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Resummation of Running Coupling Effects in Semileptonic B Meson Decays and Extraction of $|V_{cb}|$

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Abstract

We present a determination of $|V_{cb}|$ from semileptonic B decays that includes resummation of supposedly large perturbative corrections, originating from the running of the strong coupling. We argue that the low value of the BLM scale found previously for inclusive decays is a manifestation of the renormalon divergence of the perturbative series starting already in third order. A reliable determination of $|V_{cb}|$ from inclusive decays is possible if one either uses a short-distance b quark mass or eliminates all unphysical mass parameters in terms of measured observables, such that all infra-red contributions of order $1/m_b$ cancel explicitly. We find that using the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ running mass significantly reduces the perturbative coefficients already in low orders. For a semileptonic branching ratio of 10.9% we obtain $|V_{cb}|(\tau_B/1.50 \text{ ps})^{1/2} = 0.041 \pm 0.002$ from inclusive decays, in good agreement with the value extracted from exclusive decays.

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1 Introduction

The physics of heavy flavours has experienced a rapid development within the past few years, driven by new data that aim to test the Standard Model and to determine its fundamental parameters. In particular, semileptonic B decays for the moment provide the best possibility to determine the CKM matrix element $|V_{cb}|$. Two competing strategies, which both have received considerable attention, are the determination of $|V_{cb}|$ from the total *inclusive* semileptonic decay rate [1] and from the *exclusive* $B \rightarrow D^* l \bar{\nu}$ decays at the point of zero recoil [2]. In both cases the absence of $1/m_b$ corrections allows an accurate theoretical description. The decay rates can be calculated within perturbation theory up to terms of order $1/m_b^2$. Moreover, the $1/m_b^2$ corrections are estimated to be rather small ($\sim 5\%$). Thus, at present, the theoretical accuracy of the determination of $|V_{cb}|$ is to a large extent limited by a poor control over perturbative radiative corrections, which are only known to one-loop accuracy. An explicit calculation of the second order correction is a very hard enterprise already for $b \rightarrow u$ transitions and even more so for $b \rightarrow c$ transitions because of the c quark mass, whose numerical effect is very important, see [3, 4].

A process of major phenomenological interest is the total inclusive B meson decay rate with a c quark in the final state, which is calculable in perturbation theory as

$$\Gamma(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \Gamma_0(a) \left[1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} g_0(a) + O(\alpha_s^2) \right], \quad (1.1)$$

where $C_F = 4/3$ and $a = (m_c/m_b)^2$.

The tree-level decay rate, including the phase space factor $f_1(a)$, reads

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_0(a) &= \frac{G_F^2 m_b^5}{192 \pi^3} f_1(a), \\ f_1(a) &= 1 - 8a + 8a^3 - a^4 - 12a^2 \ln a, \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

and the function $g_0(a)$ is known in analytic form [5]. Here and below m_b and m_c denote pole masses. The perturbative expression in (1.1) should be complemented by non-perturbative corrections suppressed by powers of the heavy quark masses [6], and we will take these corrections into account in the final analysis. In the major part of the paper, however, we restrict ourselves to perturbation theory and estimate higher-order perturbative corrections to (1.1).

For the realistic value $m_c/m_b = 0.3$, Luke, Savage and Wise [7] have given an estimate for the α_s^2 correction in (1.1) as

$$1 - 1.67 \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} - 15.1 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^2 \quad (1.3)$$

where α_s is the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ coupling. For $m_c/m_b \rightarrow 0$, i.e. for $b \rightarrow u$ decays, the estimated size of

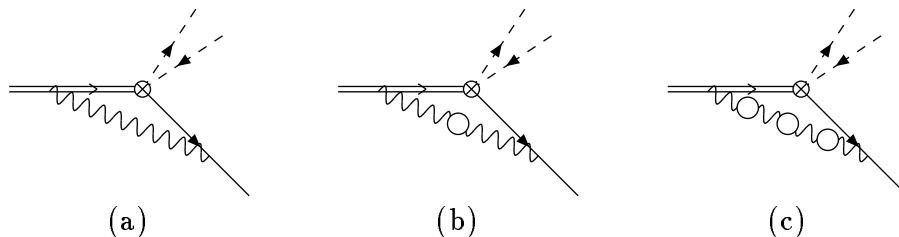


Figure 1: Generic radiative corrections for heavy-particle decays: (a) leading order, (b) with a fermion bubble insertion, and (c) with a chain of fermion bubbles. The broken lines represent the lepton pair produced in the decay.

the second order correction is even more striking [7]:

$$1 - 2.41 \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} - 28.7 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^2. \quad (1.4)$$

The coefficients in front of α_s^2 were in both cases obtained by an explicit calculation of the diagrams corresponding to the insertion of a fermion loop into the gluon line in the leading-order virtual correction, as in Fig. 1(b), or the splitting of an emitted gluon into a light quark-antiquark pair, for the real emission. These contributions are proportional to the number of light fermion flavours and the above numerical estimates are obtained by restoring the full one-loop QCD β -function by the substitution $N_f \rightarrow N_f - 33/2$. This replacement assumes the hypothesis of BLM [8] that the dominating radiative corrections originate from the running of the strong coupling. The result of this procedure is usually expressed as a redefinition of the scale of the coupling in the leading-order correction that completely absorbs the second order correction. The magnitude of these corrections leads to very low BLM scales for semileptonic decays [7]:

$$\mu_1^{b \rightarrow u} = 0.07 m_b, \quad \mu_1^{b \rightarrow c} = 0.13 m_b, \quad (1.5)$$

with numerical values of order (350–650) MeV that are hardly acceptable. The authors of Ref. [7] interpreted their result as an indication that an accurate determination of $|V_{cb}|$ from inclusive decays requires knowledge of the exact second order correction and even those of higher order. In Ref. [9] the large two-loop correction was interpreted as a breakdown of perturbation theory which disfavours the inclusive approach to $|V_{cb}|$ in comparison to the exclusive one, for which large radiative corrections do not appear in the same approximation [9]. On the other hand, as noted in [10], the difference in the size of the α_s^2 correction for inclusive and exclusive decays largely disappears, when the scale of the leading-order correction is chosen equally as $\sqrt{m_c m_b}$ in both cases. Still, the very fact of low BLM scales suggests the investigation of yet higher order radiative corrections.

It is this question we address in this paper. Our analysis extends the results of Ref. [7] for inclusive decays and repeats that of [11] for exclusive ones in that we resum the effects due

to one-loop running of the strong coupling, but to all orders in perturbation theory. Thus, our investigation of higher order corrections assumes the dominance of vacuum polarization effects also in higher orders and we do not address the question whether knowledge of the exact two- (and higher) loop corrections as compared to the BLM approximation is important. The idea is that *if* higher order corrections are large *at a certain scale*, they are presumably dominated by running coupling effects and can thus be taken into account exactly, at least within the restriction to one-loop running. The remaining corrections are then small and therefore can only be accounted for by an exact calculation. Formally, we resum terms of the type $\alpha_s(\beta_0\alpha_s)^n$, of which the correction found in [7, 9] is the first term with $n = 1$. These can be traced by a calculation of contributions proportional to N_f^n given by a chain of fermion loops as in Fig. 1(c). The leading-order BLM scales calculated in [7, 9] correspond to using the QCD coupling at some characteristic virtuality obtained by averaging $\ln k^2$, where k is the gluon momentum, over the leading-order diagram. The resummation that we perform in this paper amounts to averaging with the one-loop running coupling $\alpha_s(k^2)$ itself, rather than $\ln k^2$. We have developed a technique to implement this resummation in Refs. [12, 13] and refer the reader to these articles for all conceptual and technical issues that we do not repeat in the present application to semileptonic B decays.

We find that the large second order radiative correction to $b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ transitions calculated in [7] is in fact already close to the regime, where the series starts to diverge because of factorially growing coefficients. In our approximation (called ‘Naive Non-Abelianization’ in [12, 13]) the series in (1.4) is continued as

$$1 - 2.41 \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \left\{ 1 + 11.12 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right) + 149.3 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^2 + 2319 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^3 + 42751 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^4 + \dots \right\}, \quad (1.6)$$

and with $\alpha_s(m_b) = 0.21$ one gets a non-convergent series of corrections to the decay rate already in low orders:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(B \rightarrow X_u e \bar{\nu}) &= \Gamma_0(0) \left\{ 1 - 2.41 \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} [1 + 0.75 + 0.67 + 0.70 + 0.87 + 1.27 + \dots] \right\} \\ &= \Gamma_0(0) \left\{ 1 - 2.41 \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} [2.31 \pm 0.62] \right\} \\ &= (0.63 \pm 0.10) \Gamma_0(0). \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

In attributing a numerical value to this divergent series we assume that it is asymptotic. Then one must truncate it at the minimal term and its value gives an estimate of the intrinsic limitation of the perturbative calculation,¹ which cannot be reduced by computing higher orders.

¹ In practice, we adopt a similar procedure based on the Borel integral, and give the principal value of the Borel integral as the central value, and the imaginary part (divided by π) as an estimate of the uncertainty, see Sec. 2 for details.

For $b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ transitions the minimal term occurs at third order in α_s and its size is comparable to the second order correction. Numerically, it gives a 15% uncertainty for the total decay rate, not taking into account the uncertainty in the input parameters α_s and the quark masses. For $b \rightarrow ce\bar{\nu}$ transitions, in the same approximation of vacuum polarization dominance, we obtain

$$\Gamma(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = (0.77 \pm 0.05) \Gamma_0(0.3) \quad (1.8)$$

with a 7% uncertainty. We also note that the uncertainties associated with the fixed-sign factorial divergence of perturbative expansions cannot be reduced by the use of a different renormalization scheme, or a change of scale in the coupling [14]. Thus, the change of scale suggested in Ref. [10], which decreases the second order coefficient, is ineffective already at the next order, because the reduction of coefficients is compensated by an increase of α_s .

However, it would be premature to draw a pessimistic conclusion from the apparently bad behaviour of perturbative corrections. The large corrections displayed above originate from infra-red regions in the integration over loop momenta and produce an uncertainty parametrically of order Λ_{QCD}/m_b . As it turns out, the importance of infra-red regions is solely due to the choice of an input parameter – the pole mass as renormalized mass parameter –, which is incompatible with the short-distance properties of the decay process. The series that relates the pole to the bare mass contains large finite renormalizations of infra-red origin. If these are made explicit – for example using the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ renormalized mass – they cancel with the large corrections of infra-red origin present in the perturbative series for the decay width [15, 16].

The preference of the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ (or another ‘short-distance’) mass might seem surprising and even counter-intuitive. After all, it is the pole mass that governs the (partonic) decay kinematics and it is the visualization of an almost on-shell (up to effects of order Λ_{QCD}) b quark inside the meson that motivated the approximation of the meson decay by a free quark decay in the first place. But this picture also implies the existence of a static field (in the rest frame of the quark) around the heavy quark, which behaves as $1/r$ at short distances. Thus a contribution of order Λ_{QCD} to the self-energy of the quark is stored at large distances, $r \sim 1/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$, of the order of the radius of the heavy-light meson. However, due to the Kinoshita-Lee-Nauenberg cancellations, in an inclusive decay of a heavy quark the decay vertex is localized to within a distance $1/m_b$ and the energy stored in the field at large distances $r \geq 1/\mu$ (where $m_b > \mu \geq \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ is a factorization scale) cannot participate in the hard process, but is absorbed into a rearrangement of the colour field of the hadronizing spectator quark. This explains, loosely spoken, why a short-distance mass is more appropriate in the description of inclusive decays as a hard process. This reasoning assumes that the quark produced by the weak current is fast and does not apply to a massive quark produced with zero recoil (cf. Sec. 3.2).

Since ultimately any quark mass parameter is unphysical, the most transparent way to exhibit the infra-red cancellations would be to eliminate any mass parameter in terms of a suitable physical quantity, provided it is determined by short distances and does not

import $1/m_b$ corrections (which rules out meson masses). However, as with the strong coupling constant, it is convenient to use a mass parameter for book-keeping purposes and as a *numerical* input parameter. It is only at this point that the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ mass (or any other mass defined at short distances) is favoured over the pole mass, because it does not import infra-red effects.

