

B-physics anomalies and the flavor problem

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- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ A closer look to the data
- ▶ EFT considerations
- ▶ From EFT to simplified models
- ▶ Speculations on UV completions
- ▶ Conclusions



**University of
Zurich** ^{UZH}



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

► Introduction

(almost...) all microscopic phenomena we observe in Nature seem to be well described by the **SM**, a simple and elegant **Theory** that we continue to call “model” only for historical reasons...

However, despite all its phenomenological successes, the SM has some deep unsolved problems (*hierarchy problem, flavor problem, neutrino masses, dark-matter, dark energy, inflation...*)



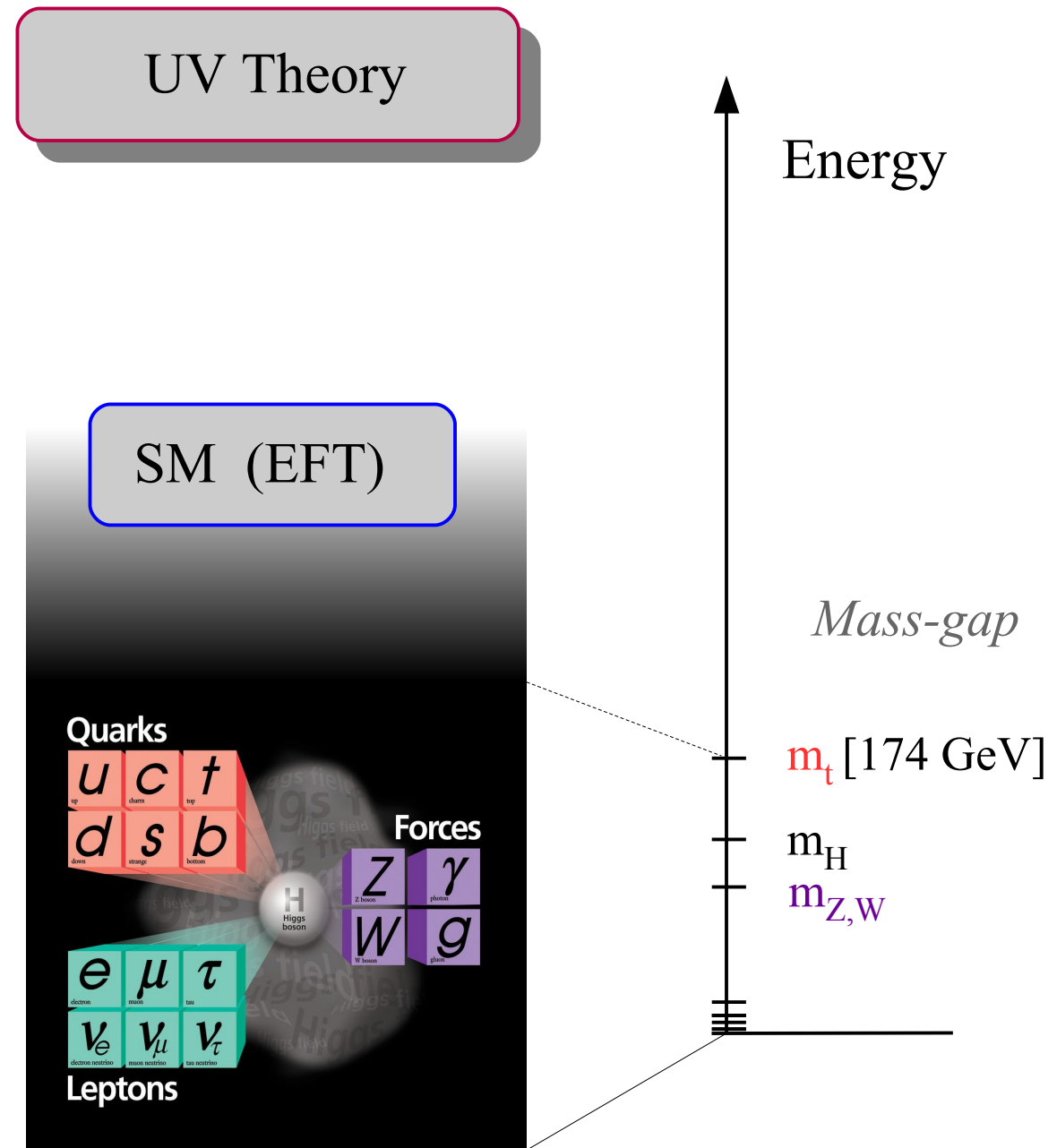
The Standard Model should be regarded as an
Effective Field Theory (EFT)

i.e. the **limit** (*in the range of energies
and effective couplings so far probed*)
**of a more fundamental theory
with new degrees of freedom**

► Introduction

What we know after the first phase of the LHC is that:

- The Higgs boson is SM-like and is “light” (*completion of the SM spectrum*)
- There is a mass-gap above the SM spectrum



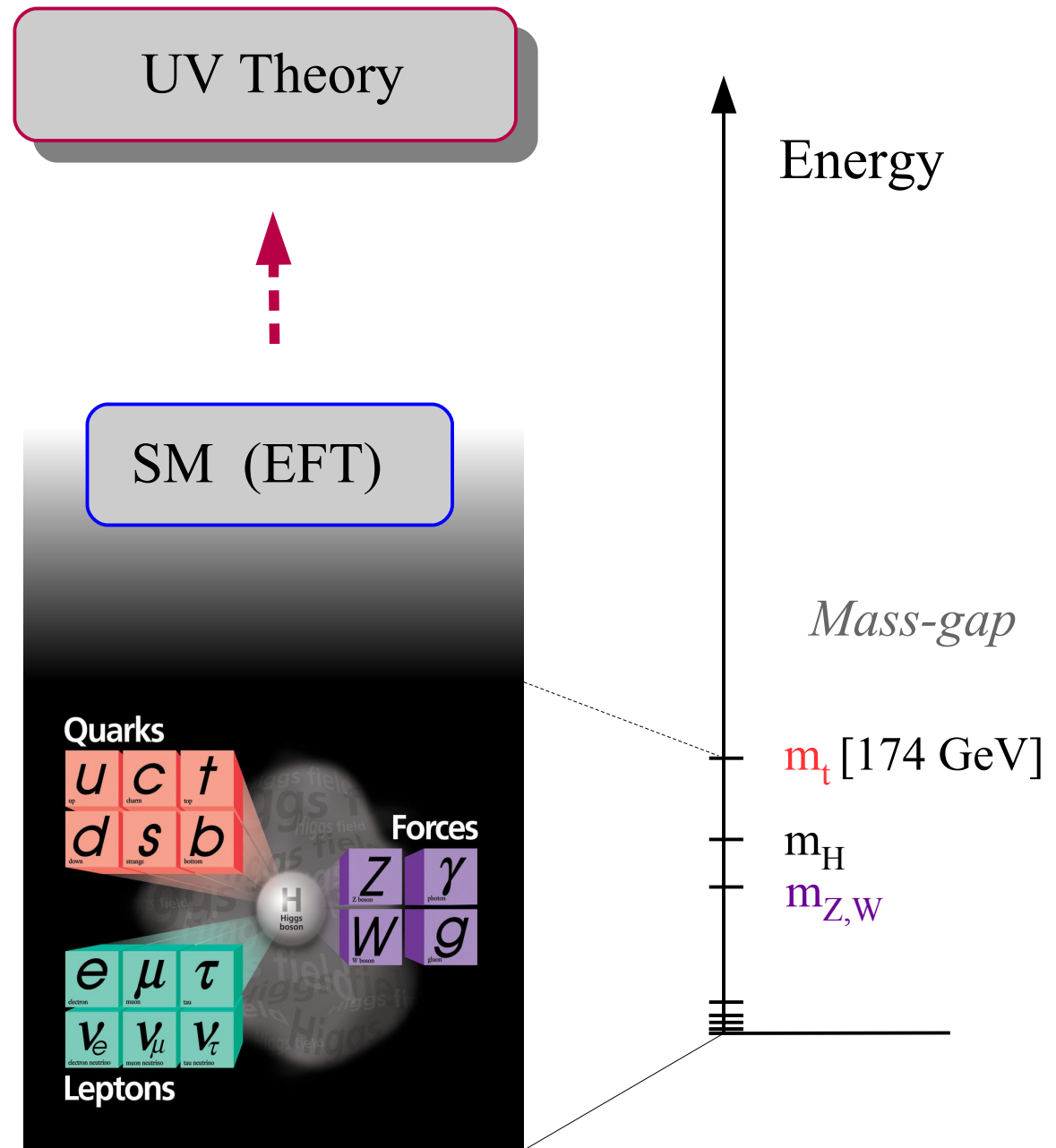
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Reconstructing the UV theory from its low-energy limit is a very difficult problem with no unique solution

[It took more than 35 years to go from the Fermi Theory to the SM...]



► Introduction

The most interesting hints toward UV dynamics come from possible *un-natural features* of the EFT.

Two types of effects in QFT:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM-EFT}} = \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}}}_{\text{Un-natural aspects of low-energy couplings}} + \underbrace{\sum_{d,i} \frac{c_i^{[d]}}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{d \geq 5}}_{\text{Violations of accidental symmetries}}$$

UV Theory



SM (EFT)

Un-natural aspects of
low-energy couplings

Violations of
accidental symmetries

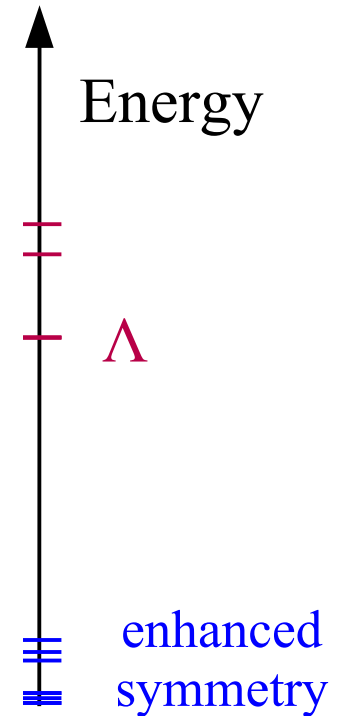
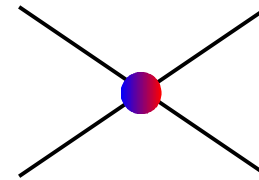
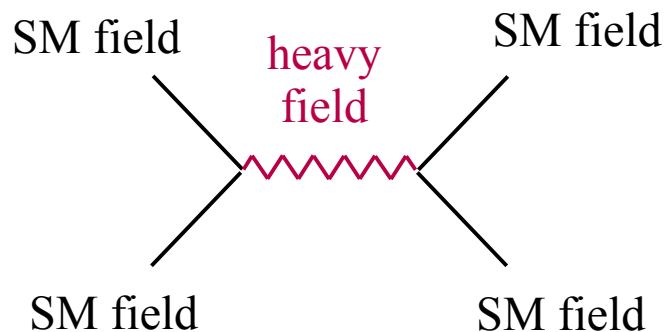
qualitative
UV imprint

quantitative
UV imprint

► Introduction

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If a symmetry arises accidentally in the low-energy theory, we expect it to be violated by higher dim. ops



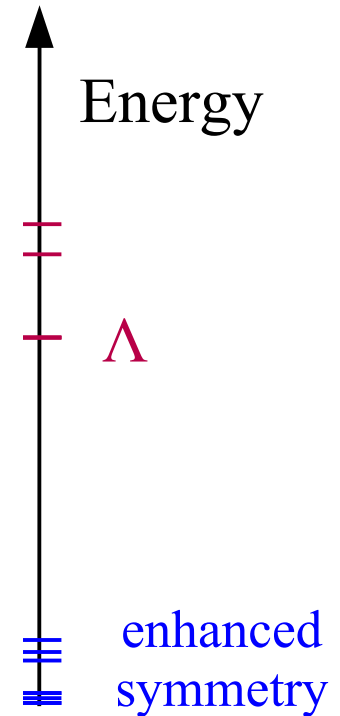
At large distances, not enough “variables” to describe the violation of the symmetry
 [\sim multipole expansion]

► Introduction

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Violations of accidental symmetries



Well-known examples from the past...

Eg: Low-energy theory: QED + QCD
 Accidental symm.: Flavor [U(1)^{n_f}]
 Violated by: Weak interactions → G_F ∼ (250 GeV)⁻²

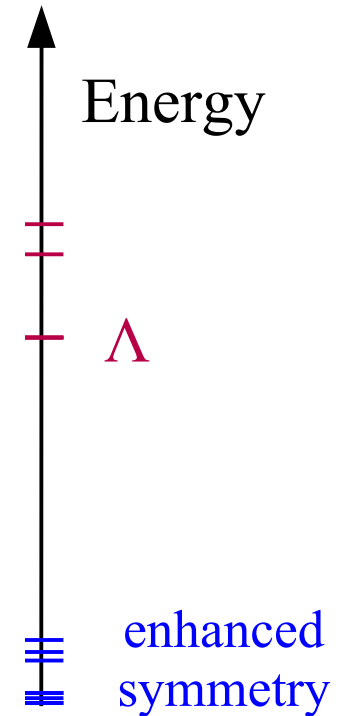
Eg: Low-energy theory: SM, 2 generations
 Accidental symm.: CP
 Violated by: “Super-weak” interactions → $\frac{(G_F m_t V_{ts} V_{td})^2}{4\pi^2} \sim (10^4 \text{ TeV})^{-2}$

► Introduction

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Well-known examples from the past...



...the violations of **L**epton **F**lavor **U**niversality recently reported by experiments belong to this category

► Introduction

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM-EFT}} = \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge}}}_{\text{Natural}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}}}_{\text{Non-trivial UV imprints}} + \sum_{d,i} \frac{c_i^{[d]}}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{d \geq 5}$$

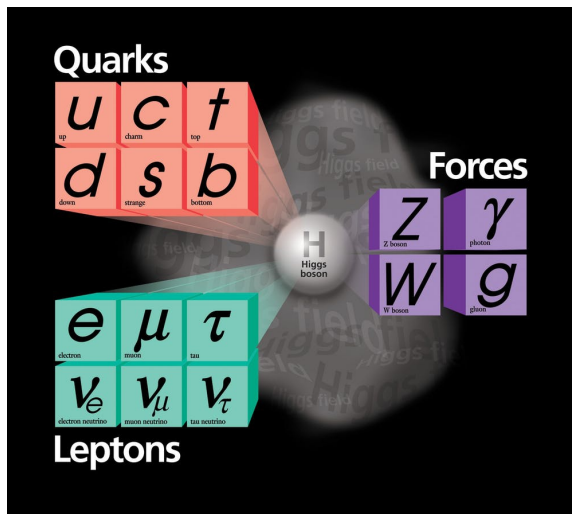
Natural
(fully dictated by
gauge symmetry)

Non-trivial
UV imprints

I $m_H^2 H^2$

II $y_{ij} \psi_i \psi_j H$

Un-natural aspects of
the **SM couplings**

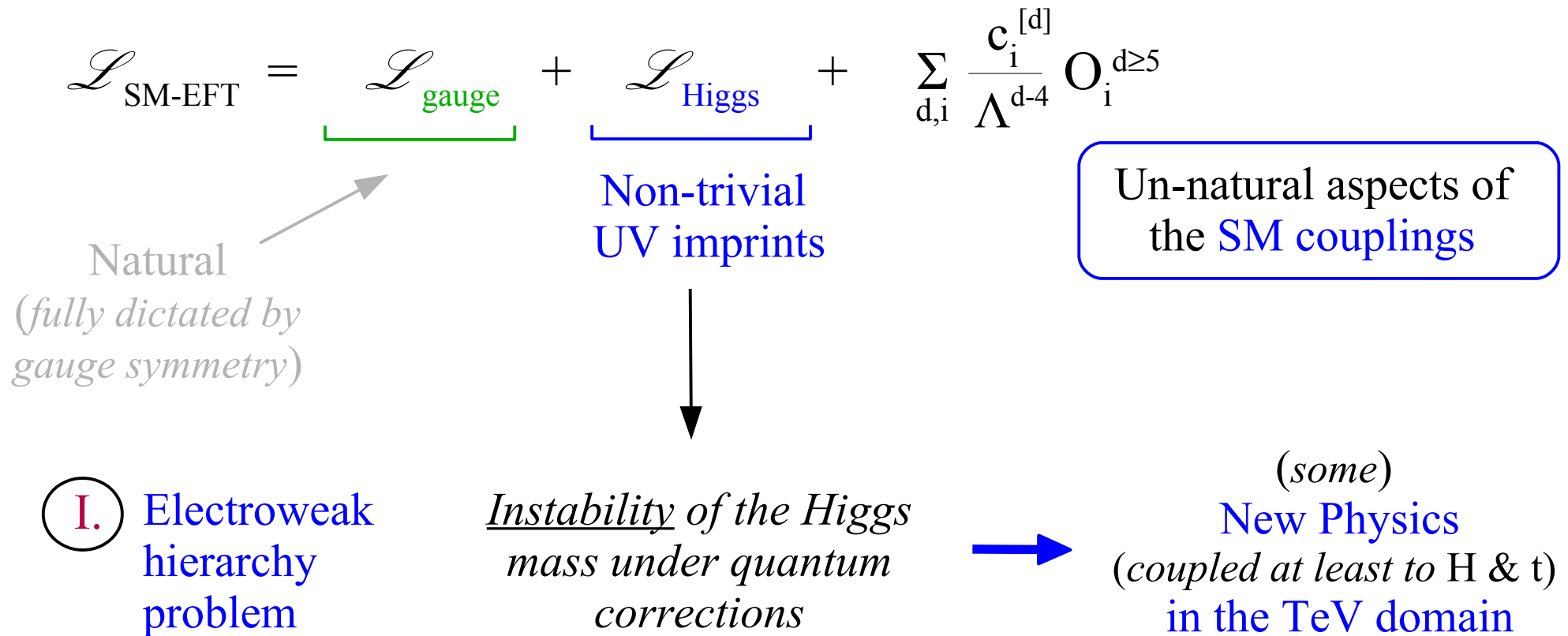


UV Theory



SM (EFT)

