

# Recent topics in the theory of rare B decays

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La Thuile 2024 - Rencontres de Physique de  
la Vallée d'Aoste – 06/03/2024

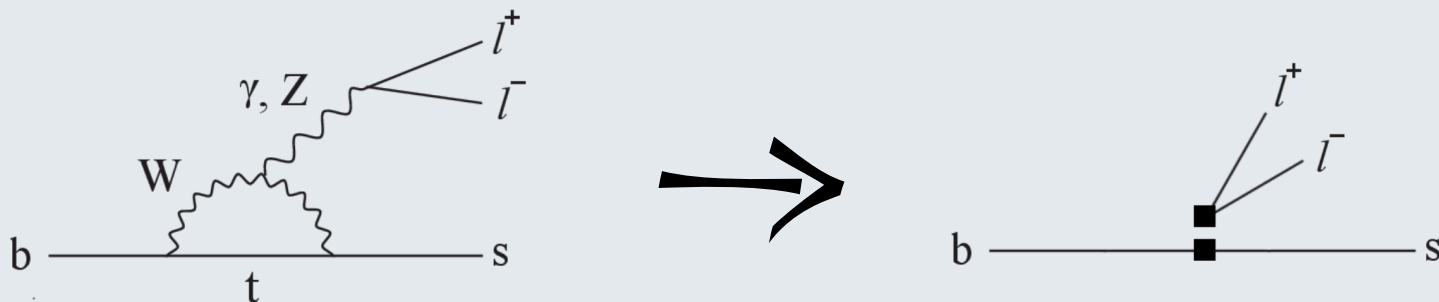
Ménil Reboud

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# Weak Effective Theory

- FCNC processes take place at a scale  $m_b < m_W, m_t$



- Allows for a generic calculation of the observables (in and beyond SM) through

$$\mathcal{H}(b \rightarrow sll) = -\frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{tb} V_{ts}^* \sum_{i=1}^{10} C_i(\mu) \mathcal{O}_i(\mu)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{9(10)} = \frac{e^2}{16\pi^2} (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L) (\bar{l} \gamma^\mu (\gamma_5) l)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_7 = \frac{e}{16\pi^2} (\bar{s}_L \sigma_{\mu\nu} b_R) F^{\mu\nu}$$

- Avoids the appearance of large logarithm in the calculations of observables

# Theory uncertainties in rare b decays

- I focus on **SM predictions**
  - Plenty of global fits of the WC: see e.g. the recent review [Capdevilla '23]
  - See the BSM talks by Admir G. and Jason A.

# Theory uncertainties in rare b decays

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    - See the BSM talks by Admir G. and Jason A.
  - Main sources of **SM uncertainties** are
    - QCD → decay constants and form-factors
    - CKM (not discussed in this talk, see talk by Marzia B.)
    - (further uncertainties come from: SM WC, lifetimes, radiative corrections...)
- Hadronic effects are a **blocker** for the extraction of SM and BSM parameters

# Theory uncertainties in rare b decays

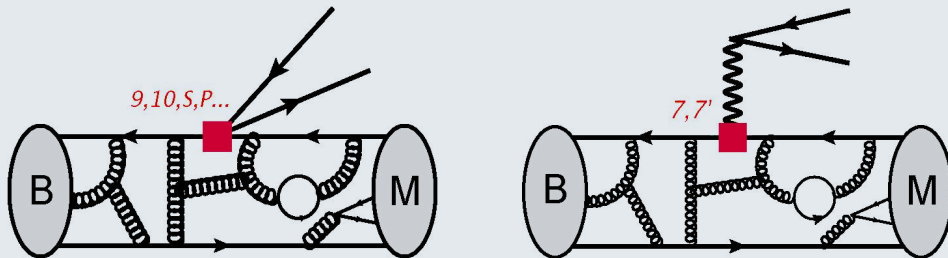
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- Main sources of **SM uncertainties** are
  - QCD  $\rightarrow$  decay constants and form-factors
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  - (further uncertainties come from: SM WC, lifetimes, radiative corrections...)
- I will focus on  **$b \rightarrow s$  transitions**, but the method applies equally well to
  - $b \rightarrow d$  [see e.g. Biswas, Nandi, Patra, Ray '22; Marshall, McCann et al' 23]
  - $b \rightarrow \{u, c\}$   $\rightarrow$  see talk by Marzia B.
  - But also charm physics (many papers in preparation)

# Form factors in $b \rightarrow s\ell\ell$

$$\mathcal{H}(b \rightarrow s\ell\ell) = -\frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{tb} V_{ts}^* \sum_{i=1}^{10} C_i(\mu) \mathcal{O}_i(\mu)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{9(10)} = \frac{e^2}{16\pi^2} (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L) (\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu (\gamma_5) \ell)$$

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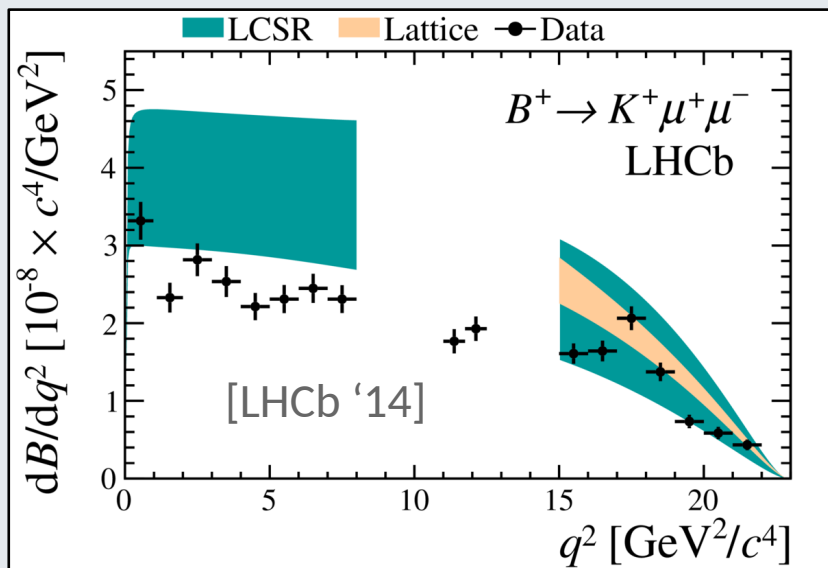
$$A_\lambda^{L,R}(B \rightarrow M_\lambda \ell\ell) = \mathcal{N}_\lambda \left\{ (C_9 \mp C_{10}) \mathcal{F}_\lambda(q^2) + \frac{2m_b M_B}{q^2} \left[ C_7 \mathcal{F}_\lambda^T(q^2) \right] \right\}$$

- $B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \mu\mu$
- $B_s \rightarrow \varphi \mu\mu, \dots$

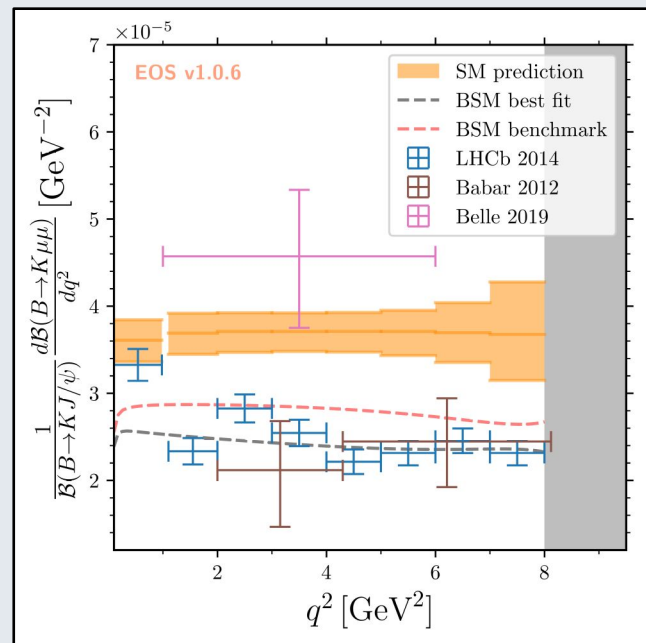
Local form-factors,  
involves e.g.  $\mathcal{F}_\lambda(k, q) = \mathcal{P}_\lambda^\mu \langle \bar{M}(k) | \bar{s} \gamma_\mu b_L | \bar{B}(q+k) \rangle$

# Status of the Local Form Factors

- Parametrizations based on the analyticity properties provide excellent fits to both:
  - **Lattice QCD** [recent review: Meinel '24]
  - **Light-cone Sum Rules** estimates [recent review: Khodjamirian, Melic, Wang '23]



