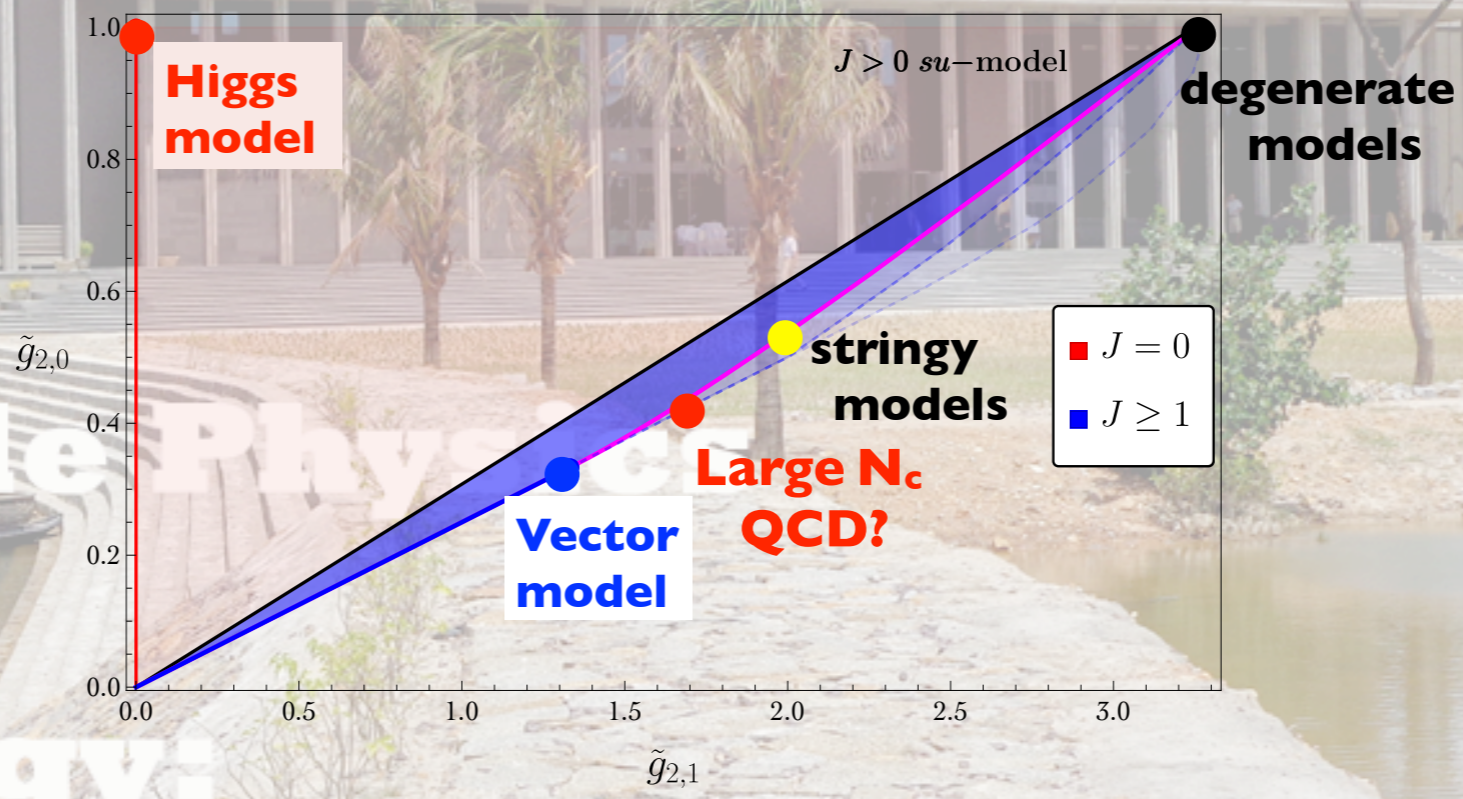


# Bootstrapping BSMs

**BSM  
in Particle Physics  
and  
Cosmology:  
50 years later**



**2024  
QUY NHON**

**Alex Pomarol, IFAE & UAB (Barcelona)**

based on 2211.12488 [hep-th] with C. Fernandez, F. Riva and F. Sciotti  
2307.04729 [hep-th] with T. Ma and F. Sciotti

# Motivation



UV completion?

Effective Field Theory (EFT)

good tool to describe exp. data!

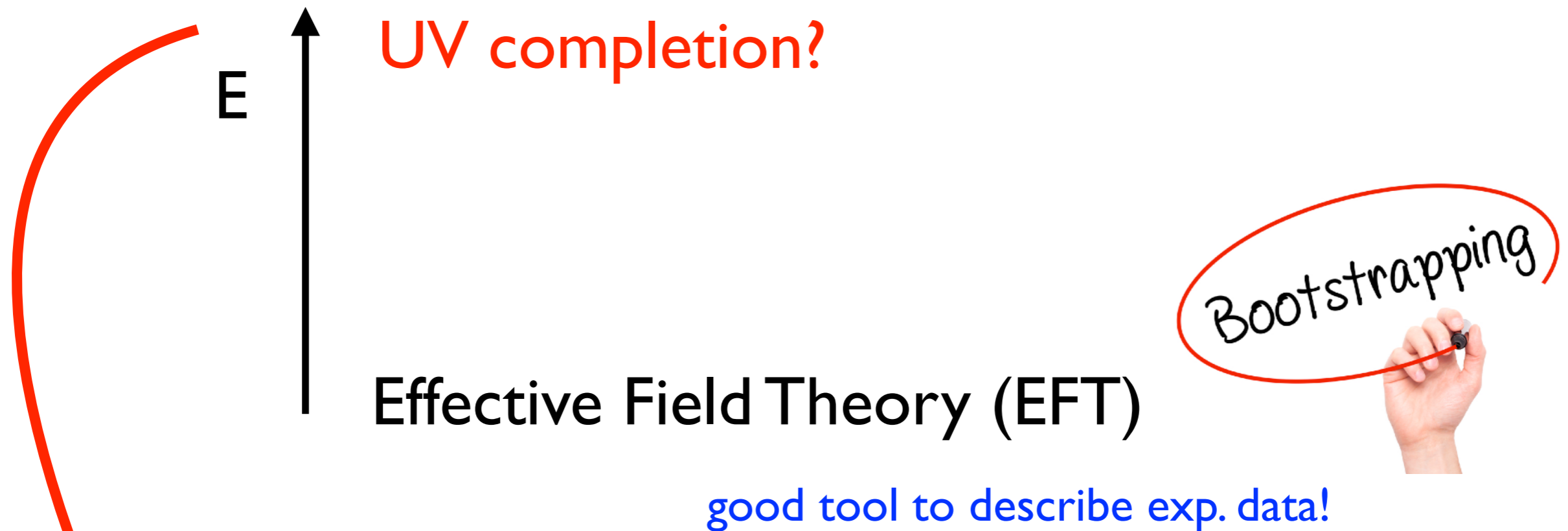
# Motivation



Usual BSM approach: model by model...

*e.g., SM hierarchy problem: MSSM, composite Higgs,...*

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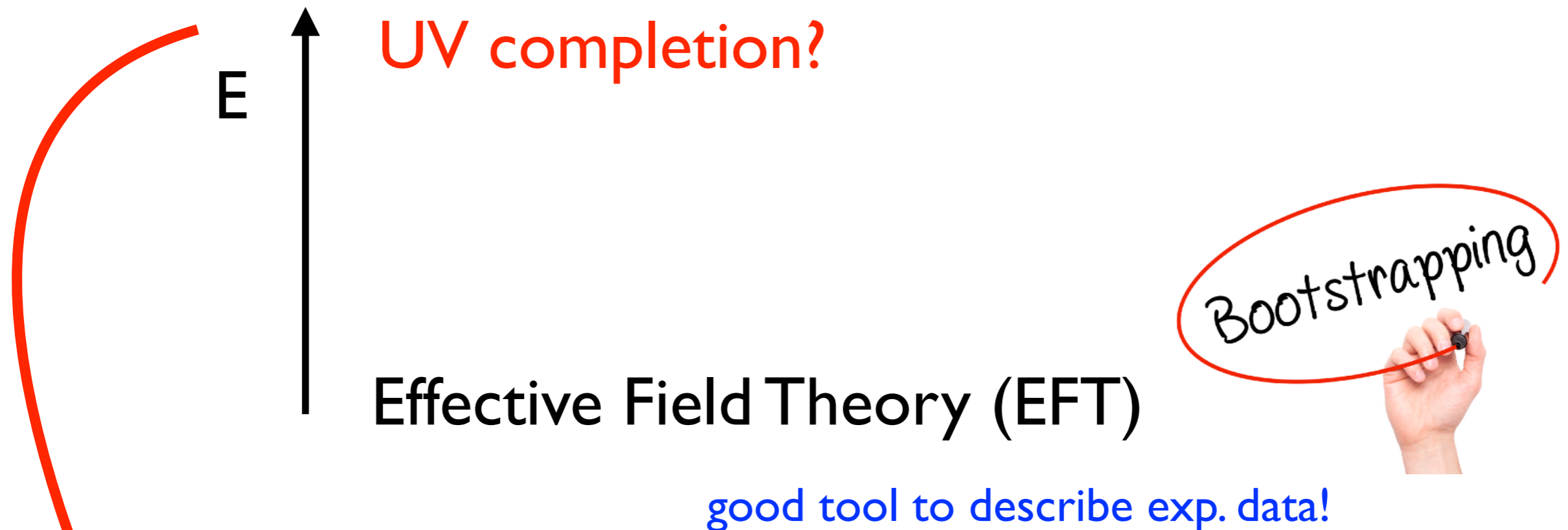


More general approach:

tackle by just demanding “good” properties to the BSM:

**Lorentz, Positivity, locality (analyticity), crossing, ...**

# Motivation



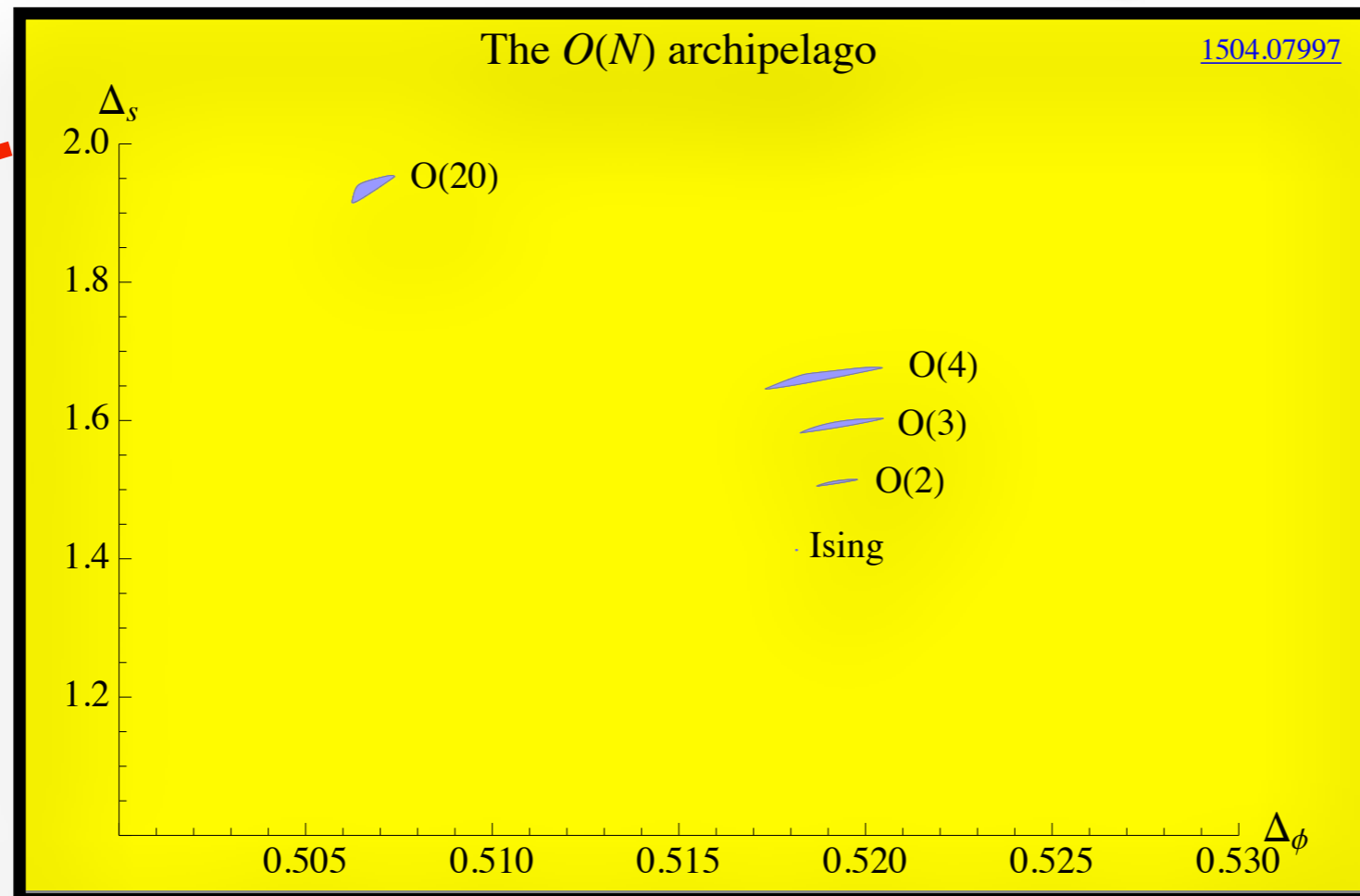
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👉 It has been shown in many recent examples that they can provide very **powerful** constraints

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Bootstrapping

More general approach:

tackle by just demanding “good” properties to the BSM:

**Lorentz, Positivity, locality (analyticity), crossing, ...**

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# UV completion for a theory of Goldstones

E ↑

**UV completion?**

$\pi^a$

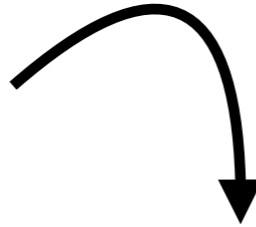
interesting for

- **QCD,**
- **axions,**
- **composite Higgs**

# UV completion for a theory of Goldstones

E ↑

**UV completion?**



*simplifying assumption:*

☞ weakly-coupled theories (tree-level)  
but with **infinite higher-spin states**

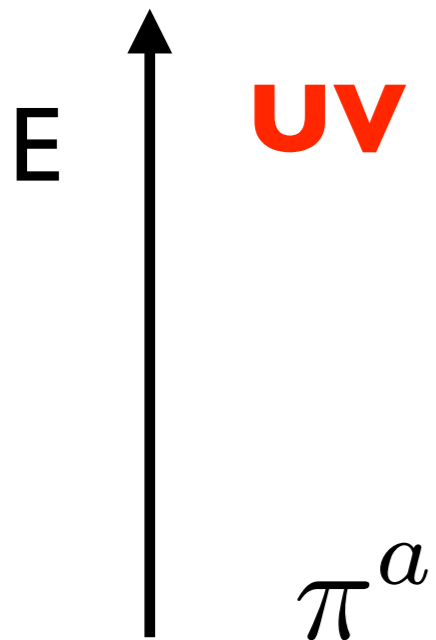
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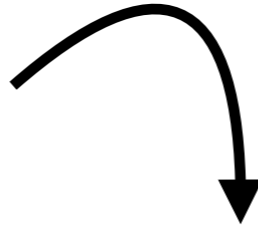
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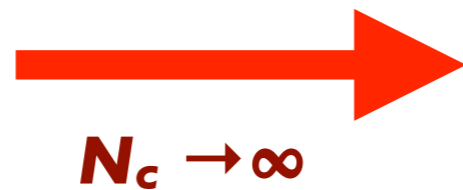
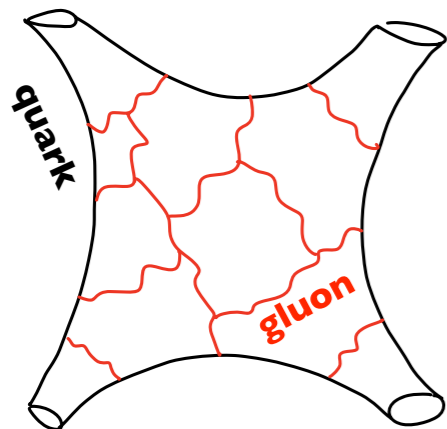
Also aiming **strongly-coupled gauge theories (QCD)**

in the **large- $N_c$**  limit:

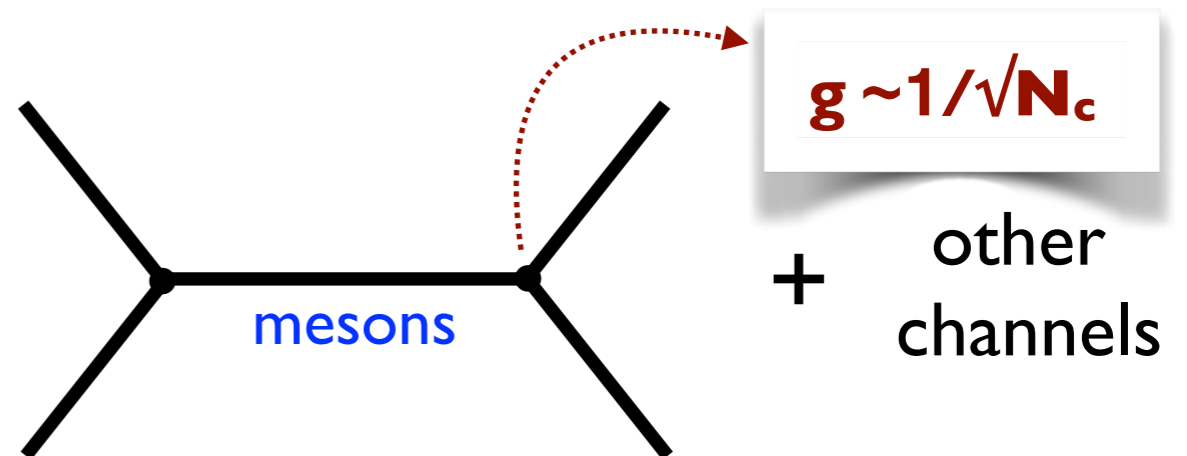
G. 't Hooft, Nucl. Phys. B 72, 461 (1974)

E. Witten, Nucl. Phys. B 160, 57 (1979)

quarks, gluons  
 **$SU(N_c)$**

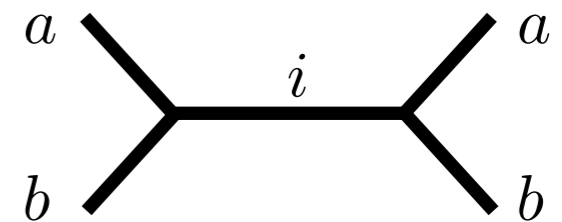
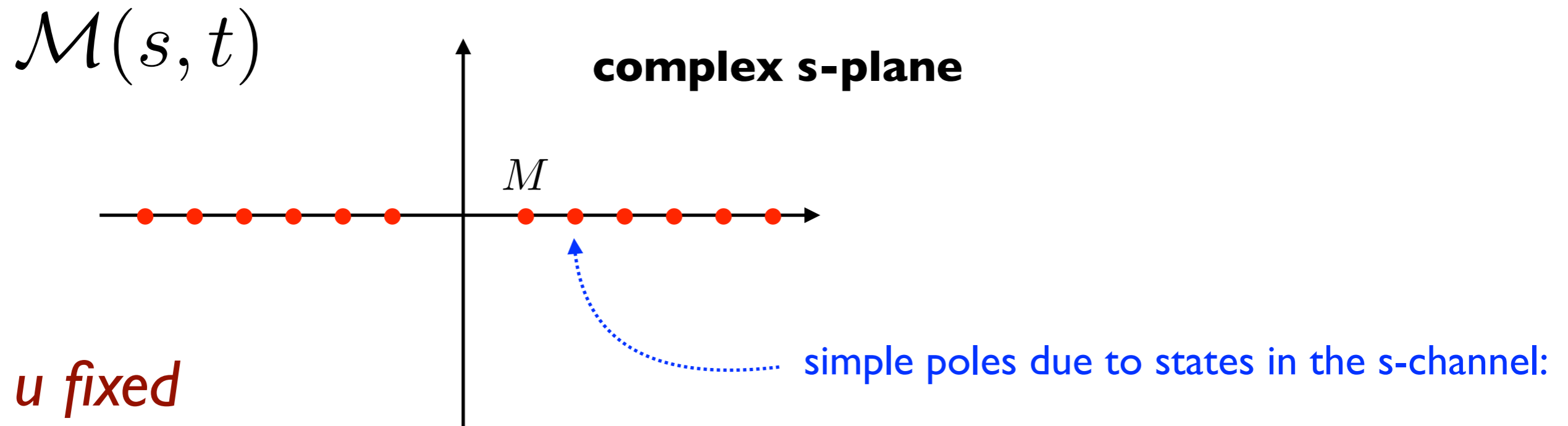


mesons ( $q\bar{q}$  states), glueballs



# Positivity bounds on (tree-level mediated) amplitudes

Analytical structure of  $2 \rightarrow 2$  amplitudes:

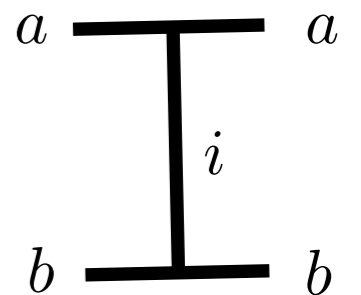
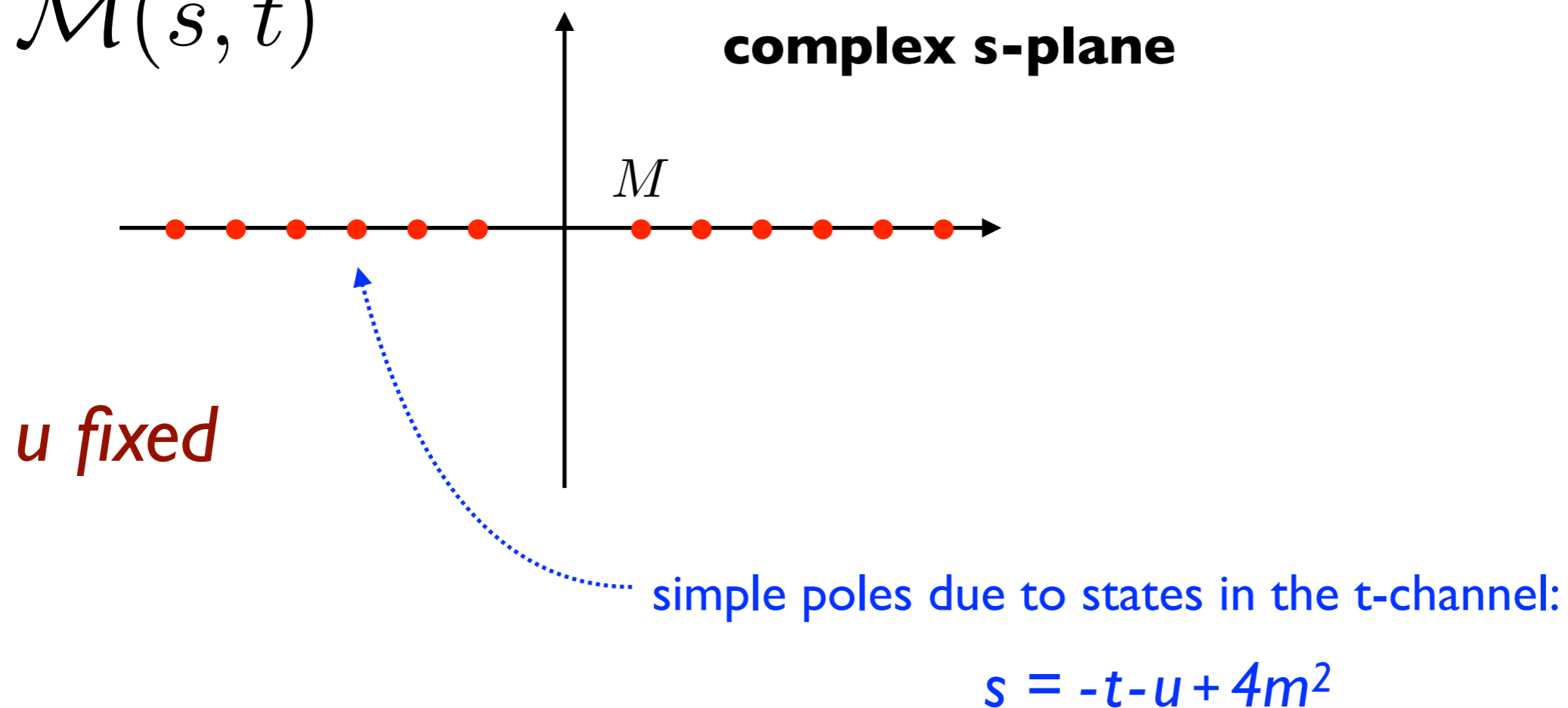


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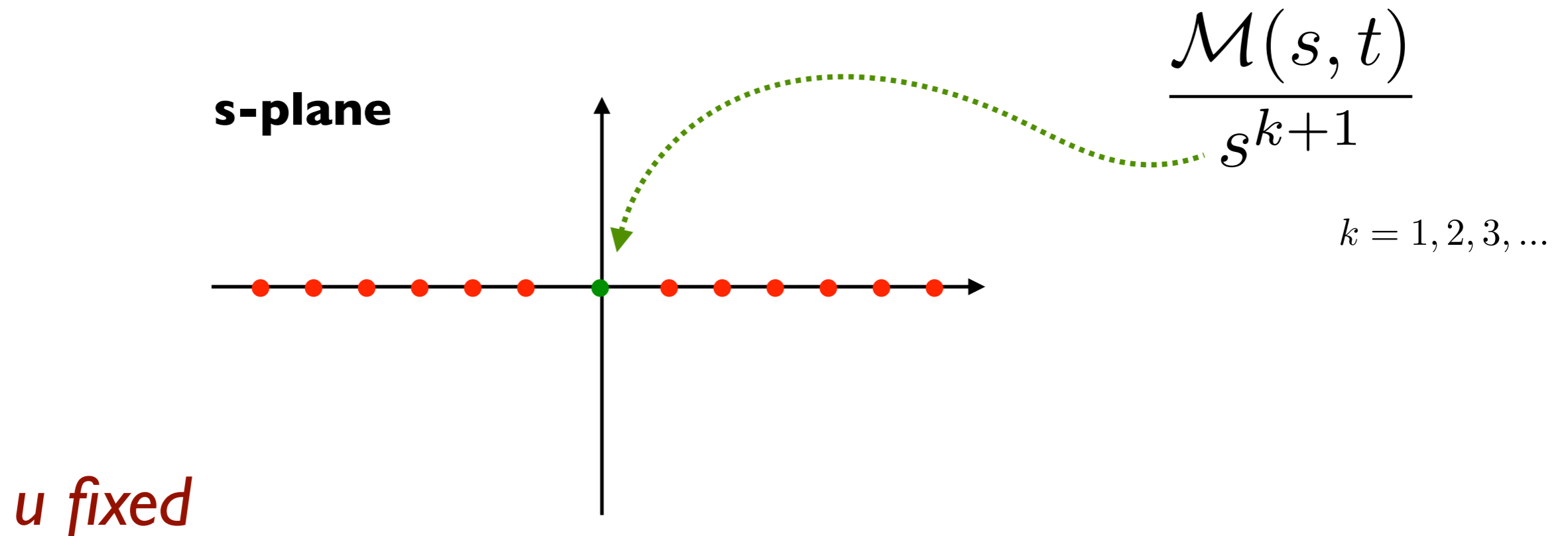
$\mathcal{M}(s, t)$

complex  $s$ -plane



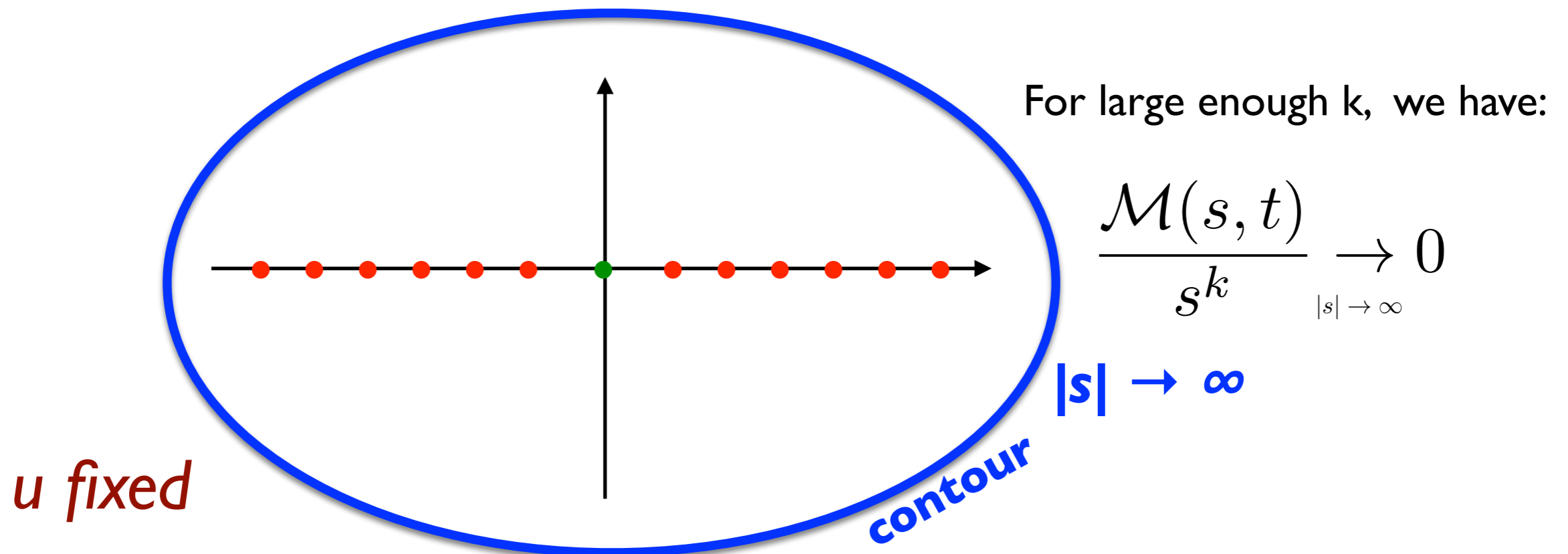
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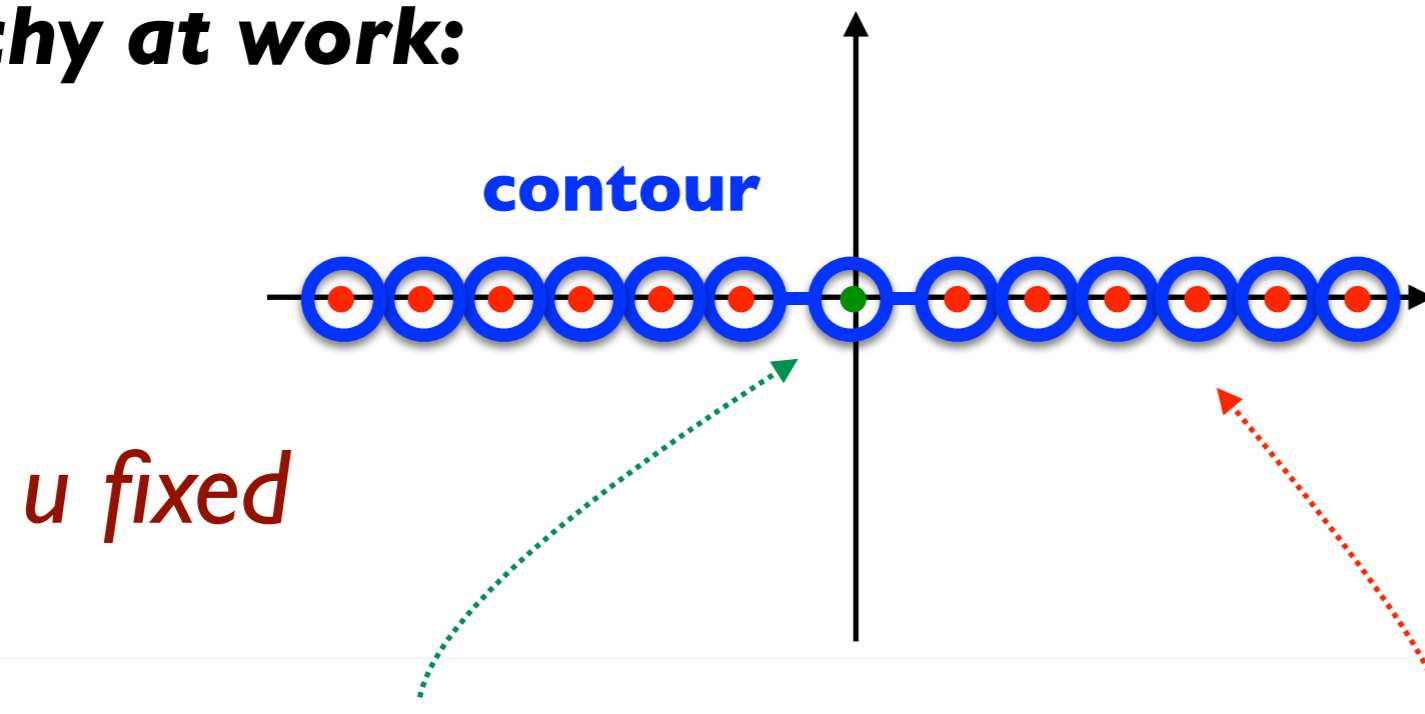


$$\oint \frac{\mathcal{M}(s, t)}{s^{k+1}} = 0$$

# Positivity bounds on (tree-level mediated) amplitudes

This simple structure allows to get dispersion relations:

**Cauchy at work:**



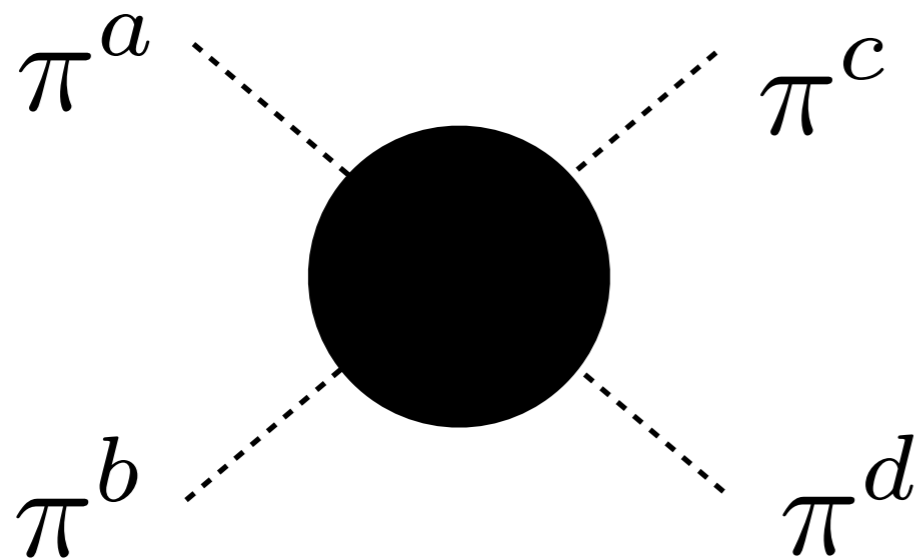
$$\text{residue at the origin} + \text{sum of residues at the mass poles} = 0$$

(*low-energy EFT parameters related to masses and couplings of mesons*)

# Goldstone-Goldstone scattering

J. Albert and L. Rastelli, arXiv: 2203.11950

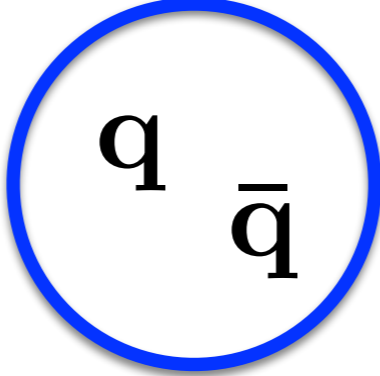
Lets assume an **SU(2)** (isospin) global symmetry



$\pi^a \in \mathbf{3}$  massless

*Goldstones from*  
 $SU(2) \otimes SU(2) \rightarrow SU(2)$

Extra condition from large- $N_c$  QCD:

**Mesons** = 

**Isospin = I =  $1/2 \otimes 1/2 = 0, 1$**

 **no I = 2 states**

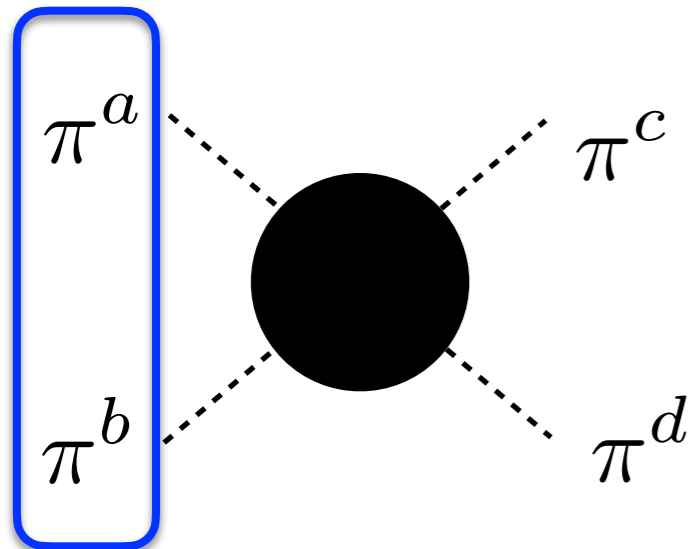


Extra condition from large- $N_c$  QCD:

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$$\mathcal{M}_s^{I=2}$$

cannot have poles in  $s$

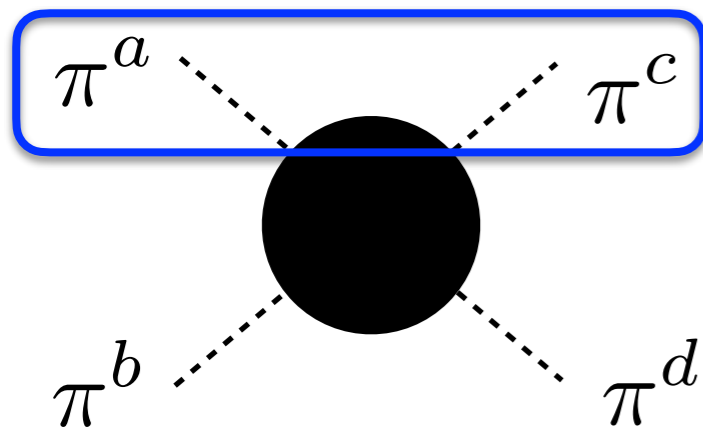
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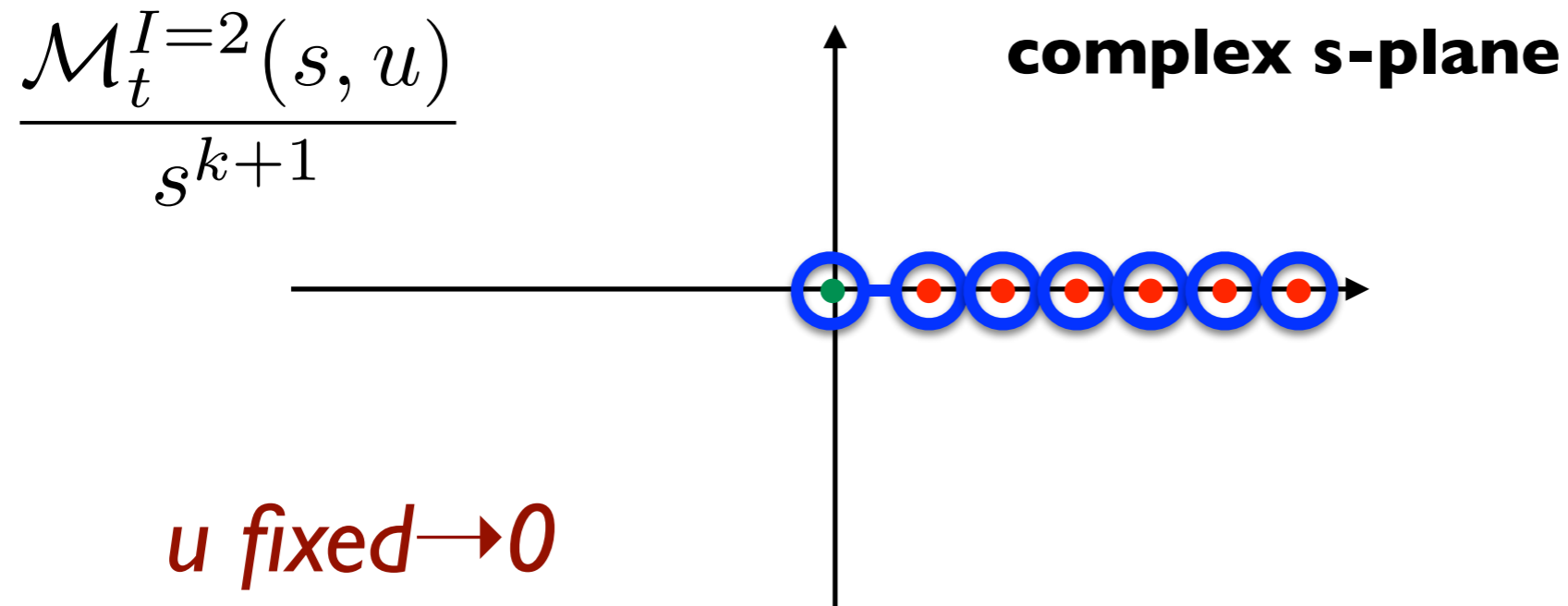
$$\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}$$

cannot have poles in  $t$

$I=2$

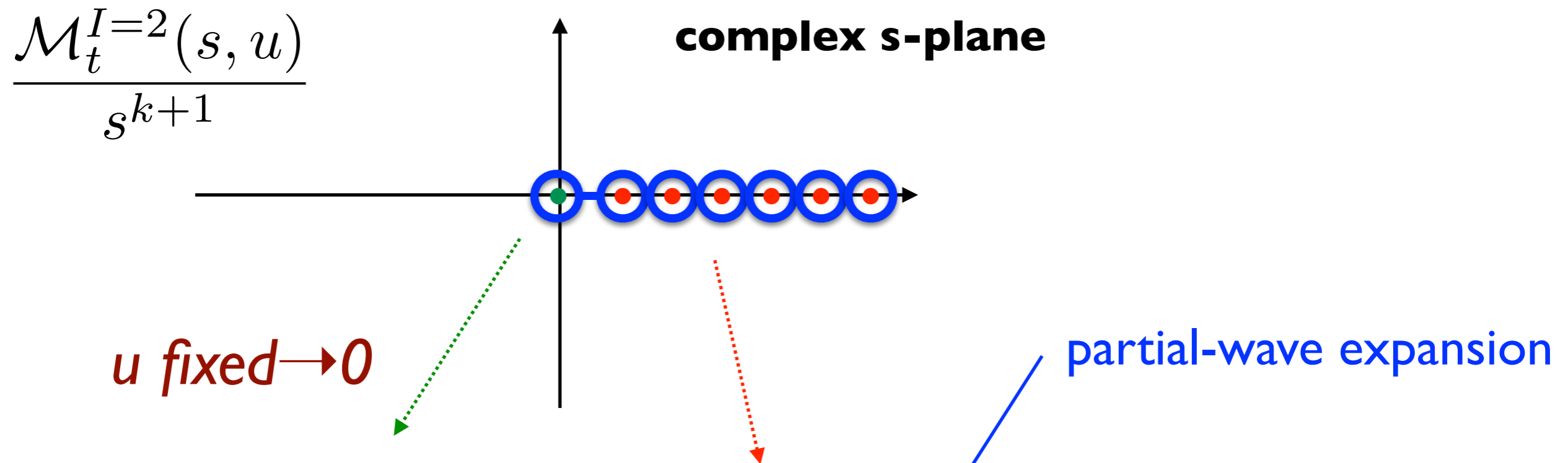
Working with  $\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)$   
(that cannot have poles in the t-channel)

crossing  $s \leftrightarrow u$  invariant



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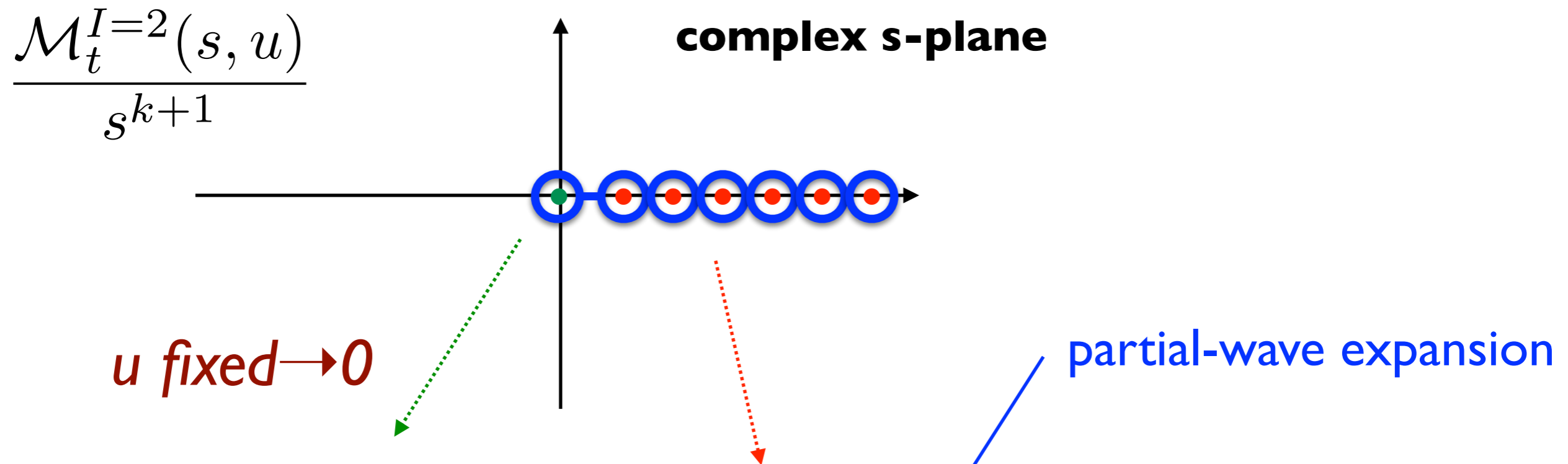
crossing  $s \leftrightarrow u$  invariant



$$\text{Res} \frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)}{s^{k+1}} = \sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{2k}} P_{J_i} \left( 1 + \frac{2u}{m_i^2} \right)$$

