

# Theory of neutrino cross-sections

Joanna Sobczyk

NuFact2024, 17 September 2024

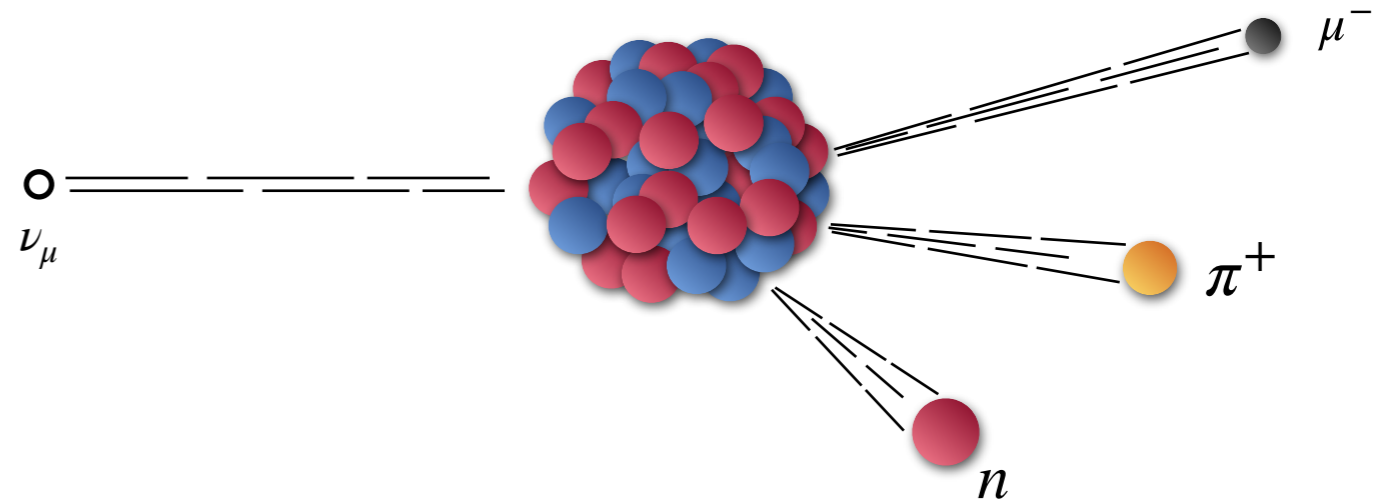
**WG2: Neutrino Scattering  
Physics**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 101026014

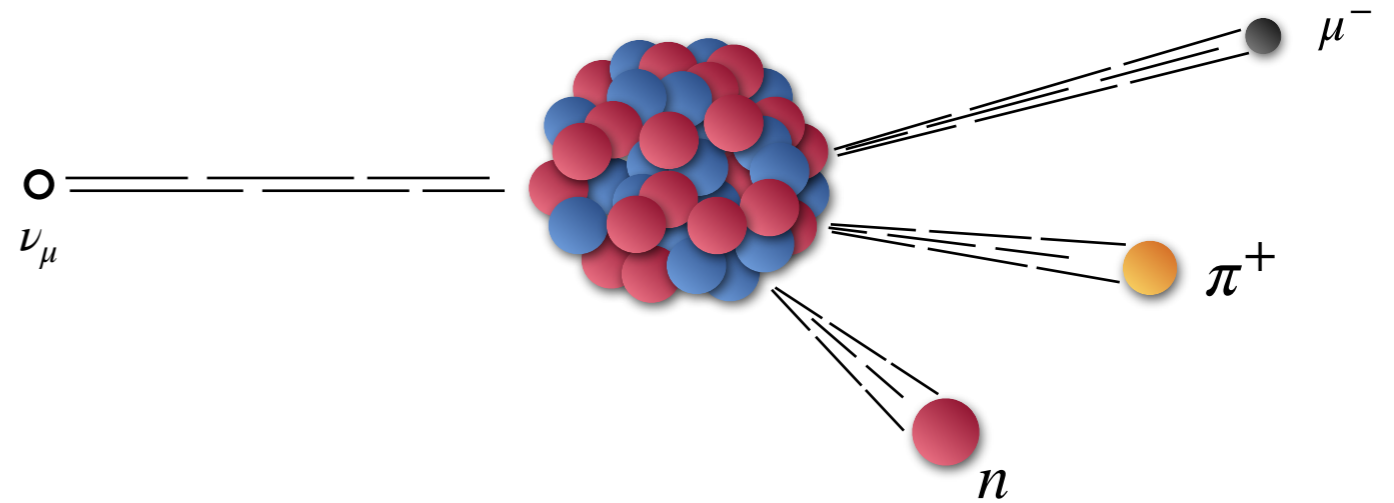
# $\nu$ scattering

- ➔ Neutrino basic properties
- ➔ Nature of neutrino sources
- ➔ Nuclear structure

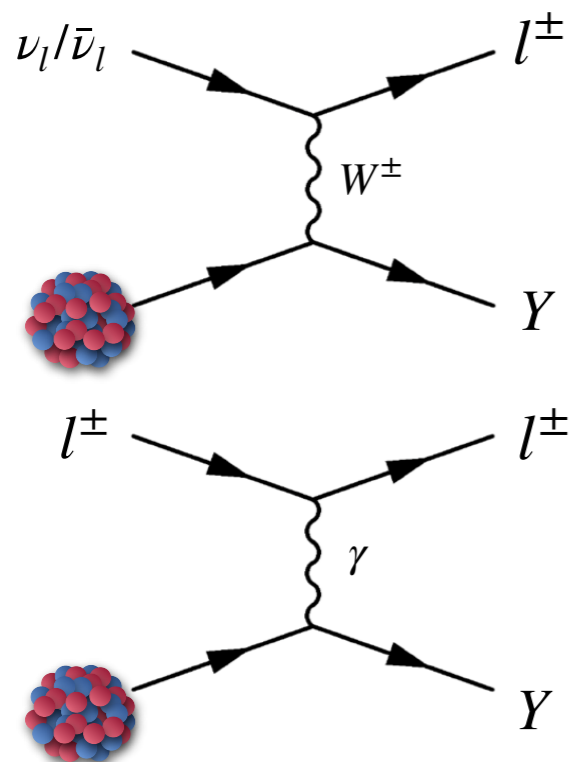


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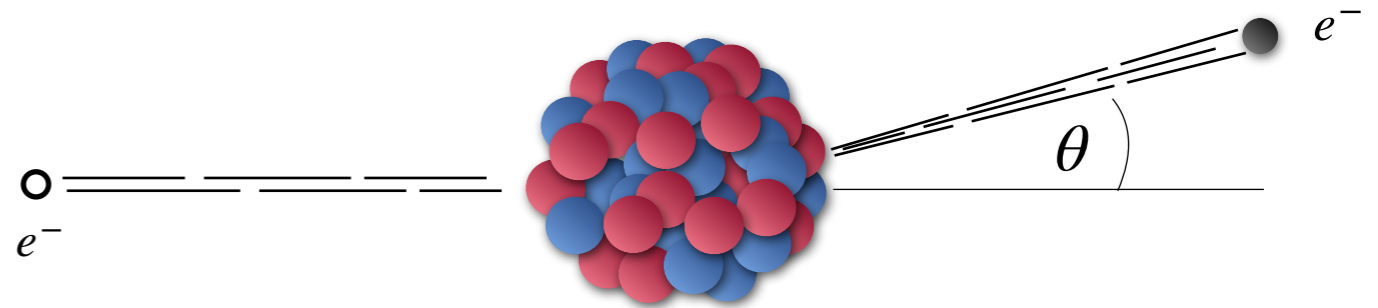


ANALOGY between **electron** and **neutrino** scattering

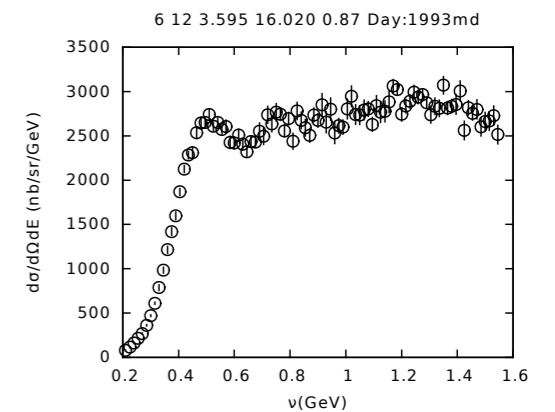
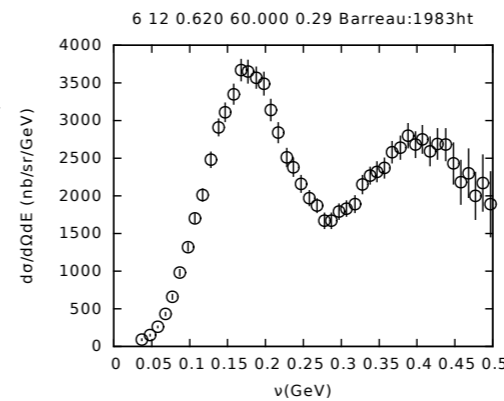
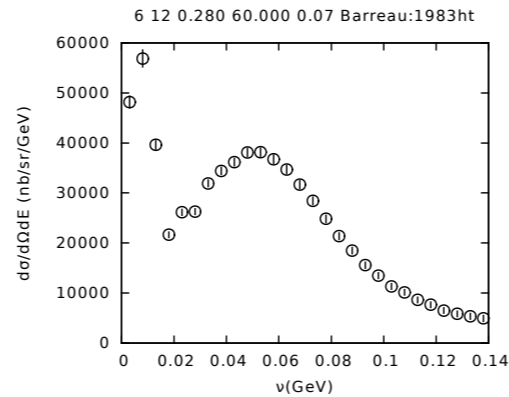
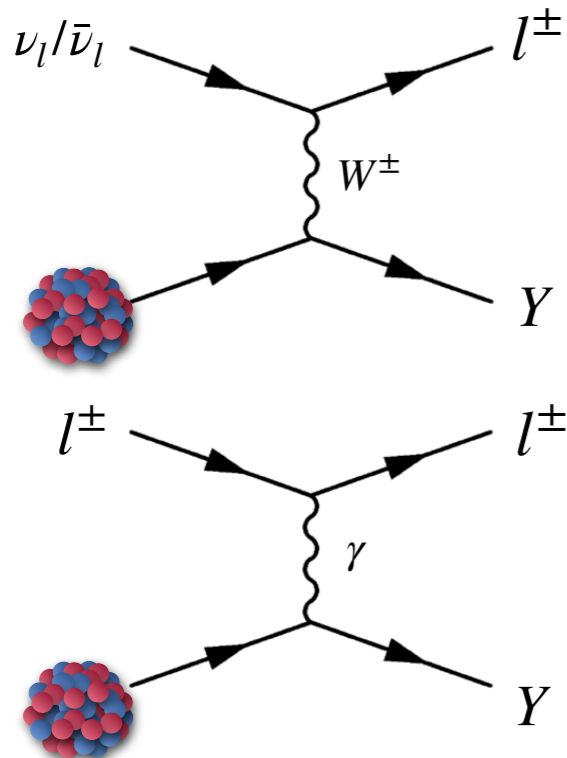


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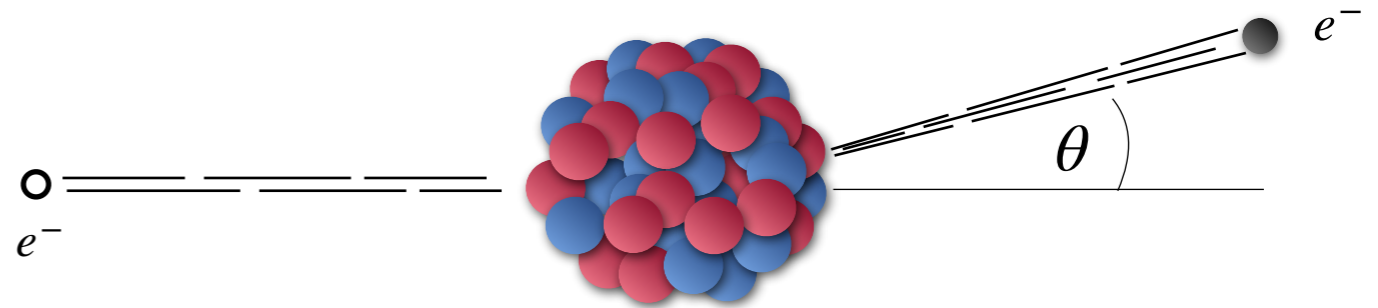


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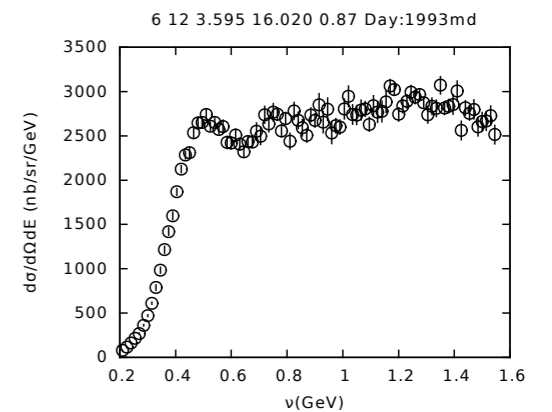
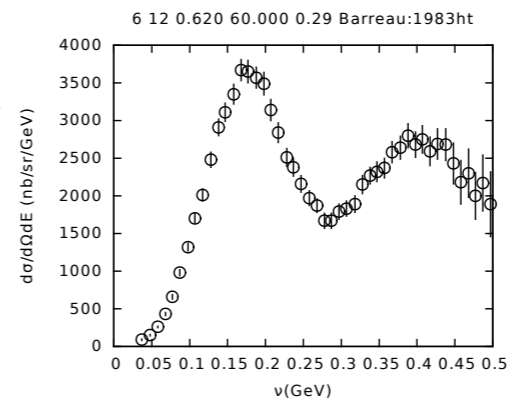
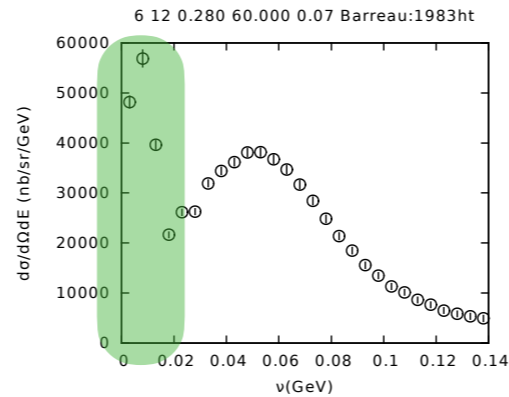
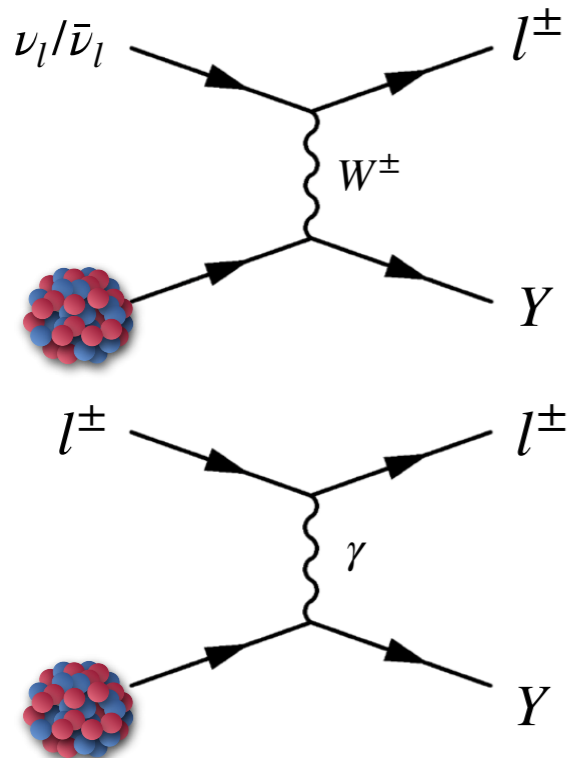


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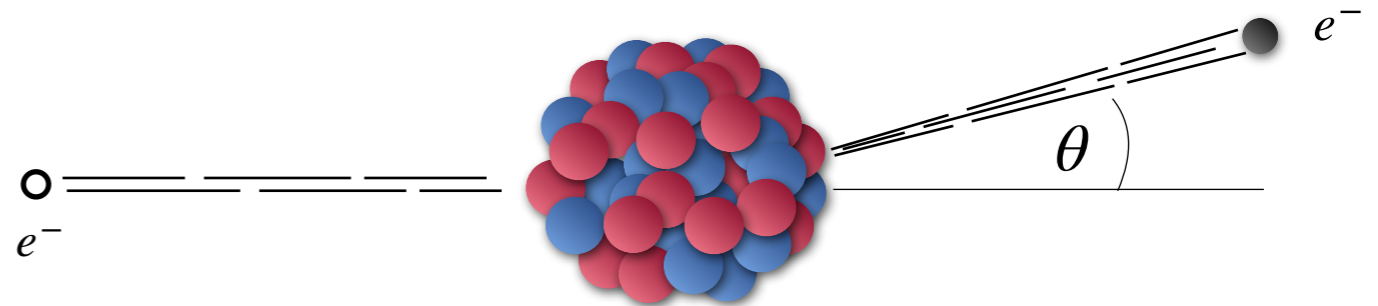


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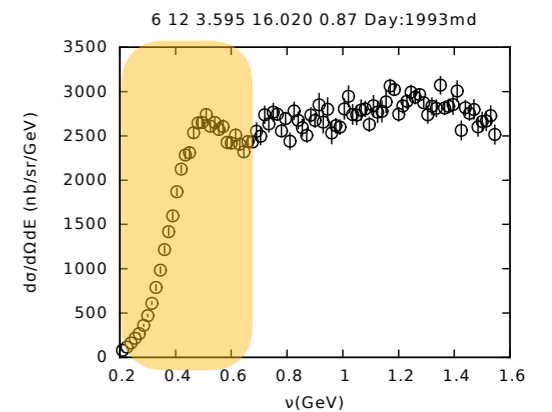
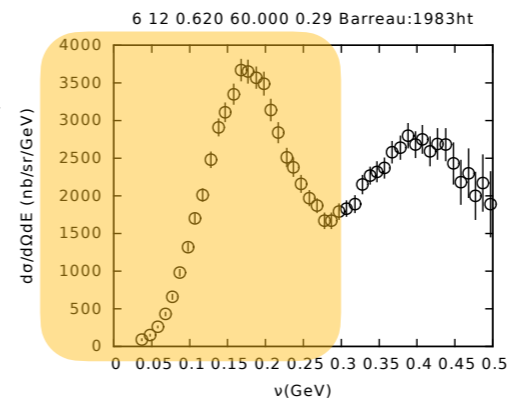
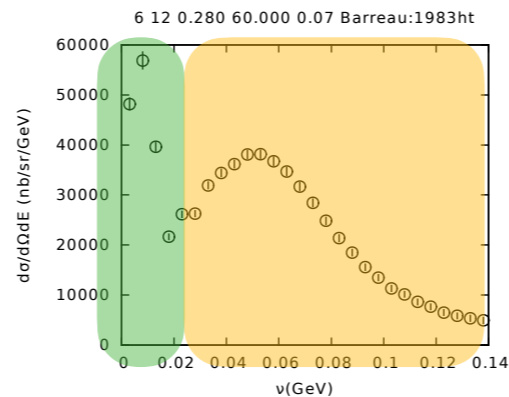
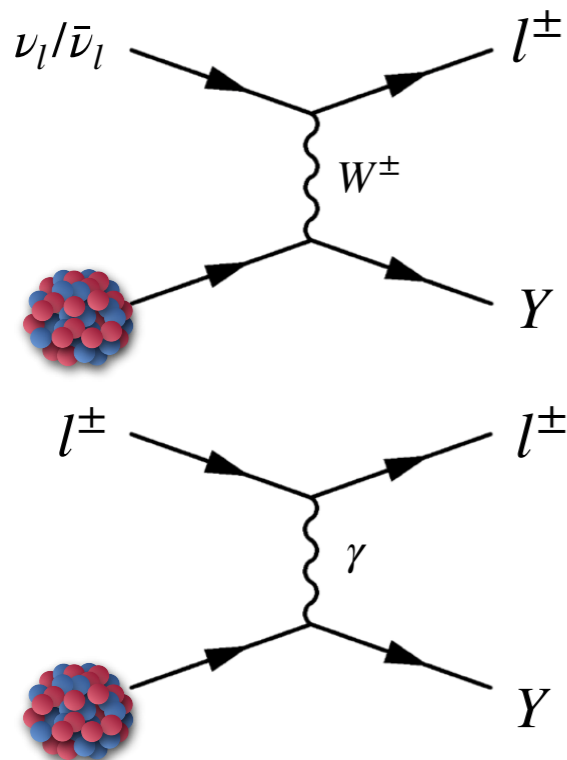


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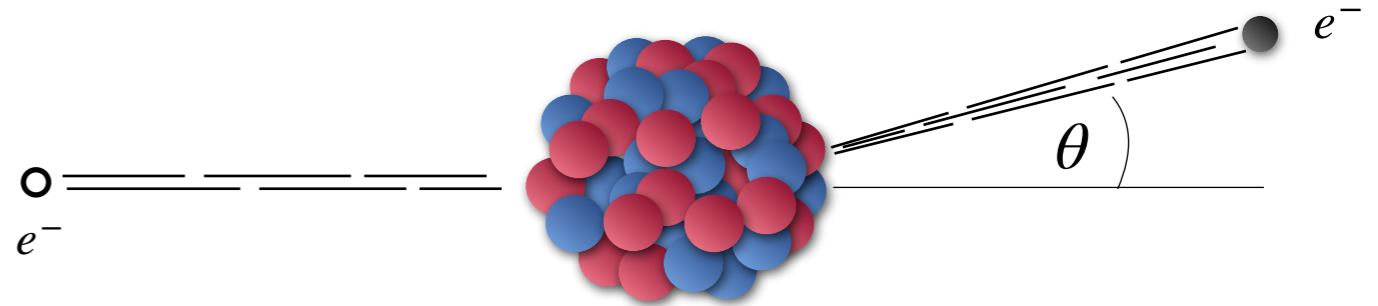


