

Old and recent problems in flavor physics

Gino Isidori
[*University of Zürich*]

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ The LFU anomalies: data and EFT
- ▶ Model-building considerations
- ▶ UV completions: 4321 and beyond
- ▶ Implications @ low- and high-energies
- ▶ Conclusions



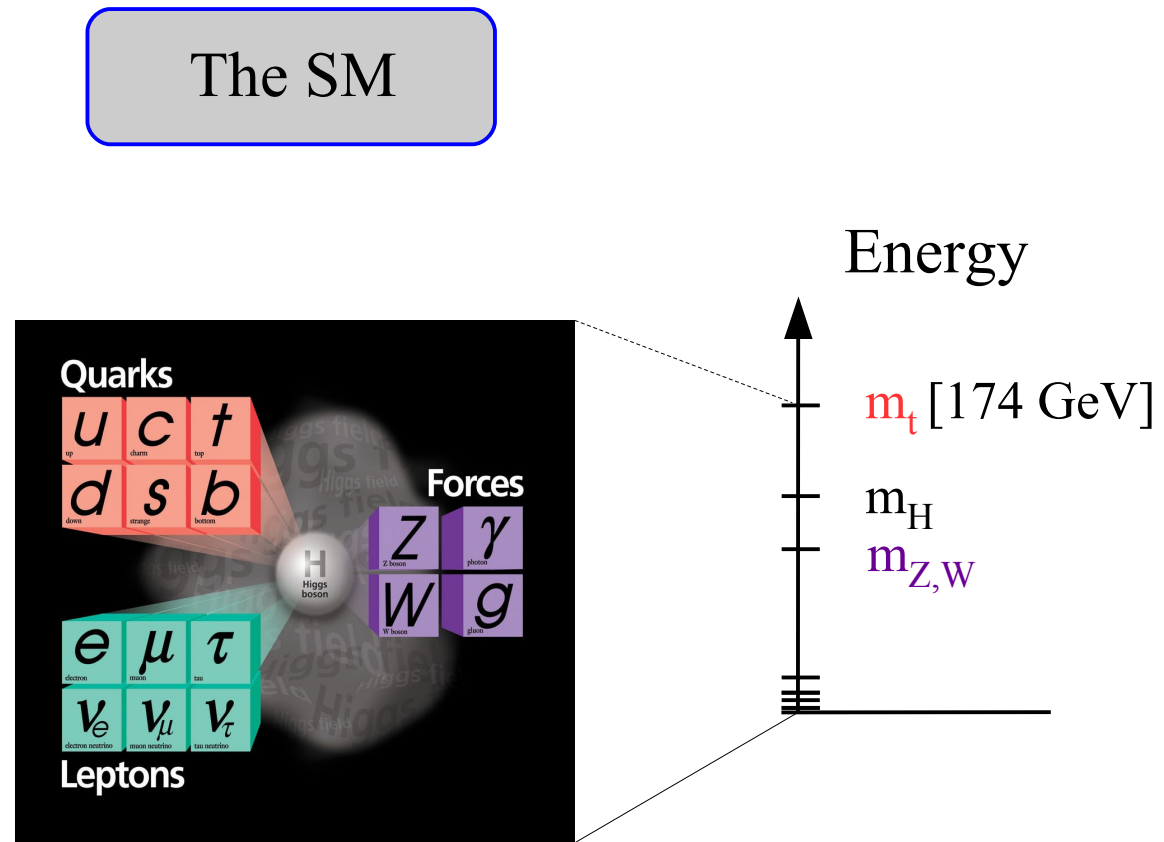
University of
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► Introduction

This year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Higgs-boson discovery (*or the completion of the SM spectrum*).



► Introduction

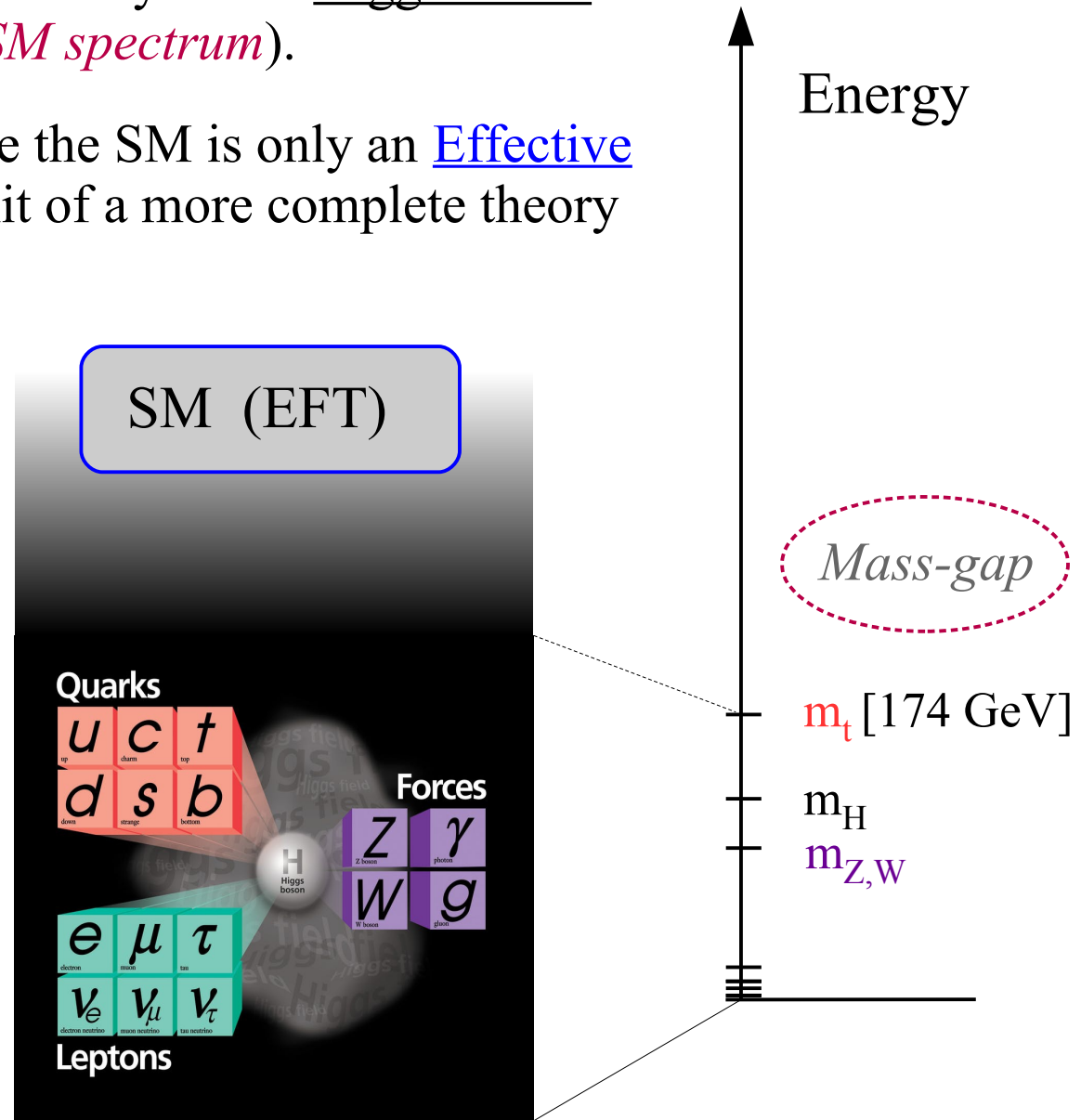
This year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Higgs-boson discovery (*or the completion of the SM spectrum*).

However, as for any QFT, we believe the SM is only an Effective Field Theory, i.e. the low energy limit of a more complete theory with more degrees of freedom

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM-EFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} + \dots$$

We identified the *long-range* properties of this EFT, but we struggle to understand

- *the nature of short-distance dynamics*
- *why such peculiar structure emerges at low-energies*



► Introduction

Ideally, we would like to probe the UV directly, via high-energy experiments



UV Theory

However, for > 30 years this will not be possible....

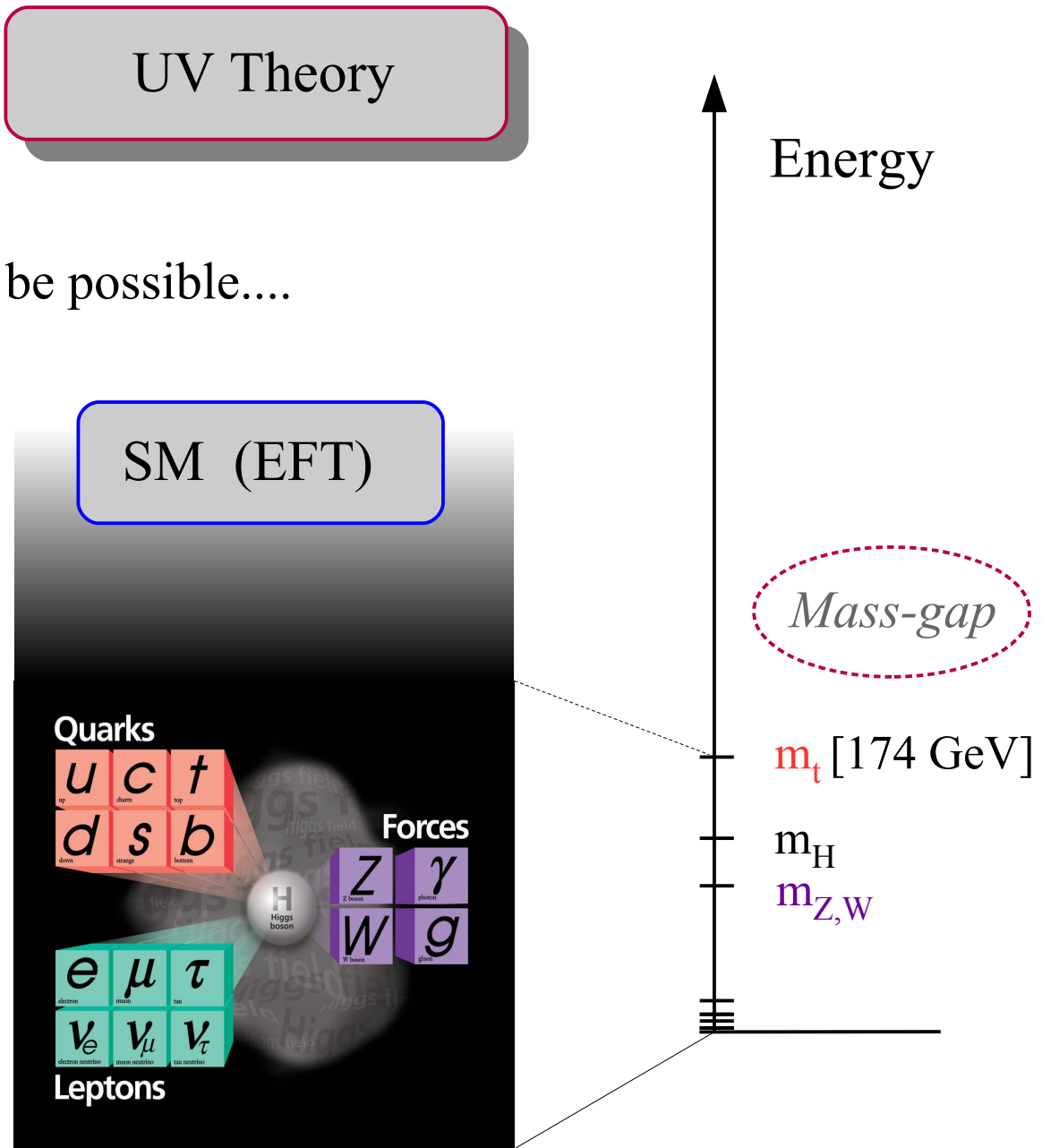
For the time being, we can only extract *indirect* UV infos exploring the low-energy limit of the EFT.



SM (EFT)

Many info (*bounds, but not only*), with 2 clear messages:

- *several tuned (SM) couplings*
- *several accidental (approximate) symmetries*



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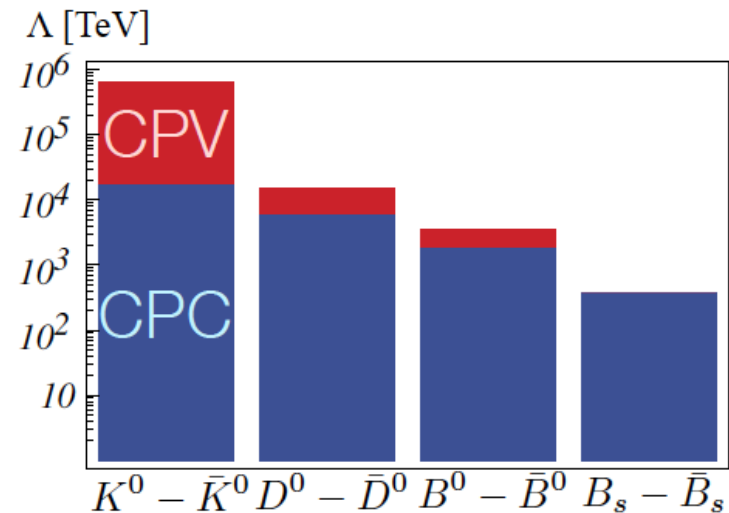
- several *tuned* (SM) couplings
- several *accidental* (approximate) symmetries

The “old” flavor problem(s):

- SM flavor couplings:
13 \rightarrow 4 [> 0.01] \rightarrow 1 [> 0.1]

$$Y \sim \begin{pmatrix} & & \text{light gray} \\ \text{light gray} & & \text{dark gray} \\ & & \text{black} \end{pmatrix}$$

- SMEFT @ d=6:
2499 \rightarrow 47 [$U(3)^5$]



► Introduction

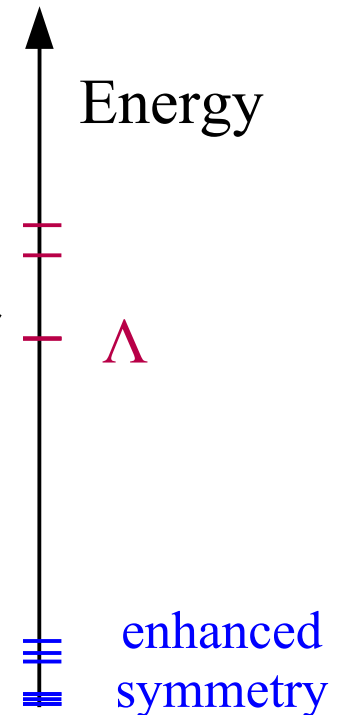
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM-EFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} + \sum_{d,i} \frac{c_i^{[d]}}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{d \geq 5}$$

(long-distance interactions)
(local contact interact.)

“**Accidental symmetries**” are symmetries which are not fundamental properties of the theory, but emerge accidentally at low energies / large distances → **not enough “variables”** to describe the violation of the symmetry [*~ multipole expansion*]

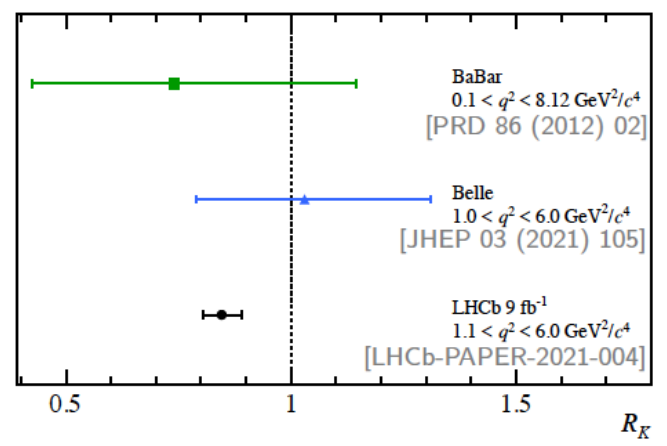
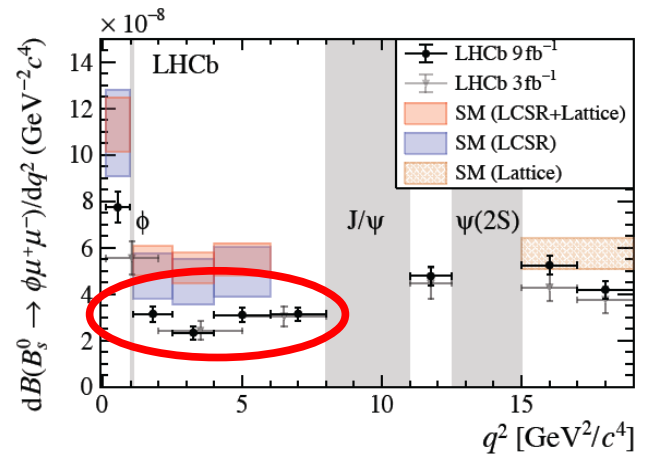
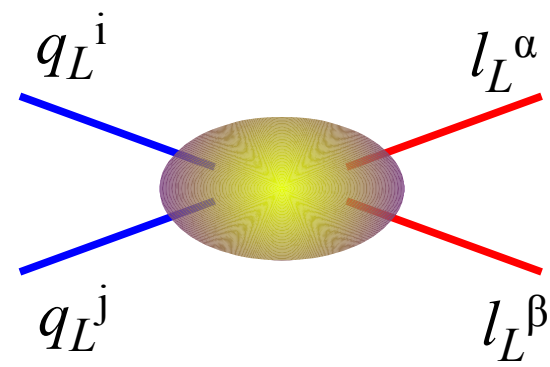
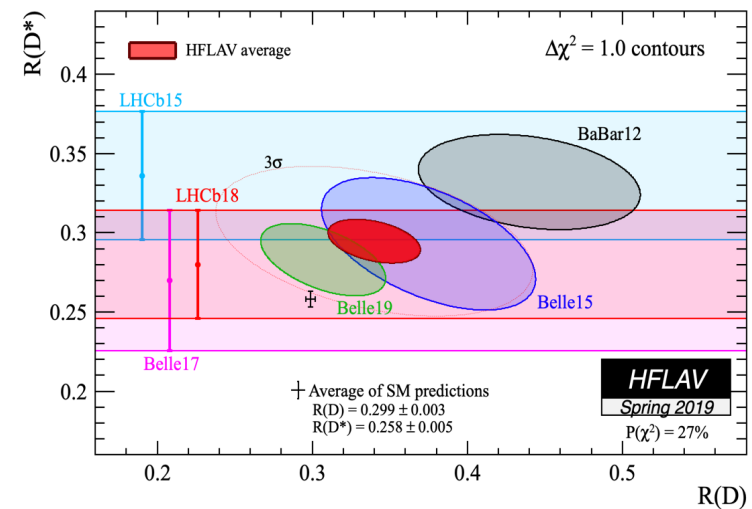
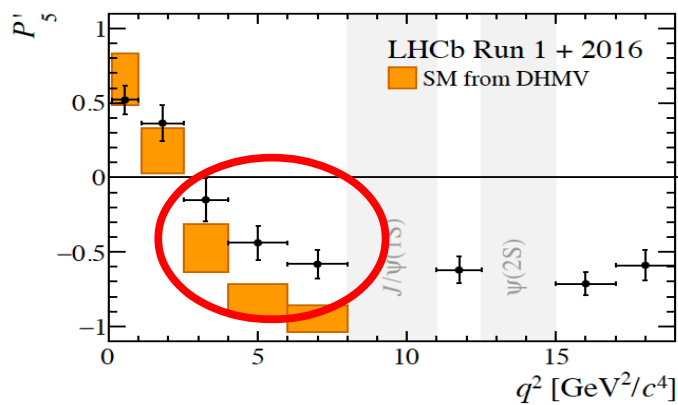
If a symmetry arises accidentally in the low-energy theory, we expect it to be violated by higher dim. ops

Violations of accidental symmetries



Well-known past examples... but also the hints of **L**epton **F**lavor **U**niversality violations recently reported in B physics belong to this category

The LFU anomalies: data and EFT



► The LFU anomalies

Since 2013 results in semi-leptonic B decays started to exhibit tensions with the SM predictions connected to a possible violation of **L**epton **F**lavor **U**niversality

More precisely, we seem to observe a different behavior (*beside pure kinematical effects*) of different lepton species in the following processes:

- $b \rightarrow s \, l^+ l^-$ (neutral currents): μ vs. e
- $b \rightarrow c \, l \nu$ (charged currents): τ vs. light leptons (μ, e)

N.B: **LFU** is an accidental symmetry of the SM Lagrangian in the limit where we neglect the lepton Yukawa couplings.

