

Kaons

CP violation & rare decays

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Strangeness

$$K^+ \sim u\bar{s}$$

$$K^- \sim \bar{u}s$$

$$K^0 \sim d\bar{s}$$

$$\overline{K}{}^0 \sim \bar{d}s$$

Differences to B physics

- Less phase-space → less decays ✗
- Stronger CKM suppression of top contribution
→ less SM background ✓
Kaons: $\lambda^5 \sim 0.0005$ B mesons: $\lambda^3 \sim 0.01$
- Charm can *potentially* contribute → care is needed!

Kaons: SM vs NP

SM

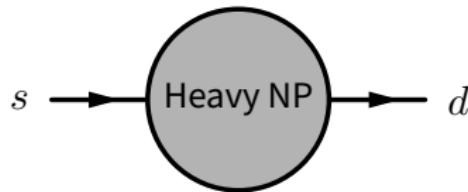
loop induced, precision



Heavy NP

virtual, indirect probe

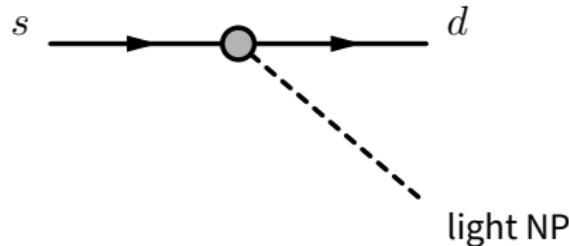
SUSY, Composite Higgs, Extra Dimensions, ...



Light NP

decays to “invisible”

Axions, Dark Photons, ...



K- vs B/D-physics probes of NP

- **Complementarity**

comparison only possible within specific models/setup
→ search in all sectors

- **Acquired theoretical control** in Kaon modes

→ Large sensitivity to high-scale dynamics

- **Non-MFV models** / no-alignment of NP FV with SM FV

→ typically Kaon constraints supersede B/D probes

Even in models **with** alignment Kaons important

ϵ_K “excludes” composite-Higgs models partial compositeness and anarchic Yukawas

Kaons in the era of the LHC

- If the LHC continues to reduce the parameter-space for TeV-scale NP
 - the phenomenological **need** for flavour alignment is lifted
(MFV, flavour symmetries, partial compositeness,...)
- “importance” of Kaon observables as probes of NP increases

There is a strong, ongoing and planned experimental program in place to take advantage of Kaon modes

[recent review of Kaon community: Goudzovski et al., 2201.07805]

- situation similar for probes of light NPs (e.g., the QCD axion)

Kaons and light-NP – example QCD Axion

$$\Gamma_K^{\text{tot}} \sim M_K^5/M_W^4$$

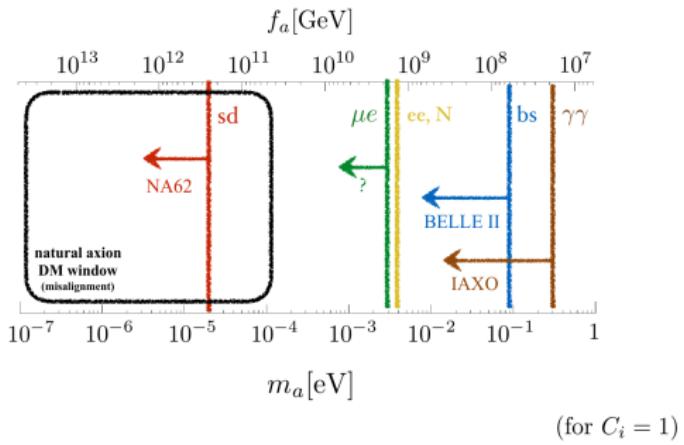
$$\Gamma_B^{\text{tot}} \sim M_B^5/M_W^4$$

