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Measurement of the leading hadronic contribution to the muon g-2 via space-like data

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The precision measurement of the anomalous magnetic moment of the muon presently exhibits a 3.5σ discrepancy with the Standard Model (SM) prediction. In the next few years this measurement will reach an even higher precision at Fermilab and J-PARC. While the QED and electroweak contributions to the muon g-2 can be determined very precisely, the leading hadronic (HLO) correction is affected by a large uncertainty which dominates the error of the SM prediction. We propose a novel approach to determine the HLO contribution to the muon g-2 based on the measurement of the effective electromagnetic coupling in the space-like region at low-momentum transfer. We will discuss the possibility of performing this measurement at CERN, by means of a very precise determination of the muon-electron elastic differential cross-section, exploiting the scattering of 150 GeV muons (currently available at CERN's North area) on atomic electrons of a low-Z target. We will describe the experimental challenges posed by this measurement will provide an independent determination of the HLO contribution to the muon g-2 competitive with the time-like dispersive approach, thus consolidating the SM prediction. It will therefore allow a firmer interpretation of the measurements of the future muon g-2 experiments at Fermilab and J-PARC.

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