

# Meson – photon transition form factors at spacelike momentum transfers

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**We present the analysis of the  $F_{P\gamma}(Q^2)$ ,  $P = \pi, \eta, \eta', \eta_c$  form factors making use of the local-duality (LD) version of QCD sum rules.**

*I.Balakireva, W.Lucha, DM, Phys.Rev. **D85** (2012) 036006;*

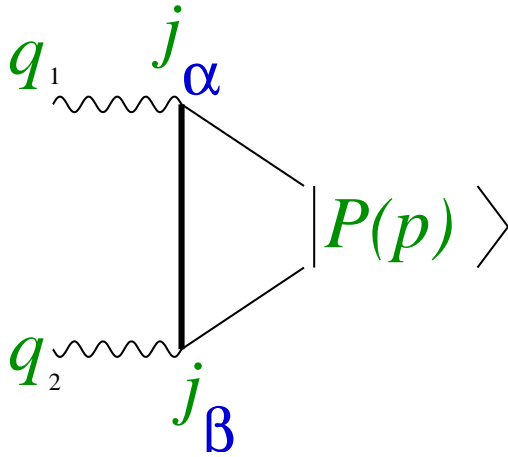
*DM, B.Stech, Phys.Rev. **D85** (2012) 051901;*

*W. Lucha, DM, J.Phys. **G39**, 045003 (2012); Phys.Rev. **D85** (2012) N9.*

## Introduction

The amplitude of  $\gamma^* \gamma^* \rightarrow P$ , ( $P = \pi^0, \eta, \eta', \eta_c$ ) contains only one form factor:

$$\langle \gamma^*(q_1) \gamma^*(q_2) | P(p) \rangle = i \epsilon_{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 q_1 q_2} F_{P\gamma\gamma}(q_1^2, q_2^2).$$



**QCD factorization theorem predicts at asymptotically large spacelike momentum transfers**

$q_1^2 = -Q_1^2 < 0, q_2^2 = -Q_2^2 < 0$ :

$$F_{P\gamma\gamma}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2) \rightarrow 2e_c^2 \int_0^1 \frac{d\xi \phi_P^{\text{ass}}(\xi)}{Q_1^2 \xi + Q_2^2 (1 - \xi)}, \quad \phi_P^{\text{ass}}(\xi) = 6f_P \xi(1 - \xi),$$

**Introduce  $Q^2 \equiv Q_2^2$ ,  $0 \leq \beta \equiv Q_1^2/Q_2^2 \leq 1$  ( $Q_2^2$  is the larger virtuality):**

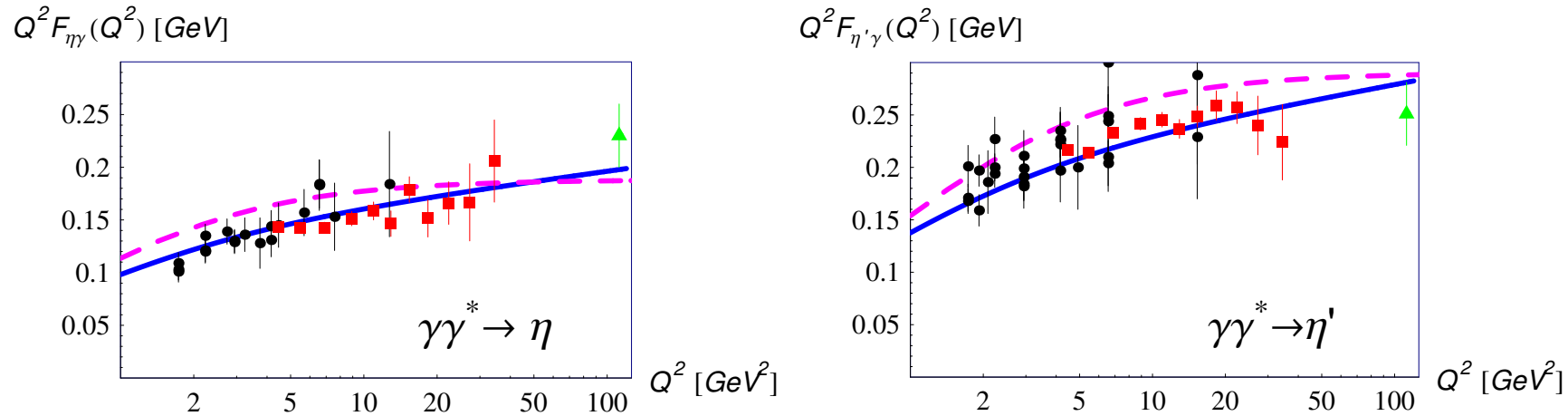
$$F_{P\gamma\gamma}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2) = \frac{6e_c^2 f_P}{Q^2} I(\beta), \quad I(\beta) = \frac{1 + 2\beta \log \beta - \beta^2}{(1 - \beta)^3}, \quad I(0) = 1, \quad I(1) = 1/3.$$

