

Prospects for observing the missing $2D$ and $1F$ charmonium states around 4 GeV

刘成郗

兰州大学

合作者：满自龙，高天乐，刘翔

2026.3.30

第五届强子与重味物理理论与实验联合研讨会

C.X.Liu, Z.L.Man, T.L.Gao and X.Liu, arXiv:2411.15689(2026)

Outline

1. Background
2. The $2D$ and $1F$ charmonia
3. Production of charmonium
4. Summary



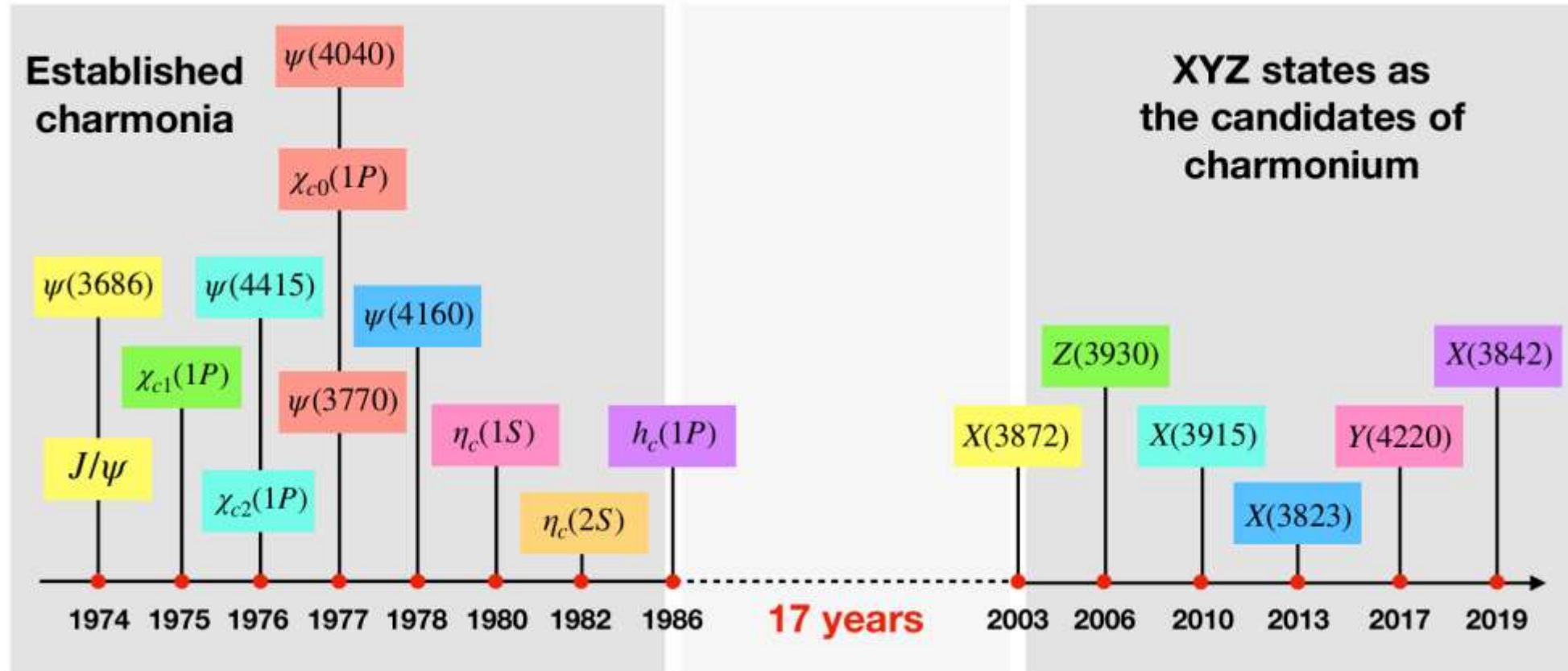


兰州大学

Background

From quenched to unquenched models

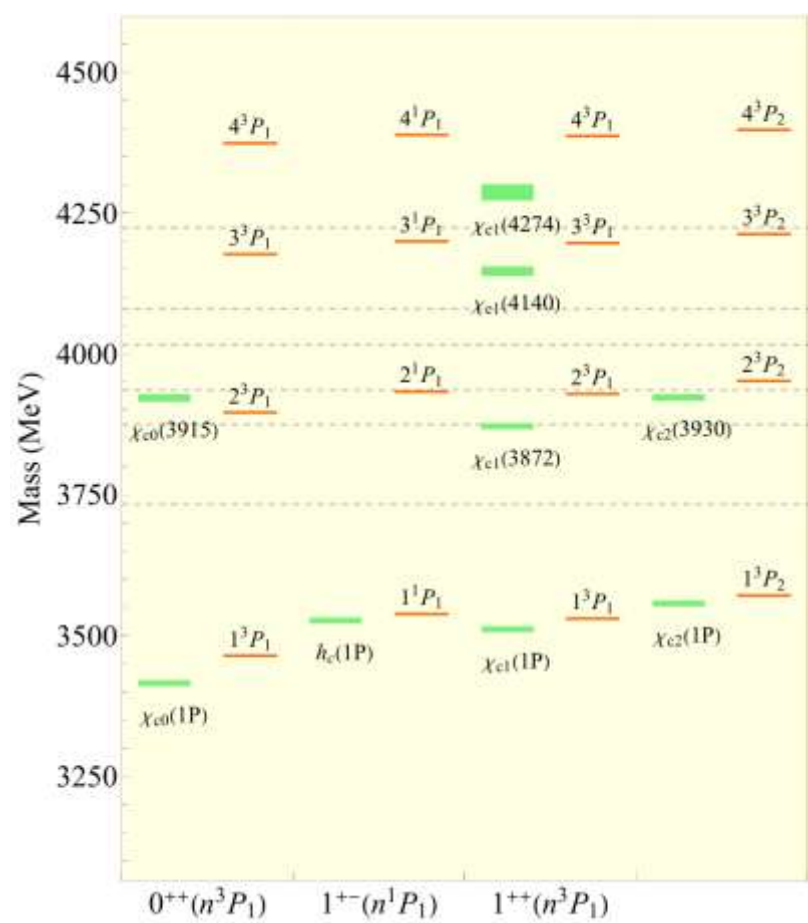
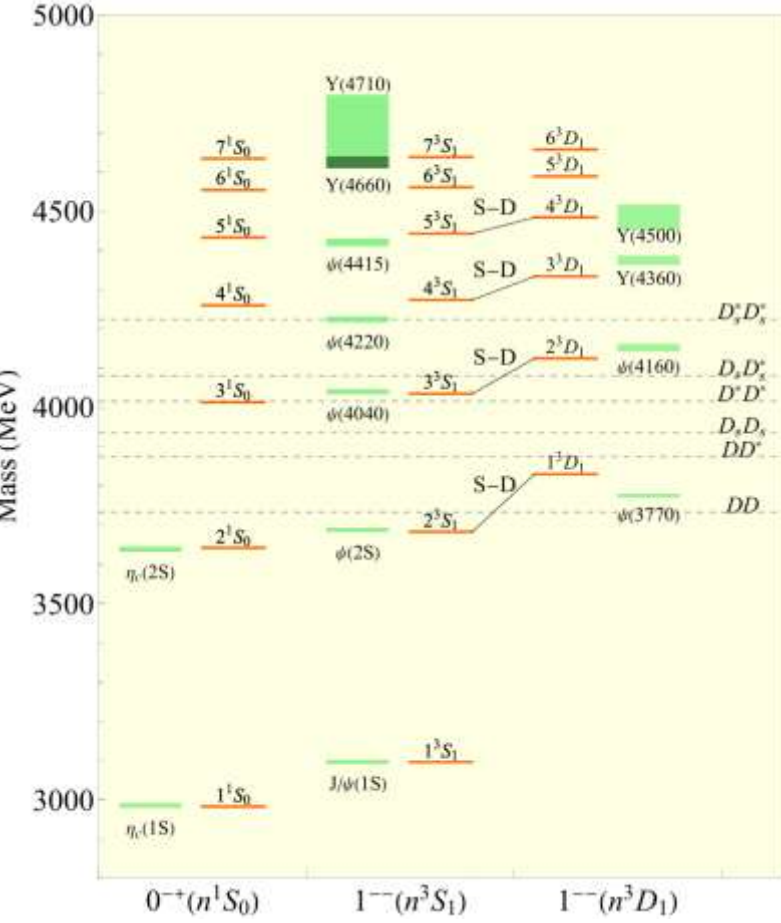
The discovery since 2003 of charmonium-like XYZ states challenged quenched models, making unquenched models essential for constructing the higher charmonium spectrum.



Charmonium discovery → Quenched model

New hadron states → Quenched model outpaced

Unquenched charmonium spectrum



Unquenched effects are essential for describing higher radial and orbital excitations

Currently, the understanding of high-lying charmonium remains relatively limited

Therefore, it is time to extend our study and predict the higher radial and orbital charmonium spectrum



兰州大学

The $2D$ and $1F$ charmonia

The Godfrey-Isgur (GI) model

In the nonrelativistic limit, the effective potential has a familiar format:

$$\tilde{H} = (p^2 + m_1^2)^{1/2} + (p^2 + m_2^2)^{1/2} + \tilde{V}_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}),$$

$$V_{\text{eff}}(r) = H^{\text{conf}} + H^{\text{hyp}} + H^{\text{so}},$$

$$H^{\text{conf}} = br - \frac{4\alpha_s(r)}{3r} + c$$

↑ Cornell potential

