

Recent Developments in Exclusive Semileptonic B Decays

Marzia Bordone



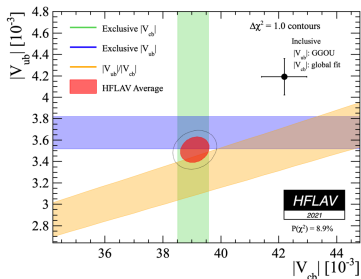
University of
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ZPW2025: Particle Physics from low to high energies

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Long-standing puzzles in semileptonic decays

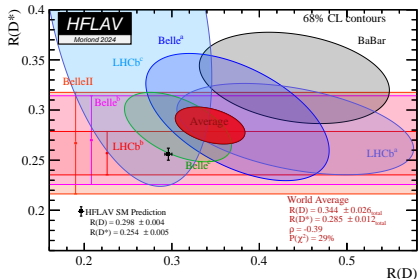


- Inclusive determination: $B \rightarrow X_c \ell \bar{\nu}$
 \Rightarrow Stable against various datasets
- Exclusive decays: $B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \ell \bar{\nu}$,
 $\Lambda_b \rightarrow \Lambda_c \ell \bar{\nu}$
 \Rightarrow Lattice QCD results are in tension
 \Rightarrow Experimental measurement show various disagreements

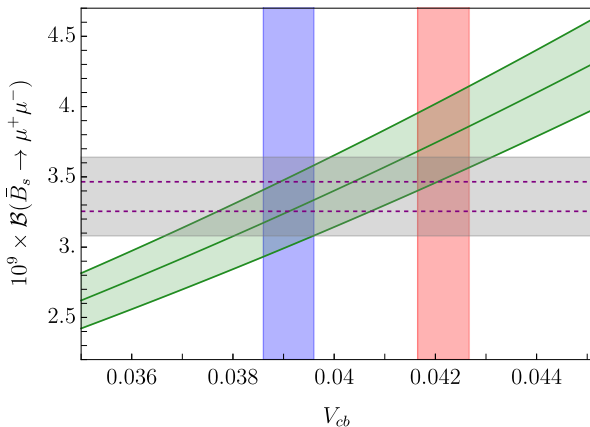
Lepton flavour universality

$$R_{D^{(*)}} = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \tau \bar{\nu})}{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \ell \bar{\nu})}$$

- Current discrepancy at the order of 3.3σ
- Theory prediction is the arithmetic average of before 2021 estimates

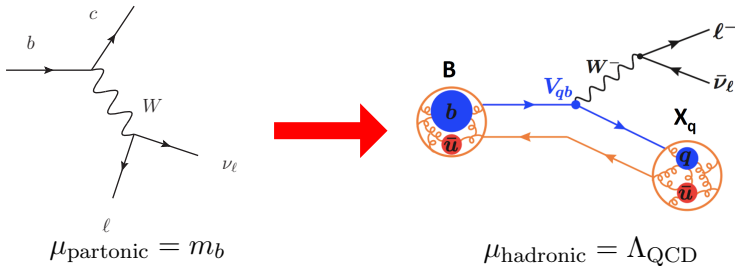


Why we need a better determination of V_{cb} ?



- The value of V_{cb} has a major impact on flavour observables like $\mathcal{B}(B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$ or ϵ_K
- A resolution of the puzzle is central given the perspective sensitivities at Belle II and LHCb

The theory drawback



**Fundamental challenge to match
partonic and hadronic descriptions**

Exclusive matrix elements

$$\langle H_c | J_\mu | H_b \rangle = \sum_i S_\mu^i \mathcal{F}_i$$

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← form factor

scale Λ_{QCD}

independent Lorentz structures

Exclusive matrix elements

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← form factor

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independent Lorentz structures

Form factors determinations

- Lattice QCD
- QCD SR, LCSR

only points at specific kinematic points

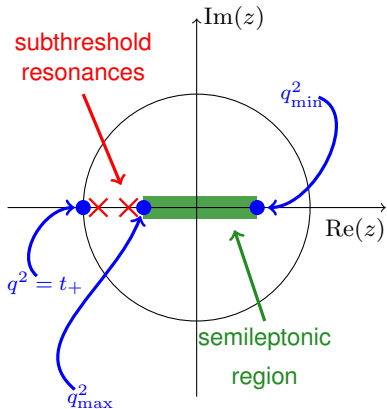
Form factors parametrisations

- HQET (CLN + improvements) \Rightarrow reduce independent degrees of freedom
- Analytic properties \rightarrow BGL

data points needed to fix the coefficients of the expansion

The z -expansion and unitarity

[Boyd, Grinstein, Lebed, '95, Caprini, Lellouch, Neubert, '98]



- in the complex plane form factors are real analytic functions
- q^2 is mapped onto the conformal complex variable z

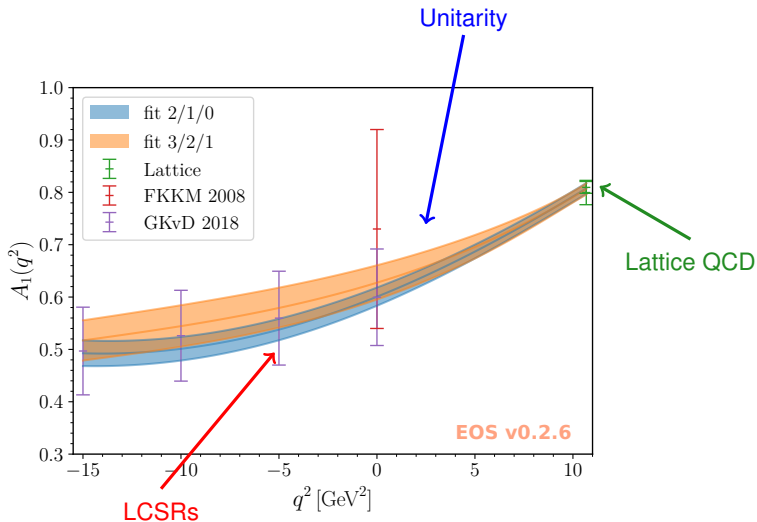
$$z(q^2, t_0) = \frac{\sqrt{t_+ - q^2} - \sqrt{t_+ - t_0}}{\sqrt{t_+ - q^2} + \sqrt{t_+ - t_0}}$$