In fact, the divergence of the series of radiative corrections to the decay rates is only one aspect of the problem with using the pole mass. Another aspect is that it cannot be accurately extracted from measurable quantities through perturbative expansions [15, 17].

To reinforce this point we imagine that we used pole masses as numerical input parameters, determined from another measurement. Then one would always find that the size of perturbative corrections does not allow a determination of the masses to an accuracy better than ± 100 MeV (we quote the estimate from [13]). Treating the uncertainty in the input parameters as uncorrelated with the uncertainty in the theoretical prediction for the radiative corrections to the B decay width, we obtain a $\pm 21\%$ and $\pm 10\%$ uncertainty for $B \rightarrow X_u e \bar{\nu}$ and $B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}$ decays, respectively. This translates into an irreducible theoretical uncertainty of $\pm 10\%$ in $|V_{ub}|$ and $\pm 5\%$ in $|V_{cb}|$. The 10% uncertainty in $\Gamma(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu})$ is to be compared with the present experimental uncertainty of 12% of the branching ratio.

The calculation of decay rates with running masses has already been considered in [18] at the level of one-loop perturbative corrections. After resummation, we find that apart from the cancellation of infra-red contributions the perturbative coefficients are strongly reduced already in low orders. In particular, if the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ running mass is used in the tree-level decay rate, the series of radiative corrections for $b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ decays becomes

$$1 + 4.25 \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \left\{ 1 + 8.99 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right) + 35.15 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^2 + 241.1 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^3 + 1547 \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^4 + \dots \right\}. \quad (1.9)$$

Although the leading-order correction has increased (and changed sign), the higher-order coefficients are significantly reduced, so that with the same value of α_s as above we get the well convergent series

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(B \rightarrow X_u e \bar{\nu}) &= \overline{\Gamma}_0(0) \left\{ 1 + 4.25 \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} [1 + 0.604 + 0.159 + 0.073 + 0.032 + 0.022 + \dots] \right\} \\ &= \Gamma_0(0) \left\{ 1 + 4.25 \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} [1.92 \pm 0.01] \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (1.10)$$

with an uncertainty that is negligible compared to the uncertainty inherent in the restriction to vacuum polarization corrections.

It should be noted that anticipating the eventual cancellation of infra-red regions we can define the numerical value of the sum of radiative corrections even when it diverges, with some (ad hoc) prescription. Provided we use the same prescription to define the pole mass, and provided we know that the cancellation occurs, we can then simply delete nearly all

large uncertainties. Thus, the calculation in the on-shell scheme (using pole masses) can be saved at the cost of introducing consistent *non-perturbative* prescriptions to define the pole mass and to sum the series of radiative corrections. We shall consider this (conceptually less appealing) possibility as well, and shall see that after resummation of $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$ corrections the decay rates calculated in the on-shell and $\overline{\text{MS}}$ schemes are close to each other, provided the same short-distance mass is used as an input parameter. This supports *a posteriori* the assumption that the dominant higher order corrections are taken into account by vacuum polarization effects.

We conclude that the large corrections found in [7] do not endanger the accuracy of the theoretical treatment of inclusive decays. We do find, however, large corrections beyond second order in α_s , in particular in the on-shell scheme, defined in the sense of the previous paragraph. We suggest that these corrections are more important than the α_s^2 corrections left out by the restriction to the effects of running coupling. Although the accuracy of this restriction is not known and is certainly the main deficiency of our analysis, we believe that resummation of one-loop running effects provides a fair estimate of higher order perturbative corrections and the corresponding ‘M-factors’ (defined below) should be incorporated into any phenomenological analysis.

As already emphasized above, an appropriate treatment of quark masses as input parameters is of equal importance as the size of radiative corrections to the width itself. Most previous determinations of $|V_{cb}|$ from inclusive decays have used the OS scheme and pole masses as numerical input. Instead, we choose the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ masses as numerical input parameters. Thus, when we use the OS scheme in the above sense, the pole masses are calculated from the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ masses. This procedure is not without its own difficulties, since we must rely on direct determinations of $\overline{\text{MS}}$ masses, as from QCD sum rules, which have been obtained without the resummation which we implement for the decay width.

We use our results for a new determination of $|V_{cb}|$ from both inclusive and exclusive decays. We find a good agreement between the determination in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ and OS scheme, and obtain as our final value

$$|V_{cb}|(\tau_B/1.50 \text{ ps})^{1/2} = 0.041 \pm 0.002, \quad (1.11)$$

where the combined error comes from several sources that will be detailed below.

The presentation is organized as follows. In Sec. 2 we review the necessary formulas for resummation. Section 3 contains our main results for the BLM-improved perturbative series in B meson semileptonic decays. These two sections are more technical and those readers interested only in results may continue with Sec. 4 directly. The updated analysis of $|V_{cb}|$ obtained with the resummed formula along with its major uncertainties is given in Sec. 4, while Sec. 5 is reserved for a summary and conclusions. Some technical discussion and especially long formulas are given in the appendices. As a new analytic result, we derive an expression for the total $b \rightarrow u$ semileptonic decay width with a non-zero gluon mass, which provides the input necessary for resummation of running coupling effects [12, 13].

2 General formulas

We now formulate the resummation in precise terms. We are interested in the effect of radiative corrections to the total semileptonic width, which we define as

$$\Gamma(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \Gamma_0 \left\{ 1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} g_0(a) \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{d}_n(a) \alpha_s^n(m_b) \right] \right\}. \quad (2.1)$$

The functions $\tilde{d}_n(a)$ depend on the ratio of the charm and bottom quark masses, and are polynomials in the number of light flavours N_f :

$$\tilde{d}_n(a) = \tilde{d}_{n0} + \tilde{d}_{n1} N_f + \dots + \tilde{d}_{nn} N_f^n. \quad (2.2)$$

The coefficient $\tilde{d}_{nn}(a)$ comes from the insertion of n fermion loops in the gluon lines in the leading-order correction; this is the quantity we calculate explicitly. Substituting $N_f \rightarrow N_f - 33/2$ in the highest power of N_f , we rewrite (2.2) as

$$\tilde{d}_n(a) = \delta_n(a) + (-\beta_0)^n d_n(a), \quad (2.3)$$

where the (uncalculated) δ_n is by construction at most of order N_f^{n-1} . We use the definition of the first coefficient β_0 of the QCD β -function including the factor $-1/(4\pi)$,

$$\beta_0 = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \left(11 - \frac{2}{3} N_f \right) \quad (2.4)$$

with $N_f = 4$ for the case of interest². The standard BLM prescription [8] uses d_1 to fix the scale in the coupling in the leading-order correction. In the generalization developed in [12, 11, 13] all terms δ_n in (2.3) are neglected, but all d_n are kept as an estimate of radiative corrections for arbitrary n . Then we get

$$\Gamma(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \Gamma_0 \left\{ 1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} g_0(a) \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-\beta_0)^n d_n(a) \alpha_s^n(m_b) \right] \right\}. \quad (2.5)$$

Note that because of the factor $1/(4\pi)$ in β_0 the expansion parameter is effectively $\alpha_s/(4\pi)$. To quantify the effect of partial summation of N orders, we introduce the ‘M-factors’

$$M_N^{b \rightarrow c}[a, -\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)] \equiv 1 + \sum_{n=1}^N (-\beta_0)^n d_n(a) \alpha_s^n(m_b),$$

$$M_\infty^{b \rightarrow c}[a, -\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)] \equiv M_{N \rightarrow \infty}^{b \rightarrow c}[a, -\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)], \quad (2.6)$$

that measure the modification of the leading-order radiative correction by integrating with the running coupling at the vertex. The limit $N \rightarrow \infty$ in Eq. (2.6) does not exist in a rigorous

²We neglect the charm quark mass in quark loops. Its effect is small [13].

sense, reflecting the factorial divergence of the coefficients d_n in high orders. Assuming that the perturbative series is asymptotic, one is led to the conclusion that the uncertainty in the summation is in fact power-suppressed in m_b , and can be estimated numerically. Thus, in the following, numerical values of M_∞ will always be given with an uncertainty, reflecting this problem. This uncertainty cannot be eliminated without a rigorous factorization of the corresponding infra-red contributions into the matrix elements of higher dimensional operators.

An equivalent way to present the results is to absorb the M-factors into a redefinition of the scale in the lowest-order correction³

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_s(\mu_N^{b\rightarrow c}) &\equiv \alpha_s(m_b)M_N^{b\rightarrow c}[a, -\beta_0\alpha_s(m_b)], \\ \mu_\infty^{b\rightarrow c} &= \mu_{N\rightarrow\infty}^{b\rightarrow c}.\end{aligned}\tag{2.7}$$

The scale $\mu_1^{b\rightarrow c}$ is just the leading-order BLM scale studied in [7] and the μ_n with $n > 1$ correspond to a more accurate treatment of the distribution in the gluon virtuality, reflected by the size of higher-order corrections with up to n fermion loops. The uncertainty in the summation of the series is translated to the uncertainty in the ultimate BLM scale μ_∞ [12].

The calculation of the coefficients $d_n(a)$ requires the evaluation of diagrams such as those in Fig. 1, with the insertion of n fermion loops in the gluon lines. This problem is solved in a most economical way by applying a dispersion technique, and reduces to the calculation of the leading-order diagrams with finite gluon mass λ . Denote by

$$-\Gamma_0(a)C_F\alpha_s/\pi g_0(a)d_0(a, \lambda^2)$$

the sum of the diagrams in Fig. 2 calculated with a finite gluon mass λ , so that $d_0(a, \lambda^2 = 0) = 1$. For the contribution from the one fermion loop insertion, Smith and Voloshin [19] have derived a useful representation (in the V scheme of [8])

$$d_1^V(a) = -\int_0^\infty \frac{d\lambda^2}{\lambda^2} \left(d_0(a, \lambda^2) - \frac{m_b^2}{\lambda^2 + m_b^2} \right),\tag{2.8}$$

which has been used in the analysis of Ref. [7]. The calculation of diagrams with multiple fermion loop insertions involves precisely the same function $d_0(a, \lambda^2)$, and can thus be done at little additional calculational expense. In particular, the fixed-order coefficients $d_n(a)$ are obtained as [12, 13]

$$\begin{aligned}d_n(a) &= \frac{d^n}{du^n} B[D](a, u)|_{u=0}, \\ B[D](a, u) &= -\frac{\sin(\pi u)}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{d\lambda^2}{\lambda^2} \left(\frac{\lambda^2}{\mu^2} e^C \right)^{-u} [d_0(a, \lambda^2) - 1]\end{aligned}$$

³ For finite N one must expand (2.7) in α_s and truncate the expansion at the desired order.

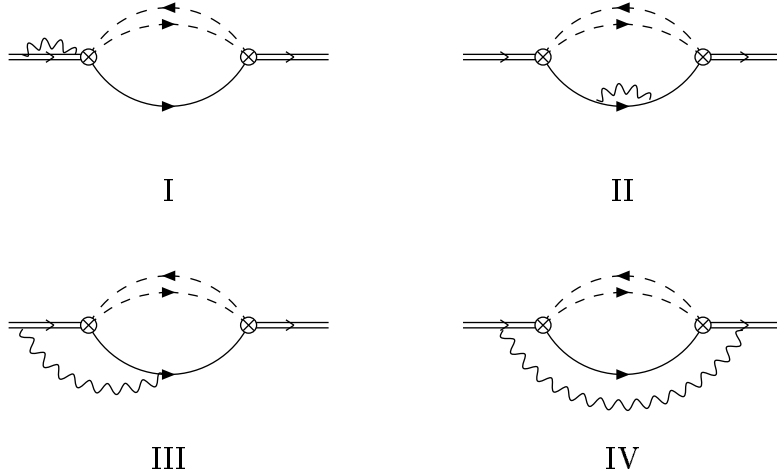


Figure 2: Leading-order radiative corrections to the transition operator, whose imaginary part gives the inclusive semileptonic decay width. Double line: b quark, solid line: c quark, dashed lines: leptons.

$$= -\frac{\sin(\pi u)}{\pi u} \int_0^\infty d\lambda^2 \left(\frac{\lambda^2}{\mu^2} e^C \right)^{-u} d'_0(a, \lambda^2), \quad (2.9)$$

where $d'_0(a, \lambda^2) = (d/d\lambda^2)d_0(a, \lambda^2)$ and C is a scheme-dependent finite renormalization constant. In the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme one has $C = -5/3$, in the V scheme $C = 0$. It is easy to check that for $n = 1$ the above expression reproduces Eq. (2.8).

