

Gravitational form factors on the lattice

SoLID Opportunities and
Challenges of Nuclear Physics
at the Luminosity Frontier

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Outline

Gravitational structure of the nucleon

Gravitational form factors (GFFs)?

Why are GFFs interesting?

GFFs on the lattice

Overview of calculation

Results

GFFs of proton (w/ flavor decomp)

Experimental comparison

Mechanical densities & radii

[2307.11707](#)

Gravitational form factors of the pion from lattice QCD

Daniel C. Hackett, Patrick R. Oare, Dimitra A. Pefkou, and Phiala E. Shanahan
Center for Theoretical Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, U.S.A.

The two gravitational form factors of the pion, $A^\pi(t)$ and $D^\pi(t)$, are computed as functions of the momentum transfer squared t in the kinematic region $0 \leq -t < 2 \text{ GeV}^2$ on a lattice QCD ensemble with quark masses corresponding to a close-to-physical pion mass $m_\pi \approx 170 \text{ MeV}$ and $N_f = 2 + 1$ quark flavors. The flavor decomposition of these form factors into gluon, up/down light-quark, and strange quark contributions is presented in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme at energy scale $\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}$, with renormalization factors computed non-perturbatively via the RI-MOM scheme. Using monopole and z -expansion fits to the gravitational form factors, we obtain estimates for the pion momentum fraction and D -term that are consistent with the momentum fraction sum rule and the next-to-leading order chiral perturbation theory prediction for $D^\pi(0)$.

[2310.08484](#)

Gravitational form factors of the proton from lattice QCD

Daniel C. Hackett,^{1,2} Dimitra A. Pefkou,^{3,2} and Phiala E. Shanahan²

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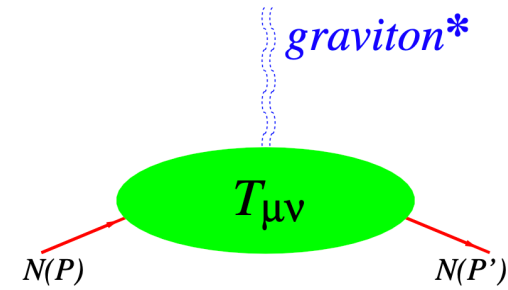
The gravitational form factors (GFFs) of a hadron encode fundamental aspects of its structure, including its shape and size as defined from e.g., its energy density. This work presents a determination of the flavor decomposition of the GFFs of the proton from lattice QCD, in the kinematic region $0 \leq -t \leq 2 \text{ GeV}^2$. The decomposition into up-, down-, strange-quark, and gluon contributions provides first-principles constraints on the role of each constituent in generating key proton structure observables, such as its mechanical radius, mass radius, and D -term.

Gravitational structure of the nucleon

Gravitational form factors (GFFs)

GFFs are EMT form factors

$$T^{\{\mu\nu\}} = 2 \text{Tr} \left[-G^{\alpha\mu} G_{\alpha}^{\nu} + \frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\nu} G^{\alpha\beta} G_{\alpha\beta} \right] + \bar{q} \gamma^{\{\mu} i \overleftrightarrow{D}^{\nu\}} q$$



Nucleon:

$$\langle N(p') | T^{\{\mu\nu\}} | N(p) \rangle = \bar{U}(p') \left[A(t) \frac{P^{\{\mu} P^{\nu\}}}{M} + J(t) \frac{i P^{\{\mu} \sigma^{\nu\}\rho} \Delta_{\rho}}{2M} + D(t) \frac{\Delta^{\{\mu} \Delta^{\nu\}} - g^{\mu\nu} \Delta^2}{4M} \right] U(p)$$

Why are these interesting?

$$\begin{aligned} a^{\{\mu} b^{\nu\}} &\equiv \frac{1}{2} (a^{\mu} b^{\nu} + a^{\nu} b^{\mu}) \\ \overleftrightarrow{D} &= (\overrightarrow{D} - \overleftarrow{D})/2 \\ U, \bar{U} &= \text{Dirac spinors} \\ P &= (p' + p)/2 \\ \Delta &= p' - p \\ t &= \Delta^2 \end{aligned}$$

Global properties

$$\langle N(p') | T^{\{\mu\nu\}} | N(p) \rangle = \bar{U}(p') \left[A(t) \frac{P^{\{\mu} P^{\nu\}}}{M} + J(t) \frac{i P^{\{\mu} \sigma^{\nu\} \rho} \Delta_{\rho}}{2M} + D(t) \frac{\Delta^{\{\mu} \Delta^{\nu\}} - g^{\mu\nu} \Delta^2}{4M} \right] U(p)$$

$\partial_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \rightarrow$ GFFs are scale- and scheme-independent

Forward GFFs are fundamental, global properties:

$$A(0) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \langle p | T^{tt} | p \rangle = M$$

$$J(0) = \frac{1}{2} = \text{Total spin}$$

$$B(0) = 2J(0) - A(0) = 0 \quad \text{“vanishing of the anomalous gravitomagnetic moment”}$$

$$D(0) = ???^* \quad (\text{internal forces})$$

Flavor decomposition

$$\text{Gluons } T_g^{\{\mu\nu\}} = 2 \text{Tr}[G^{\alpha\{\mu} G^{\nu\}\alpha}]$$

$$\text{Quarks } T_q^{\{\mu\nu\}} = \bar{q} \gamma^{\{\mu} i\vec{D}^{\nu\}} q$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle N(p') | T_{g,q}^{\{\mu\nu\}} | N(p) \rangle = \bar{u}(p') \left[A_{g,q}(t) \frac{P^{\{\mu} P^{\nu\}}}{M} + J_{g,q}(t) \frac{i P^{\{\mu} \sigma^{\nu\}\rho} \Delta_\rho}{2M} \right. \\ \left. + D_{g,q}(t) \frac{\Delta^{\{\mu} \Delta^{\nu\}} - g^{\mu\nu} \Delta^2}{4M} + \bar{c}_{g,q}(t) M g^{\mu\nu} \right] u(p) \end{aligned}$$

Flavor decomposition

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Not conserved $\sum_q \bar{c}_q + \bar{c}_g = 0$

Power-divergent mixing

Flavor decomposition

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Quarks $T_q^{\{\mu\nu\}} = \bar{q} \gamma^{\{\mu} i\vec{D}^{\nu\}} q$

Momentum fraction

$$A_{q,g}(0) = \langle x \rangle_{q,g}$$

$$A_g(0) + \sum_q A_q(0) = 1$$

Spin fraction

$$J_g(0) + \sum_q J_q(0) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle N(p') | T_{g,q}^{\{\mu\nu\}} | N(p) \rangle = \bar{u}(p') \left[A_{g,q}(t) \frac{P^{\{\mu} P^{\nu\}}}{M} + J_{g,q}(t) \frac{i P^{\{\mu} \sigma^{\nu\}\rho} \Delta_\rho}{2M} \right. \\ \left. + D_{g,q}(t) \frac{\Delta^{\{\mu} \Delta^{\nu\}} - g^{\mu\nu} \Delta^2}{4M} + \bar{c}_{g,q}(t) M g^{\mu\nu} \right] u(p) \end{aligned}$$

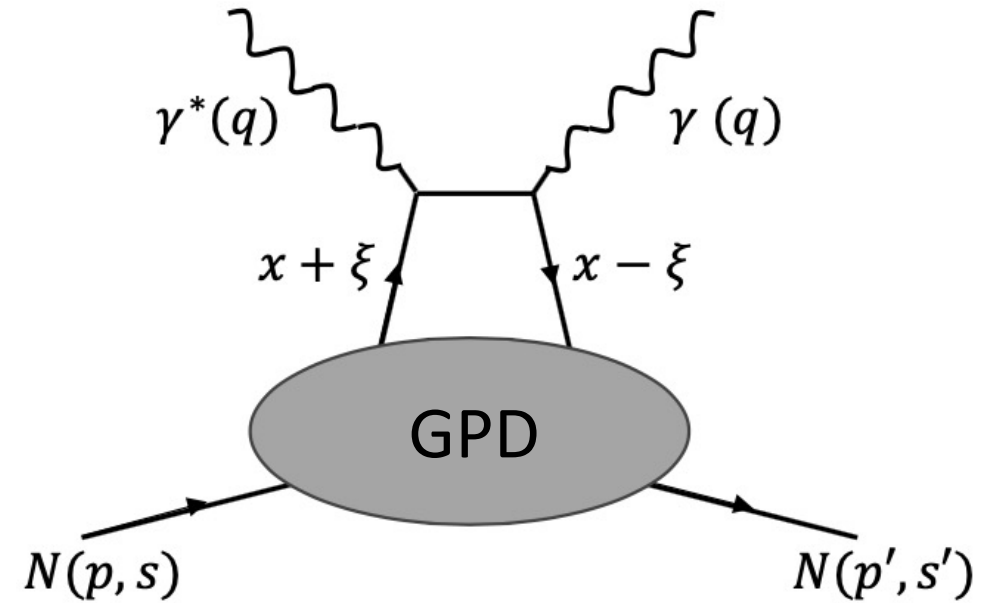
Internal forces

$$D(0) = D_g(0) + \sum_q D_q(0)$$

Not conserved $\sum_q \bar{c}_q + \bar{c}_g = 0$

Power-divergent mixing

Relation to GPDs



GFFs are Mellin moments of GPDs, e.g.

$$\int dx x H_q(x, \xi, t) = A_q(t) + \xi^2 D_q(t) \quad \int dx H_g(x, \xi, t) = A_g(t) + \xi^2 D_g(t)$$

$$\int dx x E_q(x, \xi, t) = B_q(t) - \xi^2 D_q(t) \quad \int dx E_g(x, \xi, t) = B_g(t) - \xi^2 D_g(t)$$

→ relate to experiment via factorization

GFFs on the lattice

Overview of calculation

Need to compute:

Bare matrix elements for $f \in \{g, u, d, s\}$ to constrain bare GFFs

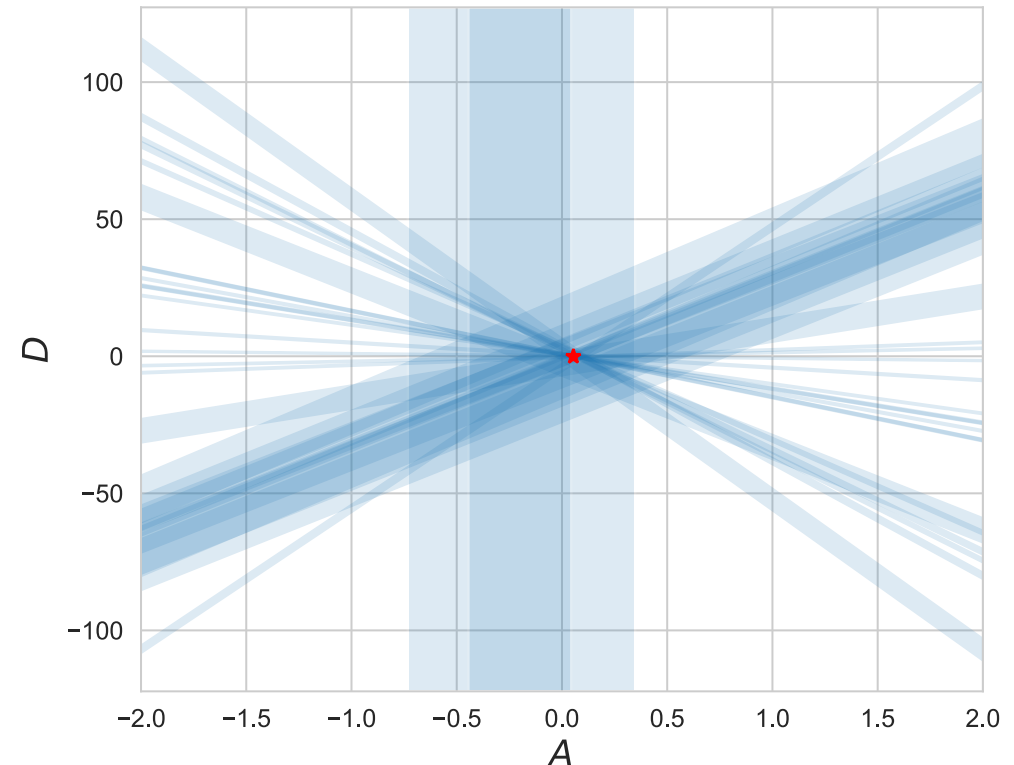
$$\langle p' | T_f^b(\Delta) | p \rangle = c_A A_f^b(t) + c_J J_f^b(t) + c_D D_f^b(t)$$

Isosinglet mixing matrix (+ non-singlet Z_{u+d-2s})

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_q^{\overline{MS}} \\ T_g^{\overline{MS}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{qq}^{\overline{MS}} & Z_{qg}^{\overline{MS}} \\ Z_{gq}^{\overline{MS}} & Z_{gg}^{\overline{MS}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_q^{\text{bare}} \\ T_g^{\text{bare}} \end{bmatrix}$$

→ Renormalized linear constraints on GFFs
at different values of $t = \Delta^2 = (p' - p)^2$

Fit to extract GFFs(t)



Ensembles

Gauge action: tadpole-improved Luscher-Weisz

Fermion action: 2 + 1 flavors, stout-smearred clover

	L/a	T/a	β	am_l	am_s	a [fm]	m_π [MeV]
A	48	96	6.3	-0.2416	-0.2050	0.091(1)	169(1)
B	12	24	6.1	-0.2800	-0.2450	0.1167(16)	450(5)

Bare matrix elements

Glue: 2511 configs
Quarks: 1381 configs (subset)
[“a091m170” (JLab/W&M/MIT/LANL)]

Renormalization

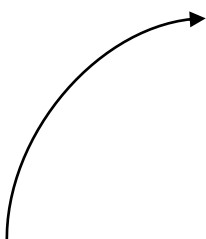
Conn. quark: 240 configs
Disco./glue: 20000 configs

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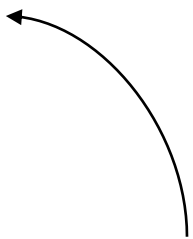


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Renormalization

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Disco./glue: 20000 configs



“Single”-ensemble calculation: can’t quantify remaining artifacts due to discretization, unphysical quark masses, finite volume

Lattice EMT operators

Quark: $T_q^{\{\mu\nu\}} = \bar{q} \gamma^{\{\mu} i \overleftrightarrow{D}^{\nu\}} q$

Discretized covariant derivative

$$\overleftrightarrow{D} = (\overrightarrow{D} - \overleftarrow{D})/2$$

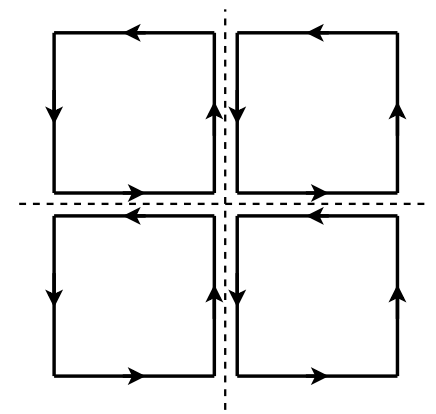
$$(\overrightarrow{D}_\mu \psi)(x) = \frac{1}{2} [U_\mu(x) \psi(x + \mu) - U_\mu^\dagger(x - \mu) \psi(x - \mu)]$$

$$(\overleftarrow{D}_\mu \bar{\psi})(x) = \frac{1}{2} [\bar{\psi}(x + \mu) U_\mu^\dagger(x) - \bar{\psi}(x - \mu) U_\mu(x - \mu)]$$

Glue: $T_g^{\{\mu\nu\}} = \frac{2}{g^2} \text{Tr}[G^{\alpha\{\mu} G^{\nu\}\alpha}]$

Clovers flowed to $t/a^2 = 2$

$$G_{\mu\nu} \sim (Q_{\mu\nu} - Q_{\mu\nu}^\dagger)$$



Project to irreps of hypercubic group

$$\tau_1^{(3)}: \quad \frac{1}{2} (T^{xx} + T^{yy} - T^{zz} + T^{tt}), \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (T^{zz} + T^{tt}), \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (T^{xx} - T^{yy})$$

$$\tau_3^{(6)}: \quad \left\{ \frac{i^{\delta_{\mu 0}}}{\sqrt{2}} (T^{\mu\nu} + T^{\nu\mu}), \quad 0 \leq \mu \leq \nu \leq 3 \right\}$$

Bare matrix elements from three-point functions

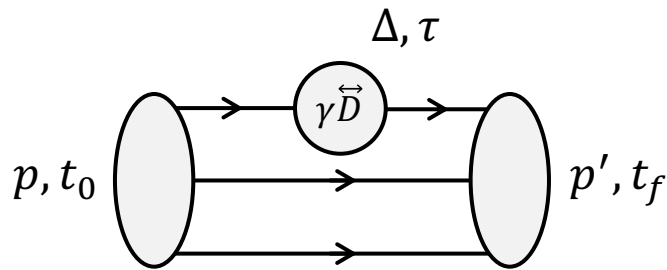
Can't compute matrix elements directly, must extract from

$$\langle \chi(p', t_f) T^b(\Delta, \tau) \bar{\chi}(p, 0) \rangle \sim Z_{p'} Z_p \langle p' | T^b(\Delta) | p \rangle e^{-E'(t_f - \tau) - E\tau} + (\text{excited states})$$

Bare matrix elements from three-point functions

Can't compute matrix elements directly, must extract from

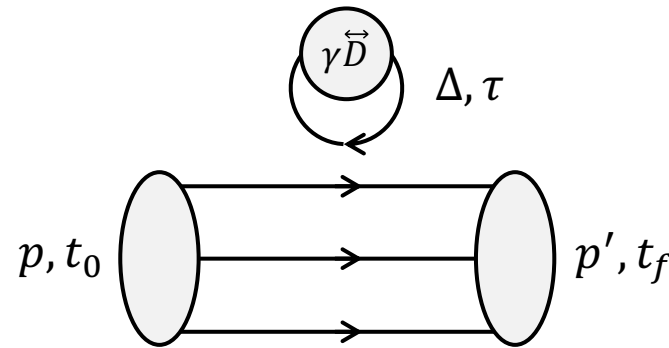
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Connected Quark (u, d)

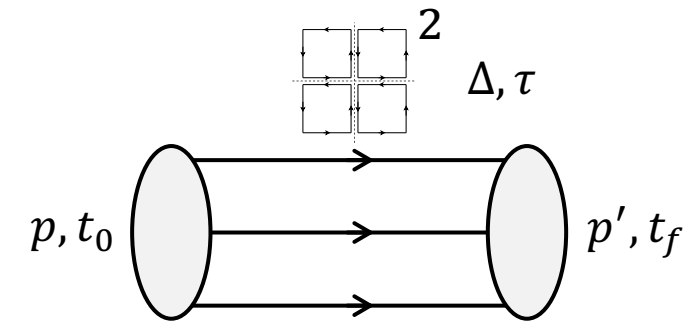
Sequential source (thru sink)

- 3 sink momenta
- 1 spin channel
- Sources / cfg varies w/ t_f



Disconnected Quark ($u = d, s$)

- 1024 sources / cfg
- 4 spin channels
- Hierarchical probing w/ 512 Hadamard vectors
- 2 Z_4 noise shots / cfg



Glue (disconnected)

- 1024 sources / cfg
- 4 spin channels

Extracting bare matrix elements

1. Construct ratios

$$R(p, p'; \tau, t_f) = \frac{C^{3\text{pt}}(p, p'; t_f, \tau)}{C^{2\text{pt}}(p'; t_f)} \sqrt{\frac{C^{2\text{pt}}(p; t_f - \tau)}{C^{2\text{pt}}(p'; t_f - \tau)} \frac{C^{2\text{pt}}(p'; t_f)}{C^{2\text{pt}}(p; t_f)} \frac{C^{2\text{pt}}(p'; \tau)}{C^{2\text{pt}}(p; \tau)}}$$

$$= \# \langle p' | T^b(\Delta) | p \rangle + O\left(e^{-\Delta E \tau - \Delta E' (t_f - \tau)}\right)$$

2. Bin ratios together w/ same kinematic coeffs \longrightarrow

Number of distinct ratios:

