



VNIVERSITAT  
DE VALÈNCIA

**IFIC** INSTITUT DE  
FÍSICA  
CORPUSCULAR

# Flavor anomalies: Short-distance Origins and Outlook

**Ben Stefanek**

IFIC Valencia

**BFA Workshop 2026**

**Santiago de Compostela**

*April 17th, 2026*



**GENERALITAT  
VALENCIANA**

Conselleria de Educació, Cultura,  
Universitats y Empleo



**CSIC**

CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

# Belle II and Theory Workshop: July 1-3, 2026

We will host a Belle II & Theory Workshop in Vienna from **July 1st - 3rd 2026 in Vienna**

Scope: bring together members from theory and Belle II community to discuss **full breadth** of physics program

LHCb members welcome :)

<https://indico.belle2.org/event/17871/>

**Workshop**  
**Belle II & Theory**

**1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**  
Vienna University of Technology, Austria

The Belle II & Theory workshop intends to bring together members of the Belle II experiment with the theory community at large. The program is organized jointly and covers all aspects of the Belle II physics reach. Belle II will soon enter its inverse attobarn era, pushing beyond the sensitivities of the predecessor e+e- B factory experiments.

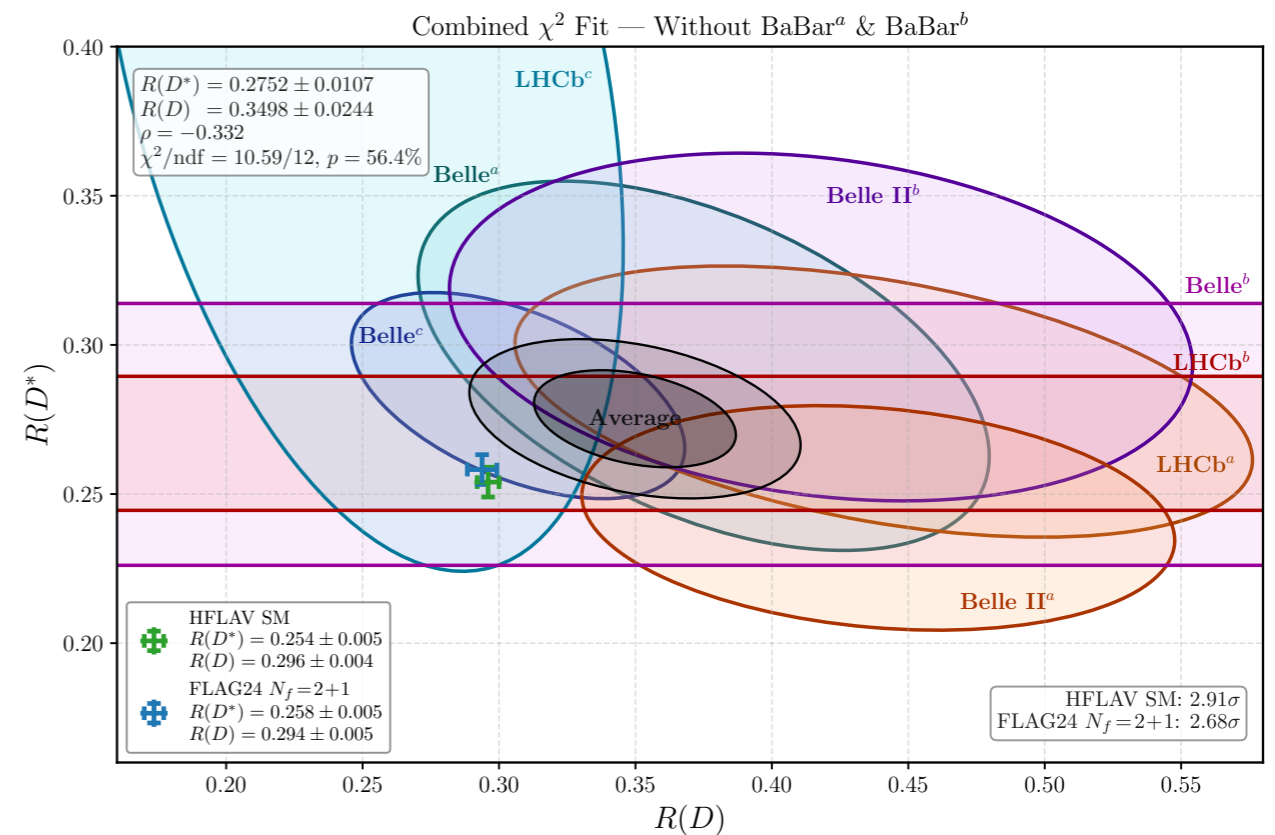
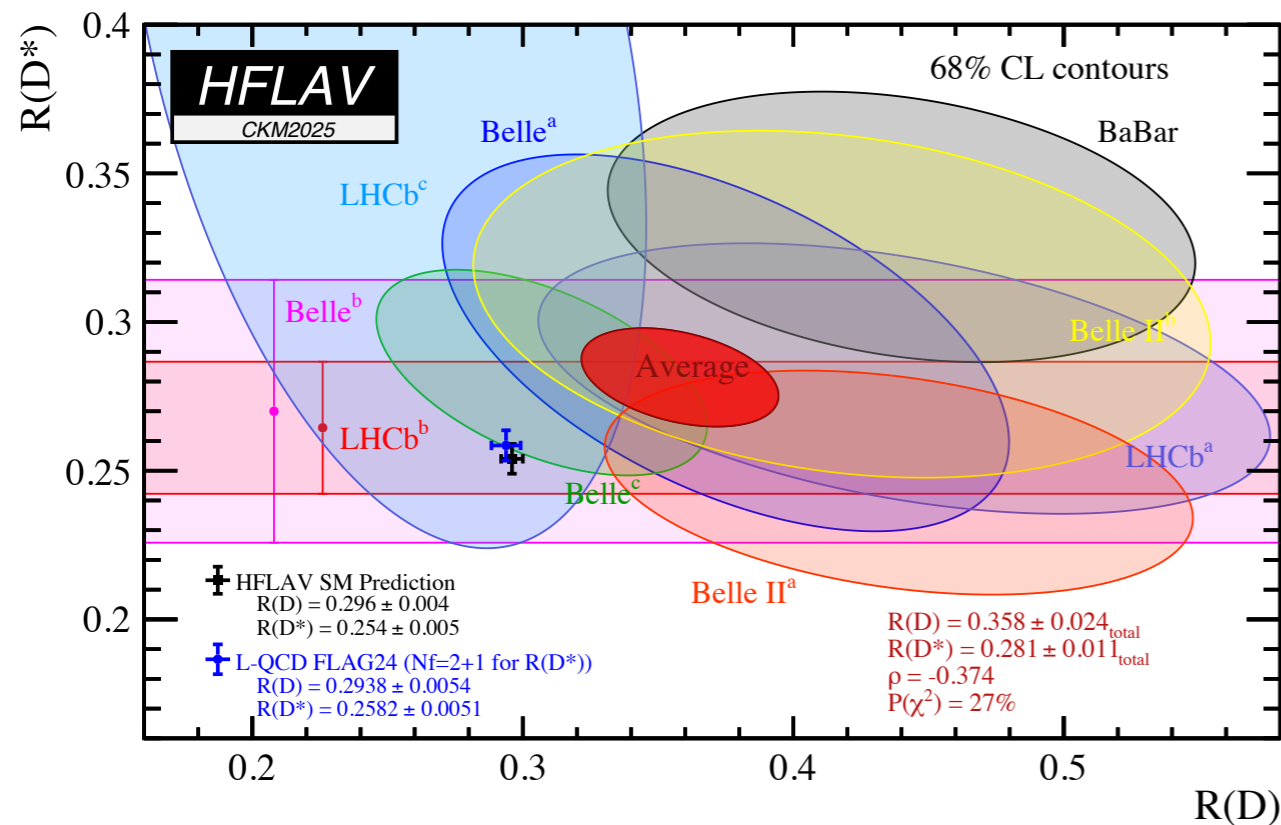
**Organisation:** LOC, Soeren Prell, Florian Bernlochner

# $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$ Anomalies

- There was an excellent overview in *Antonio Romero's talk* 

[Thanks to Martin Novoa + Copilot :)]

\*If we kick out the  in the room (for illustrative purposes only)



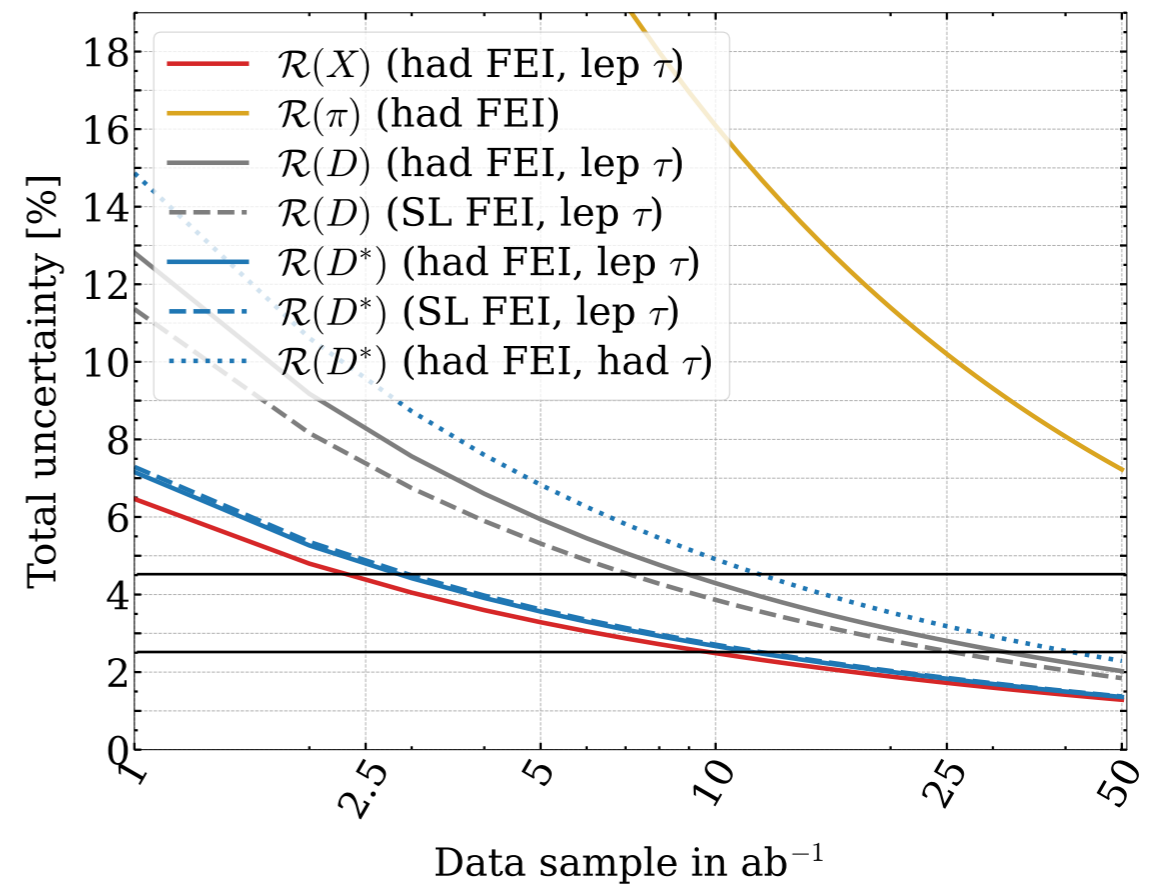
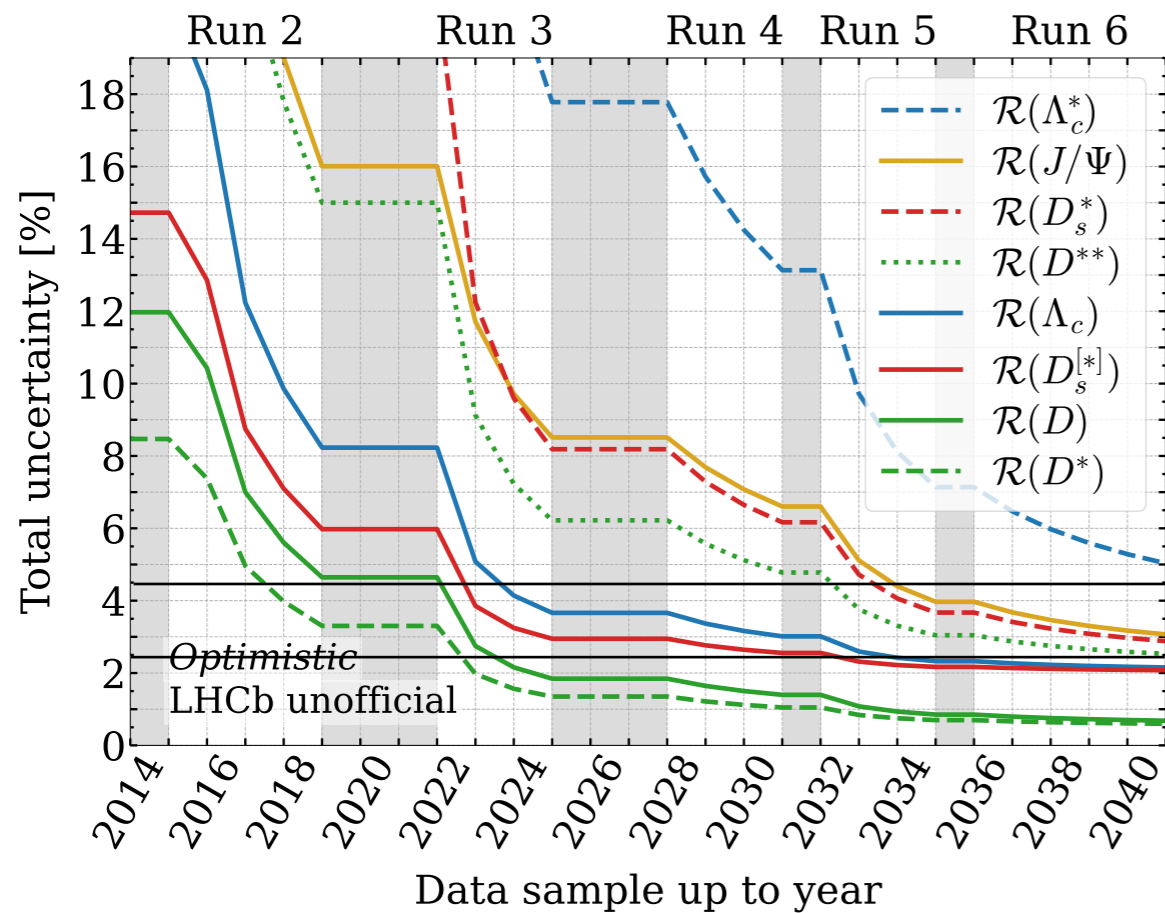
In either case, current error on the averages:  $R_D \sim 7\%$ ,  $R_{D^*} \sim 4\%$