$$H^{\text{hyp}} = \frac{4\alpha_s(r)}{3m_1m_2} \left[\frac{8\pi}{3} \mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{S}_2 \delta^3(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{r^3} \left(\frac{3(\mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r})(\mathbf{S}_2 \cdot \mathbf{r})}{r^2} - \mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{S}_2 \right) \right],$$

$$H^{\text{so}} = H^{\text{so(cm)}} + H^{\text{so(tp)}}.$$

$$H^{\text{so(cm)}} = \frac{4\alpha_s(r)}{3r^3} \left(\frac{\mathbf{S}_1}{m_1^2} + \frac{\mathbf{S}_2}{m_2^2} + \frac{\mathbf{S}_1 + \mathbf{S}_2}{m_1m_2} \right) \cdot \mathbf{L},$$

$$H^{\text{so(tp)}} = -\frac{1}{2r} \frac{\partial H^{\text{scr}}}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\mathbf{S}_1}{m_1^2} + \frac{\mathbf{S}_2}{m_2^2} \right) \cdot \mathbf{L},$$

To account for relativistic effects, two modifications are introduced. First, a smearing function is applied:

$$\tilde{V}(r) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \rho(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') V(r'), \quad \rho(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') = \frac{\sigma^3}{\pi^{3/2}} \exp[-\sigma^2(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')^2]$$

Second, to account for the center of mass effects, momentum-dependent factors are introduced:

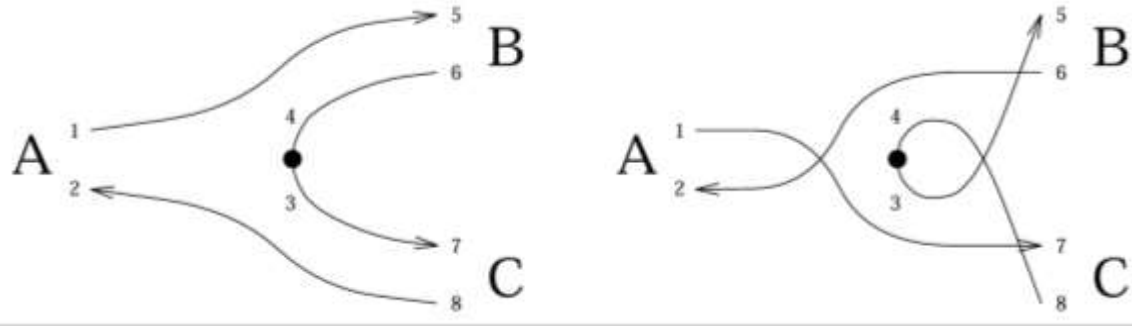
$$\tilde{G}(r) \rightarrow \left(1 + \frac{p^2}{E_1 E_2}\right)^{1/2} \tilde{G}(r) \left(1 + \frac{p^2}{E_1 E_2}\right)^{1/2},$$

$$\tilde{V}_i(r) \rightarrow \left(\frac{m_1 m_2}{E_1 E_2}\right)^{1/2+\epsilon_i} \tilde{V}_i(r) \left(\frac{m_1 m_2}{E_1 E_2}\right)^{1/2+\epsilon_i}.$$

