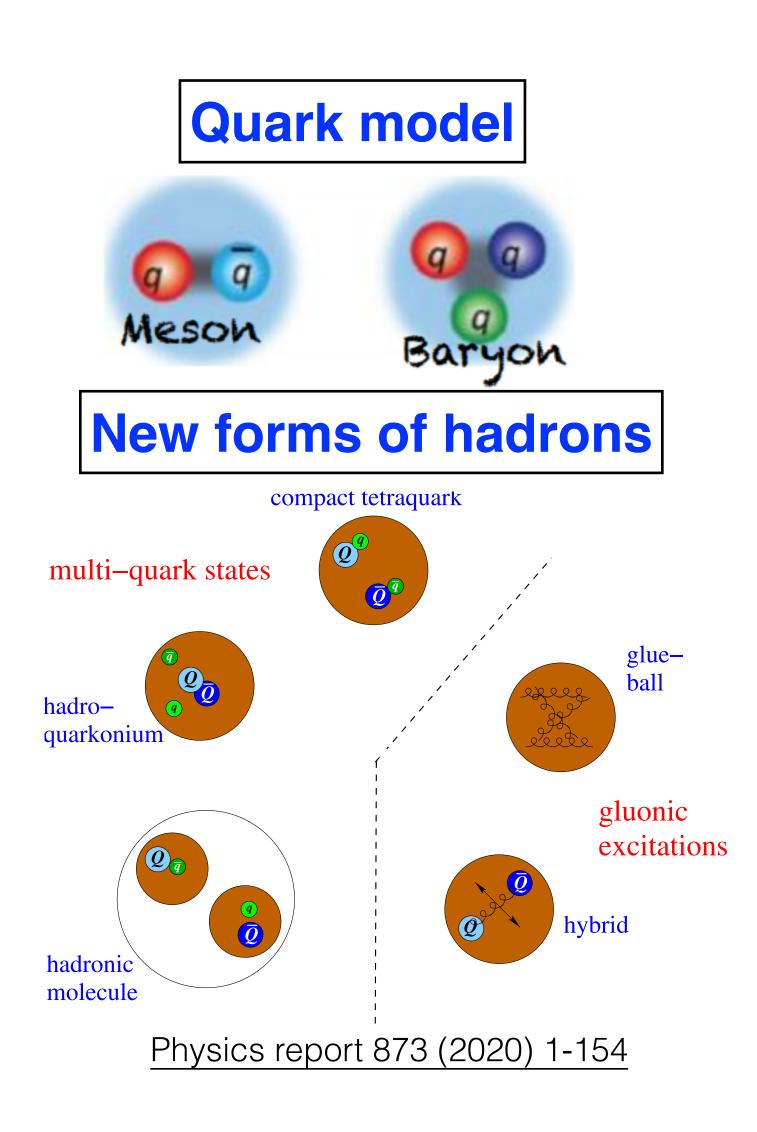


Light exotic hadron at BESIII

Yanping Huang

Opportunities and Ideas at the QCD Frontier, 2025.4.9

Institute of High Energy Physics, CAS



Quark model (QM)

- Identify hadrons as compound objects consisting of quarks and antiquarks
- Dynamics description inside hadrons
- New form of hadrons:
 - Multi-quark: quark number >= 4
 - Hybrid state: the mixture of quark and gluon
 - Glueball: composed of gluons
- **Understanding of fundamental structure via hadron spectroscopy:** challenge identification from QM
 - **Exotic quantum states**
 - Crypto exotic with particular properties



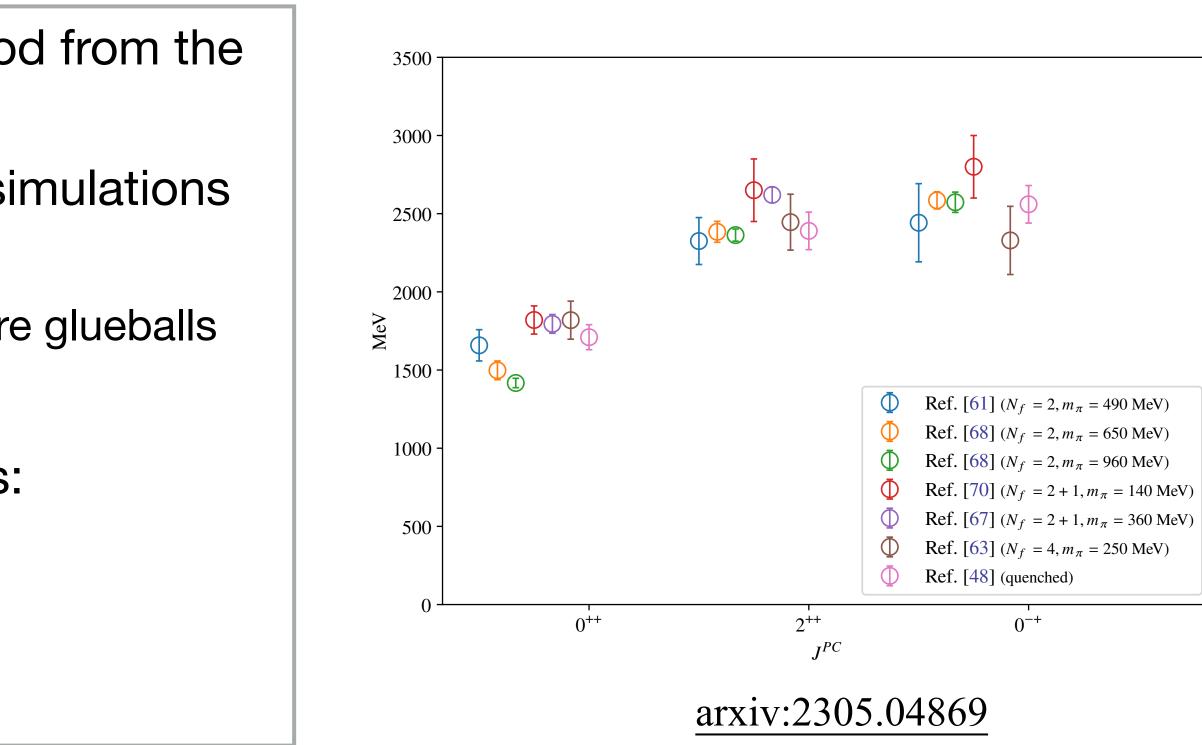




- - Glueballs to QCD is just as important as Higgs Boson to EW
- Lattice QCD (LQCD) is a non-perturbative method from the first principles in theory.
- **Different lattice QCD groups** (including lattice simulations with dynamical quarks)
 - Predictions on masses and production rates of pure glueballs
 - Consistent results and expected to be reliable.
- Lattice QCD predictions on pure glueball masses:
 - **0++ ground state:** 1.5 1.7 GeV/c²
 - ★ 2++ ground state: 2.3 2.4GeV/c²
 - ◆ 0-+ ground state: 2.3 2.6GeV/c²

Glueballs

The basic theory for strong interactions is quantum chromodynamics (QCD) Gluon self-interaction: prediction of non-Abelian Gauge SU(3) QCD theory + Glueballs are unique particles formed with force carriers via self-interactions



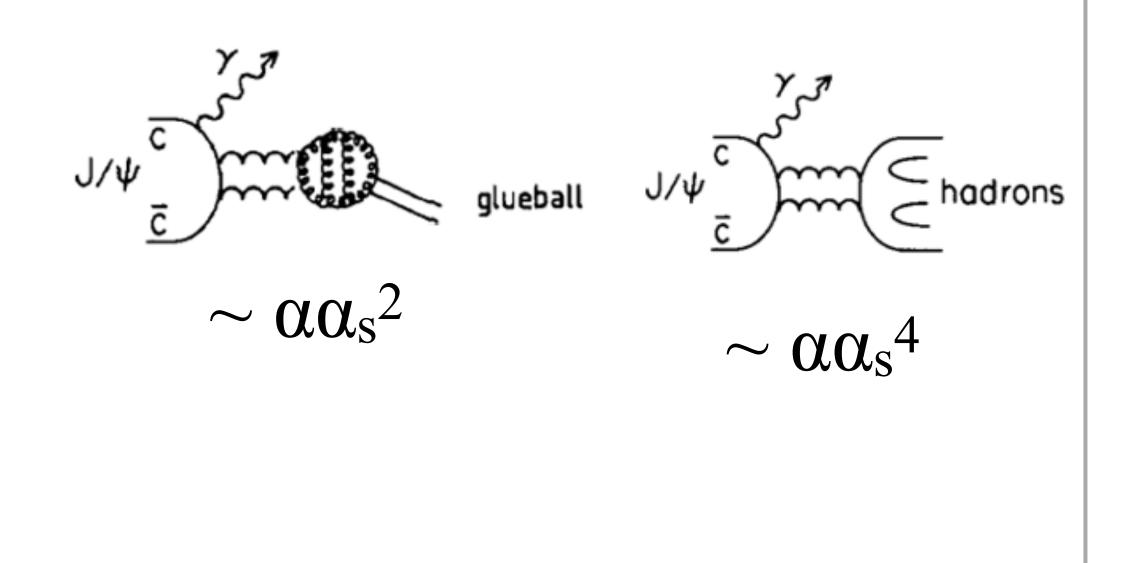




Glueball production in J/\psi Radiative decay

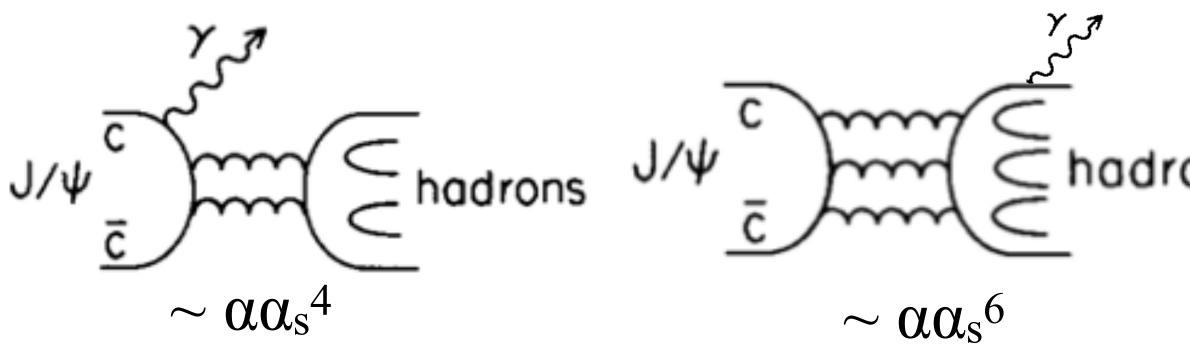


+ Glueball production rate in J/ψ radiative decays could be higher than normal hadrons









- Isospin filter: final states dominated by **I=0** processes
- Spin-parity filter: C parity must be +, so Jpc=0-+, 0++, 1++, 2++, 2-+...
- Clean environment in e+e- collision: very different from **p-p collision**

\Rightarrow J/ ψ Radiative decay is an ideal place to search for glueballs



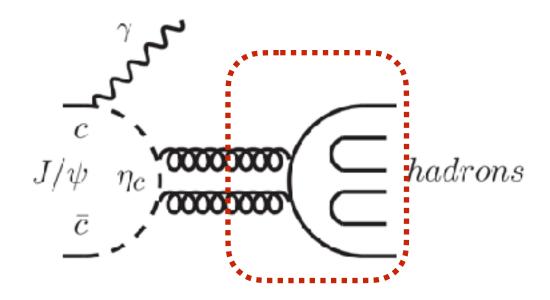




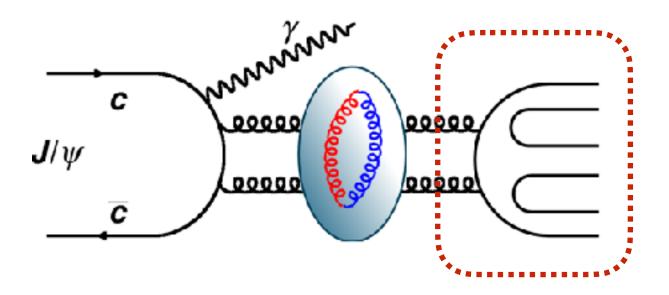
Flavor symmetric decays

No rigorous predictions on decay patterns and their branching ratios

 \bullet e.g. the 0⁻⁺ glueball could have similar decays of η_c



The glueball decays could be the analogy to Charmonium decays since they all decay via gluons (OZI suppression) [PLB 380 189(1996), Commu. Theor. Phys. 23.373 (1995)]



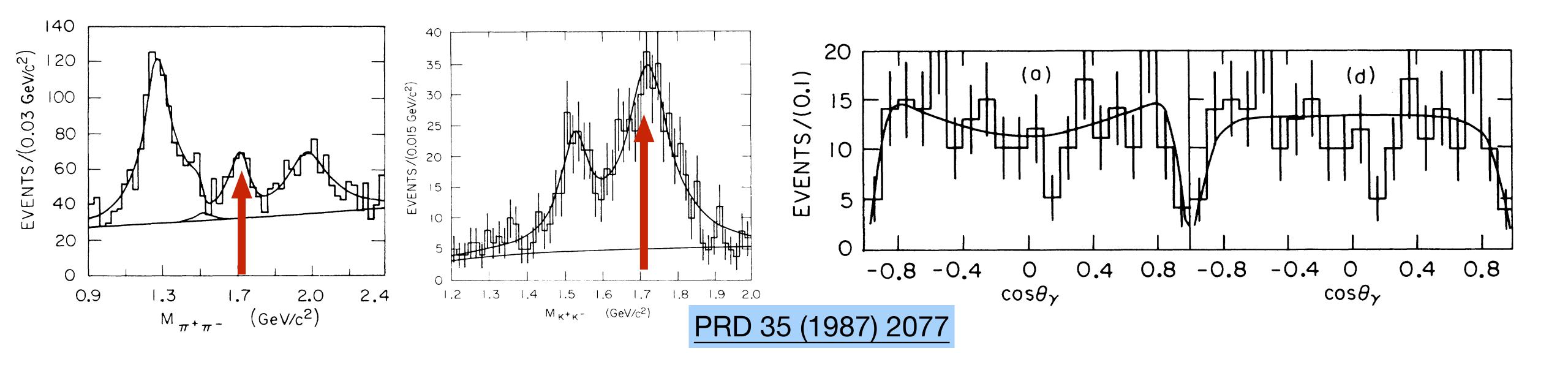




- Many experiments searched for glueballs over the past 4 decades
- Many historical glueball candidates, but with some difficulties/controversies.
 - + Scalar Glueball candidate (0++): $f_0(1500), f_0(1710)$
 - Tensor Glueball candidate (2++): f₂(2340)
 - + Pseudoscalar Glueball candidate (0-+): η(1405)



Historical Glueball Candidates — Scalar f₀(1710)



♦ The f₀(1710) was discovered in $J/ψ \rightarrow γπ^+π^-$ and $J/ψ \rightarrow γK^+K^-$ by MarkIII in 1987 as $θ_2(1720)$