Tension:  $3.8\sigma$

Tension:  $2.9\sigma$

# $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$ Anomalies

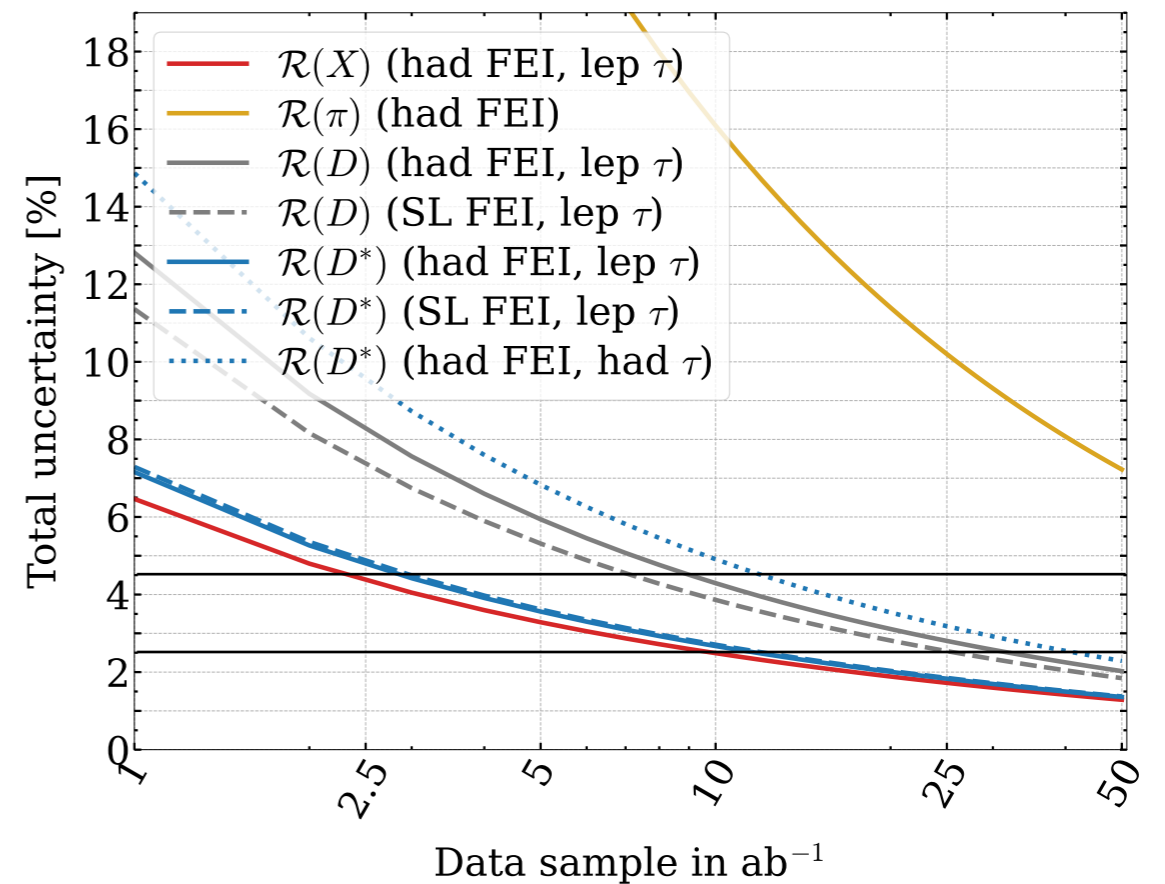
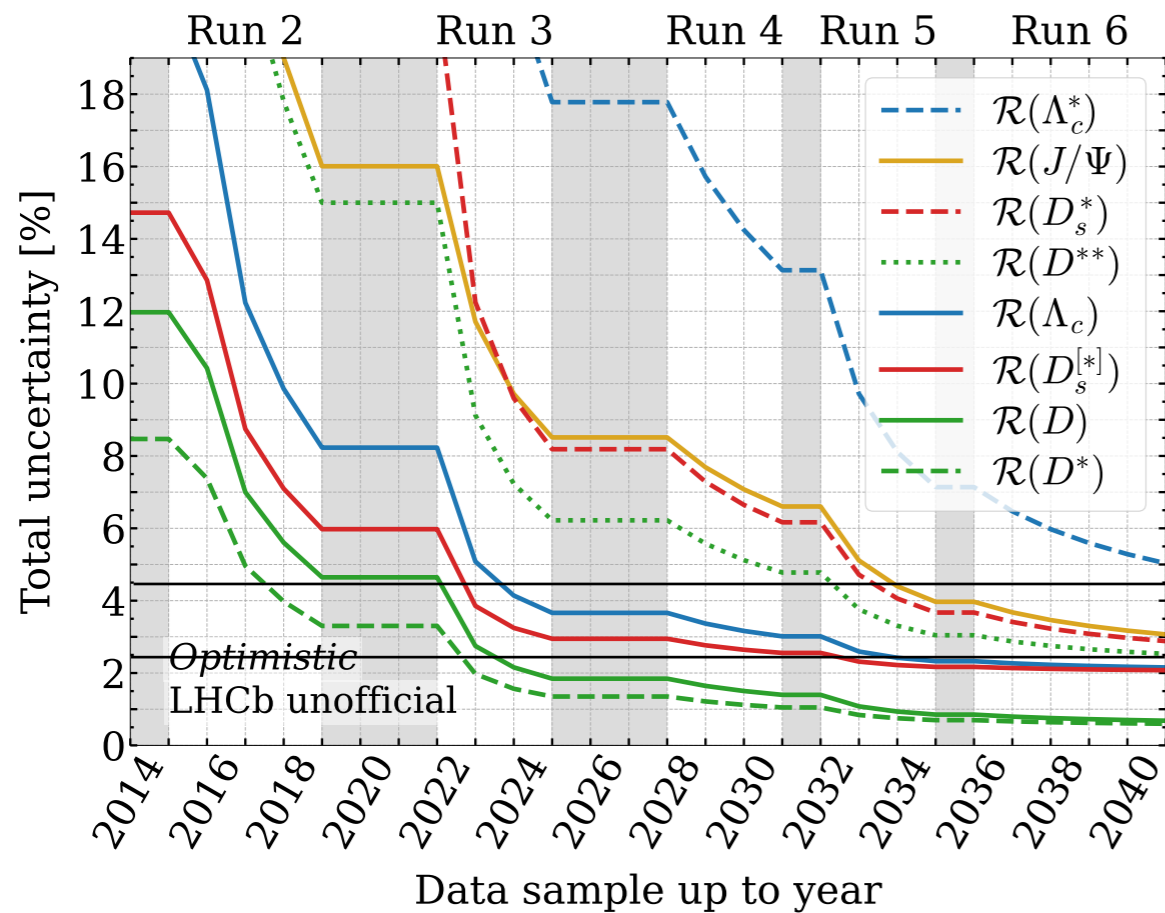
- For more: [See Antonio Romero's talk](#) 



For fun, let's assume central values stay but errors reduced by a factor  
 $\sim 1.5$ :  $R_D$  around 4.5%,  $R_{D^*}$  around 2.5%

# $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$ Anomalies

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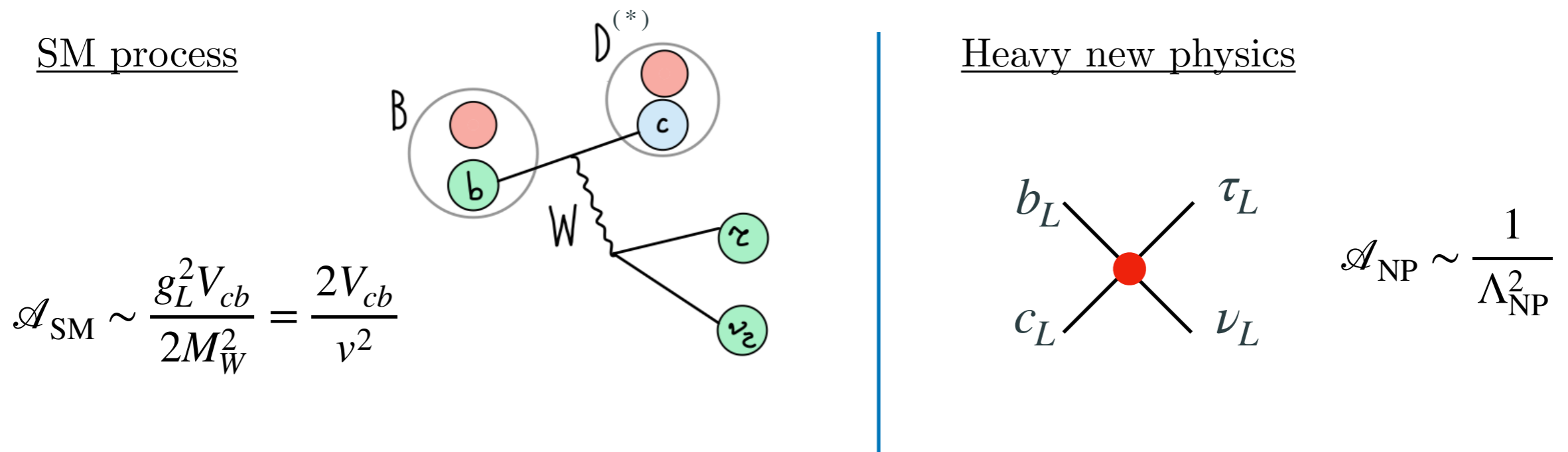
HFLAV '25 tension w/ SM  $\rightarrow 5.5\sigma$

HFLAV '25 tension w/ SM (no BaBar)  $\rightarrow 4.3\sigma$

# New physics in $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$ transitions

$$\delta R_{D^{(*)}} = R_{D^{(*)}}/R_{D^{(*)}}^{\text{SM}} - 1$$

- We need  $\sim 10\%$  of a tree-level SM process due to NP. Heavy NP should therefore also be tree-level to compete. Consider Fermi-like LH NP:

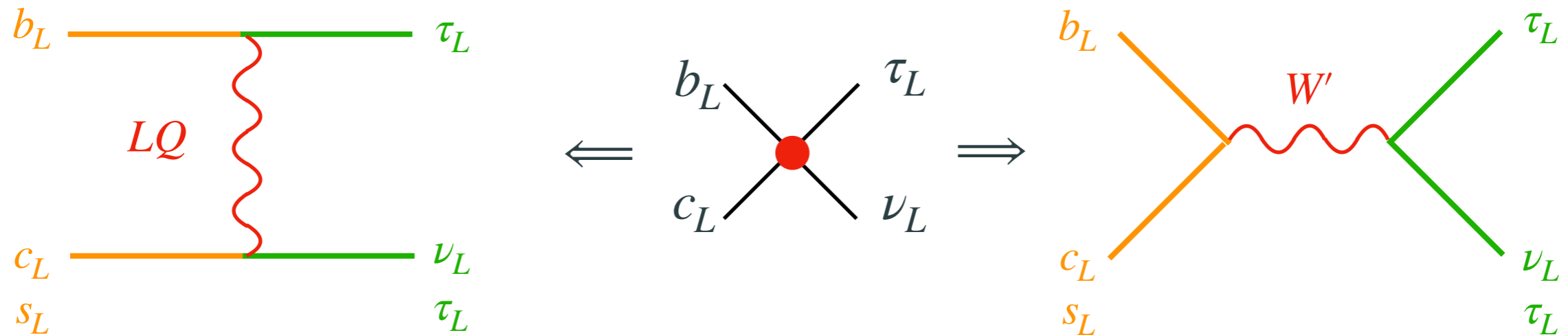


- The charged current  $B$ -anomalies are calling for a low NP scale!

$$2 \frac{\mathcal{A}_{\text{NP}}}{\mathcal{A}_{\text{SM}}} = \frac{v^2}{V_{cb} \Lambda_{\text{NP}}^2} \approx \delta R_{D^*} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Lambda_{\text{NP}} \approx \frac{v}{\sqrt{V_{cb} \delta R_{D^*}}} \approx 3.6 \text{ TeV} \left( \frac{0.12}{\delta R_{D^*}} \right)^{1/2}$$

*\*Low NP scale for CC anomaly drives connection to high- $p_T$ !*

# What kind of new particles could we have?



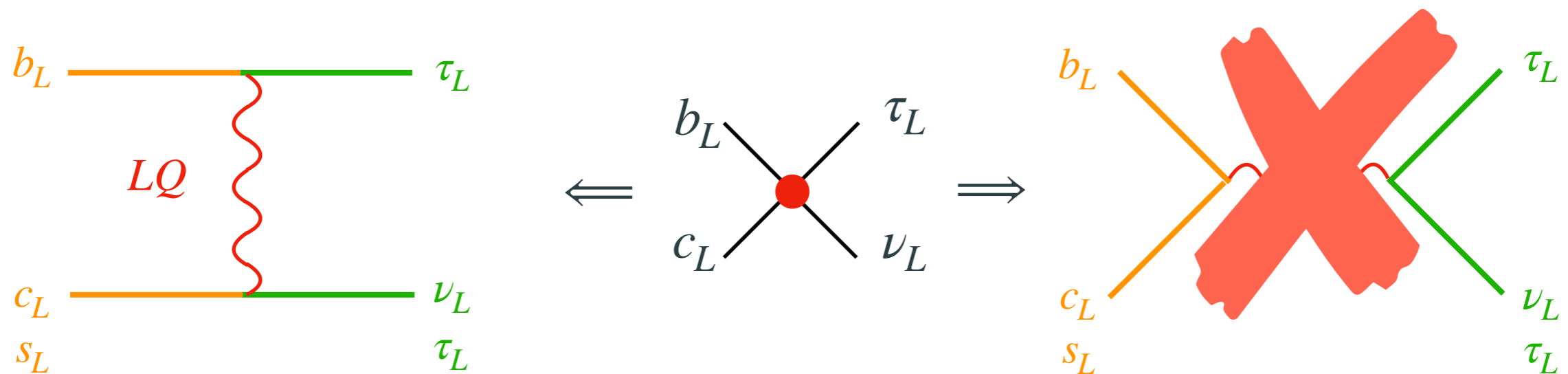
- LH NP  $\Rightarrow b \rightarrow s\tau\tau(\nu\nu)$  couplings. LQ's have two important advantages

1.  $\Delta F = 2$  :



2. **Direct searches:** t-channel versus resonant s-channel production

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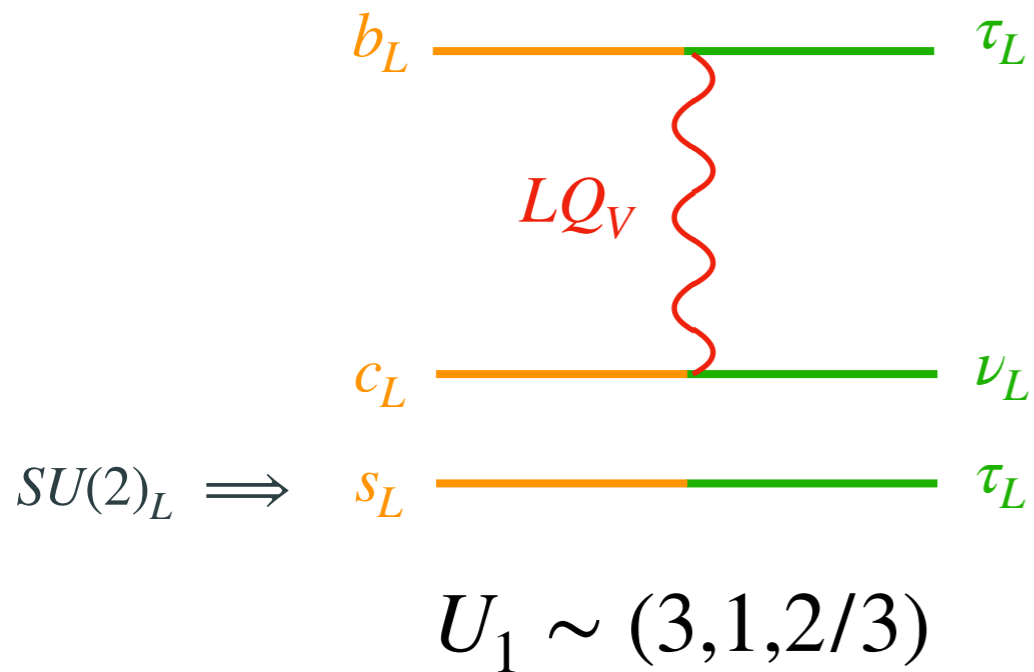
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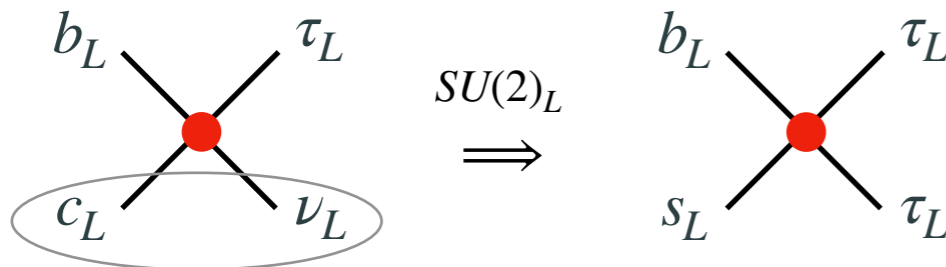
2. **Direct searches:** t-channel versus resonant s-channel production

# Which leptoquark?

- Focus here on two possible options:  $U_1$  vector LQ and  $S_1$  scalar LQ.

