



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare
SEZIONE DI TORINO

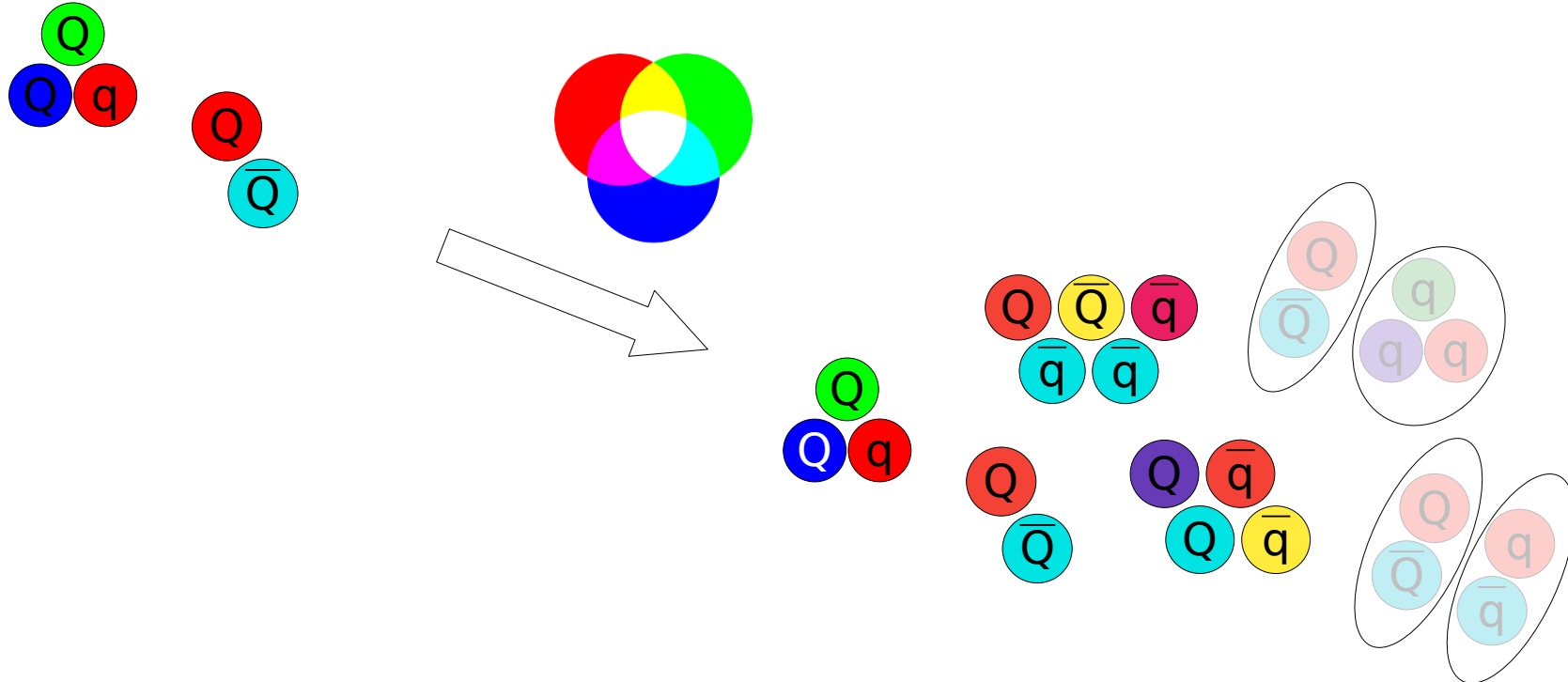
Understanding exotic hadrons

Bonn University
May 22nd 2025

Umberto Tamponi
tamponi@to.infn.it
INFN – Sezione di Torino

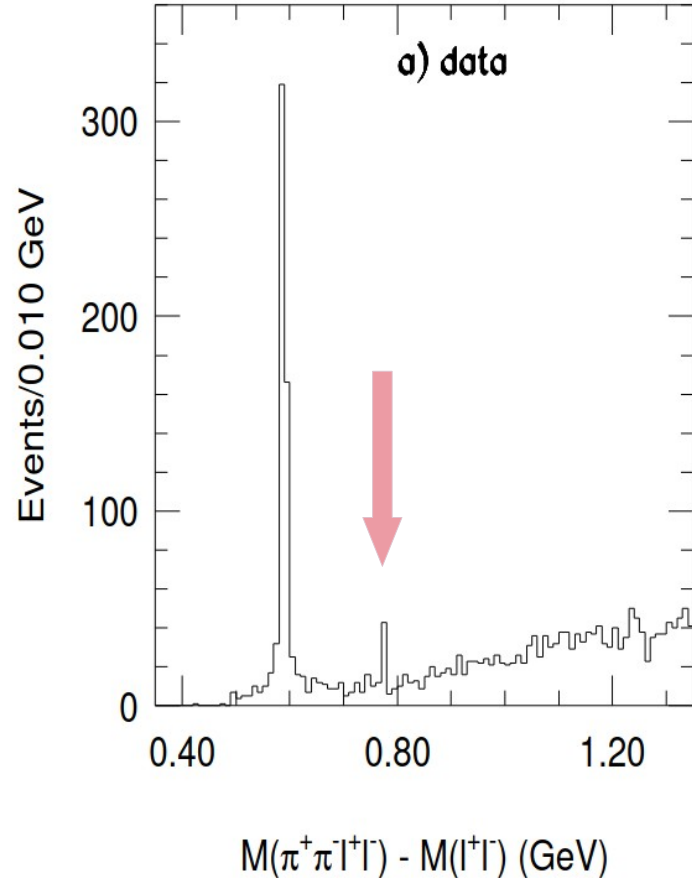
$q\bar{q}$ and qqq are not the only color singlets

- we are now sure there is much more!

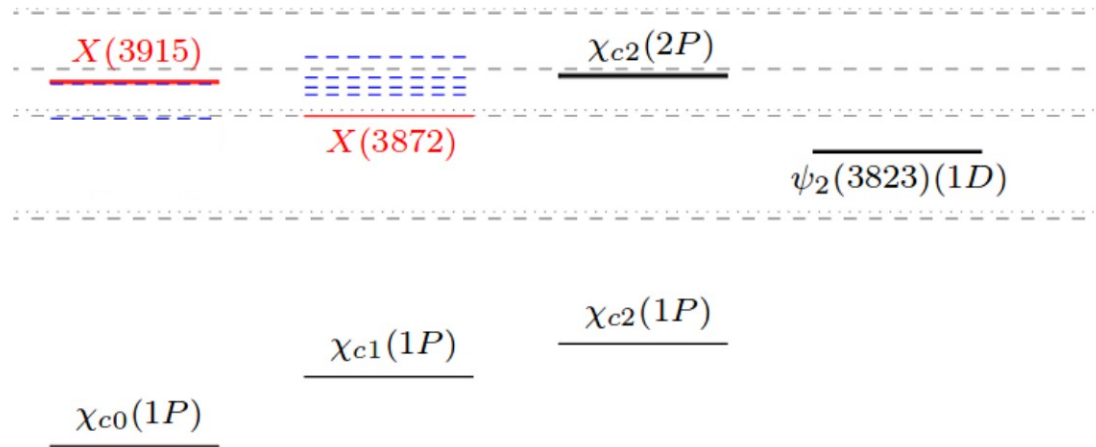


The first (?) Exotic hadron: $X(3872)$

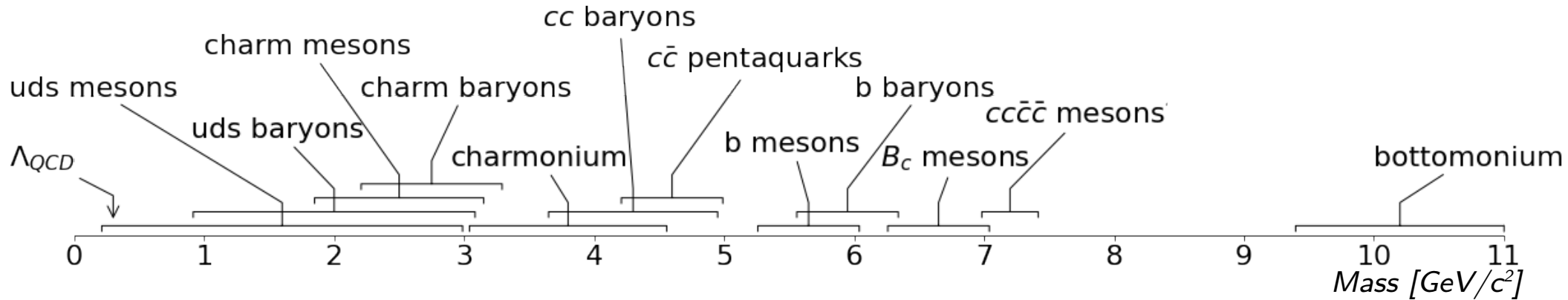
Belle, PRL 91 262001 (2003)



Seen in $B \rightarrow K \pi\pi J/\psi$
 - Looks like a $\chi_{c1}(2P)$ but...



Heavy or light hadrons?



$\gamma N, \pi N$ scattering



CLAS, COMPASS ...

D, Λ_c decays



Belle II, BESIII, LHCb ...

B, Λ_b decays



Belle II, LHCb, CMS ...

e^+e^- direct production



CMD-3, Belle II, BESIII

pp/HI prompt production

LHCb, CMS ...

Quarkonia decay



Belle II, BESIII, LHCb, CMS ...

Quarkonium in a nutshell

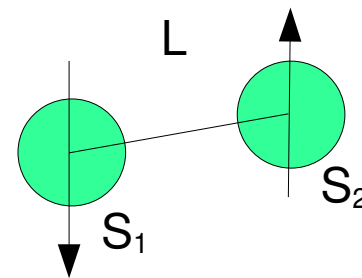
Quarkonia = heavy mesons made of a $c\bar{c}$ or $b\bar{b}$ pair

→ $m_q \sim 3\text{-}5 \text{ GeV}/c^2 \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

→ $v/c \ll 1$: **L is a good quantum number**

→ Narrow resonances $\Gamma < \Delta M \ll M$

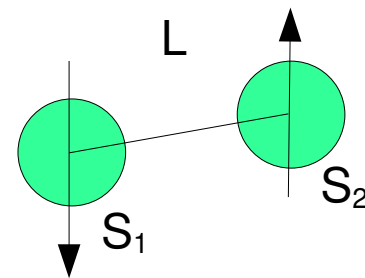
→ Heavy quark spin symmetry



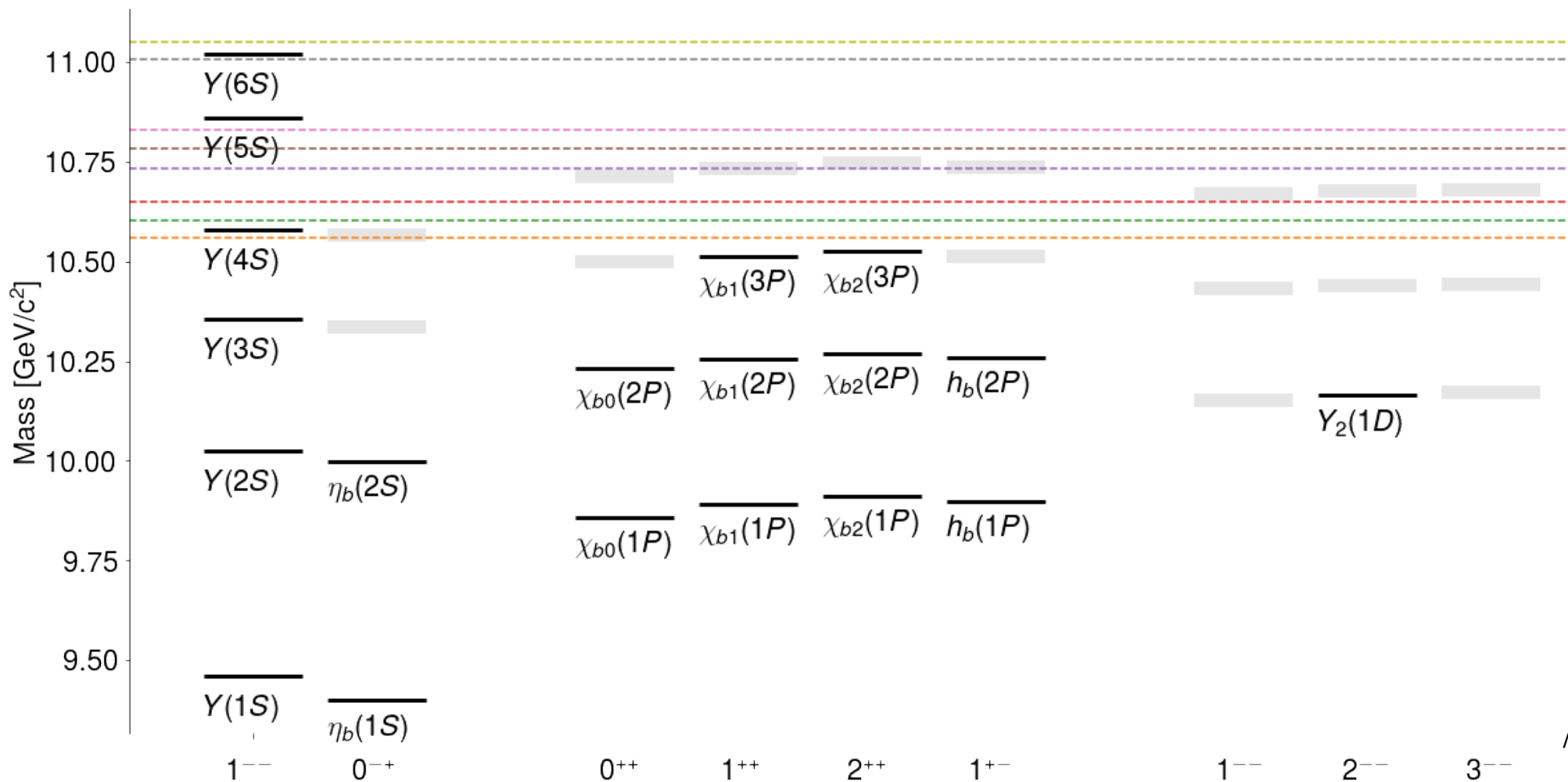
Quarkonium in a nutshell

Quarkonia = heavy mesons made of a $c\bar{c}$ or $b\bar{b}$ pair

- $m_q \sim 3\text{-}5 \text{ GeV}/c^2 \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$
 - $v/c \ll 1$: **L is a good quantum number**
 - Narrow resonances $\Gamma < \Delta M \ll M$
 - Heavy quark spin symmetry
- $m_c \ll m_b \ll m_t$
 - No heavy flavor symmetry
 - All quarkonia are isospin singlets (neutral)

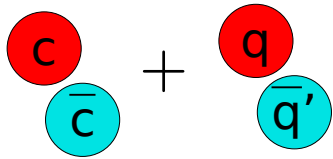
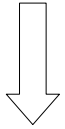
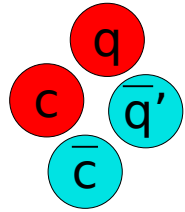


Getting familiar with a quarkonium spectrum

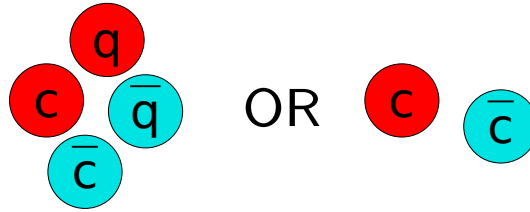


Why heavy hadrons

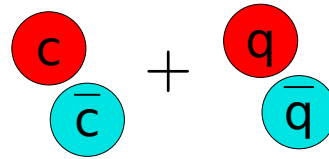
With heavy quarks separating conventional and exotics is much simpler



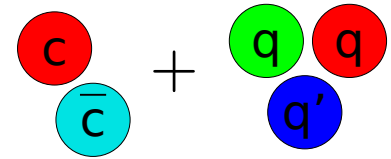
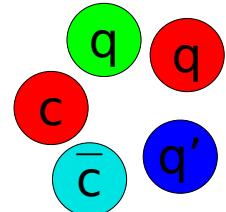
$c\bar{c}$ + charged meson
- must have 4 quarks



OR



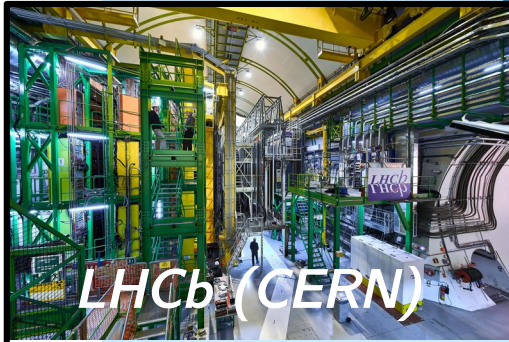
$c\bar{c}$ + neutral meson
- 2 or 4 quarks
- check $c\bar{c}$ spectrum



$c\bar{c}$ + baryon
- 5 quarks

Quarkonium at experiments: new generation

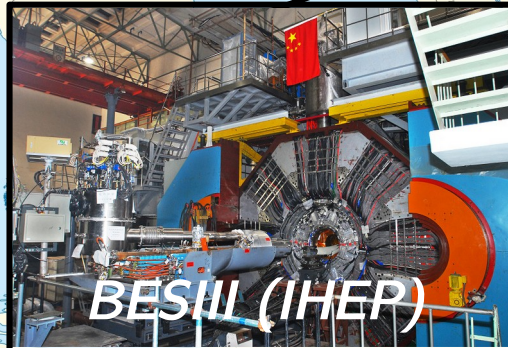
~ 2010 – now: VERY high-statistics, high quality data



LHCb (CERN)

$$p p \rightarrow (Q\bar{Q}) + X$$

$$B \rightarrow (c\bar{c}) + X$$



BESIII (IHEP)

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow (c\bar{c})$$



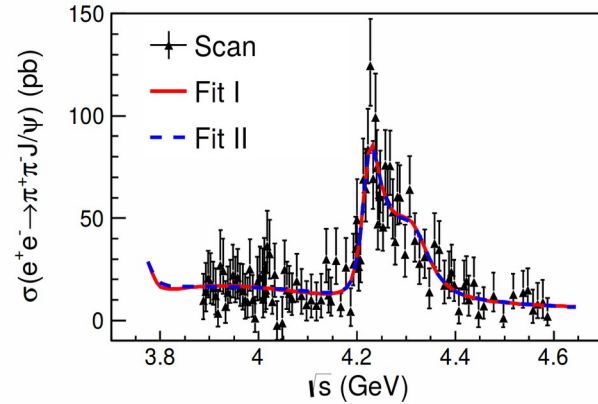
Belle II (KEK)

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow (Q\bar{Q})$$

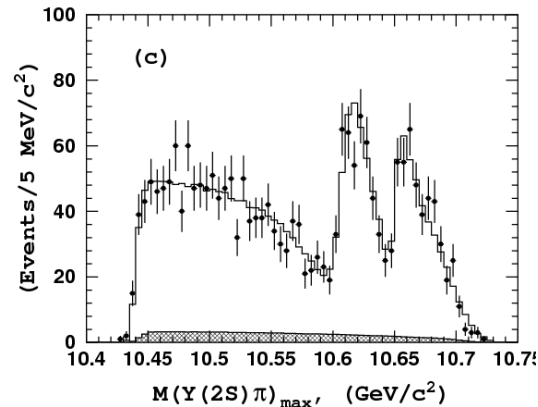
$$B \rightarrow (c\bar{c}) + X$$

How does an exotic look like?