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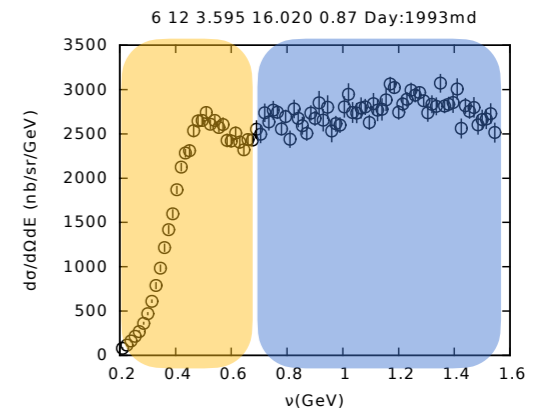
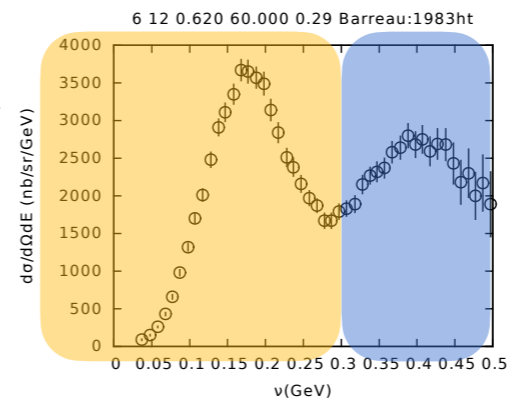
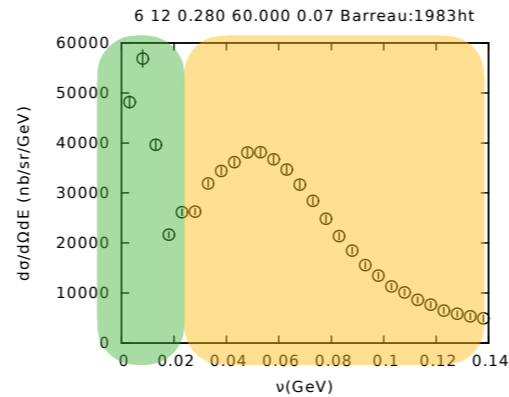
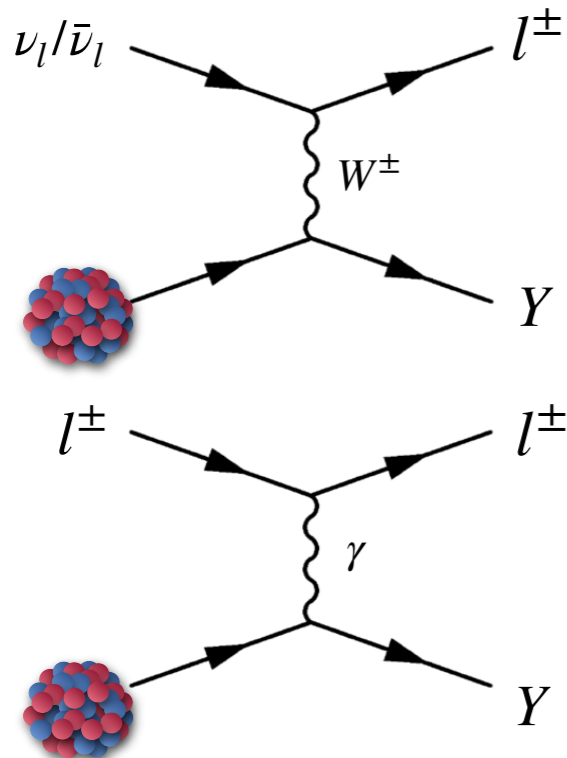


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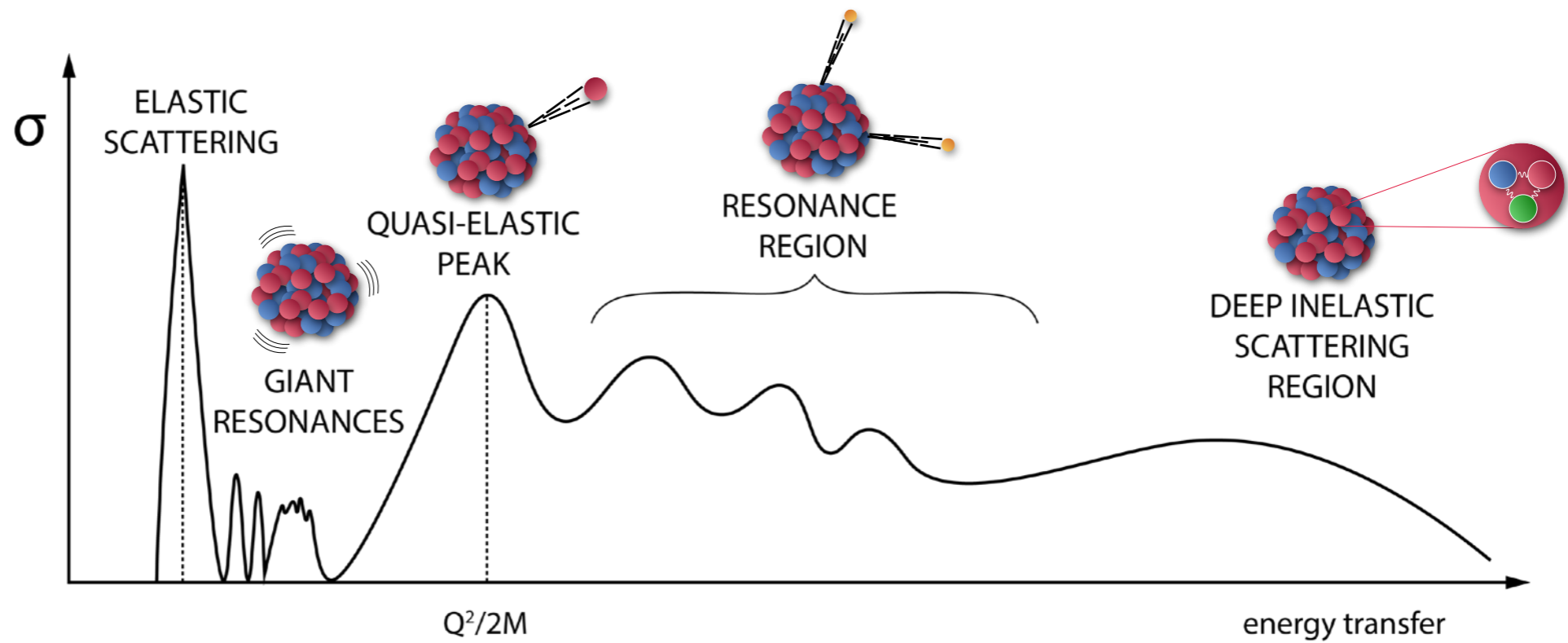


ANALOGY between **electron** and **neutrino** scattering



# Motivation

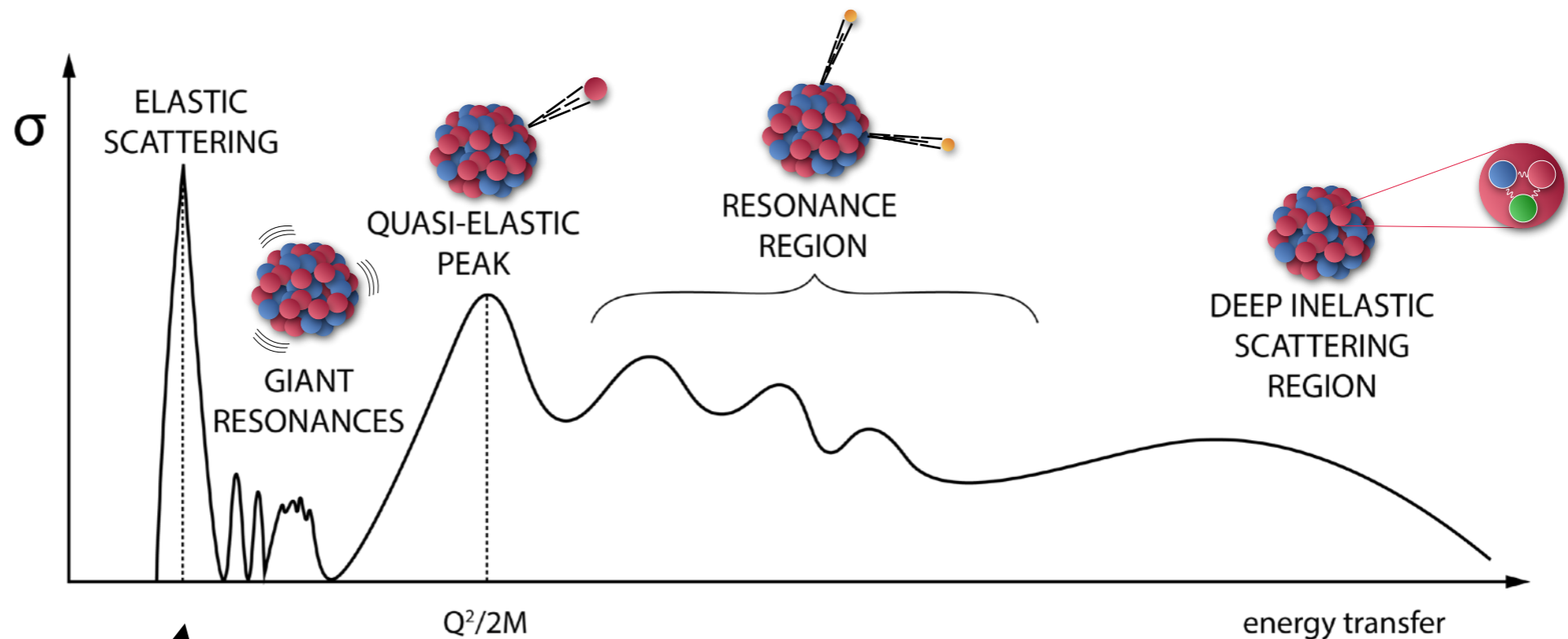
## Electroweak nuclear responses





# Motivation

## Electroweak nuclear responses



**Elastic scattering: CEvNS**  
(coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering)

**Inelastic scattering**

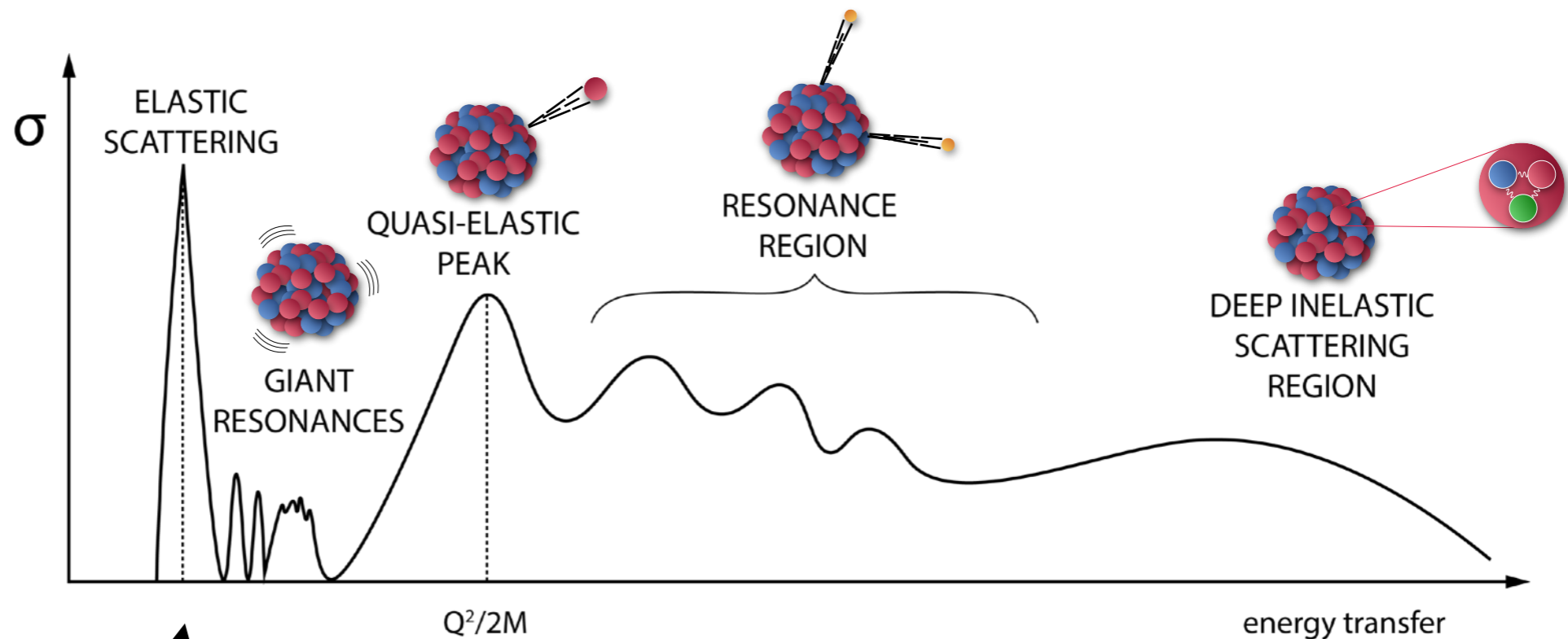
e.g. Supernovae  
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Long-baseline experiments  
(DUNE, HyperK)



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**SEE TALK: Vishvas Pandey**  
(Thursday)

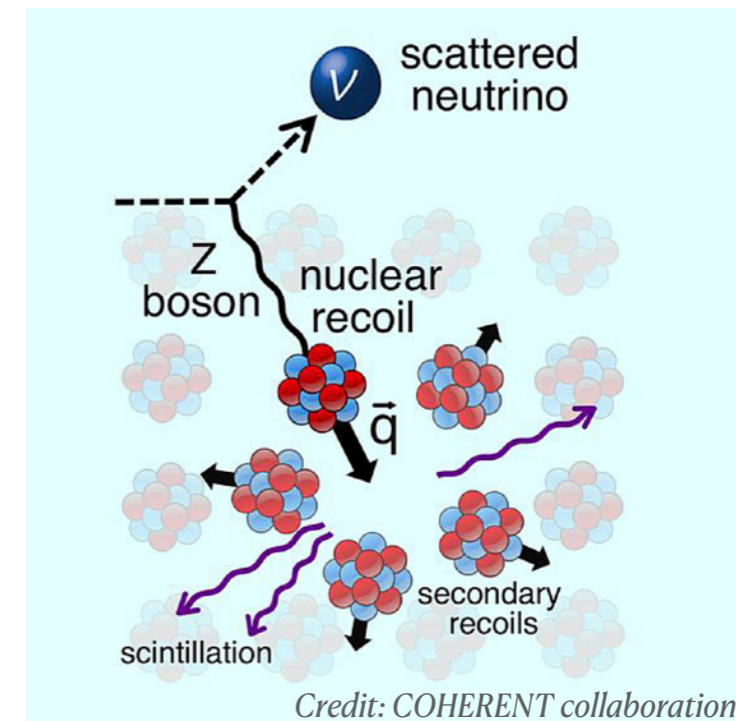
# Coherent elastic $\nu$ -nucleus scattering

## CEvNS

- Neutral current reaction
- Valid for  $q \lesssim 1/R$ ,  $E_\nu \approx 50$  MeV

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dT} = \frac{G_F^2}{4\pi} N^2 |F_W(q)|^2 M \left( 1 - \frac{T}{E} - \frac{MT}{2E^2} \right)$$

Weak nuclear form-factor



# Coherent elastic $\nu$ -nucleus scattering

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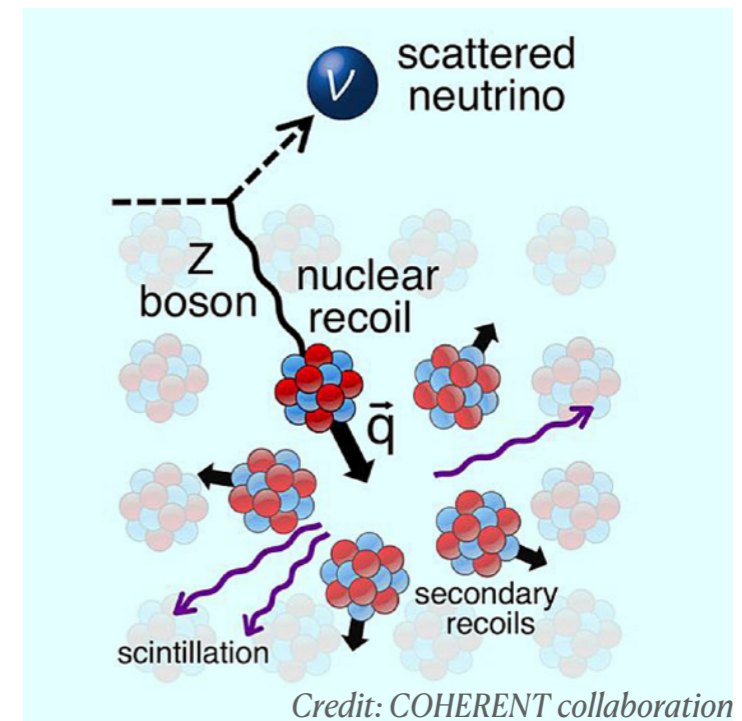
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Weak nuclear form-factor

$$F_W(q) = \frac{1}{N} \int e^{iqr} \left( (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W) \rho_p(r) + \rho_n(r) \right) d^3r$$

Neutron distribution



- Probes **neutron distribution**  
(complementary to electron scattering)

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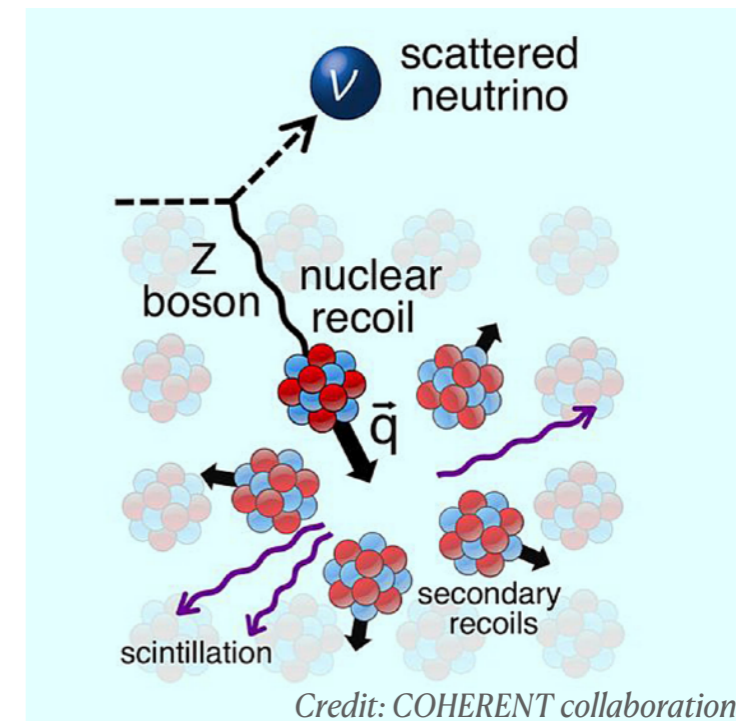
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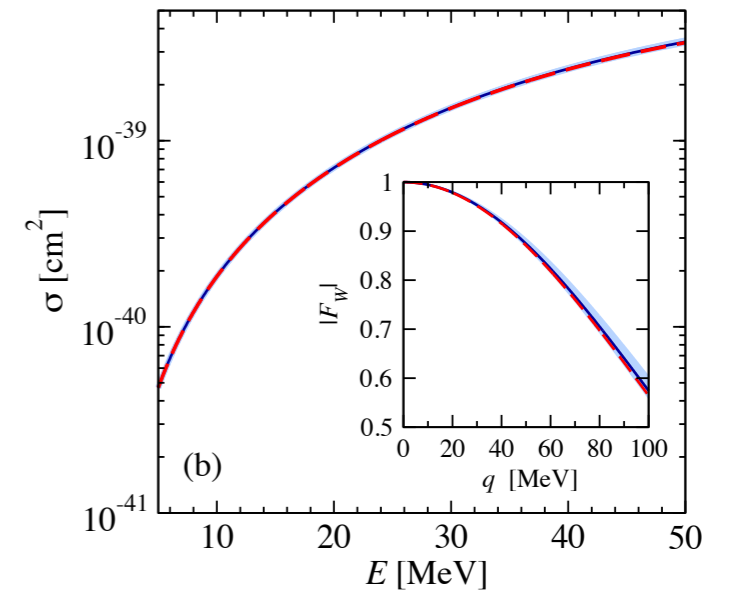
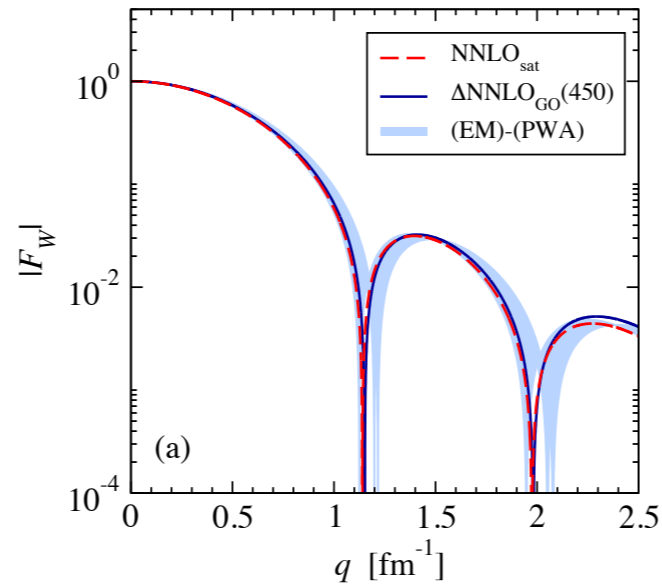


SEE TALK: Yuri Efremenko  
(Thursday)