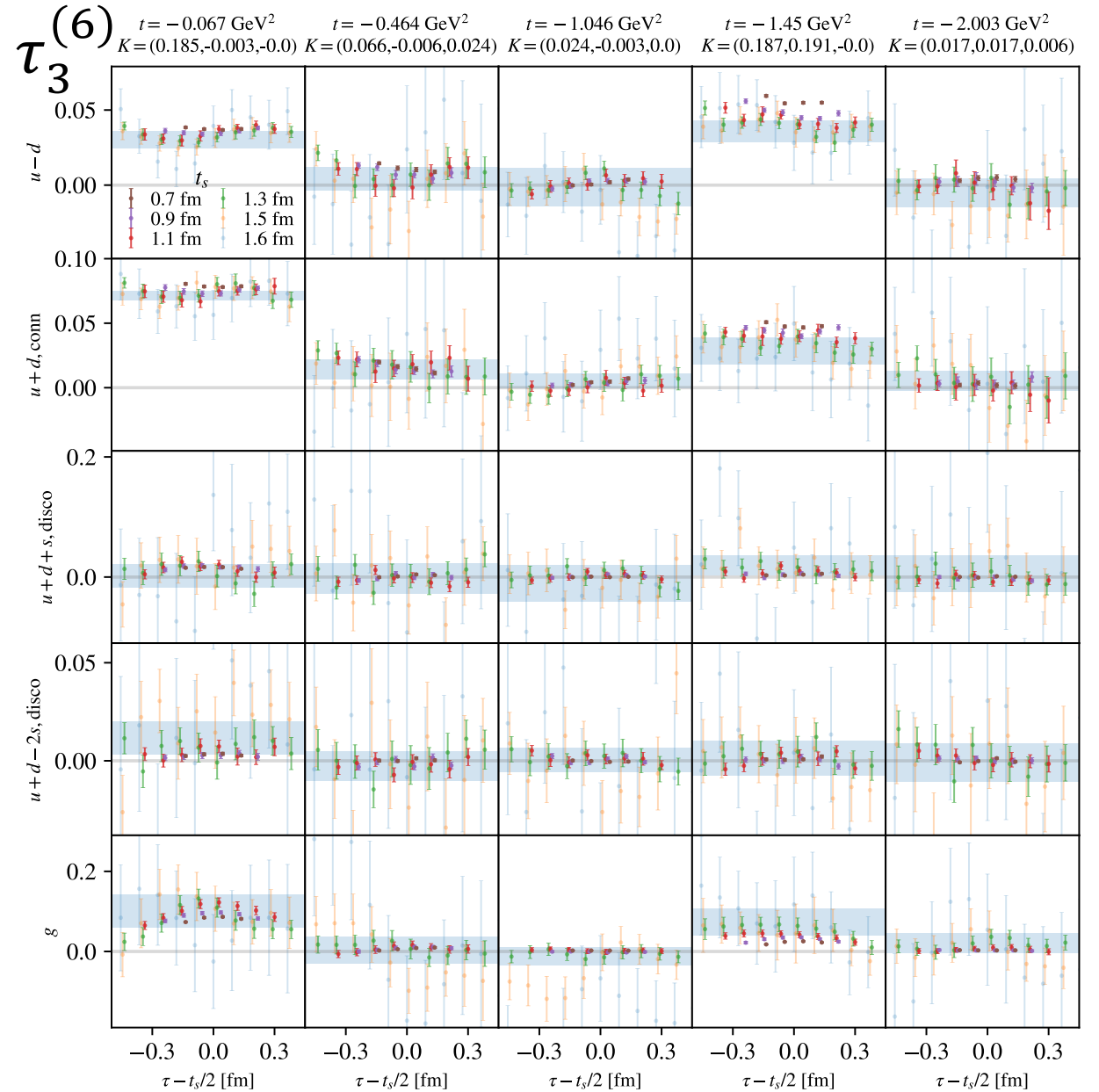
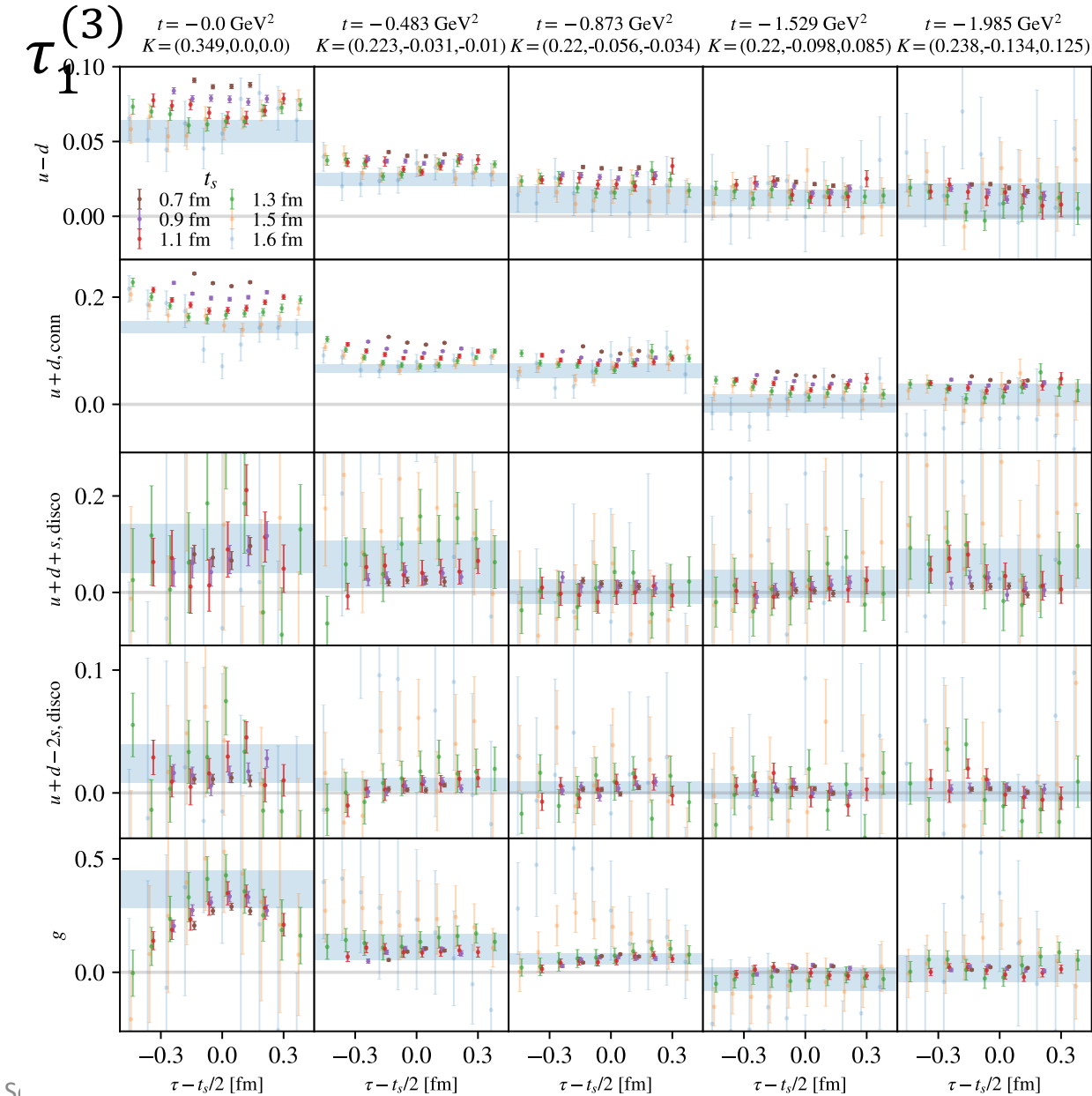
conn q: 6982 \rightarrow 3081
disc q/g: 1200296 \rightarrow 11452

3. Fit using “summation method”

$$\Sigma(t_f) = \sum_{\tau=\tau_{\text{cut}}}^{t_f - \tau_{\text{cut}}} R(\tau, t_f) = (\text{const}) + \# \langle p' | T^b(\Delta) | p \rangle t_f + O(e^{-\delta E t_f})$$

... w/ Bayesian model averaging over fit ranges, τ_{cut}

Example nucleon ratios



Renormalization

Assert **RI-MOM conditions** at scale $\mu^2 = p^2$

$$\langle q(p) T_f(0) \bar{q}(p) \rangle_{\text{lattice}} = Z_q R_{fq}^{\text{RI}} \langle q(p) T_f(0) \bar{q}(p) \rangle_{\text{tree}}$$

$$\langle A(p) T_f(0) A(p) \rangle_{\text{lattice}} = Z_g R_{fg}^{\text{RI}} \langle A(p) T_f(0) A(p) \rangle_{\text{tree}}$$

...in Landau gauge

...flow T_g to $t/a^2 = 1.2$ to match operator in bare matrix elements

Apply **perturbative matching to $\overline{\text{MS}}$** and run to $\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}$

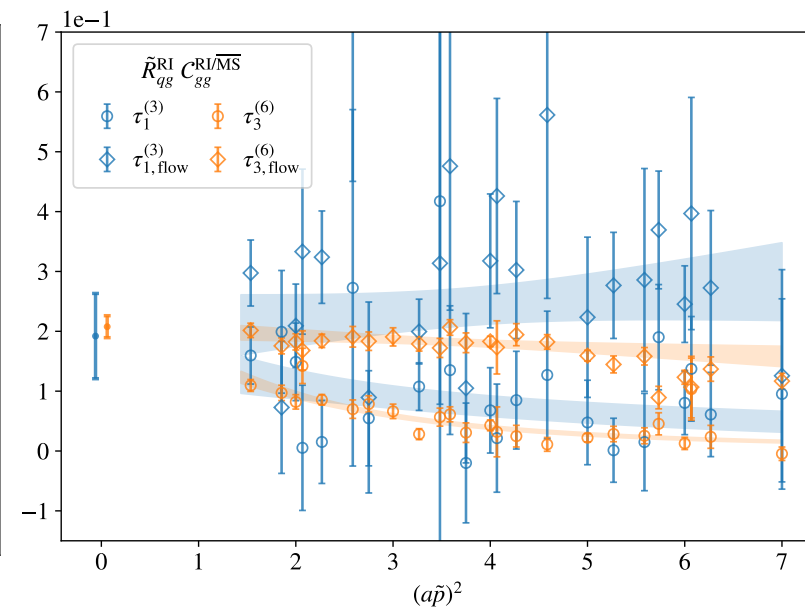
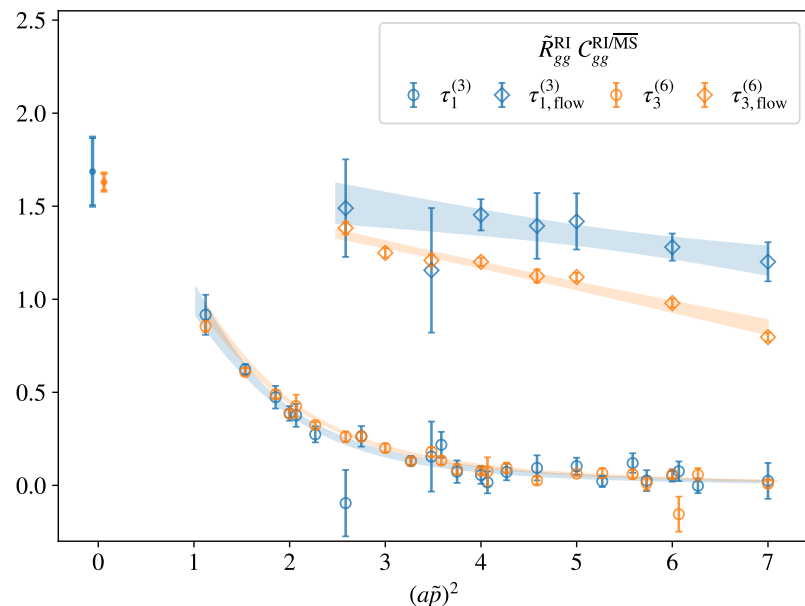
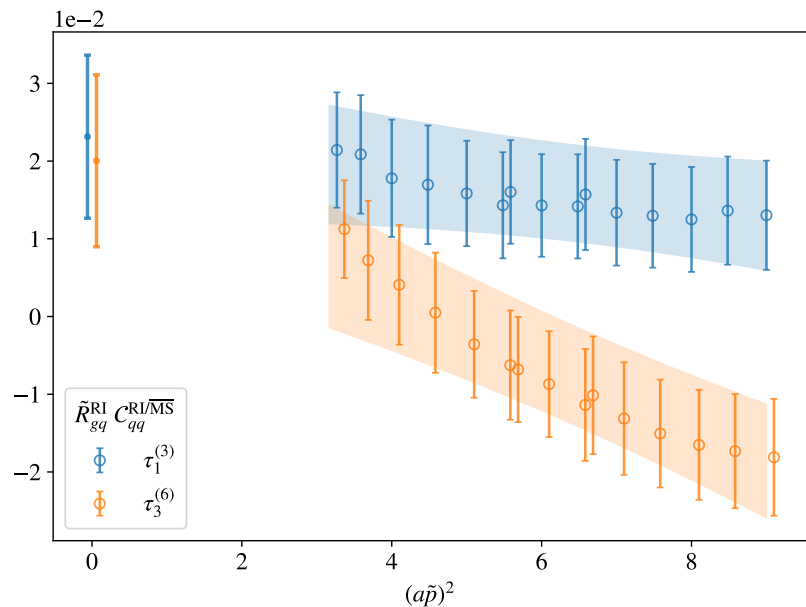
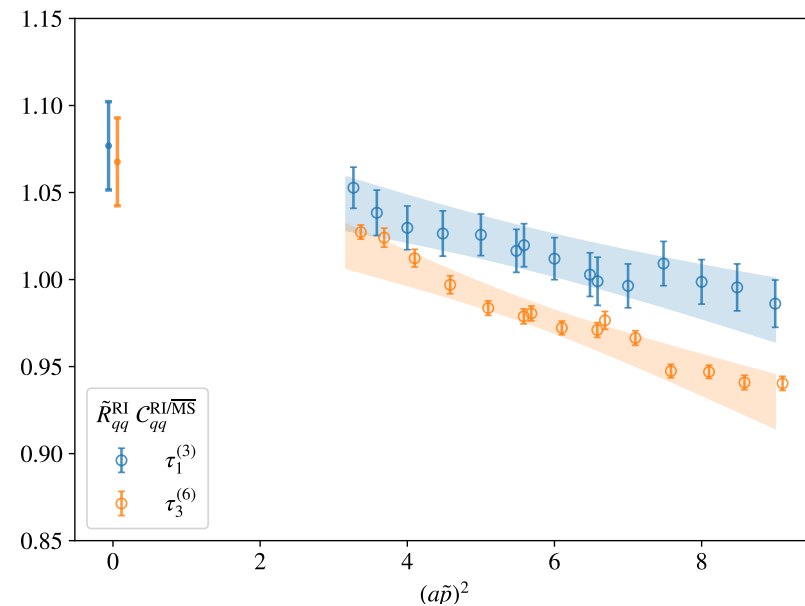
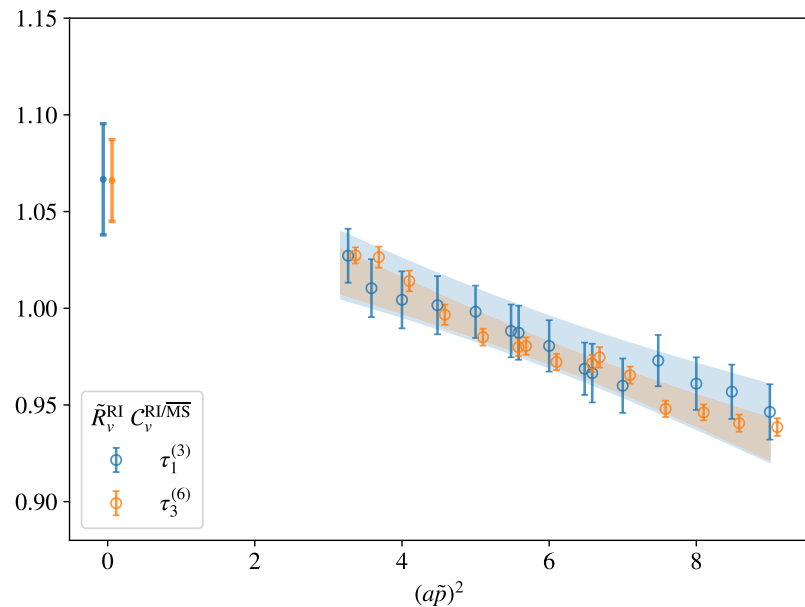
$$\left(Z_{u-d}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \right)^{-1} (\mu^2) = C_{u-d}^{\text{RI}/\overline{\text{MS}}} (\mu^2, \mu_R^2) R_{u-d}^{\text{RI}} (\mu_R^2)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z_{qq}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} & Z_{qg}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \\ Z_{gq}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} & Z_{gg}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} (\mu^2) = \begin{bmatrix} R_{qq}^{\text{RI}} & R_{qg}^{\text{RI}} \\ R_{gq}^{\text{RI}} & R_{gg}^{\text{RI}} \end{bmatrix} (\mu_R^2) \begin{bmatrix} C_{qq}^{\text{RI}/\overline{\text{MS}}} & C_{qg}^{\text{RI}/\overline{\text{MS}}} \\ C_{gq}^{\text{RI}/\overline{\text{MS}}} & C_{gg}^{\text{RI}/\overline{\text{MS}}} \end{bmatrix} (\mu^2, \mu_R^2)$$

Model and fit residual $(ap)^2$ dependence in each of product $R^{\text{RI}} C^{\text{RI}/\overline{\text{MS}}}$

