



Branching fractions and CP asymmetries in charm meson decays

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Outline

- Overview
- Two-body D decays: decay rates
- Two-body D decays: CP asymmetries
- Summary and outlook

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Overview

- Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix:

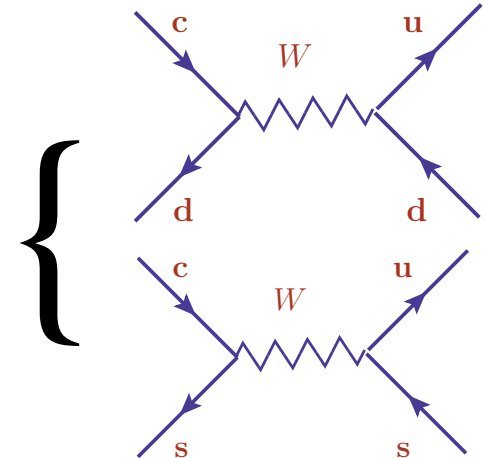
$$\begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \frac{\lambda^2}{2} & \lambda & A\lambda^3(\rho - i\eta) \\ -\lambda & 1 - \frac{\lambda^2}{2} & A\lambda^2 \\ A\lambda^3(1 - \rho - i\eta) & -A\lambda^2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

with Wolfenstein parameters λ, A, ρ, η .

- Charm decays involve the red and blue parameters and
 - have no stakes in Standard-Model CKM metrology,
 - but have a unique role to probe new physics in the flavor sector of up-type quarks.

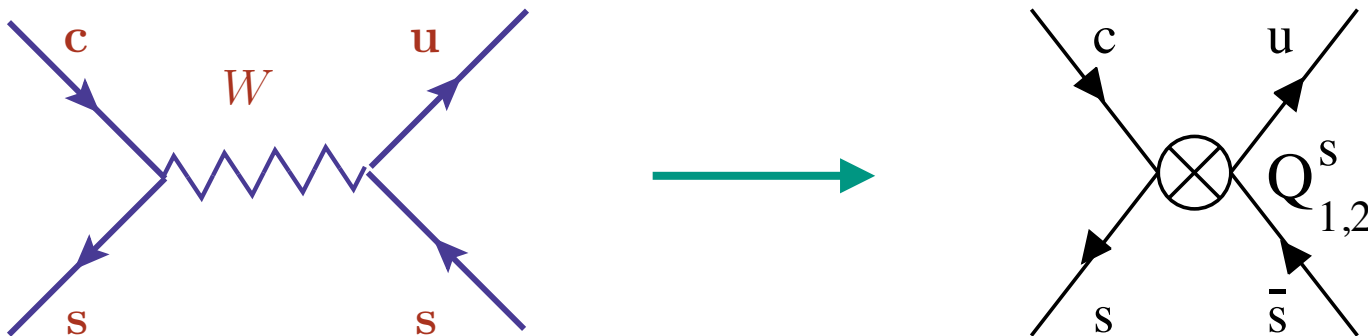
Overview

- I discuss decays of D^0, D^+, D_s^+ mesons into two pseudoscalar mesons or a pseudoscalar and a vector meson, $D \rightarrow PP'$ or $D \rightarrow PV$.
- All these decays are dominated by a W -mediated tree amplitude, categorised by the power of the Wolfenstein parameter $\lambda \simeq |V_{us}| = 0.225$.
- Cabibbo-favoured (CF), $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^0)$: $c \rightarrow s\bar{d}u$
- Singly Cabibbo-suppressed, $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^1)$:
 $c \rightarrow d\bar{d}u$ or $c \rightarrow s\bar{s}u$
- Doubly Cabibbo-suppressed, $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^2)$:
 $c \rightarrow d\bar{s}u$



Overview

- W -mediated interactions are described by local four-quark interactions à la Fermi theory:



Overview

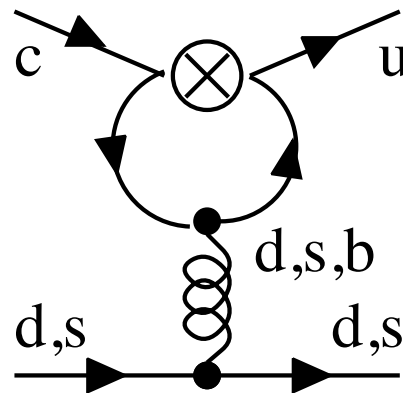
■ Branching fractions in $D \rightarrow PP'$ or $D \rightarrow PV$ decays are insensitive to new physics and “bread and butter” physics to test the calculational tools and check the data for consistency.

