

# Latest results on charmonium decays at BESIII

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on behalf of the BESIII Collaboration



Dipartimento  
di Fisica  
e Scienze della Terra

Lake Louise Winter Institute  
February 2023



# Outline:

- BESIII Experiment
- Preamble... Why Charmonia?
- Observation of  $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi$
- Evidence for  $\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$  decay
- Study of the  $h_c(1\ 1P_1)$  meson via  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c$  decays at BESIII
- Summary

**DISCLAIMER 1**

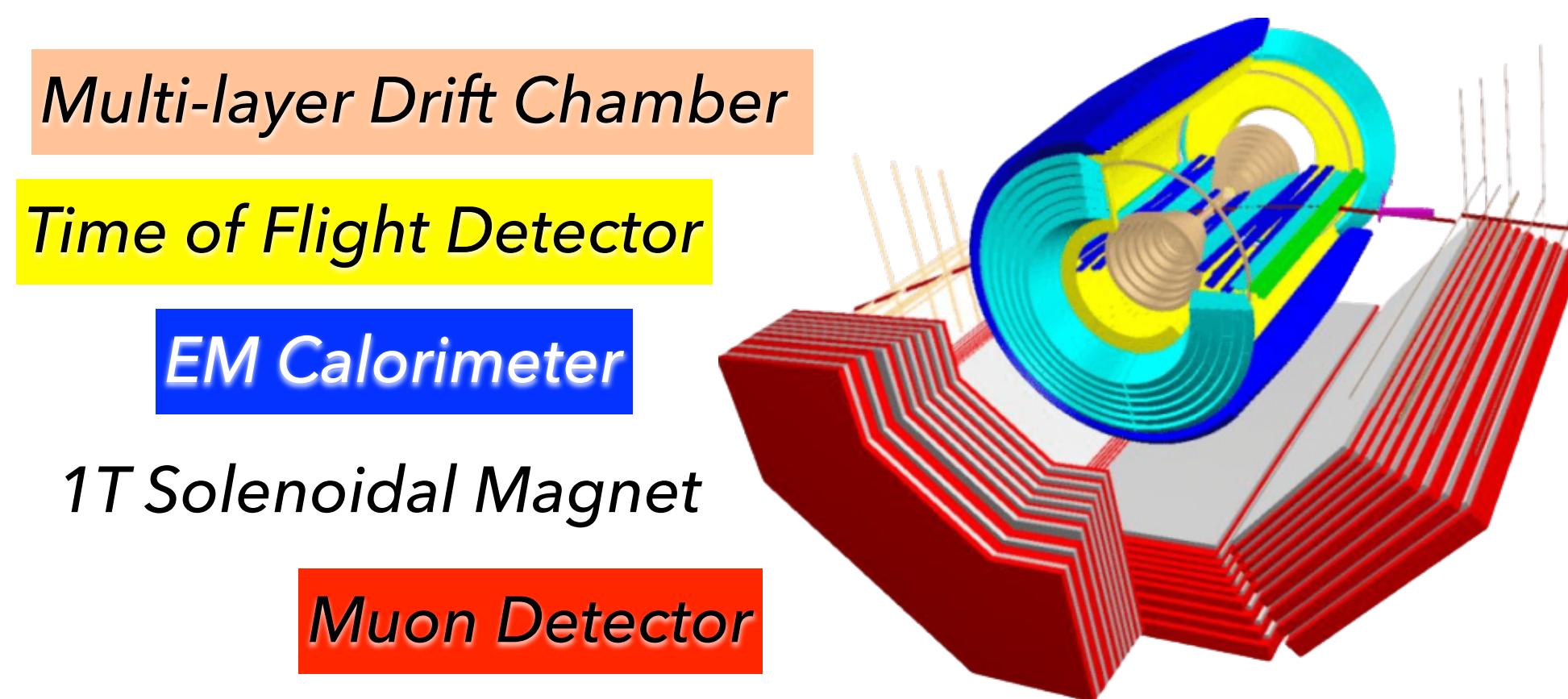
This presentation is not an encyclopaedic review of all the charmonium analyses at BESIII

**DISCLAIMER 2**

The presented topics are the latest I personally selected among many possibilities

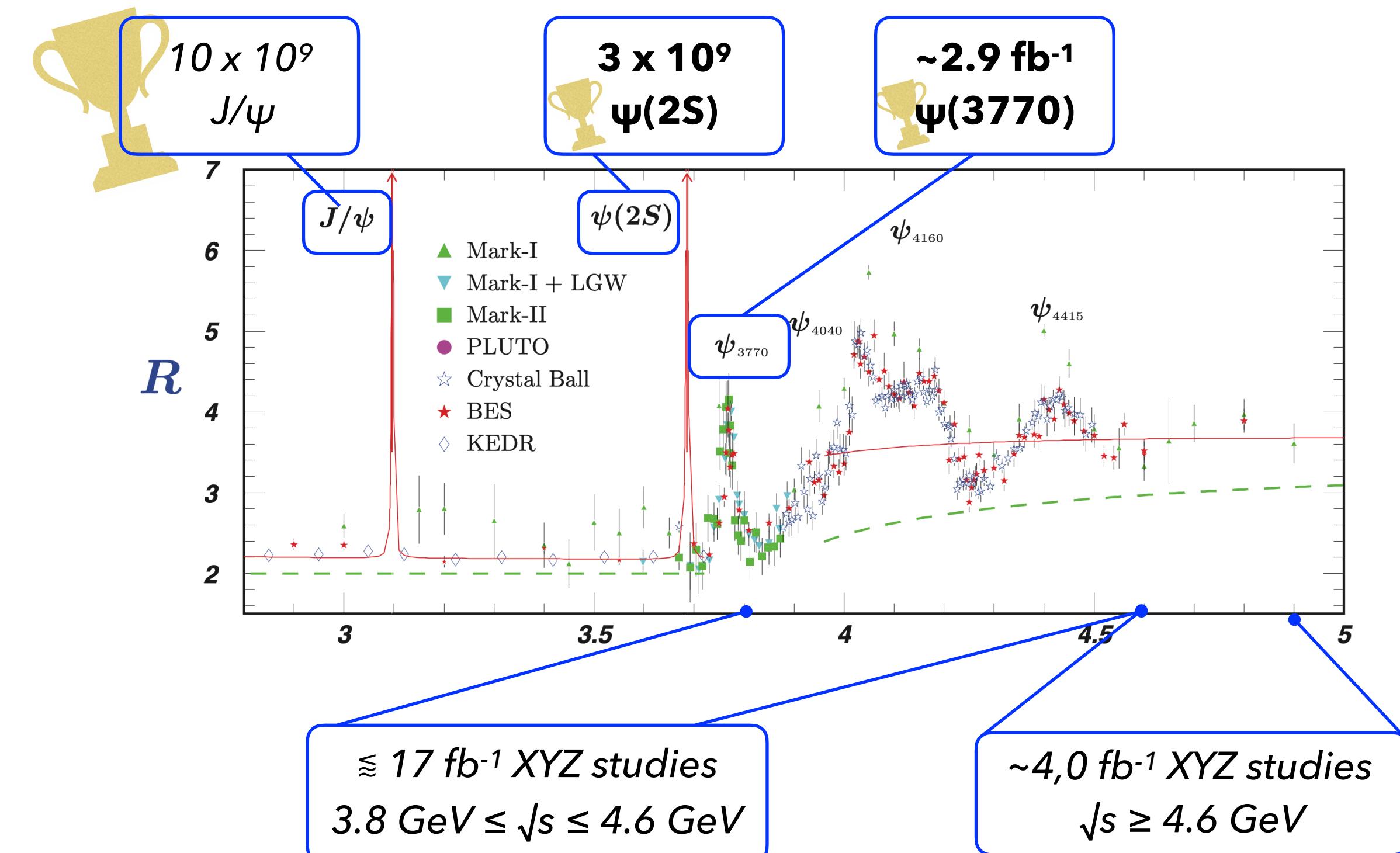
# BESIII Experiment

BESIII (BEijing Spectrometer III) is an experiment located at the BEPCII (Beijing Electron Positron Collider II) at IHEP (Institute of High Energy Physics)



$\tau$ -charm factory  $2.0 \text{ GeV} \leq \sqrt{s} \leq 4.9 \text{ GeV}$   
with a  $1.05 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  peak luminosity  
 $\text{@ } \sqrt{s} = 3.77 \text{ GeV}$

Being **BEPCII** an **e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider**, BESIII can profit from **direct production** of **vector states** ( $J/\psi = 1^-$ )  
The **statistics of the  $\psi(nS)$**  decays allows to probe and study with **high precision** also the non-vector states  
BESIII has also **unique opportunities** with datasets **above 3.8 GeV**



# Preamble

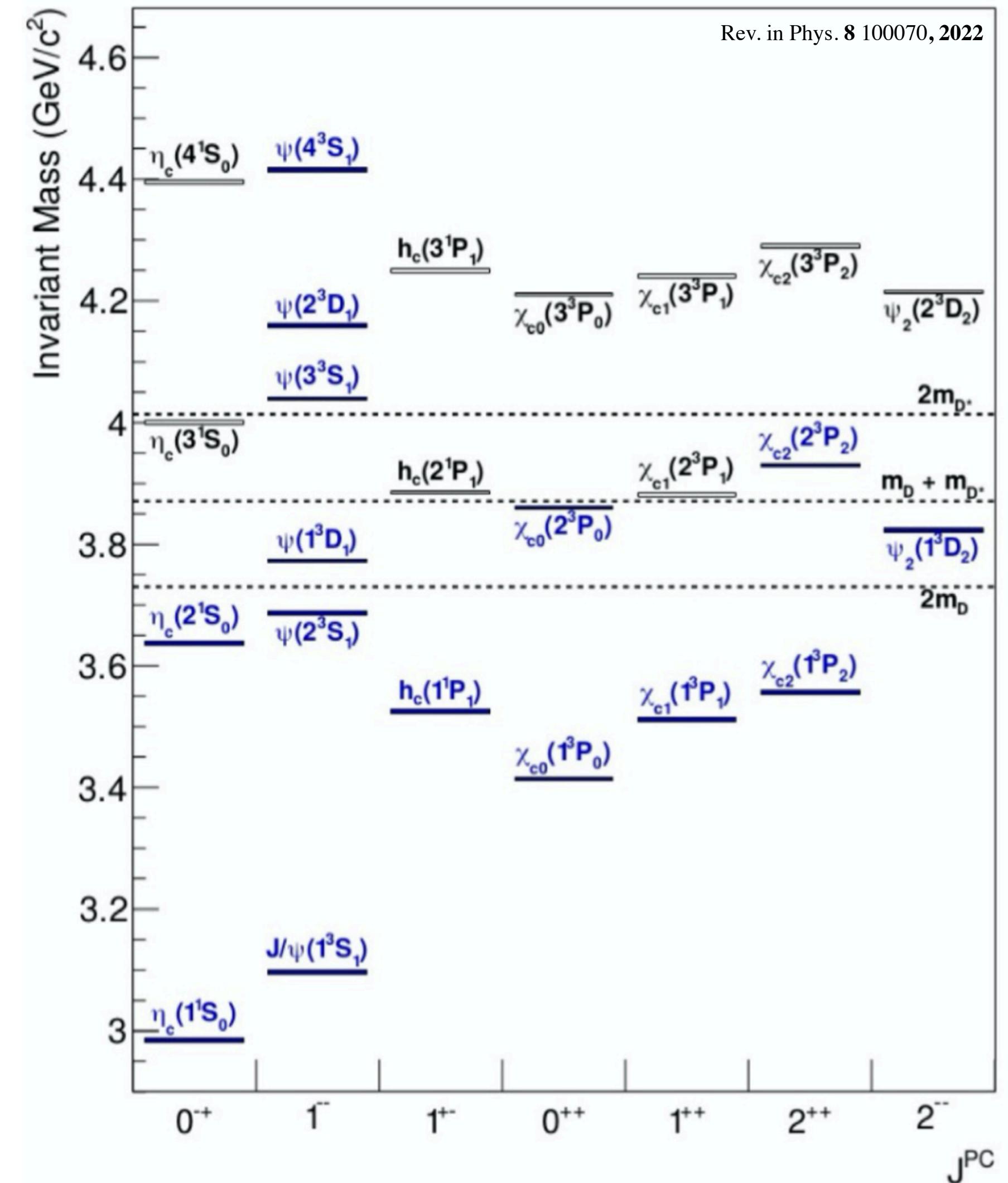
Charmonium resonances are located in the transition region of perturbative and non-perturbative QCD

Non-vector states still mostly unknown

Vector states can be used either to reach non- $1^-$  ones or as a way to test pQCD predictions (e.g., 12% rule,  $\mathcal{A}$ (EM - strong), ...)

Gateway to the XYZ exotic states

Another way to probe the SM (via weak decays)



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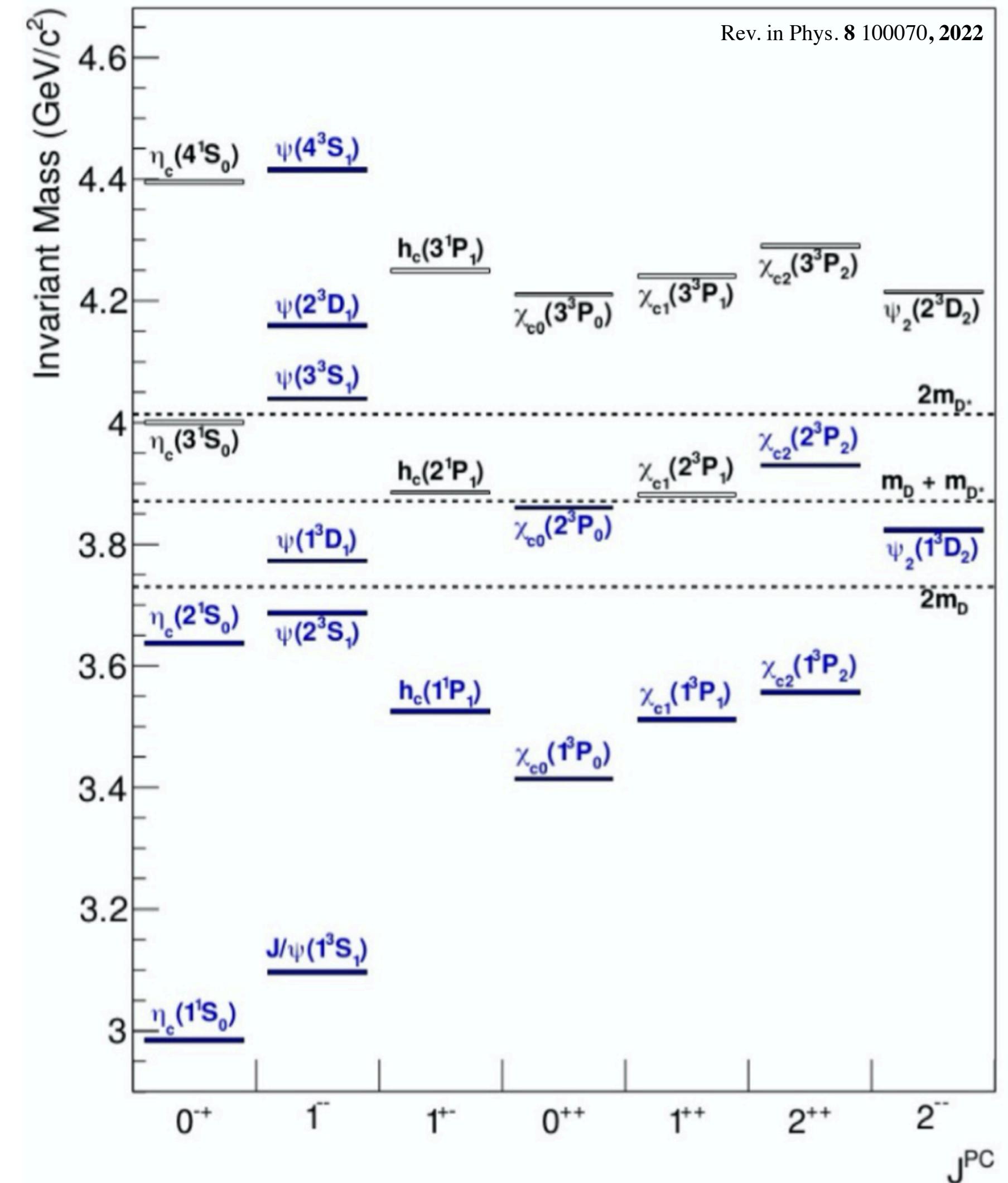
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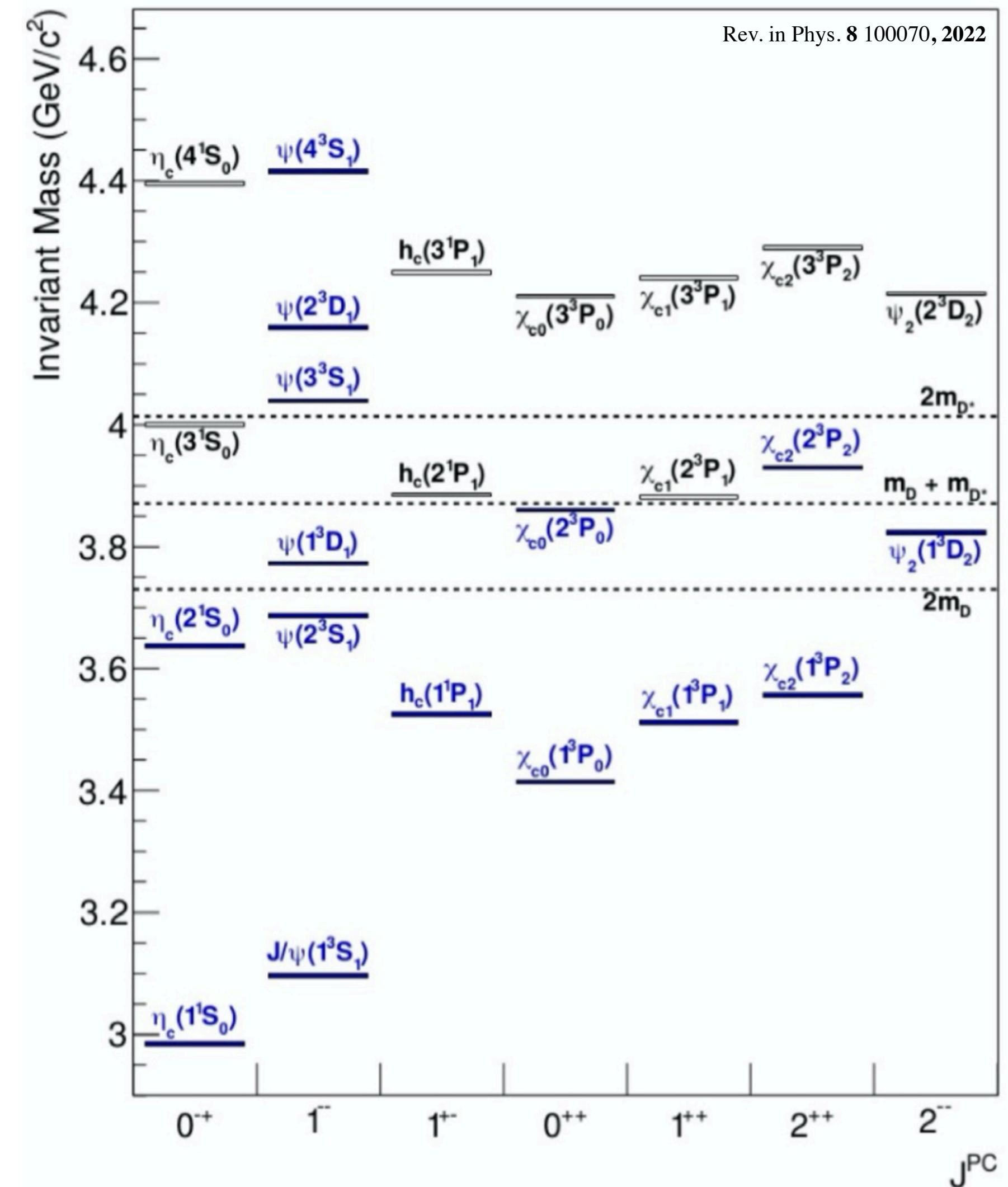
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Rev. in Phys. **8** 100070, 2022



