

Hadronic running of the electromagnetic coupling

Comparisons of perturbative and lattice results above 1GeV

David Mason

Work done with:

Laurent Lellouch, Sophie Mutzel, Gen Wang, Andrey Kotov and the BMW collaboration

Table of contents

1. Background: Electroweak precision
2. Perturbative calculation
3. Lattice calculation
4. Next steps and outlook

Background: Electroweak precision

Running of the coupling

- The standard model is very good...
- The electroweak sector sensitive to BSM physics
- $\alpha(m_Z^2)$ is a leading source of error on indirect determinations of M_H and $\sin^2 \theta_W^{eff}$ using global EWPD fits

Running of the coupling

$$\alpha(s) = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \Delta\alpha(s)} \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta\alpha(s) = \Delta\alpha_{\text{lep}}(s) + \Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(s) + \Delta\alpha_{\text{top}}(s) + \dots \quad (2)$$

- Thomson limit $\alpha^{-1}(0) = 137.035999177(21)$ [12]
- $\alpha^{-1}(m_Z^2) = 127.930(8)$ [11]
- $\Delta\alpha_{\text{lep}}(m_Z^2) = 314.979(2) \times 10^{-4}$ [14]
- $\Delta\alpha_{\text{top}}(m_Z^2) = -0.720(4) \times 10^{-4}$ [9]
- $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(m_Z^2) = 275.8(10) \times 10^{-4}$ [11]
- $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(m_Z^2) = 278.21(34)_{\text{lat}}(35)_{\text{pQCD}} \times 10^{-4}$ [5]

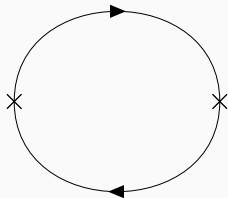
Desired precision of FCC-ee $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(m_Z^2) = 0.3 \times 10^{-4} \rightarrow < 10^{-5}$ [2]

The hadronic component (timelike momenta)

$$\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(q^2) = 4\pi\alpha\text{Re}\bar{\Pi}(q^2), \quad \bar{\Pi}(q^2) = \Pi(q^2) - \Pi(0) \quad (3)$$

$$(q_\mu q_\nu - g_{\mu\nu} q^2)\Pi(q^2) = i \int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle j_\mu(x) j_\nu(0) \rangle \quad (4)$$

$$j_\mu = \sum_{q=u,d,s,c,b} \bar{\psi}_q \gamma_\mu \psi_q \quad (5)$$



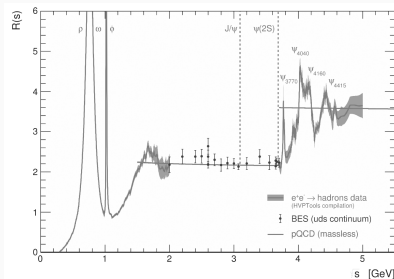
Adler function

HVP is a smooth function in Euclidean spacetime $Q^2 = -q^2$

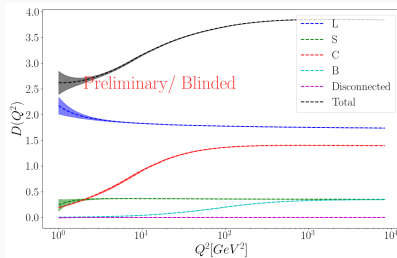
Adler function finite $\forall Q$ and tends to constant

$$D(Q^2) = 12\pi^2 Q^2 \frac{d\Pi(Q^2)}{dQ^2} \quad (6)$$

$$\Delta\alpha_{had}^{(5)}(Q^2) = \frac{\alpha}{3\pi} \int_0^Q dQ'^2 \frac{D(Q'^2)}{Q'^2} \quad (7)$$



(a) Figure from [6]



(b)

Low momenta : Lattice good, perturbation less good

High momenta : Lattice less good, perturbation very good

$$\Delta\alpha^{(5)}(m_z^2) = \Delta\alpha^{(5)}(-Q_0^2)_{\text{LQCD}} + [\Delta\alpha^{(5)}(-m_z^2) - \Delta\alpha^{(5)}(-Q_0^2)]_{\text{pQCD}} \quad (8) \\ + [\Delta\alpha^{(5)}(m_z^2) - \Delta\alpha^{(5)}(-m_z^2)]_{\text{pQCD}}$$

