

QCD
evolution
2026



MAY, 11-15, El Escorial

<https://indico.fis.ucm.es/event/37/>

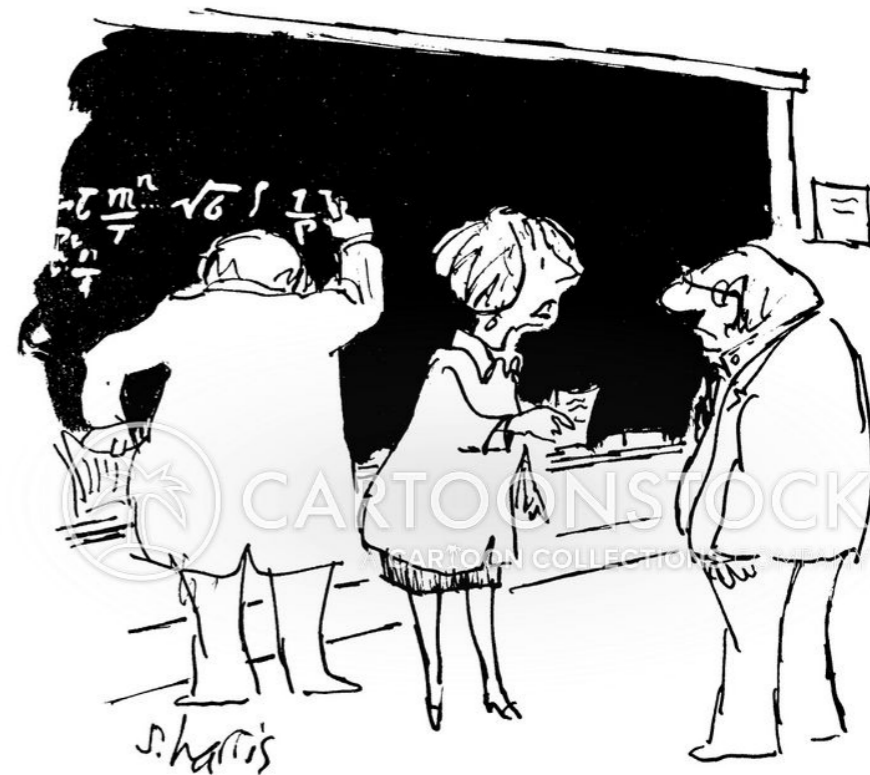
Bruno El-Bennich

Departamento de Física

Universidade Federal de São Paulo



From parton distribution functions
to quark fragmentation functions



"WE COLLABORATE. I'M AN EXPERT, BUT NOT AN AUTHORITY, AND DR. GELPIS IS AN AUTHORITY, BUT NOT AN EXPERT."

Work in collaboration with

Fernando Serna (Barranquilla, Colombia), Ian Cloët (Argonne, USA),

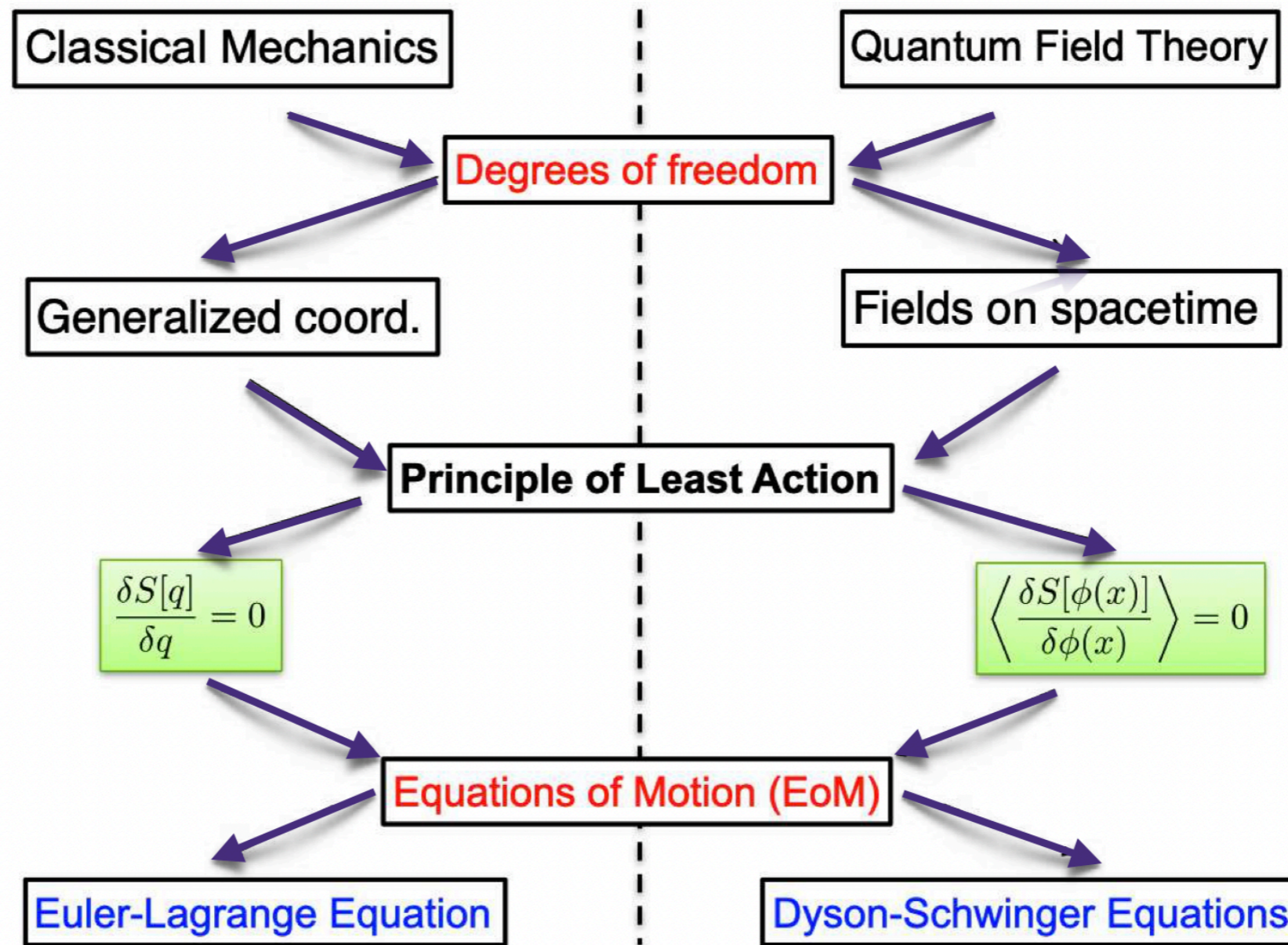
Roberto Silveira, Gustavo Bopsin, Gastão Krein (São Paulo, Brazil)

$$(\square_x + m^2) G(x, y) = \delta(x - y)$$

Part I

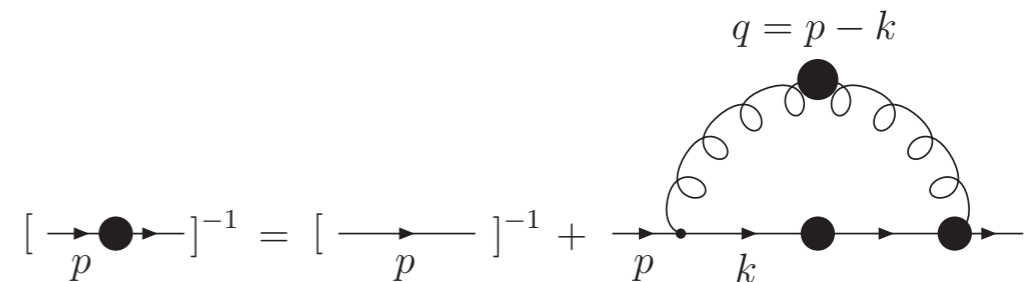
Green functions in a functional
approach to QCD

FUNCTIONAL NONPERTURBATIVE APPROACHES TO QCD



Quark-gap equation in QCD

The propagator can be obtained from QCD's **gap equation**: the Dyson-Schwinger equation (DSE) for the dressed-fermion self-energy, which involves the tower of **infinitely many** coupled equations.



$$S^{-1}(p) = Z_2(i\gamma \cdot p + m^{\text{bm}}) + \Sigma(p) := i\gamma \cdot p A(p^2) + B(p^2)$$

$$\Sigma(p) = Z_1 \int^{\Lambda} \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} g^2 D_{\mu\nu}(p - q) \frac{\lambda^a}{2} \gamma_{\mu} S(q) \Gamma_{\nu}^a(q, p)$$

with the *running* mass function $M(p^2) = B(p^2)/A(p^2)$.

- $D_{\mu\nu}$: dressed-gluon propagator
- $\Gamma_{\nu}^a(q, p)$: dressed quark-gluon vertex
- Z_2 : quark wave function renormalization constant
- Z_1 : quark-gluon vertex renormalization constant

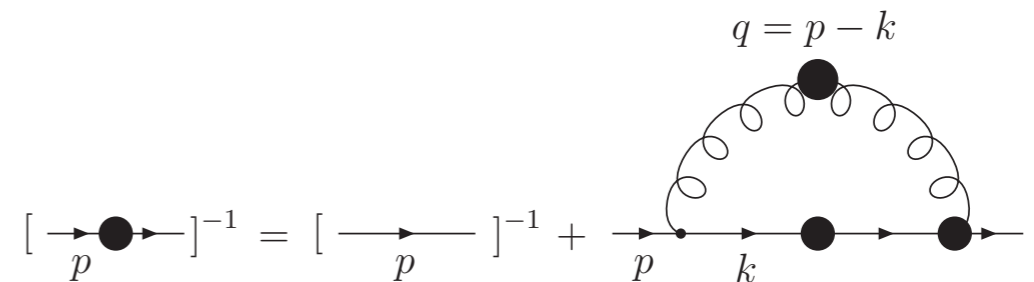
Each satisfies
it's own DSE

$$S^{-1}(p)|_{p^2=\zeta^2} = i\gamma \cdot p + m(\zeta)$$

where ζ is the renormalization point.