**Experimentally relevant kinematics is  $Q_1^2 \simeq 0$  and  $Q_2^2 = Q^2$  large.**

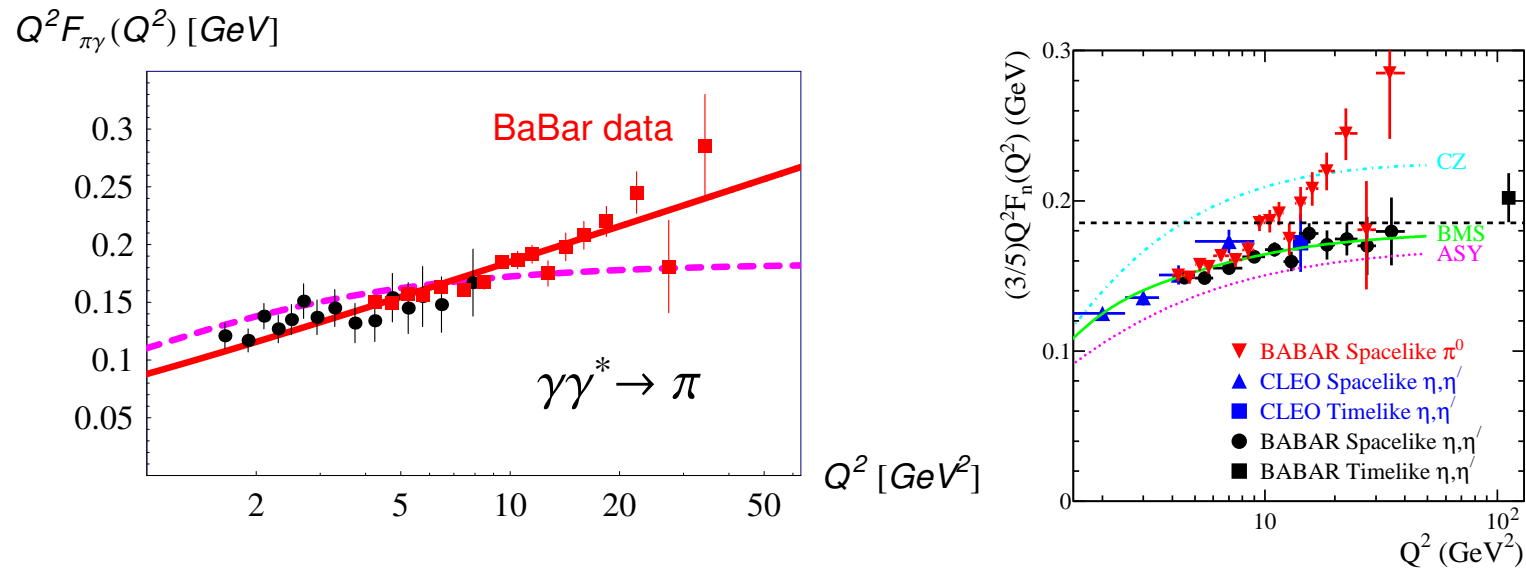
**For the pion**

$$Q^2 F_{\pi\gamma}(Q^2) \rightarrow \sqrt{2} f_\pi \quad f_\pi = 0.130 \text{ GeV}.$$

**Similar scaling relations emerge for  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  after taking into account the mixing effects.**



The  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  data is not in contradiction with saturation  $Q^2 F(Q^2) \sim \text{const}$

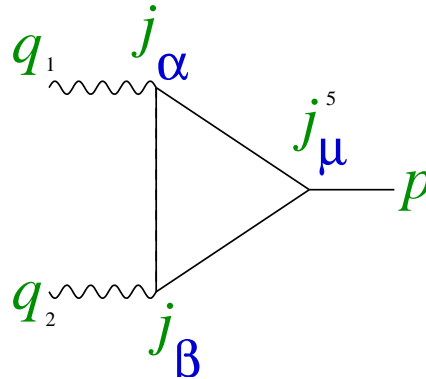


The BaBar pion form factor seems more compatible with  $Q^2 F_{\pi\gamma}(Q^2) \sim \log(Q^2)$ .

## QCD sum rule in LD limit

The basic object is the 3-point function  $\langle AVV \rangle = \langle 0|T(j_\mu^5 j_\alpha j_\beta)|0\rangle$ ,

$$j_\mu^5 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\bar{u}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5u - \bar{d}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5d); \quad j_\alpha = \frac{2}{3}\bar{u}\gamma_\alpha u - \frac{1}{3}\bar{d}\gamma_\alpha d; \quad j^5 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\bar{u}\gamma_5u - \bar{d}\gamma_5d);$$



The amplitude has the general decomposition ( $p = q_1 + q_2$ ):

$$T_{\mu\alpha\beta}(p|q_1, q_2) = p_\mu \epsilon_{\alpha\beta q_1 q_2} iF - (q_1^2 \epsilon_{\mu\alpha\beta q_2} - q_{1\alpha} \epsilon_{\mu q_1 \beta q_2}) iF_1 - (q_2^2 \epsilon_{\mu\beta\alpha q_1} - q_{2\beta} \epsilon_{\mu q_2 \alpha q_1}) iF_2.$$

In the language of hadron intermediate states, the pseudoscalar contributes to the structure  $\sim p_\mu$ :

$$T_{\mu\alpha\beta}(p|q_1, q_2) \sim \frac{p_\mu}{m_P^2 - p^2} i\epsilon_{\alpha\beta q_1 q_2} f_P F_{P\gamma\gamma}(q_1^2, q_2^2) + \dots$$

Thus, the form factor  $F(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2)$  contains the pseudoscalar contribution.

**Consider also the amplitude induced by  $j_5$ :**

$$\langle \gamma(q_1)\gamma(q_2)|j_5|0\rangle = -\epsilon_{\alpha\beta q_1 q_2} \epsilon_1^\alpha \epsilon_2^\beta F_5(q_1^2, q_2^2, p^2).$$

**The two-photon amplitude of the divergence of the axial current**

$$\langle \gamma(q_1)\gamma(q_2)|\partial^\mu j_\mu^5|0\rangle = -\epsilon_{\alpha\beta q_1 q_2} \epsilon_1^\alpha \epsilon_2^\beta (p^2 F - q_1^2 F_1 - q_2^2 F_2).$$

**For the form factors  $F_i$  one can write spectral representation in  $p^2$ :**

$$F_i(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{4m^2}^{\infty} \frac{ds}{s - p^2} \Delta_i(s, q_1^2, q_2^2).$$

**The spectral densities  $\Delta_i(s, q_1^2, q_2^2)$  obey the classical equation of motion**

$$s \Delta(s, q_1^2, q_2^2) - q_1^2 \Delta_1(s, q_1^2, q_2^2) - q_2^2 \Delta_2(s, q_1^2, q_2^2) = 2m \Delta_5(s, q_1^2, q_2^2).$$

