

Lepton flavour change in nuclei  
ECT\* Workshop  
April 14-17 2025

# Higgs-mediated lepton flavor violation

Vincenzo Cirigliano

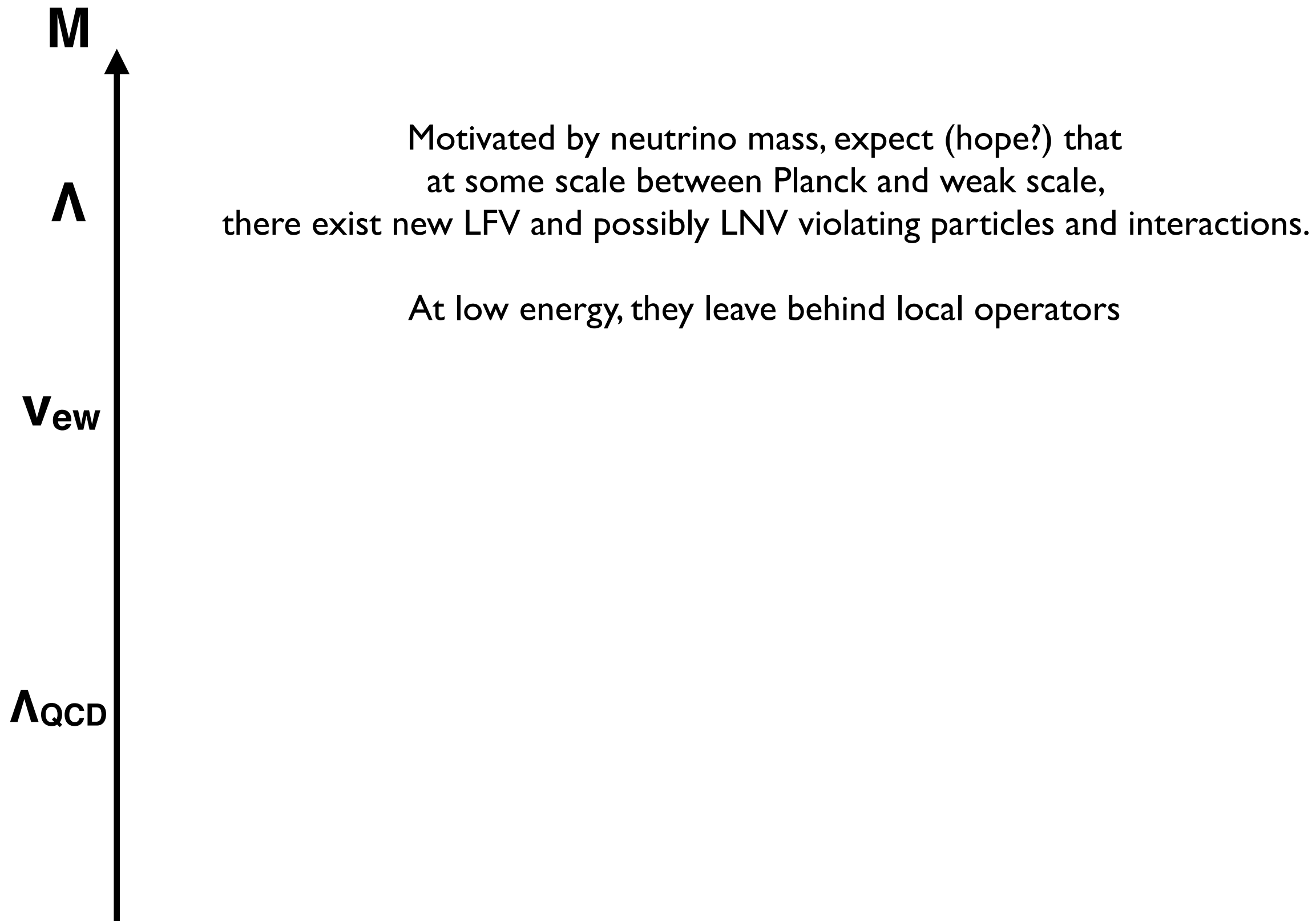


# Outline

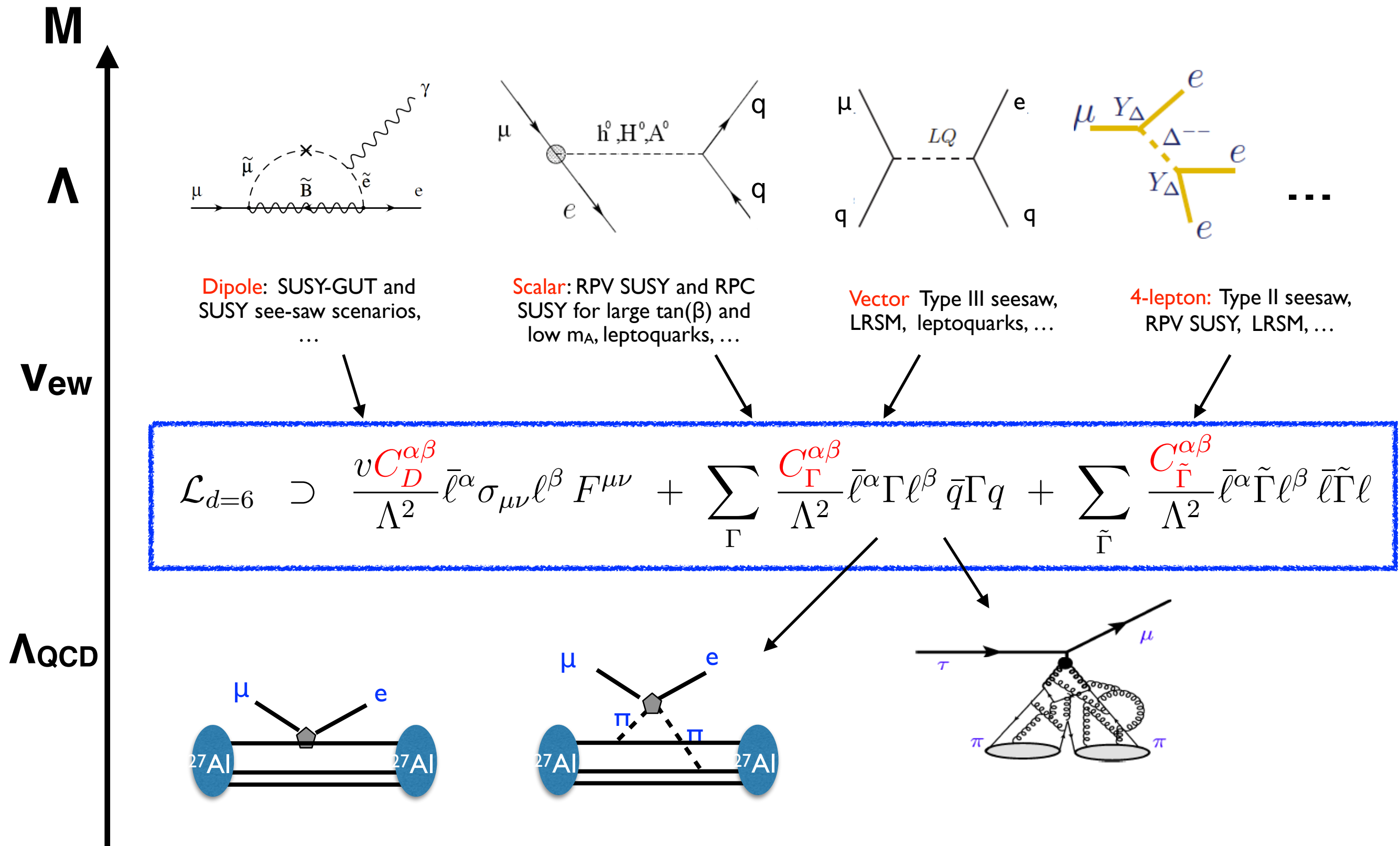
- Introduction: LFV and new physics
- Use Higgs-mediated LFV to illustrate:
  - Interplay of UV and nuclear physics in  $\mu$ -to-e conversion
  - Model-diagnosing power of multiple probes

Vast literature — apologies in advance for incomplete referencing

# Connecting scales with EFT: LFV



# Connecting scales with EFT: LFV





# CLFV phenomenology

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LFV}} \supset \frac{v C_D^{\alpha\beta}}{\Lambda^2} \bar{\ell}^\alpha \sigma_{\mu\nu} \ell^\beta + \sum_{\tilde{\Gamma}} \frac{C_{\tilde{\Gamma}}^{\alpha\beta}}{\Lambda^2} \bar{\ell}^\alpha \tilde{\Gamma} \ell^\beta \bar{\ell} \tilde{\Gamma} \ell + \sum_{\Gamma} \frac{C_{\Gamma}^{\alpha\beta}}{\Lambda^2} \bar{\ell}^\alpha \Gamma \ell^\beta \bar{q} \Gamma q + \frac{1}{F_{\alpha\beta}^{\Gamma}} \partial_\mu a \bar{\ell}^\alpha \Gamma^\mu \ell^\beta$$

