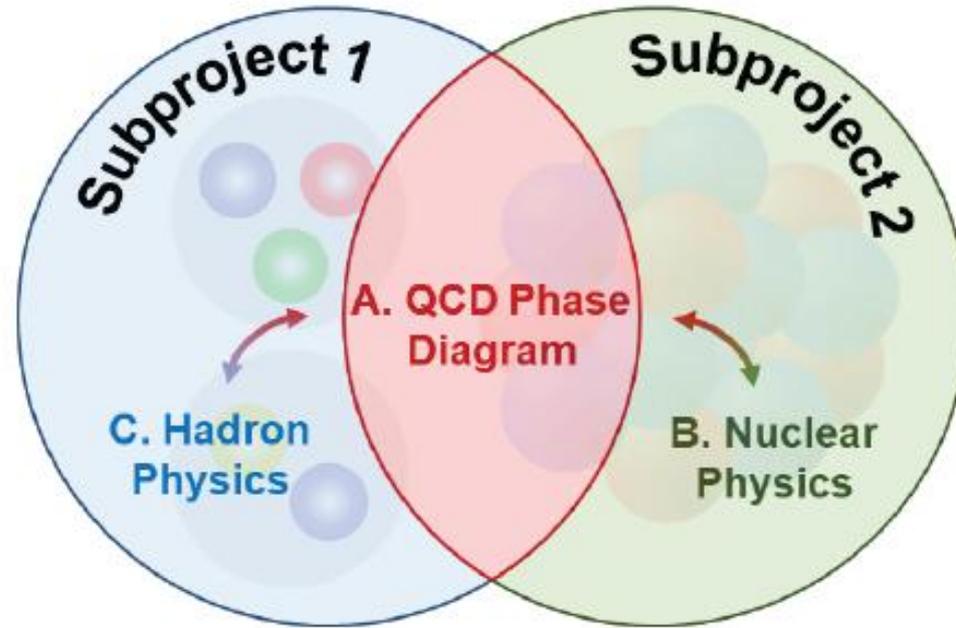


Exploring the quantum chromodynamics phase diagram: from hadrons and nuclei to matter under extreme conditions



Subproject 1:

*New challenges in hadron physics:
interactions, exotic hadrons
and dark matter candidates*

Subproject 2:

*Modelling dense matter,
nuclear structure and reactions
with classical and quantum computers*

Work Package C: Hadron Physics

WP C.1 Exotic Hadrons (Leading PI: Ramos)

- **C.1.a Pentaquarks with charm:** Study the formation and properties of pentaquark-like states with heavy quarks from a QCD-inspired interaction between meson and baryons, after unitarization of the scattering amplitudes.
- **C.1.b Effective-field theory analysis of the lattice QCD $\Lambda(1405)$:** Analyse recent Lattice QCD results of the two-pole structure of the $\Lambda(1405)$ with our newly developed hadronic interaction which includes higher partial waves.

Vincent Mathieu

WP C.2 Hadron Interactions & New Physics Searches (Leading PI: Torres-Rincon)

- **C.2.a Rare meson decays \leftrightarrow New Physics:** Calculate the contribution of the $a_2(1320)$ tensor meson to the rare $\eta/\eta' \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma \gamma$ decays and constrain the leptophobic B boson parameters mass m_B and coupling α_B from experimental data.
- **C.2.b Relevant processes for hadron interactions:** Study of different meson-baryon interactions relevant for ALICE physics, like π - Σ baryon and K-d interaction for its application to baryon-rich matter. Study of baryon masses in a dense medium using the Polyakov-Nambu-Jona-Lasinio model.

