

Exploring the Origin of Mass using Pseudoscalar Mesons

Craig Roberts

Strong Interactions in the Standard Model

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \bar{\psi}_i (i(\gamma^\mu D_\mu)_{ij} - m \delta_{ij}) \psi_j - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu}$$


- Only apparent scale in chromodynamics is mass of the quark field
- Quark mass is said to be generated by Higgs boson.
- In connection with everyday matter, that mass is 1/250th of the natural (empirical) scale for strong interactions,
viz. more-than two orders-of-magnitude smaller
- Plainly, the Higgs-generated mass is very far removed from the natural scale for strongly-interacting matter
- *Nuclear physics mass-scale* – 1 GeV – is an *emergent feature of the Standard Model*
 - No amount of staring at $\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}}$ can reveal that scale
- Contrast with quantum electrodynamics, e.g. spectrum of hydrogen levels measured in units of m_e , which appears in $\mathcal{L}_{\text{QED}}$

$T_{\mu\mu} = \frac{1}{4}\beta(\alpha(\zeta))G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a$ Trace Anomaly

- Classically, in a **scale invariant theory**
the *energy-momentum tensor must be traceless*: $T_{\mu\mu} \equiv 0$
- Regularisation and renormalisation of (ultraviolet) divergences in Quantum Chromodynamics introduces a mass-scale
... *dimensional transmutation*: mass-dimensionless quantities become dependent on a mass-scale, ζ
- $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha(\zeta)$ in QCD's (massless) Lagrangian density, $\mathcal{L}(m=0)$
 $\Rightarrow \partial_\mu \mathcal{D}_\mu = \delta\mathcal{L}/\delta\sigma = \alpha\beta(\alpha) d\mathcal{L}/d\alpha = \boxed{\beta(\alpha) \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a = T_{\rho\rho} =: \Theta_0}$

QCD β function

Trace anomaly

Quantisation of renormalisable four-dimensional theory forces nonzero value for trace of energy-momentum tensor



Where is the mass?

$$T_{\mu\mu} = \frac{1}{4}\beta(\alpha(\zeta))G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a$$

Trace Anomaly

- Knowing that a trace anomaly exists does not deliver a great deal
... Indicates only that a mass-scale must exist
- Can one compute and/or understand the magnitude of that scale?
- One can certainly *measure* the magnitude ... consider proton:

$$\langle p(P) | T_{\mu\nu} | p(P) \rangle = -P_\mu P_\nu$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle p(P) | T_{\mu\mu} | p(P) \rangle &= -P^2 = m_p^2 \\ &= \langle p(P) | \Theta_0 | p(P) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

- In the chiral limit the entirety of the proton's mass is produced by the trace anomaly, Θ_0
... In QCD, Θ_0 measures the strength of gluon self-interactions
... so, from one perspective,
 m_p is (somehow) completely generated by glue.



On the other hand ...

$$T_{\mu\mu} = \frac{1}{4}\beta(\alpha(\zeta))G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a$$

Trace Anomaly

- In the chiral limit

$$\langle \pi(q) | T_{\mu\nu} | \pi(q) \rangle = -q_\mu q_\nu \Rightarrow \langle \pi(q) | \Theta_0 | \pi(q) \rangle = 0$$

- Does this mean that the scale anomaly vanishes trivially in the pion state, *i.e.* gluons contribute nothing to the pion mass?
- Difficult way to obtain “zero”!
- Easier to imagine that “zero” owes to cancellations between different operator contributions to the expectation value of Θ_0 .
- Of course, such precise cancellation should not be an accident.
It could only arise naturally because
of some symmetry and/or symmetry-breaking pattern.

Whence “1” and yet “0” ?

$$\langle p(P) | \Theta_0 | p(P) \rangle = m_p^2, \quad \langle \pi(q) | \Theta_0 | \pi(q) \rangle = 0$$

➤ *No statement of the question*

*“How does the mass of the proton arise?”
is complete without the additional clause
“How does the pion remain massless?”*

- Natural visible-matter mass-scale must emerge simultaneously with apparent preservation of scale invariance in related systems
- Expectation value of Θ_0 in pion is always zero, irrespective of the size of the natural mass-scale for strong interactions = m_p

Whence “1” and yet “0” ?

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*“How does the pion remain **massless**?”*

➤ Natural
with
– Ex
th

Elucidate the entire array
of empirical consequences
of the mechanism responsible
so that the theory can be validated

isly
stems
/e of
= m_p

$$\Delta_{\mu\nu}^{-1}(q) = \text{wavy line}^{-1} + \underbrace{\left[\frac{1}{2} \text{diagram (a)} + \frac{1}{2} \text{diagram (b)} + \text{diagram (c)} + \frac{1}{6} \text{diagram (d)} + \frac{1}{2} \text{diagram (e)} \right]}_{\Pi_{\mu\nu}(q)}$$

$\Pi_{\mu\nu}(q) = P_{\mu\nu}(q)\Pi(q)$

$P_{\mu\nu}(q) = g_{\mu\nu} - q_\mu q_\nu / q^2$

Gluon Gap Equation

In QCD: Gluons become massive!

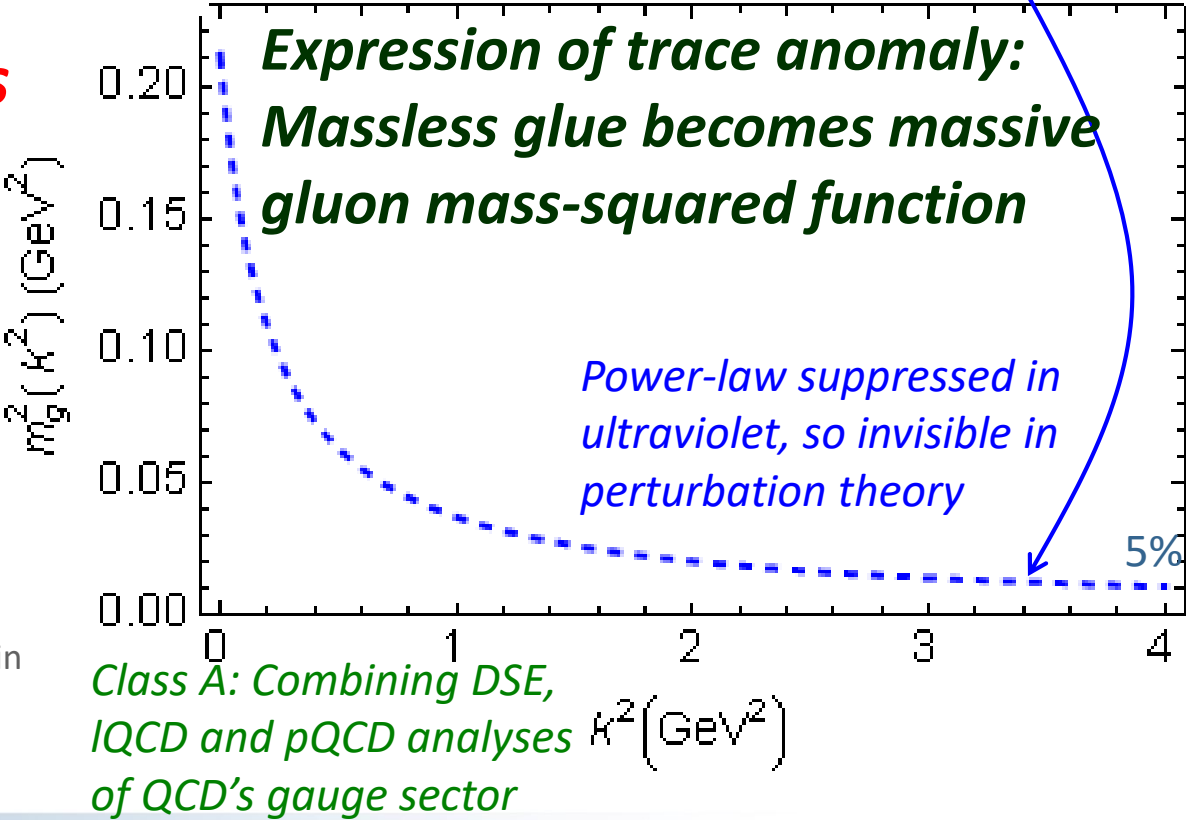
➤ Running gluon mass

$$d(k^2) = \frac{\alpha(\zeta)}{k^2 + m_g^2(k^2; \zeta)}$$

$$\alpha_S(0) \approx \pi \quad m_g^2(0) = (0.46 \text{ GeV})^2$$

$$m_g^2(k^2) \approx \frac{\mu_g^4}{\mu_g^2 + k^2} \quad \mu_g \approx \frac{1}{2} m_p$$

➤ Gluons are **cannibals** – a particle species whose members become massive by eating each other!



