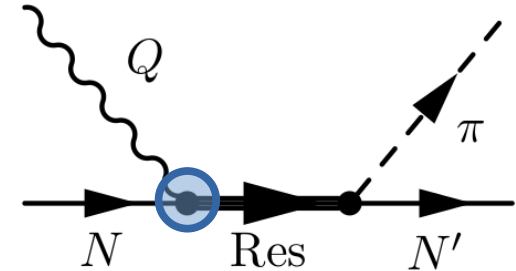
## Axial couplings are not well constrained

The quality of neutrino-nucleon scattering data is not up to par

**Spin 3/2 resonance:**

$$\Gamma_A^{\beta\mu} = \frac{C_3^A}{M} \left( g^{\beta\mu} Q - Q^\beta \gamma^\mu \right) + \frac{C_4^A}{M^2} \left( g^{\beta\mu} Q \cdot k_R - Q^\beta k_R^\mu \right) \\ + C_5^A g^{\beta\mu} + \frac{C_6^A}{M^2} Q^\beta Q^\mu,$$

→ 4 axial form-factors

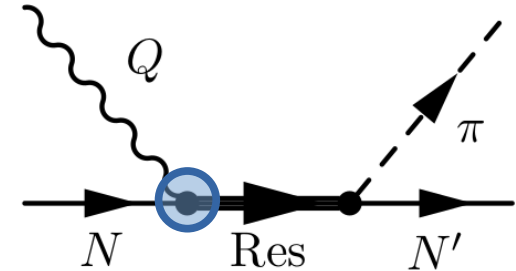


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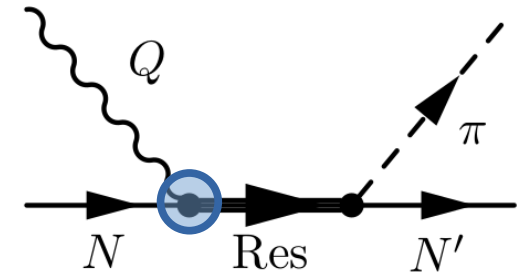
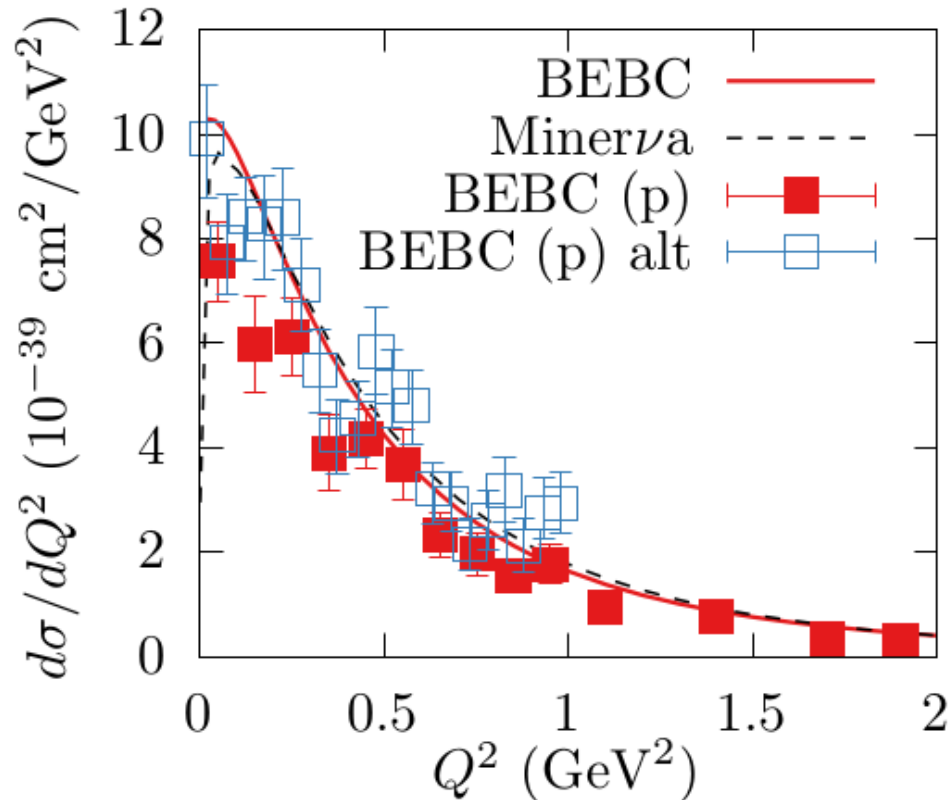


Constraints on  $C_5^A(Q^2=0)$  and  $C_6^A(Q^2=0)$ , can be formulated from PCAC