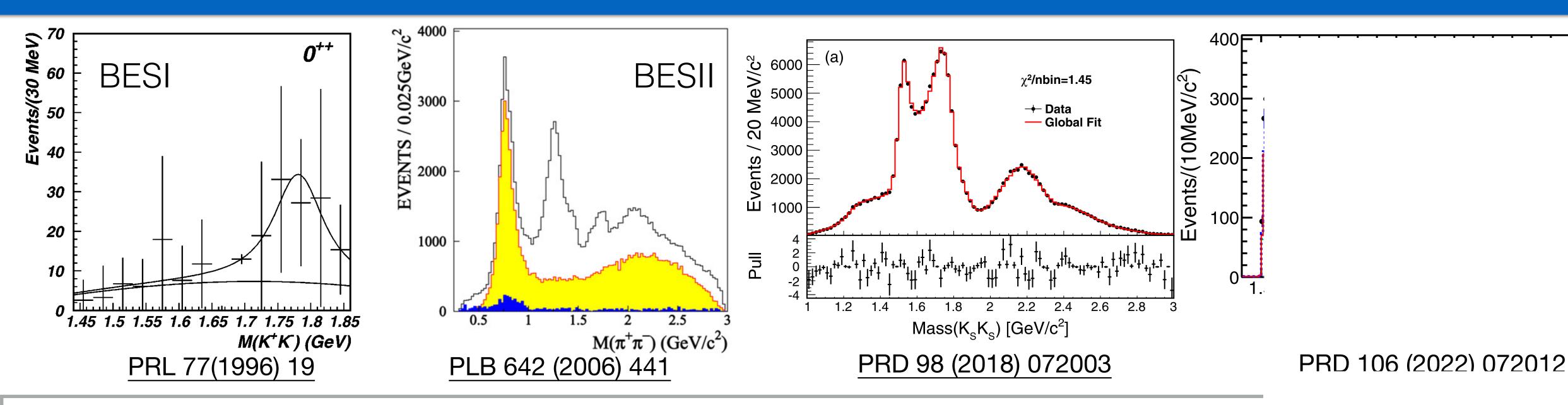
+ J^{pc} = 2⁺⁺ from a simple fit to the angular distribution

+ The significance of 2++ state is ~3σ better than 0++ assumption





Historical Glueball Candidates — Scalar $f_0(1710)$



The f₀(1710) was firstly changed to be 0⁺⁺ from a full PWA of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma KK @ BESI$ MarkII, DM2, BESI, BESII, BESII

The f₀(1710) favors to be a scalar glueball or large glueball content: controver mixing mechanism

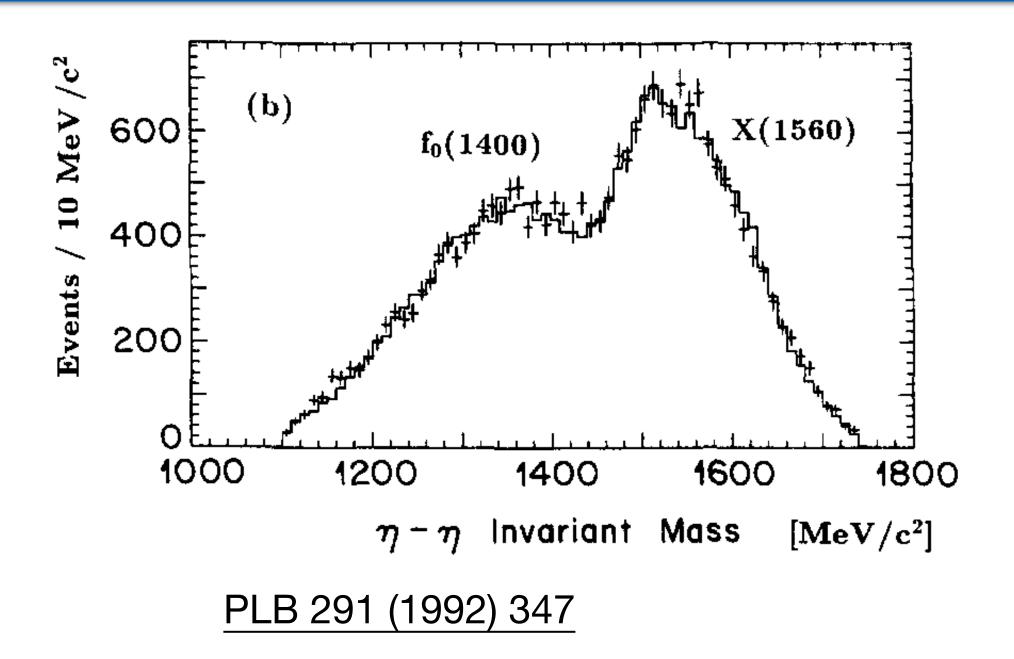
+ High production rate of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma f_0(1710)$ $B[J/\psi \to \gamma f_0(1710) \to \gamma \pi \pi] = (4.0 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-4}$ BESII: PLB 642 (2006) 441 $B[J/\psi \to \gamma f_0(1710) \to \gamma K_s^0 K_s^0] = (2.00^{+0.03}_{-0.02} \ ^{+0.31}_{-0.10}) \times 10^{-4}$ BESIII: PRD 98 (2018) 072003

+ Decay suppression in f₀(1710) → ηη'

 $B[f_0(1710) \to \eta \eta' / f_0(1710) \to \pi \pi] < (2.9 \pm^{+1.1}_{-0.9}) \times 10^{-3}$ BESIII: PRD 106 072012(2022)



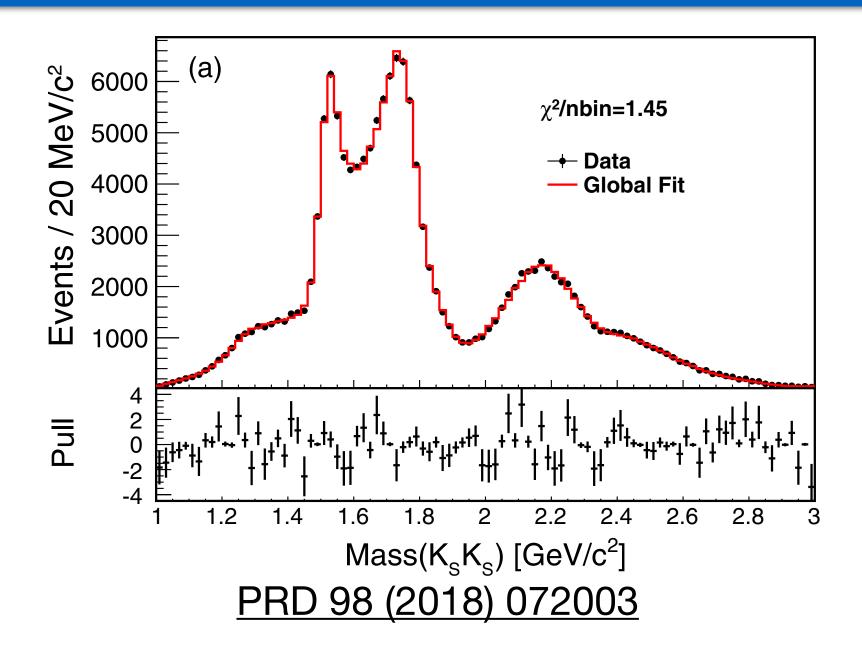
Historical Glueball Candidates — Scalar $f_0(1500)$

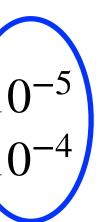


- The $f_0(1500)$ was discovered by Crystal Barrel in 1992
 - + An unique 0^{++} candidate since $f_0(1710)$ was f_2 at that time

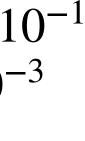
Disfavors to its interpretation of a scalar glueball

+ Lower production rate of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma f_0(1500)$ $B[J/\psi \to \gamma f_0(1500) \to \gamma K_s^0 K_s^0] = (1.59^{+0.16}_{-0.16} + 0.18)_{-0.16} \times 10^{-5}_{-0.16}$ $B[J/\psi \to \gamma f_0(1710) \to \gamma K_s^0 K_s^0] = (2.00^{+0.03}_{-0.02} + 0.31)_{-0.10} \times 10^{-4}_{-0.10}$ BESIII: PRD 98 (2018) 072003

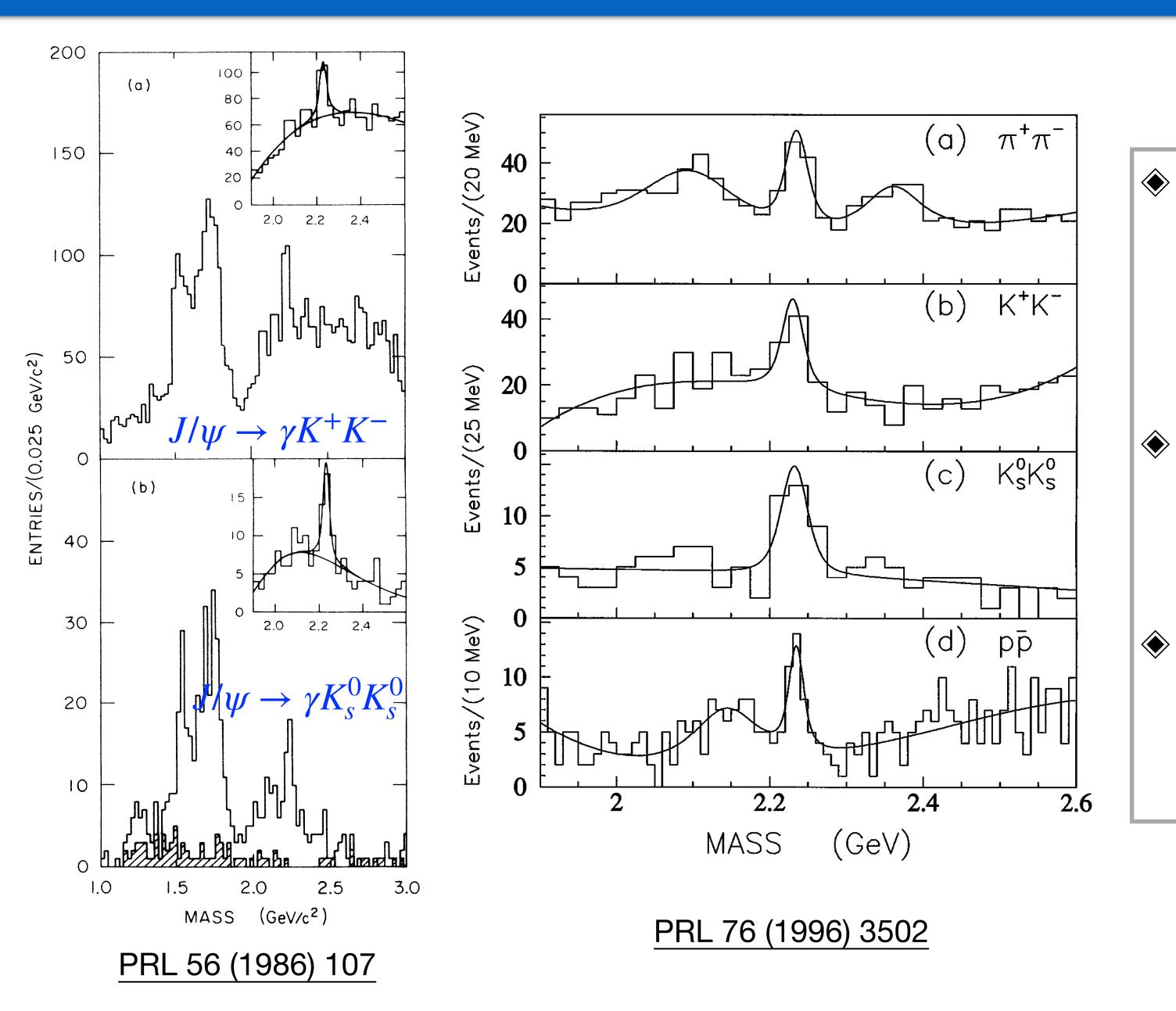




+ No strong suppression in f₀(1500) → ηη' $B[f_0(1500) → ηη'/f_0(1500) → ππ] = (1.66 \pm ^{+0.42}_{-0.40}) × 10^{-1}$ $B[f_0(1710) \to \eta \eta' / f_0(1710) \to \pi \pi] < (2.9 \pm_{-0.9}^{+1.1}) \times 10^{-3}$ BESIII: PRD 106 072012(2022)



Historical Glueball Candidates — Tensor $\xi(2230)$



- ♦ First observed by MarkIII is J/ψ→ γKK in 1980's, then by BESI in 1990's in J/ψ → γKK, γππ, γpp̄ with very narrow mass peak.
- It was a tensor glueball candidate due to good flavor symmetric decay property.
 - Difficulty: it was not confirmed by BESII, nor BESIII with much higher statistics.



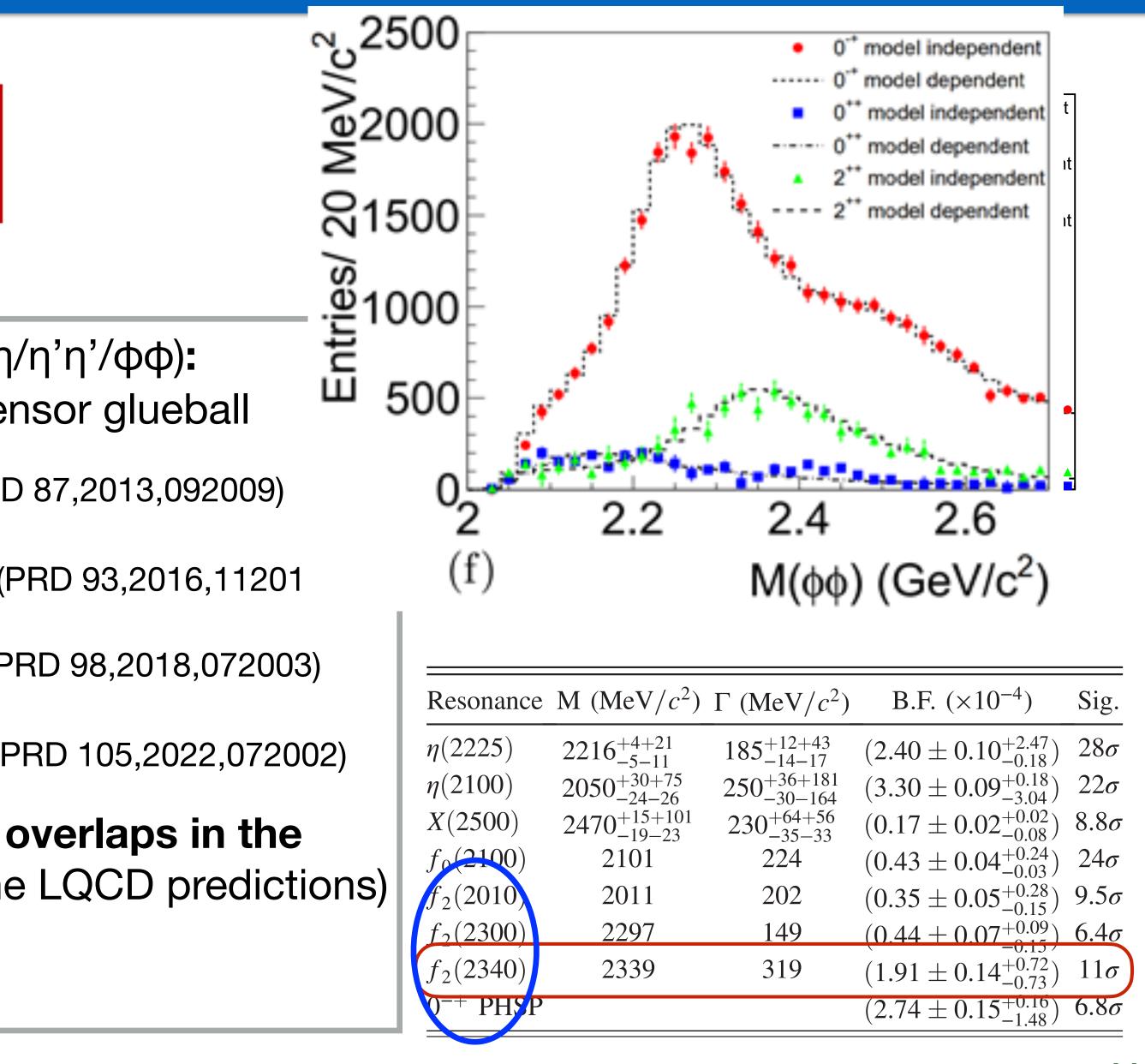
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Historical Glueball Candidates — Tensor f₂(2340)

