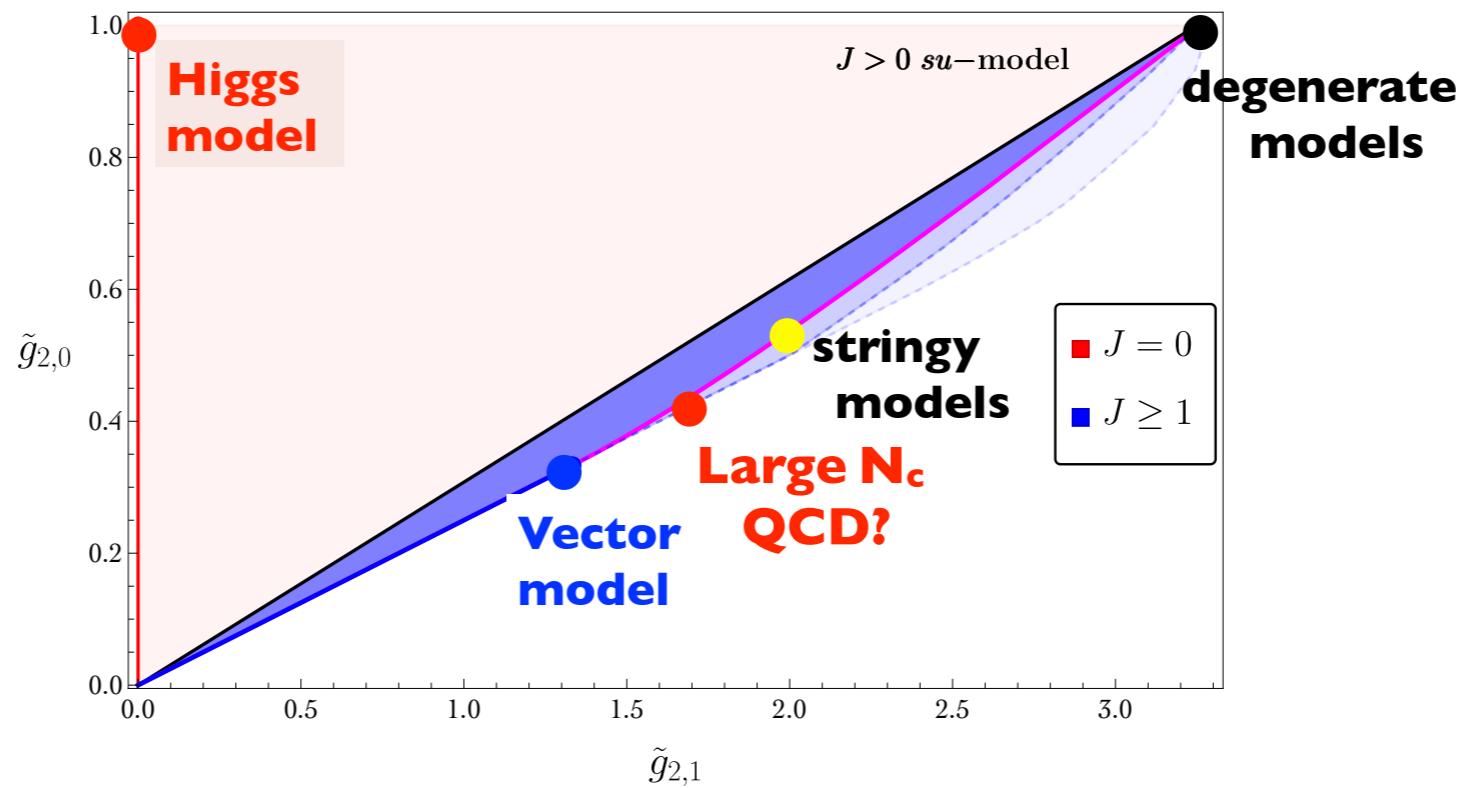


Bootstrapping Large- N_c QCD



Alex Pomarol, IFAE & UAB (Barcelona) & KIAS

based on 2211.12488 [hep-th] with C. Fernandez, F. Riva and F. Sciotti
2307.04729 [hep-th] with T. Ma and F. Sciotti

Motivation

- Understand better **Strongly-coupled theories** as plays an important role in nature, e.g. QCD
- They could also play an **important role BSM**:
 - Dark Matter
 - Hierarchy problem: Higgs composite
- To understand their physics, **simplifying techniques** are essential

Best examples:

- Taking $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ of $SU(N_c)$ (**large- N_c limit**)
- **Holography**: $CFT_4 \leftrightarrow AdS_5$

Large N_c limit

G. 't Hooft, Nucl. Phys. B 72, 461 (1974)

E. Witten, Nucl. Phys. B 160, 57 (1979)



Large N_c limit

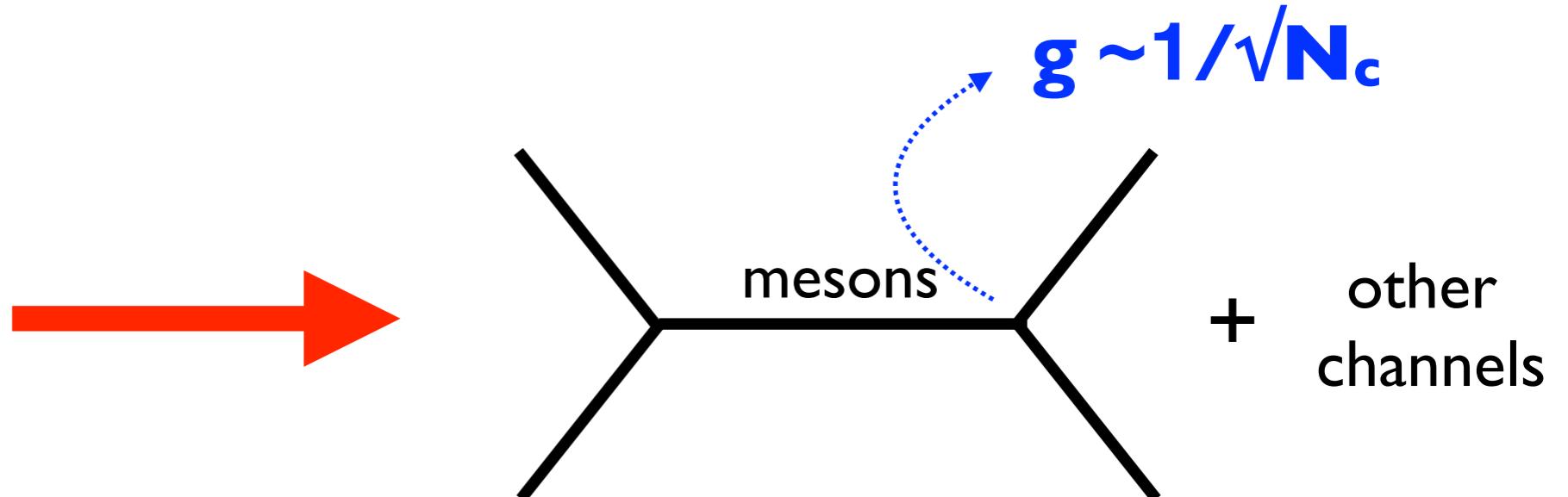
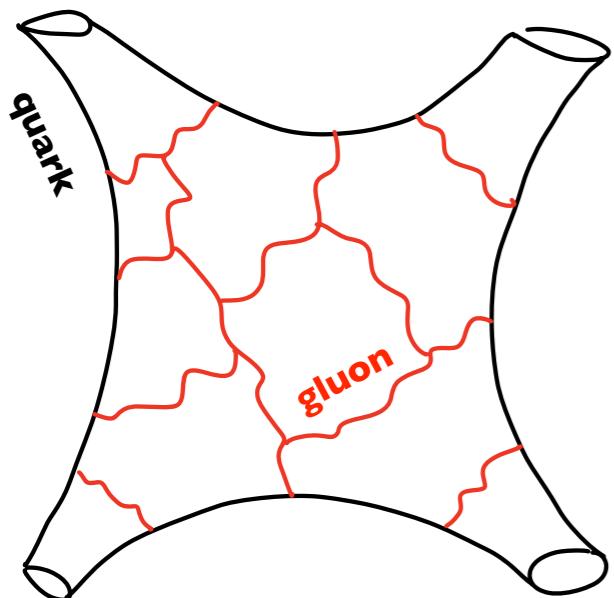
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quarks, gluons
 $SU(N_c)$

$\xrightarrow{N_c \rightarrow \infty}$

mesons ($q\bar{q}$ states), glueballs
weakly-coupled



Large N_c limit

G. 't Hooft, Nucl. Phys. B 72, 461 (1974)

E. Witten, Nucl. Phys. B 160, 57 (1979)

**Powerful simplification
but still difficult to get predictions**



**Theory of infinite mesons of different spin J ,
with unknown couplings and masses**

f_0 ($J=0$), ρ ($J=1$), f_2 ($J=2$), ρ_3 ($J=3$), ...
(as in real QCD)

$$\frac{\Gamma}{m} \sim \frac{1}{3}$$

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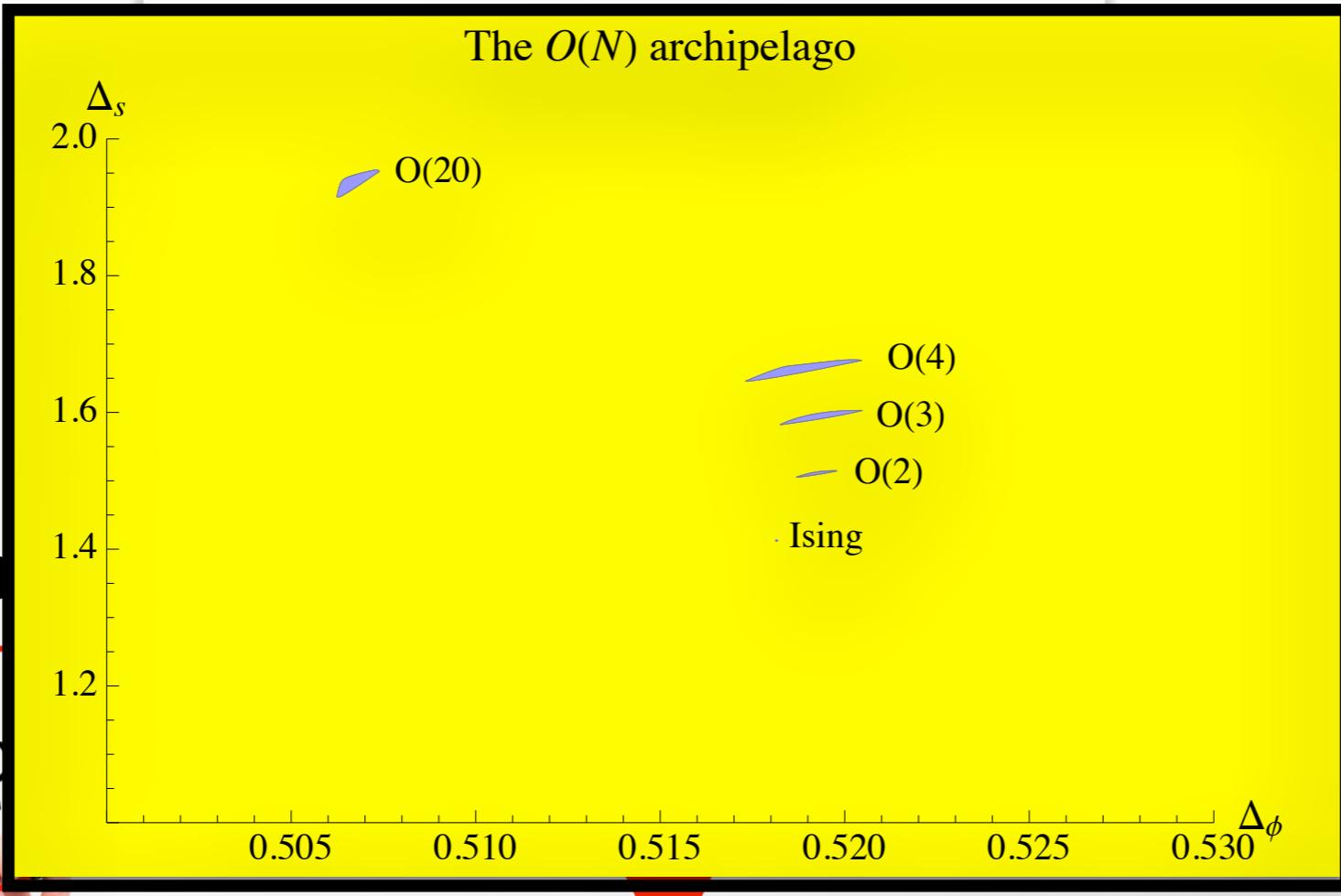
Bootstrapping



Constrain the theory just demanding “good” properties to its amplitudes: **Lorentz, Positivity, analyticity, crossing, ...**

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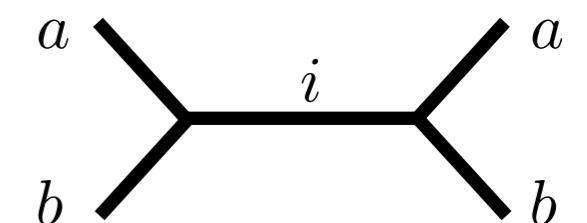
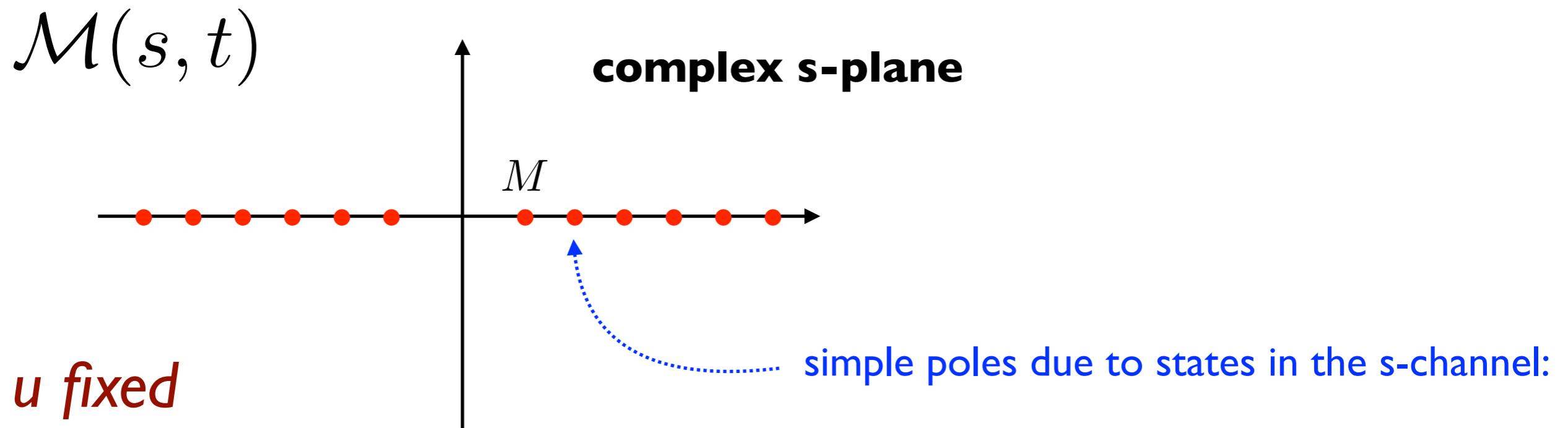
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QCD large- N_c limit

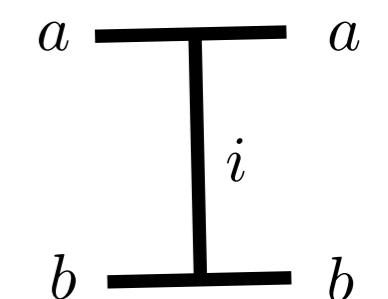
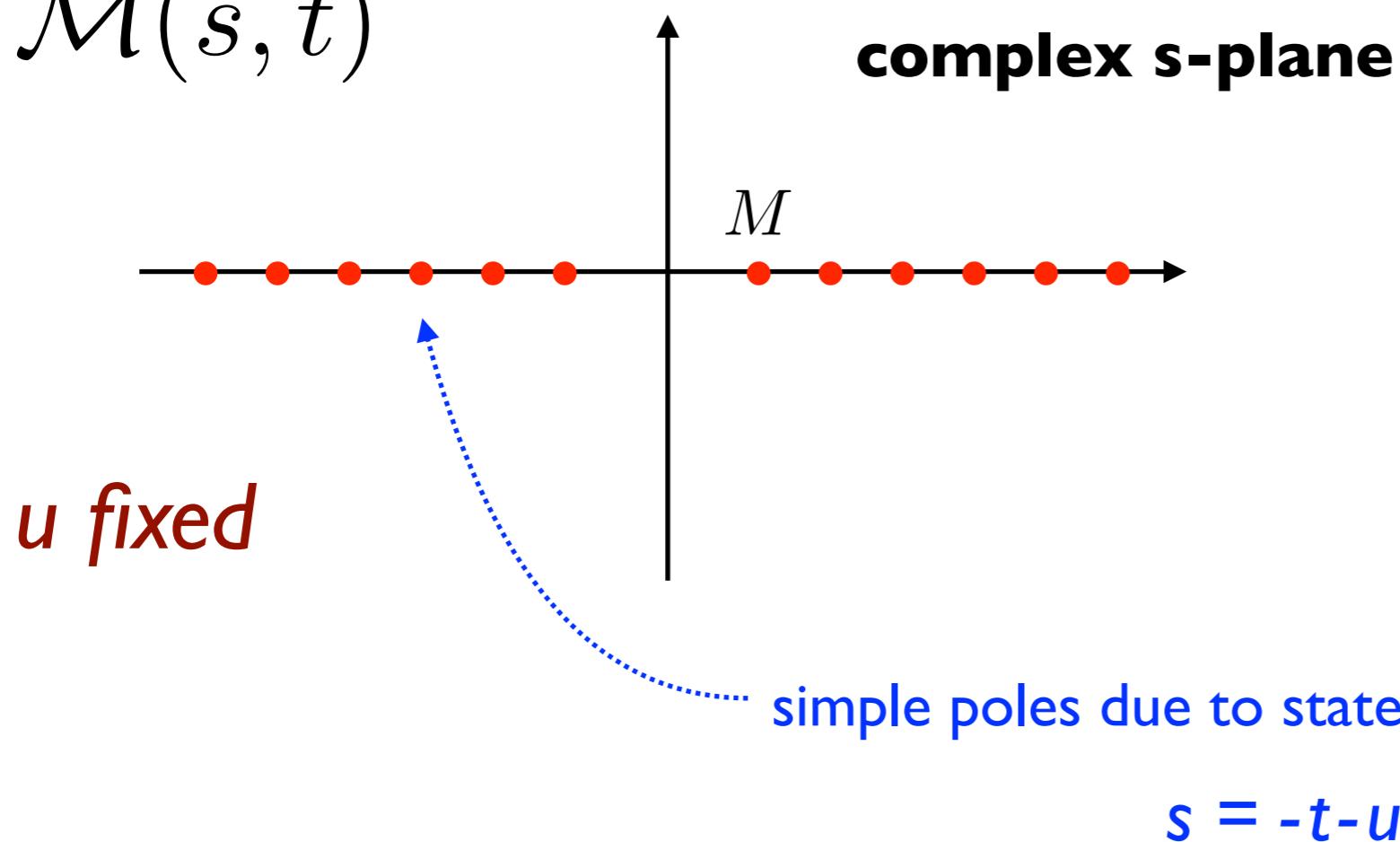
Analytical structure of $2 \rightarrow 2$ amplitudes:



QCD large- N_c limit

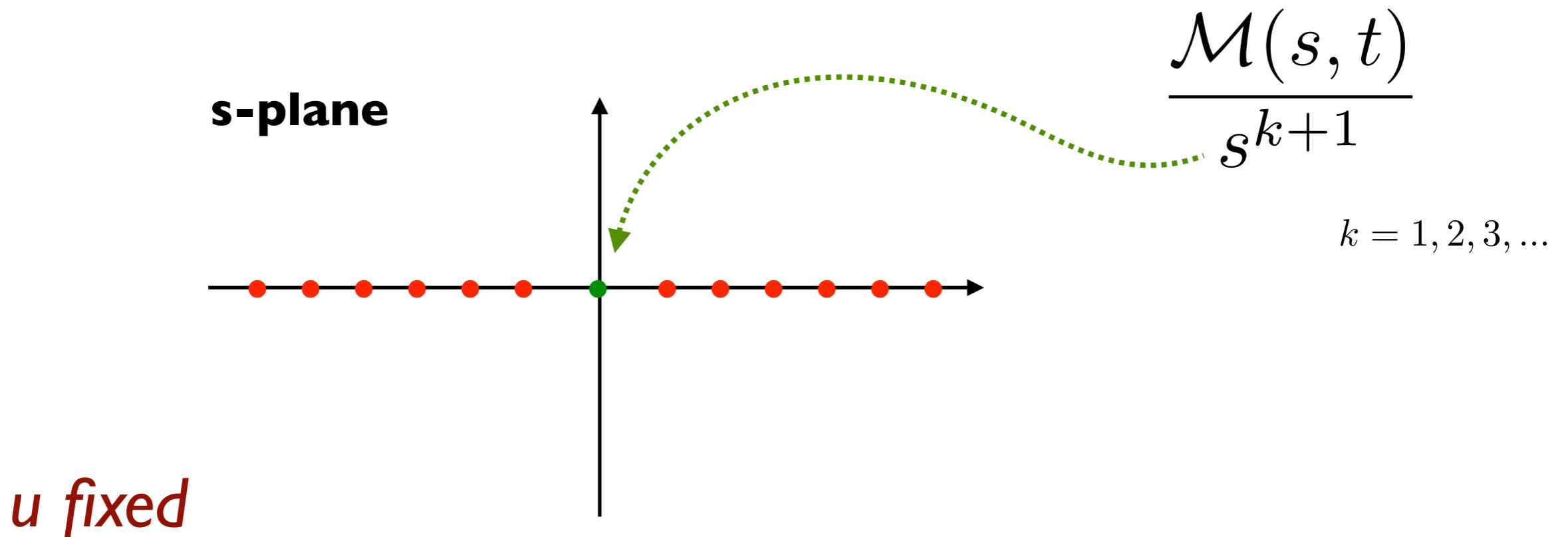
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$$\mathcal{M}(s, t)$$