**The form factors then satisfy**

$$p^2 F(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) - q_1^2 F_1(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) - q_2^2 F_2(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) = 2m F_5(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{4m^2}^{\infty} ds \Delta(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m).$$

**In pQCD, one obtains  $\Delta(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m)$  as an expansion**

$$\Delta(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m) = \Delta_{\text{QCD}}^{(0)}(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m) + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \Delta_{\text{QCD}}^{(1)}(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m) + O(\alpha_s^2).$$

**The integral**

$$\int_{4m^2}^{\infty} ds \Delta_{\text{QCD}}^{(0)}(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m) = \frac{1}{2\pi},$$

**independently of the values of  $m$  and  $q_{1,2}^2$  and represents the axial anomaly.**

**The *exact* relation (no radiative corrections on the r.h.s., Adler-Bardeen theorem)**

$$\boxed{\int_{4m^2}^{\infty} ds \Delta(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m) = \frac{1}{2\pi}.}$$

**In the hadron language,**

$$\Delta(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m) = \pi f_\pi F_{\pi\gamma\gamma}(q_1^2, q_2^2) \delta(s - m_p^2) + \text{hadron continuum}$$

**A remarkable relation emerges for both real photons and massless fermion:**

$$p^2 F(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) - q_1^2 F_1(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) - q_2^2 F_2(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) = 2m F_5(p^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) - \frac{1}{2\pi^2}$$

$$F(p^2, 0, 0) = -\frac{1}{2\pi^2 p^2} \quad \text{(exactly!)}$$

$$F(p^2, 0, 0) = -\frac{f_\pi F_{\pi\gamma\gamma}(0, 0)}{p^2} + \text{excited states}$$

**In the chiral limit and for both real photons remarkable quark – hadron duality relation :  
one (triangle) diagram → one hadron state**

**The anomaly should be reproduced by confined bound states of the theory leading to the *exact* anomaly sum rule**

$$\pi f_P F_{P\gamma\gamma}(q_1^2, q_2^2) + \int_{\text{cont}}^{\infty} ds \Delta_{\text{hadr}}(s, q_1^2, q_2^2 | m) = \frac{1}{2\pi}.$$



## The anomaly sum rule

$$\pi f_P F_{P\gamma\gamma}(q_1^2, q_2^2) + \int_{\text{cont}}^{\infty} ds \Delta_{\text{hadr}}(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m) = \int_{4m^2}^{\infty} ds \Delta_{\text{QCD}}(s, q_1^2, q_2^2|m) = \frac{1}{2\pi}.$$

Duality implemented in a standard way as a low-energy cut on the spectral representation gives

$$\pi f_P F_{P\gamma\gamma}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2) = \int_{4m^2}^{s_{\text{eff}}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2)} ds \Delta_{\text{QCD}}(s, Q_1^2, Q_2^2|m).$$

**The effective threshold should depend on external kinematical variables,  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2)$**

**E.g., at large  $Q_2^2 \equiv Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$  and fixed ratio  $\beta = Q_1^2/Q_2^2$ , the effective threshold  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2)$  may be determined by matching to the asymptotic pQCD factorization formula.**

**One finds that  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2 \rightarrow \infty, \beta)$  in the general case  $m \neq 0$  indeed depends on  $\beta$ .**

**The only exception, in the massless fermion  $m = 0$ : in this case the asymptotic factorization formula is reproduced for any  $\beta$  if one sets**

$$s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2 \rightarrow \infty, \beta) = 4\pi^2 f_\pi^2$$

**For  $Q_1^2 = 0$  and  $m = 0$ , the LD expression for the form factor for the one-flavour case reads:**

$$F_{P\gamma}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{2\pi^2 f_P} \frac{s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)}{s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2) + Q^2}.$$

**Independently of the behaviour of  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)$  at  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$ ,  $F_{P\gamma}(Q^2 = 0)$  is related to axial anomaly.**

**The LD *model* for the transition form factor emerges when one *assumes* that at finite values of  $Q^2$ ,  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2, \beta)$  may be well approximated by its value at  $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$**   

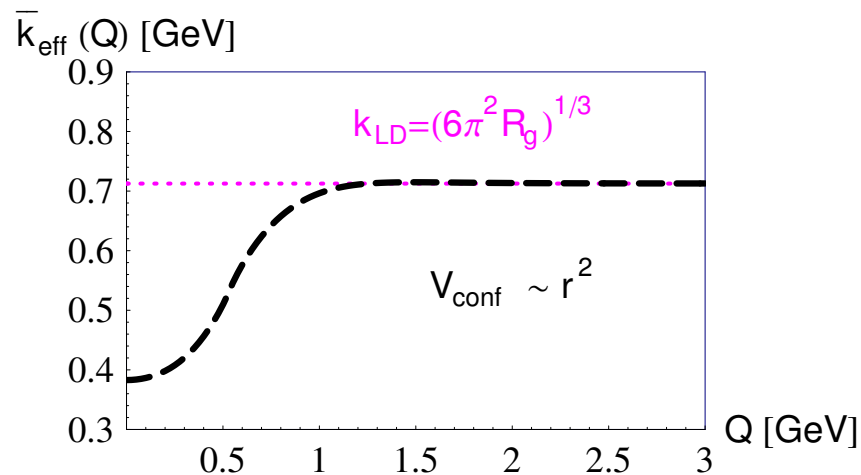
$$s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2, \beta) = s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2 \rightarrow \infty, \beta).$$

## $P \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$ transition form factor in quantum mechanics

$$F_{\pi\gamma}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{f_\pi} \int_0^{s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)} \Delta_{\text{pert}}(s, Q^2) ds, \quad s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2 \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow 4\pi^2 f_\pi^2.$$

### Quantum mechanics:

Here is the exact effective threshold obtained for a quantum-mechanical model with HO potential. The parameters are chosen such that the ground state has a typical hadron size 1 Fm.