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Wilson coefficients

$$\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u) \xrightarrow{s, u \rightarrow 0} \boxed{g_{1,0}}(s + u) + \boxed{g_{2,0}}(s^2 + u^2) + \boxed{g_{2,1}}su + \dots$$

# Legendre pol. and derivatives (all positive!)

## small $u$ expansion:

$$k = 1 : \quad g_{1,0} + g_{2,1}u + g_{3,1}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi i}|^2 \left( \frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^2} + 2 \frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4} u + 2 \frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6} u^2 + \dots \right),$$

$$k = 2 : \quad g_{2,0} + g_{3,1}u + g_{4,2}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi i}|^2 \left( \frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4} + 2 \frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6} u + 2 \frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^8} u^2 + \dots \right),$$

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⋮

# Legendre pol. and derivatives (all positive!)

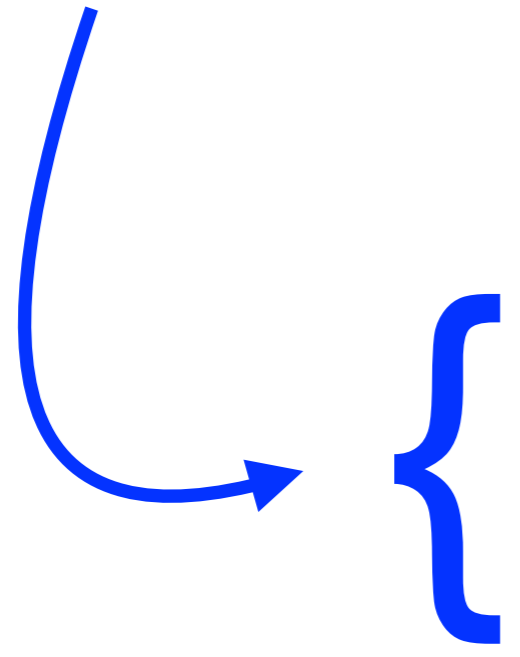
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⋮



$$g_{n,0} = \sum_i \frac{g_{i\pi\pi}^2}{m_i^{2n}}$$

all states  
contribute  
positively!

$$g_{n+1,1} = \sum_i \frac{g_{i\pi\pi}^2 J_i(J_i + 1)}{m_i^{2(n+1)}}$$

→ the larger the  $J$ ,  
the smaller  $g_{i\pi\pi}/m_i$

## small u expansion:

$$\begin{aligned} k = 1 : \quad & g_{1,0} + g_{2,1}u + \boxed{g_{3,1}u^2} + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi i}|^2 \left( \frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^2} + 2\frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4}u + 2\frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6}u^2 + \dots \right), \\ k = 2 : \quad & g_{2,0} + \boxed{g_{3,1}u} + g_{4,2}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi i}|^2 \left( \frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^4} + 2\frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6}u + 2\frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^8}u^2 + \dots \right), \\ k = 3 : \quad & g_{3,0} + g_{4,1}u + g_{5,2}u^2 + \dots = \sum_i |g_{\pi\pi i}|^2 \left( \frac{P_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^6} + 2\frac{P'_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^8}u + 2\frac{P''_{J_i}(1)}{m_i^{10}}u^2 + \dots \right), \\ & \vdots \end{aligned}$$

due to crossing, overconstrained system!

👉 **infinite constraints in the spectrum and couplings**







# Implications of Positivity bounds

Lets assume at  $|s| \rightarrow \infty$  & either t or u fixed:

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)}{s} \xrightarrow[k_{min}=1]{} 0$$

*expected from Regge theory*

# Infinite set of Sum Rules:

$$\sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^6} J_i(J_i + 1)(J_i - 2)(J_i + 3) = 0$$

$$\sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{10}} J_i(J_i - 1)(J_i + 1)(J_i + 2)(J_i^2 + J_i - 15) = 0$$

$$\sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{14}} J_i(J_i - 2)(J_i - 1)(J_i + 1)(J_i + 2)(J_i + 3)(J_i^2 + J_i - 28) = 0$$

⋮

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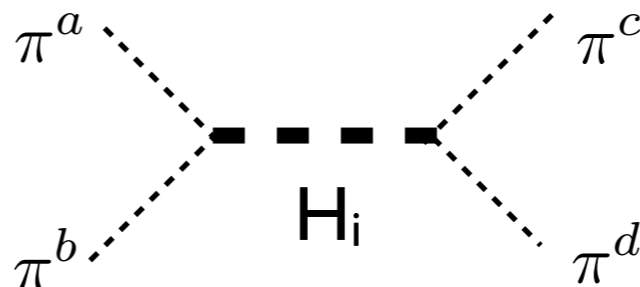
$$\sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{14}} J_i (J_i - 2)(J_i - 1)(J_i + 1)(J_i + 2)(J_i + 3)(J_i^2 + J_i - 28) = 0$$

⋮

**$J_i = 0$  states satisfy all constraints**

**➡ possible UV completion:**

**Theory of Scalars (*Higgs mechanism*)**

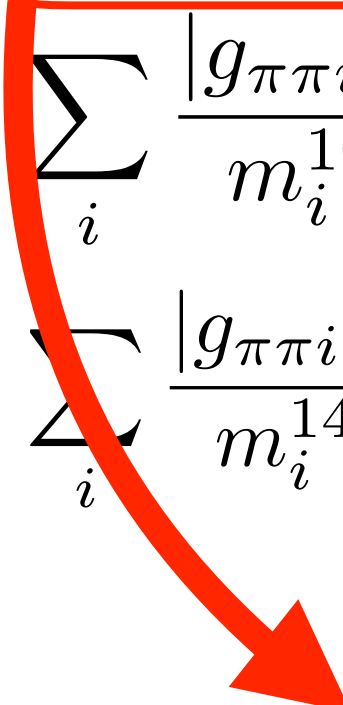


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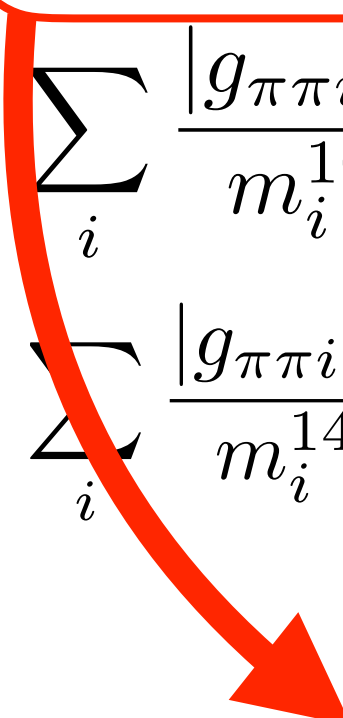
**spin-1 must** be in the spectrum with the largest coupling

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**Vector Meson Dominance (VMD),**

assumed in the past to explain QCD experimental data

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⋮

**spin-2 must be in the spectrum**



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⋮



**spin-3 must be in the spectrum**

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⋮



non-scalar UV completions require **all spin states**  
with couplings to pions decreasing with  $J$

From the constraints, we find numerically ( $\sim 50$  constraint,  $J_{\max} \sim 1000$ ):

## Upper bound on couplings

(normalized to  $m_i^2 / F_\pi^2$ )

J	$ g_{\pi\pi i} ^2$
1	0.78
2	0.18
3	0.03

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(normalized to  $m_i^2 / F_\pi^2$ )

J	$ g_{\pi\pi i} ^2$	Exp. QCD	
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2	0.18	$\longrightarrow$	0.18
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# Constraints on Wilson coefficients

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{F_\pi^2}{4} \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial^\mu U) + L_1 \text{Tr}^2 (\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial^\mu U) + L_2 \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial_\nu U) \text{Tr} (\partial^\mu U^\dagger \partial^\nu U) + L_3 \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial^\mu U \partial_\nu U^\dagger \partial^\nu U)$$


$$e^{i \sigma^a \pi^a / F_\pi}$$

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**$\mathcal{O}(s^2)$ :**

$$\tilde{g}_{2,0} = 4(2L_1 + 3L_2 + L_3) \frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2},$$

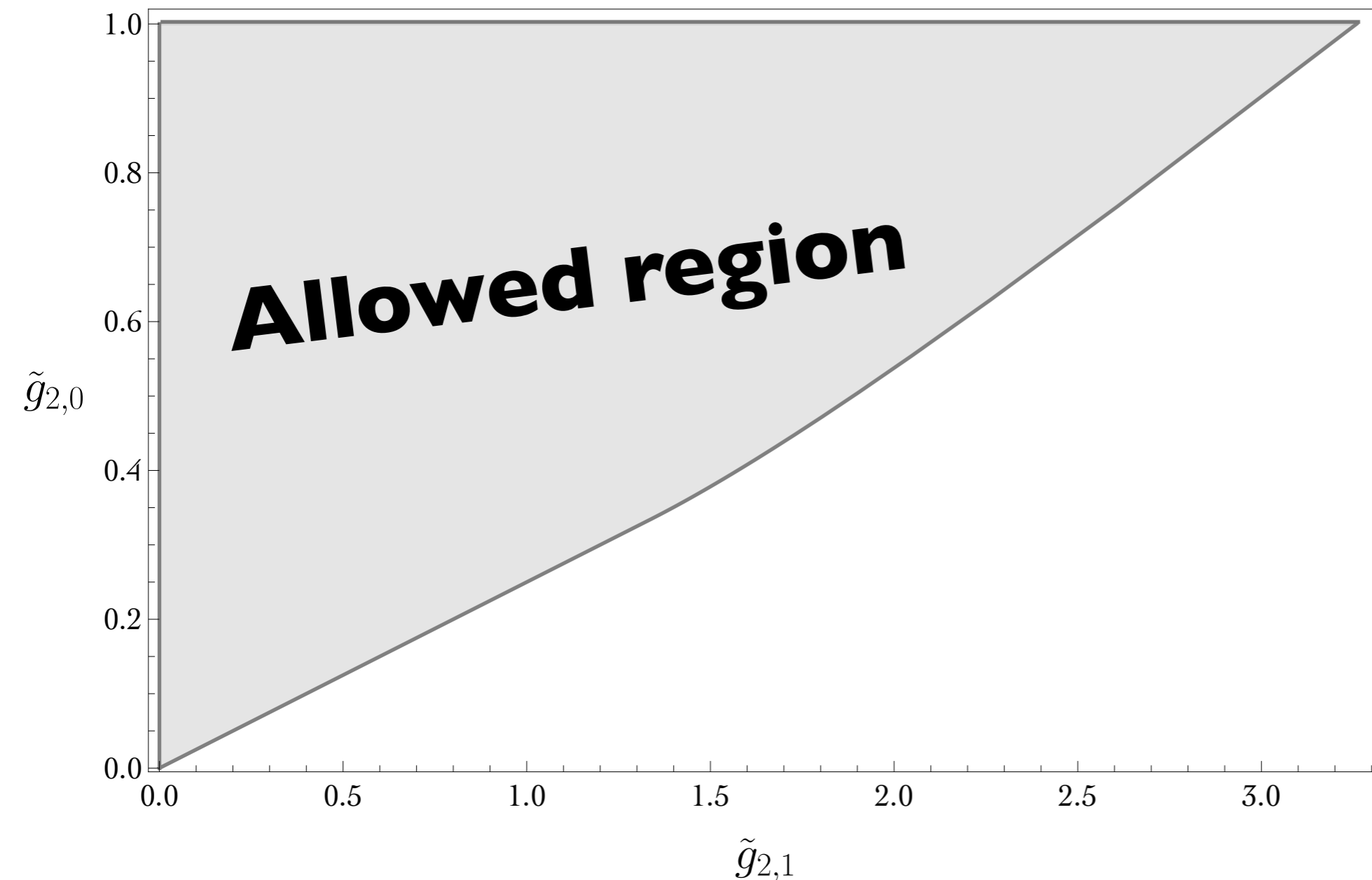
$$\tilde{g}_{2,1} = 16L_2 \frac{M^2}{F_\pi^2}$$

← mass of the 1st meson

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“Polyhedral”  
bounds

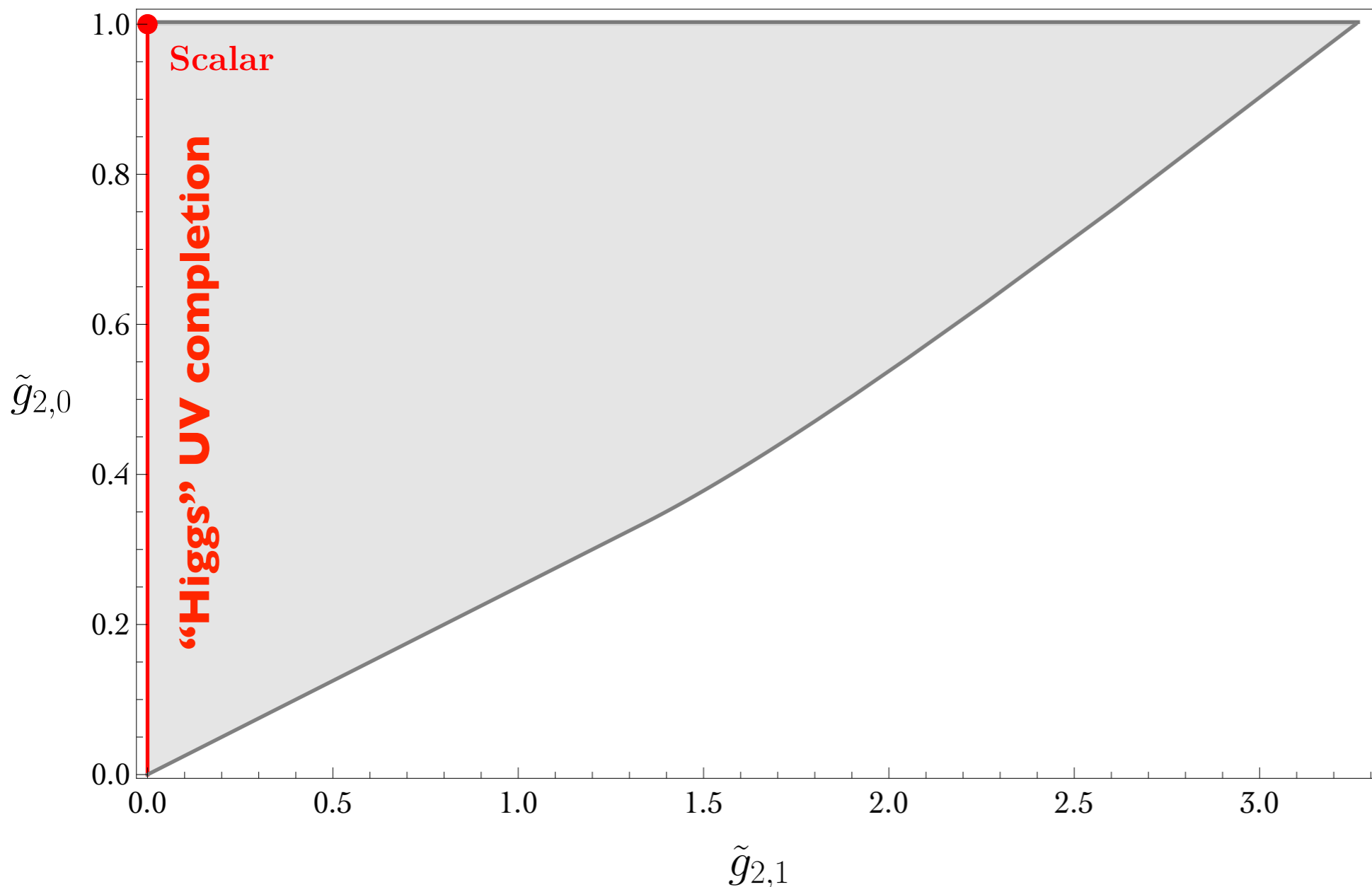
↓

EFTs are  
“**EFT-hedron**”

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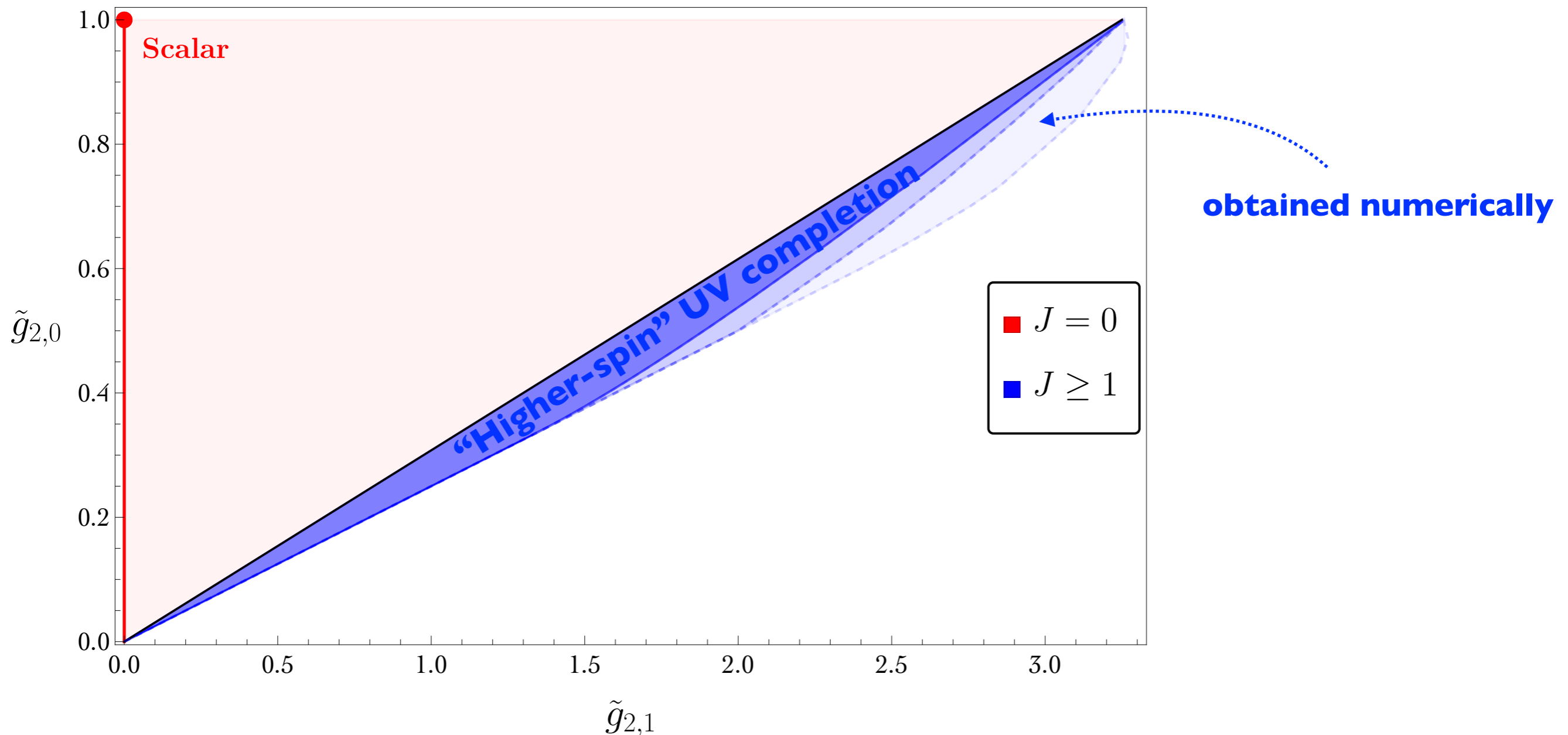