■ CP asymmetries are tiny in the Standard Model and very sensitive to new physics. SCS decays involve

$$\lambda_d = V_{cd}^* V_{ud}, \quad \lambda_s = V_{cs}^* V_{us}, \quad \lambda_b = V_{cb}^* V_{ub}$$

and $|\lambda_d| \simeq |\lambda_s| \gg |\lambda_b|$. Use $\lambda_d = -\lambda_s - \lambda_b$ to find all SM CP asymmetries proportional to

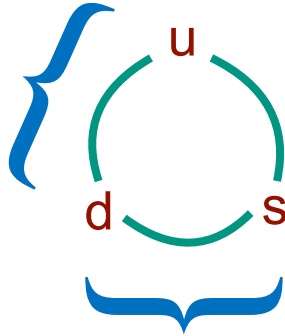
$$\text{Im} \frac{\lambda_b}{\lambda_s} = -6 \cdot 10^{-4}.$$



$SU(3)_F$ symmetry

Isospin:
unitary rotations

of $\begin{pmatrix} u \\ d \end{pmatrix}$



U-spin:
unitary rotations

of $\begin{pmatrix} s \\ d \end{pmatrix}$

Theorists love symmetries!

$SU(3)_F$: unitary rotations of $\begin{pmatrix} u \\ d \\ s \end{pmatrix}$

Useful because **s** and **d** have same charge, **U-spin** connects e.g. K^+ with π^+ .
Only approximate symmetry of QCD, because $m_s \neq m_d$.

Two-body D decays: decay rates

- Global $SU(3)_F$ analyses of $D \rightarrow PP'$ or $D \rightarrow PV$ branching fractions, where $D = D^0, D^+, D_s^+$, have a long tradition. It is possible to include linear $SU(3)_F$ breaking to reduce the intrinsic uncertainty from $\mathcal{O}(30\%)$ to $\mathcal{O}(10\%)$ in some cases. [Gronau 1995](#), [Grossman, Robinson 2012](#), [Müller, UN, Schacht 2015](#).
- Final states with η or η' meson are usually treated with a mixing angle

$$|\eta_8\rangle = |\eta\rangle \cos \theta + |\eta'\rangle \sin \theta \quad \longleftarrow \quad SU(3)_F \text{ octet state}$$

$$|\eta_1\rangle = -|\eta\rangle \sin \theta + |\eta'\rangle \cos \theta \quad \longleftarrow \quad SU(3)_F \text{ singlet state}$$

η - η' mixing angle

- The η - η' mixing angle θ vanishes in the limit of exact $SU(3)_F$ symmetry.
- It is not possible to define a universal mixing angle θ such that
$$\langle \eta \dots | \dots | \dots \rangle = \langle \eta_8 \dots | \dots | \dots \rangle \cos \theta - \langle \eta_1 \dots | \dots | \dots \rangle \sin \theta.$$
Leutwyler 1997, Feldmann, Kroll and Stech 1998

η - η' mixing angle

- In D decays: Cannot relate final states with η' to those with η :

$$\langle P_\eta | H | D \rangle = \cos \theta \langle P_{\eta_8} H | D \rangle - \sin \theta \langle P_{\eta_1} | H | D \rangle$$

$$\langle P_{\eta'} | H | D \rangle = \sin \theta \langle P_{\eta_8} H | D \rangle' + \cos \theta \langle P_{\eta_1} | H | D \rangle'$$