**No constraints on other form factors or  $Q^2$  - dependence**

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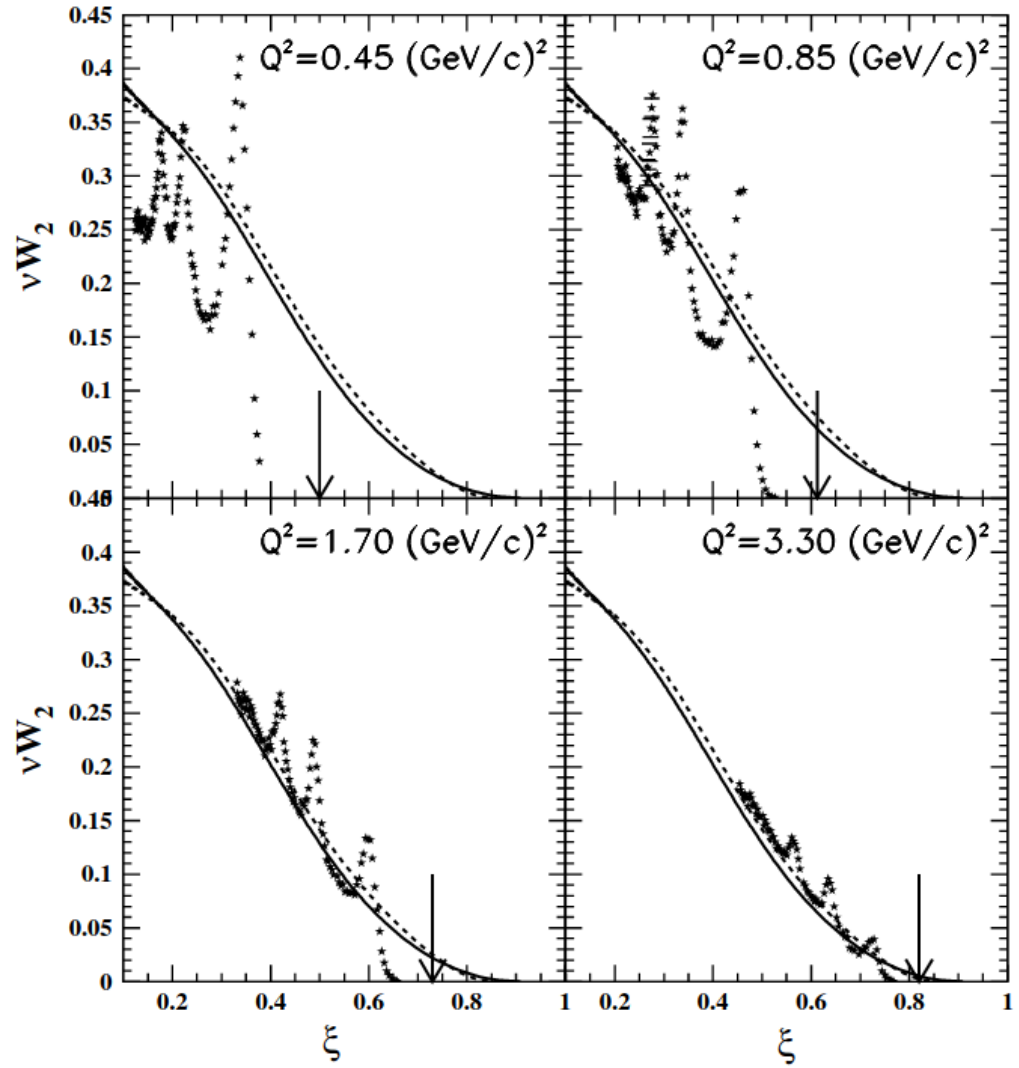


Data shows large uncertainties

# Quark-hadron duality

[W. Melnitchouk et al. ,Phys. Rept. 406, 127–301 (2005), arXiv:hep-ph/0501217]

$F_2$  structure function  
In electron scattering in RES region  
  
Approaches and averages to  
DIS structure function



[Niculescu et al. PRL85, 1186 (2000)]