- q^2 is mapped onto a disk in the complex z plane, where $|z(q^2, t_0)| < 1$

$$F_i = \frac{1}{P_i(z)\phi_i(z)} \sum_{k=0}^{n_i} a_k^i z^k$$
$$\sum_{k=0}^{n_i} |a_k^i|^2 < 1$$

$B \rightarrow D^*$ before 2021

[MB, Gubernari, Jung, van Dyk, '19]

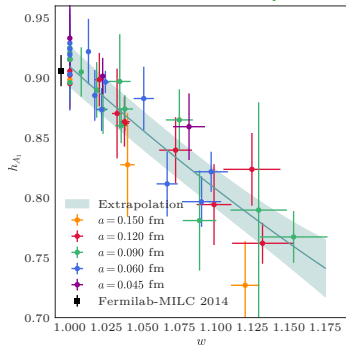


Other references: F. Bernlochner, Z. Ligeti, M. Papucci, M. Prim, D. Robinson, '22
P. Gambino, M. Jung, S. Schacht, '19

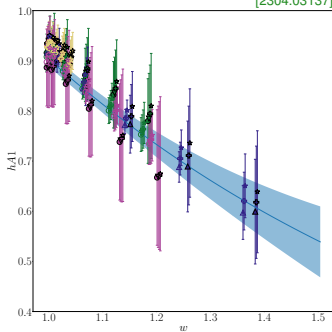
Recent developments

$B \rightarrow D^*$ from lattice away from zero recoil

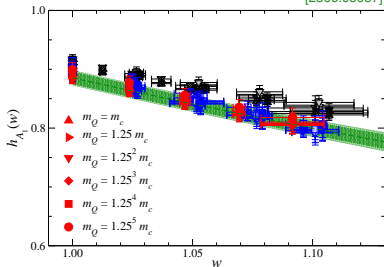
[2105.14019]



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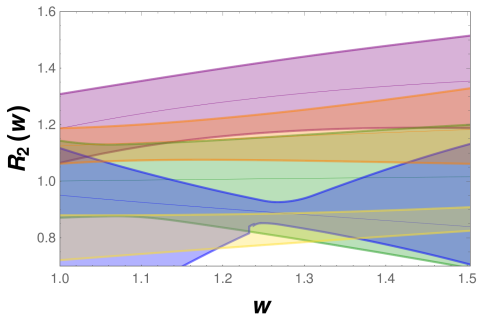


[2306.05657]



- Are these results compatible with each other?
- Are they compatible with experimental data?

What about previous determinations?

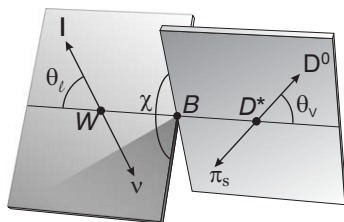
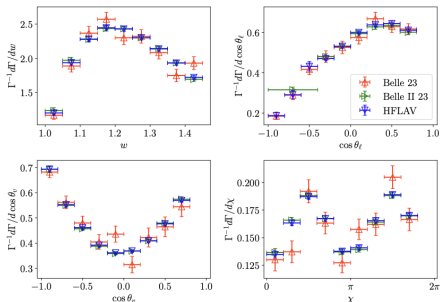


- FNAL/MILC '21
- HQE@ $1/m_c^2$
- Exp data (BGL)
- JLQCD '23
- HPQCD '23

$$R_2(w) = \frac{r h_{A_2}(w) + h_{A_3}(w)}{h_{A_1}(w)}$$

- What's the source of the discrepancy with HQET? [\[MB, Harrison, Jung, ongoing\]](#)
- Why are experimental data (Belle 2018) so different from LQCD data?

New $B \rightarrow D^* \ell \bar{\nu}$ Belle and Belle II data



$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dw d\cos(\theta_\ell) d\cos(\theta_\nu) d\chi} = \frac{3G_F^2}{1024\pi^4} |V_{cb}|^2 \eta_{EW}^2 M_B r^2 \sqrt{w^2 - 1} q^2$$

$$\times \left\{ (1 - \cos(\theta_\ell))^2 \sin^2(\theta_\nu) H_+^2(w) + (1 + \cos(\theta_\ell))^2 \sin^2(\theta_\nu) H_-^2(w) \right.$$

$$+ 4 \sin^2(\theta_\ell) \cos^2(\theta_\nu) H_0^2(w) - 2 \sin^2(\theta_\ell) \sin^2(\theta_\nu) \cos(2\chi) H_+(w) H_-(w)$$

$$- 4 \sin(\theta_\ell) (1 - \cos(\theta_\ell)) \sin(\theta_\nu) \cos(\theta_\nu) \cos(\chi) H_+(w) H_0(w)$$

$$+ 4 \sin(\theta_\ell) (1 + \cos(\theta_\ell)) \sin(\theta_\nu) \cos(\theta_\nu) \cos(\chi) H_-(w) H_0(w) \left. \right\}$$

- Between 7 to 10 bins per kinematic variable
- Available on HEPData with correlations
- Angular observables analysis are available, data just newly released