Matrix elements are three-point functions and depend on kinematic variables. But $p_\eta \neq p_{\eta'}$, because $M_\eta \neq M_{\eta'}$. Thus

$$\langle P_{\eta_8} | H | D \rangle' \neq \langle P_{\eta_8} H | D \rangle$$

$$\langle P_{\eta_1} | H | D \rangle' \neq \langle P_{\eta_1} H | D \rangle$$

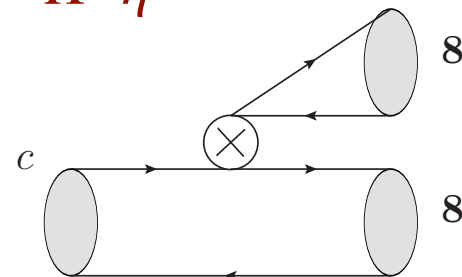
Global fit for $D \rightarrow P\eta'$

Still possible: Global fit to branching ratios of

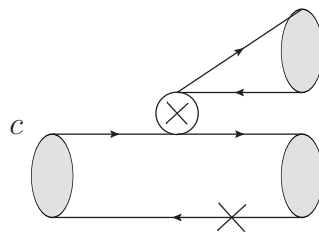
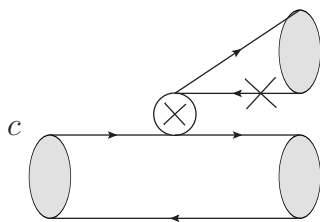
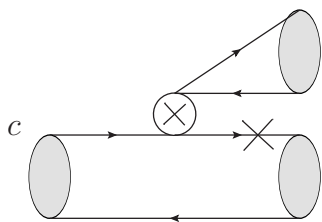
$$D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\eta', D^0 \rightarrow \eta\eta', D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\eta', D_s^+ \rightarrow K^+\eta',$$

$$D^0 \rightarrow \bar{K}^0\eta', D_s^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\eta', D^0 \rightarrow K^0\eta', D^+ \rightarrow K^+\eta'$$

■ Topological amplitudes: $SU(3)_F$ limit: E.g.



■ Linear ~~$SU(3)_F$~~ breaking: E.g.



Cross: s -quark line

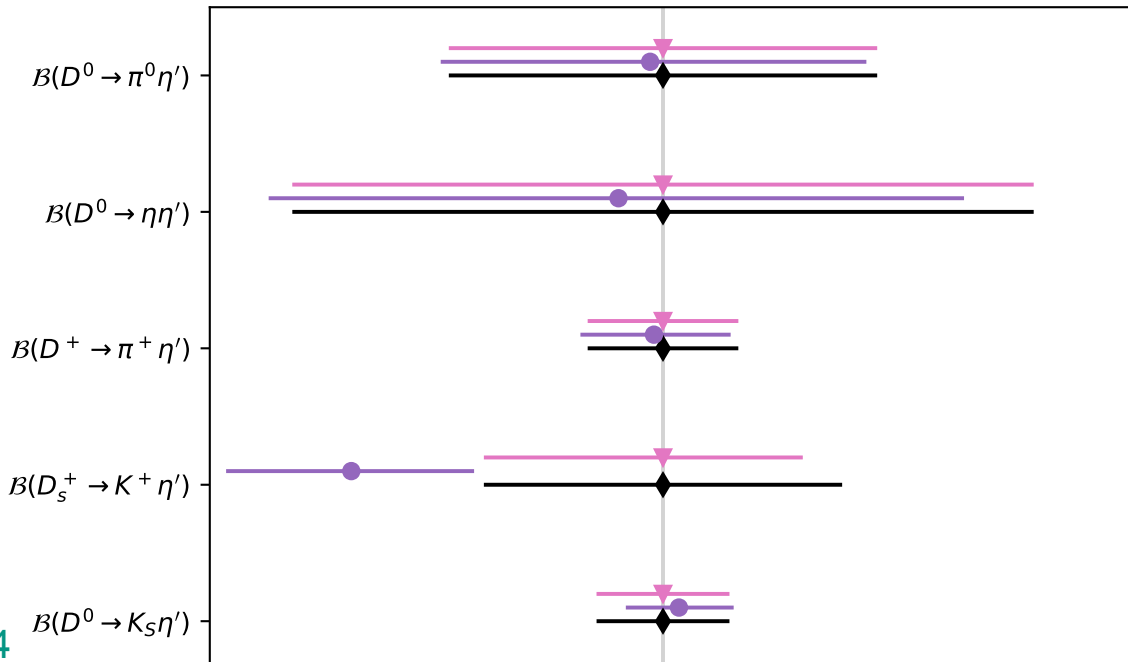
Global fit for $D \rightarrow P\eta'$

Results:

The global fit is consistent with $\leq 30\%$ $SU(3)_F$ breaking in the amplitudes.