Finally, the screening effect is introduced to account for the **unquenched effect**, it is common to replace the line potential with the **screening potential**

$$br \rightarrow \frac{b(1 - e^{-\mu r})}{\mu}, \quad H^{\text{scr}} = \frac{b(1 - e^{-\mu r})}{\mu} - \frac{4\alpha_s(r)}{3r} + c.$$

The Quark-Pair-Creation model



A two-body OZI-allowed decay process
 $A \rightarrow BC$ can be expressed as

$$\langle BC | \mathcal{T} | A \rangle = \delta^3(\mathbf{P}_B + \mathbf{P}_C) \mathcal{M}^{M_{J_A} M_{J_B} M_{J_C}},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T} = & -3\gamma \sum_{m,i,j} \langle 1m; 1-m | 00 \rangle \int d\mathbf{p}_3 d\mathbf{p}_4 \delta^3(\mathbf{p}_3 + \mathbf{p}_4) \\ & \times \mathcal{Y}_{1m} \left(\frac{\mathbf{p}_3 - \mathbf{p}_4}{2} \right) \chi_{1,-m}^{34} \phi_0^{34}(\omega_0^{34})_{ij} b_{3i}^\dagger(\mathbf{p}_3) b_{4j}^\dagger(\mathbf{p}_4), \end{aligned}$$

The states $|A\rangle$, $|B\rangle$, and $|C\rangle$ refer to the mock states associated with mesons A , B , and C .

By applying the Jacobi-Wick formula, the strong decay partial width for a given decay mode of $A \rightarrow BC$ reads as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}^{JL}(A \rightarrow BC) = & \frac{\sqrt{4\pi(2L+1)}}{2J_A+1} \sum_{M_{J_B} M_{J_C}} \langle L0; JM_{J_A} | J_A M_{J_A} \rangle \\ & \times \langle J_B M_{J_B}; J_C M_{J_C} | J_A M_{J_A} \rangle \\ & \times \mathcal{M}^{M_{J_A} M_{J_B} M_{J_C}}(\mathbf{P}), \end{aligned}$$

$$\Gamma_{A \rightarrow BC} = \frac{\pi^2 |\mathbf{P}|}{4 m_A^2} \sum_{J,L} |\mathcal{M}^{JL}(\mathbf{P})|^2,$$

The QPC model primarily depends on the hadron wave functions and the γ parameter.

Here we use $\gamma = 5.84$ and expand the wave functions obtained from the GI model with the simple harmonic oscillator (SHO) wave function

$$\phi_{nlm}^p(R, \mathbf{p}) = R_{nl}^p(R, p) Y_{lm}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}),$$

$$R_{nl}^p(R, p) = (-1)^n (-i)^l R^{\frac{3}{2}+l} \sqrt{\frac{2n!}{\Gamma(n+l+\frac{3}{2})}} L_n^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(R^2 p^2) e^{-\frac{R^2 p^2}{2}} p^l.$$

Radiative decay

The quark-photon electromagnetic coupling is described by

$$H_e = - \sum_j e_j \bar{\psi}_j \gamma_\mu^j A^\mu(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}) \psi_j,$$

The nonrelativistic expansion of H_e can be written as

$$h_e \simeq \sum_j \left[e_j \mathbf{r}_j \cdot \boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \frac{e_j}{2m_j} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_j \cdot (\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \times \hat{\mathbf{k}}) \right] e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j},$$

The standard helicity transition amplitude \mathcal{A}_λ between the initial state $|J_i \lambda_i\rangle$ and the final state $\langle J_f \lambda_f|$ is given by

$$\mathcal{A}_\lambda = -i \sqrt{\frac{\omega_\gamma}{2}} \langle J_f \lambda_f | h_e | J_i \lambda_i \rangle,$$

Finally, the partial decay widths for the electromagnetic transitions are given by

$$\Gamma = \frac{|\mathbf{k}|^2}{\pi} \frac{2}{2J_i + 1} \frac{M_f}{M_i} \sum_\lambda |\mathcal{A}_\lambda|^2,$$

We can use the multipole expansion to separate the electric and magnetic transition parts as