Each model generates a specific pattern of operators

→ multiple CLFV measurements needed to extract the **underlying physics**

- New physics **mass scale** through **any process**

$$\text{BR}_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta} \sim (v_{\text{ew}}/\Lambda)^4 * |(C_n)^{\alpha\beta}|^2$$

μ-e sector:	$\Lambda/\sqrt{C} \sim 10^{4-5} \text{ TeV}$	(Muon decays)
τ-μ(e) sector:	$\Lambda/\sqrt{C} \sim 10^2 \text{ TeV}$	(Tau decays)

# CLFV phenomenology

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- New physics **mass scale** through **any process**
- Relative strength of operators ( $[C_D]^{e\mu}$  vs  $[C_S]^{e\mu} \dots$ ) through  $\mu \rightarrow 3e$  vs  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  vs  $\mu \rightarrow e$  conversion (and similarly for  $\tau \rightarrow \mu, e$ )  $\Rightarrow$  **Mediators, mechanism**
- Flavor structure of couplings ( $[C_D]^{e\mu}$  vs  $[C_D]^{\tau\mu} \dots$ ) through  $\mu \rightarrow e$  vs  $\tau \rightarrow \mu$  vs  $\tau \rightarrow e$   $\Rightarrow$  **Sources of flavor breaking**

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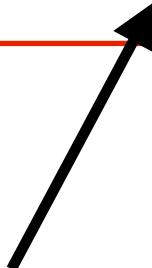
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# An example: Higgs-mediated LFV

- Simplest framework: **LFV Yukawa couplings** of the Higgs

$$\Delta\mathcal{L}_Y = -\frac{\lambda_{ij}}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{L}_L^i e_R^j H) H^\dagger H \rightarrow -Y_{ij} \bar{e}_L^i e_R^j h$$


Goudelis-Lebedev-Park '11  
Davidson-Grenier '10

...  
Harnik-Kopp-Zupan '12  
Blankenburg-Ellis-Isidori '12  
McKeen-Pospelov-Ritz '12

...

- Achieved in the SM-EFT through a single dim-6 operator that decouples lepton mass matrix from  $O(h)$  couplings
- Good starting point if new physics is heavy, arises in many UV models

# LFV Higgs couplings

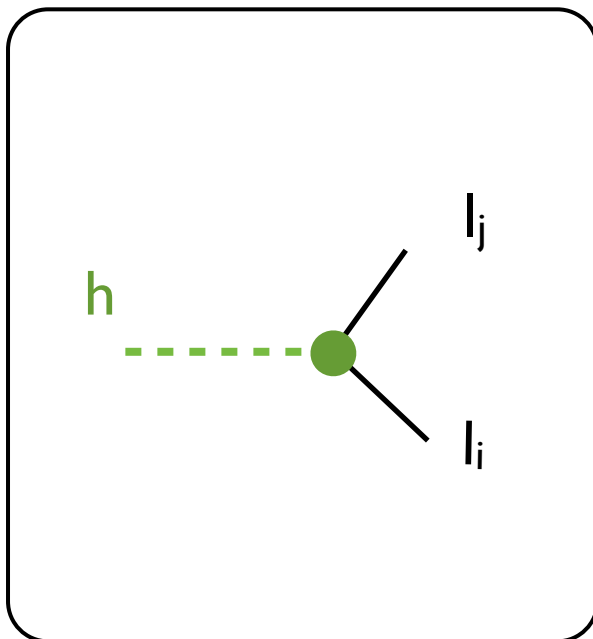
$$\mathcal{L} = -Y_{e\mu}\bar{e}P_R\mu h - Y_{\mu e}\bar{\mu}P_R e h + \text{h.c.}$$

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High Energy:  
LFV Higgs decays



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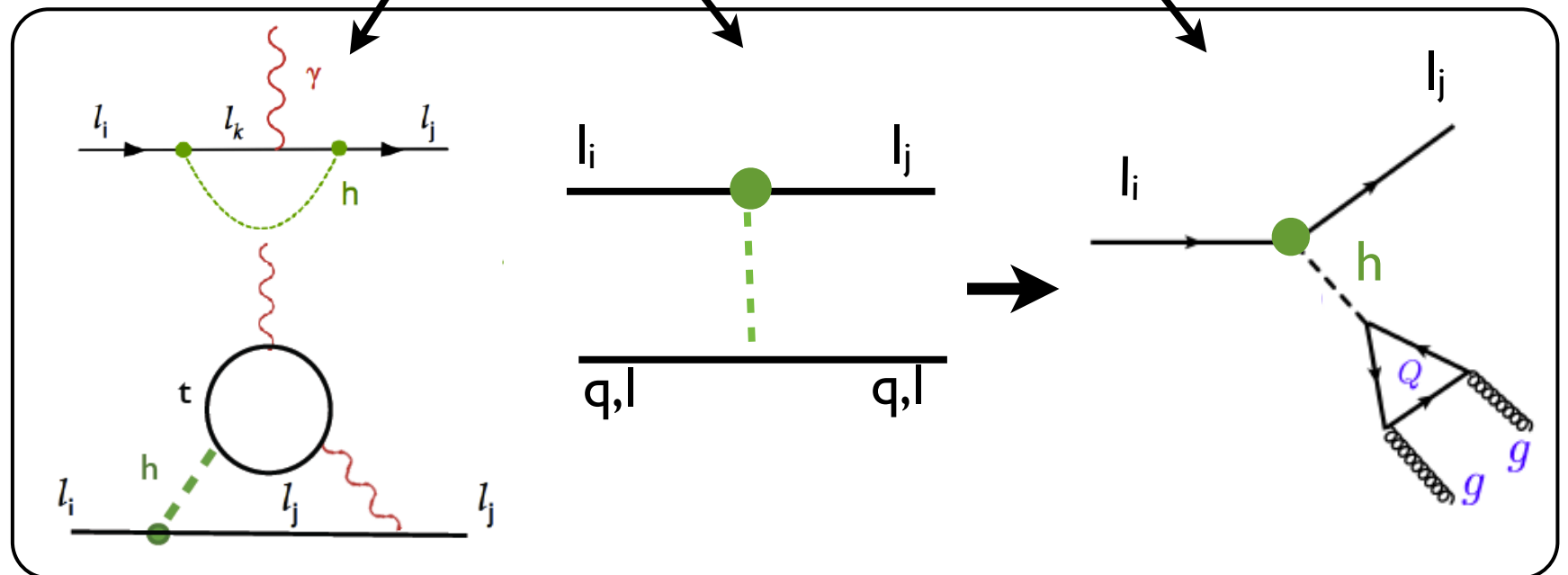
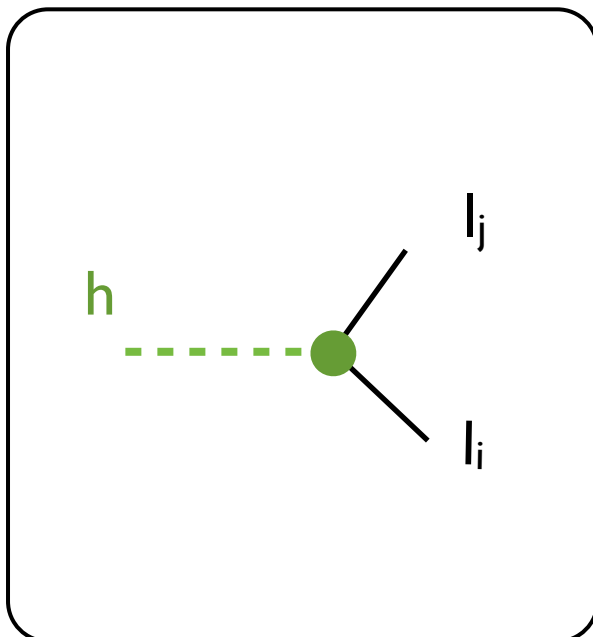
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High Energy:  
LFV Higgs decays

Low Energy footprints:

Dipole (D), Scalar 4-fermion (S), Gluon (G) operators



$\mu \rightarrow e\gamma, \mu \rightarrow e, \mu \rightarrow 3e$

$\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma, \tau \rightarrow \mu\pi\pi, \tau \rightarrow 3\mu$

$\mu \rightarrow e, \mu \rightarrow 3e$

$\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi\pi, \tau \rightarrow 3\mu$

