



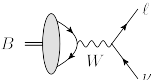
The Simplest B Decay, Precisely

Matthias König
JGU Mainz

w/ C. Cornella, M. Ferré, M. Neubert
based on [2601.14361]

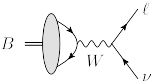
Phenomenology Seminar
University & INFN Torino
Torino - Feb 12, 2026




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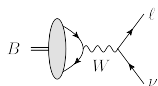
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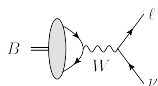




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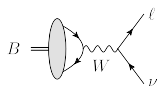
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Why are QED corrections important?

- **Without** QED, hadronic effects are **well-understood**, with QCD uncertainties $\lesssim 1\%$

$$\langle 0 | \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 b | B(p) \rangle = i f_B p^\mu, \quad f_B = 189.4 \pm 1.4 \text{ MeV} \quad \text{[FNAL/MILC 1712.09262]}$$





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- In the **exclusive** channel, QED corrections can be **sizeable**, competing with **QCD** uncertainties!
 → **A precise prediction is needed!**



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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{yuk}} = (D_\mu B^\dagger)(D^\mu B) - m_B^2 B^\dagger B - y_B B \bar{\ell} \nu + \sum_\psi \bar{\psi}(i\not{D} - m_\psi)\psi$$

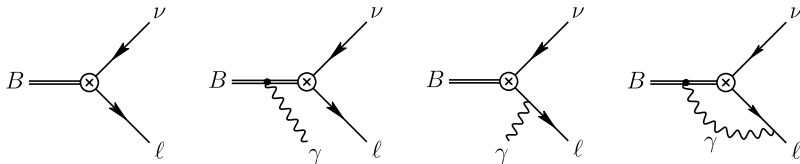


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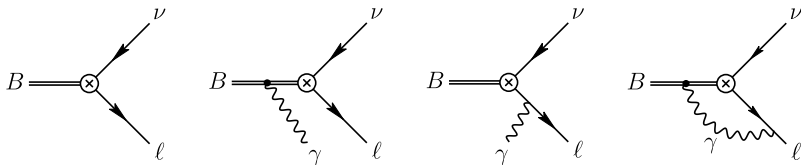


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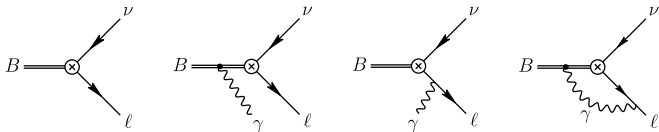
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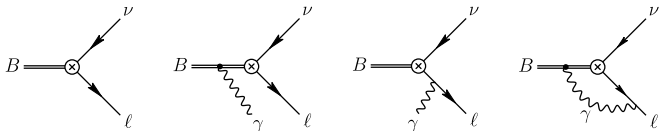
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Captures **some** of the important QED corrections, but by far not all.

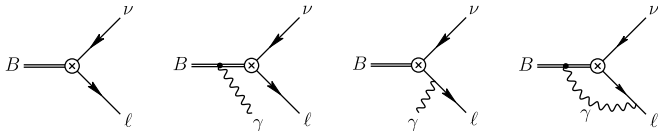


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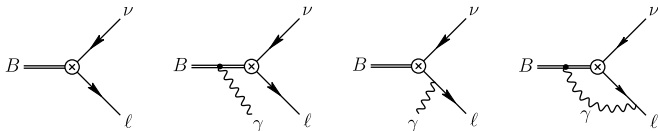
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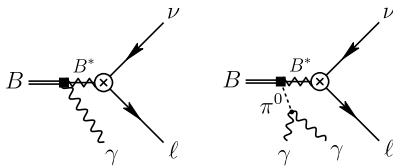


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\Rightarrow allows for additional decay topologies:





- Electromagnetic corrections are sensitive to the **lepton mass** and the restriction on **additional radiation**, yielding large (double) logarithmic corrections

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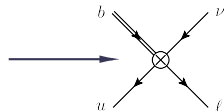


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 - At energies **harder** than m_B , the weak effective Hamiltonian captures all hard corrections in the Wilson coefficients of the Fermi-operators,

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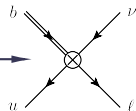


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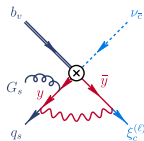
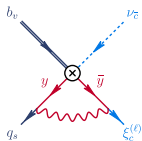
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- Radiation **softer** than Λ_{QCD} sees the meson as a **point-like** object.
 - description using meson-effective-theory.

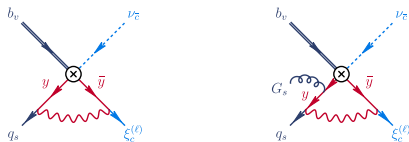


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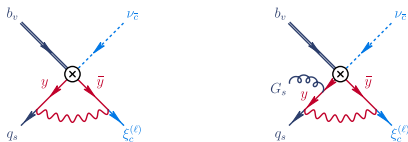
- The light partons are then **displaced** along the **lightcone**, and the hadronic currents become **non-local**. The corresponding hadronic matrix elements

$$\langle 0 | \bar{q}(z_-) \dots h_\nu(0) | B \rangle, \quad \langle 0 | \bar{q}(z_-) \dots G_{\mu\nu}(y_-) \dots h_\nu(0) | B \rangle,$$

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- In the case of QED, due to the **external states** being **charged**, these distributions are **no longer process-universal** because QED is sensitive to the directions of the charged final state. [Beneke et al]

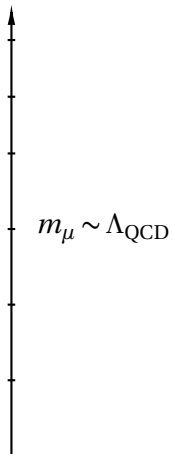


Beyond leading order in QED, the process $B \rightarrow \ell \nu$ depends on a variety of both **static** and **dynamical** scales (here discussing only $\ell = \mu$)