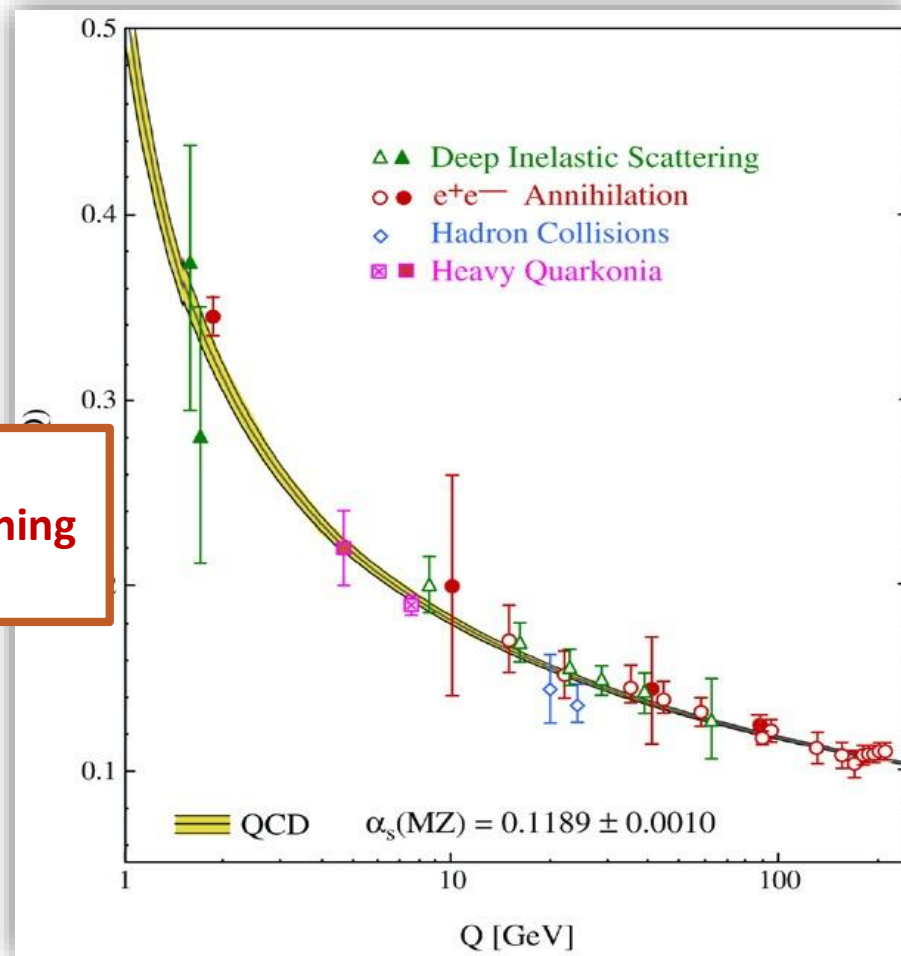
Interaction model for the gap equation, S.-x.Qin et al., [arXiv:1108.0603 \[nucl-th\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1108.0603), [Phys. Rev. C 84 \(2011\) 042202\(R\) \[5 pages\]](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-nucl-080710-120321)



This is where we live



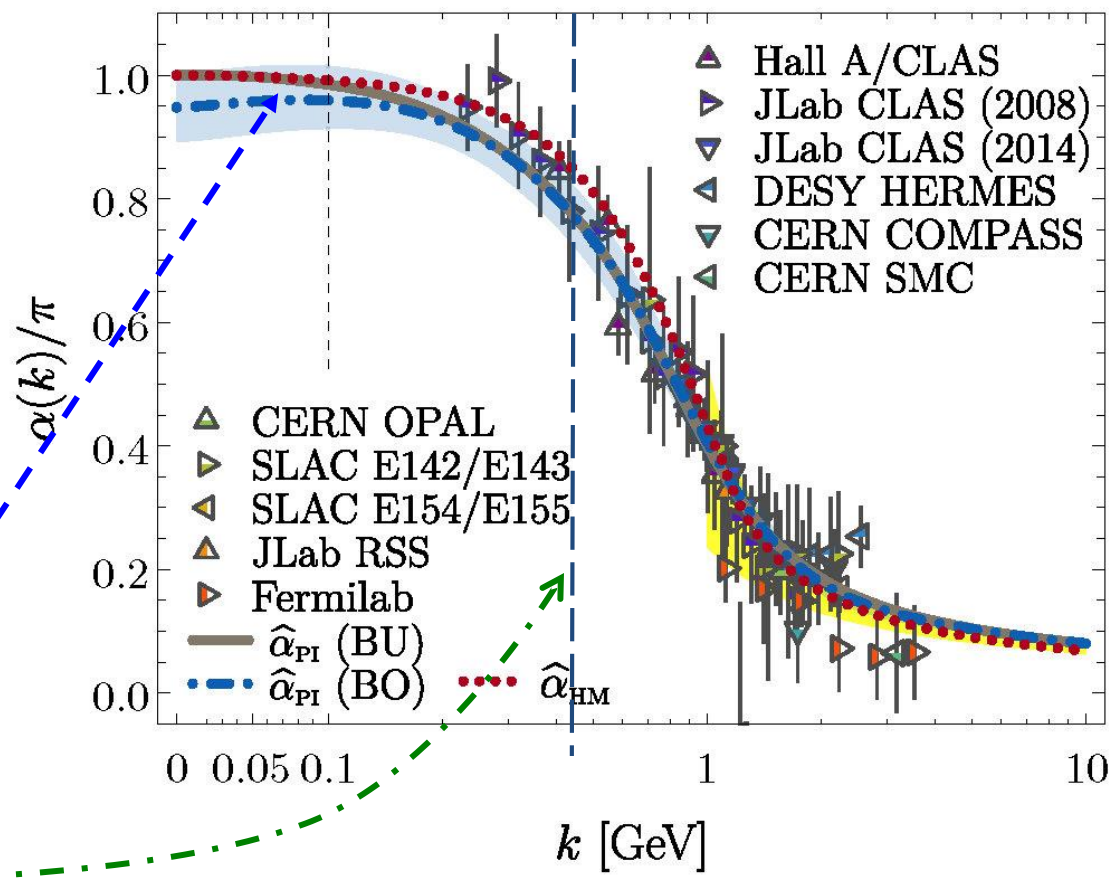
What's happening
out here?!



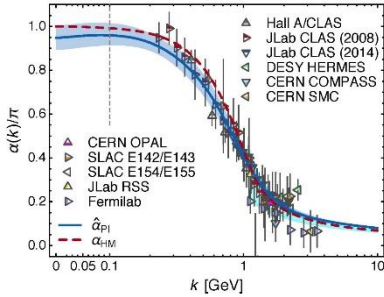
QCD's Running Coupling

Process-independent effective-charge in QCD

- Modern continuum & lattice methods for analysing gauge sector enable “Gell-Mann – Low” running charge to be defined in QCD
- Combined continuum and lattice analysis of QCD’s gauge sector yields a parameter-free prediction
- N.B. Qualitative change in $\hat{\alpha}_{PI}(k)$ at $k \approx \frac{1}{2} m_p$

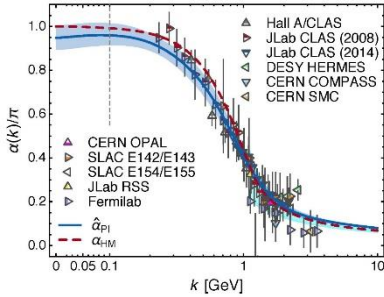


QCD Effective Charge



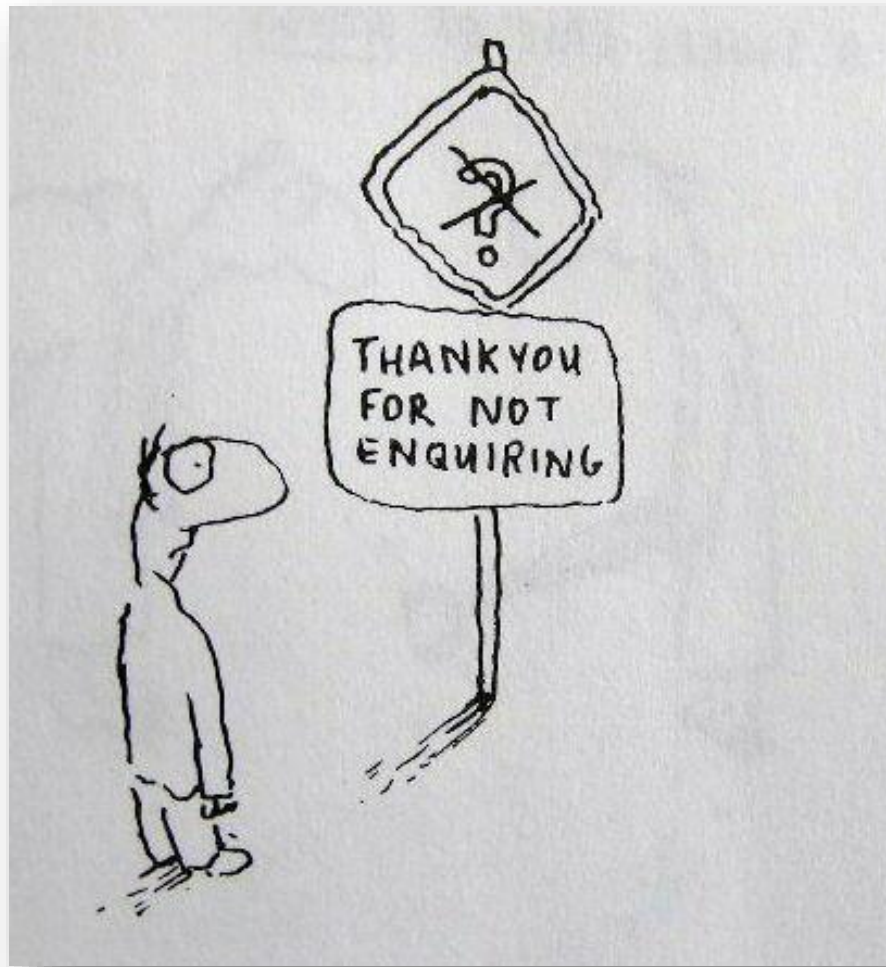
- $\hat{\alpha}_{PI}$ is a new type of effective charge
 - direct analogue of the Gell-Mann–Low effective coupling in QED, *i.e.* completely determined by the gauge-boson two-point function.
- $\hat{\alpha}_{PI}$ is
 - process-independent
 - appears in every one of QCD's dynamical equations of motion
 - known to unify a vast array of observables
- $\hat{\alpha}_{PI}$ possesses an infrared-stable fixed-point
 - Nonperturbative analysis demonstrating absence of a Landau pole in QCD
- QCD is IR finite, owing to dynamical generation of gluon mass-scale
- Asymptotic freedom $\Rightarrow$ QCD is well-defined at UV momenta
- **QCD is therefore unique amongst known 4D quantum field theories**
 - **Potentially, defined & internally consistent at all momenta**

