

Snowmass 2021 mini-workshop  
CLFV - Tau Decays and Transitions  
July 23 2020

# Theory overview: CLFV at the $\tau$ scale

Vincenzo Cirigliano  
Los Alamos National Laboratory



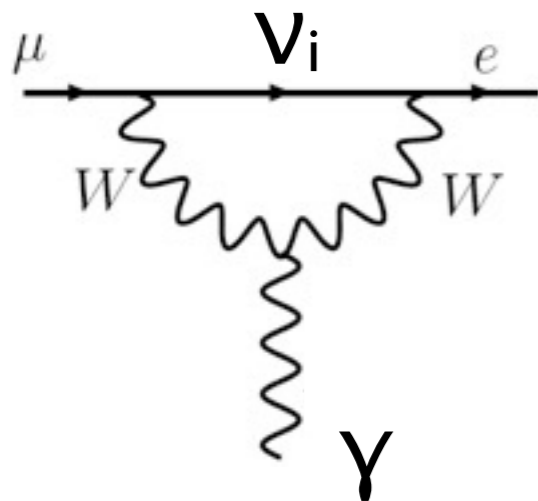
# Outline

- Introduction: LFV, BSM physics & the role of tau decays
- EFT description of LFV tau decays:
  - discovery potential & model-diagnosing power
  - LFV couplings of the Higgs
- Conclusion and outlook

# Introduction: LFV and BSM physics

# Charged LFV and BSM physics

- $\nu$  oscillations  $\Rightarrow L_{e,\mu,\tau}$  not conserved
- In SM + massive  $\nu$ , effective CLFV vertices are tiny (GIM)



$$Br(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) = \frac{3\alpha}{32\pi} \left| \sum_{i=2,3} U_{\mu i}^* U_{ei} \frac{\Delta m_{1i}^2}{M_W^2} \right|^2 < 10^{-54}$$

Petcov '77, Marciano-Sanda '77 ...

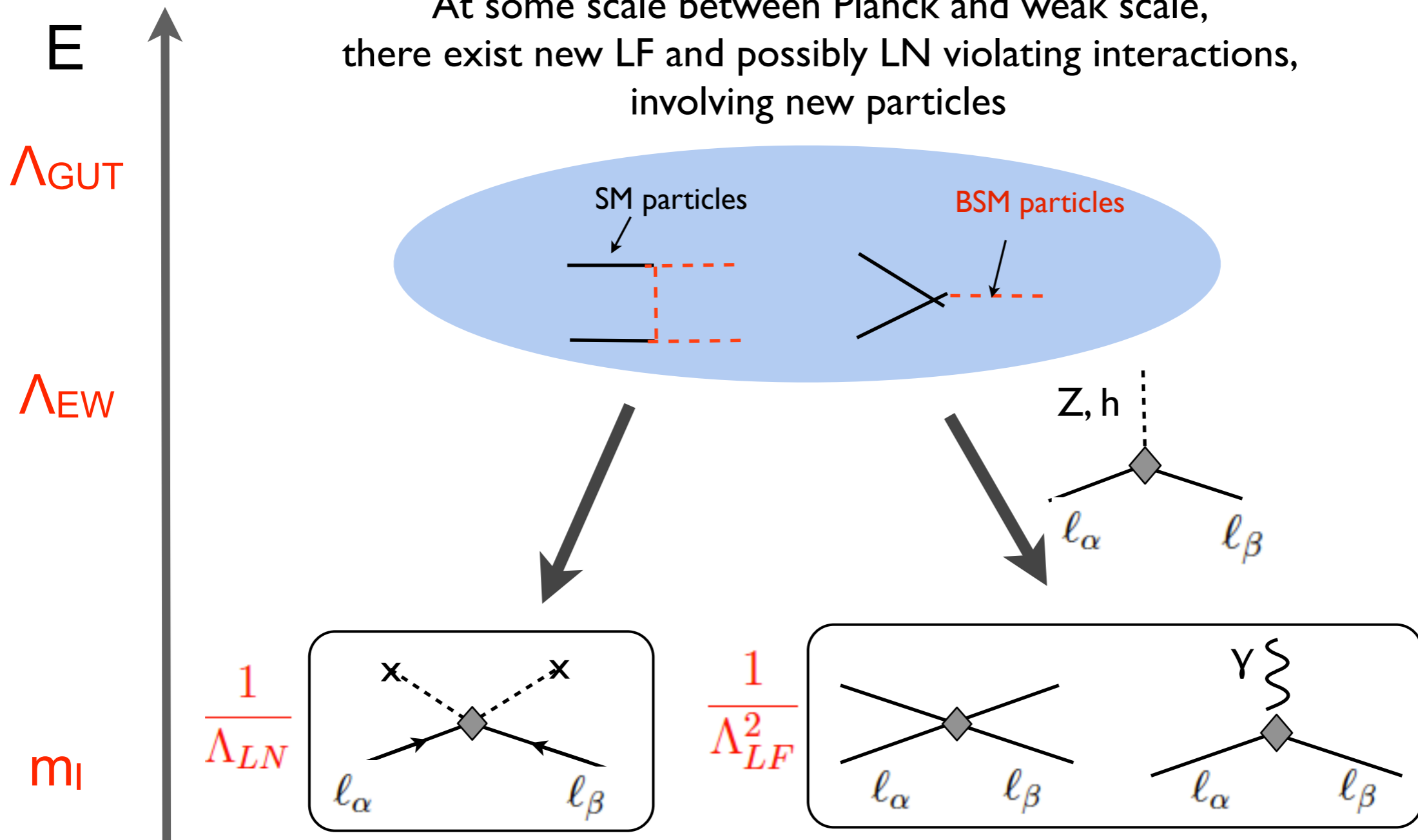
- CLFV processes are an extremely clean probe of “BvSM” physics

$$\mathcal{L}_{\nu\text{SM}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{L}_{\nu\text{-mass}}$$

← dim-4 Dirac or  
dim5 Majorana

# The underlying picture

At some scale between Planck and weak scale, there exist new LF and possibly LN violating interactions, involving new particles



Each scenario generates a specific pattern of operators, controlling  $\nu$  mass (dim5), LFV processes (dim6), LNV processes (dim7,9)

We can probe the underlying physics through a combination of low-energy and collider searches

# CLFV probes

- **Low energy:** decays of  $\mu$ ,  $\tau$ , and mesons

$$\mu \rightarrow e\gamma, \quad \mu \rightarrow e\bar{e}e, \quad \mu(A, Z) \rightarrow e(A, Z)$$

$$\tau \rightarrow l\gamma, \quad \tau \rightarrow l_{\alpha}\bar{l}_{\beta}l_{\beta}, \quad \tau \rightarrow lY \quad Y = P, S, V, P\bar{P}, \dots$$

$K \rightarrow \pi\mu e$ ;  $B \rightarrow K\mu\tau, K\mu e$ ;  $B_s \rightarrow \mu\tau, \mu e$ , quarkonia, ... (not discussed in this talk)

- **High Energy:**

LHC

$$pp \rightarrow R \rightarrow l_{\alpha}\bar{l}_{\beta} + X \quad R = Z', h, \tilde{\nu}, \dots$$

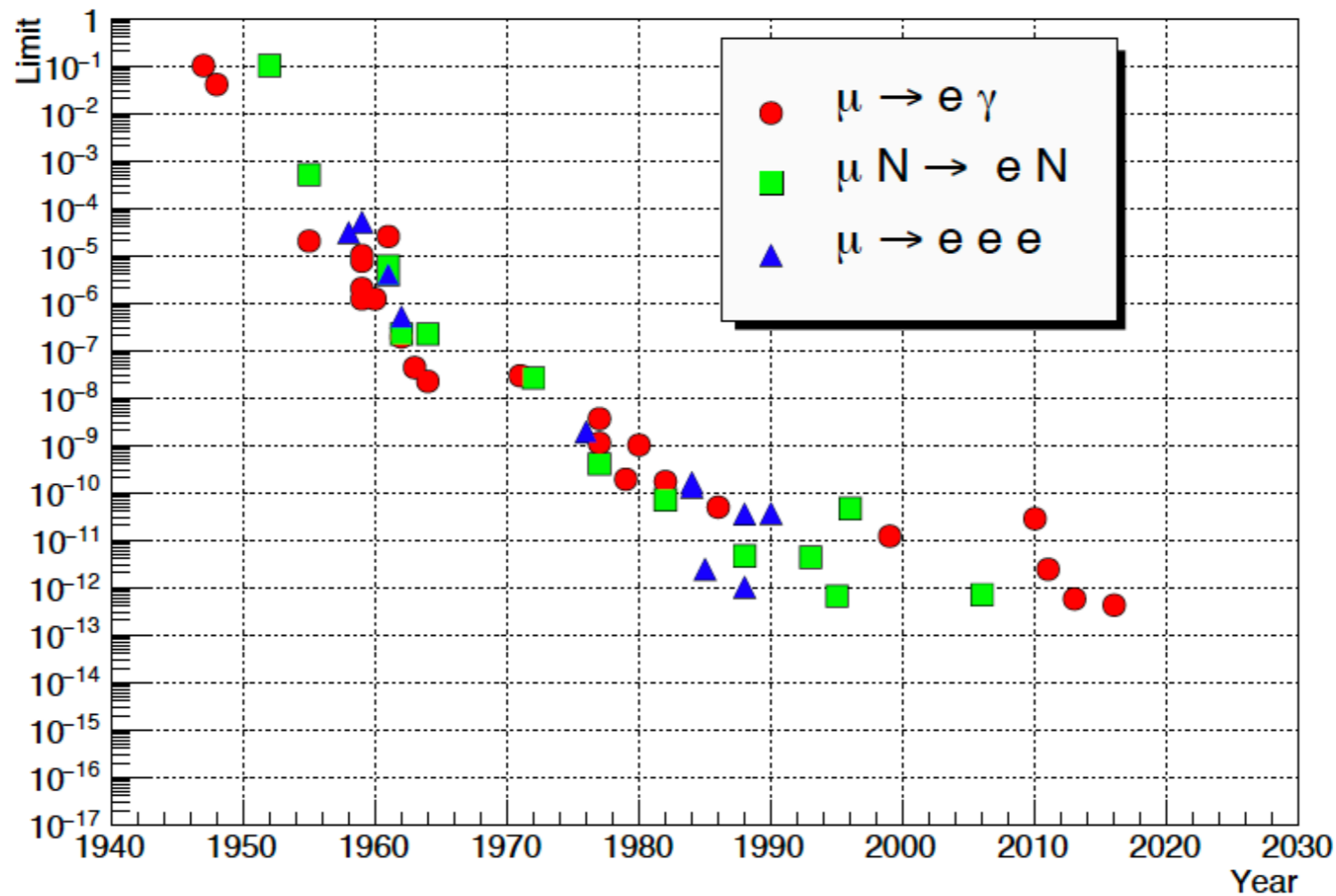
$$pp \rightarrow l_{\alpha}\bar{l}_{\beta} + X$$

HERA,  
EIC

$$ep \rightarrow l + X$$

# Muon processes

$$\mu \rightarrow e\gamma, \quad \mu \rightarrow e\bar{e}e, \quad \mu(A, Z) \rightarrow e(A, Z)$$