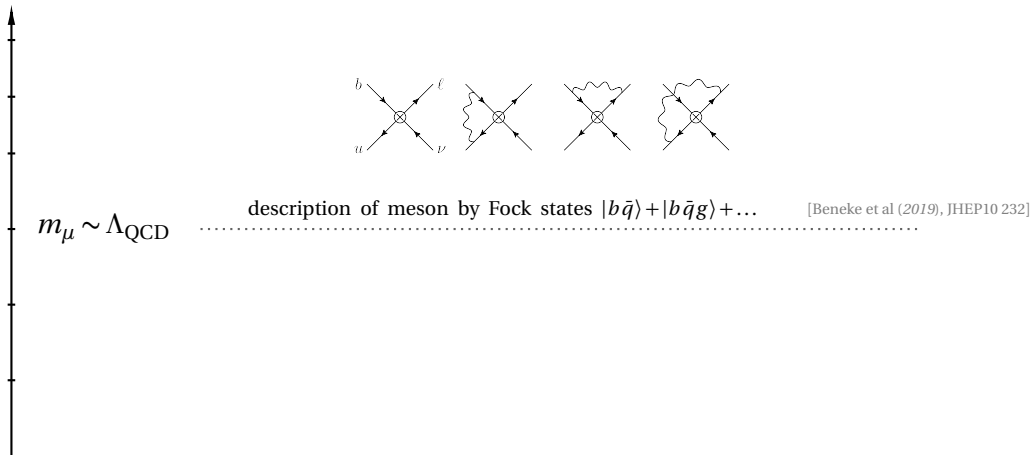


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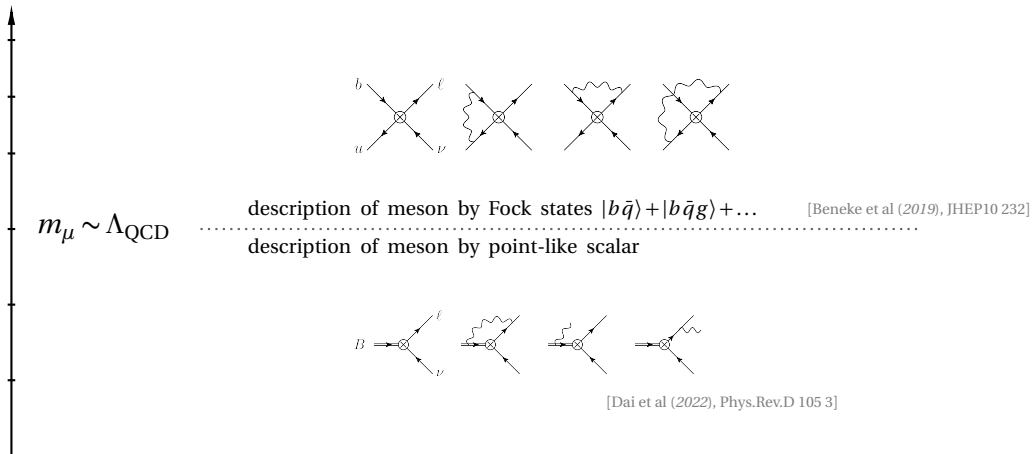


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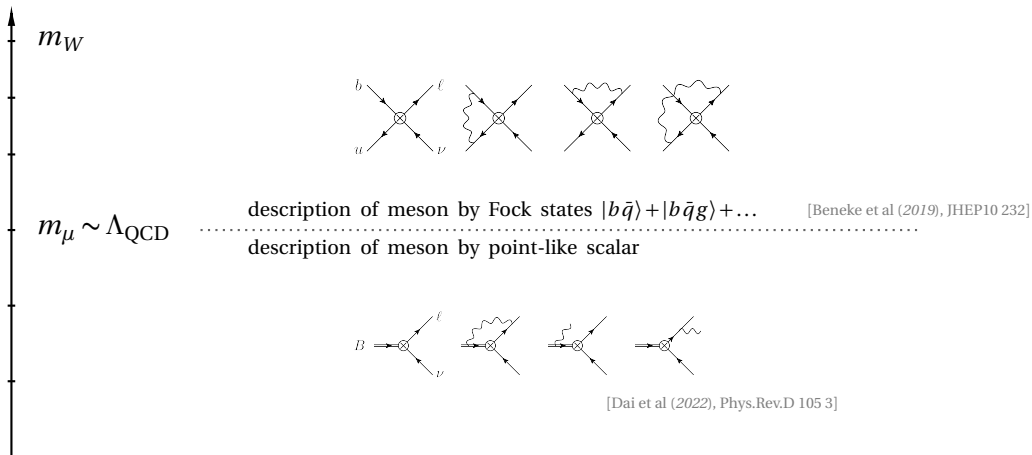


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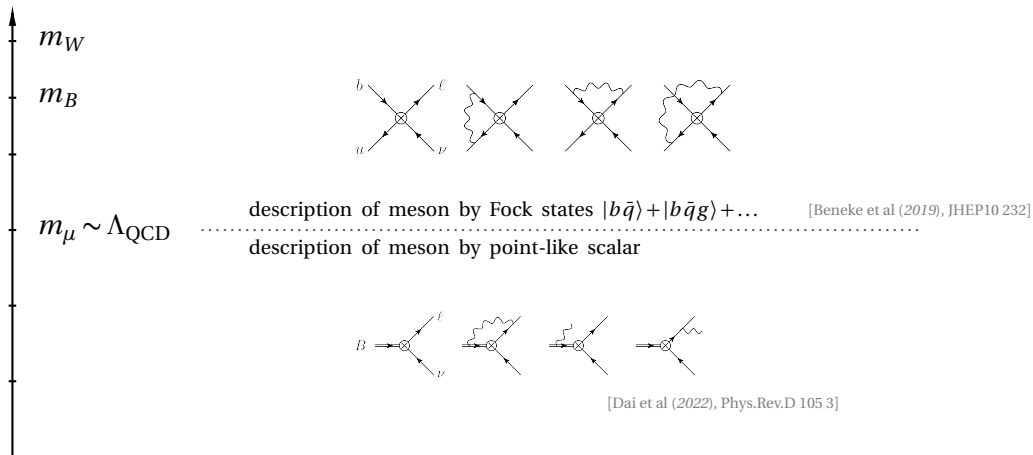


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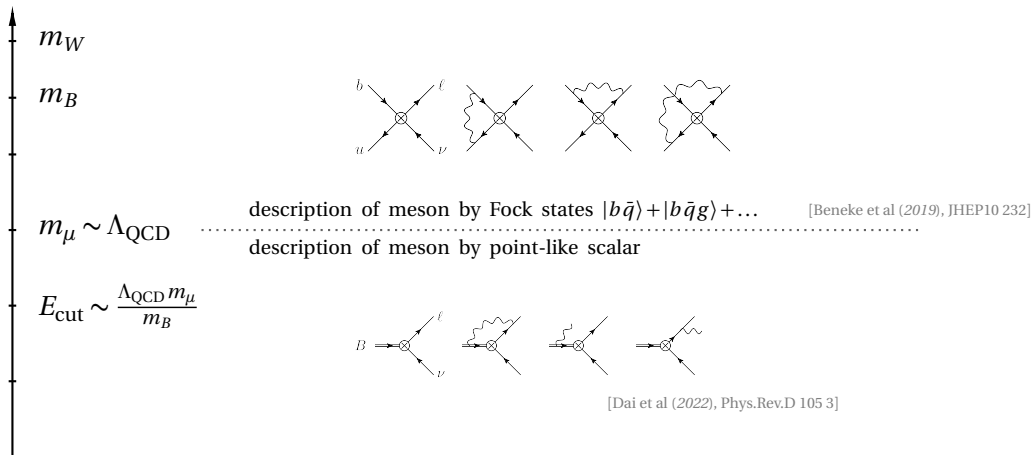


