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Unpolarized Fragmentation Functions studies at BESIII

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中国物理学会高能物理分会第十二届全国会员代表大会
暨学术年会（2026），广州



Outline

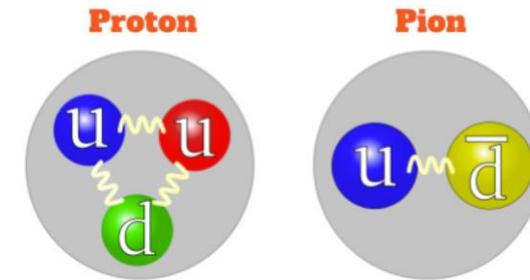
- ◆ Introduction to Fragmentation Functions
- ◆ Existing studies at BESIII
 - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^0/K_S^0 + X$
 - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \eta + X$
 - $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^\pm/K^\pm + X$
- ◆ Summary and Outlook



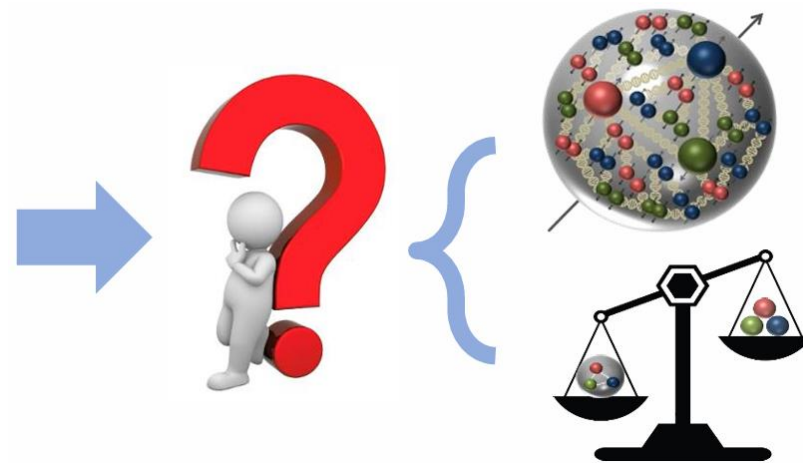
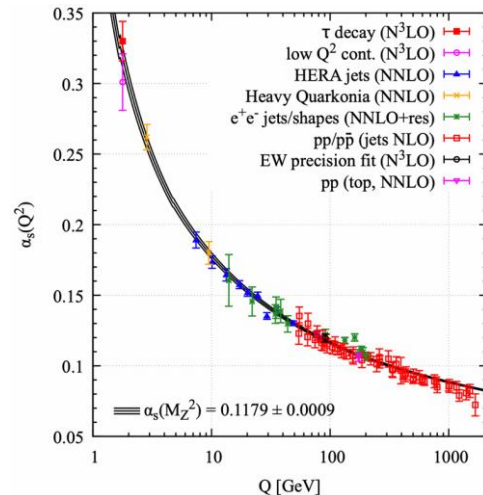
QCD Confinement and Nucleon structure

◆ Confinement

- Quarks and gluons can not be observed separately.
- They are perpetually confined within hadrons.