# Quark-hadron duality in neutrino interactions

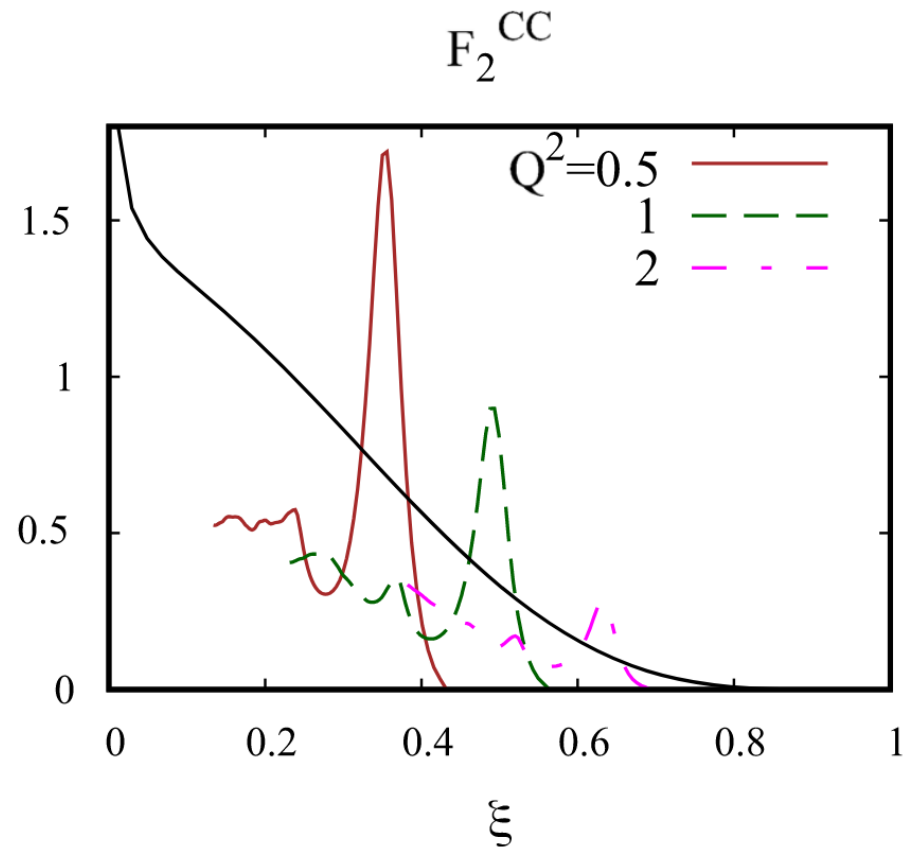
[T. Sato EPJ:ST (2021) 230:4409-4418 (2022)]

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For CC  $\nu$  scattering

- ANL-Osaka DCC model underestimates  $F_2$  from DIS
- Modifying the  $Q^2$ -dependence of resonance axial form factor to that from electrons :

**Improved agreement with DIS**



[T. Sato EPJ:ST (2021) 230:4409-4418 (2022)]

see also:

[O. Lalakulich et al. PRC79 015206 (2009)]

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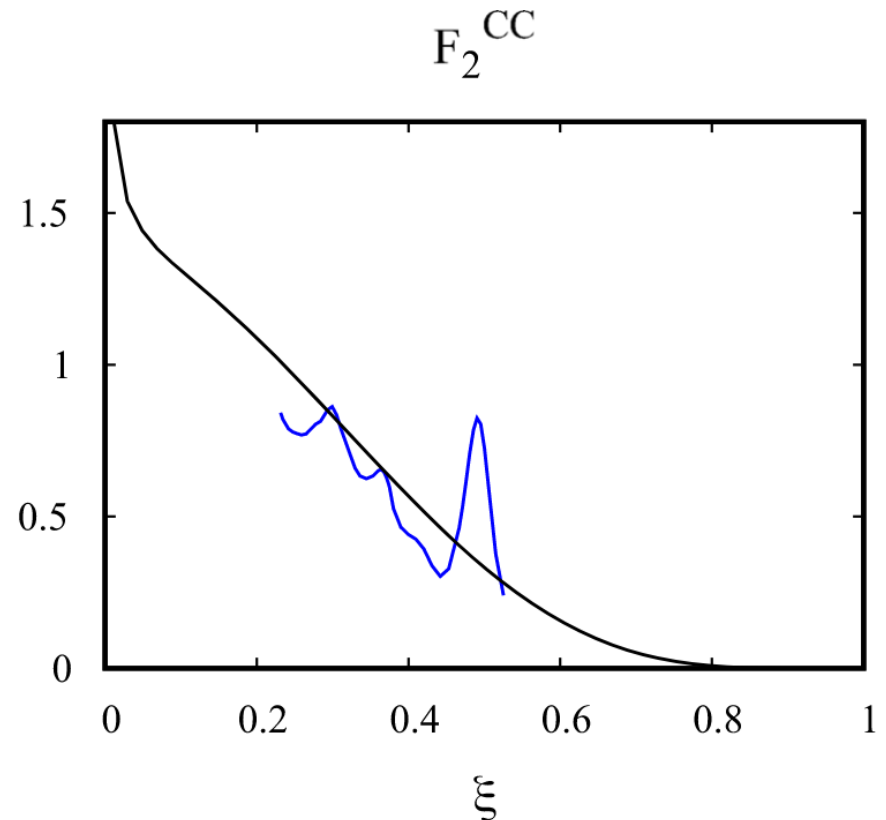
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**Questions ? Answers ?**