LFU is badly broken in the Yukawa sector: $y_e \sim 3 \times 10^{-6}$, $y_\mu \sim 3 \times 10^{-4}$, $y_\tau \sim 10^{-2}$

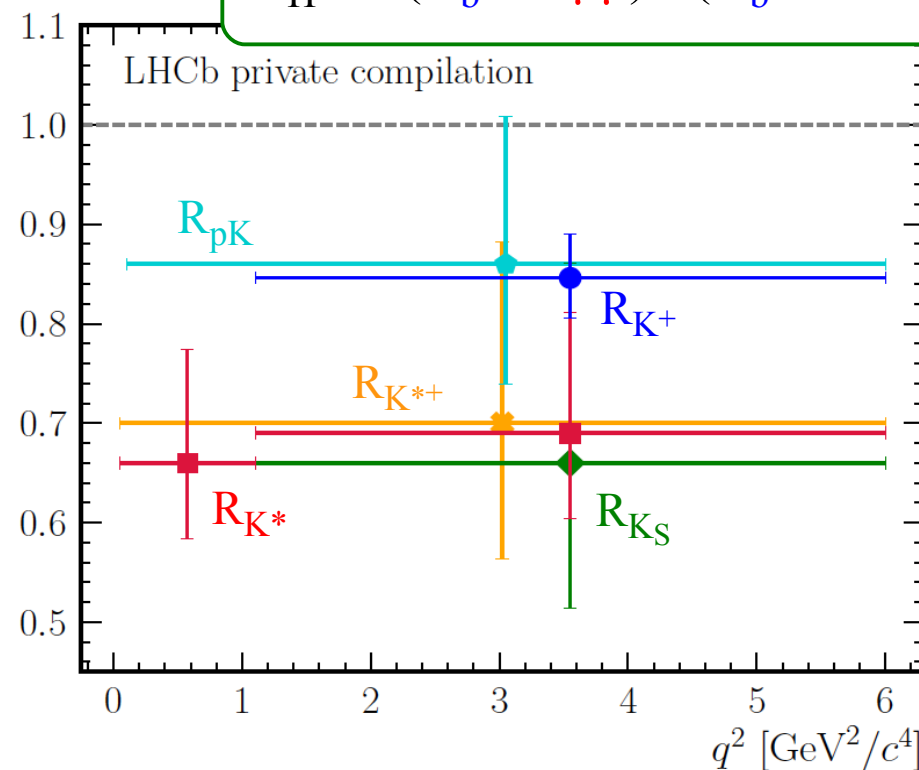
But all the lepton Yukawa couplings are small compared to SM gauge couplings, giving rise to the (*approximate*) universality of decay amplitudes which differ only by the different lepton species involved

► The LFU anomalies

• $b \rightarrow s l^+ l^-$ (neutral currents): μ vs. e

High significance: several observables pointing to the same coherent picture

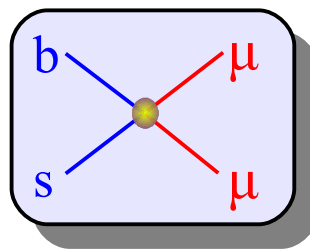
$$R_H = \Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H \mu \mu) / \Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H e e)$$



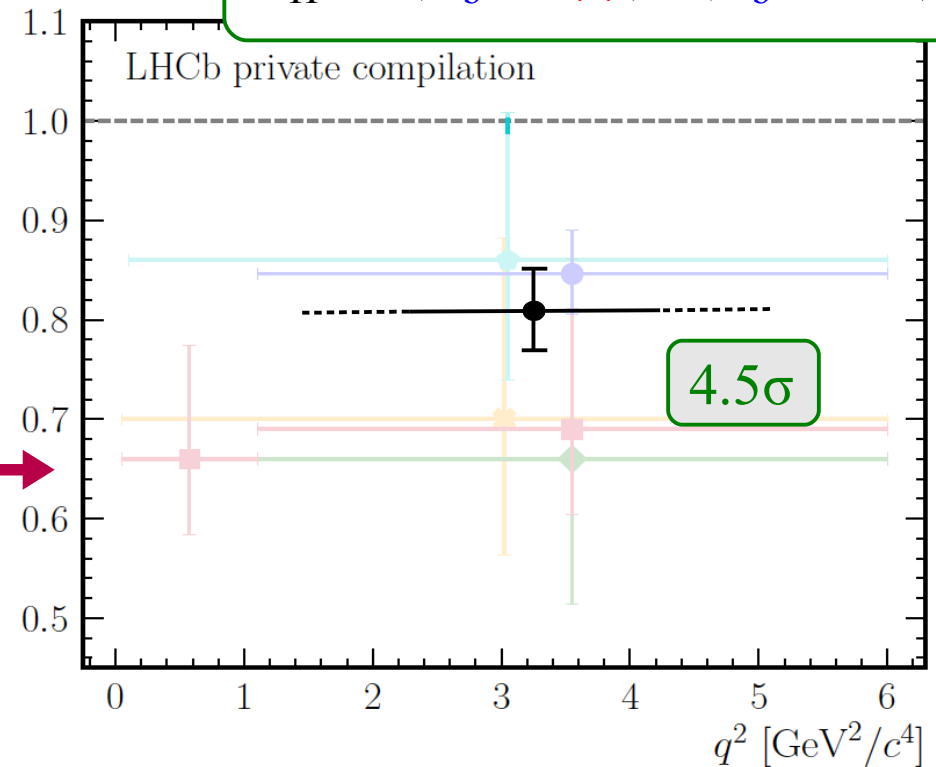
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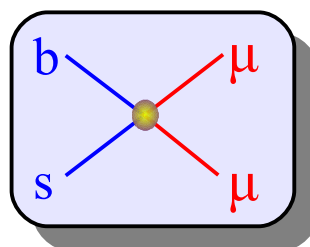
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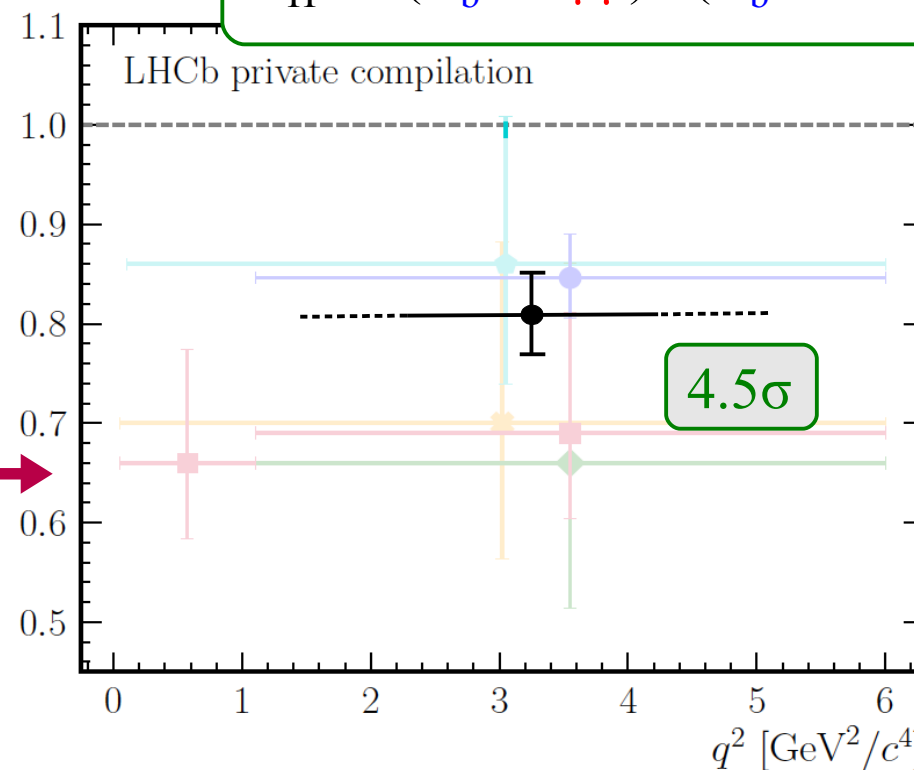
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$$\text{BR}(B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu)$$

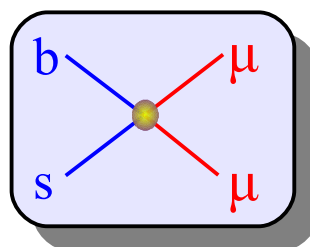
$$\text{BR}_{\text{exp}} = (2.85 \pm 0.32) \times 10^{-9} \quad \text{ATLAS+CMS+LHCb '21}$$

$$\text{BR}_{\text{SM}} = (3.66 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-9} \quad 2.3\sigma$$

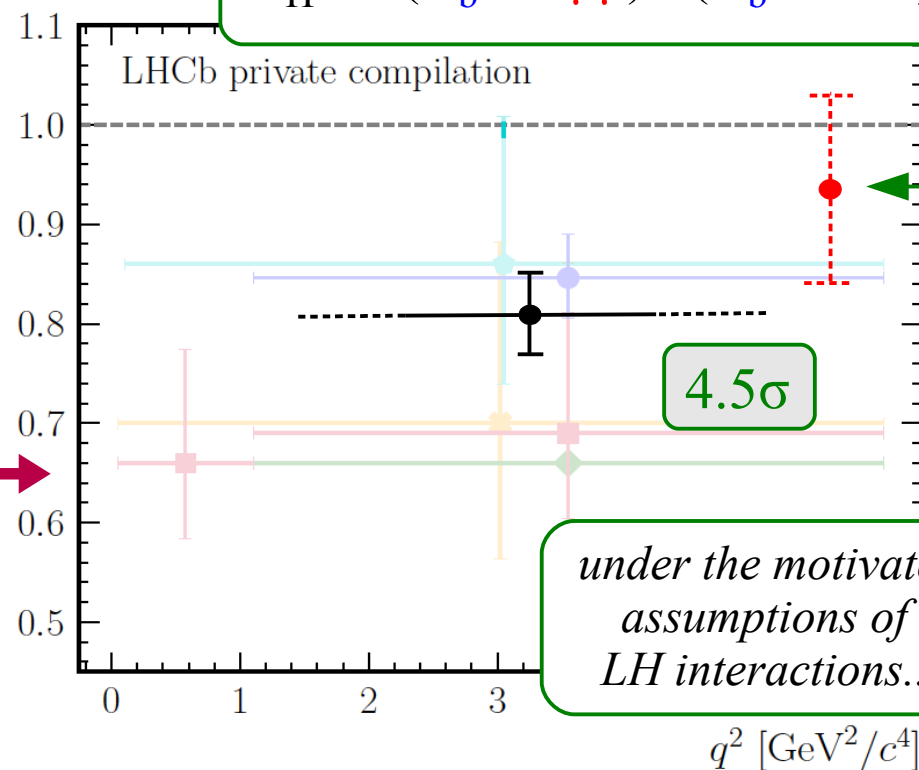
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$$\text{BR}(B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu)$$

$$\text{BR}_{\text{exp}} = \frac{(2.85 \pm 0.32)}{(3.42 \pm 0.29)} \times 10^{-9} \quad \text{ATLAS+LHCb + CMS '22 (my naive average)}$$

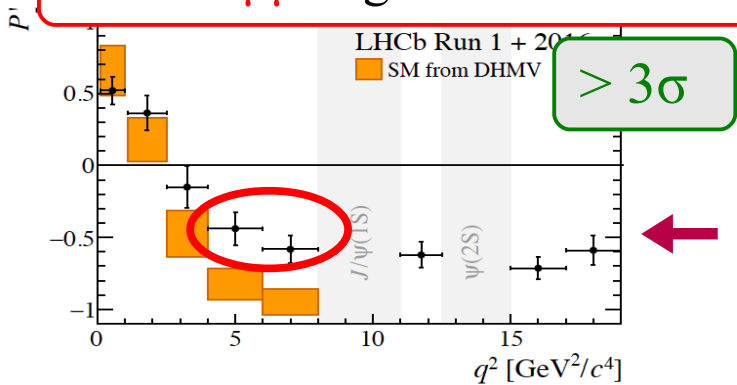
$$\text{BR}_{\text{SM}} = (3.66 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-9} \quad \text{2.3}\sigma \quad < 1\sigma$$

► The LFU anomalies

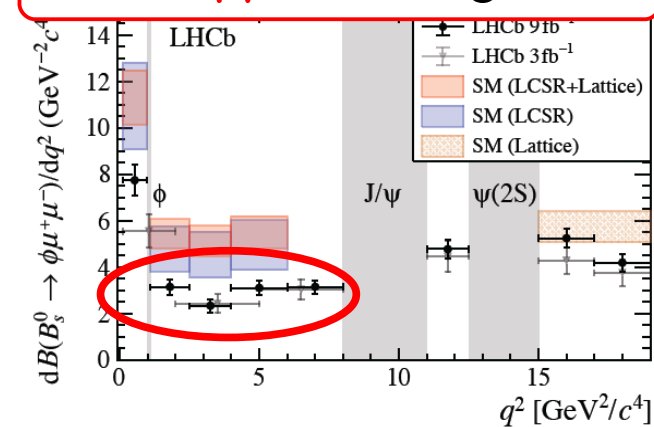
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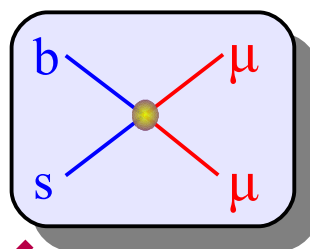
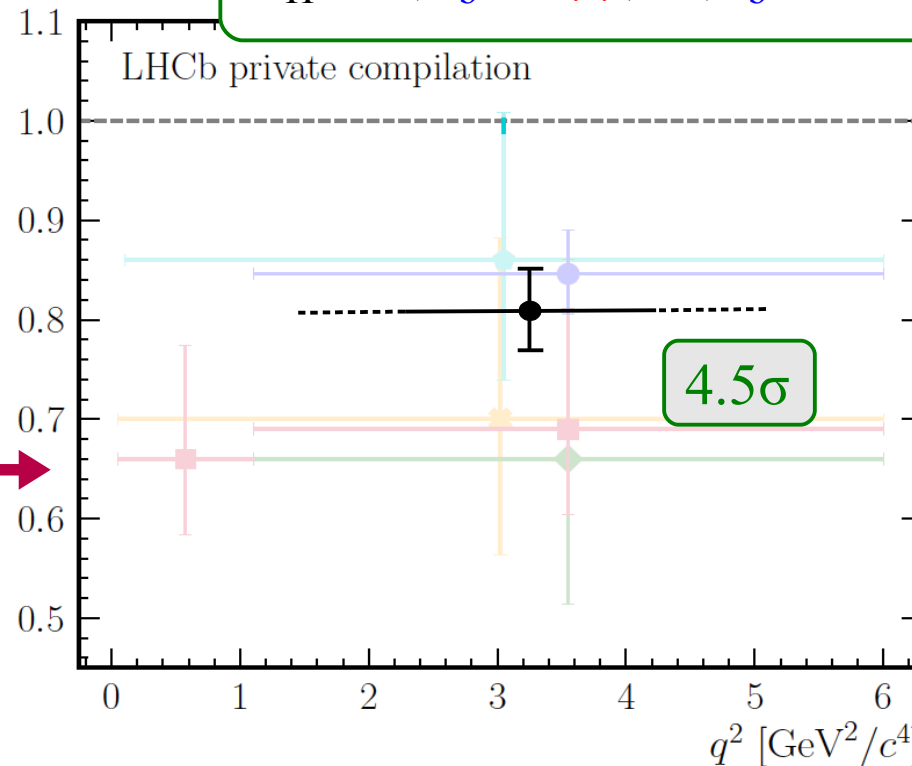
$B \rightarrow K^* \mu\mu$ angular distribution



$B \rightarrow H \mu\mu$ branching ratios



$$R_H = \Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H \mu\mu) / \Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H ee)$$



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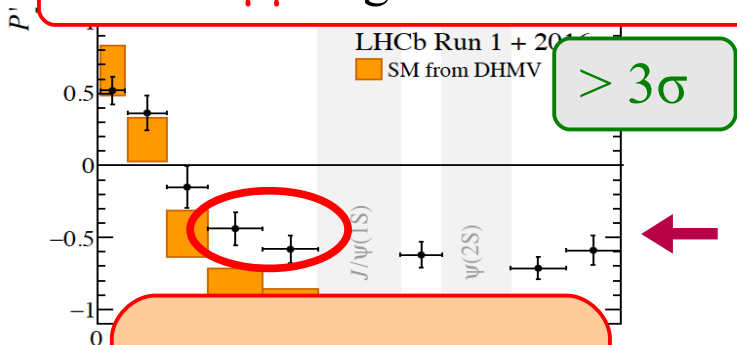
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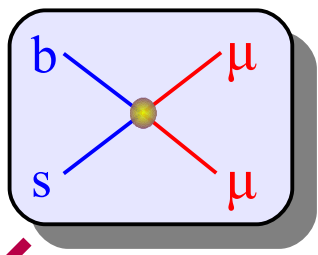
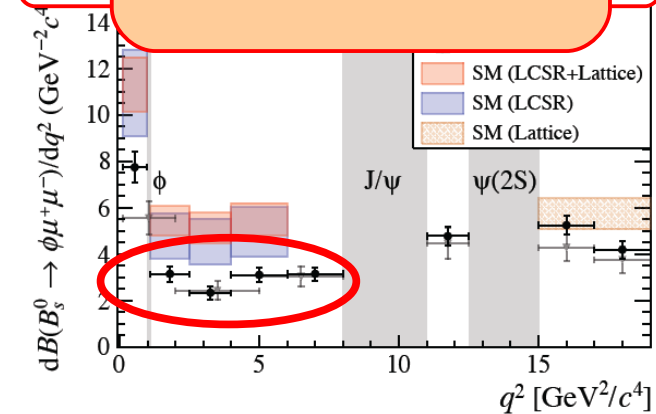
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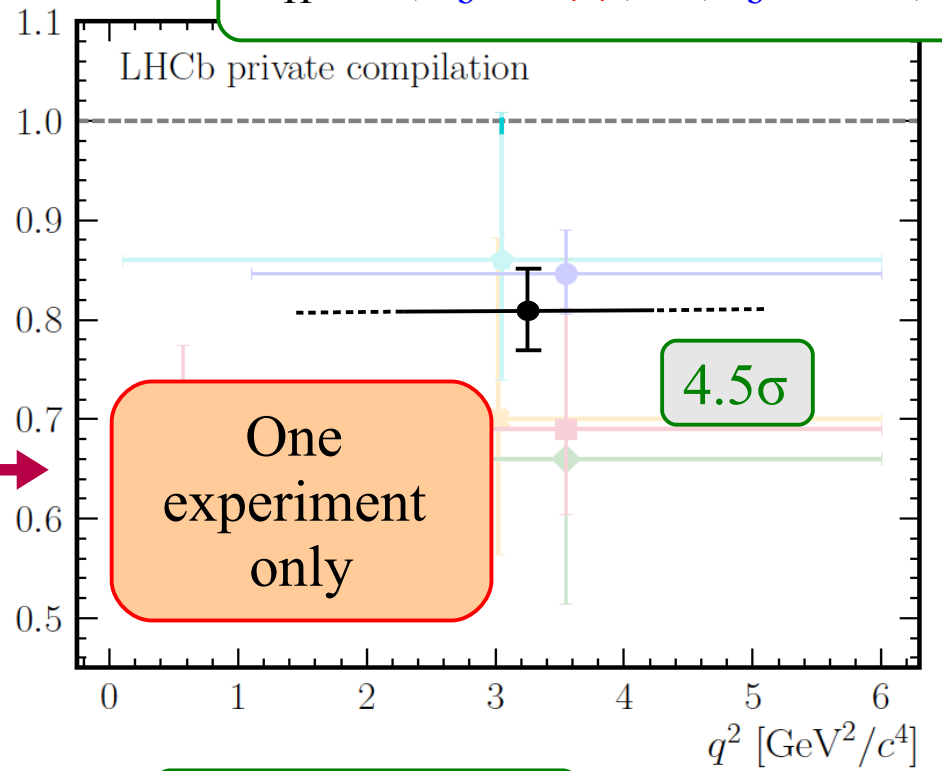
$B \rightarrow K^* \mu\mu$ angular distribution



Non-negligible Th. errors



$$R_H = \Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H \mu\mu) / \Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H ee)$$



$BR(B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu)$

$BR_{exp} = (2.85 \pm 0.32) \times 10^{-9}$
 (3.42 ± 0.29)