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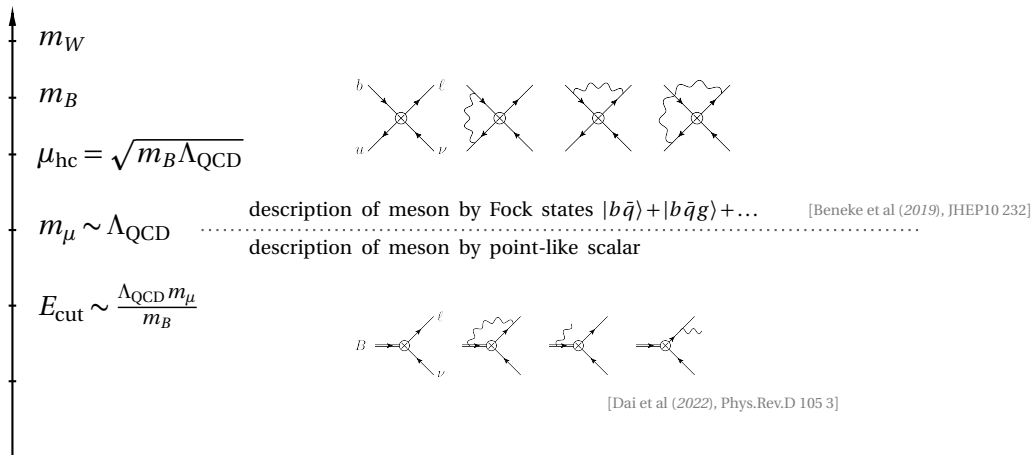


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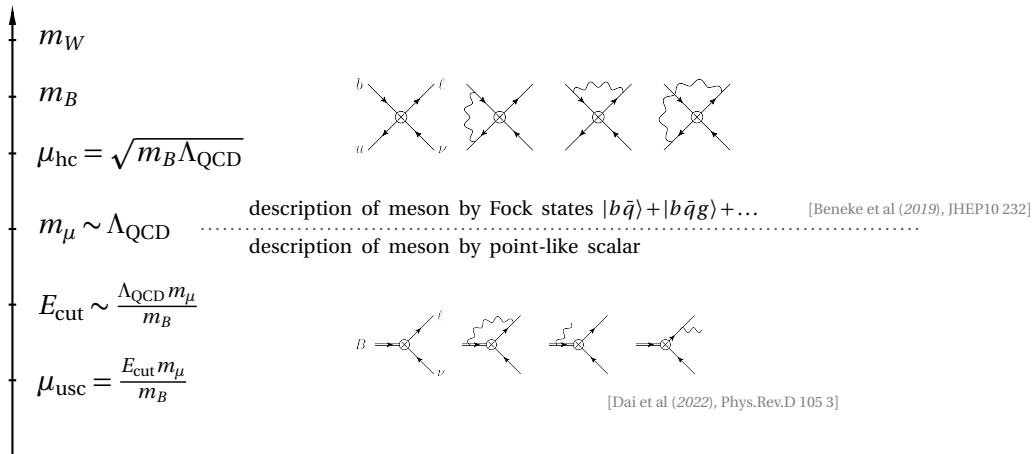


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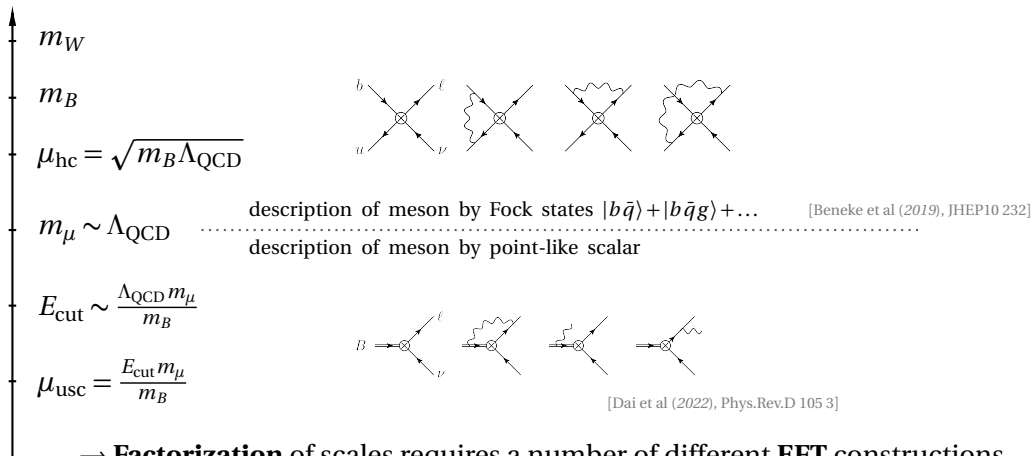


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Weak Effective Theory



Relevant **LEFT** operators at the **weak scale**:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{LEFT}} \ni & L_\ell^{V,LL} (\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_\ell) (\bar{u} \gamma_\mu P_L b) + L_\ell^{V,LR} (\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_\ell) (\bar{u} \gamma_\mu P_R b) \\ & + L_\ell^{S,RL} (\bar{\ell} P_L \nu_\ell) (\bar{u} P_R b) + L_\ell^{S,RR} (\bar{\ell} P_L \nu_\ell) (\bar{u} P_L b) + L_\ell^{T,RR} (\bar{\ell} \sigma^{\mu\nu} P_L \nu_\ell) (\bar{u} \sigma_{\mu\nu} P_L b) \\ & + [L_{\nu e}^{V,LL}]_{2112} (\bar{\nu}_\mu \gamma_\mu P_L \nu_e) (\bar{e} \gamma^\mu P_L \mu),\end{aligned}$$



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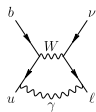
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Here κ is a **scheme-dependent** parameter!



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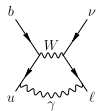


$$\sim (\bar{u}_\ell \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho P_L v_\nu) (\bar{v}_q \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho P_L u_b) + \dots$$



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These structures can be reduced **only** in $d = 4$ spacetime dimensions:

$$\gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho P_L \otimes \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho P_L \stackrel{d=4}{=} 16 \gamma_\mu P_L \otimes \gamma^\mu P_L$$



$$K_{\text{EW}}(\mu) = 1 + \frac{Q_\ell \alpha}{4\pi} \left[3Q_u \left(\ln \frac{\mu^2}{m_Z^2} + \frac{11}{2} \right) + (Q_b + Q_u) \left(1 + \frac{\kappa}{4} \right) \right] + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2)$$

It arises from box diagrams in the matching producing additional Dirac structures:

$$\sim (\bar{u}_\ell \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho P_L v_\nu) (\bar{v}_q \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho P_L u_b) + \dots$$

These structures can be reduced **only** in $d = 4$ spacetime dimensions:

$$\gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho P_L \otimes \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho P_L \stackrel{d=4}{=} 16 \gamma_\mu P_L \otimes \gamma^\mu P_L$$

In **dim-reg**, one generalizes this relation to the **multiplicative** identity

$$\gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho P_L \otimes \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho P_L = (16 + \kappa \epsilon) \gamma_\mu P_L \otimes \gamma^\mu P_L$$

with the standard choice in the literature $\kappa = -4(1 + \epsilon)$.