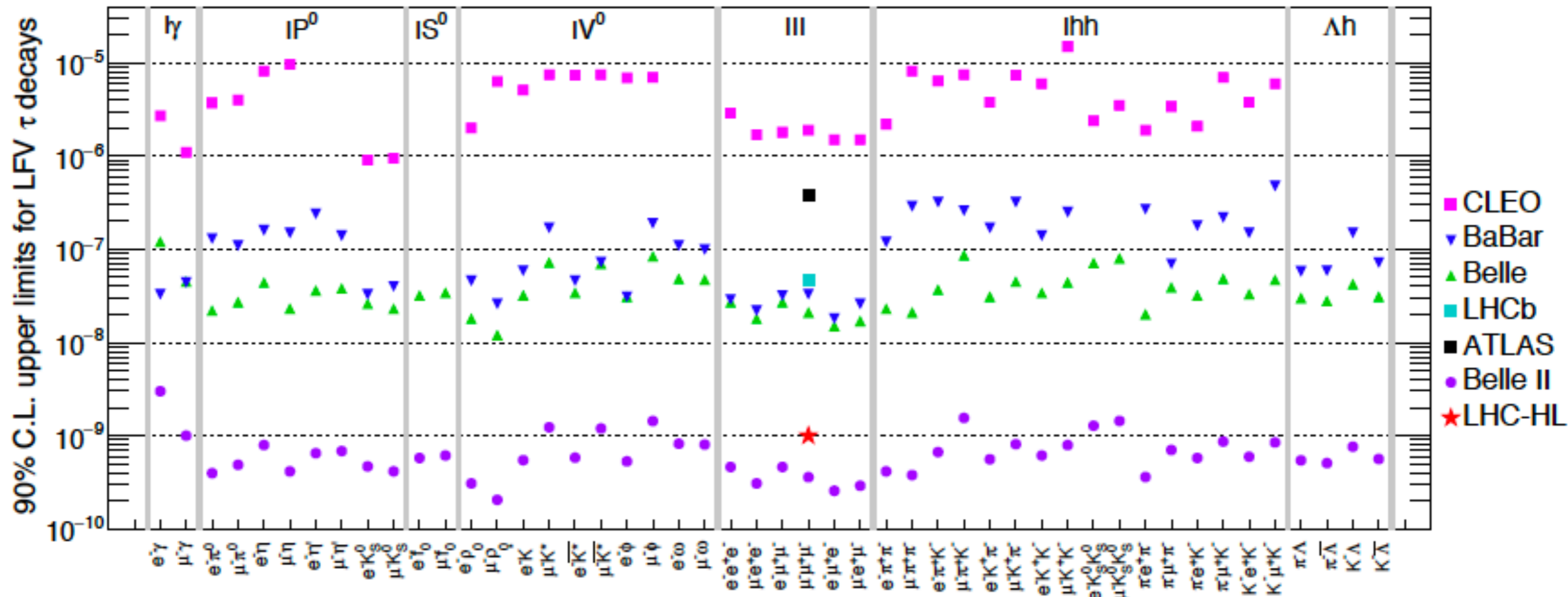
Calibbi-Signorelli  
I 709.00294

$B_{\mu \rightarrow e\gamma}$	$< 4.2 \times 10^{-13}$	$\longrightarrow$	$10^{-14}$ (MEG at PSI)
$B_{\mu \rightarrow 3e}$	$< 1.0 \times 10^{-12}$	$\longrightarrow$	$10^{-15/16}$ (PSI)
$B_{\mu \rightarrow e}^{Ti}$	$< 4.3 \times 10^{-12}$	$\longrightarrow$	$10^{-16/17 \rightarrow -18}$ (Mu2e, COMET)

# Tau decays

$$\tau \rightarrow l\gamma, \quad \tau \rightarrow l_\alpha \bar{l}_\beta l_\beta, \quad \tau \rightarrow lY \quad Y = P, S, V, P\bar{P}, \dots$$

HFLAG-tau → Belle-II Physics Book I808.I0567 ; Flavor @ HL/HE LHC I9I2.07638



Rich(er) landscape! Access to hadronic modes.

$10^{-9}$  (or better) sensitivities at Belle-II, LHC-HL, and other future facilities



# Discovering & diagnosing

- Redundancy of searches is very important as various probes serve as:
- **Discovery tools** (observation  $\Rightarrow$  BSM physics)
- **Diagnosing tools** (correlations  $\Rightarrow$  reconstruct the underlying dynamics)

- What type of “mediator”? (structure of model)

$\mu \rightarrow 3e$  vs  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  vs  $\mu \rightarrow e$  conversion

$\tau \rightarrow 3l$  vs  $\tau \rightarrow l\gamma$  vs  $\tau \rightarrow (e,\mu) + \text{had.}$  vs  $h \rightarrow \tau(e,\mu)$

- What sources of flavor breaking?

$\mu \rightarrow e$  vs  $\tau \rightarrow \mu$  vs  $\tau \rightarrow e$

# Discovering & diagnosing

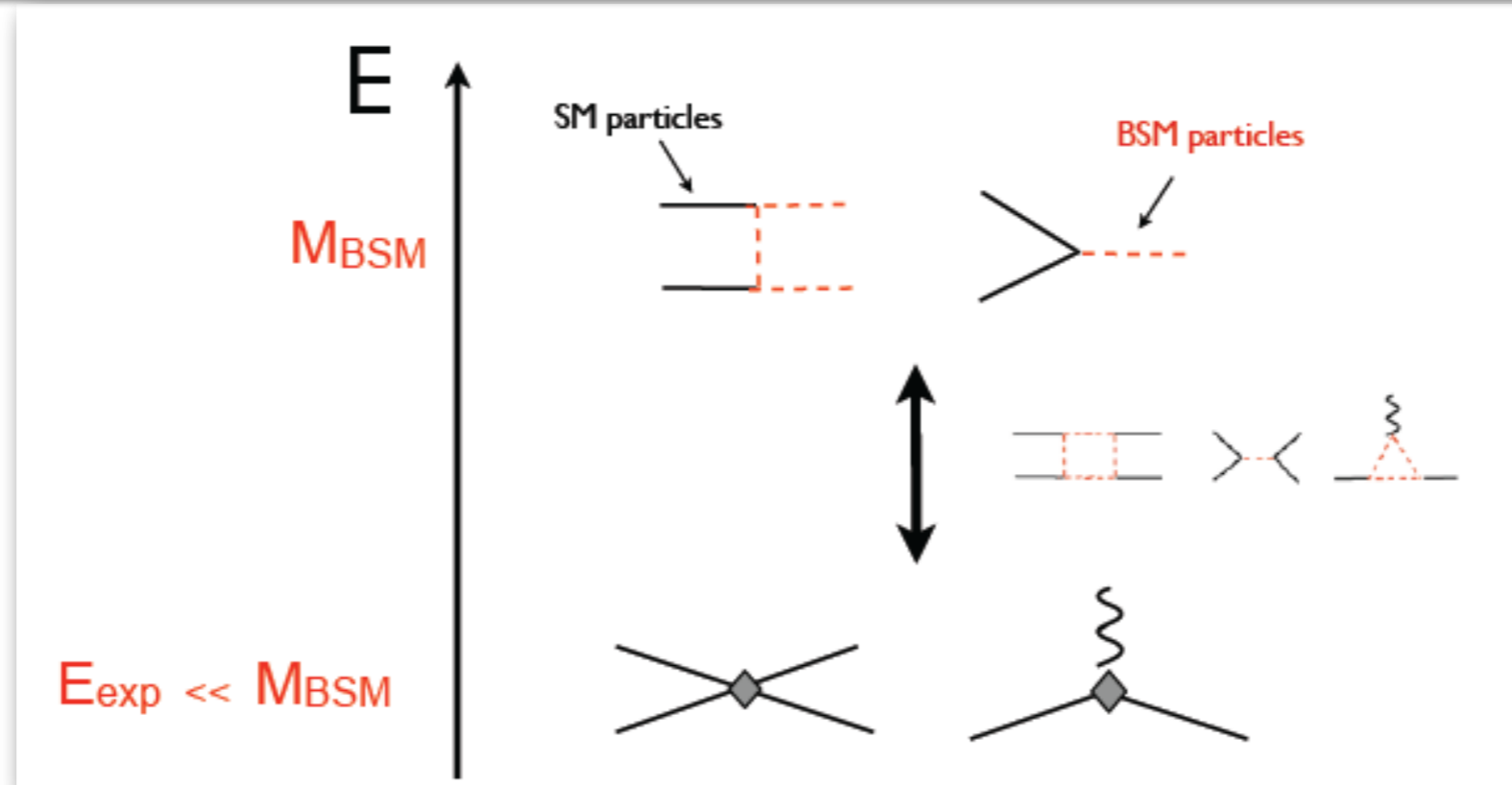
- Redundancy of searches is very important as various probes serve as:
- **Discovery tools** (observation  $\Rightarrow$  BSM physics)
- **Diagnosing tools** (correlations  $\Rightarrow$  reconstruct the underlying dynamics)
- Two (not mutually exclusive) approaches:
  1. Concrete models: predict BRs and correlations
  2. EFT: characterize signatures of classes of models (less detailed)

I will discuss  $\tau$  decays mostly within approach 2.

Vast literature  $\rightarrow$  omissions unavoidable, but not intentional

# LFV tau decays in EFT

# Low E phenomenology: EFT



- At low energy, LFV dynamics described by local operators

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \frac{C^{(5)}}{\Lambda} O^{(5)} + \sum_i \frac{C_i^{(6)}}{\Lambda^2} O_i^{(6)} + \dots$$

$$\Lambda \leftrightarrow M_{\text{BSM}}$$

$$C_i [g_{\text{BSM}}, M_a/M_b]$$

Weinberg '79

...  
Buchmüller-Wyler '86

...  
Grzadkowski et al  
1008.4884

...

- Each UV model generates a specific pattern of LFV operators

# Rich structure at dimension six

- Effective Lagrangian at the tau scale, induced by dim-6 at high scale

$$\mathcal{L}_{eff} = \mathcal{L}_{eff}^{(D)} + \mathcal{L}_{eff}^{(4\ell)} + \mathcal{L}_{eff}^{(\ell q)} + \mathcal{L}_{eff}^{(G)}$$

Black-Han-He-Sher  
hep-ph/0206056

Dassinger et al,  
0707.0988

Matsuzuki-Sanda  
0711.0792

Celis-VC-Passemar  
1403.5781

...

$$\mathcal{L}_{eff}^{(D)} = -\frac{m_\tau}{\Lambda^2} \left\{ (C_{DR} \bar{\mu} \sigma^{\rho\nu} P_L \tau + C_{DL} \bar{\mu} \sigma^{\rho\nu} P_R \tau) F_{\rho\nu} + \text{h.c.} \right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{eff}^{(4\ell)} = & -\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \left\{ C_{SLL} (\bar{\mu} P_L \tau) (\bar{\mu} P_L \mu) + C_{SRR} (\bar{\mu} P_R \tau) (\bar{\mu} P_R \mu) \right. \\ & + C_{VLL} (\bar{\mu} \gamma^\mu P_L \tau) (\bar{\mu} \gamma_\mu P_L \mu) + C_{VRR} (\bar{\mu} \gamma^\mu P_R \tau) (\bar{\mu} \gamma_\mu P_R \mu) \\ & \left. + C_{VLR} (\bar{\mu} \gamma^\mu P_L \tau) (\bar{\mu} \gamma_\mu P_R \mu) + C_{VRL} (\bar{\mu} \gamma^\mu P_R \tau) (\bar{\mu} \gamma_\mu P_L \mu) + \text{h.c.} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{eff}^{(\ell q)} = & -\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \sum_{q=u,d,s} \left\{ (C_{VR}^q \bar{\mu} \gamma^\rho P_R \tau + C_{VL}^q \bar{\mu} \gamma^\rho P_L \tau) \bar{q} \gamma_\rho q \right. \\ & + (C_{AR}^q \bar{\mu} \gamma^\rho P_R \tau + C_{AL}^q \bar{\mu} \gamma^\rho P_L \tau) \bar{q} \gamma_\rho \gamma_5 q \\ & + m_\tau m_q G_F (C_{SR}^q \bar{\mu} P_L \tau + C_{SL}^q \bar{\mu} P_R \tau) \bar{q} q \\ & + m_\tau m_q G_F (C_{PR}^q \bar{\mu} P_L \tau + C_{PL}^q \bar{\mu} P_R \tau) \bar{q} \gamma_5 q \\ & \left. + m_\tau m_q G_F (C_{TR}^q \bar{\mu} \sigma^{\rho\nu} P_L \tau + C_{TL}^q \bar{\mu} \sigma^{\rho\nu} P_R \tau) \bar{q} \sigma_{\rho\nu} q + \text{h.c.} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{eff}^{(G)} = & -\frac{m_\tau G_F \beta_L}{\Lambda^2 4\alpha_s} \left\{ (C_{GR} \bar{\mu} P_L \tau + C_{GL} \bar{\mu} P_R \tau) G_{\rho\nu}^a G_a^{\rho\nu} \right. \\ & \left. + (C_{\tilde{G}R} \bar{\mu} P_L \tau + C_{\tilde{G}L} \bar{\mu} P_R \tau) G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}_a^{\mu\nu} + \text{h.c.} \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

Black-Han-He-Sher  
hep-ph/0206056

Dassinger et al,  
0707.0988

Matsuzuki-Sanda  
0711.0792

Celis-VC-Passemar  
1403.5781

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1403.5781

...