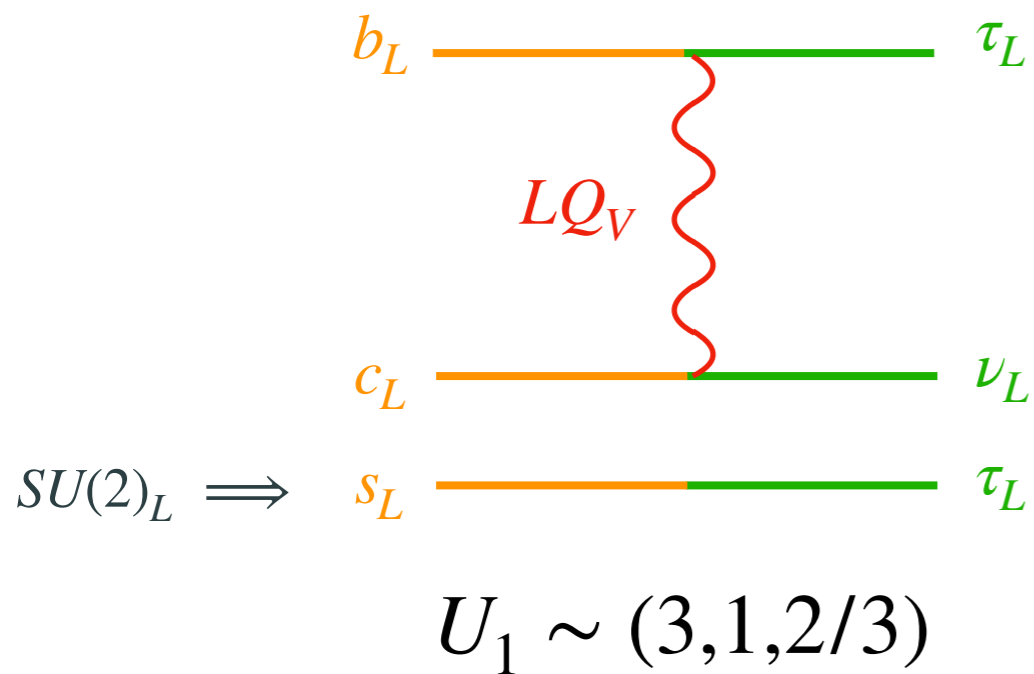


- Vector LQ
- Tree level:  $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu + b \rightarrow s\tau\tau$

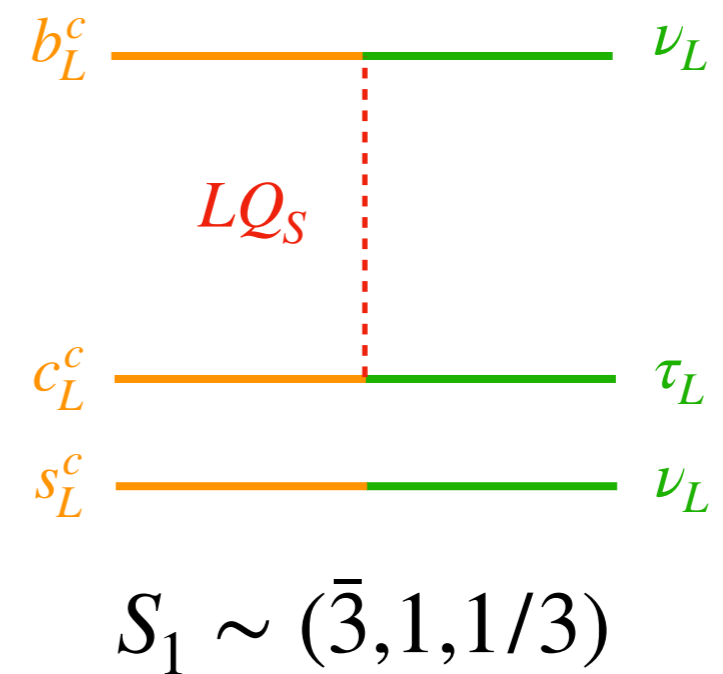
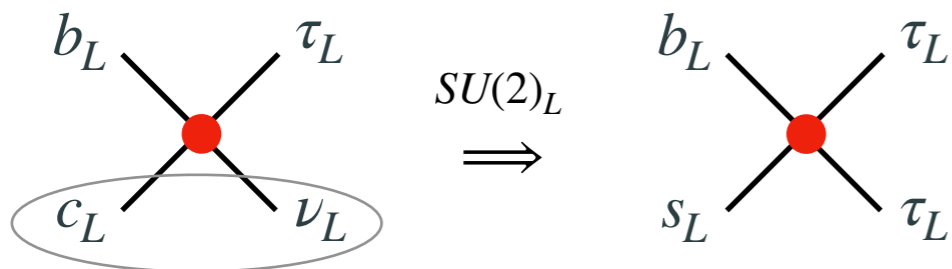


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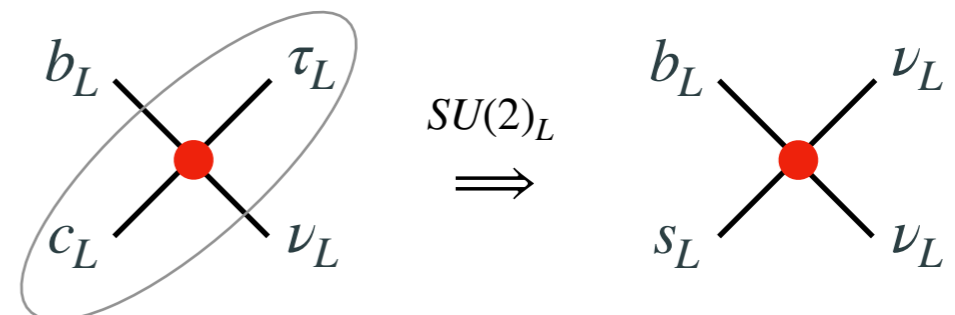
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- Vector LQ
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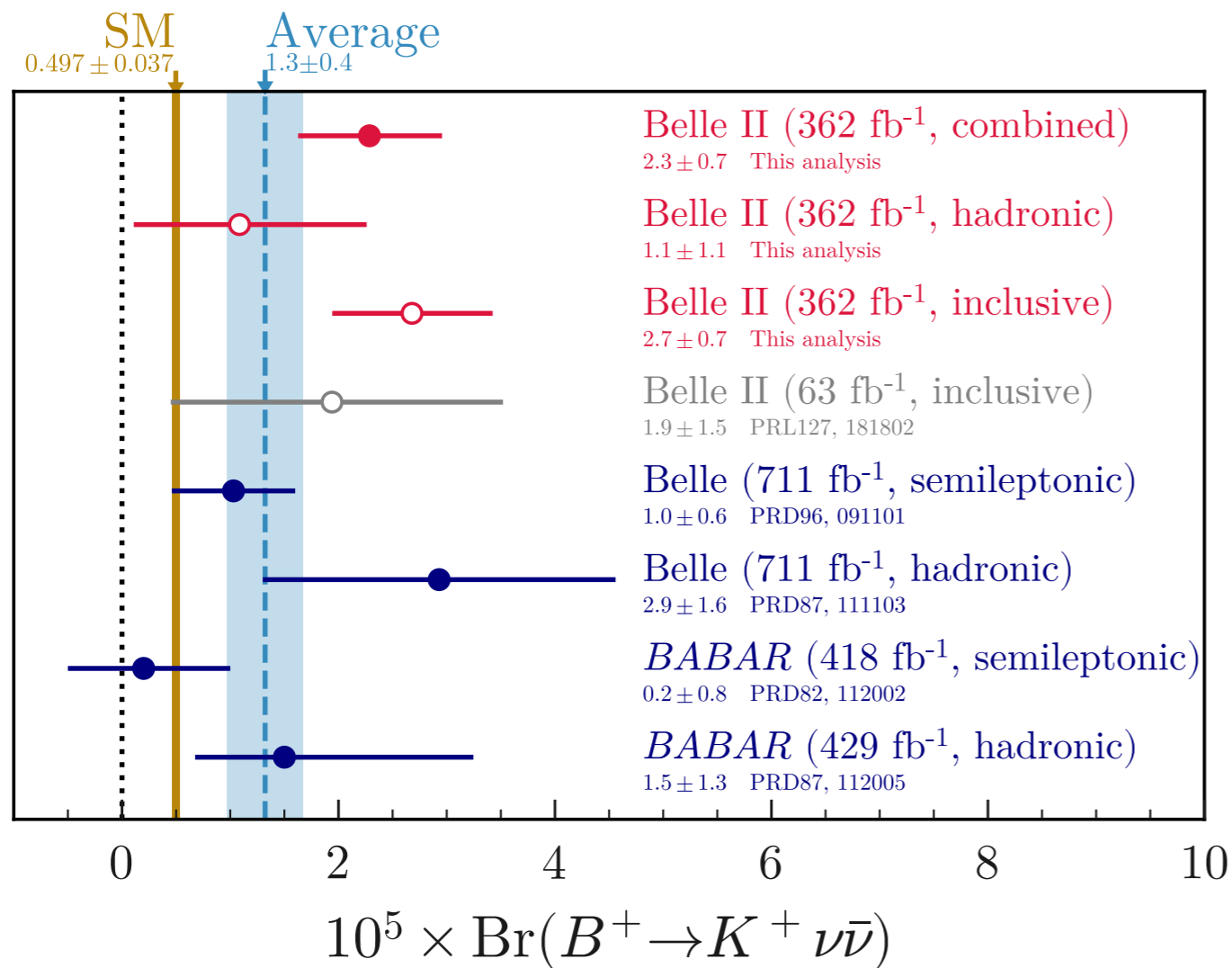
- Scalar LQ
- Tree level:  $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu + b \rightarrow s\nu_\tau\nu_\tau$



Connecting  $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$  and  $b \rightarrow s\nu\bar{\nu}$

# $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ measurement from Belle II

- Belle II has updated the measurement of  $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu})$  with 362/fb of data. For details of the analysis: [See Sally's talk](#) 



[Belle II Collaboration, [2311.14647](#)]

$$R_{K^{(*)}}^\nu = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \nu \bar{\nu})}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^{(*)} \nu \bar{\nu})_{\text{SM}}}$$

Belle II (362/fb combined):

$$R_{K^+}^\nu = 4.6 \pm 1.4$$

Average of measurements:

$$R_{K^+}^\nu = 2.6 \pm 0.8$$

Belle II combination is  $2.6\sigma$  above the SM, while the average is  $2\sigma$  above.

# New physics in $b \rightarrow s\nu\bar{\nu}$ decays

- We need 2-3x a SM loop process due to NP. Large effect means heavy NP likely tree-level to compete. Consider Fermi-like LH NP:

SM process

$C_\nu^{\text{SM}} \approx -1.47$

$\mathcal{A}_{\text{SM}} \sim \frac{\alpha_L}{\pi v^2} V_{tb} V_{ts}^* C_\nu^{\text{SM}}$

Heavy new physics

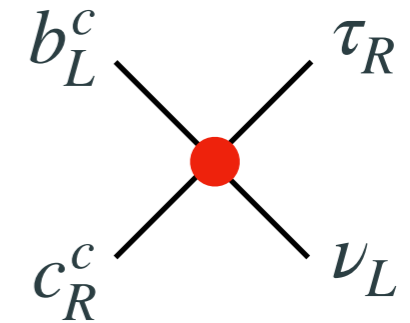
$\mathcal{A}_{\text{NP}} \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda_{\text{NP}}^2}$

- If we assume a new physics effect ONLY in tau neutrinos:

$$R_{K^{(*)}}^\nu = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \left| 1 + \frac{\mathcal{A}_{\text{NP}}}{\mathcal{A}_{\text{SM}}} \right|^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{ll} \Lambda_{\text{NP}} \approx 8.1 \text{ TeV} & (R_{K^{(*)}}^\nu = 2.6) \\ \Lambda_{\text{NP}} \approx 650 \text{ GeV} & (\text{loop}) \end{array}$$

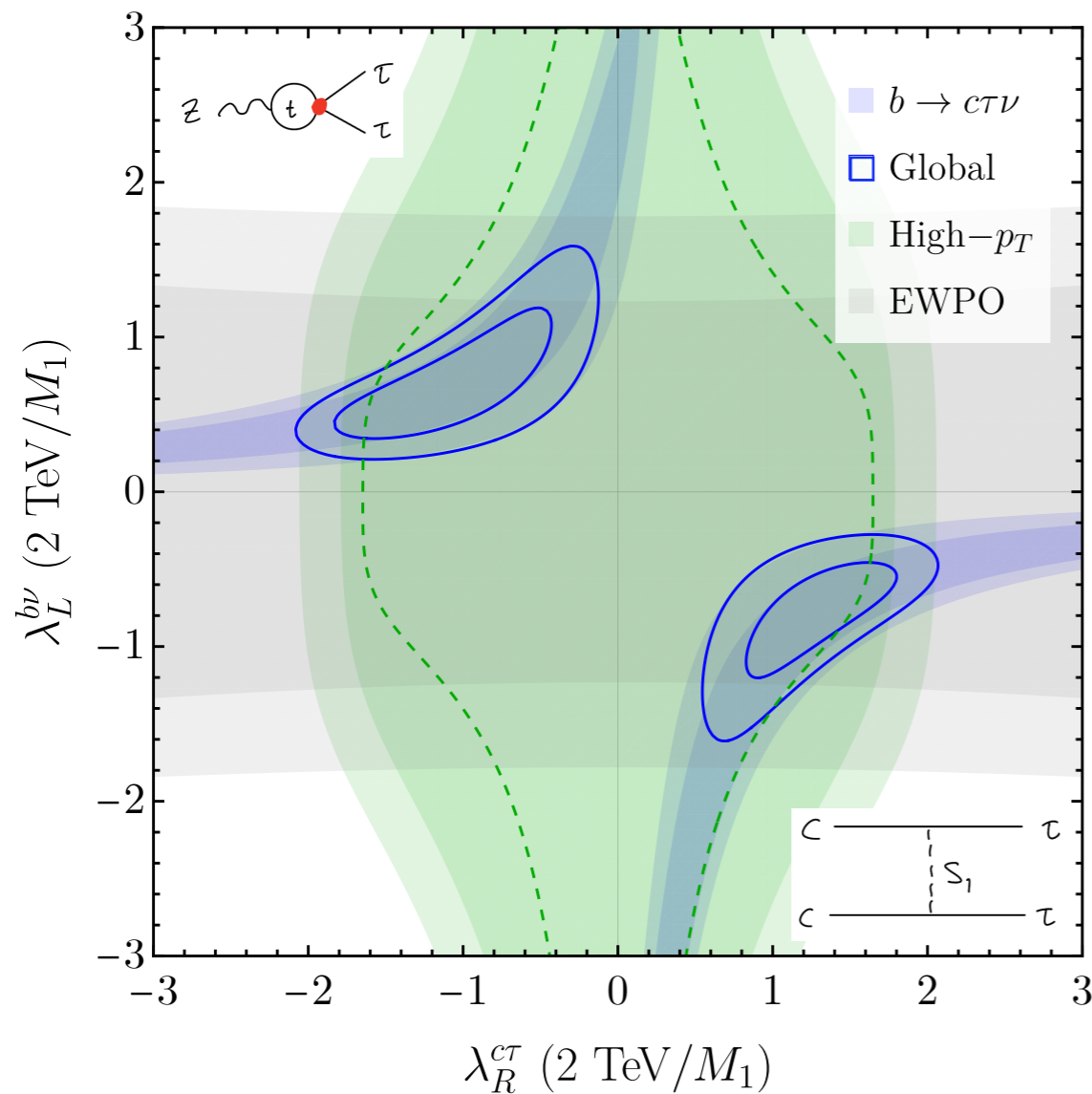
# Simplified $S_1$ scalar LQ model and fit

$$C_{V_L}, C_{S_L} = -4C_T$$



$$\mathcal{L} \supset \lambda_L^{b\nu} \bar{q}_L^{c3} \epsilon \ell_L^3 S_1 + \lambda_L^{s\nu} \bar{q}_L^{c2} \epsilon \ell_L^3 S_1 + \lambda_R^{c\tau} \bar{c}_R^c \tau_R S_1$$

