

Testing Lepton Flavor Universality with the Belle and Belle II experiments

周启东 (ZHOU Qi-Dong)

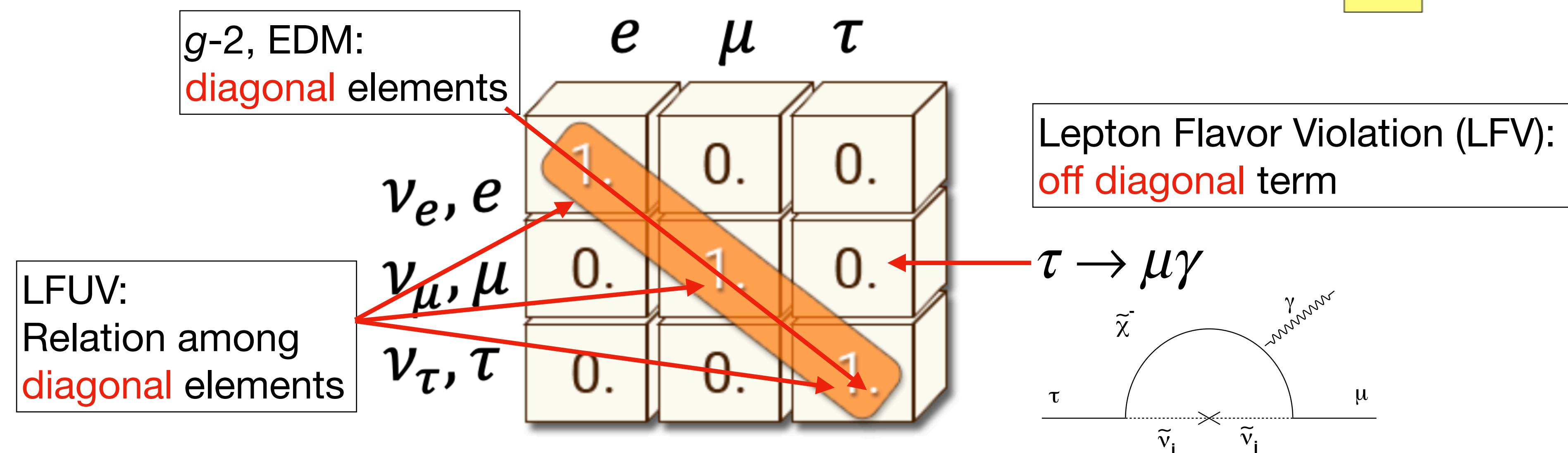
Institute of Frontier and Interdisciplinary Science,
Shandong Univ. (Qingdao)

2025年4月18-22日，南京东郊国宾馆，南京
第七届全国重味物理与量子色动力学研讨会



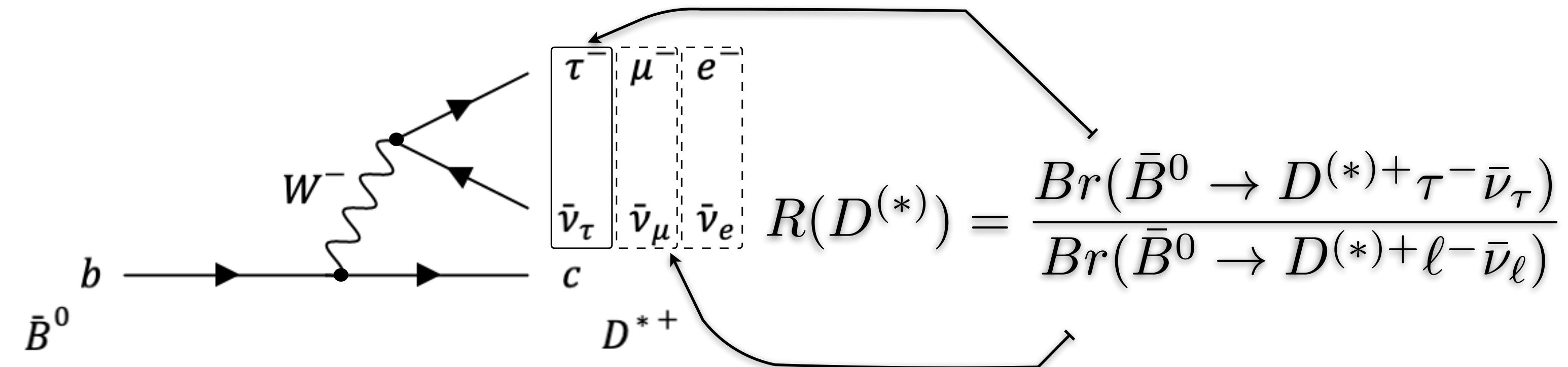
Motivation for studying LFUV

- Lepton Flavor Universality (LFU): W boson couples to leptons with equal strength ($m_e < m_\mu < m_\tau$)
- SM fields do mix:
 - Quarks sector \rightarrow CKM matrix
 - Neutrinos sector \rightarrow PMNS matrix
 - Charged leptons \rightarrow the matrix diagonal-like? (neutrino mass)
 - LFUV: diagonal terms not all equal



LFU test with semileptonic B decays

- Ratios of $b \rightarrow q\tau\nu/q\mu\nu/qe\nu$ branch fractions cancel out the uncertainties on $|V_{cb}|$, most uncertainties of **form factors** and the **experimental systematics**

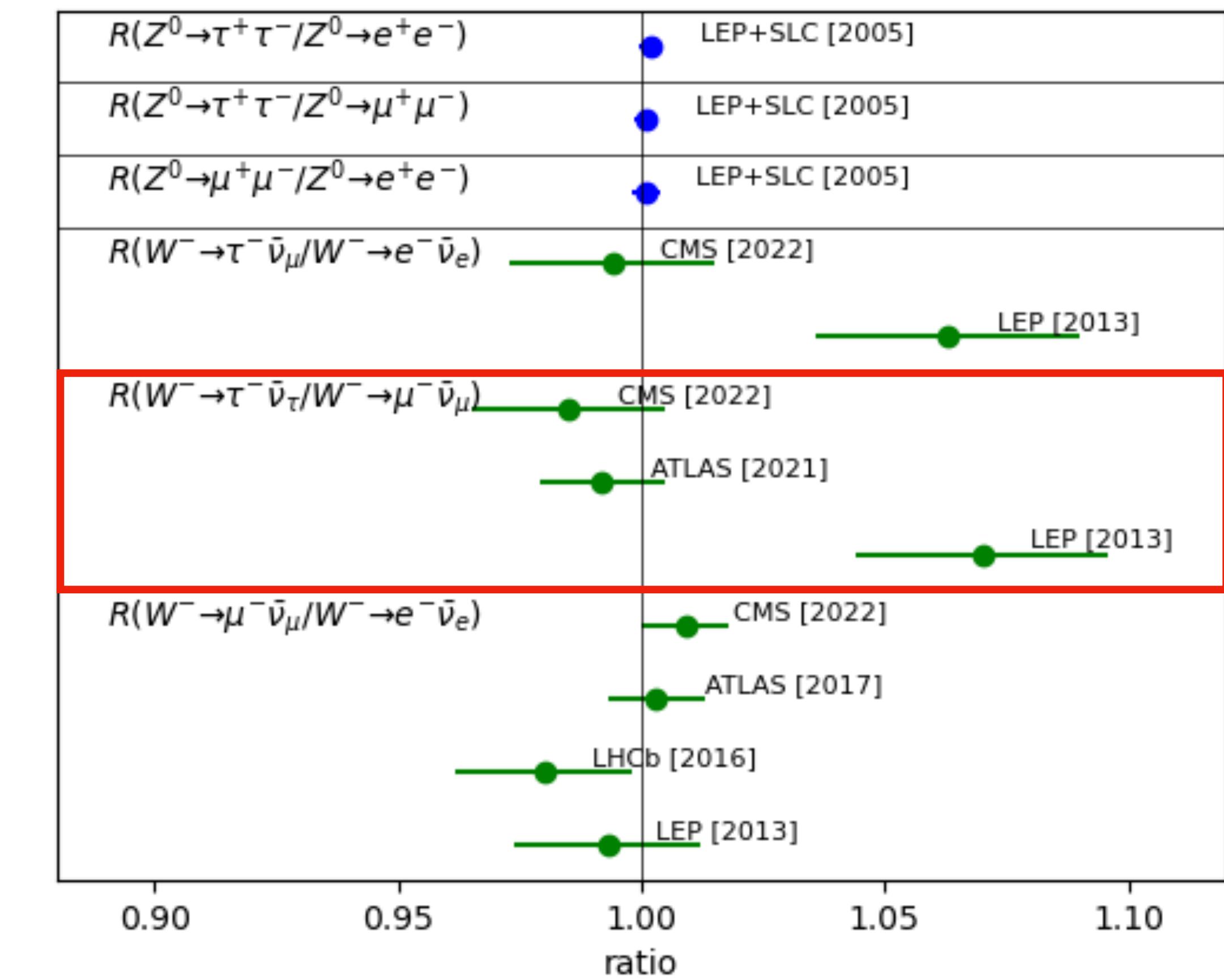
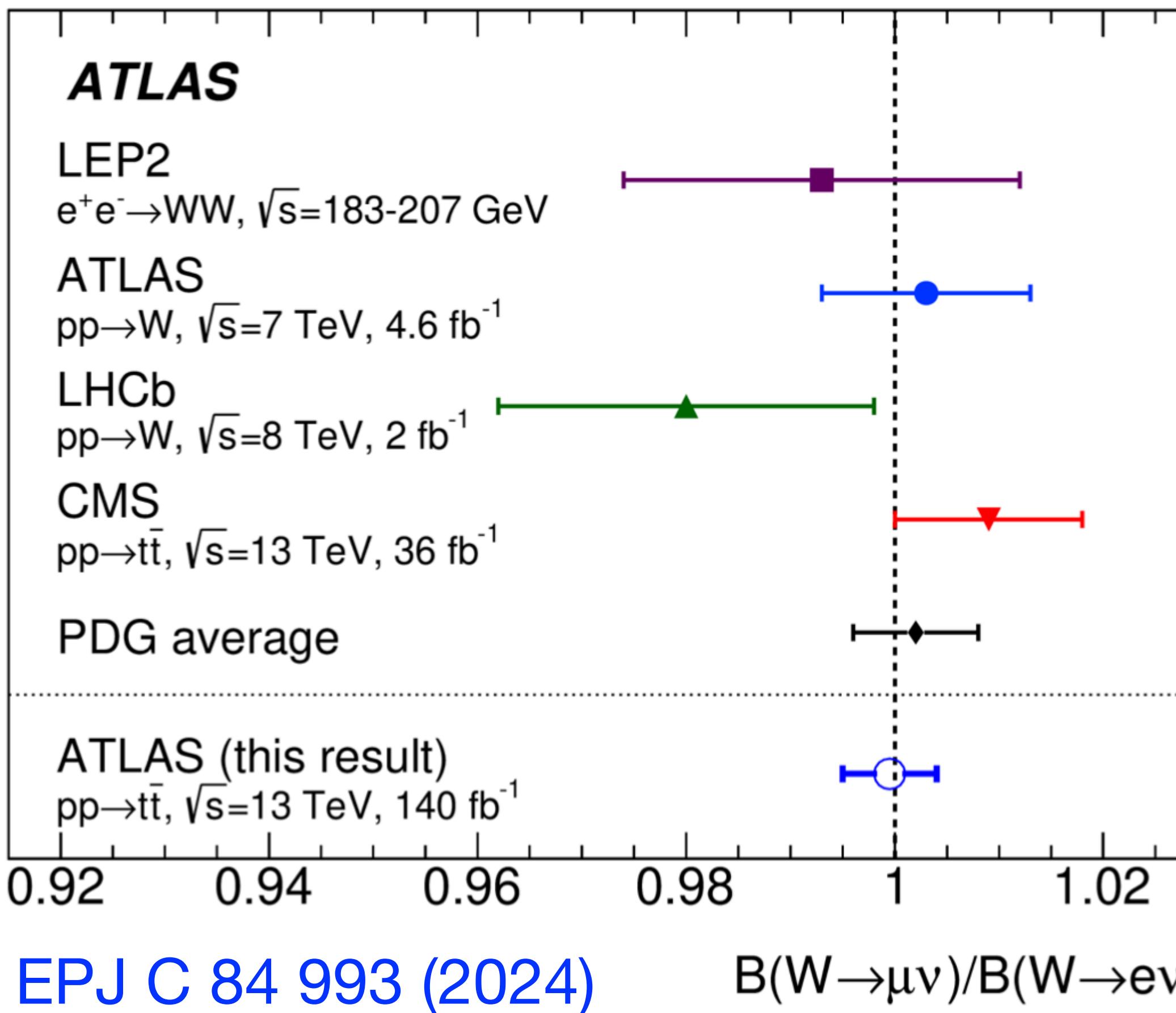


- LFU is broken in Yukawa interaction
 - Charged lepton mass changes **kinematics** and modifies **form factors in the hadronization**
- **Long-distance** QED corrections depend on lepton velocity (τ vs. (e, μ))
- $B \rightarrow D^{(*)}\tau\nu$ sensitive to New Physics (NP) because the massive 3rd generation **b quark** and **τ lepton** are involved
- Sensitivities to high energy scale; ~10 TeV [[Belle II phys. book](#)]

LFU test with W/Z decays

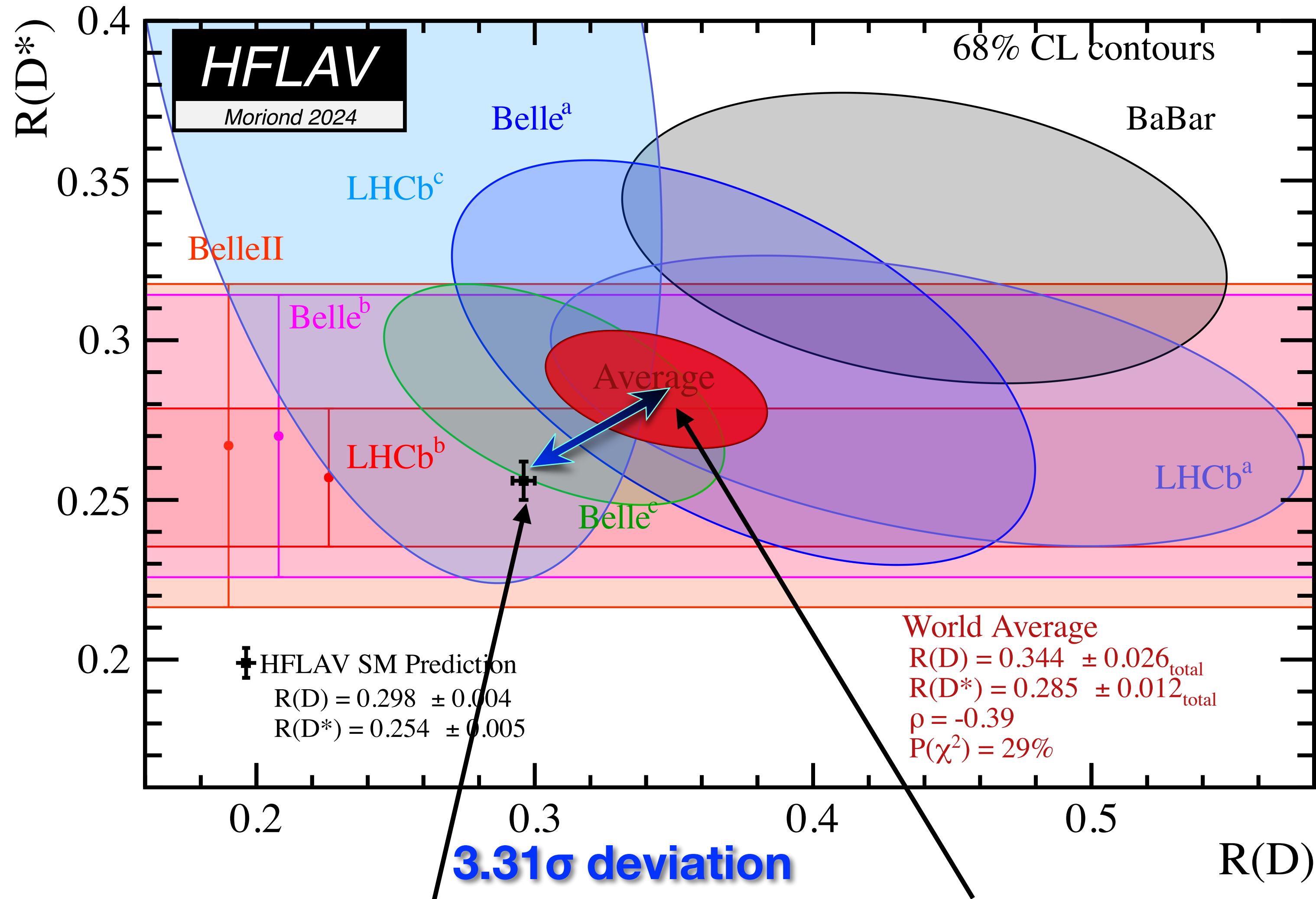
- Existing tension from LEP in $W \rightarrow \tau\nu/W \rightarrow (e, \mu)\nu$
- CMS and ATLAS can use $t\bar{t}$ events

scholarpedia.org



- LFU confirmed in Z/W decays with high precision, especially also for $W \rightarrow \tau\nu/W \rightarrow (e, \mu)\nu$

“ B anomaly” in semileptonic decays



Standard Model prediction

Experimental average results

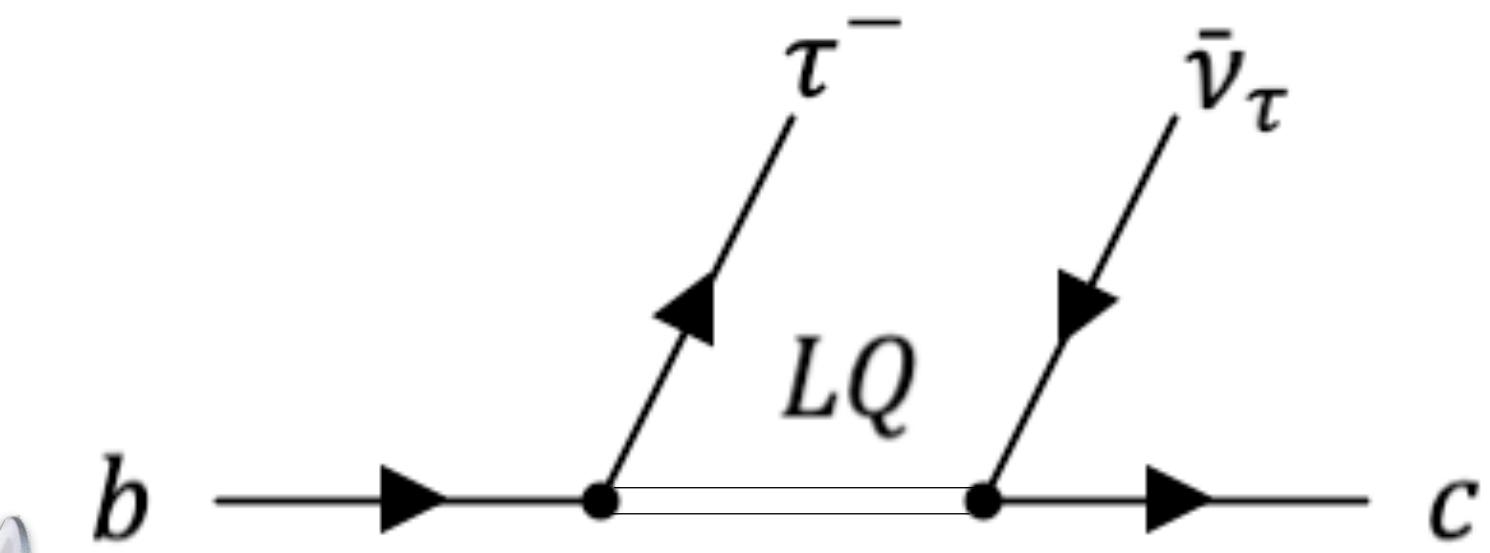
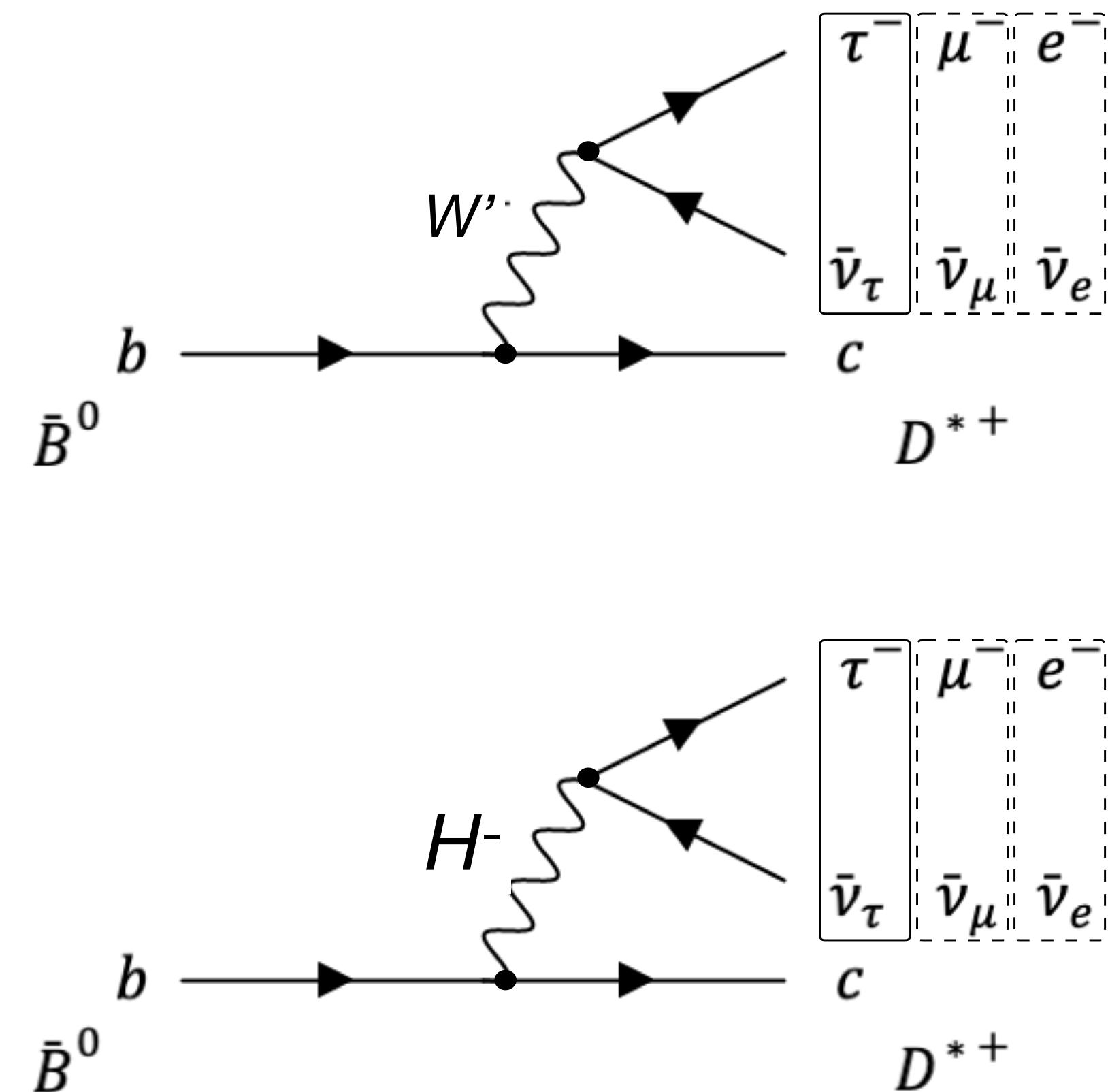
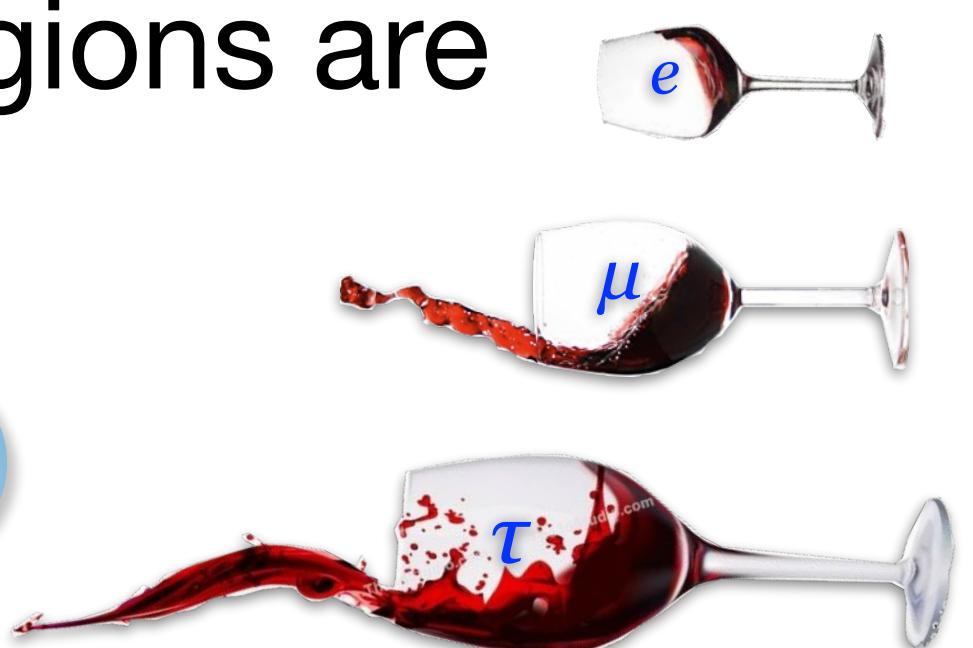
New physics scenarios for the $R(D^{(*)})$ anomaly

In general, there are three typical candidate scenarios to explain the anomaly observed in $R(D^{(*)})$

- Heavy vector bosons
 - Constrained from $W' \rightarrow \tau\nu$ and $Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$ search
- Charged Higgs
 - Constrained from $B_c \rightarrow \tau\nu$ and $H^\pm \rightarrow \tau\nu$, still allowed
 - Previously, it was rejected by $B_c \rightarrow \tau\nu$ measurement, however, recovered by recalculating the B_c lifetime.

