Probing the Standard Model with flavor physics: an exclusive determination of $|V_{cb}|$ from the $B \rightarrow D^* \ell \nu$ semileptonic decay at nonzero recoil

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Image: A math a math

The Standard Model (SM)

- The Standard Model is (arguably) the most successful theory describing nature we have ever had
- The theory is not completely satisfactory
 - Situation similar to that at the end of the XIX century
- The SM can explain phenomena in a large range of scales



- Yet there is a region where we expect the SM to fail
- The SM is regarded as an effective theory at low energies (low means $E \lesssim v_{EW} \approx 0.1 1$ TeV)

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Where to look for new physics?



Energy frontier



Intensity frontier



Cosmology frontier

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The V_{cb} matrix element: Tensions in lepton universality



• Current $\approx 3\sigma$ tension with the SM

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The V_{cb} matrix element: Measurement from exclusive processes

$$\underbrace{\frac{d\Gamma}{dw}\left(\bar{B}\to D^*\ell\bar{\nu}_\ell\right)}_{\text{Experiment}} = \underbrace{\frac{G_F^2 m_B^5}{48\pi^2} (w^2-1)^{\frac{1}{2}} P(w) \left|\eta_{ew}\right|^2}_{\text{Known factors}} \underbrace{\left|\mathcal{F}(w)\right|^2}_{\text{Theory}} \left|V_{cb}\right|^2$$

 $\bullet\,$ The amplitude ${\cal F}$ must be calculated in the theory

- Extremely difficult task, QCD is non-perturbative
- Can use effective theories (HQET) to say something about ${\cal F}$
 - Separate light (non-perturbative) and heavy degrees of freedom as $m_Q o \infty$
 - $\lim_{m_Q \to \infty} \mathcal{F}(w) = \xi(w)$, which is the Isgur-Wise function
 - We don't know what $\xi(w)$ looks like, but we know $\xi(1) = 1$
 - At large (but finite) mass $\mathcal{F}(w)$ receives corrections $O\left(\alpha_s, \frac{\Lambda_{QCD}}{m_O}\right)$
- Reduction in the phase space $(w^2-1)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ limits experimental results at $w \approx 1$
 - Need to extrapolate $|V_{cb}|^2 |\eta_{ew} \mathcal{F}(w)|^2$ to w = 1
 - This extrapolation is done using well established parametrizations

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$$\underbrace{\frac{d\Gamma}{dw}\left(\bar{B} \to D^{*}\ell\bar{\nu}_{\ell}\right)}_{\text{Experiment}} = \left[\underbrace{K_{1}(w,m_{\ell})}_{\text{Known factors}} \underbrace{\left|\mathcal{F}(w)\right|^{2}}_{\text{Theory}} + \underbrace{K_{2}(w,m_{\ell})}_{\text{Known factors}} \underbrace{\left|\mathcal{F}_{2}(w)\right|^{2}}_{\text{Theory}}\right] \times \left|V_{cb}\right|^{2}$$

- \bullet The amplitudes $\mathcal{F},\mathcal{F}_2$ must be calculated in the theory
- Since $K_2(w,0) = 0$, \mathcal{F}_2 only contributes significantly with the τ
- Knowing these amplitudes, one can extract $|V_{cb}|$ from experiment
 - It is possible to extract $R(D^*)$ without experimental data!

$$R(D^{*}) = \frac{\int_{1}^{w_{\text{Max},\tau}} dw \left[K_{1}(w,m_{\tau}) \left| \mathcal{F}(w) \right|^{2} + K_{2}(w,m_{\tau}) \left| \mathcal{F}_{2}(w) \right|^{2} \right] \times \mathcal{V}_{cb}}{\int_{1}^{w_{\text{Max}}} dw \left[K_{1}(w,0) \left| \mathcal{F}(w) \right|^{2} \right] \times \mathcal{V}_{cb}}$$

• $|V_{cb}|$ cancels out

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The V_{cb} matrix element: The parametrization issue

All the parametrizations perform an expansion in the z parameter

$$z = \frac{\sqrt{w+1} - \sqrt{2N}}{\sqrt{w+1} + \sqrt{2N}}$$

• Boyd-Grinstein-Lebed (BGL)