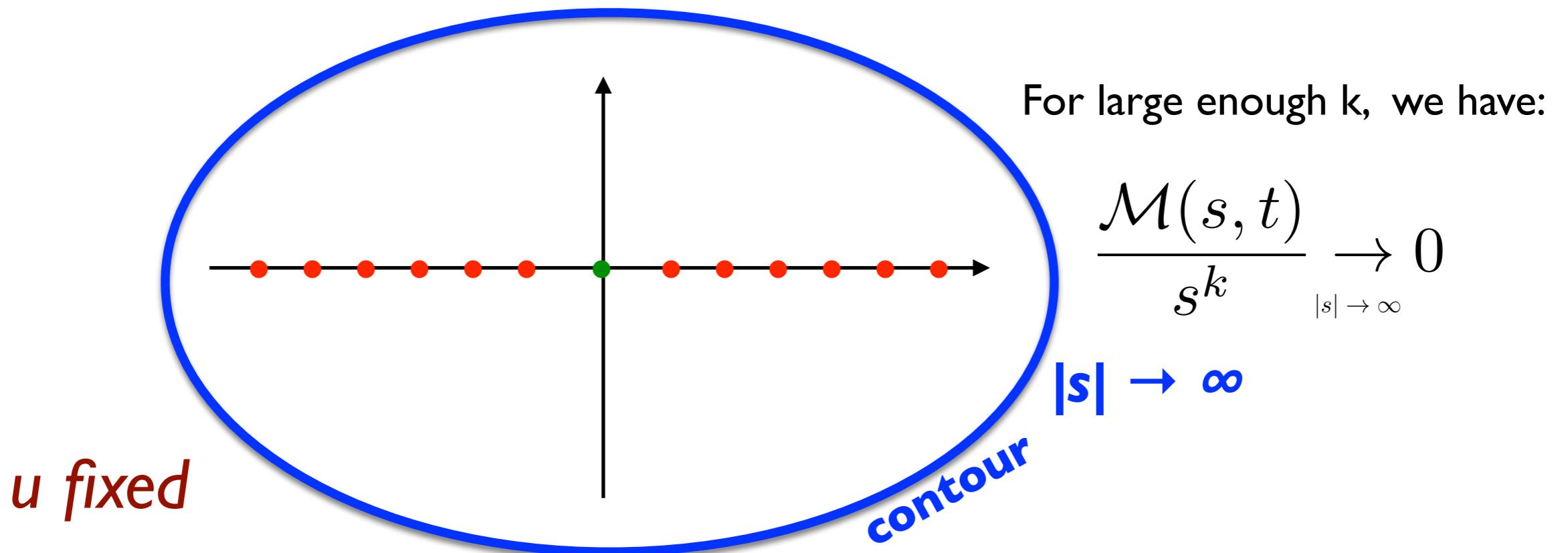
QCD large- N_c limit

This simple structure allows to get dispersion relations:



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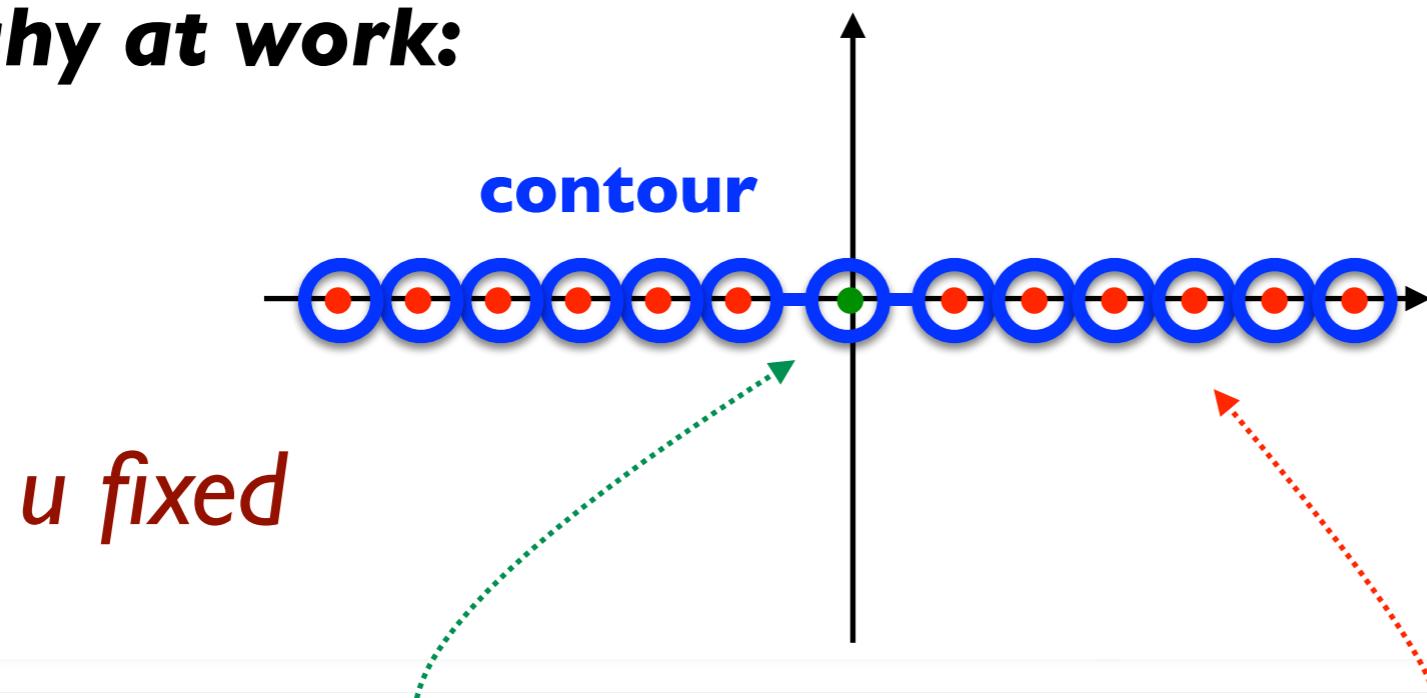


$$\oint \frac{\mathcal{M}(s, t)}{s^{k+1}} = 0$$

QCD large- N_c limit

This simple structure allows to get dispersion relations:

Cauchy at work:

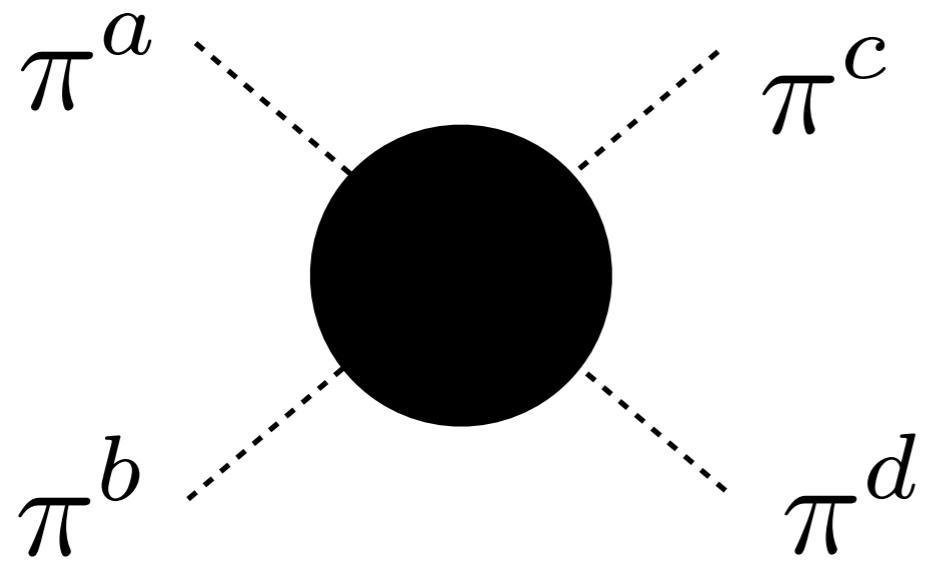


residue at the origin + sum of residues at the mass poles = 0

(low-energy EFT parameters related to masses and couplings of mesons)

Pion-Pion scattering

J. Albert and L. Rastelli, arXiv: 2203.11950



$\pi^a \in \mathbf{3}$ massless

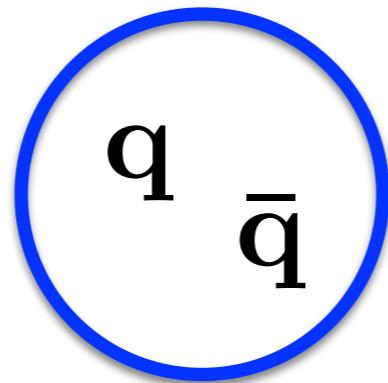
*Goldstones from
 $SU(2) \otimes SU(2) \rightarrow SU(2)$*

Isospin Invariance

(restricting to two quarks)

Extra condition from large- N_c QCD:

Mesons =



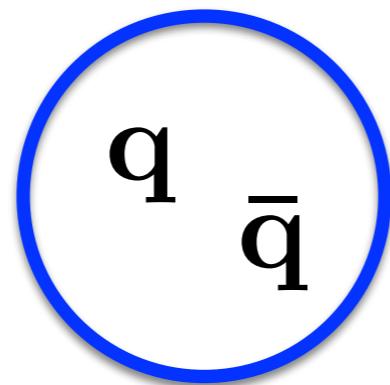
Isospin = $I = 1/2 \otimes 1/2 = 0, 1$



no $I=2$ states

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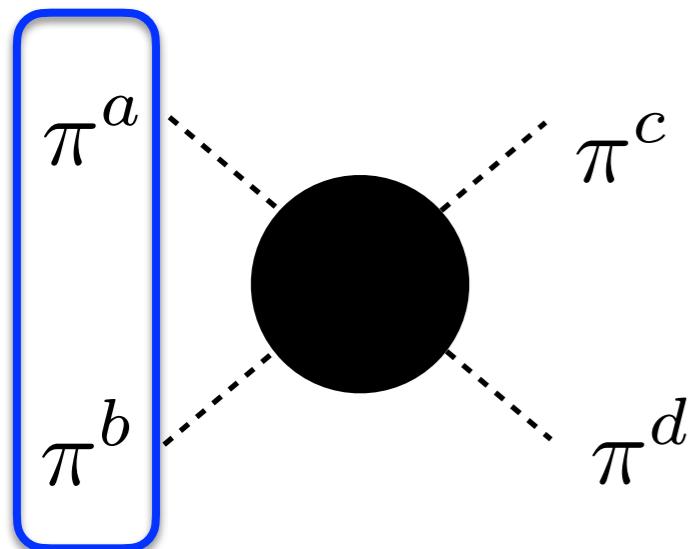
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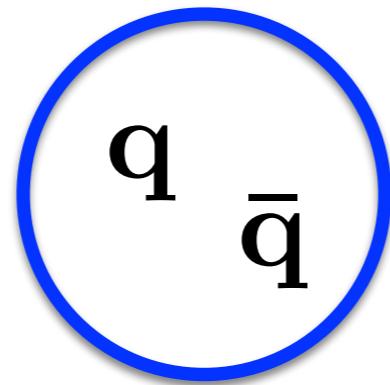
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$\mathcal{M}_s^{I=2}$ cannot have poles in s

Extra condition from large- N_c QCD:

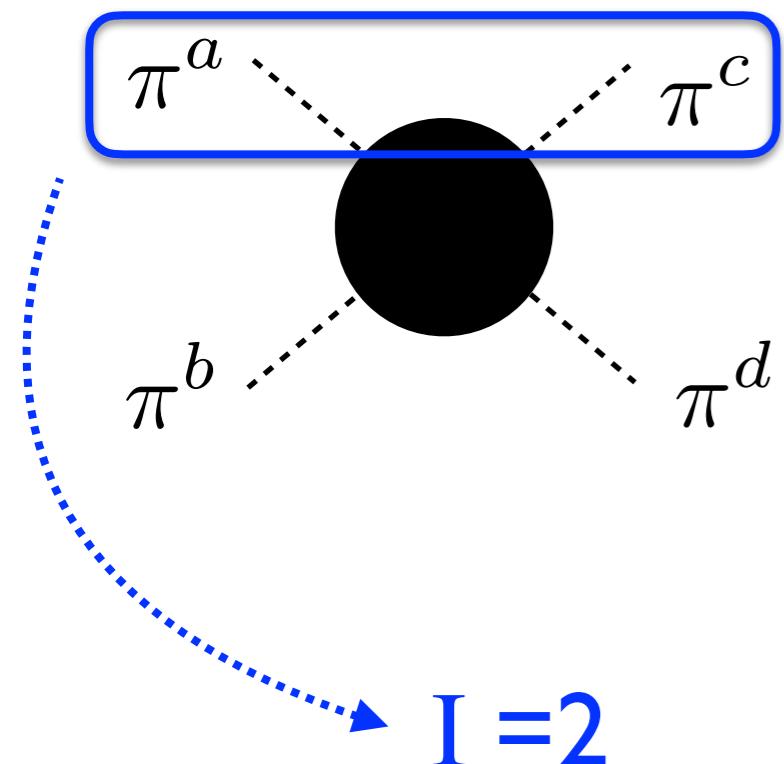
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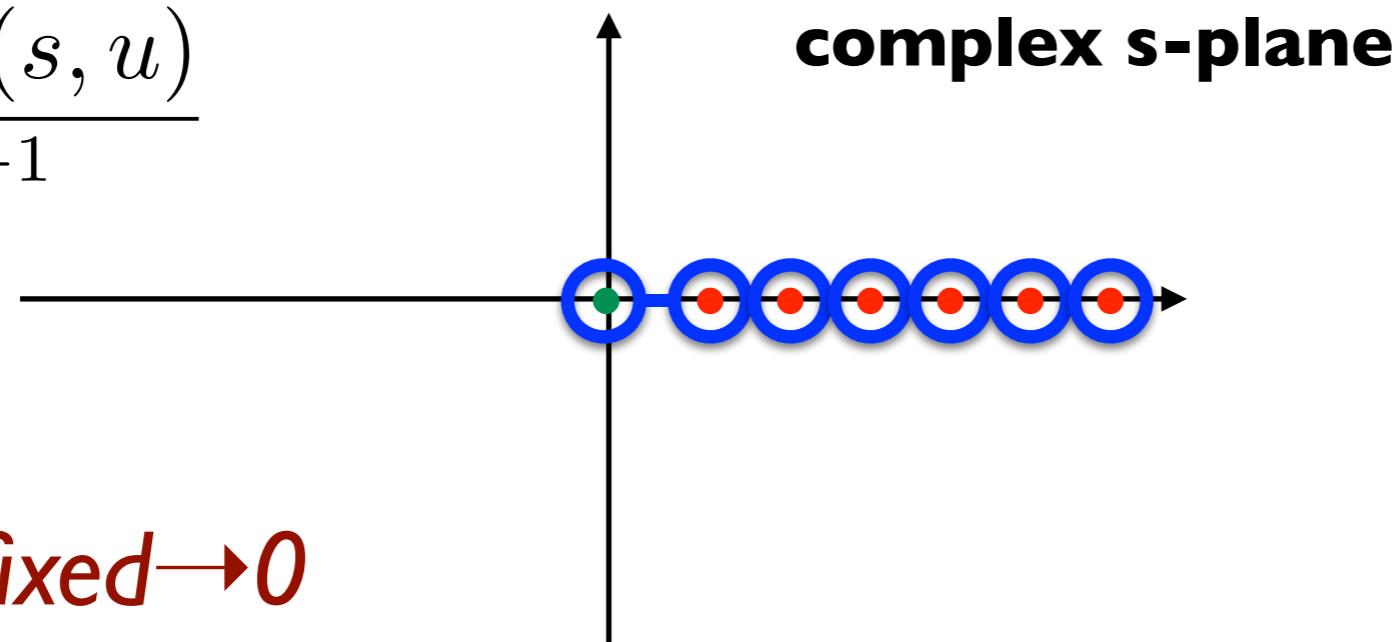
$\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}$ cannot have poles in t

Working with $\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)$ (that cannot have poles in the t-channel)

crossing $s \leftrightarrow u$ invariant

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)}{s^{k+1}}$$

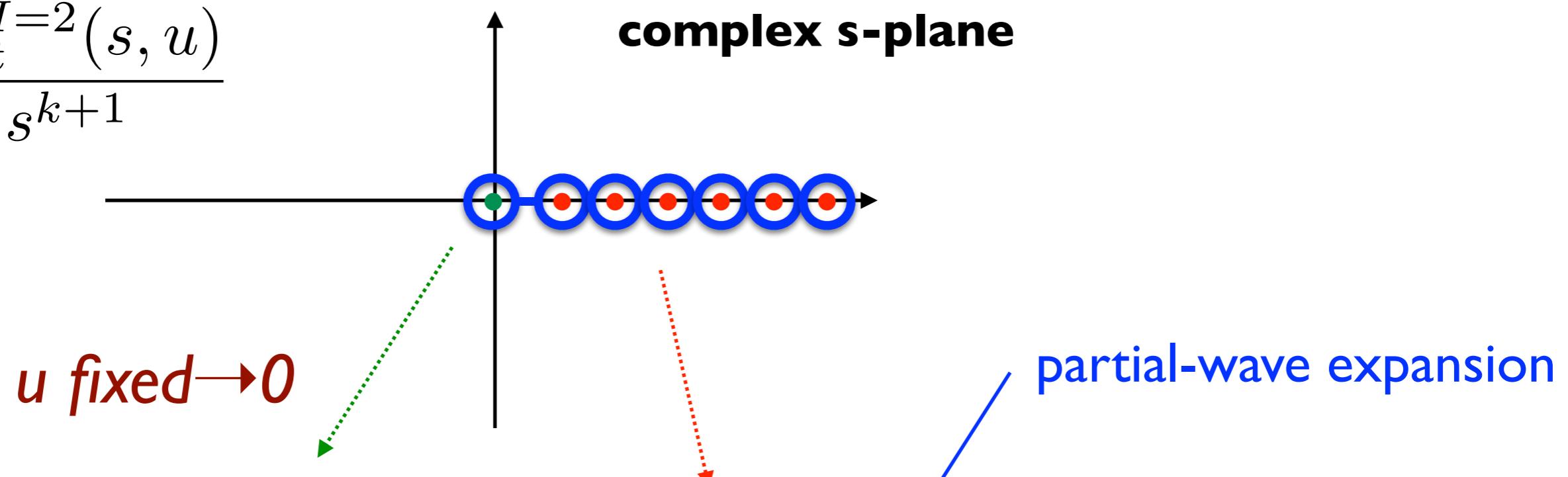
u fixed $\rightarrow 0$



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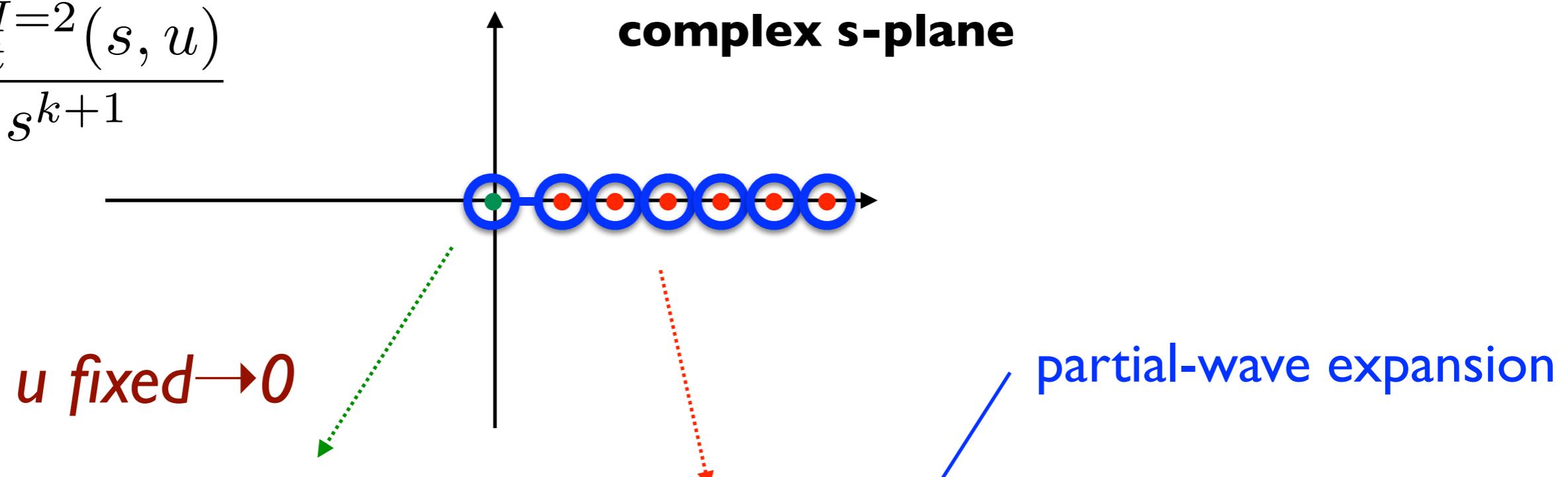


$$\text{Res} \frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)}{s^{k+1}} = \sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{2k}} P_{J_i} \left(1 + \frac{2u}{m_i^2} \right)$$

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$$\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u) \xrightarrow{s, u \rightarrow 0} g_{1,0}(s + u) + g_{2,0}(s^2 + u^2) + g_{2,1}su + \dots$$

Wilson coefficients

Legendre pol. and derivatives (all positive!)

small u expansion:

$$k = 1 : \quad g_{1,0} + g_{2,1}u + g_{3,1}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi i}|^2 \left(\frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^2} + 2 \frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4}u + 2 \frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6}u^2 + \dots \right),$$

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⋮

$$g_{n,0} = \sum_i \frac{g_{i\pi\pi}^2}{m_i^{2n}}$$

all states
contribute
positively!

$$g_{n+1,1} = \sum_i \frac{g_{i\pi\pi}^2 J_i(J_i + 1)}{m_i^{2(n+1)}}.$$

→ the larger the J ,
the smaller $g_{i\pi\pi}/m_i$

small u expansion:

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due to crossing, overconstrained system!

