

Status and prospects of the first-row CKM unitarity test

Martin Hoferichter

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b
UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

AEC
ALBERT EINSTEIN CENTER
FOR FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS

Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics,
Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Bern

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Rare Pion Decay Workshop

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Benchmarks numbers for CKM tests from PDG 12 CKM Quark-Mixing Matrix

first row: $|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 0.9985(5)$

second row: $|V_{cd}|^2 + |V_{cs}|^2 + |V_{cb}|^2 = 1.025(22)$

first column: $|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{cd}|^2 + |V_{td}|^2 = 0.9970(18)$

second column: $|V_{us}|^2 + |V_{cs}|^2 + |V_{ts}|^2 = 1.026(22)$

• First-row unitarity test

- Testing consistency of V_{ud} and V_{us} at precision of a few times 10^{-4}
- $|V_{ub}|^2 \simeq 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$
- Deficit of $(2-3)\sigma$ (also deficit in first-column test, but less sensitive)
- Second row/column more than an order of magnitude away; third row/column $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^4)$

• This talk:

- Review inputs to first-row test, focus on uncertainties
- Discuss prospects for improvements
- Explain why we like pion β decay

Determination of V_{ud} from superallowed β decays

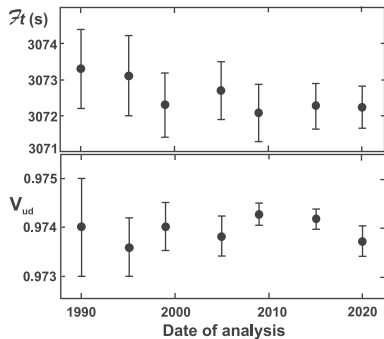
- Master formula [Hardy, Towner 2018](#)

$$|V_{ud}|^2 = \frac{2984.432(3) \text{ s}}{\mathcal{F}t(1 + \Delta_R^V)}$$

with (universal) radiative corrections Δ_R^V

- Value of V_{ud} crucially depends on Δ_R^V :

Ref.	Δ_R^V
Marciano, Sirlin 2006	0.02361(38)
Seng, Gorchtein, Patel, Ramsey-Musolf 2018	0.02467(22)
Czarnecki, Marciano, Sirlin 2019	0.02426(32)
Seng, Feng, Gorchtein, Jin 2020	0.02477(24)
Hayen 2020	0.02474(31)
Shiells, Blunden, Melnitchouk 2021	0.02472(18)
Cirigliano, Crivellin, MH, Moulson 2022	0.02467(27)



[Hardy, Towner 2020](#)

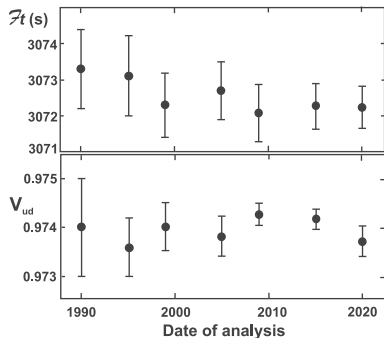
↔ main uncertainty from Regge region,
lattice QCD to improve?

Determination of V_{ud} from superallowed β decays

- Further corrections
 - Isospin breaking [Miller, Schwenk 2008, 2009, Condren, Miller 2022, Seng, Gorchtein 2022, Crawford, Miller 2022](#)
 - Nuclear corrections [Seng, Gorchtein, Ramsey-Musolf 2018, Gorchtein 2018](#)
- Estimate from [Gorchtein 2018](#) becomes dominant source of uncertainty

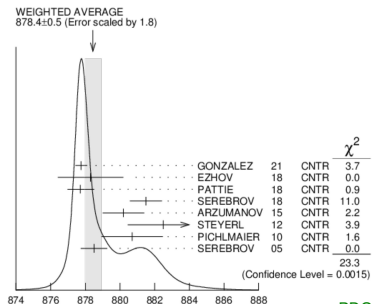
$$V_{ud}^{0^+ \rightarrow 0^+} = 0.97367(11)_{\text{exp}(13)} \Delta_{\beta}^{\beta}(27)_{\text{NS}} [32]_{\text{total}}$$

