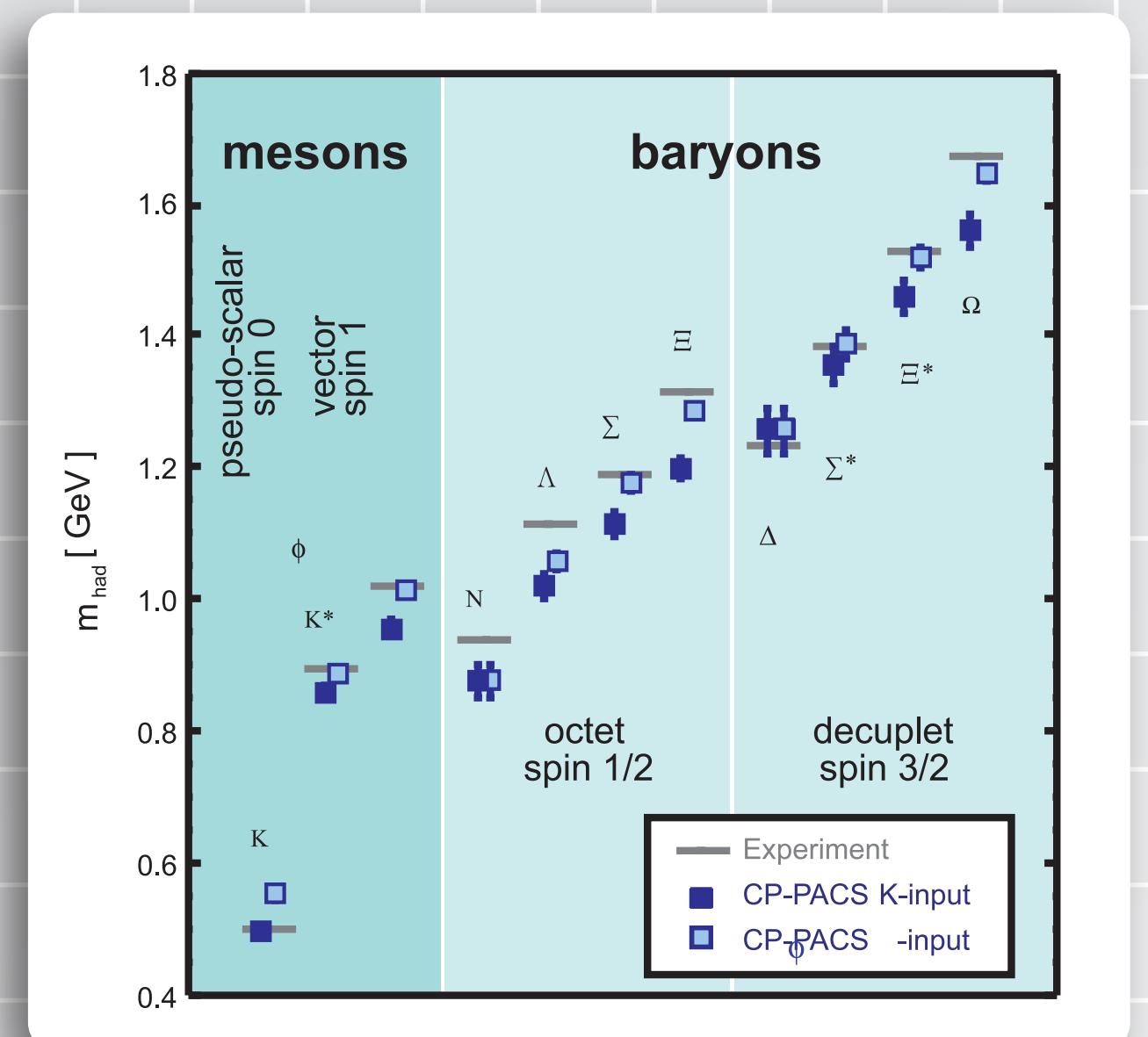


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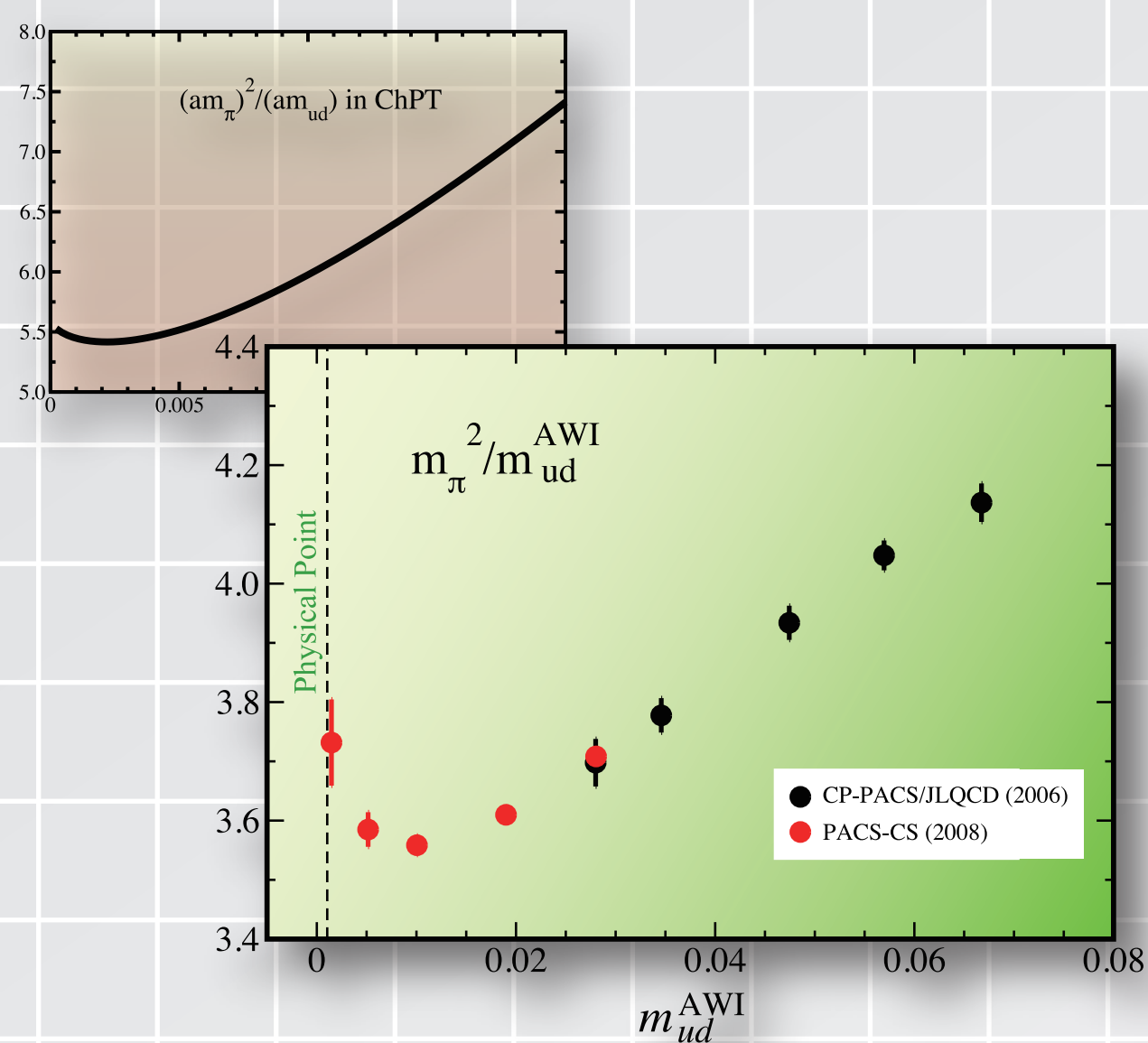
Prediction of hadron spectrum from QCD

Hadrons are the constituents of atomic nuclei. The computation of their mass spectrum from the quantum chromodynamics (QCD), the fundamental theory of quarks and gluons, has been a principal subject in particle physics. In this figure, our results are compared with experiment. Experimental results are reproduced within about 5-10%, critically proving the validity of QCD. At the same time, with the precision first achieved by the CP-PACS, a limitation of the widely accepted "quenched" approximation, in which dynamical quarks are neglected, was made clear, answering a question since 1981 about the effects of quenching.



2+1 flavor QCD at the physical point with PACS-CS and T2K

The deviation of quenched hadron spectrum from experiment was diminished in a succeeding 2 flavor QCD simulation with dynamical up and down quarks by the CP-PACS, thus proving the importance of dynamical quarks. The study was extended to 2+1 flavor QCD by incorporating the dynamical strange quark, though the degenerate up-down quark mass was more than 60 MeV, much heavier than the expected physical value of 3 MeV.



On the PACS-CS and T2K computers, we have succeeded in reducing the up-down quark mass down to less than 6 MeV. The left figures compare the quark mass dependence of the pion mass with the predictions from the chiral perturbation theory (ChPT), an effective theory of light hadrons. An important observation is a clear curvature at small up-down quark masses, which is qualitatively consistent with the chiral logarithm predicted by the ChPT (upper panel).

The right figure compares the light hadron spectrum extrapolated to the physical quark masses (physical point) with the experiment. Three physical inputs of the pion, the kaon and the omega baryon masses are employed to determine the physical up-down and strange quark masses and the lattice cutoff. Our results show good agreement with the experiment albeit errors are still not quite small for some of the hadrons.

Having established a reweighting technique for fine tuning of the quark masses, we are now carrying out a simulation directly at the physical point on a larger lattice. As a next step we are trying to incorporate the mass difference between up and down quarks together with the electromagnetic interactions.