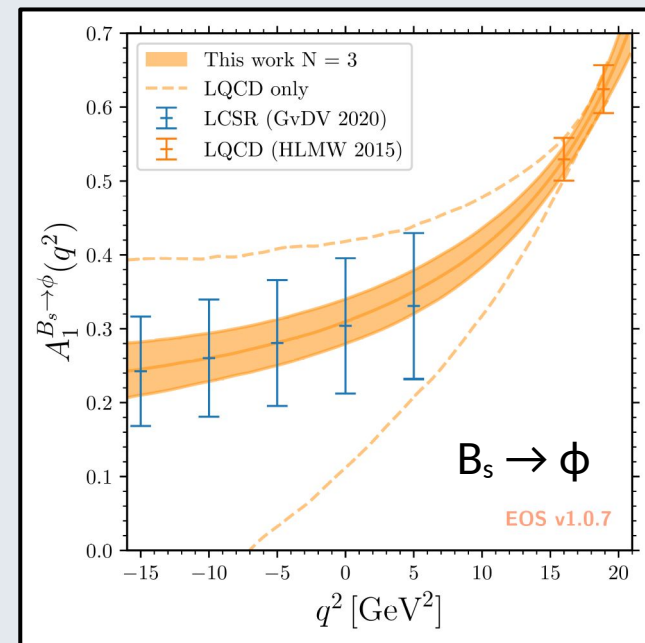
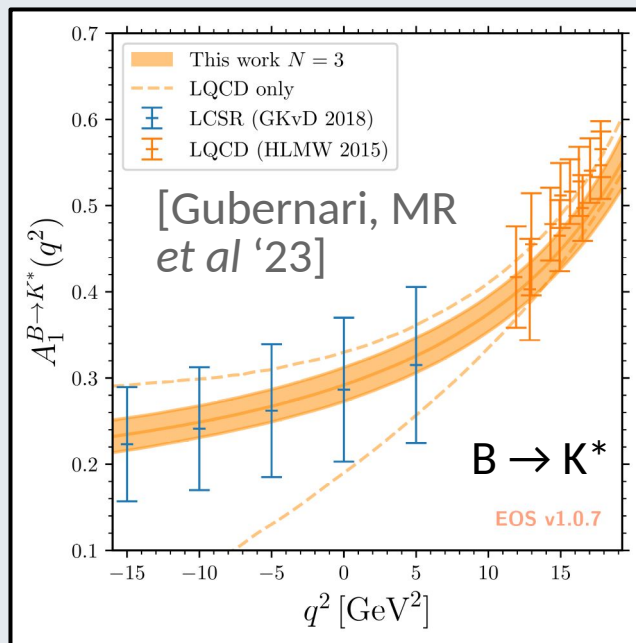
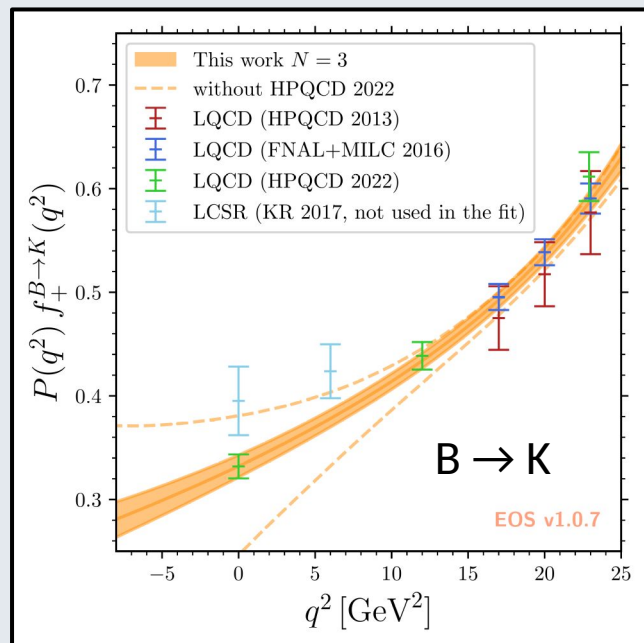
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+ [CMS '23] in perfect agreement with [LHCb '14]

# Analyticity and unitarity

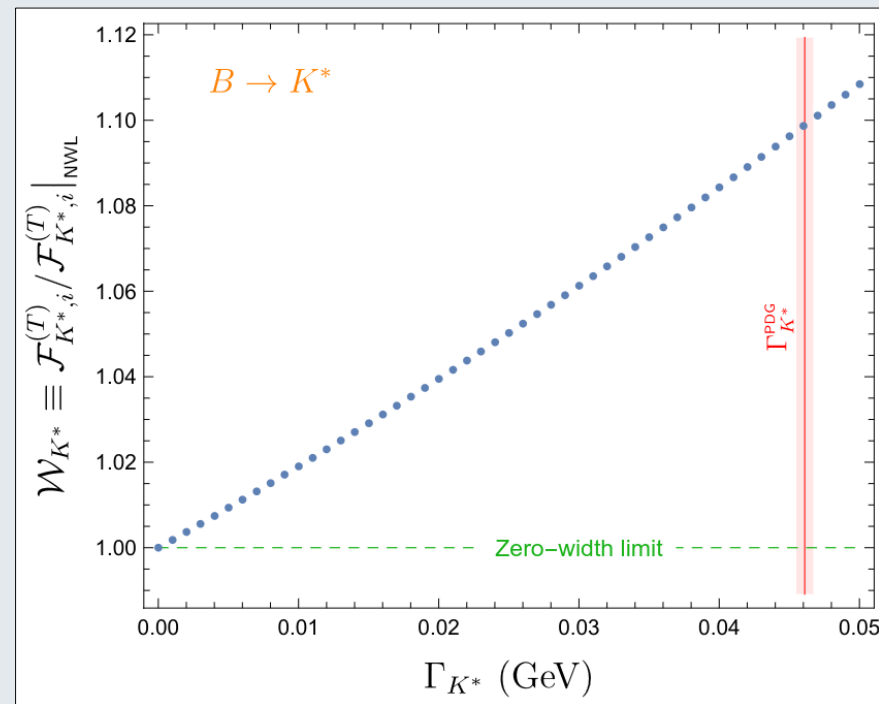
- State-of-the-art form-factors are obtained by a combined fit of all available channels ensuring **analyticity** and **unitarity (dispersive bounds)**:
  - ✓ Systematically improvable
  - ✓ Controlled interpolation/extrapolation uncertainties





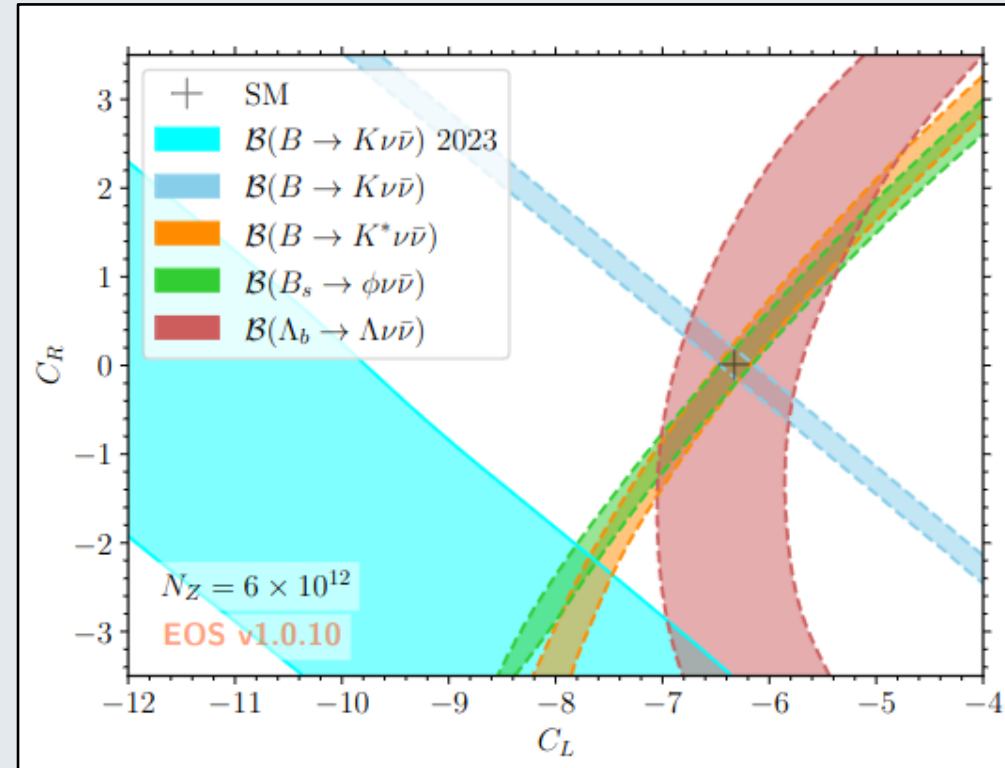
# Caveat: finite width effects in $B \rightarrow K^*$

- $\Gamma_{K^*} / M_{K^*} \sim 5\%$  is not very small
- **Finite width effects** have to be accounted for in the LQCD and LCSR calculations
  - Universal 20% correction to the observables [Descotes-Genon, Khodjamirian, Virto '19]
  - Computable in LQCD [Leskovec '24]
- $B \rightarrow K\pi\mu\mu$  decays also have a large **S-wave component** [LHCb '16]
  - LCSR inputs for the S-wave are now available [Descotes-Genon, Khodjamirian, Virto, Vos '23]
- Need for a generic parametrization for  $B \rightarrow K\pi$  form factors [Gustafson, Herren et al '23 ( $B \rightarrow D\pi$ )]



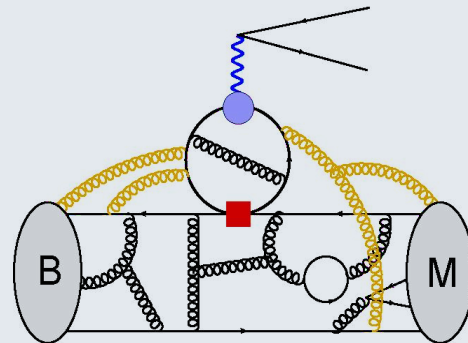
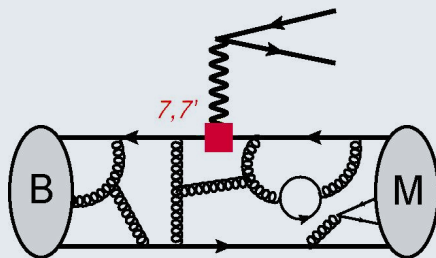
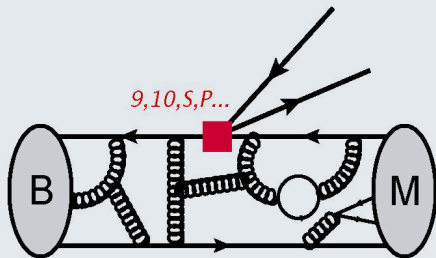
# $b \rightarrow sv\bar{\nu}$ decays

