

# $J/\psi$ photoproduction amplitude analyses

**Jefferson Lab**  
Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility



Arkaitz Rodas

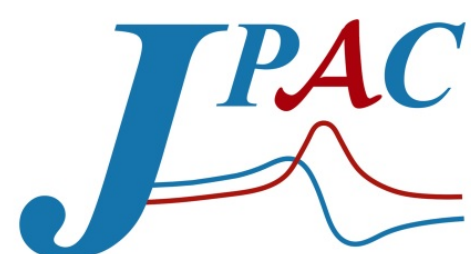


  
**OLD DOMINION**  
UNIVERSITY

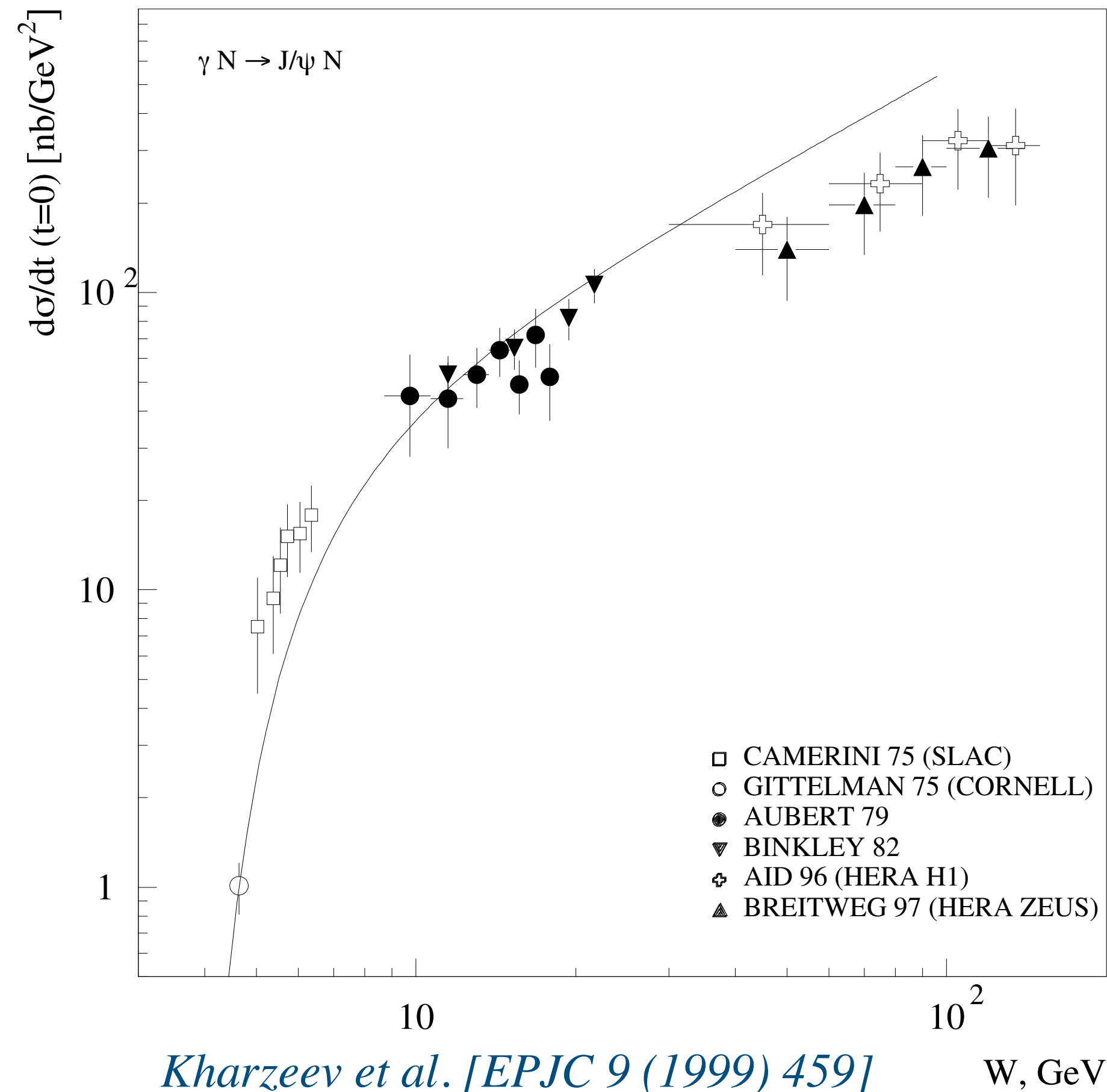
*Winney, et al. (JPAC) [PRD 108 (2023) 054018]*

*Winney, et al. (JPAC) [PRD 100 (2019) 034019]*

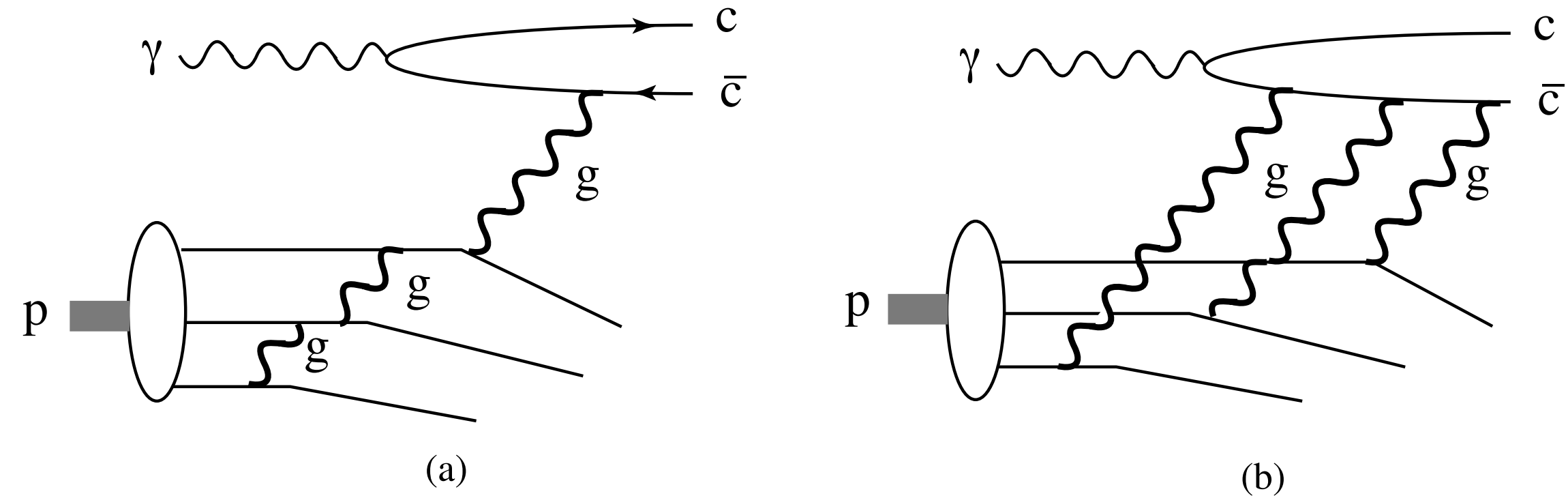
*Hiller Blin, et al. (JPAC) [PRD 100 (2016) 034002]*



# $J/\psi$ photoproduction (near threshold)



*Brodsky et al. [PLB 498 (2001) 23]*



- No obviously “q connected” contributing process:
- Small  $J/\psi \rightarrow NN$  (no baryon exchanges)
  - OZI suppression (no light meson exchanges)
  - Heavy quark masses (no heavy meson exchanges)

" $J/\psi$  probes nonperturbative gluonic distributions"

# J/ψ photoproduction (near threshold)

Measurements at energies near threshold have attracted a lot of attention as potentially sensitive to key quantities relevant to [proton structure](#)

Based on factorization arguments in perturbative and holographic QCD can be used to extract:

- Gravitational form factors

*Mamo & Zahed [PRD 101 (2020) 086003]*

*Guo, Ji & Liu [PRD 103 (2021) 096010]*

- Mass radius

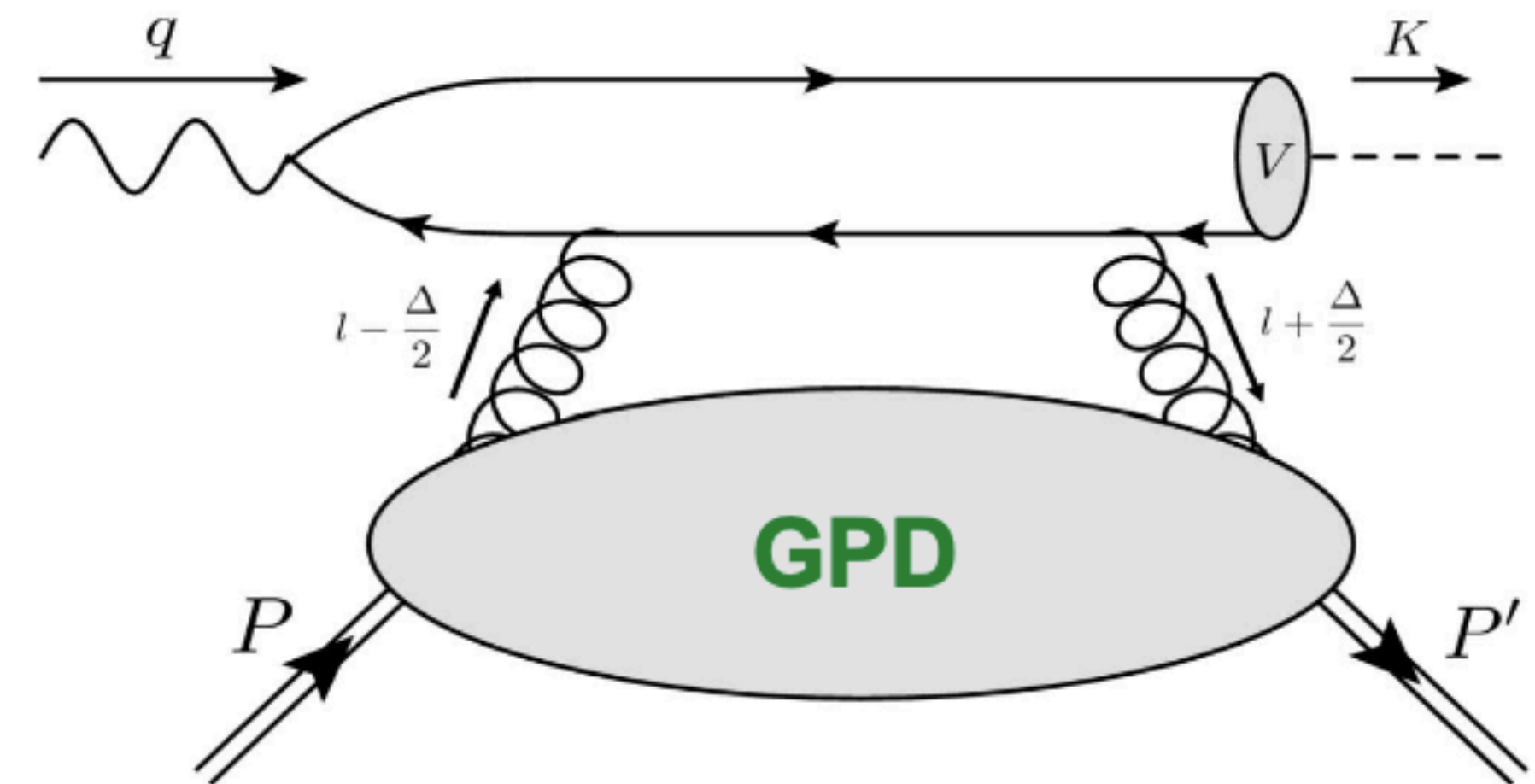
*Kharzeev [PRD 104 (2021) 054015]*

*Mamo & Zahed [PRD 103 (2021) 094010]*

- Trace anomaly contribution to proton mass

*Wang, Chen & Evslin [EPJC 80 (2020) 507]*

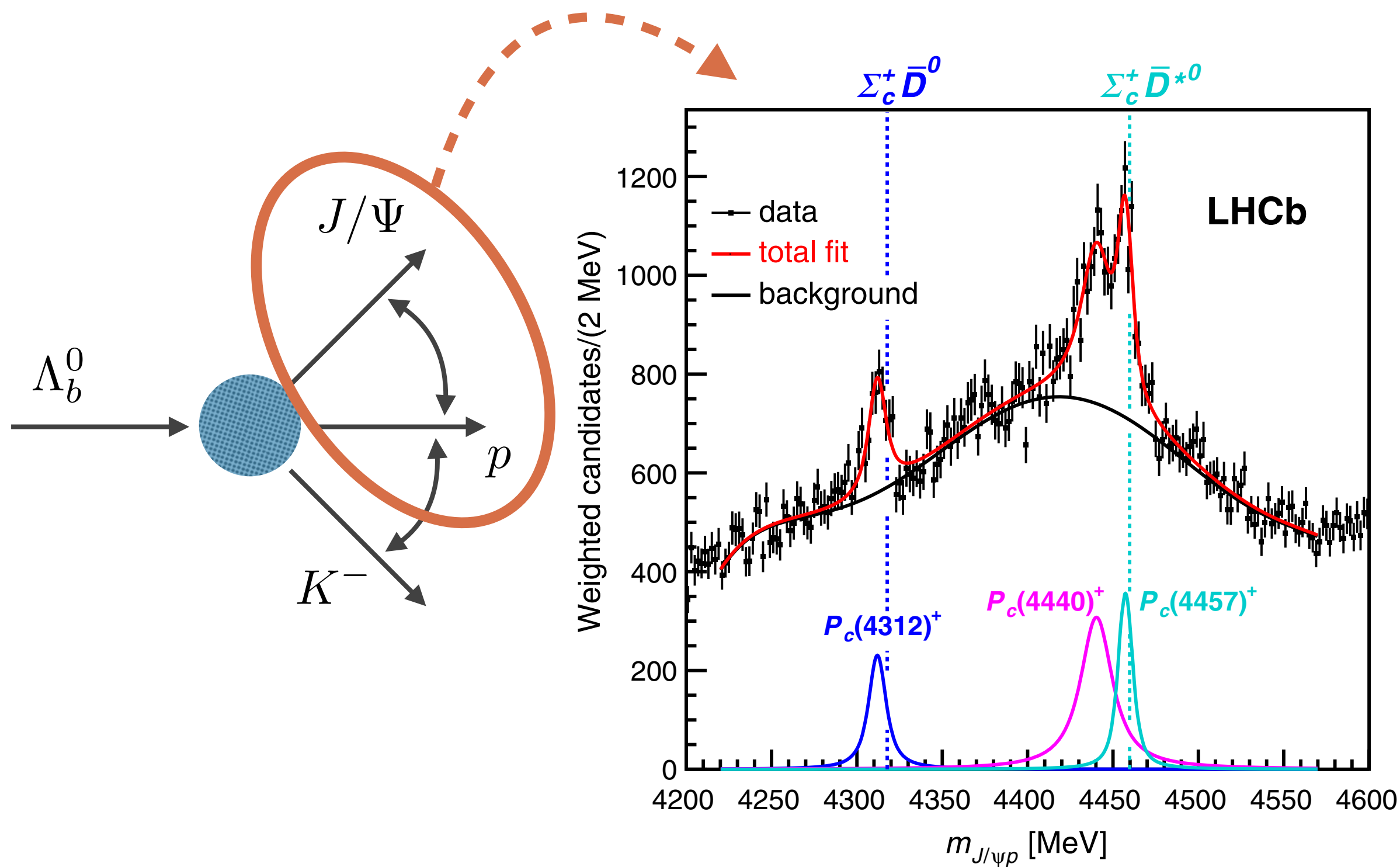
*Hatta & Yang [PRD 98 (2018) 074003]*



$$\langle R_m^2 \rangle = \frac{6}{M} \left. \frac{dG}{dt} \right|_{t=0}$$

# J/ψ photoproduction (near threshold)

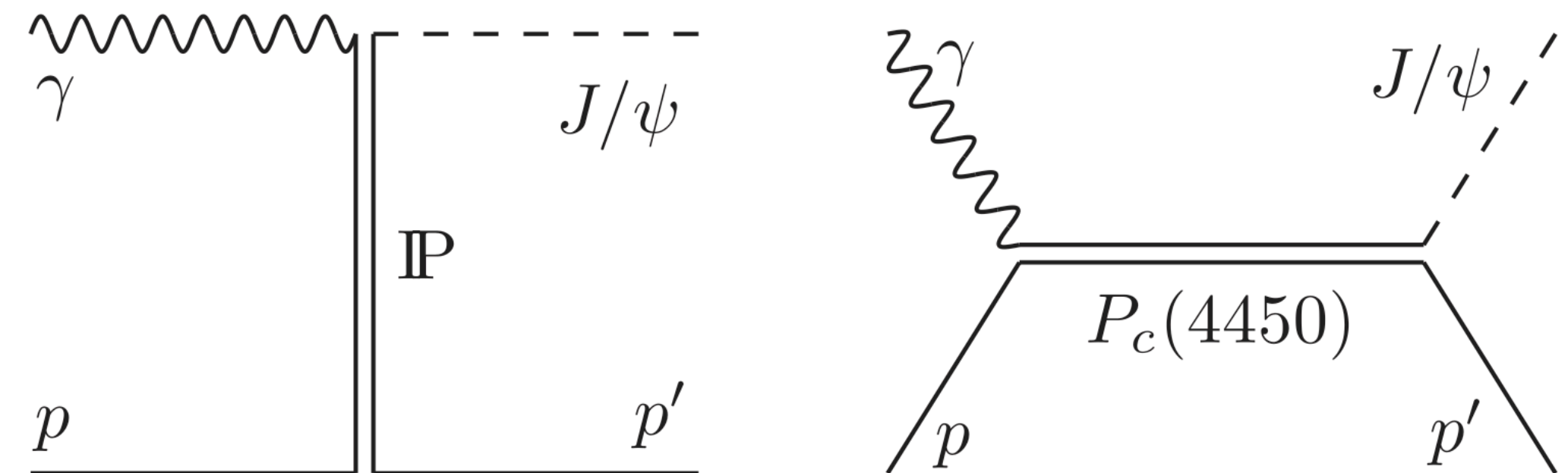
Measurements at energies near threshold have attracted a lot of attention as potentially sensitive to key quantities relevant to **exotic hadrons**



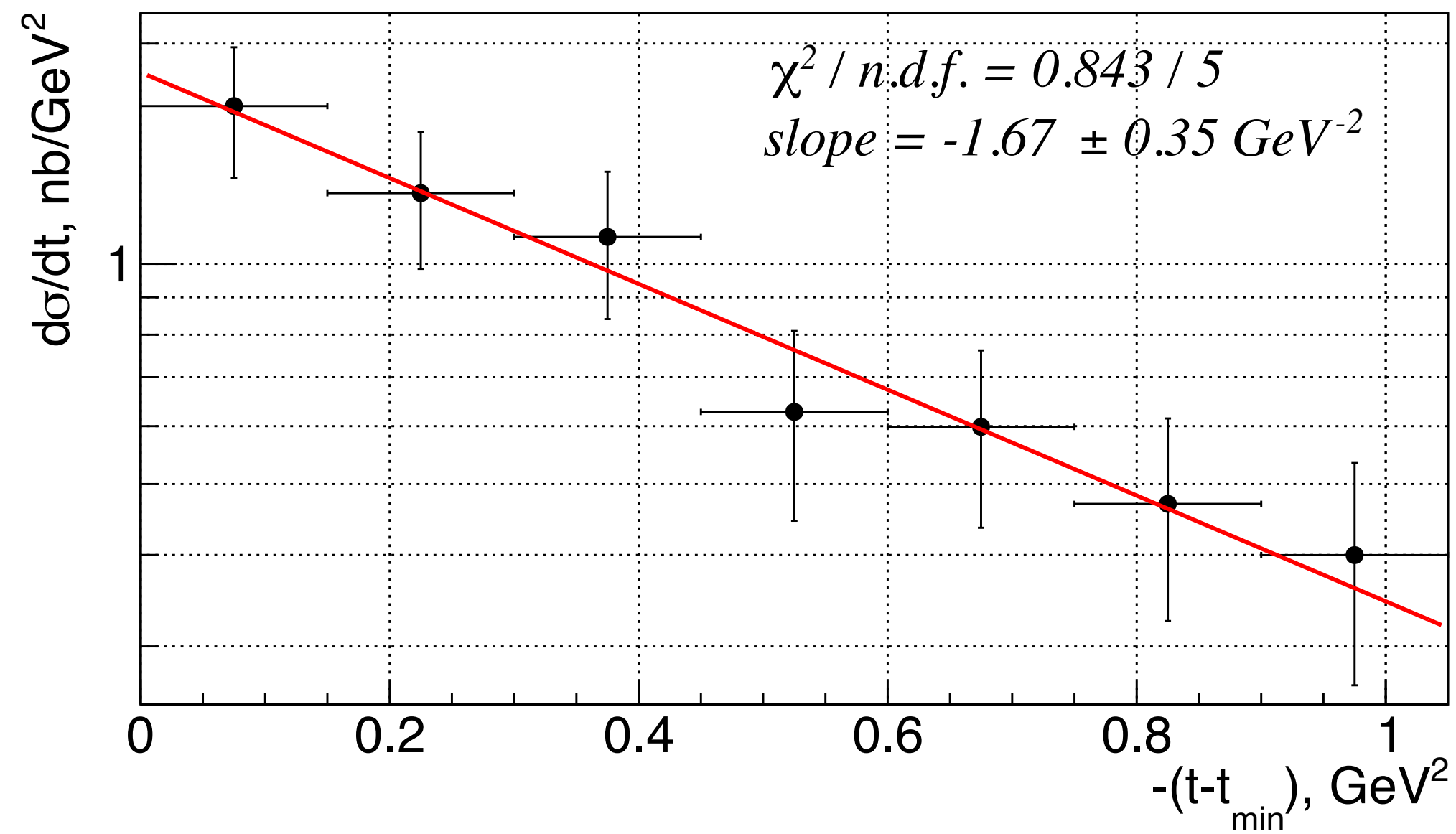
These data: LHCb [PRL 122 (2019) 222001]  
 Discovery: LHCb [PRL 115 (2015) 072001]

Observation of hidden charm pentaquark candidates by LHCb sparked interest in photoproduction searches

Wang et al. [PRD 92 (2015) 034022]  
 Karliner & Rosner [PLB 752 (2016) 329]  
 Hiller Blin et al. [PRD 94 (2016) 034002]

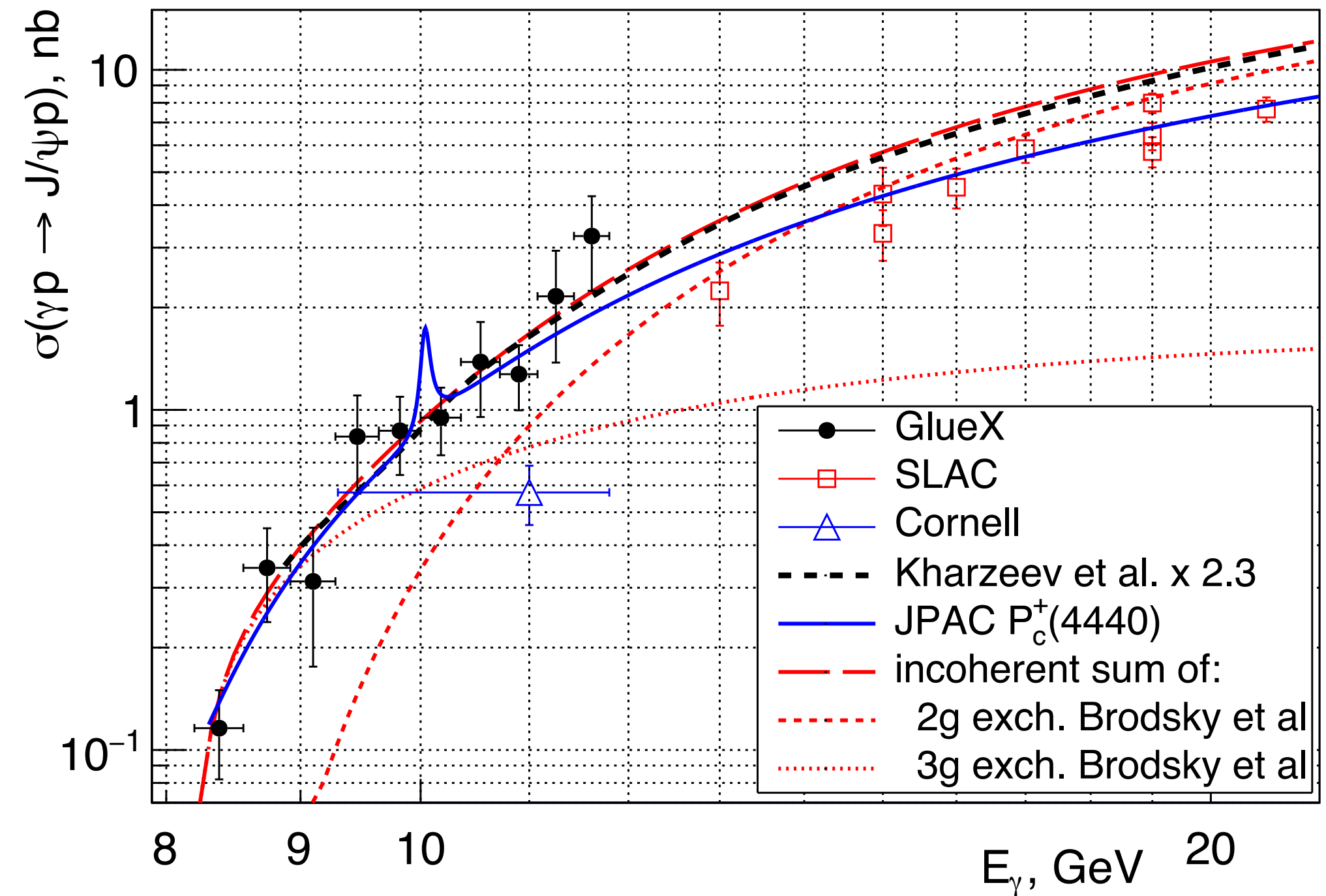


GlueX observes diffractive scattering with no sign of pentaquarks!

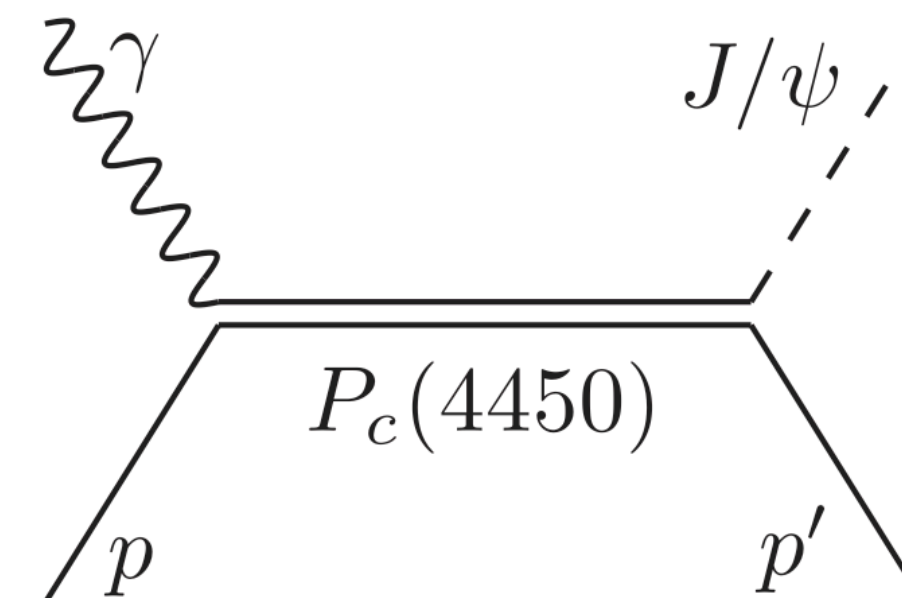


Confirmation of gluon dominated dynamics?

JPAC model: Assume  $P_c^+$  couples with predefined strength



But... the cross section is not precise enough to discard them!