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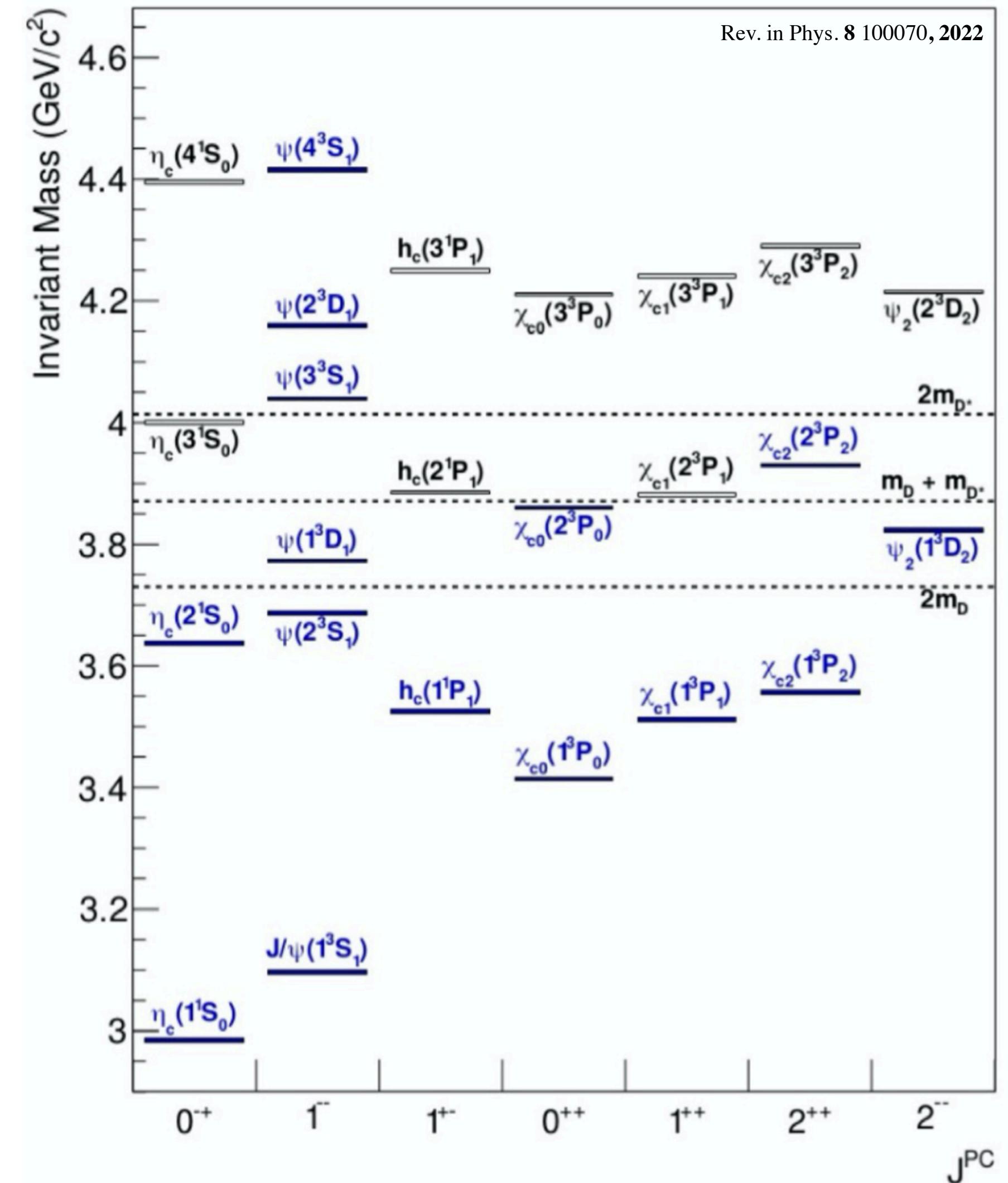
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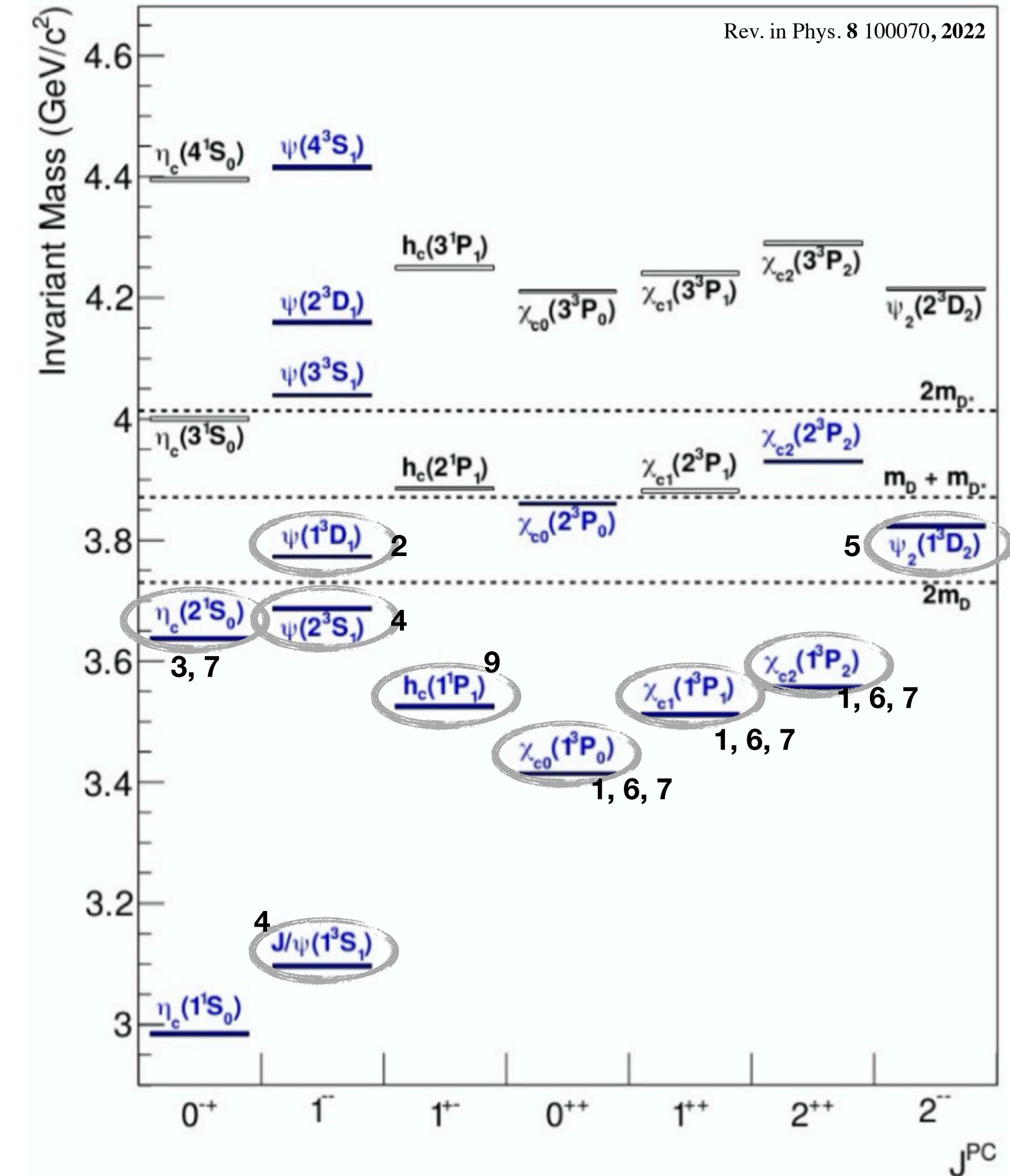
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Gateway to the XYZ exotic states

Another way to probe the SM (via weak decays)

BESIII has the capability to perform such studies and many charmonium analyses could be discussed:

1. Helicity amplitude analysis of  $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \phi \phi$
2. **Observation of  $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi$**
3. **Evidence for  $\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$  decay**
4. Observation of the  $J/\psi$  and  $\psi(3686)$  decays into  $\eta \Sigma^+$  anti- $\Sigma^-$
5. Observation of  $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \psi_2(3823)$
6. Observation of  $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda$  anti- $\Lambda \eta$
7. Observation of  $\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow 3(\pi^+ \pi^-)$  and measurements of  $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow 3(\pi^+ \pi^-)$  in  $\psi(3686)$  radiative transitions
8. **Study of the  $h_c(1P)$  meson via  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c$  decays at BESIII**
9. [...]



# Observation of $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi$

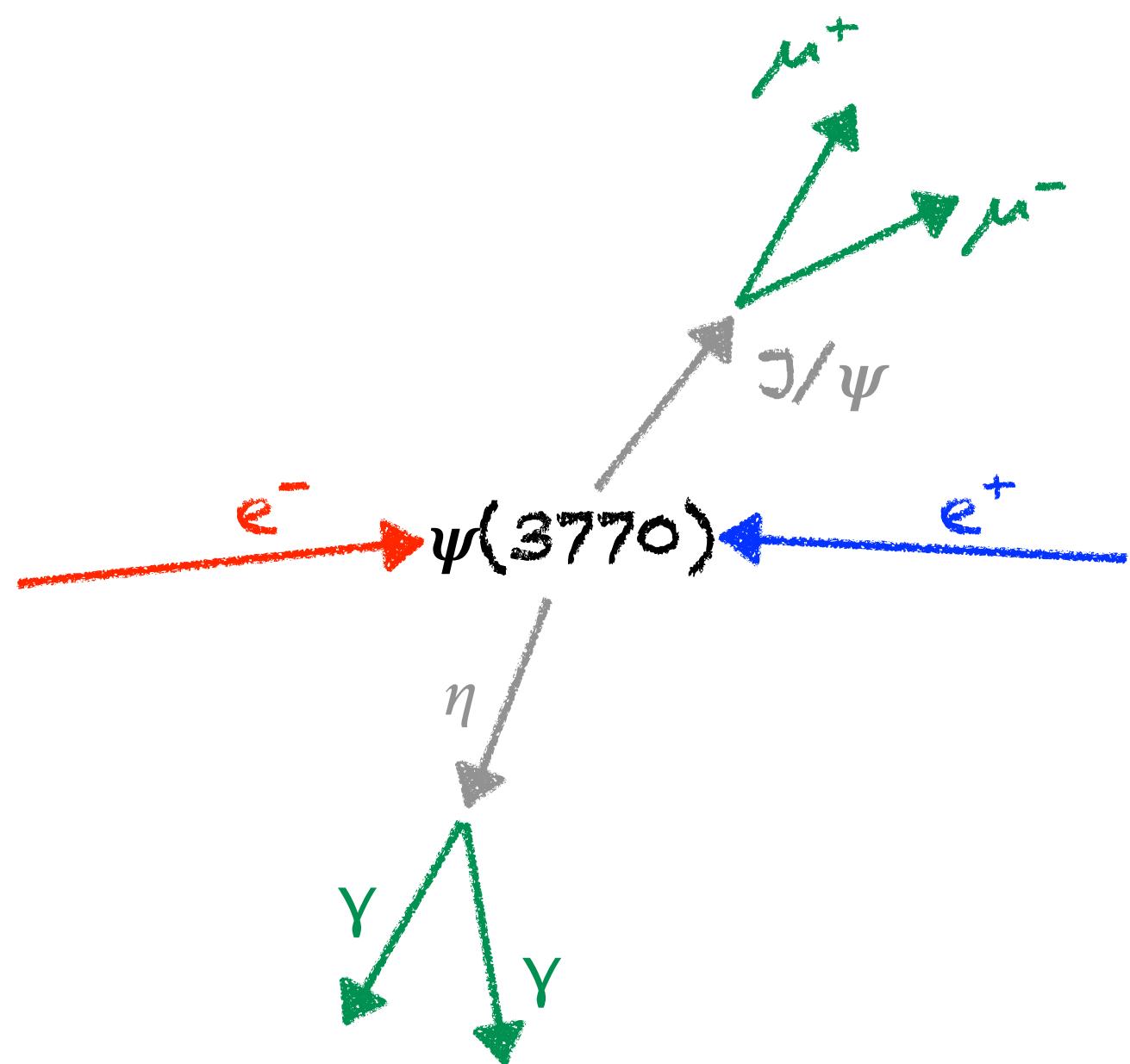
arXiv:2212.12165  
Submitted to PRL

Using the  $2.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$   $\psi(3770)$  data set

**Search for the  $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi$  decay**, and study of the  
 $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \eta J/\psi)$  line-shape @  $\sqrt{s} = [3.773, 4.600] \text{ GeV}$

Peak observed in  $M'(\gamma\gamma)$  ( $\equiv M(\gamma\gamma) + M(\mu\mu) - m_{J/\psi}$ ) correlated to the  
 $J/\psi$  resonance in the  $M(\mu\mu)$  spectrum

To extract the signal yield, a fit to  $M'(\gamma\gamma)$  is performed in the  $M(\mu\mu)$   
signal region