$\overbrace{\hspace{10em}}^{b \rightarrow c\tau\nu}$   
 $\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{B \rightarrow K\nu\bar{\nu}}$



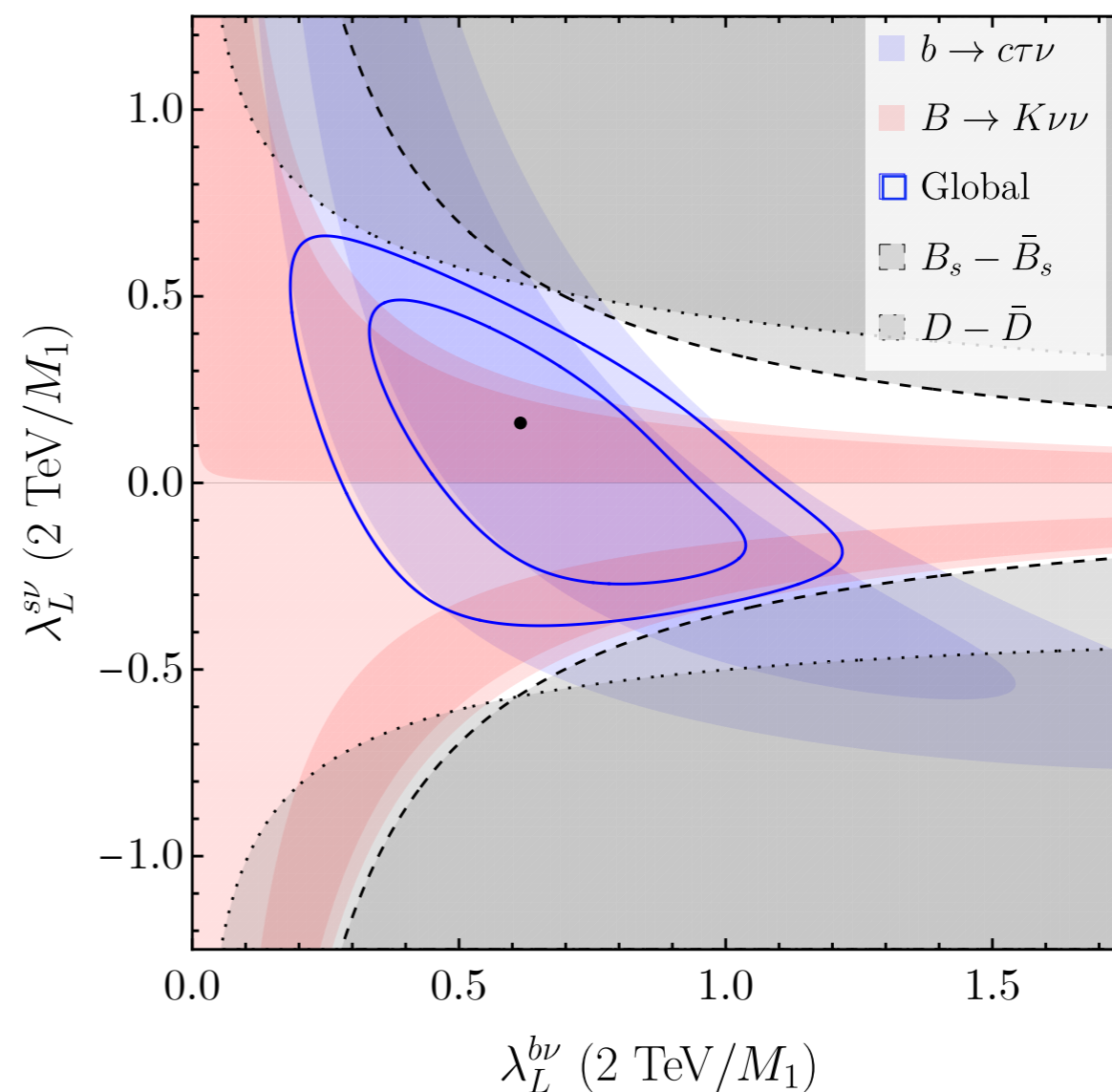
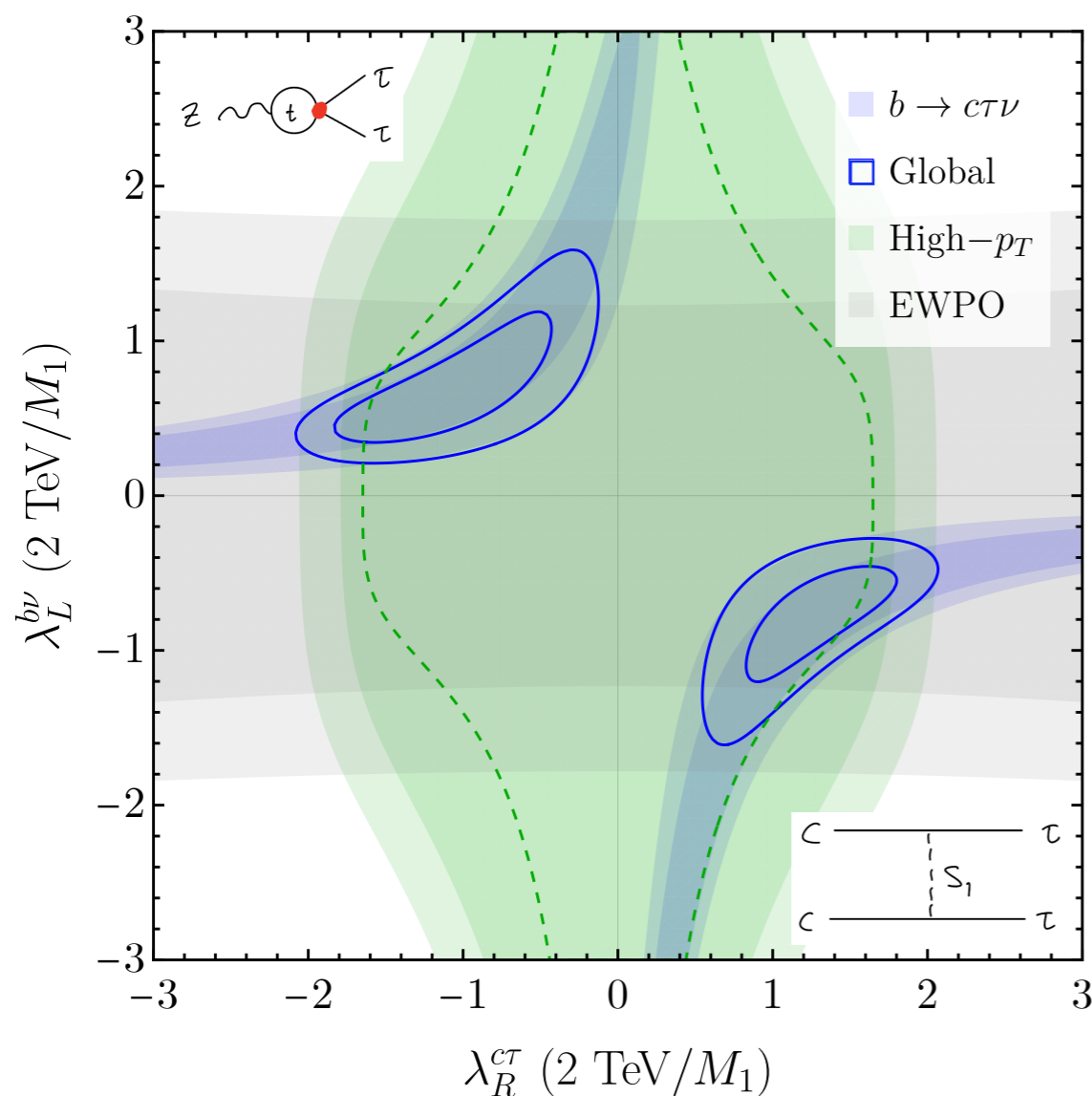
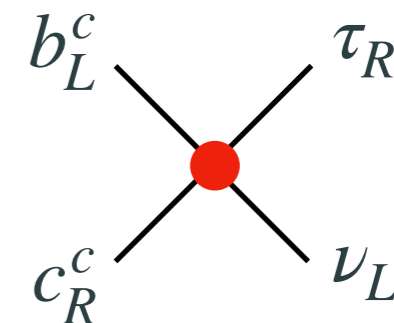
\*This model can contribute to  $B_{d,s} \rightarrow K^{(*)} \bar{K}^{(*)}$ : [\[Lizana, Matias, BAS, 2306.09178\]](#)

See Davide's talk

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[Lizana, Matias, BAS, [2306.09178](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.09178)]

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Connecting  $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$  and  $b \rightarrow s\ell\ell$

# Connection: $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$ and $b \rightarrow s\mu\mu$

- Some mediators that explain the charged-current anomalies give a *flavor-universal* effect in  $b \rightarrow s\ell\ell$  via RGE. Discussed also in Mauro's talk 



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{tb} V_{ts}^* \frac{e^2}{16\pi^2} \sum_i C_i^\ell O_i^\ell \quad O_9^\ell = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L)(\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \ell)$$

- Leading-log running gives

$$\Delta C_9^U = \frac{v_{\text{EW}}^2}{3V_{tb} V_{ts}^*} \left( [C_{lq}^{(3)}]_{3323} + [C_{lq}^{(1)}]_{3323} \right) \log \left( \frac{m_b^2}{M^2} \right)$$

[Bobeth, Haisch, [1109.1826](#); Crivellin et al., [1807.02068](#); Algueró et al., [1809.08447](#)]

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$U_1$ ✓	$S_1$ ✗
$C_{lq}^{(3)} = C_{lq}^{(1)}$	$C_{lq}^{(3)} = -C_{lq}^{(1)}$

[Bobeth, Haisch, [1109.1826](#); Crivellin et al., [1807.02068](#); Algueró et al., [1809.08447](#)]

# Simplified model for $U_1$ leptoquark

$$U_1 \sim (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1}, 2/3)$$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_U}{\sqrt{2}} U_1^\mu \left[ (\bar{q}_L^3 \gamma_\mu \ell_L^3) + \beta_L^{s\tau} (\bar{q}_L^2 \gamma_\mu \ell_L^3) + \beta_R^{b\tau} (\bar{b}_R \gamma_\mu \tau_R) \right] + \text{h.c.}$$



$U(2)_q$ -breaking  $\sim O(V_{cb})$

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Integrate out the  $U_1$  LQ:  $\frac{1}{\Lambda_{\text{NP}}^2} = \frac{g_U^2}{2M_U^2}$



**RUNNING to EW SCALE + MATCHING**



$$\mathcal{L}_{b \rightarrow c \tau \bar{\nu}} = -\frac{2}{v^2} V_{cb} \left[ \left( 1 + C_{LL}^c \right) (\bar{c}_L \gamma_\mu b_L) (\bar{\tau}_L \gamma^\mu \nu_L) - 2 C_{LR}^c (\bar{c}_L b_R) (\bar{\tau}_R \nu_L) \right]$$

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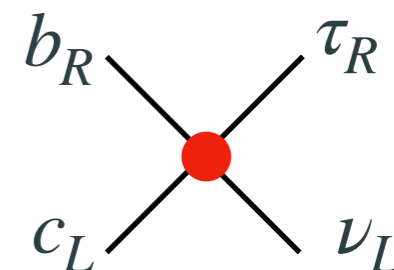
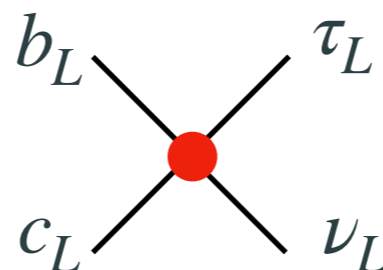


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Contact interaction:

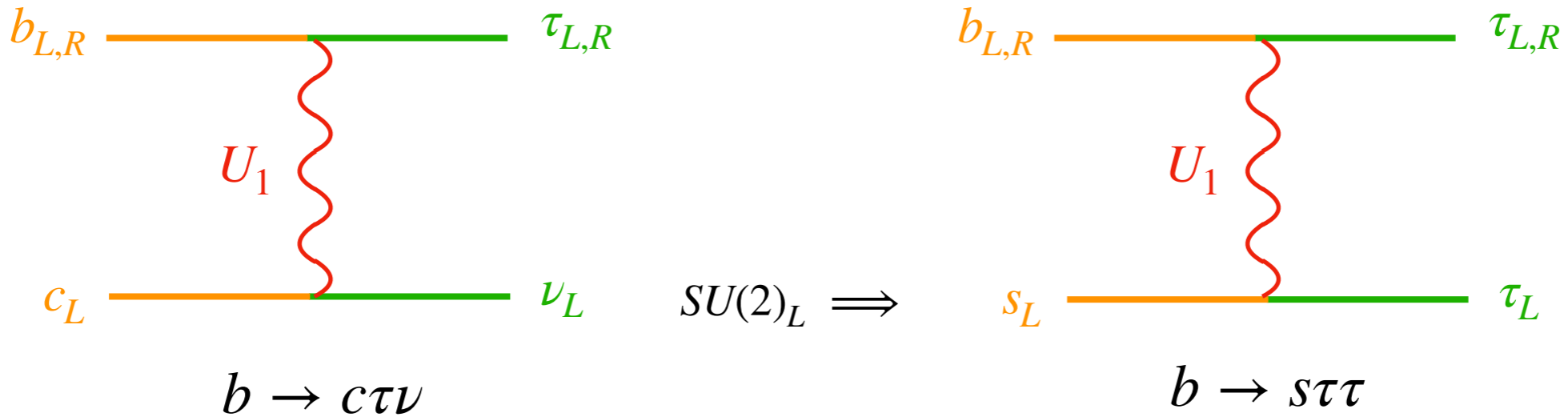


Low-energy WC's  $\leftrightarrow$  Model parameters:

$$C_{LL}^c = \frac{g_U^2 v^2}{4M_U^2} \left( 1 + \frac{V_{cs}}{V_{cb}} \beta_L^{s\tau} \right), \quad C_{LR}^c = \beta_R^{b\tau*} C_{LL}^c$$