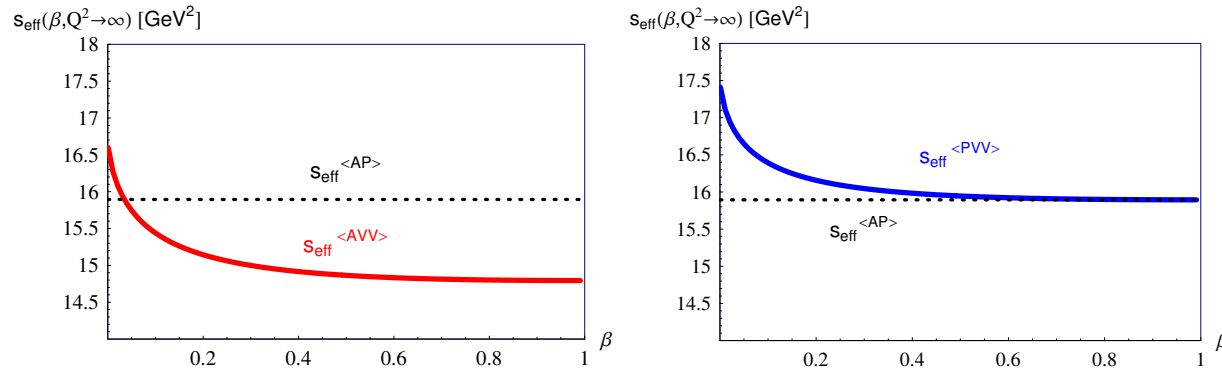


For “light” quarks, the LD threshold gives a very good approximation to the exact threshold at  $Q > 1.5$  GeV. For “charm” quarks, works at  $Q > 3 - 4$  GeV.

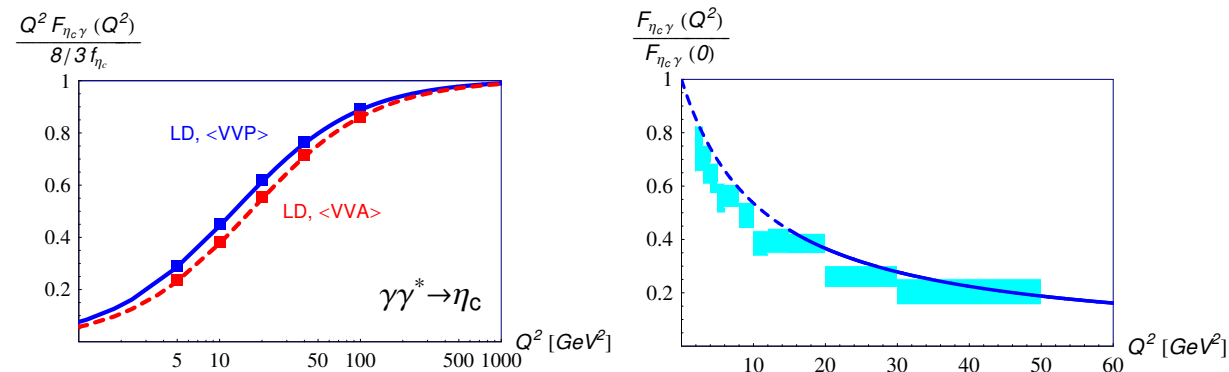
The accuracy of the LD approximation further increases with  $Q$  in this region.

## $\eta_c \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$ transition form factor

One can consider  $\langle AVV \rangle$  and from  $\langle PVV \rangle$ . LD model for each case may be constructed. From matching to pQCD factorization formula, we find  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2 \rightarrow \infty, \beta)$ :



Assuming that  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2, \beta) = s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2 = \infty, \beta)$ :



Try to go to  $Q^2 = 0$ ? Exp:  $F_{\eta_c \gamma}(Q^2 = 0) = 0.08 \pm 0.01 \text{ GeV}^{-1}$ .

$\langle AVV \rangle$  yields  $F_{\eta_c \gamma}(0) = 0.067 \text{ GeV}^{-1}$ ,  $\langle PVV \rangle$  yields  $F_{\eta_c \gamma}(0) = 0.086 \text{ GeV}^{-1}$ .

Optimistically: LD model for  $\langle PVV \rangle$  gives reliable form factor for all  $Q^2$ .

Notice: Asymptotics is reached “relatively” fast!

## $\eta, \eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$ transition form factor

$\eta - \eta'$ -mixing scheme:

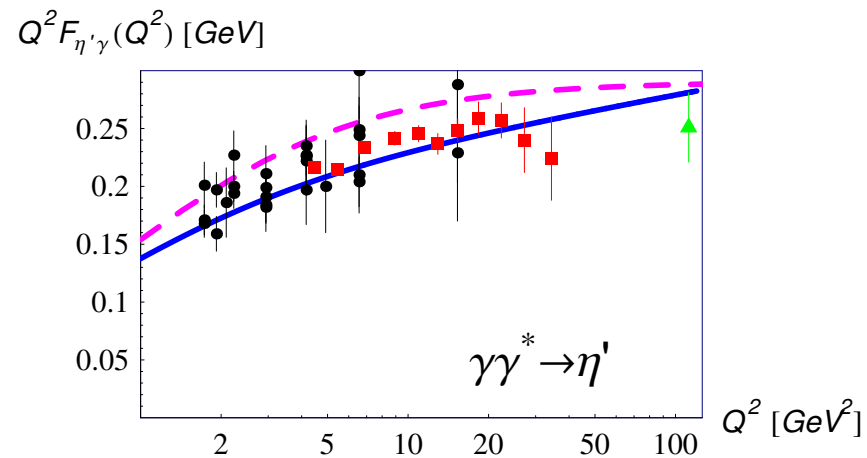
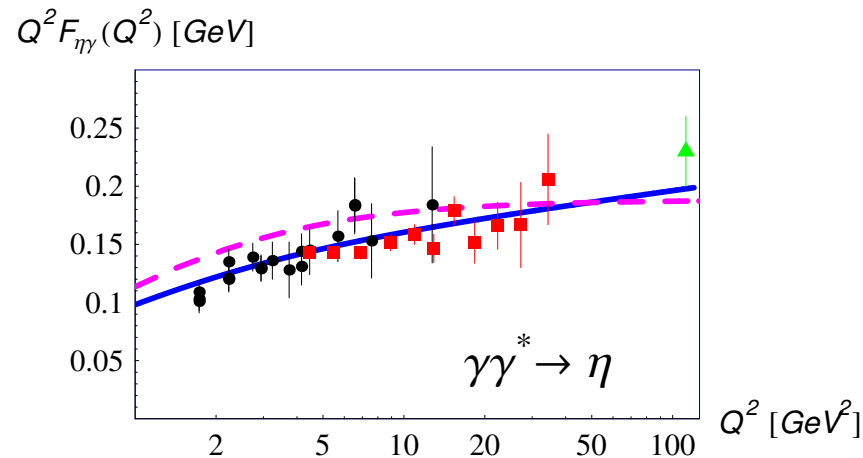
$$F_{\eta\gamma} = \cos(\phi)F_{n\gamma} - \sin(\phi)F_{s\gamma}, \quad F_{\eta'\gamma} = \sin(\phi)F_{n\gamma} + \cos(\phi)F_{s\gamma}, \quad \phi \simeq 38^\circ$$