QCD Effective Charge



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- **QCD is therefore unique amongst known 4D quantum field theories**
 - **Potentially, defined & internally consistent at all momenta**

Conceivably, therefore, QCD can serve as a basis for theories that take physics beyond the Standard Model



Enigma of Mass

Pion's Goldberger-Treiman relation

- Pion's Bethe-Salpeter amplitude

Solution of the Bethe-Salpeter equation

$$\Gamma_{\pi^j}(k; P) = \tau^{\pi^j} \gamma_5 \left[iE_{\pi}(k; P) + \gamma \cdot P F_{\pi}(k; P) + \gamma \cdot k k \cdot P G_{\pi}(k; P) + \sigma_{\mu\nu} k_{\mu} P_{\nu} H_{\pi}(k; P) \right]$$

*This means that π necessarily has dressed-quark $L=0$ & $L=1$ components in any frame
Twist-3 on light-front*

- Dressed-quark propagator $S(p) = \frac{1}{i\gamma \cdot p A(p^2) + B(p^2)}$

- Axial-vector Ward-Takahashi identity entails

$$f_{\pi} E_{\pi}(k; P = 0) = B(k^2)$$

Owing to DCSB
& Exact in
Chiral QCD

Miracle: two body problem solved, almost completely, once solution of one body problem is known

$$f_{\pi} E_{\pi}(p^2) = B(p^2)$$

This algebraic identity is why QCD's pion is massless in the chiral limit

Enigma of mass



- The quark level Goldberger-Treiman relation shows that DCSB has a very deep and far reaching impact on physics within the strong interaction sector of the Standard Model; viz.,
Goldstone's theorem is fundamentally an expression of equivalence between the one-body problem and the two-body problem in the pseudoscalar channel.
- This emphasises that Goldstone's theorem has a pointwise expression in QCD
- Hence, pion properties are an almost direct measure of the dressed-quark mass function.
- Thus, enigmatically, the properties of the *massless* pion are the cleanest expression of the mechanism that is responsible for almost all the visible mass in the universe.



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Whence “0” ?

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Whence “0” ?

The answer is algebraic

Pion masslessness

- Obtain a coupled set of gap- and Bethe-Salpeter equations
 - Bethe-Salpeter Kernel:
 - valence-quarks with a momentum-dependent running mass produced by self-interacting gluons, which have given themselves a running mass
 - Interactions of arbitrary but enumerable complexity involving these “basis vectors”
 - Chiral limit:
 - Algebraic proof
 - at any & each finite order in symmetry-preserving construction of kernels for
 - » the gap (quark dressing)
 - » and Bethe-Salpeter (bound-state) equations,
 - there is a precise cancellation between
 - » mass-generating effect of dressing the valence-quarks
 - » and attraction introduced by the scattering events
 - Cancellation guarantees that
 - simple system, which began massless,
 - becomes a complex system, with
 - » a nontrivial bound-state wave function
 - » attached to a pole in the scattering matrix, which remains at $P^2=0$...
 - Interacting, bound system remains massless!

Pion masslessness

- Obtain a coupled set of gap- and Bethe-Salpeter equations

Quantum field theory statement:

In the pseudoscalar channel, the dynamically generated mass of the two fermions is precisely cancelled by the attractive interactions between them – iff –

$$f_{\pi} E_{\pi}(p^2) = B(p^2)$$

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Revealing Mass

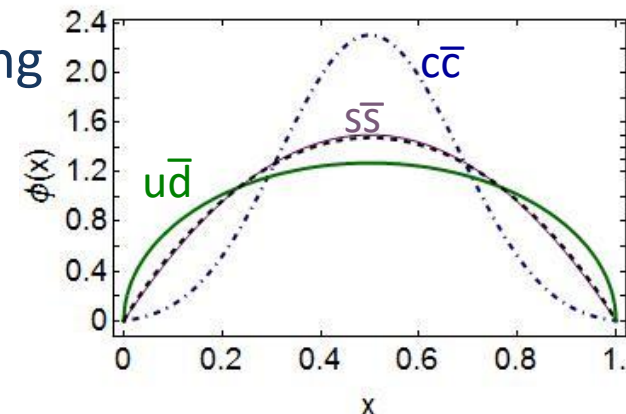
Consequences ... 1

- Mass is dynamically generated in QCD: Scale $\sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$
 - Empirically $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \approx 0.2 \text{ GeV}$... Standard Model can't predict this value.
 - Gluon self-interactions make $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \approx 0.2 \text{ GeV}$ possible.
They do not guarantee it.
 - *Understanding* of observables (almost always) depends on frame of reference and scale of probe
 - gluons and quarks $\rightarrow$ dressed quasiparticles:
 - massless in perturbation theory
 - possess mass functions which are large at infrared momenta $\leq m_g \approx 2 \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$
 - at hadronic scale: wave functions, cross-sections, *etc.* are most readily understood using evolving quasiparticle operators for dressed-g, -q
 - Each contains a (distinct) countable infinity of partons
- $\Rightarrow$ All bound-states have GeV-scale masses
- $\Rightarrow$ *Except Nambu-Goldstone modes*
- ✓ DCSB: whilst constituents are massive, NG-modes are (nearly) massless



Consequences ... 2

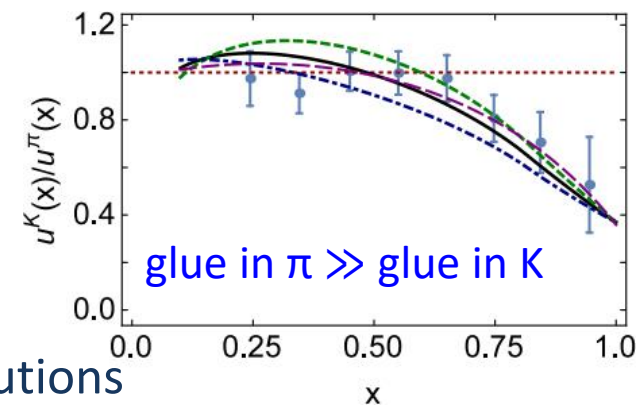
- QCD's unique Gell-Mann–Low effective coupling
 - ✓ Infrared finite ... $\alpha(\sim 0) \approx \pi$
 - ✓ Landau pole of perturbation theory is eliminated by emergence of gluon mass
 - ✓ Cross-sections are free of infrared divergences
- PDAs of ground-state S-wave mesons and baryons are broad, concave functions



- Numerous empirical consequences $\Rightarrow$ empirically verifiable
 - Hadron elastic and transition form factors

- Emergent vs Explicit (Higgs) mass generation

- s-quark defines a boundary:
 - emergent mass generation dominates for $m < m_s$
 - but explicit (Higgs) mass is most important for $m > m_s$
- s-quark/u-quark comparisons in parton distributions are a sensitive probe of emergent mass and its distribution