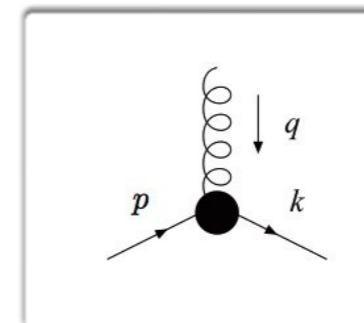
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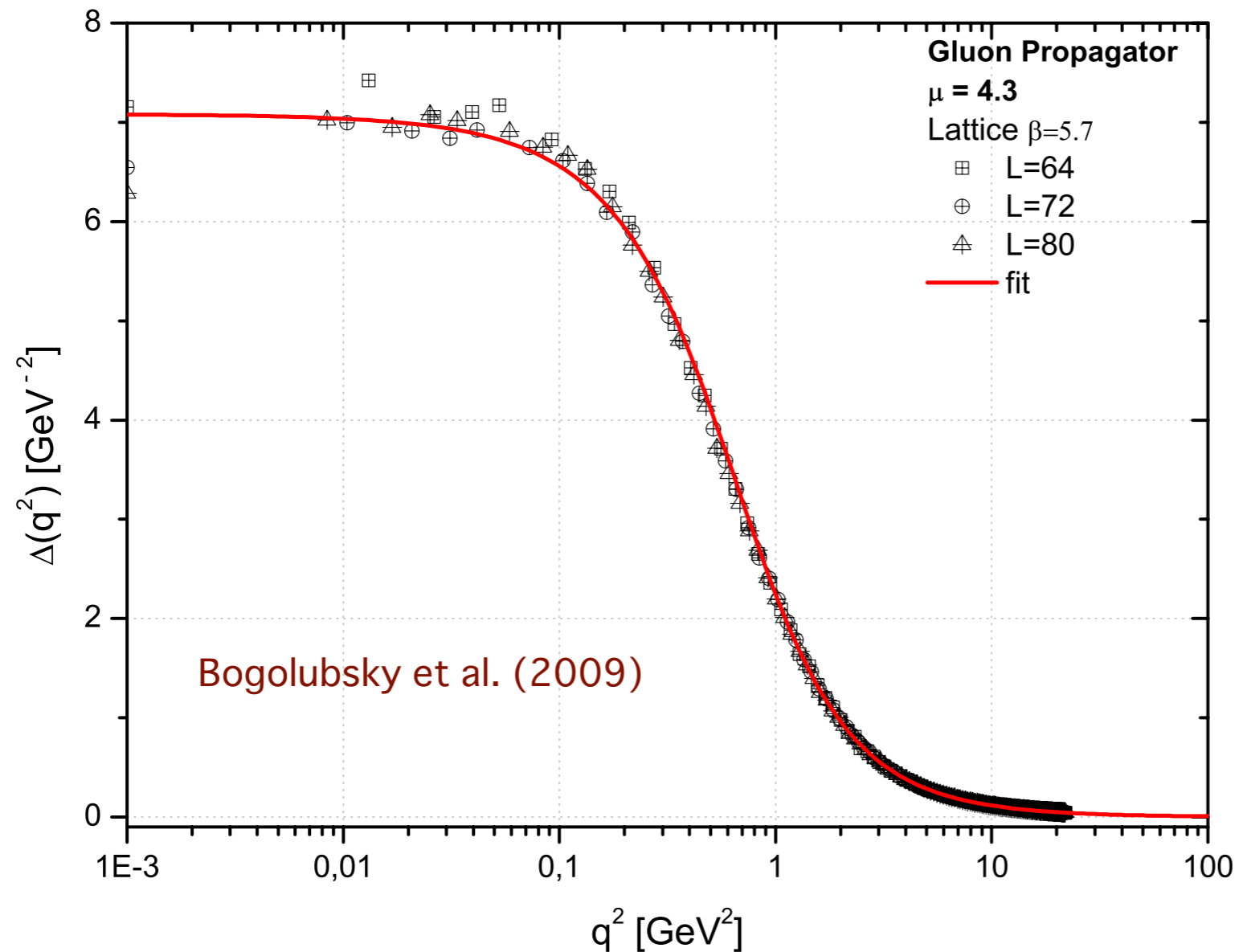
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Lattice QCD gluon dressing function

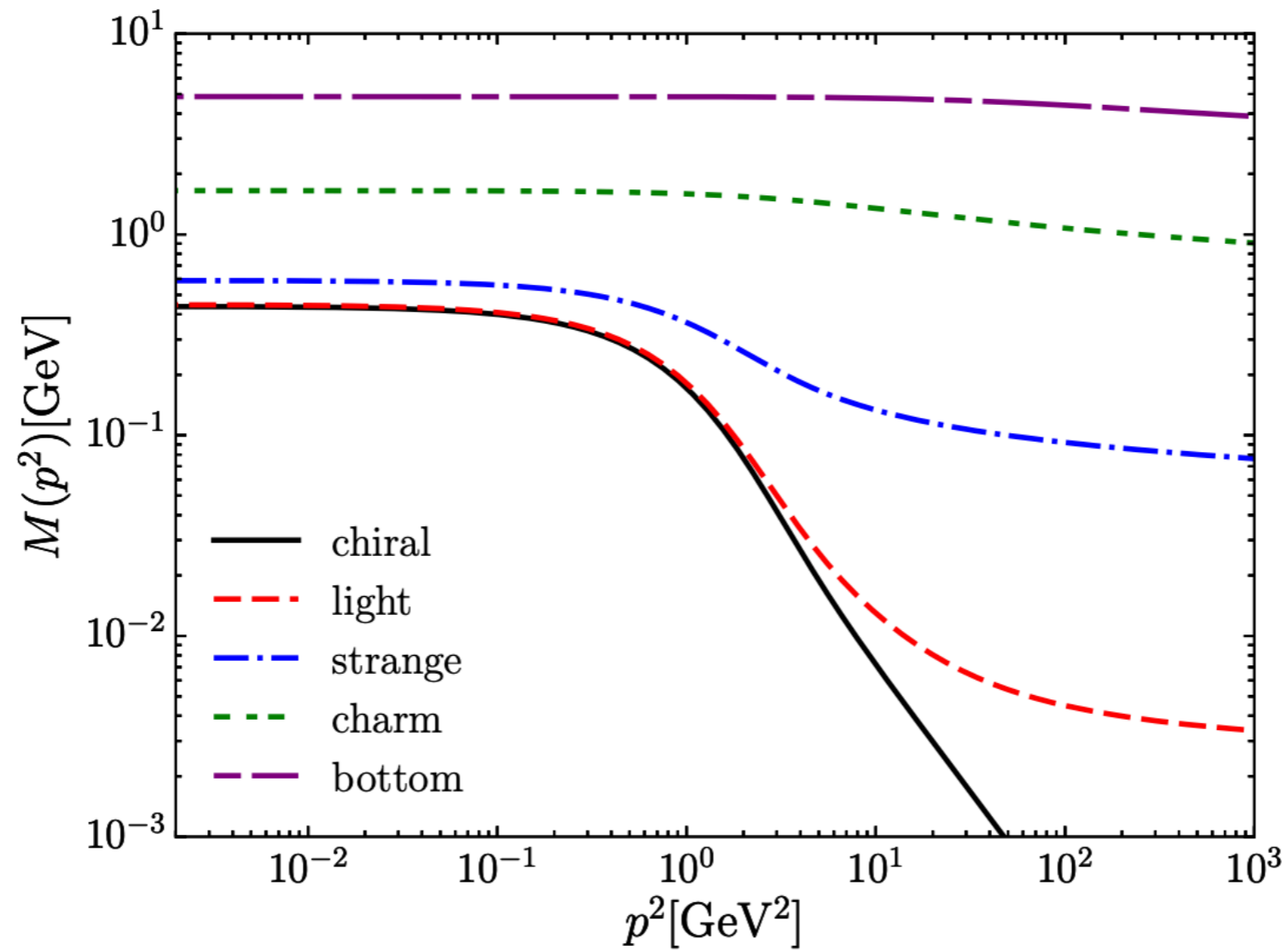


$$\Delta_{\mu\nu}(q) = \left(g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2} \right) \Delta(q^2)$$

Landau gauge

Use effective interaction which reproduces Lattice QCD and DSE results for gluon-dressing function: *infrared massive fixed point; ultraviolet massless propagator.*

Flavor dependence of quark mass functions



$$S(p) = \frac{Z(p^2)}{i\gamma \cdot p + M(p^2)}$$

L. Albino, A. Bashir, B.E., L.X. Gutiérrez Guerrero, E. Rojas PRD 100 (2019)

L. Albino, A. Bashir, B.E., E. Rojas, F. E. Serna, R.C. Silveira, JHEP11 (2021)

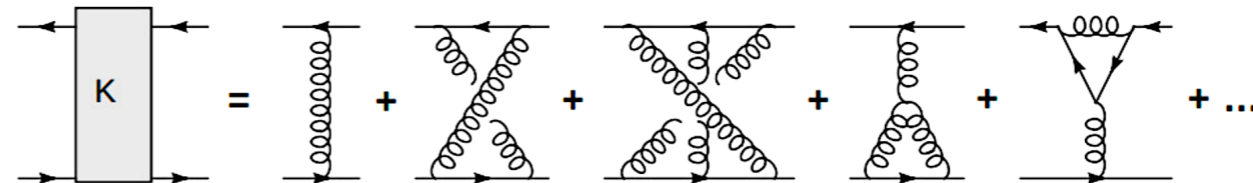
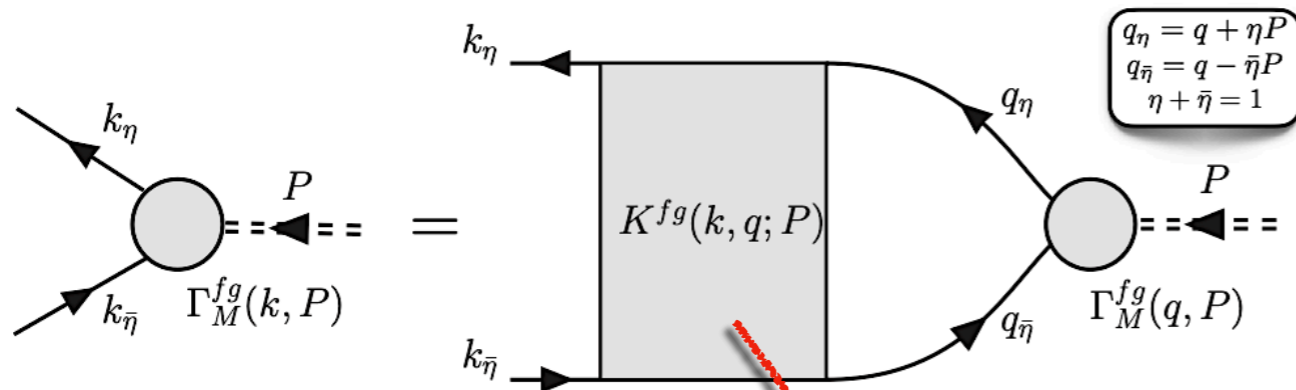
Bethe-Salpeter equation and QCD bound states

$$\Gamma_M^{fg}(k, P) = \int^{\Lambda} \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} K_{fg}(k, q; P) S_f(q_\eta) \Gamma_M^{fg}(q, P) S_g(q_{\bar{\eta}})$$