The fit predicts the branching fractions of $D_s^+ \rightarrow K^+\eta'$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^+\eta'$ by 1σ too low and too high, respectively.

The $SU(3)_F$ limit is ruled out by 5.6σ . Bolognani, UN, Schacht, Vos 2024



Two-body D decays: CP asymmetries

decay amplitude

Recall: $\lambda_j = V_{cj}^* V_{uj}$

Commonly used: $\mathcal{A}^{\text{SCS}} \equiv \lambda_{sd} A_{sd} - \frac{\lambda_b}{2} A_b$

More commonly used:

"tree" $\simeq A_{sd}$

with $\lambda_{sd} = \frac{\lambda_s - \lambda_d}{2} \simeq \lambda_s$ and $-\frac{\lambda_b}{2} = \frac{\lambda_s + \lambda_d}{2}$.

"penguin" $\simeq -\frac{A_b}{2}$

U-spin triplet

U-spin singlet

Direct CP violation stems from the interference of A_b with A_{sd} .

March 21, 2019:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta a_{CP} &\equiv a_{CP}^{\text{dir}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-) \\ &\quad - a_{CP}^{\text{dir}}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-) \\ &= (-15.4 \pm 2.9) \cdot 10^{-4}\end{aligned}$$

discovery of CP violation in charm decays

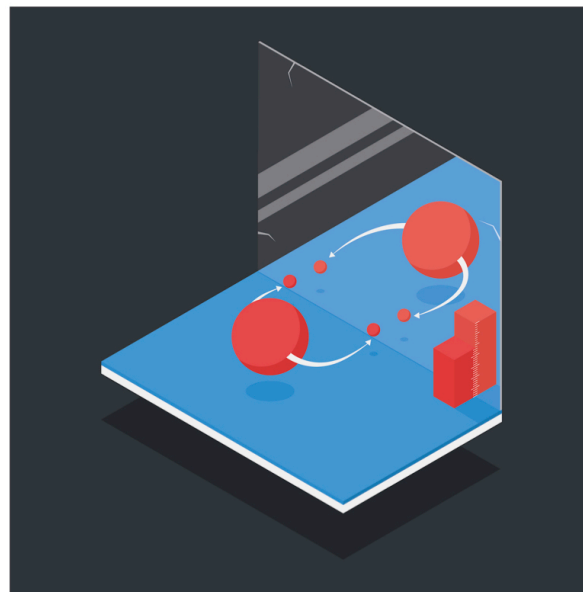
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LHCb sees a new flavour of matter-antimatter asymmetry

The LHCb collaboration has observed a phenomenon known as CP violation in the decays of a particle known as a D0 meson for the first time

21 MARCH, 2019




Direct CP asymmetries

$$a_{CP}^{\text{dir}} = \text{Im} \frac{\lambda_b}{\lambda_{sd}} \text{Im} \frac{A_b}{A_{sd}}$$

Recall $\mathcal{A}^{\text{SCS}} \equiv \lambda_{sd} A_{sd} - \frac{\lambda_b}{2} A_b$

tree penguin



For U-spin limit $m_s = m_d$:

$$A_b(D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-) = A_b(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$$