 $f_X(w) = \frac{1}{B_{f_X}(z)\phi_{f_X}(z)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n \qquad \stackrel{\text{Phys. Rev. D56 (1997) 6895-6911}}{\underset{\text{Nucl. Phys. B461 (1996) 493-511}}{\overset{\text{Phys. Rev. D56 (1997) 6895-6911}}}$

Phys. Rev. Lett. 74 (1995) 4603-4606 Phys.Rev. D56 (1997) 6895-6911

- B_{f_X} Blaschke factors, includes contributions from the poles
- $\phi_{f_X}^{-1}$ is called *outer function* and must be computed for each form factor
- Weak unitarity constraints $\sum_n |a_n|^2 \leq 1$
- Caprini-Lellouch-Neubert (CLN)

Nucl. Phys. B530 (1998) 153-181

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$$\mathcal{F}(w) \propto 1 - \rho^2 z + cz^2 - dz^3$$
, with $c = f_c(\rho), d = f_d(\rho)$

- Relies strongly on HQET, spin symmetry and (old) inputs
- Tightly constrains $\mathcal{F}(w)$: four independent parameters, one relevant at w=1

The V_{cb} matrix element: The parametrization issue



- CLN seems to underestimate the slope at low recoil
- The BGL value of $|V_{cb}|$ is compatible with the inclusive one

 $|V_{cb}| = 41.7 \pm 2.0 (\times 10^{-3})$

From Phys. Lett. B769 (2017) 441-445 using Belle data from

arXiv:1702.01521 and the Fermilab/MILC'14 value at zero recoil

- Latest Belle dataset and Babar analysis seem to contradict this picture
 - From Babar's paper PRL 123, 091801 (2019) BGL is compatible with CLN and far from the inclusive value
 - Belle's paper PRD 100, 052007 (2019) finds similar results in its last revision
- The discrepancy inclusive-exclusive is not well understood
- Data at $w\gtrsim 1$ is **urgently needed** to settle the issue
- Experimental measurements perform badly at low recoil

We would benefit enormously from a high precision lattice calculation at $w_{\pm} \gtrsim 1_{\odot,\odot}$

Break: Introduction to Lattice QCD

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \sum_{f} \bar{\psi}_{f} \left(\gamma^{\mu} D_{\mu} + m_{f} \right) \psi_{f} + \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{tr} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$



- Discretize space-time in a computer
 - Finite lattice spacing a
 - Finite spatial volume L
 - Finite time extent ${\cal T}$

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• Perform simulations in an unphysical setup and approach the physical limit

- Enlarge the volume and reduce a
- Quark masses \implies Pion masses (hadrons are matched)
- Number of sea quarks $n_f = 2 + 1, 2 + 1 + 1, 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 \dots$

Break: Introduction to Lattice QCD

The systematic error analysis is based on $\ensuremath{\text{EFT}}$ descriptions of QCD The EFT description:

- provides functional form for different extrapolations (or interpolations)
- can be used to construct improved actions
- can estimate the size of the systematic errors



In order to keep the systematic errors under control we must repeat the calculation for several lattice spacings, volumes, light quark masses... and use the EFT to extrapolate to the physical theory

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Break: Heavy quarks in Lattice QCD

Heavy quark treatment in Lattice QCD

- For light quarks $(m_l \lesssim \Lambda_{QCD})$, leading discretization errors $\sim \alpha_s^k (a \Lambda_{QCD})^n$
- For heavy quarks $(m_Q > \Lambda_{QCD})$, discretization errors grow as $\sim \alpha_s^k (am_Q)^n$
 - In this work $am_c \sim 0.15 0.6$, but $am_b > 1$

Need special actions and ETs to describe the bottom quark

- Relativistic HQ actions (this work \rightarrow FermiLab)
- Non-Relativistic QCD (NRQCD)

If the action is improved enough, one can treat the bottom as a light quark

- Highly improved action AND small lattice spacing
- Use unphysical values for m_b and extrapolate

The discretization errors needn't disappear as long as we keep them under control