$K_{fg}(q, k; P)$ = Quark-antiquark scattering kernel

$S_f(q_\eta)$ = Dressed quark propagator

$\Gamma_M^{fg}(k, P)$ = Meson's Bethe-Salpeter Amplitude (BSA)



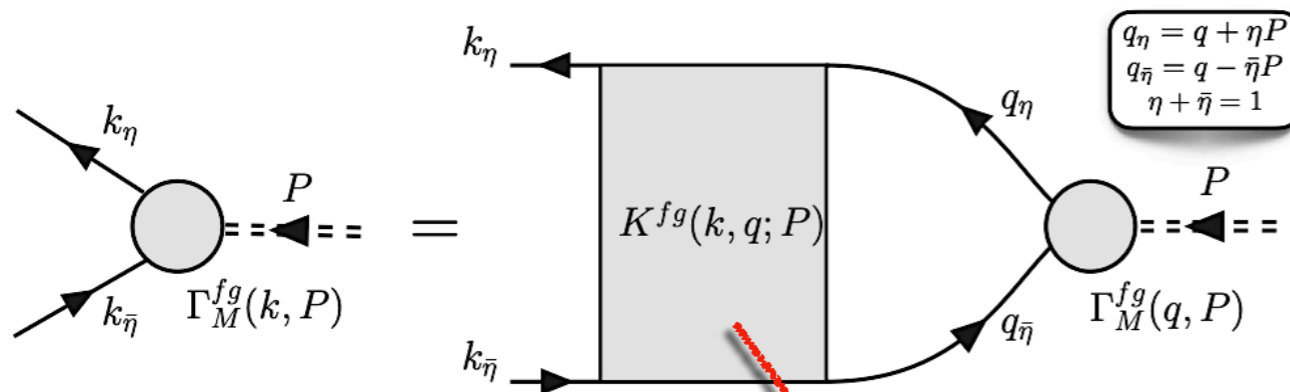
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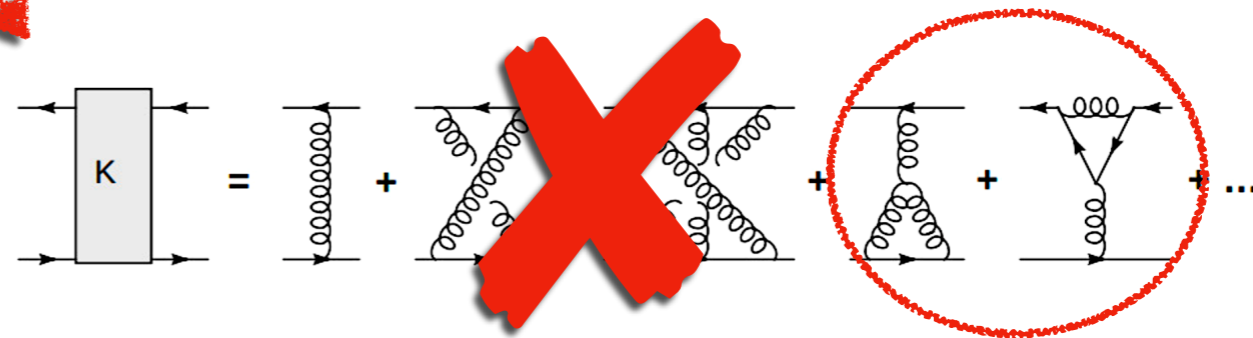
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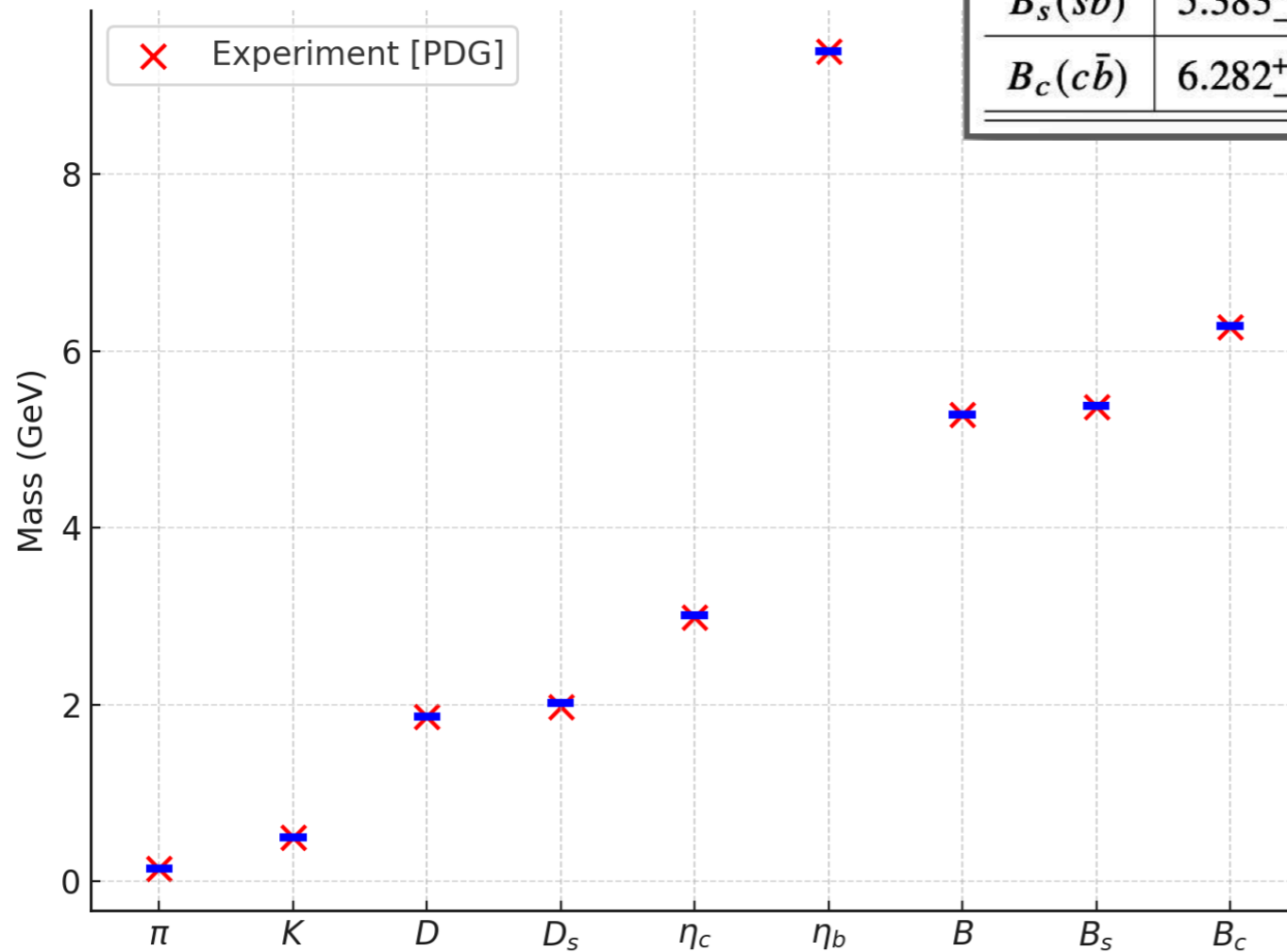


Treated with kernel beyond RL
introducing flavor dependence



Pseudoscalar Meson Spectrum

	M_P	M_P^{exp}	ϵ_{M_P} [%]	f_P	$f_P^{\text{exp}/\text{IQCD}}$	ϵ_{f_P} [%]
$\pi(u\bar{d})$	0.140	0.138	1.45	$0.094^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	0.092(1)	2.17
$K(u\bar{s})$	0.494	0.494	0	$0.110^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	0.110(2)	0
$D(c\bar{d})$	$1.867^{+0.008}_{-0.004}$	1.864	0.11	$0.144^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	0.150 (0.5)	4.00
$D_s(c\bar{s})$	$2.015^{+0.021}_{-0.018}$	1.968	2.39	$0.179^{+0.004}_{-0.003}$	0.177(0.4)	1.13
$\eta_c(c\bar{c})$	$3.012^{+0.003}_{-0.039}$	2.984	0.94	$0.270^{+0.002}_{-0.005}$	0.279(17)	3.23
$\eta_b(b\bar{b})$	$9.392^{+0.005}_{-0.004}$	9.398	0.06	$0.491^{+0.009}_{-0.009}$	0.472(4)	4.03
$B(u\bar{b})$	$5.277^{+0.008}_{-0.005}$	5.279	0.04	$0.132^{+0.004}_{-0.002}$	0.134(1)	4.35
$B_s(s\bar{b})$	$5.383^{+0.037}_{-0.039}$	5.367	0.30	$0.128^{+0.002}_{-0.003}$	0.162(1)	20.5
$B_c(c\bar{b})$	$6.282^{+0.020}_{-0.024}$	6.274	0.13	$0.280^{+0.005}_{-0.002}$	0.302(2)	10.17