Final term analytically continues back to the real world,

$$[\Delta\alpha^{(5)}(m_z^2) - \Delta\alpha^{(5)}(-m_z^2)]_{\text{pQCD}} = 0.000045(2) \text{ [8]}$$

Discrete Adler function

Use a telescopic sum to separate scales, defining the discrete Adler function,

$$\Delta\Pi(Q^2) = \hat{\Pi}(Q^2) - \hat{\Pi}(Q^2/2) \quad (9)$$

$$\hat{\Pi}(Q^2) = \sum_i \Delta\Pi(2^i) + \hat{\Pi}(1) \quad (10)$$

Calculate $\hat{\Pi}(1)$ then compute discrete Adler function $\Delta\Pi(2^i)$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$ to find $\Pi(Q^2)$ at desired momenta. Different intervals have different systematics.

Time momentum Representation

$$\hat{\Pi}(Q^2) = \Pi(Q^2) - \Pi(0) = 2a \sum_t k_0(t, Q^2) \text{Re}C(t) \quad (11)$$

$$C(t) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^3 C_{ii}(t) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^3 \int d^3x \langle j_i(t, x) j_i(0) \rangle \quad (12)$$

$$k_0(t, Q^2) = \frac{\cos(Qt) - 1}{Q^2} + \frac{t^2}{2} \quad (13)$$

$$\hat{\Pi}(Q^2) = \hat{\Pi}^{(l)}(Q^2) + \hat{\Pi}^{(s)}(Q^2) + \hat{\Pi}^{(c)}(Q^2) + \hat{\Pi}^{(b)}(Q^2) + \hat{\Pi}^{(disc)}(Q^2) \quad (14)$$

Use different discretisations of j_i and k_0 to estimate systematics

- Lattice and perturbative analysis are currently separately blinded
- All perturbative results are rescaled by a random number between $\pm 3\%$
- Lattice results shown are from Ref. [10] (2023) and are not blinded

Perturbative calculation

Running parameters

- $\overline{MS}$ scheme
- Take reference values for parameters and run to relevant scale μ
- (De)couple at the mass scale, $m_q(m_q)$
- Two independent implementations compared with RunDec [13] and Adlerpy [7]

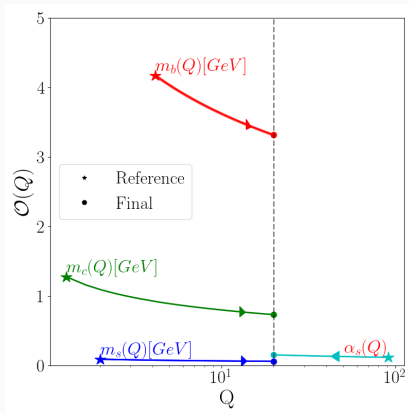


Figure 2: Running of parameters from reference scale to Q

$$D_{\text{tot}}(Q) = D^{(l)}(Q) + D^{(s)}(Q) + D^{(c)}(Q) + D^{(b)}(Q) \\ + D^{(\text{dis})}(Q) + D_{\text{QED}}(Q) + D_{\text{cond}}(Q) \quad (15)$$

$$\hat{\Pi}(Q_2^2) - \hat{\Pi}(Q_1^2) = \frac{1}{12\pi^2} \int_{\log Q_1^2}^{\log Q_2^2} d(\log Q^2) D(Q^2). \quad (16)$$

Errors:

- Systematic errors: truncation in α_s , heavy quark interpolation
- Parameter variation