- Recent interest triggered by the  **$3.5\sigma$  evidence** for  $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$  [Belle II '23]
- $b \rightarrow sv\bar{\nu}$  decays only have local contributions, which makes them particularly **clean probe of the SM** [Altmannshofer et al. '09; Buras et al. '14]
  - Combined study of  $b \rightarrow sv\bar{\nu}$  and  $b \rightarrow s\ell\bar{\ell}$  [Becirevic et al. '23]
  - Golden channels for FCC-ee [Amhis, Kenzie, MR, Wiederhold, '23]



# Form factors in $b \rightarrow s\ell\ell$

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$$\mathcal{A}_\lambda^{L,R}(B \rightarrow M_\lambda \ell\ell) = \mathcal{N}_\lambda \left\{ (C_9 \mp C_{10}) \mathcal{F}_\lambda(q^2) + \frac{2m_b M_B}{q^2} \left[ C_7 \mathcal{F}_\lambda^T(q^2) - 16\pi^2 \frac{M_B}{m_b} \mathcal{H}_\lambda(q^2) \right] \right\}$$

Non-local form-factors:

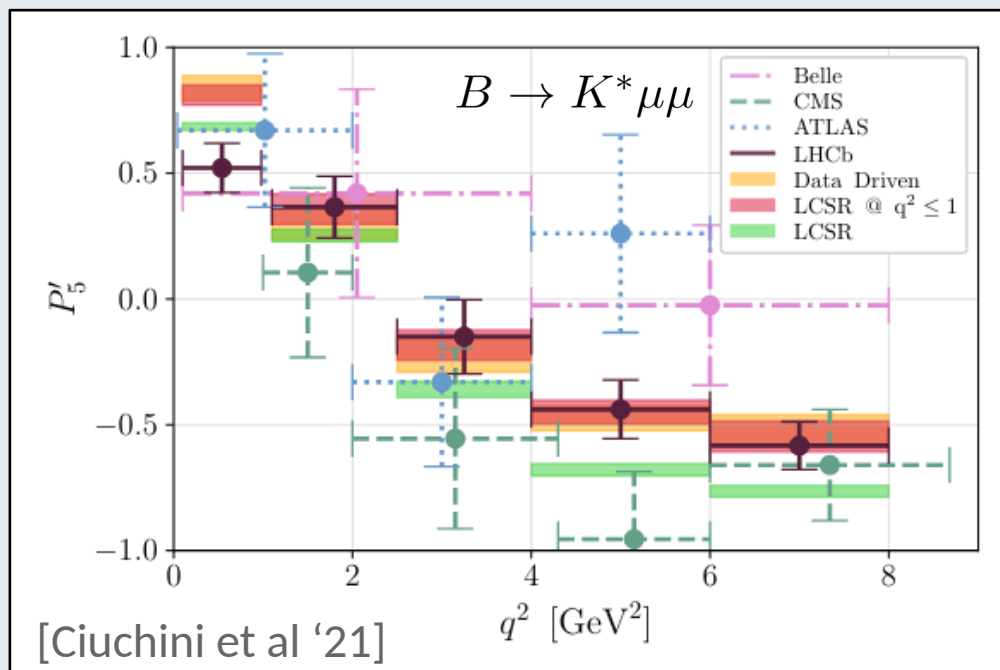
$$\mathcal{H}_\lambda(k, q) = i \int d^4x e^{iq \cdot x} \mathcal{P}_\lambda^\mu \langle \bar{M}(k) | T \{ Q_c[\bar{c} \gamma_\mu c](x), C_i \mathcal{O}_i \} | \bar{B}(q+k) \rangle$$

# Long story short

- 1) The contribution is **dominated by the charm loops** due to  $O_{1c}$  and  $O_{2c}$

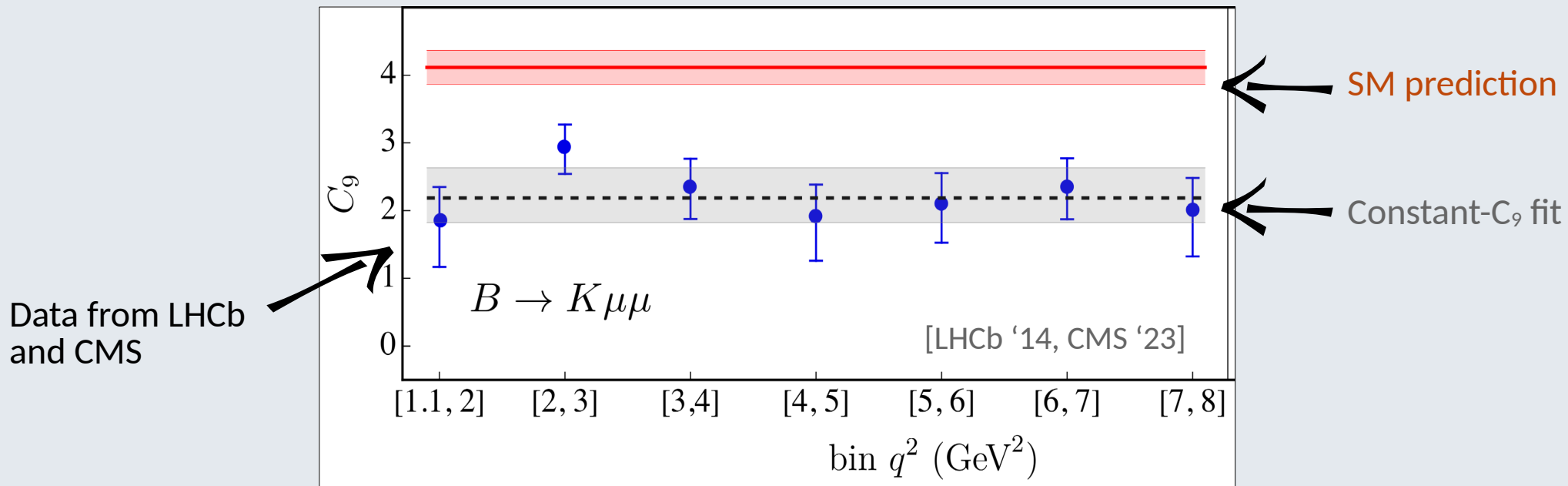
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- 1) The contribution is **dominated by the charm loops** due to  $O_{1c}$  and  $O_{2c}$
- 2) The contribution **mimics new physics** by shifting  $C_9$   
→ *Pure data-driven approaches can't resolve SM and NP* [Ciuchini et al '21, '22]



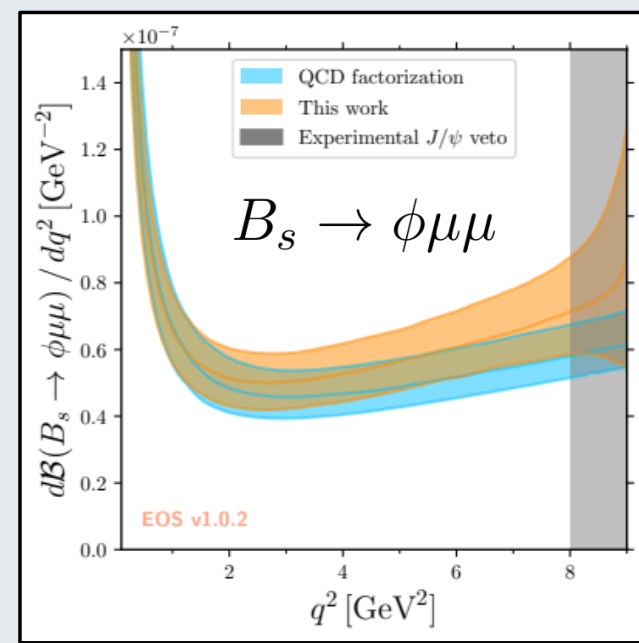
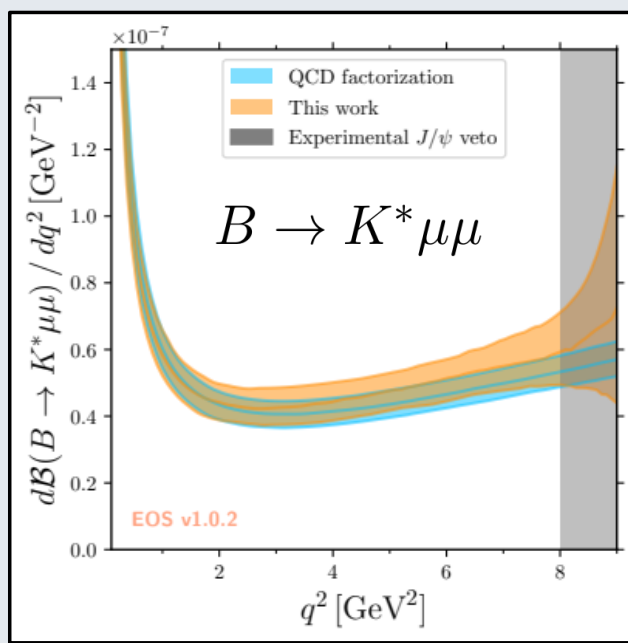
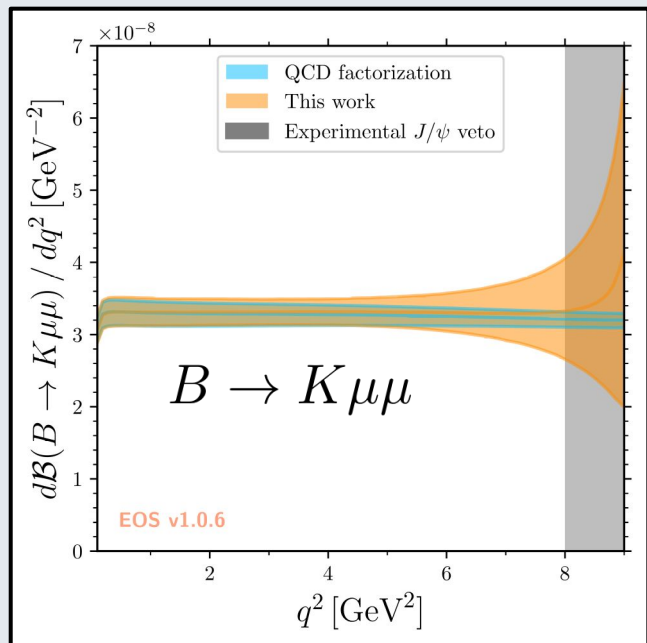
# Long story short