F. Serna, R. Correa da Silveira, J.J. Cobos Martínez, B.E., E. Rojas, Eur. Phys. J. C 80 (2020)

Vector Meson Spectrum

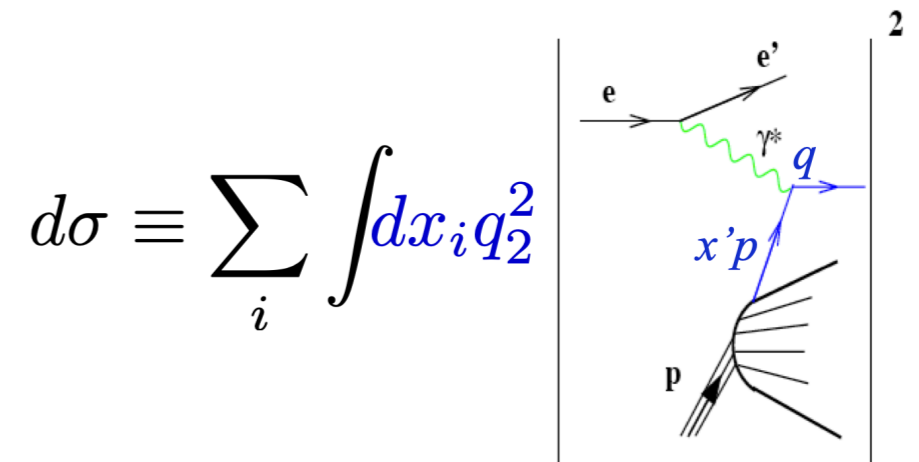
	M_V	M_V^{exp}	ϵ_{M_V} [%]	f_V	$f_V^{\text{exp/IQCD}}$	ϵ_{f_V} [%]
$\rho(u\bar{u})$	0.730	0.775	5.81	0.145	0.153(1)	5.23
$\phi(s\bar{s})$	1.070	1.019	5.20	0.187	0.168(1)	11.31
$K^*(u\bar{s})$	0.942	0.896	5.13	0.177	0.159(1)	11.32
$D^*(c\bar{d})$	2.021	2.009	0.60	0.165	0.158(6)	4.43
$D_s^*(c\bar{s})$	2.169	2.112	2.70	0.205	0.190(5)	7.90
$J/\psi(c\bar{c})$	3.124	3.097	0.87	0.277	0.294(5)	5.78
$\Upsilon(b\bar{b})$	9.411	9.460	0.52	0.594	0.505(4)	17.62

Part II

Fragmentation Functions

Deep Inelastic Scattering and Parton Distribution Functions

- Assumes fast moving hadron appears as a jet of partons moving in same direction and sharing its total momentum.
- DIS cross section is an **incoherent sum** of elastic scattering cross sections off individual partons.
- Parton model should work perfectly for $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$ where coupling constant vanishes.

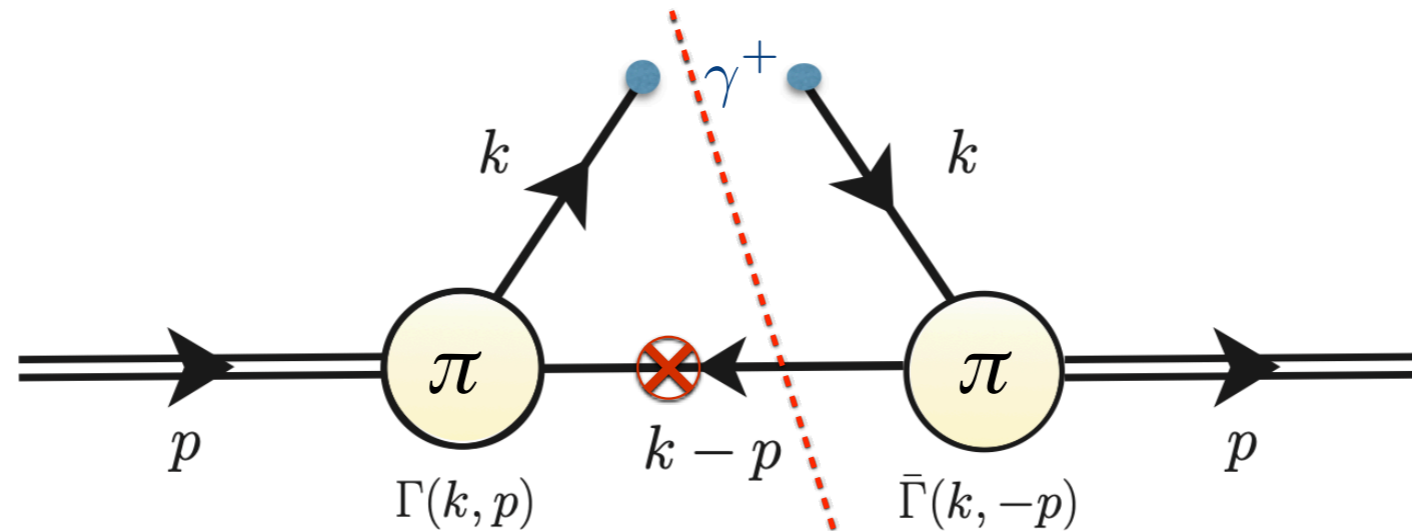


$$d\sigma = \sum_i d\hat{\sigma}(\hat{s}, \hat{t}, \hat{u}) f_i(x) dx$$

Parton momentum distribution is defined as $f_i(x) \equiv \frac{dP_i}{dx}$, where $\sum_i \int_0^1 f_i(x) dx = 1$

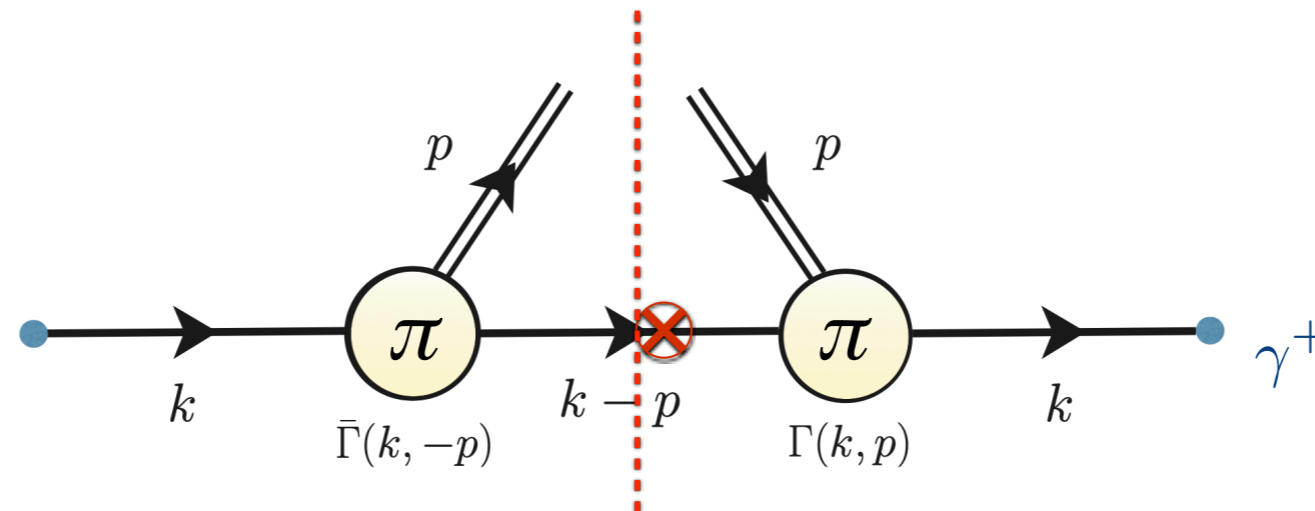
Defines probability to find a parton with light-front momentum fraction $x = \frac{k^+}{P^+}$ of the hadron.

PDF from a cut diagram



- PDFs can be computed from cut diagrams related to the imaginary part of the forward Compton amplitude (optical theorem, unitarity).
- Cuts put intermediate quarks on-shell, allowing for a **probabilistic interpretation**.
- In our approach the quark propagators are **dressed, nonperturbative** functions of the momentum, and the Bethe-Salpeter wave functions of the mesons are Poincaré invariant.
- Pseudoscalar mesons have internal structure with **S- and P-wave** orbital angular momentum.