Renormalization: removing discretization artifacts

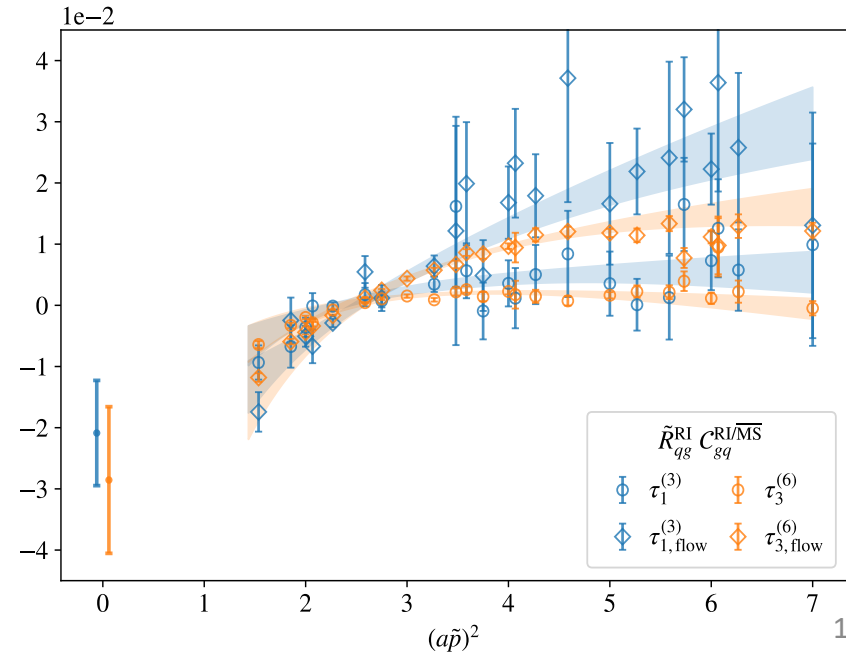
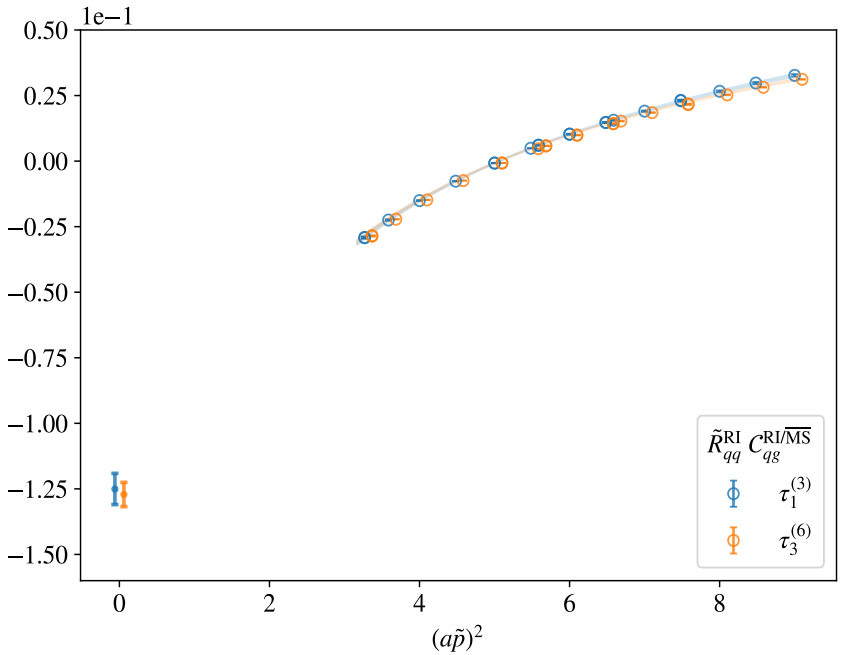
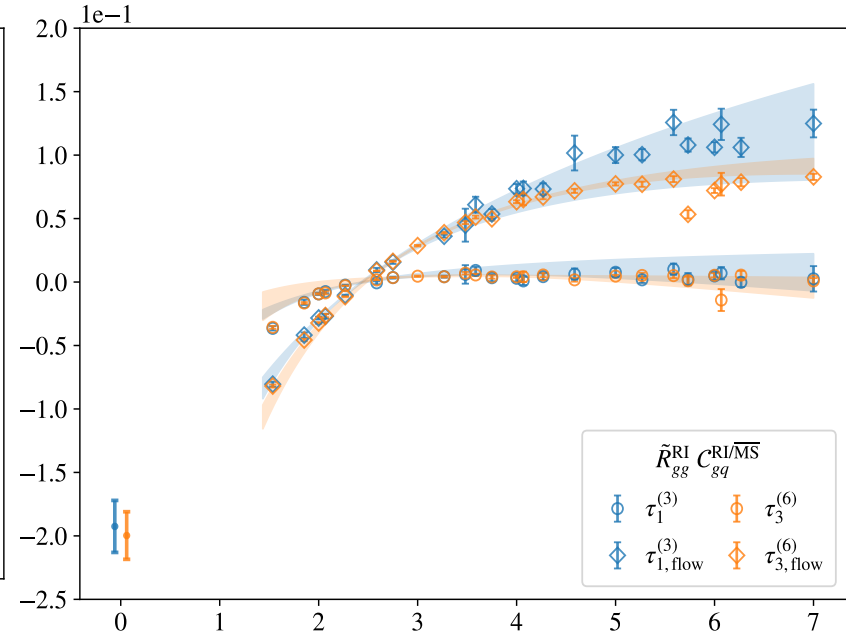
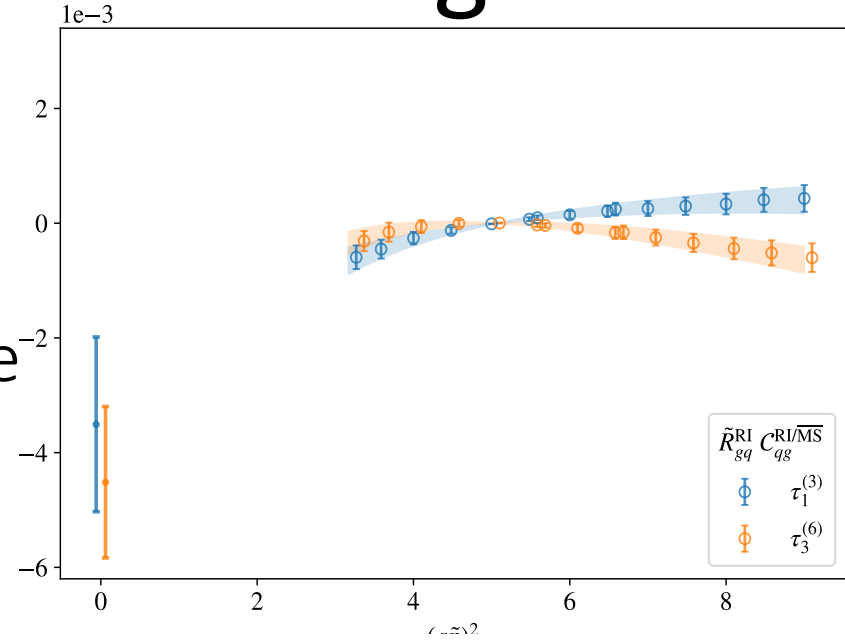
Model discretization artifacts as polynomials, inverse polynomials



Renormalization: removing discretization artifacts

Model discretization artifacts as polynomials, inverse polynomials

+ logs for nonperturbative effects



Results

Nucleon GFFs

Dark bands: dipole

Light bands: z-expansion

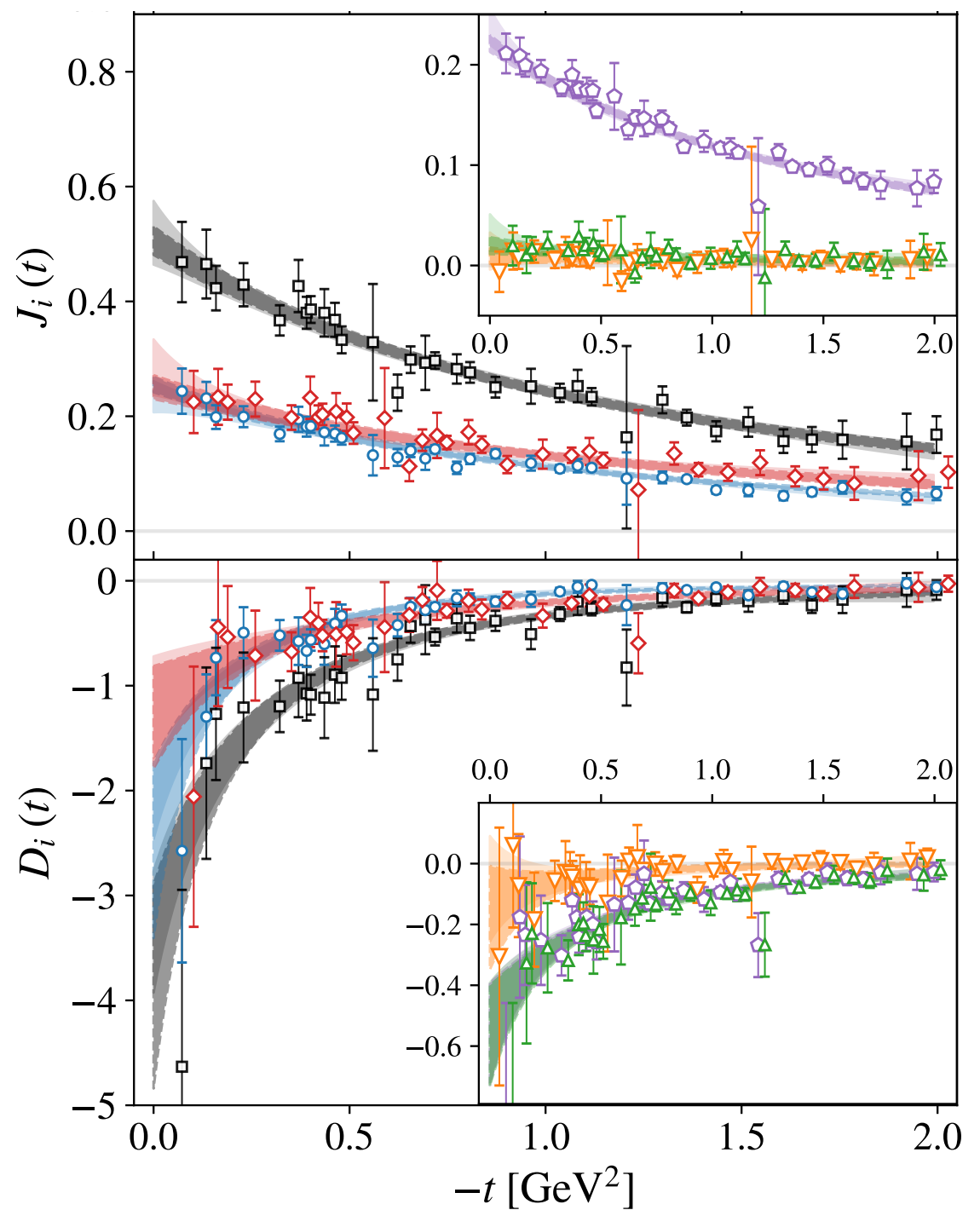
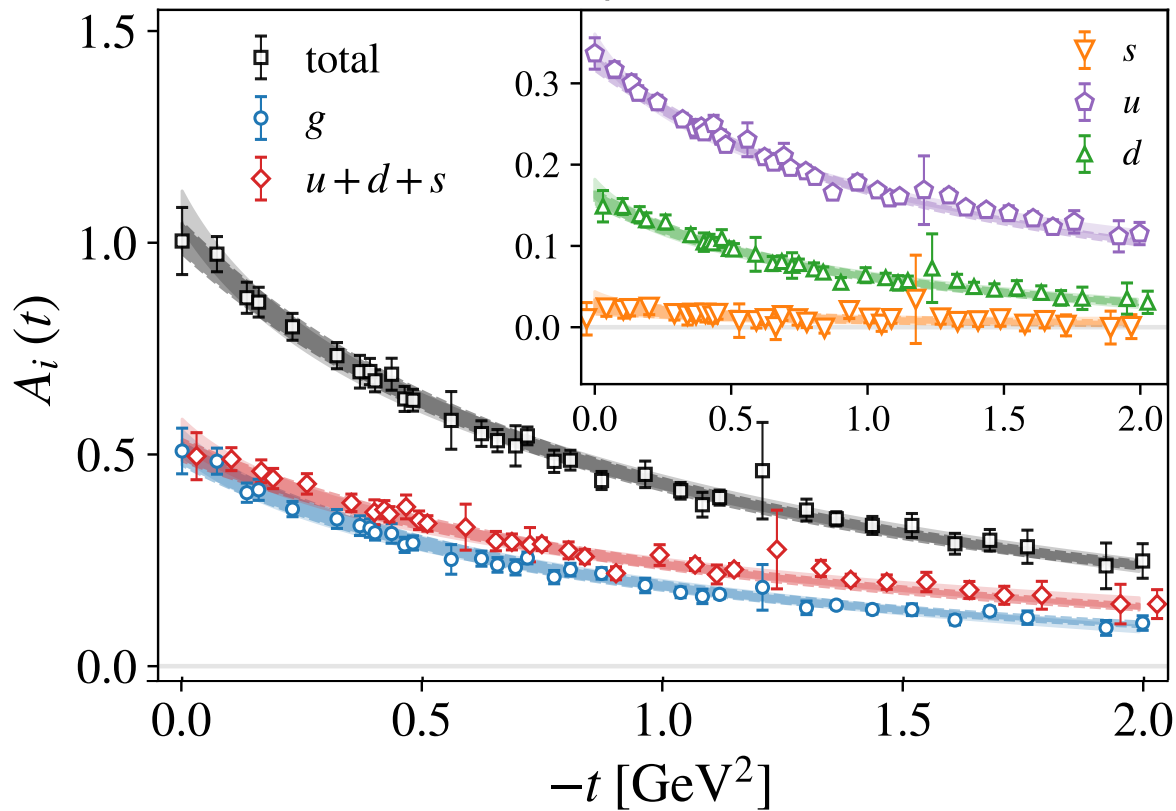
$$G(t) \sim \frac{\alpha}{(1-t/\Lambda^2)^2}$$

$$G(t) \sim \sum_{k=0}^{k_{\max}=2} \alpha_k [z(t)]^k$$

$$z(t) = \frac{\sqrt{t_{\text{cut}}-t} - \sqrt{t_{\text{cut}}-t_0}}{\sqrt{t_{\text{cut}}-t} + \sqrt{t_{\text{cut}}-t_0}}$$

$$t_{\text{cut}} = 4M_{\pi}^2$$

$$t_0 = t_{\text{cut}}(1 - \sqrt{1 + (2 \text{ GeV}^2)/t_{\text{cut}}})$$



Forward limits

	Dipole			z -expansion		
	A_i	J_i	D_i	A_i	J_i	D_i
u	0.3255(92)	0.2213(85)	-0.56(17)	0.349(11)	0.238(18)	-0.56(17)
d	0.1590(92)	0.0197(85)	-0.57(17)	0.171(11)	0.033(18)	-0.56(17)
s	0.0257(95)	0.0097(82)	-0.18(17)	0.032(12)	0.014(19)	-0.08(17)
$u + d + s$	0.510(25)	0.251(21)	-1.30(49)	0.552(31)	0.286(48)	-1.20(48)
g	0.501(27)	0.255(13)	-2.57(84)	0.526(31)	0.234(27)	-2.15(32)
Total	1.011(37)	0.506(25)	-3.87(97)	1.079(44)	0.520(55)	-3.35(58)

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Sum rules (consistency check)

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Sum rules (consistency check)

cf. global fit result
 $A_g(0) = 0.414(8)$
 [Hou et al. 1912.10053]

Forward limits

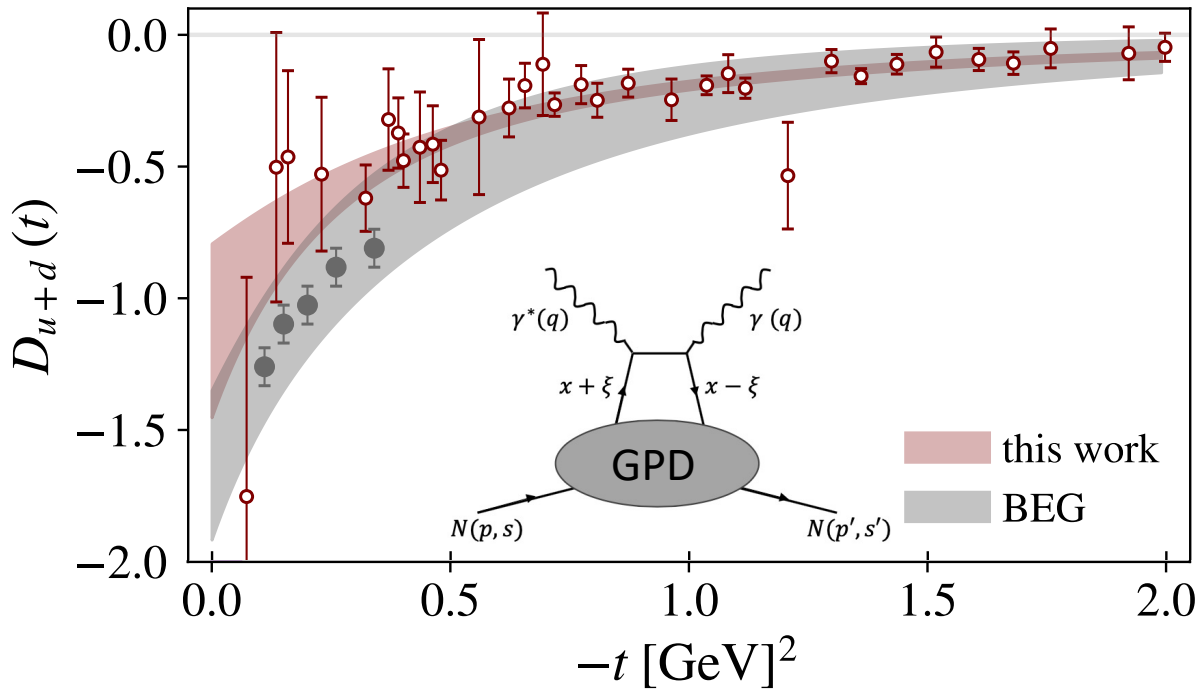
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	A_i	J_i	D_i	A_i	J_i	D_i
u	0.3255(92)	0.2213(85)	-0.56(17)	0.349(11)	0.238(18)	-0.56(17)
d	0.1590(92)	0.0197(85)	-0.57(17)	0.171(11)	0.033(18)	-0.56(17)
s	0.0257(95)	0.0097(82)	-0.18(17)	0.032(12)	0.014(19)	-0.08(17)
$u + d + s$	0.510(25)	0.251(21)	-1.30(49)	0.552(31)	0.286(48)	-1.20(48)
g	0.501(27)	0.255(13)	-2.57(84)	0.526(31)	0.234(27)	-2.15(32)
Total	1.011(37)	0.506(25)	-3.87(97)	1.079(44)	0.520(55)	-3.35(58)

Sum rules (consistency check)

cf. global fit result
 $A_g(0) = 0.414(8)$
 [Hou et al. 1912.10053]

First determination!
 Satisfies χ PT bound
 $D(0)/M \leq -1.1(1) \text{ GeV}^{-1}$

Nucleon vs. experiment



BEG = [\[Burkert Elouadrhiri Girod 2018\]](#) (DVCS)

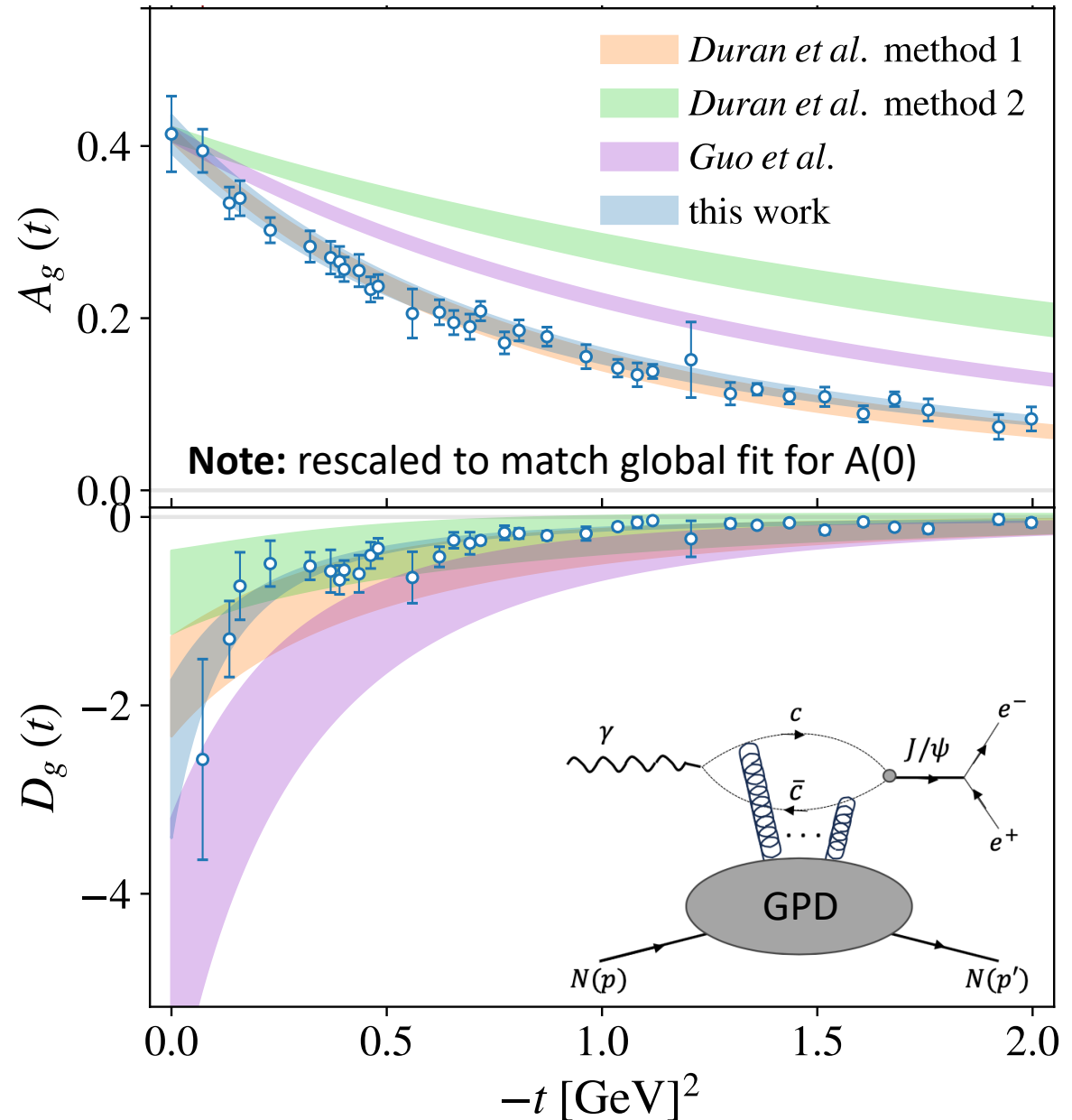
[\[Duran et al. 2207.05212\]](#) (J/ψ)