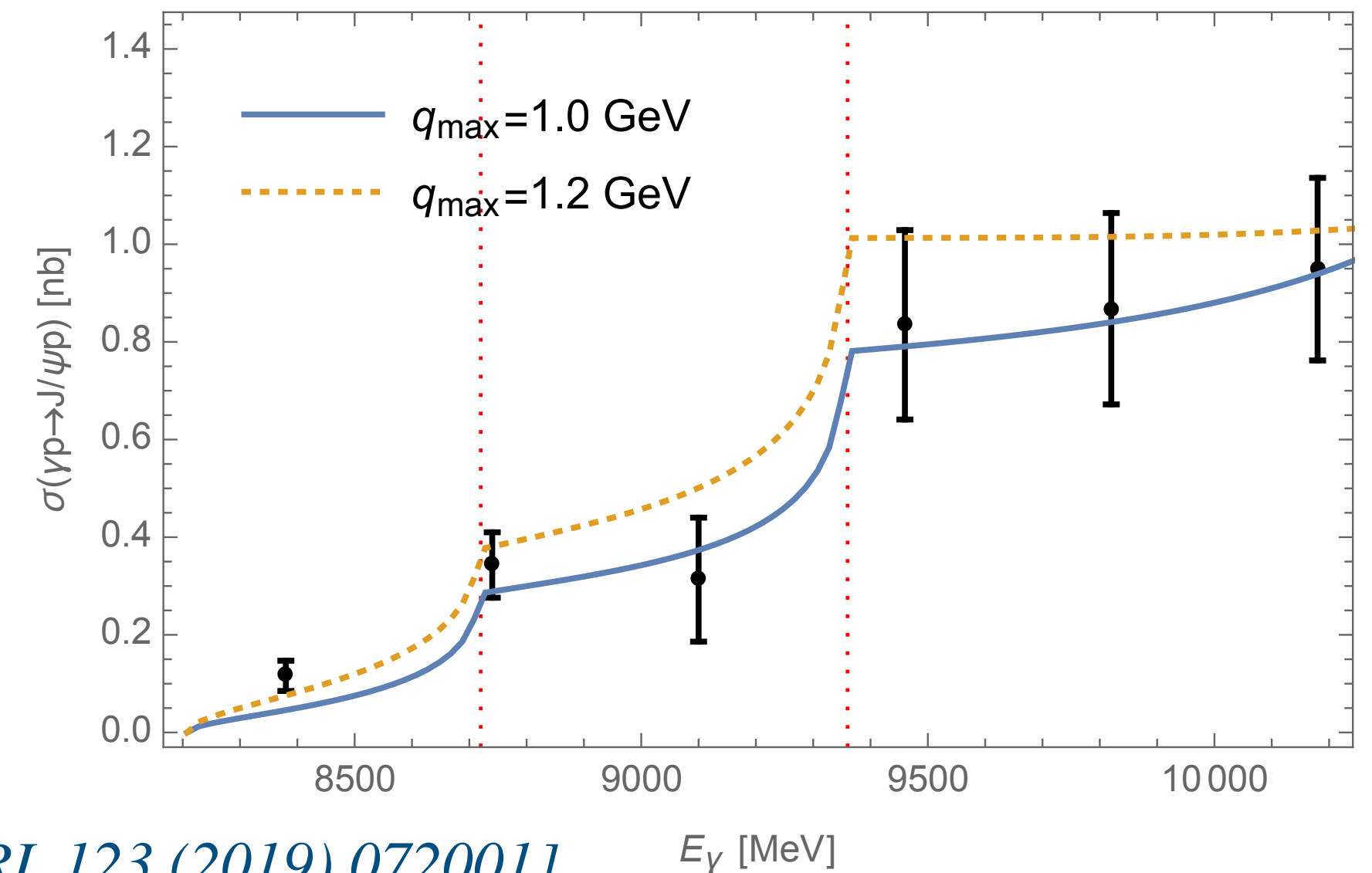
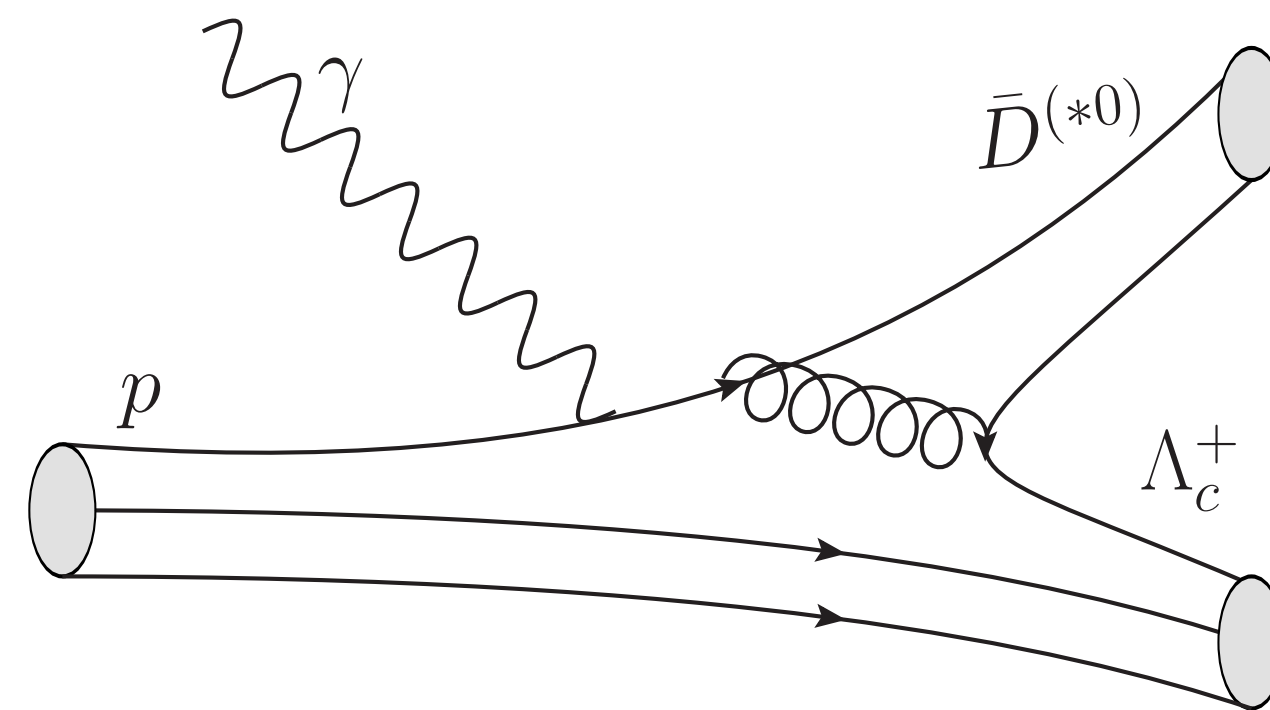
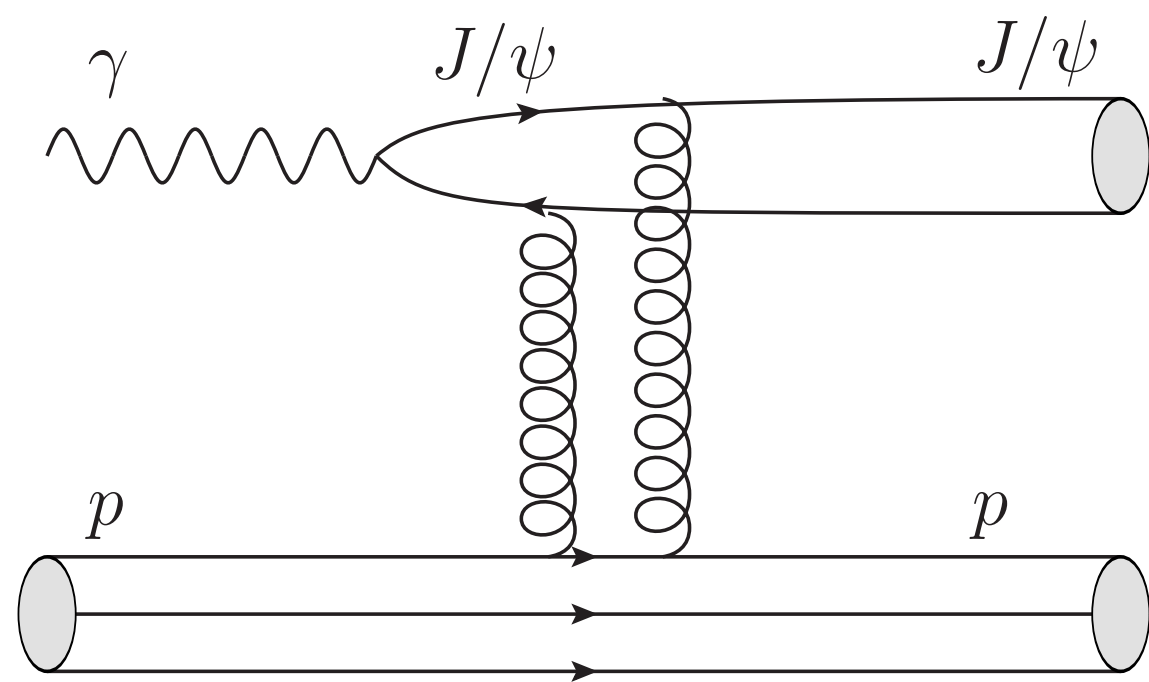
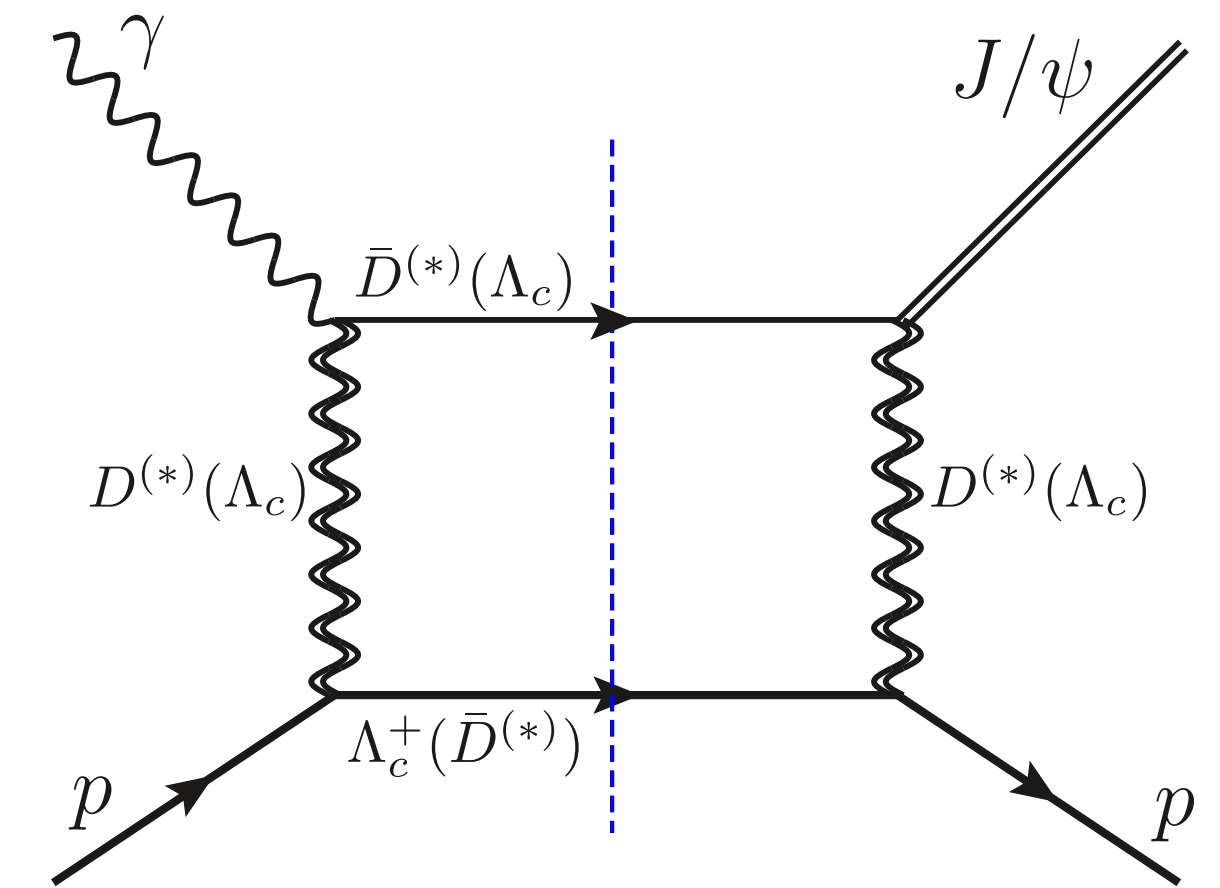


# J/ $\psi$ photoproduction (near threshold)

Possible structure in the integrated cross section coinciding with open charm thresholds

Although kinematically suppressed, coupled channel mechanism expected to be compensated by **larger photoproduction rates of open charm**

*Du et al. [EPJC 80 (2019) 1053]*



*Data from GlueX [PRL 123 (2019) 072001]*

# Factorization

GPD approach assumes strict QCD factorization  
Motivated in infinite heavy quark limit (leading order), at large skewness, and small  $t$

*Guo, Ji & Liu [PRD 103 (2021) 096010]*

Holography circumvents need for strict factorization but relies on factorization in the Regge sense (at small  $t$ )

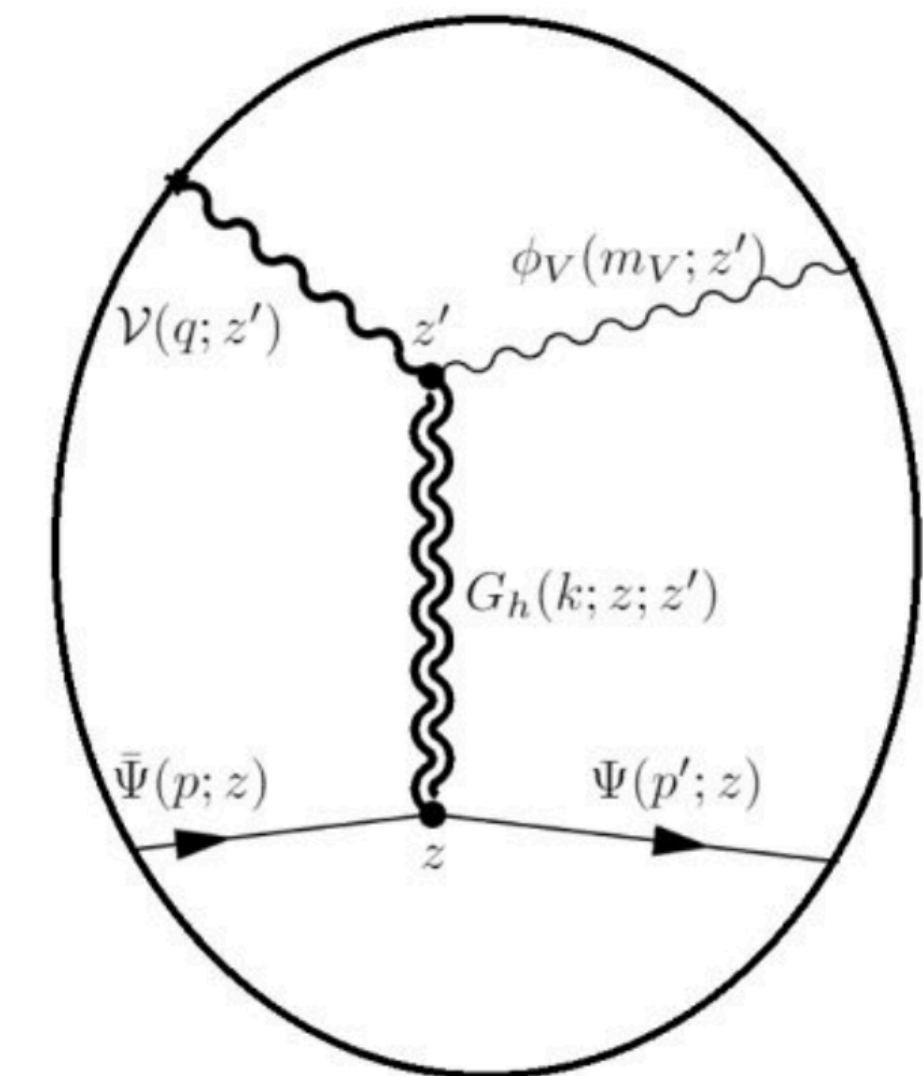
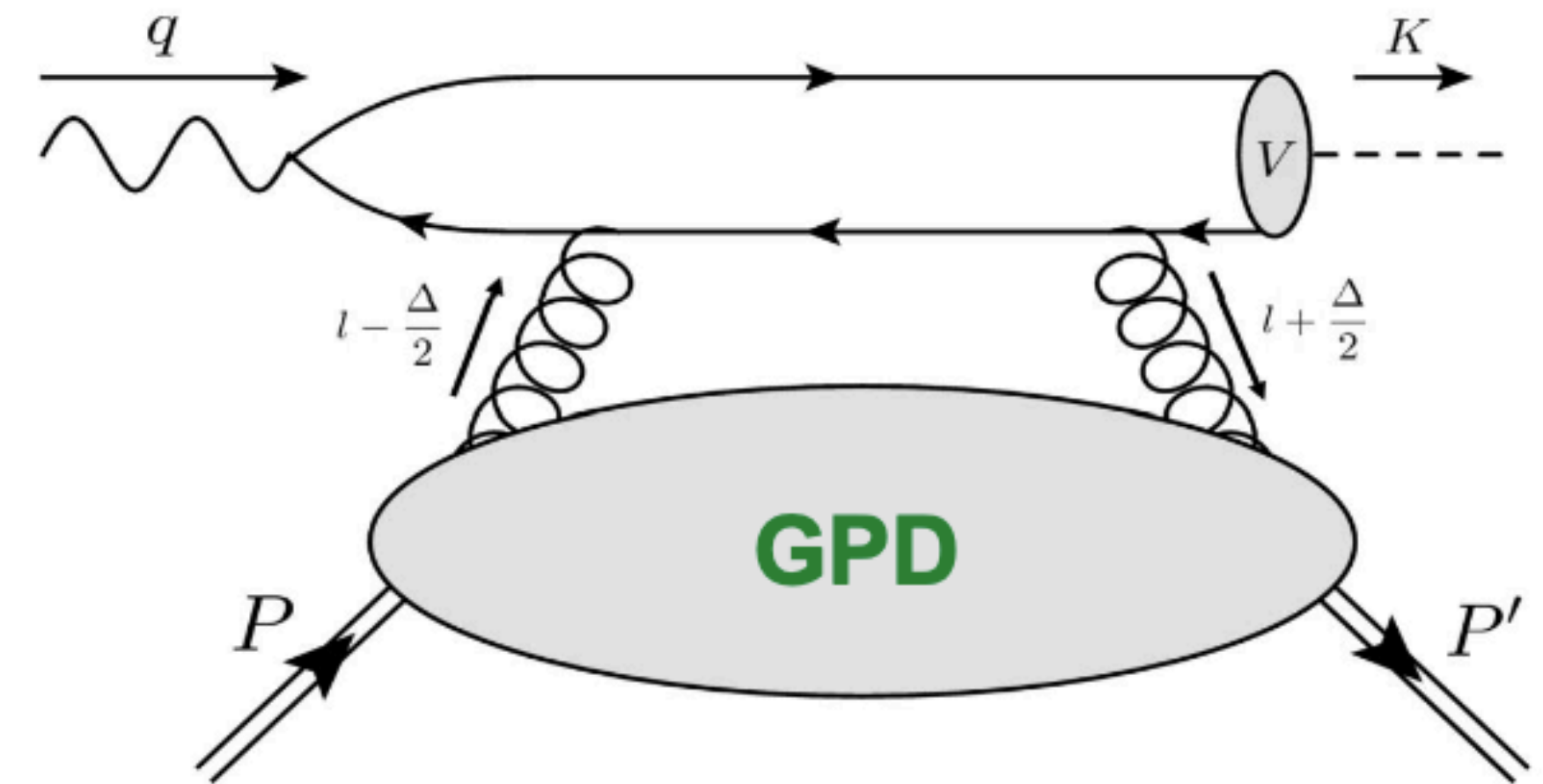
*Hatta & Yang [PRD 98 (2018)074003]*

*Mamo & Zahed [PRD 101 (2020) 086003]*

*[PRD 106 (2022) 086004]*

Extraction of proton structure quantities requires "factorization" in the sense of only t-channel exchanges

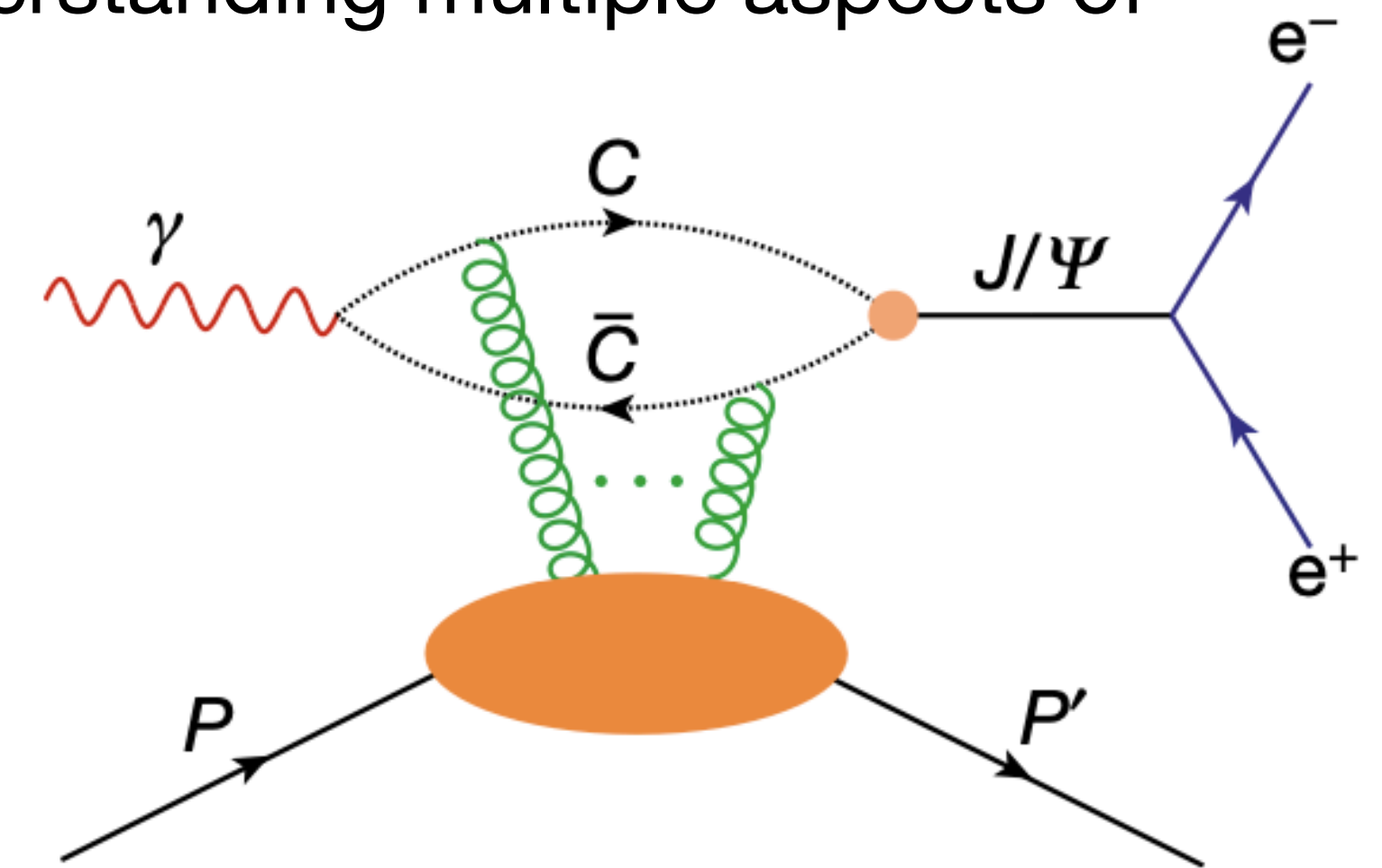
Strong coupled channels or pentaquark poles break direct connection to the proton structure



# Framing the issues

The study of  $J/\psi$  photoproduction at low energies has consequences for understanding multiple aspects of nonperturbative QCD:

- Mechanical properties of the proton
- Mass radius
- Mass decomposition of the proton (trace anomaly)
- Binding inside nuclei
- Open-charm contributions
- Existence (and determination of properties) of hidden-charm pentaquarks



**But...**

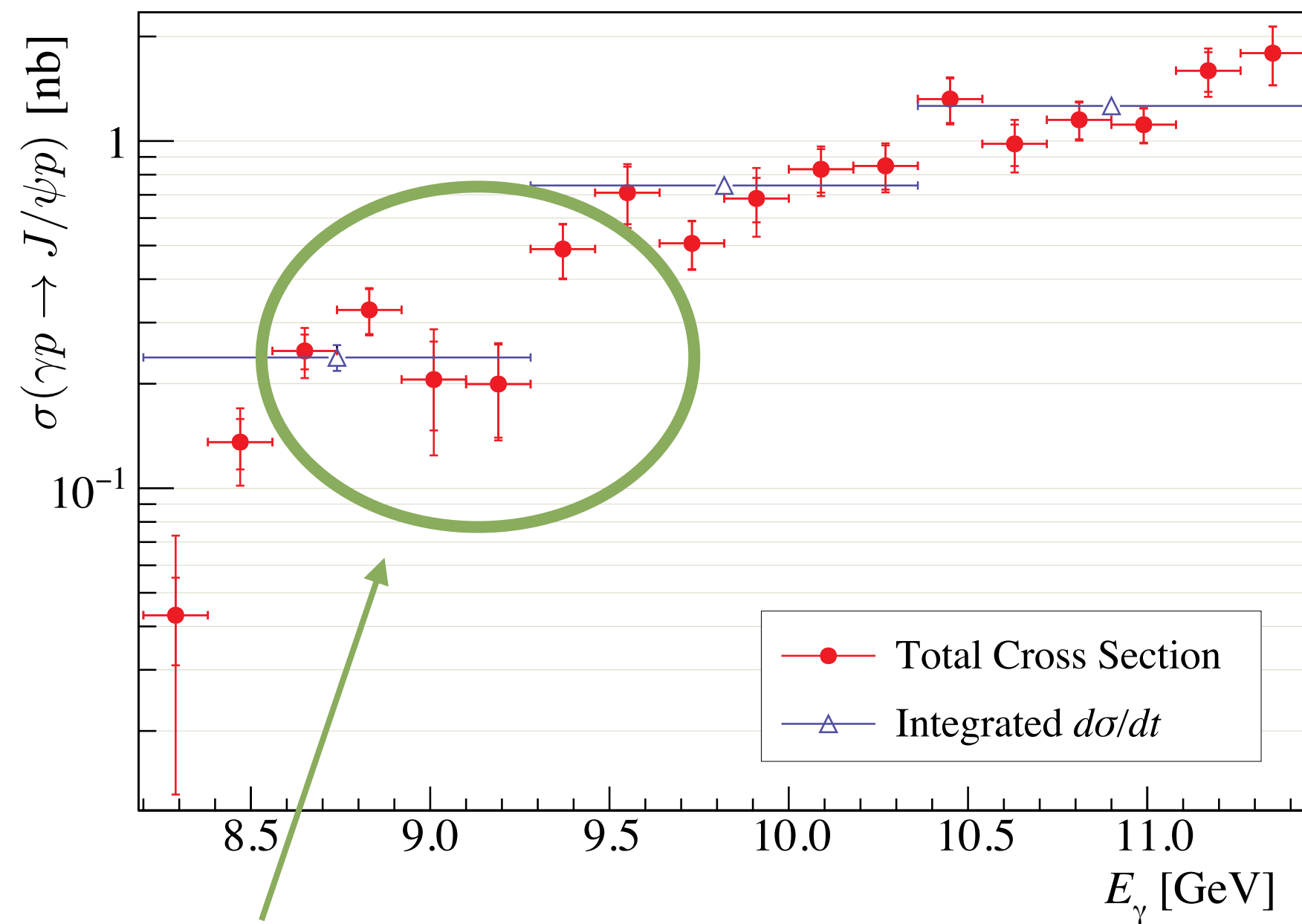
- **Open-charm** contributions violate the factorization of the photon- $c\bar{c}$  and nucleon dynamics
- **Vector meson dominance** is usually employed to extract the physical quantities of interest

**Hence:**

- **Relevance of the different contributions needs to be assessed based on available experimental information given that future experiments depend on it**
- **We address these questions considering a generic model for the photoproduction amplitude and relying solely on data**