- Dimension-5 QCD axion couplings: $\frac{\partial^\mu a}{f_a} \bar{q}_i \gamma_\mu (\gamma_5) q_j$

$$\text{BR}(K \rightarrow \pi a) \propto \frac{M_W^4}{M_K^2 f_a^2}$$

$$\text{BR}(B \rightarrow \pi a) \propto \frac{M_W^4}{M_B^2 f_a^2}$$

→ High sensitivity to light NP



(for $C_i = 1$)

[from R. Ziegler @ La Thuille]

Observables

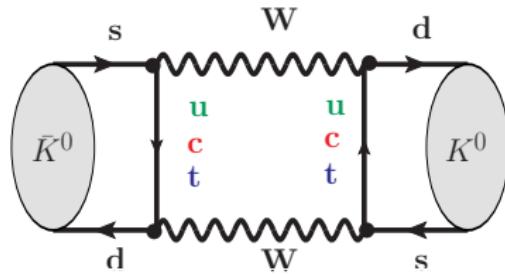
- **CP violation in $K - \bar{K}$ mixing**

- ϵ_K : indirect CP violation
- ϵ'/ϵ : direct CP violation (hadronic uncertainties → lattice, not today)

- **Rare FCNC decays**

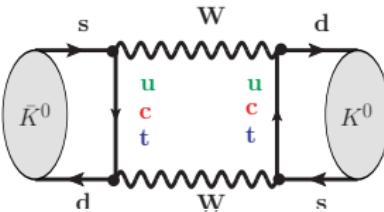
- $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \nu$ (the Kaon “golden” modes)
- $K_S \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NP sensitivity from time-dependent rates)
- $K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ (sensitivity to tensors [Mescia, Smith, Trine 06], not today)
- non-FCNC decays, ...

$K - \bar{K}$ mixing



Progress and future directions for ϵ_K

ϵ_K – disentangling long-distance charm contributions



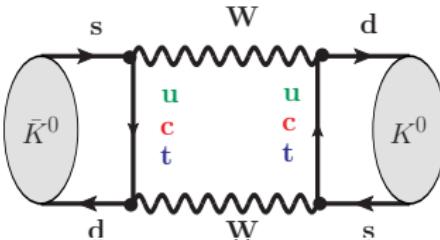
- among the most stringent constraints of BSM with new FV
(feeds back into predictions of clean BSM-sensitive rare decays)

$(K_L \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$ [Buchalla, Buras 96;] $K_S \rightarrow \mu \mu$ [Brod, ES 23])

- **but** prediction had reached an **impasse**

ϵ_K seemed to be plagued by non-perturbative uncertainties associated to charm impeding further progress

- **solution “simple”** (ct vs ut unitarity)
modifying CKM-unitarity relation used decouples charm in ϵ_K
→ opens path to permille-level accuracy [Brod, Gorbahn, ES 19])



$$\lambda_i \equiv V_{id} V_{is}^* \text{ and } \lambda \sim 0.23$$

Choice: Eliminate either λ_u or λ_c via different unitarity relations

	Im[...]	Re[...]	order
	λ_t^2	λ^{10}	m_t^2/M_W^2
“ct”	$\lambda_c \lambda_t$	λ^6	$m_c^2/M_W^2 \log(m_c/m_t)$
	λ_c^2	λ^6	m_c^2/M_W^2
“ut”	$\lambda_u \lambda_t$	λ^6	$m_c^2/M_W^2 \log(m_c/m_t)$
	λ_u^2	0	m_c^2/M_W^2

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_u &= -\lambda_t - \lambda_c && \text{ct-unitarity (old computation, 3 imaginary parts)} \\ \lambda_c &= -\lambda_t - \lambda_u && \text{ut-unitarity (new computation, 2 imaginary parts)}\end{aligned}$$

“ct”

VS

“ut”

- **Beyond LO** different conditions correspond to a rearrangement/reshuffling of the perturbative expansion
(A priori it is **not clear** that results can be trivially translated into one another)
- It is always possible (phase-convention independent) to transparently separate the long-distance charm contributions entering ΔM_K from ϵ_K

[Brod, Gorbahn, ES 19]