Results

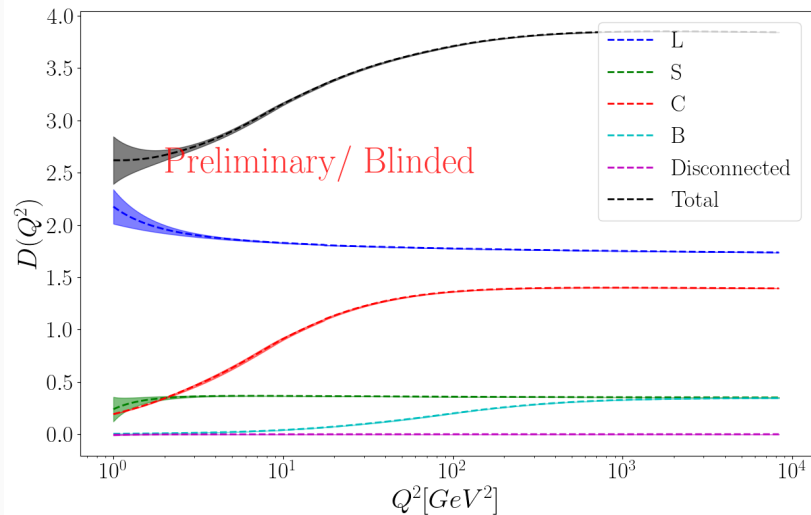


Figure 3: Perturbative results for Adler function.

Results

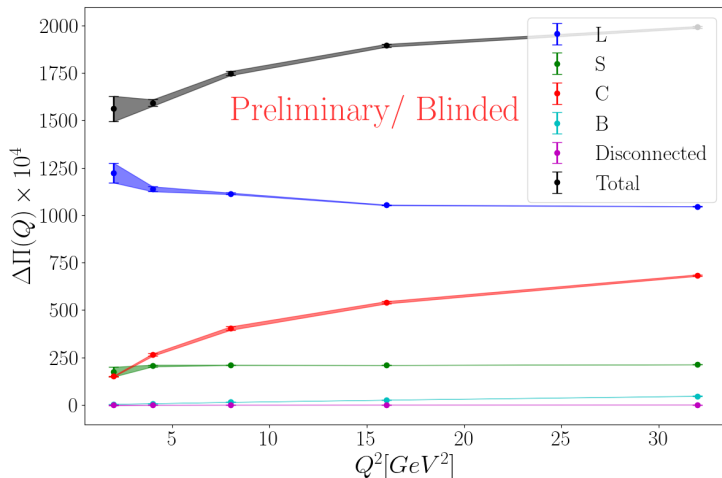


Figure 4: Perturbative results for

$$\Delta\Pi(Q^2) = \hat{\Pi}(Q^2) - \hat{\Pi}(Q^2/2) = \frac{1}{12\pi^2} \int_{\log Q^2/2}^{\log Q^2} d(\log Q^2) D(Q^2)$$

Results

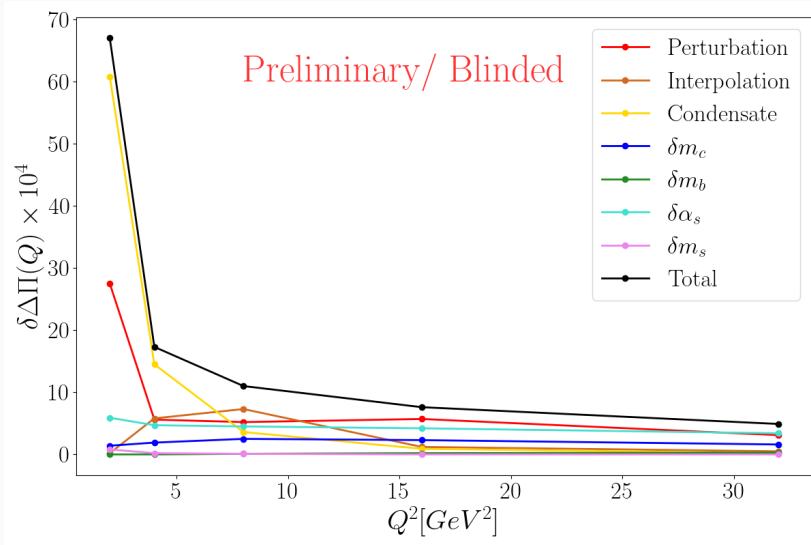


Figure 5: Error contributions on perturbative results for $\Delta\Pi(Q^2) = \hat{\Pi}(Q^2) - \hat{\Pi}(Q^2/2)$