# Nuclear physics and CEvNS

## Weak form-factor of $^{40}\text{Ar}$

- Ab initio method (coupled-cluster theory)
- various nuclear potentials

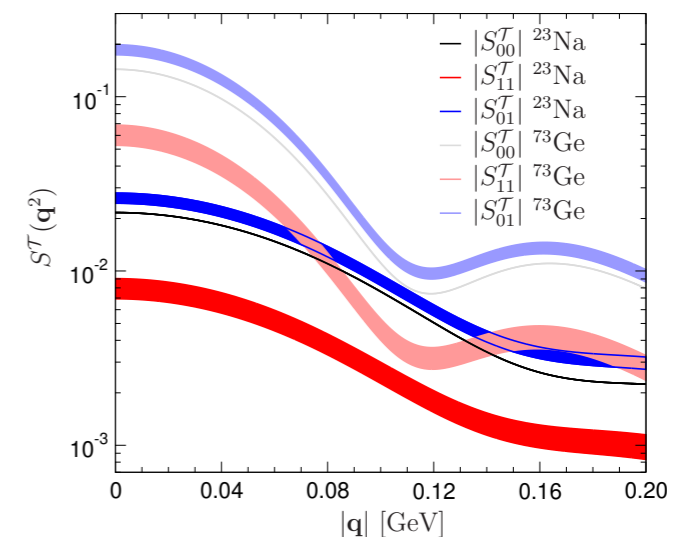
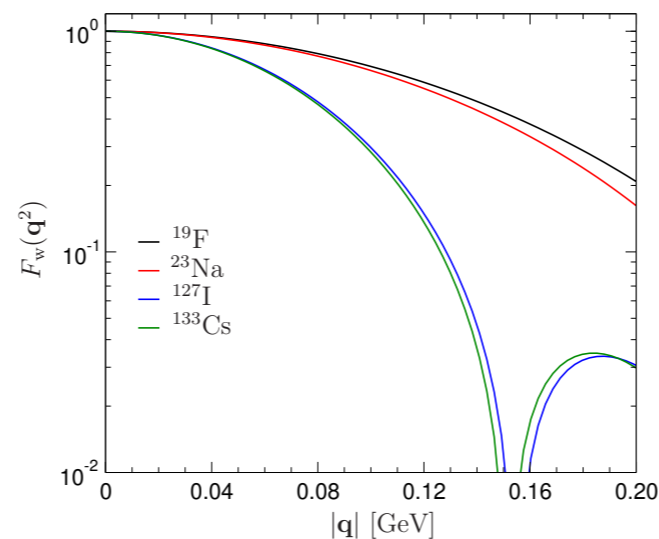


C. Payne et al.

*Phys.Rev.C* 100 (2019) 6, 061304

## Shell model calculations

- Generalisation for beyond SM — new nuclear responses

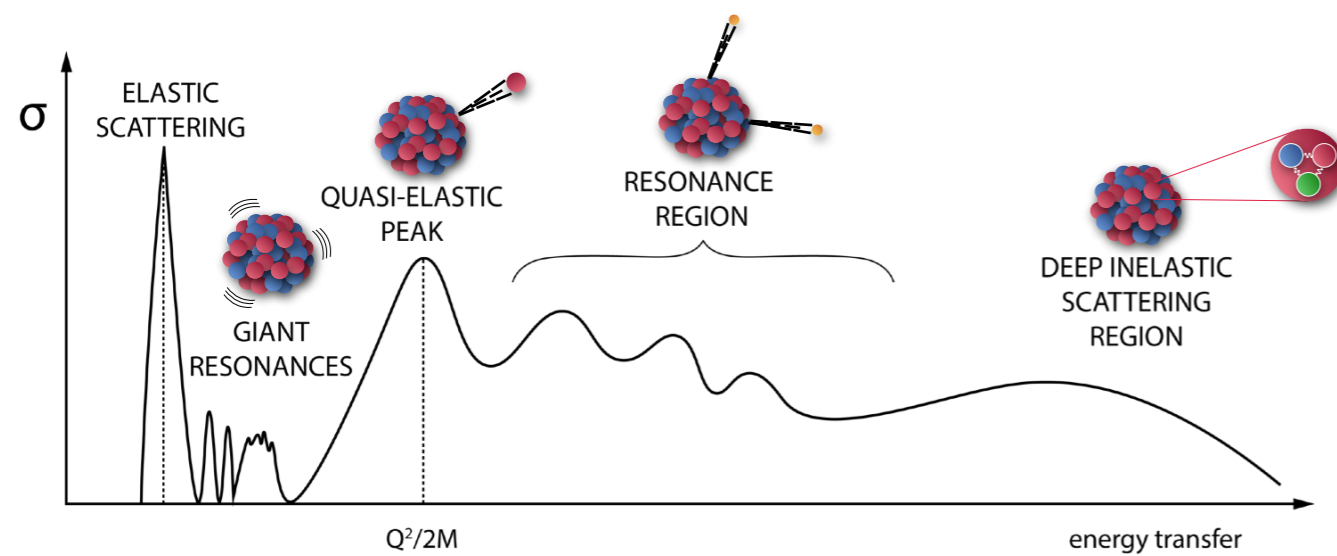


M. Hoefliger, J. Menendez, A. Schwenk

*Phys.Rev.D* 102 (2020) 7, 074018

# Nuclear responses — inclusive cross-section

Cross-section  $\sigma \propto L^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu}$



# Nuclear responses — inclusive cross-section

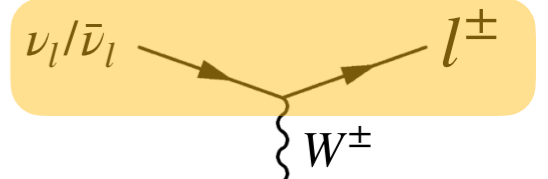
Cross-section

$\sigma \propto$

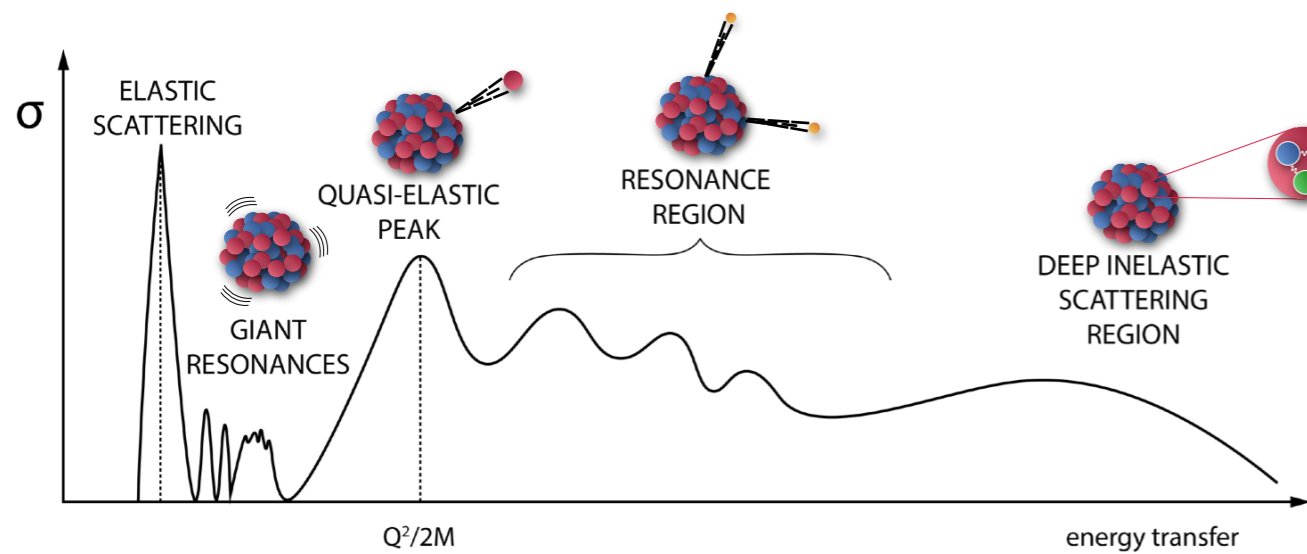
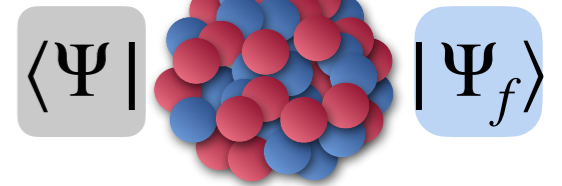
$L^{\mu\nu}$

$R_{\mu\nu}$

lepton tensor



nuclear responses





# Nuclear responses — inclusive cross-section

Cross-section

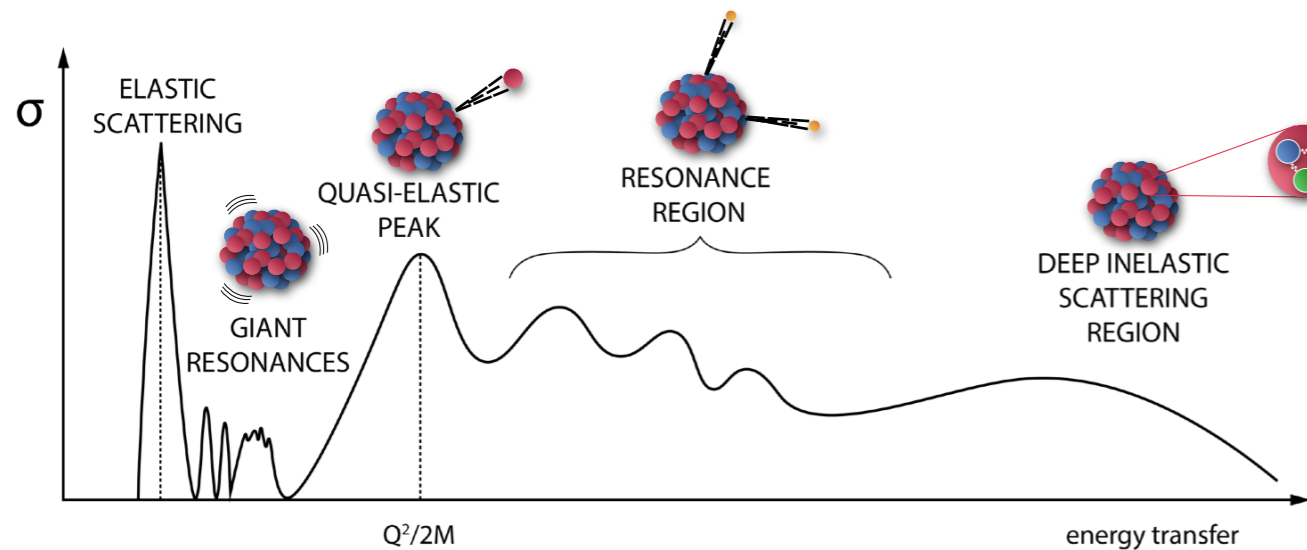
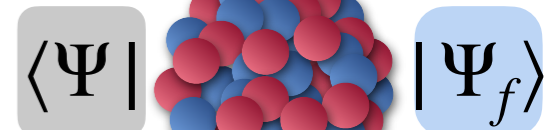
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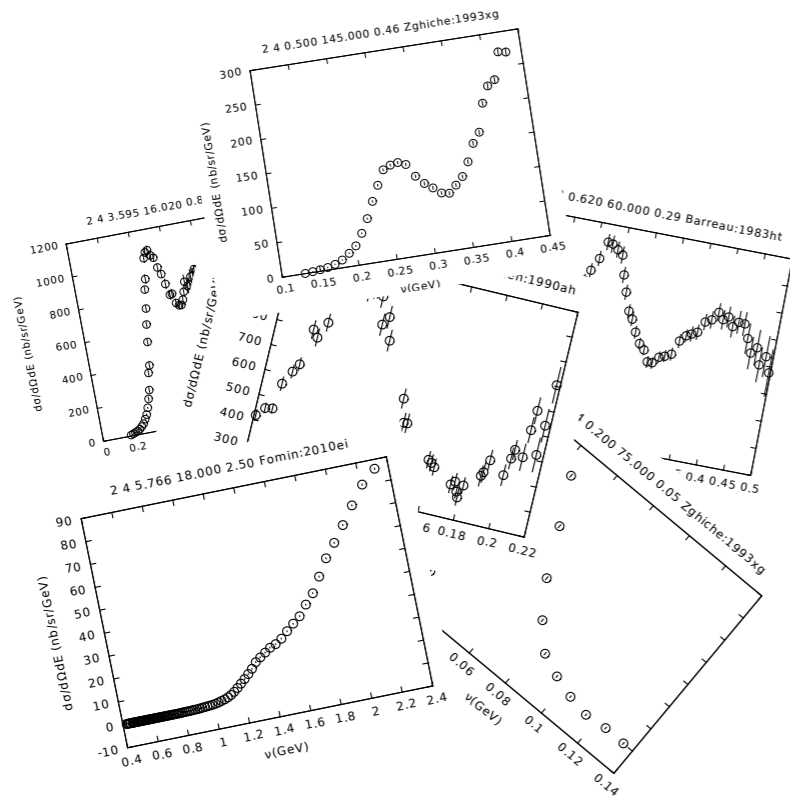


$$R_{\mu\nu}(\omega, q) = \sum_f \langle \Psi | J_\mu^\dagger(q) | \Psi_f \rangle \langle \Psi_f | J_\nu(q) | \Psi \rangle \delta(E_0 + \omega - E_f)$$

Challenging sum over  
continuum spectrum

# Electron scattering: Rosenbluth separation

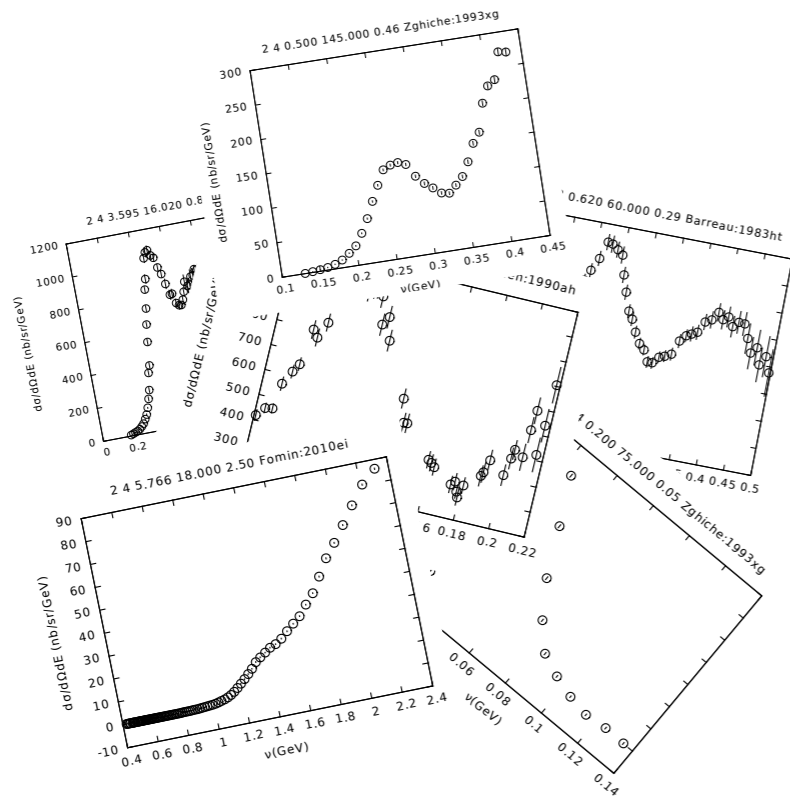
Inclusive cross-section



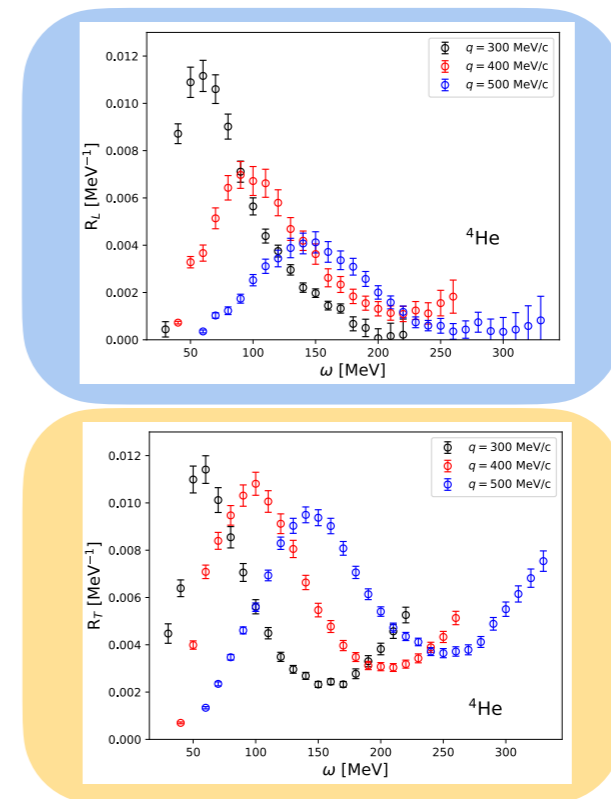
$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{dE'd\Omega} \right|_e$$

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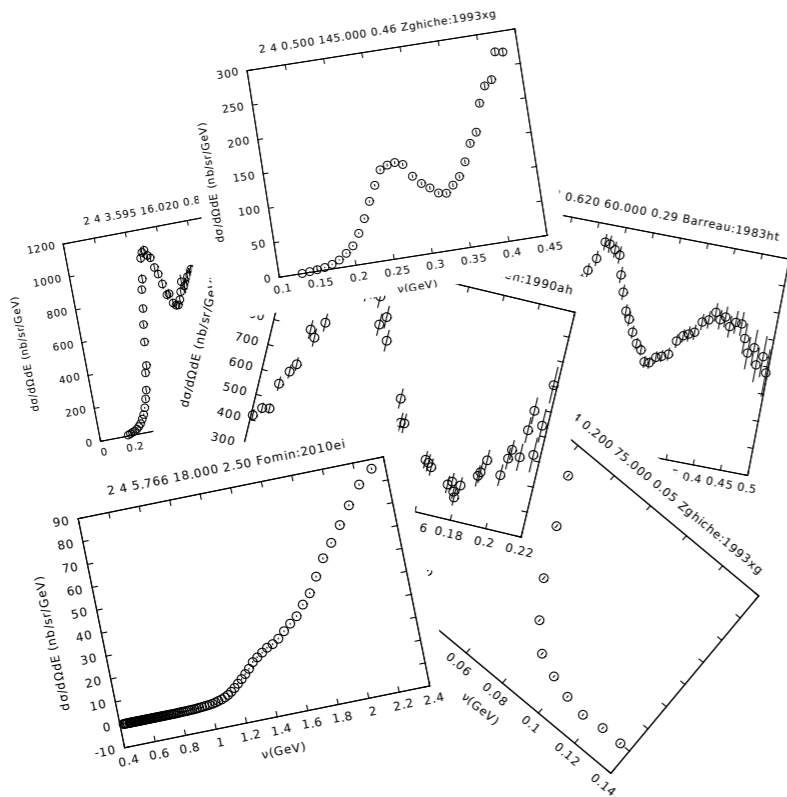
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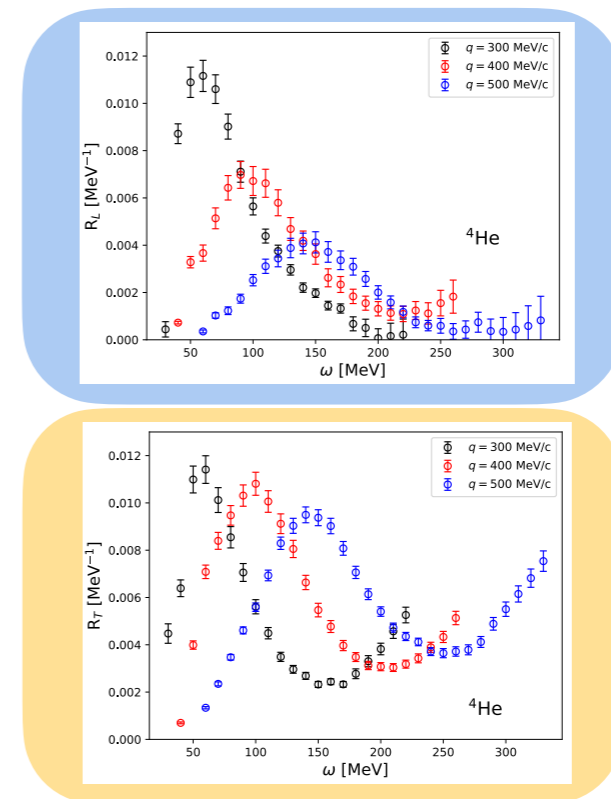
$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{dE' d\Omega} \right|_e = \sigma_M \left( v_L R_L(\omega, \bar{q}) + v_T R_T(\omega, \bar{q}) \right)$$

# Electron scattering: Rosenbluth separation

Inclusive cross-section



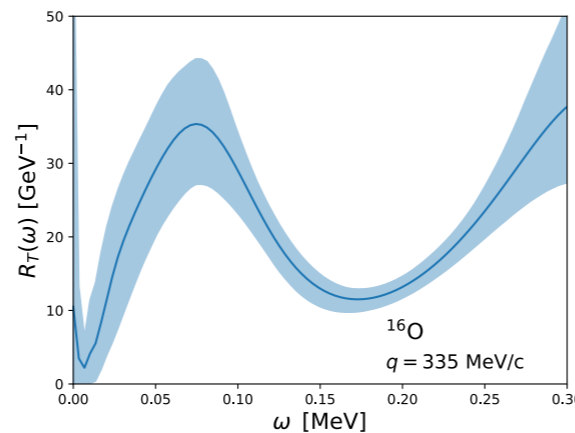
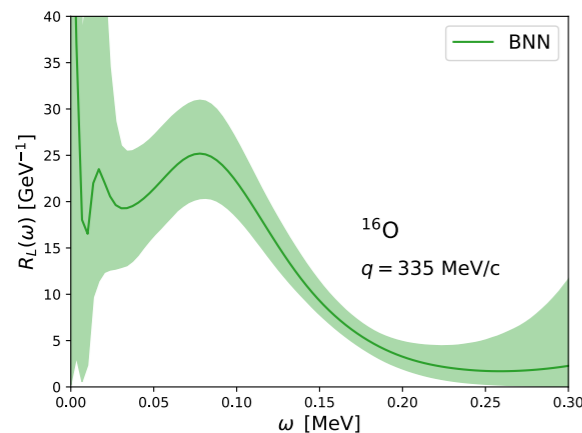
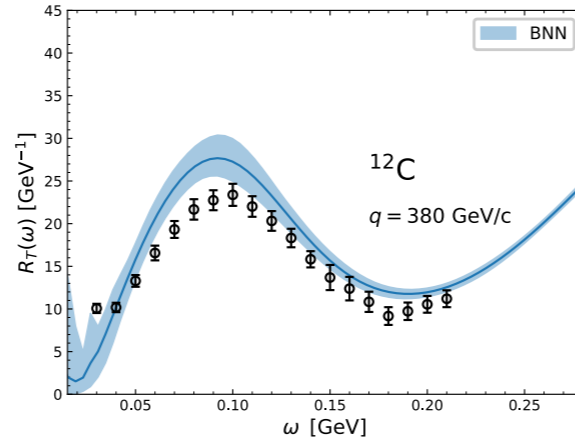
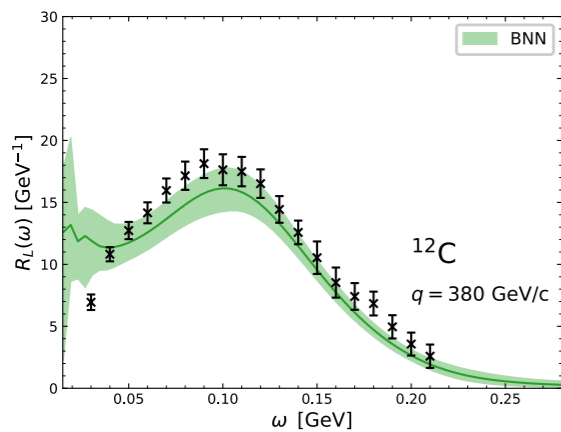
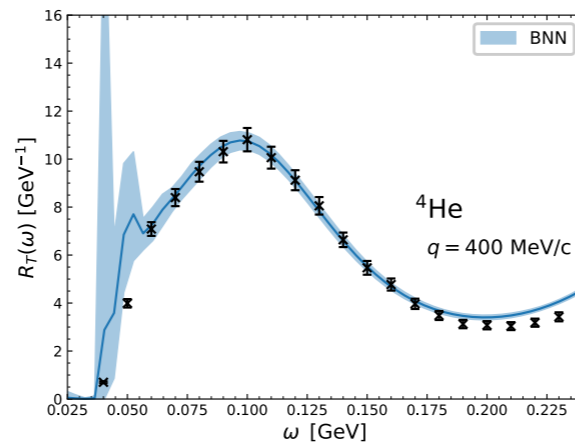
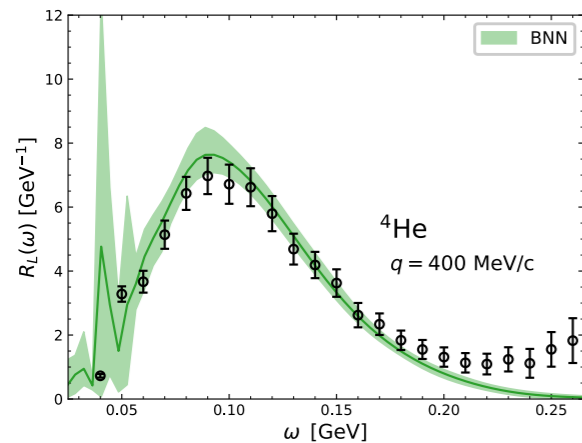
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$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{dE' d\Omega} \right|_{\nu/\bar{\nu}} = \sigma_0 \left( v_{CC} R_{CC} + v_{CL} R_{CL} + v_{LL} R_{LL} + v_T R_T \pm v_{T'} R_{T'} \right)$$