Jordy de Vries
Sergi Gonzalez-Solis

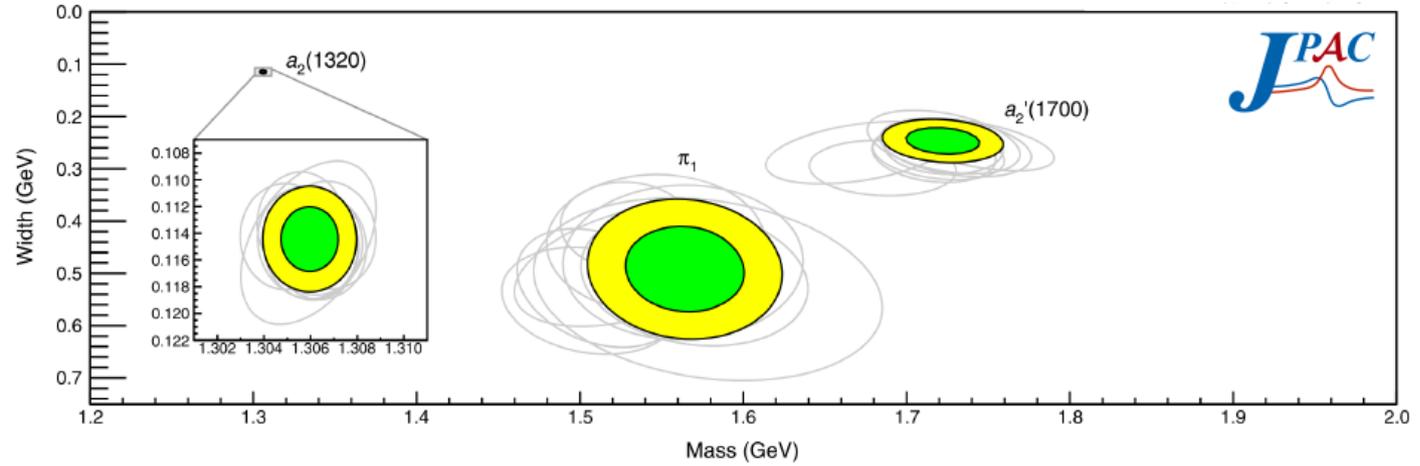
WP C.3 Lattice QCD description of baryon-baryon interactions (Leading PI: Ramos)

- **C.3.a Variational LQCD study of the NN and YY systems:** Application of the variational method to LQCD calculations with almost physical quark masses ($m_\pi \sim 170$ MeV) to the study of NN and YY interactions (addressing the H dibaryon state).
- **C.3.b Study of the coupled ΛN - ΣN system:** Calculation of the strangeness -1 hyperon-nucleon coupled channels in LQCD, studying its implications in hypertriton, femtoscopy and neutron star composition (role of Σ baryon).

Assumpta Parreño
Martí Rovira i Pons

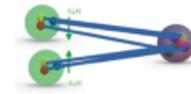
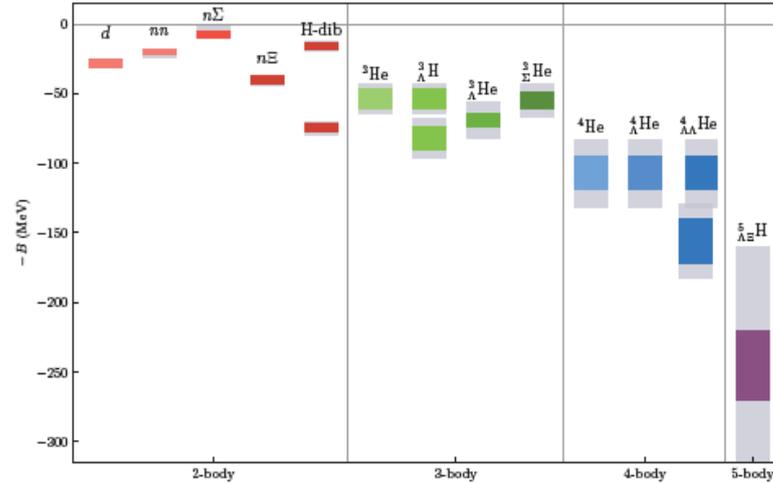
C.1 Exotic Hadrons