- Improvements from ab-initio nuclear structure? [Martin, Stroberg, Holt, Leach 2021](#)

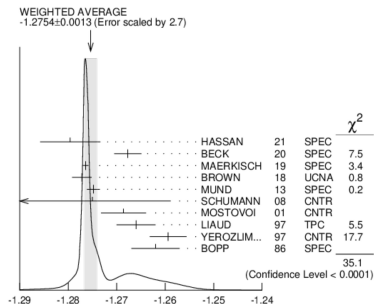


Hardy, Towner 2020

Determination of V_{ud} from neutron decay



PDG 2022



- Master formula [Czarnecki, Marciano, Sirlin 2018](#)

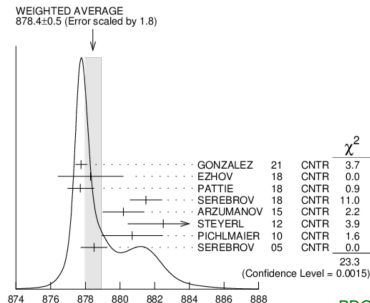
$$|V_{ud}|^2 \tau_n (1 + 3g_A^2)(1 + \Delta_{RC}) = 5099.3(3) \text{ s}$$

with radiative corrections Δ_{RC}

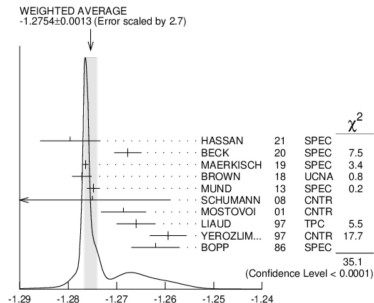
↔ need lifetime τ_n and asymmetry $\lambda = g_A/g_V$

- PDG average especially for g_A includes large scale factors

Determination of V_{ud} from neutron decay



PDG 2022



• Results for V_{ud}

$$V_{ud}^{n, \text{PDG}} = 0.97441(3)_f(13)_{\Delta_R(82)}\lambda(28)_{\tau_n[88]}_{\text{total}}$$

$$V_{ud}^{n, \text{best}} = 0.97413(3)_f(13)_{\Delta_R(35)}\lambda(20)_{\tau_n[43]}_{\text{total}}$$

↪ average of $V_{ud}^{0^+ \rightarrow 0^+}$ with $V_{ud}^{n, \text{best}}$ gives $V_{ud}^\beta = 0.97384(26)$

• Need improved measurements especially for g_A to make progress

Determination of V_{ud} from pion β decay

- Master formula Cirigliano, Knecht, Neufeld, Pichl 2003, Czarnecki, Marciano, Sirlin 2020, Feng et al. 2020

$$\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e(\gamma)) = \frac{G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2 M_{\pi^\pm}^5 |f_+^\pi(0)|^2}{64\pi^3} (1 + \Delta_{RC}^{\pi\ell}) I_{\pi\ell}$$

↔ need branching fraction and pion life time from experiment

- (Theory) inputs

- Phase space $I_{\pi\ell} = 7.3766(43) \times 10^{-8}$
- Form factor $f_+^\pi(0) = 1 - 7 \times 10^{-6}$
 - ↔ protected by $SU(2)$ Ademollo–Gatto theorem (Behrends–Sirlin)
- Radiative corrections $\Delta_{RC}^{\pi\ell} = 0.0334(10)$ ChPT, Cirigliano et al., $\Delta_{RC}^{\pi\ell} = 0.0332(3)$ lattice QCD, Feng et al.