◆ Nucleon structure

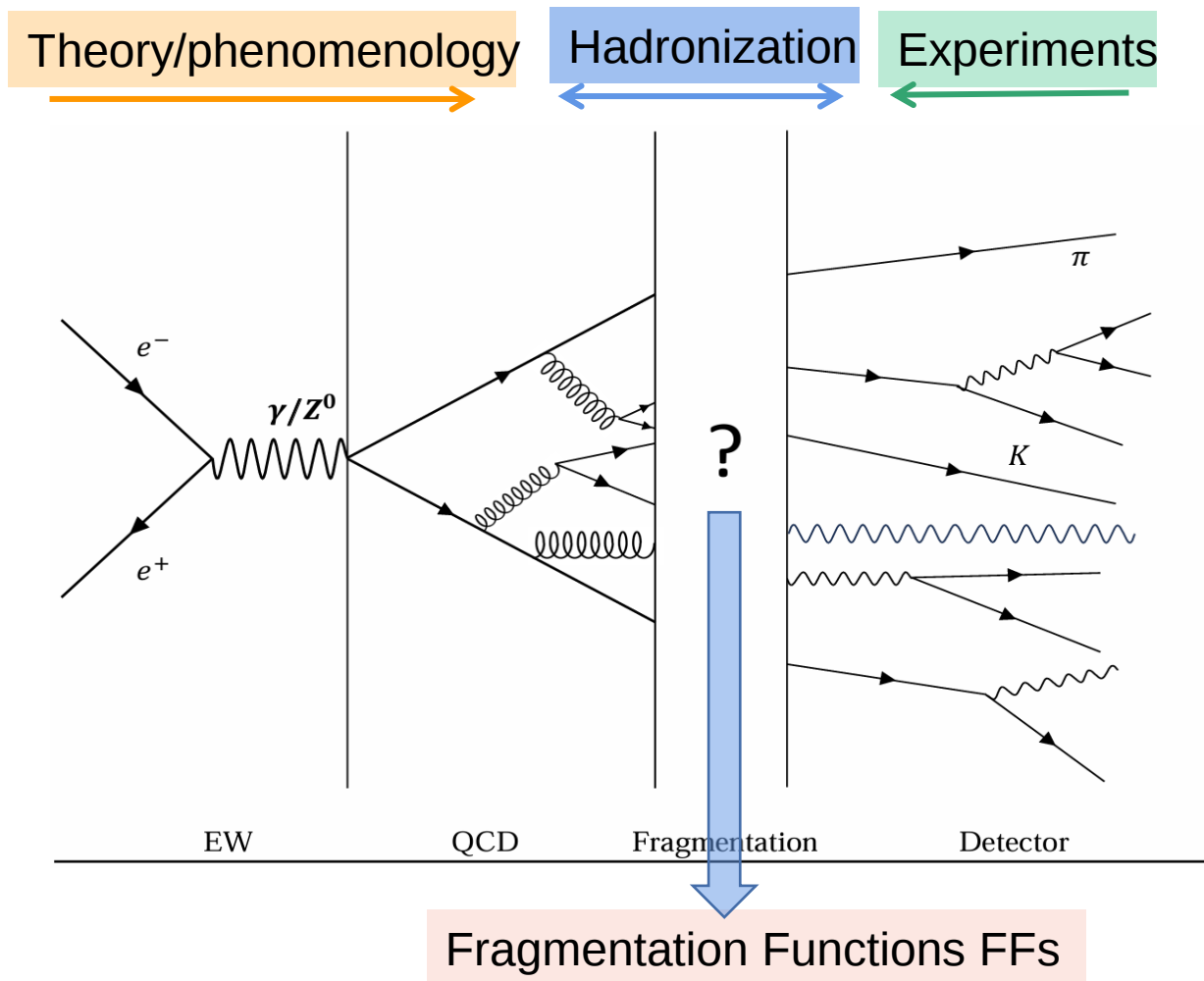


Spin: how does nucleon spin emerge

Mass: Higgs mechanism gives only a few %



Confinement and Hadronization

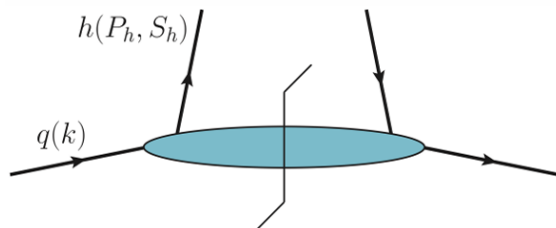


FFs: describe how quarks or gluons transfer into hadrons

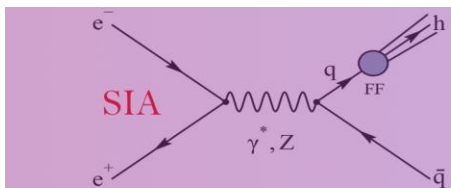
- **Serve as a bridge to understand hadronization**



Determination of FFs: Global data fits

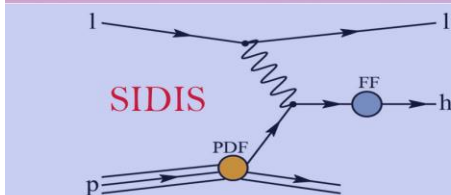


$$D_{h/q}(z) = \frac{z}{4} \not{\sum}_X \int \frac{d\xi^+}{2\pi} e^{iP_h^- \xi^+ / z} \text{Tr} \left[\langle 0 | \mathcal{W}(\infty^+, \xi^+) \psi_q(\xi^+, 0^-, \vec{0}_T) | P_h, S_h; X \rangle \right. \\ \left. \times \langle P_h, S_h; X | \bar{\psi}_q(0^+, 0^-, \vec{0}_T) \mathcal{W}(0^+, \infty^+) | 0 \rangle \gamma^- \right]$$



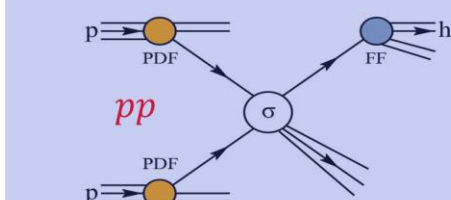
$$e^+e^-: s = \sum_q \sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}) \otimes FF$$

- No PDFs necessary
- Calculations known at NNLO
- Flavor structure not directly accessible



$$\text{SIDIS: } s = \sum_q PDF \otimes \sigma(eq \rightarrow e'q') \otimes FF$$

- Depend on unpolarized PDFs
- Flavor structure directly accessible
- FFs and PDFs



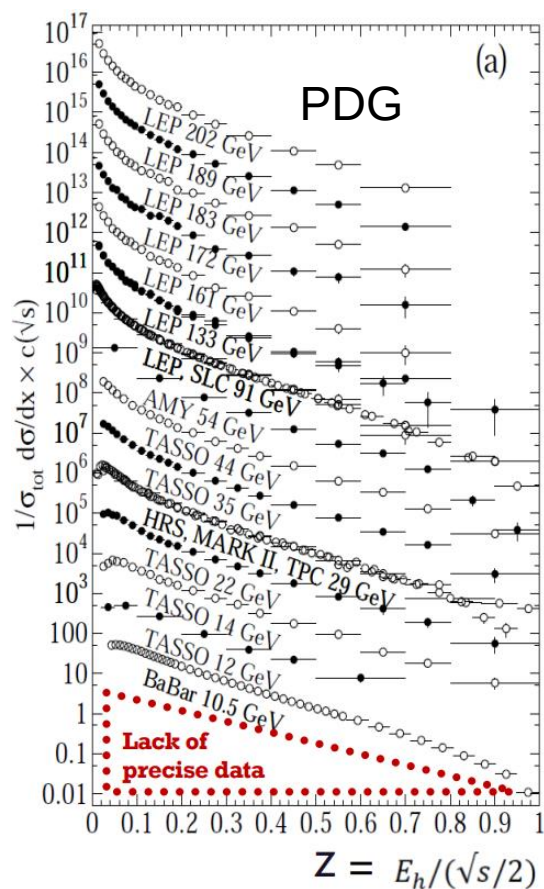
$$pp: s = \sum_q PDF \otimes PDF \otimes \sigma(q_1 q_1 \rightarrow q'_1 q'_2) \otimes FF$$

- Depend on unpolarized PDFs
- Leading access to gluon FF
- Parton momenta not directly known

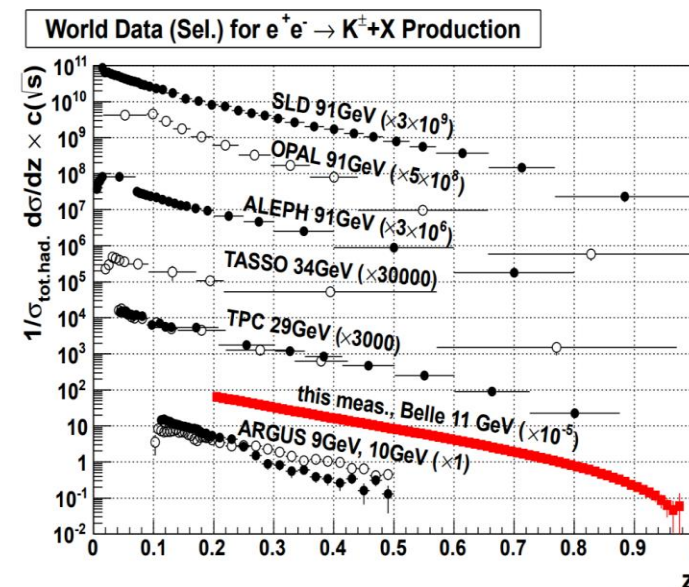
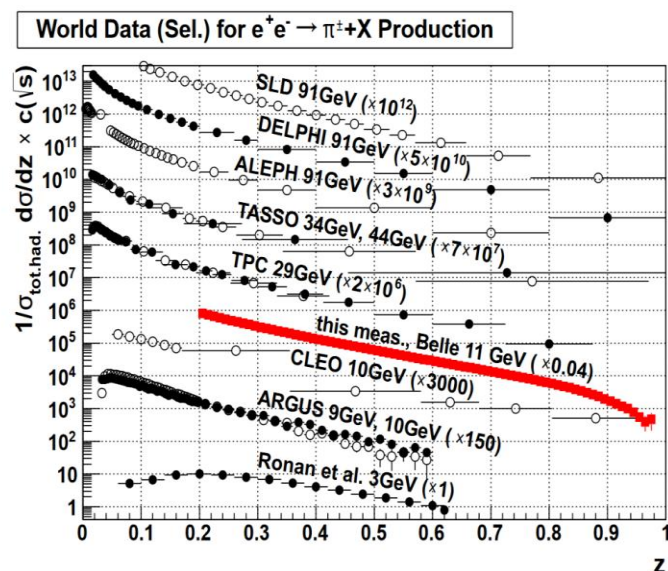
- e^+e^- experiments is the cleanest laboratory for the fragmentation function studies.
- FFs and PDF: Universal and non-perturbative objects
- Well known FFs are crucial for nucleon structure in ep experiments