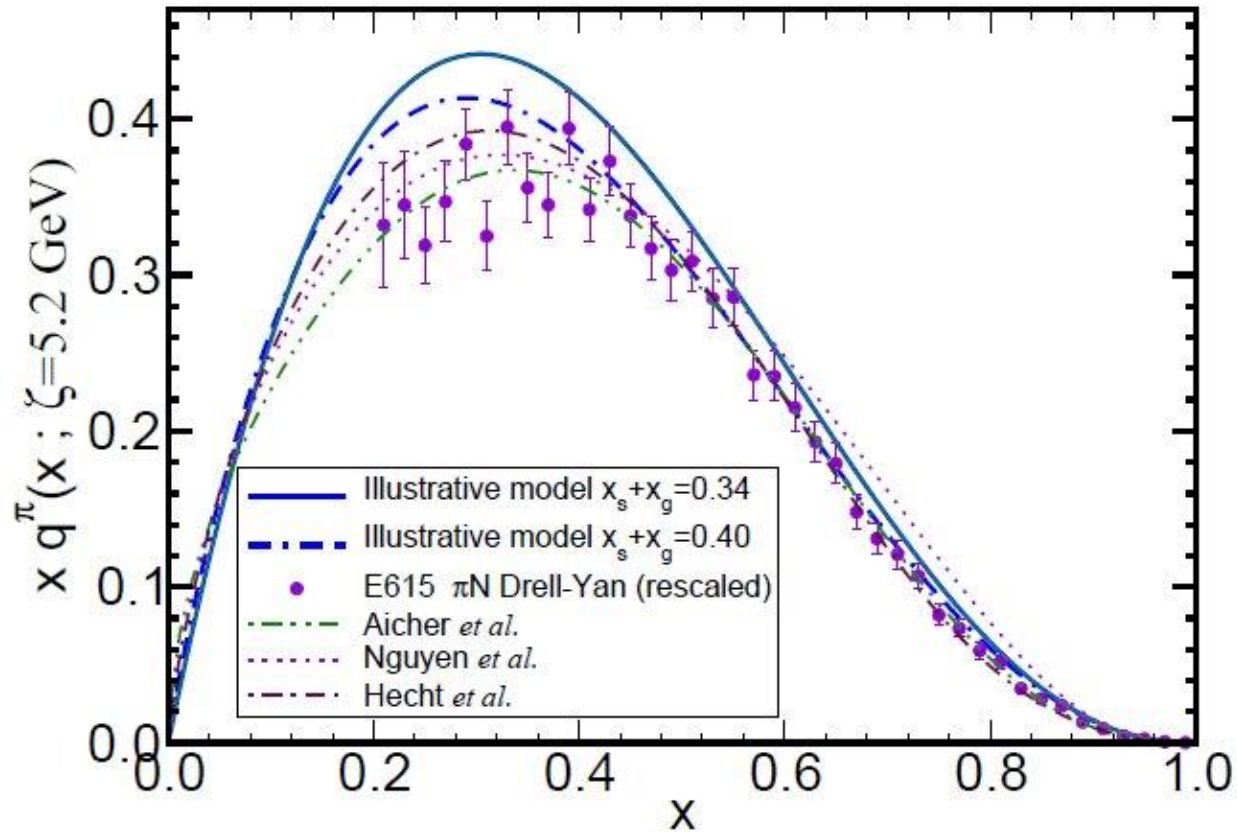


Consequences ... 3

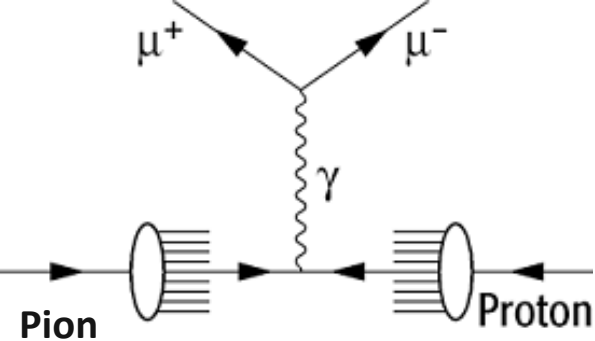
- Existence of nonpointlike scalar and axial-vector diquarks in nucleon.
 - Axial-vector correlations are essential
- Empirically verifiable consequences
 - Example ... proton's tensor charges:
 - $\delta_T d \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ rules-out scalar-diquark-only nucleon
 - $\delta_T u \approx 4 \mid \delta_T d \mid$... understood via highly-correlated proton wave function
- Baryon resonances:
 - Relative strengths of 0+ and 1+ change & new diquarks appear (0- & 1-)
 - Vast array of new predictions whose testing is crucial to validating the emergent mass paradigm
- Hybrid Mesons
 - Just like diquark correlations exist in baryons ...
 - $q_g = g+q$ and $\bar{q}_g = g+\bar{q}$ correlations very probably also exist in systems with valence glue.
 - Hybrid mesons may be understood as highly-correlated $q_g \bar{q} \leftrightarrow q \bar{q}_g$ bound-states



Observing Mass



π & K Valence-quark Distribution Functions



Continuum QCD prediction of π valence-quark distributions

- Owing to absence of pion targets, the pion's valence-quark distribution functions are measured via the Drell-Yan process:

$$\pi p \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- X$$

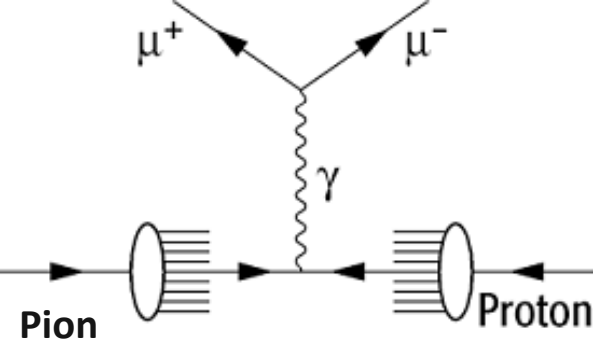
- Consider a theory in which quarks scatter via a vector-boson exchange interaction whose $k^2 \gg m_G^2$ behaviour is $(1/k^2)^\beta$,
- Then at a resolving scale Q_0

$$u_\pi(x; Q_0) \sim (1-x)^{2\beta}$$

namely, the large- x behaviour of the quark distribution function is a direct measure of the momentum-dependence of the underlying interaction.

- In QCD, $\beta=1$ and hence QCD: $Q > Q_0 \Rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 2+\gamma, \gamma > 0$

$$^{QCD} u_\pi(x; Q_0) \sim (1-x)^2$$



Empirical status of the Pion's valence-quark distributions

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- Three experiments:

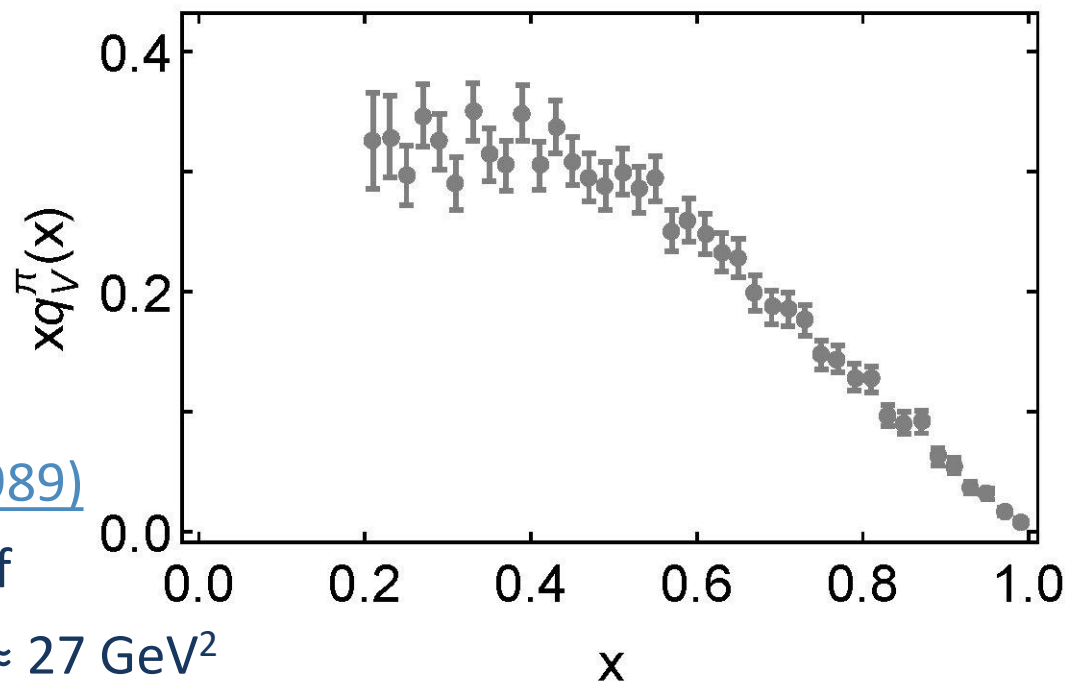
- CERN (1983 & 1985)
- FNAL (1989).

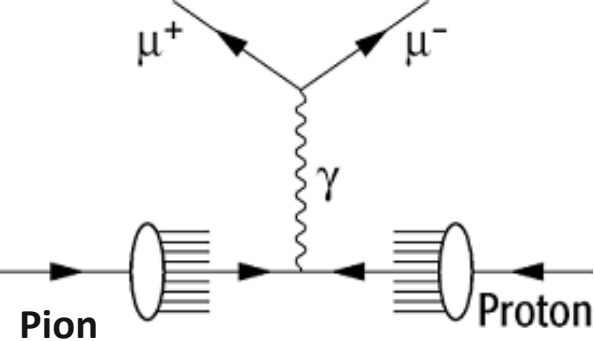
- None more recent

- Conway *et al.*

[Phys. Rev. D **39**, 92 \(1989\)](#)

- Leading-order analysis of the Drell-Yan data: $Q^2 \approx 27 \text{ GeV}^2$
- ~ 400 citations





