Multi-particle reactions workshop
UC Berkeley 2025-07-28

J/ψ photoproduction in the near-threshold region

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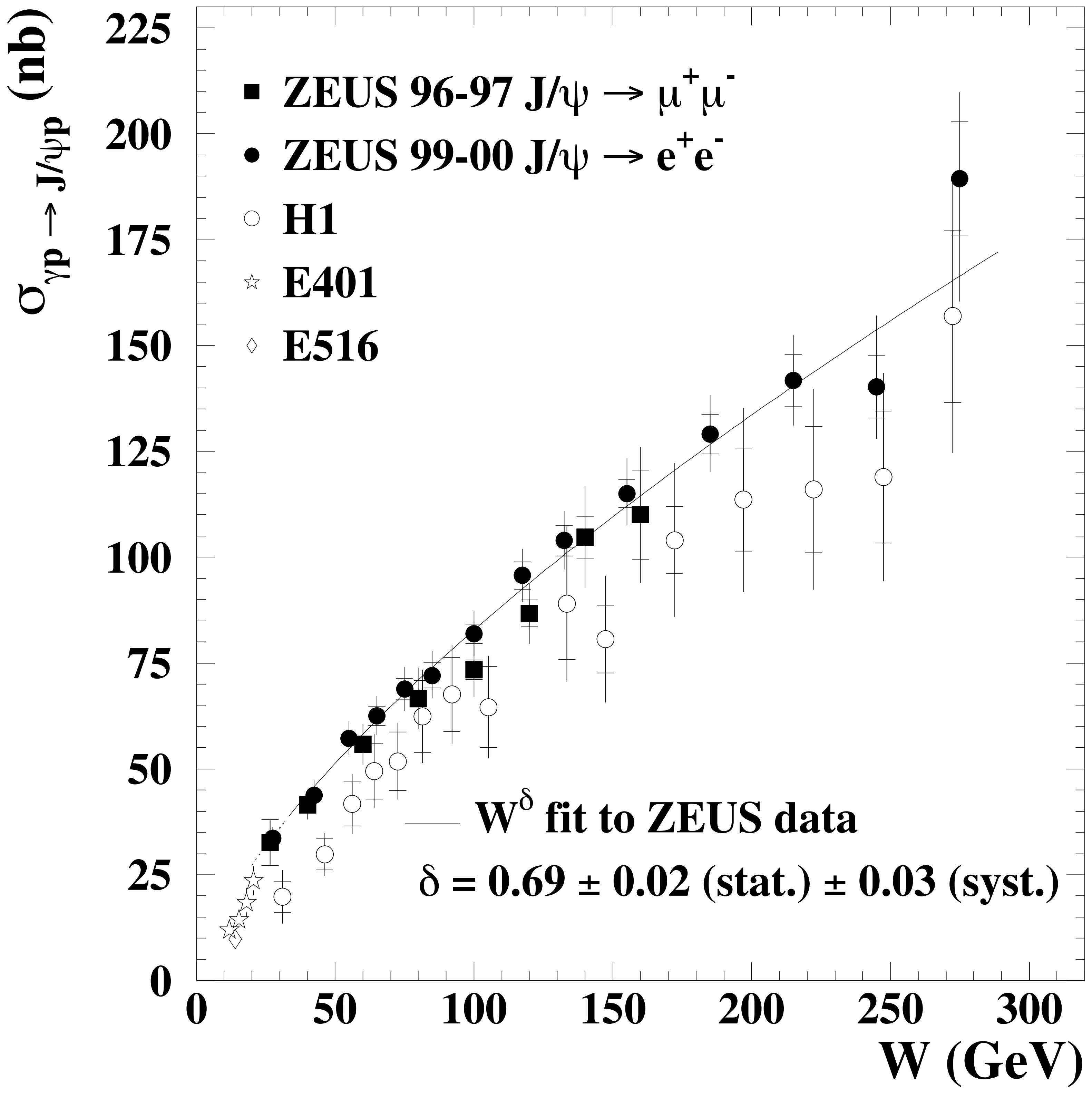
Mostly from *Winney, et al. (JPAC) [PRD 108 (2023) 054018]*
Thanks to Daniel Winney for many slides

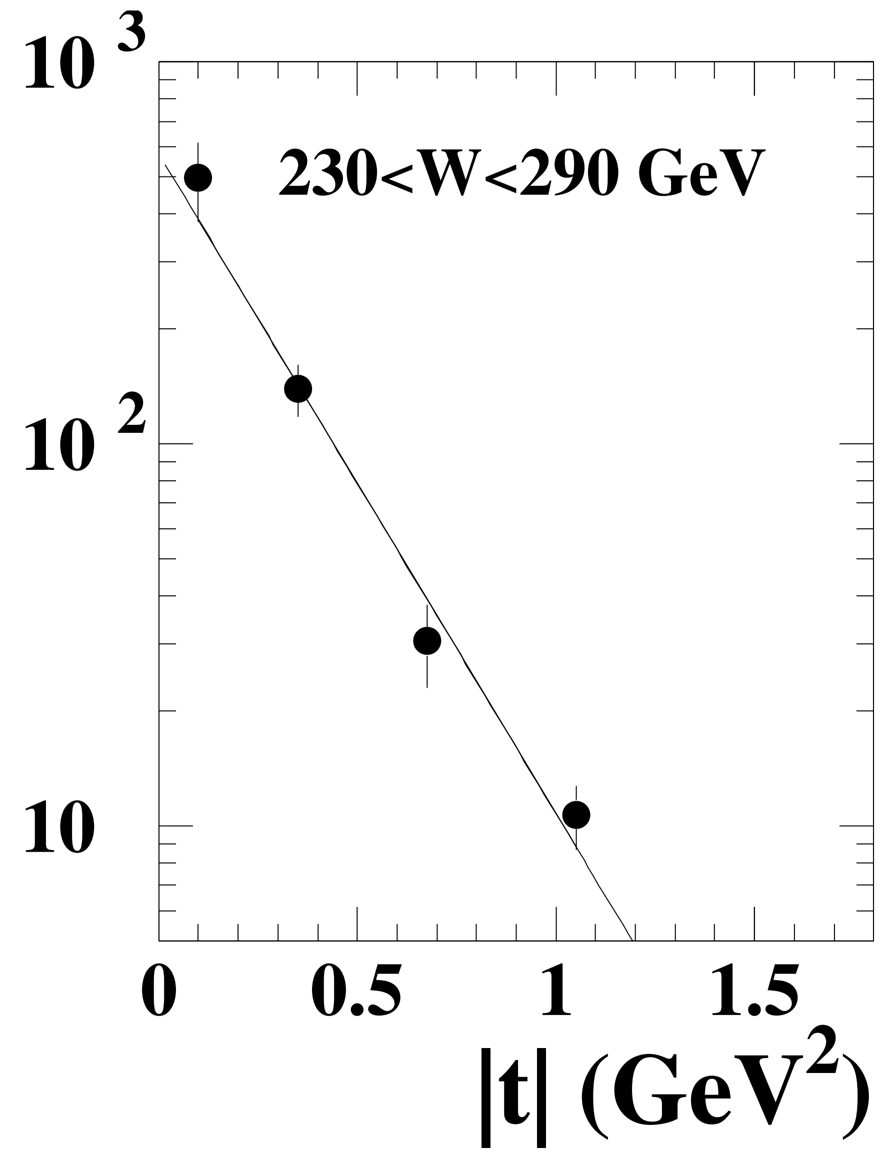
J/ψ photoproduction (at high energies)

Historically J/ψ photoproduction has been well explored at high energies (W>20 GeV) at HERA



ZEUS [EPJC 24 (2002) 345]

Production dominated by low |t| and exponential decay from forward angles — i.e. the "diffractive peak"



Diffractive production via gluon exchanges

Variety of theoretical models:

- Pomeron exchange

  Donnachie & Landshoff [PLB 437 (1998) 408]

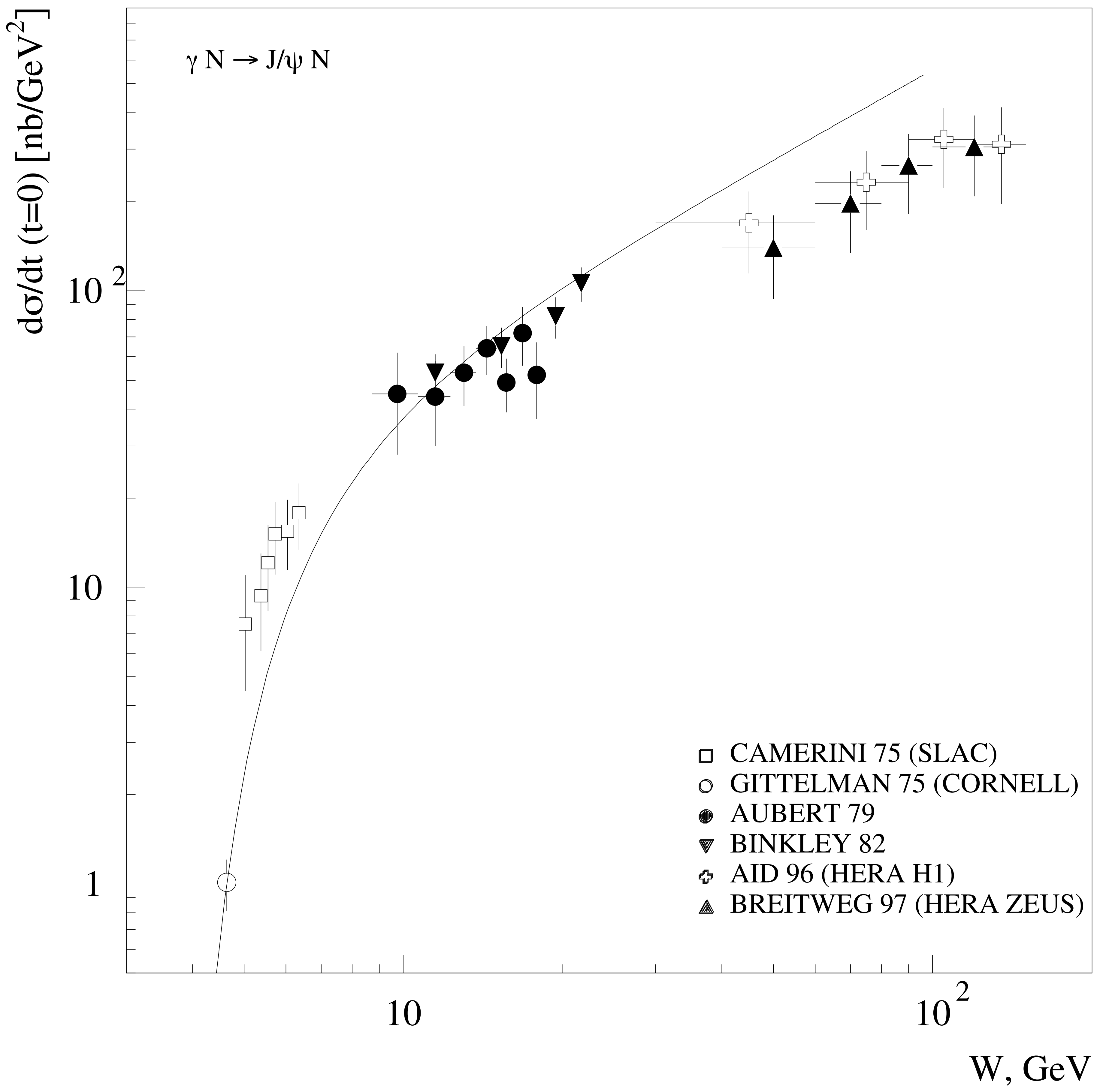
- Color dipole

  Caldwell & Soares [NPA 696 (2001) 125]

- pQCD

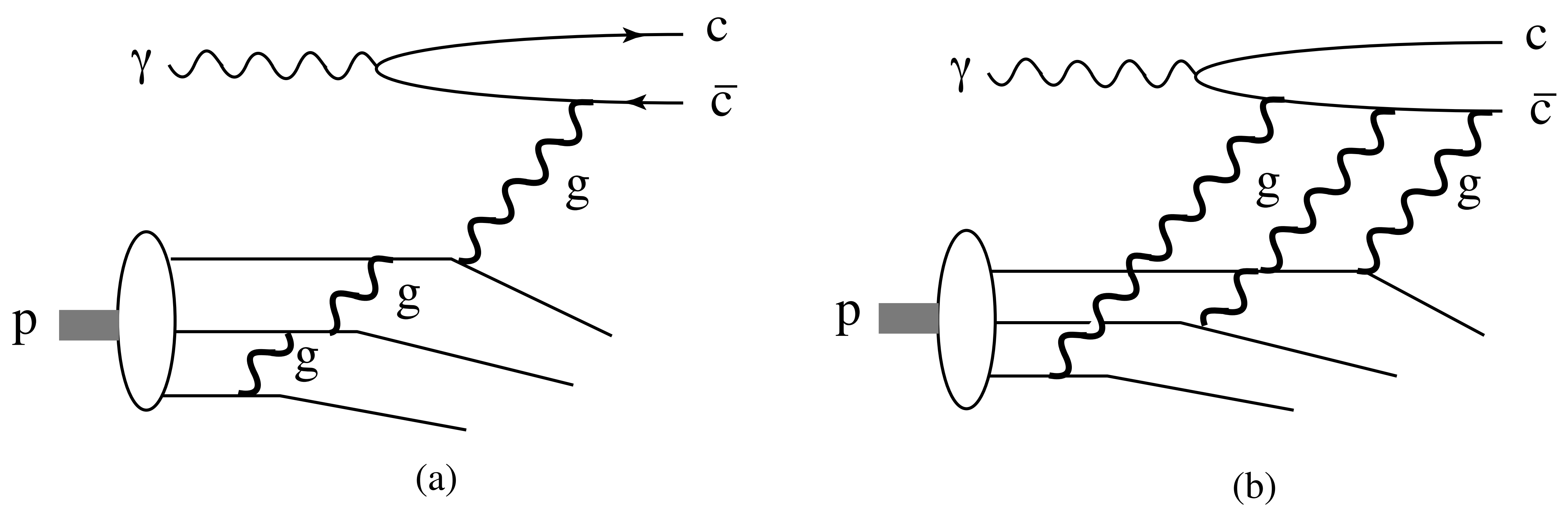
  Ivanov et al. [EPJC 34 (2004) 297]

J/ψ photoproduction (near threshold)



Kharzeev et al. [EPJC 9 (1999) 459]

Brodsky et al. [PLB 498 (2001) 23]



No other obviously contributing process:

- Small $J/\psi \to NN$ (no baryon exhanges)
- OZI suppression (no light meson exchanges)
- Heavy quark masses (no heavy meson exchanges)

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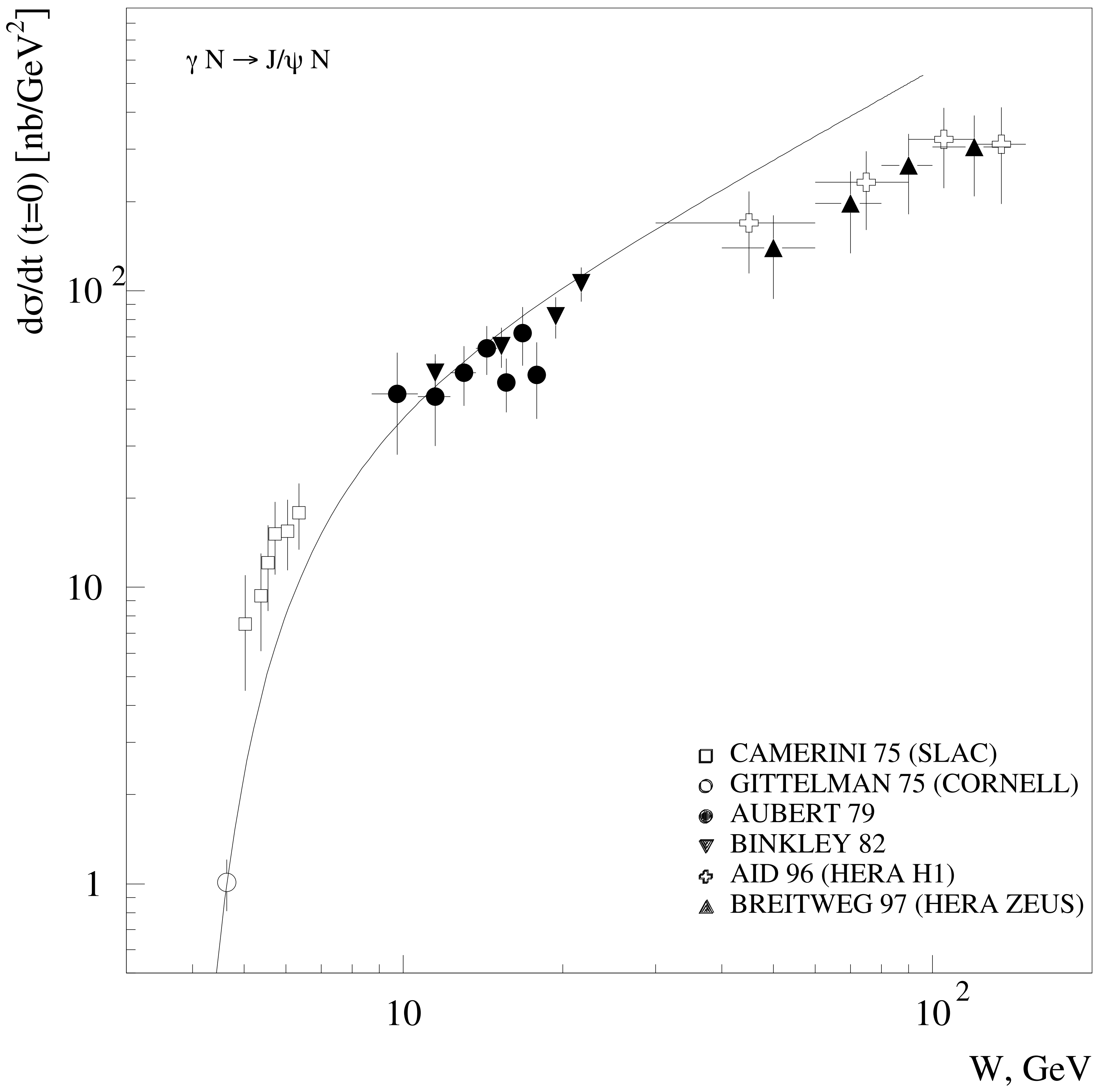

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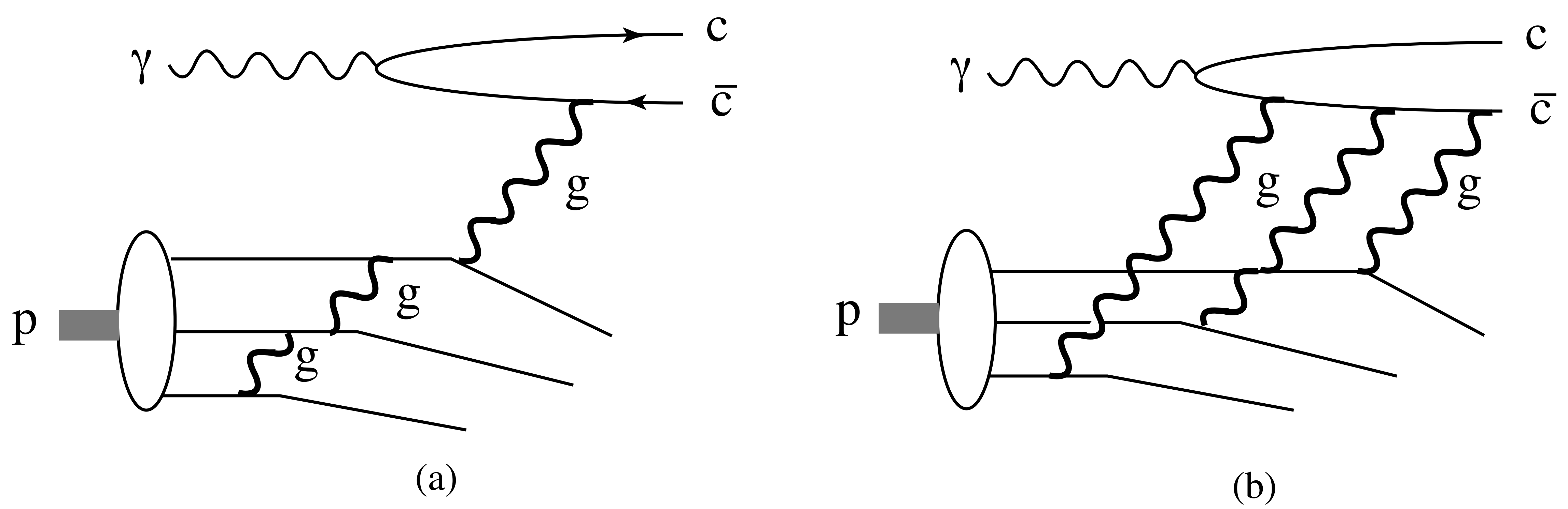

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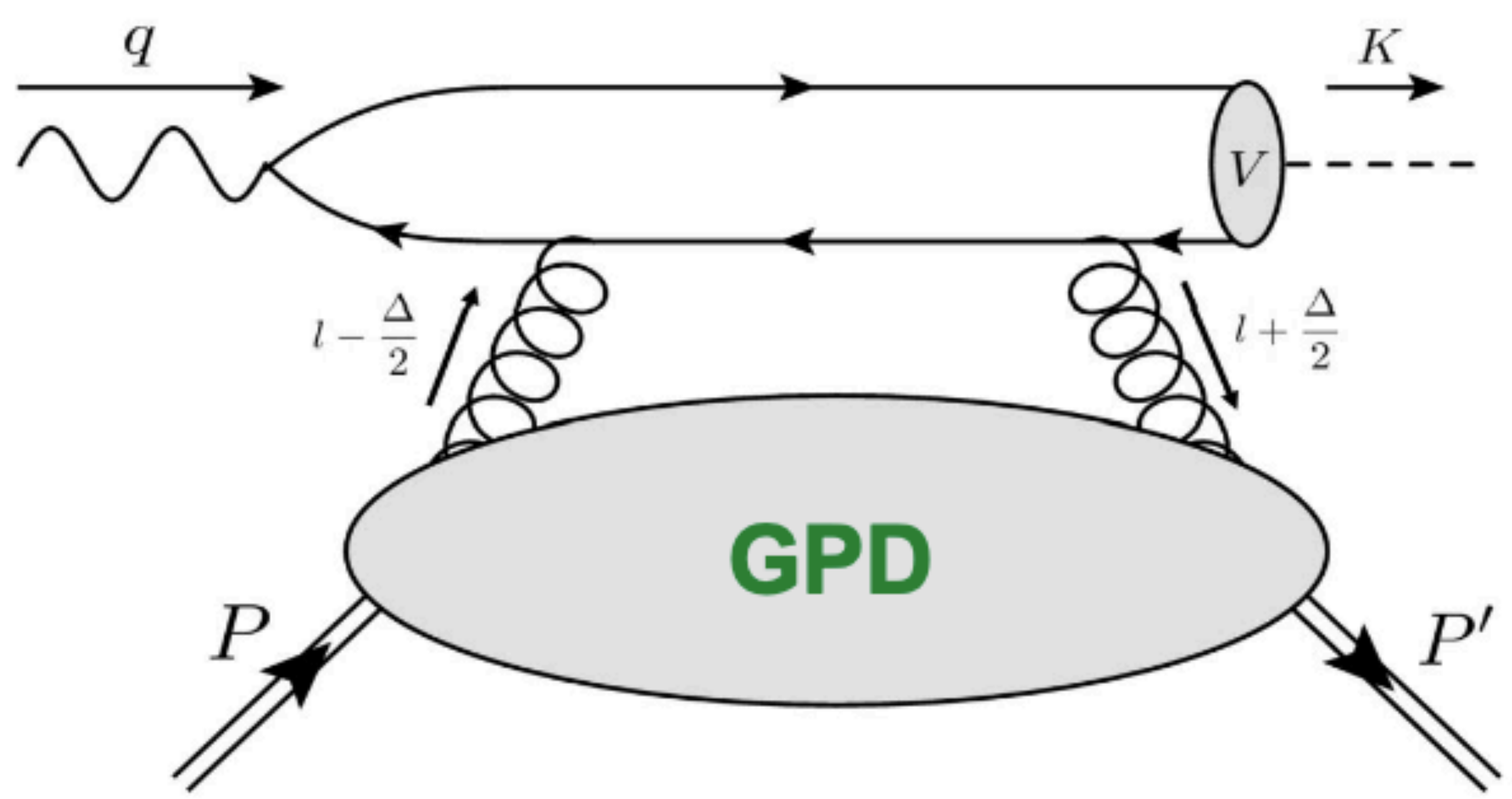
"J/ψ probes nonperturbative gluonic distributions"

Factorization

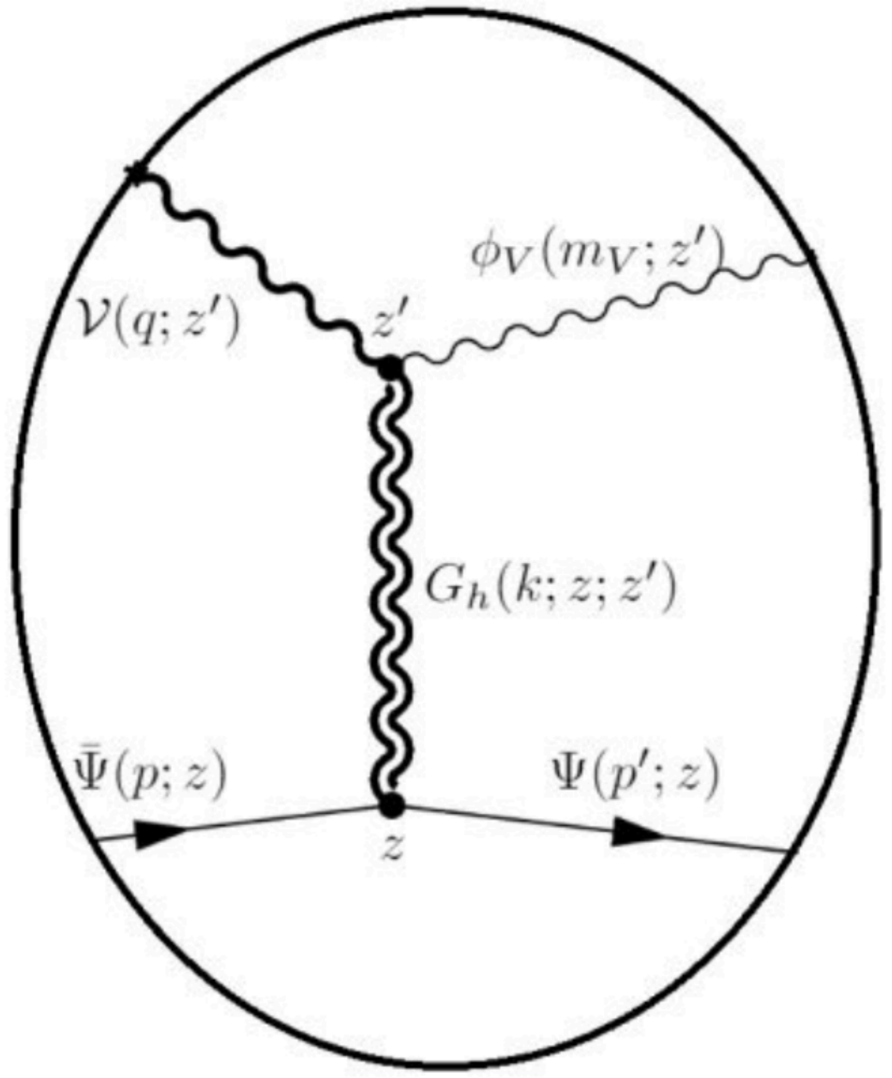
GPD approach assumes strict QCD factorization
Only motivated in infinite heavy quark limit (leading order) and at large skewness and small *t*