$\mu \rightarrow e$

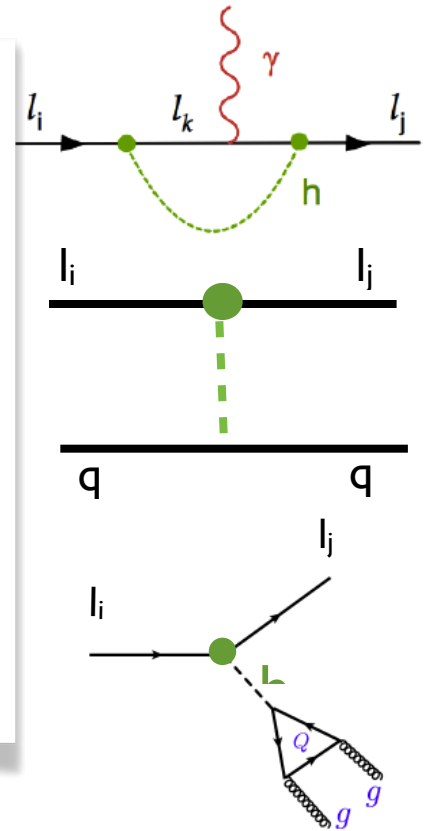
$\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi\pi$

Dependence on light fermion  
Yukawa couplings  $Y_{u,d,s,\mu}$

# Effective Lagrangian at low E

VC, [Kaori Fuyuto](#), [Michael Ramsey-Musolf](#), [Evan Rule](#) 2203.09547

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = & -\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \sum_{\alpha=L,R} \left[ C_{D\alpha} m_\mu \bar{e} \sigma^{\lambda\nu} P_\alpha \mu F_{\lambda\nu} \right. \\ & + \sum_{q=u,d,s} C_{S\alpha}^{(q)} G_F m_\mu m_q \bar{q} q \bar{e} P_\alpha \mu \\ & \left. + C_{G\alpha} G_F m_\mu \alpha_s G_{\lambda\nu}^a G^{a\lambda\nu} \bar{e} P_\alpha \mu + \text{h.c.} \right] \end{aligned}$$



- Matching conditions for minimal Higgs-mediated LFV: scalar and gluon  $\longrightarrow$
- For  $C_D$ , see refs. in previous slide

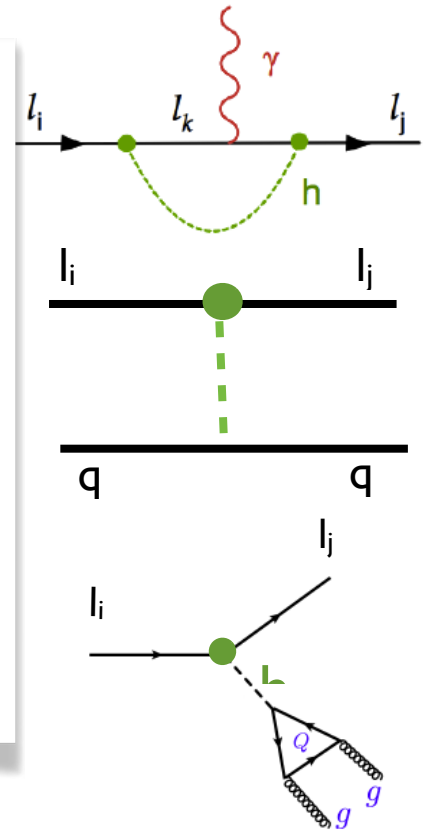
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} G_F m_\mu v C_{SR}^{(q)} &= -\frac{1}{m_h^2} Y_{e\mu}, \\ \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} G_F m_\mu v C_{SL}^{(q)} &= -\frac{1}{m_h^2} Y_{\mu e}, \end{aligned}$$

$$C_{G\alpha} = -1/(12\pi) \sum_{Q=c,b,t} C_{S\alpha}^{(Q)}$$

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# Matching to ChPT / ChEFT (I)

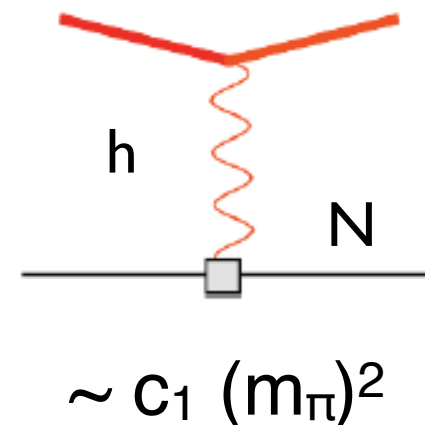
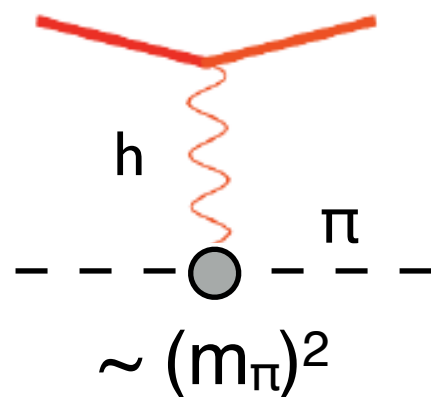
- Chiral power counting for the **scalar density** (expand in  $p/\Lambda_\chi$ ) with  $\Lambda_\chi \sim \text{GeV}$

$$p \sim p_N, m_\pi, q_{\text{ext}} (\sim m_\mu)$$

- Leading couplings controlled by

$$\frac{f_\pi^2}{4} \text{Tr} [U^\dagger \chi + U \chi^\dagger] + c_1 \text{Tr}(\chi_+) \bar{N} N$$

$$\chi = 2Bm_q \left( 1 + \frac{h}{\sqrt{2}v} \right) \quad \chi_\pm = u^\dagger \chi u^\dagger \pm u \chi^\dagger u$$



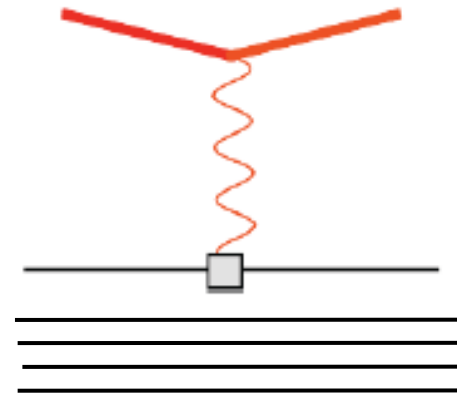
$$c_1 \sim 1/\Lambda_\chi$$

# Matching to ChPT / ChEFT (I)

- Chiral power counting for the **scalar density** (expand in  $p/\Lambda_\chi$ ) with  $\Lambda_\chi \sim \text{GeV}$

- Leading order

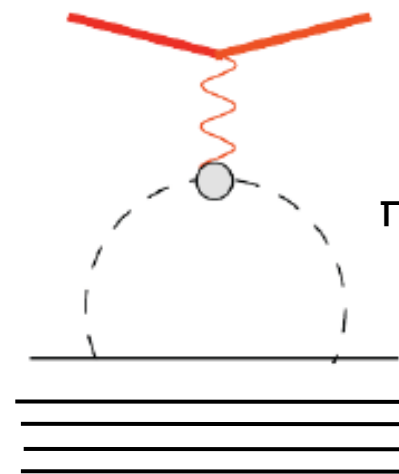
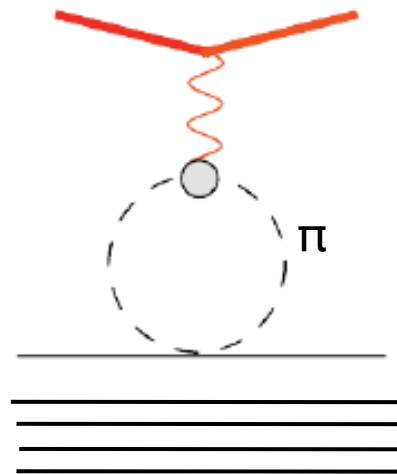
$$\sim (m_\pi)^2/\Lambda_\chi$$



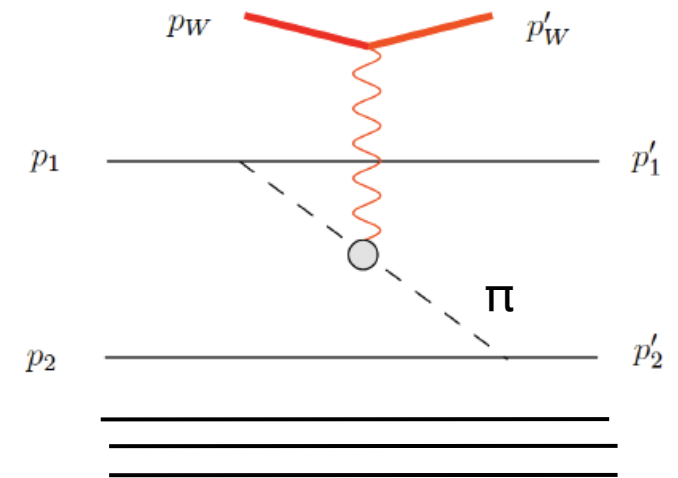
Nucleon  
“Sigma term”