Method 1: holographic QCD (Mamo Jahed, PRD 21,22)

Method 2: GPD (Guo Ji Liu, PRD 2021)

[\[Guo et al. 2305.06992\]](#)

Updated GPD analysis + GlueX data

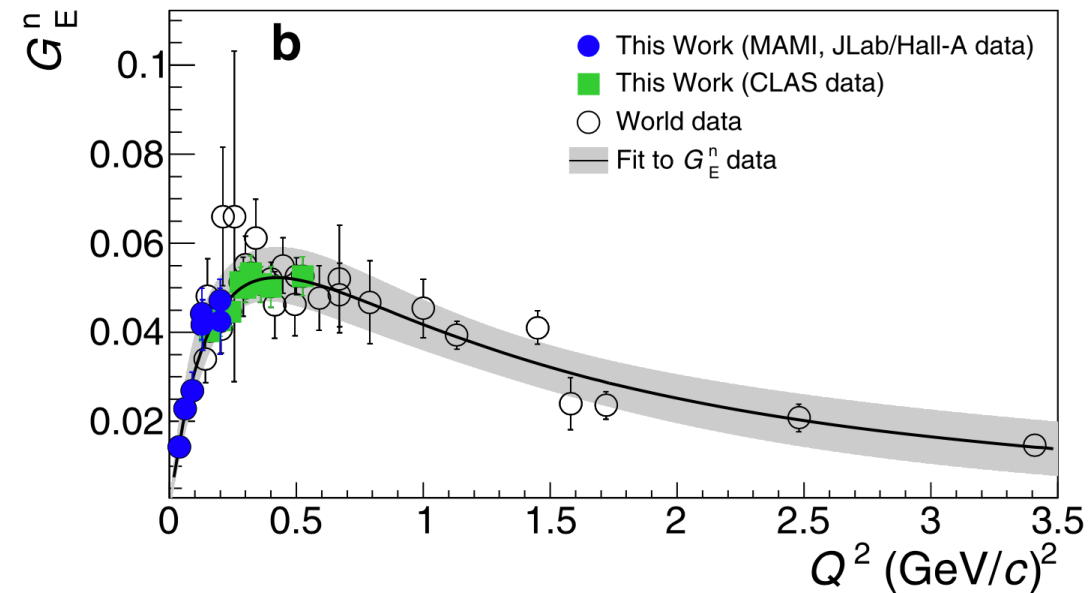


(G)FFs and Tomography

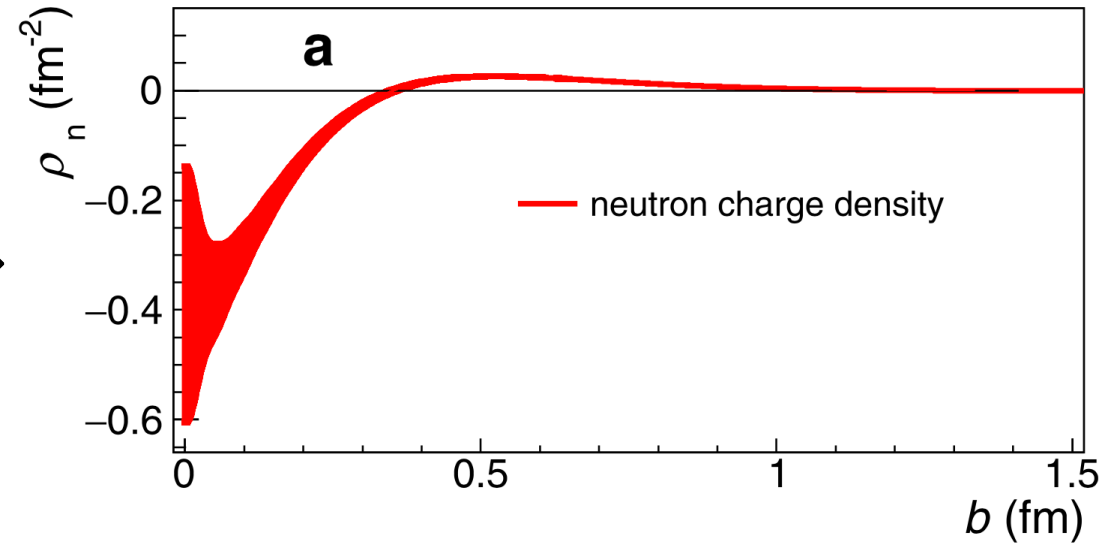
Fourier-transformed form factors provide information about spatial densities

Example: electric charge density in the neutron from G_E^n

[[Atac, Constantinou, Meziani, Paolone, Sparveris 2103.10840](#)]



Fourier transform
→



Applies also for GFFs → mechanical densities

Mechanical densities from GFFs

1. Parametrize $T_{\mu\nu}(t)$ with GFFs
2. Fourier transform $T_{\mu\nu}(t) \rightarrow T_{\mu\nu}(r)$
3. Identify

$$[f(t)]_{\text{FT}} = \int \frac{d^3 \Delta}{(2\pi)^3} e^{-i\Delta \cdot \mathbf{r}} f(t)$$

$$T_{\mu\nu}(r) = \begin{bmatrix} T_{tt}(r) & \\ & T_{ij}(r) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon(r) & \\ & \left(\frac{r_i r_j}{r^2} - \frac{1}{d} \delta_{ij} \right) s(r) + \delta_{ij} p(r) \end{bmatrix}$$

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→ Spatial densities (Breit frame)

energy $\epsilon(r) = M \left[A(t) - \frac{t}{4M^2} (D(t) + A(t) - 2J(t)) \right]_{FT}$ shear forces $s(r) = -\frac{1}{4M} r \frac{d}{dr} \frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{dr} [D(t)]_{FT}$

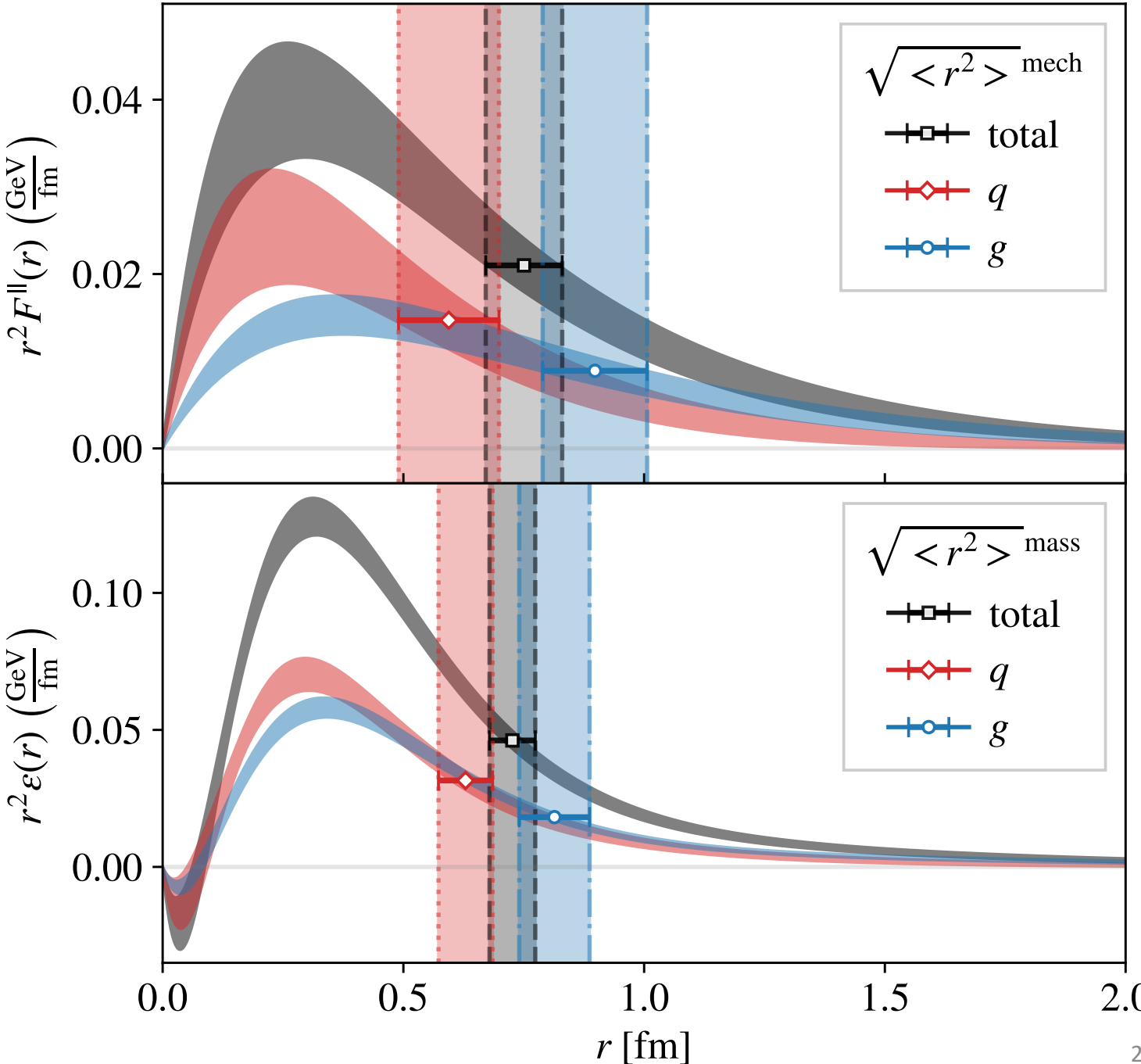
pressure $p(r) = \frac{1}{6M} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} r^2 \frac{d}{dr} [D(t)]_{FT}$ longitudinal force $F^{\parallel}(r) = p(r) + 2s(r)/3$

Caveat: physical significance of these analogies is under debate

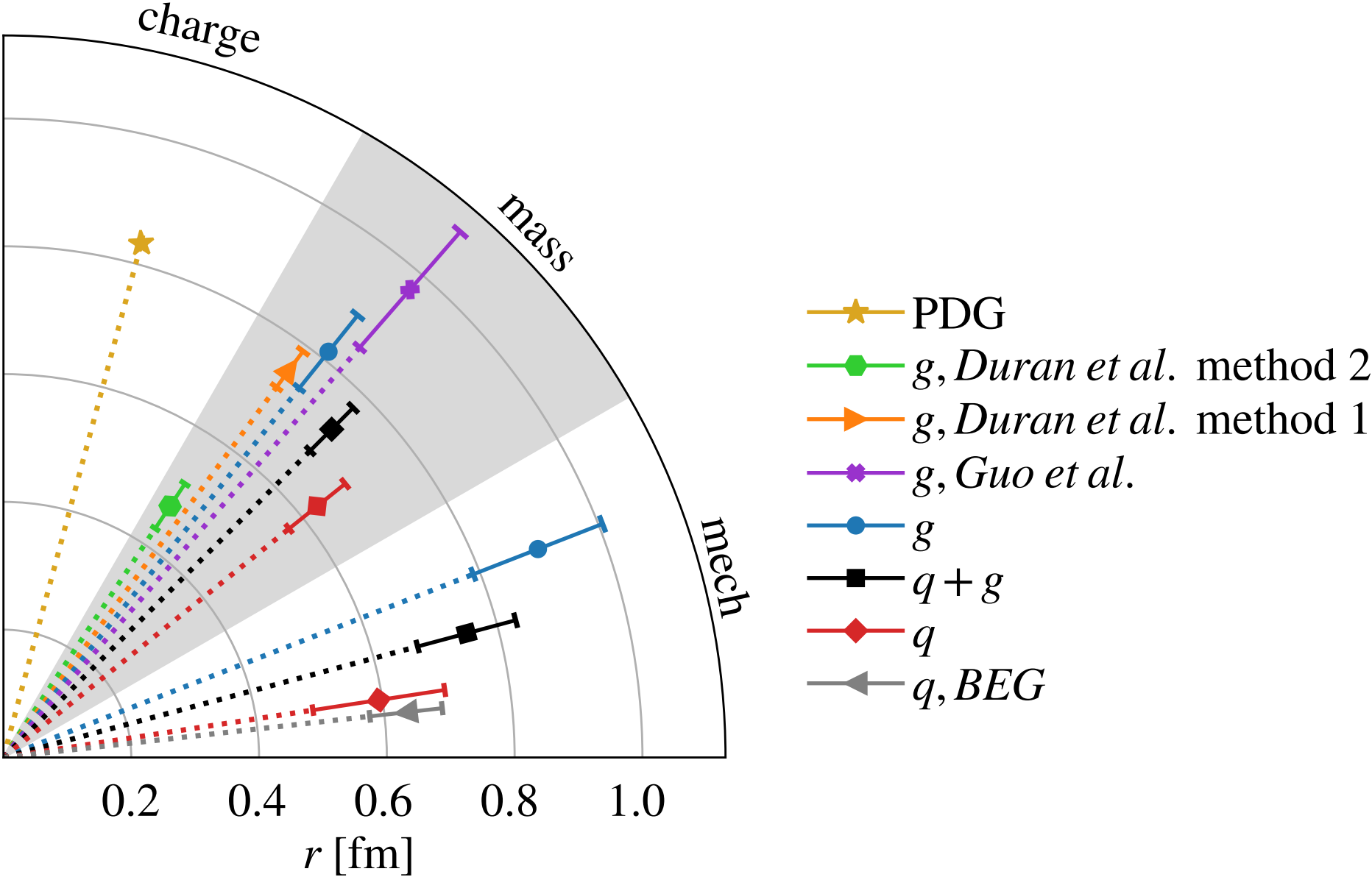
Densities & radii

$$\langle r_i^2 \rangle^{\text{mass}} = \frac{\int d^3\mathbf{r} r^2 \epsilon_i(r)}{\int d^3\mathbf{r} \epsilon_i(r)}$$

$$\langle r_i^2 \rangle^{\text{mech}} = \frac{\int d^3\mathbf{r} r^2 F_i^{\parallel}(r)}{\int d^3\mathbf{r} F_i^{\parallel}(r)}$$



How big is a proton?



Conclusion

First lattice calculation of:

complete flavor decomposition of nucleon GFFs
total GFFs \rightarrow *physical* (i.e. RGI) densities, radii
 $D(0)$

New first-principles descriptions of size and shape of nucleon

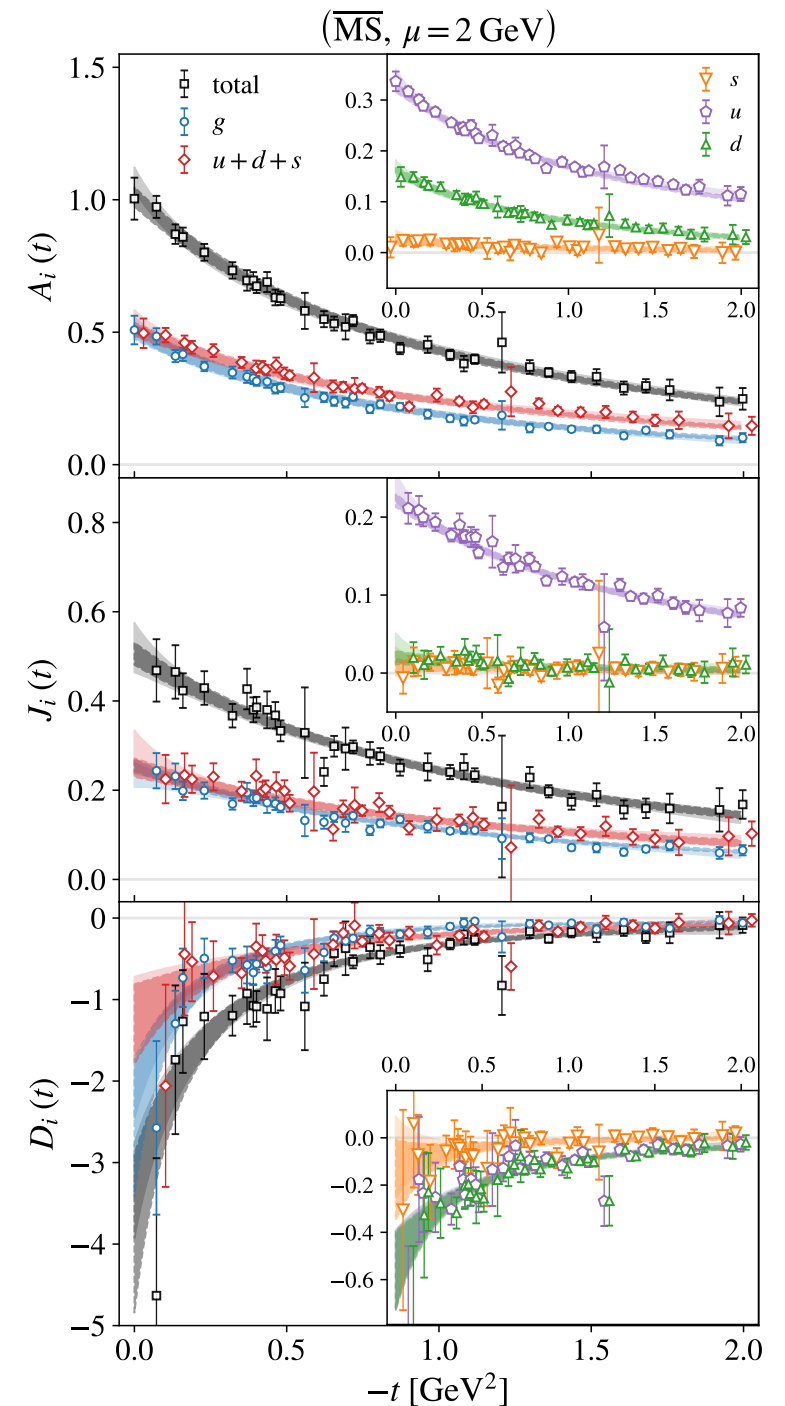
Results can help discriminate between different experimental extractions

Towards a precision calculation, need:

Multiple ensembles to take continuum, physical-mass limits

Improved renormalization (GIRS? Flow? Sum rules?)