Vincent Mathieu



C.3 Lattice QCD description of baryon-baryon interactions

Assumpta Parreño



$$SU(3)_f$$

$$m_\pi \sim 800 \text{ MeV}$$

$$b[\text{fm}] = 0.1453(16)$$

$$L = 3.4, 4.5, 6.7 \text{ fm}$$

$$T = 6.7, 6.7, 9.0 \text{ fm}$$

$O(10^9)$ measurements:
Different quark smearings

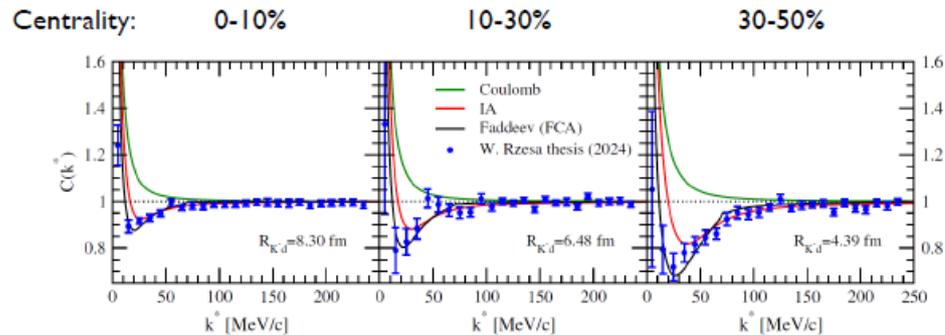
no e.m. interactions

C.2.b Relevant processes for hadron interactions

A.2.b Hadron femtoscopy studies:

Kaon-Deuteron system

À. Ramos, JMTR, A. De Fagoaga, E. Cabré, [2507.22593](#) [hep-ph]

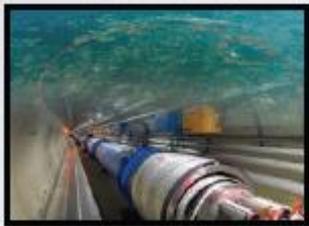


A.1 Nuclear Astrophysics of Neutron Stars

The physics of neutron stars and their mergers explored in WP A.1 is connected to the hadron properties and their interactions in dense and hot environments.

The search for something non-standard

Energy



Energy frontier: produce new states on-shell

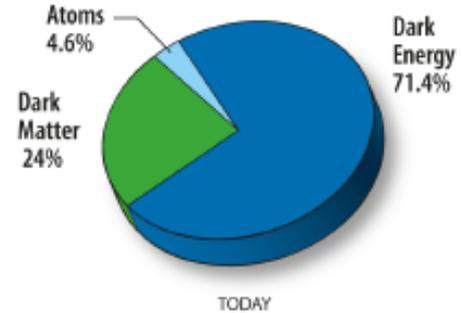


Precision frontier: measure effects from virtual new states (quantum effects)

Both frontiers have played a key role in the development of the Standard Model

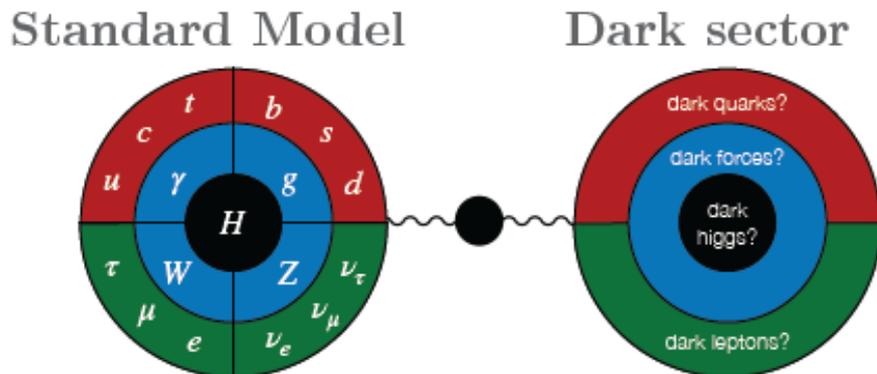
Beyond the Standard Model

- The SM fails to explain:
 - **Dark matter:** what is the most prevalent kind of matter in our Universe?
 - **Dark Energy:** what drives the accelerated expansion of the Universe?
 - **Neutrino masses and oscillations:** why do neutrinos have mass? what makes neutrinos disappear and then re-appear in a different form?
 - **Baryon asymmetry** of the Universe: what mechanism created the tiny matter-antimatter imbalance in the early Universe?
 - Several **anomalies in data:** $(g - 2)_\mu$, B -physics anomalies, KOTO anomaly ($K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$), ^8Be excited decay, ...