- 1) The contribution is **dominated by the charm loops** due to  $O_{1c}$  and  $O_{2c}$
- 2) The contribution **mimics new physics** by shifting  $C_9$ 
  - Pure data-driven approaches *can't resolve SM and NP* [Ciuchini *et al* '21, '22]
  - Data favors a constant shift in  $C_9$  [Bordone, Isidori, Maechler, Tinari '24]



# Long story short

- 1) The contribution is **dominated by the charm loops** due to  $O_{1c}$  and  $O_{2c}$
- 2) The contribution **mimics new physics** by shifting  $C_9$
- 3) *Assuming that the analytic structure is well understood*, dispersive bounds and explicit calculation at negative  $q^2$  allows to **control the charm-loop below the DD threshold** [Gubernari, MR, van Dyk, Virto '22]



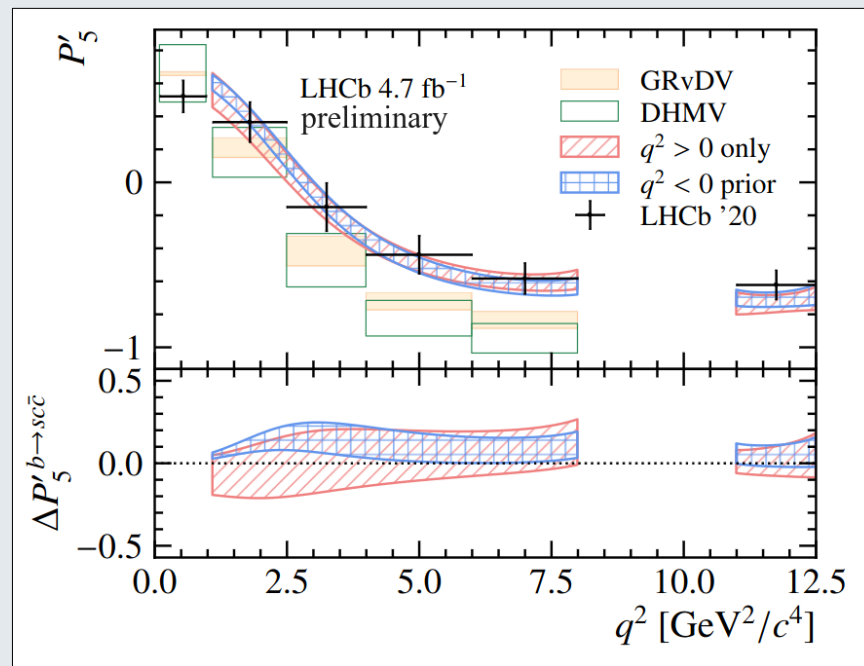
# Long story short

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- 4) The corresponding parameters can be fitted directly from data [LHCb '23]

Contribution of  $H_\mu$  to the optimized angular observable  $P_5'$ :

- With data at  $q^2 < 0$
- Without data at  $q^2 < 0$

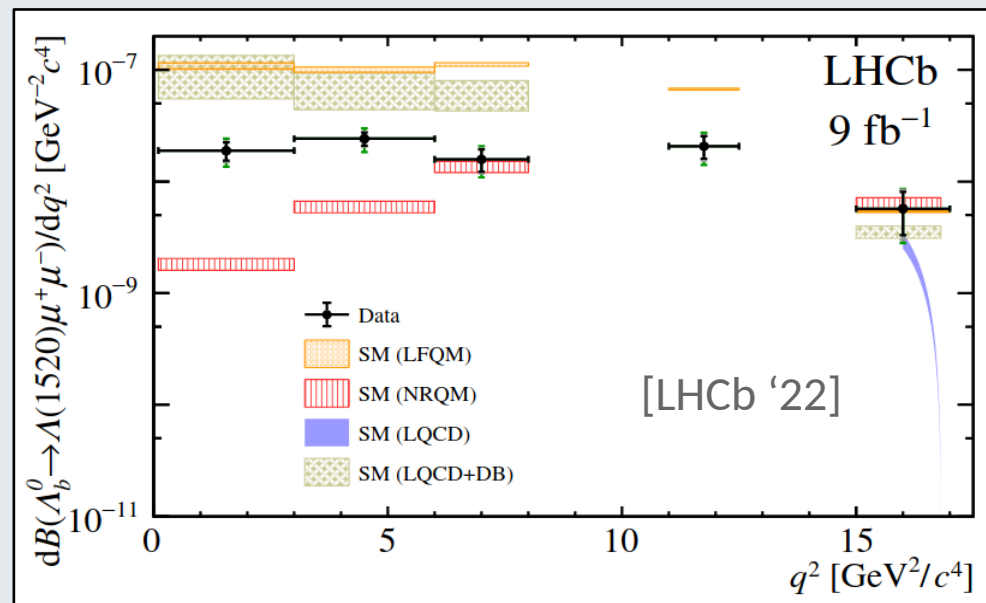
The GRvDV parametrization describes the data well!





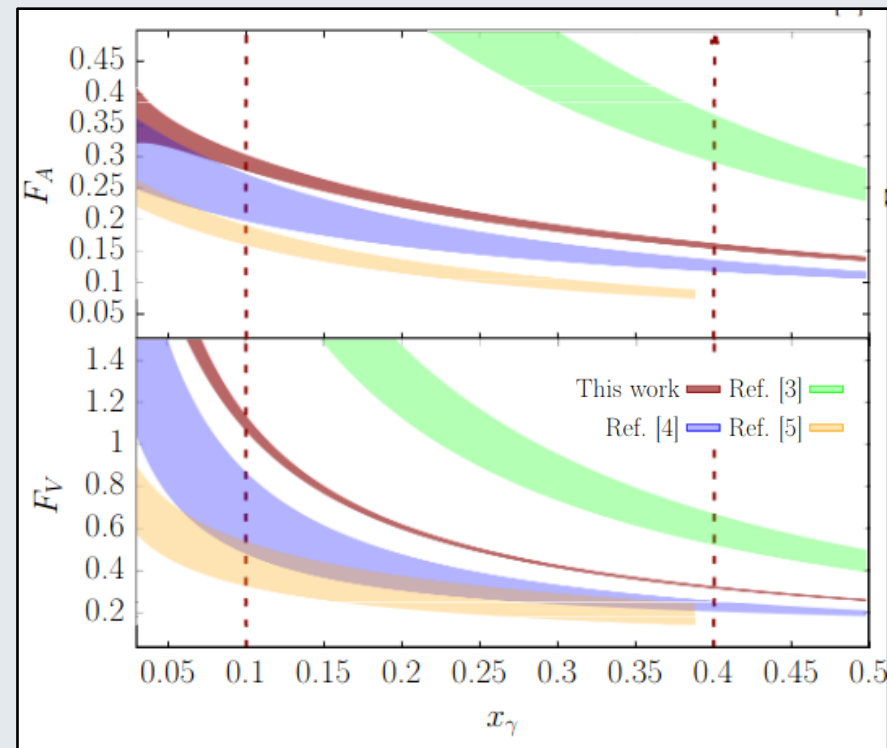
# $\Lambda_b \rightarrow \Lambda^{(*)} \ell \ell$ decays

- **Baryonic decays** follow the same pattern but with a richer helicity structure:
  - ✓ They offer more **complementary** probe of the SM
  - ✗ They require **more hadronic inputs**
- Local form factors:
  - Lattice inputs [Detmold, Meinel '16, Meinel, Rendon '21]
  - Dispersive analysis [Amhis, Bordone, MR '22; Black, Meinel, Rahimi, van Dyk '22]
- Non-factorizable contributions [Feldmann, Gubernari '23]