Connection with high scale EFT (SMEFT) known

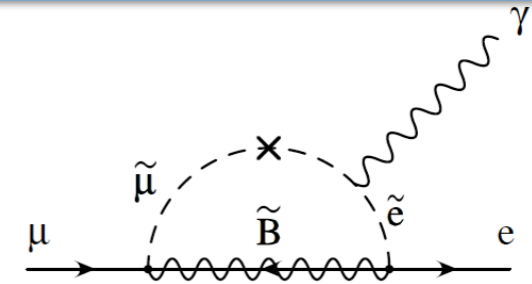
... Crivellin-Davidson-Pruna-Signer 1702.03020 ... Dekens-Stoffer 1908.05295

# UV origin of various operators

- Dipole

$$\frac{v_{ew} [\alpha_D]^{ij}}{\Lambda^2} \bar{e}^i \sigma_{\mu\nu} P_{L,R} e^j F^{\mu\nu}$$

Dominant in SUSY-GUT and  
SUSY see-saw scenarios



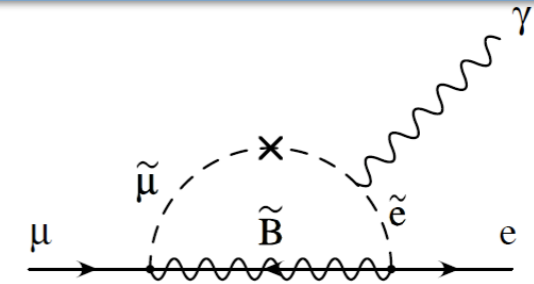


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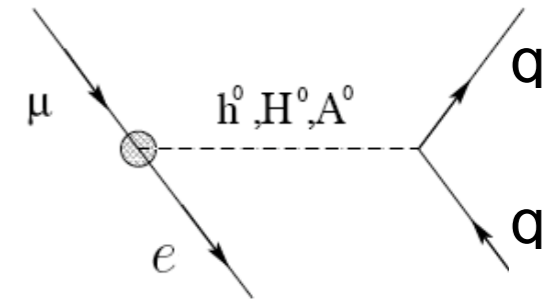
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- Scalar  
(Pseudo-scalar)

$$\frac{[\alpha_S]^{ij}}{\Lambda^2} \bar{e}^i P_{L,R} e^j \bar{q}q$$

Relevant in RPV SUSY and RPC SUSY for  
large  $\tan(\beta)$  and low  $m_A$ , leptoquarks

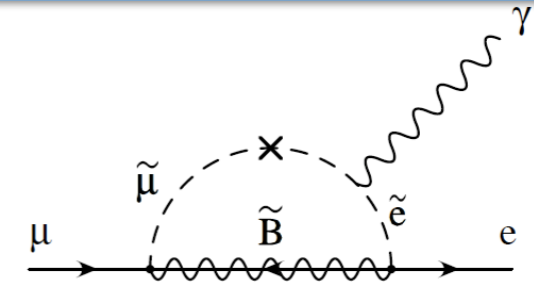


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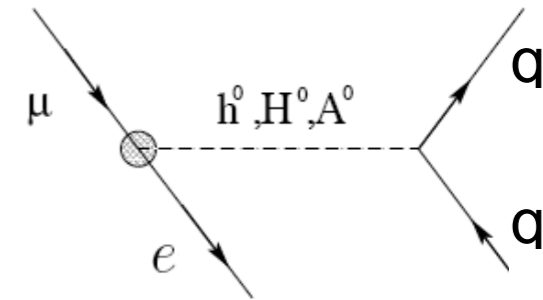
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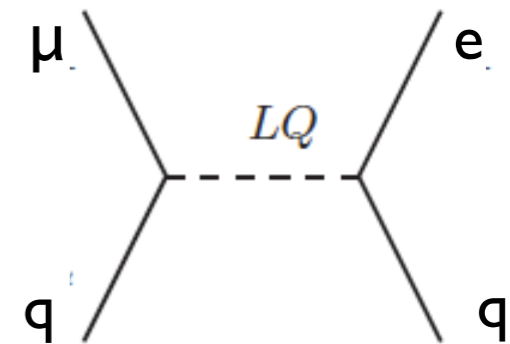
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- Vector  
(Axial-vector)

$$\frac{[\alpha_V]^{ij}}{\Lambda^2} \bar{e}^i \gamma_\mu P_{L,R} e^j \bar{q} \gamma^\mu q$$

Enhanced in Type III seesaw (Z), Type II seesaw, LRSM, leptoquarks

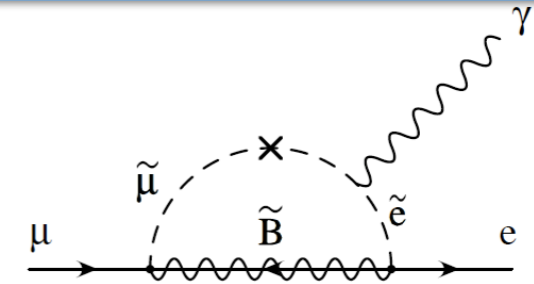


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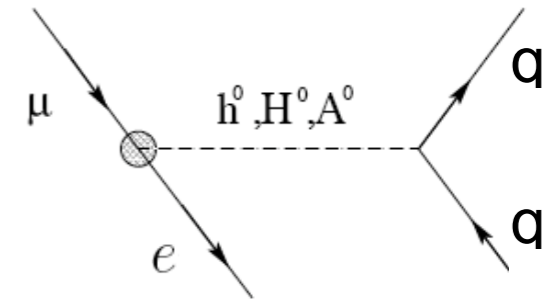
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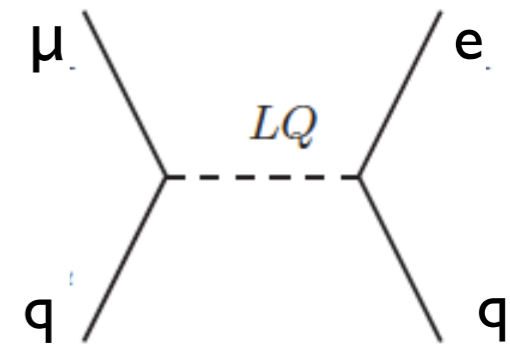
Relevant in RPV SUSY and RPC SUSY for large  $\tan(\beta)$  and low  $m_A$ , leptoquarks



- Vector  
(Axial-vector)

$$\frac{[\alpha_V]^{ij}}{\Lambda^2} \bar{e}^i \gamma_\mu P_{L,R} e^j \bar{q} \gamma^\mu q$$

Enhanced in Type III seesaw (Z), Type II seesaw, LRSM, leptoquarks

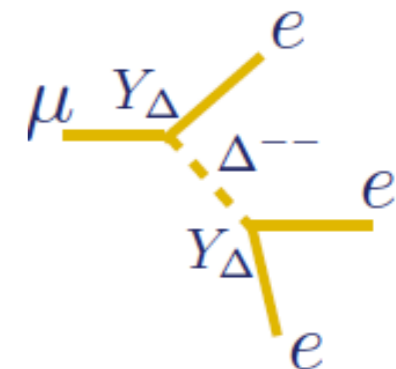


- 4 Leptons, ...

$$\Gamma = 1, \gamma_\mu$$

$$\frac{[\alpha_\Gamma^{4L}]^{ij}}{\Lambda^2} \bar{e}^i \Gamma P_{L,R} e^j \bar{e}^k \Gamma P_{L,R} e^k$$

Type II seesaw, RPV SUSY, LRSM



# What can we extract from data?

- ◆ What effective scale  $\Lambda$  are experiments probing?
- ◆ If LFV decays observed, what is the relative strength of various operators ( $\alpha_D$  vs  $\alpha_s$  ...)? → **Mediators, mechanism**
- ◆ If LFV decays observed, what is the flavor structure of the couplings ( $[\alpha_D]^{e\mu}$  vs  $[\alpha_D]^{\tau\mu}$ ...)? → **Sources of flavor breaking**



(Only briefly discussed in this talk)

# Reach in $\Lambda$

- LFV BRs scale as

$$\text{BR}_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta} \sim (v_{EW}/\Lambda)^4 * (\alpha_n)_{\alpha\beta}^2$$

- Current limits on  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  and  $\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma$  imply

$$\Lambda/\sqrt{[\alpha_D]^{\mu e}} > 3.4 \times 10^4 \text{ TeV}$$

$$\Lambda/\sqrt{[\alpha_D]^{\tau\mu}} > 5.7 \times 10^2 \text{ TeV}$$



LFV signals in lepton decays are within reach of planned searches, if new physics near TeV scale and reasonable mixing parameters.

Ask what can we learn about the underlying dynamics

# Diagnosing power: the $\tau$ LFV matrix

	$\tau \rightarrow 3\mu$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^+\pi^-$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu K\bar{K}$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu\eta^{(\prime)}$	...
$O_{S,V}^{4l}$	✓	—	—	—	—	—	
$O_D$	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	
$O_V^q$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	
$O_S^q$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	
$O_{GG}$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	
$O_A^q$	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	
$O_P^q$	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	
$O_{G\tilde{G}}$	—	—	—	—	—	✓	

... Tree-level contributions to  $\tau \rightarrow \mu$  processes from low-scale operators Celis-VC-Passemar  
1403.5781

↑  
Low-scale  
operators

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$O_{S,V}^{4l}$	✓	—	—	—	—	—	
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$O_V^q$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	
$O_S^q$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	
$O_{GG}$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	
$O_A^q$	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	
$O_P^q$	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	
$O_{G\tilde{G}}$	—	—	—	—	—	✓	

... Tree-level contributions to  $\tau \rightarrow \mu$  processes from low-scale operators Celis-VC-Passemar  
1403.5781

- While there may be experimental ‘golden modes’ ( $\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma$ ,  $\tau \rightarrow 3\mu$ , ?), the notion of ‘best probe’ (= process with largest rate) is model dependent

# Diagnosing power: the $\tau$ LFV matrix

	$\tau \rightarrow 3\mu$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^+\pi^-$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu K\bar{K}$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi$	$\tau \rightarrow \mu\eta^{(\prime)}$
$O_{S,V}^{4l}$	✓	—	—	—	—	—
$O_D$	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—
$O_V^q$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—
$O_S^q$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—
$O_{GG}$	—	—	✓	✓	—	—
$O_A^q$	—	—	—	—	✓	✓
$O_P^q$	—	—	—	—	✓	✓
$O_{G\tilde{G}}$	—	—	—	—	—	✓

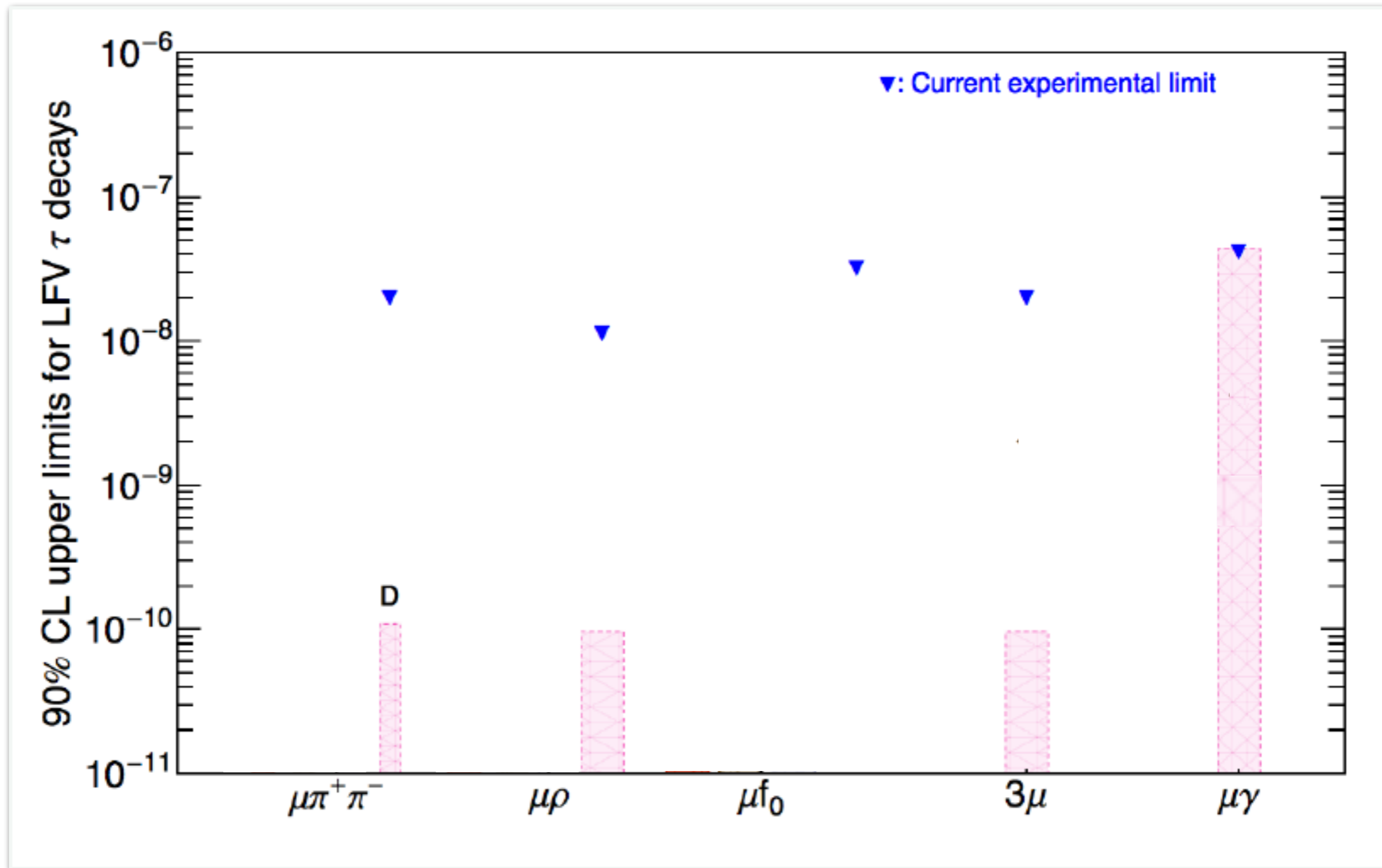
Tree-level contributions to  $\tau \rightarrow \mu$  processes from low-scale operators