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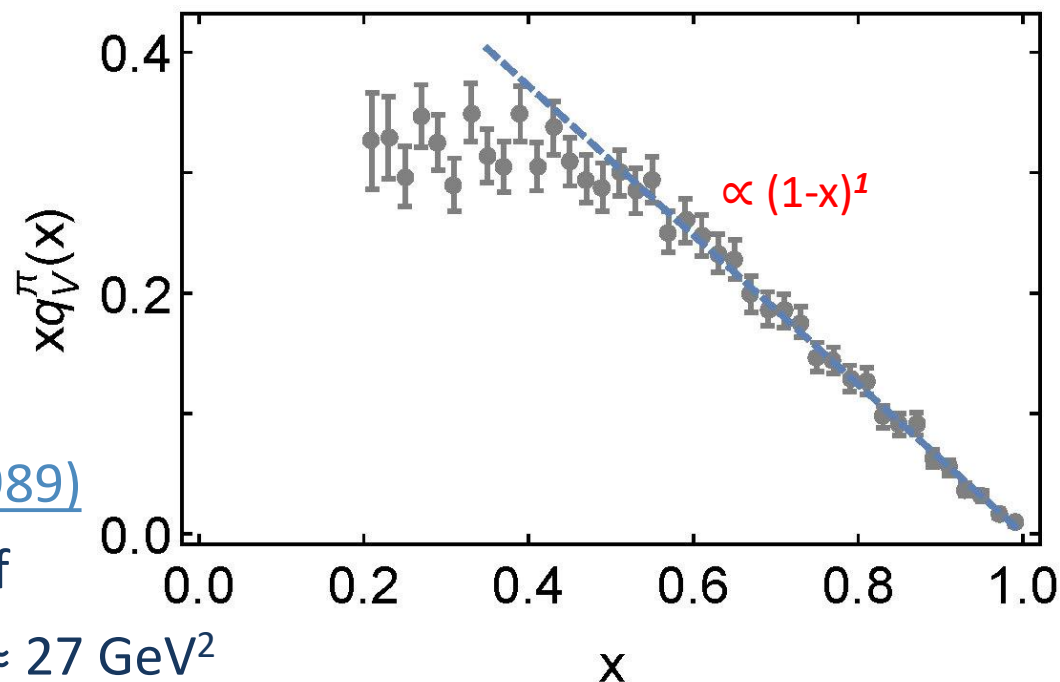
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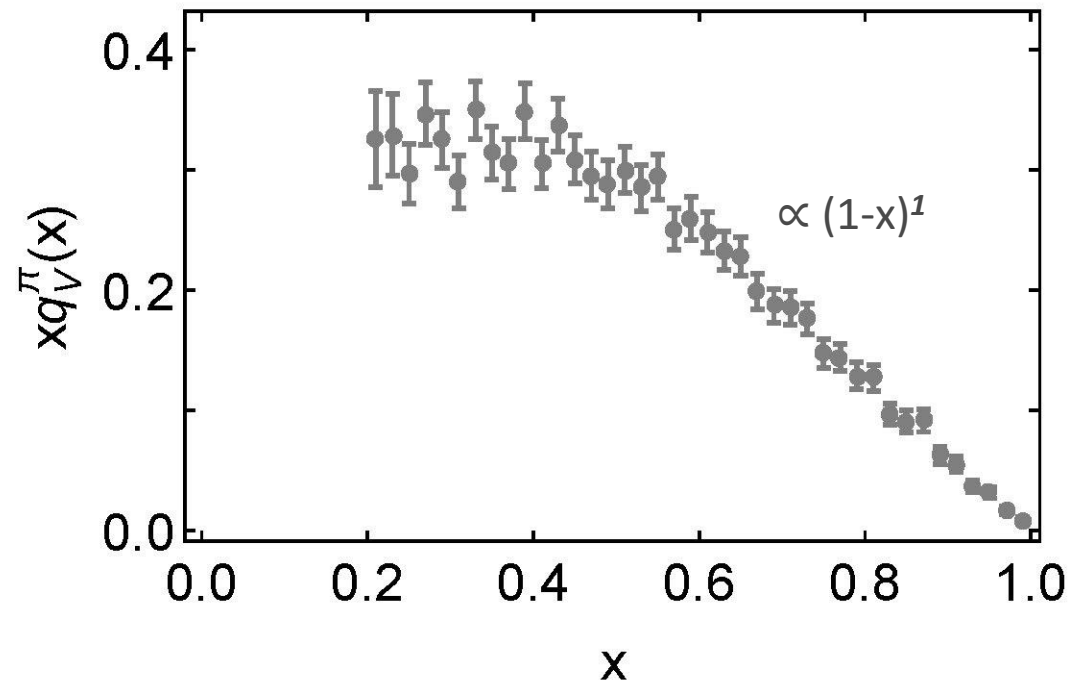


- **Controversial!**

π valence-quark distributions

20 Years of Evolution

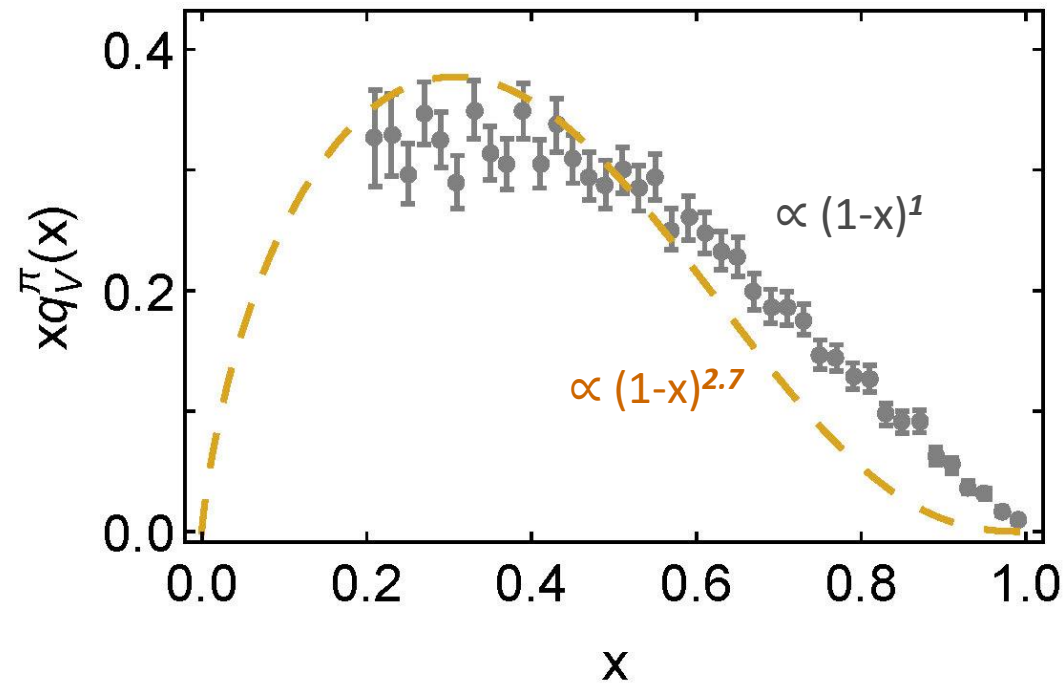
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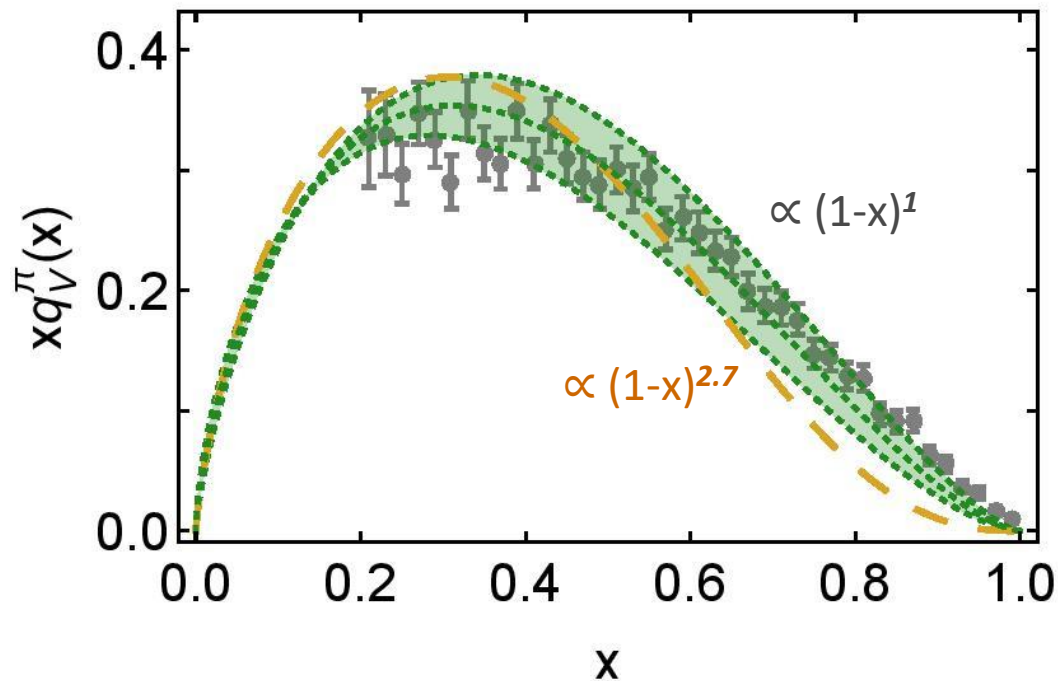
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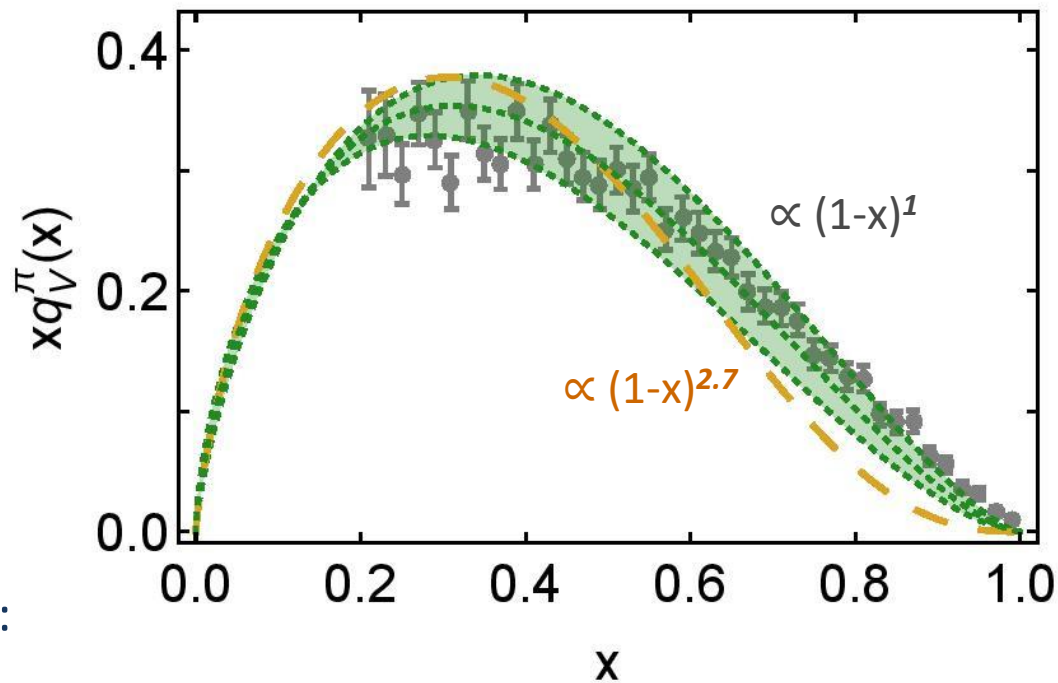
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 - Large- x power-law $\rightarrow 1.54 \pm 0.08$