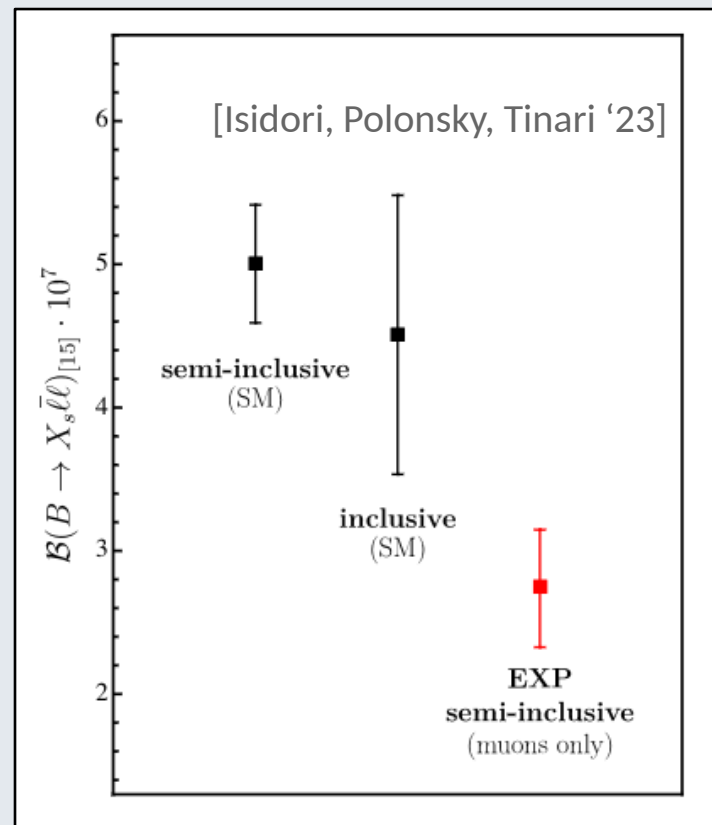
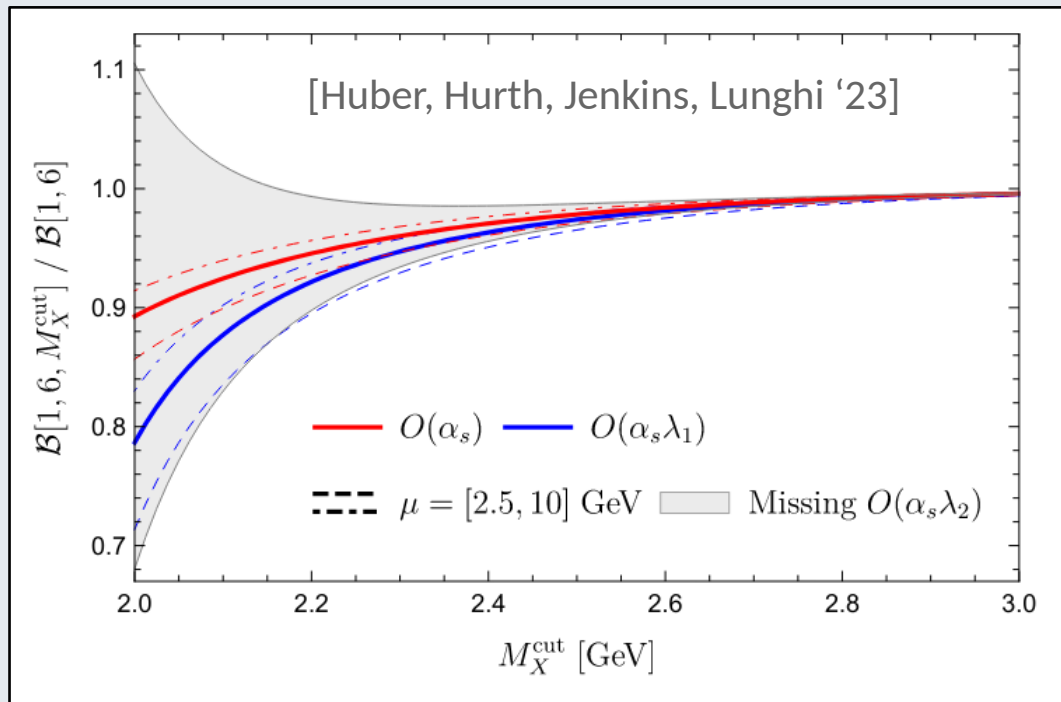
# Further probes of the SM

- $B_{(s)} \rightarrow \mu\mu\gamma$ 
    - Long standing interest [Melikhov *et al* '04, '17; Guadagnoli *et al* '16 '21 '23]
    - Workshop on radiative leptonic decays in Marseille [<https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/31709/>]
    - $B_s \rightarrow \gamma$  form-factors from Lattice QCD [Frezzoti *et al* '24]
  - $B_{(s)} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ 
    - Offers a different probe of charm loops contribution [Belov *et al* '23]
- See the **dedicated experimental talks** by Irene B. and Shubhangi K. M.



# Further probes of the SM

- Inclusive  $B \rightarrow X_s \ell \bar{\ell}$  [Isidori, Polonsky, Tinari '23, Huber, Hurth, Jenkins, Lunghi '23]



# Conclusion & Outlook

- Hadronic form-factors limits the full interpretation of rare B decays observables
- Recent lattice results and improvement of the parametrization allowed us to reduce the theory uncertainties and to **confirm the current tensions**
- Non-local contributions are still subject to intense discussions and a consensus will have to emerge to fully benefit from the **upcoming results from Belle II and LHC Run III:**
  - Many upcoming  $b \rightarrow d$  decays
  - Additional results for  $B \rightarrow K^{(*)} \nu \bar{\nu}$
  - Many updates for  $b \rightarrow s$  modes
  - ...

# Back-up

# $q^2$ parametrization

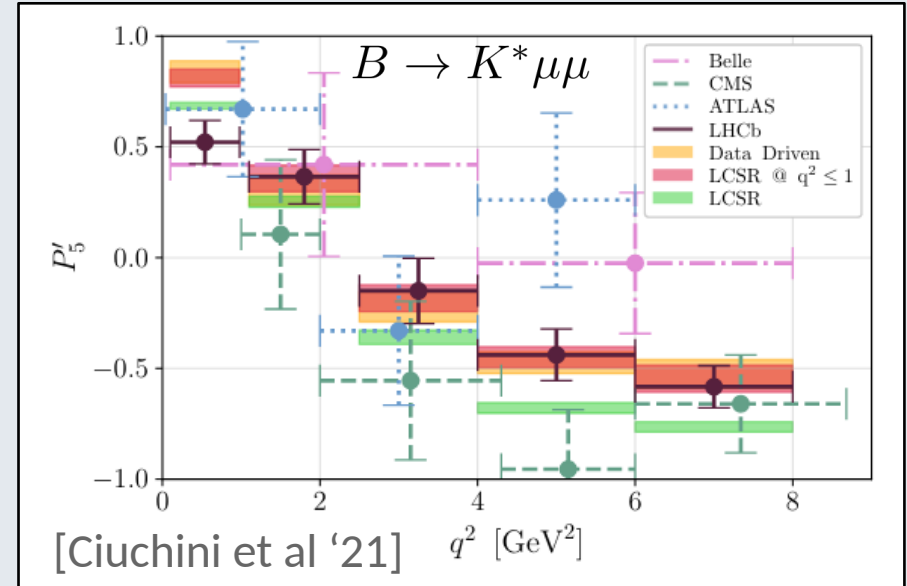
- **Simple  $q^2$  expansion** [Jäger, Camalich '12; Ciuchini et al. '15]

$$\mathcal{H}_\lambda(q^2) = \mathcal{H}_\lambda^{\text{QCDF}}(q^2) + h_\lambda(0) + \frac{q^2}{m_B^2} h'_\lambda(0) + \dots$$



Computed in [Beneke, Feldman, Seidel '01]

- The  $h_\lambda$  terms can be fitted or varied
- Fitting the  $h_\lambda$  terms on data gives a satisfactory fit but lacks predictive power
- This parametrization **cannot account** for the analyticity properties of  $\mathcal{H}_\lambda$

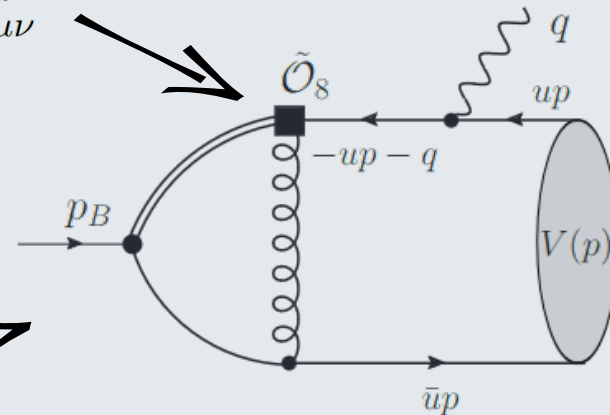


# Anatomy of $H_\mu$ in the SM

$C_1(\mu_b)$	$C_2(\mu_b)$	$C_3(\mu_b)$	$C_4(\mu_b)$	$C_5(\mu_b)$	$C_6(\mu_b)$	$C_7(\mu_b)$	$C_8(\mu_b)$	$C_9(\mu_b)$	$C_{10}(\mu_b)$
-0.2906	1.010	-0.0062	-0.0873	0.0004	0.0011	-0.3373	-0.1829	4.2734	-4.1661

- The contribution of  $O_8$  is **negligible** [Khodjamirian, Mannel, Wang, '12; Dimou, Lyon, Zwicky '12]

$$O_8 = \frac{g_s}{16\pi^2} m_b (\bar{s}_L \sigma^{\mu\nu} T^a b_R) G_{\mu\nu}^a$$



One of the non-factorizable contributions

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- The contribution of  $O_8$  is **negligible** [Khodjamirian, Mannel, Wang, '12]
- The contributions of  $O_{3,4,5,6}$  are suppressed by **small Wilson coefficients**

$$\mathcal{O}_3 = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L) \sum_p (\bar{p} \gamma^\mu p),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_4 = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu T^a b_L) \sum_p (\bar{p} \gamma^\mu T^a p),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_5 = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho b_L) \sum_p (\bar{p} \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho p),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_6 = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho T^a b_L) \sum_p (\bar{p} \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho T^a p),$$



# Anatomy of $H_\mu$ in the SM

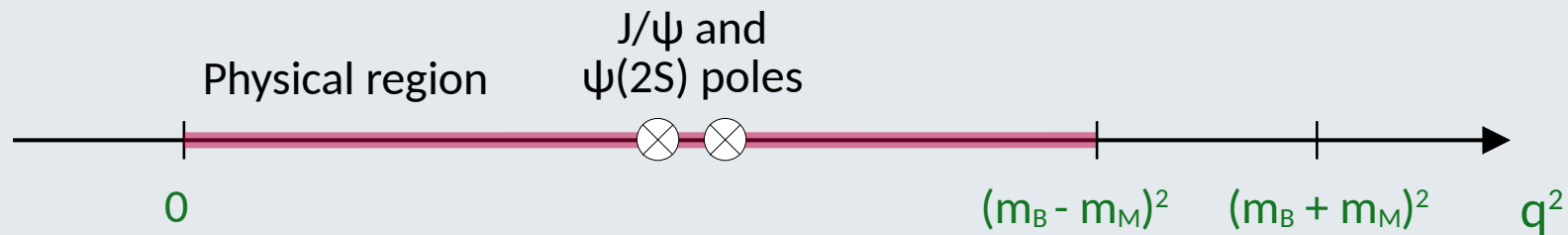
$$\mathcal{O}_1^q = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu T^a q_L)(\bar{q}_L \gamma^\mu T^a b_L), \quad \mathcal{O}_2^q = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu q_L)(\bar{q}_L \gamma^\mu b_L)$$