# Rosenbluth separation with Bayesian neural network



- Trained on  ${}^4\text{He}$ ,  ${}^6\text{Li}$ ,  ${}^{12}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{16}\text{O}$ ,  ${}^{40}\text{Ca}$
- Rosenbluth separation possible for kinematics and nuclei where there is less data

ML approaches to reconstruct electron scattering cross-sections:

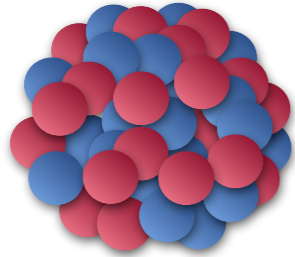
O. Al Hammal et al. *Phys.Rev.C* 107 (2023) 6, 065501

B. Kowal et al. *Phys.Rev.C* 110 (2024) 2, 025501

K. Graczyk et al. arxiv:2408.09936

# “Ab initio” nuclear theory

nucleons —  
degrees of  
freedom

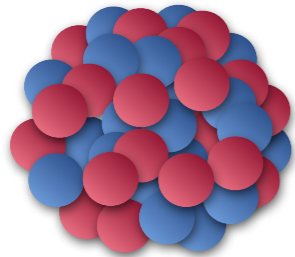


$$\mathcal{H} |\Psi\rangle = E |\Psi\rangle$$

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i=1}^A t_{kin} + \sum_{i>j=1}^A v_{ij} + \sum_{i>j>k=1}^A v_{ijk} + \dots$$

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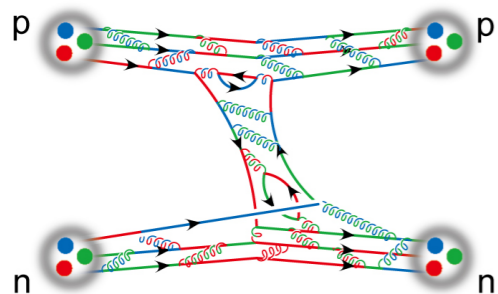


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How the **nuclear force** is rooted in the fundamental theory of QCD?

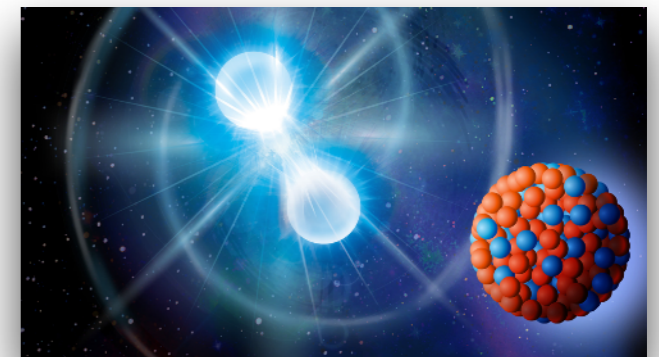
Quantum Chromodynamics



Chiral Effective Field Theory

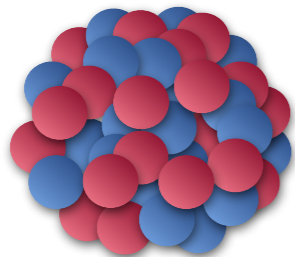
	NN	3N	4N
LO ( $Q/\Lambda_\chi$ ) <sup>0</sup>			
NLO ( $Q/\Lambda_\chi$ ) <sup>2</sup>			
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N <sup>3</sup> LO ( $Q/\Lambda_\chi$ ) <sup>4</sup>			

Nuclei & nuclear matter



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nucleons —  
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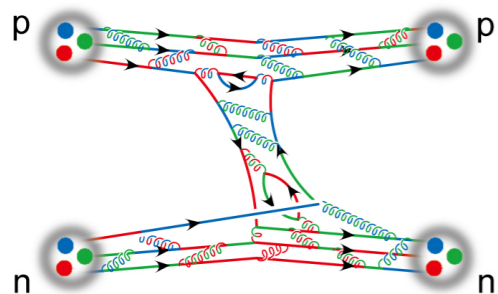


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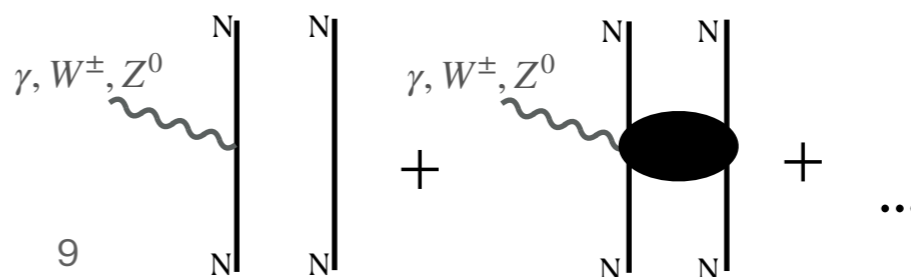
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N <sup>3</sup> LO ( $Q/\Lambda_\chi$ ) <sup>4</sup>			

Nuclei & nuclear matter



Allows to construct **electroweak currents** consistently with the chiral potential

$$j = \sum_{i=1}^A j_i + \sum_{j<i=1}^A j_{ij} + \sum_{k<j<i=1}^A j_{ijk} + \dots$$





# How to solve Schrödinger equation?

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**Green's Function Monte Carlo**

**Coupled cluster theory**

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**Coupled cluster theory**

To obtain the **ground state**, expand the trial wave function in the Hamiltonian eigenstates

$$|\Psi_T\rangle = \sum_n c_n |\Psi_n\rangle \quad H|\Psi_n\rangle = E_n |\Psi_n\rangle$$

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Green's Function Monte Carlo

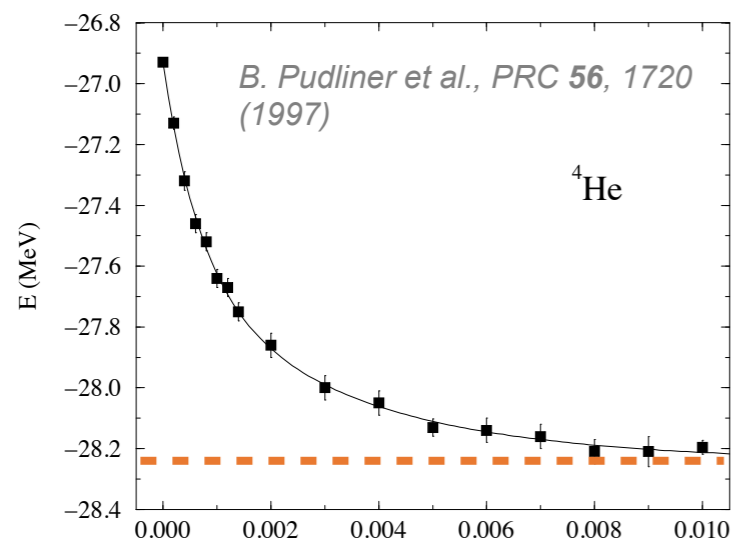
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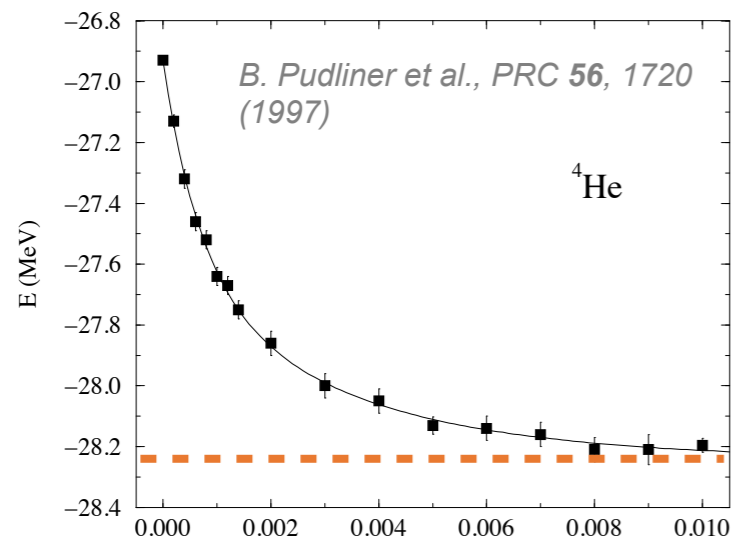
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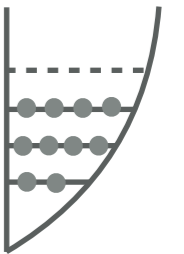
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## Coupled cluster theory

Reference state (Hartree-Fock):

$$|\Psi\rangle = a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger \dots a_k^\dagger |0\rangle$$



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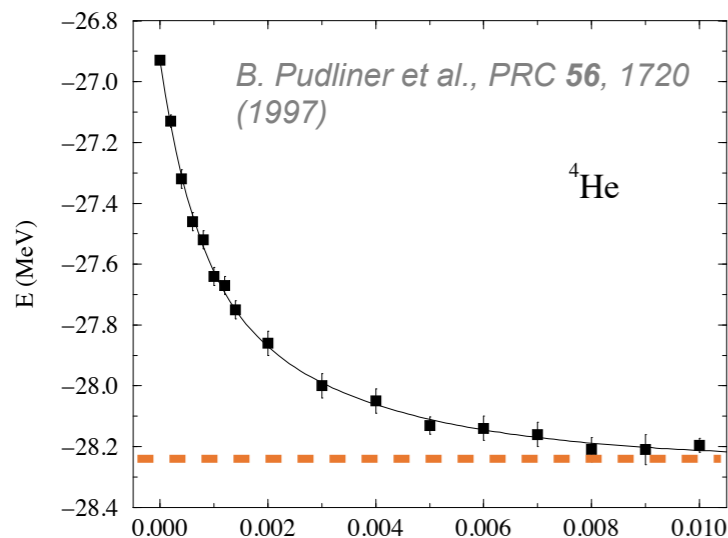
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GFMC relies on imaginary-time propagation

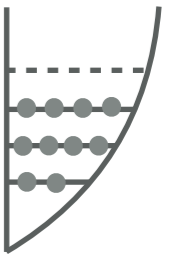
$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} e^{-(H-E_0)\tau} |\Psi_T\rangle = c_0 |\Psi_0\rangle$$



## Coupled cluster theory

Reference state (Hartree-Fock):

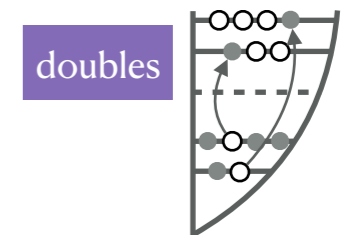
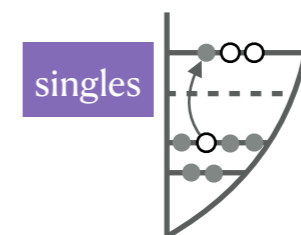
$$|\Psi\rangle = a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger \dots a_k^\dagger |0\rangle$$



Include **correlations** beyond mean-field through  $e^T$  operator

$$\mathcal{H}_N e^T |\Psi\rangle = E e^T |\Psi\rangle$$

Expansion:  $T = \sum t_a^i a_a^\dagger a_i + \frac{1}{4} \sum t_{ab}^{ij} a_a^\dagger a_b^\dagger a_i a_j + \dots$



# How to solve Schrödinger equation?

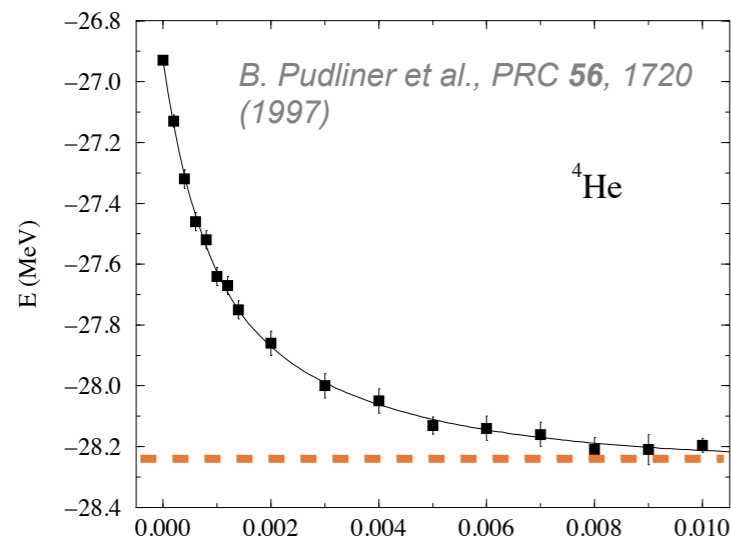
## Green's Function Monte Carlo

To obtain the **ground state**, expand the trial wave function in the Hamiltonian eigenstates

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$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} e^{-(H-E_0)\tau} |\Psi_T\rangle = c_0 |\Psi_0\rangle$$

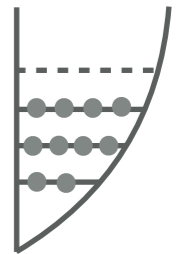


J. Carlson Phys. Rev. C 36, 2026 (1987)

## Coupled cluster theory

Reference state (Hartree-Fock):

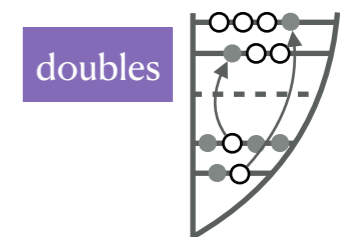
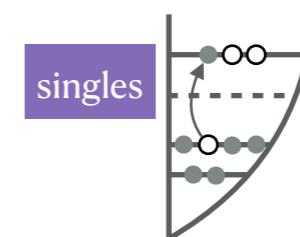
$$|\Psi\rangle = a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger \dots a_k^\dagger |0\rangle$$



Include **correlations** beyond mean-field through  $e^T$  operator

$$\mathcal{H}_N e^T |\Psi\rangle = E e^T |\Psi\rangle$$

$$\text{Expansion: } T = \sum_{1p1h} t_a^i a_a^\dagger a_i + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{2p2h} t_{ab}^{ij} a_a^\dagger a_b^\dagger a_i a_j + \dots$$



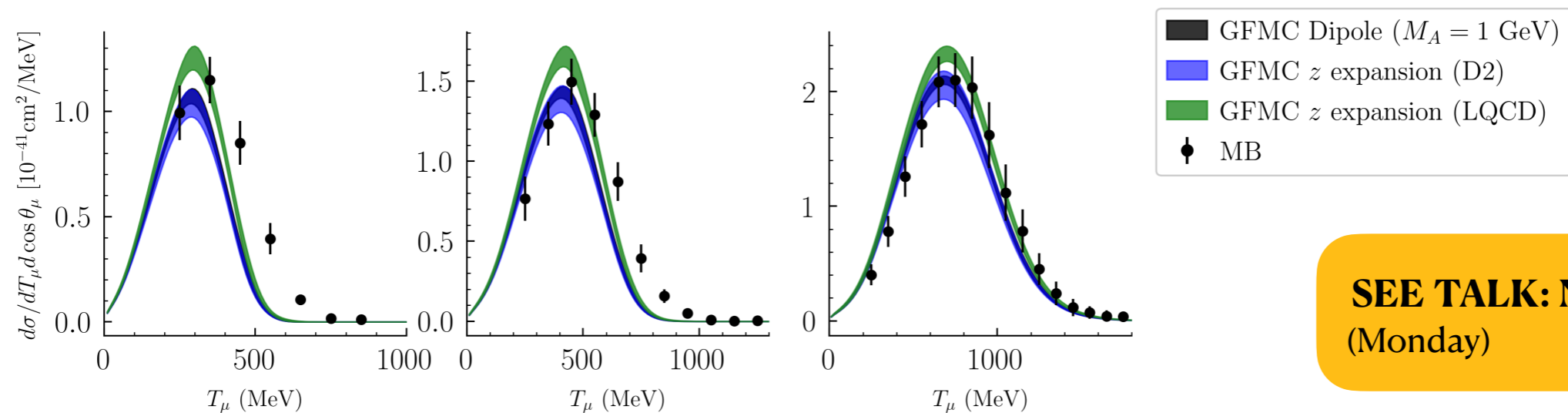
- ✓ Controlled approximation through truncation in  $T$
- ✓ Polynomial scaling with  $A$  (predictions for <sup>132</sup>Sn and <sup>208</sup>Pb)

G. Hagen, T. Papenbrock, M. Hjorth-Jensen, D. J. Dean, Rep. Prog. Phys. 77, 096302 (2014).

# Green's Function Monte Carlo for $^{12}\text{C}$

Laplace Integral Transform + GFMC

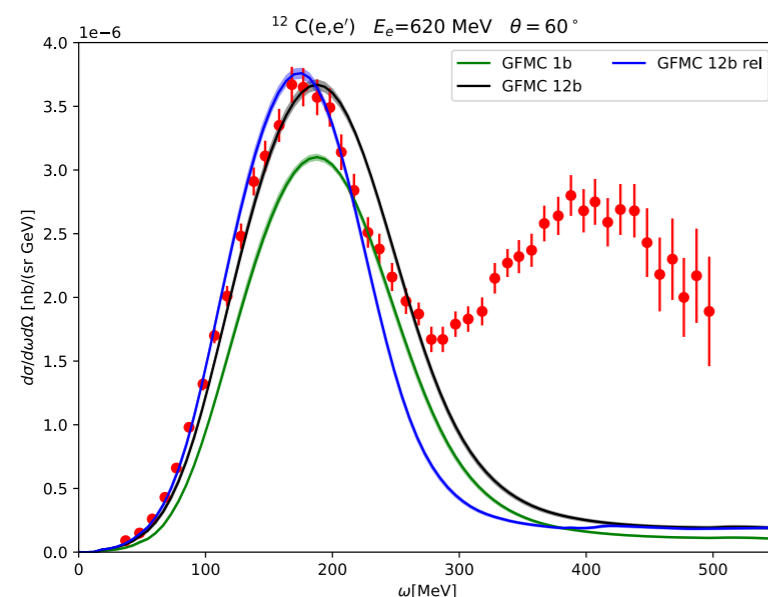
MiniBooNE results; study of the dependence on the axial form factor:



**SEE TALK: Noemi Rocco (Monday)**

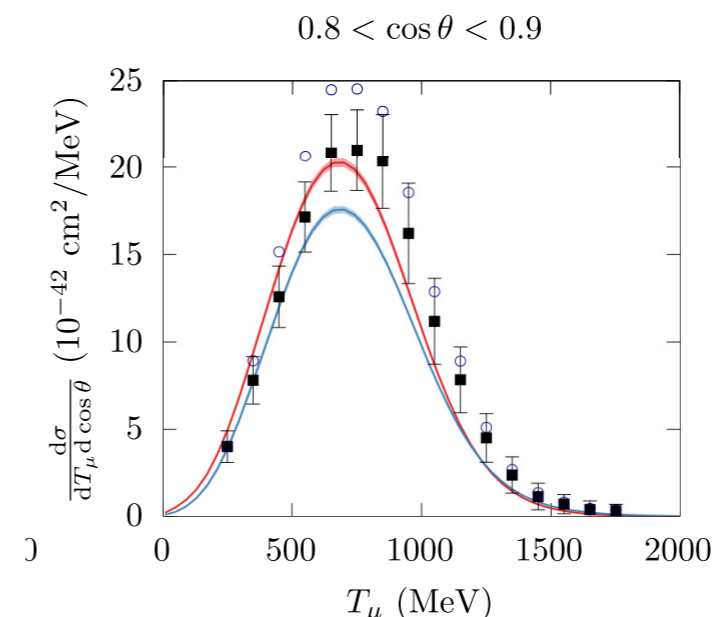
Including relativistic corrections in both electron and neutrino- scattering