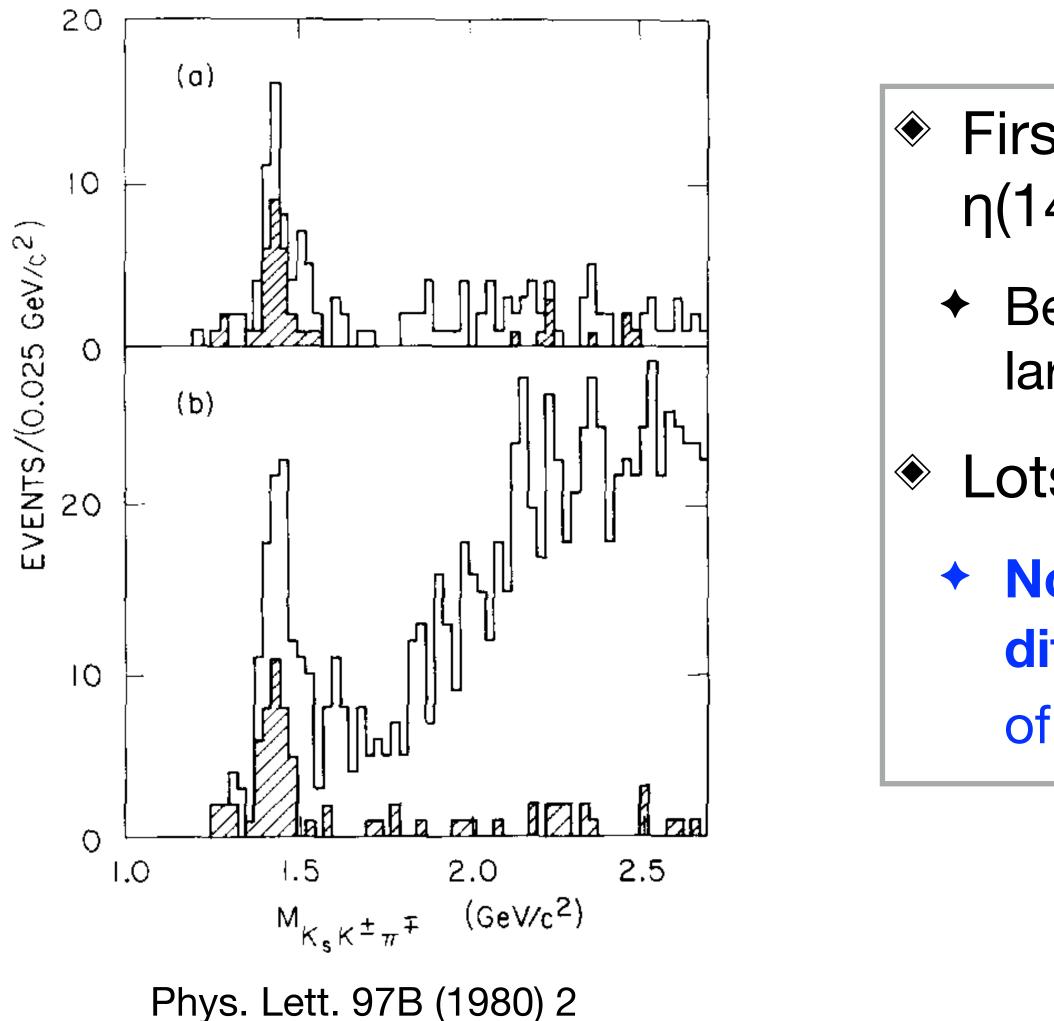
$$egin{aligned} \Gamma(J/\psi o \gamma G_{2^+}) &= 1.01(22) keV \ \Gamma(J/\psi o \gamma G_{2^+})/\Gamma_{tot} &= 1.1 imes 10^{-2} \end{aligned}$$

CLQCD, Phys. Rev. Lett. 111, 091601 (2013)

- ★ Large production rate of f₂(2340) in J/ψ→γ(KK/ηη/η'η'/φφ): substantially lower than the LQCD prediction for tensor glueball
 - ★ B(J/ψ→γf₂(2340)→γηη) = $(3.8^{+0.62}_{-0.66} + 2.37)_{-2.07}$ × 10⁻⁵ (PRD 87,2013,092009)
 - + B(J/ $\psi \rightarrow \gamma f_2(2340) \rightarrow \gamma \phi \phi$) =(1.91 ± 0.14^{+0.72}_{-0.73} × 10⁻⁴ (PRD 93,2016,11201
 - ★ B(J/ψ→γf₂(2340)→γK_sK_s) =(5.54^{+0.34}_{-0.40} +3.82 × 10⁻⁵ (PRD 98,2018,072003)
 - ★ B(J/ψ→γf₂(2340)→γη'η') =(8.67 ± 0.70^{+0.16}_{-1.67} × 10⁻⁶(PRD 105,2022,072002)
- Difficulty: Many wide tensor mesons and large overlaps in the mass region of 2.3GeV (2++ glueball mass from the LQCD predictions)
 - Studies are strongly model dependent.



Historical Glueball Candidates — Pseudoscalar $\eta(1405)$



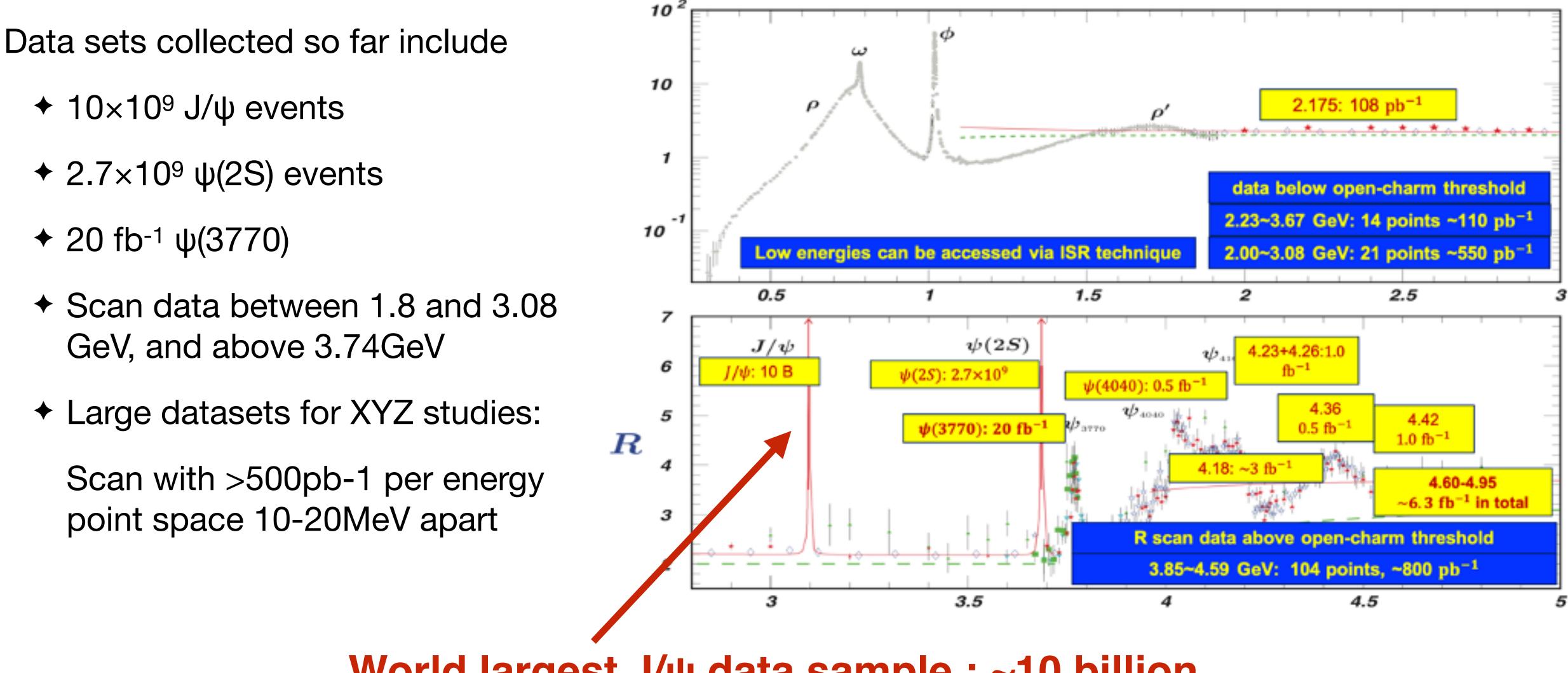
- First discovered by Markll in 1980, named as n(1440) with complicated structures.
 - Believed as the first glueball candidate due to its large production rate in J/ ψ radiative decays
 - Lots of studies at MarkII, MarkIII, DM2 and BES:
 - No longer a 0⁻⁺ glueball candidate due to its large different mass from latest LQCD prediction (Lack of reliable LQCD predictions in 1980's)







BESIII Data samples



Totally about 50fb⁻¹ integrated luminosity

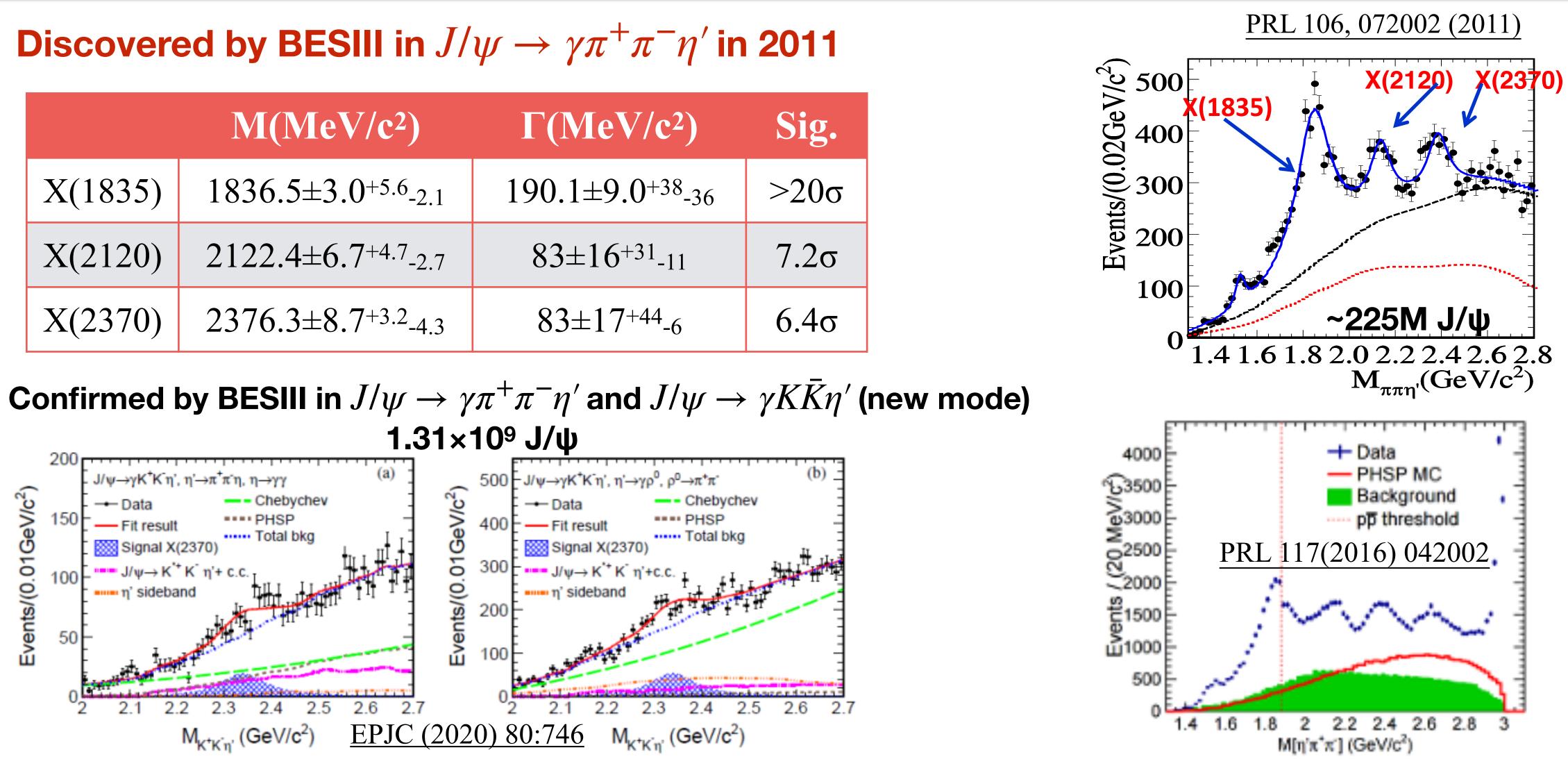
World largest J/ψ data sample : ~10 billion





	M(MeV/c ²)	$\Gamma(MeV/c^2)$	
X(1835)	1836.5±3.0+5.6-2.1	190.1±9.0+38-36	
X(2120)	2122.4±6.7 ^{+4.7} -2.7	$83 \pm 16^{+31}$ -11	
X(2370)	2376.3±8.7+3.2-4.3	83±17+44-6	