A closed expression can be derived for the sum of all diagrams with an arbitrary number of fermion bubble insertions [12, 13]:

$$(-\beta_0\alpha_s)M_\infty[a, -\beta_0\alpha_s] = \int_0^\infty d\lambda^2 \Phi(\lambda^2) d'_0(a, \lambda^2) + [d_0(a, \lambda_L^2) - 1], \quad (2.10)$$

where $\alpha_s = \alpha_s(\mu)$,

$$\Phi(\lambda^2) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \arctan \left[\frac{-\beta_0\alpha_s\pi}{1 - \beta_0\alpha_s \ln(\lambda^2/\mu^2 e^C)} \right] - \theta(-\lambda_L^2 - \lambda^2), \quad (2.11)$$

and

$$\lambda_L^2 = -\mu^2 \exp[1/(\beta_0\alpha_s) - C] \quad (2.12)$$

is the position of the Landau pole in the strong coupling. Note that the term with the θ function exactly cancels the jump of the arctan at $\lambda^2 = -\lambda_L^2$, so that $\Phi(\lambda^2)$ is a continuous function of λ^2 .

In this paper we cannot give a detailed discussion of the assumptions underlying the derivation of Eqs. (2.9) and (2.10), and refer the reader to the corresponding sections in [12, 13]. Still, two short comments are appropriate.

First, note that the product $\alpha_s(\mu)M_\infty[a, -\beta_0\alpha_s(\mu)]$ is explicitly scale-invariant, provided the running of the coupling is implemented to leading logarithmic accuracy: $\alpha_s(\mu_1) = \alpha_s(\mu_2)/(1 - \beta_0\alpha_s(\mu_2)\ln(\mu_1^2/\mu_2^2))$. This result is also scheme-invariant, and in particular independent of the renormalization constant C , provided the couplings are consistently related in the same BLM approximation, that is by keeping only the terms with highest power in N_f . This is in contrast to the finite order summation coefficients M_N , which are scheme- and scale-dependent. In the following we assume the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme for the coupling α_s , and the normalization point $\mu = m_b$.

Secondly, notice that the second term in (2.10) involves the radiative correction to the decay rate with a finite gluon mass, analytically continued to the Landau pole $\lambda_L^2 < 0$. The renormalon divergence of the perturbation theory is reflected [16] by non-analytic terms in the expansion of $d_0(a, \lambda^2)$ at small λ^2 and leads to an imaginary part in this continuation. The size of the imaginary part (divided by π), $\delta M_\infty \equiv 1/(\pi|\beta_0|\alpha_s)\text{Im} d_0(a, \lambda_L^2)$, yields an estimate of the ultimate accuracy of perturbation theory, beyond which it has to be complemented by non-perturbative corrections. The real part of (2.10) coincides with the sum of the perturbative series defined by the principal value of the Borel integral [13], and the imaginary part of $d_0(a, \lambda_L^2)$ coincides with the imaginary part of the Borel integral.

The calculation of the diagrams in Fig. 2 with a finite gluon mass is straightforward, albeit tedious, and has been undertaken in [7]. Since no formulas were given there, we had to redo this calculation. For $b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ decays, that is for a massless quark in the final state, we have succeeded in obtaining an analytic expression for the decay rate. For $b \rightarrow ce\bar{\nu}$ decays, we leave the answer in form of at most two-dimensional integrals and evaluate them numerically. The corresponding formulas are collected in Appendix A.

3 Resummation of BLM-type radiative corrections

Our results are summarized in Table 1. For several representative values of $\sqrt{a} \equiv m_c/m_b$ we give calculated values of the fixed-order coefficients d_n , the partial sums M_n and the BLM scales μ_n . For $n = 1$, the $\beta_0\alpha_s^2$ correction, our results coincide with the ones obtained in [7]. We now discuss the numbers in Table 1 in detail.

3.1 Hierarchy of BLM scales

The BLM scale μ_∞ can be larger than the leading-order scale μ_1 . This may come unexpectedly.

The (leading-order) BLM prescription uses the average of $\ln k^2$, the average virtuality of the gluon, as the scale in the coupling. In high orders, this substitution generates a series of radiative corrections with a geometric growth of coefficients $d_n \sim (d_1)^n$ to be compared with the factorial growth of the exact coefficients. Resummation to all orders corrects for this discrepancy by adjusting μ_∞ so that the expansion of $\alpha_s(\mu_\infty)$ gives the correct d_n for all n .

\sqrt{a}	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.99
g_0	1.81	1.63	1.42	1.25	1.12	1.01	0.92	0.85	0.75
d_0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
d_1	5.34	5.00	4.55	4.09	3.59	3.10	2.62	2.16	1.18
d_2	34.4	30.9	27.3	23.9	20.5	17.4	14.3	11.4	5.24
M_0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
M_1	1.75	1.70	1.64	1.57	1.50	1.43	1.37	1.30	1.17
M_2	2.42	2.31	2.17	2.04	1.90	1.77	1.65	1.53	1.27
M_∞	2.31	2.35	2.24	2.10	1.96	1.82	1.69	1.57	1.38
	± 0.62	± 0.52	± 0.44	± 0.37	± 0.32	± 0.26	± 0.21	± 0.15	± 0.03
μ_1/m_b	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.13	0.17	0.21	0.27	0.34	0.55
μ_∞/m_b	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.17	0.20	0.23	0.27	0.37

Table 1: Resummation of $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$ corrections for semileptonic B decay widths, see text. The values of M_n and μ_n are given for $-\beta_0^{(4)} \alpha_s(m_b) = 0.14$.

Since for this reason for large n the true d_n will always outgrow $(d_1)^n$ and since the series is with fixed sign, one might suspect that the usual BLM scale-setting rather underestimates higher-order corrections.

For small c quark masses the effect is opposite, and the very small leading BLM scale μ_1 is simply an artefact of truncating the perturbative expansion at low order. The scales μ_1 and μ_∞ are given by

$$\mu_1 = m_b \exp[-d_1/2] = m_b \exp\left[\frac{1}{2\beta_0\alpha_s}(M_1 - 1)\right],$$

$$\mu_\infty = m_b \exp\left[\frac{1}{2\beta_0\alpha_s}\left(1 - \frac{1}{M_\infty}\right)\right]. \quad (3.1)$$

Although $\delta M \equiv M_\infty - M_1$ is positive in all cases we consider, the expression in parentheses in the first equation in (3.1) is numerically larger than the similar expression in the second equation, provided $\delta M < (M_1 - 1)^2/(2 - M_1)$. This is satisfied for small mass ratios, see Table 1, and results in $\mu_\infty > \mu_1$ (recall that β_0 is negative with our definition).

Note that the scale μ_∞ is bounded from below: as long as M_∞ is positive, μ_∞ is larger than $m_b \exp[1/(\beta_0\alpha_s(m_b))]$, the position of the infra-red Landau pole in the running coupling. There is no such restriction for μ_1 , which can take values below the pole. Again, this is an artefact of the truncation at fixed order.

3.2 Suppression of infra-red contributions for finite c quark mass

With a massive quark in the final state the radiative corrections apparently are reduced: The M-factors M_n are smaller, and the BLM scales μ_n are larger. This has been observed in [7] for the BLM scale in leading order, and it continues to all orders, although the difference between $m_c/m_b = 0$ (relevant to $b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ transitions) and $m_c/m_b = 0.3$ is less pronounced after resummation. The ambiguities related to the summation of a divergent series are also reduced and almost vanish in the limit of zero recoil $m_c \rightarrow m_b$. One can understand this by continuing the argument given in the introduction. As explained, these ambiguities arise, because the use of the pole mass parameter implies a static picture, while the energy stored in the field at large distances cannot be converted into hard radiation in the weak decay process. This assumed that the produced quark is fast in the rest frame of the initial b quark. When $m_c \rightarrow m_b$, the c quark is slow. Then, since the long-range part of the field of the b quark is universal, it can be smoothly transferred to the c quark and is simply irrelevant for the description of the decay. Therefore these long-distance contributions cannot be seen in the form of ambiguities in the zero-velocity limit.

To see this more explicitly, we recall that contributions of small momenta to decay rates can be traced by non-analytic terms in the expansion at small values of the gluon mass [16]. For the leading-order radiative correction to the B decay width this expansion takes the form⁴

$$d_0(a, \lambda^2) = 1 + h_1(a) \sqrt{\frac{\lambda^2}{m_b^2}} + h_2(a) \frac{\lambda^2}{m_b^2} + [h_{31}(a) \ln(\lambda^2/m_b^2) + h_{32}(a)] \left(\frac{\lambda^2}{m_b^2}\right)^{3/2} + O(\lambda^4 \ln \lambda^2) \quad (3.2)$$

with

$$h_1(a) = -\frac{\pi}{2f_1(a)g_0(a)} \left[5 - 16a^{1/2} - 24a - 24a^{3/2} + 24a^2 + 48a^{5/2} - 8a^3 - 8a^{7/2} + 3a^4 - 48a^{3/2} \ln a - 12a^2 \ln a \right]. \quad (3.3)$$

Note that the tree-level phase space factor $f_1(a)$ and the leading-order radiative correction $g_0(a)$ are extracted. The function $h_1(a)$ is plotted as a function of the mass ratio $\sqrt{a} = m_c/m_b$ in Fig. 3. For the realistic value $m_c/m_b = 0.3$ it is reduced by approximately a factor 2 compared to the massless case.

These long-range contributions to the static field are responsible for the major part of the ambiguity in the sum of the perturbative series. Within our approach, this ambiguity is related to the imaginary part of $d_0(a, \lambda^2)$, continued analytically to the position of the

⁴Note that terms $O(\lambda^2 \ln \lambda^2)$ are absent [16]. This is explained by the absence of a renormalon ambiguity in the kinetic energy of the heavy quark inside the B meson, at least in the approximation considered here.

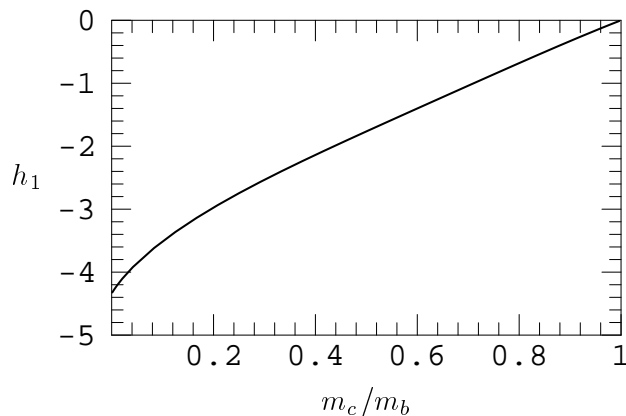


Figure 3: Coulombic contributions to the B decay rate, Eq. (3.3), expressed in terms of pole masses, as a function of the mass ratio m_c/m_b .

Landau pole (2.10), (2.12), and equals

$$(-\beta_0\alpha_s)\delta M_\infty = h_1(a)\frac{\lambda_L}{m_b} + O(\lambda_L^3/m_b^3). \quad (3.4)$$

The decrease of the value for M_∞ at $\sqrt{a} = 0.3$ ($b \rightarrow ce\bar{\nu}$ decays) compared to $a = 0$ ($b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ decays) roughly equals the decrease of the uncertainty.