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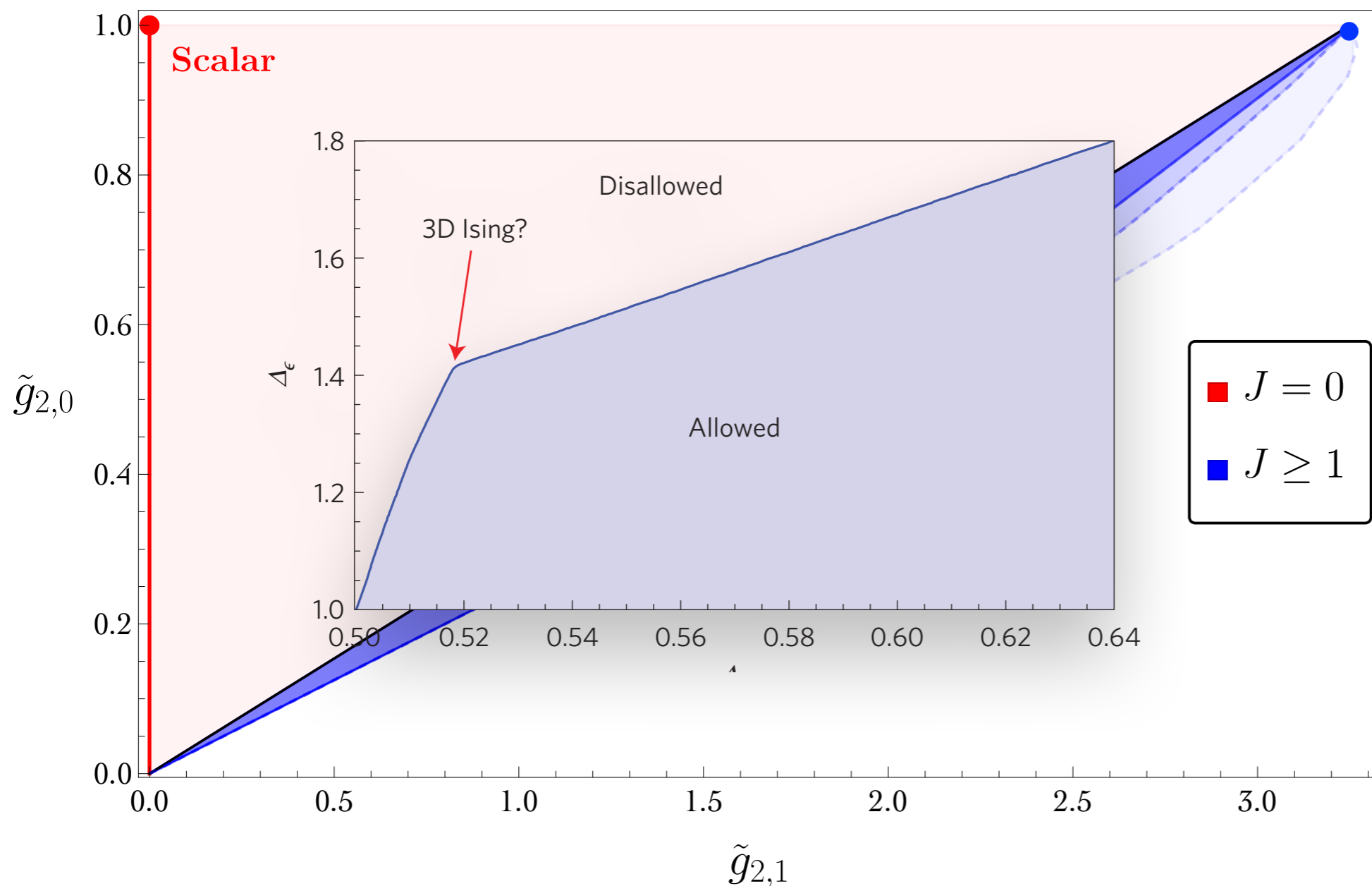
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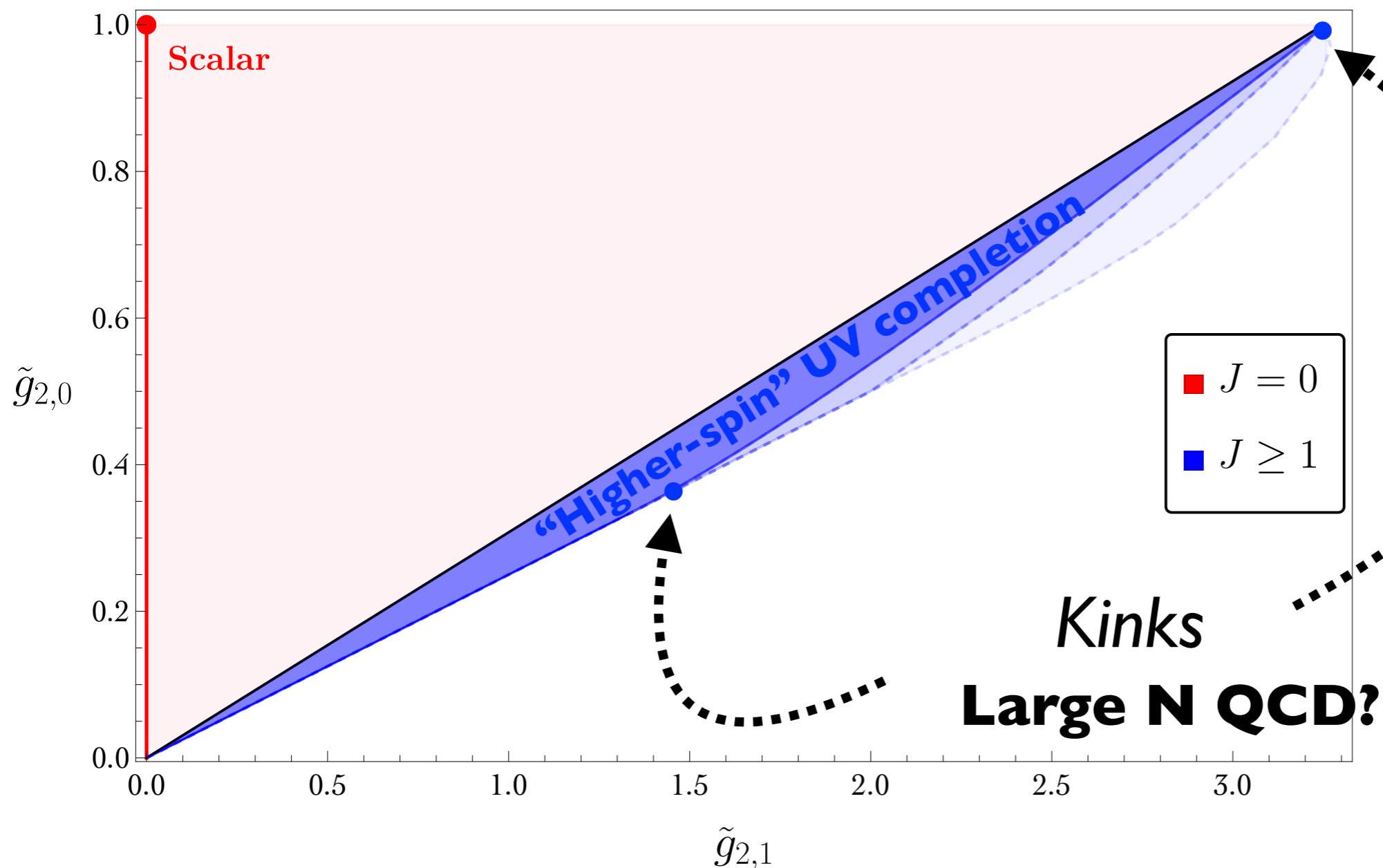
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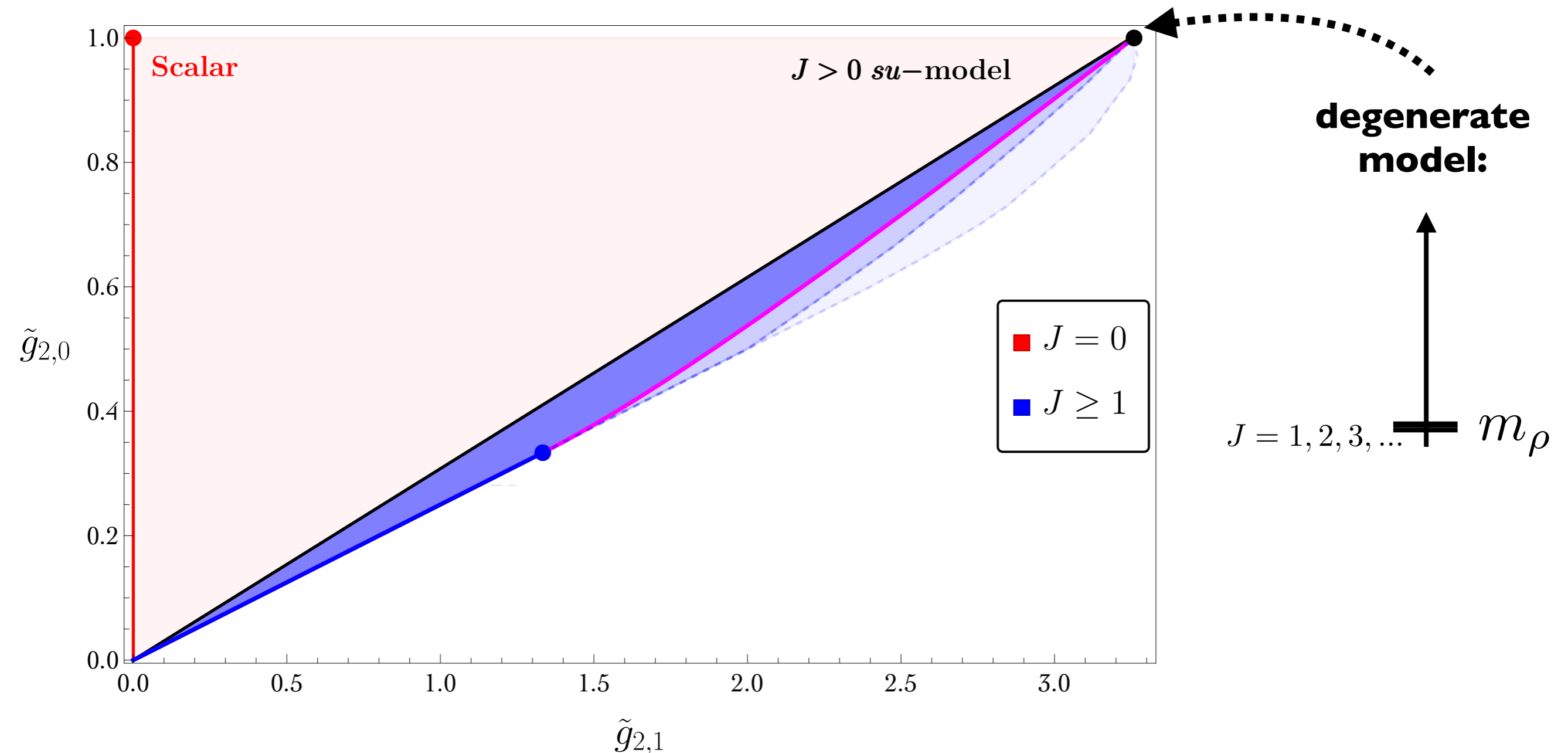
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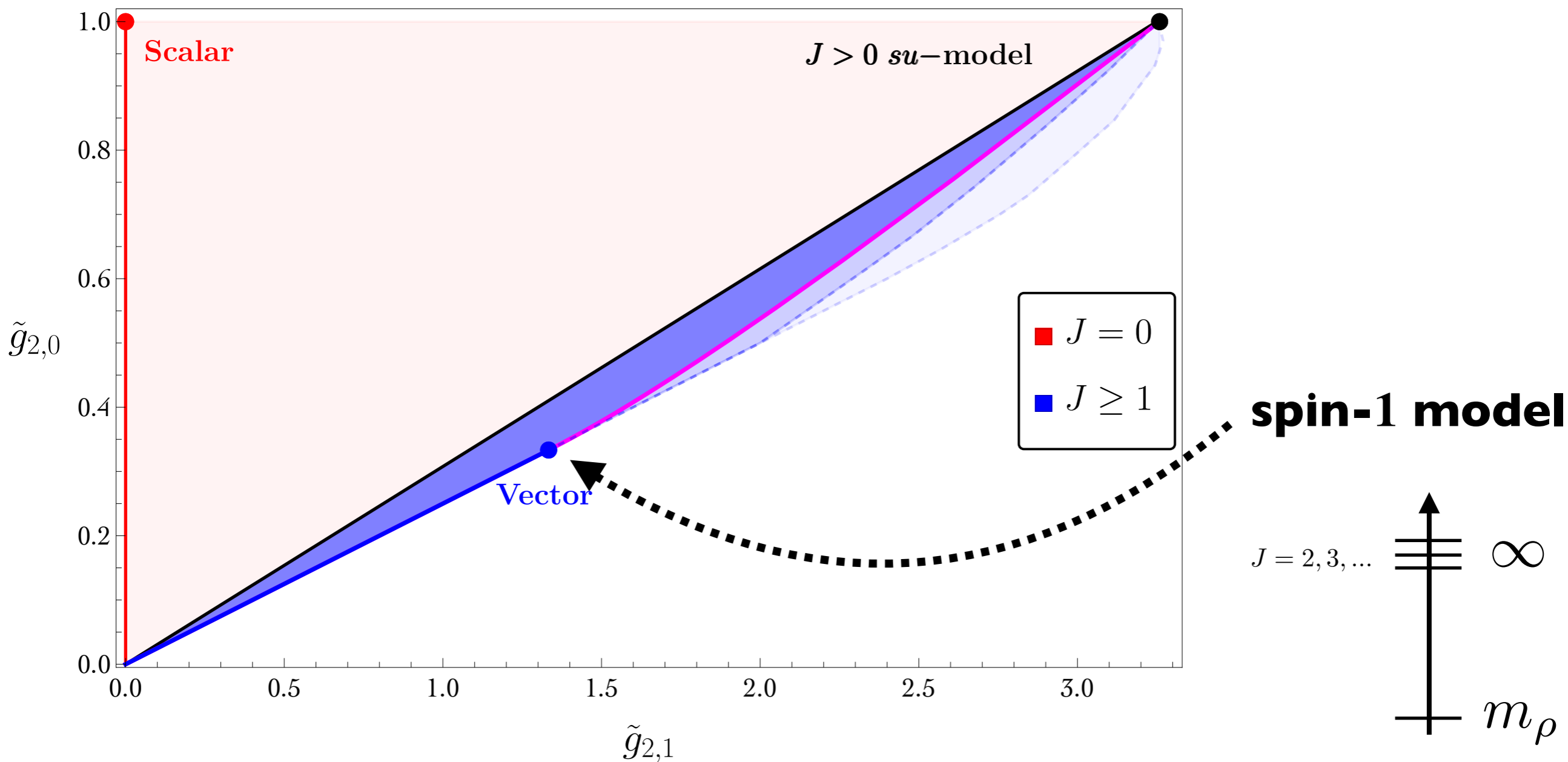
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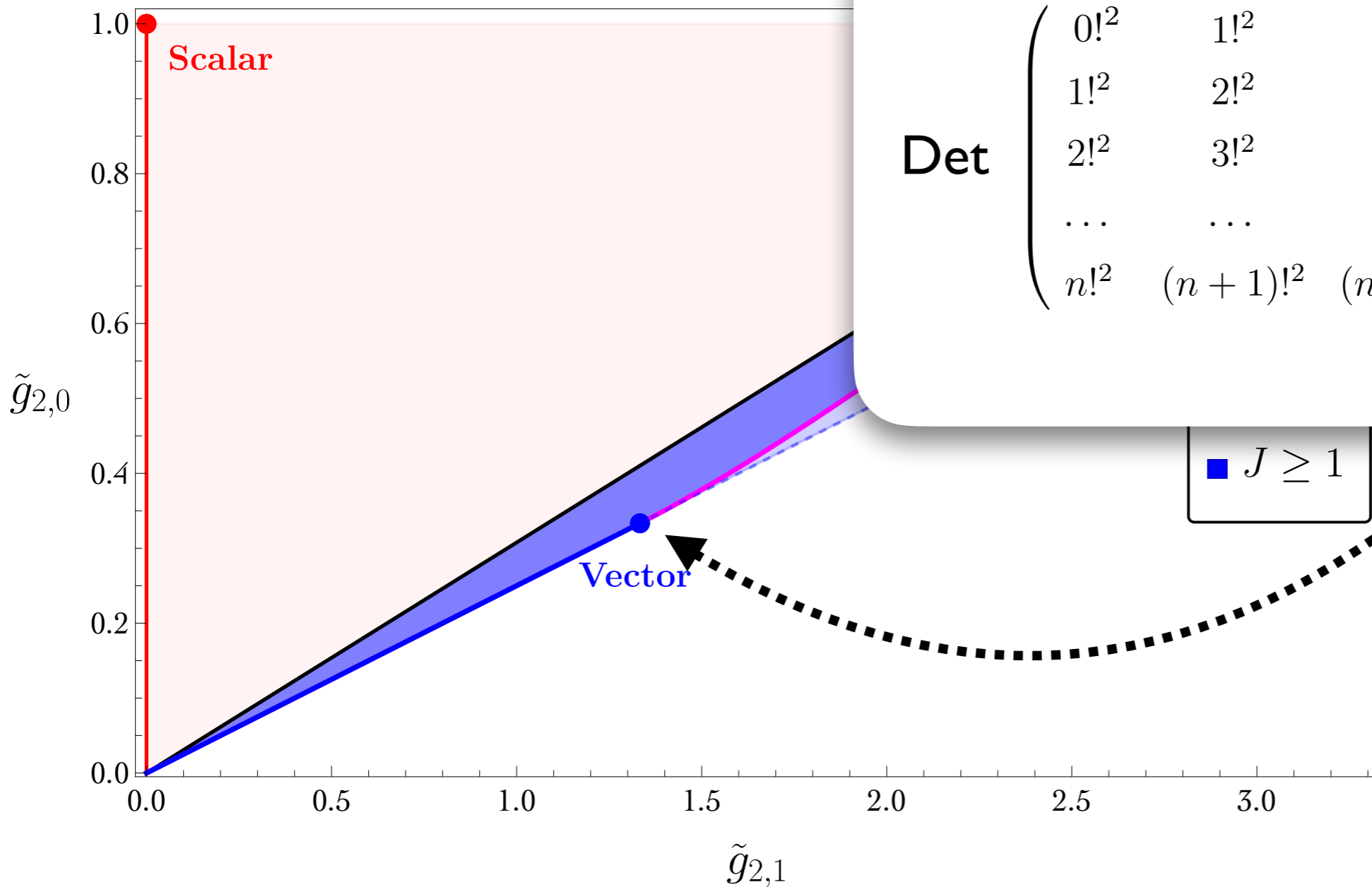
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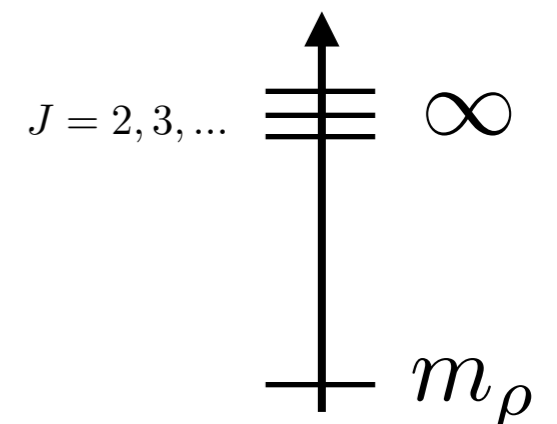
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Amazingly, related to the fact that

$$\text{Det} \begin{pmatrix} 0!^2 & 1!^2 & 2!^2 & \dots & n!^2 \\ 1!^2 & 2!^2 & 3!^2 & \dots & (n+1)!^2 \\ 2!^2 & 3!^2 & 4!^2 & \dots & (n+2)!^2 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \ddots & \vdots \\ n!^2 & (n+1)!^2 & (n+2)!^2 & \dots & (2n)!^2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$