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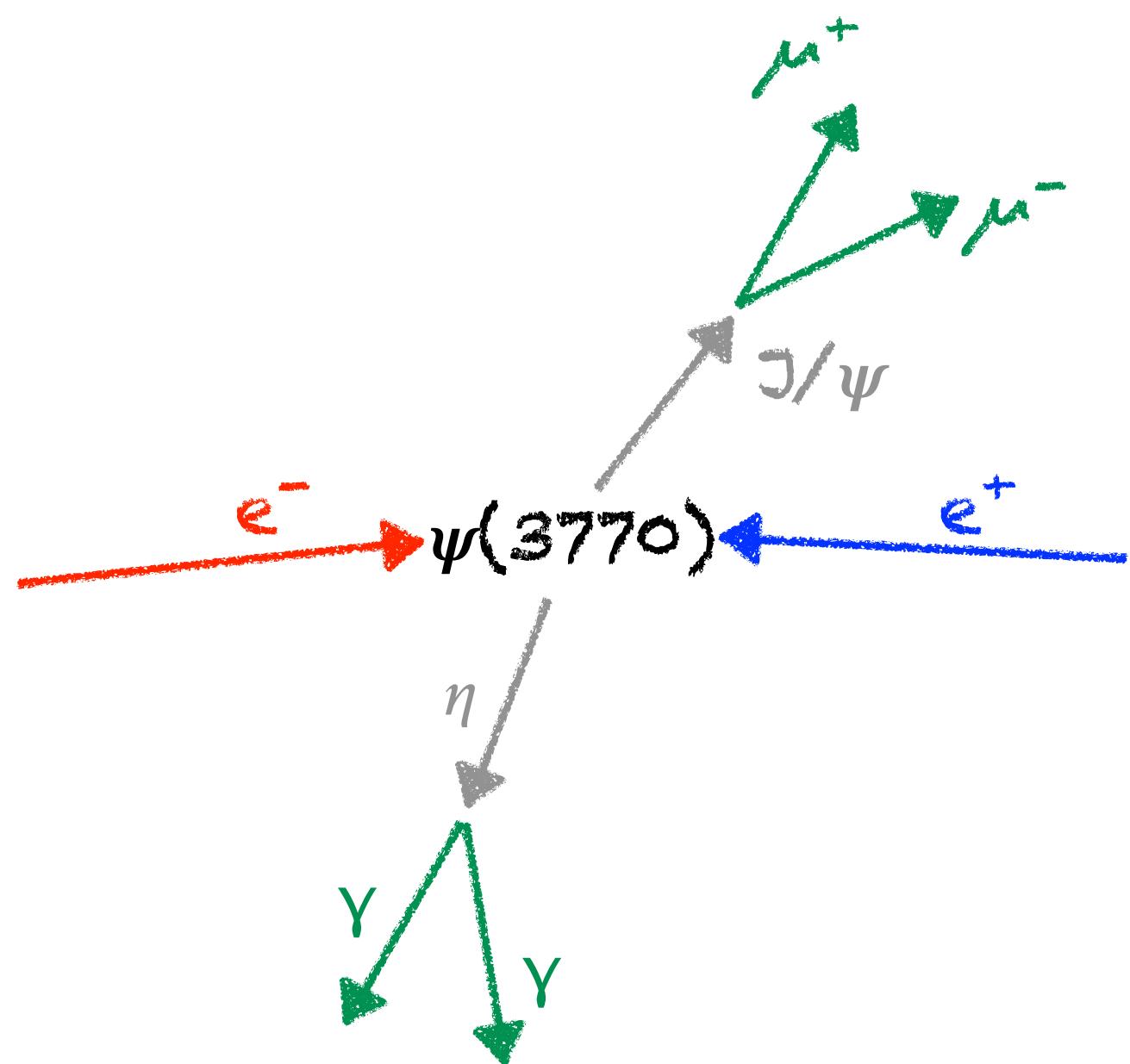
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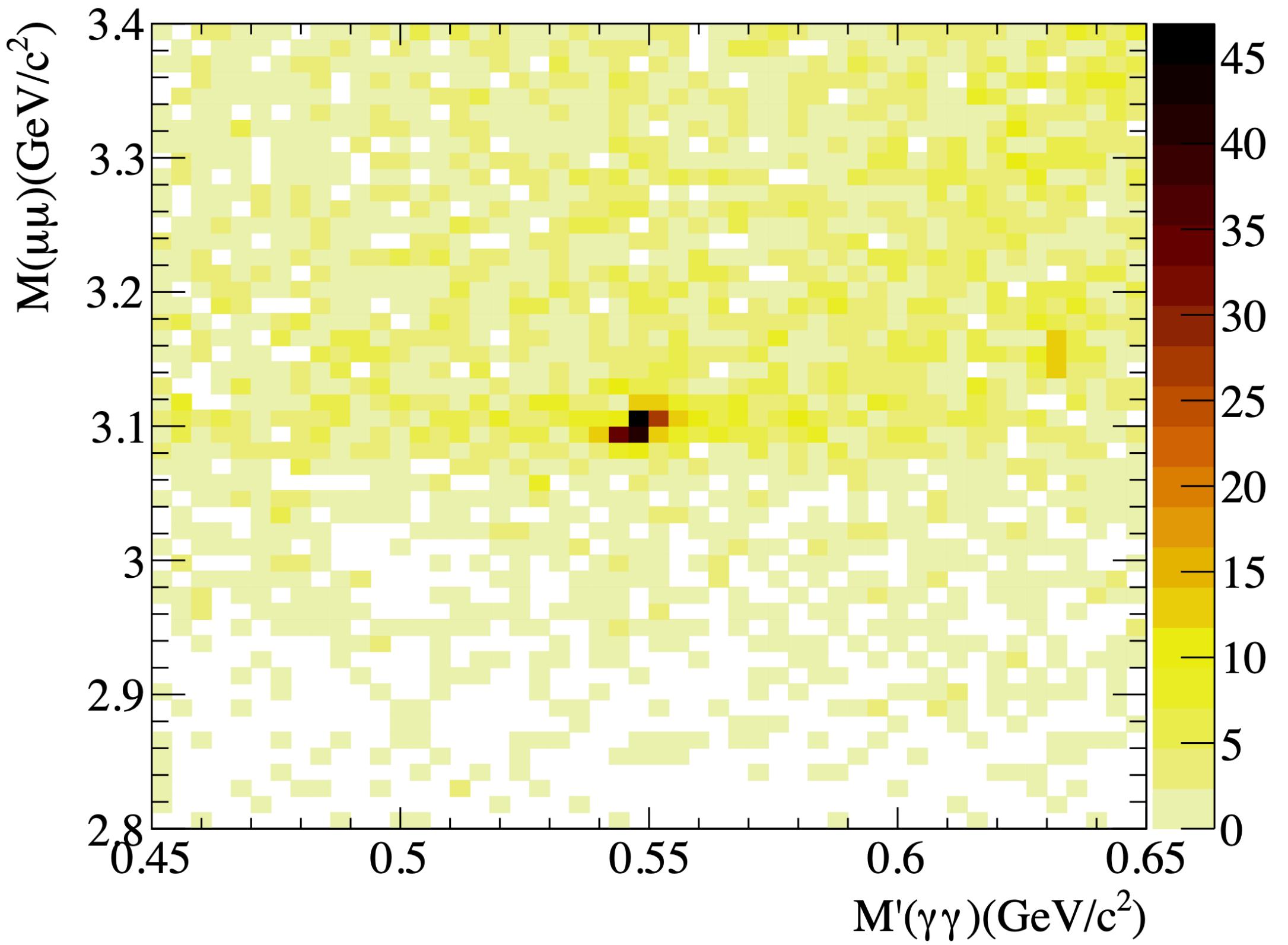
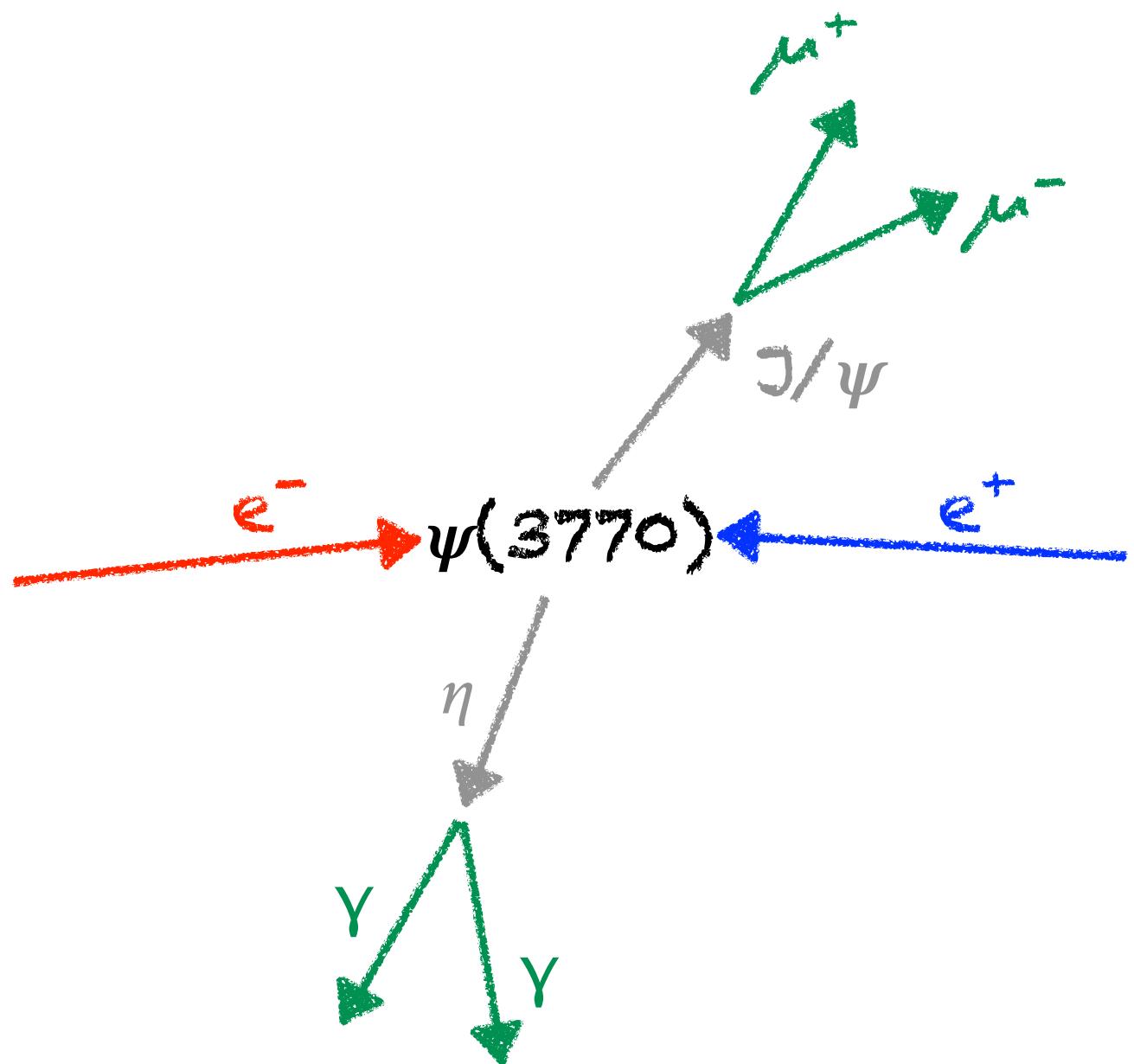
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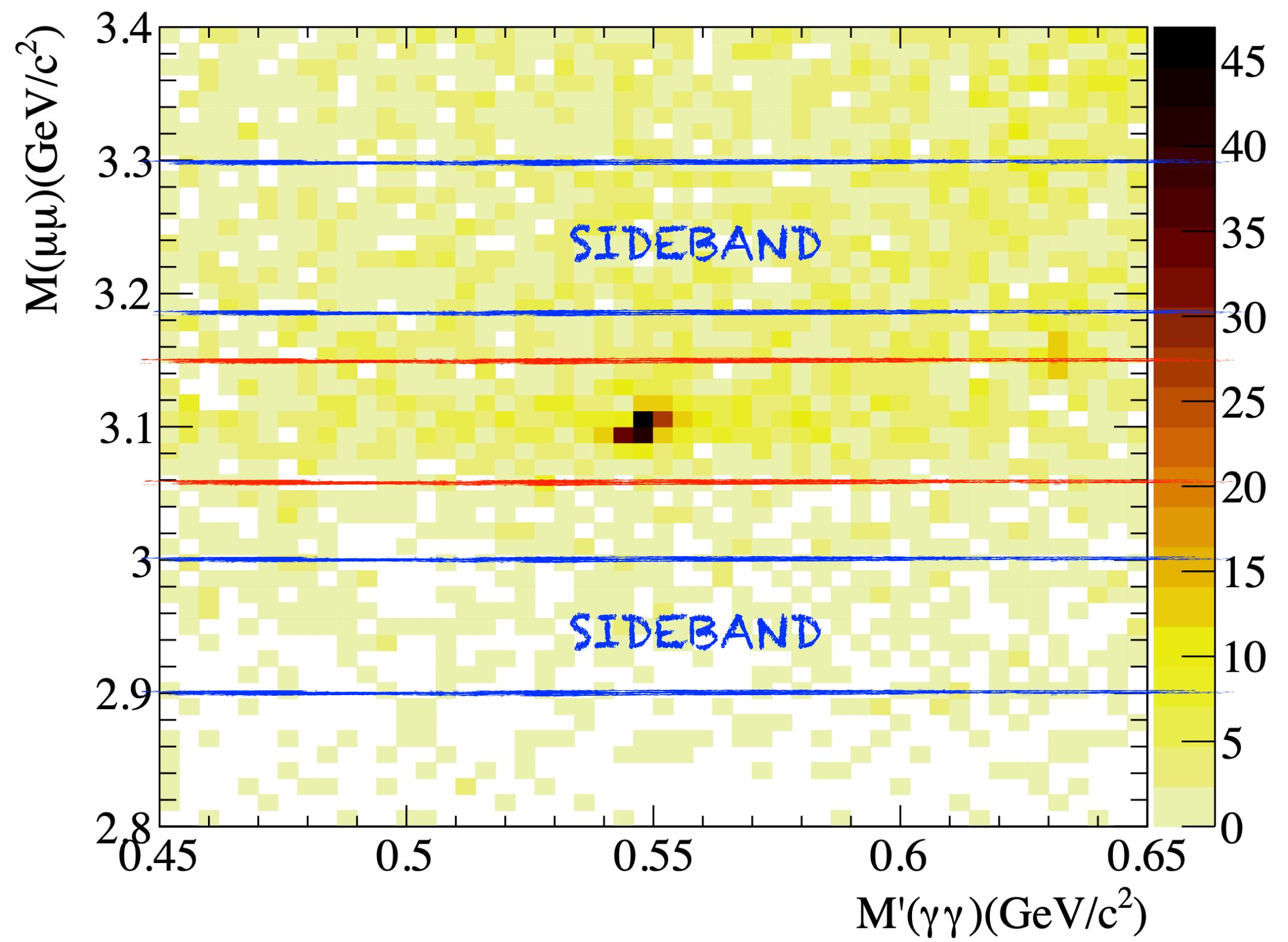
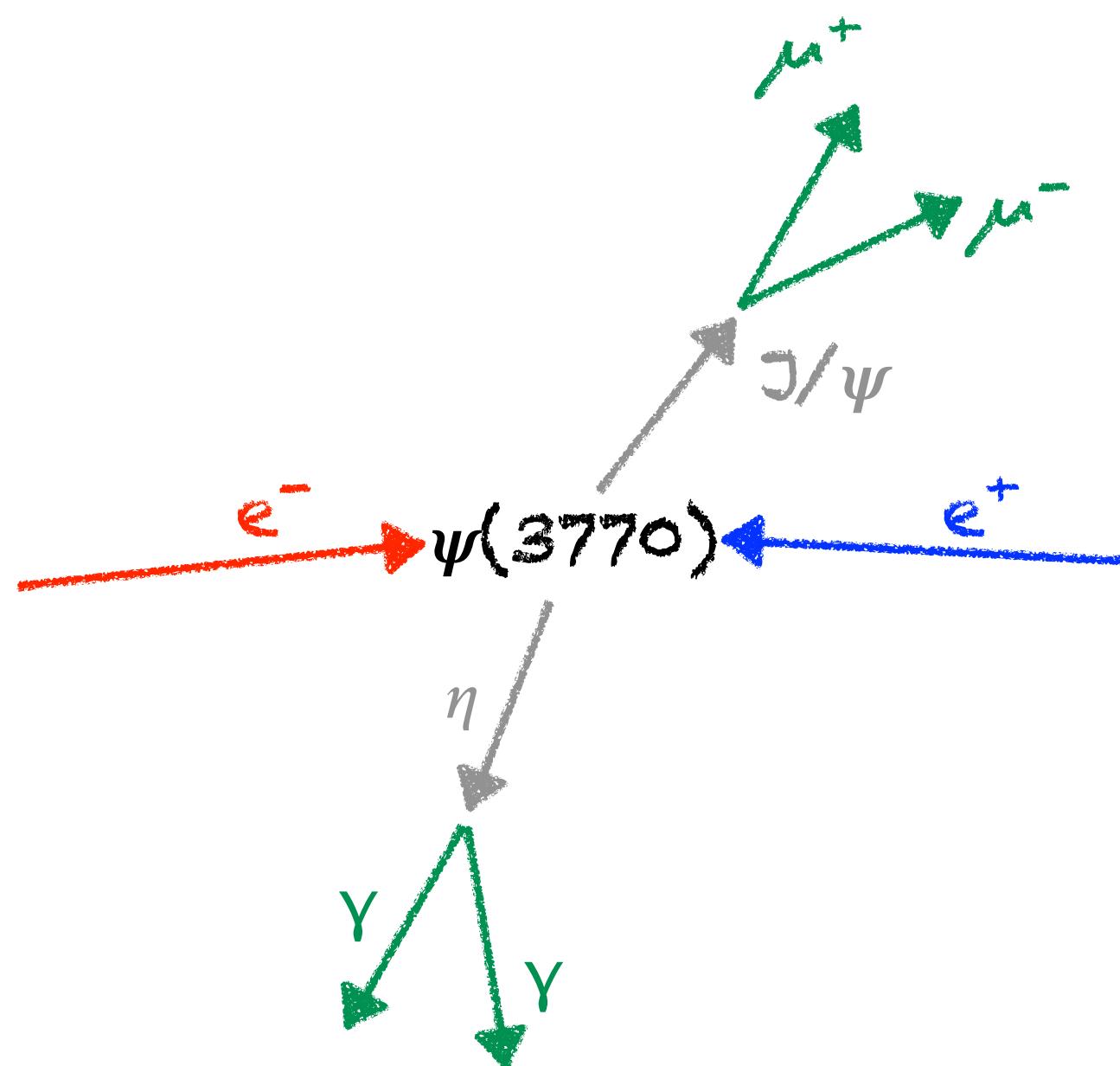
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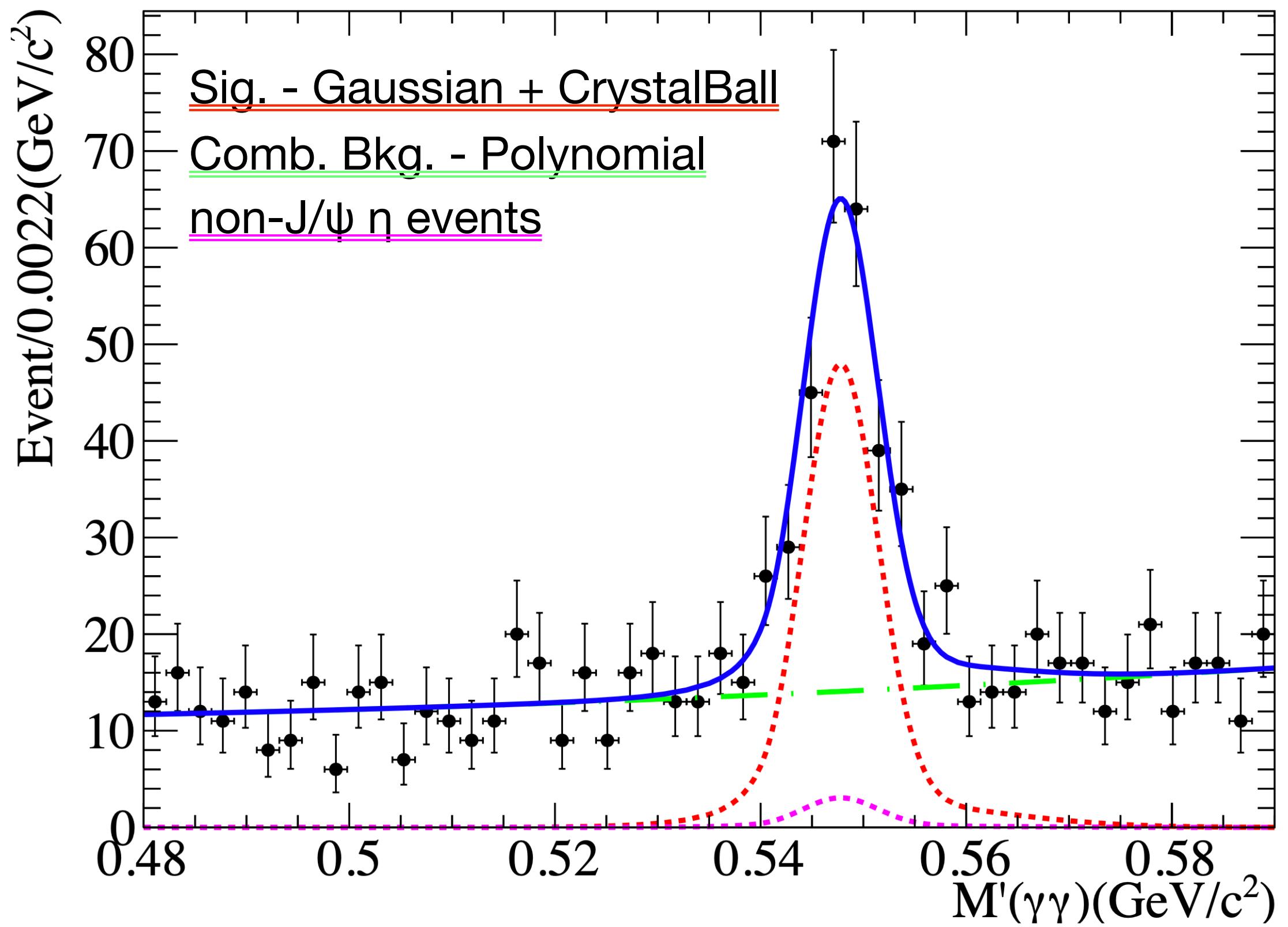
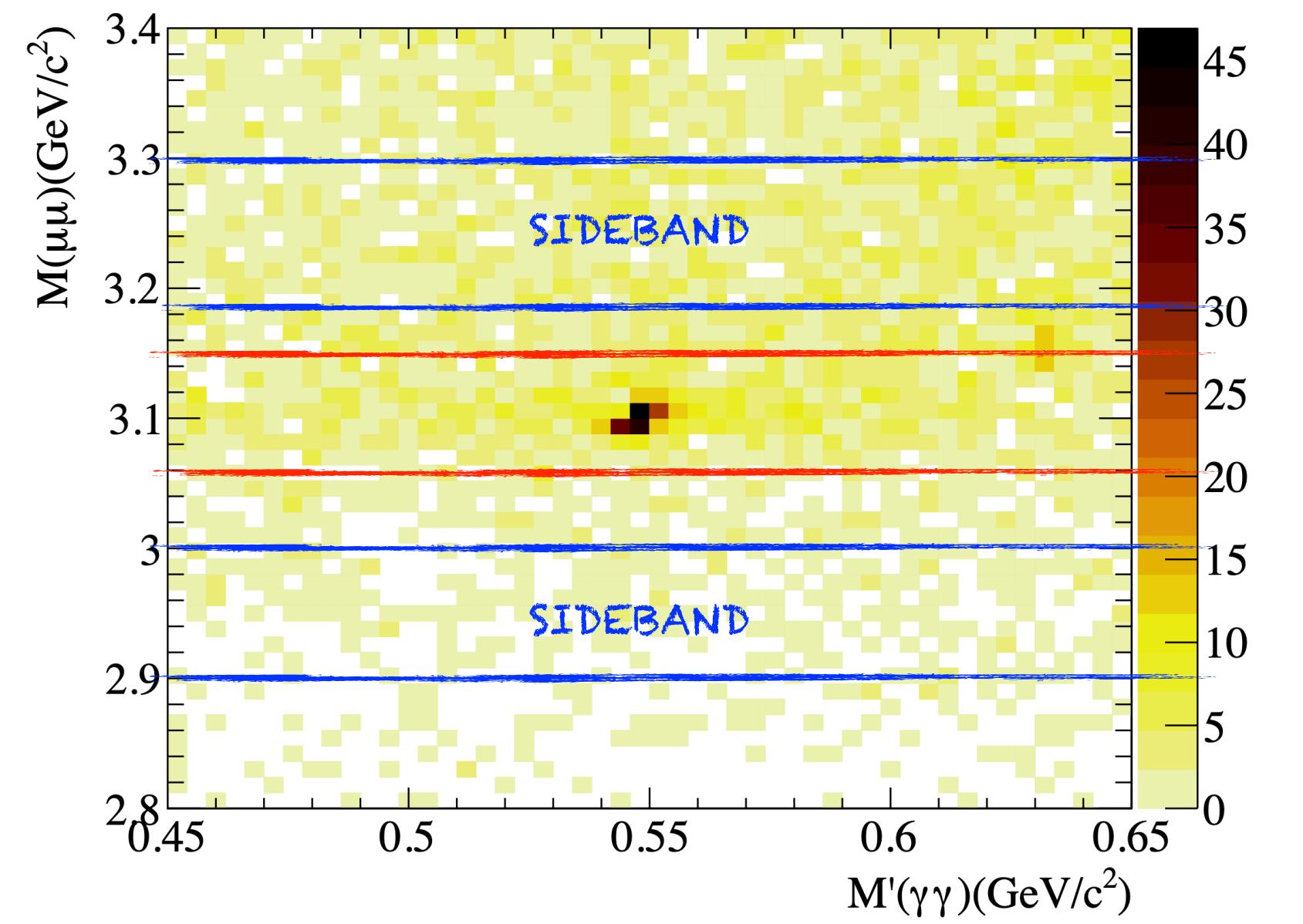
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$$\sigma^B = \frac{N^{\text{obs}}}{\mathcal{L} \epsilon (1 + \delta)_{\text{ISR}} \frac{1}{|1 - \Pi^2|_{\text{VP}}}}$$