Analysis strategies

Setup

- BGL parametrisation
- Bayesian inference to apply unitarity

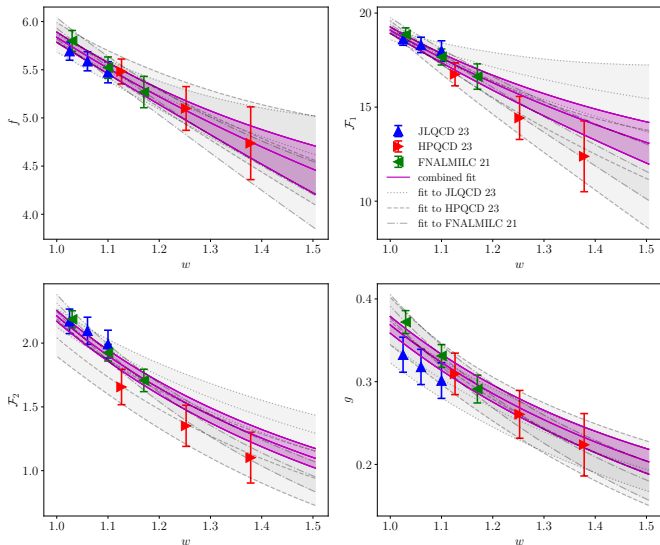
Flynn, Jüttner, Tsang, '23

Questions

- Combine the three LQCD datasets
 - ⇒ Is the combination acceptable?
- Combine with experimental data
- What are the consequences for phenomenology?

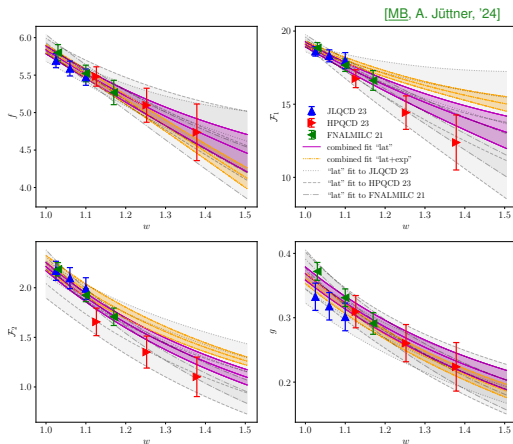
Strategy A: Lattice only

[MB, A. Jüttner, '24]



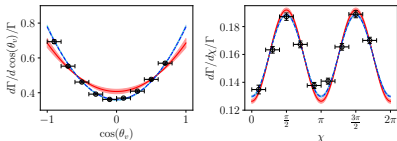
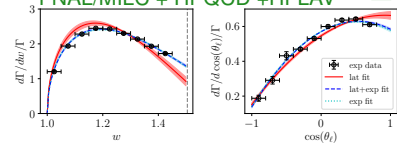
see also G. Martinelli, S. Simula, L. Vittorio, '23;'24

Strategy B: Lattice + experimental data

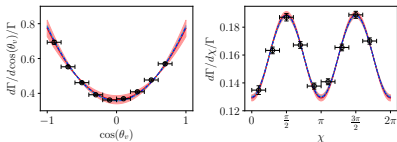
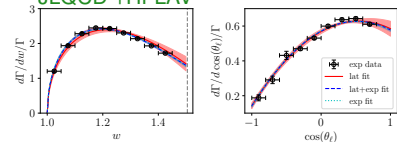


- Good fit quality for Strategy B (p -value $\sim 18\%$)
- Adding experimental data reduces the uncertainties, especially at large w
- Especially for \mathcal{F}_1 and \mathcal{F}_2 , the shape changes between Strategy A and B

FNAL/MILC + HPQCD + HFLAV [MB, A. Jüttner, '24]



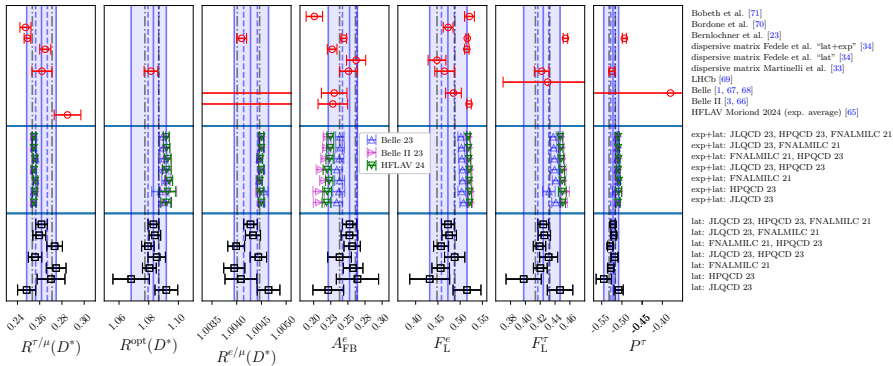
JLQCD + HFLAV



- Fit to HPQCD and FNAL/MILC misses experimental points
- BGL fit to experimental and lattice data has p -value $\sim 18\%$
- BGL coefficients shift of a few σ between Strategy A and B

Integrated observables

[MB, A. Jüttner, '24]

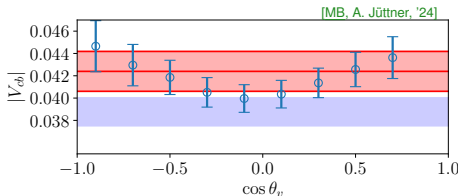


- Significant scatter between various combinations of lattice results
 - We apply a systematic error to account for the spread
- Consistent scatter of the experimental results independently of the lattice information

see also: Fedele et al, '23

$|V_{cb}|$ - Strategy A

$$|V_{cb}|_{\alpha,i} = \left(\Gamma_{\text{exp}} \left[\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma}{d\alpha} \right]_{\text{exp}}^{(i)} / \left[\frac{d\Gamma_0}{d\alpha}(\mathbf{a}) \right]_{\text{lat}}^{(i)} \right)^{1/2}$$



Blue band

- Frequentist fit p -value $\sim 0\%$
- Affected by d'Agostini Bias

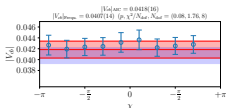
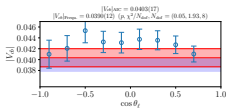
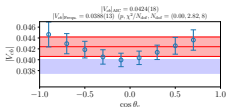
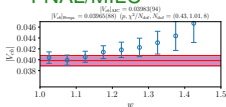
Red band