- NLO

$$\sim (m_\pi)^2/\Lambda_\chi \times (p/\Lambda_\chi)$$



Scalar form factor of  
the nucleon



Two-nucleon operator  
(see Bira van Kolck's talk)

# Matching to ChPT / ChEFT (2)

Crivellin-Hoferichter-Procura 1404.7134

Korber-Nogga-deVries 1704.01150

- One-nucleon scalar operators

u, d

$$\langle N(\mathbf{k}') | C_{S\alpha}^{(u)} m_u \bar{u}u + C_{S\alpha}^{(d)} m_d \bar{d}d | N(\mathbf{k}) \rangle \rightarrow \bar{N}' J_{ud,\alpha}^{(1)}(\mathbf{q}) N$$

$$J_{ud,\alpha}^{(1)}(\mathbf{q}) = \left[ \sigma_{\pi N} - \frac{3m_\pi^3 g_A^2}{64\pi f_\pi^2} F(\mathbf{q}^2/m_\pi^2) \right] C_{S\alpha}^{(0)} - \frac{\delta m_N}{4} \tau_3 C_{S\alpha}^{(1)}$$

s

$$\langle N(\mathbf{k}') | C_{S\alpha}^{(s)} m_s \bar{s}s | N(\mathbf{k}) \rangle \rightarrow \bar{N}' J_{s,\alpha}^{(1)}(\mathbf{q}) N \quad J_{s,\alpha}^{(1)}(\mathbf{q}) = (\sigma_s - \dot{\sigma}_s \mathbf{q}^2) C_{S\alpha}^{(s)}$$

## Hadronic input

$$\sigma_{\pi N} = \frac{1}{2} \langle N | (m_u + m_d)(\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d) | N \rangle$$

$$\sigma_s = \langle N | m_s \bar{s}s | N \rangle$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{m_d - m_u}{m_d + m_u}$$

$$\delta m_N = (m_n - m_p)_{\text{strong}} .$$

## Isoscalar / isovector combinations of Wilson Coefficients

$$C_{S\alpha}^{(0)} = \frac{C_{S\alpha}^{(u)}(1 - \epsilon) + C_{S\alpha}^{(d)}(1 + \epsilon)}{2}$$

$$C_{S\alpha}^{(1)} = C_{S\alpha}^{(u)} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right) + C_{S\alpha}^{(d)} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right)$$

# Matching to ChPT / ChEFT (2)

- One-nucleon scalar operators

Crivellin-Hoferichter-Procura 1404.7134

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$$\delta m_N = (m_n - m_p)_{\text{strong}} .$$

From lattice QCD & dispersion relations:

$$\sigma_{\pi N} = 59.1(3.5) \text{ MeV} \quad (\text{D})$$

$$\sigma_s = 41(9) \text{ MeV} \quad (\text{L})$$

$$\dot{\sigma}_s = 0.3(2) \text{ GeV}^{-1} \quad (\text{D})$$

$$\epsilon = 0.365(23) \quad (\text{L})$$

$$\delta m_N = 2.32(17) \text{ MeV} \quad (\text{L})$$

# Matching to ChPT / ChEFT (3)

VC-Graesser-Ovanesyan 1205.2695

Korber-Nogga-deVries 1704.01150

- Two-nucleon scalar operator

$$\langle N(\mathbf{k}'_1)N(\mathbf{k}'_2) | C_{S\alpha}^{(u)} m_u \bar{u}u + C_{S\alpha}^{(d)} m_d \bar{d}d | N(\mathbf{k}_1)N(\mathbf{k}_2) \rangle \rightarrow \bar{N}'_1 \bar{N}'_2 J_{ud,\alpha}^{(2)}(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) N_1 N_2$$

$$J_{ud,\alpha}^{(2)}(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) = -\frac{g_A^2 m_\pi^2}{4f_\pi^2} \frac{\sigma_1 \cdot \mathbf{q}_1 \sigma_2 \cdot \mathbf{q}_2}{(\mathbf{q}_1^2 + m_\pi^2)(\mathbf{q}_2^2 + m_\pi^2)} \tau_1 \cdot \tau_2 C_{S\alpha}^{(0)}$$

- Crude estimate: reduce to a single-nucleon operator by averaging over the second nucleon in a Fermi-gas model

For  $^{27}\text{Al}$

$$f_{\text{eff}}^{SI} = 0.43_{-0.22}^{+0.03}$$

$$\sigma_{\pi N} \rightarrow \sigma_{\pi N} - \frac{3g_A^2 m_\pi^2 k_F}{64\pi f_\pi^2} f_{\text{eff}}^{SI}$$

~10% negative shift

- Nuclear shell model implies smaller results ( $\sim 1/2$ ), but no way to estimate the uncertainty  $\rightarrow$  **need first-principles nuclear calculation**

# Conversion rate

$$B_{\mu \rightarrow e} = \left(\frac{v}{\Lambda}\right)^4 \frac{1}{\kappa_{\text{capt}}} \left( \left| \tau^{(+1)} \right|^2 + \left| \tau^{(-1)} \right|^2 \right)$$

Two electron angular momentum states

- Amplitude receives dipole and scalar / gluon contribution

$$\tau^{(-1)} = (C_{DL} + C_{DR}) \tau_D^{(-1)} + \tau_S^{(-1)}$$

- Dipole amplitude is controlled by nuclear charge distribution, which also determines muon and electron wave functions (key input is the proton density\*\*)

$$\tau_D^{(-1)} = \frac{1}{m_\mu^{3/2}} \int dr \, r^2 (-E(r)) \left( g_{-1}^{(e)} f_{-1}^{(\mu)} + f_{-1}^{(e)} g_{-1}^{(\mu)} \right)$$

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- Scalar amplitude:** Wilson coeff. ✕ hadronic input ✕ overlap integrals

$$\tau_S^{(-1)} = \frac{1}{2} G_F m_\mu^2 \sum_{N=p,n} \left[ (C_{NL}^\rho + C_{NR}^\rho) \tau_{\rho_N}^{(-1)} + (C_{NL}^f + C_{NR}^f) \tau_{f_N}^{(-1)} \right]$$

C<sub>NL</sub>, C<sub>NR</sub> : W.C. ✕ hadronic matrix elements

$\rho_N, f_N$  : nucleon densities and their derivatives

$$\tau_{\rho_N(f_N)}^{(-1)} = \frac{1}{m_\mu^{5/2}} \int dr \, r^2 \left( g_{-1}^{(e)} g_{-1}^{(\mu)} - f_{-1}^{(e)} f_{-1}^{(\mu)} \right) \rho_N(f_N);$$

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- Scalar amplitude: Wilson coeff. ✕ hadronic input ✕ overlap integrals
- **Size of NLO corrections** to amplitudes induced by light quarks:
  - Roughly -5% from momentum-dep. in the nucleon form factor
  - Roughly -10% from two-body operator



# Conversion rate

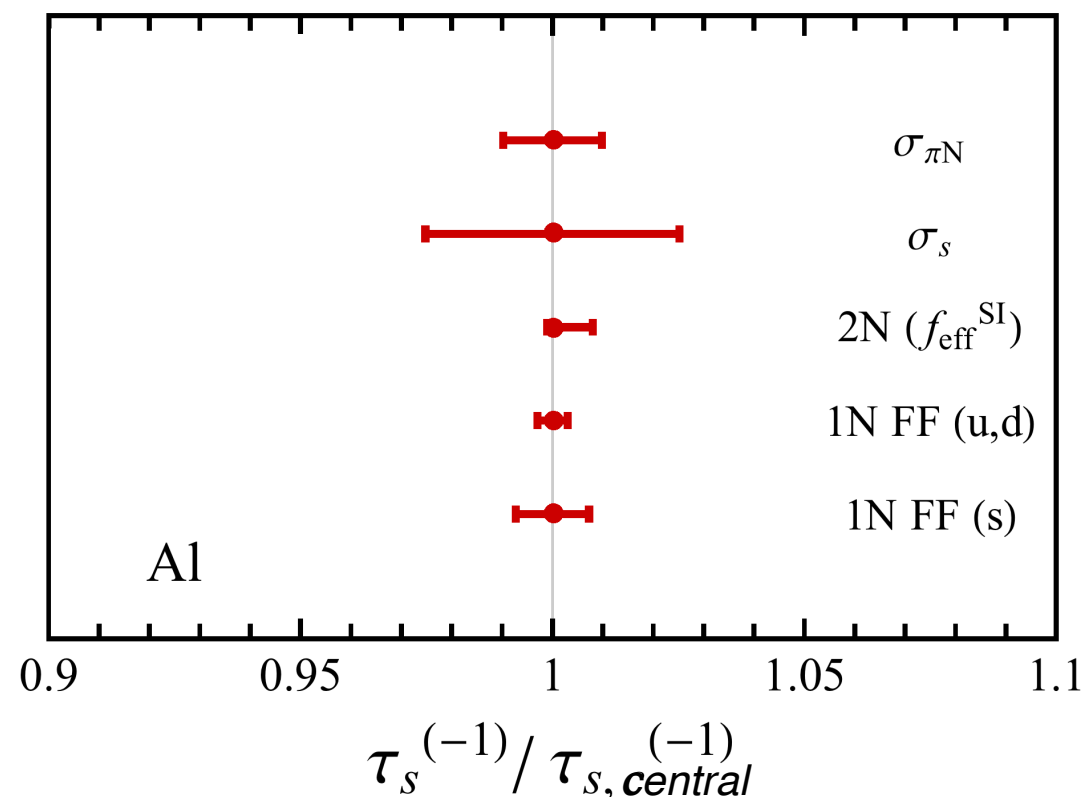
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## Uncertainty budget



