

Four-quark states with functional methods

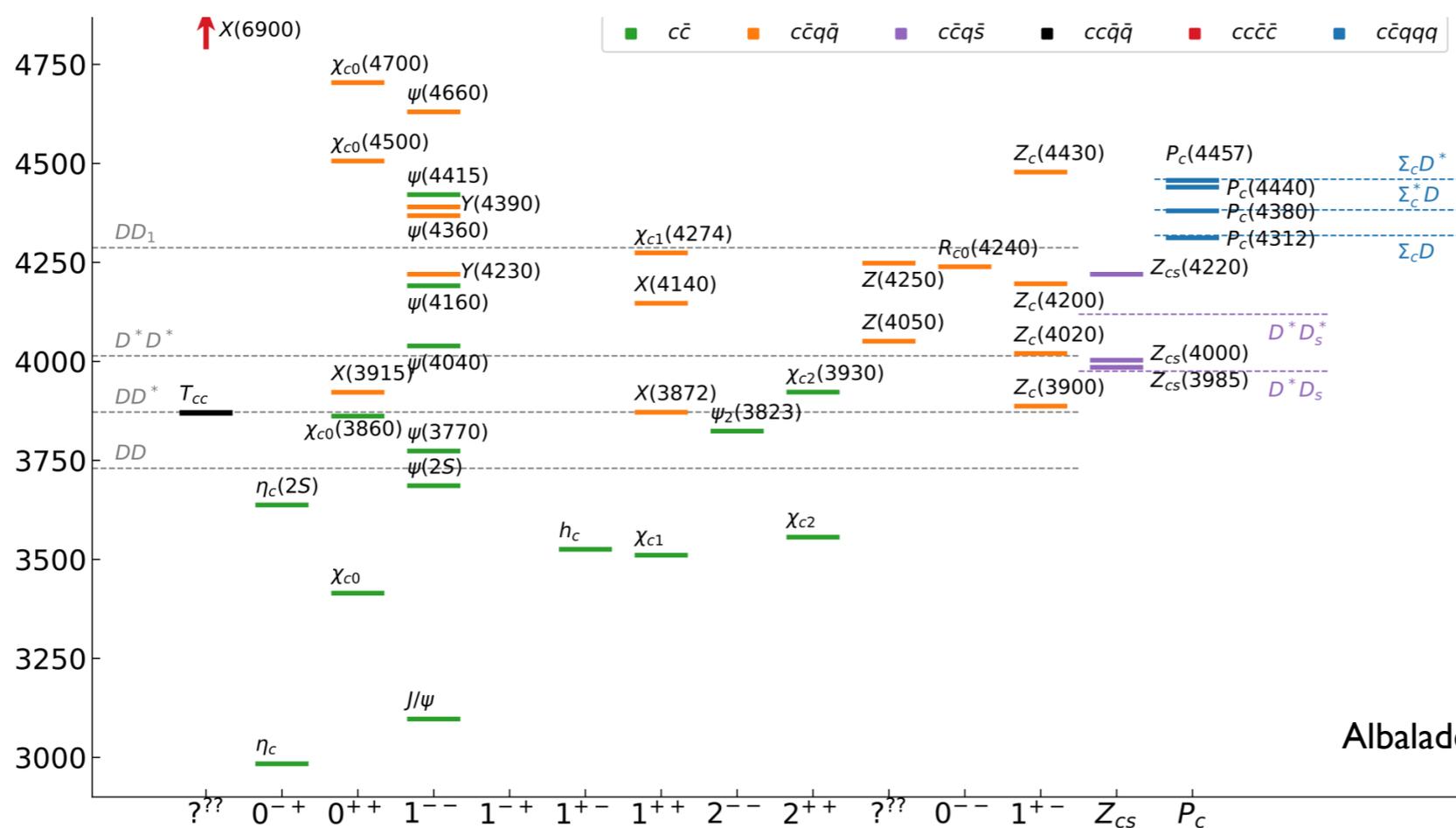
with Gernot Eichmann and Joshua Hoffer

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

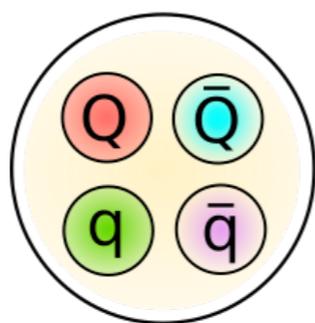
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

Exotic hadrons at Belle, BABAR, BES, LHCb,...

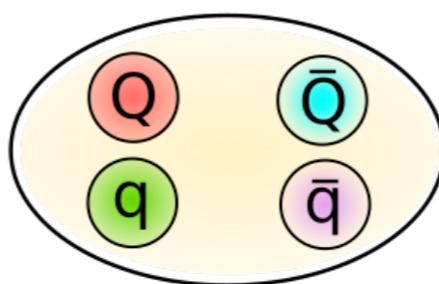


Albaladejo et al. [JPAC], PPNP 127 (2022), 103981

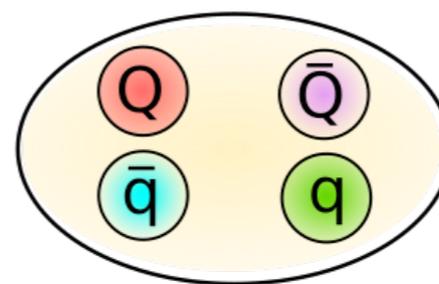
Four-quark states:



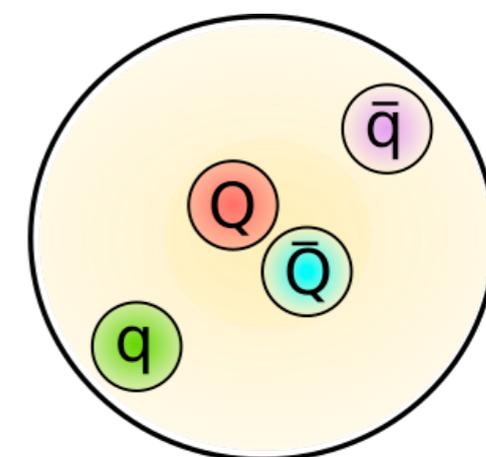
four-body cluster



diquark anti-diquark

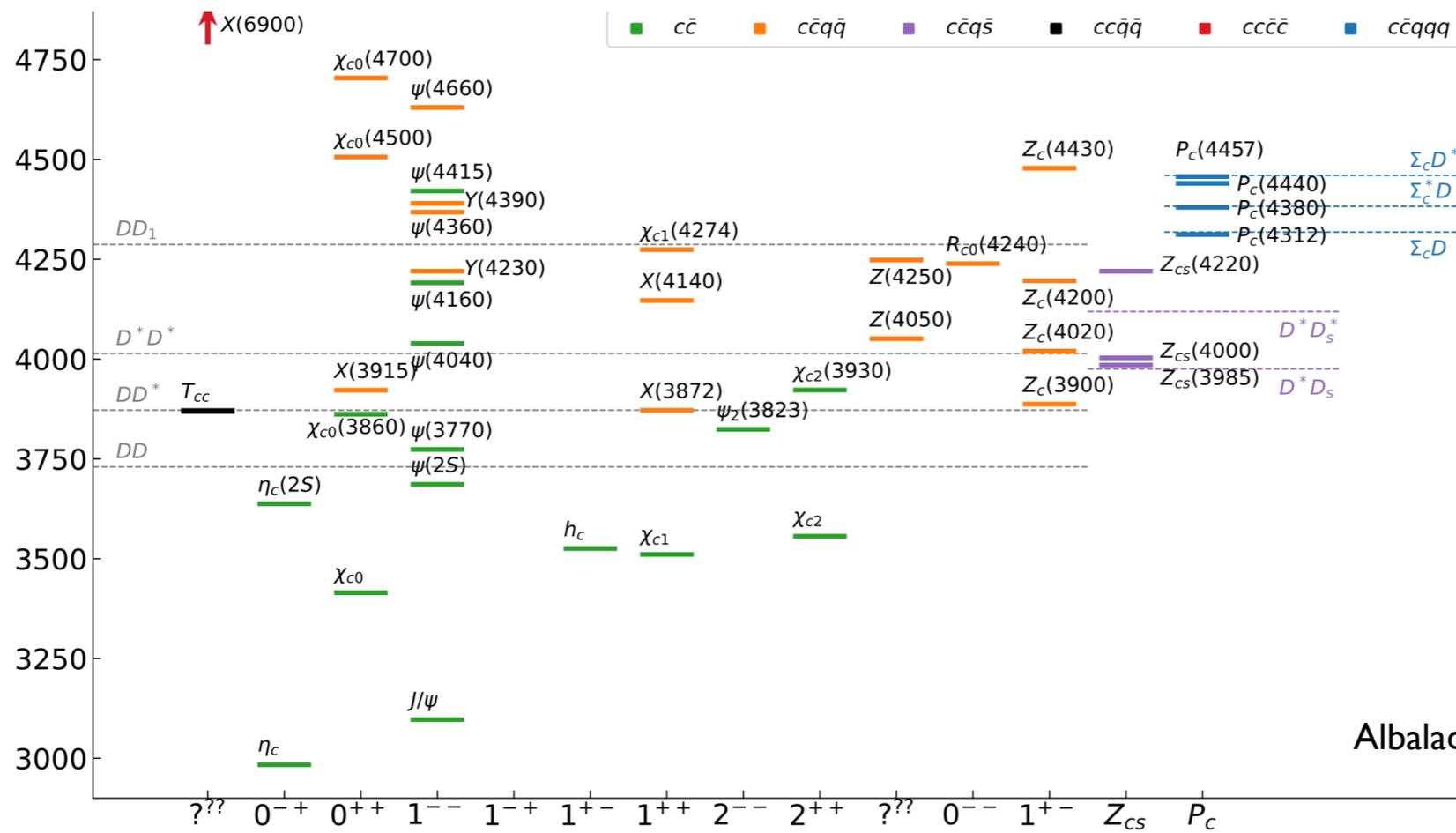


heavy-light mesons



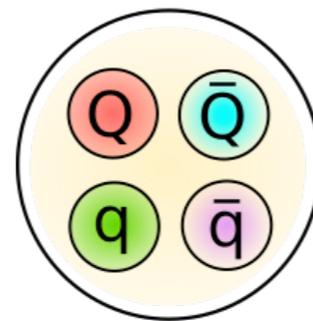
hadro charmonium

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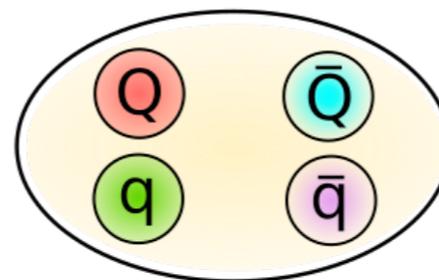


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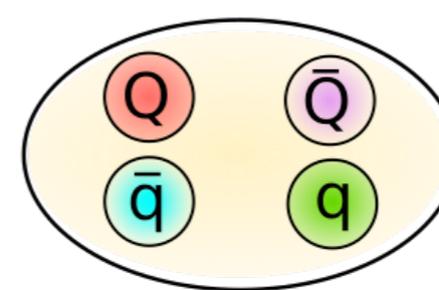
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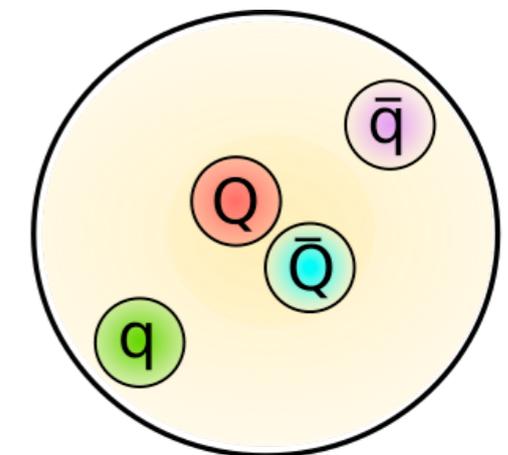
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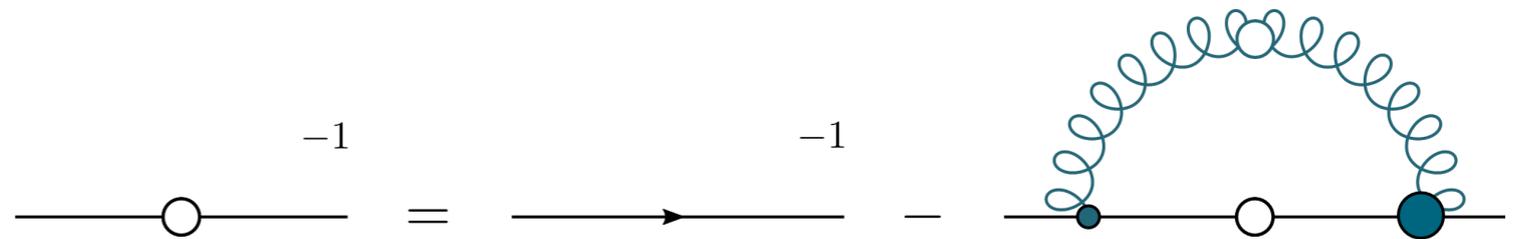
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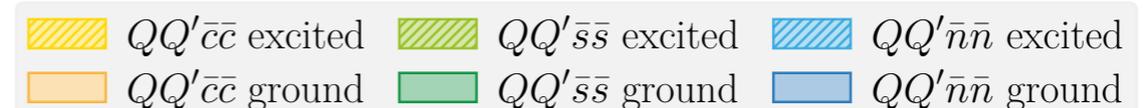
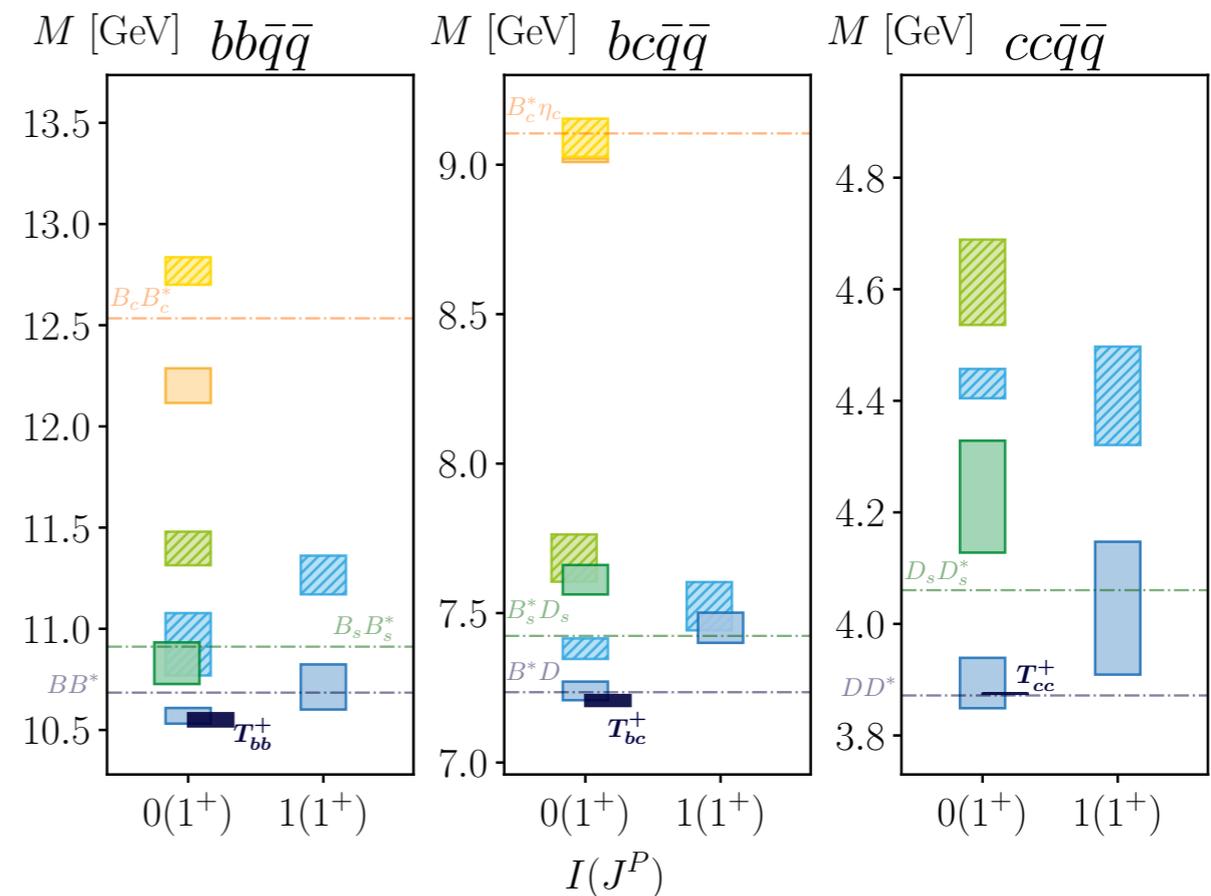
hadro charmonium

Related to details of underlying QCD forces

I. The formalism: glueballs, quarks and two-quark states



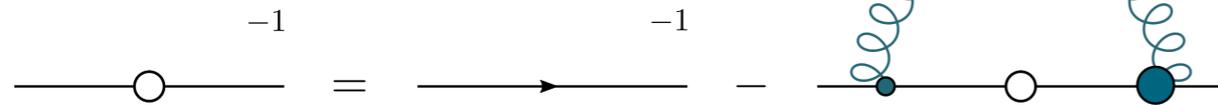
2. Four-quark states: hidden and open flavour



Dyson-Schwinger equations - “3PI vs RL”

Non-perturbative treatment of strong interaction via Euclidean correlation functions

propagators

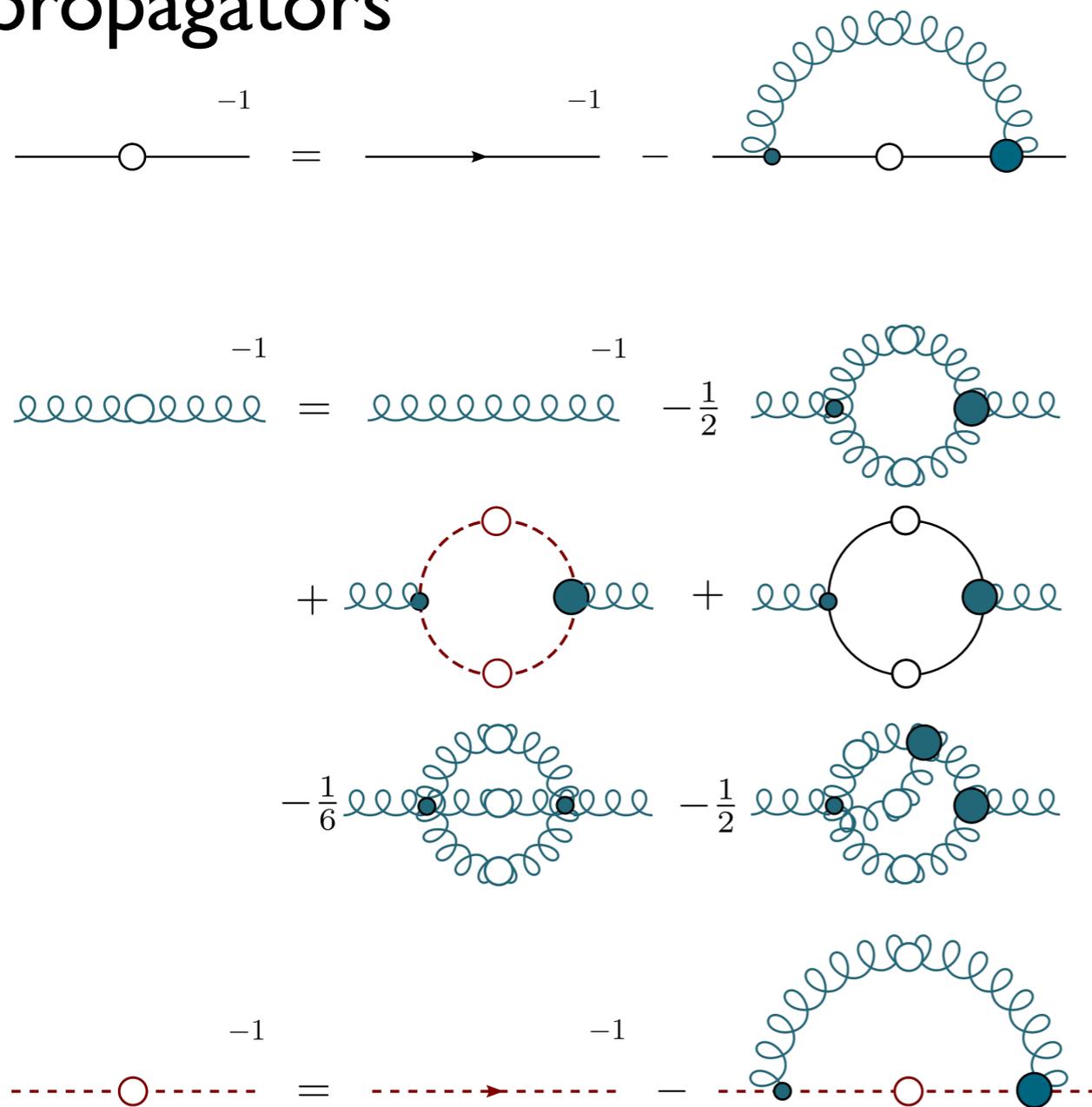


CF,Alkofer, PRD67 (2003) 094020
Williams, CF, Heupel, PRD93 (2016) 034026
Huber, PRD 101 (2020) 114009

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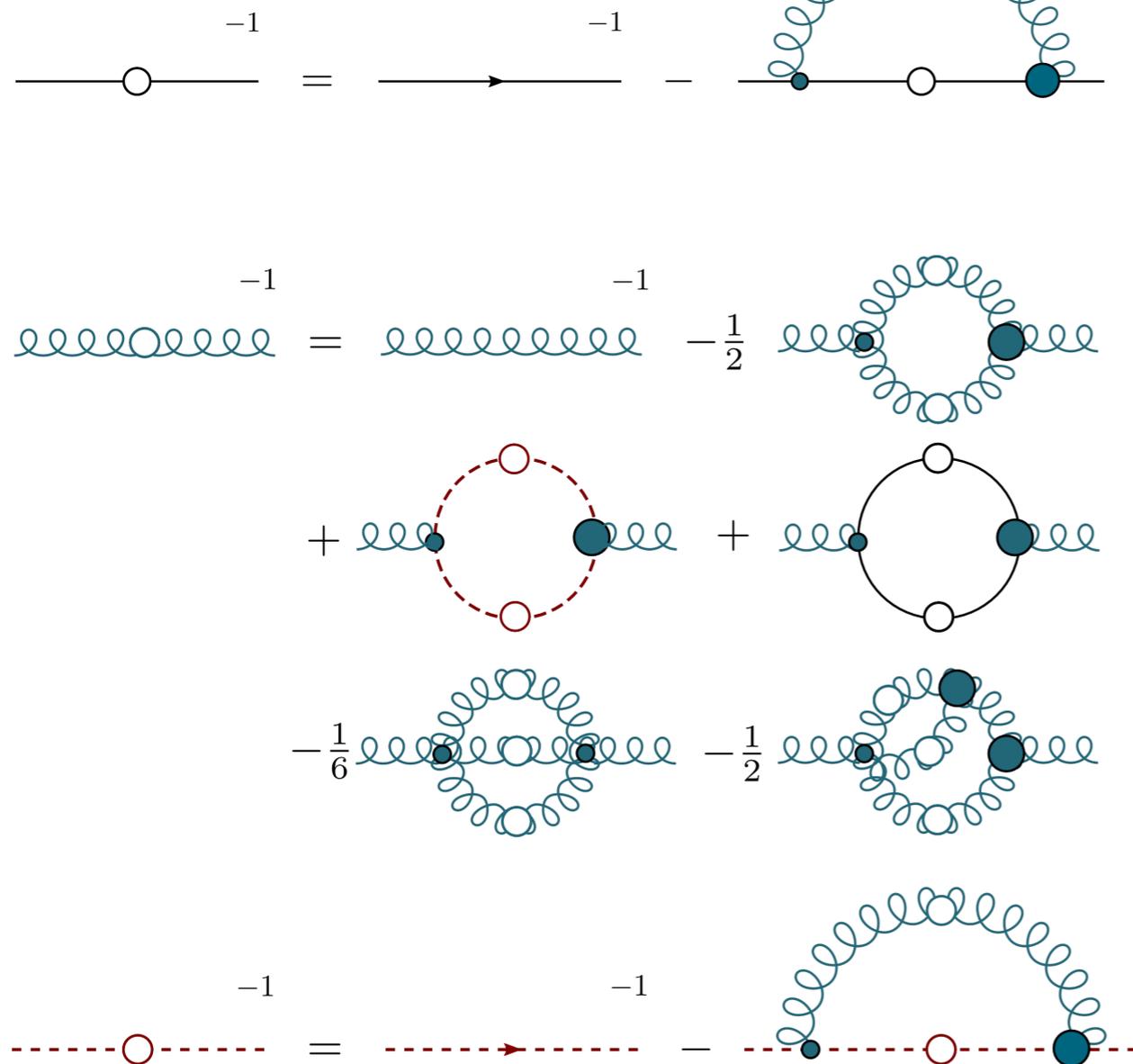


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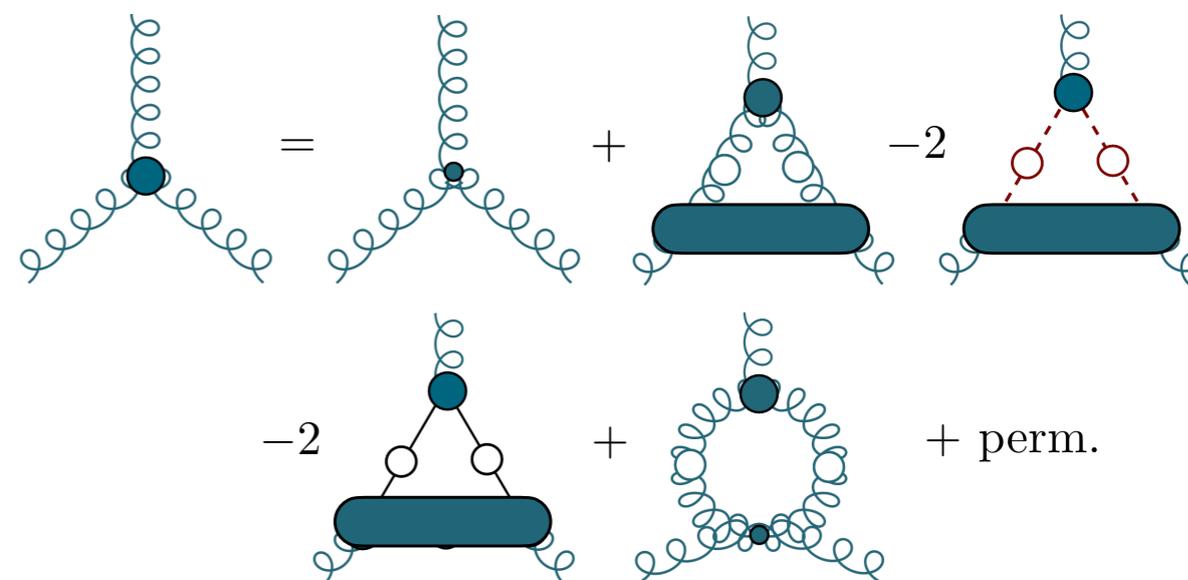
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vertices

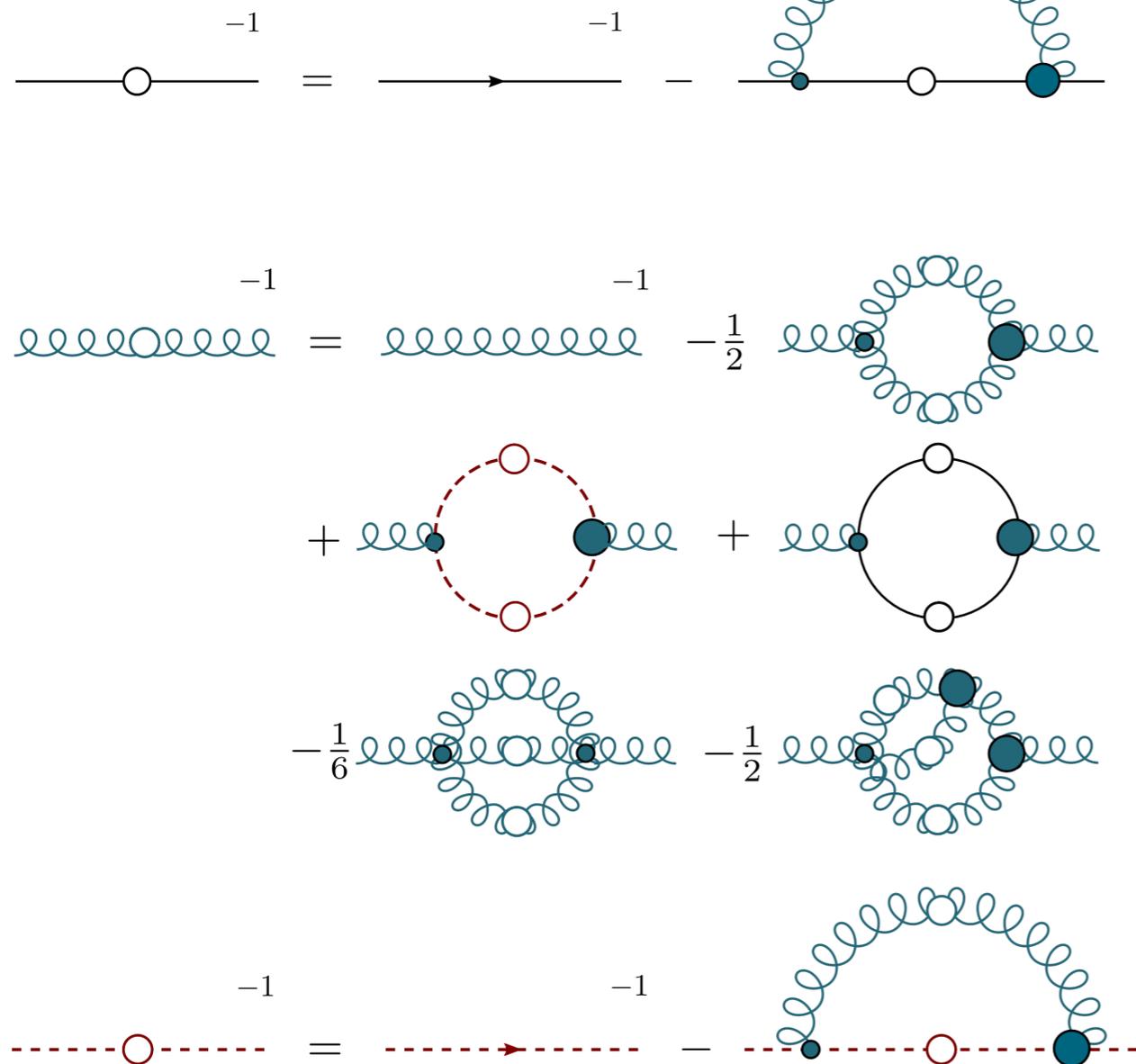


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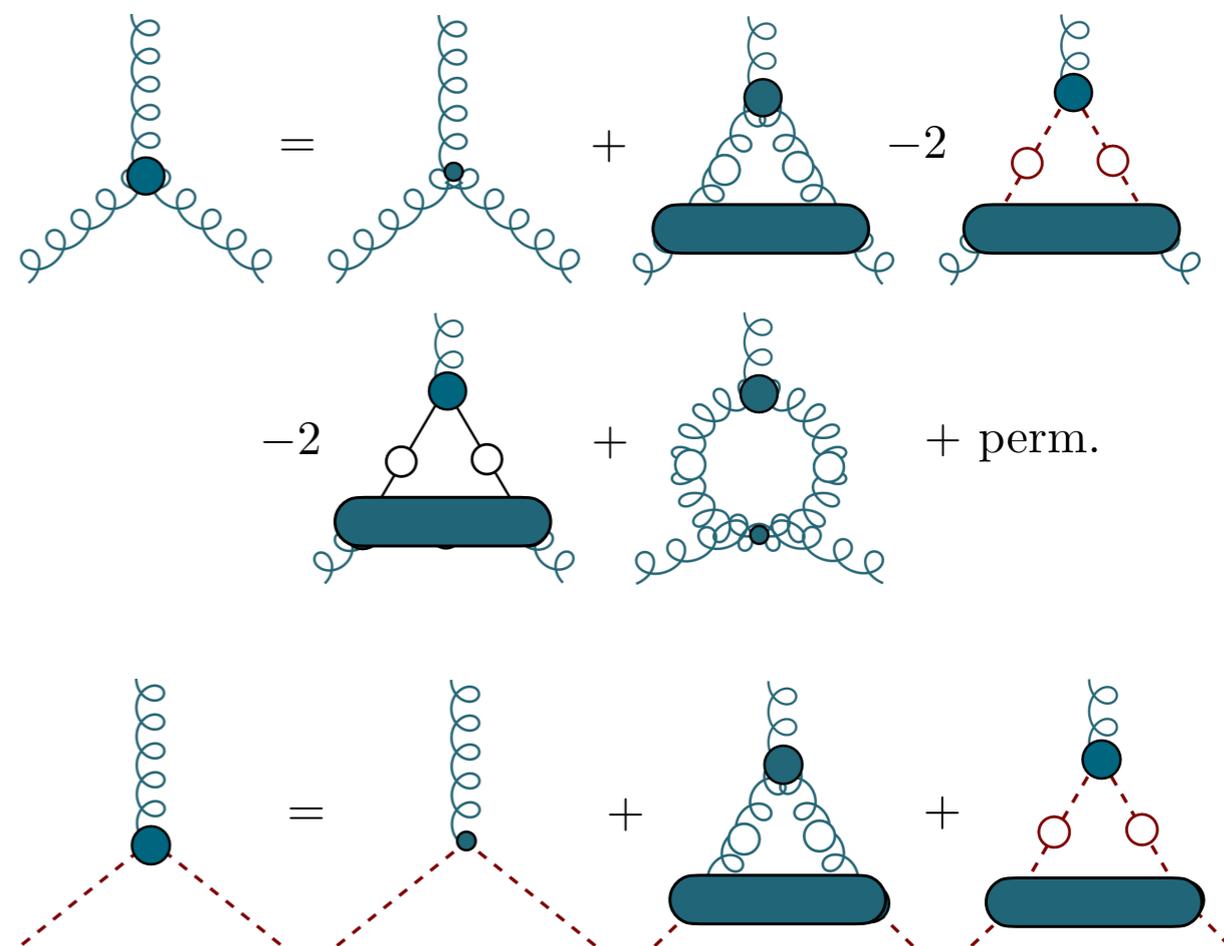
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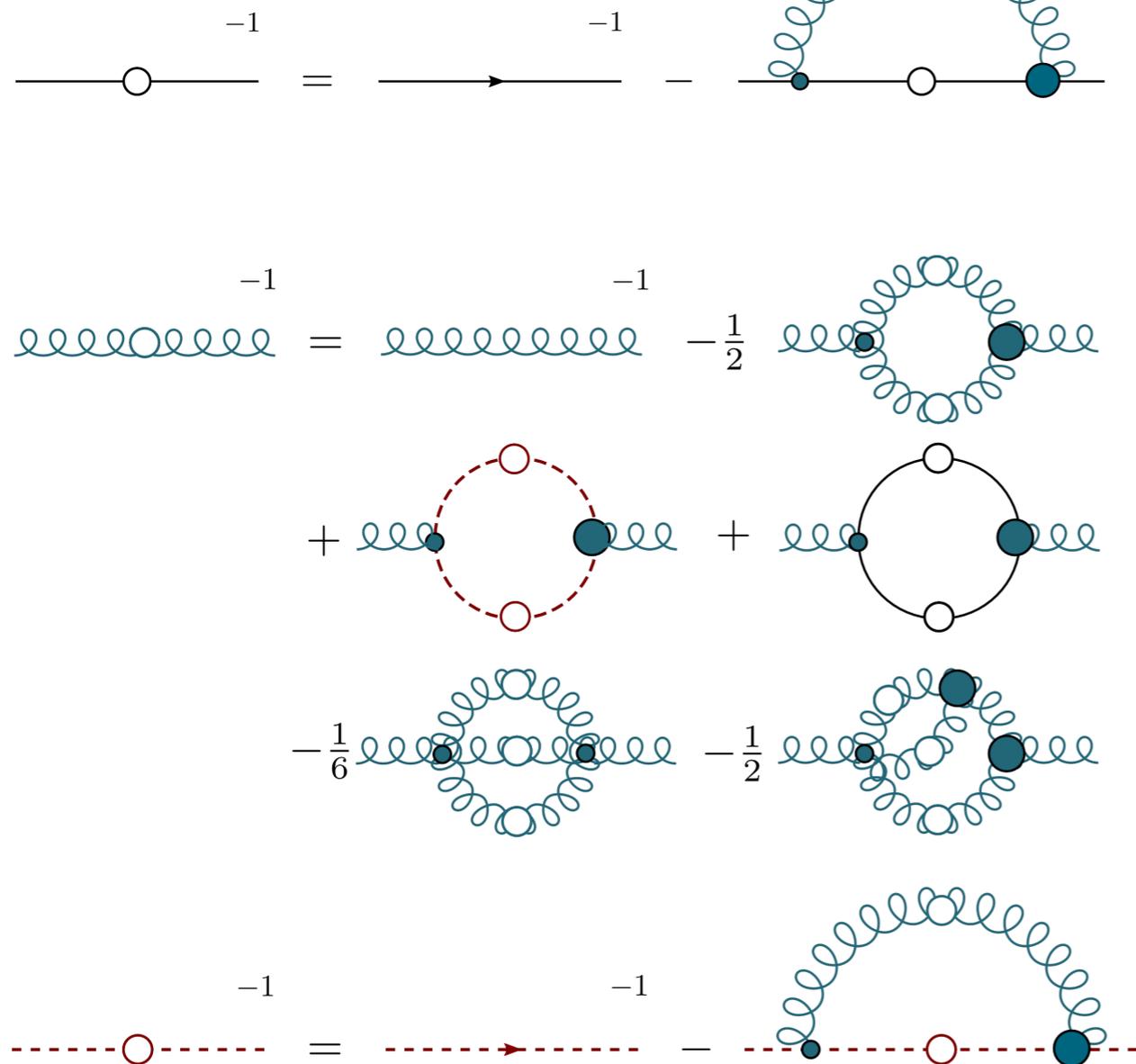


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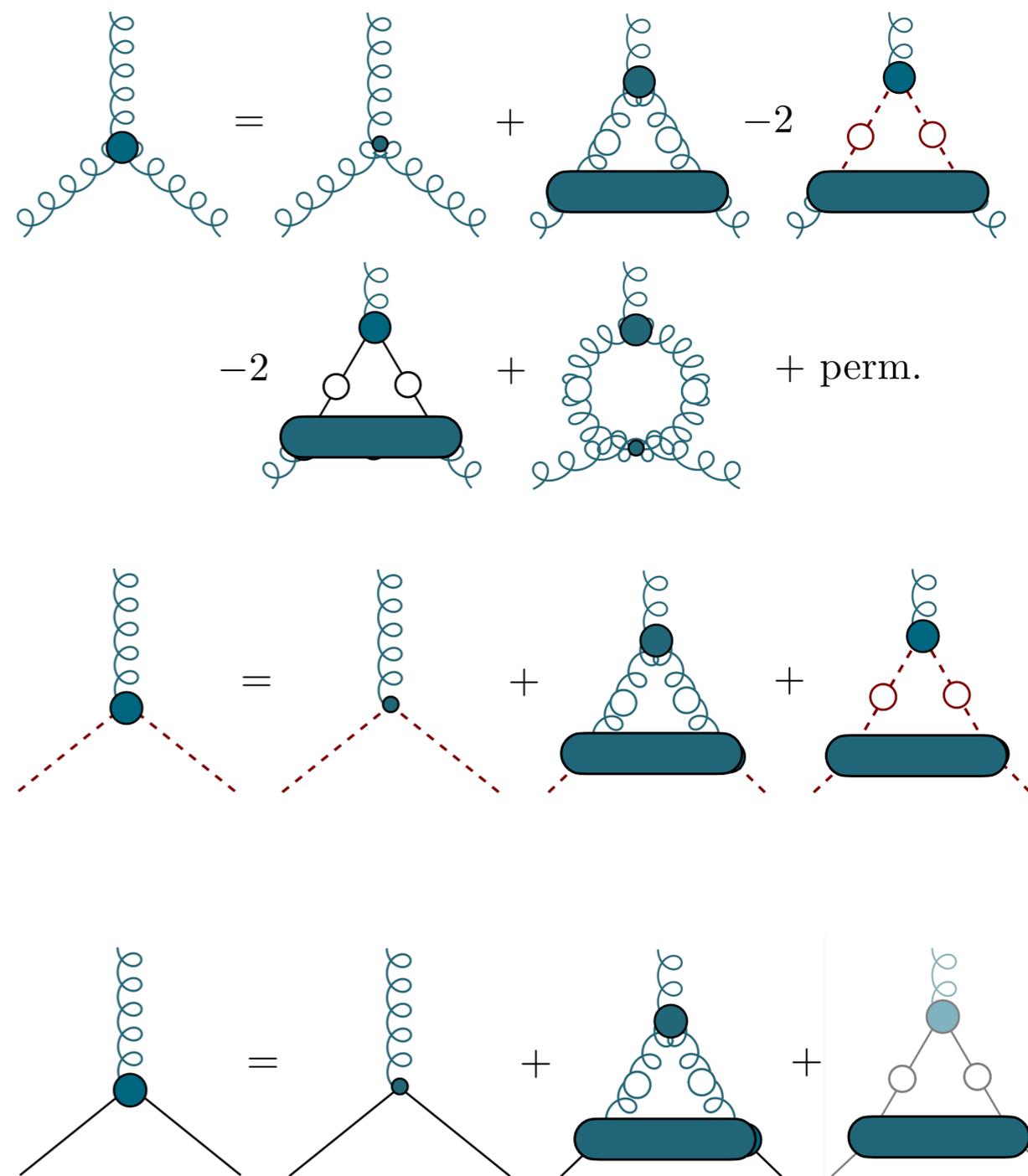
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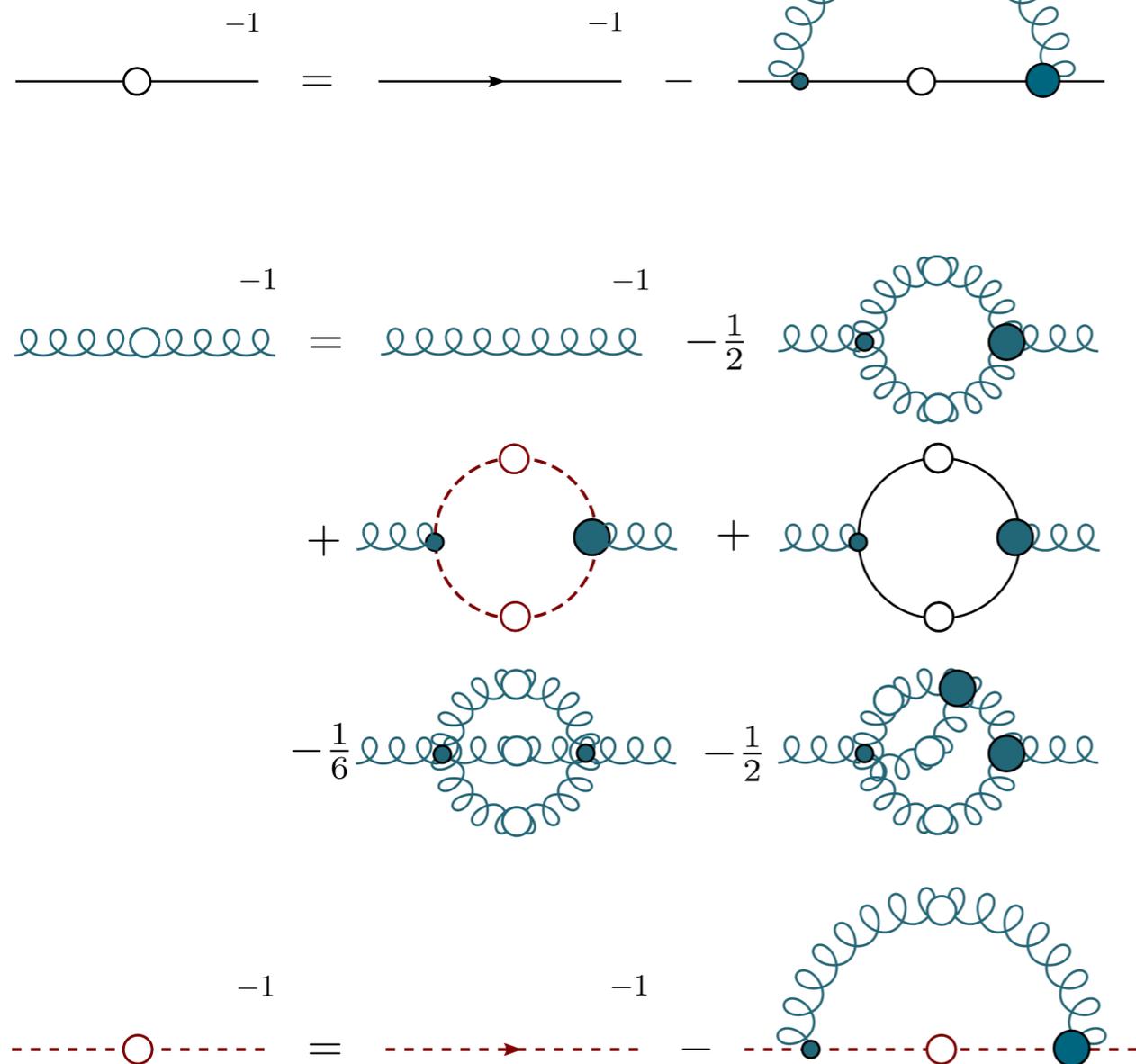