Introduction



$$\text{---} \bullet \text{---} + \text{---} \bigcirc \text{NP} \text{---} \rightarrow m_H^2 \Big|_{\text{Phys}}$$

$m_H^2 \Big|_{\Lambda}$

$\Delta m_H^2 \sim \Lambda^2$

Introduction

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Un-natural aspects of
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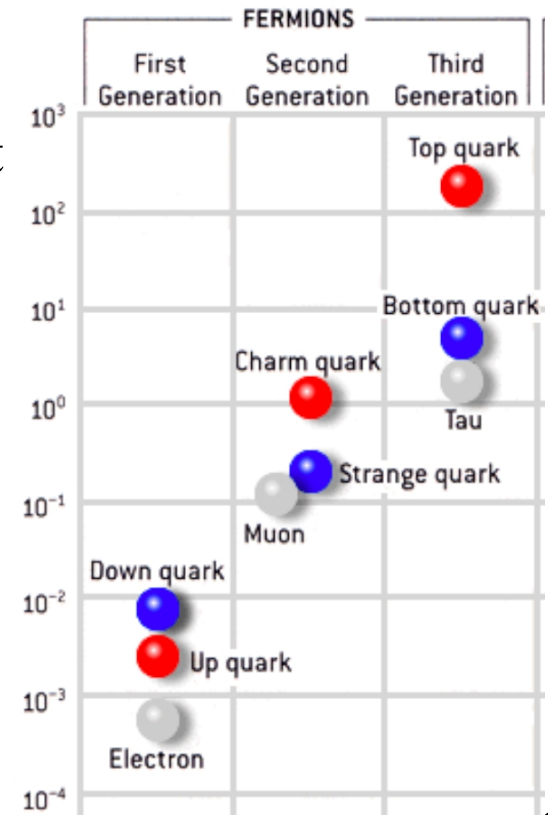
I. Electroweak
hierarchy
problem

II. Flavor
problem

The entries of the Yukawa couplings span 5 orders of magnitude & do not appear at all accidental:

$$Y_U \sim \begin{pmatrix} \text{light} & \text{light} & \text{light} \\ \text{light} & \text{medium} & \text{medium} \\ \text{medium} & \text{medium} & \text{heavy} \end{pmatrix}$$

$y_c \approx 0.005$ $y_t \approx 1$ $V_{ts} \approx 0.04$



► Introduction

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Un-natural aspects of the **SM couplings**

I. Electroweak hierarchy problem

Instability of the Higgs mass under quantum corrections



(some)
New Physics in the TeV domain

II. Flavor problem

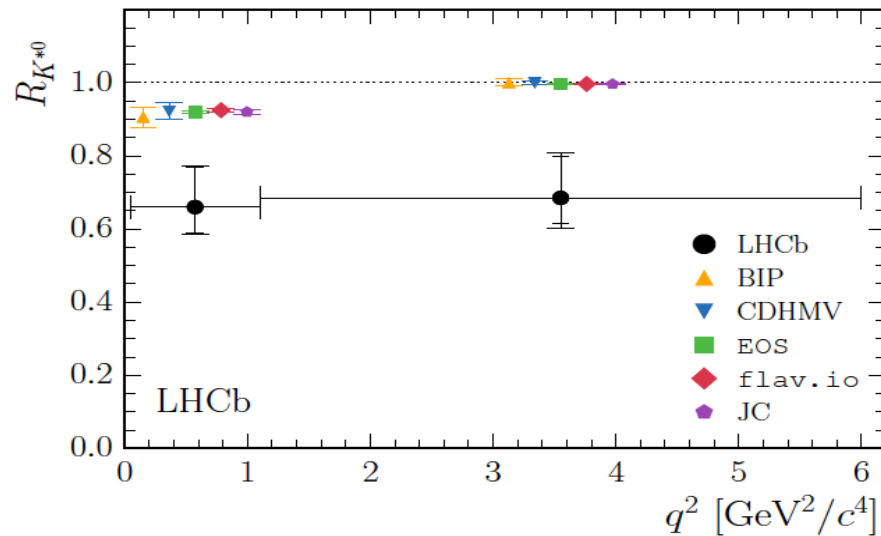
Un-natural hierarchies in the couplings describing fermion masses



flavor non-universal dynamics
(at some energy scale)

As I will argue in the rest of this talk, the violations of LFU suggest to “attack” these two problems together, and not one at a time (*as often done in the past*)

A closer look to the data



► A closer look to the data

Since 2013 results in semi-leptonic B decays started to exhibit tensions with the SM predictions connected to a possible violation of **L**epton **F**lavor **U**niversality

More precisely, we seem to observe a different behavior (*beside pure kinematical effects*) of different lepton species in the following processes:

- $b \rightarrow s \, l^+ l^-$ (neutral currents): μ vs. e
- $b \rightarrow c \, l \nu$ (charged currents): τ vs. light leptons (μ, e)

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N.B: **LFU** is an accidental symmetry of the SM Lagrangian in the limit where we neglect the lepton Yukawa couplings.

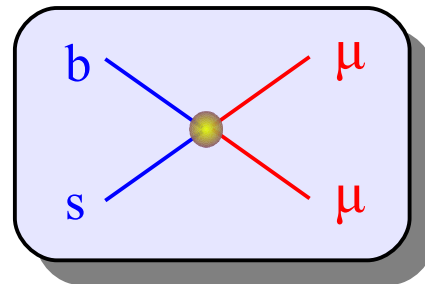
LFU is badly broken in the Yukawa sector: $y_e \sim 3 \times 10^{-6}$, $y_\mu \sim 3 \times 10^{-4}$, $y_\tau \sim 10^{-2}$

but all the lepton Yukawa couplings are small compared to SM gauge couplings, giving rise to the (*approximate*) universality of decay amplitudes which differ only by the different lepton species involved

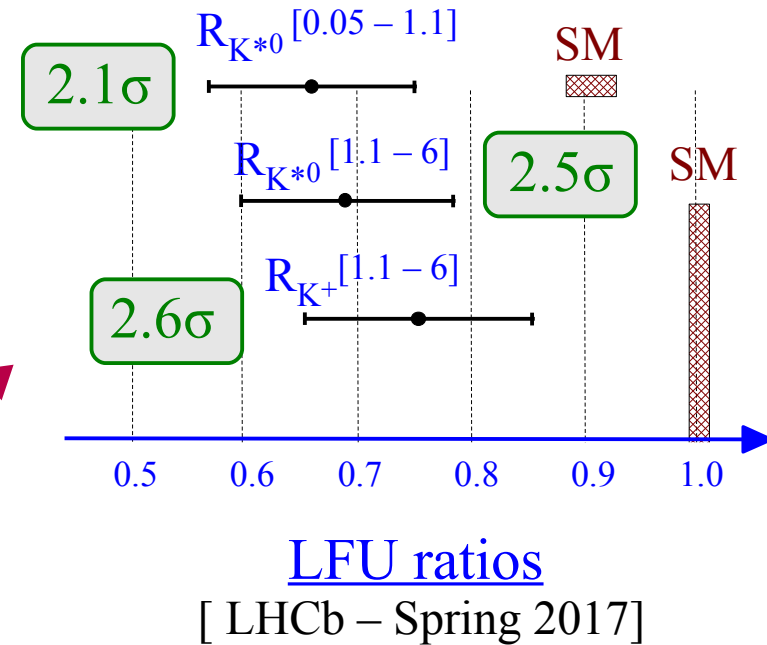
► The B-physics anomalies

• $b \rightarrow s \ell^+ \ell^-$ (neutral currents): μ vs. e

High significance: several observables pointing to the same coherent picture [several new results in 2021]



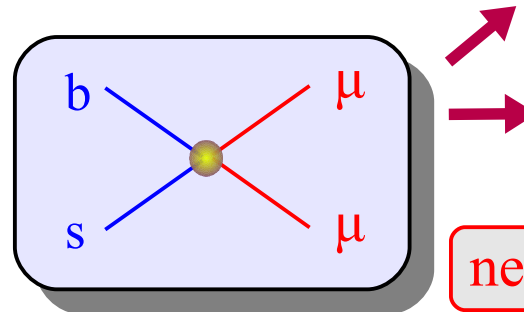
$$\Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H_s \mu \mu) / \Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H_s e e)$$



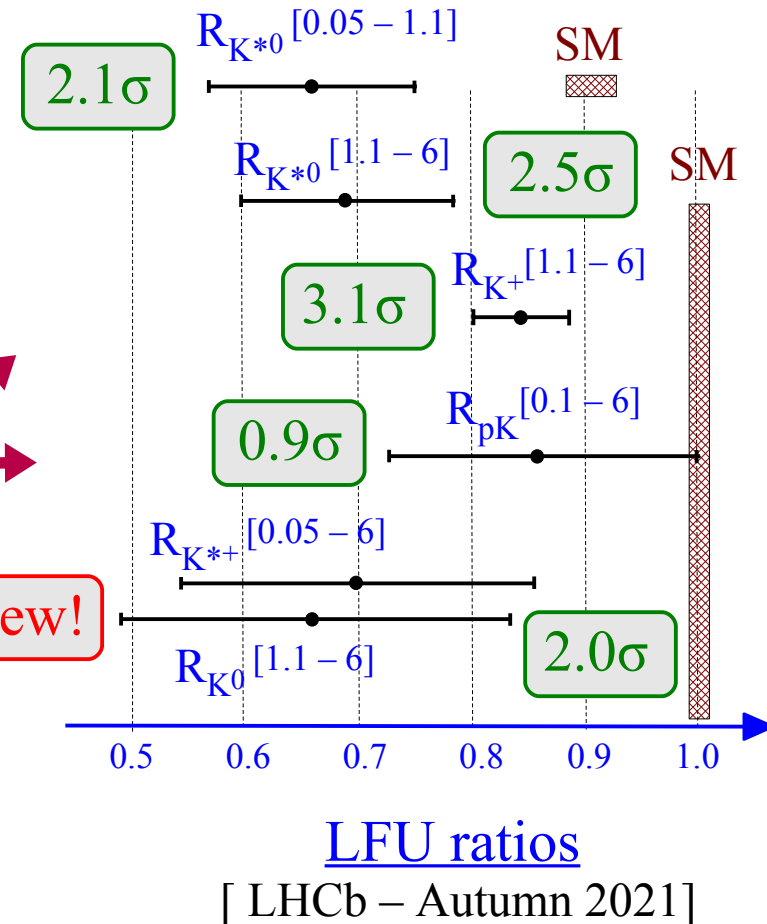
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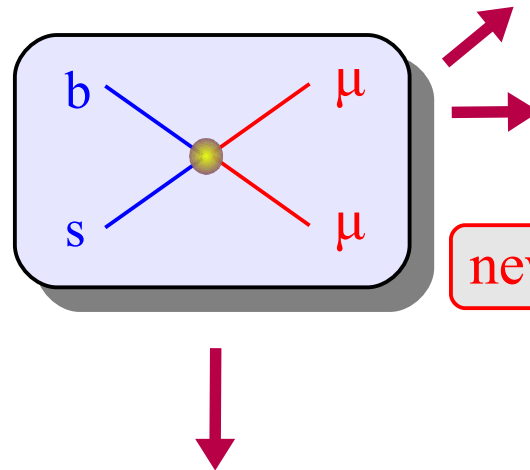
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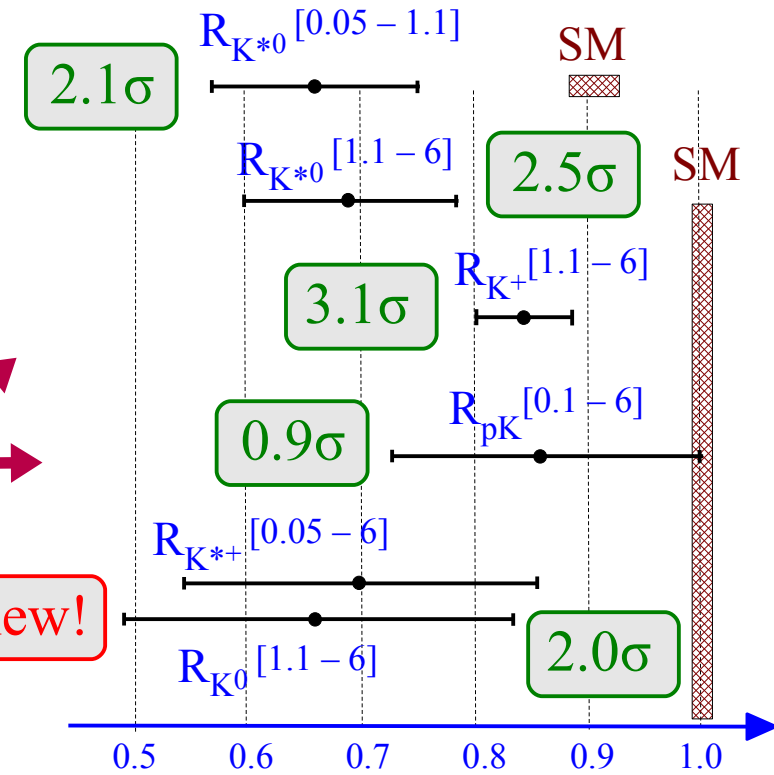
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new!

$$\Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H_s \, \mu\mu) / \Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H_s \, ee)$$



$$\text{BR}(B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu)$$

$$\text{BR}_{\text{exp}} = (2.85 \pm 0.32) \times 10^{-9} \quad \text{ATLAS+CMS+LHCb '21}$$

$$\text{BR}_{\text{SM}} = (3.66 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-9}$$

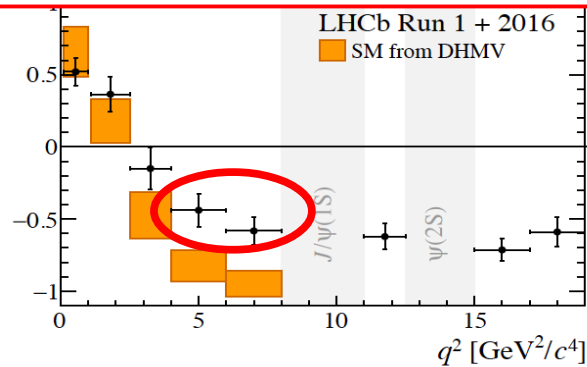
2.3 σ

► The B-physics anomalies

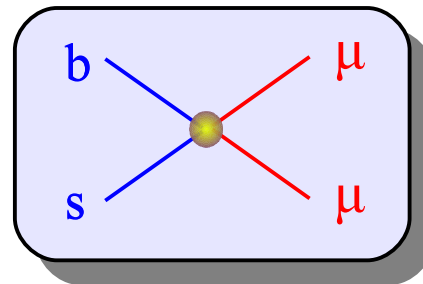
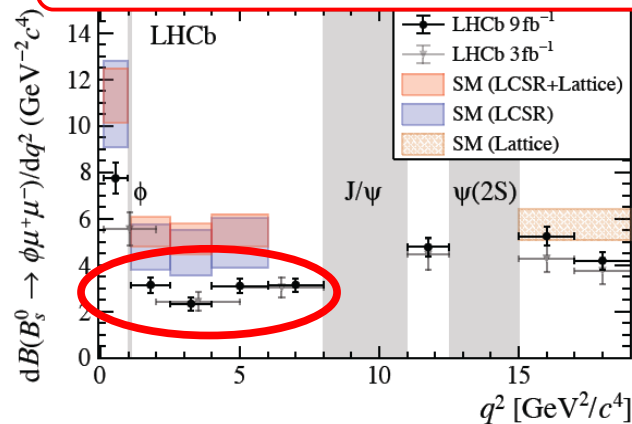
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High significance: several observables pointing to the same coherent picture [several new results in 2021]