- Resulting V_{ud} extracted from PIBETA 2004

$$V_{ud}^{\pi, \text{ChPT}} = 0.97376(281)_{\text{BR}}(9)_{\tau\pi}(47)_{\Delta_{RC}^{\pi\ell}}(28)_{I_{\pi\ell}}[287]_{\text{total}}$$

$$V_{ud}^{\pi, \text{lattice}} = 0.97386(281)_{\text{BR}}(9)_{\tau\pi}(14)_{\Delta_{RC}^{\pi\ell}}(28)_{I_{\pi\ell}}[283]_{\text{total}}$$

↔ factor 10 possible before other errors creep in (same as for $R_{e/\mu}$)

Determination of V_{us}/V_{ud} from kaon decays: $K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}$

- **$K_{\ell 2}$ decays:** $K \rightarrow \ell \nu_{\ell}$

$$\frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} \frac{F_K}{F_{\pi}} = \left(\frac{\Gamma(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_{\mu}(\gamma) M_{\pi})}{\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_{\mu}(\gamma) M_K)} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1 - \frac{m_{\mu}^2}{M_{\pi}^2}}{1 - \frac{m_{\mu}^2}{M_K^2}} \left(1 - \underbrace{\frac{\Delta_{RC}^K - \Delta_{RC}^{\pi}}{2}}_{\Delta_{RC}^{K\pi}/2} \right)$$

- Consider the ratio over $\pi_{\mu 2}$ because
 - Only need ratio of decay constant
 - Certain structure-dependent radiative corrections cancel
- Need theory input for:
 - **Decay constants** in isospin limit: $F_K/F_{\pi} = 1.1978(22)$ HPQCD 2013, Fermilab/MILC 2017, CalLat 2020, ETMC 2021
 - **Isospin-breaking corrections:** $\Delta_{RC}^{K\pi} = -0.0112(21)$ ChPT, Cirigliano, Neufeld 2011, $\Delta_{RC}^{K\pi} = -0.0126(14)$ lattice, Di Carlo et al. 2019
- Result:

$$\frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} \Big|_{K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}} = 0.23108(23)_{\text{exp}} (42)_{F_K/F_{\pi}} (16)_{\text{IB}} [51]_{\text{total}}$$

Determination of V_{US} from kaon decays: $K_{\ell 3}$

- **$K_{\ell 3}$ decays:** $K \rightarrow \pi \ell \nu_\ell$

$$\Gamma(K \rightarrow \pi \ell \nu_\ell(\gamma)) = \frac{C_K^2 G_F^2 |V_{us}|^2 M_K^5 |f_+^{K\pi}(0)|^2}{192\pi^3} \left(1 + \underbrace{\Delta_{RC}^{K\ell}}_{\Delta_{EM}^{K\ell} + \Delta_{SU(2)}} \right) I_{K\ell}$$

$\hookrightarrow \ell = \mu, e$ and two charge channels

- Need theory input for:
 - **Form factor:** $f_+^{K\pi}(0) = 0.9698(17)$ ETMC 2016, Fermilab/MILC 2019
 - **Radiative corrections:** $\Delta_{SU(2)} = 0.0252(11)$ Cirigliano et al. 2002, $\Delta_{EM}^{K^0 e} = 0.0116(3)$,
 $\Delta_{EM}^{K^+ e} = 0.0021(5)$, $\Delta_{EM}^{K^0 \mu} = 0.0154(4)$, $\Delta_{EM}^{K^+ \mu} = 0.0005(5)$ Seng et al. 2022
- Result:

$$V_{US}^{K_{\ell 3}} = 0.22330(35)_{\text{exp}}(39)_{f_+}(8)_{\text{IB}}[53]_{\text{total}}$$

Tensions in the $V_{ud}-V_{us}$ plane

- Global-fit point away from unitarity line

$$(\Delta_{\text{CKM}} = |V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 - 1)$$

$$V_{ud} = 0.97378(26) \quad V_{us} = 0.22422(36)$$

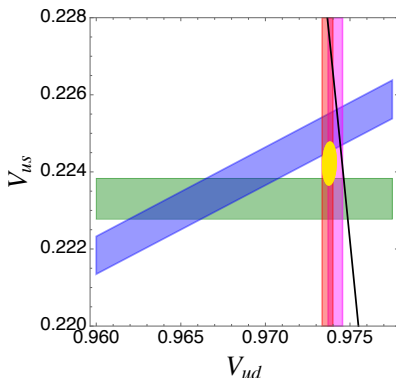
$$\Delta_{\text{CKM}} = -1.48(53) \times 10^{-3} \quad [2.8\sigma]$$