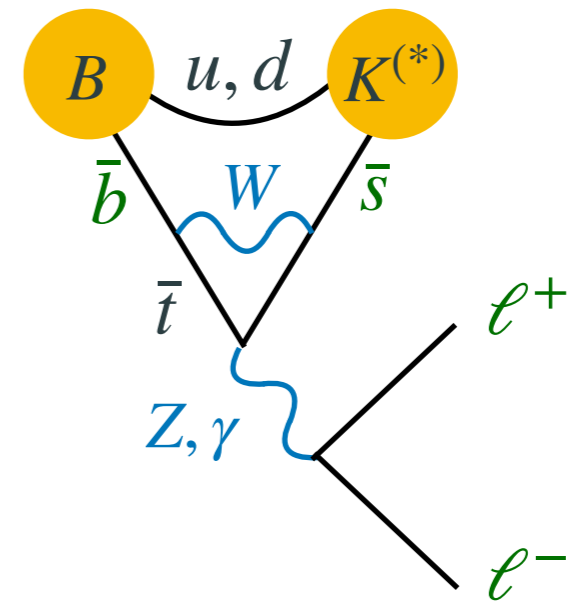
# $U_1$ connects $R_{D^{(*)}}$ to $b \rightarrow s\tau\tau$ observables

- We have tree-level effects in  $b \rightarrow s\tau\tau$  connected to the size of  $R_{D^{(*)}}$



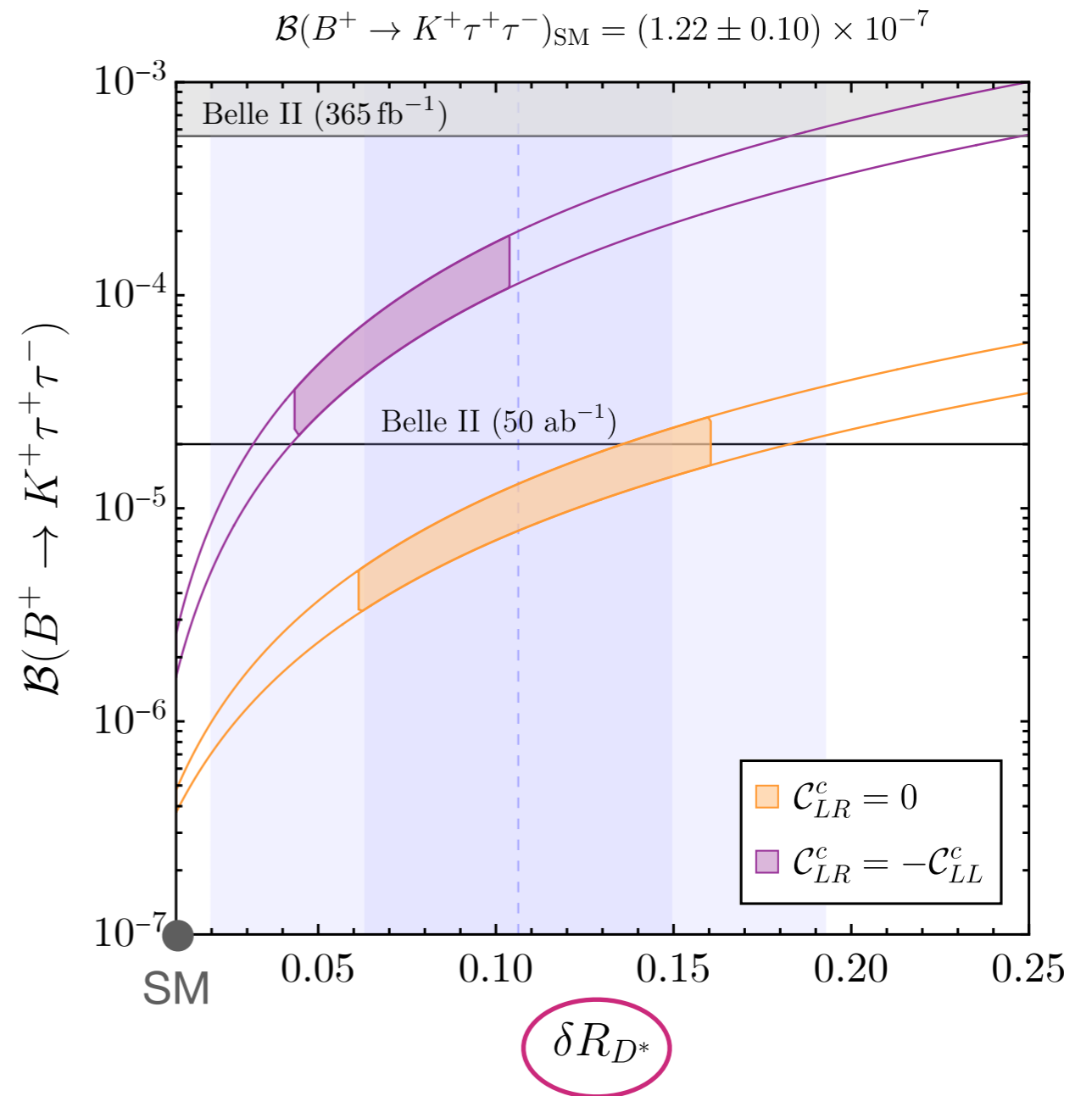
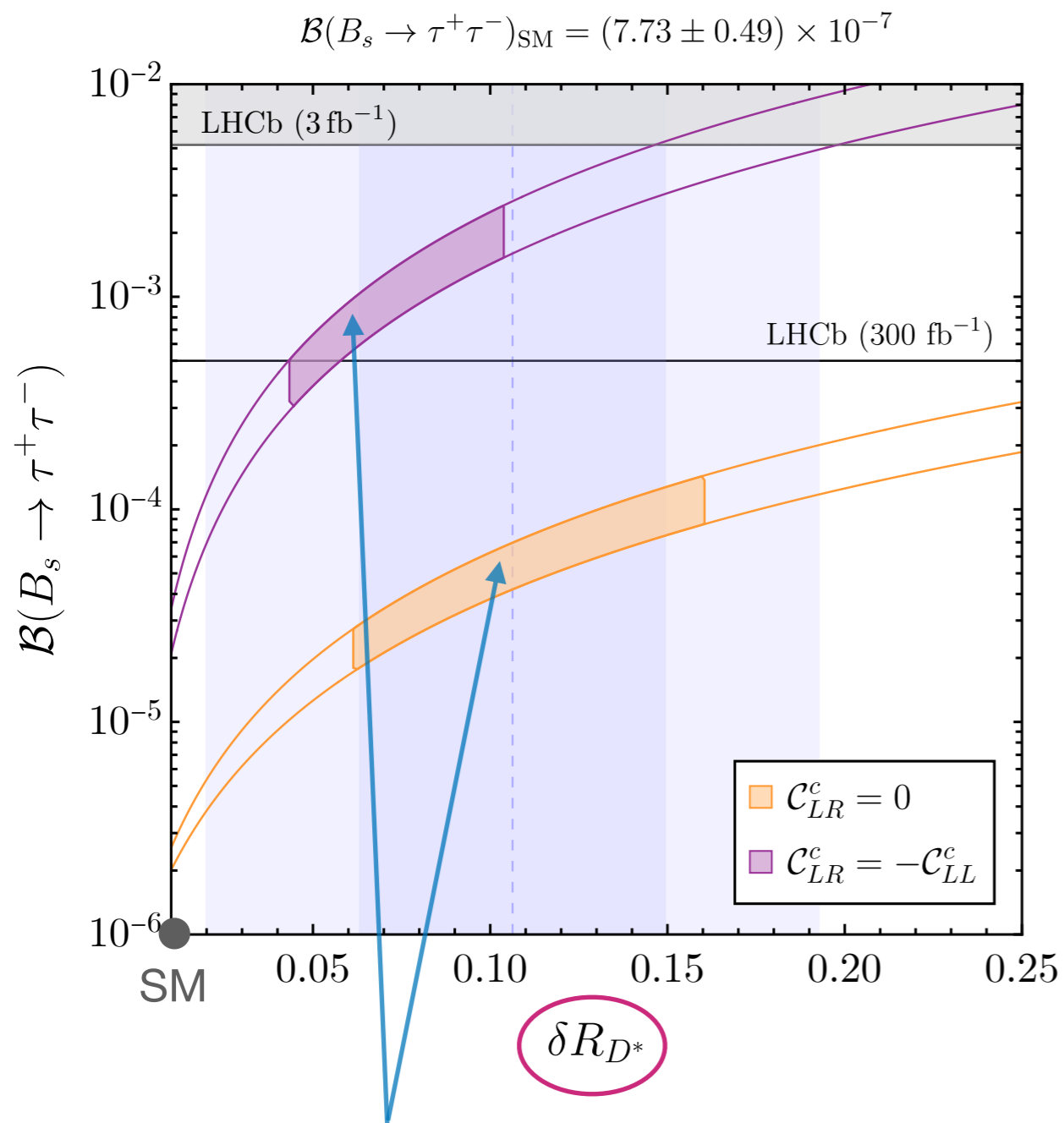
- Since  $b \rightarrow s\tau\tau$  is a FCNC, it is a 1-loop process in the SM. We therefore expect a huge NP enhancement in  $b \rightarrow s\tau\tau$ !

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow K^{(*)}\tau\tau)}{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow K^{(*)}\tau\tau)_{\text{SM}}} \sim 16\pi^2 \frac{R_{D^{(*)}}}{R_{D^{(*)}}^{\text{SM}}}$$



# $U_1$ connects $R_{D^{(*)}}$ to $b \rightarrow s\tau\tau$ observables

- For the latest experimental results, see the *talk by Hanae and Stefano* 

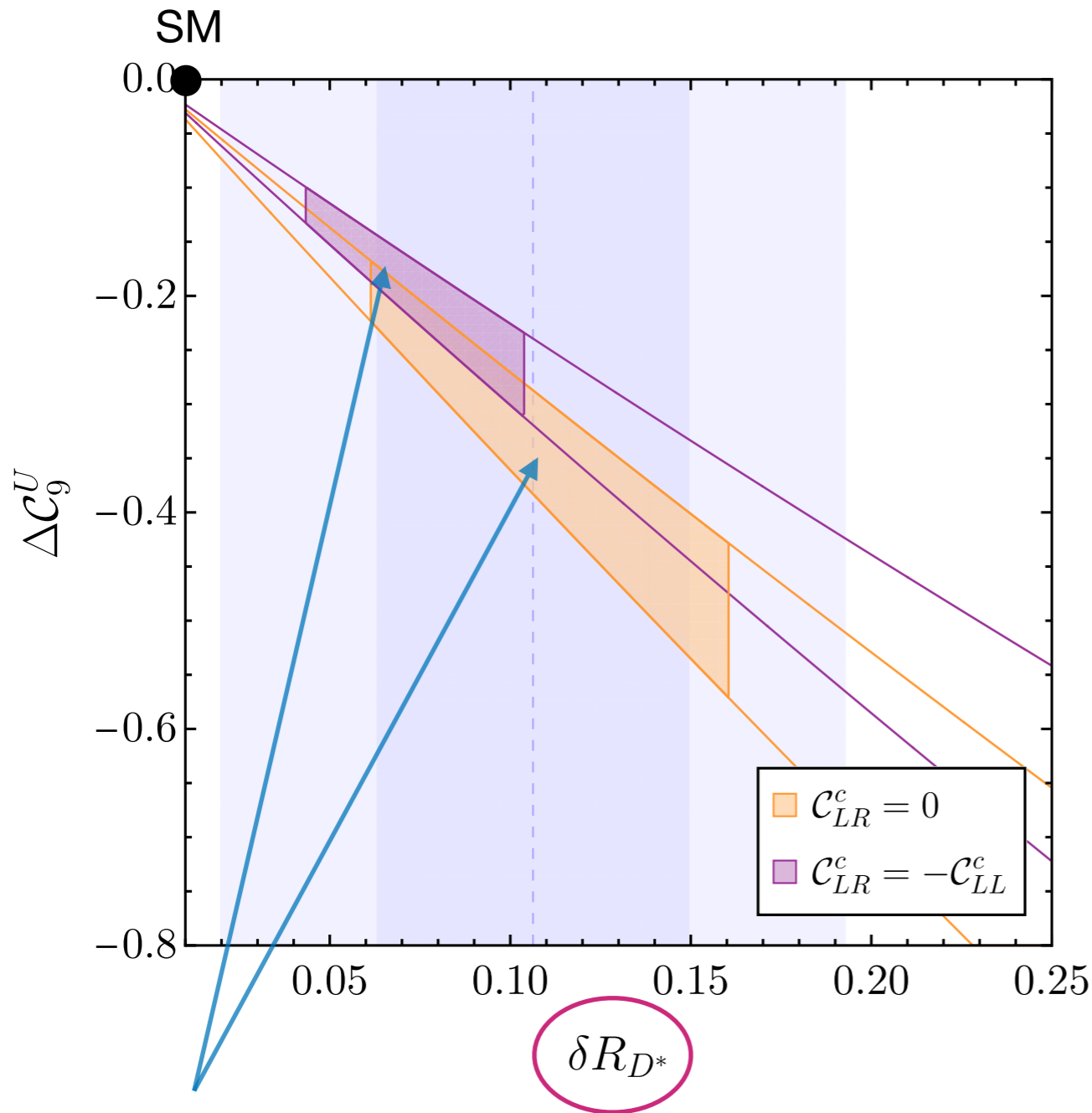


HFLAV '25 updated 90% CL region preferred by low-energy  $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$  data

[J. Aebischer, G. Isidori, M. Pesut, BAS, F. Wilsch, [2210.13422](https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.13422)]

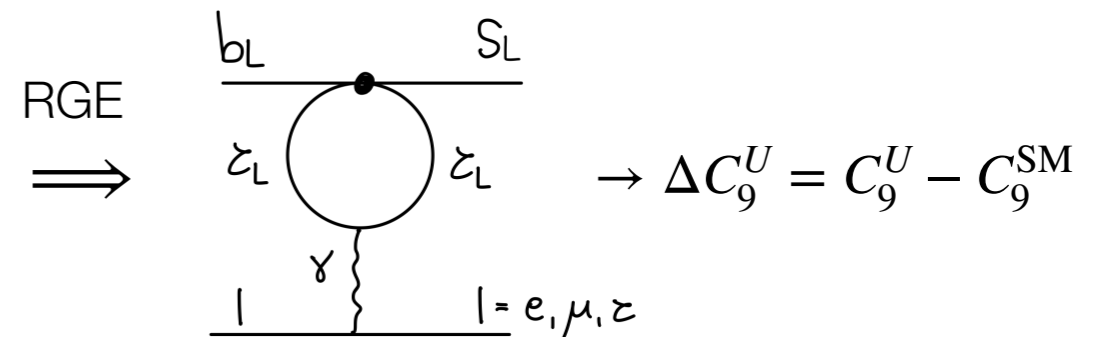
# $U_1$ connects $R_{D^{(*)}}$ to universal $b \rightarrow s\ell\ell$ observables

- Large  $b \rightarrow s\tau\tau$  implies a sizable *flavor-universal* loop effect in  $b \rightarrow s\ell\ell$ !