- **There is life beyond leptonic and radiative decays!**
- Hadronic decays sensitive to large number of operators, but need reliable form factors and decay constants
- Progress in  $\tau \rightarrow \mu(e)\pi\pi$  using dispersive techniques

Daub et al I212.4408  
Celis-VC-Passemar  
I309.3564

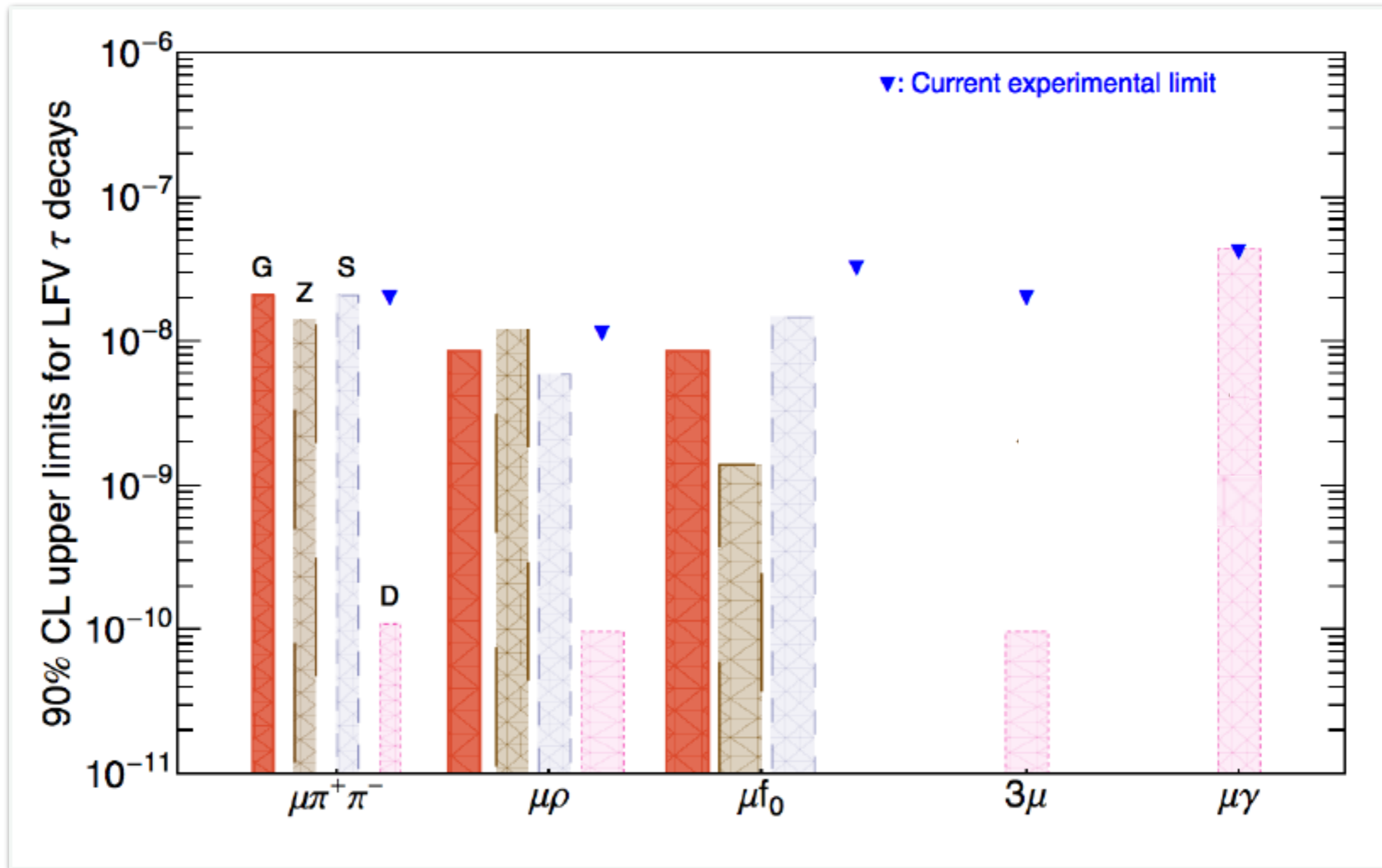


- Two basic handles: I) Pattern of BRs



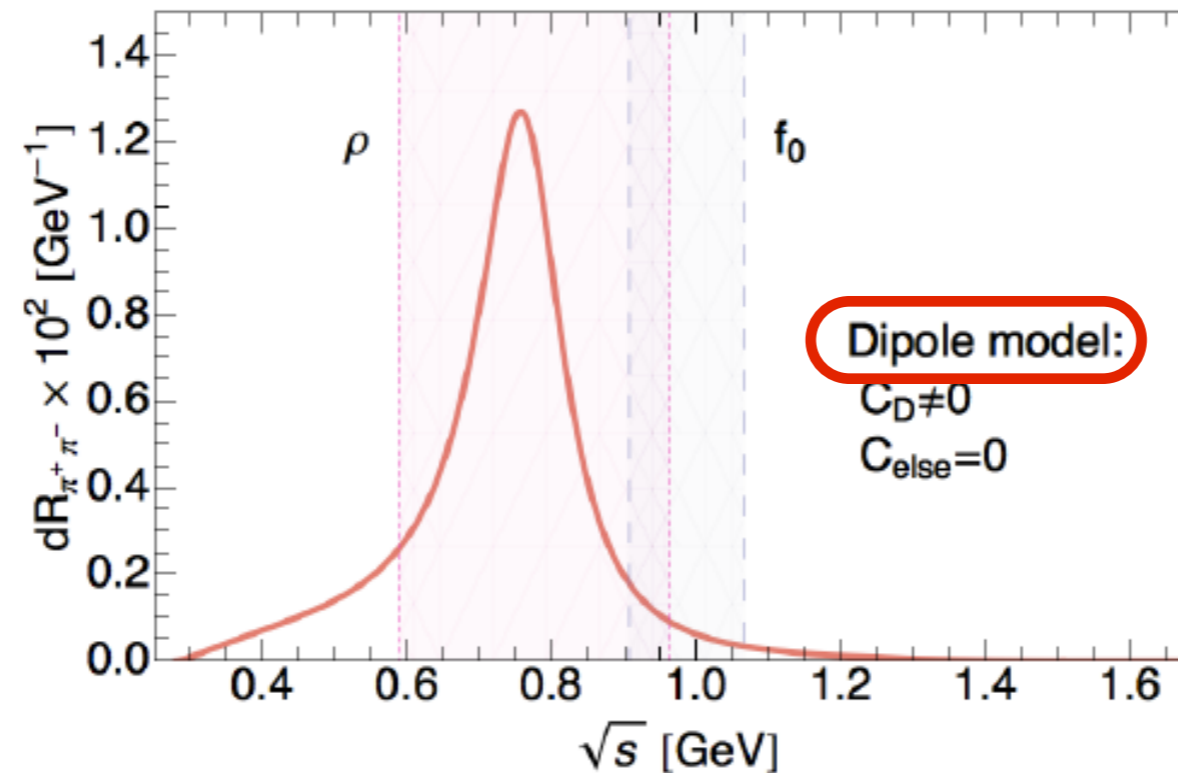
Dipole only (D)

- Two basic handles: I) Pattern of BRs



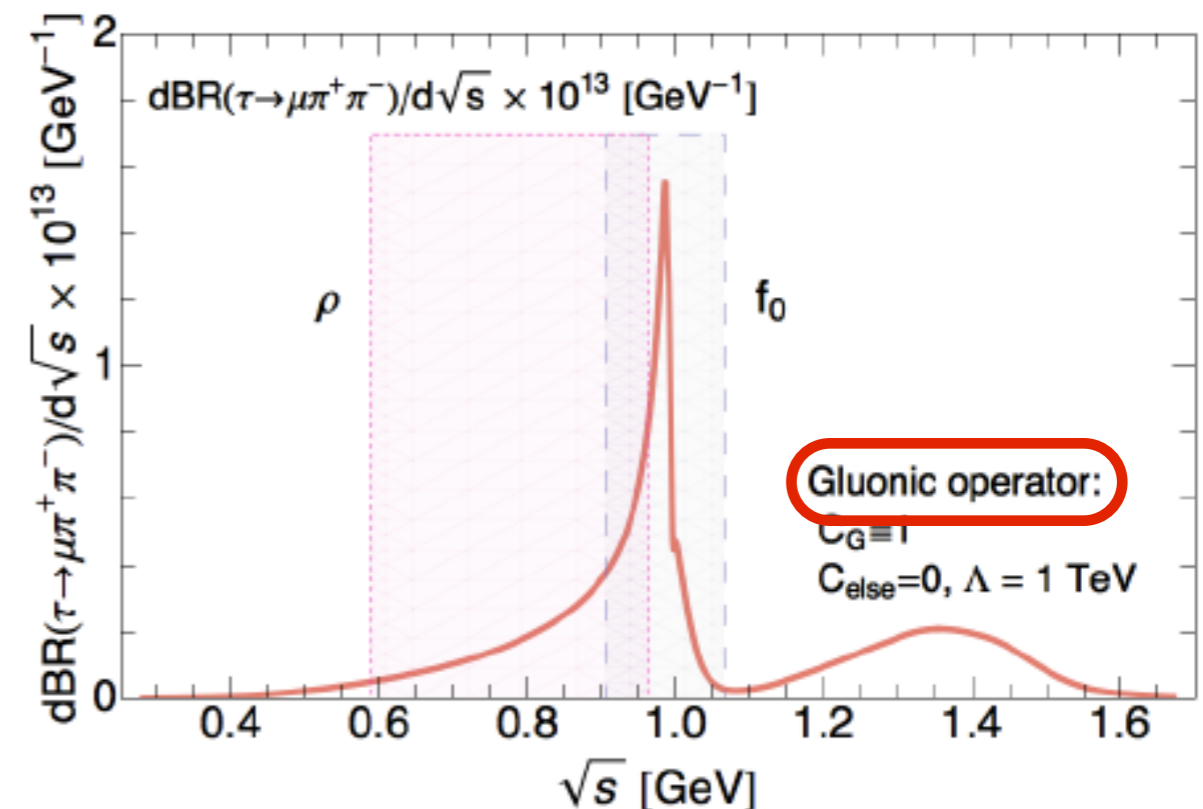
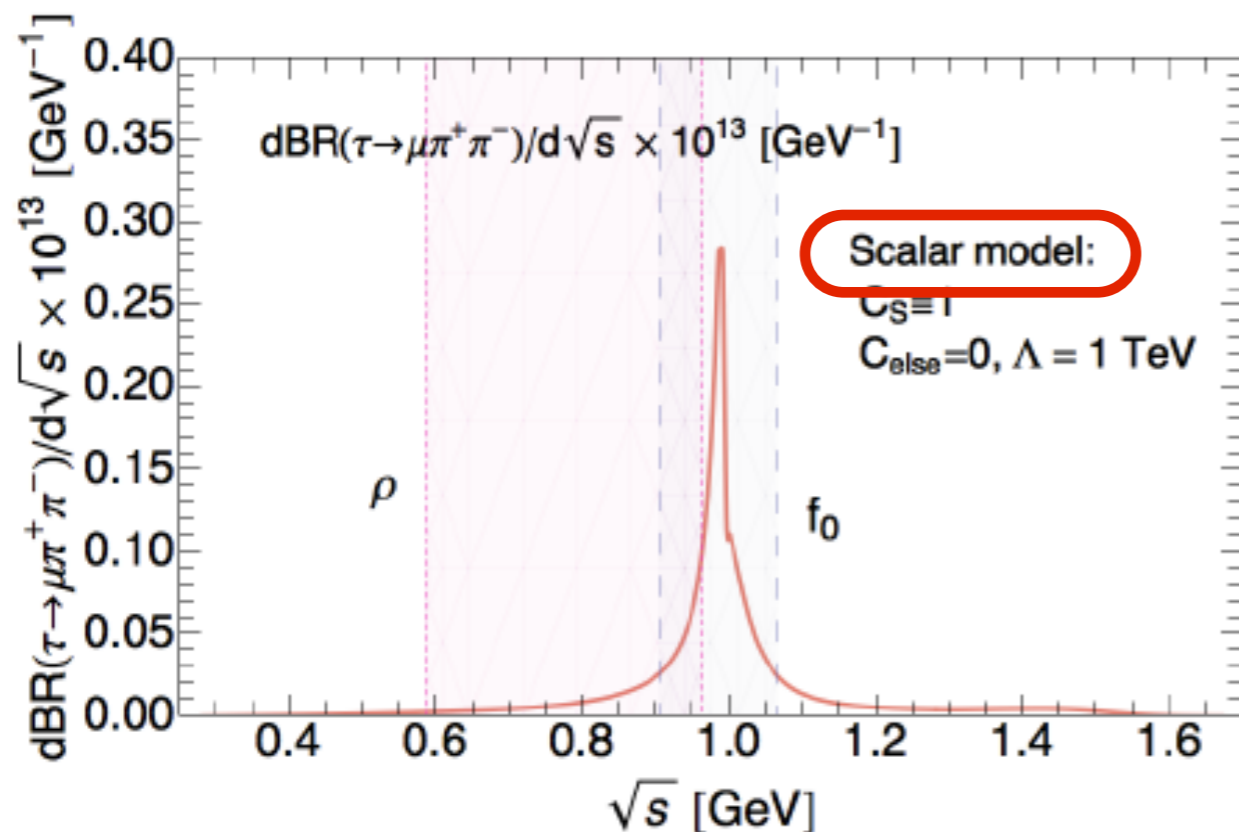
Gluon, Vector, Scalar (G,Z, S)

