



# Lepton-nucleus scattering within Quantum-Monte Carlo based approaches

Noemi Rocco

Marciana 2023 - Lepton Interactions with Nucleons and Nuclei

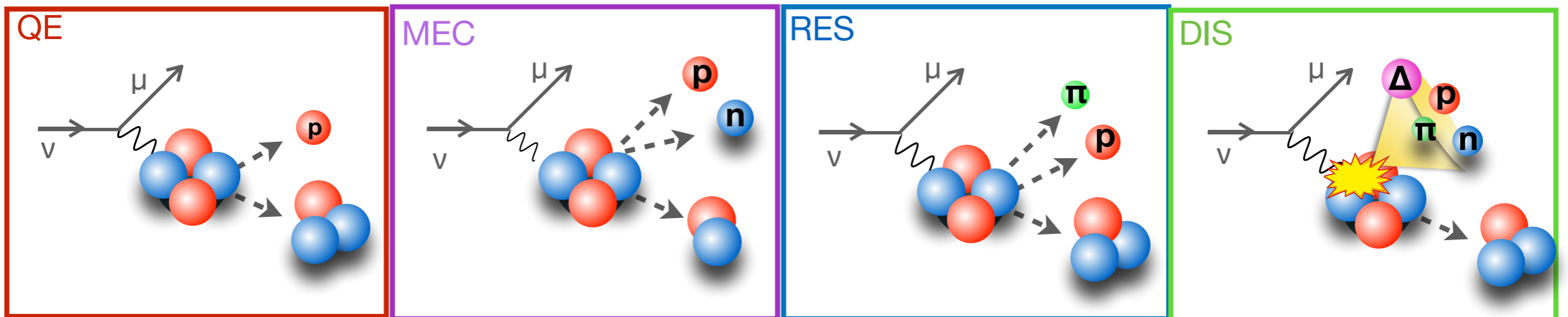
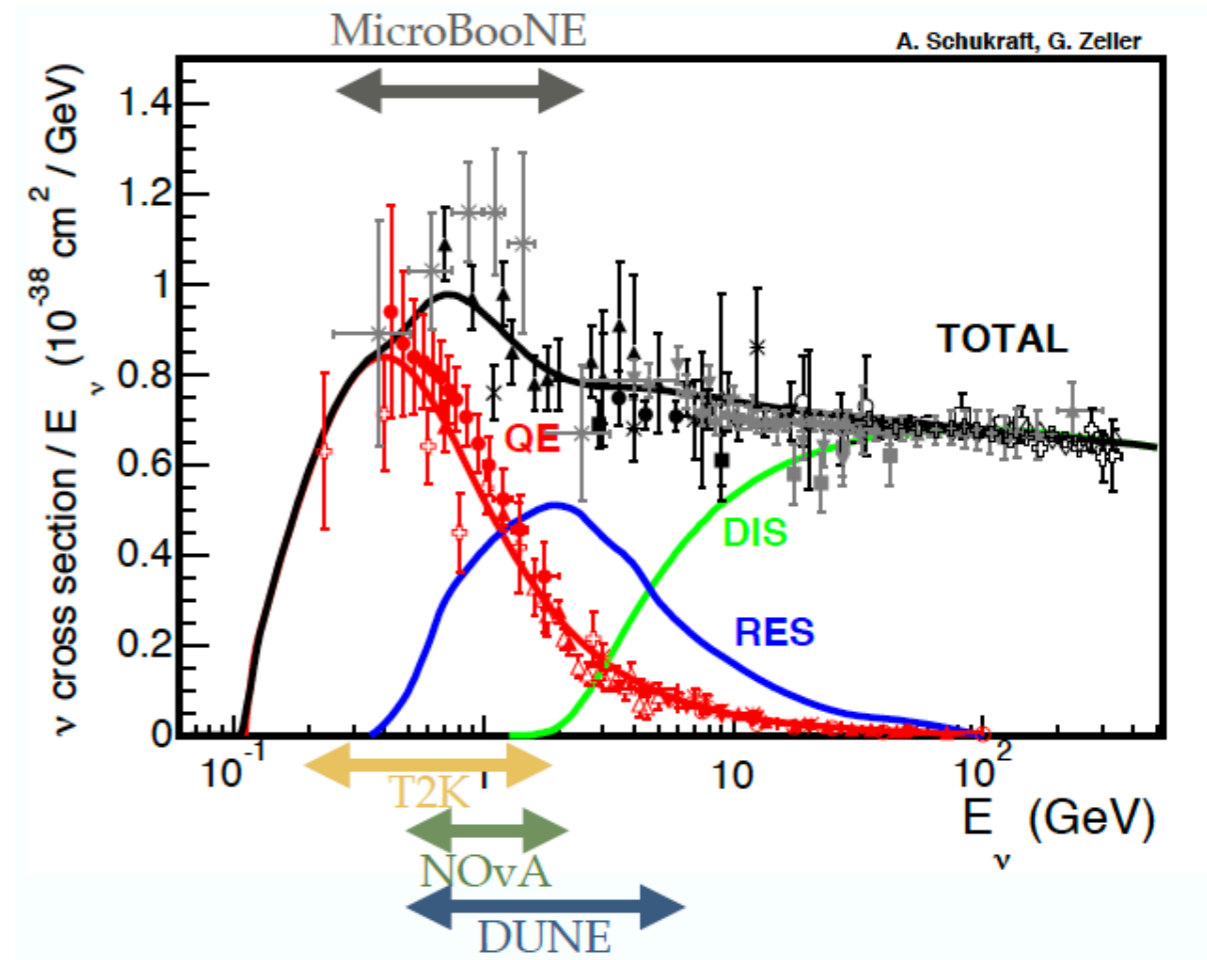
Elba— September 3 - 8, 2023

# Inputs for the nuclear model

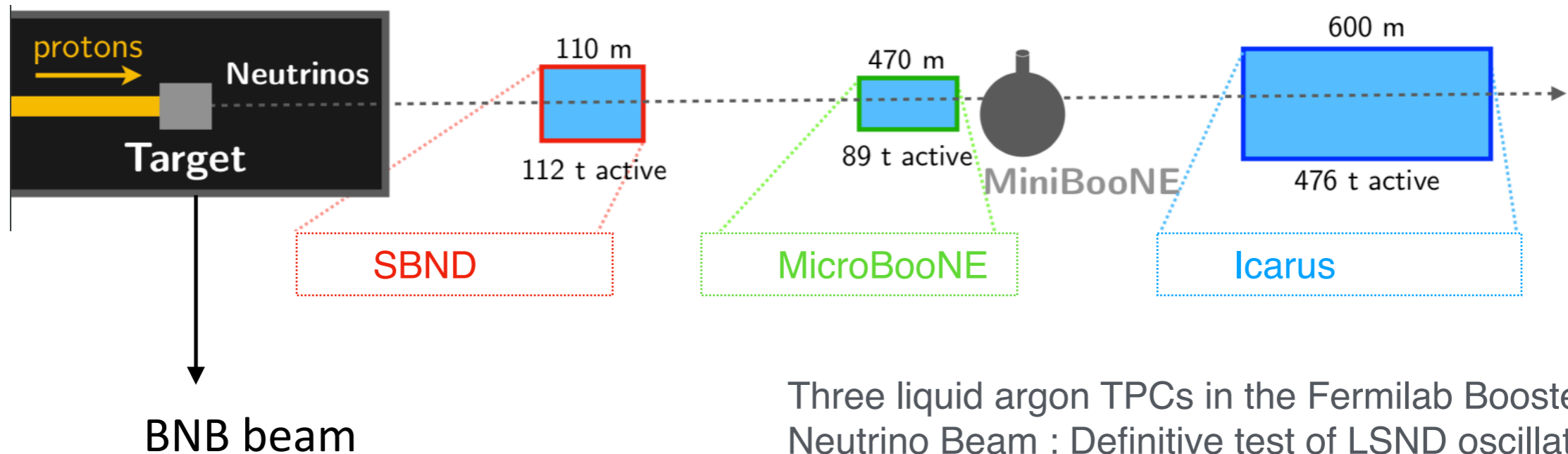
Unprecedented accuracy in the determination of **neutrino-argon cross section** is required to achieve design sensitivity to CP violation at DUNE

More than 60% of the interactions at DUNE are non-quasielastic

Theoretical tools for neutrino scattering,  
Contribution to: 2022 Snowmass Summer Study

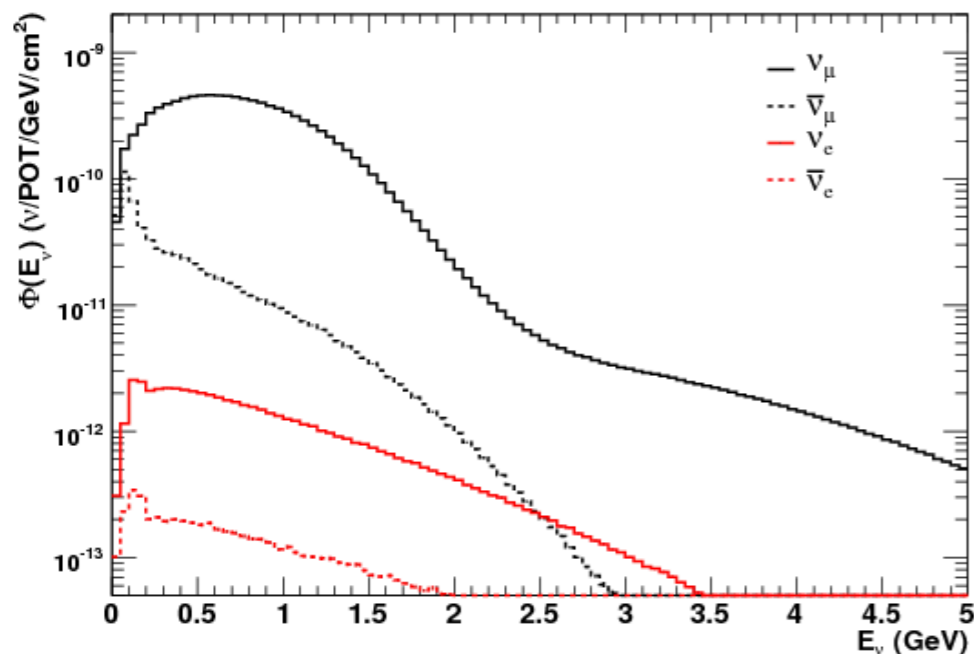


# Short Baseline Neutrino program



Three liquid argon TPCs in the Fermilab Booster Neutrino Beam : Definitive test of LSND oscillations using three baselines

Neutrino flux @SBND



For BNB and T2K the dominant reaction mechanisms are quasi-elastic scattering

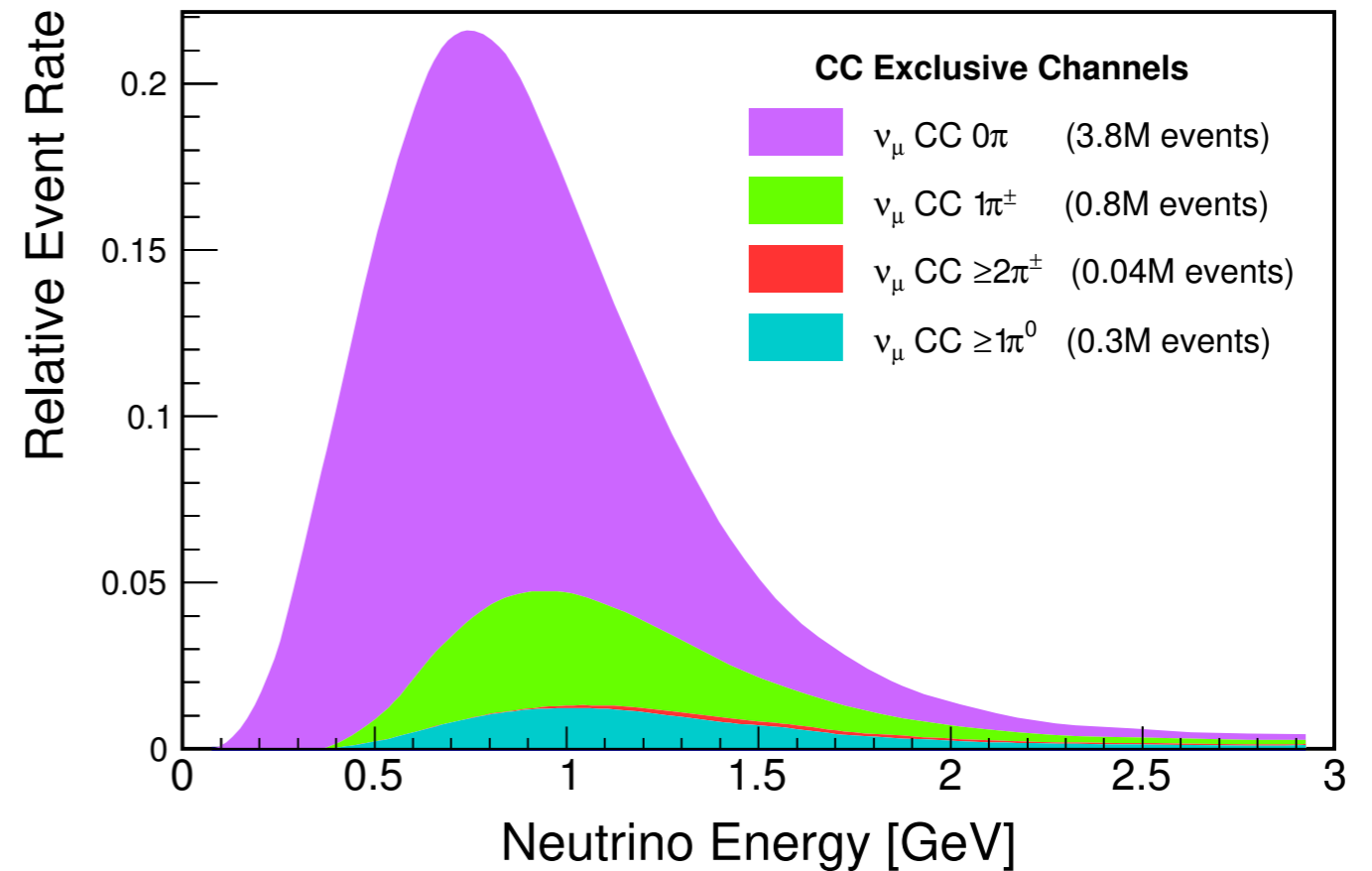
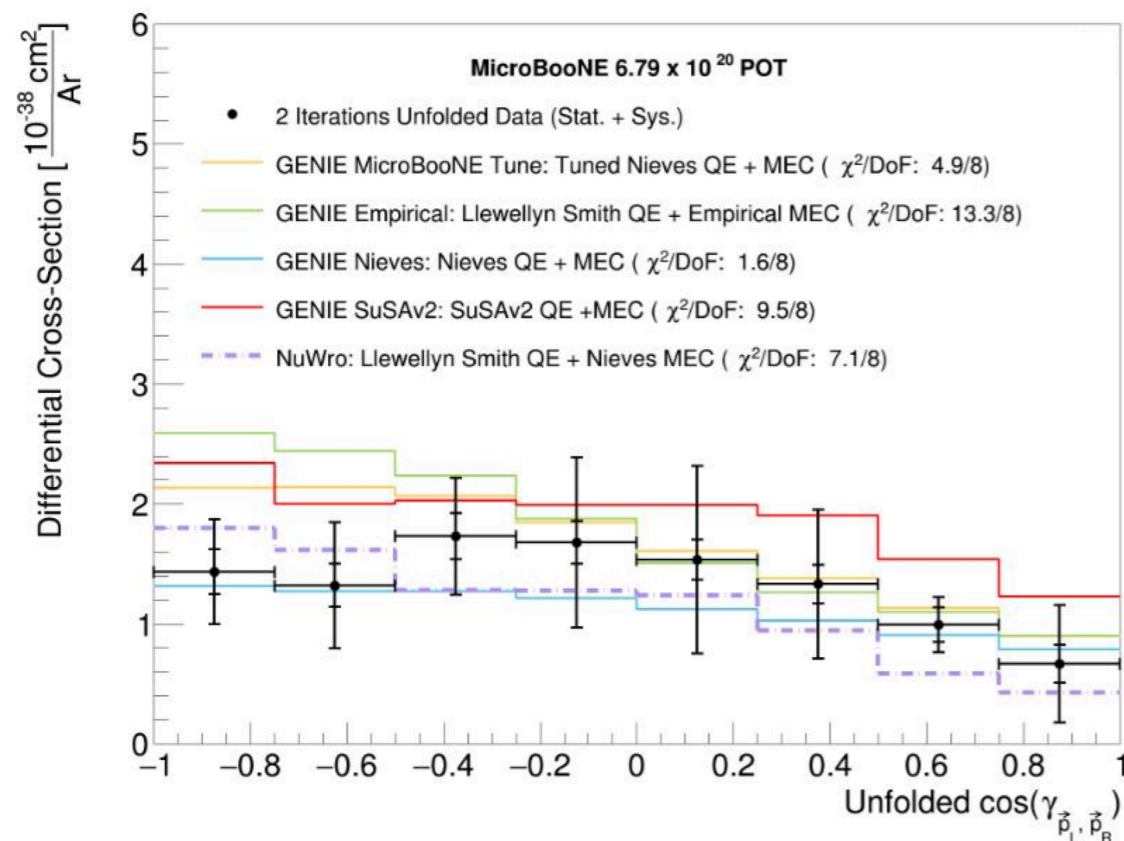
The contribution of  $\pi$ -production channels is  $\sim 25\%$

For the sub-GeV experiments the Delta is the only relevant resonance

# Short Baseline Neutrino program

P. Machado et al, 1903.04608 (2019)

SBND will provide the world's highest statistics cross section measurements in LAr: 2 million events for  $\nu_\mu$  per year for the next 3 years