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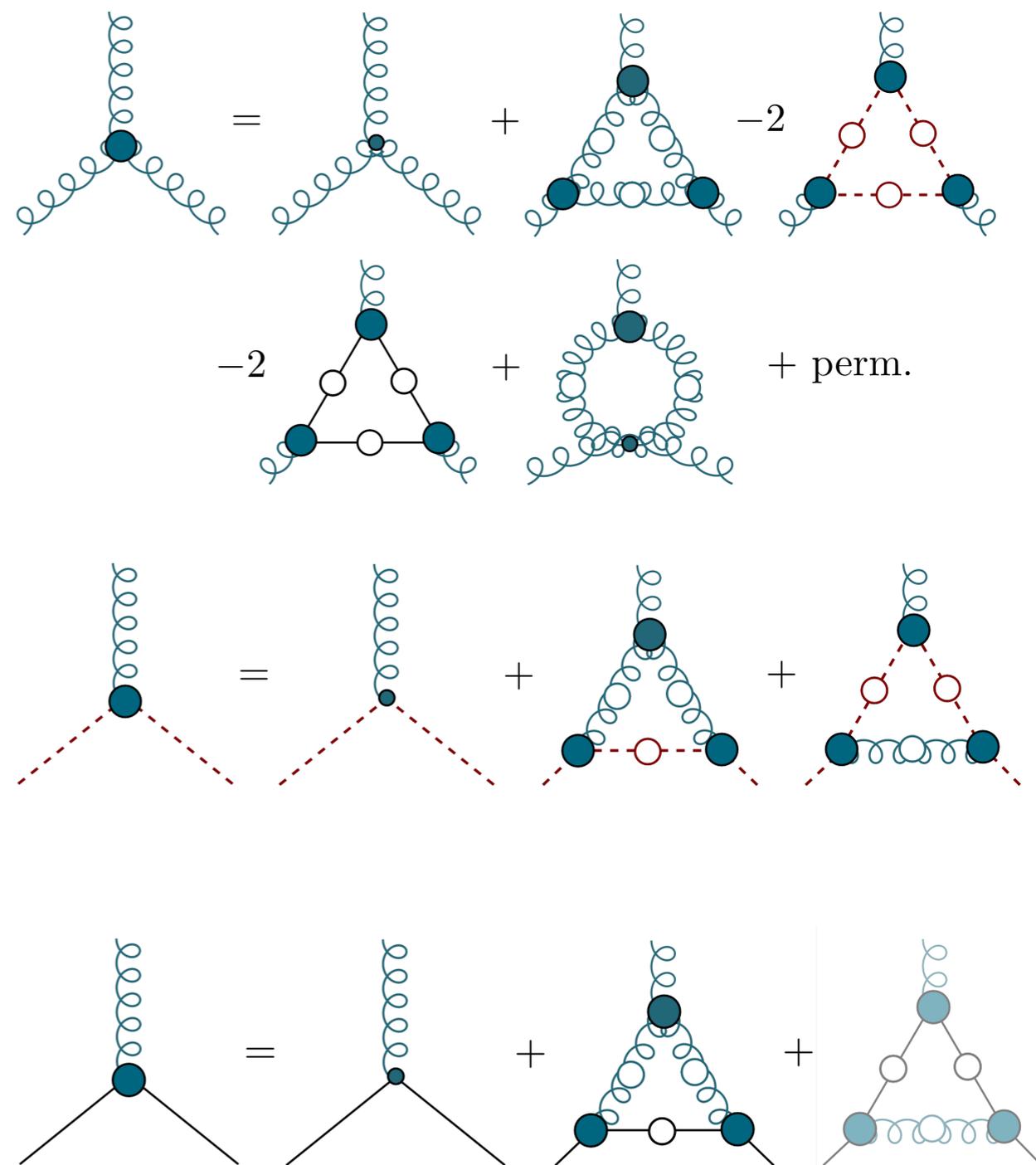
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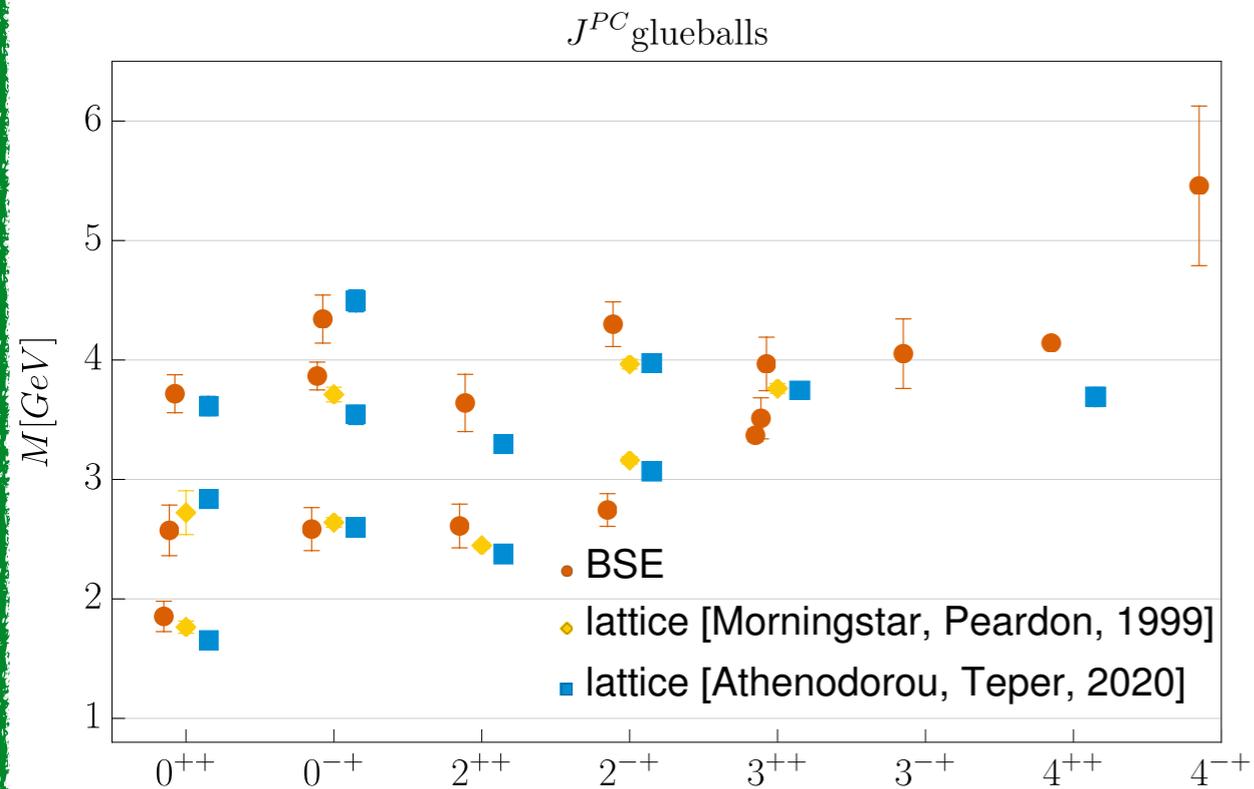


CF, Alkofer, PRD67 (2003) 094020
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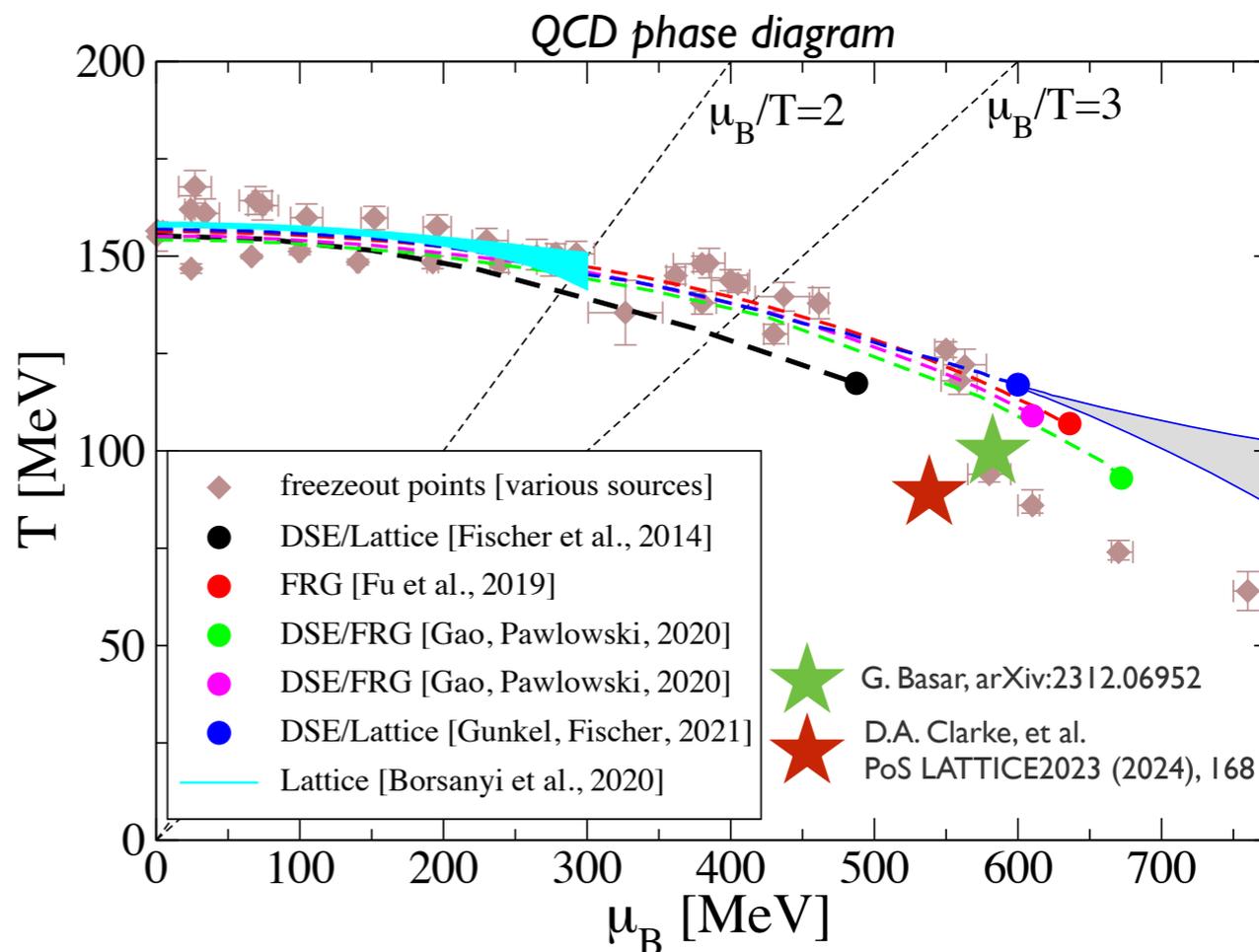
Non-perturbative treatment of strong interaction via Euclidean correlation functions

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CF, Huber, Sanchis-Alepuz, EPJC 80 (2020) [arXiv:2004.00415]
 Huber, CF, Sanchis-Alepuz, EPJC 81 (2021) [arXiv:2110.09180]

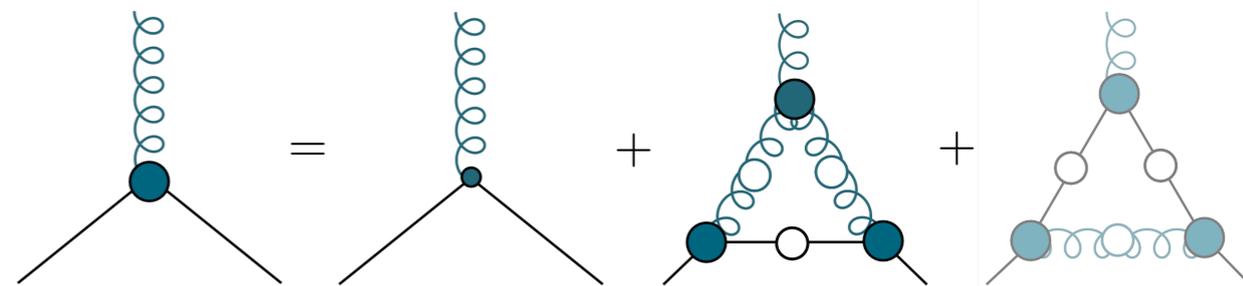
vertices



Bernhardt, CF and Isserstedt, PLB 841 (2023)



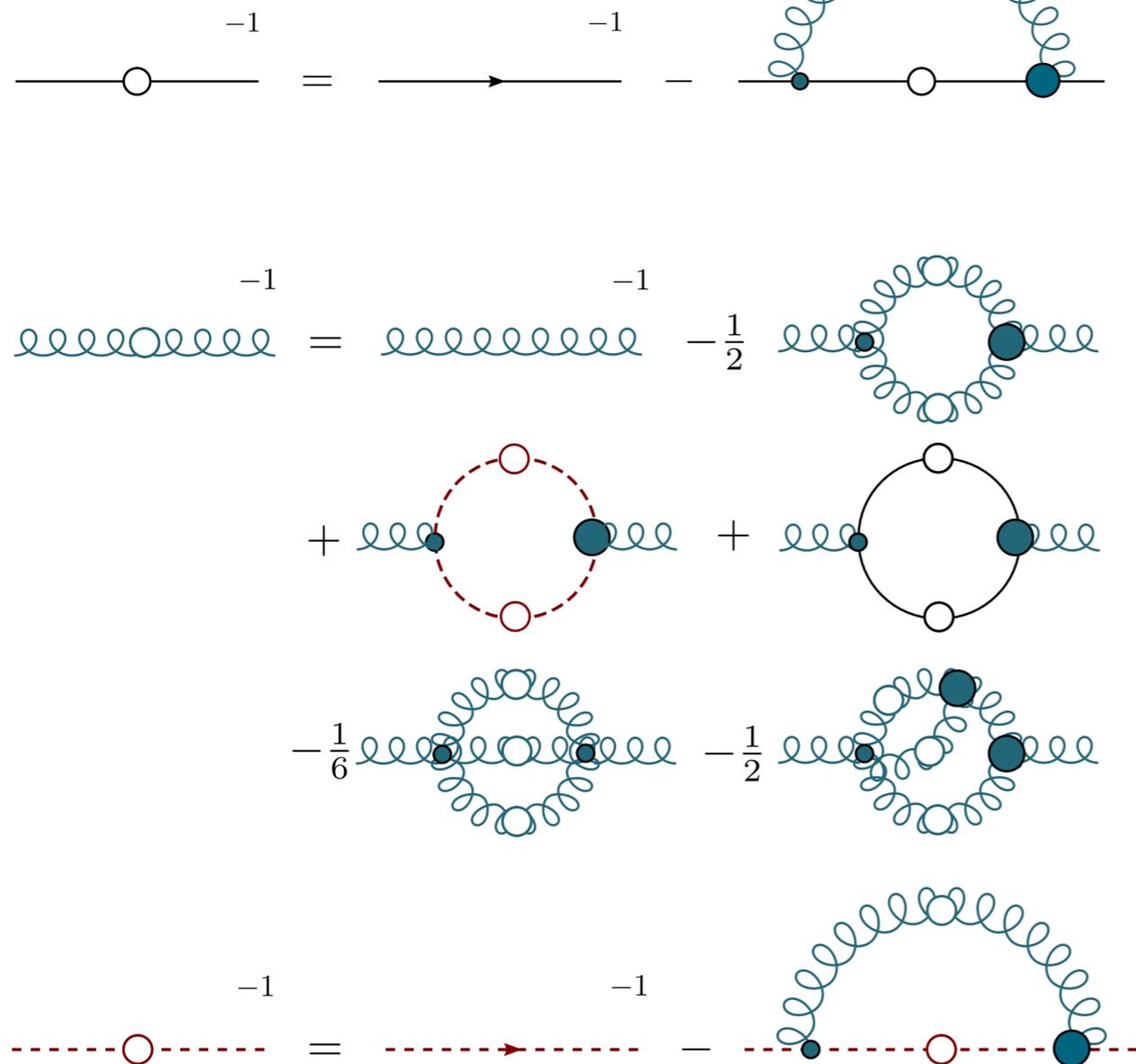
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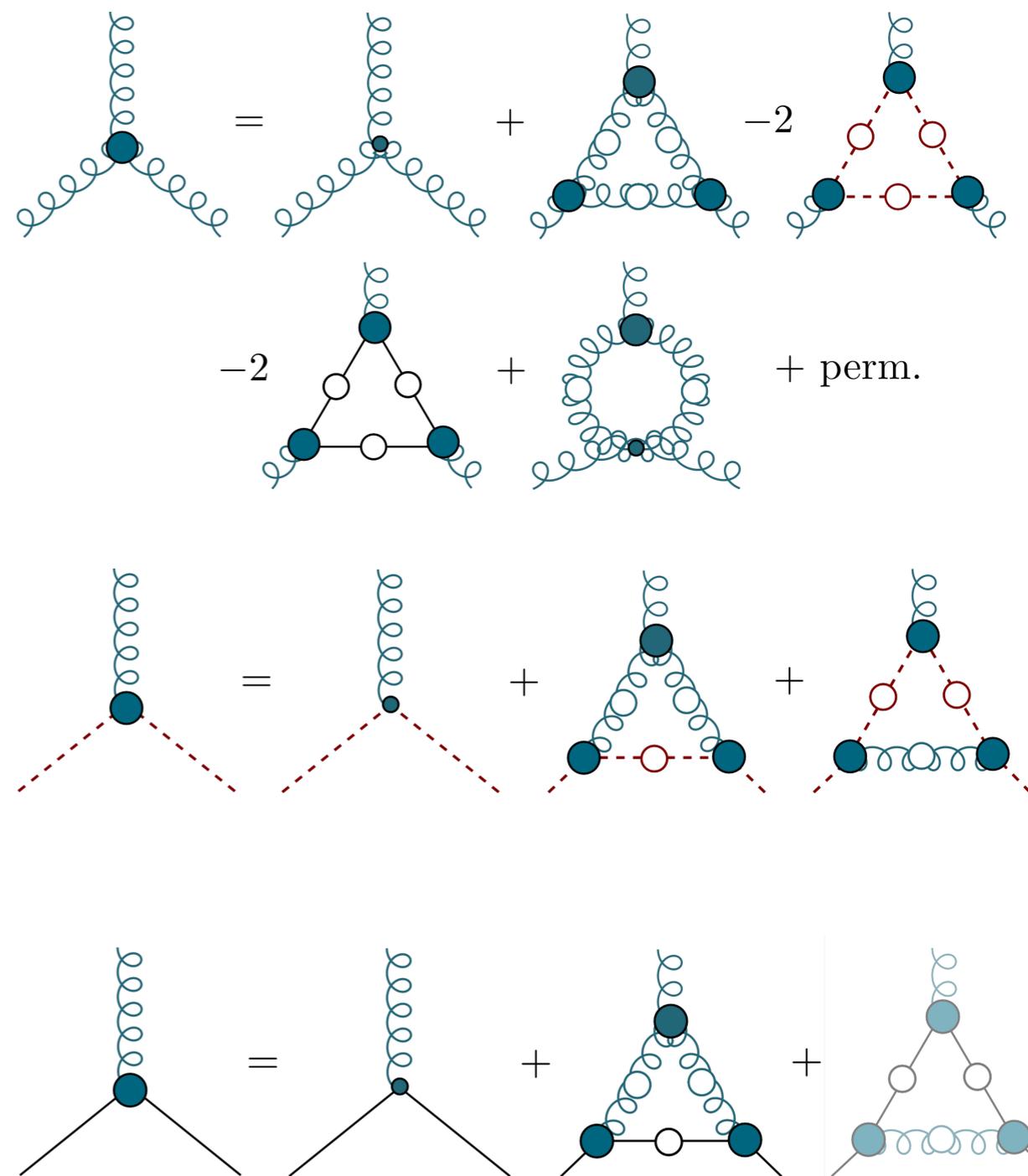
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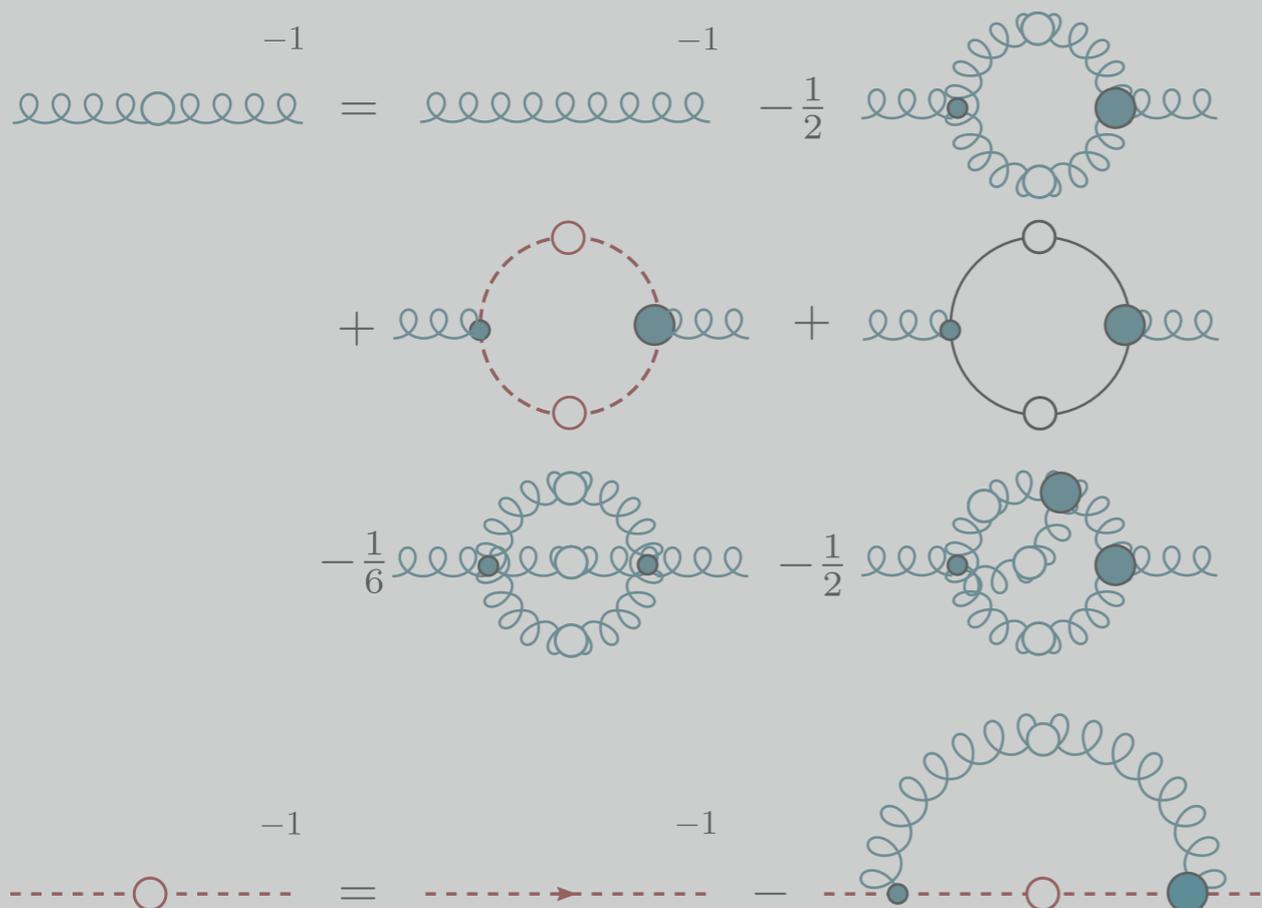
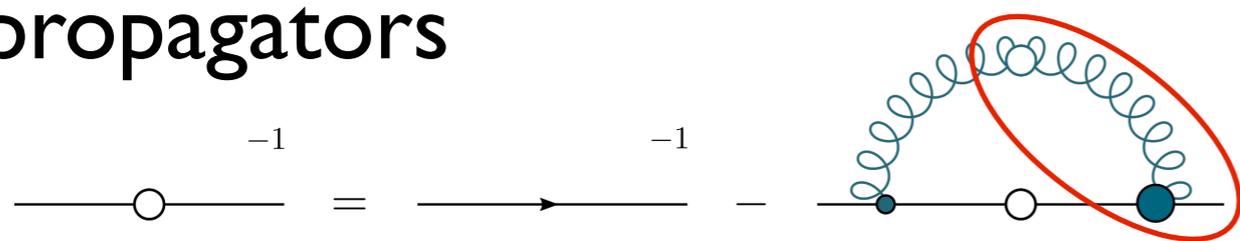


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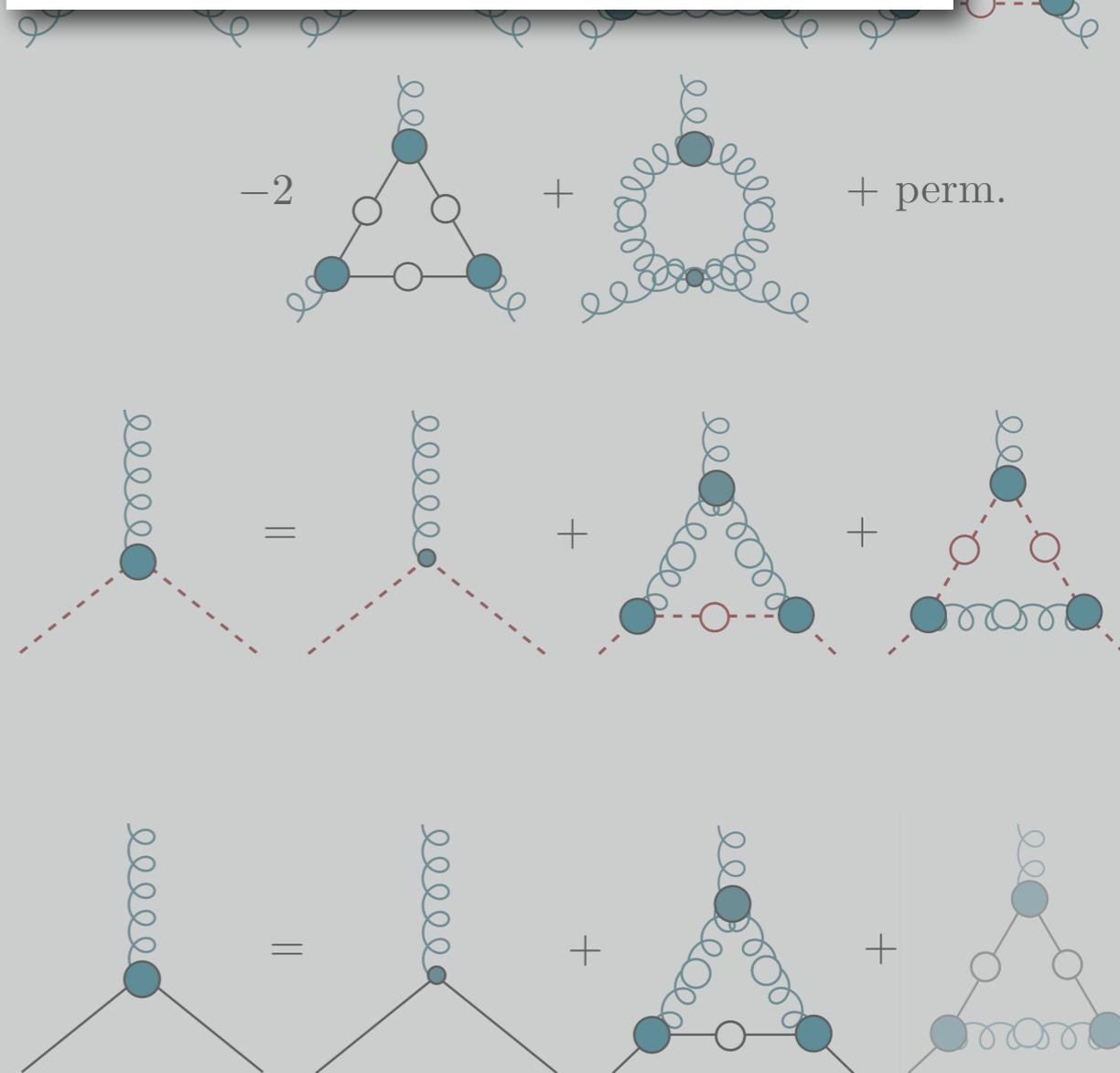
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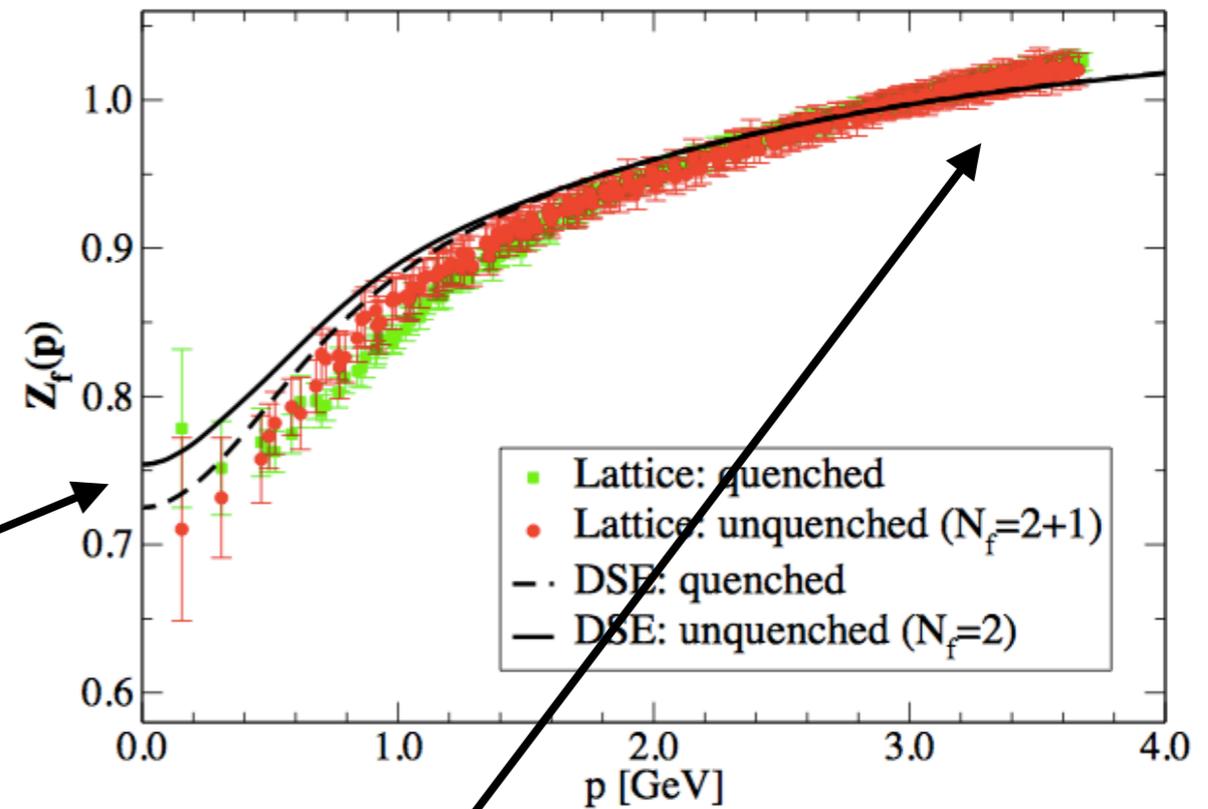
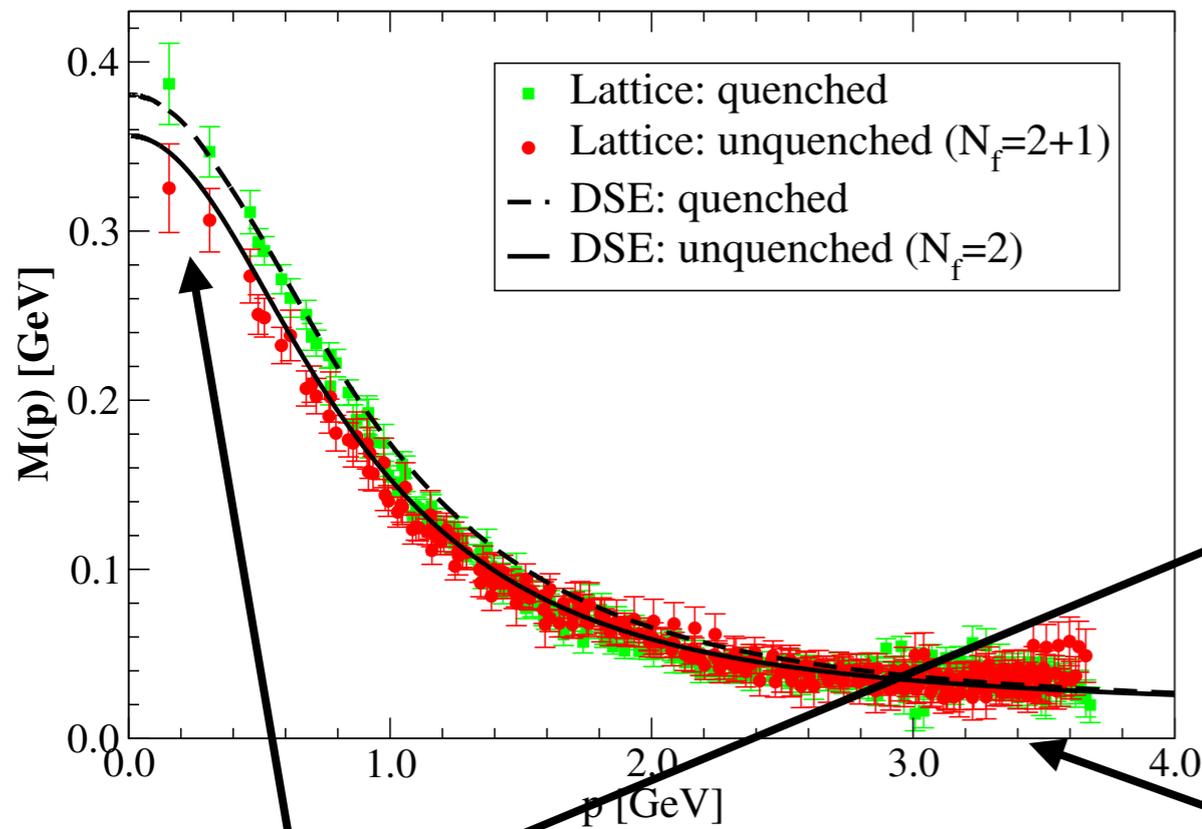
“rainbow-ladder” (RL) :
model for gluon+vertex



Quark dressing - comparison with lattice

$$S(p) = Z_f(p^2) \frac{-i\not{p} + M(p^2)}{p^2 + M^2(p^2)}$$

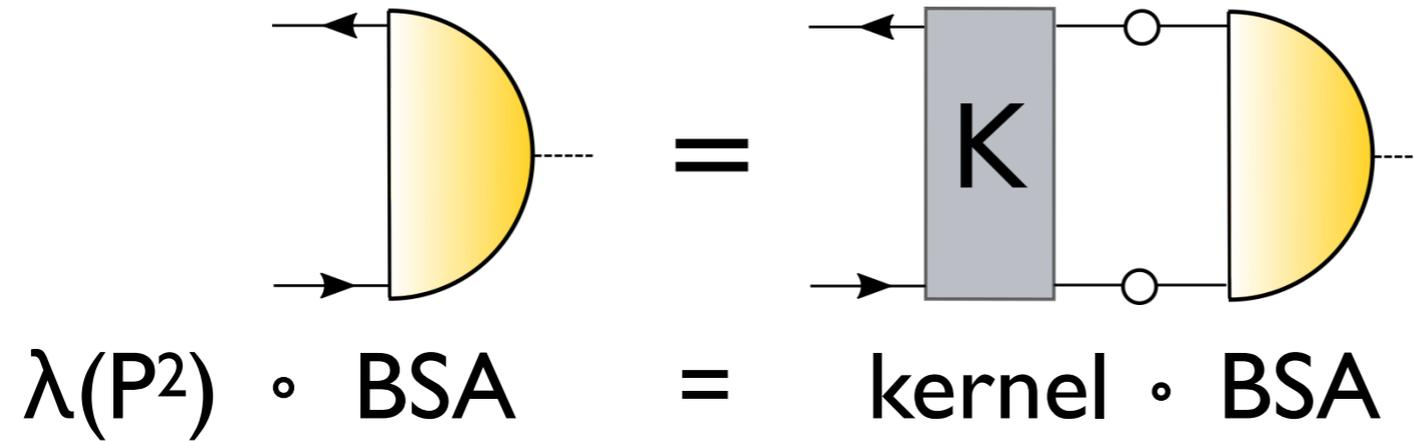
DSE: CF, Nickel, Williams, EPJ C 60 (2009) 47
 Lattice: P. O. Bowman, et al PRD 71 (2005) 054507



‘constituent quark’:
 large mass; very composite

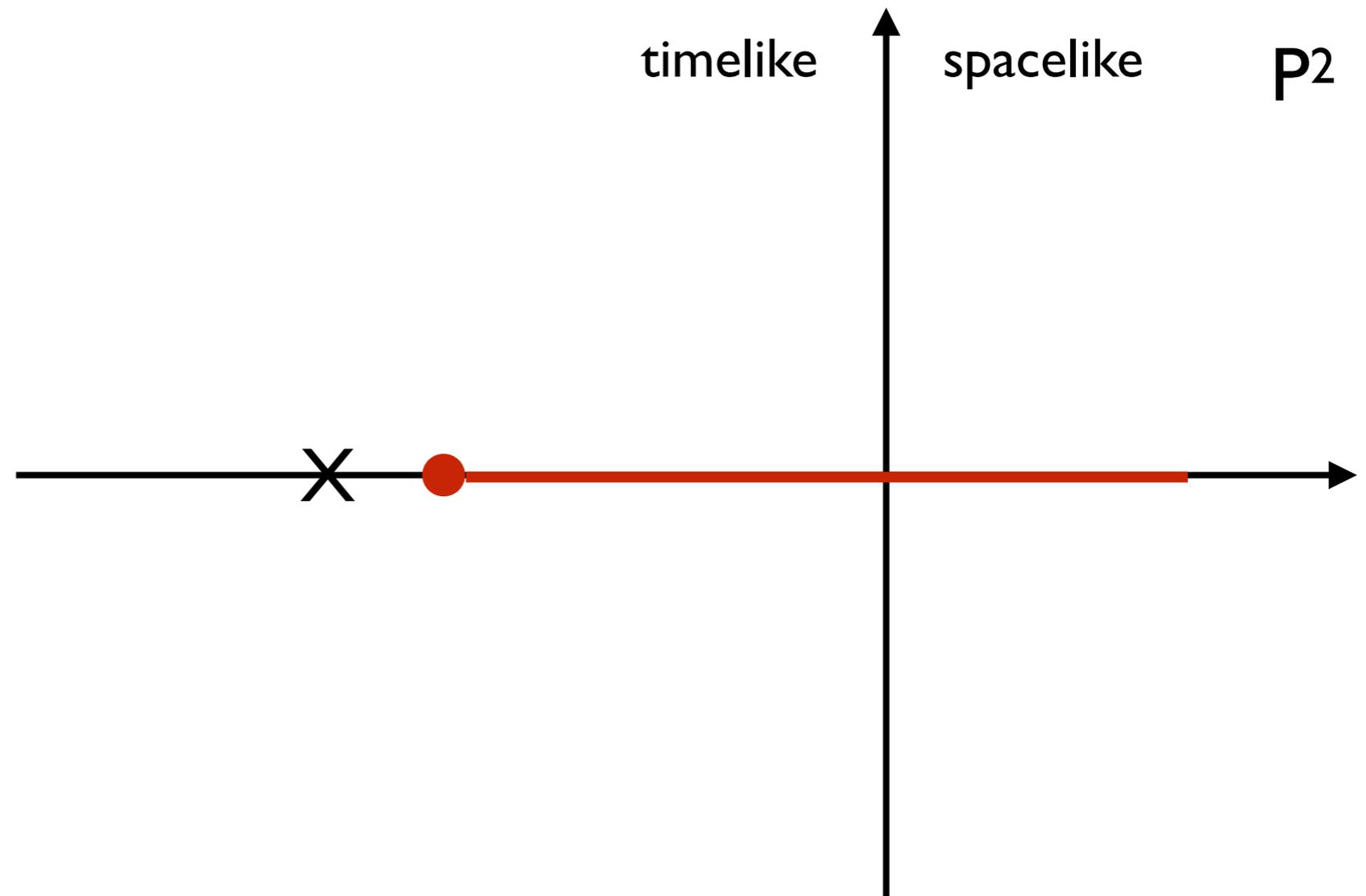
‘current quark’:
 - small mass; non-composite

The complex P^2 -plane



$$\lambda(P^2) \stackrel{!}{=} 1$$

generic situation

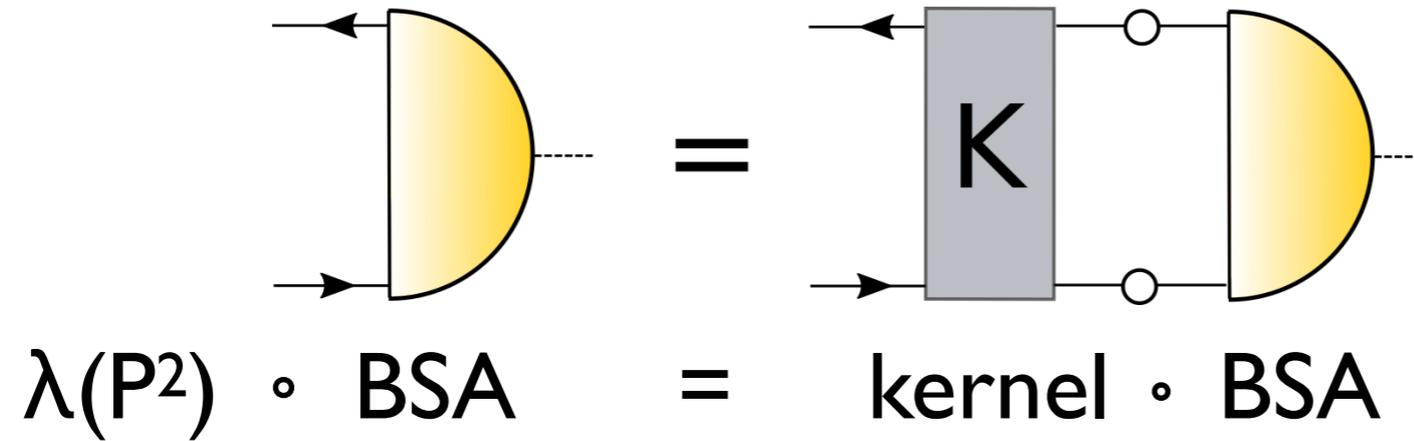


Williams, PLB 798 (2019) 134943, [arXiv:1804.11161]

Santowsky, Eichmann, CF, Wallbott and Williams,
PRD 102 (2020) no.5, 056014, arXiv:2007.06495.

Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313; arXiv:2109.00755

The complex P^2 -plane

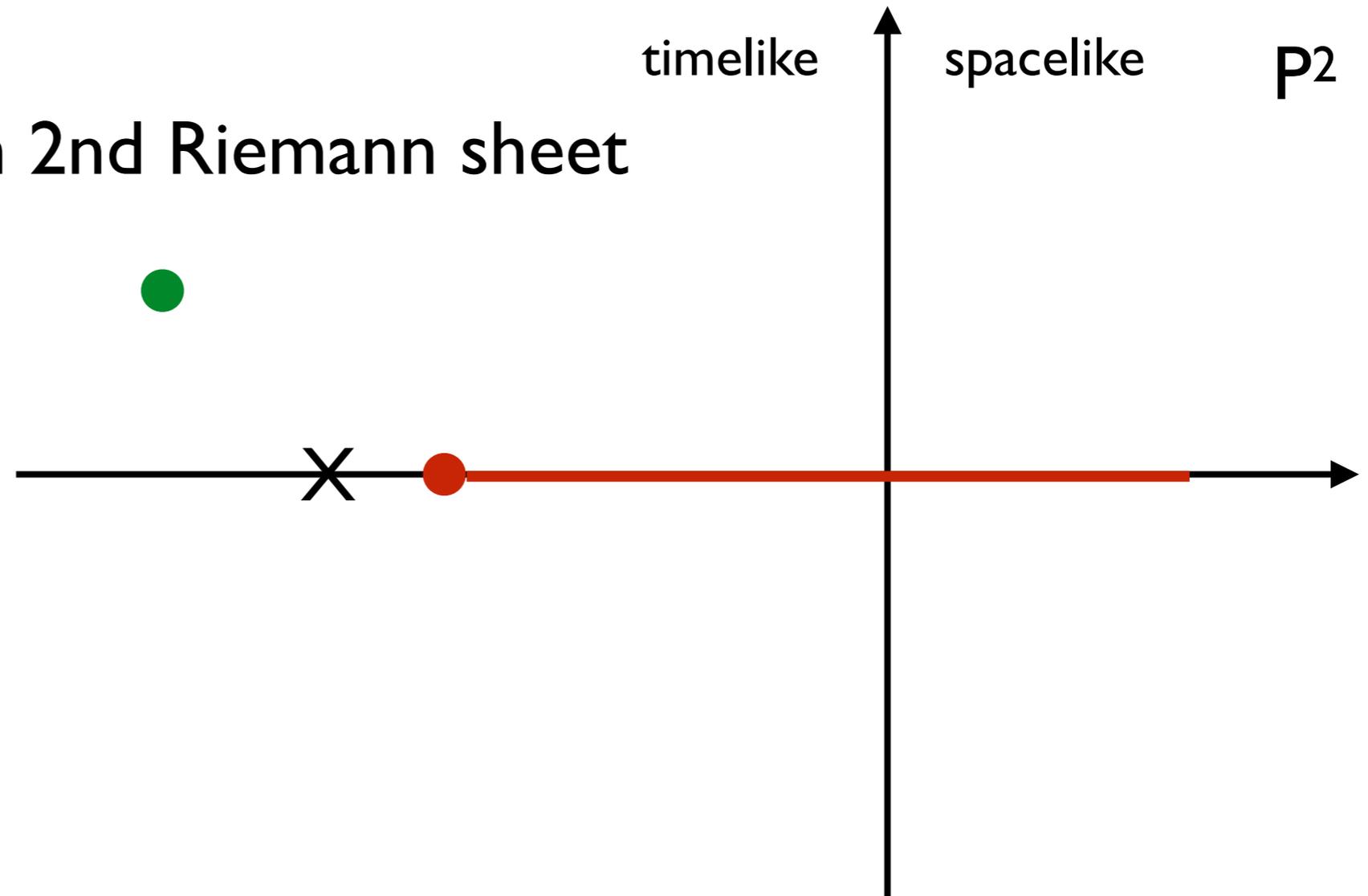


$$\lambda(P^2) \stackrel{!}{=} 1$$

extrapolation to pole in 2nd Riemann sheet

$$\rho \rightarrow \pi\pi$$

$$\sigma \rightarrow \pi\pi$$

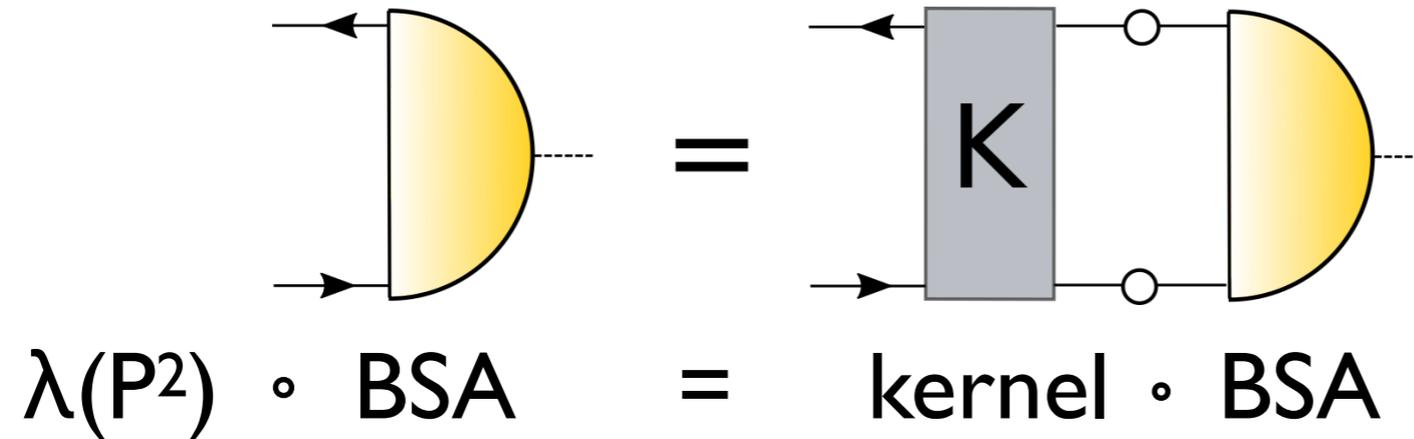


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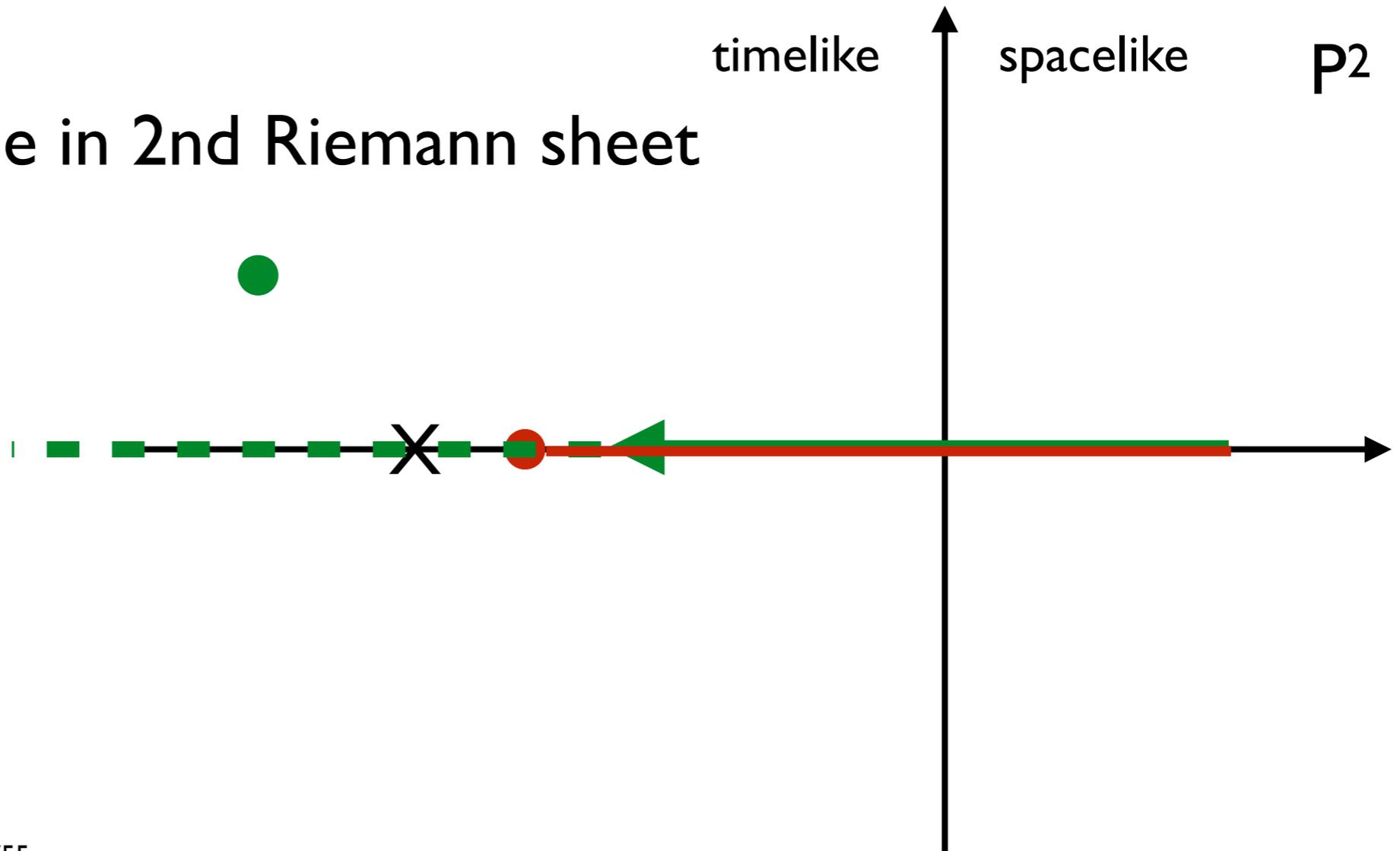


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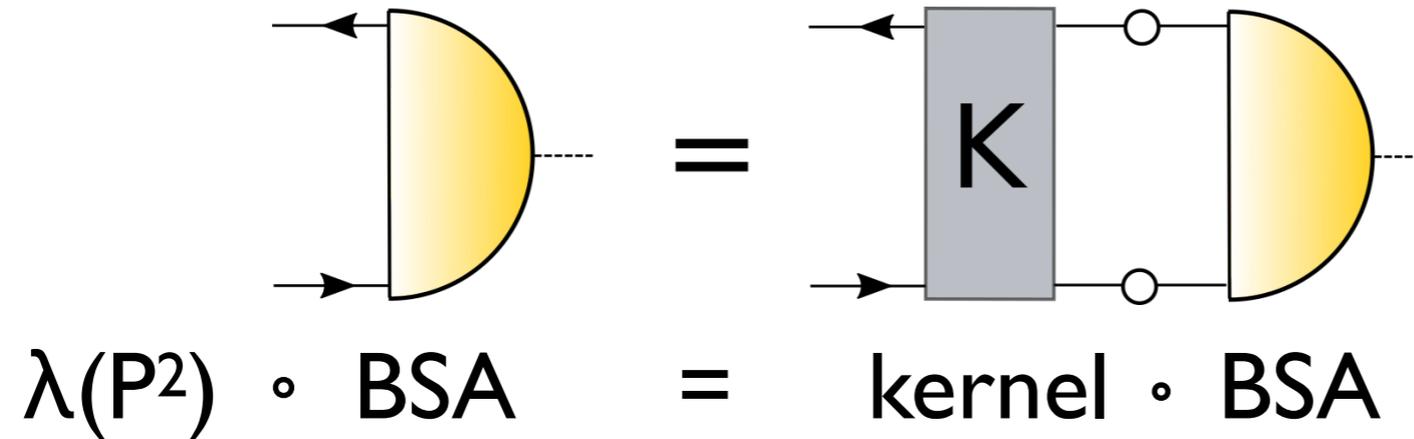


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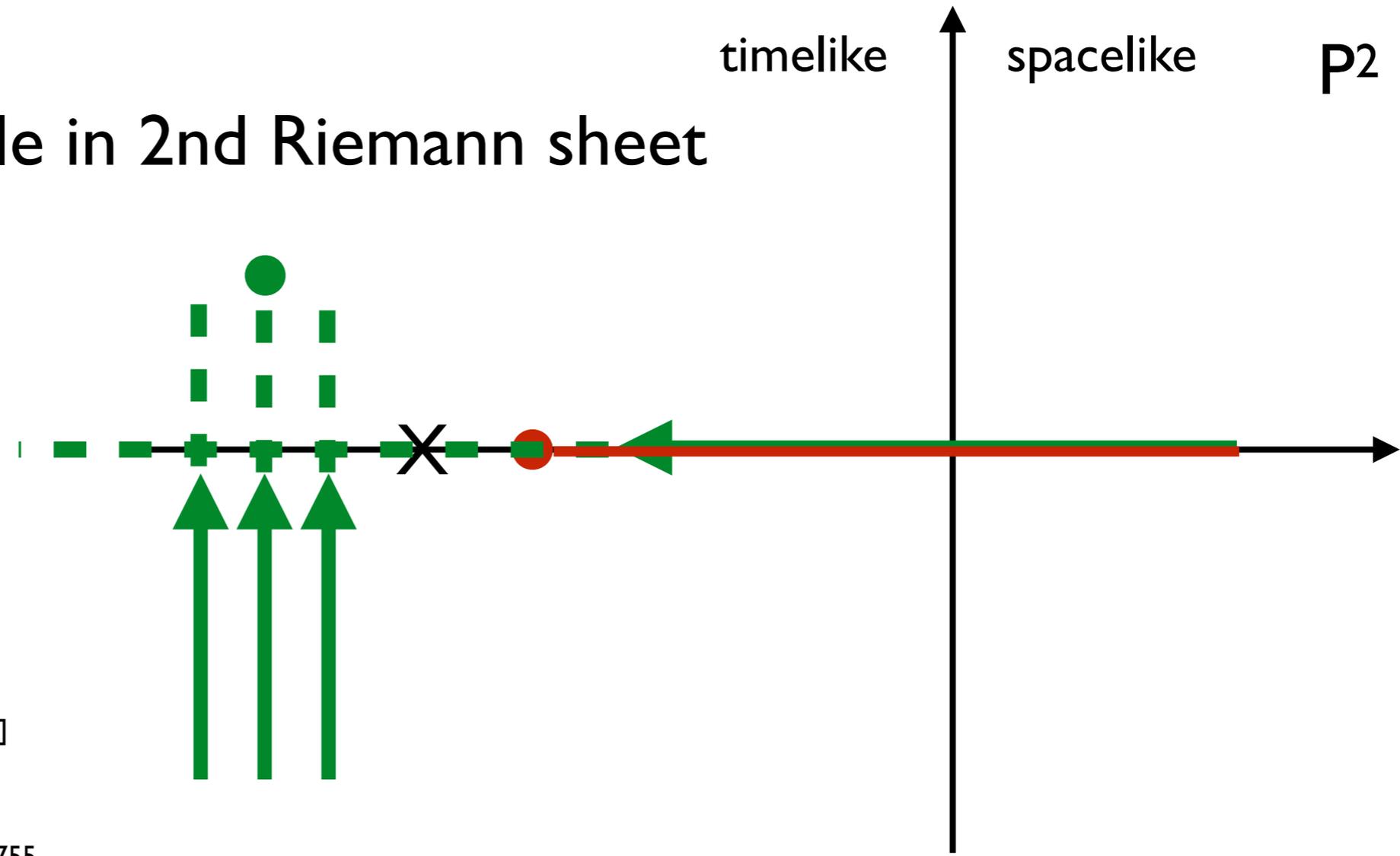
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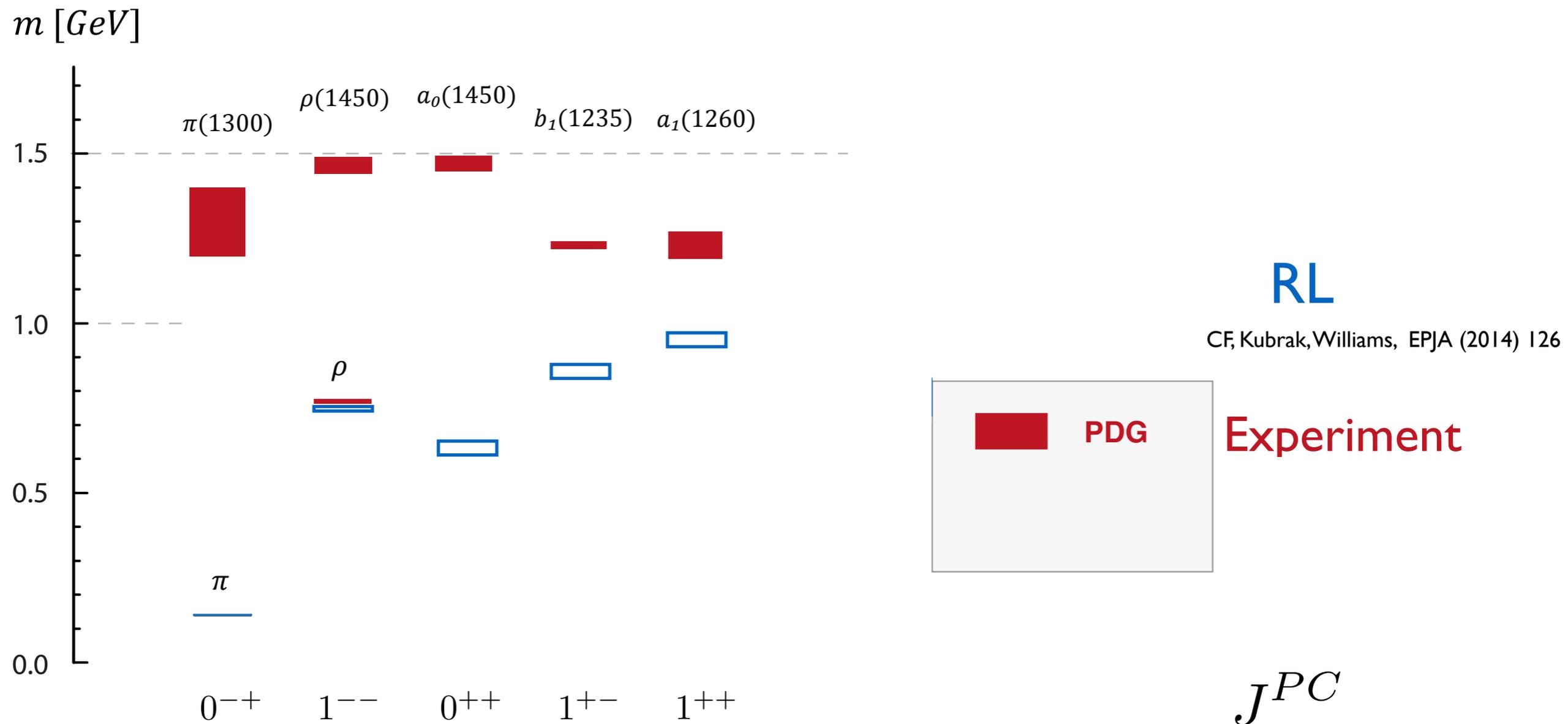
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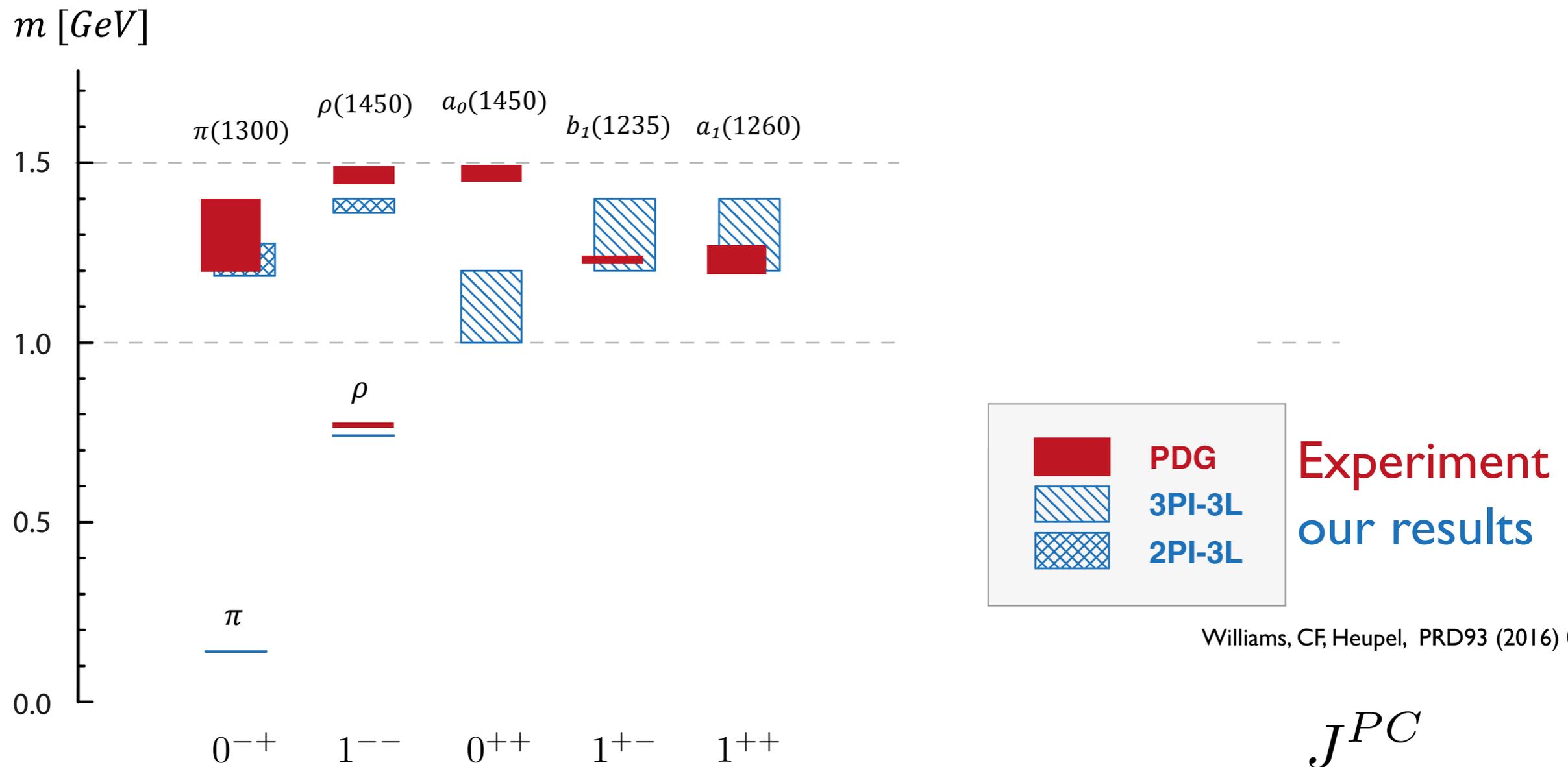


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Light meson spectrum - RL vs full 3PI-calculation

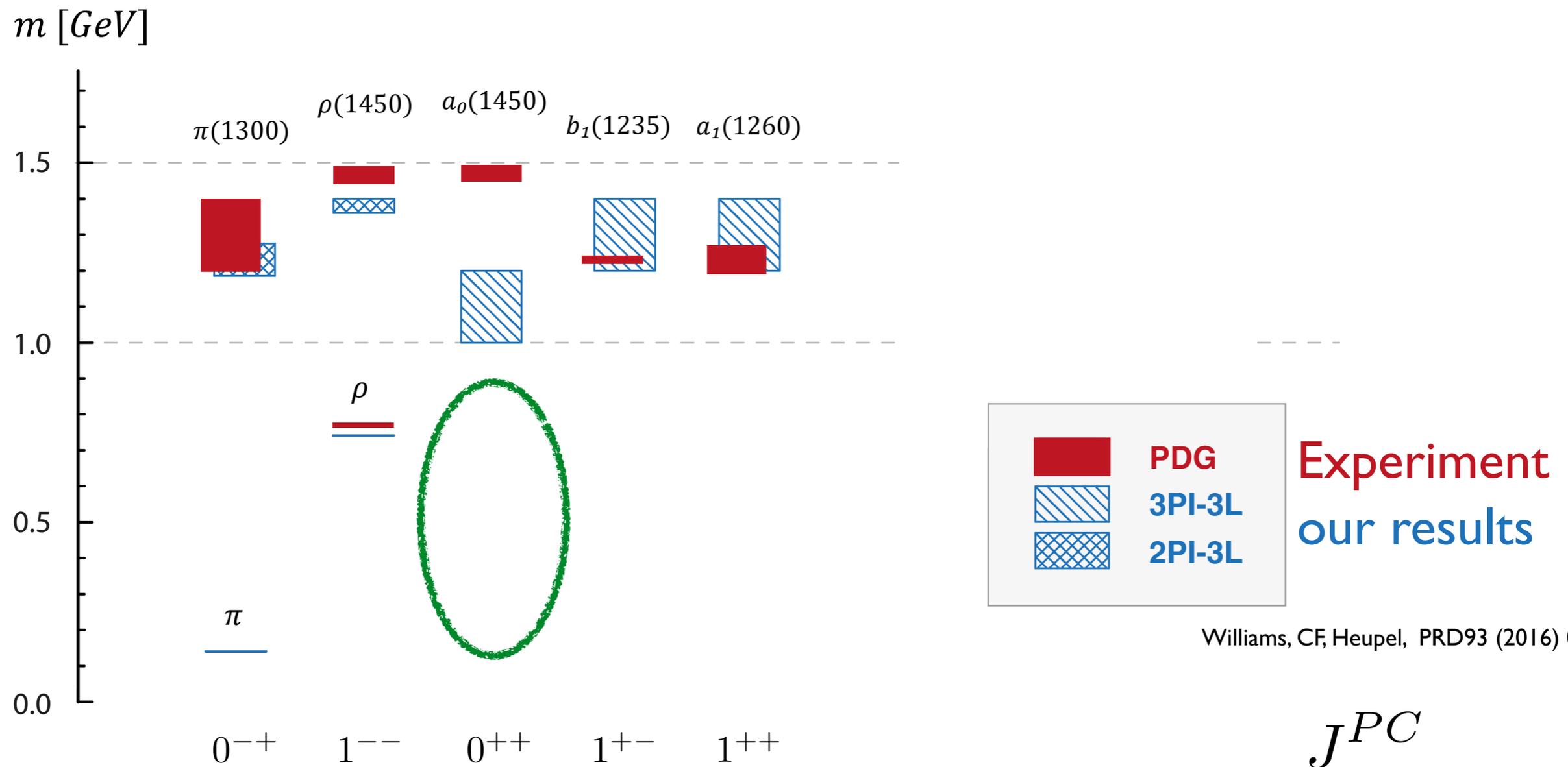


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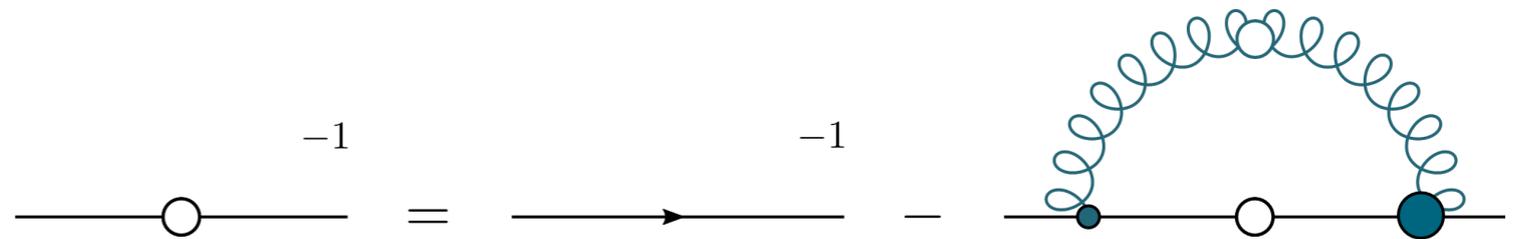
- good agreement with experiment in most channels
- special channels:
 - pseudoscalar 0^{-+} : (pseudo-) Goldstone bosons
 - scalar 0^{++} : complicated channel...

Light meson spectrum - RL vs full 3PI-calculation

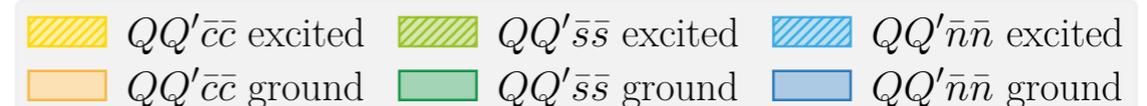
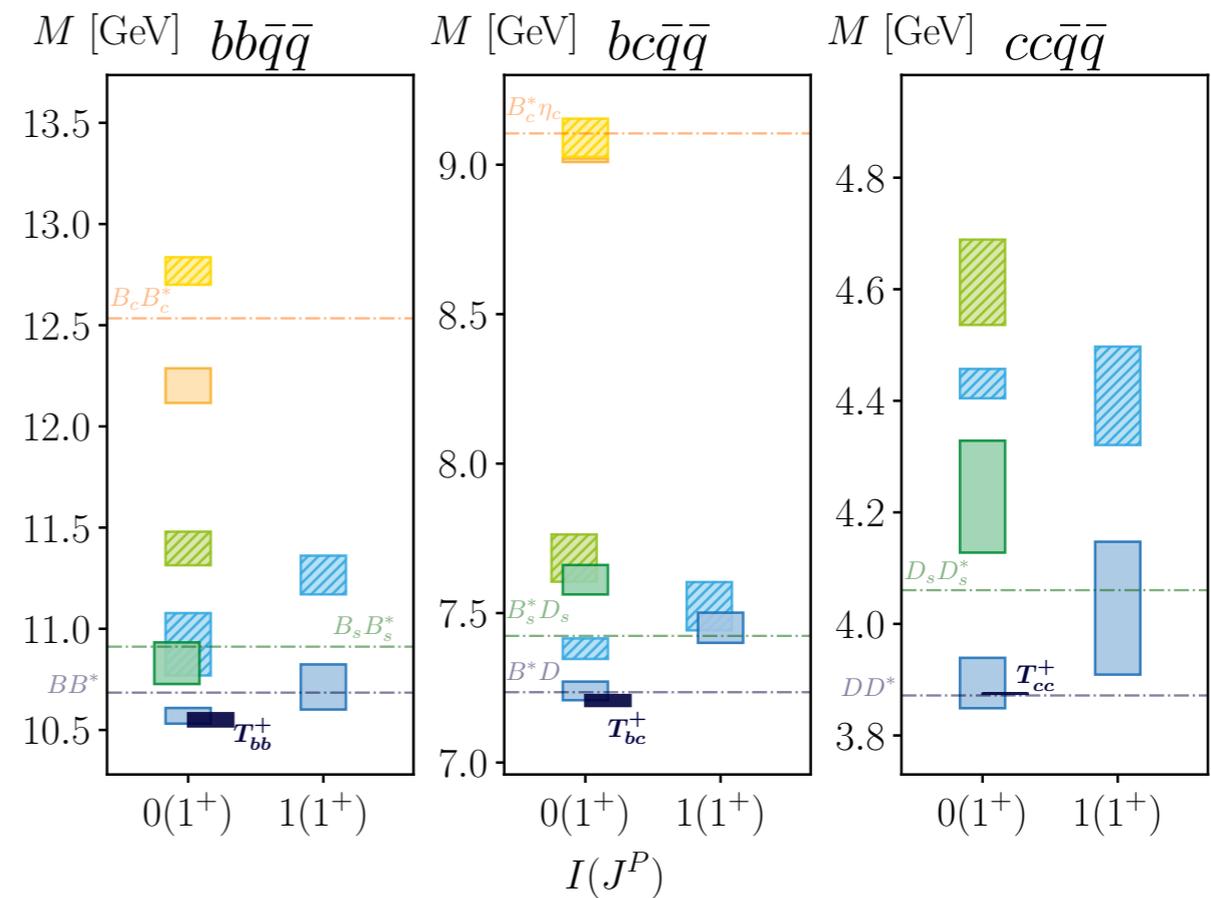


- good agreement with experiment in most channels
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I. The formalism: glueballs, quarks and two-quark states

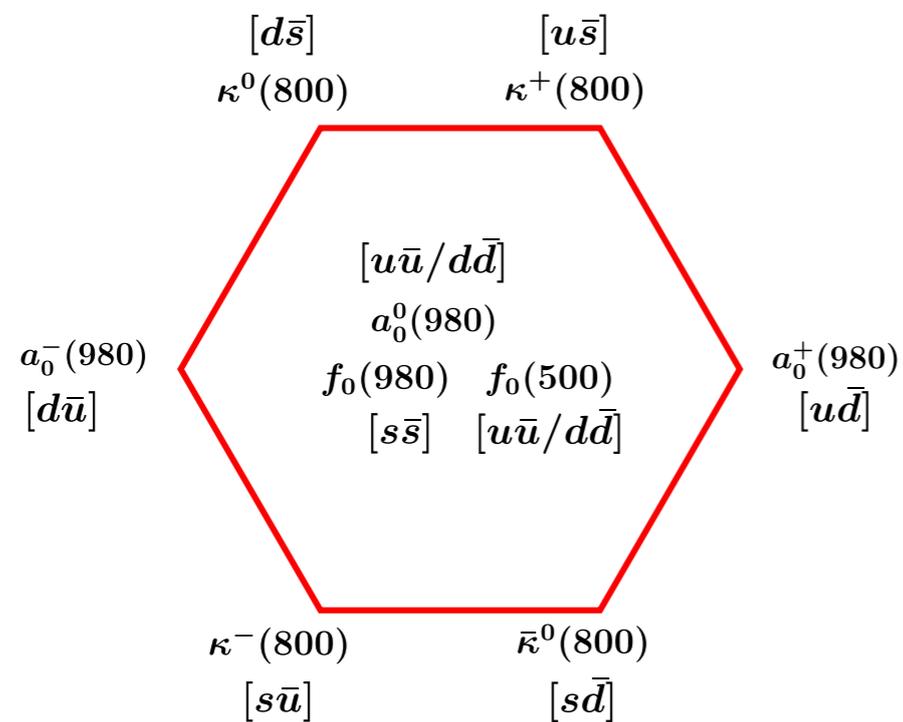


2. Four-quark states: hidden and open flavour



Light mesons with $\bar{q}q$ -content

Light scalar mesons:

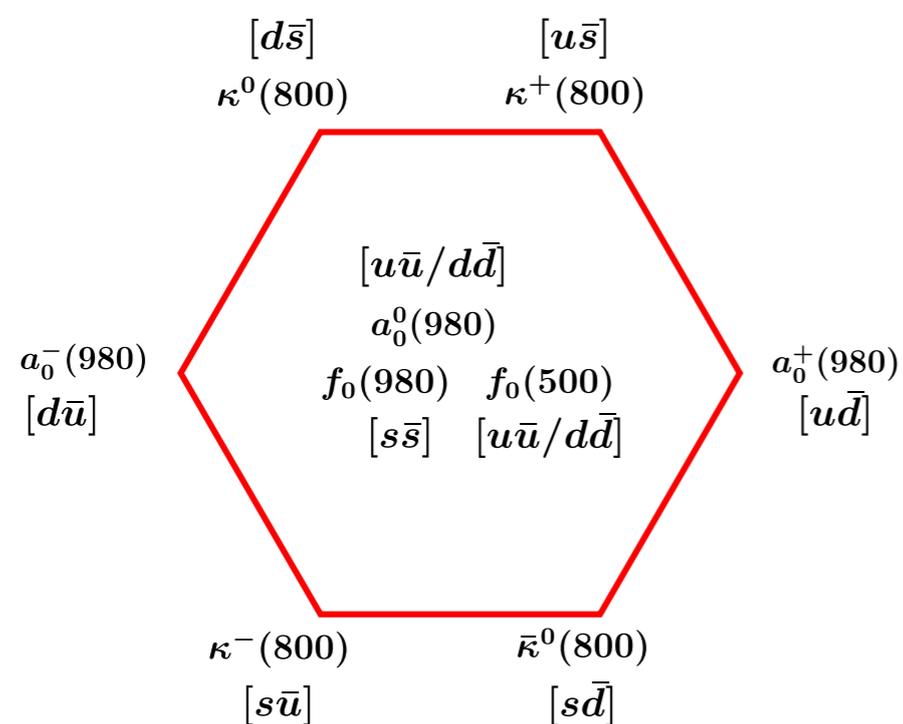


wrong level ordering

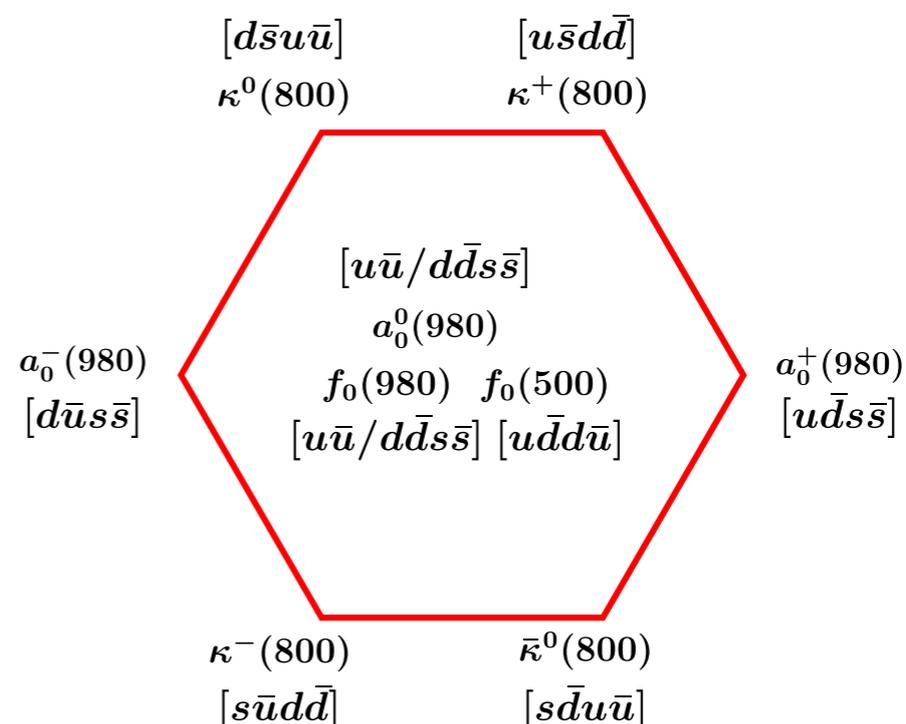
R. L. Jaffe, Phys. Rev. D 15, 267 (1977)

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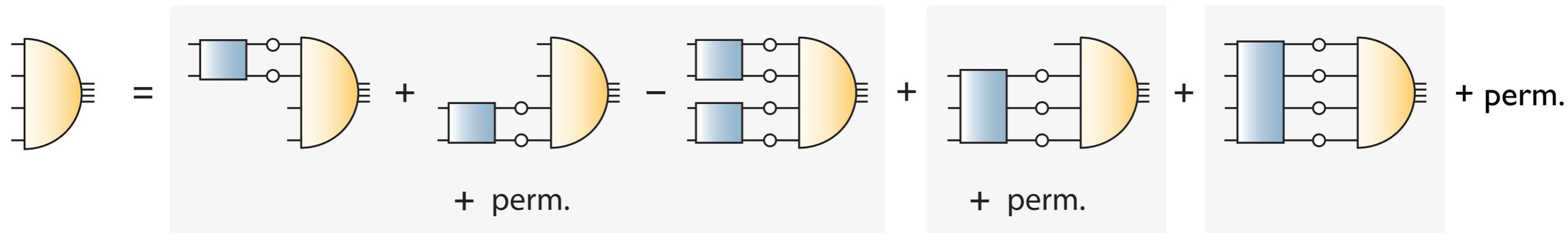


correct level ordering

R. L. Jaffe, Phys. Rev. D 15, 267 (1977)

Tetraquarks from the four-body equation

Exact equation:



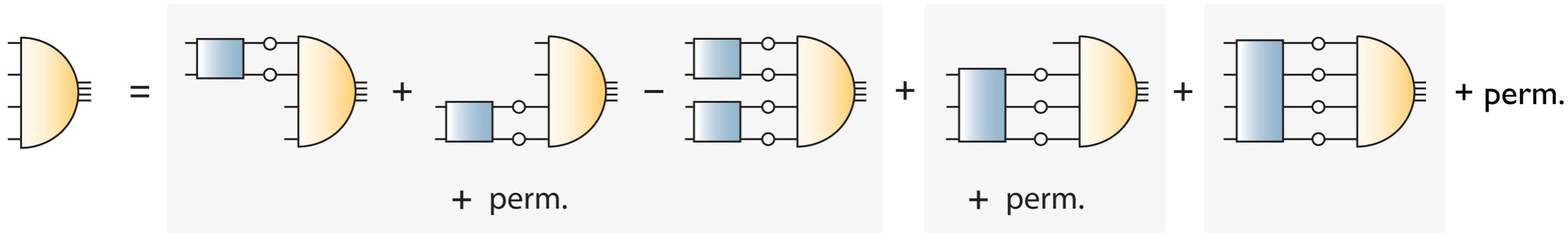
Kvinikhidze & Khvedelidze, Theor. Math. Phys. 90 (1992)
Heupel, Eichmann, CF, PLB 718 (2012) 545-549
Eichmann, CF, Heupel, PLB 753 (2016) 282-287

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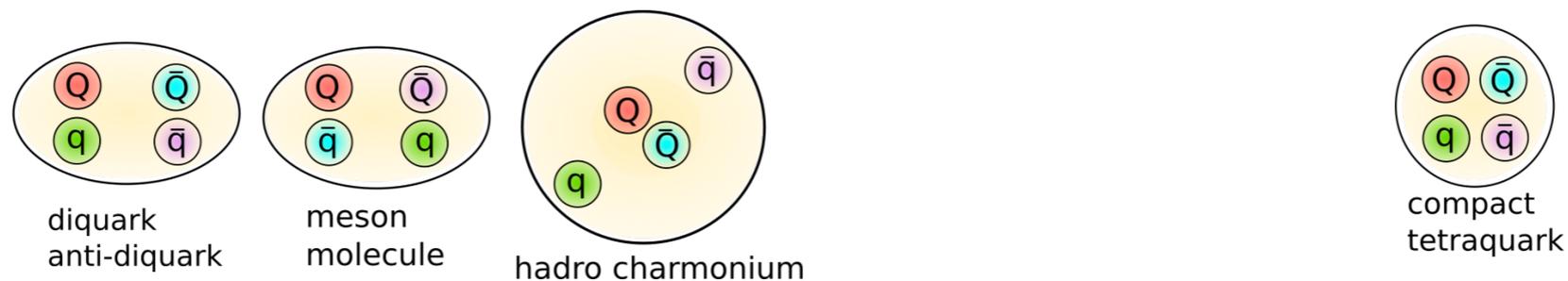
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Two-body interactions

Three- and four-body interactions



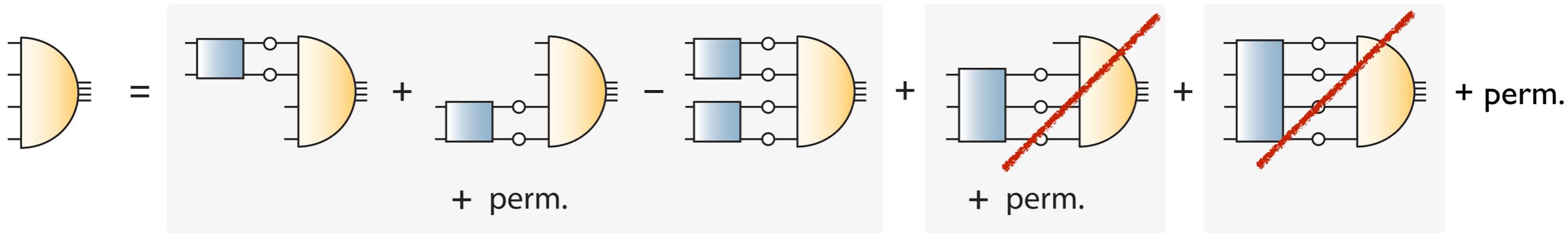
- Two-body interactions: allow for **internal clustering**
- use rainbow-ladder approximation...

Eichmann, CF, Heupel, PLB 753 (2016) 282-287
 Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313

Tetraquarks from the four-body equation

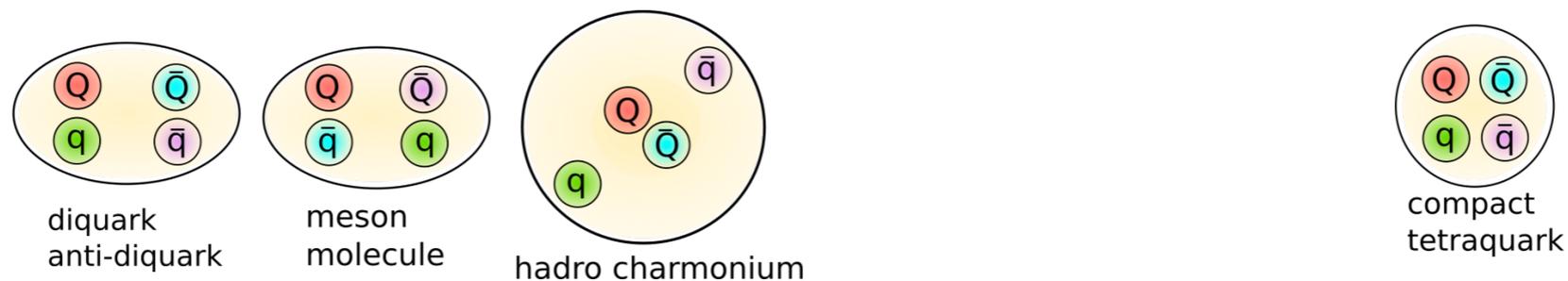
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Two-body interactions

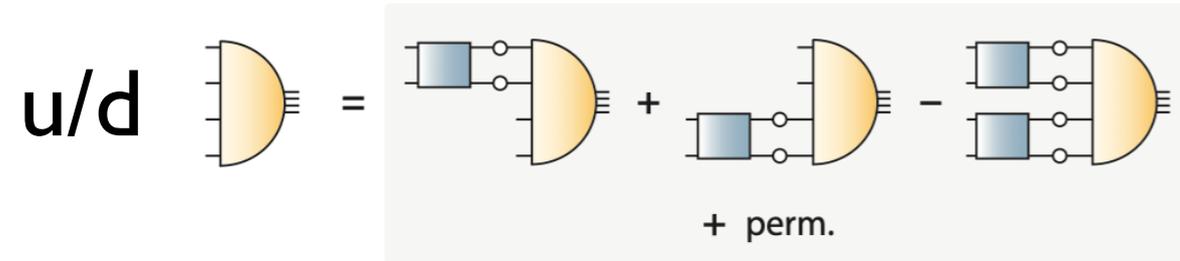
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Eichmann, CF, Heupel, PLB 753 (2016) 282-287
 Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313

Bound state vs resonance: scalar four-quark states



without twobody-clustering

0

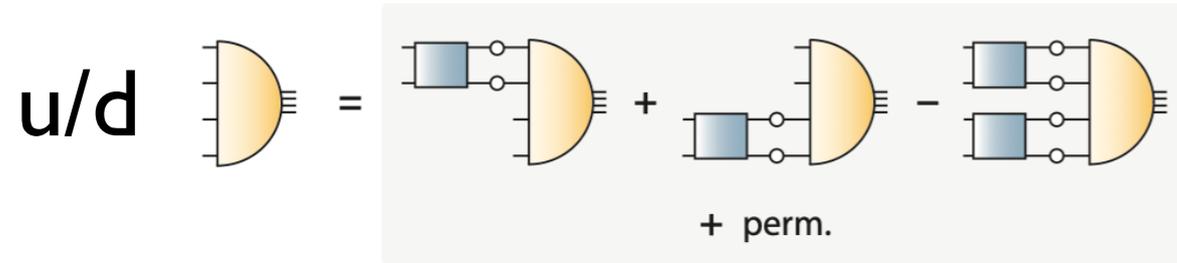
1200

$M_{\text{Tetra}} [MeV]$

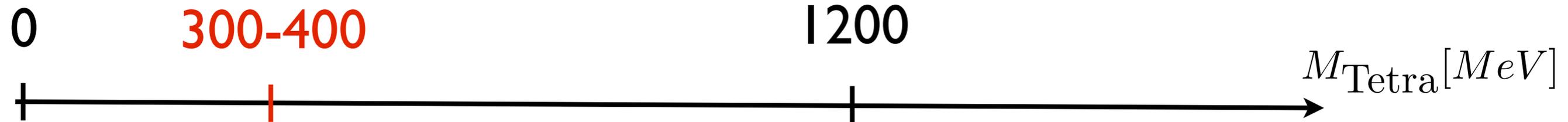
Bound state of
four massive quarks

Eichmann, CF, Heupel, PLB 753 (2016) 282-287
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Bound state vs resonance: scalar four-quark states



without twobody-clustering



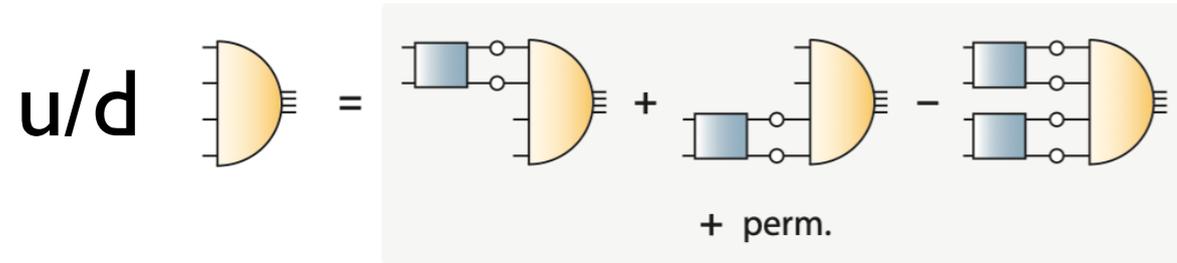
with π -clustering

Two-pion resonance

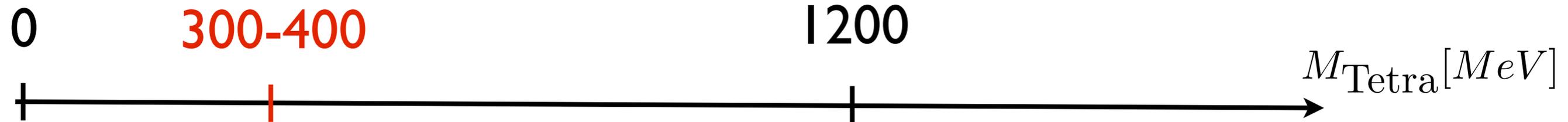
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without twobody-clustering



with π -clustering

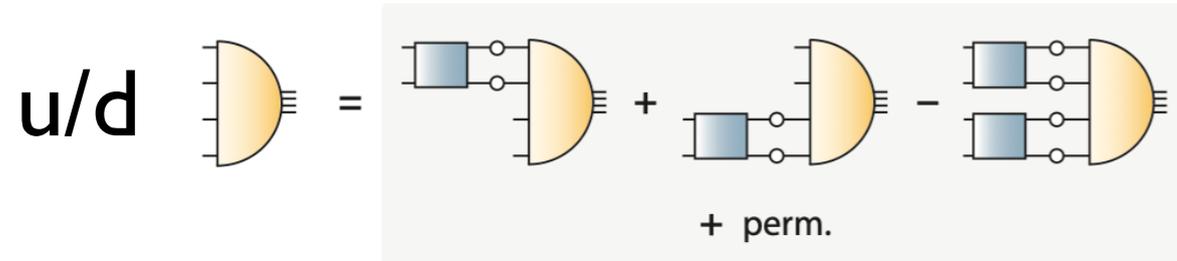
Two-pion resonance

Bound state of
four massive quarks

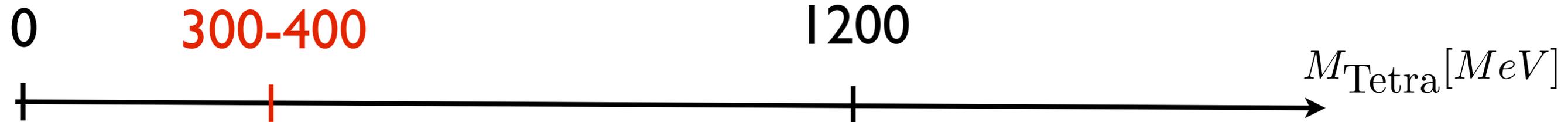
→ identify with $f_0(500)$ (' σ -meson')

Eichmann, CF, Heupel, PLB 753 (2016) 282-287
Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313

Bound state vs resonance: scalar four-quark states



without twobody-clustering



with π -clustering

Two-pion resonance

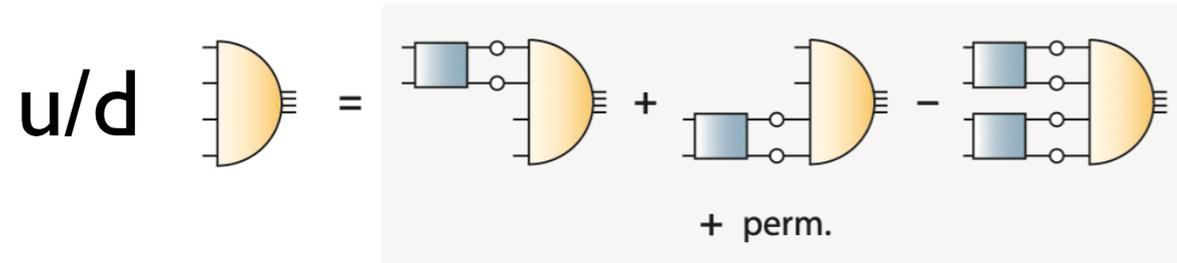
Bound state of
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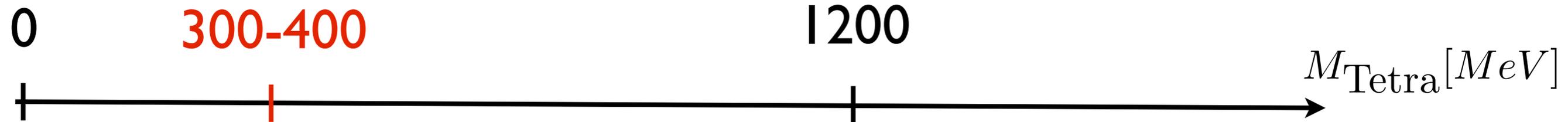
with strange quarks: $m(a_0, f_0) \approx 1\text{GeV}$

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Two-pion resonance

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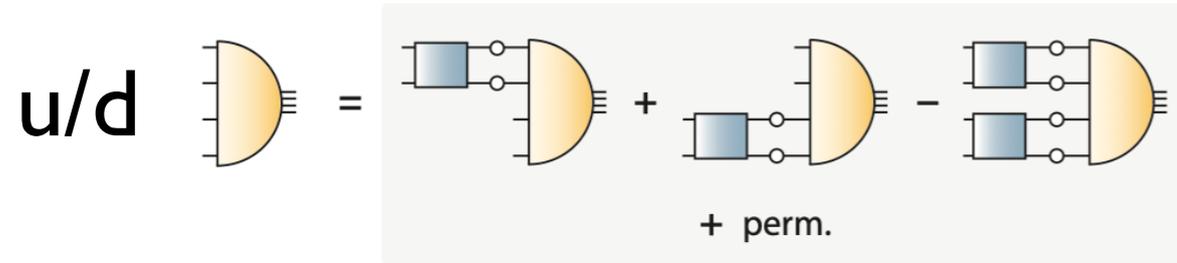
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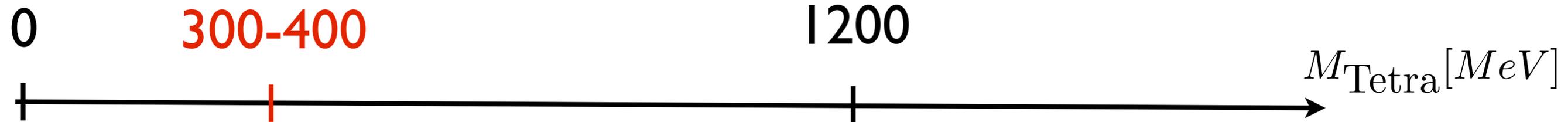
Eichmann, CF, Heupel, PLB 753 (2016) 282-287
Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313

Meson-meson components completely dominate over diquarks!