The dependence cancels between the **matching coefficient** K_{EW} and the **matrix element**, allowing to **convert** between schemes:

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{LEFT}} = -\frac{4G_F^{(\mu)}}{\sqrt{2}} V_{ub} K_{EW}^{[\kappa]} \left[1 - Q_l (Q_b + Q_u) \frac{\alpha}{16\pi} \kappa \right] \gamma_\mu \otimes \gamma^\mu + \dots$$



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For example in **Sudakov coordinates**,

$$\gamma_\mu = \gamma_\mu^+ + \gamma_\mu^- + \gamma_\mu^\perp$$

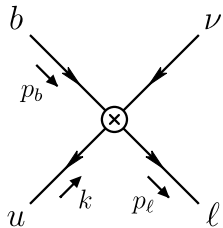
reduction identities are **no longer** multiplicative and finding reductions **consistent** with the LEFT scheme is **difficult**.



Soft-Collinear Effective Theory

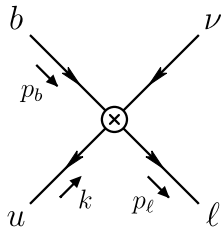


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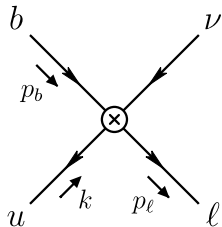
$$p_b^\mu = m_b v^\mu + q^\mu \quad v^\mu = (1, 0, 0, 0)$$

$$p_\ell^\mu = \frac{m_B}{2} n^\mu + \frac{m_\ell^2}{2m_B} \bar{n}^\mu \quad n^\mu = (1, 0, 0, 1)$$

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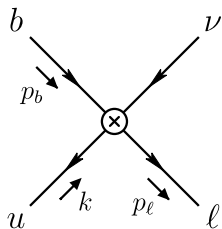
This motivates an **EFT** construction in which the **fields are split** into **large** and **small** components:

$$\psi_b = e^{-im_b v \cdot x} \left(\frac{1 + \not{v}}{2} + \frac{1 - \not{v}}{2} \right) \psi_b \equiv b_v + H_v$$

$$\psi_\ell = \left(\frac{\not{n} \not{\bar{n}}}{4} + \frac{\not{\bar{n}} \not{n}}{4} \right) \psi_\ell \equiv \xi_c + \eta_c$$



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For the heavy field, this is called **Heavy-Quark Effective Theory**, for the energetic light field it is called **Soft-Collinear Effective Theory**.



The effective theory below m_B has - a priori - the following **degrees of freedom** (and associated **virtualities**):

Light quarks, gluons

q_s, A_s

$k^2 \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2$

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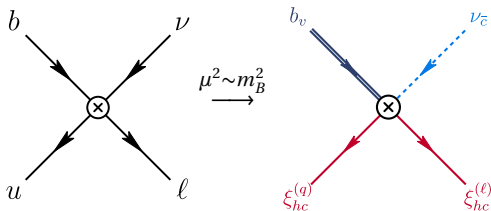
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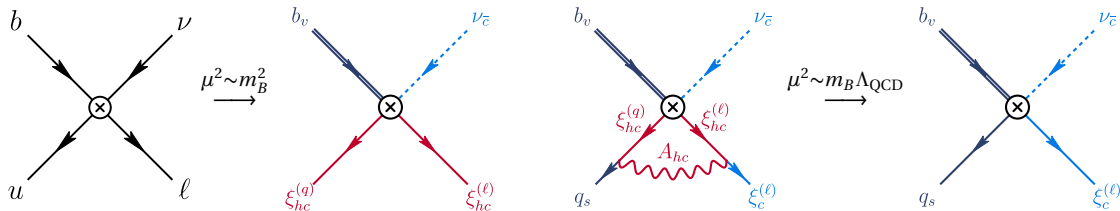
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$$O_1^A = \frac{m_\ell}{\bar{n} \cdot \mathcal{P}_{hc}} (\bar{u}_s \not{n} P_L b_v) (\bar{\chi}_{hc}^{(\ell)} P_L \nu_{\bar{c}})$$

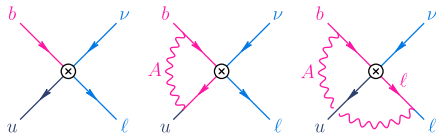
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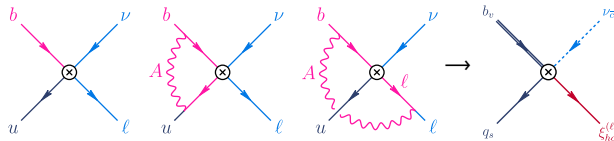




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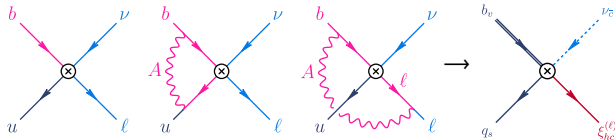




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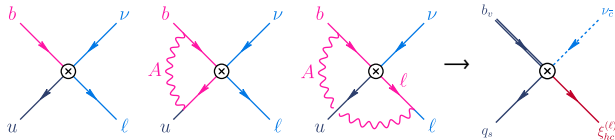
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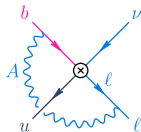
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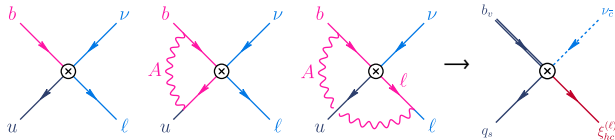




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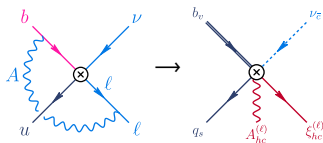
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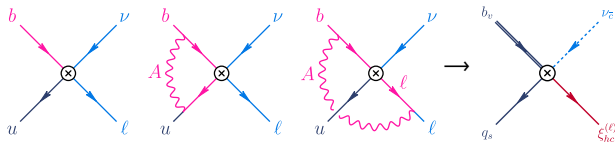