- electron- $^{12}\text{C}$  scattering



A.Lovato, N.Rocco, et al, Universe 9 (2023) 8, 367

- muon-neutrino CC MiniBooNE results



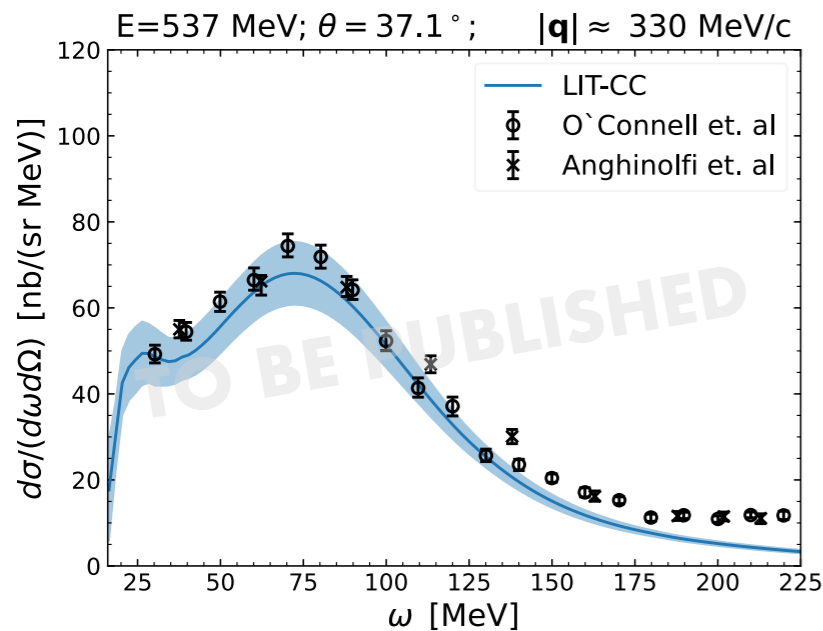
A. Nikolakopoulos, N.Rocco, et al, PRC 109, 014623 (2024)



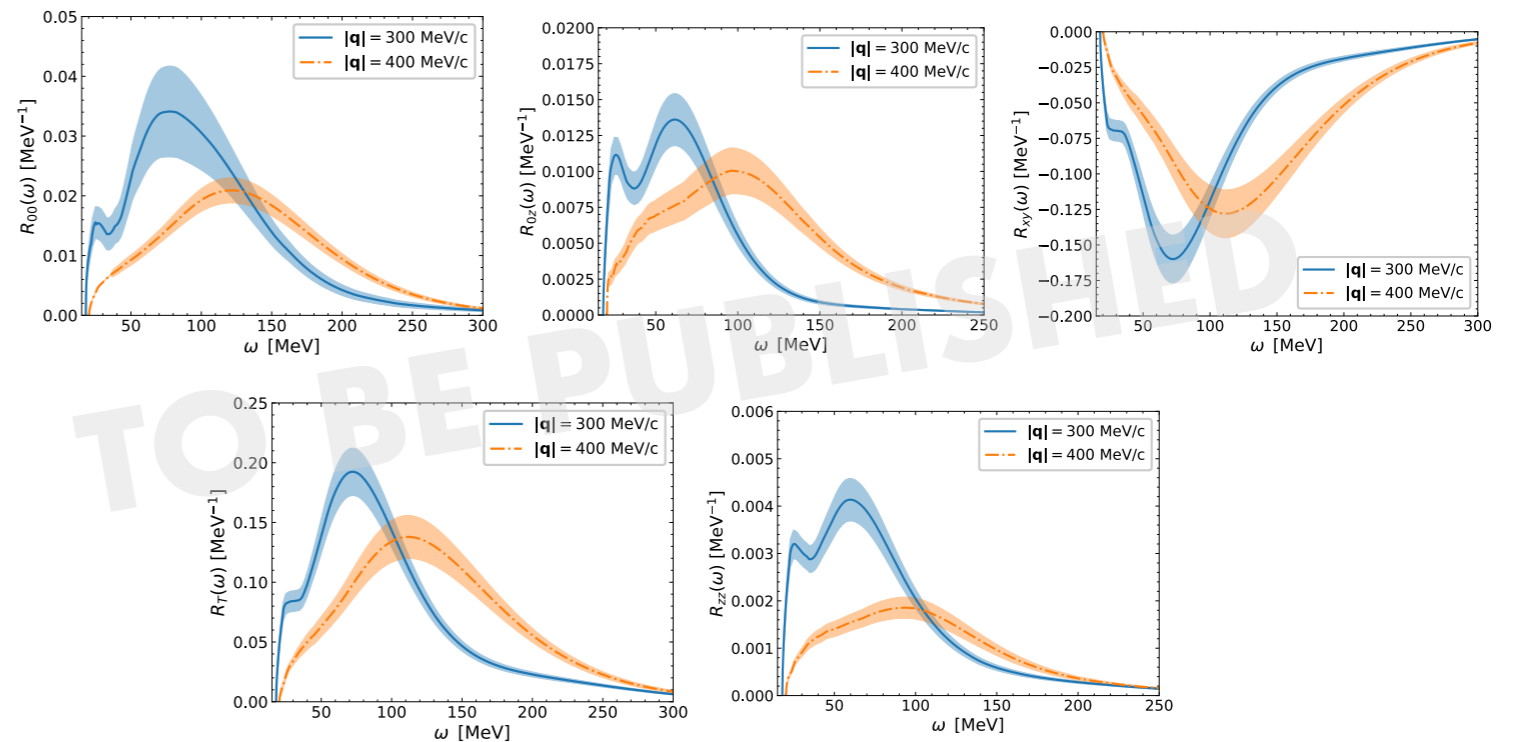
# Coupled cluster for $^{16}\text{O}$ , $^{40}\text{Ca}$

Lorentz Integral Transform + Coupled Cluster (**LIT-CC**)

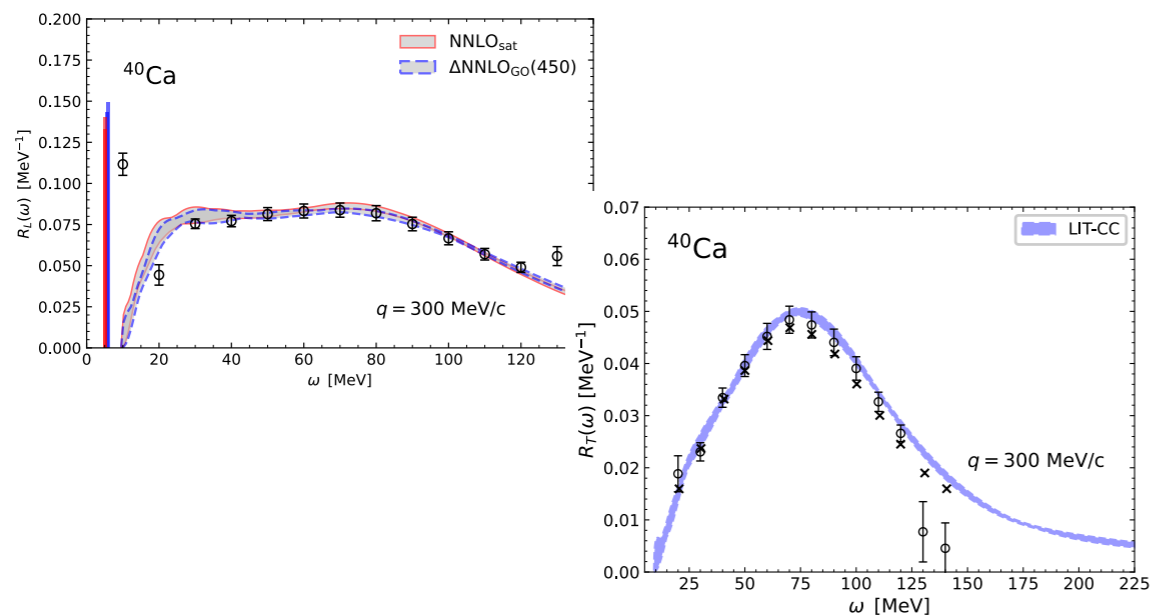
## Electron scattering $^{16}\text{O}$



## Neutrino charge-current responses $^{16}\text{O}$



## Electron scattering $^{40}\text{Ca}$



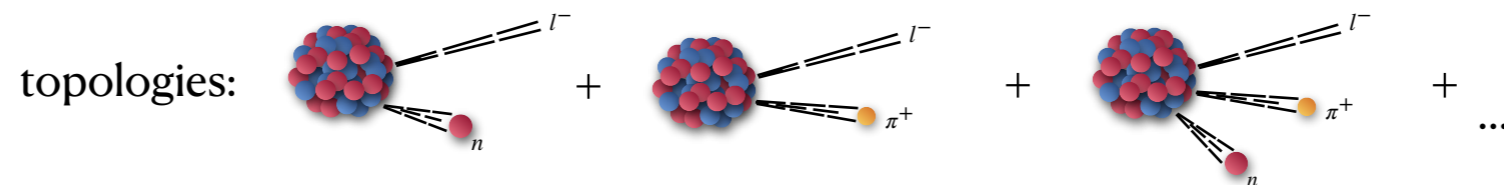
$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{dE'd\Omega} \right|_{\nu/\bar{\nu}} = \sigma_0 \left( v_{00}R_{00} + v_{0z}R_{0z} + v_{zz}R_{zz} + v_T R_T \pm v_{xy}R_{xy} \right)$$

First ab-initio results for many-body system of 16 and 40 nucleons

# Challenges

- Inclusive cross-section:

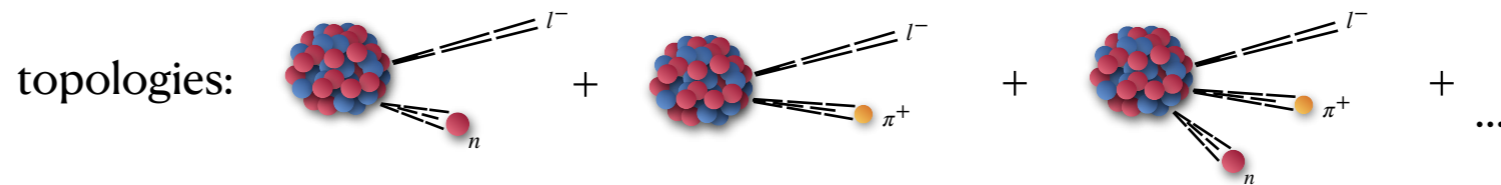
$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega d\omega} \propto L^{\mu\nu} \left[ \sum_{t \in \text{topology}} \int \prod_{i=1}^n d^3p_i \langle \Psi | J_\mu^\dagger(q) | \Psi_f \rangle \langle \Psi_f | J_\nu(q) | \Psi \rangle \delta(E_0 + \omega - E_f) \right]$$



# Challenges

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$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega d\omega} \propto L^{\mu\nu} \left[ \sum_{t \in \text{topology}} \int \prod_{i=1}^n d^3p_i \langle \Psi | J_\mu^\dagger(q) | \Psi_f \rangle \langle \Psi_f | J_\nu(q) | \Psi \rangle \delta(E_0 + \omega - E_f) \right]$$



- Semi-exclusive observables

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega d\omega d^3p_1 \cdots d^3p_n} \right|_{t\text{-topology}} \propto L^{\mu\nu} \left[ \langle \Psi | J_\mu^\dagger(q) | \Psi_f \rangle \langle \Psi_f | J_\nu(q) | \Psi \rangle \delta(E_0 + \omega - E_f) \right]$$

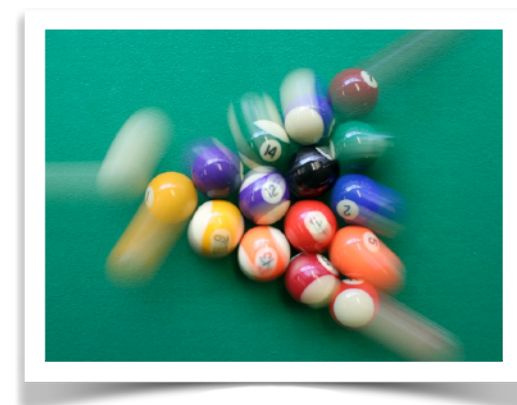
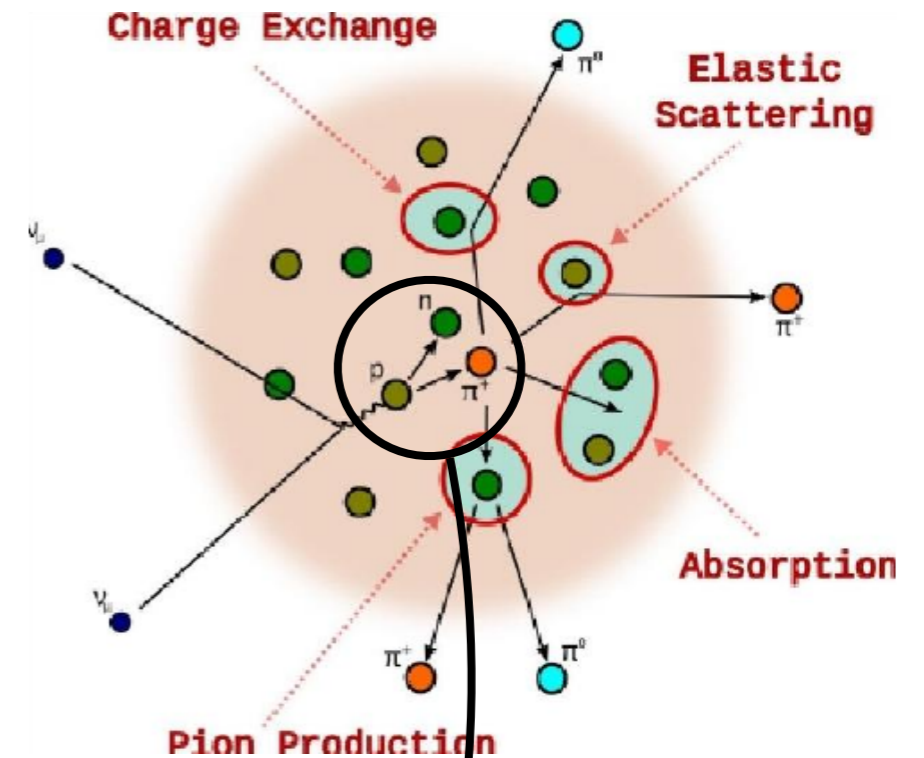
- Each topology treated separately
- Relativistic processes
- Pion production

# Monte Carlo event generators

- Experiments measure distributions of final hadrons — exclusive cross-sections.
- Each scattering event is obtained in a two-step process:
  - **Primary interaction vertex** (hadrons produced at some point in nucleus)
  - **Intra-nuclear cascade**
- This factorisation assumes **impulse approximation** — interaction takes place on a single nucleon

**SEE TALKS:**  
Tuesday (WG2)

NEUT  
GENIE  
NuWro  
MARLEY  
ACHILLES  
GIBUU

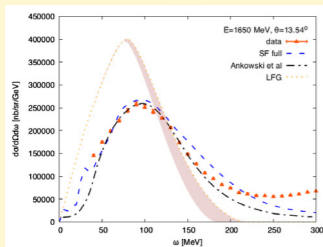


Primary interaction  
vertex

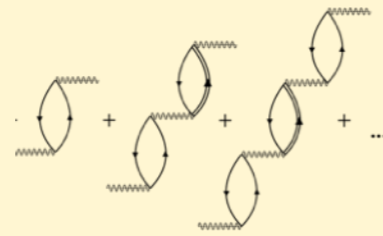
# Quasi-elastic peak

## Local density approximation (LDA)

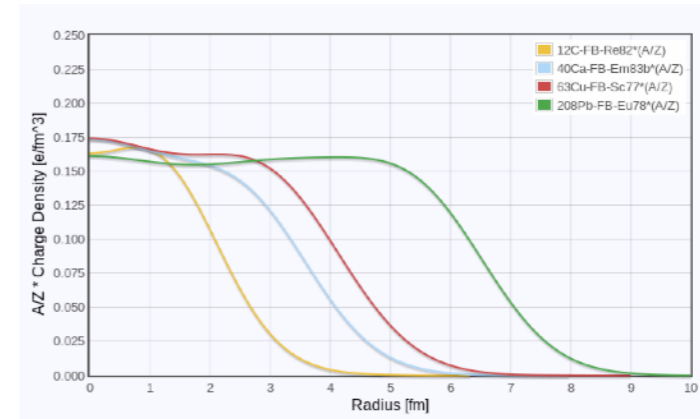
Fermi Gas model:  
Constant binding energy



Valencia model:  
RPA & spectral functions



GiBUU:  
Relativistic  
mean-field potential

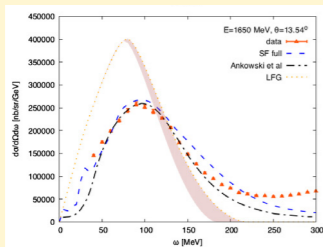


- ✓ Locally, nucleus treated as nuclear matter
- ✓ No shell structure

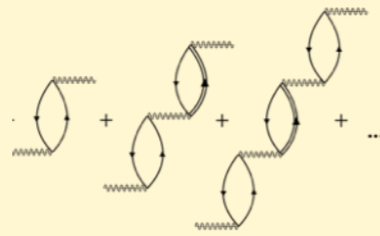
# Quasi-elastic peak

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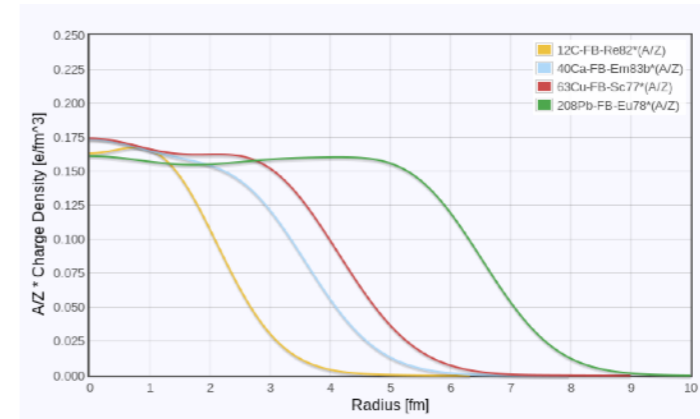
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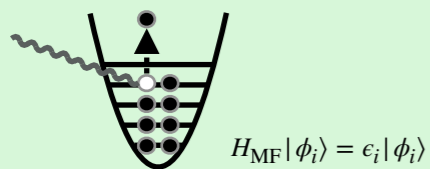


GiBUU:  
Relativistic  
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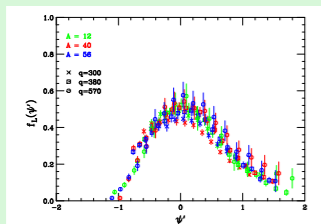


- ✓ Locally, nucleus treated as nuclear matter
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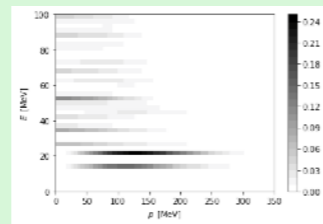
## Mean-field approaches



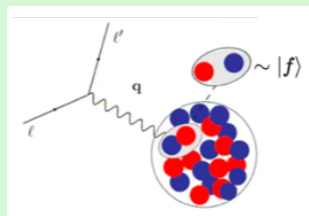
SuSA  
(universal scaling function)



## Spectral function



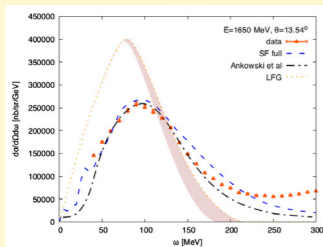
Short-time approximation  
(based on QMC)



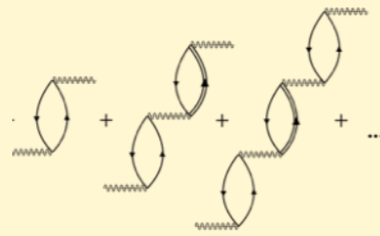
# Quasi-elastic peak

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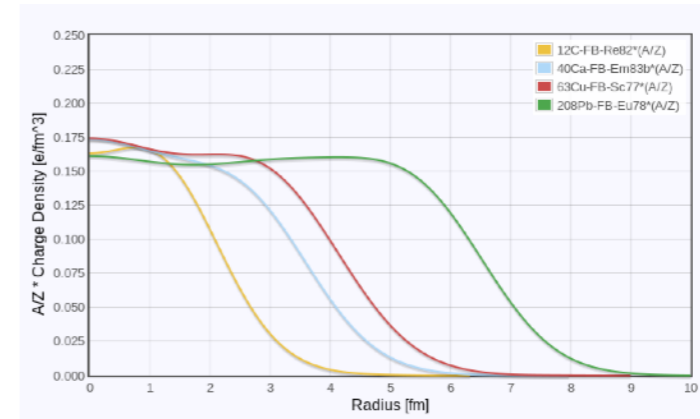
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Constant binding energy



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RPA & spectral functions

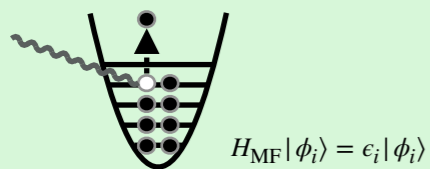


GiBUU:  
Relativistic  
mean-field potential

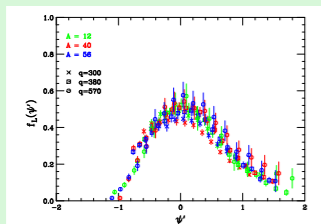


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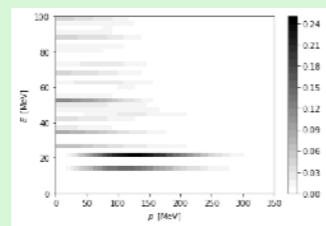
## Mean-field approaches



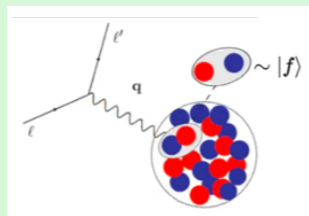
SuSA  
(universal scaling function)