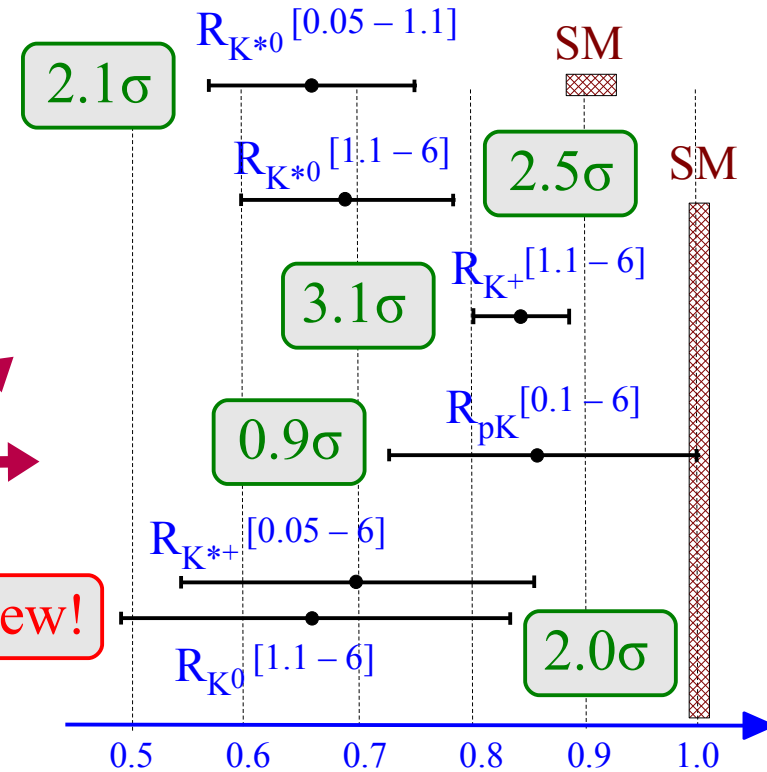
$B \rightarrow K^* \mu\mu$ angular distribution



$B \rightarrow H \mu\mu$ branching ratios



$\Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H_s \mu\mu)/\Gamma(H_b \rightarrow H_s ee)$



$BR(B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu)$

$BR_{\text{exp}} = (2.85 \pm 0.32) \times 10^{-9}$ ATLAS+CMS+LHCb '21

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► The B-physics anomalies

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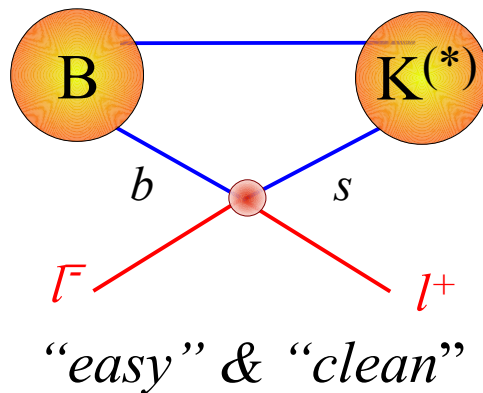
└ build an EFT Lagrangian
└ evolve it down to $\mu \sim m_b$
└ evaluate hadronic matrix elements

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{tb}^* V_{ts} \sum_i c_i \mathcal{O}_i$$

FCNC operators:

$$\mathcal{O}_{10}^\ell = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L)(\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \ell)$$

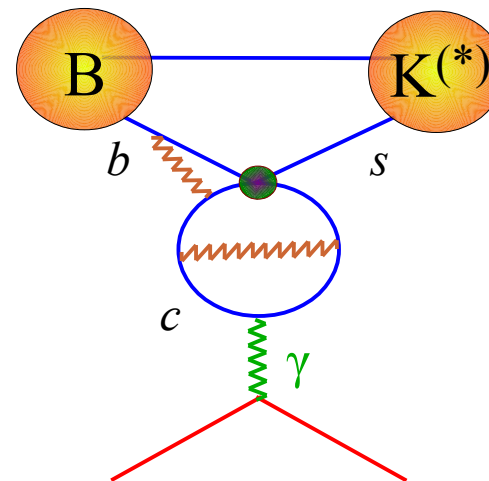
$$\mathcal{O}_9^\ell = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L)(\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \ell)$$



Four-quark operators:

$$\mathcal{O}_2 = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L)(\bar{c}_L \gamma_\mu c_L)$$

⋮



“difficult”

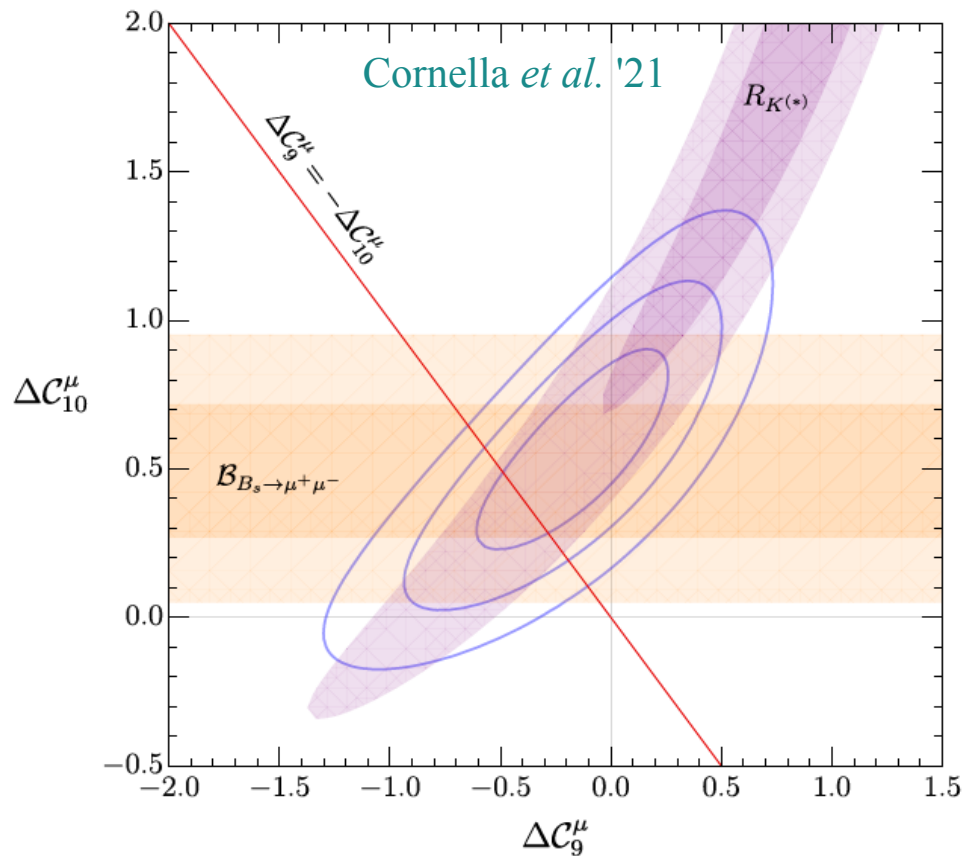


induces ΔC_9^{Univ}

N.B.: long-distance effect cannot induce LFU breaking terms (\rightarrow **LFU ratios** “clean”) and cannot induce axial-current contributions (\rightarrow $B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu$ “clean”)

► The B-physics anomalies

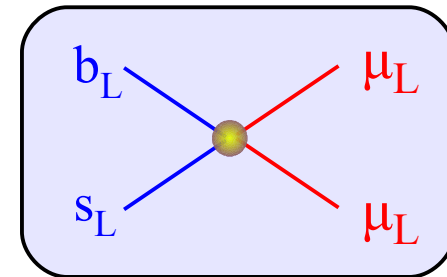
• $b \rightarrow s \ell^+ \ell^-$ (neutral currents): μ vs. e



Clean short-distance effect
 $[\Delta C_i^\mu = C_i^\mu - C_i^e]$:

$$\mathcal{O}_{10}^\ell = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L)(\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \ell)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_9^\ell = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L)(\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \ell)$$



Conservative fit using “clean obs.” only

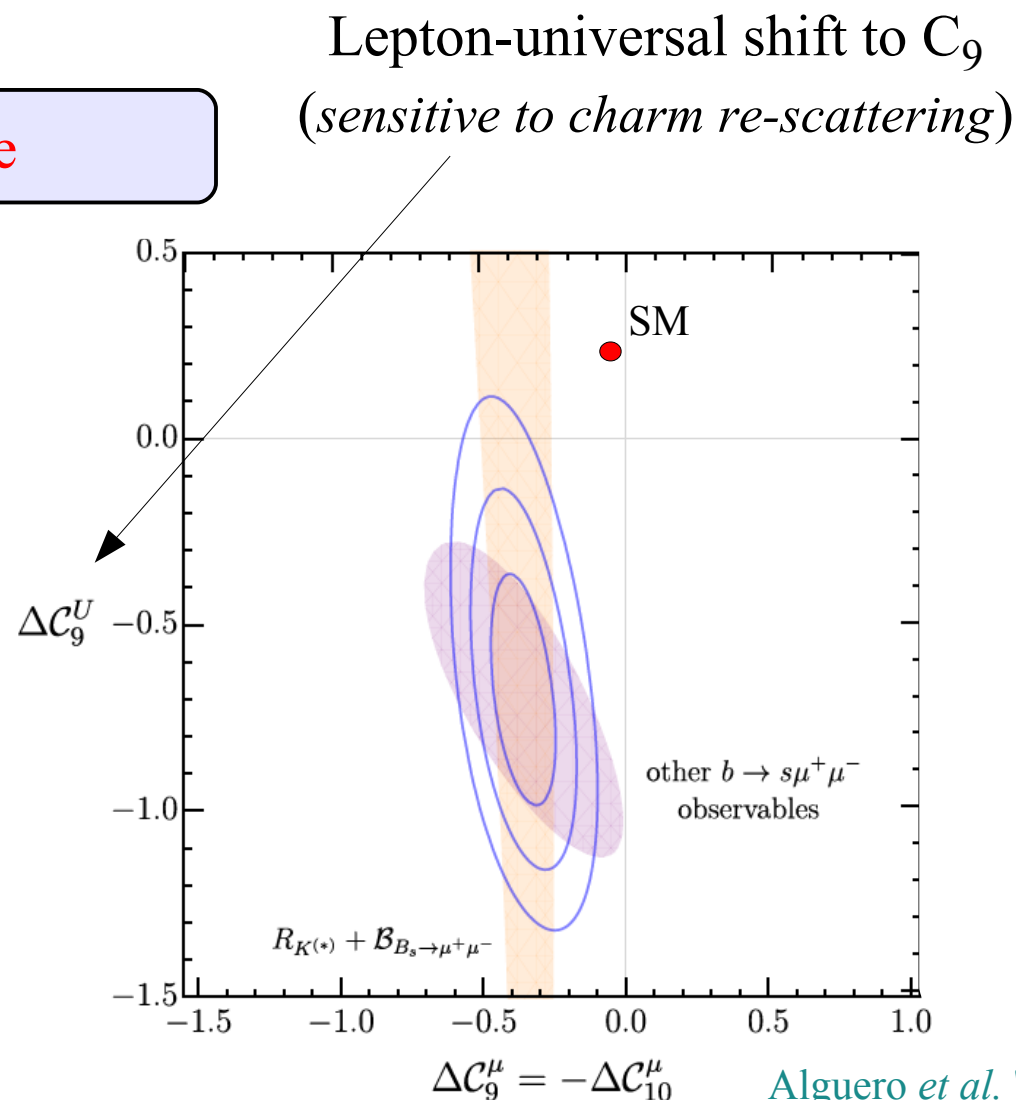
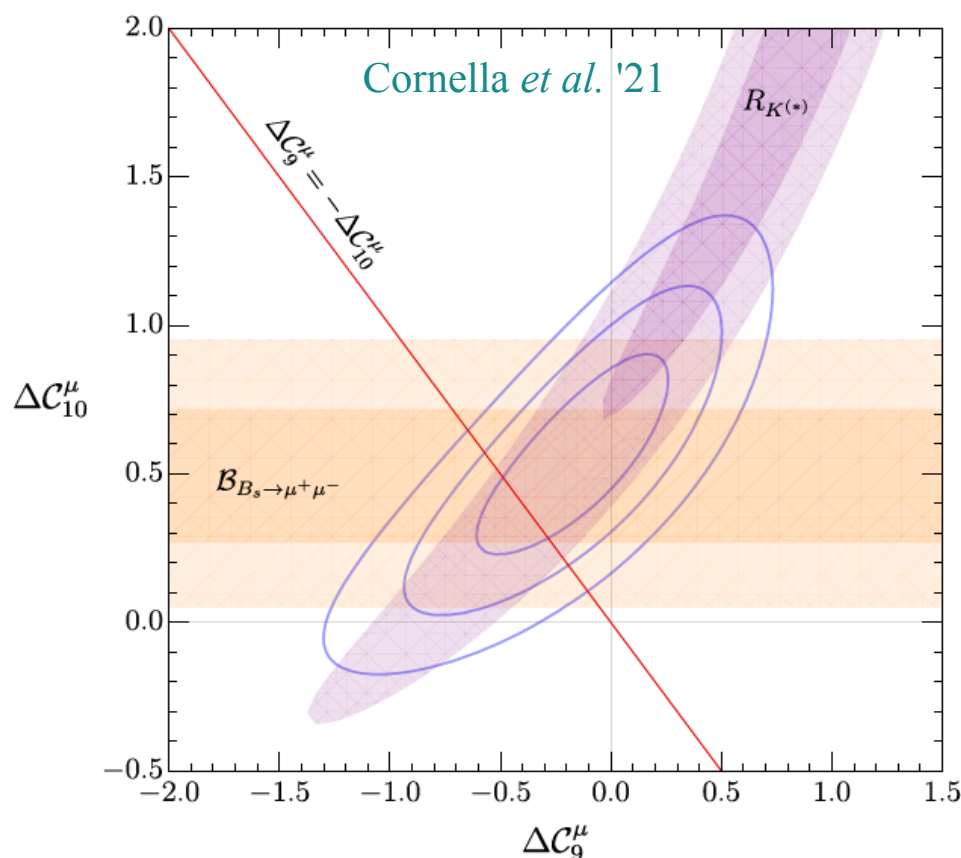
5.0σ

significance of NP hypothesis

$$\Delta C_9^\mu = -\Delta C_{10}^\mu \text{ vs. SM}$$

► The B-physics anomalies

• $b \rightarrow s \, l^+ l^-$ (neutral currents): μ vs. e



Conservative fit using “clean obs.” only

$\gg 5\sigma$

best estimate of charm contribution

Alguero et al. '19
Ciuchini et al. '20
Li-Sheng et al. '21
Altmanshofer & Stangl '21