# Jefferson Lab data

GlueX provides integrated cross sections and covers the full kinematic range



"Dip" established at  $\sim 2.6\sigma$  compared to a smooth fit

**007<sup>J/ψ</sup>**

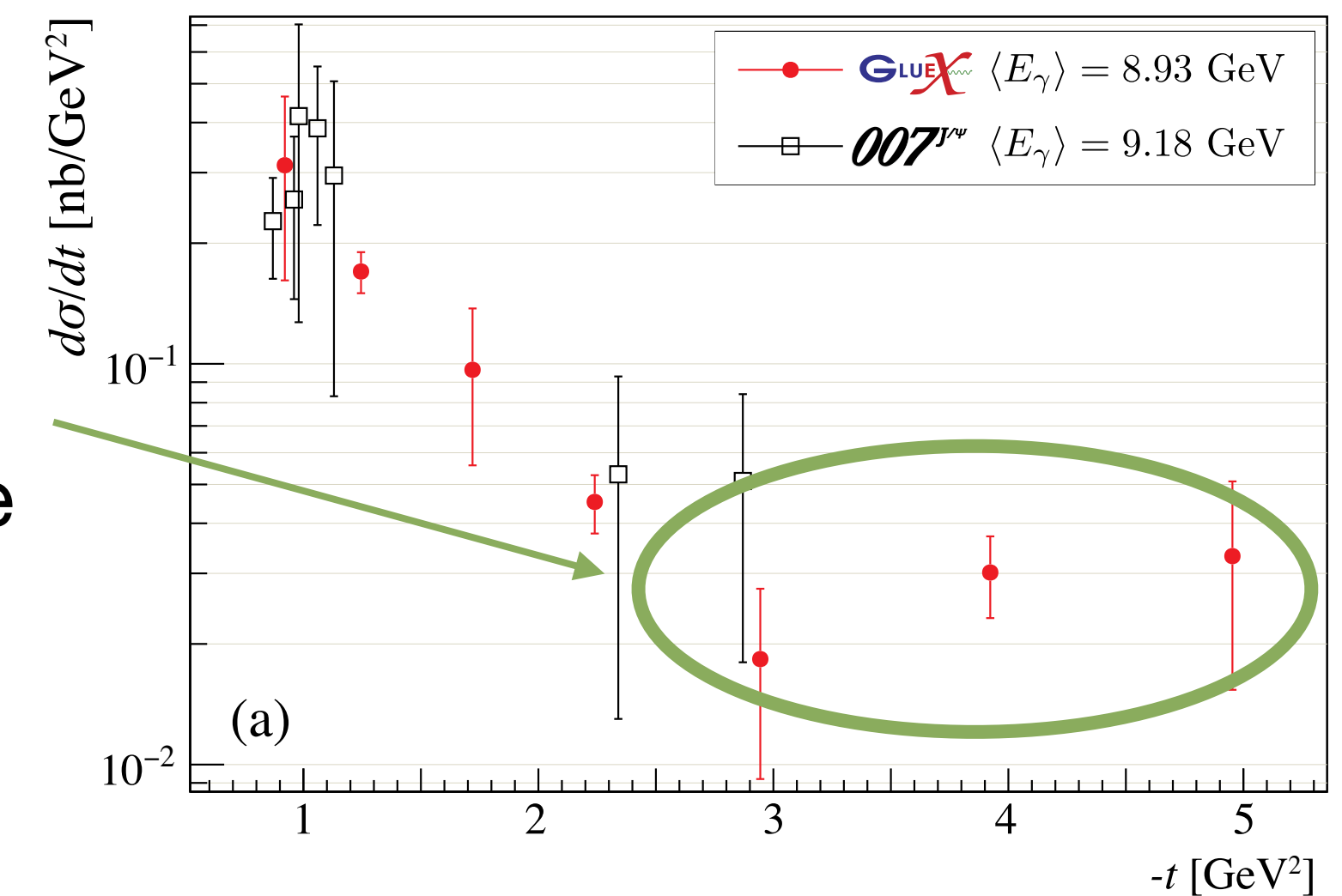
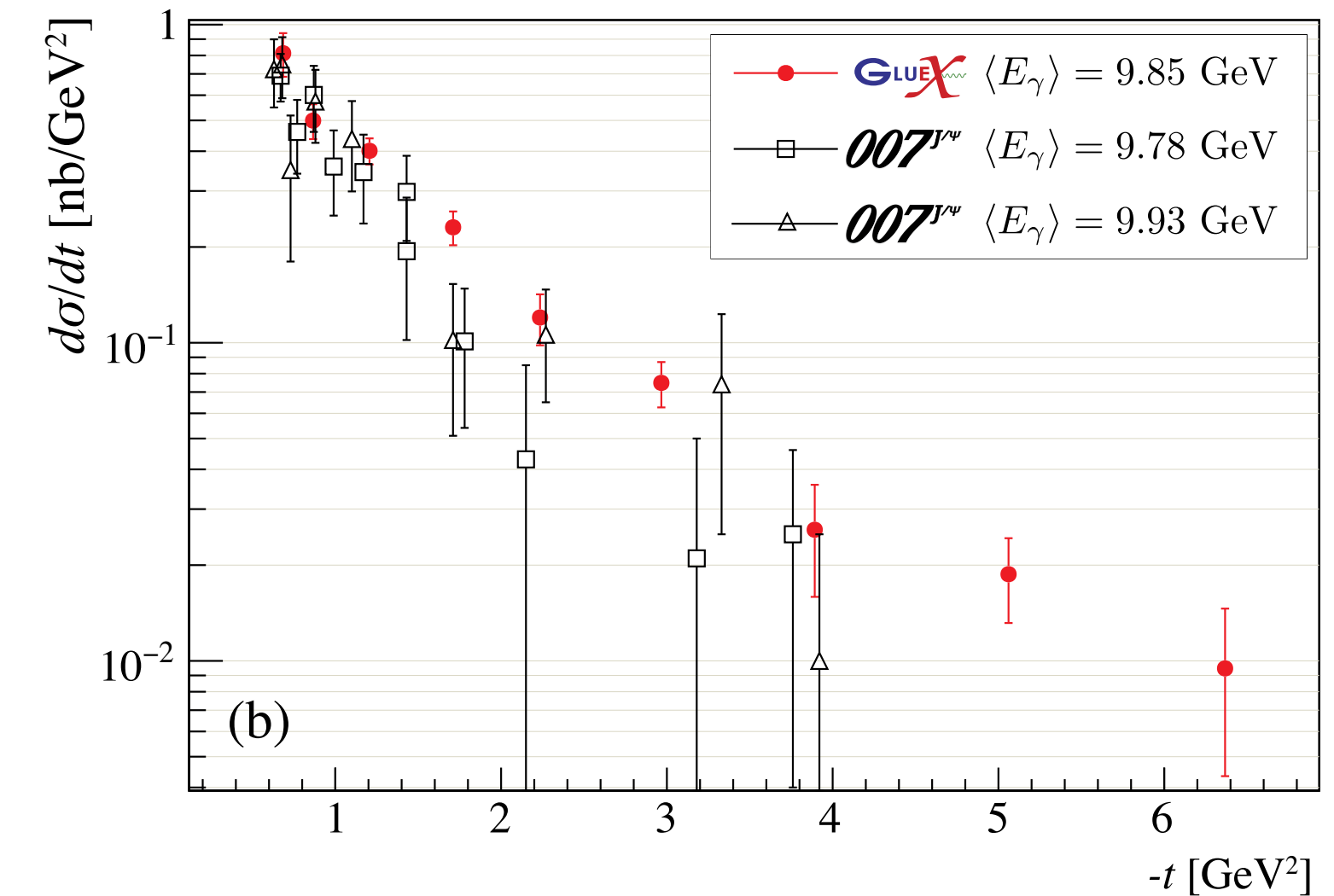
*J/ψ-007 [Nature 615 (2023) 813]*

**GLUEX**

*GlueX [PRC 108 (2023) 025201]*

Flattening  $t$ -distribution at large momentum transfer also at  $\sim 2.3\sigma$  compared to a dipole

Coupled-channels?  
Pentaquarks?



# How: P-vector+K-matrix formulation

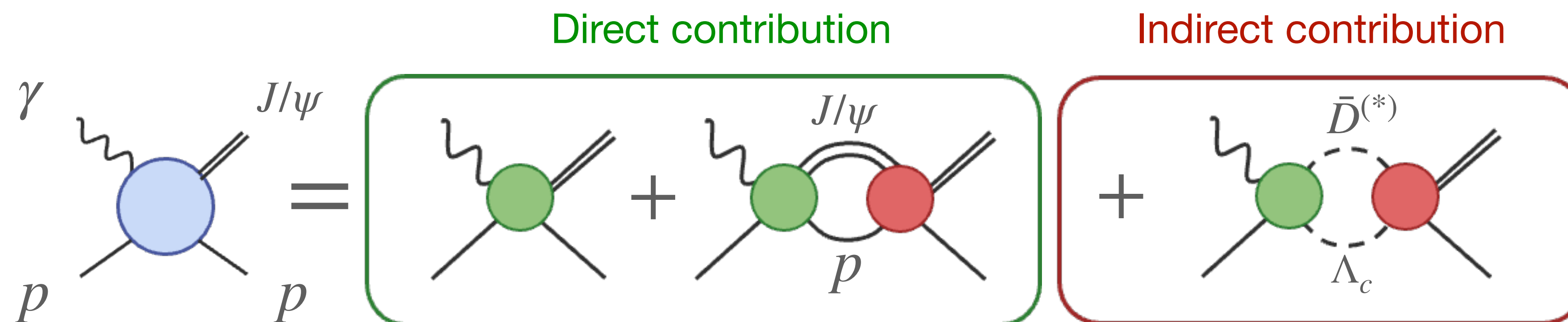
Analysis in terms of s-channel partial waves  
Ignore spin (no info on asymmetries)

Expansion close to threshold  
Finite number of partial waves, consistent with coupled-channels unitarity

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{1}{16\pi (s - m_p^2)^2} |F(s, t)|^2$$

$$F(s, t) = \sum_{\ell} (2\ell + 1) P_{\ell}(\cos \theta_s) F_{\ell}(s)$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Im}F_{\ell} = F_{\ell}\rho T_{\ell}^{\dagger} \\ \text{Im}T_{\ell} = T_{\ell}\rho T_{\ell}^{\dagger} \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow F_{\ell} = f_{\ell} (1 + GT_{\ell}) = f_{\ell} (1 - GK_{\ell})^{-1} \quad \text{where} \quad T_{\ell} = K_{\ell} (1 - GK_{\ell})^{-1}$$



# How: P-vector+K-matrix formulation

## Advantages:

- Reduced bias

We do not have model uncertainty from assumed dynamics

Model is fully analytic and describes the entire kinematical range

Depends only on the number of terms in the partial wave and near-threshold expansions

Systematics are testable a posteriori.  $L \leq 3$  and effective range work well

- Each partial wave must be parametrized independently
- Production and rescattering only constrained by unitarity

$$F_\ell = f_\ell (1 - GT_\ell)$$

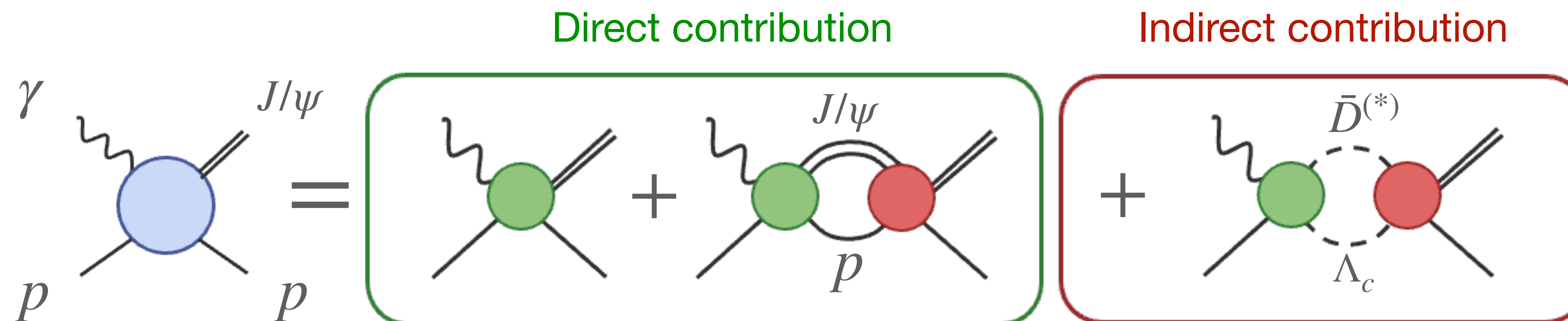
$$T_\ell = \frac{1}{K_\ell^{-1} + G}$$

$$f_S = n_S^i$$

$$f_\ell = (pq)^\ell n_\ell$$

$$K_S^{ij} = \alpha_S^{ij} + \beta_S^i q_i^2 \delta_{ij}$$

$$K_\ell = q^{2\ell} \alpha_\ell$$

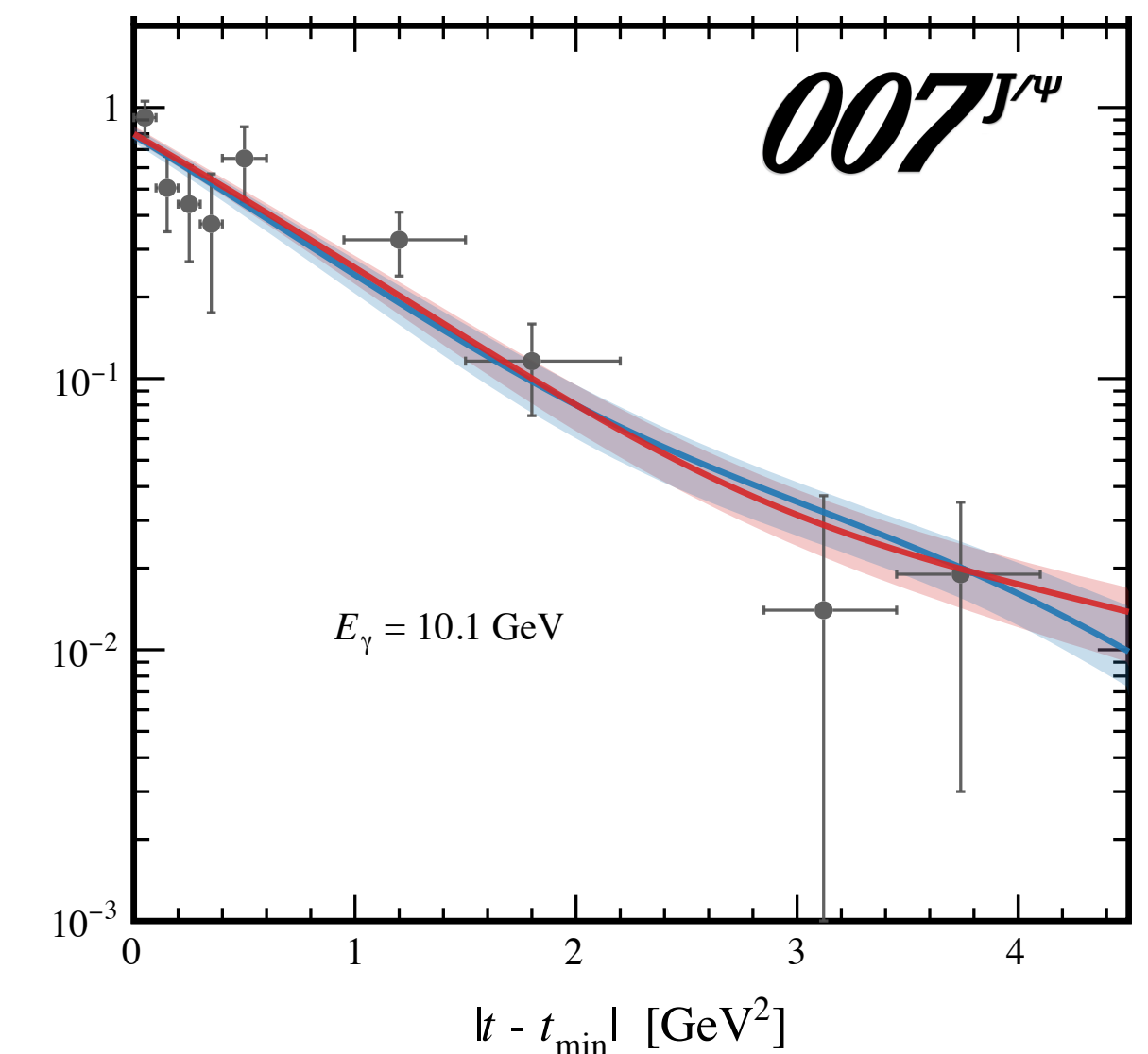
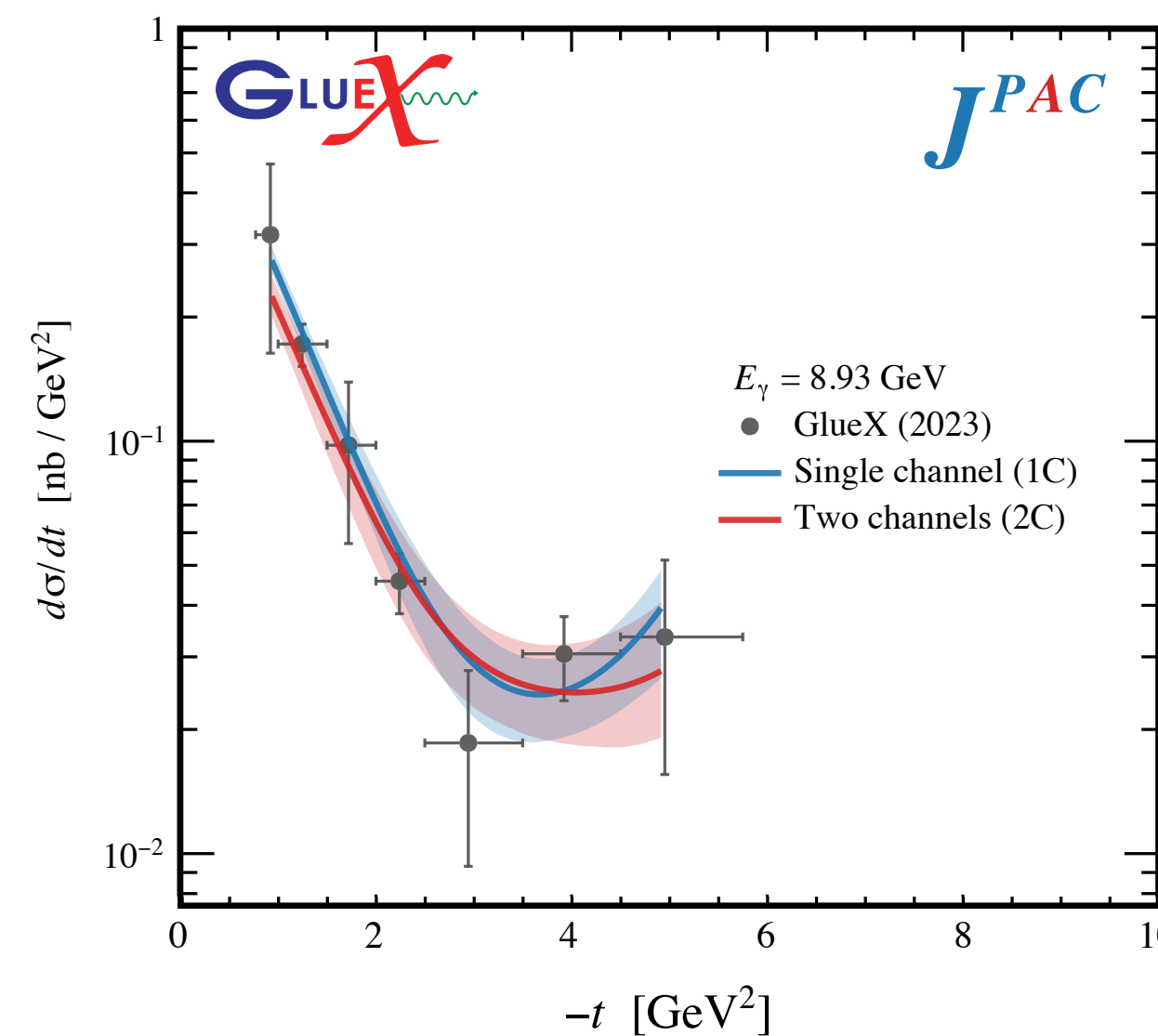
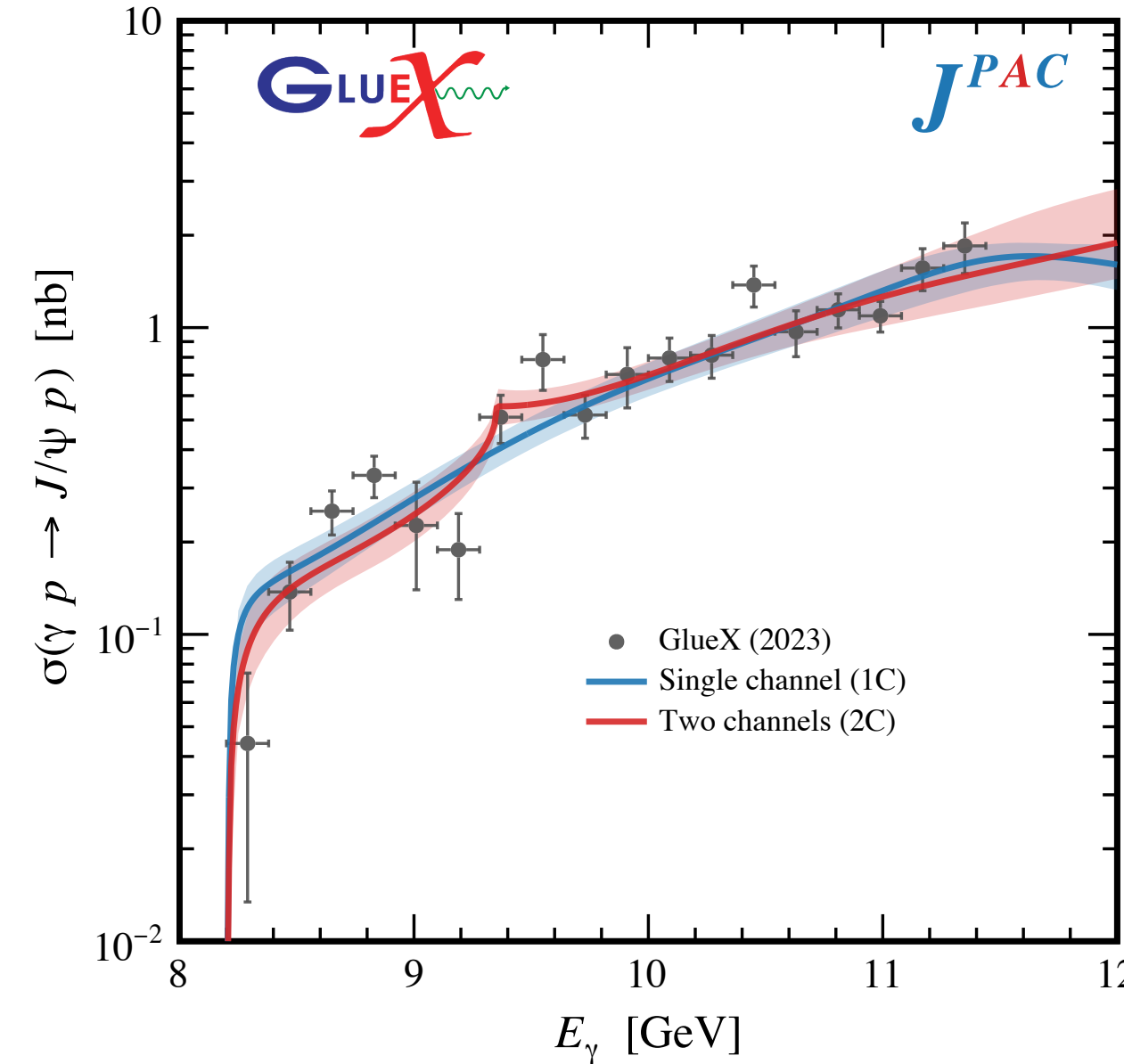


# How: P-vector+K-matrix formulation

We only consider coupled channels in the S wave.

Three models (parametrizations of the S wave):

- Single channel (1C): Only interactions involving the  $J/\psi p$  are included  
Favored by the factorization picture of  $J/\psi$  photoproduction  
Base model with respect to which we evaluate the significance of extra thresholds
- Two channels (2C): We include contributions from an intermediate  $\bar{D}^* \Lambda_c$  channel



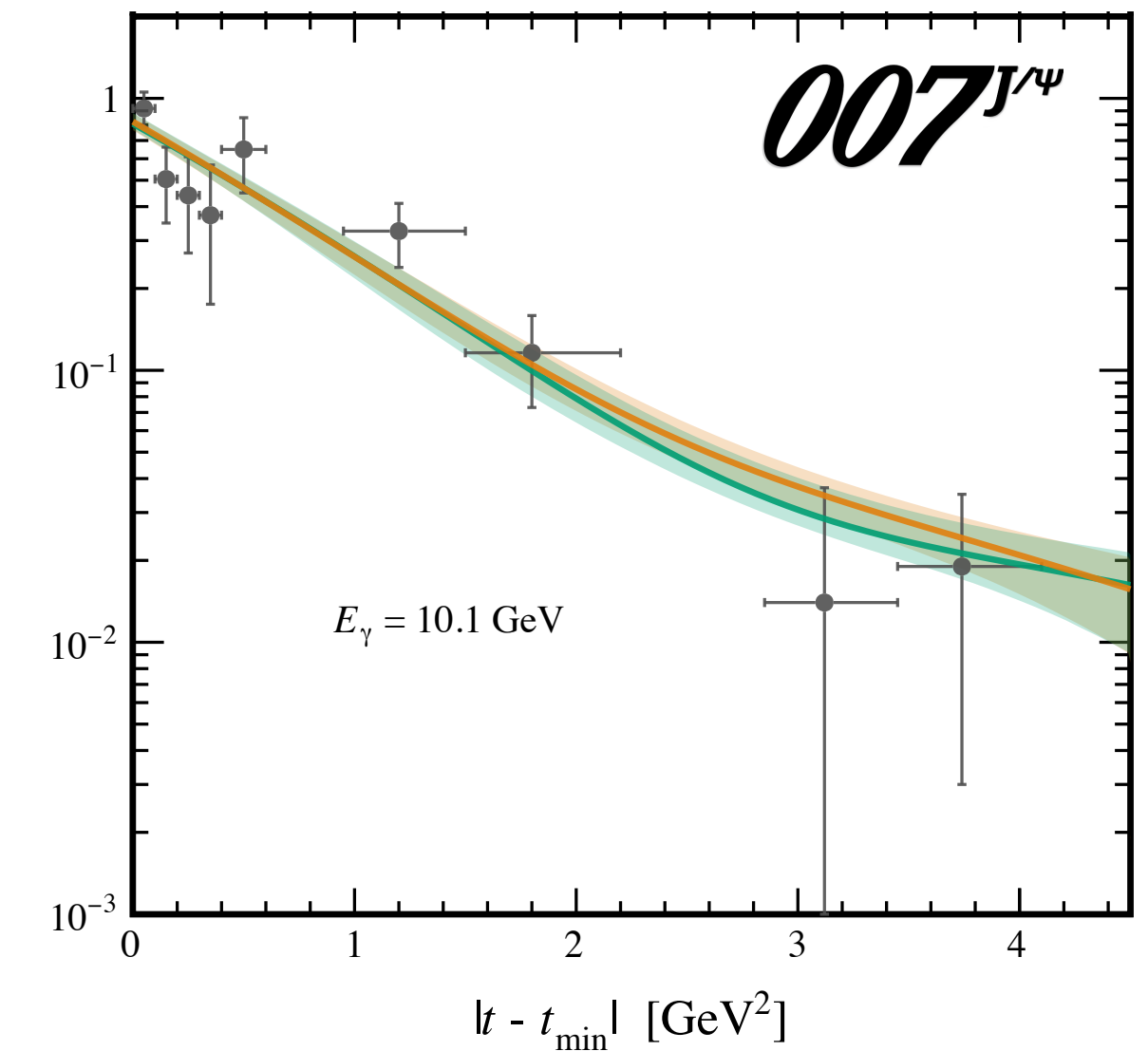
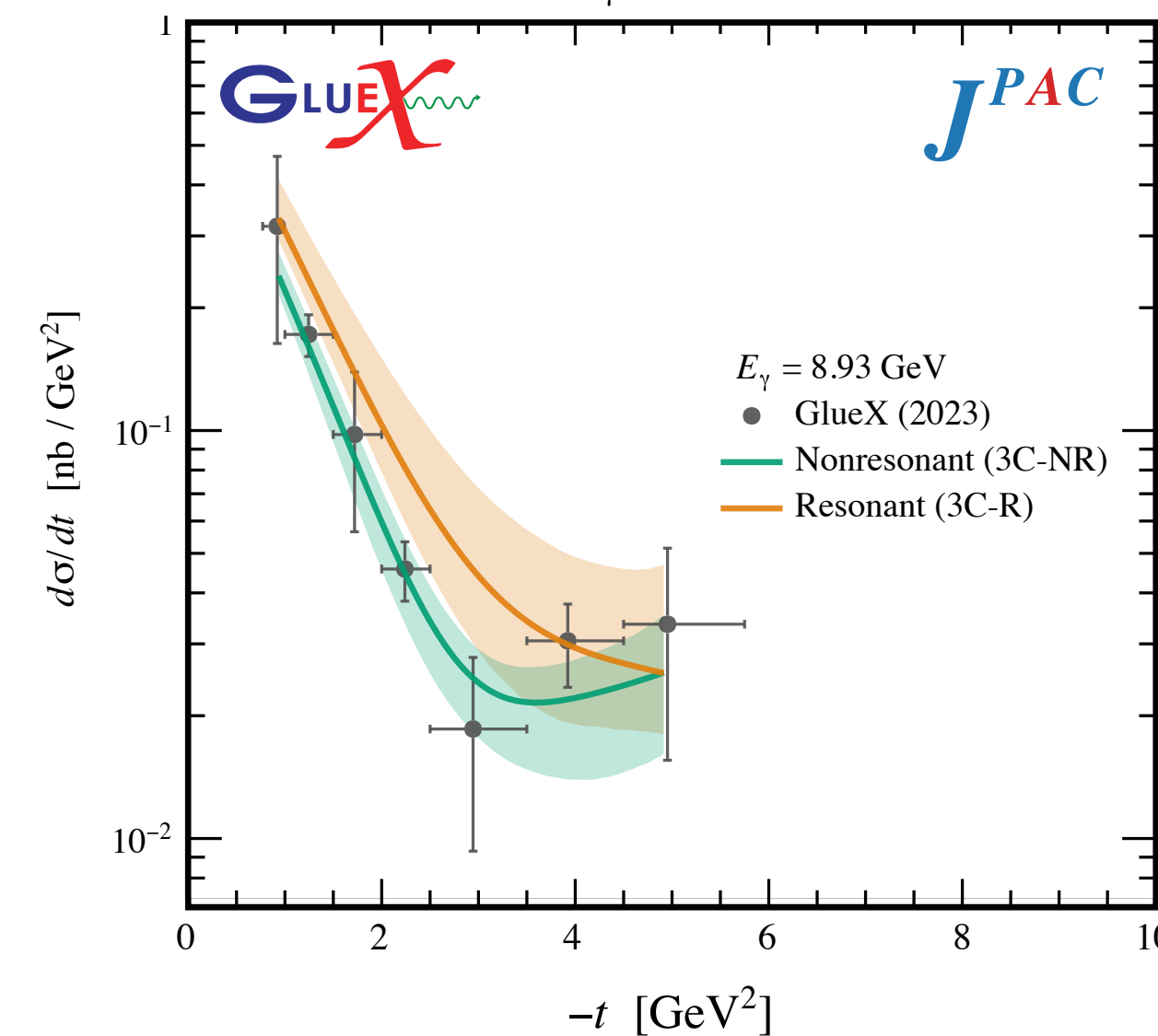
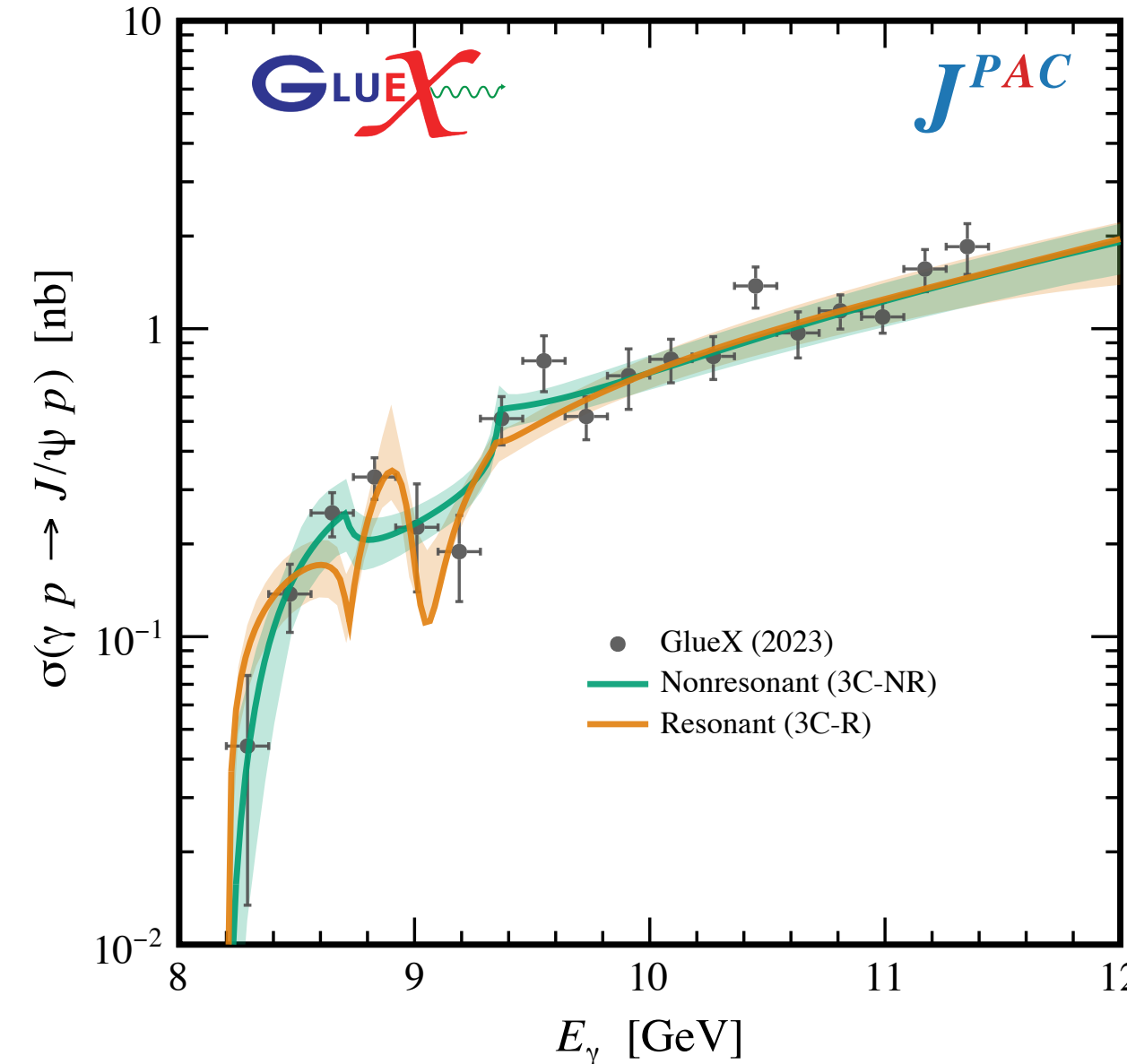
# How: P-vector+K-matrix formulation

We only consider coupled channels in the S wave.