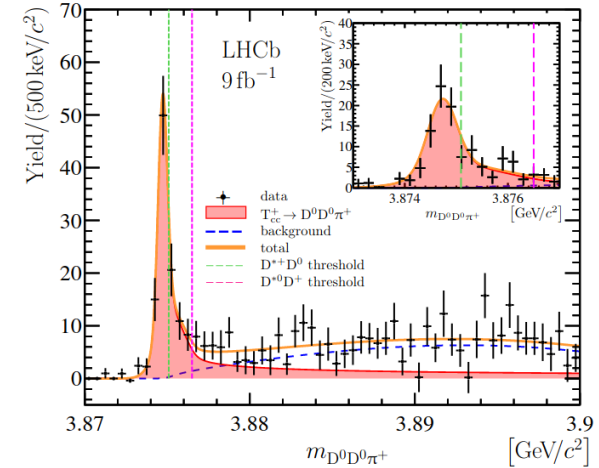
An e^+e^- cross section enhancement



A resonance in a heavier particle decay

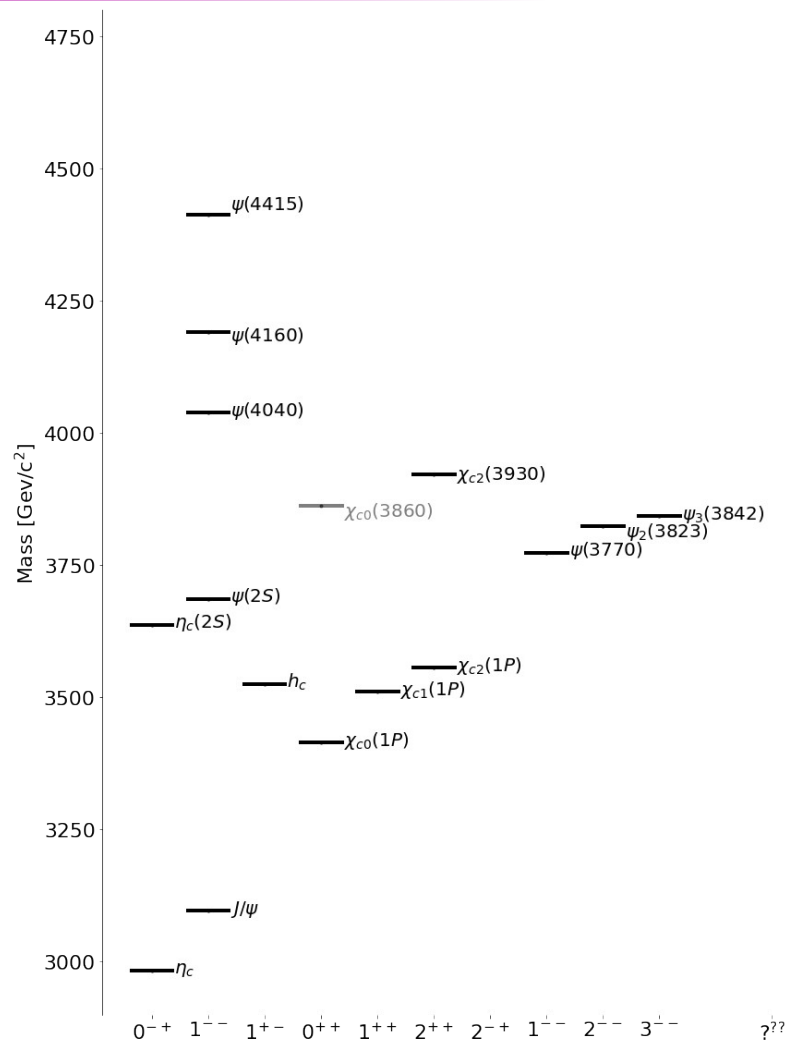


A new resonance in hadronic events

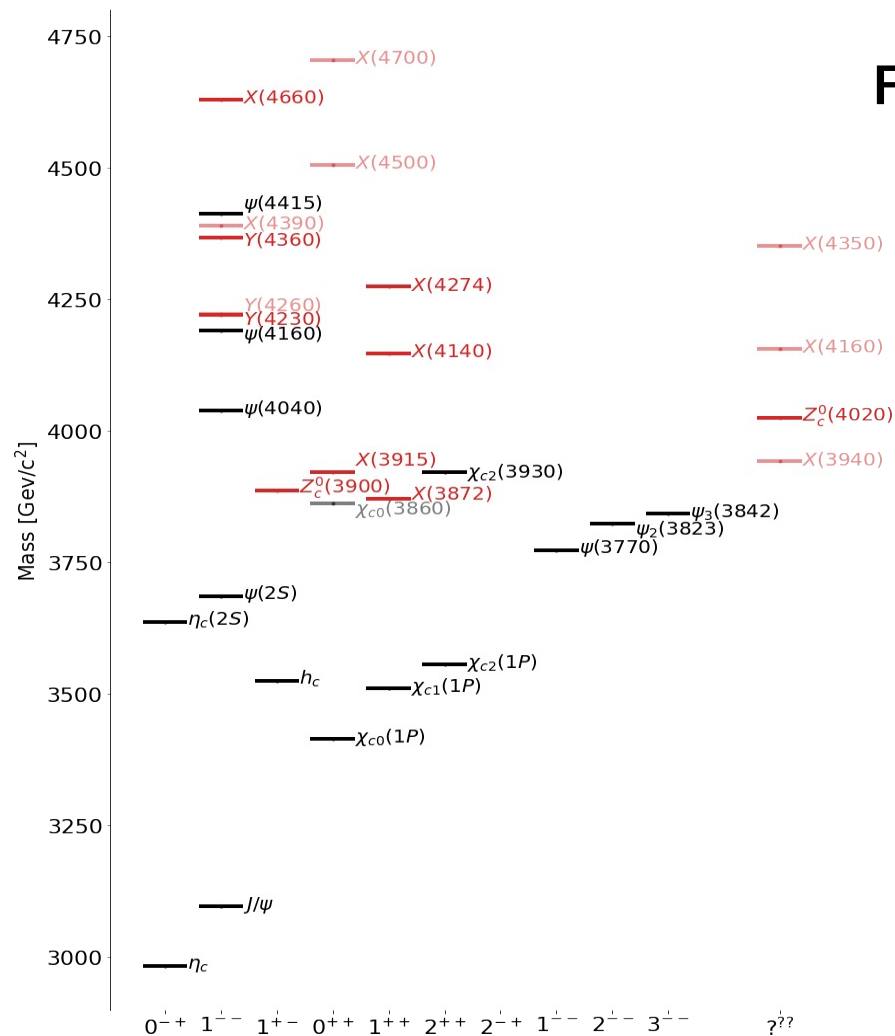


Exotica, where are we?

Known, conventional charmonium spectrum



Exotica, where are we?



Full, neutral charmonium-like spectrum

In 15 years we discovered:

~30 exotics in charmonia

3 exotics in bottomonium

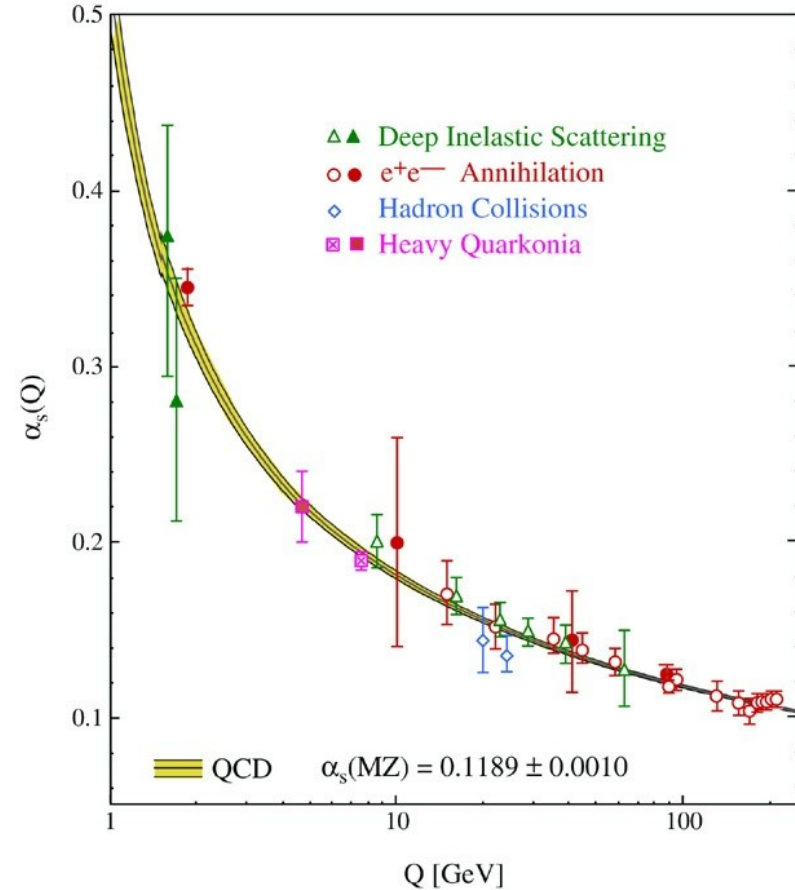
5 pentaquarks

The question is not if they exist, but what they are.

A theoretical summary by a non-theorist

Facing non-perturbative QCD

α_s is not a good expansion parameter to study bound states

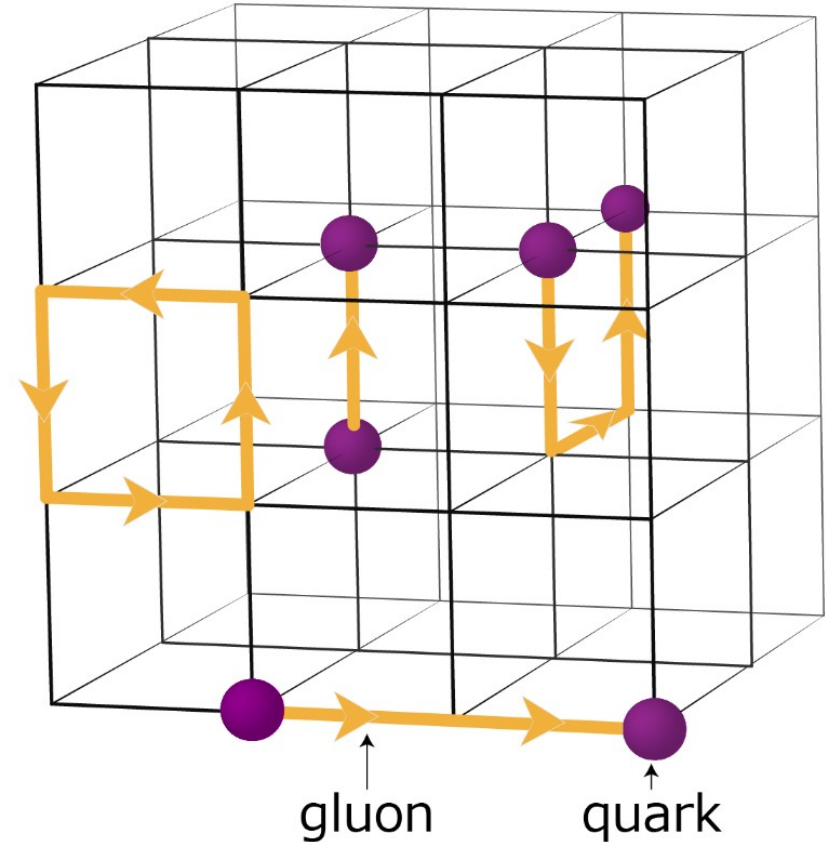


Facing non-perturbative QCD

α_s is not a good expansion parameter to study bound states

- Solve QCD numerically (lattice)

[See for example Bulava et al., arXiv:2203.03230]



Facing non-perturbative QCD

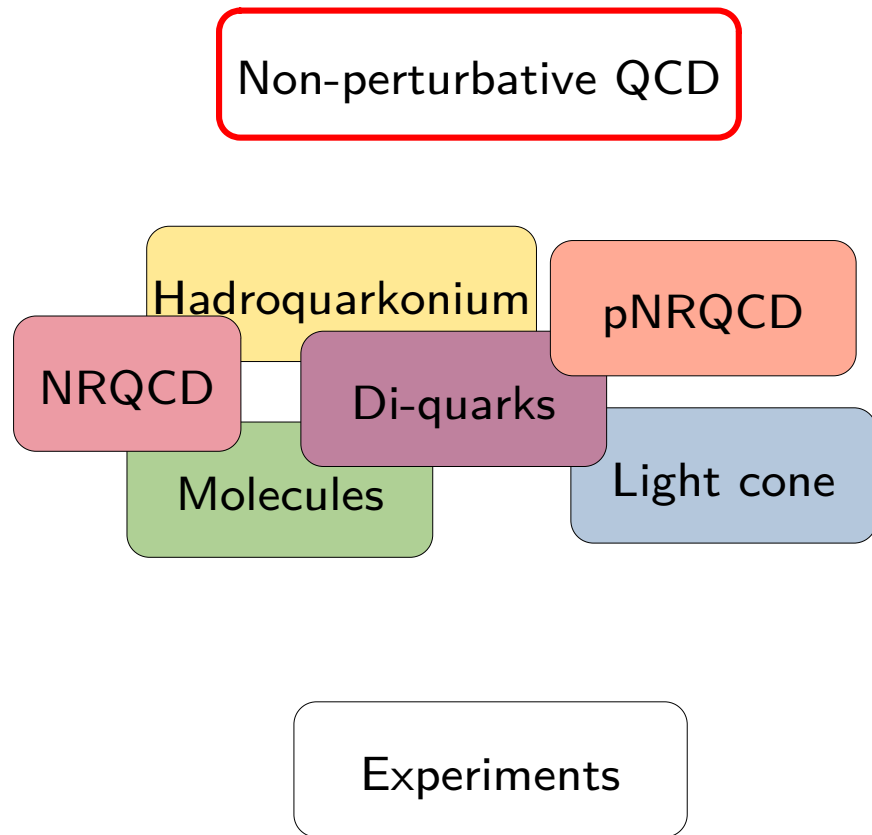
α_s is not a good expansion parameter to study bound states

- Solve QCD numerically (lattice)

[See for example Bulava et al., arXiv:2203.03230]

- Use effective theories

[See for example Brambilla, arXiv:2111.10788]



Facing non-perturbative QCD

α_s is not a good expansion parameter to study bound states

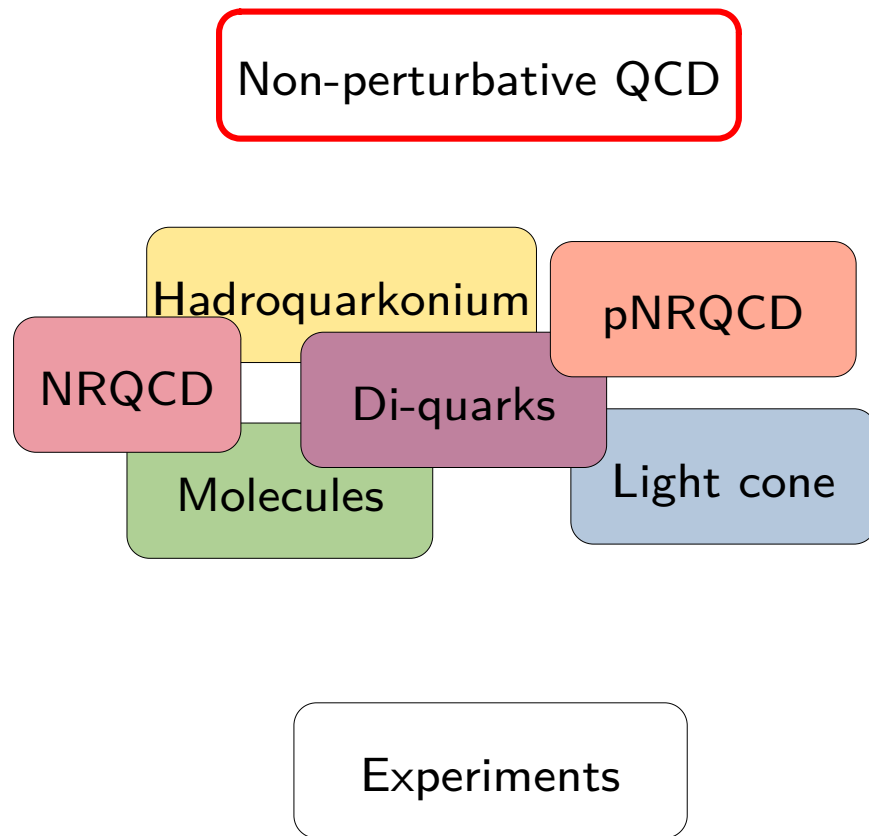
- Solve QCD numerically (lattice)

[See for example Bulava et al., arXiv:2203.03230]

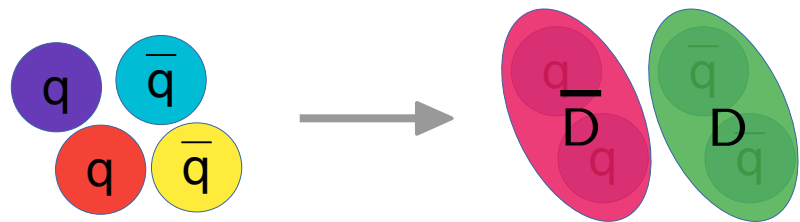
+

- Use effective theories

[See for example Brambilla, arXiv:2111.10788]



Effective models for exotica

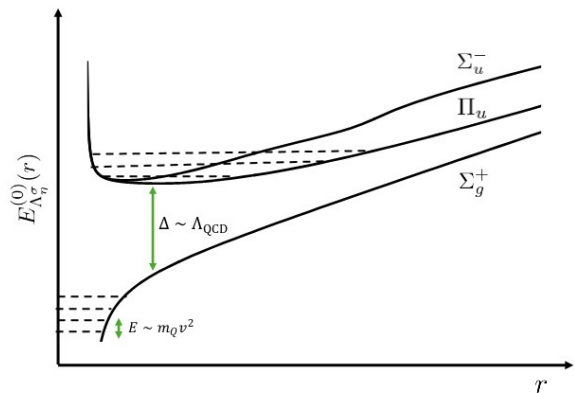
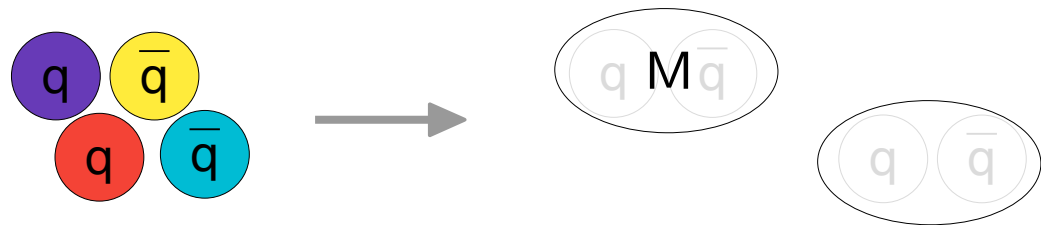


Compact tetraquarks

Esposito et al, *IJMP A* 30, No. 04n05, 1530002 (2015)

Meson-meson molecules

Guo et al, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 90, 015004 (2018)



Born-Oppenheimer EFT (BOEFT)

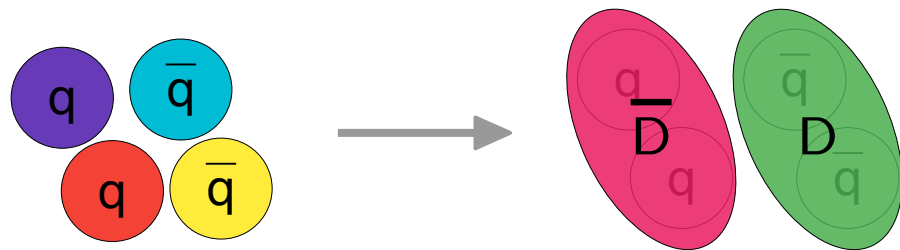
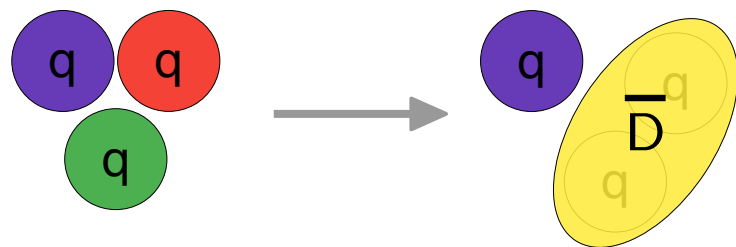
Berwein et al. *arXiv:2408.04719*

Competing models: compact tetraquarks

Maiani et al, *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 93 (2004) 212002

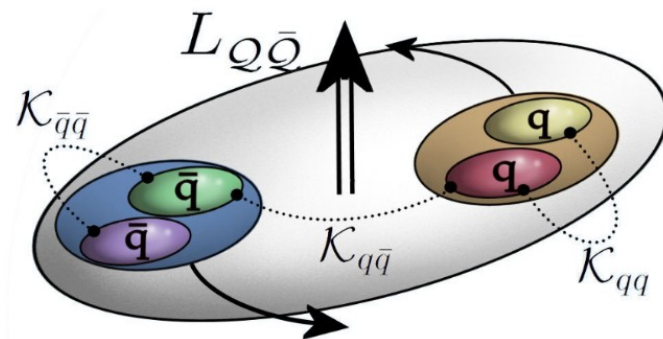
t'Hooft et al, Phys.Lett. B662 (2008) 424430