- Two basic handles: 2) differential distributions



Spectra in  $\tau \rightarrow \mu(e)\pi\pi$

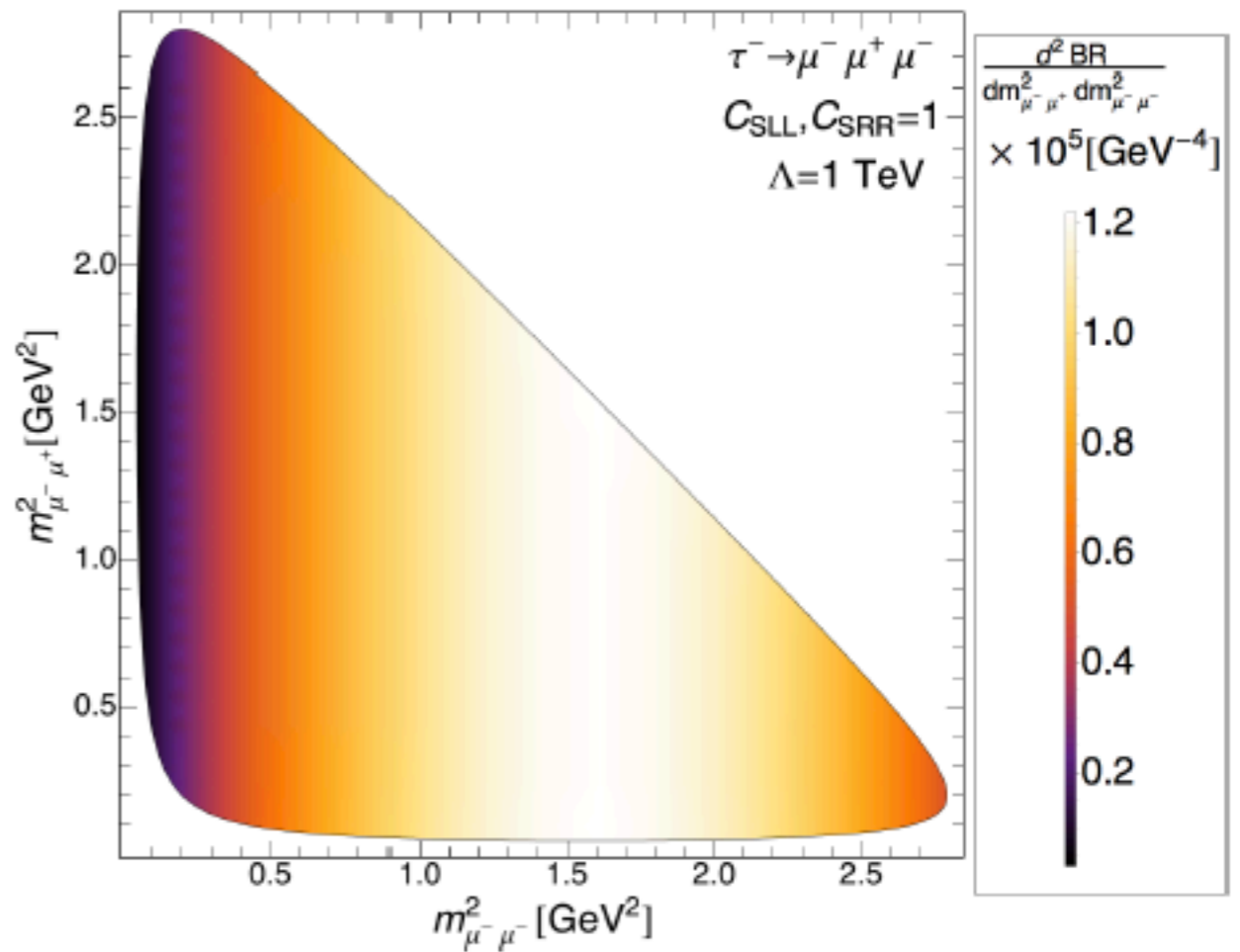
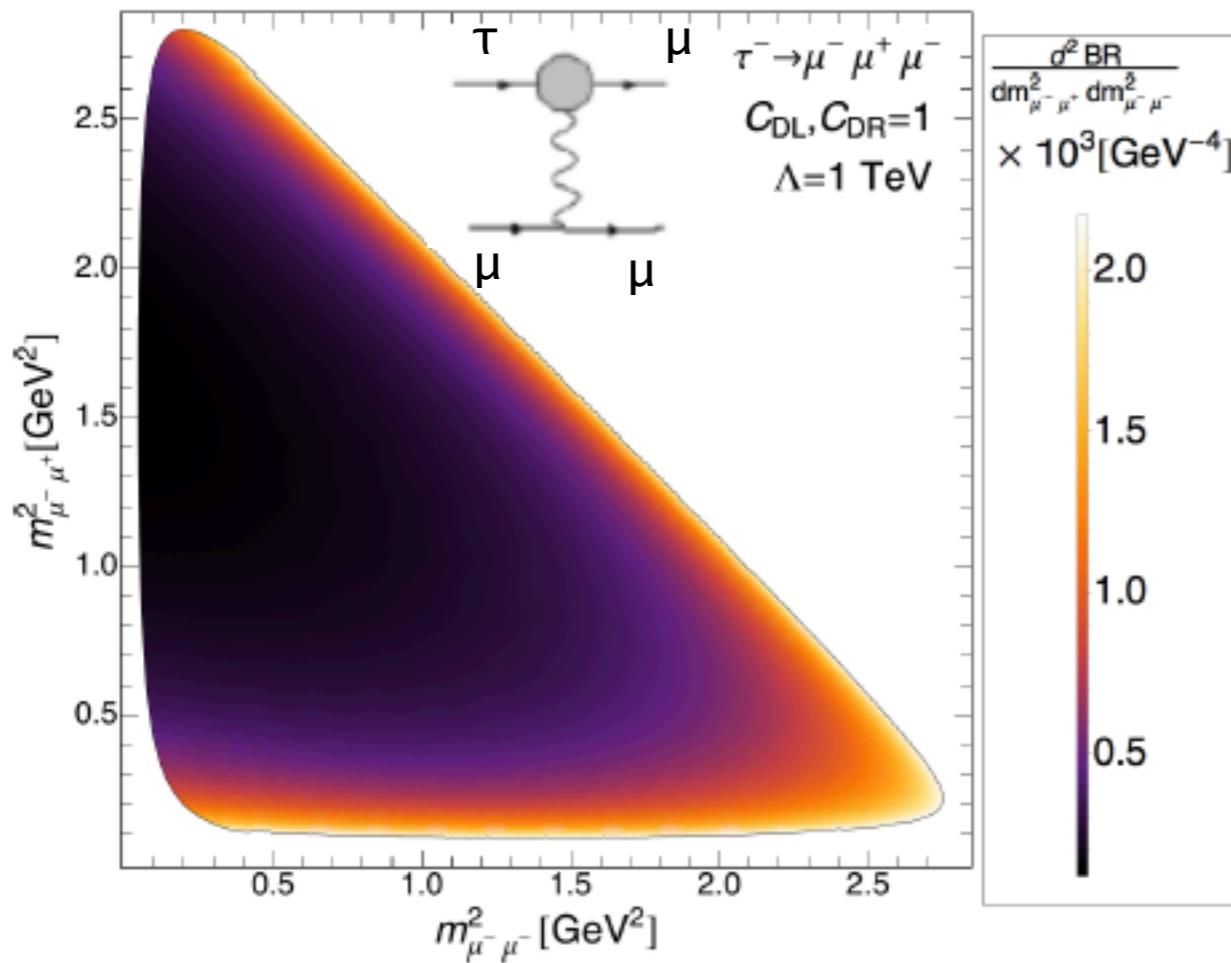
Spin and isospin of the hadronic operator determine the spectrum



- Two basic handles: 2) differential distributions

## Dalitz plot in $\tau \rightarrow 3$ leptons

Dassinger et al, 0707.0988  
Matsuzuki-Sanda 0711.0792  
Celis-VC-Passemar 1403.5781