Drell-Levy-Yan relation



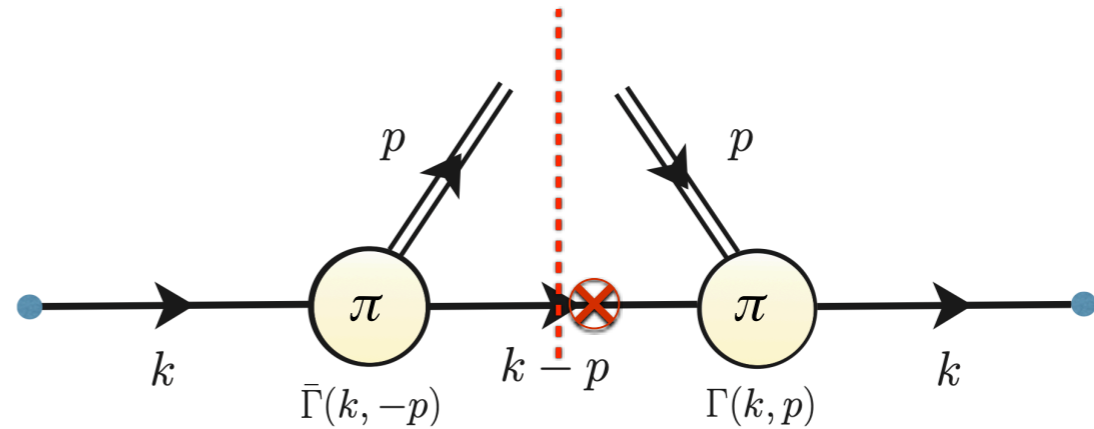
- Fragmentation functions describe the hadronization of highly energetic partons with nearly longitudinal momentum.
- Elementary fragmentation function for *physical* $z = 1/x \leq 1$ can be related to PDF for *unphysical* $x > 1$ using **charge conjugation and crossing symmetry** for matrix elements:

$$d_q^\pi(z) = \frac{z}{6} f_q^\pi(x) \quad (\text{DLY relation})$$

- Represents a probability density and can also be obtained from a cut diagram:

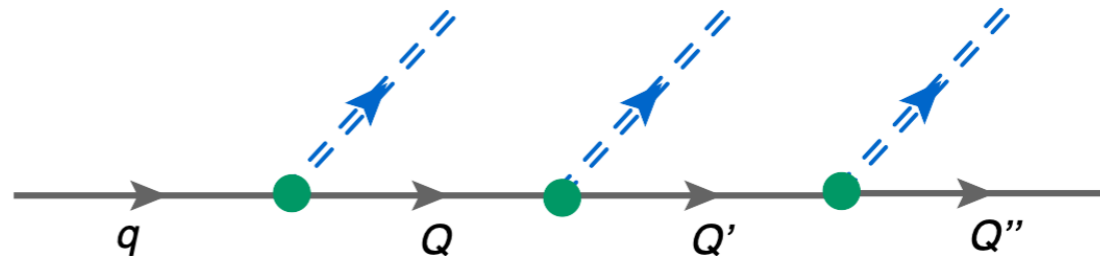
$$d_q^\pi(z) = \frac{(1 + \tau_q \tau_\pi) i N_c z}{12} \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \delta\left(k^+ - \frac{p^+}{z}\right) \text{Tr}_D \left[S(k) \gamma^+ S(k) \bar{\Gamma}_\pi(k, -p) S_{\text{os}}(k - p) \Gamma_\pi(k, p) \right]$$

Beyond DLY



- DLY relation **only useful** to derive lowest order **elementary fragmentation function**.
- Based on the assumption that PDF can be continued analytically beyond $x = 1$.
- We know that the Q^2 evolution equations lead to soft (integrable) singularities at $x = 1$
- DLY is **still useful** to relate the kernels of the evolution equations for the distribution and fragmentation functions **at LO**, J. Blumlein, V. Ravindran and W. L. van Neerven (2000).
- At **NLO** the relation between kernels is **violated**, M. Stratmann and W. Vogelsang (1998).
- In a single fragmentation process momentum and isospin sum rules cannot be satisfied.
- In the **quark jet-model** formulated by Field and Feynman the meson observed in a semi-inclusive process is one among many others which form a jet.

Jet equations



- Use multiplicative ansatz for the total fragmentation function, see derivation in T. Ito, W. Bentz, I. C. Cloët, A. Thomas & K. Yazaki (2009)

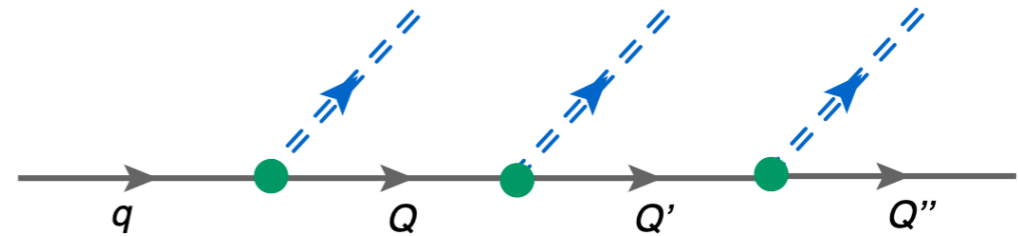
⇒ resembles integral ansatz by Fields and Feynman.

- Allows to derive integral (jet) equations for the cascade of emitted mesons:

$$D_q^m(z) = d_q^m(z) + \sum_Q \int_z^1 \frac{dy}{y} d_q^Q\left(\frac{z}{y}\right) D_Q^m(y), \quad d_q^Q(z) = d_q^m(1-z) \Big|_{m=q\bar{Q}}$$

- For instance, probability for finding a pion with light-front momentum fraction z in the jet is described by the jet function $D_q^\pi(z)$ summing over all possible fragmentations.
- Initial work took into account a cascade of charged and neutral pions.
- Currently being extended to include kaons, heavy mesons and vector mesons.

Jet equations

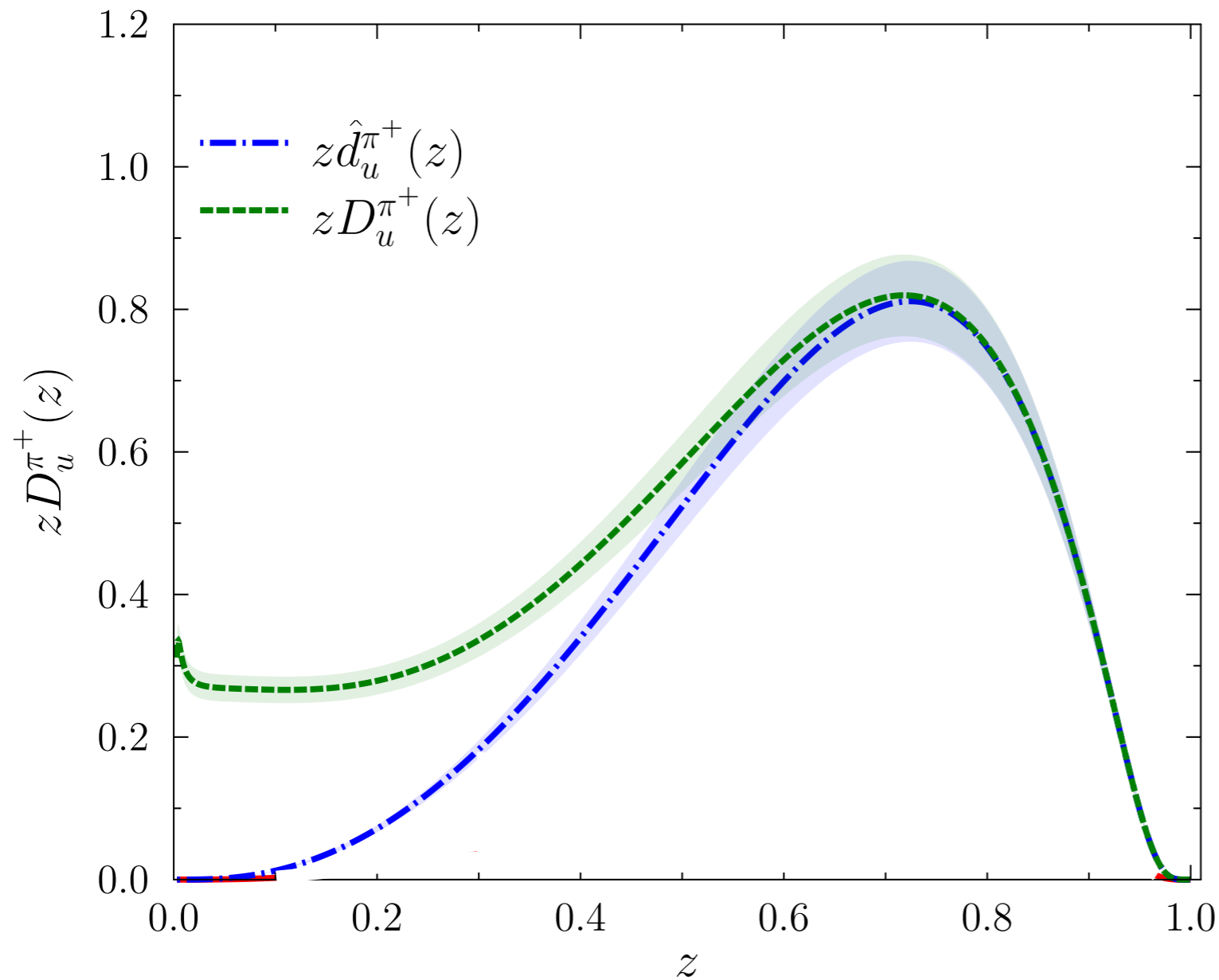


$$D_q^m(z)dz = d_q^m(z)dz + \sum_Q \int_z^1 d_q^Q\left(\frac{z}{y}\right) D_Q^m(y) \frac{dy}{y} dz$$

Probability to create a meson carrying the light-cone momentum fraction $z+dz$ of initial quark.

Creation of meson further down the quark cascade after a splitting to a quark Q with light-cone momentum fraction y .