A qq pair behaves (color-wise) exactly like a \bar{q}



Structure determined by both

- q - q Interaction within di-quarks
- q - \bar{q} Interaction across diquark

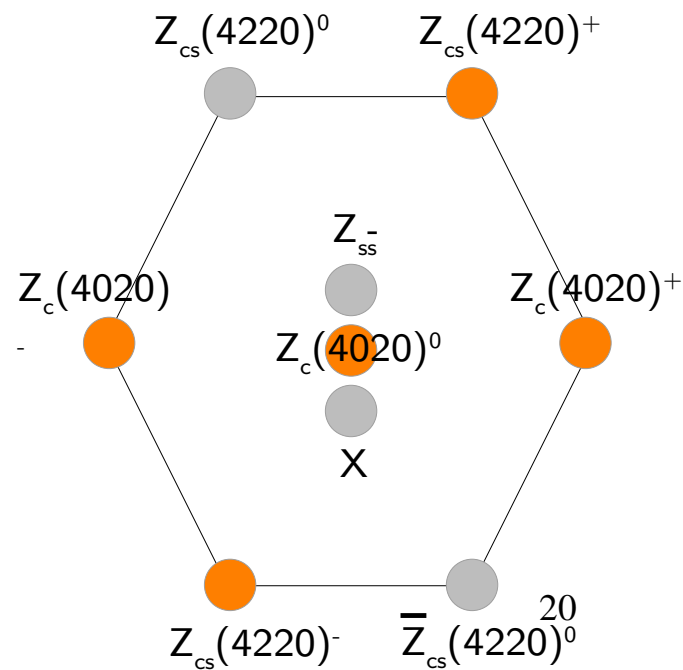
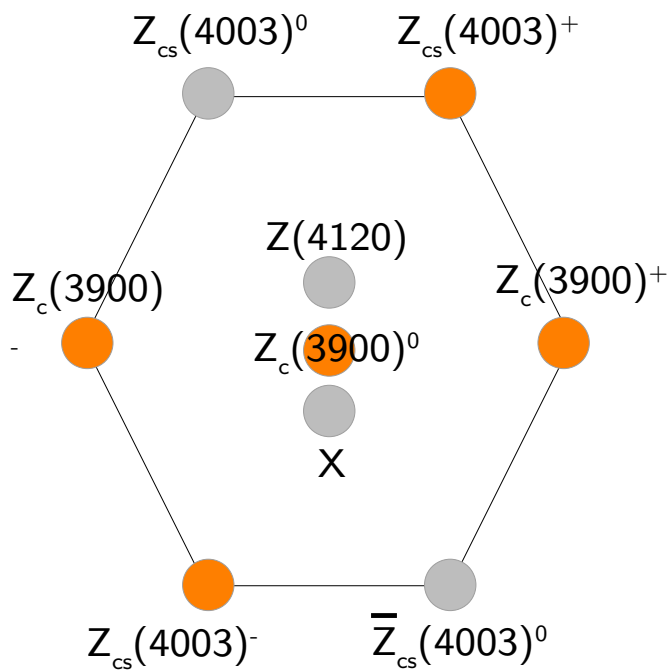
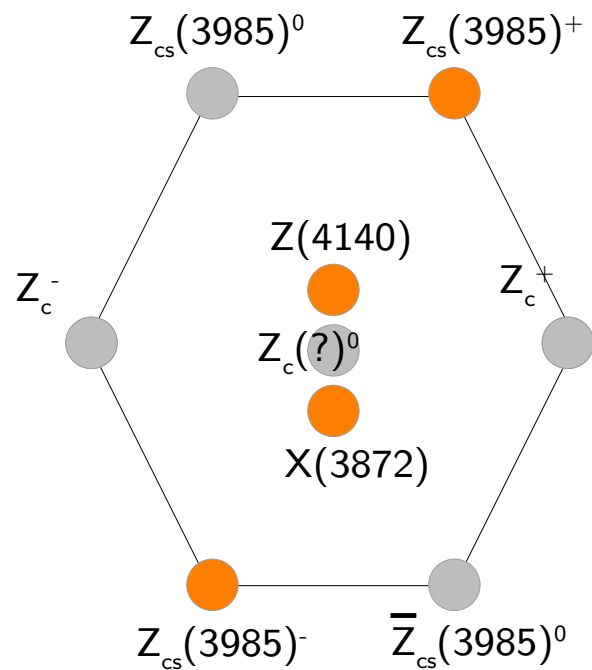


Tetraquark multiplets

Maiani et al, J. SCI.B. 2021 04 040 (2021)

Di-quarks arrange to produce 3 S-wave nonets

- predictions about the mass of missing states is possible now

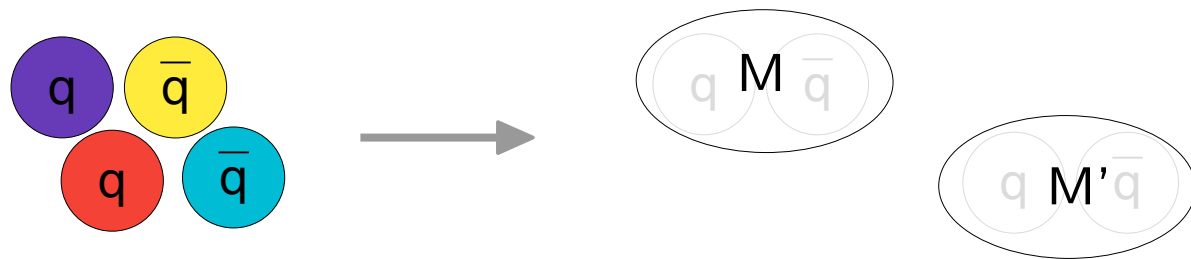


Competing models: molecules

Guo et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 90, 015004 (2018)

Several exotics lay very close to a DD threshold

→ could be loosely bound meson-meson bound states

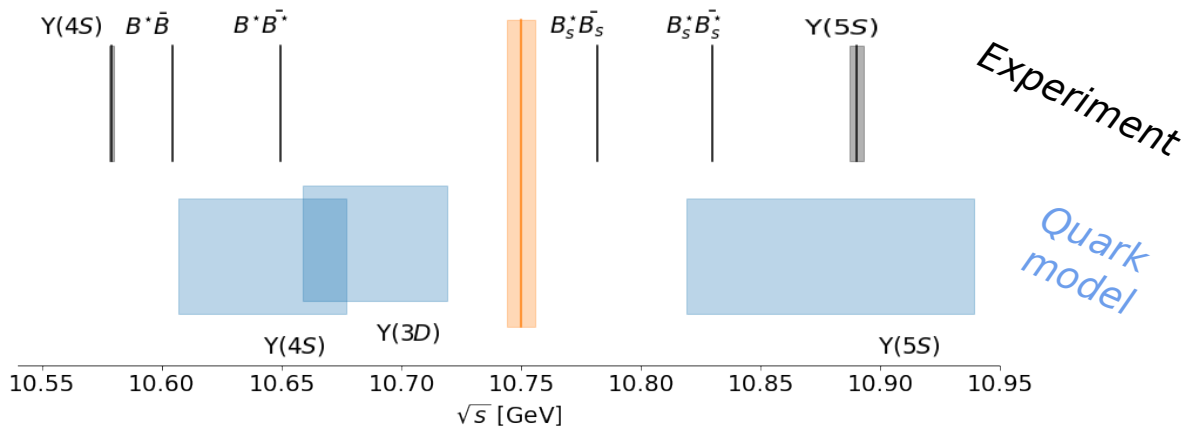


Molecules should always be close (or better below...) the threshold



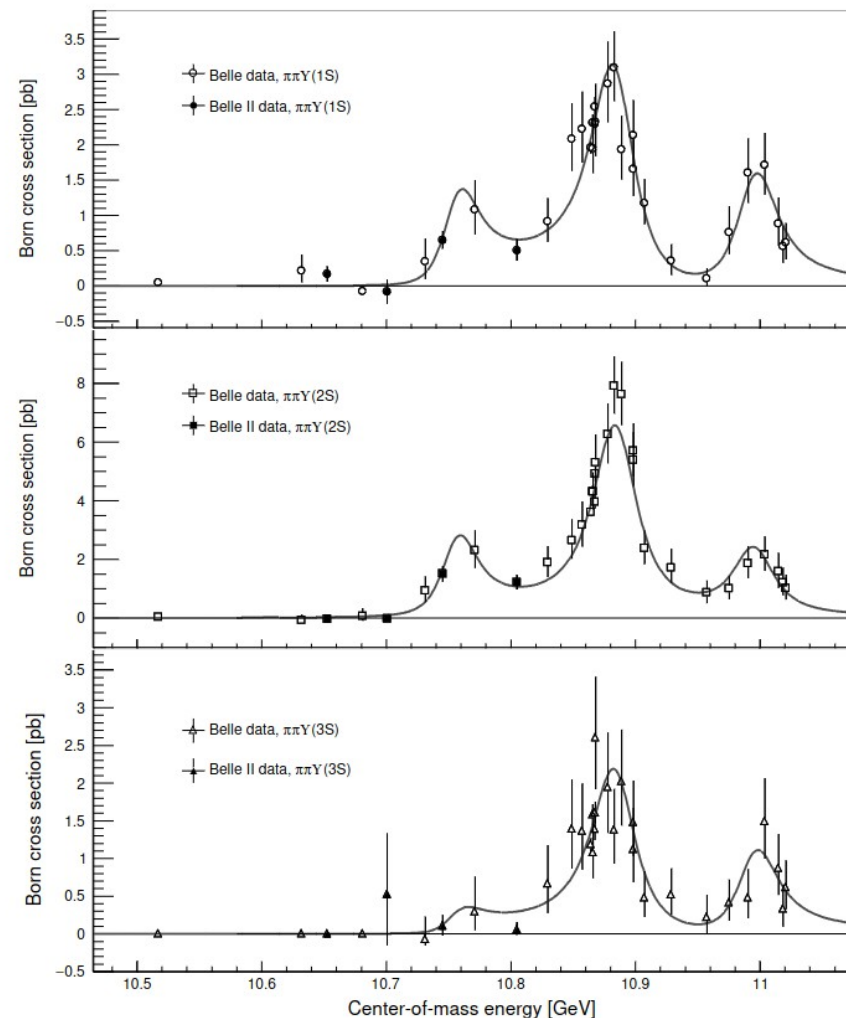
An example: the $Y(10753)$

Unexpected vector state around 10.750 GeV



Optimal situation:

- First discovery
- ~ 30 theoretical predictions
- More data, more studies

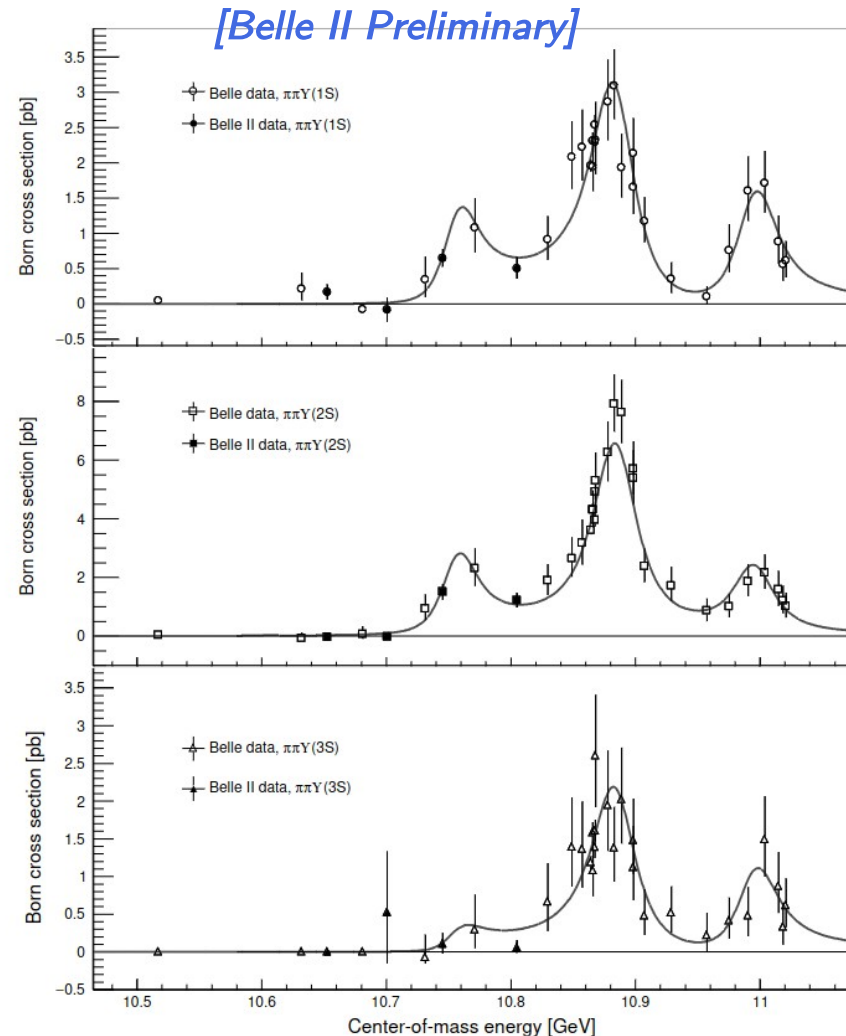
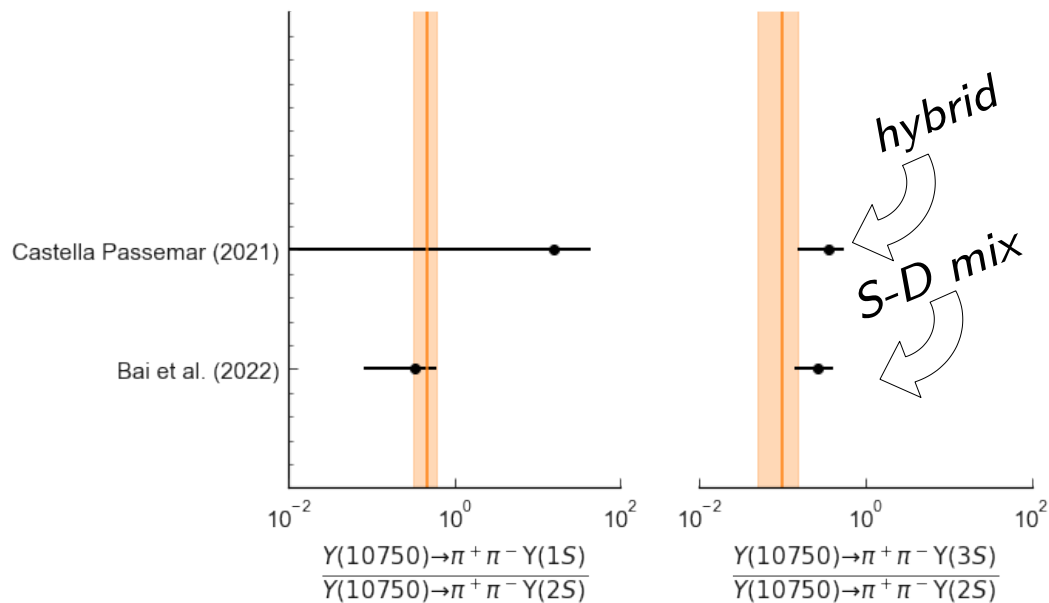


Theory VS experiment: $e^+e^- \rightarrow Y(nS) \pi^+\pi^-$

Conventional ✓

Tetraquark ---

Hybrid ✓



Theory VS experiment: $e^+e^- \rightarrow Y(nS) \pi^+\pi^-$

Analysis of the di-pion mass spectrum

Conventional



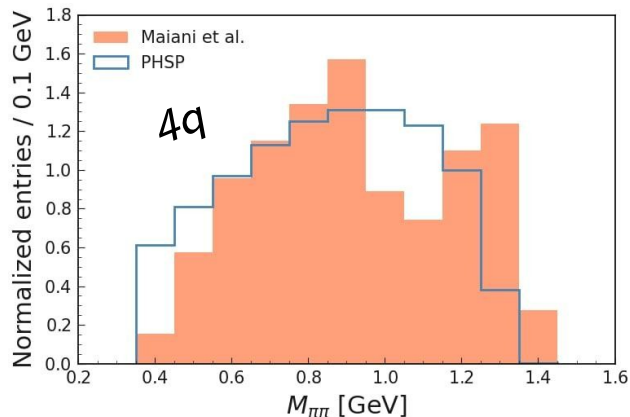
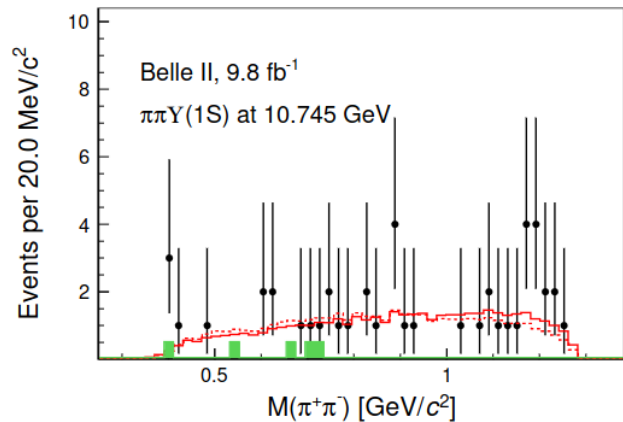
Tetraquark



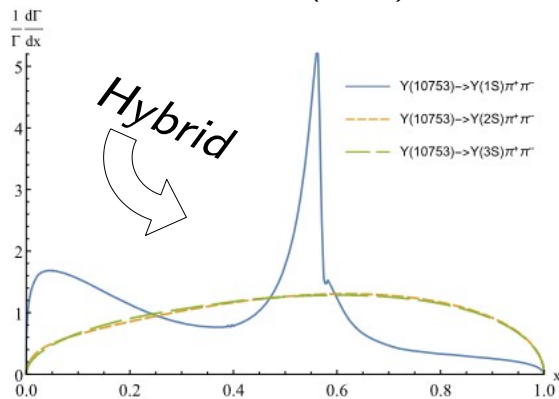
Hybrid



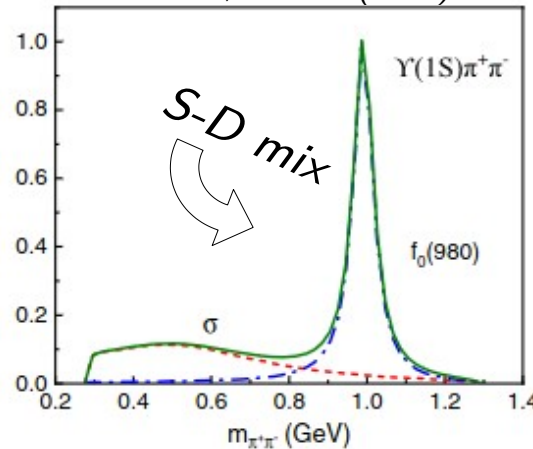
[Belle II Preliminary]



PRD 104, 0340 (2022)