Dark sector portals to the Standard Model

⇒ Portal interactions with the SM, only a few are allowed by the SM symmetries



Portal

Vector

Scalar

Neutrino

Axion

Mediators

Dark photon

Dark scalar

Sterile Neutrino

Axion

Portal interactions

$$\epsilon B^{\mu\nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\kappa |H|^2 |S|^2$$

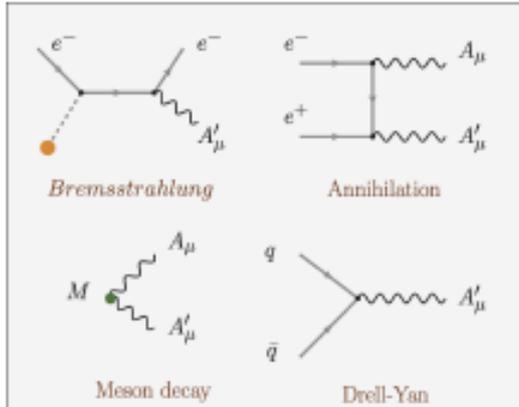
$$y H L N$$

$$\frac{a}{f_a} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu} G^{\mu\nu}$$

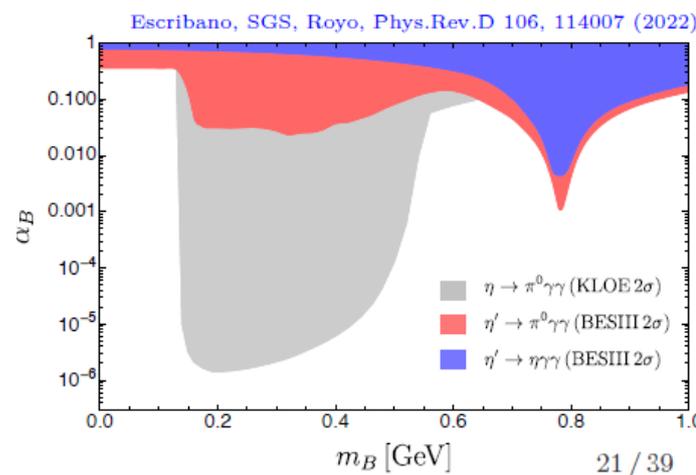
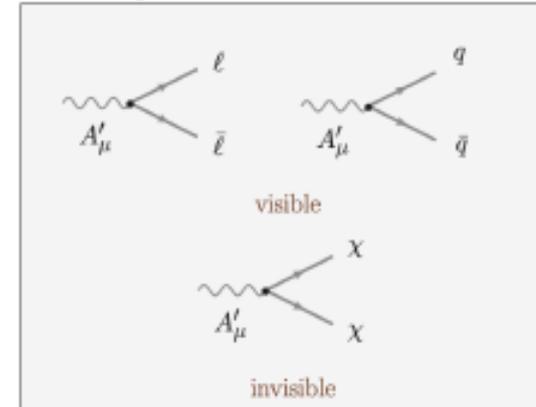
C.2.a Rare meson decays \leftrightarrow New Physics