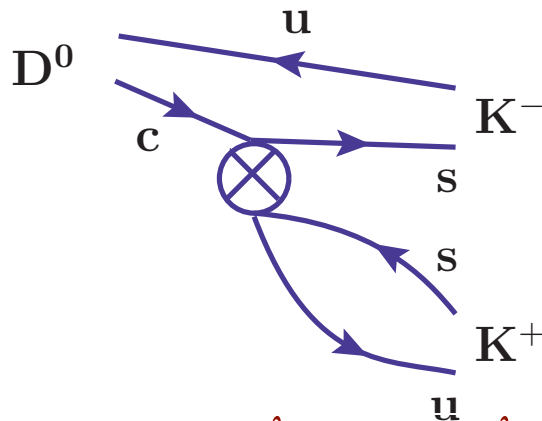
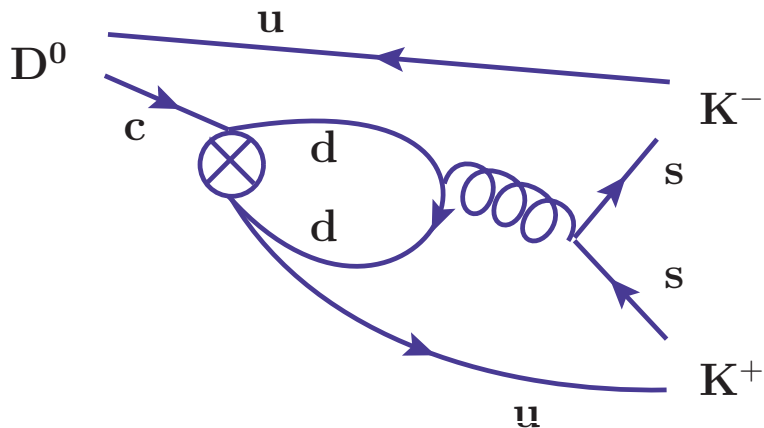
and

$$A_{sd}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-) = -A_{sd}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-),$$

so that $\Delta a_{CP} = 2a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-) = -2a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$.

CP asymmetry in $D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-$

Interference of A_b with A_{sd} :



The penguin diagram involves $\lambda_d = -\lambda_s - \lambda_b$ and $a_{CP} \propto \text{Im} \frac{\lambda_d}{\lambda_s} = -\text{Im} \frac{\lambda_b}{\lambda_s}$.

Its absorptive part leads to $\text{Im} \frac{A_b}{A_{sd}} \neq 0$.

Theory always at your service

The theory community has delivered a **perfect service** to the experimental colleagues:

Every measurement hinting at some non-zero CP asymmetry was **successfully postdicted** offering interpretations both

- within the Standard Model
and
- as evidence for **new physics!**

And we are not stubborn at all: **“New data — new opinions!”**



Δa_{CP}

LHCb 2019: $\Delta a_{CP} = (-15.4 \pm 2.9) \cdot 10^{-4}$

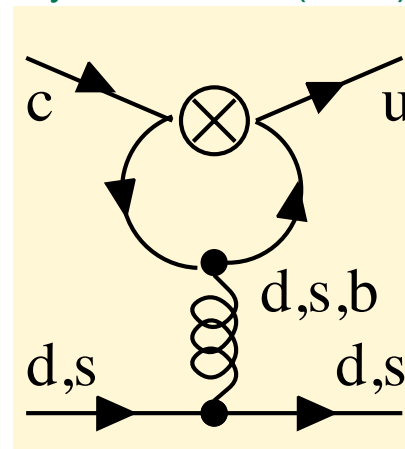
Prediction using QCD sum rules: $|\Delta a_{CP}| \leq (2.0 \pm 0.3) \cdot 10^{-4}$

A. Khodjamirian, A. Petrov, Phys.Lett. B774 (2017) 235

Difference by a factor of 7.

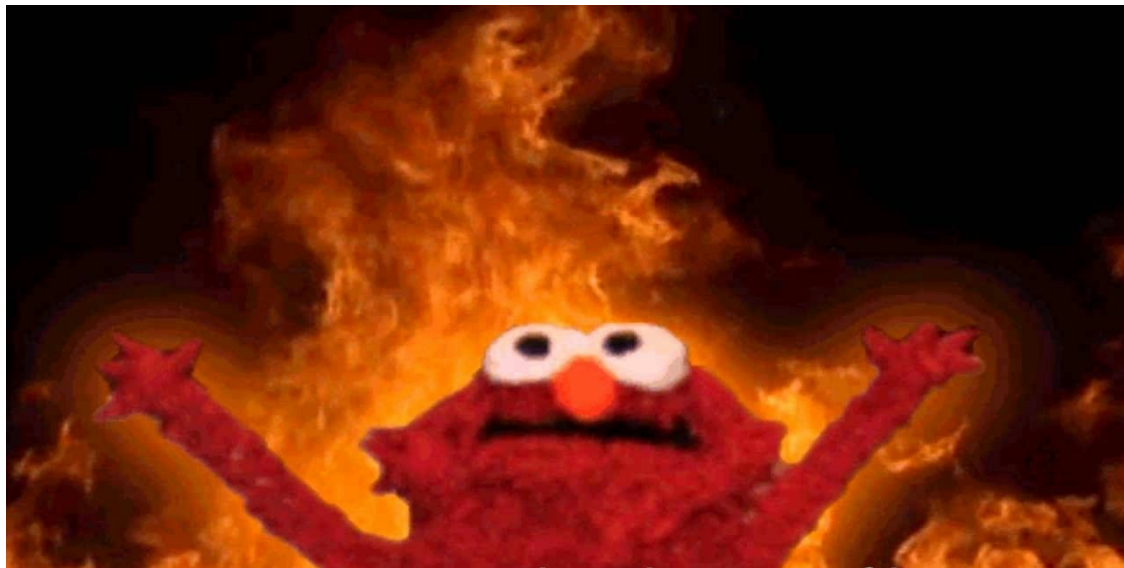
New physics?