- Three possible measures of the CKM tension

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(1)} &= |V_{ud}^\beta|^2 + |V_{us}^{K_{\ell 3}}|^2 - 1 \\ &= -1.76(56) \times 10^{-3} \quad [3.1\sigma] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(2)} &= |V_{ud}^\beta|^2 + |V_{us}^{K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}, \beta}|^2 - 1 \\ &= -0.98(58) \times 10^{-3} \quad [1.7\sigma] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(3)} &= |V_{ud}^{K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}, K_{\ell 3}}|^2 + |V_{us}^{K_{\ell 3}}|^2 - 1 \\ &= -1.64(63) \times 10^{-2} \quad [2.6\sigma] \end{aligned}$$



Cirigliano, Crivellin, MH, Moulson 2022

↔ already tension in kaon sector alone 2.6σ

What can we do to clarify the situation?

- Corroborating V_{ud}
 - Nuclear-structure corrections for superallowed β decays
 - Improved neutron-decay measurements (g_A, τ_n)
 - **Pion β decay**
- Corroborating V_{us}
 - Improved lattice calculations of F_K/F_π
 - **A new measurement of $K_{\mu 3}/K_{\mu 2}$**
 - τ and hyperon decays sensitive to V_{us} , but feasible at the relevant level of accuracy?

A new measurement of $K_{\mu 3}/K_{\mu 2}$, why?

	current fit	$K_{\mu 3}/K_{\mu 2}$ BR at 0.5%			$K_{\mu 3}/K_{\mu 2}$ BR at 0.2%		
		central	+2 σ	-2 σ	central	+2 σ	-2 σ
$\frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} \Big _{K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2}}$	0.23108(51)	0.23108(50)	0.23085(51)	0.23133(51)	0.23108(49)	0.23071(51)	0.23147(52)
$\frac{V_{us}^{K_{\ell 3}}}{V_{us}^{K_{\ell 2}}}$	0.22330(53)	0.22337(51)	0.22360(52)	0.22309(54)	0.22342(49)	0.22386(52)	0.22287(52)
$10^2 \Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(3)}$	-1.64(63)	-1.57(60)	-1.18(62)	-2.02(63)	-1.53(59)	-0.83(62)	-2.33(62)
	-2.6 σ	-2.6 σ	-1.9 σ	-3.2 σ	-2.6 σ	-1.4 σ	-3.8 σ

- Is the $K_{\ell 3}$ vs. $K_{\ell 2}$ tension real or an experimental problem?
 - $K_{\ell 2}$ data base completely dominated by **KLOE 2006**
 - Global fit to kaon data not great, p -value $\simeq 1\%$
- This can be clarified with **a new precision measurement of $K_{\mu 3}/K_{\mu 2}$** :
 - In case the tension were of experimental origin, there should be a positive shift compared to current fit
 - $\hookrightarrow \Delta_{\text{CKM}}^{(3)}$ would move from -2.6σ to -1.4σ for a $+2\sigma$ shift with a 0.2% measurement
 - In case the tension were of BSM origin, the current value would be confirmed (or move further in the other direction)

\hookrightarrow **a single new precision measurement would have a huge impact!**

- For $K_{\ell 2}$ and $\pi_{\ell 2}$ decays one uses the ratio

$$R_A = \frac{\Gamma(K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu(\gamma))} = \left(\frac{V_{us}}{V_{ud}} \frac{F_K}{F_\pi} \right)^2 \frac{M_K}{M_\pi} \left(\frac{1 - \frac{m_\mu^2}{M_K^2}}{1 - \frac{m_\mu^2}{M_\pi^2}} \right)^2 \left(1 + \Delta_{RC}^K - \Delta_{RC}^\pi \right)$$