Guo, Ji & Liu [PRD 103 (2021) 096010]



Holography circumvents need for strict factorization but relies on factorization in the Regge sense (at small t)

Hatta & Yang [PRD 98 (2018)074003]
Mamo & Zahed [PRD 101 (2020) 086003]
[PRD 106 (2022) 086004]

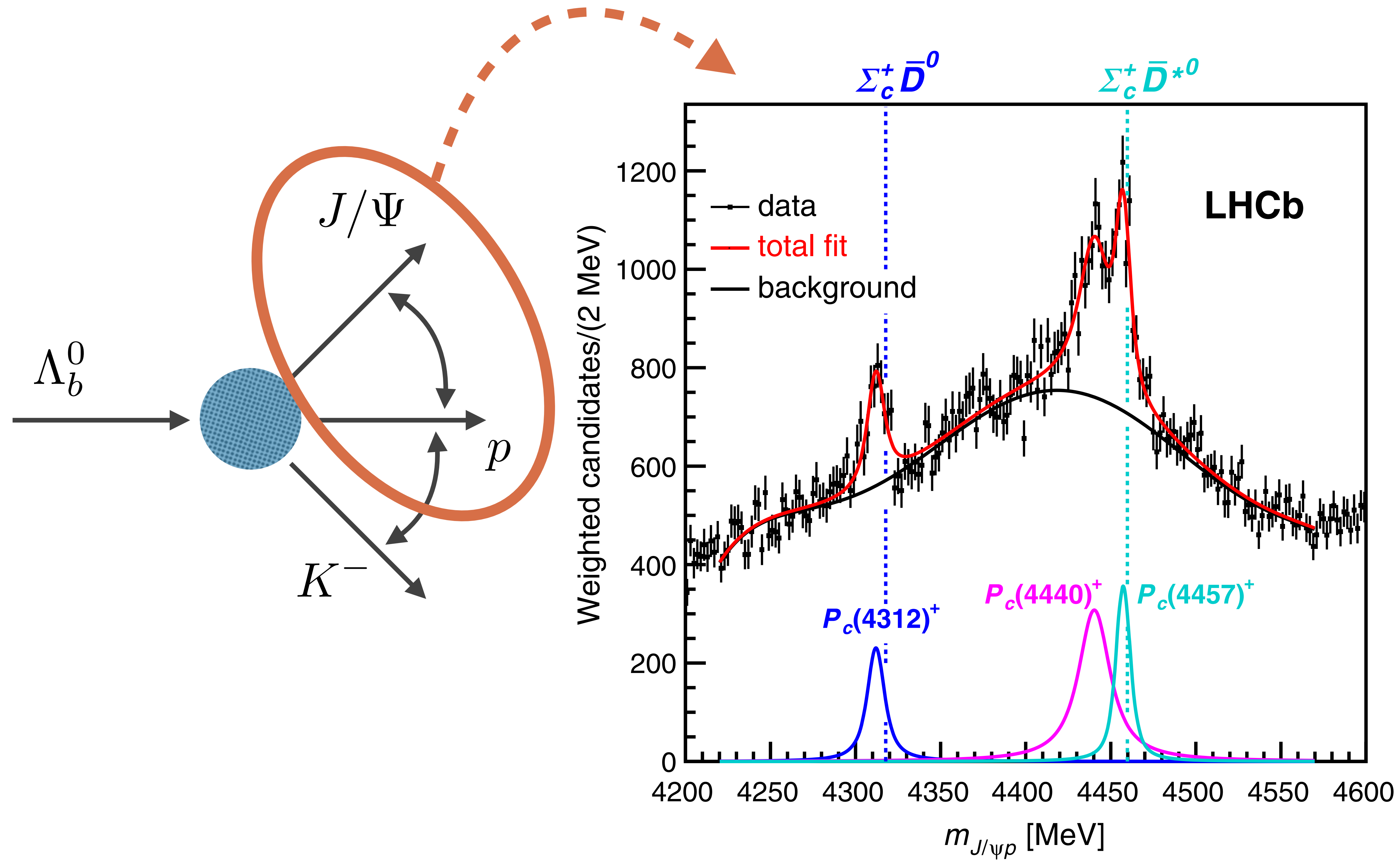


Extraction of proton structure quantities requires "factorization" in the sense of only t-channel exchanges

Strong coupled channels or pentaquark poles break direct connection to the proton structure

J/ψ photoproduction (near threshold)

Measurements at energies near threshold have attracted a lot of attention as potentitally sensitive to key quantities relevant to exotic hadrons



These data: LHCb [PRL 122 (2019) 222001]
Discovery: LHCb [PRL 115 (2015 072001]
Prediction: Wu, Molina, Oset & Zou [PRL 105 (2010) 232001]

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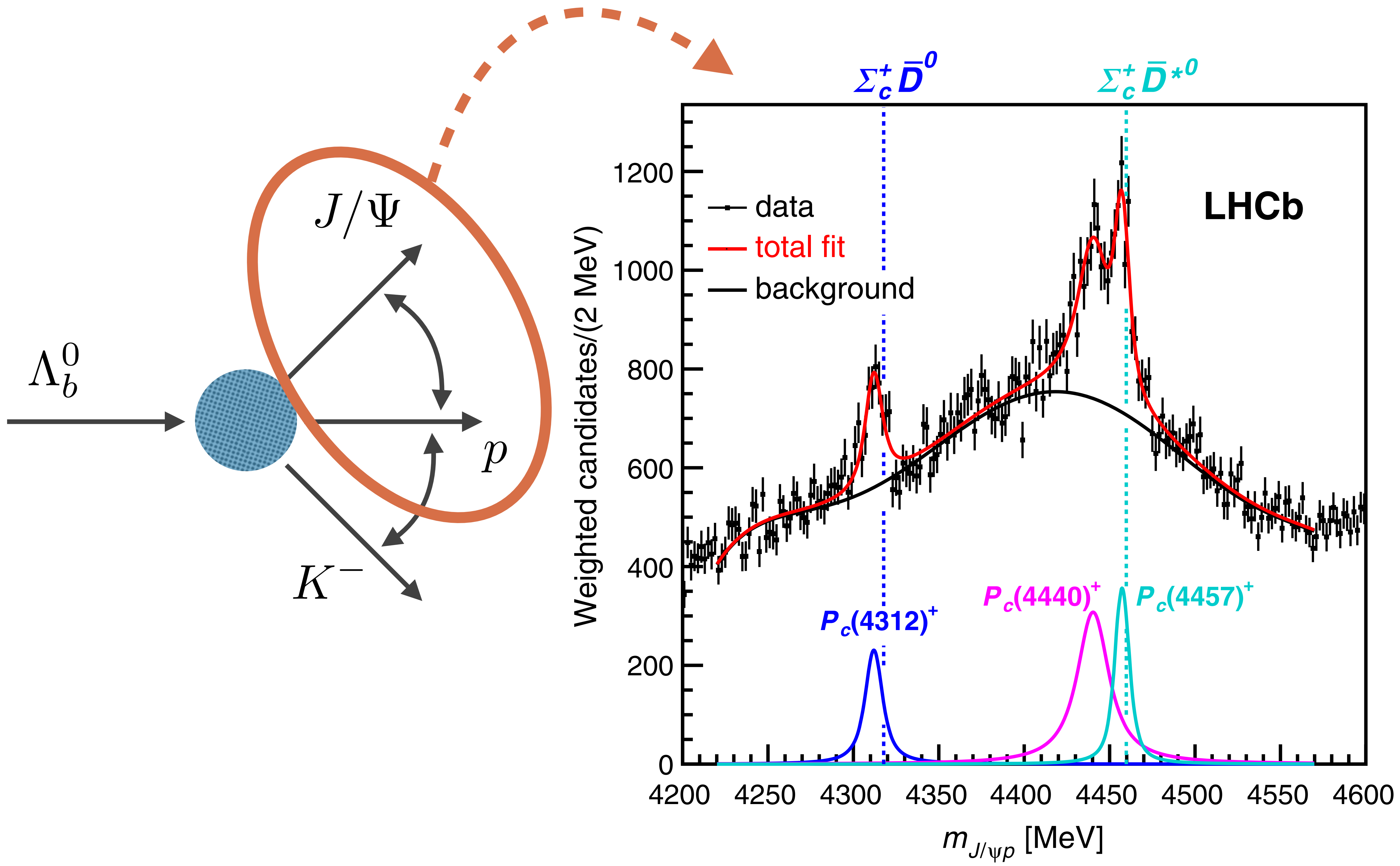
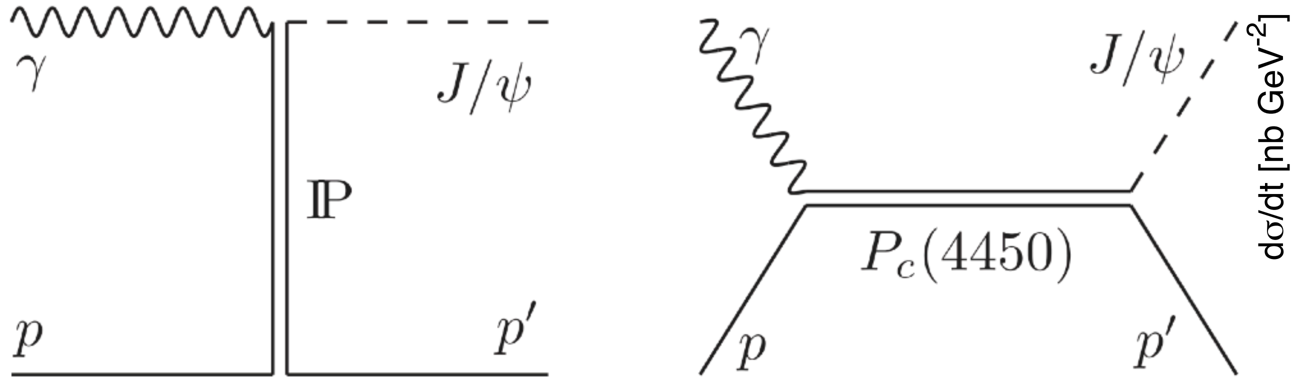
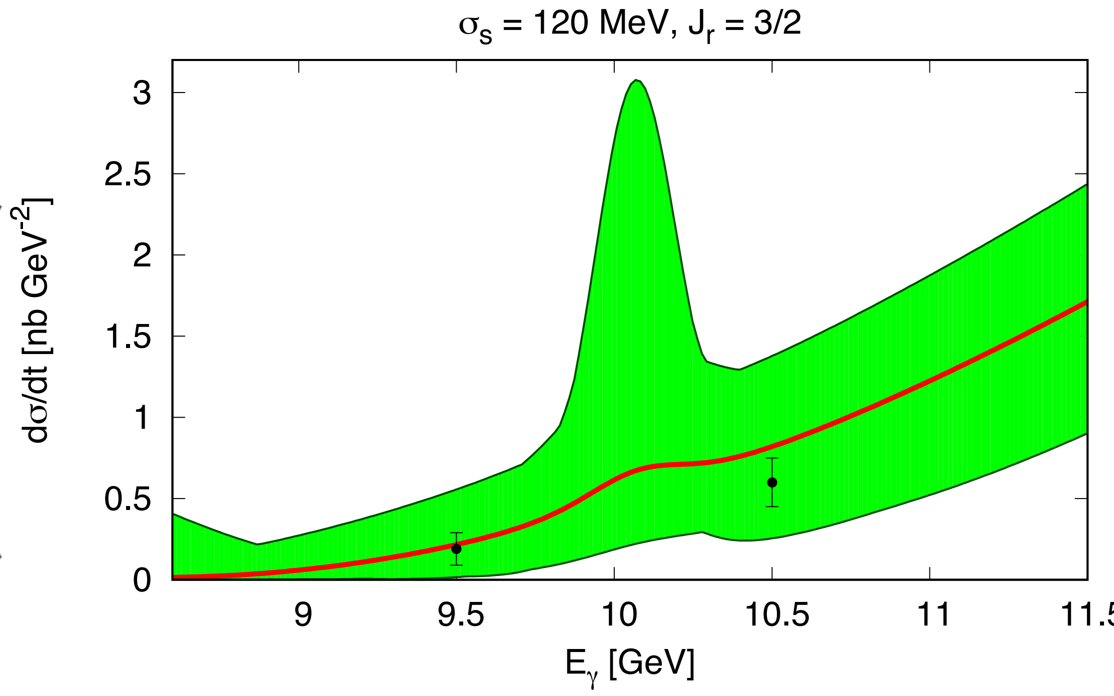


Observation of hidden charm pentaquark candidates by LHCb sparked interest in photoproduction searches

Wang et al. [PRD 92 (2015) 034022]
Karliner & Rosner [PLB 752 (2016) 329]
Hiller Blin et al. [PRD 94 (2016) 034002]





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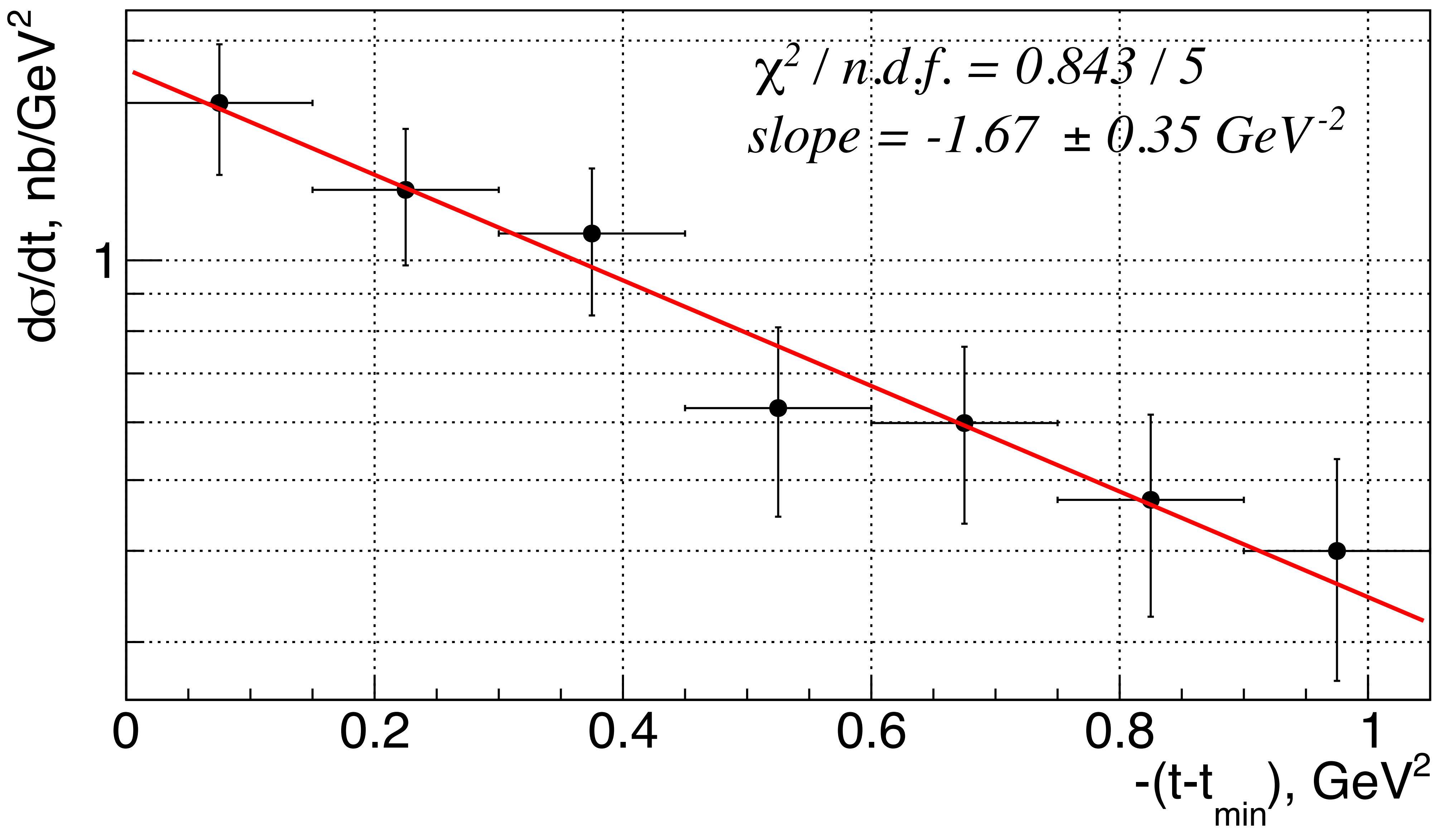
First measurement near threshold

GlueX [PRL 123 (2019) 072001]

GlueX observes diffractive scattering with no sign of pentaquarks!



Confirmation of gluon dominated dynamics?

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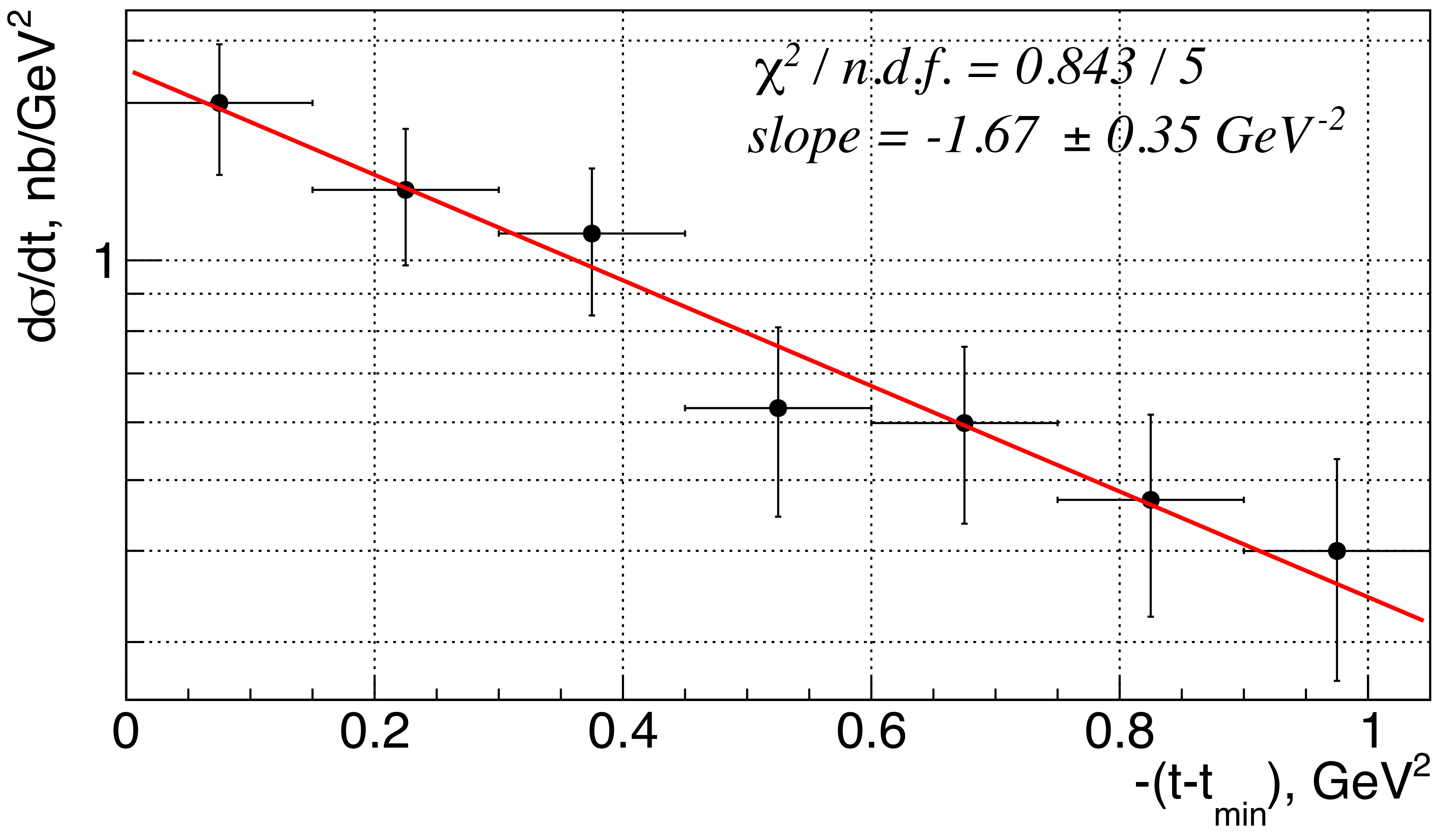
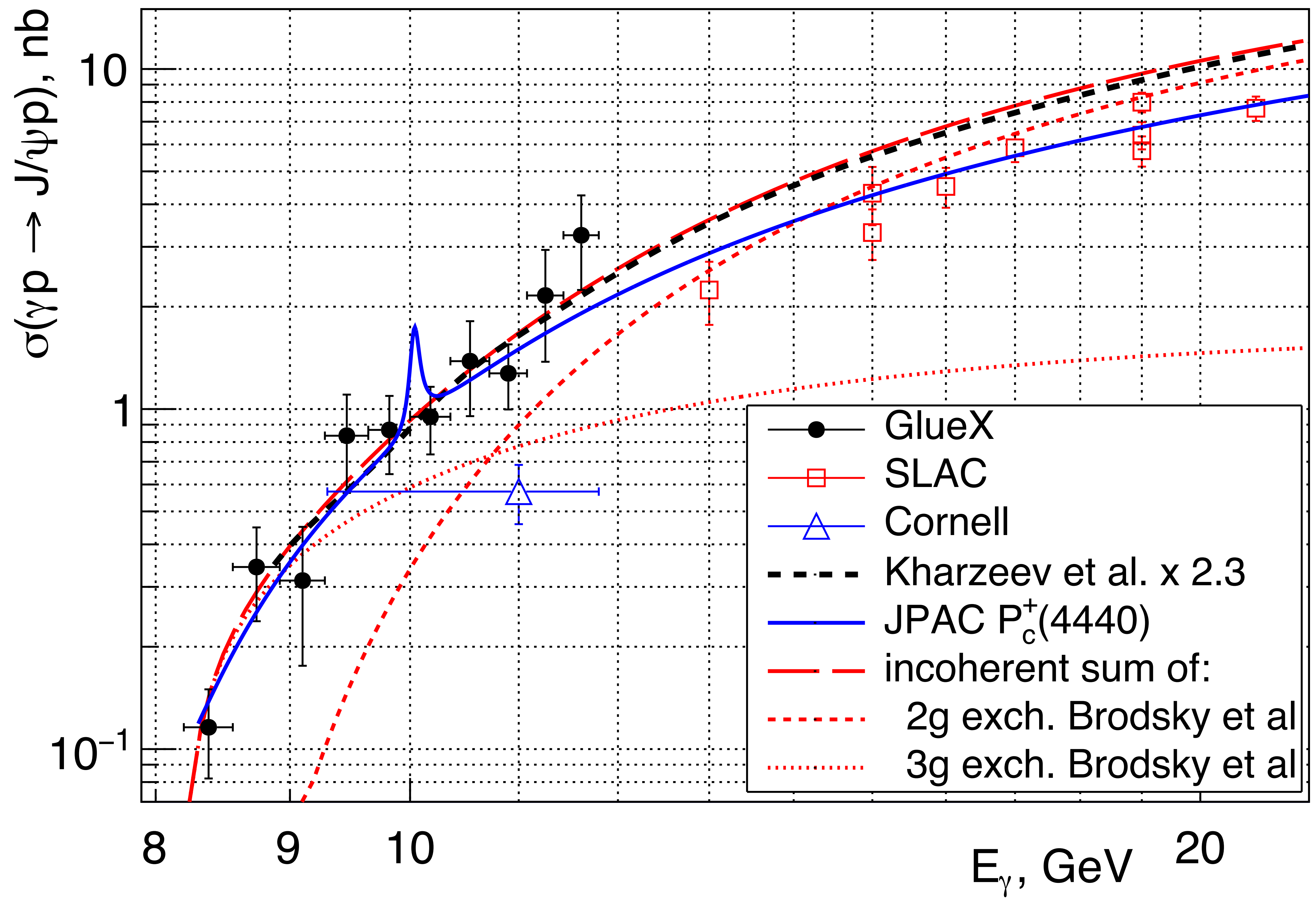




Confirmation of gluon dominated dynamics?

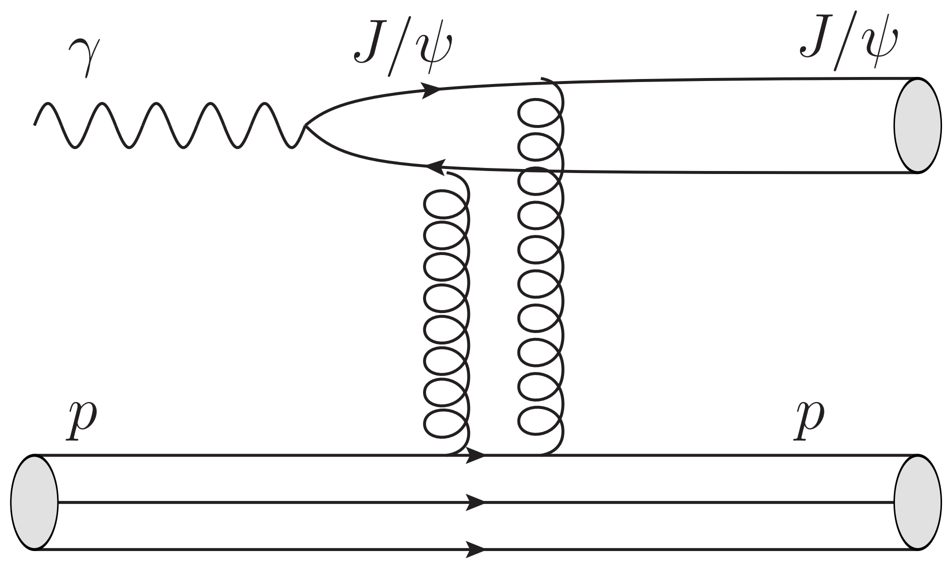
But... the cross section does not look smooth either!