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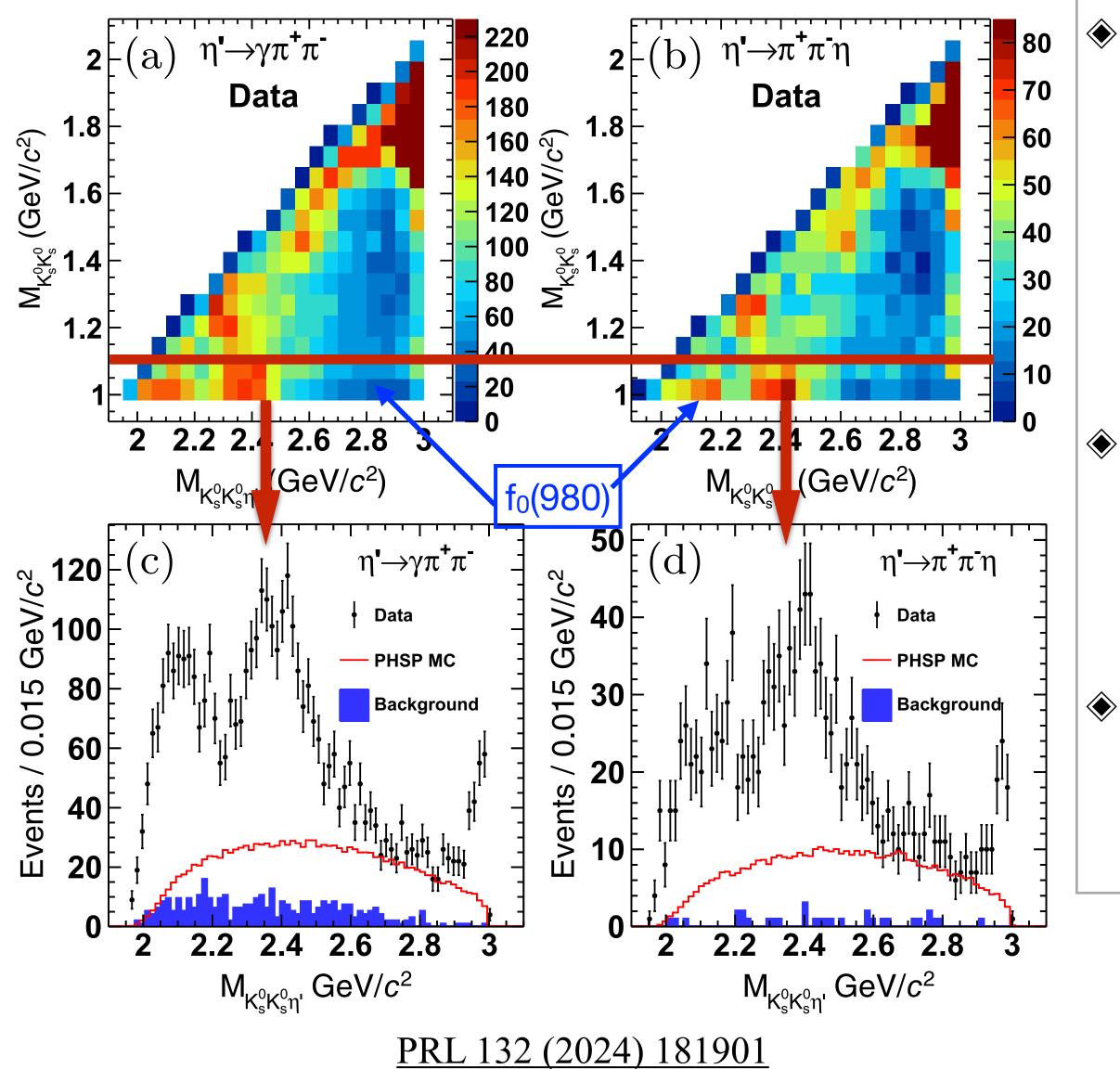


Observation of the flavor symmetry decay of the X(2370)

X(2370)

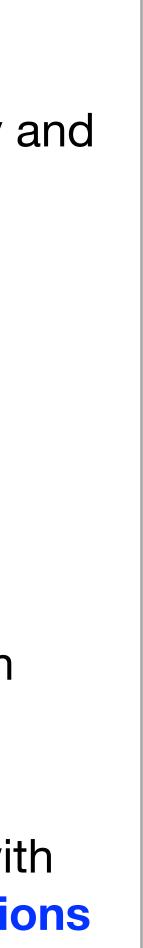
14

Spin-Parity determination of the X(2370) in $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K^0_s K^0_s \eta^2$



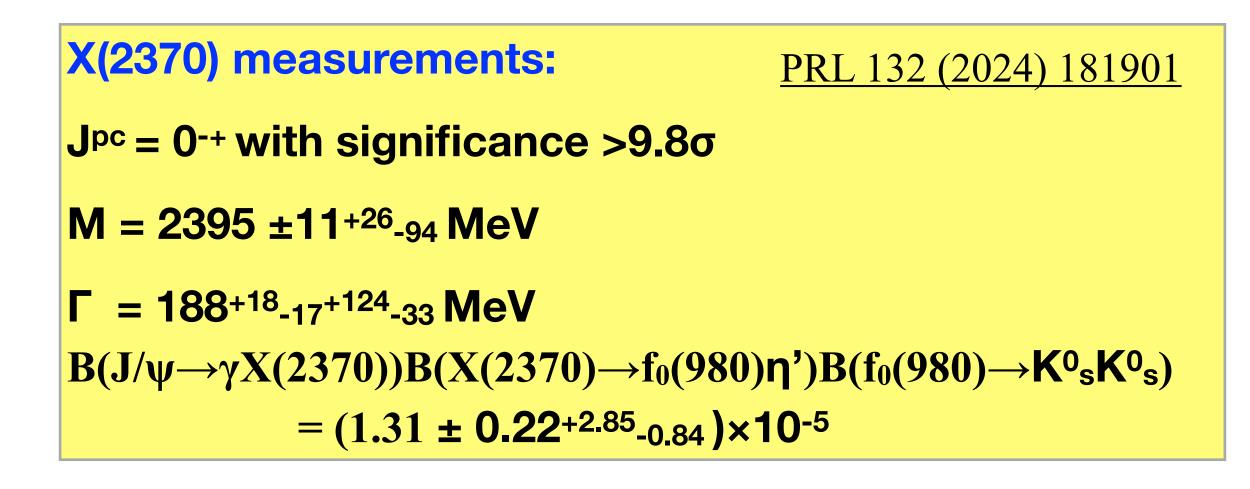
- Analysis advantage of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K^{0}_{s}K^{0}_{s}\eta'$:
- Almost background free channel (exchange symmetry and C-parity conservation)
- + 10billion J/ψ data
- Very good BESIII detector performance
- Similar structures in $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta / \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ modes:
 - Evident f₀(980) in K⁰_sK⁰_s mass threshold
 - + Clear signal of X(1835), X(2370), η_c with f₀(980) selection
 - Best PWA fit can well describe the data:
 - + Spin-parity of the X(2370) is determined to be 0-+ with significance larger than 9.8σ w.r.t. other J^{pc} assumptions



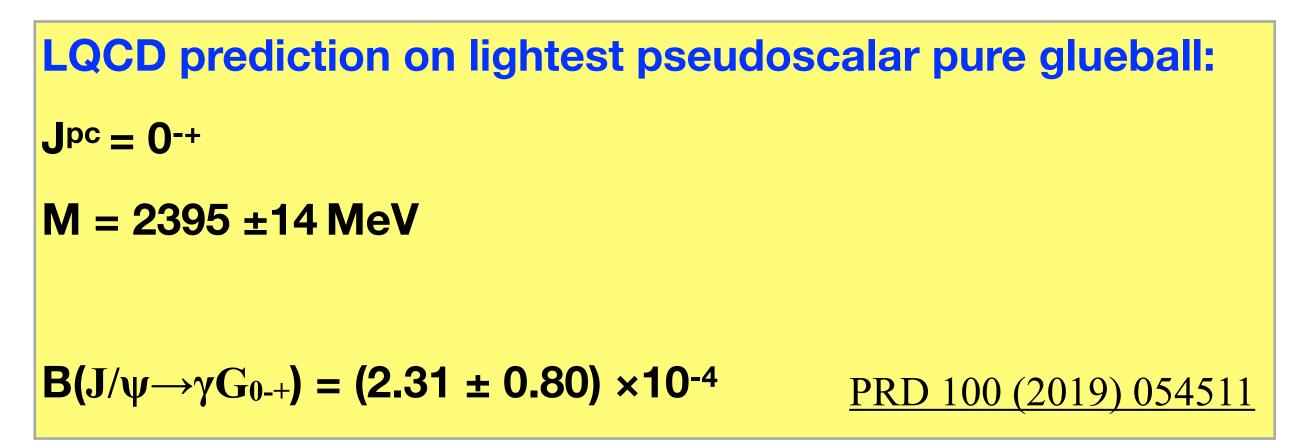








- - + The spin-parity of the X(2370) is determined to be 0⁻⁺ for the first time
 - Mass is in a good agreement with LQCD predictions
 - (assuming ~5% decay rate, $B(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(2370)) = (10.7^{+22.8}\gamma) \times 10^{-4})$



The measurements are in a good agreement with the predictions on lightest pseudoscalar glueball

+ The estimation on B(J/ $\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(2370)$) and prediction on B(J/ $\psi \rightarrow \gamma G_{0-+}$) are consistent within errors

PRL 132 (2024) 181901





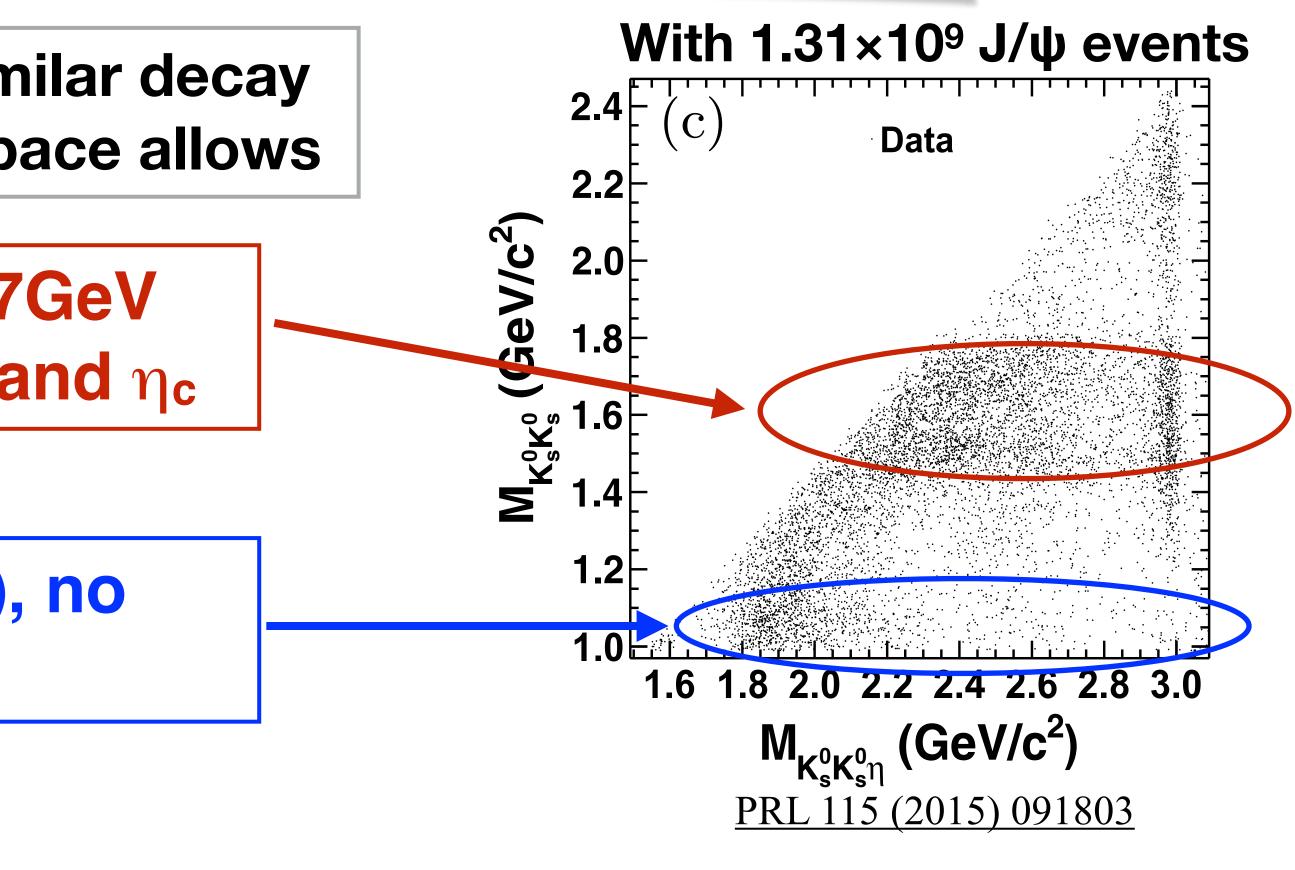
Observation and Spin-Parity Determination of the X(1835) in $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$

Qualitatively, we can clearly observe: similar decay patterns of the X(2370) and η_c if phase space allows

In the upper KK mass band of 1.5-1.7GeV range, clear signals of both X(2370) and η_c

In the lower KK mass band of f₀(980), no **X(2370), nor** η_c

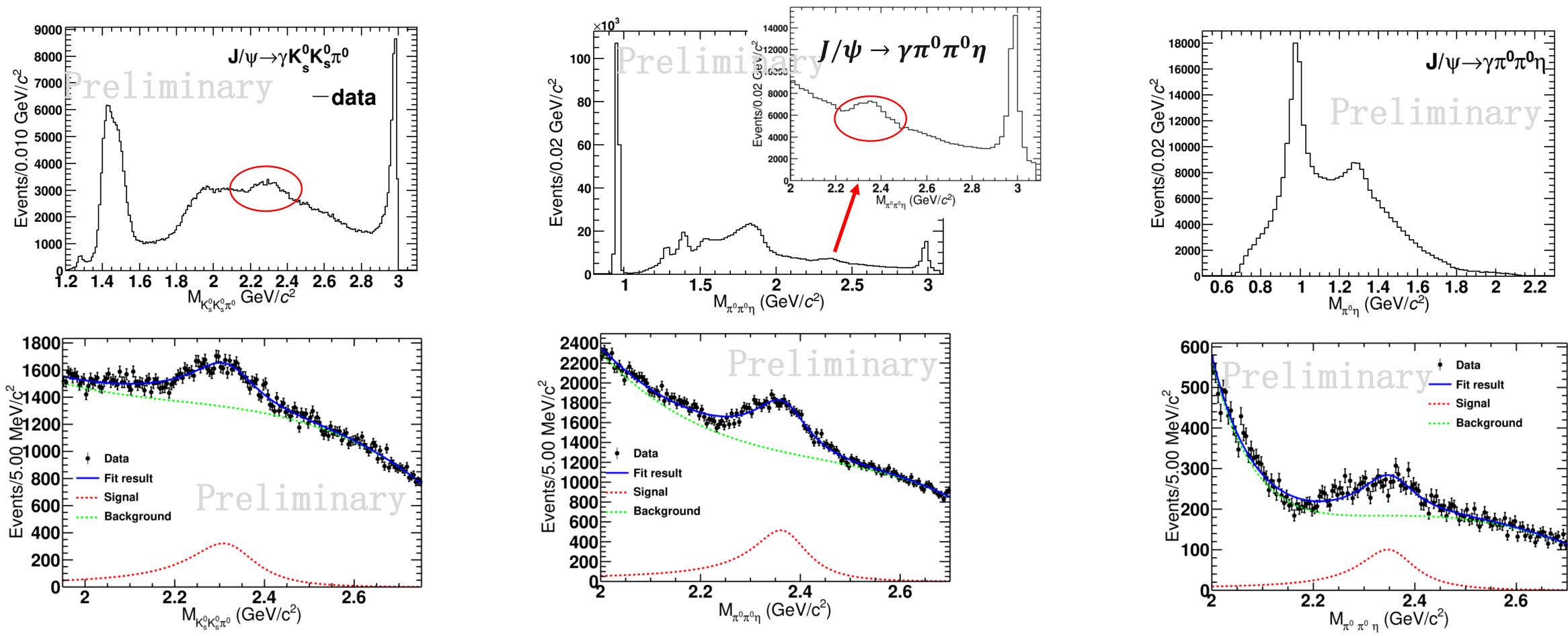
X(2370) in $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K^0_s K^0_s \eta$