Phase-(in)dependent Hamiltonian

- Make convention-independence of ϵ_K explicit
(Trick: factor out $1/(\lambda_u^*)^2$)

$$\mathcal{H}^{\Delta S=2} = \frac{G_F^2 M_W^2}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{(\lambda_u^*)^2} Q_{S2} \left\{ \textcolor{red}{f_1} \textcolor{blue}{C_1} + i \textcolor{red}{J} [\textcolor{red}{f_2} \textcolor{blue}{C_2} + \textcolor{red}{f_3} \textcolor{blue}{C_3}] \right\} + \text{h.c.} + \dots$$

[Brod, Gorbahn, ES 19]

- C_1, C_2, C_3 : real Wilson coefficients
 - J, f_1, f_2, f_3 real, phase-convention invariant CKM structures
 - Real part of $f_1 = |\lambda_u|^4$ is unique, splitting of f_2 and f_3 is not
- **One contribution to real part** $\propto C_1$ (relevant for ΔM_K)
- **Only two independent imaginary pieces** $\propto J f_1$ **and** $J f_2$ (relevant for ϵ_K)

Uncertainty estimates – ϵ_K without ΔM_K pollution

“Old” / ct-unitarity

$$|\epsilon_K| \propto |V_{cb}|^2 (1 - \bar{\rho}) \hat{C}_{S2}^{tt} + \hat{C}_{S2}^{ct} - \hat{C}_{S2}^{cc}$$

- Do we vary scales independently? → large uncertainties

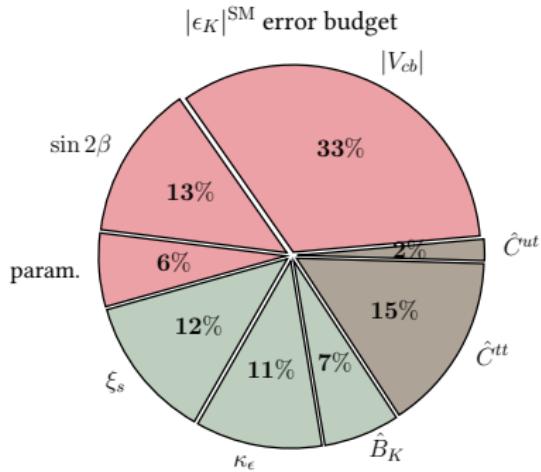
“New” / ut-unitarity

$$|\epsilon_K| \propto |V_{cb}|^2 (1 - \bar{\rho}) \hat{C}_{S2}^{tt} + \hat{C}_{S2}^{ut}$$

- No ambiguity any more → clean/clear uncertainty estimation

SM prediction of ϵ_K

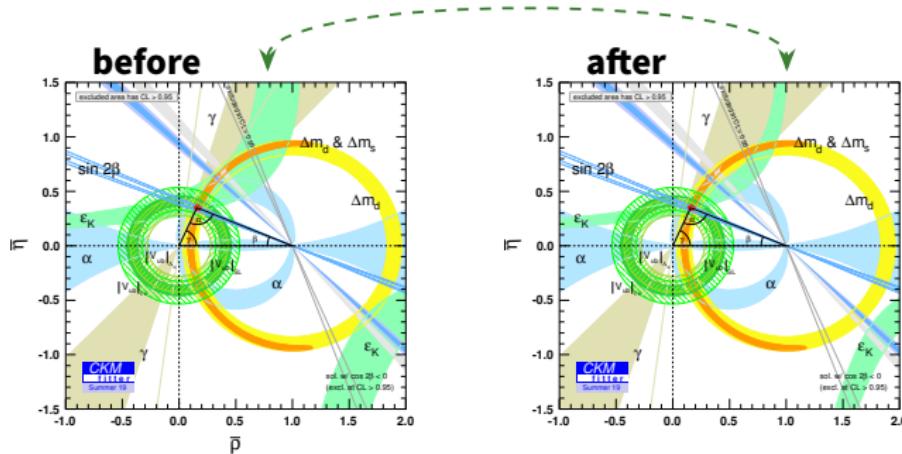
$$|\epsilon_K| = \kappa_\epsilon \hat{B}_K |V_{cb}|^2 \lambda^2 \bar{\eta} \left(|V_{cb}|^2 (1 - \bar{\rho}) \eta_{tt} S(x_t) - \eta_{ut} S(x_c, x_t) \right)$$