Or poorly understood QCD dynamics enhancing the penguin contribution?



Long-distance QCD

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“I summon the spirits of long-distance enhancement”

Two-body D decays: CP asymmetries

■ LHCb 2019: $\Delta a_{CP} = (-15.4 \pm 2.9) \cdot 10^{-4}$

■ U-spin symmetry prediction:

$$a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-) \approx -a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$$

Bah, everone knows that penguins are **enhanced!**

And $SU(3)_F$ works!



Two-body D decays: CP asymmetries

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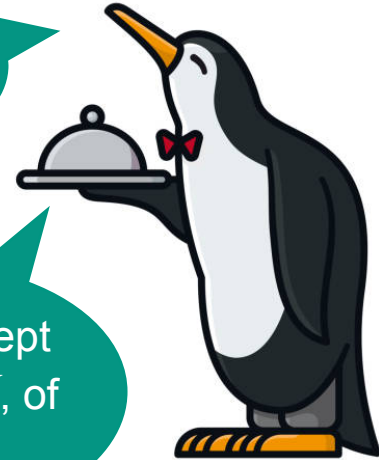
■ LHCb 2022:

$$a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-) = (7.7 \pm 5.7) \cdot 10^{-4}$$
$$\Rightarrow a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-) = (23.1 \pm 6.1) \cdot 10^{-4}$$

Bah, everone knows that penguins are **enhanced!**

And $SU(3)_F$ works!

Ups....except for $D \rightarrow KK$, of course!



2022: $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-)$

LHCb 2022: $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-) = (7.7 \pm 5.7) \cdot 10^{-4}$.

Thus Δa_{CP} implies $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-) = (23.1 \pm 6.1) \cdot 10^{-4}$.

- $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-)$ complies with the calculation of Khodjamirian and Petrov.
- For approximate U-spin limit $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-) \approx -a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-)$ to work, with future data $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-)$ must flip sign.
- Will future data decrease $|\Delta a_{CP}|$ and will the 5σ discovery eventually go away?
- Or did LHCb discover **new physics** in 2019?

New physics

New physics amplitude interfering with Standard-Model (SM) tree amplitude:

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{SCS}} \equiv \lambda_{sd} A_{sd} + a A_{\text{NP}}$$

with complex coupling a ,

neglecting SM penguin.

$$a_{\text{CP}}^{\text{dir}} = -2 \text{Im} \frac{a}{\lambda_{sd}} \text{Im} \frac{A_{\text{NP}}}{A_{sd}}$$

Two generic scenarios:

A_{NP} is $\Delta U = 0$ amplitude 

indistinguishable from large SM penguin amplitude

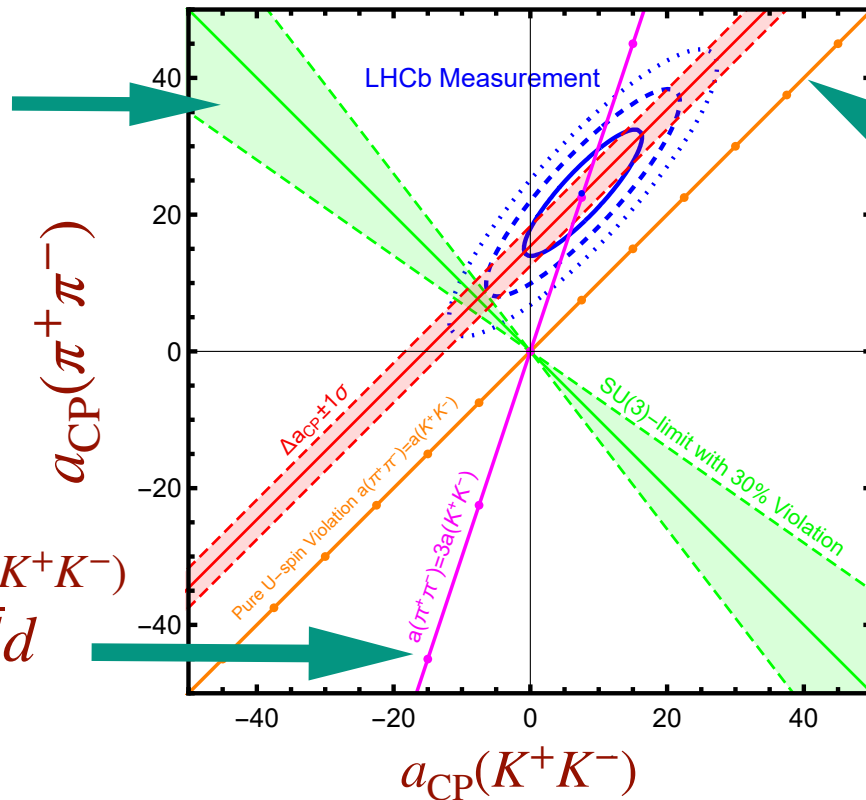
A_{NP} is $\Delta U = 1$ amplitude 

same sign of $a_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-)$
and $a_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$

$a_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$ vs. $a_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-)$

green wedge:
 $\Delta U = 0$ with
 30% U-spin
 breaking

$a_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-) = 3a_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-)$
 inspired by NP in $c \rightarrow u\bar{d}\bar{d}$



$\Delta U = 1$
 NP only

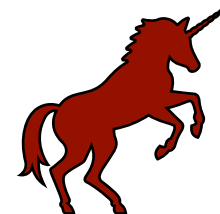
Iguro, UN, Overduin,
 Schüssler, 2024

What if?

- If $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-)$ is governed by the SM...
 - ...the QCD sum rule calculation does not work and
 - ...either U-spin symmetry fails for A_b or in future measurements $a_{CP}^{\text{dir}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-)$ will move by 2σ and flip sign.



- If $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-)$ is dominated by NP...
 - ...the NP contribution necessarily has a $\Delta U = 1$ contribution and
 - ...either also a $\Delta U = 0$ NP contribution or some enhancement over the QCD sum rule prediction.



a_{CP} sum rules

“Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.”

(Sherlock Holmes in The Sign of Four)

Derive sum rules between further CP asymmetries; distinguish between the $\Delta U = 0$ and $\Delta U = 1$ cases.

New physics scenarios

- $\Delta U = 0$ hamiltonian. We take complete $SU(3)_F$ singlet:

$$H^{\text{NP,singlet}} = \frac{G_f}{\sqrt{2}} C^{\text{NP},\Delta U=0} \bar{u}\Gamma c (\bar{u}\Gamma' u + \bar{d}\Gamma' d + \bar{s}\Gamma' s)$$

Usual SM penguin is special case.

Unspecified Dirac structure

- $\Delta U = 1$ hamiltonian. We take

$$H^{\text{NP},\Delta U=1} = \frac{G_f}{\sqrt{2}} C^{\text{NP},\Delta U=0} \bar{u}\Gamma c (\bar{s}\Gamma' s - \bar{d}\Gamma' d)$$

same $SU(3)_F$ quantum numbers as SM A_{sd}

Iguro, UN, Overduin, Schüssler, 2024

a_{CP} sum rules

Recall: $\mathcal{A}^{\text{SCS}} \equiv \lambda_{sd} A_{sd} + a A_{\text{NP}}$

Tool: Use **Wigner Eckart theorem** to express A_{sd} and A_{NP} in terms of Clebsch-Gordan coefficients (related to **U-spin SU(2)**) and reduced matrix elements.
Known from SM analysis.