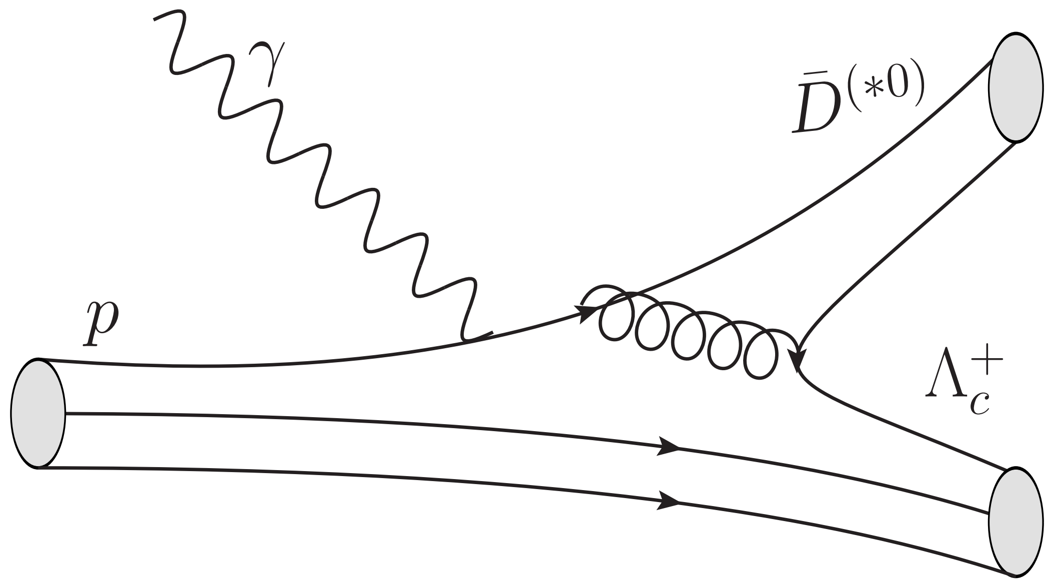
Coupled-channel contributions

Du et al. [EPJC 80 (2019) 1053]

Possible structure in the integrated cross section coinciding with open charm thresholds

Although kinematically suppressed, coupled channel mechanism expected to be compensated by larger photoproduction rates of open charm





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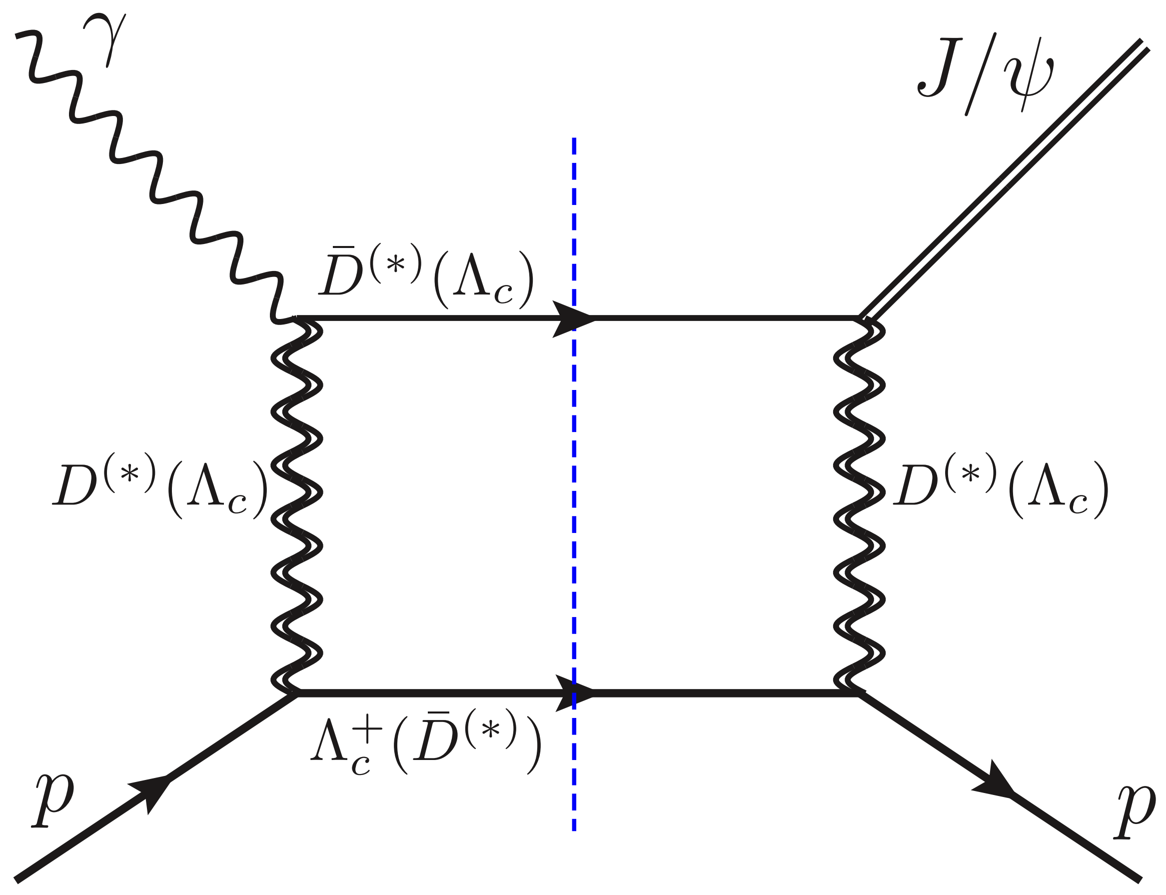

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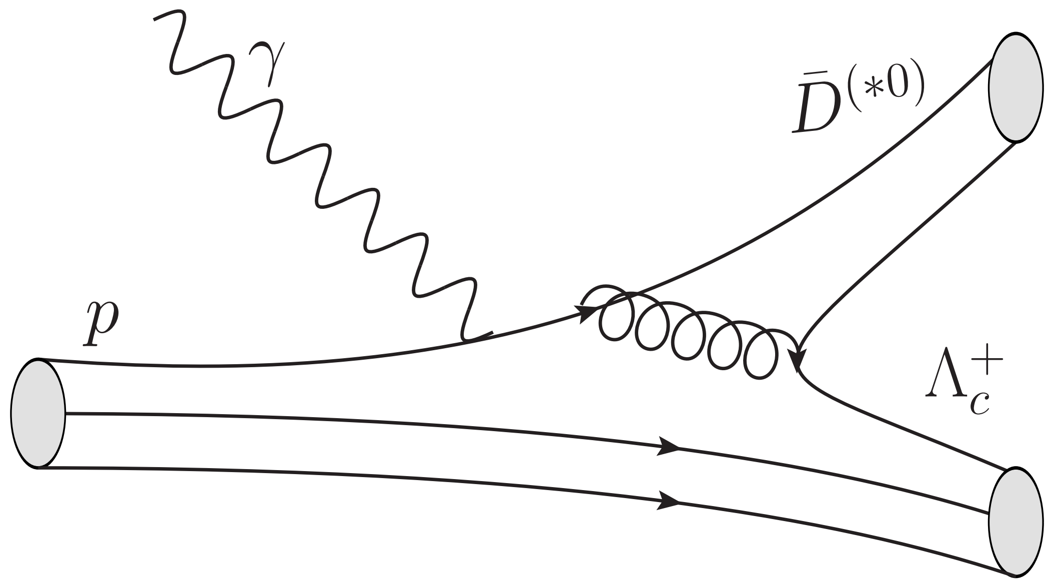
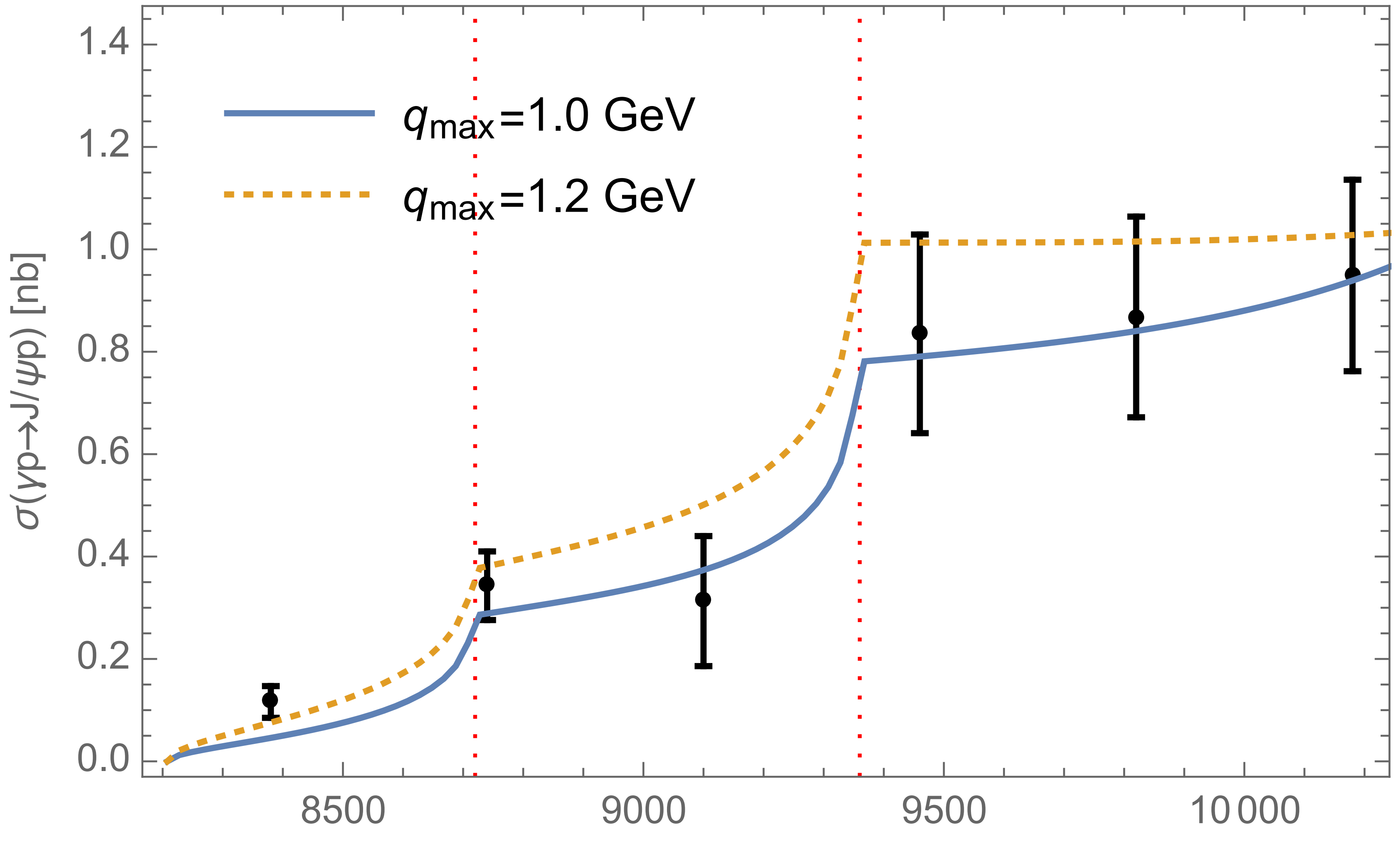


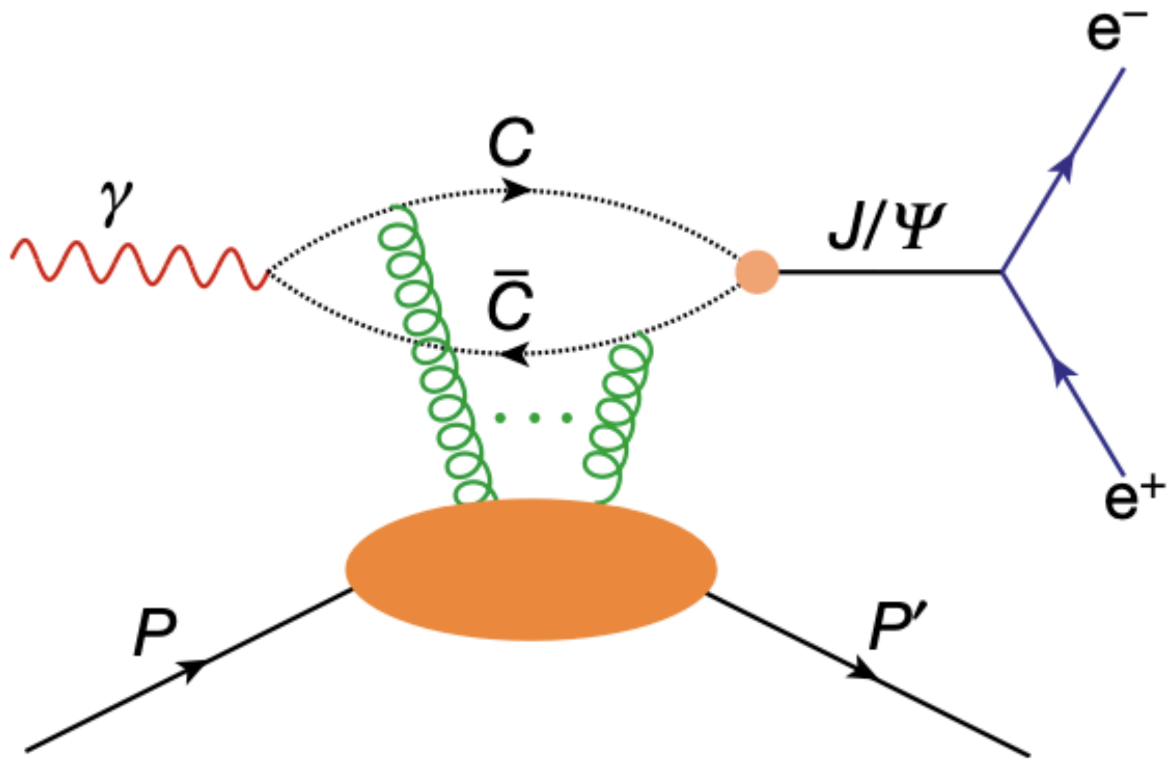


Data from GlueX [PRL 123 (2019) 072001]

Framing the issues

The study of J/ψ photoproduction at low energies has consequences for understanding multiple aspects of nonperturbative QCD:

- Mechanical properties of the proton
- Mass radius
- Mass decomposition of the proton (trace anomaly)
- Binding inside nuclei
- Existence (and determination of properties) of hidden-charm pentaquarks
- Open-charm contributions



But...

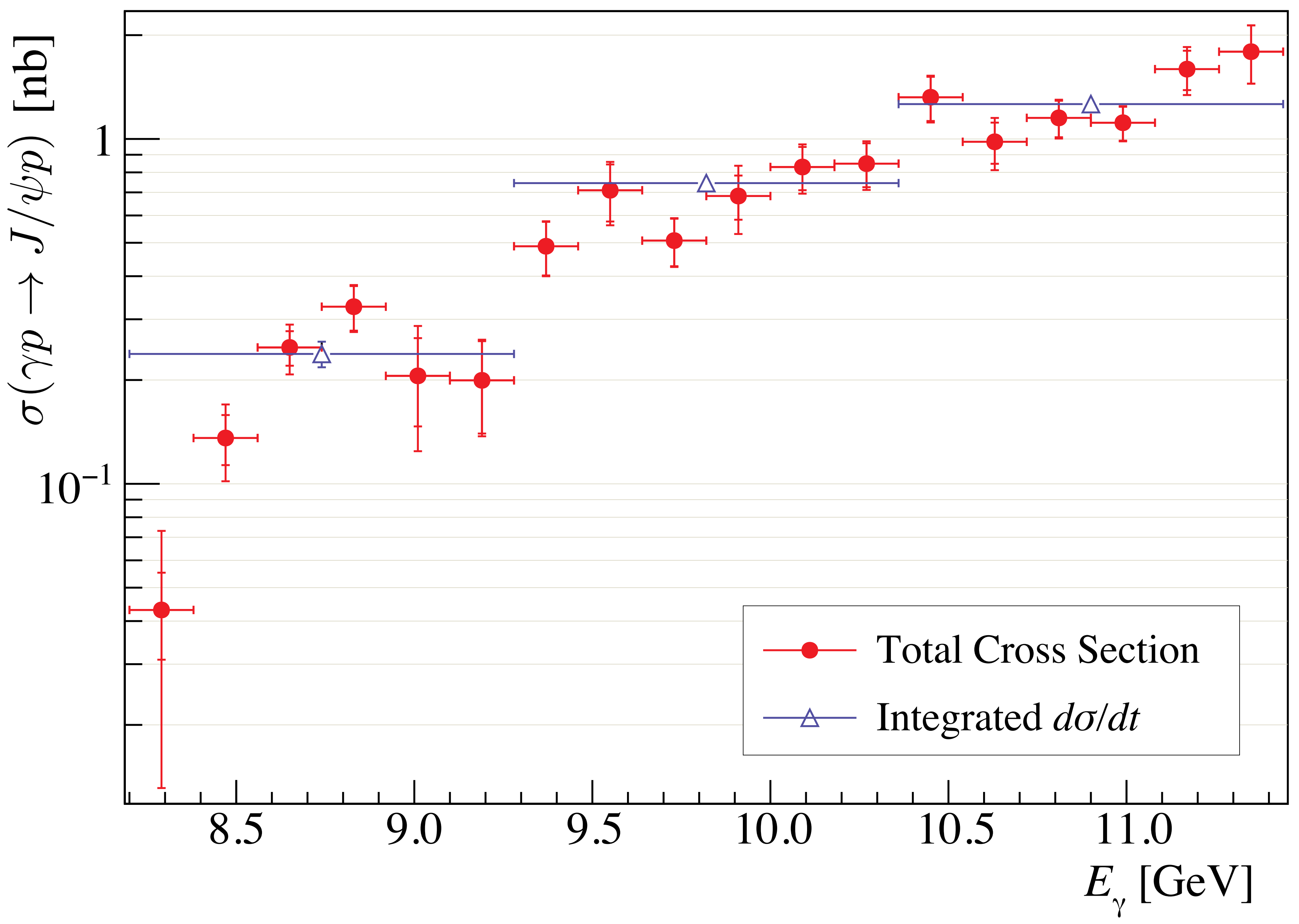
- Open-charm contributions violate the factorization of the photon-$c\bar{c}$ and nucleon dynamics
- Vector meson dominance is usually employed to extract the physical quantities of interest

Hence:

- **Relevance of the different contributions needs to be assessed based on available experimental information given that future experiments depend on it**
- **We address these questions considering a generic model for the photoproduction amplitude and reliying solely on data**

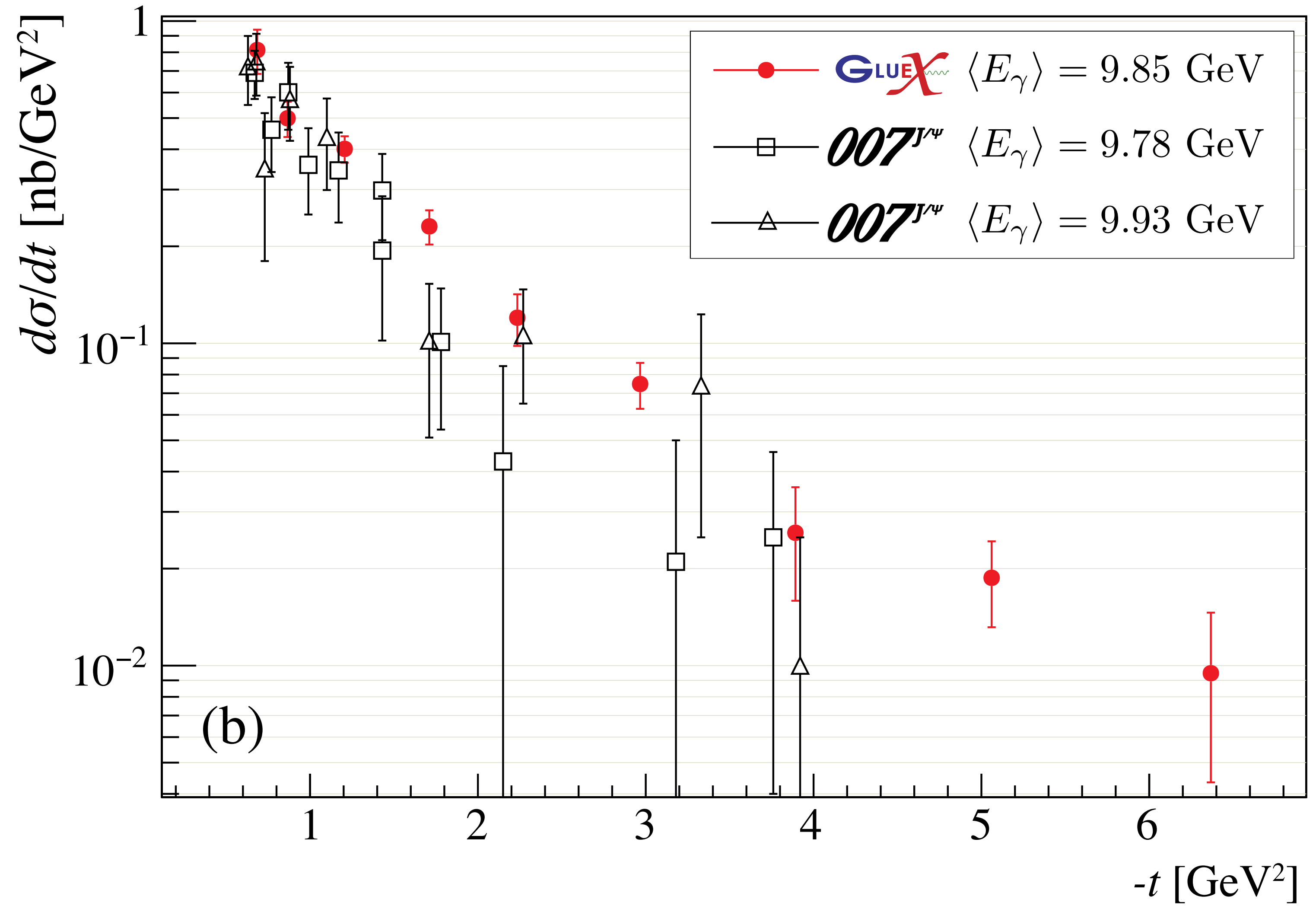
Jefferson Lab data

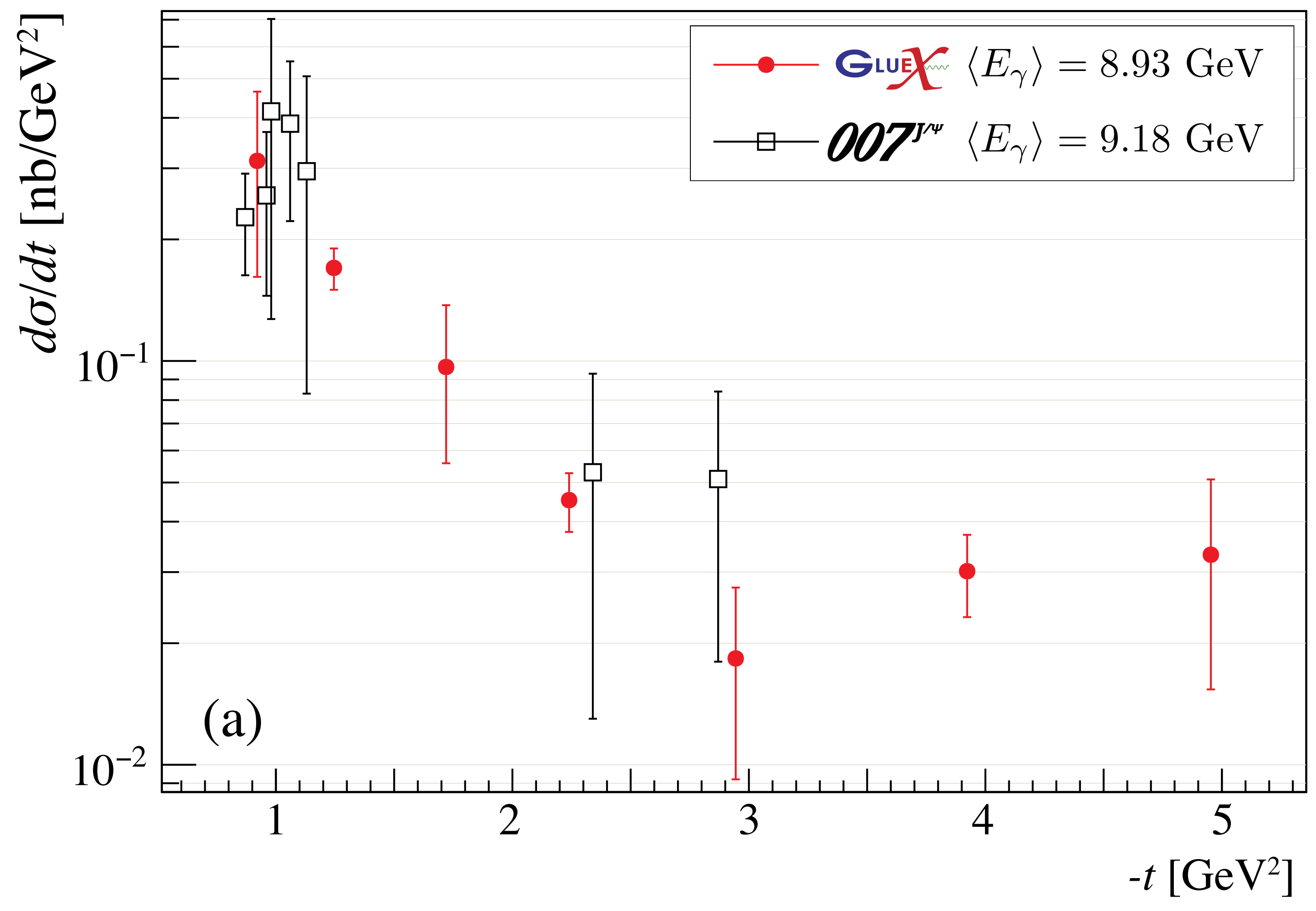
GlueX provides integrated cross sections and covers the full kinematic range



J/ψ-007 [Nature 615 (2023) 813]

GlueX [PRC 108 (2023) 025201]





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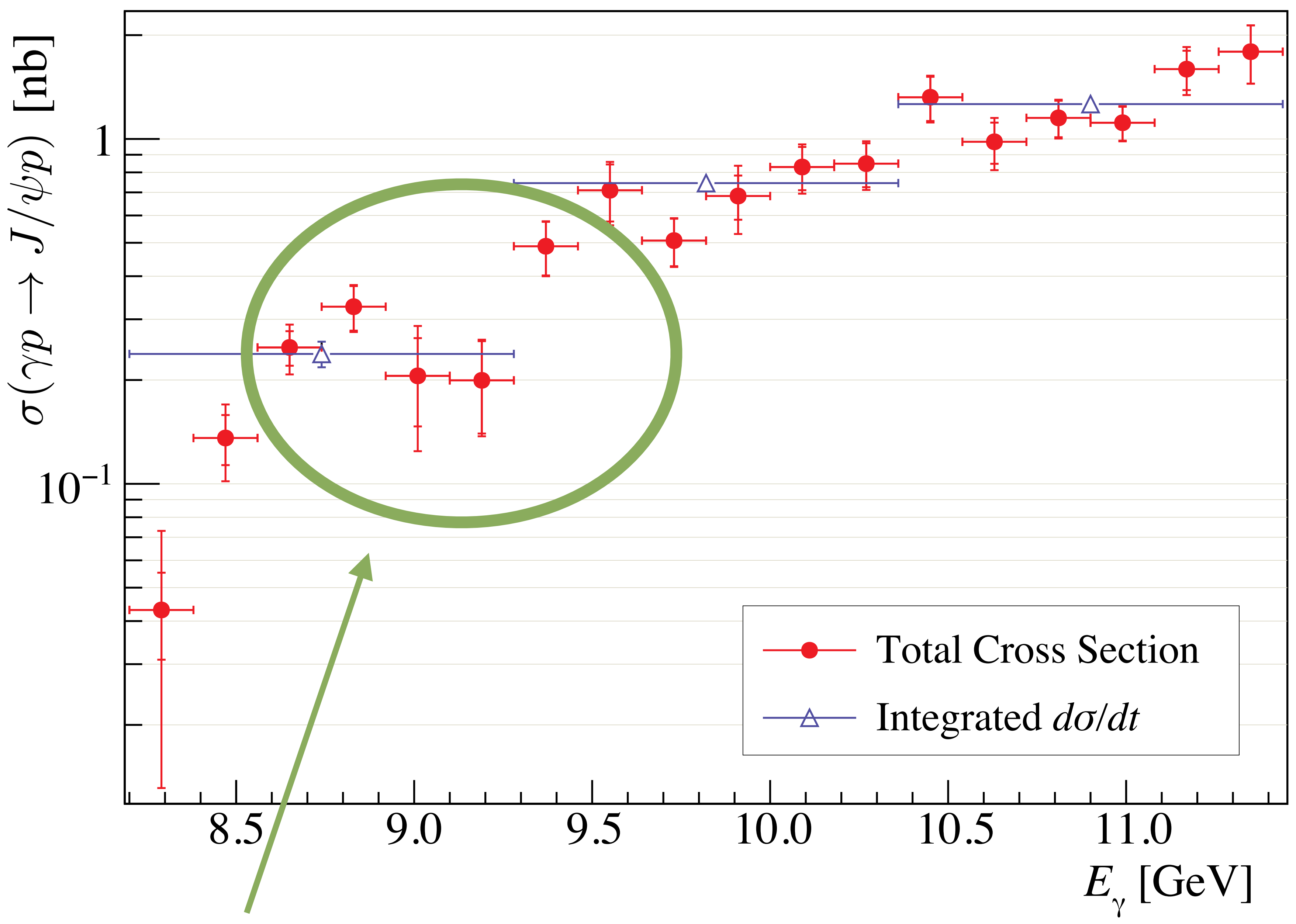