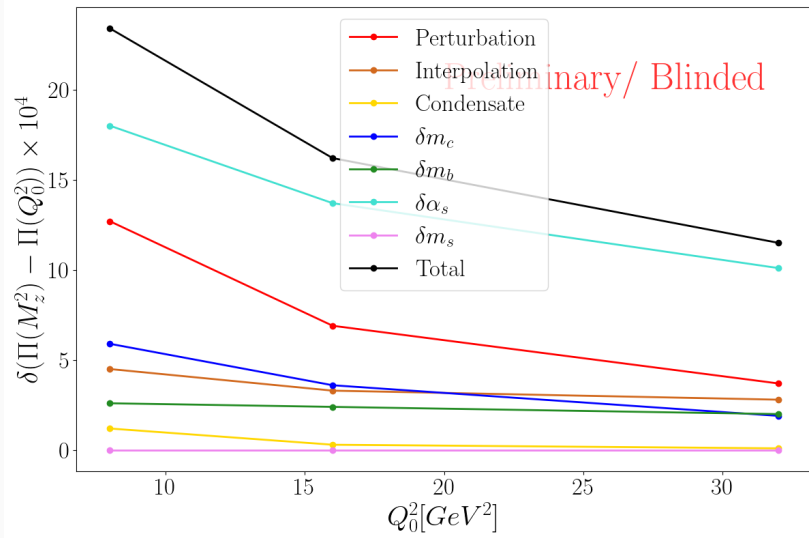


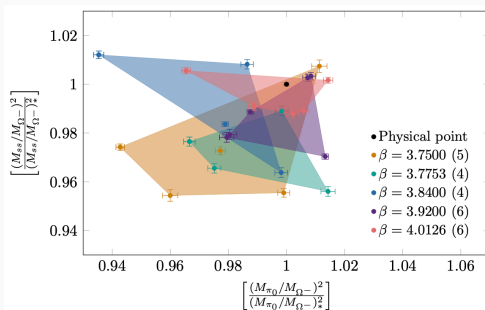
Figure 6: Error contributions on perturbative results for running to m_z

Lattice calculation

Lattice setup

In Ref. [10] (2023)

- 4Stout ensembles
- 2+1+1 flavours
- 6fm box
- 5 spacings 0.118fm - 0.0640fm
(now additional spacings: 0.048fm[3] and 0.036fm)
- Physical point: $\{aM_{\Omega^-}, \frac{M_{\pi_0}}{M_{\Omega^-}}, \frac{M_{SS}}{M_{\Omega^-}}, m_c/m_s = 11.85, \Delta M^2, e\}$
- Ensembles bracket physical point
- 4HEX ensembles used for finite volume corrections on the light

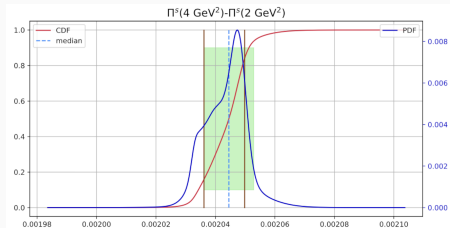
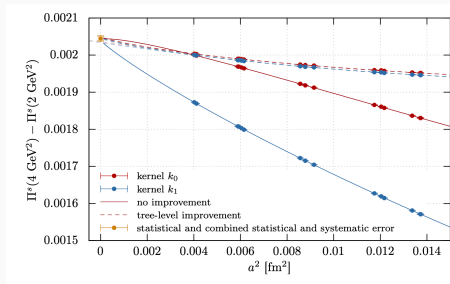


Fitting

Combine fits with
combination of flat and
Akaike information
criterion (AIC) weighting

- Choice of kernel and improvements
- Tree-level improvement
- Vary physical masses
- Mass extraction ranges
- Finite volume corrections