Such high similarity between the X(2370) and η_c decay modes



Observation of new decay modes of the X(2370)

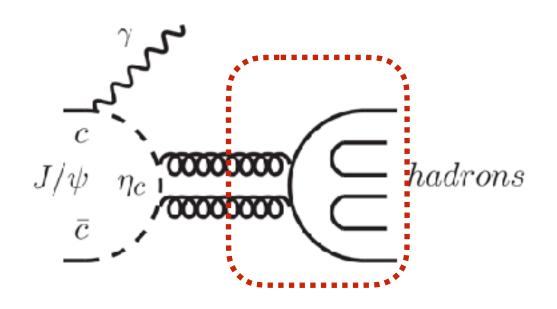


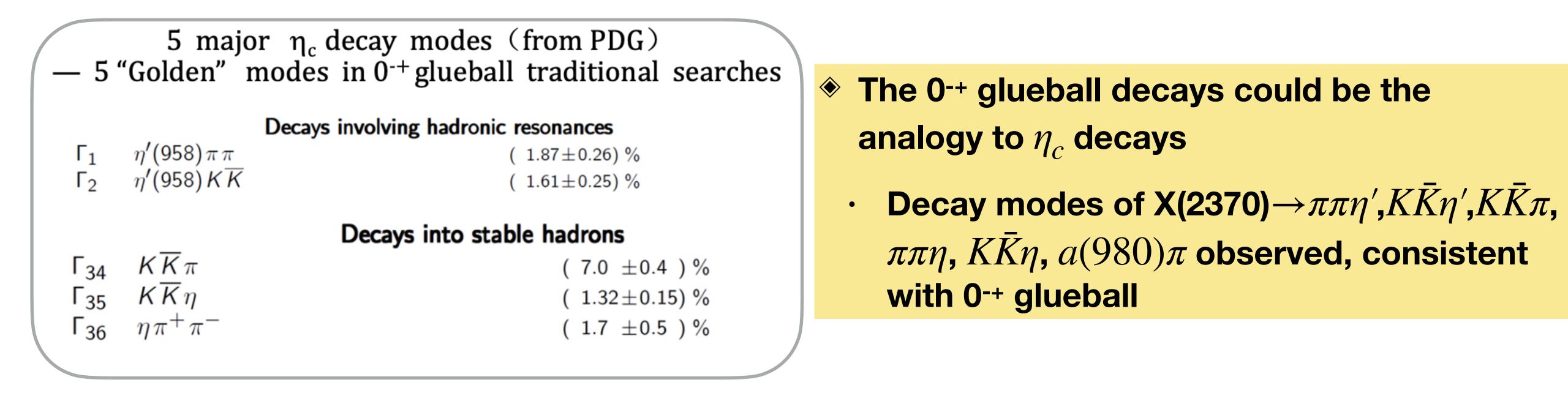
First observation of $X(2370) \rightarrow K_s^0 K_s^0 \pi^0$, $X(2370) \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta$ and $X(2370) \rightarrow a(980)\pi$ with significances >> 5σ and accompanied with η_c

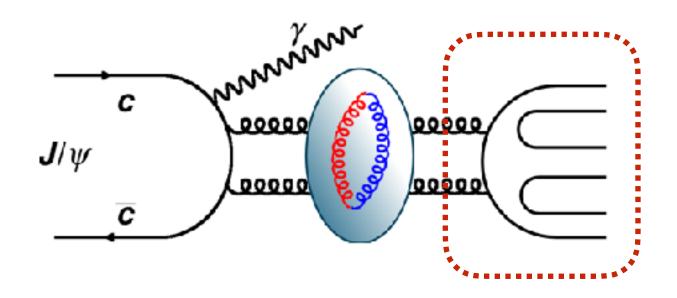




Observation of the X(2370) in the 5 golden decay modes







Such high similarity between the X(2370) and η_c decay modes strongly supports the glueball interpretation of the X(2370)



Discussion on X(2370) decay properties

	X(2370)	ηc	
f ₀ (980)η'	\checkmark \checkmark		Dis
f ₀ (980)η	Suppressed	Suppressed	DR
f ₀ (1500)η	\checkmark	\checkmark	D

- The X(2370) decay properties observed: disfavor the interpretation of $q\bar{q}$ meson
- different quark flavor combinations
- The high similarities between X(2370) and η_c decay modes strongly suggest it decays via gluons
- - A Naive estimation on the BR of each mode ~5-10%, i.e., partial width of each decay mode is ~10MeV
 - + This would be very hard to explained if there were quark content in X(2370) for OZI allowed decays

Interpertation on the X(2370)

isfavors $q\bar{q}$ meson with pure $u\bar{u}/d\bar{d}$ component

Disfavors $q\bar{q}$ meson with pure $s\bar{s}$ component

• Normal $q\bar{q}$ mesons, hybrids and multi-quark states can hardly explain all 5 decays modes $(\pi\pi\eta', KK\eta', \pi\pi\eta, KK\eta, KK\pi)$ with

• Narrow Decay Partial Widths of X(2370): X(2370) decays should be OZI suppressed decays as η_c , i.e. via gluons





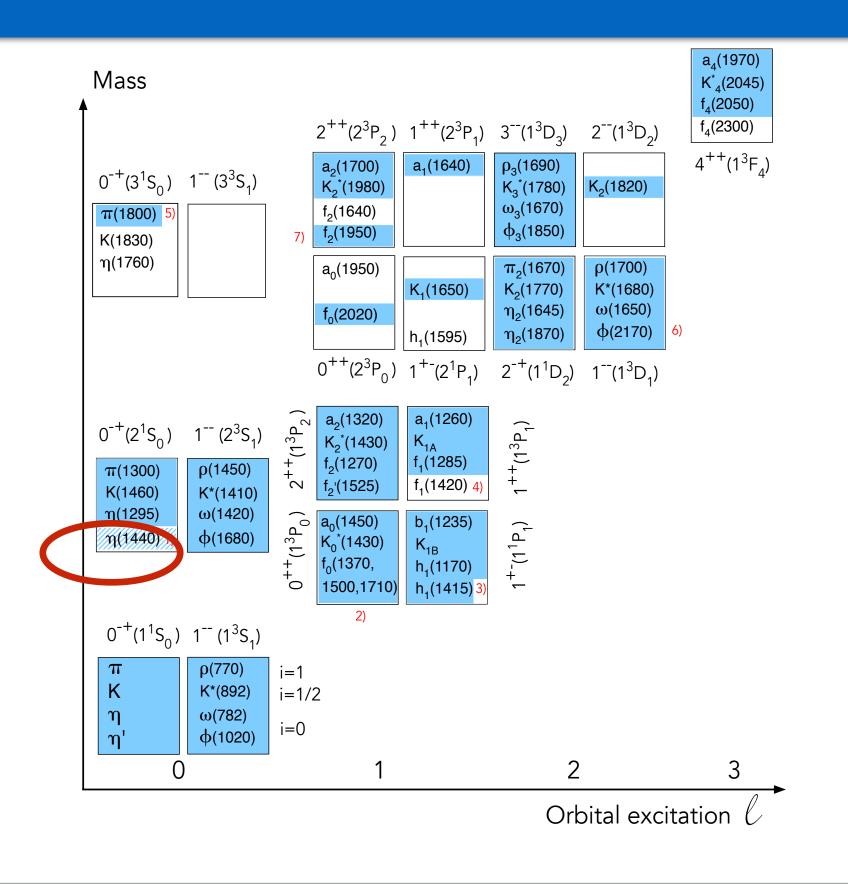
Discussion on X(2370) Production Properties

- \bullet Richly produced in J/ψ radiative decays just as glueball expectation
- In the above 2.3GeV mass region as LQCD 0-+ glueball prediction:
 - The X(2370) is the unique 0⁻⁺ particle produced in these "5 golden modes" and in J/ψ radiative decays, i.e., no other 0⁻⁺ particles in this mass region can be called as "richly produced" if they have not shown up in 10 billion such a huge J/ψ data sample.
- ♦ We are facing a situation: Either we finally identify X(2370) as 0⁻⁺ glueball, or LQCD may face a big challenge in the glueball predictions
 - Similar to the situation before the Higgs Boson discovery



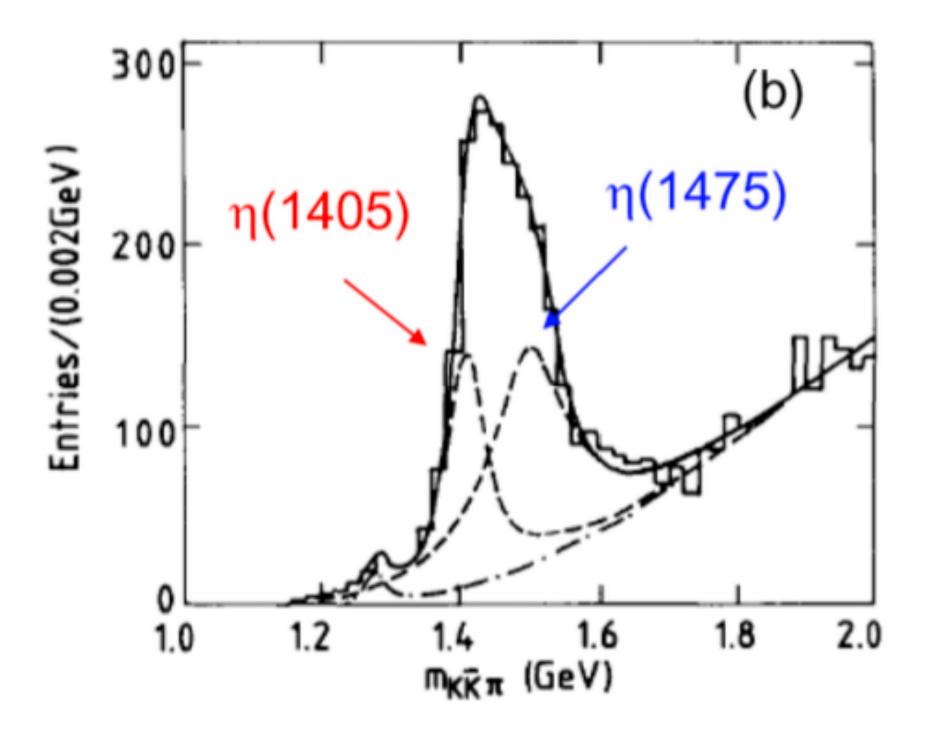






- An isoscalar state, $\eta(1440)$ as a glueball candidate
- Two isoscalars observed in the mass region
 - + $\eta(1405)$ mainly into $a_0(980) \pi$., $\eta(1475)$ mainly into K*(892)K

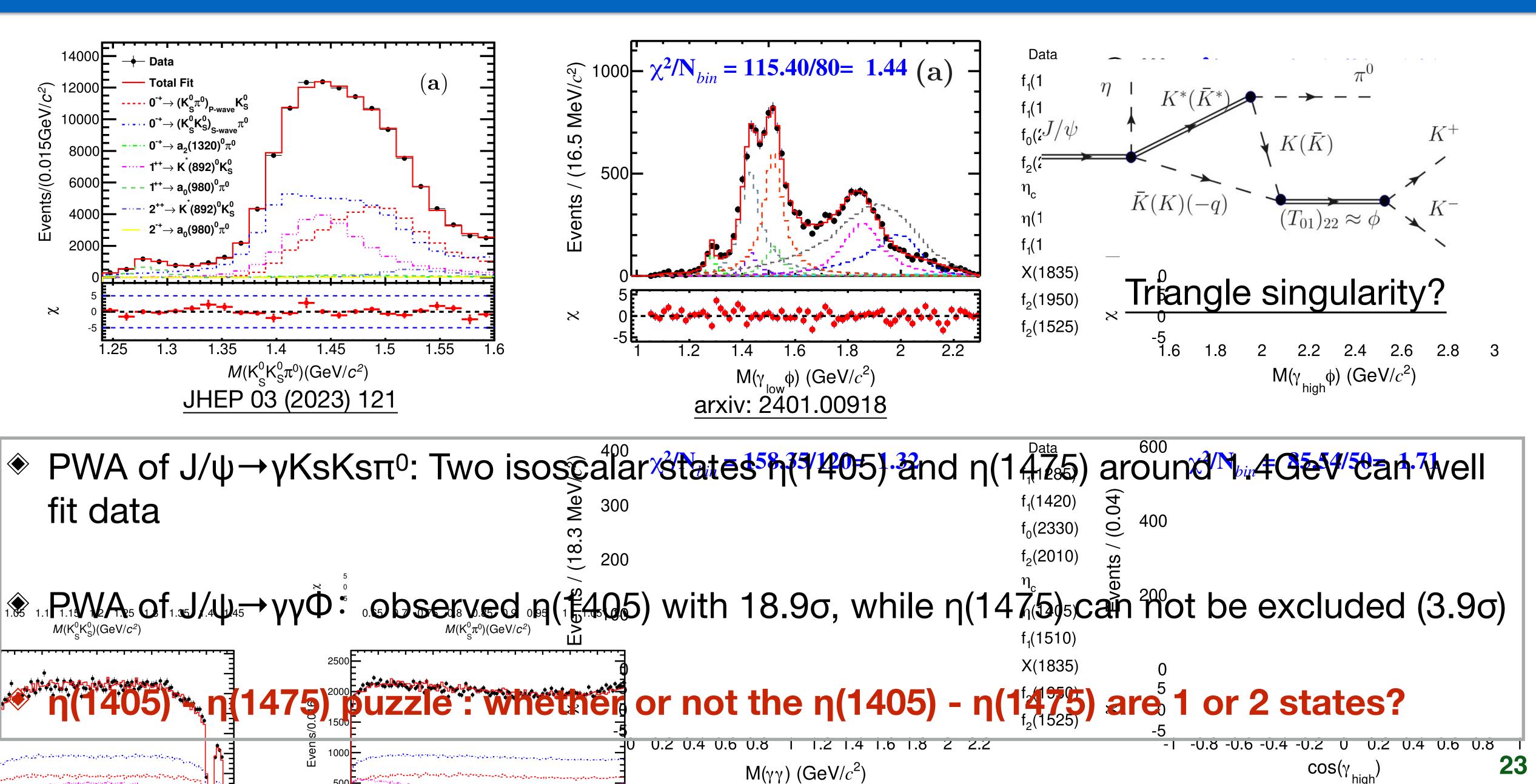
E-i puzzle



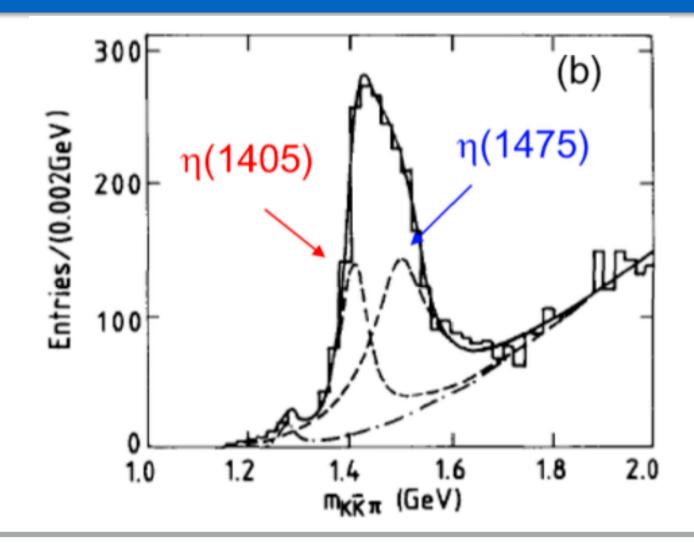
 \Rightarrow $\eta(1295)$ and $\eta(1440)$ are generally assigned to be the first radial excitation of the ground states of η and η'