to cancel uncertainties and extract V_{us}/V_{ud}

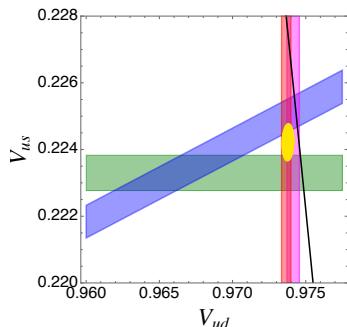
- Can do the same for $K_{\ell 3}$ and $\pi_{\ell 3}$ [Czarnecki, Marciano, Sirlin 2020](#)

$$R_V = \frac{\Gamma(K \rightarrow \pi \ell \nu_\ell(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e(\gamma))}$$

- Need a factor 2–3 to obtain a competitive value of V_{us}/V_{ud} , first goal for PIONEER
- Caveats: contrary to R_A no cancellation of structure-dependent radiative corrections nor gains in form-factor determination
↪ **need factor 10 of Phase III to unleash full potential**

Conclusions

- Tensions among β decays and kaon decays point to the **apparent violation of CKM unitarity**
- Tension at the level of $(2-3)\sigma$
 \hookrightarrow more work needed to corroborate or resolve
- **Pion β decay** clean, competitive probe of V_{ud} if branching fraction improved by a factor 10
- One order of magnitude to go before other errors become relevant, next one from M_{π^0} , not theory!
- **New precision measurement of $K_{\mu 3}/K_{\mu 2}$** to clarify situation in kaon sector
- Possible BSM interpretations of it all next talk by A. Crivellin



- Generalize master formula to include **effective operators** not present in SM

$$\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e(\gamma)) = \frac{G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2}{192\pi^3 M_\pi^3} (1 + \Delta_{RC}^{\pi\ell}) \int_{m_e^2}^{(M_\pi - M_{\pi^0})^2} ds \lambda^{3/2}(s) \left(1 + \frac{m_e^2}{2s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{m_e^2}{s}\right)^2$$

$$\times \left[|V(s)|^2 + |A(s)|^2 + \frac{4(s - m_e^2)^2}{9sm_e^2} |T(s)|^2 + \frac{3m_e^2(M_\pi^2 - M_{\pi^0}^2)^2}{(2s + m_e^2)\lambda(s)} (|S(s)|^2 + |P(s)|^2) \right]$$

with $V(s)$, $A(s)$, ... depending on Wilson coefficients C_V , C_A , ...

- Tensor:** $T(s) = \frac{3s}{2s+m_e^2} \frac{m_e}{M_\pi} C_T B_T^\pi(s)$
 \hookrightarrow suppressed by electron mass and tensor form factor
- Scalar:** more competitive constraints, but still not at the same level as other β decays [Falkowski, Gonzáles-Alonso, Naviliat-Cuncic 2020](#)

V_{ud} tension as a sign for the violation of lepton flavor universality?

- Let us parameterize the **W couplings** as $\mathcal{L} = -i\frac{g_2}{\sqrt{2}}\bar{\ell}_i\gamma^\mu P_L\nu_j W_\mu(\delta_{ij} + \epsilon_{ij})$
- Modifies Fermi constant in **muon decay**

$$\frac{1}{\tau_\mu} = \frac{(G_F^\mathcal{L})^2 m_\mu^5}{192\pi^3} (1 + \Delta q)(1 + \epsilon_{ee} + \epsilon_{\mu\mu})^2$$

\hookrightarrow measured Fermi constant $G_F = G_F^\mathcal{L}(1 + \epsilon_{ee} + \epsilon_{\mu\mu})$

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\hookrightarrow measured Fermi constant $G_F = G_F^{\mathcal{L}}(1 + \epsilon_{ee} + \epsilon_{\mu\mu})$