In fact, these infra-red contributions are spurious, and can be removed by re-expressing the decay widths in terms of the short-distance (say, $\overline{\text{MS}}$) b and c quark masses instead of the pole masses [15, 16]. To trace this cancellation we write e.g. the b quark pole mass m_b as related to the running $\overline{\text{MS}}$ mass \overline{m}_b by the perturbative expansion

$$m_b = \overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b) \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\overline{m}_b)}{\pi} r_0(\lambda^2) + \dots \right\}, \quad (3.5)$$

where we keep a finite gluon mass λ as for the decay width. The expansion of $r_0(\lambda^2)$ at small gluon masses reads [15, 16]:

$$r_0(\lambda^2) = 1 - \frac{\pi\lambda}{2m_b} + \dots \quad (3.6)$$

Using Eqs. (3.5), (3.6) and similar expressions for the c quark, we find that, when calculated with a small gluon mass, the tree level decay rate is modified to

$$\Gamma_0(a, \lambda) = \Gamma_0(a) \left\{ 1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s \pi \lambda}{\pi m_b} \left[5/2 + (\sqrt{a} - a) \frac{d}{da} \ln f_1(a) \right] + \dots \right\}. \quad (3.7)$$

It is easy to see that the correction linear in λ exactly cancels with a similar term in the radiative correction to the decay width,

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_0(a, \lambda) \left[1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} g_0(a) d_0(a, \lambda^2) + \dots \right]$$

n	r_n	M_n^b	$d_n(0)$	$M_n^{b \rightarrow u}$	$\bar{d}_n(0)$	$\overline{M}_n^{b \rightarrow u}$
0	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	4.6861511	1.656	5.3381702	1.747	4.3163	1.604
2	17.622650	2.001	34.409913	2.422	8.0992	1.763
3	109.85885	2.303	256.48081	3.126	26.680	1.836
4	873.92393	2.638	2269.4131	3.997	82.262	1.868
5	8839.6860	3.114	23679.005	5.271	421.33	1.890
6	105814.28	3.911	289417.40	7.450	1656.1	1.903
7	1484968.4	5.476	4081180.2	11.75	12135	1.916
8	23740736.	8.978	65496131.	21.42	52862	1.924
∞	—	2.066 ± 0.231	—	2.314 ± 0.615	—	1.925 ± 0.012

Table 2: Effect of the elimination of the b quark pole mass on the radiative corrections to $b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ decays, see text. The given values of M_n correspond to $-\beta_0^{(4)}\alpha_s(m_b) = 0.14$.

$$= \Gamma_0(a) \left[1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s \pi \lambda}{\pi m_b} \left\{ 5/2 + (\sqrt{a} - a) \frac{d}{da} \ln f_1(a) + \frac{1}{\pi} g_0(a) h_1(a) \right\} + \dots \right], \quad (3.8)$$

with the function $h_1(a)$ defined as above. The terms in curly brackets add to zero, so that the total decay rate is free from infra-red contributions to this accuracy [15, 16]. It is only the use of a pole mass as an input parameter which introduces infra-red $1/m_b$ effects in the tree-level decay rate and in the radiative corrections, which cancel in the product. For a massless quark in the final state several terms in the small- λ expansion can easily be obtained analytically, with the result

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_0(0) \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \left[\frac{65}{8} - \frac{\pi^2}{2} - \left(\frac{27}{4} + \frac{4\pi^2}{3} \right) \frac{\lambda^2}{m_b^2} - \left(\frac{13\pi}{8} + 4\pi \ln(\lambda^2/m_b^2) \right) \frac{\lambda^3}{m_b^3} + \dots \right] \right\}. \quad (3.9)$$

The infra-red contributions now start at order $O(\lambda^3/m_b^3 \ln \lambda^2)$ and are numerically negligible⁵. If so, it is natural to formulate the perturbative calculation in terms of a mass parameter defined at short distances, so that large infra-red contributions do not appear. We address this task now.

⁵The remaining (small) uncertainty is related to contributions of dimension 6 operators to the decay rate, which produce non-perturbative corrections of order $1/m^3$. They can be relevant for D decays, see [20, 21]. The terms proportional to λ^3 in (3.9) produce an uncertainty of order 10% in the decay rate $D \rightarrow Xe\bar{\nu}$, which can be taken as an indication of the minimal size of $1/m_c^3$ corrections.

3.3 Elimination of the pole mass: $b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ decays.

The b quark pole mass is related to the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ mass by the perturbative series

$$m_b = \overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b) \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\overline{m}_b)}{\pi} \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{r}_n \alpha_s^n(\overline{m}) \right] \right\}. \quad (3.10)$$

As above, we approximate

$$\tilde{r}_n = (-\beta_0)^n r_n, \quad (3.11)$$

where r_n corresponds to contributions of n fermion loops to the leading-order diagram for the fermion self-energy and can be calculated using a representation similar to (2.9), (2.10) in terms of the leading-order diagram with a finite gluon mass $r_0(\lambda^2)$, see [12, 13] for details. The partial sums for the perturbative series truncated at order N are defined as

$$M_N^b[-\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)] \equiv 1 + \sum_{n=1}^N (-\beta_0)^n r_n \alpha_s^n(m_b),$$

$$M_\infty^b[-\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)] = M_{N \rightarrow \infty}^b[-\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)]. \quad (3.12)$$

The coefficients r_n were calculated in Ref. [12] and are given together with the partial sums M_N^b in the second and third columns in Table 2. The perturbative series defining the pole mass is divergent [15, 17], which is reflected by the uncertainty in the factors M_∞^b . The crucial point is that these uncertainties in defining resummed pole masses are correlated with uncertainties in the resummed radiative correction to the decay rate, and cancel against each other, when the pole mass is *defined* by its relation to the short-distance mass as in (3.10) or eliminated in favour of the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ mass [15, 16].

In what follows we shall consider both possibilities. The first one, which we refer to as calculation in the on-shell scheme (OS), is to define the resummed inclusive decay rate as

$$\Gamma^{OS}(B \rightarrow X_u e \bar{\nu}) = \Gamma_0^{OS} \left[1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} g_0(0) M_\infty^{b \rightarrow u} \right], \quad (3.13)$$

where it is understood that the b quark pole mass appearing in the tree-level decay rate is substituted by

$$m_b = \overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b) \left[1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} M_\infty^b \right] \quad (3.14)$$

with the factors $M_\infty^{b \rightarrow u}$ and M_∞^b given in Table 2 and the uncertainties deleted.

The second possibility is to use the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme from the very beginning. Using (3.10) we can write the decay rate as

$$\Gamma(B \rightarrow X_u e \bar{\nu}) = \overline{\Gamma}_0(0) \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} \overline{g}_0(0) \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^N (-\beta_0)^n \overline{d}_n(0) \alpha_s^n(m_b) \right] \right\}, \quad (3.15)$$

where

$$\bar{g}_0(0) = 5 - g_0(0), \quad \bar{d}_n(0) = -\frac{g_0(0)d_n(0) - 5r_n}{\bar{g}_0(0)}, \quad (3.16)$$

and the tree-level decay rate $\bar{\Gamma}_0$ is expressed in terms of $\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)$. Note that the leading-order radiative correction changes sign and becomes somewhat larger.

The coefficients \bar{d}_n and partial sums $\bar{M}_N^{b \rightarrow u}$ defined in an obvious way in analogy to (2.6) are given in Table 2 in comparison to d_n and $M_N^{b \rightarrow u}$, respectively. It is seen that the coefficients are drastically reduced, and the series has become well convergent. The remaining infra-red effects, relevant to the divergence of the perturbative series, are suppressed by three powers of the b quark mass [16] and have become tiny. Most importantly, this improvement is effective already at $n = 2$. We conclude that perturbative coefficients in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme are likely to be much smaller than in the OS scheme without restriction to vacuum polarization corrections, too.

In the framework of a purely perturbative calculation the use of the OS scheme can only be justified up to the order where perturbative series diverge. In all-order resummations such as the one considered in this paper, one must make sure that the *prescription* defining the pole mass in terms of a short-distance mass or any physical quantity is consistent with the prescription to sum the perturbative series of radiative corrections to the decay width. Even in this case, the OS scheme is somewhat unnatural since it involves large cancellations between radiative corrections to decay rates and to the pole masses already in low orders.

The resummed decay rate in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme is readily obtained by inserting (3.14) into (3.13) and expanding up to $O(\alpha_s)$:

$$\bar{\Gamma} = \bar{\Gamma}_0 \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \left[5M_\infty^b - g_0(0)M_\infty^{b \rightarrow u} \right] \right\}. \quad (3.17)$$

The difference between (3.13) and (3.17) is an effect of order $(C_F \alpha_s / \pi)^2$, which is beyond our accuracy. It is a pure scheme dependence, resulting from our incomplete perturbative calculation. Numerically, the difference amounts to about 6%, which is significantly smaller than the $\pm 15\%$ uncertainty for the radiative corrections noted in the introduction.

3.4 Elimination of the pole mass: $b \rightarrow ce\bar{\nu}$ decays.

Expressing the $b \rightarrow ce\bar{\nu}$ decay rate in terms of the running masses is slightly more cumbersome. As above, we start with the resummed decay rate in the OS scheme

$$\Gamma^{OS}(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \Gamma_0^{OS} \left[1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} g_0(a) M_\infty^{b \rightarrow c} \right], \quad (3.18)$$

where now both the c and b quark masses have to be expressed in terms of the running masses. Here we want to be somewhat more general, and introduce running masses at arbitrary scale μ as

$$m_{c,b} = \bar{m}_{c,b}(\mu) \left[1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\pi} \bar{M}_\infty^{c,b}(\mu) \right]. \quad (3.19)$$

The factors $\overline{M}_\infty^c(\mu)$ and $\overline{M}_\infty^b(\mu)$ can most easily be calculated by observing that the pole mass on the left-hand side of (3.19) is scheme-invariant, and using the renormalization-group expression for the running mass

$$\bar{m}(\mu) = \bar{m}(\bar{m}) \exp \left(-\frac{1}{\beta_0} \int_{\alpha_s(\bar{m})}^{\alpha_s(\mu)} \frac{d\alpha}{\alpha^2} \gamma_m(\alpha) \right), \quad (3.20)$$

where to our accuracy we have to expand the exponential to first order, but keep the mass anomalous dimension to all orders in $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$, which is known from [22, 13] (see Eq. (4.19) in [13]):

$$\gamma_m(\alpha_s) = \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \left[1 - \frac{5}{6}(\beta_0 \alpha_s) - \frac{35}{36}(\beta_0 \alpha_s)^2 + \dots \right]. \quad (3.21)$$

Thus, we obtain, e.g. for the c quark

$$C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\pi} \overline{M}_\infty^c(\mu) = C_F \frac{\alpha_s(m_c)}{\pi} M_\infty^c + \frac{1}{\beta_0} \int_{\alpha_s(m_c)}^{\alpha_s(\mu)} \frac{d\alpha}{\alpha^2} \gamma_m(\alpha), \quad (3.22)$$

where M_∞^c is a factor relating the c quark pole mass to the running mass $\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c)$, defined as in (3.14).

Collecting everything, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\Gamma}(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \overline{\Gamma}_0(\bar{a}, \mu) \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\pi} \left[5 \overline{M}_\infty^b(\mu) - g_0(\bar{a}) M_\infty^{b \rightarrow c} \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + 2 \left(\overline{M}_\infty^c(\mu) - \overline{M}_\infty^b(\mu) \right) \bar{a} \frac{d}{d\bar{a}} \ln f_1(\bar{a}) \right] \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

where $\bar{a} = (\bar{m}_c(\mu)/\bar{m}_b(\mu))^2$. It is worth while to note that the factor that appears in front of the logarithmic derivative of the phase space function f_1 is scale-independent:

$$\alpha_s(\mu) \left(\overline{M}_\infty^c(\mu) - \overline{M}_\infty^b(\mu) \right) = \alpha_s(m_c) M_\infty^c - \alpha_s(m_b) M_\infty^b + \frac{\pi}{\beta_0 C_F} \int_{\alpha_s(m_c)}^{\alpha_s(m_b)} \frac{d\alpha}{\alpha^2} \gamma_m(\alpha). \quad (3.24)$$

The expression in (3.23) is to be compared with the leading-order decay rate [18]:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\Gamma}^{LO}(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \overline{\Gamma}_0(\bar{a}, \mu) \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\pi} \bar{g}_0(\bar{a}, \mu) \right\}, \\ \bar{g}_0(\bar{a}, \mu) = 5 - g_0(\bar{a}) - \frac{15}{4} \ln \frac{m_b^2}{\mu^2} - \frac{3}{2} \bar{a} \ln \bar{a} \frac{d}{d\bar{a}} \ln f_1(\bar{a}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.25)$$

To quantify the effect of resummation, we introduce the corresponding M-factor by rewriting the resummed result in (3.23) as

$$\overline{\Gamma}(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \overline{\Gamma}_0(\bar{a}, \mu) \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\pi} \bar{g}_0(\bar{a}, \mu) \overline{M}_\infty^{b \rightarrow c}(\mu) \right\}. \quad (3.26)$$

We give the corresponding values in Table 7 for $\mu = \bar{m}_b$. Tracing the scale dependence of $\overline{M}_\infty(\mu)$ is misleading in this case because $\bar{g}_0(\bar{a}, \mu)$ is strongly scale-dependent.