$u \rightarrow \pi$ fragmentation functions



R. C. da Silveira, F. E. Serna and B. E., PRC (2025)

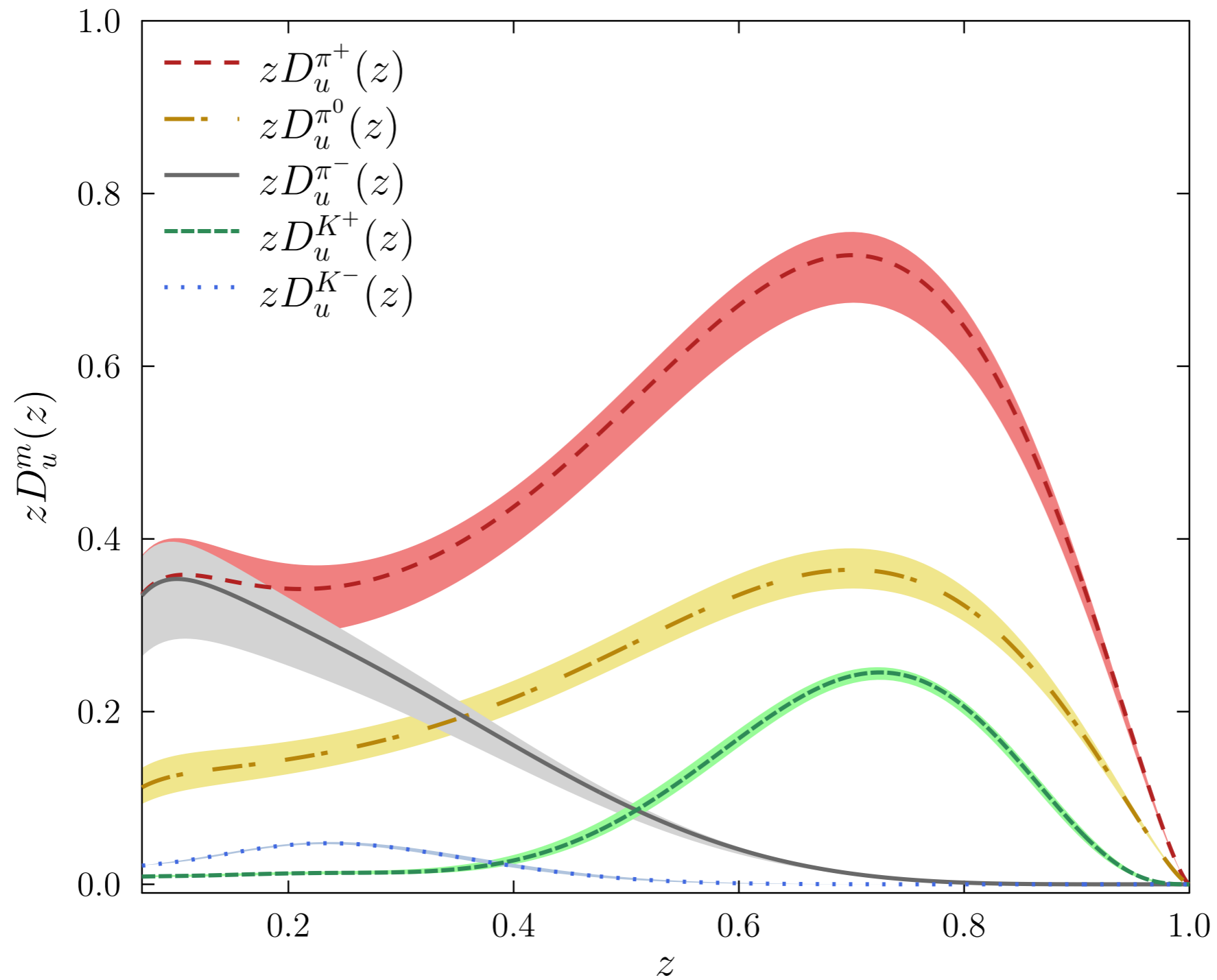
Normalized fragmentation function satisfies isospin sum rule:

$$\sum_m \int_0^1 \hat{d}_q^m(z) dz = 1$$

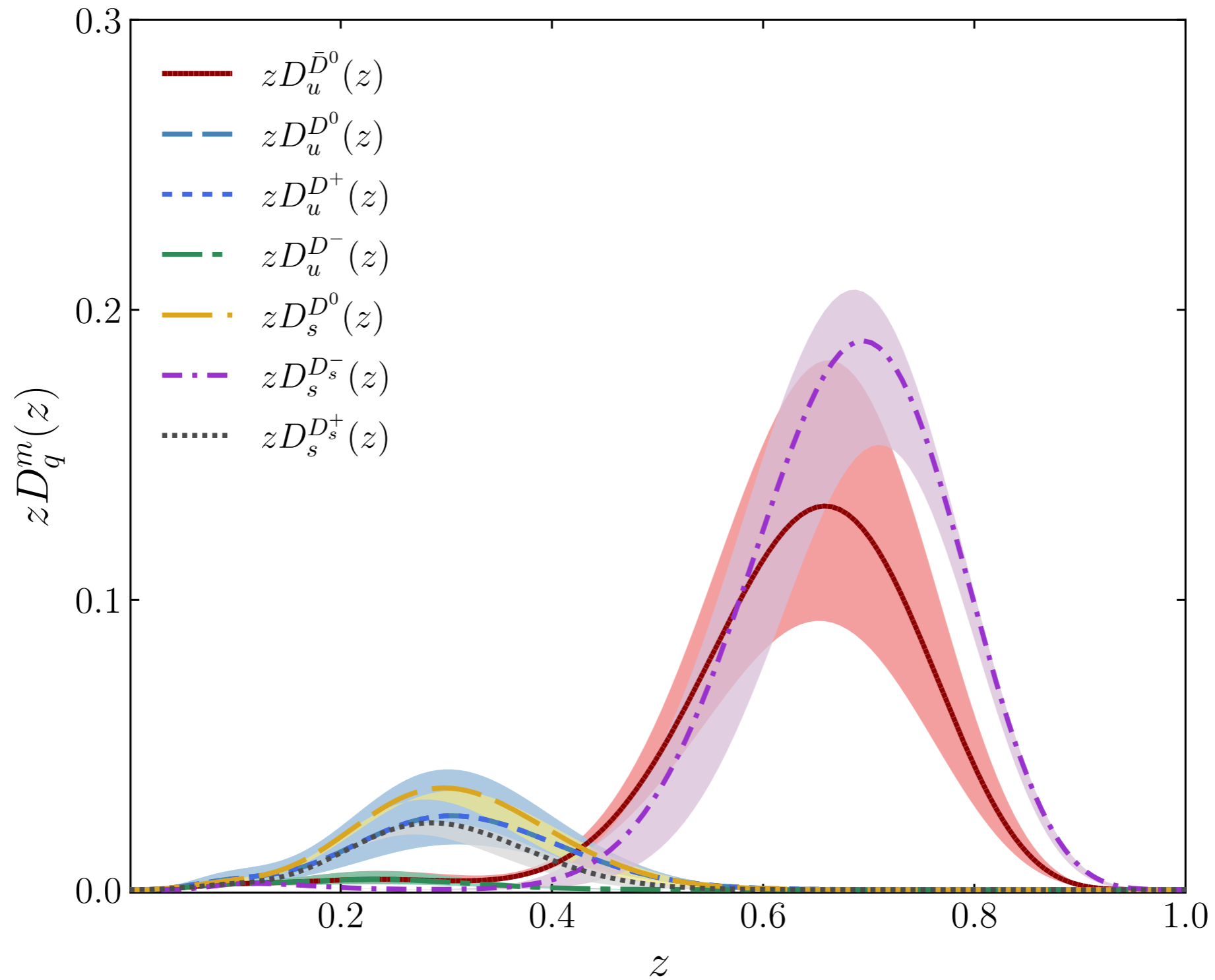
$$D_u^\pi(z) \xrightarrow{z \rightarrow 1} \hat{d}_q^\pi(z)$$

Limit in which quark gives all its momentum to initial pion.