Bound state vs resonance: scalar four-quark states



without twobody-clustering



with π -clustering

Two-pion resonance

Bound state of
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→ identify with $f_0(500)$ (' σ -meson')

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Eichmann, CF, Heupel, PLB 753 (2016) 282-287
Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313

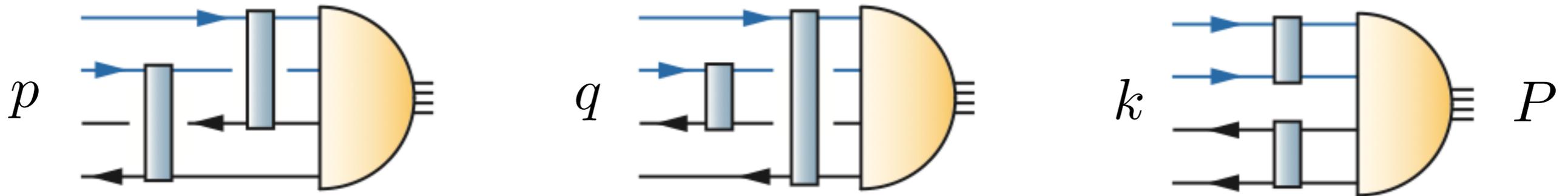
Meson-meson components completely dominate over diquarks!

Mixing with $q\bar{q}$: small effect

Santowsky, Eichmann, CF, Wallbott and Williams, PRD 102 (2020) no.5, 056014
Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313

Structure of the amplitude: open flavor

Vector tetraquark:



$$\Gamma(P, p, q, k) = \sum_i f_i(s_1, \dots, s_9) \times \tau_i(P, p, q, k) \times color \times flavor$$

9 Lorentz scalars
(built from P, p, q, k)

768 tensor
structures
(vector)

$3 \otimes \bar{3}, 6 \otimes \bar{6}$ or
 $1 \otimes 1, 8 \otimes 8$

- reduce # tensor structures guided by physics

Structure of the amplitude: open flavor

Vector

p

$\Gamma(P, p)$

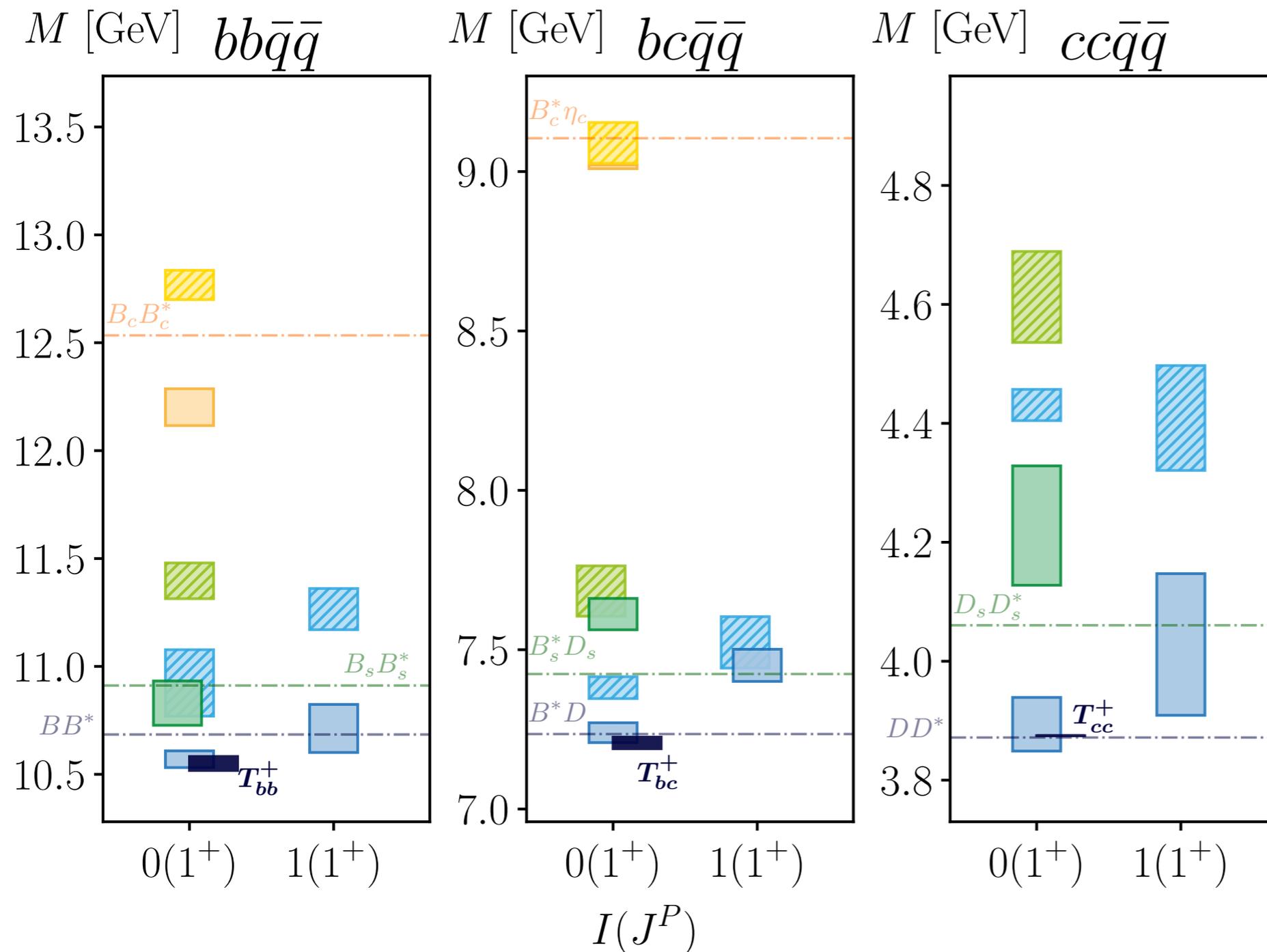
● red

$I(J^P)$	Physical components						$n \in \{u, d\}$
	$\mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1}$		$\bar{\mathbf{3}} \otimes \mathbf{3}$	$\mathbf{8} \otimes \mathbf{8}$		$\mathbf{6} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{6}}$	
	f_0	f_1	f_2	f_3	f_4	f_5	
$0(1^+)$	$bb\bar{n}\bar{n}$	BB^*	B^*B^*	$A_{bb}S$	BB^*	B^*B^*	$S_{bb}A$
	$bc\bar{n}\bar{n}$	BD^*	B^*D	$A_{bc}S$	BD^*	B^*D	$S_{bc}A$
	$cc\bar{n}\bar{n}$	DD^*	D^*D^*	$A_{cc}S$	DD^*	D^*D^*	$S_{cc}A$
	$bb\bar{s}\bar{s}$	$B_sB_s^*$	—	$A_{bb}A_{ss}$	$B_sB_s^*$	—	—
	$bc\bar{s}\bar{s}$	$B_sD_s^*$	$B_s^*D_s$	$S_{bc}A_{ss}$	$B_sD_s^*$	$B_s^*D_s^*$	$A_{bc}S_{ss}$
	$cc\bar{s}\bar{s}$	$D_sD_s^*$	—	$A_{cc}A_{ss}$	$D_sD_s^*$	—	—
$1(1^+)$	$bb\bar{q}\bar{q}$	BB^*	—	$A_{bb}A$	BB^*	—	—
	$bc\bar{q}\bar{q}$	BD^*	B^*D	$S_{bc}A$	BD^*	B^*D^*	$A_{bc}S$
	$cc\bar{q}\bar{q}$	DD^*	—	$A_{cc}A$	DD^*	—	—

P

flavor

bb, bc and cc four-quark-states



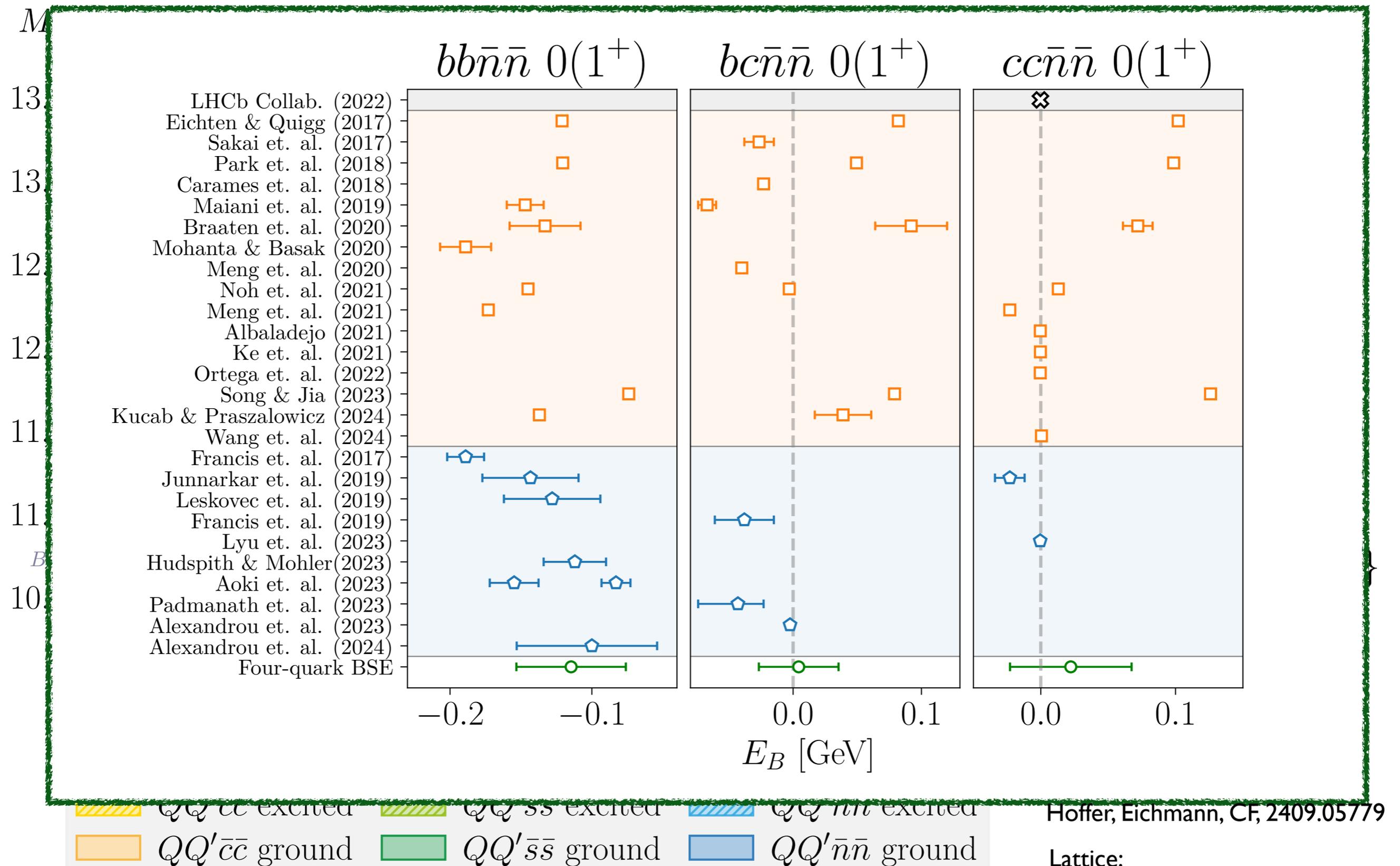
$n \in \{u, d\}$

$QQ'\bar{c}\bar{c}$ excited
 $QQ'\bar{s}\bar{s}$ excited
 $QQ'\bar{n}\bar{n}$ excited
 $QQ'\bar{c}\bar{c}$ ground
 $QQ'\bar{s}\bar{s}$ ground
 $QQ'\bar{n}\bar{n}$ ground

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

Lattice:
Francis, PPNP 140 104143 (2025)

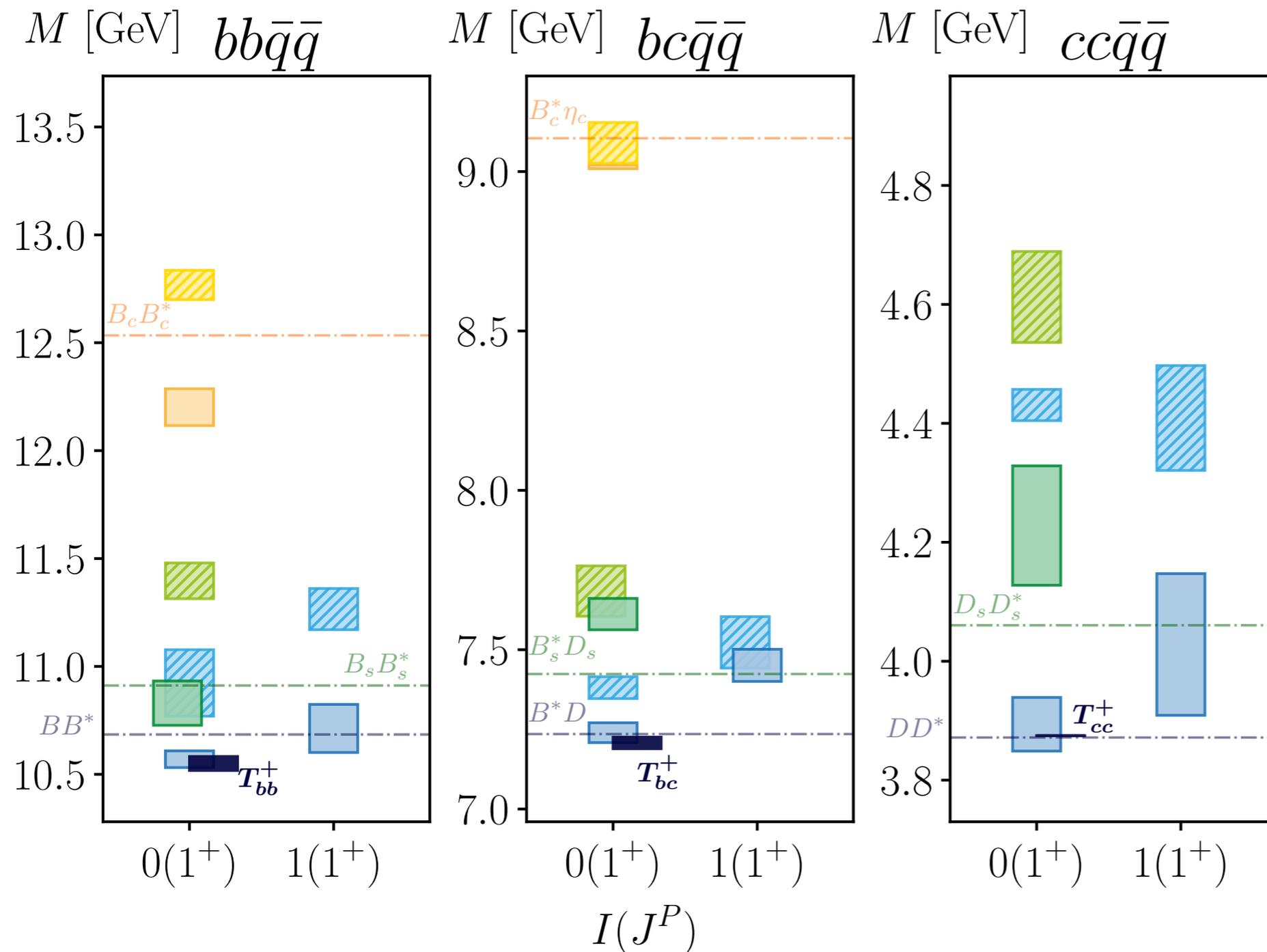
bb, bc and cc four-quark-states



Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

Lattice:
Francis, PPNP 140 104143 (2025)

bb, bc and cc four-quark-states



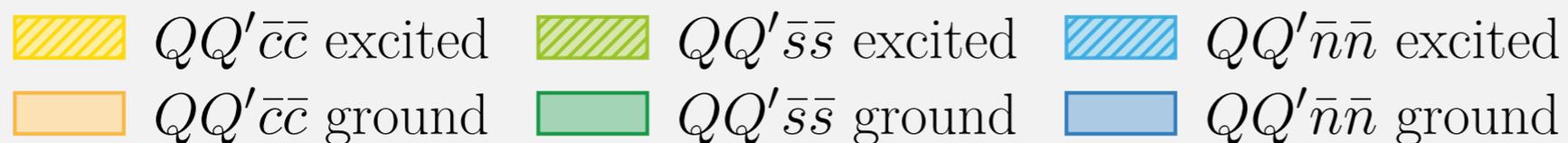
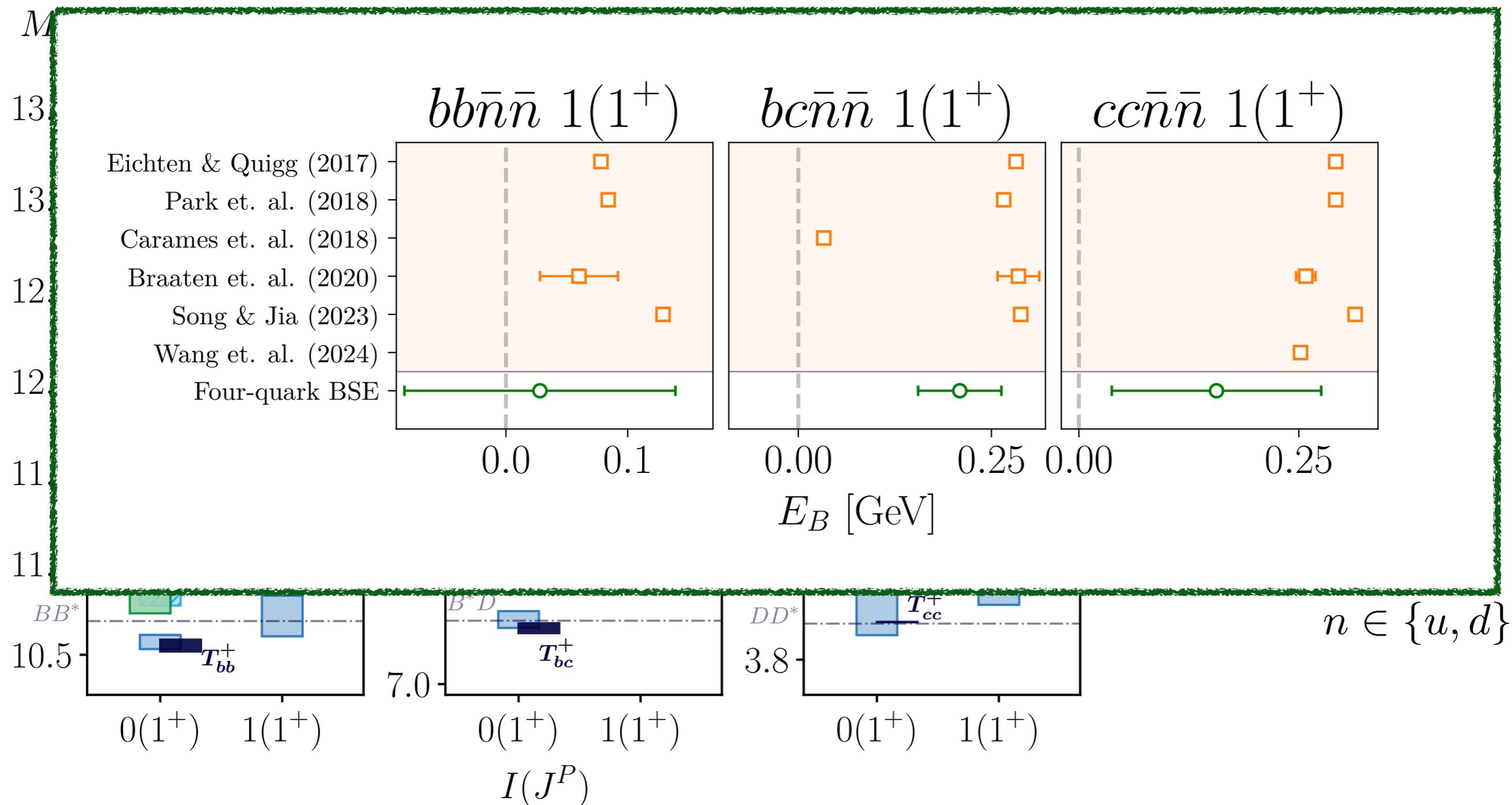
$n \in \{u, d\}$

$QQ'\bar{c}\bar{c}$ excited
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Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

Lattice:
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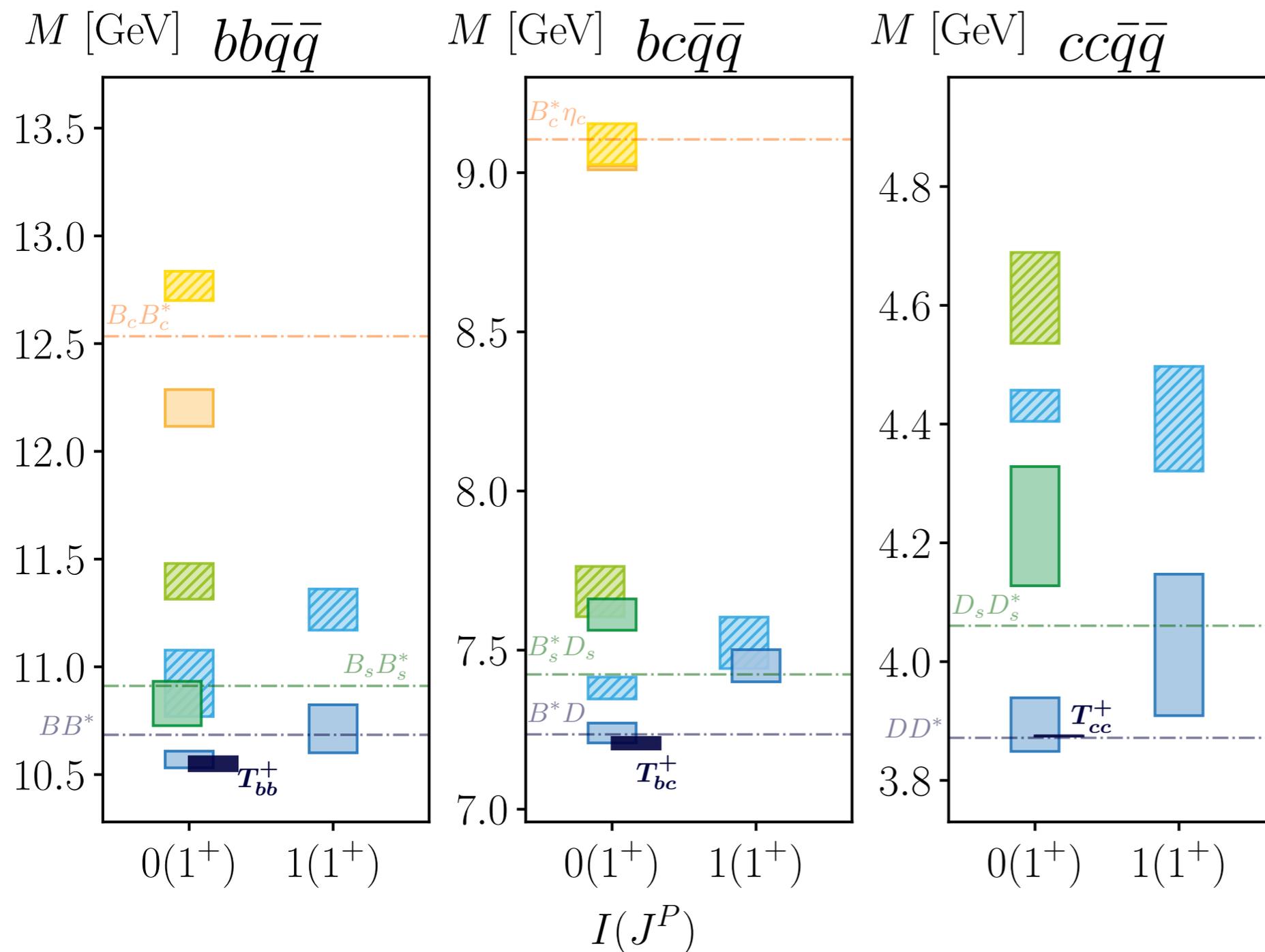
bb, bc and cc four-quark-states



Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

Lattice:
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bb, bc and cc four-quark-states



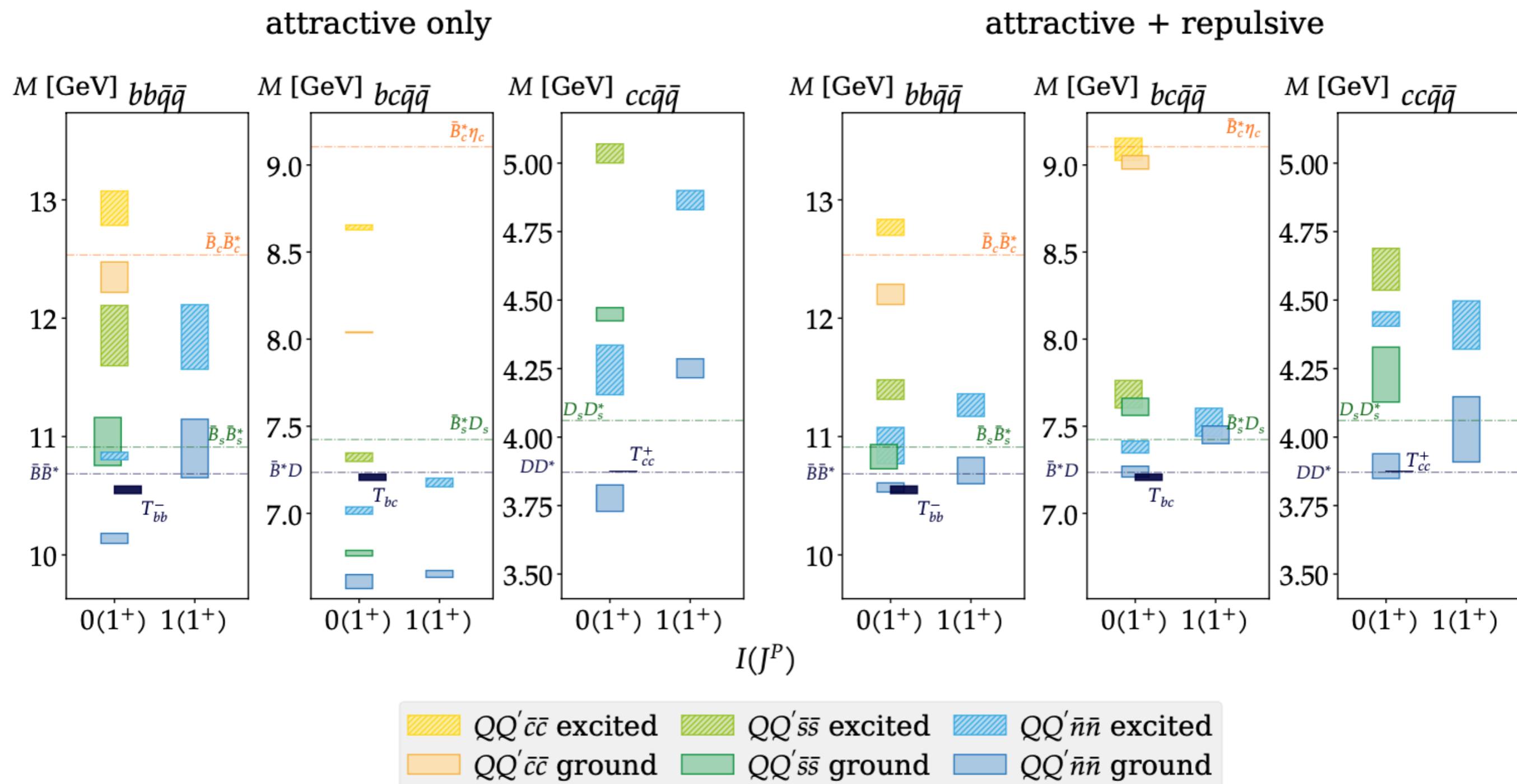
$n \in \{u, d\}$

$QQ'\bar{c}\bar{c}$ excited
 $QQ'\bar{s}\bar{s}$ excited
 $QQ'\bar{n}\bar{n}$ excited
 $QQ'\bar{c}\bar{c}$ ground
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 $QQ'\bar{n}\bar{n}$ ground

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

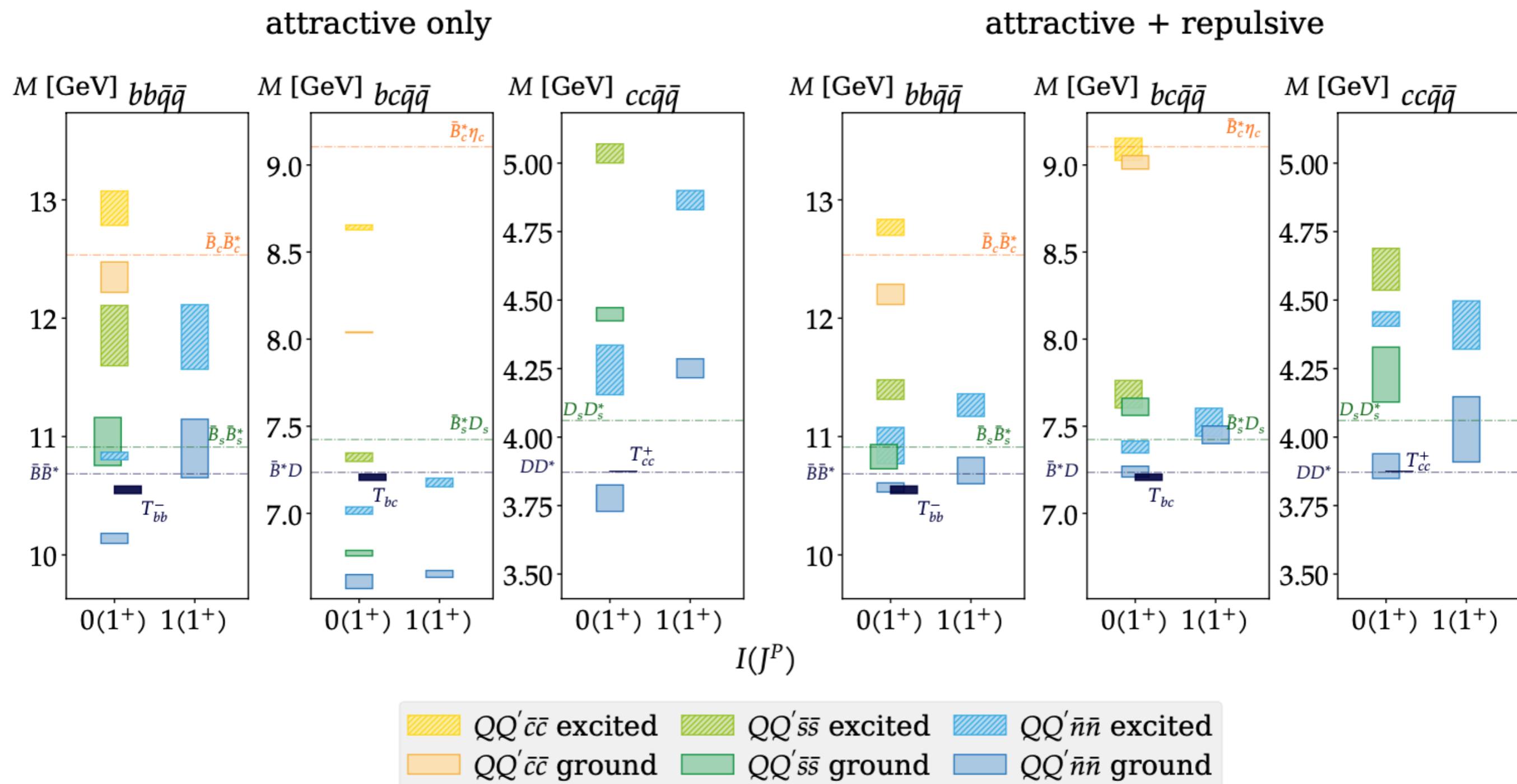
Lattice:
Francis, PPNP 140 104143 (2025)

Effect of repulsive forces



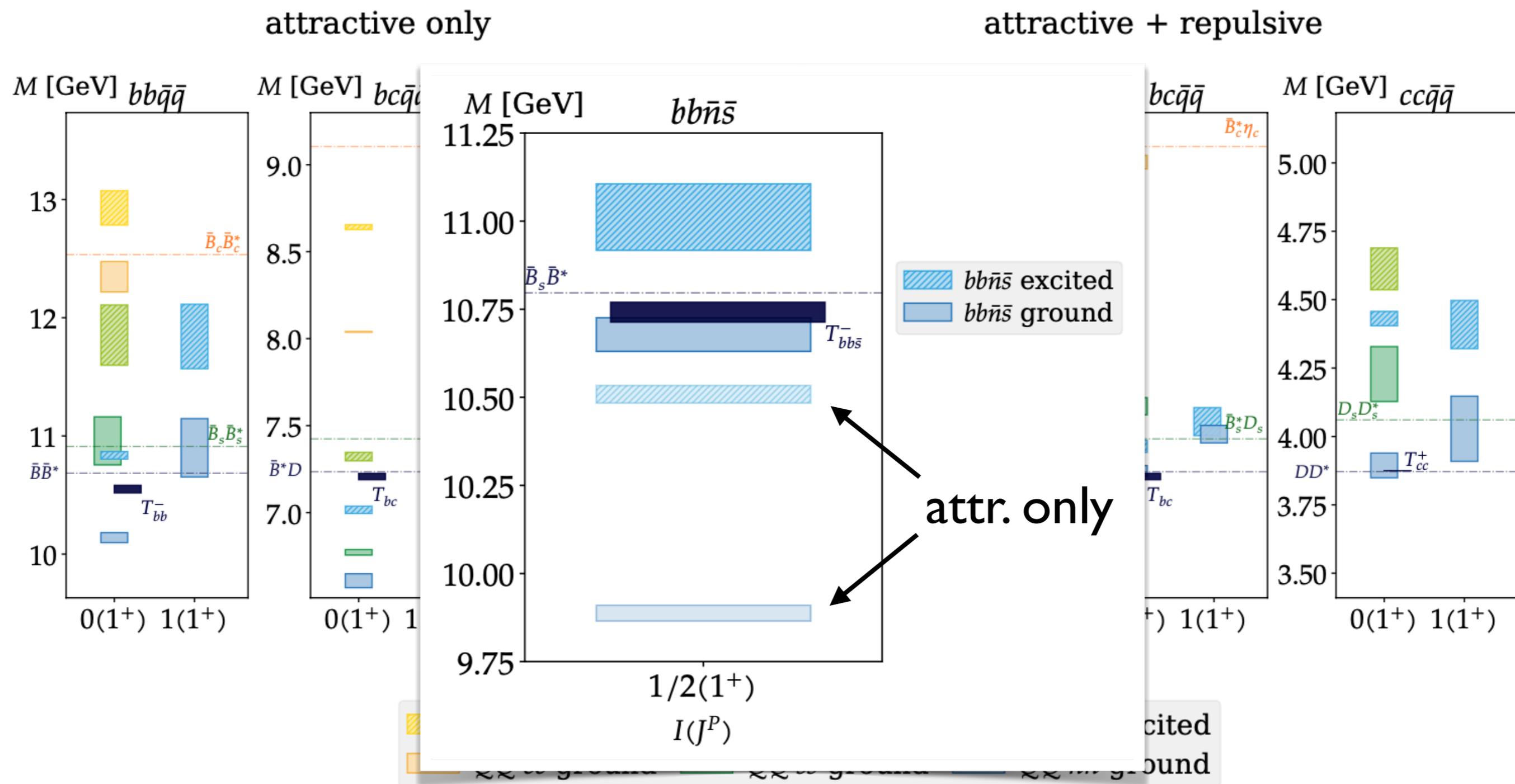
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

Effect of repulsive forces



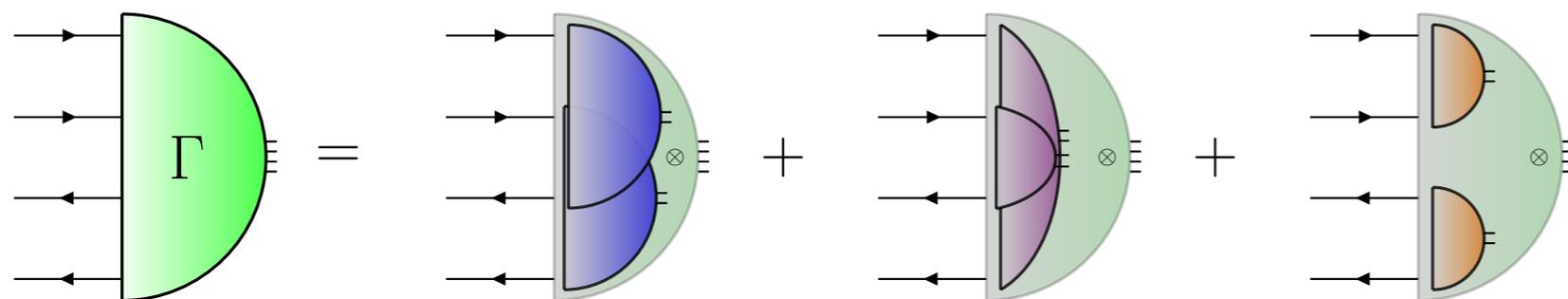
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779
 Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

Effect of repulsive forces



Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779
 Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

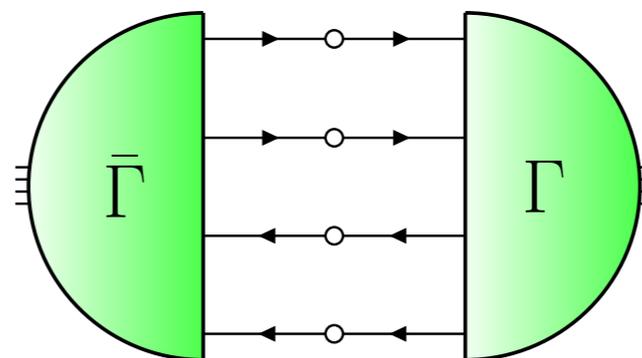
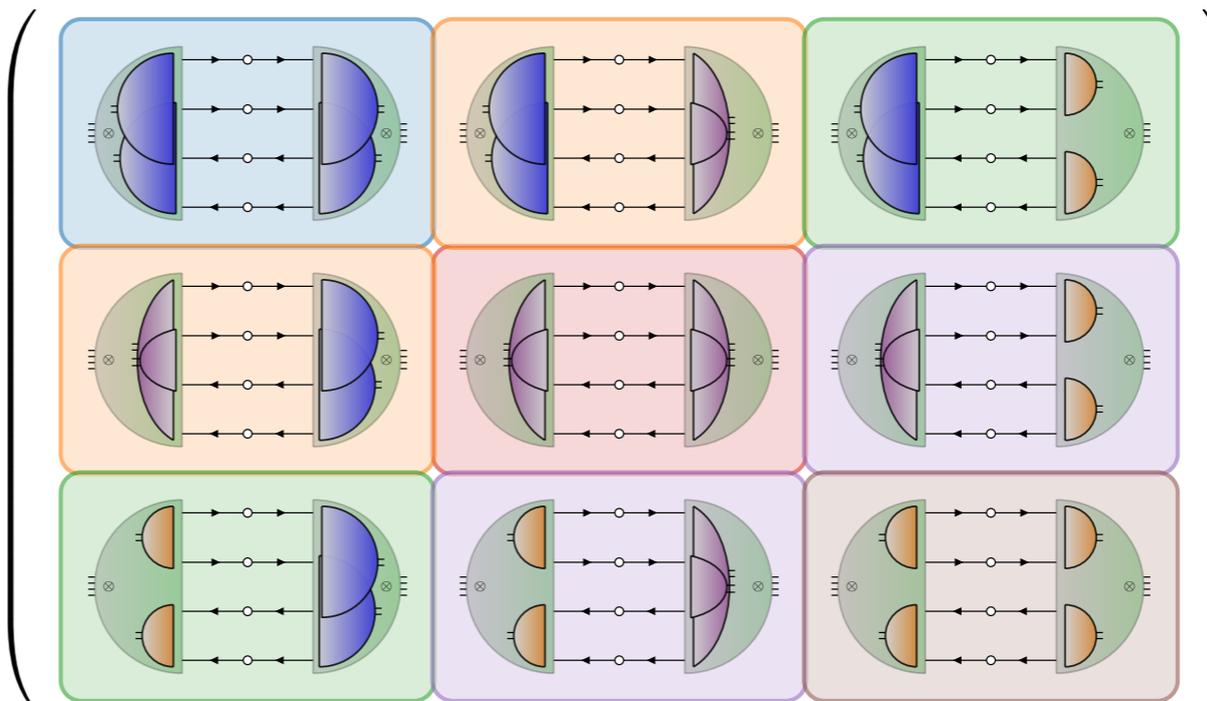
Identifying leading structures...