3.5 The SV limit and exclusive B decays

The inclusive decay rate in the Shifman-Voloshin (SV) limit $m_b, m_c \gg m_b - m_c \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ [23] is dominated by two exclusive decay channels, $B \rightarrow De\bar{\nu}$ and $B \rightarrow D^*e\bar{\nu}$. Since the final state meson is produced almost at rest (in leading order in the heavy quark expansion), the techniques of the Heavy Quark Effective Theory are applicable, yielding the decay rate

$$\Gamma(B \rightarrow De\bar{\nu}, D^*e\bar{\nu}) = \frac{G_F^2 |V_{cb}|^2 (m_b - m_c)^5}{60\pi^3} (\eta_V^2 + 3\eta_A^2), \quad (3.27)$$

where η_V and η_A are the short-distance matching coefficients of the QCD heavy-heavy currents to the corresponding currents in the effective theory (at zero recoil):

$$\bar{c}\gamma_\mu b = \eta_V \bar{h}_c \gamma_\mu h_b + O(1/m^2), \quad \bar{c}\gamma_\mu \gamma_5 b = \eta_A \bar{h}_c \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 h_b + O(1/m^2). \quad (3.28)$$

They are given by a perturbative series, in which, as above, we only keep the BLM-type $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$ terms ($z = m_c/m_b$):

$$\eta_{V,A} = 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} r_0^{V,A}(z) \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-\beta_0)^n d_n^{V,A} \alpha_s^n(m_b) \right] \quad (3.29)$$

with [24, 23]

$$r_0^V(z) = -\frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{4} \frac{1+z}{1-z} \ln z, \quad r_0^A(z) = -2 - \frac{3}{4} \frac{1+z}{1-z} \ln z. \quad (3.30)$$

The resummation of $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$ terms for the η 's was discussed in some detail in [9, 11] and can equally easily be implemented within our dispersion technique. For completeness, we collect the necessary formulas in Appendix B. The results are summarized in Table 3, where we give the leading-order coefficients $d_1^{V,A}$ and the resummed enhancement factors

$$M_\infty^{V,A}[a, -\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)] \equiv 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-\beta_0)^n d_n \alpha_s^n(m_b). \quad (3.31)$$

To make an explicit comparison to inclusive decays possible, we have presented the results in the form of an expansion in $\alpha_s(m_b)$ rather than in $\alpha_s(\sqrt{m_b m_c})$ which is more natural in exclusive decays. Because of this, our coefficients are related to the ones given in Ref. [9] by $d_1^{V,A}(\mu = \sqrt{m_b m_c}) = d_1^{V,A}(\mu = m_b) + \ln m_c/m_b$. Since the product of α_s and M_∞ is scale-independent, when a one-loop running coupling is used, we have

$$M_\infty^{V,A}[z, -\beta_0 \alpha_s(\sqrt{m_b m_c})] = \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\alpha_s(\sqrt{m_b m_c})} M_\infty^{V,A}[z, -\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)]. \quad (3.32)$$

Thus, for example, with $\alpha_s(m_b)/\alpha_s(\sqrt{m_b m_c}) = 0.82$ and $M_\infty^A[0.3, -\beta_0 \alpha_s(m_b)] = 1.96$ from Table 3, we get $M_\infty^A[0.3, -\beta_0 \alpha_s(\sqrt{m_b m_c})] = 1.59$. Note that this number is rather large and indicates that the higher-order corrections are important in the axial channel.

m_c/m_b	d_1^V	d_1^A	M_∞^V	M_∞^A
0.1	2.47	1.63	2.07 ± 0.05	2.69 ± 1.09
0.2	1.78	3.32	1.50 ± 0.07	2.37 ± 0.42
0.3	1.36	2.56	1.30 ± 0.06	1.96 ± 0.16
0.4	1.08	2.17	1.20 ± 0.05	1.76 ± 0.09
0.5	0.86	1.90	1.14 ± 0.04	1.64 ± 0.06
0.6	0.68	1.70	1.09 ± 0.03	1.56 ± 0.05
0.7	0.52	1.53	1.06 ± 0.03	1.50 ± 0.04
0.8	0.39	1.39	1.04 ± 0.03	1.45 ± 0.03
0.9	0.27	1.27	1.02 ± 0.02	1.41 ± 0.03
1	0.17	1.17	1.00	1.37 ± 0.03

Table 3: The lowest-order coefficients $d_1^{V,A}$ and the resummed series $M_\infty^{V,A}$ for $\eta_{V,A}$ in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme as functions of the ratio of pole masses m_c/m_b . Note that the expressions diverge for $m_c \rightarrow 0$. For $m_c = m_b$, $\eta_V \equiv 1$ due to charge conservation. Input parameter: $-\beta_0\alpha_s(m_b) = 0.14$.

Where a comparison is possible, our results agree with the values obtained in [11]. We obtain

$$\eta_A = 0.943 \pm 0.005 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.001, \quad (3.33)$$

where the first error gives the estimated renormalon uncertainty⁶, the second one the uncertainty coming from $\alpha_s(m_Z)$, and the third one the uncertainty in the input quark masses.

In the limit $m_c \rightarrow m_b$ the inclusive decay rate thus equals (in perturbation theory)

$$\Gamma(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \frac{G_F^2 |V_{cb}|^2 (m_b - m_c)^5}{15\pi^3} \left\{ 1 - C_F \frac{\alpha_s(m_b)}{\pi} \frac{3}{4} M_\infty^A(a=1) \right\}, \quad (3.34)$$

which implies the relation

$$M_\infty^{b \rightarrow c}(a=1) \equiv M_\infty^A(a=1) \quad (3.35)$$

and provides a non-trivial check of our calculation. Comparing the corresponding entries in Table 1 and Table 3 we indeed find agreement.

4 Determination of $|V_{cb}|$

⁶ We note that this uncertainty, although of order $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2/m^2$, is numerically smaller than the estimate of explicit $1/m^2$ corrections, see Sec. 4.2, which justifies the addition of these explicit corrections, disregarding their potential ambiguity connected with renormalons.

4.1 Theoretical input parameters

The main parameters we need in order to determine $|V_{cb}|$ are the b and the c quark masses. At present there seems to be no general consensus on their values, and the existing estimates are often controversial. The masses extracted from the spectroscopy of $\bar{b}b$ and $\bar{c}c$ mesons are usually given with very small errors, see e.g. Ref. [25]. However, the actual uncertainty is in this case hidden in their relation to the running masses at a certain hard scale, which we need in this paper. Thus, we prefer to rely on a less accurate (as far as numbers are concerned) direct determination of the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ b quark mass from QCD sum rules for lowest moments of e^+e^- annihilation to heavy quarks [26, 27]. Due to the smaller scales involved, such estimates are less reliable for the c quark mass, so that we prefer to fix m_c by a different method, see below. In this paper we use the following value for the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ b quark mass [28, 29]⁷:

$$\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b) = (4.23 \pm 0.05) \text{ GeV}. \quad (4.1)$$

We point out that \overline{m}_b was chosen as renormalization point mainly in order to conform to the standard choice in the literature, in the same way as α_s is usually normalized by its value at the Z boson mass. Actually in our approach the question of the “natural” scale does not appear, at least to the extent that the approximation of summing higher order corrections due to vacuum polarization is good: all results are explicitly scale-invariant for a one-loop running coupling. In finite order perturbative calculations it may be more appropriate to choose a lower renormalization scale in order to minimize the size of uncalculated higher order terms. From (4.1) we get the pole mass⁸

$$m_b = (5.05 \pm 0.06) \text{ GeV}, \quad (4.2)$$

where all radiative corrections of type $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$ are resummed. Very similar values for the b quark pole mass were proposed in Refs. [30, 20] and are also indicated by lattice calculations [31].

In order to fix the c quark mass, we make use of the fact that the *difference* between the pole masses of two heavy quarks is free from many ambiguities intrinsic in the mass parameters themselves and can be determined to a good accuracy from the expansion

$$m_b - m_c = m_B - m_D + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{m_b} - \frac{1}{m_c} \right) [\lambda_1 + 3\lambda_2] + O(\alpha_s/m, 1/m^2), \quad (4.3)$$

⁷ The number given in [28, 29] literally corresponds to the Euclidian mass $m_b^2(p^2 = -m_b^2)$, but to the one-loop accuracy used in Refs. [26, 27] the difference between the Euclidian and the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ mass is negligible.

⁸ Recall that any numerical value of the pole quark mass implies its proper *definition*. Our central value corresponds to the principal value prescription to sum the perturbative series that relates the pole to the short-distance $\overline{\text{MS}}$ mass, the error comes from the 50 MeV uncertainty in $\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b)$. The freedom in choosing the summation prescription results in an additional uncertainty of m_b of order 100 MeV, which is exactly cancelled by a corresponding uncertainty in the decay rate, see the discussion in Sec. 3.3.

where m_B and m_D are the B and D meson masses, respectively; λ_2 is given by

$$\lambda_2 \simeq \frac{1}{4}(m_{B^*}^2 - m_B^2) \simeq 0.12 \text{ GeV}^2, \quad (4.4)$$

and $-\lambda_1/(2m_b)$ is the kinetic energy of a heavy quark inside a B meson. For λ_1 an estimate is available from QCD sum rules [32], $\lambda_1 = -(0.6 \pm 0.1) \text{ GeV}^2$, which is however strongly correlated with the value of $\bar{\Lambda} = m_B - m_b$ and thus with the value of the b quark pole mass. The estimate quoted in [32] is the average of $\lambda_1 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$ and -0.7 GeV^2 obtained for $\bar{\Lambda} = 400 \text{ MeV}$ and 500 MeV , respectively. The resummation of $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$ radiative corrections leads to a significant increase of the value of the b quark pole mass, and thus to a much lower value of $\bar{\Lambda}$ of order (200–300) MeV. Thus in principle the value for λ_1 to be used in our analysis should be obtained from a QCD sum rule using a small value of $\bar{\Lambda}$ and including the resummation of running coupling effects, which is not available. We have calculated the BLM-type α_s^2 correction to the simpler sum rule for the leptonic decay constant f_B in the static limit [33], which also enters the sum rule for λ_1 as normalization factor, and found that this correction is very small (in other words: the BLM scale coincides with the “naive” hard scale). This may be accidental, however, and rather indicate that other corrections are important. We have also checked that the sum rule for λ_1 derived in [32] becomes much less sensitive to the value of $\bar{\Lambda}$ if it is small, and even with arbitrary $\bar{\Lambda}$ it is not possible to push $-\lambda_1$ below (0.25–0.30) GeV^2 . Lacking a BLM-improved sum rule for λ_1 , we consider $-(0.5 \pm 0.2) \text{ GeV}^2$ as a fair estimate. With this value, one obtains⁹ from (4.3)

$$m_b - m_c = (3.43 \pm 0.04) \text{ GeV}, \quad (4.5)$$

assuming that α_s/m and $1/m^2$ corrections in (4.3) are negligible. Combining this result with the b quark pole mass in (4.2) we get the c quark pole mass

$$m_c = (1.62 \pm 0.07) \text{ GeV} \quad (4.6)$$

and the running mass

$$\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c) = (1.29 \pm 0.06) \text{ GeV}. \quad (4.7)$$

This value is consistent with determinations from QCD sum rules [26, 27].