[PRD 105 095011\(2022\)](#)

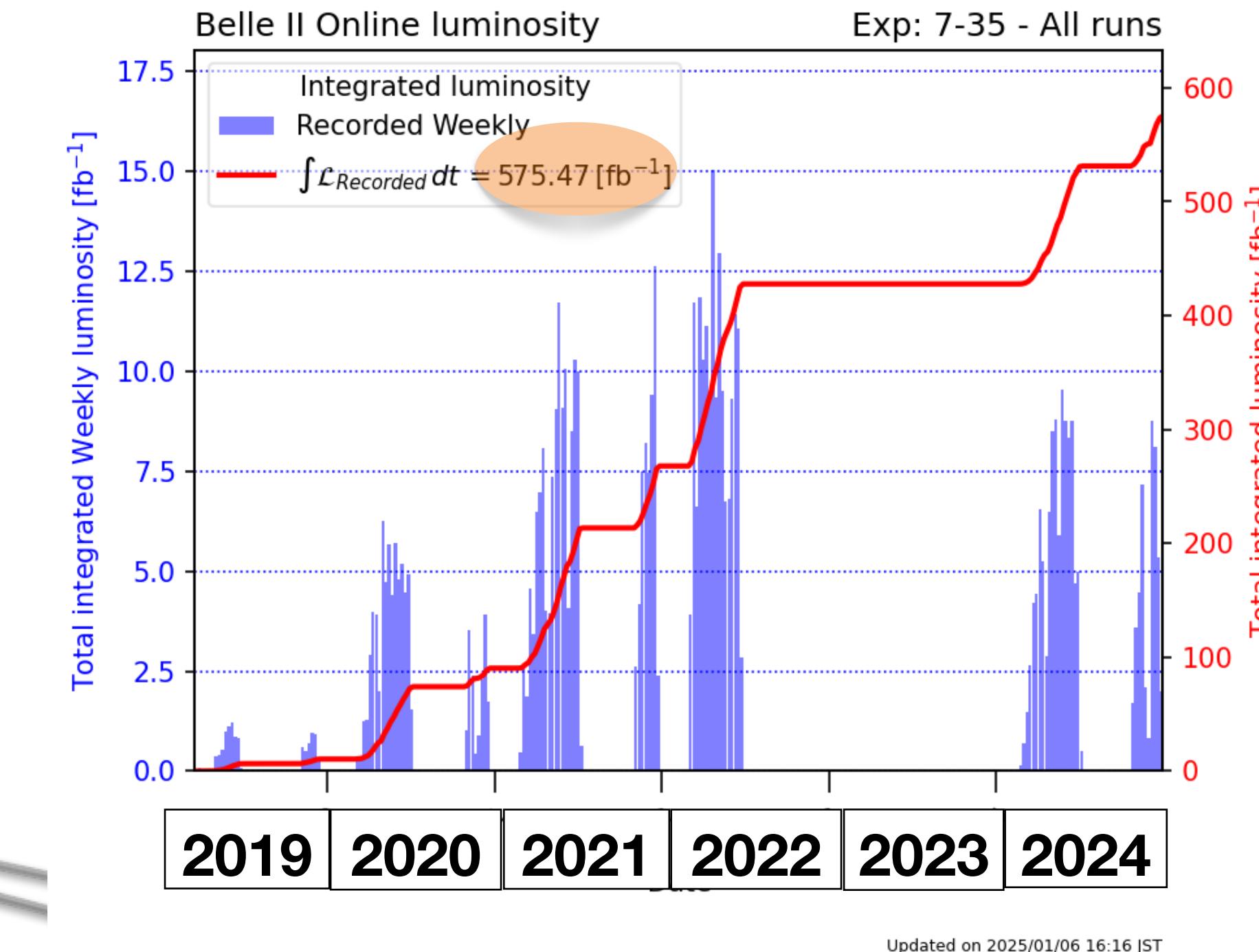
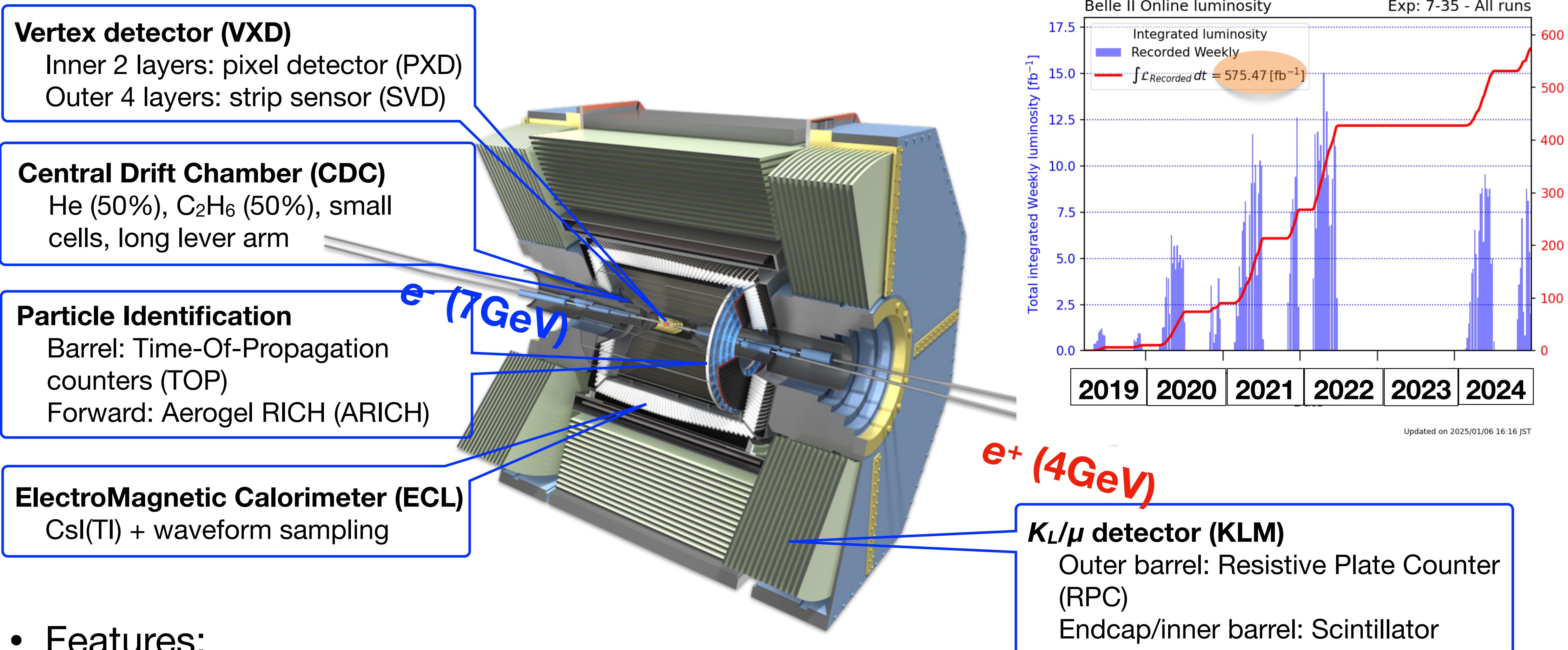
- Leptoquark
 - $gg \rightarrow LQ LQ^*$, still broad parameter regions are allowed



Recent results related with $R(D^{(*)})$

Experiment	Observable	Tag method	τ decay	Reference
Belle II	$R(D^{+(*)})$	Semileptonic	$\ell\nu\nu$	arXiv: 2504.1122 (2025)
Belle II	$R(D^*)$	Hadronic	$\ell\nu\nu$	PRD 110 072020 (2024)
Belle II	$R(X_{\tau/\ell})$	Hadronic	$\ell\nu\nu$	PRL 132 211804 (2024)
Belle II	$R(X_{e/\mu})$	Hadronic	-	PRL 131 051804 (2023)
Belle II	Augular	Hadronic	-	PRL 131 181801 (2023)
LHCb	$R(D^{(*)})$	-	$\mu\nu\nu$	PRL 131 111802 (2023)
LHCb	$R(D^*)$	-	$\pi\pi\pi\nu$	PRD 108 012018 (2023)
LHCb	$R(D^{+(*)})$	-	$\mu\nu\nu$	PRL 134 061801 (2024)
LHCb	$R(\Lambda_c)$	-	-	PRL 128 191803 (2022)
LHCb	$R(J/\psi)$	-	-	PRL 120 121801 (2018)

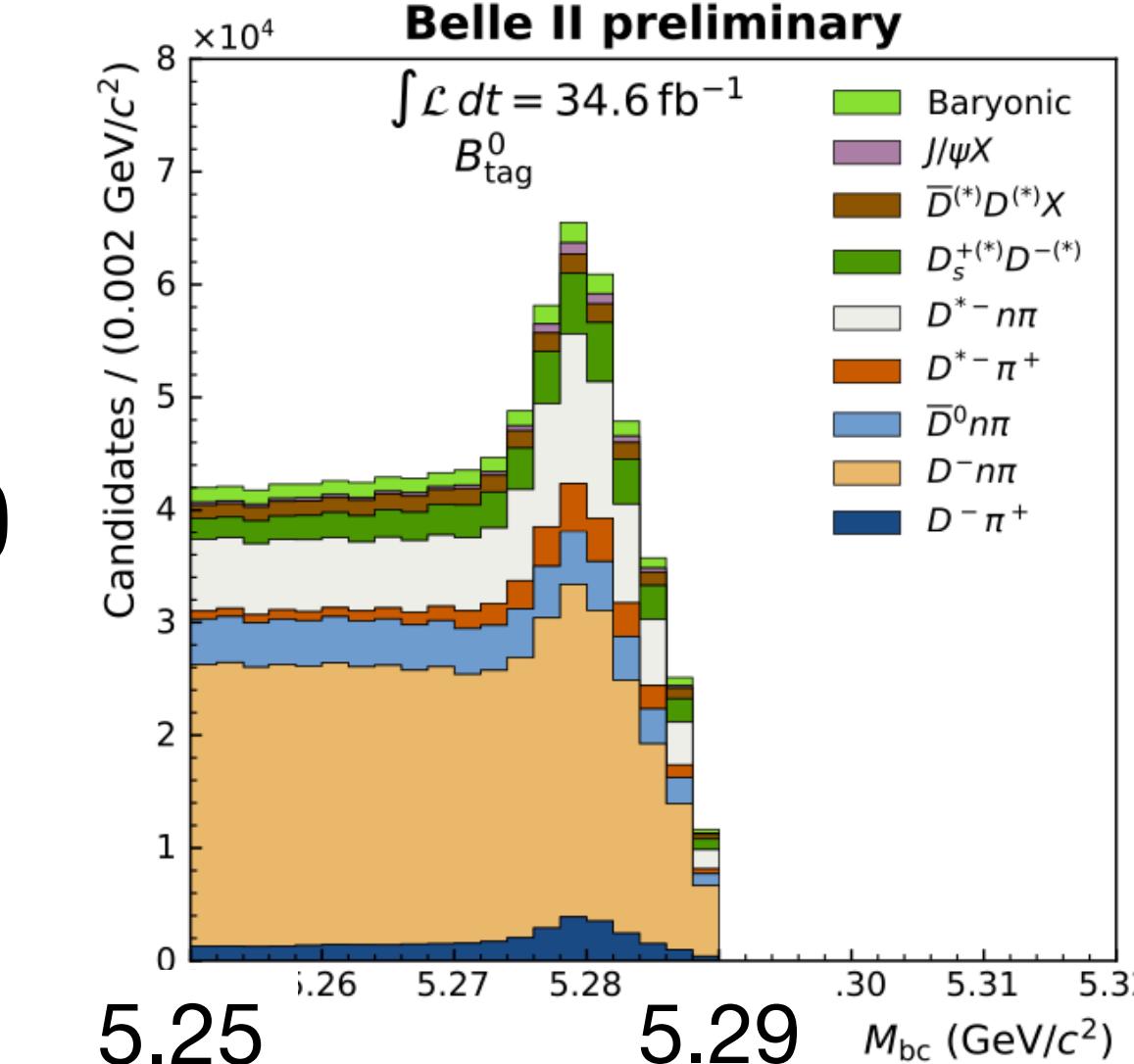
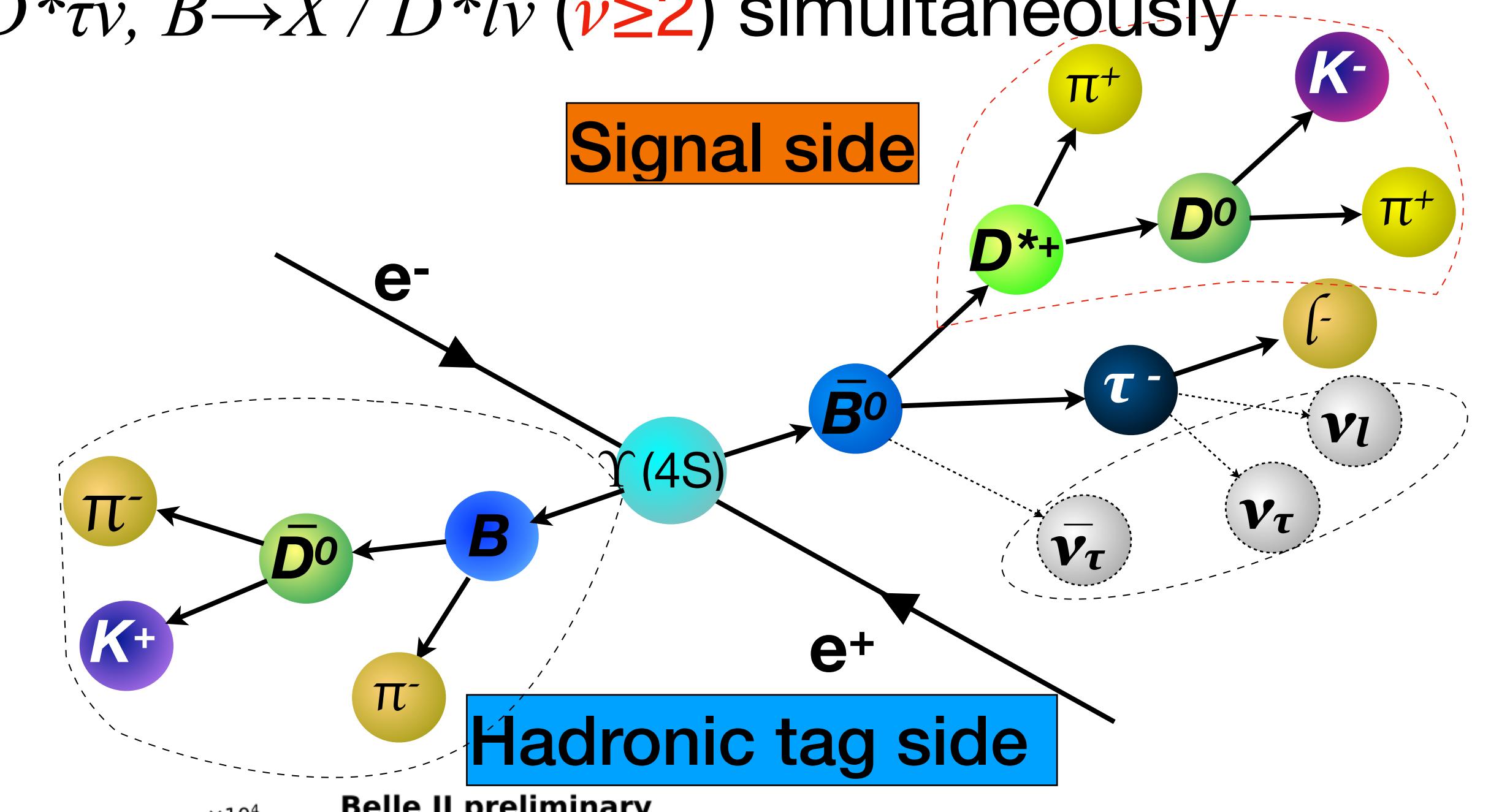
Belle II detector and dataset



- Features:
 - Near-hermetic detector
 - Vertexing and tracking: σ vertex $\sim 15\mu\text{m}$, CDC spatial res. $100\mu\text{m}$ $\sigma(P_T)/P_T \sim 0.4\%$
 - Good at measuring neutrals, π^0 , γ , $K_L\dots$ $\sigma(E)/E \sim 2-4\%$

Tagging methods

- The $B\bar{B}$ pairs are produced near threshold
- B tagging is necessary to measure $B \rightarrow X / D^* \tau \nu, B \rightarrow X / D^* l \nu$ ($\nu \geq 2$) simultaneously
- Hadronic tag
 - Fully reconstruct $B \rightarrow D^{(*)}(J/\psi/\Lambda)X$
 - Tagging efficiency 0.2~0.4%
 - less background
- Semileptonic tag
 - Reconstruct $B \rightarrow D^{(*)} l \nu$
 - Tagging efficiency 0.5~%
 - More background
- Full Event Interpretation (FEI): trained 200 Boost Decision Tree (BDT) to reconstruct ~ 100 decay channels, $\sim 10,000$ B decay chains
 - $\epsilon = 0.30\%$ for B^\pm
 - $\epsilon = 0.23\%$ for B^0



[arXiv:2008.06096](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.06096)

$$m_{bc} = \sqrt{(E_{\text{beam}}^*)^2 - (p_B^*)^2}$$

Light-lepton universality tests

PRL 131, 051804 (2023)

- First $R(X_{e/\mu})$ measurement

$$R(X_{e/\mu}) = 1.007 \pm 0.009 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.019 \text{ (syst)}$$

- Most precise BF based LFU test of e- μ universality with semileptonic B decays to date

- Consistent with SM value by 1.2σ

$$R(X_{e/\mu})_{\text{SM}} = 1.006 \pm 0.001 \quad \text{JHEP 11 (2022) 007}$$

- Compatible with exclusive Belle (711 fb^{-1}) measurements

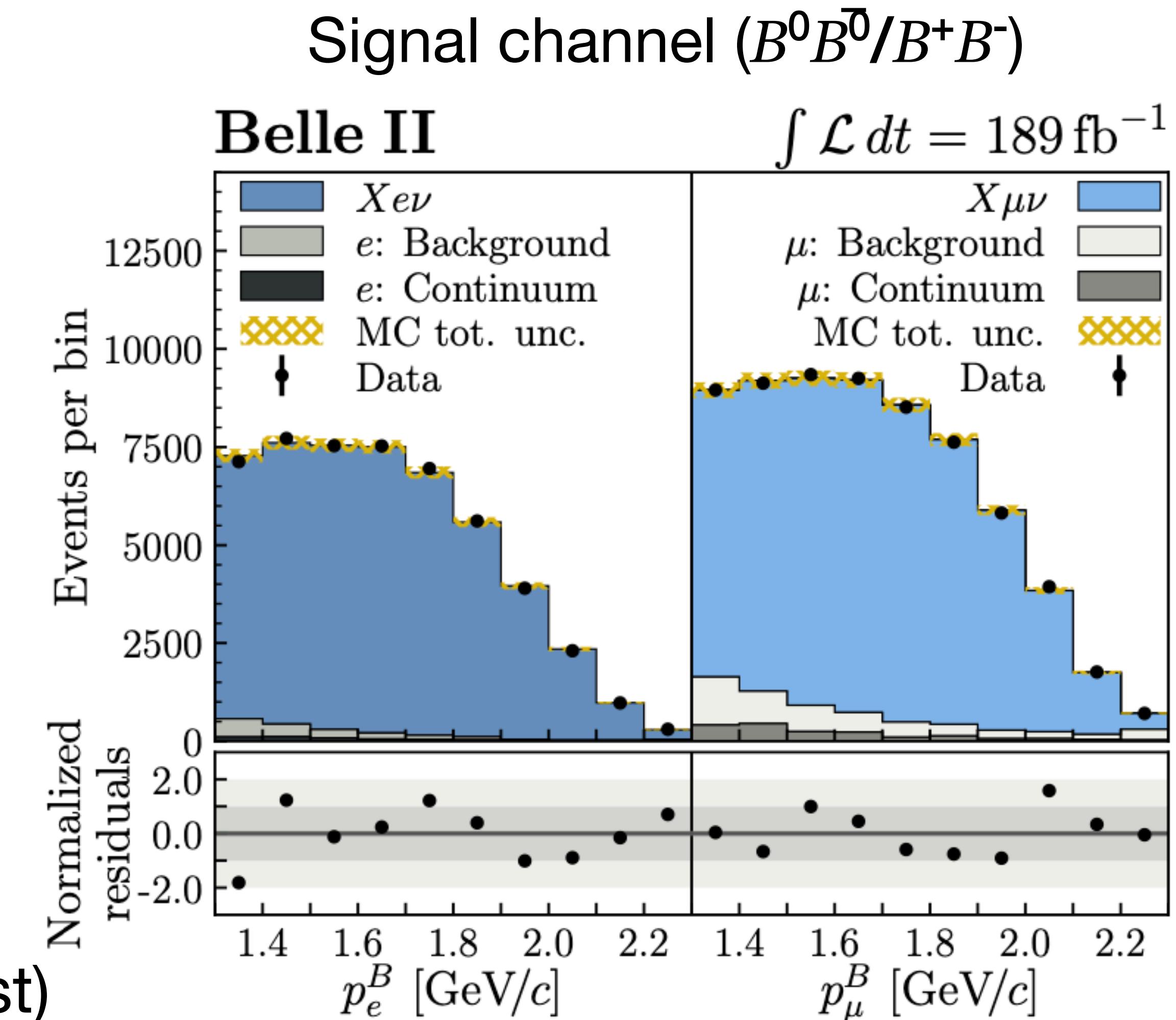
PRD 100, 052007 (2019)

$$R(D^*_{e/\mu}) = 1.01 \pm 0.01 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.03 \text{ (syst)}$$

$$R(D^*_{e/\mu}) = 0.993 \pm 0.023 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.023 \text{ (syst)}$$

PRD 108, 012002(2023)