Three models (parametrizations of the S wave):

- Three channels (3C): We include both  $\bar{D}^{(*)}\Lambda_c$  channels. We find two classes of solutions. We keep only the constant term in the S wave, i.e.  $K_S^{ij} = \alpha_S^{ij}$ , to have a comparable number of parameters.

Even if no explicit K-matrix pole is included, the amplitude can produce poles in the complex energy plane in all three parametrizations  $\Rightarrow$  pentaquarks



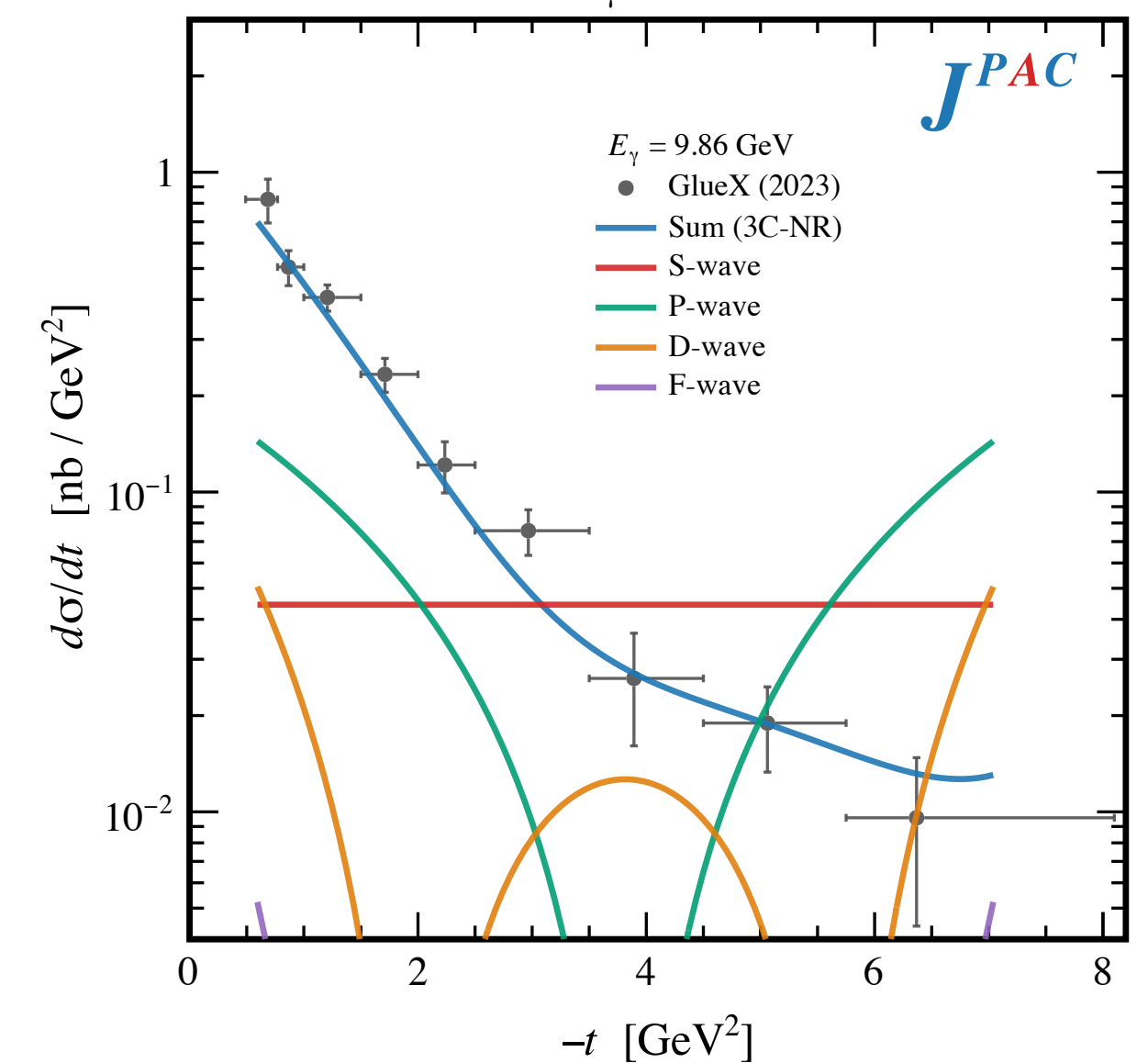
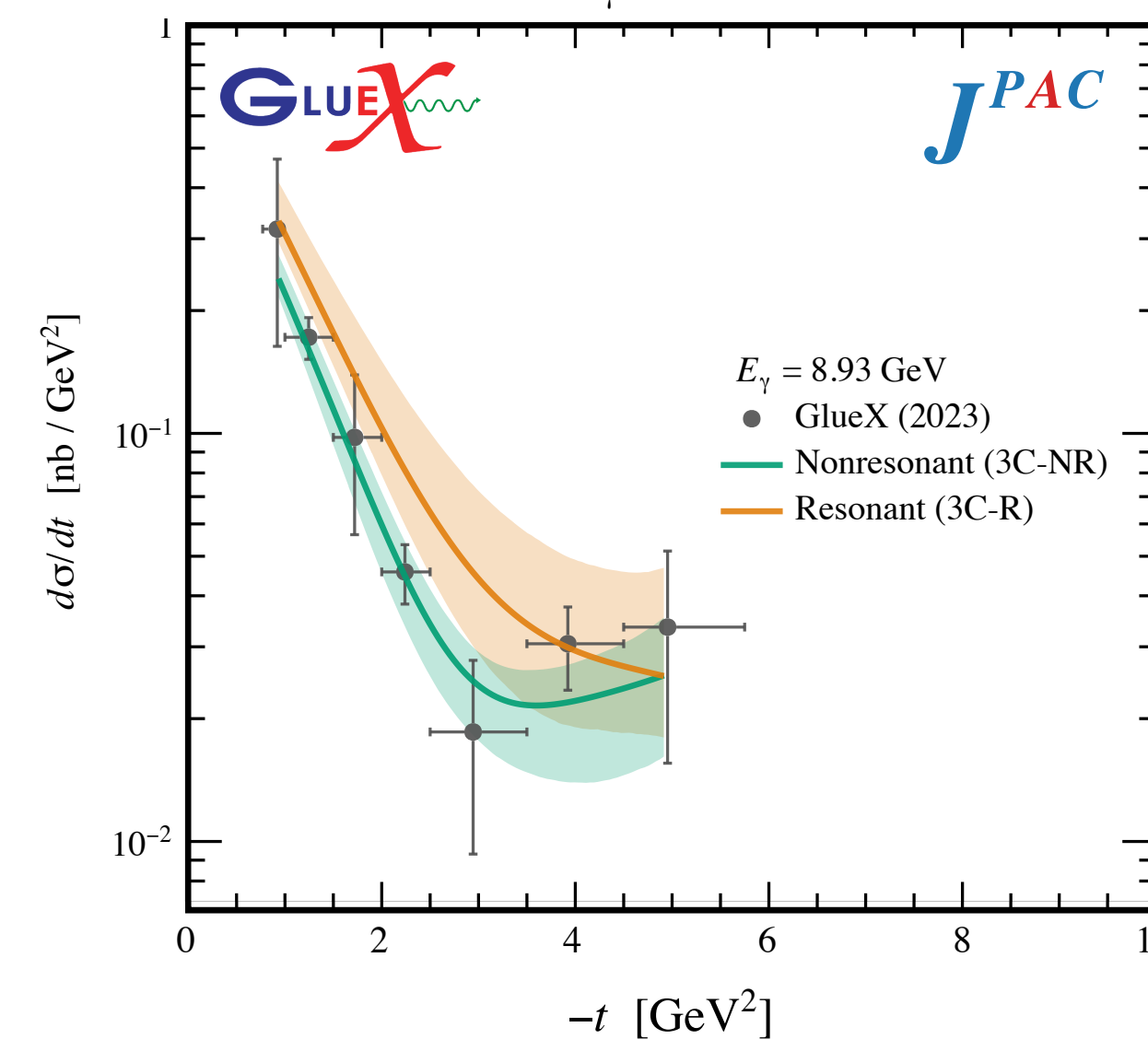
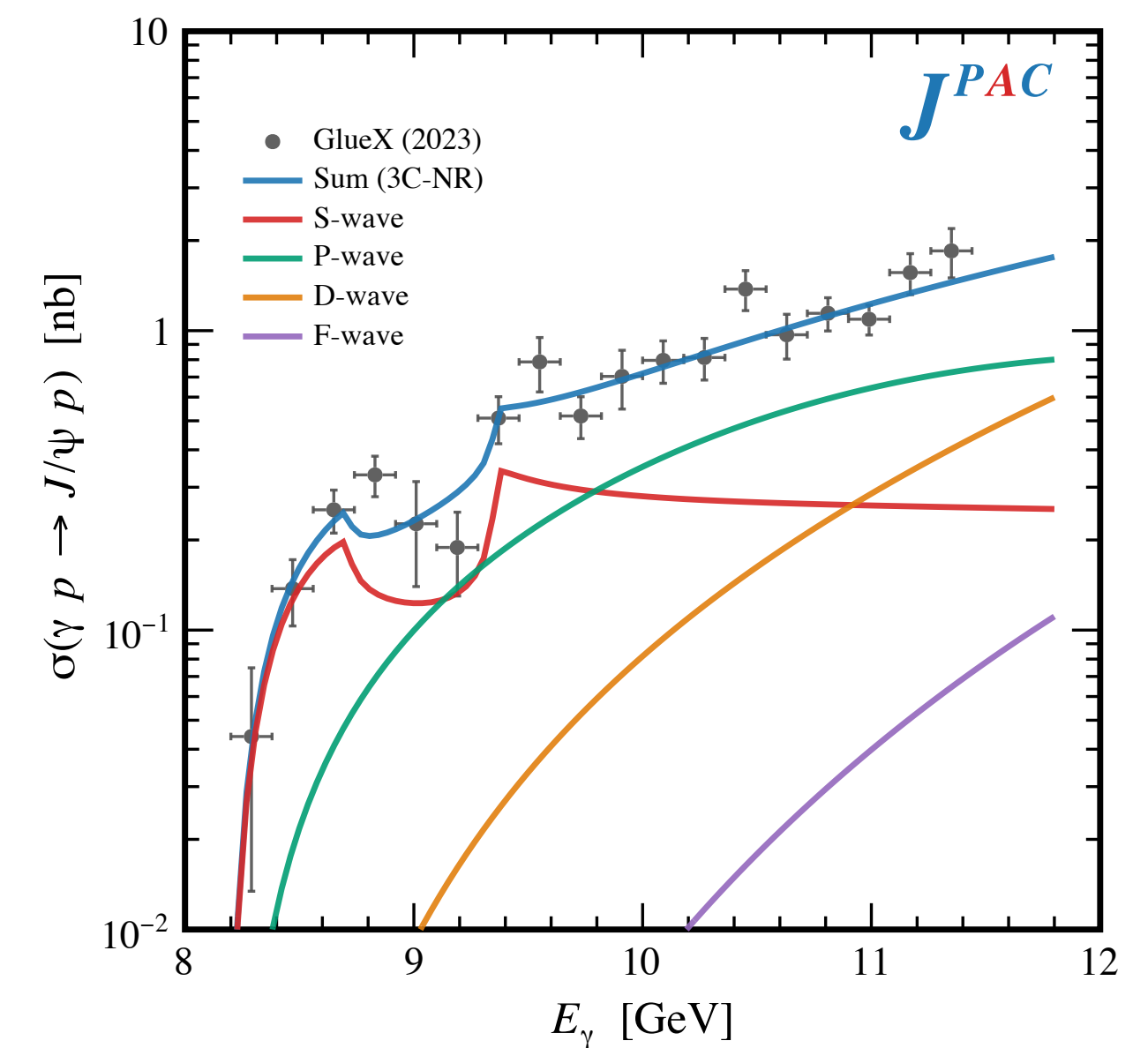
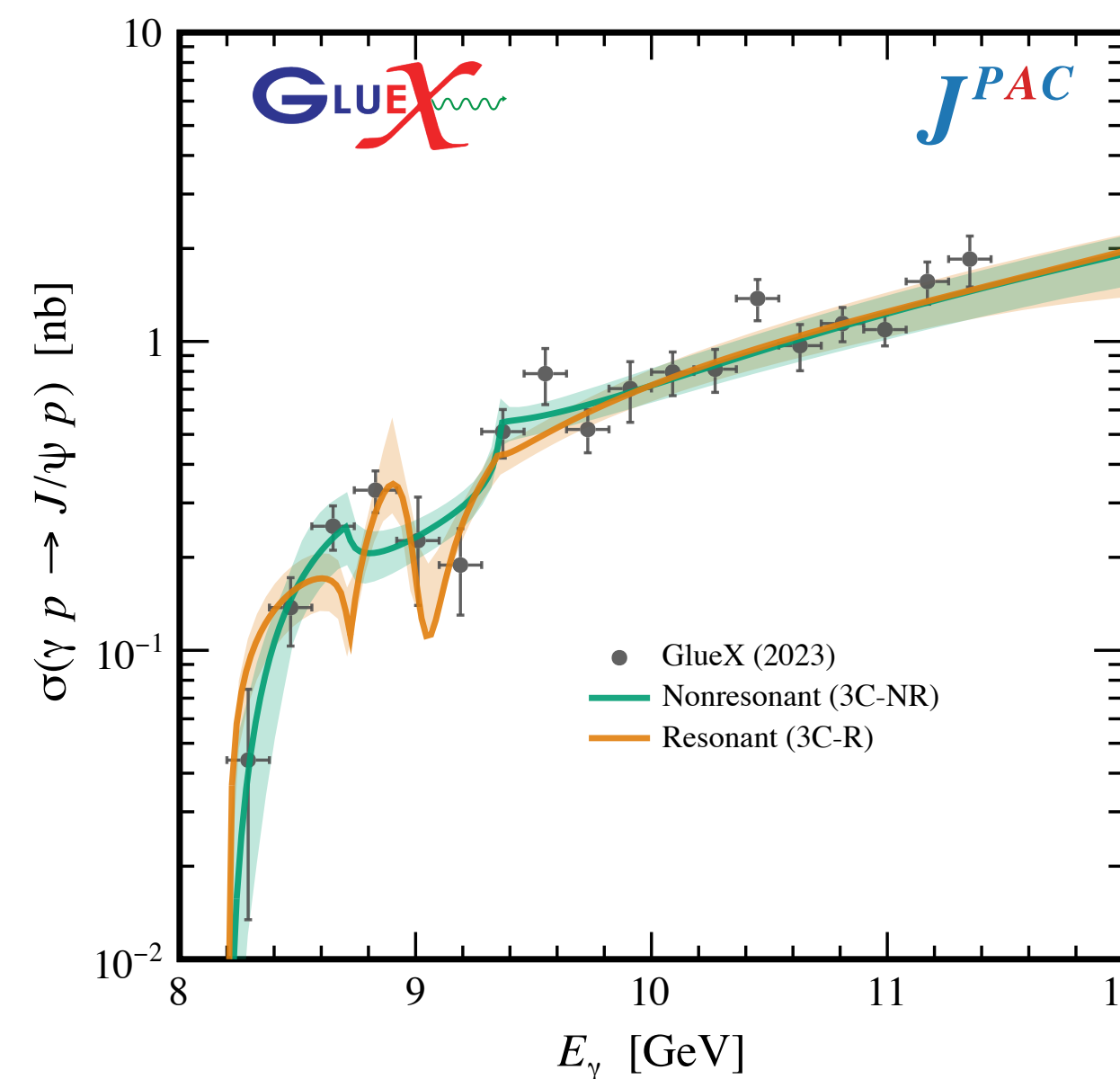
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# Production mechanisms

Define the ratio  $J/\psi$  of direct photocoupling to all other intermediate channels  
Measures the "directness" of the total production at threshold

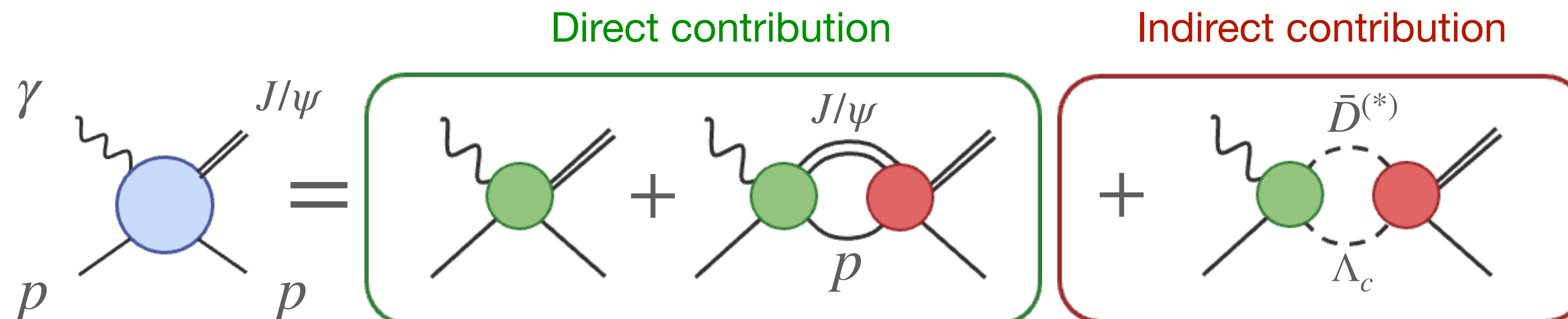
$$F_S^{\psi p}(s) = n_S^{\psi p} \left( 1 + G^{\psi p} T_S^{\psi p, \psi p} \right) + \left( n_S^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c} G^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c} T_S^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c, \psi p} + n_S^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c} G^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c} T_S^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c, \psi p} \right)$$

$$\zeta_{\text{th}} = \frac{\left| F_{\text{direct}}^{\psi p}(s_{\text{th}}) \right|}{\left| F_{\text{direct}}^{\psi p}(s_{\text{th}}) \right| + \left| F_{\text{indirect}}^{\psi p}(s_{\text{th}}) \right|}$$

90% CL

1C	1
2C	[0.56, 0.74]
3C-NR	[0.36, 0.63]
3C-R	[0.03, 0.62]

When included, "factorization violating" contributions make up >25% at 90% CL



# Production mechanisms

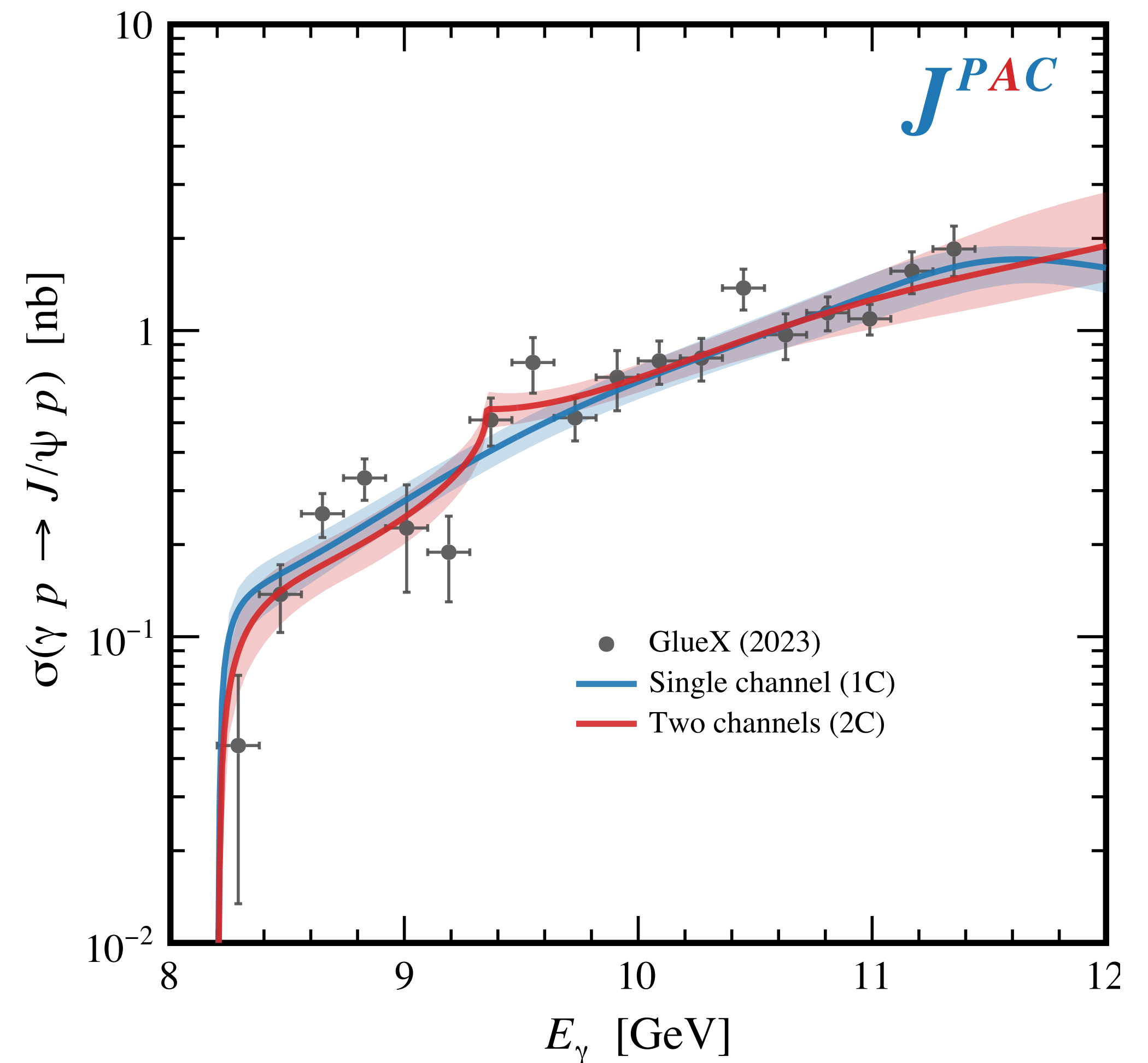
Presence of cusps may indicate large contributions from open charm channels  
Complicates the connection to proton structure quantities

90% CL

1C	1
2C	[0.56, 0.74]
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3C-R	[0.03, 0.62]

Deviations from unity related to the presence of the “dip”

Solution with nearby pentaquark pole consistent with charm exchange dominated production



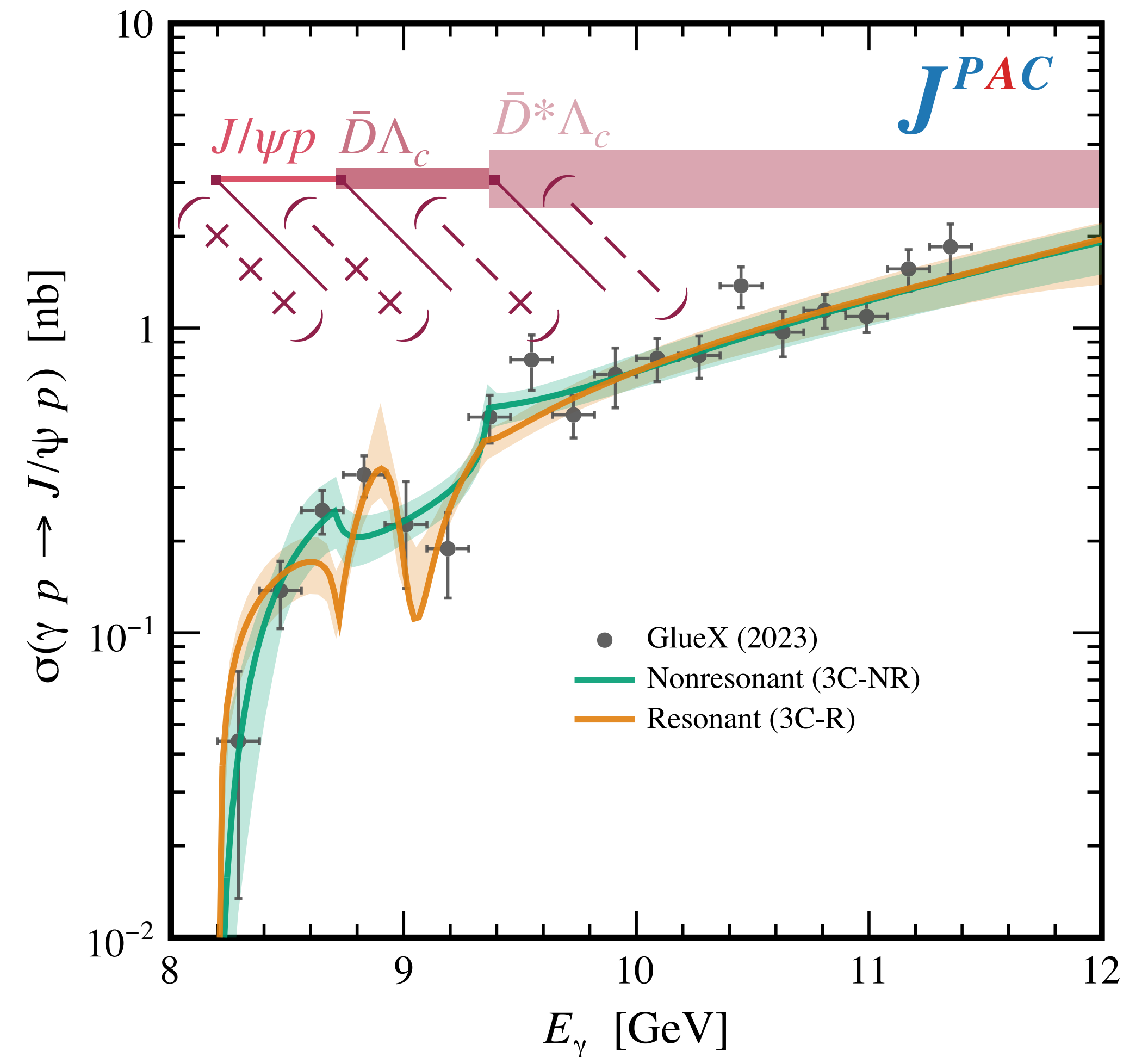
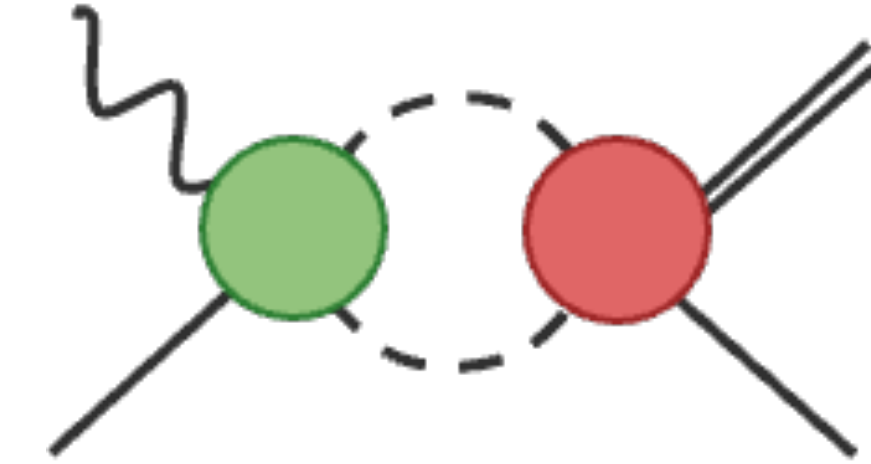
# Pentaquarks