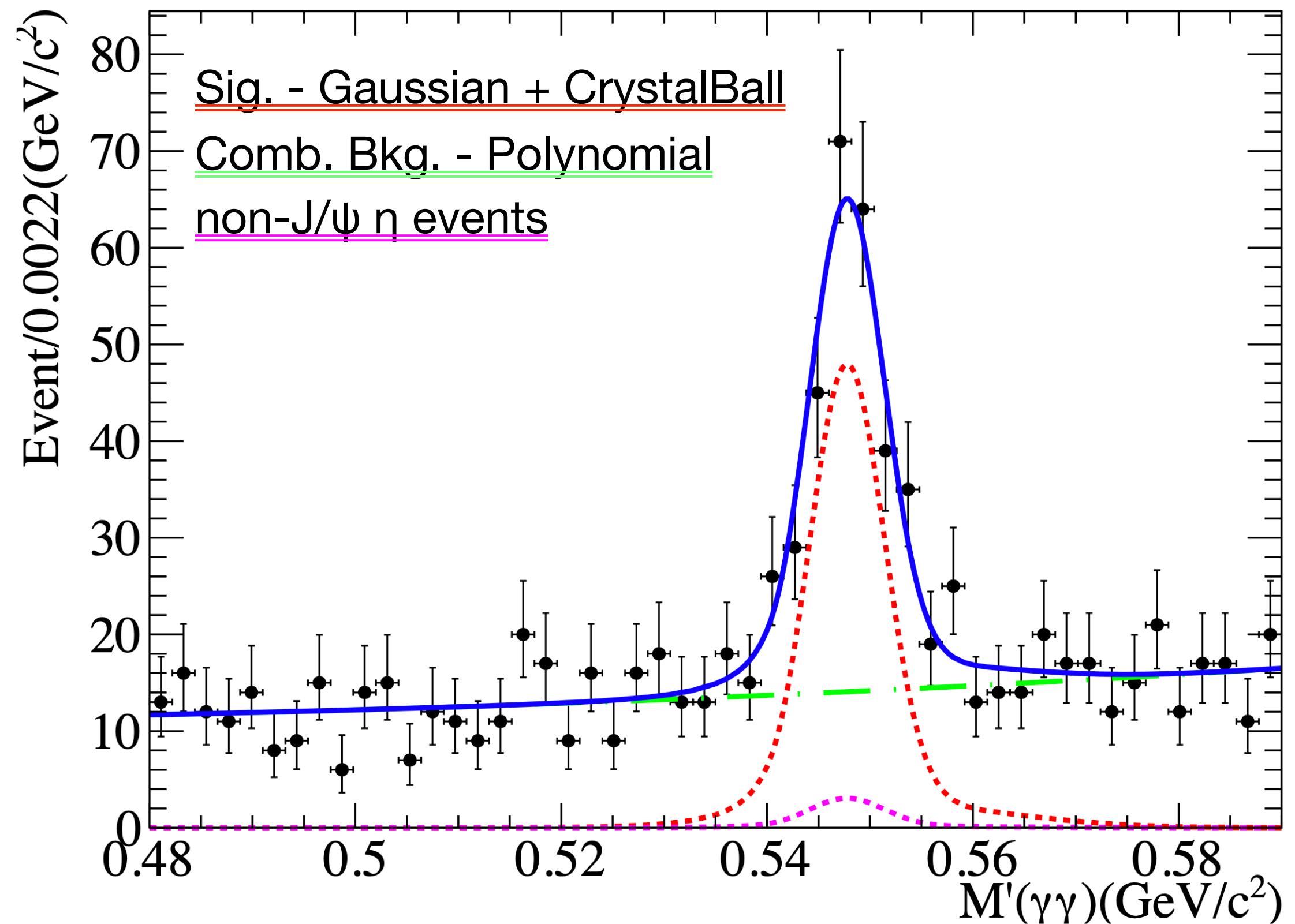

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$$\frac{N^{\text{obs}}}{N^{\text{obs}}} \quad \sigma^B (\text{pb})$$


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$$222 \pm 22 \quad 8.89 \pm 0.88$$

First time observation  
@ $7.4\sigma$



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From Ref. [1], data points @  $\sqrt{s} = [3.8, 4.6] \text{ GeV}$  are taken

Two hypotheses are considered, the  $\psi(3770)$  contribution is added either coherently or incoherently

[1] Phys. Rev. D **102**, 031101 (R)

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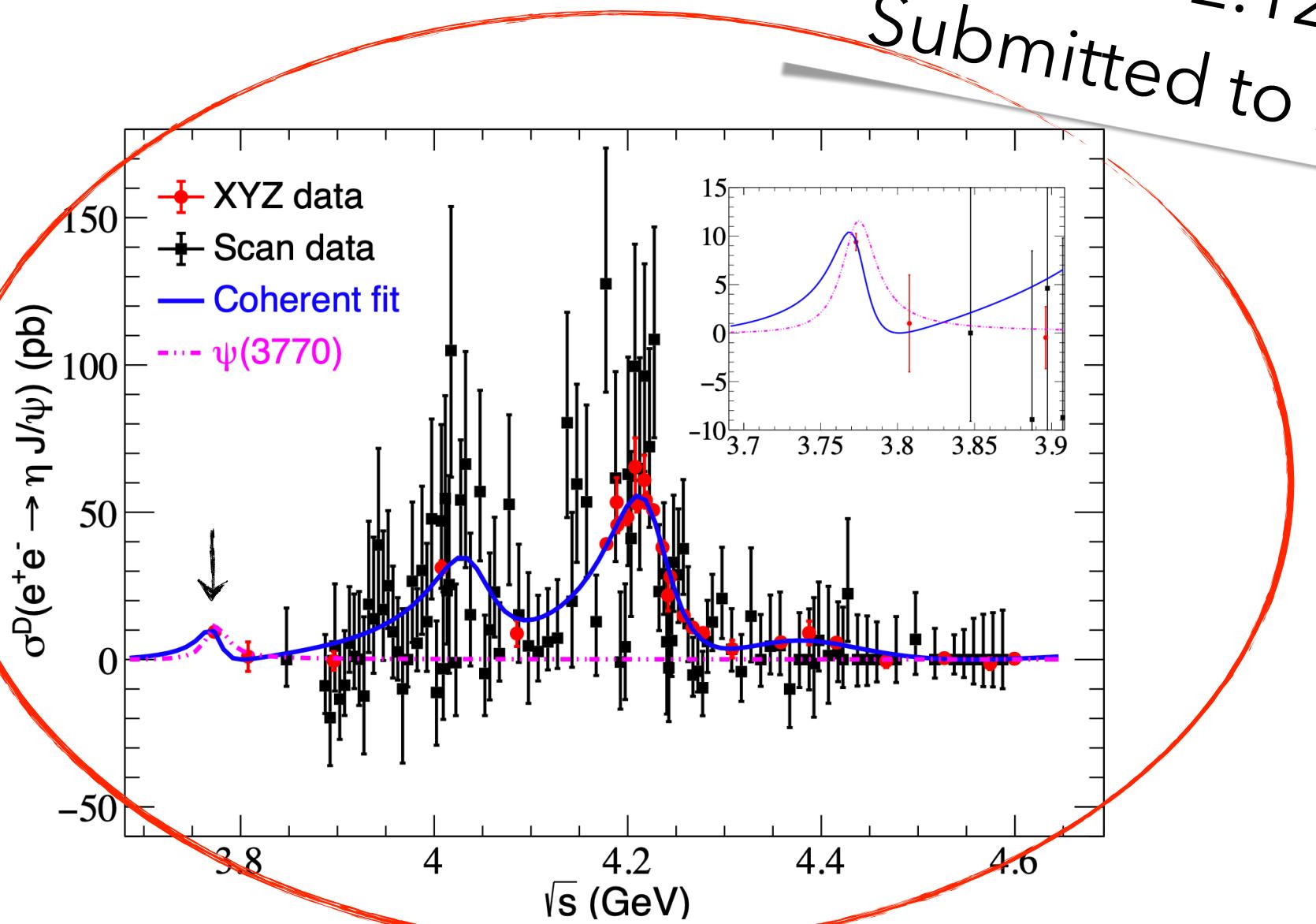
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$$\sigma_{\text{co.}} = |C \cdot \sqrt{\Phi(s)} + e^{i\phi_1} \text{BW}_{\psi(3770)} + e^{i\phi_2} \text{BW}_{\psi(4040)} + e^{i\phi_3} \text{BW}_{Y(4230)} + e^{i\phi_4} \text{BW}_{Y(4390)}|^2$$

$$\text{BW} = \frac{\sqrt{12\pi \mathcal{B}\Gamma_{ee}\Gamma}}{s - M^2 + iM\Gamma} \sqrt{\frac{\Phi(s)}{\Phi(M^2)}}$$



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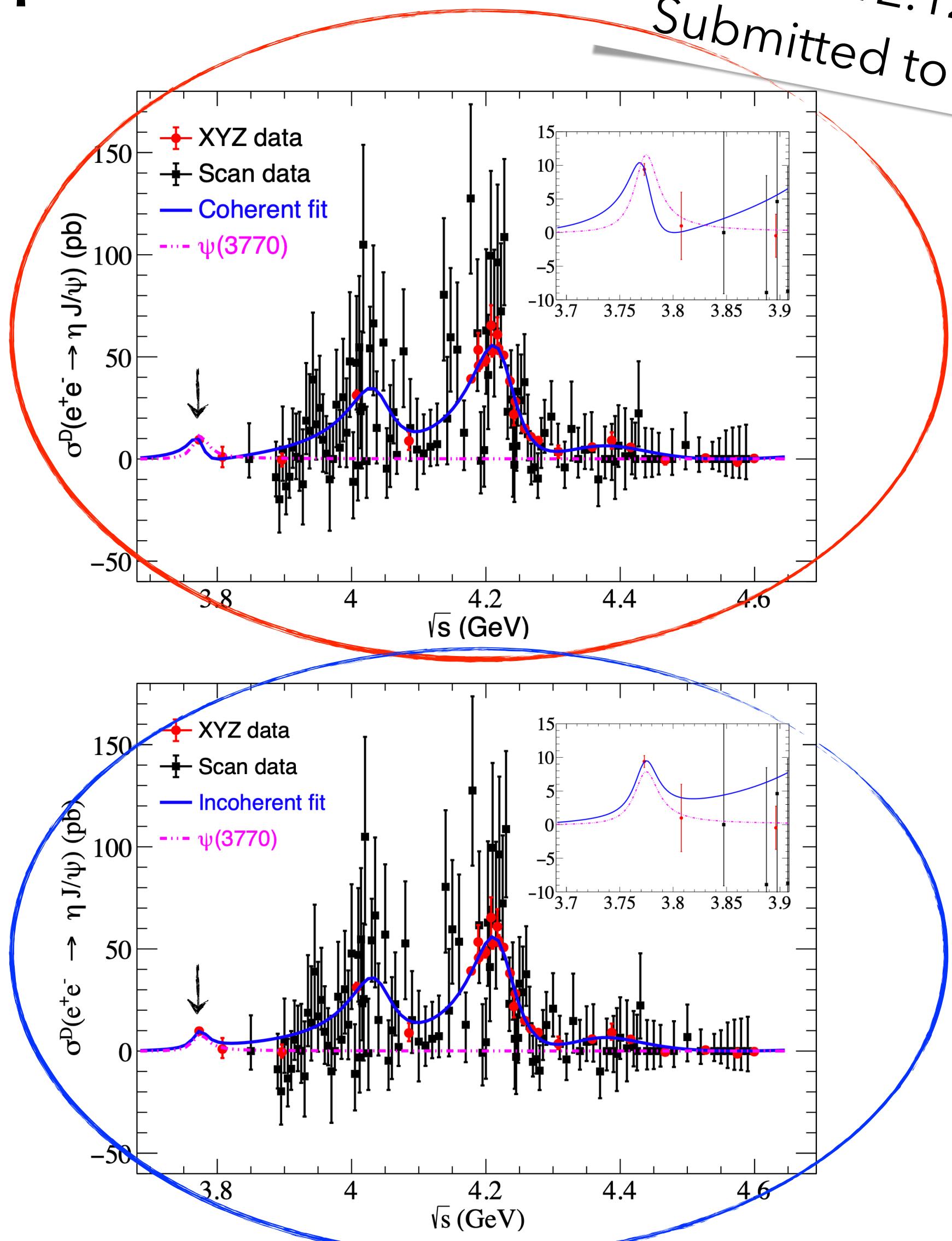
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$$\sigma_{\text{inco.}} = |\text{BW}_{\psi(3770)}|^2 + |C \cdot \sqrt{\Phi(s)} + e^{i\phi_2} \text{BW}_{\psi(4040)} + e^{i\phi_3} \text{BW}_{Y(4230)} + e^{i\phi_4} \text{BW}_{Y(4390)}|^2$$

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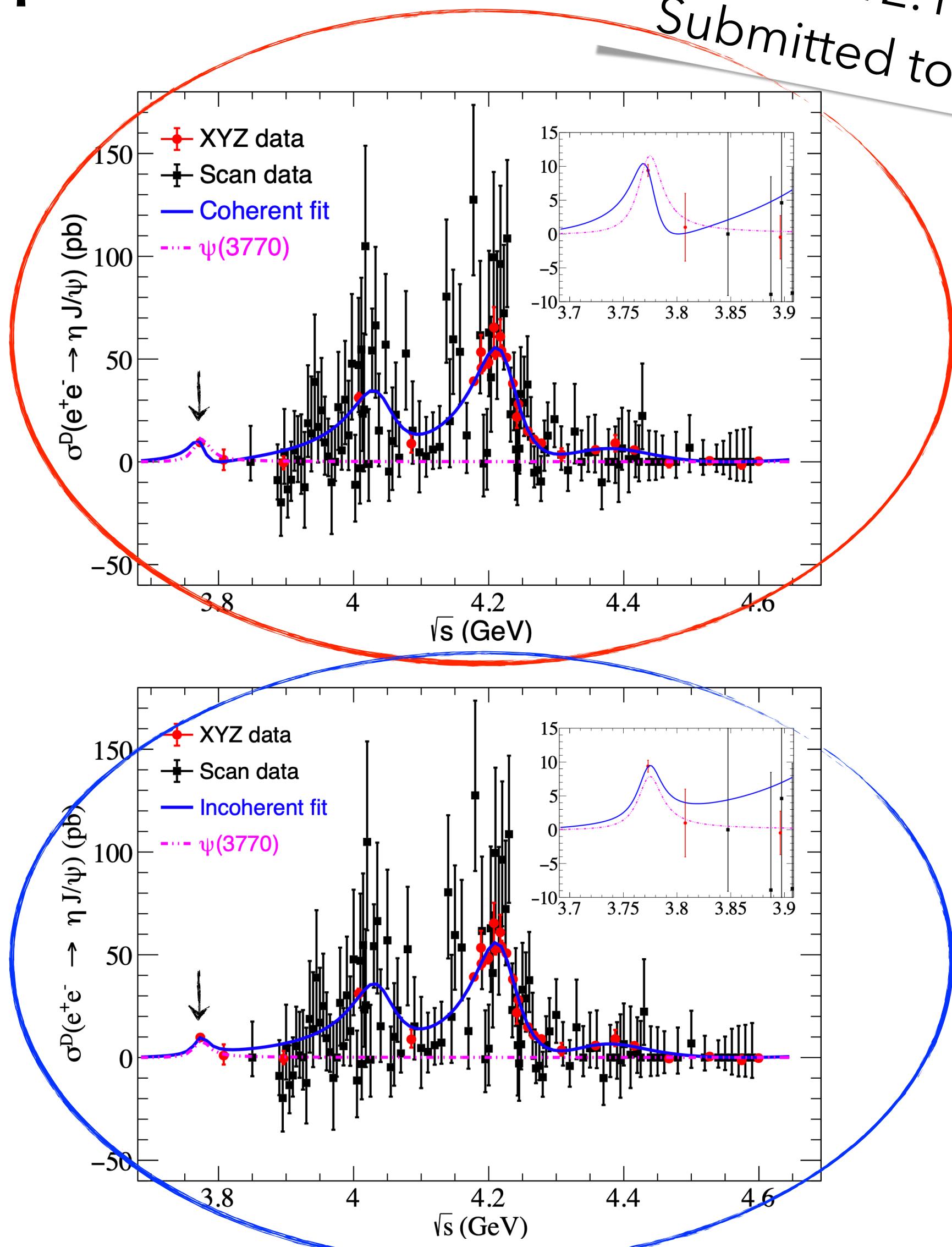
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Fit scenario	$\mathcal{B}(\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi)$ ( $\times 10^{-4}$ )	$\phi_1$ (rad)
Coherent fit	Solution1	$11.6 \pm 6.1 \pm 1.0$
	Solution2	$12.0 \pm 6.3 \pm 1.1$
	Solution3	$11.6 \pm 6.1 \pm 1.0$
	Solution4	$11.9 \pm 6.3 \pm 1.1$
Incoherent fit	$7.9 \pm 1.0 \pm 0.7$	-



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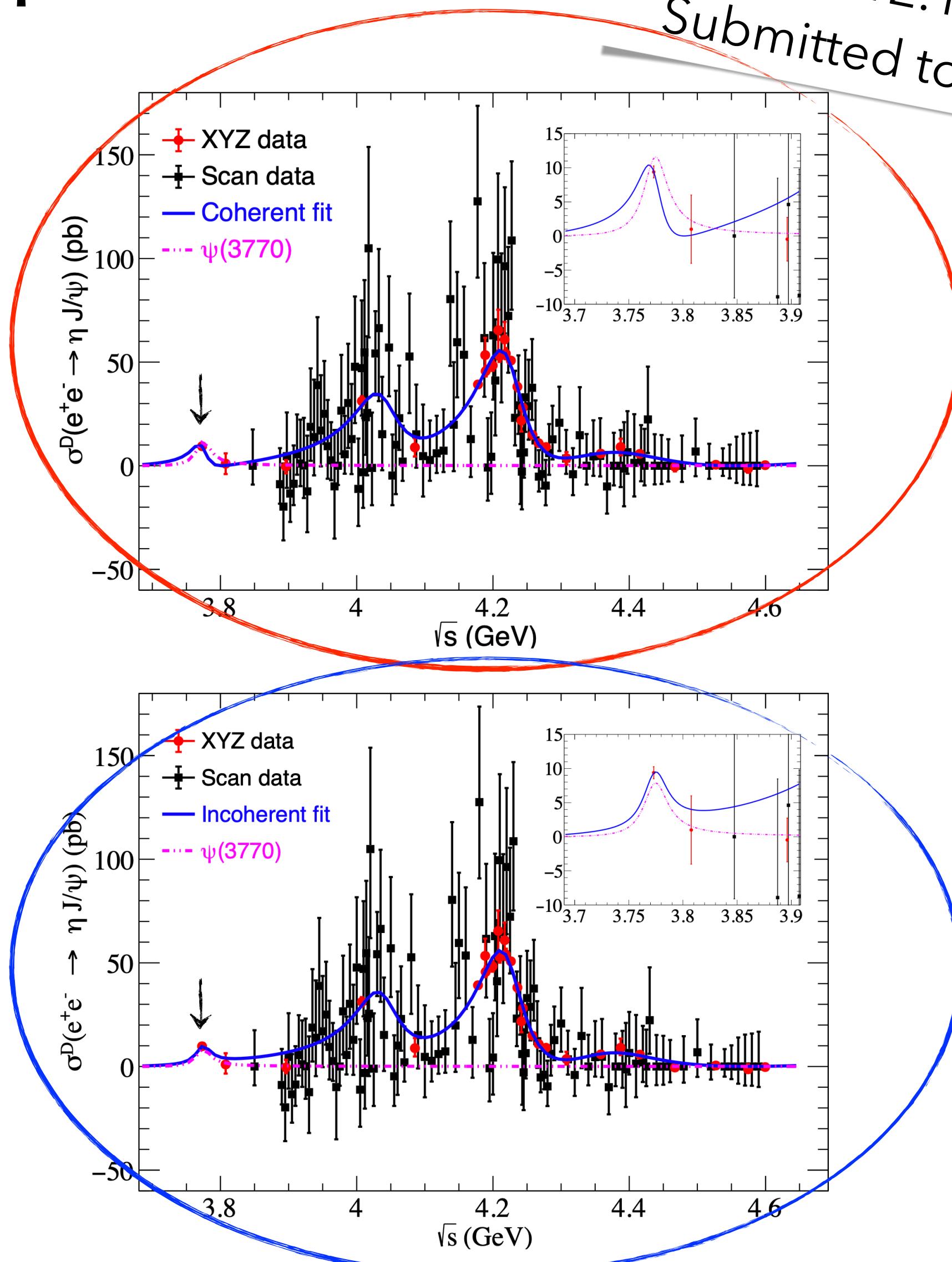
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Incoherent fit	$7.9 \pm 1.0 \pm 0.7$	-