Figures taken from [10]
(2023), continuum limit for
 Π^S



Results

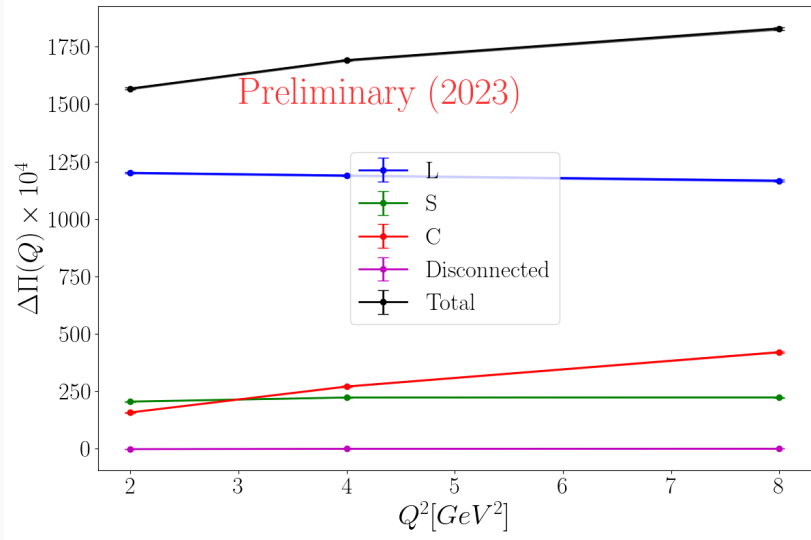


Figure 8: Results taken from from [10] (2023)

Next steps and outlook

Once we are happy with both the perturbative and lattice calculations...

- In-depth comparison of lattice and perturbation
- Full unblinding and determine $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(M_Z^2)$

Conclusion

- Future electroweak precision experiments require improved precision for the calculation of $\alpha(m_Z^2)$
- Leading source of error in running from the Thomson limit to m_Z is from the hadronic component $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(m_Z^2)$
- A hybrid approach of lattice and perturbation theory can precisely determine $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(m_Z^2)$

Conclusion

- Future electroweak precision experiments require improved precision for the calculation of $\alpha(m_Z^2)$
- Leading source of error in running from the Thomson limit to m_Z is from the hadronic component $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(m_Z^2)$
- A hybrid approach of lattice and perturbation theory can precisely determine $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(m_Z^2)$
- Thanks for listening

Backup slides

Precision electro-weak fitting

Electroweak mixing angle, θ_W^{eff} , can be precisely determined in experiment

$$\sin^2 \theta_W^{eff} = 0.23153 \pm 0.00016 \quad (17)$$

and from electroweak fitting

$$\begin{aligned} \sin^2 \theta_W^{eff} &= 0.231488 \pm 0.000029_{m_{top}} \pm 0.000015_{m_Z} \pm 0.000035_{\alpha(m_Z)} \\ &\quad \pm 0.000010_{\alpha_s} \pm 0.000001_{m_H} \pm 0.000047_{\text{theory}} \\ &= 0.23149 \pm 0.000070_{tot} \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Values from [1]

$\hat{\Pi}(1)$

Can breakdown the light and disconnected components of $\hat{\Pi}(1)$ further into short and long-distance windows,

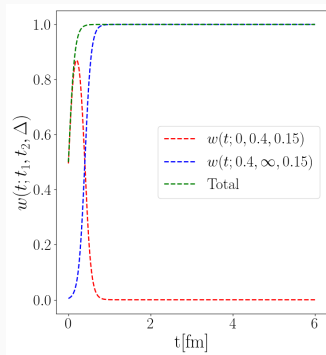
$$w(t; t_1, t_2, \Delta) = \Theta(t; t_1, \Delta) - \Theta(t; t_2, \Delta)$$

$$\Theta(t, t', \Delta) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \tanh \frac{(t - t')}{\Delta} \right)$$

$$\hat{\Pi}_{t_1-t_2} = \int dt w(t; t_1, t_2, \Delta) C(t) k(t, Q^2) \quad (19)$$

$$\hat{\Pi}(1) = \hat{\Pi}_{00-0.4} + \hat{\Pi}_{0.4-\infty} \quad (20)$$

Have separate dominant systematics at different distances



$$[\mathcal{O}(a, Q^2)] = A + BX_l + CX_s + DX_{\delta_m} + Ee_s^2 + Fe_s e_v + Ge_v^2 \quad (21)$$