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Break: Lattice workflow



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Calculating $|V_{cb}|$ on the lattice: Formalism

• Form factors

$$\frac{\langle D^*(p_{D^*},\epsilon^{\nu})|\mathcal{V}^{\mu}\left|\bar{B}(p_B)\right\rangle}{2\sqrt{m_B m_{D^*}}} = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{\nu*}\varepsilon^{\mu\nu}_{\ \rho\sigma}v^{\rho}_Bv^{\sigma}_{D^*}\boldsymbol{h}_{\boldsymbol{V}}(w)$$

$$\frac{\left\langle D^*(p_{D^*},\epsilon^{\nu})\right|\mathcal{A}^{\mu}\left|\bar{B}(p_B)\right\rangle}{2\sqrt{m_B m_{D^*}}} =$$

$$*\left[e^{\mu\nu}\left(1+e^{\mu}\right)\mathbf{h}_{+}\left(e^{\mu}\right)-e^{\mu\nu}\left(e^{\mu}\right)\mathbf{h}_{+}\left(e^{\mu}\right)+e^{\mu}\right]\mathbf{h}_{+}\left(e^{\mu}\right)\mathbf{h}_{+}\left($$

$$\frac{i}{2} \epsilon^{\nu *} \left[g^{\mu \nu} \left(1 + w \right) \mathbf{h}_{A_1}(w) - v_B^{\nu} \left(v_B^{\mu} \mathbf{h}_{A_2}(w) + v_{D^*}^{\mu} \mathbf{h}_{A_3}(w) \right) \right]$$

- $\bullet \ \mathcal{V}$ and \mathcal{A} are the vector/axial currents in the continuum
- The h_X enter in the definition of $\mathcal F$
- We can calculate $h_{A_{1,2,3},V}$ directly from the lattice

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Calculating $|V_{cb}|$ on the lattice: Formalism

• Helicity amplitudes

$$H_{\pm} = \sqrt{m_B \, m_{D^*}}(w+1) \left(\boldsymbol{h}_{\boldsymbol{A_1}}(w) \mp \sqrt{\frac{w-1}{w+1}} \boldsymbol{h}_{\boldsymbol{V}}(w) \right)$$

$$H_0 = \sqrt{m_B m_{D^*}} (w+1) m_B \left[(w-r) h_{A_1}(w) - (w-1) \left(r h_{A_2}(w) + h_{A_3}(w) \right) \right] / \sqrt{q^2}$$

$$H_{S} = \sqrt{\frac{w^{2} - 1}{r(1 + r^{2} - 2wr)}} \left[(1 + w) \boldsymbol{h}_{\boldsymbol{A}_{1}}(w) + (wr - 1) \boldsymbol{h}_{\boldsymbol{A}_{2}}(w) + (r - w) \boldsymbol{h}_{\boldsymbol{A}_{3}}(w) \right]$$

• Form factor in terms of the helicity amplitudes

$$\chi(w) \left| \mathcal{F} \right|^2 = \frac{1 - 2wr + r^2}{12m_B m_{D^*} (1 - r)^2} \left(H_0^2(w) + H_+^2(w) + H_-^2(w) \right)$$

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Available data and simulations

- Using 15 $N_f = 2 + 1$ MILC ensembles of sea asqtad quarks
- The heavy quarks are treated using the Fermilab action



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Analysis: Extracting the form factors