$BR_{SM} = (3.66 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-9}$

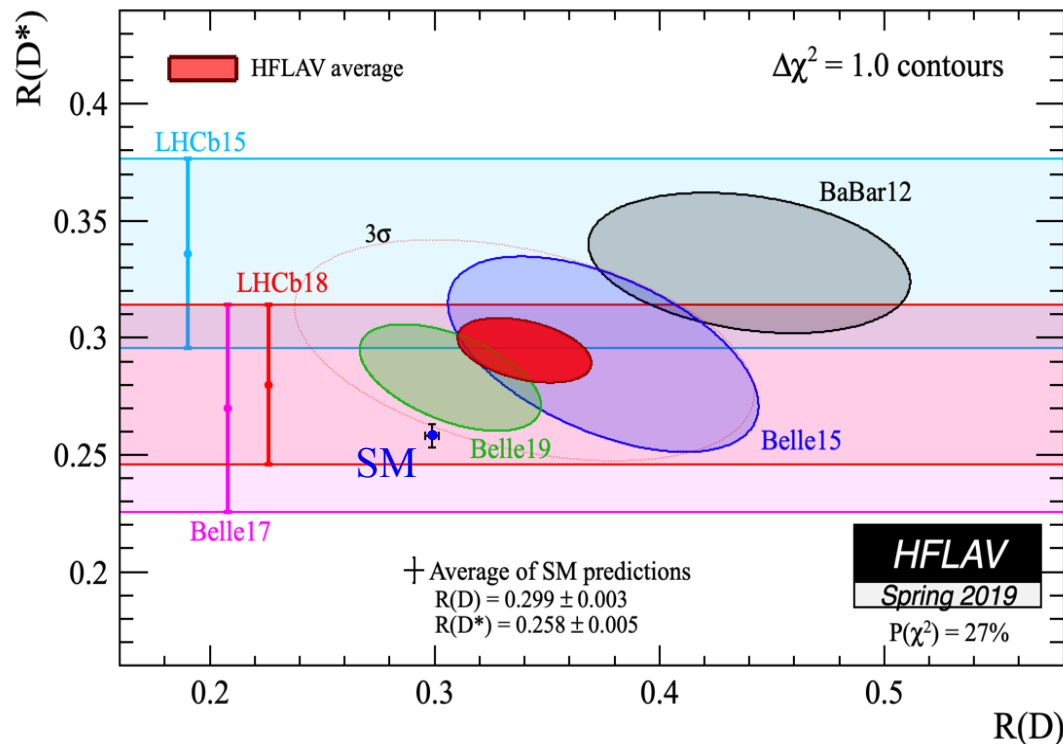
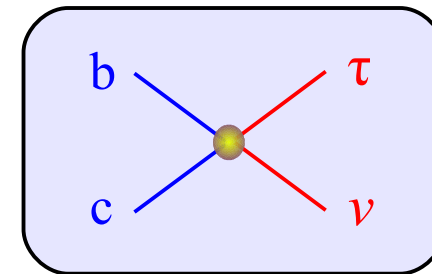
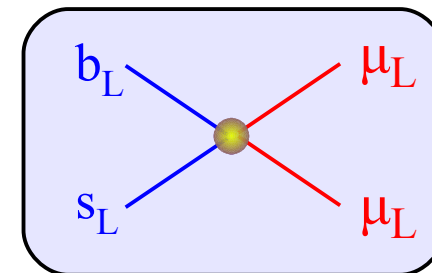
Low statistics

~~2.3σ~~ $< 1\sigma$

► The LFU anomalies

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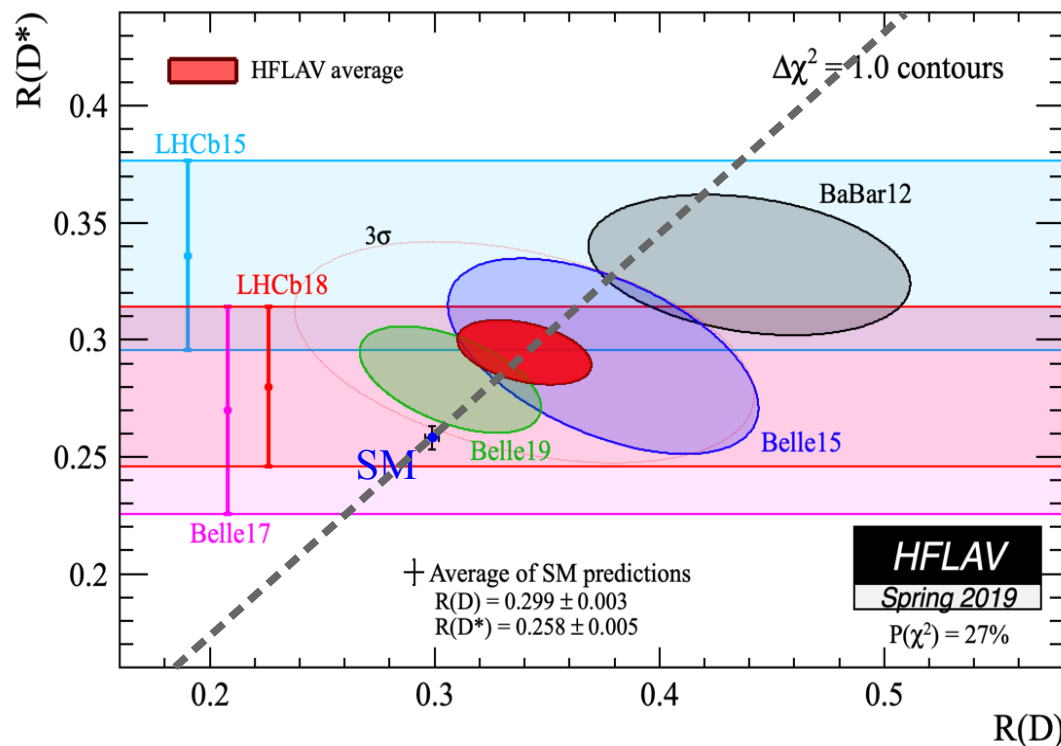
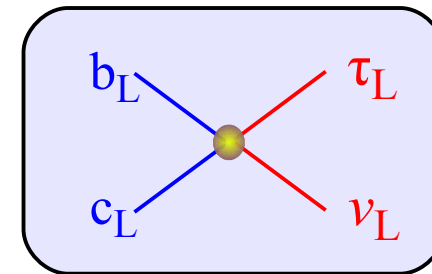
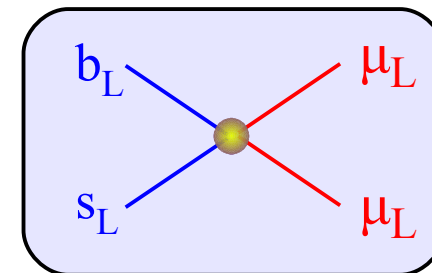
$$R(X) = \frac{\Gamma(B \rightarrow X \tau \nu)}{\Gamma(B \rightarrow X l \nu)} \quad X = D \text{ or } D^*$$

- Clean SM predictions (*uncertainties cancel in the ratios*)
- Consistent results by 3 different exp.ts: **3.1 σ** excess over SM
- Slower progress

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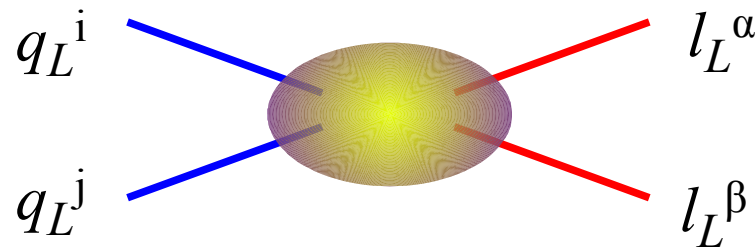
- Clean SM predictions (*uncertainties cancel in the ratios*)
- Consistent results by 3 different exp.ts: **3.1 σ** excess over SM
- Slower progress

→ Large NP effect competing with tree-level SM amplitude

→ Left-handed NP amplitude describe well data (*but other options still possible*)

► General EFT considerations

- Anomalies are seen only in semi-leptonic (**quark**×**lepton**) operators
- We definitely need non-vanishing **left-handed** current-current operators although other contributions are also possible



Bhattacharya *et al.* '14
 Alonso, Grinstein, Camalich '15
 Greljo, GI, Marzocca '15
 (+many others...)

- Large coupl. [*compete with SM tree-level*] in **b(3rd) c(2nd)** → **τ(3rd) ν_τ(3rd)**
- Small coupl. [*compete with SM loop-level*] in **b(3rd) s(2nd)** → **μ(2rd) μ(2rd)**



$$C_{ij\alpha\beta} = \begin{array}{l} \text{large for} \\ 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ generation} \\ \text{fields} \end{array} + \begin{array}{l} \text{small terms} \\ \text{for } 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ (& } 1^{\text{st}}) \\ \text{generations} \end{array}$$

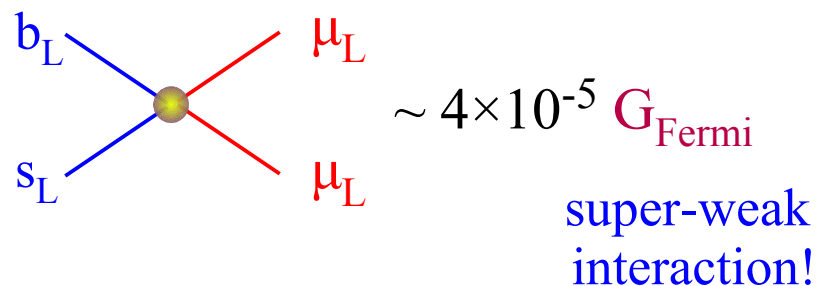


*Link to pattern
of the Yukawa
couplings !*

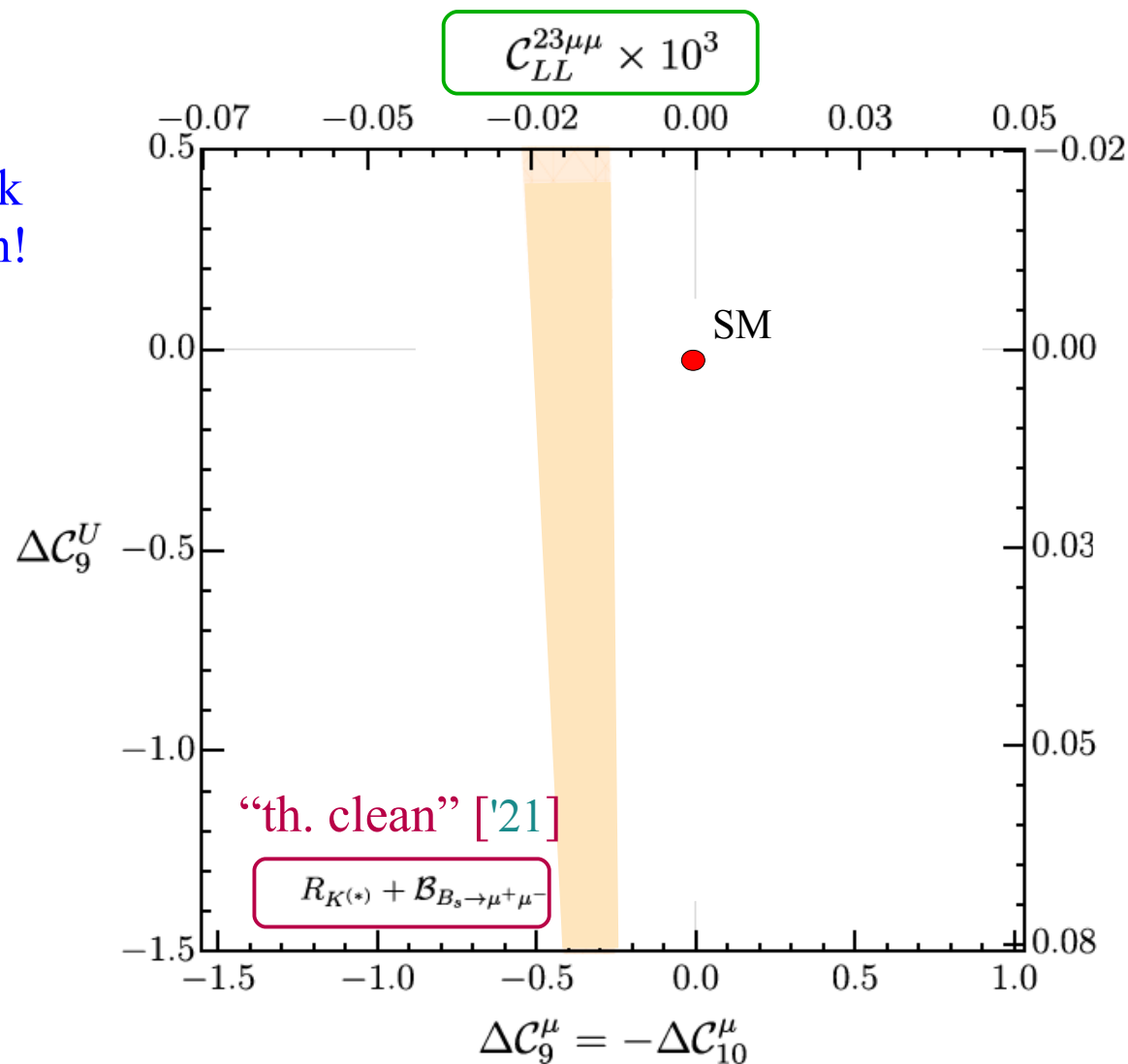
► General EFT considerations

Data point to NP effects in operators of the type

$$\mathcal{O}_{LL}^{ij\alpha\beta} = (\bar{q}_L^i \gamma_\mu \ell_L^\alpha) (\bar{\ell}_L^\beta \gamma^\mu q_L^j)$$



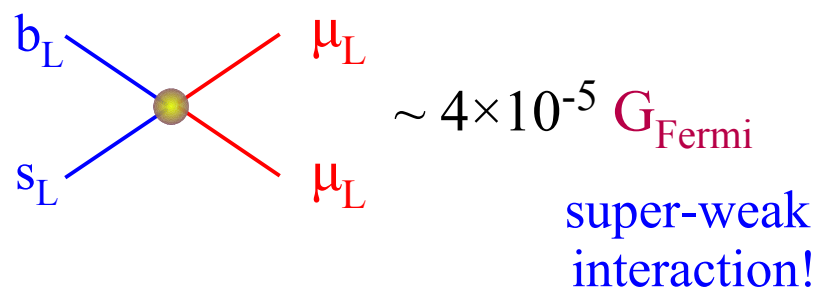
Tiny interaction \rightarrow e/μ violation



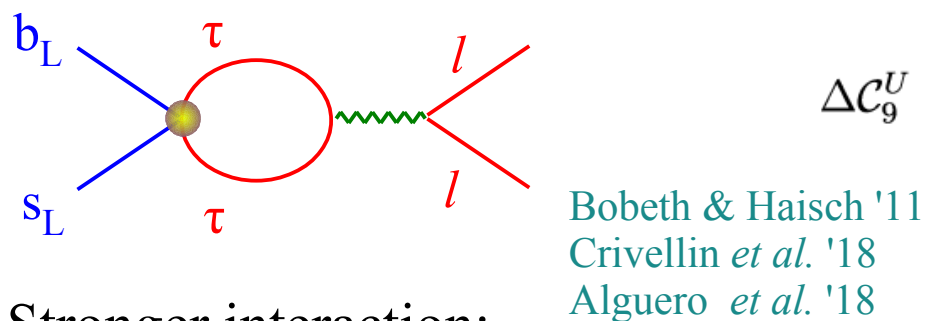
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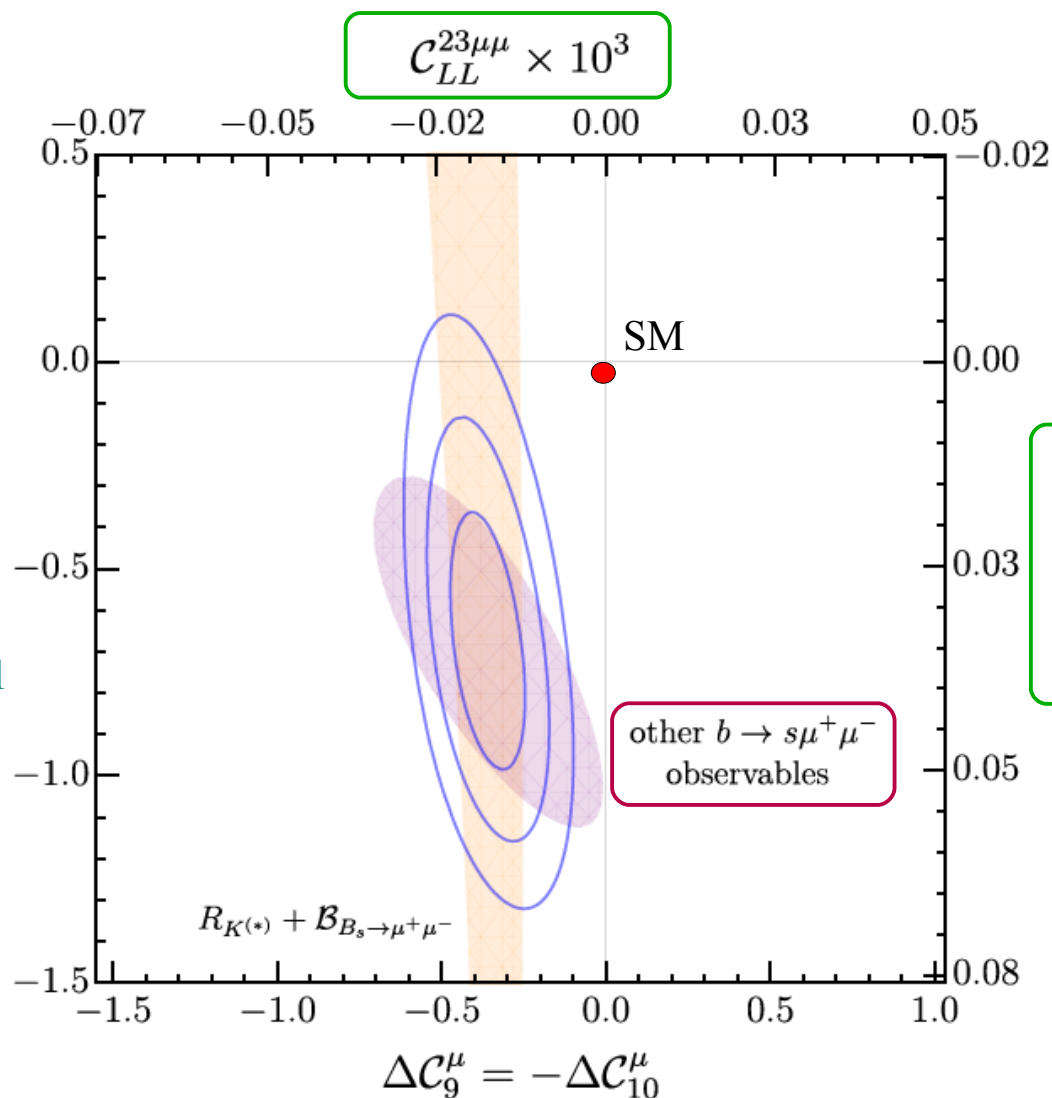


Tiny interaction \rightarrow e/μ violation



Stronger interaction:

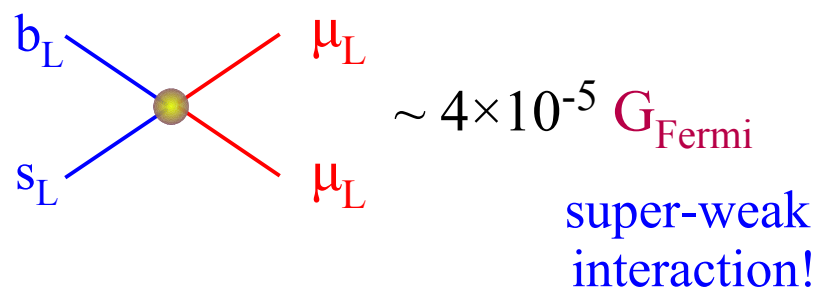
\rightarrow universal (loop effect) in $b \rightarrow s \ell \ell$