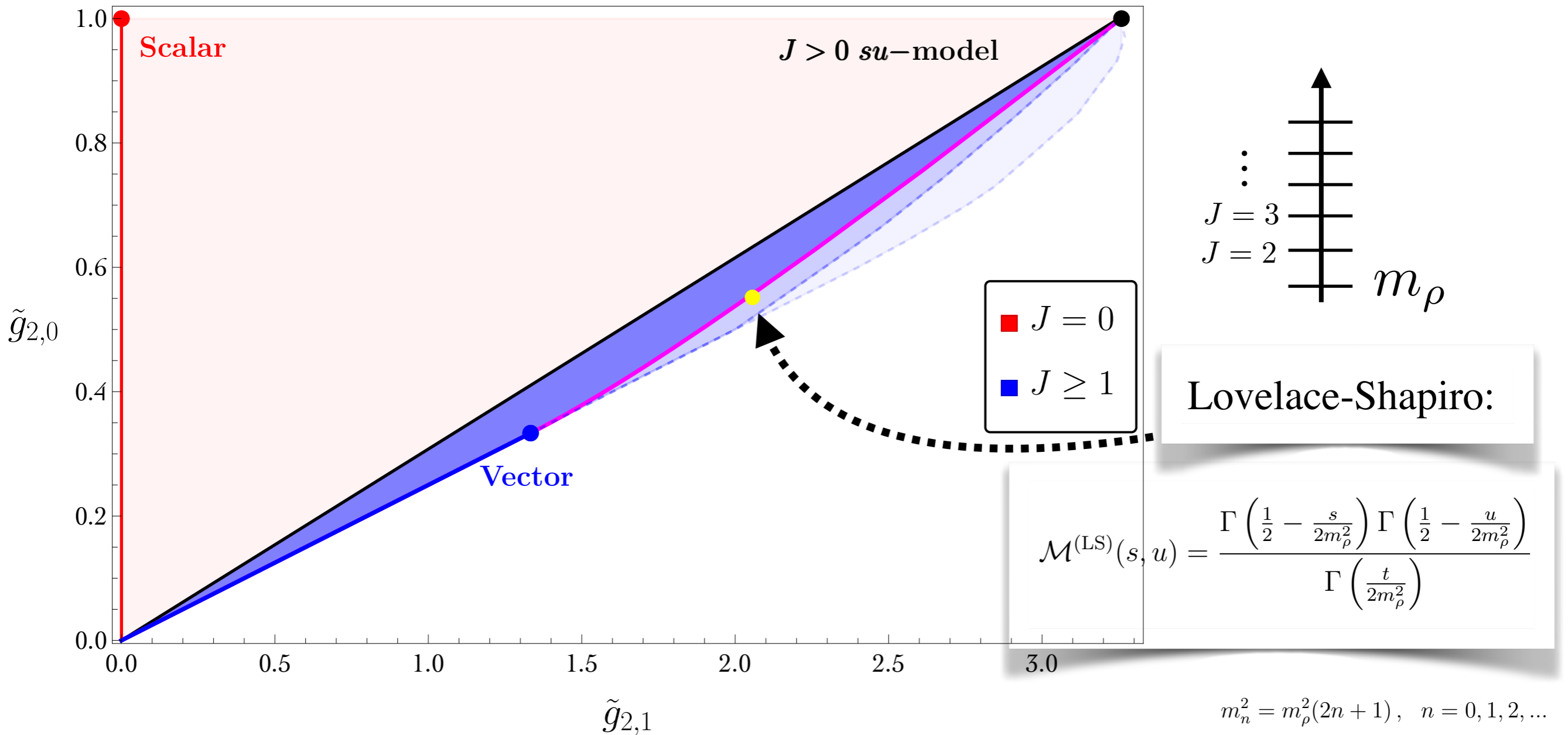
**spin-1 model**



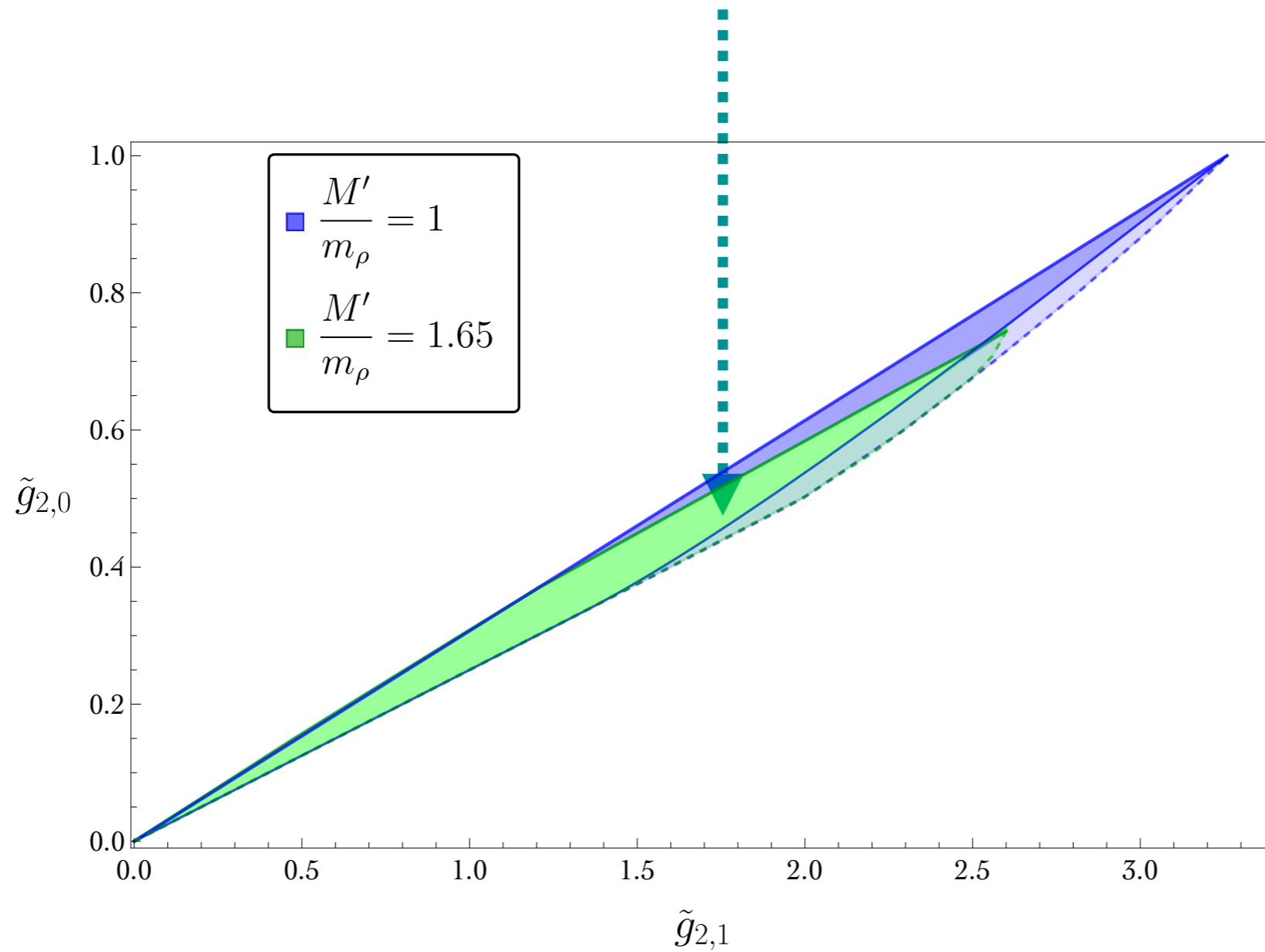
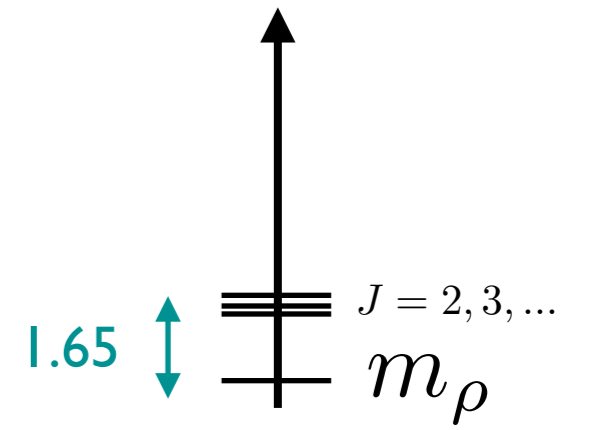
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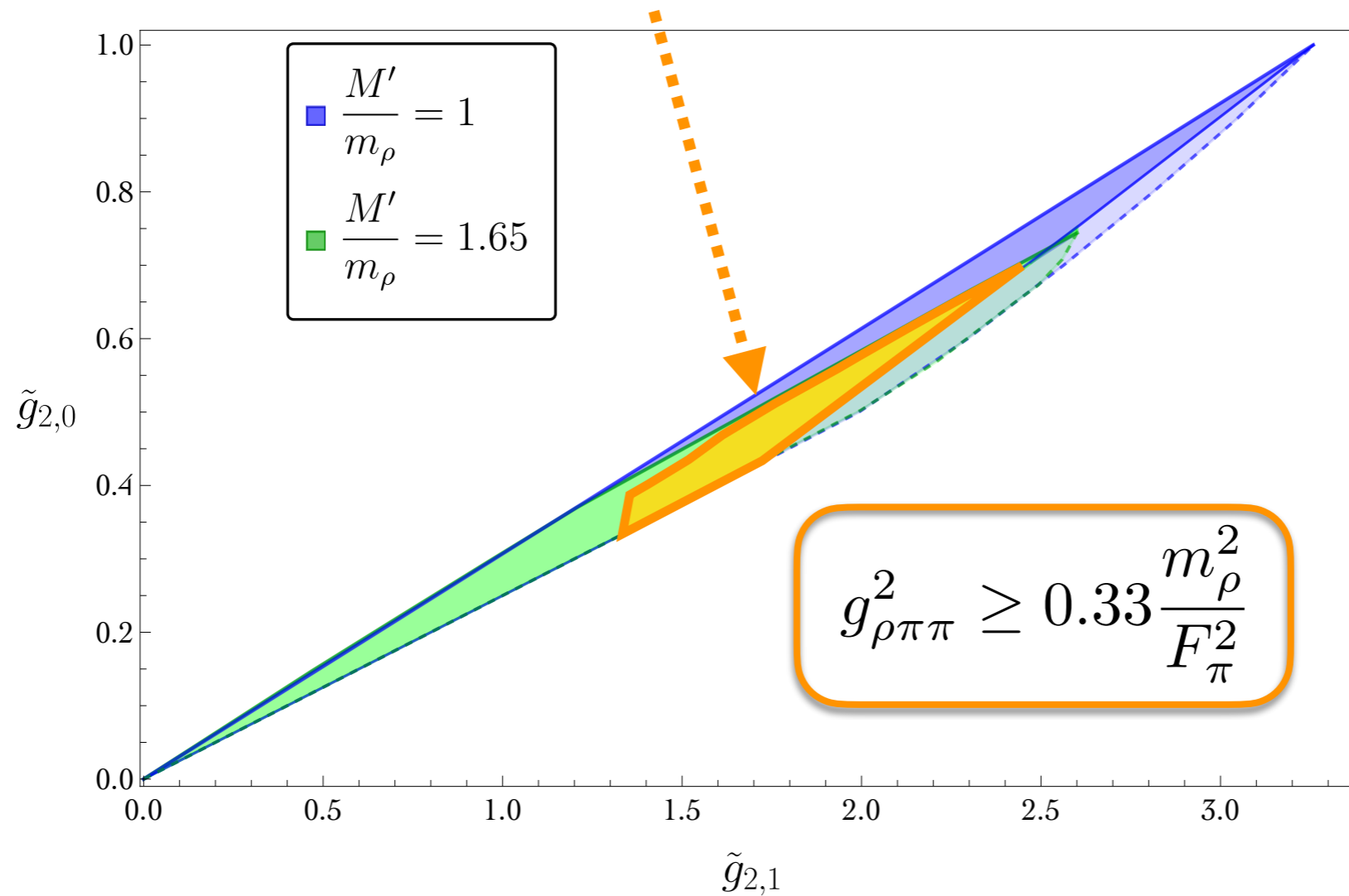
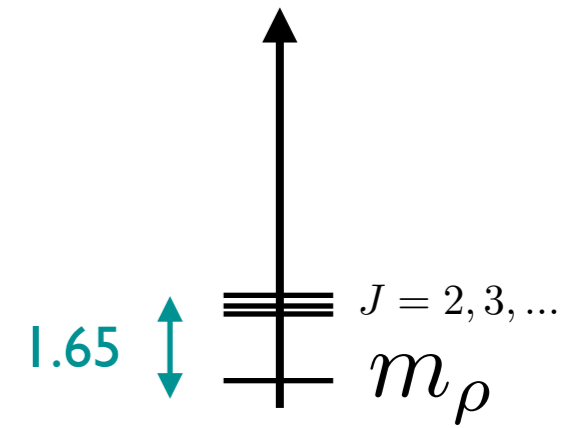
**stronger bounds if we assume that,  
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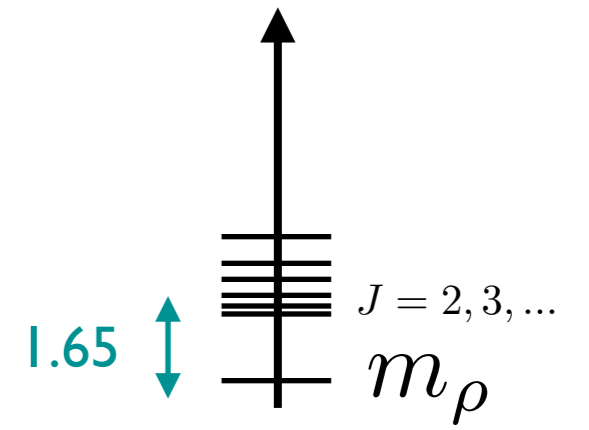
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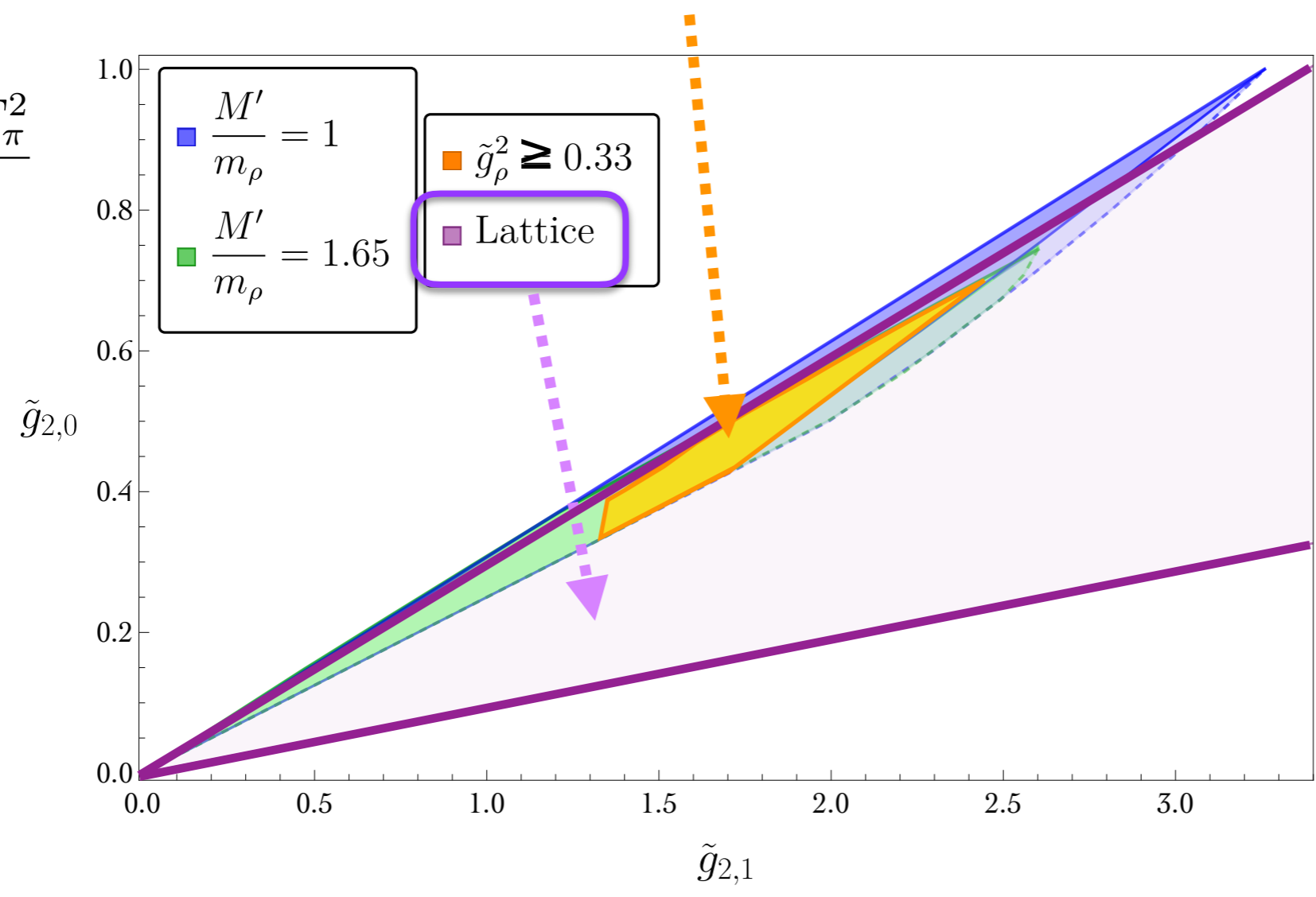


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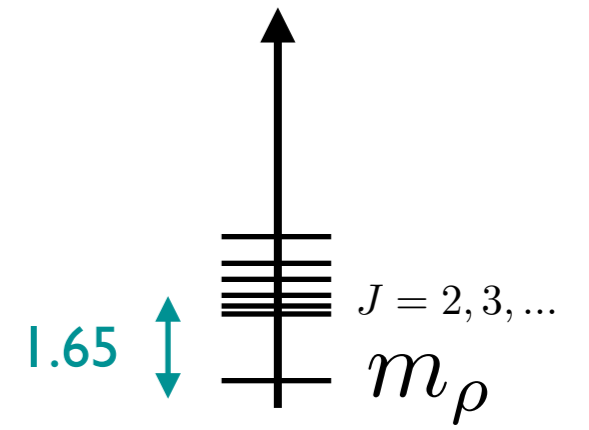


$$\tilde{g}_\rho^2 \equiv \frac{g_{\rho\pi\pi}^2 F_\pi^2}{m_\rho^2}$$

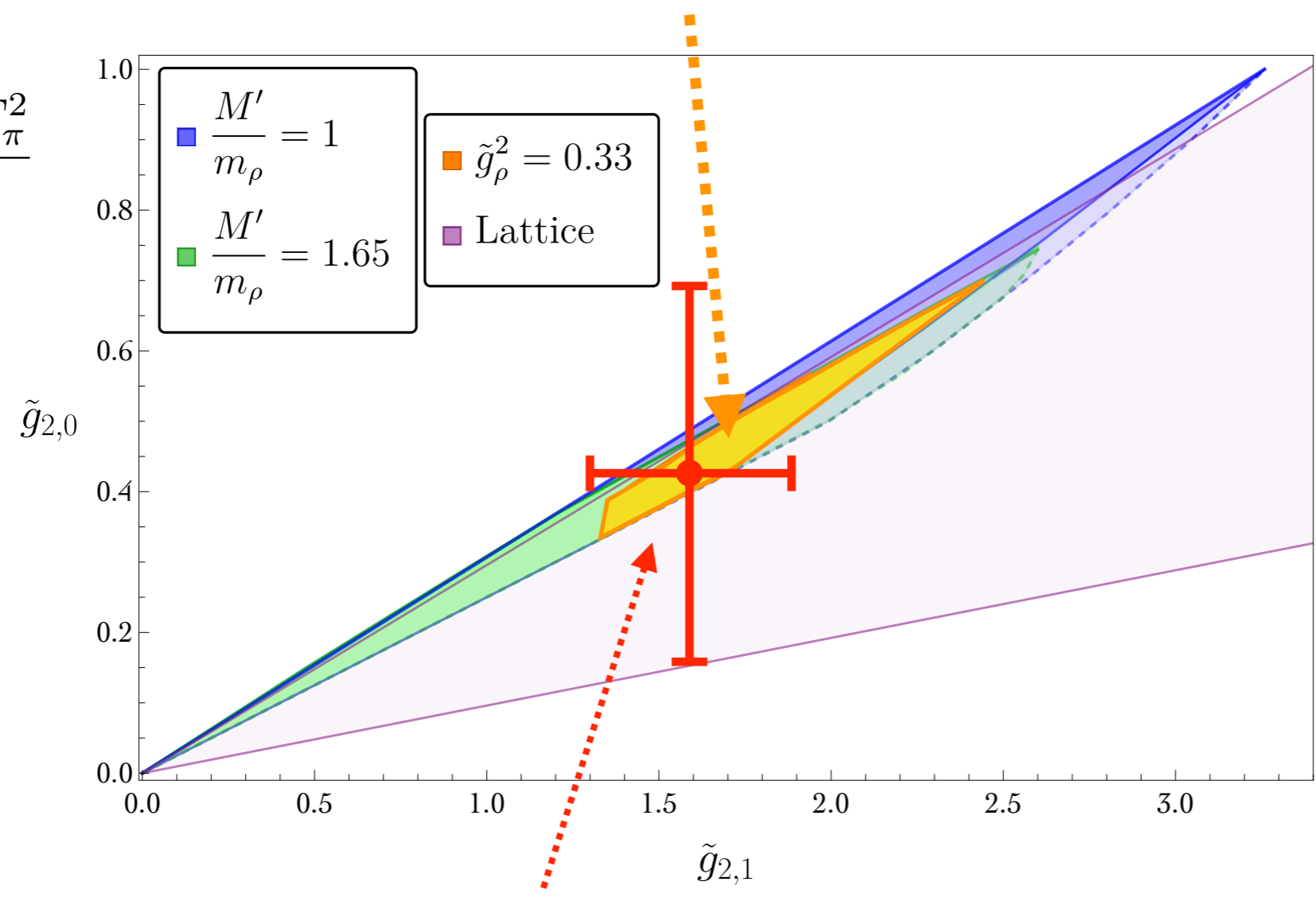


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**Experimental  
QCD data**

# Explaining the success of holography

## AdS/QCD: 5D model for QCD mesons

$SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$  model with only s=0, l fields:

Erlich+Katz+Son+Stephanov 05  
Da Rold+Pomarol 05

$$\mathcal{L}_5 = \frac{M_5}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ -L_{MN} L^{MN} - R_{MN} R^{MN} + |D_M \Phi|^2 + 3|\Phi|^2 \right]$$

	Experiment	AdS <sub>5</sub>	Deviation
$m_\rho$	775	824	+6%
$m_{a_1}$	1230	1347	+10%
$m_\omega$	782	824	+5%
$F_\rho$	153	169	+11%
$F_\omega/F_\rho$	0.88	0.94	+7%
$F_\pi$	87	88	+1%
$g_{\rho\pi\pi}$	6.0	5.4	-10%
$L_9$	$6.9 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$6.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-10%
$L_{10}$	$-5.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$-6.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-12%
$\Gamma(\omega \rightarrow \pi\gamma)$	0.75	0.81	+8%
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Use for modeling  
composite Higgs

AP+Wulzer 08

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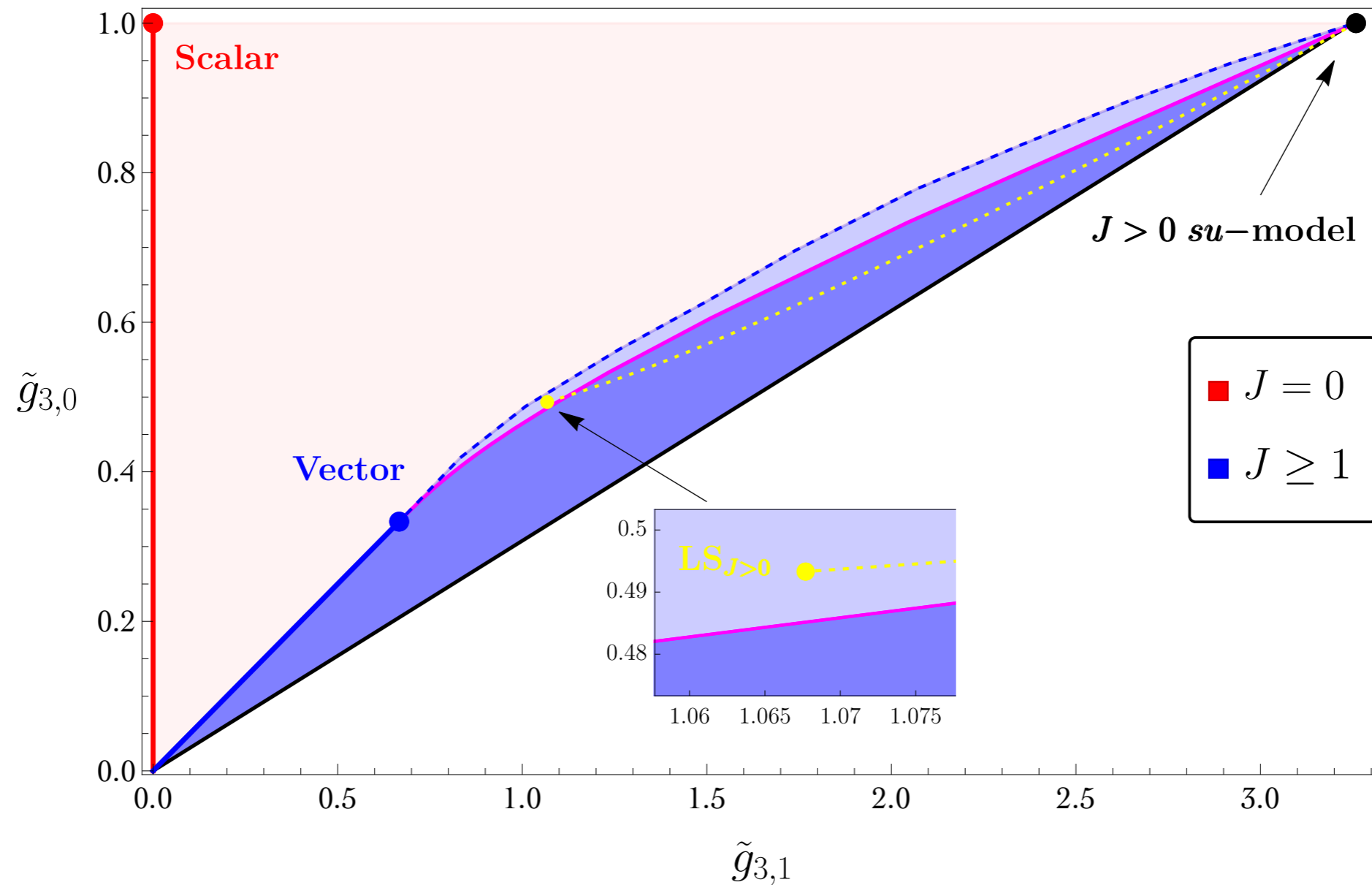
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**Success understood**  
**from the above analysis:**  
**J > I mesons**  
**contribute little**  
**to low-energy observables**