Calculated ratios

$$\begin{split} \frac{\langle D^*(p) | \mathbf{V} | D^*(0) \rangle}{\langle D^*(p) | V_4 | D^*(0) \rangle} & \to x_f, \qquad w = \frac{1 + x_f^2}{1 - x_f^2} \\ \frac{\langle D^*(p_\perp, \varepsilon_\parallel) | \mathbf{A} | \bar{B}(0) \rangle \langle \bar{B}(0) | \mathbf{A} | D^*(p_\perp, \varepsilon_\parallel) \rangle^*}{\langle D^*(0) | V_4 | D^*(0) \rangle \langle \bar{B}(0) | V_4 | \bar{B}(0) \rangle} & \to R_{A_1}^2, \qquad h_{A_1} = \left(1 - x_f^2\right) R_{A_1} \\ \frac{\langle D^*(p_\perp, \varepsilon_\perp) | \mathbf{V} | \bar{B}(0) \rangle}{\langle D^*(p_\perp, \varepsilon_\parallel) | \mathbf{A} | \bar{B}(0) \rangle} & \to X_V, \qquad h_V = \frac{2}{\sqrt{w^2 - 1}} R_{A_1} X_V \\ \frac{\langle D^*(p_\parallel, \varepsilon_\parallel) | \mathbf{A} | \bar{B}(0) \rangle}{\langle D^*(p_\perp, \varepsilon_\parallel) | \mathbf{A} | \bar{B}(0) \rangle} & \to X_1, \qquad h_{A_3} = \frac{2}{w^2 - 1} R_{A_1} (w - X_1) \\ \frac{\langle D^*(p_\perp, \varepsilon_\parallel) | \mathbf{A} | \bar{B}(0) \rangle}{\langle D^*(p_\perp, \varepsilon_\parallel) | \mathbf{A} | \bar{B}(0) \rangle} \to X_0, \\ h_{A_2} = \frac{2}{w^2 - 1} R_{A_1} \left(w X_1 - \sqrt{w^2 - 1} X_0 - 1 \right) \end{split}$$

* Phys.Rev. D66, 01503 (2002)

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Analysis: Systematics in the two-point function fits

- Heavy quark discretization effects break the dispersion relation
- The Fermilab action uses tree-level matching, discretization errors $O(lpha\,m)$

$$a^{2}E^{2}(p_{\mu}) = (am_{1})^{2} + \frac{m_{1}}{m_{2}}(\mathbf{p}a)^{2} + \frac{1}{4}\left[\frac{1}{(am_{2})^{2}} - \frac{am_{1}}{(am_{4})^{3}}\right](a^{2}\mathbf{p}^{2})^{2} - \frac{am_{1}w_{4}}{3}\sum_{i=1}^{3}(ap_{i})^{4} + O(p_{i}^{6})^{2} + O(p_{i}^{6})^{2}$$

- Deviations from the continuum expression measure the size of the discretization errors
- As long as the discretization errors are within expected bounds, this is all right
- Data for B meson only at rest → Ok in the past



- Our data represents the form factors at nonzero a and unphysical m_π
- Extrapolation to the physical pion mass described by EFTs
 - $\bullet\,$ The EFT describe the a and the m_π dependence
- Functional form explicitly known

$$\begin{split} h_{A_1}(w) &= \underbrace{\left[1 + \frac{X_{A_1}(\Lambda_{\chi})}{m_c^2} + \frac{g_{D^*D\pi}^2}{48\pi^2 f_{\pi}^2 r_1^2} \mathrm{logs}_{\mathrm{SU3}}(a, m_l, m_s, \Lambda_{QCD})\right]}_{\mathrm{NLO}\,\chi\mathrm{PT} + \mathrm{HQET}} \\ &= \underbrace{c_1 x_l + c_{a1} x_{a^2}}_{\mathrm{NLO}\,\chi\mathrm{PT}} \underbrace{-\rho_{A_1}^2(w-1) + k_{A_1}(w-1)^2}_{w \text{ dependence}} + \underbrace{c_2 x_l^2 + c_{a2} x_{a^2}^2 + c_{a,m} x_l x_{a^2}}_{\mathrm{NNLO}\,\chi\mathrm{PT}}\right] \times \\ &= \underbrace{\left(1 + \beta_{11}^{A_1} \alpha_s a \Lambda_{\mathrm{QCD}} + \overleftarrow{\beta_{02}} a^2 \Lambda_{\mathrm{QCD}}^2 + \beta_{03}^{A_1} a^3 \Lambda_{\mathrm{QCD}}^3\right)}_{\mathrm{HQ \ discretization \ errors}} \\ h \\ &x_l = B_0 \frac{m_l}{(2\pi f_{\pi})^2}, \qquad x_{a^2} = \left(\frac{a}{4\pi f_{\pi} r_1^2}\right)^2 \end{split}$$

wit



- Combined fit p value = 0.96
- $h_{A_1}(1) = 0.909(17)$



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- Combined fit p value = 0.96
- $h_V(1) = 1.270(46)$