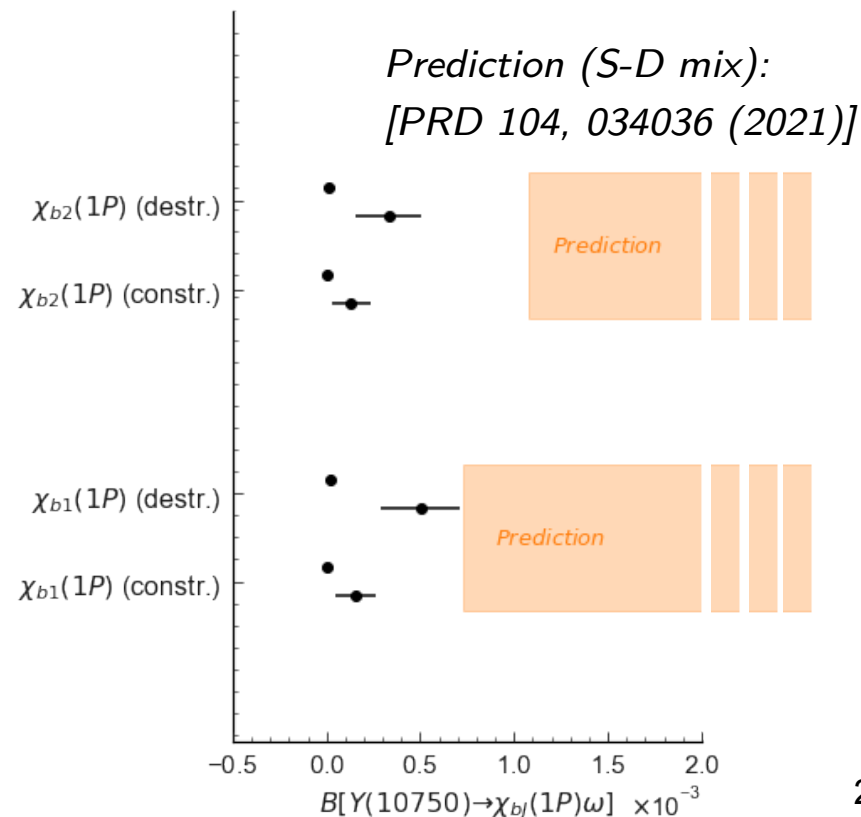
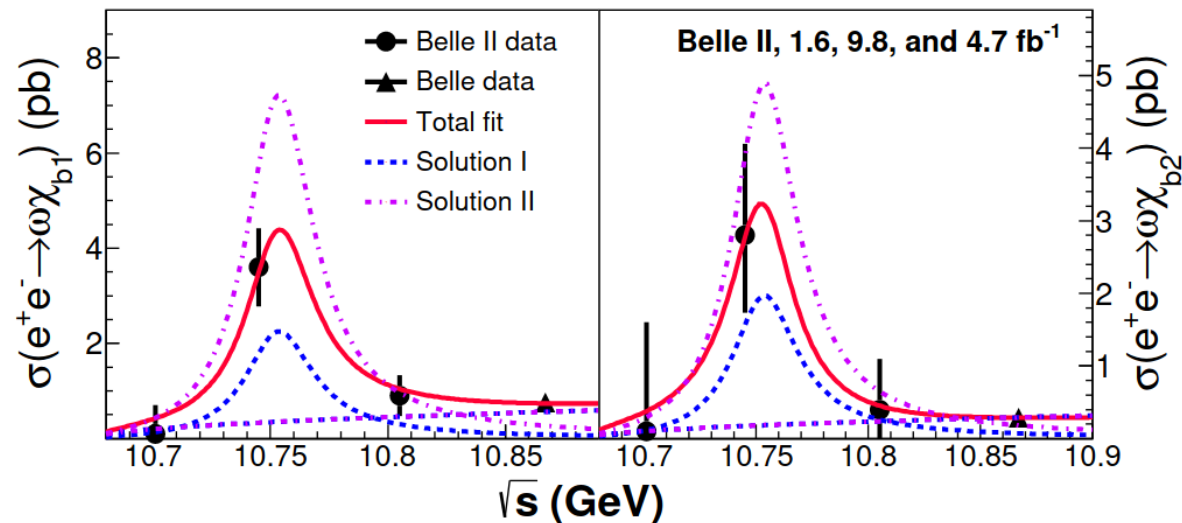
PRD 105, 074007 (2022)



Theory VS experiment: $e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi_{b1,2}(1P) \omega$

[PRL 130, 091902 (2023)]

Conventional	✓	✗	✗
Tetraquark	---	✓	---
Hybrid	✓	✗	---

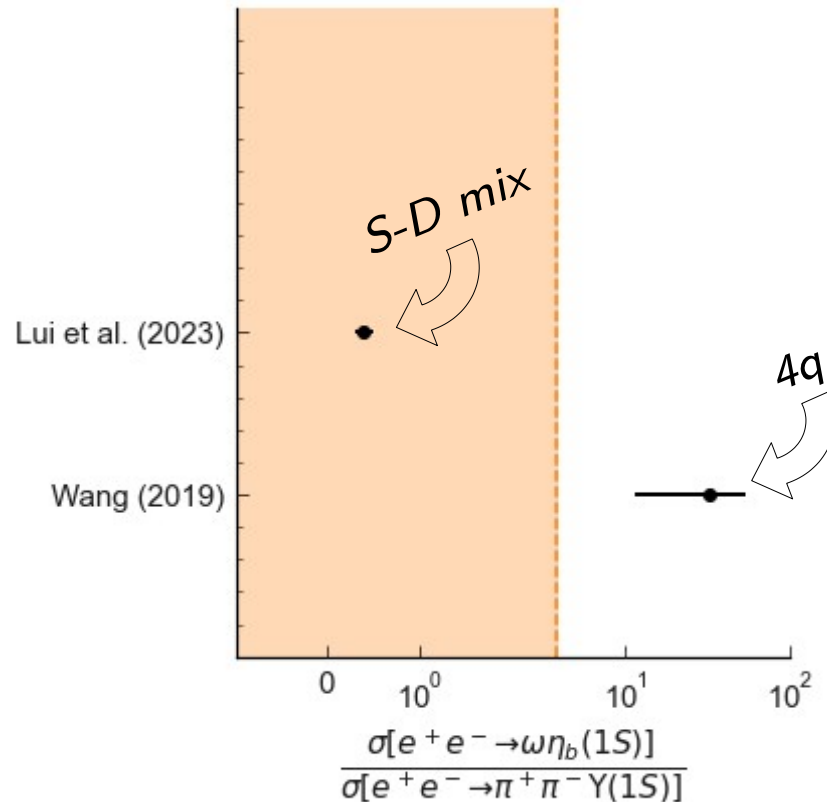


Theory VS experiment: $e^+e^- \rightarrow \eta_b(1S) \omega$

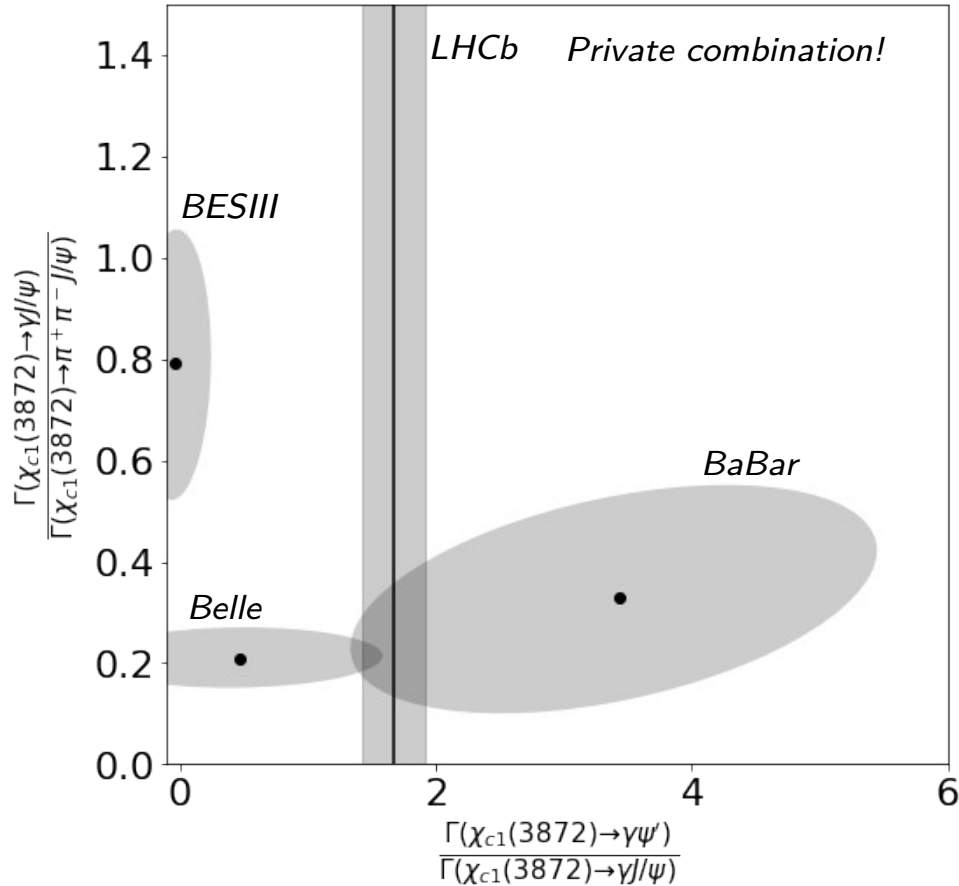
[arxiv:2312.13043]

Conventional	✓	✗	✗	✓
Tetraquark	---	✓	---	✗
Hybrid	✓	✗	---	---

So the $Y(10753)$ is...

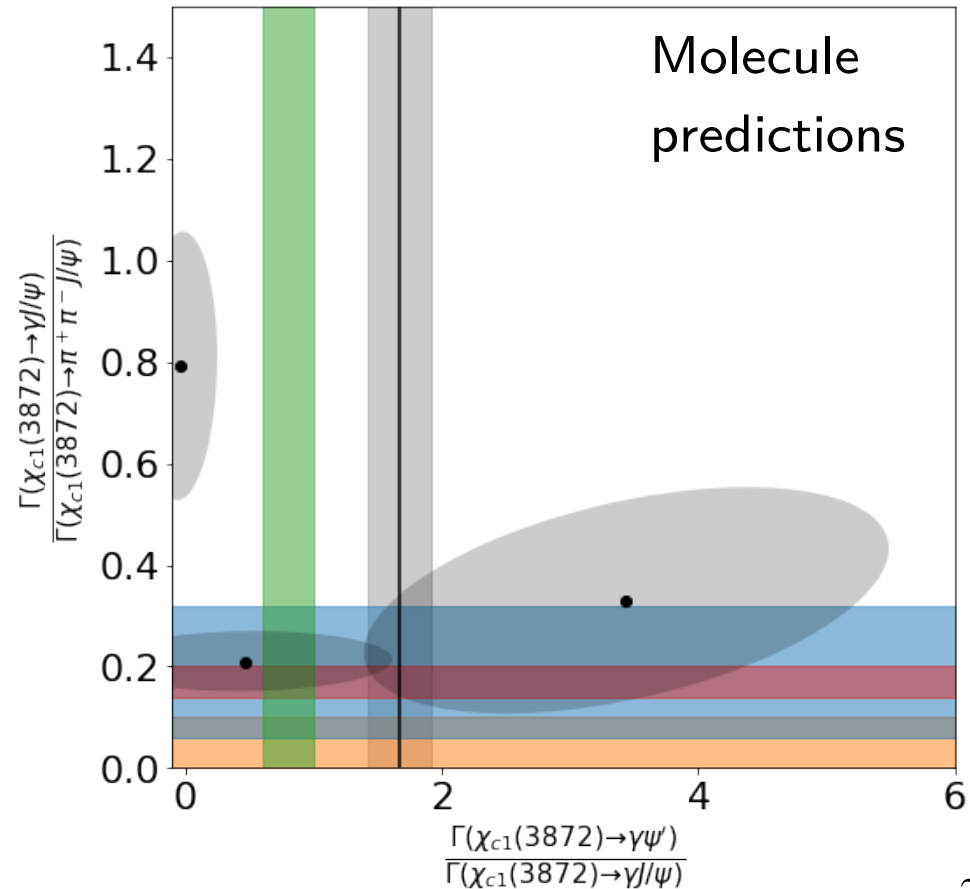
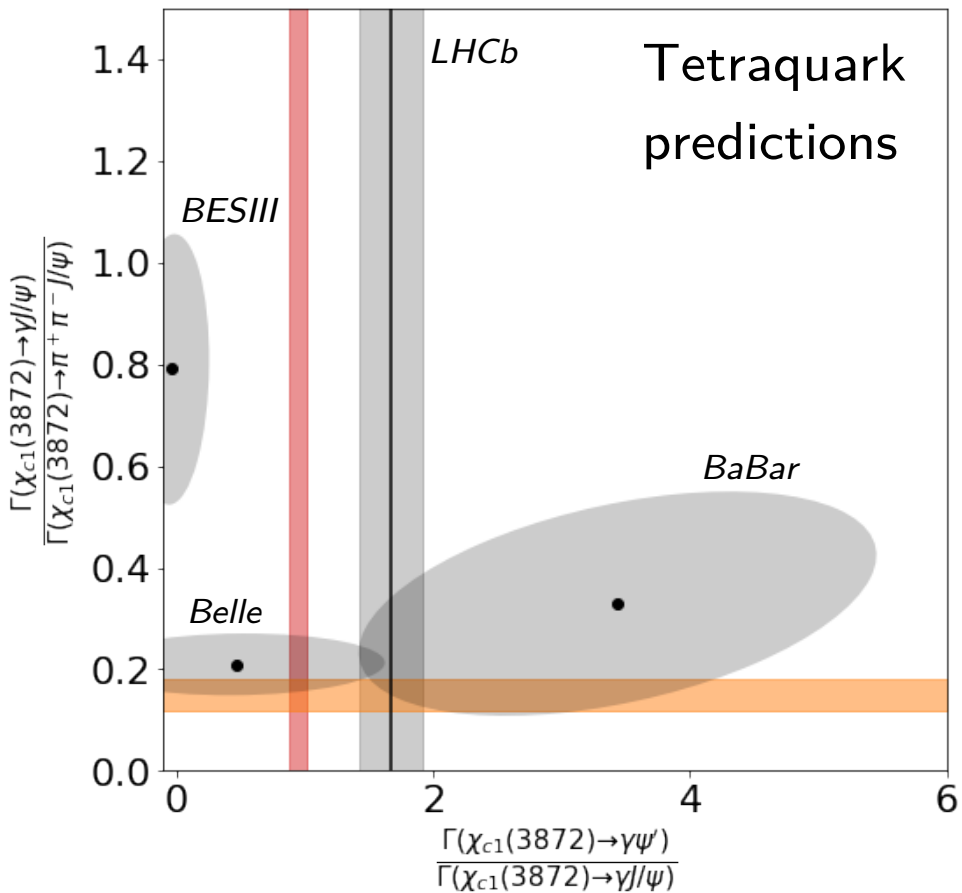


A pathological example: double struggle



Comparing two radiative decays of X(3872)

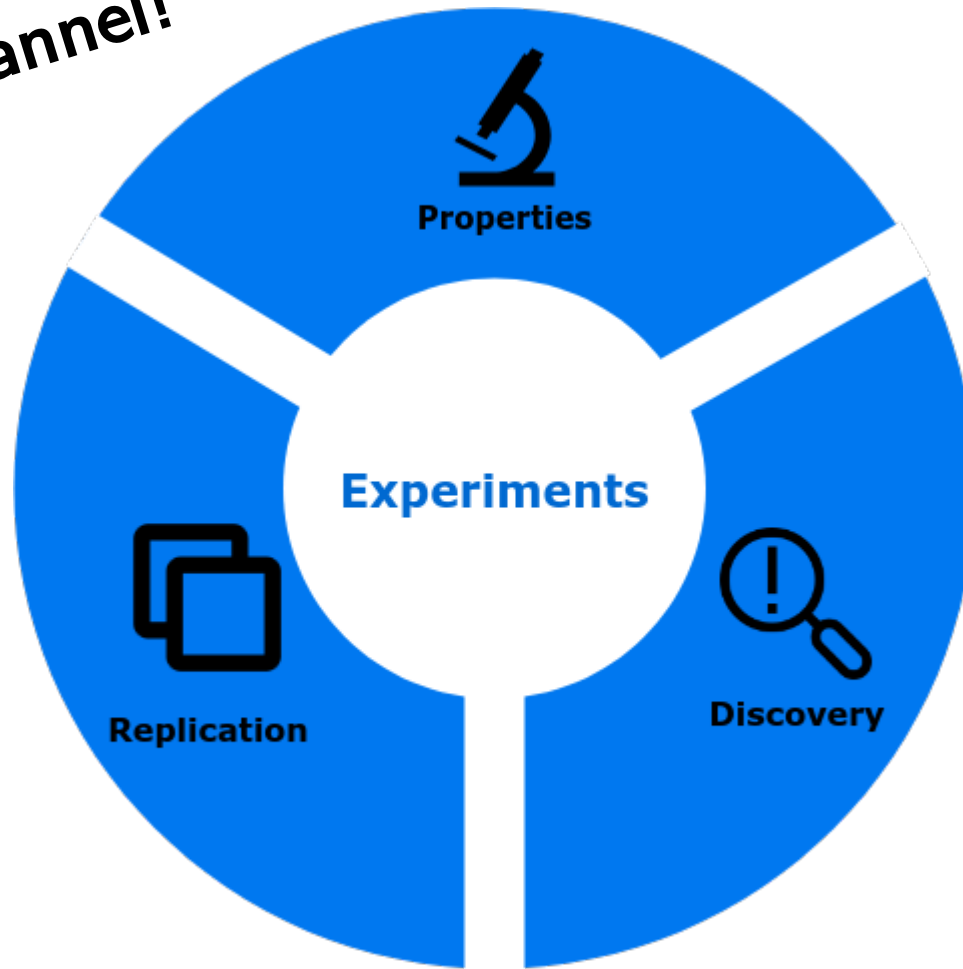
A pathological example: double struggle



How to get out of there

What's to be done

No golden channel!



Task 0

Replicate results!!

Task 1

Determine J^{PC} for all
known states

Task 2

Systematic measurement
of production rates

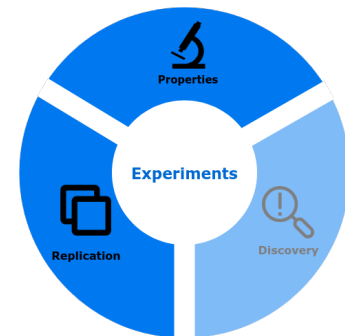
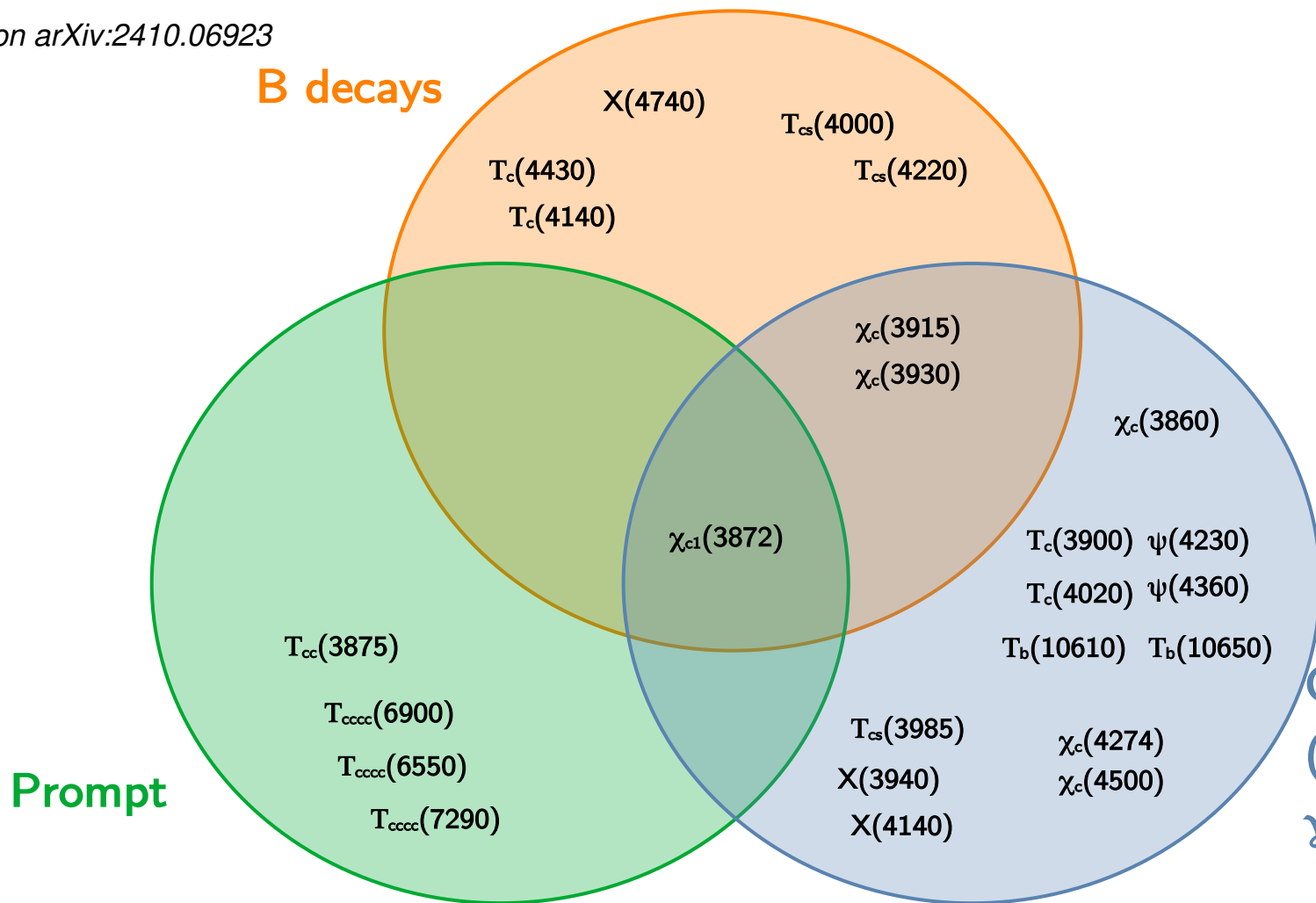
Task 3

Exploit flavour invariance:
Look at c- and b- hadrons
together

Production and replication

Based on arXiv:2410.06923

B decays



Other modes
(e⁺e⁻, diffractive pp,
γγ fusion...)