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{ts}^* V_{tb} \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \sum_i C_i^\ell O_i^\ell$$

$$O_9^\ell = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L)(\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \ell)$$



Global Fits to  $b \rightarrow s\ell^+\ell^-$  data:

$$\Delta C_9^U \sim -C_9^{\text{SM}}/4$$

\*For more, see Mauro's talk

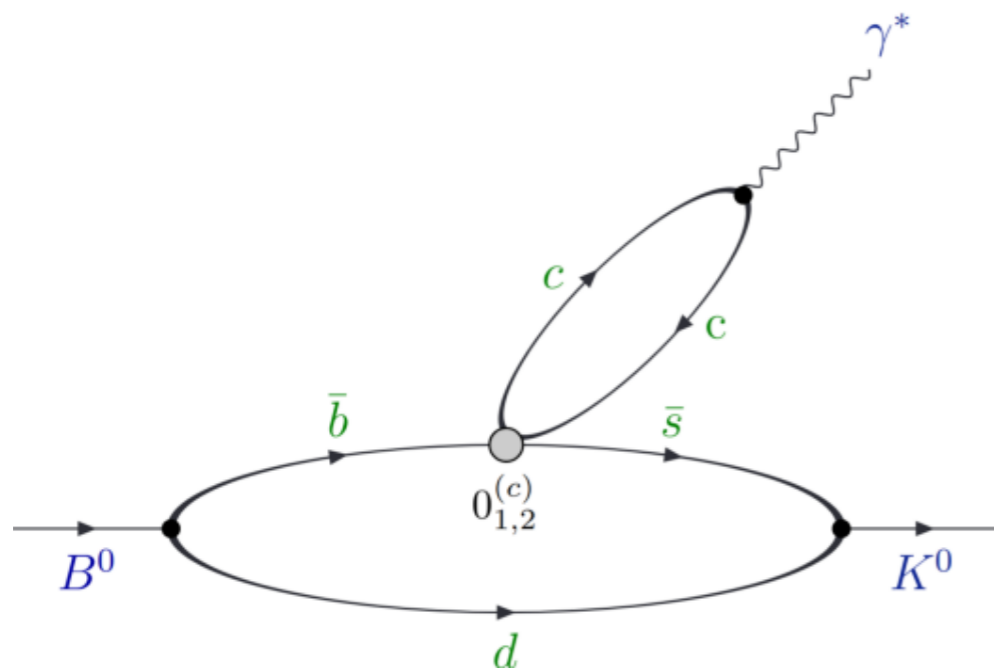
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# Resolving the $b \rightarrow s\mu\mu$ anomalies

- Excellent talks by *Enrico and Luca* . Seems we have both theoretical and experimental paths to resolve these anomalies:

## Charming Penguins on the Lattice



- Theoretical framework that allows, in principle, to evaluate the long-distance contributions on the lattice.
- Proof of principle calculation of a single charming-penguin diagram, for now in an unphysical setup. But gives encouraging results in the large- $q^2$  region.

[Frezzotti et. al, [2508.03655](#)]

## Inclusive $B \rightarrow X_s \ell \ell$ Measurements

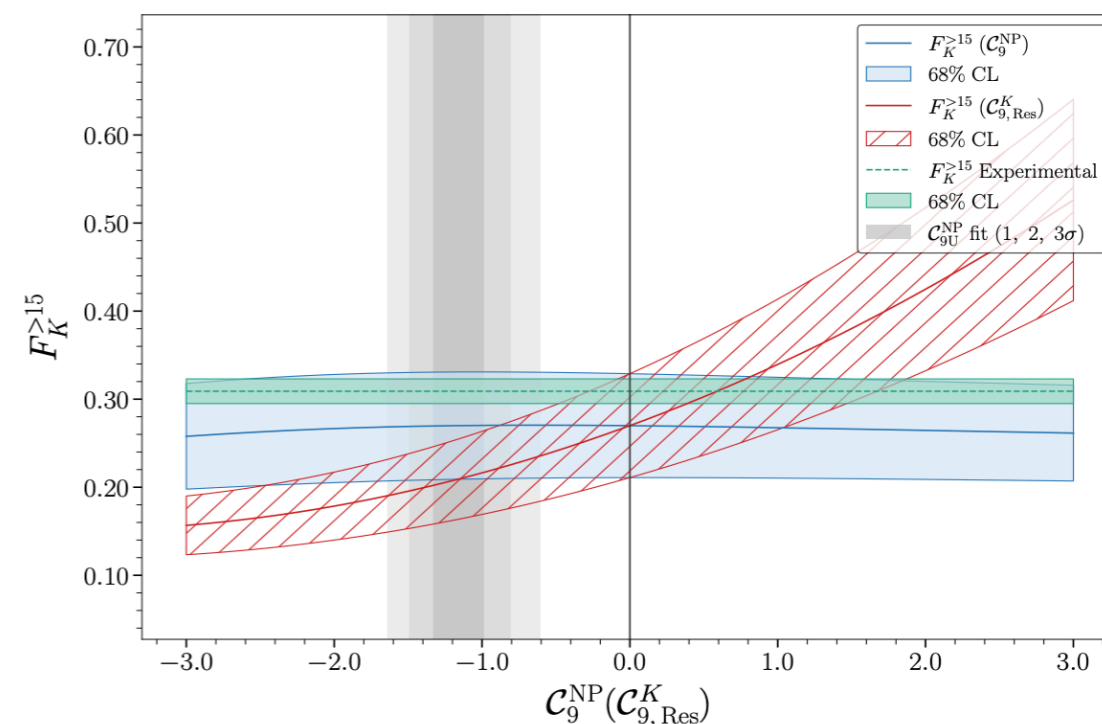
- The inclusive calculations that we need for current phenomenology are:

$$\mathcal{B}[1,6]_{\ell\ell} = (17.4 \pm 1.3) \times 10^{-7} \quad [7.4\%]$$

$$\mathcal{B}[>15]_{\text{no QED}} = (2.59 \pm 0.68) \times 10^{-7} \quad [26\%]$$

$$\mathcal{R}(15)_{\text{no QED}} = (17.00 \pm 1.9) \times 10^{-4} \quad [7.2\%]$$

- In order to use  $\mathcal{R}(15)$  we need the  $B \rightarrow X_u \ell \nu$  normalization:



$$[\mathcal{F}_K^{>15}]_{\text{exp}} = \left[ 1 + \frac{\mathcal{B}(K^* \mu \mu) + \mathcal{B}((K\pi)_s \mu \mu) + \mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow K \pi \mu \mu)}{\mathcal{B}(K \mu \mu)} \right]^{-1}$$

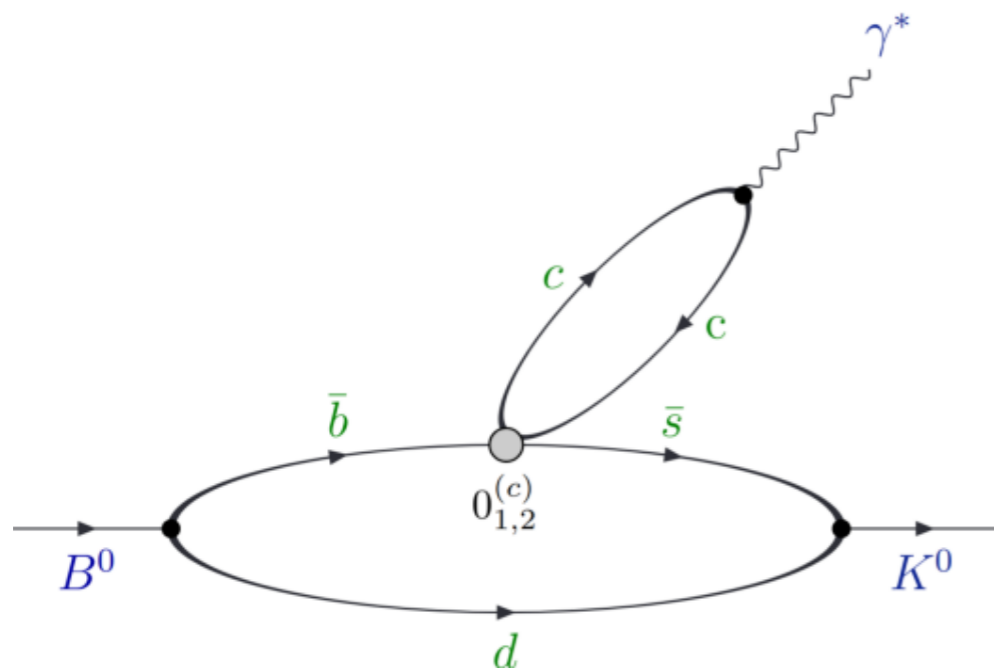
$$= 0.309 \pm 0.015$$

[LHCb, CMS]

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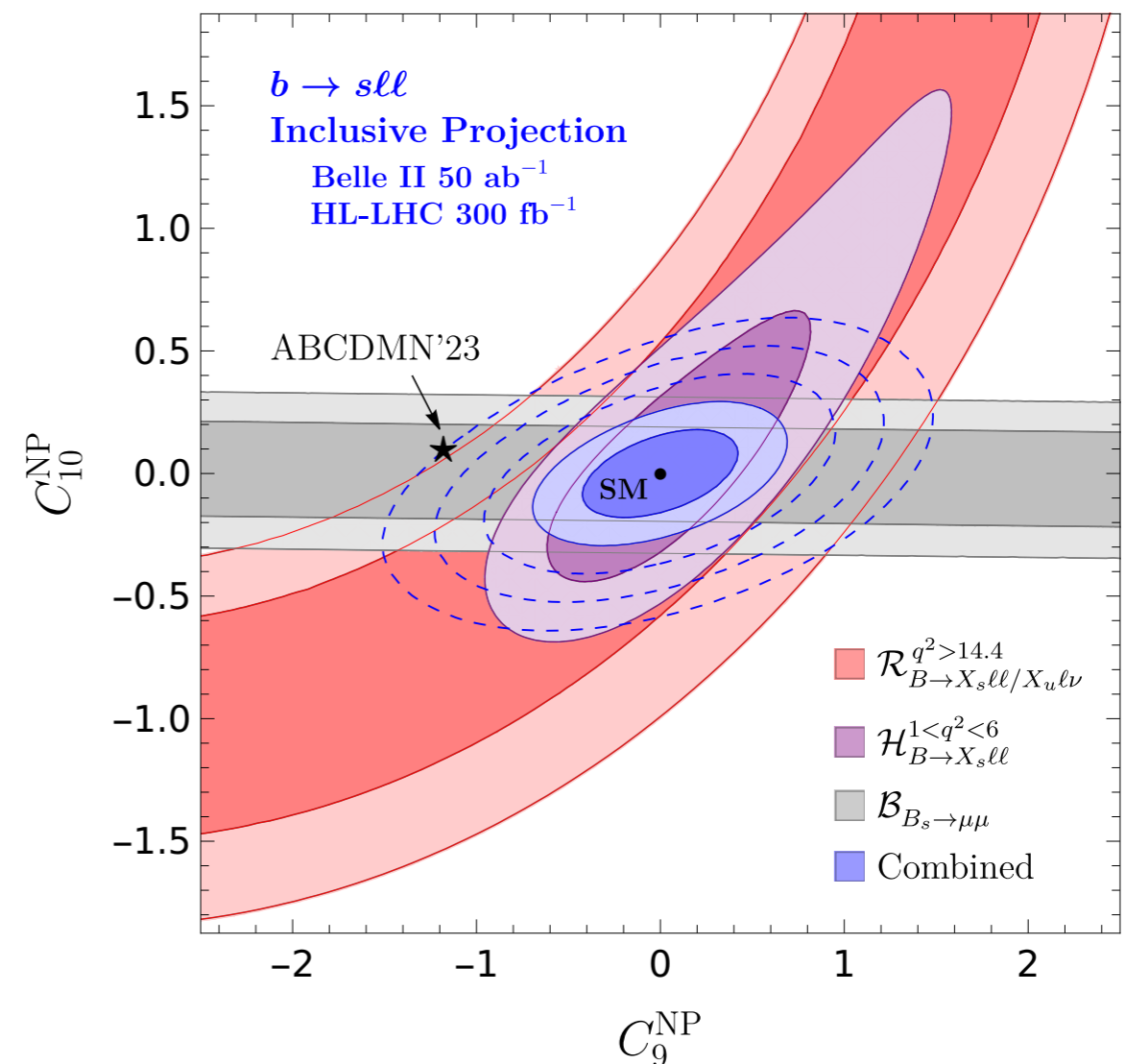
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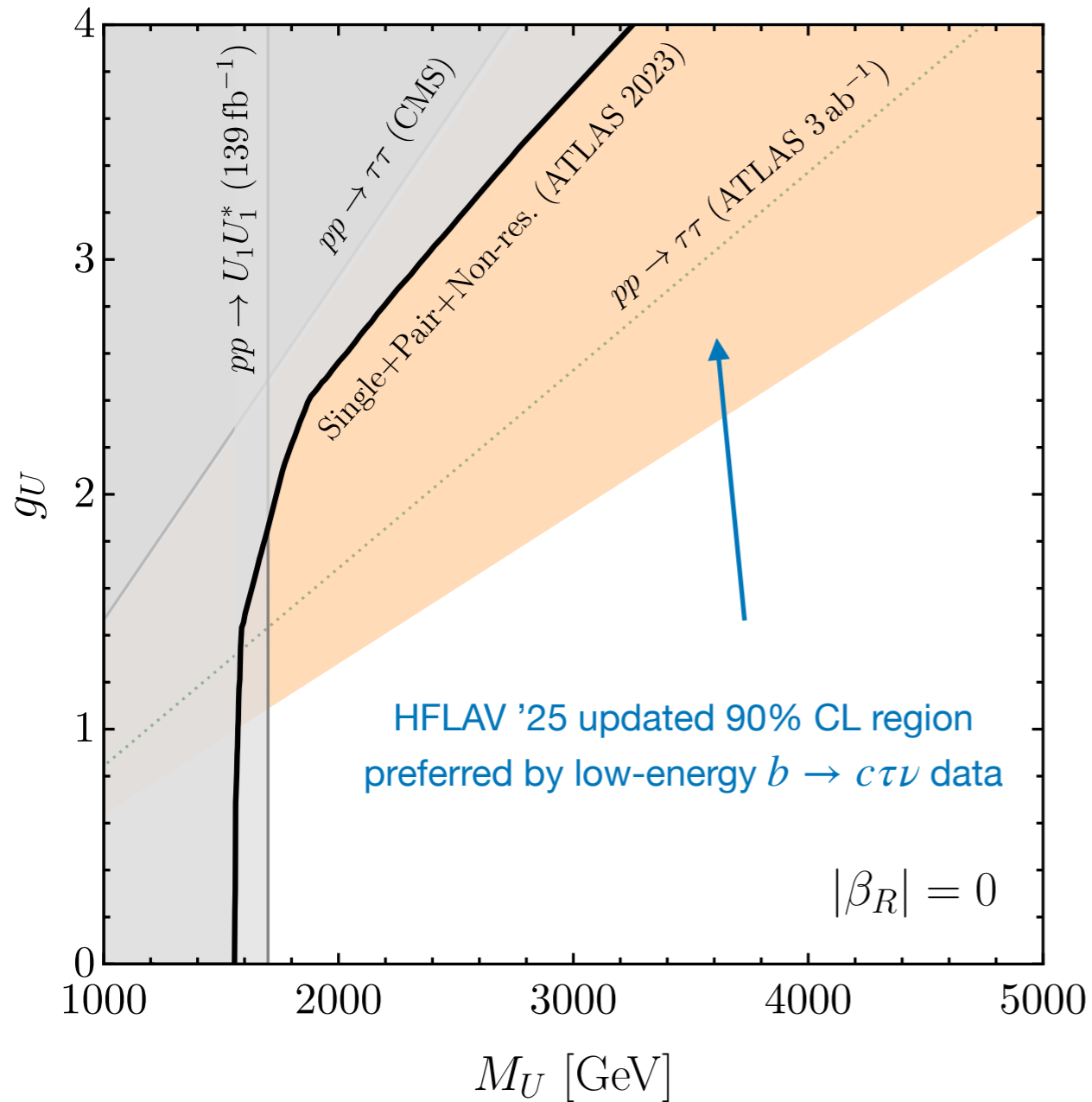
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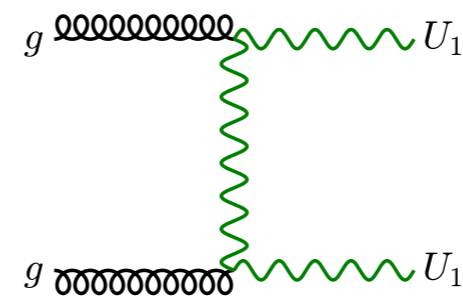
[Huber, Hurth, Jenkins, Lunghi, Qin, [2404.03517](#)]

# High-energy searches: $U_1$ leptoquark model (LH)

- Of course, eventually we need to see something at high- $p_T$ . The LHC is already probing relevant parameter space.