☞ infinite constraints in the spectrum and couplings

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☞ **infinite constraints in the spectrum and couplings**

e.g.
$$\sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^6} J_i(J_i + 1)(J_i - 2)(J_i + 3) = 0$$

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☞ **also from dispersion relations at fixed t**

Implications of Positivity bounds

Lets assume at $|s| \rightarrow \infty$ & either t or u fixed:

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)}{s} \xrightarrow{k_{min}=1} 0$$

expected from Regge theory

Infinite set of Sum Rules:

$$\sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^6} J_i(J_i + 1)(J_i - 2)(J_i + 3) = 0$$

$$\sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{10}} J_i(J_i - 1)(J_i + 1)(J_i + 2)(J_i^2 + J_i - 15) = 0$$

$$\sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{14}} J_i(J_i - 2)(J_i - 1)(J_i + 1)(J_i + 2)(J_i + 3)(J_i^2 + J_i - 28) = 0$$

⋮
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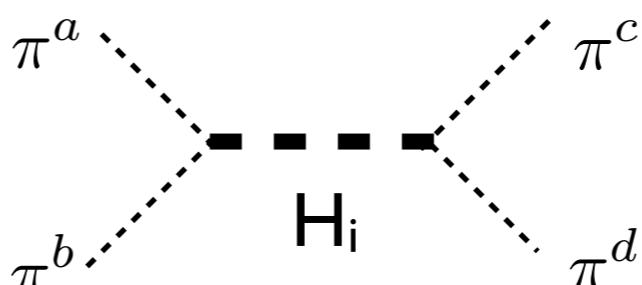
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⋮
⋮
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$J_i = 0$ states satisfy all constraints

➡ **possible UV completion:**

Theory of Scalars (Higgs mechanism)



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$$\frac{|g_{\pi\pi 1}|^2}{m_{J=1}^6} = 9 \frac{|g_{\pi\pi 3}|^2}{m_{J=3}^6} + 35 \frac{|g_{\pi\pi 4}|^2}{m_{J=4}^6} + \dots$$

spin-1 must be in the spectrum with the largest coupling

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Vector Meson Dominance (VMD),

assumed in the past to explain QCD experimental data

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⋮
⋮

spin-2 must be in the spectrum

Infinite set of Sum Rules:

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•
•

spin-3 must be in the spectrum

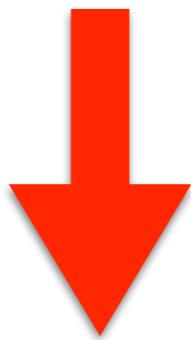
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⋮
⋮
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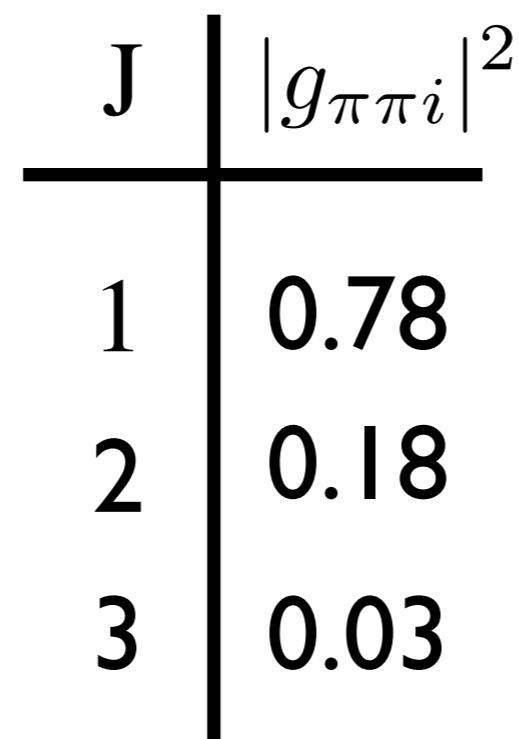


non-scalar UV completions require **all spin states**
with couplings to pions decreasing with J

From the constraints, we find numerically (~ 50 constraint, $J_{\max} \sim 1000$):

Upper bound on couplings

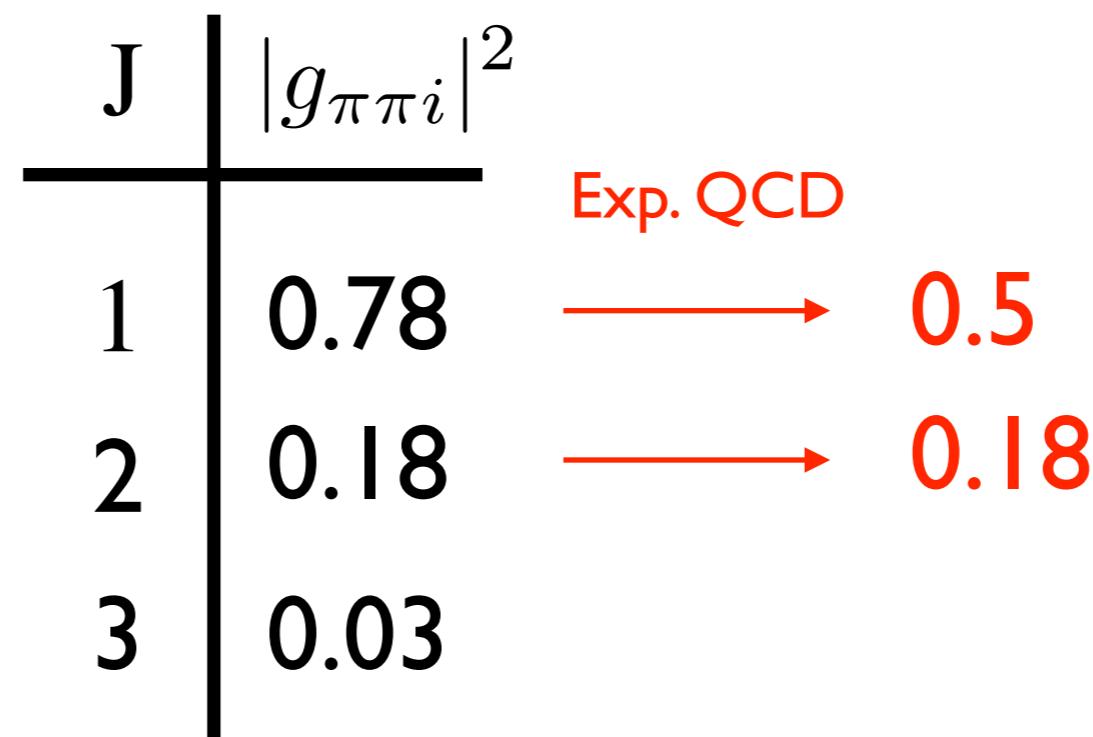
(normalized to m_i^2/F_π^2)



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Upper bound on couplings

(normalized to m_i^2/F_π^2)



Constraints on Wilson coefficients

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{F_\pi^2}{4} \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial^\mu U) + L_1 \text{Tr}^2 (\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial^\mu U) + L_2 \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial_\nu U) \text{Tr} (\partial^\mu U^\dagger \partial^\nu U) + L_3 \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial^\mu U \partial_\nu U^\dagger \partial^\nu U)$$

$$e^{i \sigma^a \pi^a / F_\pi}$$

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O(s^2):

$$\tilde{g}_{2,0} = 4(2L_1 + 3L_2 + L_3) \frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2},$$

$$\tilde{g}_{2,1} = 16L_2 \frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2}$$

mass of the 1st meson

Constraints on Wilson coefficients

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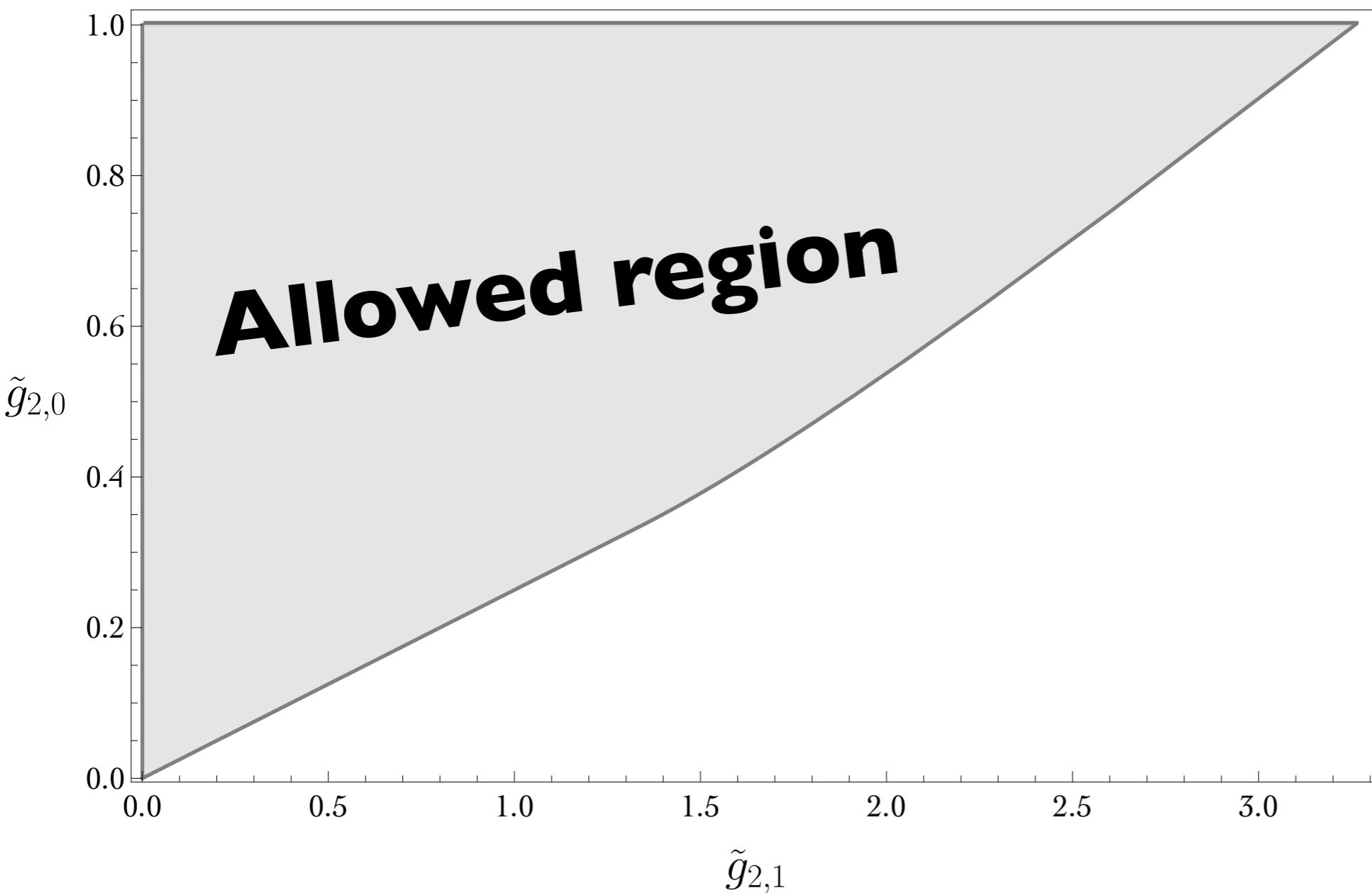
O(s^2):

$$\tilde{g}_{2,0} = 4(2L_1 + 3L_2 + L_3) \frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2},$$

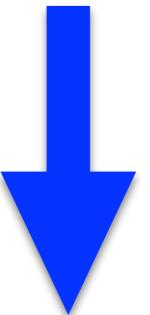
$$\tilde{g}_{2,1} = 16L_2 \frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2}$$

mass of the 1st meson

Allowed region



“Polyhedronal”
bounds



EFTs are
“EFT-hedron”