- Frequentist fit p -value $\sim 0\%$
- Akaike-Information-Criterion analysis: average over all possible fits with at least two data points and then weighted average

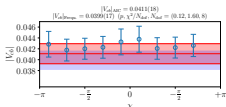
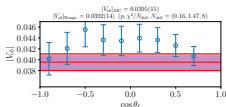
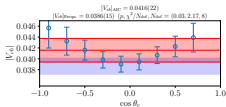
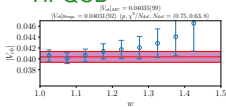
$$w_{\{\alpha,i\}} = \mathcal{N}^{-1} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} (\chi_{\{\alpha,i\}}^2 - 2N_{\text{dof},\{\alpha,i\}}) \right) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{N} = \sum_{\text{sets } \{\alpha,i\}} w_{\text{set}}$$

$$|V_{cb}| = \langle |V_{cb}| \rangle \equiv \sum_{\text{sets } \{\alpha,i\}} w_{\text{set}} |V_{cb}|_{\text{set}}$$

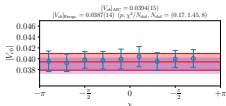
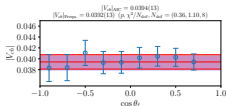
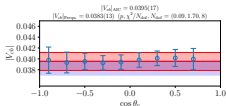
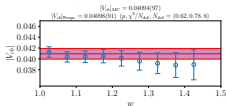
FNAL/MILC



HPQCD



JLQCD

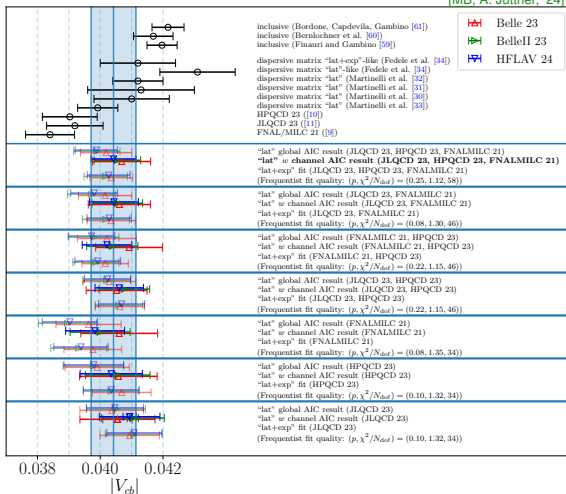


- Analysis based on Strategy A
- The AIC nicely reduces the d'Agostini bias
- Some lattice data behave strangely
- Would it be safer to discard the angular distributions?
- Combining the three lattice datasets doesn't help, shape driven by FNAL/MILC and HPQCD
- Good compatibility with Strategy B

see also G. Martinelli, S. Simula, L. Vittorio, '23/24

$|V_{cb}|$ - Summary

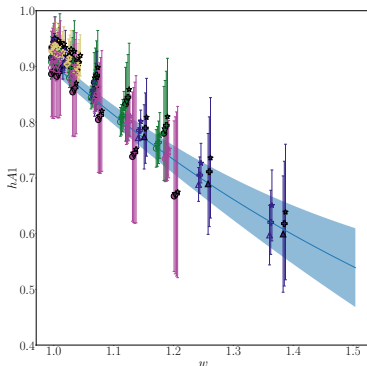
[MB, A. Jüttner, '24]



- Residual 2σ difference with inclusive
- The AIC produces slightly larger uncertainties, overall all results are quite consistent

What about HQET?

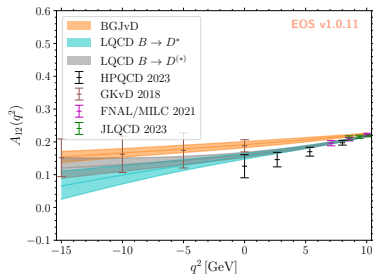
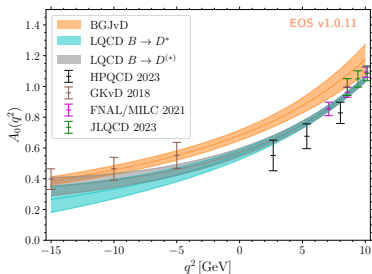
- Can we understand the differences between HQET and LQCD data?
- Can the HQET accommodate the new LQCD datasets?
- HQET connects $B \rightarrow D$ and $B \rightarrow D^*$
 - ⇒ What is of this correlation from the Lattice perspective?



- HPQCD has data for $1.5m_c < m_h < 0.9m_b$
- Can we use them to further study the HQE and higher order corrections?

A first glance to HQET+LQCD

- HQET allows to determine $B \rightarrow D$ and $B \rightarrow D^*$ form factors with a unique parametrisation
- HQET can accommodate the new lattice $B \rightarrow D^*$ data

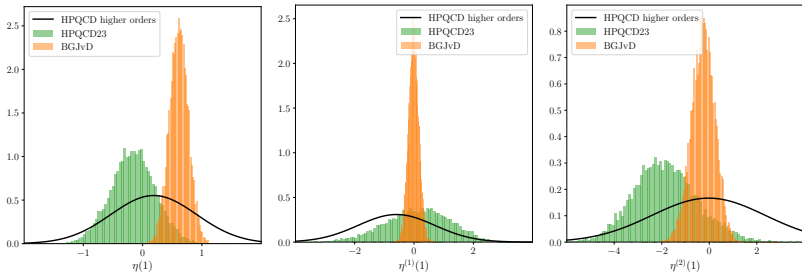


- The inclusion of $B \rightarrow D$ data helps changing slightly the slope
⇒ Motivates a correlated $B \rightarrow D$ and $B \rightarrow D^*$ lattice analysis