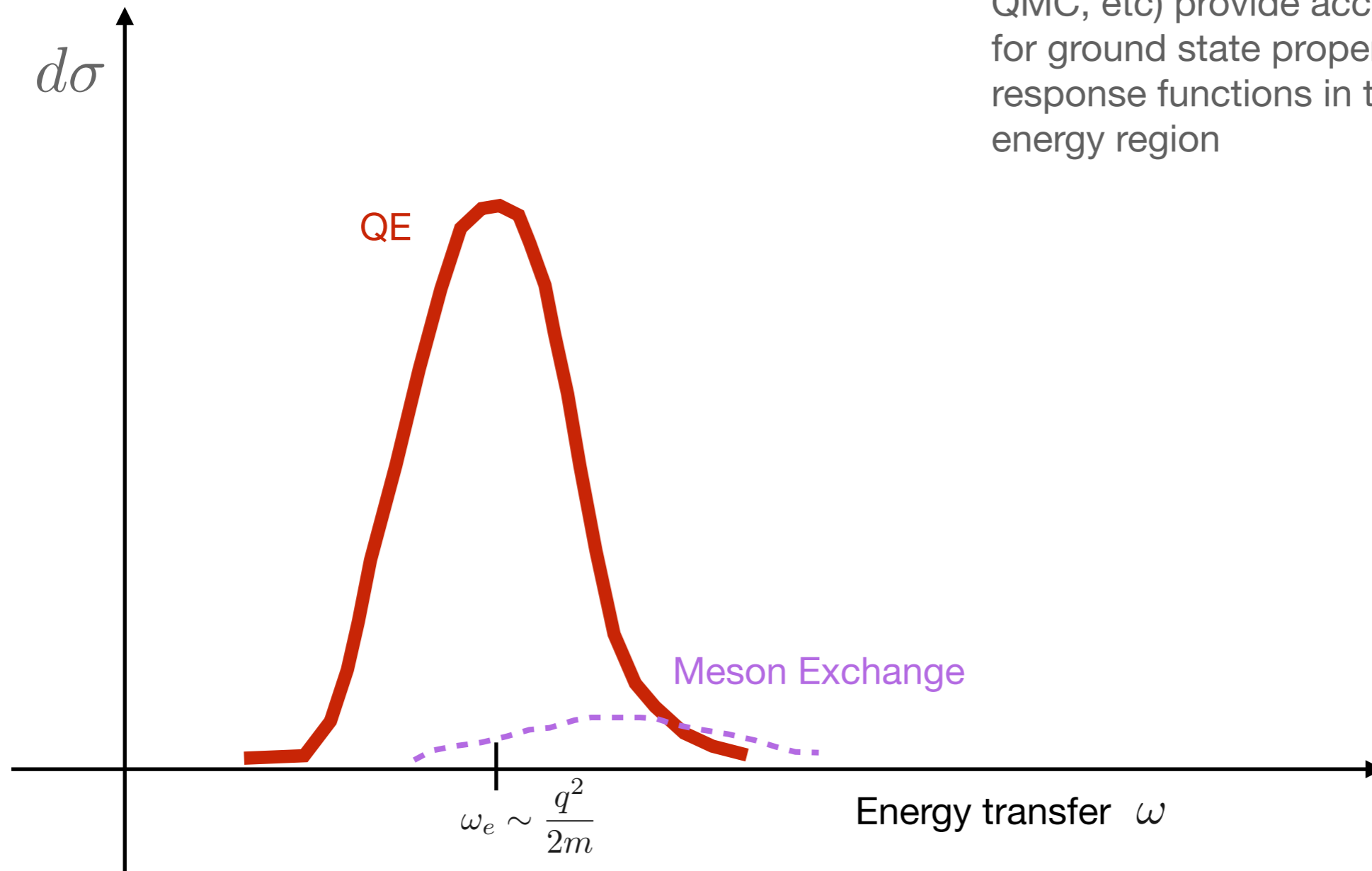


**A. Papadopoulou W&C seminar June 2023  
& Adi's talk yesterday**

**MicroBooNE provided first two-proton knockout single-differential cross section on argon 2211.03734**

# Ab initio Methods

Ab-initio methods (CC, IMSRG, SCGF, QMC, etc) provide accurate predictions for ground state properties of nuclei + response functions in the low/moderate energy region



# Many-Body method: GFMC

QMC techniques **projects out the exact lowest-energy state:**  $e^{-(H-E_0)\tau} |\Psi_T\rangle \rightarrow |\Psi_0\rangle$

Nuclear response function involves evaluating a number of transition amplitudes.

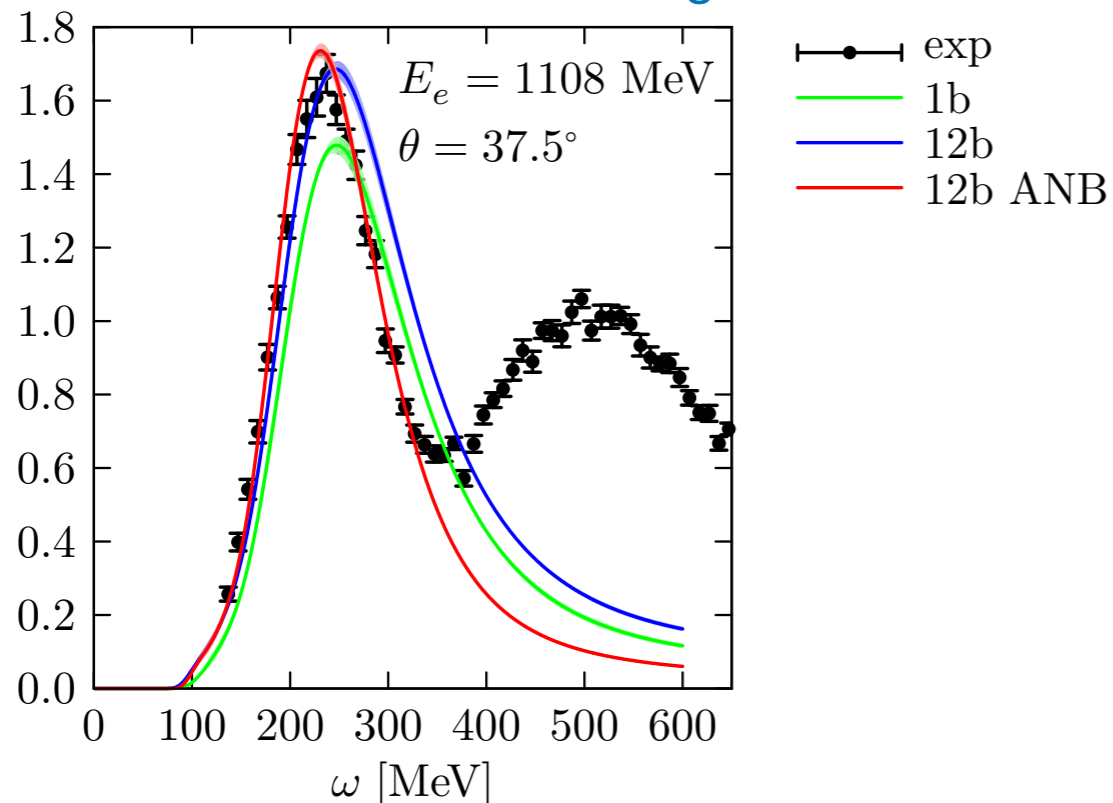
Valuable information can be obtained from the **integral transform of the response function**

$$E_{\alpha\beta}(\sigma, \mathbf{q}) = \int d\omega K(\sigma, \omega) R_{\alpha\beta}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \langle \psi_0 | J_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{q}) K(\sigma, H - E_0) J_{\beta}(\mathbf{q}) | \psi_0 \rangle$$

**Inverting the Laplace transform is a complicated problem**

A. Lovato et al, PRL117 (2016), 082501,  
PRC97 (2018), 022502

— electron-<sup>4</sup>He scattering



Inclusive results which are virtually correct in the QE

Different Hamiltonians can be used in the time-evolution operator

Relies on non-relativistic treatment of the kinematics

Can not handle explicit pion degrees of freedom

# Axial form factor determination

- The axial form-factor has been fit to the dipole form

$$F_A(q^2) = \frac{g_A}{(1 - q^2/m_A^2)^2}$$

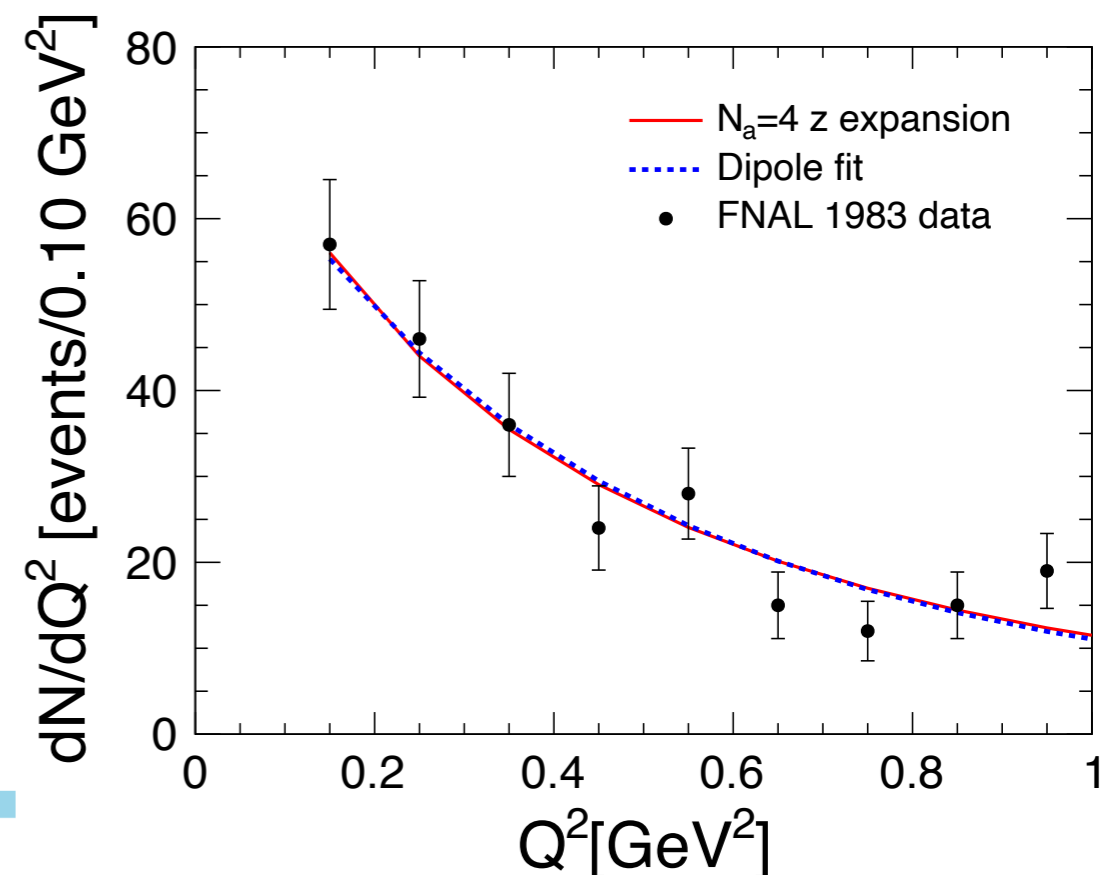
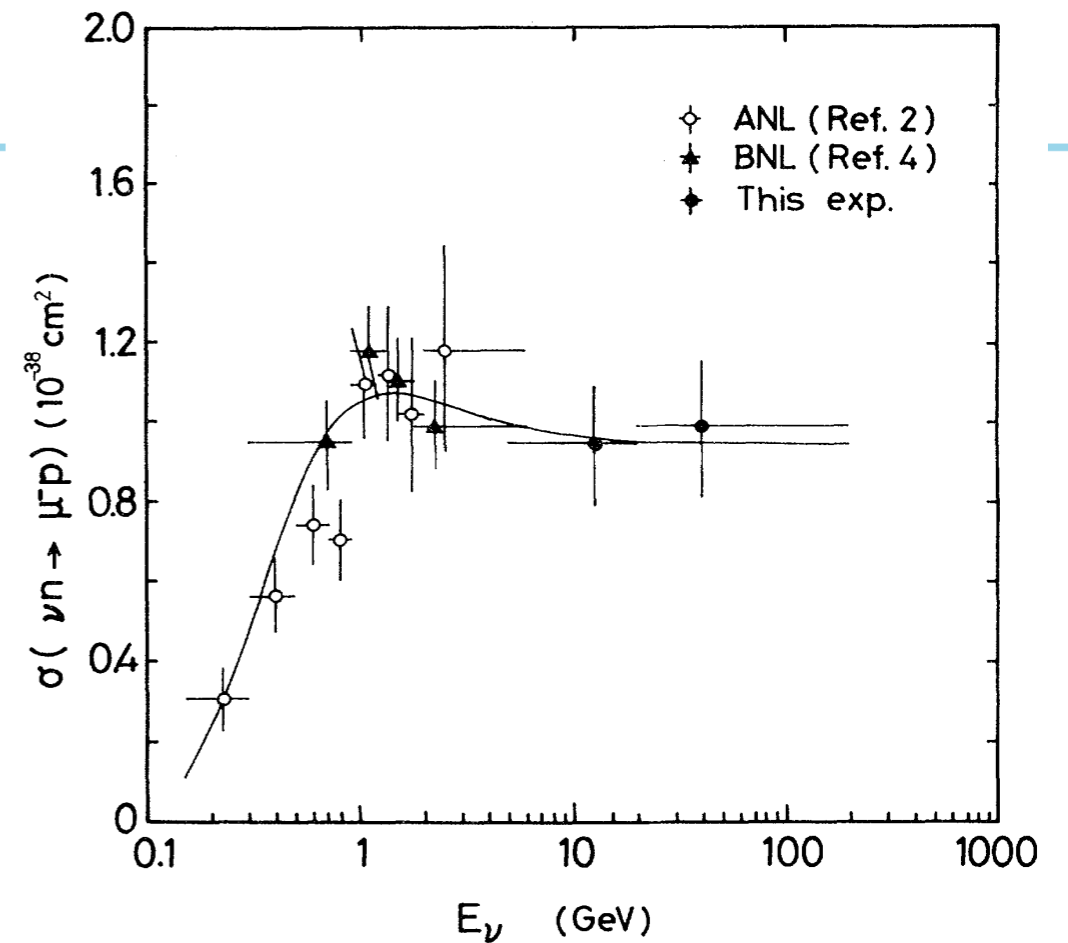
- The intercept  $g_A = -1.2723$  is known from neutron  $\beta$  decay
- Different values of  $m_A$  from experiments
  - $m_A = 1.02$  GeV q.e. scattering from deuterium
  - $m_A = 1.35$  GeV @ MiniBooNE
- Alternative derivation based on **z-expansion**
  - model independent parametrization

$$F_A(q^2) = \sum_{k=0}^{k_{\max}} a_k z(q^2)^k,$$

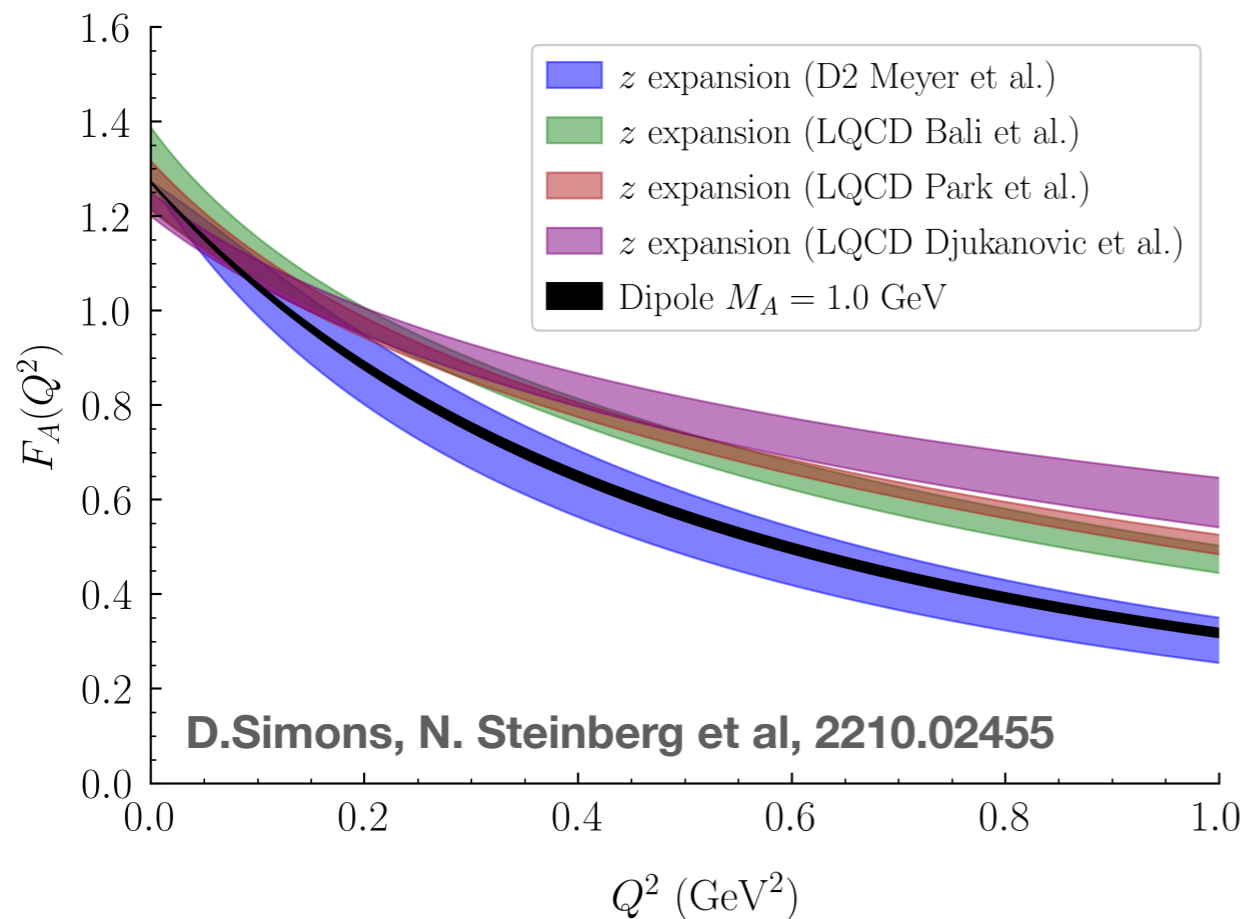
↑ known functions  
↑ free parameters

Bhattacharya, Hill, and Paz PRD 84 (2011) 073006

A.S.Meyer et al, Phys.Rev.D 93 (2016) 11, 113015



# Axial form factor determination



Comparison with recent MINERvA antineutrino-hydrogen charged-current measurements