- Plenty of dark particles can be produced from **meson decays!!**

Production modes



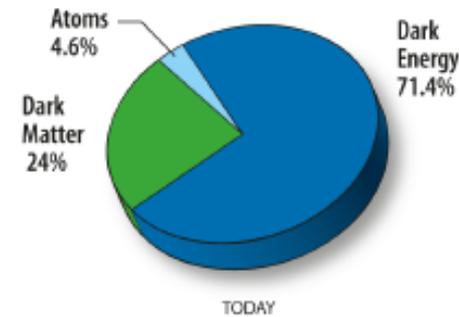
Decay modes



Beyond the Standard Model

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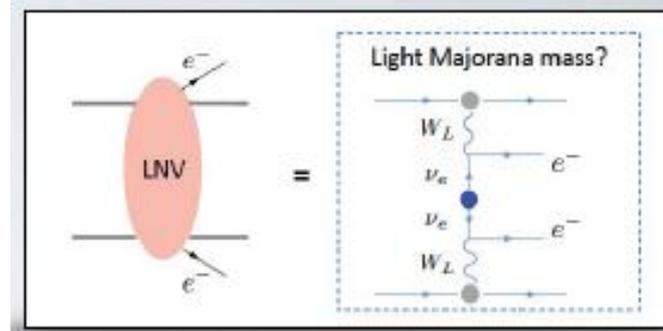
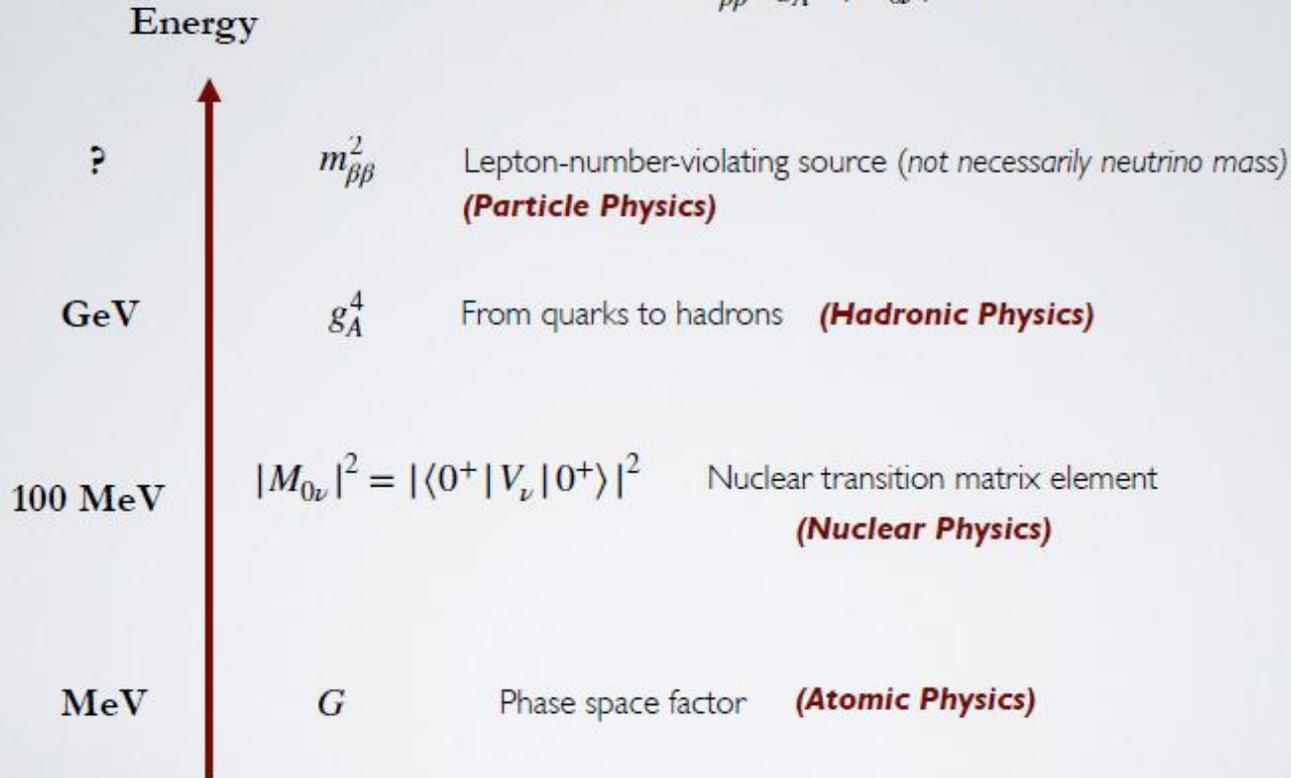