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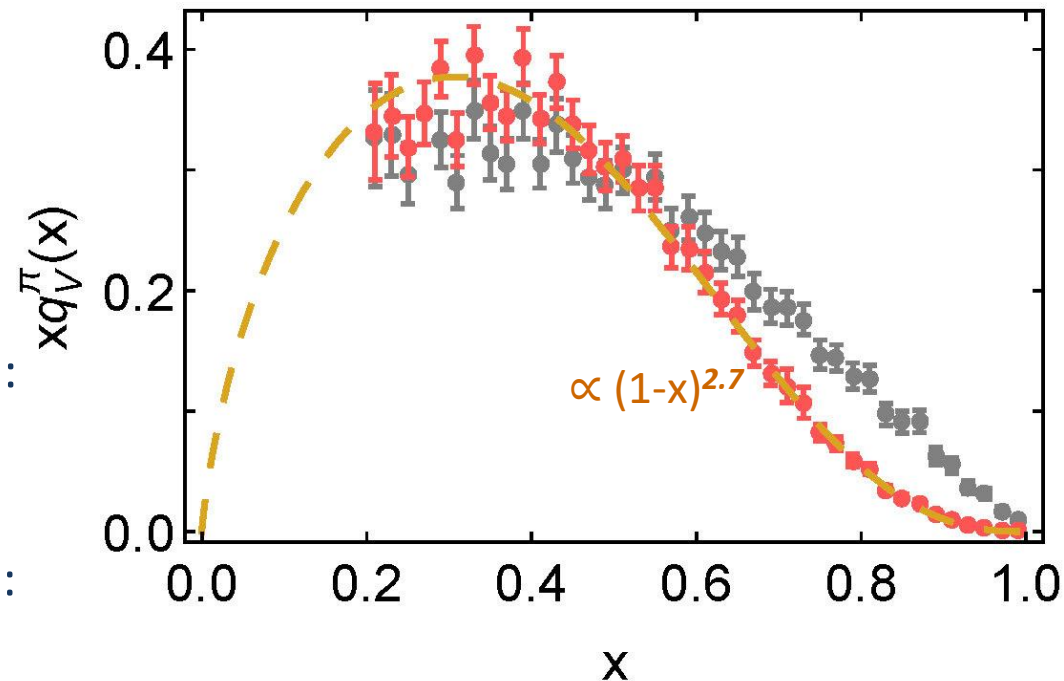
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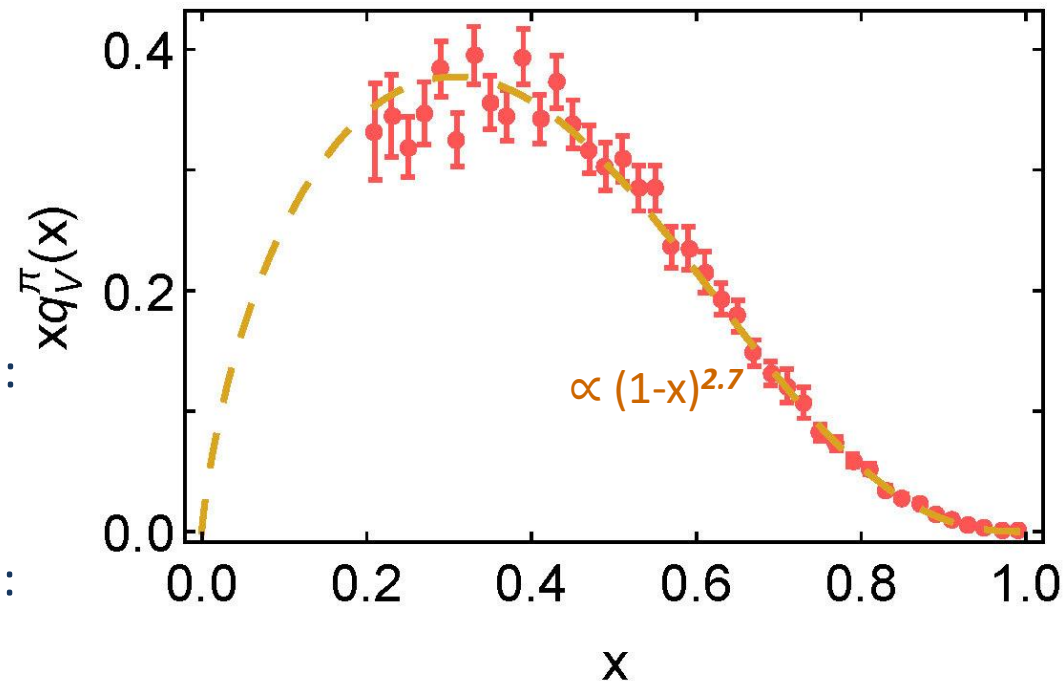
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 - Consistent next-to-leading-order analysis
 - Large- x power-law $\rightarrow 2.6(1)$



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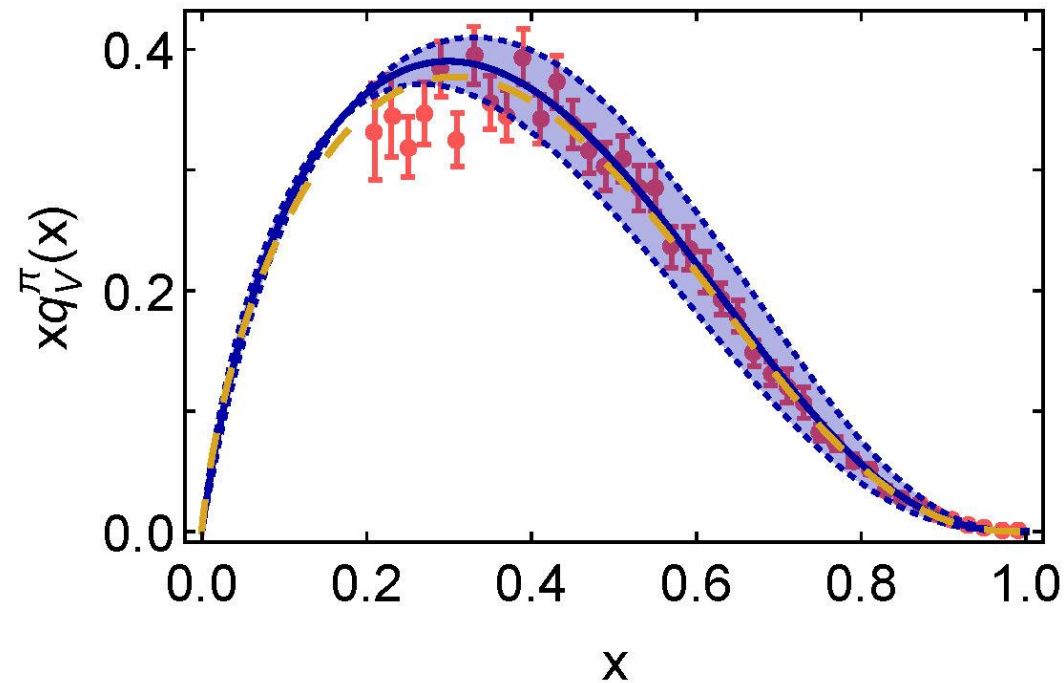
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 - Continuum QCD prediction, using most sophisticated bound-state kernels currently available



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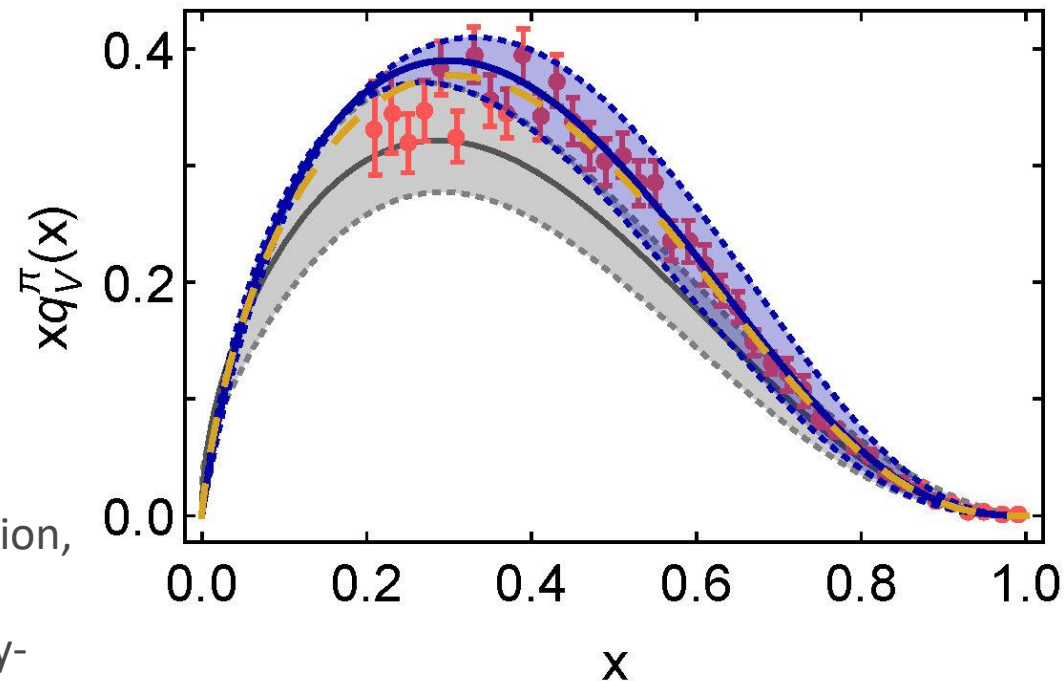
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- 2019/01 ... Sufian, *et al.*
 - 1st exploratory lattice-QCD calculation,
 - using lattice-calculable matrix element obtained through spatially-separated current-current correlations in coordinate space
 - $m_\pi^2 = 9 m_\pi^2\text{-physical}$