- LFU confirmed for light leptons with high precision



First $R_{\tau/\ell}(D^*)$ result from Belle II

- Belle II first result for $R(D^*)$ @ 189 fb^{-1}

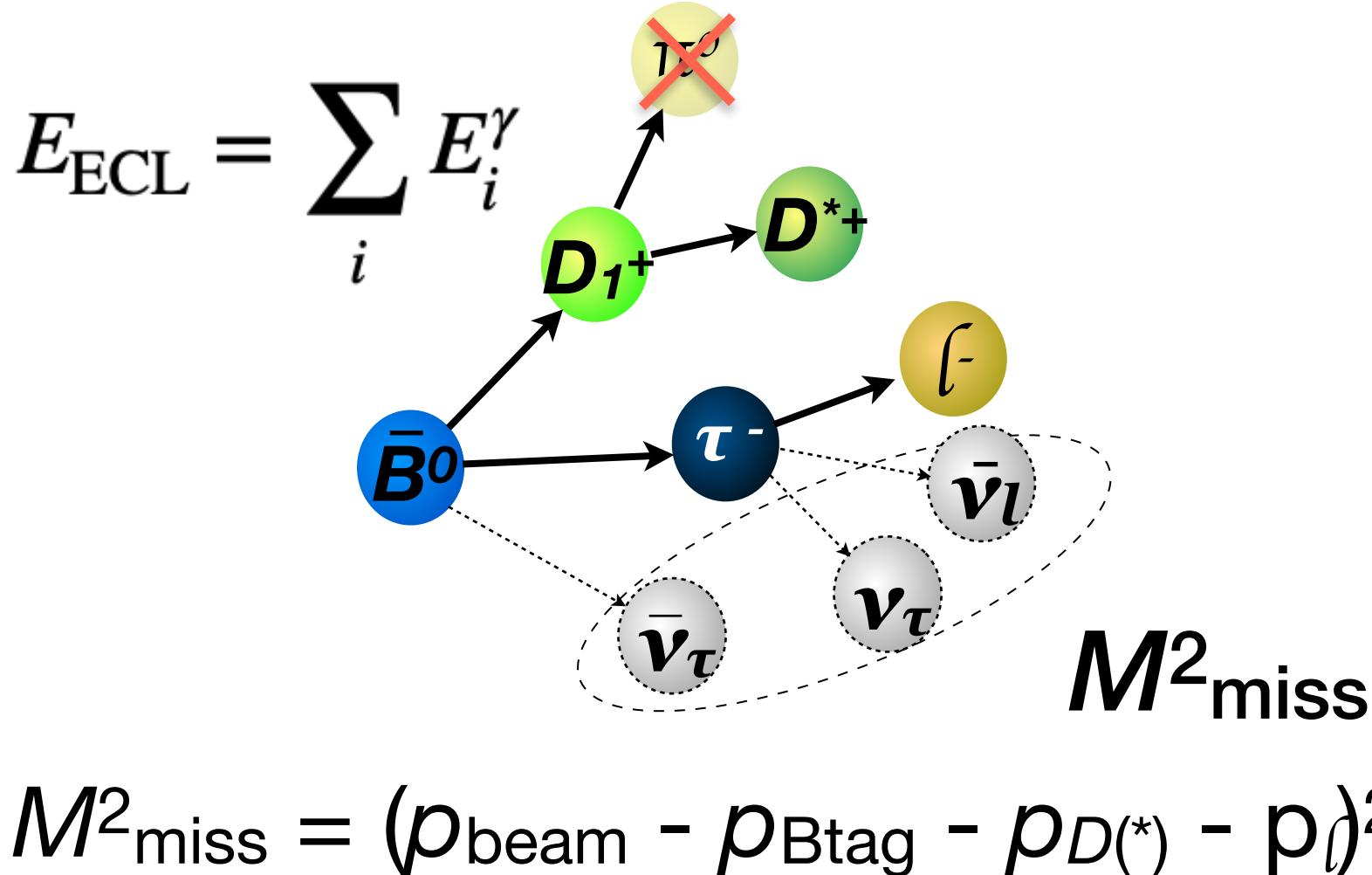
- Hadronic tag with FEI
- Leptonic τ decays

$$R(D^*_{\tau/\ell}) = 0.262^{+0.041}_{-0.039} (\text{stat})^{+0.035}_{-0.032} (\text{syst})$$

- Consistent with
SM: 0.254 ± 0.005 ,

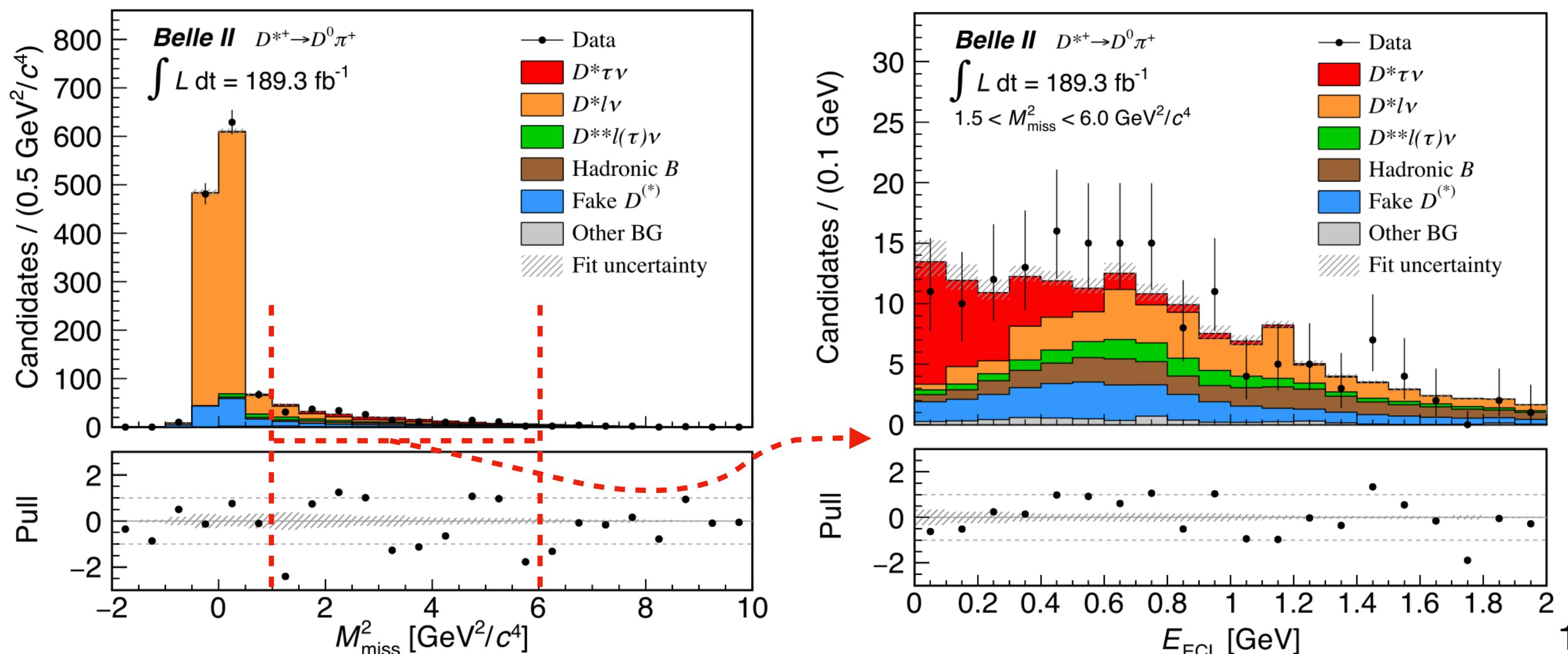
HFLAV24: 0.287 ± 0.012

- SM vs. experimental average
deviation: $3.2\sigma \rightarrow 3.3\sigma$



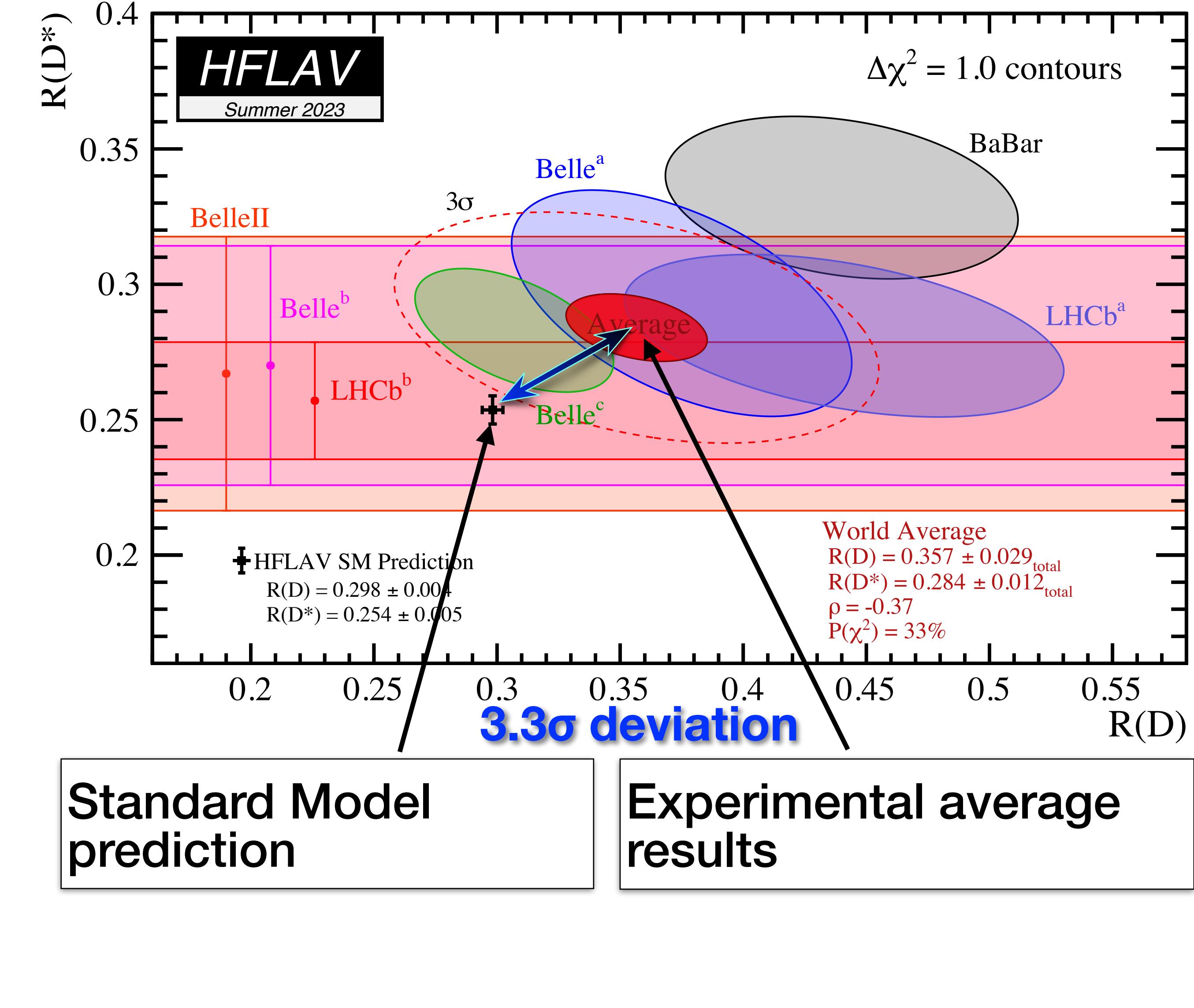
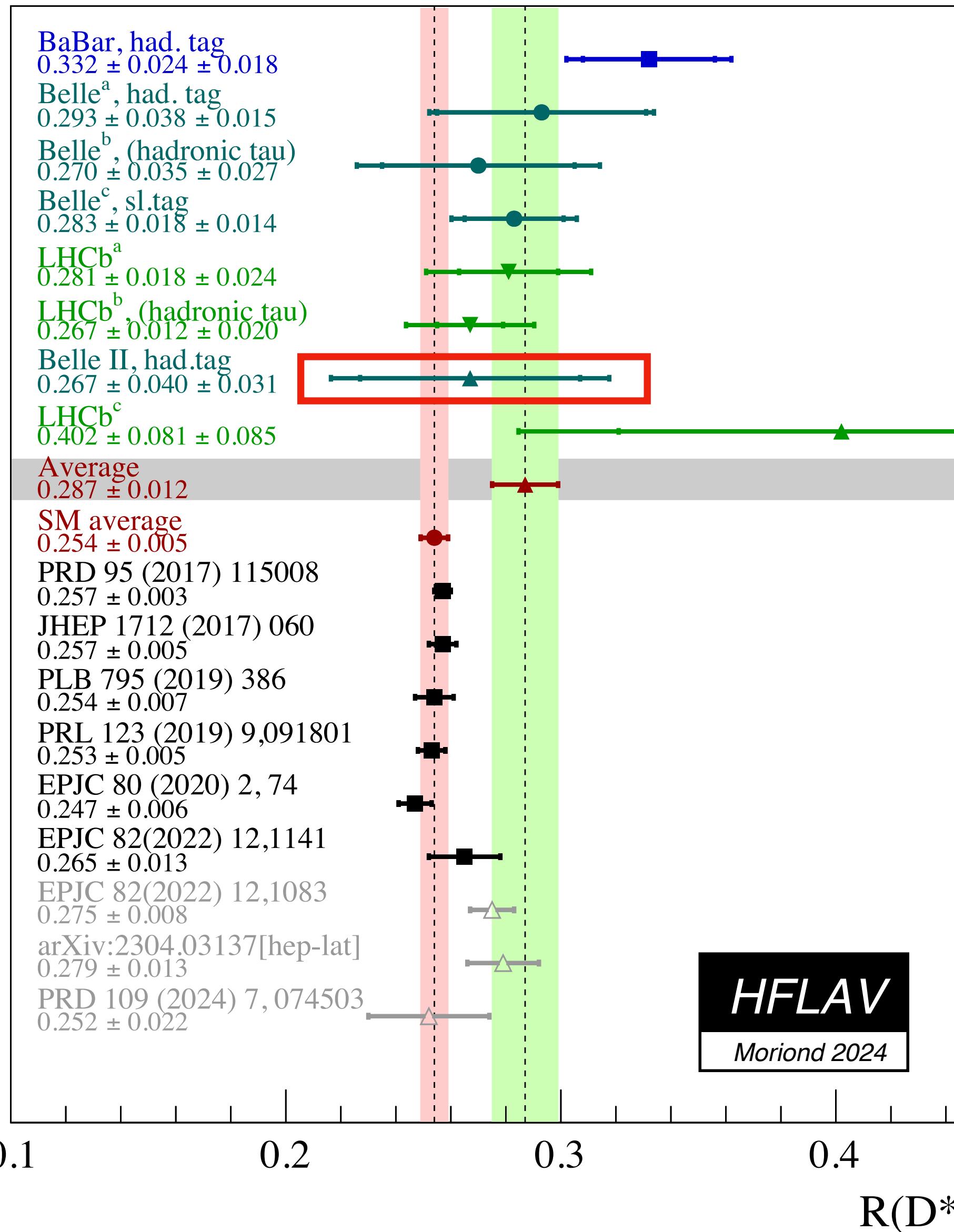
Source	Uncertainty
Statistical uncertainty	+15.4% -14.6%
E_{ECL} PDF shape	+9.1% -8.3%
MC statistics	$\pm 7.5\%$
$B \rightarrow D^{**} l \nu$ modeling	+4.8% -3.5%

[PRD 110 072020 \(2024\)](#)



“B anomaly” in semileptonic decays

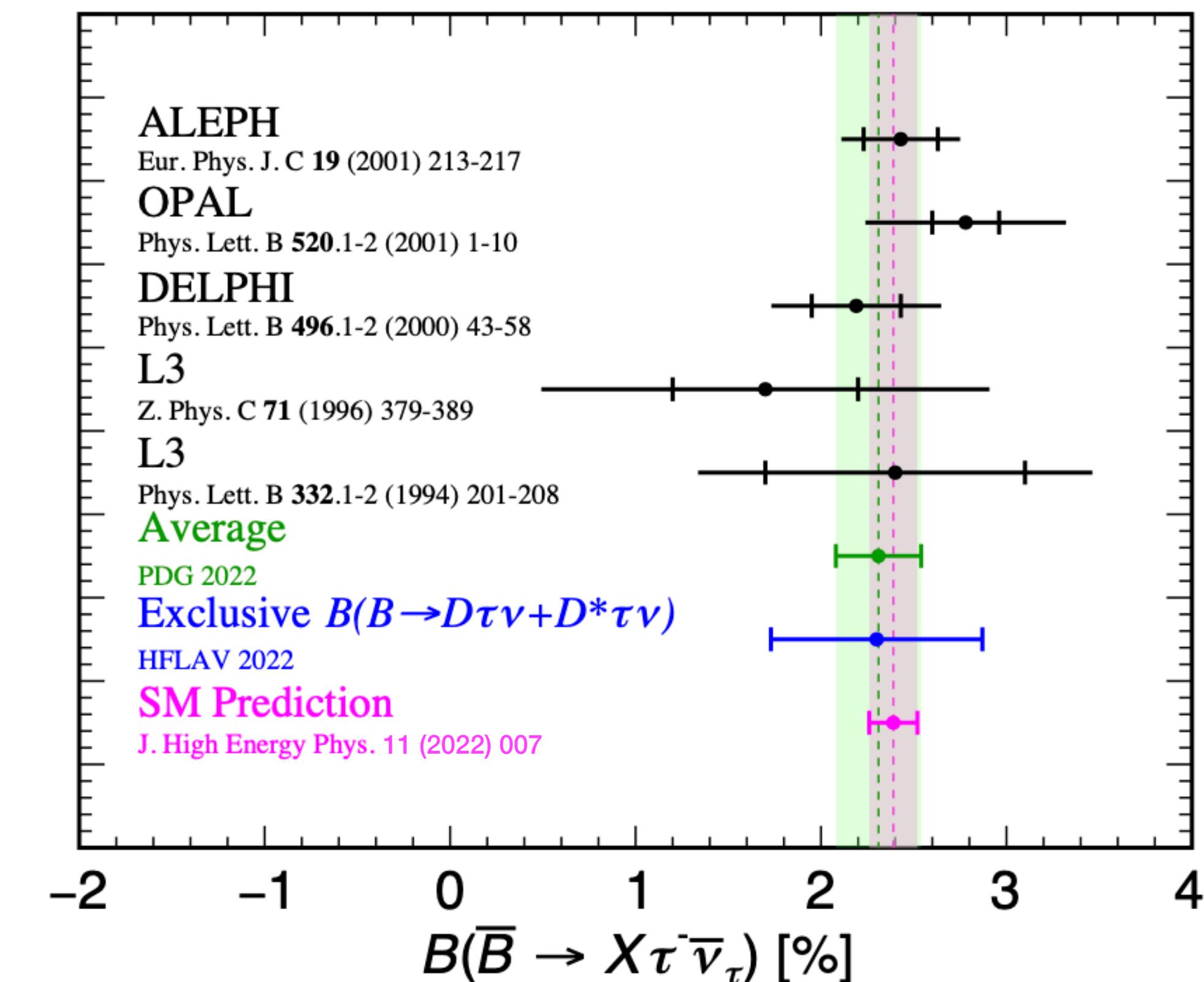
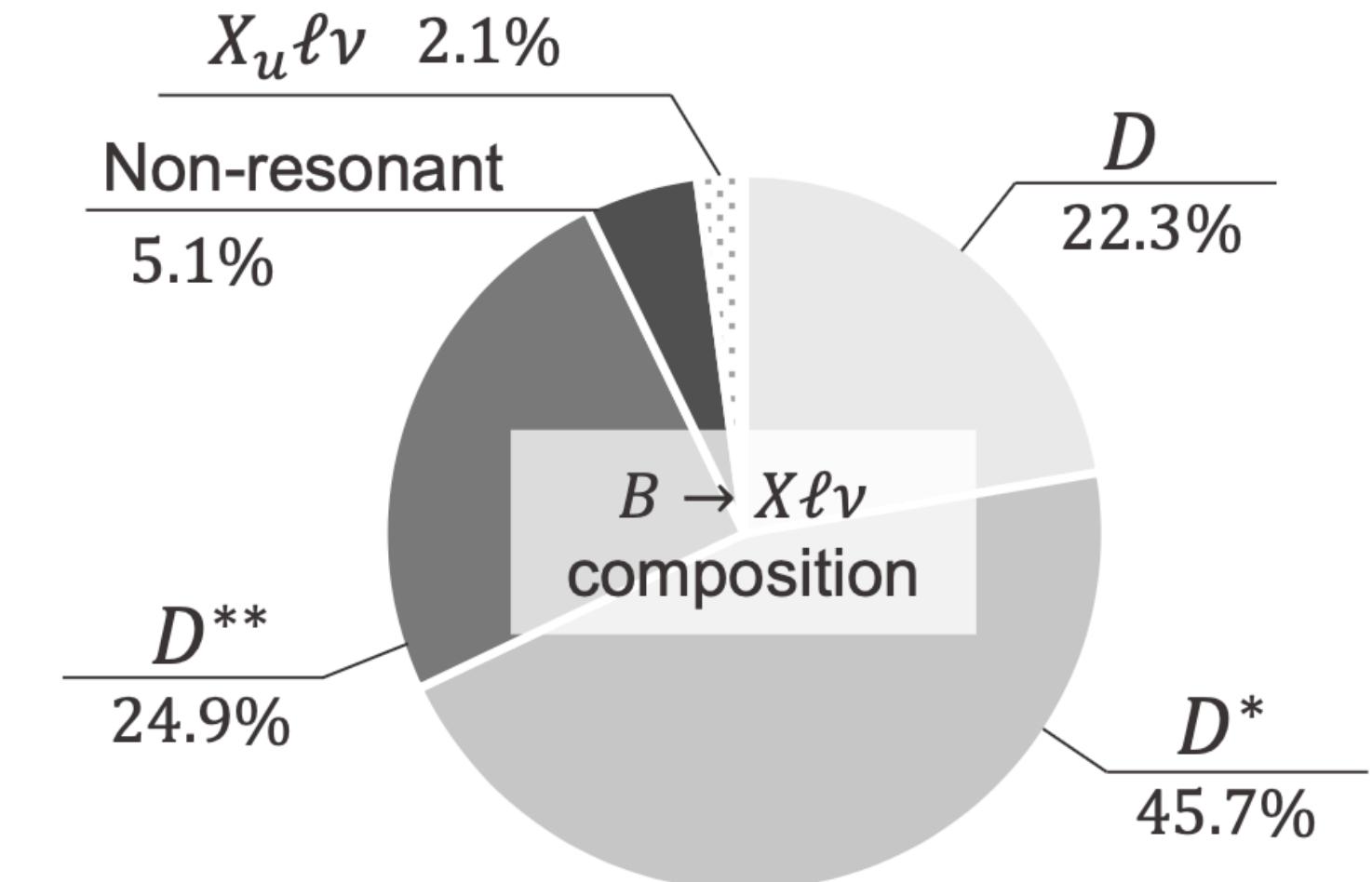
- Similarly sensitivity as Belle 15' result @ 711 fb^{-1} with only 189 fb^{-1}



LFU test by $R_{\tau/\ell}(X)$ measurement

- Breakdown of $B \rightarrow X\ell\nu$ branching fractions
 - ~ 2/3 overlap with D and D^*
 - ~ 3/4 D decay to ν , K_L^0 , $n\pi$...
 - ~ 1/3 contribution from D^{**} and nonresonant X_c
- Multiple LEP experiments measured $\text{Br}(B \rightarrow X\tau\nu)$
 - $\text{Br}(B \rightarrow X\tau\nu)$ are completely saturated by D/D^* BFs
→ An update measurement is needed
- $R(X)$ is critical cross-check of $R(D^{(*)})$, largest contribution from $R(D^{(*)})$, a partially complementary test of LFU
- $R(X)$ has never been measured

$$R(X_{\tau/\ell}) = \frac{\text{Br}(\bar{B} \rightarrow X\tau^-\bar{\nu}_\tau)}{\text{Br}(\bar{B} \rightarrow X\ell^-\bar{\nu}_\ell)}$$



Results of $R_{\tau/\ell}(X)$ for LFU test

- Main systematics
 - Adjustment to MC (form factor, D and B branching fractions)
 - Sample size in sideband for reweighting
- First Belle II preliminary $R_{\tau/\ell}(X)$ result