with  $n \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d)$  and  $s \rightarrow \bar{s}s$ .

Two LD expressions for these form factors:

$$F_{n\gamma}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{f_n} \int_0^{s_{\text{eff}}^{(n)}(Q^2)} \Delta_n(s, Q^2) ds, \quad F_{s\gamma}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{f_s} \int_0^{s_{\text{eff}}^{(s)}(Q^2)} \Delta_s(s, Q^2) ds,$$

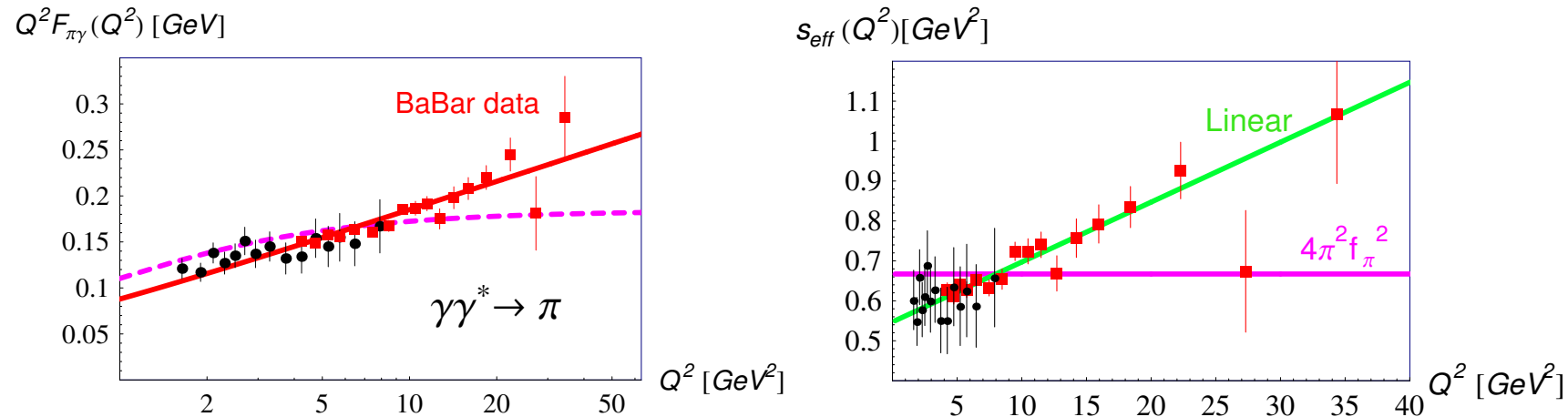
Two separate effective thresholds:  $s_{\text{eff}}^{(n)} = 4\pi^2 f_n^2$ ,  $s_{\text{eff}}^{(s)} = 4\pi^2 f_s^2$ ,  $f_n \simeq 1.07f_\pi$ ,  $f_s \simeq 1.36f_\pi$ .



No disagreement between the LD model and the data.

## $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$ transition form factor

For the pion transition form factor one observes a clear disagreement of the LD model with the BaBar data.



**Left:** CLEO+CELLO (black), BaBar (red) data vs LD prediction for  $F_\pi$ .

**Right:** equivalent threshold for the BaBar data. It may be well approximated by a linear rising function.

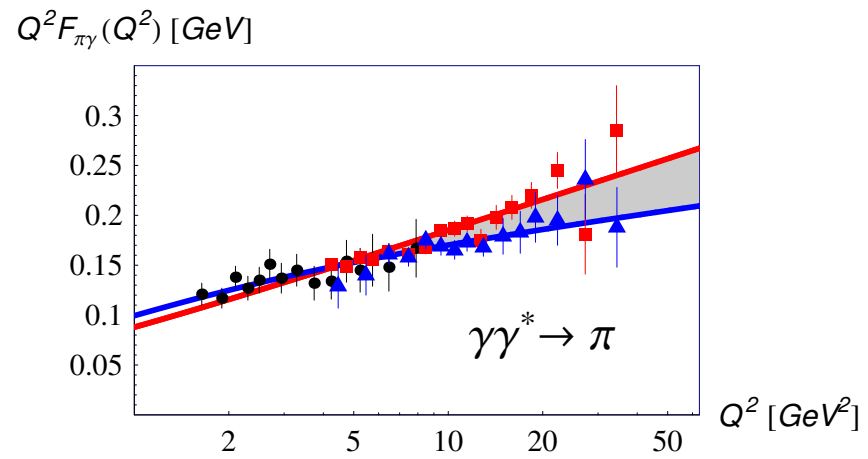
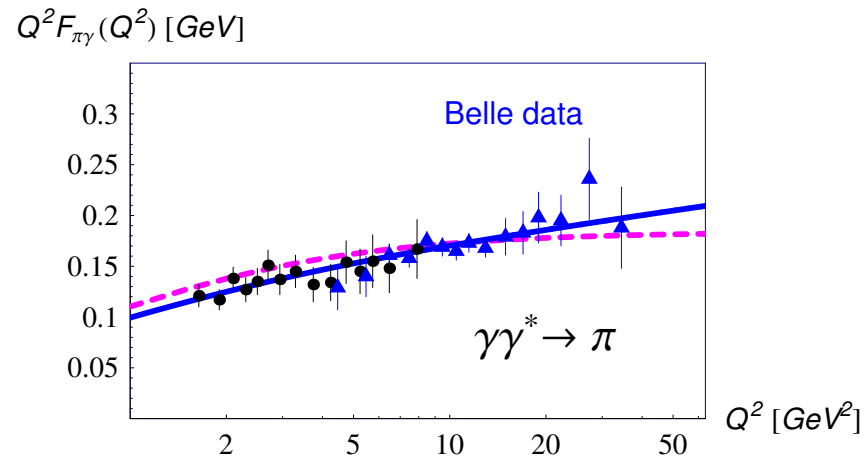
This means that - opposite to