1-2 $\sigma$  agreement with MINERvA data and LQCD prediction by PNDME Collaboration

Novel methods are needed to remove excited-state contributions and discretization errors

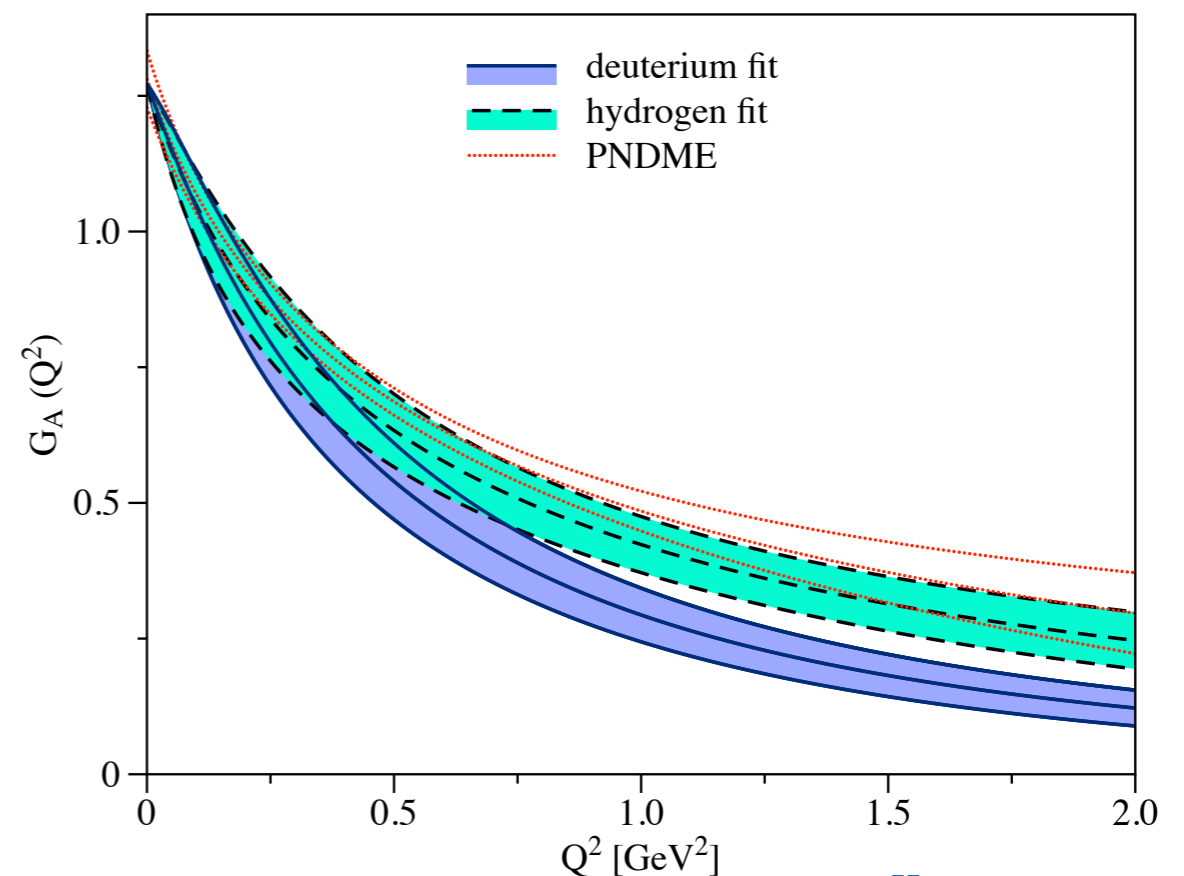
A. Meyer, A. Walker-Loud, C. Wilkinson, 2201.01839

D2 Meyer et al: fits to neutrino-deuteron scattering data

LQCD result: general agreement between the different calculations

LQCD results are 2-3 $\sigma$  larger than D2 Meyer ones for  $Q^2 > 0.3$  GeV<sup>2</sup>

O. Tomalak, R. Gupta, T. Battacharaya, 2307.14920

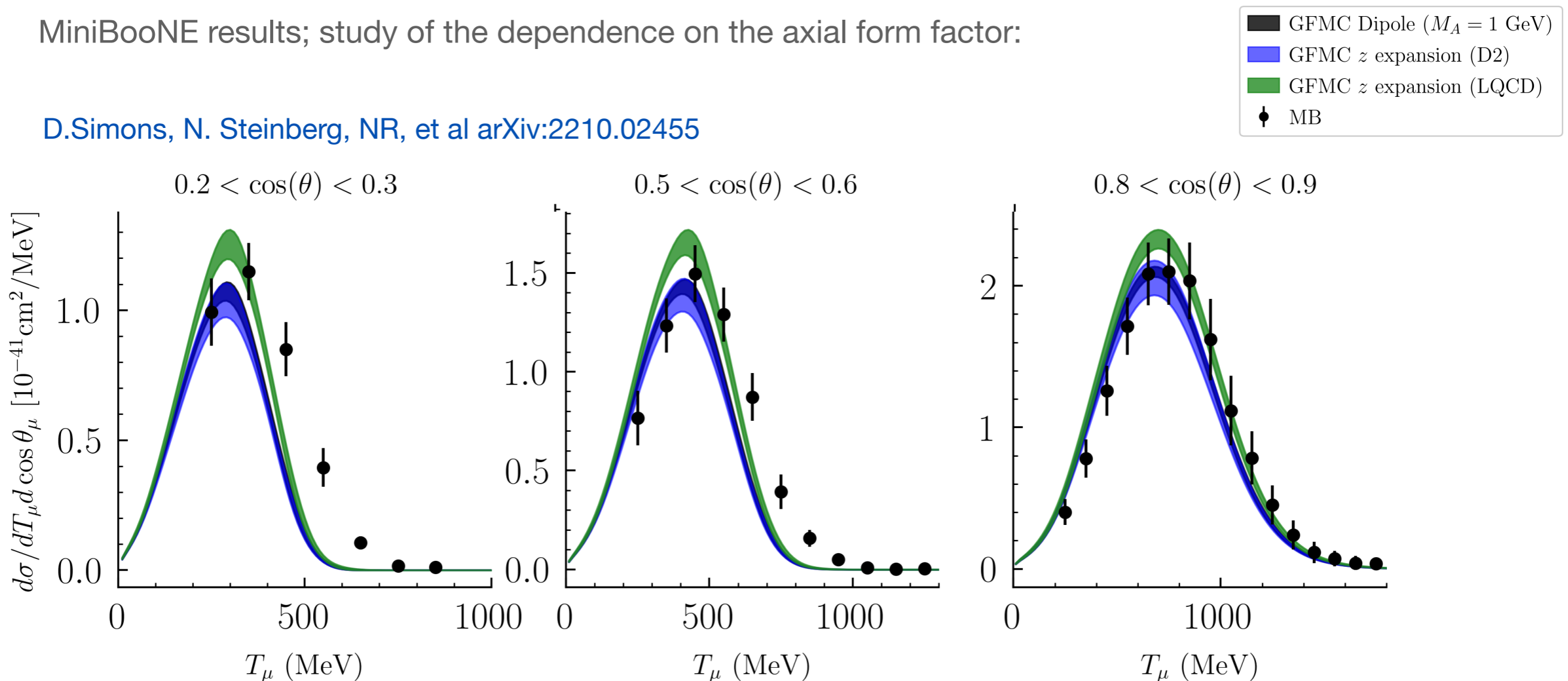




# Study of model dependence in neutrino predictions

MiniBooNE results; study of the dependence on the axial form factor:

D.Simons, N. Steinberg, NR, et al arXiv:2210.02455



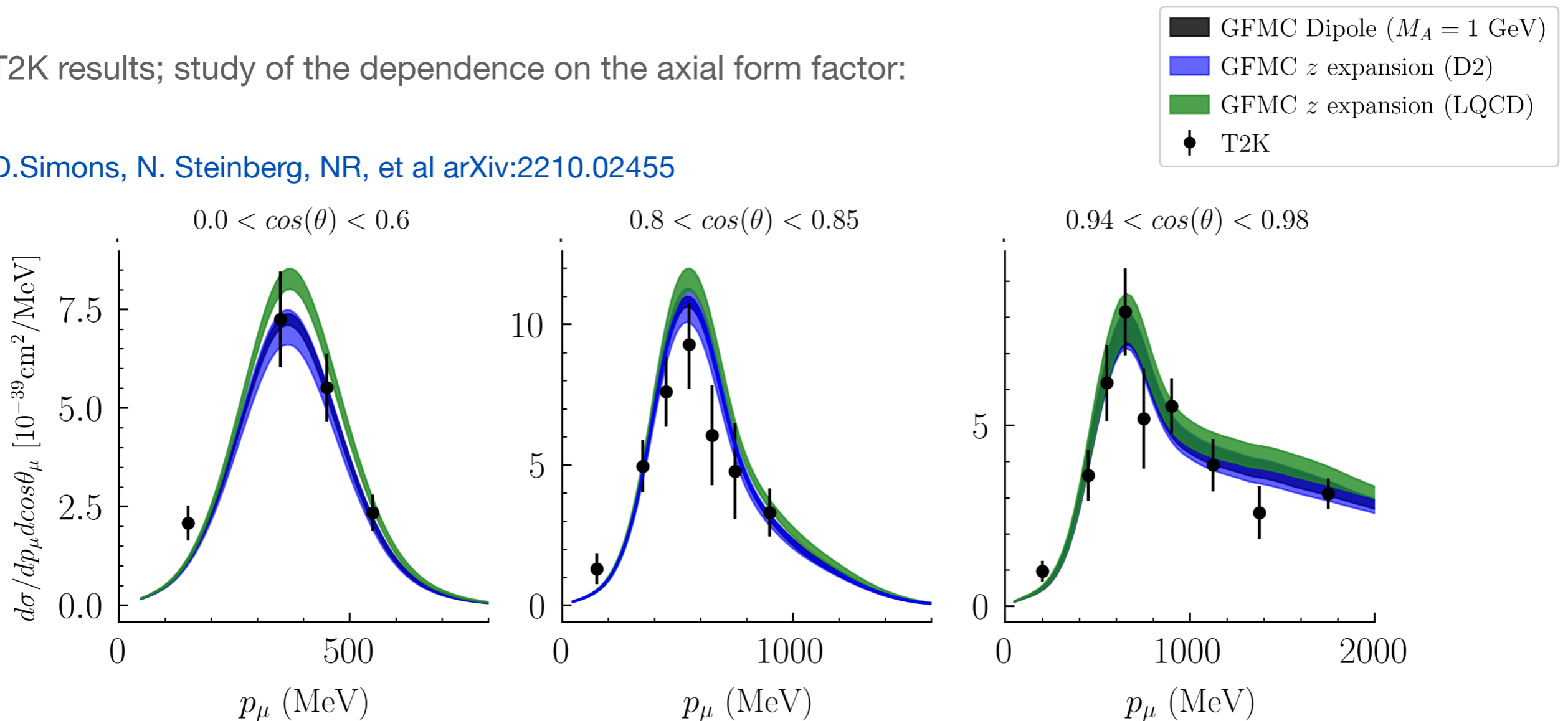
D.Simons, N. Steinberg et al, 2210.02455

MiniBooNE	$0.2 < \cos \theta_\mu < 0.3$	$0.5 < \cos \theta_\mu < 0.6$	$0.8 < \cos \theta_\mu < 0.9$
GFMC Difference in $d\sigma_{\text{peak}}$ (%)	18.6	17.1	12.2

# Study of model dependence in neutrino predictions

T2K results; study of the dependence on the axial form factor:

D.Simons, N. Steinberg, NR, et al arXiv:2210.02455



D.Simons, N. Steinberg et al, 2210.02455

T2K	$0.0 < \cos \theta_\mu < 0.6$	$0.80 < \cos \theta_\mu < 0.85$	$0.94 < \cos \theta_\mu < 0.98$
GFMC difference in $d\sigma_{\text{peak}}$ (%)	15.8	8.0	4.6

# Why relativity is important

$$R_{\alpha\beta}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \sum_f \langle 0 | J_\alpha^\dagger(\mathbf{q}) | f \rangle \langle f | J_\beta(\mathbf{q}) | 0 \rangle \delta(\omega - E_f + E_0)$$

**Currents**

**Kinematics**

Covariant expression of the e.m. current:

$$j_{\gamma,S}^\mu = \bar{u}(\mathbf{p}') \left[ \frac{G_E^S + \tau G_M^S}{2(1 + \tau)} \gamma^\mu + i \frac{\sigma^{\mu\nu} q_\nu}{4m_N} \frac{G_M^S - G_E^S}{1 + \tau} \right] u(\mathbf{p})$$

Nonrelativistic expansion in powers of  $\mathbf{p}/m_N$

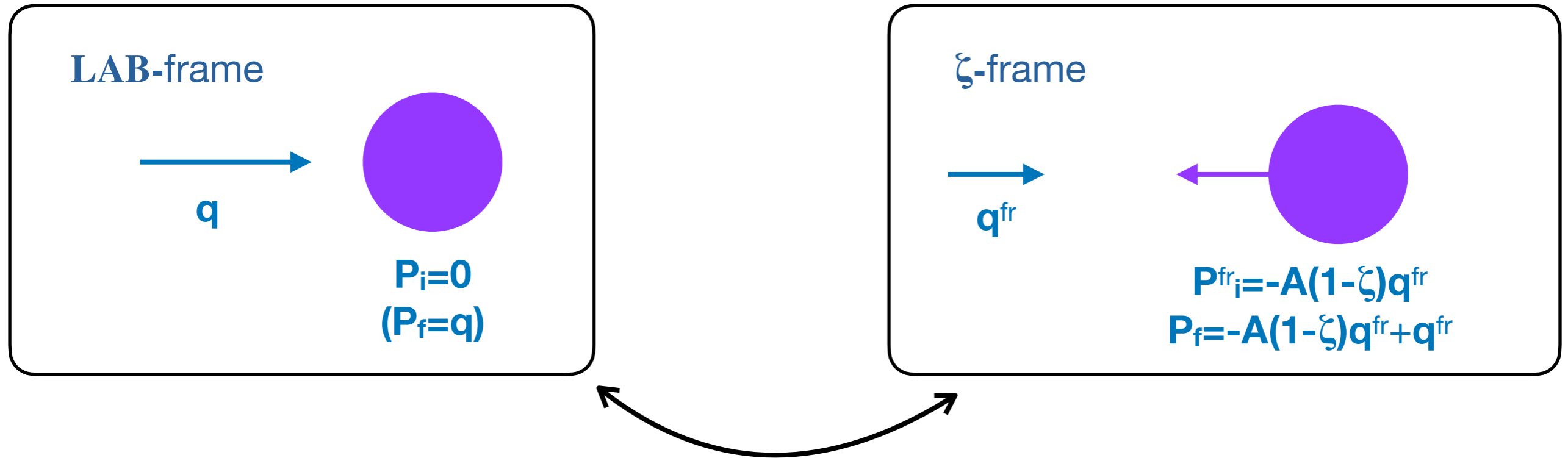
$$j_{\gamma,S}^0 = \frac{G_E^S}{2\sqrt{1 + Q^2/4m_N^2}} - i \frac{2G_M^S - G_E^S}{8m_N^2} \mathbf{q} \cdot (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \times \mathbf{p})$$

Energy transfer at the quasi-elastic peak:

$$w_{QE} = \sqrt{\mathbf{q}^2 + m_N^2} - m_N$$

$$w_{QE}^{nr} = \mathbf{q}^2 / (2m_N)$$

# Frame dependence



Lorentz Boost connects the two frames

$$R_{LAB}^{\mu\nu}(\omega, q) = B_{\alpha}^{\mu}[\beta] B_{\beta}^{\nu}[\beta] R_{fr}^{\alpha\beta}(\omega^{fr}, \mathbf{q}^{fr})$$

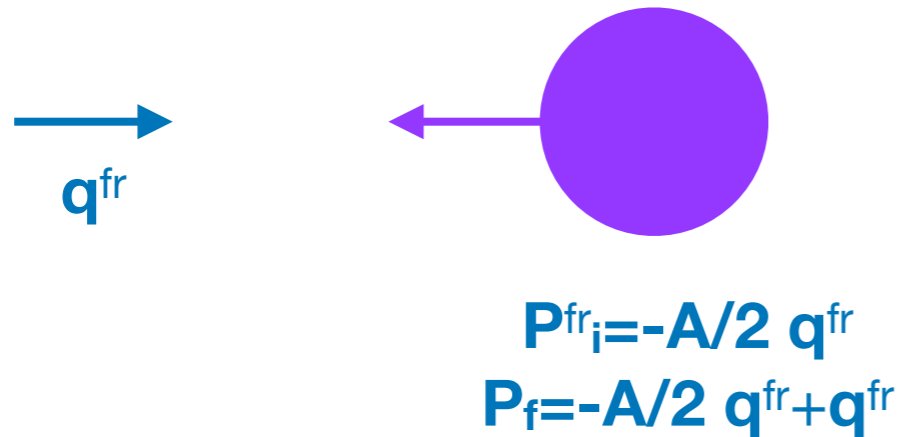
The momentum and energy transfer in the different reference frames are connected:

$$\mathbf{q}^{fr} = \gamma(\mathbf{q} - \beta\omega),$$

$$\omega^{fr} = \gamma(\omega - \beta q),$$

# Frame dependence

Frame that minimizes relativistic corrections



$\zeta=1/2$  Active nucleon Breit frame

- At the single nucleon level:

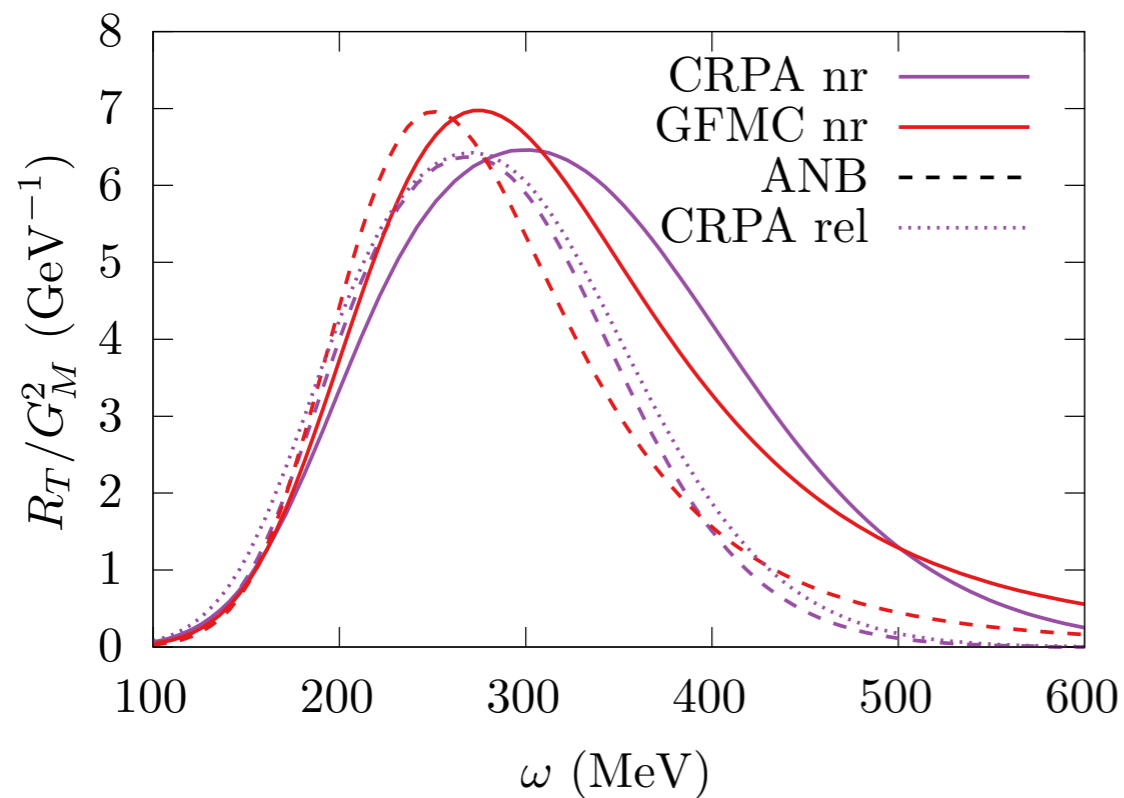
$$\mathbf{p}_i^{\text{fr}} \simeq -\mathbf{q}^{\text{fr}}/2$$

$$\mathbf{p}_f^{\text{fr}} \simeq \mathbf{q}^{\text{fr}}/2$$

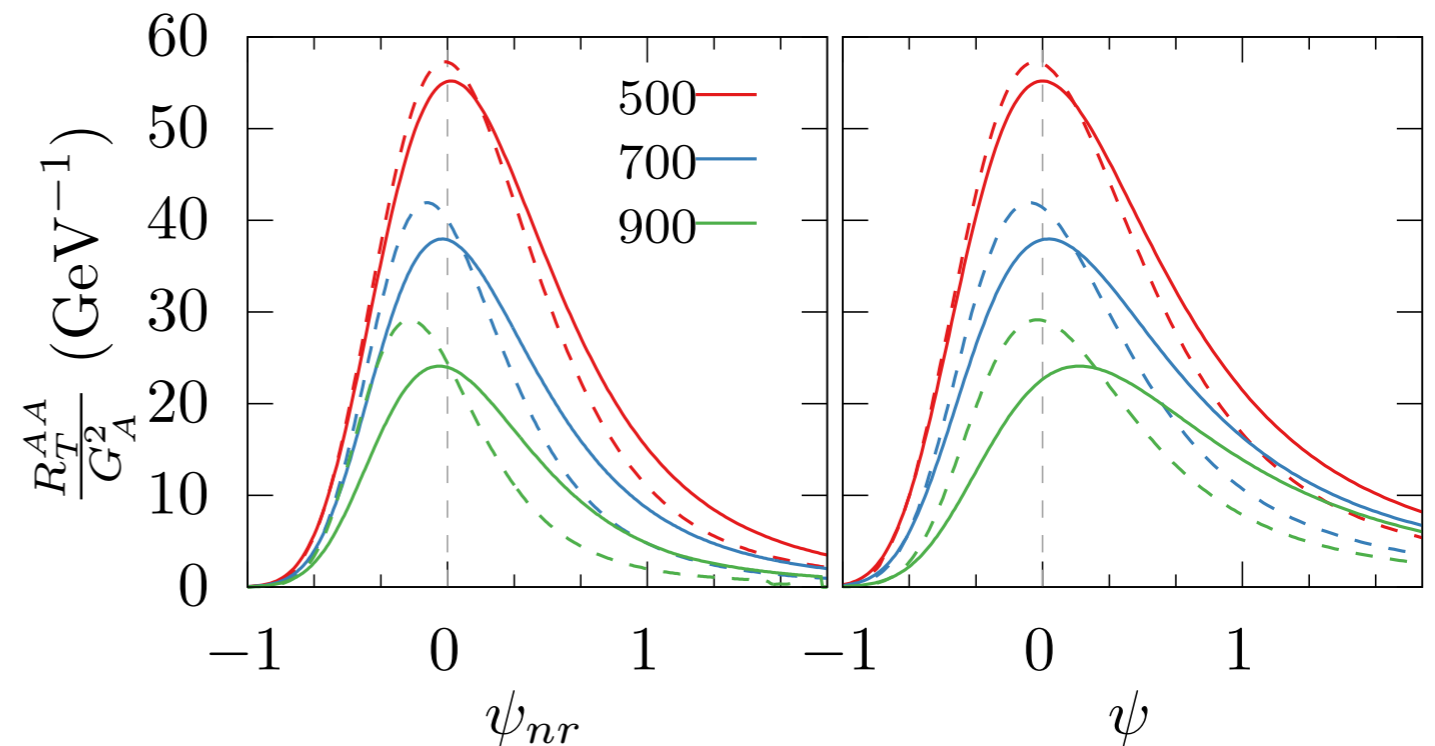
- Same position of the quasielastic peak

$$\omega_{QE} = \omega_{QE}^{nr} = 0$$

- Charge Current electroweak responses of  $^{12}\text{C}$ :



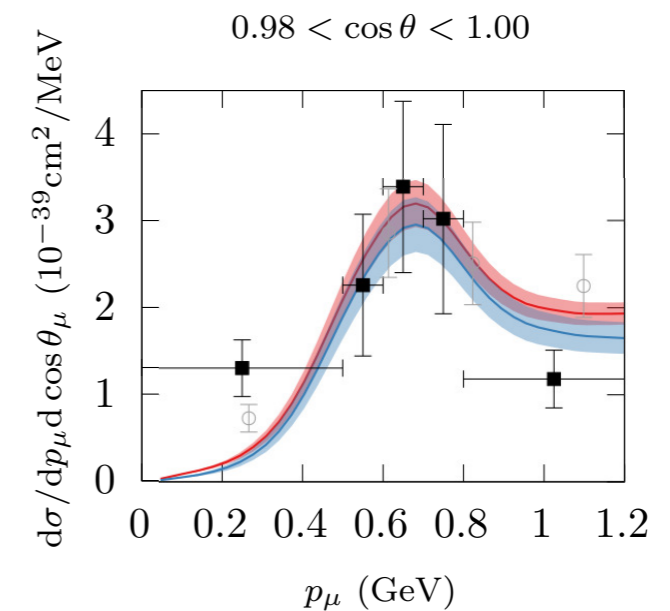
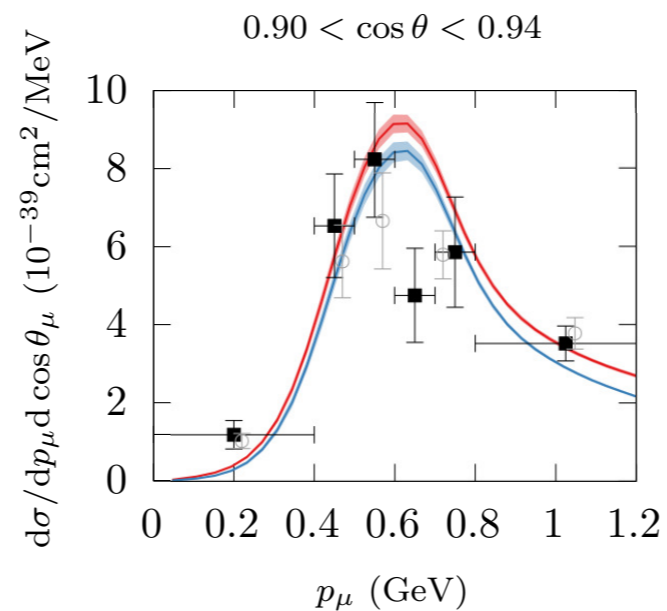
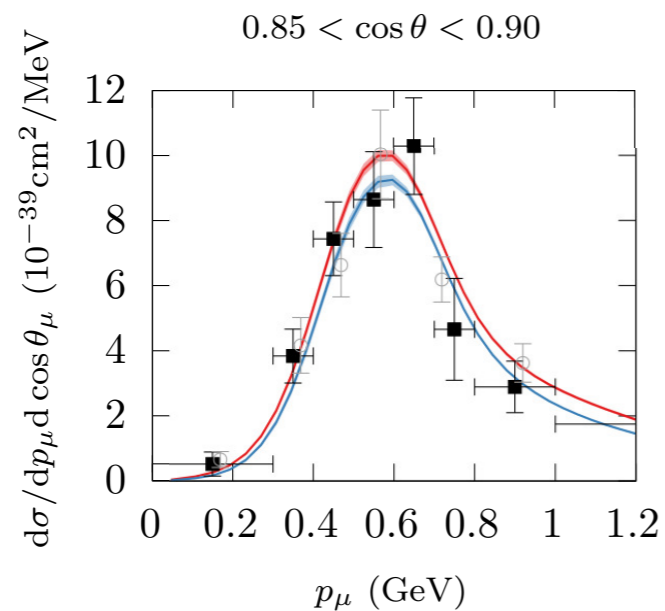
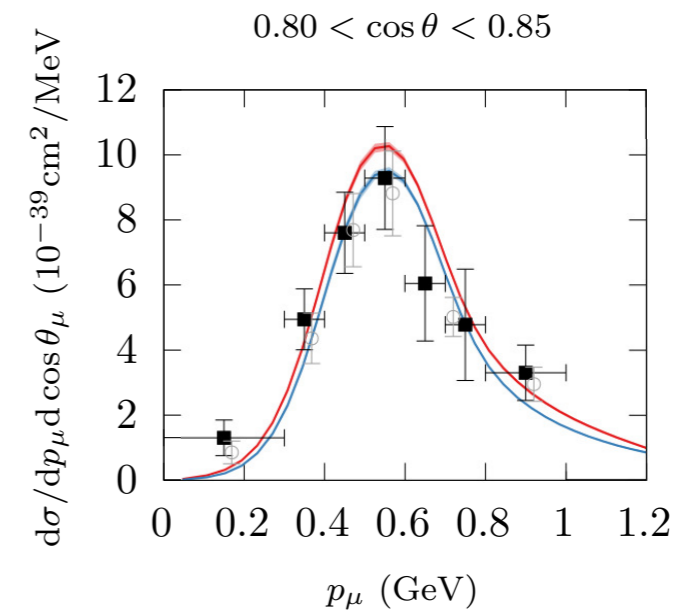
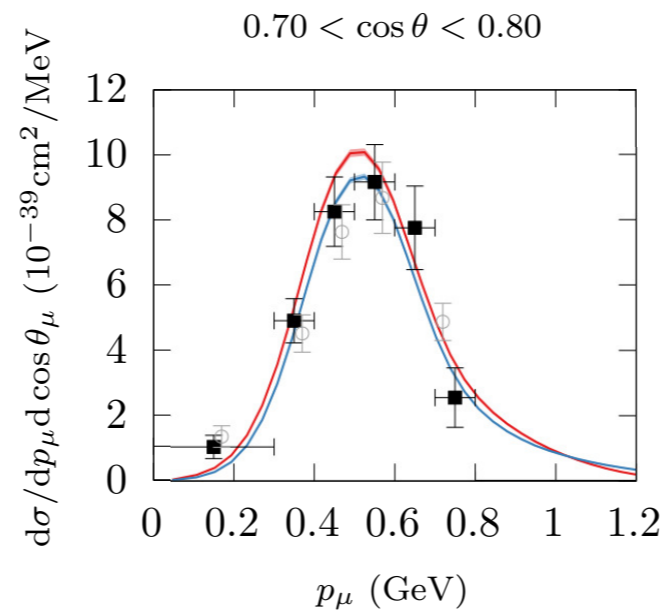
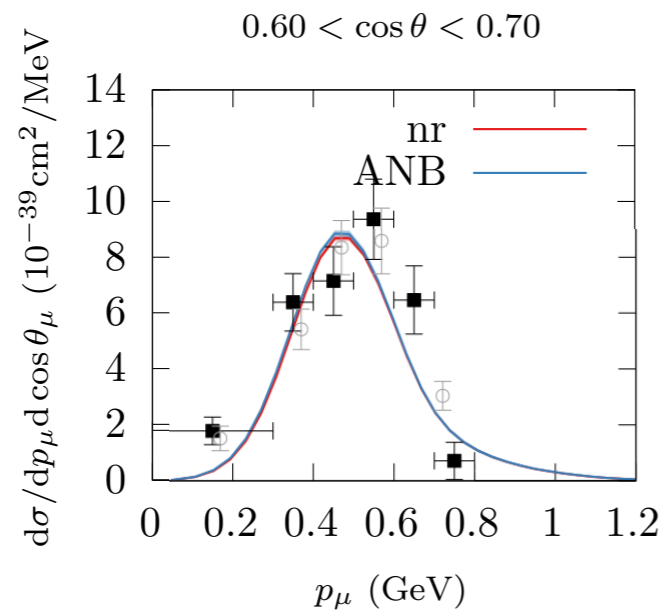
- LAB (solid) and ANB (dashed) predictions



# Cross sections: Green's Function Monte Carlo

T2K results including relativistic corrections

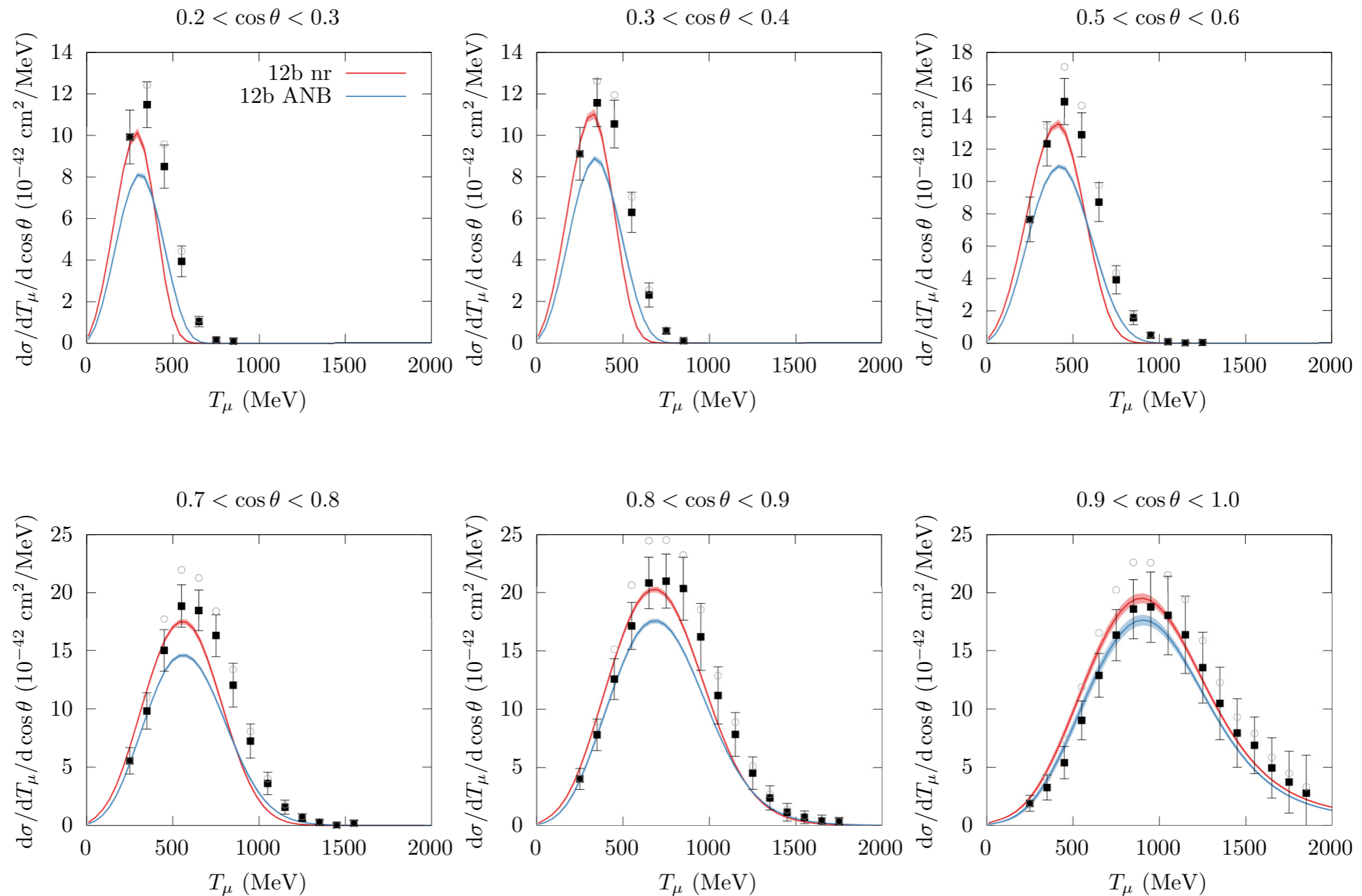
A.Nikolakopoulos, A.Lovato, NR, arXiv:2304.11772