$U_1$  pair production

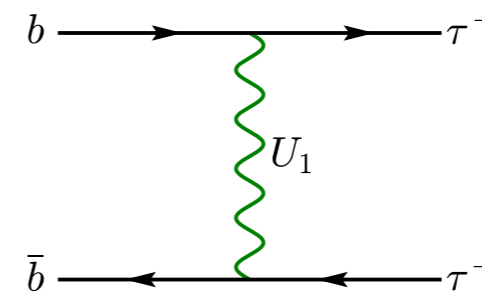


$$U_1 \rightarrow b\tau^+, t\bar{\nu}$$

$$\mathcal{B}(U_1 \rightarrow b\tau^+) \approx 0.5$$

$$pp \rightarrow U_1^+ U_1^- \rightarrow b\tau t\nu$$

Drell-Yan t-channel exchange:  $\tau\tau$

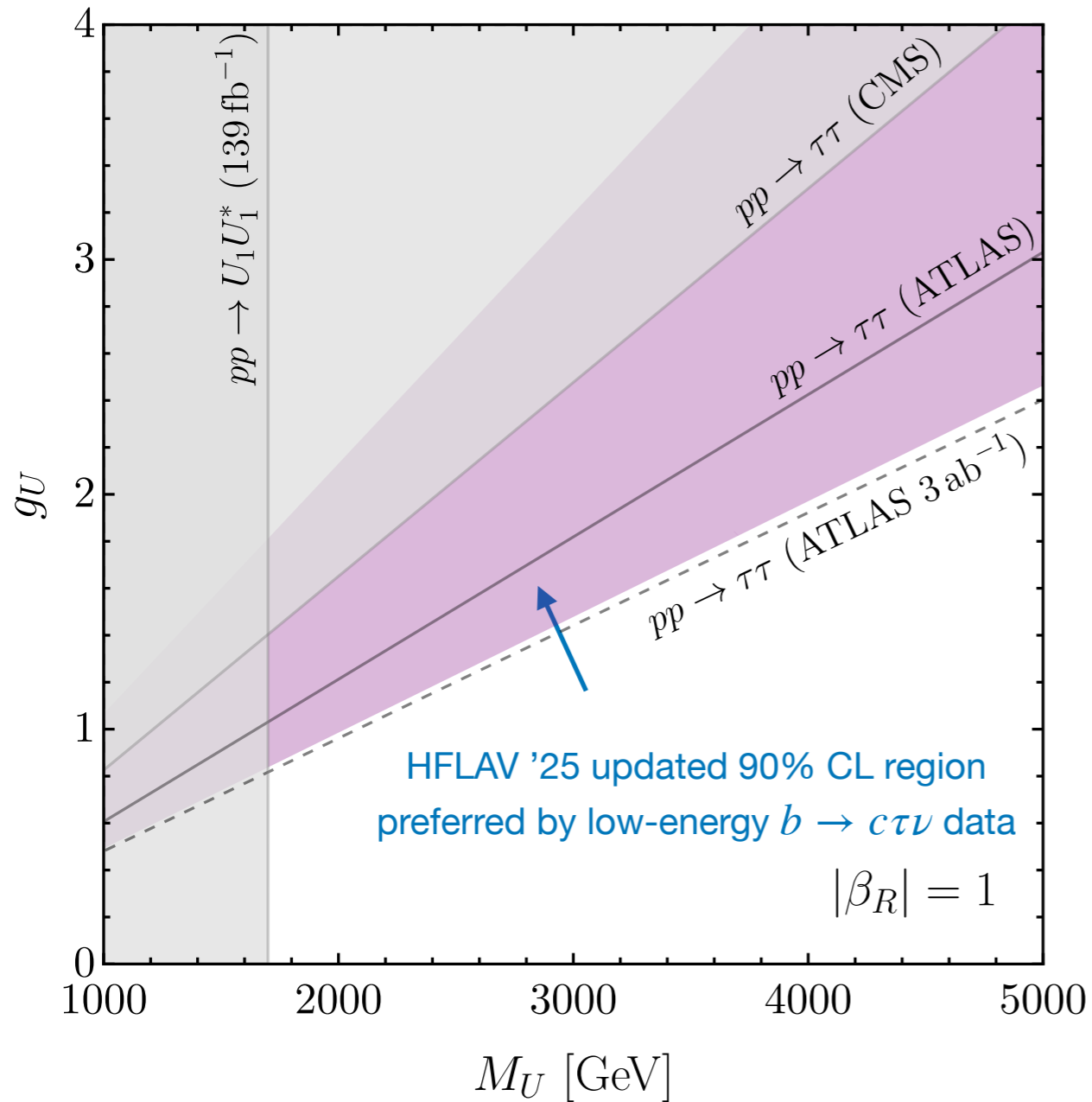


High mass  
Drell-Yan tails

QCD corrections: [U. Haisch, L. Schnell, S. Schulte, [2209.12780](#)]

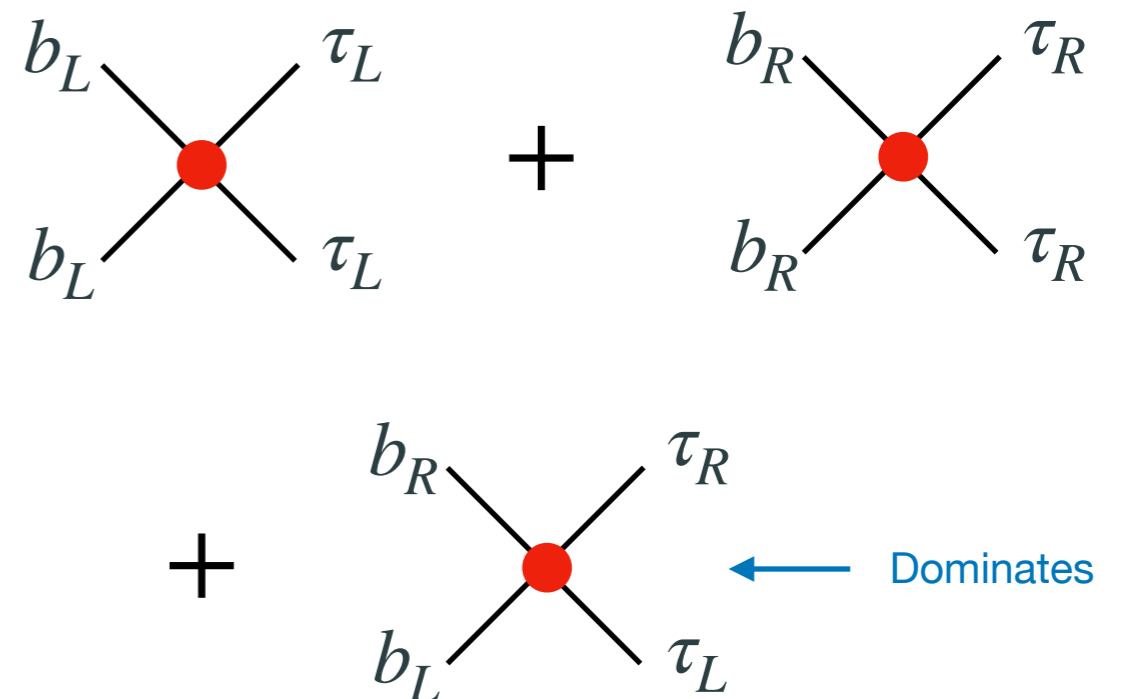
# High-energy searches: $U_1$ leptoquark model (L&R)

- $U_1$  LQ model w/ RH currents preferred region fully within the HL-LHC reach!



$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_U}{\sqrt{2}} U_1^\mu \left[ (\bar{q}_{L\mu}^3 \gamma_\mu \ell_L^3) + \beta_R^{b\tau} (\bar{b}_R \gamma_\mu \tau_R) \right] \quad (\beta_R^{b\tau} = -1)$$

- Additional RH contributions give stronger bound from t-channel Drell-Yan  $\tau\tau$ :



# UV Completion for the $U_1$ Leptoquark

# UV Model: New flavor non-universal gauge interactions

Based on “4321” gauge symmetry:

$$SU(4) \sim \left( \begin{array}{c|c} G^a & U^\alpha \\ \hline (U^\alpha)^* & Z' \end{array} \right)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \overbrace{SU(4)_h \times SU(3)_l \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_{l+R}}^{U(1)_Y} \\ \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{SU(3)_c} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\langle \Omega_{1,3,15} \rangle \sim \mathcal{O}(\text{TeV})} SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y + U_1, G', Z'$$

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Third-family quark-lepton unification at the TeV scale: [Greljo, BAS, [1802.04274](#)]

$$\psi_L \sim \begin{pmatrix} q_L^3 \\ \ell_L^3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \psi_R^+ \sim \begin{pmatrix} u_R^3 \\ \nu_R^3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \psi_R^- \sim \begin{pmatrix} d_R^3 \\ e_R^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

- 3rd family charged under  $SU(4)_h$   
 $\implies$  Direct NP couplings (L+R)
- Light families under 321 (SM-like)
- Accidental approximate  $U(2)^5$  flavor symmetry:  $\psi = (\psi_1 \ \psi_2 \ \psi_3)$
- Good starting point for CKM

## Leptons as the fourth “color”

[Pati, Salam, [Phys. Rev. D10 \(1974\) 275](#)]  
 (only 7 years after the SM was proposed)

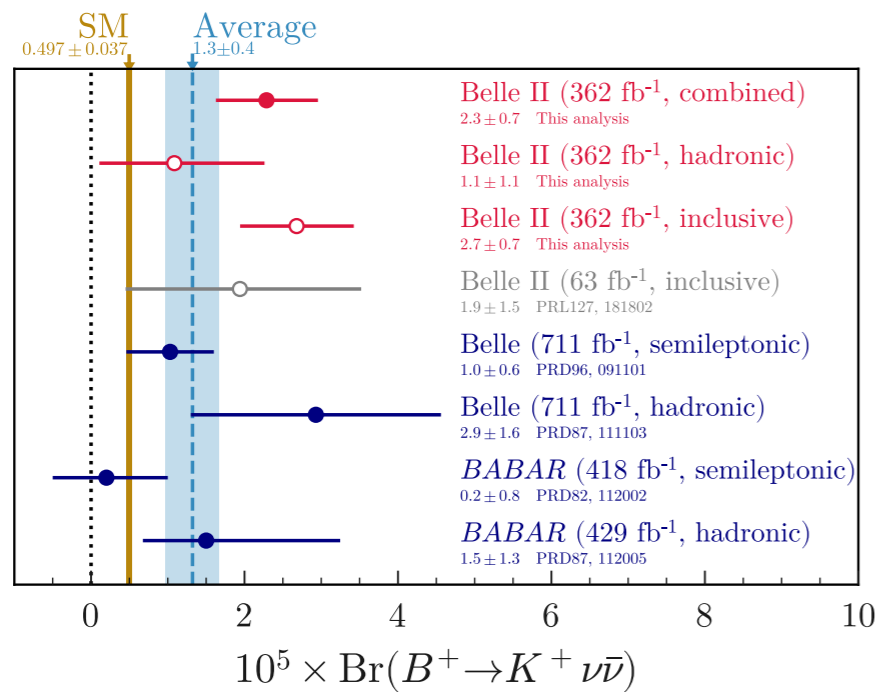
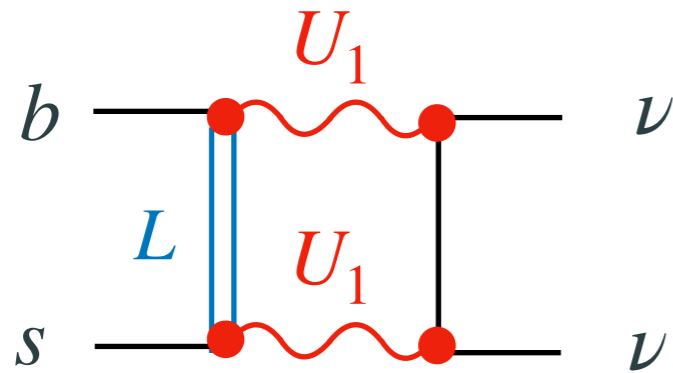
## 4321 models

[di Luzio, Greljo, Nardecchia [1708.08450](#)  
 Bordone, Cornella, Fuentes-Martin, Isidori  
[1712.01368](#), [1805.09328](#);  
 Greljo, BAS, [1802.04274](#);  
 Cornella, Fuentes-Martin, Isidori [1903.11517](#)]

$$\Psi_{L,R} = \begin{bmatrix} q_{L,R}^1 \\ q_{L,R}^2 \\ q_{L,R}^3 \\ l_{L,R} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Important 1-loop effects: $B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \nu \bar{\nu}$ (4321 Model)