(i) the  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  cases and

(ii) the lessons from quantum mechanics,

the violations of LD rise with  $Q$  even in the region  $Q^2 \simeq 40 \text{ GeV}^2$ !

**Puzzle:** why nonstrange components in  $\eta$ ,  $\eta'$  and  $\pi^0$  should behave so much differently?



Can  $\sim \log(Q^2)$  rise of  $Q^2 F(Q^2)$  be understood?

**Anomaly sum rule for one real and one virtual photon:**

$$\int_0^{\infty} ds \Delta(s, Q^2) = \int_{4m^2}^{\infty} ds \Delta_{\text{QCD}}(s, Q^2) = \frac{1}{2\pi}.$$

**The absorptive part of  $F(p^2, Q^2)$  has the form**

$$\Delta(s, Q^2) = \pi \delta(s - m_\pi^2) \sqrt{2} f_\pi F_{\pi\gamma}(Q^2) + \theta(s - s_{\text{th}}) \Delta_{\text{cont}}^{I=1}(s, Q^2).$$

$F_{\pi\gamma}(Q^2)$  then takes the form

$$F_{\pi\gamma}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}\pi^2 f_\pi} \left[ 1 - 2\pi \int_{s_{\text{th}}}^{\infty} ds \Delta_{\text{cont}}^{I=1}(s, Q^2) \right].$$

$$F_{\bar{q}q}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}\pi^2 f_q} \left[ 1 - 2\pi \int_{s_{\text{th}}}^{\infty} ds \Delta_{\text{cont}}^{I=0}(s, Q^2) \right],$$

$$F_{\bar{s}s}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}\pi^2 f_s} \left[ 1 - 2\pi \int_{s_{\text{th}}}^{\infty} ds \Delta_{\text{cont}}^{\bar{s}s}(s, Q^2) \right].$$

**The calculation of the  $P\gamma$  form factors requires an Ansatz for the continuum spectral densities  $\Delta_{\text{cont}}(s, Q^2)$  for all three cases.**



**Duality concept:** for  $s \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\Delta_{\text{cont}}(s, Q^2) \rightarrow \Delta_{\text{QCD}}(s, Q^2)$ .

**A simple Ansatz for  $\Delta_{\text{cont}}(s, Q^2)$ :**

$$\Delta_{\text{cont}}(s, Q^2) = \theta(s - s_{\text{th}})R(s)\Delta_{\text{QCD}}^{(0)}(s, Q^2), \text{ with } R(s) = \left(1 - \frac{r}{s}\right).$$

**One readily calculates the form factor**

$$Q^2 F(Q^2) \sim \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + s_{\text{th}}}(s_{\text{th}} - r) + r \log\left(\frac{Q^2 + s_{\text{th}}}{s_{\text{th}}}\right).$$

• **Details of the  $R(s)$  at small  $s$  are irrelevant for large- $Q^2$  behavior of the form factor; the presence of higher-order terms  $O(1/s^2)$  is irrelevant too: they do not modify the scaling behaviour of the form factor  $Q^2 F(Q^2) \sim \text{const.}$**

• **The log rise of  $Q^2 F(Q^2)$  requires  $1/s$  terms in the relation between  $\Delta_{\text{cont}}(s, Q^2)$  and  $\Delta_{\text{QCD}}(s, Q^2)$ . This correction however then leads to violation of pQCD factorization theorems.**

**The “best” fit to BaBar data on  $\eta, \eta'$  and Belle data on  $\pi$  suggest  $r = 0.05 \text{ GeV}^2$ .**

**The “best” fit to BaBar data on  $\pi$  requires  $r = 0.17 \text{ GeV}^2$ .**

## Summary and conclusions

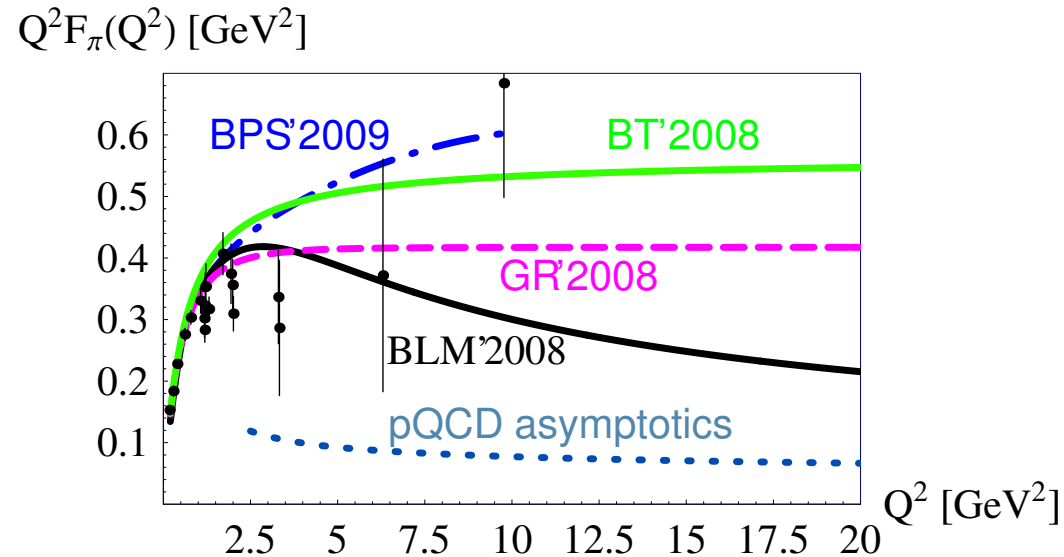
We investigated the  $\pi^0$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\eta'$ , and  $\eta_c$  transition form factors by means of a LD version of QCD sum rules. The key parameter—the effective continuum threshold—was determined by matching the LD form factors to QCD factorization formulas.