"Dip" established at ~2.6σ compared to a smooth fit

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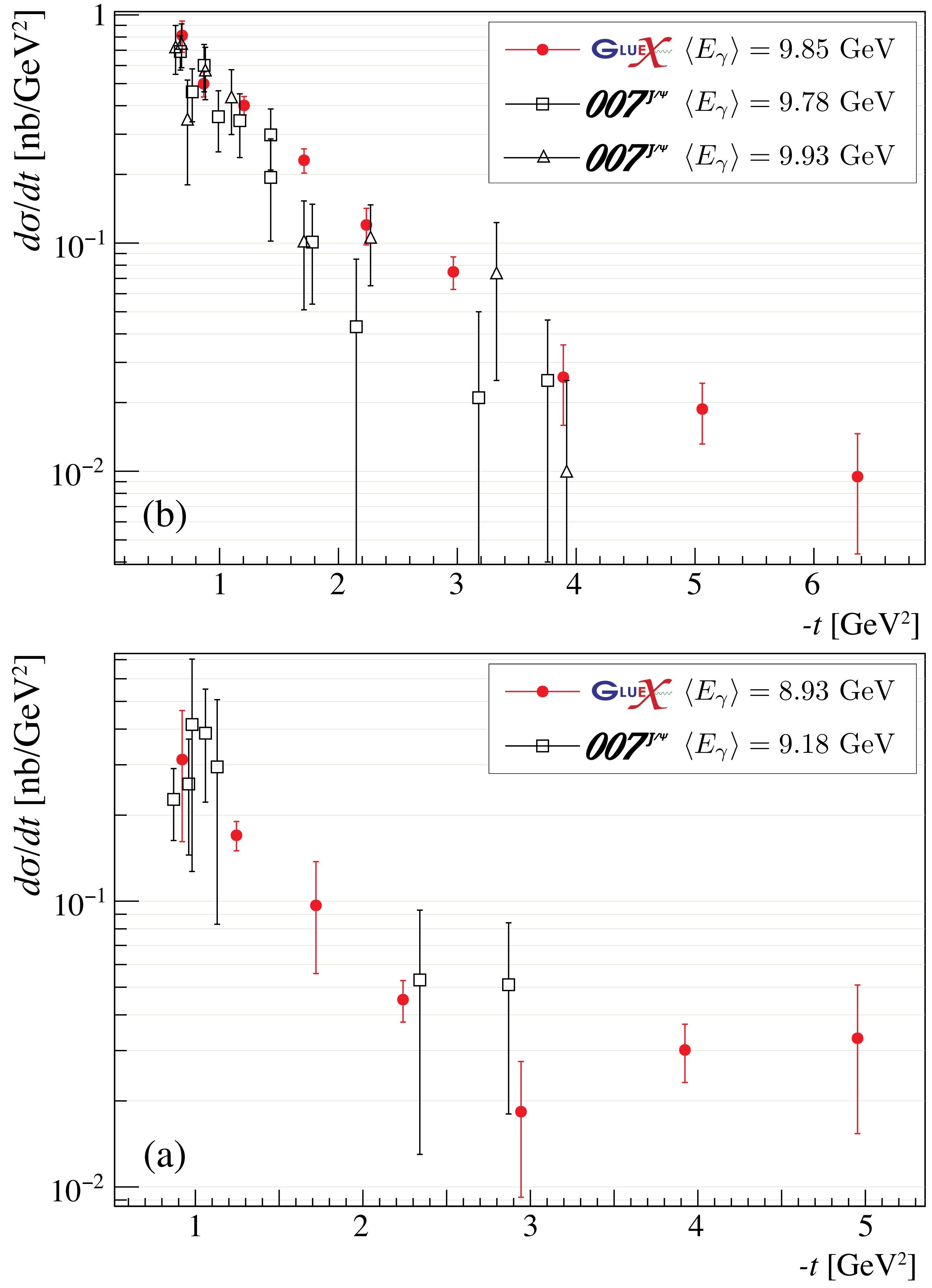

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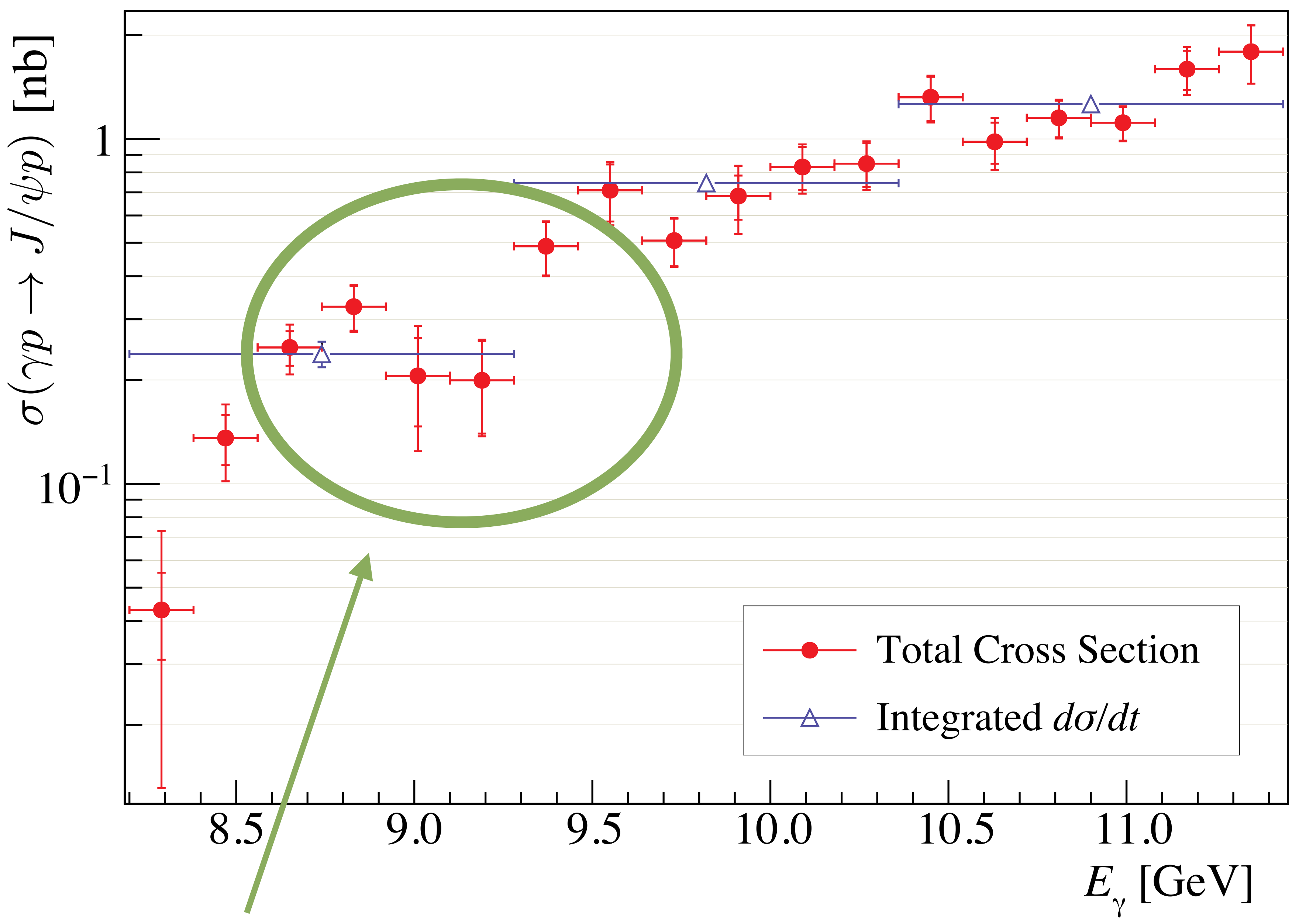

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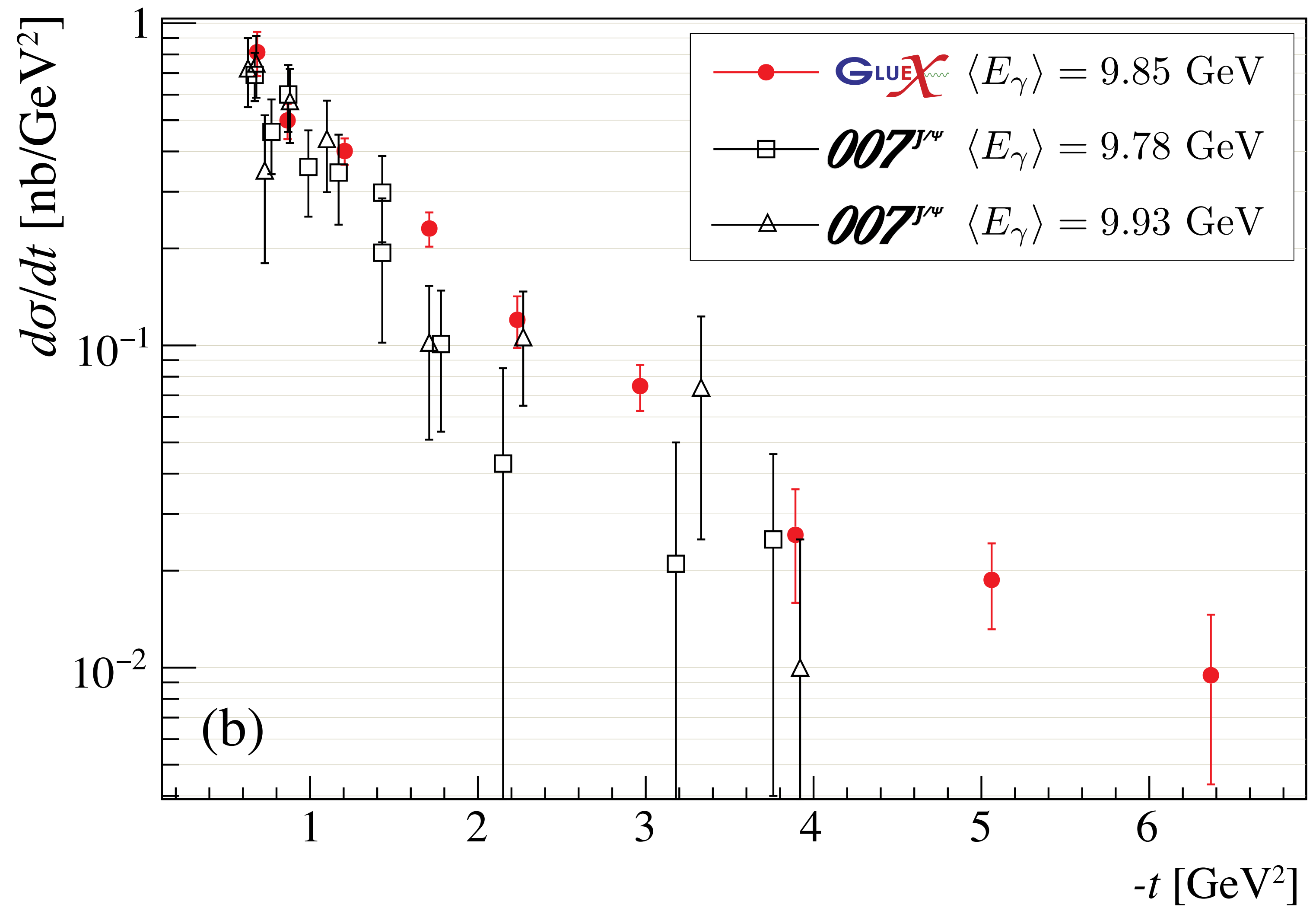
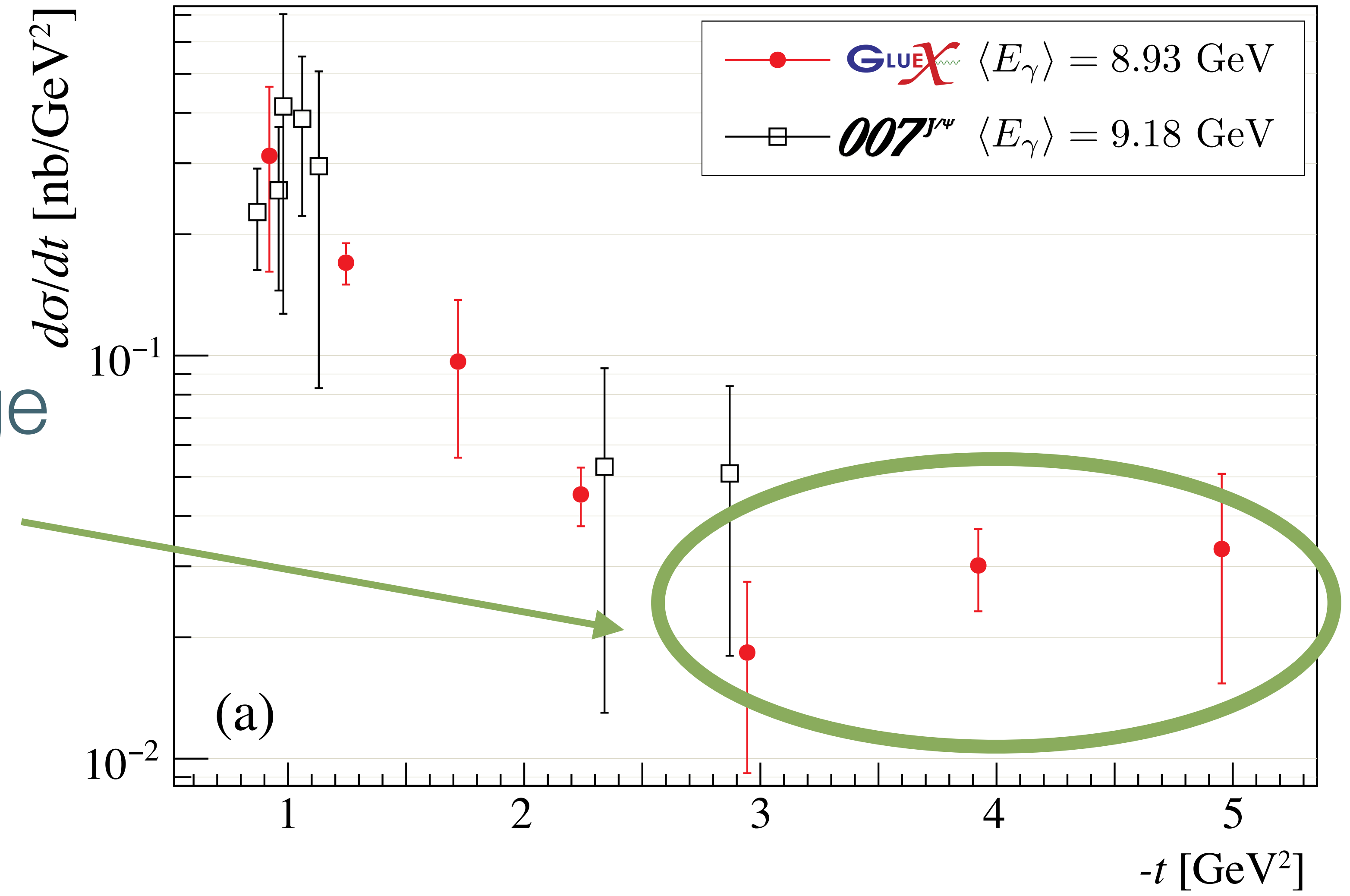
Flattening t-distribution at large momenutm transfer also at ~2.3σ compared to a dipole





Coupled-channels? Pentaquarks?

K-matrix analysis

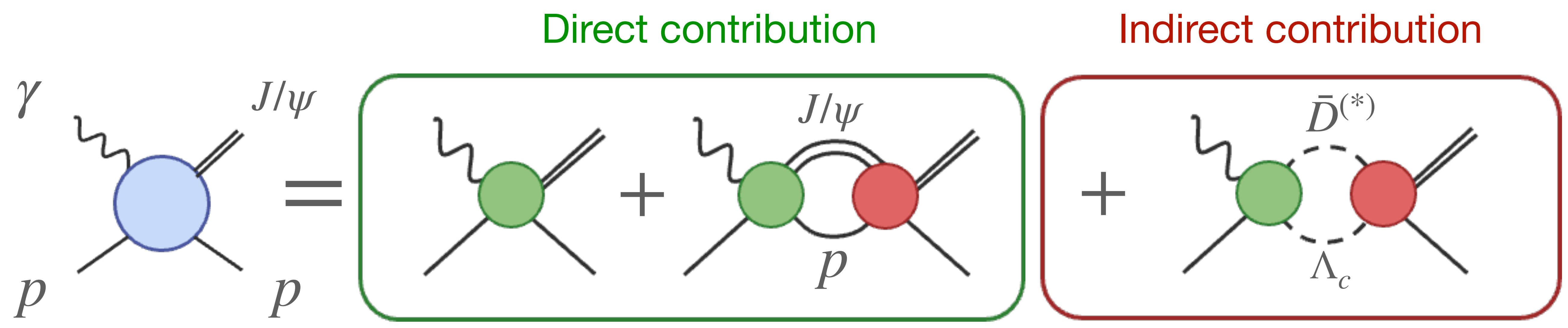
Winney, et al. (JPAC) [PRD 108 (2023) 054018]
[Zenodo 8302620 (2023)]

Bottom-up approach (remember Alessandro's talk)

Analysis in terms of s-channel partial waves
Ignore spin (no info on asymmetries)
Expansion close to threshold
Finite number of partial waves, consistent with coupled-channels unitarity

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{1}{16\pi\,(s - m_p^2)^2}\,|F(s,t)|^2 \qquad F(s,t) = \sum_\ell \left(2\ell + 1\right) P_\ell(\cos\theta_s) F_\ell(s)$$

$$\left.\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Im} F_\ell &= F_\ell \rho T_\ell^\dagger \\ \mathrm{Im} T_\ell &= T_\ell \rho T_\ell^\dagger \end{aligned}\right\} \longrightarrow \quad F_\ell = f_\ell\left(1 + G T_\ell\right) = f_\ell\left(1 - G K_\ell\right)^{-1} \quad \text{where} \quad T_\ell = K_\ell\left(1 - G K_\ell\right)^{-1}$$

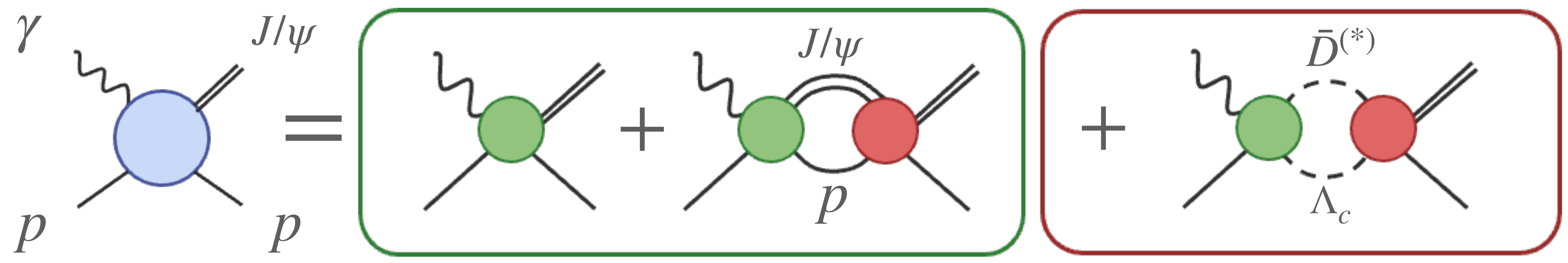


K-matrix analysis

Limitations:

- Not a microscopic model
- Each partial wave must be parametrized independently

"Minimally model dependent, data driven analysis"



K-matrix analysis

Advantages:

$$F_\ell = f_\ell\left(1 - GT_\ell\right)$$

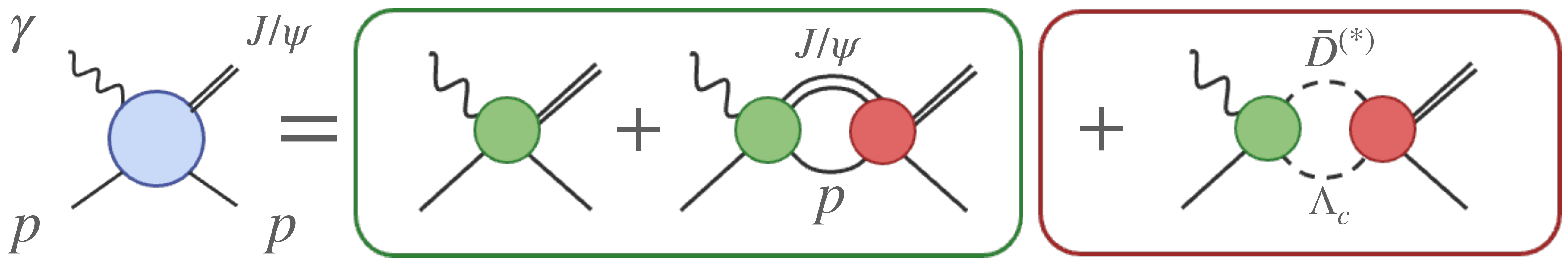
$$T_\ell = \frac{1}{K_\ell^{-1} + G}$$

- Not a microscopic model
  We do not have model uncertainty from assumed dynamics
  Model is is fully analytic and describes the entire kinematical range
  Depends only on the number of terms in the partial wave and near-threshold expansions
  Systematics are testable a posteriori. *L≤3* and effective range work well

- Each partial wave must be parametrized independently
  Production and rescattering only constrained by unitarity

$$f_S = n_S^i \qquad f_\ell = (pq)^\ell n_\ell$$

$$K_S^{ij} = \alpha_S^{ij} + \beta_S^i q_i^2 \delta_{ij} \qquad K_\ell = q^{2\ell}\alpha_\ell$$



K-matrix analysis

We only consider coupled channels in the S wave.

Three models (parametrizations of the S wave):

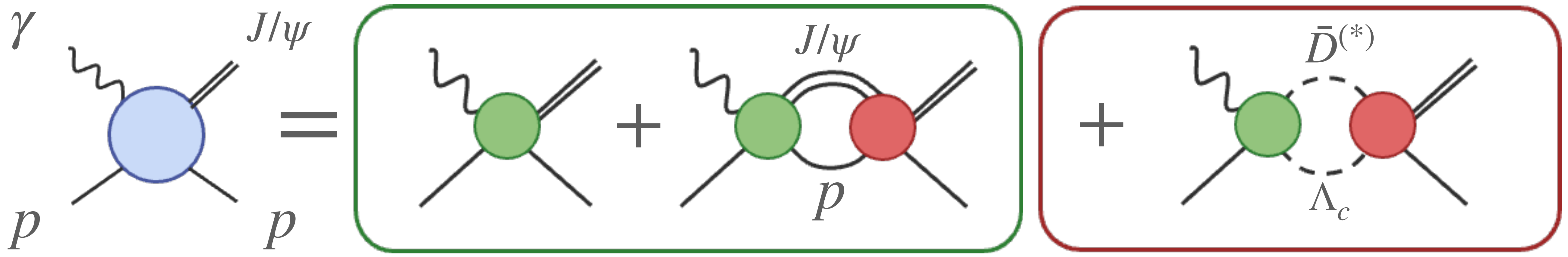
- Single channel (1C): Only interactions involving the $J/\psi p$ are included

  Favored by the factorization picture of J/ψ photoproduction

  Base model with respect to which we evaluate the significance of extra thresholds
- Two channels (2C): We include contributions from an intermediate $\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c$ channel
- Three channels (3C): We include both $\bar{D}^{(*)}\Lambda_c$ channels. We find two classes of solutions

  We keep only the constant term in the S wave, i.e. $K_S^{ij} = \alpha_S^{ij}$, to have a comparable number of parameters

Even if no explicit K-matrix pole is included, the amplitude can produce poles in the complex energy plane in all three parametrizations $\Longrightarrow$ pentaquarks