## Spectral function



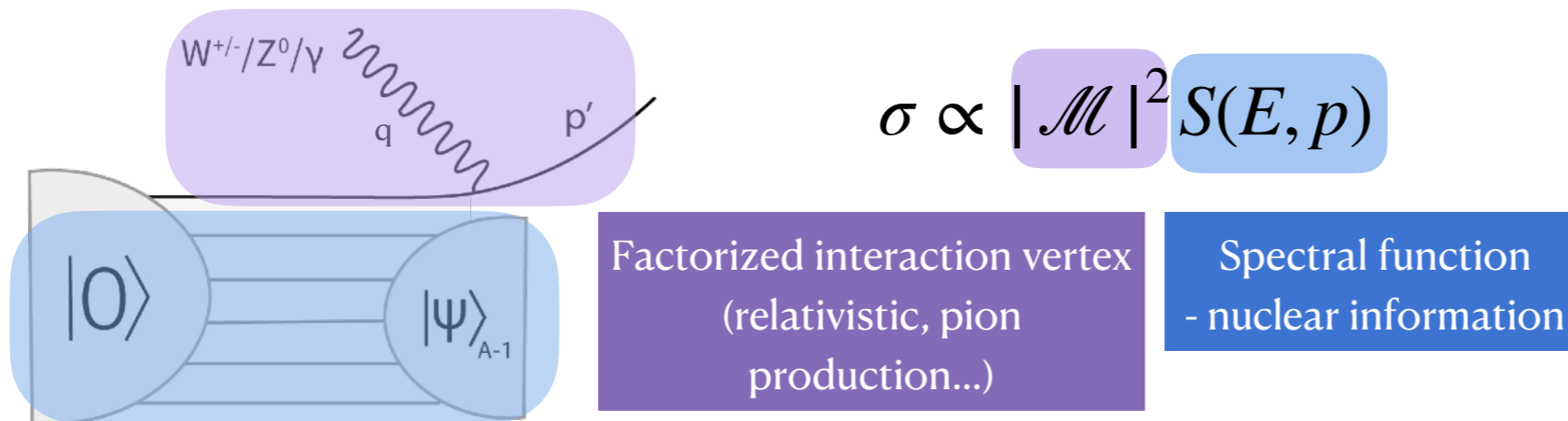
Short-time approximation  
(based on QMC)



## Current directions and efforts:

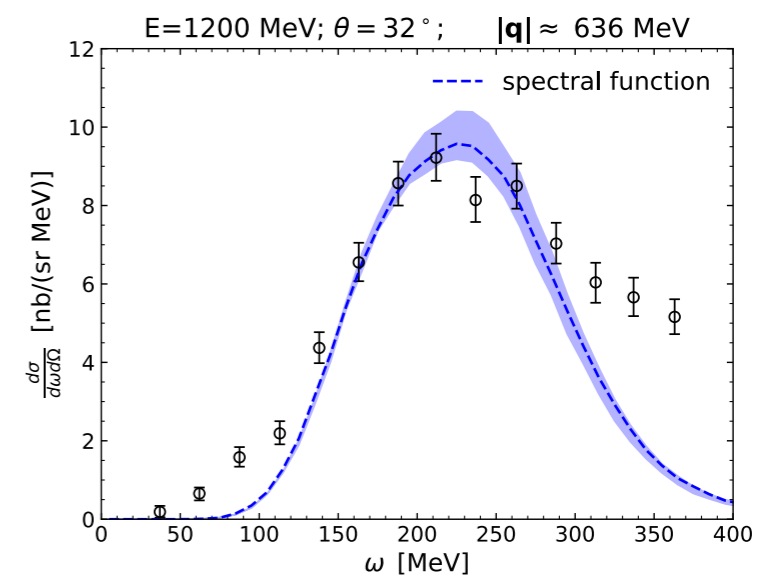
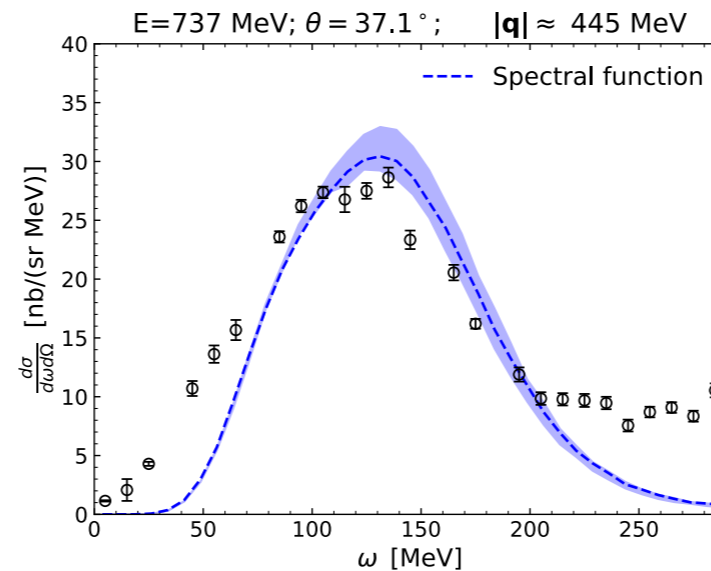
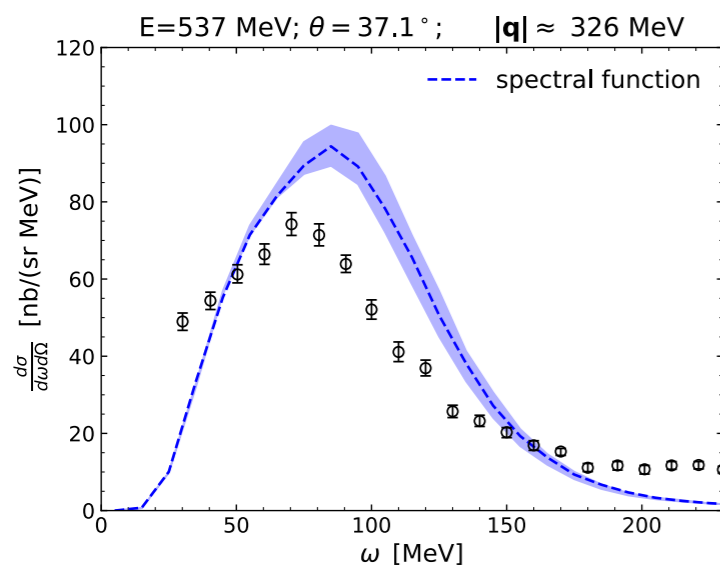
- ➔ Interplay of 1-body and 2-body currents (2p2h)
- ➔ Axial part of interaction
- ➔ Uncertainty quantification

# Spectral function approach



- Different ways to calculate SF:*
- *Ab initio calculations*
  - *Phenomenological approaches*
  - *extracted from (ee'p) data*
  - ...

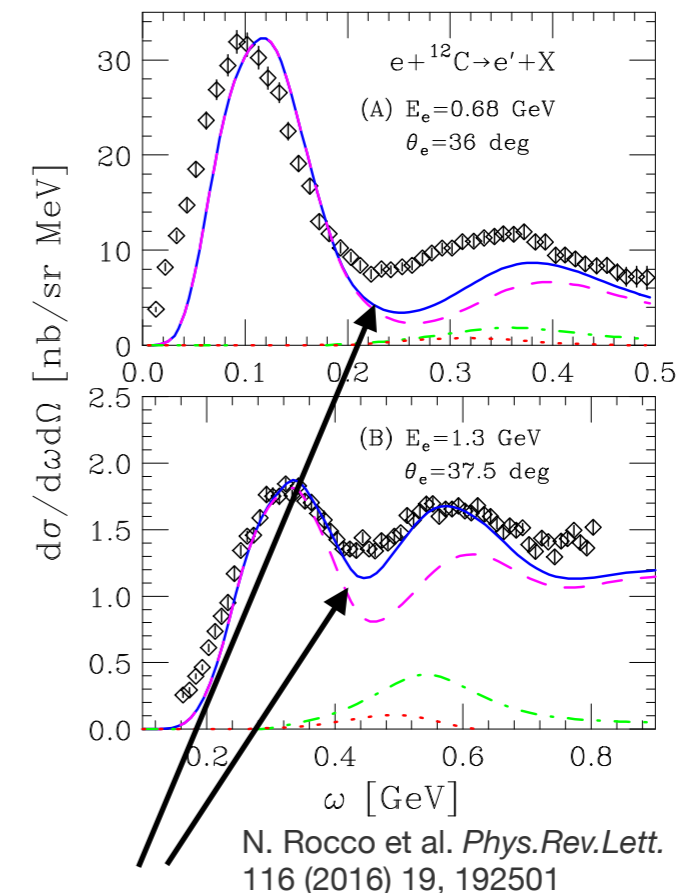
growing  $\mathbf{q}$  momentum transfer  $\rightarrow$  final state interactions play minor role  $\rightarrow$





# 2p2h (2-body mechanism)

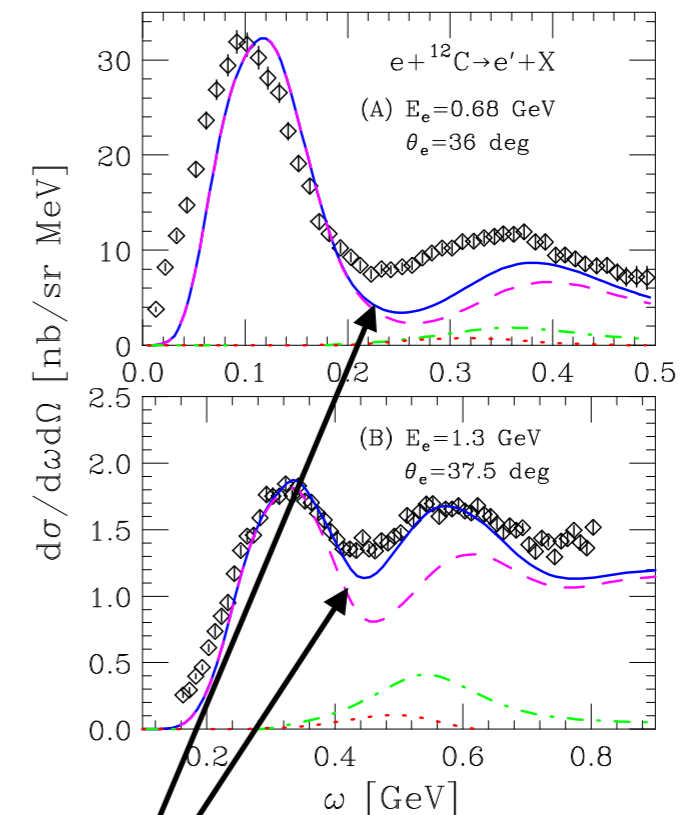
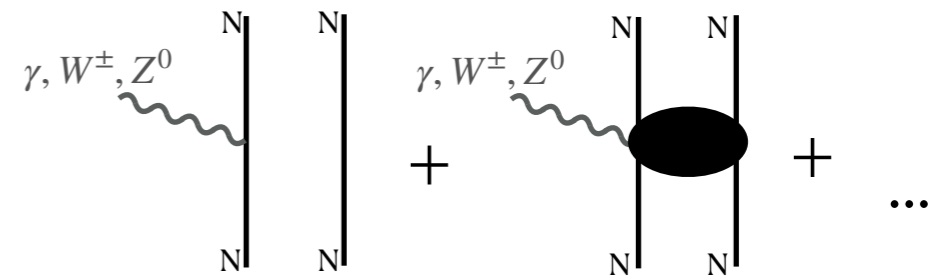
- Scattering on a pair of correlated nucleons, modelled as **meson exchange currents**
- Can lead to the final state knocking out 1 nucleon, 2 nucleons, ...
- Populates mostly the 'dip' region **above quasi-elastic peak** (overlaps with pion production)



DIP region

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N. Rocco et al. *Phys.Rev.Lett.*  
116 (2016) 19, 192501

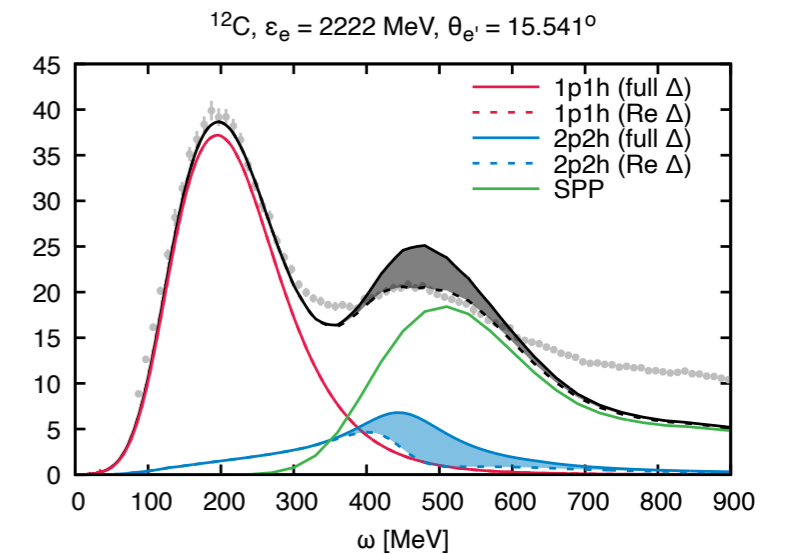
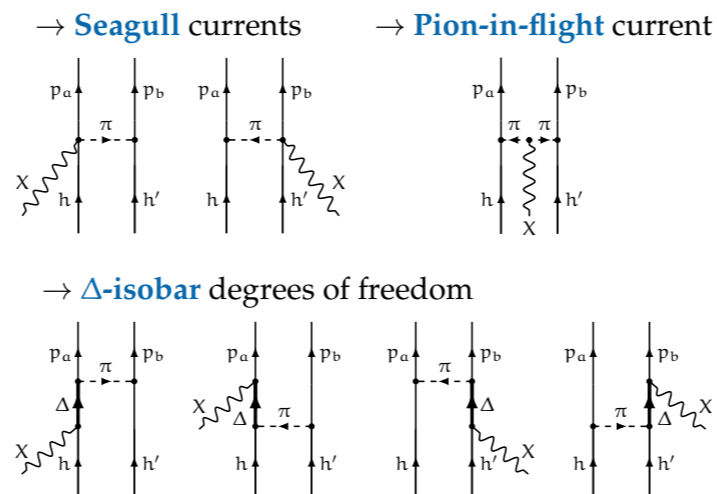
DIP region

# 2p2h

## Recent developments: mean-field approaches

### Ghent group

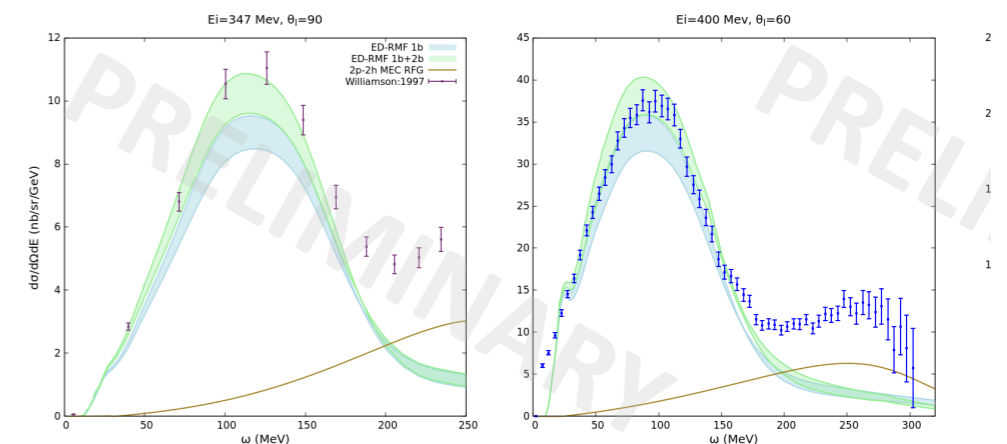
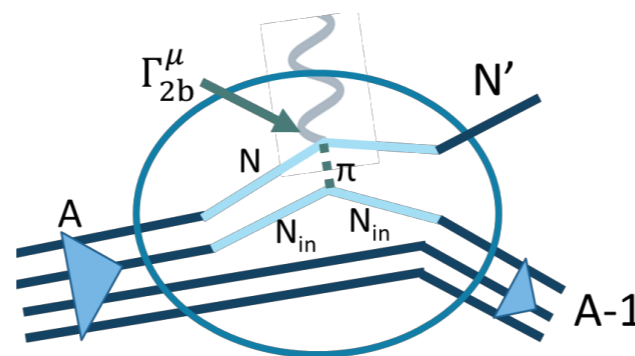
- Meson exchange currents
- Short-range correlations



(K. Niewczas, NuInt2024)

### Relativistic mean-field

- Meson exchange currents in particle-hole excitations



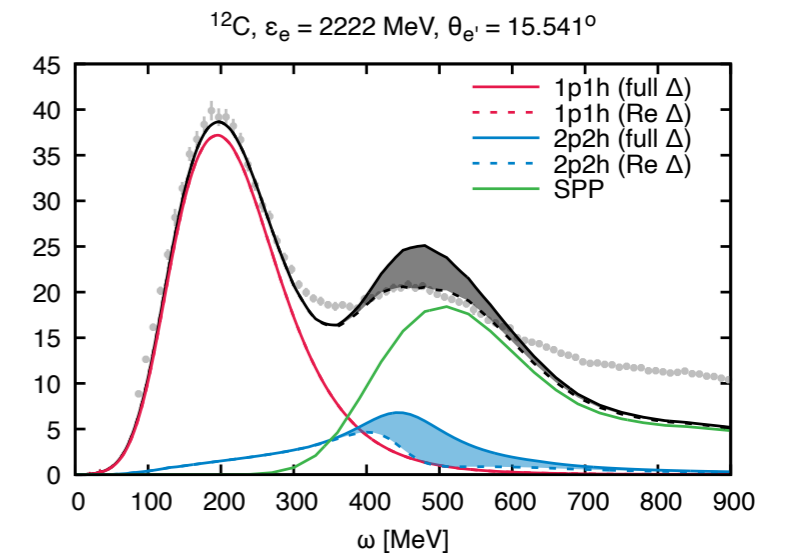
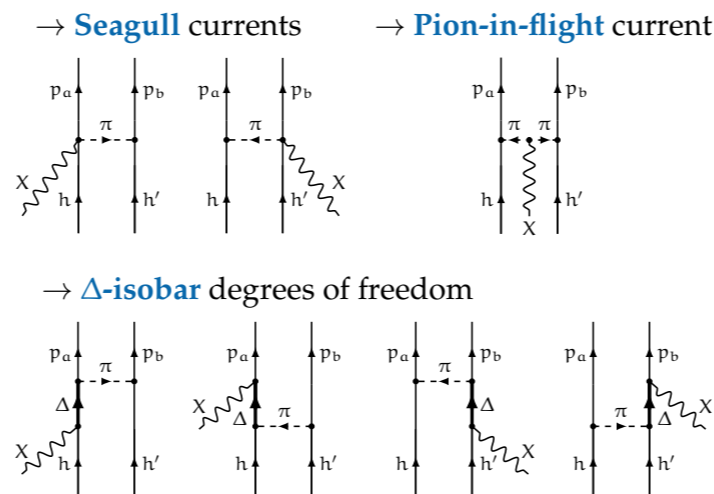
(T. Franco Muñoz, NuInt2024)

# 2p2h

## Recent developments: mean-field approaches

### Ghent group

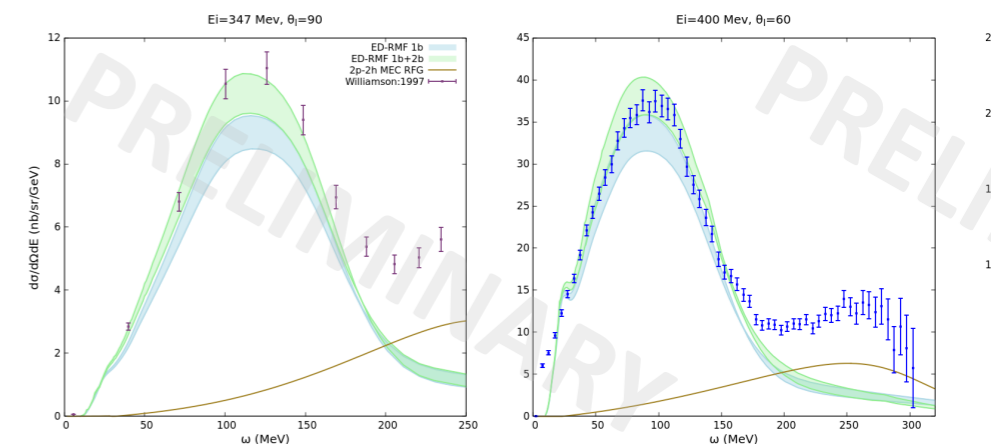
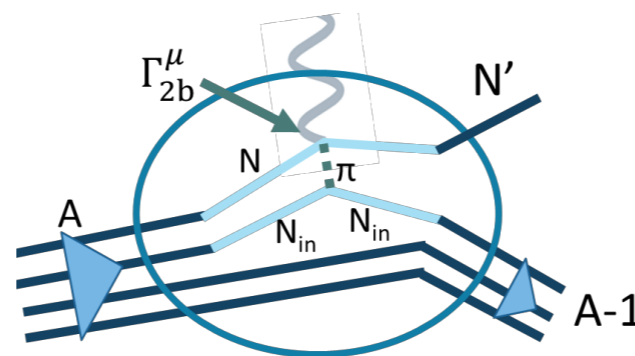
- Meson exchange currents
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(K. Niewczas, NuInt2024)