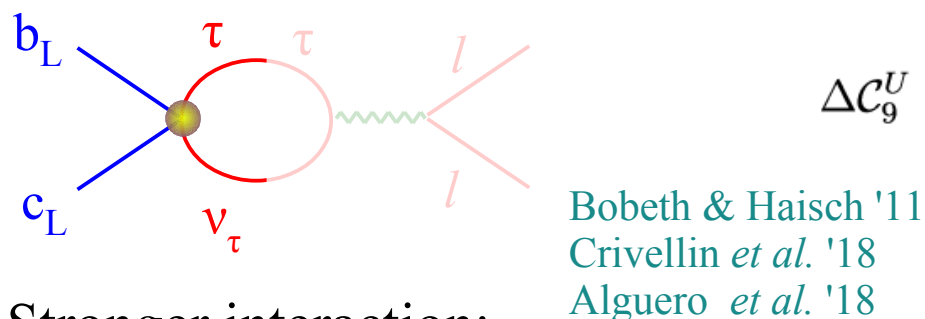
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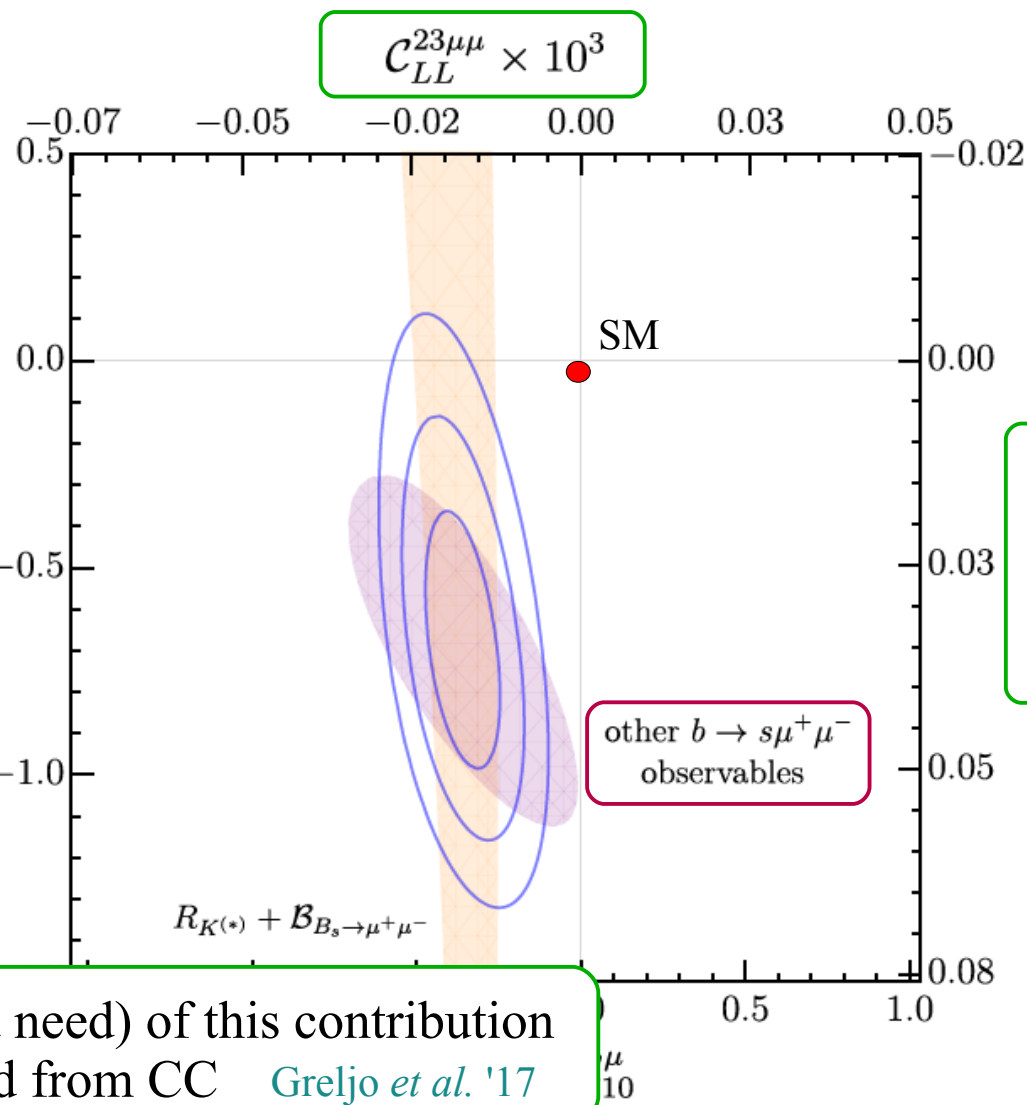


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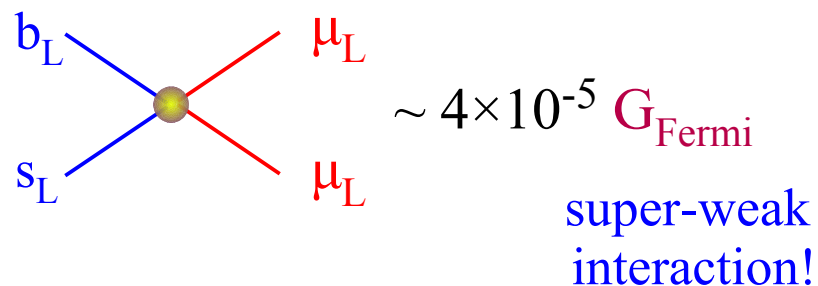
- universal (loop effect) in $b \rightarrow s \ell \ell$
- non-universal (tree) in $b \rightarrow c \tau \nu$



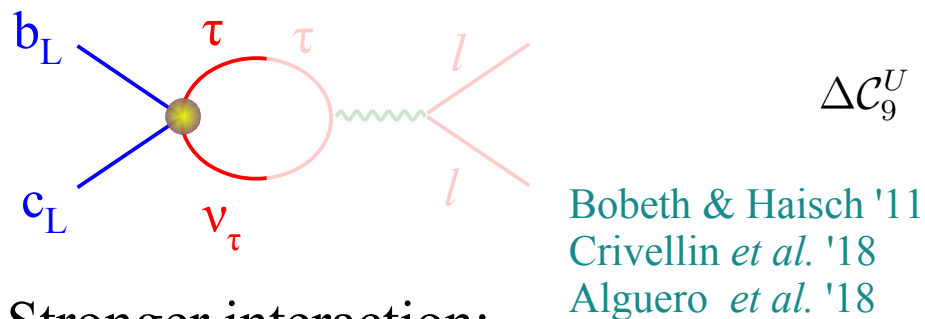
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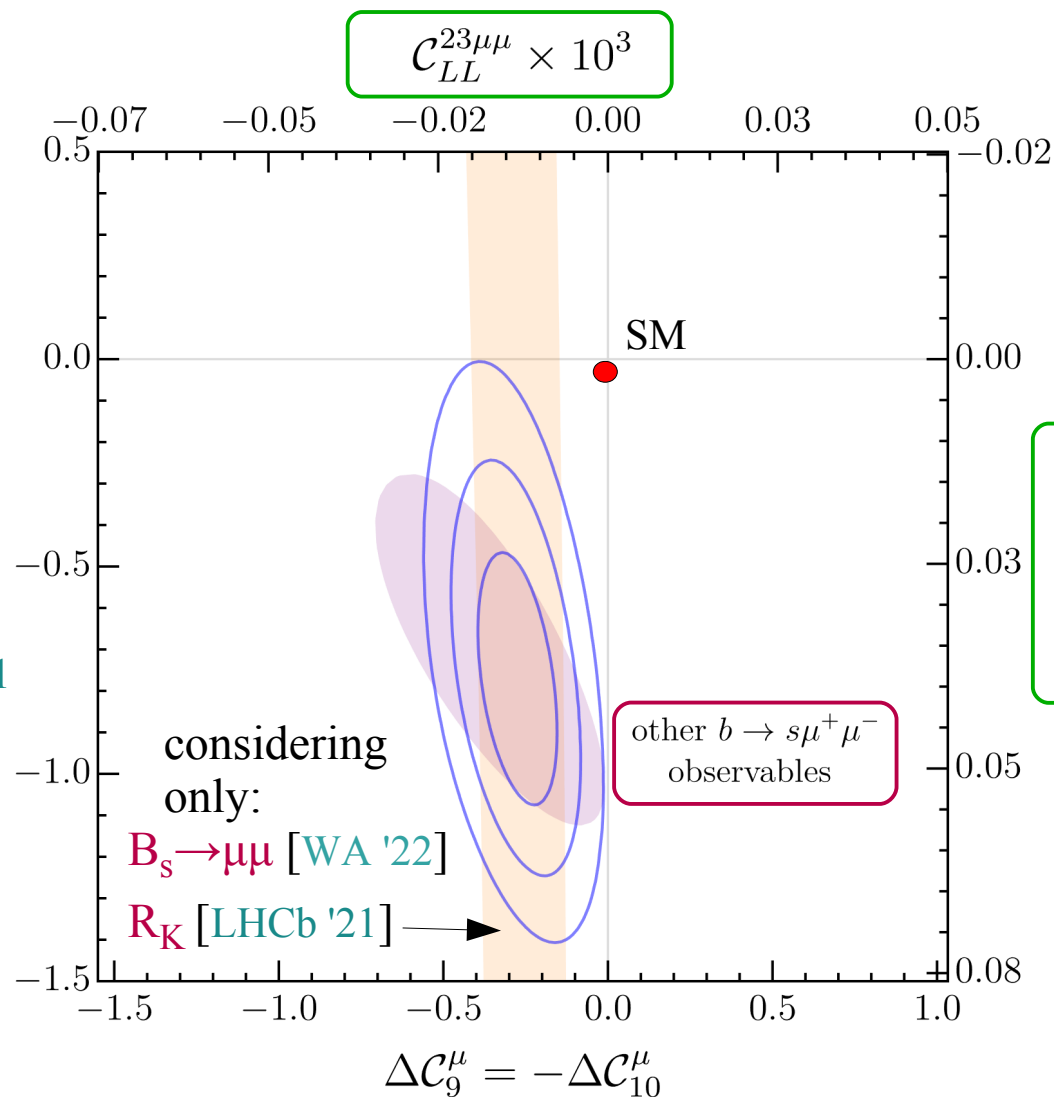


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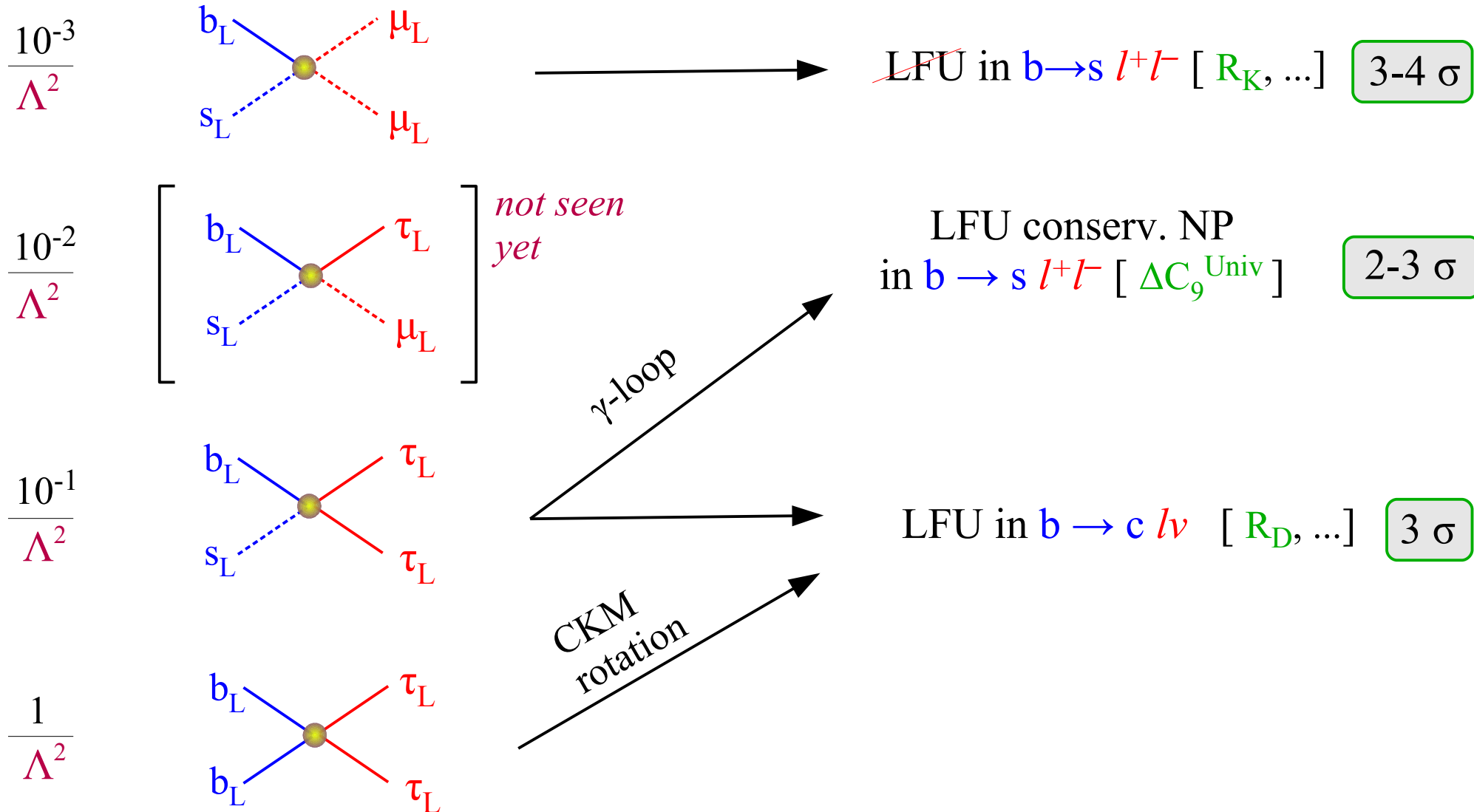


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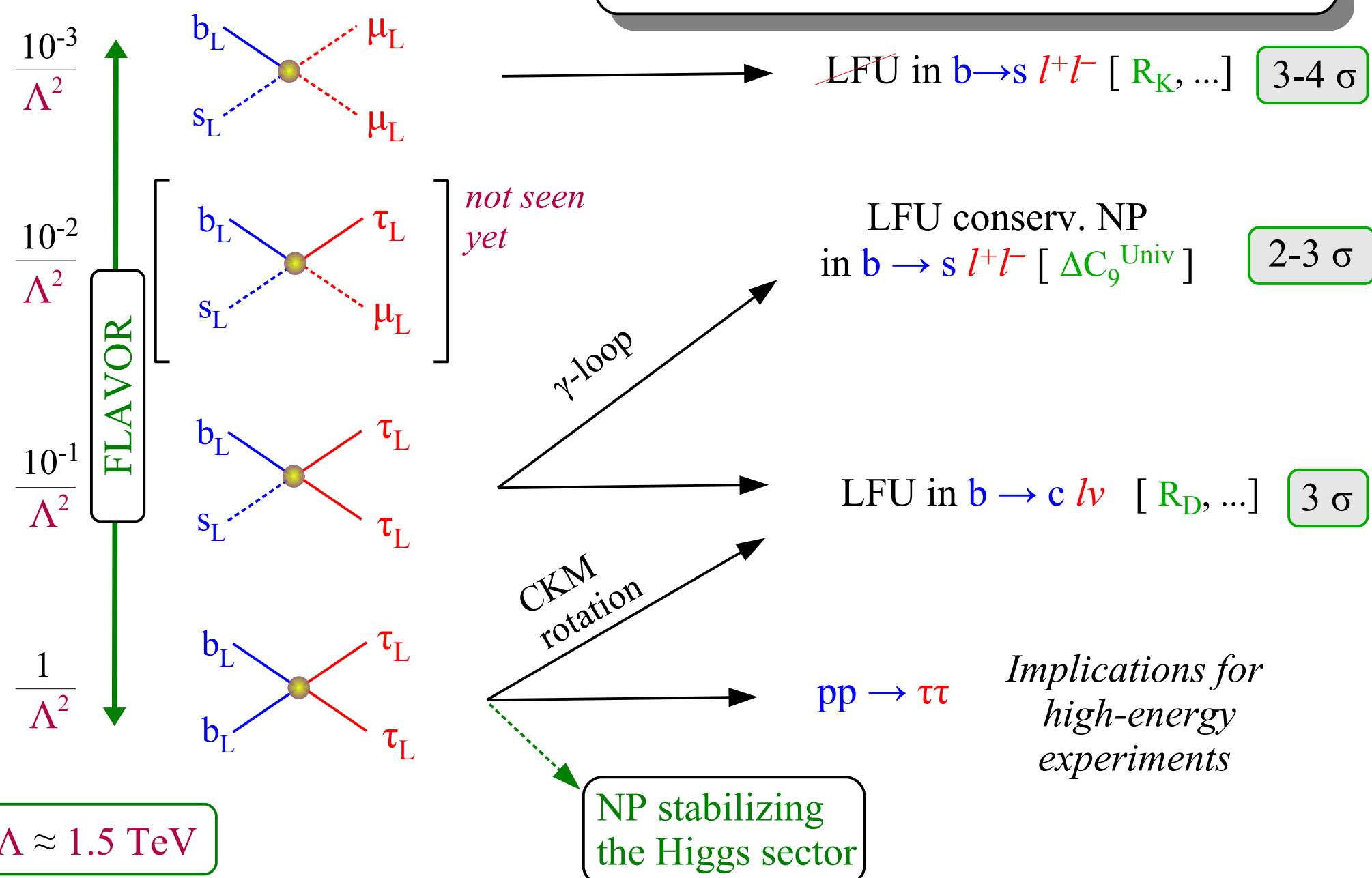
► General EFT considerations



$\Lambda \approx 1.5 \text{ TeV}$

► General EFT considerations

An exciting “narrow path” connecting old problems and recent anomalies

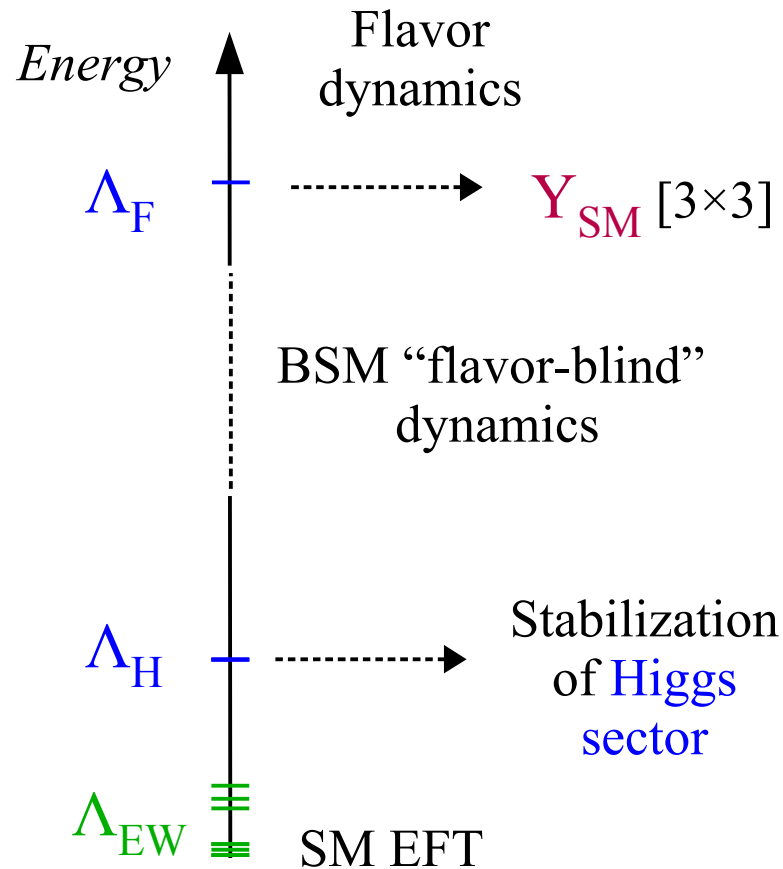


Model-building considerations



► Model-building considerations

From a model-building perspective, the EFT results
challenge the “old” paradigm of flavor-universal BSM physics



The old MFV paradigm:

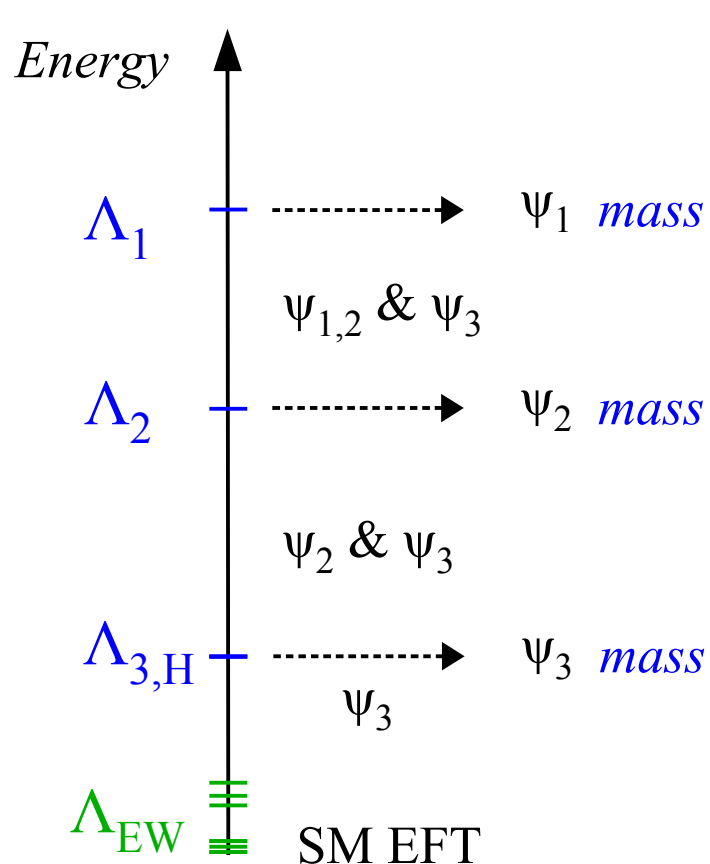
- Concentrate on the Higgs hierarchy problem
- Postpone (*ignore*) the flavor problem



3 gen. = “identical copies”
up to high energies

► Model-building considerations

From a model-building perspective, the EFT results
fit well with the idea of a multi-scale construction related to flavor hierarchies:



Bordone *et al.* '17
Allwicher, GI, Thomsen '20
Barbieri '21

Panico & Pomarol '16
⋮
Dvali & Shifman '00

Main idea:

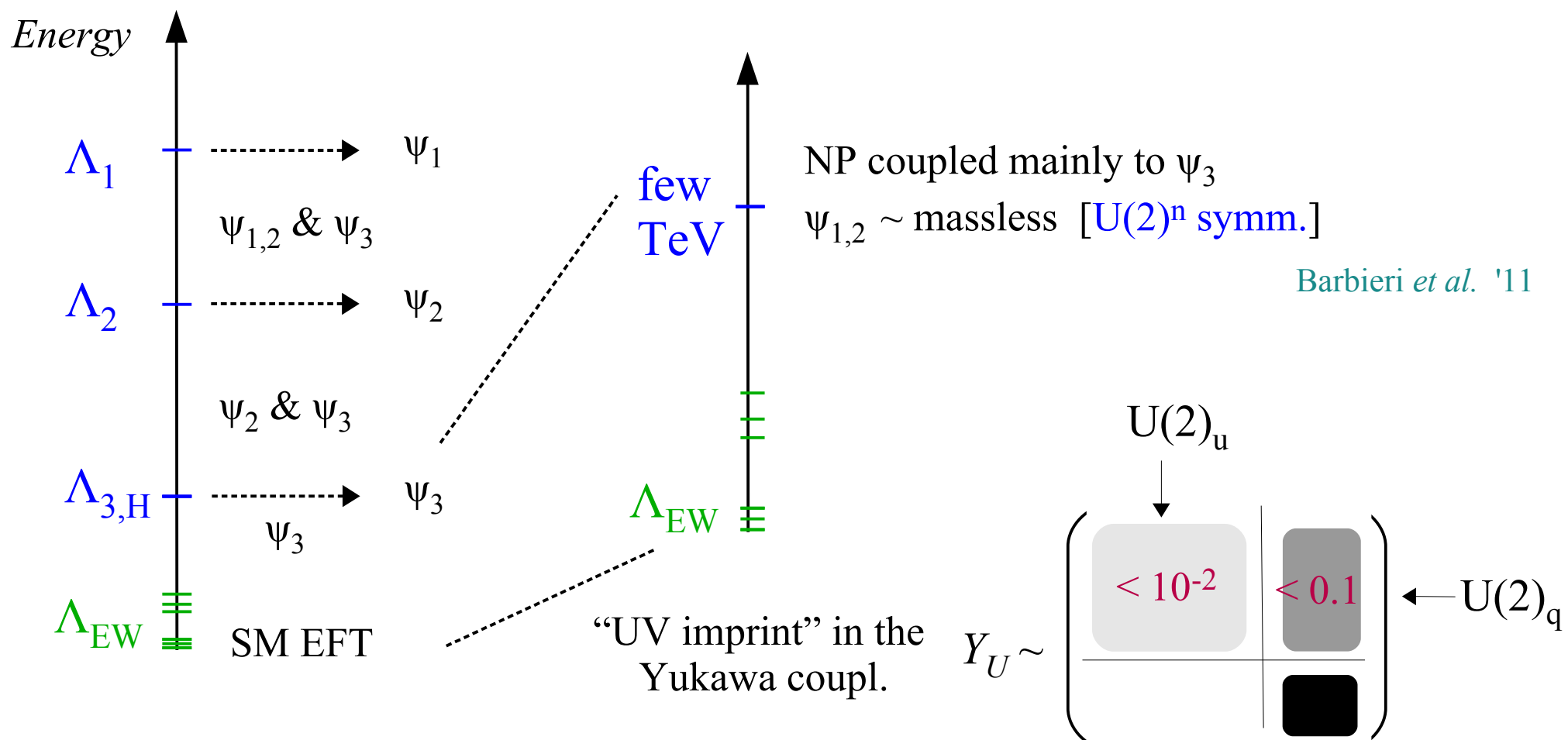
- Flavor **non-universal interactions** already at the **TeV scale**:
- **1st & 2nd gen.** have small masses because they are coupled to **NP at heavier scales**



~~3 gen. = "identical copies"
up to high energies~~

► Model-building considerations

From a model-building perspective, the EFT results *fit well with the idea of a multi-scale construction related to flavor hierarchies:*



Effective organizing principle for the **flavor structure** of the **SMEFT**

► Model-building considerations

Which (tree-level) mediators can generate the effective operators required for by the EFT fit? Not many possibilities...

✓ We do observe “large” NP effects in semileptonic operators

✗ What we do not see is in NP in (\rightarrow *additional loop suppression*):

Four-quarks ($\Delta F=2$)
Four-leptons ($\tau \rightarrow \mu \nu \nu$)

➔ ***Leptoquarks***

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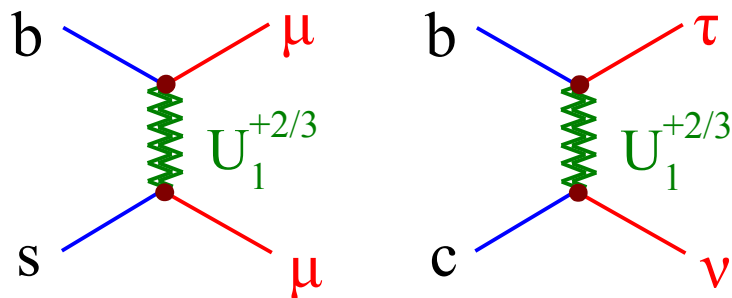
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➔ **Leptoquarks**

Among the (few) LQ options, there is one outstanding case:



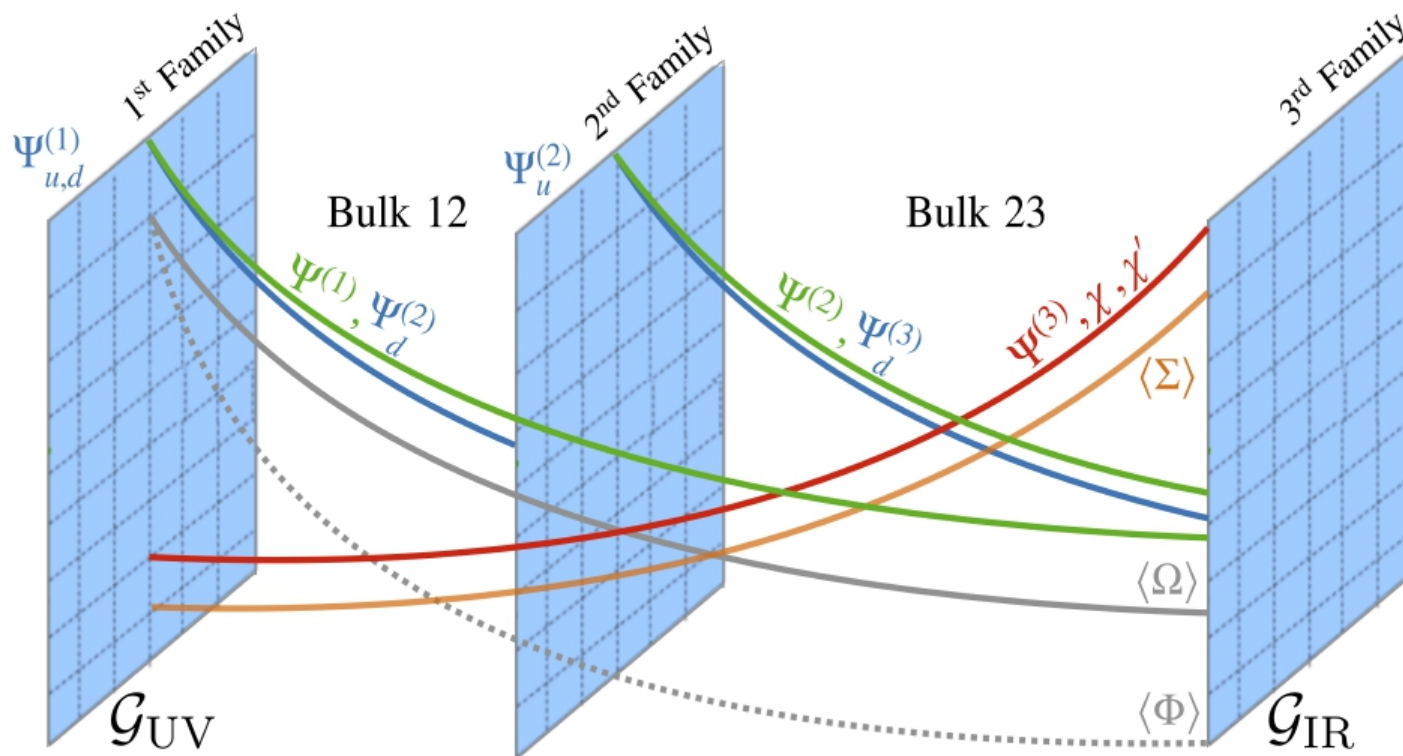
- ➔ mediator: U_1
- ➔ flavor structure: $U(2)^n$
- ➔ UV completion: $SU(4)$

Barbieri, GI,
Pattori, Senia '15

We identified this path back in 2015, as a motivated simplified model...

...after 7 years, this is one of the very few options still in place for combined explanations & we understood much better its possible UV completion

UV completions: 4321 & beyond



► UV completions: 4321 & beyond

First observation: the Pati & Salam group, proposed in the 70's to unify quarks & leptons predicts the massive LQ that is a good mediator for both anomalies:

Pati-Salam group: $SU(4) \times SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$

Fermions in $SU(4)$:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_L^\alpha \\ Q_L^\beta \\ Q_L^\gamma \\ L_L \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} Q_R^\alpha \\ Q_R^\beta \\ Q_R^\gamma \\ L_R \end{bmatrix}$$

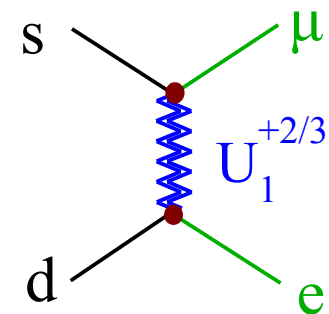
Main Pati-Salam idea:
Lepton number as “the 4th color”

The massive LQ [U_1] arise from the breaking $SU(4) \rightarrow SU(3)_C \times U(1)_{B-L}$

The problem of the original Pati Salam model are the strong bounds on the LQ couplings to 1st & 2nd generations [e.g. $M > 200 \text{ TeV}$ from $K_L \rightarrow \mu e$]

Attempts to solve this problem simply adding extra fermions or scalars

Calibbi, Crivellin, Li, '17;
Fornal, Gadam, Grinstein, '18
Heeck, Teresi, '18

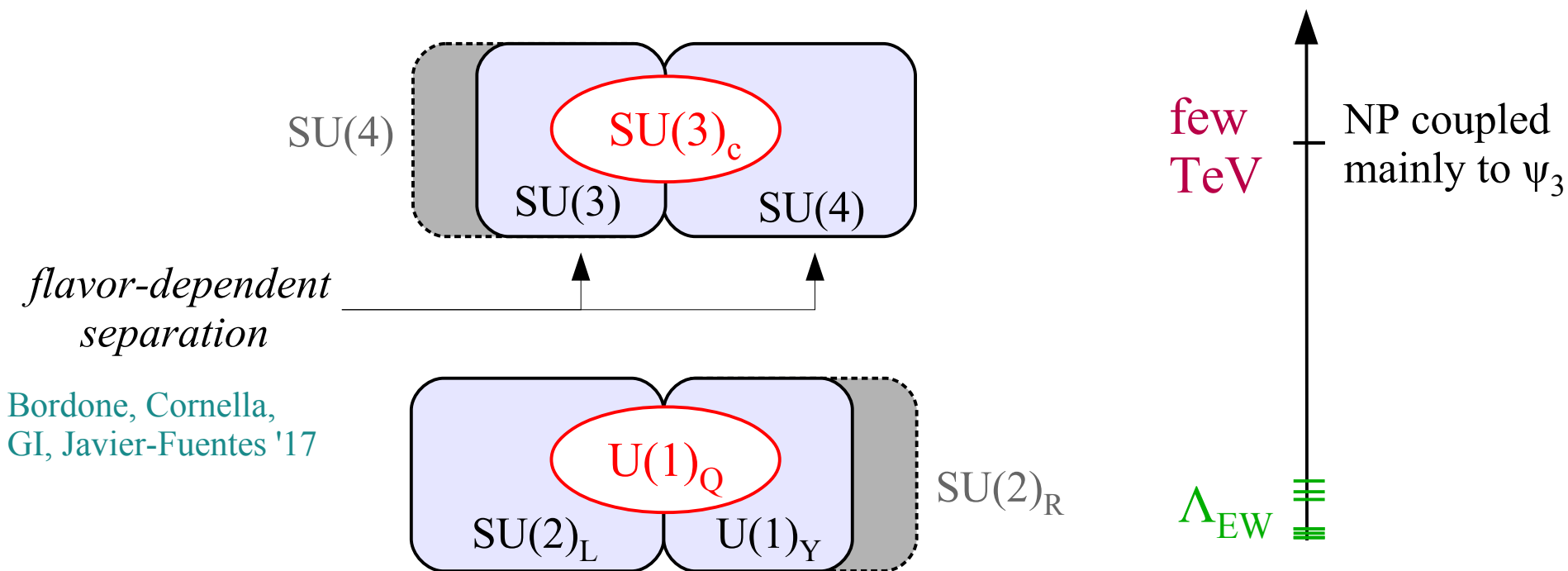


► UV completions: 4321 & beyond

Second observation: we can “protect” the light families charging under SU(4) only the 3rd gen. or, more generally, “separating” the universal SU(3) component

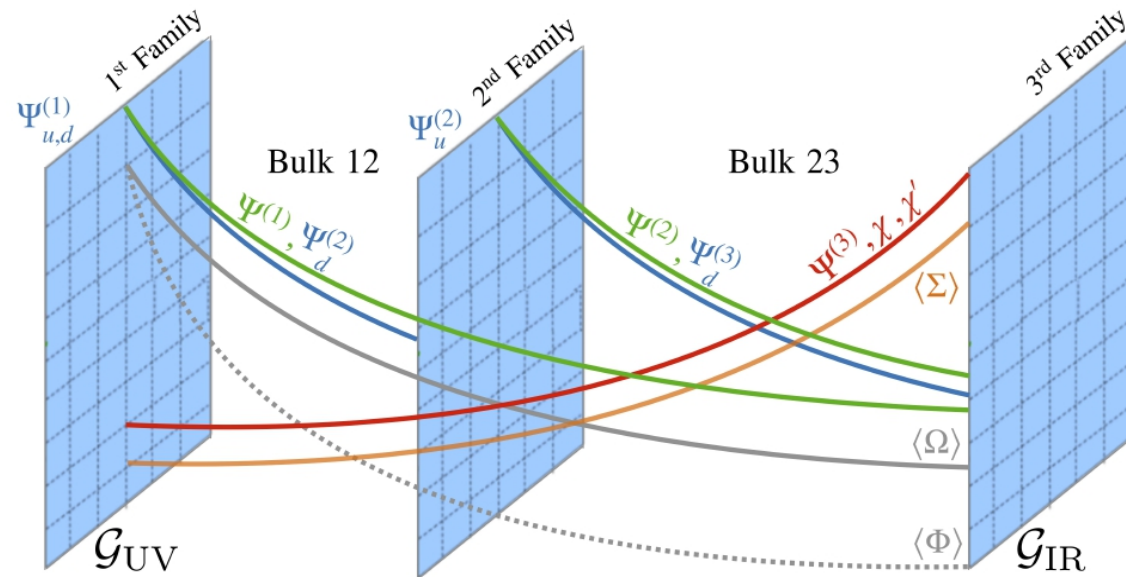
PS group: $SU(4) \times SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ • *flavor universality*

4321 models: $SU(4) \times SU(3) \times G_{EW} = \begin{cases} SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \\ SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \end{cases}$ Di Luzio, Greljo, Nardecchia, '17



► UV completions: 4321 & beyond

An ambitious attempt to construct a *full theory of flavor* has been obtained embedding (a variation of the) Pati-Salam gauge group into an extra-dimensional construction:



Flavor \leftrightarrow special position
(*topological defect*) in an extra
(compact) space-like dimension

Dvali & Shifman, '00

Higgs and SU(4)-breaking fields
with oppositely-peaked profiles,
leading to the desired flavor
pattern for masses & anomalies

Bordone, Cornella, GI, Javier-Fuentes '17

★ Anarchic neutrino masses via inverse see-saw mechanism Fuentes-Martin, GI,
Pages, Stefaneck '22

★ “Holographic” Higgs from appropriate choice of bulk/brane gauge symm.

$$[G_{\text{bulk-23}} = \text{SU}(4)_3 \times \text{SU}(3)_{1,2} \times \text{U}(1) \times \text{SO}(5) \quad G_{\text{IR}} = \text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{U}(1)_{\text{B-L}} \times \text{SO}(4)]$$

→ Light Higgs as pseudo Goldstone

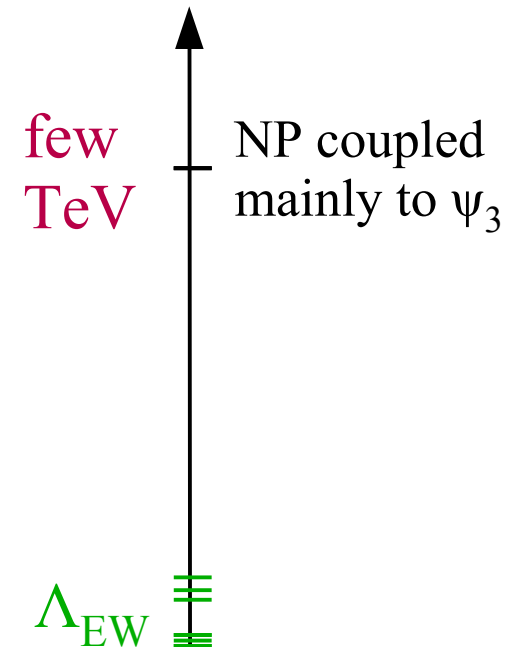
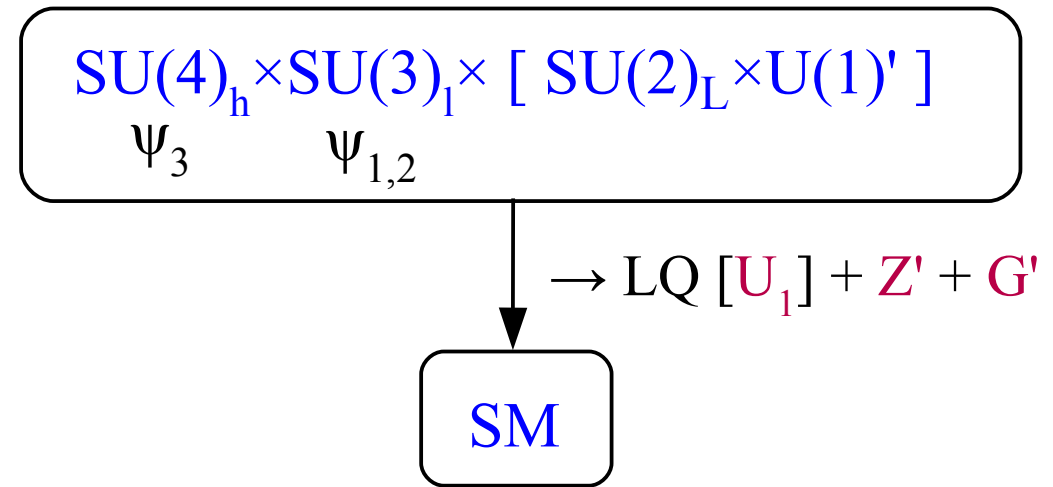
Agashe, Contino, Pomarol '05