Model is able to generate poles (a.k.a. pentaquarks)  
3C-R fit provides a narrow pole on RS=(- - +) in the S wave

$$M = 4211 \text{ MeV} \quad \Gamma = 48 \text{ MeV}$$

Pole not well constrained  
Unable to provide reliable uncertainties

Other poles found on remote Riemann sheets



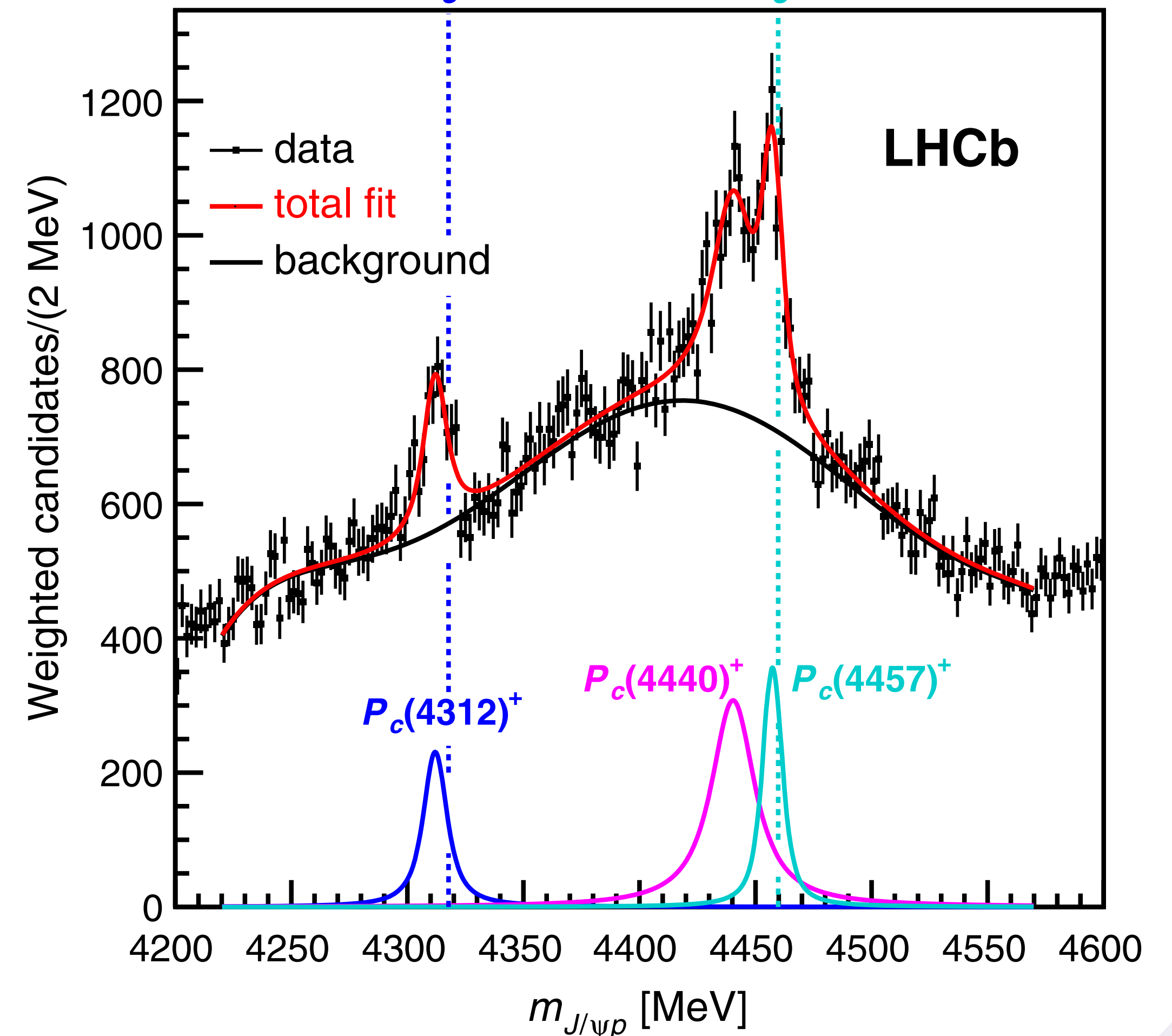
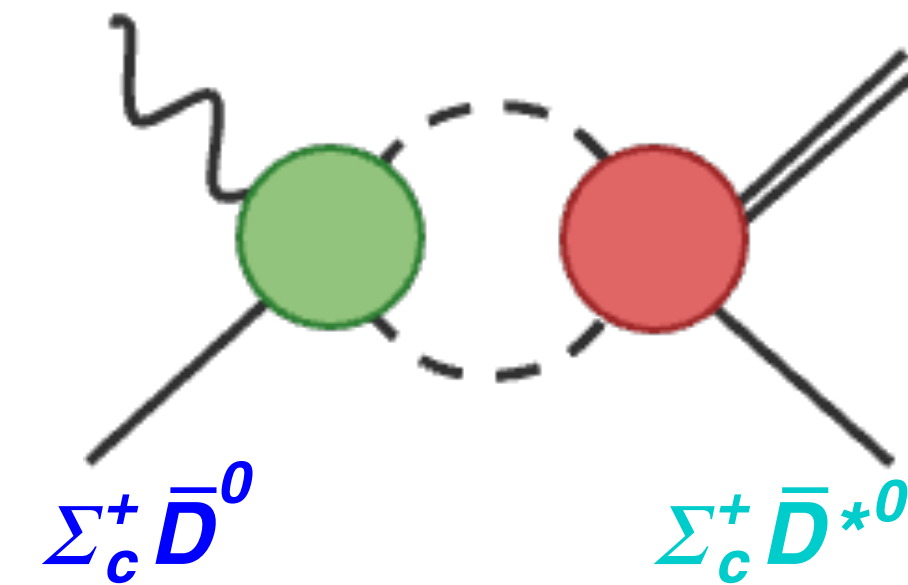
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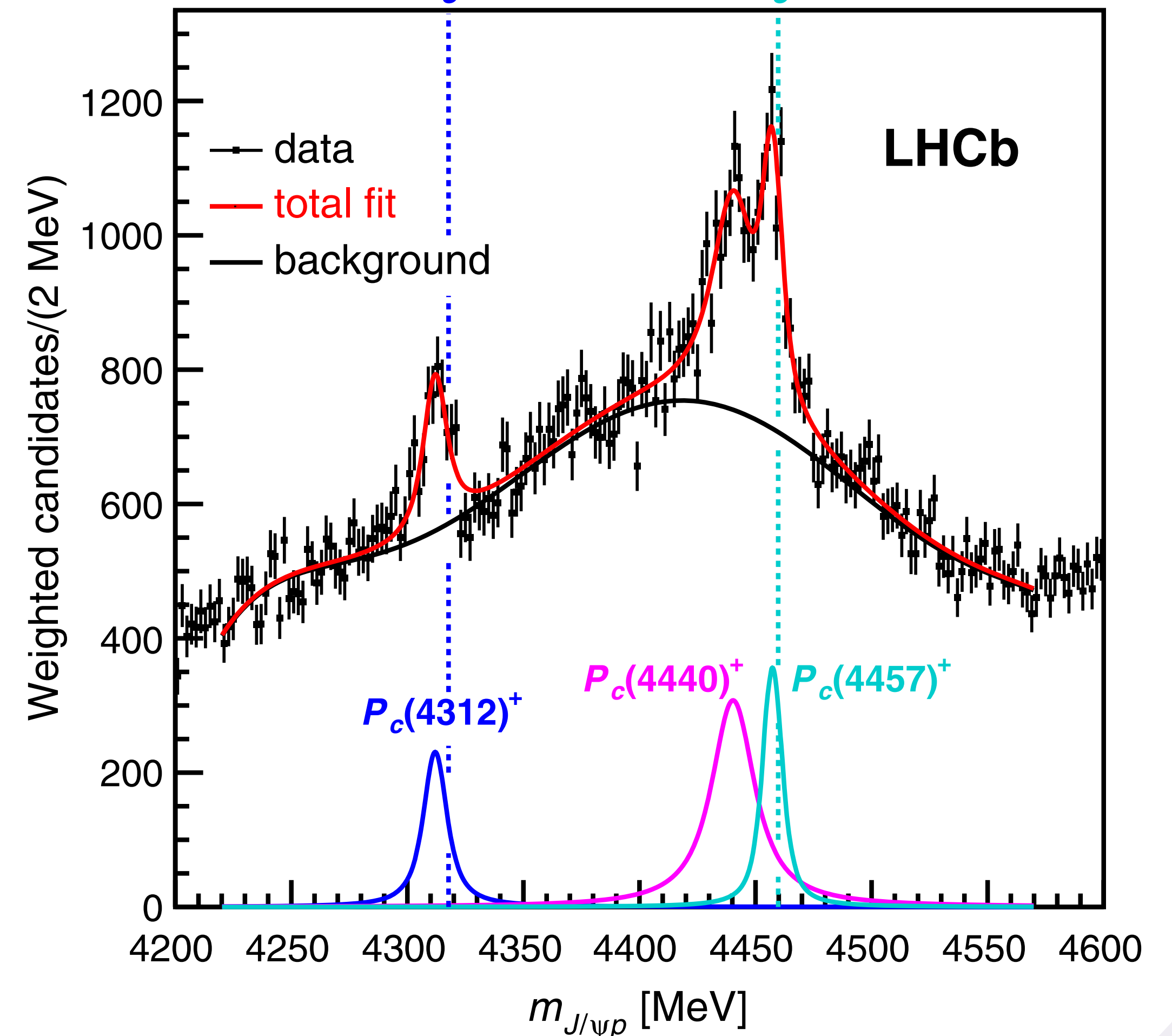
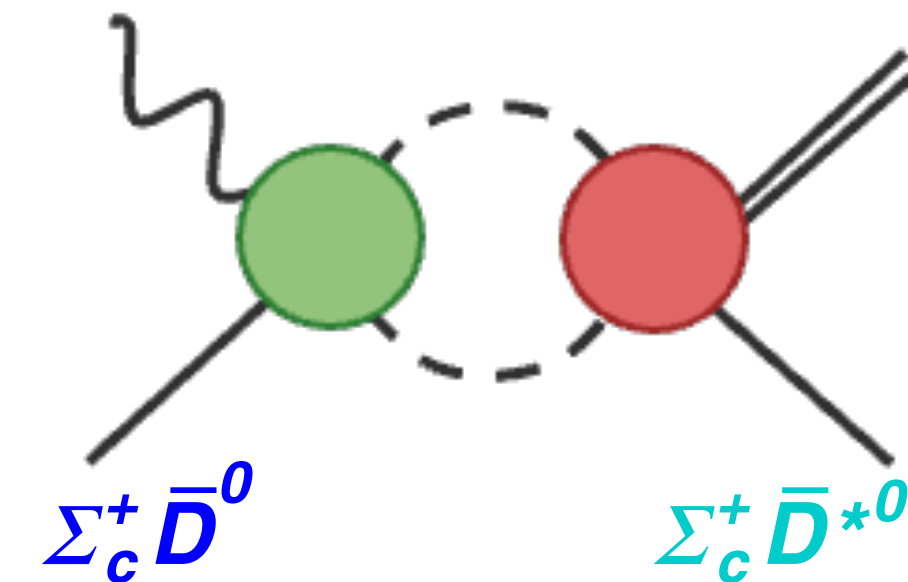
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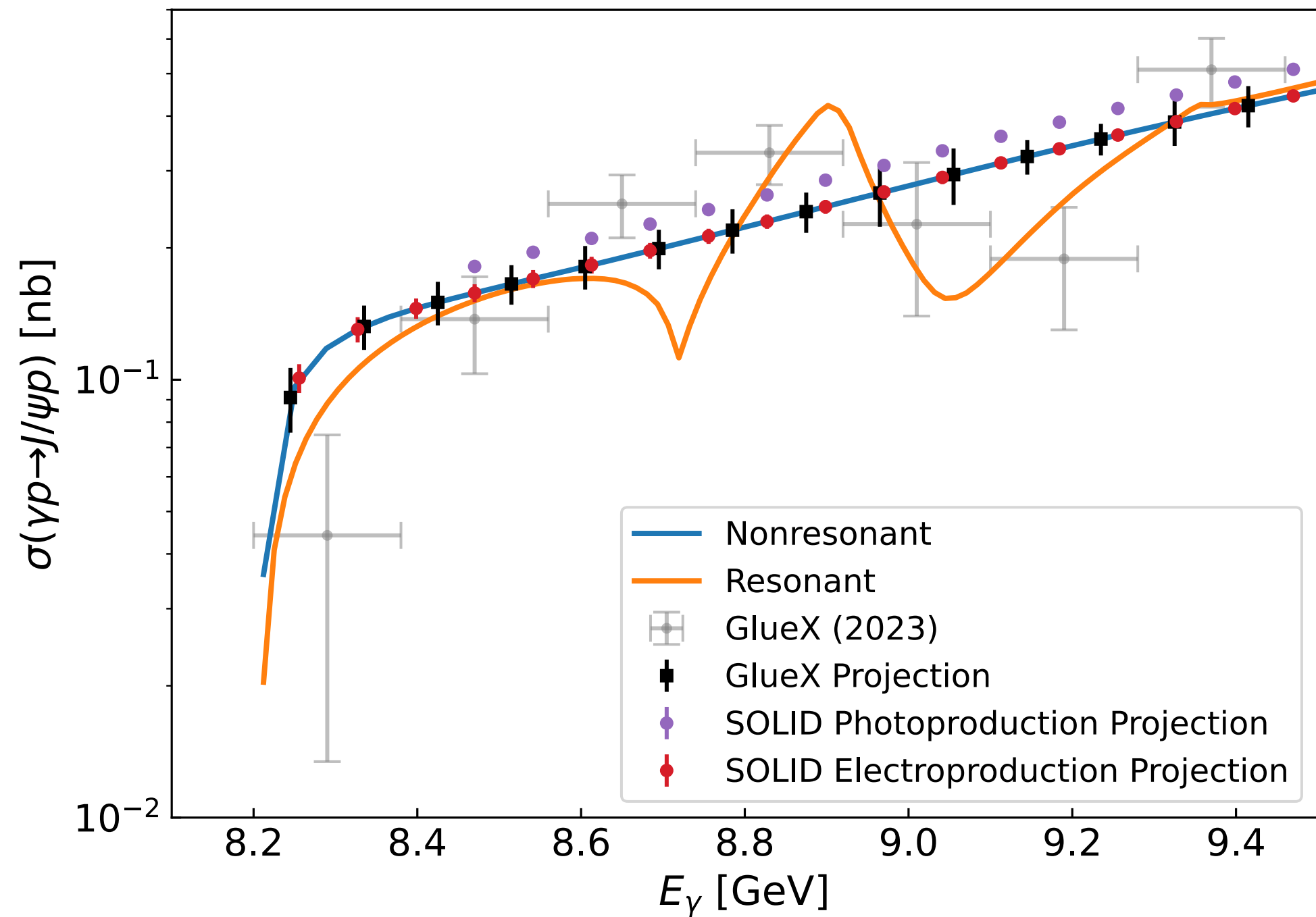
Other poles found on remote Riemann sheets

We also tested strict VMD and found it to be defficient!!

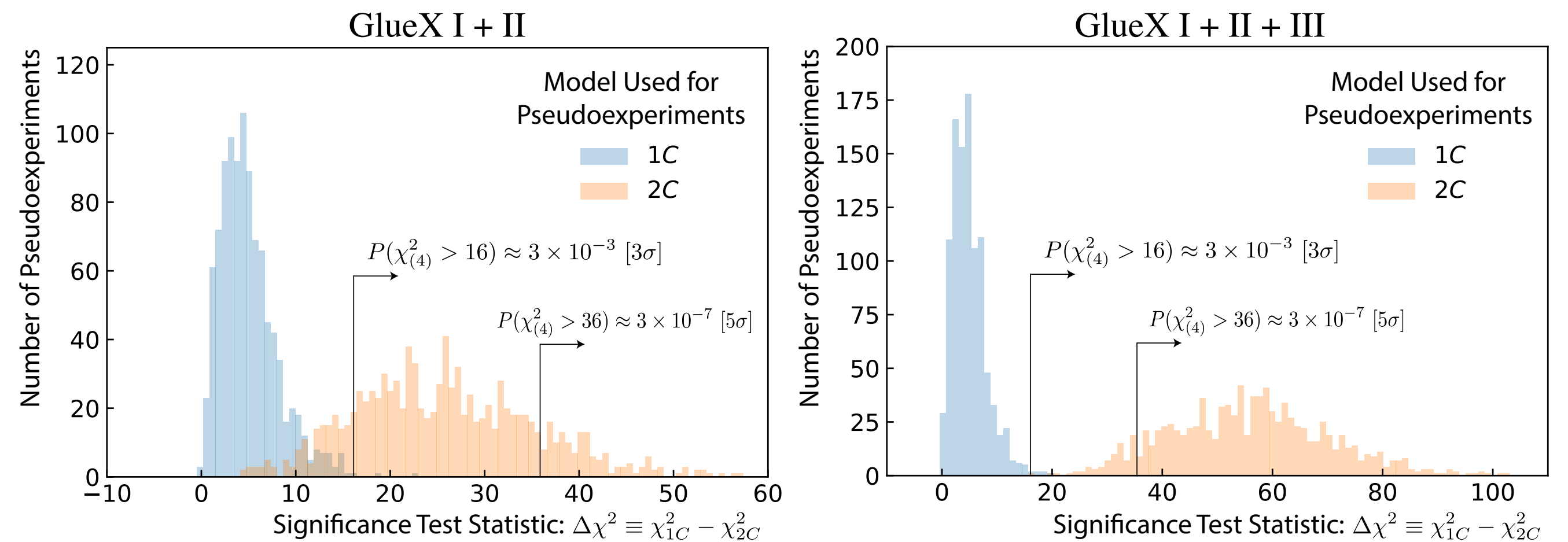
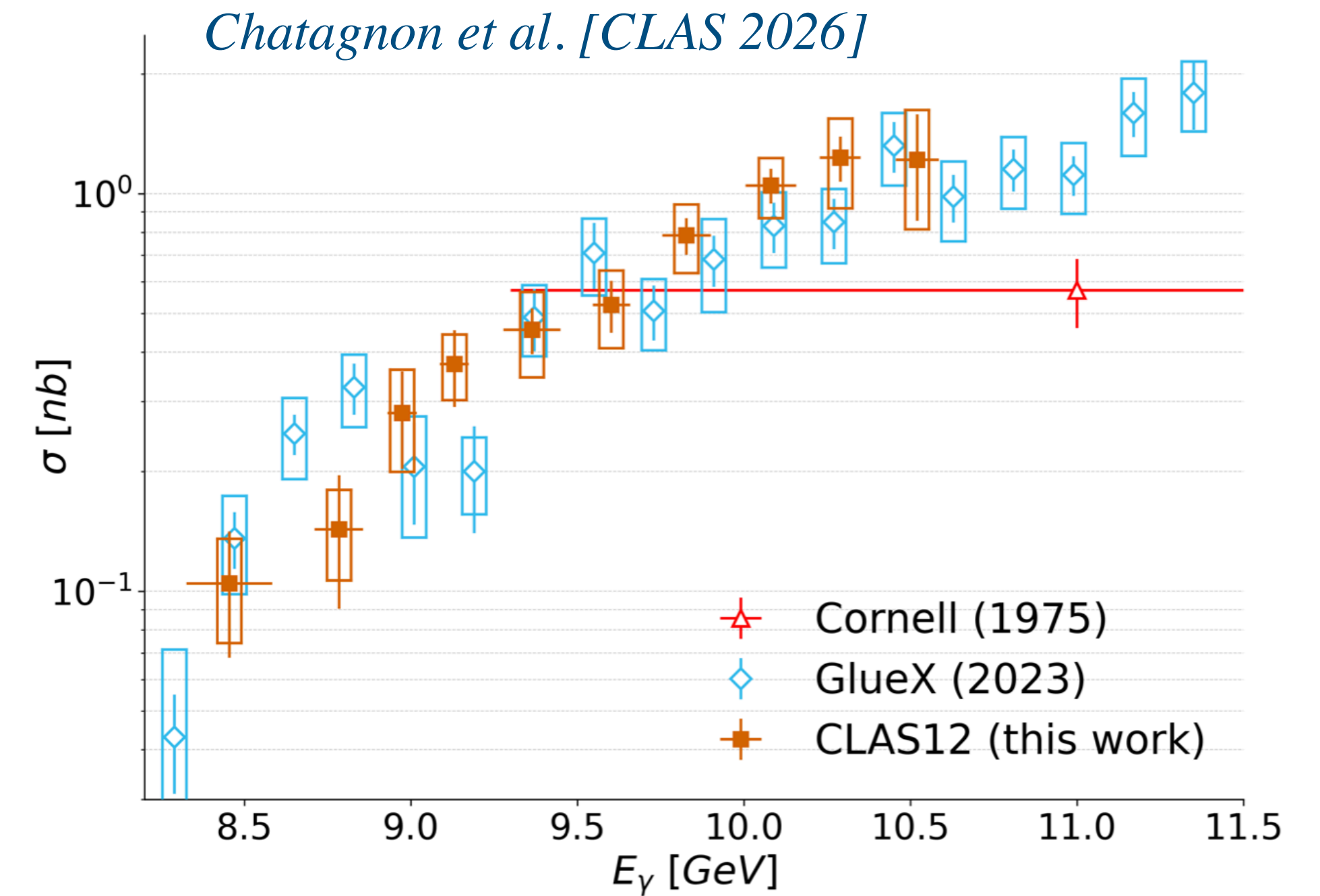


# Experimental push at Jefferson Lab

Hall A (SBS) [LOI12-18-001 PAC 46] (SoLID) arXiv:2209.13357  
 Hall B (CLAS12) [E12-12-001A] (recent publication, on the right)  
 Hall C [PR12-07-10 PAC 32]  
 Hall D (GlueX-III) (running, 400/200 days experiment/beam time)



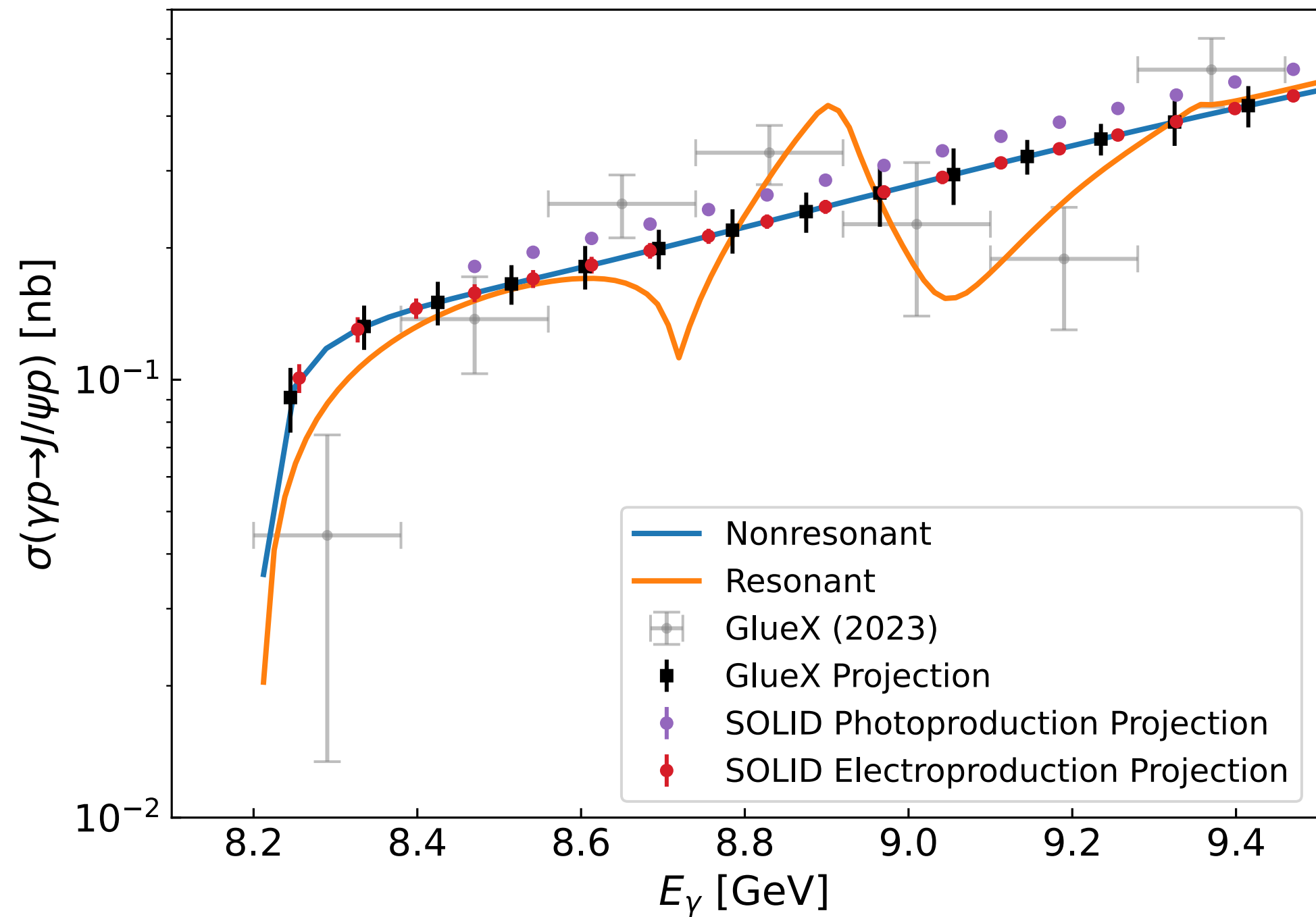
*Pentchev & Stevens [Priv. comm. GlueX projection]*  
*Joosten [Priv. comm. SoLID projection]*



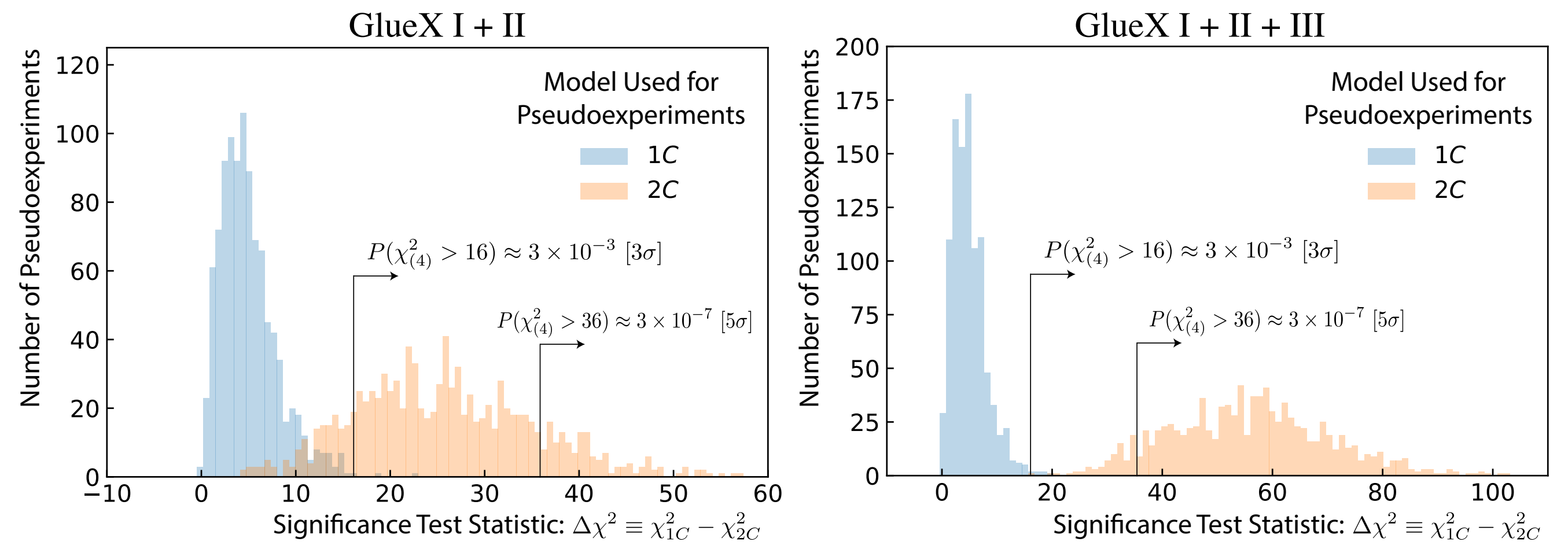
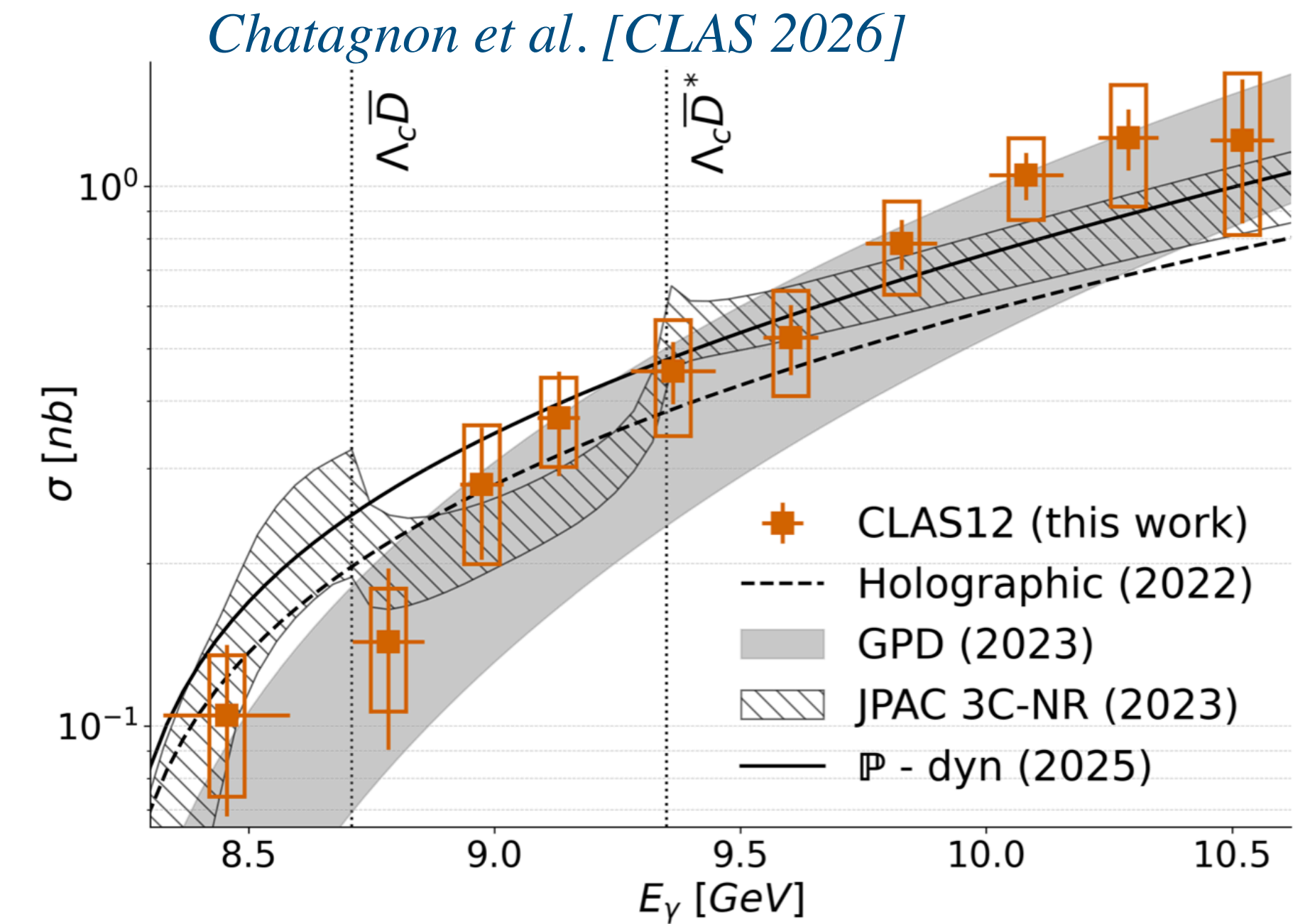
*Shepperd et al. [GlueX-III proposal (2024)]*