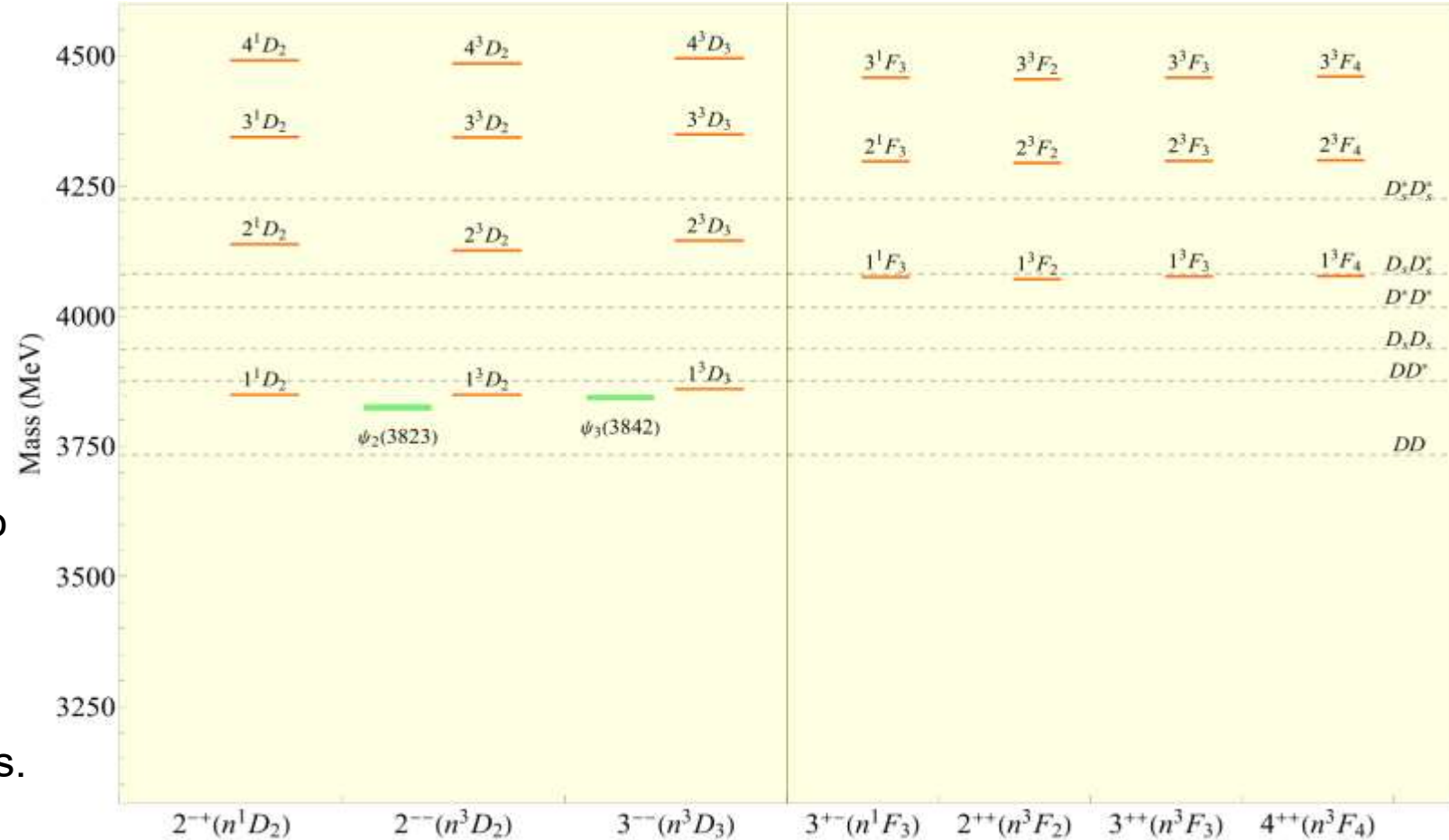
Process	Multipole contribution
$n^3 S_1 \leftrightarrow m^1 S_0$	M1
$n^3 P_J \leftrightarrow m^3 S_1$	E1, M2
$n^1 P_1 \leftrightarrow m^1 S_0$	E1
$n^3 D_J \leftrightarrow m^3 P_J$	E1, E3, M2, M4
$n^1 D_1 \leftrightarrow m^1 P_1$	E1, E3
$n^3 P_J \leftrightarrow m^1 P_1$	M1, M3

Phys. Rev. D 95, 034026 (2017)

Generally the E1 channel is the primary channel of electromagnetic transitions.

The masses of D - and F -wave charmonia

- The masses of the missing $2D$ states exhibit near degeneracy at approximately **4140 MeV**
- The masses of the $1F$ states exhibit near degeneracy at approximately **4070 MeV**
- The masses of $1F$ states are close to the $D^*\bar{D}^*$ threshold.
- In such cases, the inclusion of state mixing may increase the final masses.



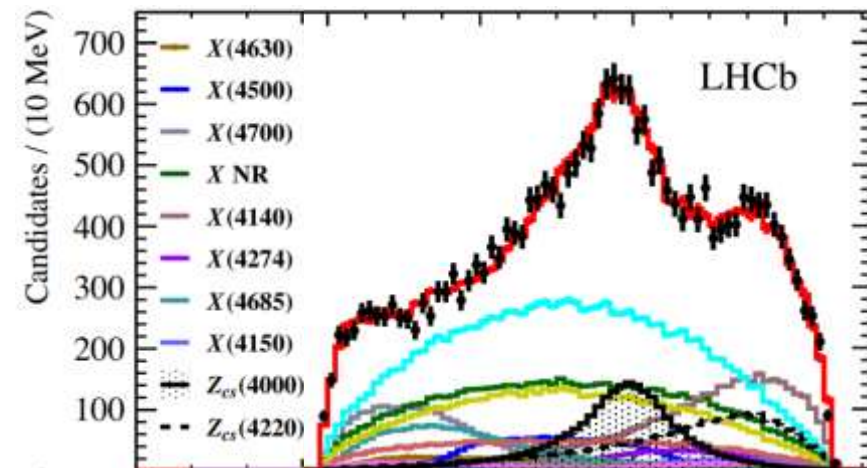
The decay behaviors of D - and F -wave charmonia

	2^1D_2	2^3D_2	2^3D_3			
Mass	4137	4137	4144			
Strong decay						
Mode	Γ_{thy} (MeV)	Br	Γ_{thy} (MeV)	Br	Γ_{thy} (MeV)	Br
$D\bar{D}$	\times		\times		$3.3^{+0.7}_{-0.5}$	6.0%
$D\bar{D}^*$	$29.5^{+5.0}_{-5.0}$	51.0%	$22.9^{+3.8}_{-4.0}$	47.1%	$21.8^{+3.8}_{-3.6}$	40.1%
$D^*\bar{D}^*$	$27.2^{+4.6}_{-4.7}$	47.0%	$24.0^{+4.8}_{-3.6}$	49.3%	$28.8^{+3.8}_{-5.7}$	53.0%
$D_s\bar{D}_s$	\times		\times		$0.4^{+0.02}_{-0.1}$	0.7%
$D_s\bar{D}_s^*$	$1.2^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	2.0%	$1.8^{+0.4}_{-0.3}$	3.6%	$0.1^{+0.01}_{-0.03}$	0.2%
Total	$57.9^{+9.8}_{-9.9}$	100%	$48.7^{+9.0}_{-7.9}$	100%	$54.4^{+8.3}_{-9.9}$	100%
Radiative decay						
Mode	Γ_{thy} (keV)	Mode	Γ_{thy} (keV)	Mode	Γ_{thy} (keV)	
$2^1P_1\gamma$	167	$2^3P_1\gamma$	128	$2^3P_2\gamma$	213	
$1^1P_1\gamma$	58.45	$2^3P_2\gamma$	63	$1^3P_2\gamma$	41	