5.0σ

significance of NP hypothesis

$\Delta C_9^\mu = -\Delta C_{10}^\mu$ vs. SM

4.3σ

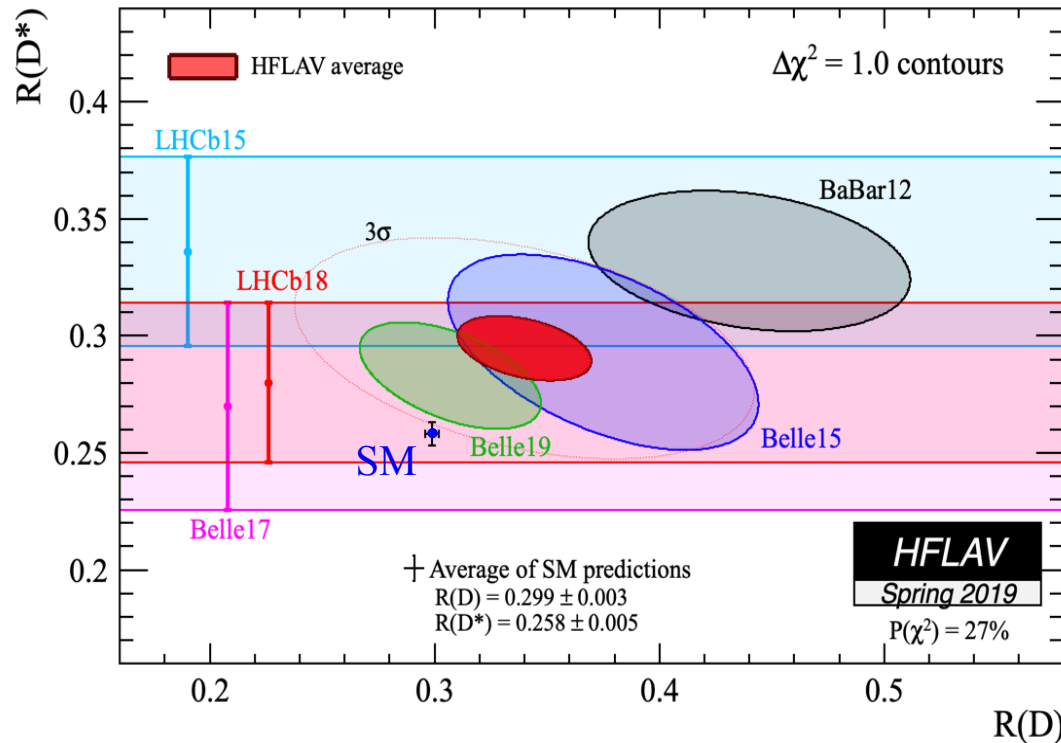
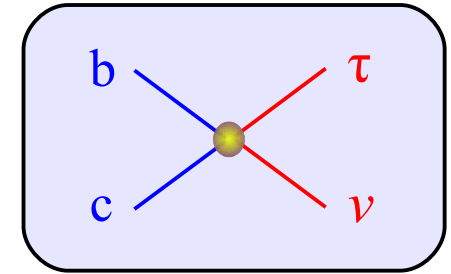
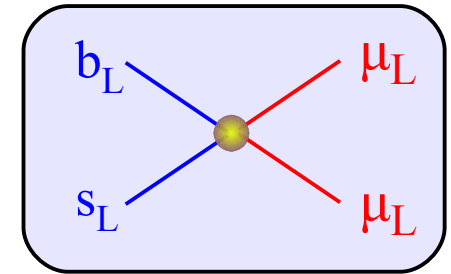
global significance of NP
(very conserv. estimate)

GI, Lancierini
Owen, Serra '21

► The B-physics anomalies

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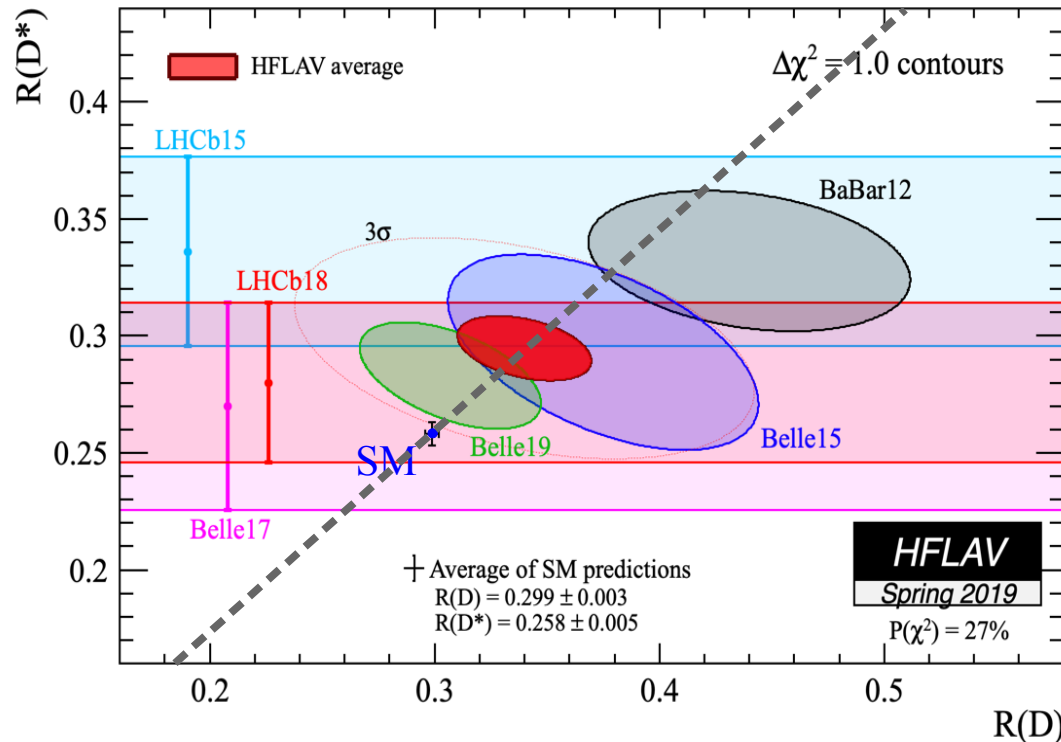
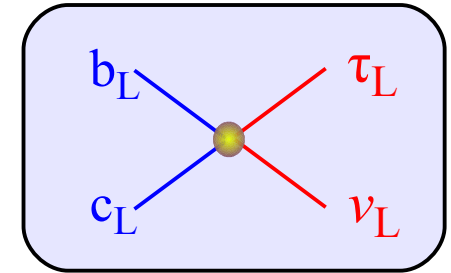
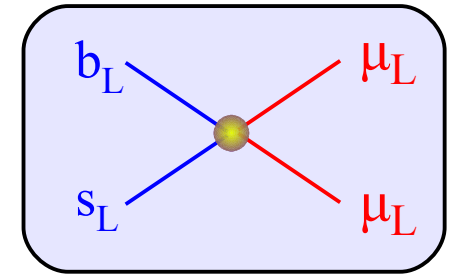
$$R(X) = \frac{\Gamma(B \rightarrow X \, \tau \nu)}{\Gamma(B \rightarrow X \, l \nu)} \quad X = D \text{ or } D^*$$

- Clean SM predictions (*uncertainties cancel in the ratios*)
- Consistent results by 3 different exp.ts: **3.1 σ** excess over SM
- Slower progress

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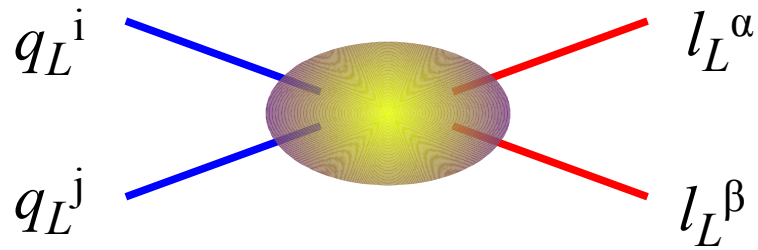


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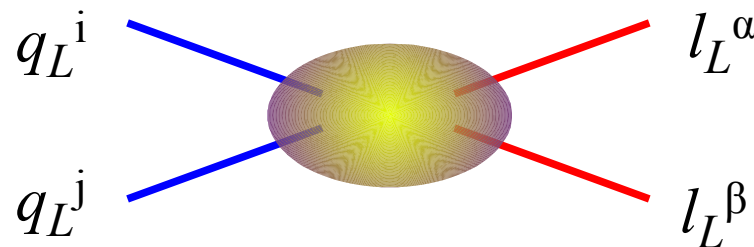
- Large NP effect competing with tree-level SM amplitude
- Left-handed NP amplitude describe well data (*but other options still possible*)

EFT considerations



► EFT considerations

- Anomalies are seen only in semi-leptonic (**quark**×**lepton**) operators
- We definitely need non-vanishing left-handed current-current operators although other contributions are also possible



Bhattacharya *et al.* '14
 Alonso, Grinstein, Camalich '15
 Greljo, GI, Marzocca '15
 (+many others...)

- Large coupling [*competing with SM tree-level*] in $bc \rightarrow l_3 \nu_3$ [R_D, R_{D^*}]
- Small coupling [*competing with SM loop-level*] in $bs \rightarrow l_2 l_2$ [R_K, R_{K^*}, \dots]



$$C_{ij\alpha\beta} = \begin{array}{c} \text{large for} \\ 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ generation} \\ \text{fields} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{small terms} \\ \text{for } 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ (\& } 1^{\text{st}}) \\ \text{generations} \end{array}$$

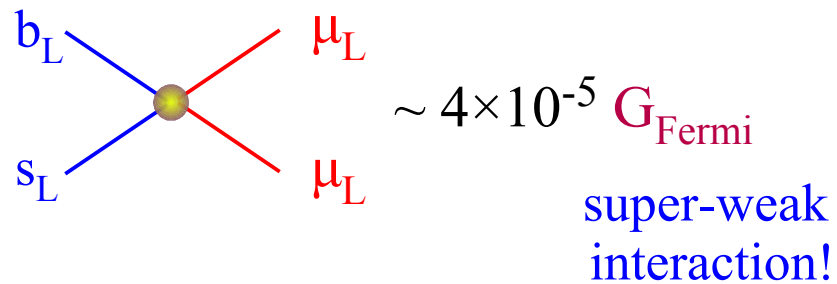


*Link to pattern
 of the Yukawa
 couplings !*

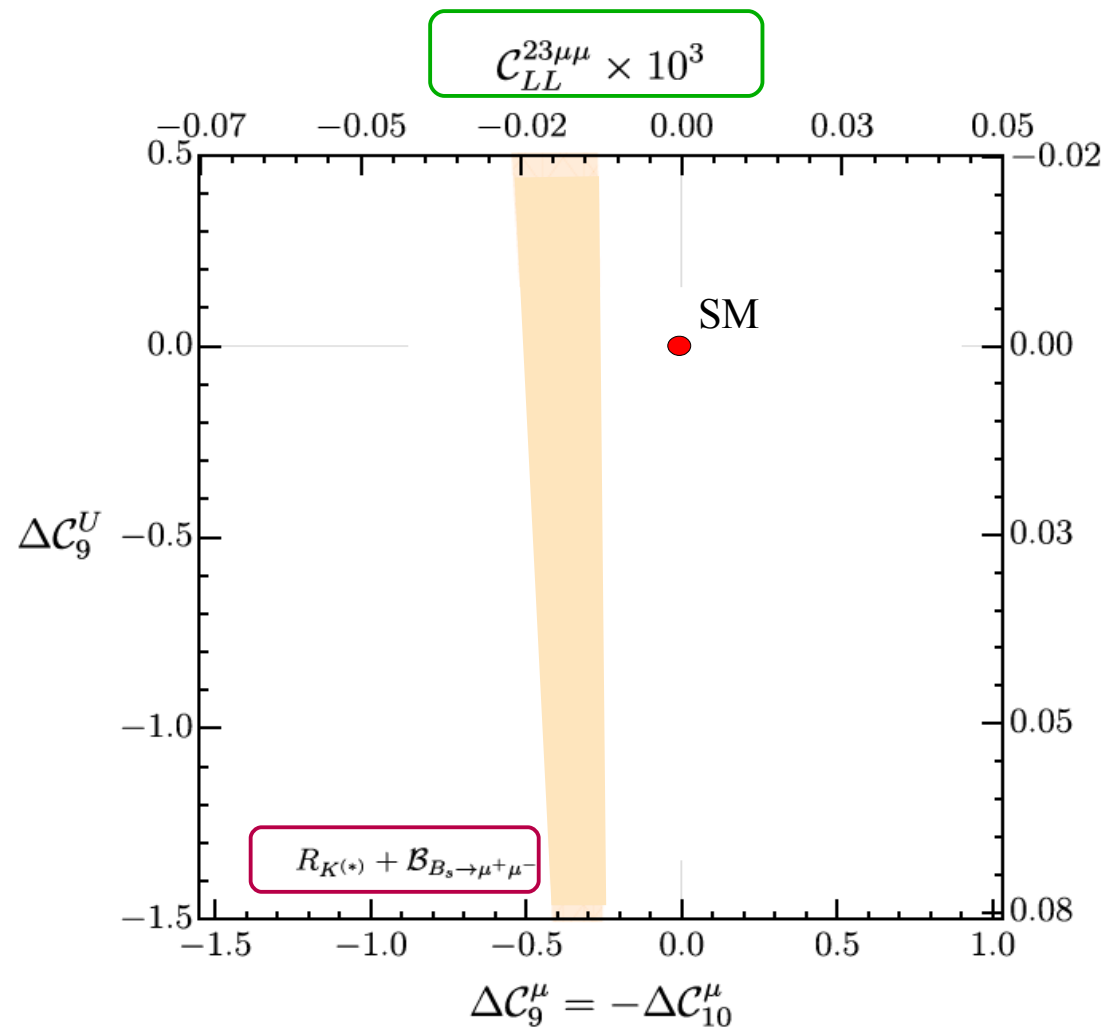
► EFT considerations

Data point to (short-distance) NP effects in operators of the type

$$\mathcal{O}_{LL}^{ij\alpha\beta} = (\bar{q}_L^i \gamma_\mu \ell_L^\alpha) (\bar{\ell}_L^\beta \gamma_\mu q_L^j)$$



$$C_{LL}^{23\mu\mu} \rightarrow \Delta C_9^\mu = -\Delta C_{10}^\mu$$

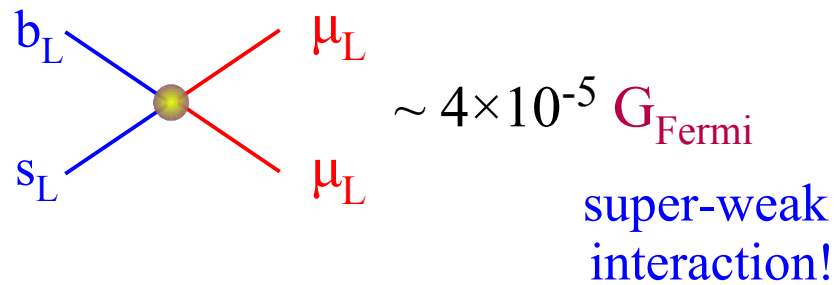


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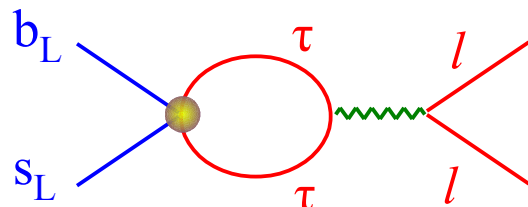
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✓ $\mathcal{O}(10^{-1})$ suppress. for each 2nd gen. l_L