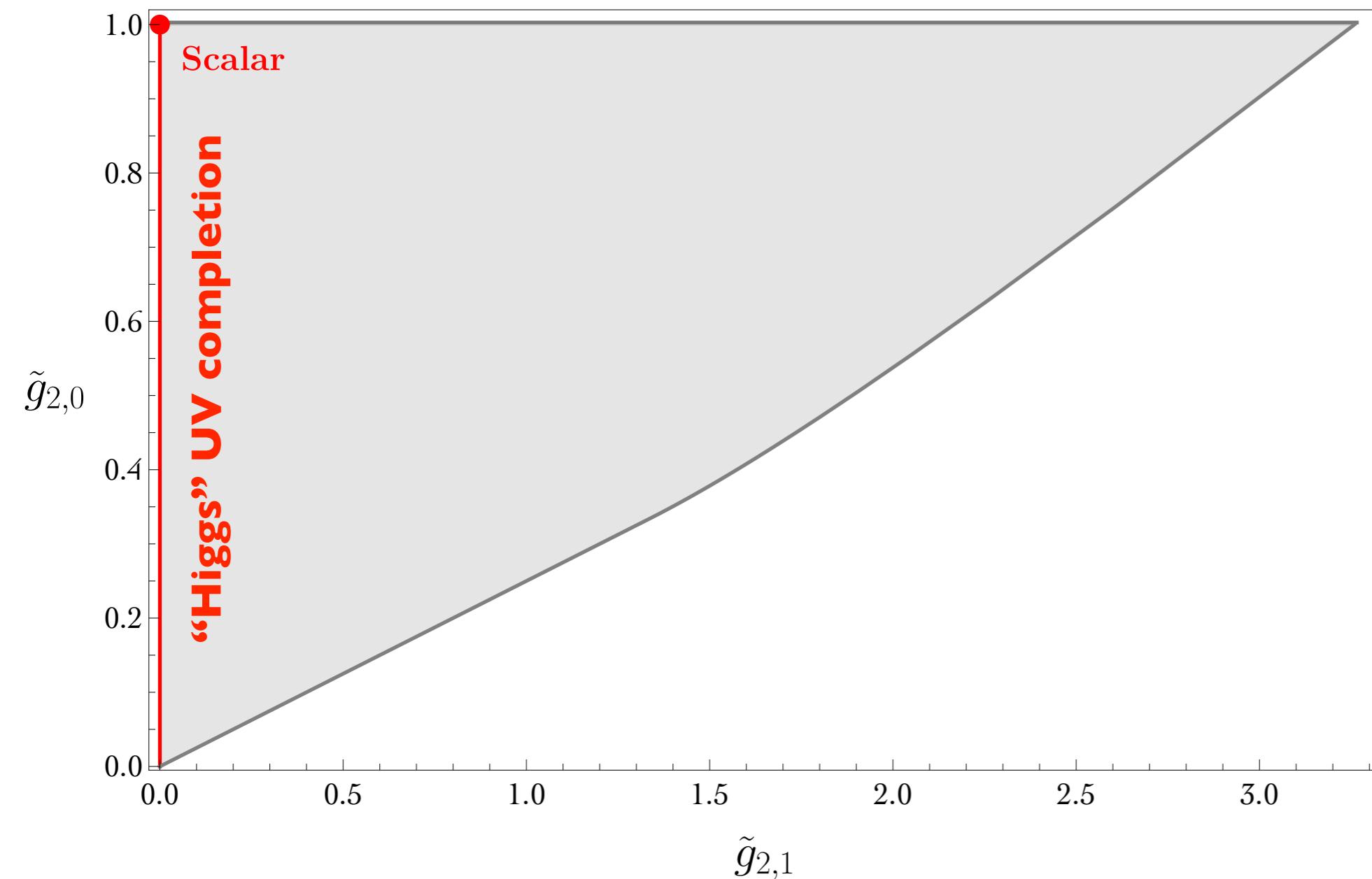
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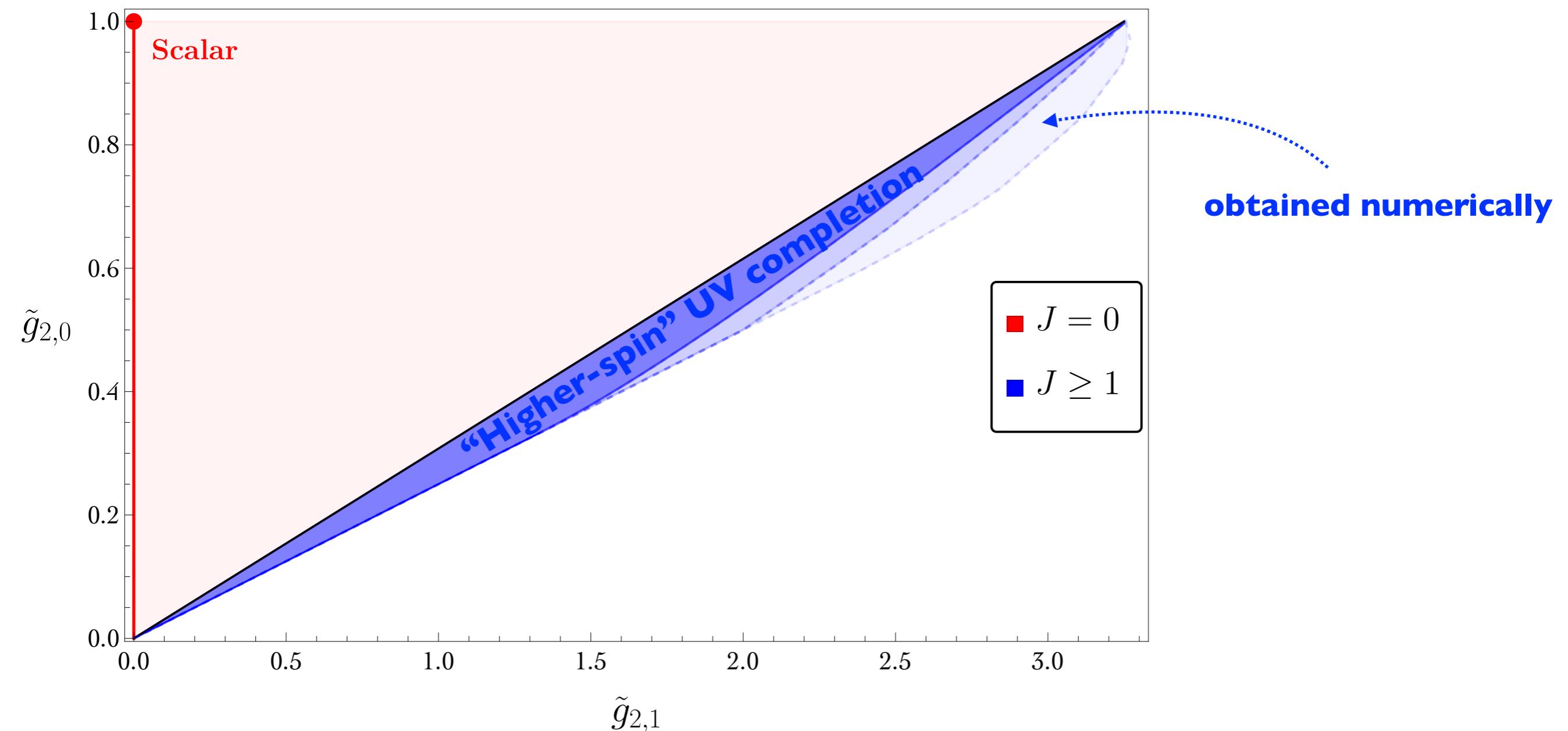
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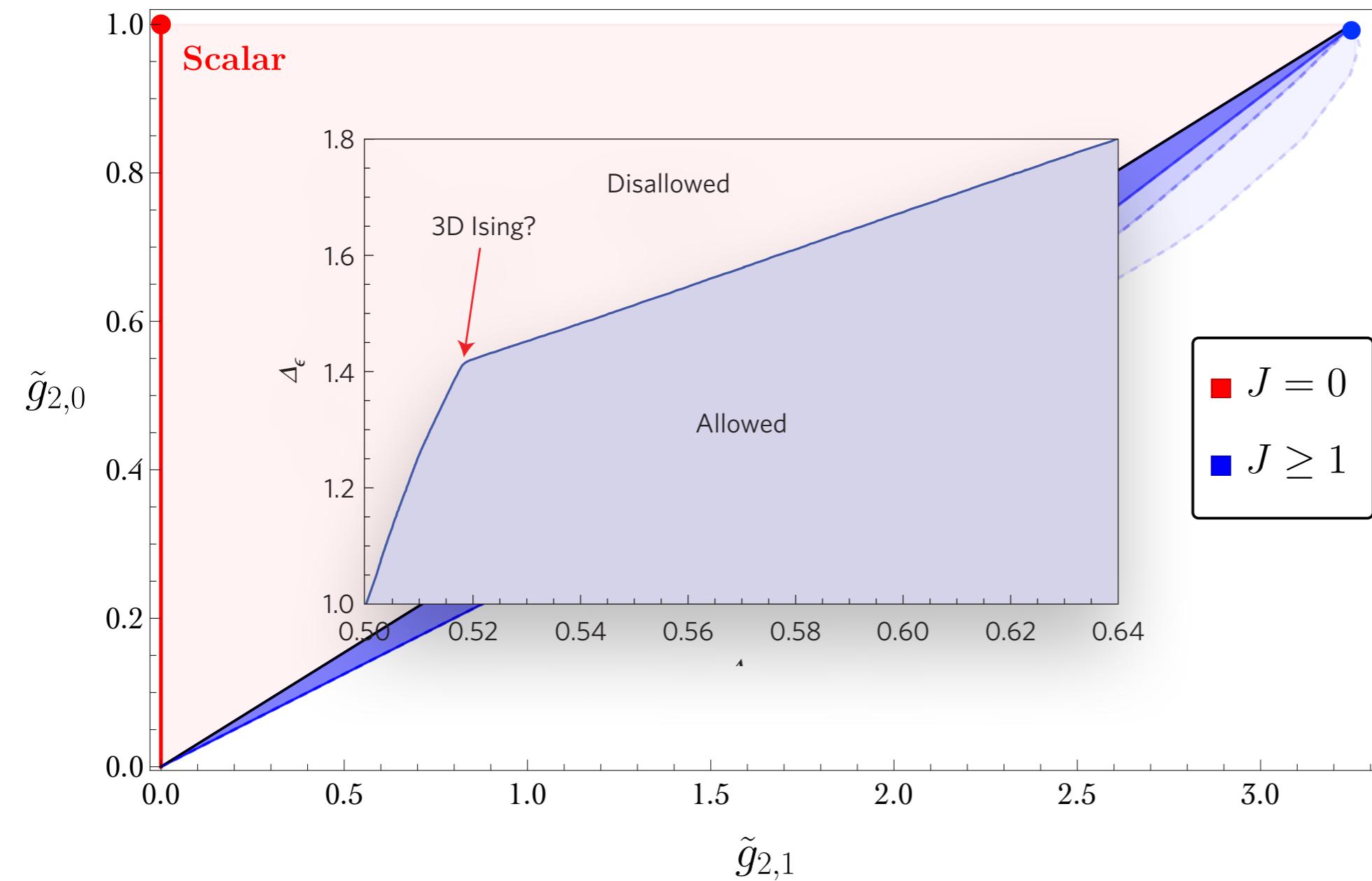
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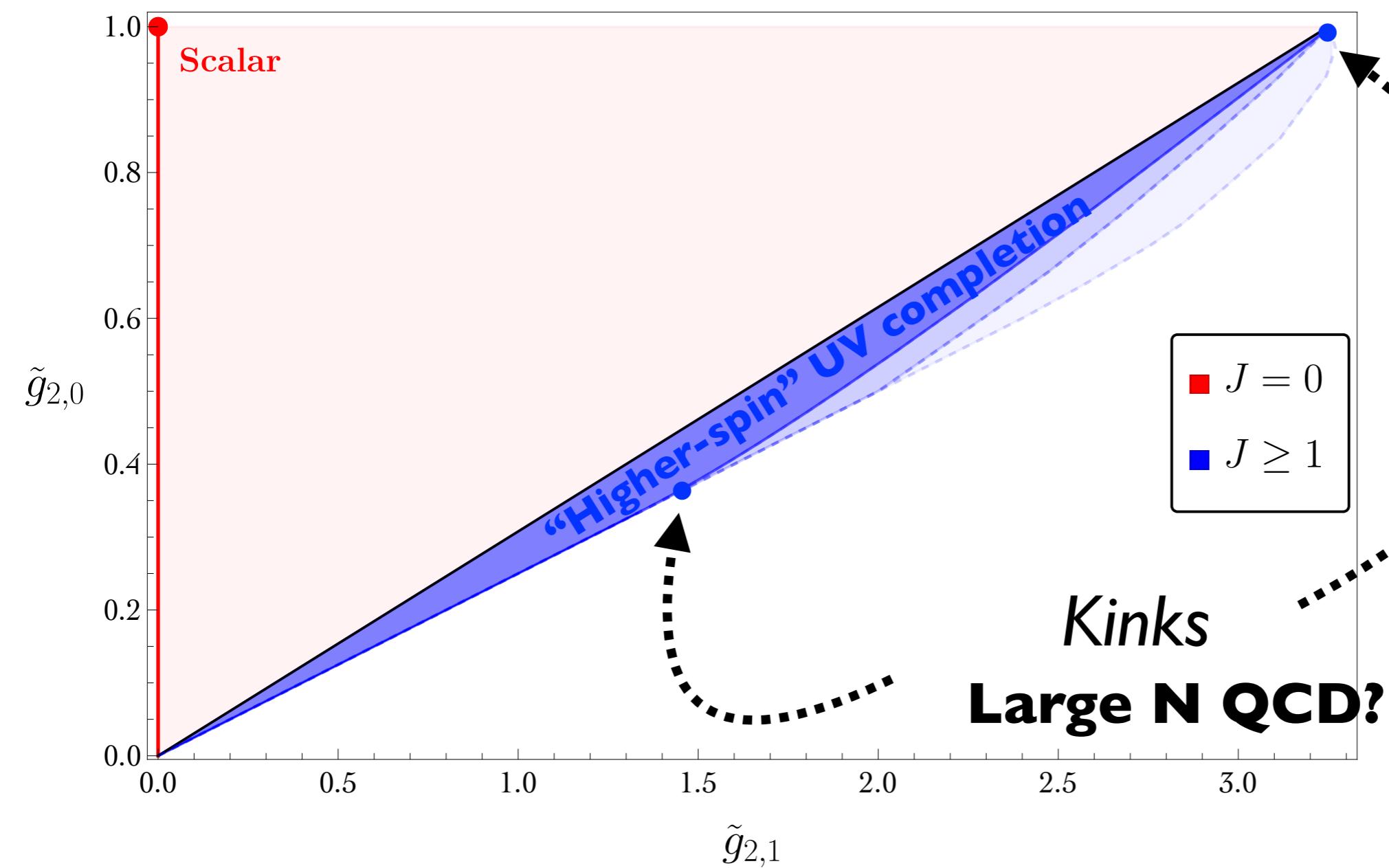
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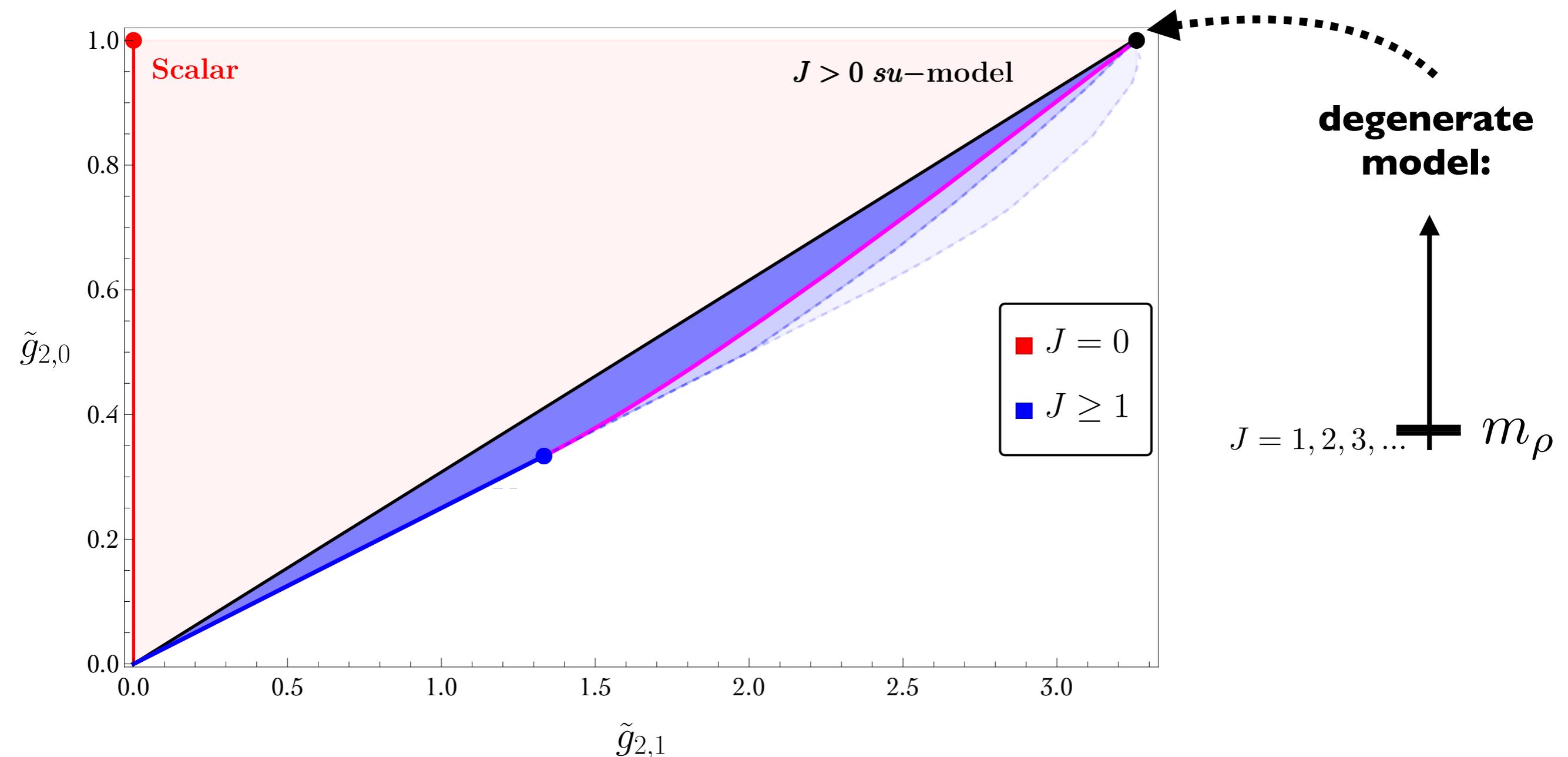
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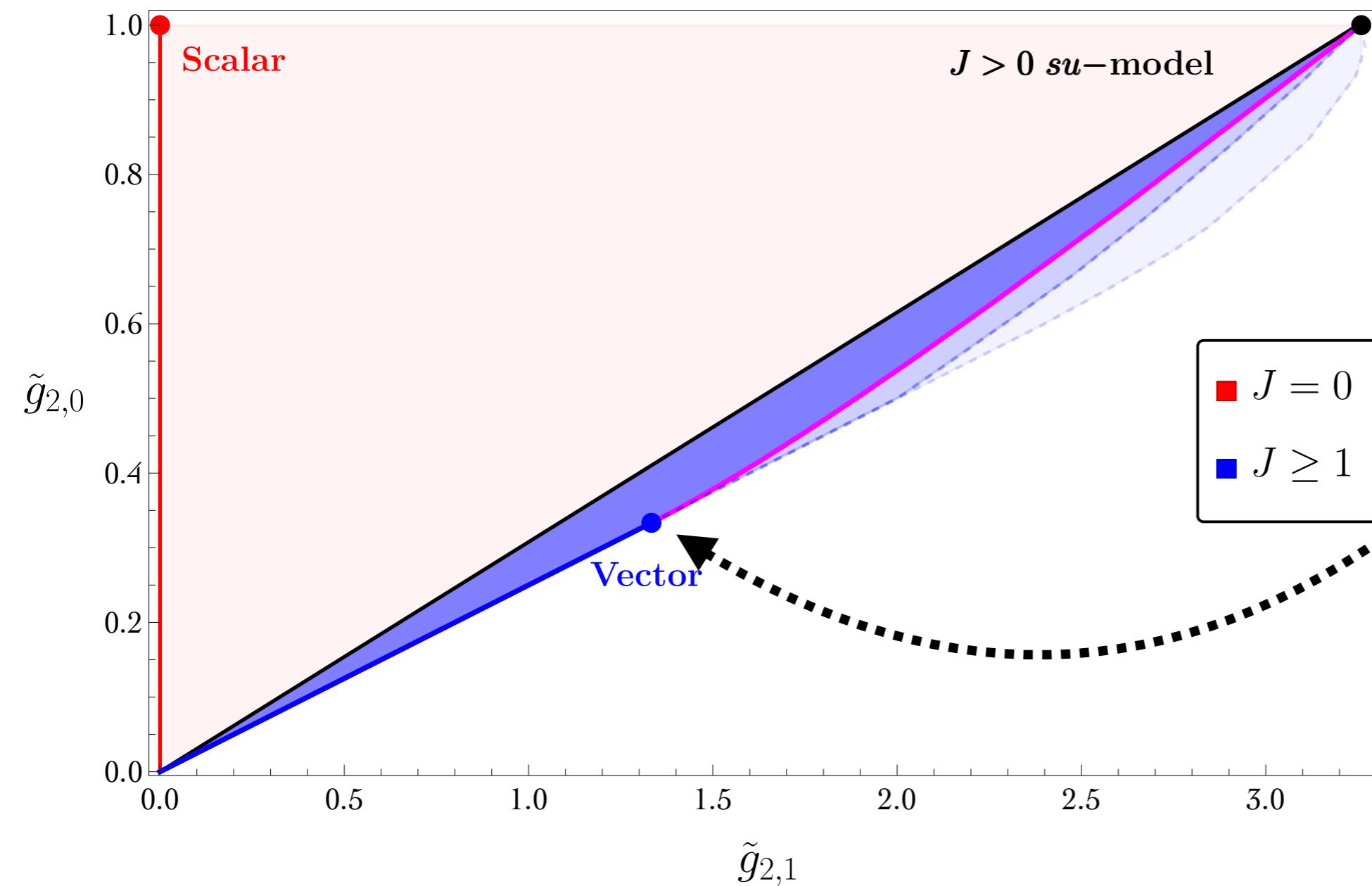
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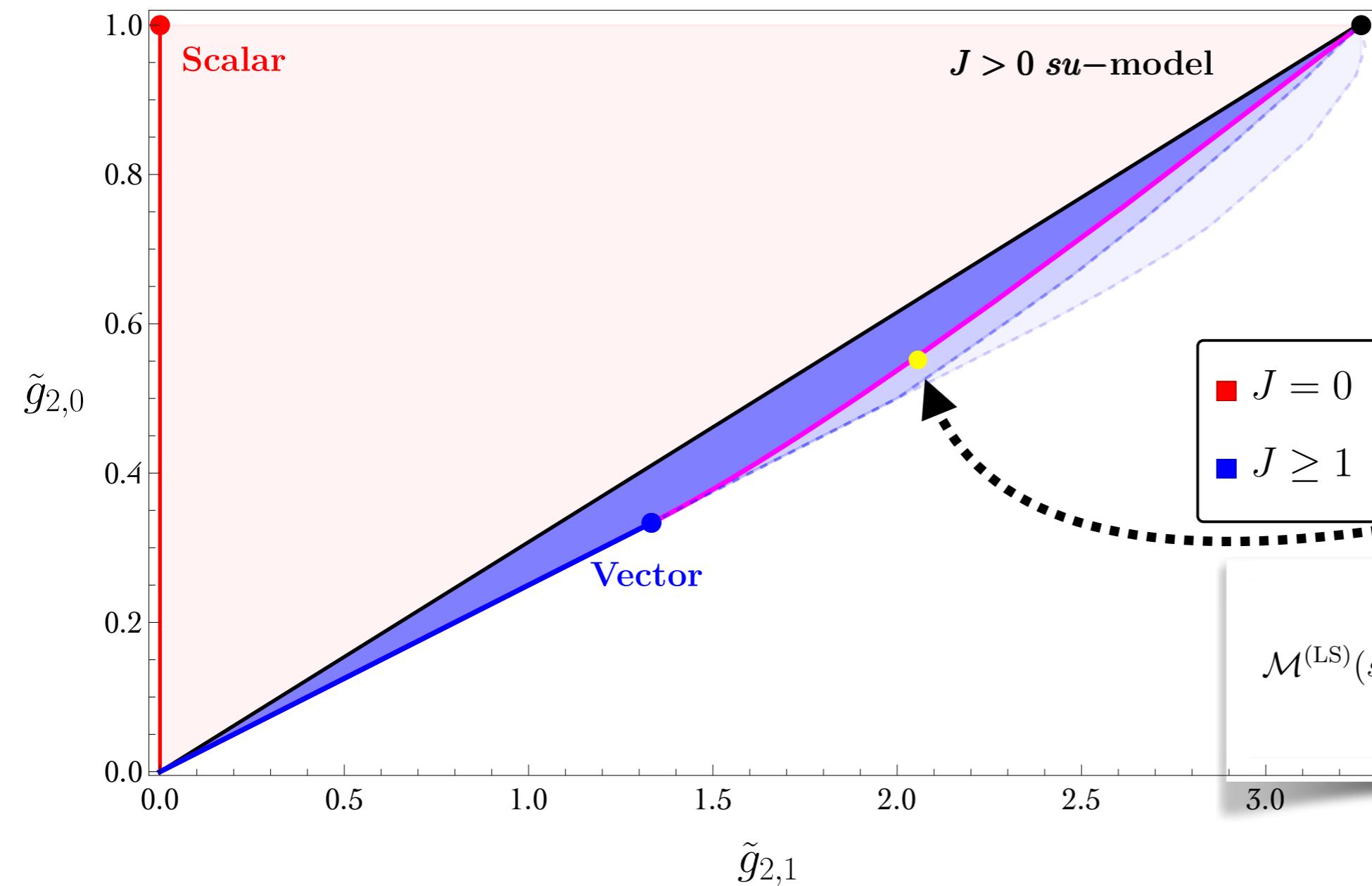
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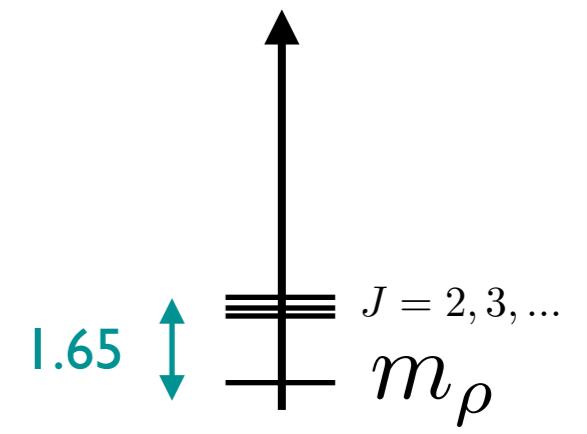
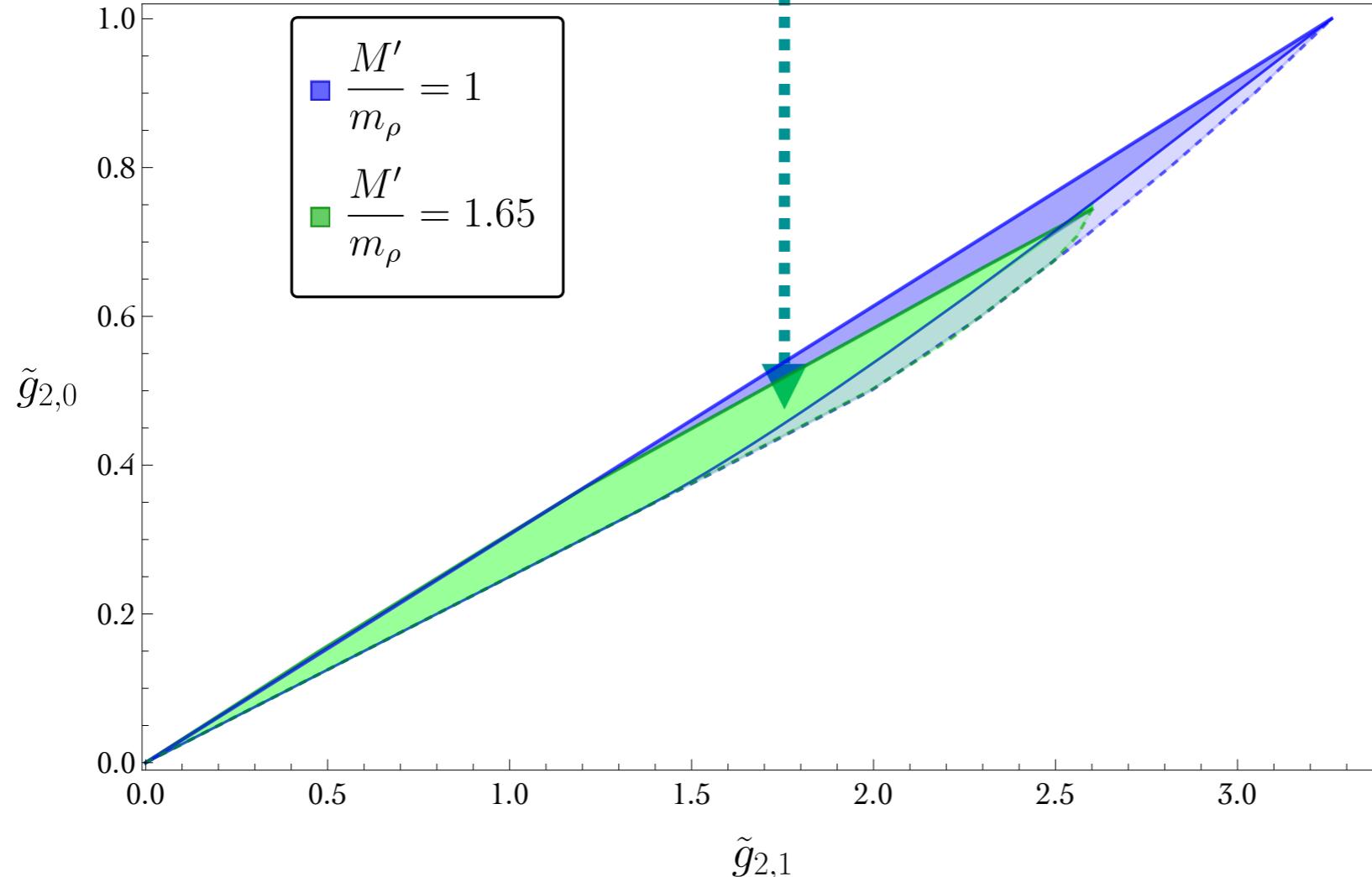
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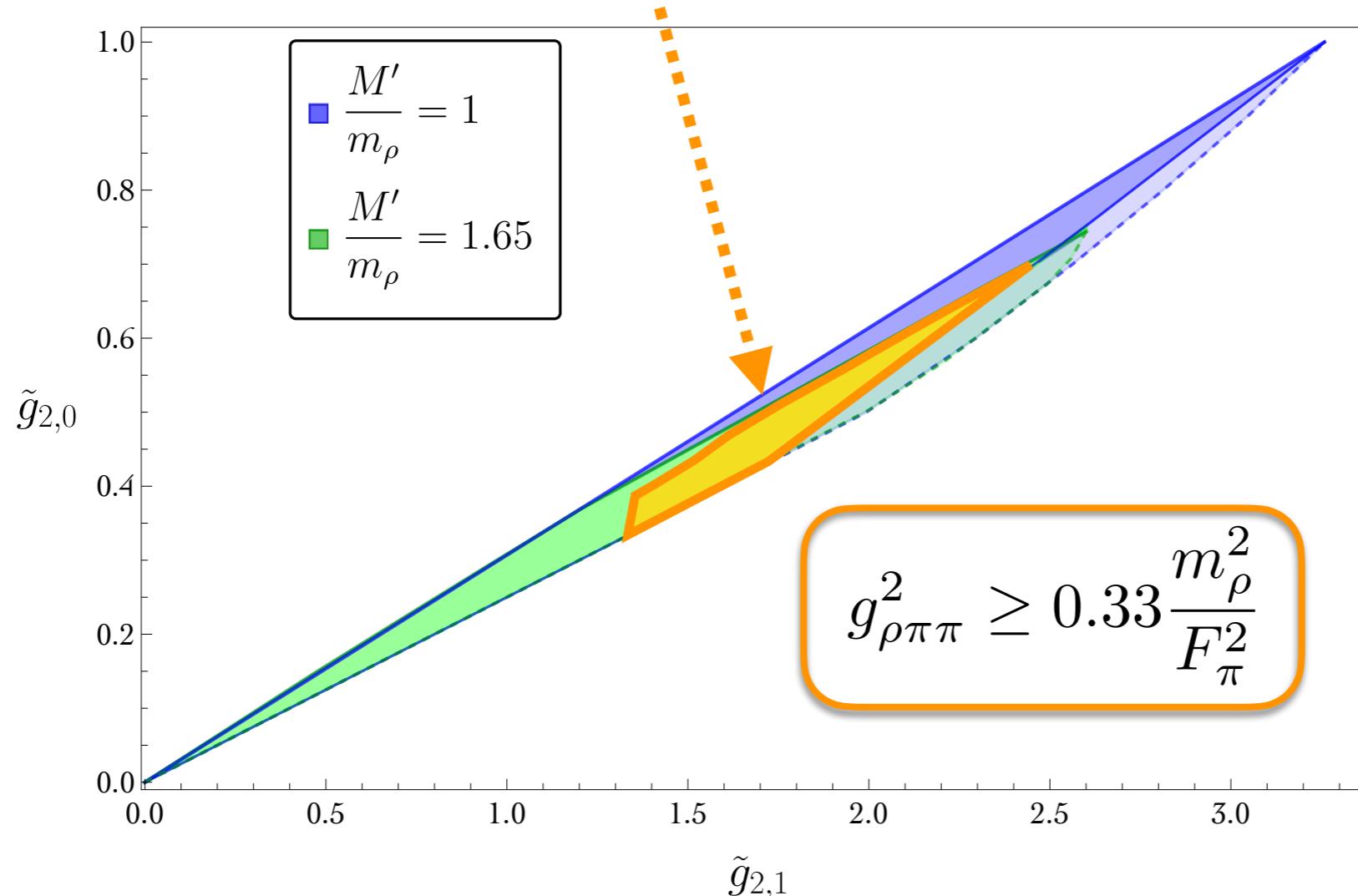
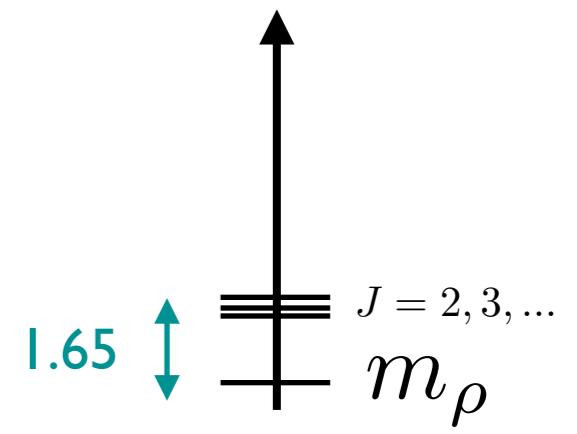