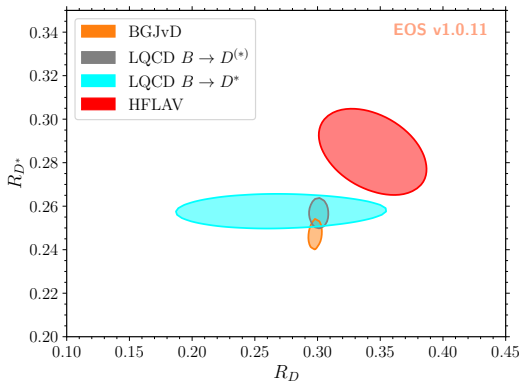
Higher orders from the lattice

[MB, J. Harrison, M. Jung, in preparation]

Sub-leading Isgur-Wise functions: η



- From QCDSR, $\eta(1)$ should be positive and different from zero
- Even without QCDSR, $\eta(1)$ comes out positive from the HQE fit
- Considering the full HPQCD datasets at different m_h masses yield something somewhat in the middle



- The interplay between various datasets is not trivial
- Can we use HPQCD data to better understand HQET? [MB, J. Harrison, M. Jung, in preparation](#)
- A complete HQET analysis of all lattice datasets is ongoing

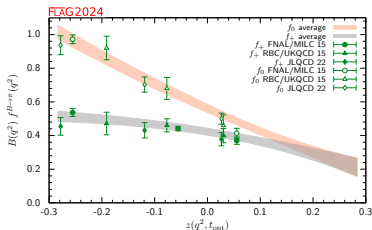
[MB, N. Gubernari, M. Jung, D. van Dyk, in preparation](#)

A glance into V_{ub}

The inclusive V_{ub} is difficult

- The $B \rightarrow X_u \ell \bar{\nu}$ rate is extracted from the sum $B \rightarrow X_u \ell \bar{\nu} + B \rightarrow X_c \ell \bar{\nu}$
- Kinematic cuts are needed to suppress the $B \rightarrow X_c \ell \bar{\nu}$ components
- From a theory point of view, we need to extrapolate introducing shape functions

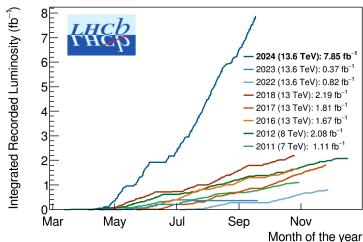
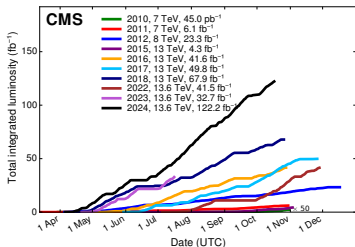
The exclusive V_{ub} has also some problems



- On the lattice, calculations are not performed in the helicity basis
- It has been noted that performing the chiral continuum extrapolation and then changing basis, is a bit subtle because of the presence of resonances
- WIP to understand the issue and consequences

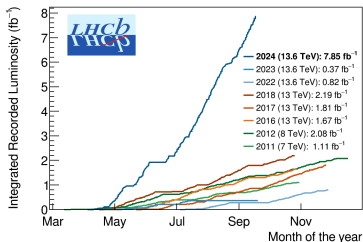
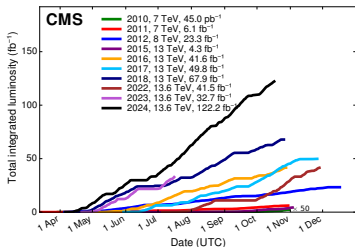
Conclusions

- Semileptonic B decays are at the centre of attention due to their important phenomenological consequences
- There are still many open questions
- These puzzles stem from the high precision that both theoretical predictions and experimental measurements have achieved
- Interplay between continuum, lattice and data is crucial



Conclusions

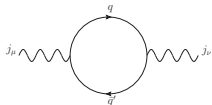
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Stay tuned for upcoming results!

Appendix

Unitarity Bounds



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

- If $q^2 \ll m_b^2$ we can calculate $\Pi(q^2)$ via perturbative techniques $\Rightarrow \chi(0)$
- Dispersion relations link $\text{Im}(\Pi(q^2))$ to sum over matrix elements

$$\sum_i |F_i(0)|^2 < \chi(0)$$

[Boyd, Grinstein, Lebed, '95
Caprini, Lellouch, Neubert, '97]

- The sum runs over **all** possible states hadronic decays mediated by a current $\bar{c}\Gamma_\mu b$
 - The unitarity bounds are more effective the most states are included in the sum
 - The unitarity bounds introduce correlations between FFs of different decays
 - $B_s \rightarrow D_s^{(*)}$ decays are expected to be of the same order of $B_{u,d} \rightarrow D_{u,d}^{(*)}$ decays due to $SU(3)_F$ symmetry

How to apply unitarity

- Penalty function in the χ^2 or likelihood

[P. Gambino, M. Jung, S. Schacht, '19]

$$\chi^2 \rightarrow \chi^2(a_k^i, a_k^i |_{\text{data}}) + w_i \theta \left(\sum_{k=0}^{n_i} |a_k^i|^2 - 1 \right)$$

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- Dispersive Matrix Method

[M. Di Carlo, G. Martinelli, M. Naviglio, F. Sanfilippo, S. Simula, L. Vittorio, '21]

[G. Martinelli, S. Simula, L. Vittorio, '21,'23]

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \chi & \phi f & \phi_1 f_1 & \phi_2 f_2 & \dots & \phi_N f_N \\ \phi f & \frac{1}{1-z^2} & \frac{1}{1-zz_1} & \frac{1}{1-zz_2} & \dots & \frac{1}{1-zz_N} \\ \phi_1 f_1 & \frac{1}{1-z_1z} & \frac{1}{1-z_1^2} & \frac{1}{1-z_1z_2} & \dots & \frac{1}{1-z_1z_N} \\ \phi_2 f_2 & \frac{1}{1-z_2z} & \frac{1}{1-z_2z_1} & \frac{1}{1-z_2^2} & \dots & \frac{1}{1-z_2z_N} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \phi_N f_N & \frac{1}{1-z_Nz} & \frac{1}{1-z_Nz_1} & \frac{1}{1-z_Nz_2} & \dots & \frac{1}{1-z_N^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det \mathbf{M} > 0 \Rightarrow \beta - \sqrt{\gamma} \leq f_0 \leq \beta + \sqrt{\gamma}$$