World data from e^+e^- experiments



PRL 111 062002 (2013)

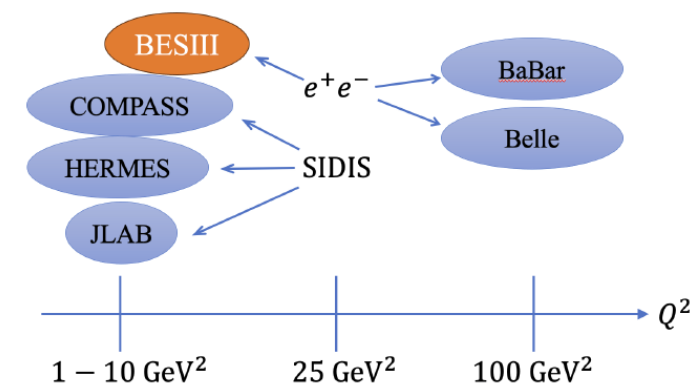
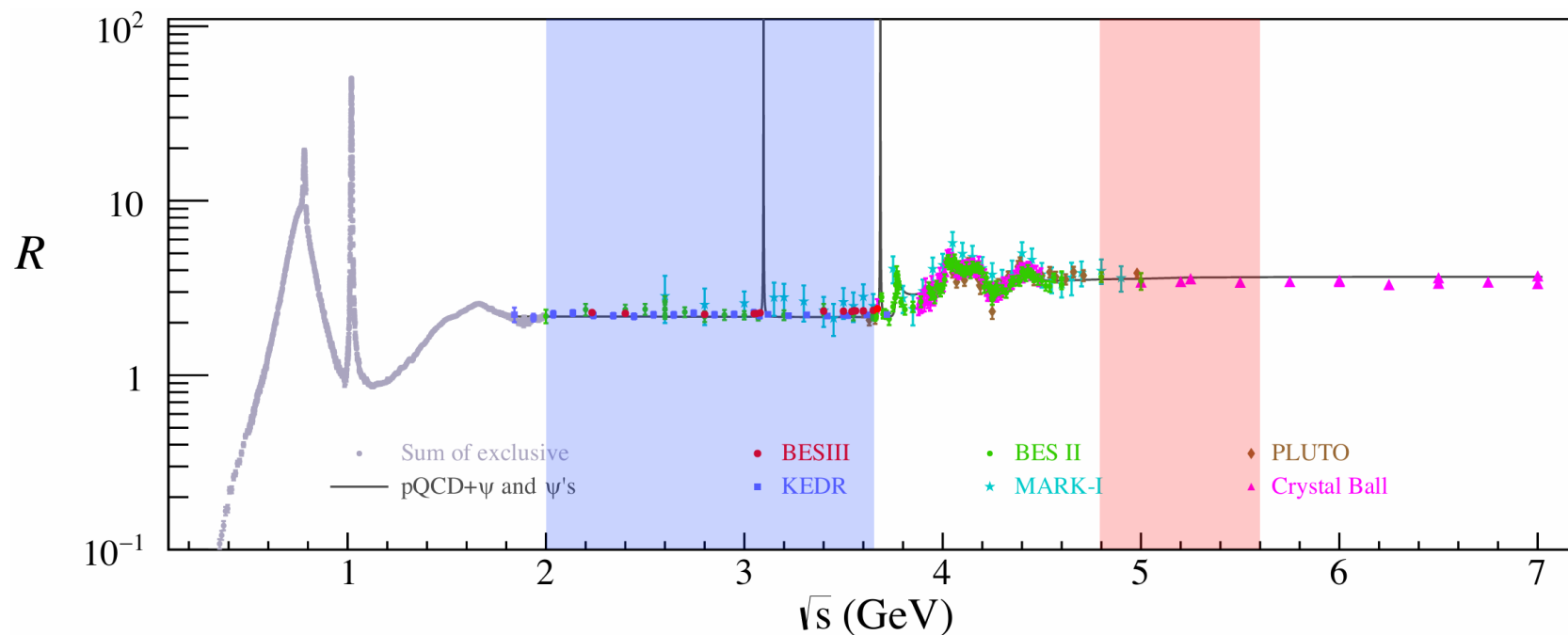


Lack of precise data @ $\sqrt{s} < 10$ GeV !