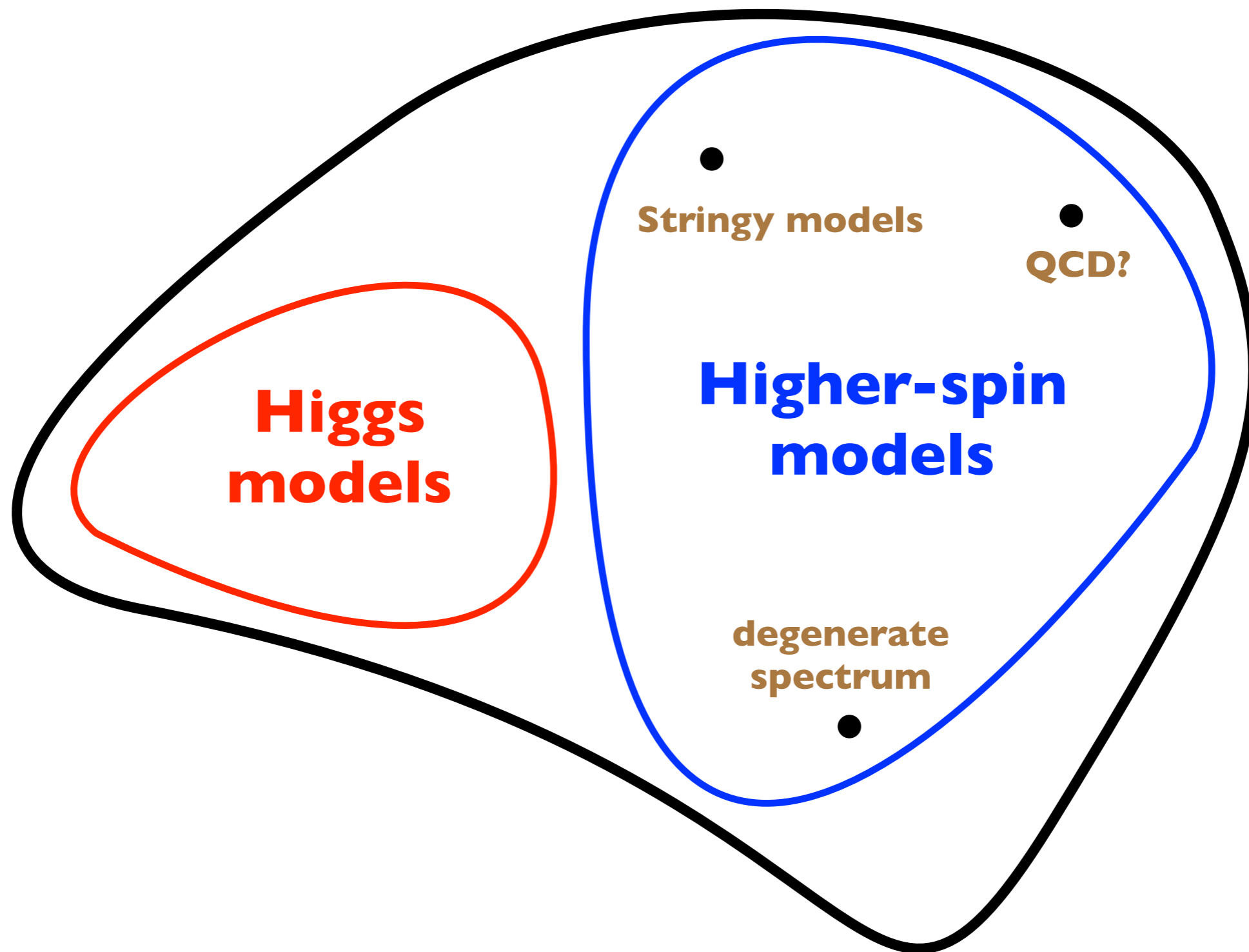
AP+Wulzer 08

# Similar structure for higher-order Wilson coeff.

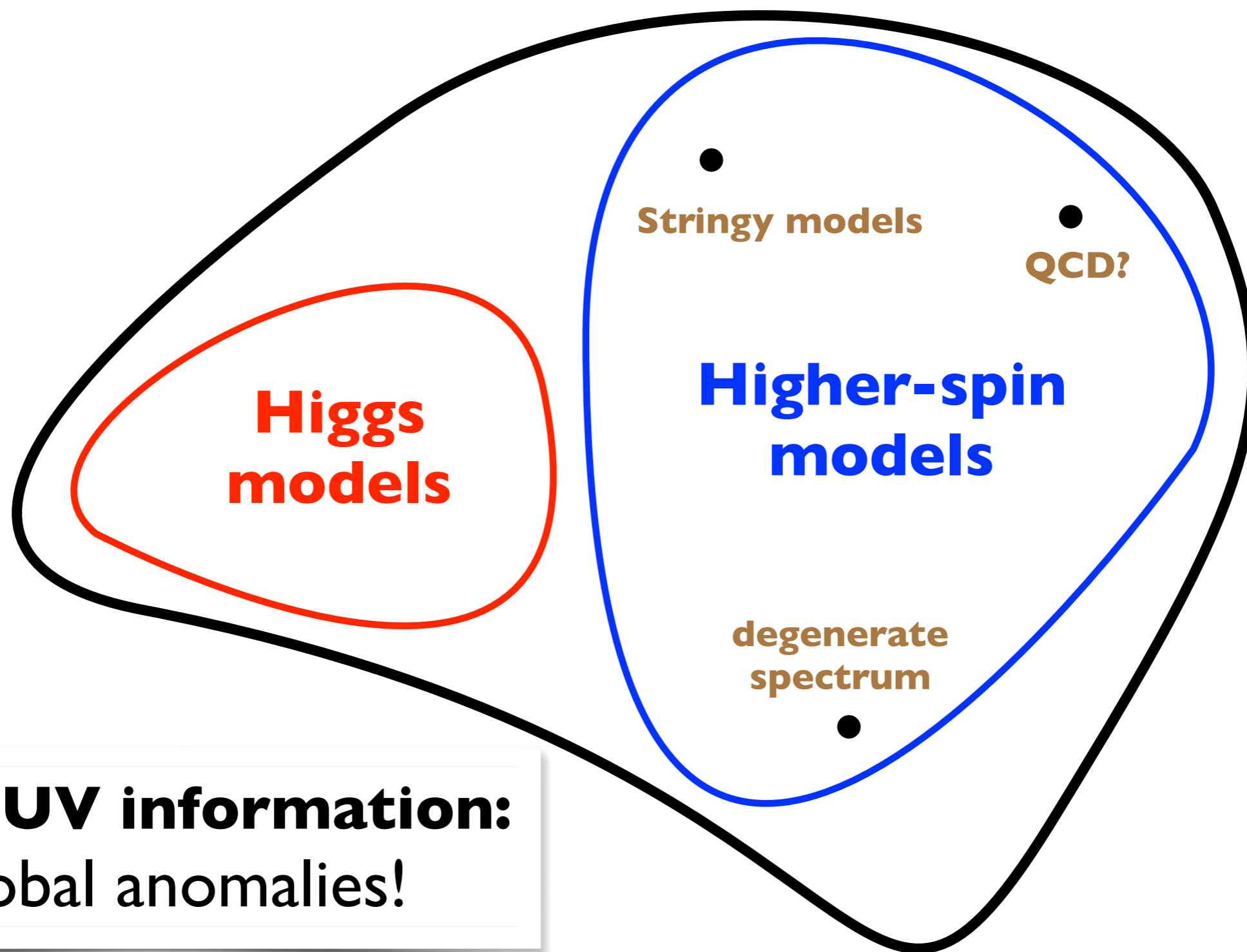
**$O(s^3)$ :**



# UV completions for models of Goldstones



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**Extra UV information:**  
Global anomalies!



## $U(1)_A$ axial anomaly

Introducing the  $\eta'$  (Goldstone of an anomalous symmetry):

$$U(2) \otimes U(2) \rightarrow U(2)$$

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- WZW term: *5-goldstone int.*
  - Adding external gauge-bosons:  
 $\pi \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$
- }  $\propto \kappa$

$$\kappa = \frac{N_c}{12\pi^2 F_\pi^3}$$

two  $q_L, q_R$   
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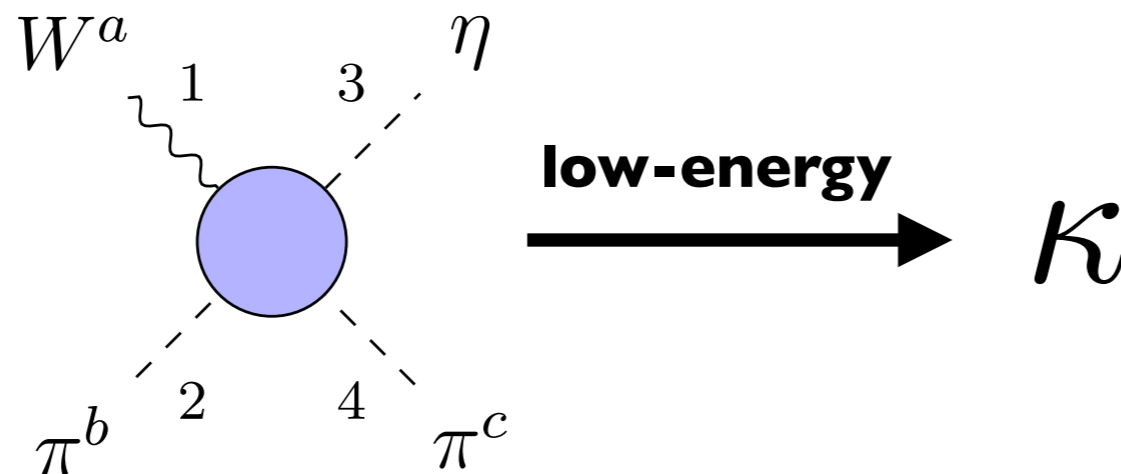
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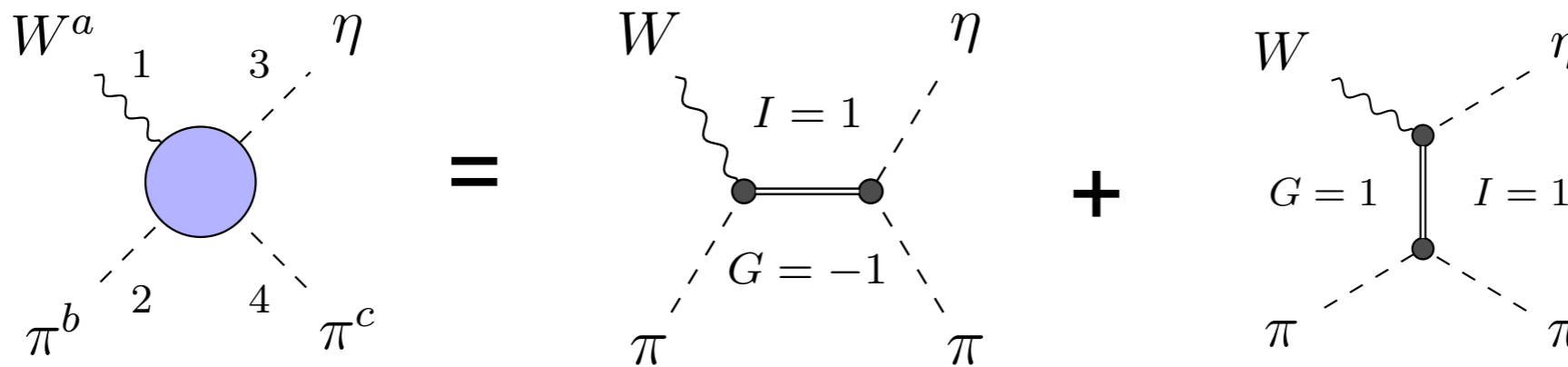
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but also



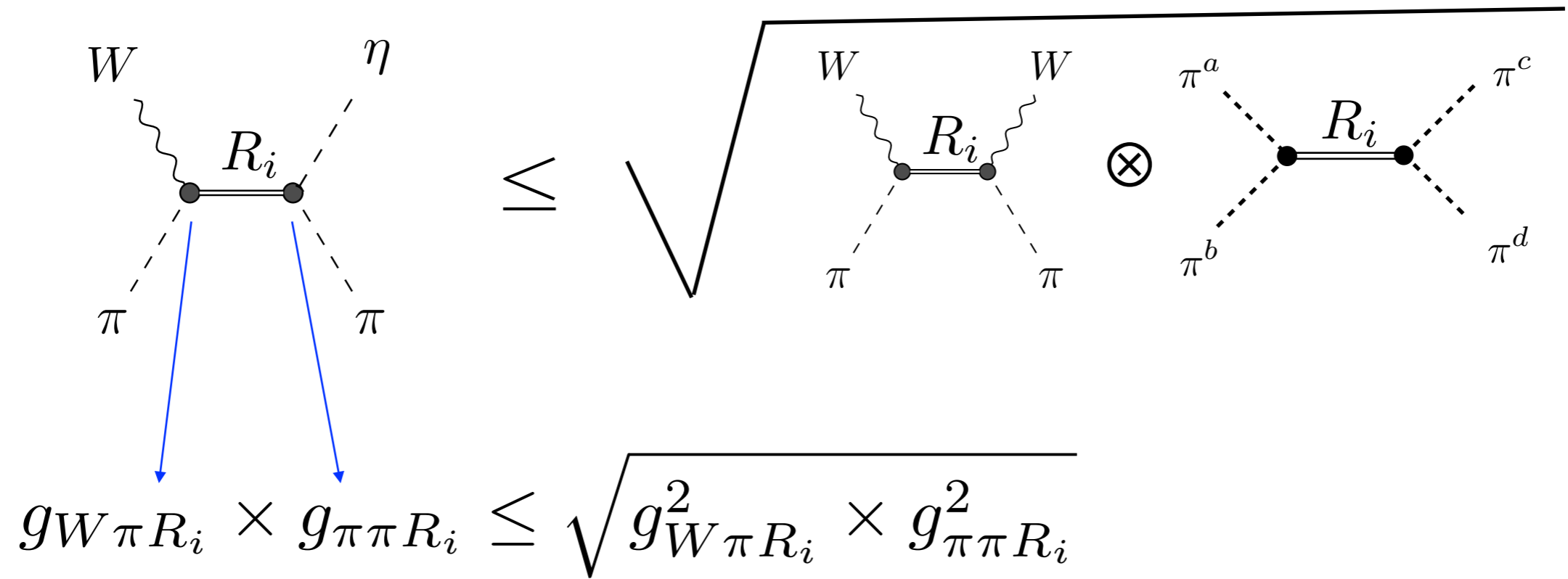


**a)** It cannot be mediated by scalars

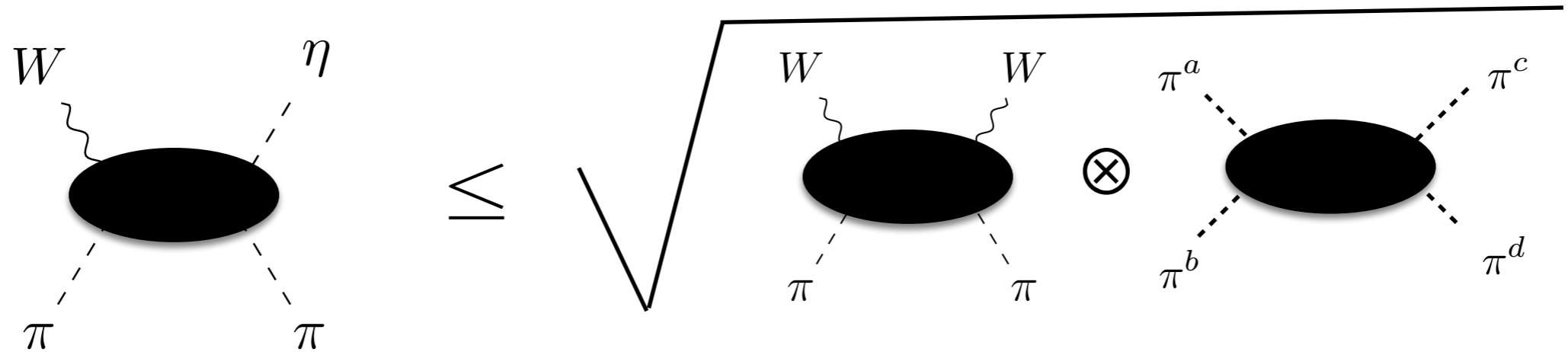
☞ axial anomaly **discards** theories with **only** scalar resonances

**b)** Bounded

# How a bound on the anomaly arises:



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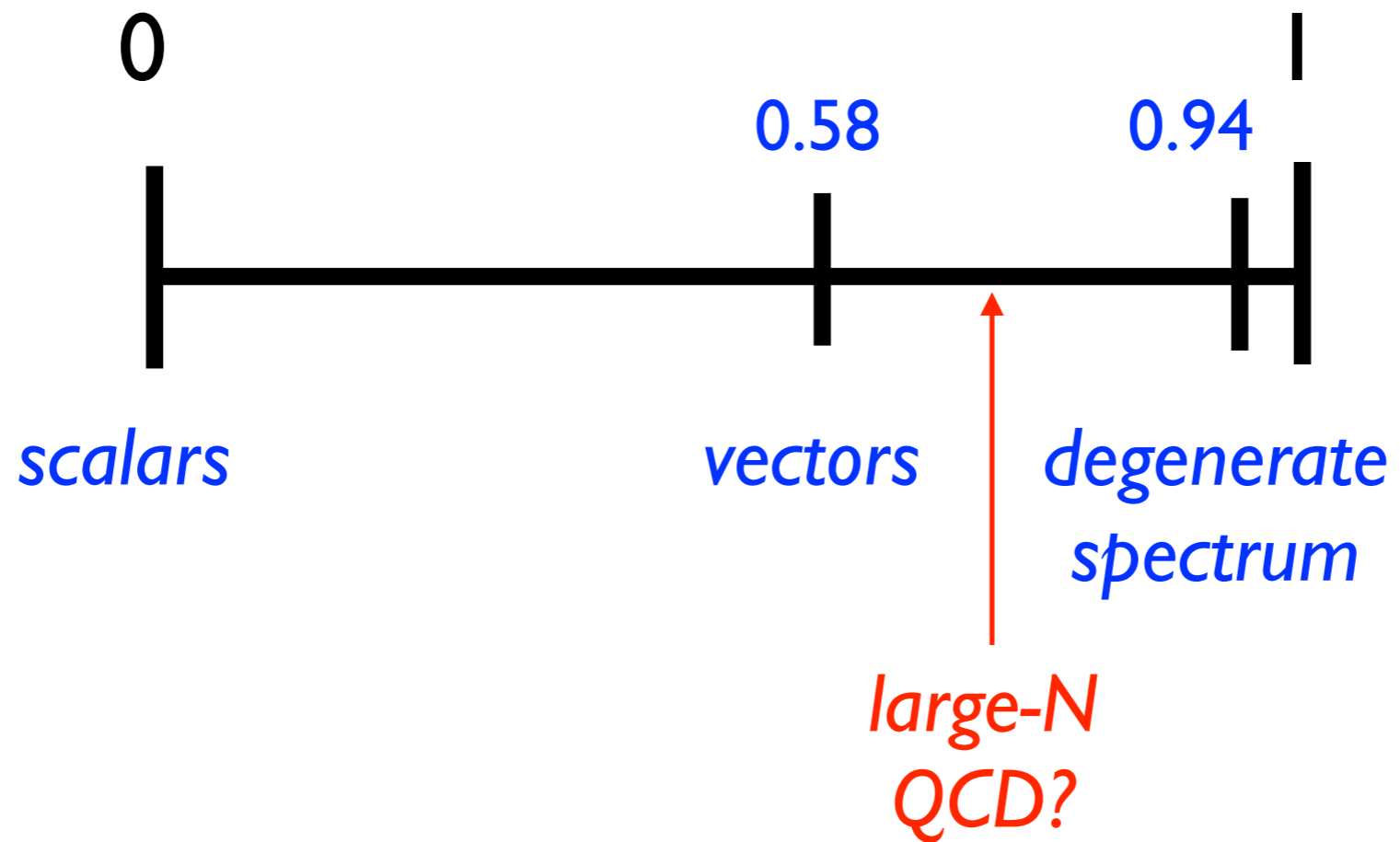


Amazingly, a bound can be extended in general (from positivity):

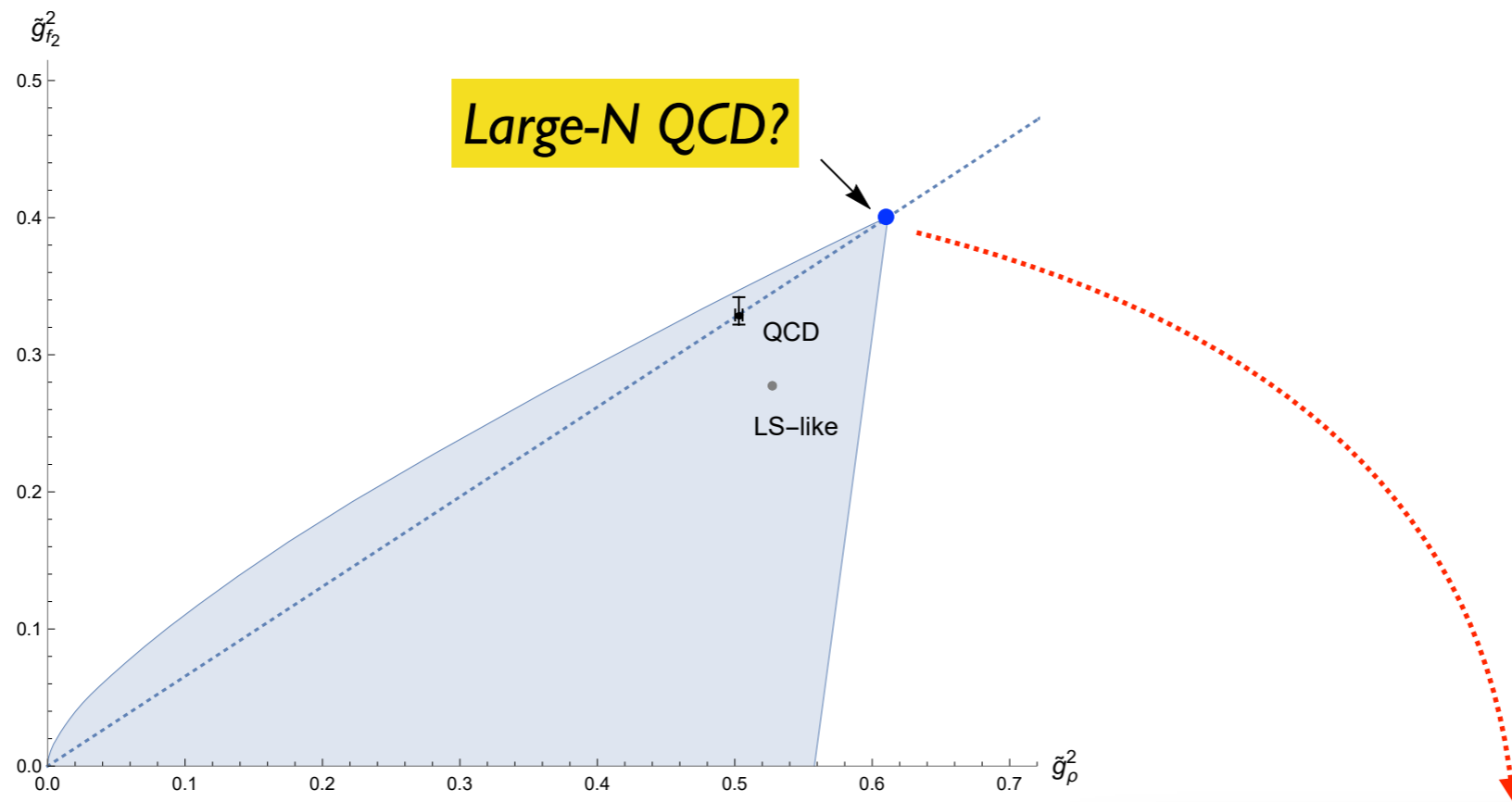
$$\kappa \leq \sqrt{\mathcal{P} \frac{1}{2F_\pi^2}}$$