### Relativistic mean-field

- Meson exchange currents in particle-hole excitations



**SEE TALK: Tania Franco Muñoz**  
(Monday)

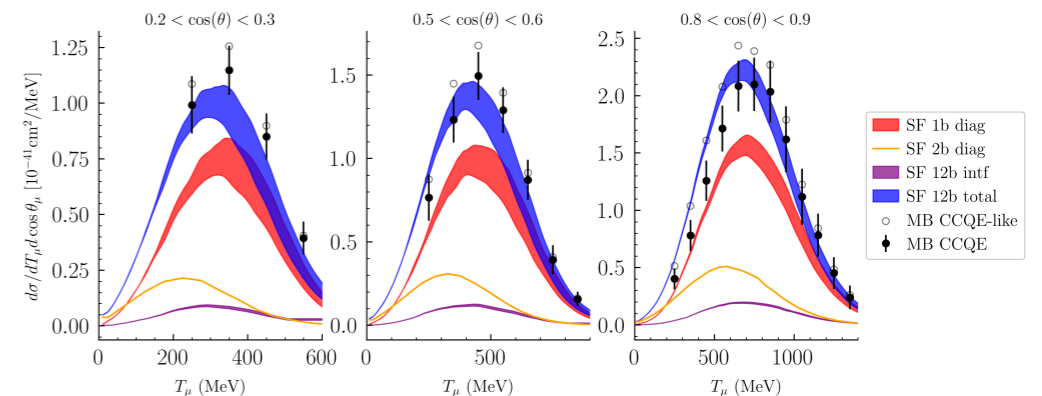
# 2p2h

## Recent developments: results for neutrino scattering

### Spectral function approach

- Meson-exchange currents
- Interference between 1-body and 2-body

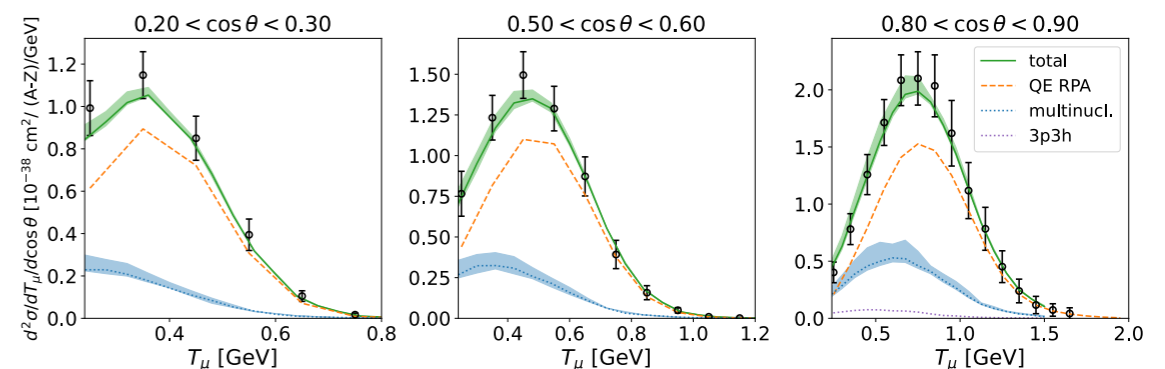
Comparison with MiniBooNE CCQE on 12C



A.Lovato, N.Rocco, et al arxiv:2312.12545

### Valencia model

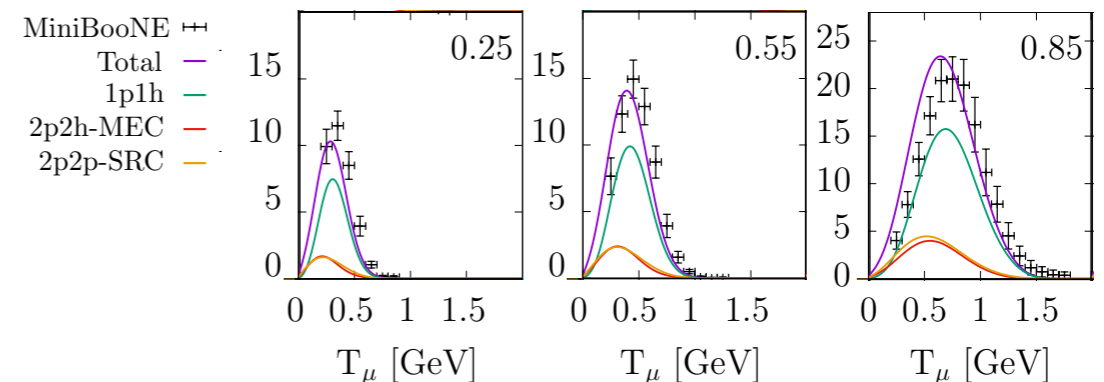
- Meson exchange current with effective interaction
- Uncertainty estimation: treatment of  $\Delta$  self-energy



JES., J. Nieves arxiv:2407.21587

### SuSA

- Distinguish meson-exchange currents and short-range correlations
- Inherently inclusive approach



Phys.Rev.D 108 (2023) 1, 013007

# Axial form factor

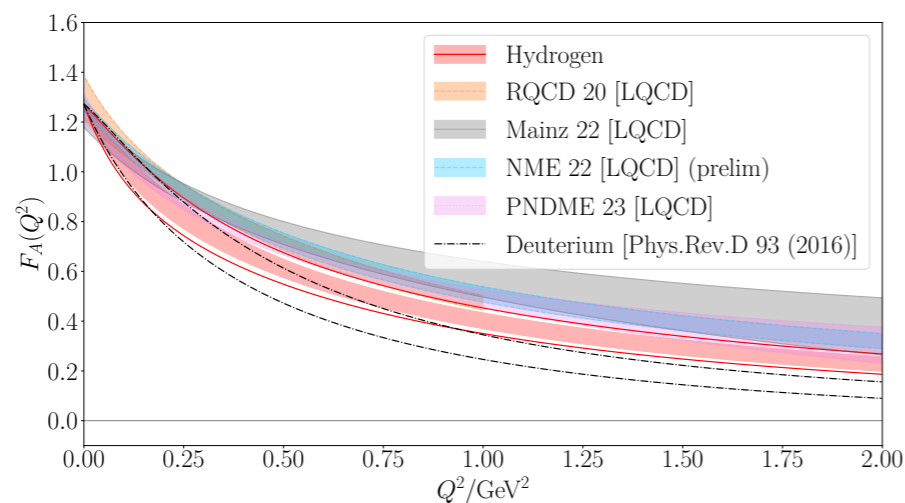
- Dipole ansatz

$$F_A(Q^2) = g_A \left( 1 + \frac{Q^2}{m_A^2} \right)^{-2}$$

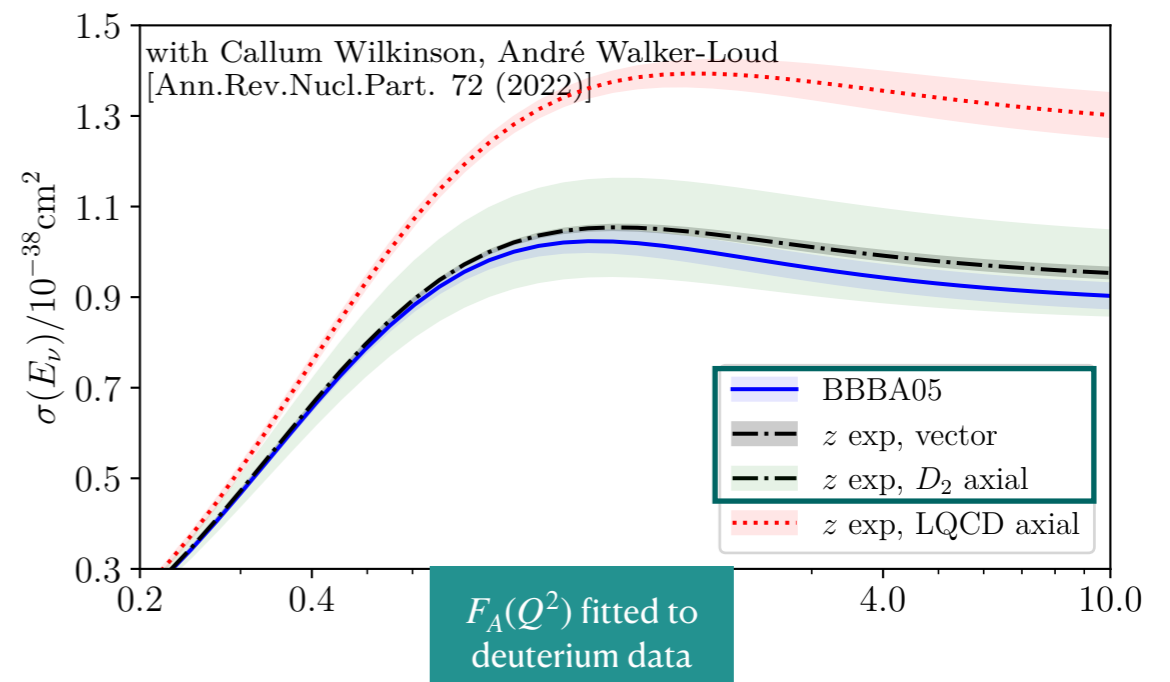
- Deuterium data:  $m_A = 1014(14)$  MeV

- Recent results:

- LQCD calculations
- MINER $\nu$ A measurement on hydrogen (T. Cai et al. Nature 614, 48–53 (2023))

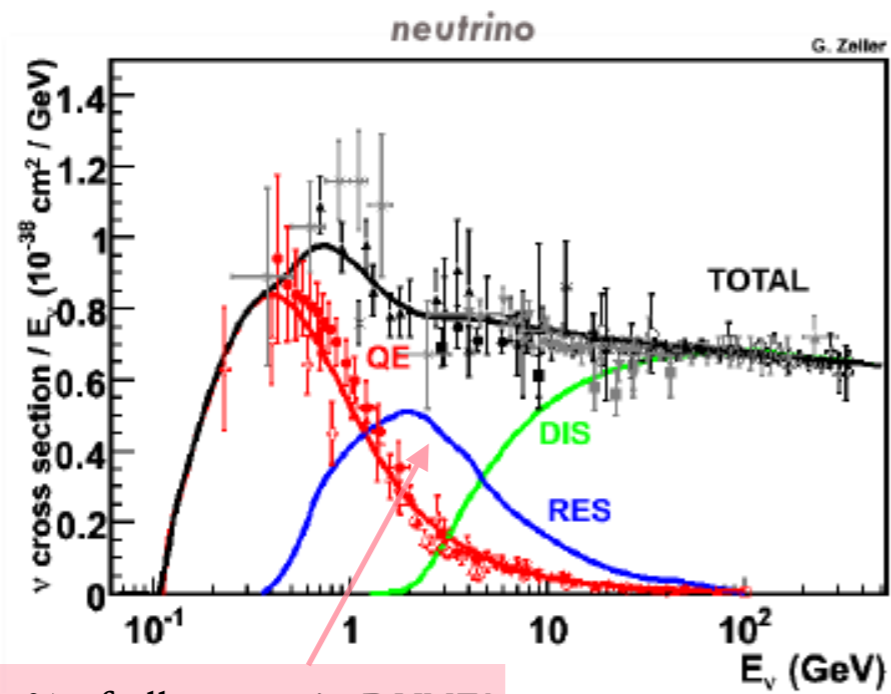


~ 30 % difference coming from the LQCD form-factor

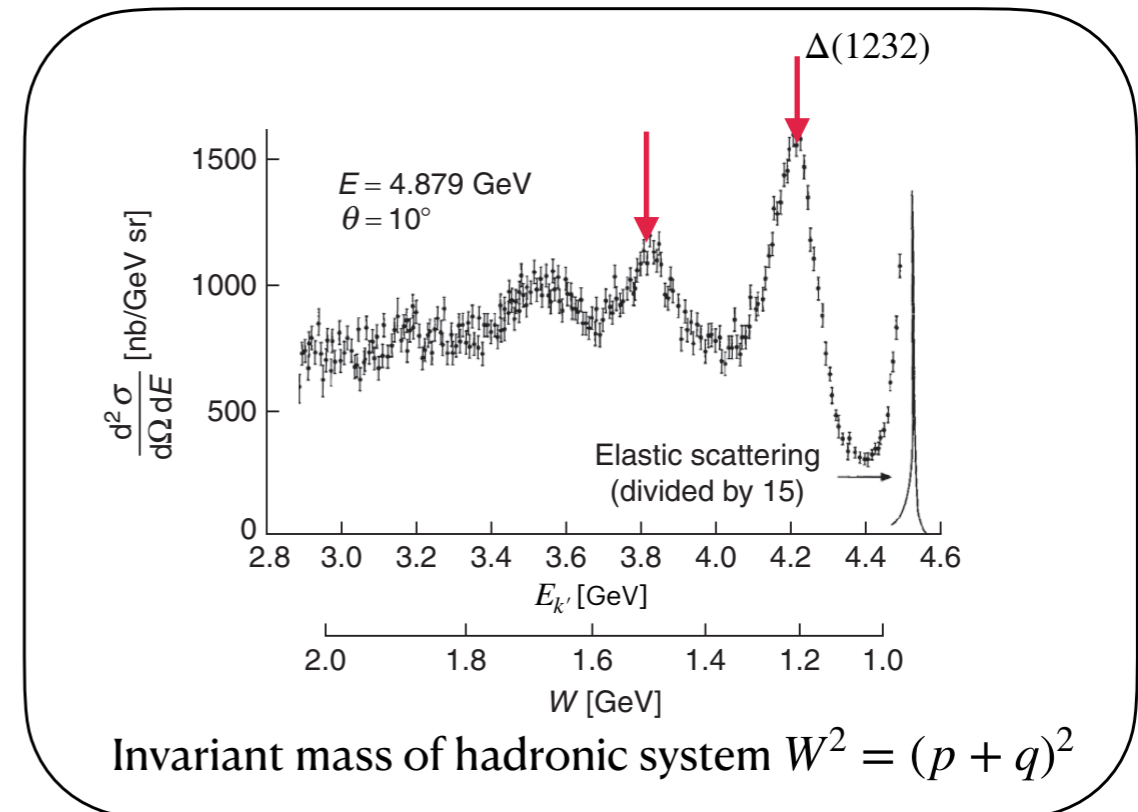


Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 72 (2022) 205-232

# Pion production

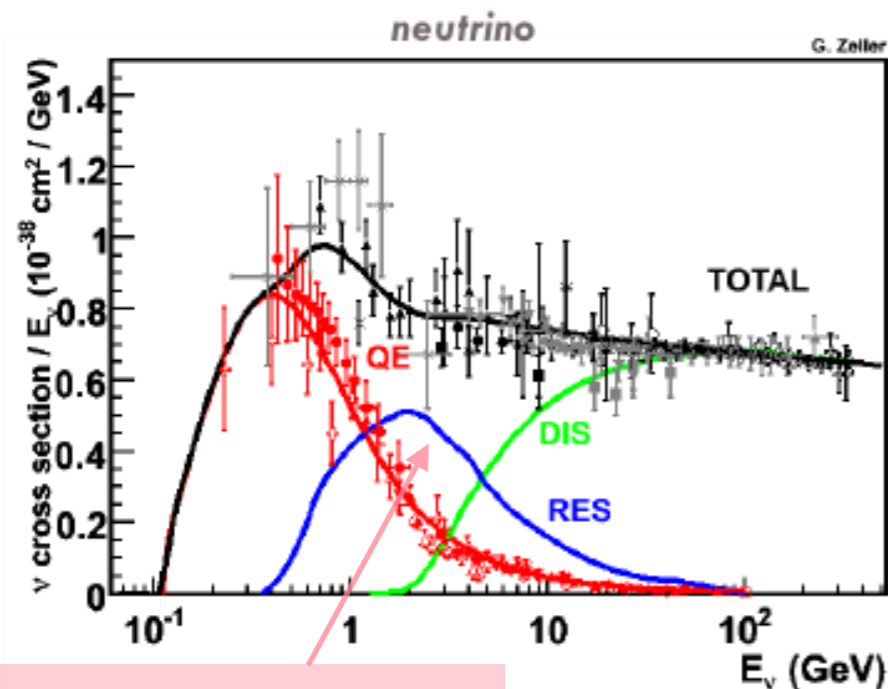


Over 30% of all events in DUNE!

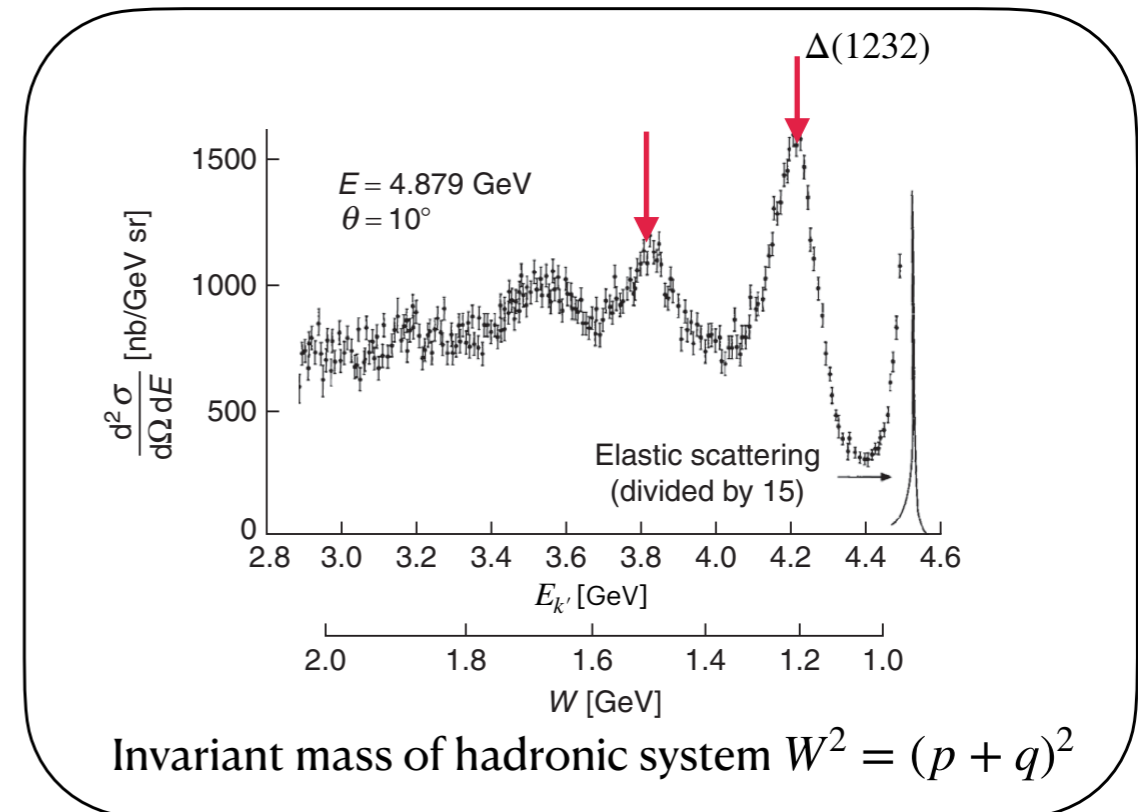


Invariant mass of hadronic system  $W^2 = (p + q)^2$

# Pion production



Over 30% of all events in DUNE!

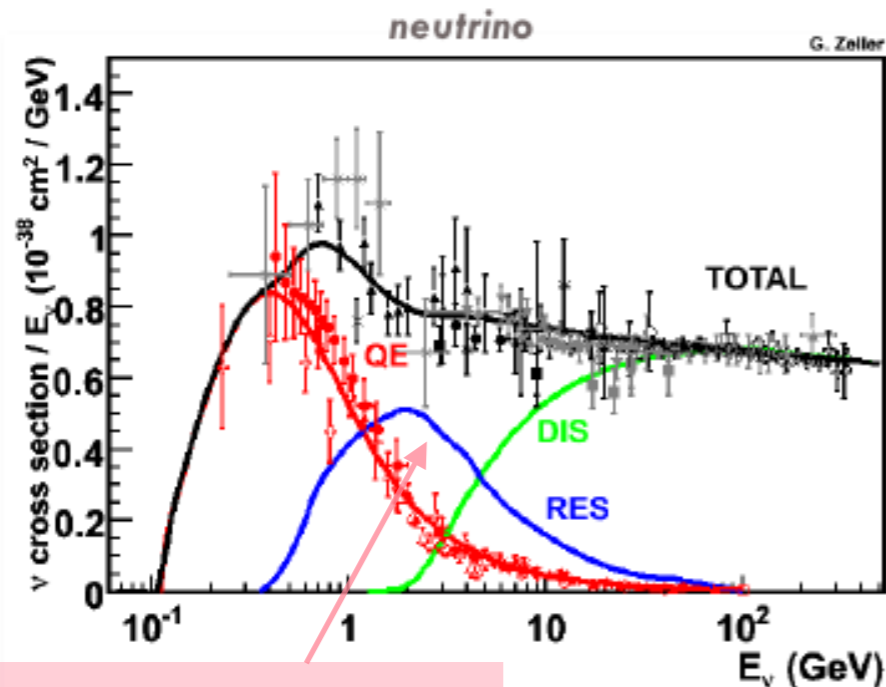


Invariant mass of hadronic system  $W^2 = (p + q)^2$

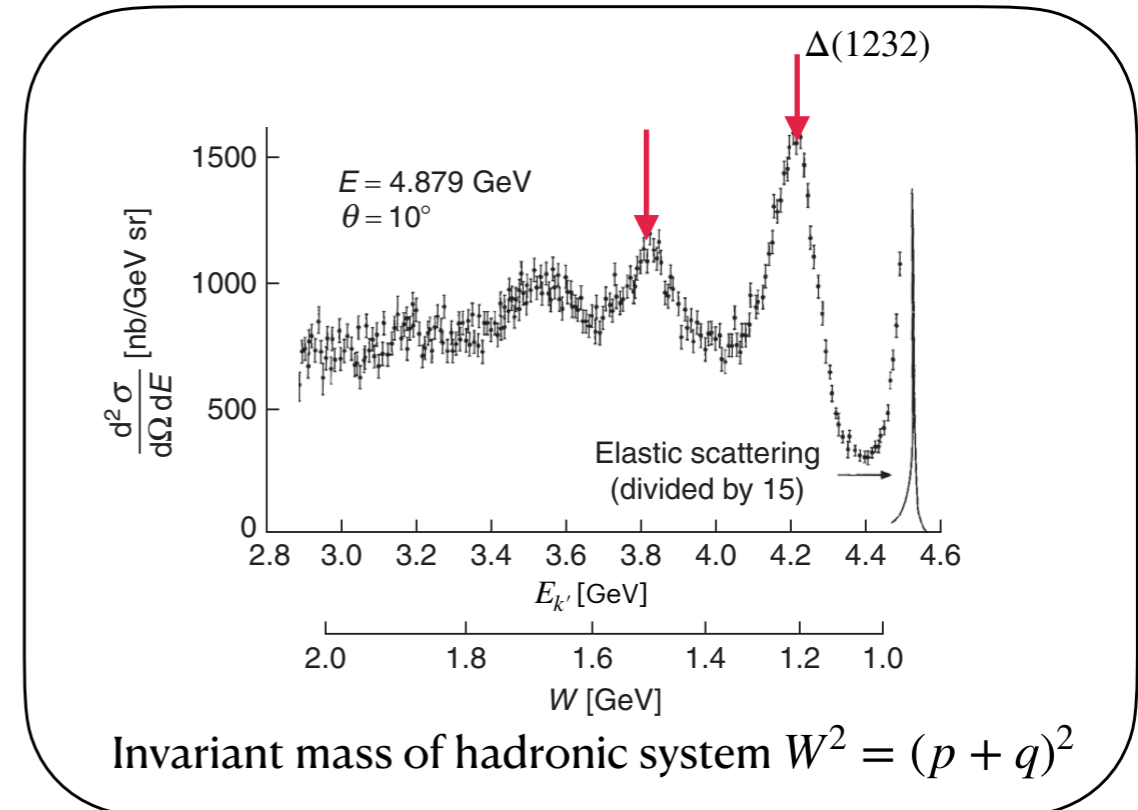
- **@nucleon** level: various (sophisticated) models of meson production
  - *Julich-Bonn, ANL-Osaka DCC (dynamical channels)*
  - *MAID07, SAID ("unitary isobar model")*
  - *Valencia model*
- **@nucleus**: less theoretical expertise
- **Δ region**: approach of Δ in nuclear matter model by E. Oset