meson-meson
hadro-onium

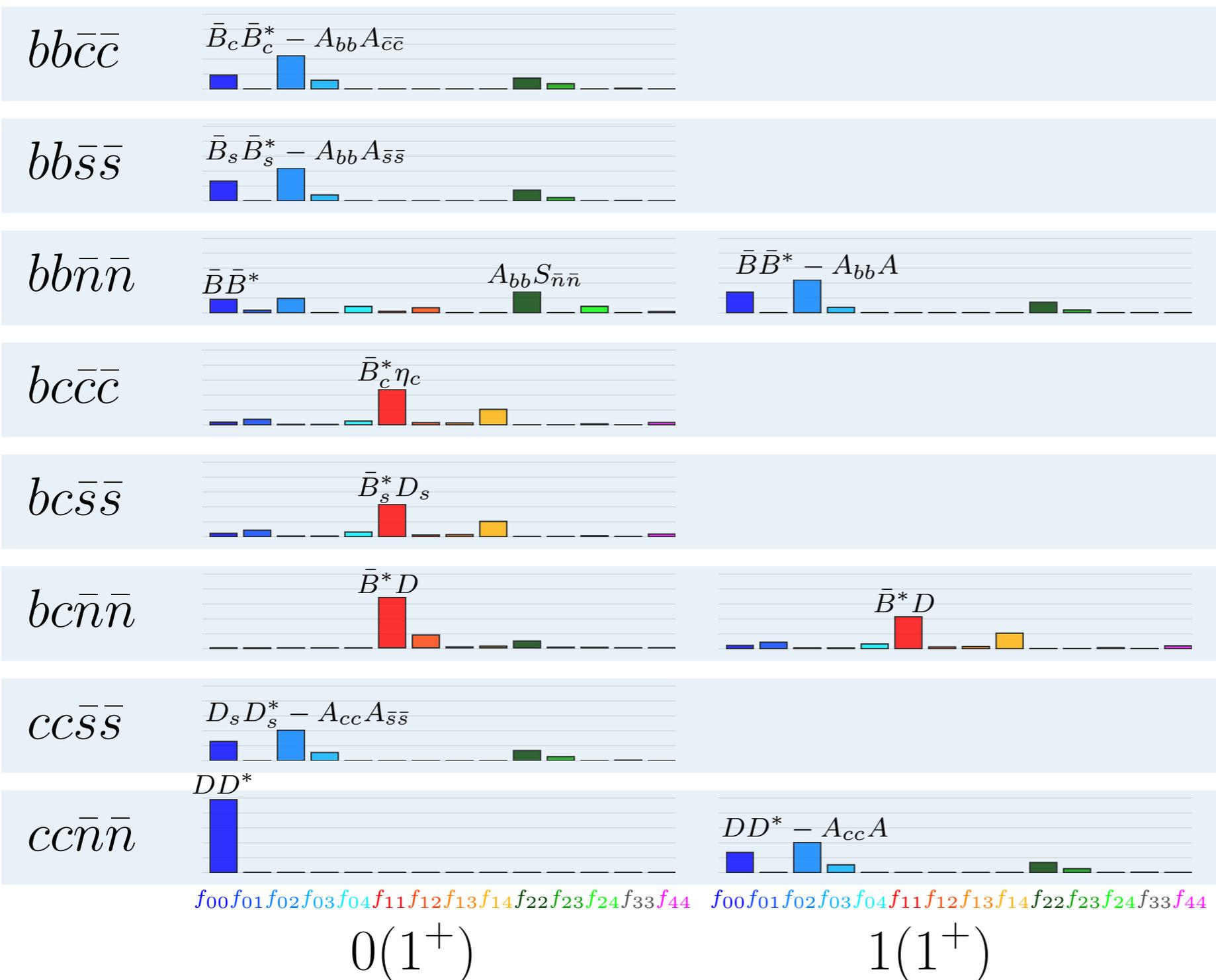
diquark-antidiquark

• norm contributions



Internal structure

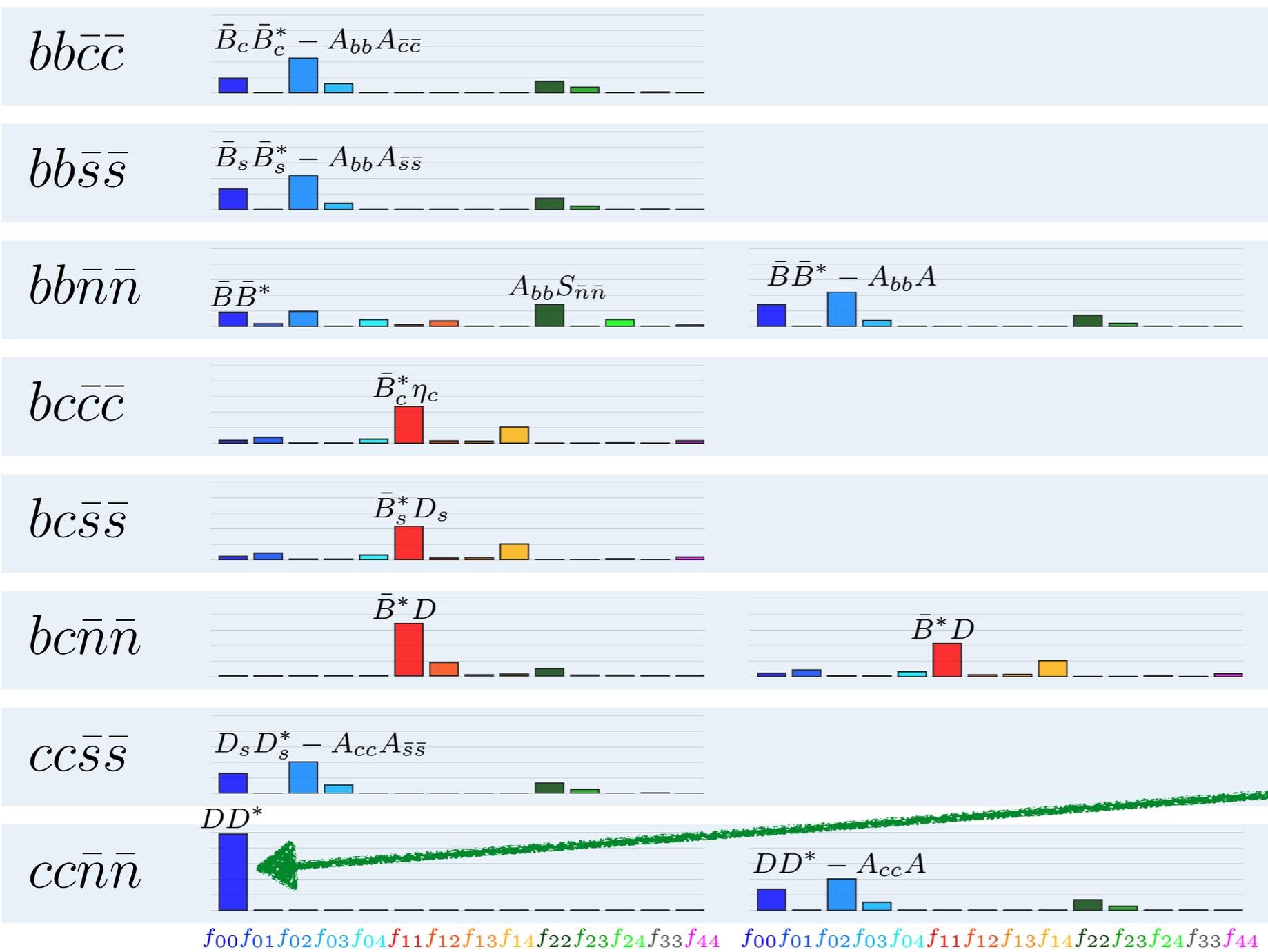
$$n \in \{u, d\}$$



- decided dynamically !
- flavour and spin dependent...prediction for bc

Internal structure

$$n \in \{u, d\}$$



T_{cc}^+

$0(1^+)$

$1(1^+)$

- decided dynamically !
- flavour and spin dependent...prediction for bc

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

Internal structure

$$n \in \{u, d\}$$



also seen on the lattice

Bicudo et al, PRD D103 (2021)
 Review:
 Francis, PPNP 140 (2025) 104143

$$T_{cc}^+$$

- decided dynamically !
- flavour and spin dependent... **prediction for bc**

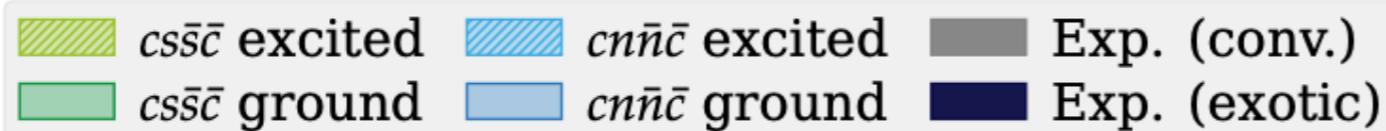
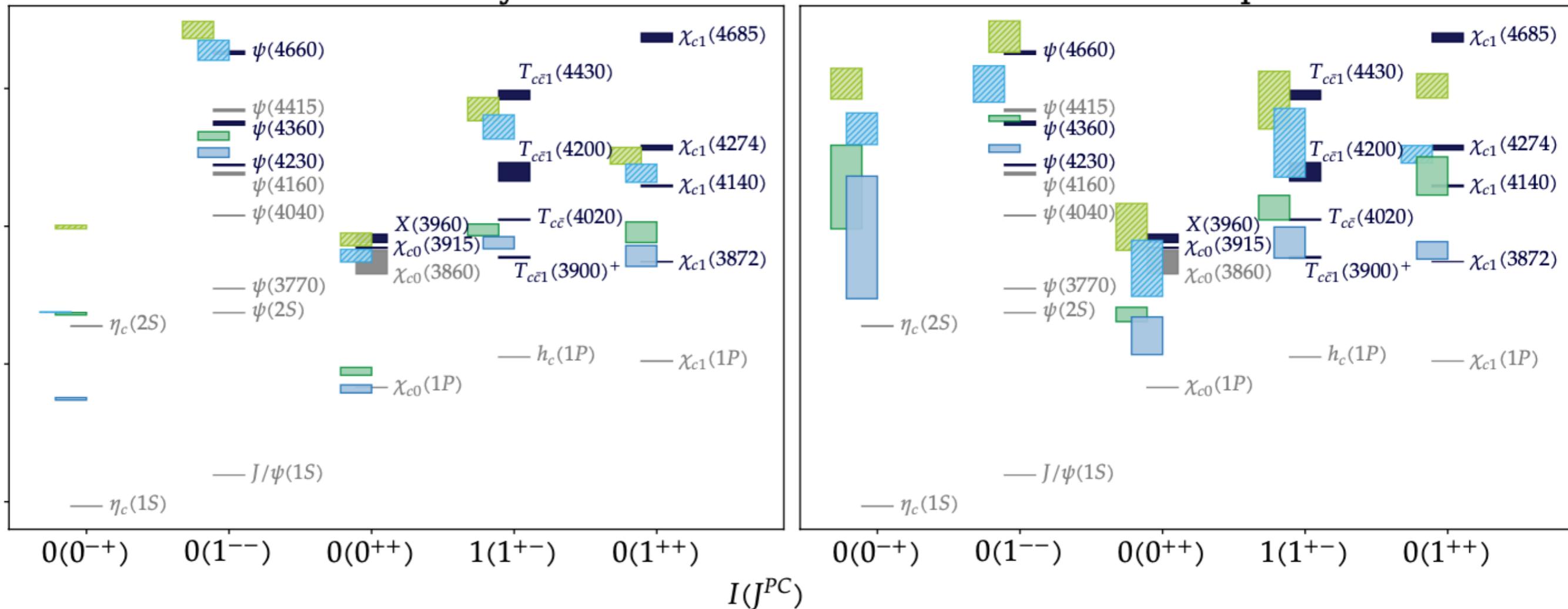
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

Hidden flavour four-quark states with charm

M [GeV]

attractive only

attractive+repulsive



$$n \in \{u, d\}$$

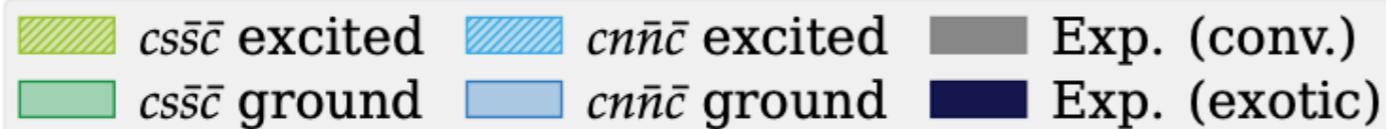
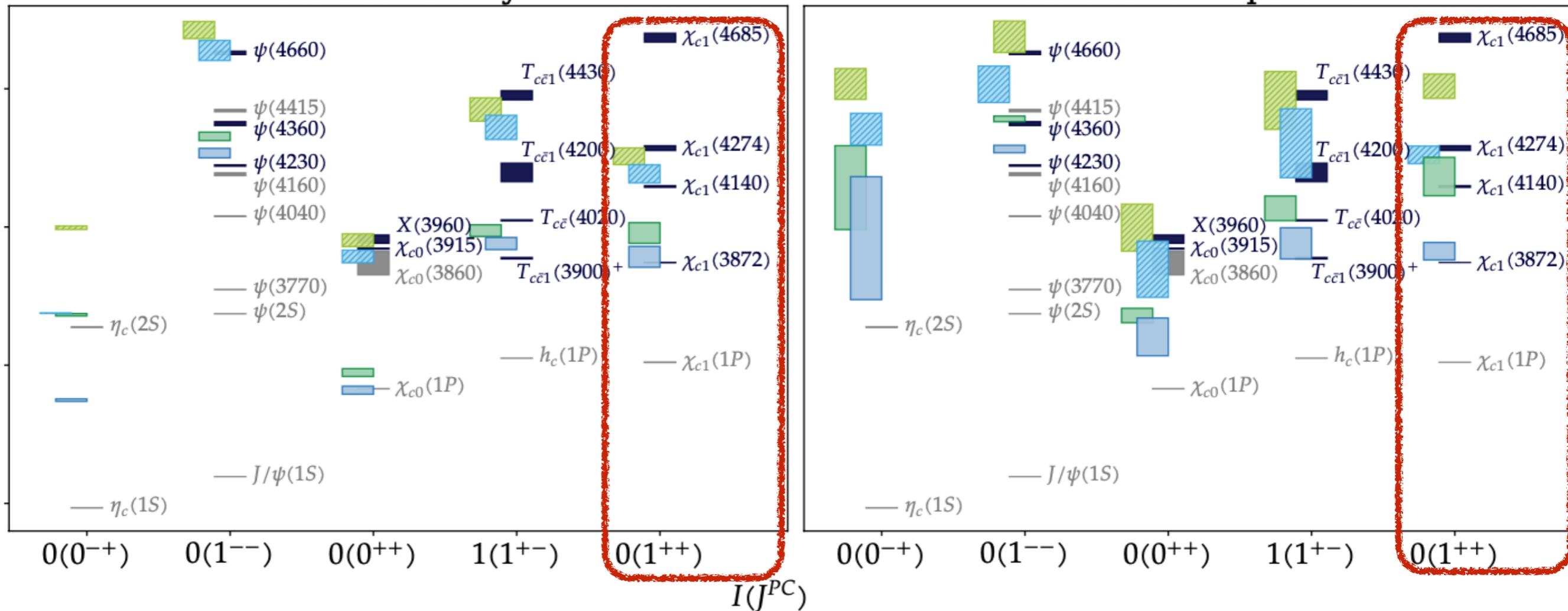
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

Hidden flavour four-quark states with charm

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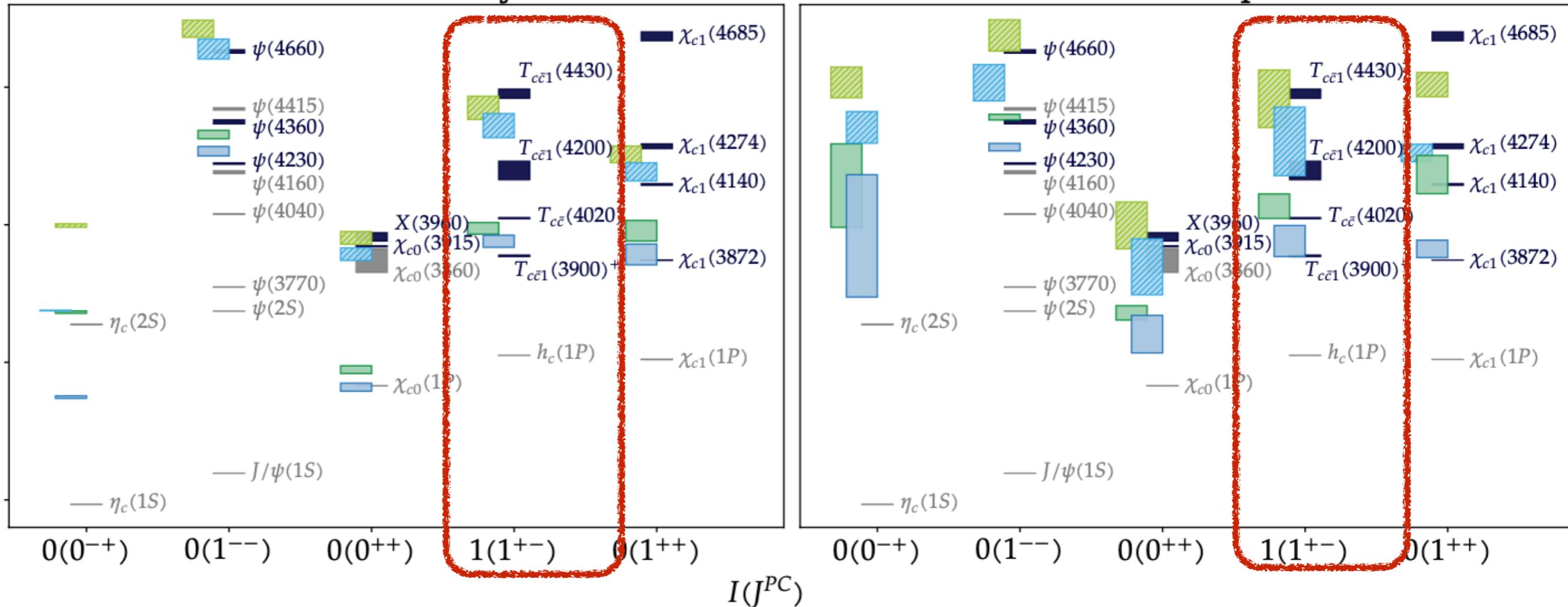
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

Hidden flavour four-quark states with charm

M [GeV]

attractive only

attractive+repulsive



$cs\bar{s}\bar{c}$ excited
 $cn\bar{n}\bar{c}$ excited
 Exp. (conv.)
 $cs\bar{s}\bar{c}$ ground
 $cn\bar{n}\bar{c}$ ground
 Exp. (exotic)

$$n \in \{u, d\}$$

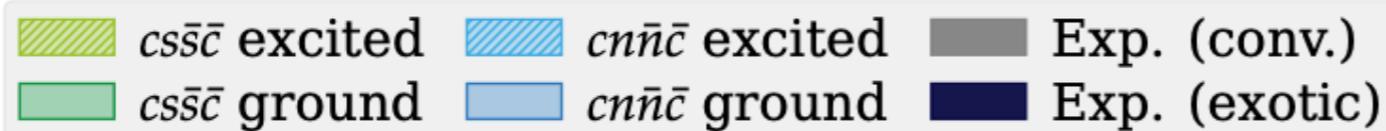
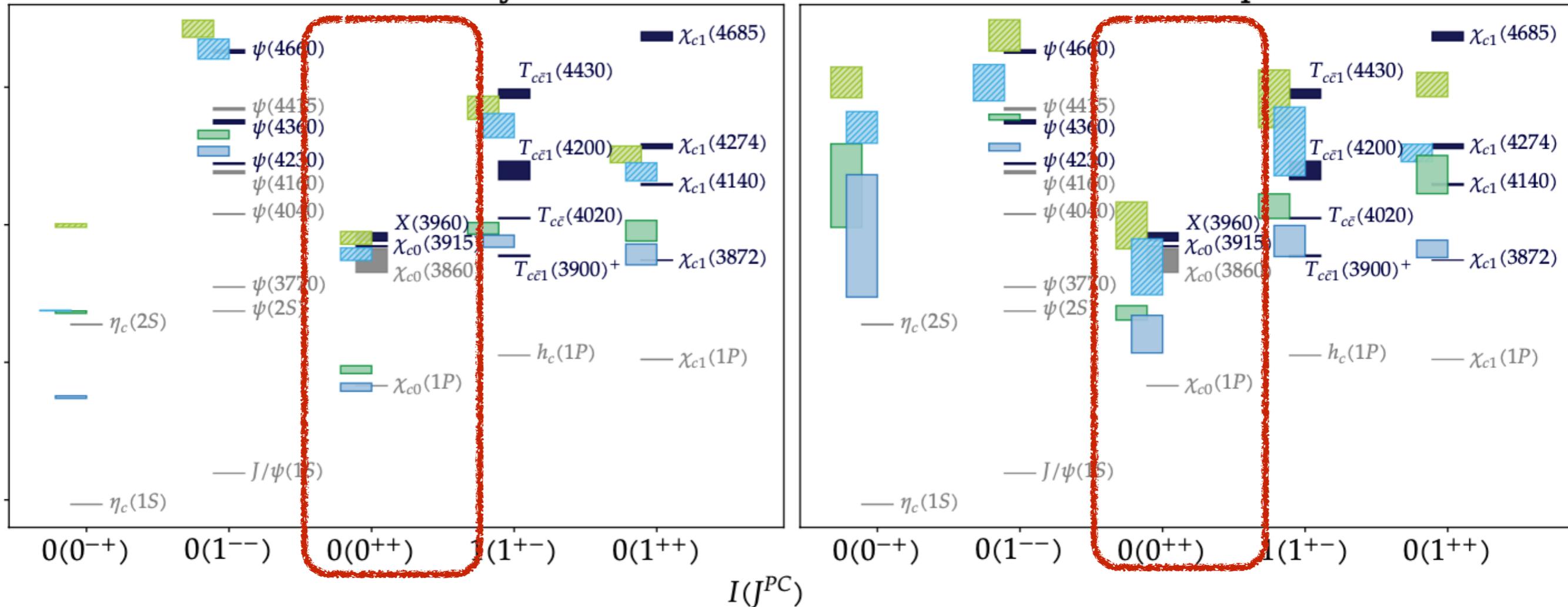
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Hidden flavour four-quark states with charm

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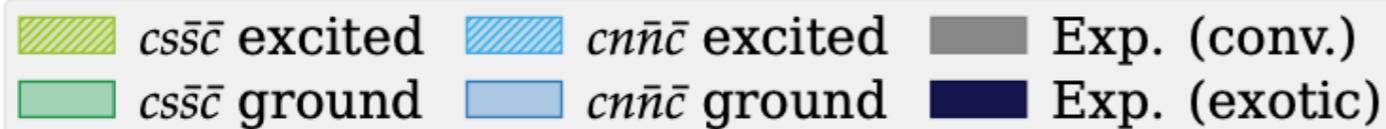
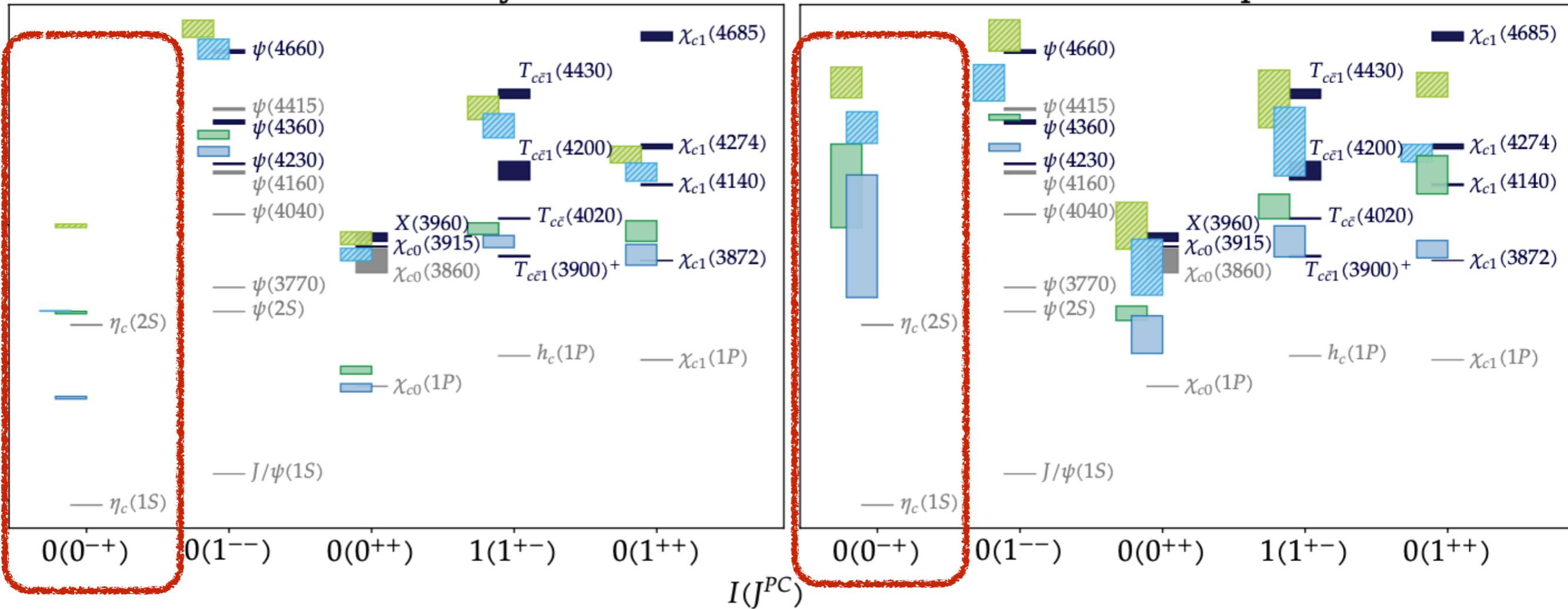
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Hidden flavour four-quark states with charm

M [GeV]

attractive only

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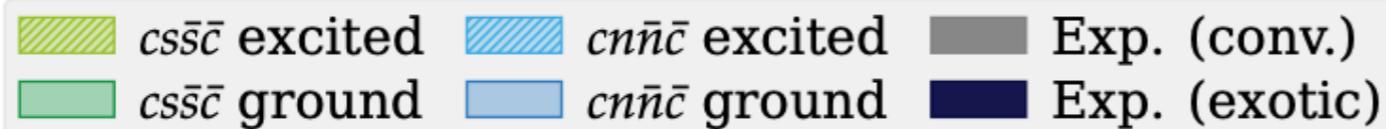
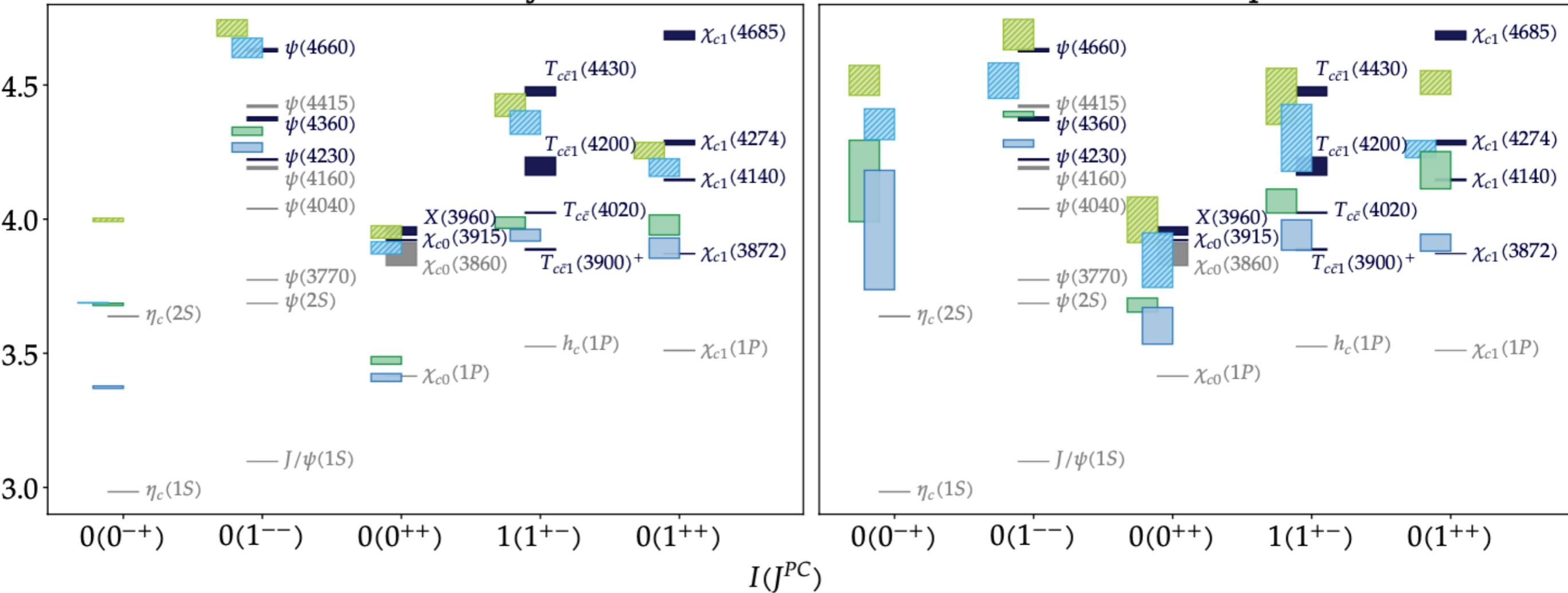
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
 Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

Hidden flavour four-quark states with charm

M [GeV]

attractive only

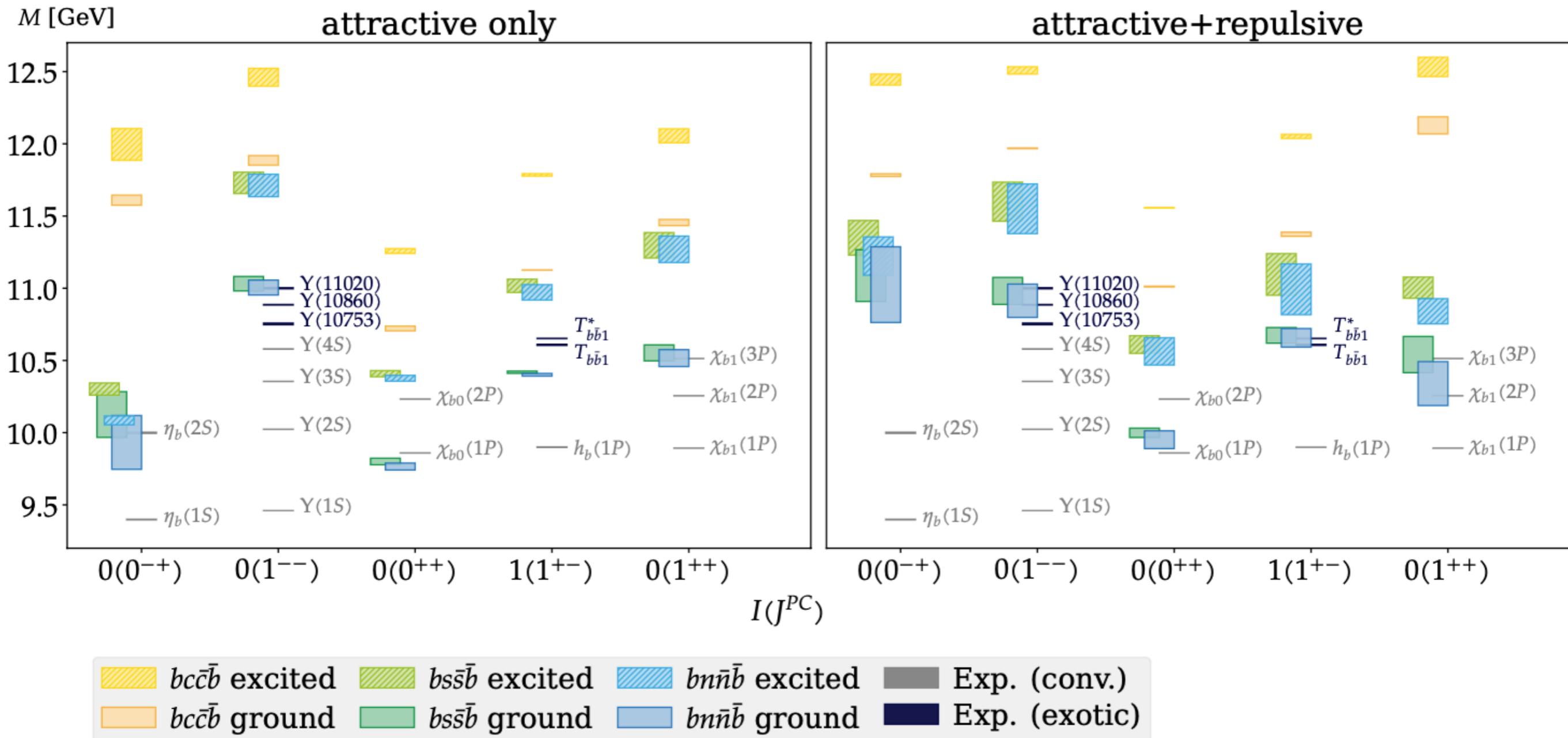
attractive+repulsive



$$n \in \{u, d\}$$

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

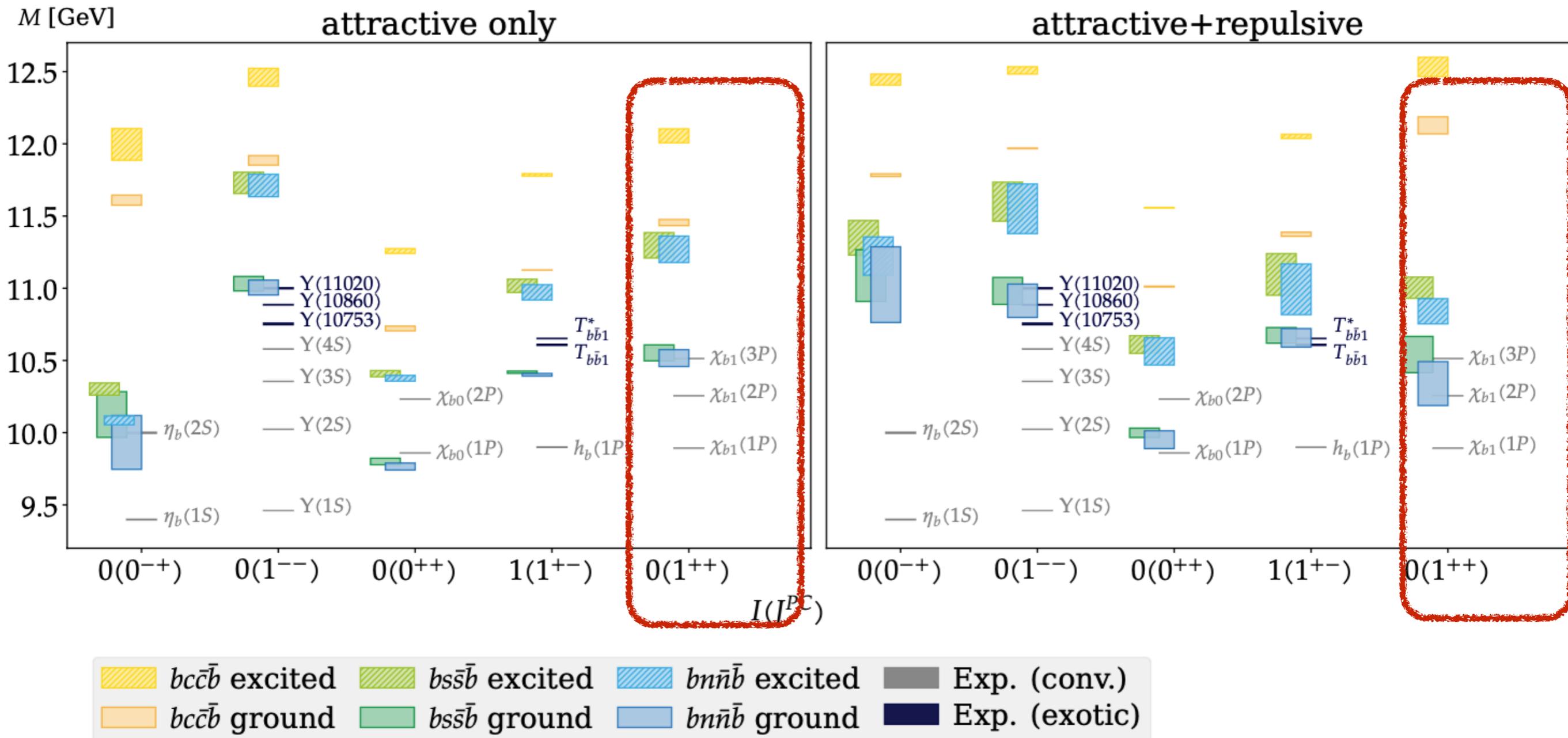
Hidden flavour four-quark states with bottom



$$n \in \{u, d\}$$

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

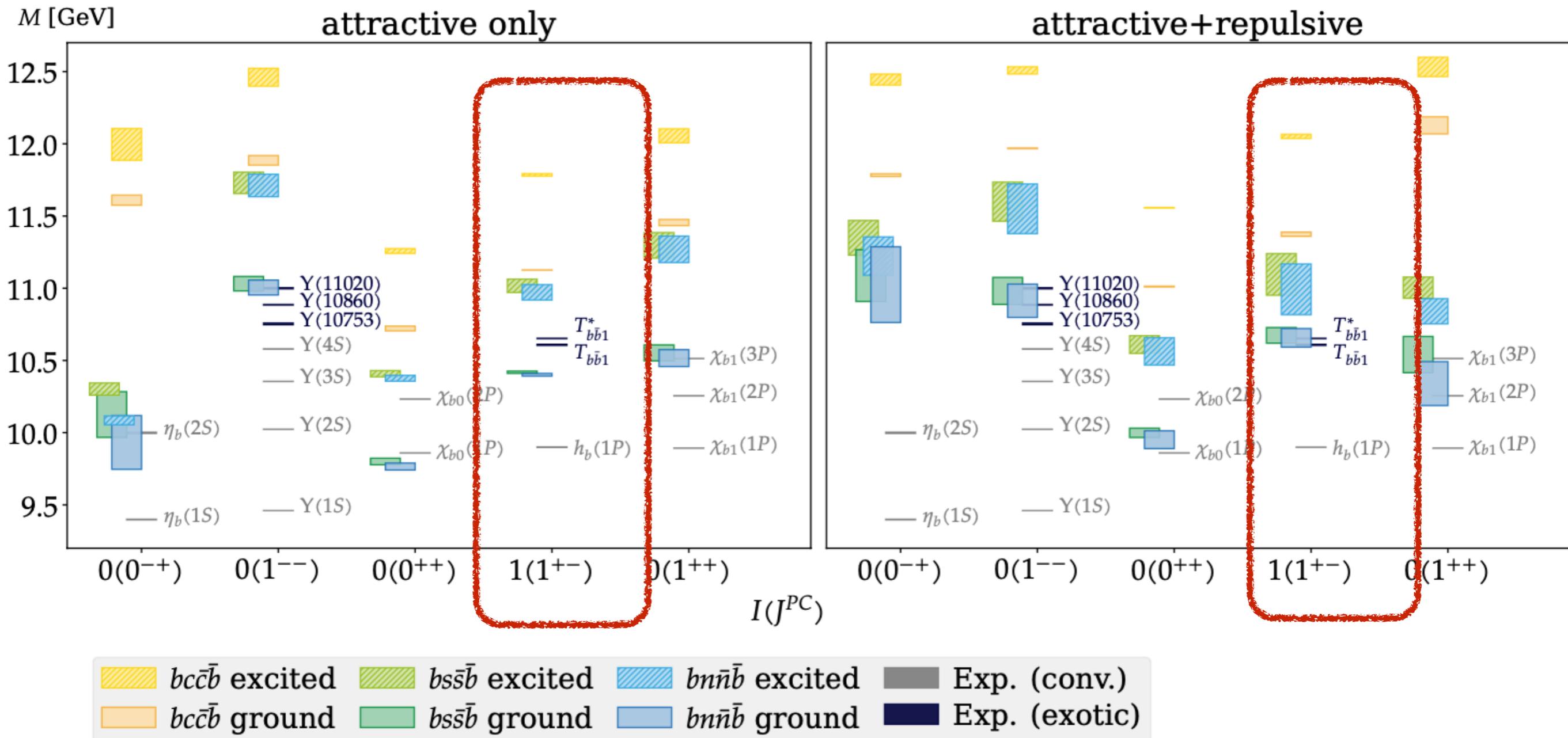
Hidden flavour four-quark states with bottom



$$n \in \{u, d\}$$

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
 Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

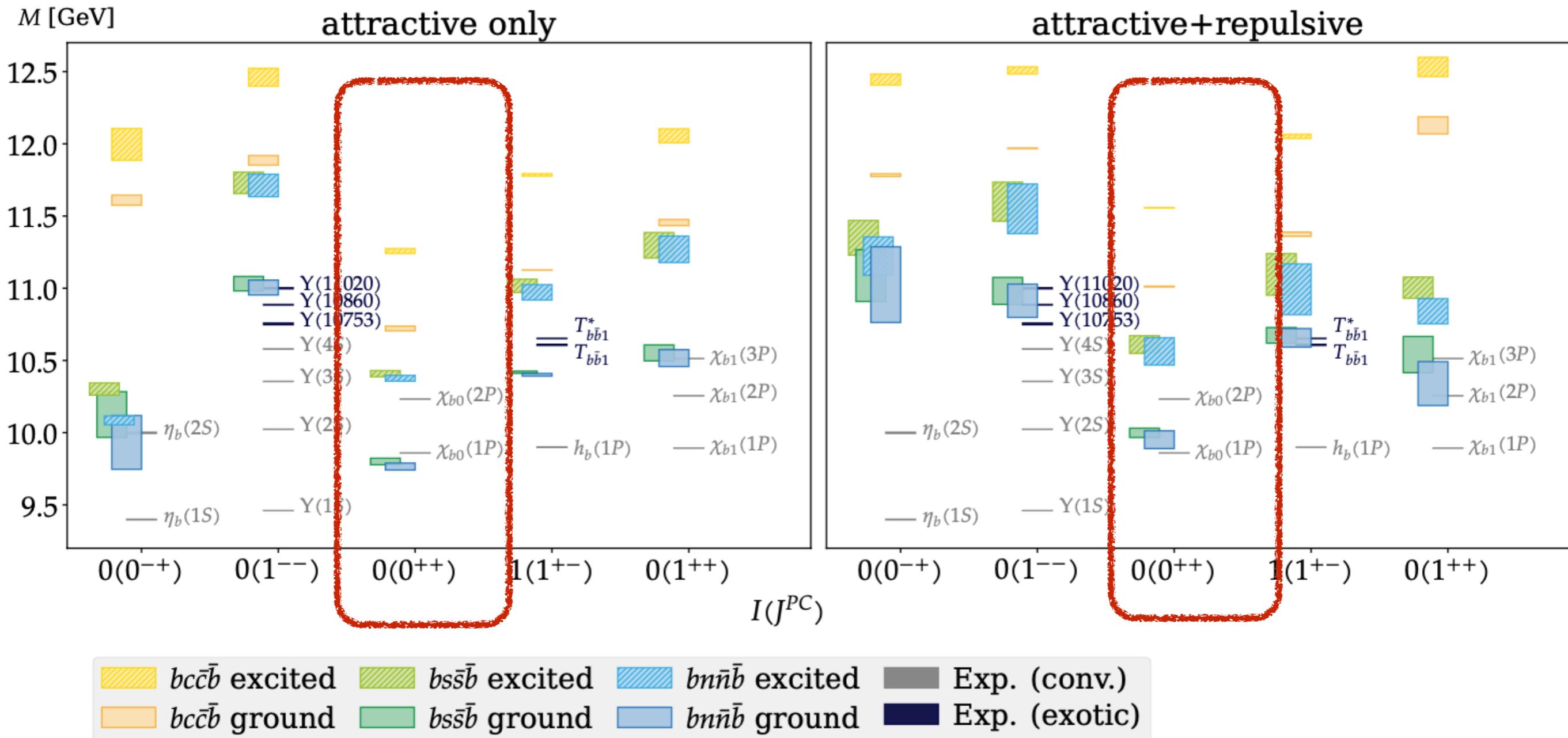
Hidden flavour four-quark states with bottom



$$n \in \{u, d\}$$

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
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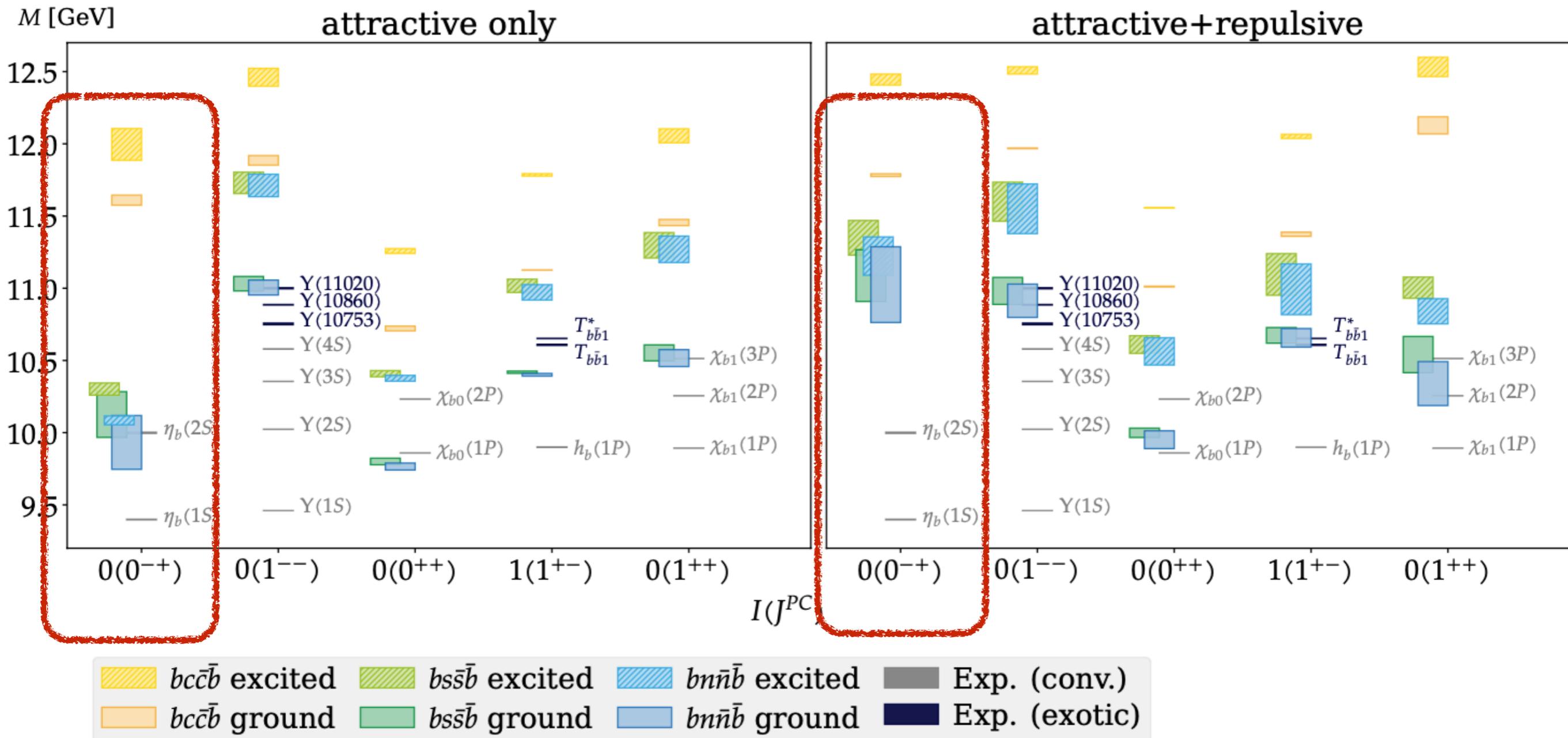
Hidden flavour four-quark states with bottom