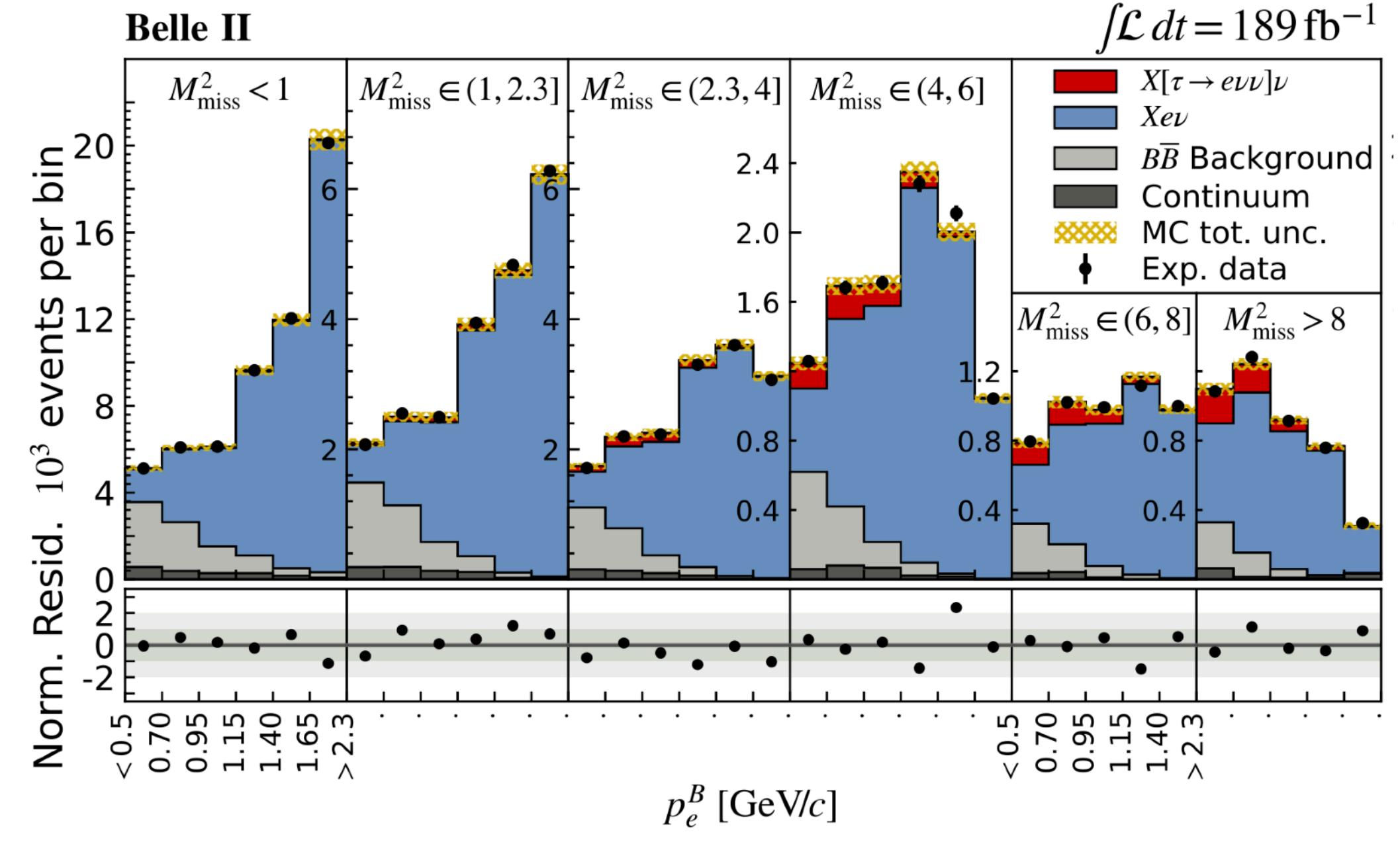
$$R_{\tau/\ell}(X) = 0.228 \pm 0.016 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.036 \text{ (syst)}$$

$$R_{\tau/e}(X) = 0.232 \pm 0.020 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.037 \text{ (syst)}$$

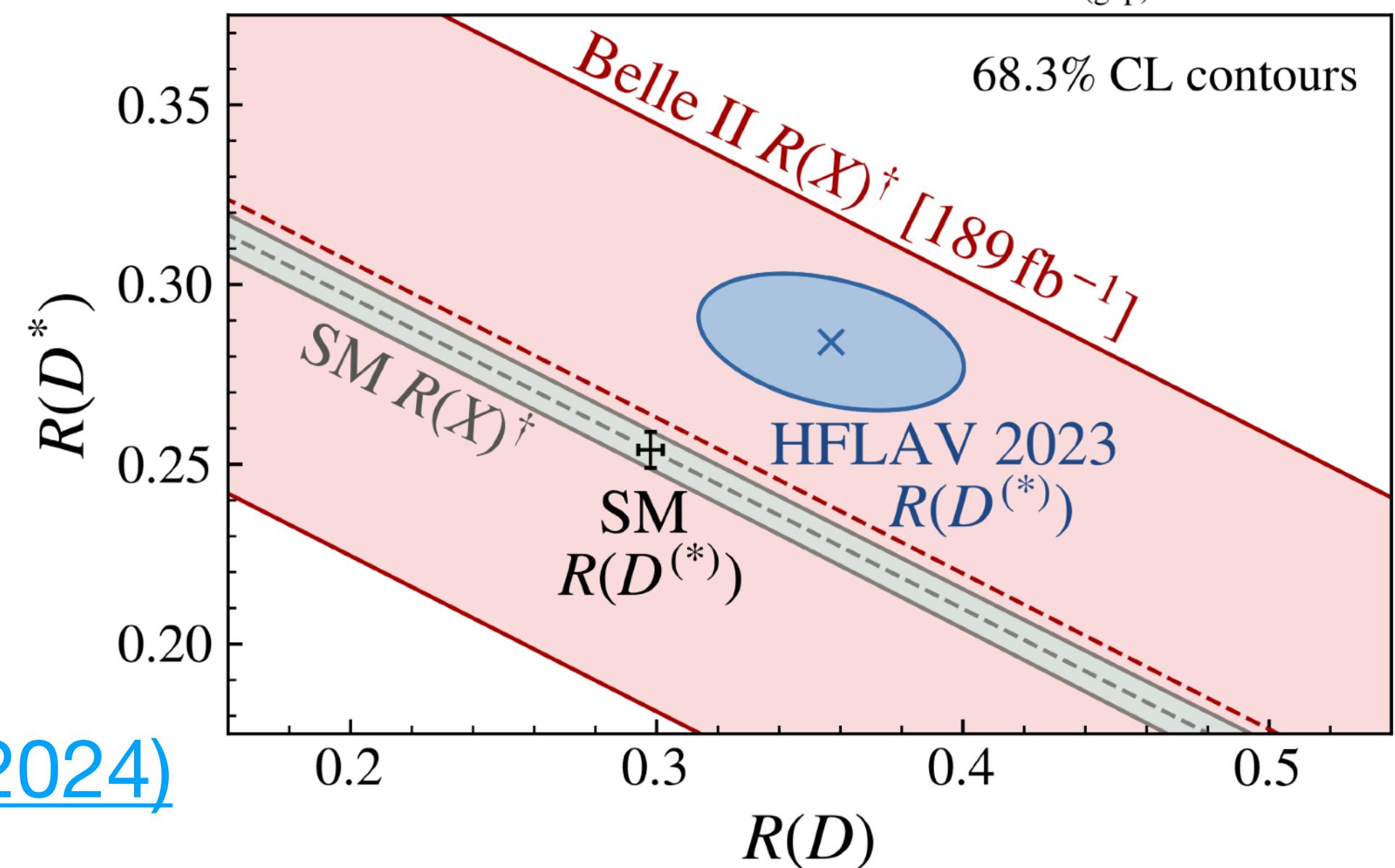
$$R_{\tau/\mu}(X) = 0.222 \pm 0.027 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.050 \text{ (syst)}$$

- Consistent with rough SM expectation

$$R_{\tau/\ell}(X)_{\text{SM}} \approx 0.222$$

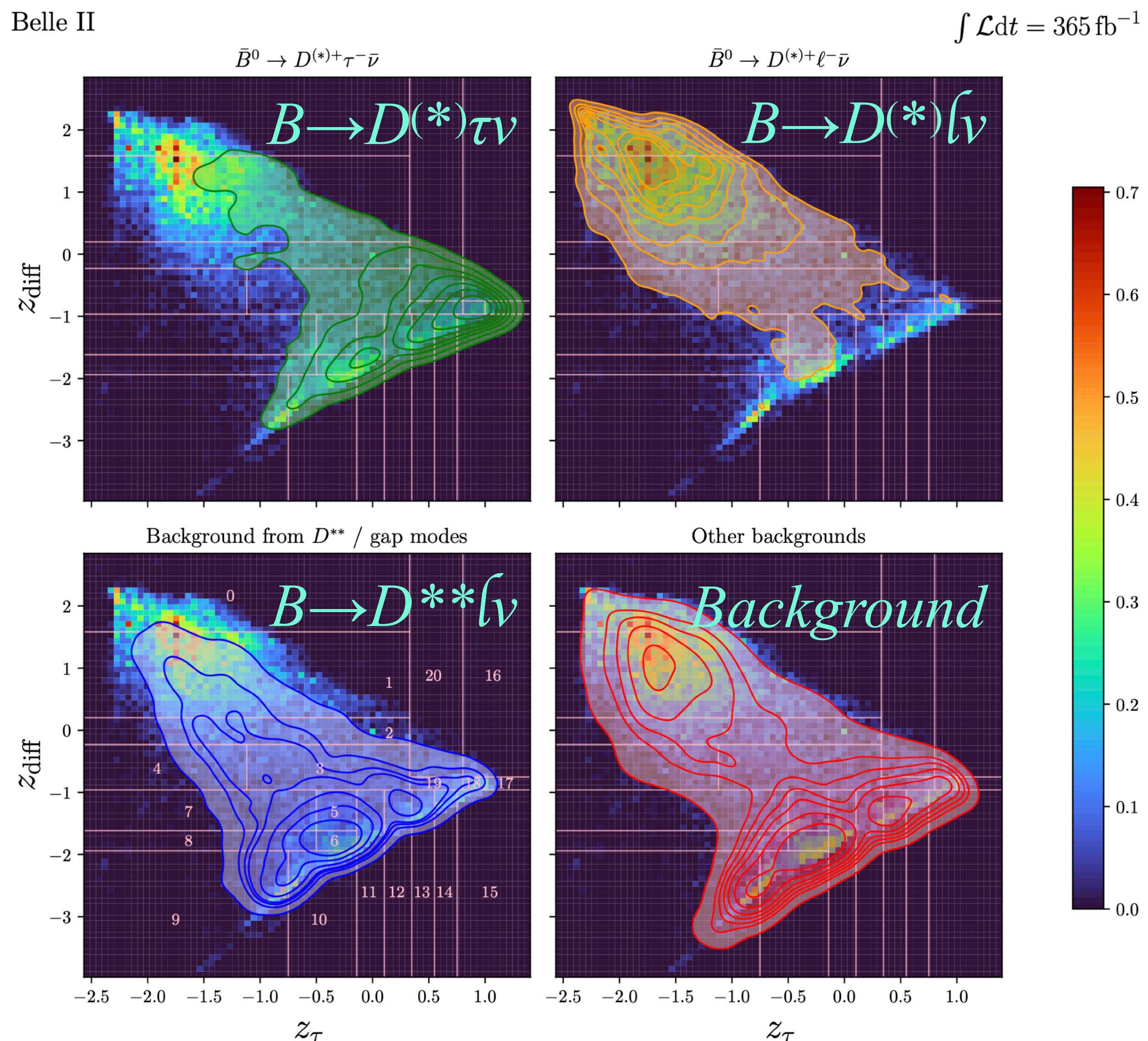


\dagger = with expected SM contributions of $D_{(\text{gap})}^{**}, X_u$ removed



$R_{\tau/\ell}(D^{(*)}+)$ with semileptonic tag *Preliminary*

- Belle II data @ 365 fb^{-1}
- Semileptonic tag: $B \rightarrow D^{(*)} l \bar{\nu}$
 - 26 D decays
- Signal reconstruction: only B^0 , leptonic tau decays
 - 13 D decays
- A BDT trained to separate events in 3 classes
 - Semitauonic signal events z_τ
 - Semileptonic normalization events z_ℓ
 - Background z_{bkg}
- Extract signal in a 2D binned template fit
 - z_τ vs. $z_{\text{diff}}(z_\ell - z_{bkg})$

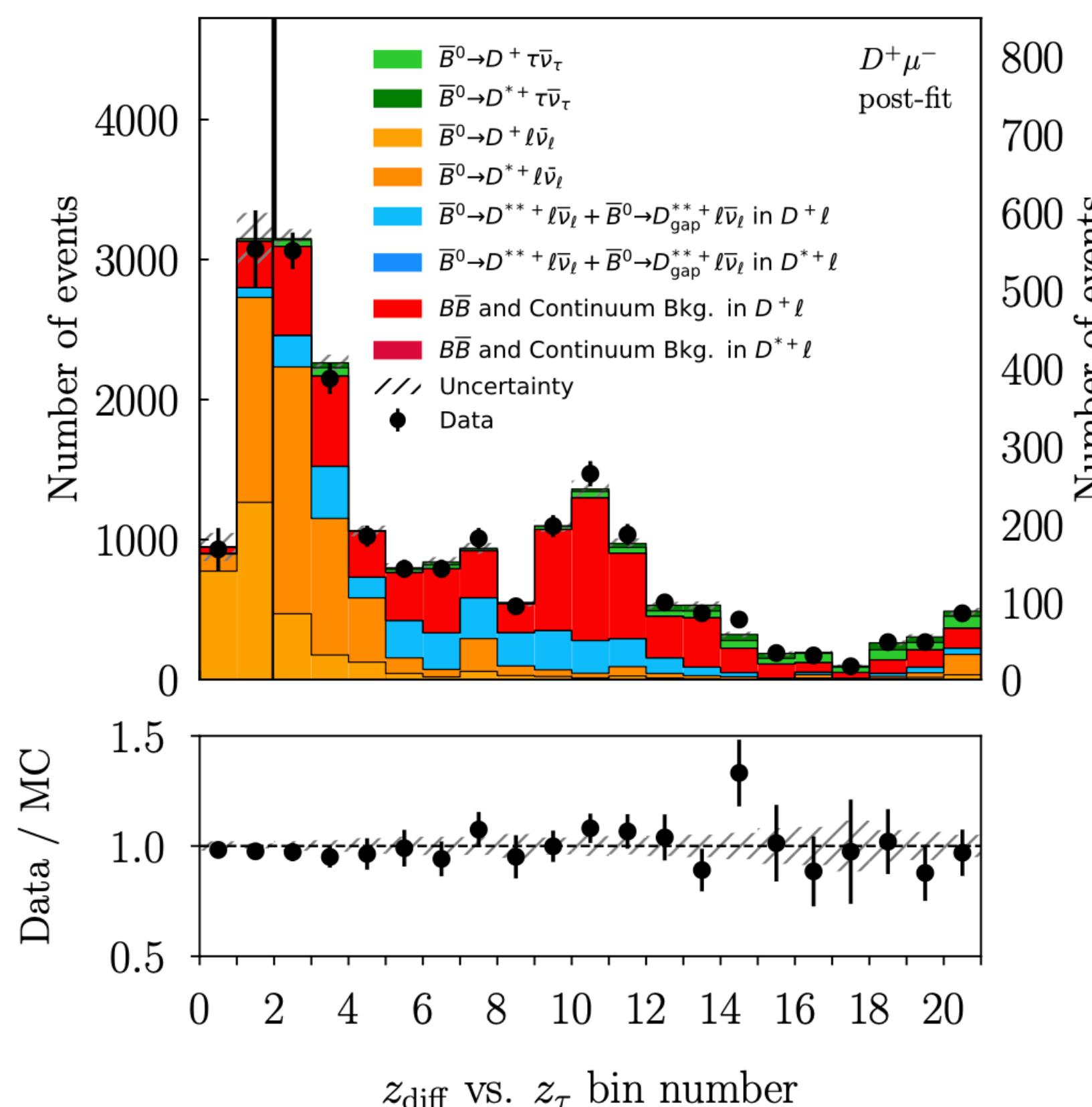


Results of $R_{\tau/\ell}(D^{(*)}+)$

Preliminary

- Main systematics
 - The finite size of the simulated samples
 - The lepton ID efficiency and fake rate corrections

$$\int \mathcal{L} dt = 365 \text{ fb}^{-1}$$



$D^{(*)}\tau V$

$D^{(*)}/V$

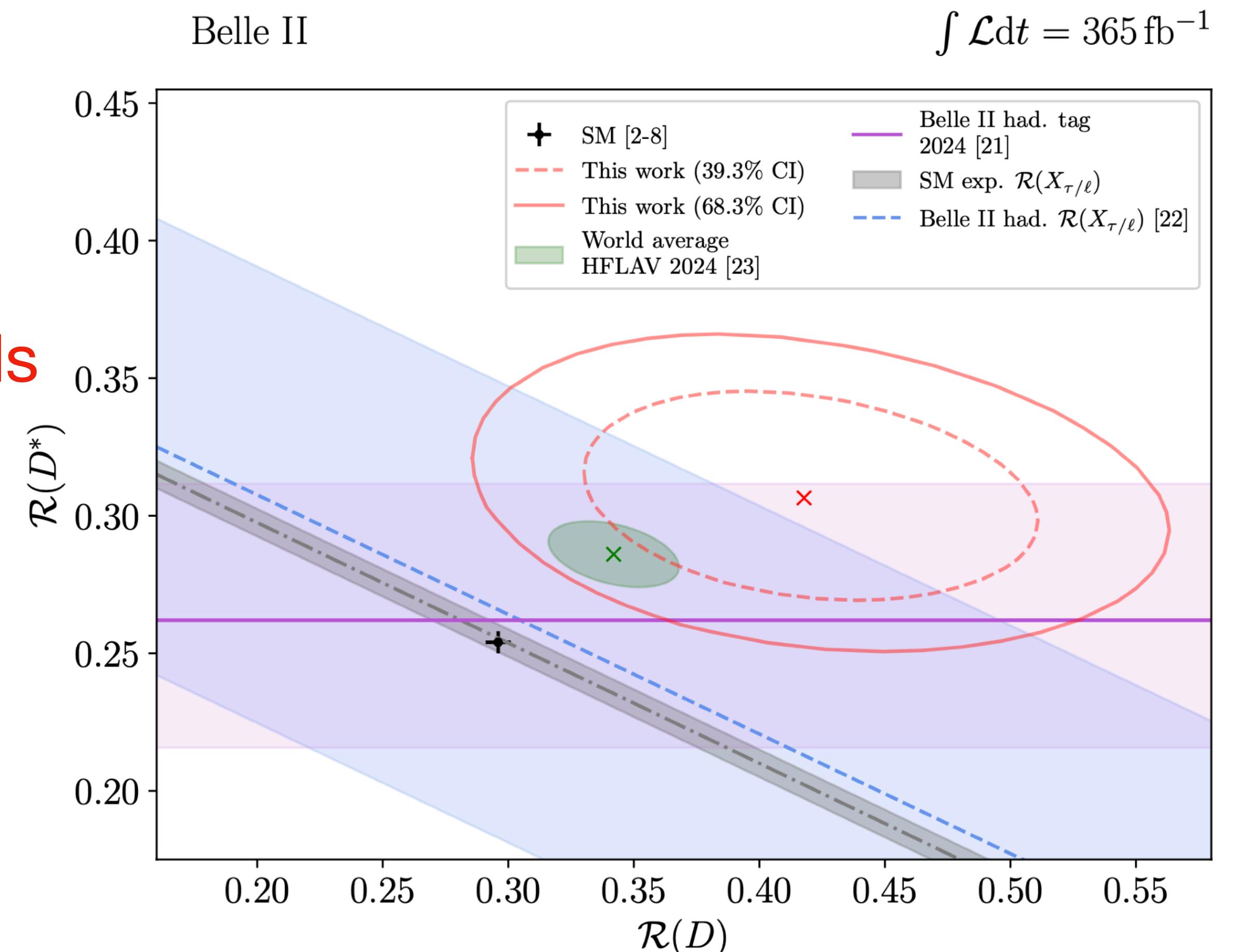
D^{**}/V

Backgrounds

- First Belle II $R(D^{(*)})$ result with semilep. tag

$$R_{\tau/\ell}(D^+) = 0.418 \pm 0.074 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.051 \text{ (syst)}$$

$$R_{\tau/\ell}(D^{*+}) = 0.316 \pm 0.034 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.018 \text{ (syst)}$$



New Physics Scenarios with Effective Field Theory

- New physics contribution to $R(D^{(*)})$ are tested with Wilson operators

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{cb} [(1 + C_{V_L}) \mathcal{O}_{V_L} + C_{V_R} \mathcal{O}_{V_R} + C_{S_L} \mathcal{O}_{S_L} + C_{S_R} \mathcal{O}_{S_R} + C_T \mathcal{O}_T]$$

$\mathcal{O}_{V_L}, \mathcal{O}_{V_R}$: Left-, right-handed vector operators

$\mathcal{O}_{S_L}, \mathcal{O}_{S_R}$: Left-, right-handed scalar operators

\mathcal{O}_T : Tensor vector operators

C_X : Willson coefficient for a X operator

[Refer to: PRD 110, 075005 \(2024\)](#)