Fuentes-Martin, Stangl '20

Fuentes-Martin, GI, Lizana, Selimovic, Stefaneck '22

► UV completions: 4321 & beyond

Even in ambitious UV completions, collider and low-energy pheno are controlled by the 4321 gauge group that rules TeV-scale dynamics
 → new heavy mediators [G' & Z']



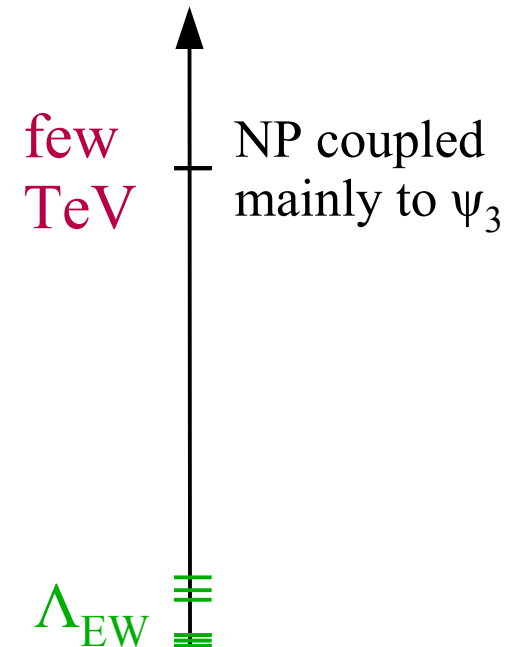
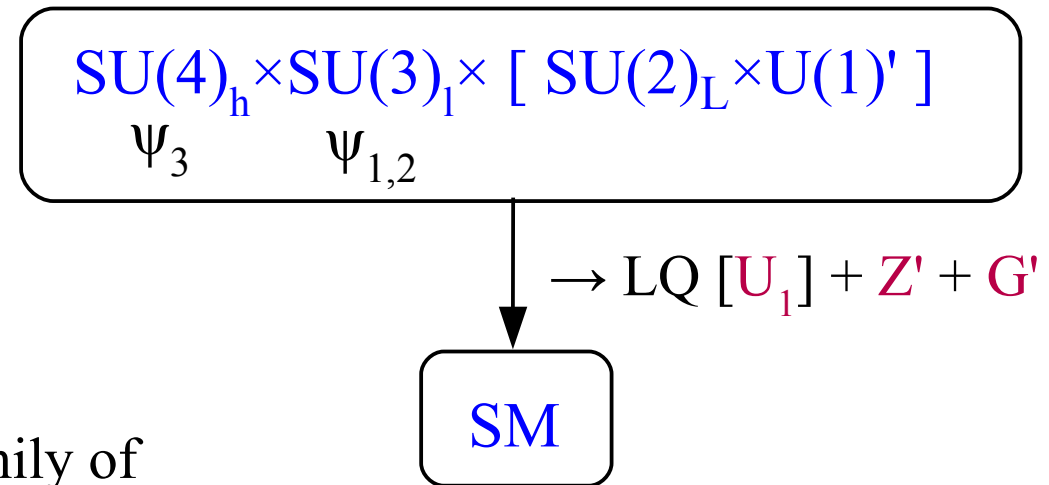
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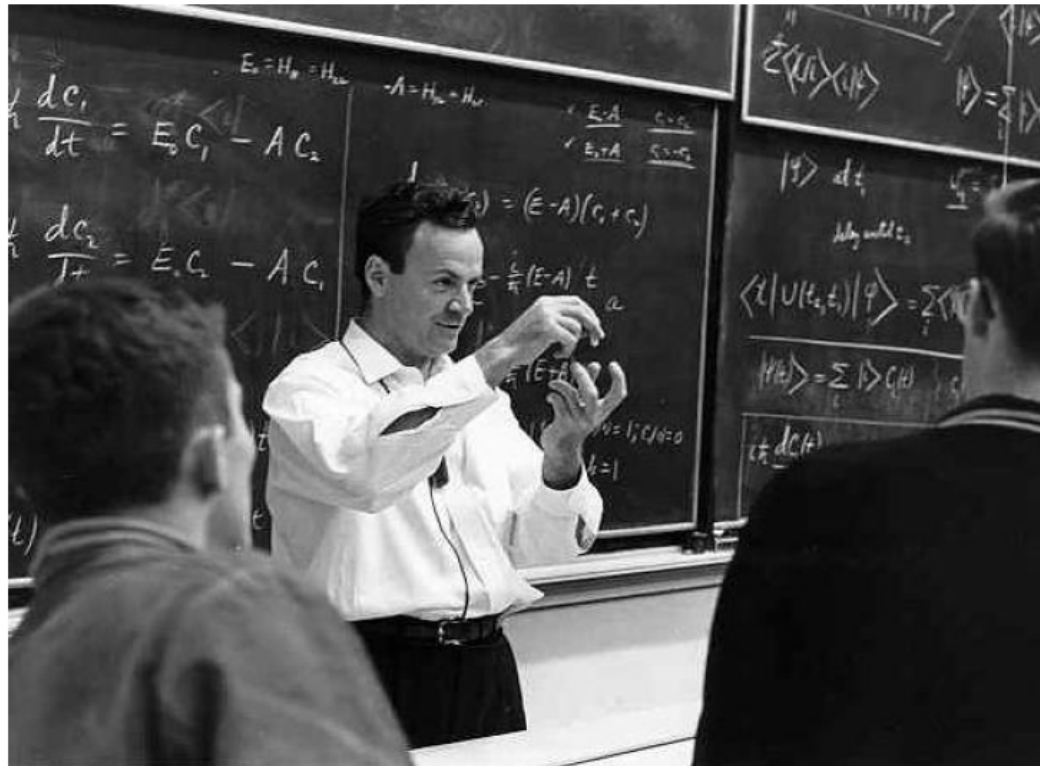
A key role is played by at least one family of
 → vector-like fermions (= fermions with both chiralities having same gauge quantum numbers)
 that mix with mainly with the 3rd gen. of (SM-like) chiral fermions



- Positive features the EFT reproduced
- Calculability of $\Delta F=2$ processes
- Precise (non-trivial) predictions for high-energy physics



Implications @ low- & high-energies



“It doesn’t matter how beautiful your theory is, it doesn’t matter how smart you are. If it doesn’t agree with experiment, it’s wrong.”

[Feynman]

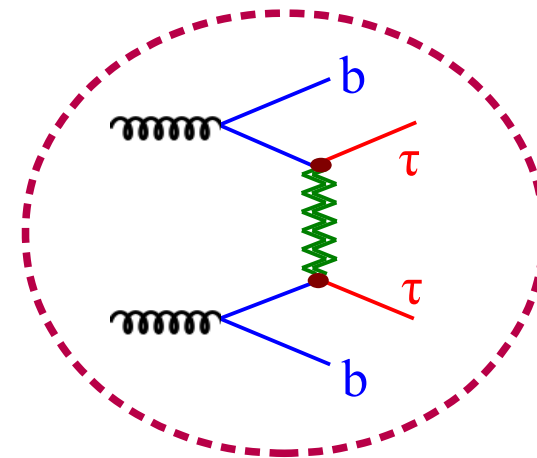
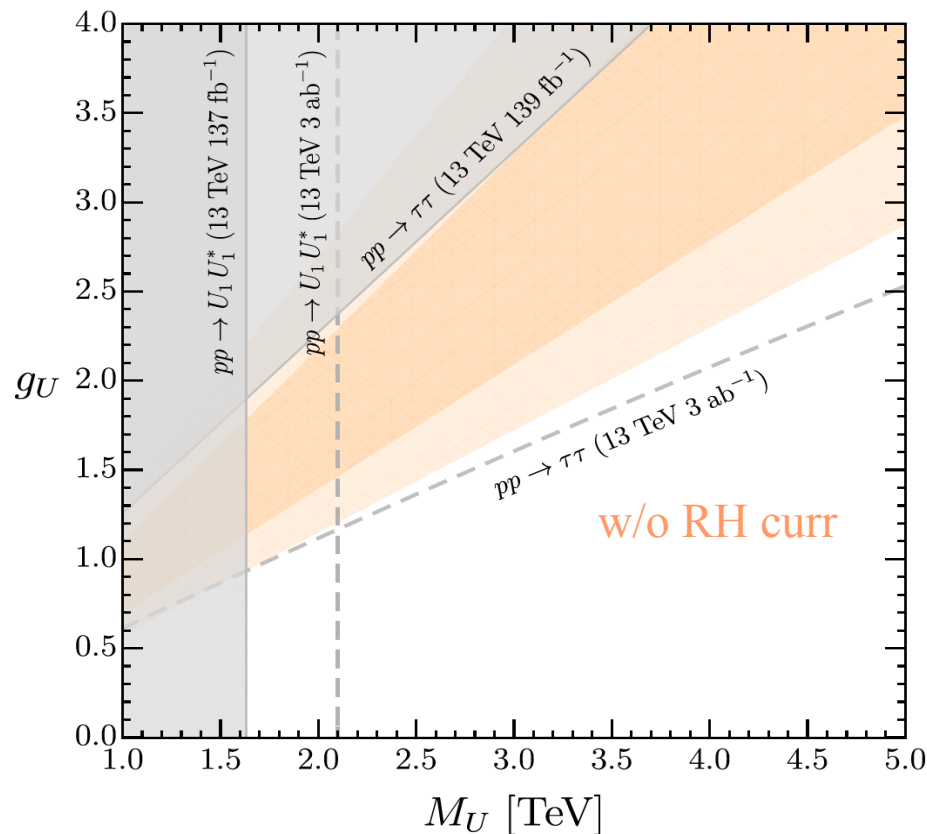
► Implications @ low- & high energies

I General predictions of U_1 exchange @ high-energies

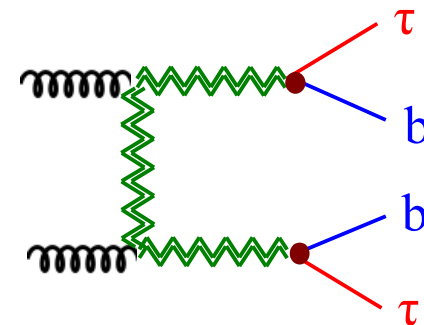
[Very general, directly connected to the EFT analysis]

$$pp \rightarrow \tau\tau$$

Cornella, Fuentes-Martin, Faroughi, GI, Neubert, '21



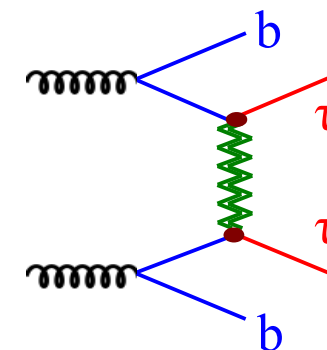
Faroughi, Greljo, Kamenik '16



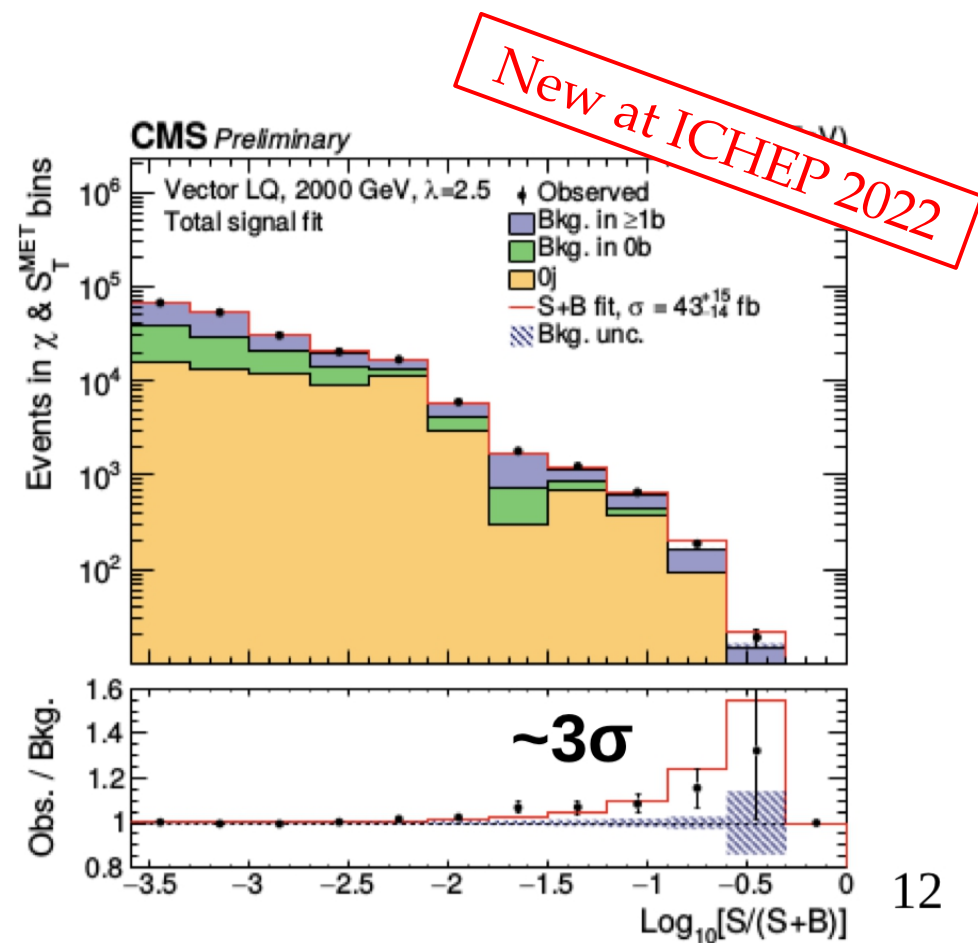
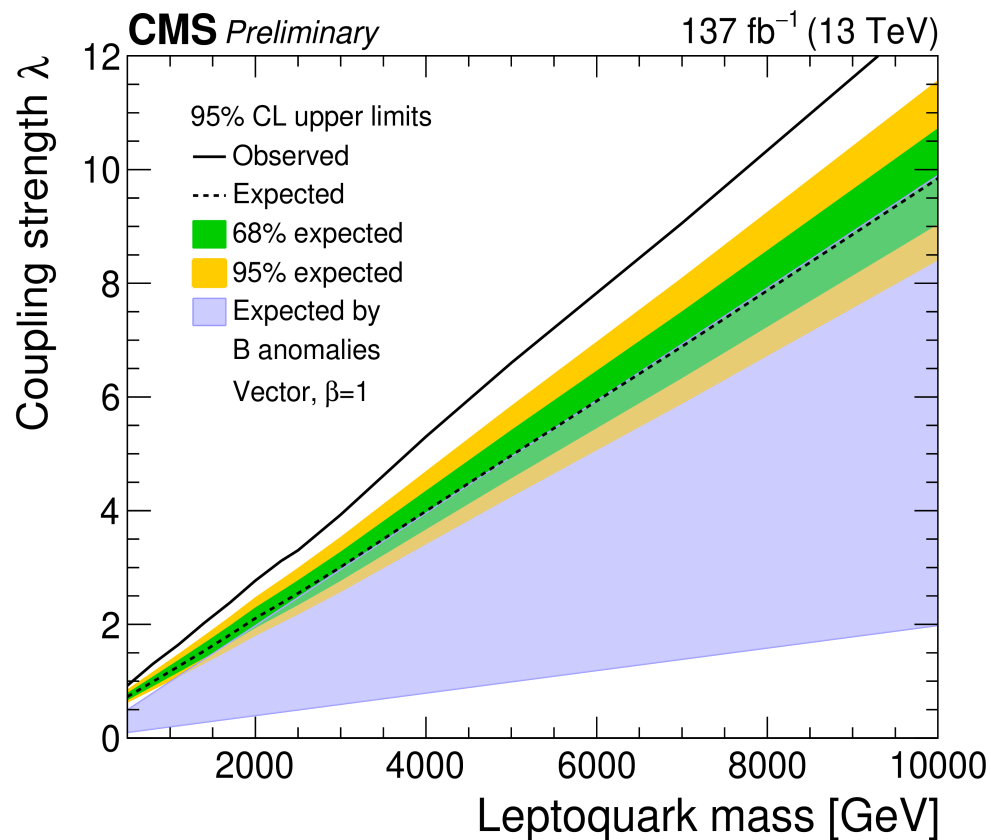
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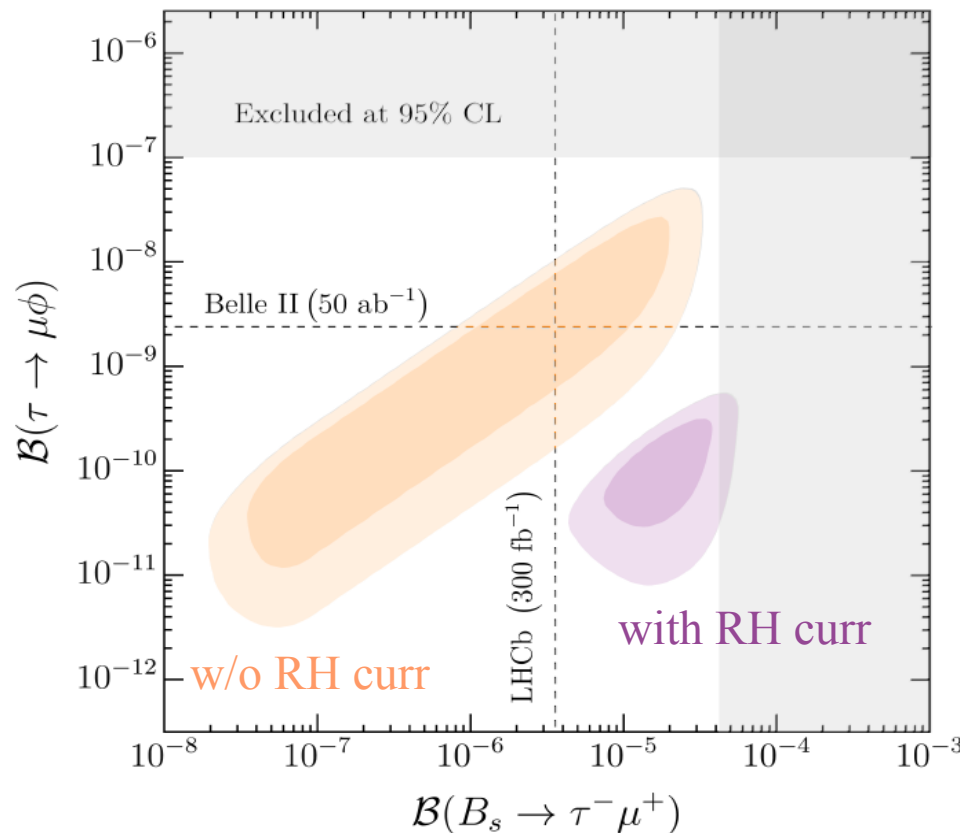