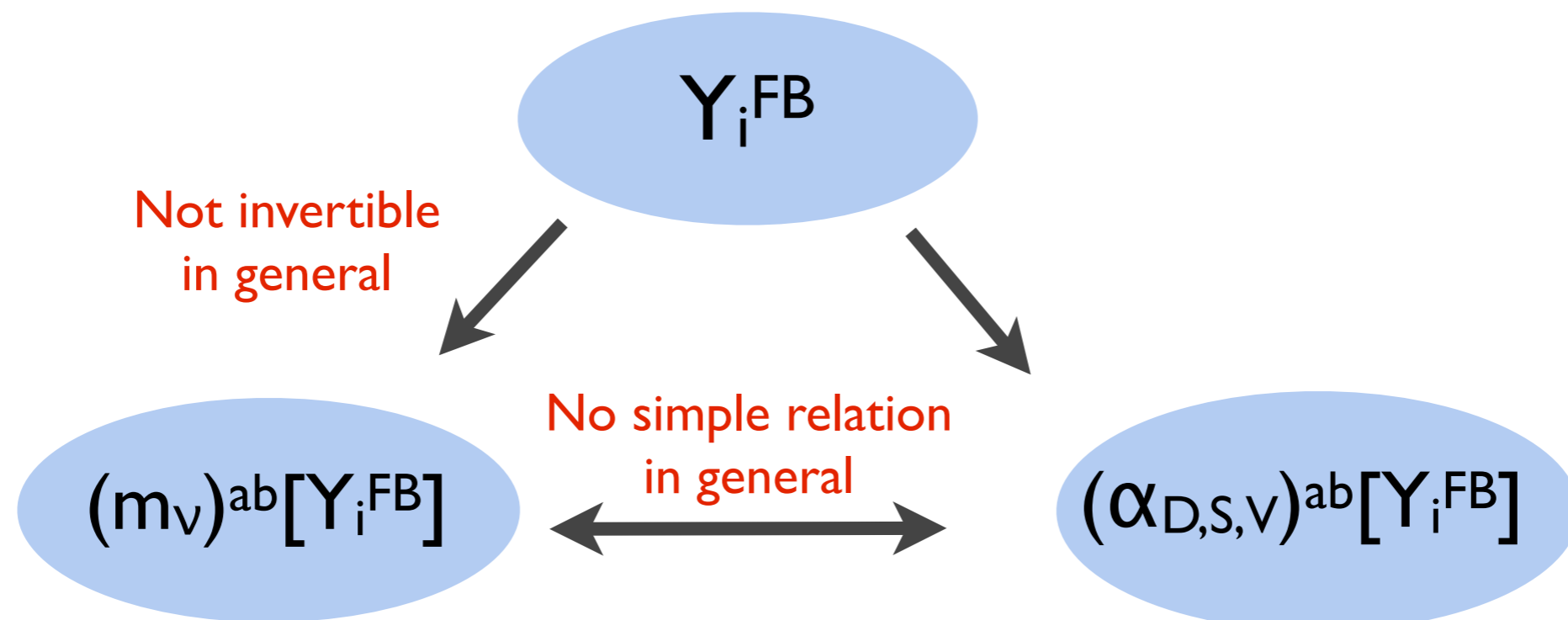


Dipole operator dominance

Scalar 4-lepton operator dominance

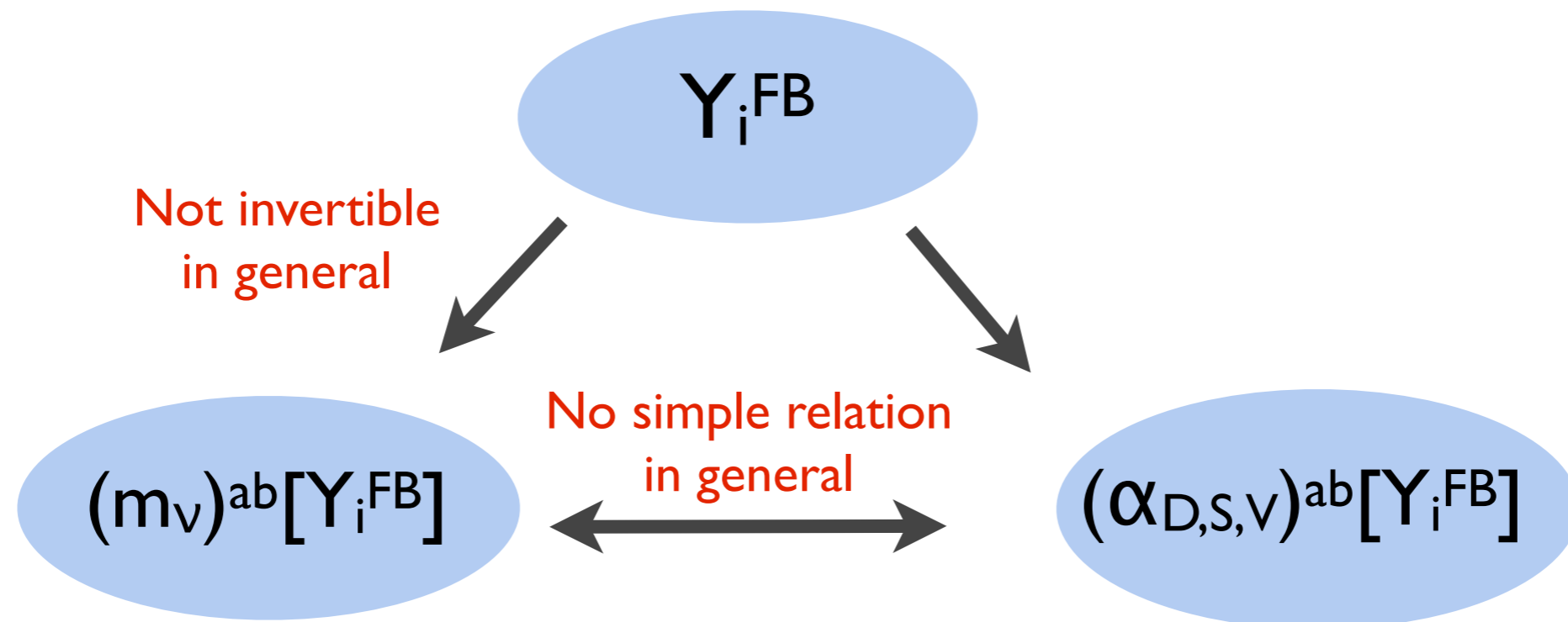
# Diagnosing power: flavor structure

- Each model has its sources of flavor breaking  $Y_i^{\text{FB}}$  (Yukawa-type, mass matrices of heavy states, ...)
- $Y_i^{\text{FB}}$  leave imprint in  $m_\nu$  and CLFV effective couplings  $\alpha_{D,V,S,\dots}$



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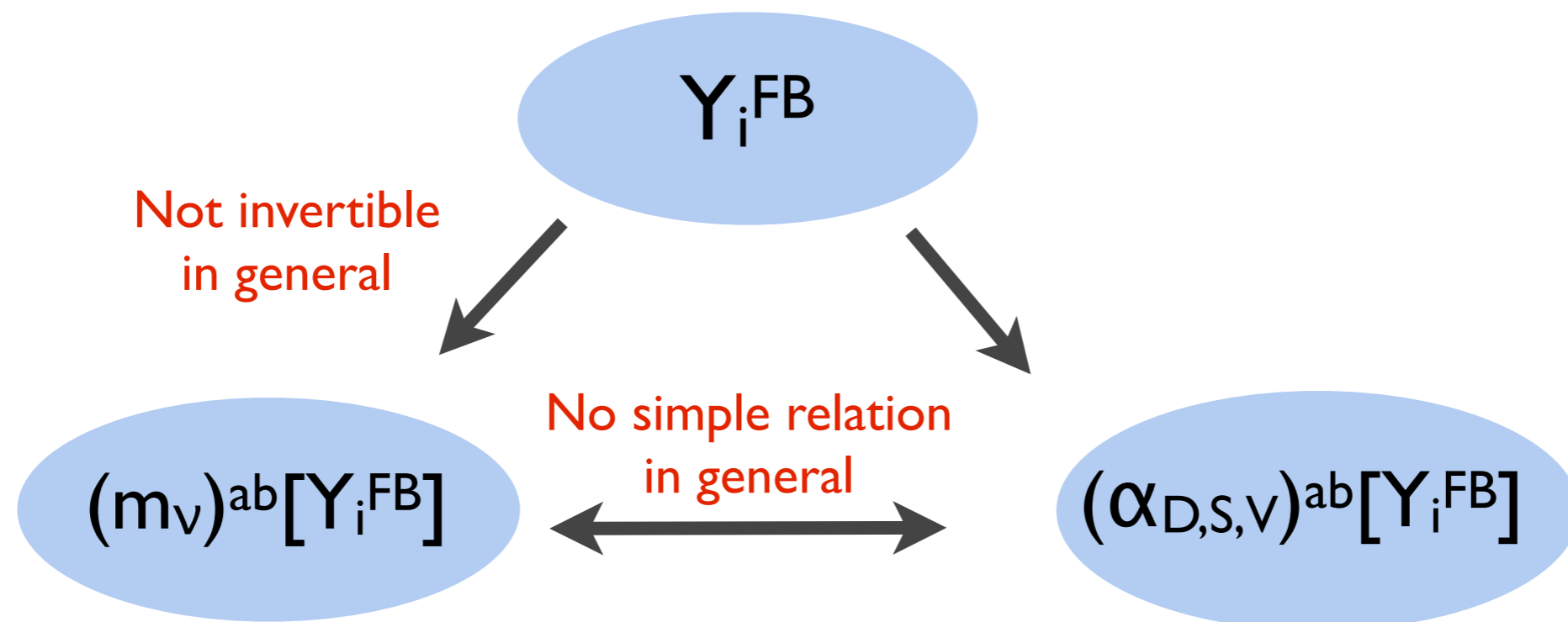


Aside: Minimal Lepton Flavor Violation  
tries to remedy this issue.  
No unique realization

VC-Grinstein-Isidori-Wise '05  
Davidson-Palorini '06  
Gavela-Hambye-Hernandez-Hernandez '09  
Alonso-Isidore-Merlo-Munoz-Nardi '11  
..

# Diagnosing power: flavor structure

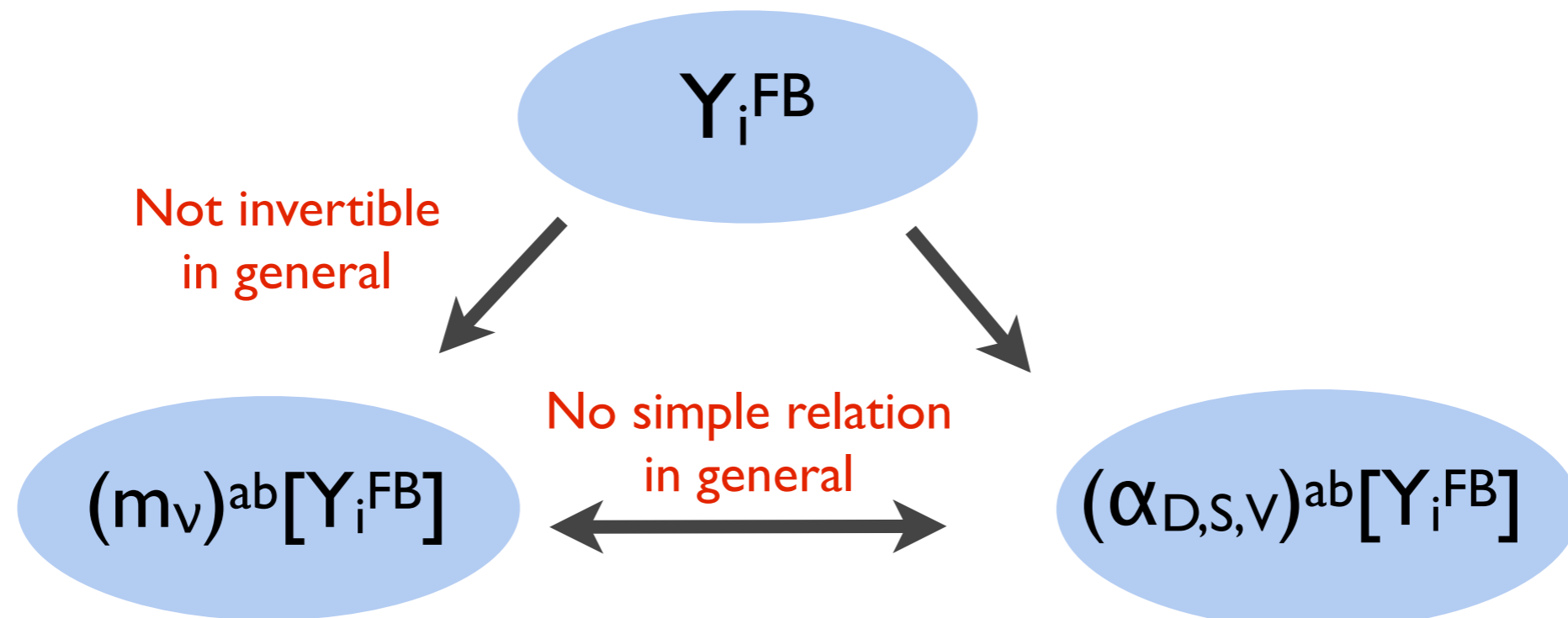
- Each model has its sources of flavor breaking  $Y_i^{\text{FB}}$  (Yukawa-type, mass matrices of heavy states, ...)
- $Y_i^{\text{FB}}$  leave imprint in  $m_\nu$  and CLFV effective couplings  $\alpha_{D,V,S,\dots}$



- CLFV processes probe the structure of  $Y_i^{\text{FB}}$   
Cleanest test-ground:  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  vs  $\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma$  vs  $\tau \rightarrow e\gamma$

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- MLFV:  $\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) / \text{BR}(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma) \sim 10^{-2}$
- GUT models:  $\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) / \text{BR}(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma) \sim |V_{us}|^6 \sim 10^{-4}$



# Probing LFV Higgs couplings

- Simplest framework: **LFV Yukawa couplings** of the Higgs

$$\Delta\mathcal{L}_Y = -\frac{\lambda_{ij}}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{L}_L^i e_R^j H) H^\dagger H \rightarrow -Y_{ij} \bar{e}_L^i e_R^j h$$

Goudelis-Lebedev-Park '11  
Davidson-Grenier '10

...