Better methods to fully control excited state effects



Backup

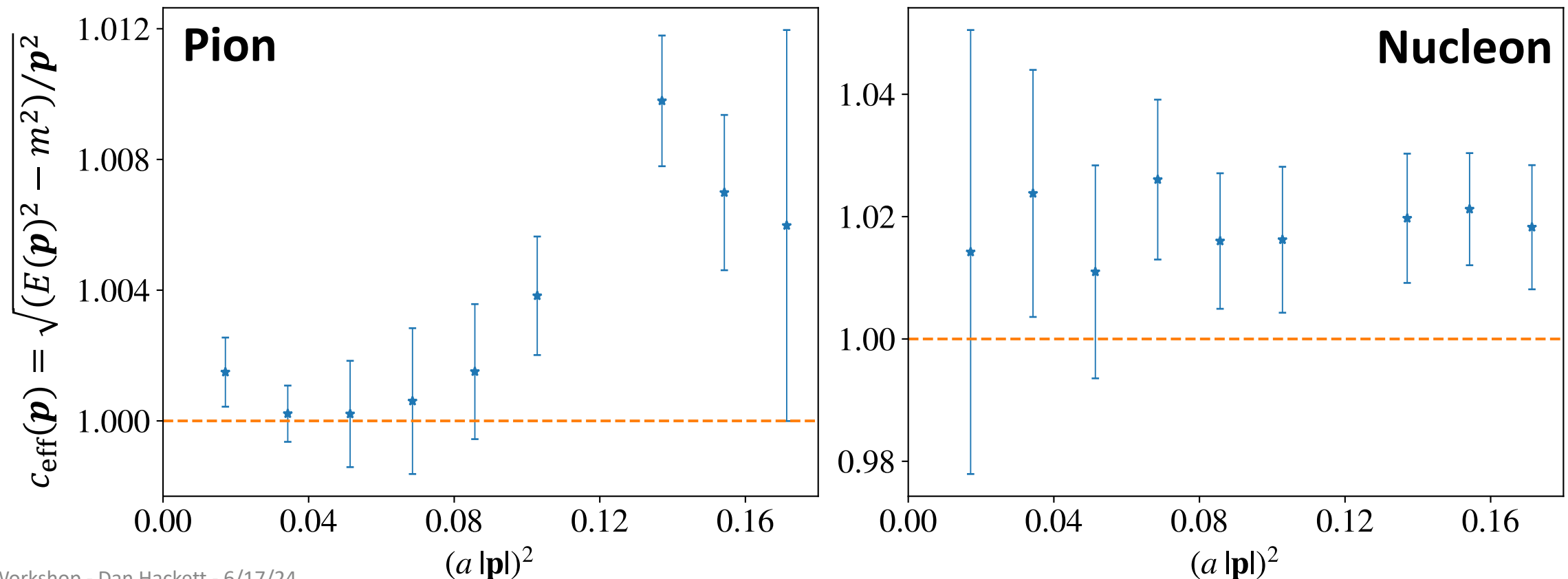
Two-point functions

Compute on 2511 configs, 1024 srcs/cfg (2x offset $4^3 \times 8$ grids)

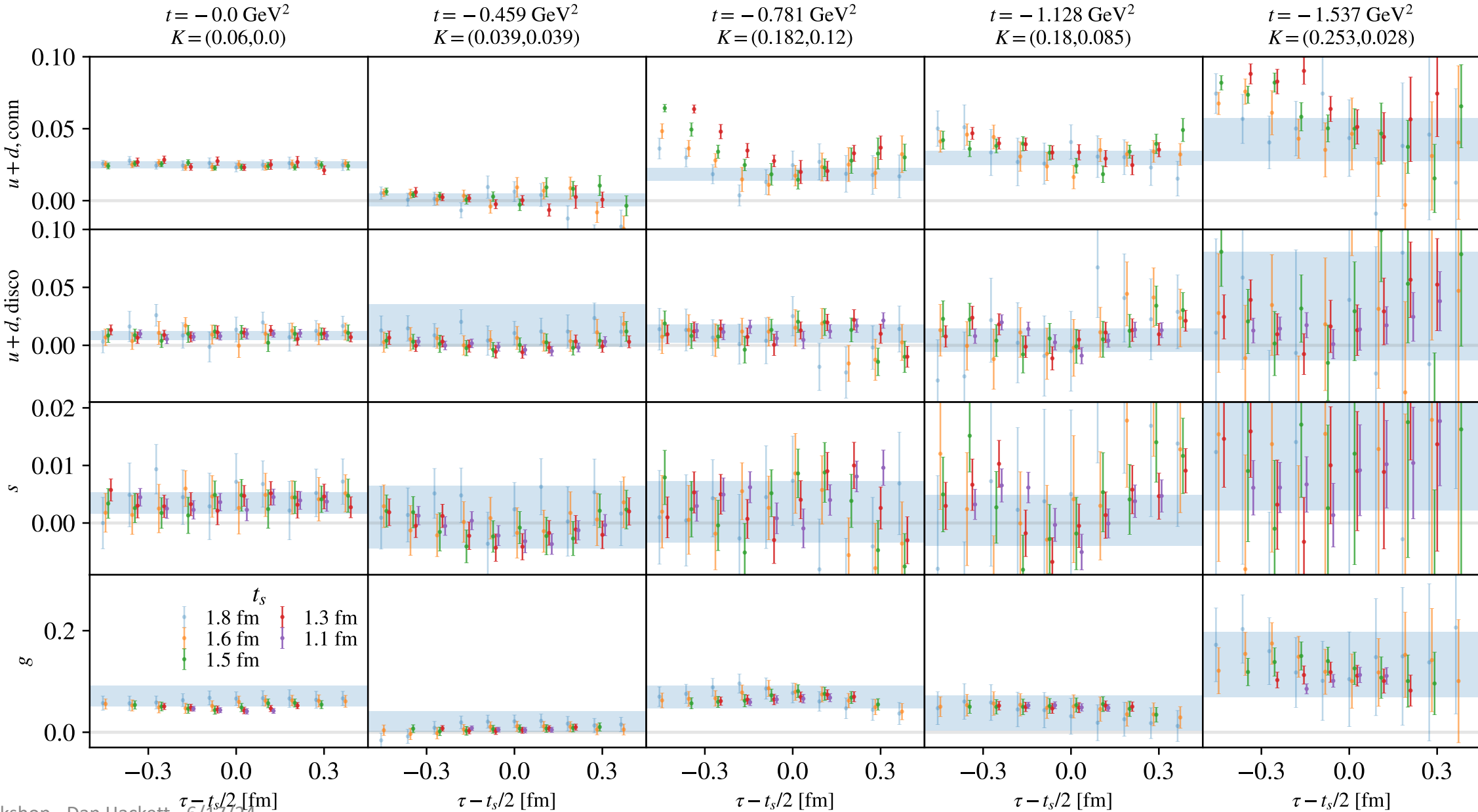
Note: only one interpolating operator; both diagonal spin channels

Relativistic dispersion obeyed at \sim % level

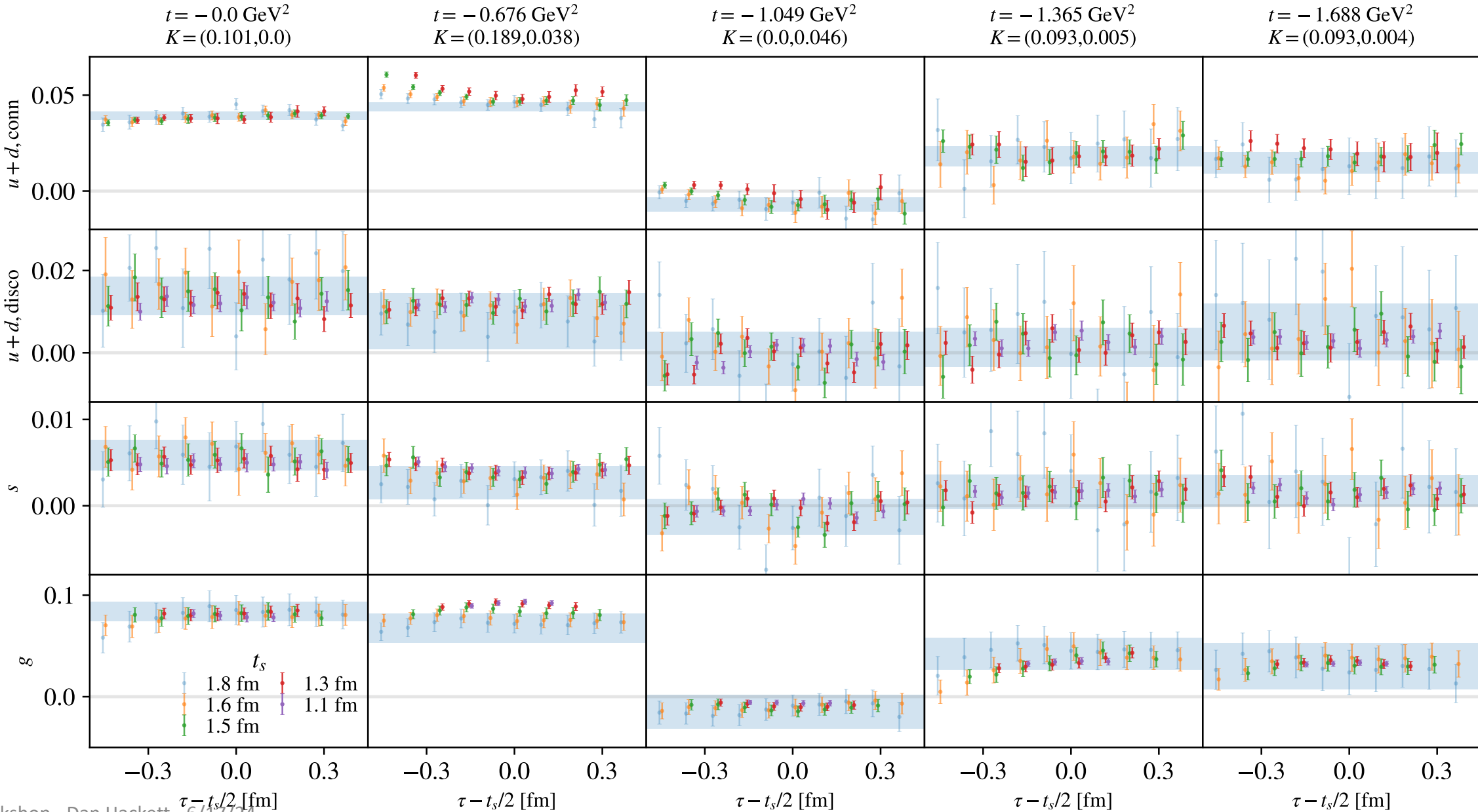
→ Neglect errors in $aM_\pi = 0.0779$ and $aM_N = 0.4169$



Example pion ratios: $\tau_1^{(3)}$

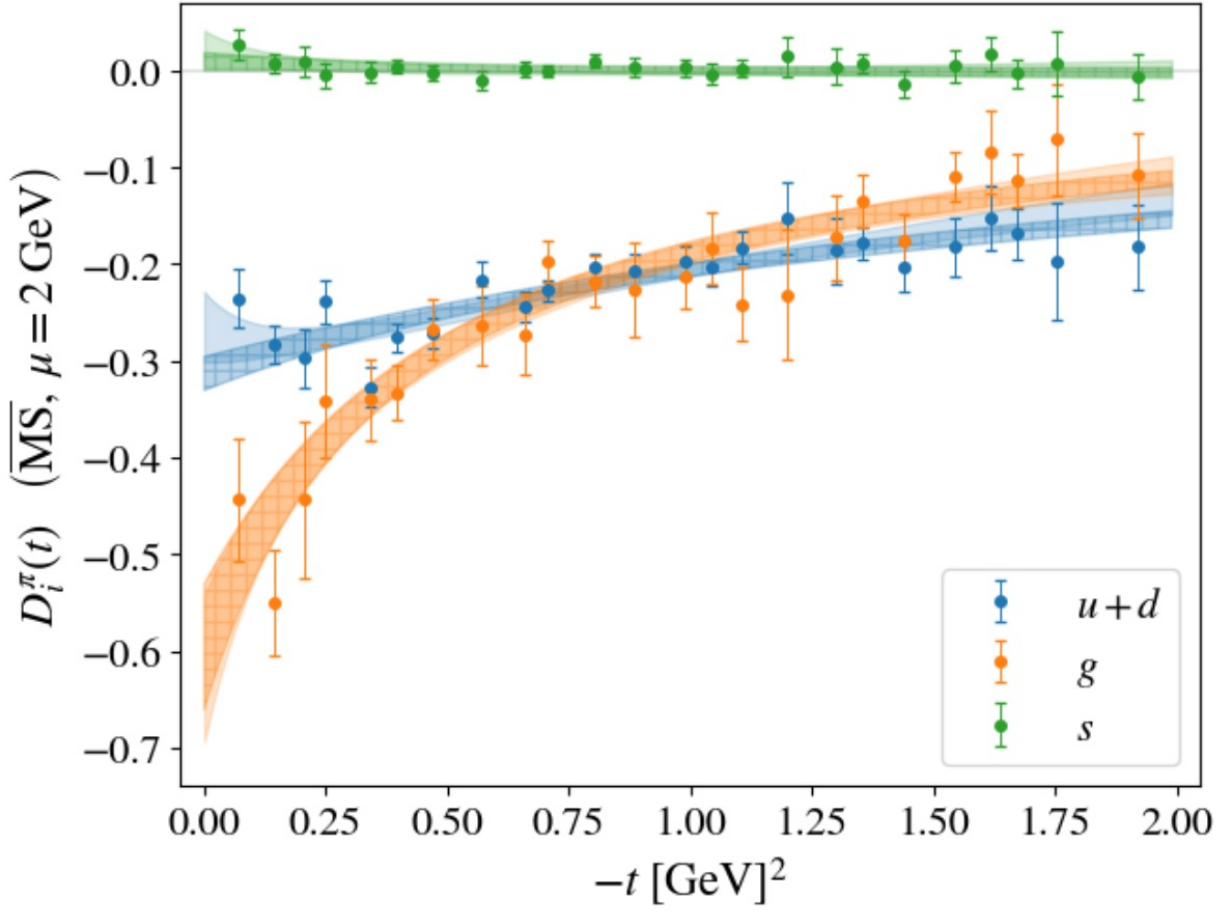
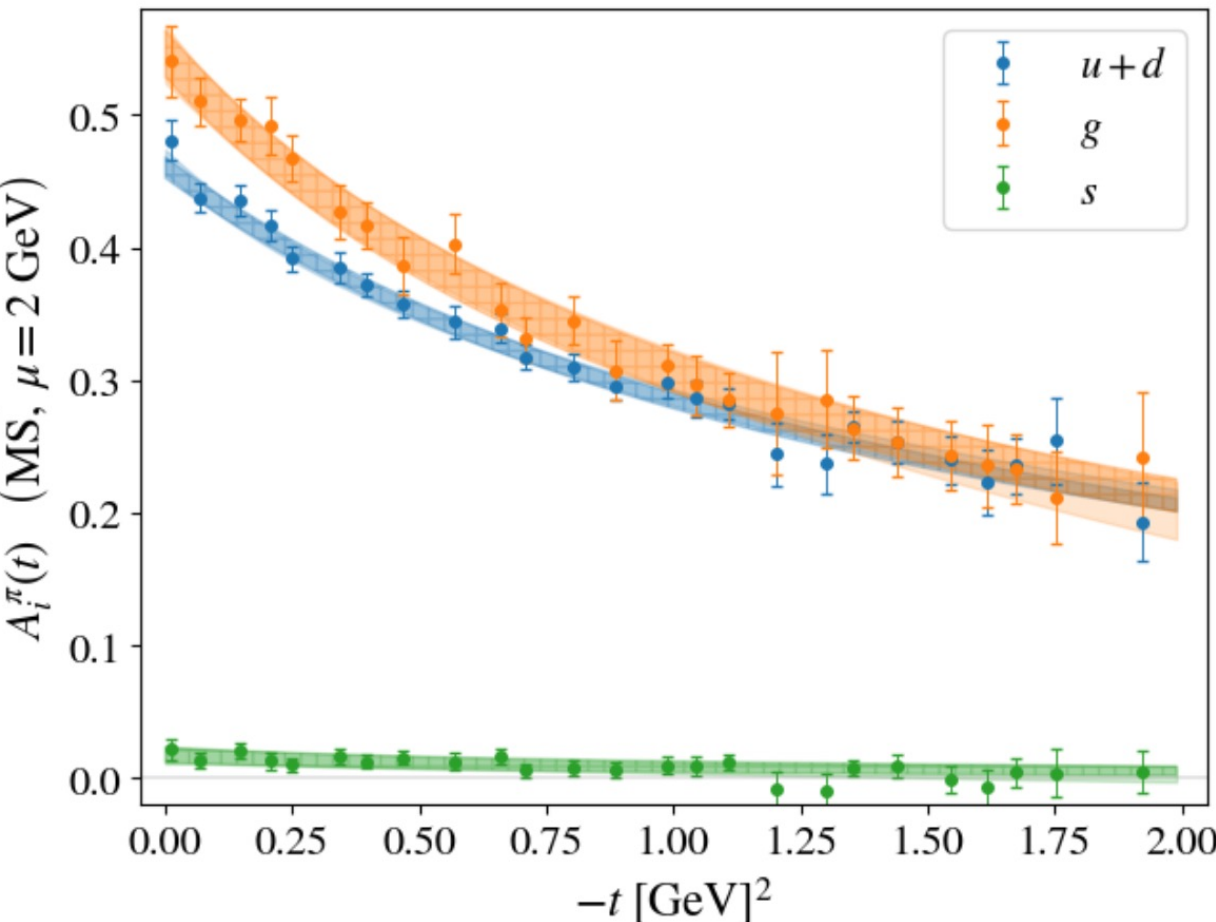


Example pion ratios: $\tau_3^{(6)}$



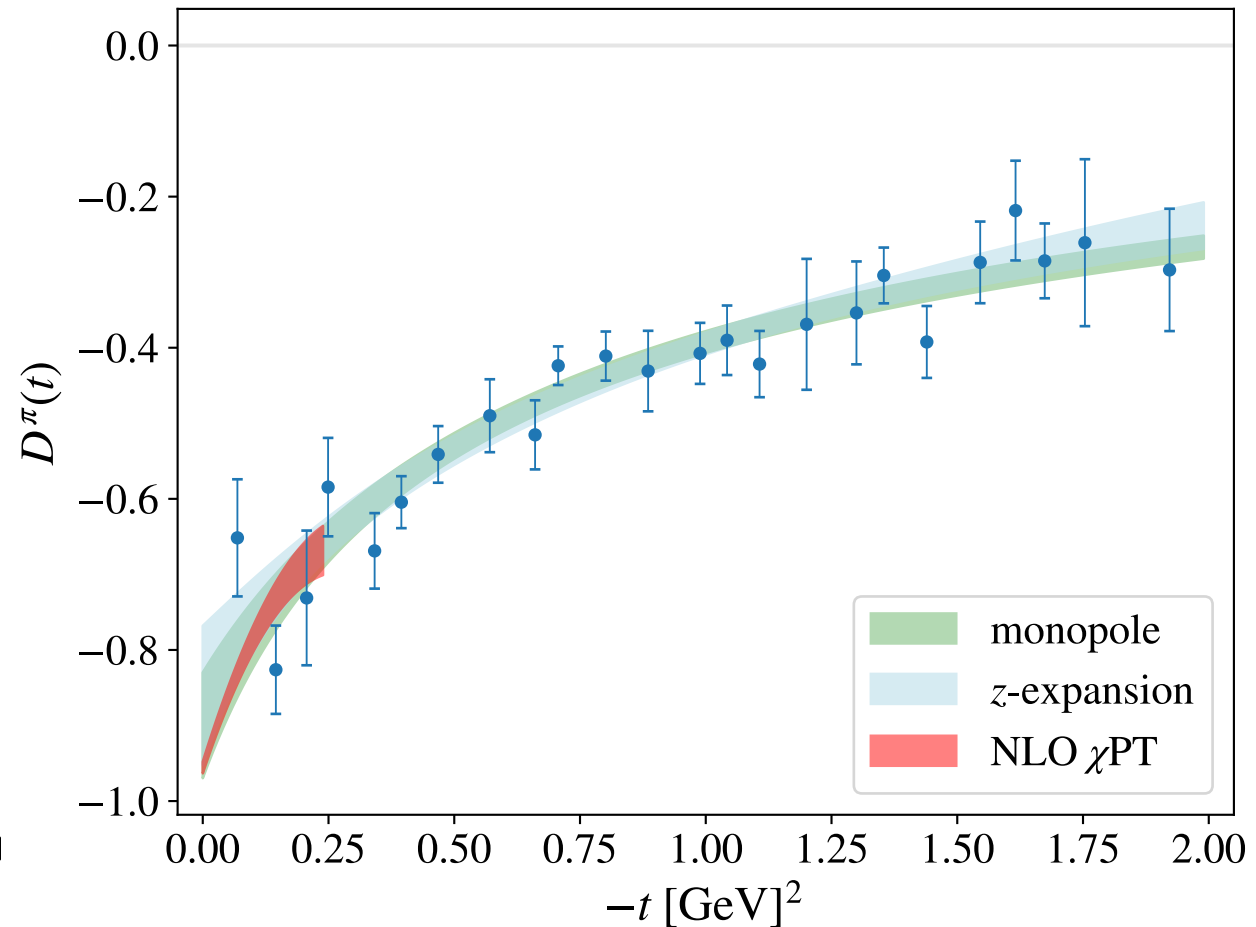
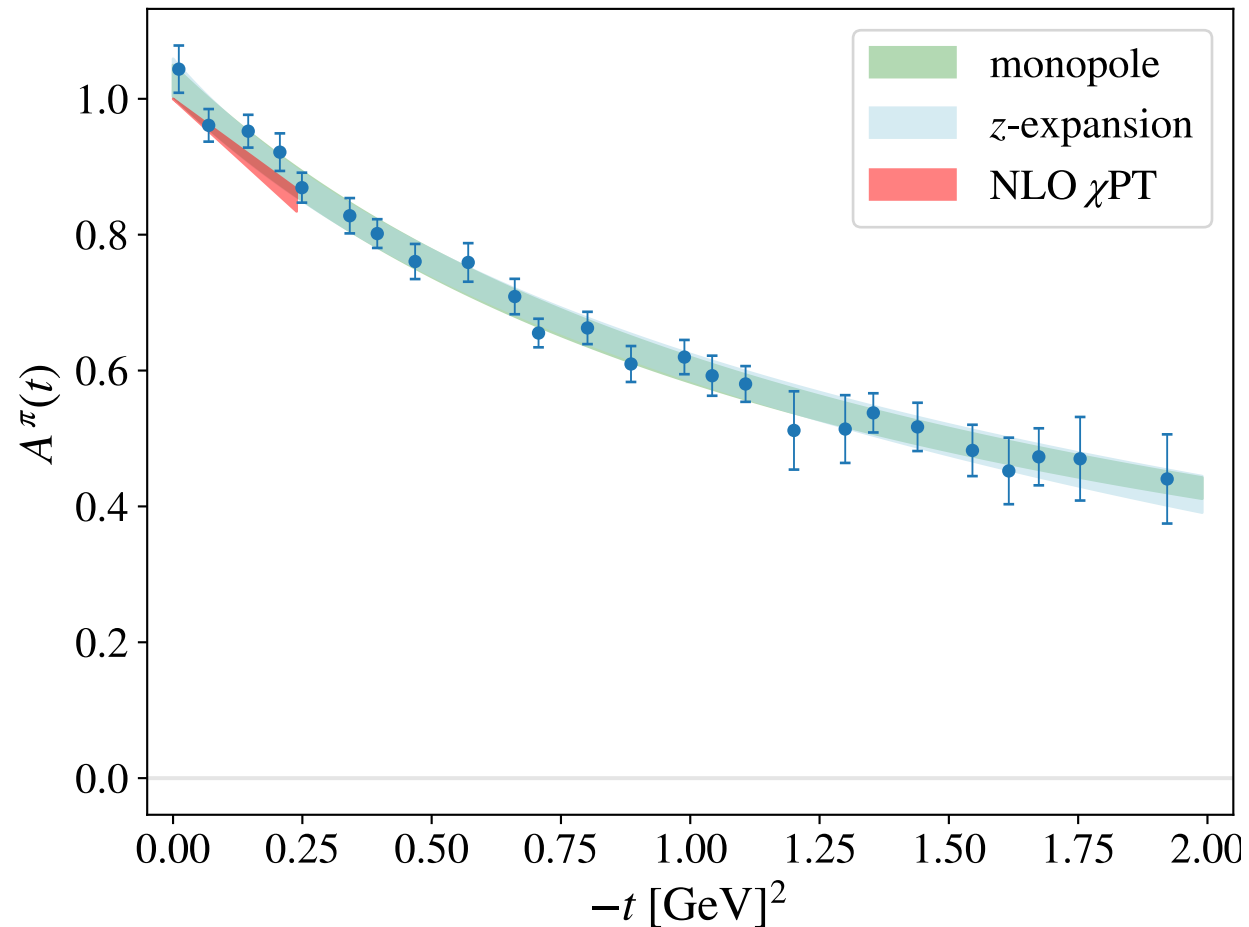
Pion GFFs (flavor decomp)