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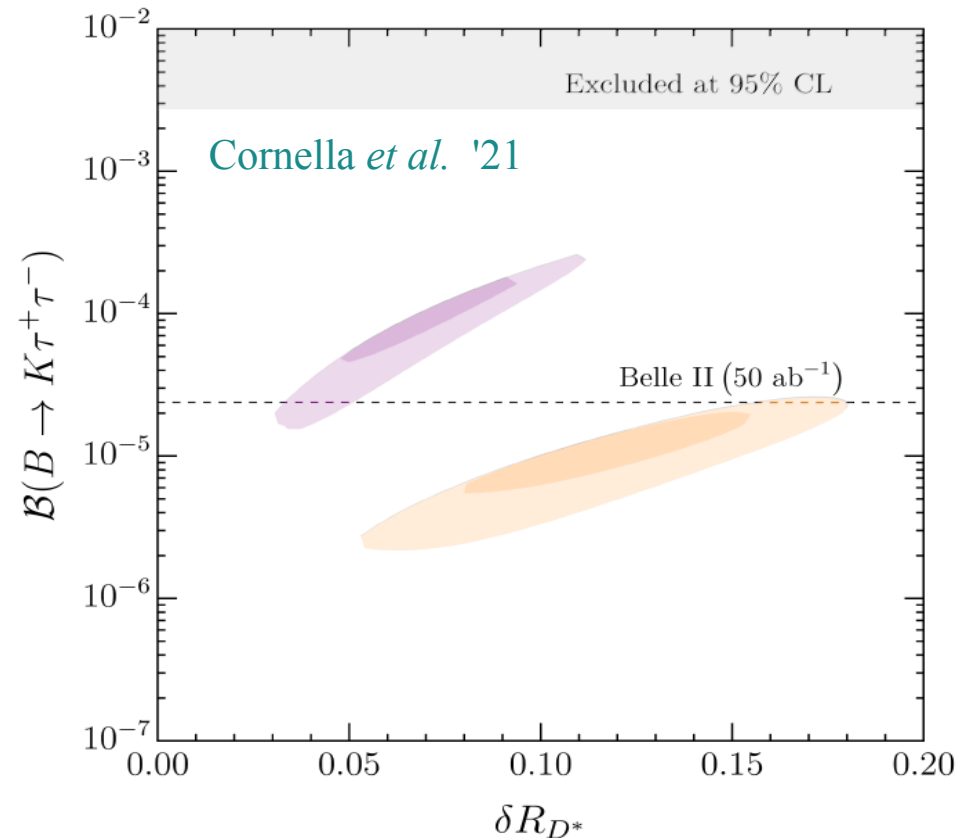
II General predictions of U_1 exchange @ low-energies

[UV insensitive observables, closely connected to the EFT analysis]

$\tau \rightarrow \mu$ LFV
(in B and tau decays)



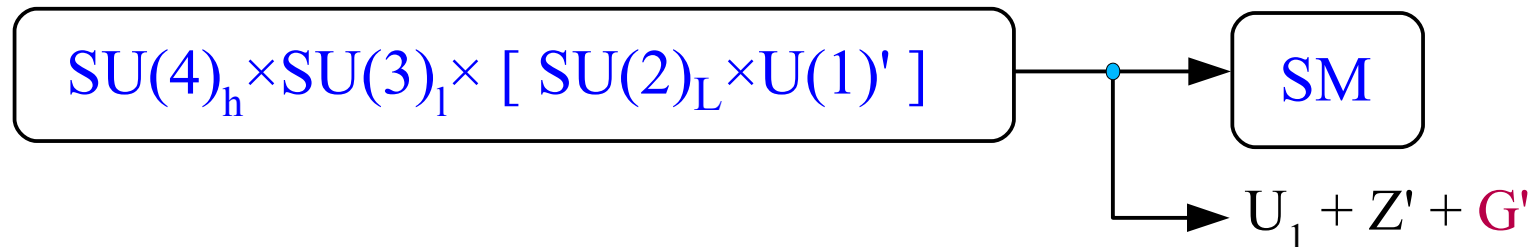
largely enhanced $b \rightarrow s\tau\tau$ rates
(in all channels)



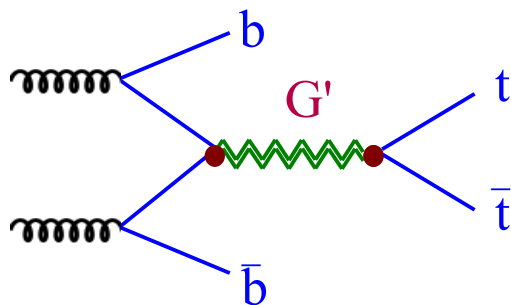
► Implications @ low- & high energies

III General predictions of 4321 models @ high-energies

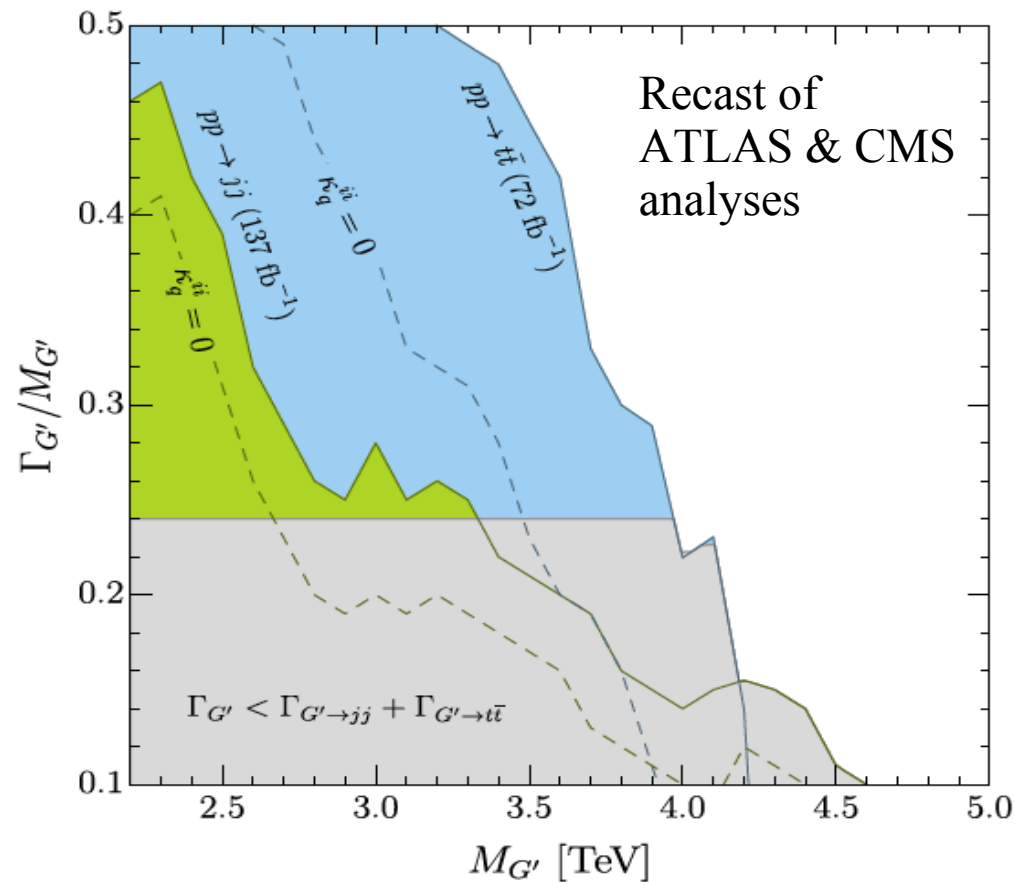
[More model dependent, not directly connected to the EFT analysis]



New striking collider signature:
 G' (“coloron”) = heavy color octet,
 coupled mainly to 3rd generation
 quarks

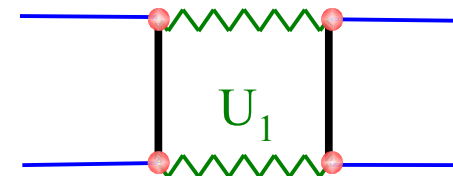


→ strongest constraint on the scale
 of the model from $pp \rightarrow t \bar{t}$

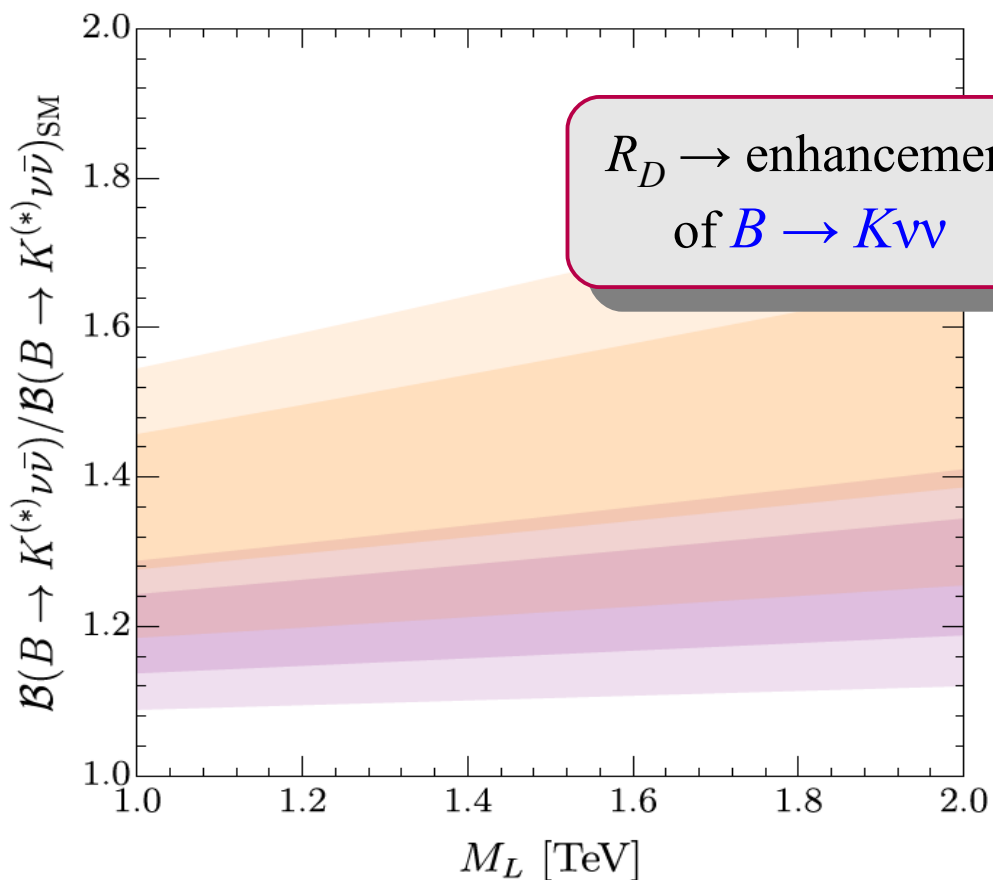


► Implications @ low- & high energies

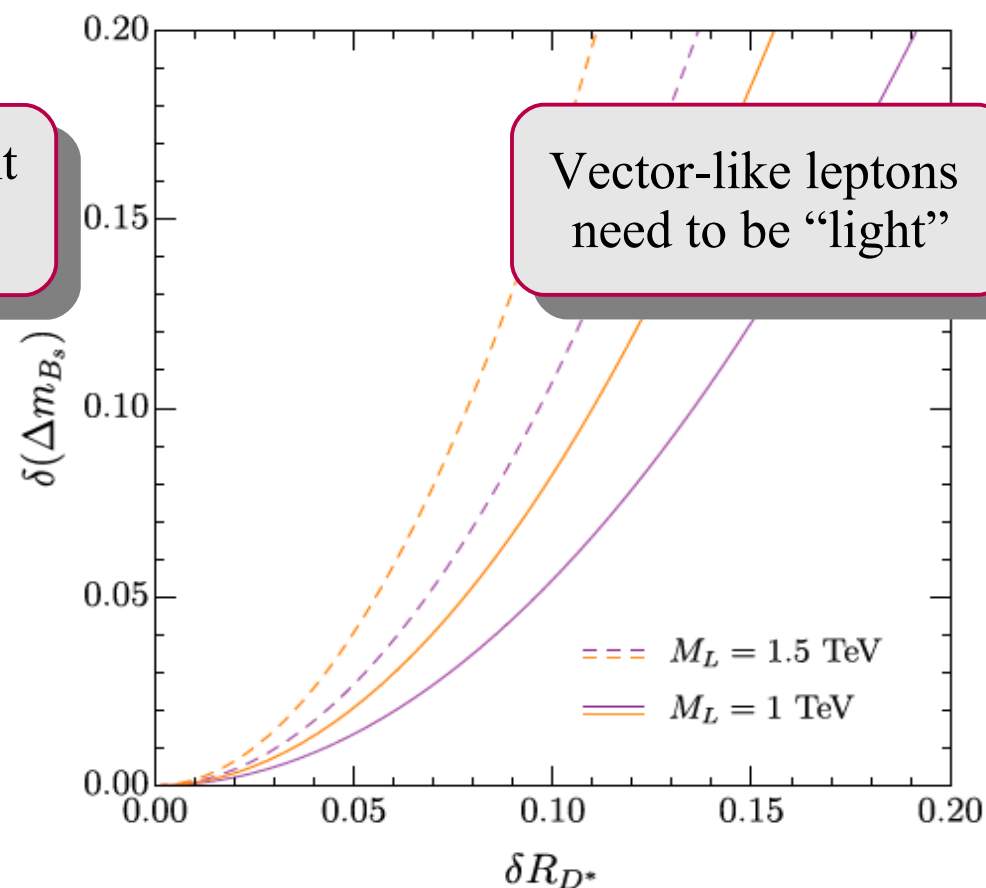
IV Specific predictions of 4321 @ low-energies [UV sensitive low-energy observables]



A) $B \rightarrow K\nu\nu$

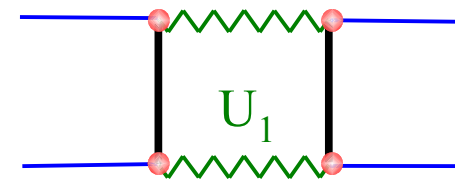


B) B_s mixing [$\Delta F=2$]

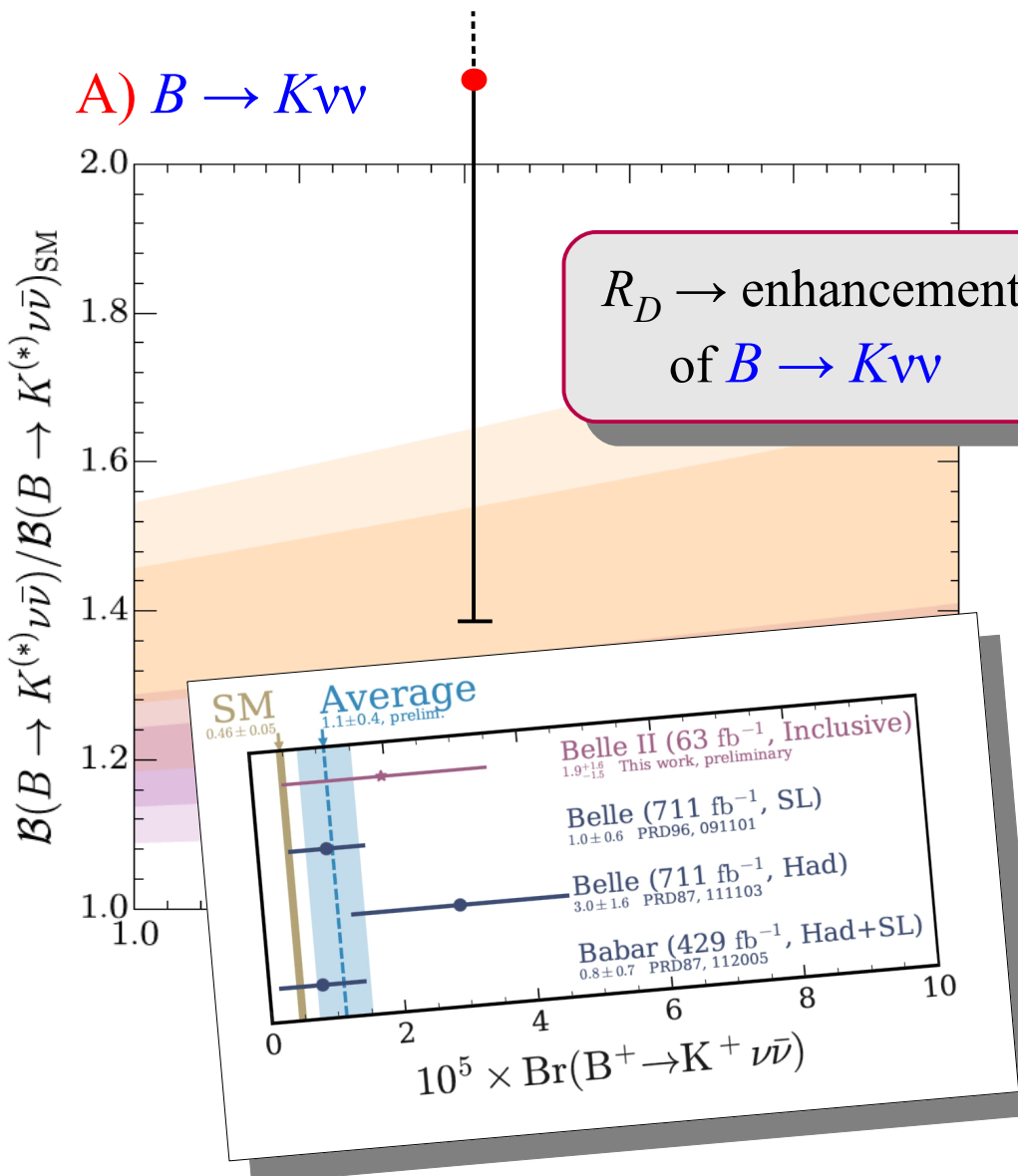


► Implications @ low- & high energies

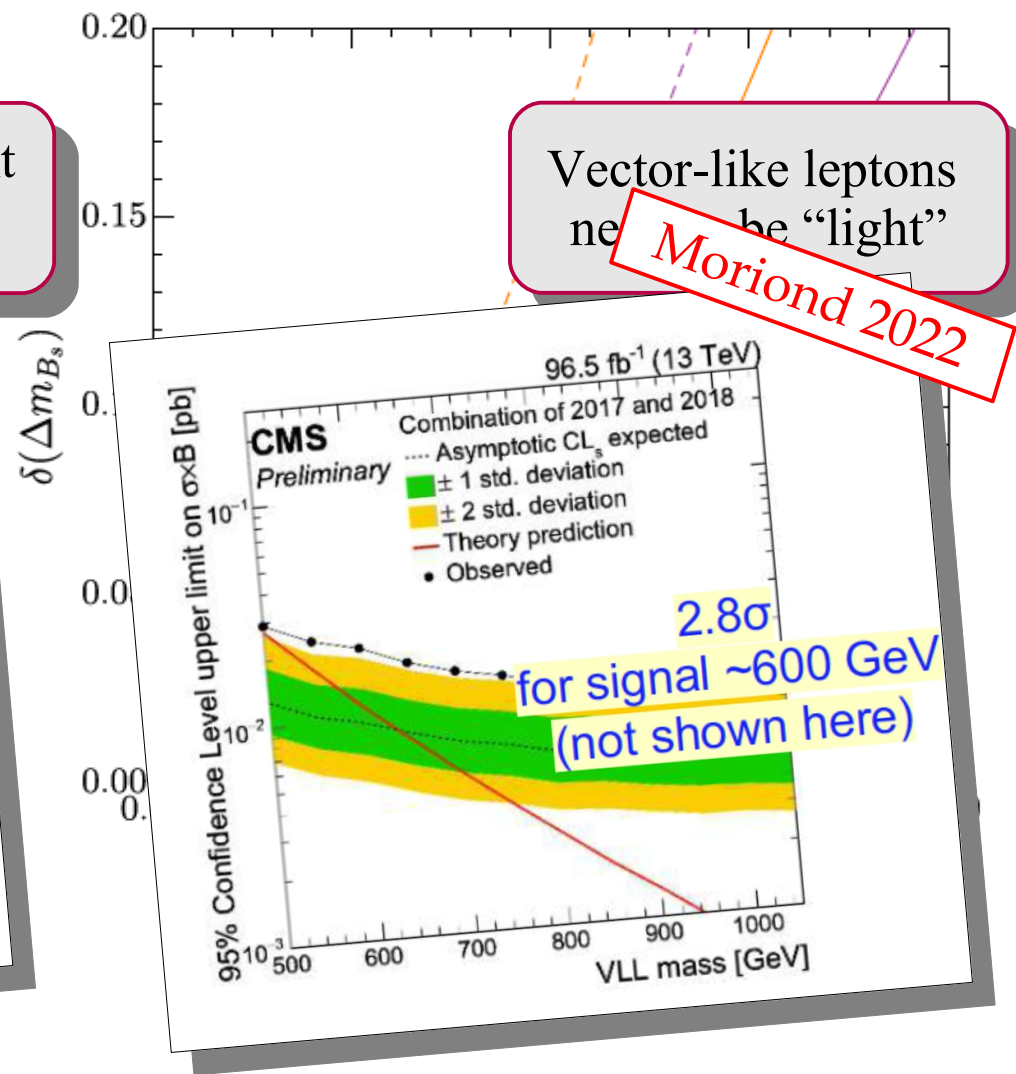
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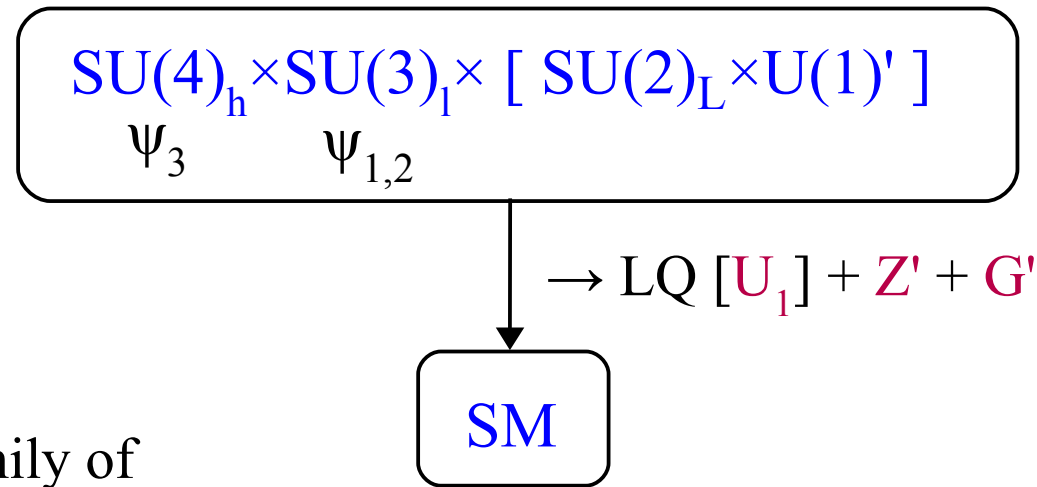
Conclusions