$$X_l = \left[\frac{(M_{ll}/M_{\Omega^-})^2}{(M_{ll}/M_{\Omega^-}^*)^2} \right] - 1; \quad X_s = \left[\frac{(M_{ss}/M_{\Omega^-})^2}{(M_{ss}/M_{\Omega^-}^*)^2} \right] - 1 \quad (22)$$

$$A = A_0 + A_2(a^2 \alpha_s^n(1/a)) + A_{2l}a^2 \log(a^2) + A_4(a^2 \alpha_s^n(1/a))^2 \quad (23)$$

$$B, C, F, G : f_0 + f_2 a^2; \quad (24)$$

$$D, E : f_0 + f_2 a^2 + f_l X_l + f_s X_s; \quad (25)$$

- A continuum extrapolation
- B, C interpolation to the physical point
- D strong isospin breaking
- E,F,G QED isospin

Fit variation

Combine fits with combination of flat and Akaike information criterion (AIC) weighting

- Fit functions
- Cut ensembles
- Vary physical masses
- Mass extraction ranges
- Choice of kernel and improvements
- Finite volume corrections

Physical point

Lattice parameters: $\{\beta, m_l, m_s, m_c, L/a\}$

Define the physical point through:

$$\{aM_{\Omega-}, \frac{M_{ll}}{M_{\Omega-}}, \frac{M_{ss}}{M_{\Omega-}}, m_c/m_s = 11.85, \Delta M^2, e\}$$

$$M_{\Omega-}^* = 1672.45 \text{ MeV} [11]$$

$$M_{ll}^* = 135 \text{ MeV}$$

$$M_{ss}^* = 689.89(28)(40)[49] \text{ MeV} [4]$$

$$\Delta M^2 = (M_{dd}^2 - M_{uu}^2) = 13170(320)(270)[420] \text{ MeV}^2 [4]$$



A. Abada et al.

FCC-ee: The Lepton Collider: Future Circular Collider Conceptual Design Report Volume 2.

Eur. Phys. J. ST, 228(2):261–623, 2019.



M. Benedikt et al.

Future Circular Collider Feasibility Study Report: Volume 1, Physics, Experiments, Detectors.

Eur. Phys. J. C, 85(12):1468, 2025.



A. Boccaletti et al.

Hybrid calculation of hadronic vacuum polarization in muon $g - 2$ to 0.48%.

Nature, 653(8114):373–377, 2026.



S. Borsanyi et al.

Leading hadronic contribution to the muon magnetic moment from lattice QCD.

Nature, 593(7857):51–55, 2021.



A. Conigli, D. Djukanovic, G. von Hippel, S. Kuberski, H. B. Meyer, K. Miura, K. Ottnad, A. Risch, and H. Wittig.

The running of the electroweak gauge couplings from first principles.

7 2026.



M. Davier, A. Hoecker, B. Malaescu, and Z. Zhang.

Hadron Contribution to Vacuum Polarisation.

Adv. Ser. Direct. High Energy Phys., 26:129–144, 2016.



R. F. Hernández.

AdlerPy: A Python Package for the Perturbative Adler Function.

11 2023.



F. Jegerlehner.

$\alpha_{QED,eff}(s)$ for precision physics at the FCC-ee/ILC.

CERN Yellow Reports: Monographs, 3:9–37, 2020.



A. Keshavarzi, D. Nomura, and T. Teubner.

$g - 2$ of charged leptons, $\alpha(M_Z^2)$, and the hyperfine splitting of muonium.

Phys. Rev. D, 101(1):014029, 2020.

References iv



S. Mutzel.

Testing the standard model via the electromagnetic coupling and going beyond with axion-mediated dark matter.

PhD thesis, Centre de Physique Théorique - UMR 7332, France, Marseille, CPT, 2023.



S. Navas et al.

Review of particle physics.

Phys. Rev. D, 110(3):030001, 2024.



S. Navas et al.

Review of particle physics.

2026.



D. Straub.

rundec-python, 2019.



C. Sturm.

Leptonic contributions to the effective electromagnetic coupling at four-loop order in QED.

Nucl. Phys. B, 874:698–719, 2013.