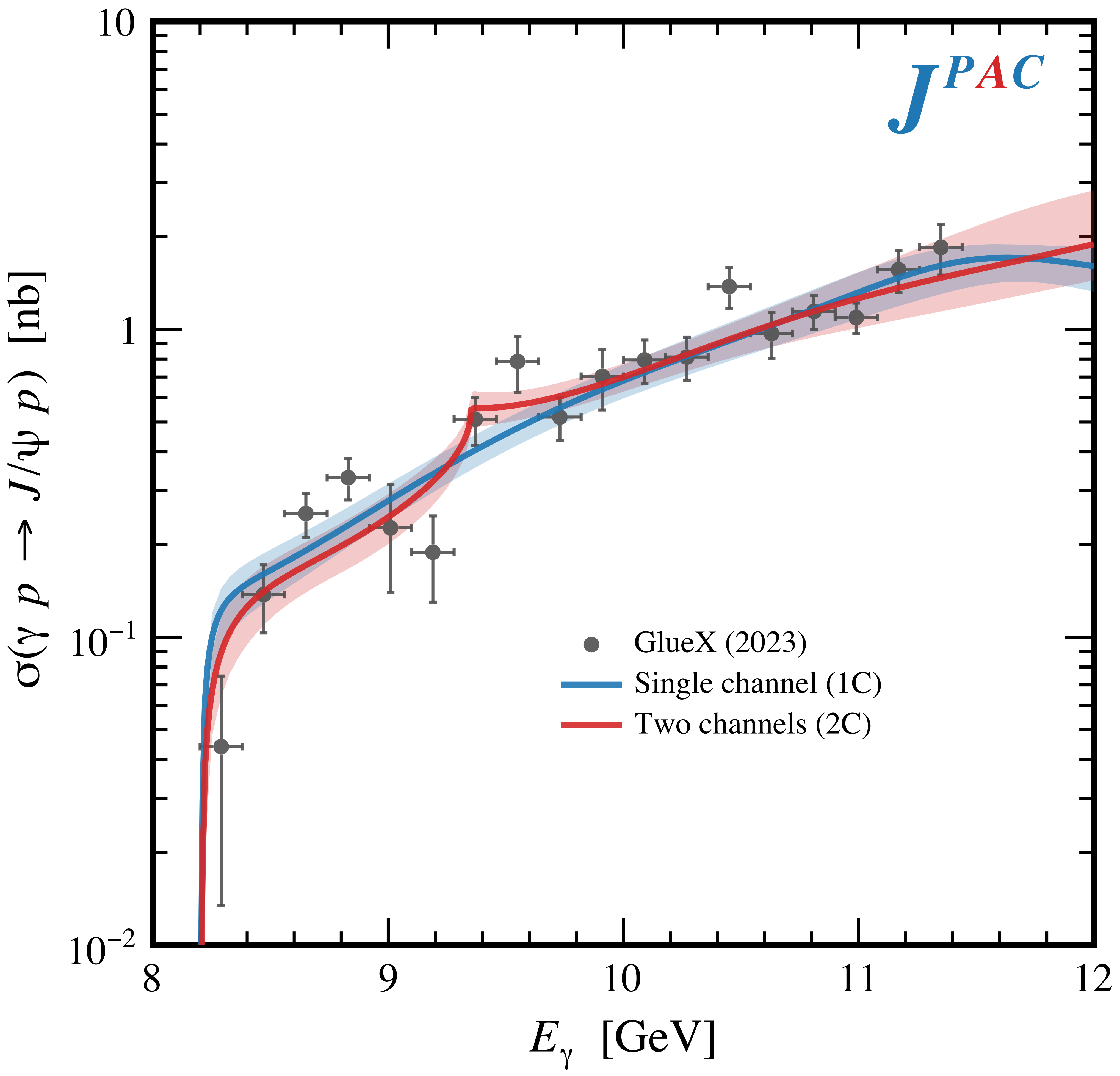


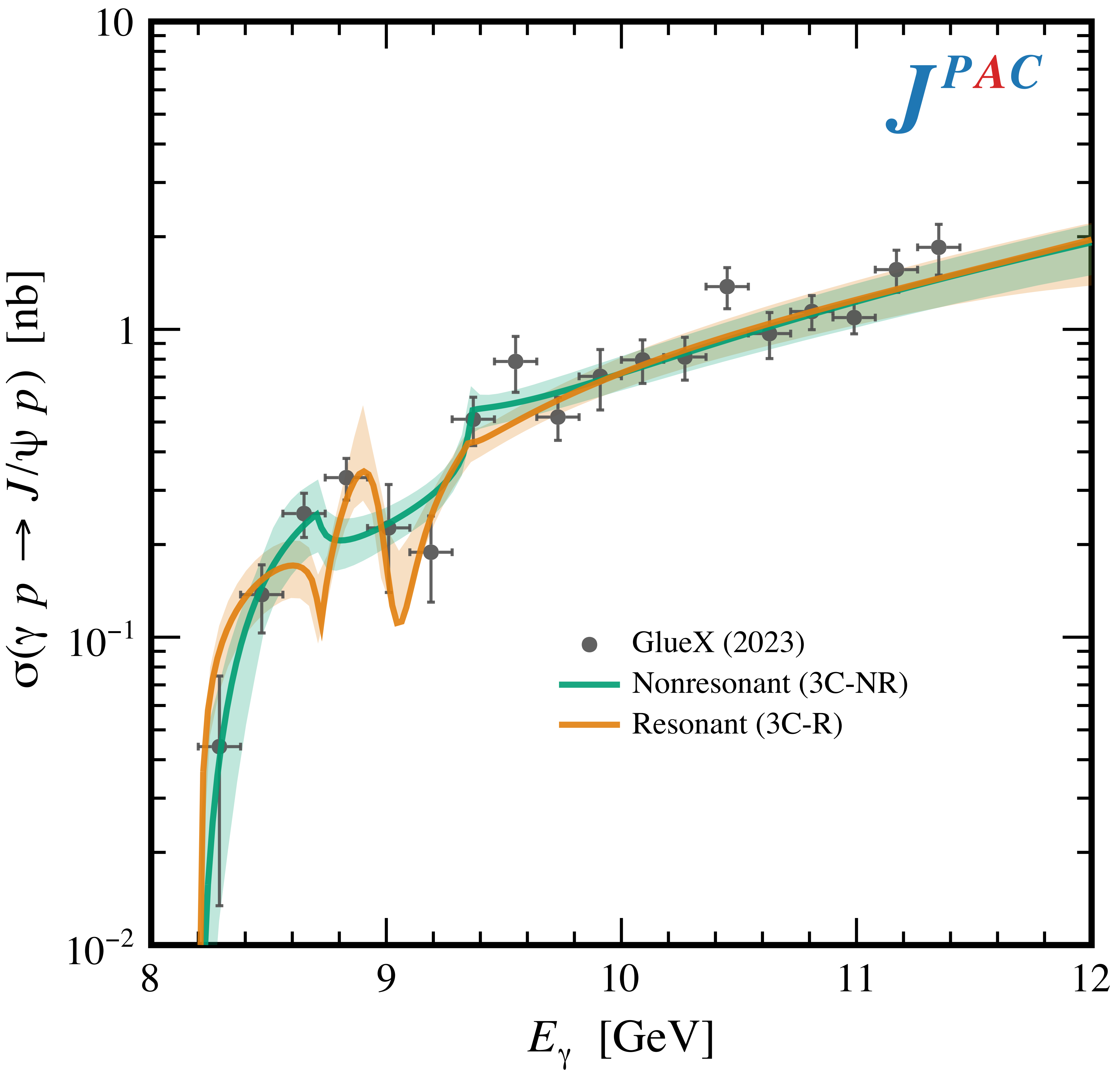
Fit parameters of the model

	1C	2C	3C-NR	3C-R
# parameters	9	13	15	15
χ^2	166	144	141	143
χ^2/dof	1.25	1.12	1.11	1.13
$n_S^{\psi p}$	0.063	0.101	0.105	8.77×10^{-3}
$n_S^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c}$	–	–	−0.103	9.80
$n_S^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c}$	–	3.214	−0.089	−0.012
$\alpha_S^{\psi p,\psi p}$	−418.24	−219.68	−258.12	−86.75
$\alpha_S^{\psi p,\bar{D}\Lambda_c}$	–	–	168.24	−1.34
$\alpha_S^{\psi p,\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c}$	–	5.00	−132.60	−88.97
$\alpha_S^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c,\bar{D}\Lambda_c}$	–	–	−135.60	224.25
$\alpha_S^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c,\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c}$	–	–	235.48	0.081
$\alpha_S^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c,\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c}$	–	47.10	93.98	−294.93
$\beta_S^{\psi p,\psi p}$	320.76	−180.31	–	–
$\beta_S^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c,\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c}$	–	−145.68	–	–
n_P	18.3×10^{-3}	14.6×10^{-3}	16.1×10^{-3}	14.02×10^{-3}
α_P	−133.77	−44.00	−61.24	−87.80
n_D	3.08×10^{-3}	3.03×10^{-3}	3.63×10^{-3}	3.65×10^{-3}
α_D	−36.32	−2.34	−4.77	−16.55
n_F	0.81×10^{-3}	0.69×10^{-3}	0.52×10^{-3}	0.66×10^{-3}
α_F	−25.91	−6.01	3.14	−10.17

Integrated cross section

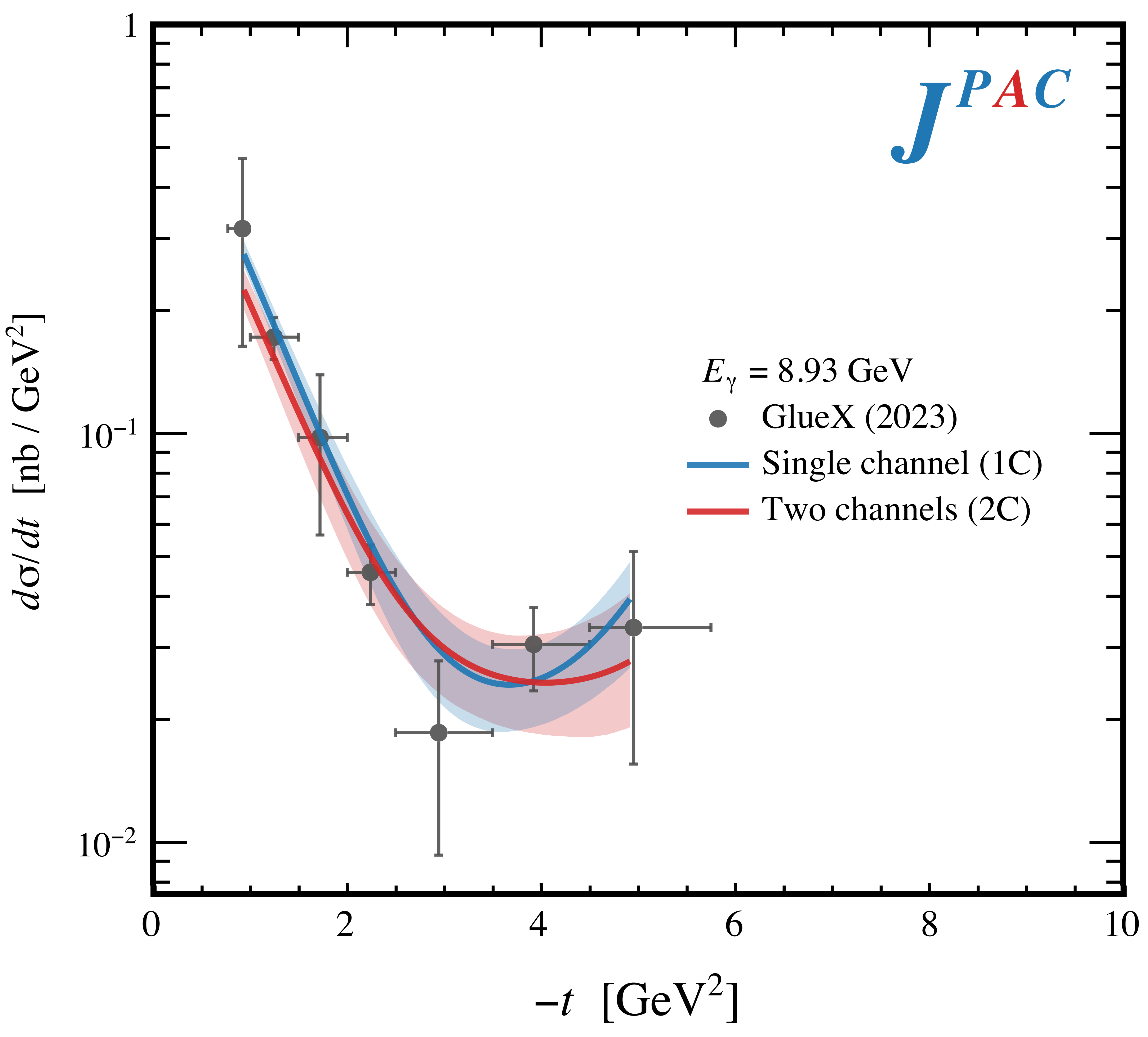
data from: GlueX

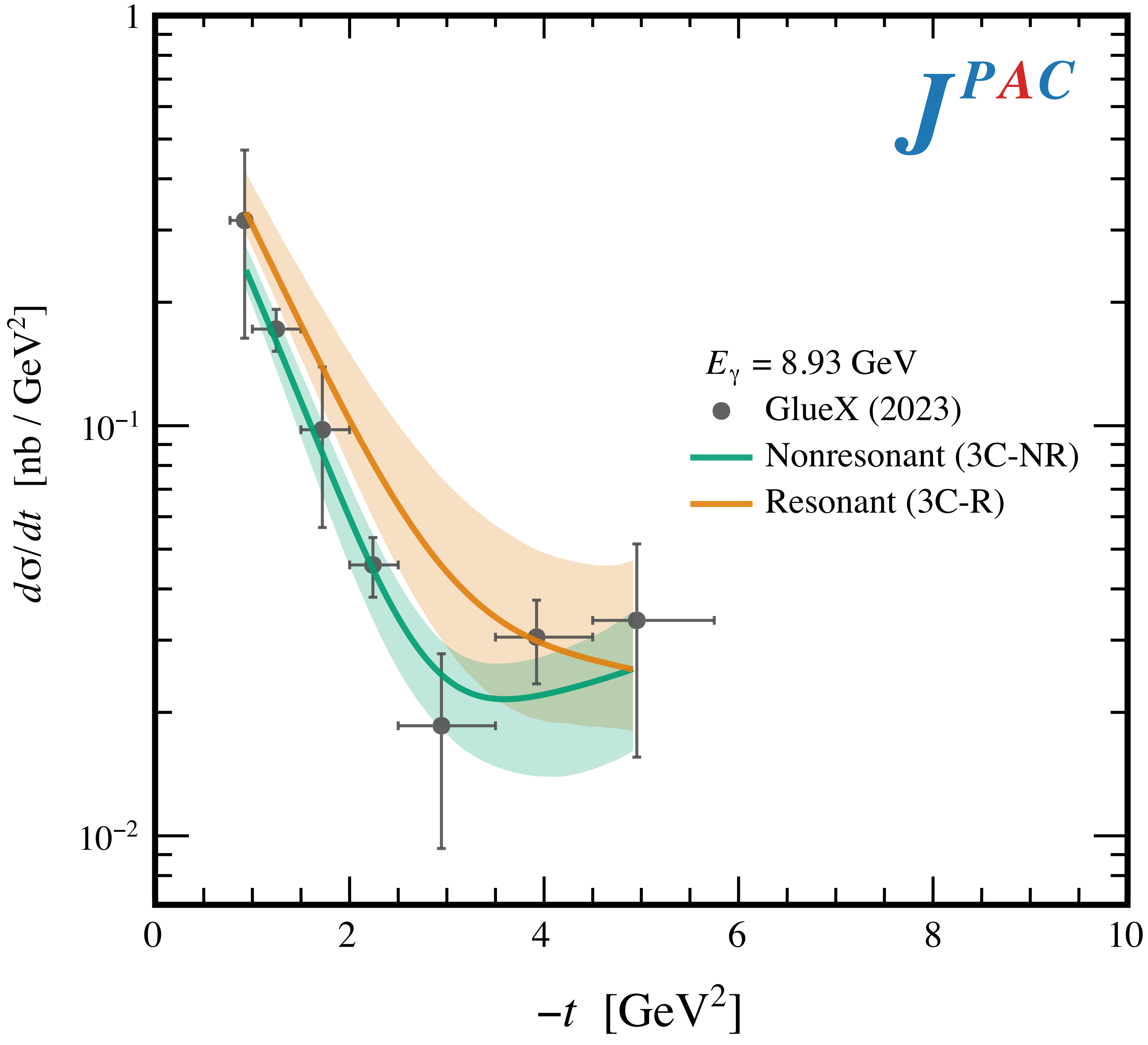




Differential cross section

data from: GlueX

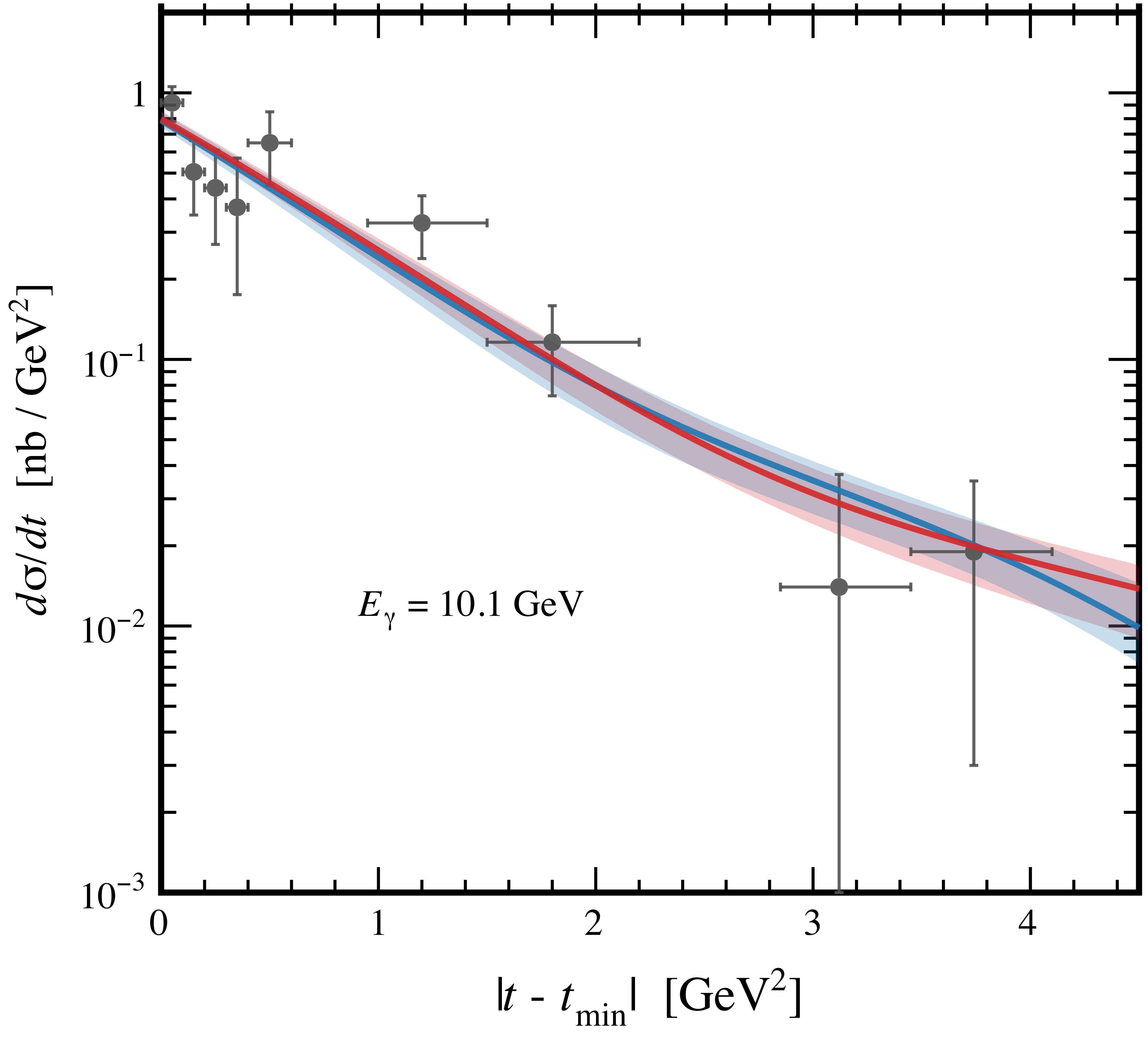


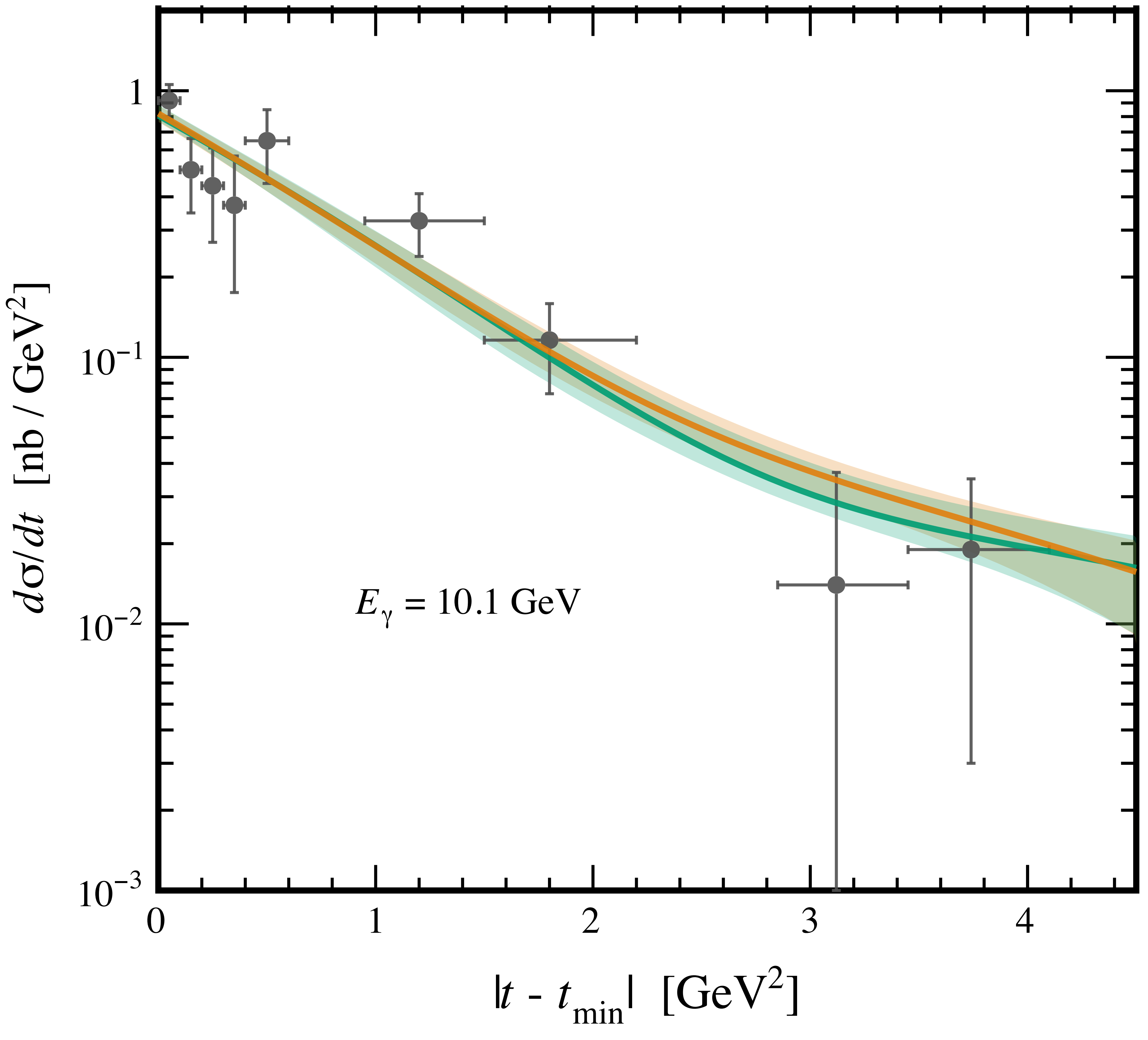


Differential cross section

data from: 007[J/ψ]

The exponential *t* behavior is captured with only a few partial waves (completely analytic in *t*)





Differential cross section

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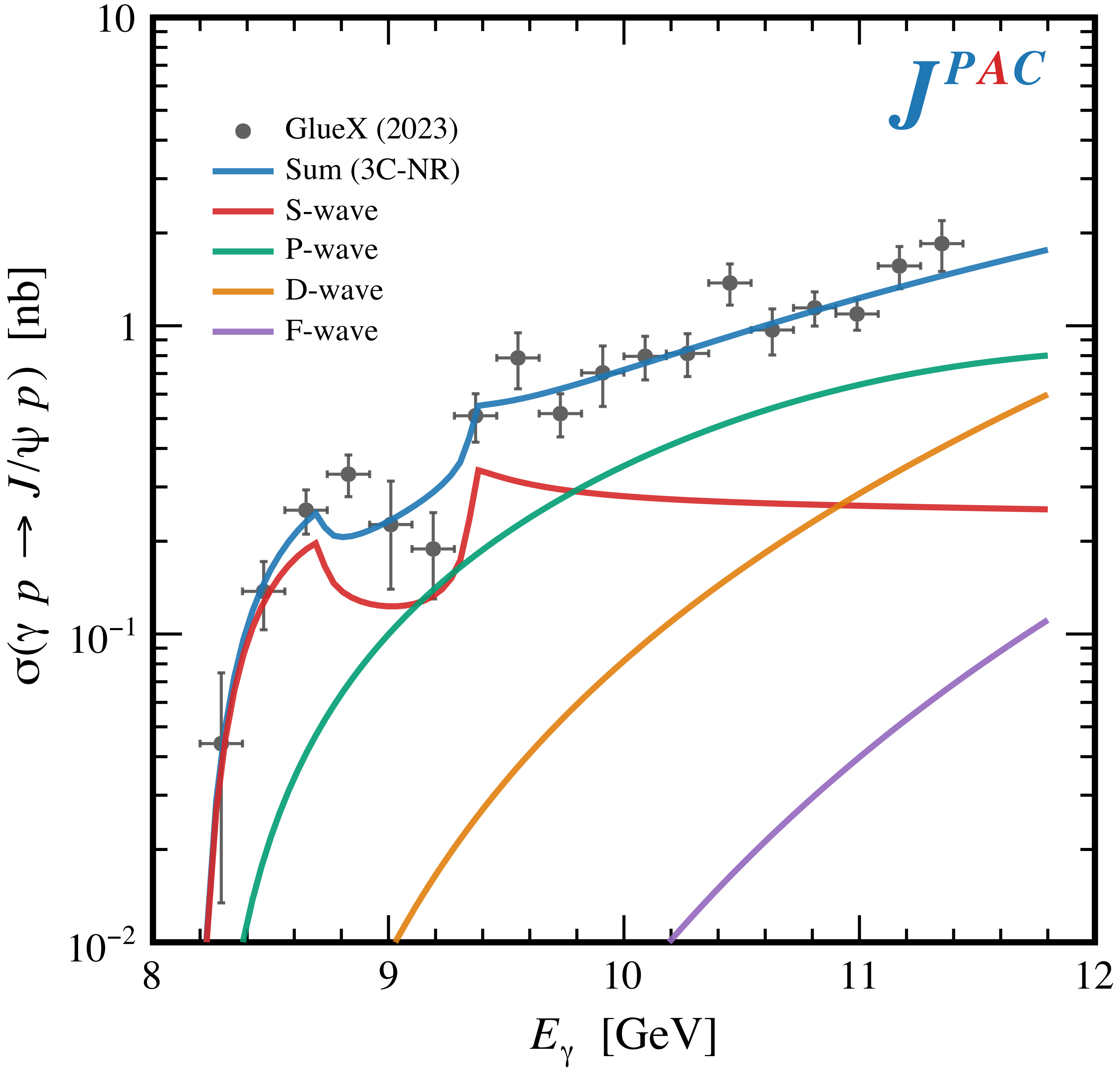