	1^1F_3	1^3F_2	1^3F_3	1^3F_4				
Mass	4074	4070	4075	4076				
Strong decay								
Mode	Γ_{thy} (MeV)	Br	Γ_{thy} (MeV)	Br	Γ_{thy} (MeV)	Br	Γ_{thy} (MeV)	Br
$D\bar{D}$	\times		$50.5^{+8.9}_{-8.4}$	44.9%	\times		$8.1^{+1.1}_{-1.6}$	21.3%
$D\bar{D}^*$	$67.8^{+11.5}_{-11.6}$	86.1%	$56.4^{+9.5}_{-9.6}$	50.1%	$87.6^{+15.0}_{-14.9}$	92.0%	$5.9^{+0.9}_{-1.1}$	15.5%
$D^*\bar{D}^*$	$11.0^{+3.2}_{-0.9}$	13.9%	$3.4^{+1.1}_{-0.2}$	3.1%	$7.6^{+2.3}_{-0.6}$	8.00%	$23.9^{+7.0}_{-1.9}$	62.9%
$D_s\bar{D}_s$	\times		$2.2^{+0.1}_{-0.7}$	1.9%	\times		$0.1^{+0.07}_{-0.08}$	0.3%
total	$78.8^{+14.7}_{-12.5}$	100%	$112.5^{+19.6}_{-19.0}$	100%	$95.2^{+17.3}_{-15.4}$	100%	$38.0^{+9.0}_{-4.6}$	100%
Radiative decay								
Mode	Γ_{thy} (keV)	Mode	Γ_{thy} (keV)	Mode	Γ_{thy} (keV)	Mode	Γ_{thy} (keV)	
$1^1D_2\gamma$	249	$1^3D_1\gamma$	440	$1^3D_2\gamma$	295	$1^3D_3\gamma$	269	

The $X(4160)$ as a candidate of $\eta_{c2}(2D)$ state

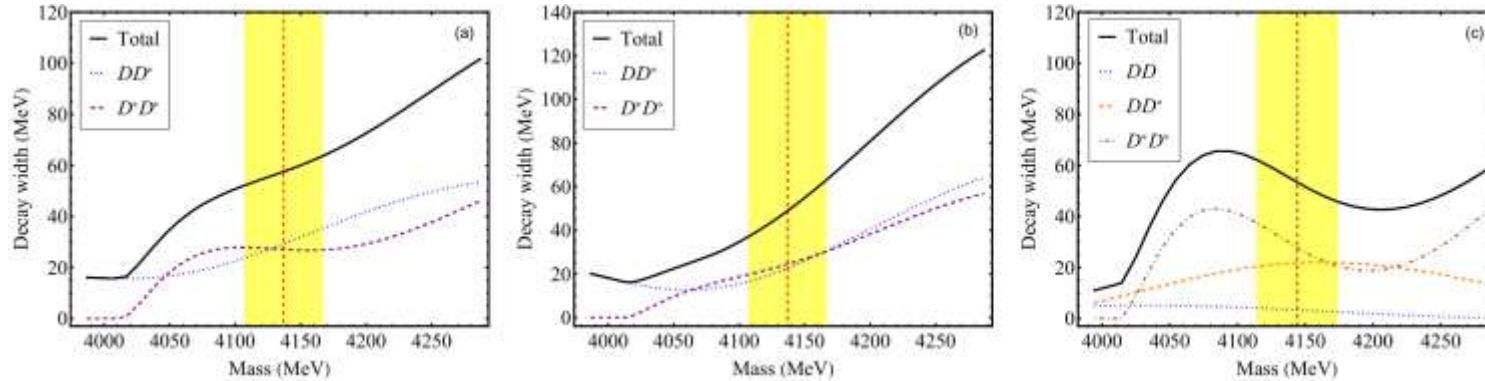
- For the $2D$ states, the dominant hadronic decays are $D\bar{D}^*$ and $D^*\bar{D}^*$
- For the $1F$ states, the $D\bar{D}$ channel is also a dominant decay channel.
- The dominant radiative decay $E1$ processes exhibit branching ratios on the order of 0.1%



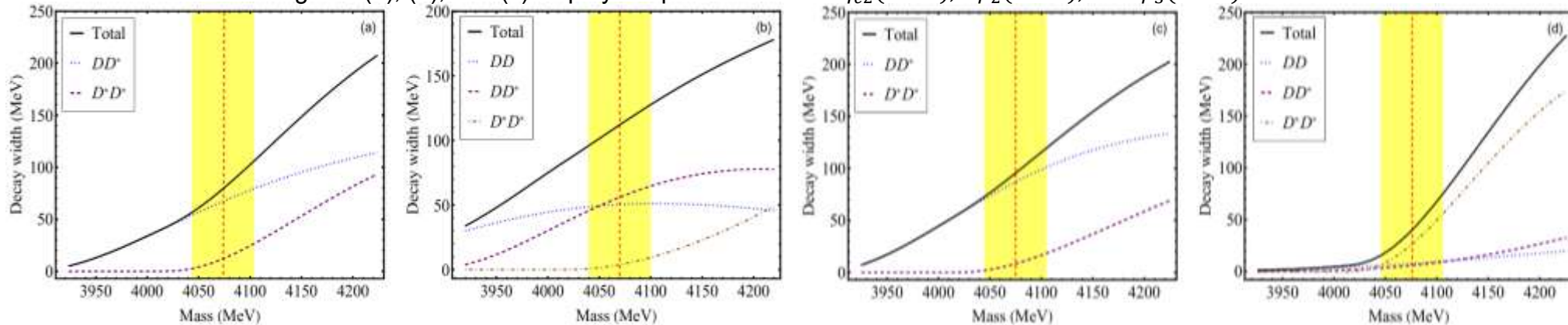
Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 082001 (2021)

The mass dependence

We presented the decay behaviors of these states near $D^*\bar{D}^*$ open flavor threshold



Figures (a), (b), and (c) display the partial widths of $\eta_{c2}(4137)$, $\psi_2(4137)$, and $\psi_3(4144)$ states



Figures (a), (b), (c), and (d) display the partial widths as a function of mass for the $h_{c3}(4074)$, $\chi_{c2}(4070)$, $\chi_{c3}(4075)$ and $\chi_{c4}(4076)$ states