The single-observation nightmare

Many states have been seen in either

- 1 decay mode only
- 1 production mode only
- 1 experiment only

Examples: all
pentaquarks, T_{cc} ,
 $Z_c(3900)$, $\Xi_{cc}^{++} \dots$

Task

Look for known states
where we have not seen them

(more or less) recent ideas to explore:

- Prompt production of exotica (4q/molecule)
[EPJ C81, 669 (2021)]
- Photo-production of pentaquarks
[PRD 101, 074010 (2020)]
- 4q in HI peripheral collisions
[PRD 104, 114029 (2021)]

The single-observation nightmare

Many states have been seen in either

- 1 decay mode only
- 1 production mode only
- 1 experiment only

Examples: all
pentaquarks, T_{cc} ,
 $Z_c(3900)$, $\Xi_{cc}^{++} \dots$

Task

Look for known states
where we have not seen them

(more or less) recent ideas to explore:

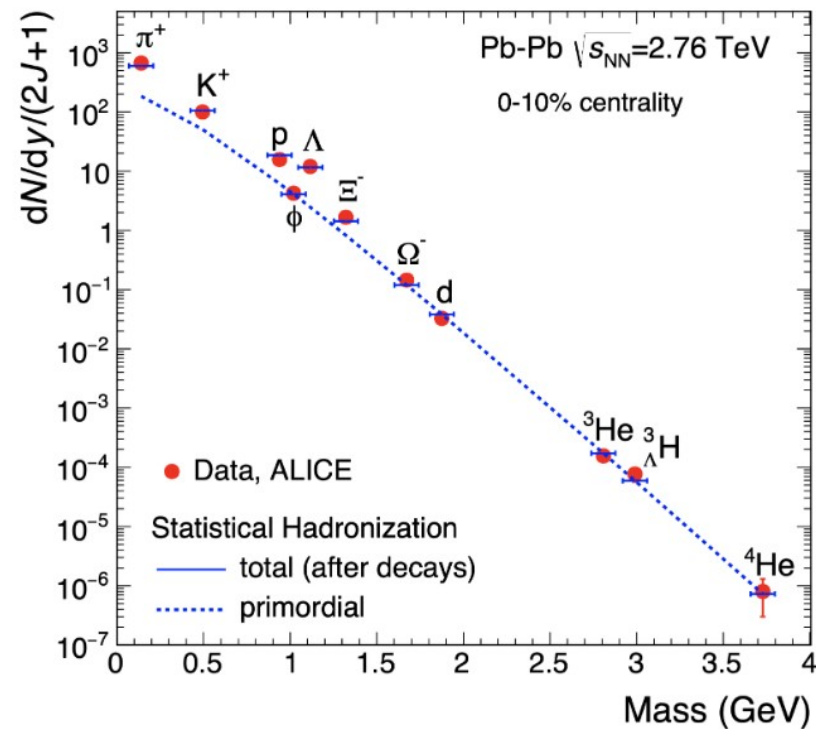
- Prompt production of exotica (4q/molecule)
[EPJ C81, 669 (2021)]
- Photo-production of pentaquarks
[PRD 101, 074010 (2020)]
- 4q in HI peripheral collisions
[PRD 104, 114029 (2021)]

Prompt production of molecules

Deuteron has been observed in heavy ion collisions

- How can it survive such a hot environment?
- Melting and recombination?

[Neidig, et al, PLB 827, 136891 (2022)]



Prompt production of molecules

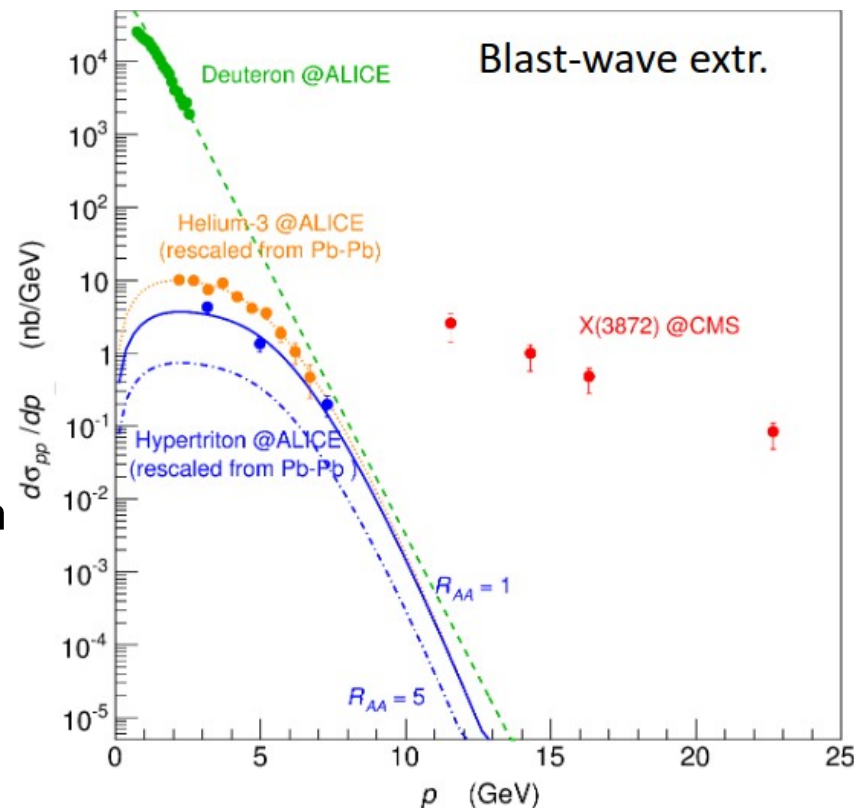
Deuteron has been observed in heavy ion collisions

- How can it survive such a hot environment?
- Melting and recombination?

[Neidig, et al, PLB 827, 136891 (2022)]

Heavy exotica: never observed (except for X3872)

- Why we don't see prompt exotica?
- Why is the rate of X(3872) so different from other molecules?



Prompt production of molecules

Deuteron has been observed in heavy ion collisions

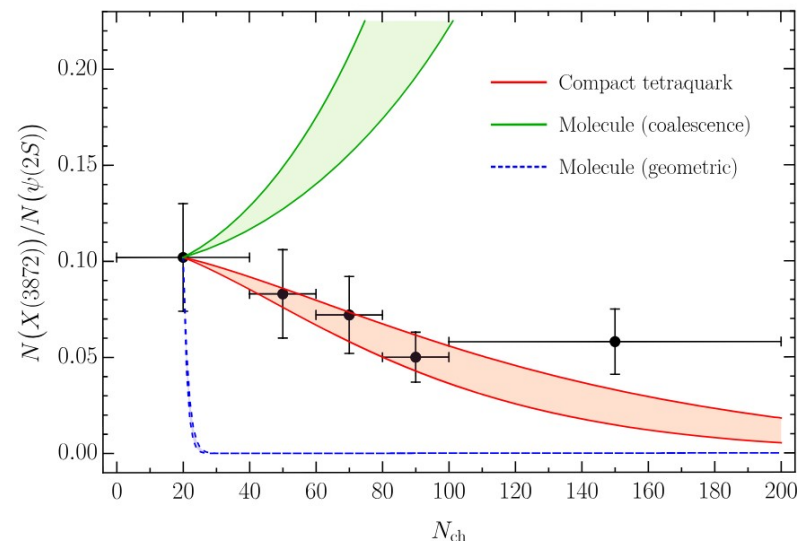
- How can it survive such a hot environment?
- Melting and recombination?

[Neidig, et al, PLB 827, 136891 (2022)]

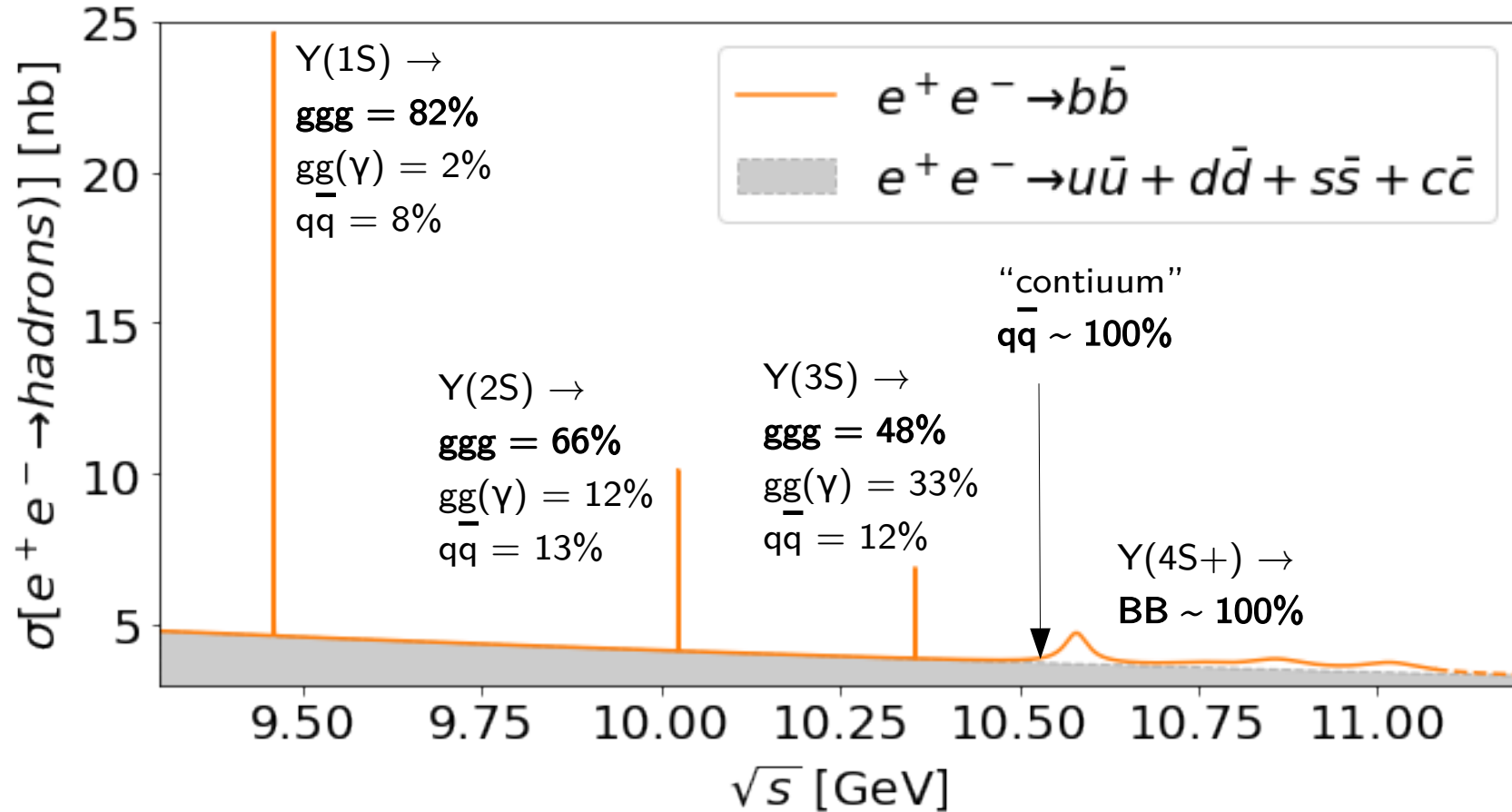
Heavy exotica: never observed (except for X3872)

- Why we don't see prompt exotica?
- Why is the rate of X(3872) so different from other molecules?

Striking (?) differences in the production of compact or loose states [EPJ C81, 669 (2021)] [arXiv:2302.03828]



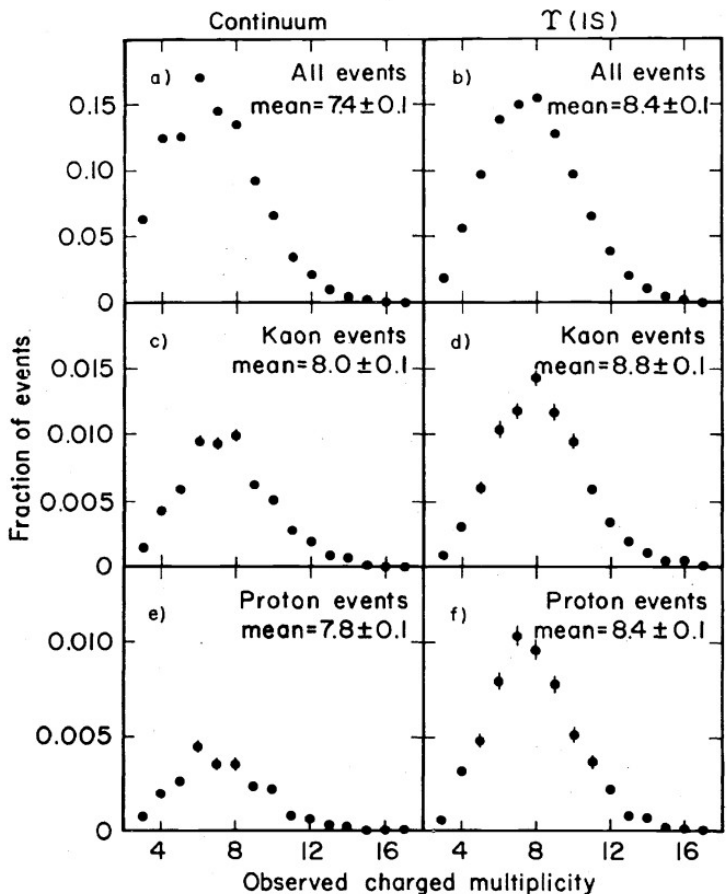
e^+e^- collisions energies



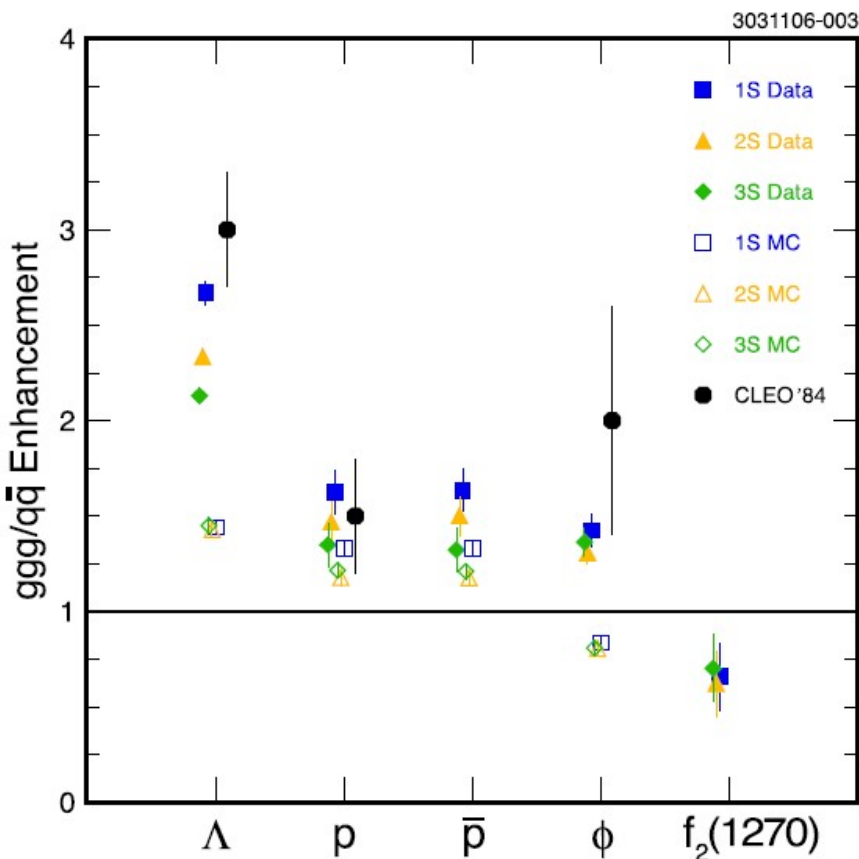
$\sigma = 1 \text{ nb} \rightarrow 1\text{-}2 \text{ Million events/day @ current Belle II luminosity}$

$e^+e^- \rightarrow ggg/\bar{q}q$ environments

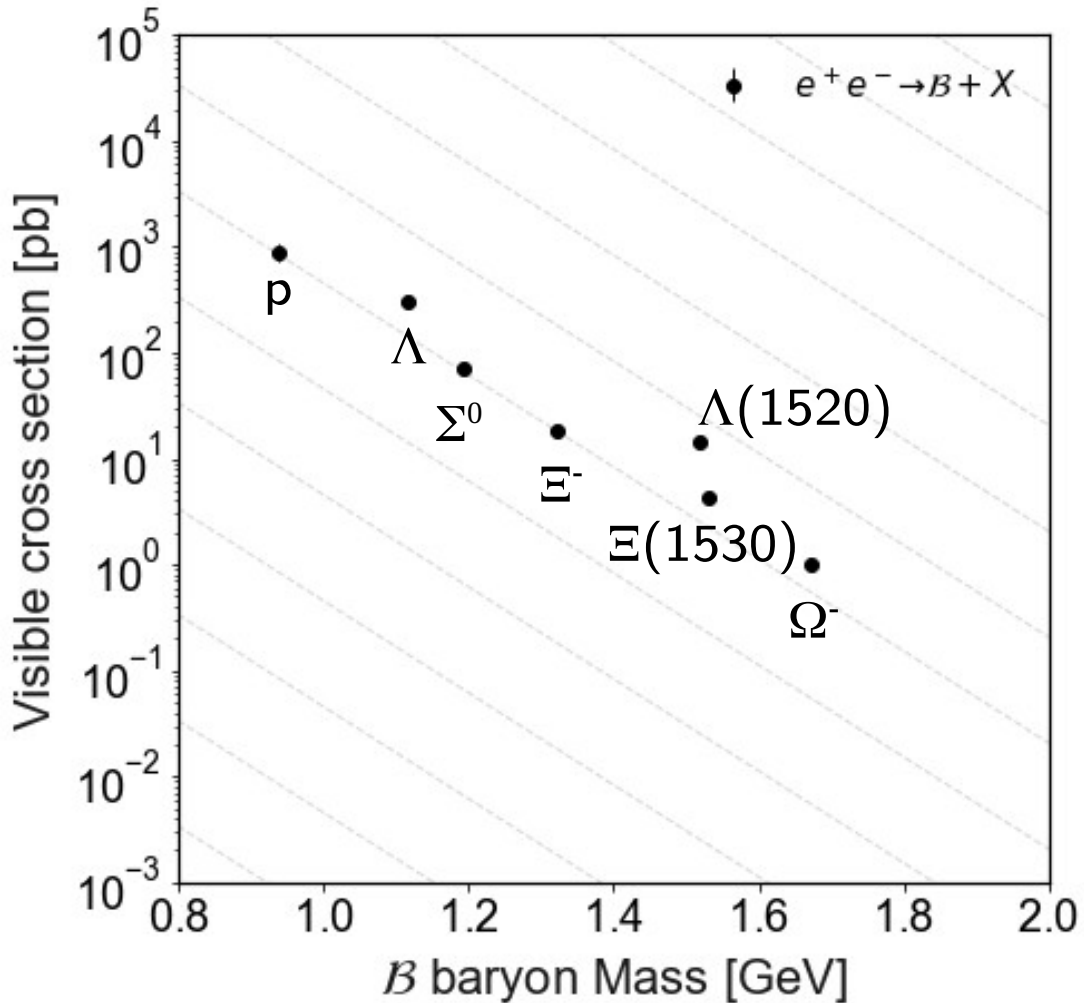
[PRD 31, 2161 (1985)]



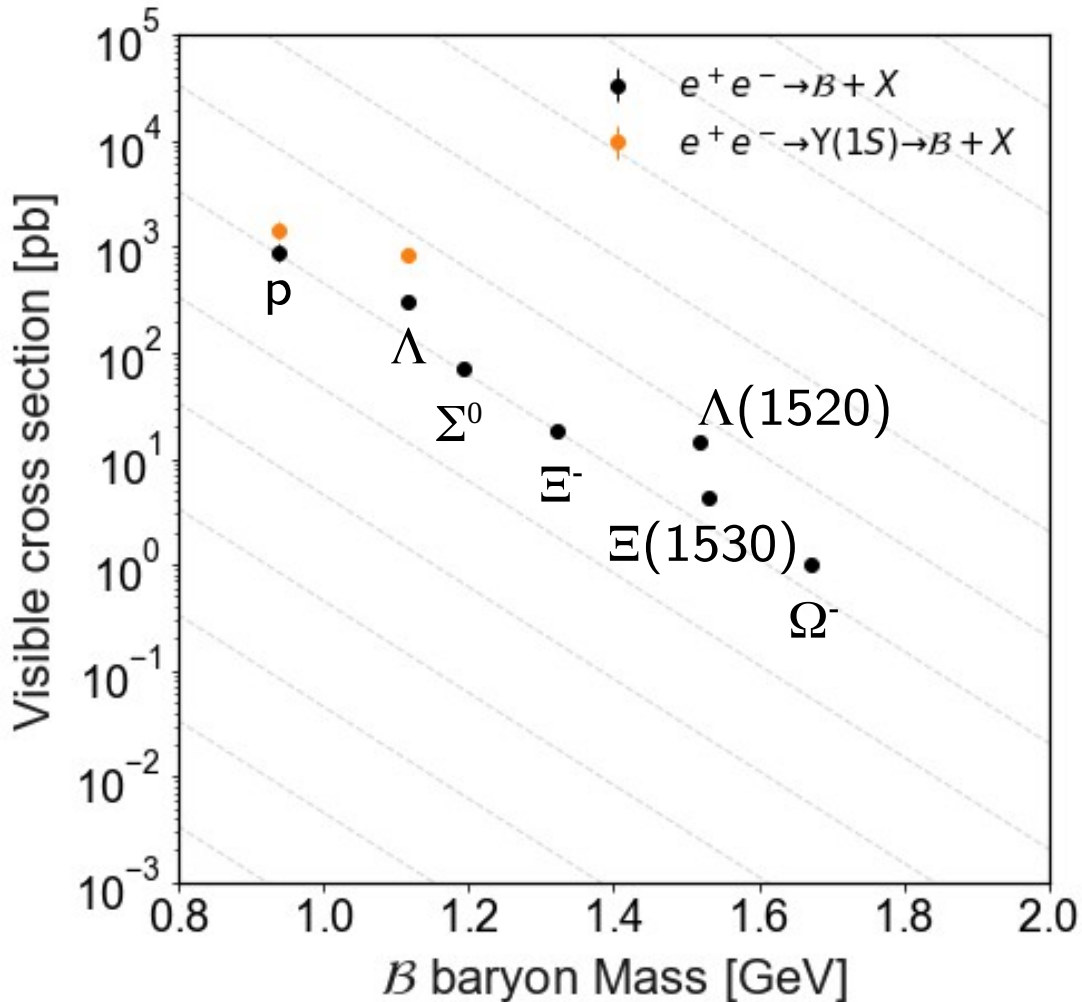
[PRD76 012005 (2007)]



A laboratory for hadron coalescence?