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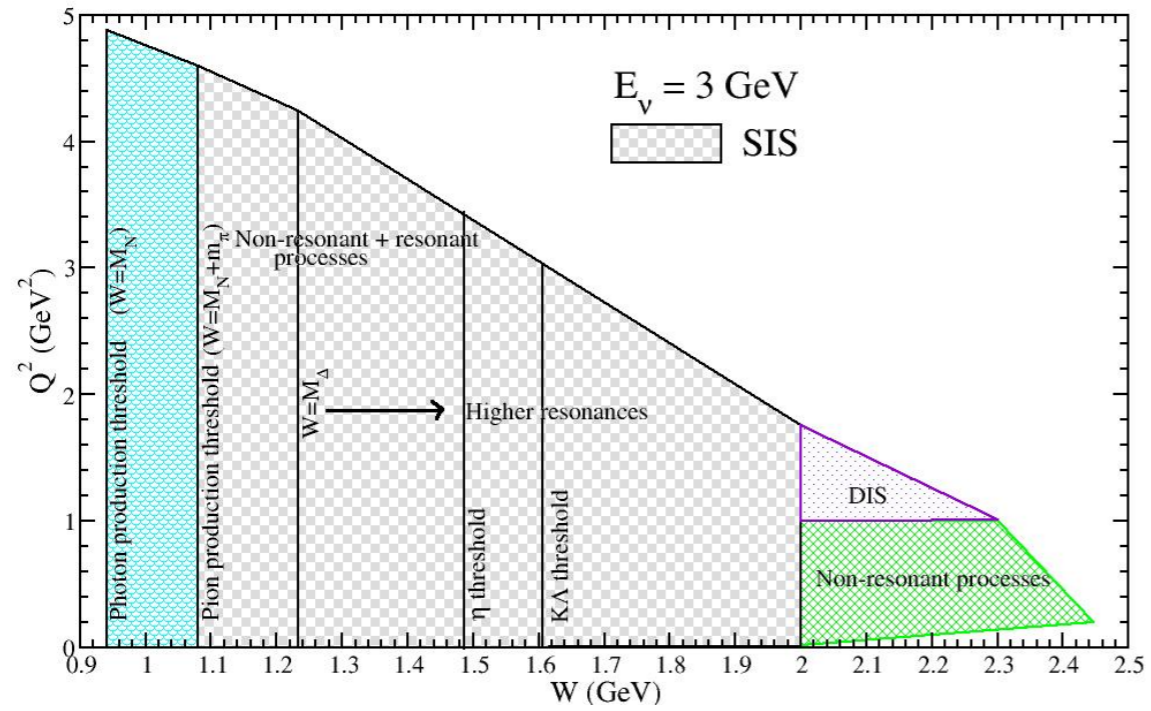
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- **$\Delta$  region**: approach of  $\Delta$  in nuclear matter model by E. Oset

E. Oset L. L. Salcedo, Nucl. Phys. A 468, 631 (1987)

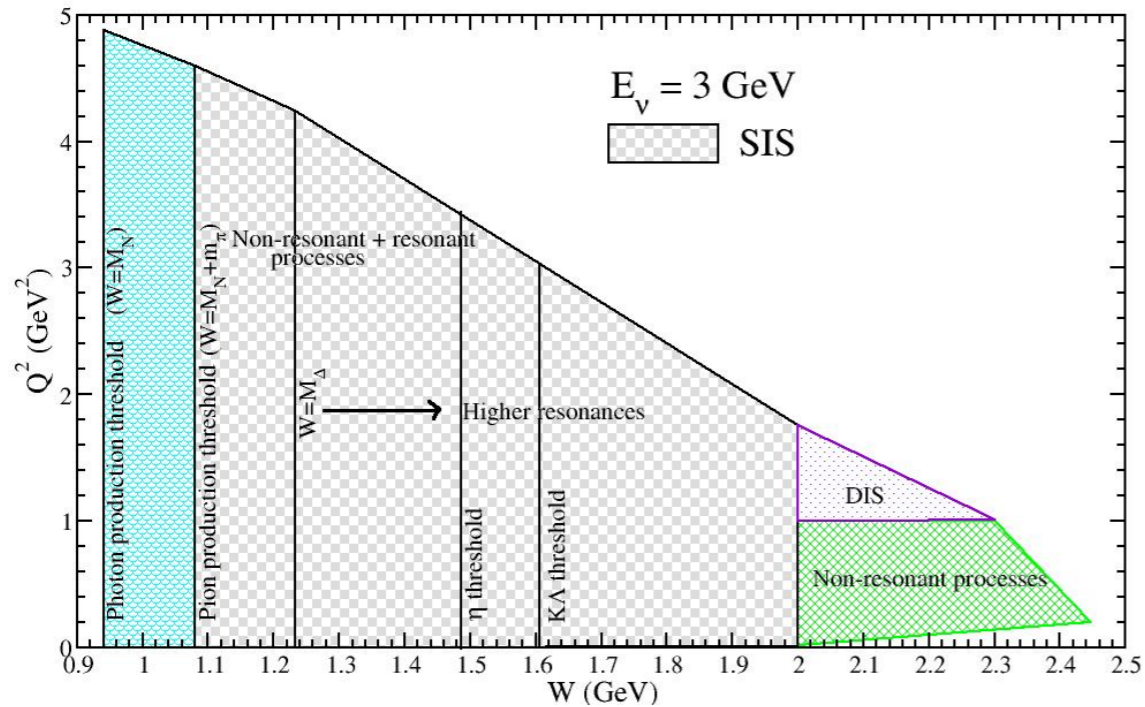
## Current directions and efforts:

- ➔ Connecting  $\Delta$  region and higher resonances + non-resonant background
- ➔ Axial form-factors of resonances
- ➔ Production of other multiple mesons

# Pion production



# Pion production

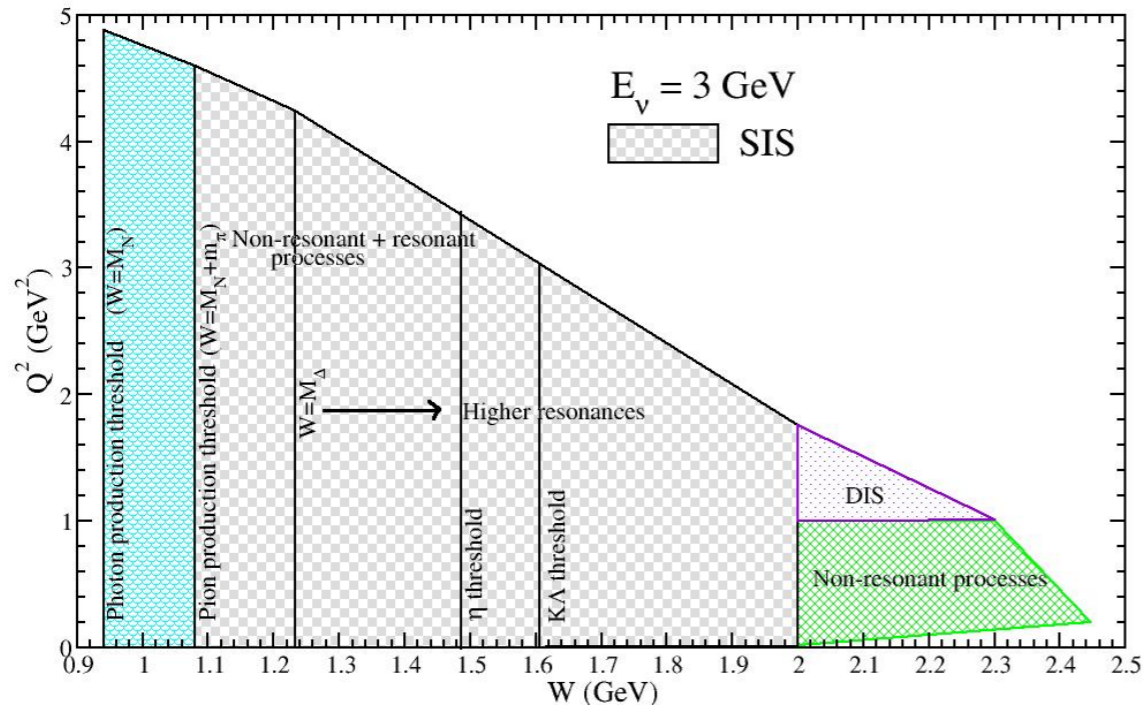


## Merging pion models with nuclear models

- Valencia model: the same formalism for pion production, 2p2h, quasi-elastic
- Spectral function + DCC
- SuSAv2 + DCC

**SEE TALK: Jesús González Rosa (Monday)**

# Pion production



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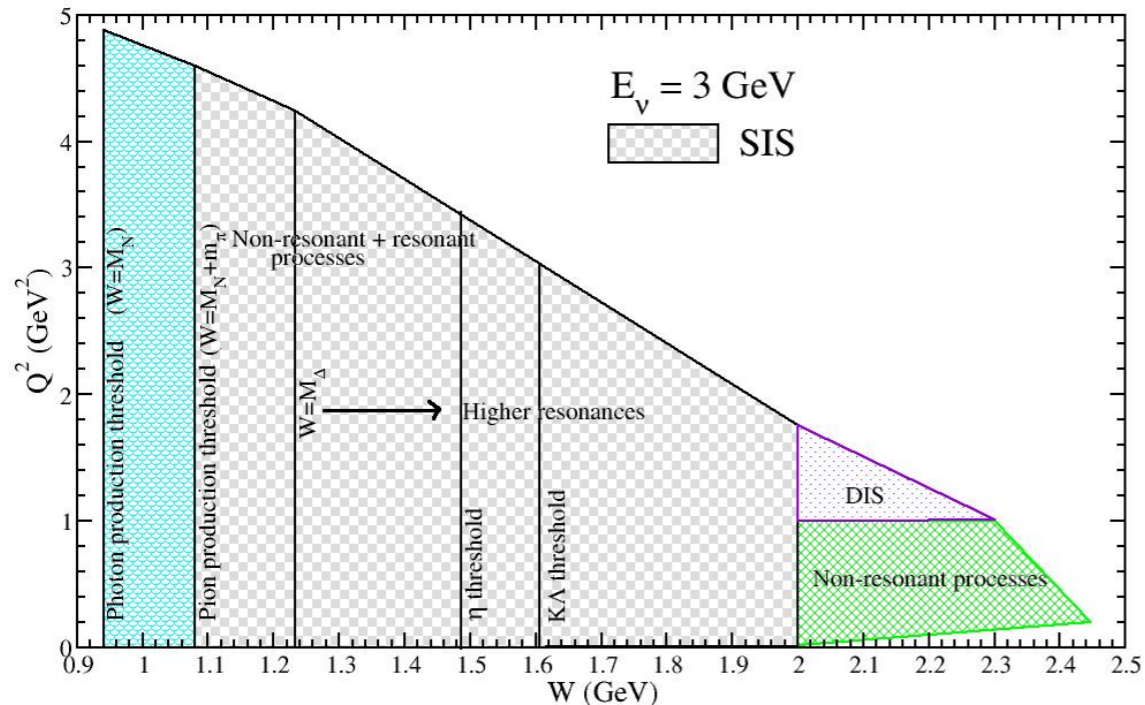
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## The Ghent Hybrid Model

- Low energy: following Valencia model
  - High energy: Regge theory to extrapolate background to higher invariant mass
- Both regions mixed @amplitude level
- Recently implemented in NuWro

arxiv:2405.05212

# Pion production



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arxiv:2405.05212

## More exotic processes:

Eta, kaons, hyperons, ... production

**SEE TALK: Atika Fatima**  
(Thursday)

# Summary

- Many new developments from various groups!
  - Exclusive distributions
  - 2p2h (meson exchange currents)
  - LQCD: form-factors
  - Incorporating pion physics
- Efforts to estimate **theoretical uncertainties**

# Summary

- Many new developments from various groups!
  - Exclusive distributions
  - 2p2h (meson exchange currents)
  - LQCD: form-factors
  - Incorporating pion physics
- Efforts to estimate **theoretical uncertainties**



- Constant work to include theoretical calculations to MC generators
- “Stitching” theoretical models with intranuclear cascade
- Transition regions (hadrons/DIS)
- Benchmarks for electron scattering

**Thank you for attention!**

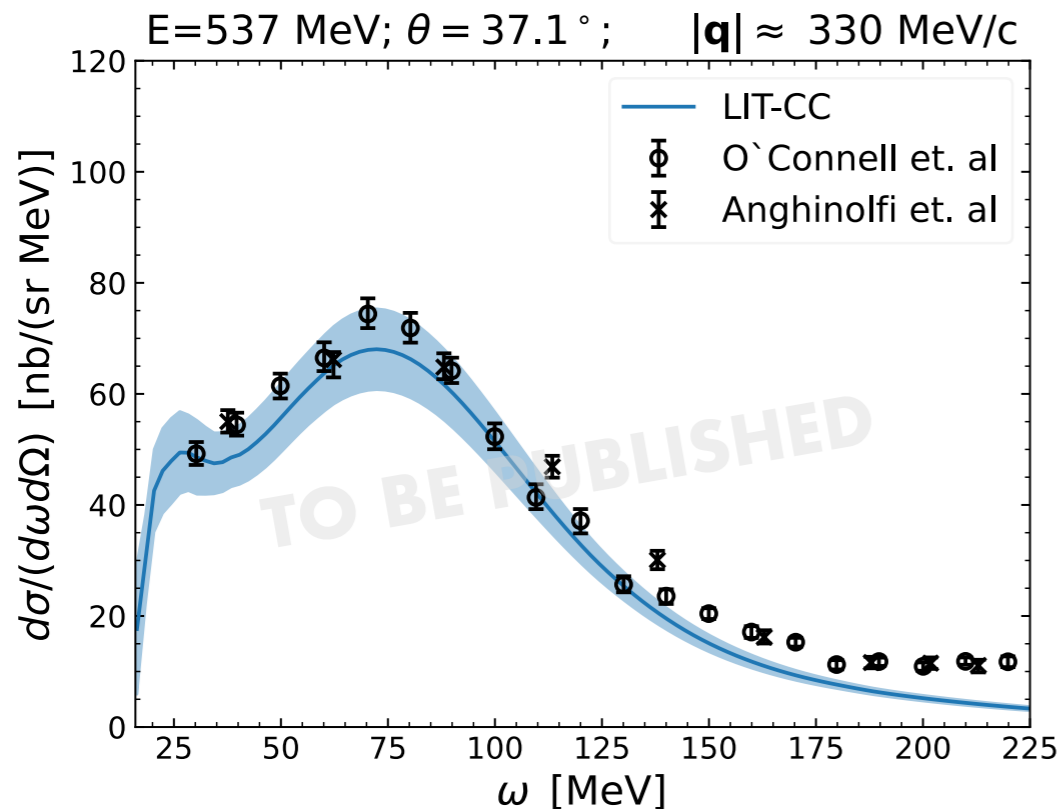


**Backup**

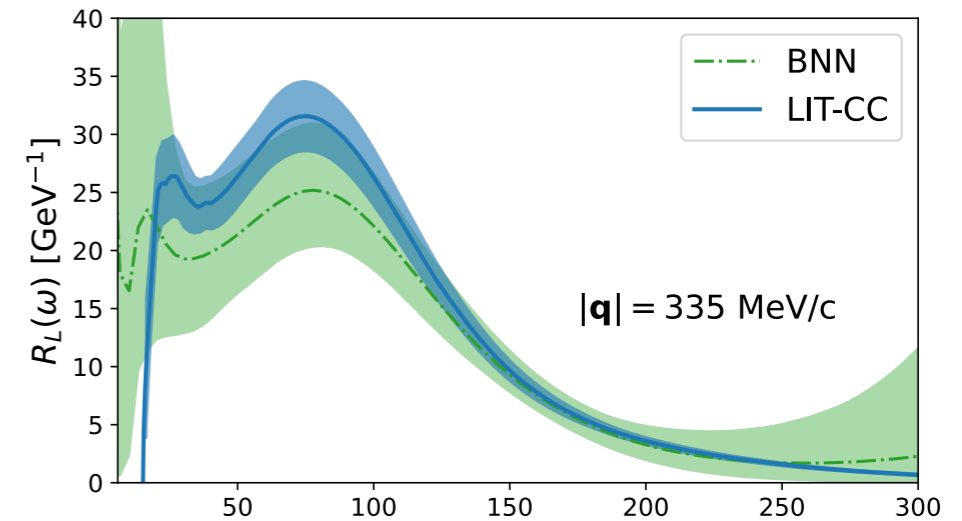
# Coupled cluster for $^{16}\text{O}$

Lorentz Integral Transform + Coupled Cluster (**LIT-CC**)

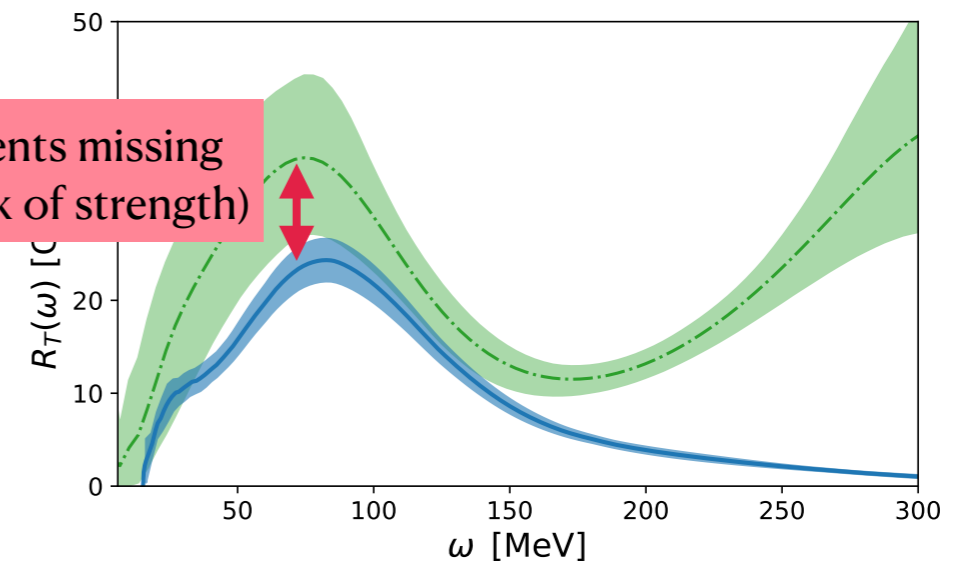
## Electron scattering



First ab-initio results for many-body system of 16 nucleons



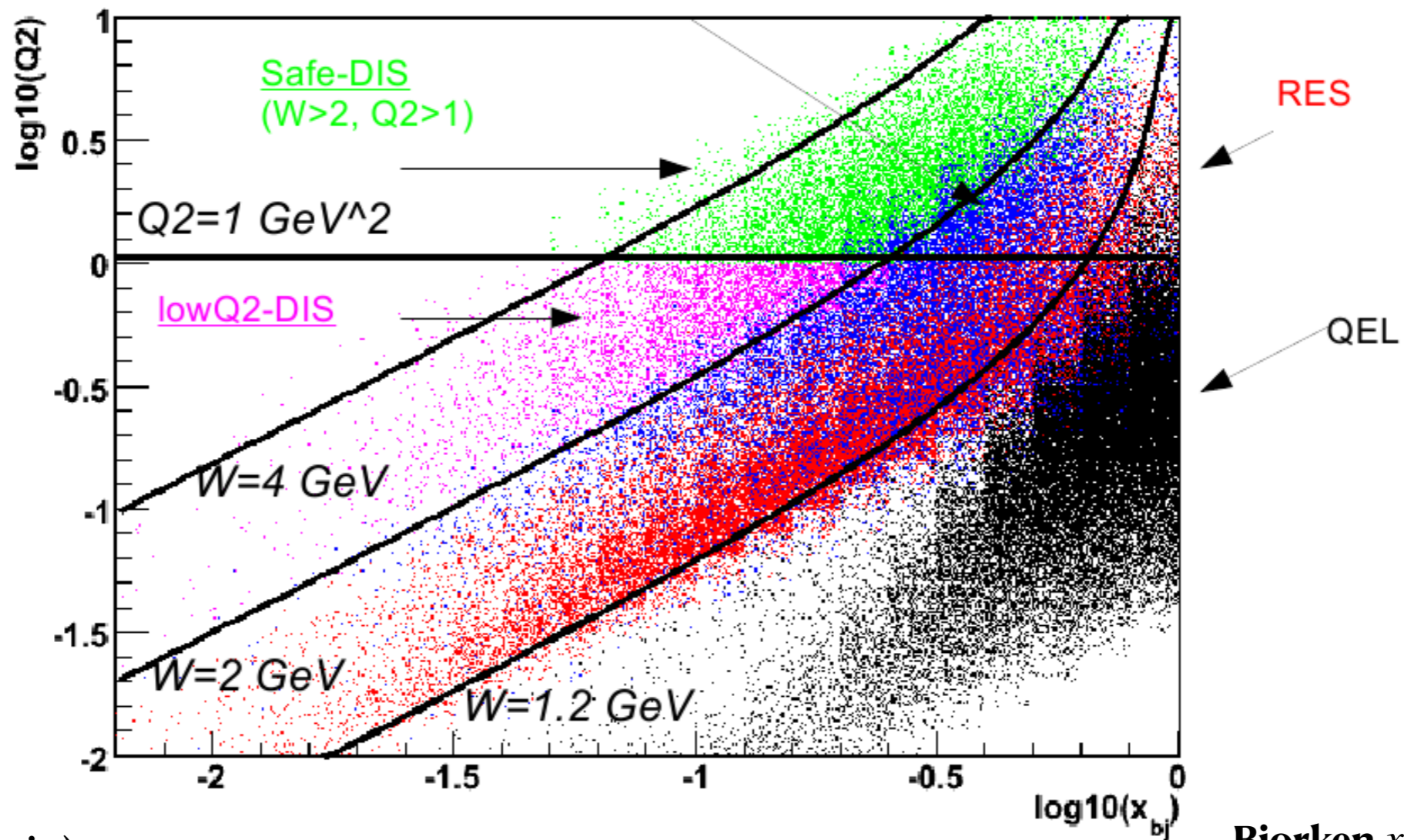
2-body currents missing  
(expected lack of strength)



$$R_{\mu\nu}(\omega, q) = \sum_f \langle \Psi | J_\mu^\dagger | \Psi_f \rangle \langle \Psi_f | J_\nu | \Psi \rangle \delta(E_0 + \omega - E_f)$$

Consistent treatment of final state interactions.

# Physical mechanisms



**Bjorken**  $x = \frac{Q^2}{2pq}$

$x$  measures the inelasticity  
 $0 \leq x \leq 1$  (elastic scattering)

- **QE** (quasi-elastic)
  - **RES** (resonance production)
  - **DIS** (deep inelastic scattering)
- } Exact separation between these regions is generator-dependent