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Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
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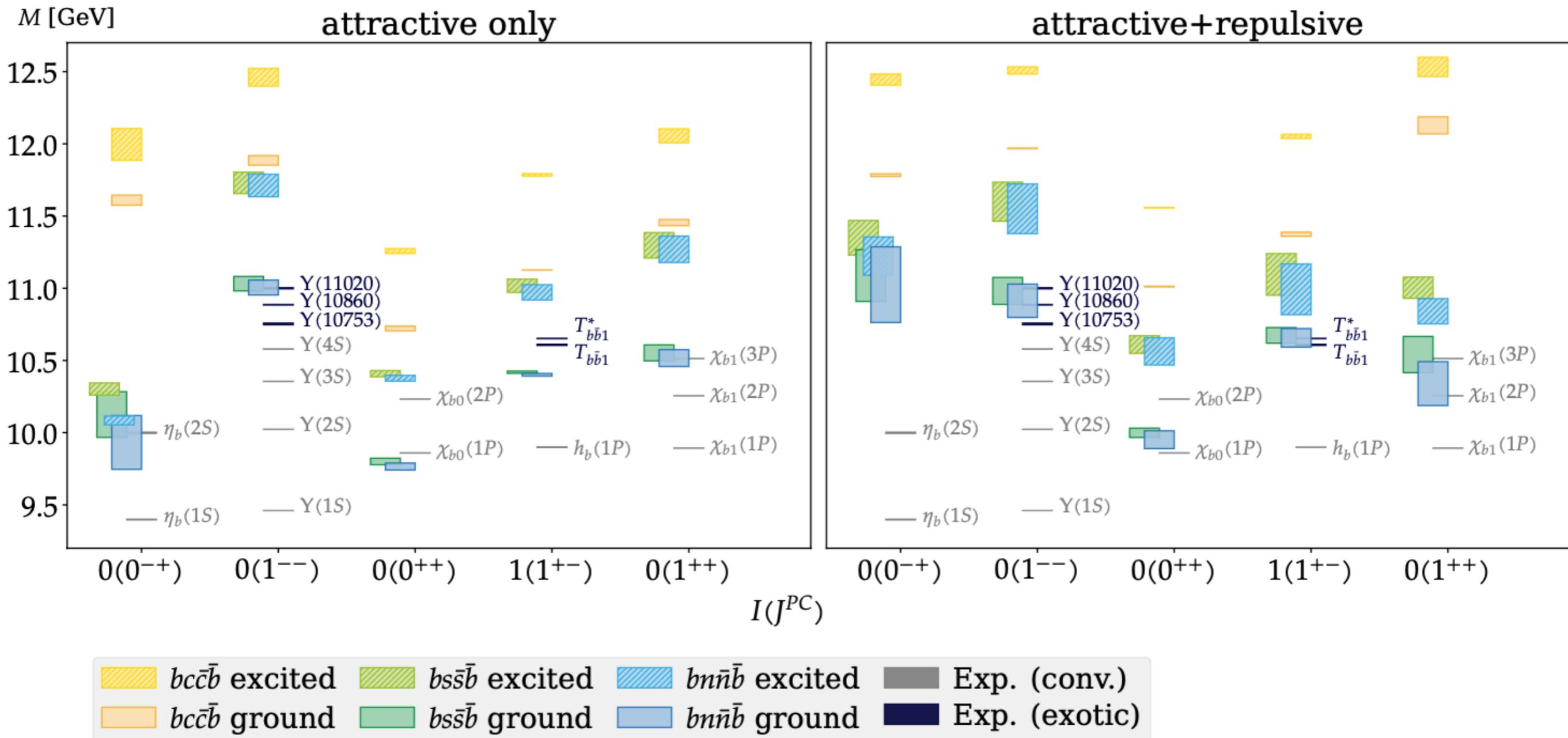
Hidden flavour four-quark states with bottom



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Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
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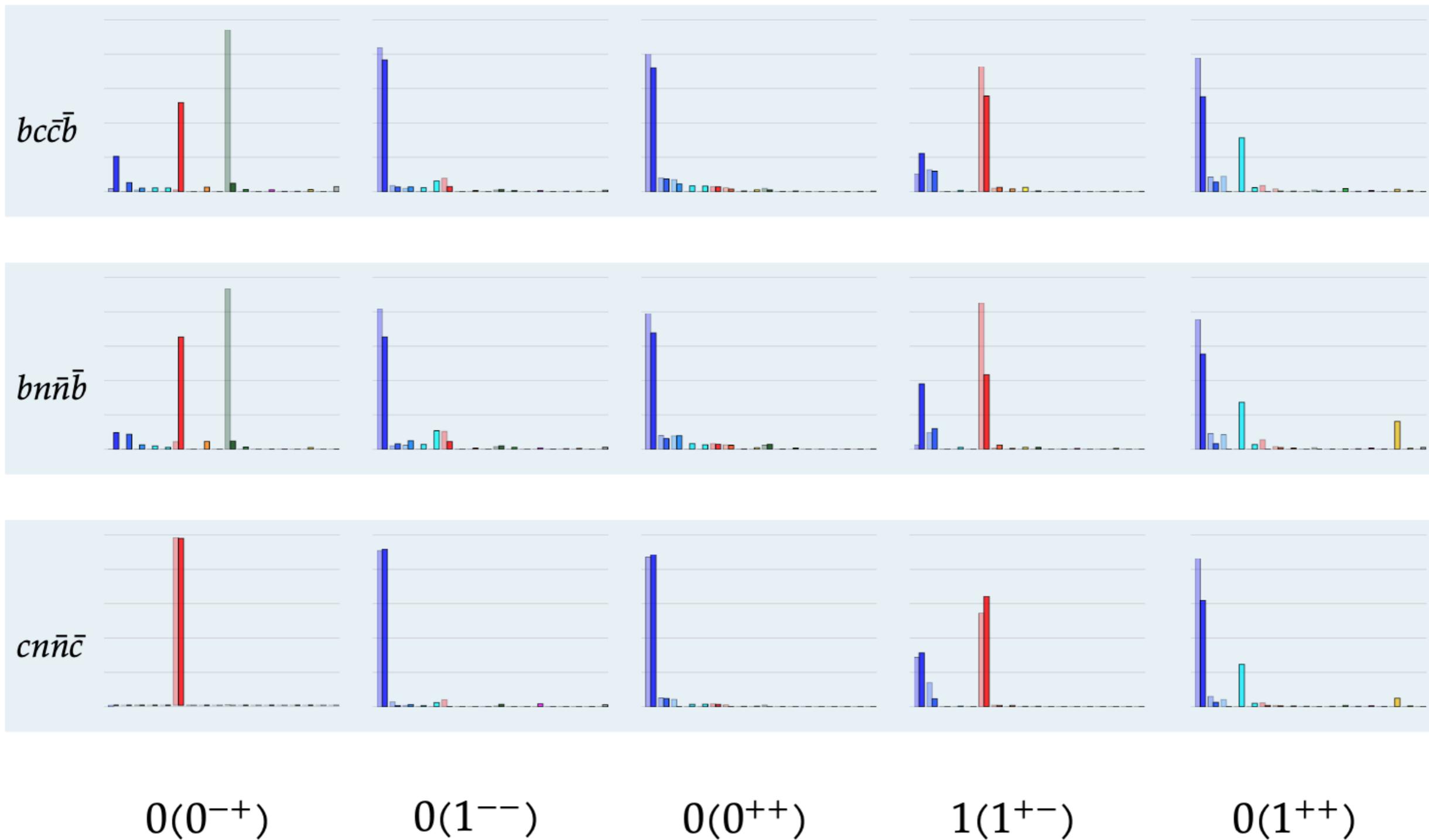
Hidden flavour four-quark states with bottom



$$n \in \{u, d\}$$

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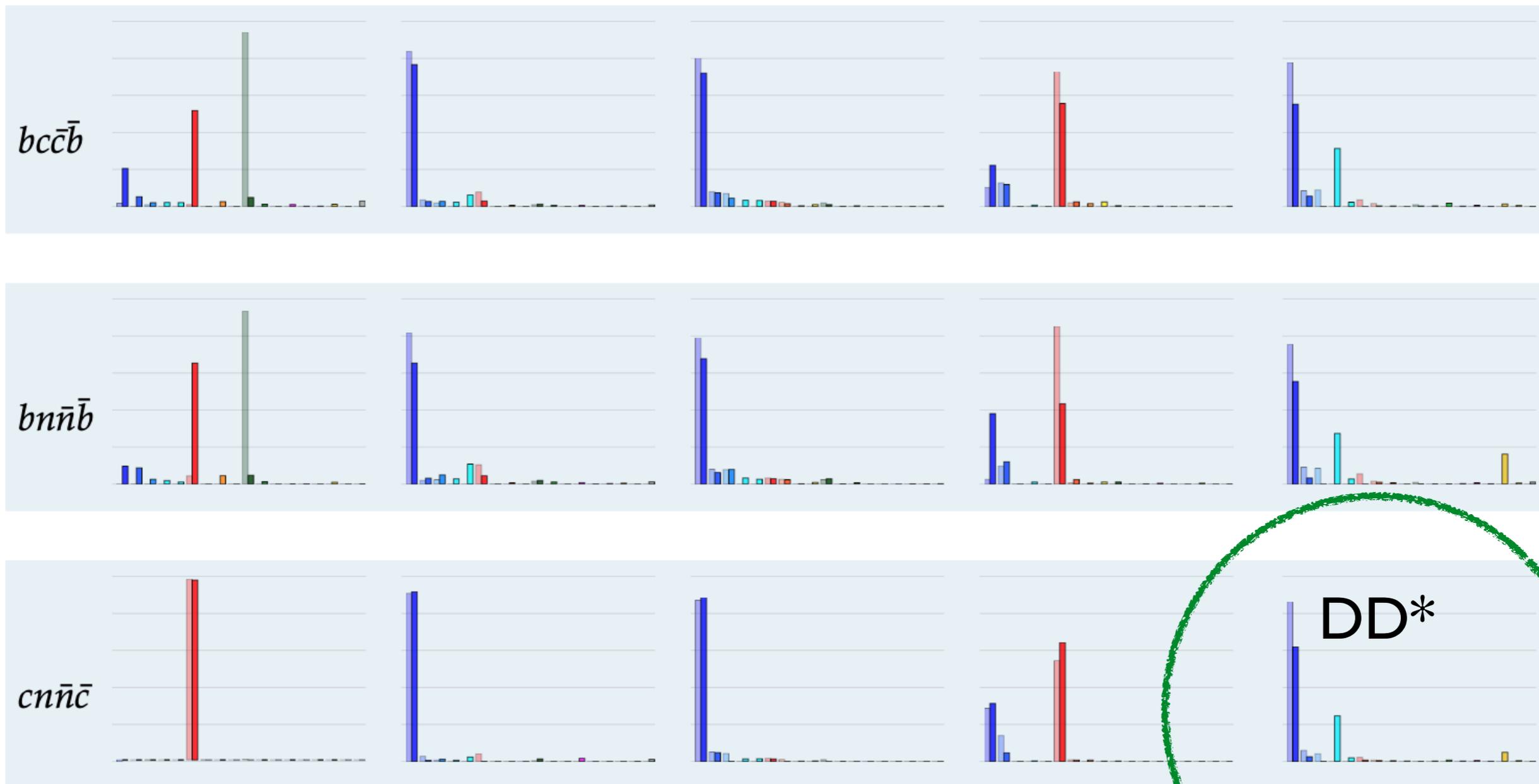
Internal structure



- decided dynamically !
- flavour and spin dependent...

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

Internal structure



$0(0^{-+})$

$0(1^{--})$

$0(0^{++})$

$1(1^{+-})$

$0(1^{++})$

DD*

X(3872)

- decided dynamically !
- flavour and spin dependent...

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 7 074025
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

Charm and bottom energy region:

- Spectrum for hidden and open flavor four-quark states
- Interesting interplay: attractive and repulsive forces
- Internal structure is flavour and spin dependent!
- meson-meson is dominating/important

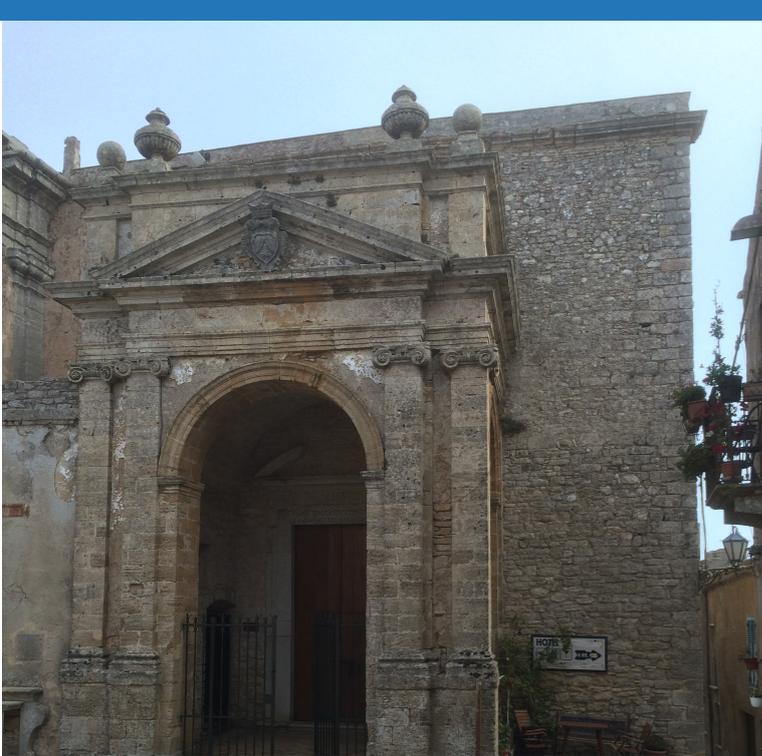
Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, PRD 109 (2024) 074025

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, 2409.05779

Hoffer, Eichmann, CF, in preparation

- To do:
- improve two-body forces
 - include three and four-body forces
 - visit second Riemann sheet
 - include mixing with two-quark states

Erice - International School of Nuclear Physics



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INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS

46th Course

QCD under extreme conditions

- from heavy-ion collisions to the phase diagram

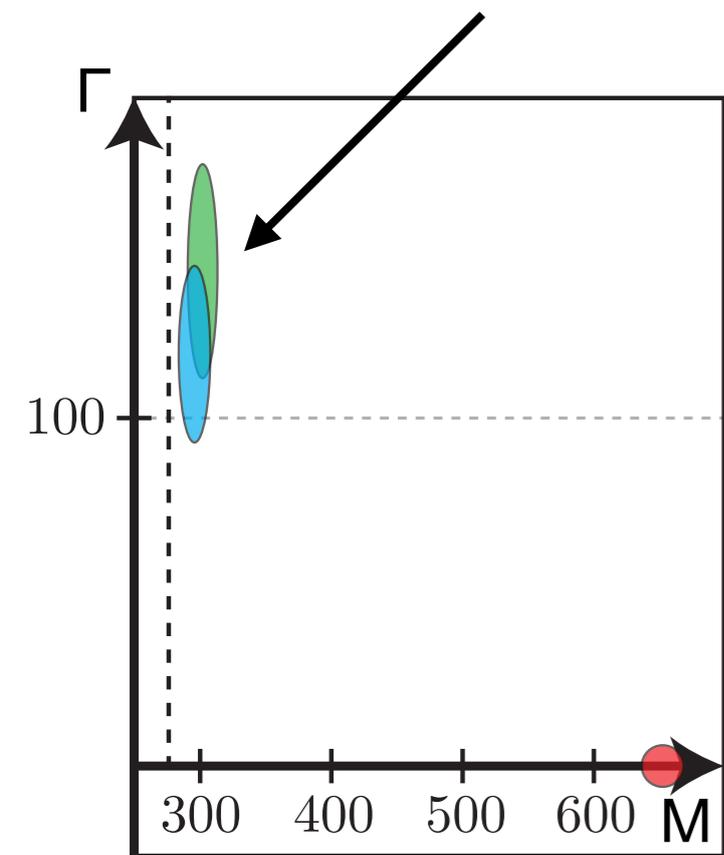
Erice-Sicily: September 16-22, 2025

Directors of the Course:
Christian Fischer and Tetyana Galatyuk

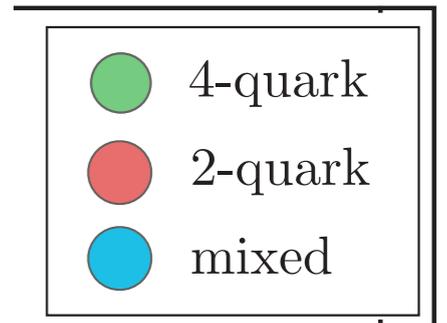


Mass evolution of four-quark state: 0^{++}

$f_0(500) : \pi\pi$ – component dominates!



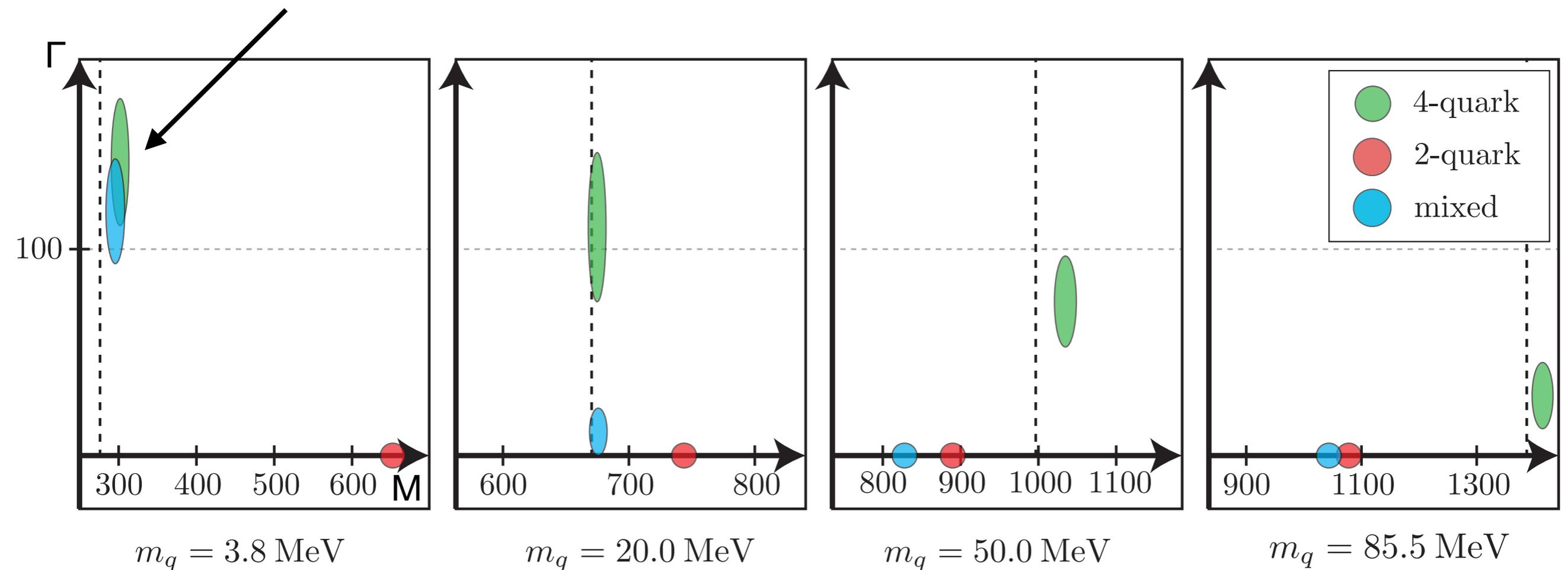
$$m_q = 3.8 \text{ MeV}$$



Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313; arXiv:2109.00755

Mass evolution of four-quark state: 0^{++}

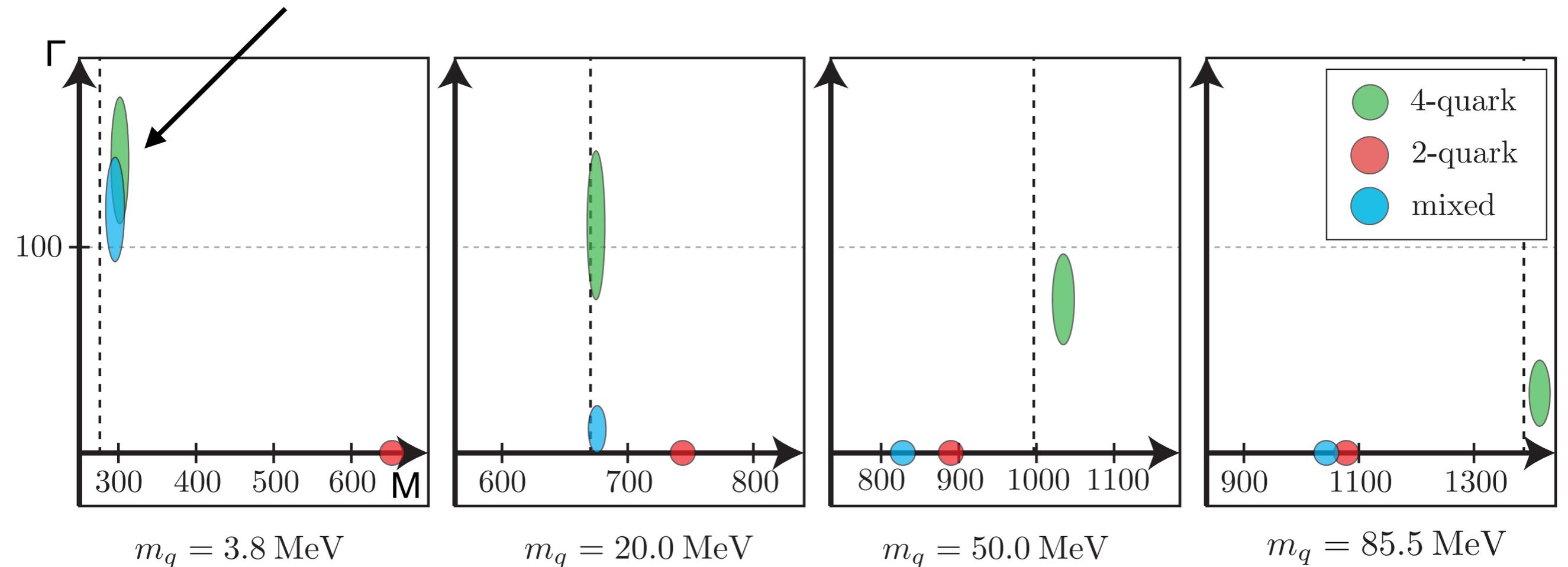
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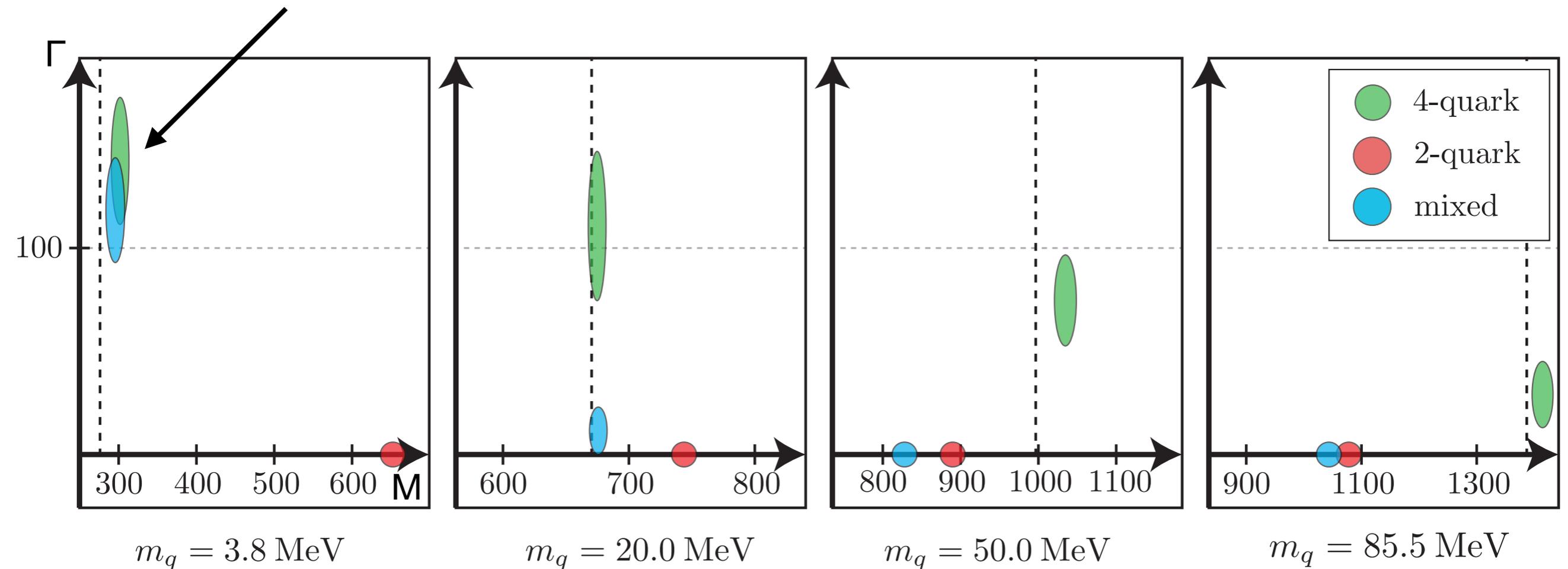


Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313; arXiv:2109.00755

- mixed state becomes qq-dominated for large m_q
- dynamical decision !

Mass evolution of four-quark state: 0^{++}

$f_0(500) : \pi\pi$ – component dominates!

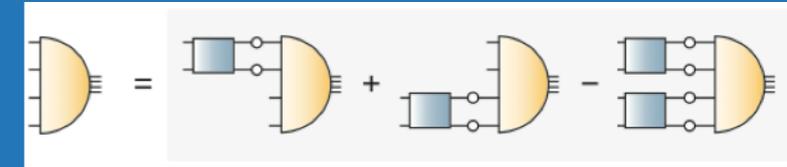


Santowsky, CF, PRD 105 (2022) 4,313; arXiv:2109.00755

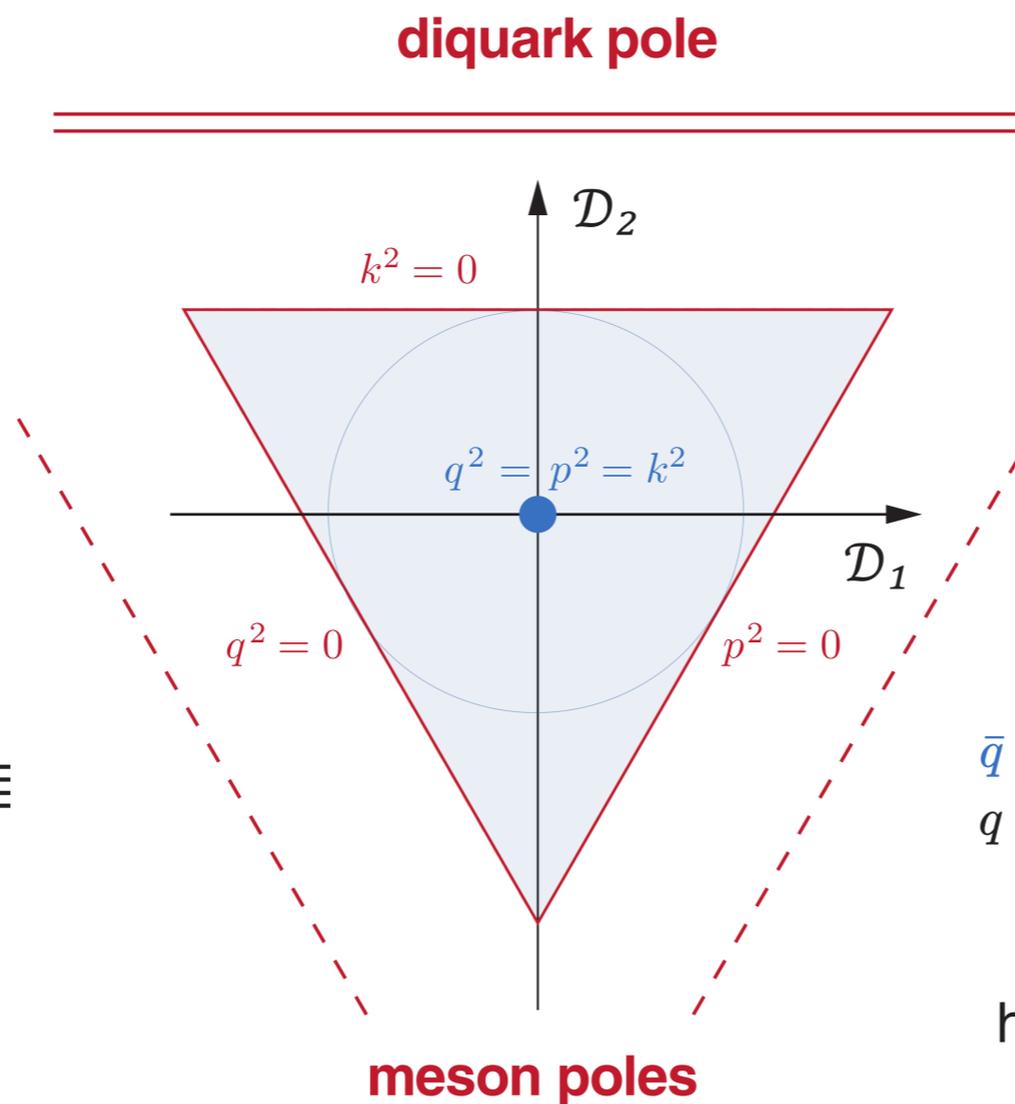
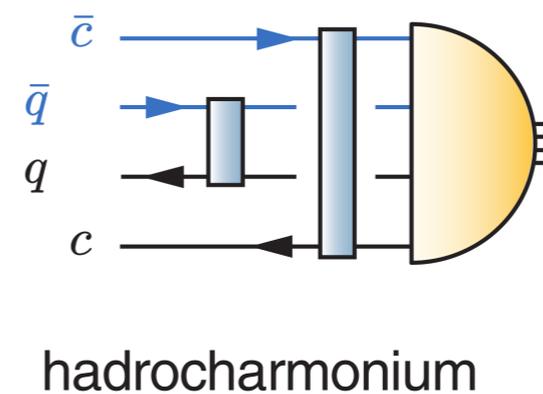
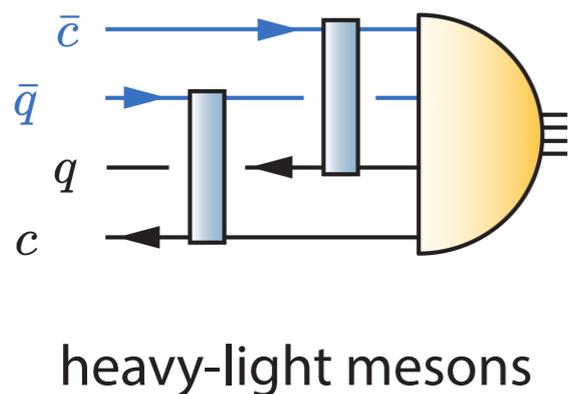
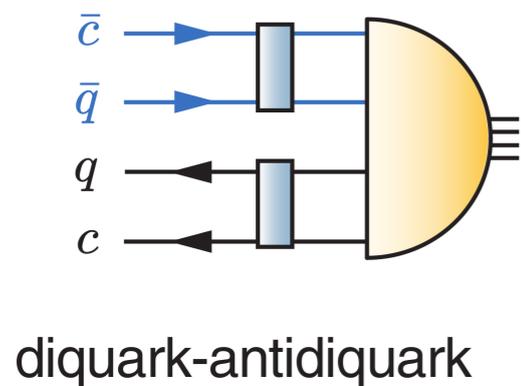
- mixed state becomes qq-dominated for large m_q
- dynamical decision !

→ consequences for $ccqq$, $ccss$, bbq , $bbss$, $bbcc$?
work to be done!

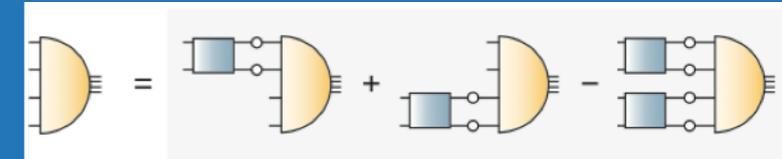
Four-body equation: permutations



- **Singlet:** $S_0 = (p^2 + q^2 + k^2)/4$ p, q, k : relative momenta
- **Doublet:** $\mathcal{D}_1 \sim p^2 + q^2 - 2k^2$
 $\mathcal{D}_2 \sim q^2 - p^2$



Four-body equation: permutations



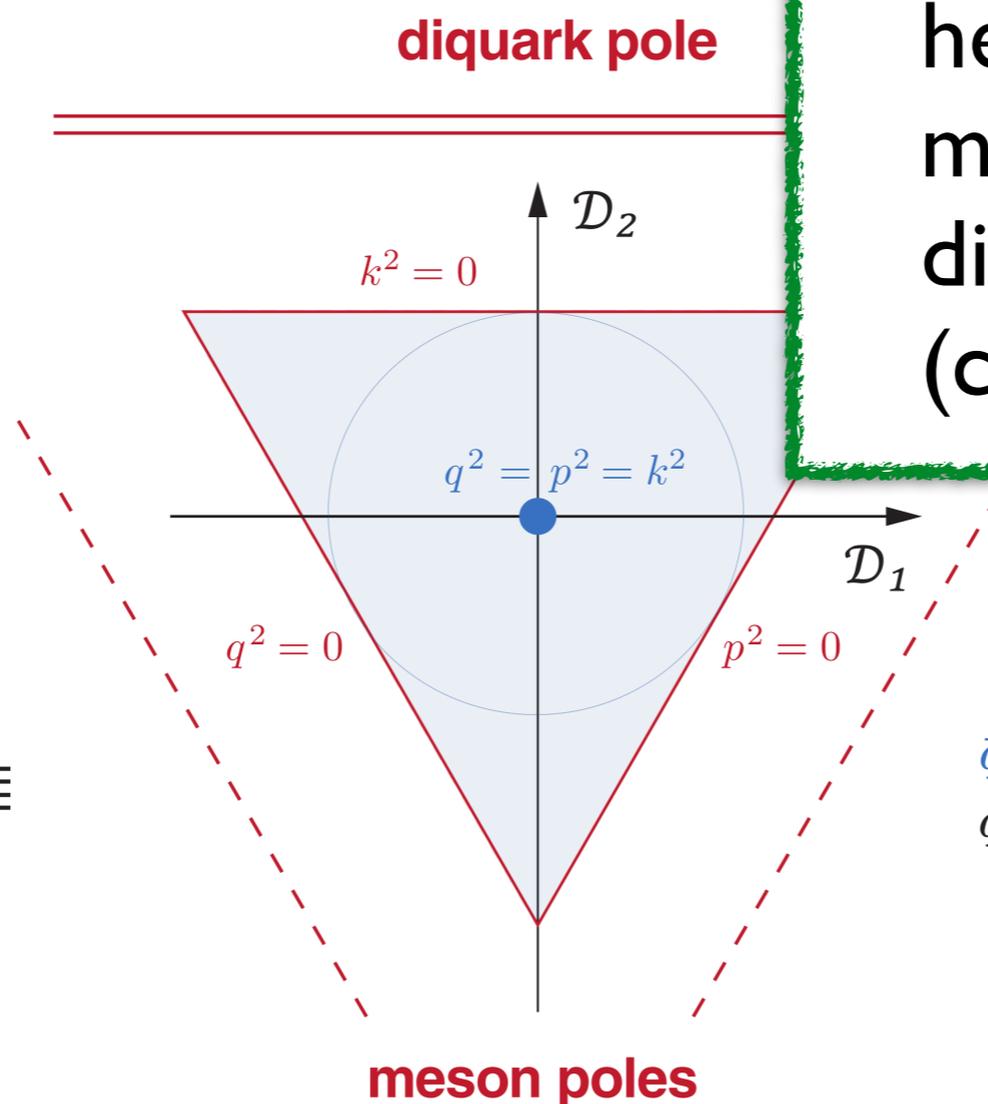
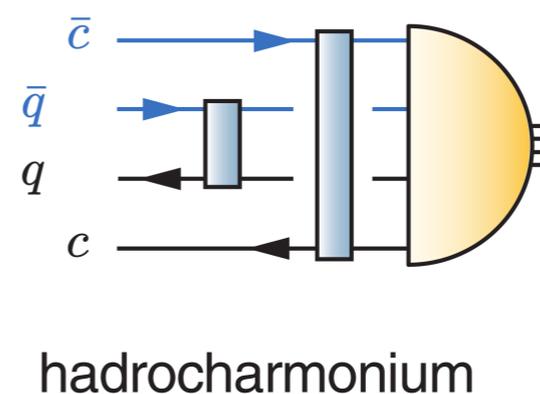
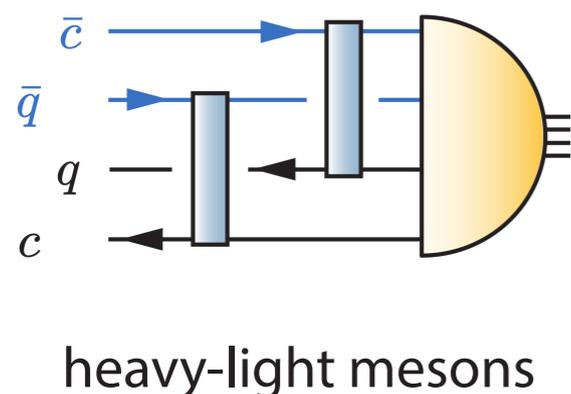
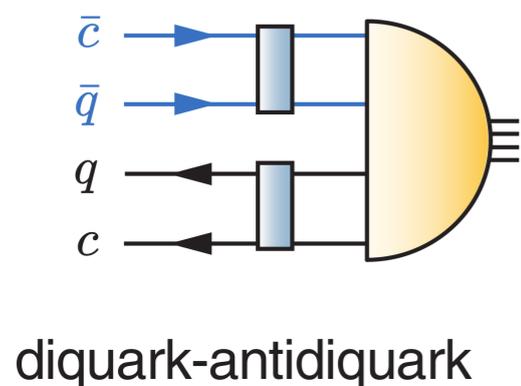
- **Singlet:** $S_0 = (p^2 + q^2 + k^2)/4$

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- **Doublet:** $\mathcal{D}_1 \sim p^2 + q^2 - 2k^2$

$$\mathcal{D}_2 \sim q^2 - p^2$$

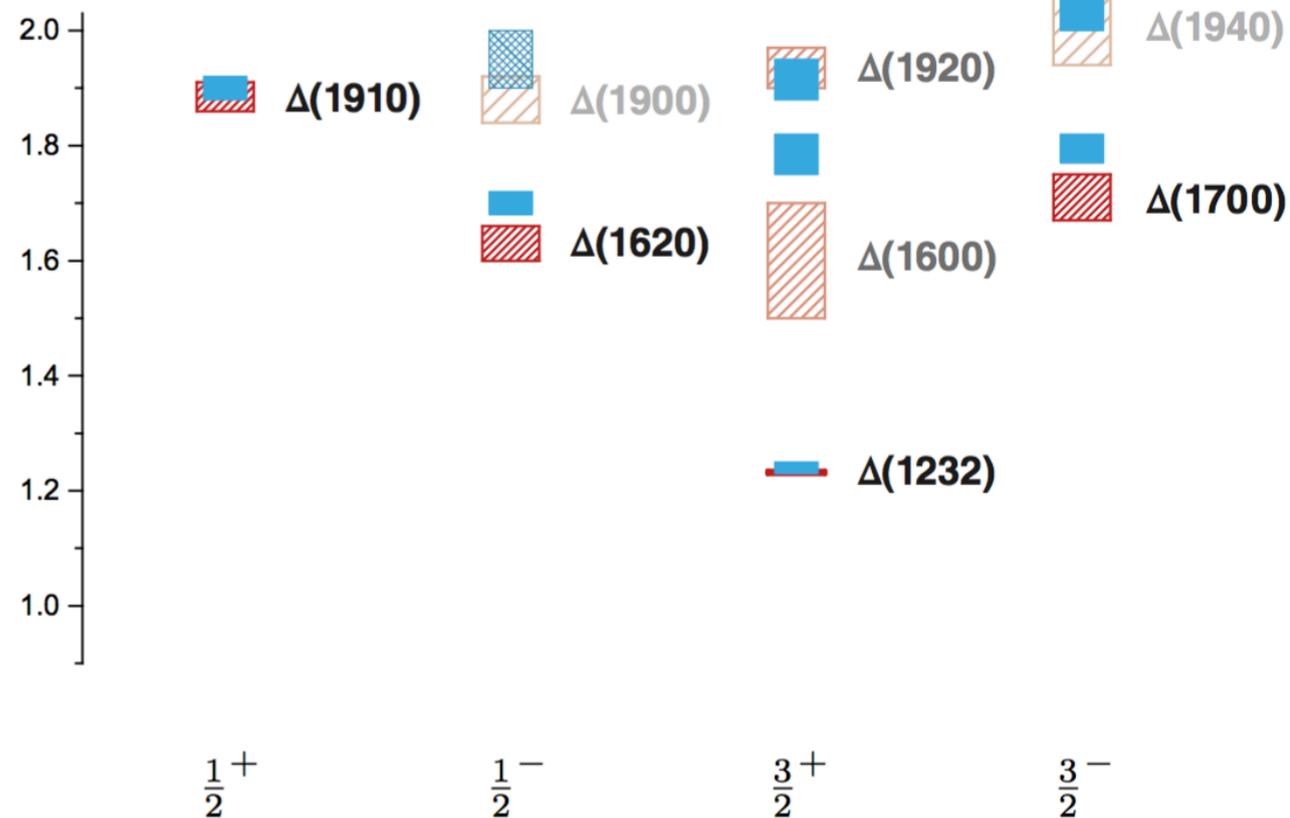
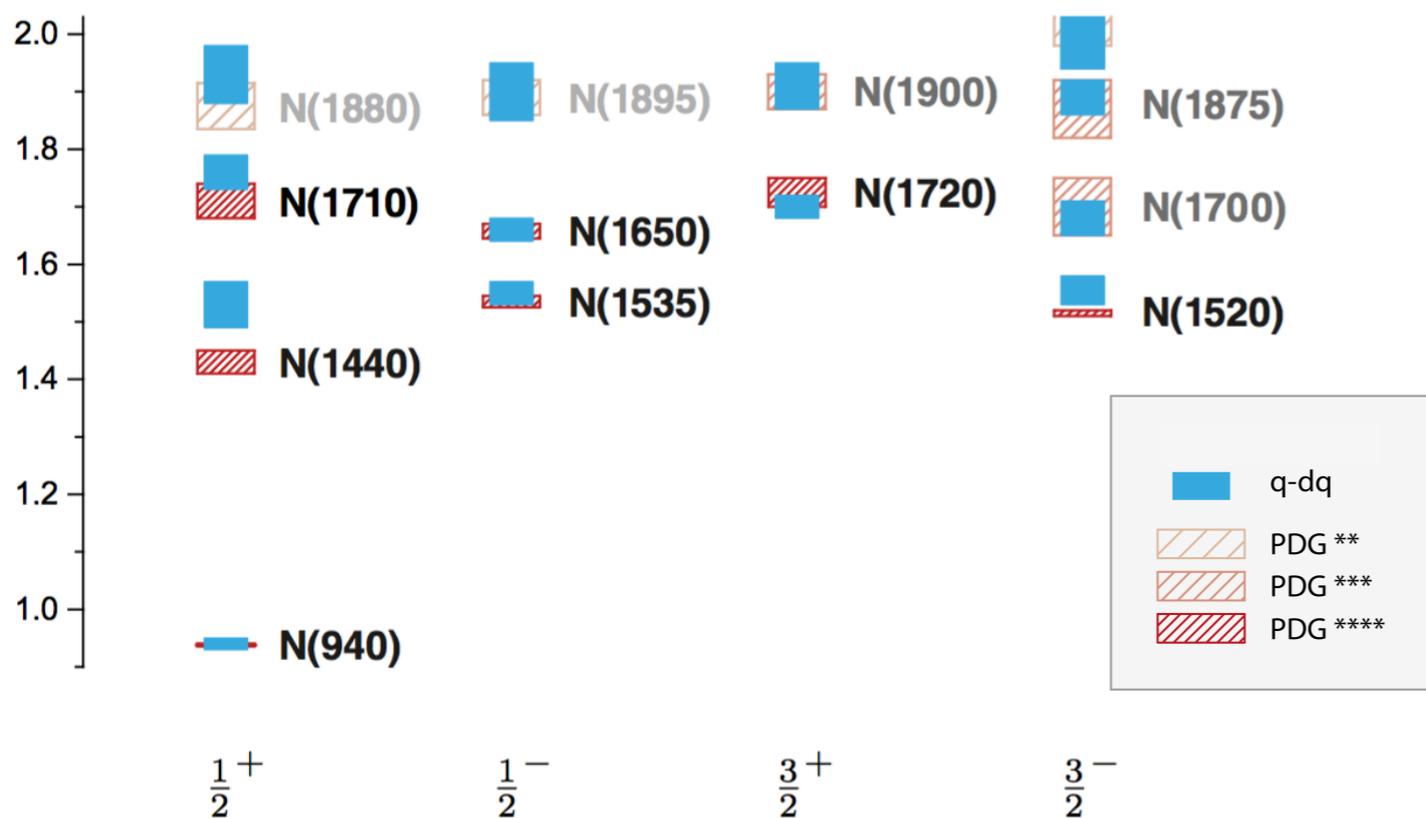
- **model independent:**
heavy-light meson poles
more important than
diquark poles
(color factor !)