- Largest hadronic uncertainty arises at LO (from sigma terms)
- LO uncertainty from neutron density not a big problem when info from pionic atoms is available (not for  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ )
- The quite uncertain NLO NN term does not have huge impact for this choice of short-distance physics

# Conversion rate

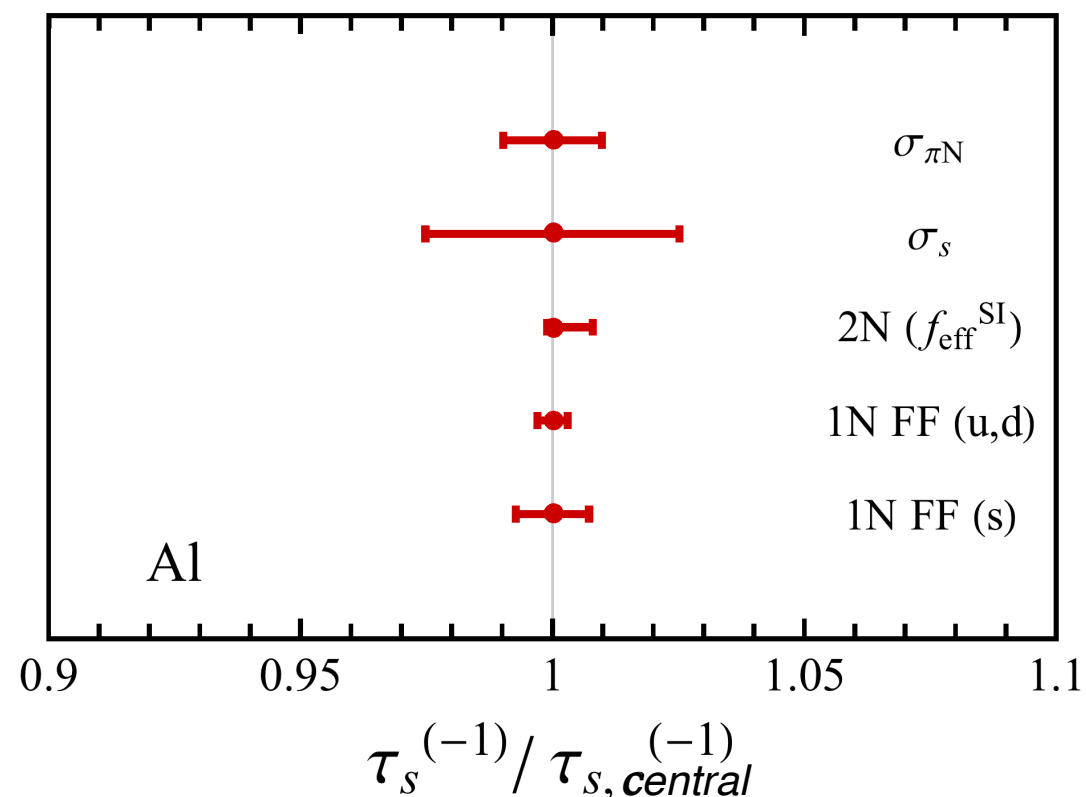
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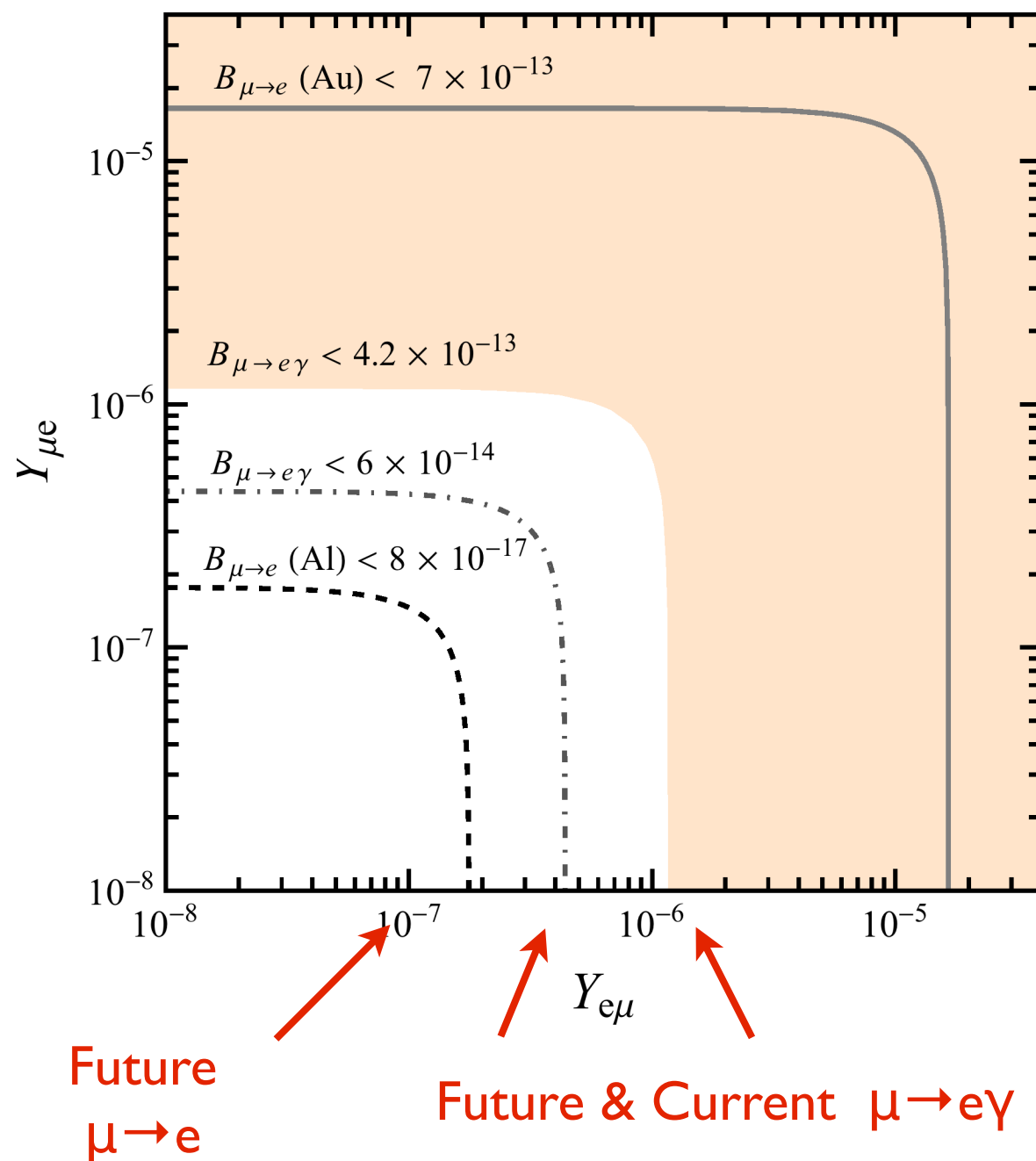
## Uncertainty budget



- Impact of NLO corrections on rate depends on short-distance physics.
- Largest (−20%) when light-quarks dominate
- Typically similar or larger to LO error  $\Rightarrow$  phenomenologically relevant

# Pattern of LFV $\mu$ decays

VC, Fuyuto, Ramsey-Musolf, Rule 2203.09547



\* Diagonal couplings set to SM value

- $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  is currently probing  $|Y_{\mu e}| \sim 10^{-6}$ , which corresponds to  $\text{BR}(h \rightarrow \mu e) < 10^{-9}$
- Upcoming  $\mu \rightarrow e$  conversion experiments will probe  $|Y_{\mu e}| \sim 10^{-7}$
- Correlated signals in  $\mu \rightarrow e$  transitions provide opportunity to test hypothesis of Higgs-mediated LFV

$$\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e, \text{Al}) / \text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) = 8.7(3) \cdot 10^{-3} **$$

$$\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e, \text{Ti}) / \text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e, \text{Al}) = 1.5(1)$$