- $\hat{B}_K = 0.7625(97)$
[FLAG19, 1902.08191]
- $\eta_{ut} = 0.402(5)$
[Brod, Gorbahn, ES 19]
- $|\epsilon_K|^{\text{SM}} = 2.16(18) \times 10^{-3}$
- $|\epsilon_K|^{\text{exp}} = 2.228(11) \times 10^{-3}$

ϵ_K – disentangling charm contributions

- reshuffling the perturbative expansion $\rightarrow \epsilon_K$ without ΔM_K pollution
- opens path to permille level precision

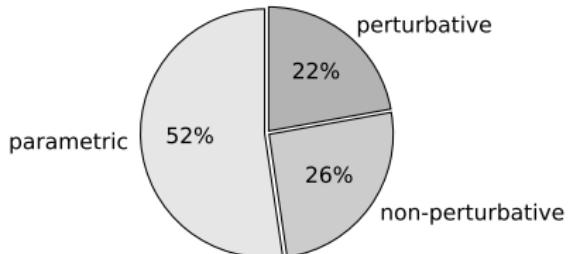


$$|\epsilon_K|^{\text{exp}} = 2.228(11) \times 10^{-3}$$

$$|\epsilon_K|^{\text{SM}} = 2.16(18) \times 10^{-3}$$

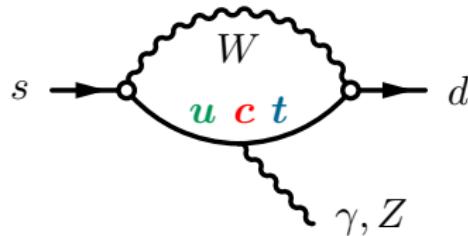
[Brod, Gorbahn, ES 19]

[top@NNLO-QCD in progress with
Gorbahn, Yu also for B - \bar{B} mixing]



Rare K decays

Rare K decays: CKM structure in SM



$$\text{Re}(\lambda_u) \sim \lambda$$

$$\text{Im}(\lambda_u) = 0$$

$$\text{Re}(\lambda_c) \sim \lambda$$

$$\text{Im}(\lambda_c) \sim \lambda^5$$

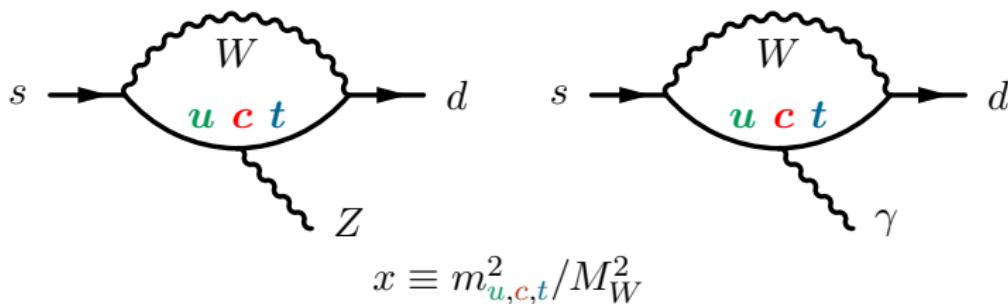
$$\text{Re}(\lambda_t) \sim \lambda^5$$

$$\text{Im}(\lambda_t) \sim \lambda^5$$

With respect to CKM:

- **CP conserving modes:** potential top/charm competition ✗
- **CP violating modes:** free from long-distance up-quark (Λ_{QCD}) contributions, suppressed, and dominated by short-distance dynamics ✓