**Dark photon, dark scalar, sterile neutrino, axion -
are these really allow us to solve above problems?**

Neutrinoless double beta decay

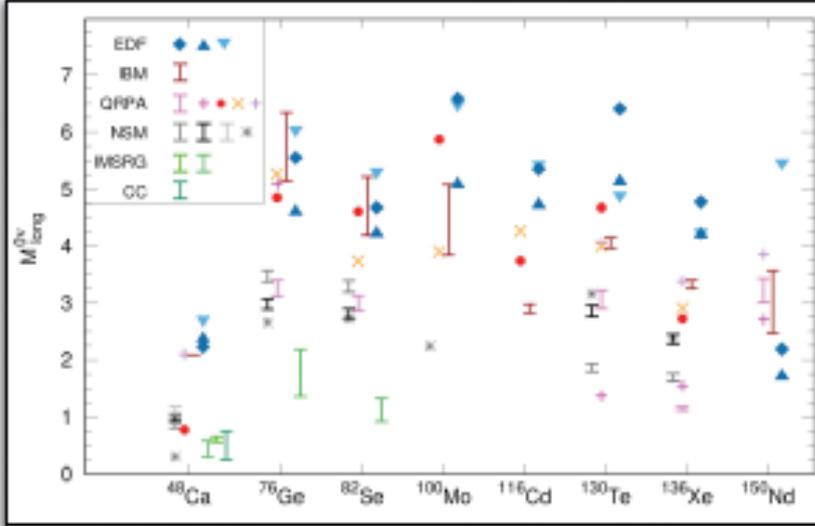
Anatomy of a decay

$$\Gamma^{0\nu} \sim m_{\beta\beta}^2 \cdot g_A^4 \cdot |M_{0\nu}|^2 \cdot G$$



Neutrinoless double beta decay

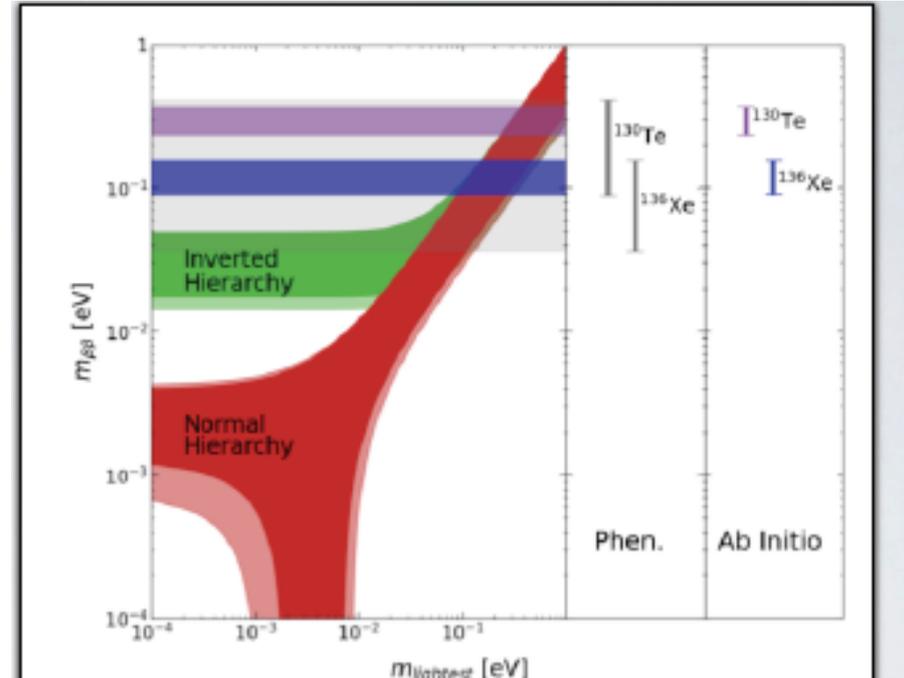
From: Menendez et al review '22



How well we control nuclear matrix elements?



Are we quantifying uncertainties comprehensively?