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$$\det \mathbf{M} > 0 \Rightarrow \beta - \sqrt{\gamma} \leq f_0 \leq \beta + \sqrt{\gamma}$$

- Bayesian inference

[J. Flynn, A. Jüttner, T. Tsang, '23]

$$\langle g(\mathbf{a}) \rangle = \mathcal{N} \int d\mathbf{a} g(\mathbf{a}) \pi(\mathbf{a} | \mathbf{f}, C_f) \pi_{\mathbf{a}}$$

$\theta(1 - |\mathbf{a}|^2)$

contains the lattice χ^2

Fitting HPQCD lattice data at multiple m_h with HQE

Lattice data includes $m_h = 1.5m_c$, $m_h = 0.9m_b$

- need to add $1/m_h^2$ terms to continuum HQE parameterisation.
- Also add generic α_s and α_s^2 contributions

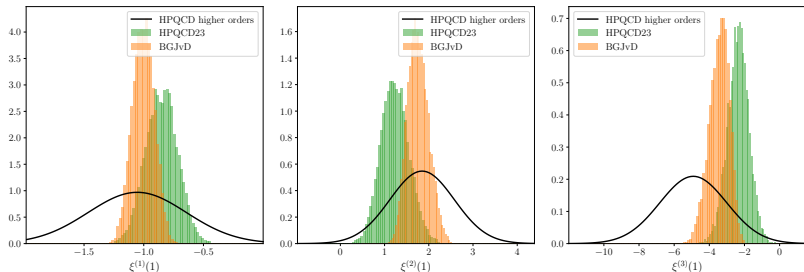
$$F_i = \left(a_i + b_i \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} + k_i \frac{\alpha_s^2}{\pi^2} \right) \xi + \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{2m_h} \sum_j c_{ij} \xi_{\text{SL}}^j + \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{2m_c} \sum_j d_{ij} \xi_{\text{SL}}^j \\ + \left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{2m_c} \right)^2 \sum_j g_{ij} \xi_{\text{SSL}}^j + \left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{2m_h} \right)^2 \sum_j h_{ij} \xi_{\text{SSL}}^j \\ + \sum_{\substack{n,m=1,2 \\ q=h,c}} \left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{2m_q} \right)^n \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^m \zeta_i^{n,m,q}$$

with $\zeta = \zeta(1) + \zeta'(1)(w - 1)$

- Use the same uniform prior widths for ξ , ξ_{SL}^j and ξ_{SSL}^j , use gaussian priors of 0 ± 10 for $\zeta_i^{n,m,q(1)}$, h_{ij} , k_i
- discretisation and chiral effects added analogously to 2304.03137

What changes in terms of parameters?

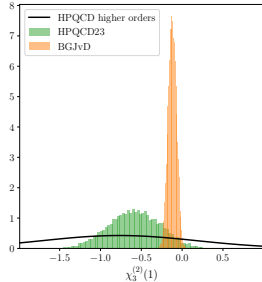
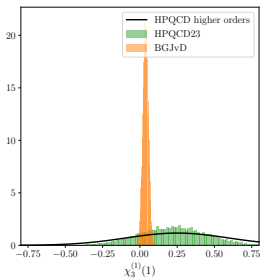
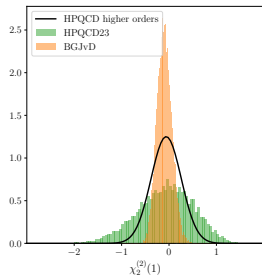
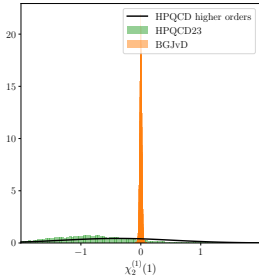
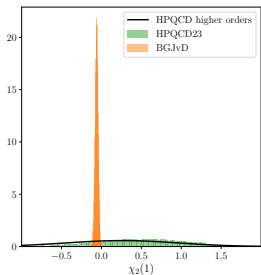
Isgur-Wise function: ξ



- Discrepancies arise in ξ at higher order in $(w - 1)$, reflects difference seen in slope
- Similar situation comparing to combined fit posteriors

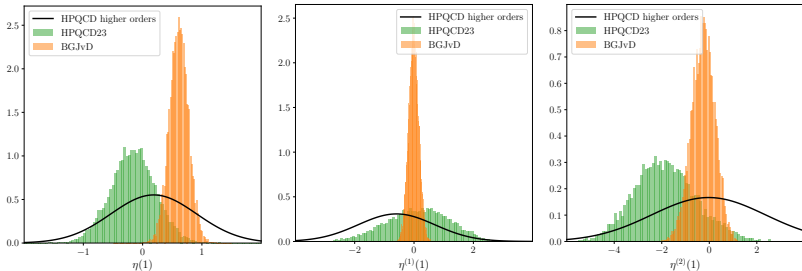
What changes in terms of parameters?

Sub-leading Isgur-Wise functions: χ_2, χ_3



What changes in terms of parameters?

Sub-leading Isgur-Wise functions: η



- From QCDSR, $\eta(1)$ should be positive and different from zero

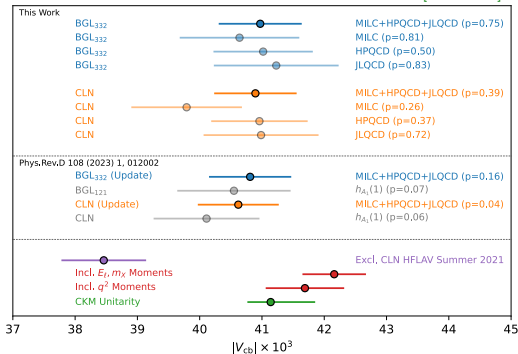
What else?