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# Spin density matrix elements (GlueX/CLAS)

Helicity correlations give key insight on production dynamics (even with unpolarized measurements).

$$\rho_{\lambda\lambda'}^0 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\lambda_\gamma \lambda_p \lambda_{p'}} \langle \lambda_\gamma, \lambda_p | T | \lambda, \lambda_{p'} \rangle \langle \lambda', \lambda_{p'} | T^* | \lambda_\gamma, \lambda_p \rangle$$

$$\rho_{\lambda\lambda'}^1 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\lambda_\gamma \lambda_p \lambda_{p'}} \langle \lambda_\gamma, \lambda_p | T | \lambda, \lambda_{p'} \rangle \langle -\lambda', \lambda_{p'} | T^* | \lambda_\gamma, \lambda_p \rangle$$

$$\rho_{\lambda\lambda'}^2 = \frac{-i}{N} \sum_{\lambda_\gamma \lambda_p \lambda_{p'}} \lambda_\gamma \langle \lambda_\gamma, \lambda_p | T | \lambda, \lambda_{p'} \rangle \langle -\lambda', \lambda_{p'} | T^* | \lambda_\gamma, \lambda_p \rangle$$

*CLAS12  $J/\psi$  polarization needs muon detection!*

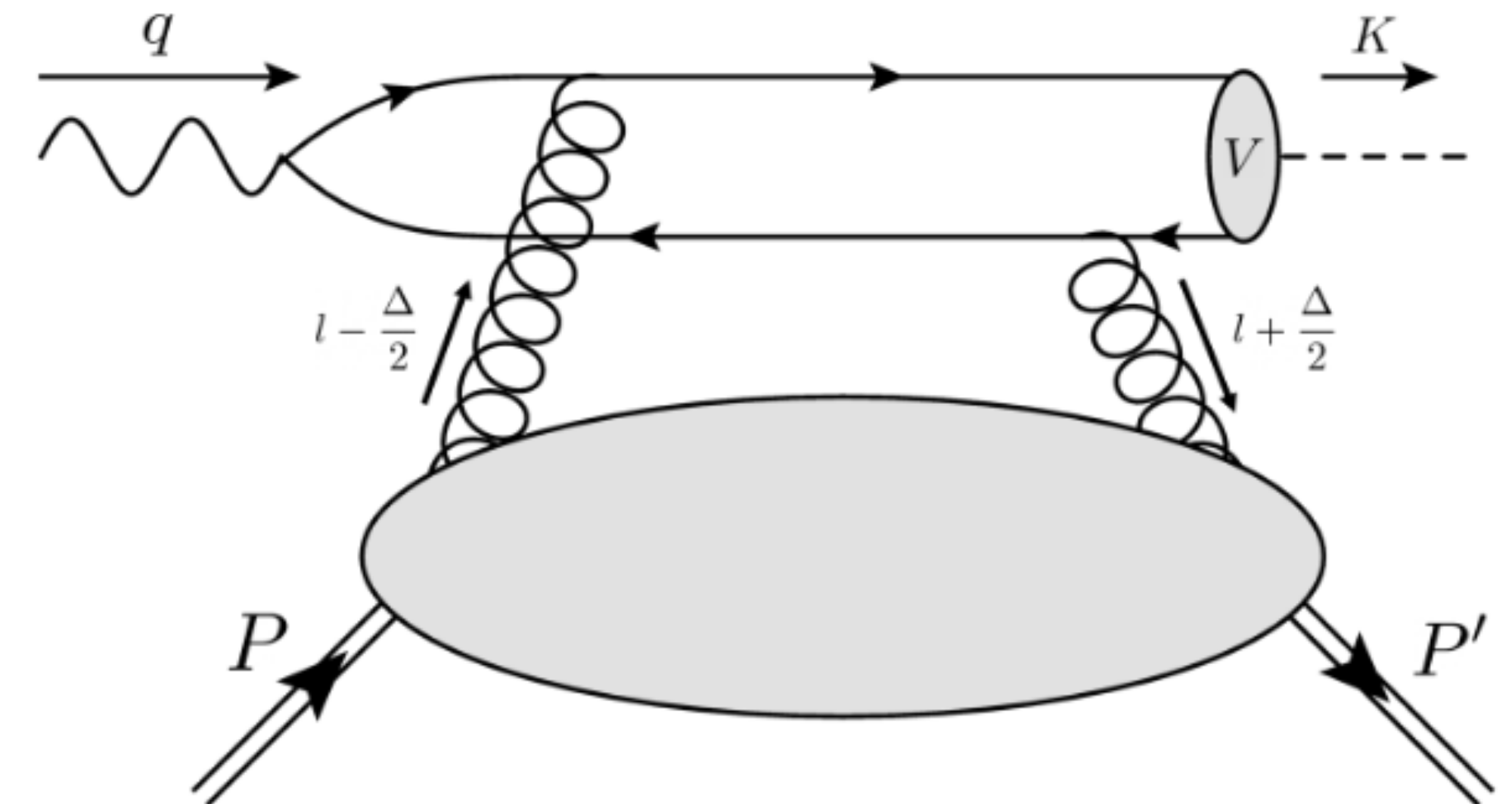
Factorization often assumes s-channel helicity conservation:

$$\langle \lambda_\gamma, \lambda_p | T | \lambda, \lambda_{p'} \rangle \propto (\epsilon_\gamma \cdot \epsilon_\psi^*) \propto \delta_{\lambda_\gamma \lambda_\psi}$$

$$\rho_{\lambda,\lambda'}^\alpha = 0 \quad \text{except} \quad \rho_{1,-1}^1 = -\text{Im} \rho_{1,-1}^2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

*Guo et al. [Phys.Rev.D 103 (2021) 9, 096010]*

$$\mathcal{M}(\epsilon_V, \epsilon) = \frac{8\sqrt{2}\pi\alpha_S(M_V)}{M_V^2} \phi^*(0) G(t, \xi) (\epsilon_V^* \cdot \epsilon)$$



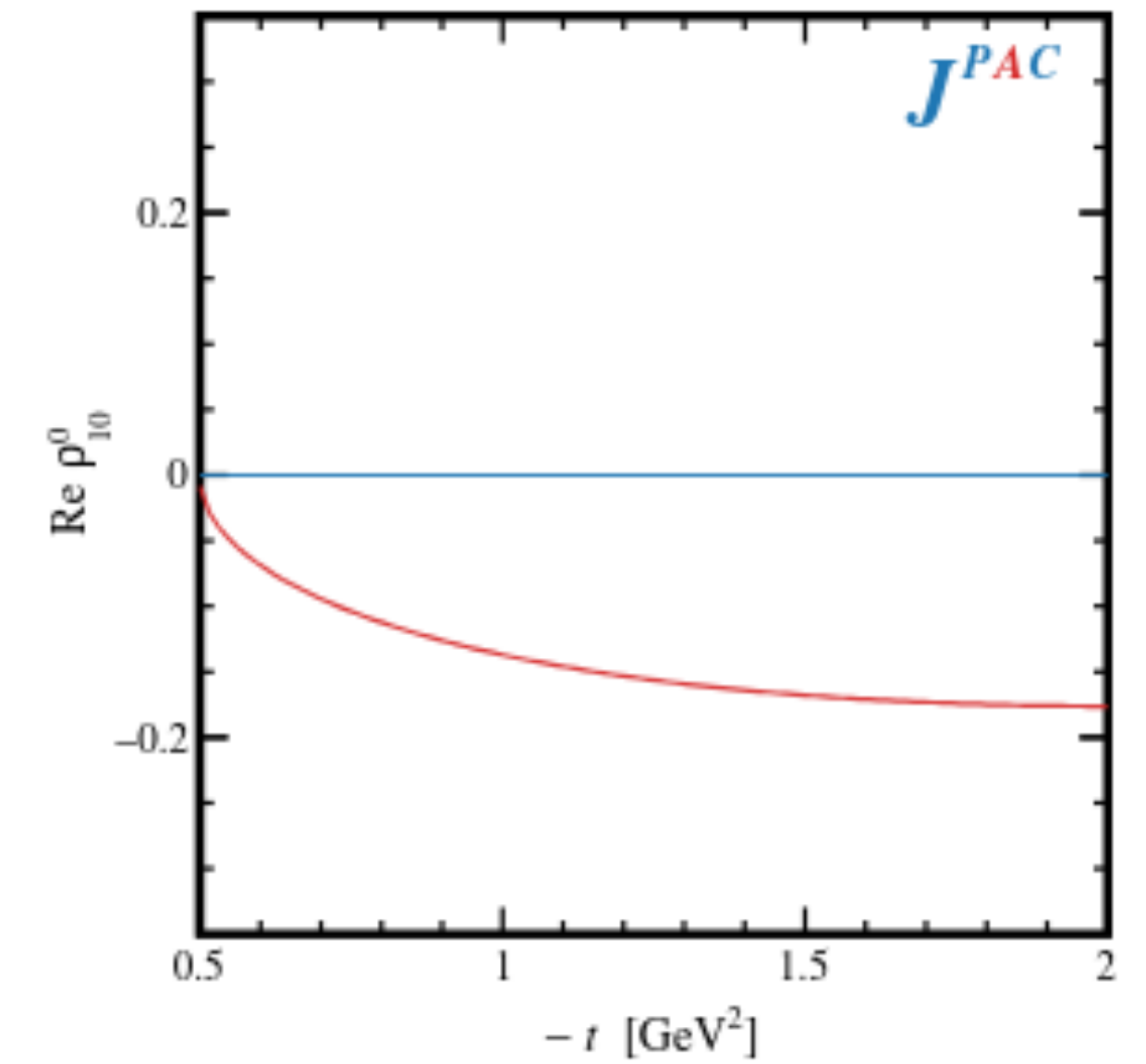
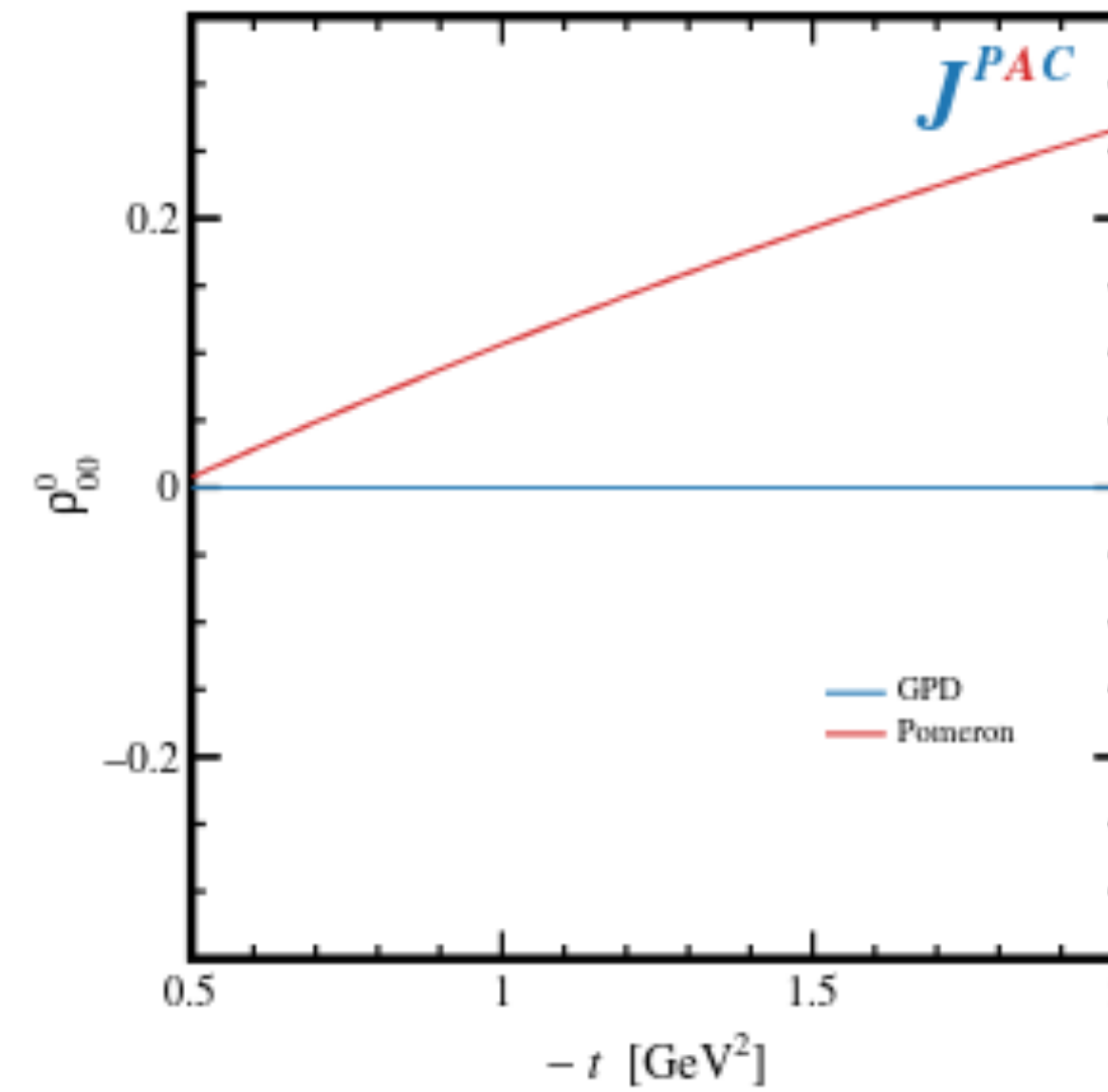
How does the GPD formalism change if spin-flip corrections are sizeable?

# Spin density matrix elements (GlueX/CLAS)

## Conserving

$$\mathcal{M}(\varepsilon_V, \varepsilon) = \frac{8\sqrt{2}\pi\alpha_S(M_V)}{M_V^2} \phi^*(0) G(t, \xi) (\varepsilon_V^* \cdot \varepsilon)$$

Guo et al. [Phys.Rev.D 103 (2021) 9, 096010]

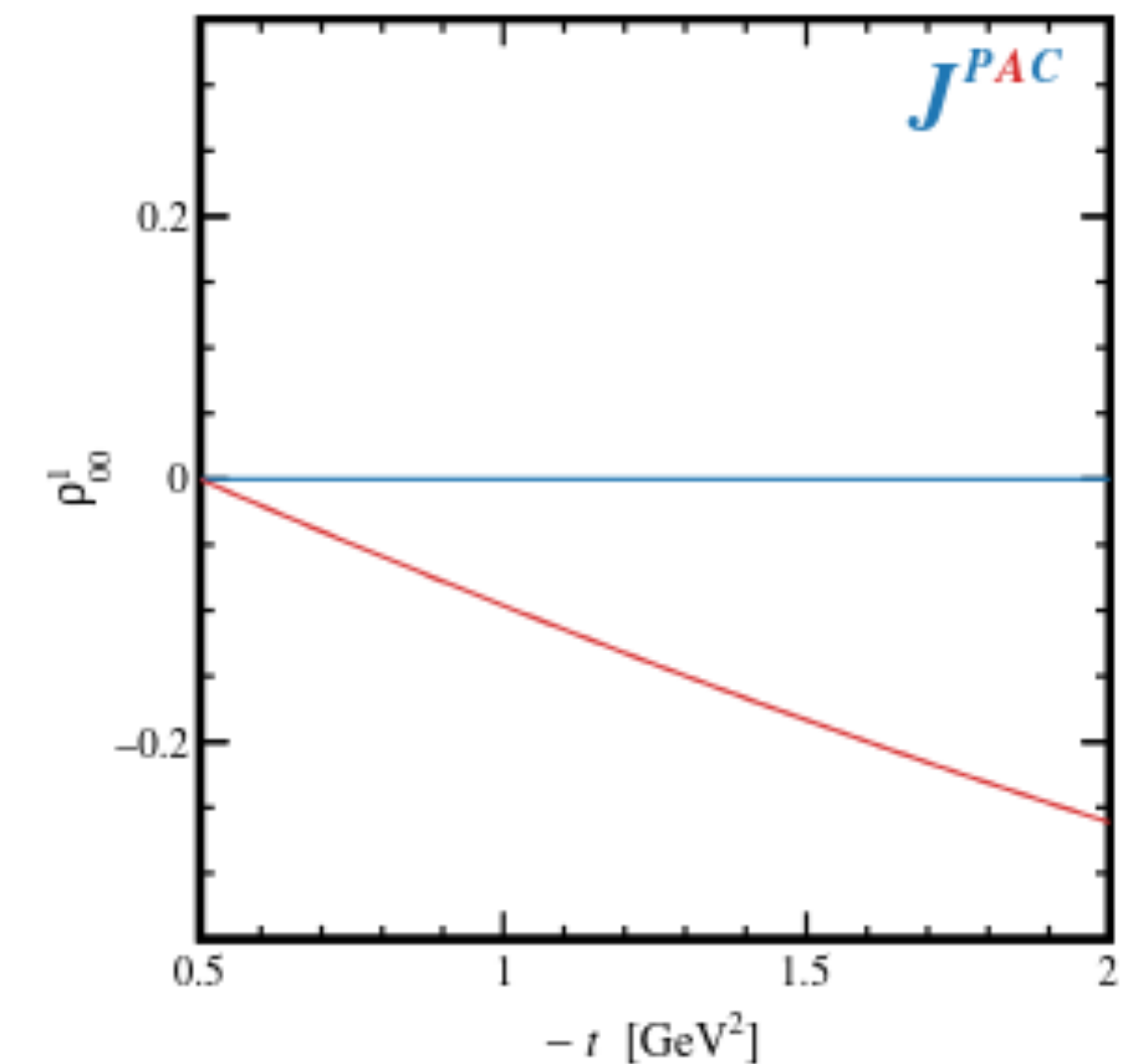
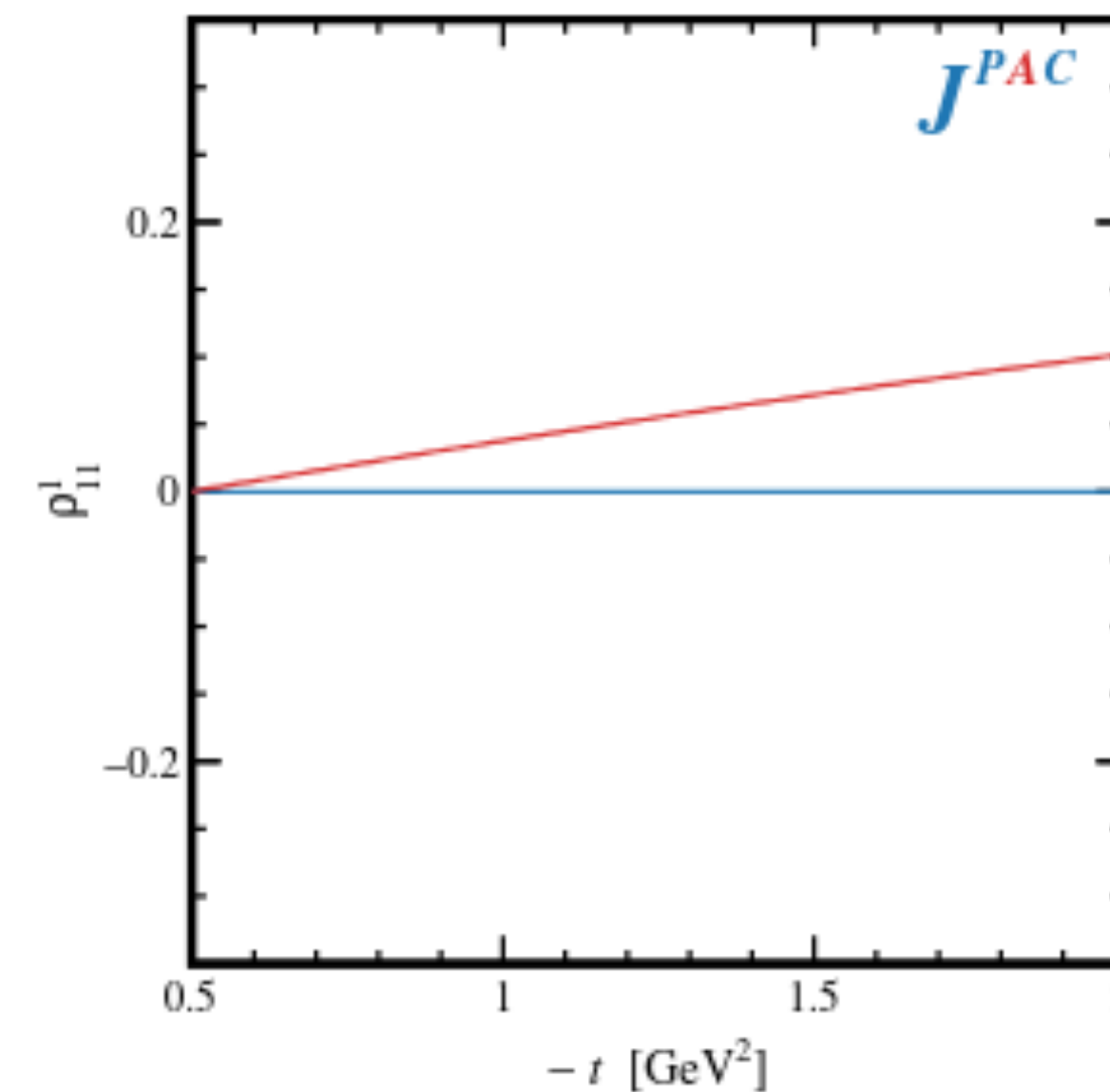
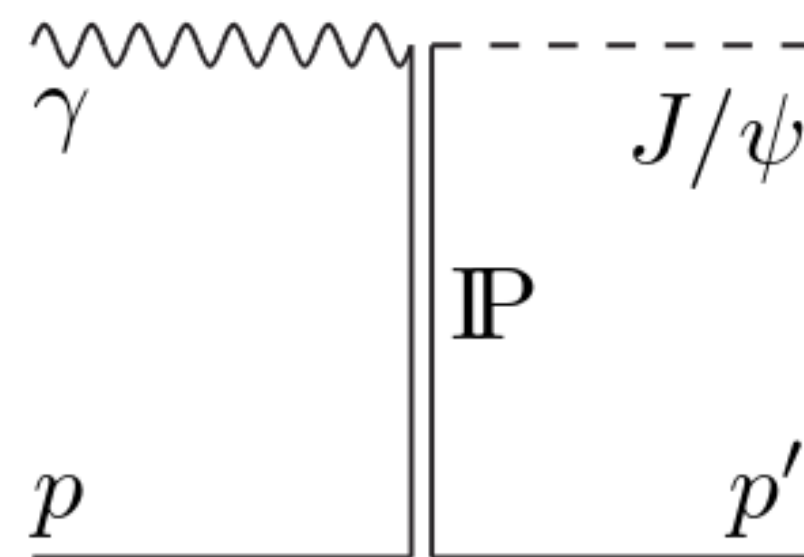


## Violating

$$\langle \lambda_\gamma, \lambda_p | T | \lambda, \lambda_{p'} \rangle =$$

$$F(s, t) \times (\bar{u}\gamma_\mu u) [\epsilon_\gamma^\mu (q \cdot \epsilon_\psi^*) - (\epsilon_\gamma \cdot \epsilon_\psi^*) q^\mu]$$

JPAC [Phys. Rev. D 100, 034019 (2019)]



# Conclusions

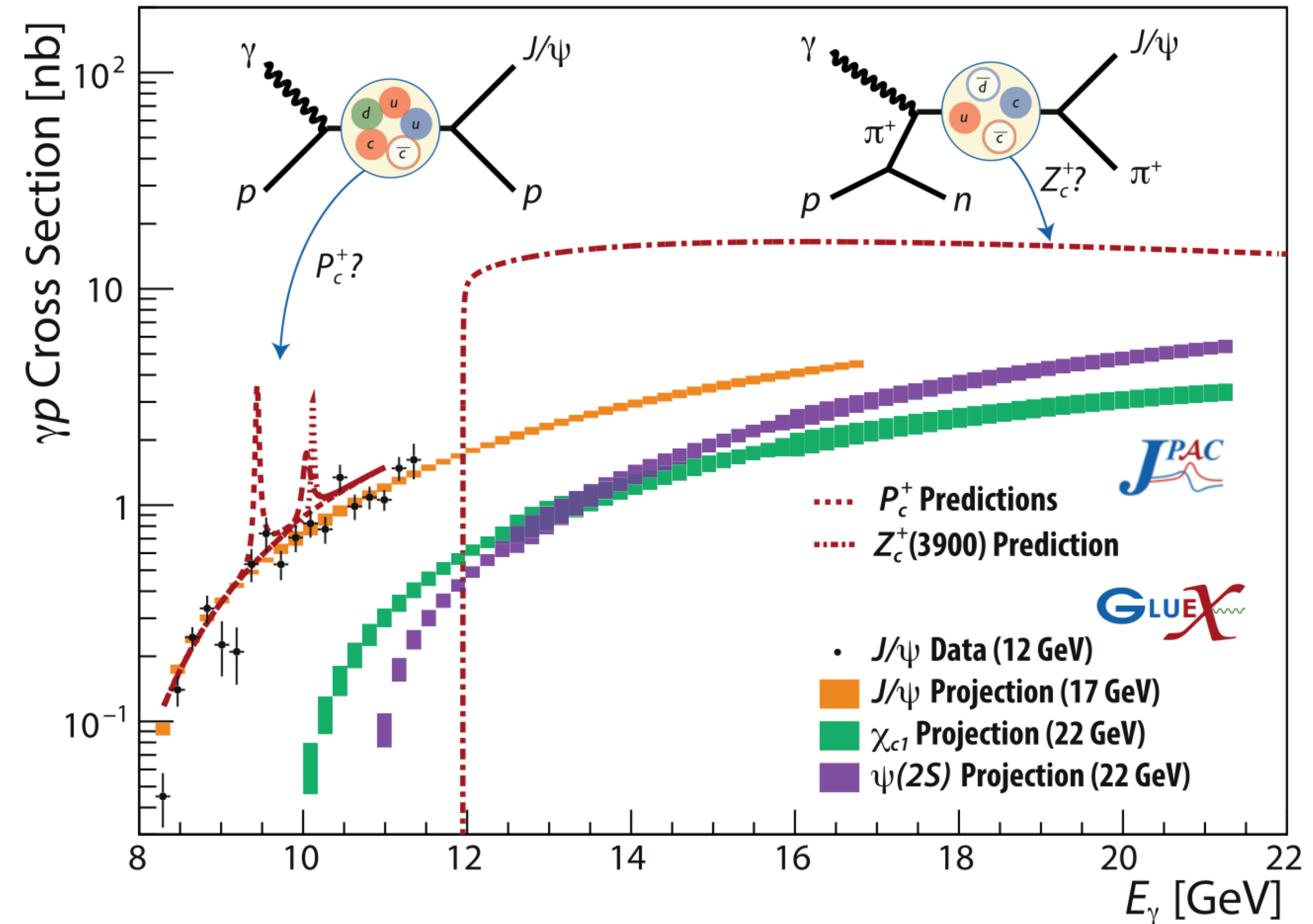
Accardi, et al. [EPJA 60 (2024) 163]

The underlying physics of the reaction is not certain

What physics can be extracted is not fully known

**Open questions we should not ignore:**

- Can we easily access the proton structure?
- Are there pentaquarks?
- Open charm contributions?
- Is VMD a good assumption?