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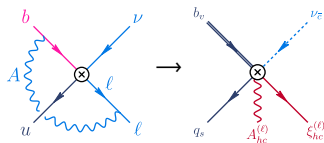
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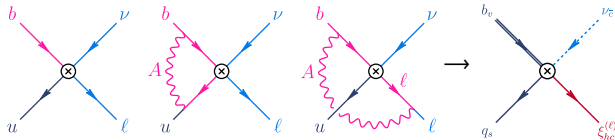
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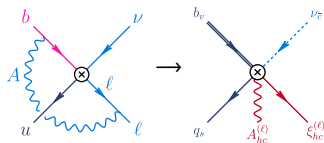
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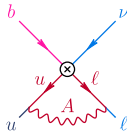
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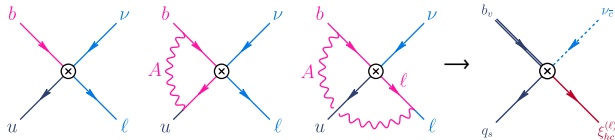




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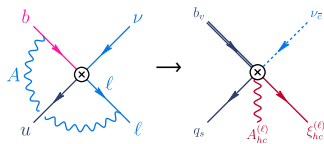
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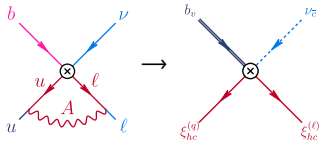
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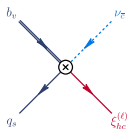
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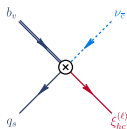
$$S_A = \langle 0 | \bar{u}(0) \not{n} P_L b_\nu(0) | B \rangle$$

local matrix element \rightarrow HQET decay constant $F_B(\mu)$



In SCET, operators with **multiple collinear fields** are distributions in the **momentum fraction** of the shared direction, matrix elements are **convolution integrals**:

$$i \mathcal{A}_{B \rightarrow \ell \nu}^{\text{virt}} \supset -\frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} K_{EW}(\mu) V_{ub} \frac{m_\ell}{m_b} K_A(m_\ell) \bar{u}(p_\ell) P_L v(p_\nu) \cdot \left[\boxed{H_A(m_b) S_A} + \int d\omega \int_0^1 dy \boxed{H_C(m_b, y) \cdot J_C(m_b \omega, y) \cdot S_C(\omega)} \right]$$

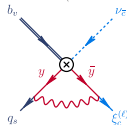


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$$S_C(\omega) = \int ds e^{i\omega s} \langle 0 | \bar{u}(sn) \not{h} P_L b_\nu(0) | B \rangle$$

energetic-photon exchange \rightarrow LCDAs

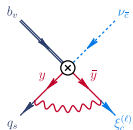




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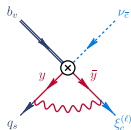
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- At $y = 0$ and $\bar{y} = 0$, one **collinear** field has anomalously **low energy** and the mode **separation** between **soft** and **collinear** modes **fails**.



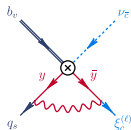
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- This rearrangement begins with **identifying** the small- y region of the **second term** with a contribution to the **first** one, this is called **refactorization**.

[Liu, Neubert (2003.03393); Liu et al (2009.04456, 2009.06779, 2112.00018); Beneke et al (2008.04943, 2205.04479)]
 [Bell et al (2205.06021); Feldmann et al (2211.04209); Hurth, Szafron (2312.10450)]



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endpoint-divergent

$$S_A = \langle 0 | O_A | B \rangle$$

$$O_A = \bar{q}_s \not{n} P_L h_{v_B} Y_n^{(\ell)\dagger}$$

$$J_C = -Q_\ell Q_u \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \frac{e^{\epsilon\gamma_E} \Gamma(\epsilon)}{1-\epsilon} \left(\frac{\mu^2}{m_b \omega y \bar{y}} \right)^\epsilon \left(\frac{1}{y} + 1 - 2\epsilon \right)$$



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$$\left. \left. - \theta(\Lambda - m_b y) \llbracket H_C(m_b, y) \rrbracket \cdot \llbracket J_C(m_b \omega, y) \rrbracket \right] \cdot S_C(\omega) \right]$$

subtract small- y

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add it back

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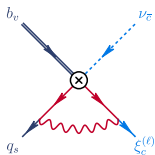


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...and some with **delocalized** quarks:



$$Q_1^C = \frac{m_\ell}{\bar{n} \cdot \mathcal{P}_c} (\bar{Q}_{s[\omega]} \not{n} P_L \mathcal{H}_v) (\bar{\chi}_c^{(\ell)} P_L v_{\bar{c}})$$

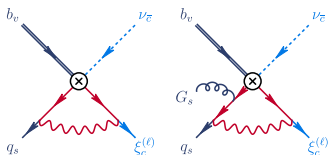


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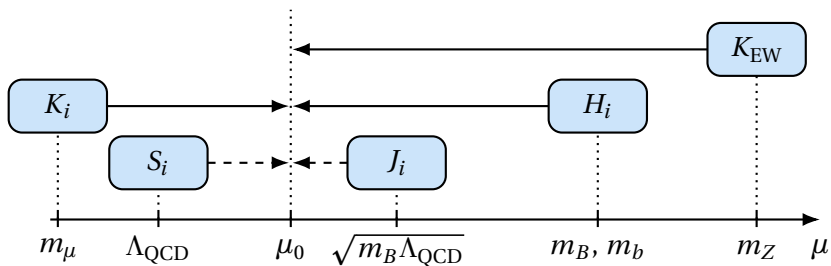


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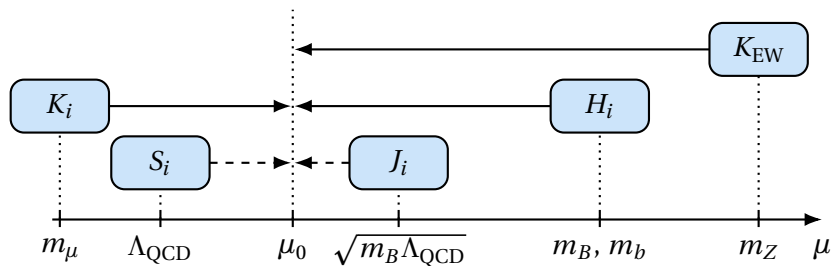


RG Evolution of all component functions in the virtual corrections to a common scale μ_0 :





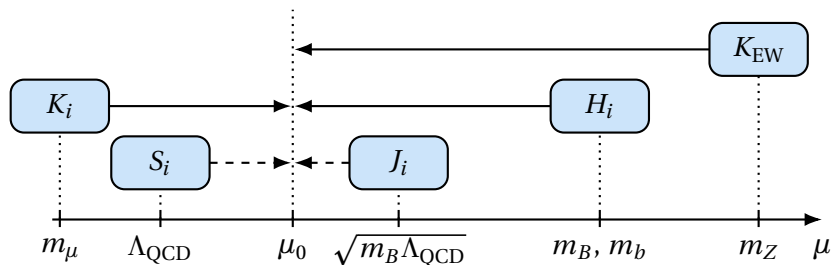
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Achieves **resummation** of large logs in **virtual corrections** - up to subtraction Λ .