Measurements of angular observables:

$$\frac{d\Gamma(\bar{B} \rightarrow D^* \ell \bar{\nu}_\ell)}{dw d\cos\theta_\ell d\cos\theta_V d\chi} = \frac{2G_F^2 \eta_{EW}^2 |V_{cb}|^2 m_B^4 m_{D^*}}{2\pi^4} \times \left(J_{1a} \sin^2 \theta_V + J_{1c} \cos^2 \theta_V \right. \\ \left. + (J_{2a} \sin^2 \theta_V + J_{2c} \cos^2 \theta_V) \cos 2\theta_\ell + J_3 \sin^2 \theta_V \sin^2 \theta_\ell \cos 2\chi \right. \\ \left. + J_4 \sin 2\theta_V \sin 2\theta_\ell \cos \chi + J_5 \sin 2\theta_V \sin \theta_\ell \cos \chi + (J_{6a} \sin^2 \theta_V + J_{6c} \cos^2 \theta_V) \cos \theta_\ell \right. \\ \left. + J_7 \sin 2\theta_V \sin \theta_\ell \sin \chi + J_8 \sin 2\theta_V \sin 2\theta_\ell \sin \chi + J_9 \sin^2 \theta_V \sin^2 \theta_\ell \sin 2\chi \right).$$

- Angular observables are a complete base
- It is not redundant

[2310.20286]



Frequentist fit

K_f	$K_{\mathcal{F}_1}$	$K_{\mathcal{F}_2}$	K_g	$a_{g,0}$	$a_{g,1}$	$a_{g,2}$	$a_{g,3}$	p	χ^2/N_{dof}	N_{dof}
2	2	2	2	0.03138(87)	-0.059(24)	-	-	0.95	0.62	30
3	3	3	3	0.03131(87)	-0.046(36)	-1.2(1.8)	-	0.90	0.67	26
4	4	4	4	0.03126(87)	-0.017(48)	-3.7(3.3)	49.9(53.6)	0.79	0.75	22

- good fit quality
- lattice data are compatible
- no unitarity

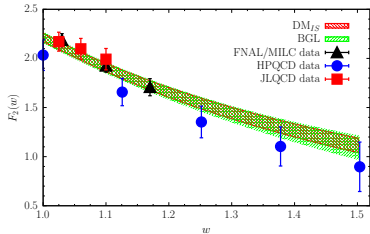
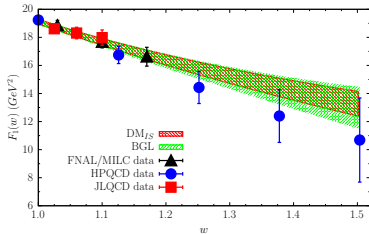
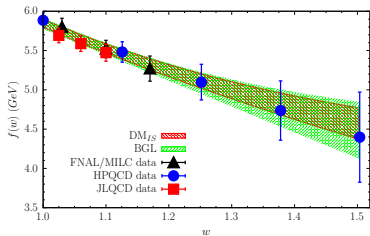
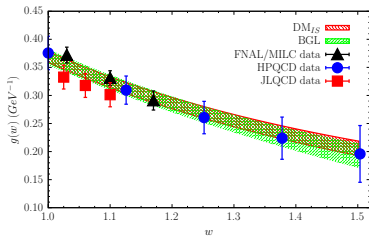
Bayesian Fit

K_f	$K_{\mathcal{F}_1}$	$K_{\mathcal{F}_2}$	K_g	$a_{g,0}$	$a_{g,1}$	$a_{g,2}$	$a_{g,3}$
2	2	2	2	0.03018(76)	-0.101(21)	-	-
3	3	3	3	0.03034(78)	-0.087(24)	-0.34(45)	-
4	4	4	4	0.03035(77)	-0.089(23)	-0.27(41)	-0.04(45)

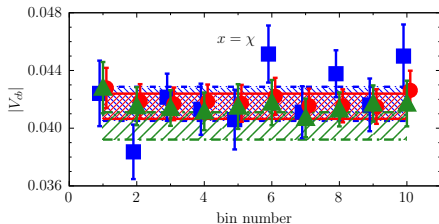
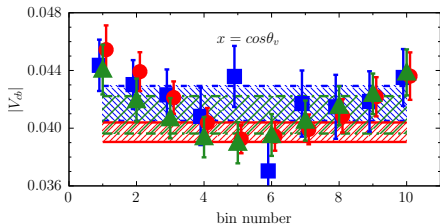
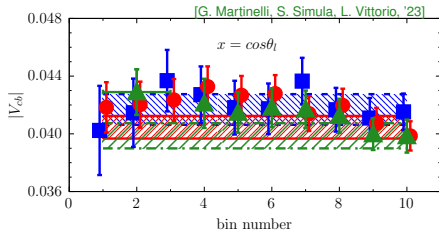
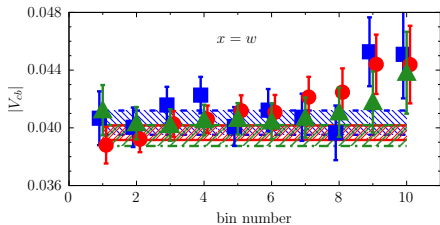
- unitarity regulates higher orders
- truncation dependent

Comparison with DM

[G. Martinelli, S. Simula, L. Vittorio, '23]



Results from the DM method



⇒ similar behaviour as we observe

The Heavy Quark Expansion in a nutshell

The HQE exploits the fact that the b and c quarks are heavy

- Double expansion in $1/m_{b,c}$ and α_s
- The HQE symmetries relate $B^{(*)} \rightarrow D^{(*)}$ form factors
- At $1/m_{b,c}$ drastic reduction of independent degrees of freedom