Grossman, Ligeti, Robinson, *JHEP* 01 (2014) 066

$D^0, D_{(s)}^+ \rightarrow$ two pseudoscalars

$$\Delta U = 0$$

$$\delta_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-) + \delta_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-) = 0$$

$$\delta_{\text{CP}}(D_s^+ \rightarrow K^0\pi^+) + \delta_{\text{CP}}(D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^0K^+) = 0$$

$$\Delta U = 1$$

$$\delta_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-) - \delta_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-) = 0$$

$$\delta_{\text{CP}}(D_s^+ \rightarrow K^0\pi^+) - \delta_{\text{CP}}(D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^0K^+) = 0$$

and many more with π^0 's or η 's, which are difficult for LHCb.

Here $\text{Im } \delta_{\text{CP}}(D \rightarrow f) \propto a_{\text{CP}}(D \rightarrow f)\Gamma(D \rightarrow f)$.

$D^0, D_{(s)}^+$ → pseudoscalar + vector

$$\Delta U = 0$$

$$\delta_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^0 \bar{K}^{*0}) + \delta_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow \bar{K}^0 K^{*0}) = 0$$

$$\delta_{\text{CP}}(D_s^+ \rightarrow K^{*0} \pi^+) + \delta_{\text{CP}}(D_s^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} K^+) = 0$$

$$\Delta U = 1$$

$$\delta_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow K^0 \bar{K}^{*0}) - \delta_{\text{CP}}(D^0 \rightarrow \bar{K}^0 K^{*0}) = 0$$

$$\delta_{\text{CP}}(D_s^+ \rightarrow K^{*0} \pi^+) - \delta_{\text{CP}}(D_s^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} K^+) = 0$$

and many more.

Summary

- A universal $\eta-\eta'$ mixing angle defined through unitary rotations of matrix elements with η_8 and η_1 is known since 27 years to be ill-defined. It is nevertheless commonly used in global $SU(3)_F$ analyses of D or B decay data.
- We have devised a consistent treatment of $\eta-\eta'$ mixing, which permits a global analysis of $D \rightarrow P\eta'$ or $D \rightarrow P\eta$ data, while it is not possible to relate the former to the latter.
- A global fit to $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\eta'$, $D^0 \rightarrow \eta\eta'$, $D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\eta'$, $D_s^+ \rightarrow K^+\eta'$, $D^0 \rightarrow \bar{K}^0\eta'$, $D_s^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\eta'$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^0\eta'$, $D^+ \rightarrow K^+\eta'$ branching ratios complies with $\leq 30\%$ $SU(3)_F$ breaking, with slight tensions in $D_s^+ \rightarrow K^+\eta'$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^+\eta'$.

Summary

- The LHCb measurements $\Delta a_{CP} = (-15.4 \pm 2.9) \cdot 10^{-4}$ and $a_{CP}(D^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-) = (7.7 \pm 5.7) \cdot 10^{-4}$ are not consistent with SM and U-spin symmetry.
- New physics explanations involve a $\Delta U = 1$ amplitude (with a different phase than $V_{cs}^*V_{us}$) and a $\Delta U = 0$ amplitude (SM or NP) as well.
- One can check this in the future in other decay modes in which CP asymmetries are not yet measured to be non-zero.
 - sum rules between CP asymmetries
- Especially interesting for LHCb are sum rules with $a_{CP}(D_s^+ \rightarrow K^0\pi^+)$ and $a_{CP}(D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0}K^+)$ as well as sum rules with CP asymmetries in $D^0 \rightarrow K^0\bar{K}^{*0}$, $D^0 \rightarrow \bar{K}^0K^{*0}$, $D_s^+ \rightarrow K^{*0}\pi^+$, and $D^+ \rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0}K^+$.

Outlook

■ Theory parallel talk:

- **Eleftheria Solomonidi**, Tuesday 16:30 h, Urška 4:
Implications of cascade topologies for rare charm decays and CP violation

■ Experimental parallel talks:

- **Luca Balzani**, Tuesday 16:45 h, Urška 4:
Particle-antiparticle asymmetries in hadronic charm decays at LHCb
→ $D - \bar{D}$ mixing and CP violation
- **Marco Colonna**, Tuesday 17:00 h, Urška 4:
Rare charm decays at LHCb
→ $D \rightarrow hh'e^+e^-$ and more