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- Combined fit p value = 0.96
- $h_{A_2}(1) = -0.624(85)$

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Errors (%)

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- Combined fit p value = 0.96
- $h_{A_3}(1) = 1.259(79)$



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Source	$h_V(\%)$	$h_{A_1}(\%)$	$h_{A_2}(\%)$	$h_{A_3}(\%)$
Chiral-continuum fit error	4.2	2.0	17.4	6.9
(Statistics)	(3.7)	(1.2)	(16.9)	(6.3)
(LQ and HQ discretization)	(2.6)	(1.3)	(9.7)	(4.4)
(Chiral-continuum extrapolation)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.7)	(0.5)
(Matching)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(1.7)	(0.5)
(HQ mistuning)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(1.7)	(0.0)
LQ mistuning	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Scale settings	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
lsospin effects	0.1	0.2	1.2	0.5
Finite volume	-	-	-	-
Total error	4.2	2.0	17.4	6.9

Errors at w = 1.11

• The discretization errors are one of the most important contributions to the final error

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Results: Stability of chiral-continuum fits



Results: Stability of chiral-continuum fits



Analysis: z-Expansion

• The BGL expansion is performed on different (more convenient) form factors

$$g = \frac{h_V(w)}{\sqrt{m_B \, m_{D^*}}} = \frac{1}{\phi_g(z)B_g(z)} \sum_j a_j z^j$$

$$f = \sqrt{m_B \, m_{D^*}}(1+w)h_{A_1}(w) = \frac{1}{\phi_f(z)B_f(z)} \sum_j b_j z^j$$

$$\mathcal{F}_1 = \sqrt{q^2}H_0 = \frac{1}{\phi_{\mathcal{F}_1}(z)B_{\mathcal{F}_1}(z)} \sum_j c_j z^j$$

$$\mathcal{F}_2 = \frac{\sqrt{q^2}}{m_{D^*}\sqrt{w^2-1}}H_S = \frac{1}{\phi_{\mathcal{F}_2}(z)B_{\mathcal{F}_2}(z)} \sum_j d_j z^j$$
• Constraint $\mathcal{F}_1(z=0) = (m_B - m_{D^*})f(z=0)$
• Constraint $(1+w)m_B^2(1-r)\mathcal{F}_1(z=z_{\text{Max}}) = (1+r)\mathcal{F}_2(z=z_{\text{Max}})$

• BGL (weak) unitarity constraints

$$\sum_j a_j^2 \leq 1, \qquad \sum_j b_j^2 + c_j^2 \leq 1, \qquad \sum_j d_j^2 \leq 1$$

Analysis: z expansion fit procedure

• Several different datasets

- Our lattice data
- BaBar BGL fit

arXiv:1903.10002; Phys.Rev.Lett. 123, 091801 (2019)

- Generate synthetic data and include the data points to our joint fit
- Limited by the order of BaBar BGL fit (222) \rightarrow Truncation errors?
- Fit dominated by Belle data anyway
- Belle untagged dataset

arXiv:1809.03290; Phys.Rev. D100, 052007 (2019)

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- Data binned in four variables: $w, \cos \theta_v, \cos \theta_l$ and χ
- Same normalization per binning $\sum Bins(\alpha) = N$, $\alpha = w, \cos \theta_v, \cos \theta_l, \chi$
- $\bullet\,$ Correlation matrices should reflect the normalization constraints \rightarrow they don't
- We use the data as it is published anyway (in Phys.Rev. D, the arXiv correlation matrices are wrong, even on v3!!)