BESIII Data Sets

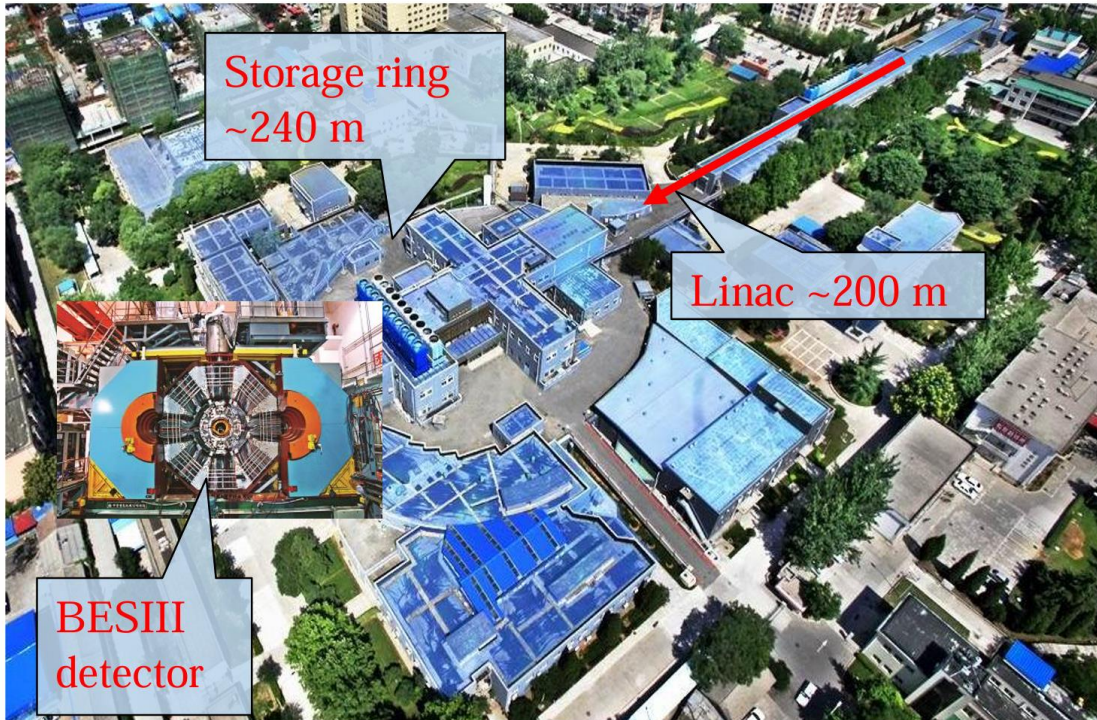
● BESIII : 1.84-4.95 (5.6) GeV



● New opportunities at new energy scale with BESIII data



BEPCII and BESIII

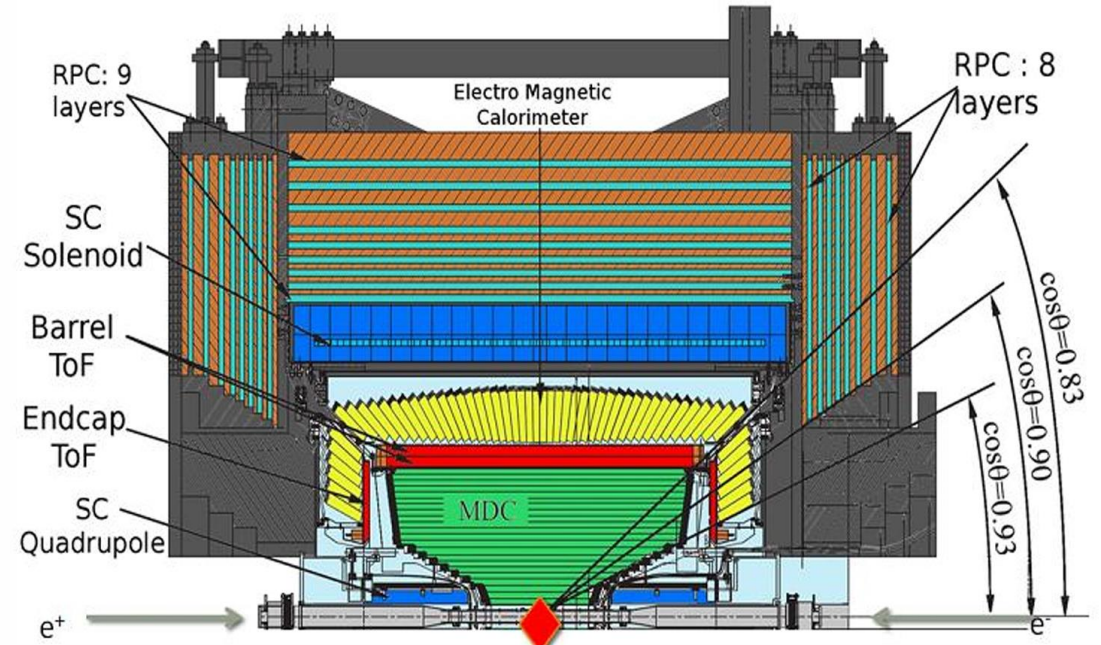


Double-ring, symmetry, multi-bunch $e^+ e^-$ collider

$E_{\text{cm}} = 1.84$ to 4.9 GeV

Energy spread: $\Delta E \approx 5 \times 10^{-4}$

Peak luminosity in continuously operation @ $E_{\text{cm}} = 3.77$ GeV: $1.1 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$



Main Drift Chamber
Small cell, 43 layer

$\sigma_{xy} = 130 \mu\text{m}$

$dE/dx \sim 6\%$

$\sigma_p/p = 0.5\%$ at 1 GeV

Time Of Flight
Plastic scintillator

σ_T (barrel): 65 ps

σ_T (endcap): 110 ps
(update to 60 ps with MRPC)

Electromagnetic Calorimeter

CsI(Tl): $L = 28$ cm

Barrel $\sigma_E = 2.5\%$

Endcap $\sigma_E = 5.0\%$

Muon Counter
RPC

Barrel: 9 layers

Endcap: 8 layers

$\sigma_{\text{spatial}} = 1.48$ cm

◆ Accessing FFs in e^+e^- annihilation experiments

- ◆ Experimental observable in e^+e^- annihilation: normalized differential cross-section of the inclusive production of final state hadron “ h ”

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_{tot}(e^+e^- \rightarrow \text{hadrons})} \frac{d\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow h + X)}{dp_h}$$

- At leading order in α_s , can be interpreted as:

$$\sum e_q^2 [D_q^h(z, Q^2) + [D_{\bar{q}}^h(z, Q^2)]]$$

FFs $z = \frac{2E_h}{\sqrt{s}}$ Factorization scale (c.m. energies)

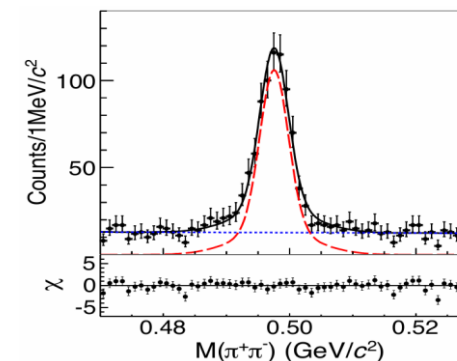
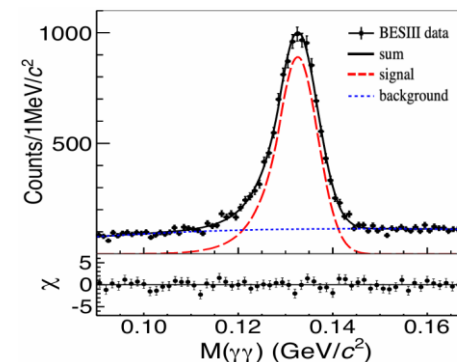
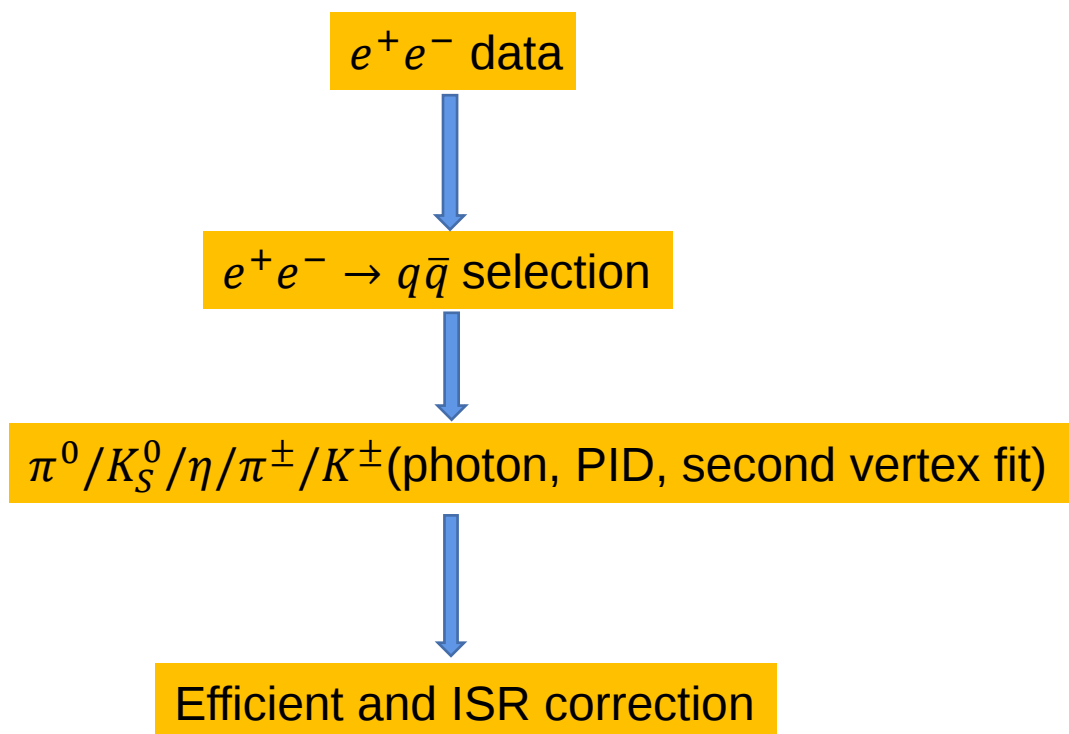