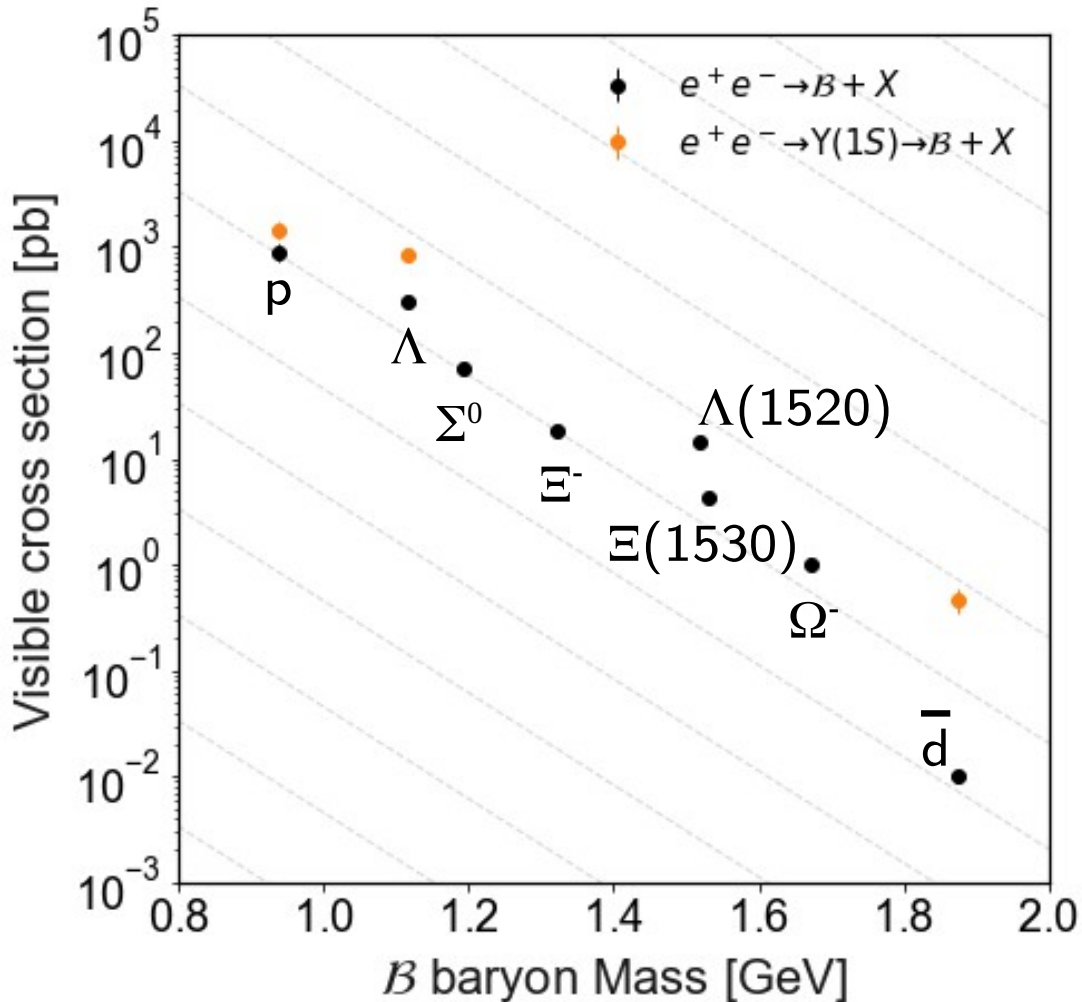


A laboratory for hadron coalescence?



*) piecing together many measurements

A laboratory for hadron coalescence?



$p \rightarrow d$ Penalty factors:

~ 30000 in continuum

~ 1000 in $Y(1S)$

Explained (mostly) by
kinematic effects (2-jet
VS spherical events)

*) piecing together many measurements

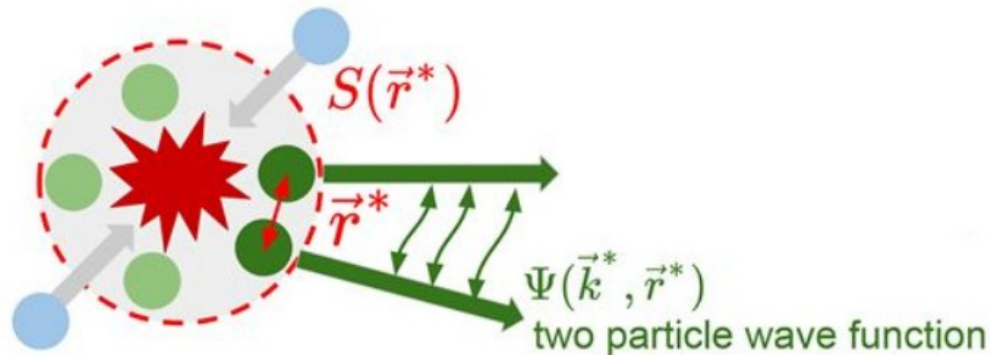
Predicting a molecule production rate

Coalescence: the molecule is created by **merge of its constituents**

We need three ingredients to calculate the coalescence probability:

- The spatial size of the emitting source
- The molecule's wave function
- The kinematic of its components

In QGP: take also into account dissociation and recombination...



Predicting a molecule production rate

Coalescence: the molecule is created by **merge of its constituents**

We need three ingredients to calculate the coalescence probability at Belle II:

- The spatial size of the emitting source

$:- ($

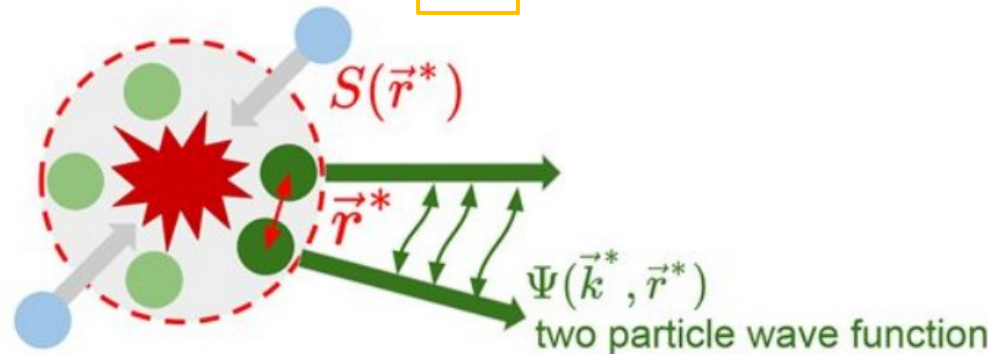
- The molecule's wave function

$:-)$

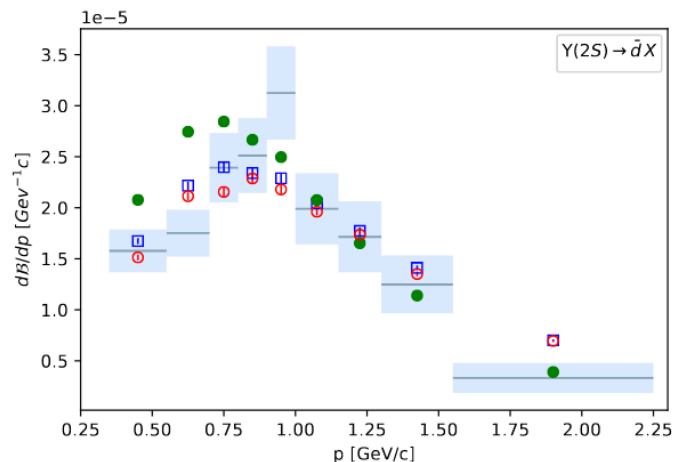
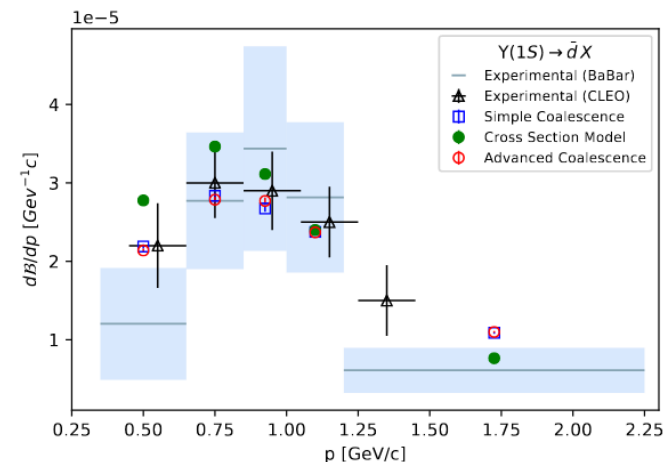
- The kinematic of its components

$:- |$

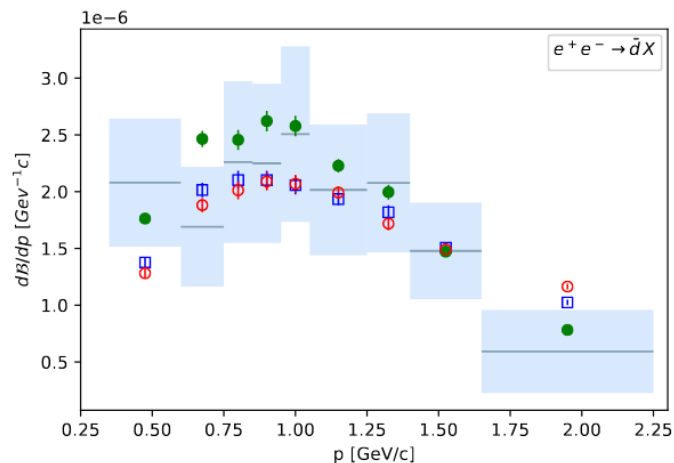
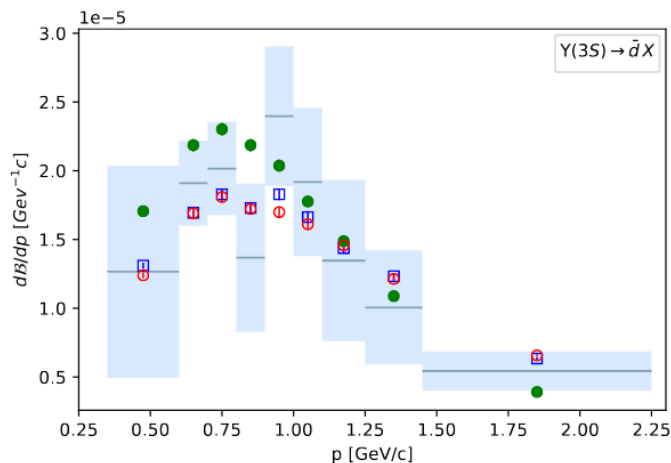
~~In QGP: take also into account dissociation and recombination...~~



[Marietti, Pilloni, UT, PRD 106 (2022) 9, 094040]



- All models describe the data
- Overshoot by the cross-section-based model?

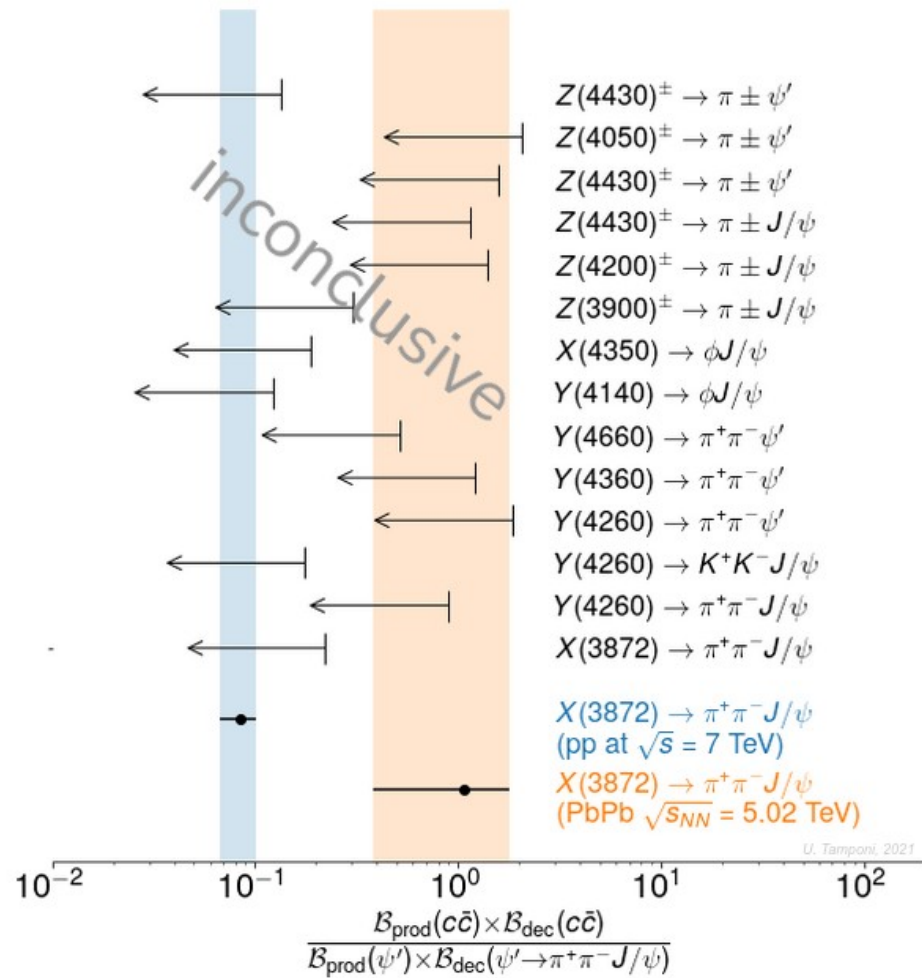
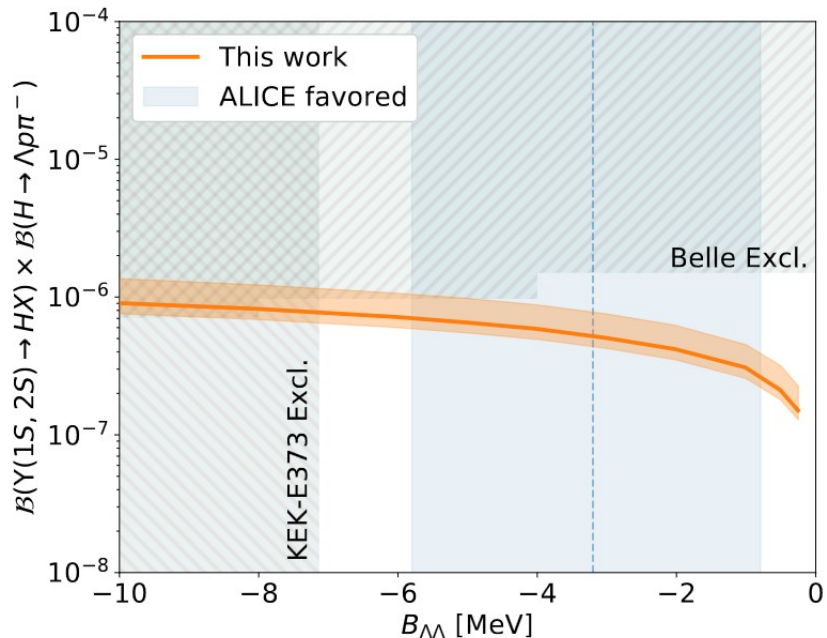


Existing measurements: $Y(1S) \rightarrow \text{exotica}$

Heavy Exotica

- Searched in $Y(1S)$
- None observed, not even $X(3872)$

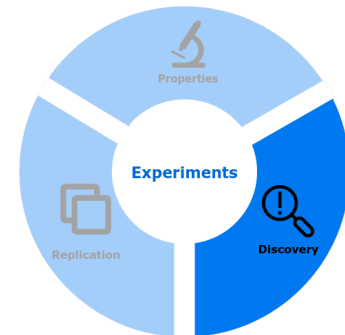
[Marietti, Pilloni, UT, PRD 106 (2022) 9, 094040]



Exploit bottomonium

Patterns seen with charm should repeat with b-quark

- Smaller relativistic corrections
- Stronger selection rules (Heavy quark spin symmetry...)
- Only 2 (3?) exotica known there!