Light baryon spectrum: diquark-picture

3 parameters + $m_{u,d,s}$

M [GeV]



Eichmann, CF, Sanchis-Alepuz, PRD 94 (2016) [1607.05748]
 Eichmann, CF, Few Body Syst. 60 (2019) no.1, 2

- spectrum in one to one agreement with experiment
- correct level ordering (without coupled channel effects...)
- strange baryons
- heavy baryons

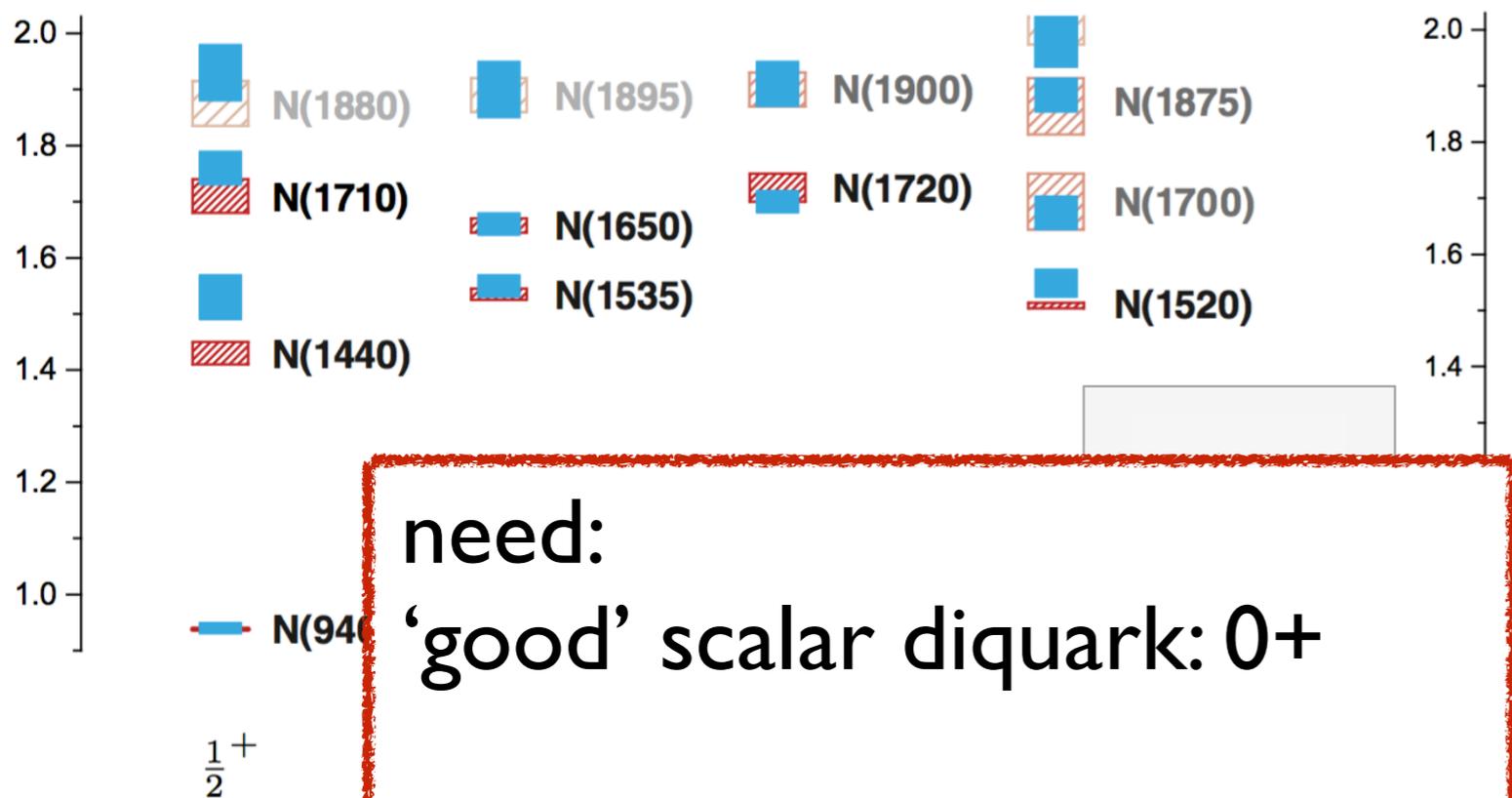
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 Torcato, Arriaga, Eichmann and Pena, FBS 64 (2023) 45

Review on diquarks: Barabanov et al, PPNP 116 (2021), 103835

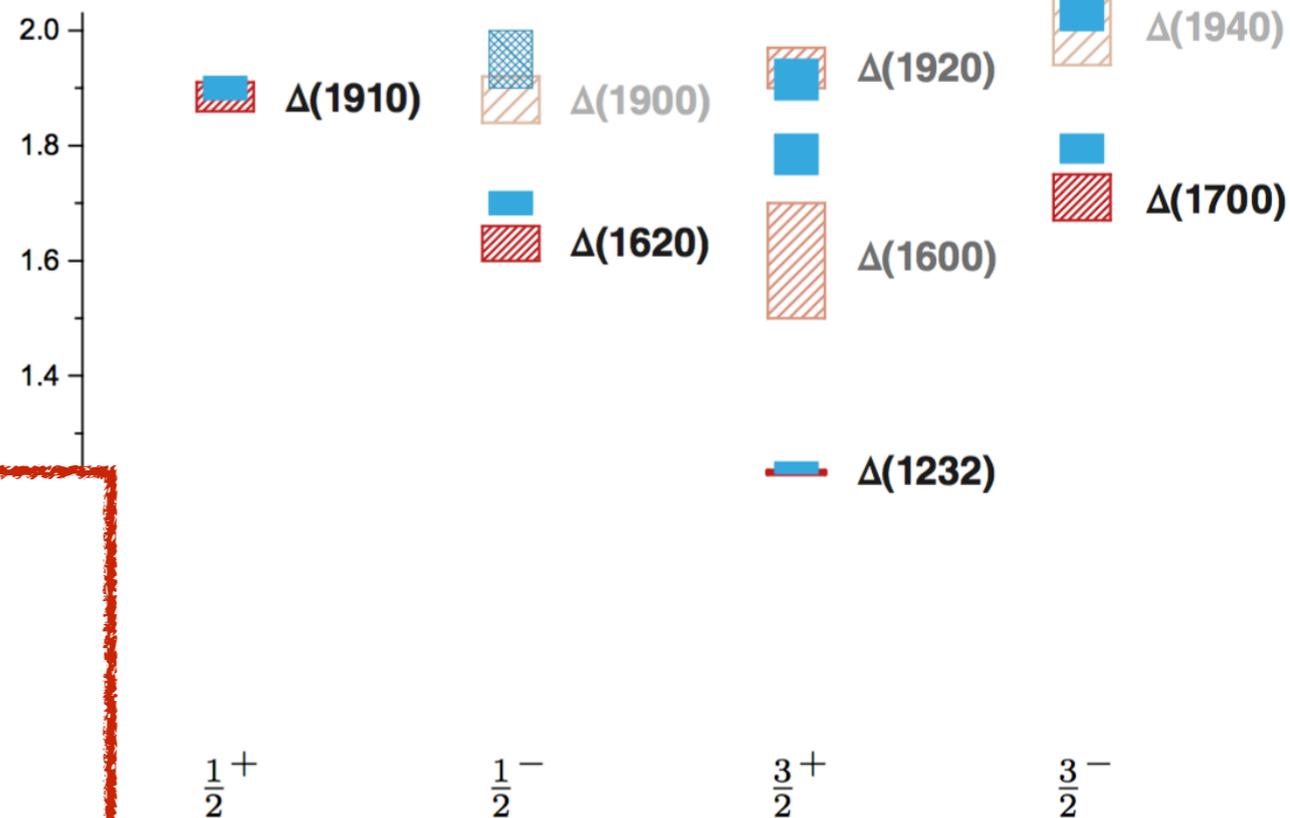
Light baryon spectrum: diquark-picture

3 parameters + $m_{u,d,s}$

M [GeV]



need:
 'good' scalar diquark: 0^+



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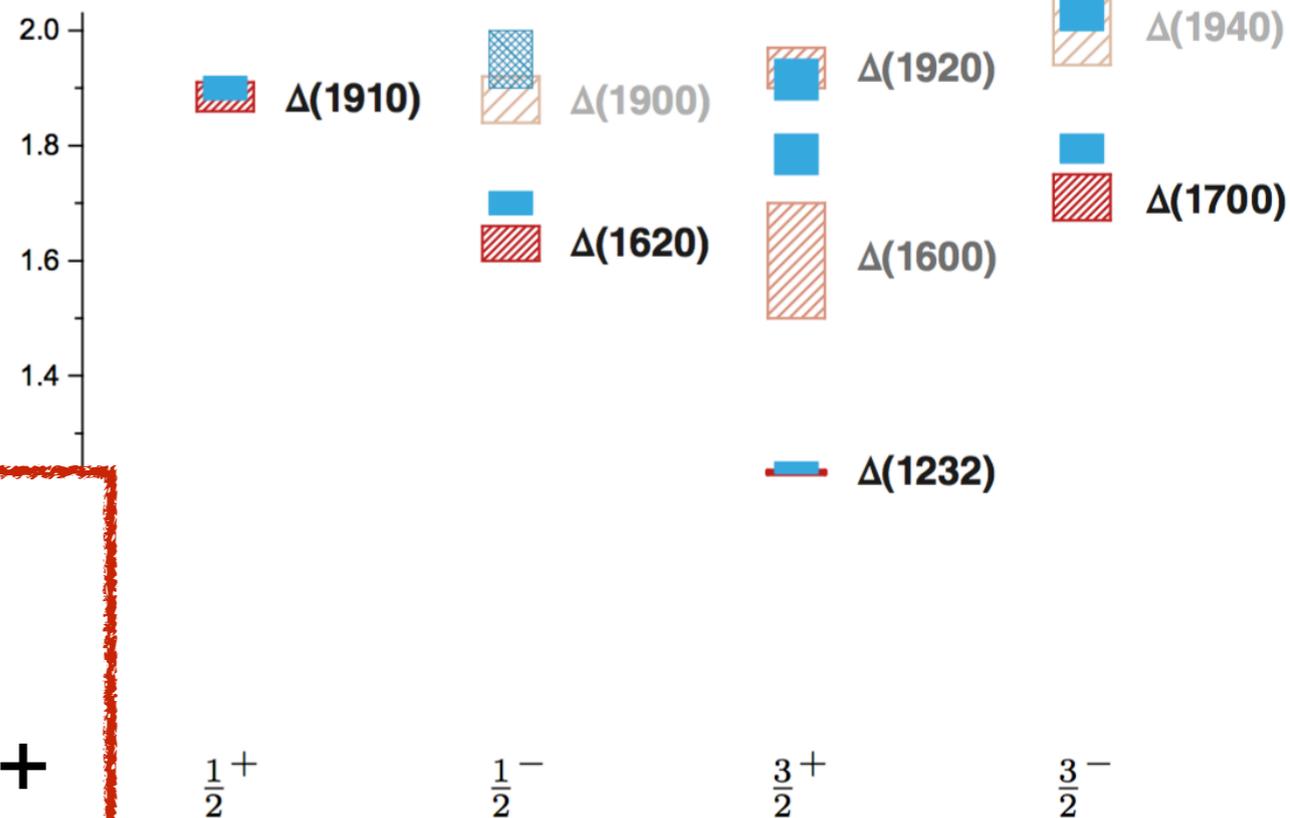
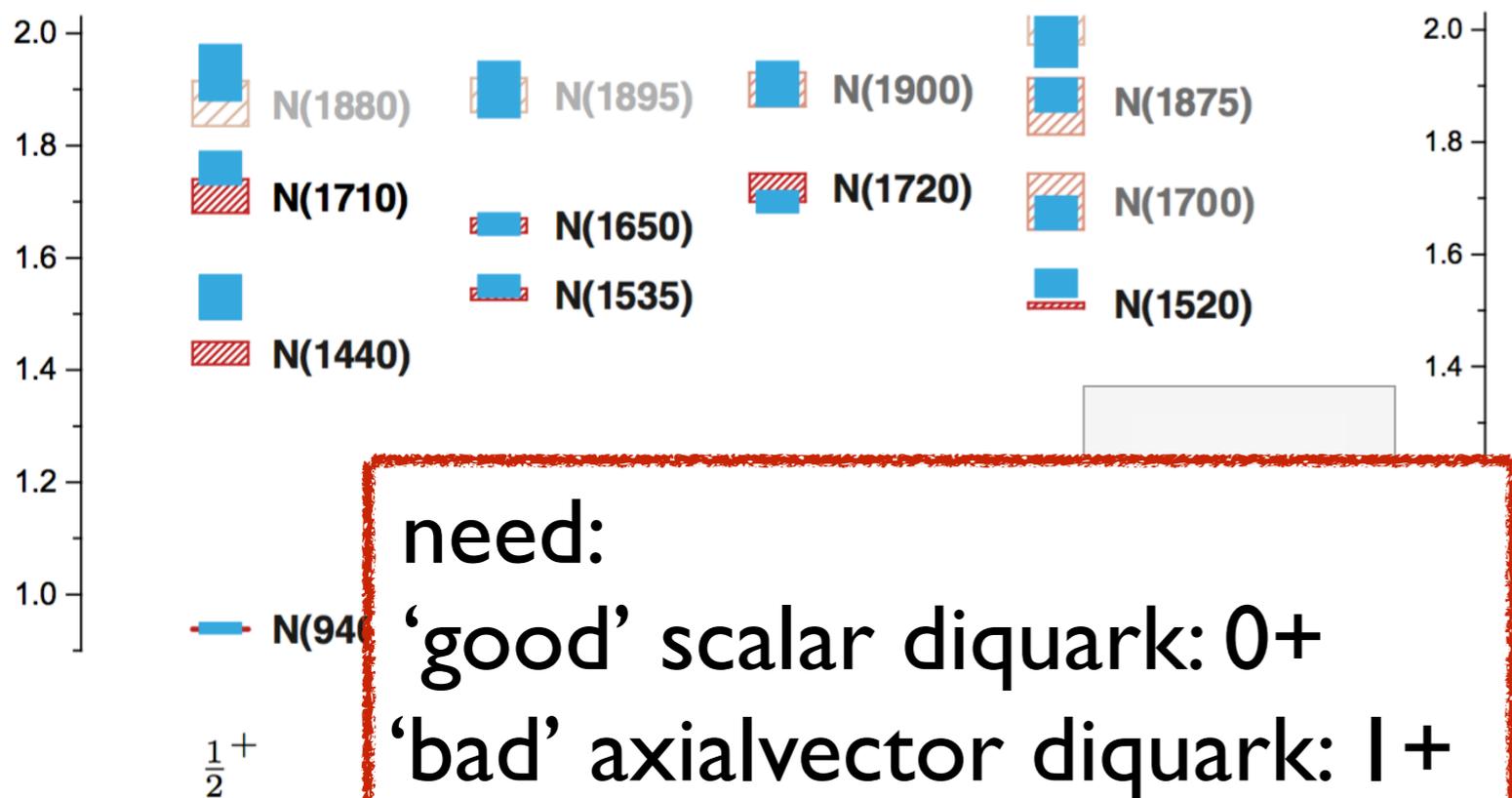
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Light baryon spectrum: diquark-picture

3 parameters + $m_{u,d,s}$

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 'bad' axialvector diquark: 1^+

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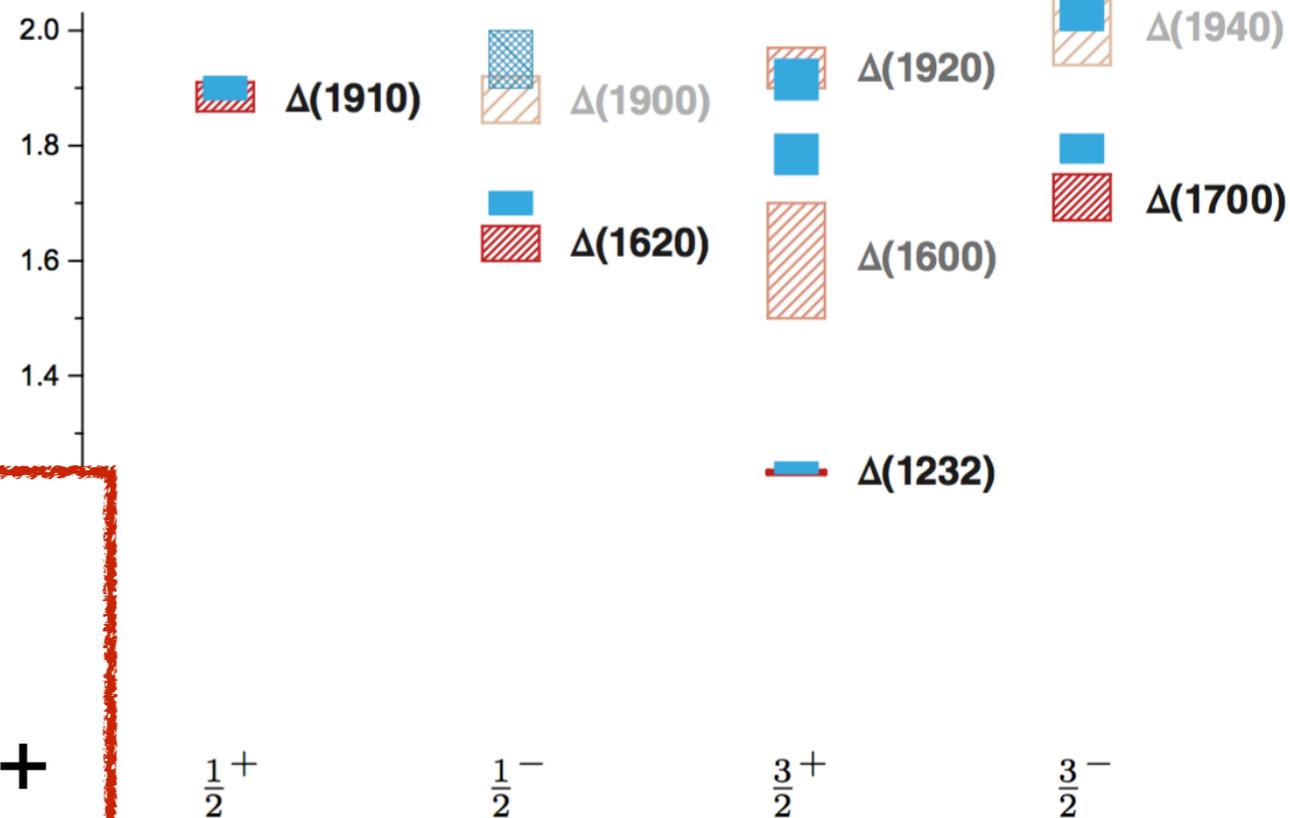
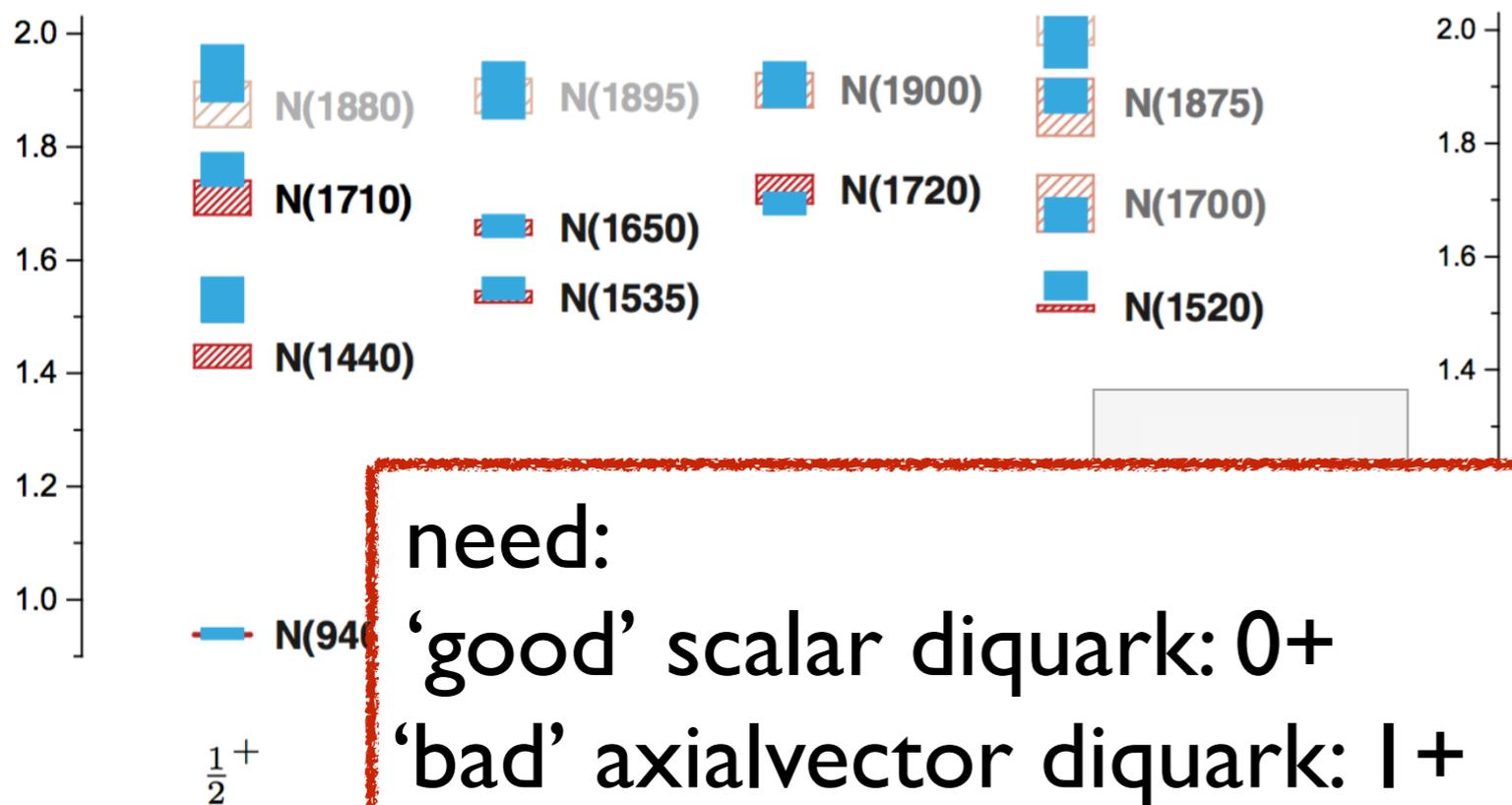
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Light baryon spectrum: diquark-picture

M [GeV]

3 parameters + $m_{u,d,s}$



need:
 'good' scalar diquark: 0^+
 'bad' axialvector diquark: 1^+
 'ugly' ps/v diquark

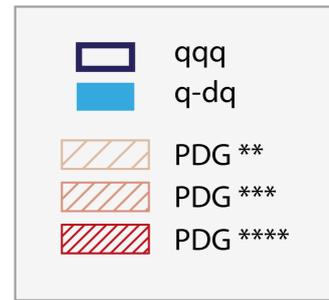
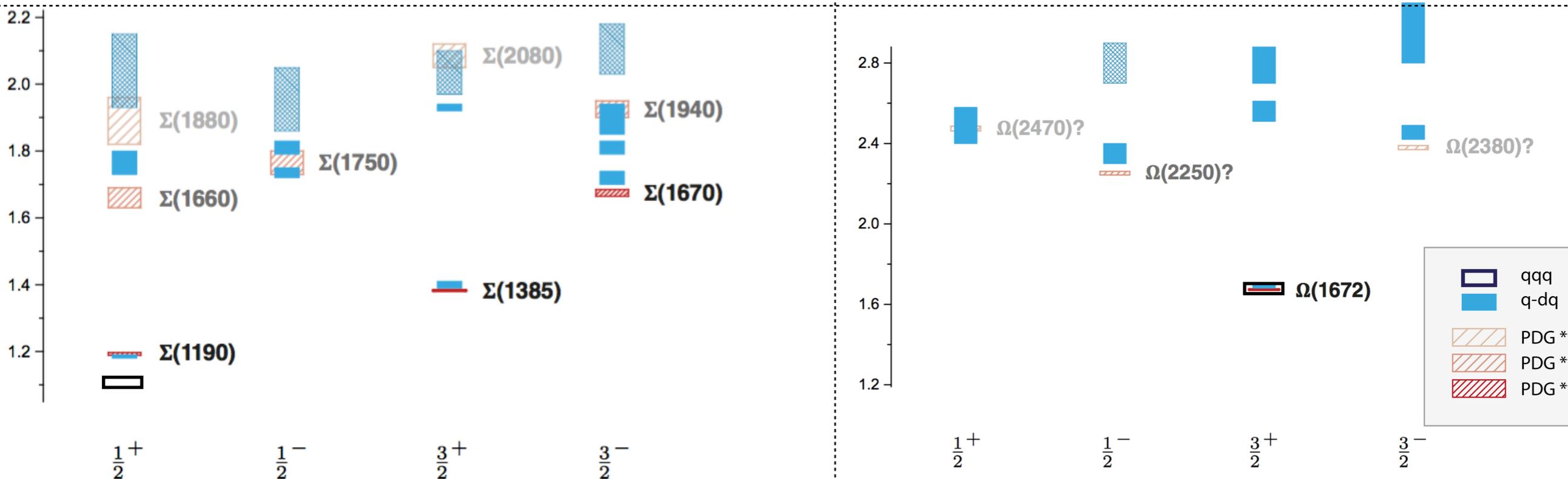
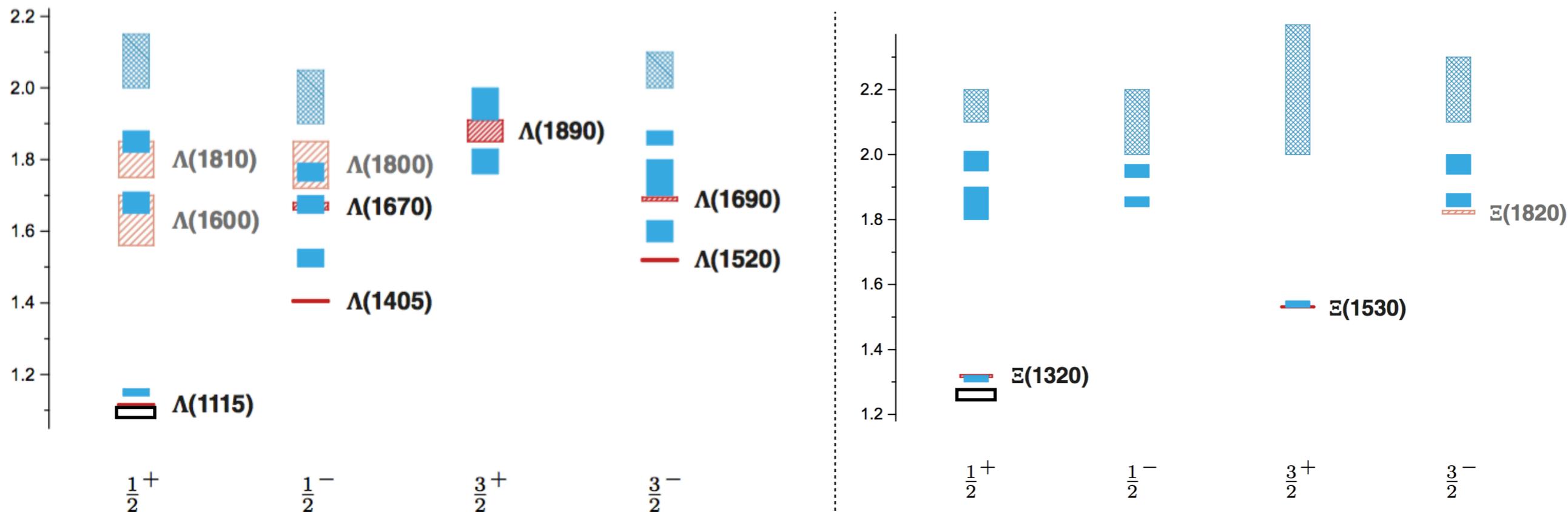
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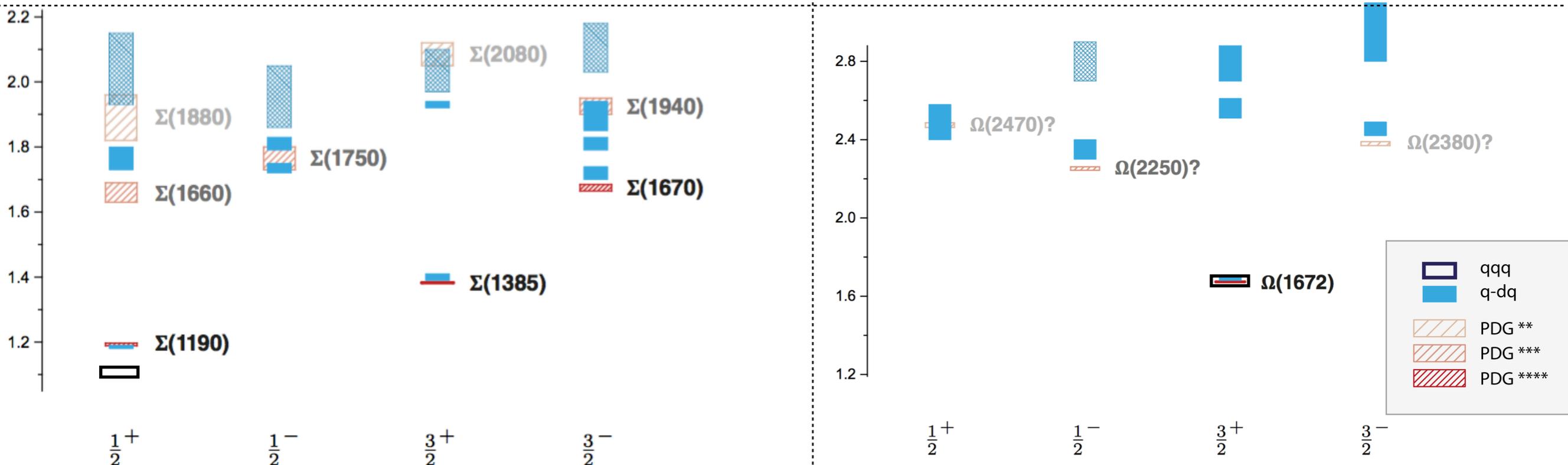
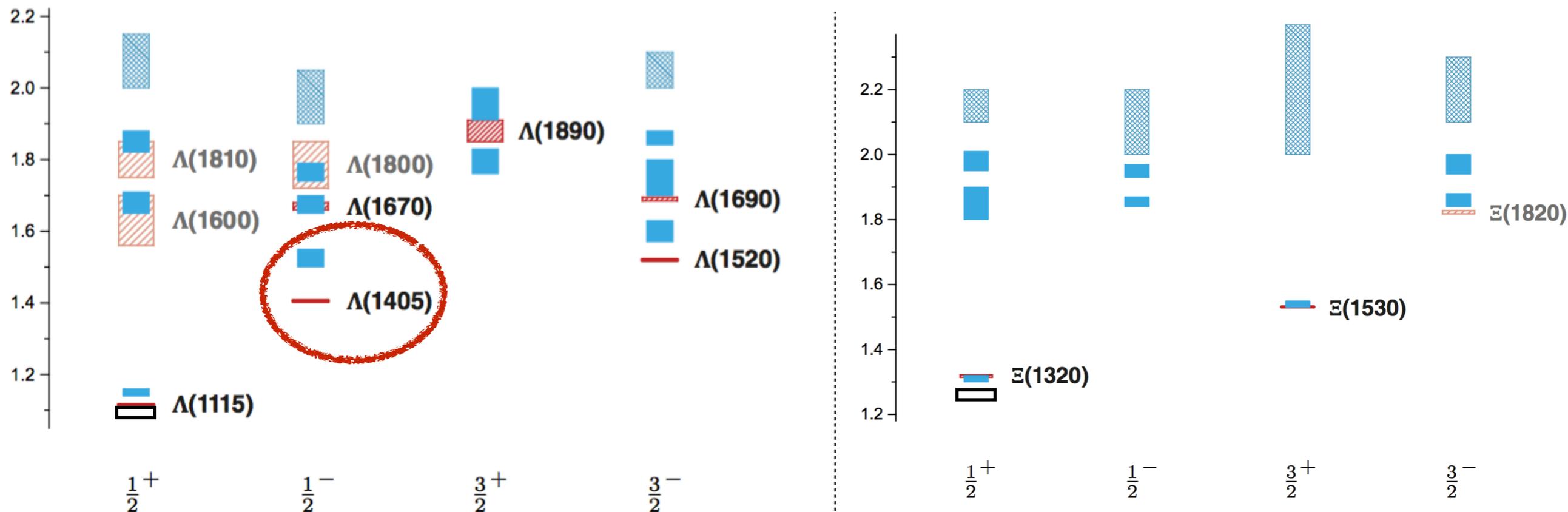
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Strange baryon spectrum: DSE-RL (preliminary !)