Analysis at BESIII

- ◆ Normalized differential cross-section:

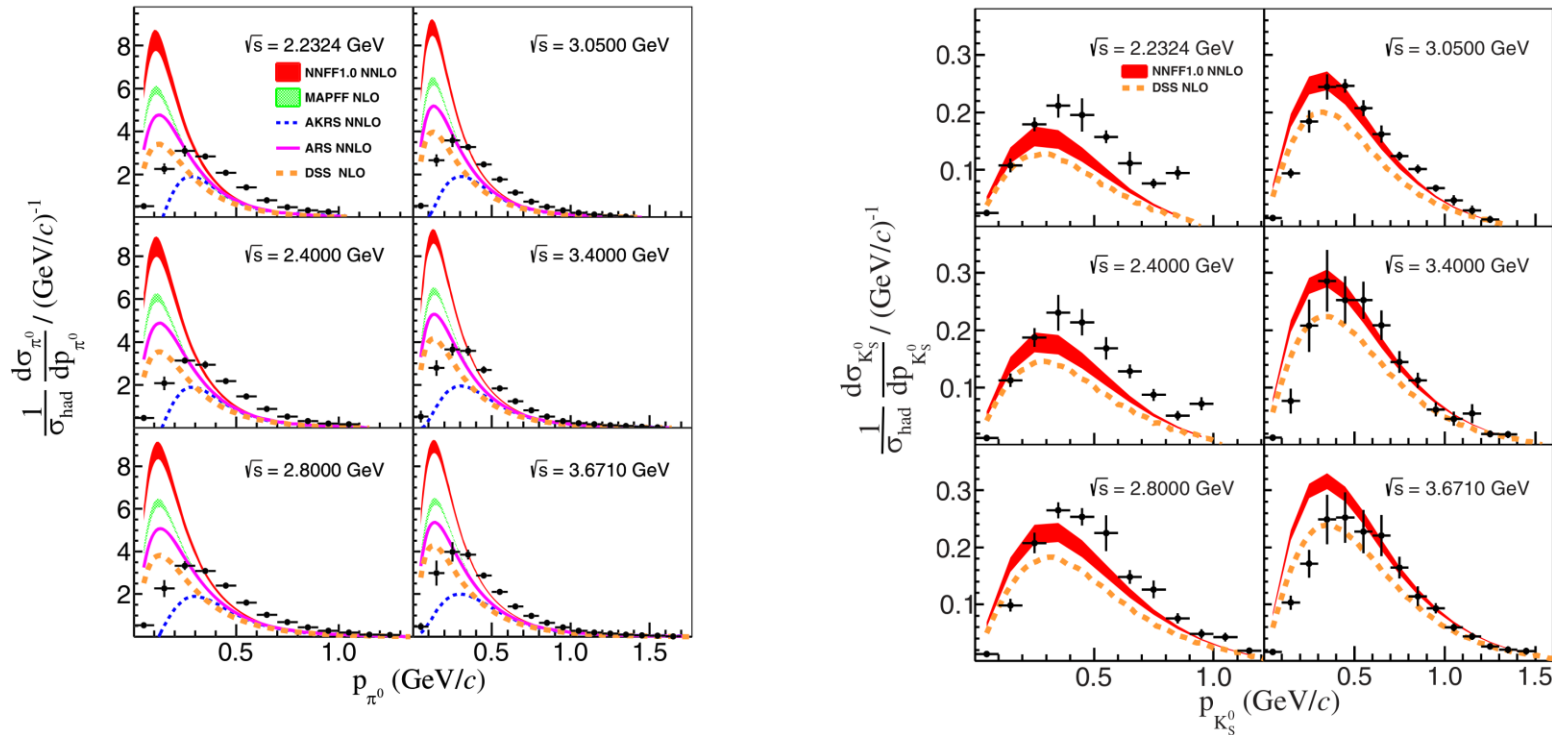
$$\frac{1}{\sigma_{had}} \frac{d\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow h + X)}{dp_h} = \frac{N_h}{N_{had}} \frac{1}{\Delta p_h} = \frac{N_h^{obs}}{N_{had}^{obs}} \frac{1}{\Delta p_h} f_h$$

Based on dedicated MC generators
development for R-value analysis:



Inclusive production of π^0 / K_S^0 @ BESIII

[PRL 130, 231901 \(2023\)](#)