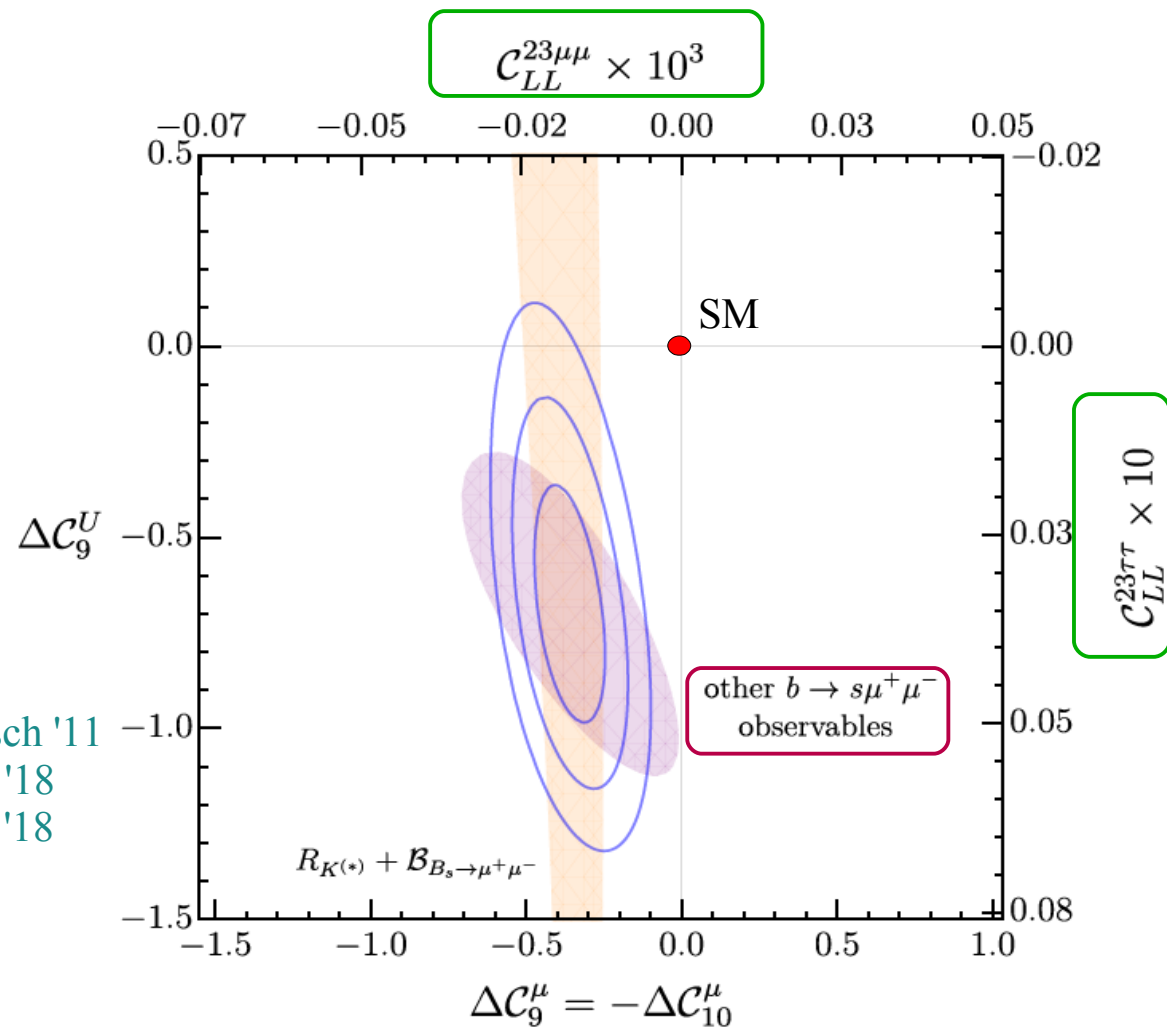


$$C_{LL}^{23\mu\mu} \rightarrow \Delta C_9^\mu = -\Delta C_{10}^\mu$$



$$C_{LL}^{23\tau\tau} \rightarrow \Delta C_9^{\text{Univ}}$$

Bobeth & Haisch '11
Crivellin *et al.* '18
Alguero *et al.* '18

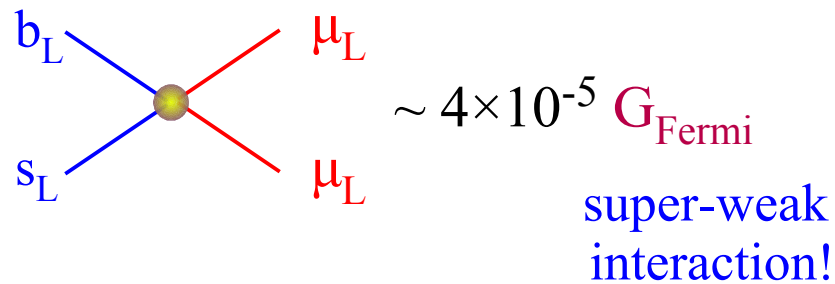


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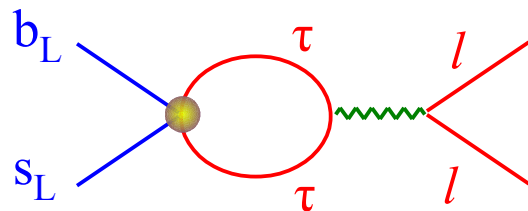
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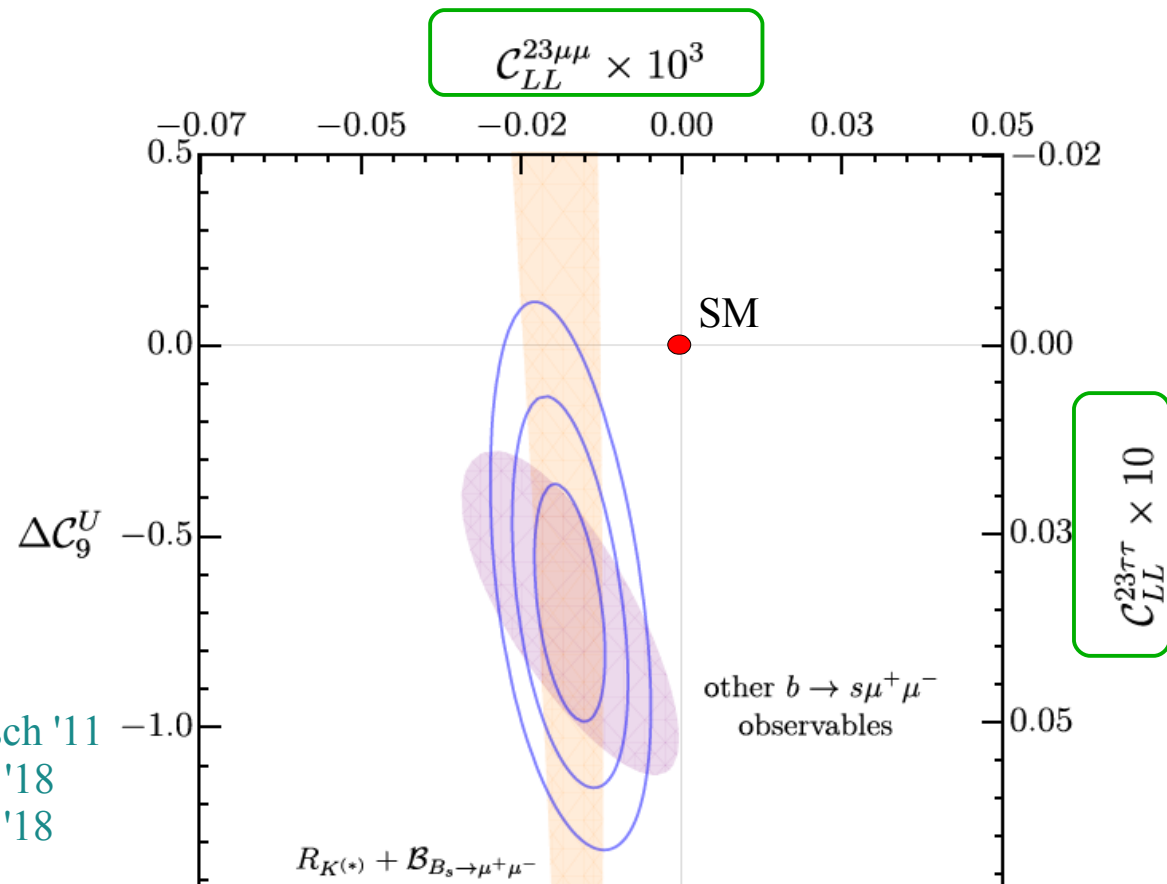
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Bobeth & Haisch '11
Crivellin *et al.* '18
Alguero *et al.* '18

$$C_{LL}^{23\tau\tau} \rightarrow \Delta C_9^{\text{Univ}}$$

Link to CC anomaly



Size (and need) of $C^{23\tau\tau}$ pre-dicted from CC before this effect was observed in NC

Greljo *et al.* '17

► EFT considerations

Data point to (short-distance) NP effects in operators of the type

✓ $O(10^{-1})$ suppress. for each 2nd gen. q_L or l_L

$$\mathcal{O}_{LL}^{ij\alpha\beta} = (\bar{q}_L^i \gamma_\mu \ell_L^\alpha) (\bar{\ell}_L^\beta \gamma_\mu q_L^j)$$

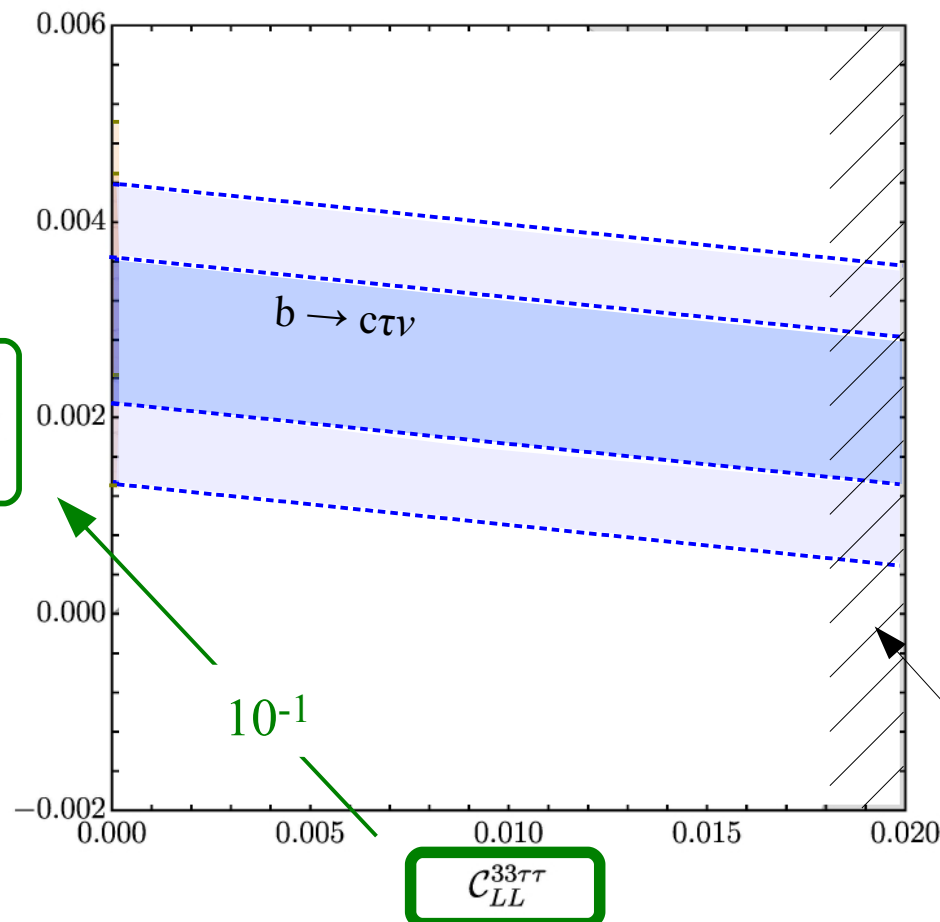
charged-currents:

$$\frac{V_{cb} \mathcal{C}_{LL}^{33\tau\tau} + V_{cs} \mathcal{C}_{LL}^{23\tau\tau}}{V_{cb}}$$

recall:

$$Y_U \sim \begin{pmatrix} & & \text{light gray} \\ \text{light gray} & & \text{dark gray} \\ & \text{light gray} & \text{black} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|V_{ts}| \sim 0.04$$



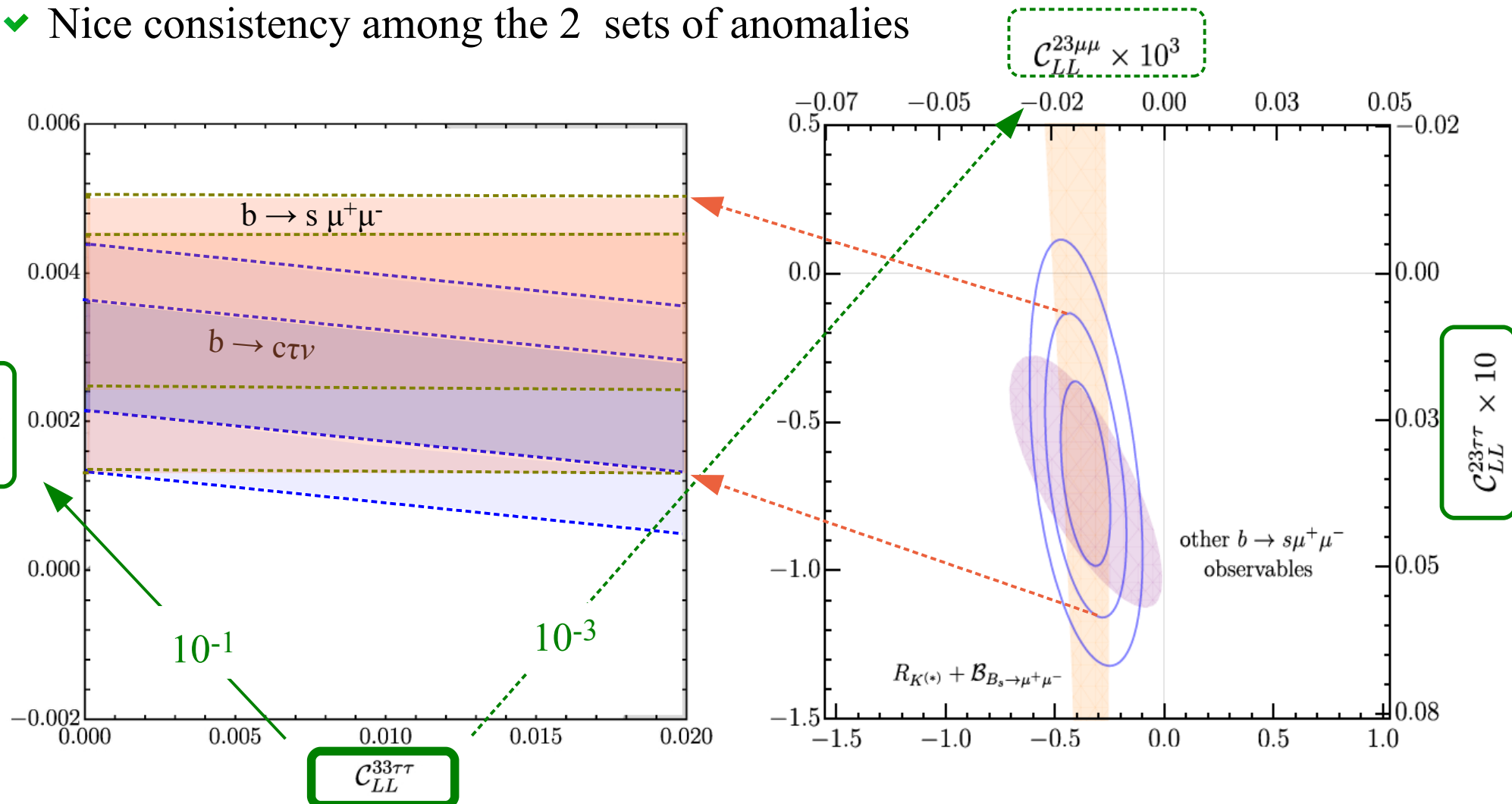
bounds from
high-pT searches

► EFT considerations

Data point to (short-distance) NP effects in operators of the type

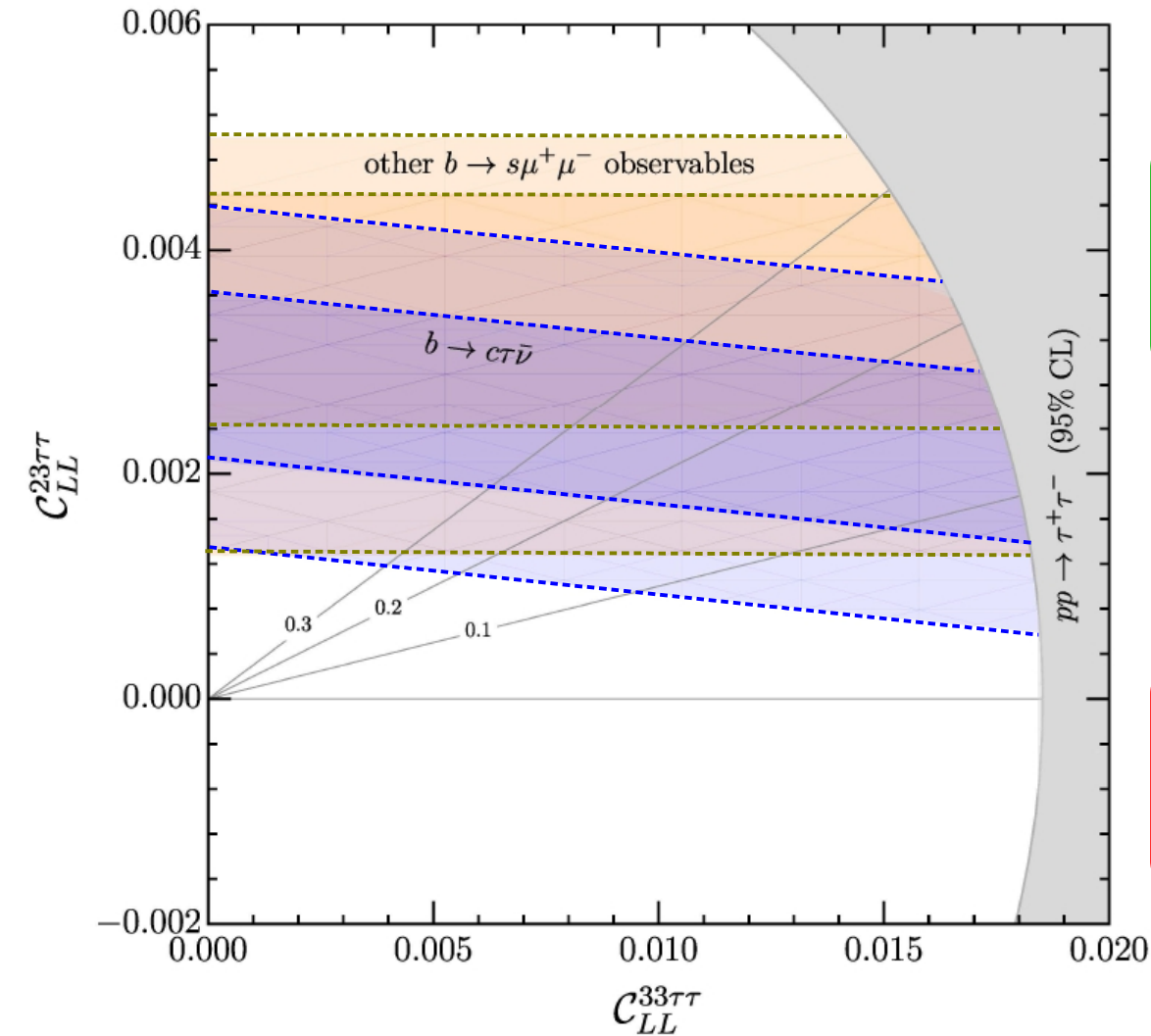
$$\mathcal{O}_{LL}^{ij\alpha\beta} = (\bar{q}_L^i \gamma_\mu \ell_L^\alpha) (\bar{\ell}_L^\beta \gamma_\mu q_L^j)$$