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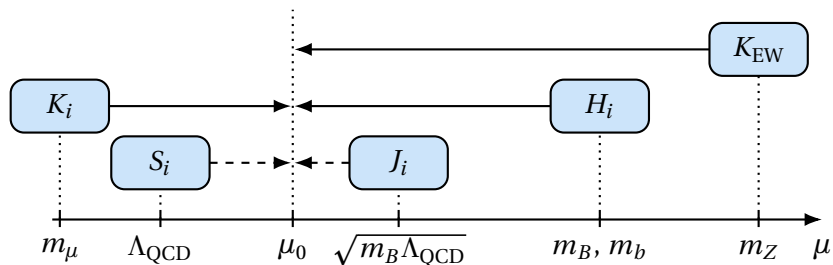


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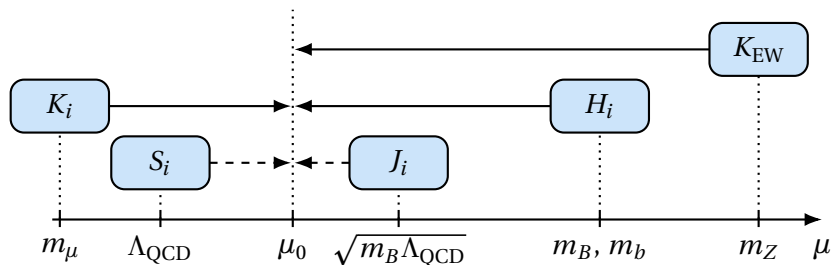
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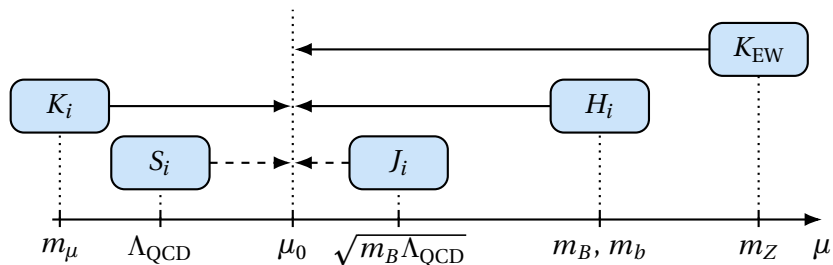
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Λ large \Rightarrow large logs in **soft function** $\log \Lambda / \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$



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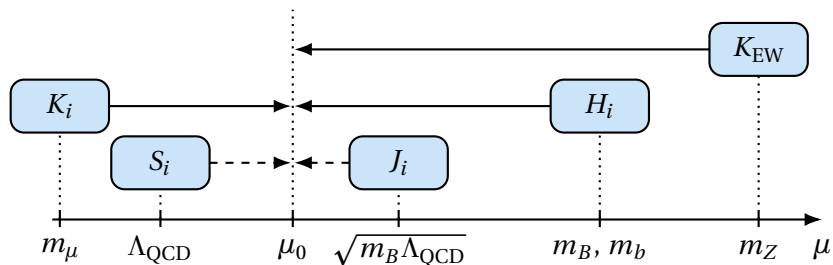
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Λ small	\Rightarrow	large logs in jet function	$\log \Lambda / m_B$		



Matrix elements in SCET-2 factorize into **soft, hadronic** and **collinear, leptonic**:

$$\langle \ell \nu | Q_X | B \rangle \sim \langle 0 | j_i^{\text{had}} | B \rangle \times \langle \ell \nu | j_j^{\text{lep}} | 0 \rangle$$



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$$j_1^{\text{had}}(\Lambda, \mu) = \bar{u}_s \bar{\theta}_T \left(i \bar{n} \cdot \overleftarrow{D}_s + \Lambda \right) \not{n} P_L b_\nu Y_n^{(\ell)\dagger},$$

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with the **collinear functions**:

$$K_1(\mu) = 1 + Q_\ell^2 \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \left(\log^2 \frac{\mu}{m_\ell} - \frac{5}{2} \log \frac{\mu}{m_\ell} + \frac{\pi^2}{24} - 1 \right)$$

$$K_2(x, \mu) = -Q_\ell \frac{\alpha}{\pi} x \left(\log \frac{\mu}{m_\ell} - \log x - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$



The **hadronic soft functions** of the subtracted operators, defined as

$$\left\langle 0 \left| \bar{u}_s \left[1 - \theta_T \left(\frac{-i \bar{n} \cdot \overleftarrow{D}_s}{\bar{n} \cdot v} - \Lambda \right) \right] \not{n} P_L b_v Y_n^{(\ell)\dagger} \right| B \right\rangle = -\frac{i \sqrt{m_B}}{2} F_-(\Lambda, \mu),$$



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renormalize non-trivially due to the presence of the **subtraction scale** Λ :

$$\gamma_{F_-}(\Lambda, \mu) = \gamma_{\text{hl}}(\alpha_s) + \frac{2\alpha}{3\pi} \left[1 + \int_{\Lambda}^{\mu} \frac{d\bar{\omega}}{\bar{\omega}} \frac{U_C(\mu, \bar{\omega})}{U_{\text{hl}}(\mu, \bar{\omega})} \exp\left(\frac{\alpha}{9\pi} \log^2 \frac{\mu}{\bar{\omega}}\right) \right]$$



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\Rightarrow to be explored in more detail **in future!**



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$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{R}_{\text{virt}} = & \exp \left[-Q_\ell Q_u \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int_{m_B}^{\mu_0} \frac{d\mu'}{\mu'} \int_{m_B}^{\mu'} \frac{d\bar{\omega}}{\bar{\omega}} \tilde{U}_C(\mu', \bar{\omega}) \right] \frac{F_-(m_B, \mu_0)}{F_{\text{QCD}}(\mu_0)} \\
 & \times \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \left[\frac{3}{2} Q_\ell^2 \ln \frac{\mu_0^2}{m_\ell^2} - \frac{3}{2} Q_b^2 \ln \frac{\mu_0^2}{m_B^2} - (2+z) Q_\ell Q_b \ln \frac{m_B^2}{m_\ell^2} + \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12} - \frac{27}{2} \right) Q_\ell^2 \right. \right. \\
 & \quad \left. \left. + \left(\frac{21}{2} + \frac{z^2 \ln z}{z-1} + z - 2\text{Li}_2(1-z) - \frac{\pi^2}{12} \right) Q_\ell Q_b - (2+3 \ln z) Q_b^2 \right] \right. \\
 & + Q_\ell Q_u \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int_{m_B}^{\mu_0} \frac{d\mu'}{\mu'} \frac{\tilde{U}_C(\mu', m_B)}{1-\delta(\mu')} \\
 & - Q_\ell Q_u \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \left[\frac{1}{1-\delta(\mu_0)} \ln \frac{\mu_0^2}{m_B \omega_-(\mu_0)} - h_1(\delta(\mu_0)) \right] \tilde{U}_C(\mu_0, m_B) \\
 & \left. - Q_\ell Q_u \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \frac{\tilde{U}_C(\mu_0, m_B)}{1-\delta(\mu_0)} \int_0^\infty d\omega \int_0^\infty d\omega_g \phi_{3g}^B(\omega, \omega_g, \mu_0) \left[\frac{1}{\omega_g} \ln \frac{\omega + \omega_g}{\omega} - \frac{1}{\omega + \omega_g} \right] \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$



Heavy-Hadron Chiral Perturbation Theory



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Note: **virtual** corrections are **scaleless** since they do **not** feel the radiation veto E_{cut} !