For completeness, we also give the corresponding values of the “one-loop pole masses” defined as

$$m_{b,c}^{(1)} = \bar{m}_{b,c}(\bar{m}_{b,c}) \left\{ 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\bar{m}_{b,c})}{\pi} \right\} : \quad (4.8)$$

$$m_c^{(1)} = (1.50 \pm 0.06) \text{ GeV},$$

$$m_b^{(1)} = (4.63 \pm 0.05) \text{ GeV}. \quad (4.9)$$

⁹ Using our technique it is possible to estimate the uncertainty of the relation (4.5) that is due to infra-red contributions suppressed by three powers of the quark mass (as mentioned above, the $1/m^2$ renormalon uncertainty is absent, at least to our approximation). A simple calculation yields $\delta(m_b - m_c) \simeq m_c/(4\pi|\beta_0|) \exp[5/2 - 3/(2|\beta_0|\alpha_s(m_c))]$, which is of order (5–8) MeV.

Our values are in agreement with those quoted in Ref. [30].

4.2 Extraction of $|V_{cb}|$

Our discussion was so far restricted to the perturbative corrections to the b quark decay rate. In order to extract $|V_{cb}|$ from the experimental data, we now have to specify the non-perturbative corrections, which are suppressed by two powers of the heavy quark masses. Summarizing the results of Refs. [6, 32, 34] we write

$$\Gamma(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu}) = \Gamma(B \rightarrow X_c e \bar{\nu})_{pert} \left(1 + \frac{\delta^{NP}}{m_b^2} \right) \quad (4.10)$$

with $\delta^{NP} = -(1.05 \pm 0.10) \text{ GeV}^2$, where the error comes from the uncertainty in λ_1 , cf. Sec. 4.1.

As for the exclusive decays, the experimentally interesting quantity is the differential decay rate at zero recoil of the final state meson, which depends on the form factor

$$\mathcal{F}(1) = \eta_A(1 + \delta_{1/m^2}). \quad (4.11)$$

The short-distance correction η_A was already discussed in Sec. 3.5; numerical values are given there and in Table 6 below. The non-perturbative correction δ_{1/m^2} was estimated in Refs. [2] as $-(5.5 \pm 2.5)\%$ using $\lambda_1 = -0.4 \text{ GeV}^2$.¹⁰

As experimental input we use the world average B^0 lifetime $\tau_{B^0} = 1.5 \text{ ps}$ [36], the most recent measurement of the B^0 semileptonic branching ratio $B_{SL} = (10.9 \pm 1.3)\%$ [37], and $|V_{cb}\mathcal{F}(1)| = 0.0354 \pm 0.0027$ [38], where we have rescaled the latter value to be compatible with $\tau_{B^0} = 1.5 \text{ ps}$.

Our results are summarized in Fig. 4 and in Tables 4 and 5, where we give $|V_{cb}|$ as function of the running b quark mass. The determination with one-loop radiative corrections is plotted in Fig. 4(a) and using resummation in Fig. 4(b). The solid line represents the result from the $\overline{\text{MS}}$, the long dashes from the OS calculation. The short dashes give $|V_{cb}|$ from exclusive decays. The shaded areas illustrate the range of b quark mass values from Eq. (4.1). The curves in Fig. 4(b) are obtained for $\lambda_1 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$, which corresponds roughly to a fixed difference of the pole masses of $m_b - m_c = 3.43 \text{ GeV}$.

The two sets of curves in Fig. 4(a) are obtained with two different ways to specify the c quark mass. The first way is to use exactly the same short-distance c quark mass as in Fig. 4(b): the curves labelled (i) and (ii) are obtained using the constraint (4.3) with *resummed* pole masses, i.e. fixing $m_b - m_c = 3.43 \text{ GeV}$, and calculating $m_c^{(1)}$ and $\overline{m}_c(\overline{m}_c)$, respectively, for a given value of $\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b)$. Thus, since all short-distance input parameters are chosen in precisely the same way as in Fig. 4(b), the difference between the predictions for $|V_{cb}|$ is entirely the effect of resummation.

¹⁰ An earlier estimate [35] was $-(8.5 \pm 3)\%$ for $\lambda_1 = -0.54 \text{ GeV}^2$.

		$\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b)$	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4
		m_b	$4.80_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$	$4.91_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$	$5.02_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$	$5.13_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$	$5.24_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$
$\overline{m}_c(\overline{m}_c)$	m_c						
1.18	$1.47_{+(1)}^{-(6)}$	$0.045_{+(3)}^{-(3)}$	$0.042_{+(2)}^{-(3)}$	$0.039_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	$0.037_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	$0.034_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	
1.22	$1.52_{+(0)}^{-(5)}$	$0.046_{+(3)}^{-(3)}$	$0.043_{+(2)}^{-(3)}$	$0.040_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	$0.037_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	$0.035_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	
1.26	$1.58_{+(0)}^{-(4)}$	$0.047_{+(3)}^{-(3)}$	$0.044_{+(2)}^{-(3)}$	$0.041_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	$0.038_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	$0.035_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	
1.30	$1.63_{+(0)}^{-(4)}$	$0.048_{+(3)}^{-(3)}$	$0.045_{+(2)}^{-(3)}$	$0.041_{+(2)}^{-(3)}$	$0.039_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	$0.036_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	
1.34	$1.68_{-(1)}^{-(3)}$	$0.049_{+(3)}^{-(3)}$	$0.046_{+(3)}^{-(3)}$	$0.042_{+(2)}^{-(3)}$	$0.039_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	$0.037_{+(2)}^{-(2)}$	

Table 4: $|V_{cb}|$ calculated in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme for a wide range of quark masses. The central value is obtained for $\alpha_s(m_Z) = 0.117$, the upper (lower) number in brackets gives the shift of the last digit if α_s is put to 0.123 (0.111). The masses are given in GeV. Experimental input: $B_{SL} = 10.9\%$, $\tau_{B^0} = 1.5$ ps.

		$\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b)$	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4
		m_b	$4.80_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$	$4.91_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$	$5.02_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$	$5.13_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$	$5.24_{-(9)}^{+(9)}$
λ_1 [GeV ²]	$m_b - m_c$						
-0.3	3.39	$0.0441_{+(7)}^{-(7)}$	$0.0426_{+(7)}^{-(7)}$	$0.0414_{+(7)}^{-(7)}$	$0.0402_{+(7)}^{-(7)}$	$0.0392_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	
-0.4	3.41	$0.0438_{+(7)}^{-(7)}$	$0.0423_{+(7)}^{-(7)}$	$0.0411_{+(7)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0399_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0389_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	
-0.5	3.43	$0.0434_{+(7)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0420_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0408_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0397_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0387_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	
-0.6	3.46	$0.0431_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0417_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0405_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0394_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0384_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	
-0.7	3.48	$0.0427_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0414_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0402_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0391_{+(6)}^{-(6)}$	$0.0382_{+(5)}^{-(5)}$	

Table 5: $|V_{cb}|$ calculated in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme in dependence on the b quark mass and λ_1 . Notations and experimental input as in the previous table.

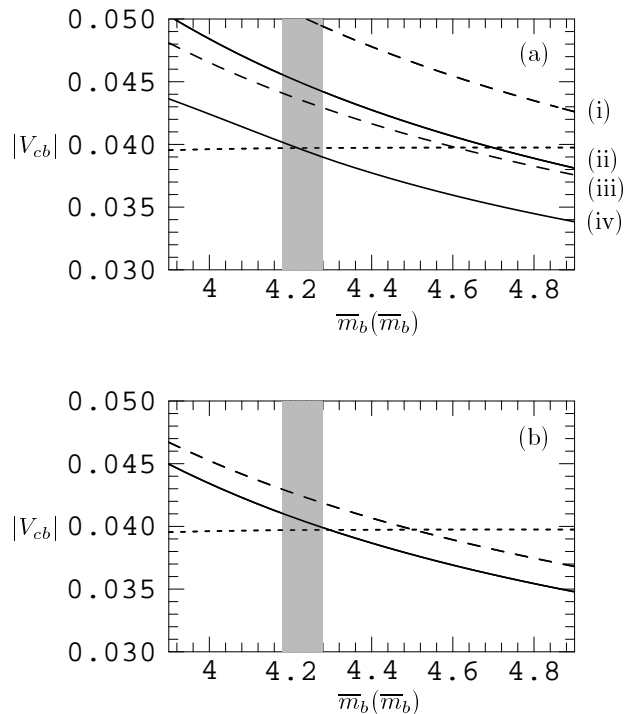


Figure 4: The value of $|V_{cb}|$ extracted from the inclusive B meson semileptonic decay rate to one-loop accuracy (a) [the curves (i) to (iv) are explained in the text] and after resumming $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$ radiative corrections (b) as a function of the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ b quark mass for fixed $\lambda_1 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$. The solid and long-dashed curves show the predictions obtained by using the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ and OS scheme, respectively. The central value coming from exclusive decays is shown by short dashes and the shaded area gives the interval of b quark mass values suggested by QCD sum rules, Eq. (4.1). Experimental input: $\tau_{B^0} = 1.5 \text{ ps}$, $B_{SL} = 10.9\%$, $\alpha_s(m_Z) = 0.117$.

Although this choice is presumably the most clear way to show the effect of resummation of running coupling effects, it also may be slightly misleading. Indeed, the large difference in values of $|V_{cb}|$ between the one-loop and resummed formulas is mainly due to the fact that the one-loop pole masses defined in this way do not satisfy Eq. (4.3): $m_b^{(1)} - m_c^{(1)} = 3.13 \text{ GeV}$. Thus we also try another choice, calculating the c quark mass by enforcing the constraint (4.3) expressed in terms of *one-loop* pole masses, so that $m_b^{(1)} - m_c^{(1)} = 3.43 \text{ GeV}$. The results are shown in the form of curves (iii) and (iv). This choice is less instructive as far as the comparison between one-loop and resummed results is concerned, but is probably more attractive phenomenologically. On the other hand, we note that with this choice the value of the short-distance c quark mass becomes very low, $\overline{m}_c(\overline{m}_c) = 0.98 \text{ GeV}$ [$m_c^{(1)} = 1.18 \text{ GeV}$] for $\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b) = 4.23 \text{ GeV}$, which is hardly consistent with the QCD sum rules for the charmonium system. The large difference in the resulting values for $|V_{cb}|$ shows the dilemma all strict one-loop calculations are inevitably confronted with: it is impossible to relate the three

independently determined input parameters $\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b)$, $\overline{m}_c(\overline{m}_c)$ and λ_1 to each other within the errors by one-loop equations, although all of them provide valid phenomenological input. It is only after inclusion of higher order perturbative corrections in Eq. (4.3) in form of the resummed pole masses that the three values appear to be consistent with each other, and it may be considered as a serious argument in favour of BLM-improved perturbation theory in semileptonic inclusive decays that the central value (but not the error bars, see below) of $|V_{cb}|$ is independent of the choice of a particular subset.

The effect of resummation is clearly visible in Fig. 4(b): first, we find a considerably reduced scheme dependence, i.e. the difference between the solid and the long-dashed curves is much smaller in Fig. 4(b) than in Fig. 4(a). Secondly, we observe good agreement between $|V_{cb}|$ from exclusive and inclusive decays obtained with resummation, which otherwise is only achieved for either an unreasonably large b quark mass or a very small c quark mass.

It has been proposed in Ref. [35] that in inclusive decays the dependence on the quark masses is significantly reduced, if the charm and bottom masses are not varied independently, but related to each other by Eq. (4.3). To study this question, we give tables of numerical values for $|V_{cb}|$, choosing as independent input parameters either the running b and c quark masses (Table 4), or the running b quark mass and λ_1 , which specifies the difference between the pole masses (Table 5). It is clearly seen that, although the central values for $|V_{cb}|$ are nearly the same, the latter choice is preferable, since the inclusive decay rate is very sensitive to the mass difference $m_b - m_c$, and already a very modest accuracy in λ_1 in fact constrains $m_b - m_c$ more precisely¹¹ than any direct determination. We conclude that λ_1 (or equivalently $m_b - m_c$) is a better theoretical input parameter than the c quark mass itself, in agreement with the discussion in Ref. [35]. In addition we find that the dependence on $\alpha_s(m_Z)$ is strongly reduced, too. We emphasize, however, that our choice of input parameters only serves to reduce the sensitivity of $|V_{cb}|$ on uncertainties in the input parameters and that the central value is independent of that choice.