**Compatible with CLEO result<sup>[2]</sup> (w/o interference) of  $8.7 \pm 3.3 \pm 2.2 \times 10^{-4}$**

**In agreement with Ref. [3] hypothesis of tetra-quark admixture in the  $\psi(3770)$**   
 $\mathcal{B}(\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi) \sim 15 \times 10^{-4}$



<sup>[1]</sup> Phys. Rev. D **102**, 031101 (R)

<sup>[2]</sup> Phys. Rev. Lett. **96**, 082004

<sup>[3]</sup> Phys. Rev. D **71**, 114003

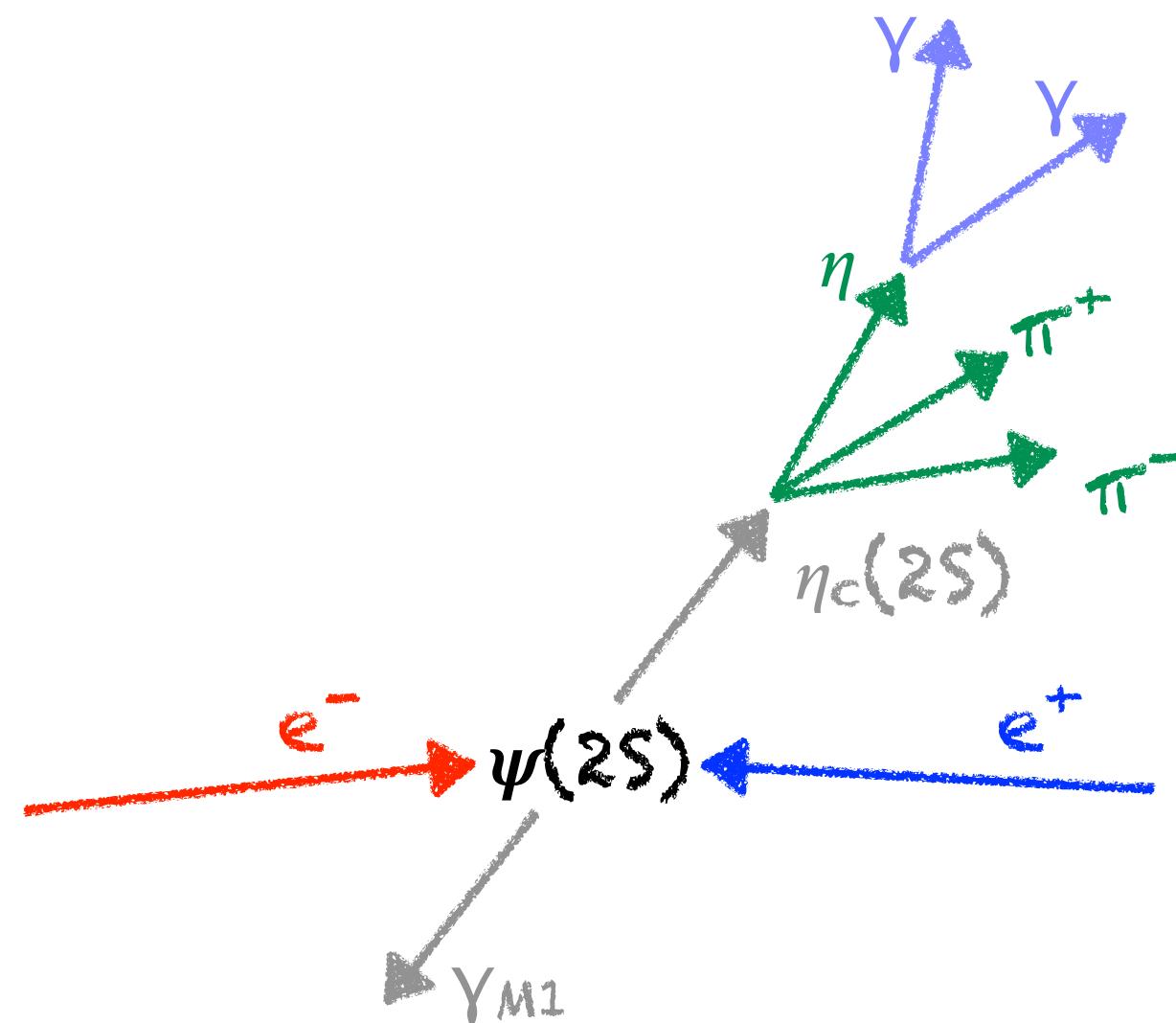
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arXiv:2211.11935  
Submitted to PRD

Using the 448 million  $\psi(2S)$  data set

**Search for the  $\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$  decay** through the M1  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \gamma \eta_c(2S)$  transition **and determination of  $\mathcal{B}(\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta)$**

Due to the small energy of the  $\gamma_{M1}$ , having the background under control is fundamental



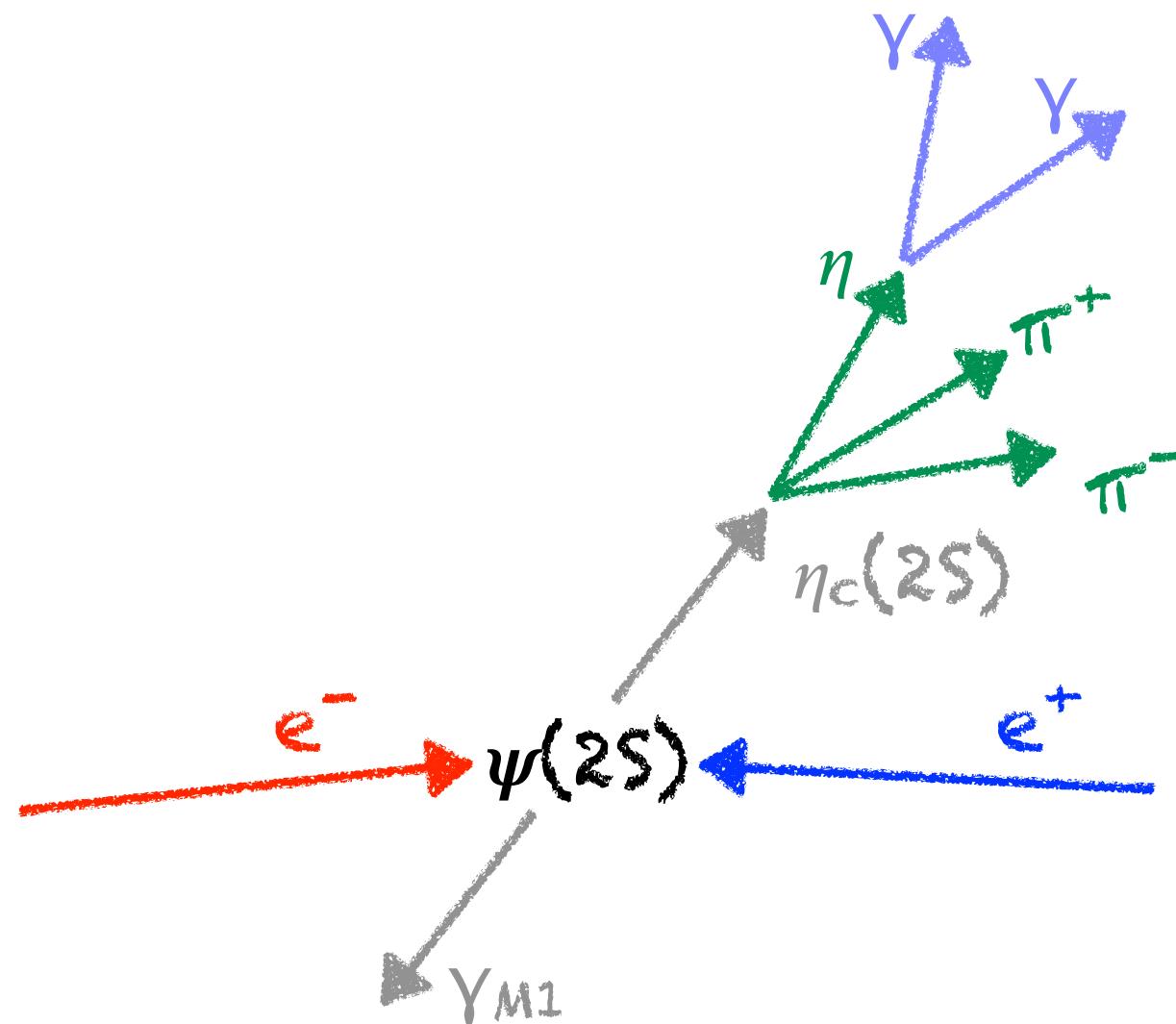
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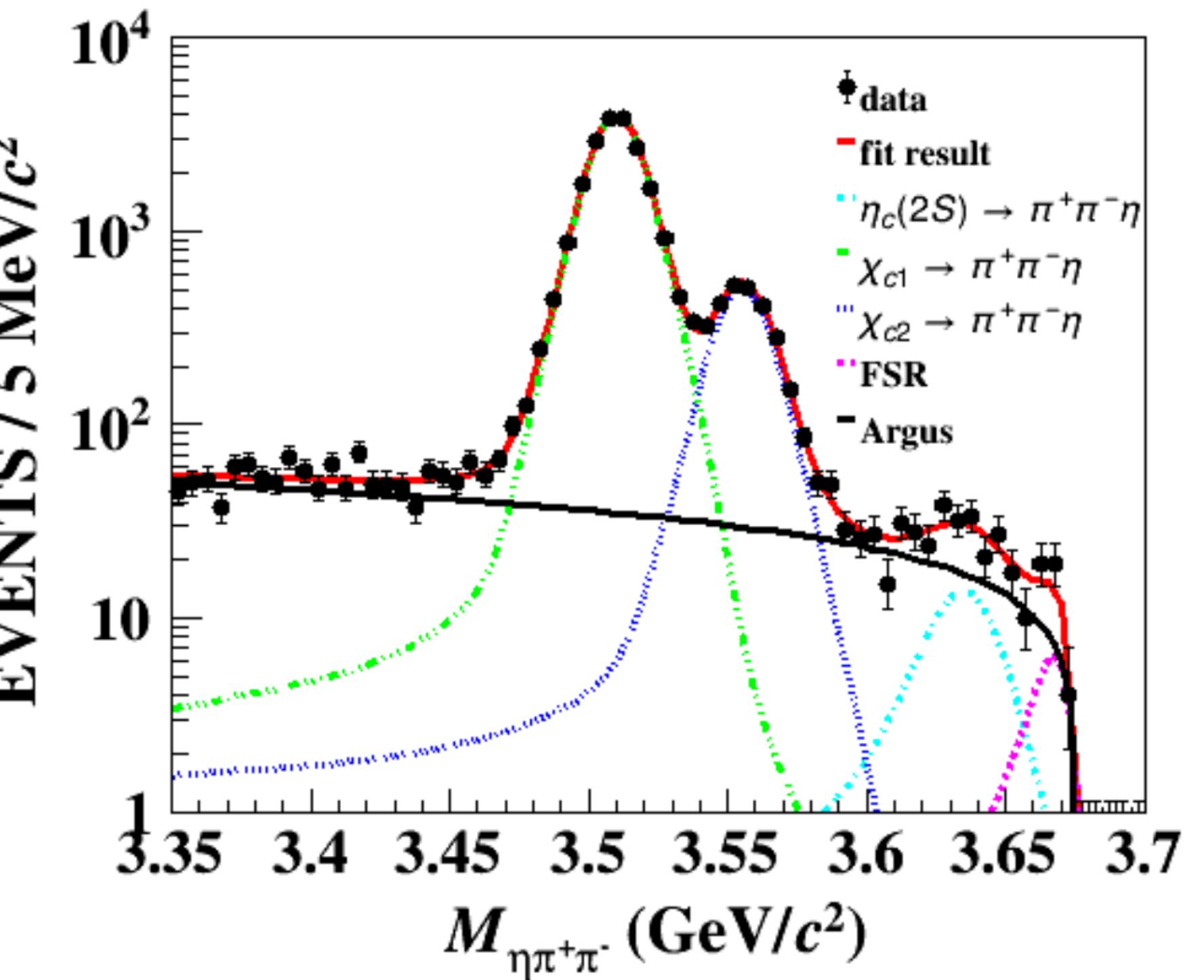
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- I.  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$
- II.  $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \gamma_{FSR}$
- III.  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta \gamma_{FSR}$

**Fit to the  $M(\pi^+ \pi^- \gamma \gamma)$  at [3.35, 3.70]  $\text{GeV}/c^2$  to properly estimate the  $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$  contributions fixing their parameters to the PDG values**



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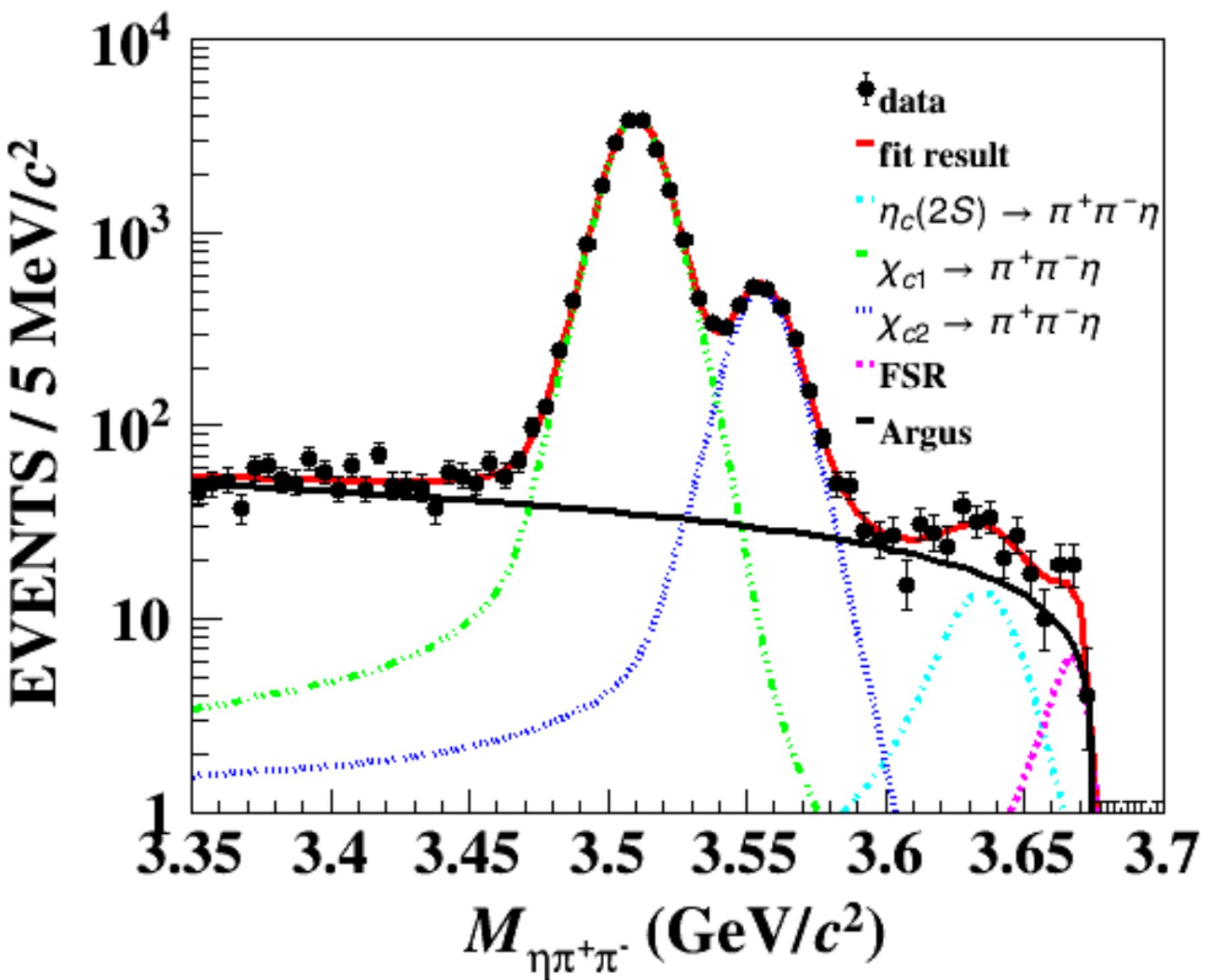
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$$\frac{N_{sig}}{106 \pm 29}$$

First evidence  
@ $3.5\sigma$



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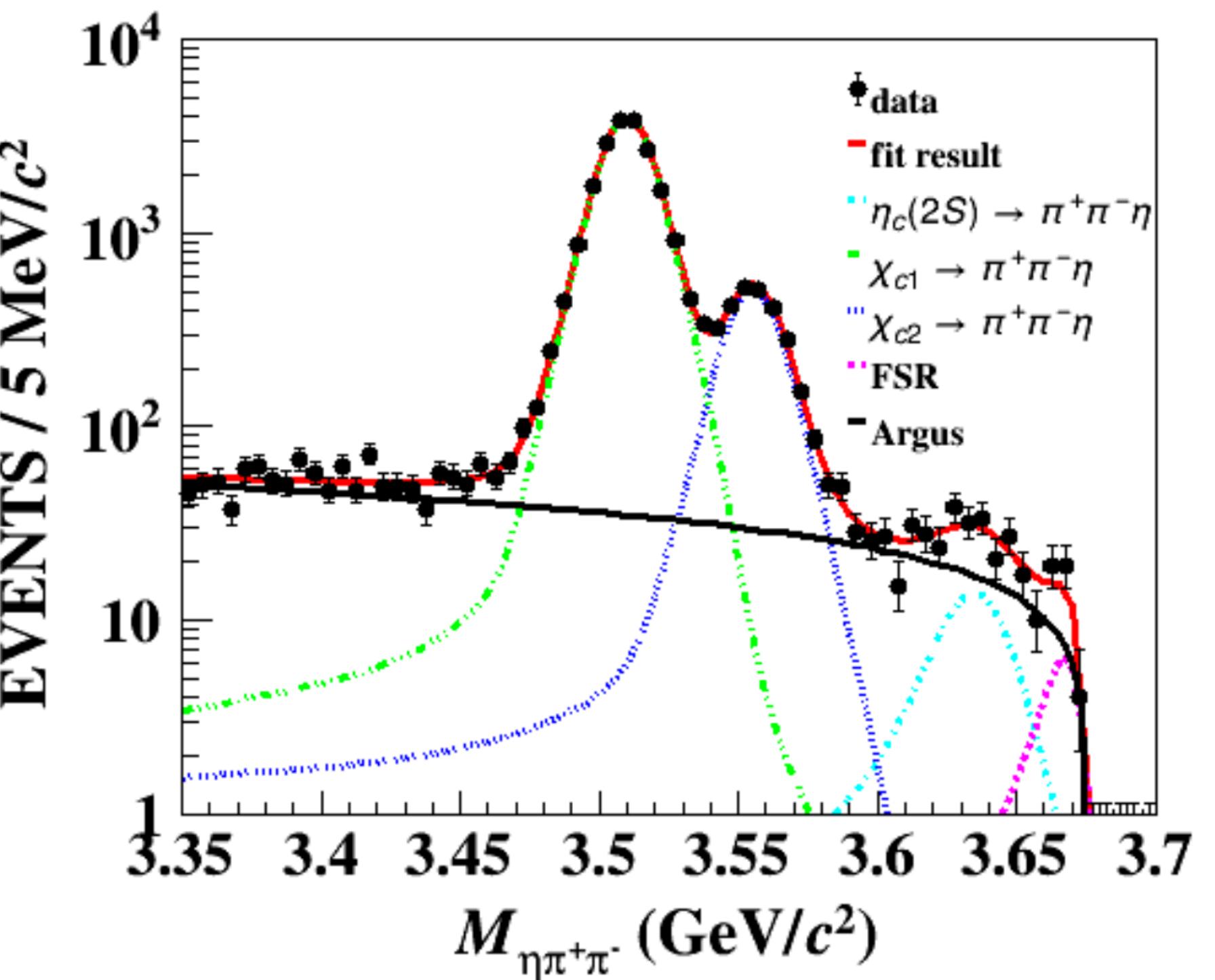
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@ $3.5\sigma$

$$\mathcal{B}(\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta) = \frac{N_{\text{sig}}}{N_{\psi(3686)} \cdot \epsilon \cdot BR_1(\psi(3686) \rightarrow \gamma \eta_c(2S)) \cdot BR_2(\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)}$$