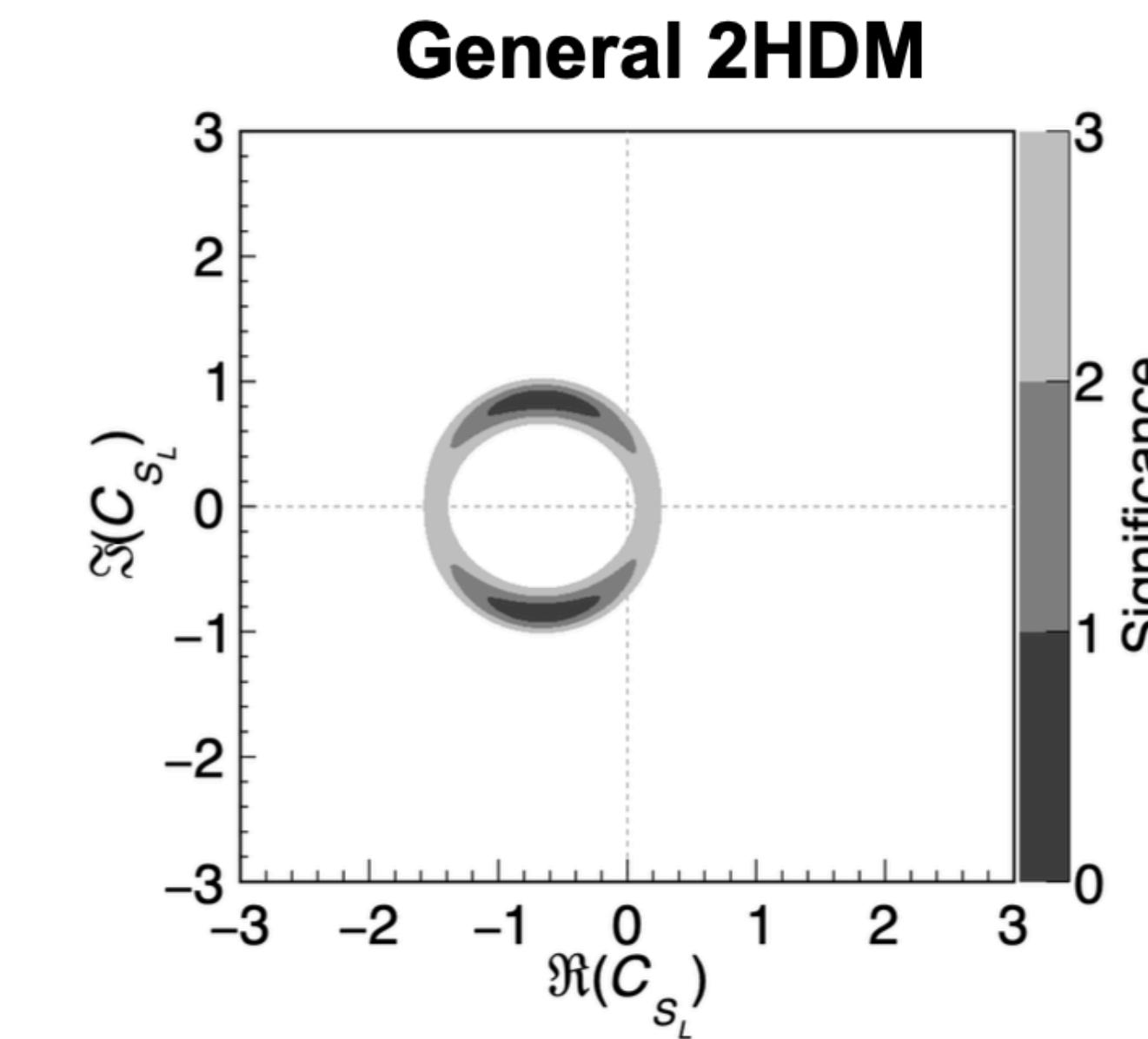
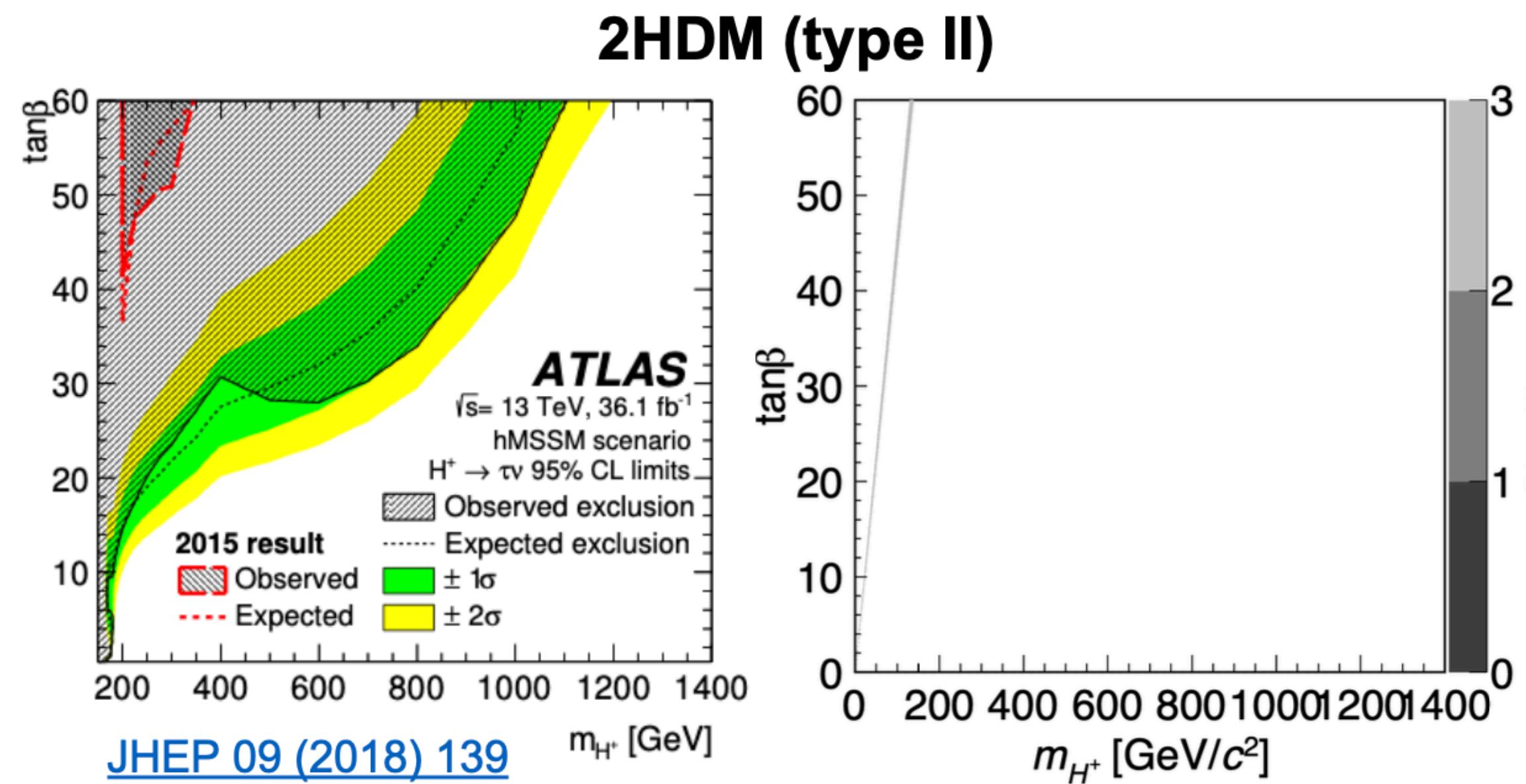
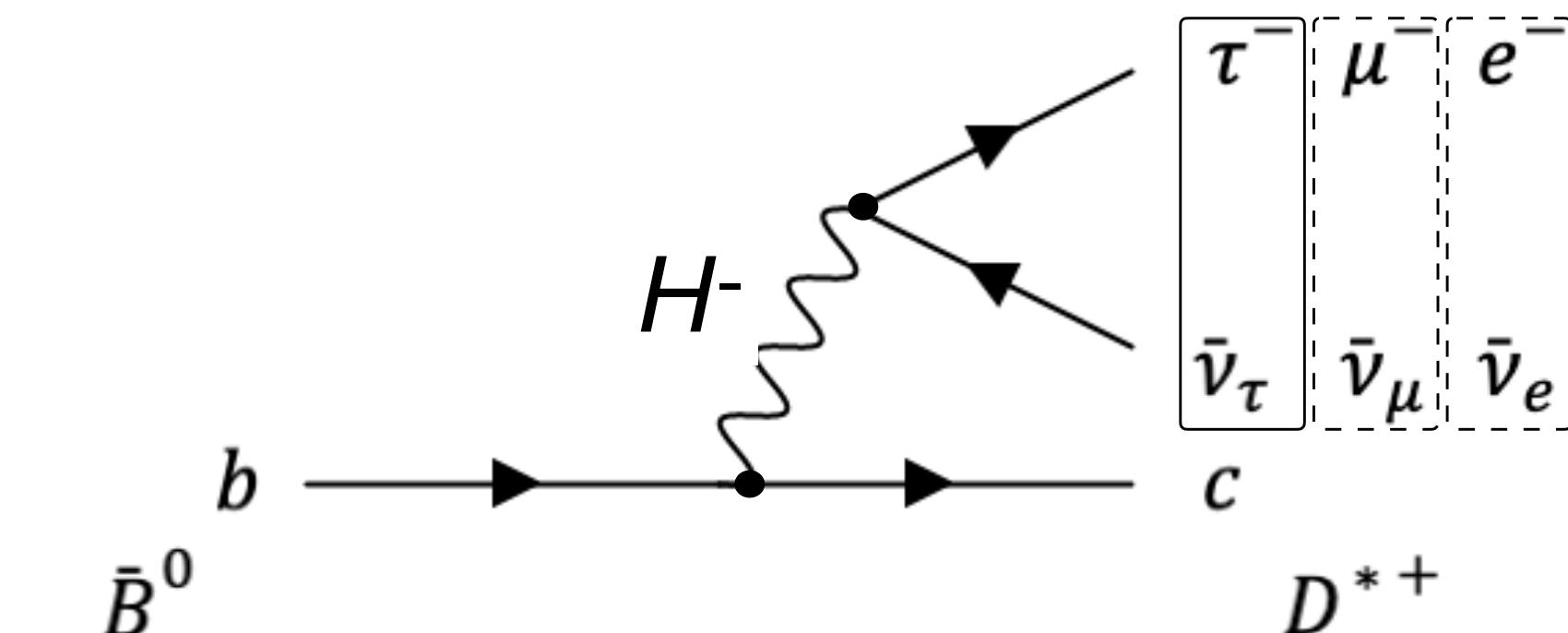
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{R_{D^*}}{R_{D^*}^{\text{SM}}} = & |1 + C_{V_L}|^2 + |C_{V_R}|^2 + 0.04|C_{S_L} - C_{S_R}|^2 + 16.0|C_T|^2 \\ & - 1.83\text{Re}[(1 + C_{V_L})C_{V_R}^*] - 0.11\text{Re}[(1 + C_{V_L} - C_{V_R})(C_{S_L}^* - C_{S_R}^*)] \\ & - 5.17\text{Re}[(1 + C_{V_L})C_T^*] + 6.60\text{Re}[C_{V_R}C_T^*], \end{aligned}$$

- Exp. average to constrain Wilson coefficients

	$R(D)$	$R(D^*)$
Exp. average	0.356 ± 0.029	0.284 ± 0.013
SM	0.298 ± 0.004	0.254 ± 0.005

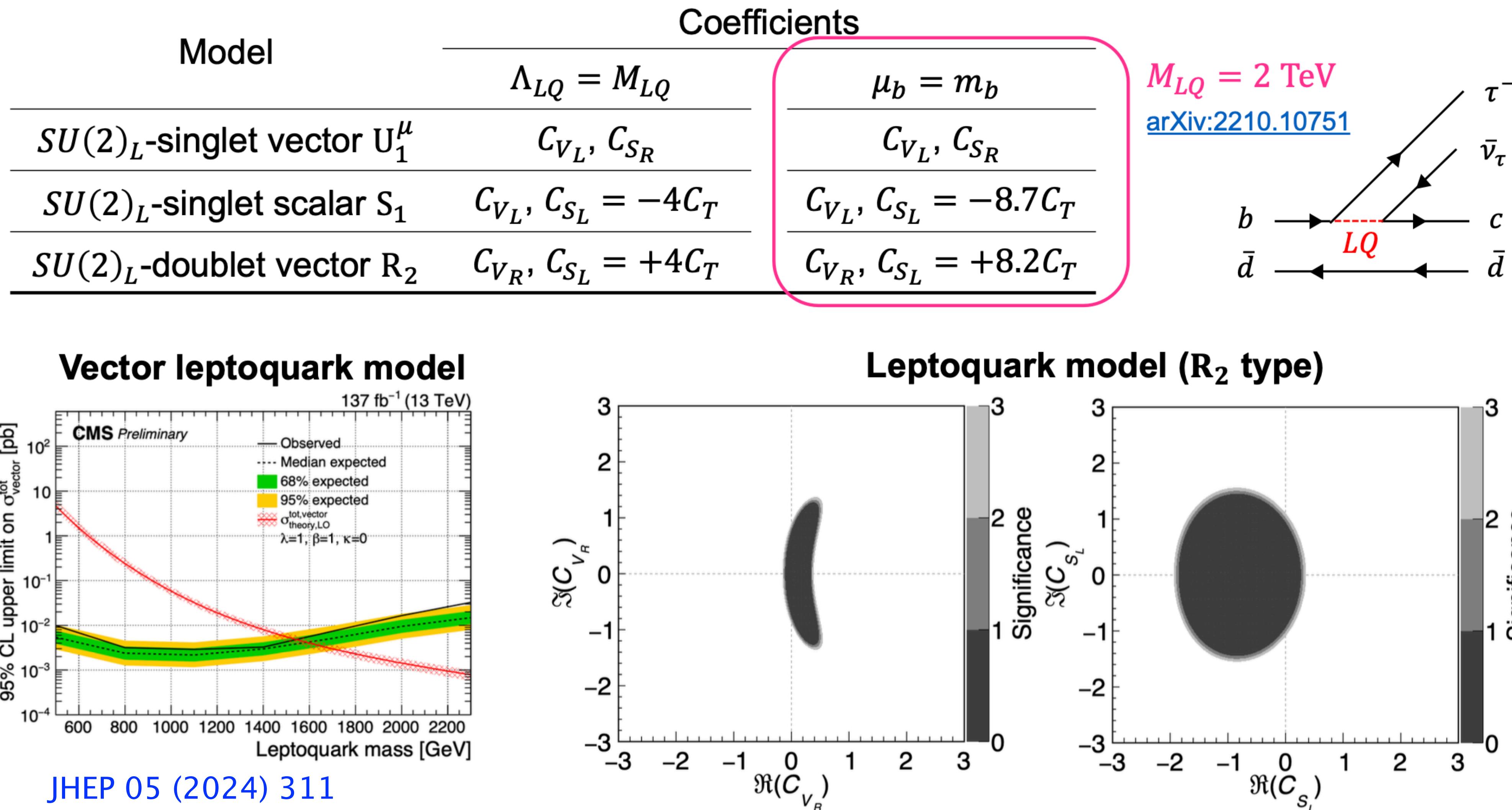
Constraint on charged Higgs scenario

Model	Coefficients
2HDM (type-II) Phys. Rev. D 87, 034028	$C_{S_L} = -m_b m_\tau(\mu_b) \frac{\tan^2 \beta}{m_{H^+}^2}$ $C_{S_R} = -m_c(\mu_b) m_\tau(\mu_b) \frac{1}{m_{H^+}^2}$
General 2HDM	C_{S_L}



- Charged Higgs in 2HDM (type II) is disfavored
- General 2HDM still survives

Constraint on leptoquark scenario



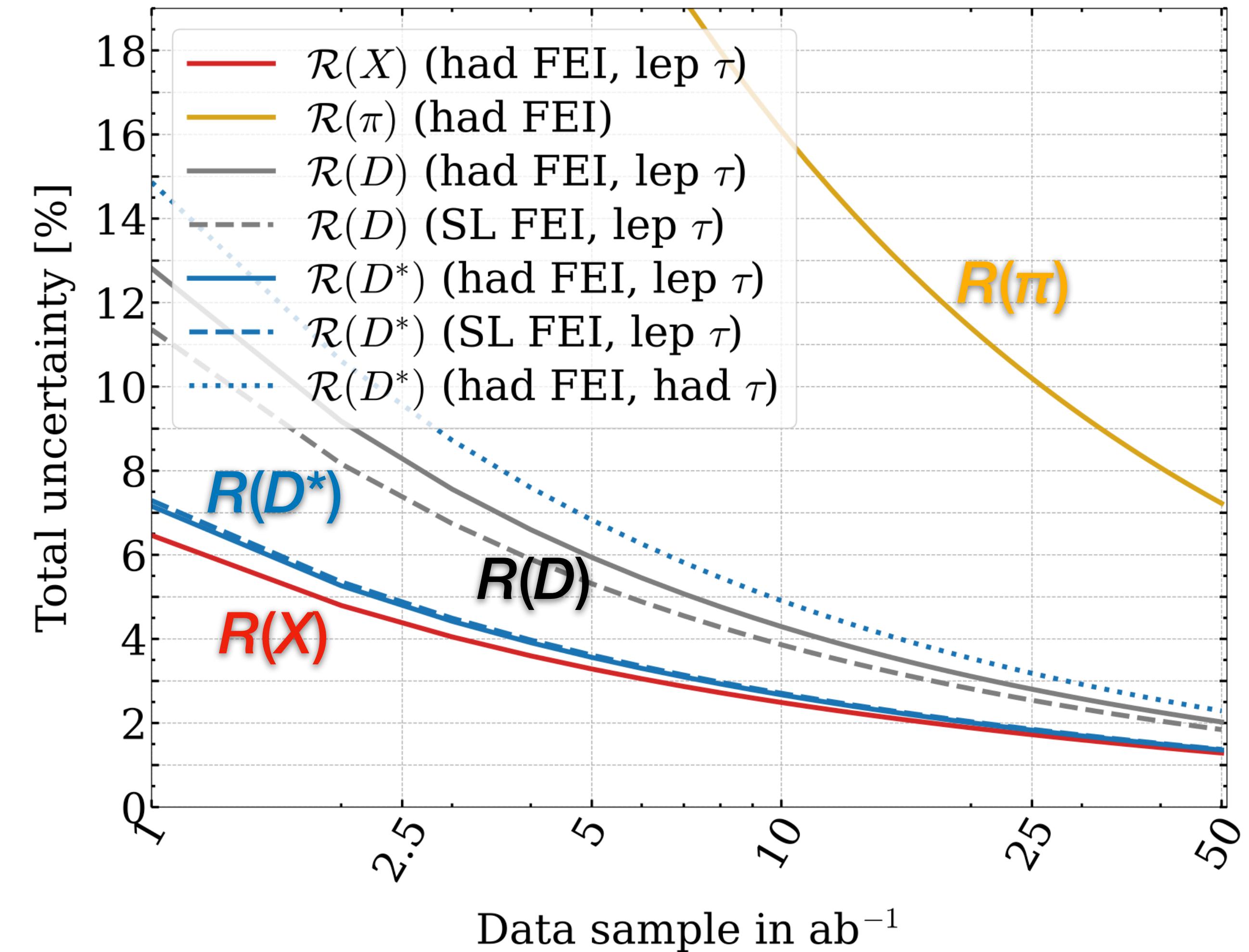
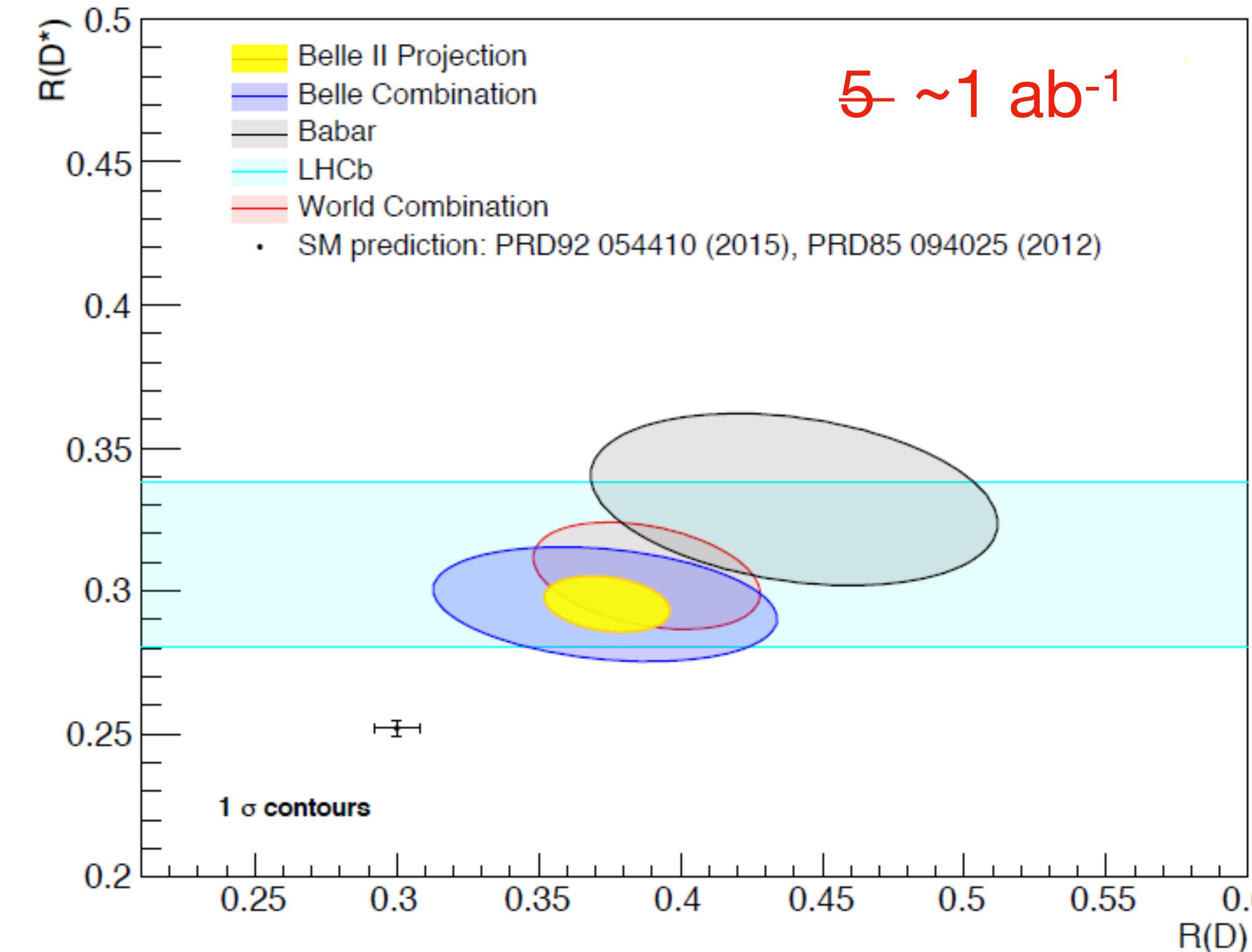
JHEP 05 (2024) 311

- All three models have favored regions within $1\sigma R(D^{(*)})$ exp. average
- $R(D^{(*)})$ can be explained with three leptoquark models of 2 TeV

Expected sensitivity of LFU test at Belle II

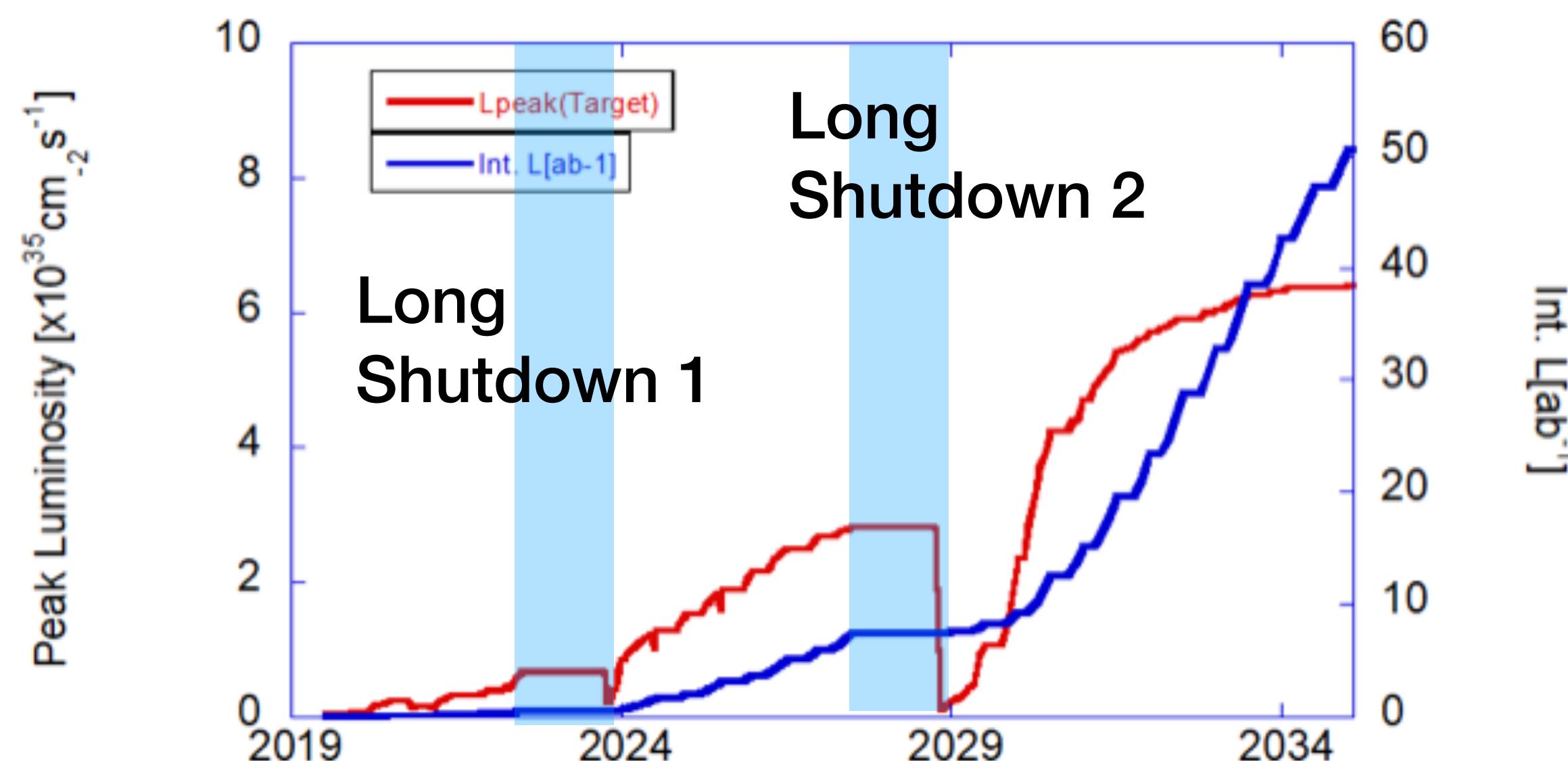
The Belle II Physics Book, PTEP 2019, 123C01

arXiv:2207.06307



Summary and prospects

- $R(D^*)$ shows 3.3σ deviation between experimental average value and standard model prediction
 - Hint of Lepton Flavor Universality Violation
- Belle II performed new tests of LFU
 - 189 fb^{-1} data
$$R_{\tau/\ell}(D^*) = 0.267^{+0.041}_{-0.039} \text{ (stat)}^{+0.028}_{-0.033} \text{ (syst)}$$
$$R_{\tau/\ell}(X) = 0.228 \pm 0.016 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.036 \text{ (syst)}$$
 - 365 fb^{-1} data
$$R_{\tau/\ell}(D^+) = 0.418 \pm 0.074 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.051 \text{ (syst)}$$
$$R_{\tau/\ell}(D^{*+}) = 0.316 \pm 0.034 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.018 \text{ (syst)}$$
- $R(D^*)$ results with hadronic tag @ 365 fb^{-1} coming soon, stay tuned !!!