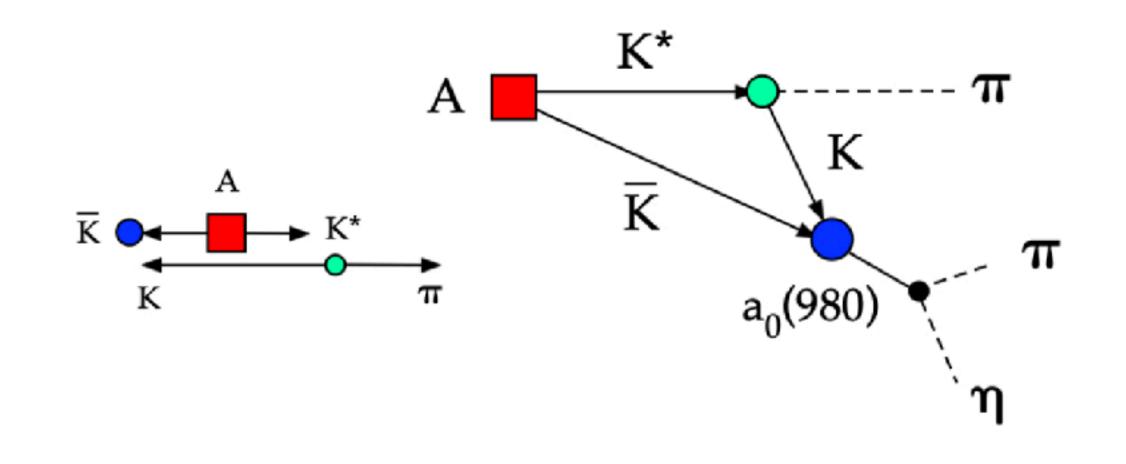
Shed new lights on $\eta(1405)/\eta(1475)$ puzzle



Some thoughts on $\eta(1440)$

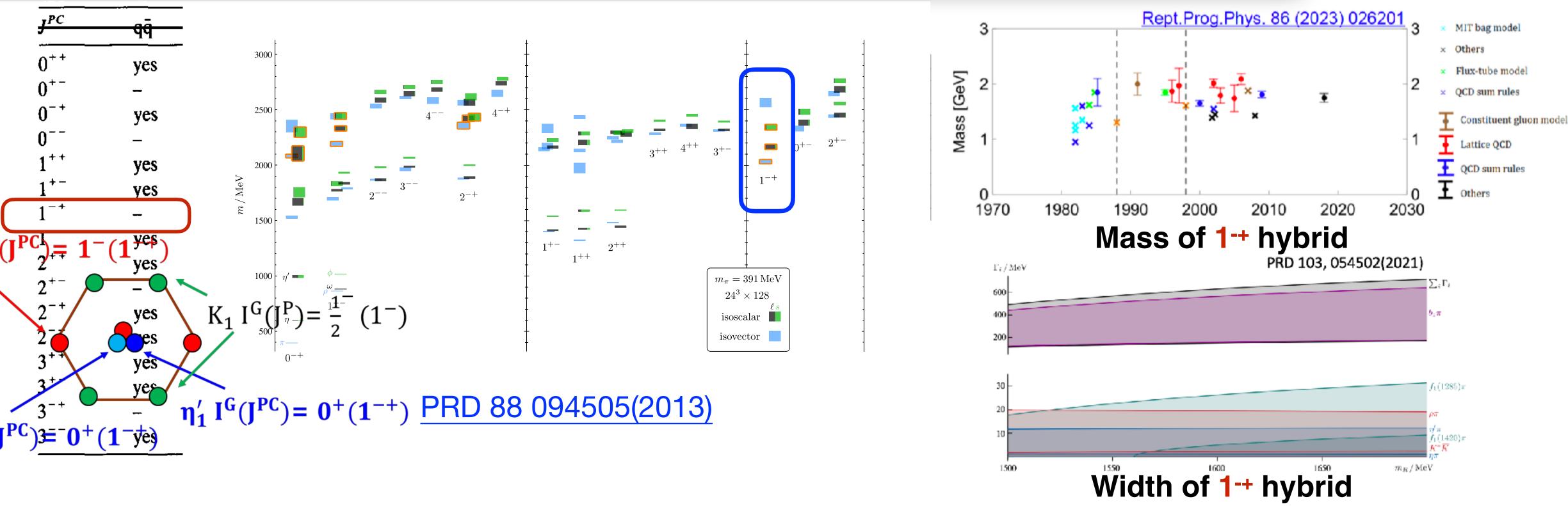


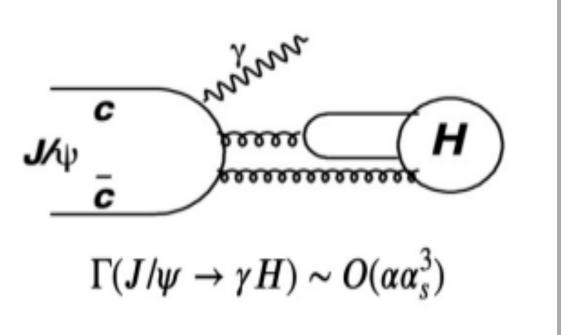
- The broad structure ~1.4GeV: $\eta(1405)$ and $\eta(1475)$ / Triangle singularity
 - + Probe the quark constitute and triangle singularity effect via ω/ϕ associated production
 - + Probe the triangle singularity via the ratio between $a_0(980)$ and $f_0(980)$
 - Need to check the complexity of $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ decay mode
 - Need to expected ratio: measurement and prediction





Exotic 1-+ state





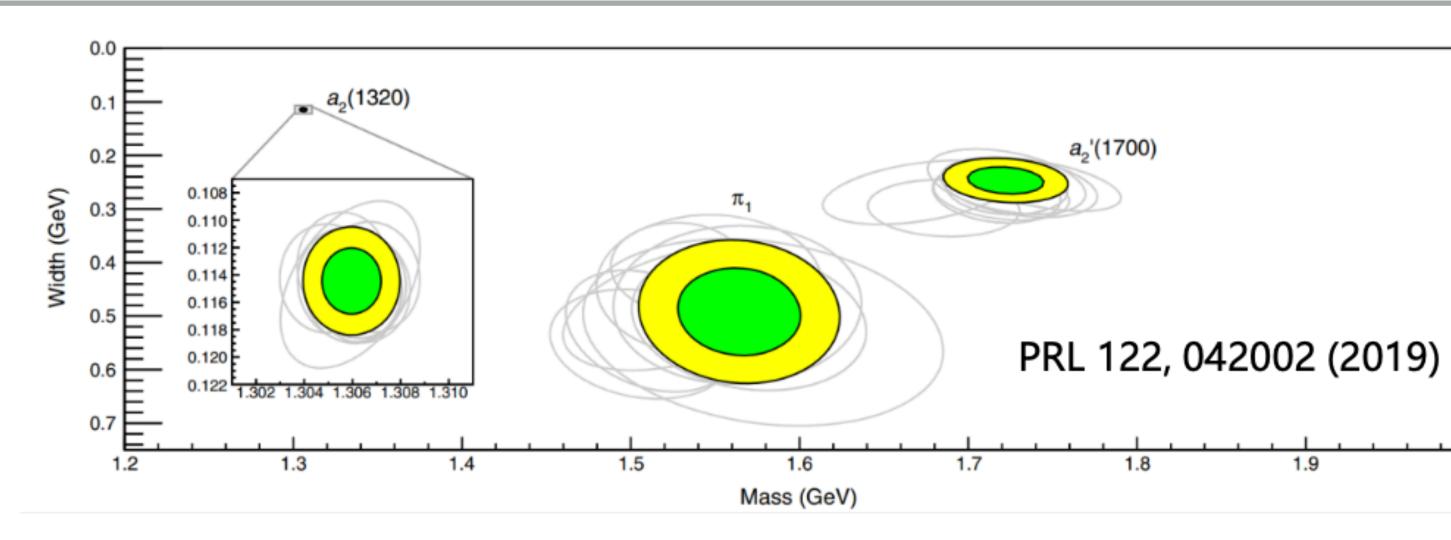
Spin-exotic state of 1⁻⁺: forbidden in conventional quark model Exotic state 1-+ provide an unique way for hybrid search: LQCD predicts the lightest nonet of 1-+ hybrids: 1.7 - 2.1GeV Can be produced in the gluon-rich charmonium decays



25



- Over 3 decades, experimental evidence for 3 candidates with 1-+ state:
 - ✦ All 1⁻⁺ iso-vectors
 - $\pi_1(1400)$: seen in $\eta\pi$
 - $\pi_1(1600)$: seen in $\rho \pi$, $\eta' \pi$, $b_1 \pi$, $f_1 \pi$
 - + $\pi_1(2015)$: seen in $b_1\pi$ and $f_1\pi$
- Some claims are controversial
- $\pi_1(1400)$ and $\pi_1(1600)$ can be one pole

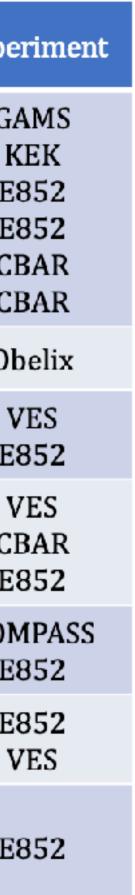


Spin-exotic mesons

1.9

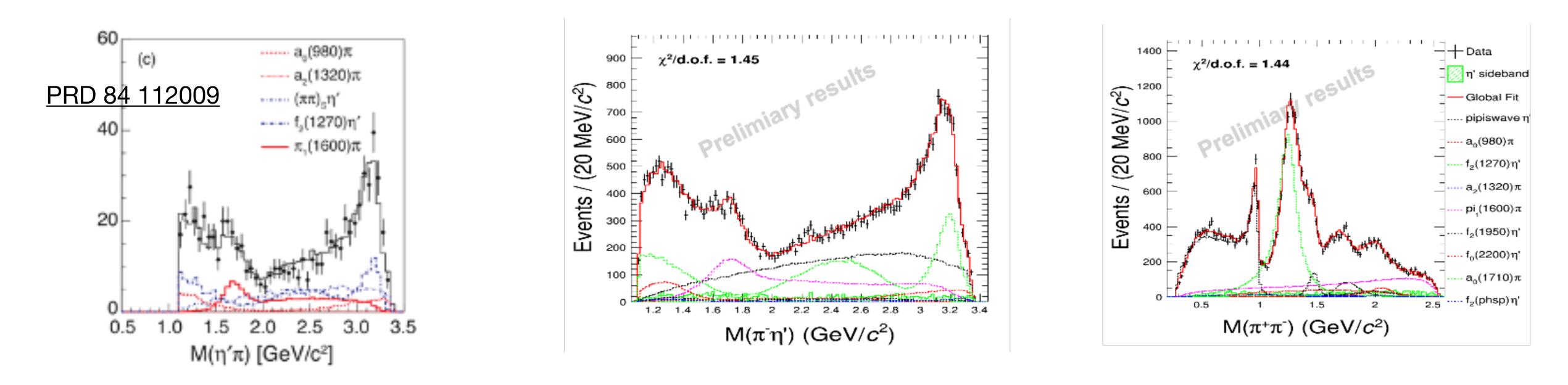
2.0

ates with 1-+ st	ate:				
			Decay mode	Reaction	Exper
		π ₁ (1400)	ηπ	$\pi^{-}p \rightarrow \pi^{-}\eta p$ $\pi^{-}p \rightarrow \pi^{0}\eta n$ $\pi^{-}p \rightarrow \pi^{-}\eta p$ $\pi^{-}p \rightarrow \pi^{0}\eta n$ $\bar{p}n \rightarrow \pi^{-}\pi^{0}\eta$ $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \pi^{0}\pi^{0}\eta$	GA KI E8 E8 CB CB
			$ ho\pi$	$ar{p}p ightarrow 2\pi^+ 2\pi^-$	Ob
			η'π	$\pi^{-}Be \rightarrow \eta' \pi^{-} \pi^{0}Be$ $\pi^{-}p \rightarrow \pi^{-} \eta' p$	V E8
		π ₁ (1600)	$b_1\pi$	$\pi^{-}Be ightarrow \omega\pi^{-}\pi^{0}Be$ $\bar{p}p ightarrow \omega\pi^{+}\pi^{-}\pi^{0}$ $\pi^{-}p ightarrow \omega\pi^{-}\pi^{0}p$	V) CB E8
			ρπ	$\pi^{-}Pb \rightarrow \pi^{+}\pi^{-}\pi^{-}X$ $\pi^{-}p \rightarrow \pi^{+}\pi^{-}\pi^{-}p$	COM E8
		$f_1\pi$	$\pi^- p ightarrow p\eta \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^- \pi^- \pi^- A$ $\pi^- A ightarrow \eta \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^- A$	E8 V	
	π ₁ (2015)	$f_1\pi$	$\pi^- p \rightarrow \omega \pi^- \pi^0 p$	FO	
		$\pi_1(2015)$	$f_1\pi$ $b_1\pi$	$\pi^- p \to p \eta \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^-$	E8
042002 (2019)					





Observation of Exotic 1⁻⁺ Isovector state $\pi(1600)$

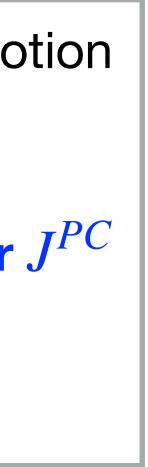


- PWA in $\psi' \to \gamma \chi_{c1}(\chi_{c1} \to \pi^+ \pi^- \eta')$ with higher ψ' data sample @ BESIII:

+ First observation of Exotic 1⁻⁺ Isovector state $\pi(1600)$ with a significance >10 σ better than other J^{PC} assumption