Our main conclusions are as follows:

- For the  $P\gamma\gamma^*$  form factors, the LD model should work well in the region  $Q^2 \geq$  a few  $\text{GeV}^2$ . LD model works reasonably well for  $\eta_c \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$ ,  $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$  and  $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$  form factors. For  $\pi \rightarrow \gamma\gamma^*$ , the BaBar data indicate extreme violation of local duality prompting a linearly rising (instead of a constant) effective threshold. On the contrary, the Belle data indicate an agreement with the predictions of the LD model.
- Nevertheless, a better fit to the full set of the meson-photon form factor data seem to prefer a small logarithmic rise of  $Q^2 F(Q^2)$ . If established experimentally, this rise would require the presence of  $1/s$  duality-violating term in the ratio of the hadron and the QCD spectral densities.
- A good accuracy of the LD model has implications for the pion *elastic* form factor: one can show that the accuracy of the LD model for the *elastic* form factor increases with  $Q^2$  in the region  $Q^2 \approx 4 - 8 \text{ GeV}^2$ . The accurate data on the pion form factor suggest that the LD limit for the effective threshold  $s_{\text{eff}}(\infty) = 4\pi^2 f_\pi^2$  may be reached already at  $Q^2 = 5 - 6 \text{ GeV}^2$ . Should be testable with JLab upgrade.

## Elastic form factor

Some recent results on the pion elastic form factor are shown on the plot:



No conclusive results have been obtained and we still have a strong discrepancy between the results from various theoretical approaches.

The basic object:  $\langle 0 | T j_\alpha^5 j_\mu j_\beta^5 | 0 \rangle$ .

$j_\alpha^5, j_\beta^5$  - are the pion interpolating axial currents.  $j_\mu$  is the electromagnetic current.

In QCD this correlator may be calculated by applying OPE. Duality assumption says that the contribution of the excited states is dual to the high-energy region of the perturbative diagrams.

Using this assumption, the sum rule takes the form

$$f_\pi^2 F_\pi(Q^2) = \int_0^{s_{\text{eff}}(\tau, Q^2)} ds_1 \int_0^{s_{\text{eff}}(\tau, Q^2)} ds_2 e^{-\frac{(s_1+s_2)\tau}{2}} \Delta_{\text{pert}}(s_1, s_2, Q^2) + \frac{\langle \alpha_s G^2 \rangle}{24\pi} \tau + \frac{4\pi\alpha_s \langle \bar{q}q \rangle^2}{81} (13 + Q^2\tau)\tau^2 + \dots$$

$\Delta_{\text{pert}}$  are double spectral densities of 3-point diagrams of perturbation theory.

We want to study the form factor at large  $Q$ . The form factor of a bound state should decrease with  $Q$ ; however, power corrections on the r.h.s. are polynomials in  $Q$  and thus rise with  $Q$ . So, this expression cannot be directly used at large  $Q$ . To apply sum rule at large  $Q$  one of the few possibilities is just set  $\tau = 0$ .

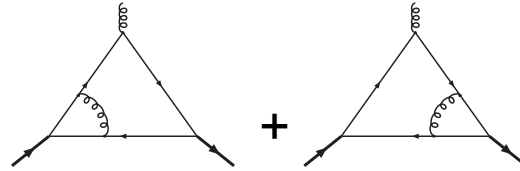
**The Local – duality (LD) limit  $\tau \rightarrow 0$  : then "bad" power corrections vanish**

$$F_\pi(Q^2) = \frac{1}{f_\pi^2} \int_0^{s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)} ds_1 \int_0^{s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)} ds_2 \Delta_{\text{pert}}^{(\text{VAV})}(s_1, s_2, Q^2).$$

For any given prediction for the form factor  $F_\pi(Q^2)$ , one can calculate the equivalent  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)$ . The problem is now how to determine the “true”  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)$ .

**Properties of the spectral functions**

- **Vector Ward identity at  $Q^2 = 0$  relates 3-point and 2-point functions.**
- **Factorization at  $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$ : the leading  $1/Q^2$  behavior of the spectral function is given by**



If we set

$$s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2 = 0) = \frac{4\pi^2 f_\pi^2}{1 + \alpha_s/\pi} \quad s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2 \rightarrow \infty) = 4\pi^2 f_\pi^2,$$

then the form factor obtained from the LD sum rule satisfies the correct normalization at  $Q^2 = 0$  and reproduces the asymptotic behavior according to the factorization theorem for the form factor at  $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$ .

The two values are not far from each other, construct an interpolation function  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)$  for all  $Q^2$ .