- All β -decay observables affected according to

$$V_{ud} \rightarrow V_{ud}^\beta = V_{ud}^{\mathcal{L}}(1 - \epsilon_{\mu\mu})$$

where $V_{ij}^{\mathcal{L}}$ fulfill CKM unitarity

- Construct ratio [Crivellin, MH 2020](#)

$$R(V_{us}) \equiv \frac{V_{us}^{K_{\mu 2}}}{V_{us}^\beta} \equiv \frac{V_{us}^{K_{\mu 2}}}{\sqrt{1 - (V_{ud}^\beta)^2 - |V_{ub}|^2}} = 1 - \left(\frac{V_{ud}}{V_{us}}\right)^2 \epsilon_{\mu\mu} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$$

\hookrightarrow LFUV effect enhanced by $(V_{ud}/V_{us})^2 \sim 20!$

V_{ud} tension as a sign for the violation of lepton flavor universality?

Observable	Measurement	Constraint $\times 10^3$
$\frac{K \rightarrow \pi \mu \bar{\nu}}{K \rightarrow \pi e \bar{\nu}} \simeq 1 + \varepsilon_{\mu\mu} - \varepsilon_{ee}$	1.0010(25)	1.0(2.5)
$\frac{K \rightarrow \mu \nu}{K \rightarrow e \nu} \simeq 1 + \varepsilon_{\mu\mu} - \varepsilon_{ee}$	0.9978(18)	-2.2(1.8)
$\frac{\pi \rightarrow \mu \nu}{\pi \rightarrow e \nu} \simeq 1 + \varepsilon_{\mu\mu} - \varepsilon_{ee}$	1.0010(9)	1.0(9)
$\frac{T \rightarrow \mu \nu \bar{\nu}}{T \rightarrow e \nu \bar{\nu}} \simeq 1 + \varepsilon_{\mu\mu} - \varepsilon_{ee}$	1.0018(14)	1.8(1.4)
$\frac{W \rightarrow \mu \bar{\nu}}{W \rightarrow e \bar{\nu}} \simeq 1 + \varepsilon_{\mu\mu} - \varepsilon_{ee}$	0.9960(100)	-4(10)
$\frac{B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \mu \nu}{B \rightarrow D^{(*)} e \nu} \simeq 1 + \varepsilon_{\mu\mu} - \varepsilon_{ee}$	0.9890(120)	-11(12)
$R(V_{us}) \simeq 1 - \left(\frac{V_{ud}}{V_{us}}\right)^2 \varepsilon_{\mu\mu}$	0.9891(33) (SGPR)	0.58(17)
	0.9927(39) (CMS)	0.39(21)

- Most stringent constraint on $\varepsilon_{\mu\mu}$ thanks to **CKM enhancement**
- Could explain tension between β decays and kaon decays, but not between $K_{\ell 2}$ and $K_{\ell 3}$ (right-handed currents?)
- Best constraint on $\varepsilon_{\mu\mu} - \varepsilon_{ee}$ from

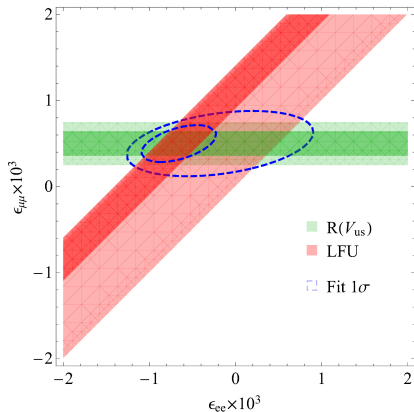
$$R_{e/\mu}^{\pi} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow e \nu_e(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow \mu \nu_{\mu}(\gamma))}$$

Projections in $\epsilon_{ee}-\epsilon_{\mu\mu}$ plane

- Potential improvements for $R(V_{us})$
 - Radiative corrections for β decays
 - Improved measurements of τ_n and g_A
 - New data on $K_{\ell 3}$ decays

↪ assumed $\sqrt{2}$ due to neutron decay
- Potential improvements for $\epsilon_{\mu\mu} - \epsilon_{ee}$
 - **Factor 3 from PEN/PIENU**
 - Factor 3 for τ decays from Belle II

↪ would probe ϵ_{ee} below $\mathcal{O}(10^{-3})$



Crivellin, MH 2020