Large- x exponent $\zeta = 5.2\text{GeV}$ and momentum $\zeta = 2\text{GeV}$

Continuum ... 2.3(1) & $\langle 2x \rangle = 0.52 \pm 0.04$

Lattice ... 2.2(1) & $\langle 2x \rangle = 0.42 \pm 0.05$



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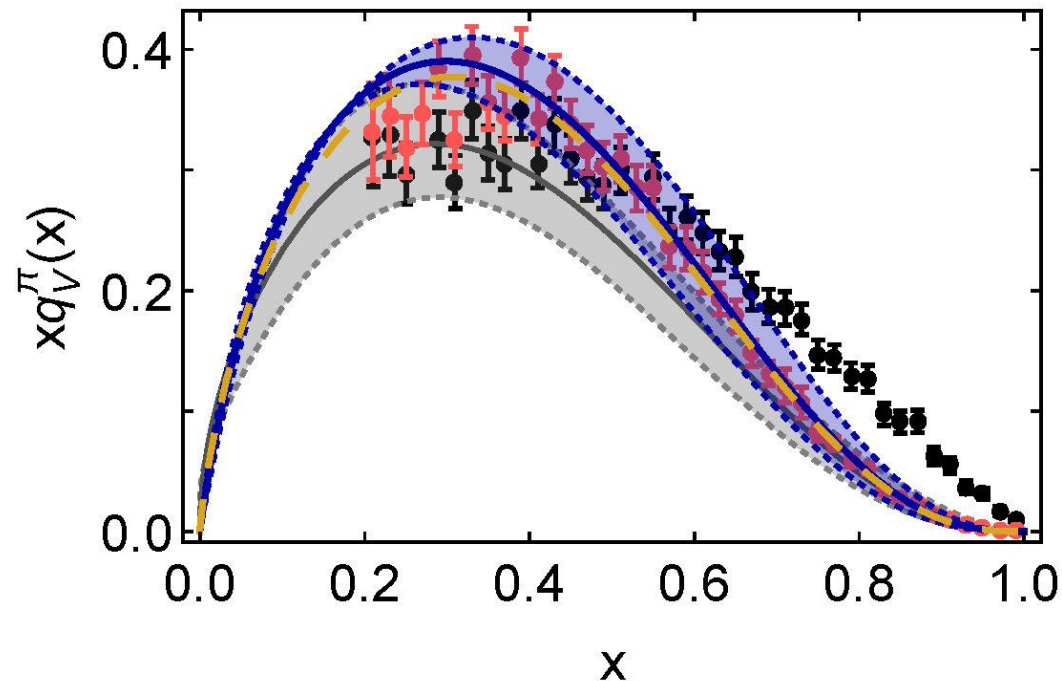
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💣 Modellers still ignoring QCD
& violating symmetries

💣 Phenomenologists question analysis
of Aicher *et al.*

π & K PDFs

- Urgent need for Newer Data
 - Persistent controversy regarding the Bjorken- $x \simeq 1$ behaviour of the pion's valence-quark PDF
 - Single modest-quality measurement of $u^K(x)/u^\pi(x)$ (1980) cannot be considered definitive.
- Approved experiment, using tagged DIS at JLab 12, should contribute to a resolution of pion question
- Similar technique might also serve for the kaon ... experiment approved
- Future:
 - New mesonic Drell-Yan measurements at modern facilities (COMPASS at LHC) could yield valuable information on π and K PDFs
 - Discussed extensively in “Letter of Intent: A New QCD facility at the M2 beam line of the CERN SPS (COMPASS++/AMBER)”
[<http://arxiv.org/abs/arXiv:1808.00848>]
 - EIC would be capable of providing access to π and K PDFs through measurements of forward nucleon structure functions.

Kaon's gluon content

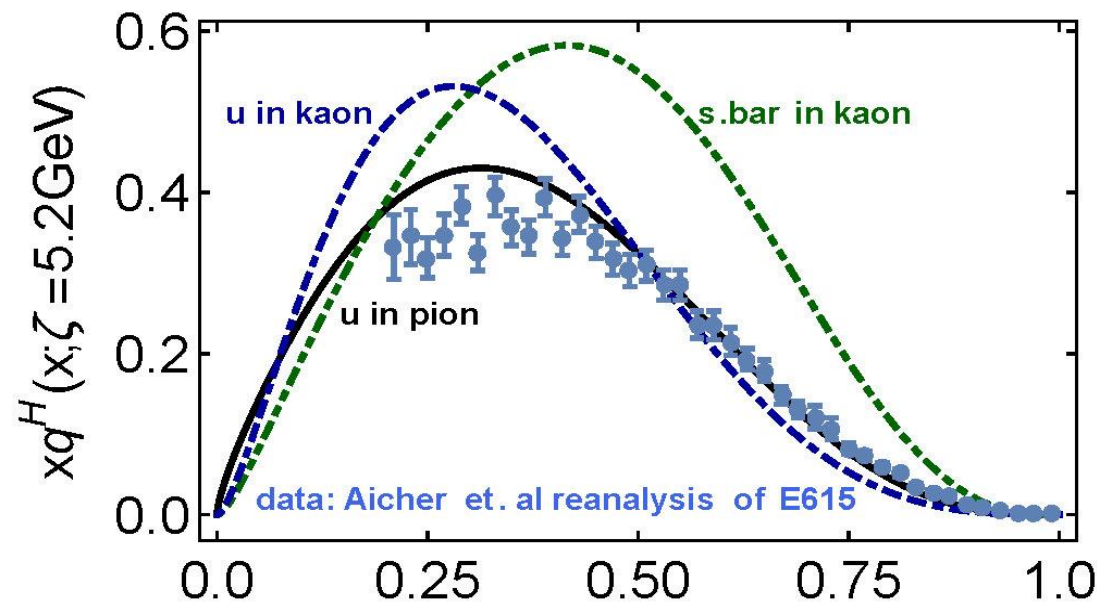
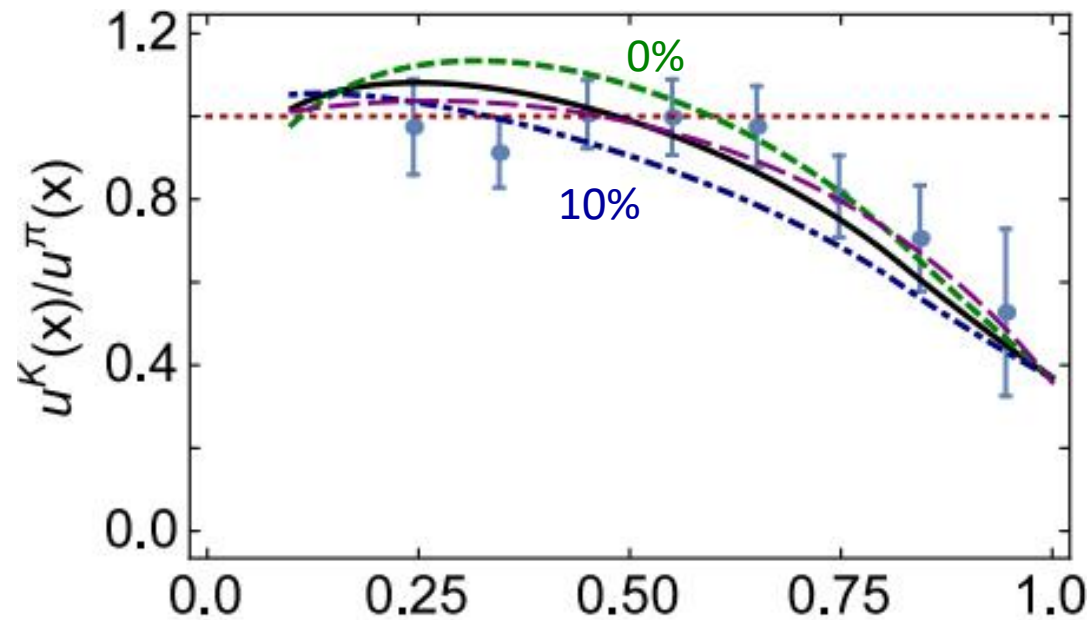
- $\langle x \rangle_g^K(\zeta_H) = 0.05 \pm 0.05$
 $\Rightarrow$ Valence quarks carry 95% of kaon's momentum at ζ_H