- ✓ $\mathcal{O}(10^{-1})$ suppress. for each 2nd gen. q_L or l_L [$\leftrightarrow |V_{ts}| \sim 0.4 \times 10^{-1}$]
- ✓ Nice consistency among the 2 sets of anomalies



► EFT considerations

$$\mathcal{O}_{LL}^{ij\alpha\beta} = (\bar{q}_L^i \gamma_\mu \ell_L^\alpha) (\bar{\ell}_L^\beta \gamma_\mu q_L^j) = \frac{1}{2} [\mathcal{O}_{\ell q}^{(1)} + \mathcal{O}_{\ell q}^{(3)}]^{ij\alpha\beta}$$



Pattern emerging from data:

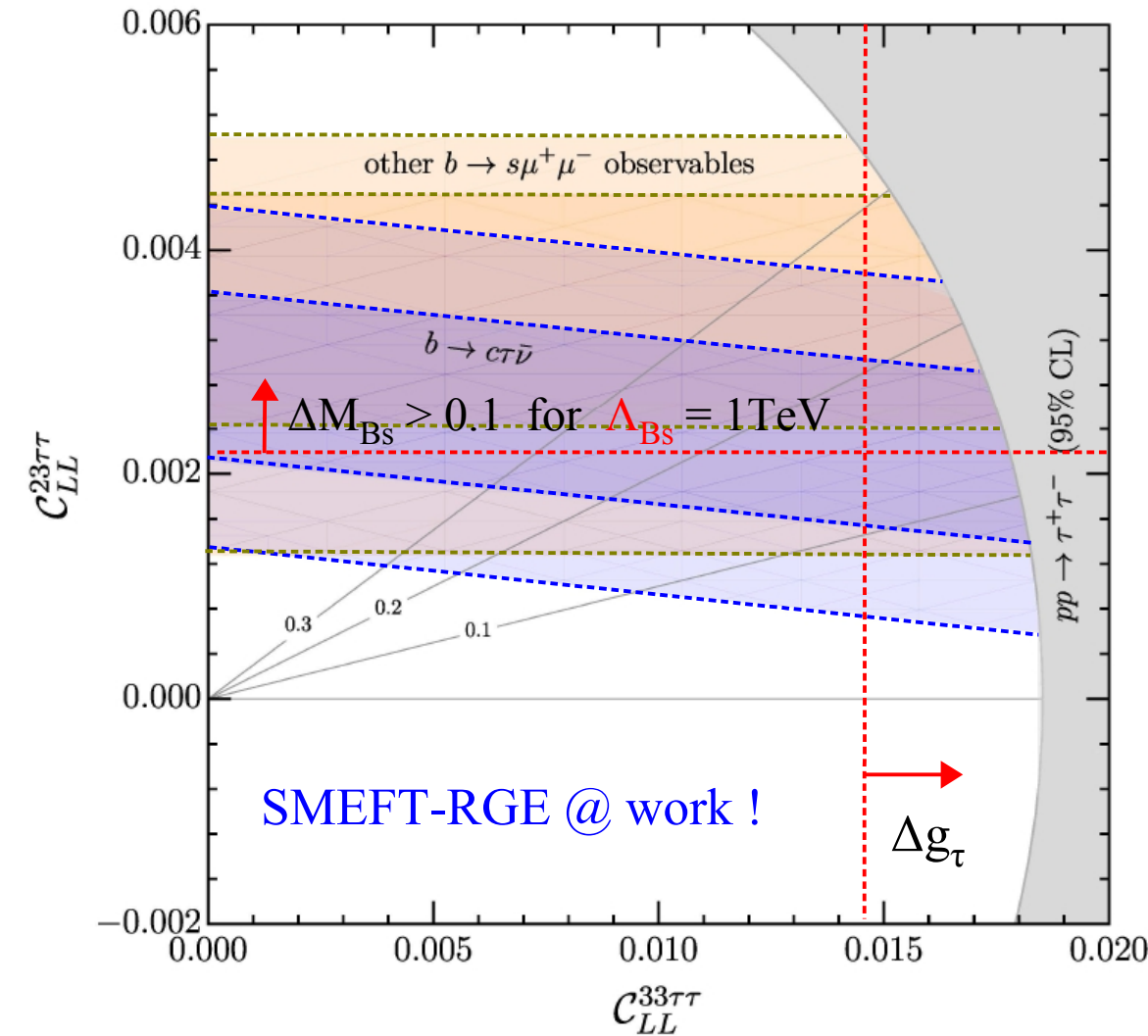
- ✓ $O(10^{-1})$ for each 2nd gen. q_L or l_L
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What we do not see (*seem to call for an additional \sim loop suppression*):

- ✗ Four-quarks ($\Delta F=2$)
- ✗ Four-leptons ($\tau \rightarrow \mu \nu \nu$)
- ✗ Semi-leptonic $O^{(1-3)}$ ($b \rightarrow s \nu \nu$)

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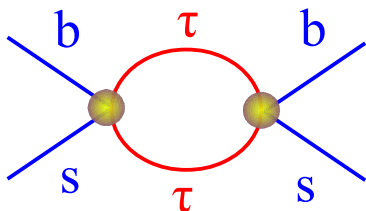


Pattern emerging from data:

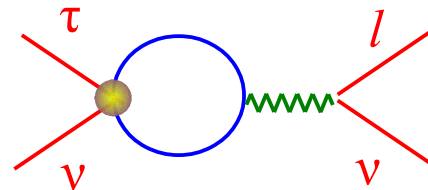
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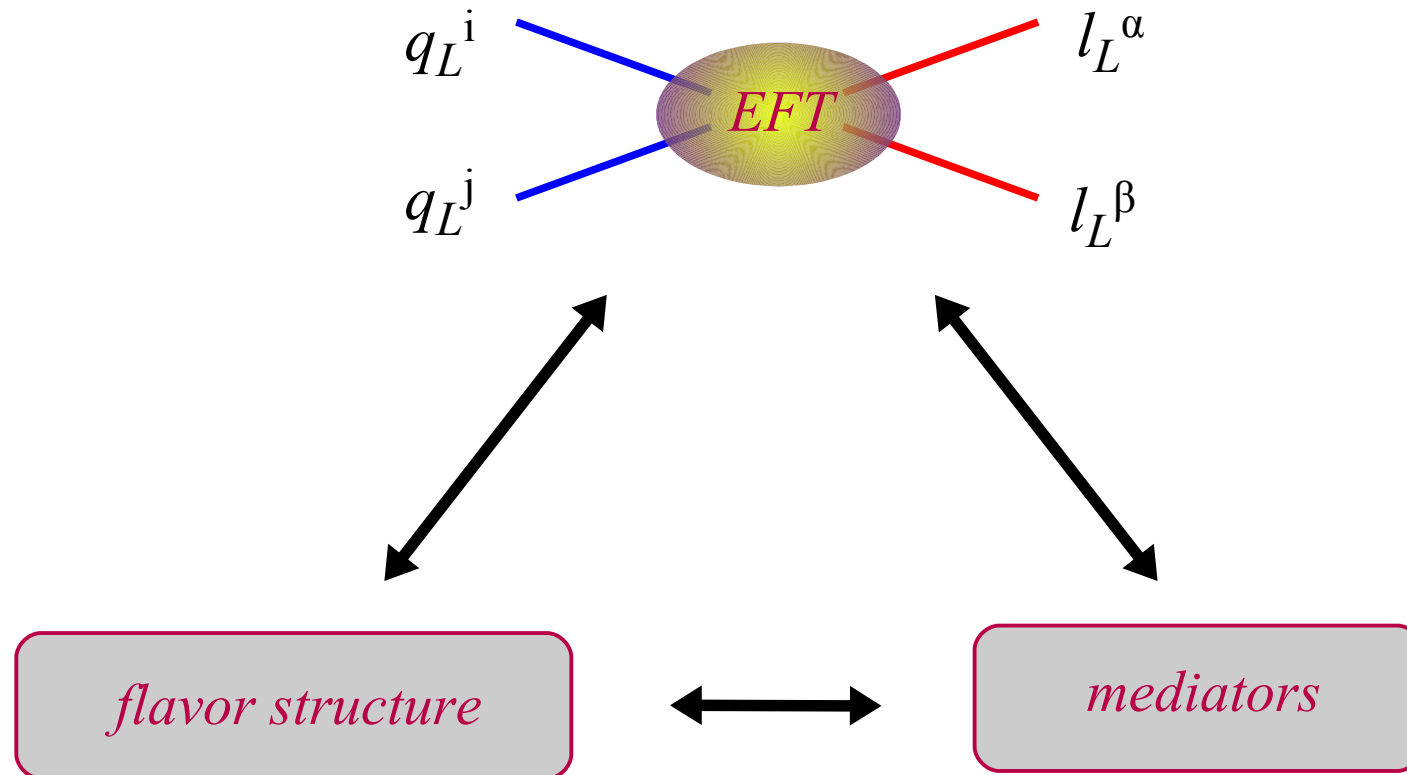


$$\Delta M_{B_s} \sim (C_{LL}^{23\tau\tau})^2 \Lambda_{B_s}^2$$



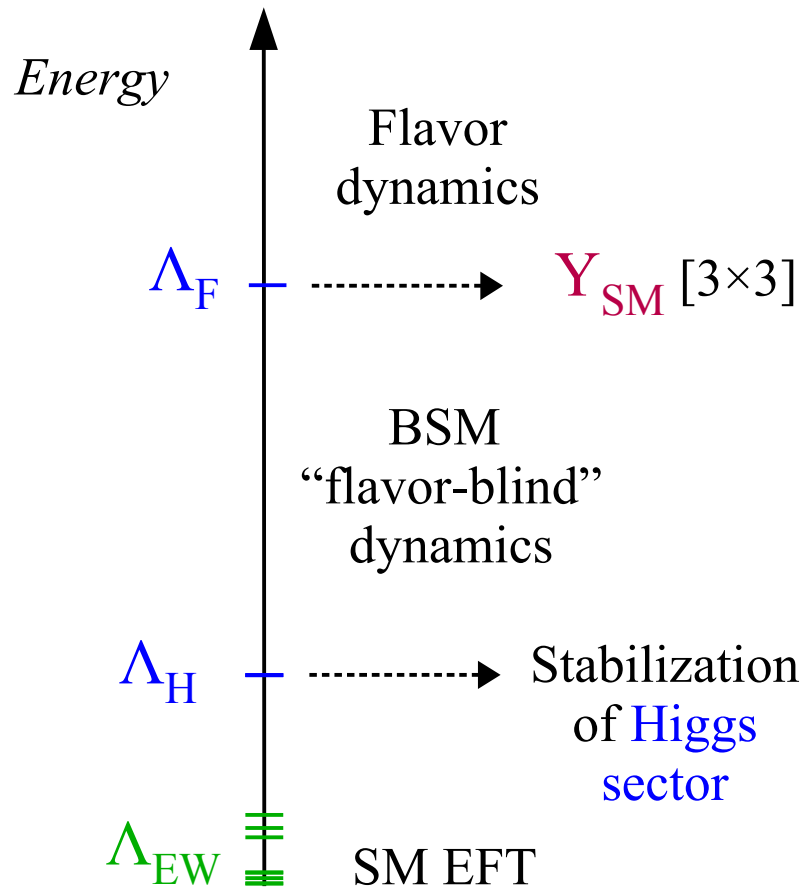
$$\Delta g_\tau \sim (C_{LL}^{33\tau\tau}) \log(\Lambda/m_t)$$

From EFT to simplified models



► From EFT to simplified models [the flavor structure]

The old (MFV) paradigm:



Main idea:

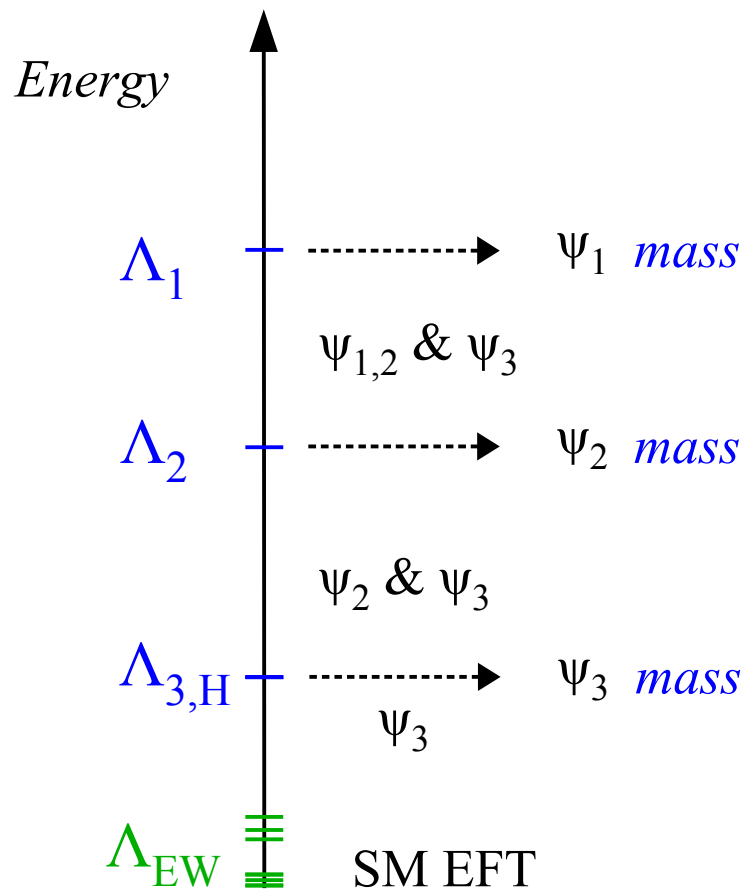
- Concentrate on the Higgs hierarchy problem
- Postpone (*ignore*) the flavor problem



3 gen. = “identical copies”
up to high energies

► From EFT to simplified models [the flavor structure]

The new paradigm: multi-scale structure @ origin of flavor:



Barbieri '21
 Allwicher, GI, Thomsen '20
 ⋮
 Bordone *et al.* '17
 Panico & Pomarol '16
 ⋮
 Dvali & Shifman '00

Main idea:

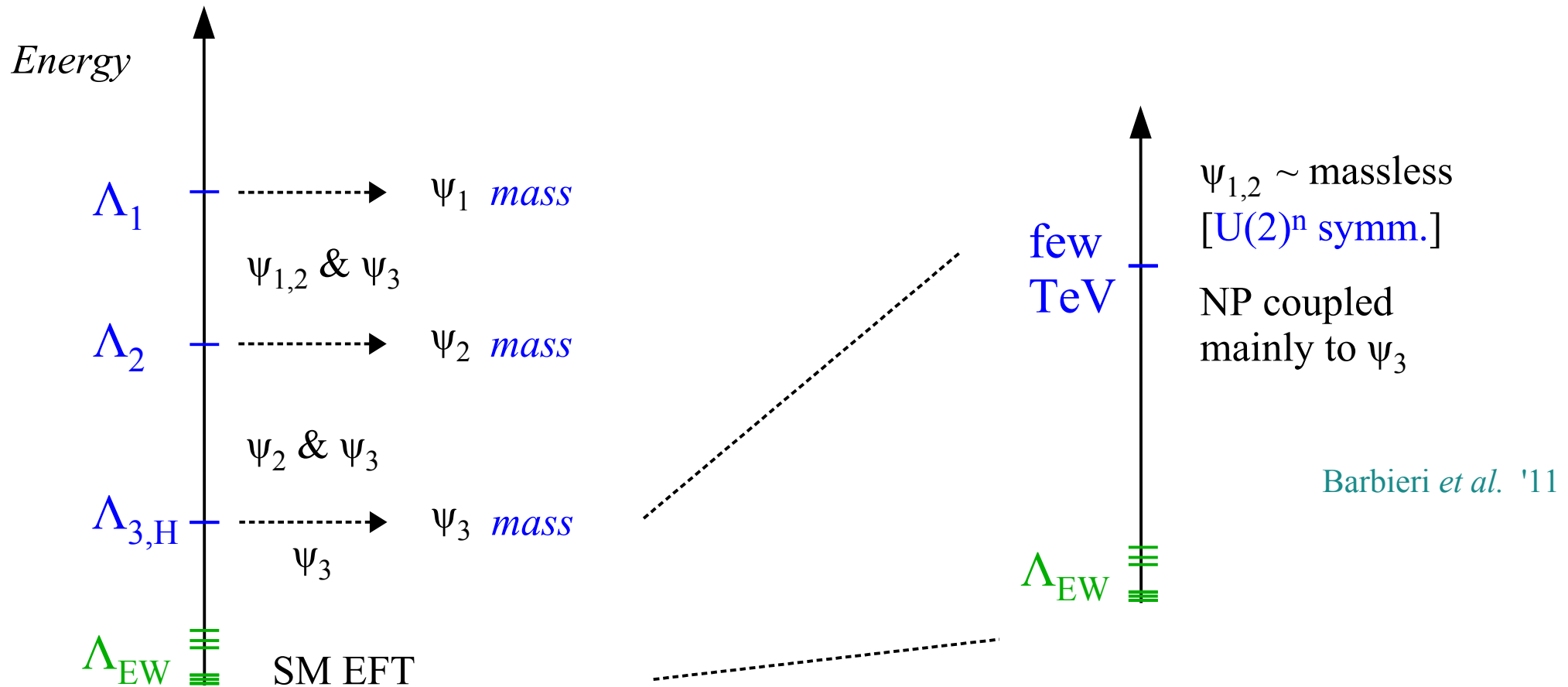
- Flavor **non-universal interactions** already at the **TeV scale**:
- **1st & 2nd gen.** have small masses because they are coupled to **NP at heavier scales**



~~3 gen. = “identical copies”
 up to high energies~~

► From EFT to simplified models [the flavor structure]

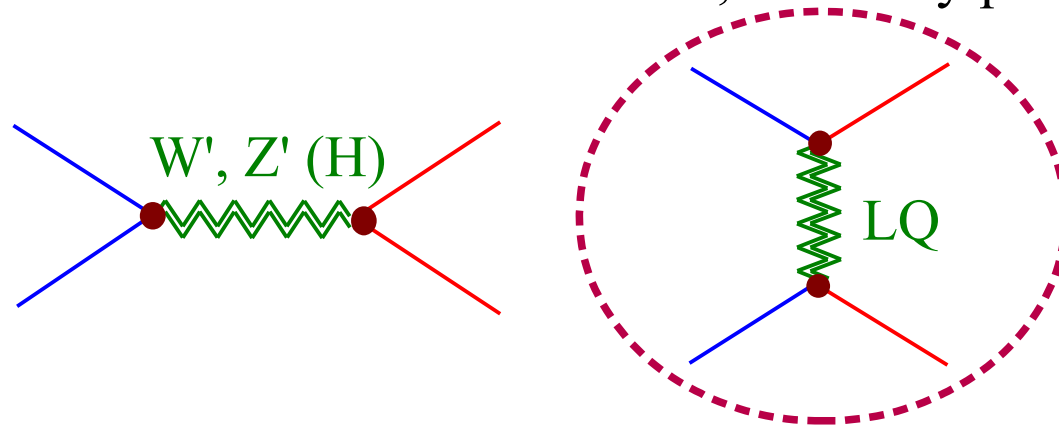
The new paradigm: multi-scale structure @ origin of flavor:



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM-EFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_Y + \sum_i \frac{1}{\Lambda_i^{d-4}} \mathcal{O}_i^{d \geq 5}}_{\text{Non-trivial UV imprints}}$$

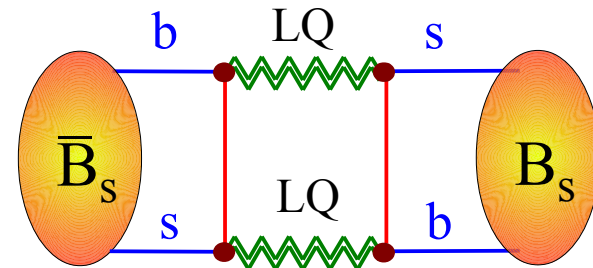
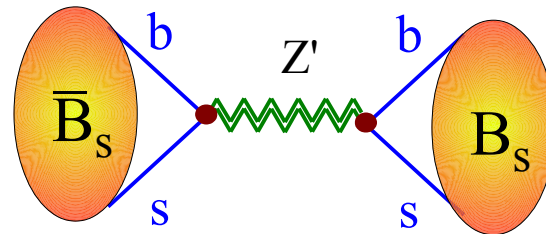
► From EFT to simplified models [the possible mediators]

Which mediators can generate the effective operators required for by the EFT fit?
If we restrict the attention to tree-level mediators, not many possibilities...



LQ (both scalar and vectors) have two general strong advantages with respect to the other mediators:

I. $\Delta F=2$ &
 $\tau \rightarrow l \nu \nu$



II. Direct
searches:

3rd gen. LQ are also in better shape as far as direct searches are concerned (*contrary to Z'...*).

► From EFT to simplified models [the possible mediators]

“Renaissance” of LQ models

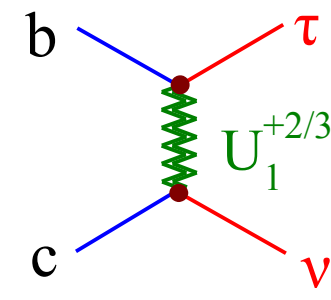
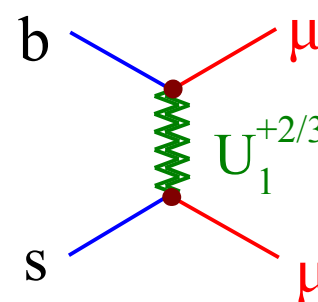
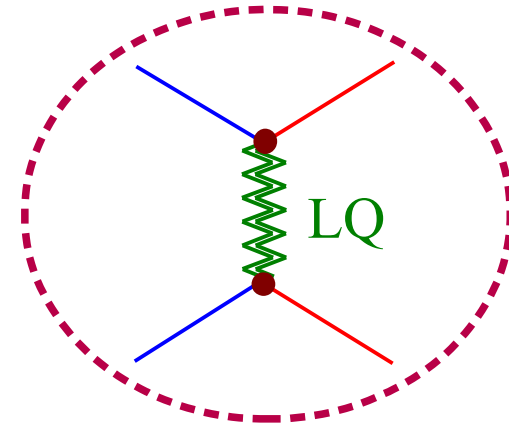
(to explain the anomalies, but not only...):

- Scalar LQ as PNG
Gripaios, '10
Gripaios, Nardecchia, Renner, '14
Marzocca '18
- Scalar LQ from GUTs & ~~R~~ SUSY
Hiller & Schmaltz, '14; Becirevic *et al.* '16,
Fajfer *et al.* '15-'17; Dorsner *et al.* '17;
Crivellin *et al.* '17; Altmannshofer *et al.* '17
Trifinopoulos '18, Becirevic *et al.* '18 + ...
- Vector LQ as techni-fermion resonances
Barbieri *et al.* '15; Buttazzo *et al.* '16,
Barbieri, Murphy, Senia, '17 + ...
- LQ as Kaluza-Klein excit.
Megias, Quiros, Salas '17
Megias, Panico, Pujolas, Quiros '17
Blanke, Crivellin, '18 + ...
- Vector LQ in GUT gauge models
Assad *et al.* '17
Di Luzio *et al.* '17
Bordone *et al.* '17
Heeck & Teresi '18
+ ...

Best option for a combined solution:

→ $U_1 = \text{SU}(2)_L$ singlet vector

Barbieri, GI,
Pattori, Senia '15

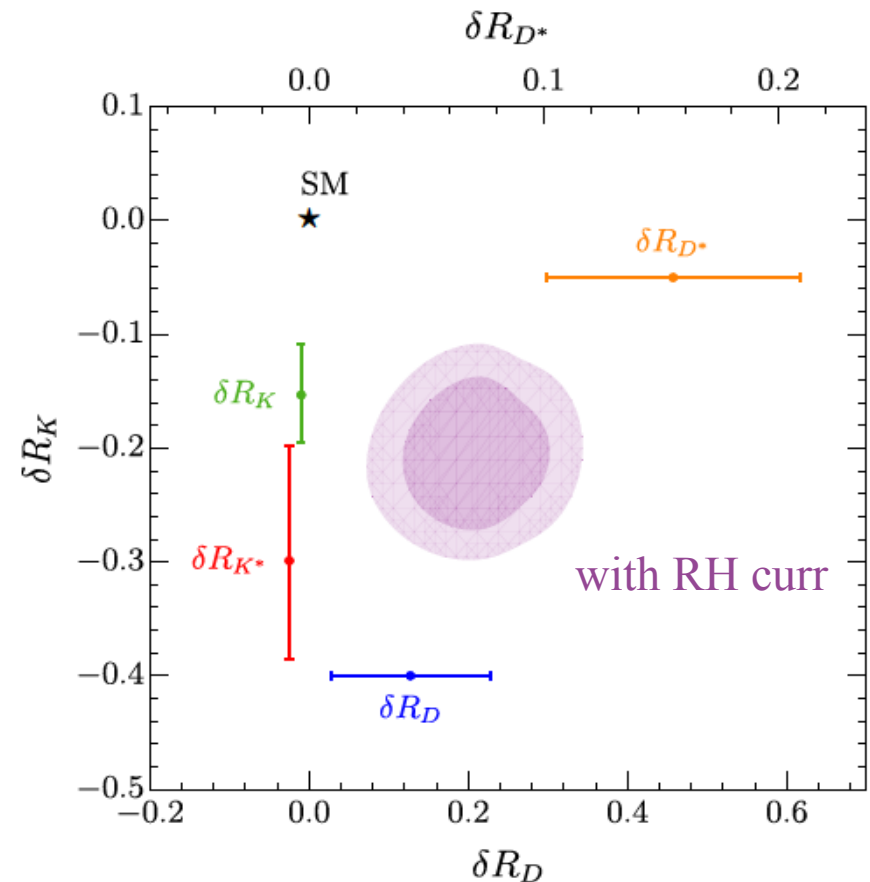
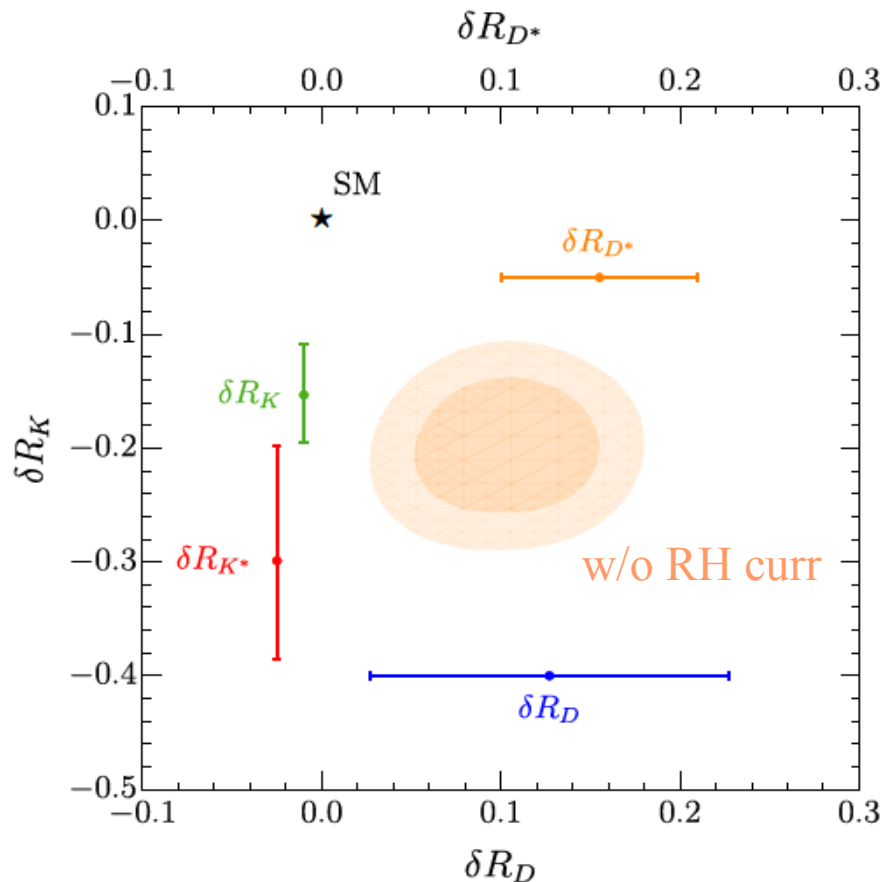


► From EFT to simplified models [the possible mediators]

Considering the U_1 only

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_U}{\sqrt{2}} U_1^\mu \left[\beta_{i\alpha}^L (\bar{q}_L^i \gamma_\mu \ell_L^\alpha) - \beta_{i\alpha}^R (\bar{d}_R^i \gamma_\mu e_R^\alpha) \right] + \text{h.c.}$$

→ excellent description of all available low-energy data:



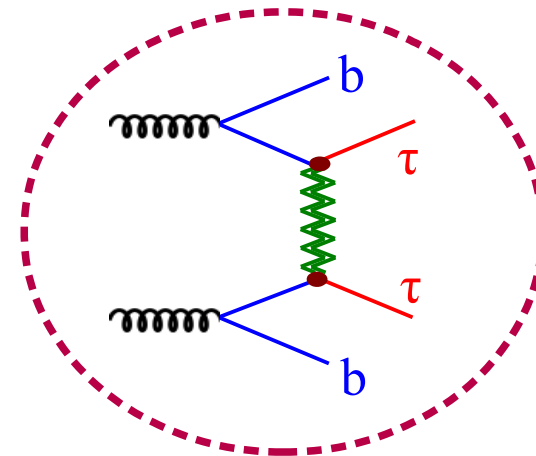
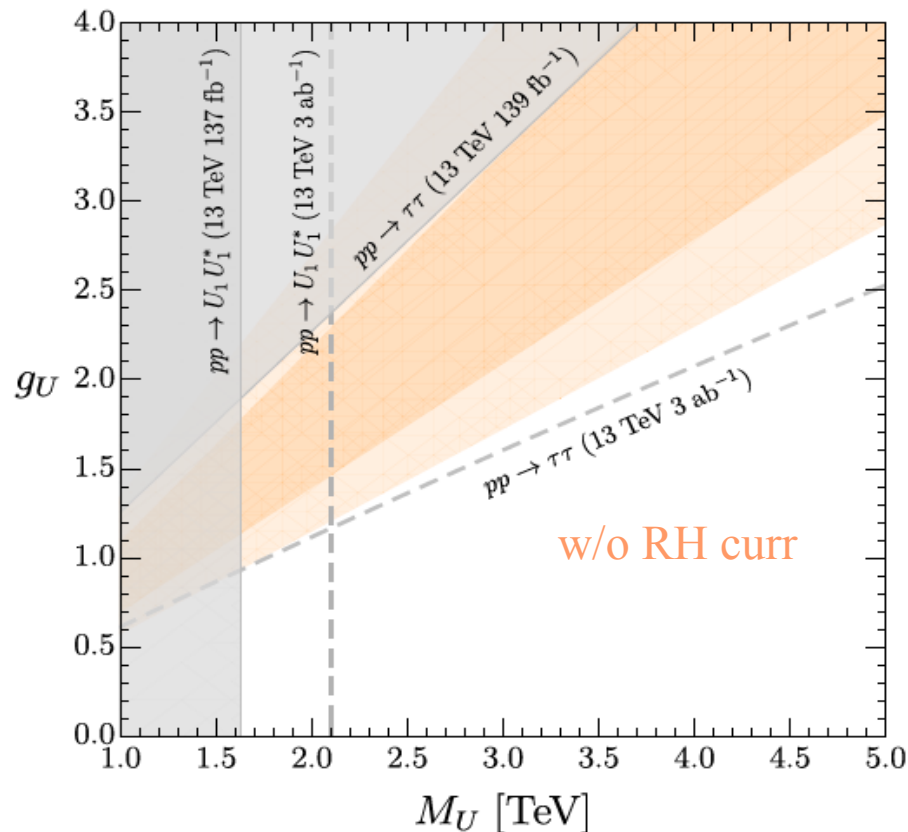
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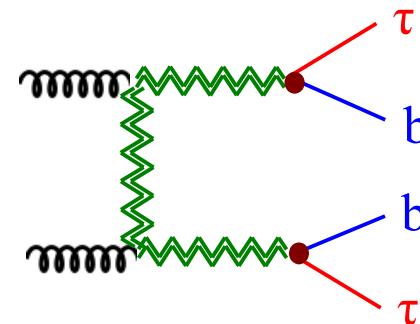
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→ excellent description of all available low-energy data