Their decay properties exhibit a strong dependence on the precise mass values, especially for $1F$ states. This is most evident for the 1^3F_4 state

Therefore, precise experimental determination of their masses is crucial

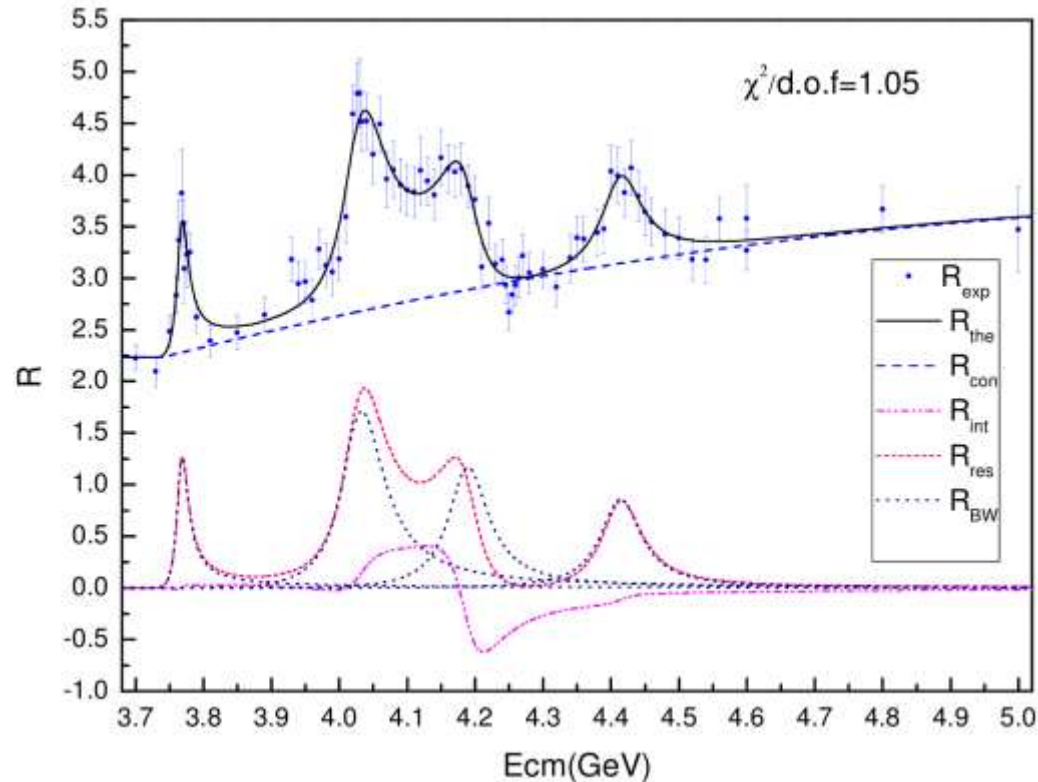


兰州大学

Production of charmonium

Production through e^+e^- collisions

The e^+e^- annihilation process is a primary mechanism for producing charmonium states



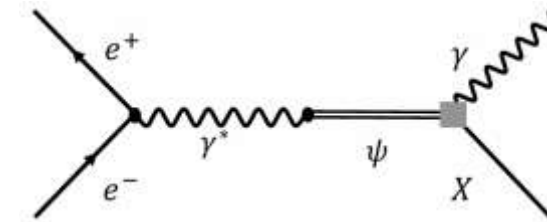
Physics Letters B 660 315–319 (2008)

For example, among the $2D$ states, the $\psi(4160)$ is predominantly observed in e^+e^- collisions

Possible production processes of $2D$ and $1F$ states

states	mode	process	J^{PC}							m_ψ (GeV)
			2^{--}	3^{--}	2^{+-}	2^{++}	3^{++}	4^{++}	3^{+-}	
$2D$	radiative decay	$\gamma\eta_c(2^1D_2)$	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	> 4.2
	hidden-charm decay	$\pi^+\pi^-\psi(2^3D_J)$	D	D	-	-	-	-	-	> 4.66
		$\eta\psi(2^3D_J)$	P	F	-	-	-	-	-	> 4.71
		$\omega\eta_c(2^1D_2)$	-	-	P	-	-	-	> 4.94	
$1F$	radiative decay	$\gamma\chi_c(1^3F_J)$	-	-	-	S	D	D	-	> 4.1
	hidden-charm decay	$\omega\chi_c(1^3F_J)$	-	-	-	S	D	D	-	> 4.85
		$\eta\chi_c(1^1F_J)$	-	-	-	D	-	-	D	> 4.62