# Cross sections: Green's Function Monte Carlo

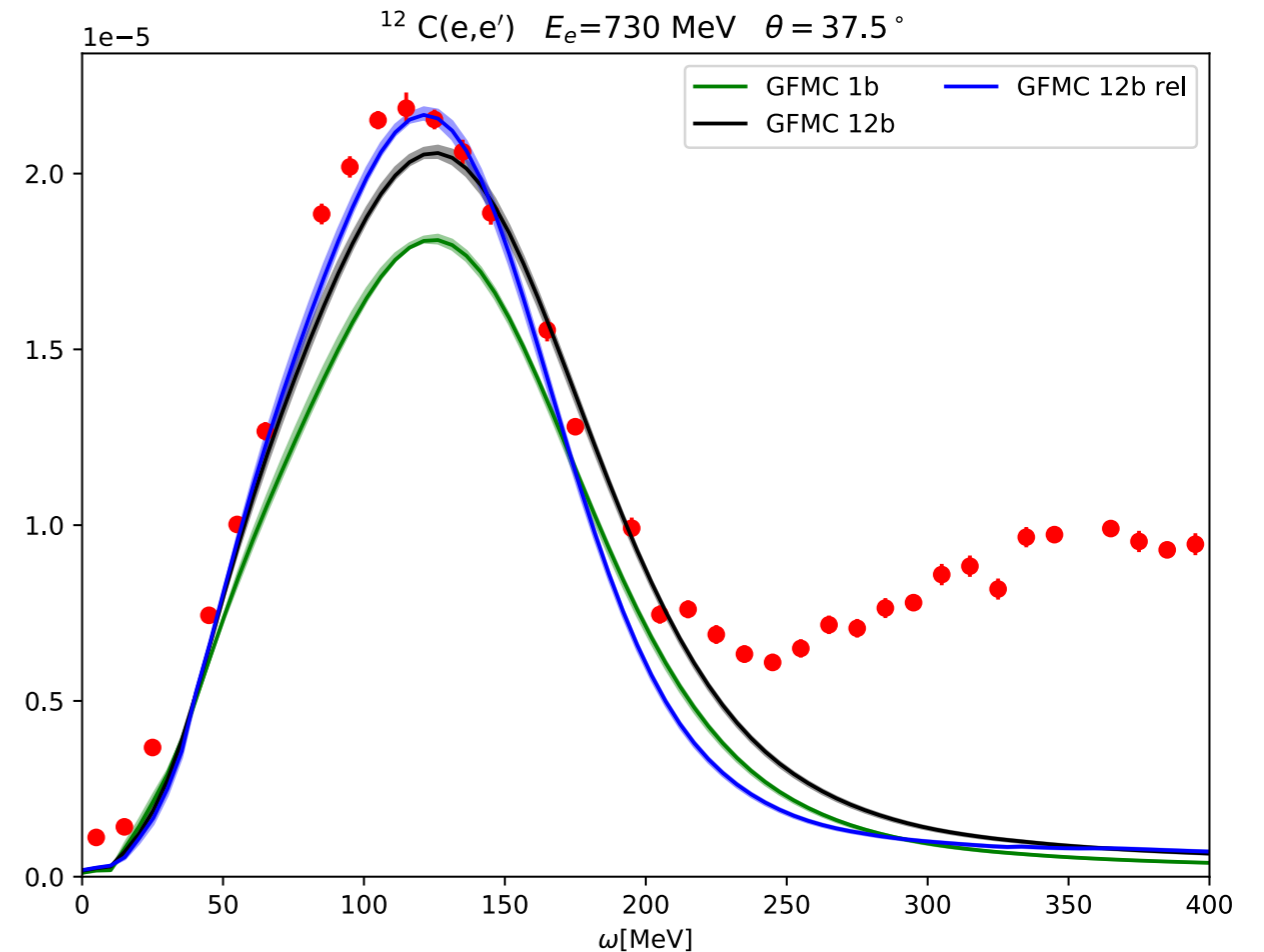
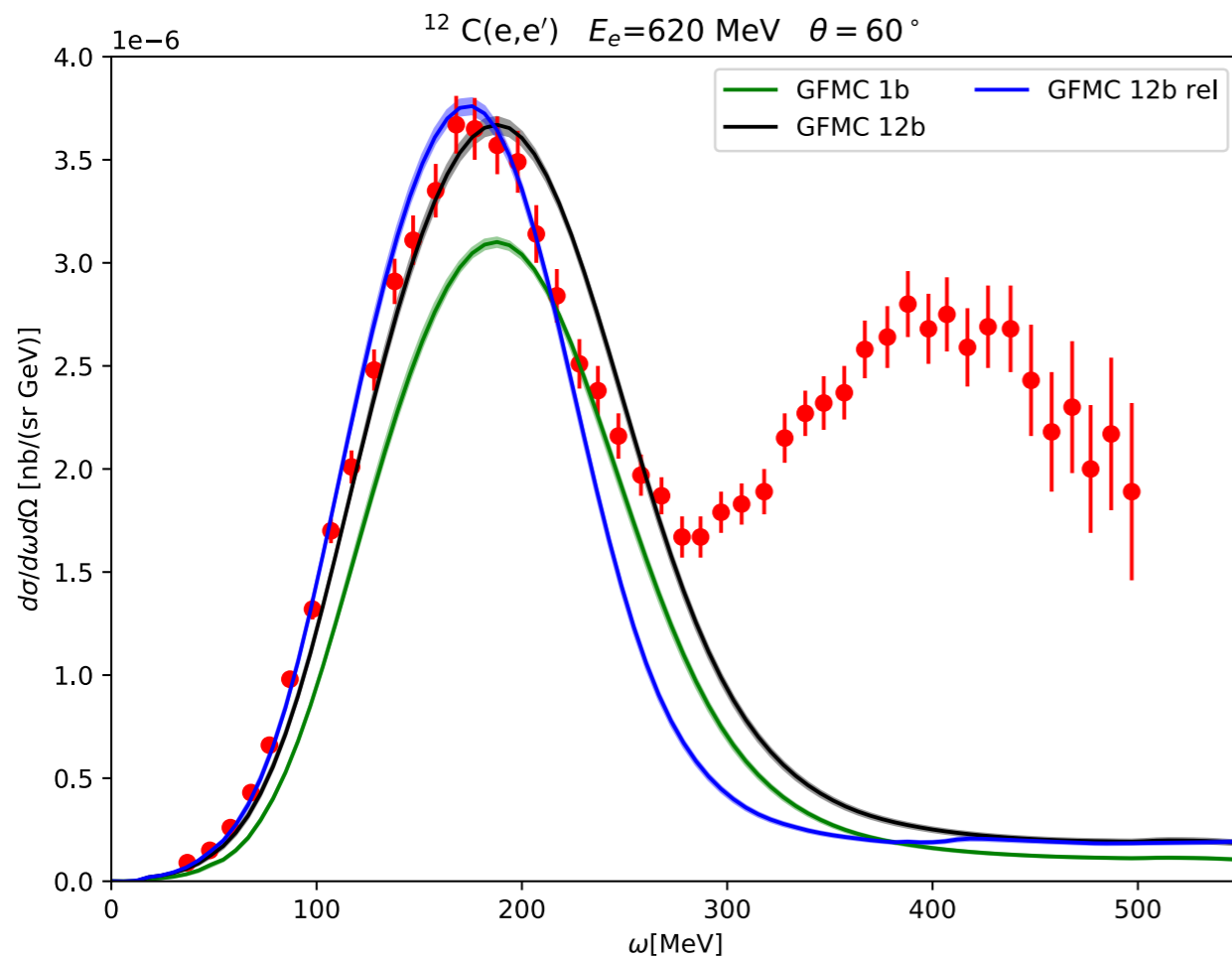
MiniBooNE results including relativistic corrections

A.Nikolakopoulos, A.Lovato, NR, arXiv:2304.11772



# Cross sections: Green's Function Monte Carlo

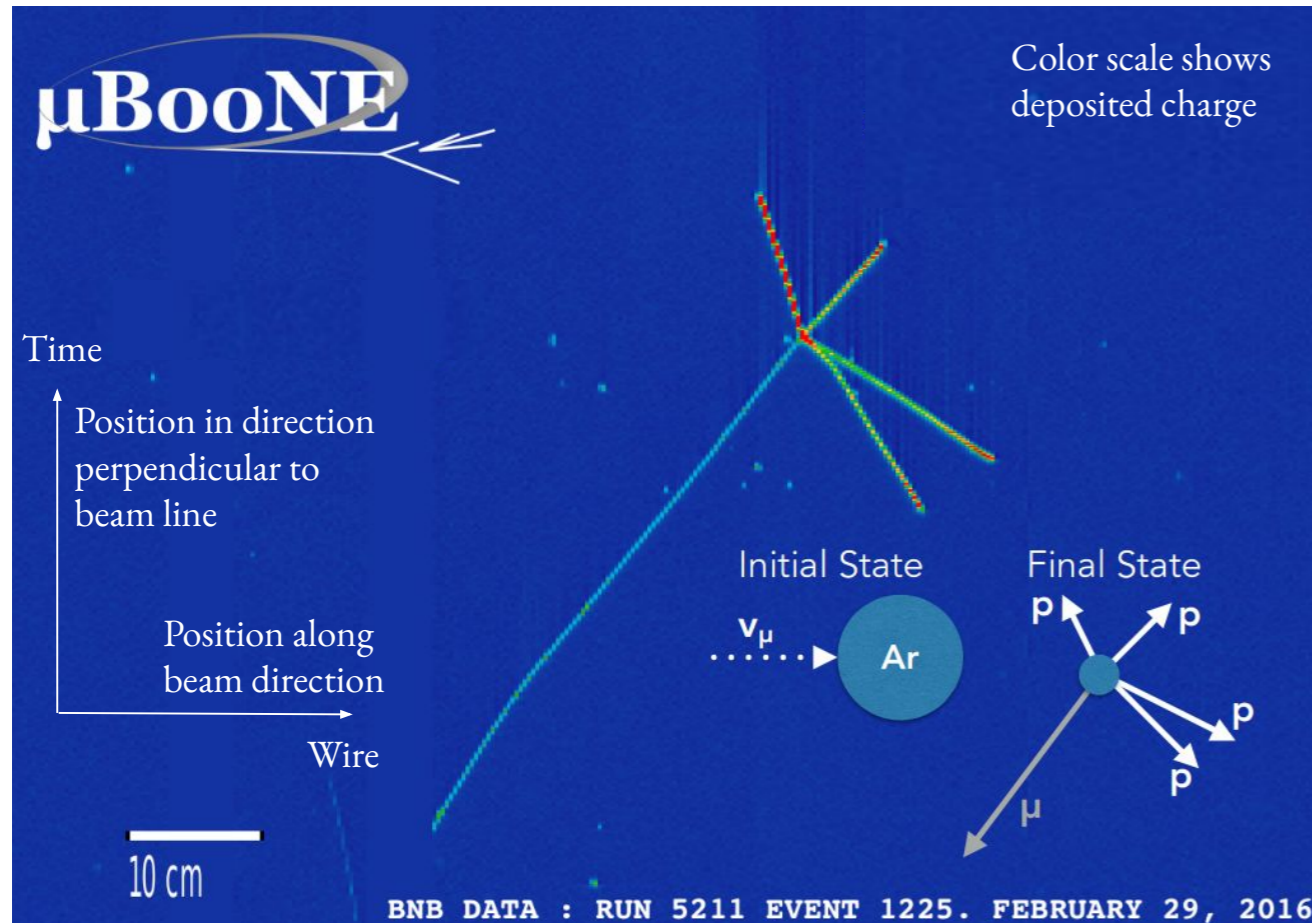
Electron scattering results including relativistic corrections for some kinematics covered by the calculated responses



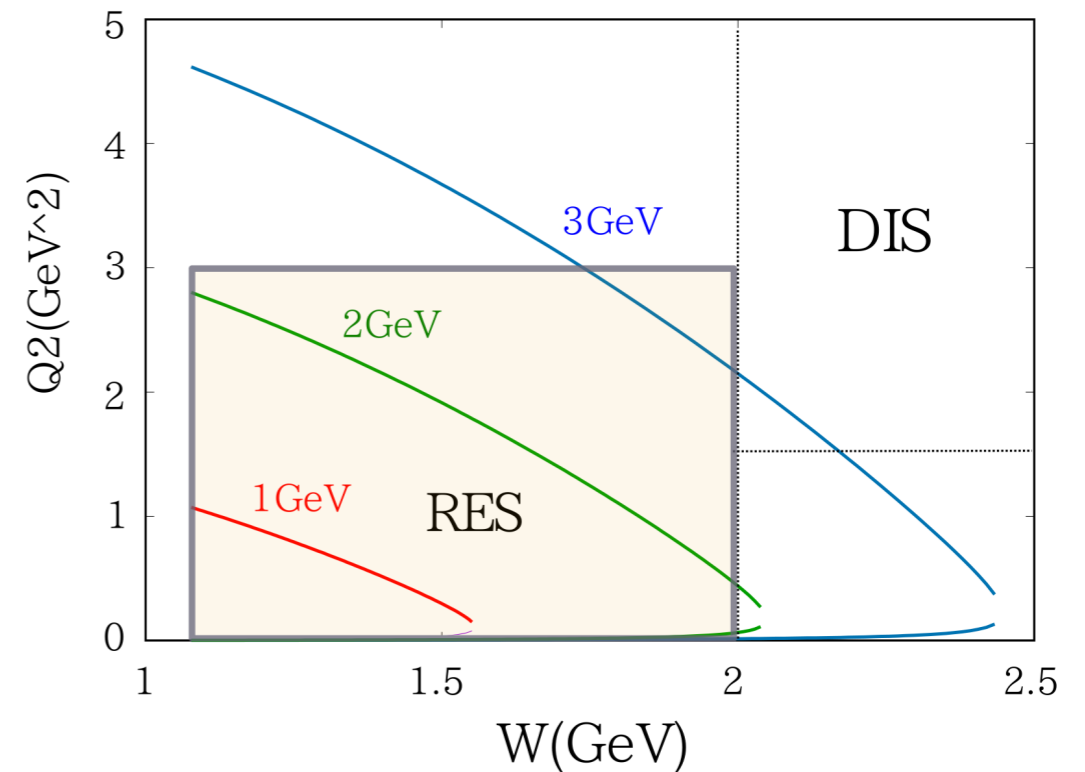
A.Lovato, A.Nikolakopoulos, NR, N. Steinberg, arXiv:2308.00736



# Address new experimental capabilities



T.Sato talks @ NuSTEC Workshop on Neutrino-Nucleus Pion Production in the Resonance Region

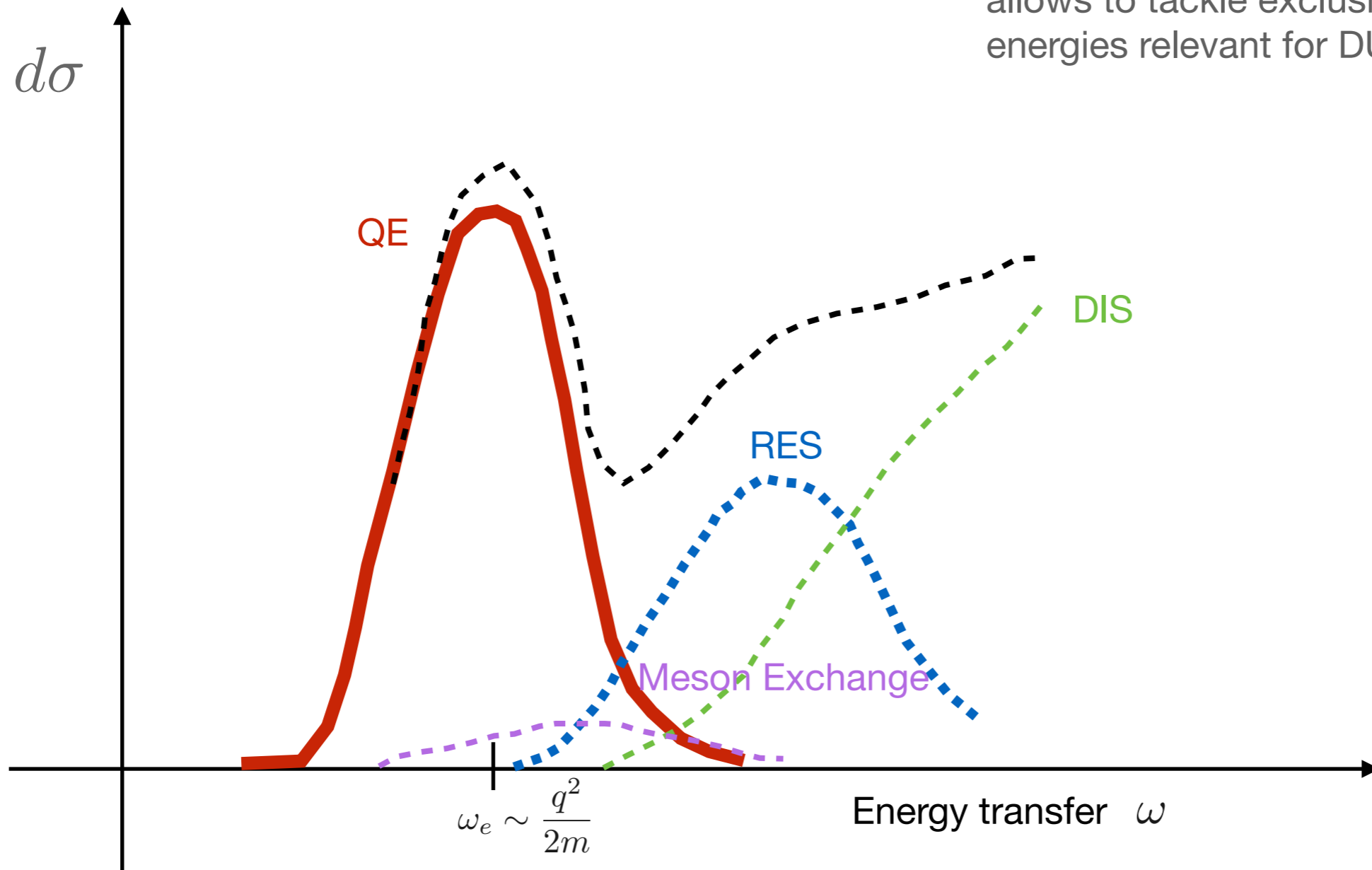


- Excellent spatial resolution
- Precise calorimetric information
- Powerful particle identification

$$W = \sqrt{(p + q)^2}, Q^2 = -q^2 = -(p_\nu - p_l)^2$$

# Factorization Based Approaches

Factorization of the hadronic final states:  
allows to tackle exclusive channels + higher  
energies relevant for DUNE