+ The significance of phase motion is also greater than 10σ

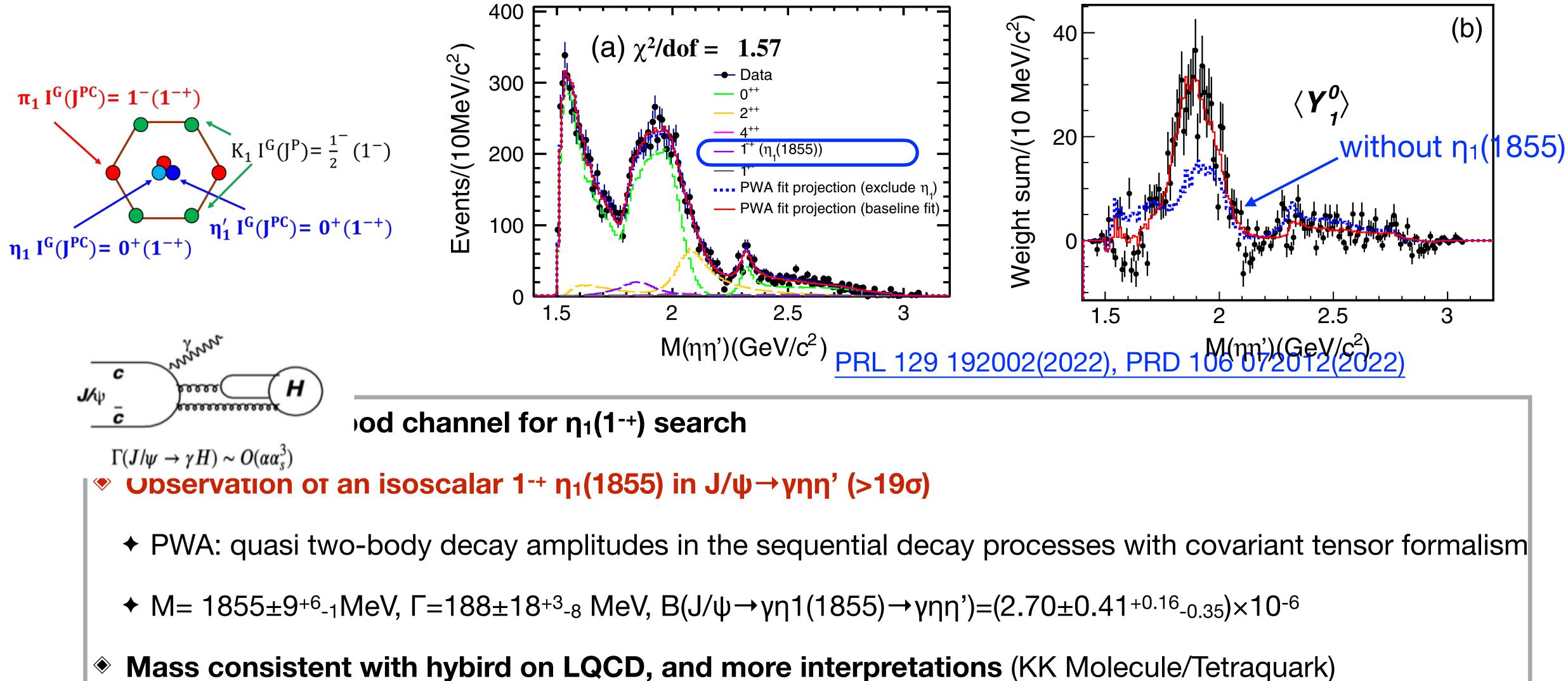
• CLEO-c results: evidence of an exotic P-wave $\eta'\pi$ amplitude with 4σ and but no significant phase motion





Observation of An Exotic 1-+ Isoscalar $\eta_1(1855)$

Isoscalar (1-+) is critical to establish the nonet hybrid multiplet: partners for the Isovector (1-+)



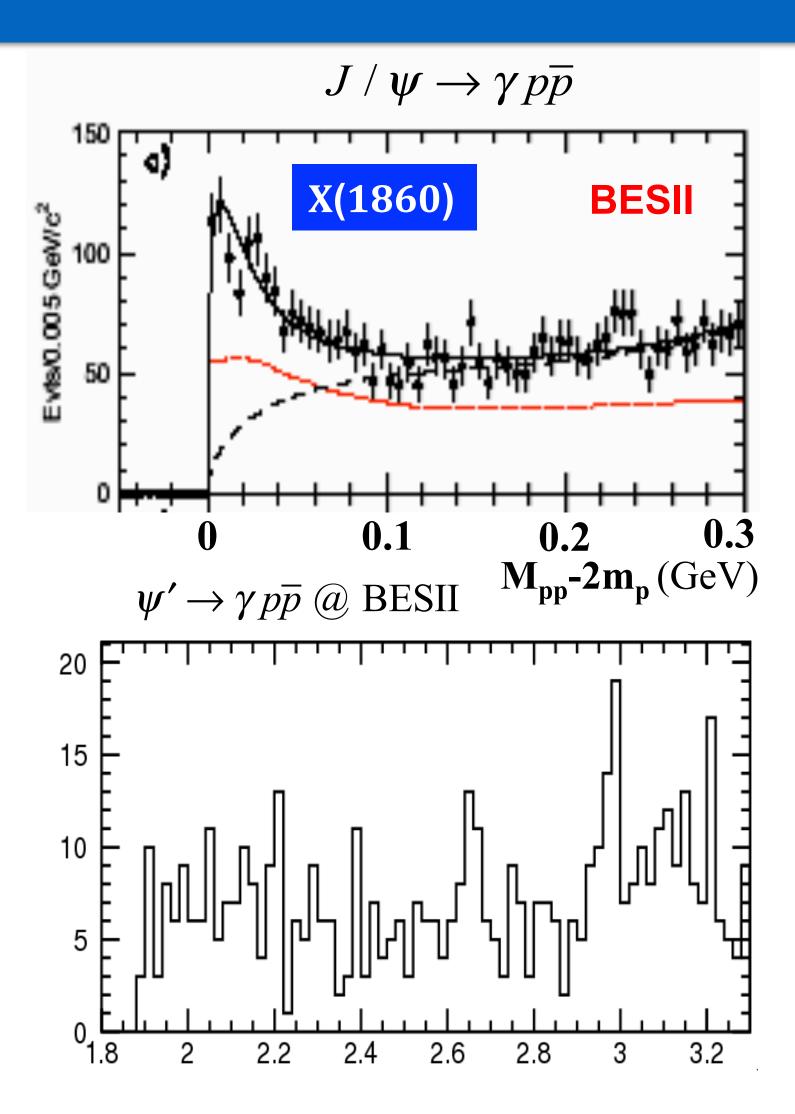




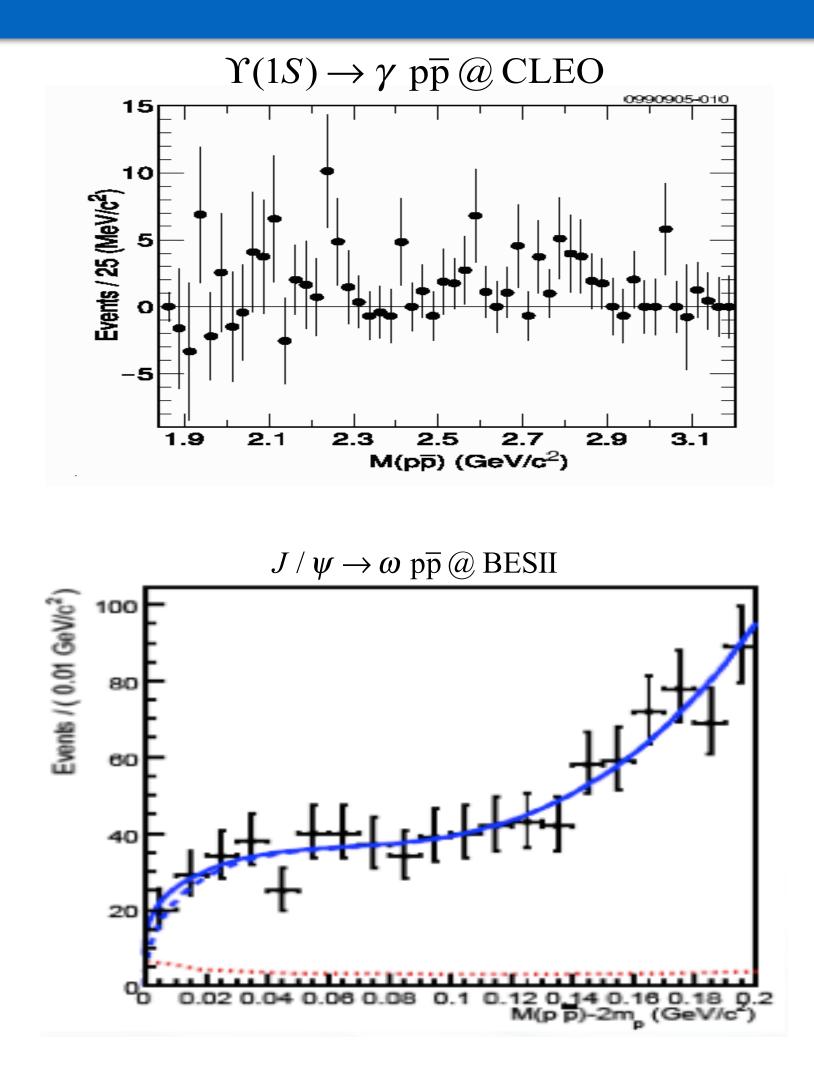




Observation of M_{ppb} threshold enhancement — X(ppb)

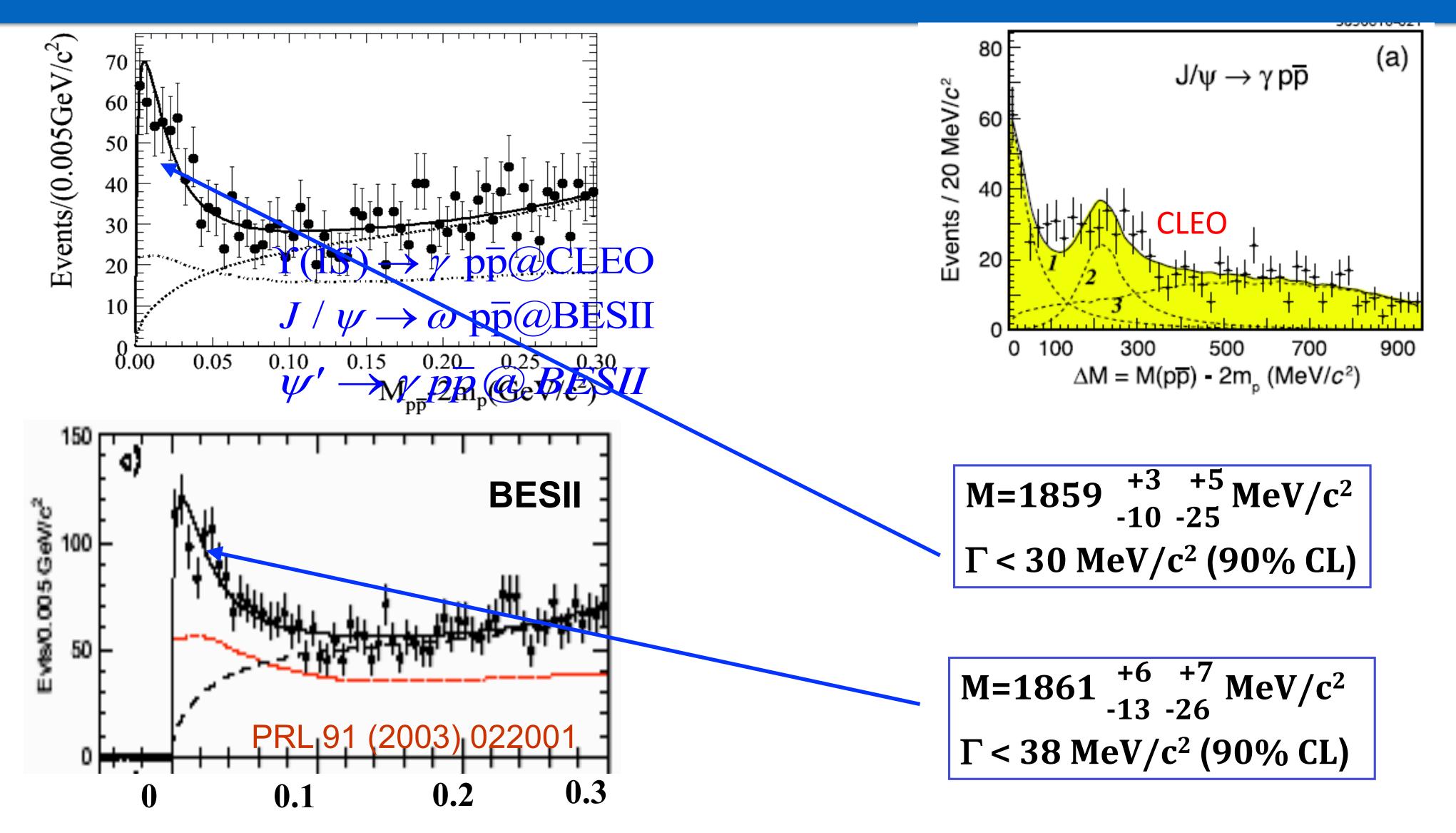


◆ First observation of ppb mass threshold enhancement
 ◆ No similar threshold structure in other channels → It can not be pure FSI effect





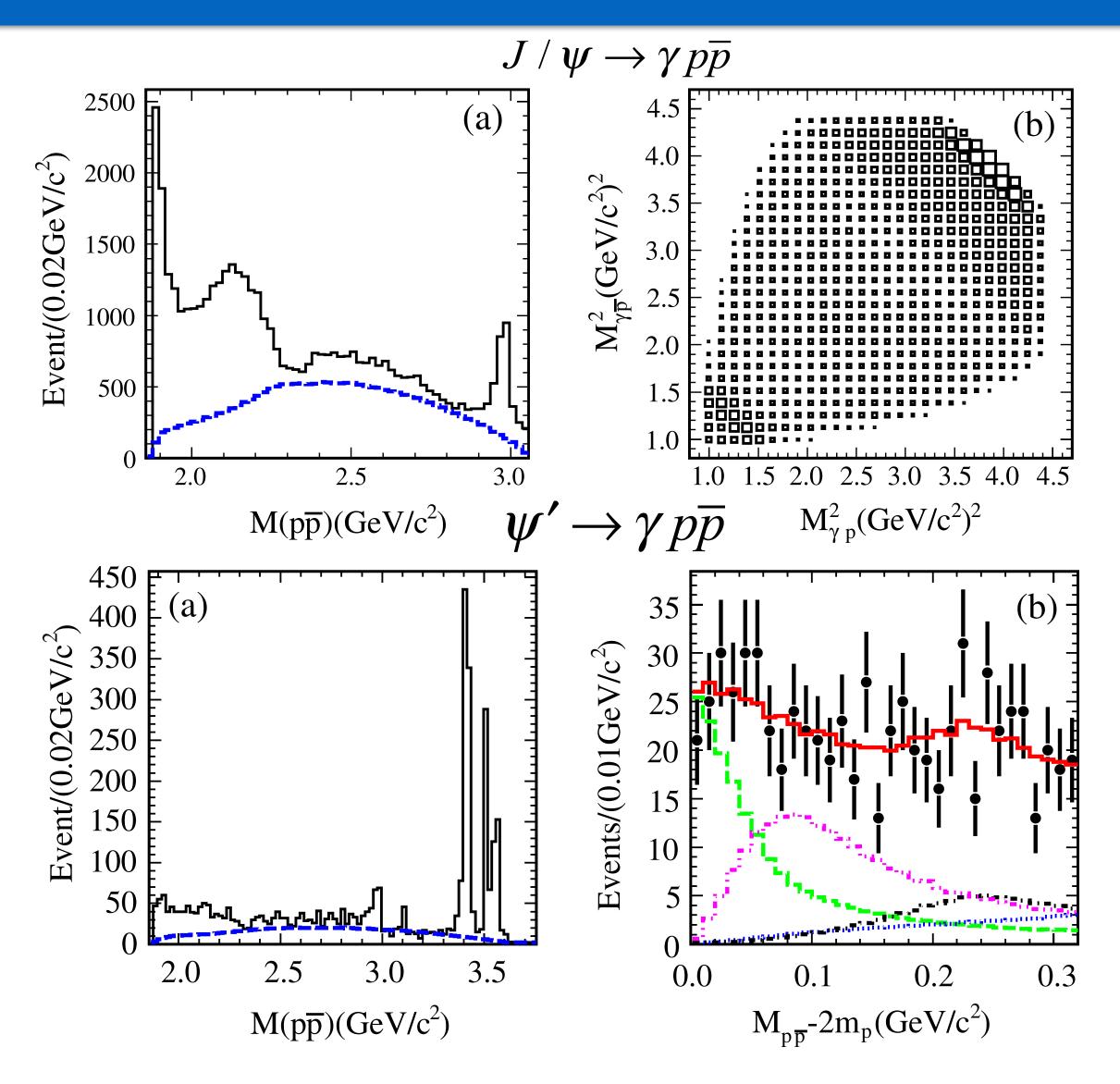
Confirmation of M_{ppb} threshold enhancement