- Light-quark loops are CKM suppressed → **small contributions** even at the resonances [Khodjamirian, Mannel, Wang, '12]

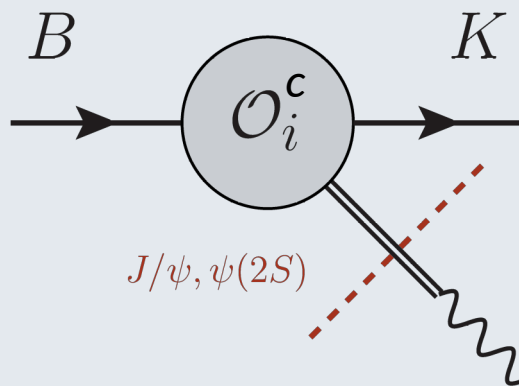
Vector meson	$\rho$	$\omega$	$\phi$	$J/\psi$	$\psi(2S)$
$f_V$	$221_{-1}^{+1}$	$195_{-4}^{+3}$	$228_{-2}^{+2}$	$416_{-6}^{+5}$	$297_{-2}^{+3}$
$ A_{\bar{B}^0 V \bar{K}^0} $	$1.3_{-0.1}^{+0.1}$	$1.4_{-0.1}^{+0.1}$	$1.8_{-0.1}^{+0.1}$	$33.9_{-0.7}^{+0.7}$	$44.4_{-2.2}^{+2.2}$
$ A_{B^- V K^-} $	$1.2_{-0.1}^{+0.1}$	$1.5_{-0.1}^{+0.1}$	$1.8_{-0.1}^{+0.1}$	$35.6_{-0.6}^{+0.6}$	$42.0_{-1.2}^{+1.2}$

→ The main contribution comes from  $\mathbf{O}_1^c$  and  $\mathbf{O}_2^c$ : “charm loop”

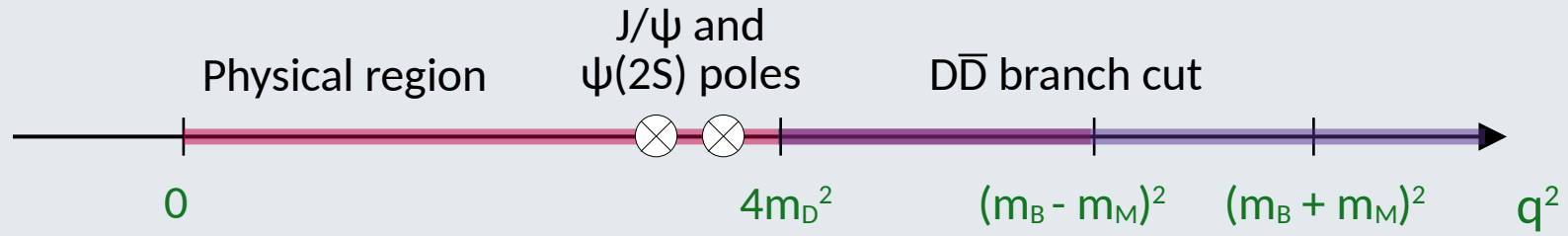
# Analyticity properties of $H_\mu$



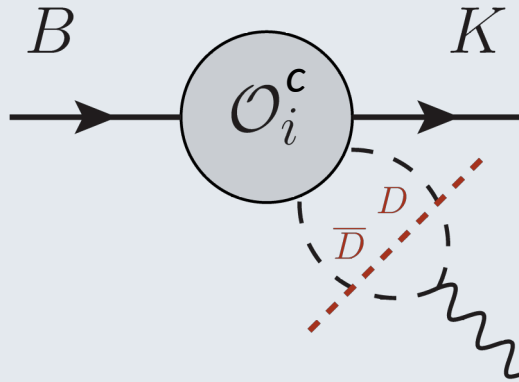
- Poles due to the narrow charmonium resonances



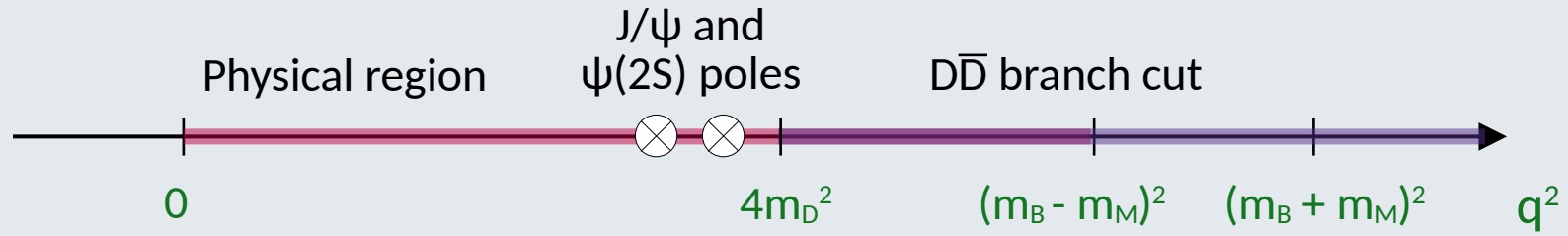
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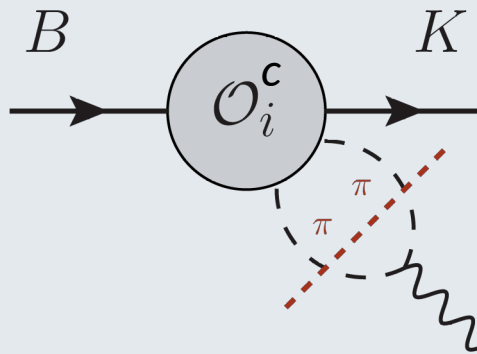
- Poles due to the narrow charmonium resonances
- Branch-cut starting at  $4m_D^2$



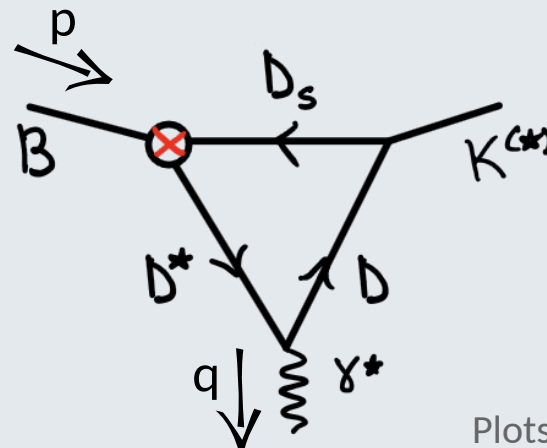
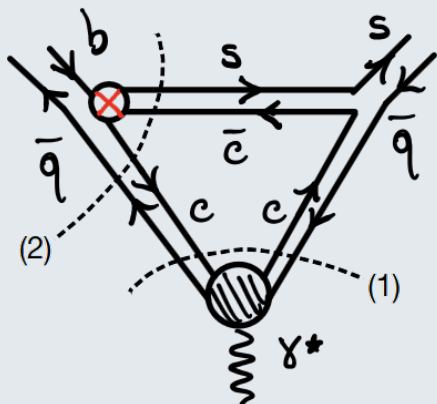
# Analyticity properties of $H_\mu$



- Poles due to the narrow charmonium resonances
- Branch-cut starting at  $4m_D^2$
- Branch-cut starting at  $4m_\pi^2 \rightarrow$  negligible (OZI suppressed)



# More involved analytic structure?



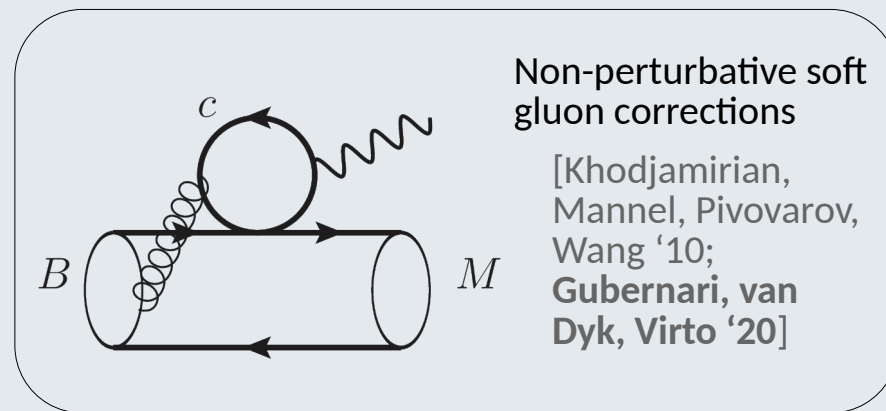
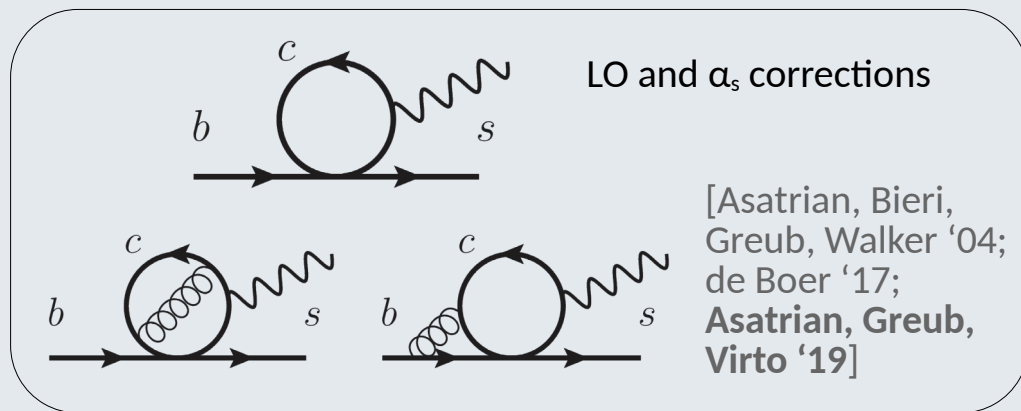
Plots from [Ciuchini et al. '22]