**stronger bounds if we assume that,
as in QCD, $J>1$ mesons are heavier**



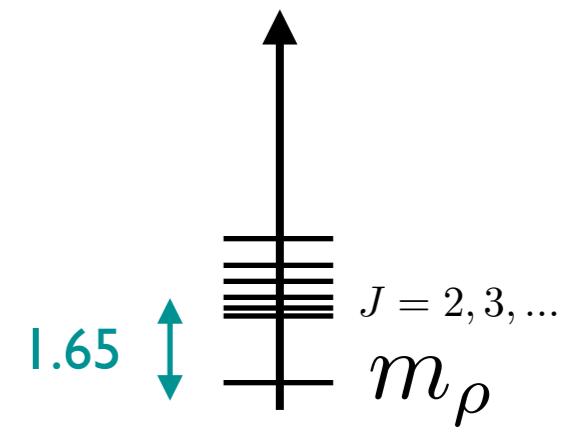
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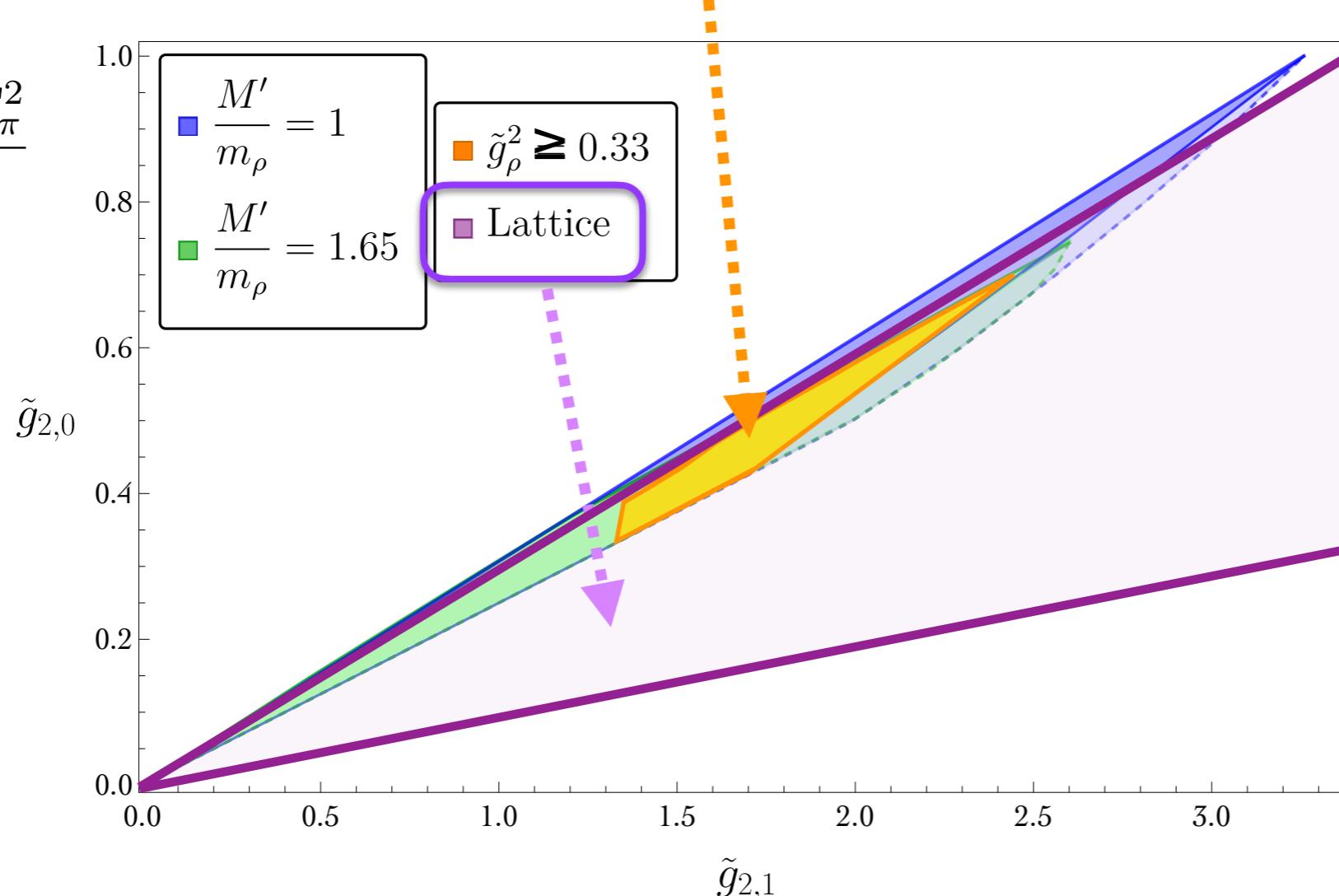


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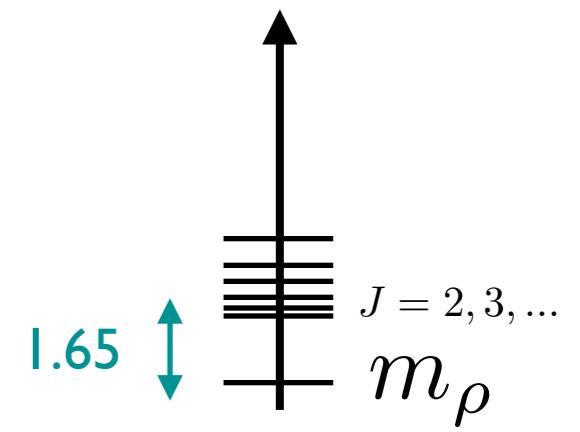


$$\tilde{g}_\rho^2 \equiv \frac{g_{\rho\pi\pi}^2 F_\pi^2}{m_\rho^2}$$

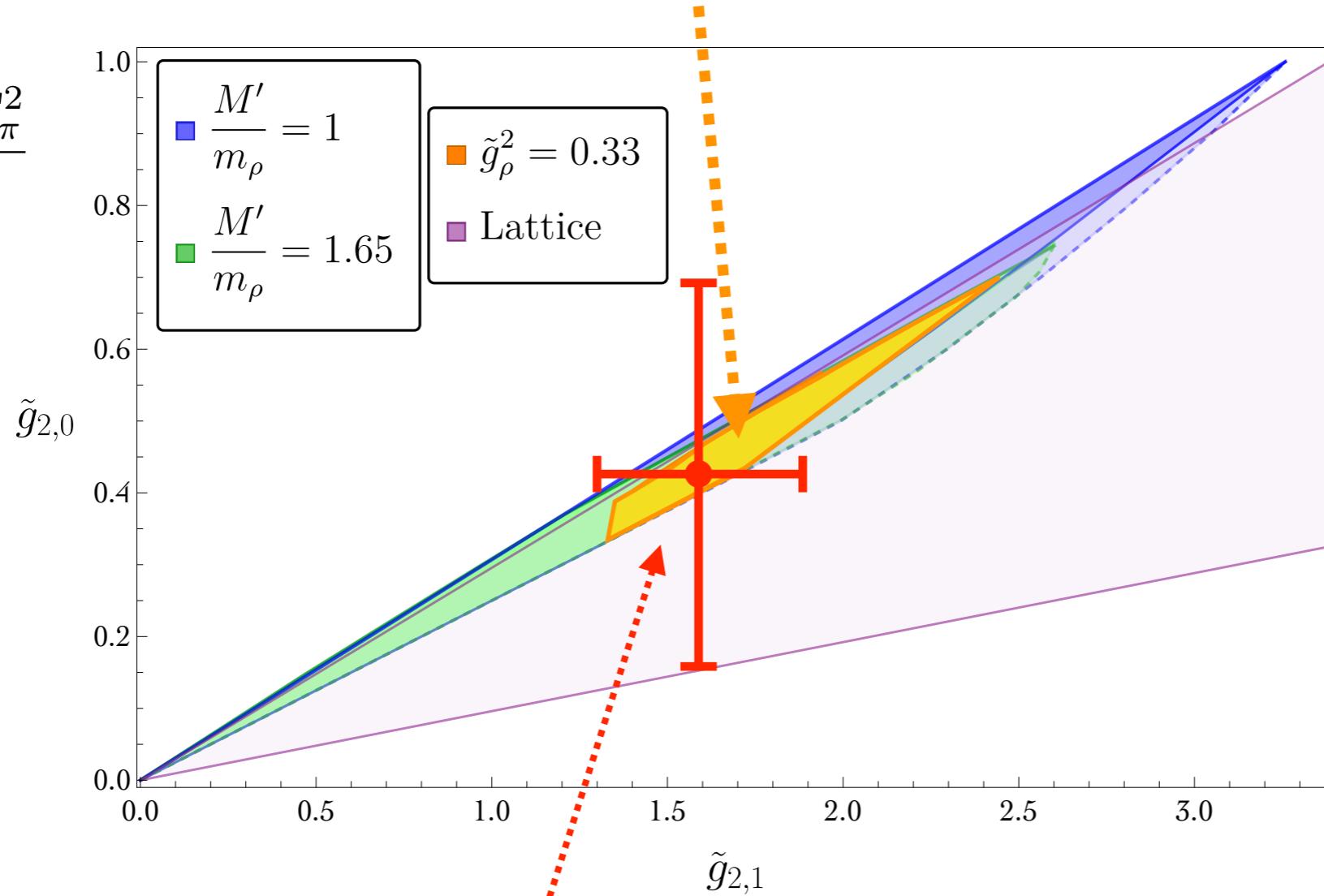


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**Experimental
QCD data**

Explaining the success of holography

AdS/QCD: 5D model for QCD mesons

$SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ model with only s=0,l fields:

Erlich+Katz+Son+Stephanov 05
Da Rold+Pomarol 05

$$\mathcal{L}_5 = \frac{M_5}{2} Tr \left[-L_{MN} L^{MN} - R_{MN} R^{MN} + |D_M \Phi|^2 + 3|\Phi|^2 \right]$$

	Experiment	AdS ₅	Deviation
m_ρ	775	824	+6%
m_{a_1}	1230	1347	+10%
m_ω	782	824	+5%
F_ρ	153	169	+11%
F_ω/F_ρ	0.88	0.94	+7%
F_π	87	88	+1%
$g_{\rho\pi\pi}$	6.0	5.4	-10%
L_9	$6.9 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$6.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-10%
L_{10}	$-5.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$-6.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-12%
$\Gamma(\omega \rightarrow \pi\gamma)$	0.75	0.81	+8%
$\Gamma(\omega \rightarrow 3\pi)$	7.5	6.7	-11%
$\Gamma(\rho \rightarrow \pi\gamma)$	0.068	0.077	+13%
$\Gamma(\omega \rightarrow \pi\mu\mu)$	$8.2 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$7.3 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-10%
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AP+Wulzer 08

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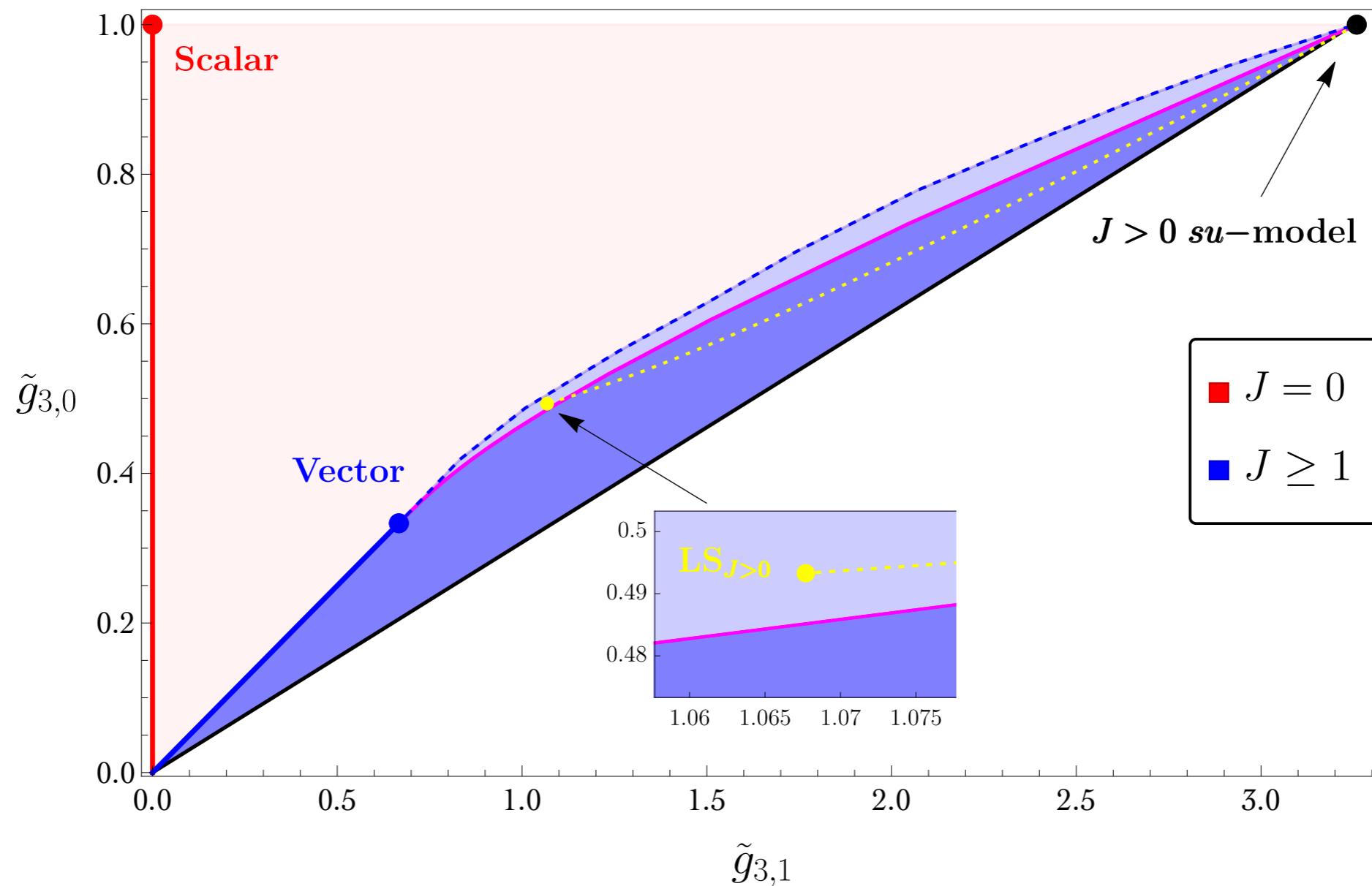
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**Success understood
from the above analysis:
J>I mesons
contribute little
to low-energy observables**