Hatched bands: monopole Solid bands: z-expansion

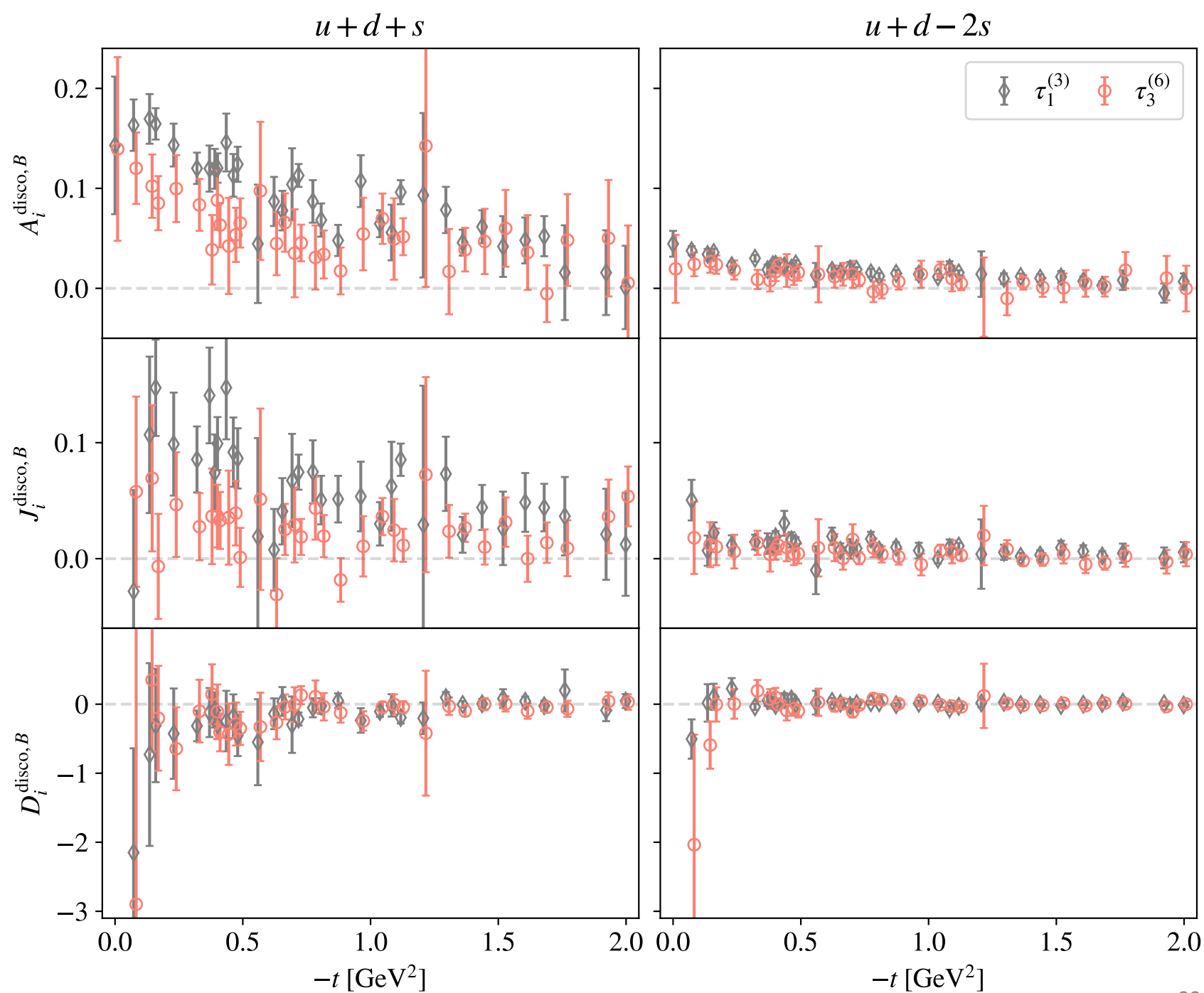


Pion GFFs (total)

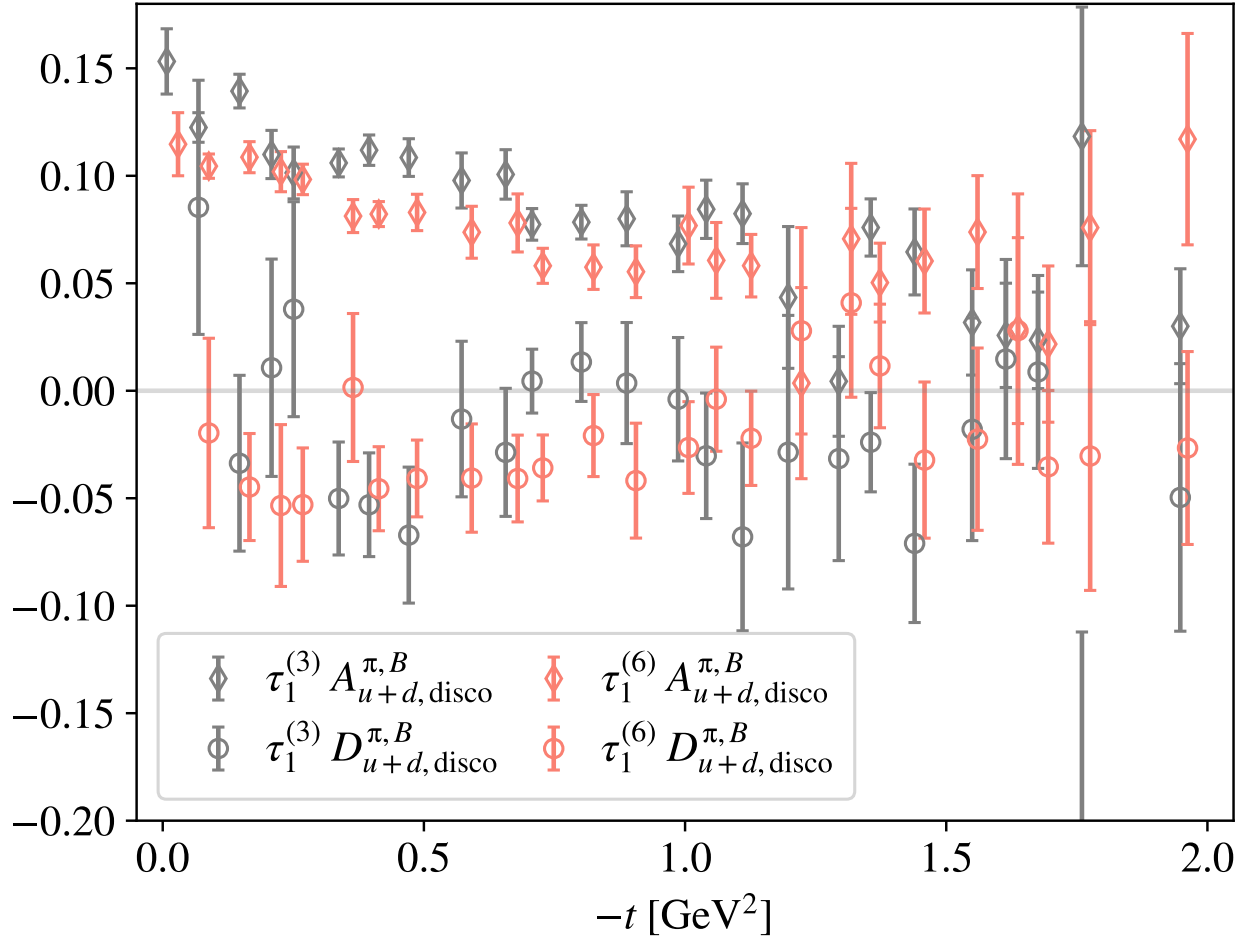
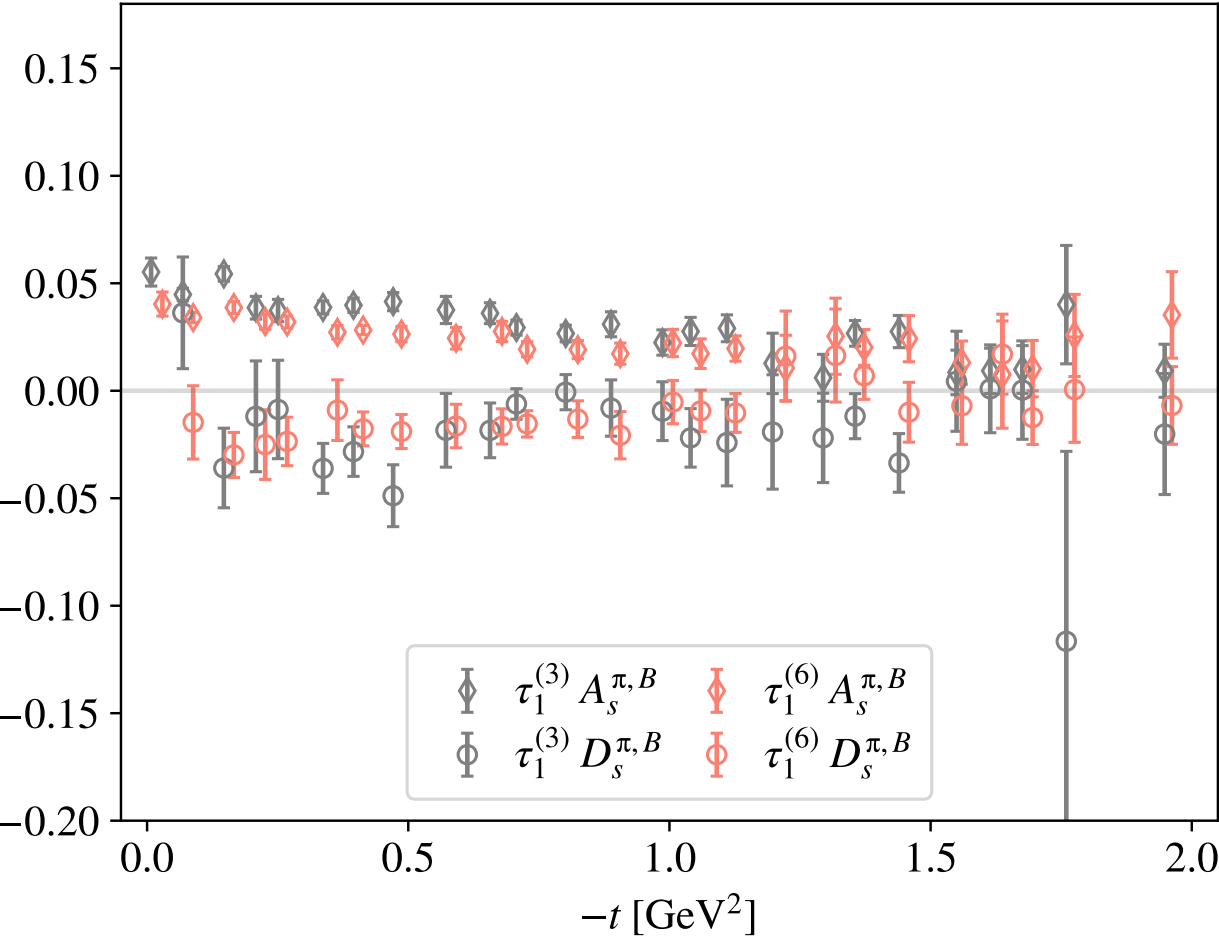
Error on χ PT estimate due to different estimates for LECs [\[Donoghue Leutwyler 1991\]](#)