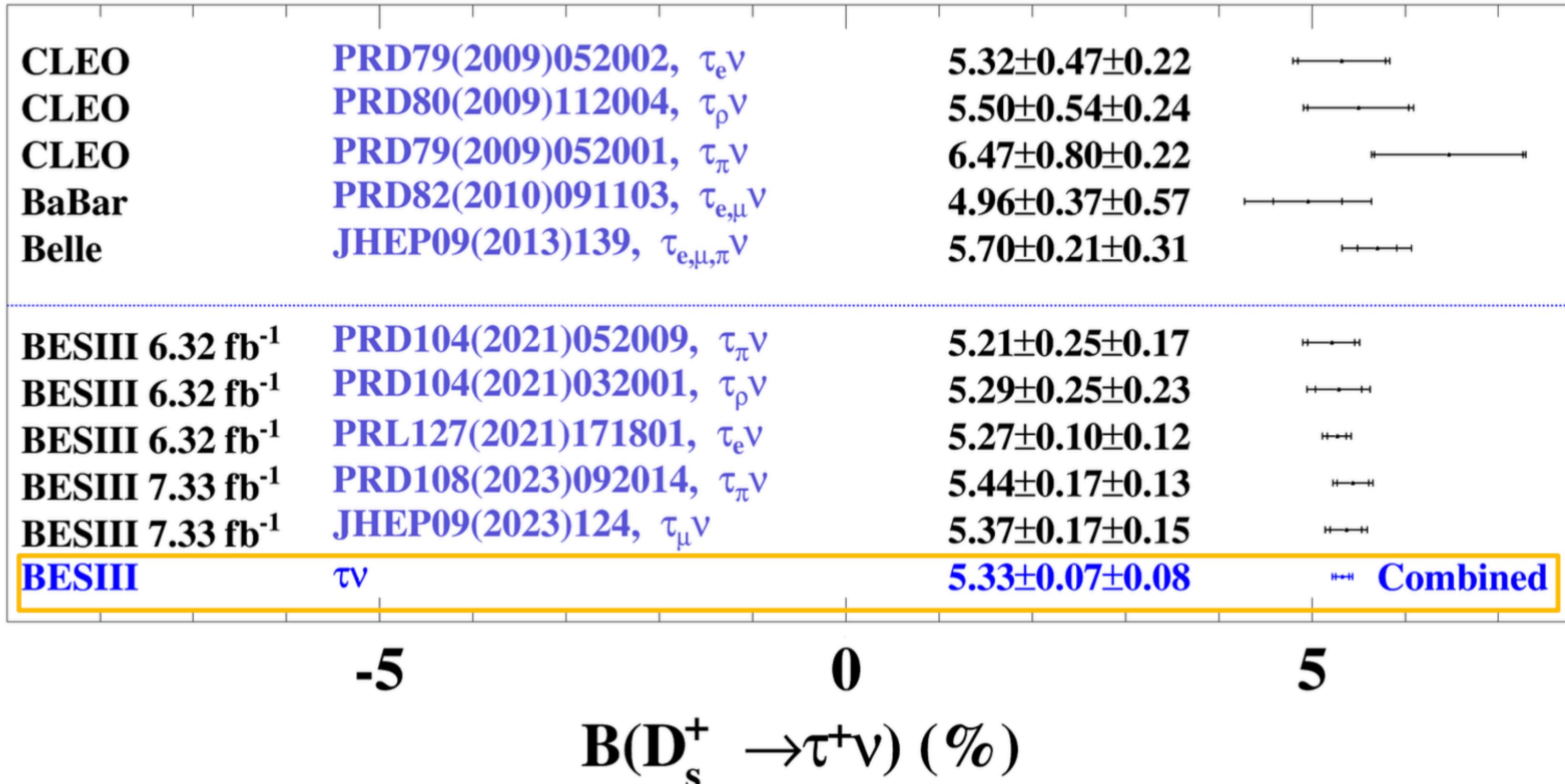
Backup

LFU in D_s decays

BESIII

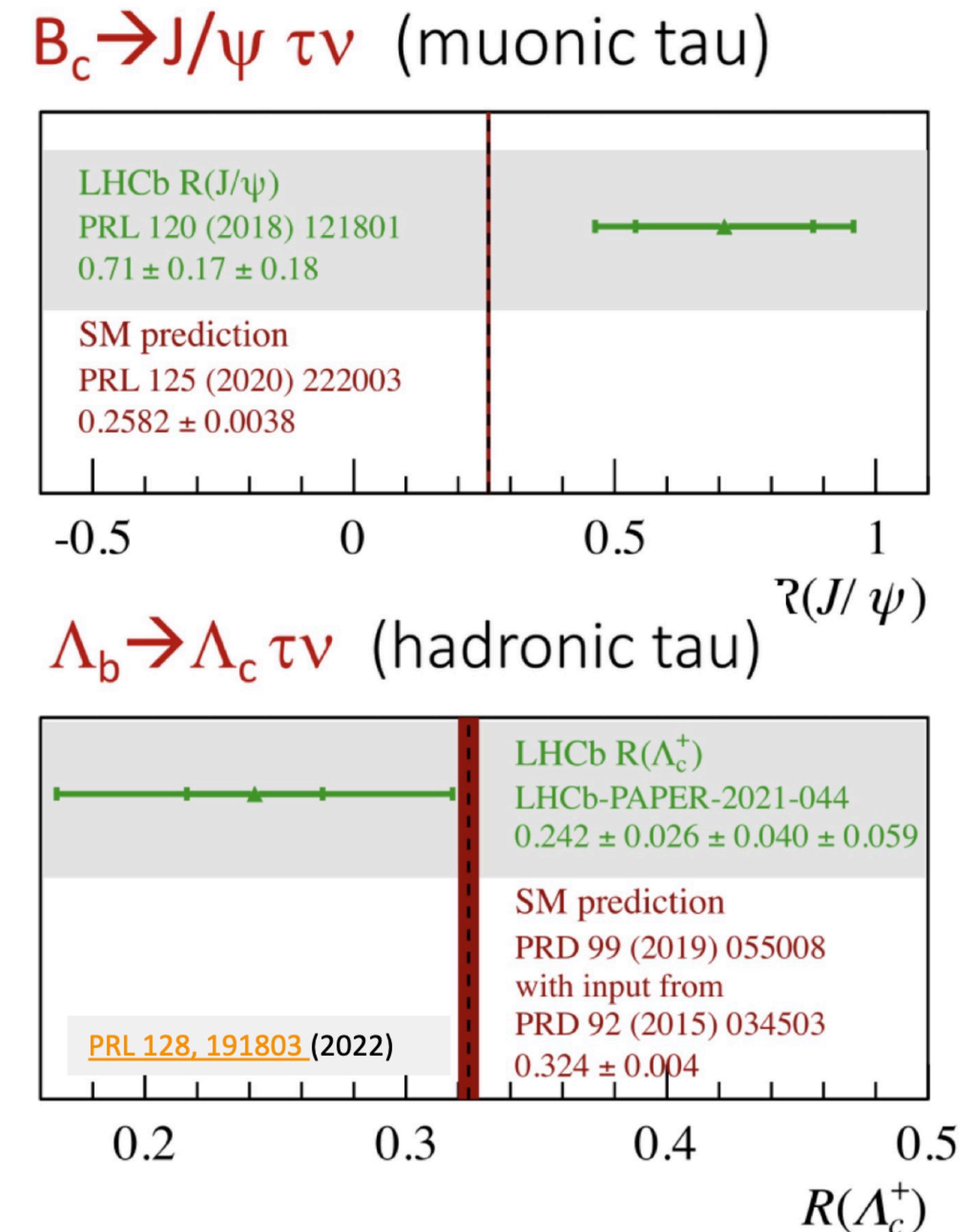
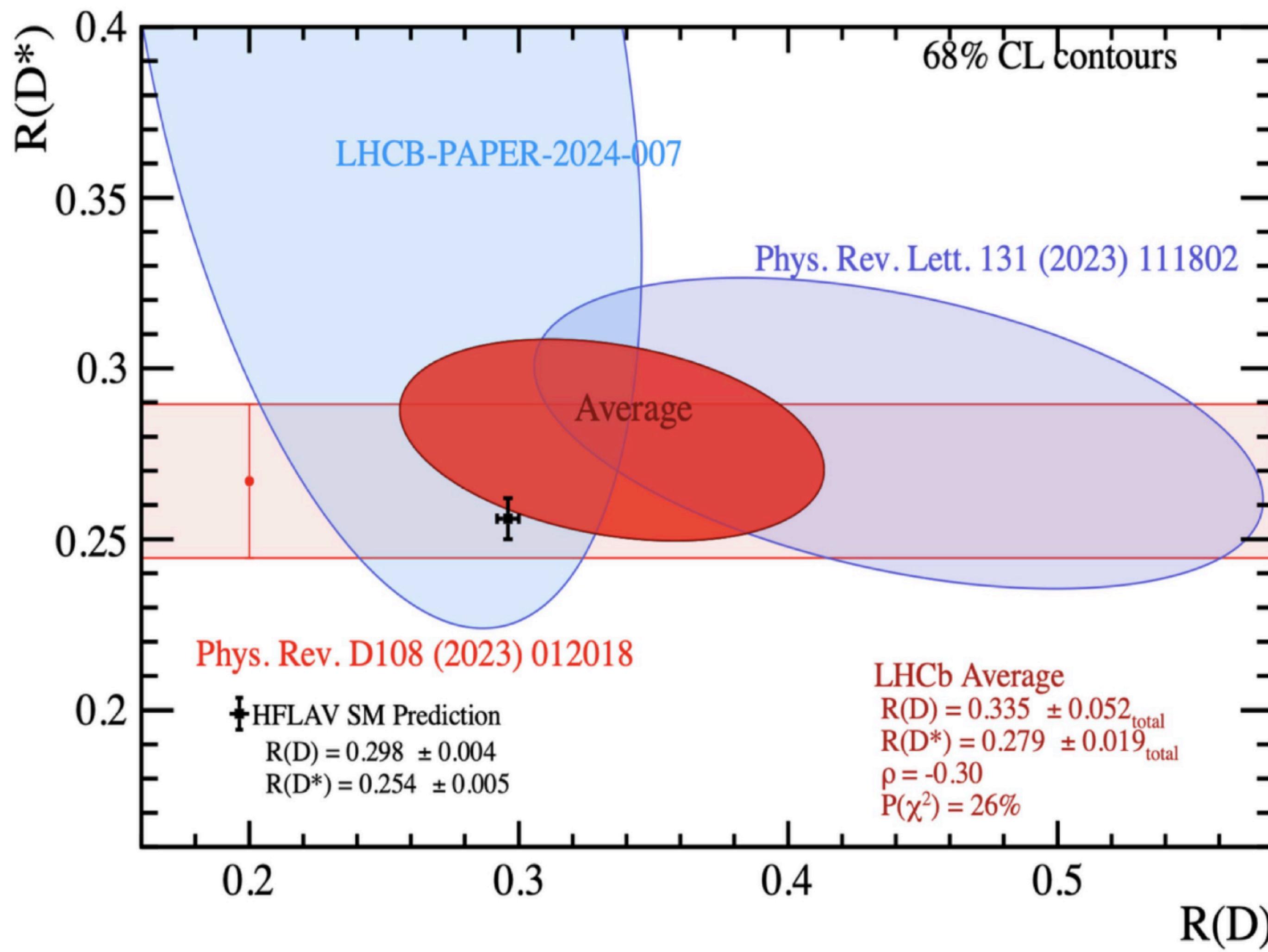
PRD108(2023)11200, $\mu\nu$

(5.29±0.11±0.09) × 10⁻³



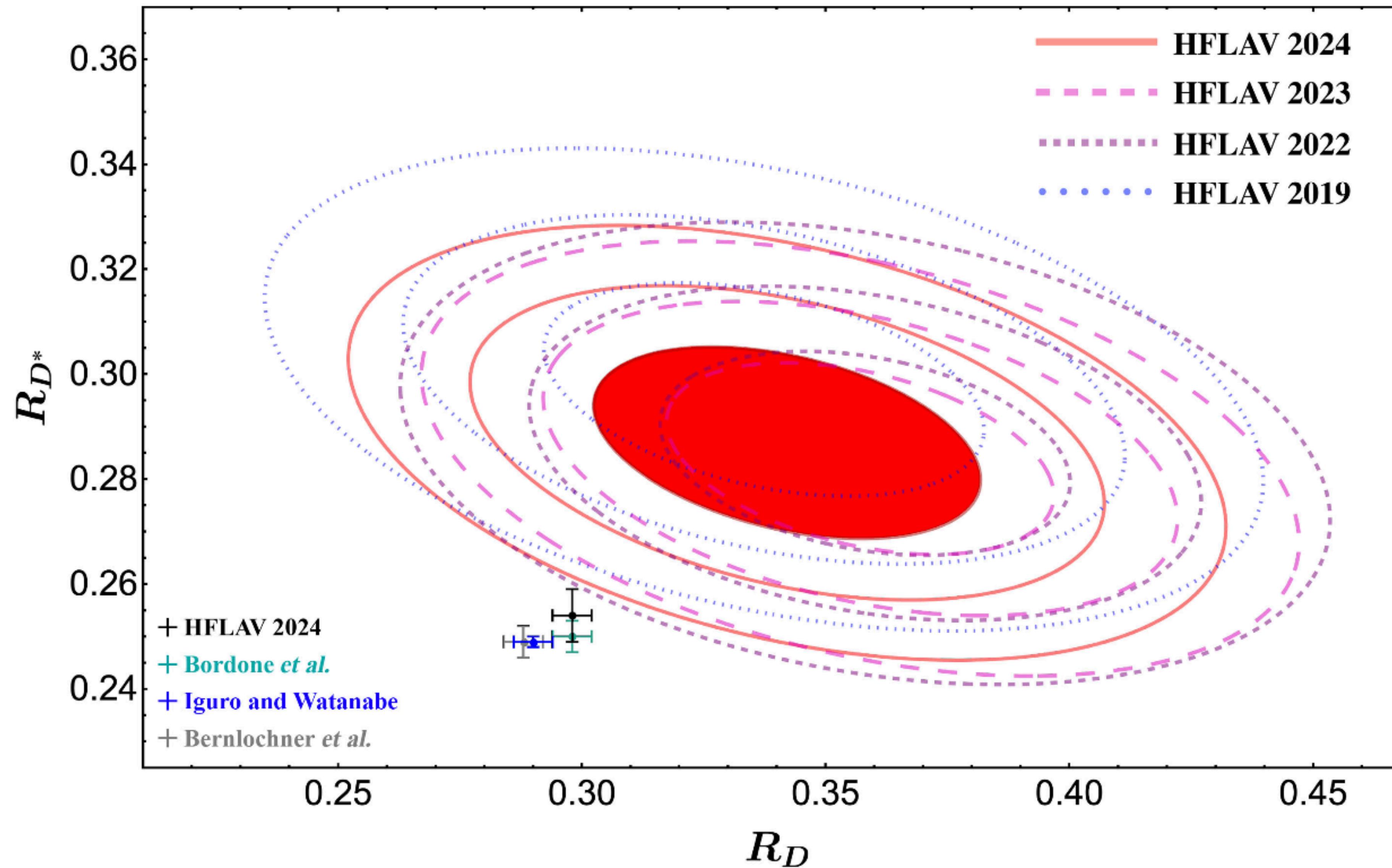
$$R_{\tau/\mu} = \frac{\mathcal{B}[D_s^+ \rightarrow \tau^+ \nu]}{\mathcal{B}[D_s^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu]} = 10.05 \pm 0.35 \quad \text{consistent with the SM prediction 9.75}$$

Recent LHCb measurements



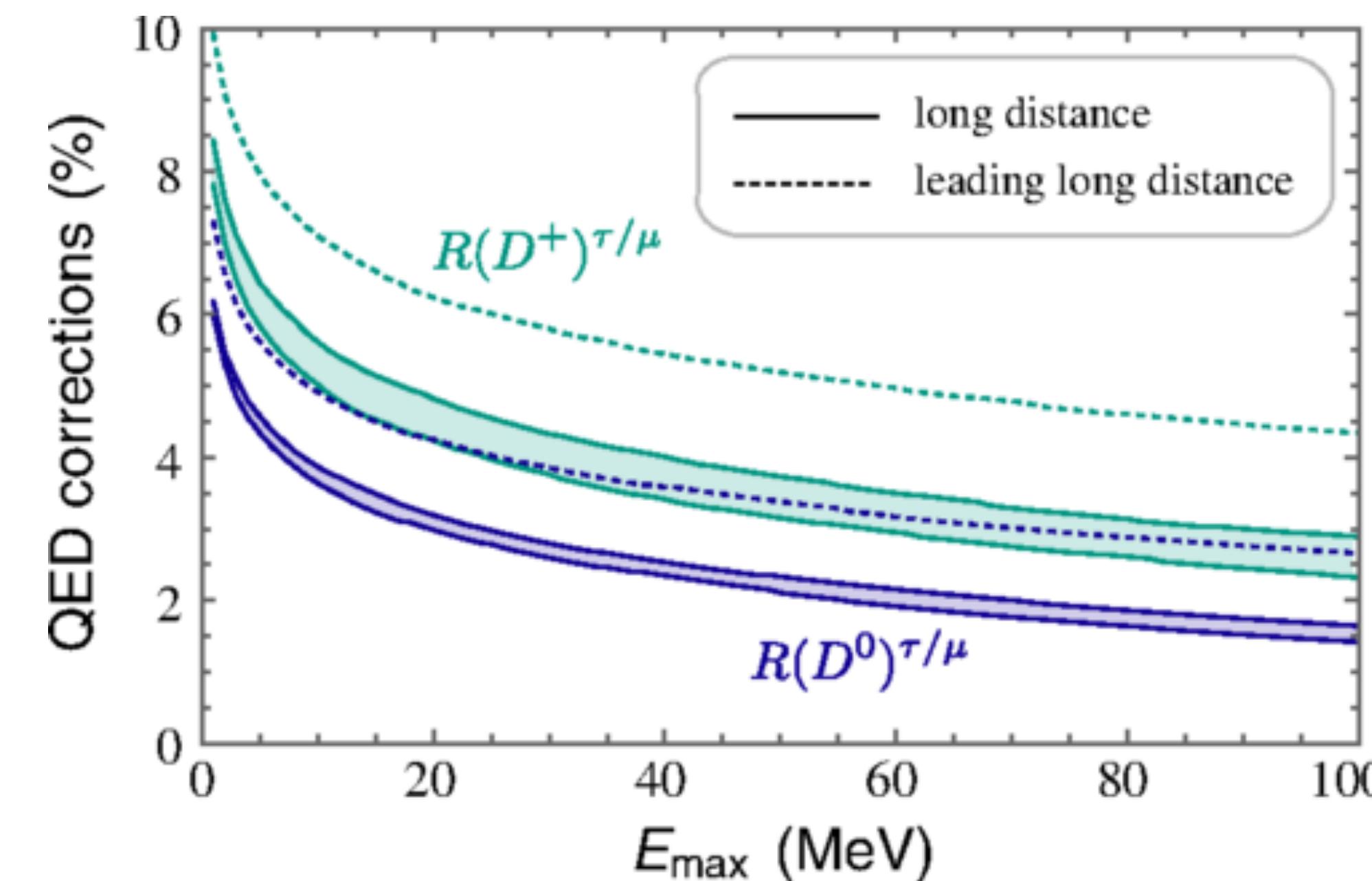
“ B anomaly” in semileptonic decays

PRD 110, 075005 (2024)



LFUV in SM

- LFU is broken in Yukawa interaction
 - Difference in kinematics and Higgs coupling due to different lepton masses
 - Charged lepton mass changes **kinematics** and modifies **form factors in the hadronization**
 - QED corrections depend on lepton velocity (τ vs. $\ell(e, \mu)$)
 - Long-distance QED correction could violate the lepton flavor universality



PRL. 120, 261804 (2018)

M_X reweighting

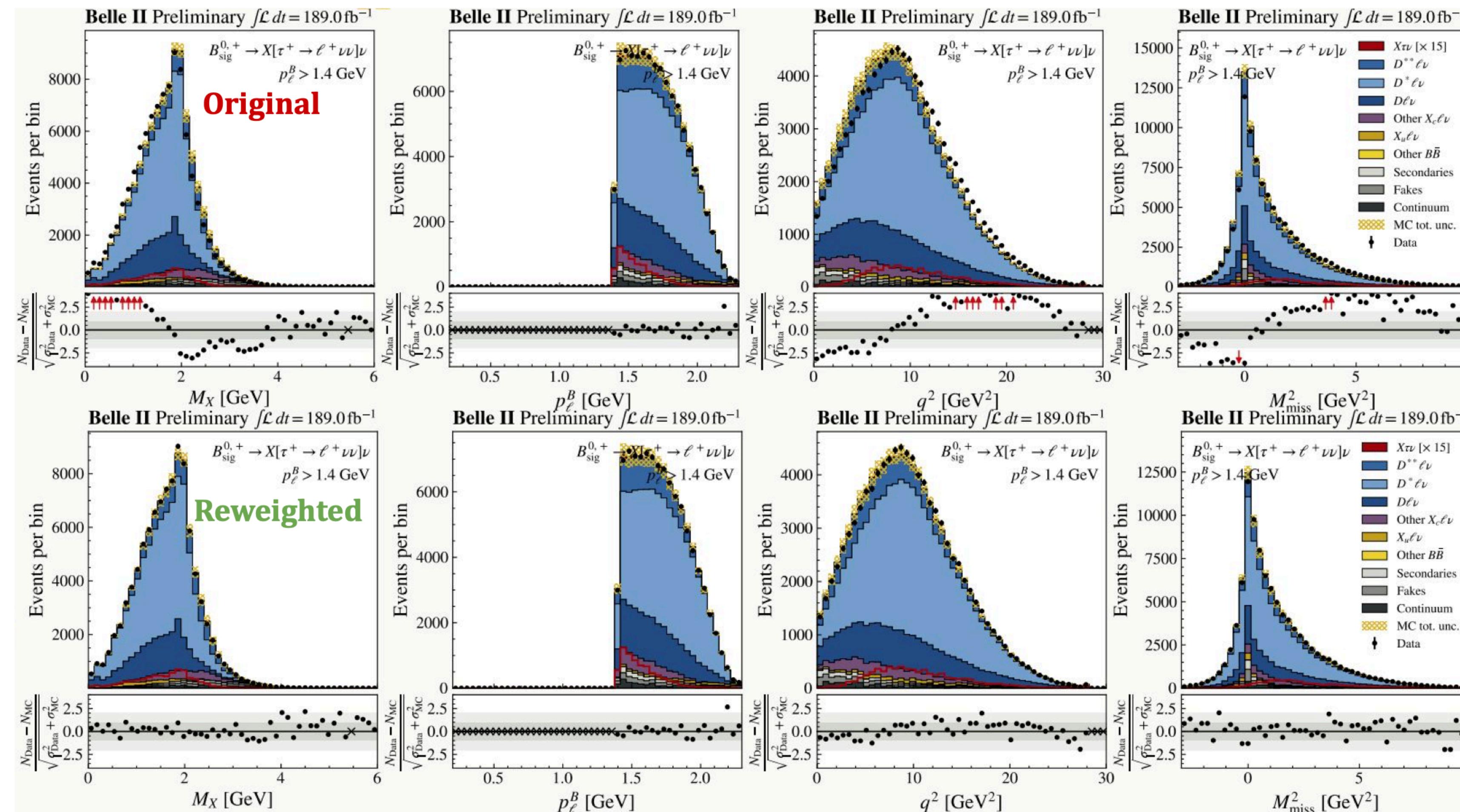
Reliable

Henrik Junkerkalefeld

$$M_X^2 = \left(\frac{E_X}{\vec{p}_X} \right)^2$$

$$q^2 = \left[\left(\frac{E_{\text{CMS}}/2}{-\vec{p}_{B\text{tag}}} \right) - \left(\frac{E_X}{\vec{p}_X} \right) \right]^2$$

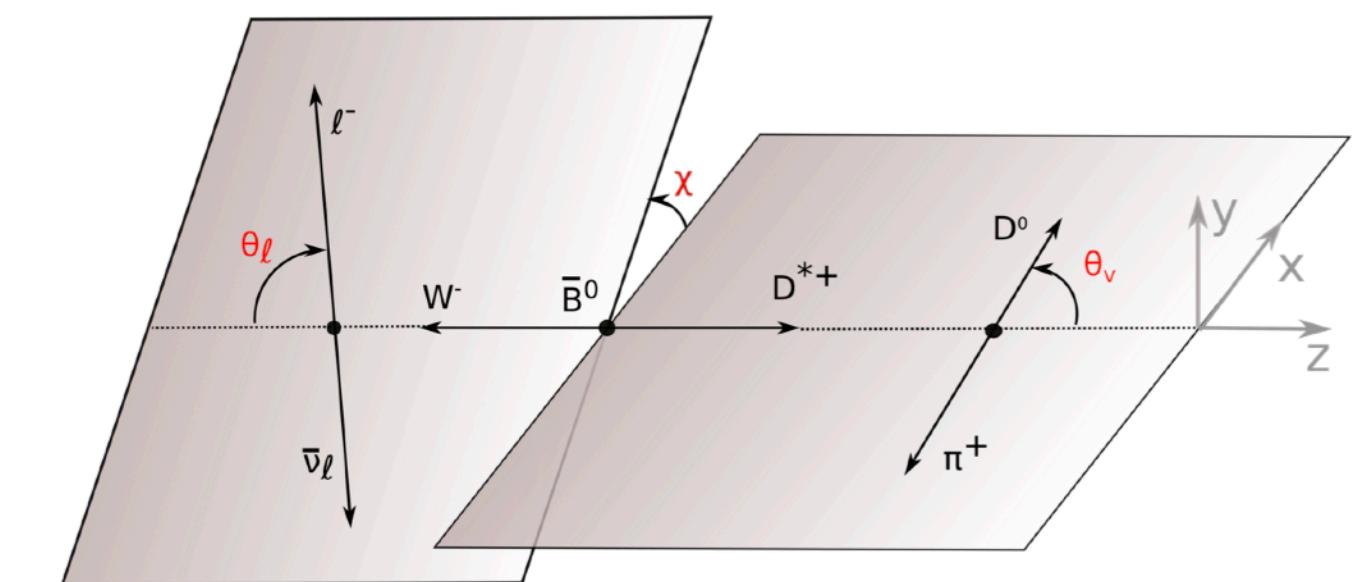
$$m_{\text{miss}}^2 = \left[\left(\frac{E_{\text{CMS}}}{\vec{p}_{\text{CMS}}} \right) - \left(\frac{E_{\ell}}{\vec{p}_{\ell}} \right) - \left(\frac{E_X}{\vec{p}_X} \right) \right]^2$$