Good agreement on the mass and width measurements which indicated that the confirmation of the M_{ppb} threshold enhancement



More precise measurements with PWA



Favor to 0-+ with the significance >6.8\sigma larger than others $M = 1861 \pm 1^{+13} - 4MeV$ $= 1 \pm 6^{+18} - 1 MeV (< 32 MeV @ 90\% CL)$ $B(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(1860))B(X(1860) \rightarrow pp)$ =8.6^{+0.3}-0.2^{+2.4}-3.5×10⁻⁵

X(pp) significance >6.9σ

Production ratio:

 $= 5.08 \pm 0.56^{+0.64} - 3.09 \pm 0.12\%$ R

Evident suppression w.r.t. "12%rule"

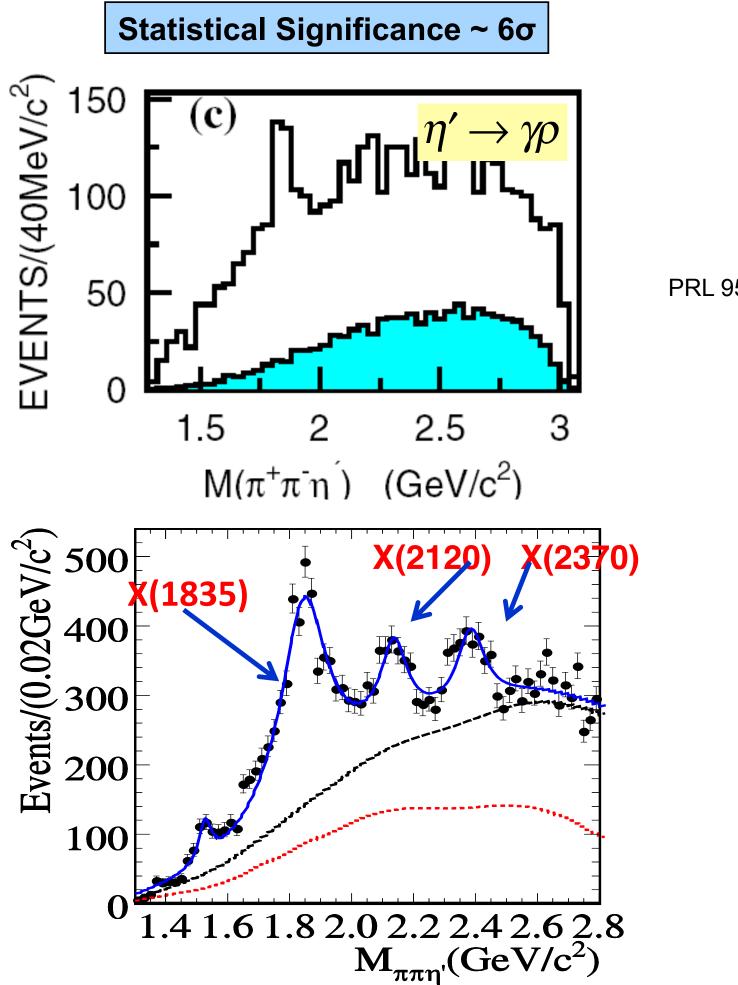
<u>What's the source: ppb bound state, multi-quark state?</u>





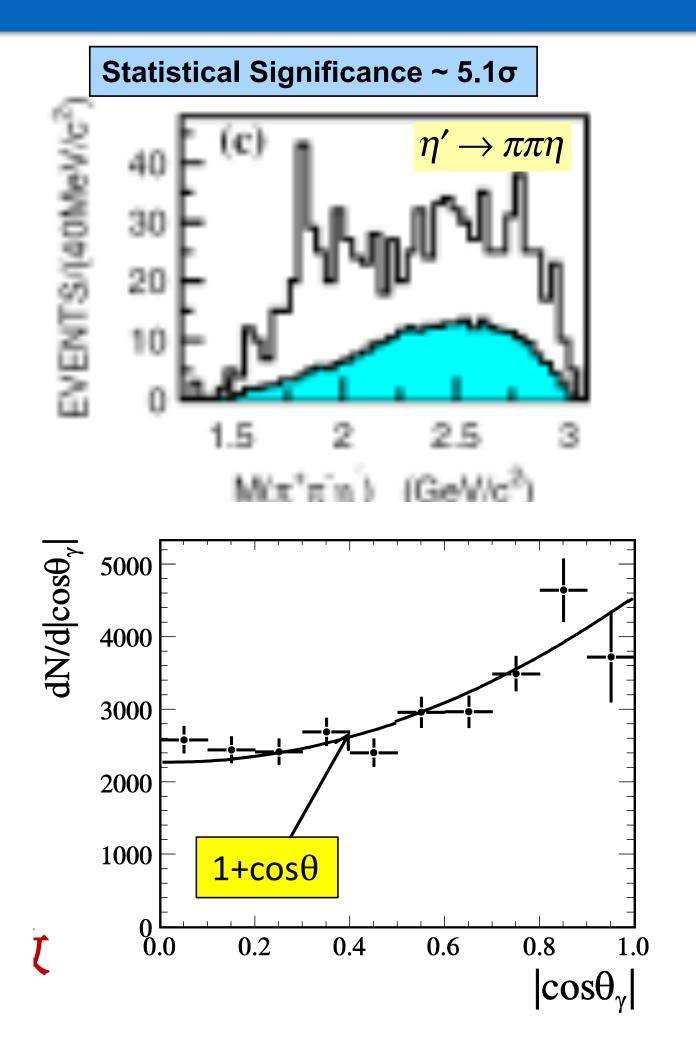


Observation of the X(1835)/X(2120)/X(2370) in J/ $\psi \rightarrow \gamma \pi \pi \eta^2$



PRL 95,262001(2005)

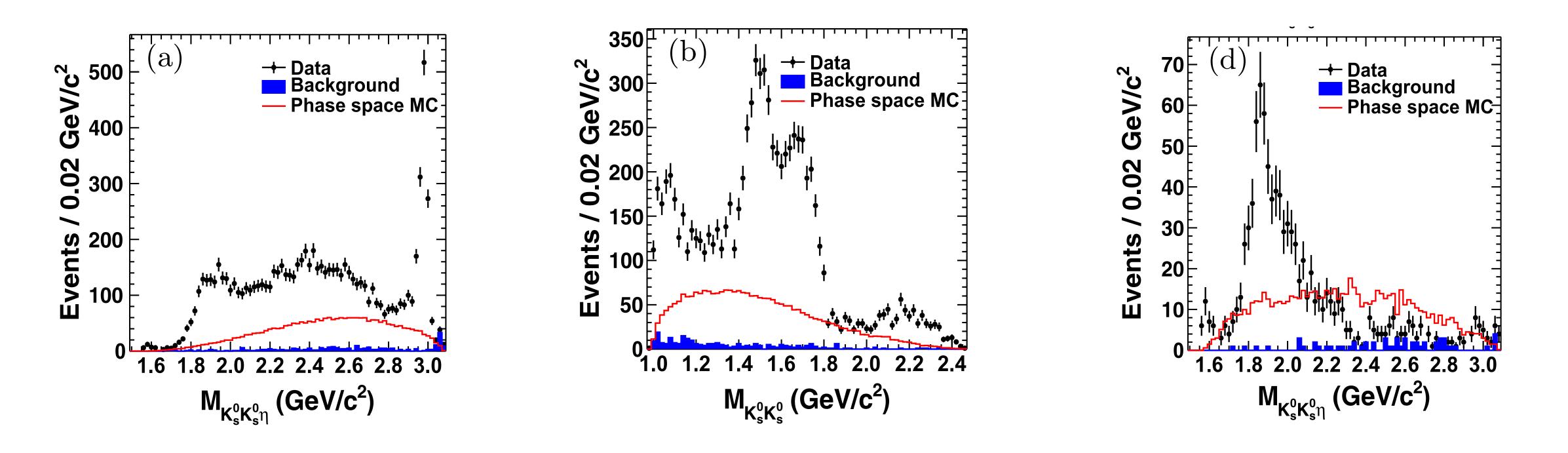
First observation of the X(1835) @ BESII
 Confirmation of the X(1835) and observation of



Confirmation of the X(1835) and observation of the two new resonances (X(2120) and X(2370)) @ BESIII



Spin-Parity determination of the X(1835) in $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K_s K_s \eta$

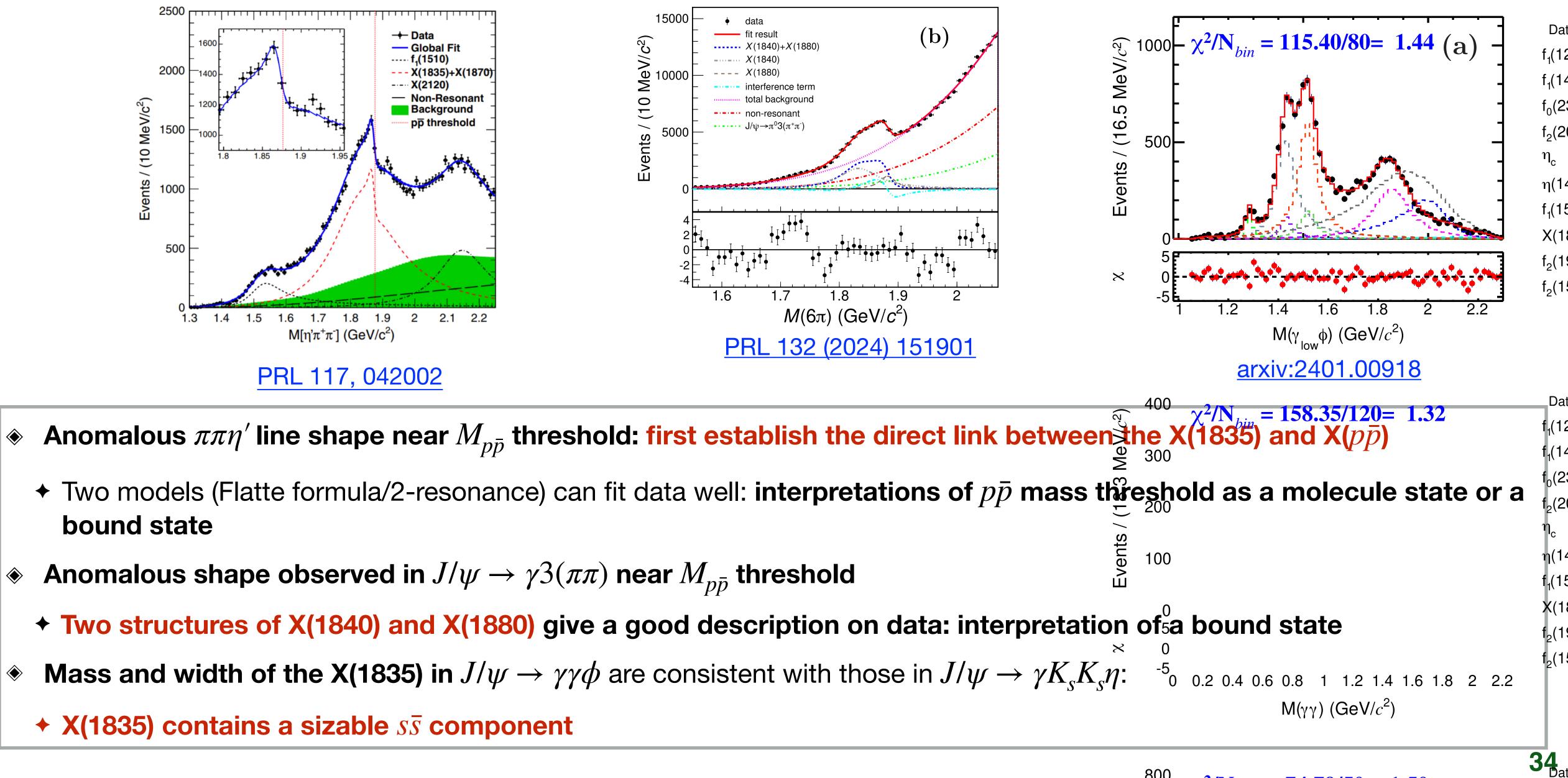


The spin-parity is determined to be 0⁺⁺ • $M = 1844 \pm 9^{+16} - 25$ MeV, $\Gamma = 192^{+20} - 17^{+62} - 43$ MeV ★ B(J/ψ→γX(1835))B(X(1835)→f₀(980)η) = $3.31^{+0.33}$ -0.30^{+1.96}-1.29 ×10⁻⁵

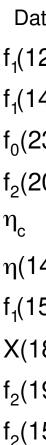
𝔅 X(1835) → K_sK_sη is dominated by the f₀(980) production with the significance >12.9σ.



$M(6\pi)$ (GeV/ c^2) Direct link between the $X(p\bar{p})$ and X(1835)



- - bound state
- ۲
- ۲
 - + X(1835) contains a sizable $s\bar{s}$ component





- A set of interesting and important results from the light hadron spectroscopy achieved: •
- **Discovery of a glueball-like particle: X(2370)**
 - + Strong correlation between the X(1835) and $M_{p\bar{p}}$ threshold enhancement. A molecule state or a bound state?
 - + Observation of An Exotic 1⁻⁺ Isoscalar state $\eta_1(1855)$ and Isovector state $\pi(1600)$

+ ...

With the more data, the more extensive and intensive investigation are ongoing, looking forward to new results in the near future.









Golden decay modes in 0⁻⁺ glueball search

• Typically, PPP (3 pseudoscalar mesons, such as $\pi\pi\eta$, $\pi\pi\eta'$, $KK\pi$) modes are believed as golden decay modes in 0⁻⁺ glueball searches S wave decays for 0⁻⁺ mesons, no suppression factor, dominant decay modes + PPP modes are strongly suppressed in 0^{++} , 2^{++} meson decays — spin-parity filter PP (2 pseudoscalar mesons) modes are mostly forbidden for 0⁻⁺ mesons • VV (2 vector mesons, such as $\omega\omega$, $\phi\phi$, $\rho\rho$, K*K*) ◆ P wave decays for 0⁻⁺ mesons — suppressed decays, especially near mass threshold ◆ All J^{PC} mesons allowed, not a spin-parity filter Baryon modes ◆ All J^{PC} mesons allowed, not a spin-parity filter