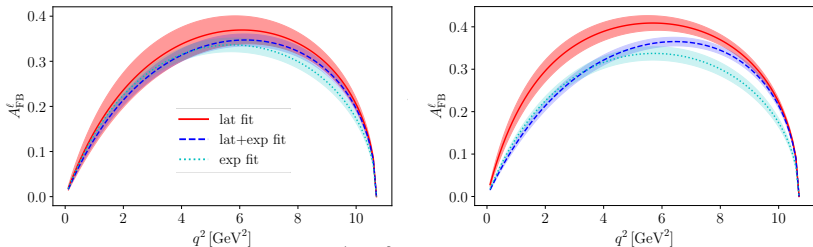
With current precision we know we have to go beyond the $1/m_{b,c}$ order and we use the following form

$$F_i = \left(a_i + b_i \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right) \xi + \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{2m_b} \sum_j c_{ij} \xi_{\text{SSL}}^j + \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{2m_c} \sum_j d_{ij} \xi_{\text{SSL}}^j + \left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{2m_c} \right)^2 \sum_j g_{ij} \xi_{\text{SSL}}^j$$

- Total of 10 independent structures to be extracted from data
- We use the conformal mapping $q^2 \mapsto z(q^2)$ to include bounds and have a well-behaved series

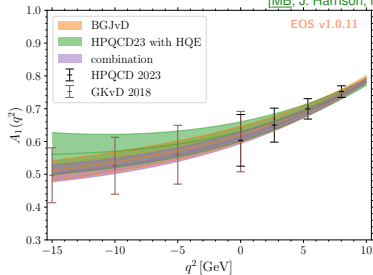
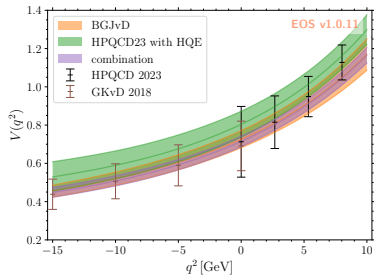
Differential observables

[MB, A. Jüttner, '24]

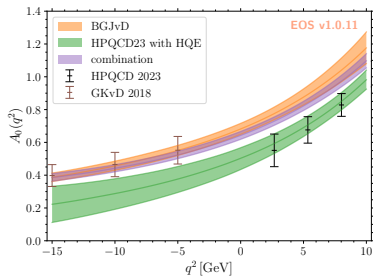
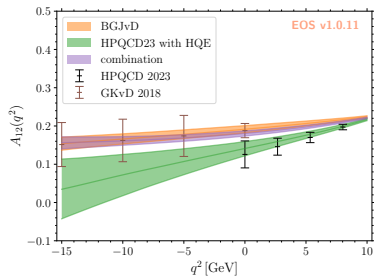


$$A_{\text{FB}}^\ell = \frac{\int_0^1 - \int_{-1}^0 d \cos \theta_\ell d\Gamma / d \cos \theta_\ell}{\int_0^1 + \int_{-1}^0 d \cos \theta_\ell d\Gamma / d \cos \theta_\ell}$$

- The combined lattice + experimental precision makes it possible to study the differences in the shape
- It is clear that there is a distinct difference between JLQCD and FNAL/MILC+HPQCD
- Difficult to understand what is going on, JLQCD errors are also a bit larger

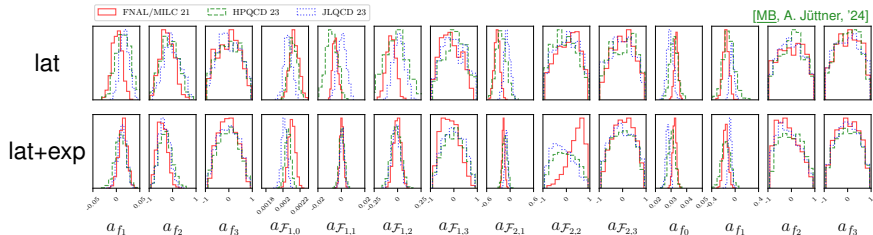


p-values

— $\sim 15\%$ — $\sim 99\%$ — $\sim 99\%$ 

- If for V and A_1 everything aligns well, for A_{12} and A_0 there is an evident shift in slopes
- In the combination difference is milder

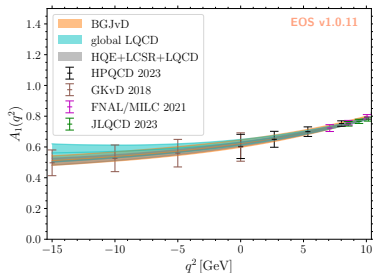
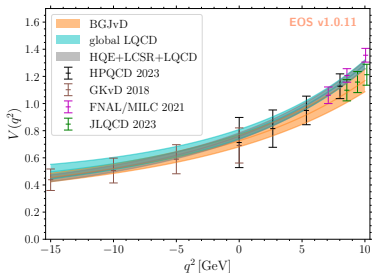
Posterior distribution



- Small shifts between lattice only and lattice + data
- Higher order coefficients well constrained by unitarity
- $a_{\mathcal{F}_{2,2}}$ has a strange behaviour, maybe kinematic constraints?

What about HQET?

[MB, J. Harrison, M. Jung, in preparation]

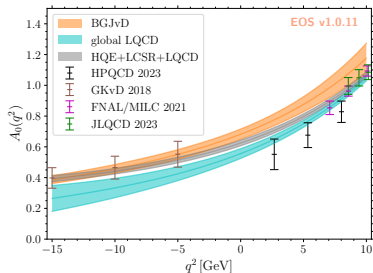
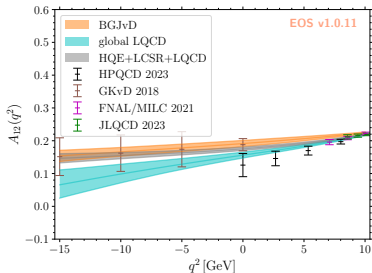


p-values

— $\sim 70\%$

— $\sim 99\%$

— $\sim 98\%$



- All LQCD $B \rightarrow D^*$ results can be described in a global fit to the HQE
- R_D is in tension with $B \rightarrow D$ LQCD w/o LCSRs