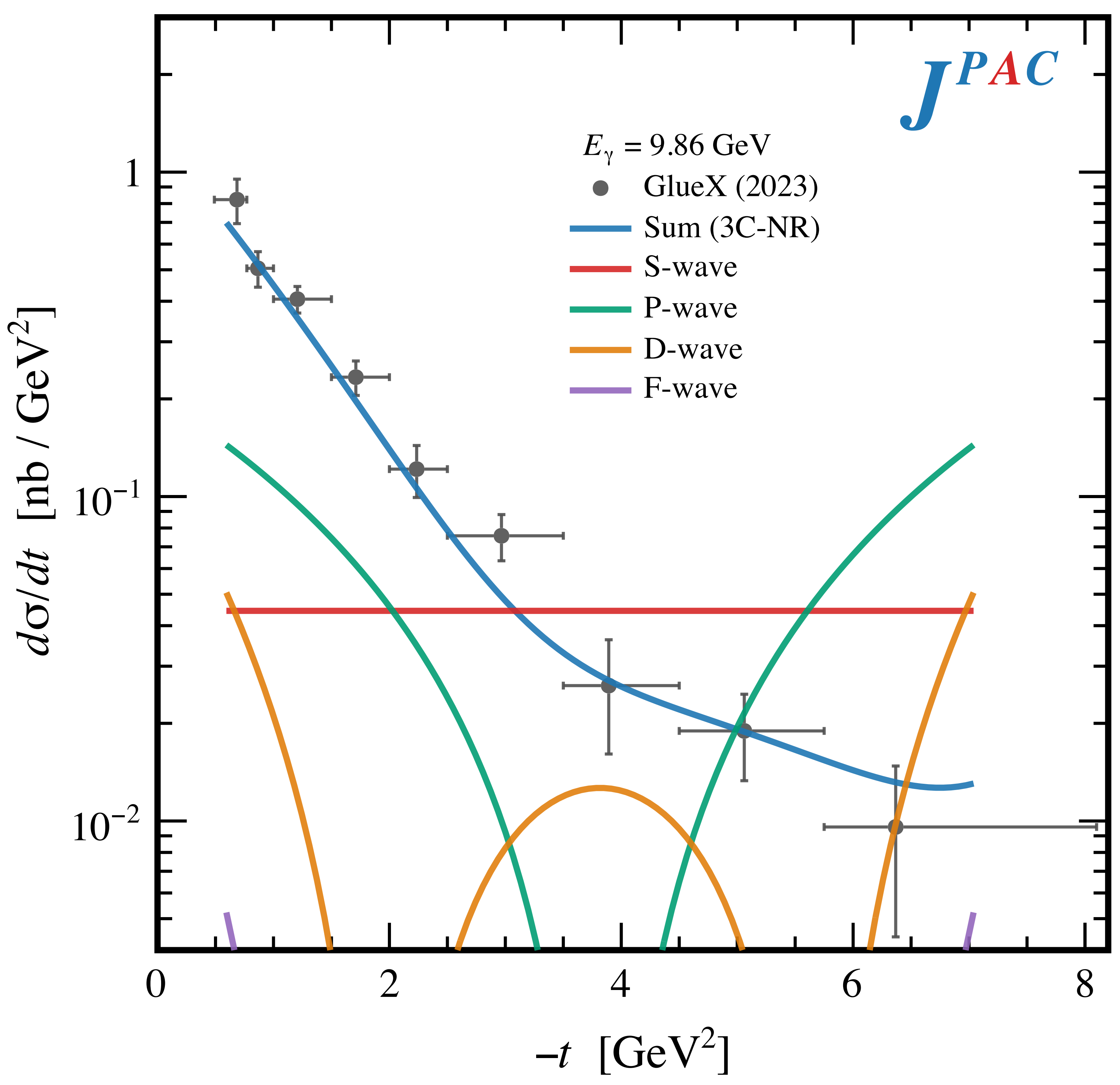

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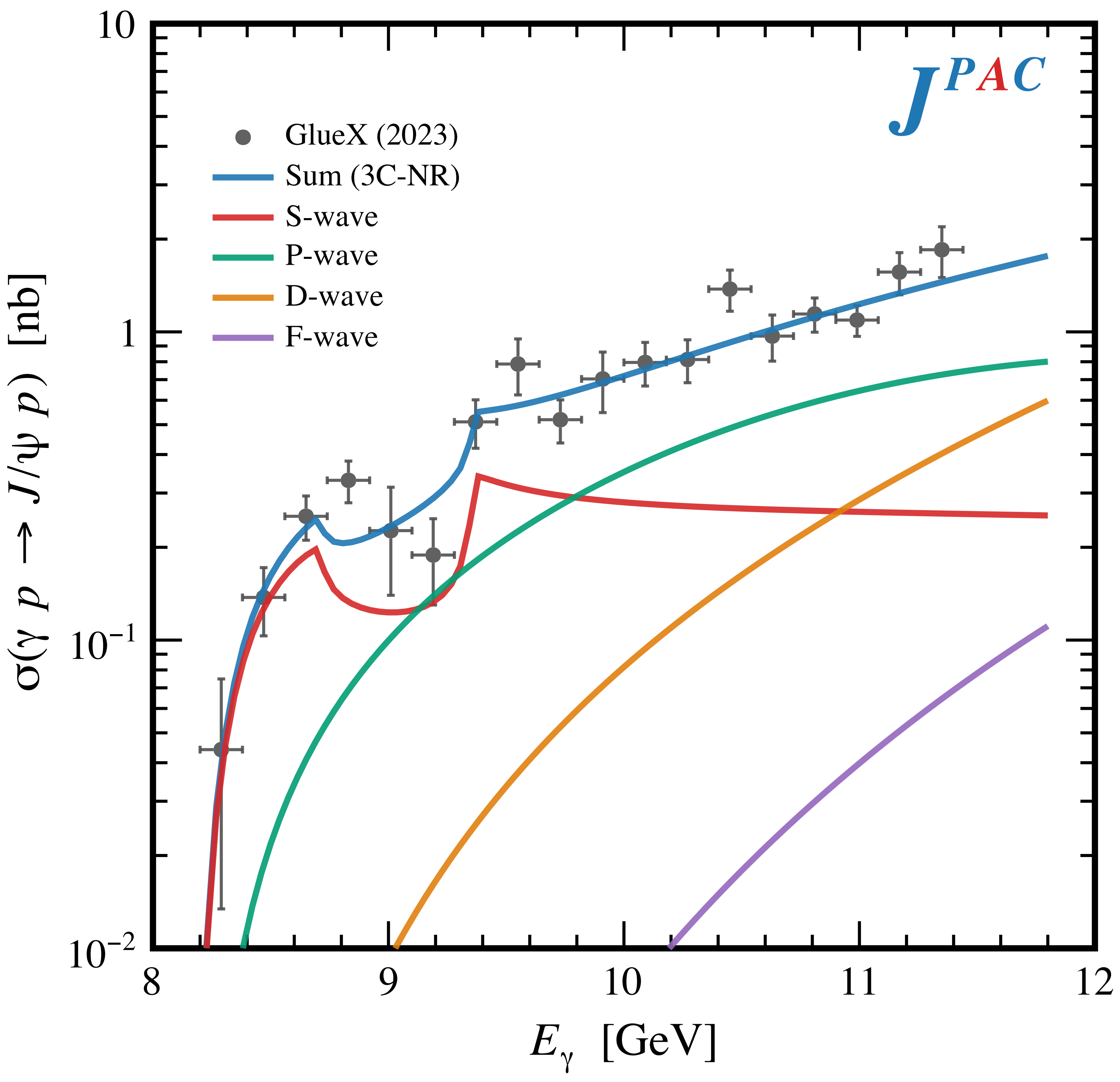
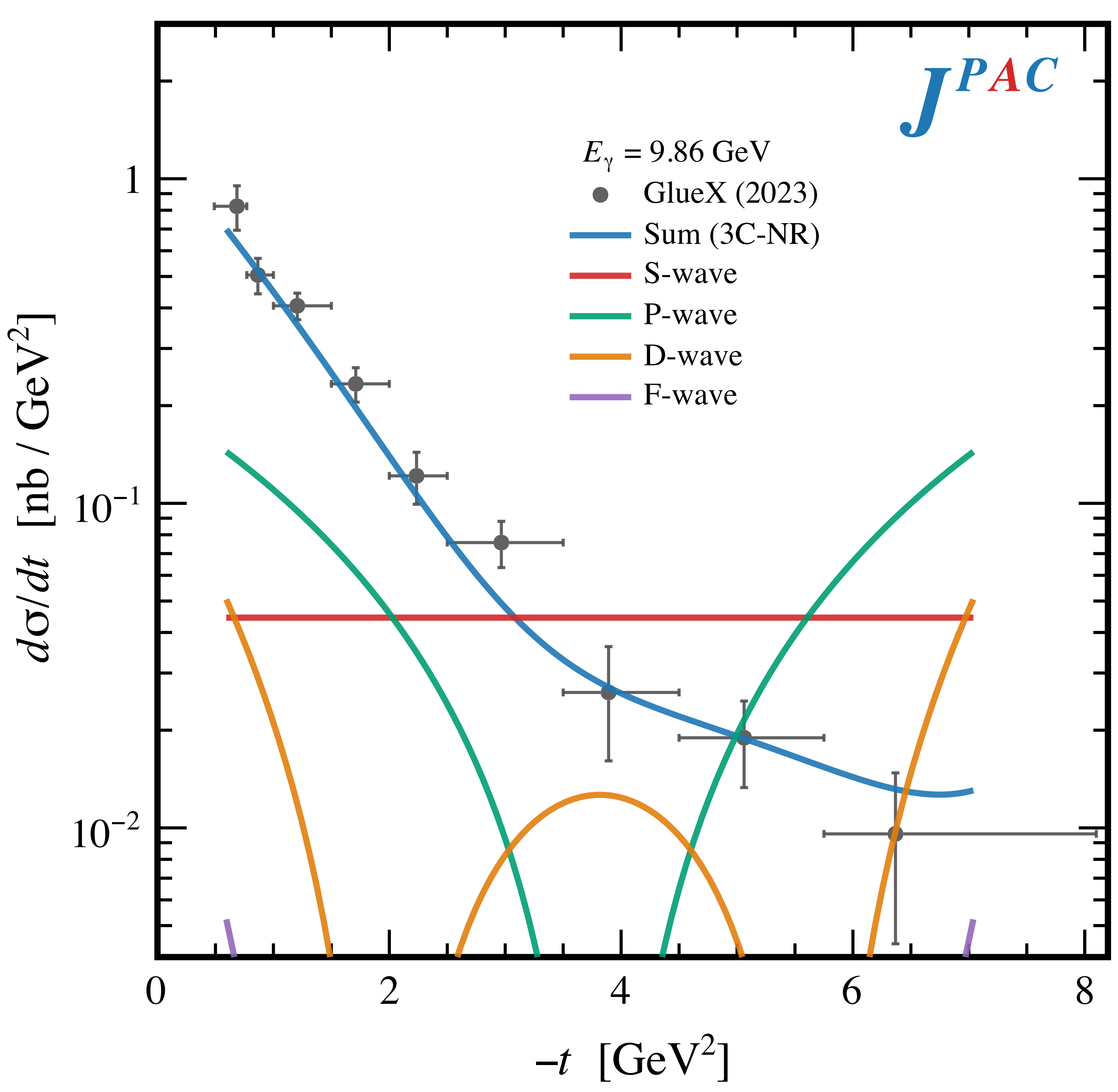




The sharp asymmetric *t* distribution is due to interference between PW: $P_\ell(\cos\theta = \pm 1) = (\pm 1)^\ell$

Vector meson dominance

VMD is used extensively in the phenomenology of photoproduction processes

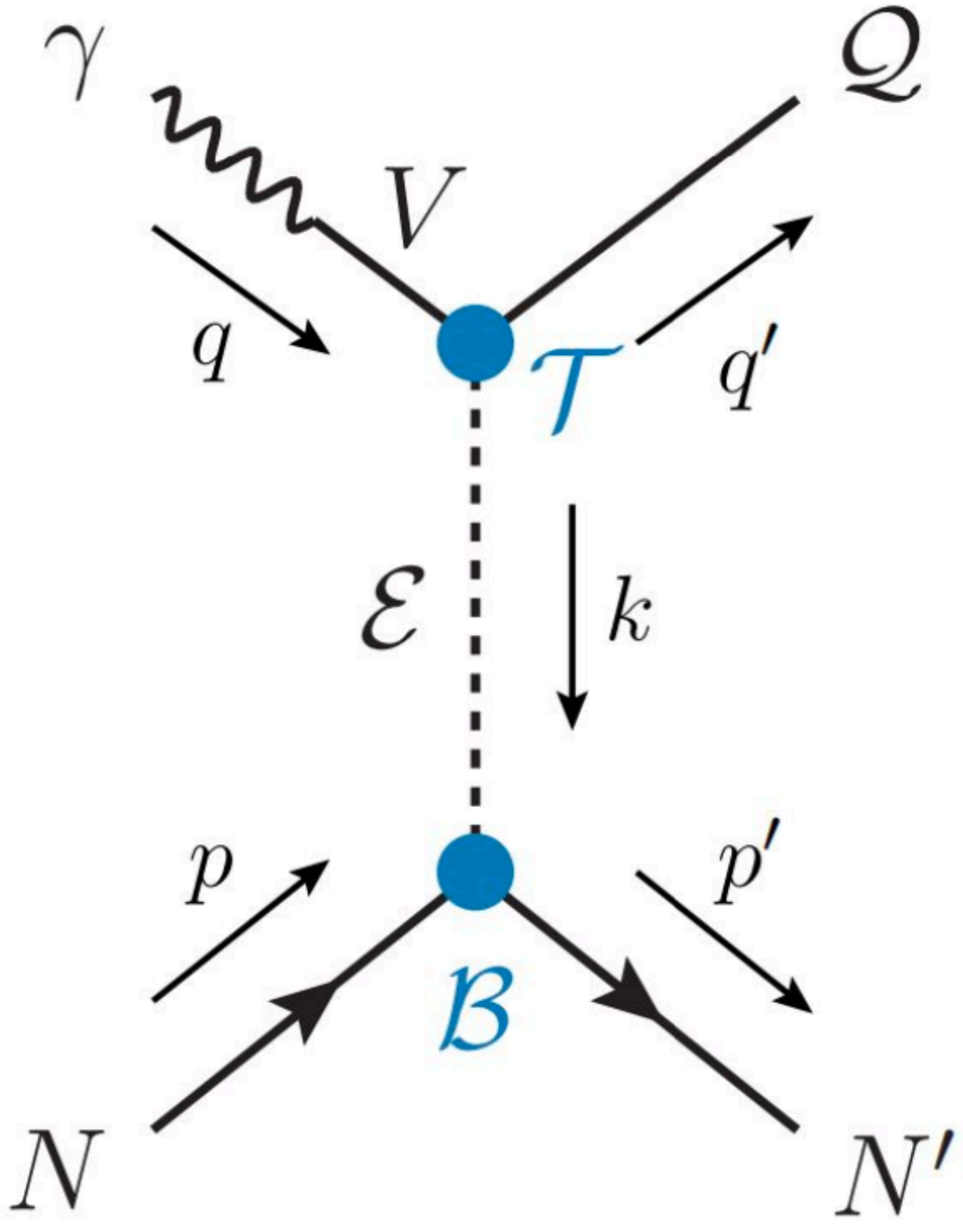
Provides connection between production and elastic scattering

Works very well in the light mesons sector

Not clear if it also works in the heavy meson sector

It is hoped to provide reliable estimation of the order of magnitude

Explicit tests in heavy states near threshold has never been conducted



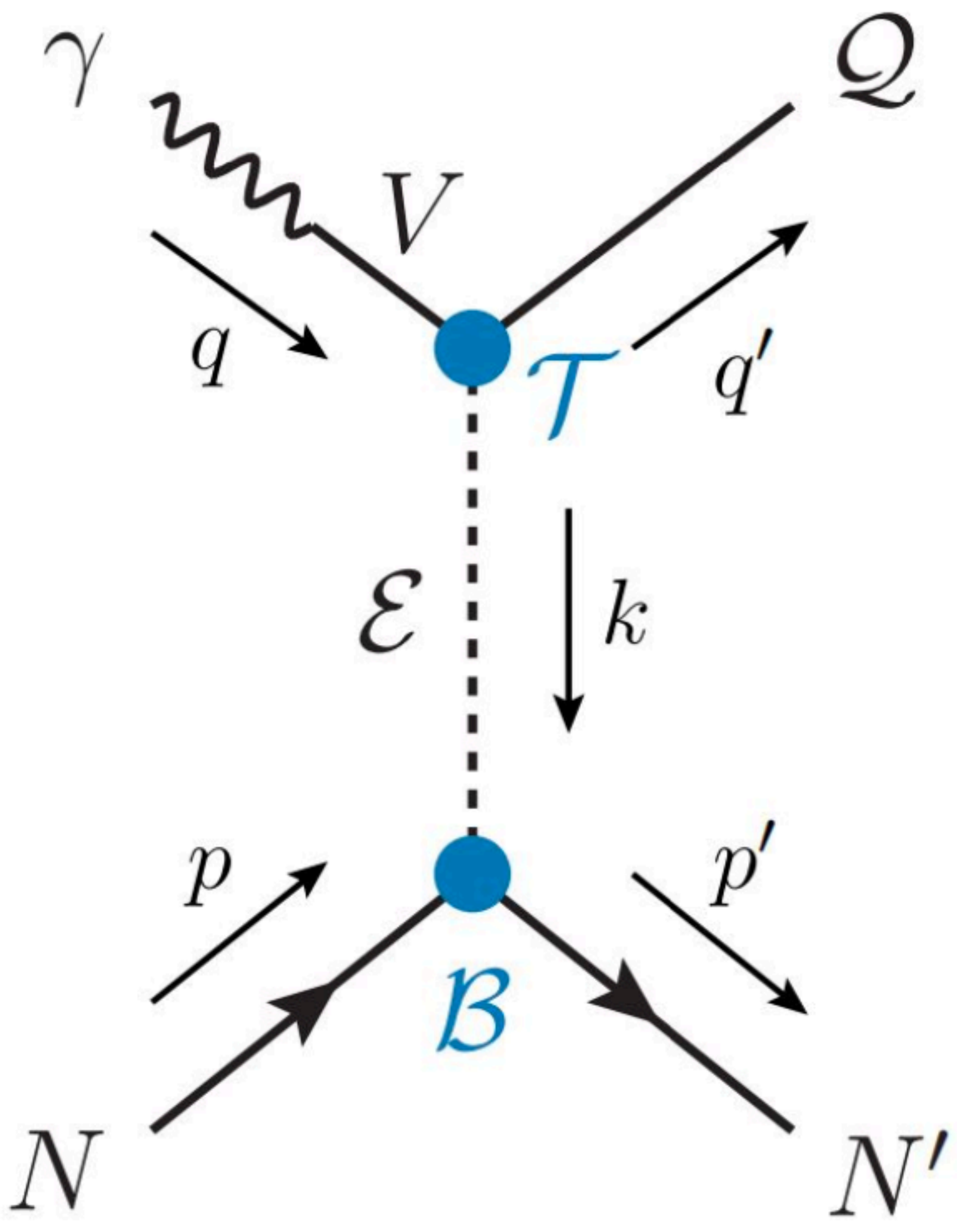
$F^{\psi p}(s,x) = g_{\gamma\psi} T^{\psi p,\psi p}(s,x)$ (strict VMD) $g_{\gamma\psi} = e f_\psi / m_\psi \simeq 0.0273$

$F_\ell(s) = f_\ell \left(1 + G T_\ell\right)$

Vector meson dominance

The K-matrix formalism allows us to extract the elastic J/ψ p amplitude from unitarity

We define the ratio to test the validity of the VMD assumption



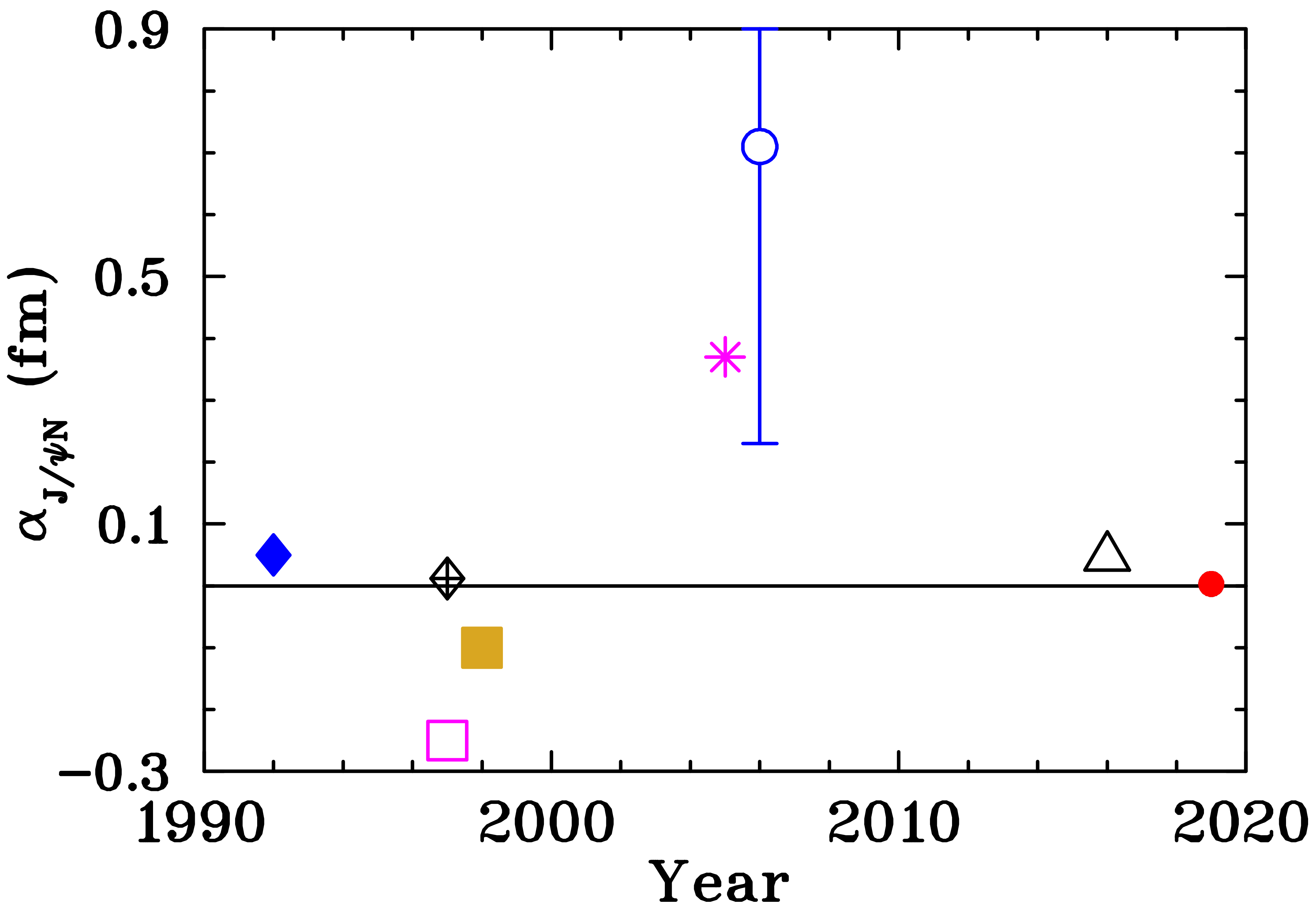
$$R_{VMD}(x) = \left| \frac{F^{\psi p}(s_{th}, x)/g_{\gamma\psi}}{T^{\psi p,\psi p}(s_{th}, x)} \right|$$

VMD found to underestimate elastic scattering by 2 orders of magnitude in all cases except those with a nearby pole

	$x = \cos\theta = 0$	$x = t = 0$
1C	[0.45,0.73]×10^{-2}	[1.3,2.0]×10^{-2}
2C	[0.39,1.69]×10^{-2}	[1.3,5.1]×10^{-2}
3C-NR	[0.03,1.74]×10^{-2}	[0.08,8.9]×10^{-2}
3C-R	[1.4×10^{-2},0.58]	[5.4×10^{-2},1.8]

Elastic scattering length

Extractions based on VMD consistent with nearly noninteracting system
First extraction without assuming VMD
Favors large values on the order of Fermi



$$T_S^{\psi p,\psi p} = \frac{8\pi\sqrt{s_{\text{th}}}}{-a_{\psi p}^{-1} - iq} + \mathcal{O}(q^2)$$

Scattering length [fm]

1C	[0.56, 1.00]
2C	[0.11, 0.76]
3C-NR	[-2.77, 0.35]
3C-R	[-0.04, 0.19]

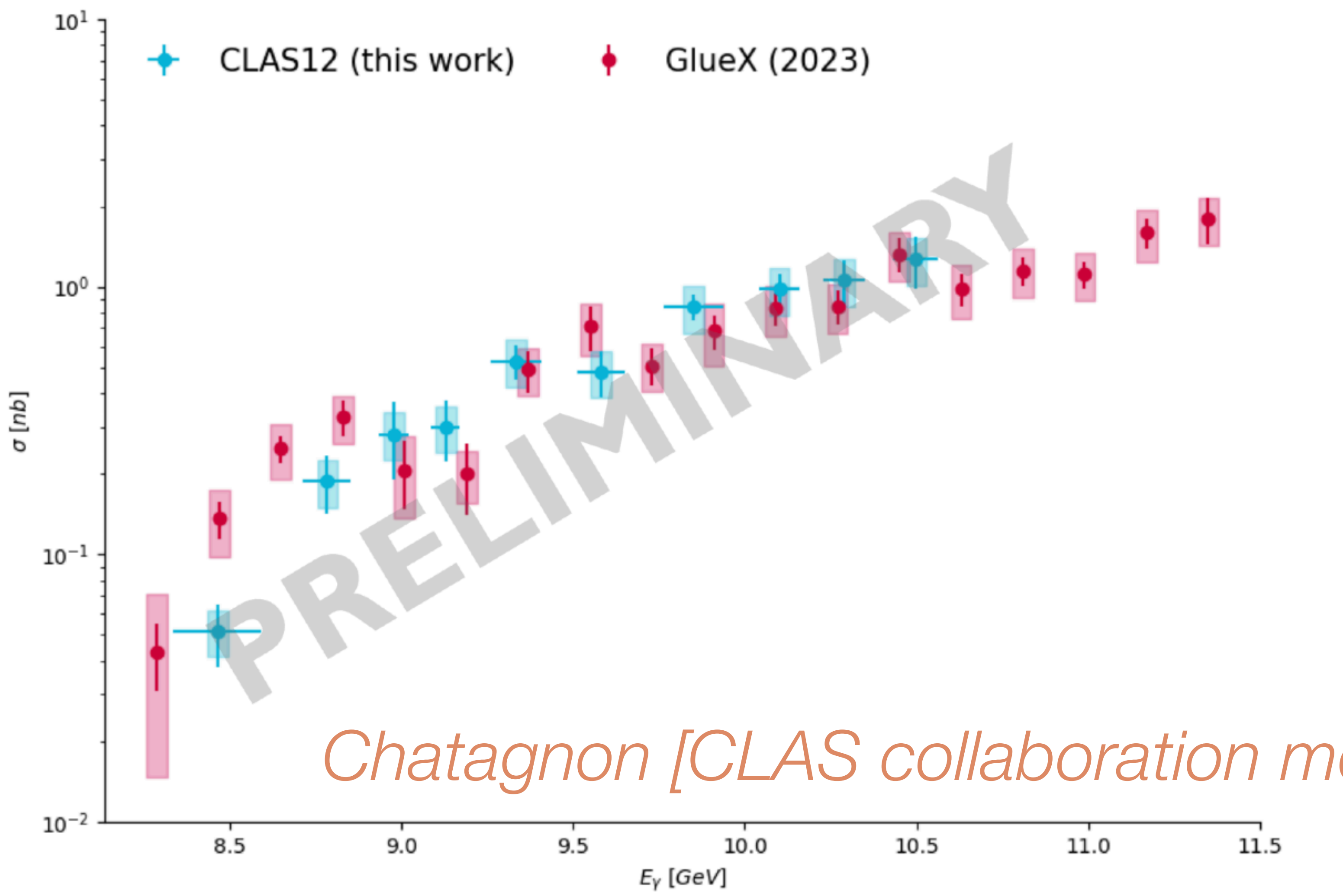
Typical hadronic interaction between nucleon and charmonia
3C fits are compatible with zero

Strakovsky, Epifanov & Pentchev. [PRC 101 (2020) 042201]

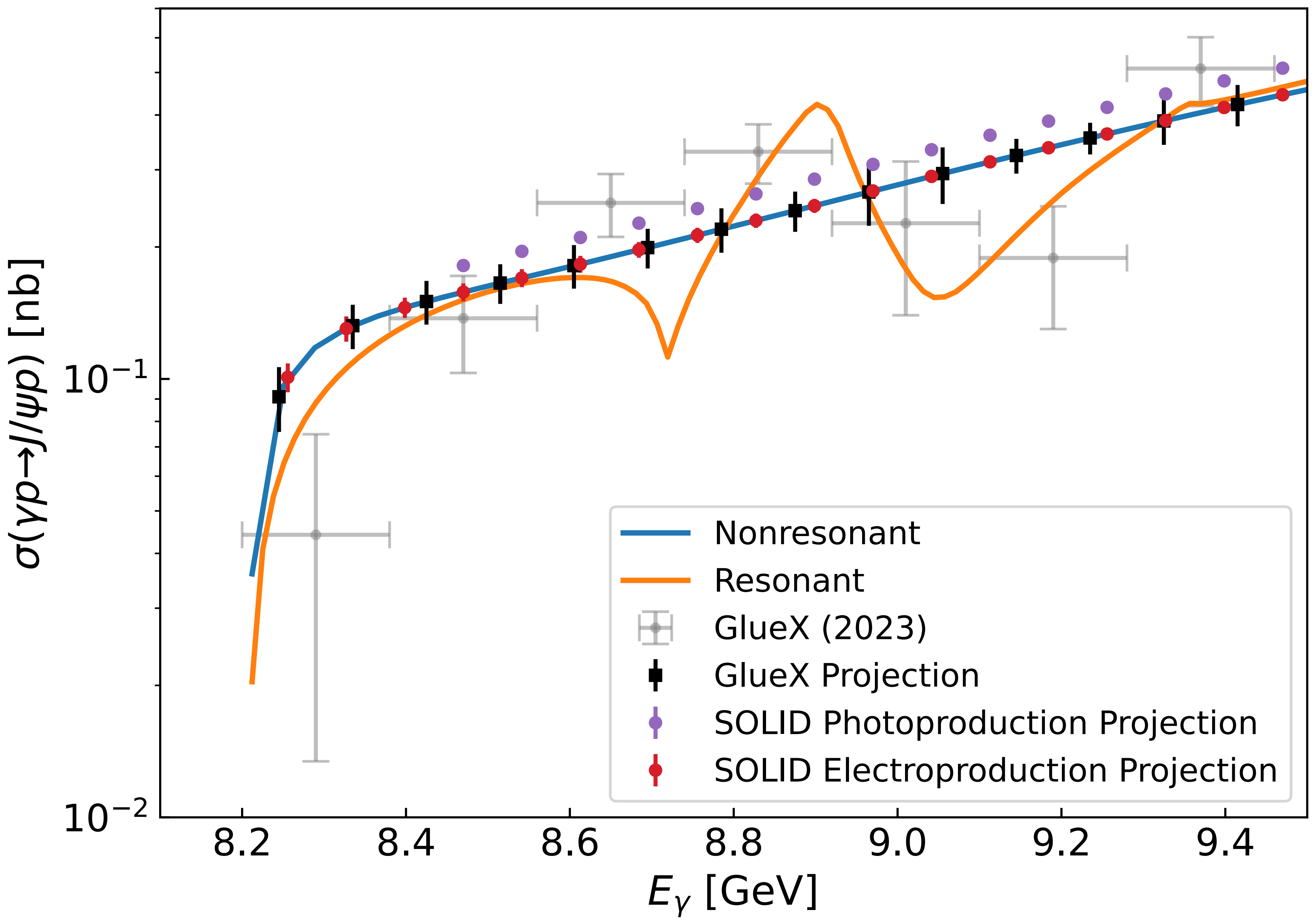
$|a_{\psi p}| = 3.08 \pm 0.55 \pm 0.45$ mfm Using GlueX 2019 data