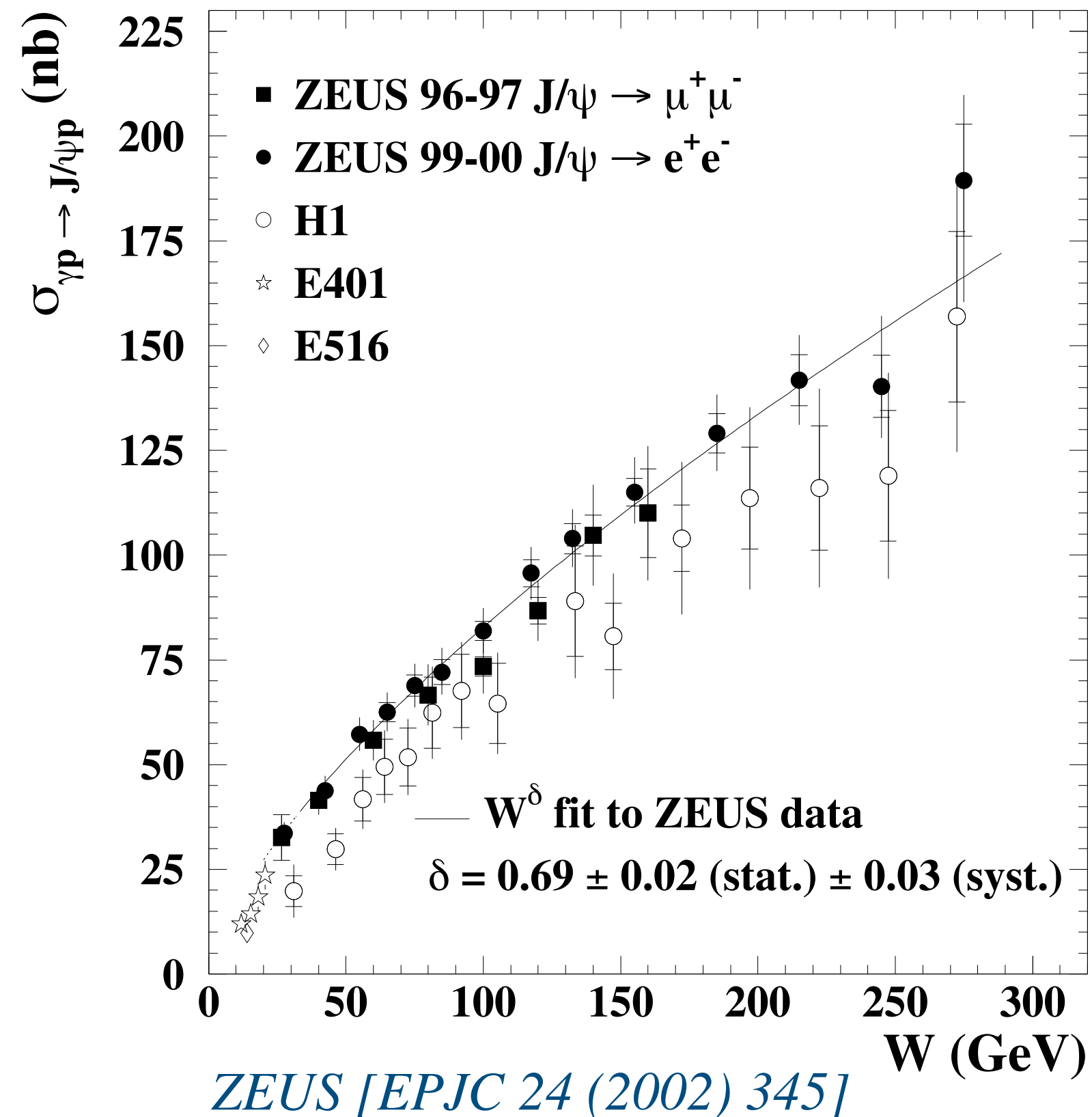
**An important part of future facilities (EIC, EicC, JLab22) research program depends on answering to these questions**

# Spare slides

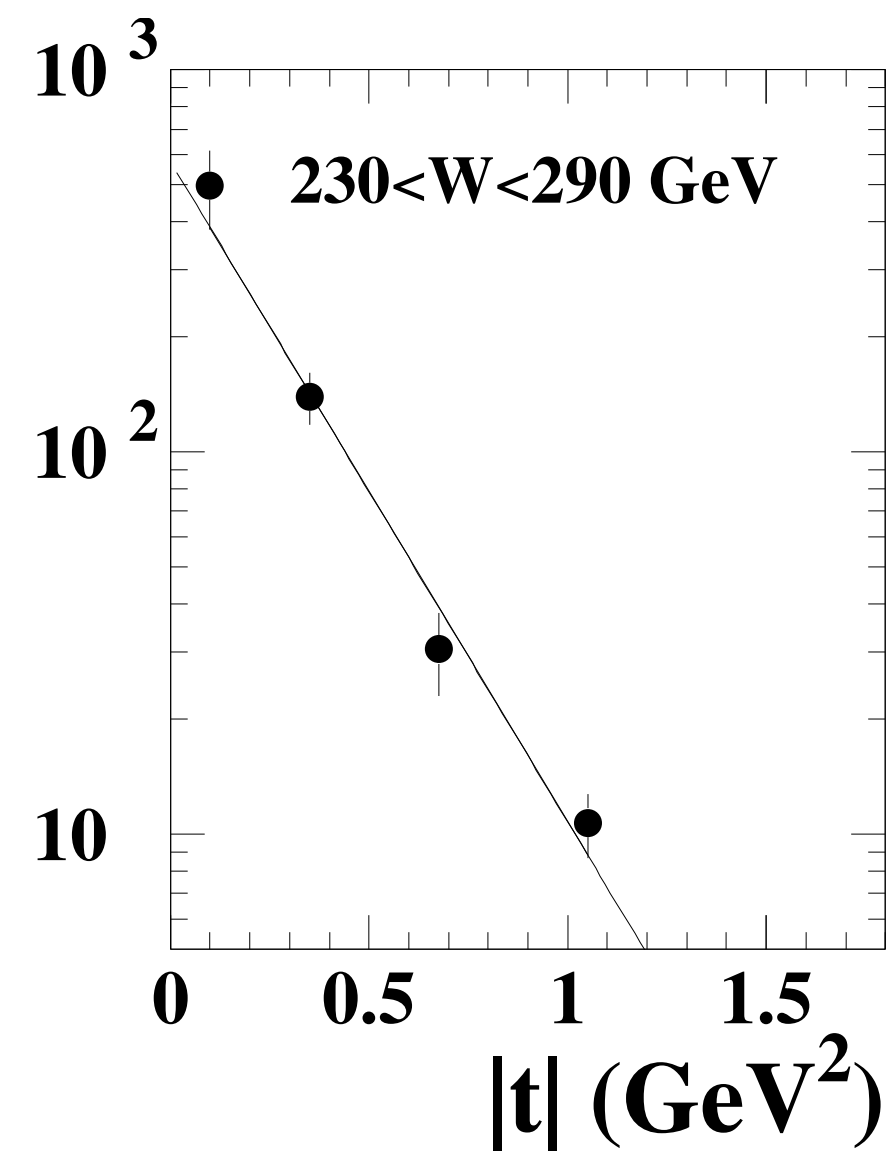
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# J/ψ photoproduction (high energy)

Historically J/ψ photoproduction has been well explored at high energies ( $W > 20$  GeV) at HERA



Production dominated by low  $|t|$  and exponential decay from forward angles — i.e. the "diffractive peak"

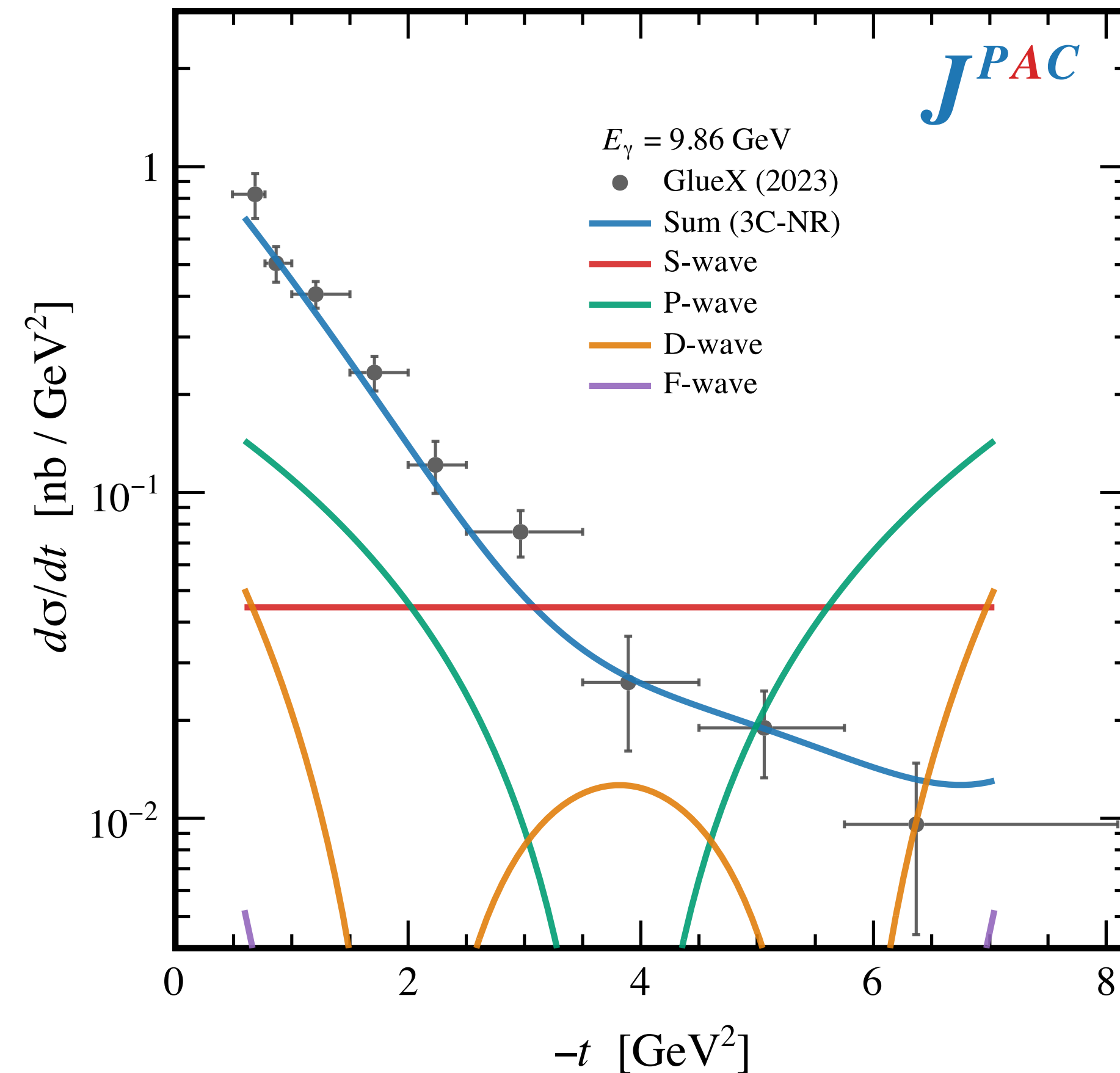
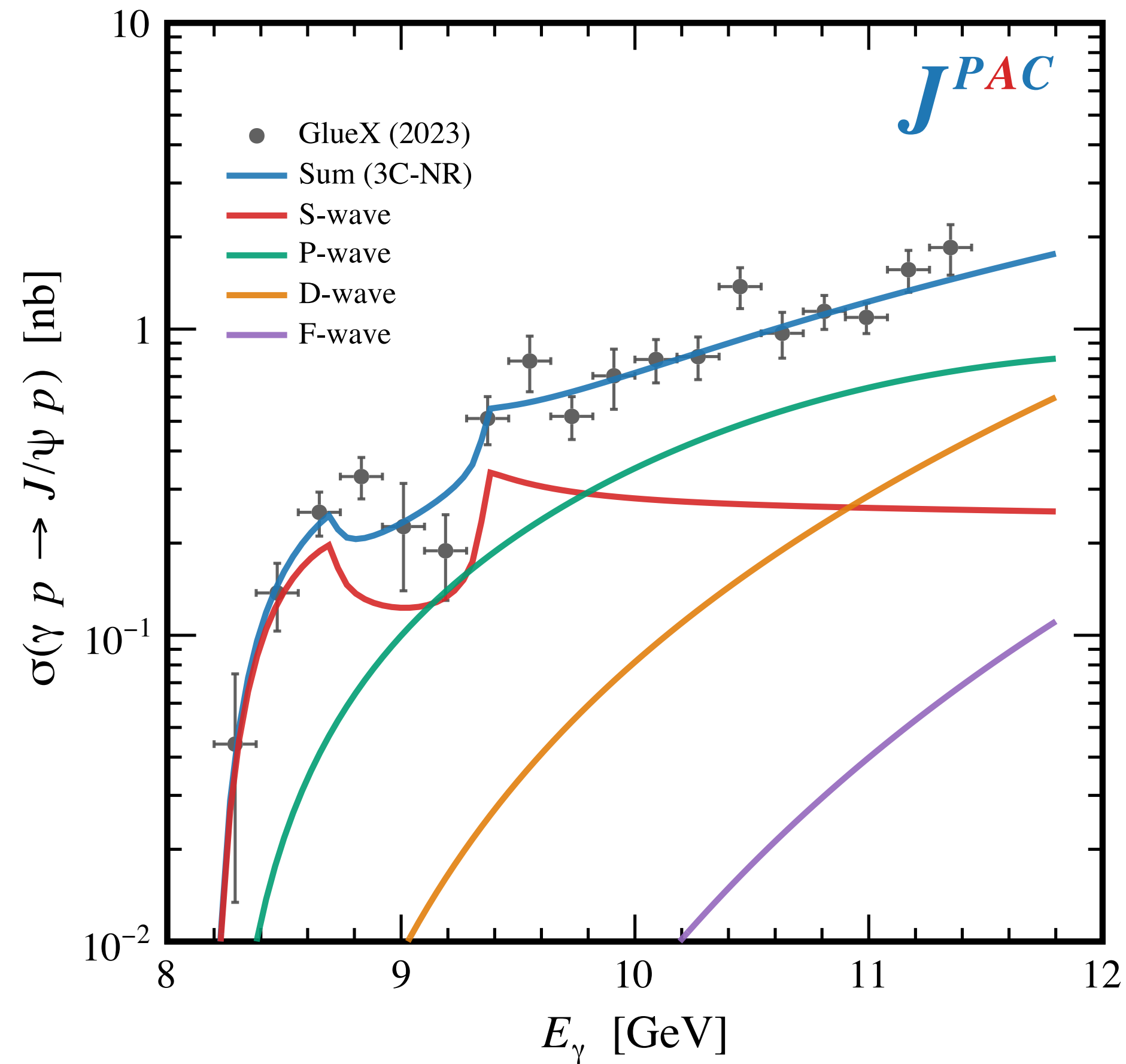


Diffractive production via gluon exchanges

Variety of theoretical models:

- Pomeron exchange  
*Donnachie & Landshoff [PLB 437 (1998) 408]*
- Color dipole  
*Caldwell & Soares [NPA 696 (2001) 125]*
- pQCD  
*Ivanov et al. [EPJC 34 (2004) 297]*

The exponential  $t$  behavior is captured with only a few partial waves



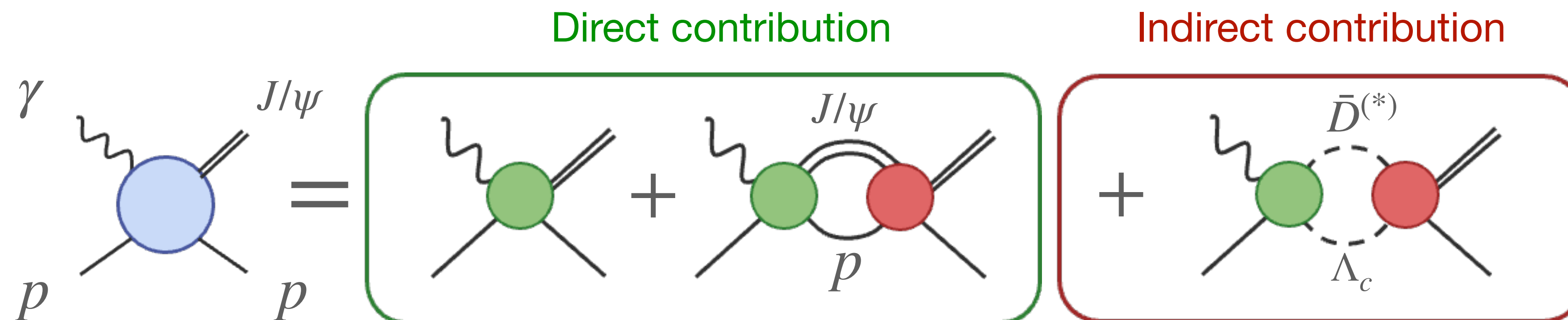
The sharp asymmetric  $t$  distribution is due to interference between PW:  $P_\ell(\cos \theta = \pm 1) = (\pm 1)^\ell$

## Limitations:

- Not a microscopic model
- Each partial wave must be parametrized independently

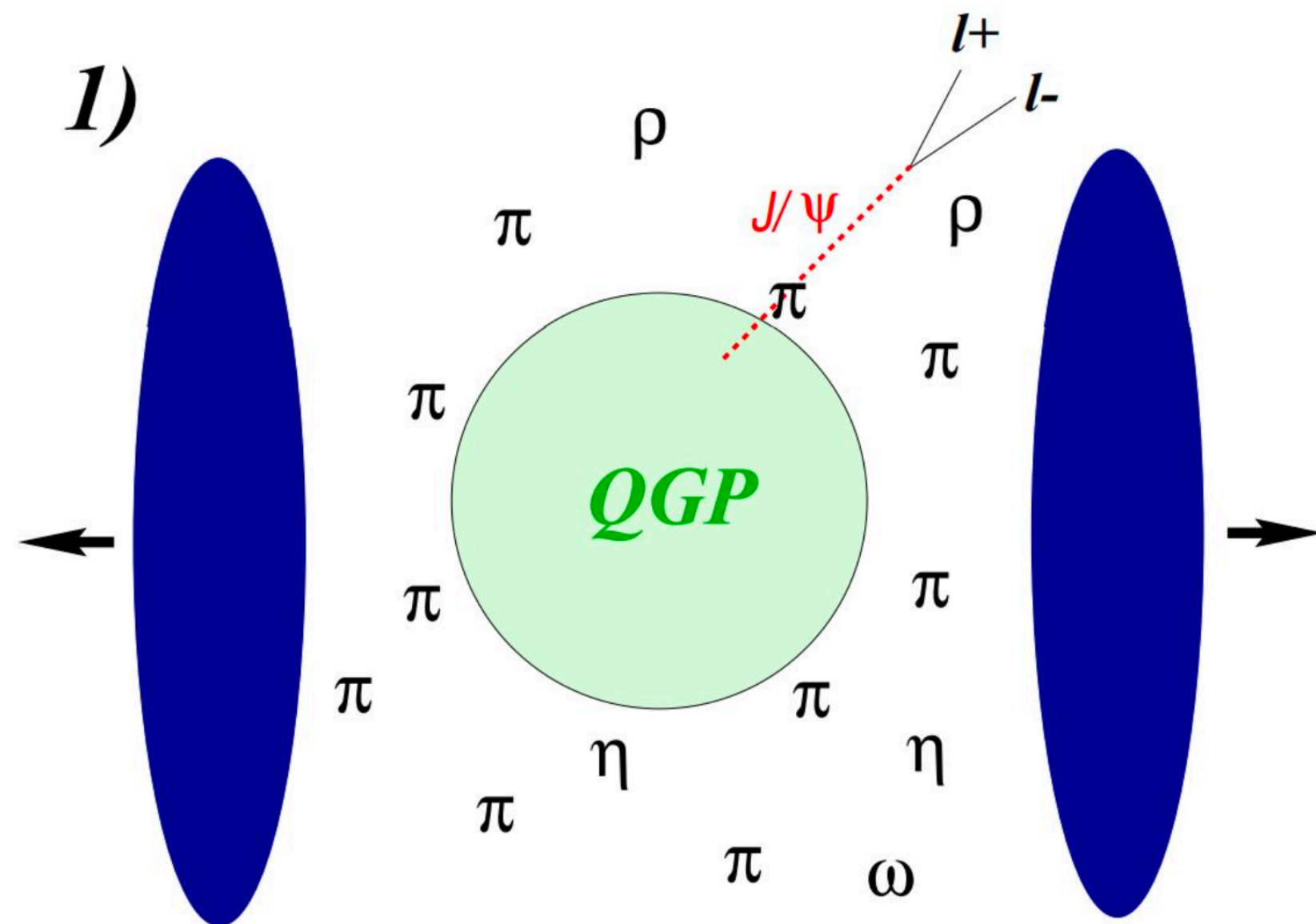


"Minimally model dependent,  
data driven analysis"



# J/ $\psi$ photoproduction (near threshold)

Measurements at energies near threshold have attracted a lot of attention as potentially sensitive to key quantities relevant to **the nature of charmonium-nucleon interactions**



Near threshold, J/ $\psi$ -N interaction expected to be dominated by gluonic Van der Waals forces  
Interaction predicted attractive and possibly strong enough to bind in nuclei

*Brodsky & Miller [PLB 412 (1997) 125]*

*Brodsky, Schmidt & de Teramond [PRL 64 (1990) 1011]*

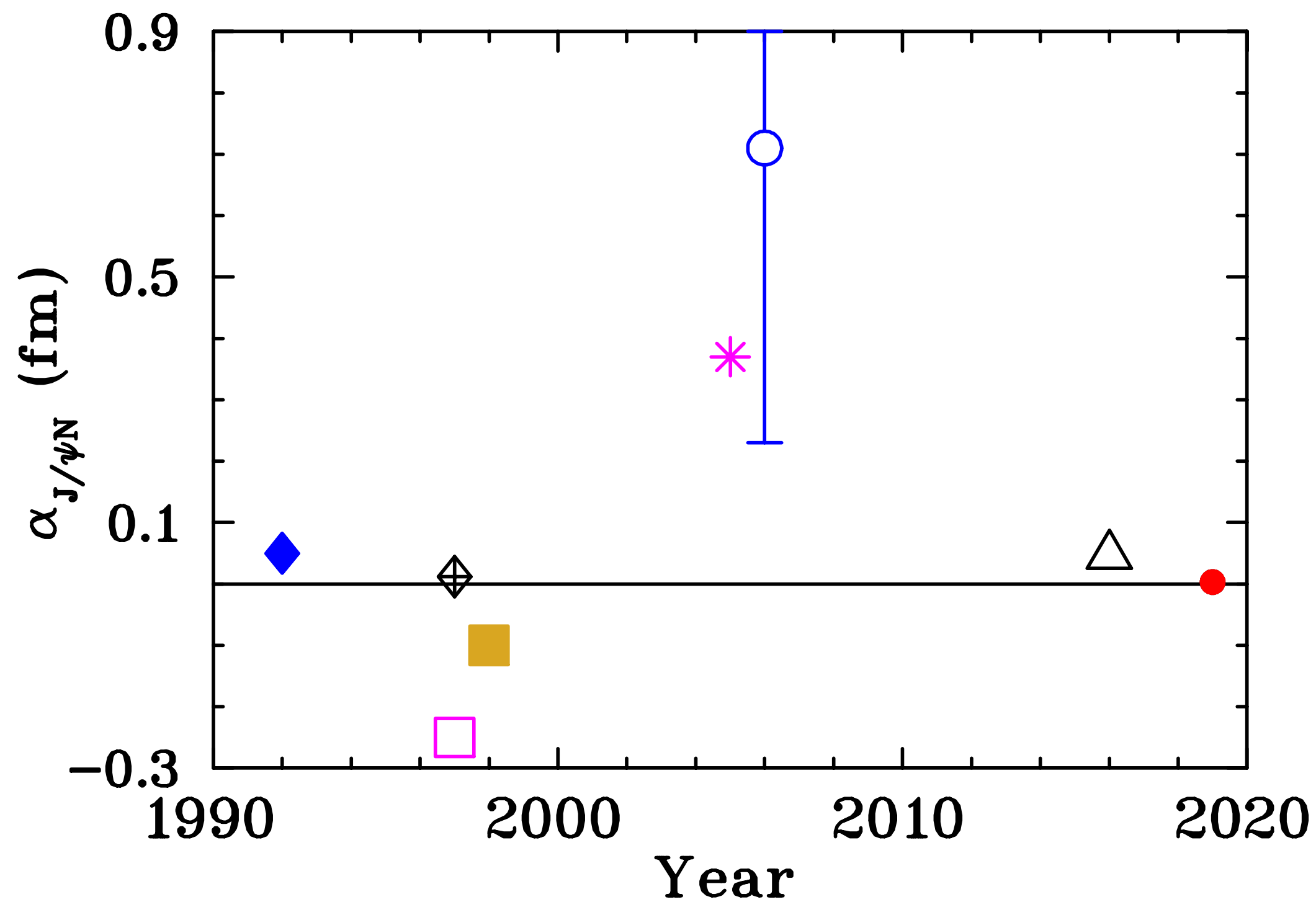
Charmonium absorption cross sections are an important ingredient to search for quark-gluon plasma via charmonium suppression at heavy ion collisions

*Barnes [Eur. Phys. J A 18 (2003) 531]*

*Matsui & Satz [PLB 178 (1986) 416]*

# Elastic scattering length

Extractions based on VMD consistent with nearly noninteracting system  
 First extraction without assuming VMD  
 Favors large values on the order of Fermi



$$T_S^{\psi p, \psi p} = \frac{8\pi\sqrt{s_{th}}}{-a_{\psi p}^{-1} - iq} + \mathcal{O}(q^2)$$

Typical hadronic interaction between nucleon and charmonia  
 3C fits are compatible with zero

Scattering length [fm]

1C	[0.56, 1.00]
2C	[0.11, 0.76]
3C-NR	[-2.77, 0.35]
3C-R	[-0.04, 0.19]

*Strakovsky, Epifanov & Pentchev. [PRC 101 (2020) 042201]*

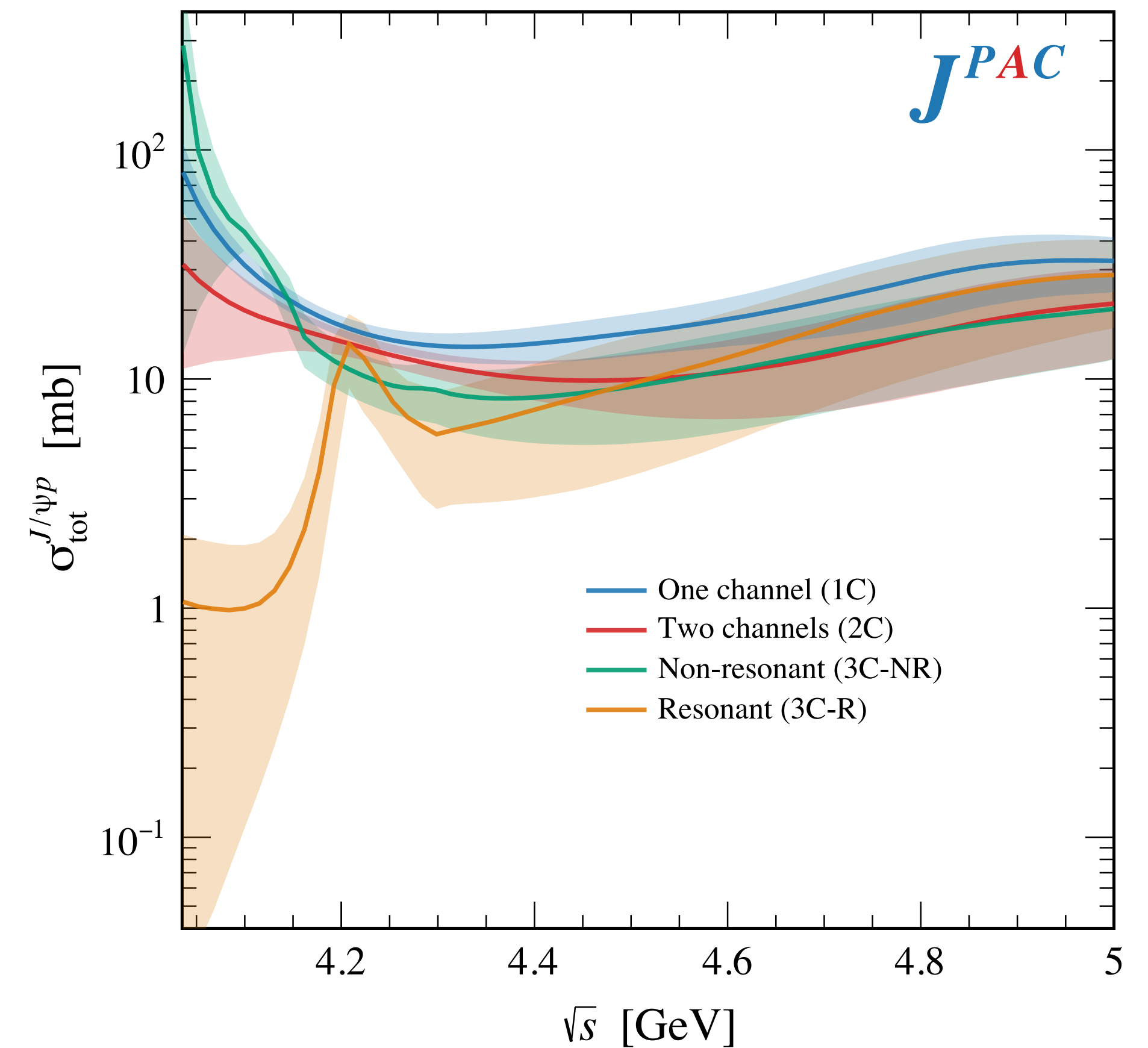
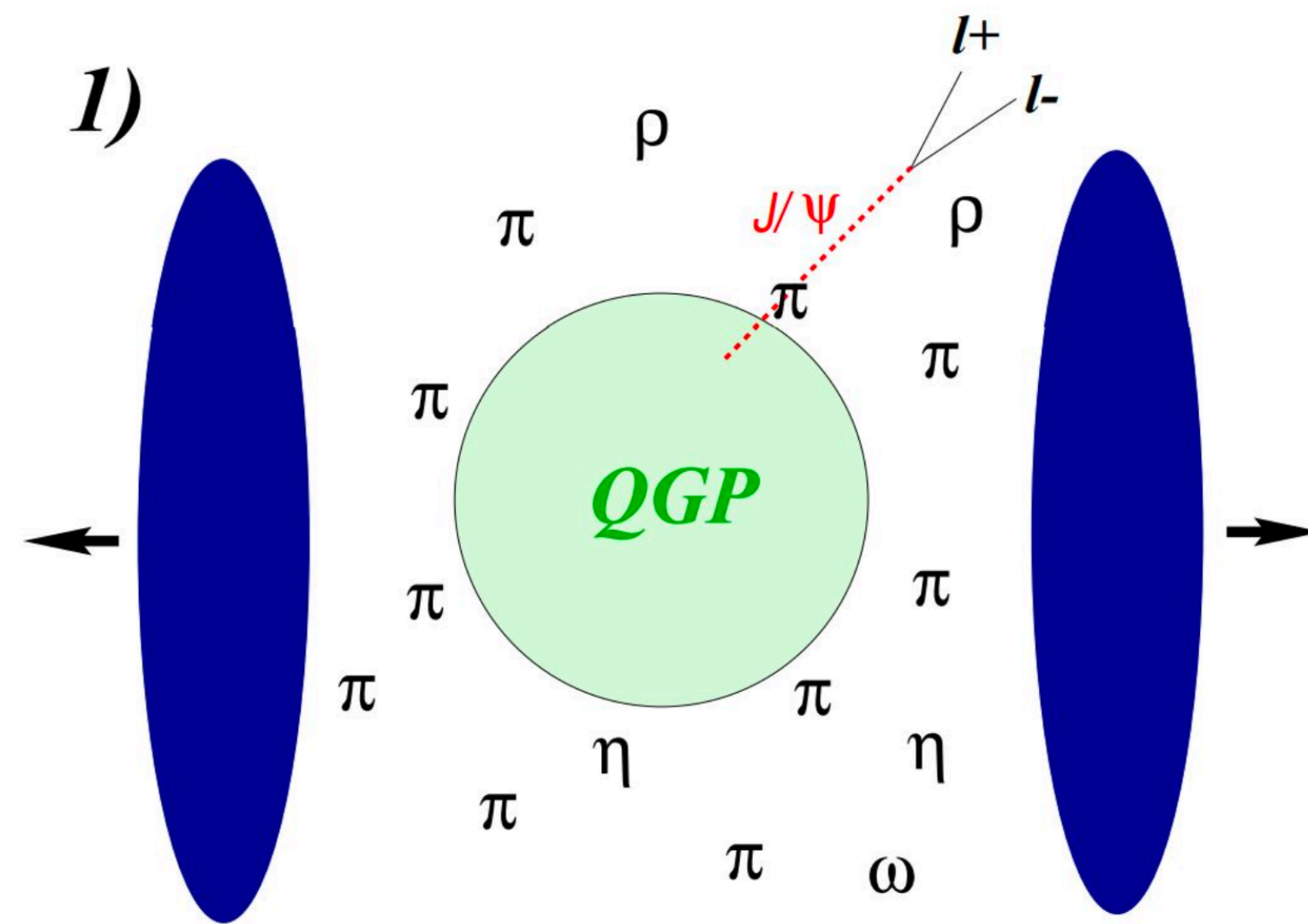
$|a_{\psi p}| = 3.08 \pm 0.55 \pm 0.45$  mfm Using GlueX 2019 data