LFU tests in $B \rightarrow D^* l \bar{\nu}$ angular asymmetries

- Measure angular asymmetries separately for $D^* e \bar{\nu}$ and $D^* \mu \bar{\nu}$ final states; their differences are sensitive to LFU violation
- Belle II measures A_{FB} , S_3 , S_5 , S_7 , S_9 (defined in [PRD 107,015011](#)) as a function of w , with $x = \cos\theta_l$ for $A_x(w)$, other choices for S_3-S_9

$$\mathcal{A}_x(w) \equiv \left(\frac{d\Gamma}{dw} \right)^{-1} \left[\int_0^1 - \int_{-1}^0 \right] dx \frac{d^2\Gamma}{dw dx} \quad \mathcal{A}_x(w) = \frac{N_x^+(w) - N_x^-(w)}{N_x^+(w) + N_x^-(w)}$$

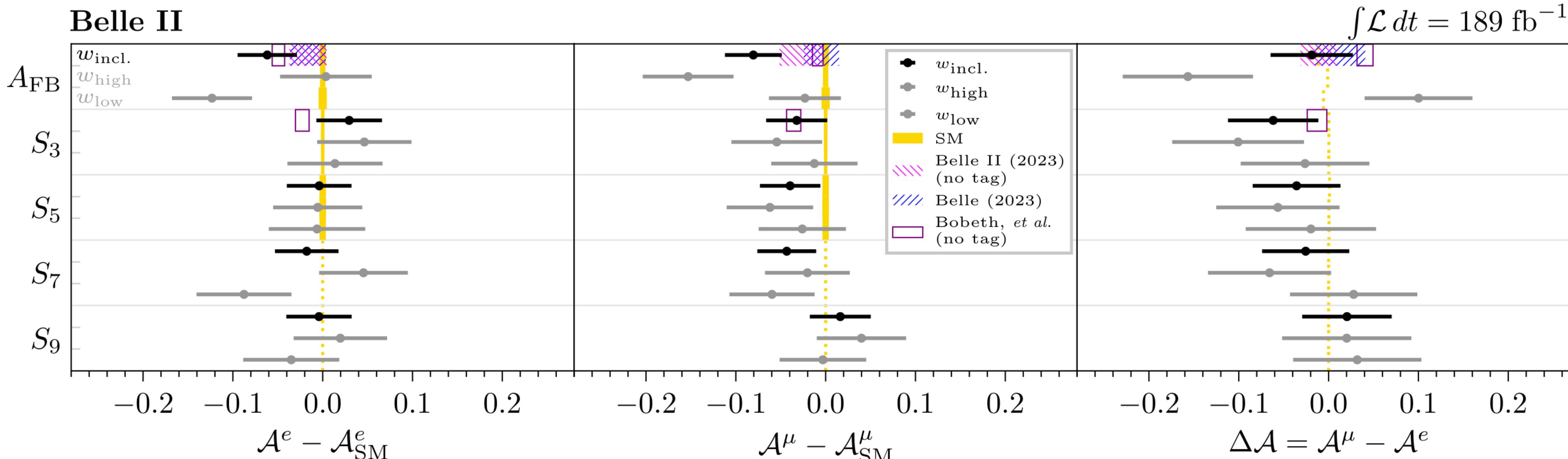
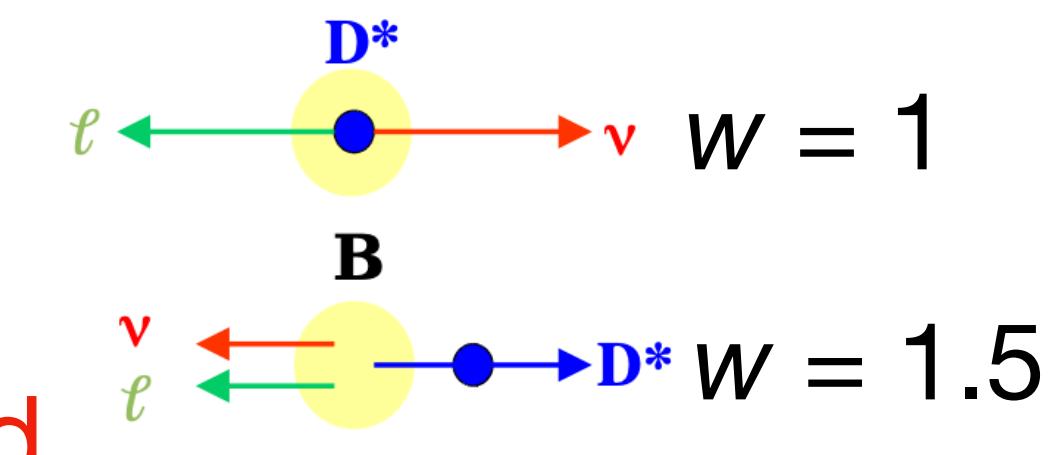


$$w \equiv \frac{m_{B^0}^2 + m_{D^*}^2 - q^2}{2m_B m_{D^*}}$$

- The differences are expected to be small in SM

$$\Delta \mathcal{A}_x(w) \equiv \mathcal{A}_x^\mu(w) - \mathcal{A}_x^e(w)$$

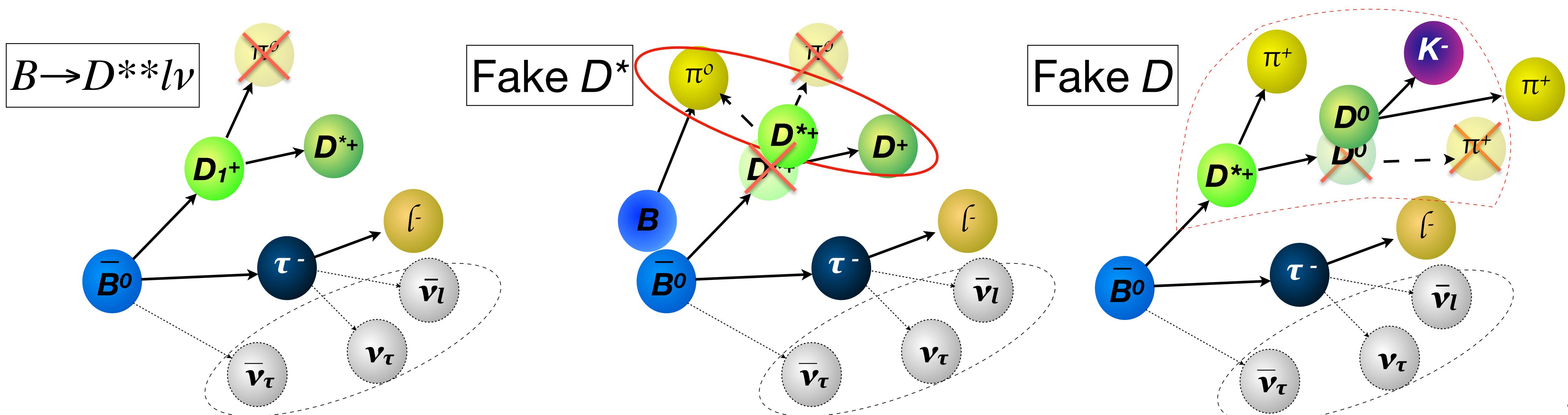
- All asymmetry consistent with SM, the measurements are statistics limited



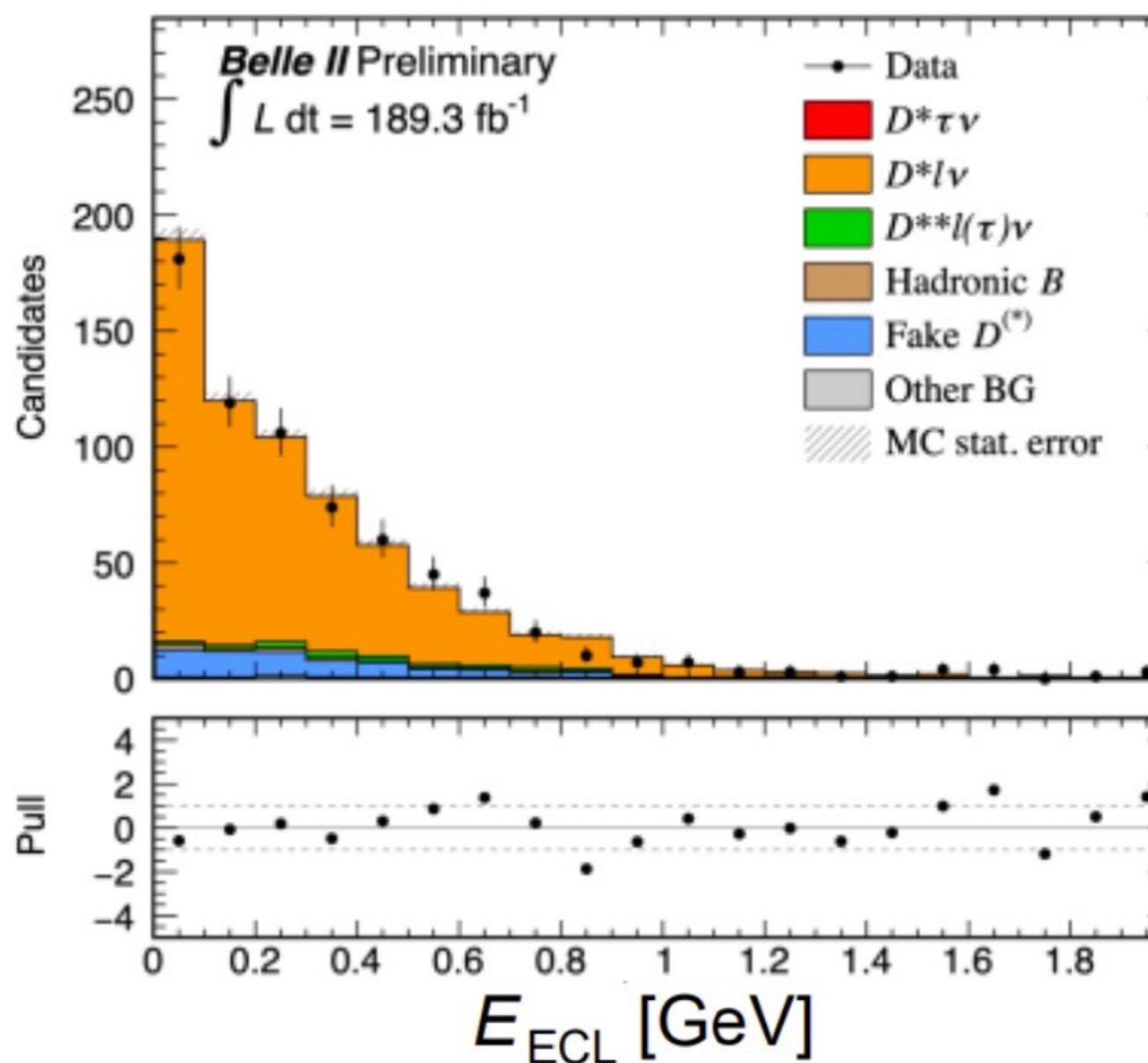
Dominant backgrounds

- Fraction of survived B candidates in each category after event selections are estimated based on Belle II MC simulation

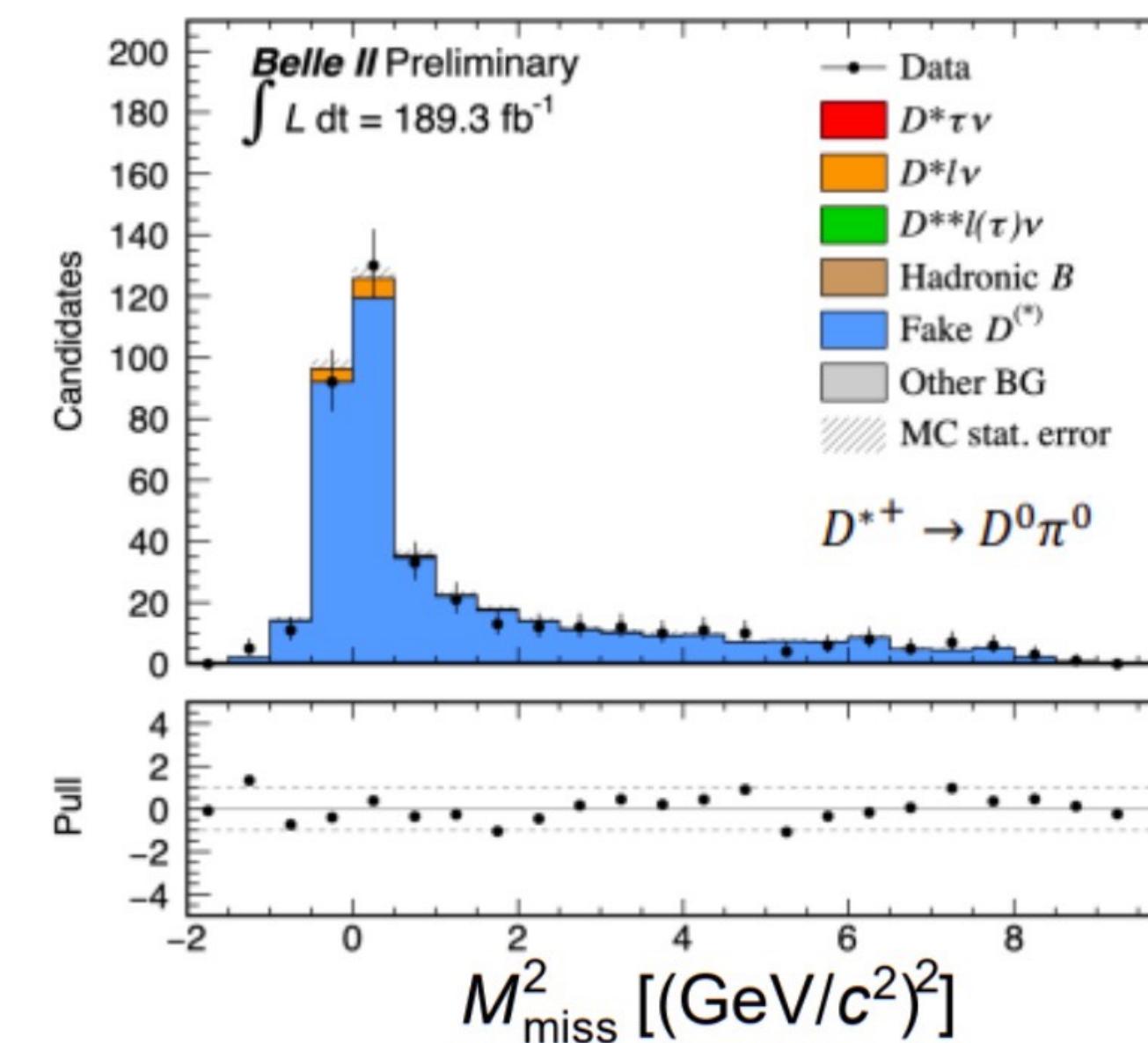
B candidates	$B \rightarrow D^* \tau \nu$	$B \rightarrow D^* l \nu$	Background Truth $D^{(*)}$	Background Fake $D^{(*)}$
	$B \rightarrow D^{**} l \nu, B \rightarrow D^{(*)} X, B^0 \leftrightarrow B^\pm, \dots$			
B^0	2.7%	65.5%	12.5%	19.2%
B^\pm	1.7%	34.7%	5.9%	57.8%



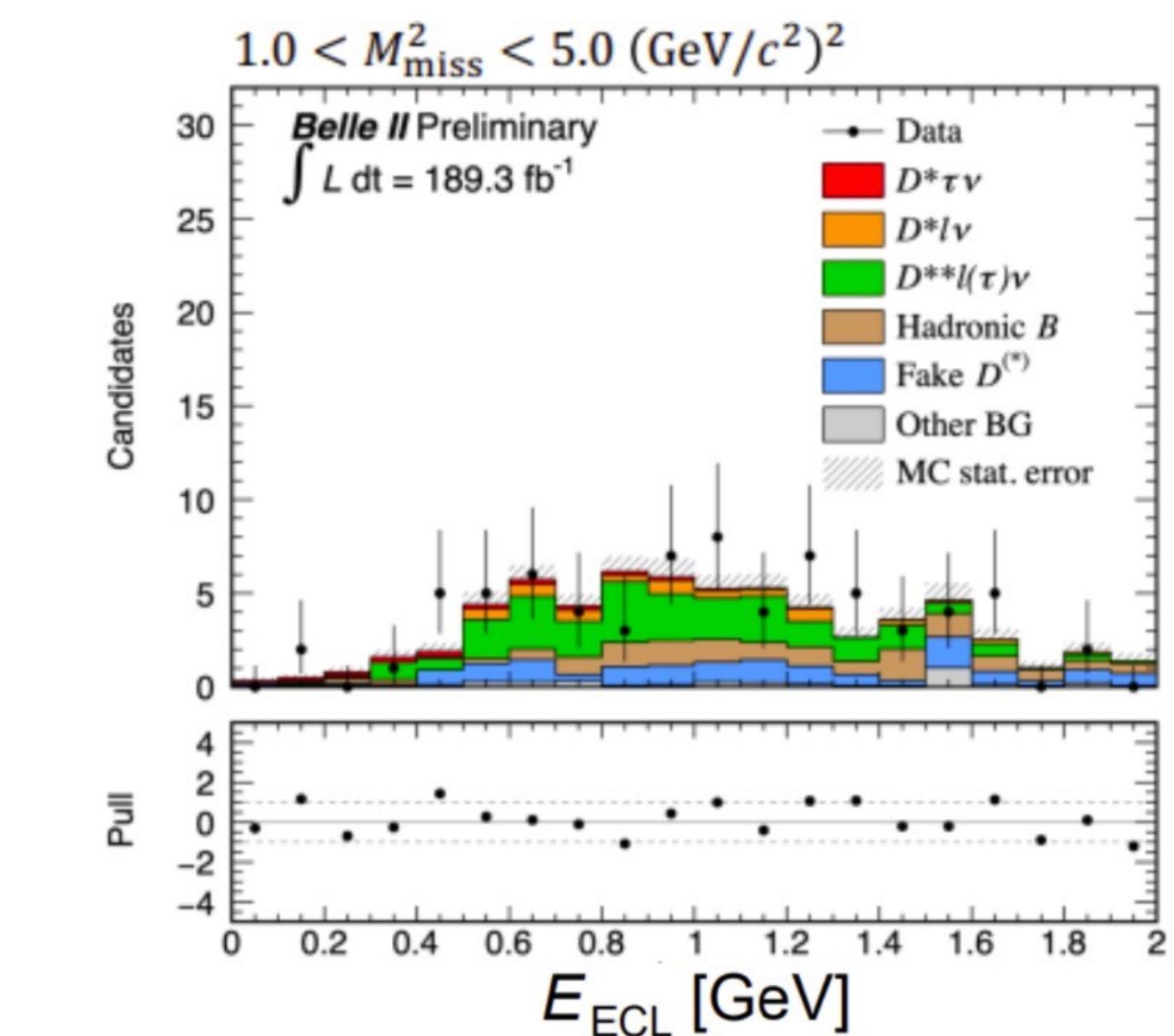
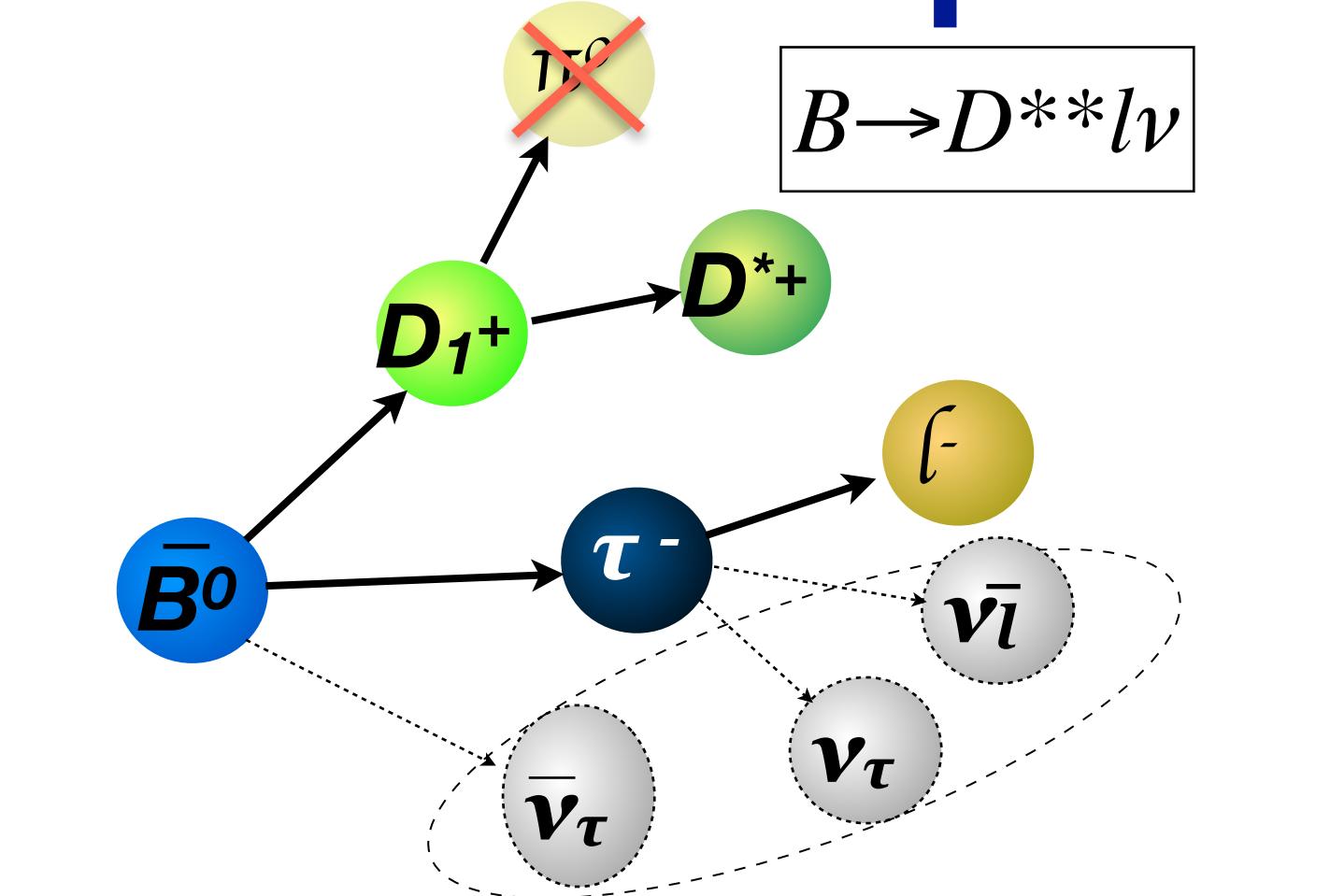
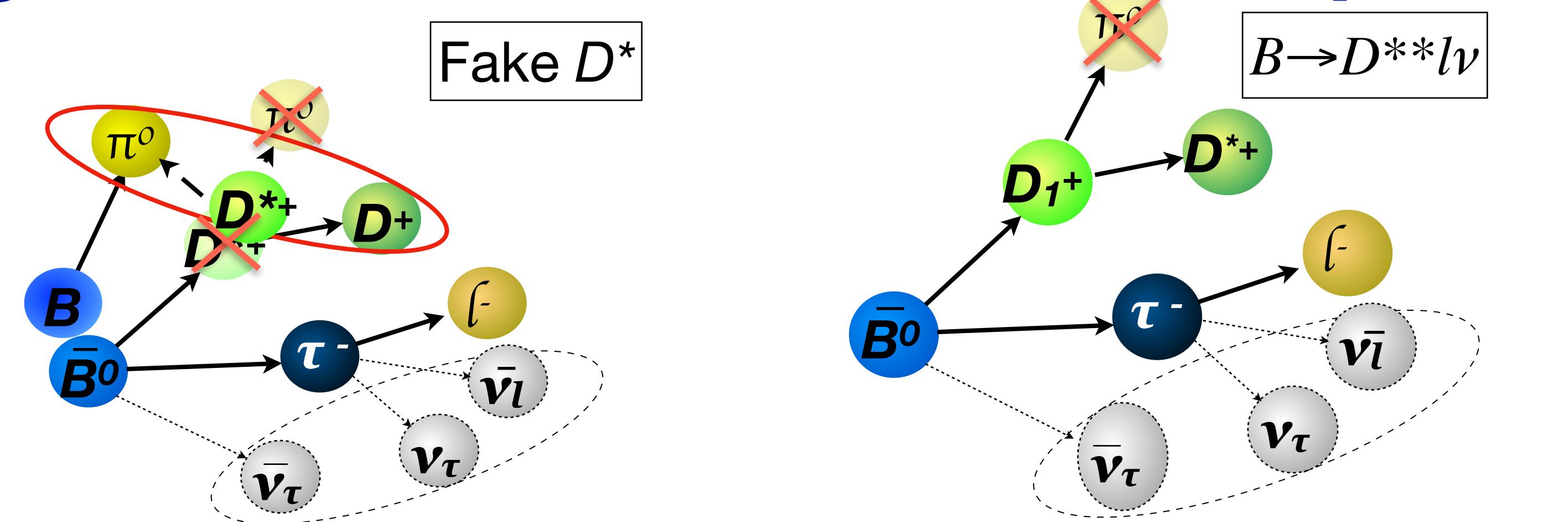
Dominant backgrounds and control samples