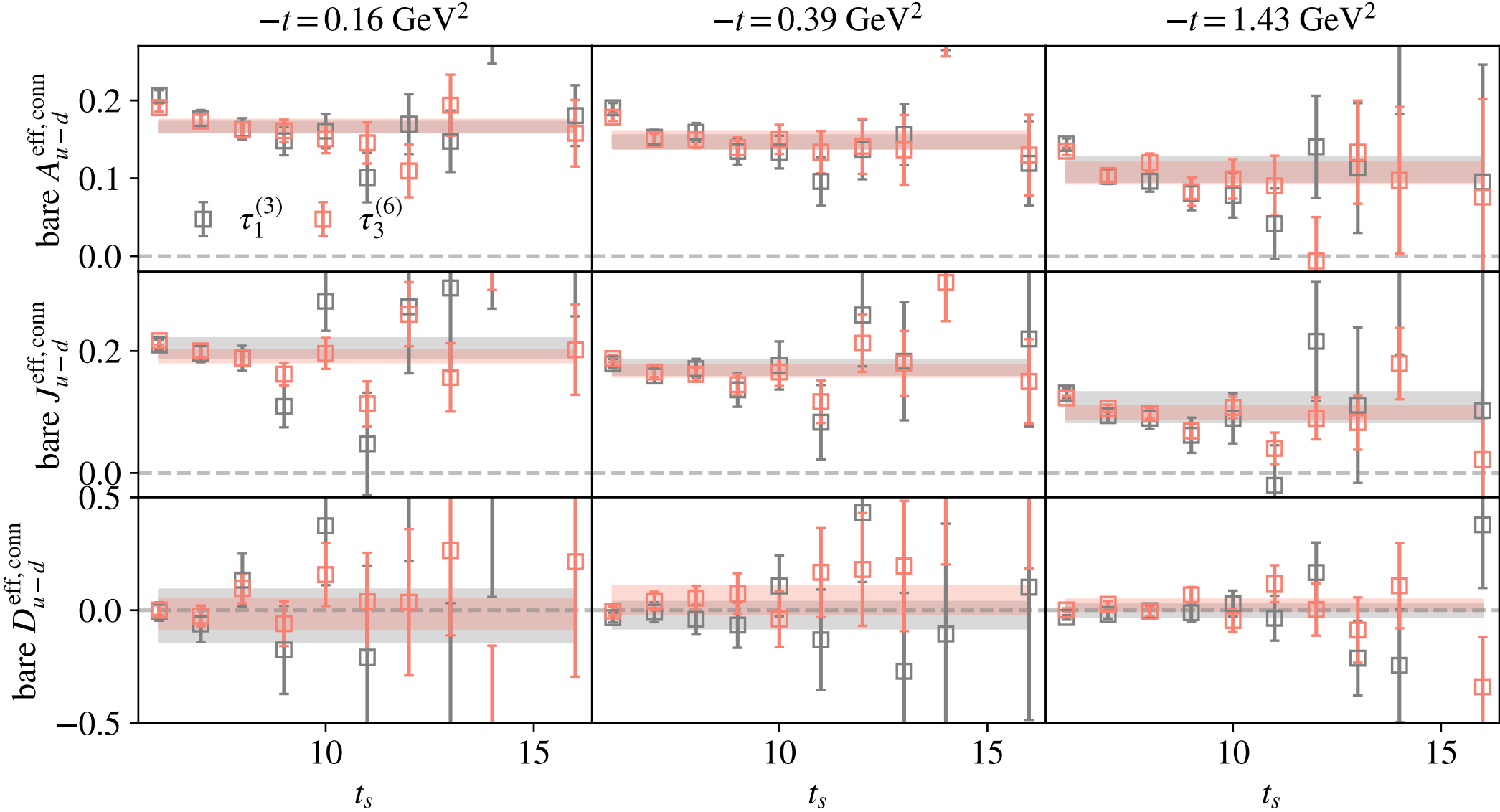
Nucleon: bare disconnected GFFs



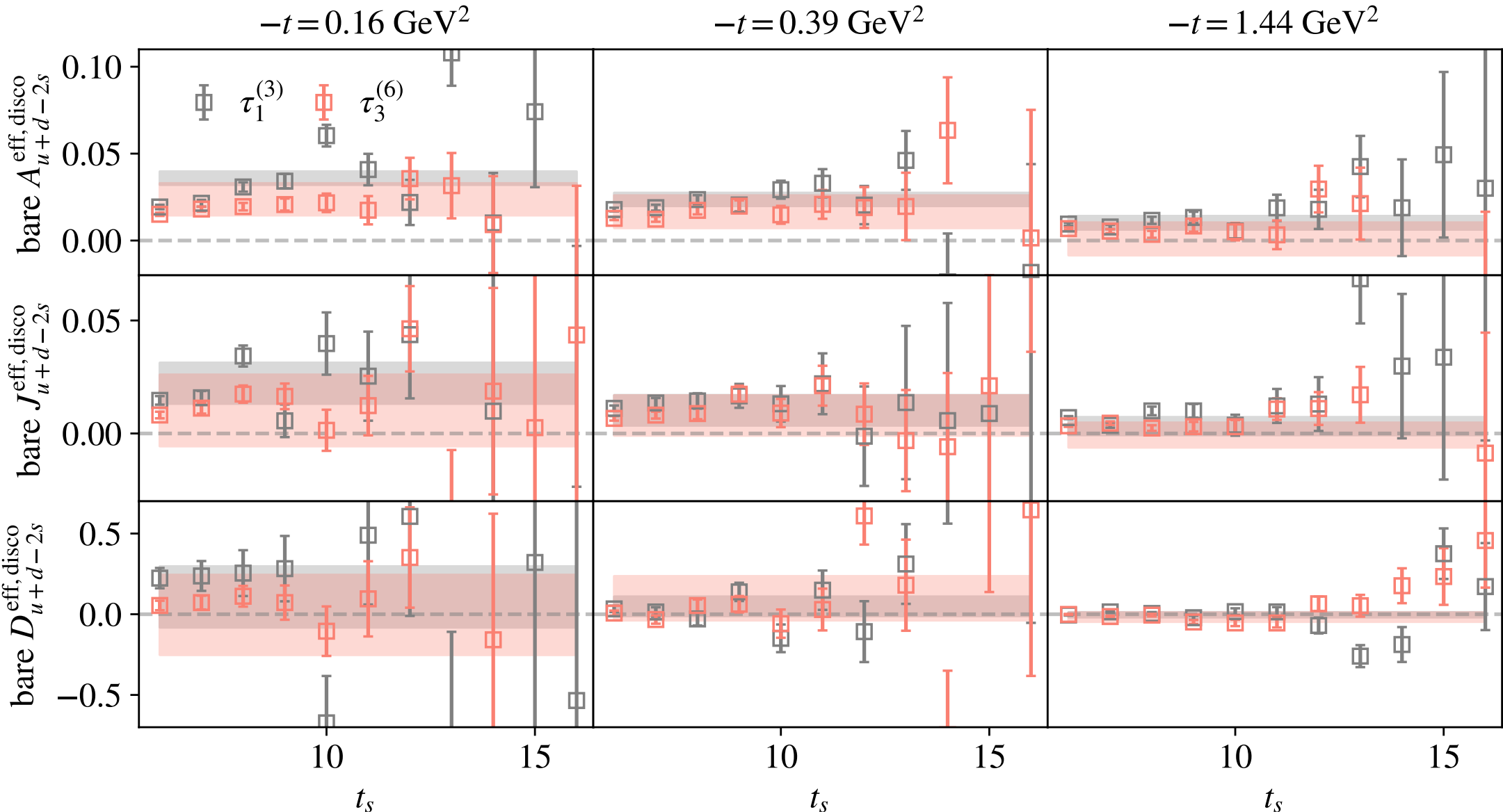
Pion: bare disconnected GFFs



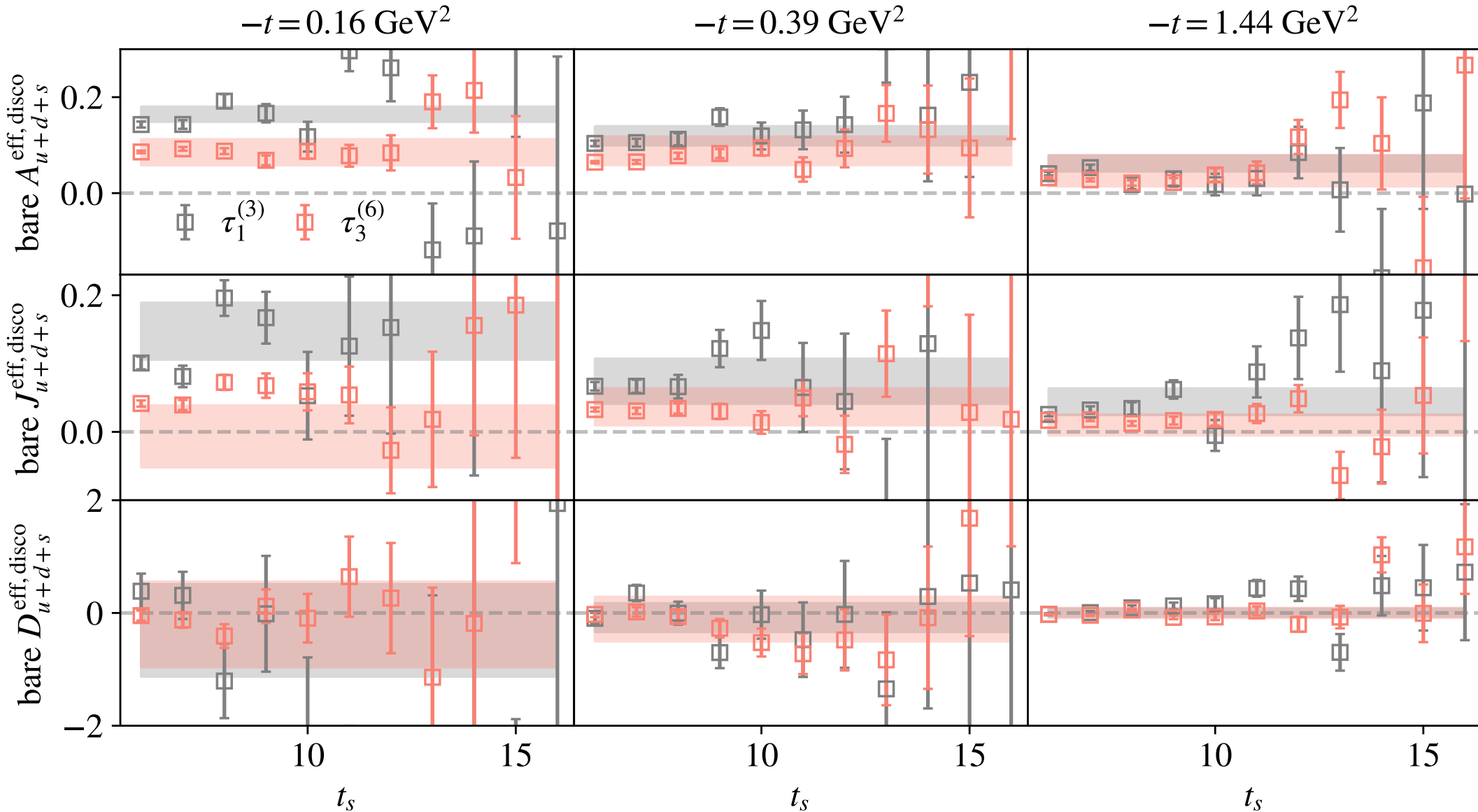
Nucleon: effective GFFs



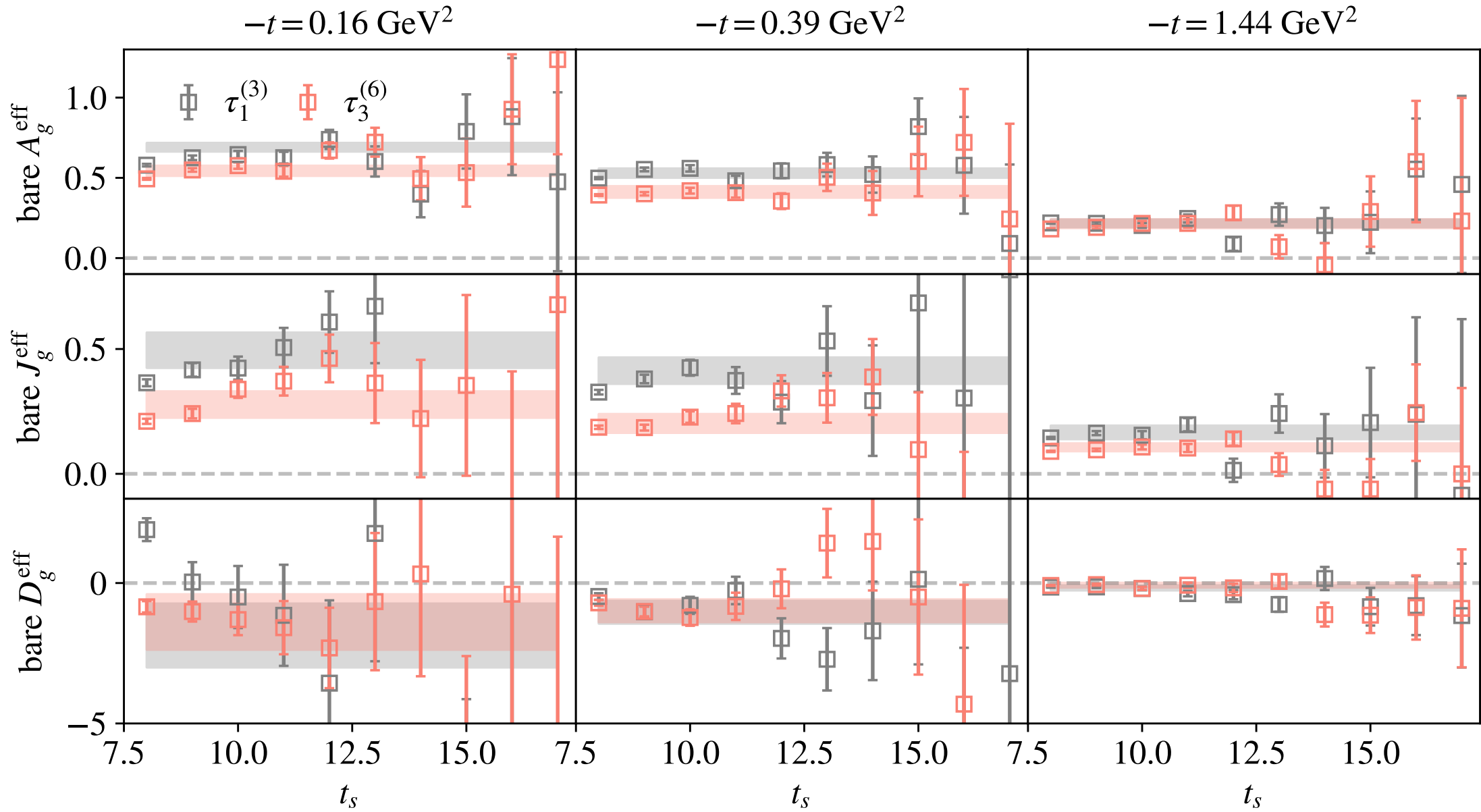
Nucleon: effective GFFs



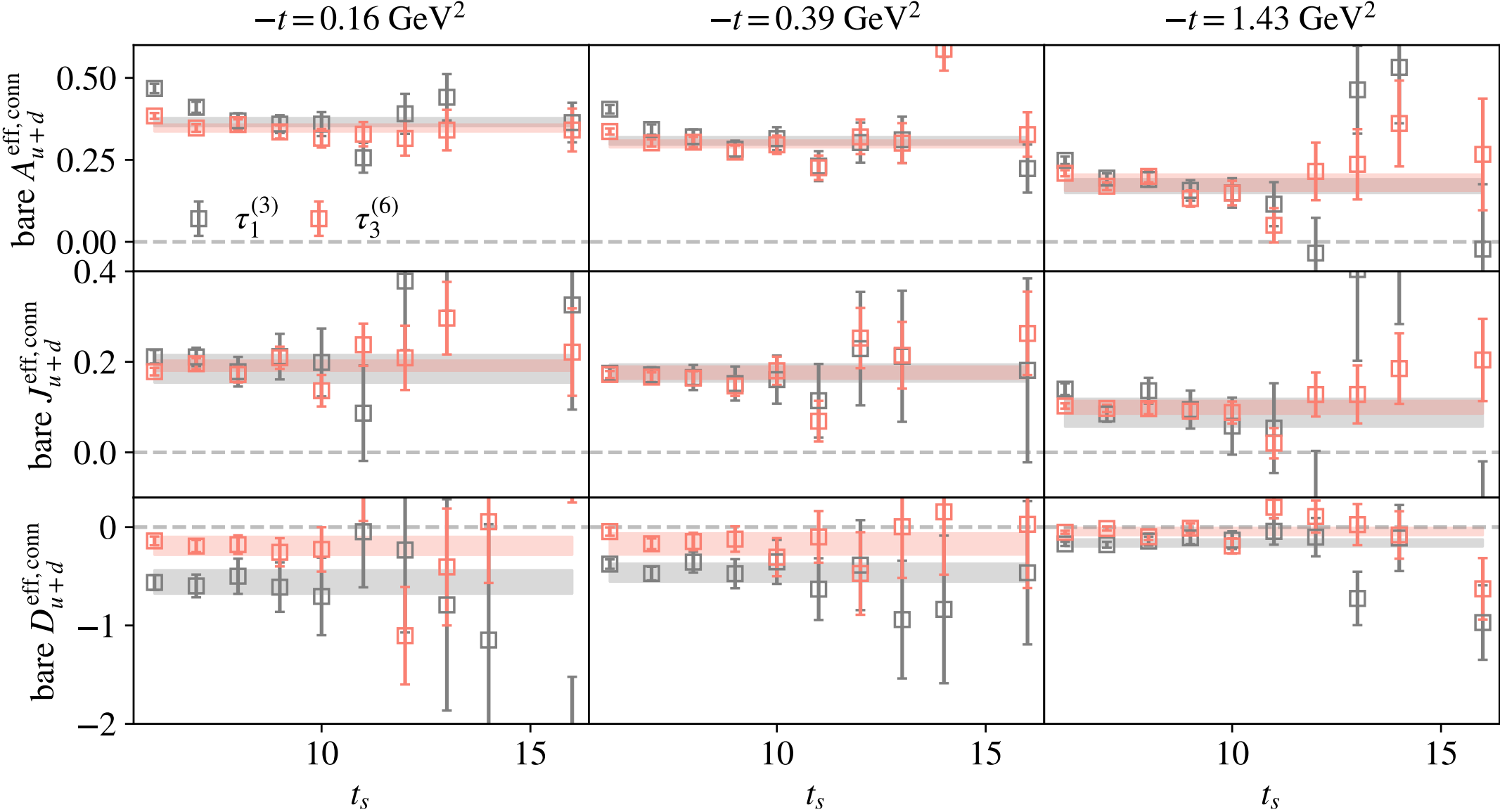
Nucleon: effective GFFs



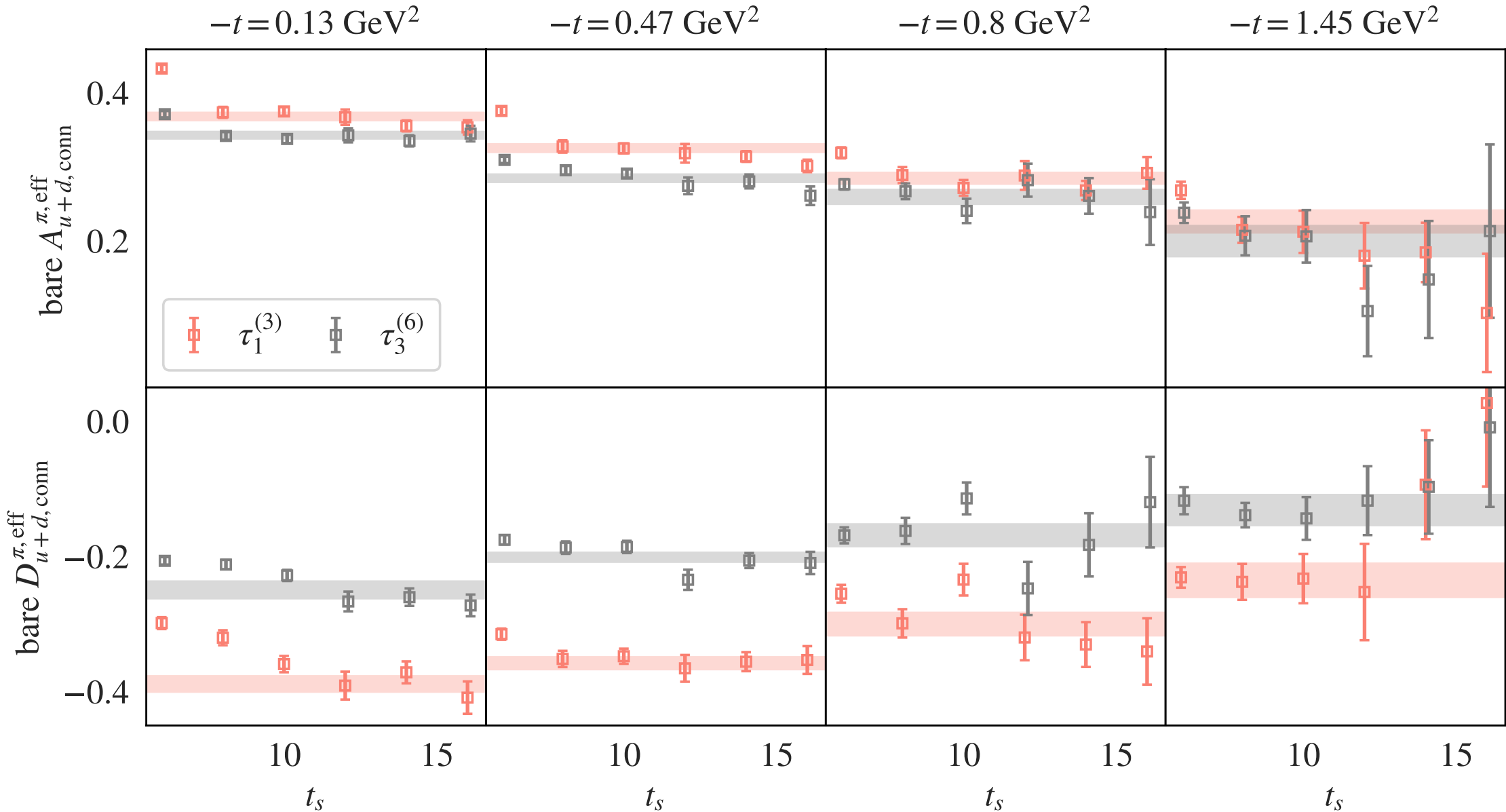
Nucleon: effective GFFs



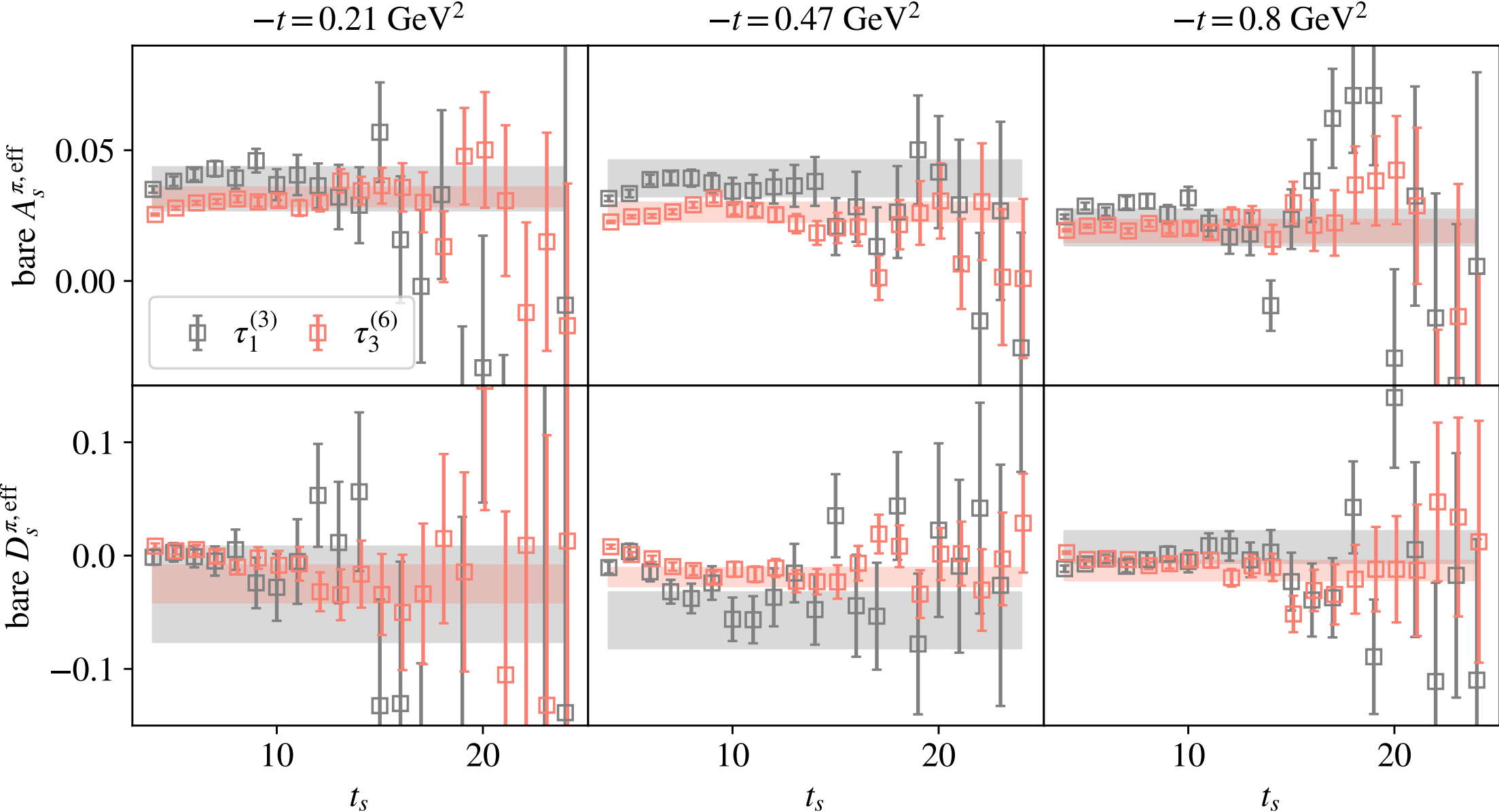