# Evidence for $\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$ decay

arXiv:2211.11935  
Submitted to PRD

Using the 448 million  $\psi(2S)$  data set

**Search for the  $\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$  decay** through the M1  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \gamma \eta_c(2S)$  transition **and determination of  $\mathcal{B}(\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta)$**

**Fit to the  $M(\pi^+ \pi^- \gamma\gamma)$**  at [3.35, 3.70] GeV/c<sup>2</sup> to properly estimate the  $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$  contributions (found to be compatible to PDG values)

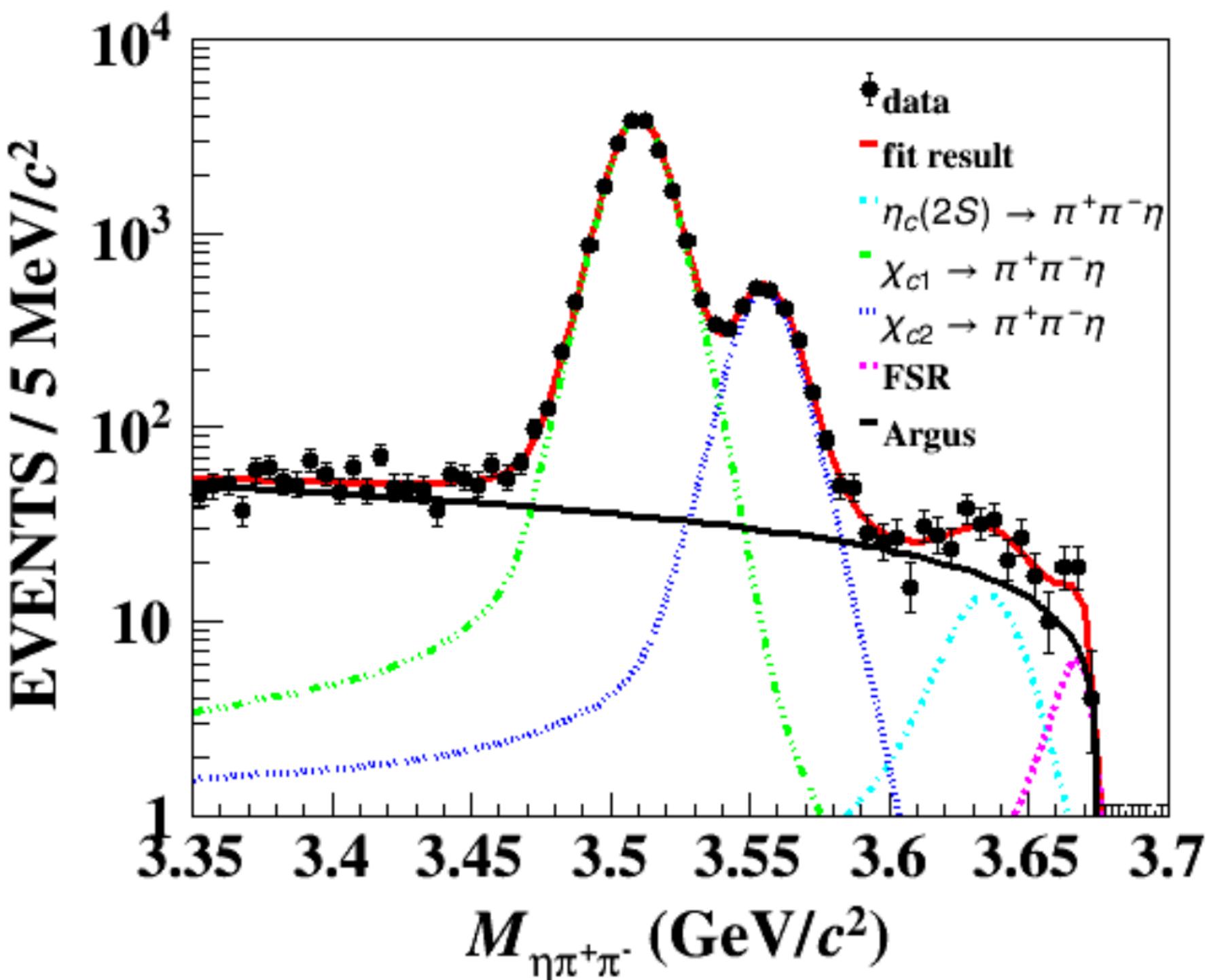
$N_{sig}$	$N_{\psi(3686)} (\times 10^6)$	$\epsilon$	$BR_1 (\times 10^{-4})$	$BR_2 (\times 10^{-2})$
$106 \pm 29$	$448.1 \pm 2.9$	0.202	$7 \pm 5$	$39.41 \pm 0.20$

First evidence  
@3.5 $\sigma$

$$\mathcal{B}(\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta) = \frac{N_{sig}}{N_{\psi(3686)} \epsilon BR_1(\psi(3686) \rightarrow \gamma \eta_c(2S)) BR_2(\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)}$$

$$= (42.4 \pm 11.6 \pm 3.8 \pm 30.8) \times 10^{-4}$$

Stat.      Syst.       $\delta(BR_1)$



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arXiv:2211.11935  
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Using the 448 million  $\psi(2S)$  data set

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Proceed to test the “12% rule” (ratio of the 2S/1S to light hadron branching fractions is  $\sim 12\%$ )

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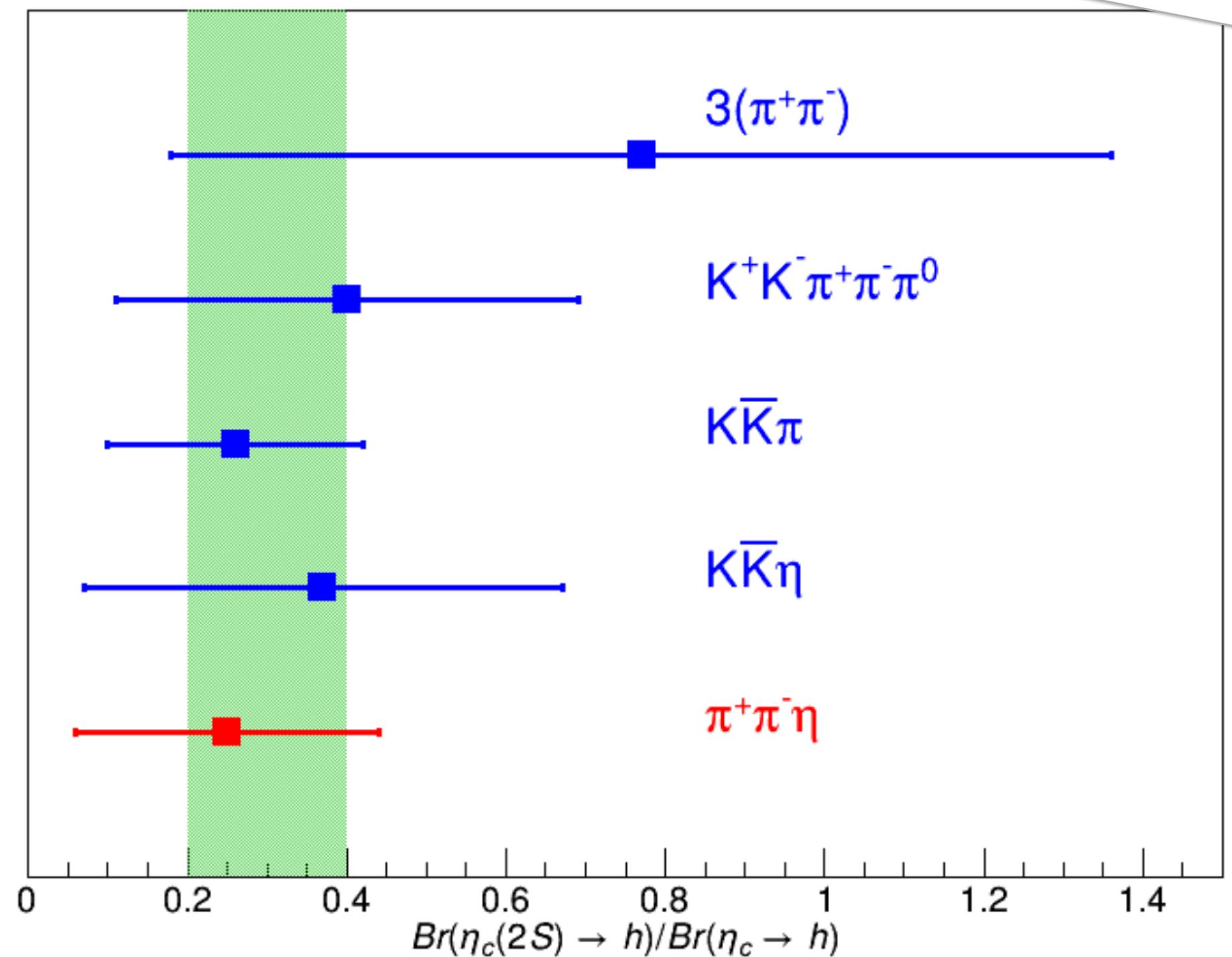
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$$= (42.4 \pm 11.6 \pm 3.8 \pm 30.8) \times 10^{-4}$$

Stat.      Syst.       $\delta(BR_1)$

Proceed to test the “12% rule” (ratio of the 2S/1S to light hadron branching fractions is ~ 12%)



In the case of 0<sup>+</sup> glueball-charmonium mixing, Ref. [4] and Ref. [5] predict ~12.8% and ~1.00, respectively

[4] Phys. Rev. D **44**, 1597 (1991)

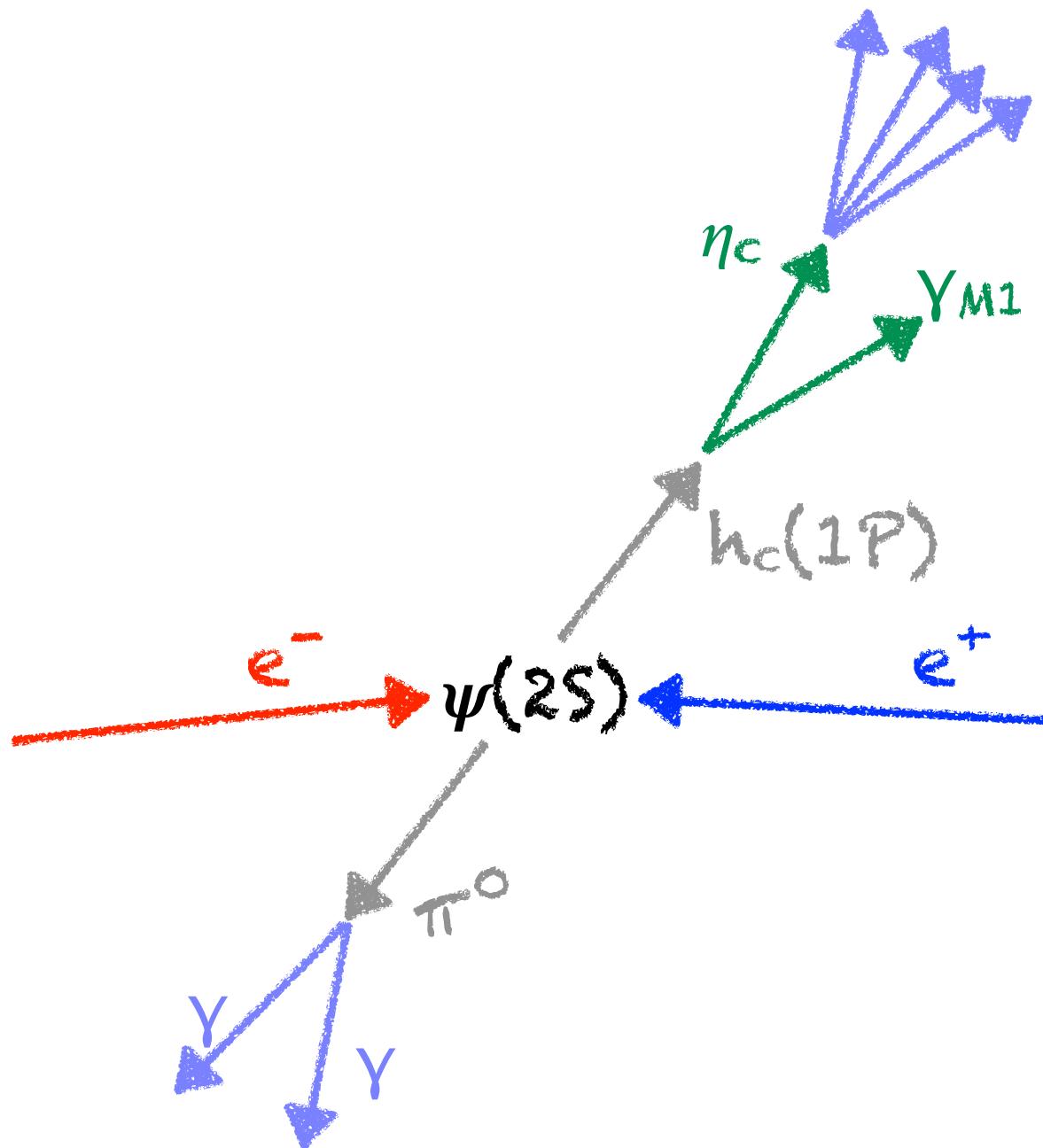
[5] Commun. Theor. Phys. **25**, 471 (1996)

# Study of the $h_c(1^1P_1)$ meson via $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c$ decays at BESIII

PRD 106,  
072007 (2022)

Using 448 million  $\psi(2S)$  events

**Search for the E1  $h_c \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c$  transition** through the  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c$  decay to determine  $h_c(1P)$  features and the relative  $\mathcal{Z}$



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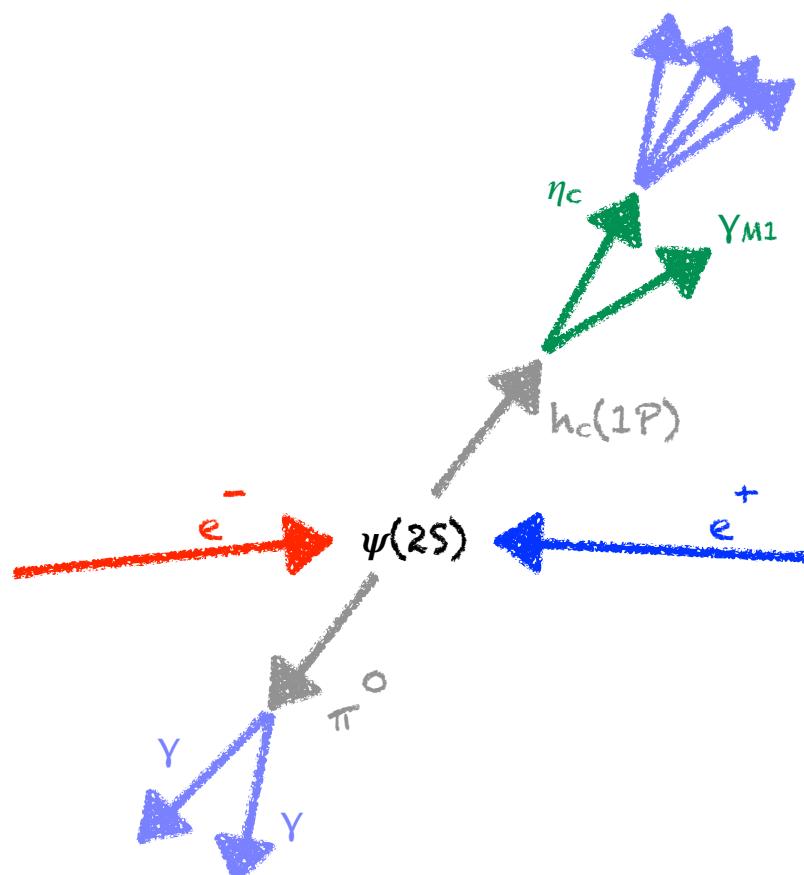
PRD 106,  
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The  $h_c$  mass is reconstructed via the  $\pi^0$  recoil mass ( $RM(\pi^0)$ )

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PRD 106,  
072007 (2022)

**BESIII**

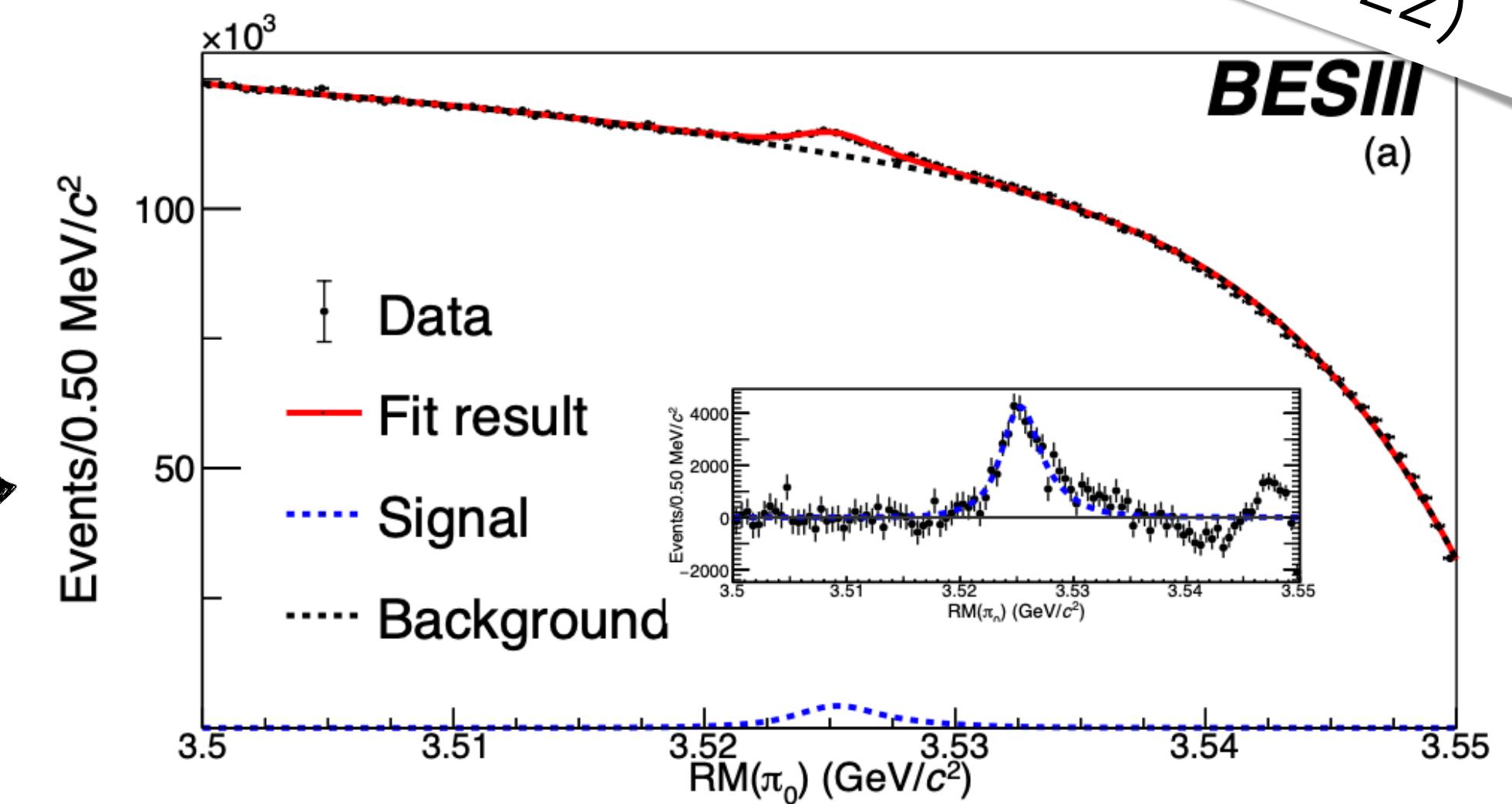
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either allowing the  $h_c$  to decay inclusively