- DGLAP-evolved to ζ_2

q	$\langle x \rangle_q^K$	$\langle x^2 \rangle_q^K$	$\langle x^3 \rangle_q^K$
u	0.28	0.11	0.048
$\bar{s}$	0.36	0.17	0.092

Valence-quarks carry 2/3 of kaon's light-front momentum

Cf. Only 1/2 for the pion



π & K PDFs

- Marked differences between π & K gluon content
 - ζ_H :
 - Whilst $\frac{1}{3} \sim \frac{1}{5}$ of pion's light-front momentum carried by glue
 - *Only $\frac{1}{20}$ of the kaon's light-front momentum lies with glue*
 - $\zeta_2^2 = 4 \text{ GeV}^2$
 - Glue carries $\frac{1}{2}$ of pion's momentum and $\frac{1}{3}$ of kaon's momentum
 - Evident in differences between large- x behaviour of valence-quark distributions in these two mesons
- Signal of Nambu-Goldstone boson character of π
 - Nearly complete cancellation between one-particle dressing and binding attraction in this almost-massless pseudoscalar system
$$2 \text{ Mass}_Q + U_g \approx 0$$



π & K PDFs

- Understanding the emergence and character of Nambu-Goldstone modes in the Standard Model is critical
 - Nambu-Goldstone modes are nonpointlike!
 - Intimately connected with origin of mass!
 - Possibly/Probably(?) inseparable from expression of confinement!
- Difference between gluon content of π & K is measurable ... using well-designed EIC
- Write a definitive new chapter in future textbooks on the Standard Model



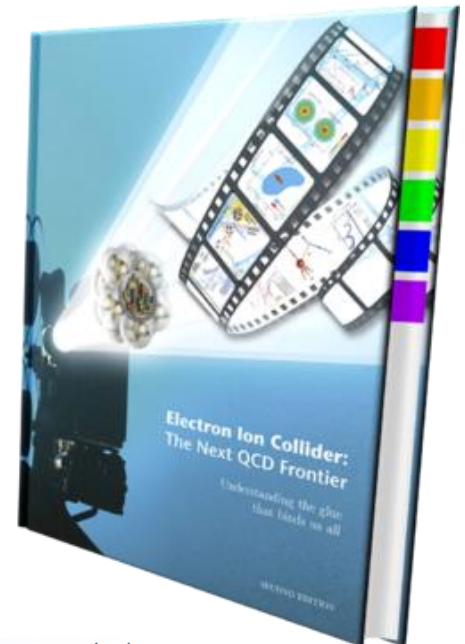
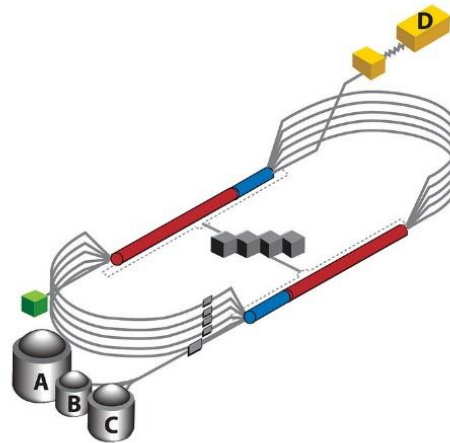
**Electron Ion Collider:
The Next QCD Frontier**



Epilogue

Epilogue

- Challenge: Explain and Understand the Origin and Distribution of the Vast Bulk of Visible Mass
- Current Paradigm: Quantum Chromodynamics
- QCD is plausibly a mathematically well-defined quantum field theory,
The only one we've ever produced
 - Consequently, it is a worthwhile paradigm for developing Beyond-SM theories
- Challenge is to reveal the content of strong-QCD
- **Tough Problem**
- *Progress* and *Insights*
being delivered by amalgam of
 - Experiment
 - Phenomenology
 - Theory
- Must continue into eras of



$T_{\mu\mu} = \frac{1}{4}\beta(\alpha(\zeta))G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a$ **Trace Anomaly**

- Knowing that a trace anomaly exists does not deliver a great deal ... Indicates only that a mass-scale must exist
- Can one compute and/or understand the magnitude of that scale?
- One can certainly *measure* the magnitude ... consider proton:

$$\langle p(P) | T_{\mu\nu} | p(P) \rangle = -P_\mu P_\nu$$

$$\langle p(P) | T_{\mu\mu} | p(P) \rangle = -P^2 = m_p^2$$

$$= \langle p(P) | \Theta_0 | p(P) \rangle$$

- In the chiral limit the entirety of the proton's mass is produced by the trace anomaly, Θ_0
- ... In QCD, Θ_0 measures the strength of gluon self-interactions
- ... so, from one perspective, m_p is (somehow) completely generated by glue.

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$T_{\mu\mu} = \frac{1}{4}\beta(\alpha(\zeta))G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a$ **Trace Anomaly**

- In the chiral limit

$$\langle \pi(q) | T_{\mu\nu} | \pi(q) \rangle = -q_\mu q_\nu \Rightarrow \langle \pi(q) | \Theta_0 | \pi(q) \rangle = 0$$

- Does this mean that the scale anomaly vanishes trivially in the pion state, i.e. **gluons contribute nothing to the pion mass?**
- Difficult way to obtain "zero"!
- Easier to imagine that "zero" owes to cancellations between different operator contributions to the expectation value of Θ_0 .
- Of course, such precise cancellation should not be an accident. It could only arise naturally because of some symmetry and/or symmetry-breaking pattern.

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Bridging a gap between continuum-QCD and ab initio predictions of hadron observables, D. Binosi et al., arXiv:1412.4782 [nucl-th], Phys. Lett. B742 (2015) 183-188

In QCD: Gluons become massive!

Running gluon mass

$$d(k^2) = \frac{a(\zeta)}{k^2 + m_g^2(k^2; \zeta)}$$

$$\alpha_s(0) \approx \pi \quad m_g^2(0) = (0.46 \text{ GeV})^2$$

Gluons are **cannibals** – a particle species whose members become massive by eating each other!

Expression of trace anomaly: Massless glue becomes massive gluon mass-squared function

Power-law suppressed in ultraviolet, so invisible in perturbation theory

Interaction model for the gap equation, S.-x. Qin et al., arXiv:1108.0603 [nucl-th], Phys. Rev. C 84 (2011) 045202 [Erratum], Phys. Rev. C 84 (2011) 045202 [Erratum]

Class 0: Combining DSE, IQCD and pQCD analyses $k^2(p^2)$ of QCD's gauge sector

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Process independent strong running coupling

Binosi, Moring, Papavasiliou, Roberts, Rodriguez-Quintero arXiv:1612.08532 [nucl-th], Phys. Rev. D 96 (2017) 054026 [v2]

The QCD Running Coupling

A. Deur, S. J. Brodsky and G. F. de Tereza, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 90 (2016) 1-74

Process-independent effective-charge in QCD

- Modern continuum & lattice methods for analysing gauge sector enable "Gell-Mann – Low" running charge to be defined in QCD
- Combined continuum and lattice analysis of QCD's gauge sector yields a parameter-free prediction
- N.B. Qualitative change in $\alpha_s(k)$ at $k \approx \frac{1}{2} m_p$

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Maris, Roberts and Tandy arXiv:1907.07003, Phys. Lett. B420 (1998) 267-273

Pion's Goldberger-Treiman relation

- Pion's Bethe-Salpeter amplitude

Solution of the Bethe-Salpeter equation

$$\Gamma_\pi(k; P) = \tau^3 \gamma_5 [iE_\pi(k; P) + \gamma \cdot P F_\pi(k; P) + \gamma \cdot k \cdot P G_\pi(k; P) + \sigma_{\mu\nu} k_\mu P_\nu H_\pi(k; P)]$$

- Dressed-quark propagator $S(p) = \frac{1}{i\gamma \cdot p A(p^2) + B(p^2)}$
- Axial-vector Ward-Takahashi identity entails $f_\pi E_\pi(k; P=0) = B(k^2)$

Owing to DCSB & Exact in Chiral QCD

Miracle: two body problem solved, almost completely, once solution of one body problem is known

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Munczek, H. J., Phys. Rev. D 52 (1995) pp. 4738-4760

Bender, A., Roberts, C.D. and van Steenkiste, J., Phys. Lett. B 389 (1996) pp. 7-12

Maris, P., Roberts, C.D. and Tandy, P.C., Phys. Lett. B 420 (1998) pp. 267-273

Binosi, D., Papavasiliou, G., Roberts, P., Phys. Rev. D 89 (2014) 096010 [v1]

Pion masslessness

- Obtain a coupled set of gap- and Bethe-Salpeter equations

Quantum field theory statement:

In the pseudoscalar channel, the dynamically generated mass of the two fermions is precisely cancelled by the attractive interactions between them – iff –

$$f_\pi E_\pi(p^2) = B(p^2)$$

- Cancellation guarantees that
 - simple system, which began massless,
 - becomes a complex system, with
 - a nontrivial bound-state wave function
 - attached to a pole in the scattering matrix, which remains at $P=0$...
- Interacting, bound system remains massless

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π valence-quark distributions

20 Years of Evolution

- 1989 ... Conway et al. Phys. Rev. D 39, 92 (1989)
 - Leading-order analysis of Drell-Yan data: $Q^2 \approx 27 \text{ GeV}^2$
- 2000 ... Hecht et al. Phys. Rev. C 63 (2001) 025213
 - QCD-connected model prediction

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Valence-quark distribution functions in the kaon and pion, Chen Chen, Lei Chang et al., arXiv:1602.01552 [nucl-th], Phys. Rev. D 93 (2016) 074021 [v1]

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