- $M_B > M_{D^*} + M_{D_s} \rightarrow$  The function  $H_\lambda(p^2, q^2)$  has a branch cut in  $p^2$  and the physical decay takes place on this branch cut:  **$H_\lambda$  is complex-valued!**
- Triangle diagrams are known to create *anomalous* branch cuts in  $q^2$  [e.g. Lucha, Melikhov, Simula '06]  $\rightarrow$  Does this also apply here? We have no Lagrangian nor power counting!
- The presence and the impact of such a branch cut in our approach is under investigation

# Theory inputs

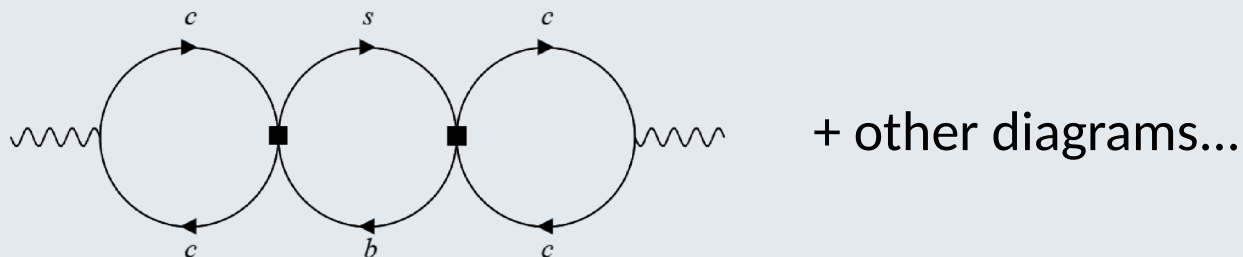
$\mathcal{H}_\lambda$  can be calculated in **two kinematics regions**:

- **Local OPE**  $|q|^2 \gtrsim m_b^2$  [Grinstein, Piryol '04; Beylich, Buchalla, Feldmann '11]
- **Light Cone OPE**  $q^2 \ll 4m_c^2$  [Khodjamirian, Mannel, Pivovarov, Wang '10]



# Dispersive bound

- **Main idea:** Compute the charm-loop induced, inclusive  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \bar{b}s$  cross-section and relate it to  $\mathcal{H}_\lambda$  [Gubernari, van Dyk, Virto '20]



- The optical theorem gives a **shared bound** for all the  $b \rightarrow s$  processes:

$$1 > 2 \int_{(m_B+m_K)^2}^{\infty} \left| \hat{\mathcal{H}}_0^{B \rightarrow K}(t) \right|^2 dt + \sum_{\lambda} \left[ 2 \int_{(m_B+m_{K^*})^2}^{\infty} \left| \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\lambda}^{B \rightarrow K^*}(t) \right|^2 dt + \int_{(m_{B_s}+m_{\phi})^2}^{\infty} \left| \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\lambda}^{B_s \rightarrow \phi}(t) \right|^2 dt \right] + \Lambda_b \rightarrow \Lambda^{(*)} \dots$$

$\uparrow$   
 known functions  $\times \mathcal{H}_0^{B \rightarrow K}(t)$

# GRvDV parametrization

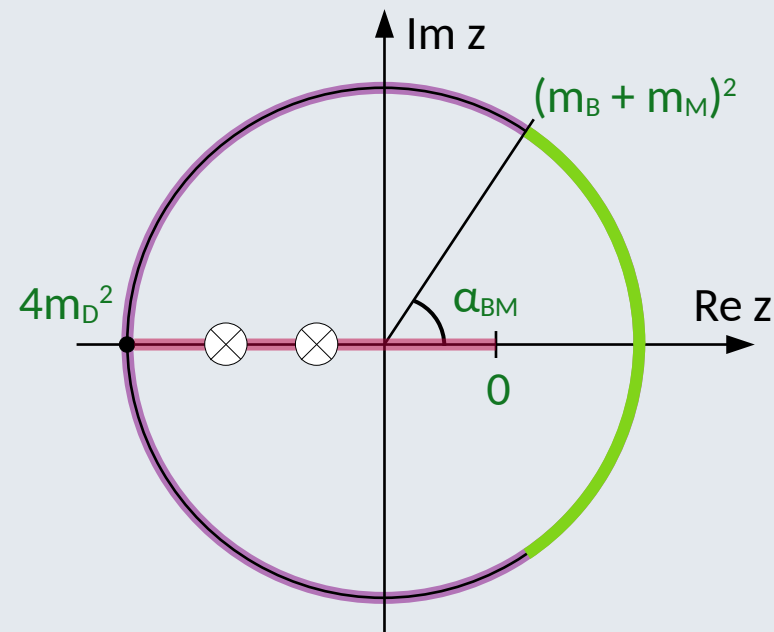
- The bound can be “**diagonalized**” with **orthonormal polynomials** of the arc of the unit circle [Gubernari, van Dyk, Virto ‘20]

$$\mathcal{H}_\lambda(z) = \frac{1}{\phi(z)\mathcal{P}(z)} \sum_{k=0}^N a_{\lambda,k} p_k(z)$$

- The coefficients respect the **simple bound**:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left\{ 2|a_{0,n}^{B \rightarrow K}|^2 + \sum_{\lambda=\perp, \parallel, 0} \left[ 2|a_{\lambda,n}^{B \rightarrow K^*}|^2 + |a_{\lambda,n}^{B_s \rightarrow \phi}|^2 \right] \right\} < 1$$

$$z(s) = \frac{\sqrt{4m_D^2 - s} - \sqrt{4m_D^2 - s_0}}{\sqrt{4m_D^2 - s} + \sqrt{4m_D^2 - s_0}}$$





# Numerical analysis

- The parametrization is fitted to

$$\mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{K}^*, \mathbf{B}_s \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\varphi}$$

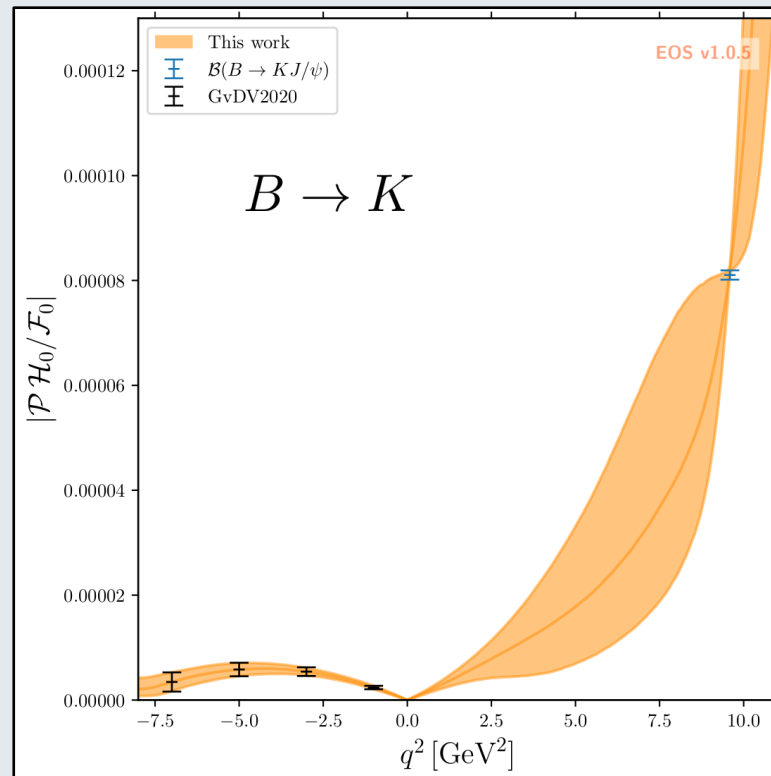
using:

- 4 theory point at negative  $q^2$  from the **light cone OPE**
- Experimental results at the  $J/\psi$
- Use an **under-constrained fit** and allow for **saturation of the dispersive bound**

→ The uncertainties are **truncation order-independent**, i.e., increasing the expansion order does not change their size