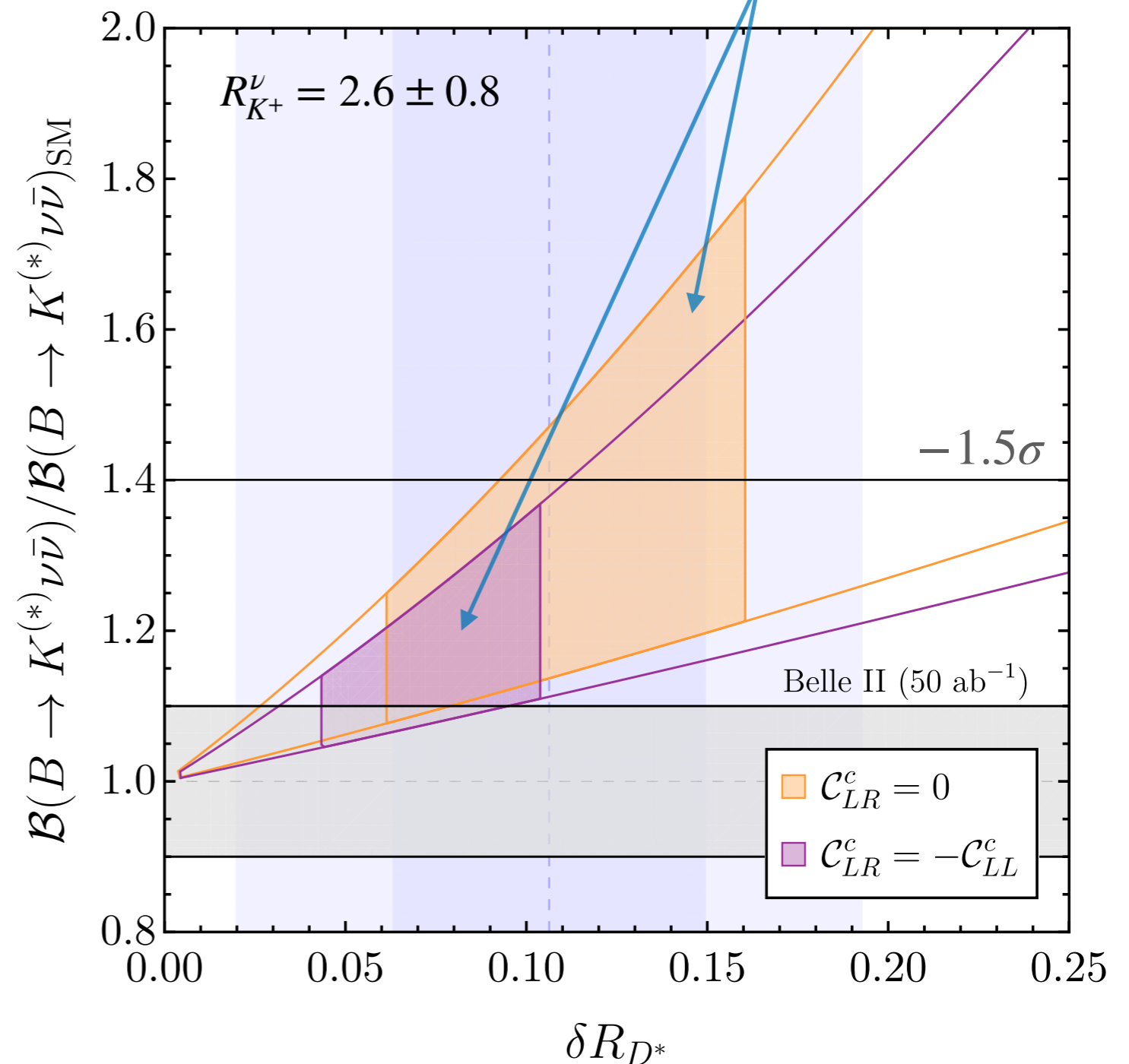
- Some (important) effects appear only at one loop. For  $U_1$ , requires UV model!



[Belle II Collaboration, [2311.14647](#)]

[Fuentes-Martin, Isidori, König, Selimovic, [2009.11296](#)]

HFLAV '25 updated 90% CL region preferred by low-energy  $b \rightarrow c \tau \nu$  data



# Conclusions

- Longstanding anomalies in  $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$  and  $b \rightarrow s\mu\mu$  remain unresolved. Recently updated  $b \rightarrow s\nu\bar{\nu}$  measurements also interesting and potentially connected.

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- Both could take a long time, so another key experimental path is  $bs\tau\tau$  measurements! No doubt of new physics if those channels are measured to be 100-1000x SM predictions...

# Backup Slides

# Shopping for Leptoquarks



- There are three viable options on the leptoquark market:

	Model	$R_{K(*)}$	$R_{D(*)}$	$R_{K(*)}$ & $R_{D(*)}$
Scalars	$S_1 = (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1})_{-1/3}$	✗	✓	✗
	$R_2 = (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2})_{7/6}$	✗	✓	✗
	$\tilde{R}_2 = (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2})_{1/6}$	✗	✗	✗
Vector	$S_3 = (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{3})_{-1/3}$	✓	✗	✗
	$U_1 = (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1})_{2/3}$	✓	✓	✓
	$U_3 = (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{3})_{2/3}$	✓	✗	✗

[Angelescu, Bečirević, Faroughy, Sumensari, [1808.08179](#)]

## Scalar Leptoquarks:

★  $S_1 \sim (\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{1}, 1/3)$

[Crivellin, Muller, Ota [1703.09226](#); Buttazzo et al. [1706.07808](#); Marzocca [1803.10972](#),...]

★  $R_2 \sim (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2}, 7/6)$

[Bečirević et al., [1806.05689](#)]

## Vector Leptoquarks:

★  $U_1 \sim (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1}, 2/3)$  (Massive spin-1, requires UV completion)

[di Luzio, Greljo, Nardecchia [1708.08450](#); Calibbi, Crivellin, Li [1709.00692](#);  
Bordone, Cornella, Fuentes-Martin, Isidori [1712.01368](#); Barbieri, Tesi, [1712.06844](#); Greljo, BAS, [1802.04274](#)]

# The low-energy $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$ effective Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}^{b \rightarrow c\tau\nu} = -\frac{2V_{cb}}{v^2} \left[ \overset{\text{SM}}{\downarrow} (1 + C_{V_L}) (\bar{c}_L \gamma_\mu b_L) (\bar{\tau}_L \gamma_\mu \nu_L) + C_{V_R} (\bar{c}_R \gamma_\mu b_R) (\bar{\tau}_L \gamma_\mu \nu_L) \right. \\ \left. + C_{S_L} (\bar{c}_R b_L) (\bar{\tau}_R \nu_L) + C_{S_R} (\bar{c}_L b_R) (\bar{\tau}_R \nu_L) + C_T (\bar{c}_R \sigma_{\mu\nu} b_L) (\bar{\tau}_R \sigma^{\mu\nu} \nu_L) \right] + \text{h.c.}$$

Vector LQ:

$$U_1^\mu : C_{V_L}, C_{S_R} \quad \checkmark$$

Scalar LQs:

$$R_2 : C_{S_L} = 4C_T \quad \ominus$$

$$S_1 : C_{V_L}, C_{S_L} = -4C_T \quad \checkmark$$

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$$\delta R_D = +7.1 \text{Re}(C_T) + 17.2 |C_T|^2$$

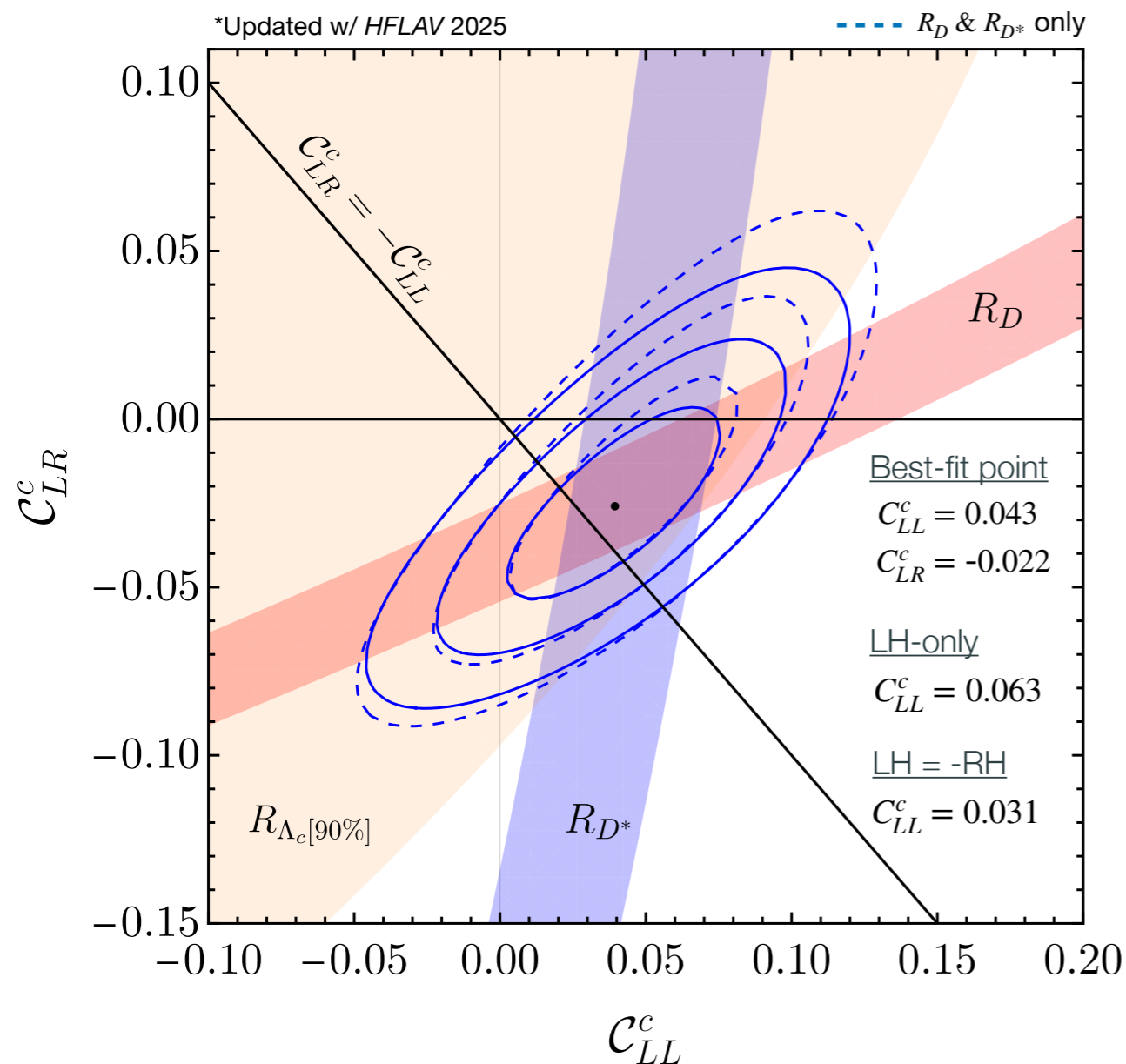
$$\delta R_{D^*} = -5.6 \text{Re}(C_T) + 16.7 |C_T|^2$$

- This relation predicts opposite sign in  $R_D$  vs  $R_{D^*}$  due to interference with the SM.
- Since interference always goes as the real part, can make the WC's purely imaginary and then do  $R_{D^{(*)}}$  with NP squared.
- But then we need big WC's: **tension** with high- $p_T$  and EW precision observables.

# Low-energy fit for $U_1$ leptoquark model

$$U_1 \sim (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1}, 2/3)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{b \rightarrow c \tau \bar{\nu}} = -\frac{2}{v^2} V_{cb} \left[ \left( 1 + C_{LL}^c \right) (\bar{c}_L \gamma_\mu b_L) (\bar{\tau}_L \gamma^\mu \nu_L) - 2 C_{LR}^c (\bar{c}_L b_R) (\bar{\tau}_R \nu_L) \right]$$



$$\delta R_{D^{(*)}} \approx 2C_{LL}^c - a_{D^{(*)}} C_{LR}^c \quad \begin{cases} a_D \approx 3.00 \\ a_{D^*} \approx 0.24 \end{cases}$$

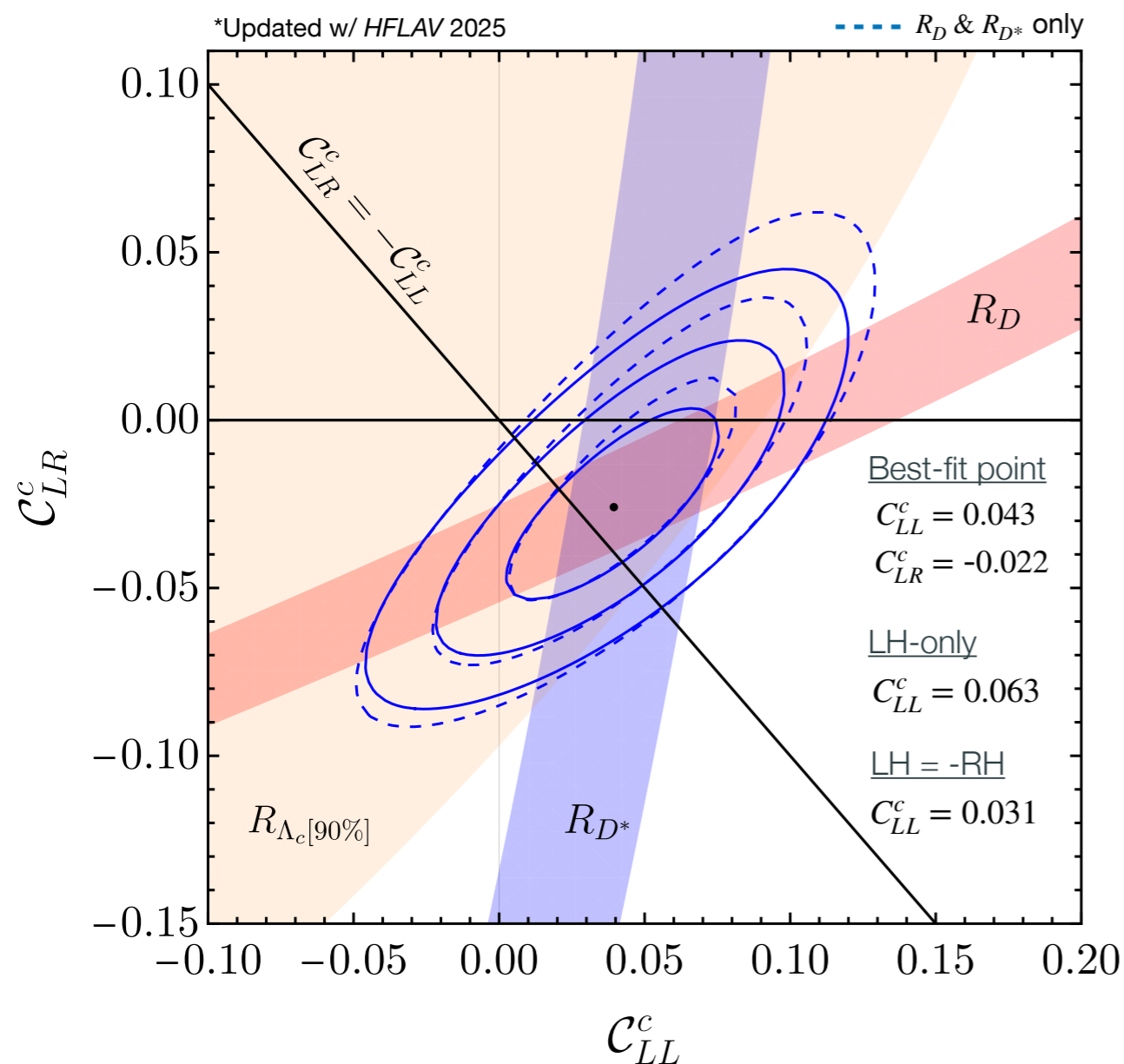
Low-energy WC's  $\leftrightarrow$  Model parameters

$$C_{LL}^c = \frac{g_U^2 v^2}{4M_U^2} \left( 1 + \frac{V_{cs}}{V_{cb}} \beta_L^{s\tau} \right), \quad C_{LR}^c = \beta_R^{b\tau^*} C_{LL}^c$$

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Matching: NP scale and U(2)-breaking

$$\frac{1}{\Lambda_{\text{NP}}^2} = \frac{g_U^2}{2M_U^2}, \quad V_q = \beta_L^{s\tau}$$

New physics scale preferred by low-energy fit:

$$\Lambda_{\text{NP}} \approx \{1.4, 1.7, 2.0\} \text{ TeV}, \quad (V_q = 0.1)$$

{LH-only, BFP, LH=-RH}