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PRD 106,  
072007 (2022)

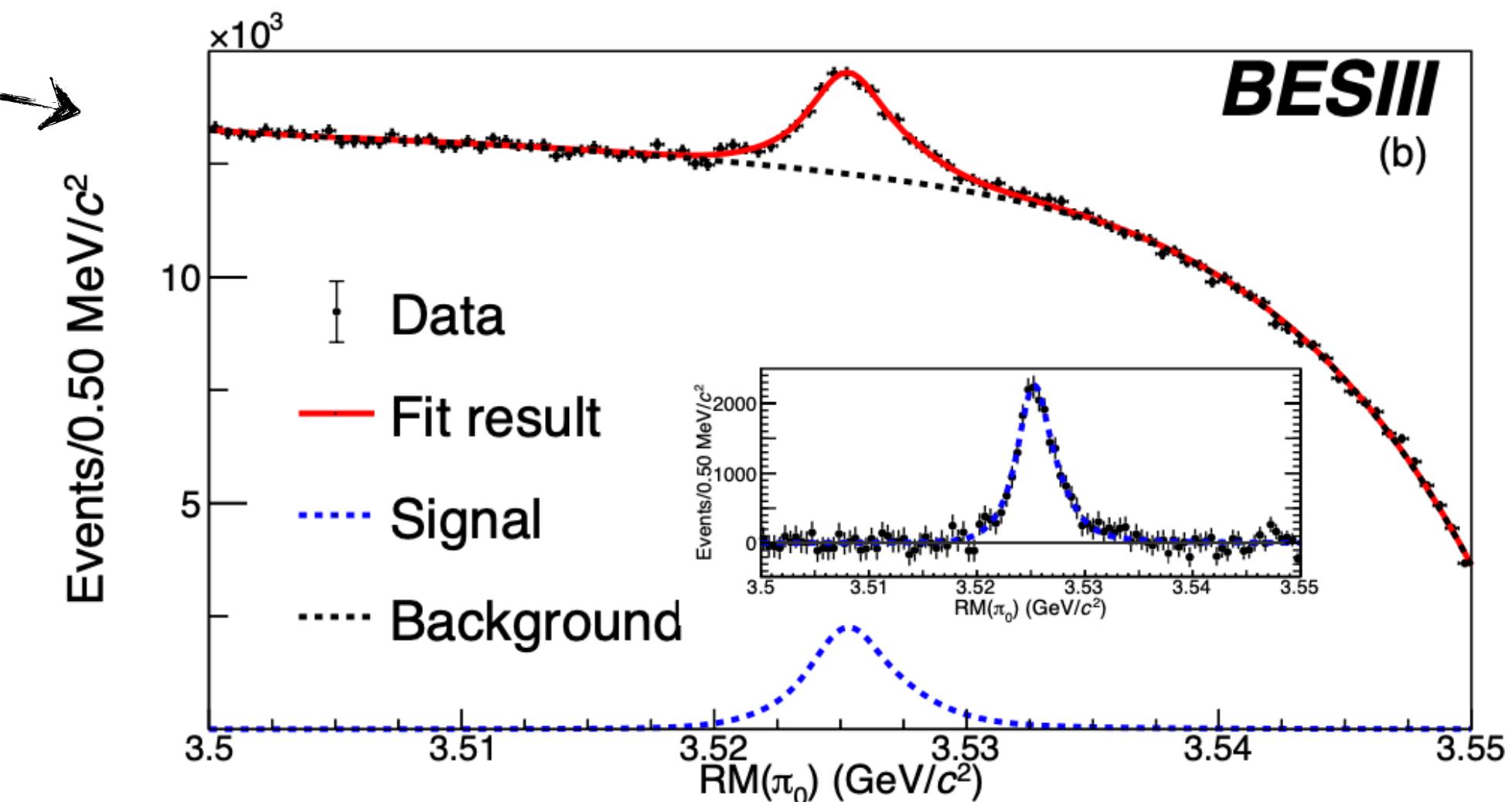
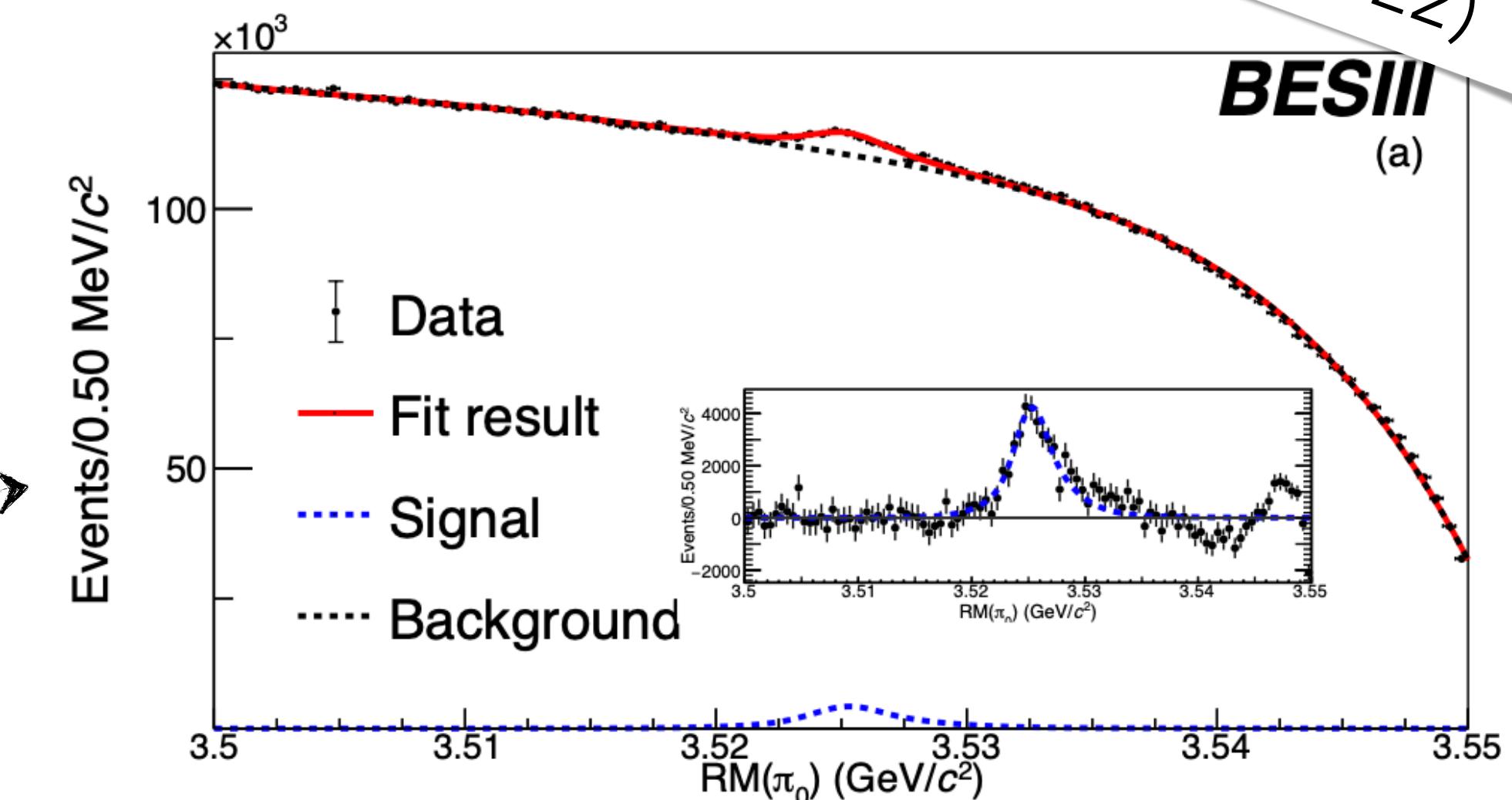
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either allowing the  $h_c$  to decay inclusively  
or tagging the  $\gamma_{E1}$  of the  $h_c \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c$  transition



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PRD 106,  
072007 (2022)

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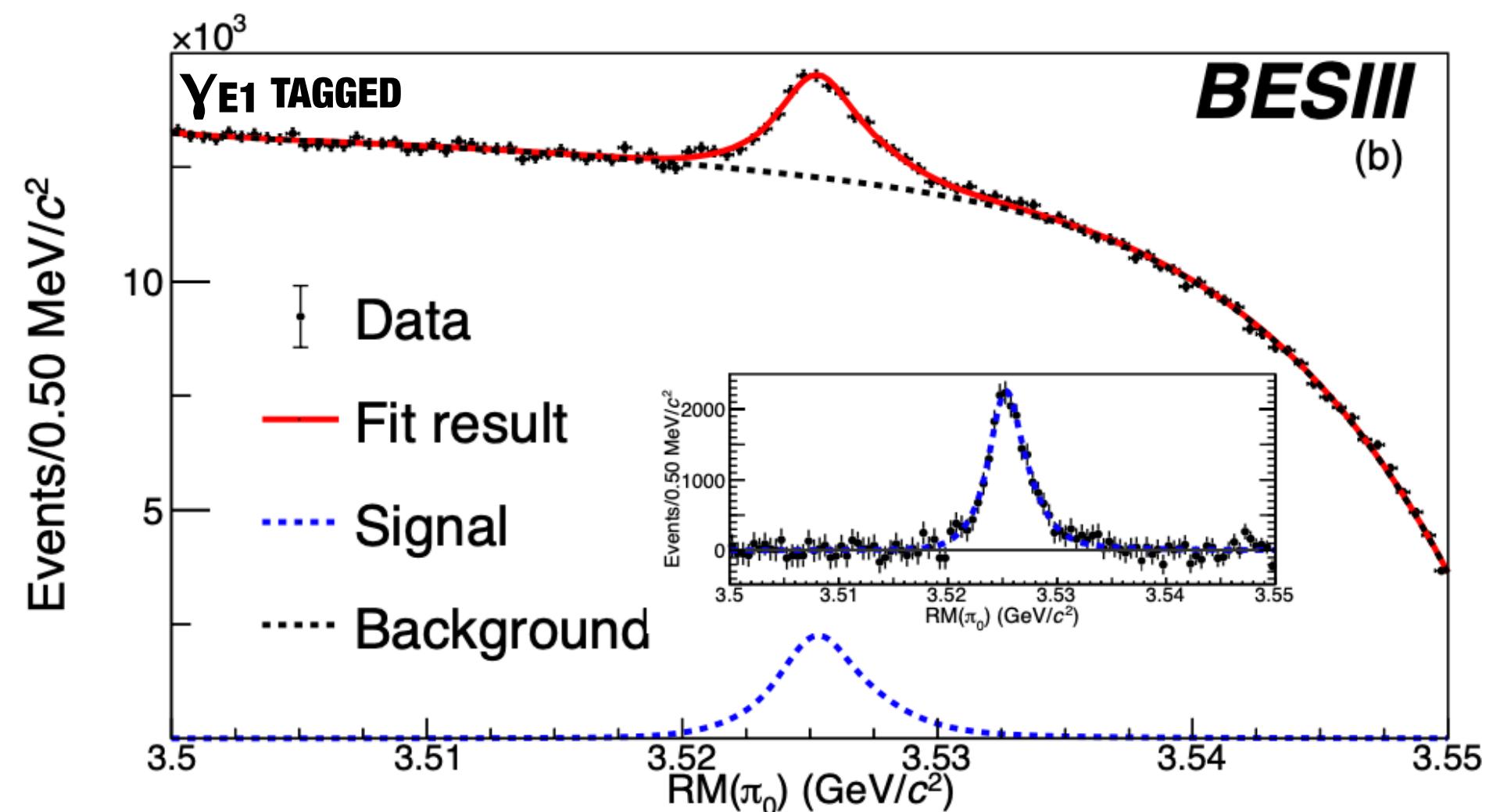
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$$RM(\pi^0) = \sqrt{(E_{\psi(2S)} - E_{\pi^0})^2 - (\bar{p}_{\psi(2S)} - \bar{p}_{\pi^0})^2}$$

Being the S/B more favourable, the **tagged data set** is used to estimate the  **$h_c$  mass** and **width**, which is the **2<sup>nd</sup> estimate ever** of this parameter

Variable	Value	PDG [5]
$M(h_c)$ ( MeV/ $c^2$ )	$3525.32 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.15$	$3525.38 \pm 0.11$
$\Gamma(h_c)$ (MeV)	$0.78^{+0.27}_{-0.24} \pm 0.12$	$0.70 \pm 0.28 \pm 0.22$
$N_{\text{Tag}}(h_c)$	$23118^{+1500}_{-1398}$	(BESIII [6]) ...



[6] Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 132002

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PRD 106,  
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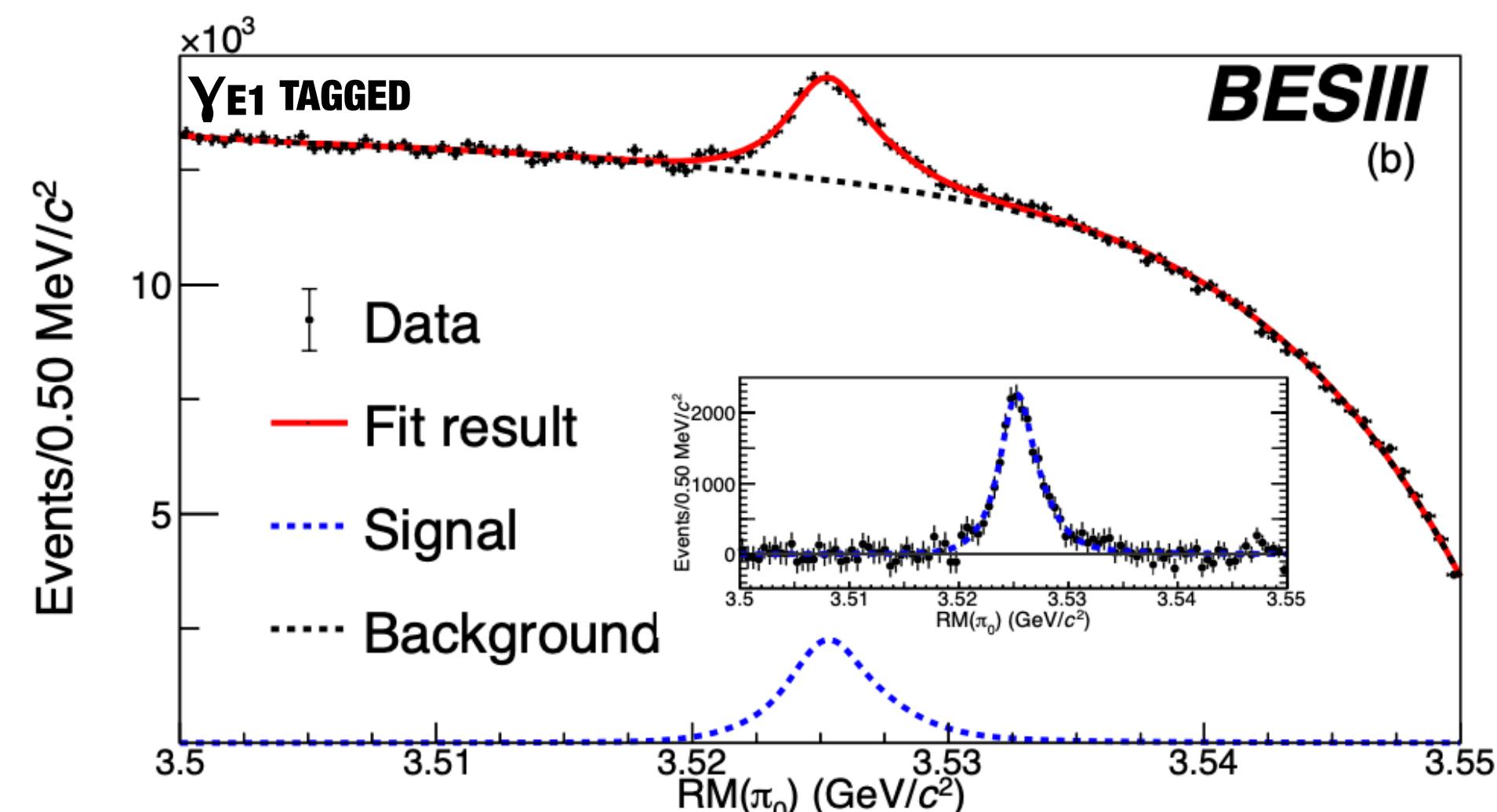
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$$\mathcal{B}_{\text{Inc}}(\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c) \times \mathcal{B}_{\text{Tag}}(h_c \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c) = \frac{N_{\text{Tag}}}{\epsilon_{\text{Tag}} \times N(\psi(2S)) \times \mathcal{B}(\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)}$$

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$N_{\text{Tag}}(h_c)$	$23118^{+1500}_{-1398}$	(BESIII [6])
$\mathcal{B}_{\text{Inc}} \times \mathcal{B}_{\text{Tag}}$ ( $10^{-4}$ )	$4.22^{+0.27}_{-0.26} \pm 0.19$	...
		$4.58 \pm 0.64$
		(BESIII [7])
		$4.16 \pm 0.48$
		(CLEO [8])



[6] Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 132002

[7] Phys. Rev. D **86**, 092009

[8] Phys. Rev. Lett. **101**, 182003

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PRD 106,  
072007 (2022)

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**Search for the E1  $h_c \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c$  transition through the  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c$  decay to determine  $h_c(1P)$  features and the relative  $\mathcal{B}$**

The  $h_c$  mass is reconstructed via the  $\pi^0$  recoil mass ( $RM(\pi^0)$ )

$$RM(\pi^0) = \sqrt{(E_{\psi(2S)} - E_{\pi^0})^2 - (\bar{p}_{\psi(2S)} - \bar{p}_{\pi^0})^2}$$