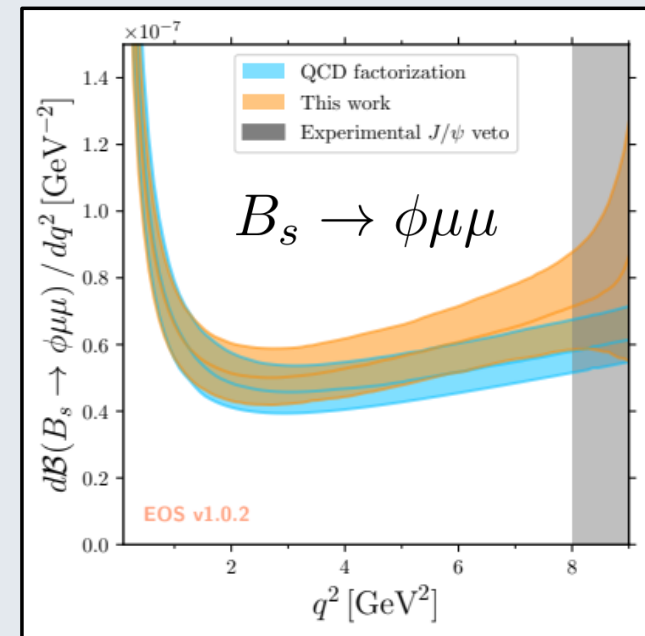
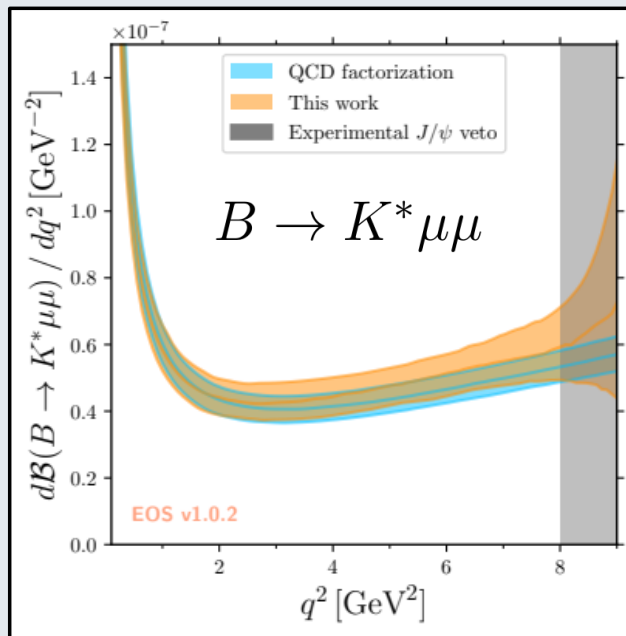
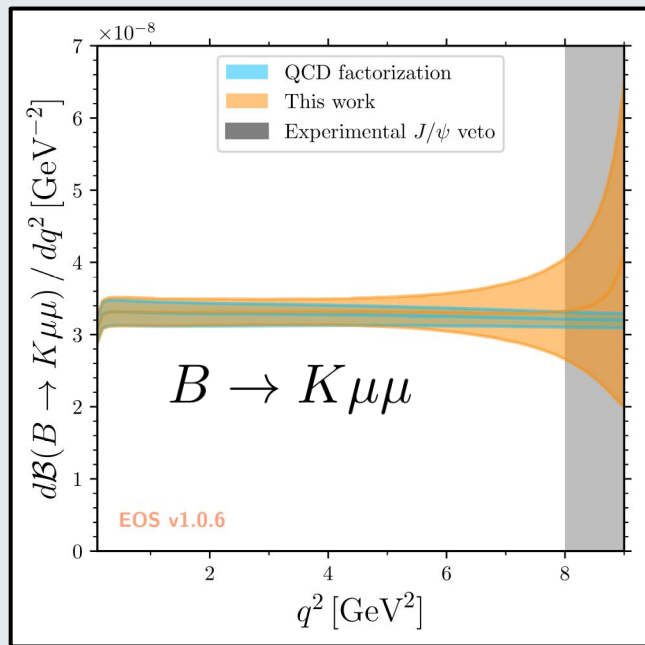
→ All p-values are larger than 11%

[Gubernari, MR, van Dyk, Virto '22]



# SM predictions

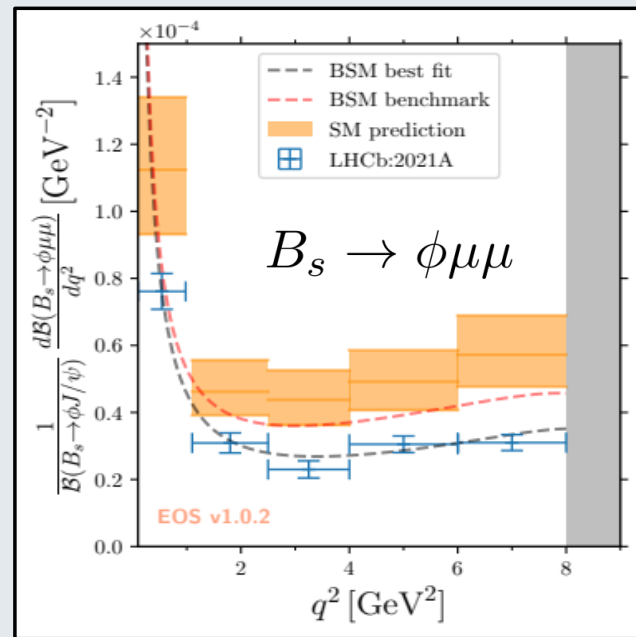
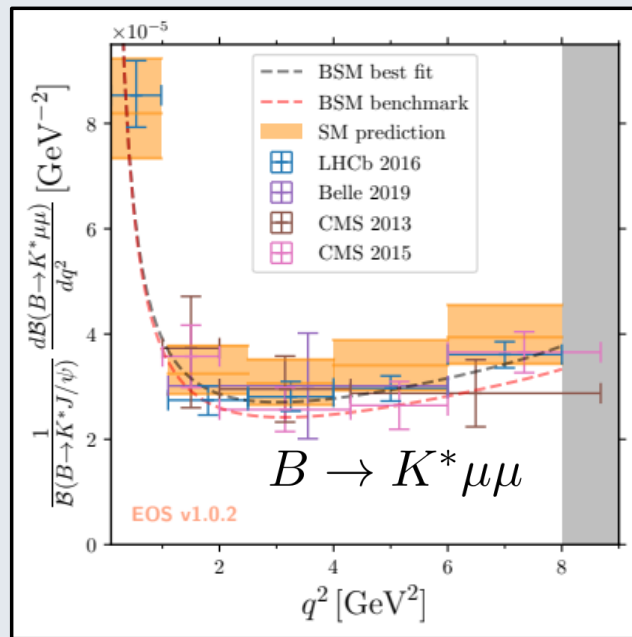
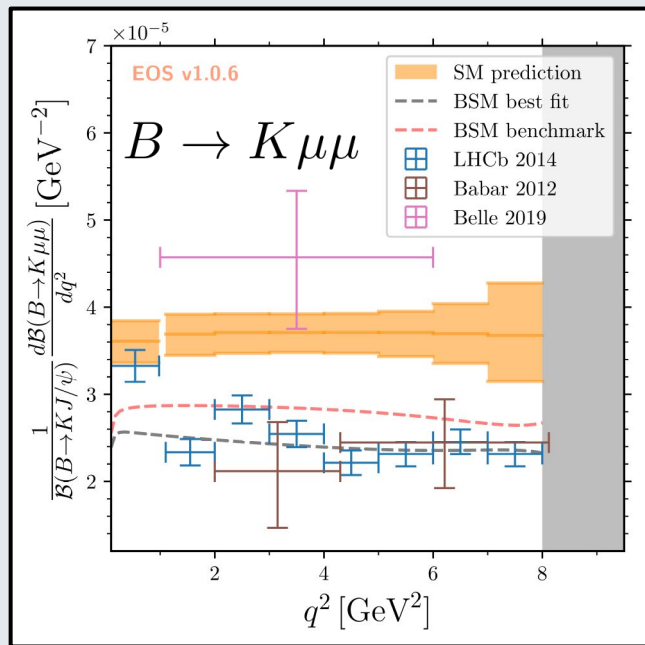
- **Good overall agreement** with previous theoretical approaches
  - Small deviation in the slope of  $B_s \rightarrow \phi\mu\mu$
- **Larger but controlled** uncertainties especially near the  $J/\psi$ 
  - The approach is **systematically improvable** (new channels,  $\psi(2S)$  data...)



# Confrontation with data

- This approach of the non-local form factors **does not solve the “B anomalies”**.
- In this approach, the greatest source of theoretical uncertainty now comes from **local form factors**.

Experimental results:  
[Babar: 1204.3933; Belle: 1908.01848, 1904.02440; ATLAS: 1805.04000, CMS: 1308.3409, 1507.08126, 2010.13968, LHCb: 1403.8044, 2012.13241, 2003.04831, 1606.04731, 2107.13428]



# Local form factors fit

- With this framework we perform a **combined fit** of  $B \rightarrow K$ ,  $B \rightarrow K^*$  and  $B_s \rightarrow \varphi$  LCSR and **lattice QCD** inputs:
  - $B \rightarrow K$ :
    - [HPQCD '13 and '22; FNAL/MILC '17]
    - ([Khodjamiriam, Rusov '17])  $\rightarrow$  large uncertainties, not used in the fit
  - $B \rightarrow K^*$ :
    - [Horgan, Liu, Meinel, Wingate '15]
    - [Gubernari, Kokulu, van Dyk '18] (B-meson LCSR)
  - $B_s \rightarrow \varphi$ :
    - [Horgan, Liu, Meinel, Wingate '15]
    - [Gubernari, van Dyk, Virto '20] (B-meson LCSR)
- Adding  $\Lambda_b \rightarrow \Lambda^{(*)}$  form factors is possible and desirable

# Details on the fit procedure



- The fit is performed in two steps...
  - Preliminary fits:
    - **Local** form factors:
      - BSZ parametrization (**8 + 19 + 19 parameters**)
      - Constrained on LCSR and LQCD calculations
    - **Non-local** form factors:
      - order 5 GRvDV parametrization (**12 + 36 + 36 parameters**)
      - 4 points at negative  $q^2 + B \rightarrow M J/\psi$  data
  - **130 nuisance parameters**
  - ‘Proof of concept’ fit to the WET’s **Wilson coefficients**
- ... using **EOS**: [eos.github.io](https://eos.github.io)

- A combined BSM analysis would be **very CPU expensive** (130 correlated, non-Gaussian, nuisance parameters!)
- Fit **separately**  $C_9$  and  $C_{10}$  for the three channels:
  - $B \rightarrow K\mu^+\mu^- + B_s \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$
  - $B \rightarrow K^*\mu^+\mu^-$
  - $B_s \rightarrow \phi\mu^+\mu^-$