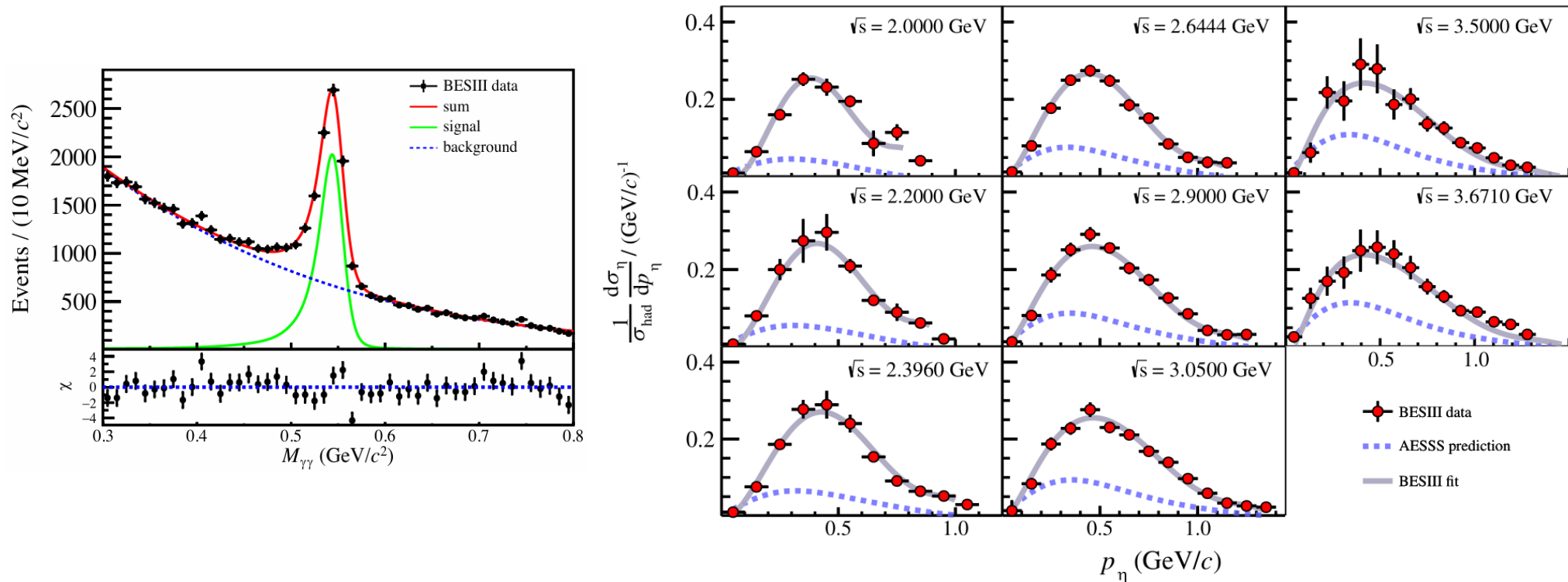


- Theory modes have different initial evolution scales and kinematic requirements on data
- Higher twists effect? Hadron mass effect?



Inclusive production of η @ BESIII

[PRL 133, 021901 \(2024\)](#)

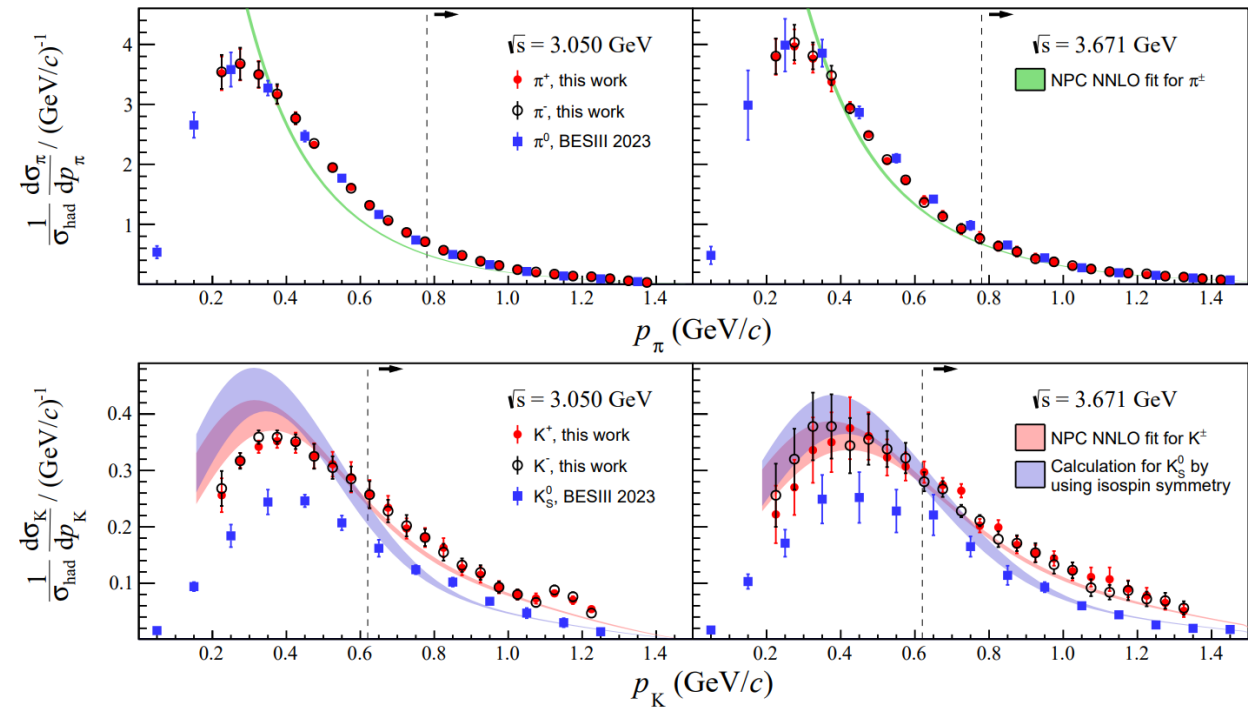


◆ BESIII fit: NNLO + hadron mass correction + high-twist

Inclusive production of $\pi^\pm / K^\pm$ @ BESIII

- $\pi^\pm$ is consistent with π^0 .
- $K^\pm$ is systematically higher than that of K_S^0 .
- New global data fit at NNLO under (NPC) framework ($\sqrt{s} > 3 \text{ GeV}$ & $E_h > 0.8 \text{ GeV}$)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 135, 151901 (2025)