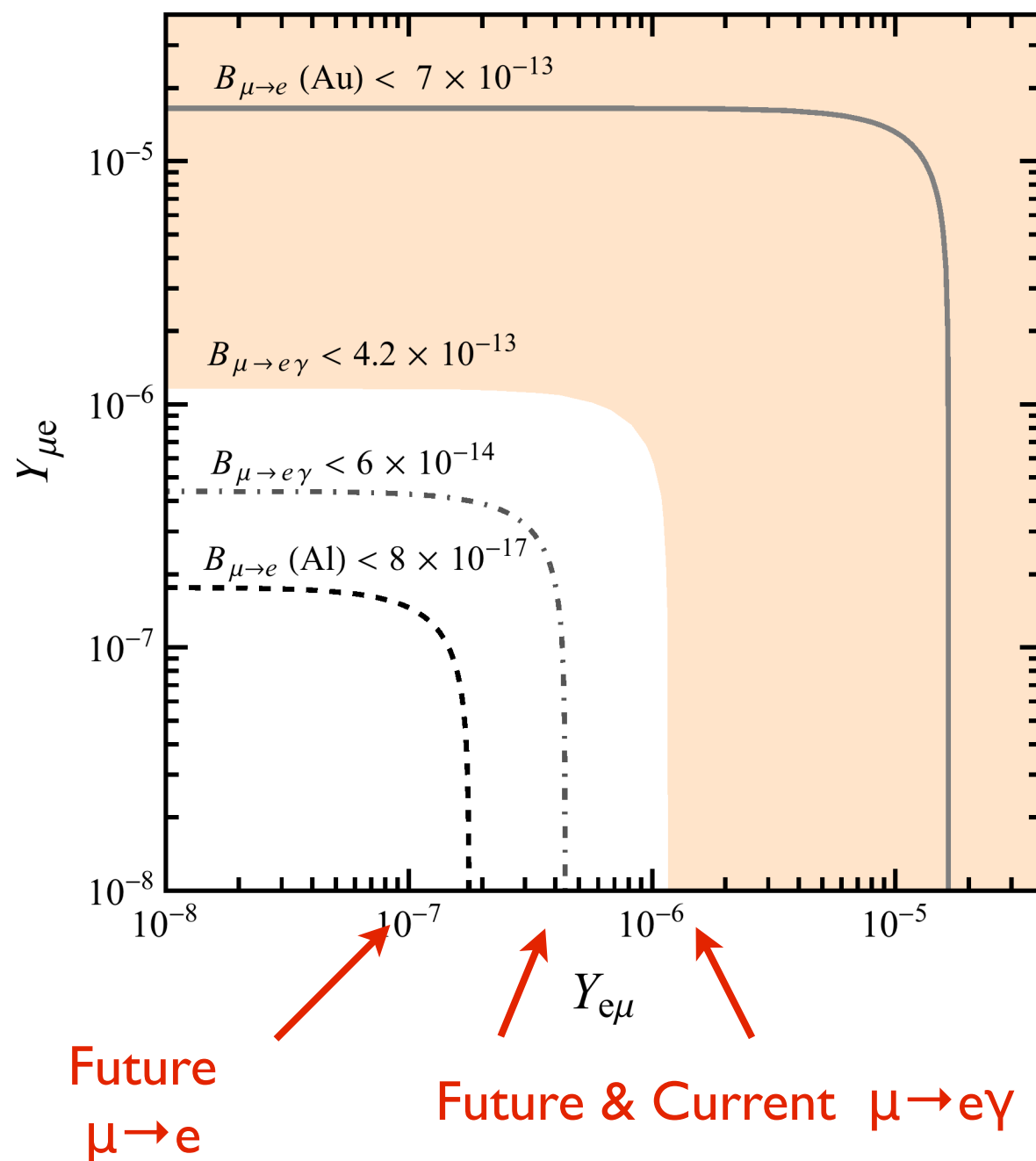
VC, Fuyuto, Ramsey-Musolf, Rule 2203.09547

(See also Crivellin et al. 1404.7134)

\*\* LO result is  $9.0(3) \cdot 10^{-3}$

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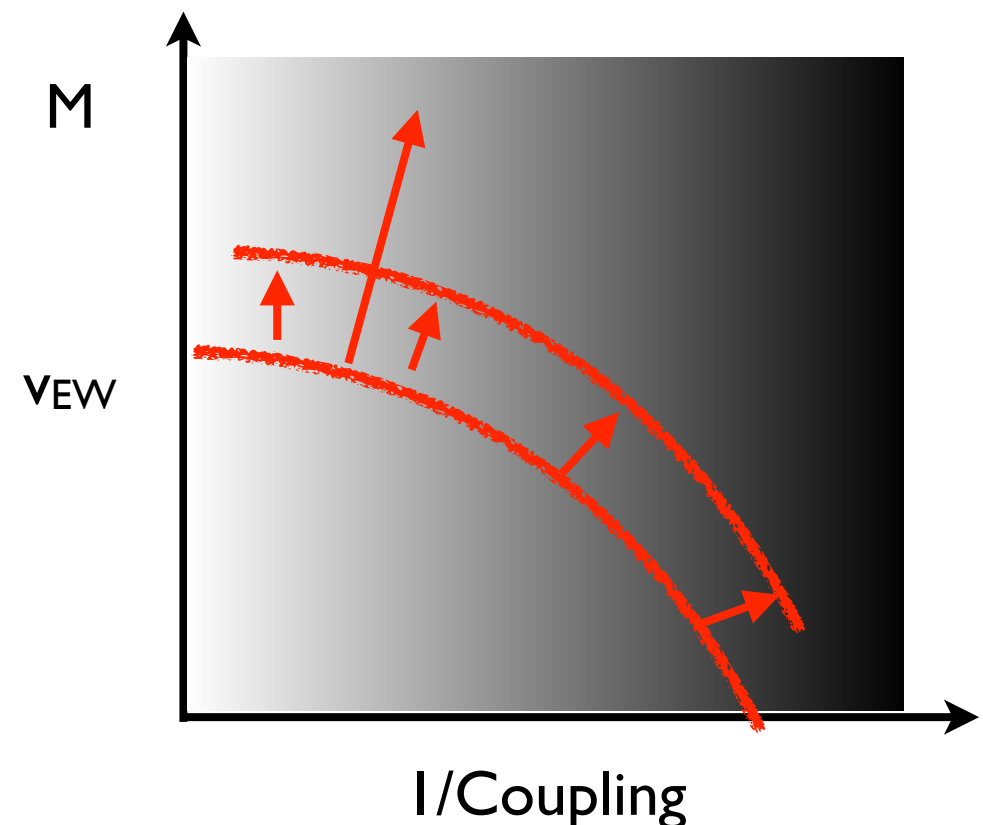
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- Further scrutiny of uncertainties is desirable

# Conclusions & Outlook

- Charged LFV processes probe a broad spectrum of new physics
  - *Discovery* tools: clean, very high scale reach
  - *Model-diagnosing* tools: mediators, sources of flavor breaking
- Higgs-mediated LFV
  - Illustrated the interplay of UV physics with hadronic / nuclear aspects of  $\mu$ -to- $e$  conversion
  - If a discovery is made,  $\mu$ -to- $e$  processes can be used to test the hypothesis of Higgs-mediated LFV



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  - *Model-diagnosing* tools: mediators, sources of flavor breaking

## Exciting experimental prospects

- ★ 4 (1-2) orders of magnitude improvement in  $\mu$  ( $\tau$ ) decays
- ★ LHC & EIC will be competitive in  $\tau$ - $\mu$  and  $\tau$ - $e$  transitions ( $h \rightarrow \tau\mu$ ,  $e \rightarrow \tau$ )
- ★ Muon processes have unmatched sensitivity in probing  $\mu$ - $e$  transitions