→ consistent with present high-energy data → *signals within the reach of HL-LHC*:



Faroughi, Greljo,
Kamenik '16

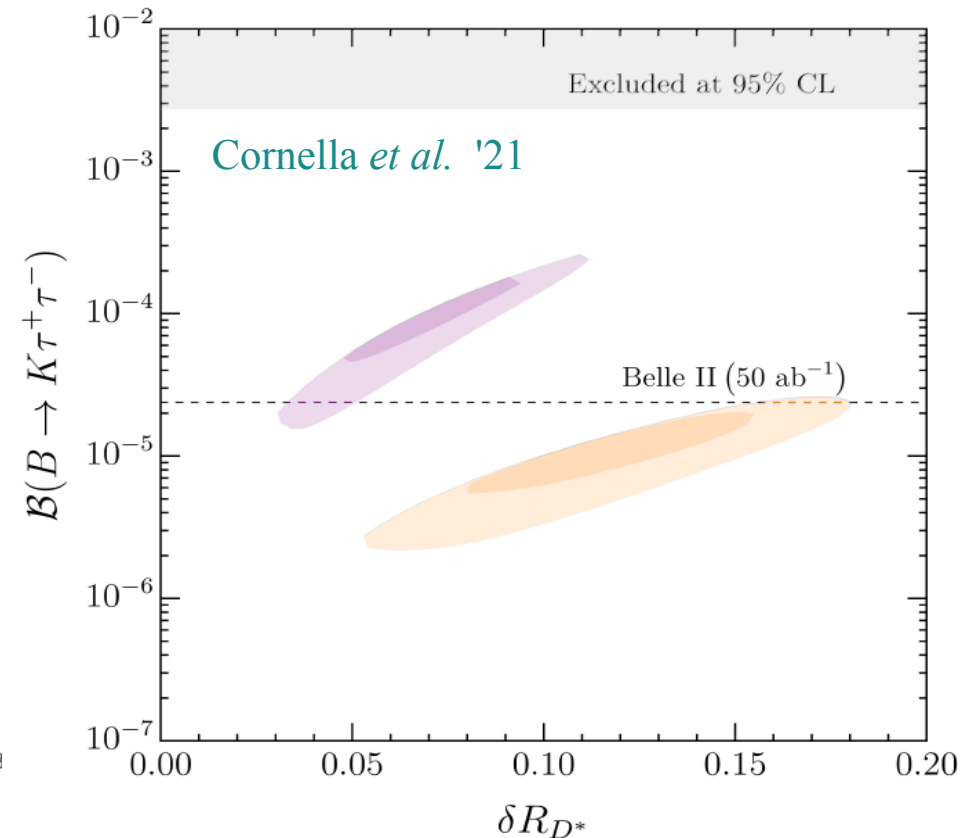
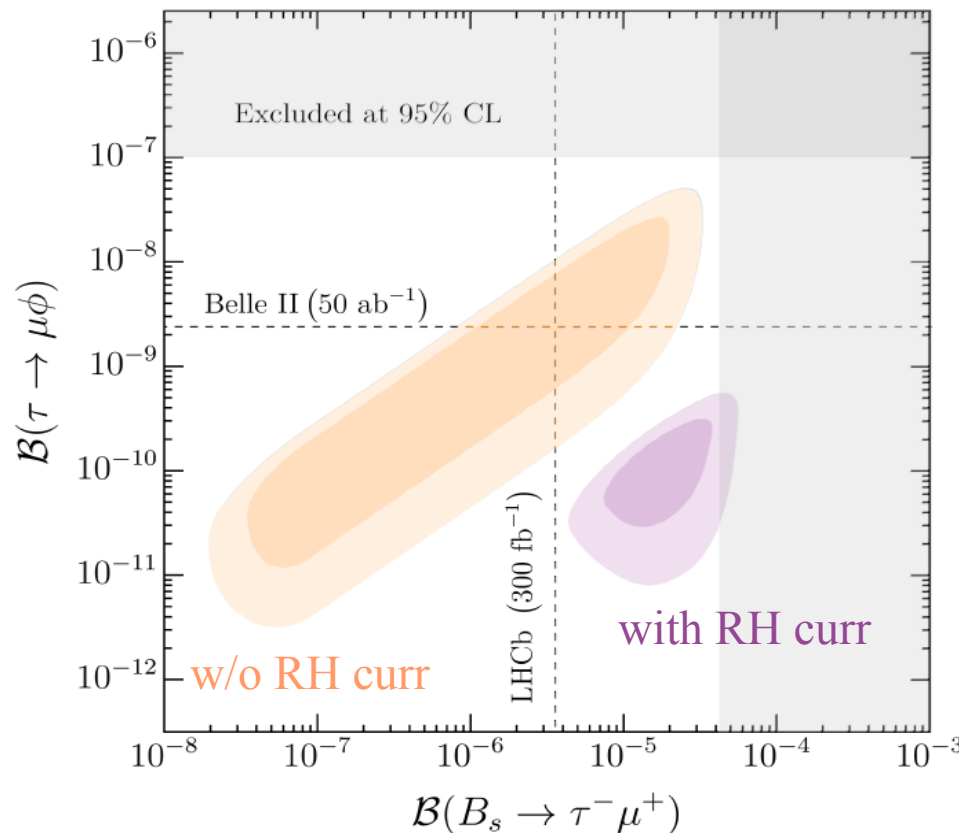


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- excellent description of all available low-energy data
- consistent with present high-energy data → *signals within the reach of HL-LHC*
- *interesting implications also for future low-energy searches:*



Speculations on UV completions



► Speculations on UV completions

First observation: the Pati & Salam group, proposed in the 70's to unify quarks & leptons predicts the only massive LQ that is a good mediator for both anomalies:

Pati-Salam group: $SU(4) \times SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$

Fermions in $SU(4)$:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_L^\alpha \\ Q_L^\beta \\ Q_L^\gamma \\ L_L \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} Q_R^\alpha \\ Q_R^\beta \\ Q_R^\gamma \\ L_R \end{bmatrix}$$

Main Pati-Salam idea:
Lepton number as “the 4th color”

The massive LQ [U_1] arise from the breaking $SU(4) \rightarrow SU(3)_C \times U(1)_{B-L}$

$$SU(4) \sim \left[\begin{array}{c|c} SU(3)_C & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \quad \left[\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & LQ \\ \hline LQ & \end{array} \right] \quad \left[\begin{array}{c|c} \frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & -1 \end{array} \right]$$

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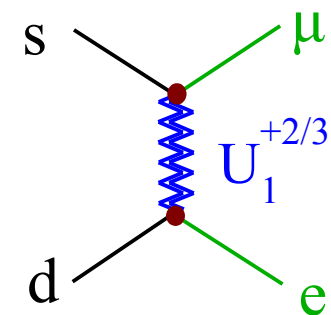
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The problem of the “original PS model” are the strong bounds on the LQ couplings to 1st & 2nd generations [e.g. $M > 200 \text{ TeV}$ from $K_L \rightarrow \mu e$]

Attempts to solve this problem simply adding extra fermions or scalars

Calibbi, Crivellin, Li, '17;
Fornal, Gadam, Grinstein, '18
Heeck, Teresi, '18

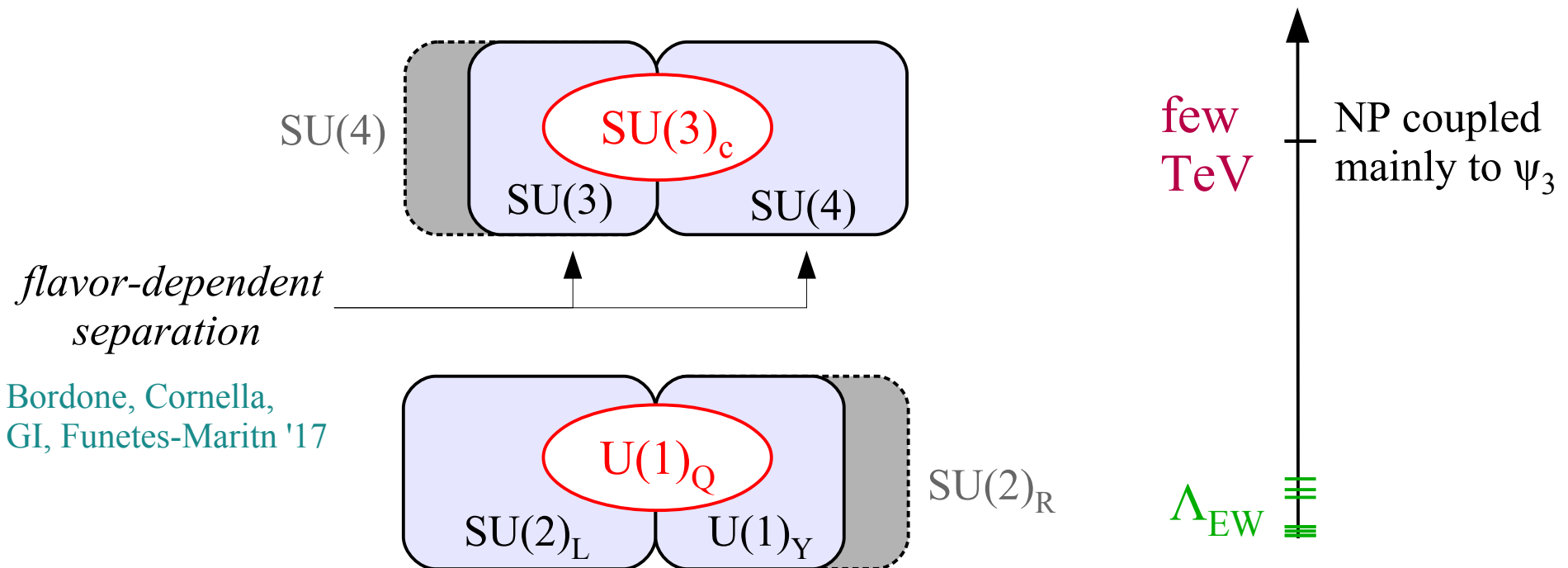


► Speculations on UV completions

Second observation: we can “protect” the light families charging under SU(4) only the 3rd gen. or, more generally, “separating” the universal SU(3) component

PS group: $SU(4) \times SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ • *flavor universality*

4321 models: $SU(4) \times SU(3) \times G_{EW} = \begin{cases} SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \\ SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \end{cases}$ Di Luzio, Greljo, Nardecchia, '17



► Speculations on UV completions

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• *Non-universality via mixing*

$$\text{SU}(4) \times \text{SU}(3)$$

$$\text{SU}(4)_3 \times \text{SU}(3)_{1,2}$$

• *Accidental $\text{U}(2)^5$ flavor symm. in the gauge sect.*

$$\text{SU}(3) \times G_{EW} \times G_{HC}$$

Barbieri, Tesi '17

$$\text{SU}(4) \times \text{SU}(3) \times G_{EW}$$

Di Luzio, Greljo, Nardecchia, '17

UV completions

$$\text{SU}(4)_h \times \text{SU}(4)_l \times G_{EW} \times G_{HC}$$

Fuentes-Martin & Stangl '20

$$[\text{PS}]^3 = [\text{SU}(4) \times G_{EW}]^3$$

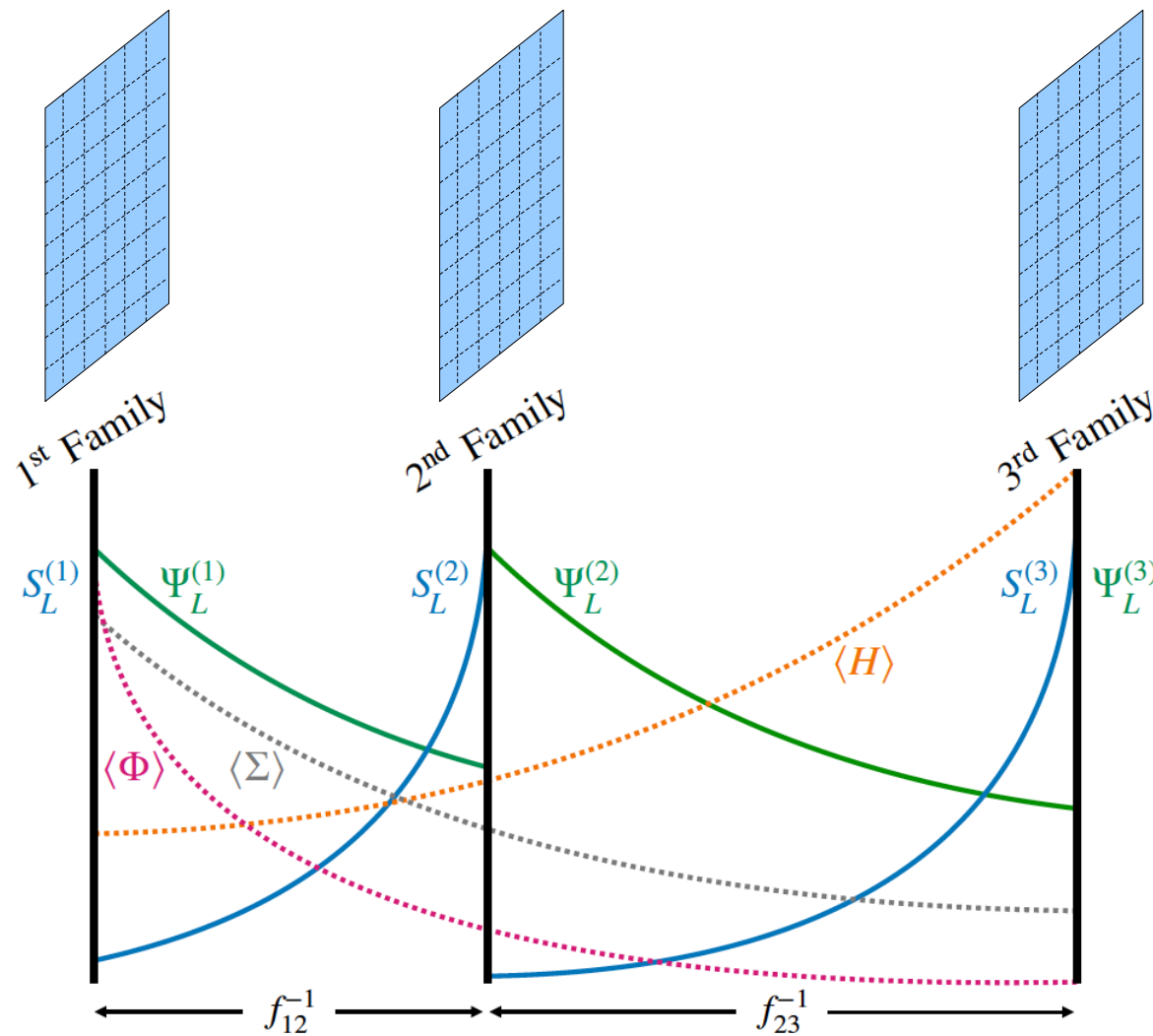
Bordone *et al.* '17

$$[\text{PS}]_{\text{warped-5d, 3-branes}}$$

Fuentes-Martin *et al.* '20 + work in prog.

► Speculations on UV completions

An ambitious attempt to construct a *full theory of flavor* has been obtained embedding the Pati-Salam gauge group (or variations) into an extra-dimensional construction:



Flavor \leftrightarrow special position
(*topological defect*) in an extra
(compact) space-like dimension

Dvali & Shifman, '00

Higgs and SU(4)-breaking fields
with oppositely-peaked profiles,
leading to the desired flavor
pattern for masses & anomalies

Bordone, Cornella, Fuentes-Martin, GI '17
Fuentes-Martin, GI, Pages, Stefanek '20

Possible to implement anarchic
neutrino masses via an inverse
see-saw mechanism

Conclusions

- Flavor is an essential ingredient to understand the structure of physics beyond the SM. This statement, which we deduce already by the SM Yukawa structure, is reinforced by the recent anomalies
- The **statistical significance** of the LFU anomalies **is growing**: in the $b \rightarrow sll$ system, the chance this is a pure statistical fluctuation is marginal.
- If combined, the two sets of anomalies point to non-trivial flavor dynamics around the TeV scale, involving mainly the 3rd family \rightarrow **connection to the origin of flavor** [multi-scale picture at the origin of flavor hierarchies]
- No contradiction with existing low- & high-energy data, but new non-standard effects should emerge soon in both these areas



Very interesting (near-by!) future...
(both on the exp., the pheno,
and the model-building point of view)