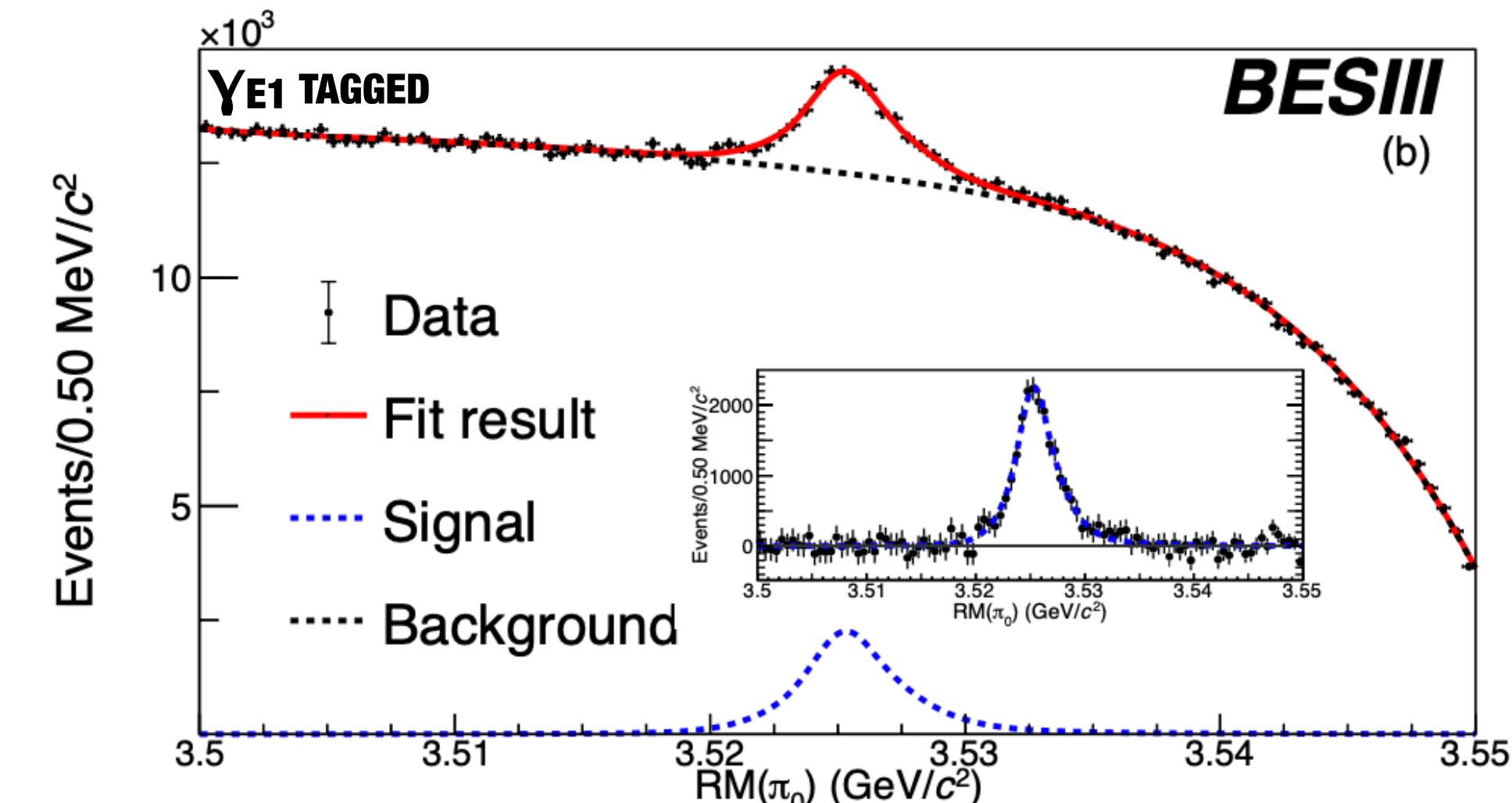
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$$\mathcal{B}_{\text{Tag}}(h_c \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c) = \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\text{Inc}}(\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c) \times \mathcal{B}_{\text{Tag}}(h_c \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c)}{\mathcal{B}_{\text{Inc}}(\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c)} = \frac{N_{\text{Tag}} \times \epsilon_{\text{Inc}}}{N_{\text{Inc}} \times \epsilon_{\text{Tag}}}$$

Variable	Value	PDG v.
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$N_{\text{Inc}}(h_c)$	$46187 \pm 2123$	$4.16 \pm 0.48$ (CLEO [8])
$\mathcal{B}_{\text{Inc}}$ ( $10^{-4}$ )	$7.32 \pm 0.34 \pm 0.41$	...
$\mathcal{B}_{\text{Tag}}$ (%)	$57.66^{+3.62}_{-3.50} \pm 0.58$	$8.40 \pm 1.30 \pm 1.00$ (BESIII [7])
		$9.00 \pm 1.5 \pm 1.3$ (CLEO [9])
		$53 \pm 7 \pm 8$ (BESIII [7])
		$48 \pm 6 \pm 7$ (CLEO [8])

**Most precise single estimates**



[6] Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 132002

[7] Phys. Rev. D **86**, 092009

[8] Phys. Rev. Lett. **101**, 182003

[9] Phys. Rev. D **84**, 032008

# Study of the $h_c(1^1P_1)$ meson via $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c$ decays at BESIII

PRD 106,  
072007 (2022)

Using 448 million  $\psi(2S)$  events

**Search for the E1  $h_c \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c$**  transition through the  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c$  decay to determine  **$h_c(1P)$  features** and the relative  $\mathcal{B}$

The  $h_c$  mass is reconstructed via the  $\pi^0$  recoil mass ( $RM(\pi^0)$ )

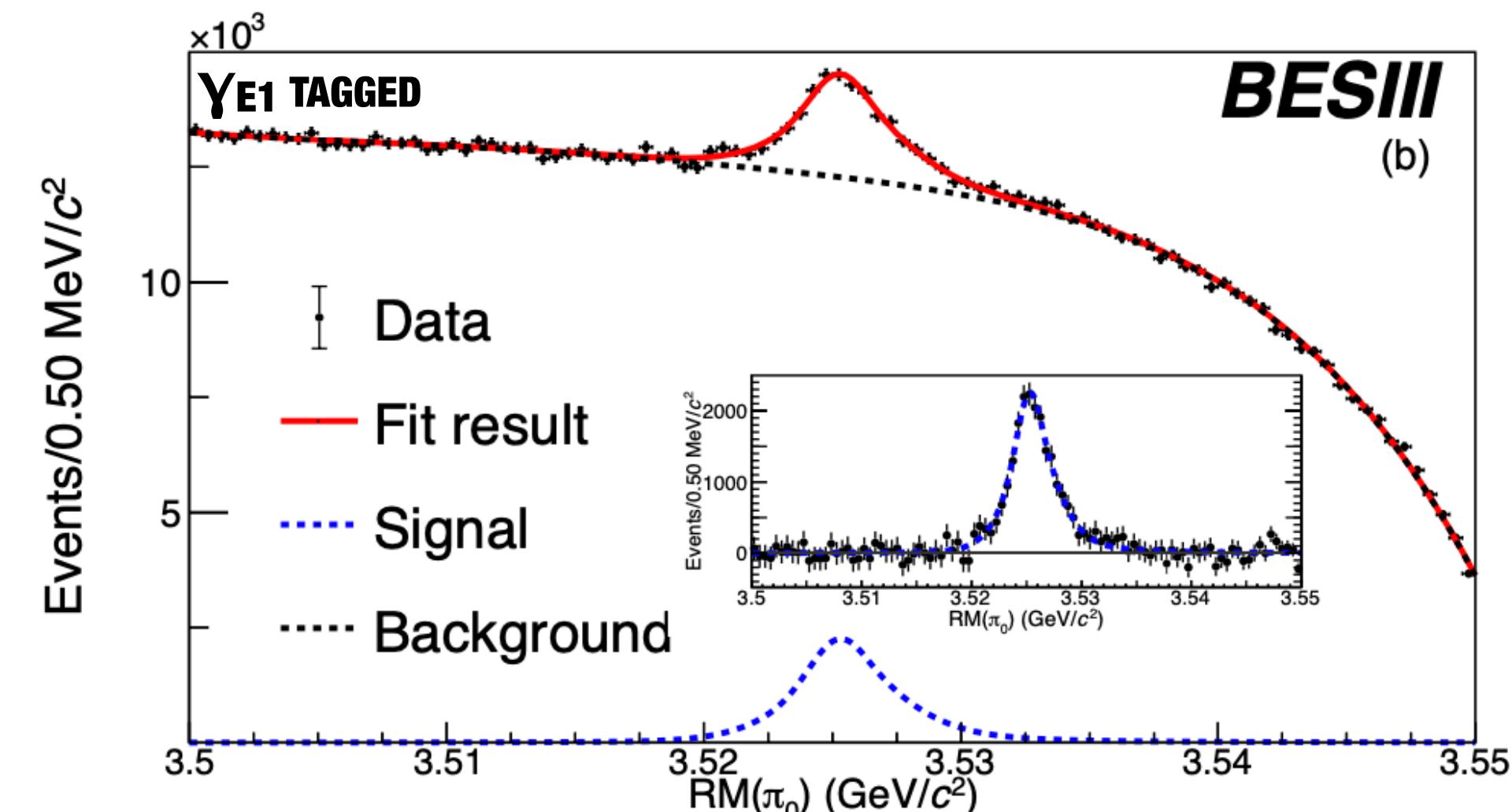
$$RM(\pi^0) = \sqrt{(E_{\psi(2S)} - E_{\pi^0})^2 - (\bar{p}_{\psi(2S)} - \bar{p}_{\pi^0})^2}$$

Variable	Value	PDG [1]
$M(h_c)$ ( MeV/ $c^2$ )	$3525.32 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.15$	$3525.38 \pm 0.11$
$\Gamma(h_c)$ (MeV)	$0.78^{+0.27}_{-0.24} \pm 0.12$	$0.70 \pm 0.28 \pm 0.22$
$N_{\text{Tag}}(h_c)$	$23118^{+1500}_{-1398}$	...
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		...
		$4.16 \pm 0.48$
		(CLEO [8])
		...
		$53 \pm 7 \pm 8$
		(BESIII [7])
		$48 \pm 6 \pm 7$
		(CLEO [8])

With respect to the center-of-gravity mass ( $M(\text{c.o.g.})$ ) of the three  $\chi_{cJ}(1^3P_J)$  states

$$M(\text{c.o.g.}) = \frac{M(\chi_{c0}) + 3M(\chi_{c1}) + 5M(\chi_{c2})}{9}$$

**no mass splitting** ( $\Delta_{\text{hyp}} = 0.03 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.15$  MeV/ $c^2$ ) is observed as predicted by potential model **calculations**<sup>[10,11]</sup>



# Summary

The **largest datasets** of **c $\bar{c}$  vector** states collected by BESIII provide the power to **investigate** not only **rare vector decays**, but also to **study** the  **$h_c(1P)$ ,  $X_{cJ}(1P)$  and  $\eta_c(2S)$**  states and their decays

Also **datasets above** the **D $\bar{D}$  threshold** can shed new light on charmonium decays and hint at possible **connections** between **XYZ states and conventional charmonia**

**3 analyses** are **discussed** in this talk:

*Observation of  $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi$*   
arXiv:2212.12165 Submitted to PRL

*Evidence for  $\eta(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$  decay*  
arXiv:2211.11935 Submitted to PRD

*Study of the  $h_c(1^1P_1)$  meson via  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^0 h_c$  decays at BESIII*  
Phys. Rev. D **103**, L091102

**More** interesting **results** are expected **with** the **full**  $\psi(2S)$  and  $\psi(3770)$  **data samples**

**Thank you  
for the  
attention!**



# **Back-up Slides**

# Observation of $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi$

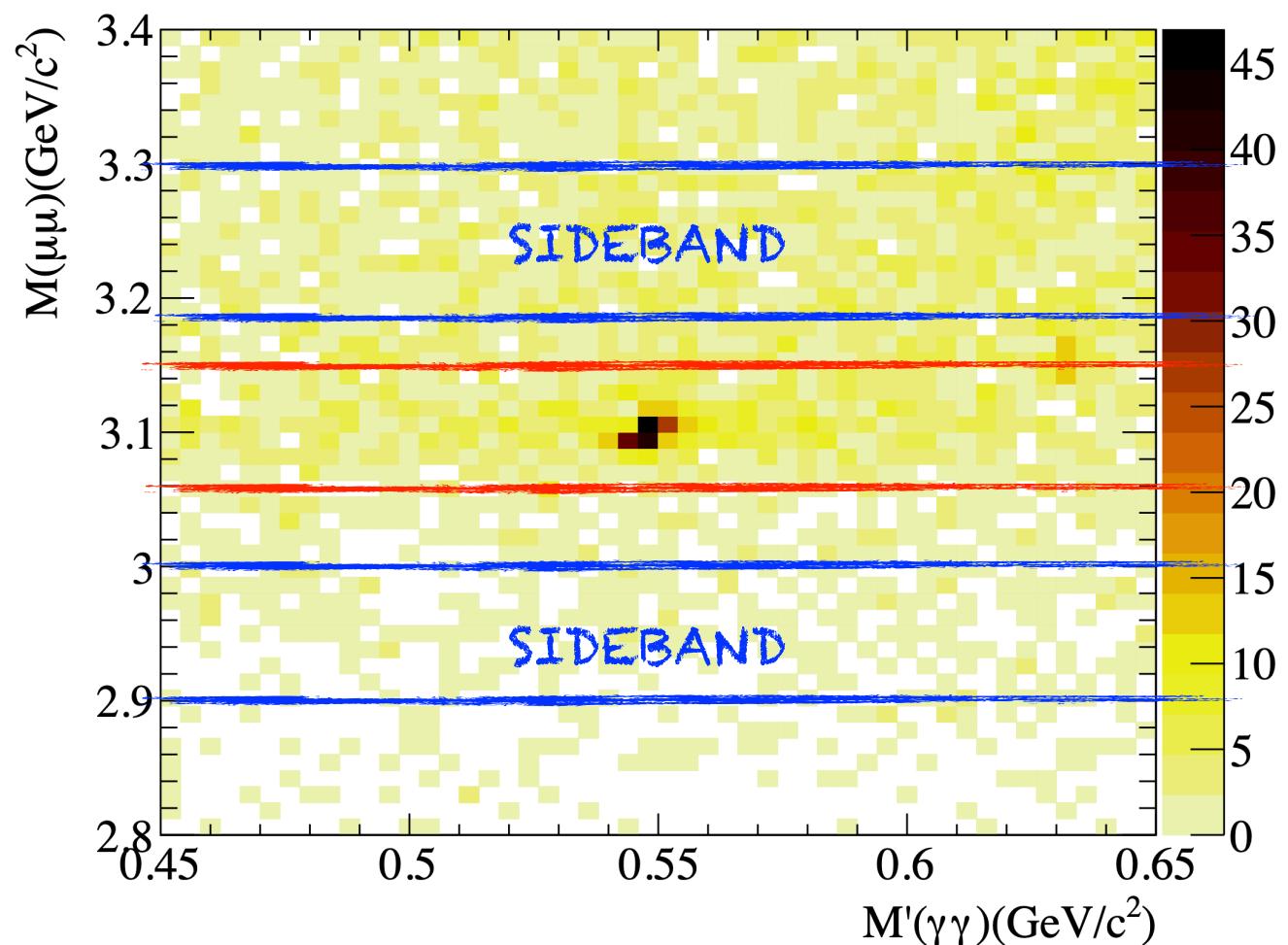
arXiv:2212.12165  
Submitted to PRL

Using the  $2.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$   $\psi(3770)$  data set

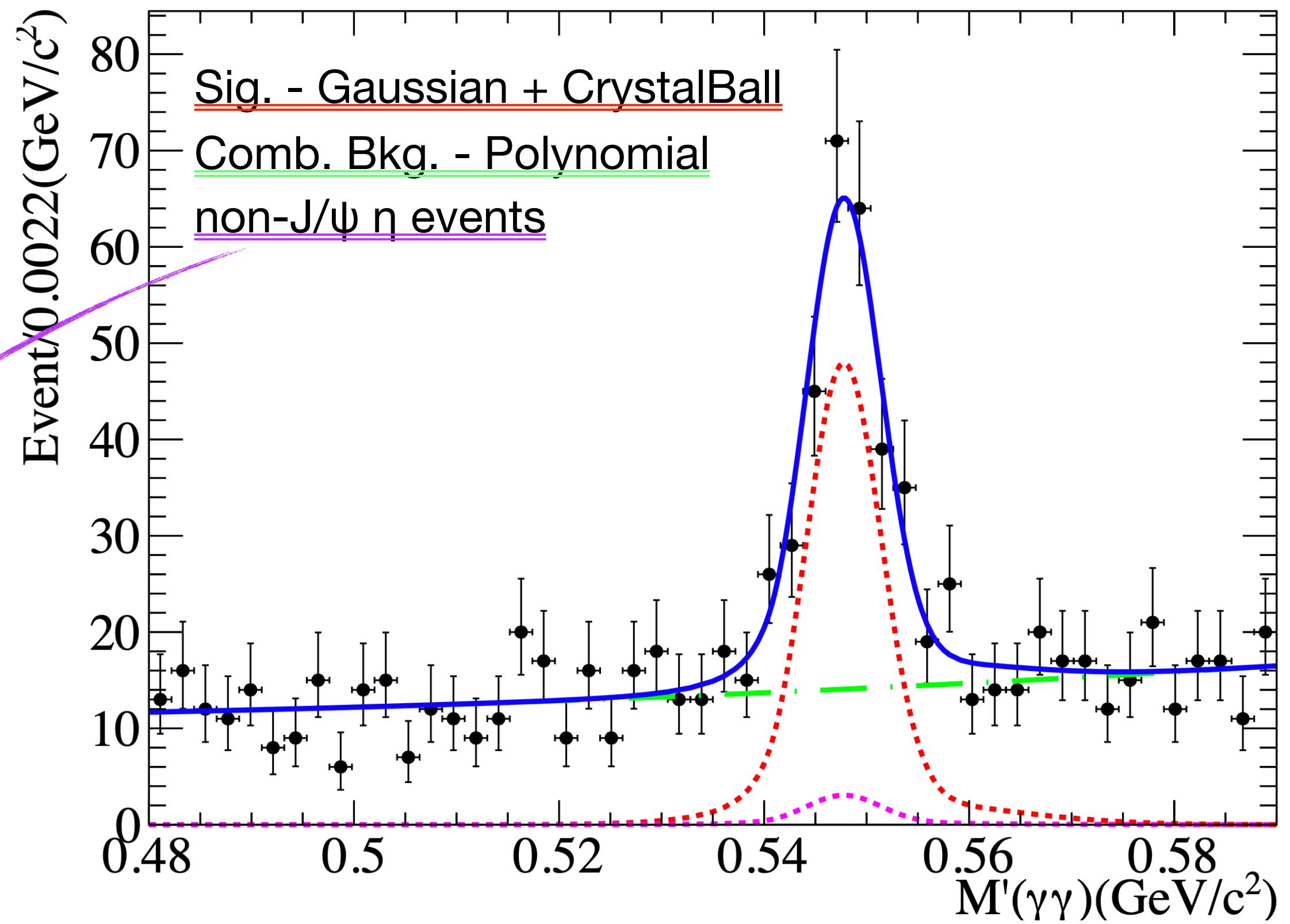
Search for the  $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \eta J/\psi$  decay, and study of the  $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \eta J/\psi)$  line-shape @  $\sqrt{s} = [3.773, 4.600] \text{ GeV}$

Peak observed in  $M'(\gamma\gamma) (\equiv M(\gamma\gamma) + M(\mu\mu) - m_{J/\psi})$  correlated to the  $J/\psi$  resonance in the  $M(\mu\mu)$  spectrum

To extract the signal yield , a fit to  $M'(\gamma\gamma)$  is performed in the  $M(\mu\mu)$  signal region



Estimated from a fit to the  $M'(\gamma\gamma)$  in the  $M(\mu\mu)$  sidebands and normalised by the ratio of non- $J/\psi$  events in the  $M(\mu\mu)$  signal region and sideband regions



# Evidence for $\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$ decay

arXiv:2211.11935  
Submitted to PRD

Using the 448 million  $\psi(2S)$  data set

Search for the  $\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$  decay through the M1  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \gamma \eta_c(2S)$  transition and determination of  $\mathcal{B}(\eta_c(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta)$

Due to the small energy of the  $\gamma_{M1}$ , having the background under control is fundamental

- I.  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta$  with a misidentified photon is reduced via a kinematic fit
- II.  $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \gamma_{FSR}$  is removed by rejecting  $M(\pi^+ \pi^- \gamma_{M1}) > 3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  events
- III.  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \eta \gamma_{FSR}$  cannot be reduced, hence a MC shape is used, the contribution is fixed to the ratio of events with and without an  $\gamma_{FSR}$  (MC-data corrected using a  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \gamma \chi_{c0} \rightarrow \gamma [\gamma_{FSR} 2(\pi^+ \pi^-)]$  control sample)