# Backup

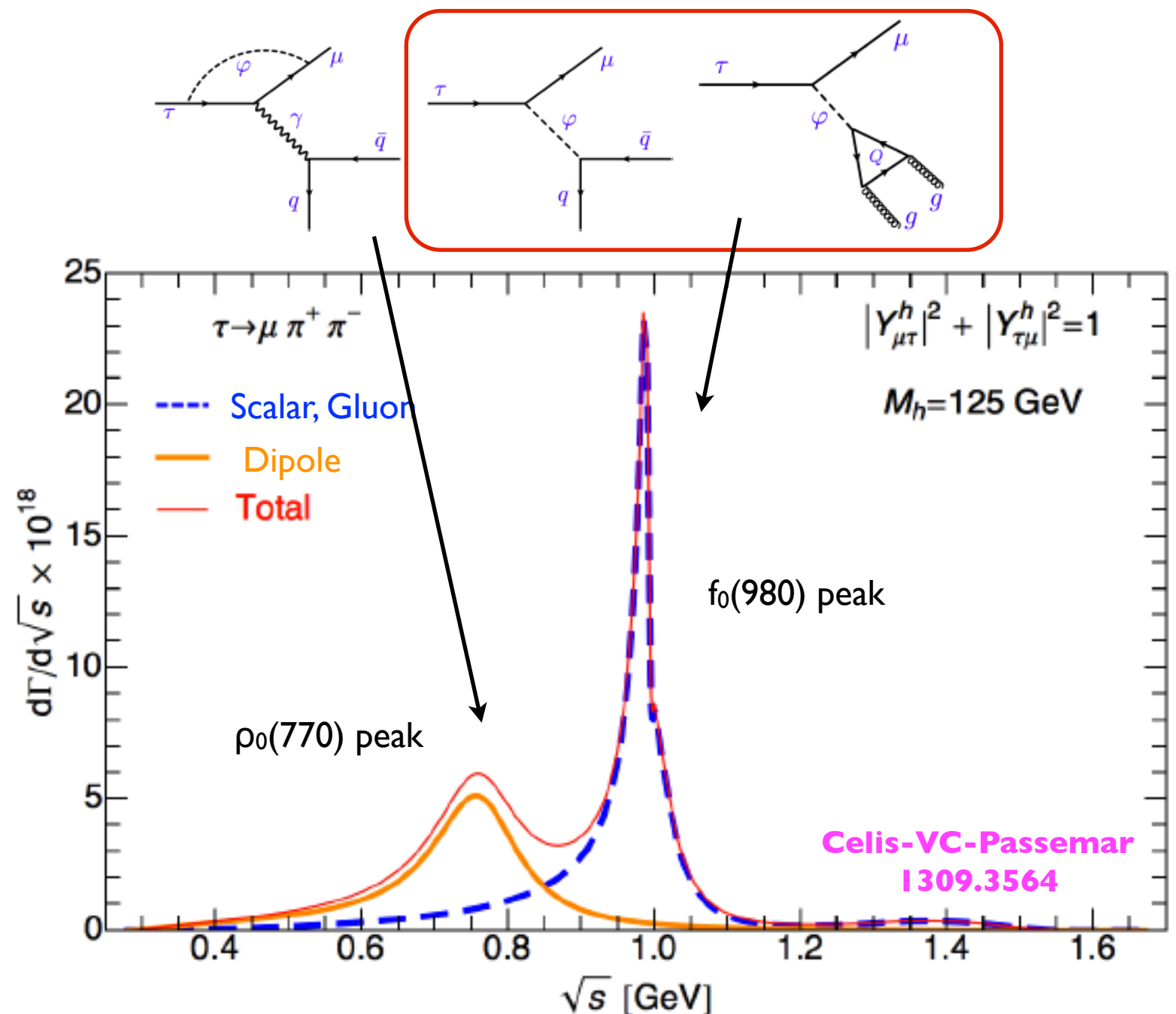
# Pattern of LFV $\tau$ decays

- Radiative mode dominates, followed by  $\pi\pi$  and 3 lepton

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu \pi^+ \pi^-) / B(\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma) = 0.7(1) \times 10^{-2}$$

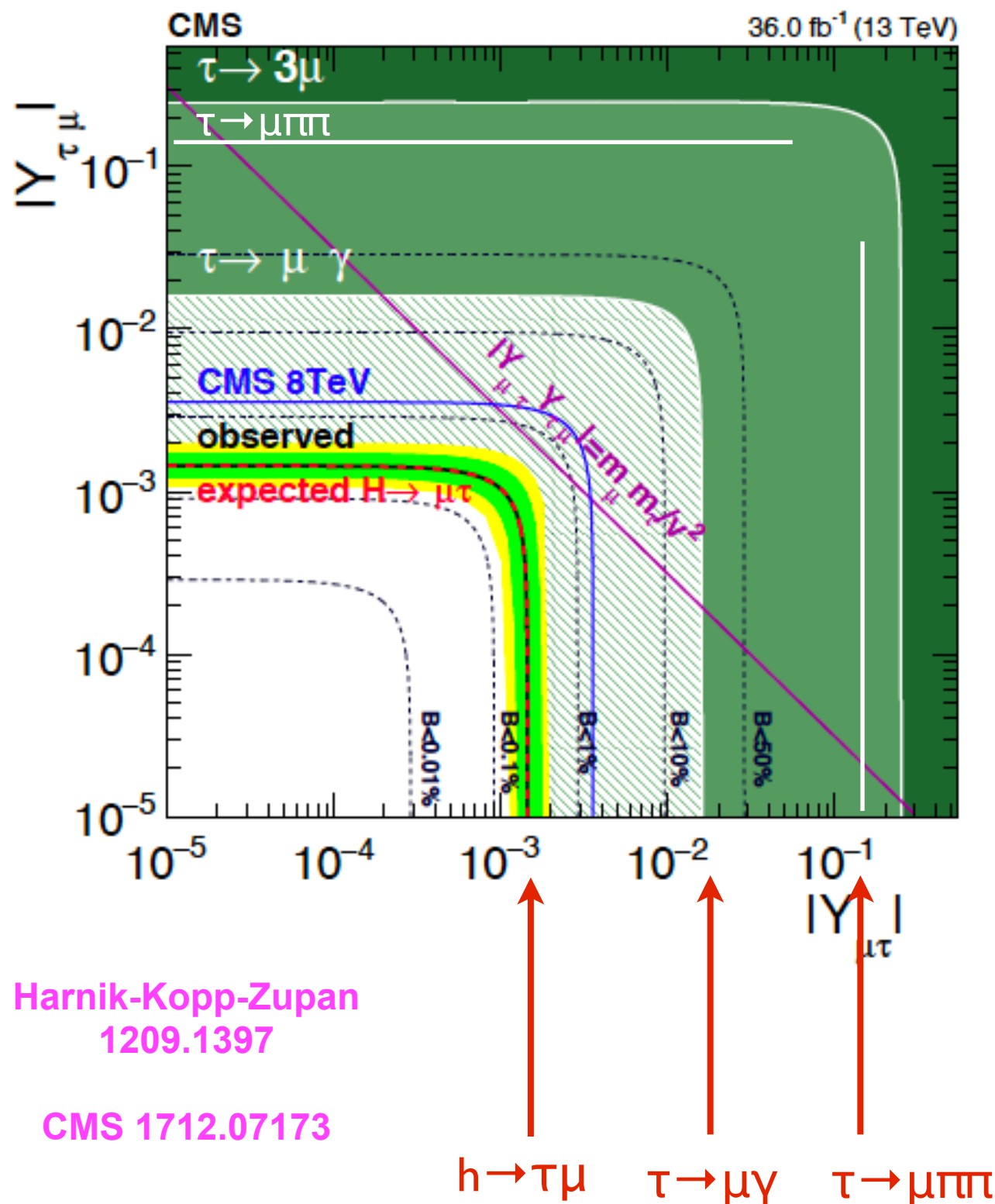
- $\tau \rightarrow \mu \pi\pi$  controlled by Higgs-specific combination of D, S, G  $\rightarrow$  unique signature in  $\pi\pi$  spectrum

Plot assumes SM values for  $Y_{u,d,s}$ , but strength of the  $f_0(980)$  peak depends on light quark Yukawas