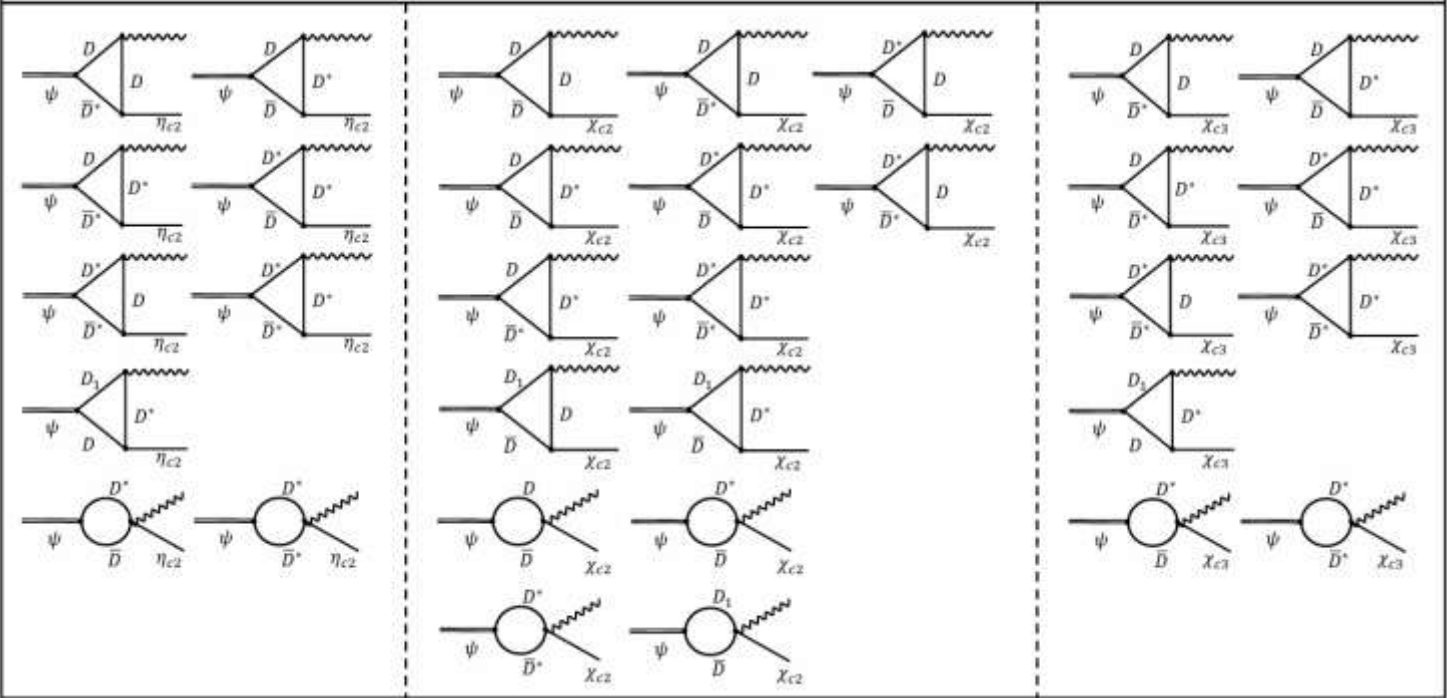
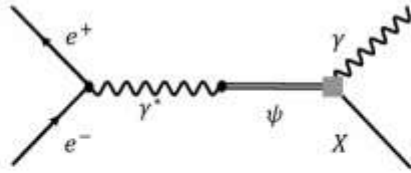
The BESIII experiment has accumulated substantial data around 4.2 GeV, while data at higher energies ($\sqrt{s} \geq 4.4$ GeV) are less abundant.



Radiative decay processes of $\psi(4230)$

Hadronic loop mechanism

To account for the sizable **coupled-channel effects** in high-lying states, we adopt the hadronic loop mechanism for production estimates.



$$\mathcal{M} = \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\mathcal{V}_1 \mathcal{V}_2 \mathcal{V}_3}{\mathcal{D}_1 \mathcal{D}_2 \mathcal{D}_E} \mathcal{F}^2(q^2),$$

$$\mathcal{F}(q^2) = \left(\frac{m_E^2 - \Lambda^2}{q^2 - \Lambda^2} \right)^2, \quad \Lambda = m_E + \alpha \Lambda_{QCD},$$

$$\mathcal{L}_S = i g_S \text{Tr}[S_{Q\bar{Q}} \bar{H}^{\bar{Q}q} \gamma^\mu \overset{\leftrightarrow}{\partial}_\mu \bar{H}^{Q\bar{q}}],$$

$$\mathcal{L}_D = i g_D \text{Tr}[D_{Q\bar{Q}}^{\mu\nu} \bar{H}^{\bar{Q}q} \overset{\leftrightarrow}{\partial}_\mu \gamma_\nu \bar{H}^{Q\bar{q}}].$$

$$\mathcal{L}_F = g_F \text{Tr}[F_{Q\bar{Q}}^{\mu\nu\theta} \bar{H}^{\bar{Q}q} \overset{\leftrightarrow}{\partial}_\mu \overset{\leftrightarrow}{\partial}_\theta \gamma_\nu \bar{H}^{Q\bar{q}}].$$

Gauge invariance:

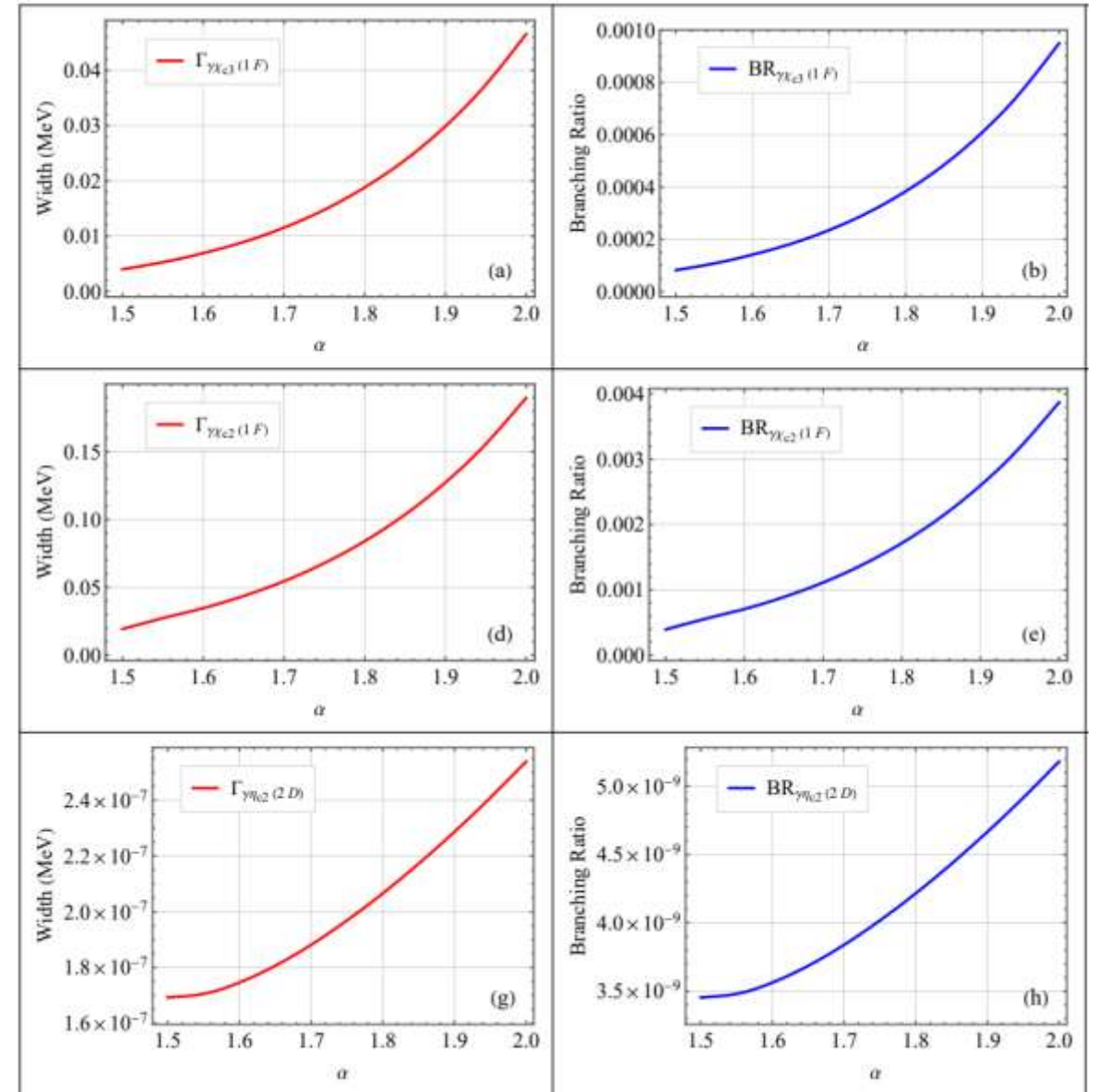
$$\mathcal{M}^{\text{Tot}} = \epsilon_\gamma^\mu \mathcal{M}_\mu^{\text{Tot}}, \quad \mathcal{M}_{\text{Tot}}^\mu p_{2\mu} = 0,$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{Tot}} = \sum_{\text{all tri}} \mathcal{M}_{\text{tri}} + \sum_{\text{all con}} \mathcal{M}_{\text{con}}.$$