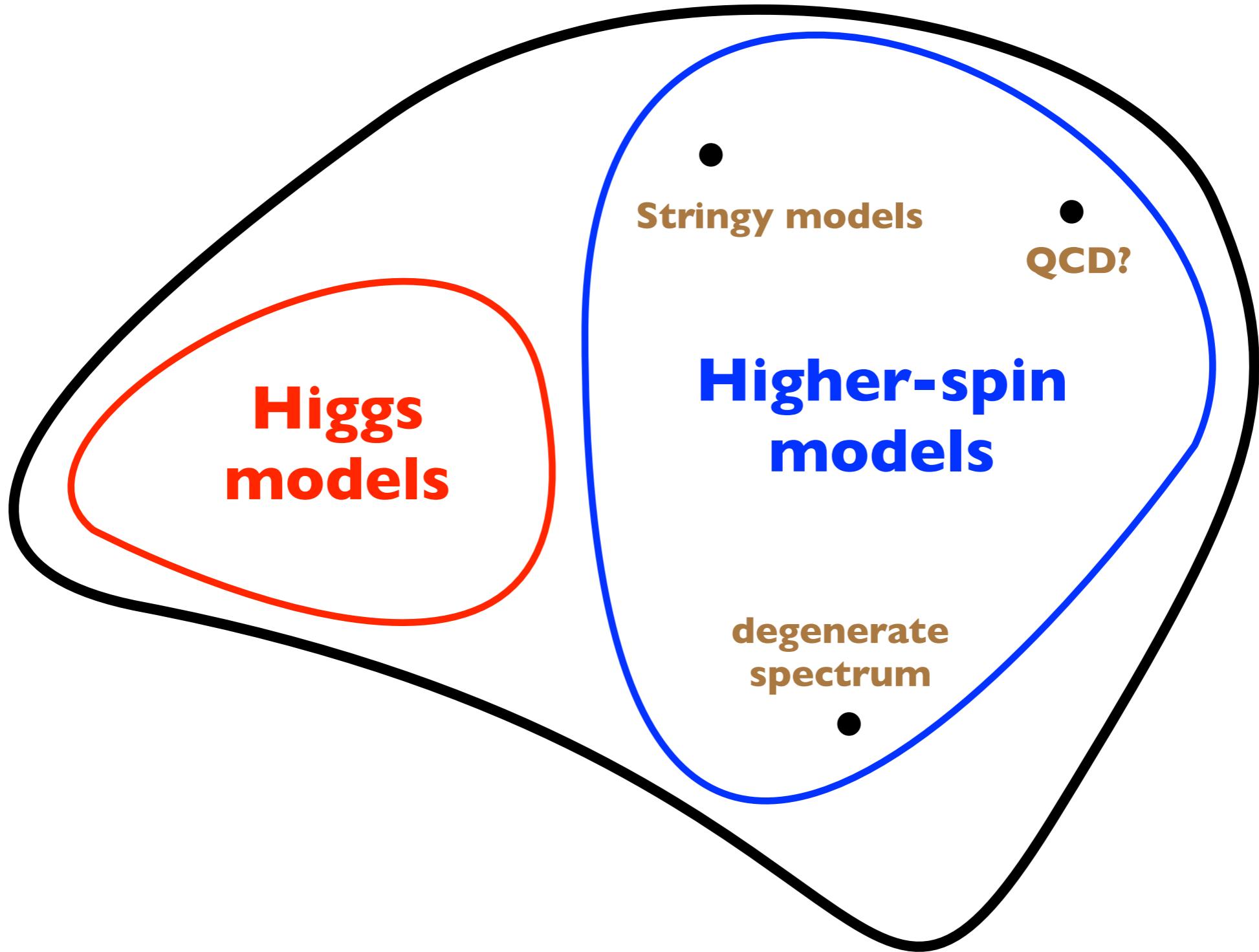
AP+Wulzer 08

Similar structure for higher-order Wilson coeff.

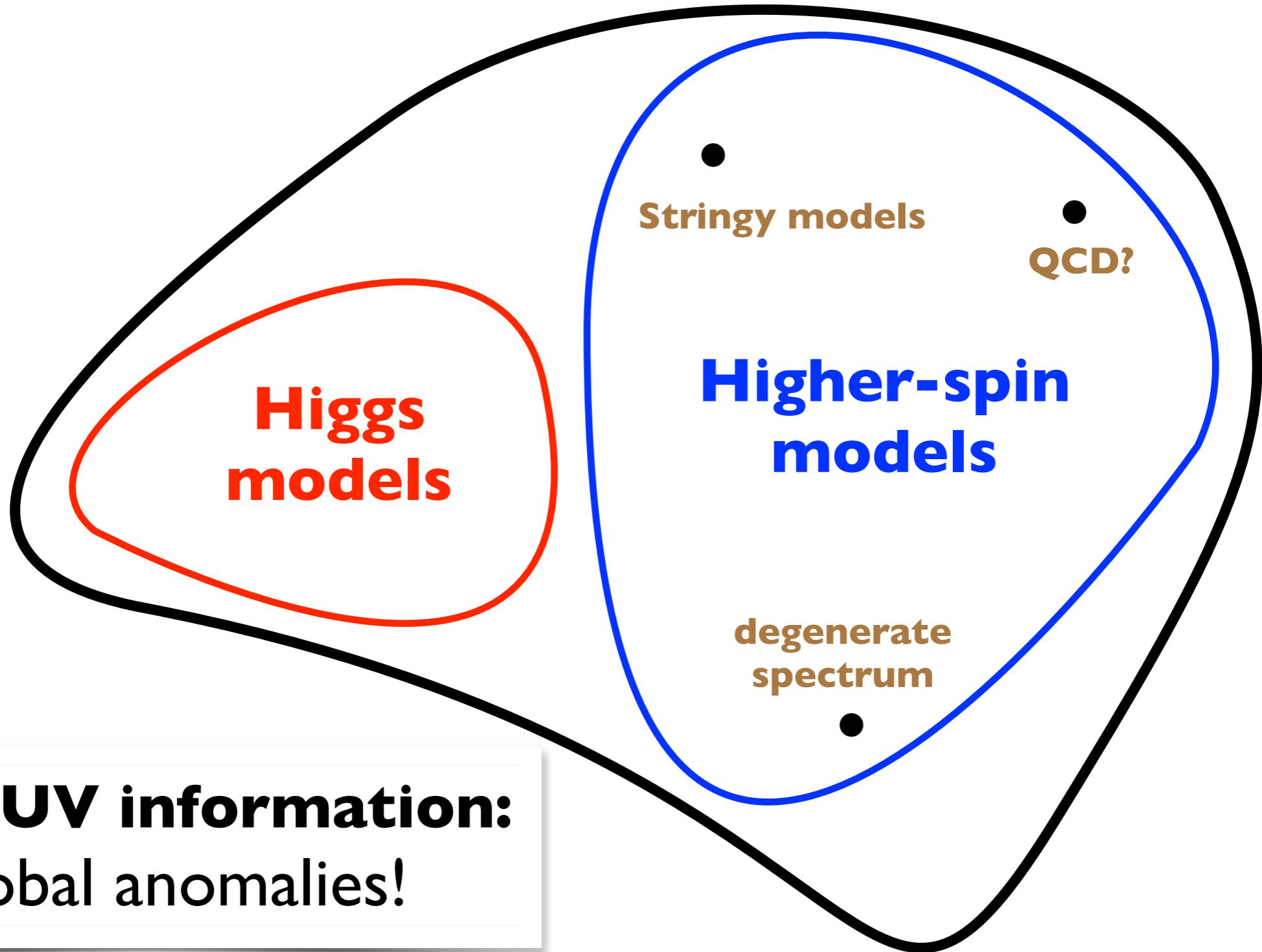
$\mathcal{O}(s^3)$:



UV completions for models of Goldstones



UV completions for models of Goldstones



U(1)_A axial anomaly

Introducing the η' (Goldstone of an anomalous symmetry):

$$U(2) \otimes U(2) \rightarrow U(2)$$

$$\hookrightarrow SU(2) \otimes SU(2) \otimes U(1)_A \otimes U(1)$$

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- WZW term: *5-goldstone int.*
 - Adding external gauge-bosons:
- $$\pi \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$$
- $\} \propto \kappa$

$$\kappa = \frac{N_c}{12\pi^2 F_\pi^3}$$

two q_L,q_R
model

U(1)_A axial anomaly

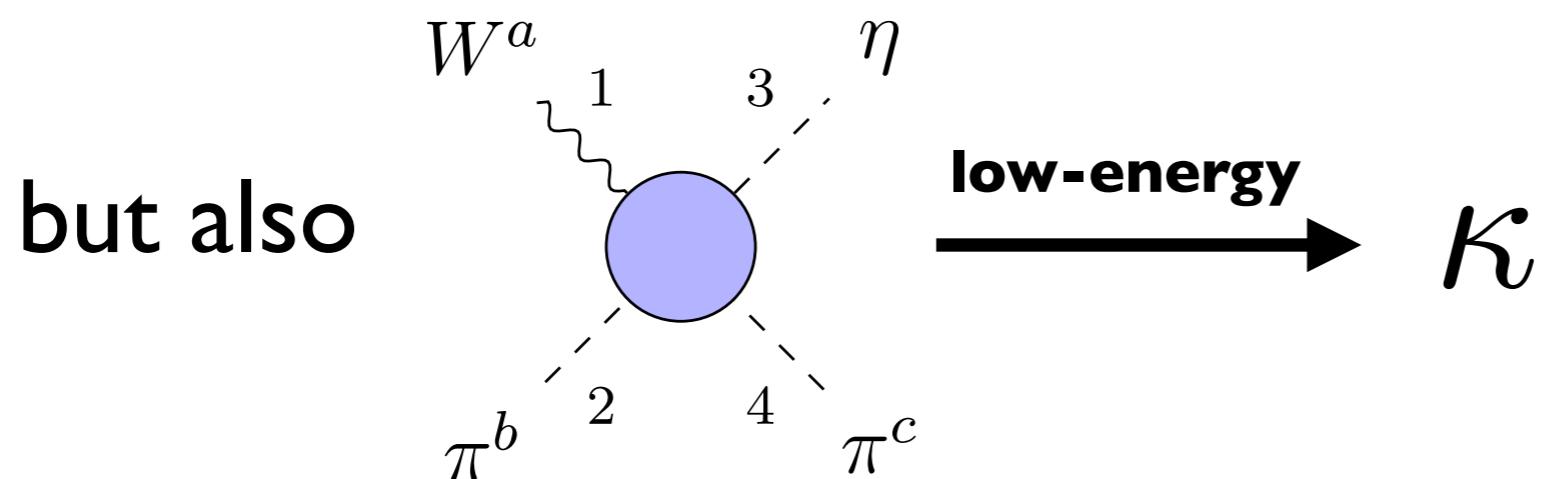
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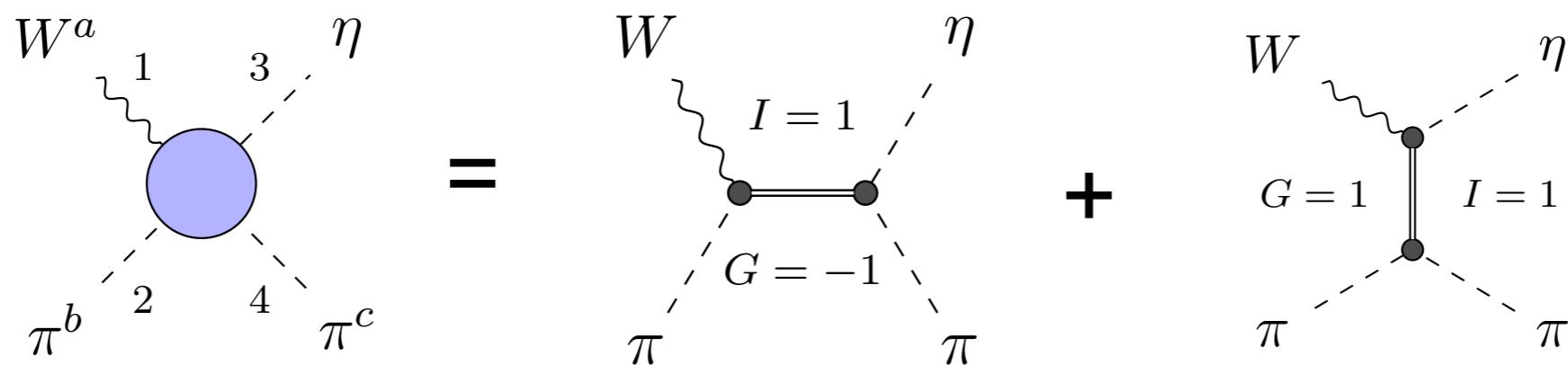
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two q_L,q_R
model



a) It cannot be mediated by scalars

👉 axial anomaly **discards** theories
with **only** scalar resonances

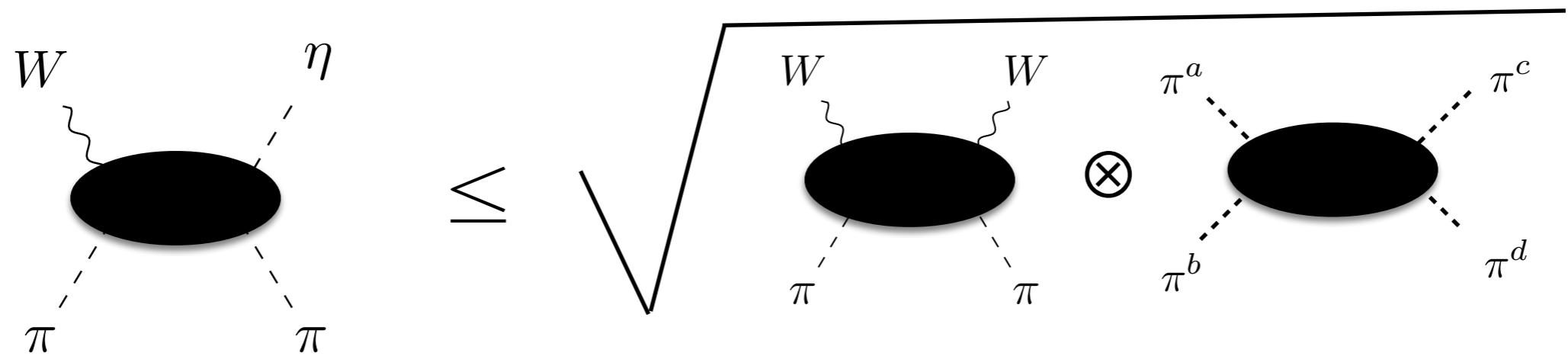
b) Bounded

How a bound on the anomaly arises:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1: } W \text{ (wavy line)} \rightarrow R_i \text{ (double line)} \rightarrow \eta \text{ (dashed line)} \\ \text{Diagram 2: } W \text{ (wavy line)} \rightarrow R_i \text{ (double line)} \rightarrow W \text{ (wavy line)} \\ \text{Diagram 3: } \otimes \text{ (cross symbol)} \text{ followed by } R_i \text{ (double line)} \text{ with four dashed lines labeled } \pi^a, \pi^b, \pi^c, \pi^d \end{array} \leq \sqrt{g_{W\pi R_i}^2 \times g_{\pi\pi R_i}^2}$$

$g_{W\pi R_i} \times g_{\pi\pi R_i} \leq \sqrt{g_{W\pi R_i}^2 \times g_{\pi\pi R_i}^2}$

How a bound on the anomaly arises:

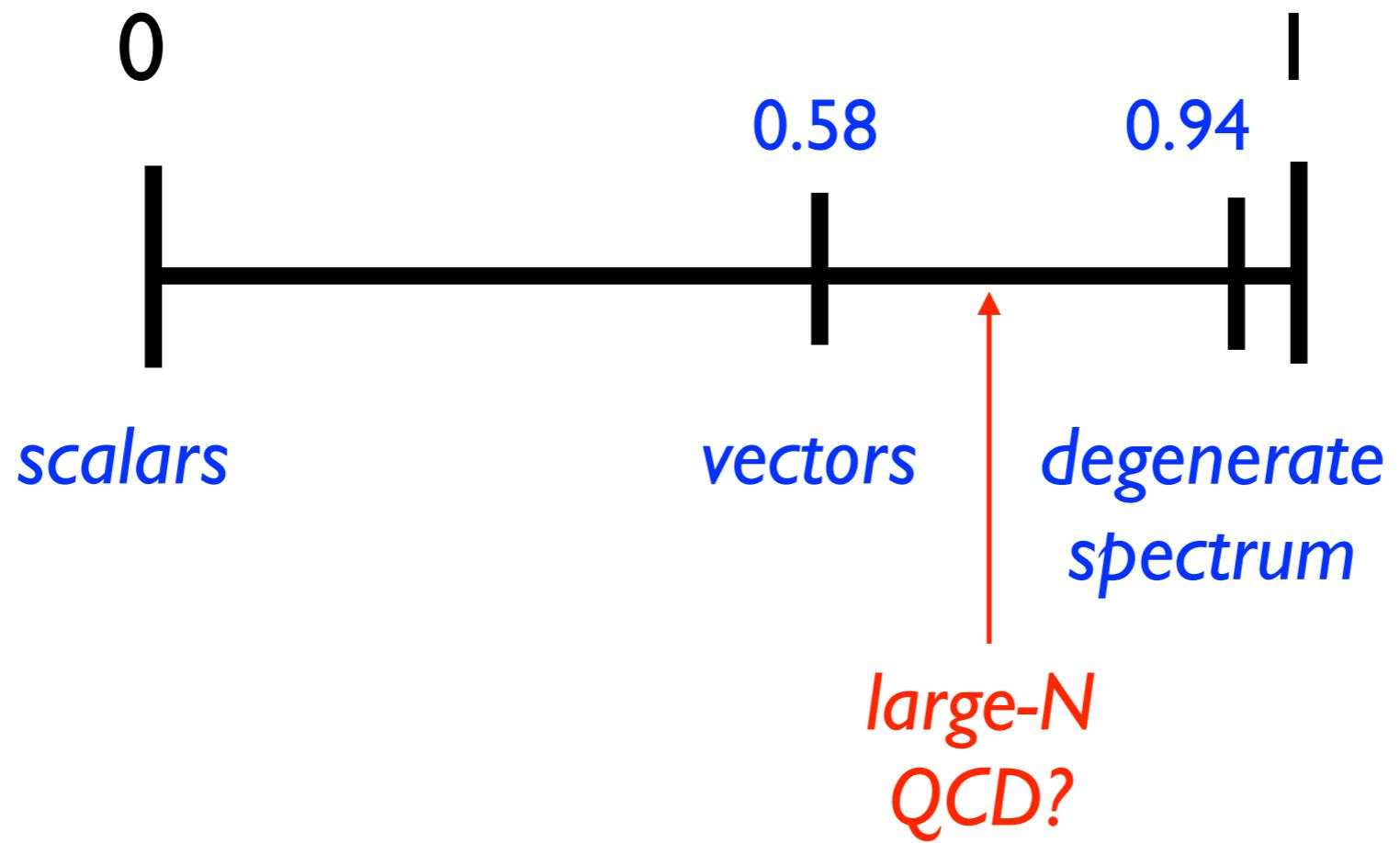


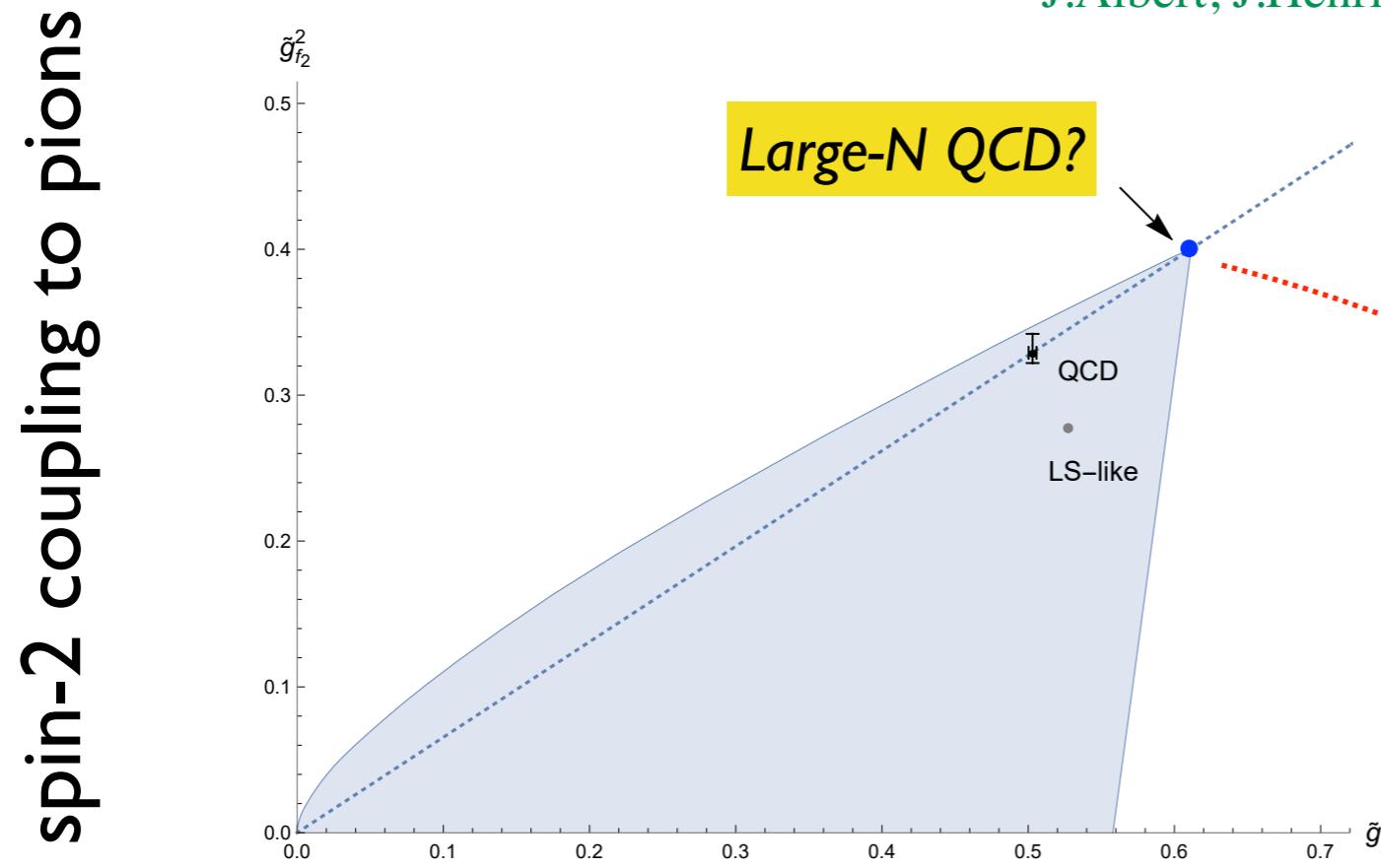
Amazingly, a bound can be extended in general (from positivity):