# Charmonium-nucleon absorption

Charmonium absorption cross sections are an important ingredient to search for quark-gluon plasma via charmonium suppression at heavy ion collisions

$$\sigma_{tot}^{\psi p} = \frac{1}{2q\sqrt{s}} \text{Im} T^{\psi p, \psi p}(s, t=0)$$

*Barnes [EPJA 18 (2003) 531]*  
*Matsui & Satz [PLB 178 (1986) 416]*



# Vector meson dominance

VMD is used extensively in the phenomenology of photoproduction processes

Provides connection between production and elastic scattering

Works very well in the light mesons sector

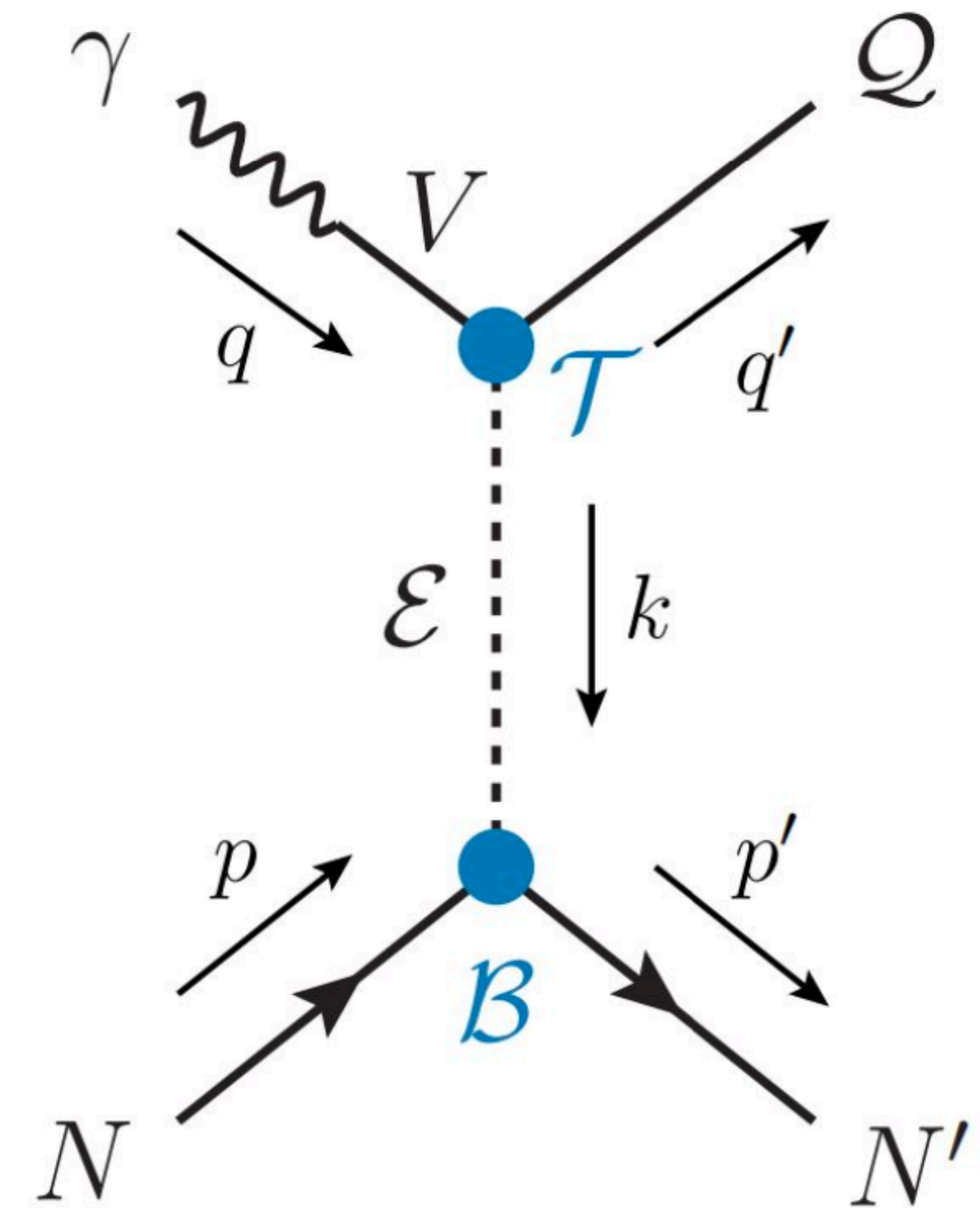
Not clear if it also works in the heavy meson sector

It is hoped to provide reliable estimation of the order of magnitude

Explicit tests in heavy states near threshold has never been conducted

$$F^{\psi P}(s, x) = g_{\gamma\psi} T^{\psi P, \psi P}(s, x) \quad (\text{strict VMD}) \quad g_{\gamma\psi} = ef_{\psi}/m_{\psi} \simeq 0.0273$$

$$F_{\ell}(s) = f_{\ell} (1 + GT_{\ell})$$



# Vector meson dominance

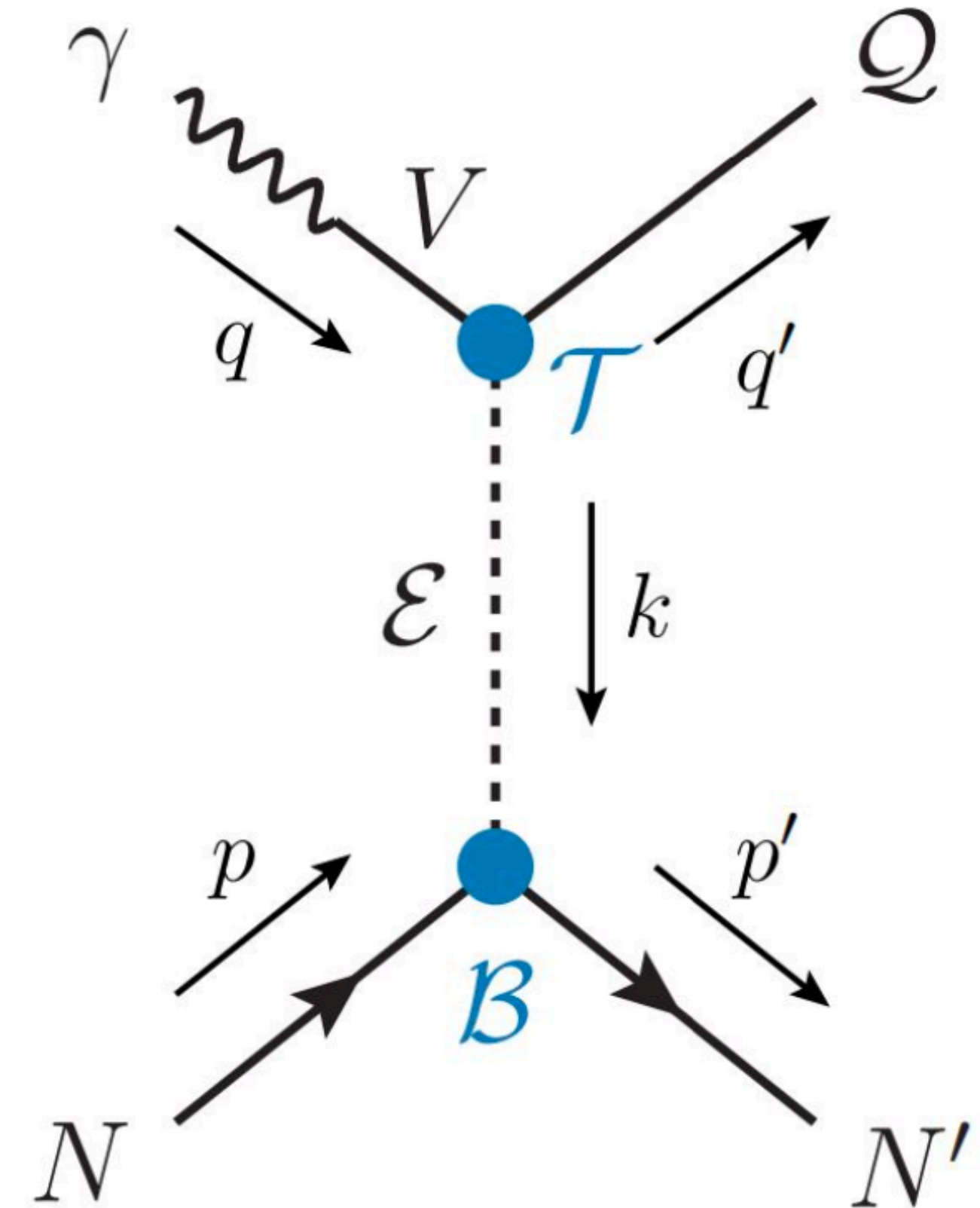
The K-matrix formalism allows us to extract the elastic  $J/\psi$  p amplitude from unitarity

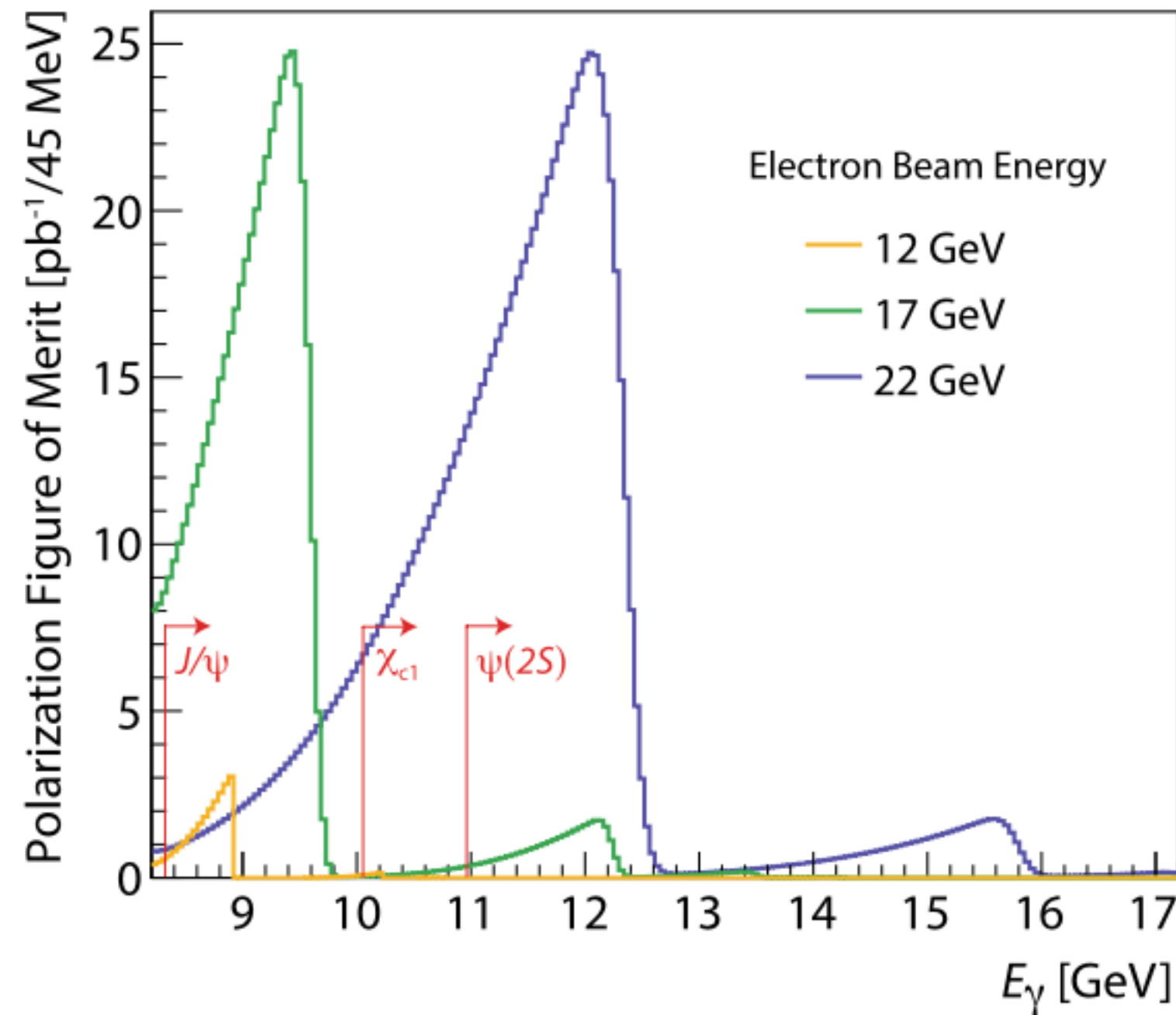
We define the ratio to test the validity of the VMD assumption

$$R_{VMD}(x) = \left| \frac{F^{\psi p}(s_{th}, x)/g_{\gamma\psi}}{T^{\psi p, \psi p}(s_{th}, x)} \right|$$

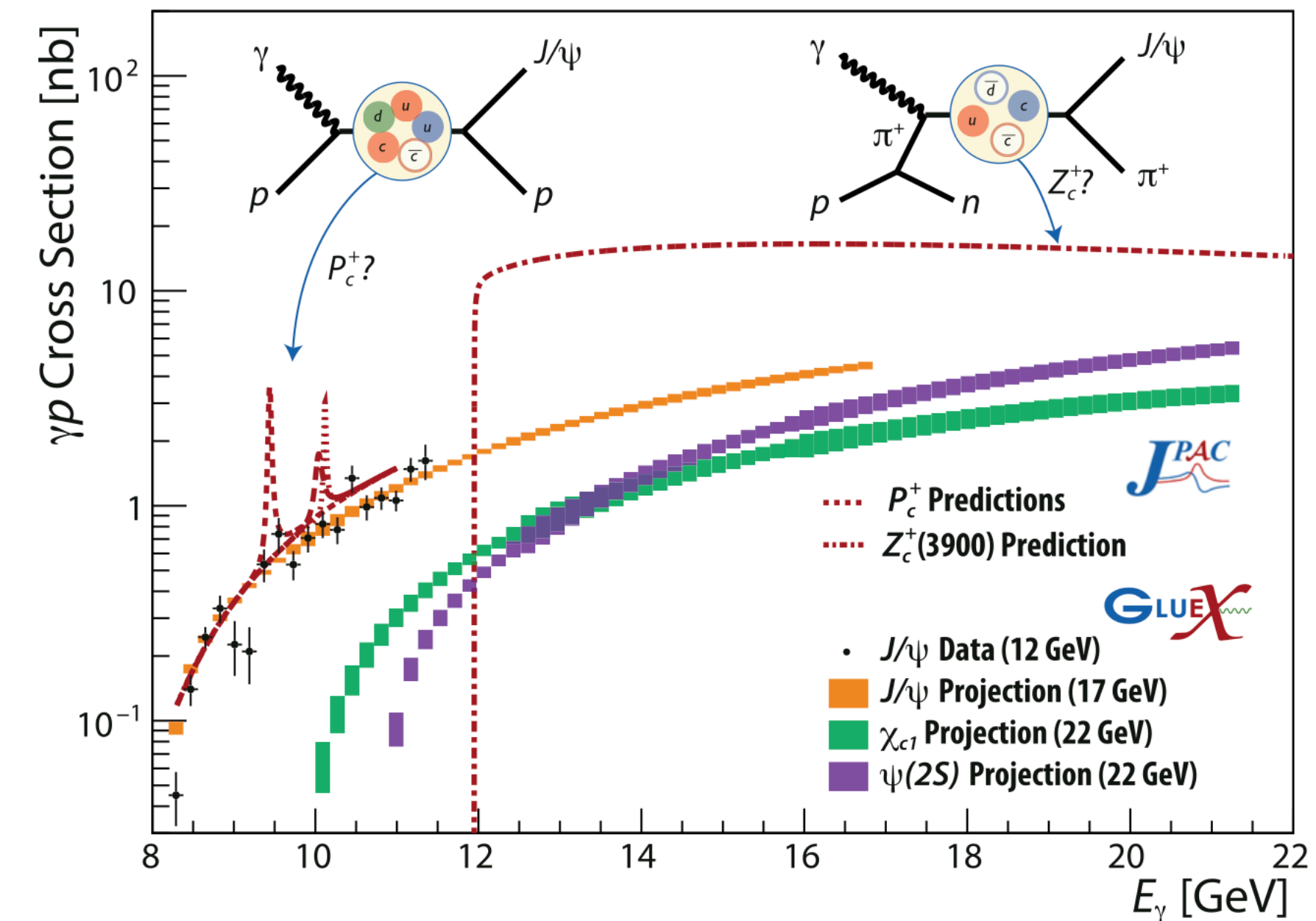
	$x = \cos \theta = 0$	$x = t = 0$
<b>1C</b>	$[0.45, 0.73] \times 10^{-2}$	$[1.3, 2.0] \times 10^{-2}$
<b>2C</b>	$[0.39, 1.69] \times 10^{-2}$	$[1.3, 5.1] \times 10^{-2}$
<b>3C-NR</b>	$[0.03, 1.74] \times 10^{-2}$	$[0.08, 8.9] \times 10^{-2}$
<b>3C-R</b>	$[1.4 \times 10^{-2}, 0.58]$	$[5.4 \times 10^{-2}, 1.8]$

VMD found to underestimate elastic scattering by 2 orders of magnitude in all cases except those with a nearby pole





**Fig. 5** The polarization figure of merit ( $P^2(dN_\gamma/dE)$ ) as a function of photon beam energy  $E_\gamma$  for the existing 12 GeV GlueX configuration assuming 100 days of beam on target (yellow). Figures of merit assuming equal beam time are shown for 17 GeV and 22 GeV electrons, both of which are drawn for the same diamond orientation. Various  $c\bar{c}$  production thresholds are shown



**Fig. 3** Photoproduction cross sections of states containing  $c\bar{c}$  as a function of photon beam energy. The points are GlueX data [21] The colored boxes are projections of statistical precision using the GlueX detector with different assumptions about the electron energy. The collection of dashed and dotted curves indicate how pentaquark  $P_c$  [22] or tetraquark  $Z_c$  [23] candidates might appear

# Proton mass decomposition

Not without controversy:

*Ji [PRL 74 (1995) 1071, PRD 52 (1995) 271]*

*Lorcé [EPJC 78 (2018) 120]*

Normal gluon  
energy contribution  
(from traceless  
part)

Quark mass term

$$M = M_q + M_g + M_m + M_a$$

Quark and  
antiquark kinetic  
and potential  
energies

Gluon energy  
contribution from  
the trace anomaly  
(from trace part)

# Convergence of the partial waves

---

$$r^{2\ell} \equiv \lim_{s \rightarrow s_{th}} \left| \frac{F_\ell(s)/(pq)^\ell}{F_S(s)} \right|$$

If  $pqr^2 < 1$  we may expect subsequent waves to be suppressed  
For all the fits  $r \simeq 0.1$  fm

Estimated breakdown at 14 GeV

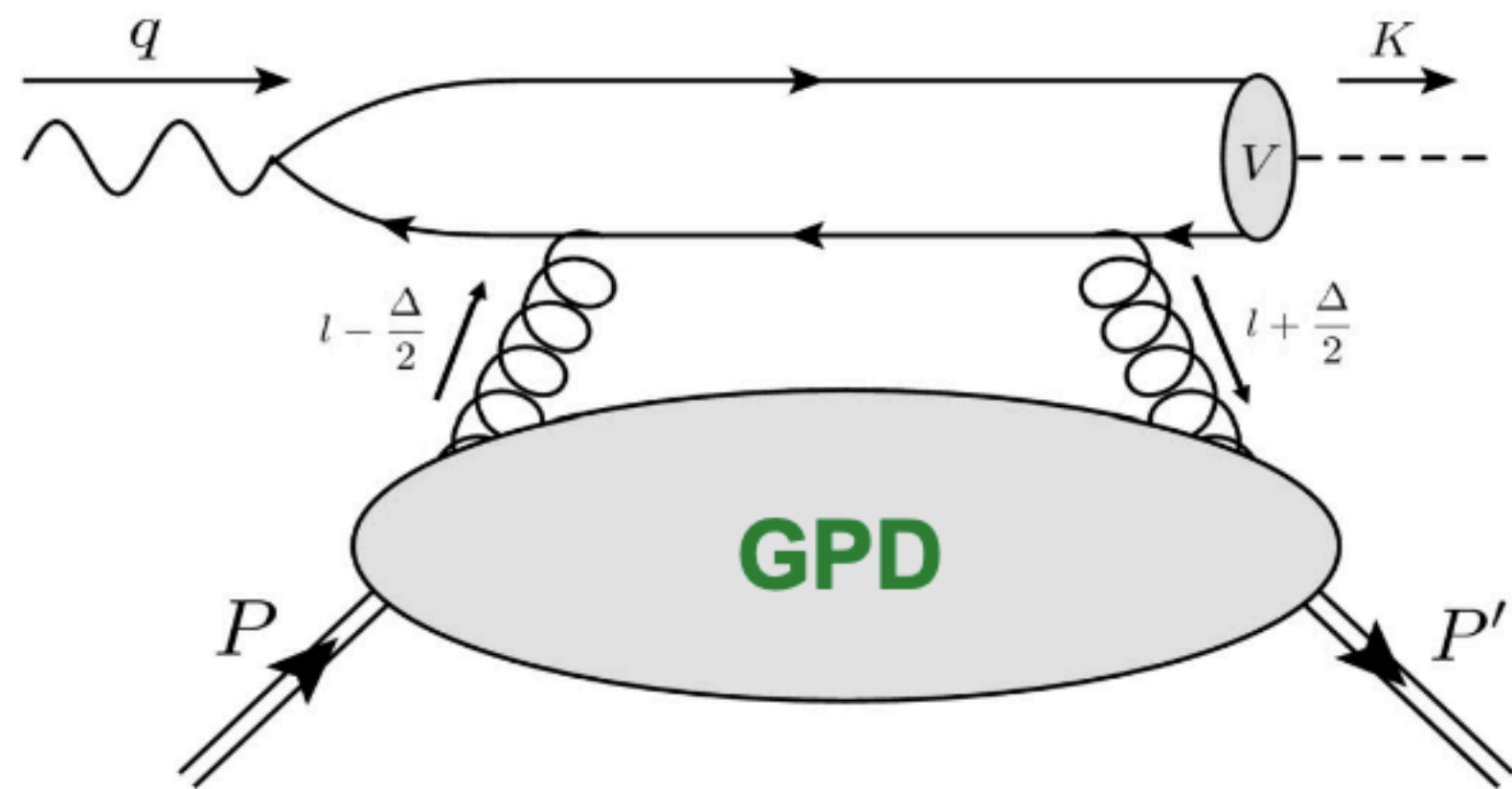
# Analytic continuation of the phase space

---

$$G_i = \frac{s - s_i}{\pi} \int_{s_i}^{\infty} ds' \frac{\rho_i(s')}{(s' - s_i)(s' - s)} = -\frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \rho_i \log \left( \frac{\xi_i + \rho_i}{\xi_i - \rho_i} \right) - \xi_i \frac{m_{2i} - m_{1i}}{m_{2i} + m_{1i}} \log \frac{m_{2i}}{m_{1i}} \right]$$

# skewness

$$\xi = \frac{P^+ - P'^+}{P^+ + P'^+} \simeq 1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{M_V}{M_N}\right)$$



Guo, Ji & Liu [PRD 103 (2021) 096010]

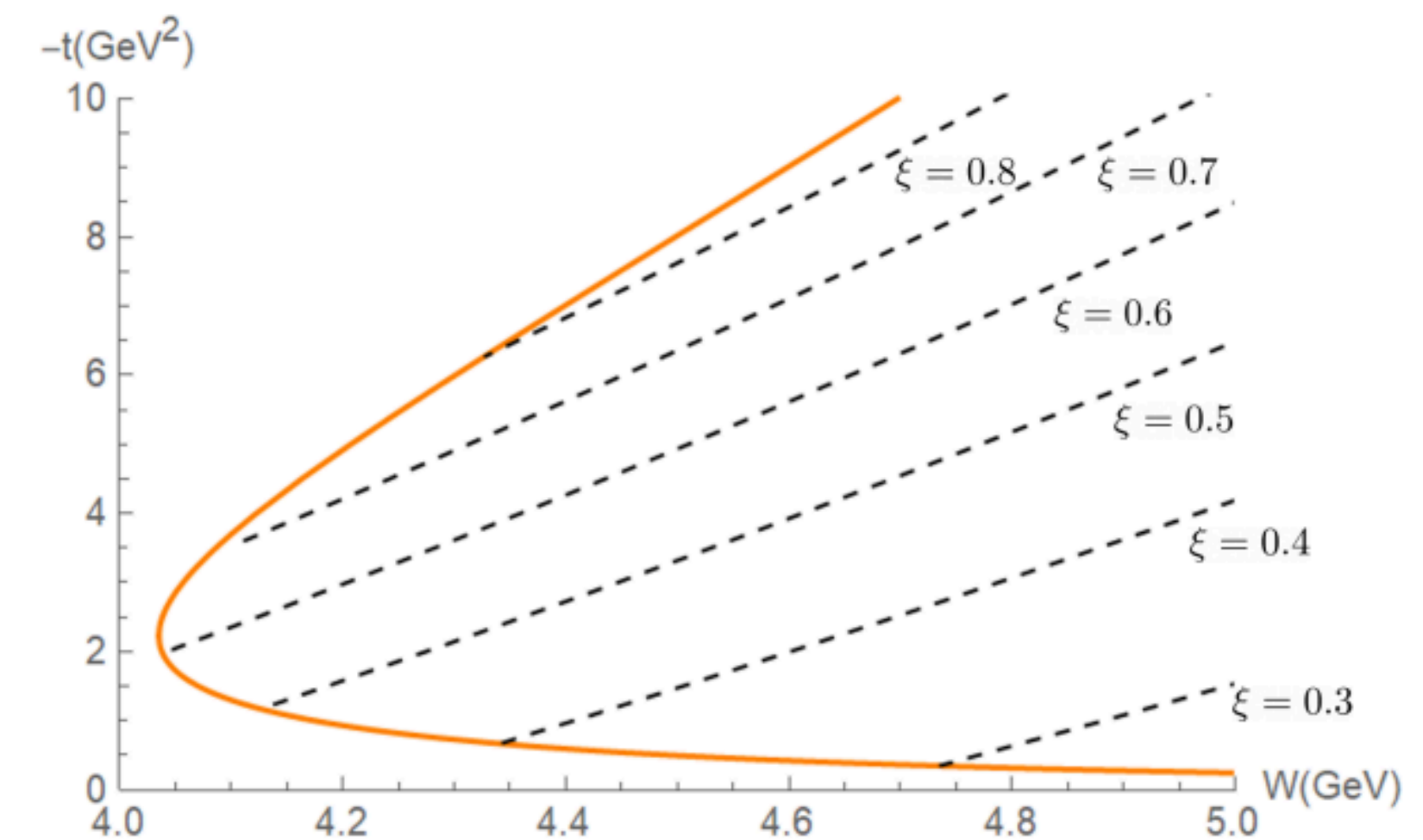


FIG. 2:  $\xi$  on the  $(W, -t)$  plane in the kinematically allowed region with  $M_{J/\psi} = 3.097$  GeV.