Nucleon: effective GFFs



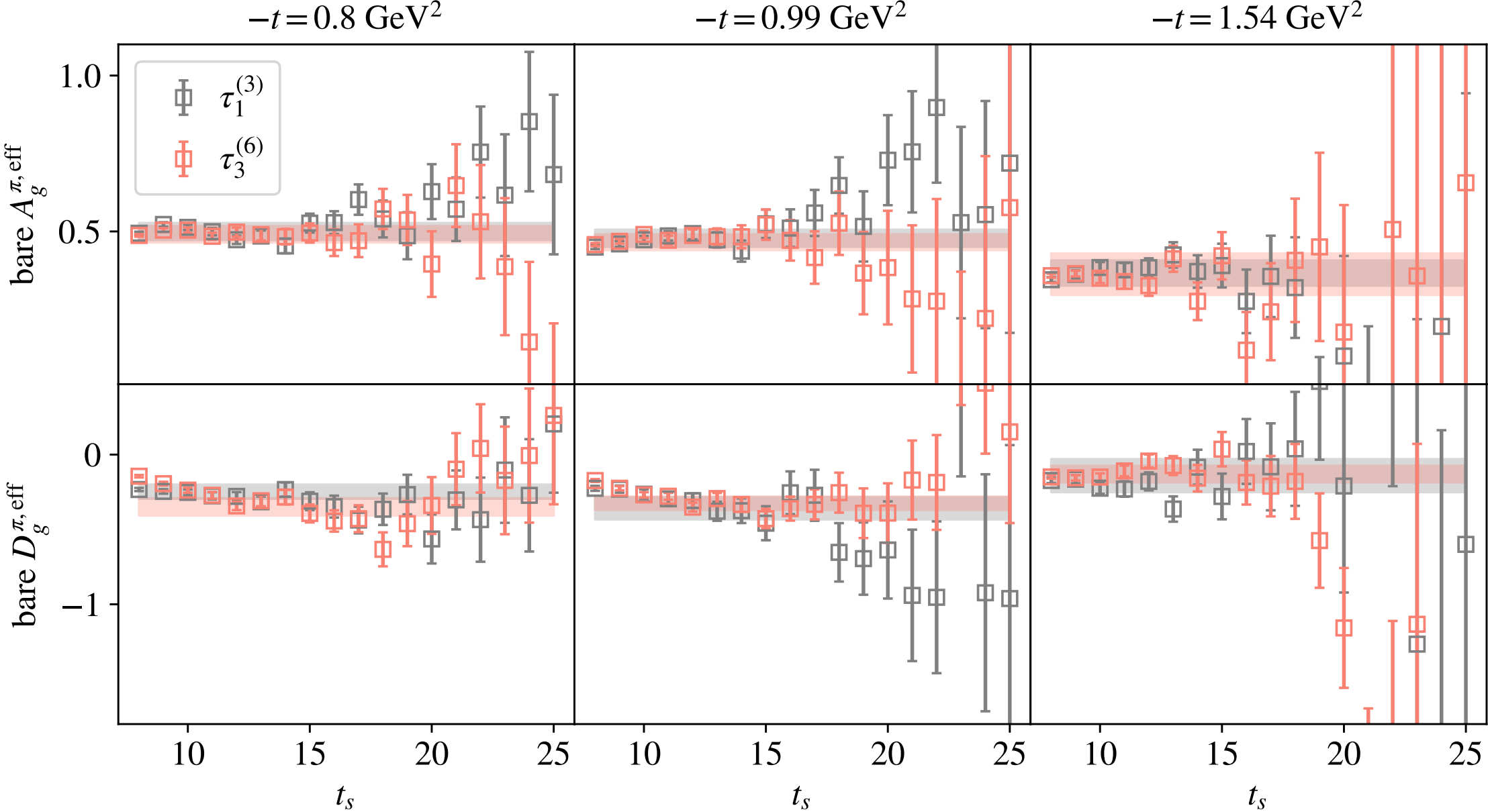
Pion: effective GFFs



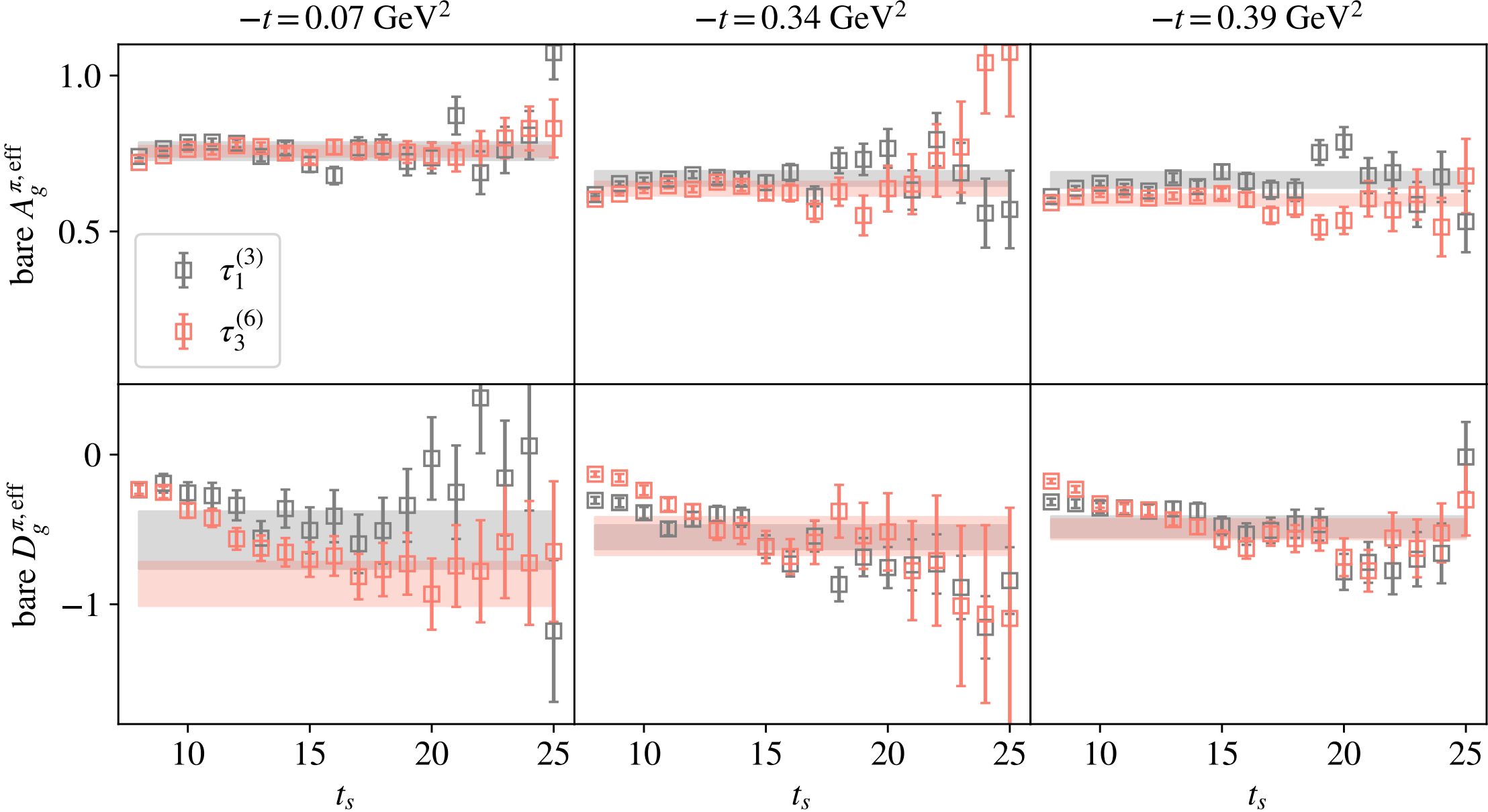
Pion: effective GFFs



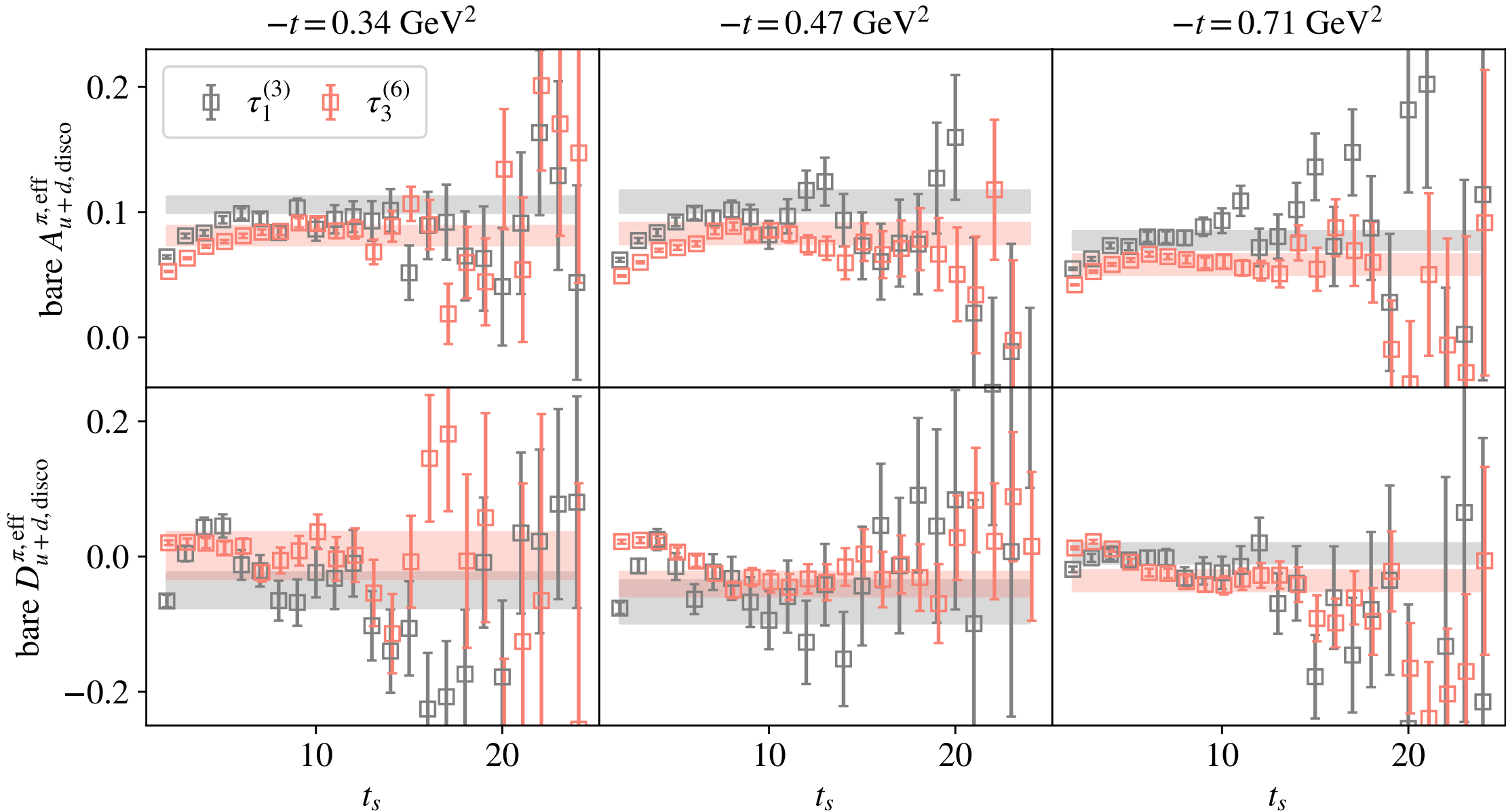
Pion: effective GFFs



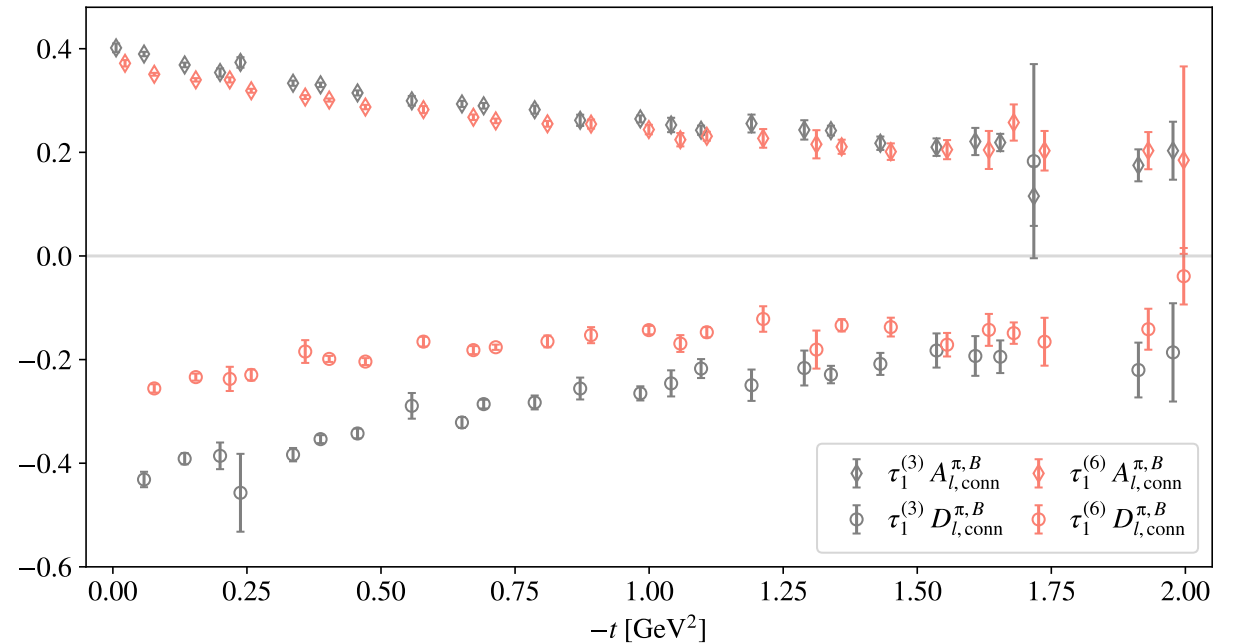
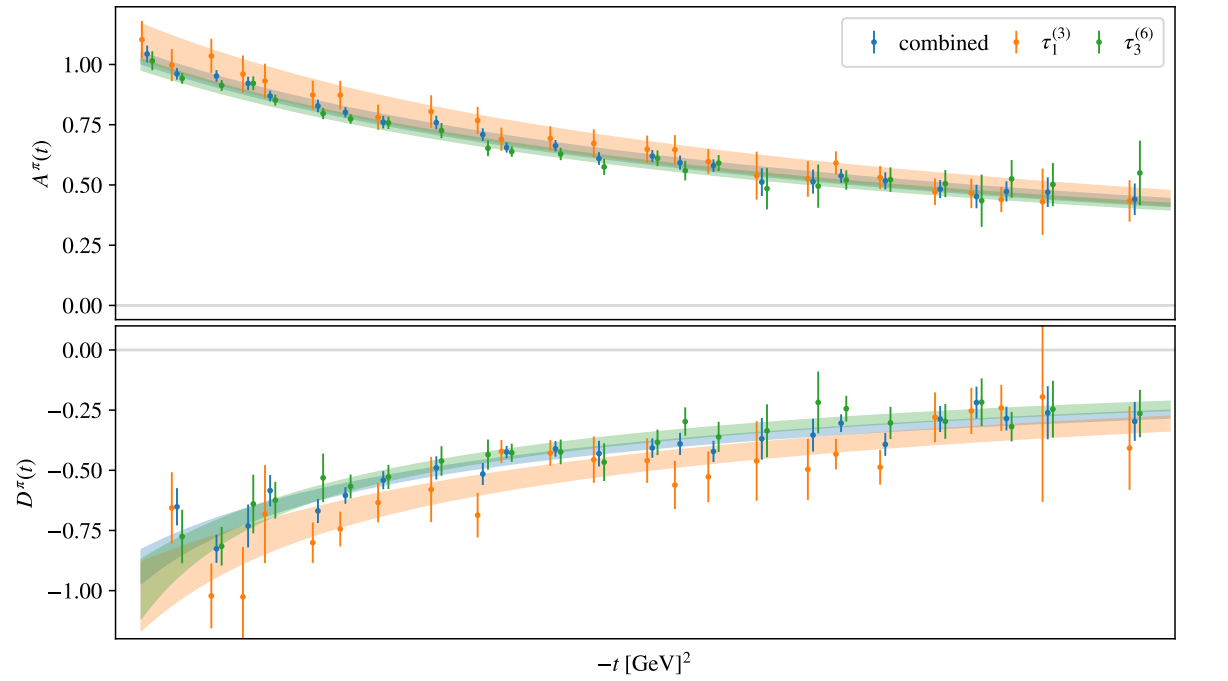
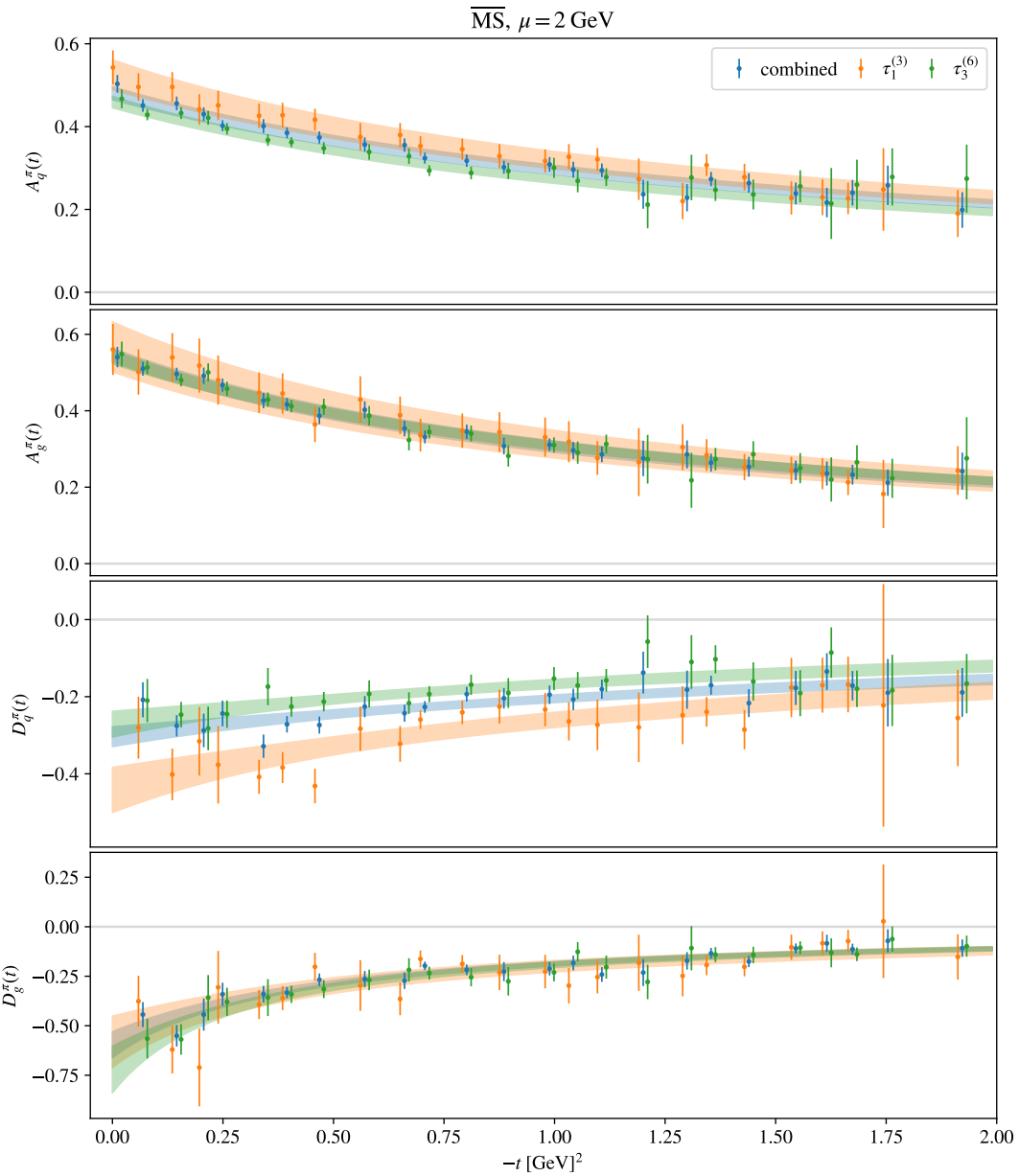
Pion: effective GFFs



Pion: effective GFFs



Pion: split irreps



Nucleon: split irreps