$$\kappa \leq \sqrt{\mathcal{P} \frac{1}{2F_\pi^2}}$$

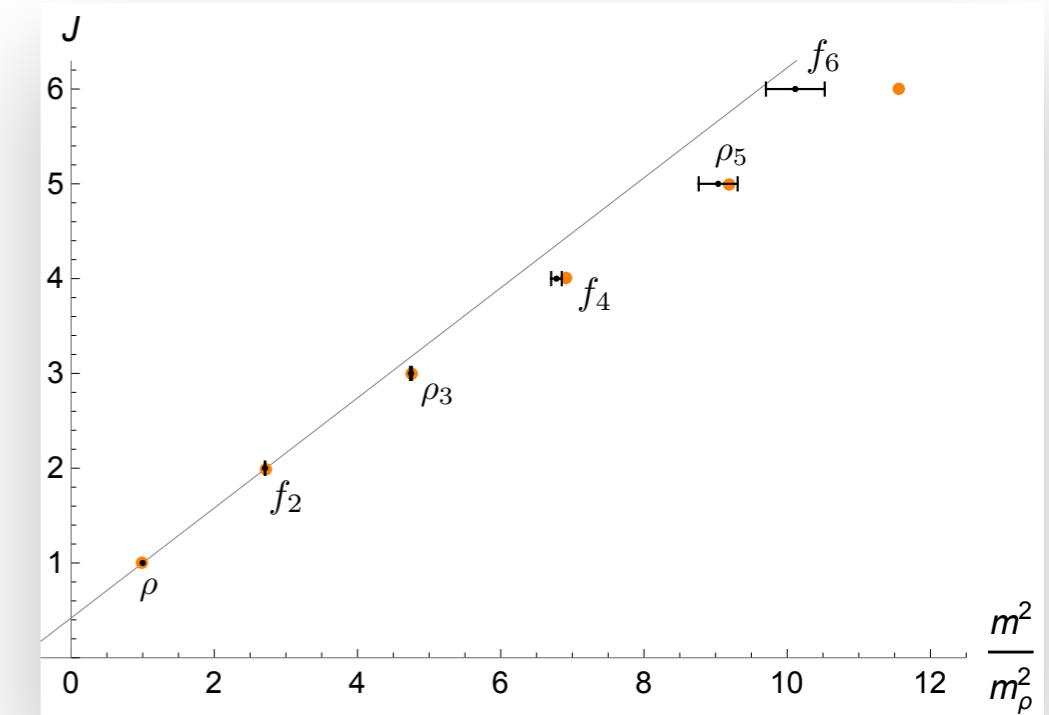
► pion polarizabilities

$$\kappa \sqrt{\frac{2F_\pi^2}{\mathcal{P}}}$$





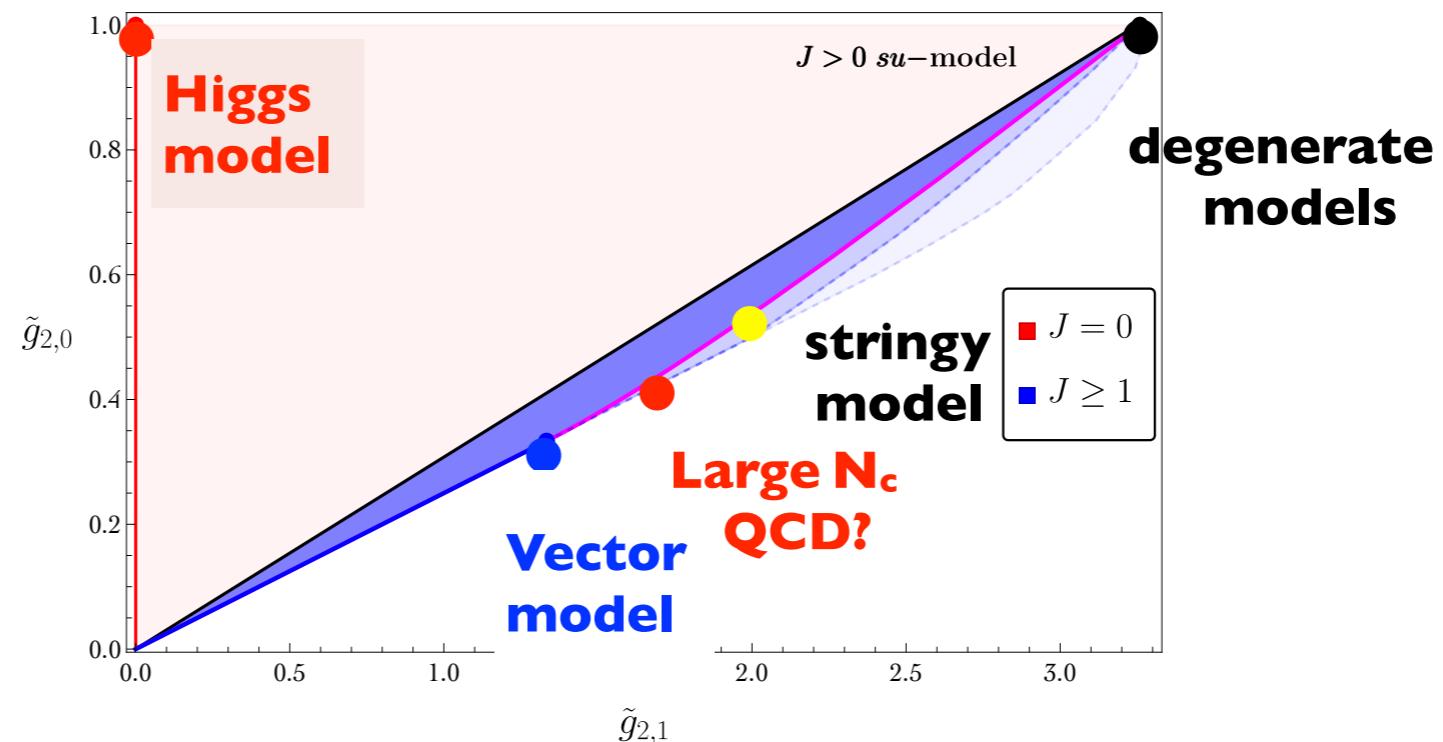
spin-1 coupling to pions



Conclusions

- **Crossing + Analyticity + Unitarity** allow to get information on possible **UV completions of theories of Goldstones**:

- Predicts a **“EFT-hedron”** structure



- Higher-spin ($J>1$) mesons are strongly constrained, giving a possible explanation for VMD & the success of holographic QCD
- **Axial anomaly** can discriminate between the possibilities

Bounded from above:

$$\frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{\mathcal{P}/F_\pi^2}} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

- **Gravitational anomaly?**

RESTRICTED AREA

**MONITORED
BY VIDEO
CAMERA**

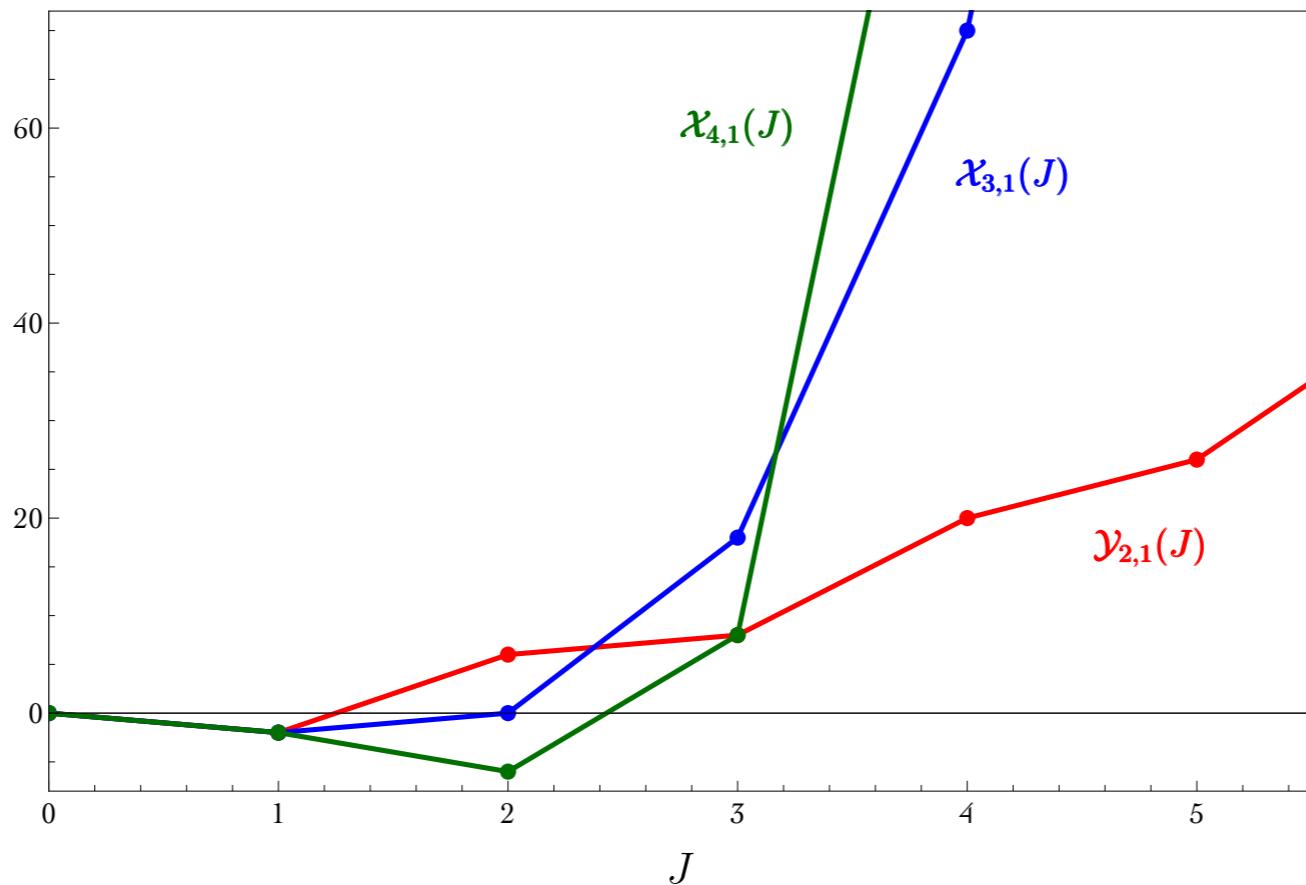


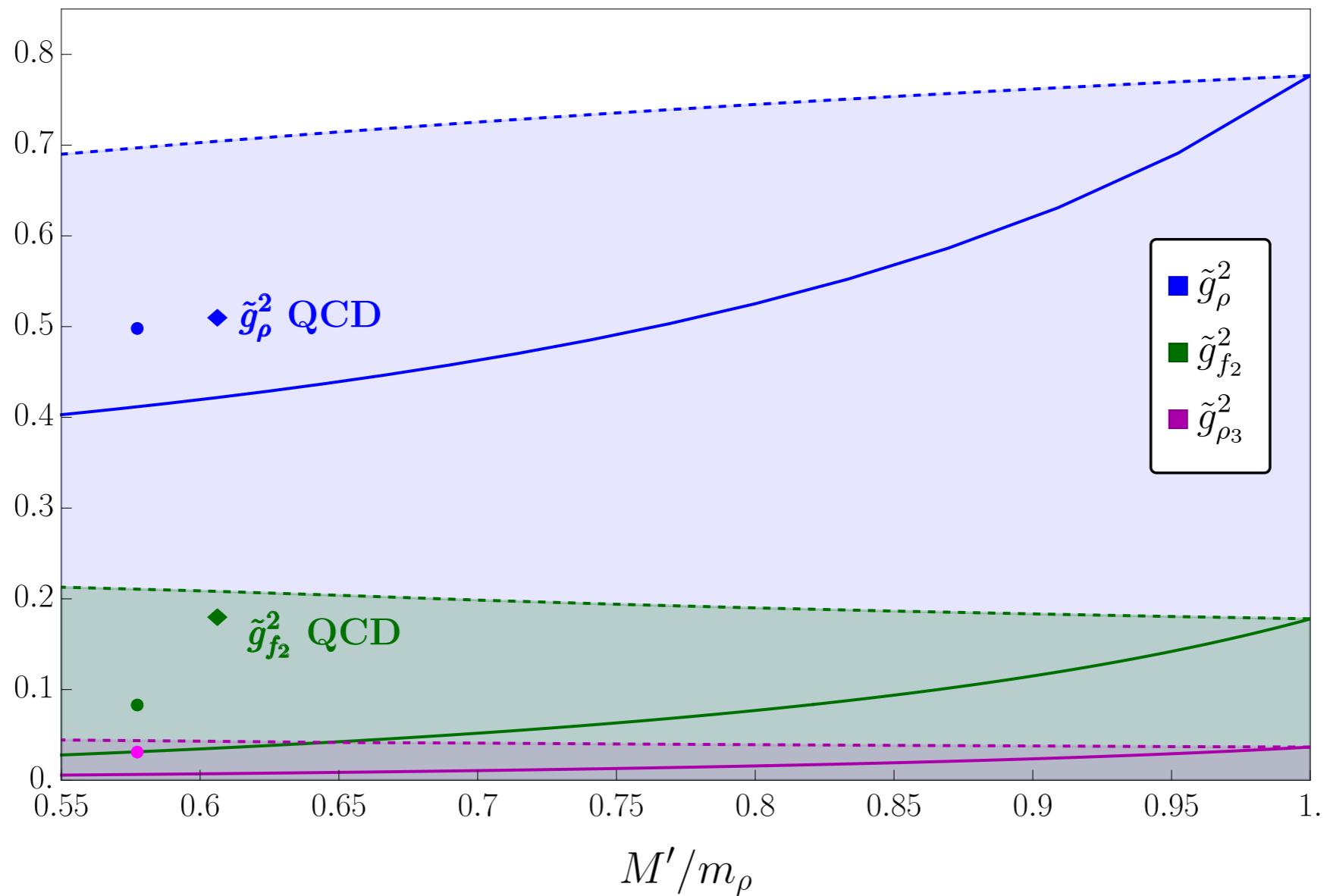
$$0 = \sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{2n}} \left(\frac{2^{n-1}}{(n-1)!^3} P_{J_i}^{(n-1)}(1) - \mathcal{J}_i^2 \right)$$

$$\mathcal{J}^2 \equiv J(J+1)$$



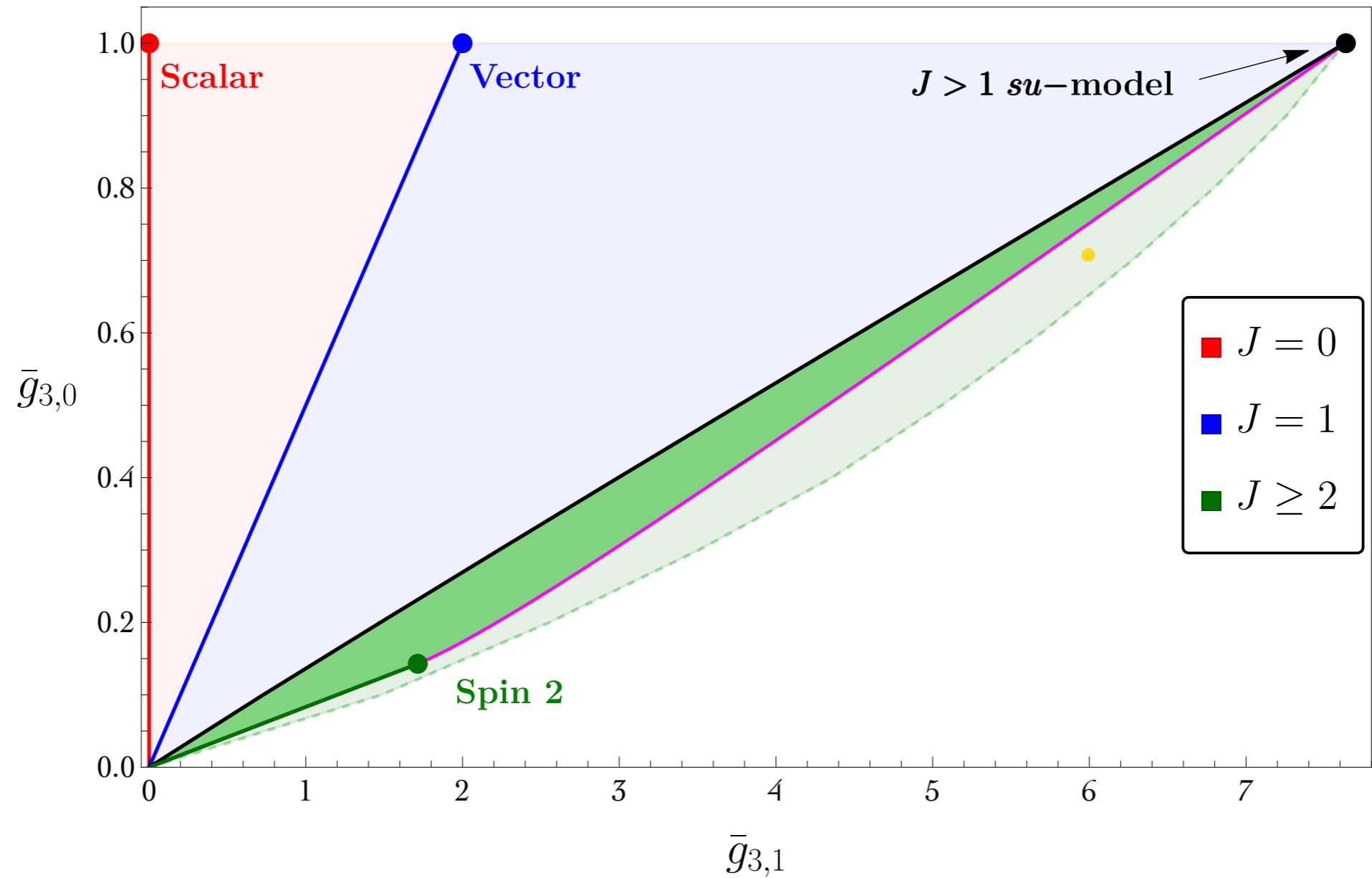
$$\mathcal{X}_{n,1}$$





Lets assume at $s \rightarrow \infty$ and either t or u fixed:

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)}{s^2} \rightarrow 0$$



C The su -models

Let us consider the most general theory of a degenerate spectrum that contributes to the four-pion amplitude $\mathcal{M}(s, u)$ [7, 8]. This means that all states have equal mass m , and therefore the denominator of this amplitude is fixed to be $\mathcal{M}(s, u) \propto 1/((s - m^2)(u - m^2))$. If we further demand that Eq. (6a) and Eq. (6b) are satisfied for $k_{\min} = 1$, we are led to

$$\mathcal{M}(s, u) = \frac{a_1 m^4 + a_2 m^2(s + u) + a_3 s u}{(s - m^2)(u - m^2)}, \quad (91)$$

where a_i are constants. The Adler's zero condition fixes $a_1 = 0$. Then, aside from a global multiplicative factor, the amplitude has only one free parameter. We can write it as