$q^2 < 3.5 \text{ GeV}$ sideband:
 validate E_{ECL} modeling



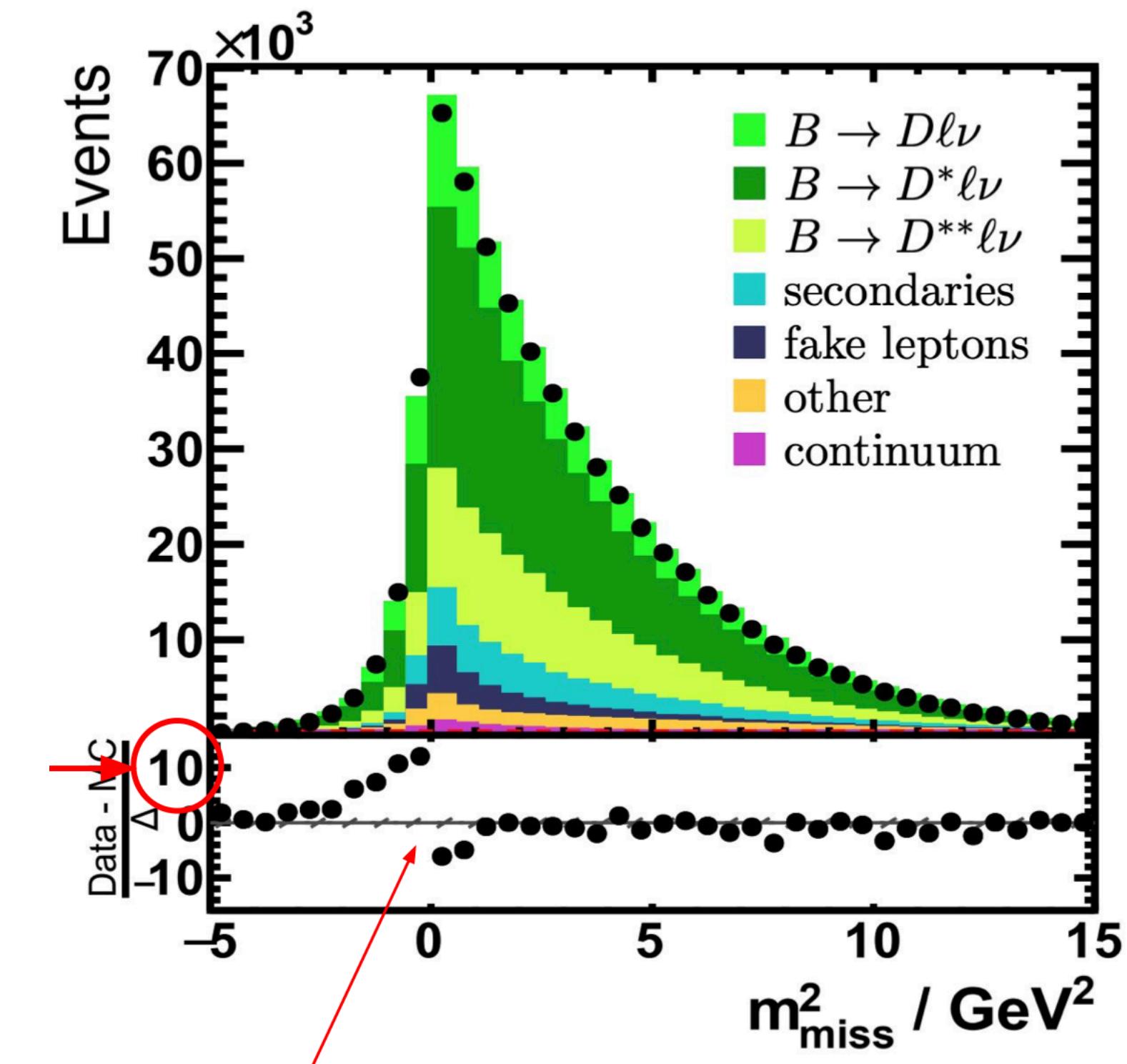
$m(D\pi) - m(D^*)$ sideband:
 validate fake D^* modeling



Reconstruct $D^* \pi^0 / \nu$
 validate D^{**} modeling

$R_{\tau/\ell}(X)$ measurement is difficult

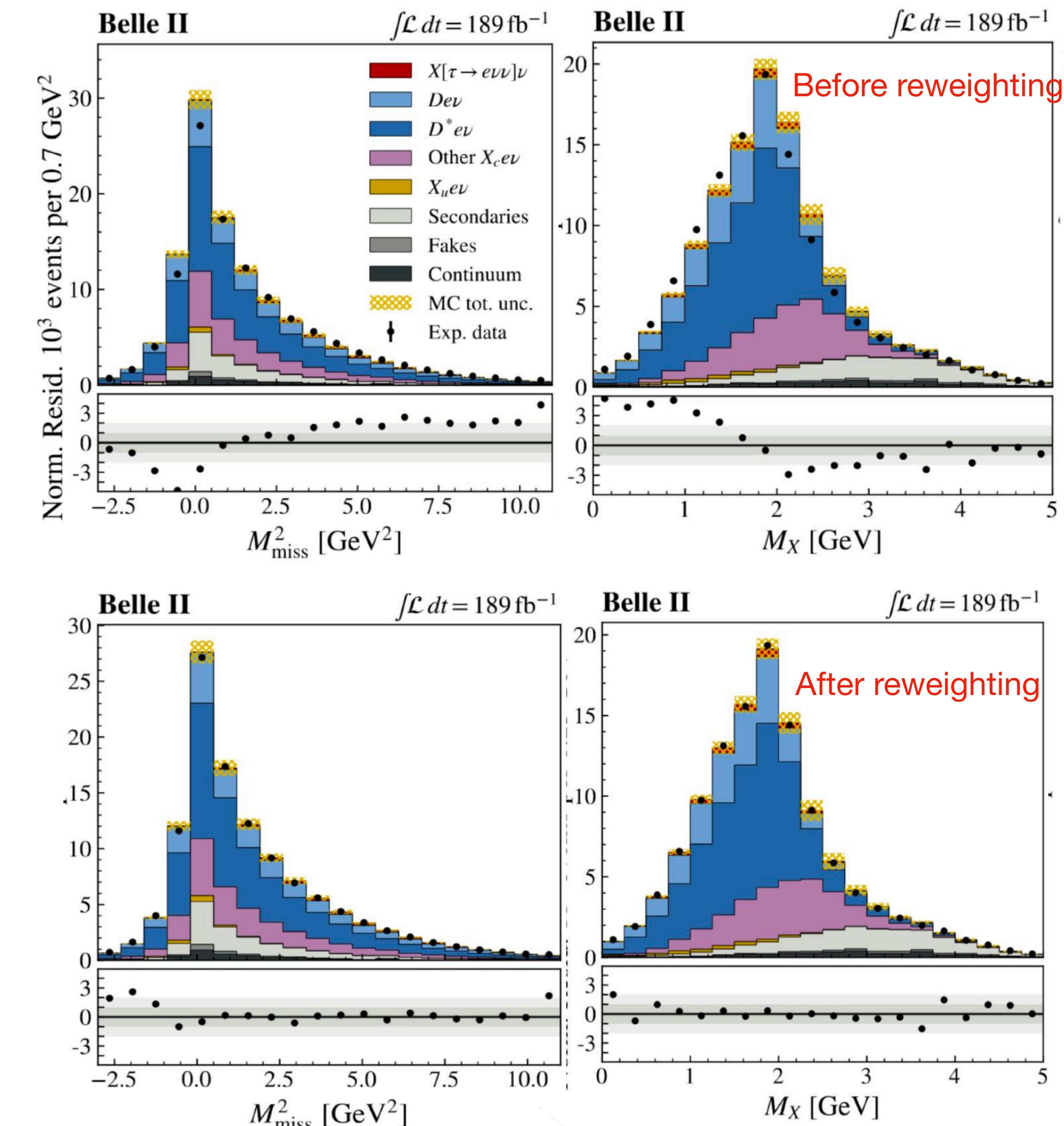
- Belle attempt to understand the Data/MC disagreement
 - Detector effects are far too small
 - Beam backgrounds are far too small
 - The original appears to be somewhere in the **physics simulation**
- The main issues are:
 - Branching fractions are a big piece of the puzzle (**particularly $D \rightarrow K_L X$**) but cannot solve it entirely
 - The phase-space modeling using in ~40% of D decays is significant/unfixable
 - The PDG inclusive and exclusive BFs cannot be reconciled
 - Fixing the issue at generator level is not feasible
 - Instead, use M_x to reweight our MC



Update the modeling for $R_{\tau/\ell}(X)$ measurement

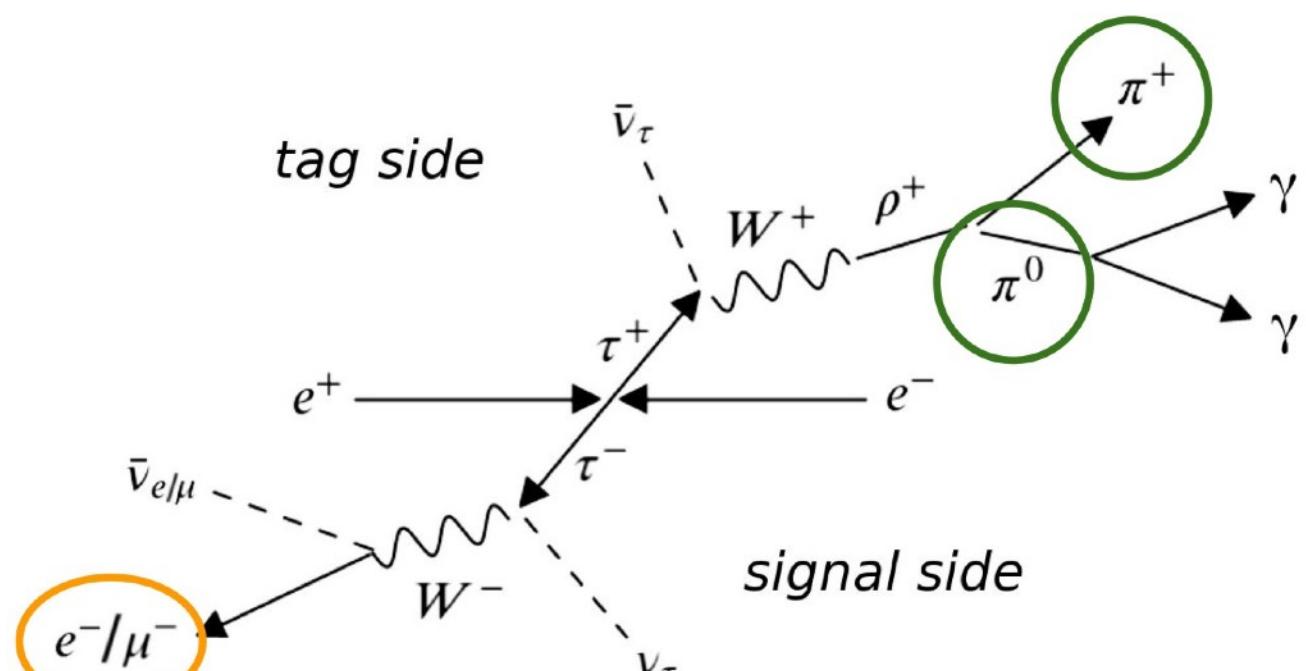
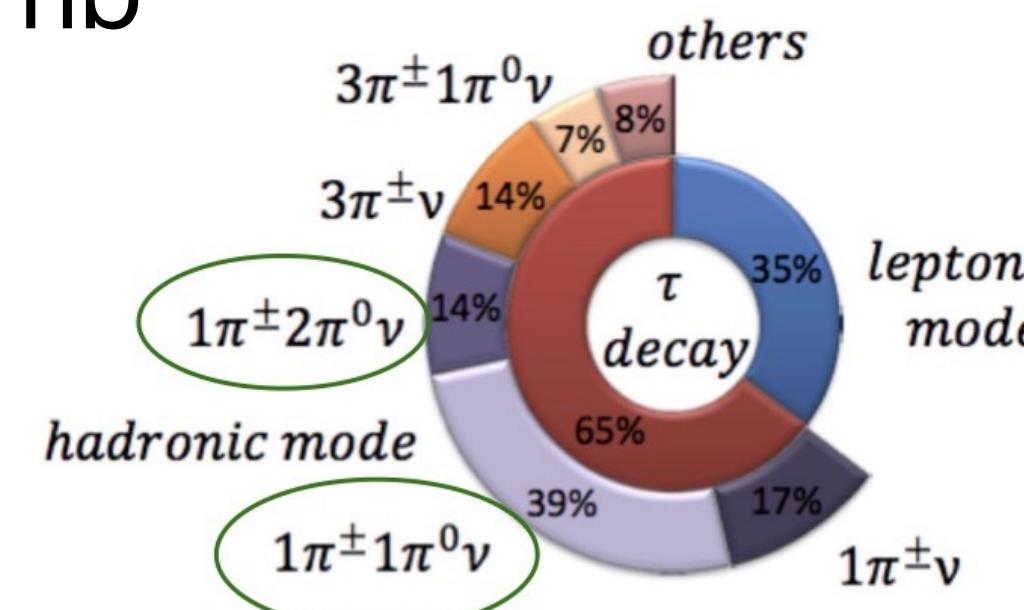
- Approach employed at Belle II: M_X reweighting
 - Events weights from data/MC ratio in M_X distribution, applied to all events
 - q^2, M_{miss}^2 can be expressed by reliable parts and M_X part
- Detailed adjustments to MC (FFs, B and D BFs)
- Signal yields are extracted by a binned maximum-likelihood simultaneous fit to lepton momentum at different M_{miss}^2 bins

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LFU test: τ decays

- Belle II is also a τ factory, $\sigma_\tau = 0.92 \text{ nb} \leftrightarrow \sigma_B = 1.05 \text{ nb}$
 - Produced as τ pairs; tag τ and signal τ
- New analysis: 362 fb^{-1}
 - 1×1 event topology
- Main systematics
 - Particle identification (0.32%)
 - Trigger (0.10%)
- Consistent with the SM at 1.4σ



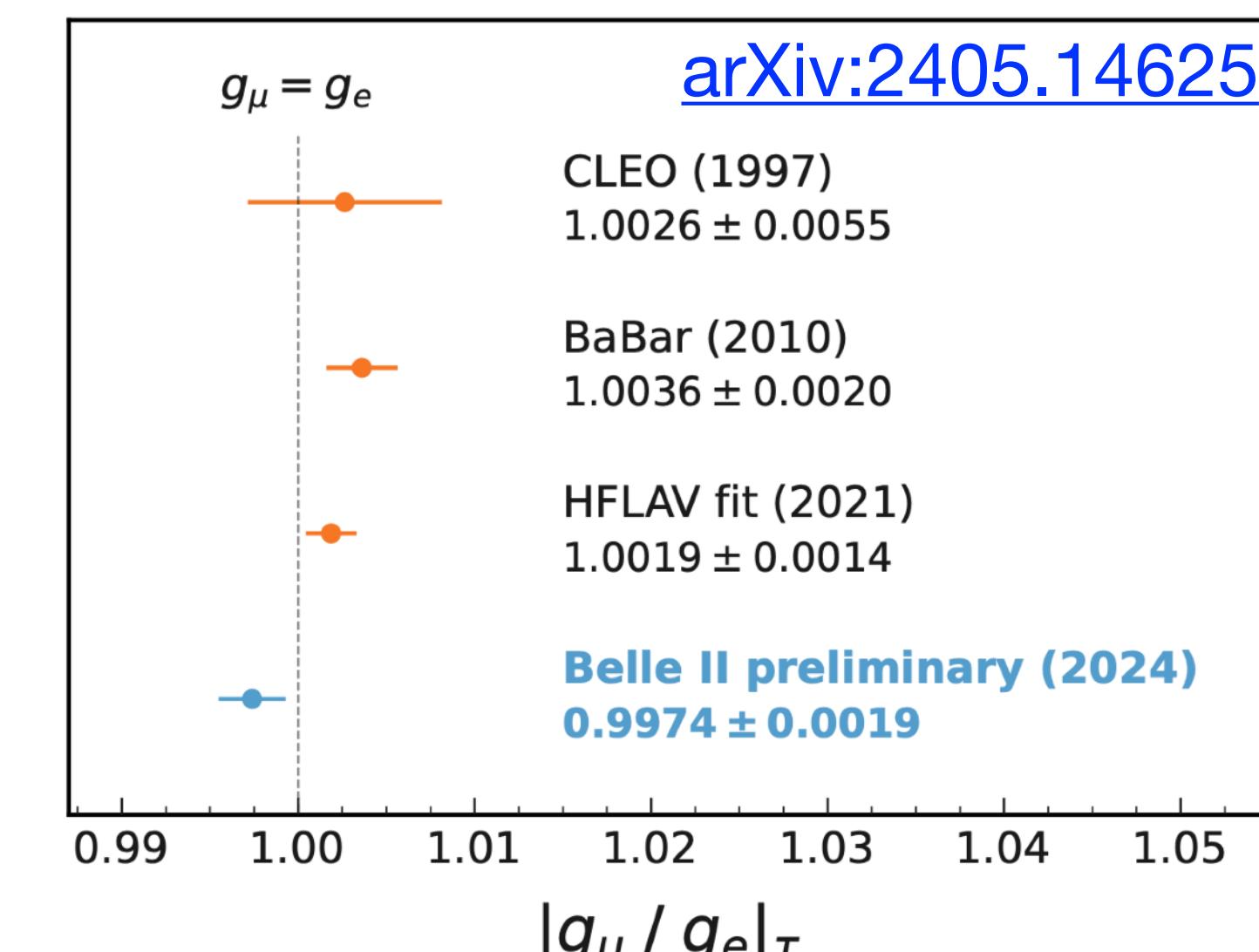
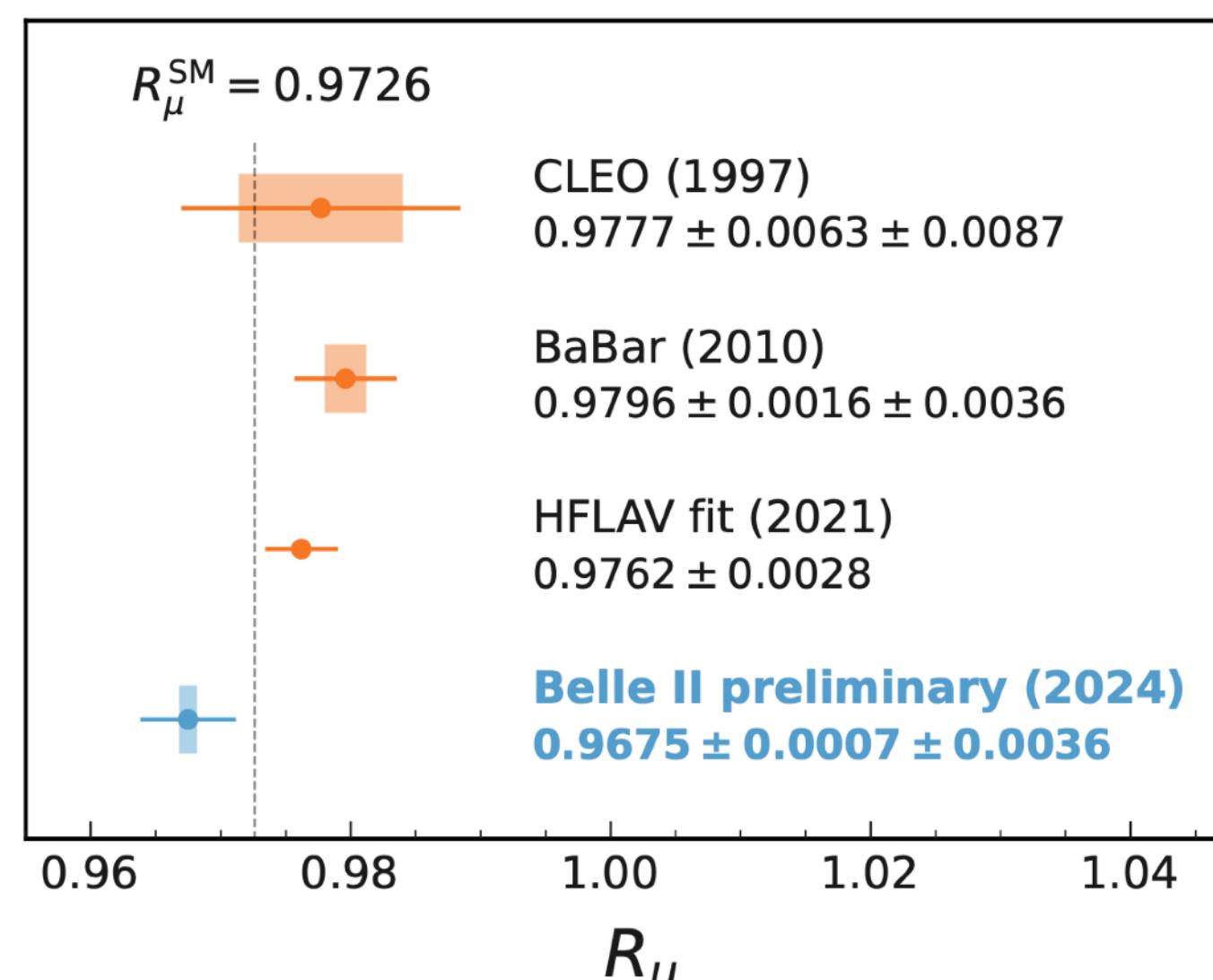
$$R_\mu = \frac{\mathcal{B}(\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_\tau)}{\mathcal{B}(\tau^- \rightarrow e^- \bar{\nu}_e \nu_\tau)}$$

Slightly smaller than 1 in the SM due to e-u mass difference ($R_\mu^{\text{SM}} = 0.9726$)

$$\left| \frac{g_\mu}{g_e} \right|_\tau = \sqrt{R_\mu \frac{f(m_e^2/m_\tau^2)}{f(m_\mu^2/m_\tau^2)}}$$

$$f(x) = 1 - 8x + 8x^3 - x^4 - 12x^2 \ln x$$

1 in the SM



Most precise test of LFU in τ decays

New physics model

TABLE VI. Summary table for the single-mediator NP scenarios in light of the $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$ anomaly. We add implications for the LHC searches and flavor observables in the last two columns, which is useful to identify the NP scenario. In the $V_2^{(1/3)}$ LQ scenario, 2σ for R_{D^*} implies that it can explain the R_{D^*} anomaly within the 2σ range (but not within 1σ).

Spin	Charge	Operators	R_D	R_{D^*}	LHC	Flavor	
H^\pm	0	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}, 1/2)$	O_{S_L}	✓	✓	$b\tau\nu$	$B_c \rightarrow \tau\nu, F_L^{D^*}, P_\tau^{D^*}, M_W$
S_1	0	$(\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{1}, 1/3)$	O_{V_L}, O_{S_L}, O_T	✓	✓	$\tau\tau$	$\Delta M_s, P_\tau^D, B \rightarrow K^{(*)}\nu\nu$
$R_2^{(2/3)}$	0	$(\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2}, 7/6)$	$O_{S_L}, O_T, (O_{V_R})$	✓	✓	$b\tau\nu, \tau\tau$	$P_\tau^{D^*}, M_W, Z \rightarrow \tau\tau, d_N$
U_1	1	$(\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1}, 2/3)$	O_{V_L}, O_{S_R}	✓	✓	$b\tau\nu, \tau\tau$	$\Delta M_s, R_{K^{(*)}}, B_s \rightarrow \tau\tau, d_N$
$V_2^{(1/3)}$	1	$(\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{2}, 5/6)$	O_{S_R}	✓	2σ	$\tau\tau$	$B_s \rightarrow \tau\tau, B_u \rightarrow \tau\nu, M_W$