Experimentally challenging

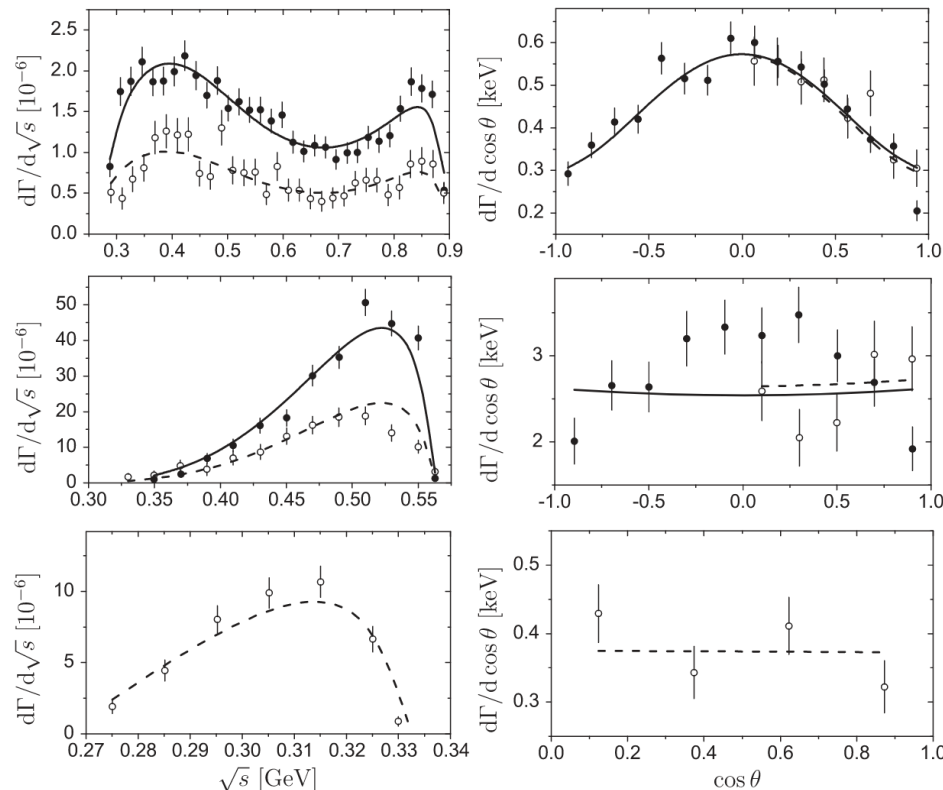
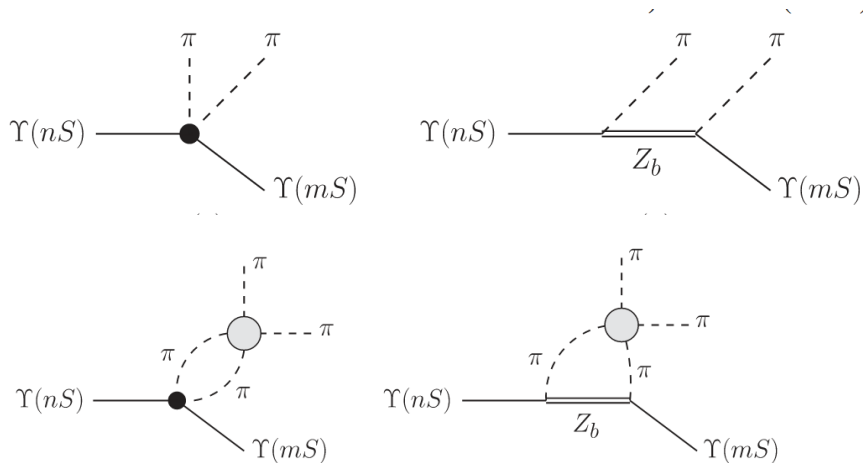
- Only prompt production at LHC
 - but $\sigma_{\text{prompt}}[pp \rightarrow Y(1S)] \sim 0.0003 \times \sigma_{\text{prompt}}[pp \rightarrow J/\psi]$
- Can produce $Y(nS) 1^-$ states at e^+e^-
 - Strongly depend on the the BF for the $Y(nS)$ to your state
 - E_{cm} @ Belle II limited to ~ 11 GeV (threshold for $T_{bb} \sim 19\text{-}20$ GeV)

Hidden exotica

Exotic stats contribute to the transitions from narrow quarkonia?

→ new (?) approach to heavy spectroscopy

Y.H. Chen et al, PRD93 (2016) 034030



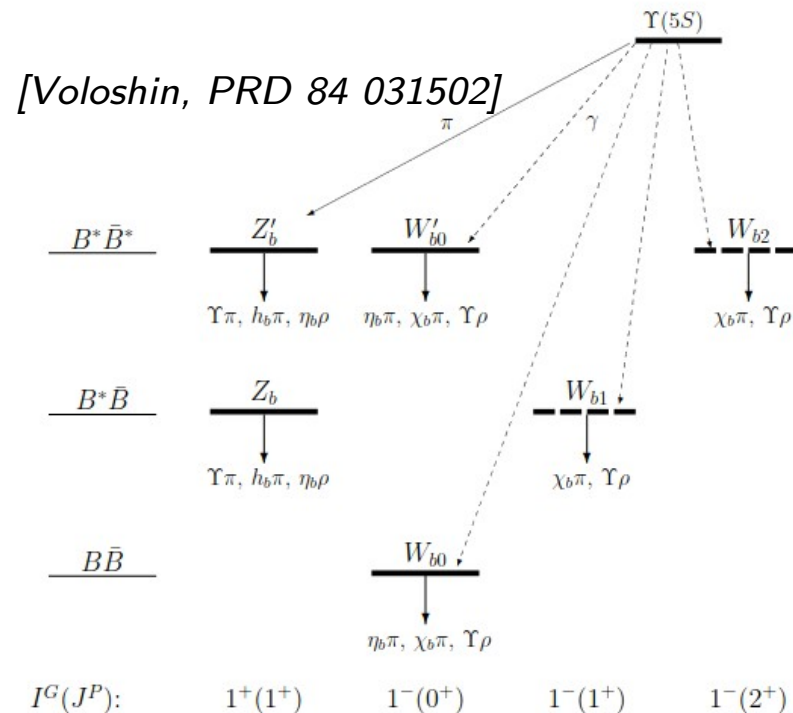
Bottomonium exotica

Exotic search with $E_{cm} < 12$ GeV are challenging

→ rely on rare, soft EM transitions

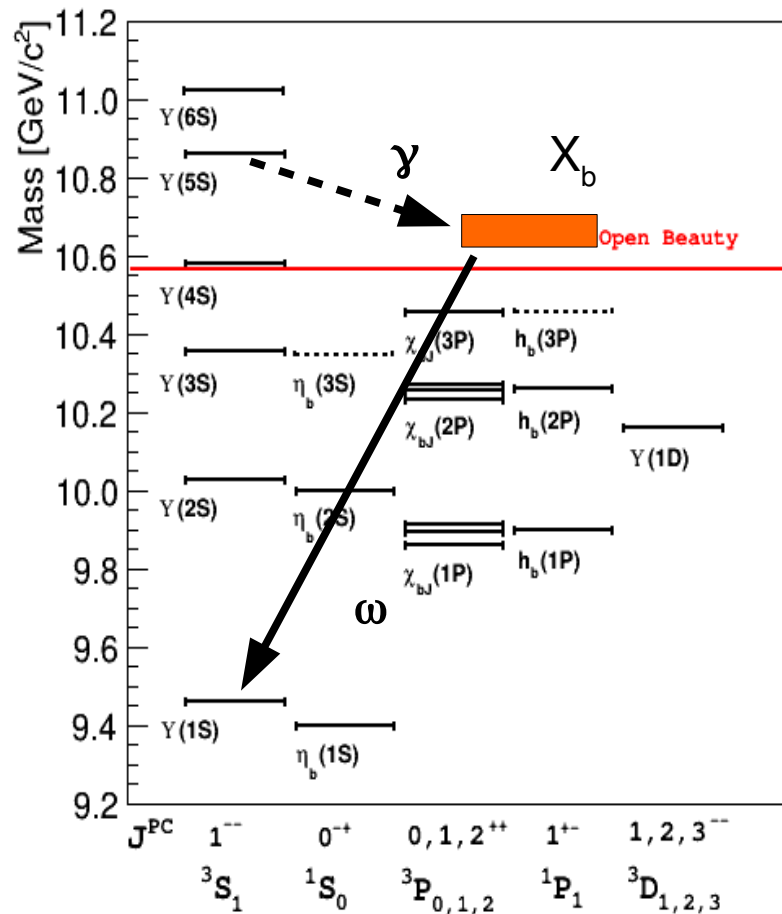
[Ali et. Al., Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 97 (2017) 123-198]

Label	J^{PC}	charmonium-like		bottomonium-like	
		State	Mass [MeV]	State	Mass [MeV]
X_0	0^{++}	—	3756	—	10562
X'_0	0^{++}	—	4024	—	10652
X_1	1^{++}	$X(3872)$	3890	—	10607
Z	1^{+-}	$Z_c^+(3900)$	3890	$Z_b^{+,0}(10610)$	10607
Z'	1^{+-}	$Z_c^+(4020)$	4024	$Z_b^+(10650)$	10652
X_2	2^{++}	—	4024	—	10652
Y_1	1^{--}	$Y(4008)$	4024	$Y_b(10890)$	10891
Y_2	1^{--}	$Y(4260)$	4263	$\Upsilon(11020)$	10987
Y_3	1^{--}	$Y(4290)$ (or $Y(4220)$)	4292	—	10981
Y_4	1^{--}	$Y(4630)$	4607	—	11135
Y_5	1^{--}	—	6472	—	13036



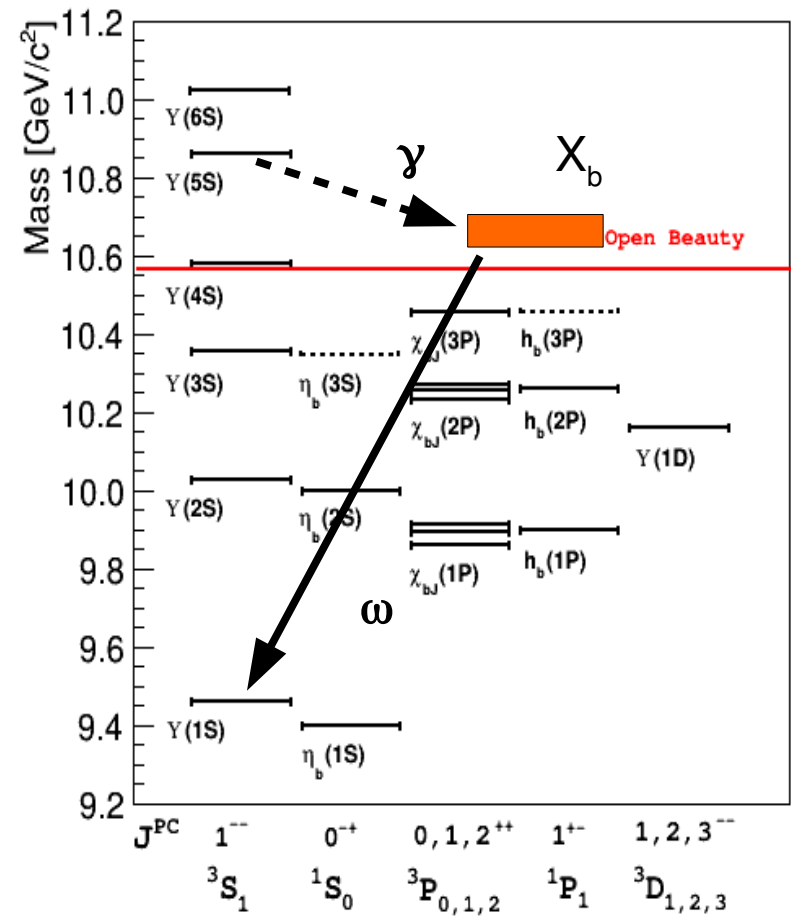
Another production-like problem

Both tetraquark and pure molecule predict a counterpart (X_b)

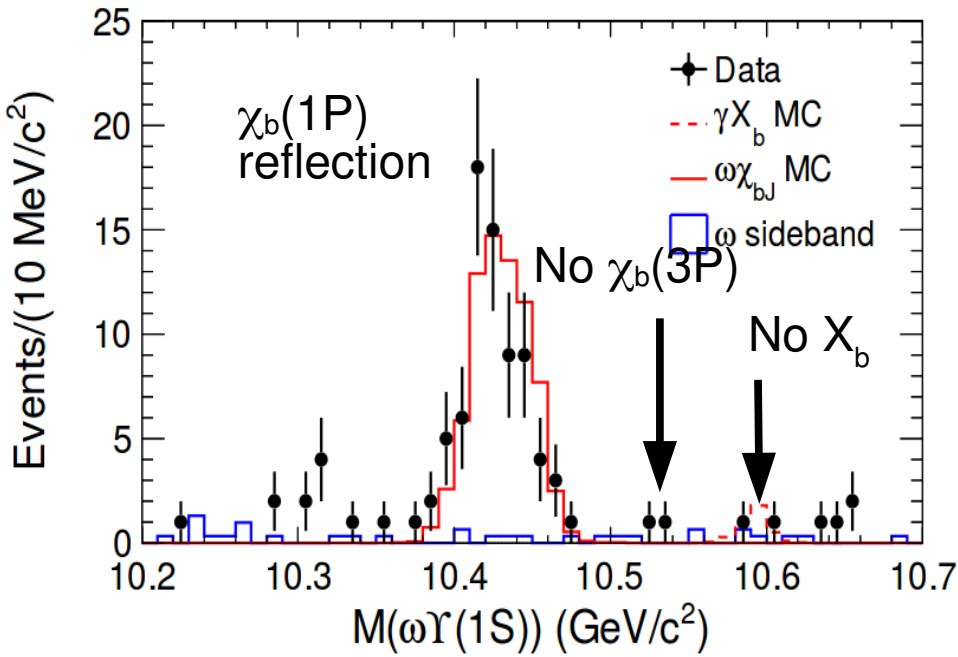


Another production-like problem

Both tetraquark and pure molecule predict a counterpart (X_b)



Without predictions on the Production Bfs we can't Interpret upper limits



Understanding heavy quarkonia is like mapping a forest we have to cross

- You need to explore all paths and look at the bigger picture
- Sometimes it's a good path, sometimes it's a Holzwege.

You'll still get some understanding of the forest out of it!



Understanding heavy quarkonia is like mapping a forest we have to cross

- You need to explore all paths and look at the bigger picture
- Sometimes it's a good path, sometimes it's a Holzwege.
You'll still get some understanding of the forest out of it!

New discoveries are not everything!

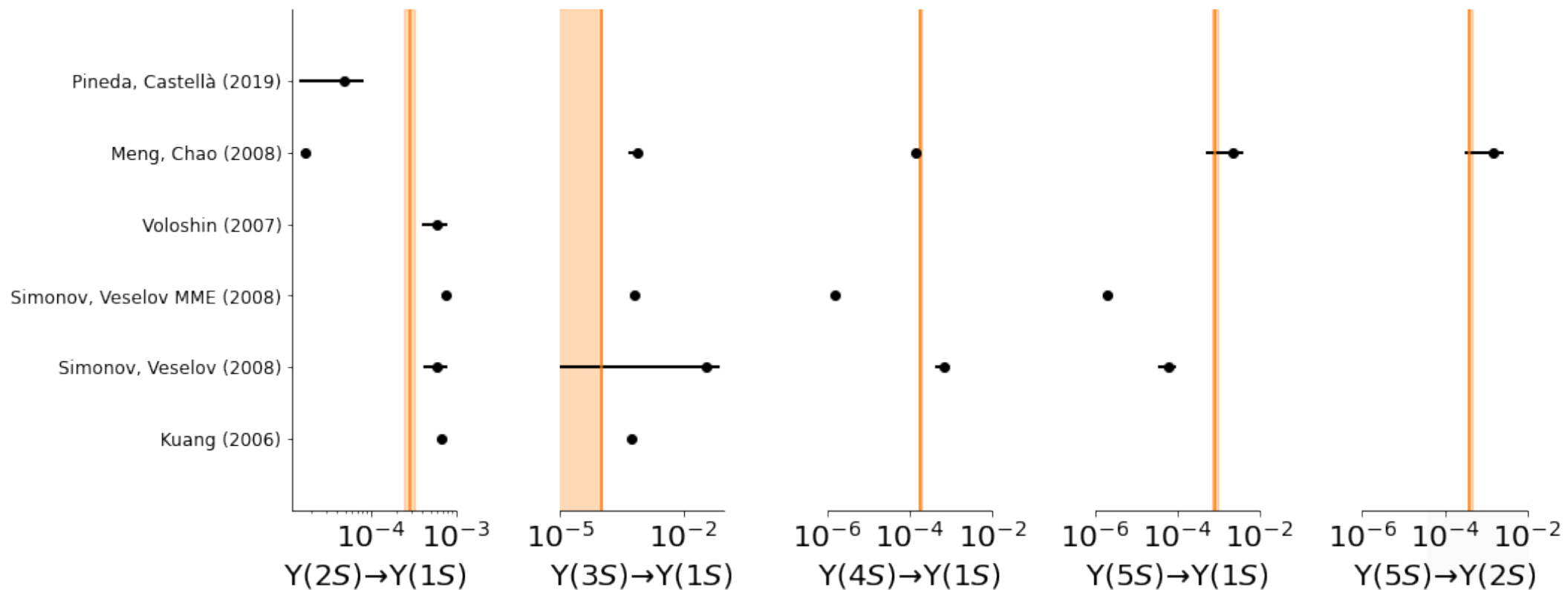
- Search for exotica in multiple production mechanisms
- Systematic study of production in high-multiplicity environments
- Prompt production in bottomonium decays
- Look for exotica hidden in the transitions (for bottomonium!)
- Measure J^{PC} of all states!

Thank you

Theory troubles: η transitions updated

No solid prediction on simple transitions like single η

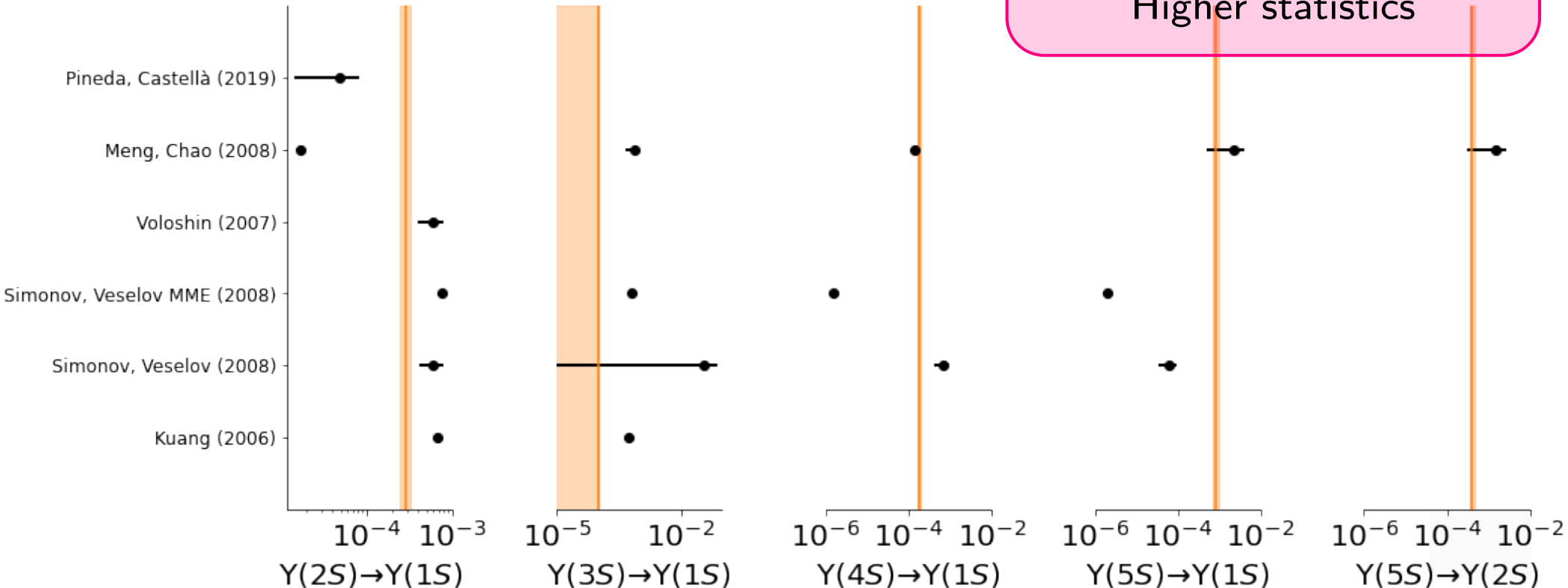
→ Exotic contributions?



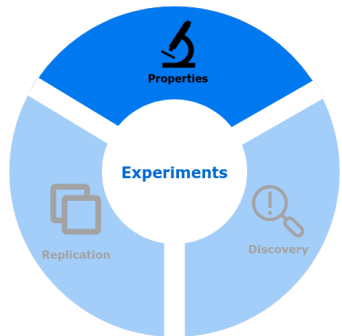
Theory troubles: η transitions updated

No solid prediction on simple transitions like single η
 → Exotic contributions?