Harnik-Kopp-Zupan '12  
Blankenburg-Ellis-Isidori '12  
McKeen-Pospelov-Ritz '12

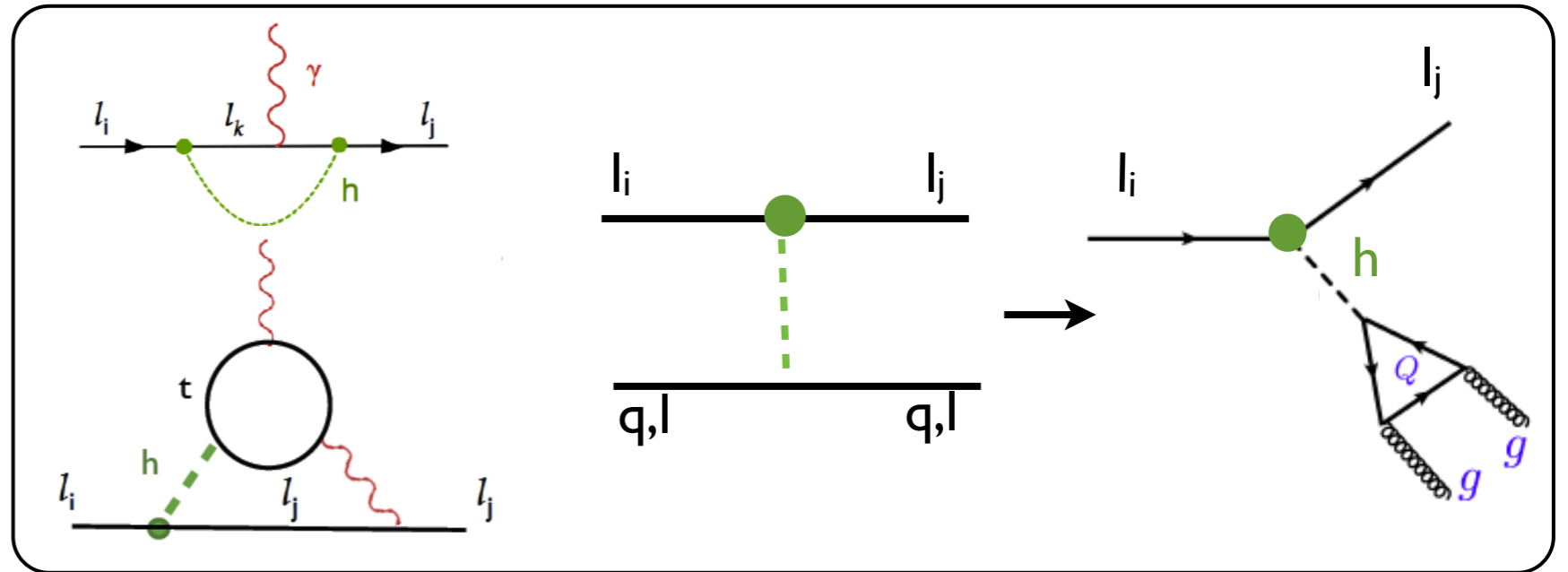
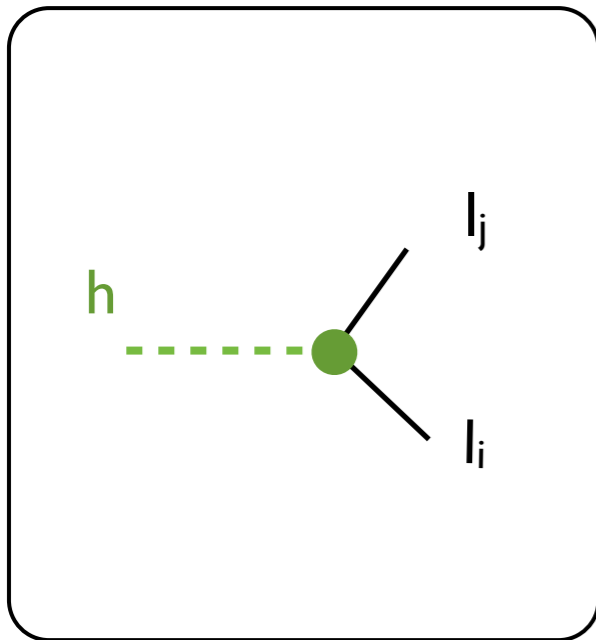
...

- Achieved in the SM-EFT through a single dim-6 operator that decouples lepton mass matrix from  $O(h)$  couplings
- Good starting point if new physics is heavy

# Signatures at high and low energy

Dipole (D), Scalar 4-fermion (S), Gluon (G) operators

Higgs decay



$$\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$$

$$\tau \rightarrow \mu \pi \pi$$

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$$\tau \rightarrow 3\mu$$

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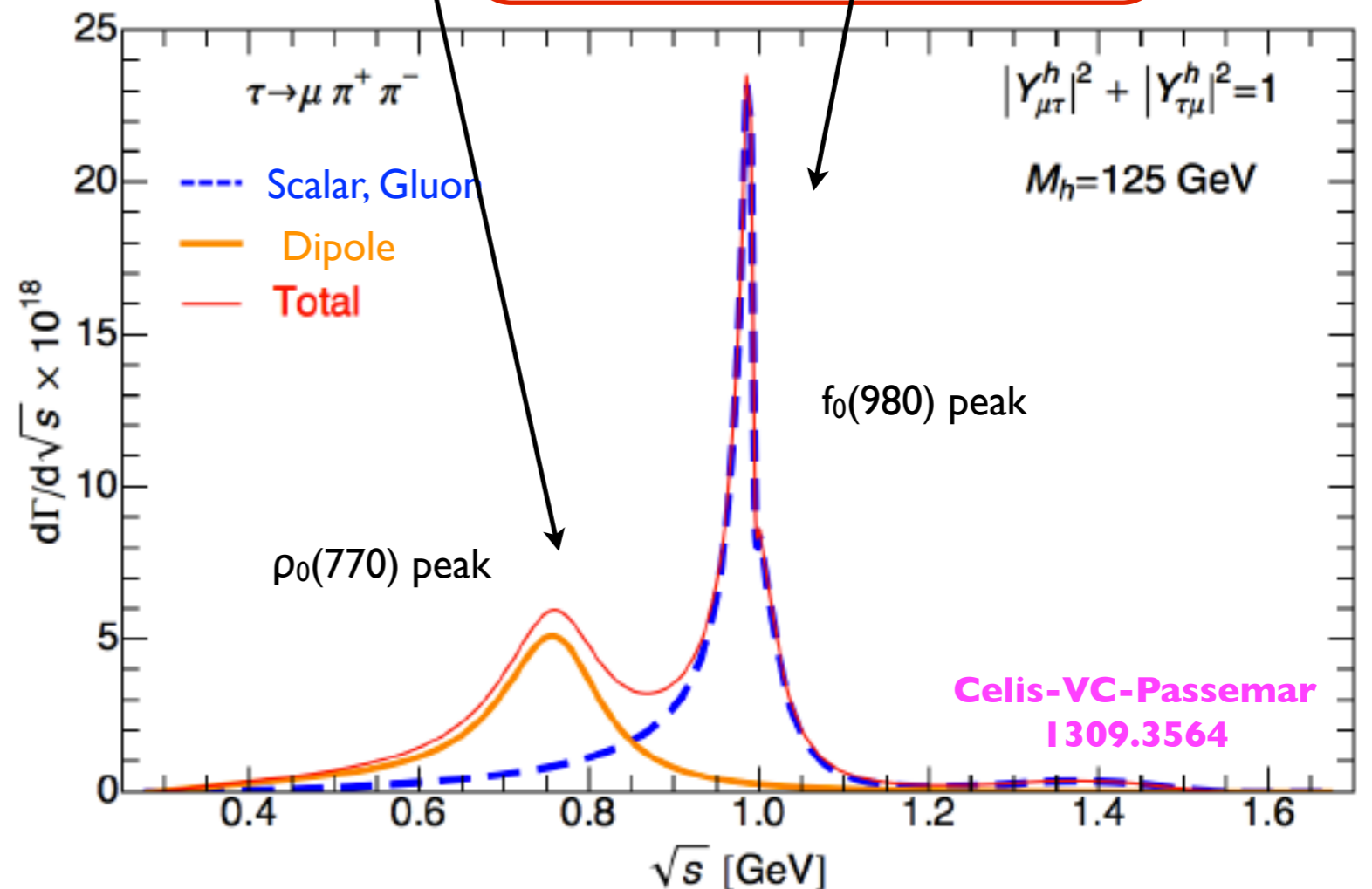
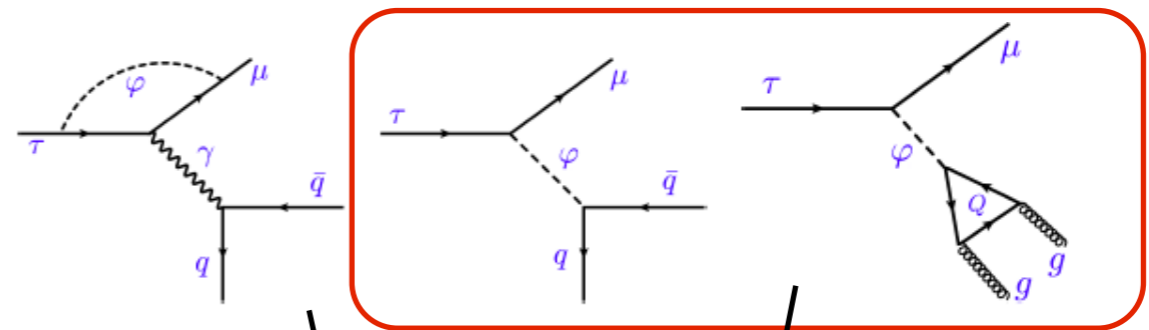
Dependence on light fermion Yukawa couplings  $Y_{u,d,s,\mu}$