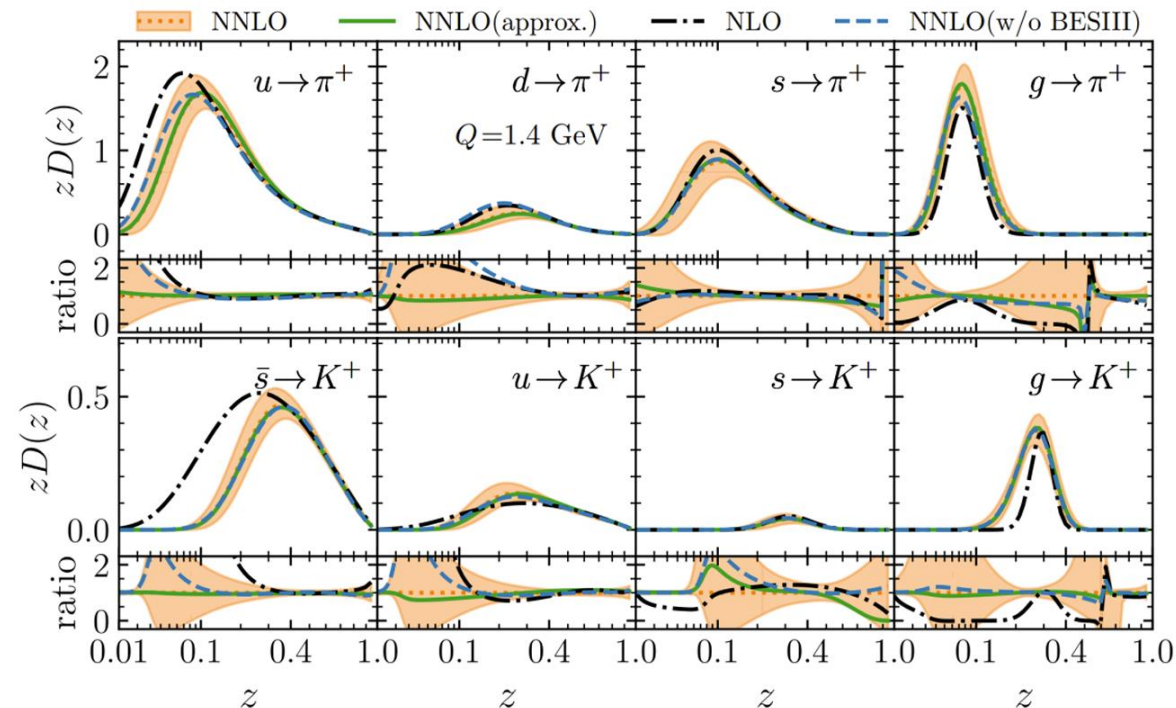
Global analysis with BESIII data

➤ FFs at NNLO with BESIII data

exp.	$\sqrt{s}/\text{GeV}$	lum. (n_Z)	year	final states	hadrons
DELPHI	189	157.7 pb ⁻¹	2002	inc. had.	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
OPAL	m_Z	780 000	1994	$Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
ALEPH	m_Z	520 000	1995	$Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
DELPHI	m_Z	1 400 000	1998	$Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
SLD	m_Z	400 000	2004	$Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
				$Z \rightarrow c\bar{c}$	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
				$Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
TASSO	44	34 pb ⁻¹	1989	inc. had.	$\pi^\pm, \pi^0$
TASSO	34	77 pb ⁻¹	1989	inc. had.	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
TPC/2 γ	29	70 pb ⁻¹	1988	inc. had.	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
Belle	10.52	68 fb ⁻¹	2013	inc. had.	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
BaBar	10.54	0.91 fb ⁻¹	2013	inc. had.	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$
BESIII	2.0-3.671	253 pb ⁻¹	2025	inc. had.	$\pi^\pm, K^\pm$

First university test of FFs at $Q \sim 3$ GeV

[Gao, **XS**, Xing, Zhao, Zhou, *PRL* **135**, 041902, 2025]



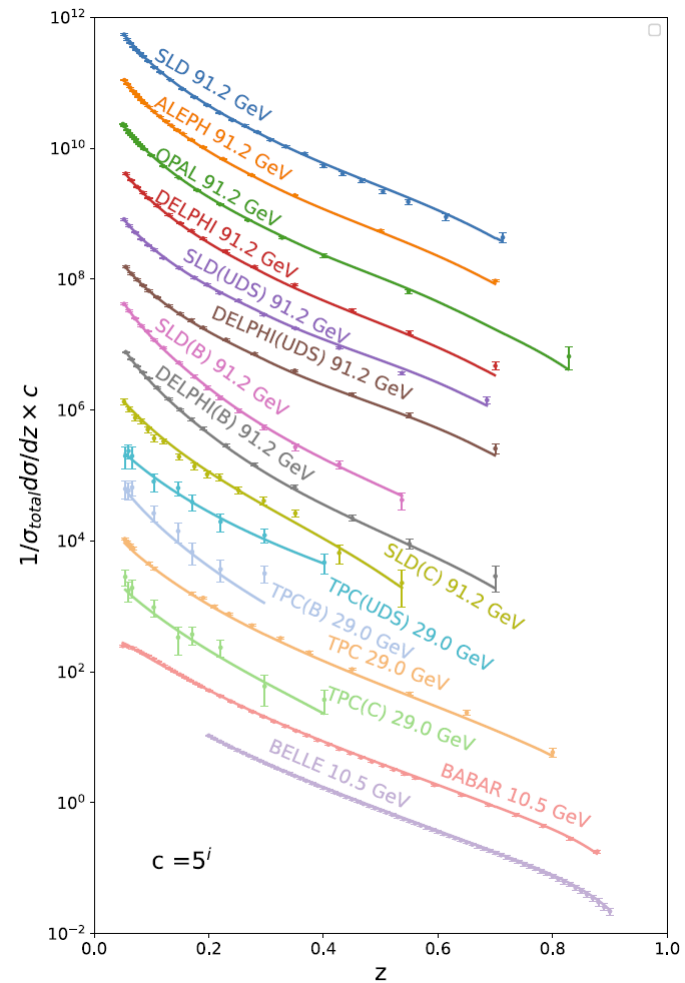
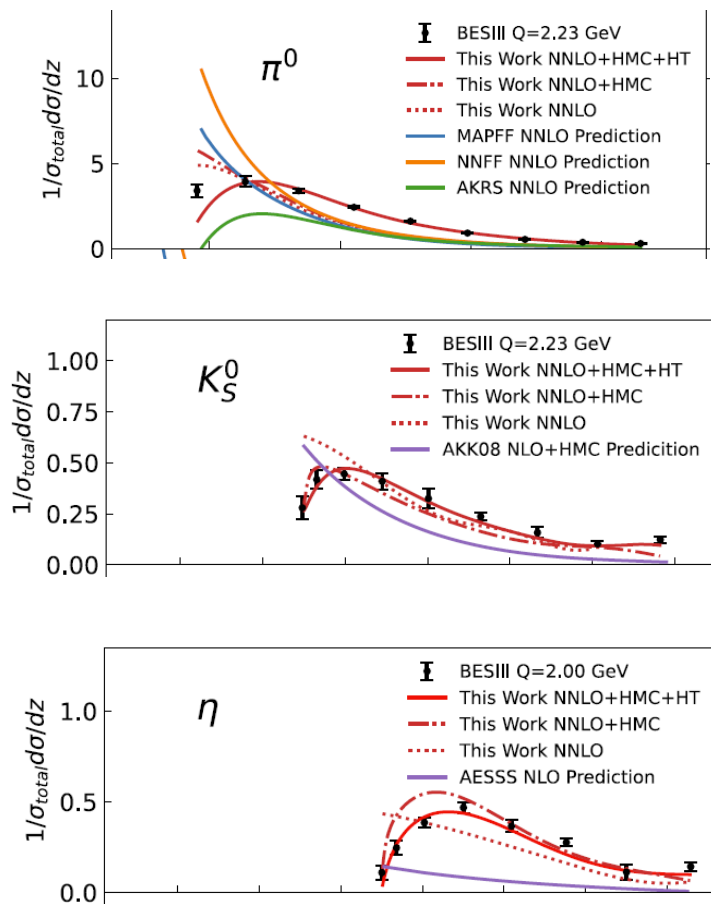