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$$\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_\ell \rightarrow e^{i m_\ell v_\ell \cdot x} C_{\nu_\ell}^{(\ell)\dagger}(x) \left[\bar{h}_{\nu_\ell}^{(0)} \gamma_\perp^\mu P_L \nu_{\bar{c}} + \frac{m_\ell}{\bar{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \mathbf{p}_\ell} \bar{\mathbf{n}}^\mu \bar{h}_{\nu_\ell}^{(0)} P_L \nu_{\bar{c}} \right]$$



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- B and B^* meson nearly mass-degenerate \longrightarrow collect into **superfield**

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- $SU(2)_v$ -**breaking spurions** give subleading operators:

$$-\frac{\lambda_2}{8m_b} \text{Tr}[\bar{H} (C_{\text{mag}} \sigma^{\mu\nu}) H \sigma_{\mu\nu}] + \dots$$

generate the mass-splitting: $\delta_{B^*} = 2\lambda_2 C_{\text{mag}}/m_b = \frac{m_{B^*}^2 - m_B^2}{2m_B}$.



Gathering our results **so far**, the **low-energy Lagrangian** takes the form:

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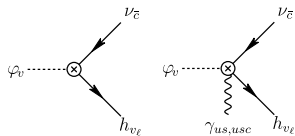
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... plus many more.



“Direct contribution”

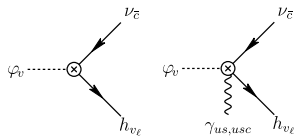


- from the $B \ell \nu$ interactions,

$$\frac{y_B f_B^{\text{QCD}} m_\ell}{\sqrt{2} m_B} \overline{Y}_\nu^{(B)} \overline{C}_{\bar{n}}^{(B)} Y_n^{(\ell)\dagger} C_{\nu_\ell}^{(\ell)\dagger} \varphi_\nu \bar{h}_{\nu_\ell} P_L \nu_{\bar{c}}$$



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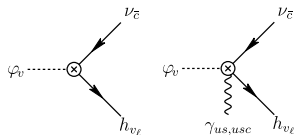
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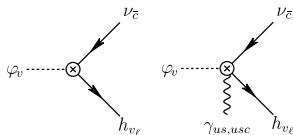
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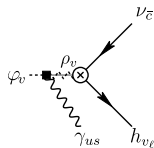
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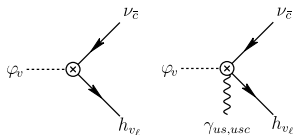


- $BB^*\gamma$ transition, from the **power-suppressed** operator

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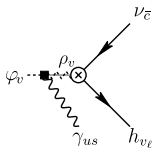
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and couple it to the pseudoscalar meson octet, with

$$\Sigma = \xi^2 = \exp \left[\frac{i\sqrt{2} \pi^a \lambda^a}{f} \right] \quad \frac{\pi^a \lambda^a}{\sqrt{2}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \pi^0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \eta_8 & & & & & & & & \\ & \pi^- & & & & & & & \\ & & K^- & & & & & & \\ & & & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \pi^0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \eta_8 & & & & & \\ & & & & \bar{K}^0 & & & & \\ & & & & & K^+ & & & \\ & & & & & & K^0 & & \\ & & & & & & & -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \eta_8 & \end{pmatrix}$$



So far, we have **ignored** another important **low-energy** scale: $f_\pi \sim 130$ MeV.

To implement the chiral $SU(3)_V$, promote heavy-hadron field to a **triplet**:

[Wise 1992]

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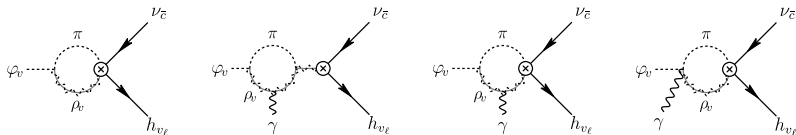
The **relevant terms** can be written as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HH}\chi\text{PT}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\bar{H} i v \cdot D H] + \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr}[\bar{H} H v \cdot L] - \frac{g}{4} \text{Tr}[\bar{H} H \not{L} \gamma_5] + \dots$$

with the left-handed meson current $L^\mu = \Sigma i D^\mu \Sigma$.

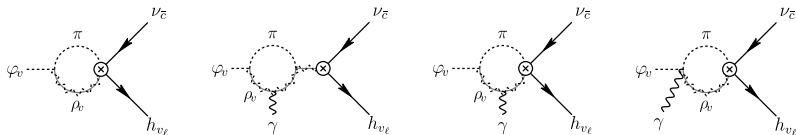


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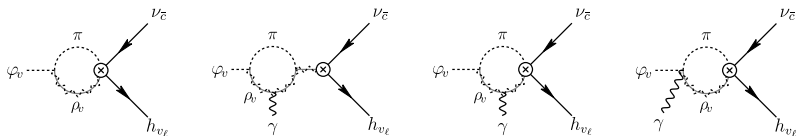
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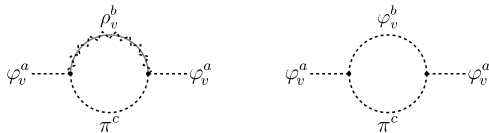


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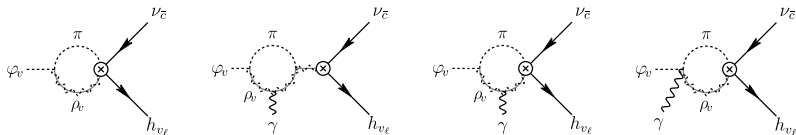
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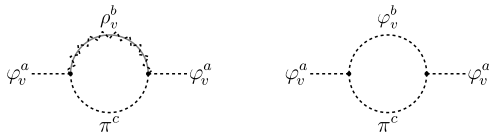


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But these are absorbed by the **decay constant**.



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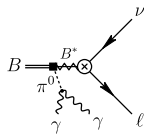
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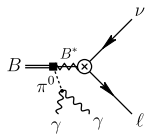
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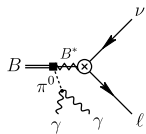
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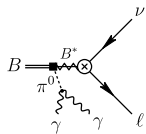
Effectively **replaces the pion propagator** by:

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→ Turns out to be **leading contribution** once $E_{\text{cut}} > m_\pi$!