Experimental push at Jefferson Lab

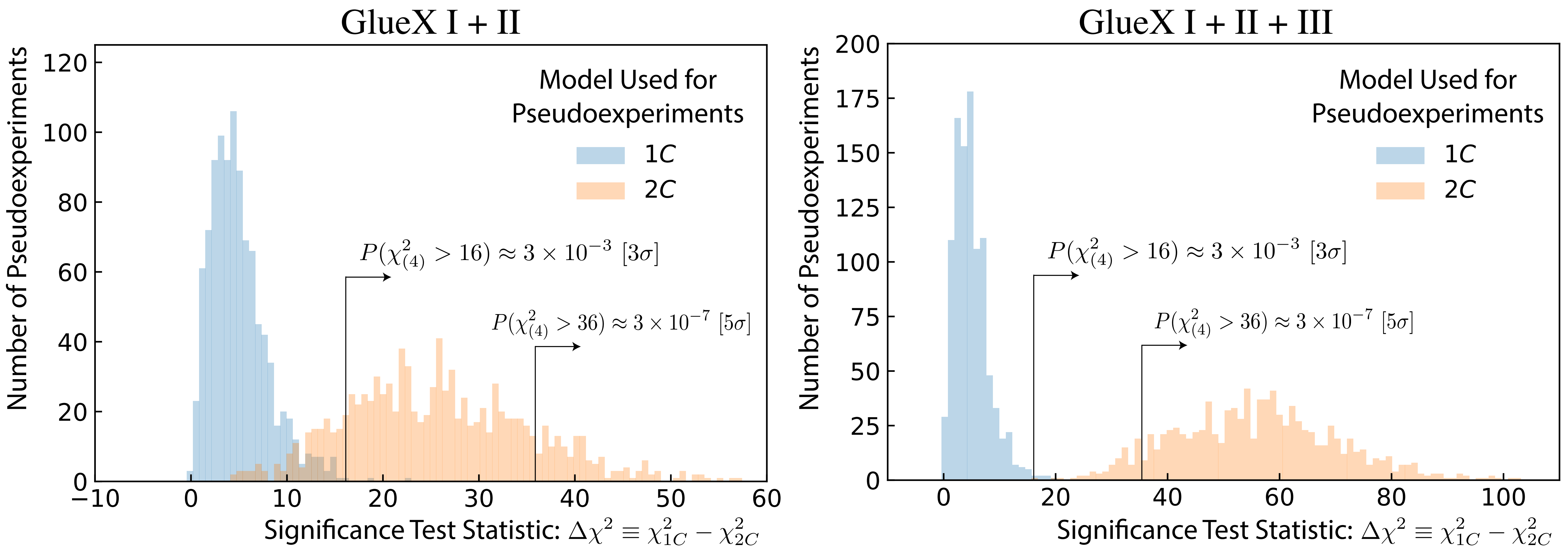
Hall A (SBS) [LOI12-18-001 PAC 46] (SoLID) arXiv:2209.13357
Hall B (CLAS12) [E12-12-001A] (preliminary results)
Hall C [PR12-07-10 PAC 32]
Hall D (GlueX-III) (running, 400/200 days experiment/beam time)



Chatagnon [CLAS collaboration meeting]



Pentchev & Stevens [Priv. comm. GlueX projection]
Joosten [Priv. comm. SoLID projection]



Shepperd et al. [GlueX-III proposal (2024)]

Conclusions

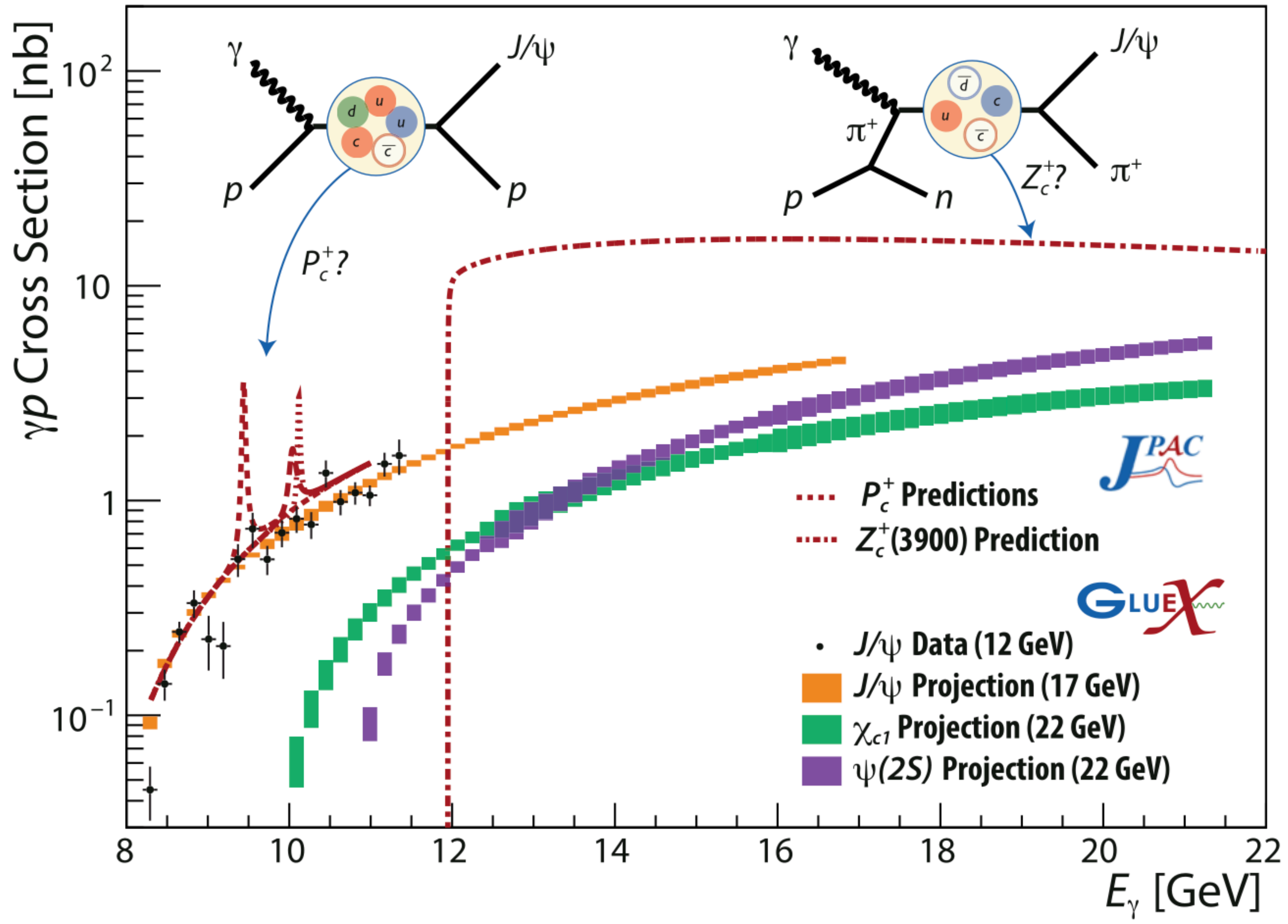
Underlying physics of the reaction is uncertain

What physics can be extracted is uncertain

Open questions we <u>should not</u> ignore:

- Can we access the proton structure?
- Are there pentaquarks?
- Open charm contributions?
- Is VMD a good assumption?
- Is it structure or spectroscopy? Can we do both?

Accardi, et al. [EPJA 60 (2024) 163]



Predictions for JLab22 based on VMD

An important part of future facilities (EIC, EicC, JLab22) research program depends on answering to these questions

Backup slides

Outline

- J/ψ at high energies
- Importance of near threshold: proton structure, spectroscopy, ...
- Previous measurements
- Possible coupled channel mechanism
- 2023 Jefferson Lab data
- K-matrix analysis
- Results
- Tests of assumptions
- Future/current experiments
- Conclusions

Proton mass decomposition

Ji [PRL 74 (1995) 1071, PRD 52 (1995) 271]

Not without controversy:

Lorcé [EPJC 78 (2018) 120]

Normal gluon energy contribution (from traceless part)

Quark mass term

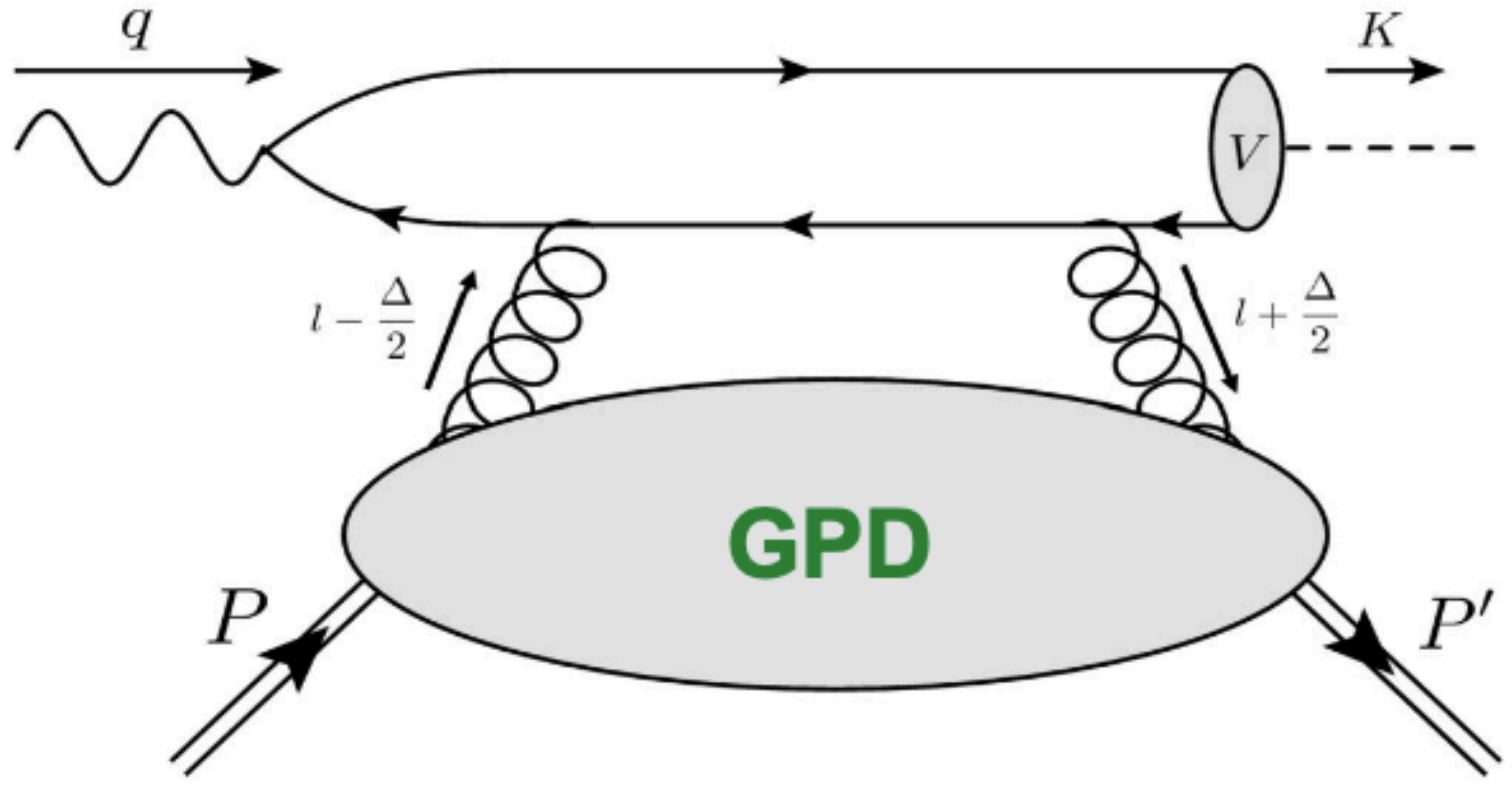
$$M = M_q + M_g + M_m + M_a$$

Quark and antiquark kinetic and potential energies

Gluon energy contribution from the trace anomaly (from trace part)

J/ψ photoproduction (near threshold)

Measurements at energies near threshold have attracted a lot of attention as potentitally sensitive to key quantities relevant to proton structure



Based on factorization arguments in perturbative and holographic QCD can be used to extract:

- Gravitational form factors

  Mamo & Zahed [PRD 101 (2020) 086003]
  Guo, Ji & Liu [PRD 103 (2021) 096010]

- Mass radius

  Kharzeev [PRD 104 (2021) 054015]
  Mamo & Zaheed [PRD 103 (2021) 094010]

$$\langle R_m^2 \rangle = \frac{6}{M}\frac{dG}{dt}\bigg|_{t=0}$$

- Trace anomaly contribution to proton mass

  Wang, Chen & Evslin [EPJC 80 (2020) 507]
  Hatta & Yang [PRD 98 (2018) 074003]

Proton mass decomposition

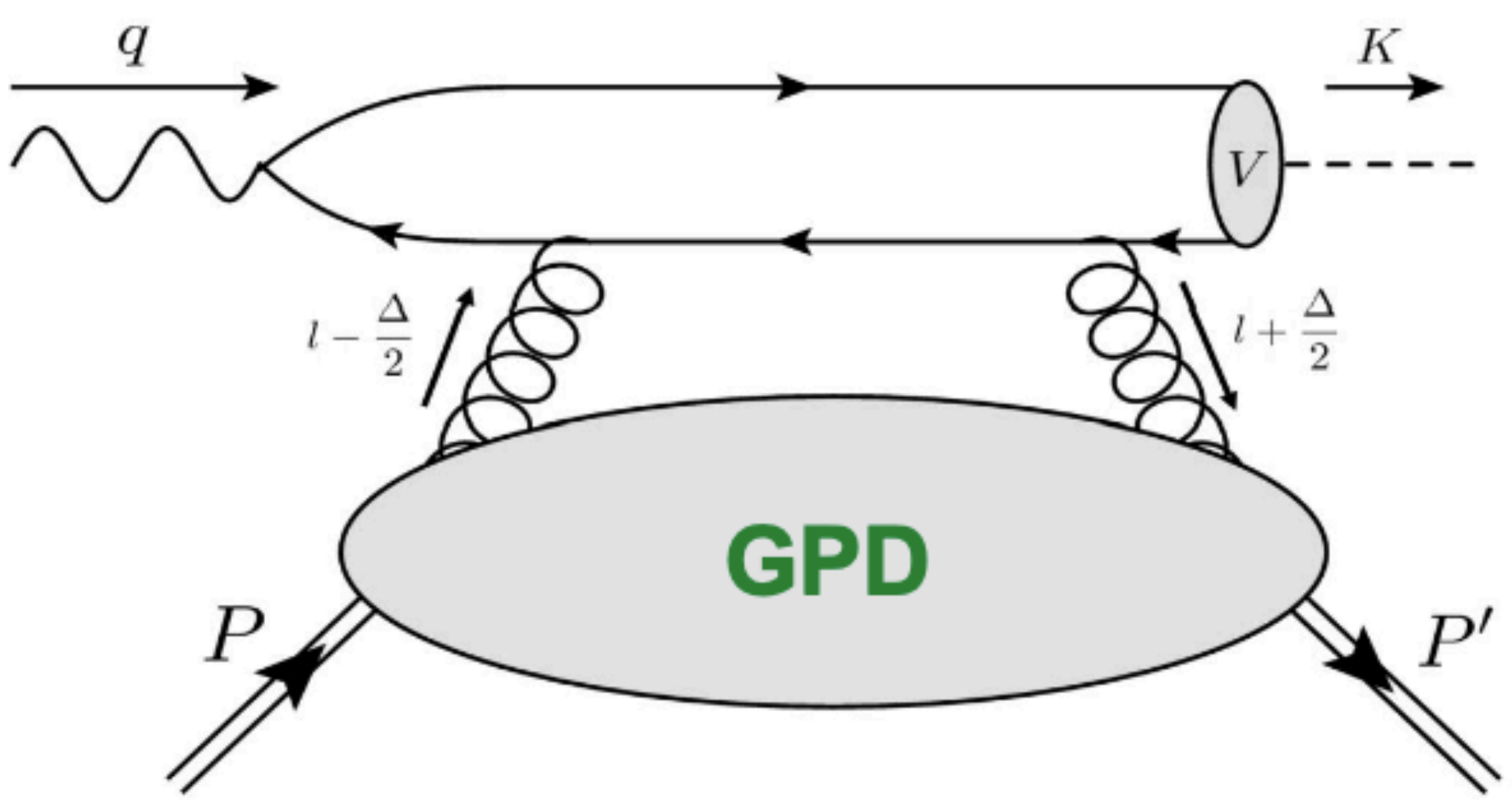
$$M = M_q + M_g + M_m + M_a$$

Ji [PRL 74 (1995) 1071, PRD 52 (1995) 271]

skewness

Guo, Ji & Liu [PRD 103 (2021) 096010]

$$\xi = \frac{P^+ - P'^+}{P^+ + P'^+} \simeq 1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{M_V}{M_N}\right)$$



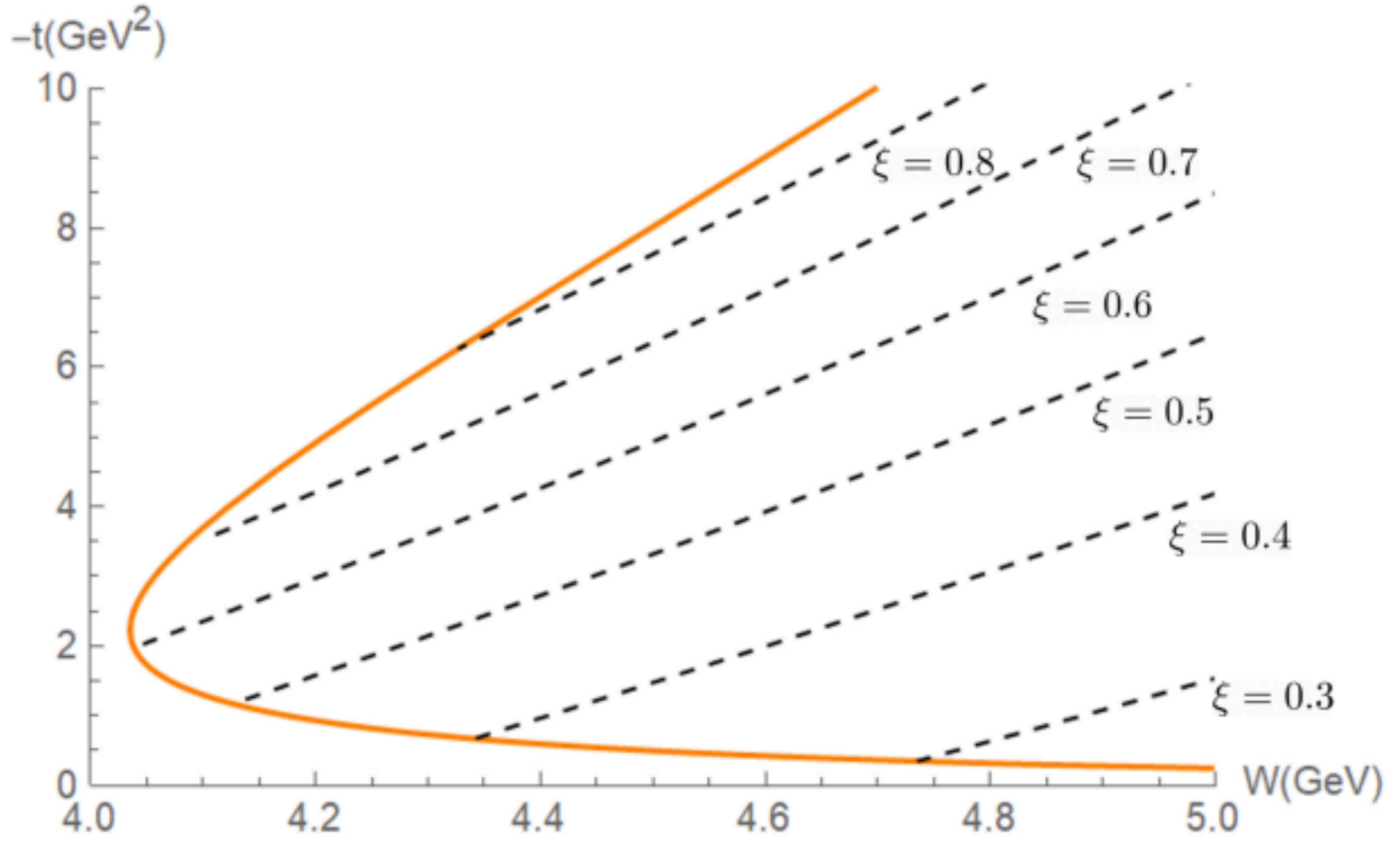


FIG. 2: ξ on the $(W, -t)$ plane in the kinematically allowed region with $M_{J/\psi} = 3.097$ GeV.

Production mechanisms

Define the ratio J/ψ of direct photocoupling to all other intermediate channels

Measures the "directness" of the total production at threshold

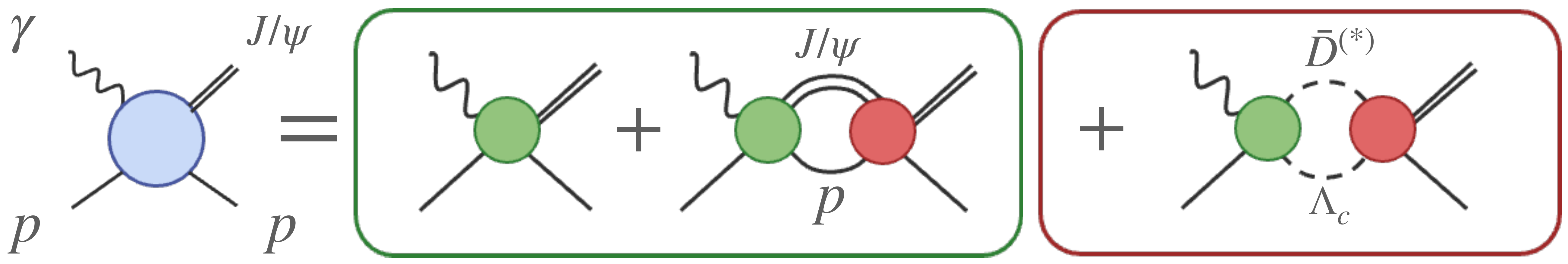
$$F_S^{\psi p}(s) = \underbrace{n_S^{\psi p}\left(1 + G^{\psi p}\, T_S^{\psi p,\psi p}\right)}_{F^{\psi p}_{\text{direct}}(s)} + \underbrace{\left(n_S^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c}\, G^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c}\, T_S^{\bar{D}\Lambda_c,\psi p} + n_S^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c}\, G^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c}\, T_S^{\bar{D}^*\Lambda_c,\psi p}\right)}_{F^{\psi p}_{\text{indirect}}(s)}$$

$$\zeta_{\text{th}} = \frac{\left|F^{\psi p}_{\text{direct}}(s_{\text{th}})\right|}{\left|F^{\psi p}_{\text{direct}}(s_{\text{th}})\right| + \left|F^{\psi p}_{\text{indirect}}(s_{\text{th}})\right|}$$

90% CL

1C	1
2C	[0.56, 0.74]
3C-NR	[0.36, 0.63]
3C-R	[0.03, 0.62]

When included, "factorization violating" contributions make up >25% at 90% CL



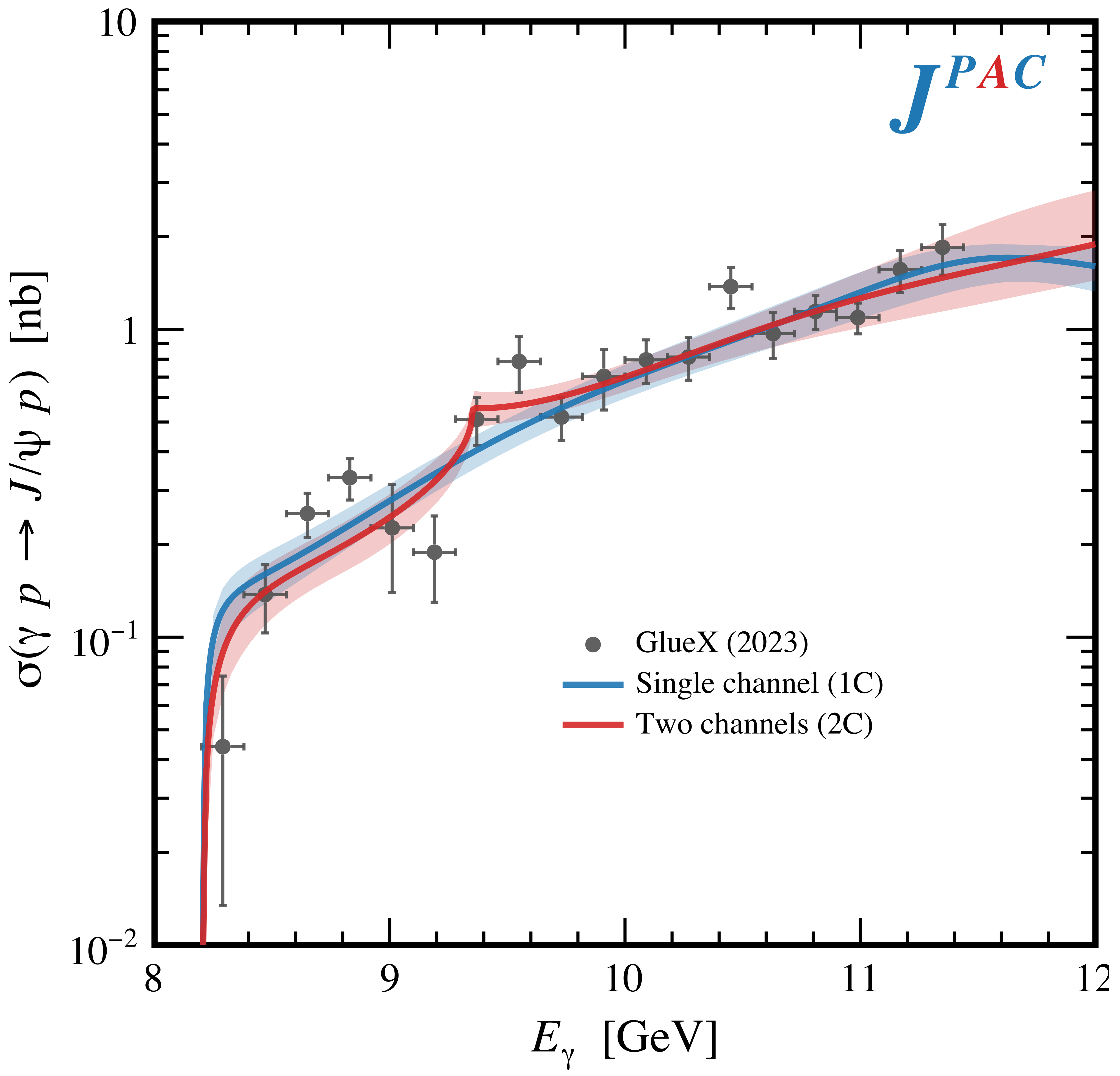
Production mechanisms

Presence of cusps may indicate large contributions from open charm channels
Complicates the connection to proton structure quantities