Global analysis with BESIII data

➤ FFs at NNLO with BESIII data

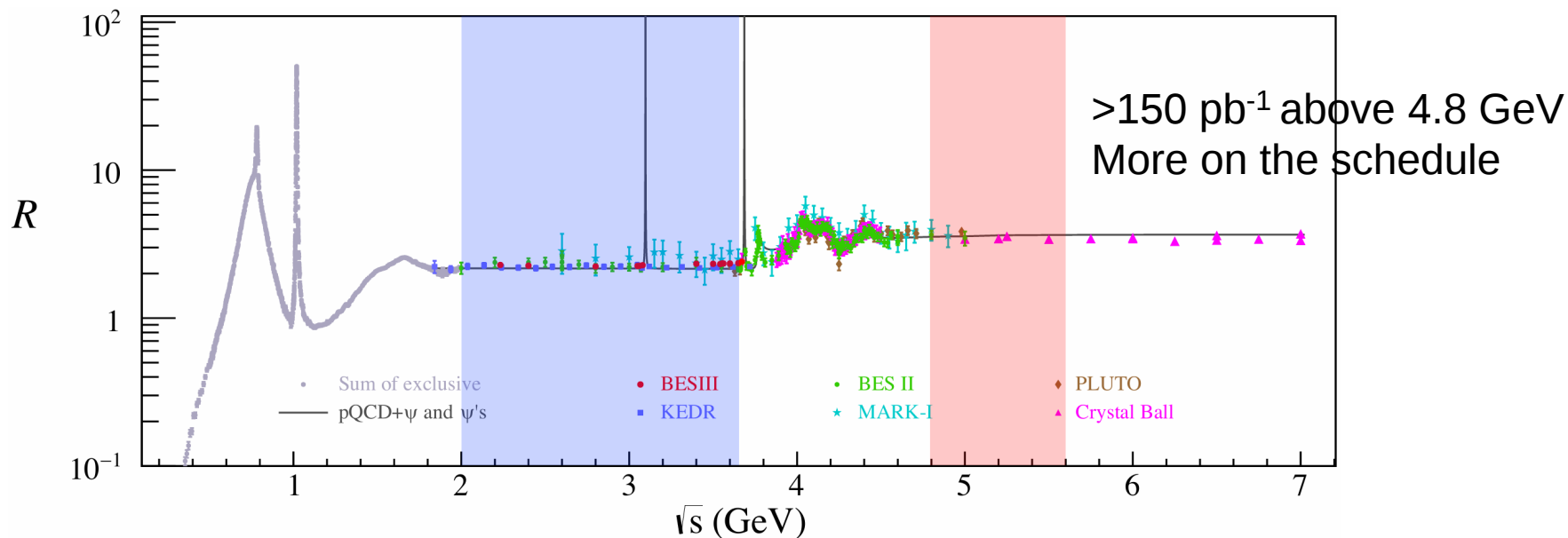
Exp (π^0)	$\sqrt{s}$ [GeV]	N_{dp}	χ^2/N_{dp}
L3 [61]	91.2	3	0.82
L3 [62]	91.2	12	2.27
OPAL [60]	91.2	10	0.60
ALEPH [58]	91.2	21	1.83
ALEPH [59]	91.2	13	2.53
JADE [57]	44.0	7	1.60
JADE [57]	35.0	10	3.09
CELLO [54]	35.0	8	0.64
TASSO [52]	34.6	7	1.47
JADE [56]	34.4	10	1.17
TASSO [51]	34.0	4	2.51
CELLO [53]	34.0	7	0.34
TPC [55]	29.0	10	1.29
JADE [56]	22.5	5	1.79
CELLO [53]	22.0	7	1.41
CELLO [53]	14.0	6	2.39
JADE [56]	14.0	6	1.77
TASSO [51]	14.0	4	1.62
ARGUS [50]	9.46	13	1.47
BESIII [9]	3.67	16	2.23
BESIII [9]	3.40	15	0.65
BESIII [9]	3.05	14	1.77
BESIII [9]	2.80	13	0.53
BESIII [9]	2.40	10	1.41
BESIII [9]	2.23	9	4.73
TOTAL		568	1.09

can explain both existing high-energy world data and the BESIII new measurements





Further Measurements @ BESIII

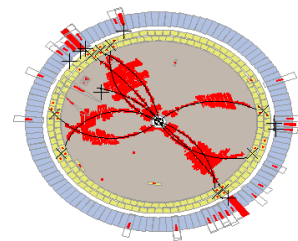


Collinear FFs D_1^h

$$\begin{aligned} e^+e^- &\rightarrow (\pi\pi) + X \\ e^+e^- &\rightarrow \phi/K^*(892) + X \\ e^+e^- &\rightarrow \eta' + X \\ e^+e^- &\rightarrow \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) + X \\ e^+e^- &\rightarrow \Sigma + X \end{aligned}$$

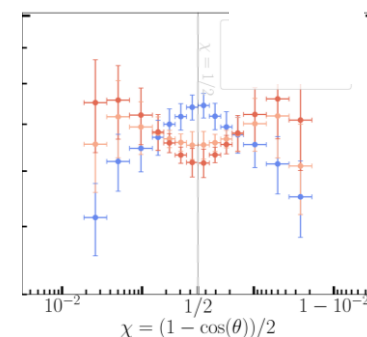
TMD FFs D_{1T}^h

$$\begin{aligned} e^+e^- &\rightarrow \pi^\pm/\pi^0 + X \\ e^+e^- &\rightarrow \eta/K^\pm/K_S^0 + X \\ e^+e^- &\rightarrow h_1 h_2 + X \\ &(\text{back-to-back pair}) \end{aligned}$$



EECs

E1C
E2C
TMD EEC
...



Many results will be ready soon

Summary

- ◆ Precise knowledge of FFs are important for the understanding of non-perturbative QCD dynamics.
- ◆ In e^+e^- annihilation experiments, which serve as the cleanest laboratory for FFs studies, BESIII has provided extensive data at lower energy regimes and have good constraints on FFs.

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^0/K_S^0 + X$
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \eta + X$
- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^\pm/K^\pm + X$

Thanks for your attention!

- ◆ More results of , and EEC-related results will be ready soon at BESIII

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow (\pi\pi) + X$$

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \phi/K^*(892) + X$$

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \eta' + X$$

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

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \Sigma + X$$

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^\pm/\pi^0 + X$$

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \eta/K^\pm/K_S^0 + X$$

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow h_1 h_2 + X$$

(back-to-back pair)

E1C
E2C
TMD EEC
...

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Backup