Tasks
 Theoretical modeling
 Higher statistics



Mapping properties: absolute BFs



$Z_c(3900)$ Decay Modes

When we observe a new state S we access

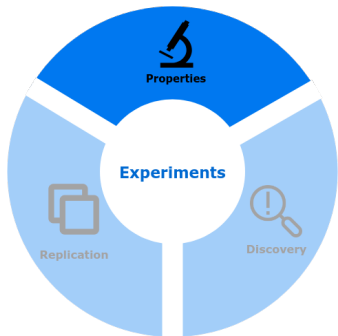
$$\text{Rate} = \sigma_{\text{production}}(S) \times \text{BF}(S \rightarrow \text{final state})$$

Poorly (or not) constrained
by theory

Some (pre, post)dictions
usually available

	Mode	Fraction (Γ_i / Γ)
Γ_1	$J/\psi\pi$	seen
Γ_2	$h_c\pi^\pm$	not seen
Γ_3	$\eta_c\pi^+\pi^-$	not seen
Γ_4	$\eta_c(1S)\rho(770)^\pm$	
Γ_5	$(D\bar{D})^{+-}$	seen
Γ_6	$D^0D^{*-} + \text{c.c.}$	seen
Γ_7	$D^-D^{*0} + \text{c.c.}$	seen
Γ_8	$\omega\pi^\pm$	not seen
Γ_9	$J/\psi\eta$	not seen
Γ_{10}	$D^+D^{*-} + \text{c.c.}$	seen
Γ_{11}	$D^0\bar{D}^{*0} + \text{c.c.}$	seen

Mapping properties: absolute BFs

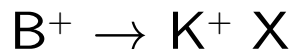
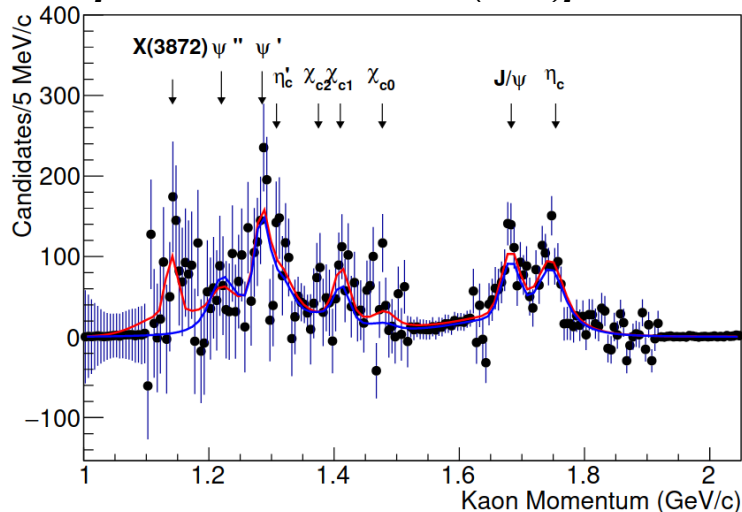


When we observe a new state S we access

$$\text{Rate} = \sigma_{\text{production}}(S) \times \text{BF}(S \rightarrow \text{final state})$$

Workaround: measure inclusive production BF from B mesons

[BaBar, PRL 124, 152001 (2020)]



- X not reconstructed. Use K^+ recoil
- Measure production BF

Next generation b-factories: use this method as much as possible

Fully-heavy states: $X(3900)$

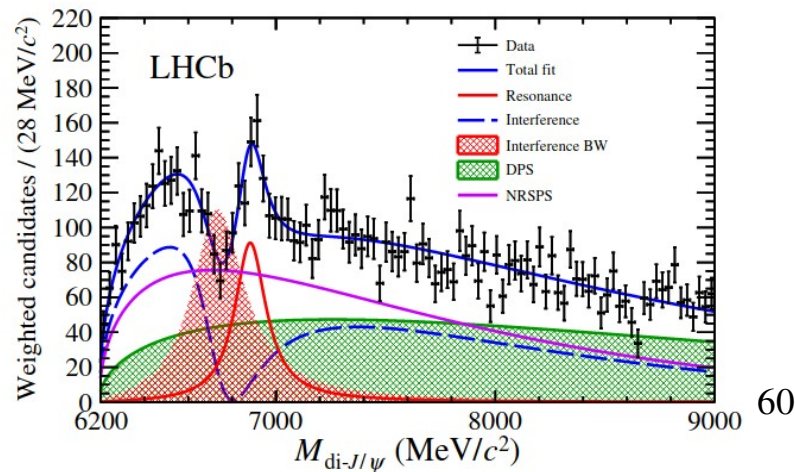
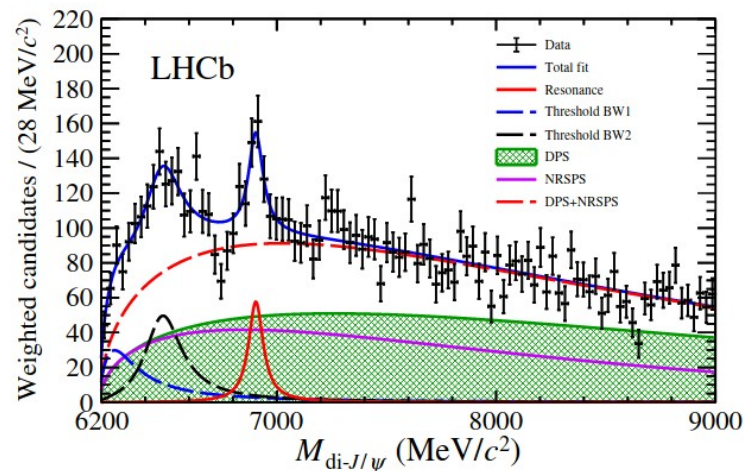
$$pp \rightarrow J/\psi \ J/\psi + X$$

[Sci. Bull. 65 1983 (2020)]

Two structures in $M(J/\psi \ J/\psi)$

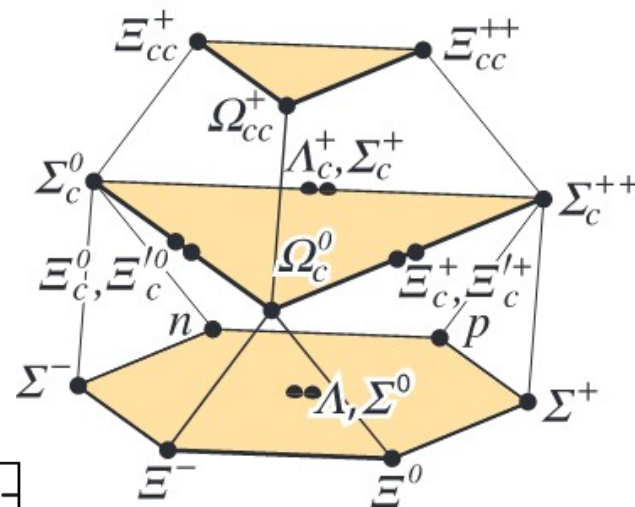
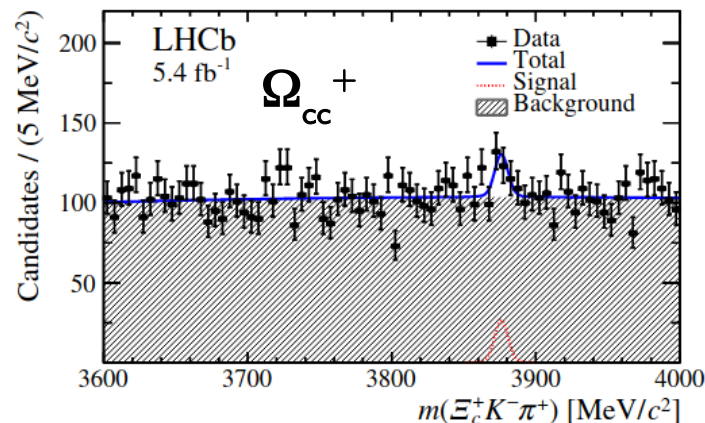
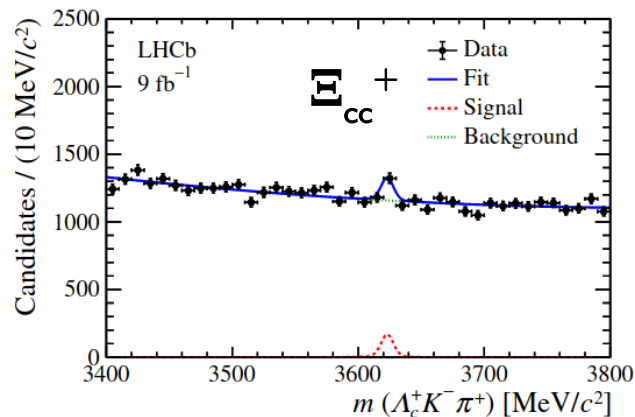
- Narrow $X(6900)$
- Broad enhancement @ threshold

70+ theoretical interpretations



2021: First hints of Ω_{cc}^+ and Ξ_{cc}^+

[arXiv:2109.07292]



More on
this later

Going further: femtoscopy at e^+e^- colliders

[Fabbietti, Mantivani Sarti, Doce,
Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. (2021) 71:377-402]

Pairs from the
same event

$$C(k^*) = \int S(\mathbf{r}^*) |\psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*)|^2 d^3r = \xi(k^*) \cdot \frac{N_{\text{SE}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{ME}}(k^*)}$$

Source distribution

Experimental
corrections

Two-particle wave function

\mathbf{k}^* = relative momentum

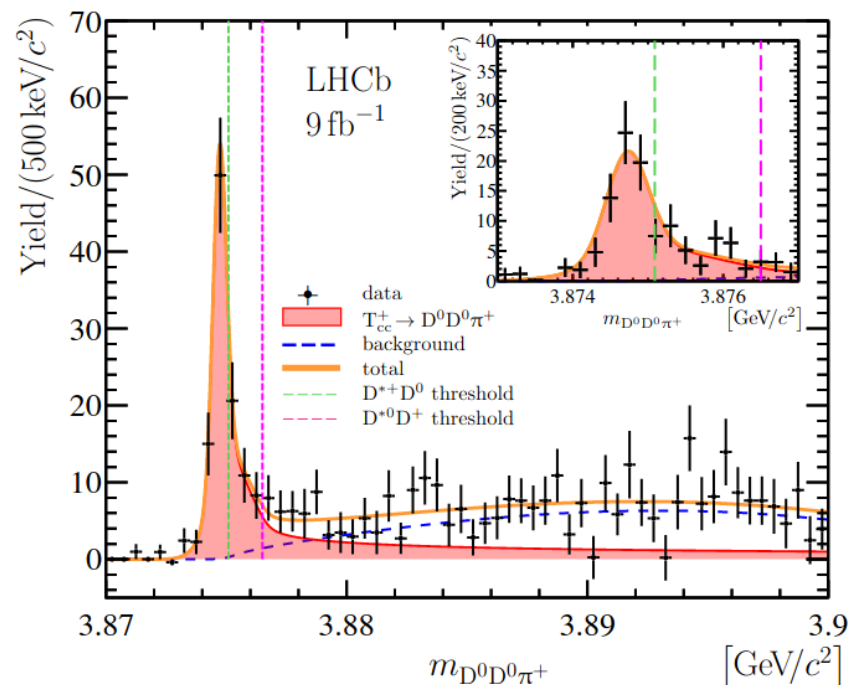
\mathbf{r}^* = relative distance

Pairs from
different events

The T_{cc}

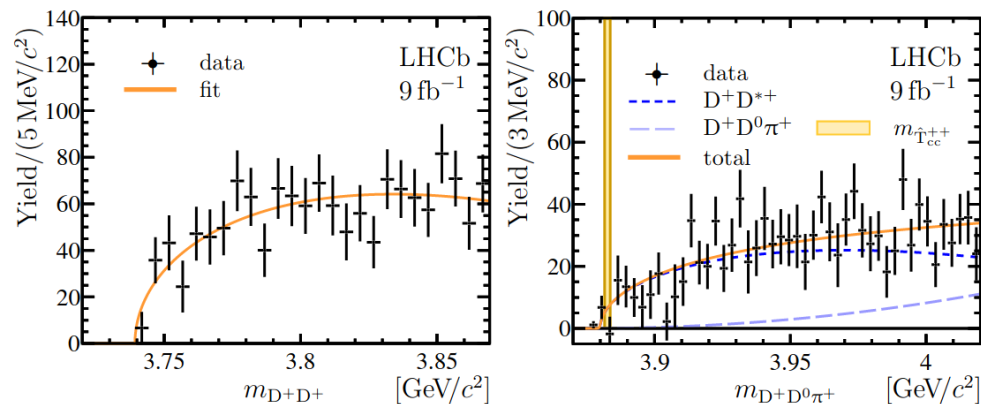
Prompt production of something decaying into $(DD^*)^+$

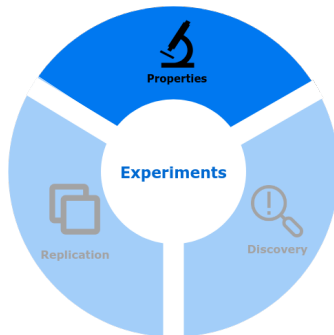
[arXiv:2109:01038 and arXiv:2109:01056]



$J^P = 1^+$ (probably)

Nothing in the D^+D^+ channel



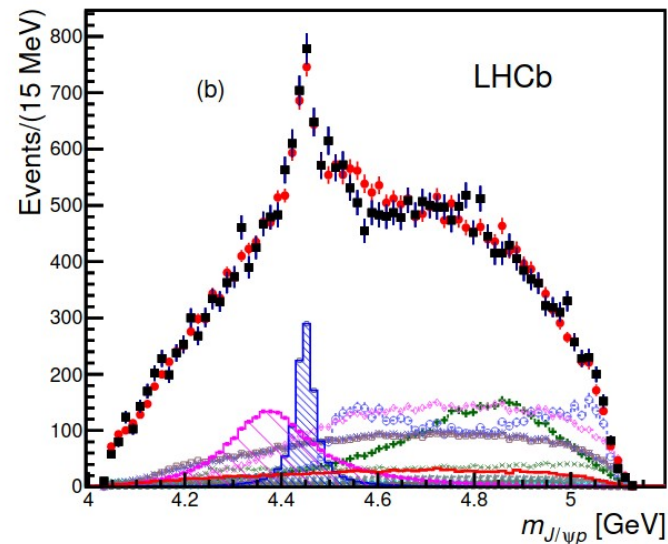


J^PC analysis: the pentaquark example

Amplitude analysis is challenging with narrow states

- Cannot neglect the resolution
- Fit computationally very demanding

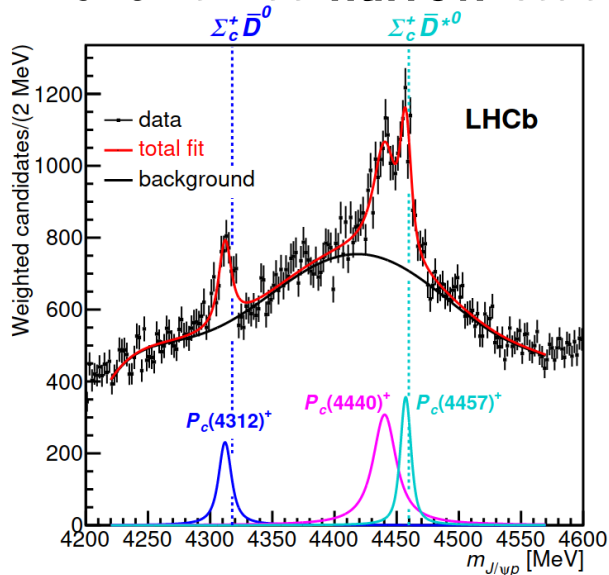
2015: two **broad** states



Assume $\Gamma \gg \text{resolution}$

- full fit in the first paper

2019: three **narrow** states



$\Gamma \sim \text{resolution}$

- full fit still ongoing

Same issues in Belle II!
Common shared tools?

Predictions on the H dibaryon

[Marietti, Pilloni, UT, PRD 106 (2022) 9, 094040]

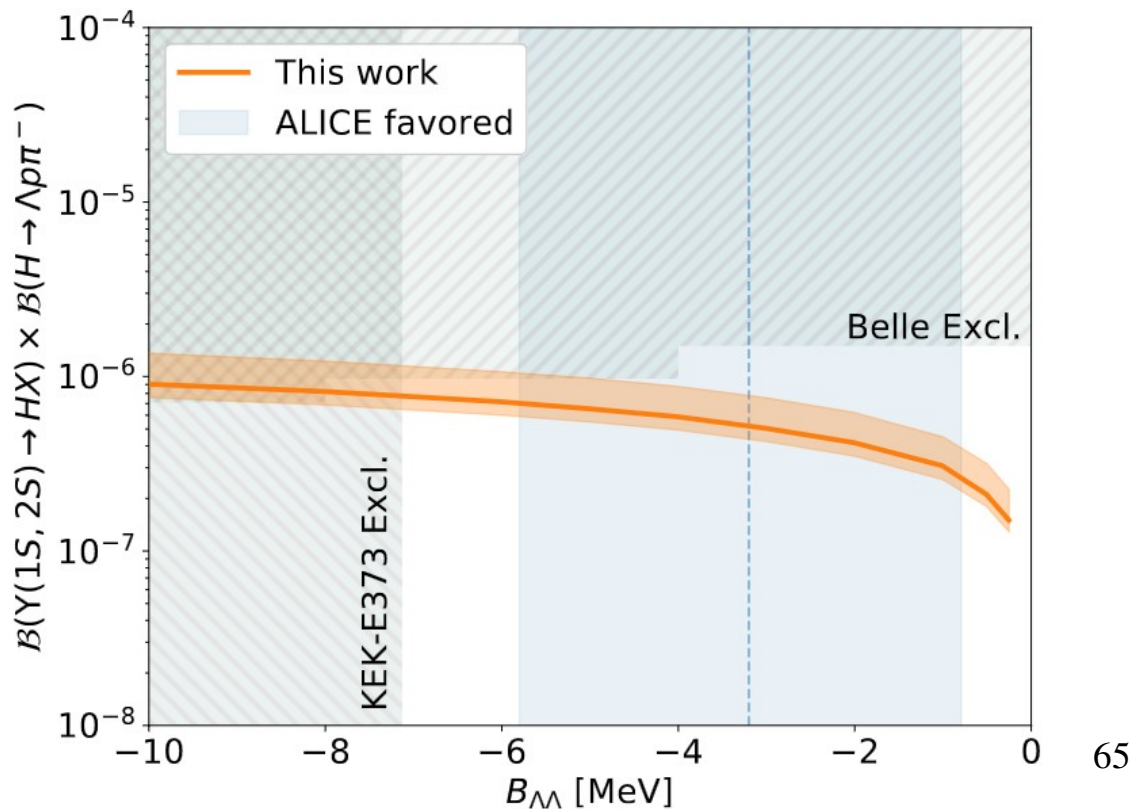
$$(2k_{cut})^3 = \frac{36}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sigma^{-2} \sqrt{m_p B_d}$$

Gustafson and Hakkinen 1994
(Z.Phys.C 61 (1994) 683-688)

- Fit σ from deuteron data
- Calculate k for any other molecule

Attempt with loosely-bound
 H dibaryon

($\Lambda\Lambda$ spectrum from tuned MC)

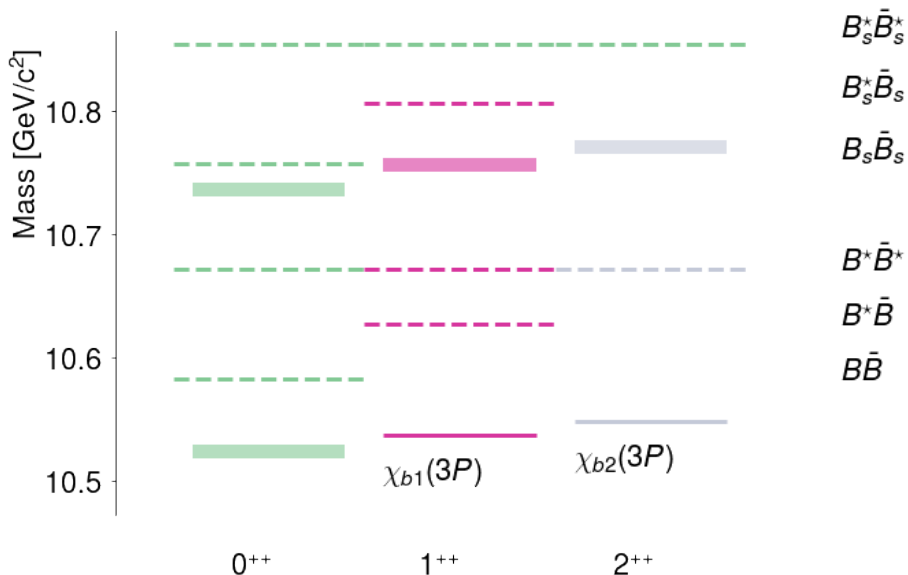
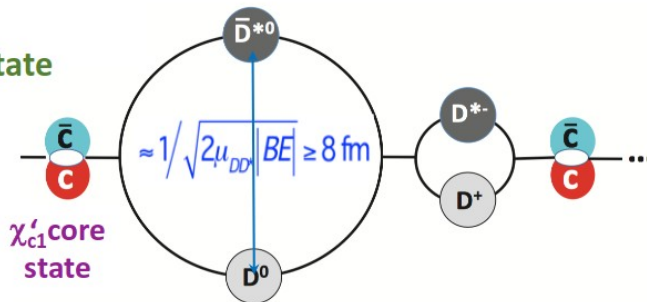


Why no X_b ?

The $X(3872)$ may generated by a peculiar coincidence

$D\bar{D}^* \oplus \chi_{c1}'$ coupled channel state

Specific model by
Takizawa & Takeuchi, PTEP 9, 093D01



No χ_b is near the $B\bar{B}^*$ threshold, no X_b

Statistics in bottomonium is still too limited. **Need to set a stronger UL to rule out the X_b tetraquark hypothesis**