## The local – duality model for hadron elastic form factors :

- a. **Based on a dispersive three-point sum rule at  $\tau = 0$  (i.e. infinitely large Borel mass parameter). In this case dangerous power corrections  $\sim (\tau Q^2)^n$  vanish and the details of the non-perturbative dynamics are hidden in one quantity — the effective threshold  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)$ .**
- b. **Makes use of a model for  $s_{\text{eff}}(Q^2)$  based on a smooth interpolation between its values at  $Q^2 = 0$  determined by the Ward identity and at  $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$  determined by factorization. Since these values are not far from each other, the details of the interpolation are not essential.**

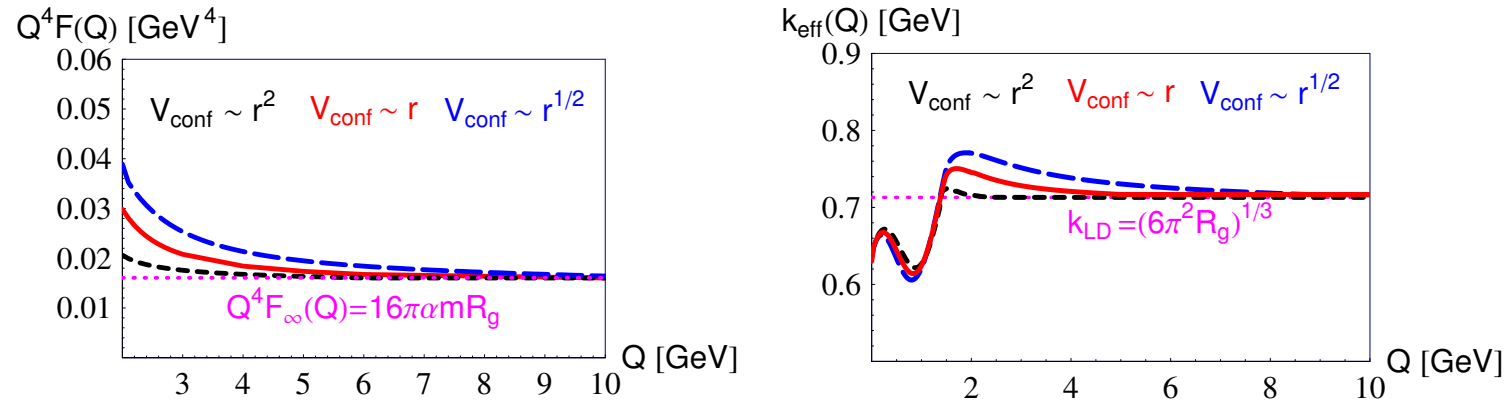
*Obviously, the LD model for the effective continuum is a model which does not take into account the details of the confinement dynamics. The only property of theory relevant for this model is factorization of hard form factors.*

**The model may be tested in quantum mechanics for the case of the potential containing the Coulomb and Confining interactions.**

- **The form factor satisfies factorization theorem similar to QCD. LD sum rules are very similar to QCD; the spectral densities are calculated from diagrams of NR field theory.**
- **The exact form factor may be calculated and confronted with LD model, probing its accuracy.**

## Elastic form factor

### Results for elastic form factor in quantum-mechanical potential model



The plots show the results for the elastic form factor in potential model. The potential containing a Coulomb interaction and a confining part for several different confining parts: HO potential, linear potential, and  $r^{1/2}$  potential.

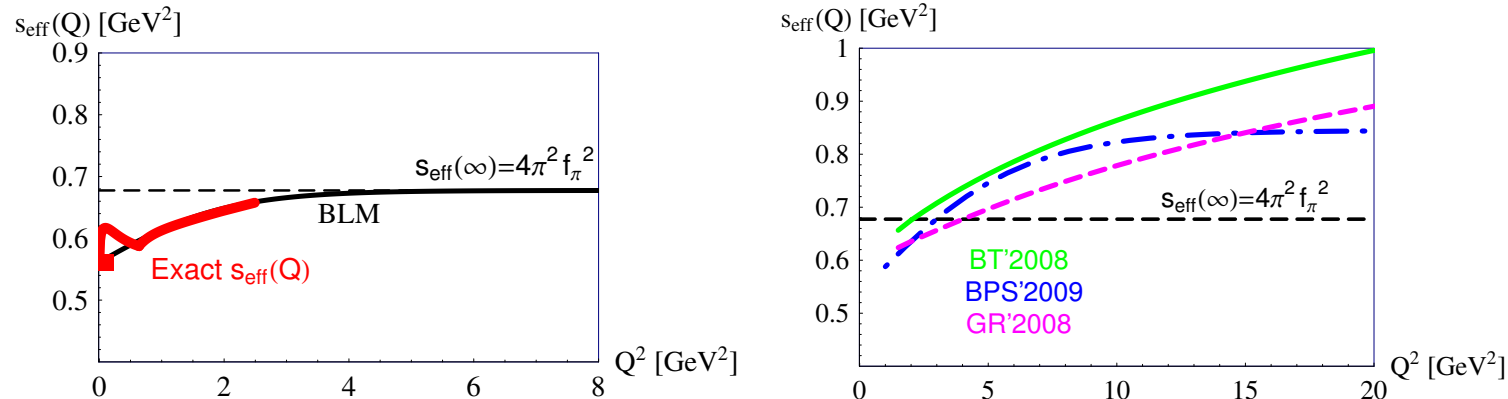
Left: the exact form factors for these potentials

Right: the corresponding equivalent effective thresholds.

An important conclusion from these plots:

Independently of the form of the confining part, the accuracy of the LD model increases with  $Q$  already starting with relatively low values  $Q \simeq 2 - 3 \text{ GeV}$ .

## Results for elastic pion form factor in QCD:



**Left plot:** the equivalent threshold extracted from the experimental data and the LD model. So far one can see no disagreement between the two.

**Right:** the equivalent thresholds for other theoretical predictions are given on the right plot. Obviously, these results imply that the accuracy of the LD model decreases with  $Q^2$  even at  $Q^2$  as large as  $Q^2 = 20 \text{ GeV}^2$ . Let us notice that this is in conflict with our experience from quantum mechanics.

The future accurate data expected from JLab in the range up to  $Q^2 = 8 \text{ GeV}^2$  should decide.