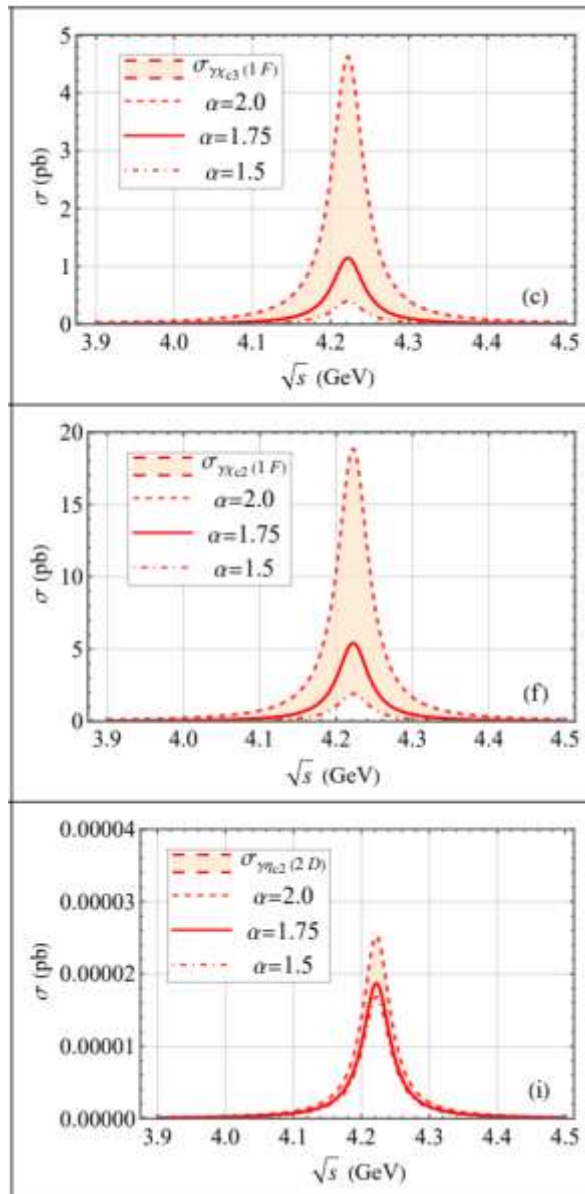
$$\Gamma = \frac{1}{2J+1} \frac{|\vec{p}|}{8\pi m_\psi^2} |\mathcal{M}^{\text{Total}}|^2,$$

The widths of chosen processes

- In this work, we take the cut-off parameter α in the range 1.5 – 2
- The coupling constants are obtained from our QPC calculation
- $\chi_{c3}(1F)$ production has a branching ratio on the order of 10^{-5} , and the $\chi_{c2}(1F)$ state exhibits a branching ratio around 10^{-4}
- The $\eta_{c2}(2D)$ state has an exceptionally small branching ratio $\sim 10^{-9}$, suppressed by heavy-quark spin symmetry
- The 1^3F_4 state is excluded from our study because its high angular momentum strongly suppresses its production



The production cross sections



We are able to calculate their scattering cross section σ

$$\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \psi(4230) \rightarrow \gamma X) = \frac{12\pi\Gamma_{\psi}^{e^+e^-}\Gamma_{\psi}^{\gamma X}}{|s - m_{\psi}^2 + im_{\psi}\Gamma_{\psi}|^2},$$

To quantify the model dependence, we presented the results for three typical values: $\alpha = 1.5, 1.75,$ and 2

- $\sigma(\gamma\chi_{c3}(1F))$ is suppressed due to D -wave production and varies from approximately 0.5 pb to 5 pb, **within the reach of next-generation experiments**
- $\sigma(\gamma\chi_{c2}(1F))$ varies from about 2 pb to 20 pb. Searching for the $\chi_{c2}(1F)$ state via $e^+e^- \rightarrow \psi(4230) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c2}(1F)$ **appears to be a promising avenue**
- $\sigma(\gamma\eta_{c2}(2D)) \sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$ pb, showing negligible variation over the chosen range of α . Therefore, the discovery of the $\eta_{c2}(2D)$ likely **relies on alternative production mechanisms**

Summary

1. Recent observations of charmonia above 4 GeV motivate this investigation into high-lying states.
2. We perform a comprehensive study including mass spectrum (MGI model), two-body strong decays (QPC model), and radiative decays.
3. Production via e^+e^- annihilation is calculated, revealing promising search channels.
4. With upcoming facility upgrades, our results offer valuable guidance for experiments at BESIII, Belle II, and LHCb.

THANKS!