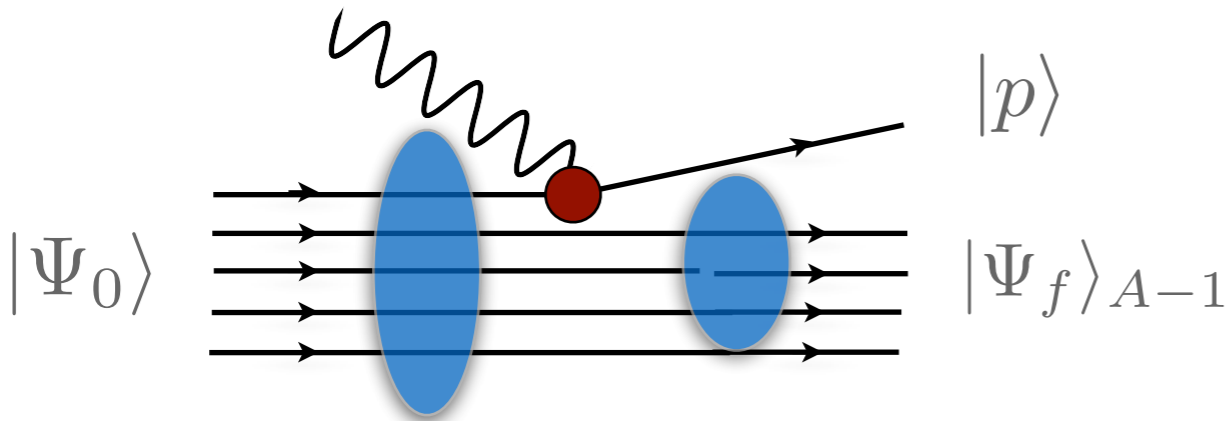
# Spectral function approach

At large momentum transfer, the scattering reduces to the sum of individual terms

$$J_\alpha = \sum_i j_\alpha^i \quad |\Psi_f\rangle \rightarrow |p\rangle \otimes |\Psi_f\rangle_{A-1}$$

The incoherent contribution of the one-body response reads

$$R_{\alpha\beta} \simeq \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} dE P_h(\mathbf{k}, E) \sum_i \langle k | j_\alpha^{i\dagger} | k + q \rangle \langle k + q | j_\beta^i | k \rangle \delta(\omega + E - e(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}))$$



The Spectral Function is the imaginary part of the two point Green's Function

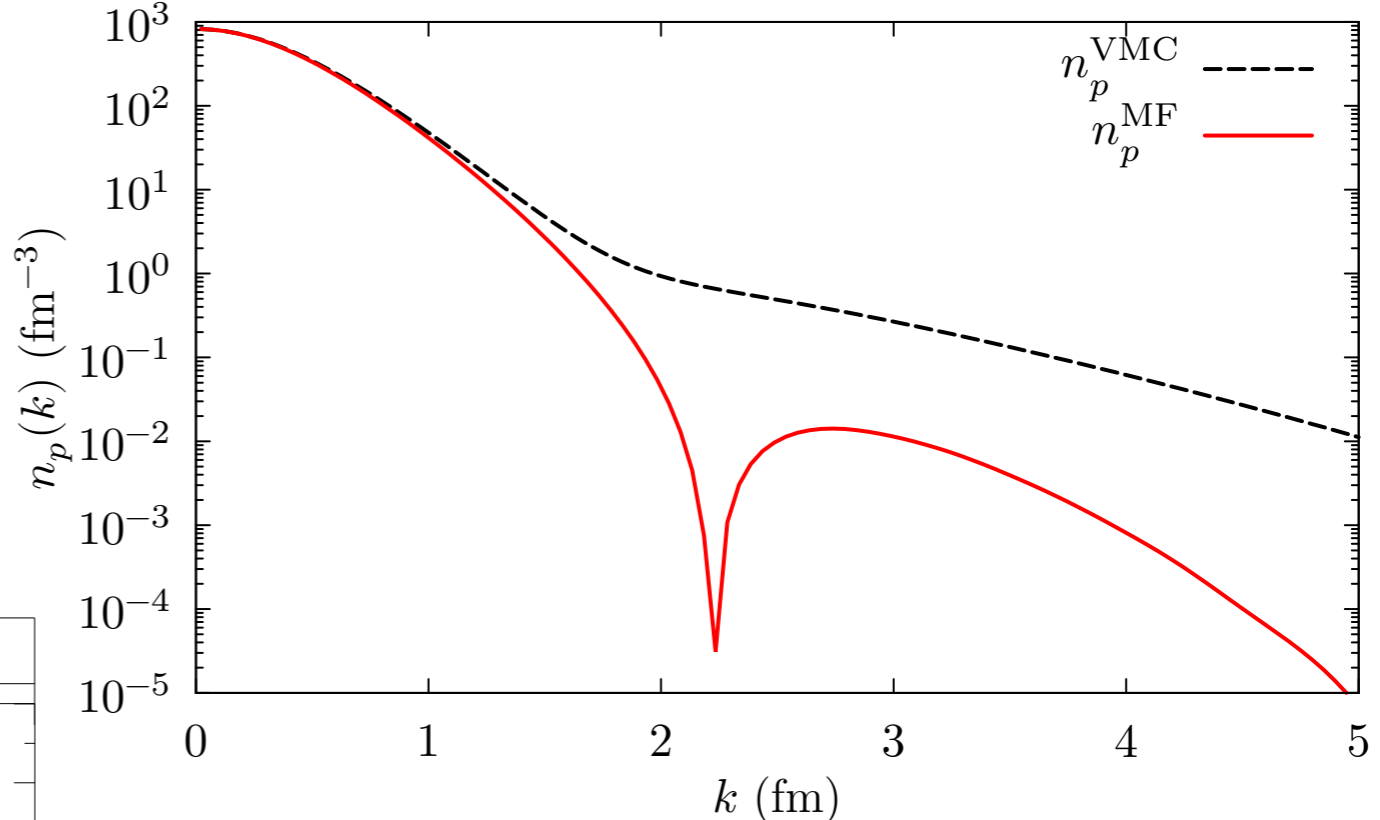
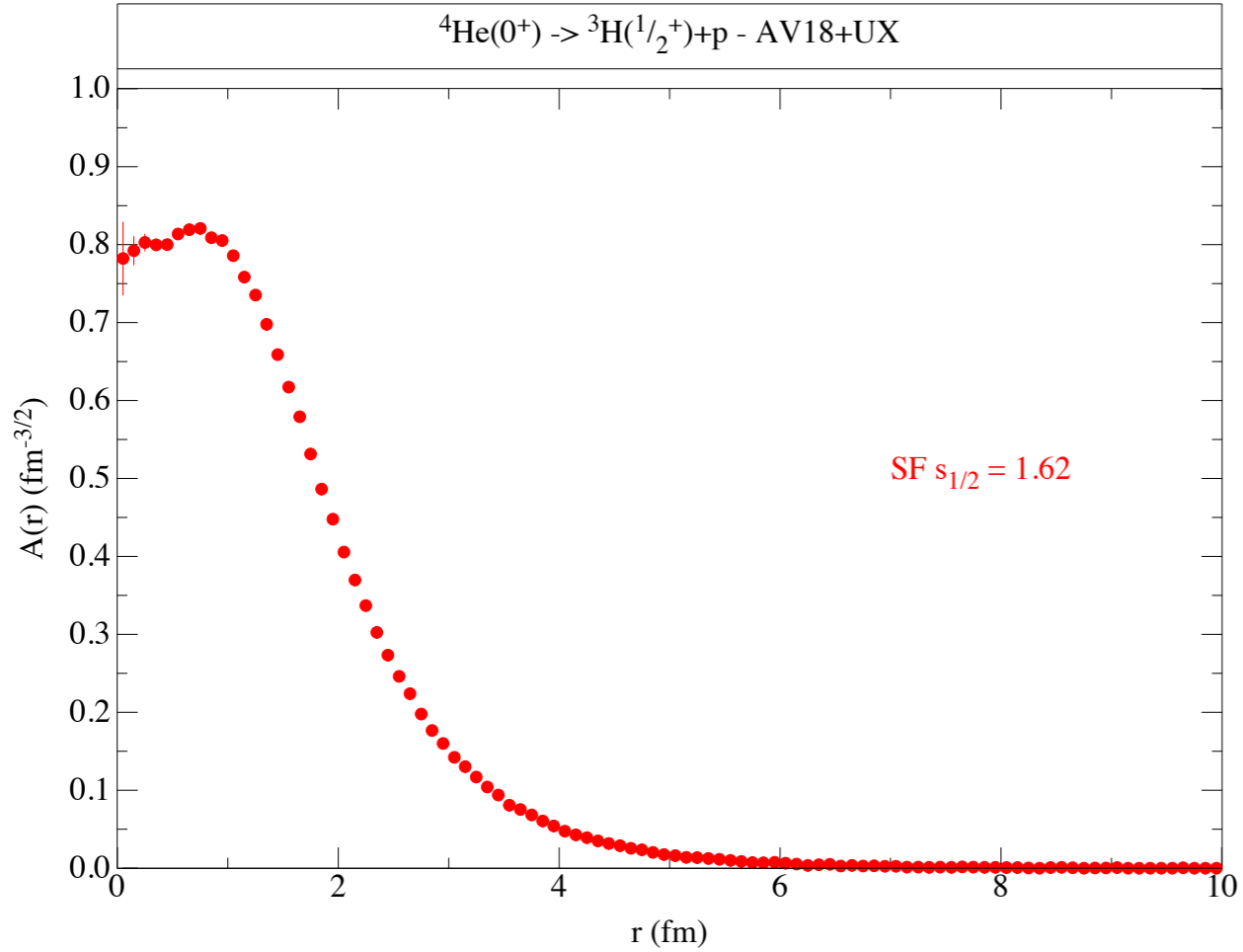
Different many-body methods can be adopted to determine it

I. Korover, et al Phys.Rev.C 107 (2023) 6, L061301  
 O. Benhar et al, Rev.Mod.Phys. 80 (2008)  
 NR, Frontiers in Phys. 8 (2020) 116

# QMC Spectral function of nuclei with A=3,4

- Single-nucleon spectral function:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{p,n}(\mathbf{k}, E) &= \sum_n \left| \langle \Psi_0^A || [ |k\rangle | \Psi_n^{A-1} \rangle ] \right|^2 \\
 &\quad \times \delta(E + E_0^A - E_n^{A-1}) \\
 &= P^{MF}(\mathbf{k}, E) + P^{corr}(\mathbf{k}, E)
 \end{aligned}$$



$$P_p^{MF}(\mathbf{k}, E) = n_p^{MF}(\mathbf{k}) \delta\left(E - B_{{}^4\text{He}} + B_{{}^3\text{H}} - \frac{k^2}{2m_{{}^3\text{H}}}\right)$$

$$\left| \langle \Psi_0^{{}^4\text{He}} || [ |k\rangle \otimes | \Psi_0^{{}^3\text{H}} \rangle ] \right|^2$$

- The single-nucleon overlap has been computed within VMC ( center of mass motion fully accounted for)

# Spectral function approach

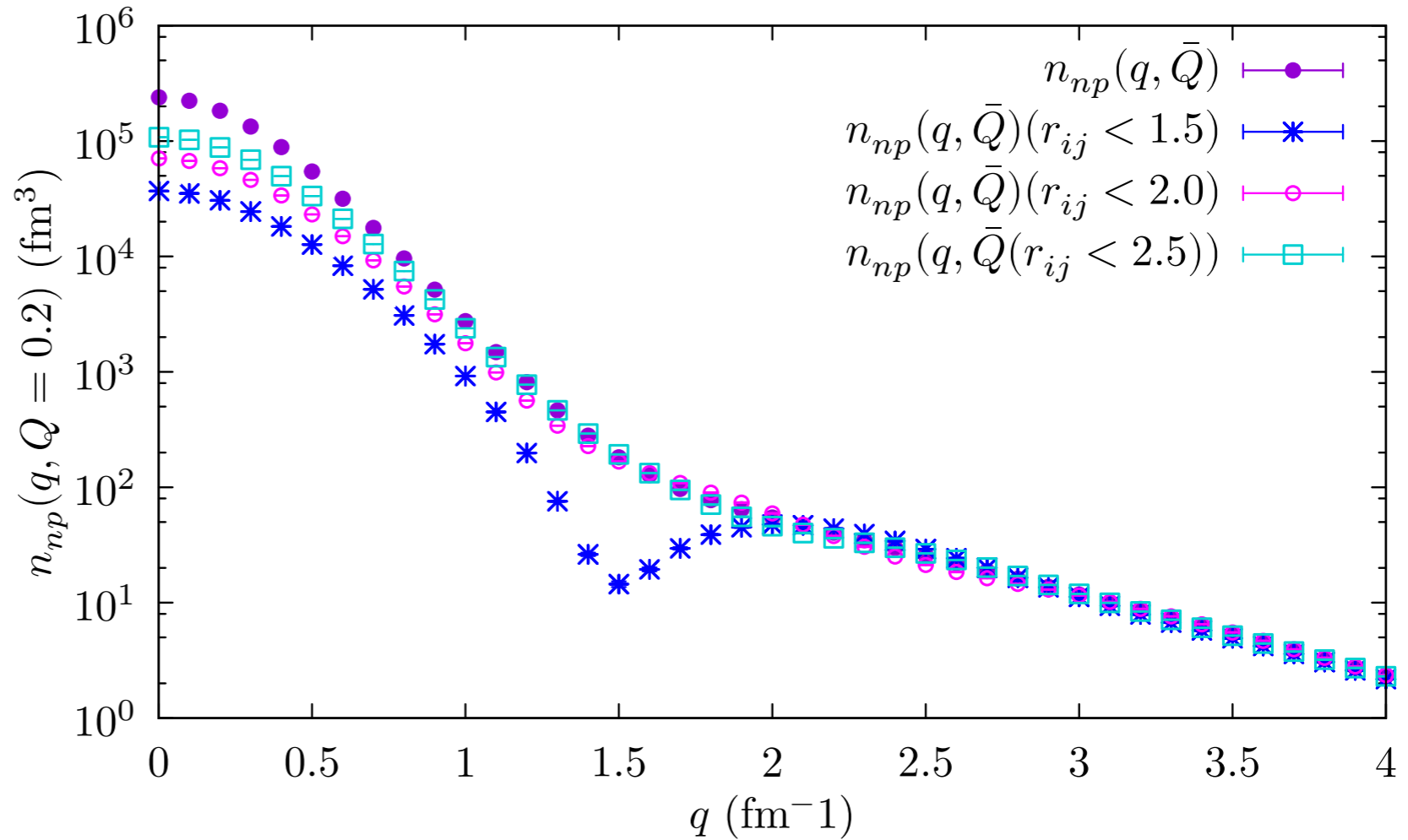
$$P_p^{\text{corr}}(\mathbf{k}, E) = \sum_n \int \frac{d^3 k'}{(2\pi)^3} |\langle \Psi_0^A || [k] |k'\rangle | \Psi_n^{A-2} \rangle |^2 \delta(E + E_0^A - e(\mathbf{k}') - E_n^{A-2})$$

↓ Using QMC techniques

$$\sum_{\tau_{k'}=p,n} n_{p,\tau_{k'}}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}') \delta\left(E - B_A - e(\mathbf{k}') + B_{A-2} - \frac{(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}')^2}{2m_{A-2}}\right)$$

Only SRC pairs should be considered:  $|\Psi_0^{A-1}\rangle$  and  $|k'\rangle|\psi_n^{A-2}\rangle$  be orthogonalized

One can introduce **cuts** on the **relative distance** between the particles in the two-body momentum distribution

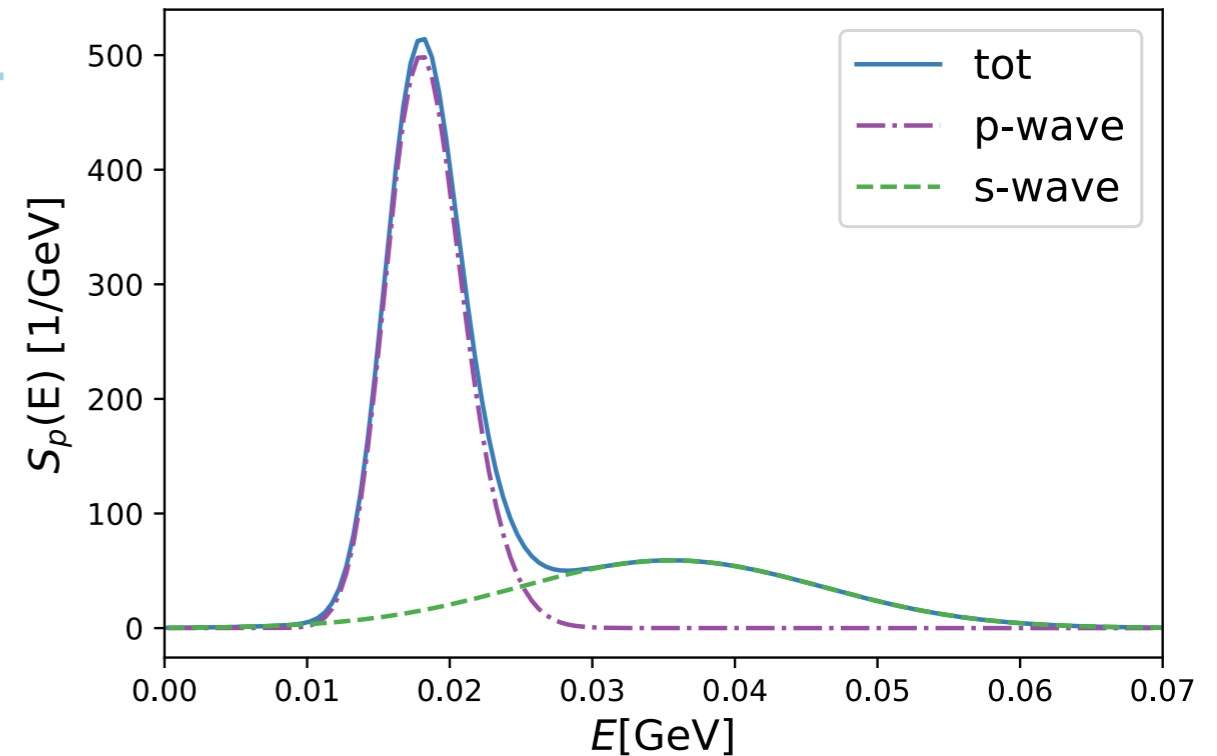


# QMC Spectral Function of $^{12}\text{C}$

- The p-shell contribution has been obtained by FT the radial overlaps:



R. Crespo, et al, Phys.Lett.B 803 (2020) 135355

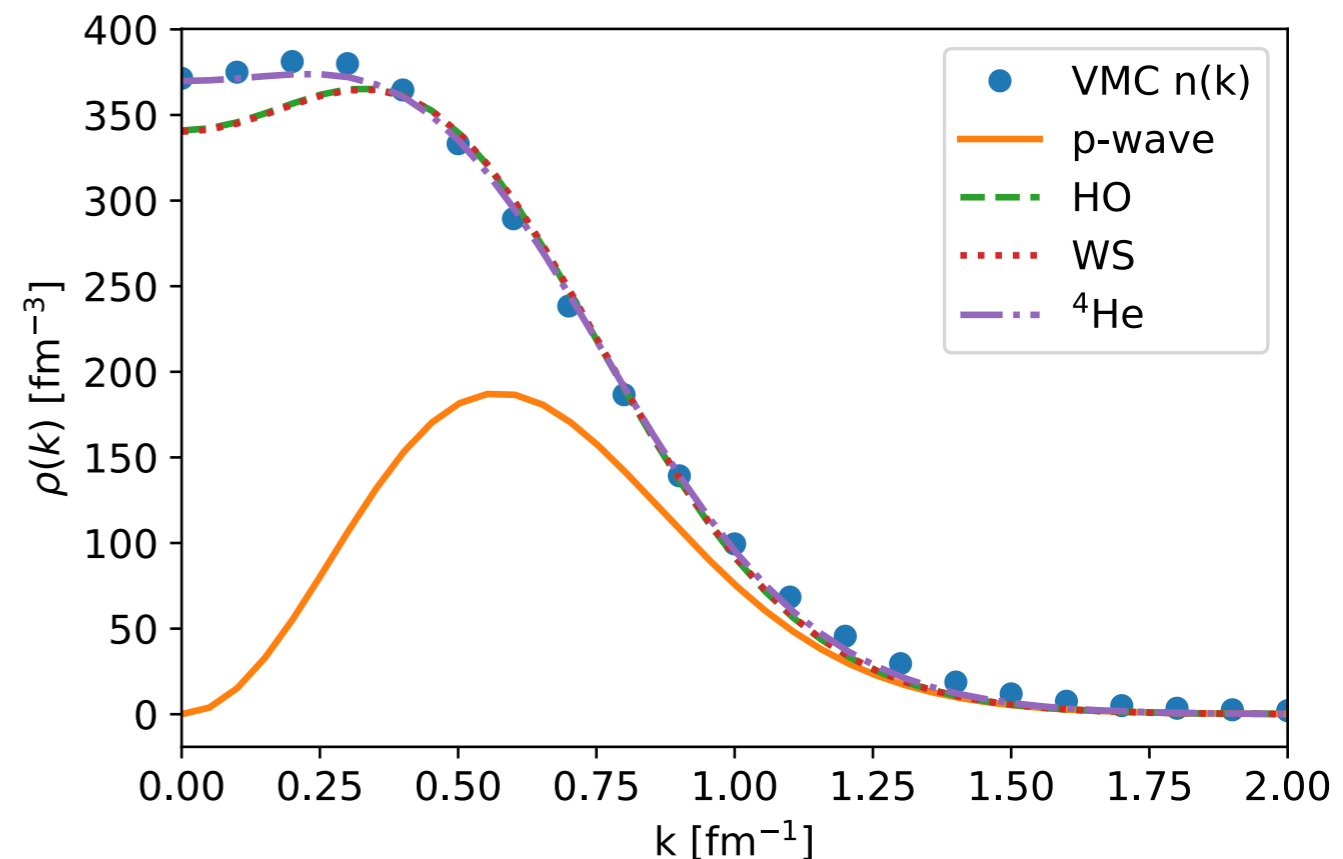


- The quenching of the spectroscopic factors automatically emerges from the VMC calculations

Computing the s-shell contribution is non trivial within VMC. We explored different alternatives:

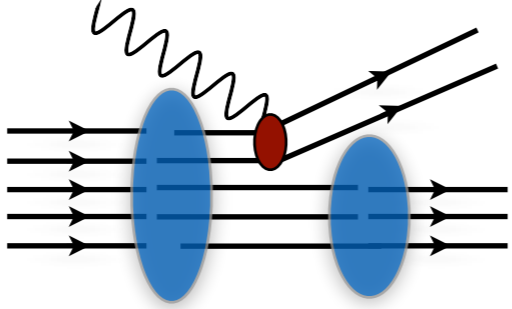
- Quenched Harmonic Oscillator
- Quenched Wood Saxon
- VMC overlap associated for the  $^4\text{He}(0^+) \rightarrow ^3\text{H}(1/2^+) + p$  transition

Korover, et al, CLAS collaboration PRC 107 (2023) 6, L061301



# Spectral function approach

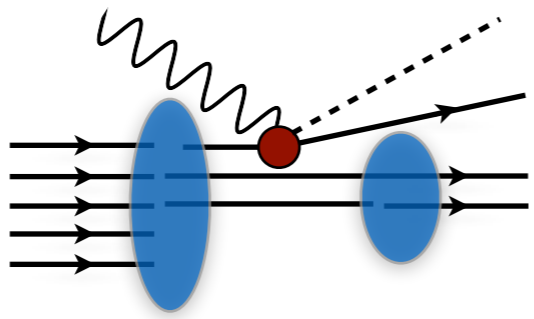
$$|f\rangle \rightarrow |pp'\rangle_a \otimes |f_{A-2}\rangle$$



The hadronic tensor for two-body current factorizes as

$$R_{2b}^{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) \propto \int dE d^3k d^3k' P_{2b}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}', E) \times d^3p d^3p' |\langle kk' | j_{2b}^\mu | pp' \rangle|^2$$

$$|f\rangle \rightarrow |p_\pi p\rangle \otimes |f_{A-1}\rangle$$



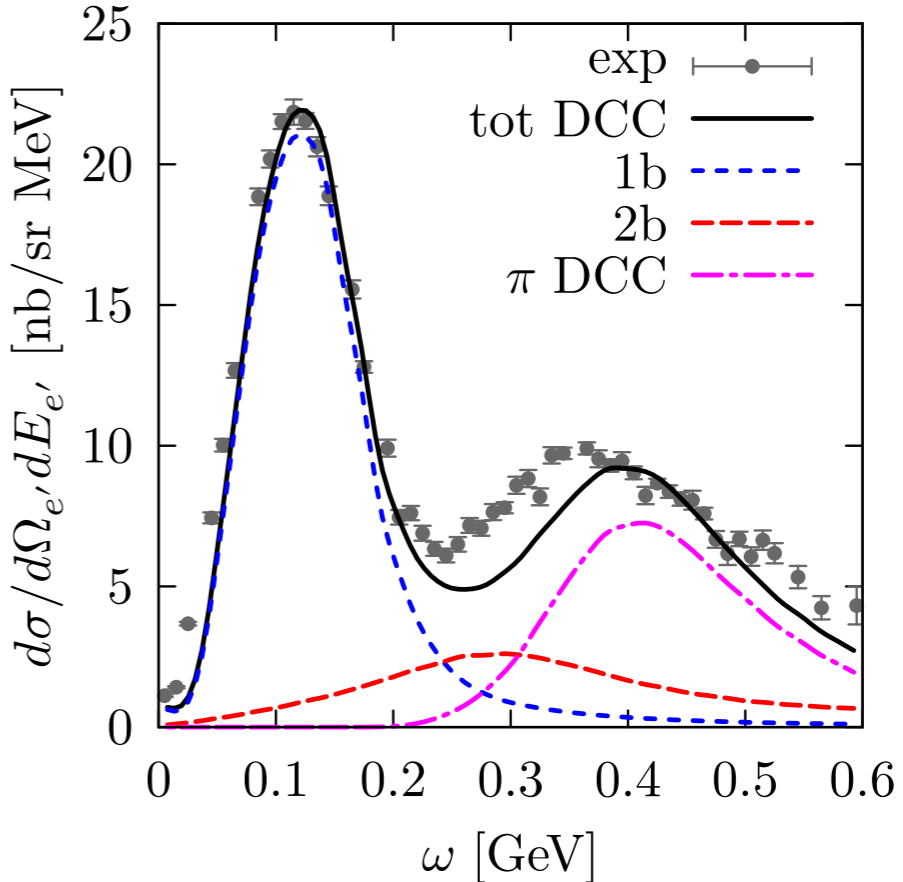
Production of real  $\pi$  in the final state

$$R_{1b\pi}^{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) \propto \int dE d^3k P_{1b}(\mathbf{k}, E) \times d^3p d^3k_\pi |\langle k | j^\mu | pk_\pi \rangle|^2$$

\* Pion production elementary amplitudes currently derived within the extremely sophisticated **Dynamic Couple Chanel approach**;

S.X.Nakamura, et al PRD92(2015)  
T. Sato, et al PRC67(2003)

$E_e = 730 \text{ MeV}, \theta_e = 37.0^\circ$

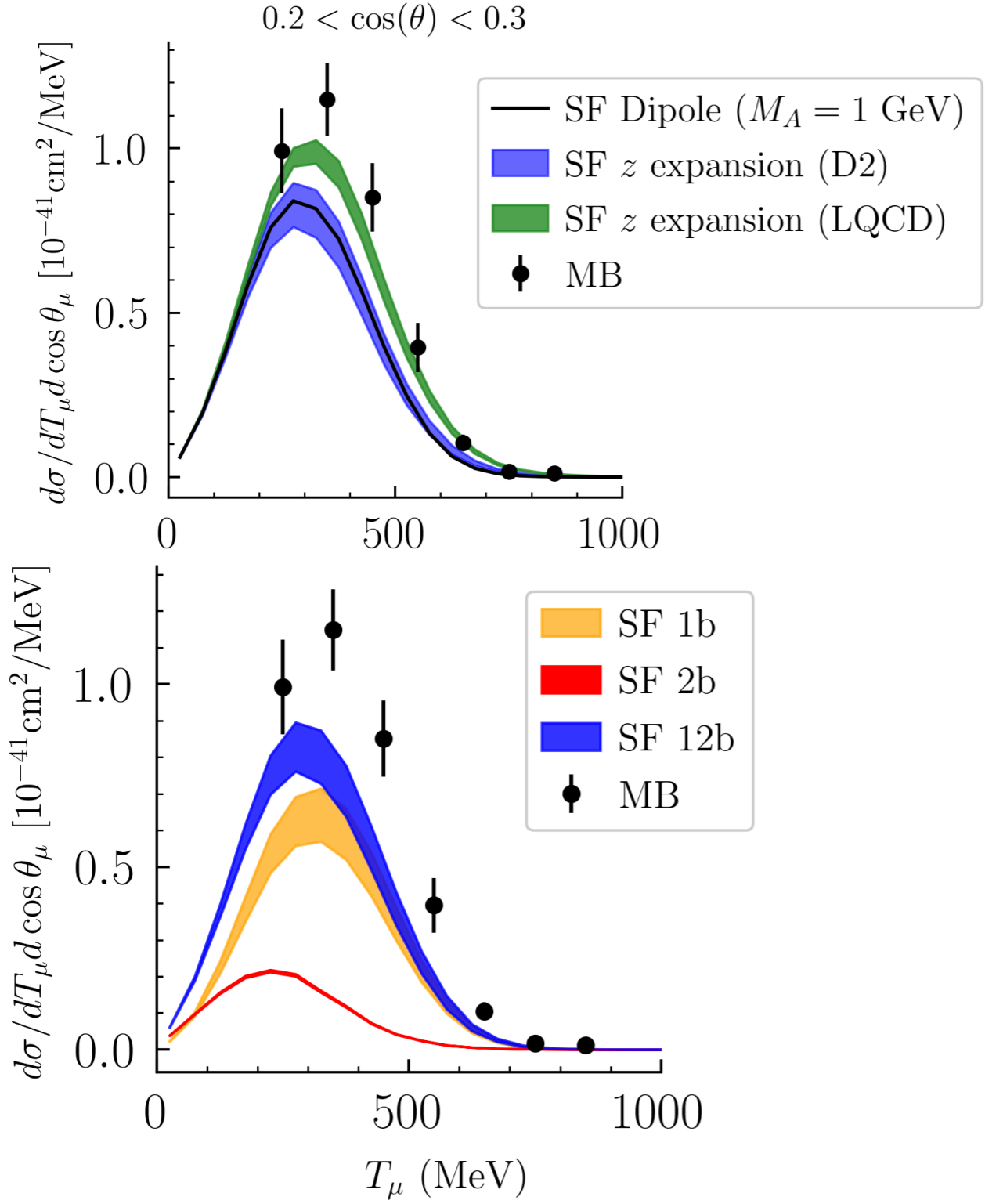


NR, Frontiers in Phys. 8 (2020) 116



# Axial Form Factors Uncertainty needs

D.Simons, N. Steinberg et al, 2210.02455



\* Axial form factor dependence:

MiniBooNE	0.2 < cos θ <sub>μ</sub> < 0.3
SF Difference in $d\sigma_{\text{peak}}$ (%)	16.3

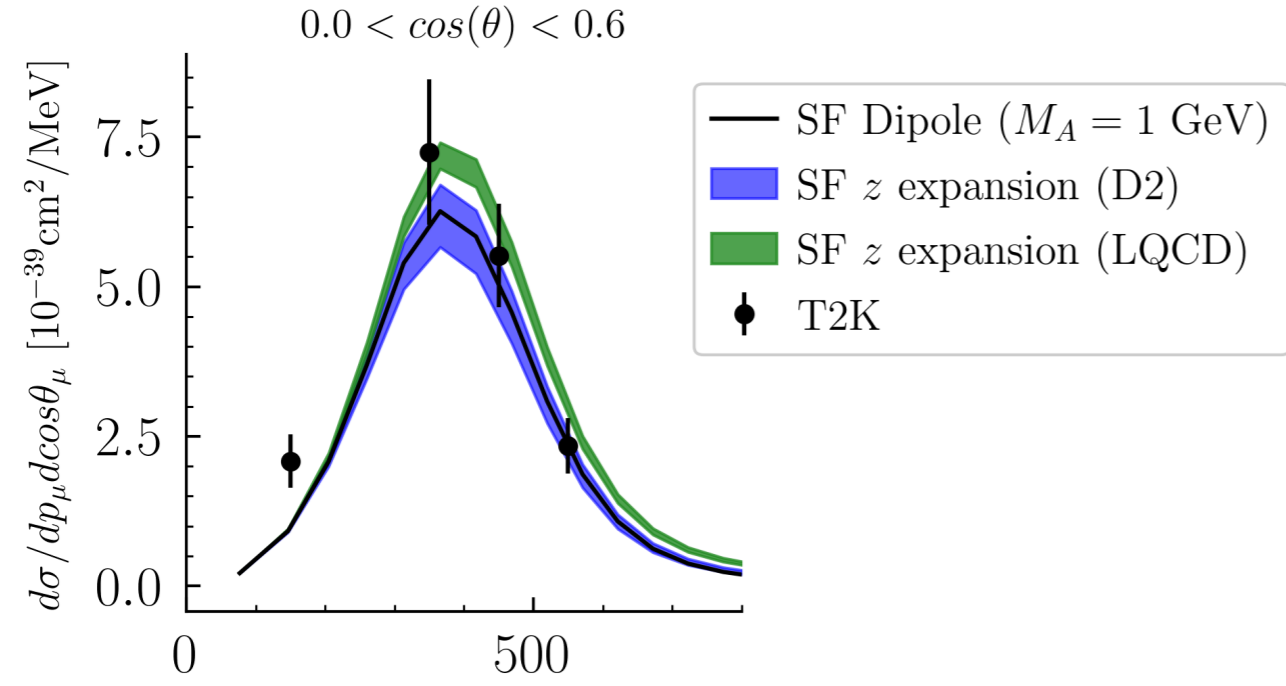
\* Many-body method dependence:

MiniBooNE	0.2 < cos θ <sub>μ</sub> < 0.3
GFMC/SF difference in $d\sigma_{\text{peak}}$ (%)	22.8