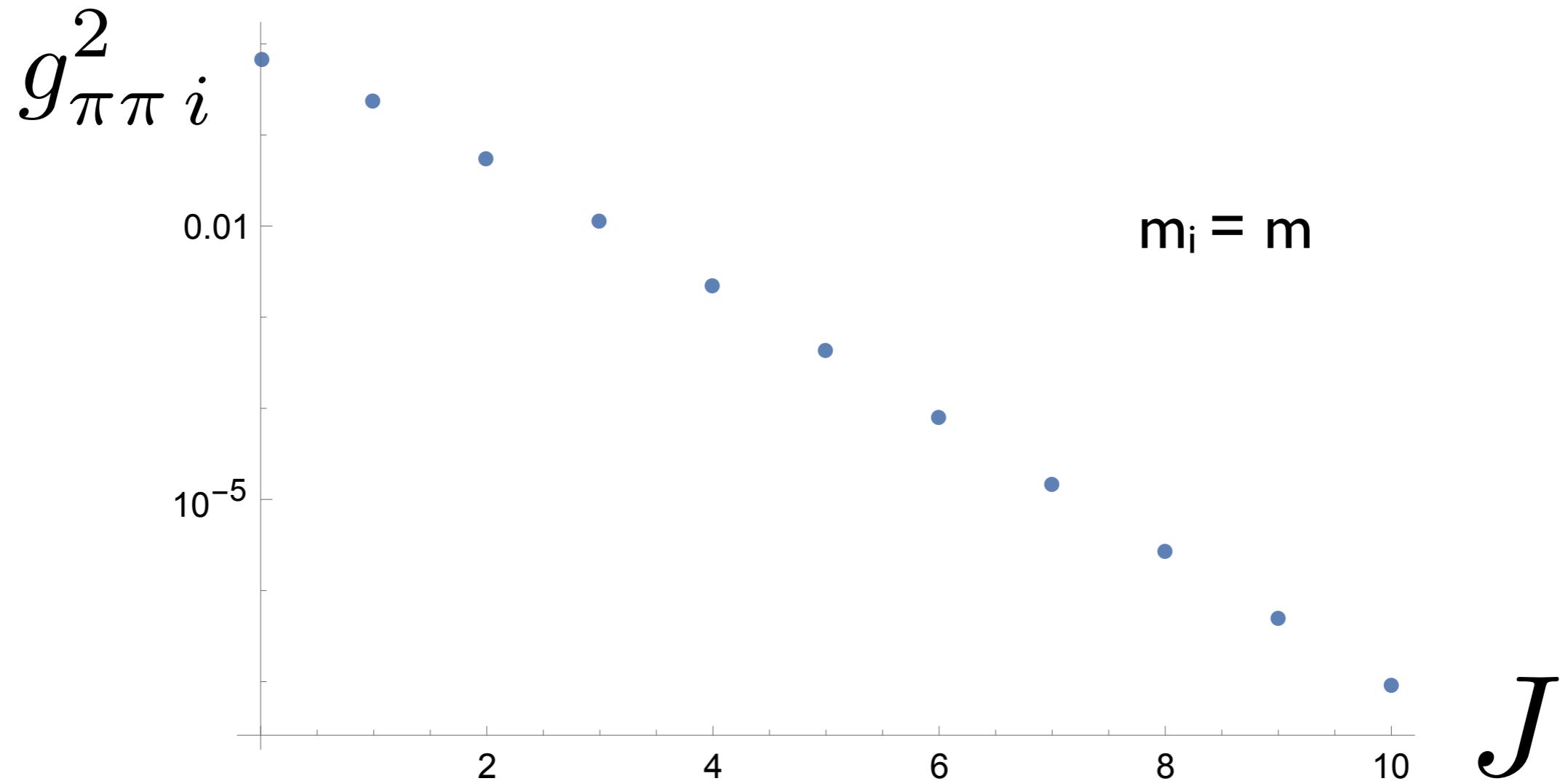
$$\mathcal{M}_1^{(su)}(s, u) = \frac{m^2(s + u) + \lambda s u}{(s - m^2)(u - m^2)}, \quad (92)$$

where the possible values of λ are determined by unitarity. Indeed, imposing the positivity of the residues of Eq. (92), we obtain

$$-2 \leq \lambda \leq \frac{2 \ln 2 - 1}{1 - \ln 2}. \quad (93)$$

In the limiting case $\lambda = -2$, the residues of all $J > 0$ states are zero, and we are left with the scalar amplitude Eq. (22). In the other limit,

$$\lambda = \frac{2 \ln 2 - 1}{1 - \ln 2} \simeq 1.26, \quad (94)$$



D The Lovelace-Shapiro amplitude

The Lovelace-Shapiro (LS) amplitude for the scattering of four pions is defined as [26, 27]

$$\mathcal{M}^{(\text{LS})}(s, u) = \frac{\Gamma(1 - \alpha(s))\Gamma(1 - \alpha(u))}{\Gamma(1 - \alpha(s) - \alpha(u))}, \quad (105)$$

where $\alpha(s) = \alpha_0 + \alpha's$ is referred as the Regge trajectory. We will fix the values of α_0 and α' by requiring that Eq. (106) satisfies the Adler zero condition, $\mathcal{M}^{(\text{LS})}(s, u) \rightarrow 0$ for $s, u \rightarrow 0$, and that the first pole of Eq. (106) occurs for $s = m_\rho^2$. These two conditions lead to $\alpha_0 = 1/2$ and $\alpha' = 1/(2m_\rho^2)$ [66] and then we can write

$$\mathcal{M}^{(\text{LS})}(s, u) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{s}{2m_\rho^2}\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{u}{2m_\rho^2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{t}{2m_\rho^2}\right)}. \quad (106)$$

By looking at the poles of Eq. (106), one can see that the LS amplitude corresponds to a theory of higher-spin states with masses

$$m_n^2 = m_\rho^2(2n + 1), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots. \quad (107)$$

For a given n , there are at most $n+1$ states with spin $J = 0, 1, \dots, n+1$. Furthermore, Eq. (106) satisfies the condition Eq. (6a) and Eq. (6b) with $k_{\min} = 1$.

E The Coon amplitude

The Lovelace-Shapiro amplitude presented in Appendix D can be generalized to a larger class of amplitudes depending on an additional parameter q . This is the so-called Coon amplitude, which was first proposed in [28]¹¹:

$$\mathcal{M}_q(s, u) = C(\sigma, \tau, q) \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - q^{n+1})(\sigma\tau - q^{n+1})}{(\sigma - q^{n+1})(\tau - q^{n+1})} , \quad (118)$$

where $\sigma = 1 + (q - 1)(\alpha_0 + \alpha's)$ and $\tau = 1 + (q - 1)(\alpha_0 + \alpha'u)$. As explained in Appendix D, we take $\alpha_0 = 1/2$ and $\alpha' = 1/(2m_\rho^2)$. The parameter q takes values between 0 and 1, and in the limit $q \rightarrow 1$ we recover the LS amplitude Eq. (106). There is some freedom in the choice of the prefactor C , as long as it satisfies $\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} C(\sigma, \tau, q) = 1$.

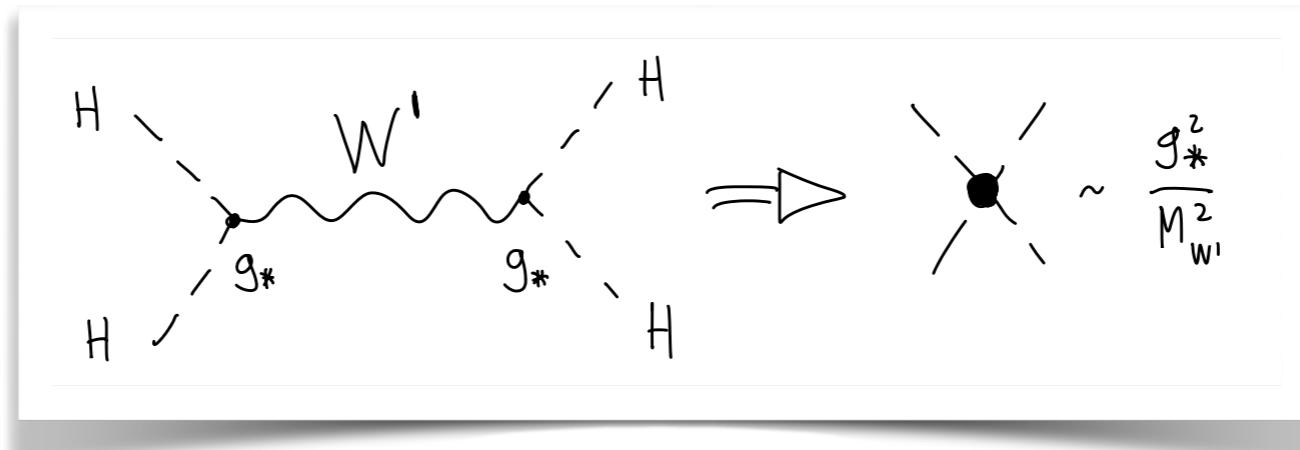
The Coon amplitude has an infinite number of simple poles at

$$s_n = m_\rho^2 \frac{1 + q - 2q^{n+1}}{1 - q} , \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots . \quad (119)$$

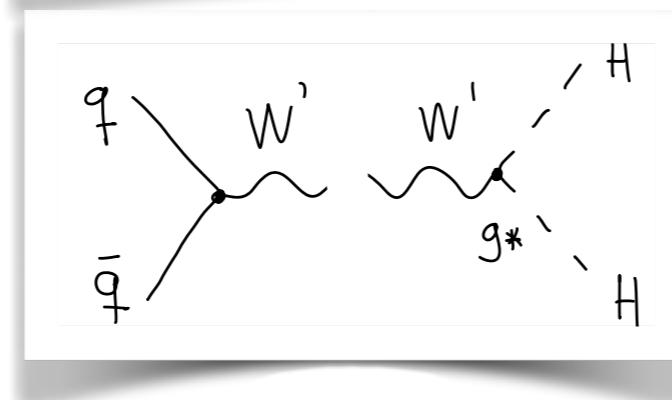
Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

Higgs as a Pseudo-Goldstone boson:

Indirect probes:



Direct probes:

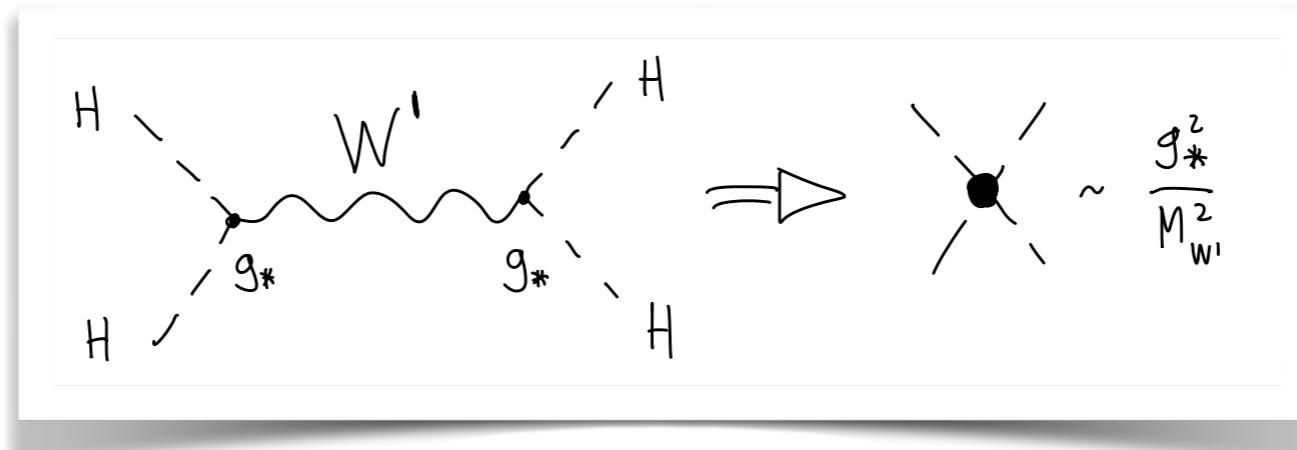


deviations in
Higgs coupling

Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

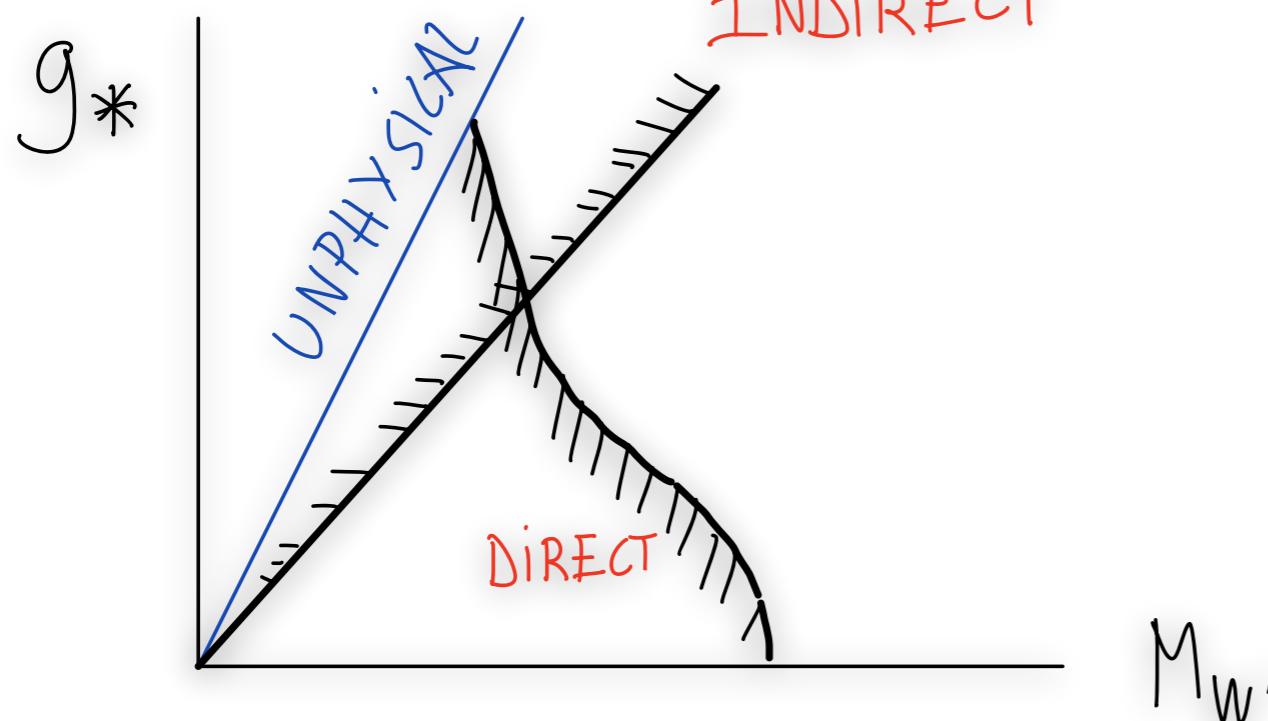
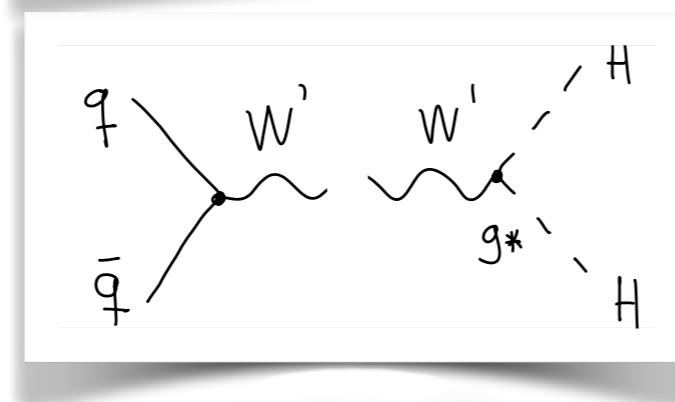
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deviations in
Higgs coupling

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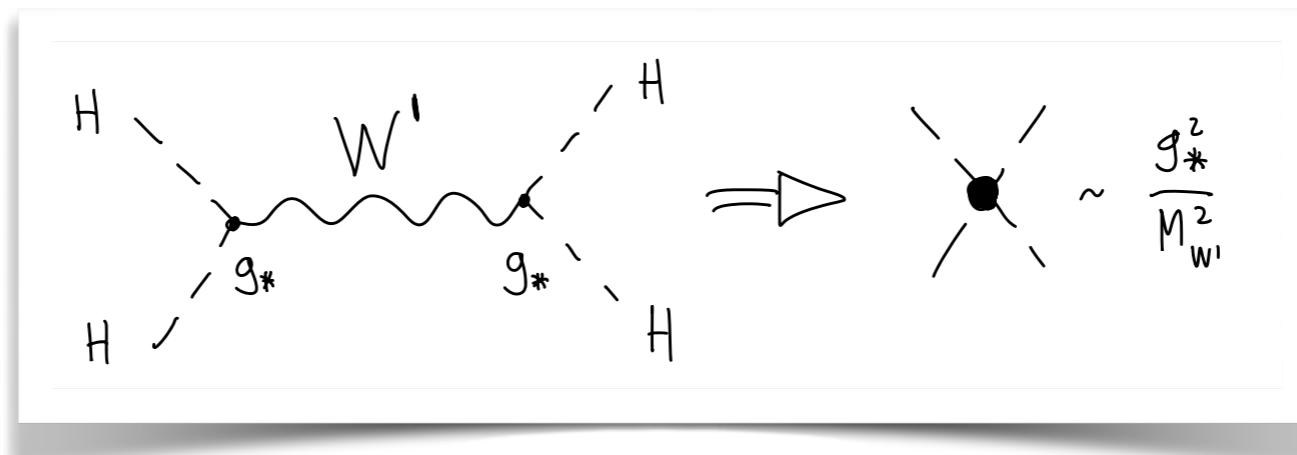


e.g. 1502.01701 [hep-th]

Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

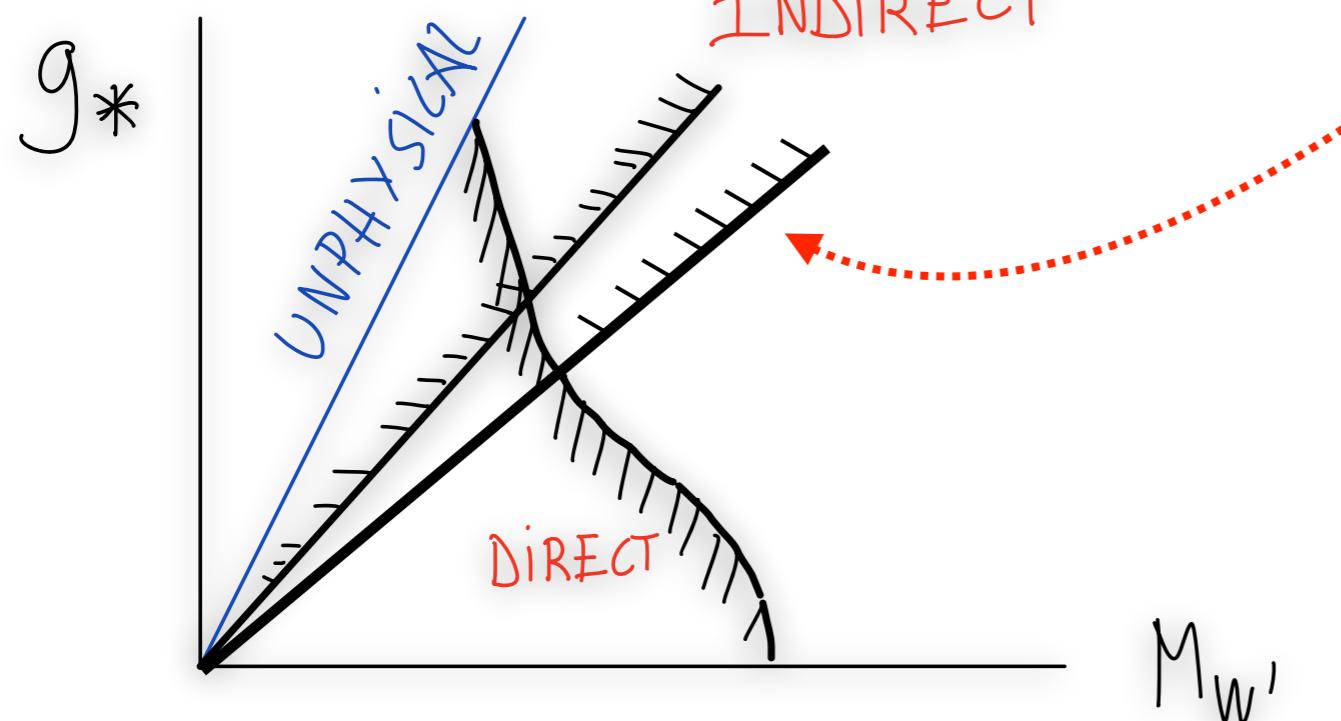
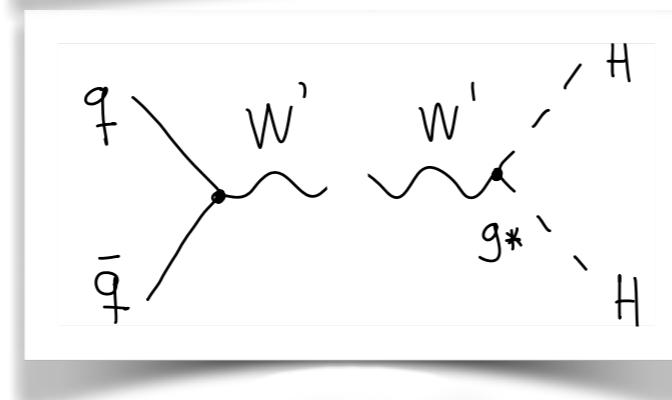
Higgs as a Pseudo-Goldstone boson:

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J>1 must at least contribute a 23% to the Wilson coeff.

e.g. 1502.01701 [hep-th]