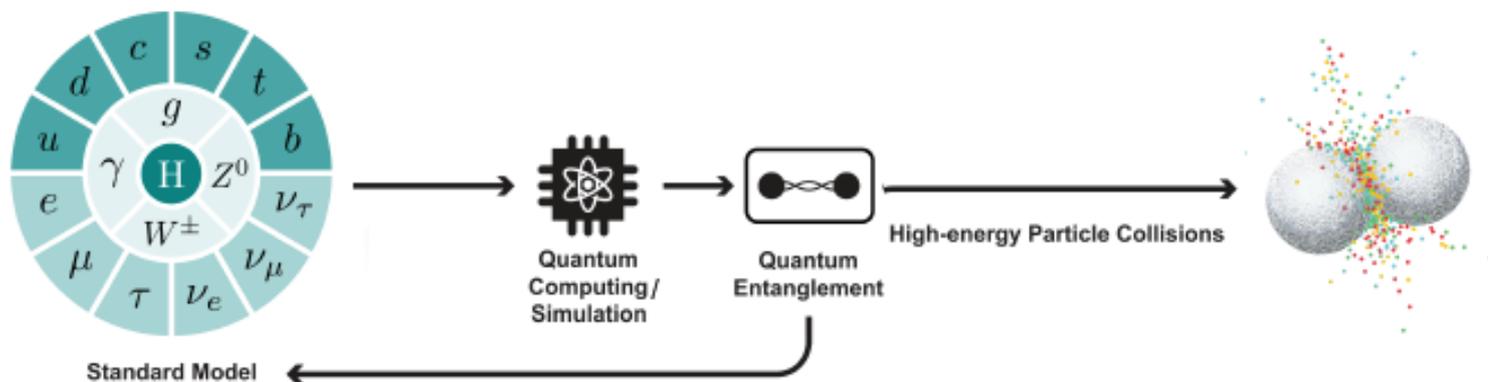


Toward quantum simulation of scattering in gauge theories and other strongly correlated systems

ZOHREH DAVOUDI

University of Maryland, College Park

FIRST-PRINCIPLES PREDICTIONS FOR SCATTERING PROCESSES:
QUANTUM SIMULATIONS? YES! GAME IS ON BUT LONG WAY TO GO!



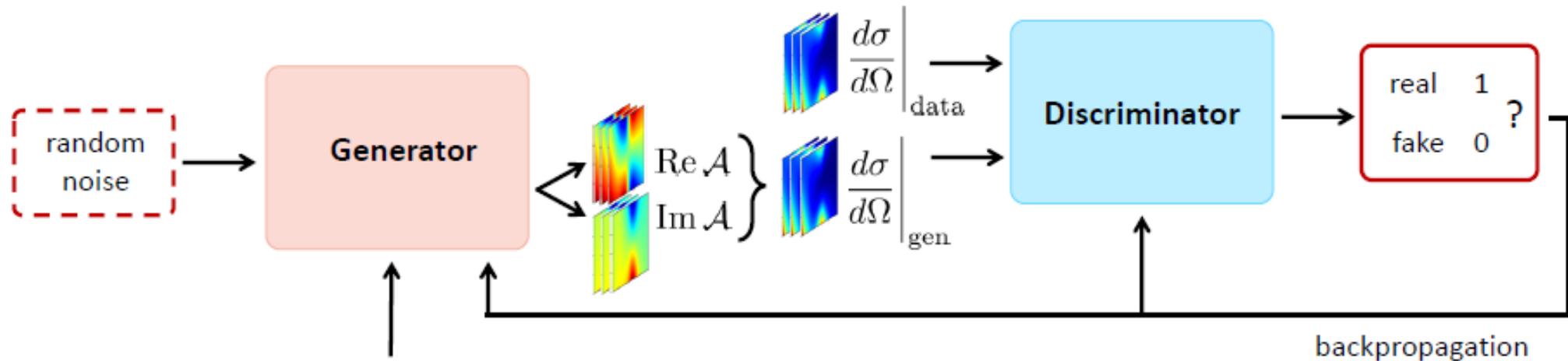
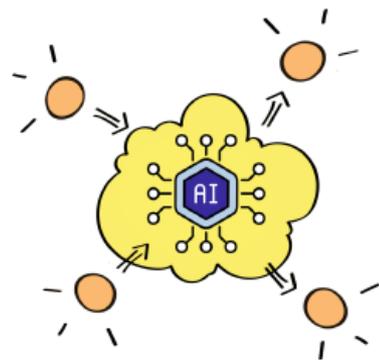
Bauer, ZD, Klco, and Savage, *Nature Rev. Phys.* 5 (2023) 7, 420-432.

Machine Learning approaches to Amplitude Analysis

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$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{GAN}} + \lambda_u \mathcal{L}_u + \lambda_\delta \mathcal{L}_\delta$$

Big Language Models, machine learning techniques, neural networks are here!

Quantum computers are coming soon!

How should we proceed?

Should we change/adopt our codes?

Should we change our methods to study nature?