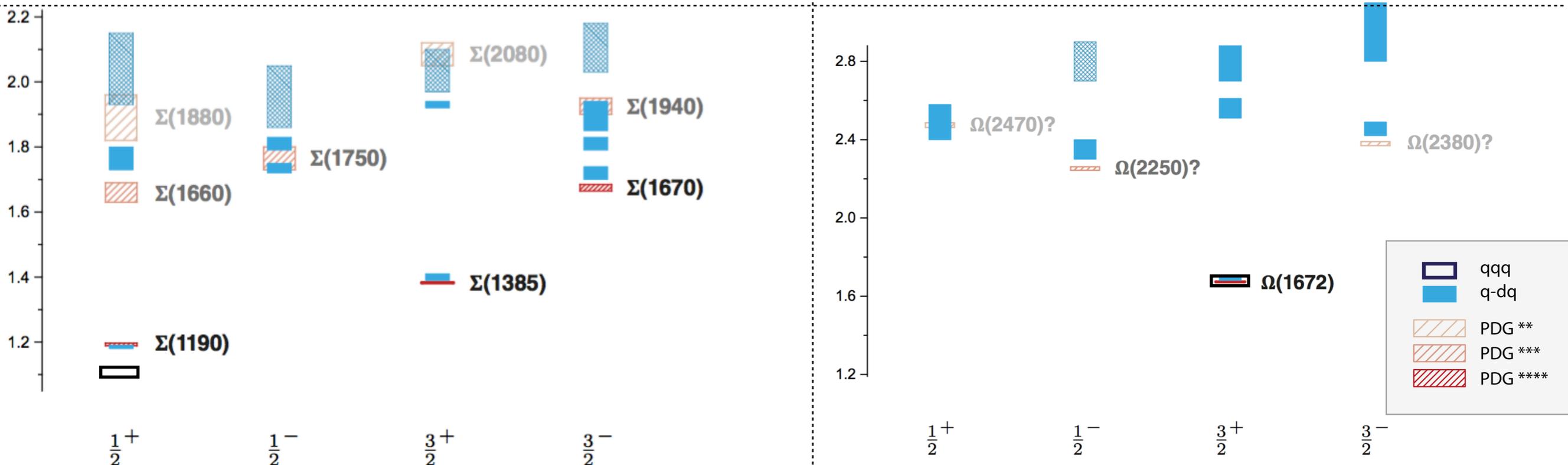
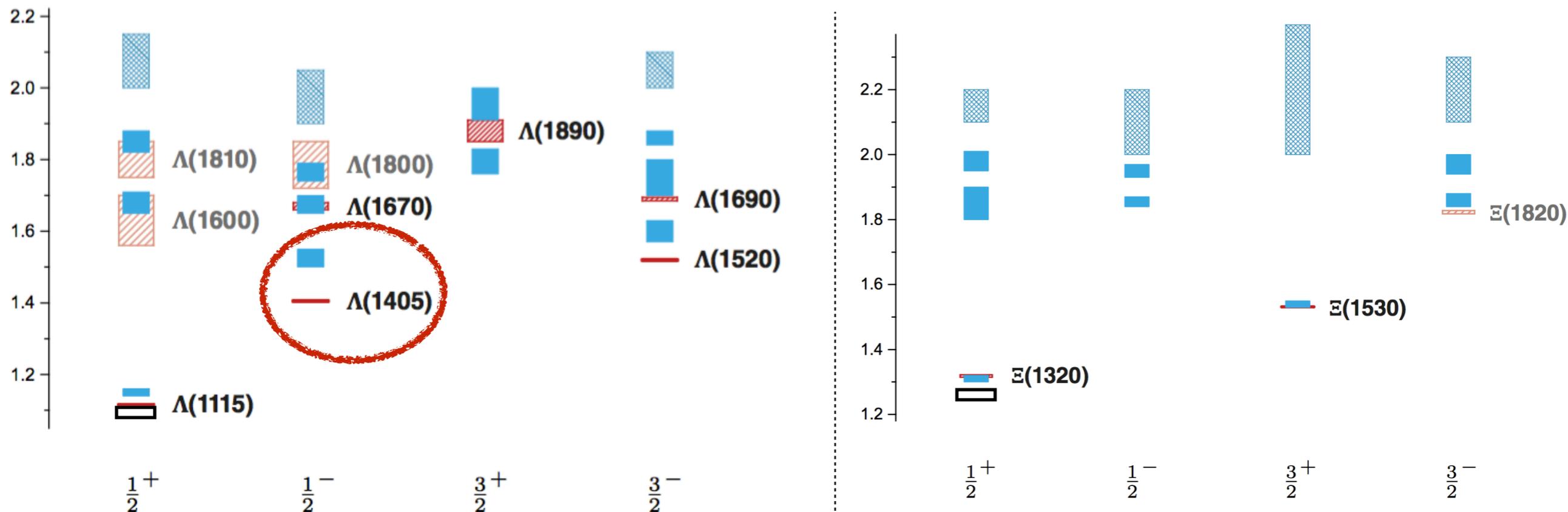
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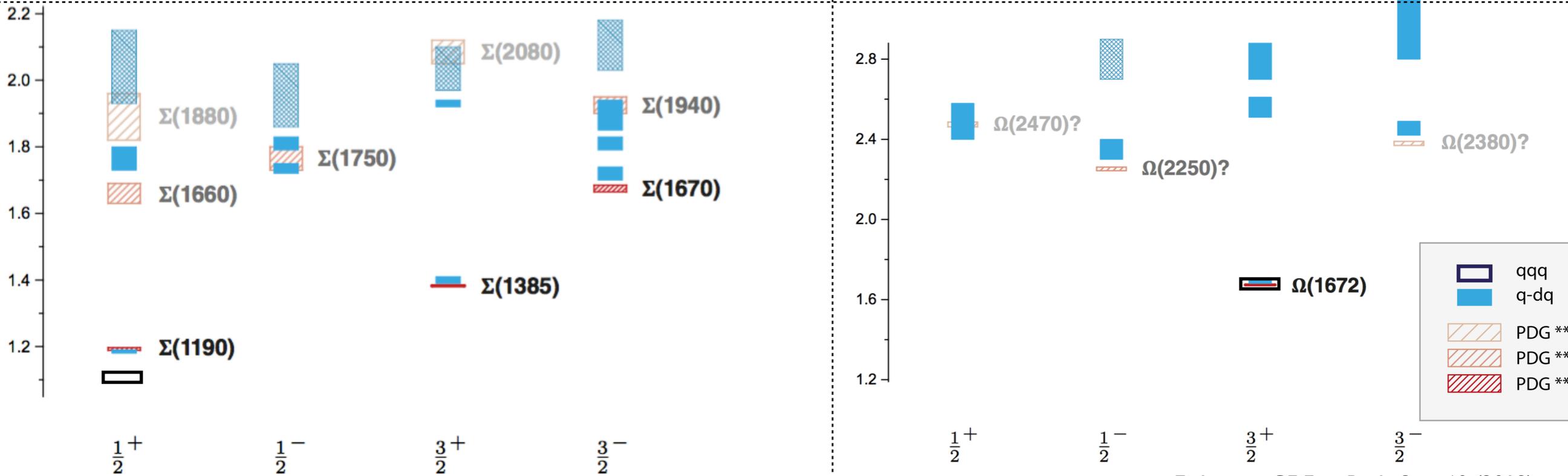
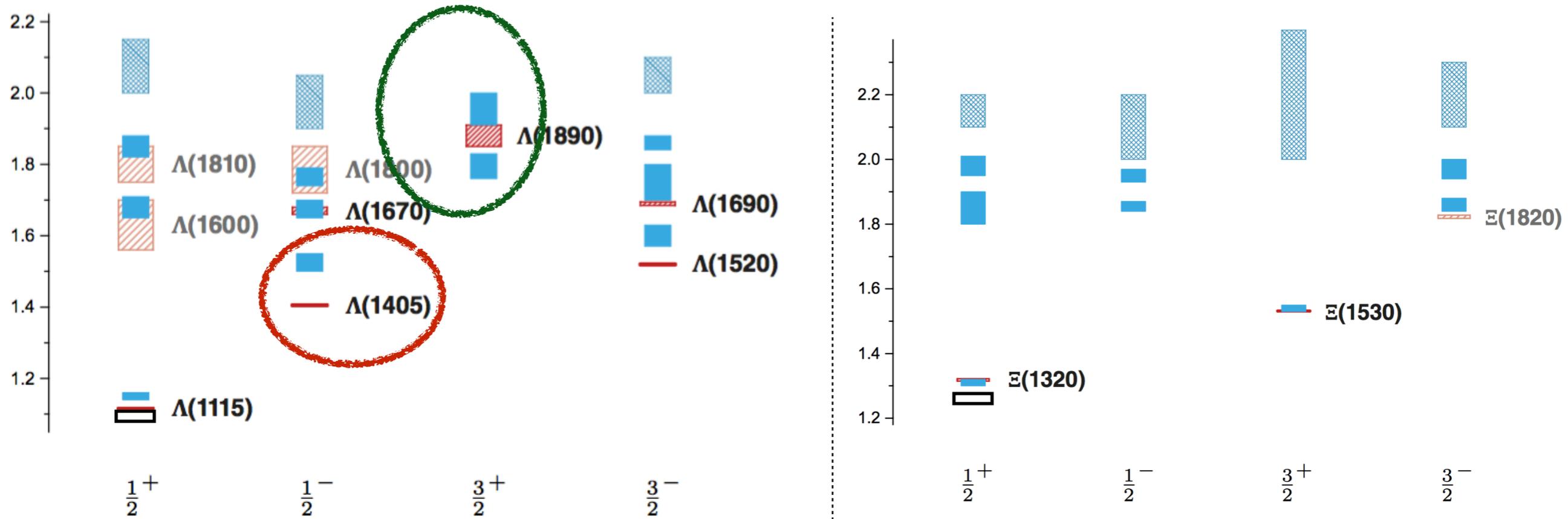
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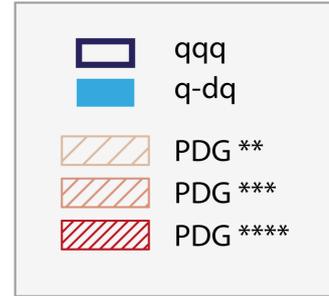
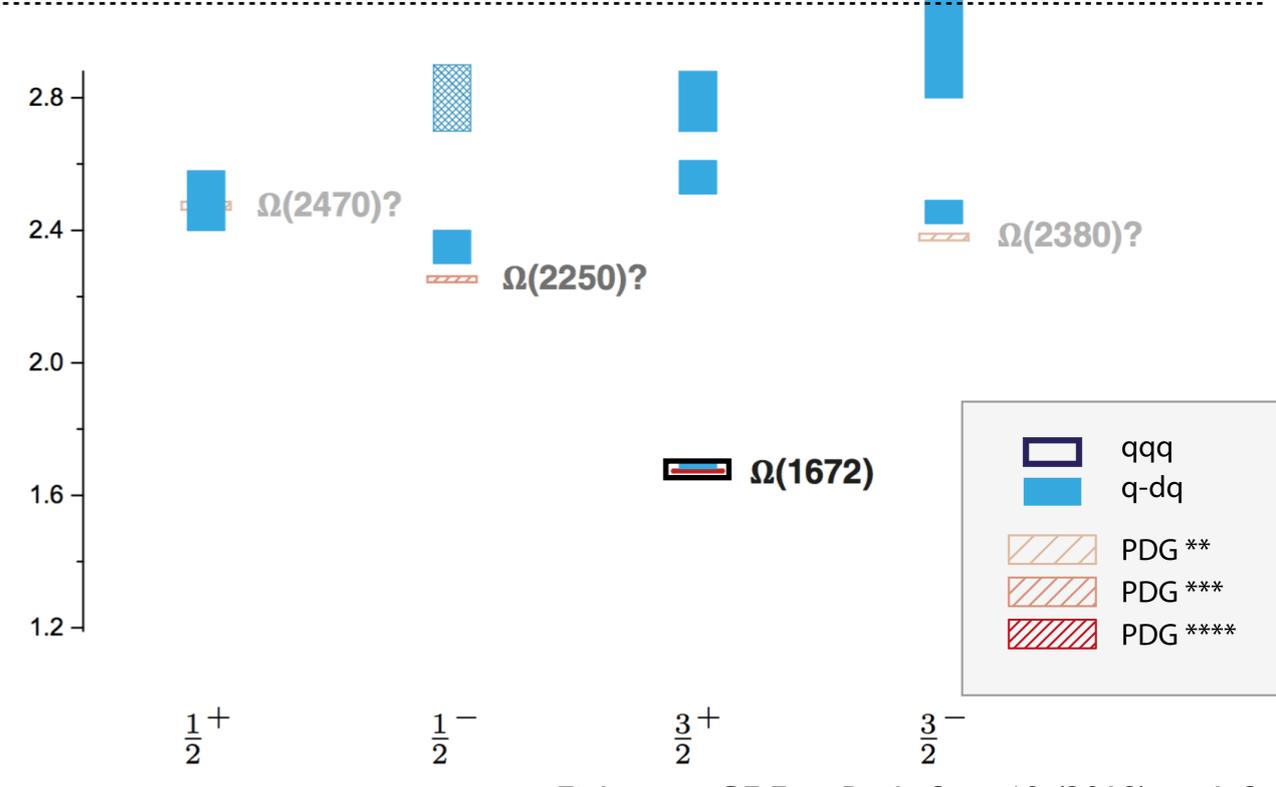
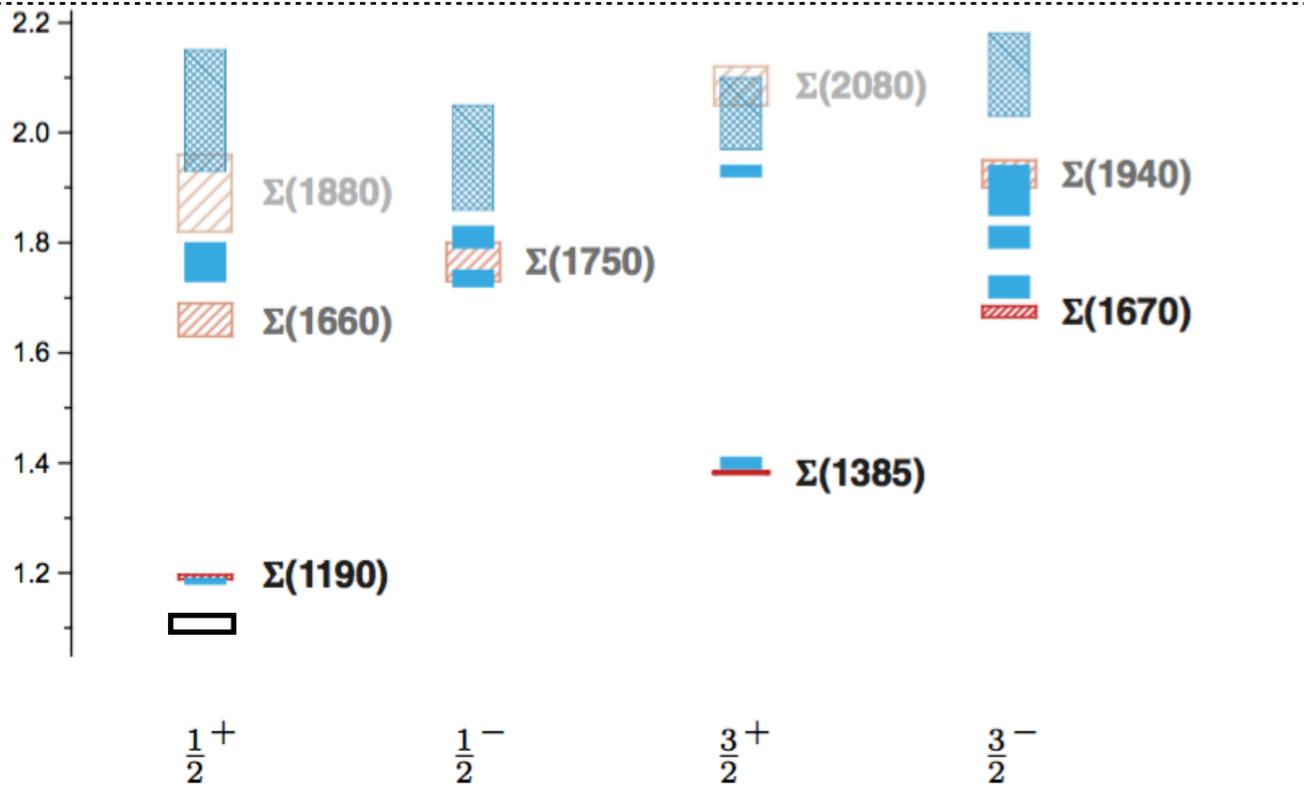
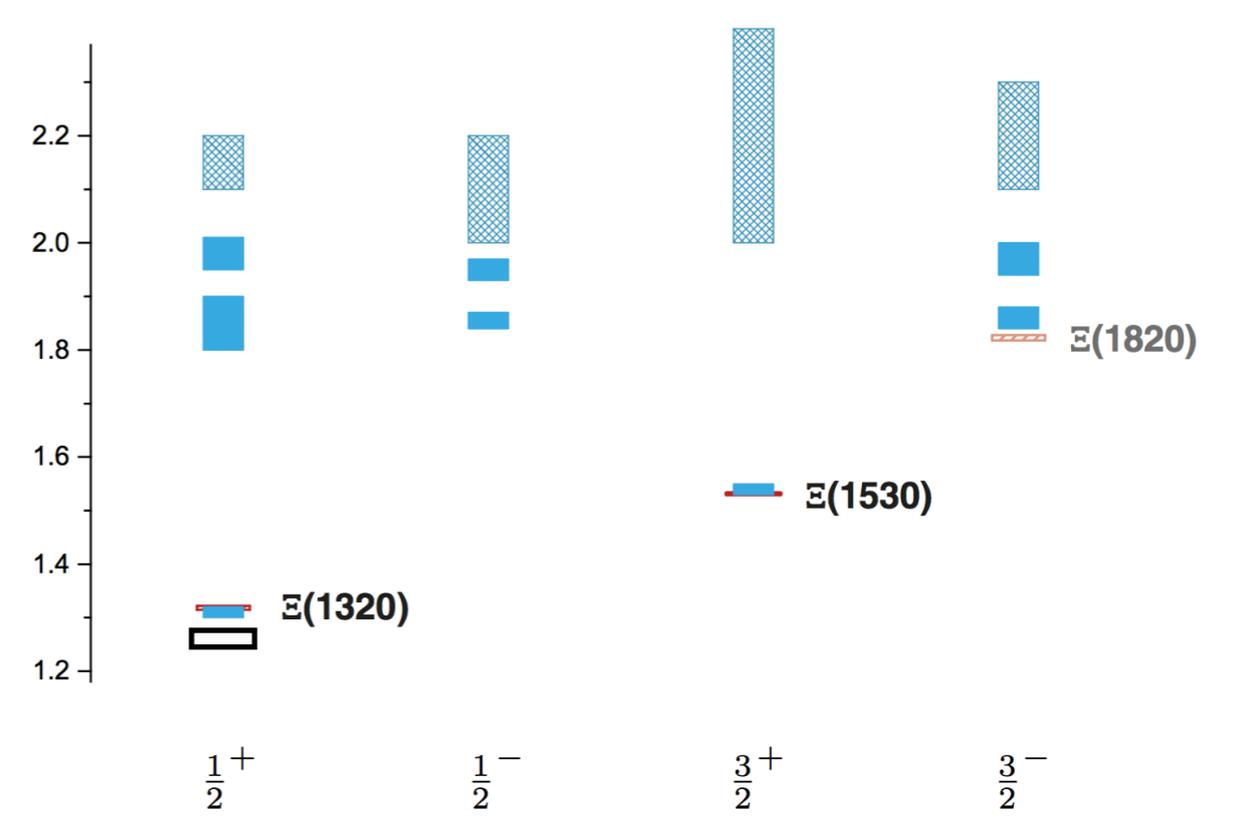
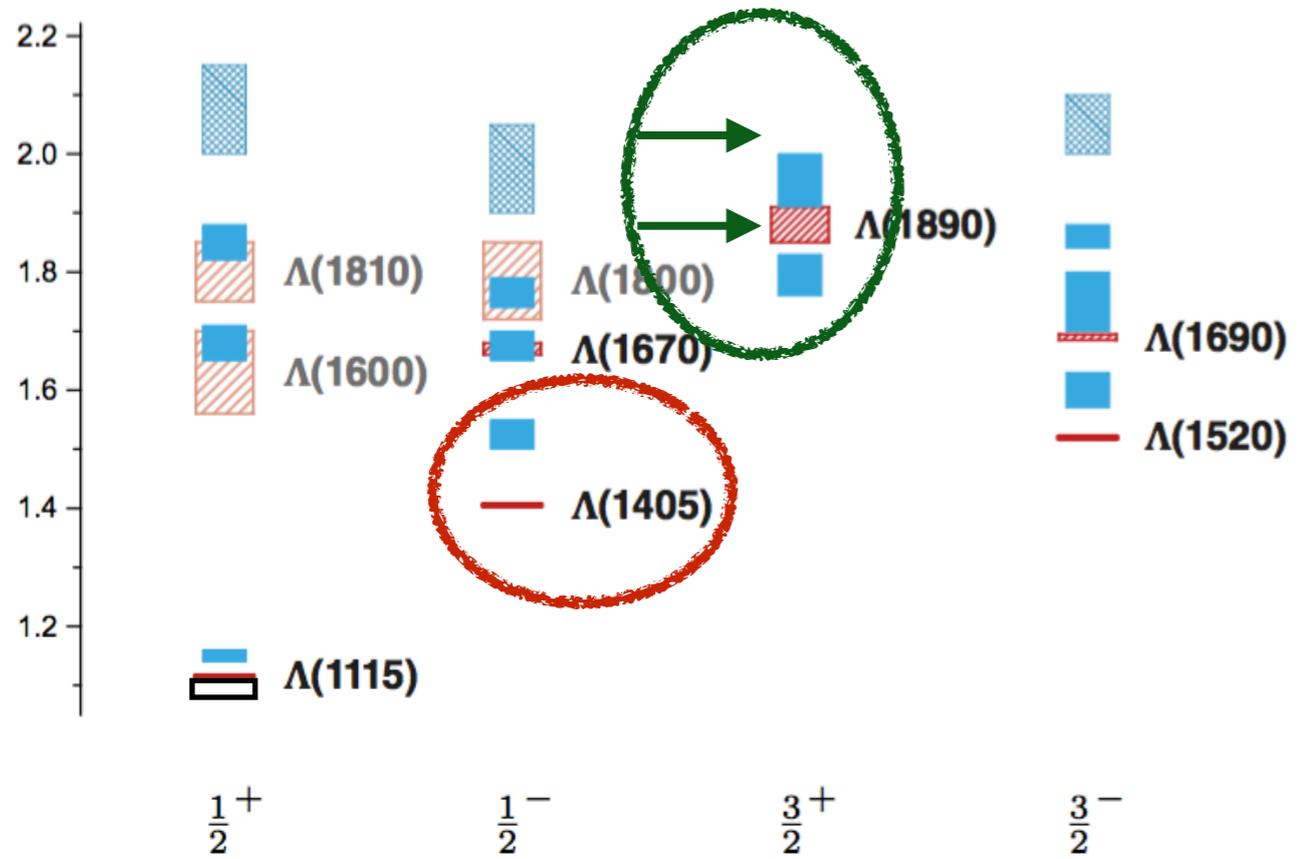
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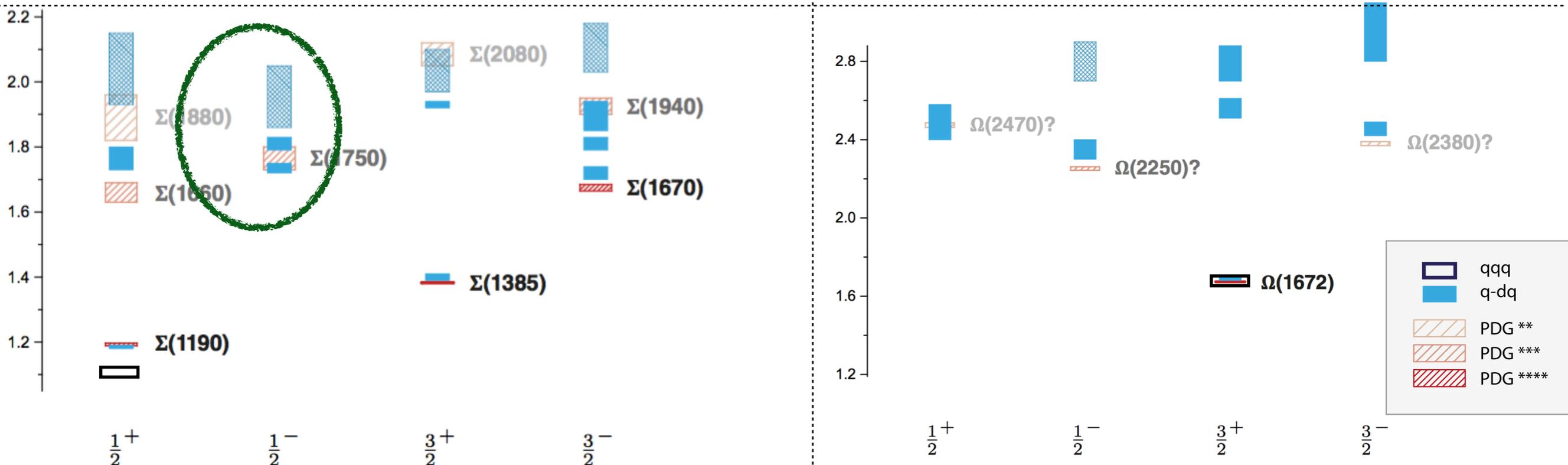
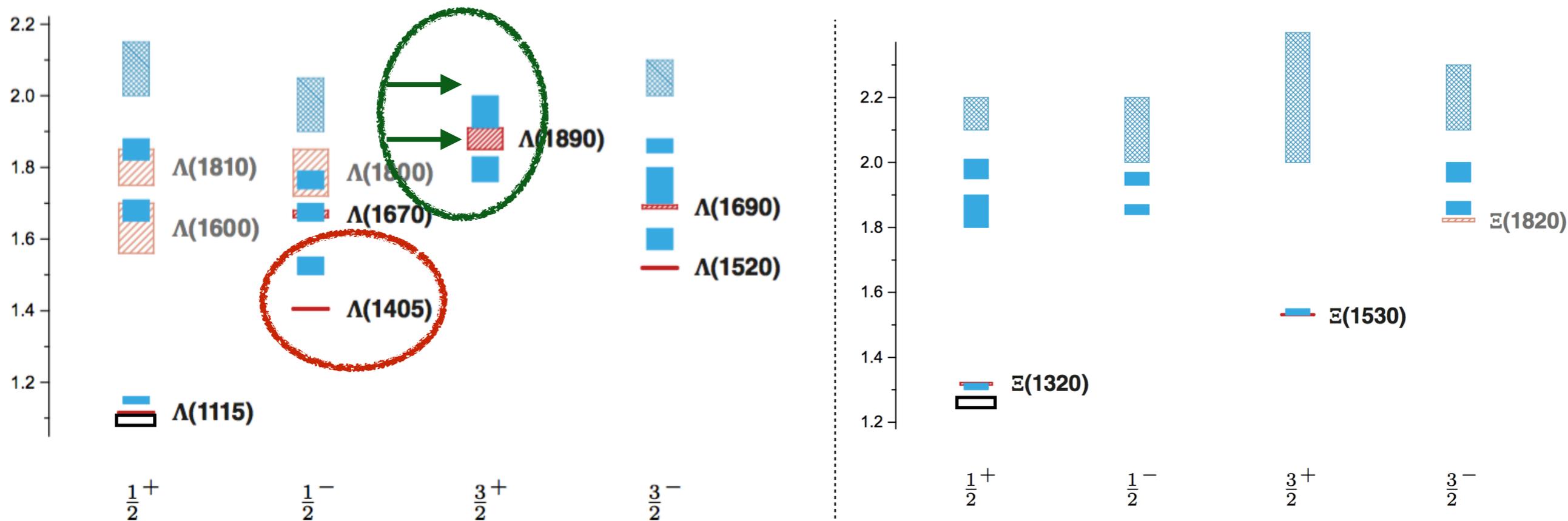
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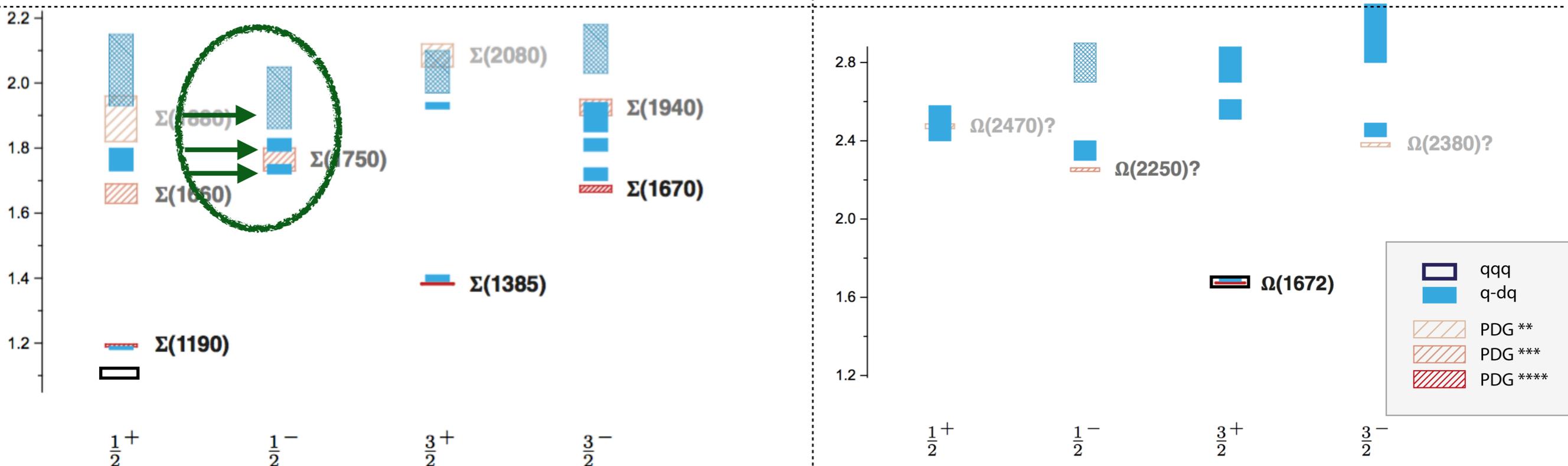
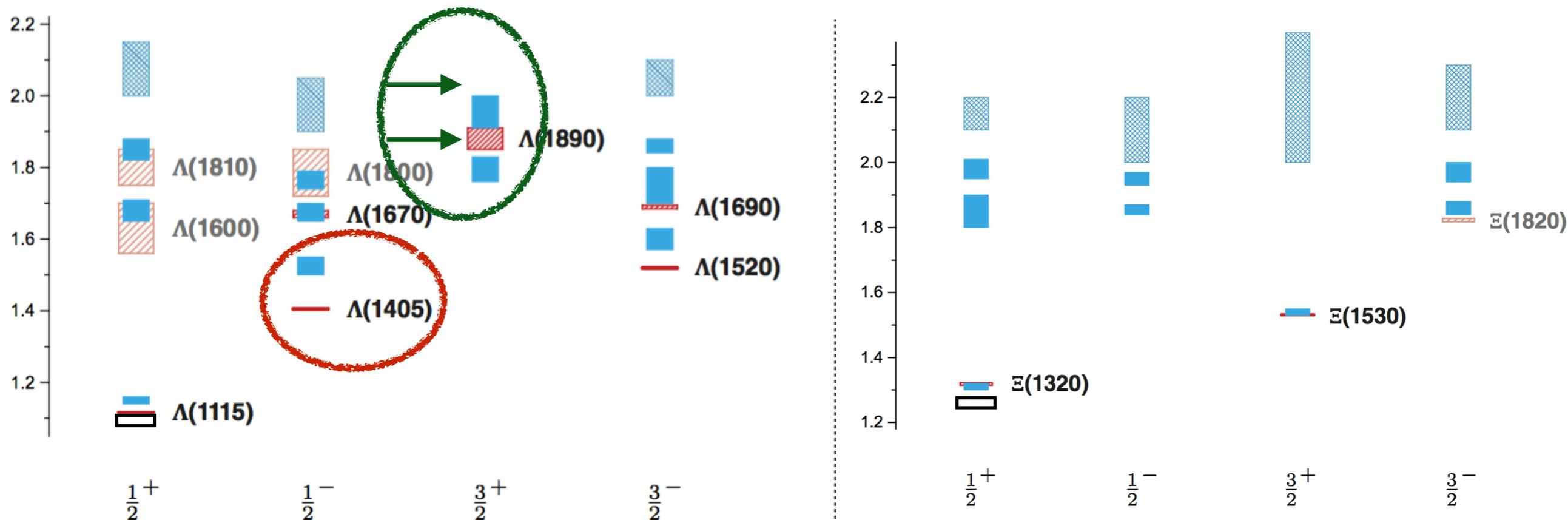
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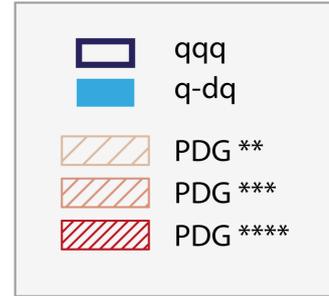
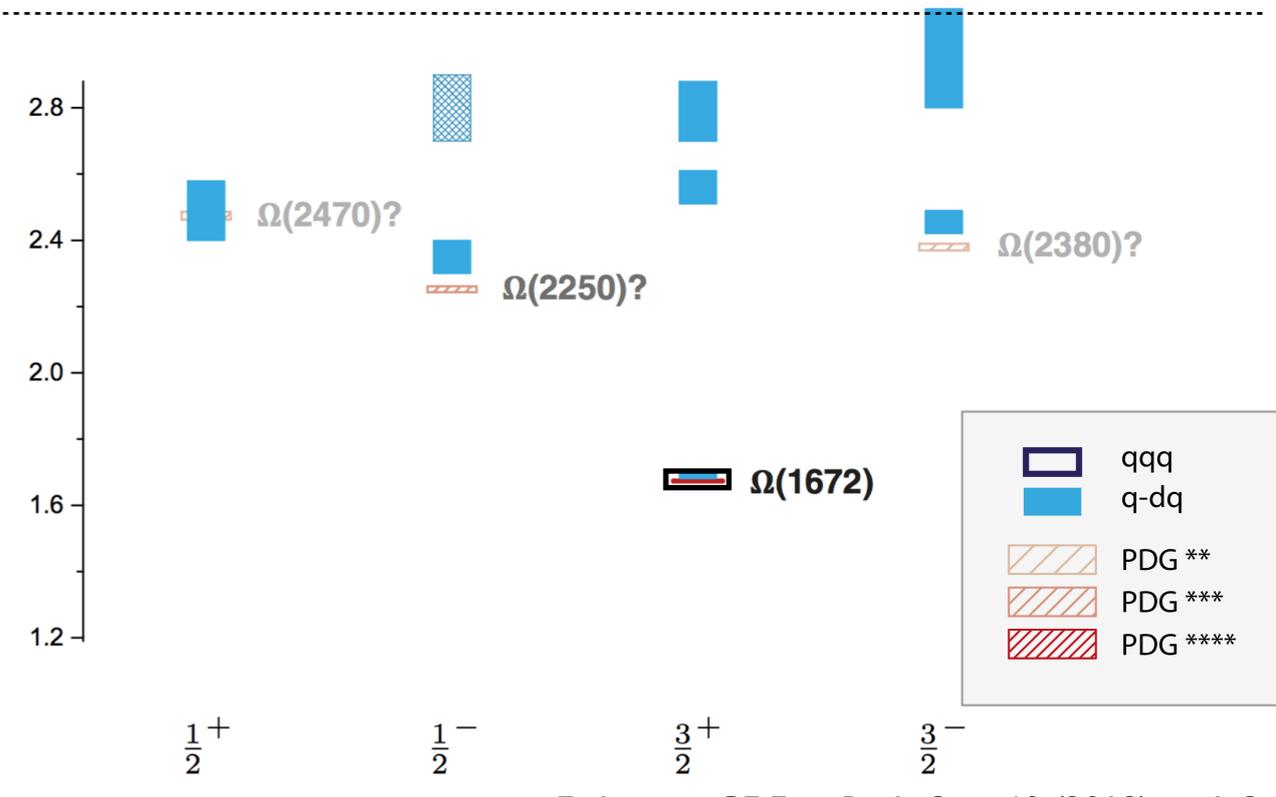
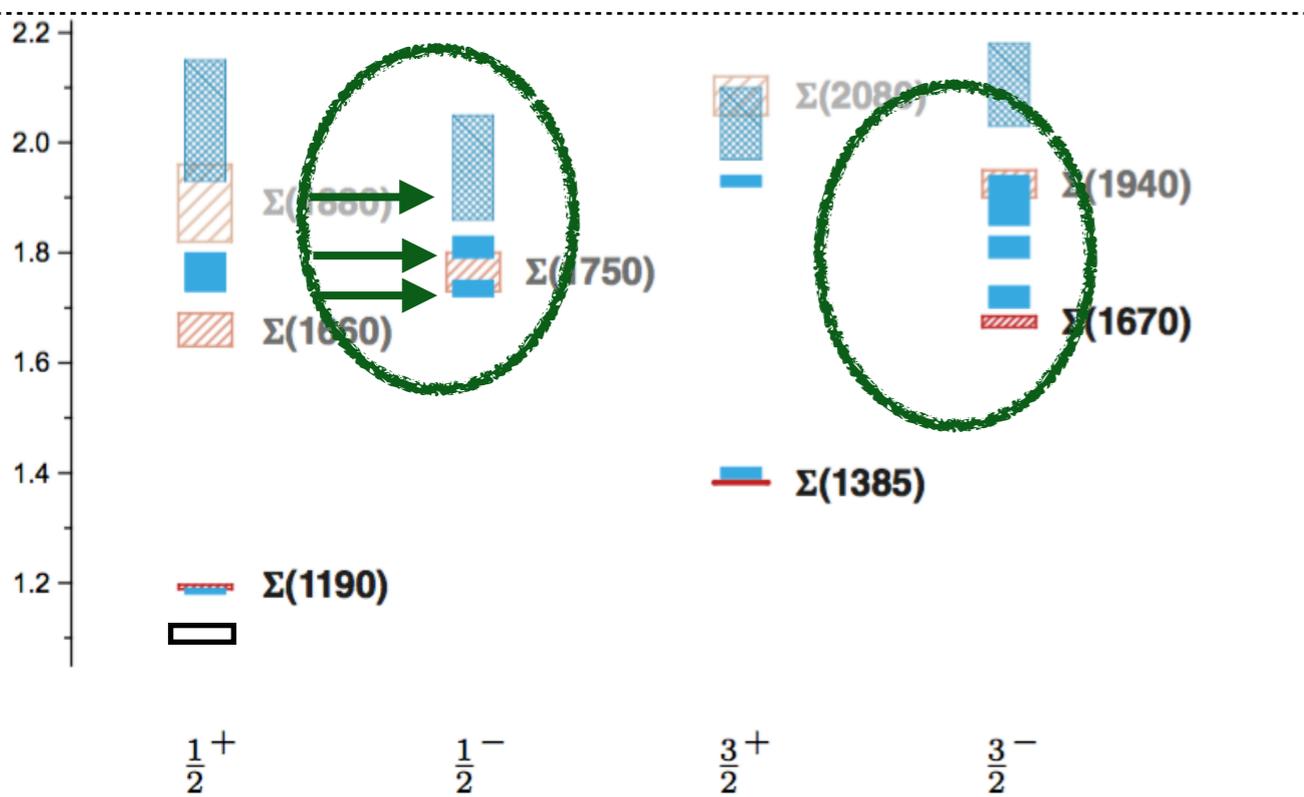
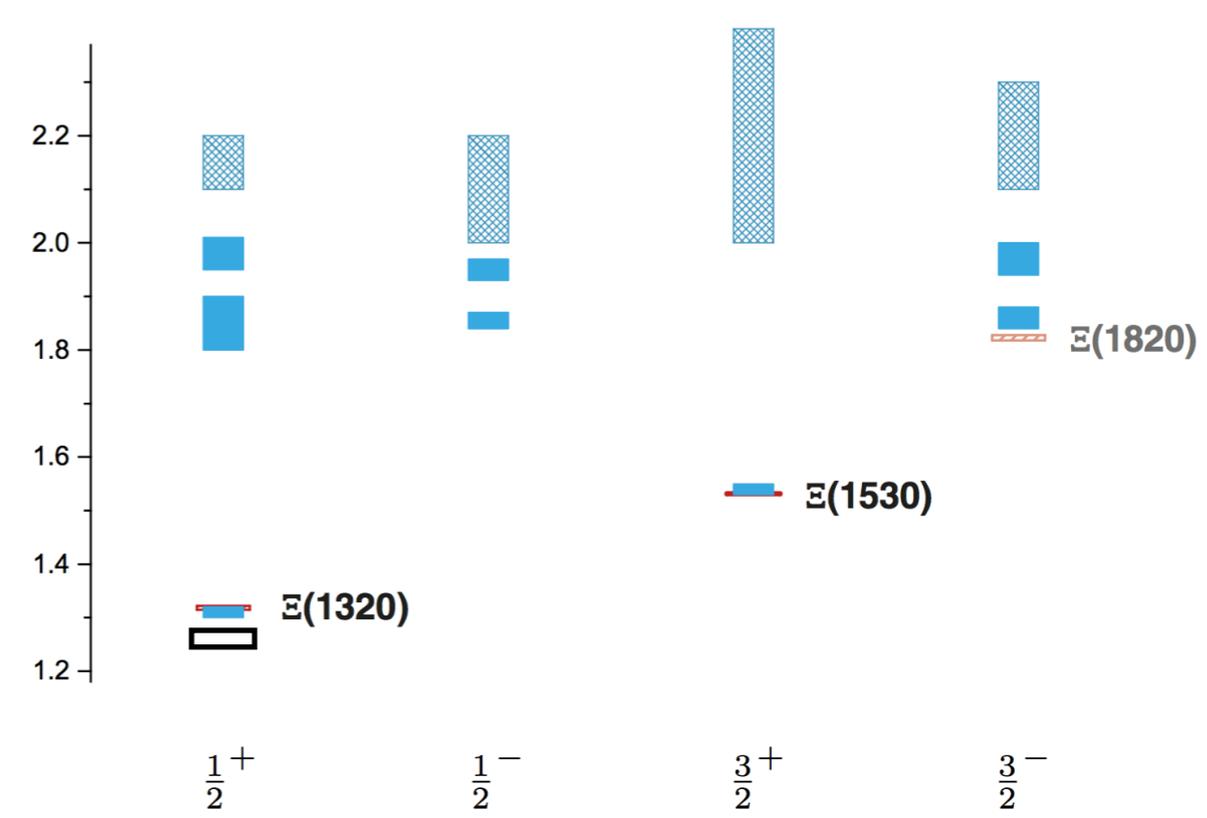
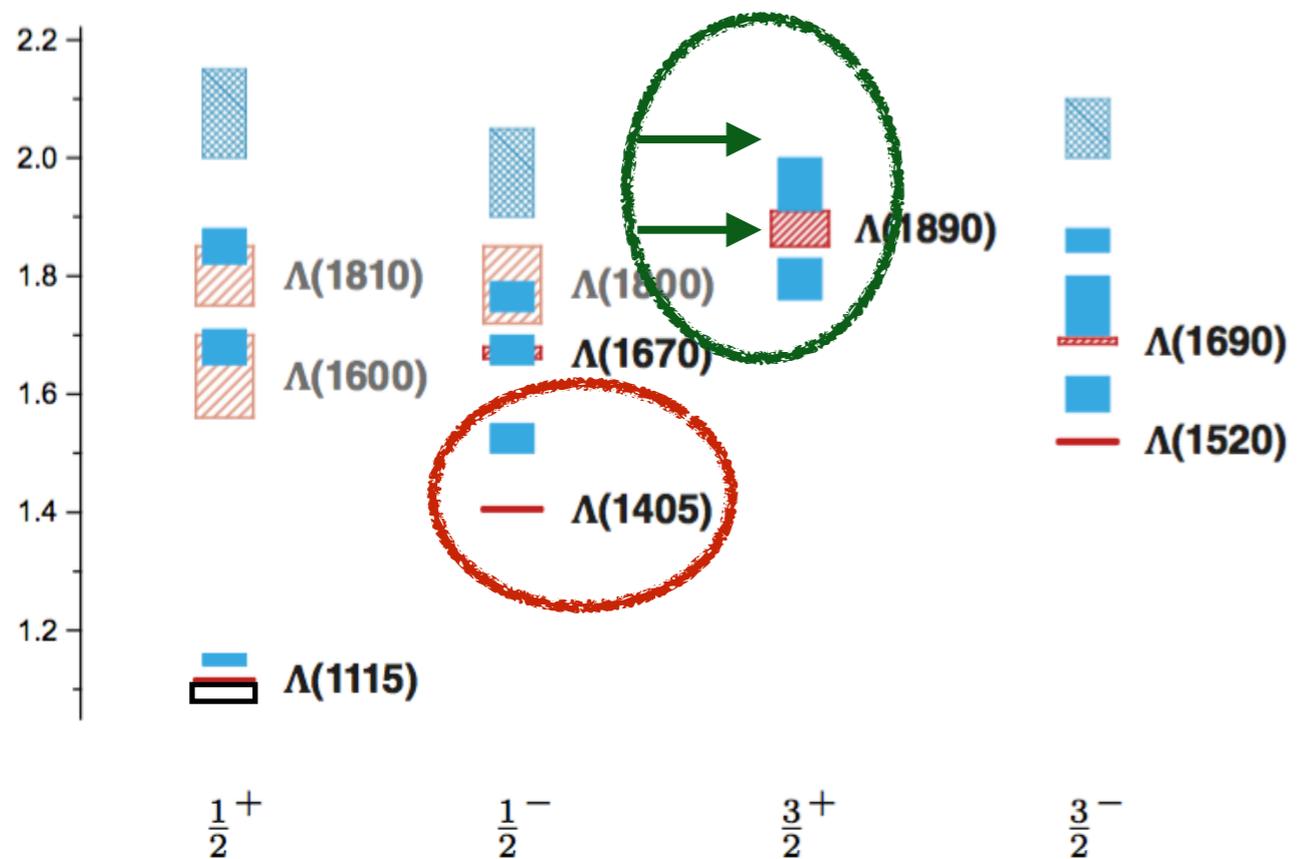
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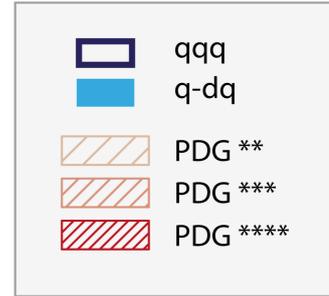
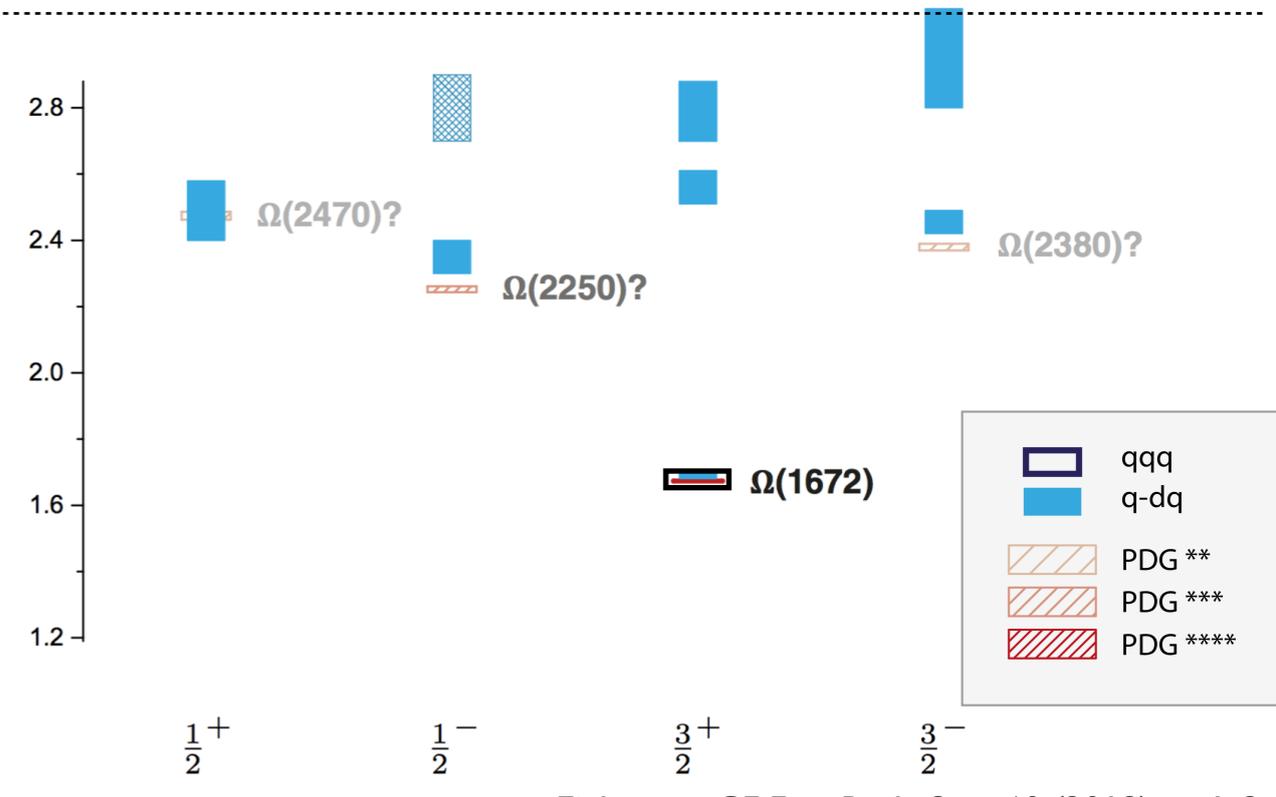
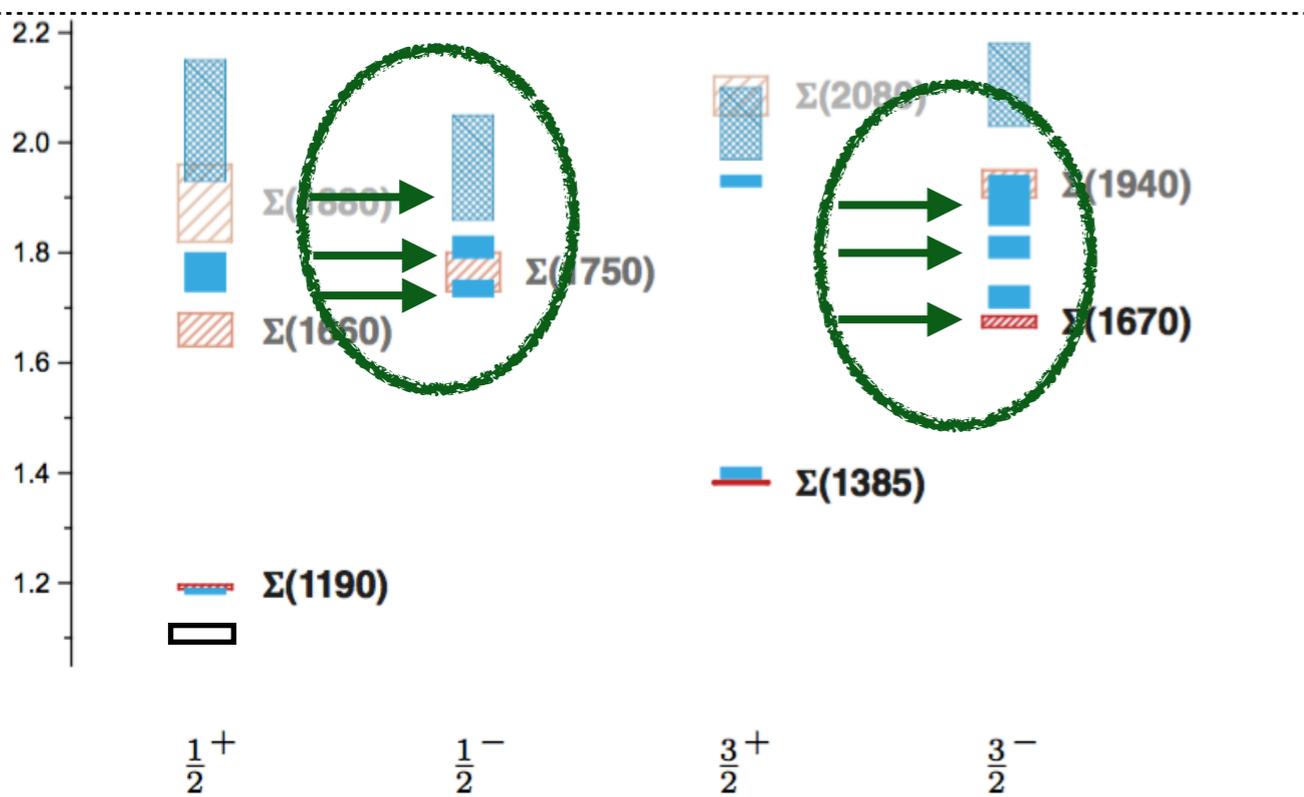
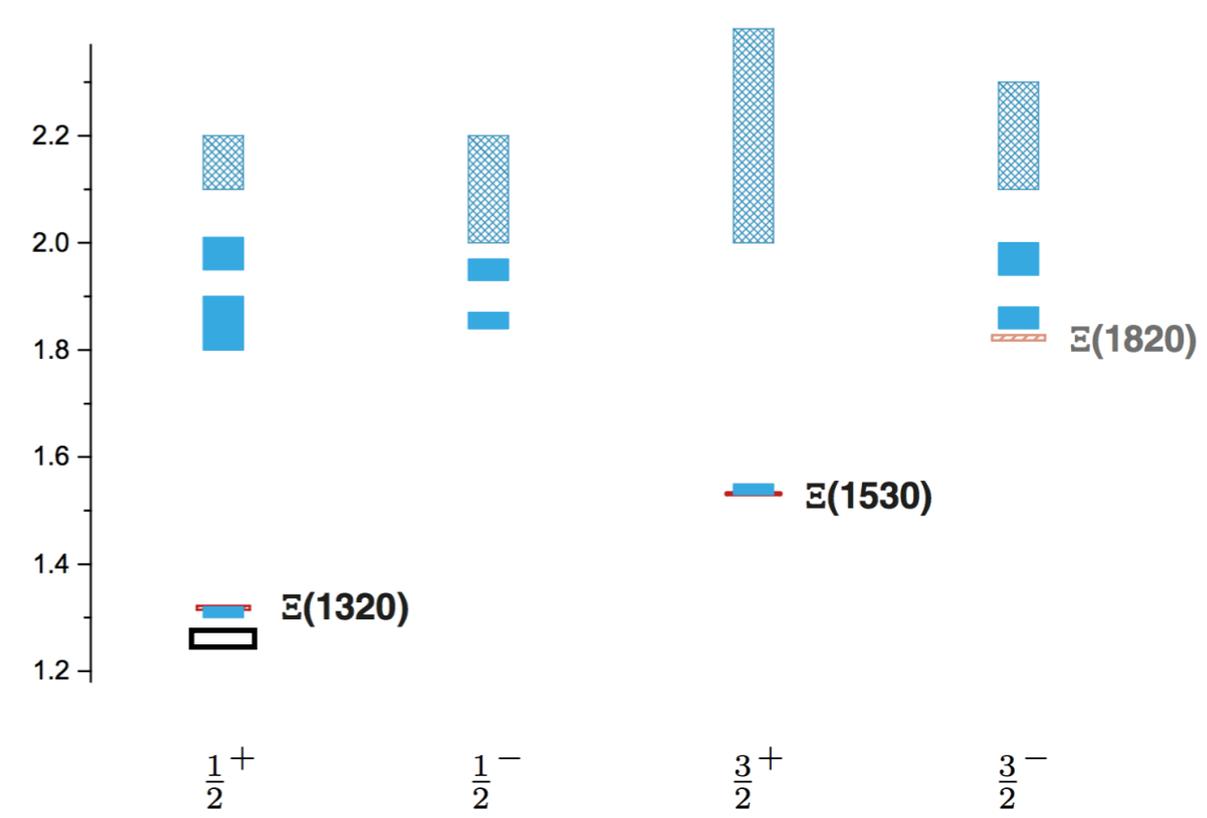
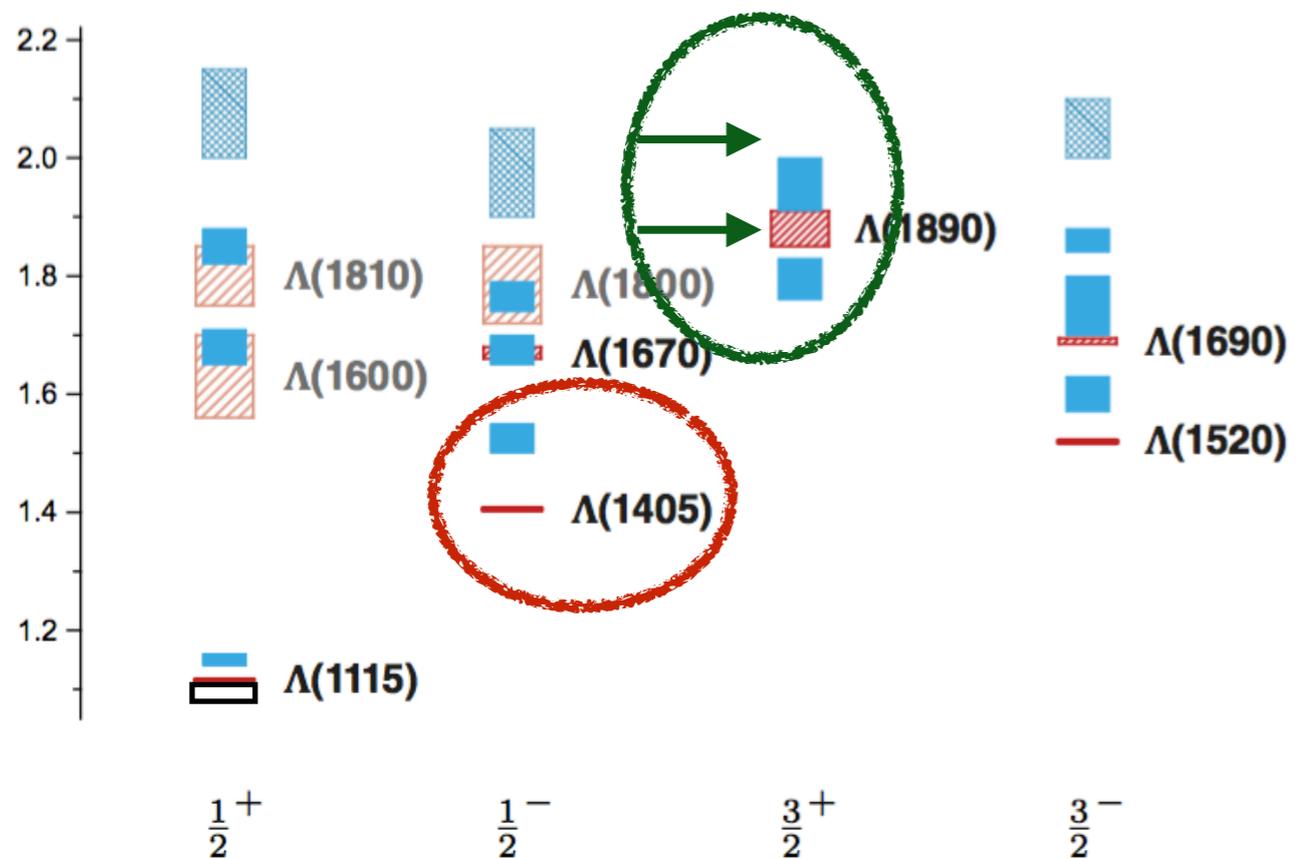
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