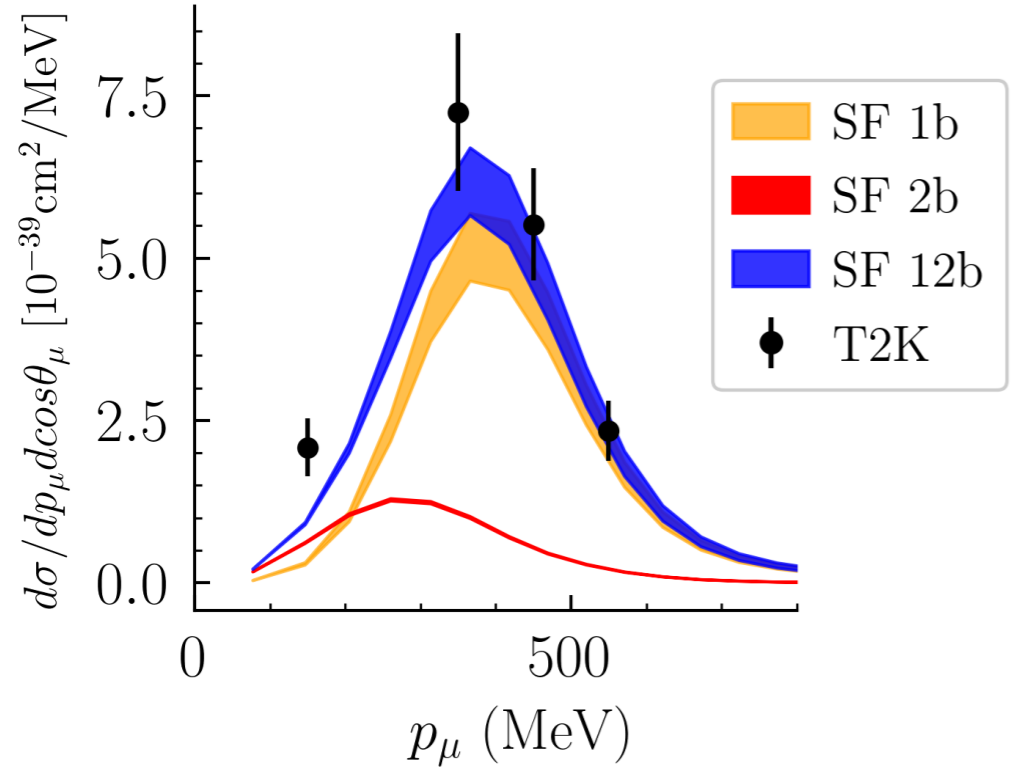
# Axial Form Factors Uncertainty needs

D.Simons, N. Steinberg et al, 2210.02455



\* Axial form factor dependence:

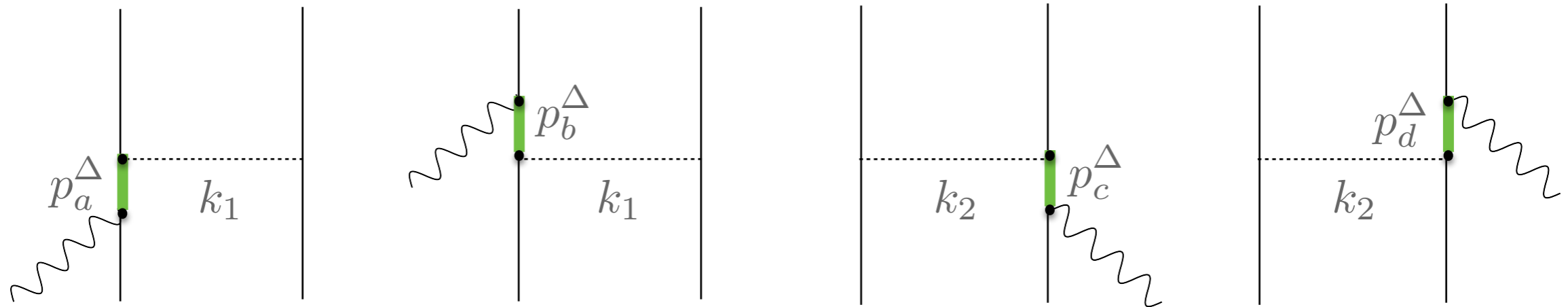
T2K	$0.0 < \cos \theta_\mu < 0.6$
SF difference in $d\sigma_{\text{peak}}$ (%)	15.3



\* Many-body method dependence:

T2K	$0.0 < \cos \theta_\mu < 0.6$
GFMC/SF difference in $d\sigma_{\text{peak}}$ (%)	13.4

# Two-body currents - Delta contribution



$$j_{\Delta}^{\mu} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{f_{\pi NN} f^{*}}{m_{\pi}^2} \left\{ \Pi(k_2)_{(2)} \left[ \left( -\frac{2}{3} \tau^{(2)} + \frac{I_V}{3} \right)_z F_{\pi NN}(k_2) F_{\pi N\Delta}(k_2) (J_a^{\mu})_{(1)} \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - \left( \frac{2}{3} \tau^{(2)} + \frac{I_V}{3} \right)_z F_{\pi NN}(k_2) F_{\pi N\Delta}(k_2) (J_b^{\mu})_{(1)} \right] + (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \right\}$$

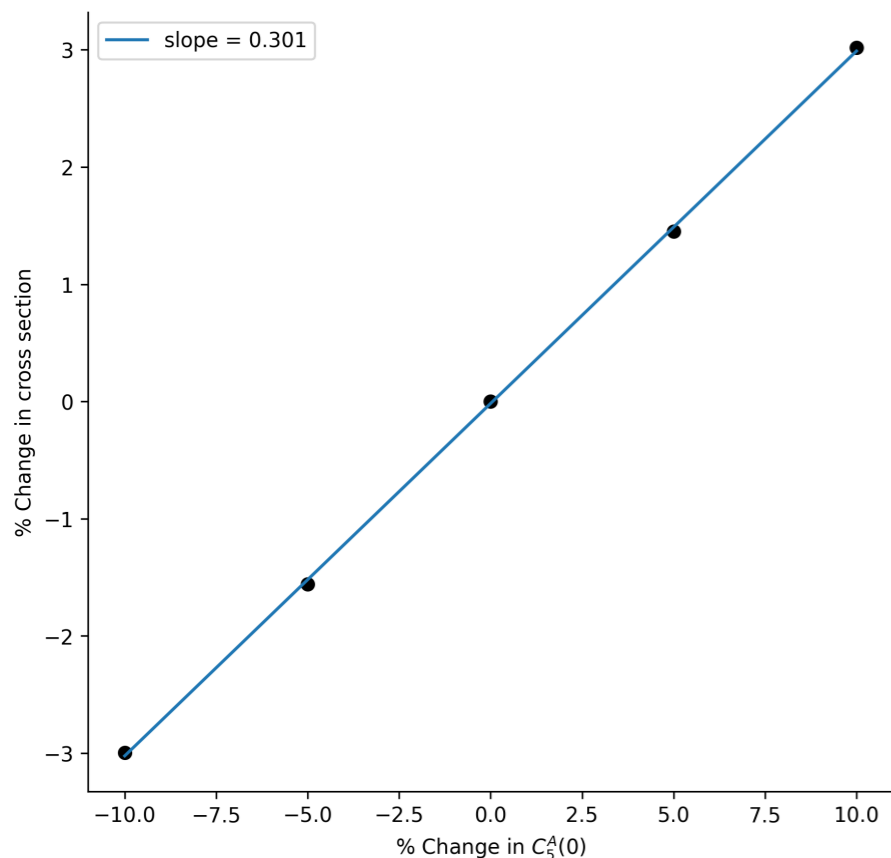
where

Rarita Schwinger propagator

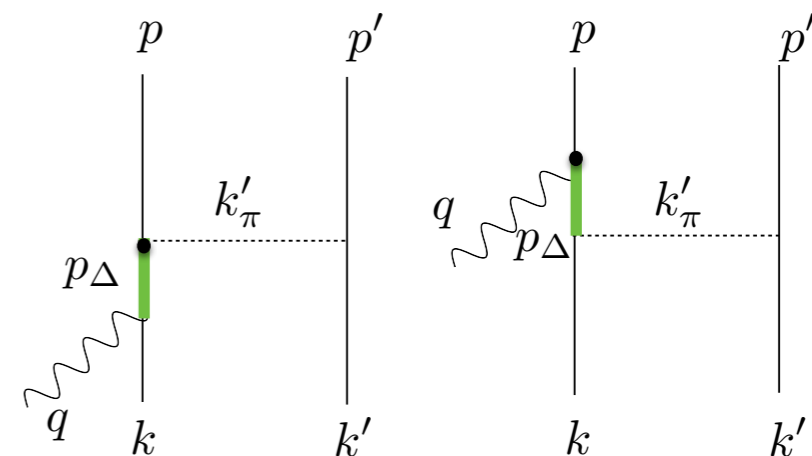
$$(J_a^{\mu})_V = (k_1)^{\alpha} G_{\alpha\beta}(p_{\Delta}) \left[ \frac{C_3^V}{m_N} \left( g^{\beta\mu} \not{q} - q^{\beta} \gamma^{\mu} \right) + \frac{C_4^V}{m_N^2} \left( g^{\beta\mu} q \cdot p_{\Delta} - q^{\beta} p_{\Delta}^{\mu} \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{C_5^V}{m_N^2} \left( g^{\beta\mu} q \cdot k - q^{\beta} k^{\mu} + C_6^V g^{\beta\mu} \right) \right] \gamma_5$$

# Resonance Uncertainty needs

The largest contributions to two-body currents arise from resonant  $N \rightarrow \Delta$  transitions yielding pion production



D.Simons, N. Steinberg et al, 2210.02455



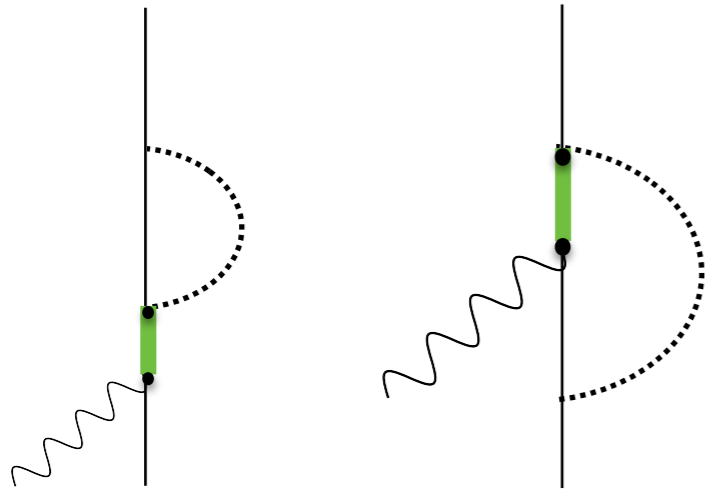
The normalization of the dominant  $N \rightarrow \Delta$  transition form factor needs to be known to 3% precision to achieve 1% cross-section precision for MiniBooNE kinematics

State-of-the-art determinations of this form factor from experimental data on pion electroproduction achieve 10-15% precision (under some assumptions)

Hernandez et al, PRD 81 (2010)

Further constraints on  $N \rightarrow \Delta$  transition relevant for two-body currents and  $\pi$  production will be necessary to achieve few-percent cross-section precision

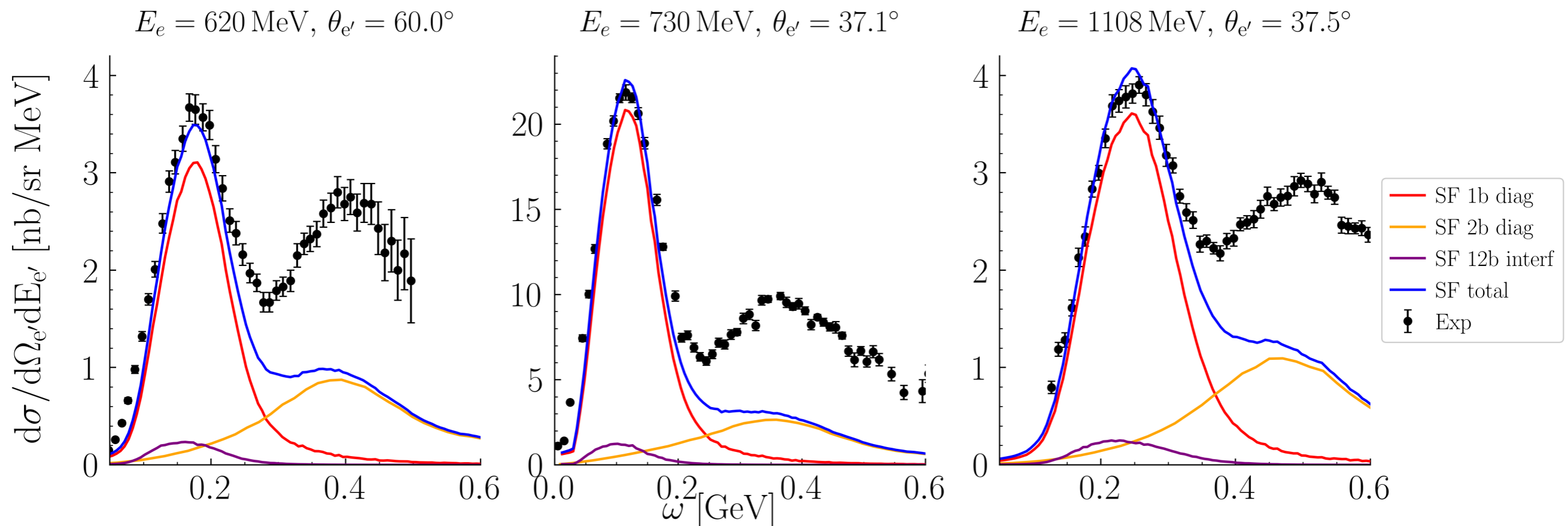
# Including the one- and two-body interference



We recently included interference effects between one- and two-body currents yielding single nucleon knock-out

Observe a small quenching in the longitudinal channel and an enhancement in the q.e. peak in the transverse  $\rightarrow$  agreement with the GFMC

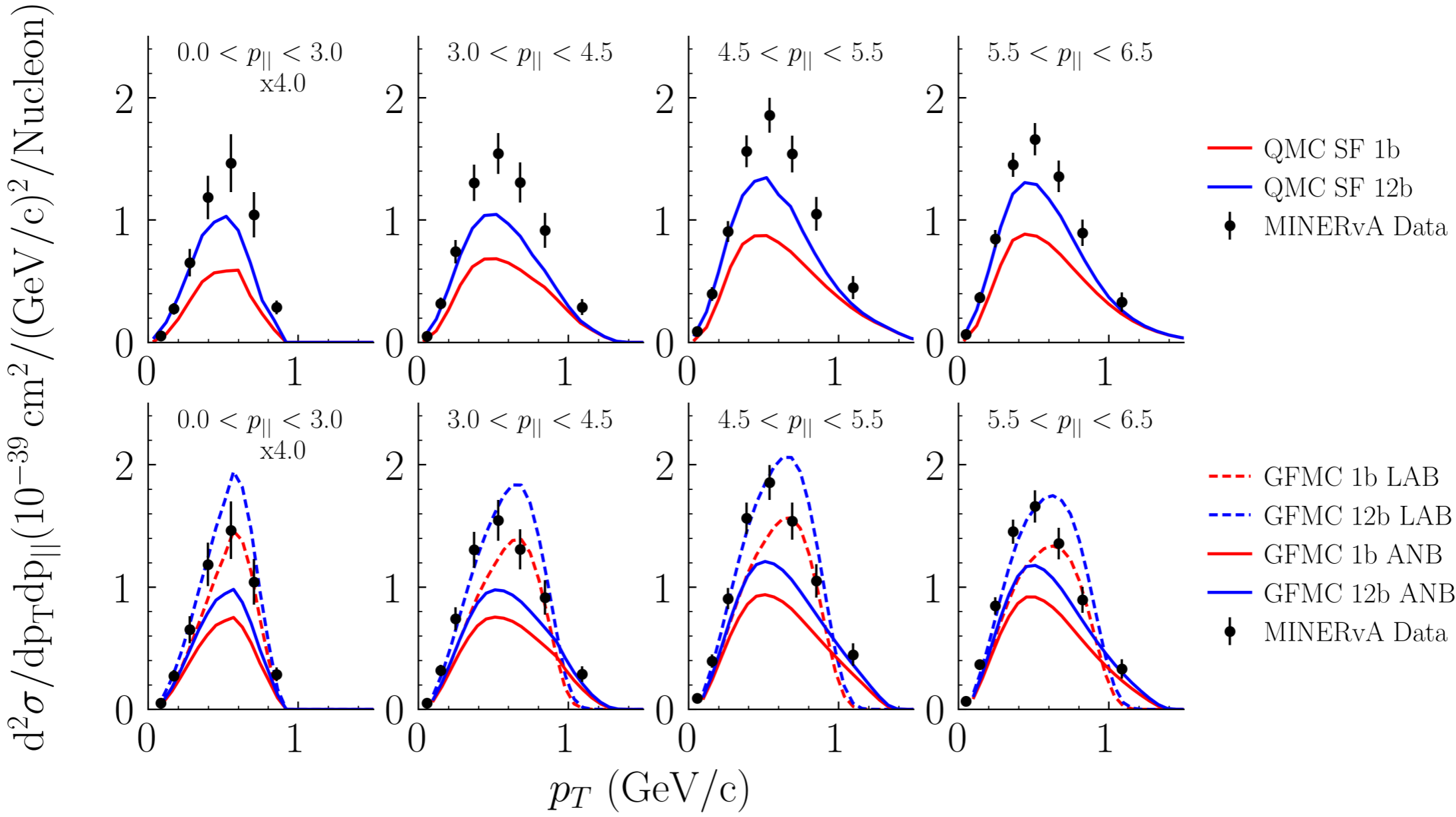
N. Steinberg, NR, A. Lovato, in preparation



# Comparing different many-body methods

–MINERvA M.E. Double Differential Cross Section in  $p_T$ ,  $p_{||}$ . CCQE-like data on CH

N. Steinberg, A. Nikolakopoulos, A. Lovato, NR, *submitted to Universe*



# Conclusions

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- \* Assessing the overall uncertainty of theory calculations requires evaluating uncertainties:

Nuclear Hamiltonians: different efforts in place to provide UQ in chiral EFT

Form factors: one- and two-body currents, resonance/ $\pi$  production

Error of factorizing the hard interaction vertex / using a non relativistic approach

- \* Address neutrino precision goals requires studying relations between cross section uncertainties and input parameter uncertainties
- \* Additional constraints on few-nucleon inputs from experiment and lattice QCD will be crucial
- \* Factorized approaches ideally suited to incorporate elementary amplitudes - nucleon hadron tensor

Thank you for your attention!