Real corrections to the **direct** contribution are given by matrix elements of the **ultrasoft** and **ultrasoft-collinear** Wilson lines

$$W_{us}(\omega_{us}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[\int \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{d^{d-1} \mathbf{q}_i}{(2\pi)^{d-1} 2E_i} \left| \langle \gamma_{us}^n | \bar{Y}_v^{(B)} Y_n^{(\ell)\dagger} | 0 \rangle \right|^2 \delta\left(\omega_{us} - \sum_{j=1}^n E_j\right) \right]$$

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Convolution and renormalization best done in **Laplace space**, we obtain:

$$R(E_{\text{cut}}, \mu) = \left(\frac{\mu^2 m_B}{(2E_{\text{cut}})^2 m_\ell} \right)^{-\gamma_{\text{soft}}} \frac{e^{-2\gamma_E \gamma_{\text{soft}}}}{\Gamma(1 + 2\gamma_{\text{soft}})} \left[1 + \frac{\alpha Q_\ell^2}{2\pi} \left(2 - \frac{\pi^2}{3} \right) \right] \equiv \left(\frac{\mu^2 m_B}{(2E_{\text{cut}})^2 m_\ell} \right)^{-\gamma_{\text{soft}}} \mathcal{W}$$



Phenomenology



- **Decay constants** f_π , f_B , f_{B^*} well determined from the **lattice**.

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$$\int_0^\infty d\omega \phi_-^B(\omega, \mu_0) \ln \frac{\omega}{\omega_0} = \frac{\lambda_E^2 - \lambda_H^2}{18\omega_0^2} - \gamma_E$$
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with the inputs $\lambda_E, \lambda_H, \omega_0$.

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- The **subtracted decay constant** $F_-(\Lambda, \mu)$ is a **new and unknown** quantity:

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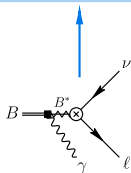
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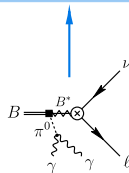
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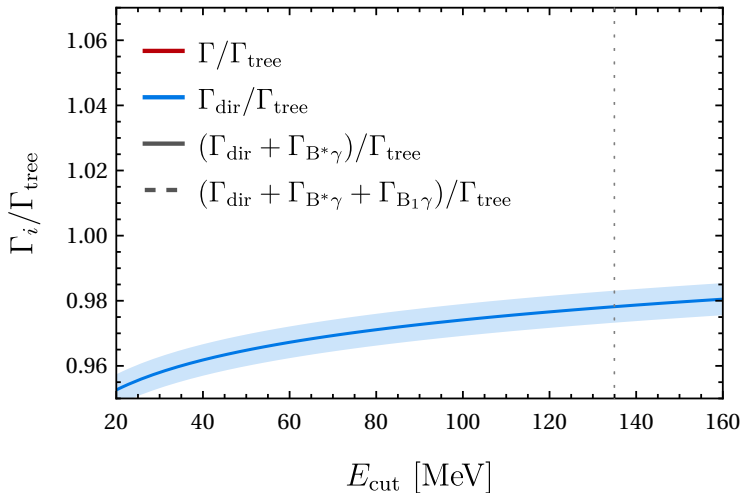
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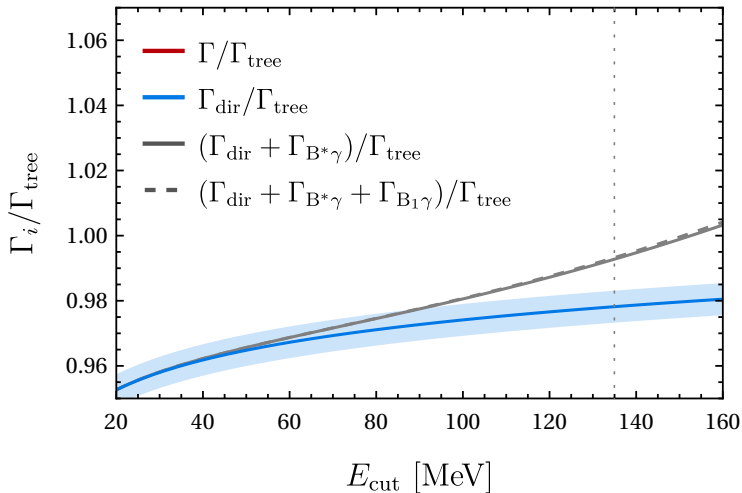


indirect contributions



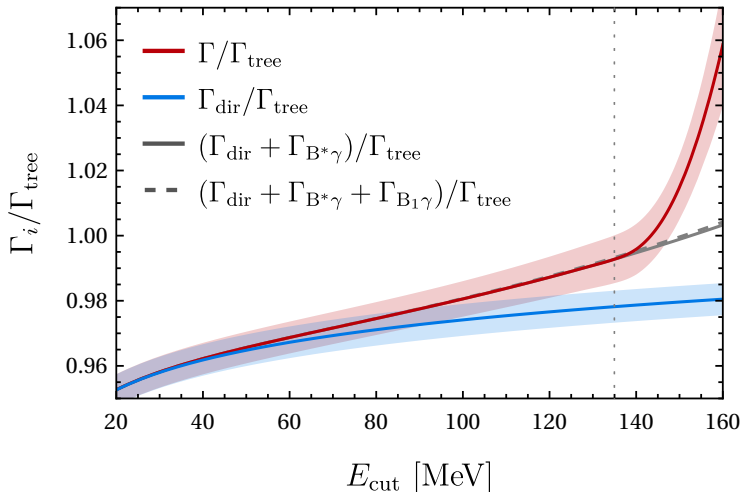


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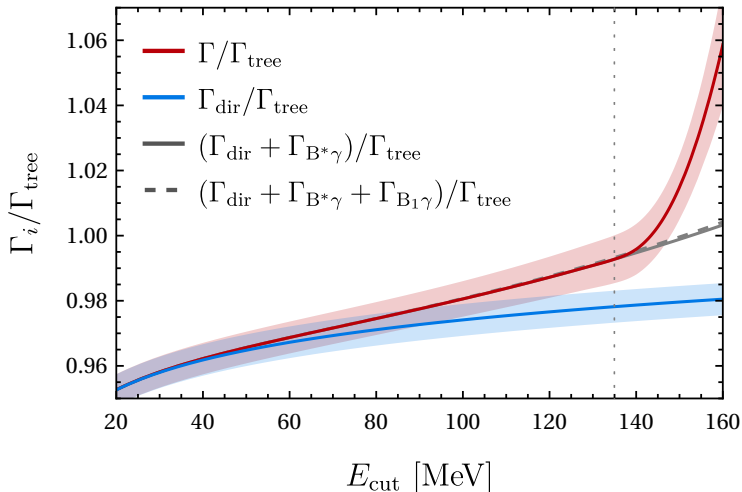
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Implementation of **radiation veto** makes a **crucial difference!**



Conclusions



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Thanks for listening!