- The nice *picture* that emerged in 2015 of connecting the two sets of anomalies with the origin of the SM flavor hierarchies, and quark-lepton unification is still valid, and has become possibly more appealing...
- A new (theoretical) ingredient that emerged in the last few years is the possibility of connecting this picture also to a solution of the EW hierarchy problem: **non-trivial flavor dynamics around the TeV scale, involving mainly the 3rd family** + **multi-scale picture at the origin of flavor hierarchies**
- No contradiction with existing **low- & high-energy** data, but new non-standard effects should emerge soon in both these areas (→ very interesting opportunities for the HL phase of the LHC).
- Important to intensify near-term experimental efforts to clarify the origin of this phenomenon (both at low & high energies) in view of future planning



► The role of vector-like fermions

Even in ambitious UV completions, collider and low-energy pheno are controlled by the 4321 gauge group that rules TeV-scale dynamics
 → new heavy mediators [**G'** & **Z'**]



A key role is played by at least one family of *vector-like fermions* (= fermions with both chiralities having same gauge quantum numbers) that mix with the 3 families of chiral fermions

$SU(4)_h \times SU(3)_1$

χ (VL fermions)

Ψ_{3L}

Ψ_{1L}

Ψ_{2L}

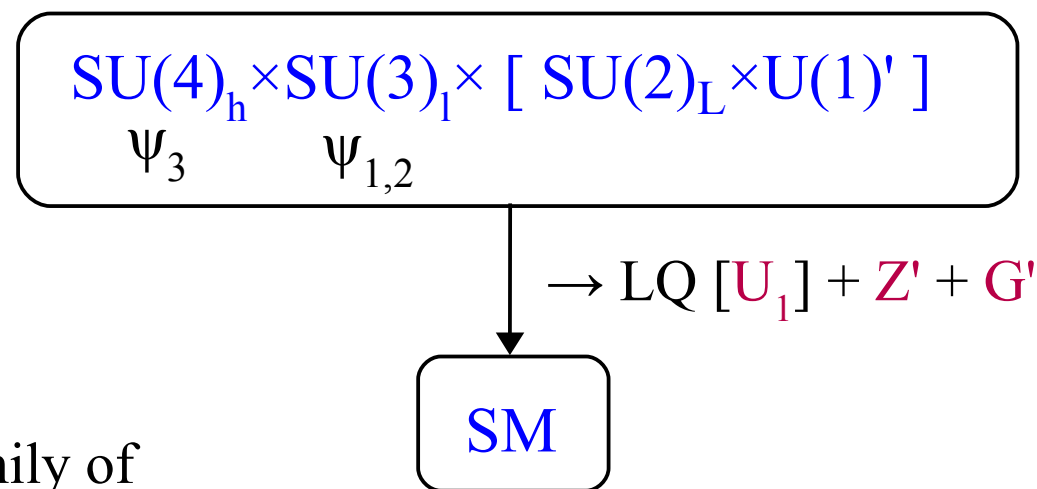
SM Yukawa coupling $\rightarrow Y \sim$ $\left(\begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \blacksquare \end{array} \right)$

LQ eff. coupling $\rightarrow \beta_L \sim$ $\left(\begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \blacksquare \end{array} \right)$

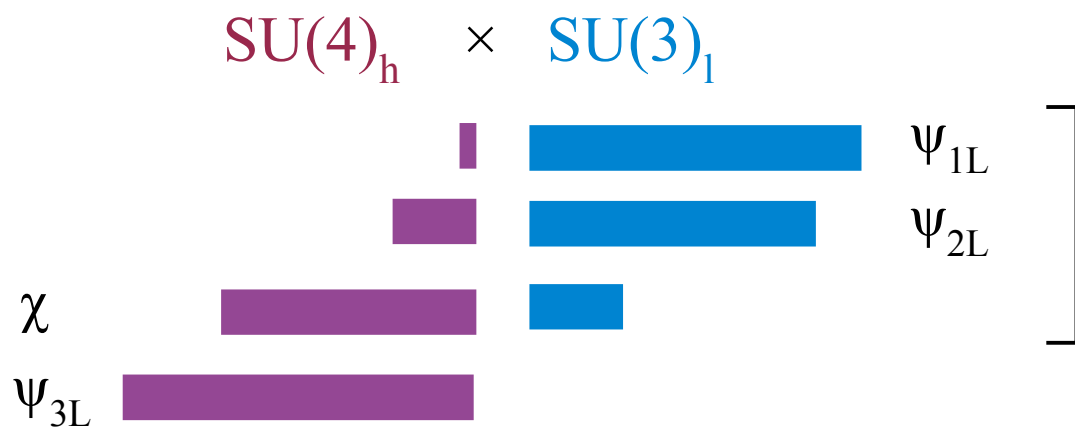
$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_U}{\sqrt{2}} U_1^\mu \left[\beta_{i\alpha}^L (\bar{q}_L^i \gamma_\mu \ell_L^\alpha) - \beta_{i\alpha}^R (\bar{d}_R^i \gamma_\mu e_R^\alpha) \right] + h.c.$$

► The role of vector-like fermions

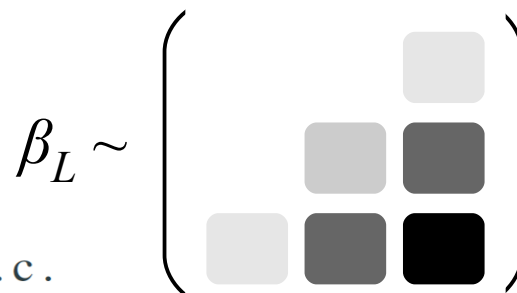
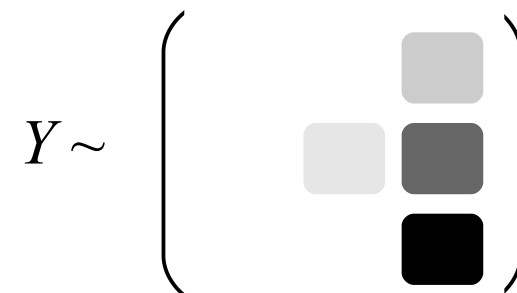
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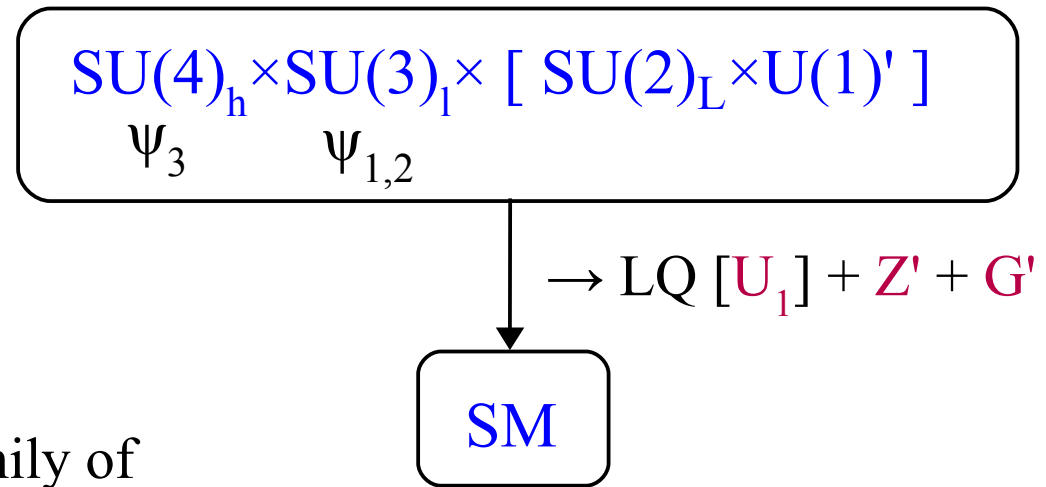
Mass-mixing after 4321 breaking



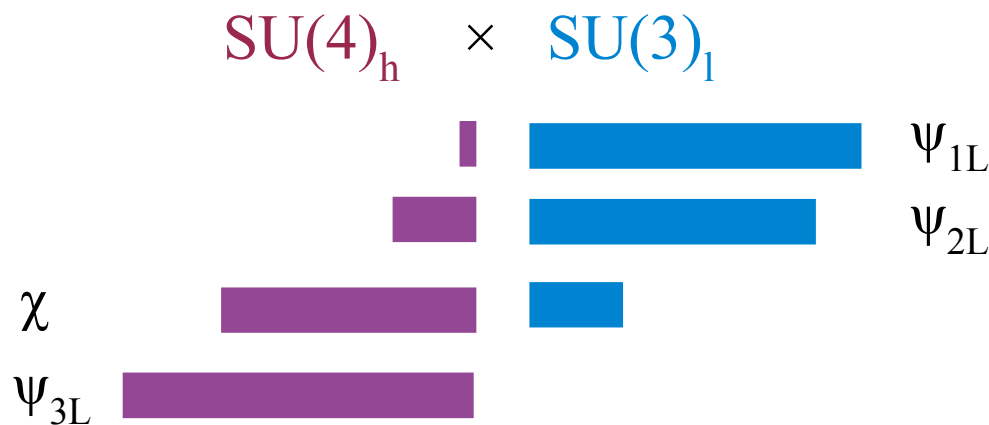
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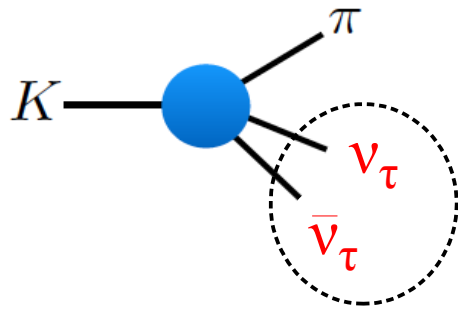
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- Positive features the EFT reproduced
 - Calculability of $\Delta F=2$ processes
 - Precise predictions for **high-pT data**
- } *consistent with present data*

► Implications @ low- & high energies

V Last but not least: **Kaon Physics**



direct access to 3rd gen. leptons
as in R(D) & R(D*)

$$\Gamma(K \rightarrow \pi \nu \nu) = \Gamma(K \rightarrow \pi \nu_e \bar{\nu}_e) + \Gamma(K \rightarrow \pi \nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_\mu) + \Gamma(K \rightarrow \pi \nu_\tau \bar{\nu}_\tau)$$

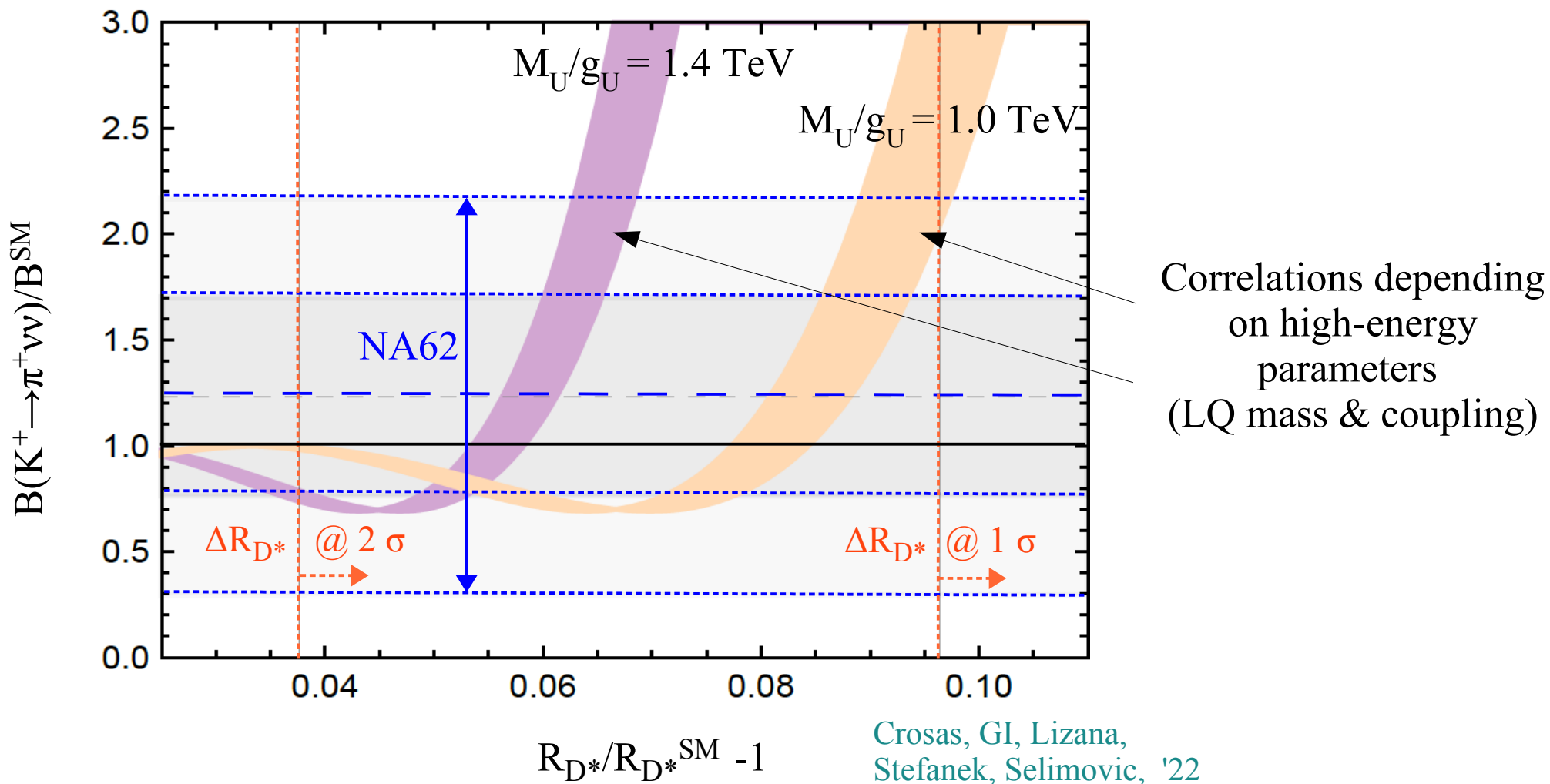
SM like

few %
deviation
as in $b \rightarrow s \mu \mu$

O(1) deviation
from SM expected in models
addressing B anomalies

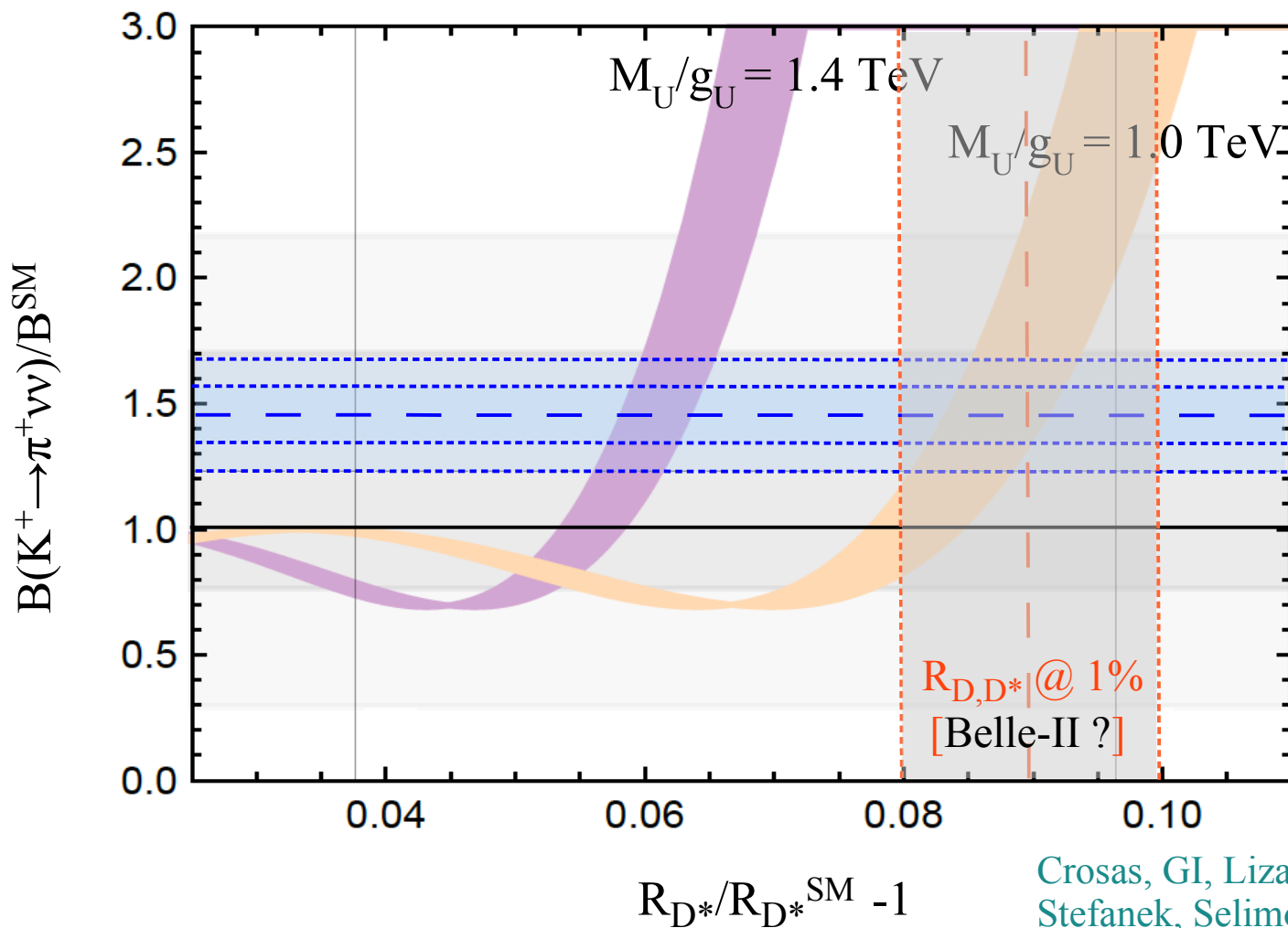
► Implications @ low- & high energies

▼ Last but not least: **Kaon Physics...** in 4321



► Implications @ low- & high energies

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Possible impact of future measurements:

$B(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}) / B^{\text{SM}} @ 8\%$
[CERN ?]

$R_{D, D^*} @ 1\%$
[Belle-II ?]

Crosas, GI, Lizana,
Stefanek, Selimovic, '22