90% CL

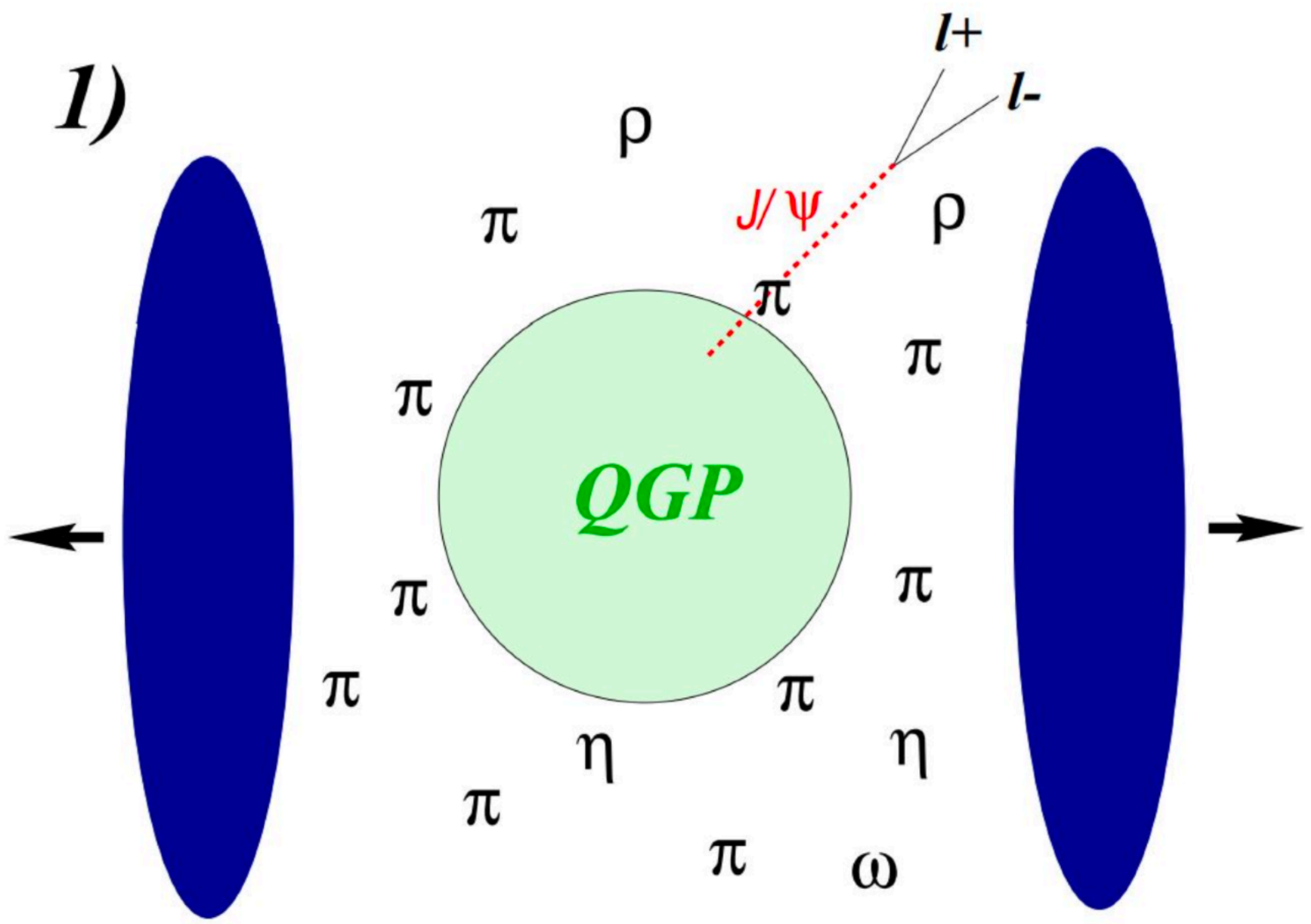
1C	1
2C	[0.56, 0.74]
3C-NR	[0.36, 0.63]
3C-R	[0.03, 0.62]

Deviations from unity realted to the presence of the "dip"
Solution with nearby pentaquark pole consistent with charm exchange dominated production



J/ψ photoproduction (near threshold)

Measurements at energies near threshold have attracted a lot of attention as potentitally sensitive to key quantities relevant to the nature of charmonium-nucleon interactions



Near threshold, J/ψ-N interaction expected to be dominated by gluonic Van der Waals forces
Interaction predicted attractive and possibly strong enough to bind in nuclei

Brodsky & Miller [PLB 412 (1997) 125]
Brodsky, Schmidt & de Teramond [PRL 64 (1990) 1011]

Charmonium absorption cross sections are an important ingredient to search for quark-gluon plasma via charmonium suppression at heavy ion collisions

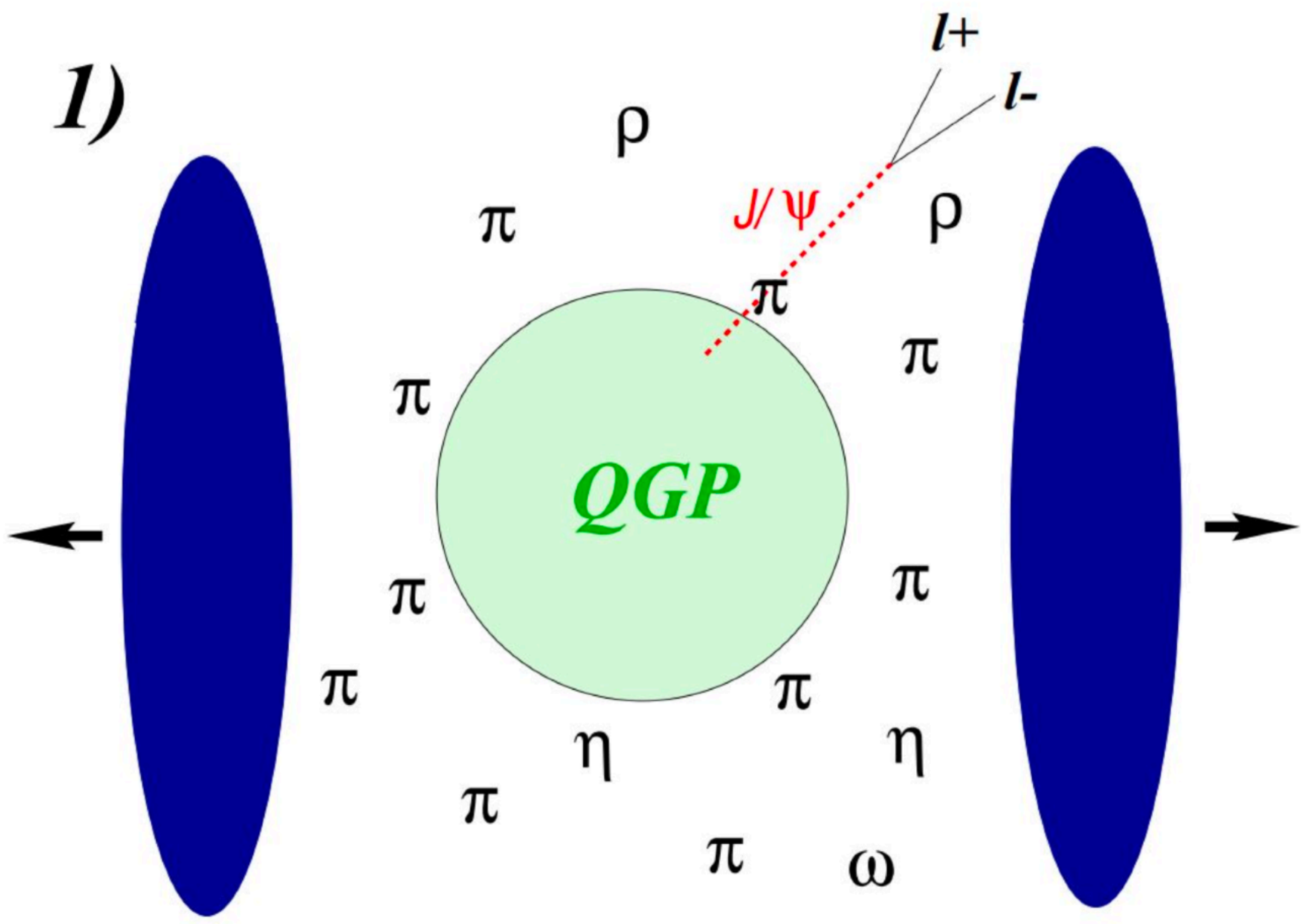
Barnes [Eur. Phys. J A 18 (2003) 531]
Matsui & Satz [PLB 178 (1986) 416]

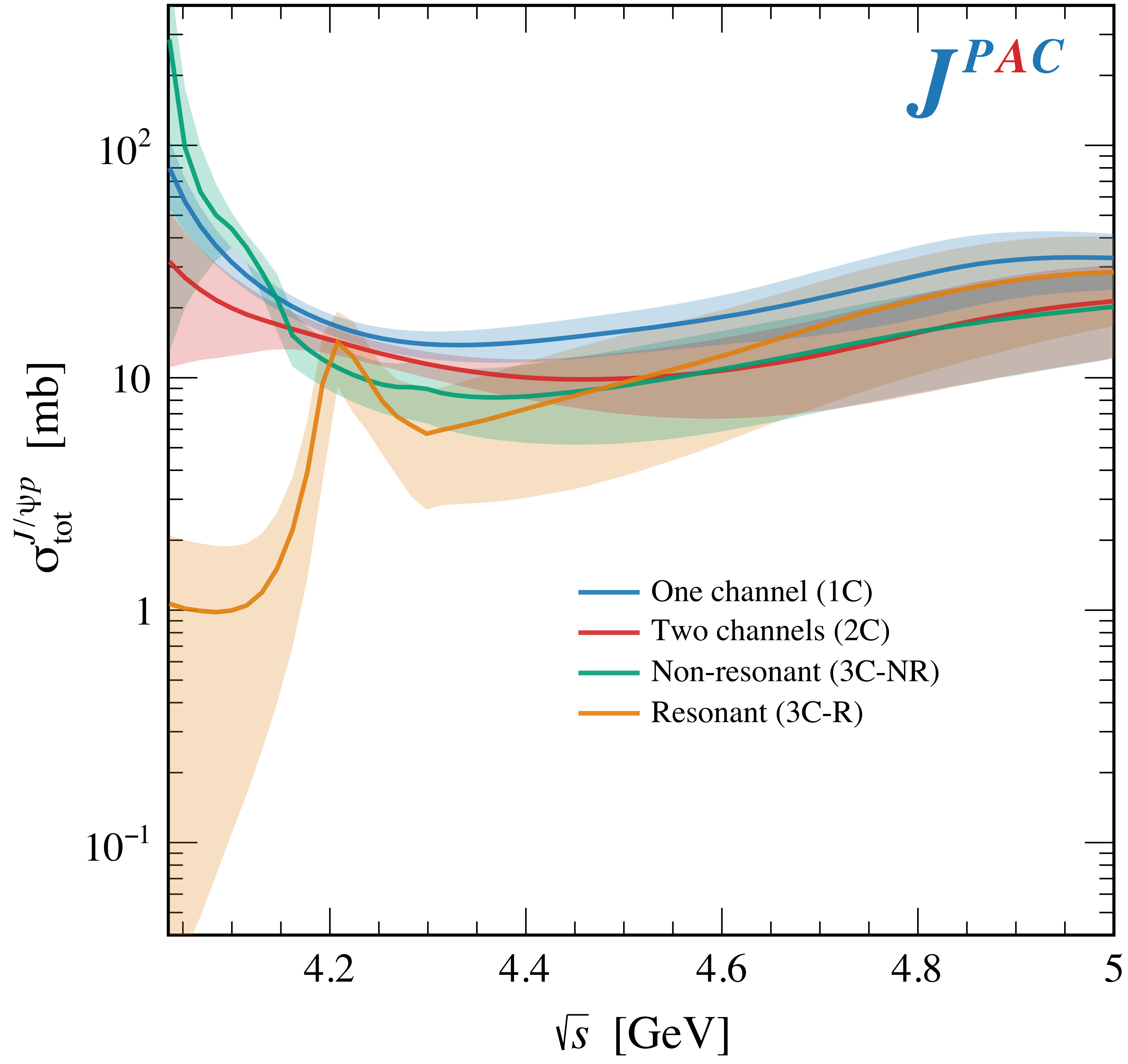
Charmonium-nucleon absorption

Charmonium absorption cross sections are an important ingredient to search for quark-gluon plasma via charmonium suppression at heavy ion collisions

$$\sigma_{tot}^{\psi p} = \frac{1}{2q\sqrt{s}} \mathrm{Im} T^{\psi p, \psi p}(s, t=0)$$

Barnes [EPJA 18 (2003) 531]
Matsui & Satz [PLB 178 (1986) 416]





Analytic continuation of the phase space

$$G_i = \frac{s - s_i}{\pi} \int_{s_i}^{\infty} ds' \frac{\rho_i(s')}{(s' - s_i)(s' - s)} = -\frac{1}{\pi} \left[\rho_i \log \left(\frac{\xi_i + \rho_i}{\xi_i - \rho_i} \right) - \xi_i \frac{m_{2i} - m_{1i}}{m_{2i} + m_{1i}} \log \frac{m_{2i}}{m_{1i}} \right]$$

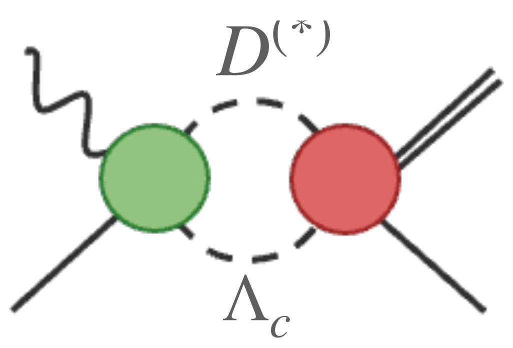
Convergence of the partial waves

$$r^{2\ell} \equiv \lim_{s \to s_{th}} \left| \frac{F_\ell(s)/(pq)^\ell}{F_S(s)} \right|$$

If $pqr^2 < 1$ we may expect subsequent waves to be suppressed
For all the fits $r \simeq 0.1$ fm

Estimated breakdown at 14 GeV

Pentaquarks

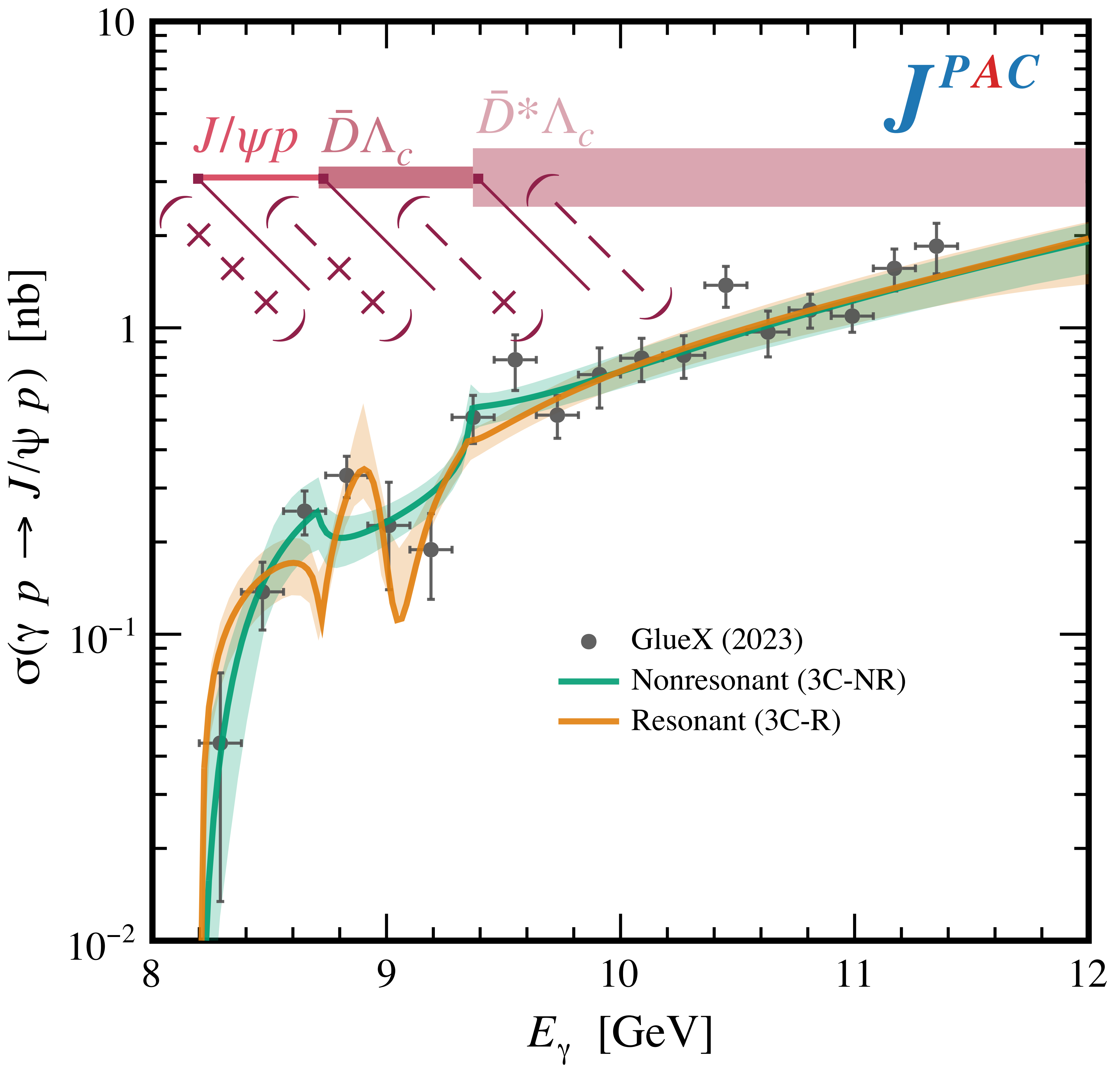


Model is able to generate poles (a.k.a. pentaquarks)
3C-R fit provides a narrow pole on RS=(- - +) in the S wave

$$M = 4211 \text{ MeV} \qquad \Gamma = 48 \text{ MeV}$$

Pole not well constrained
Unable to provide reliable uncertainties

Other poles found on remote Riemann sheets



JLab22 GlueX

Accardi, et al. [EPJA 60 (2024) 163]

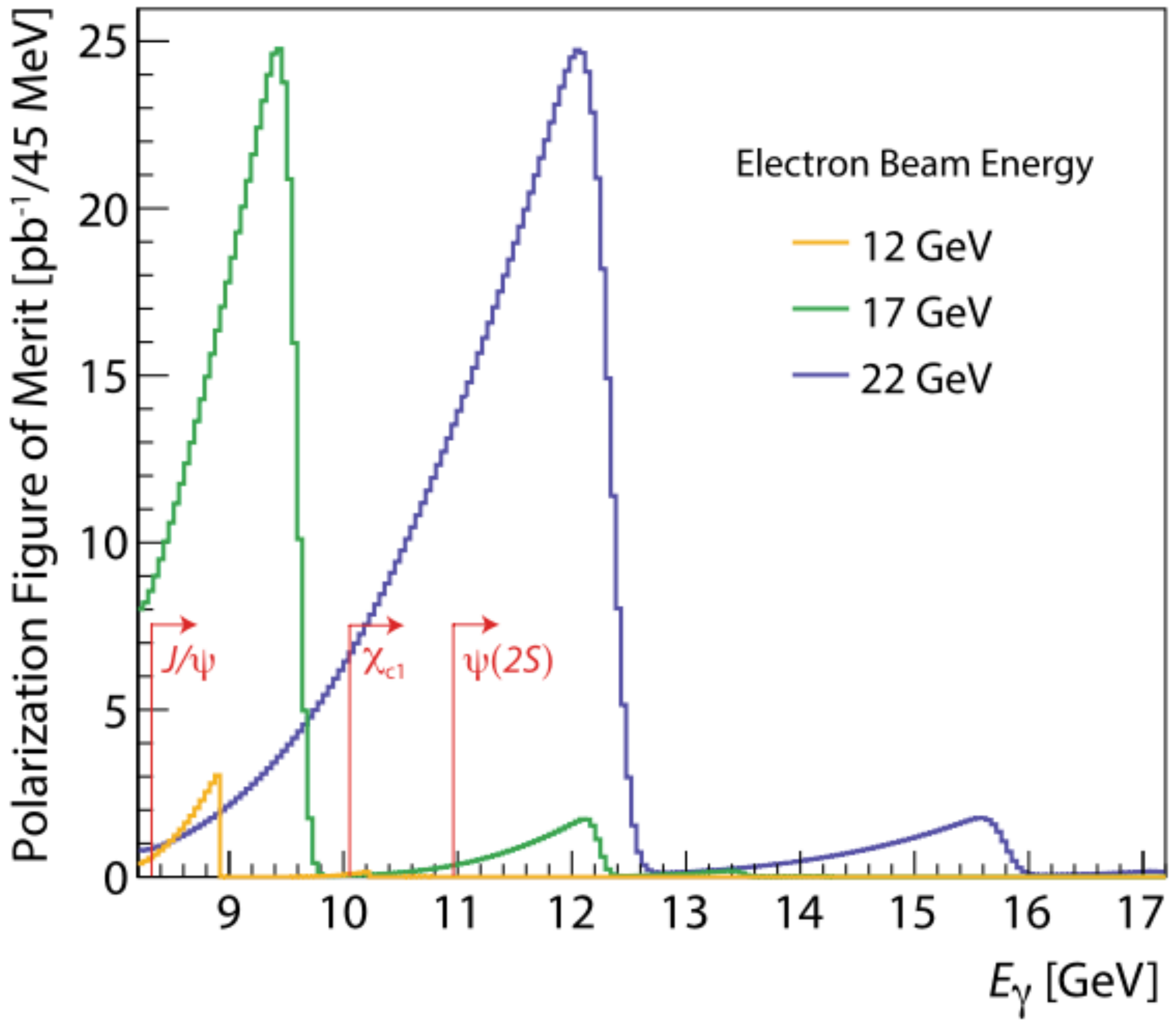


Fig. 5 The polarization figure of merit ($P^2(dN_\gamma/dE)$) as a function of photon beam energy E_γ for the existing 12 GeV GlueX configuration assuming 100 days of beam on target (yellow). Figures of merit assuming equal beam time are shown for 17 GeV and 22 GeV electrons, both of which are drawn for the same diamond orientation. Various $c\bar{c}$ production thresholds are shown

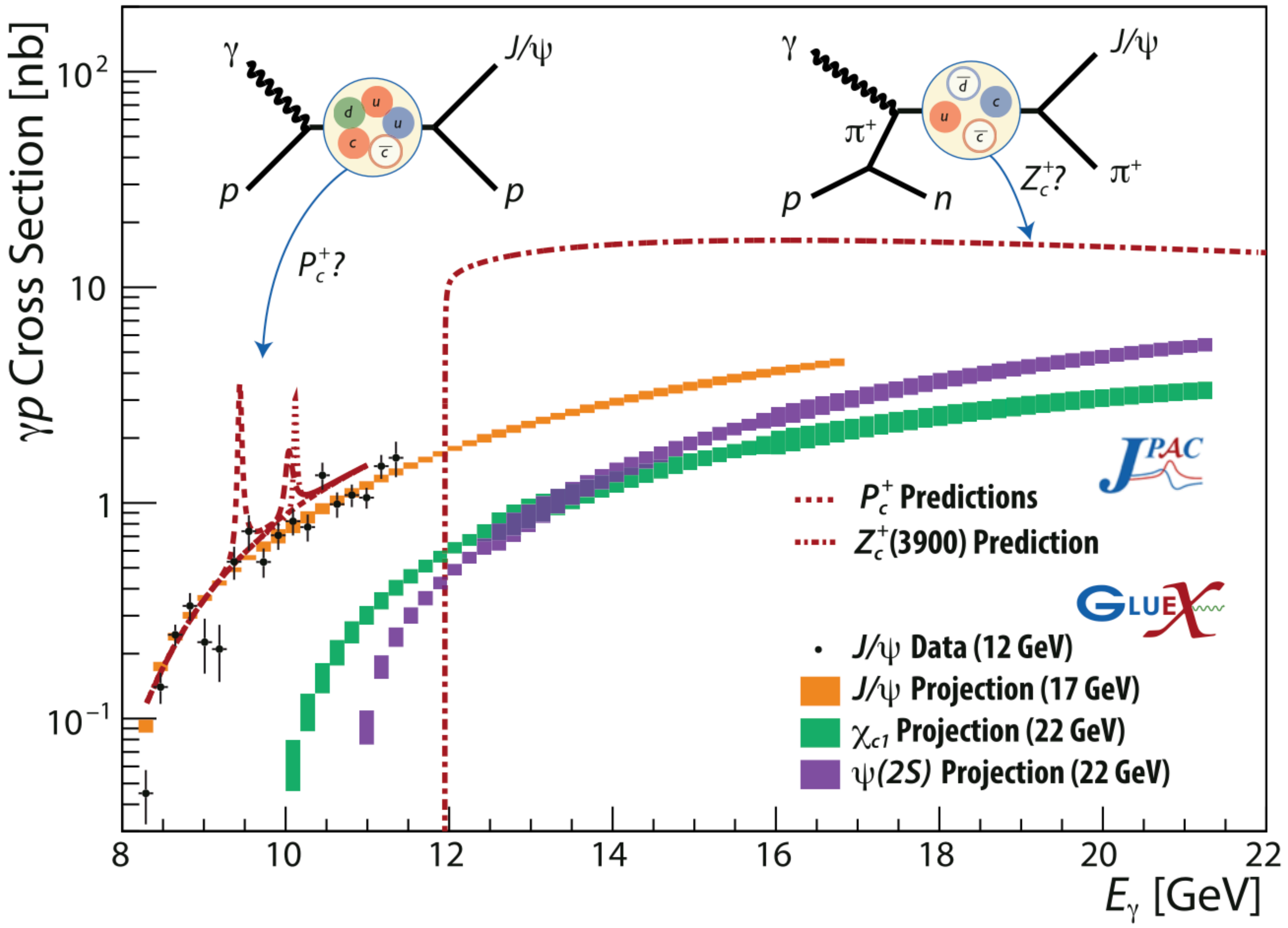


Fig. 3 Photoproduction cross sections of states containing $c\bar{c}$ as a function of photon beam energy. The points are GlueX data [21] The colored boxes are projections of statistical precision using the GlueX detector with different assumptions about the electron energy. The collection of dashed and dotted curves indicate how pentaquark P_c [22] or tetraquark Z_c [23] candidates might appear