It might also be useful to compare the results obtained from the resummed formulas with those obtained in the usual BLM approximation, where of the whole series of corrections generated by the running of the coupling only the $\alpha_s^2\beta_0$ term is taken into account. Again, the major subtlety comes from the necessity to specify the c quark mass. It turns out that the perturbative series that relates the c quark pole mass to the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ mass starts to diverge already in second order [12]. Because of the divergence, it is *not* justified to cut the series at that order, although in this case the BLM correction gives an excellent approximation to the exact two-loop result. For example, starting from $\overline{m}_c(\overline{m}_c) = 1.26$ GeV one gets for the BLM pole mass $m_c^{BLM} = 1.75$ GeV, which is significantly *larger* than the resummed result $m_c = 1.58$ GeV. In other words, the BLM approximation underestimates the scale of the coupling and thus overestimates the radiative correction. A comparison between the

¹¹Even if we abandoned the determination of λ_1 in Ref. [32] completely and only put the constraint $-0.7 \text{ GeV}^2 \leq \lambda_1 \leq 0 \text{ GeV}^2$, which corresponds to $3.34 \text{ GeV} \leq m_b - m_c \leq 3.48 \text{ GeV}$, $|V_{cb}|$ would change by at most 0.0014.

BLM and the resummed results is however possible if one starts from the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ b quark mass, calculates the b quark pole mass in the BLM approximation, and then fixes the c quark pole mass from the heavy-quark expansion (4.3). Taking for definiteness $\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b) = 4.23 \text{ GeV}$ and $\lambda_1 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$, we find in this way in the BLM approximation $|V_{cb}| = 0.0381$ ($|V_{cb}| = 0.0424$) in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ (OS) scheme, respectively, compared with $|V_{cb}| = 0.0404$ ($|V_{cb}| = 0.0424$) with resummed formulas. The perfect agreement between the BLM and resummed formulas in the OS scheme is probably accidental. In the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ (OS) scheme the BLM result is very close to the one-loop calculation, see Fig. 4. In both cases, the numerical effect of higher order corrections is small and of the order of 5%. We wish to emphasize once more, however, that this comparison is only possible if the c quark mass is obtained in a very particular way and it is only after resummation that we are able to get a selfconsistent description in terms of short-distance parameters.

From the combined evidence of Fig. 4 and Tables 4 and 5 we extract the following results:

$$|V_{cb}|^{\overline{\text{MS}}} = (0.0404 \pm 0.0006 \pm 0.0006 \pm 0.0006) \left(\frac{B_{SL}}{10.9\%} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{1.5 \text{ ps}}{\tau_{B^0}} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (4.12)$$

$$|V_{cb}|^{\text{OS}} = (0.0424 \pm 0.0004 \pm 0.0007 \pm 0.0005) \left(\frac{B_{SL}}{10.9\%} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{1.5 \text{ ps}}{\tau_{B^0}} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (4.13)$$

where the first error comes from the uncertainty in $\alpha_s(m_Z) = 0.117 \pm 0.006$, the second one from the uncertainty of the b quark mass, Eq. (4.1), and the third one from the uncertainty in $\lambda_1 = -(0.5 \pm 0.2) \text{ GeV}^2$. For the reader's convenience, we collect all other parameters in Table 6 and Table 7.

Comparing Eqs. (4.12) and (4.13), it is clear that the uncertainty of our calculation is dominated by scheme dependence, which is simply the effect of higher-order radiative corrections not related to the running of the QCD coupling and which we miss in our approximation. A different way to estimate unknown higher-order corrections is to consider the scale dependence of the results in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme. This scale dependence is due to two-loop running effects in α_s and terms of order $(\alpha_s C_F)^2$, which are beyond the accuracy of our approach. We have checked that after renormalization group improvement of $\ln(\mu^2/m_b^2)$ corrections (i.e. using the exponentiated form of the b quark mass scale dependence as in Eq. (3.20)) the variation of $|V_{cb}|$ with the renormalization scale μ within $m_b/2 \leq \mu \leq 2m_b$ is of order ± 0.001 , i.e. of the same order as the difference between the OS and $\overline{\text{MS}}$ calculations. This may be taken as an estimate of the accuracy of the resummation, beyond which an explicit calculation of higher-order corrections is necessary. Combining the errors, we get

$$(\tau_{B^0}/1.5 \text{ ps})^{1/2} |V_{cb}|_{incl} = 0.041 \pm 0.002 \pm 0.002, \quad (4.14)$$

which is our final result. The first error shows the theoretical uncertainty and the second error comes from the experimental semileptonic branching ratio. The theoretical error is dominated by the uncalculated exact α_s^2 correction to the decay rate. All large corrections

$\alpha_s(m_Z)$	$\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{(4)} [\text{MeV}]$	$m_b [\text{GeV}]$	$m_c [\text{GeV}]$	$\alpha_s(m_b)$	$\alpha_s(m_c)$	$M_\infty^{b \rightarrow c}[a, -\beta_0^{(4)}\alpha_s(m_b)]$	η_A
0.111	223	4.96	1.52	0.190	0.291	2.07	0.954
0.117	308	5.05	1.62	0.208	0.333	2.07	0.943
0.123	411	5.15	1.72	0.228	0.384	2.02	0.938

Table 6: Input parameters in the calculation of the resummed B decay rate in the OS scheme and values of η_A entering the exclusive decay rate.

$\alpha_s(m_Z)$	$\sqrt{\bar{a}}$	$\alpha_s(\bar{m}_b)$	$\alpha_s(\bar{m}_c)$	$\bar{M}_\infty^b(\bar{m}_b)$	$\bar{M}_\infty^c(\bar{m}_c)$	$M_\infty^{b \rightarrow c}[\bar{a}, -\beta_0^{(4)}\alpha_s(\bar{m}_b)]$	$\bar{M}_\infty^{b \rightarrow c}$
0.111	0.287	0.199	0.326	2.04	1.82	2.06	2.18
0.117	0.306	0.220	0.383	2.08	1.55	1.97	2.40
0.123	0.329	0.244	0.451	2.09	1.22	1.82	2.68

Table 7: Input parameters in the calculation of the resummed B decay rate in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme.

coming from the running of the strong coupling either cancel after proper treatment of the infra-red regions or are cast into the redefinition of the scale in the coupling or, equivalently, into the “M-factors”. The numerical significance of these M-factors depends on the way how the input parameters are chosen, and can be minimized by using the constraint (4.3) following from the heavy quark expansion.

In turn, we get from the exclusive decays

$$(\tau_{B^0}/1.5 \text{ ps})^{1/2} |V_{cb}|_{excl} = 0.040 \pm 0.001 \pm 0.003, \quad (4.15)$$

where the first error is the theoretical uncertainty¹² and the second one the experimental error of the decay rate.

At present the experimental errors are roughly the same for both the exclusive and the inclusive determinations. Actually the two approaches are complementary to each other: the inclusive decays offer a better opportunity to reduce the experimental errors, whereas the exclusive decay rates are inevitably plagued with large statistical errors from a measurement near the edge of phase space. On the other hand, in inclusive decays, the theoretical predictions are more sensitive to errors in the quark masses. It is encouraging that even now, with moderate experimental accuracy and an improvable accuracy of the theoretical input, both methods lead to very similar results.

¹² The theoretical error indicated in (4.15) does not include neither possible perturbative corrections, nor related to running of the coupling, nor the uncertainty in λ_1 which contributes to the overall $1/m^2$ correction.

	This paper ^(a)		Ref. [39] ^(b)	Ref. [40] ^(b)	Ref. [18] ^(b)	Ref. [35] ^(a)
Scheme	$\overline{\text{MS}}$	OS	OS	OS	$\overline{\text{MS}}$	OS
m_c [GeV]	1.26 ^(c)	1.62 ^(d)	–	1.57 ^(d)	1.35 ^(c)	1.3 ^(d)
m_b [GeV]	4.23 ^(c)	5.05 ^(d)	–	4.96 ^(d)	4.6 ^(c)	4.8 ^(d)
$ V_{cb} $	0.040(1)	0.042(1)	0.046(8)	≈ 0.042	0.036(3)	0.042

^(a) m_b from QCD sum rules, m_c from Eq. (4.3).

^(c) Running mass normalized at \overline{m} .

^(b) m_c from $B(D \rightarrow X e \bar{\nu})$, m_b from Eq. (4.3).

^(d) Pole mass.

Table 8: $|V_{cb}|$ from inclusive decays obtained in previous analyses. If necessary, the quoted numbers are rescaled to be compatible with $\tau_{B^0} = 1.5$ ps, $B_{SL} = 10.9\%$. The quark masses are the central values used in the papers.

5 Conclusions

We have carried out a detailed analysis of the radiative corrections to inclusive semileptonic B decays that originate from the running of the strong coupling. Independent of the actual accuracy of this approximation, our results clearly indicate that the series of radiative corrections in the OS scheme diverges, starting already in low orders. Thus determinations of $|V_{cb}|$ from inclusive decays using the pole masses of b and c quarks as input parameters are plagued with a numerically large uncertainty. The accuracy cannot be improved by choosing a different scheme or a lower scale in the running coupling.

However, the problem is spurious and entirely due to the use of a bad input parameter — the pole mass — which imports infra-red contributions at the level of $O(1/m_b)$ corrections. It can be shown [15, 16] that these corrections are absent in the inclusive decay rates, and therefore using pole masses in the tree-level decay rate induces large radiative corrections of infra-red origin simply in order to cancel infra-red effects hidden in the definition of the mass parameter.

We demonstrate that the behaviour of the perturbative series is indeed drastically improved by using the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ mass instead. The calculation in the OS scheme can be saved, if the pole mass is defined by a certain non-perturbative prescription in its relation to the short-distance mass (or some physical quantity from which it is determined), and if the same prescription is used to sum the series of radiative corrections to the decay widths. This essentially implies a rearrangement of radiative corrections in two pieces, hiding part of them in the tree-level phase space, and in practice involves considerable cancellations already in low orders.

We carry out a detailed analysis of inclusive decay rates with resummation of corrections induced by one-loop running of the coupling and find a good agreement between values of $|V_{cb}|$ extracted from inclusive and exclusive decays. The comparison of our results with earlier calculations is presented in Table 8. In general, we find agreement within the errors. It should

be emphasized, however, that predictions for inclusive decays depend rather strongly on the quark masses, and effects of the resummation can be masked by using different input values. We believe that one advantage of our approach lies in using well-defined mass parameters, which can (in principle) be extracted from experimental data with high accuracy.

The accuracy of our predictions is limited by the unknown accuracy of the resummation of BLM-type radiative corrections. The incompleteness of this procedure is at least partially indicated by the scheme dependence of the result for $|V_{cb}|$, which is of order 5%. To reduce this remaining error it will be necessary to incorporate exact α_s^2 corrections to the decay rates. One could try to reduce radiative corrections by expressing the decay widths in terms of masses renormalized at smaller scales, and adjust their values in order to reproduce the bulk of available data on heavy hadrons in the framework of one-loop calculations. This approach can be phenomenologically successful inasmuch as the structure of higher-order radiative corrections is similar in various processes, which is natural to assume, but difficult to control theoretically.

On the other hand, with a restriction to the level of accuracy of order 5% for $|V_{cb}|$, we find that the theoretical calculation can be justified, and only a moderate precision is required for input parameters such as quark masses. In particular, it is sufficient to know the running b quark mass to an accuracy of order (50–100) MeV, and the difference in pole masses of b and c quarks to ~ 50 MeV, which corresponds to the uncertainty of the kinetic energy of the b quark inside the B meson of order 0.2 GeV^2 . We think that it is possible to achieve this kind of accuracy, and in fact even to improve it.

To summarize, we conclude that inclusive decays of B mesons provide a valid source of information on $|V_{cb}|$ with a present theoretical accuracy of order 5%, which presumably can be improved in the future.