All the experimental and theoretical correlations are included in all fits

Analysis: Constraints and number of coefficients

Constraints

- The constraint at zero recoil is used to remove a coefficient of the BGL expansion
- Neither the constraint at maximum recoil nor the unitarity constraints are imposed



Results: Decay amplitude and form factors



Lattice prediction for the decay

Comparison with LCSR



JHEP 01 (2019) 150

- Combined fit p value = 0.88
- Good agreement for A_1 , V
- Reasonable agreement for A_2

Results: Separate fits and joint fit



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Results: Separate fits and joint fit



Unblinded, final result $|V_{cb}| = 38.57(78) \times 10^{-3}$

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The $|V_{cb}|$ puzzle remains

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Results: $R(D^*)$ in context

No constraint w_{Max} : $R(D^*)_{\text{Lat}} = 0.266(14)$ $R(D^*)_{\text{Lat}+\text{Exp}} = 0.2484(13)$ W/ constraint w_{Max} : $R(D^*)_{\text{Lat}} = 0.274(10)$ $R(D^*)_{\text{Lat}+\text{Exp}} = 0.2492(12)$

Phys.Rev.D92 (2015), 034506; Phys.Rev.D100 (2019), 052007; Phys.Rev.D103 (2021), 079901; Phys.Rev.Lett. 123 (2019), 091801



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- This is the first, unquenched, completed $B\to D^*\ell\nu$ calculation at nonzero recoil on the lattice
- The main new information of this analysis comes from the behavior at small recoil of the form factors
- Main sources of errors of our form factors are
 - Statistics
 - Light- and heavy-quark discretization errors
- We have a short-term plan to reduce the discretization errors by improving the light-quark regularization

Conclusions

- The value of $|V_{cb}|$ from this analysis agrees with the one obtained from $B\to D\ell\nu$ analysis at nonzero recoil
 - Our newer value decreases the errors
- The inclusive-exclusive tension in the determination of $|V_{cb}|$ remains unsolved
- Results show $R(D^*)$ very close to the **theoretical prediction**
- The tension with the experimental average is reduced
 - Newest experimental determinations show values closer to the theoretical determination
- Further lattice analysis and refinements of our analysis can potentially settle the ${\cal R}(D^\ast)$ issue
 - Pending JLQCD calculation on $B \to D^* \ell \nu$ form factor on the lattice
 - Next FNAL/MILC calculation of $B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \ell \nu$ is in the queue
- Our next calculation will allow us to confirm this results and have a better handle on the systematic errors
 - HISQ 2+1 + Fermilab HQ, analyze simultaneously $B \to D\ell\nu$ and $B \to D^*\ell\nu$

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Thank you for your attention

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BACKUP SLIDES

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 $\bar{B} \rightarrow D^* \ell \bar{\nu}$ at nonzero recoil

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Analysis: Comparison with an improved CLN

- CLN is much more constraining than BGL, using only 4 fit parameters
- We can relax the constraints by allowing errors in the coefficients
 - We take into account the full correlation between ho^2 , c_{A_1} and d_{A_1}
- Update HQET relations between the form factors JHEP 11 (2017) 061

$$h_{A_1}(w) = h_{A_1}(1) \left[1 - 8\rho^2 z + (64c_{A_1} - 16\rho^2) z^2 + (512d_{A_1} + 256c_{A_1} - 6\rho^2) z^3 \right]$$

$$R_0^{\text{CLN}}(w) = 1.25(35) - 0.183(77) (w - 1) + 0.063(23) (w - 1)^2$$

$$R_1^{\text{CLN}}(w) = 1.28(36) - 0.101(51) (w - 1) + 0.066(24) (w - 1)^2$$

$$R_2^{\text{CLN}}(w) = 0.744(44) + 0.128(38) (w - 1) - 0.079(19) (w - 1)^2$$

$$R_0^{\text{CLN}}(w) = \frac{\sqrt{r}\mathcal{F}_2(w)}{(1+r)h_{A_1}(w)}$$
$$R_1^{\text{CLN}}(w) = \frac{h_V(w)}{h_{A_1}(w)}$$
$$R_2^{\text{CLN}}(w) = \frac{\frac{m_{D^*}}{m_B}h_{A_2}(w) + h_{A_3}(w)}{h_{A_1}(w)}$$



Analysis: Comparison with an improved CLN



Analysis: Comparison with an improved CLN



 \bullet Predictions for $R_0^{\rm CLN}$ and $R_2^{\rm CLN}$ show tensions

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