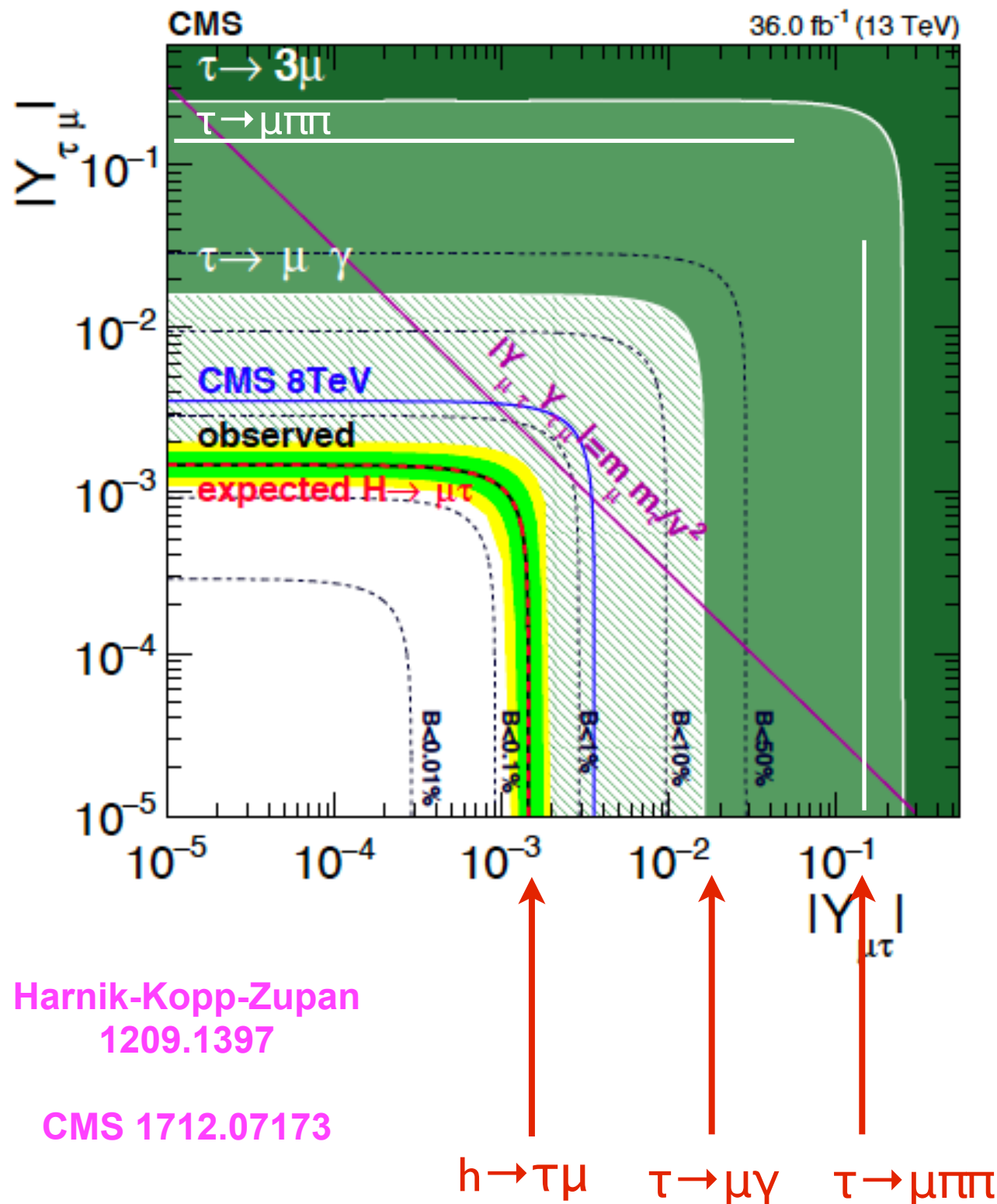


# $\tau$ - $\mu$ sector: $h$ vs $\tau$ decays



- Assuming SM values for  $Y_{u,d,s}$ , current tau BRs ( $\sim 10^{-(7-8)}$ ) imply  $Y_{\tau\mu, \tau e} < 0.01-0.1$ , which translates into  $BR(h \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.1$
- LHC (CMS) limit  $BR(h \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.25\%$  (95%CL) is stronger:  $|Y_{\tau\mu, \mu\tau}| < 0.0011$

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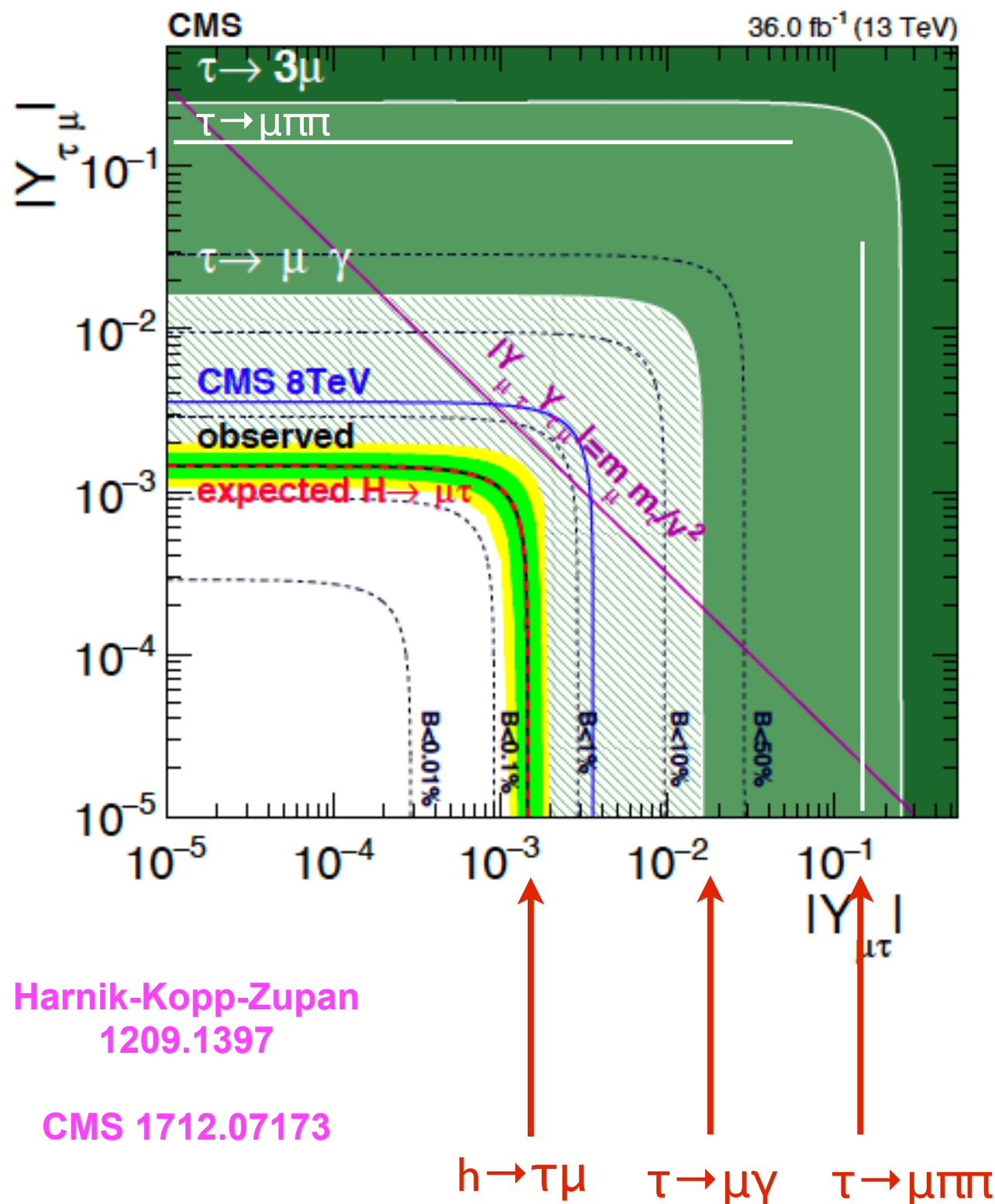
$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma) < 4 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^+\pi^-) < 2.7 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^0\pi^0) < 0.8 \times 10^{-12}$$

Challenging target for next generation

# $\tau$ - $\mu$ sector: $h$ vs $\tau$ decays



- Assuming SM values for  $Y_{u,d,s}$ , current tau BRs ( $\sim 10^{-(7-8)}$ ) imply  $Y_{\tau\mu,te} < 0.01-0.1$ , which translates into  $BR(h \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.1$
- LHC (CMS) limit  $BR(h \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.25\%$  (95%CL) is stronger:  $|Y_{\tau\mu,\mu\tau}| < 0.00143$
- If use  $Y_{u,d,s} \sim Y_b$ , CMS bound implies

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma) < 4.0 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^+\pi^-) < 5.5 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^0\pi^0) < 2.7 \times 10^{-9}$$

Within reach of next generation

# Matching for gluon operator

- Similar to scalar density, one- and two-body terms

$$\langle N(\mathbf{k}') | C_{G\alpha} \alpha_s G_{\lambda\nu}^a G^{a\lambda\nu} | N(\mathbf{k}) \rangle \rightarrow \bar{N}' J_{G,\alpha}^{(1)}(\mathbf{q}) N$$

$$\langle N(\mathbf{k}'_1) N(\mathbf{k}'_2) | C_{G\alpha} \alpha_s G_{\lambda\nu}^a G^{a\lambda\nu} | N(\mathbf{k}_1) N(\mathbf{k}_2) \rangle \rightarrow \bar{N}'_1 \bar{N}'_2 J_{G,\alpha}^{(2)}(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) N_1 N_2$$

$$J_{G,\alpha}^{(1)}(\mathbf{q}) = -\frac{8\pi}{9} C_{G\alpha} \left( m_N - \left[ \sigma_{\pi N} - \frac{3m_\pi^3 g_A^2}{64\pi f_\pi^2} F(\mathbf{q}^2/m_\pi^2) \right] + \frac{\delta m_N}{2} \tau_3 - (\sigma_s - \dot{\sigma}_s \mathbf{q}^2) \right)$$

$$J_{G,\alpha}^{(2)}(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) = -\frac{8\pi}{9} C_{G\alpha} \frac{g_A^2 m_\pi^2}{4f_\pi^2} \frac{\sigma_1 \cdot \mathbf{q}_1 \sigma_2 \cdot \mathbf{q}_2}{(\mathbf{q}_1^2 + m_\pi^2)(\mathbf{q}_2^2 + m_\pi^2)} \tau_1 \cdot \tau_2 .$$