# Pattern of LFV $\tau$ decays

- Radiative mode dominates, followed by  $\pi\pi$  and 3 lepton

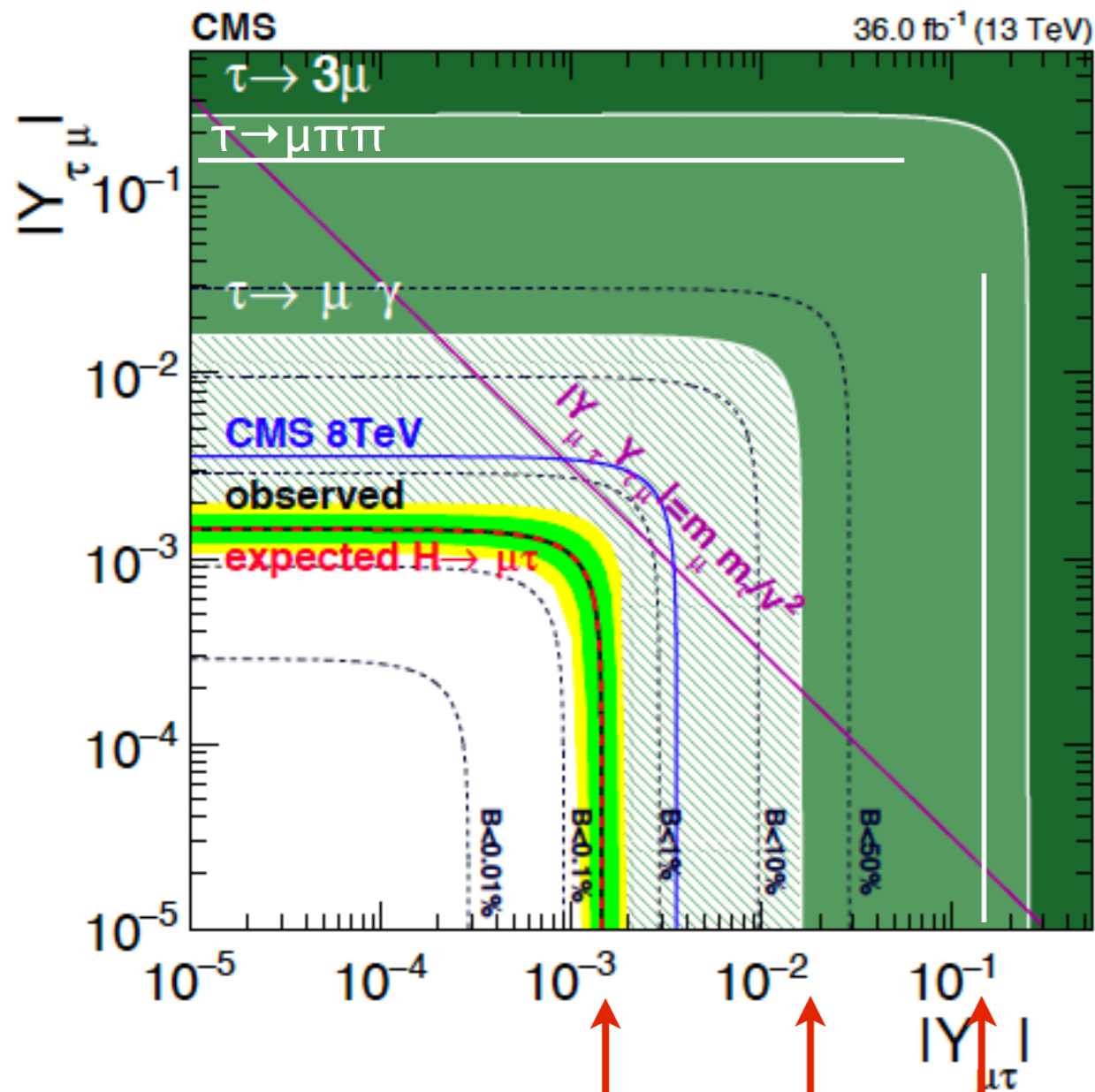
$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu \pi^+ \pi^-) / B(\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma) = 0.7(1) \times 10^{-2}$$

- $\tau \rightarrow \mu \pi\pi$  controlled by Higgs-specific combination of D, S, G  $\rightarrow$  unique signature in  $\pi\pi$  spectrum



Plot assumes SM values for  $Y_{u,d,s}$ , but strength of the  $f_0(980)$  peak depends on light quark Yukawas

# $\tau$ - $\mu$ sector: $h$ vs $\tau$ decays



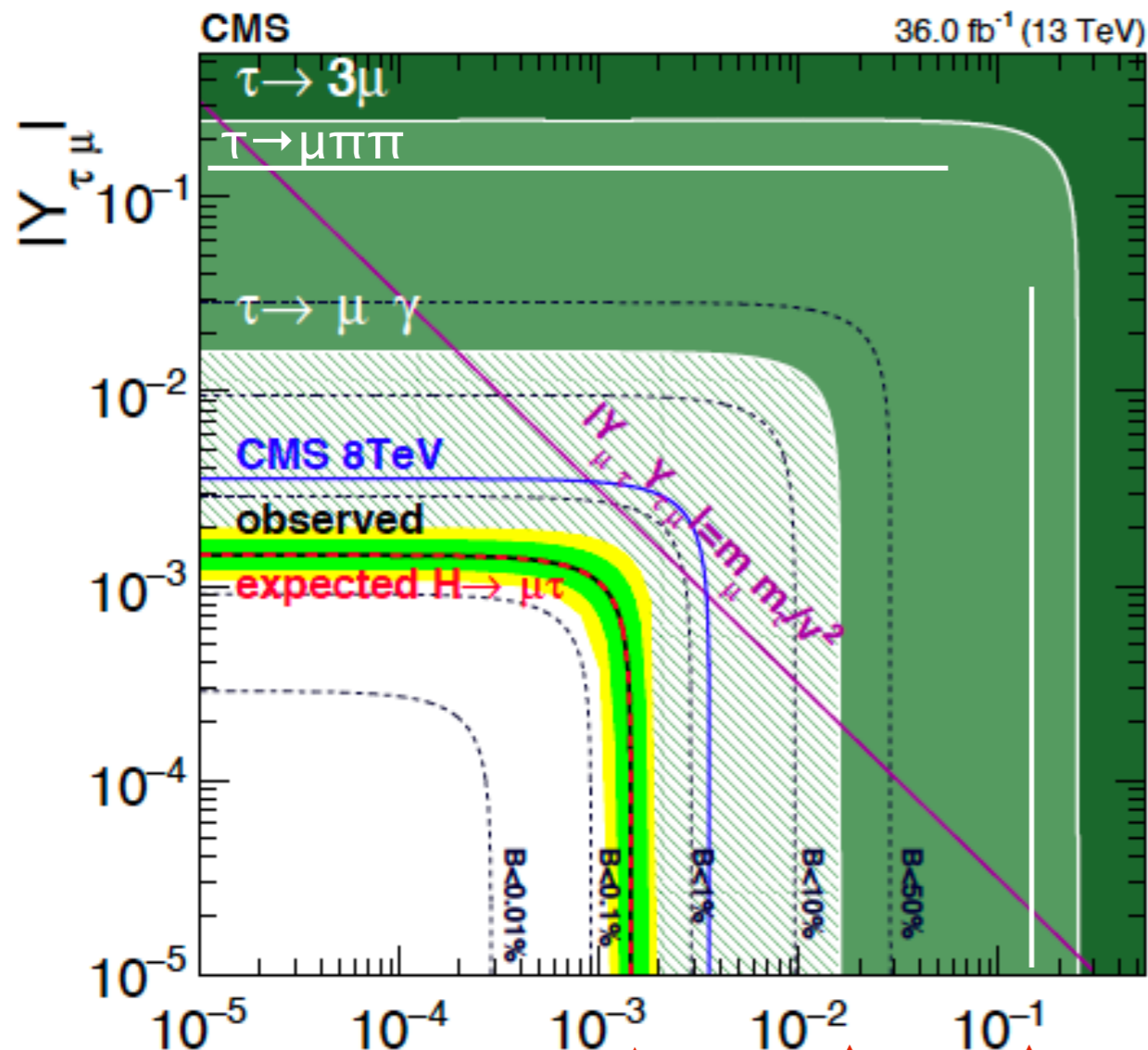
Harnik-Kopp-Zupan  
1209.1397

CMS 1712.07173

$h \rightarrow \tau\mu$     $\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma$     $\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi\pi\pi$

- Assuming SM values for  $Y_{u,d,s}$ , current tau BRs ( $\sim 10^{-(7-8)}$ ) imply  $Y_{\tau\mu, \tau e} < 0.01-0.1$ , which translates into  $BR(h \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.1$
- LHC (CMS) limit  $BR(h \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.25\%$  (95%CL) is stronger:  $|Y_{\tau\mu, \mu\tau}| < 0.00143$

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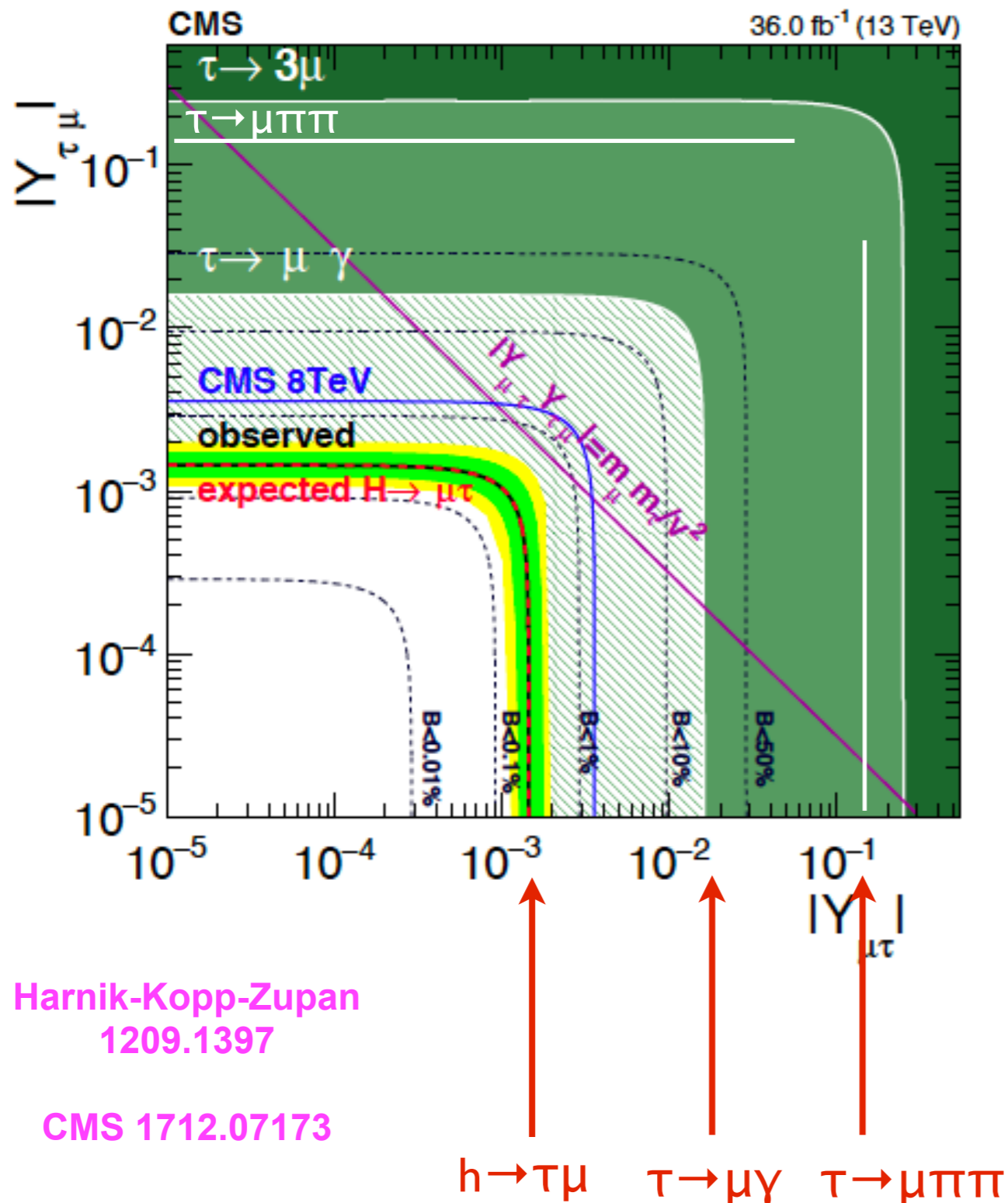
$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma) < 6.7 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^+\pi^-) < 4.5 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^0\pi^0) < 1.4 \times 10^{-12}$$

Challenging target for next generation

# $\tau$ - $\mu$ sector: $h$ vs $\tau$ decays



- Assuming SM values for  $Y_{u,d,s}$ , current tau BRs ( $\sim 10^{-(7-8)}$ ) imply  $Y_{\tau\mu, \tau e} < 0.01-0.1$ , which translates into  $BR(h \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.1$
- LHC (CMS) limit  $BR(h \rightarrow \mu\tau) < 0.25\%$  (95%CL) is stronger:  $|Y_{\tau\mu, \mu\tau}| < 0.00143$
- If use  $Y_{u,d,s} \sim Y_b$ , CMS bound implies

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma) < 6.7 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^+\pi^-) < 9.1 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$B(\tau \rightarrow \mu\pi^0\pi^0) < 4.5 \times 10^{-9}$$

Within reach of next generation

# Conclusions & Outlook

- Charged LFV processes are great probes of new physics
  - *Discovery* tools: clean, high scale reach
  - *Model-diagnosing* tools: mediators, sources of flavor breaking
- Tau decays offer a rich arena to discover and diagnose CLFV
  - In general, no theoretical ‘golden mode’
  - Besides  $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$ ,  $\tau \rightarrow 3\mu$ , hadronic modes such as  $\tau \rightarrow \mu(e)\pi\pi$  can be quite interesting (e.g. imprint of Higgs couplings) and are relatively clean theoretically

Looking forward to the next decade:

- ★ 1-2 (3-4) orders of magnitude improvement in  $\tau$  ( $\mu$ ) processes
- ★ Colliders (LHC, EIC) can play a significant role ( $h \rightarrow \tau\mu$ ,  $e \rightarrow \tau$ )