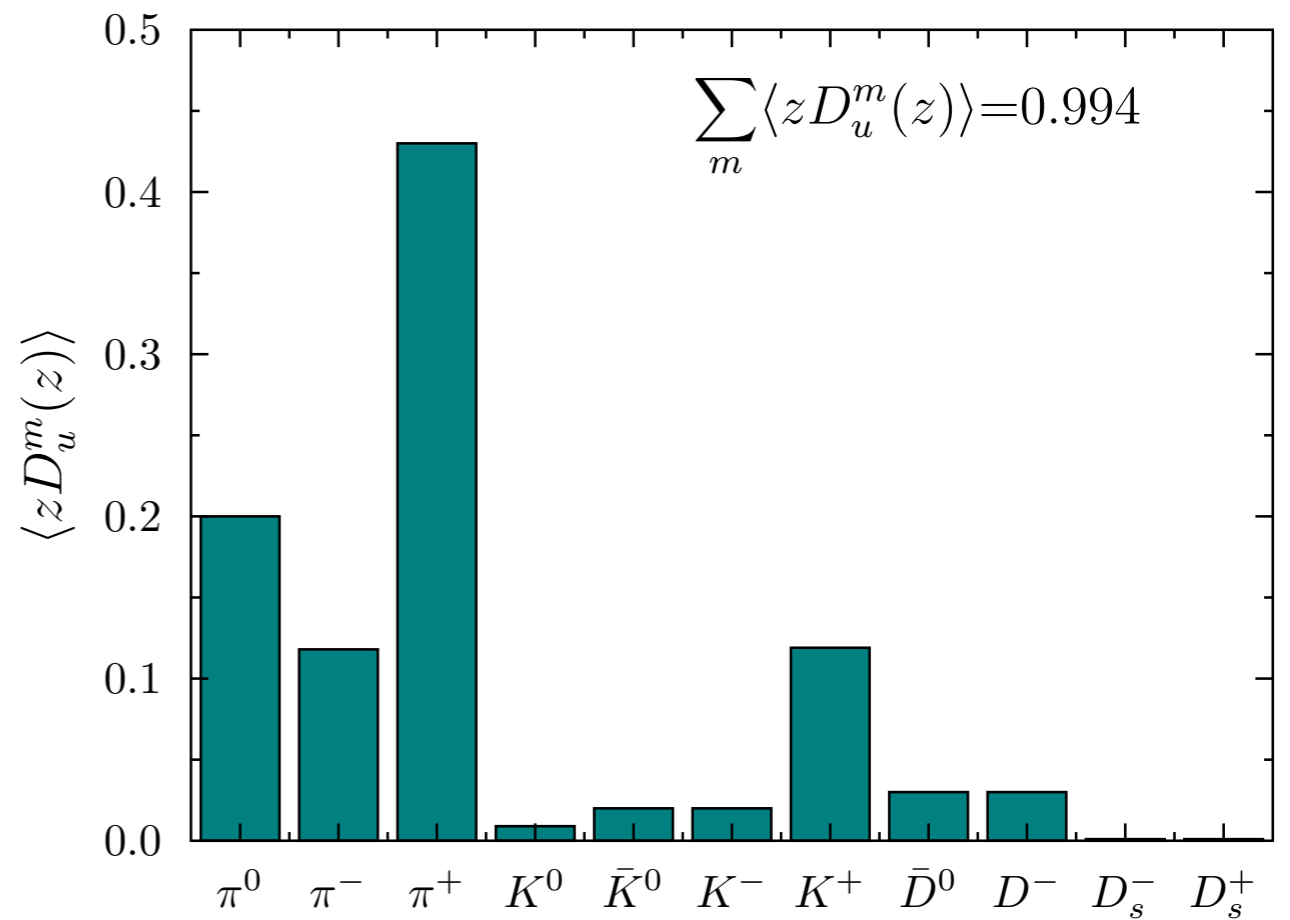
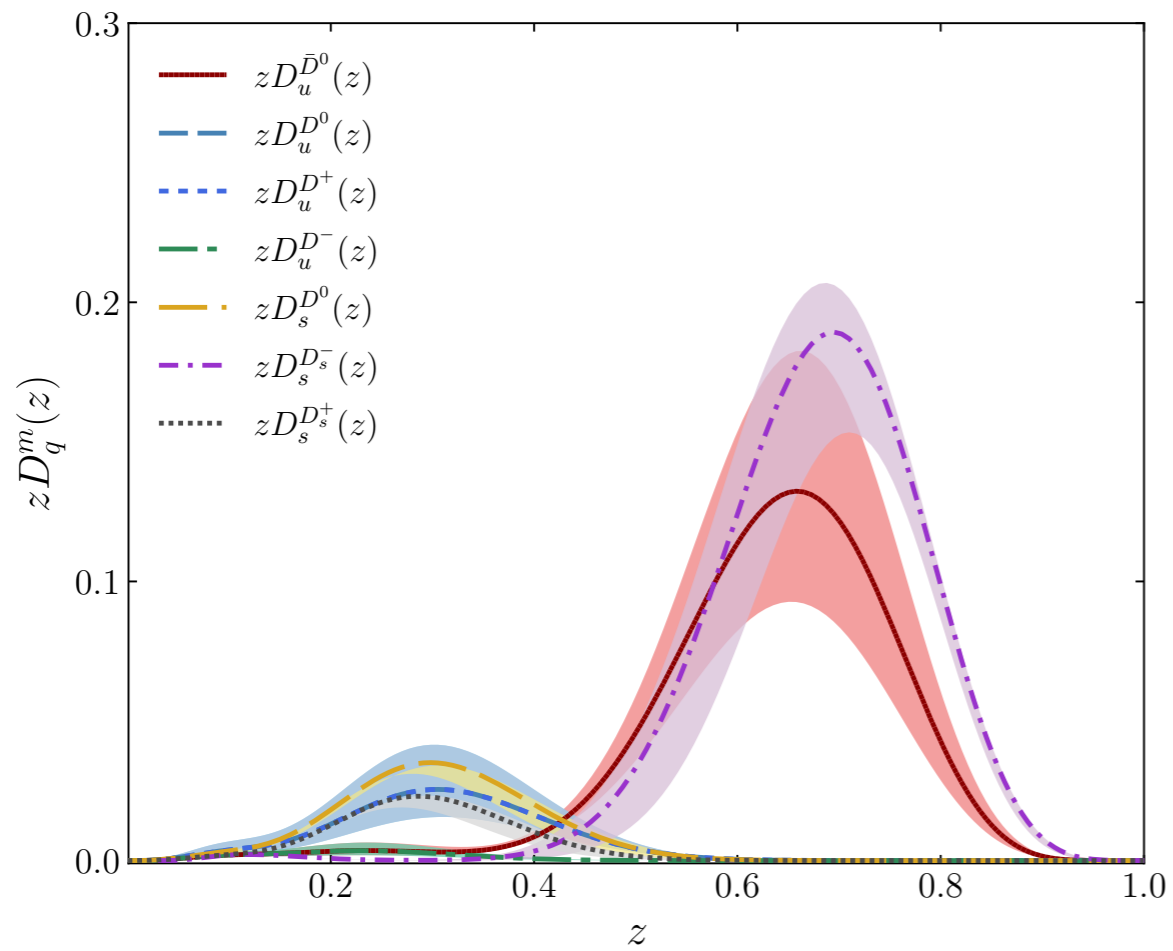
$u \rightarrow \pi, K$ fragmentation functions



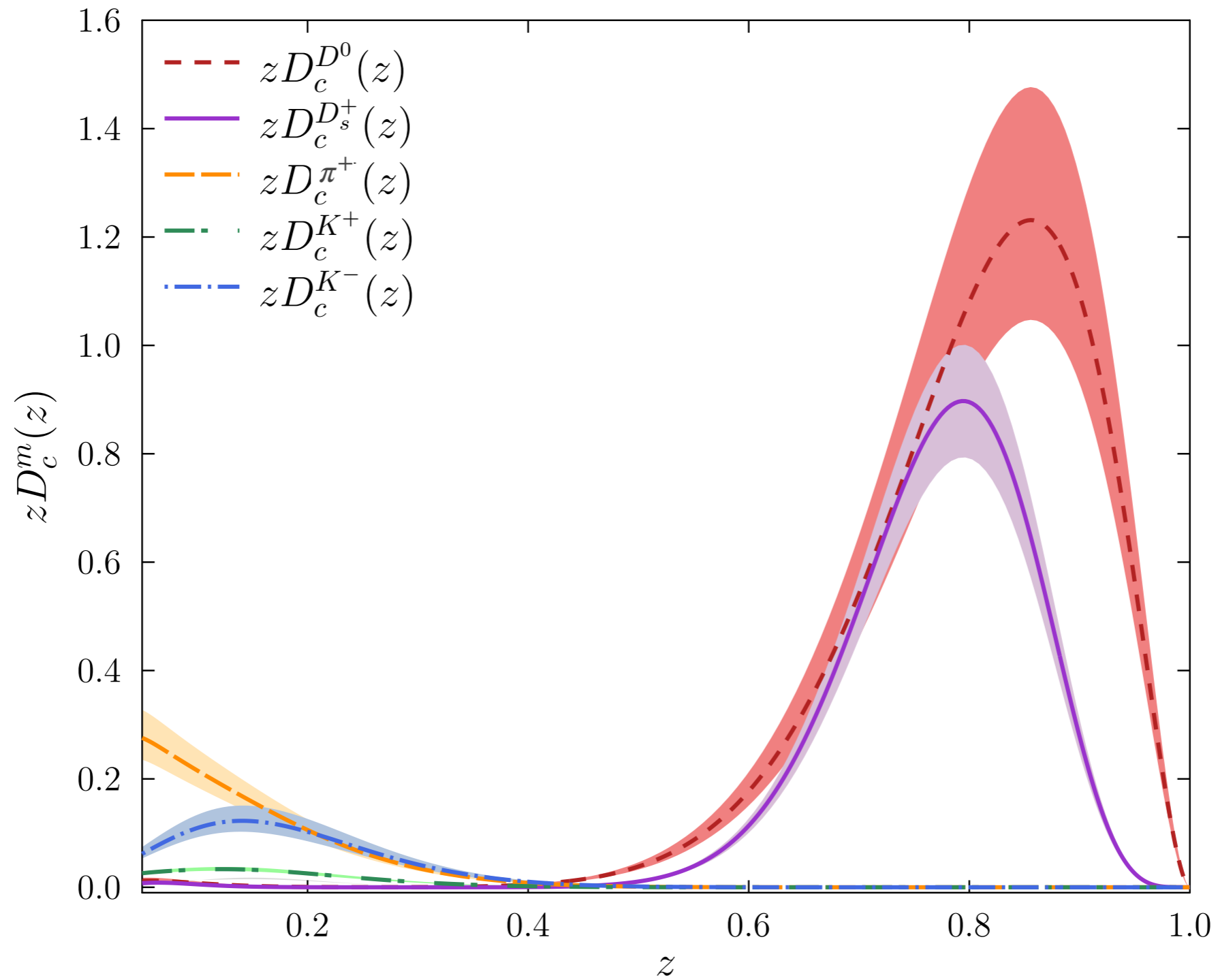
$u \rightarrow D$ and $s \rightarrow D_{(s)}$ fragmentations