.....  
▶ *pion polarizabilities*

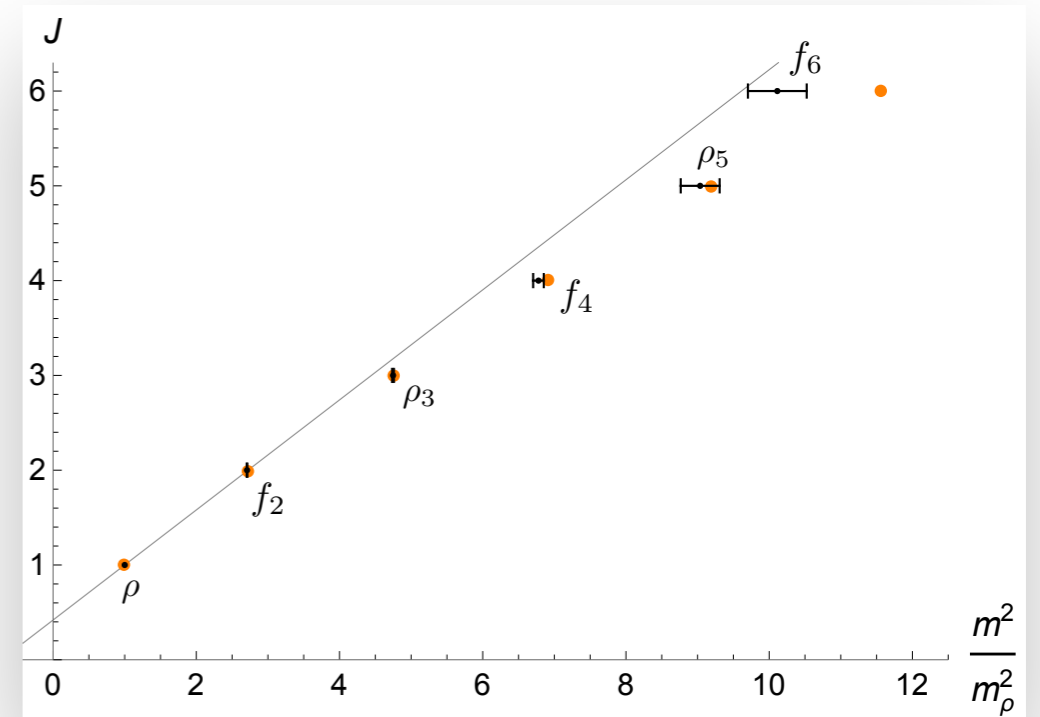
$$\kappa \sqrt{\frac{2F_{\pi}^2}{\mathcal{P}}}$$



spin-2 coupling to pions



spin-1 coupling to pions





# Weak gravity conjecture (WGC)-like bound

2310.06888

$$G \leq 10.6618 e^2 + 0.0367 g_{0,1} .$$

## Bounds on the anomaly in susy models:

1909.11676

$$\langle \hat{j}_\mu(x) \hat{j}_\nu(y) \hat{j}_\rho(z) \rangle = \frac{K}{\tau^{3/2}} D_{\mu\nu\rho}(x, y, z)$$

$$\hat{j}_\mu = \frac{2\pi^2}{\sqrt{3}\tau} j_\mu$$

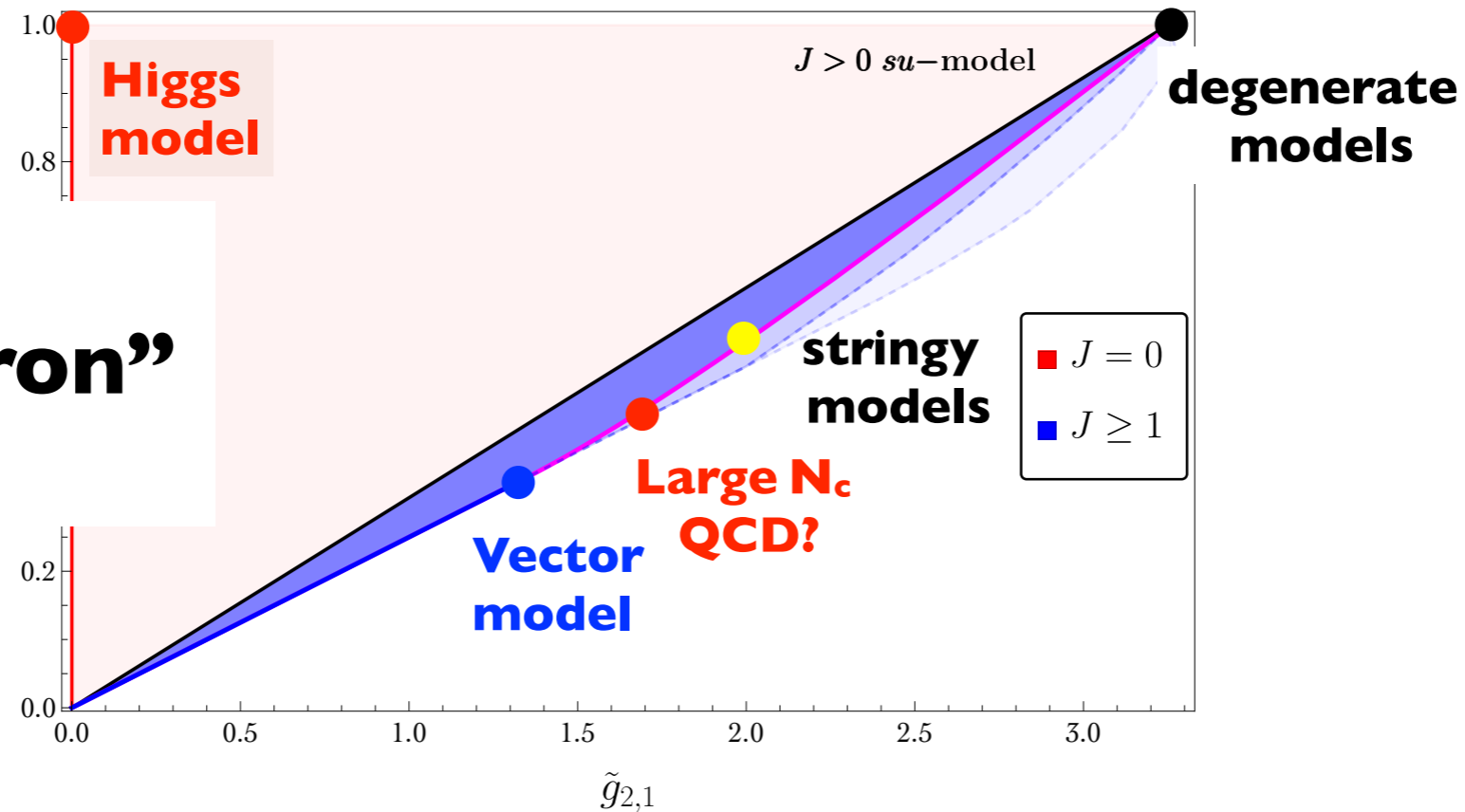
bounds



$N_f$	$\Lambda = 29$	$\Lambda = \infty$	$SU(N_c)$ SQCD	$SO(N_c)$ SQCD
3	2.6	2.2(2)		
4	2.2	1.8(2)	0.38	0.27
5	2.1	1.7(2)	0.54	0.38
6	2.1	1.7(2)	0.31	0.24
7	2.0	1.6(2)	0.40	0.31
8	1.9	1.5(2)	0.48	0.37
9	1.9	1.5(2)	0.32	0.27
10	1.8	1.5(2)	0.38	0.31
11	1.8	1.4(1)	0.44	0.36
12	1.8	1.4(1)	0.32	0.27
13	1.7	1.4(1)	0.36	0.30
14	1.7	1.4(1)	0.40	0.34
15	1.7	1.4(1)	0.31	0.27
16	1.6	1.4(1)	0.34	0.30
17	1.6	1.3(1)	0.37	0.32
18	1.6	1.3(1)	0.30	0.26
19	1.6	1.3(1)	0.33	0.29
20	1.6	1.3(1)	0.35	0.31

# Conclusions

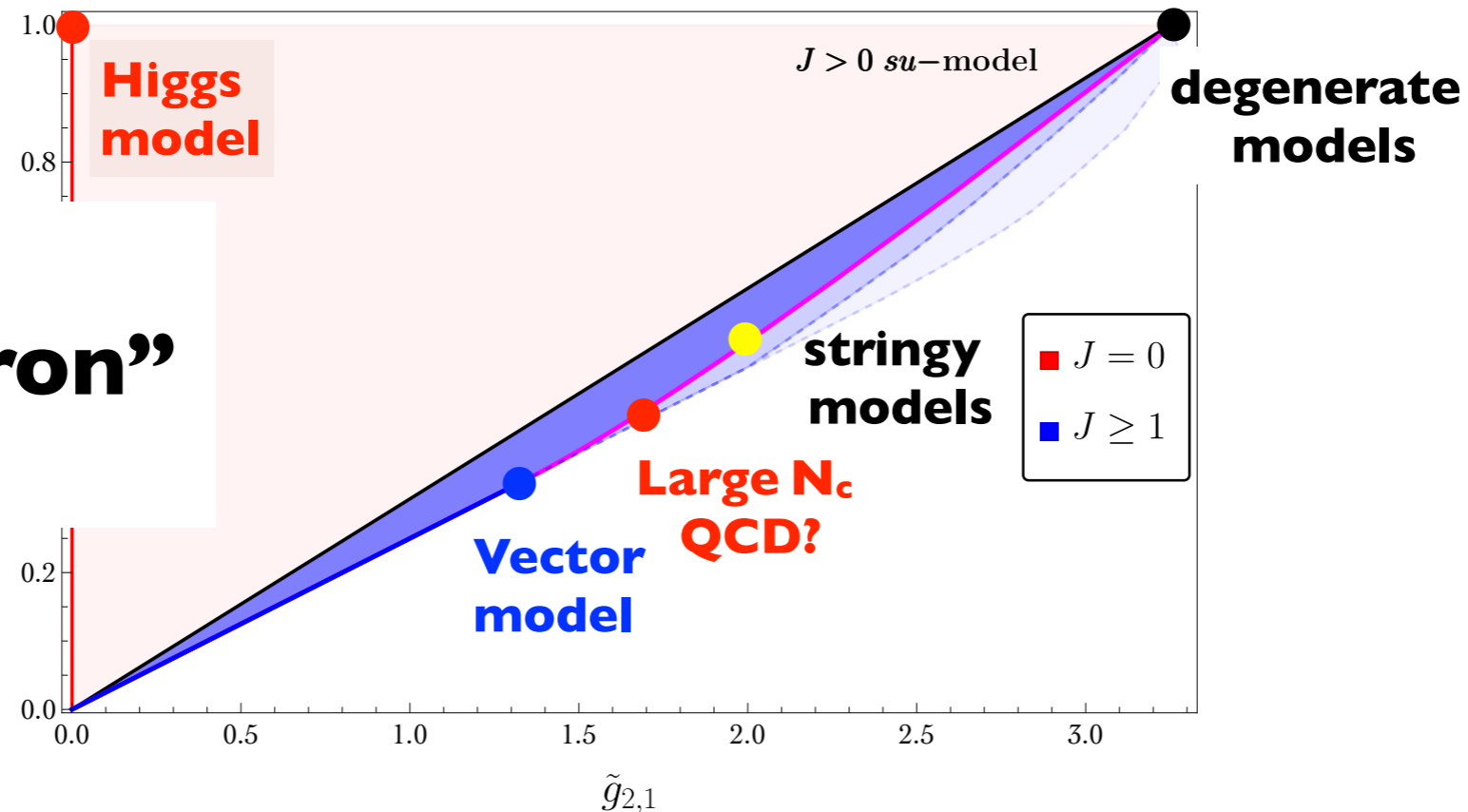
- **Crossing + Analyticity + Unitarity** allow to get information on possible **UV completions of theories of Goldstones**:



- Predicts a “**EFT-hedron**” structure

# Conclusions

- **Crossing + Analyticity + Unitarity** allow to get information on possible **UV completions of theories of Goldstones**:



- Predicts a “**EFT-hedron**” structure

- **Axial anomaly** can discriminate between the two possibilities

Bounded from above:

$$\frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{\mathcal{P}/F_\pi^2}} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

➔ potential interest to constrain DM scenarios (e.g. SIMPs)

- **Gravitational anomaly?**

**RESTRICTED AREA**

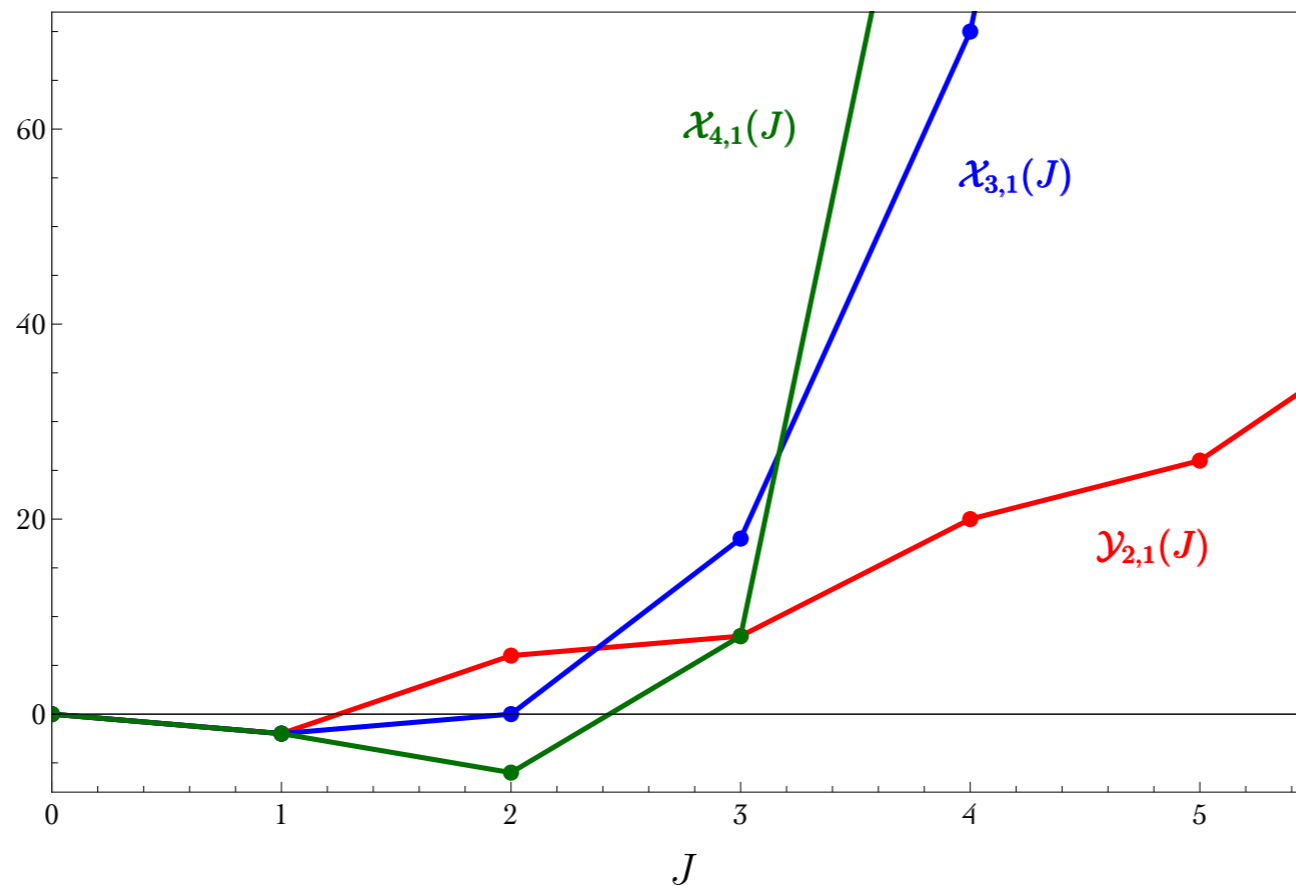
**MONITORED  
BY VIDEO  
CAMERA**

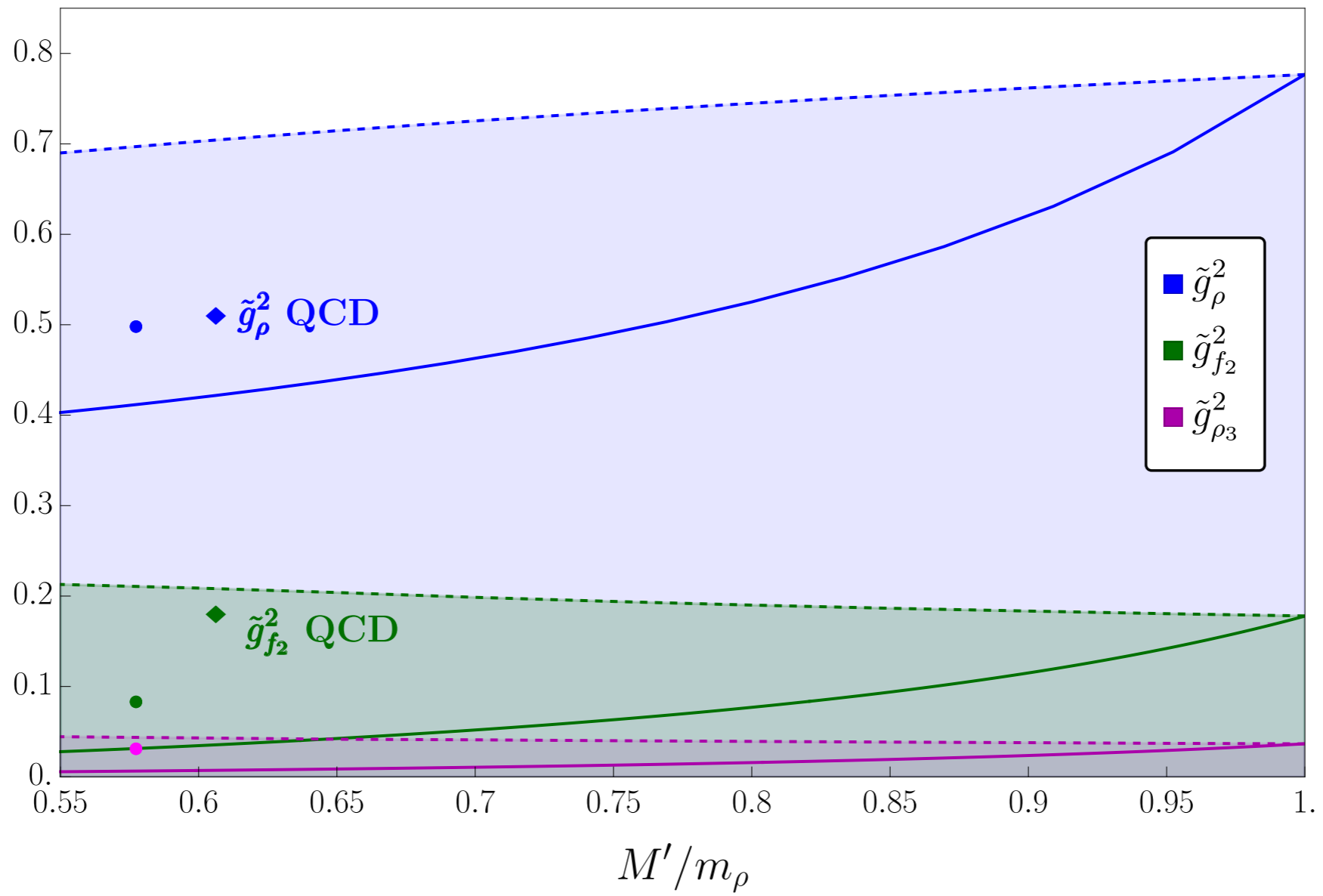


$$0 = \sum_i \frac{|g_{\pi\pi i}|^2}{m_i^{2n}} \left( \frac{2^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} P_{J_i}^{(n-1)}(1) - \mathcal{J}_i^2 \right) \quad n=2,3,4,\dots$$

$$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\mathcal{X}_{n,1}}$$

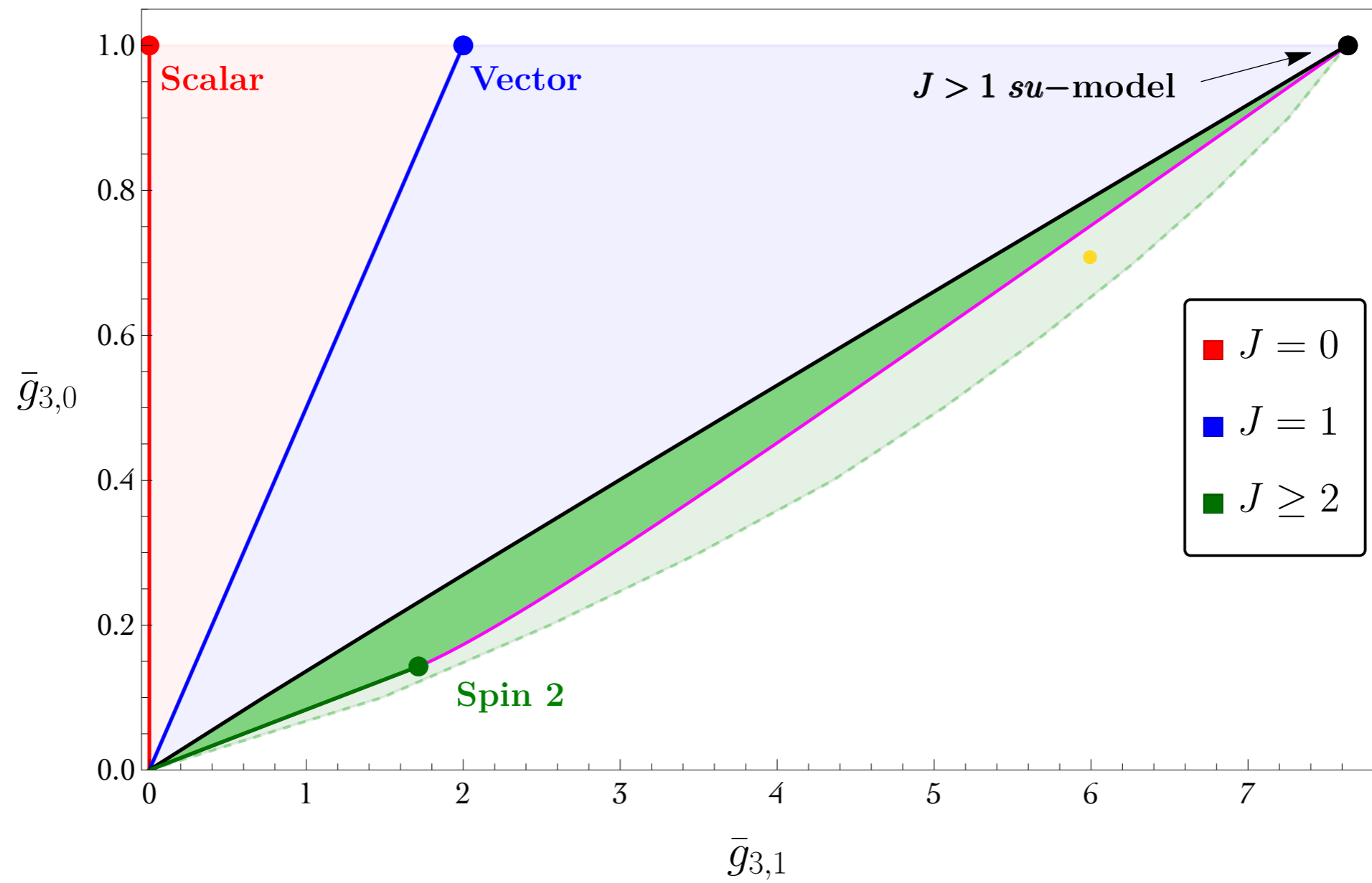
$$\mathcal{J}^2 \equiv J(J+1)$$





Lets assume at  $s \rightarrow \infty$  and either  $t$  or  $u$  fixed:

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_t^{I=2}(s, u)}{s^2} \rightarrow 0$$





## C The $su$ -models

Let us consider the most general theory of a degenerate spectrum that contributes to the four-pion amplitude  $\mathcal{M}(s, u)$  [7, 8]. This means that all states have equal mass  $m$ , and therefore the denominator of this amplitude is fixed to be  $\mathcal{M}(s, u) \propto 1/((s - m^2)(u - m^2))$ . If we further demand that Eq. (6a) and Eq. (6b) are satisfied for  $k_{\min} = 1$ , we are led to

$$\mathcal{M}(s, u) = \frac{a_1 m^4 + a_2 m^2 (s + u) + a_3 su}{(s - m^2)(u - m^2)}, \quad (91)$$

where  $a_i$  are constants. The Adler's zero condition fixes  $a_1 = 0$ . Then, aside from a global multiplicative factor, the amplitude has only one free parameter. We can write it as

$$\mathcal{M}_1^{(su)}(s, u) = \frac{m^2(s + u) + \lambda su}{(s - m^2)(u - m^2)}, \quad (92)$$

where the possible values of  $\lambda$  are determined by unitarity. Indeed, imposing the positivity of the residues of Eq. (92), we obtain

$$-2 \leq \lambda \leq \frac{2 \ln 2 - 1}{1 - \ln 2}. \quad (93)$$

In the limiting case  $\lambda = -2$ , the residues of all  $J > 0$  states are zero, and we are left with the scalar amplitude Eq. (22). In the other limit,

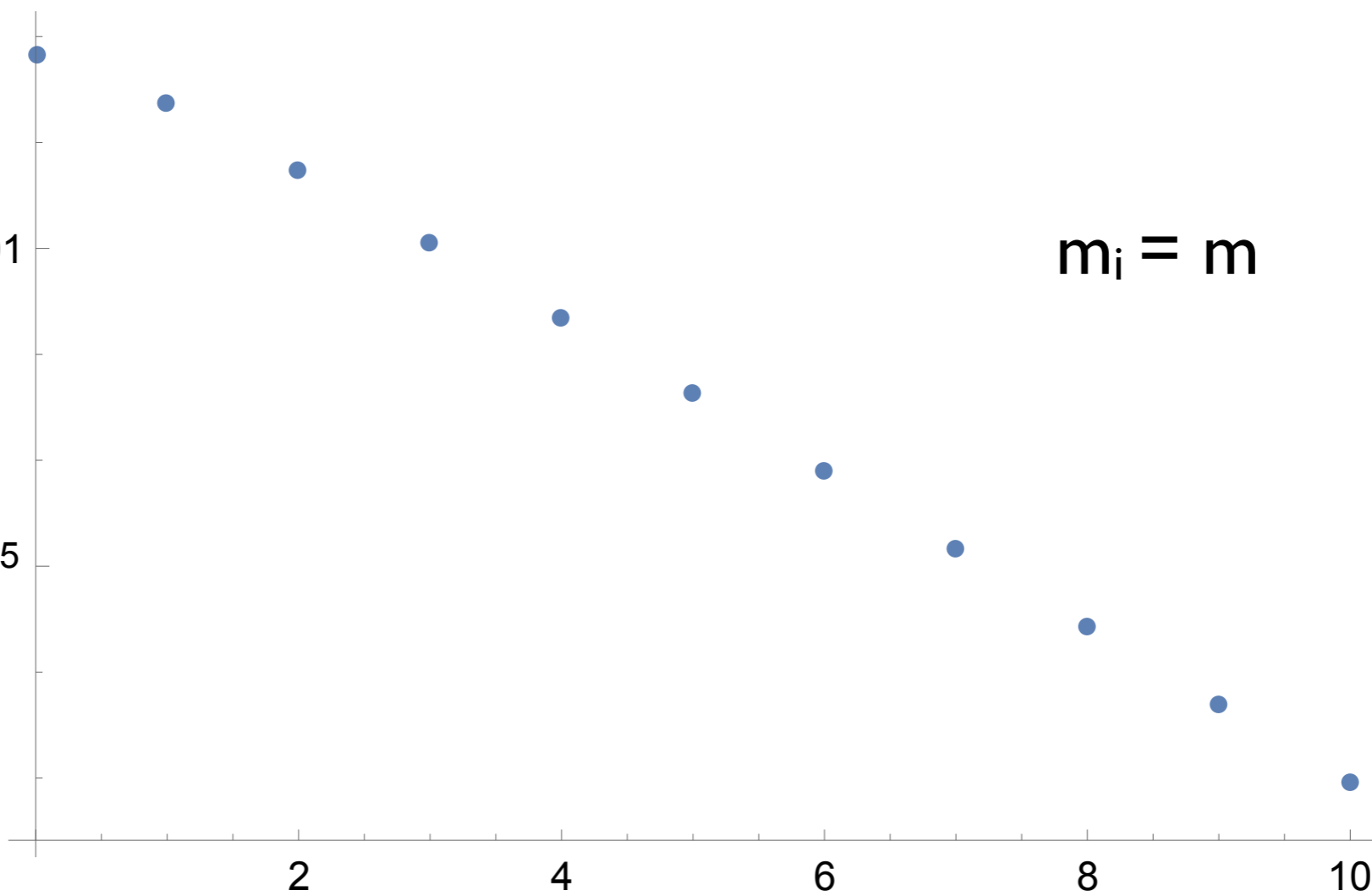
$$\lambda = \frac{2 \ln 2 - 1}{1 - \ln 2} \simeq 1.26, \quad (94)$$

$g_{\pi\pi i}^2$

0.01

$10^{-5}$

$m_i = m$



$J$

## D The Lovelace-Shapiro amplitude

The Lovelace-Shapiro (LS) amplitude for the scattering of four pions is defined as [26, 27]

$$\mathcal{M}^{(\text{LS})}(s, u) = \frac{\Gamma(1 - \alpha(s))\Gamma(1 - \alpha(u))}{\Gamma(1 - \alpha(s) - \alpha(u))}, \quad (105)$$

where  $\alpha(s) = \alpha_0 + \alpha' s$  is referred as the Regge trajectory. We will fix the values of  $\alpha_0$  and  $\alpha'$  by requiring that Eq. (106) satisfies the Adler zero condition,  $\mathcal{M}^{(\text{LS})}(s, u) \rightarrow 0$  for  $s, u \rightarrow 0$ , and that the first pole of Eq. (106) occurs for  $s = m_\rho^2$ . These two conditions lead to  $\alpha_0 = 1/2$  and  $\alpha' = 1/(2m_\rho^2)$  [66] and then we can write

$$\mathcal{M}^{(\text{LS})}(s, u) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{s}{2m_\rho^2}\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{u}{2m_\rho^2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{t}{2m_\rho^2}\right)}. \quad (106)$$

By looking at the poles of Eq. (106), one can see that the LS amplitude corresponds to a theory of higher-spin states with masses

$$m_n^2 = m_\rho^2(2n + 1), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (107)$$

For a given  $n$ , there are at most  $n + 1$  states with spin  $J = 0, 1, \dots, n + 1$ . Furthermore, Eq. (106) satisfies the condition Eq. (6a) and Eq. (6b) with  $k_{\min} = 1$ .

## E The Coon amplitude

The Lovelace-Shapiro amplitude presented in Appendix D can be generalized to a larger class of amplitudes depending on an additional parameter  $q$ . This is the so-called Coon amplitude, which was first proposed in [28]<sup>11</sup>:

$$\mathcal{M}_q(s, u) = C(\sigma, \tau, q) \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - q^{n+1})(\sigma\tau - q^{n+1})}{(\sigma - q^{n+1})(\tau - q^{n+1})}, \quad (118)$$

where  $\sigma = 1 + (q - 1)(\alpha_0 + \alpha' s)$  and  $\tau = 1 + (q - 1)(\alpha_0 + \alpha' u)$ . As explained in Appendix D, we take  $\alpha_0 = 1/2$  and  $\alpha' = 1/(2m_\rho^2)$ . The parameter  $q$  takes values between 0 and 1, and in the limit  $q \rightarrow 1$  we recover the LS amplitude Eq. (106). There is some freedom in the choice of the prefactor  $C$ , as long as it satisfies  $\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} C(\sigma, \tau, q) = 1$ .

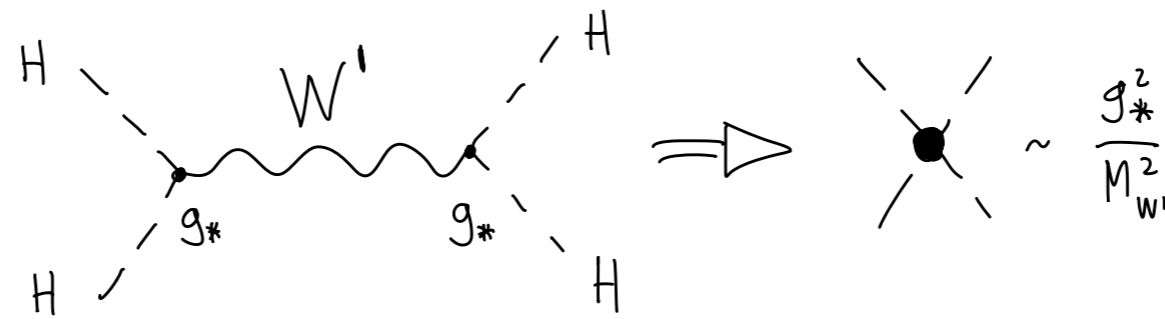
The Coon amplitude has an infinite number of simple poles at

$$s_n = m_\rho^2 \frac{1 + q - 2q^{n+1}}{1 - q}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots . \quad (119)$$

# Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

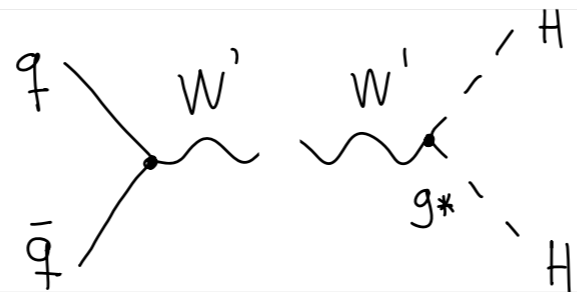
Higgs as a Pseudo-Goldstone boson:

Indirect probes:



deviations in  
Higgs coupling

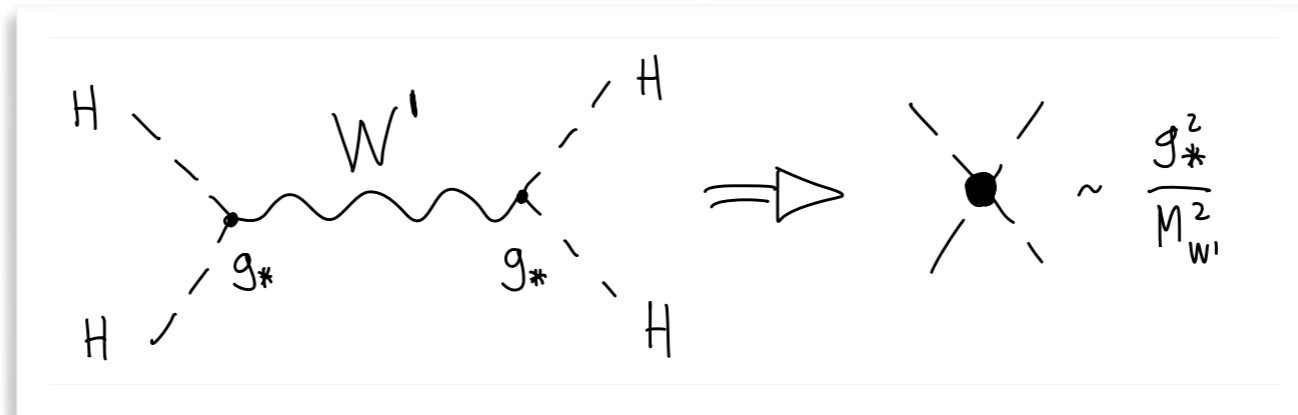
Direct probes:



# Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

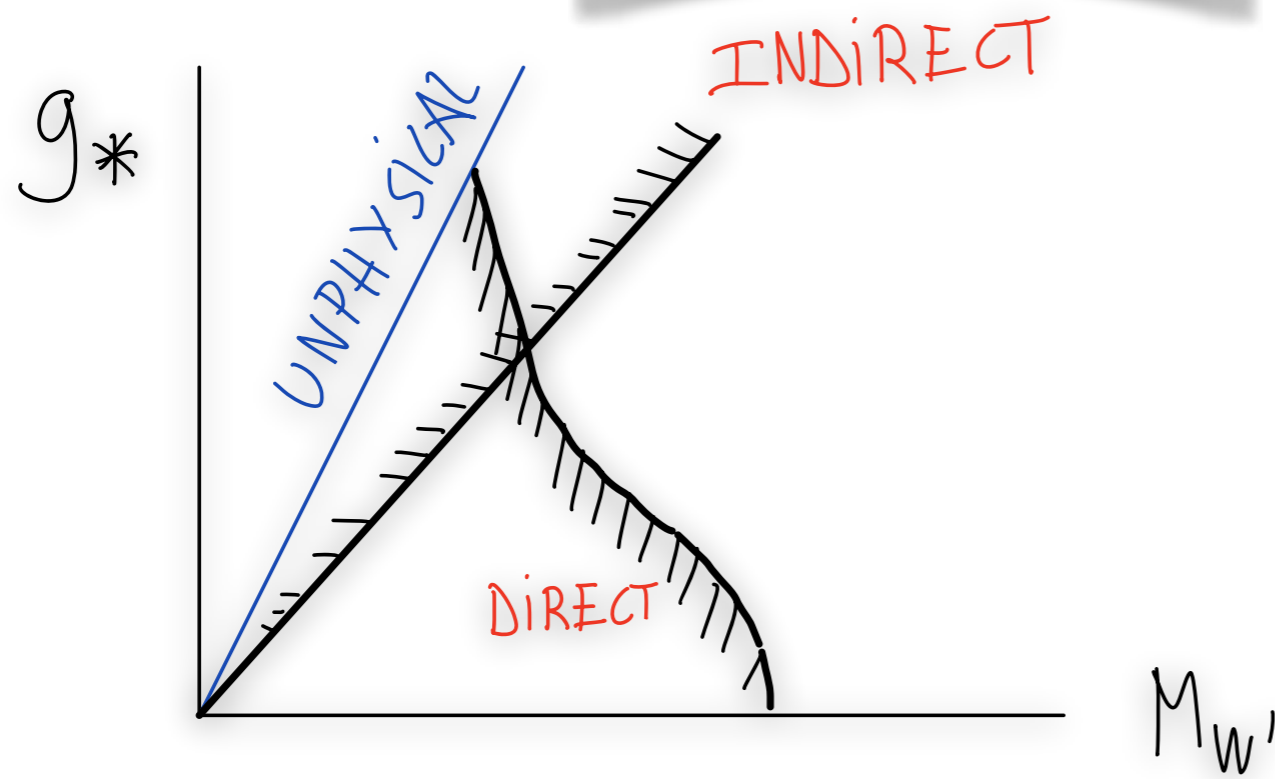
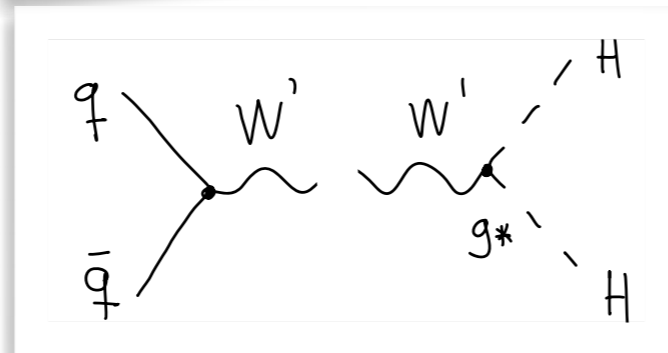
Higgs as a Pseudo-Goldstone boson:

Indirect probes:



deviations in Higgs coupling

Direct probes:

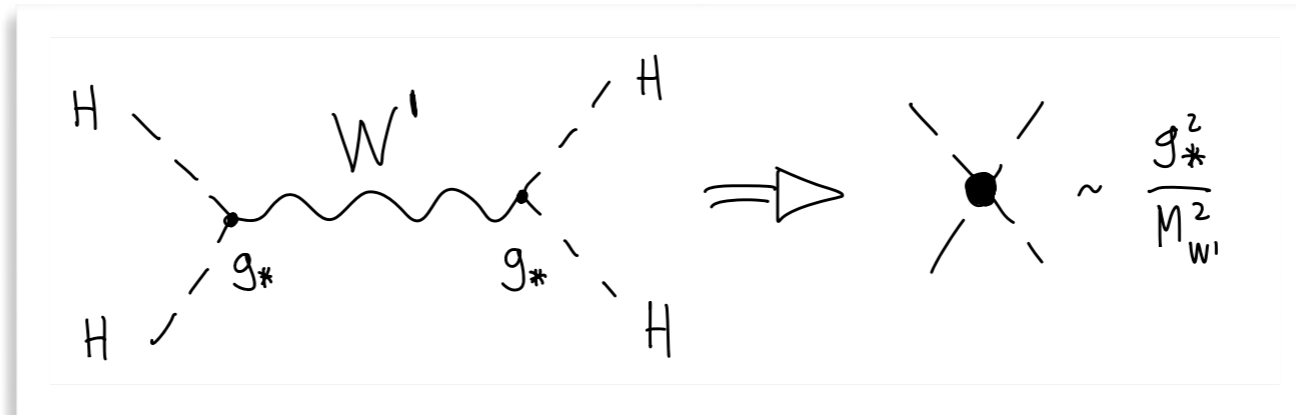


e.g. 1502.01701 [hep-th]

# Impact on BSM searches at the LHC

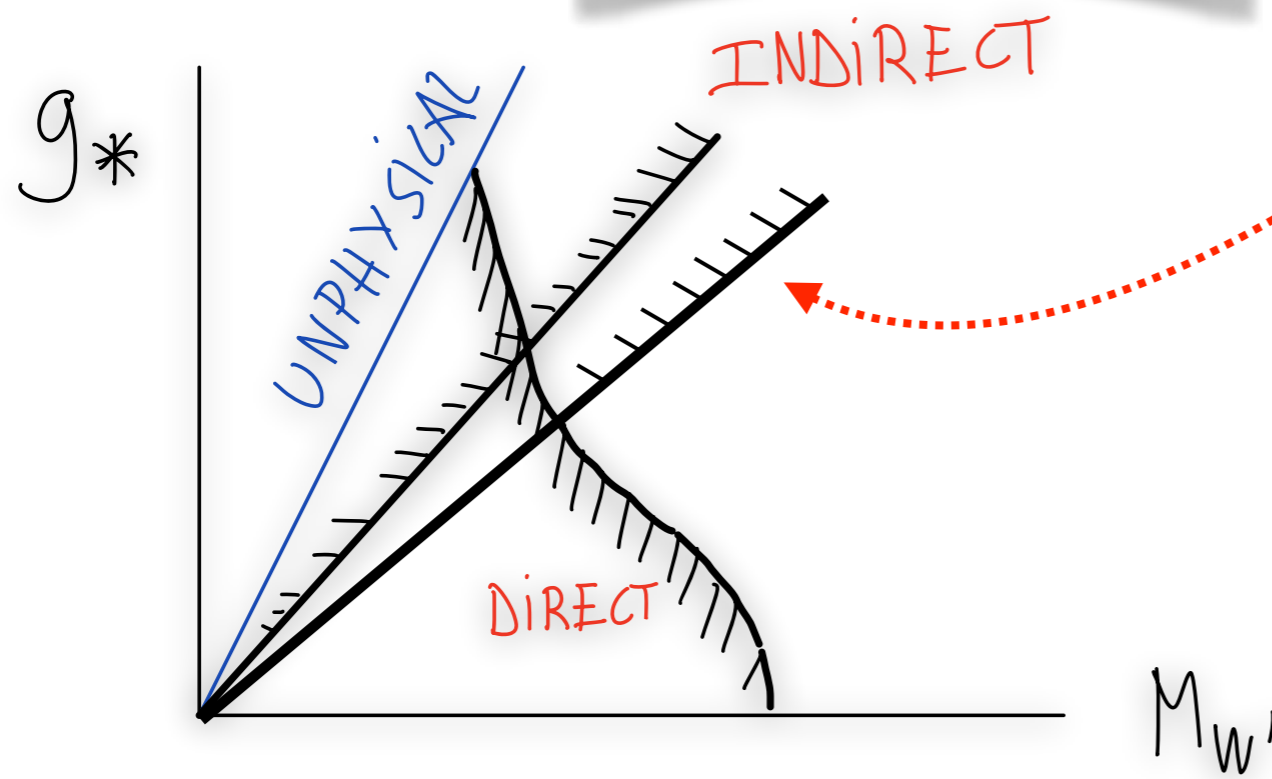
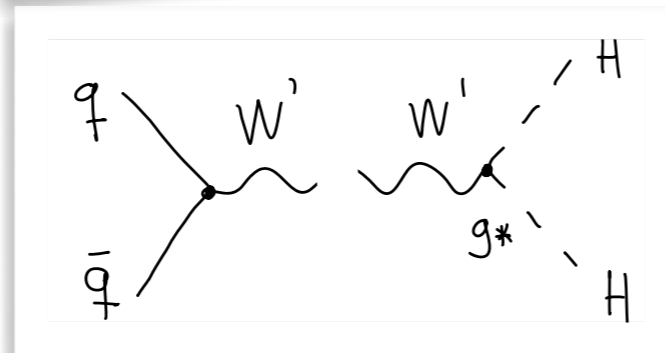
Higgs as a Pseudo-Goldstone boson:

Indirect probes:



deviations in Higgs coupling

Direct probes:



$J > 1$  must **at least** contribute a **23%** to the Wilson coeff.

e.g. 1502.01701 [hep-th]