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A Radiative corrections to inclusive decays

In this appendix we give an explicit expression for the one-loop radiative correction to the total inclusive decay width. We use the on-shell renormalization scheme, where for finite gluon mass the wave-function renormalization constant is given by (in dimensional regularization in D dimensions):

$$Z_{2F} = 1 + C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left\{ \frac{2}{D-4} + \gamma_E - \ln 4\pi + \ln \frac{m_b^2}{\mu^2} - 4 - 3y + \left(\frac{3}{2} y^2 - 2 \right) \ln y \right.$$

$$- \left. \frac{3(y^2 - 2y - 4)}{2\sqrt{1 - 4/y}} \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4/y}} \right\}. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

For a massive quark's self-energy Σ we impose the renormalization condition $\Sigma^R(m^2) \stackrel{!}{=} 0$. Throughout the appendix, we use the notations $y = \lambda^2/m_b^2$ and $a = m_c^2/m_b^2$.

The function $d_0(a, \lambda^2)$ can be written as the sum of contributions of real and virtual gluon emission, corresponding to different imaginary parts of the diagrams in Fig. 1:

$$f_1(a)g_0(a)d_0(a, \lambda^2) = - \left[D^{virt}(a, y) + \theta(m_b - m_c - \lambda)D^{brems}(a, y) \right] \quad (\text{A.2})$$

(recall that f_1 is the tree-level phase space factor defined in (1.2) and $g_0(a)$ the one-loop correction for zero gluon mass). The subscripts accompanying the D 's specify the diagrams in Fig. 2, from which they are obtained, so that

$$D = D_I + D_{II} + D_{III} + D_{III}^\dagger + D_{IV}. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

A.1 The decay $b \rightarrow ce\bar{\nu}$

For a massive quark in the final state, we did not succeed in obtaining an analytic expression. Below we give the renormalized contributions of the single diagrams, in Feynman gauge, expressed in terms of at most two-dimensional integrals:

$$D_I = f_1(a) \left\{ -1 - \frac{3y}{4} + \frac{3(4 + 2y - y^2)}{8\sqrt{1 - 4/y}} \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4/y}} + \left(\frac{3}{8}y^2 - \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln y \right\}, \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$D_{II}^{virt} = D_{II} + f_1(a) \frac{\ln a}{4} \Big|_{y \rightarrow y/a}, \quad (\text{A.5})$$

$$D_{II}^{brems} = \int_{(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{y})^2}^1 dx f_1(x) w(a, x, y) \frac{a^2 + x^2 - 6ax - y(a + x)}{4x^2(x - a)^2}, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_{III}^{virt} + D_{III}^{\dagger virt} &= \int_0^{(1 - \sqrt{a})^2} dx \int_0^1 dz w(1, a, x) \left[-2xy + \frac{\ln a}{2a} (-4a + 2y + 2a^2 + y^2 + 2a^3 + 2ax \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2ay + 2xy - 4a^2x - 4a^2y + 2ax^2 - ay^2 - 3xy^2 - 4x^2y + 2axy) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + w(1, a, x) (3x + 2y) \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4a/(1 + a - x)^2}}{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4a/(1 + a - x)^2}} + \frac{y}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{y}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \times (-2 - y + 2a^2 - 4x^2 + 2ax + ay - 3xy) \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4/y}} + \frac{y}{2a} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4a}{y}} \\
& \times (2 + 2x + y - 2a^2 - 4x^2 - ay - 3xy) \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4a/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4a/y}} + \frac{y \ln y}{2a} (-2 + 2a \\
& - 2x - y + 2a^2 - 2a^3 + 4x^2 - 4ax + 2ay - 2a^2x - a^2y + 4ax^2 + 3xy + 3axy) \\
& - \frac{1}{A} (1 - a - a^2 + a^3 - 3x^2 + 2x^3 + y + 4ax - 3ax^2 - 2ay + a^2y - 2xy \\
& + 2xy^2 + 4x^2y - 2axy) \left(\ln A - \ln y + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 4A/y}} \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4A/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4A/y}} \right) \Big], \tag{A.7}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
D_{III}^{brems} + D_{III}^{\dagger brems} &= \int_{(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{y})^2}^1 dx \int_0^{(1 - \sqrt{x})^2} dz \left[\frac{w(1, x, z) w(a, x, y)}{x(a - x)} (2 + a - x + y + 2z + x^2 - 4z^2 \right. \\
& - 3ax + az - xy - xz - 3yz) + \frac{2}{a - x} (1 - x + y + x^2 - 3z^2 + 2z^3 - 2ax \\
& - ay + 4az - xy - 2yz + a^2x - a^2z - az^2 - 2xz^2 + 4yz^2 - 2y^2z + axy \\
& \left. + axz - 2xyz) \ln \frac{w(1, x, z) w(a, x, y) + (1 - z + x)(a - x - y) + 2xy}{-w(1, x, z) w(a, x, y) + (1 - z + x)(a - x - y) + 2xy} \right], \tag{A.8}
\end{aligned}$$

$$D_{IV}^{brems} = \int_a^{(1 - \sqrt{y})^2} dx f_1(a/x) w(1, x, y) \frac{x^2 \{1 + x^2 - 6x - y(1 + x)\}}{4(1 - x)^2}, \tag{A.9}$$

where we have used

$$w(x, y, z) = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 2xy - 2xz - 2yz)^{1/2}, \quad A = 1 - z + az - x(1 - z)z. \tag{A.10}$$

The integrals have been further evaluated numerically. In doing so it is convenient to use the following expansion for large y :

$$D^{virt} \stackrel{y \rightarrow \infty}{=} \sum_{n=1}^3 [\kappa_n(a) + \zeta_n(a) \ln y] \frac{f_1(a)}{y^n} + O(\ln y / y^4) \tag{A.11}$$

\sqrt{a}	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.99
κ_2	$\frac{4321}{432} - \frac{5\pi^2}{9}$	4.53	4.57	4.62	4.71	4.89	5.25	5.89	6.96	8.64	10.83
κ_3	$\frac{667133}{14700} - \frac{8\pi^2}{3}$	19.1	19.2	19.4	19.6	19.9	20.6	22.1	–	–	–

Table A: Coefficient-functions in Eq. (A.11).

with the coefficient functions

$$\begin{aligned}
f_1\zeta_1 &= -\frac{2}{5} \left(1 + 55a^2 - 55a^3 - a^5 + 30a^2 \ln a + 30a^3 \ln a \right), \\
f_1\zeta_2 &= \frac{1}{36} (a^2 - 1) (97 - 648a + 1042a^2 - 648a^3 + 97a^4) + \frac{5a^2}{3} (9 - 16a + 9a^2) \ln a, \\
f_1\zeta_3 &= -\frac{1}{105} (1 - a) (1349 - 8731a - 3817a^2 + 5598a^3 - 3817a^4 - 8731a^5 + 1349a^6) \\
&\quad + 40a^2 (1 + a) (3 - 4a + 3a^2) \ln a, \\
f_1\kappa_1 &= -\frac{1}{50} (1 - a) (-41 + 284a + 3834a^2 + 284a^3 - 41a^4) \\
&\quad + \frac{2a^2}{5} \ln a (-80 - 135a - a^3 + 30a \ln a). \tag{A.12}
\end{aligned}$$

The coefficients κ_2, κ_3 were calculated numerically and are given in Table A for several values of a .

A.2 The decay $b \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$

In the limit $a \rightarrow 0$, the integrals in Eqs. (A.6)–(A.9) can be done analytically, yielding:

$$\begin{aligned}
D^{virt} &= \frac{1}{432} (144y^3 + 180y^2 - 2540y - 513) - \frac{\pi^2}{36} (y^4 - 18y^2 + 16y + 6) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{24\sqrt{1-4/y}} (4y^3 - 11y^2 - 62y + 132) \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1-4/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1-4/y}} \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{6} (y^4 - 18y^2 + 16y + 6) \left\{ \ln \frac{y}{2} + \ln \left(1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{y}} \right) \right\} \left\{ \ln \frac{y}{2} + \ln \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{y}} \right) \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{y^2(y^2 + 2y - 12)}{6} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{y}} \left\{ \text{L}_2 \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{y}} \right) \right] - \text{L}_2 \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{y}} \right) \right] \right\} \\
& + \frac{1}{72} (12y^3 + 45y^2 - 172y - 120) \ln y, \tag{A.13}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
D^{brems} = & - \frac{1-y}{432} (259y^3 + 43y^2 + 133y - 1863) - \frac{\ln y}{72} (36y^3 + 477y^2 - 172y - 120) \\
& + \frac{y^4}{12} \ln^2 y + \frac{1}{72} (y^4 - 18y^2 + 16y + 6) \left(3 \ln^2 y - 2\pi^2 - 12 \arctan^2 \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \right. \\
& + 24 \arctan \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \times \arctan \left(\frac{y}{2-y} \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \right) + 12 \left\{ \text{L}_2 \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(2 - y + iy \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \right) \right] \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \text{L}_2 \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(2 - y - iy \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \right) \right] \right\} \right) + \frac{\ln y}{6} y^2 (y^2 + 2y - 12) \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \\
& \times \left\{ 2 \arctan \left(\frac{y}{2-y} \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \right) + 2 \arctan \left(\frac{1-y}{3-y} \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \right) + \arctan \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} - \pi \right\} \\
& + \frac{y}{36} (19y^3 + 26y^2 - 234y + 72) \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \left\{ \arctan \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} - \arctan \left(\frac{y}{2-y} \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \right) \right\} \\
& + \frac{1}{36 \sqrt{4/y - 1}} (19y^4 - 38y^3 - 299y^2 + 678y - 468) \arctan \left(\frac{1-y}{3-y} \sqrt{\frac{4}{y} - 1} \right). \tag{A.14}
\end{aligned}$$

B Radiative corrections to exclusive decays

The $\beta_0^n \alpha_s^{n+1}$ corrections to exclusive decays at zero recoil were considered in Ref. [11], using a somewhat different approach. To convert to our technique, it suffices to observe that for ultraviolet convergent quantities the invariant distribution function \hat{w} introduced in [11] is related to the discontinuity of the one-loop radiative correction r_0 with finite gluon mass λ (in the normalization of Eq. (3.29)):

$$r_0(\lambda^2) = \frac{1}{4C_F} \int_0^\infty ds \frac{1}{s + \lambda^2} s \hat{w}(\tau = s/\mu^2). \tag{B.1}$$

Using $\mu^2 = m_c m_b$ and the explicit expressions¹³ given in [11], we find (with $y = \lambda^2/m_b^2$ and $z = m_c/m_b$):

$$\begin{aligned}
r_0^V(y) = & \frac{-3y + 2yz - 4z^2 - 3yz^2}{8z^2} + \frac{y(1-z)^2(3y + 4yz - 2z^2 + 3yz^2)}{16z^4} \ln y \\
& - \frac{3y^2 - 5y^2z - 2yz^2 + 6yz^3 + 6z^4 + 6z^5}{8z^4(1-z)} \ln z \\
& - \frac{3y^3 - 5y^3z - 8y^2z^2 + 16y^2z^3 + 4yz^4 + 4yz^5 - 32z^6}{16yz^4(1-z)\sqrt{1-4z^2/y}} \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1-4z^2/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1-4z^2/y}} \\
& - \frac{-4y - 16y^2 + 5y^3 + 32z - 4yz + 8y^2z - 3y^3z}{16y(1-z)\sqrt{1-4/y}} \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1-4/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1-4/y}}, \quad (\text{B.2})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
r_0^A(y) = & - \frac{9y + 2yz + 24z^2 + 9yz^2}{24z^2} - \frac{9y^2 - 7y^2z - 6yz^2 - 6yz^3 + 18z^4 + 18z^5}{24(1-z)z^4} \ln z \\
& + \frac{y(9y + 2yz - 6z^2 + 2yz^2 - 12z^3 + 2yz^3 - 6z^4 + 9yz^4)}{48z^4} \ln y \\
& - \frac{9y^3 - 7y^3z - 24y^2z^2 + 8y^2z^3 + 12yz^4 + 44yz^5 - 96z^6}{48yz^4(1-z)\sqrt{1-4z^2/y}} \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1-4z^2/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1-4z^2/y}} \\
& - \frac{-44y - 8y^2 + 7y^3 + 96z - 12yz + 24y^2z - 9y^3z}{48y(1-z)\sqrt{1-4/y}} \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1-4/y}}{1 - \sqrt{1-4/y}}. \quad (\text{B.3})
\end{aligned}$$

¹³Note that in Eq. (63) of Ref. [11] $(1 + \tau/2)$ must be replaced by $(1 + \tau/z)$.

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