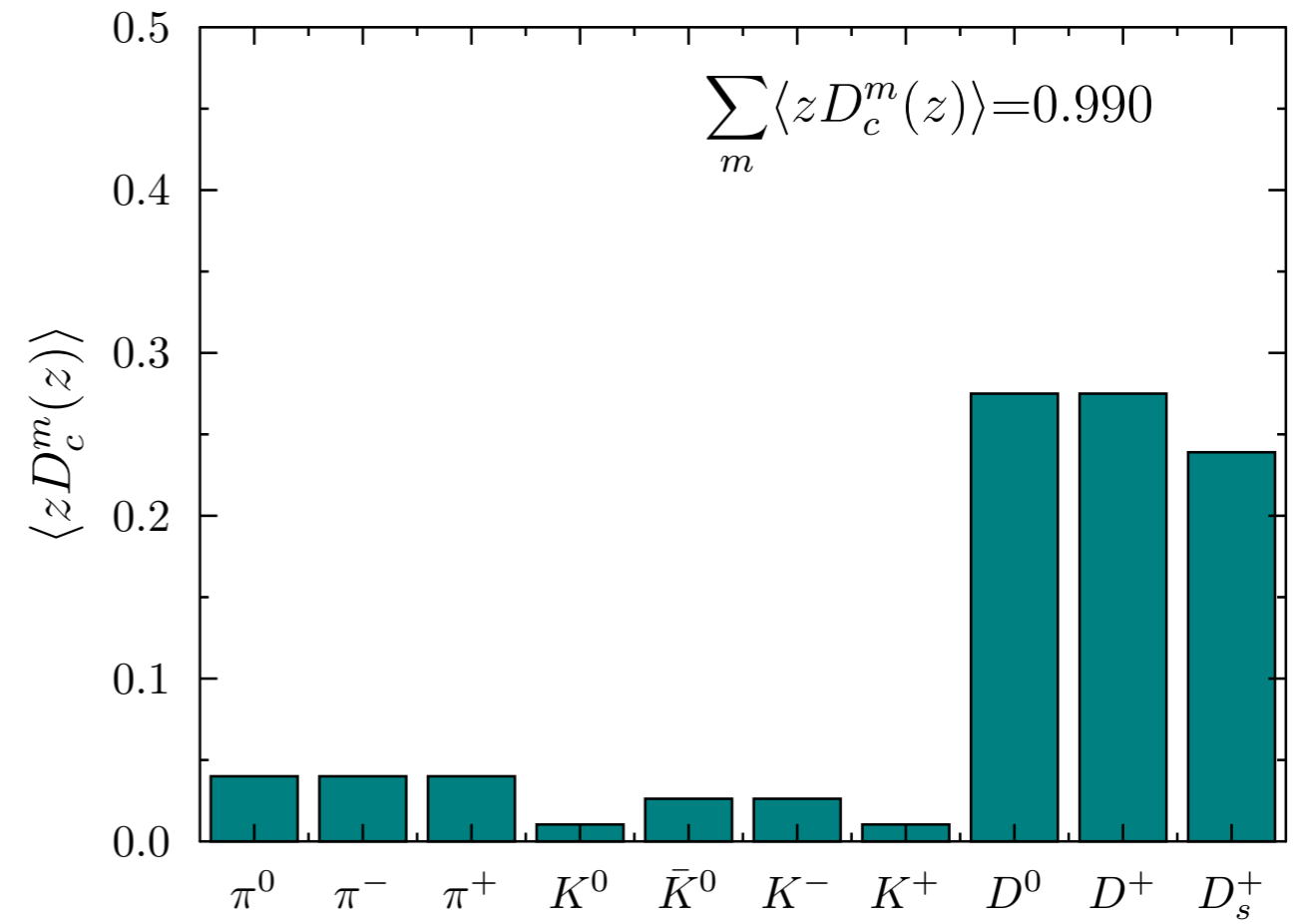
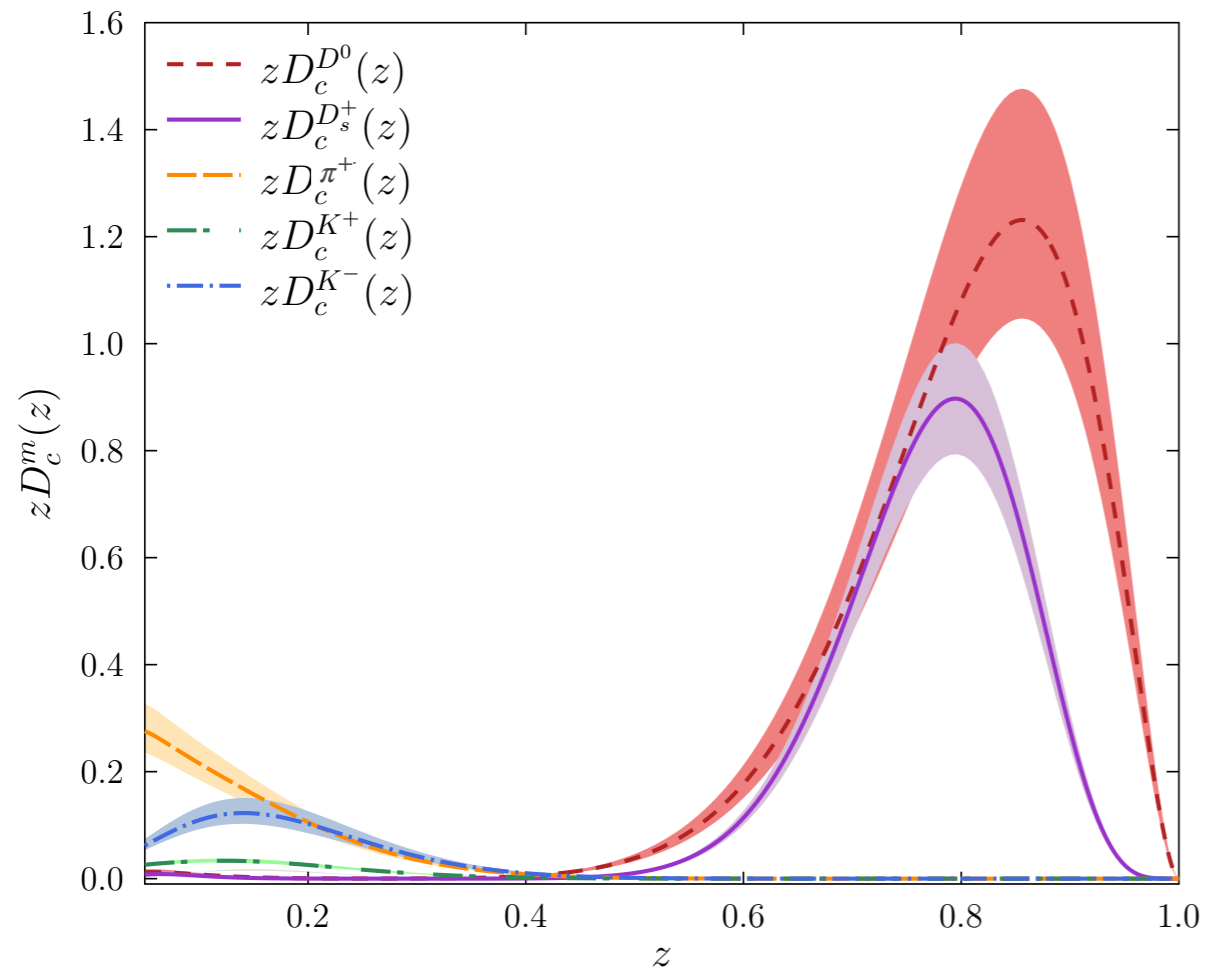
$u \rightarrow D$ and $s \rightarrow D_{(s)}$ fragmentations



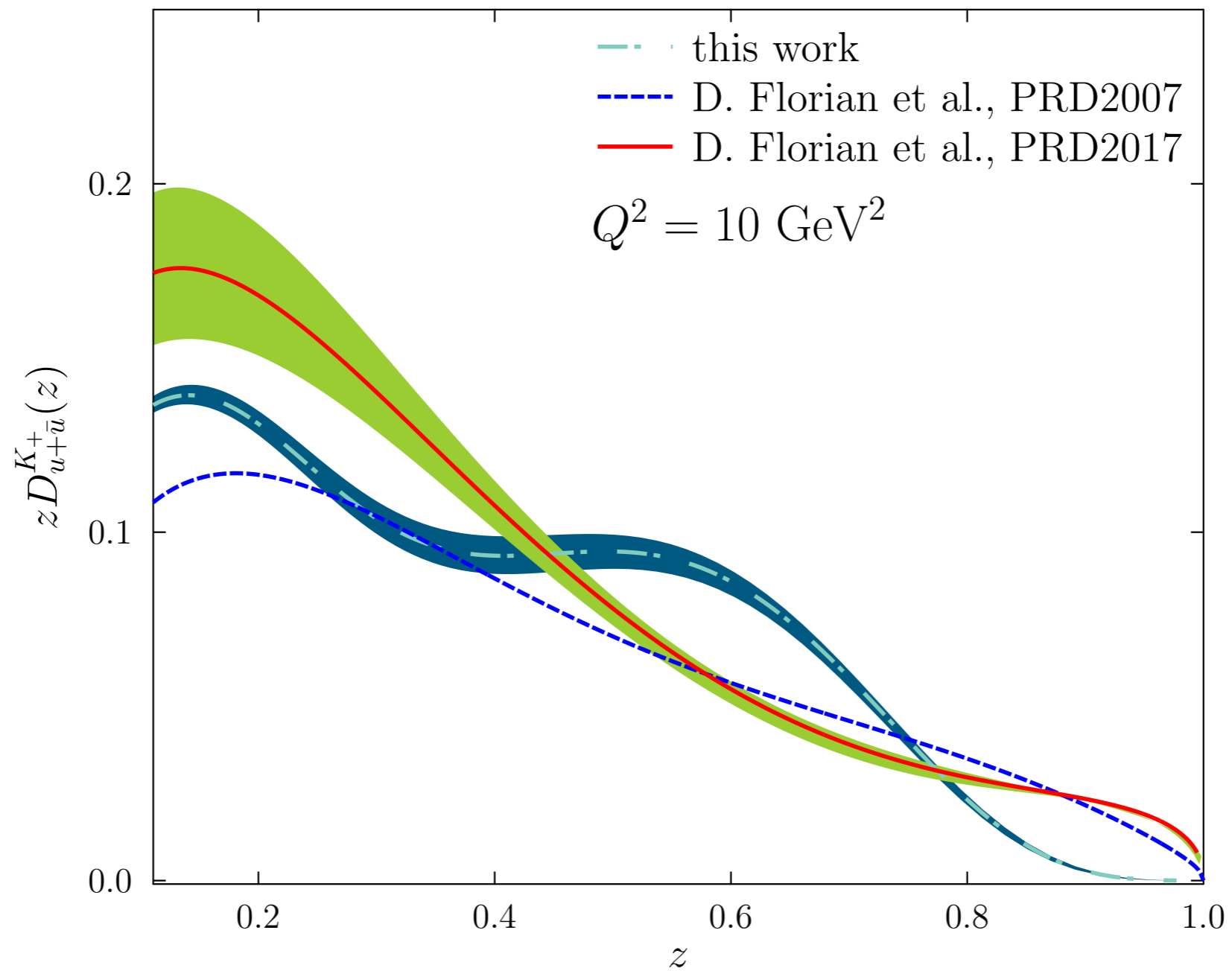
$c \rightarrow \pi, K, D$ fragmentation functions



$c \rightarrow \pi, K, D$ fragmentation functions



Global analysis of $\bar{u} + u \rightarrow K^+$ fragmentation



Final remarks

- Elementary quark-to-meson fragmentations are obtained from cut diagrams and fed into jet equations.
- Resulting fragmentation functions satisfy isospin and momentum sum rules.
- Strong suppression of the fragmentation of light quarks into heavy mesons.
- *In progress*: inclusion of light and heavy vector mesons and quarkonia in the jet equations and (hopefully) baryons in the near future.