Rare K decays: GIM structure



$$X_0(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \infty} x$$

$$D_0(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \infty} \log x$$

$$X_0(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 0} x \log x$$

$$D_0(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 0} \log x$$

- If photonic penguins contribute, long-distance “pollution”
- Z penguins quadratically sensitive to x – **hard quadratic GIM**

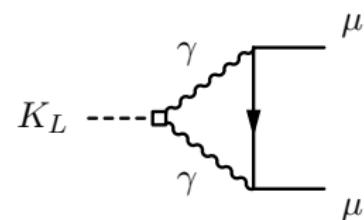
A tricky opportunity

$$K_S \rightarrow (\mu^+ \mu^-)_{\ell=0}$$

$$K_S \rightarrow (\mu^+ \mu^-)_{\ell=0}$$

CP structure depends on dimuon angular momentum, ℓ

	$\rightarrow (\mu\mu)_{\ell=0}$	$\rightarrow (\mu\mu)_{\ell=1}$
K_L	CP conserving	CP violating X
K_S	CP violating ✓	CP conserving



- K_L : long-distance dominated due to two-photon penguin
 $\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \mu\mu) = 6.84(11) \times 10^{-9}$
- K_S : $\ell = 0$ component, CP violating and top-quark dominated
 $\text{BR}(K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu) < 2.1 \times 10^{-10}$

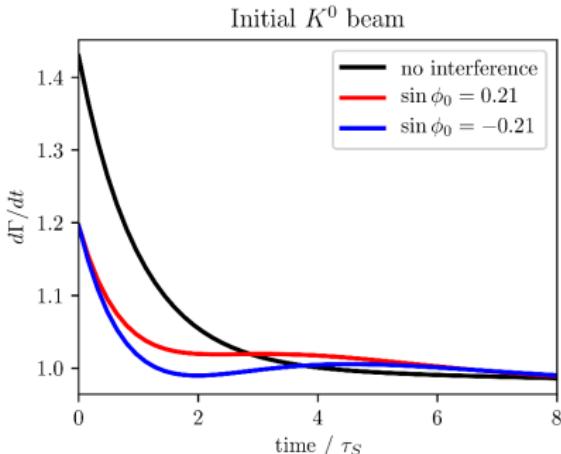
Challenges: tag K_S (small lifetime) and access the $(\mu\mu)_{\ell=0}$ state

$\text{BR}(K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu)_{\ell=0}$ from time-dependent rate

Leverage interference in **time-dependent** rate to access the short-distance dominated $(\mu\mu)_{\ell=0}$ state

[D'Ambrosio, Kitahara 17]

$$\frac{d\Gamma[K(t) \rightarrow (\mu\mu)_\ell]}{dt} \propto C_L^\ell e^{-\Gamma_L t} + C_S^\ell e^{-\Gamma_S t} + 2[C_{\sin}^\ell \sin(\Delta M t) - C_{\cos}^\ell \cos(\Delta M t)]e^{-\Gamma t}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\text{BR}[K_S \rightarrow (\mu\mu)_{\ell=0}]}{\text{BR}[K_L \rightarrow \mu\mu]} &= \\ &= \frac{\tau_S}{\tau_L} \left(\frac{C_{\text{int}}}{C_L} \right)^2\end{aligned}$$

[Dery et al 21]

[plot from J. Brod @ LPCP]

$\text{BR}(K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu)_{\ell=0}$ SM prediction and NP sensitivity

- Top-quark dominated and $\mathcal{CP} \rightarrow \sim 1\%$ theory uncertainty
- Sizable 3% component from CP-conserving amplitude $\times \epsilon_K$
- only rough estimate possible for relative strong phase

[estimation from $K_L \rightarrow \mu\mu K_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ data]

$$\text{BR}(K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu)_{\ell=0} = 1.70(2)(1)(19) \times 10^{-13} \quad [\text{Brod, ES 22}]$$

- Presently no heavy-NP bounds; not clear whether exp. feasible

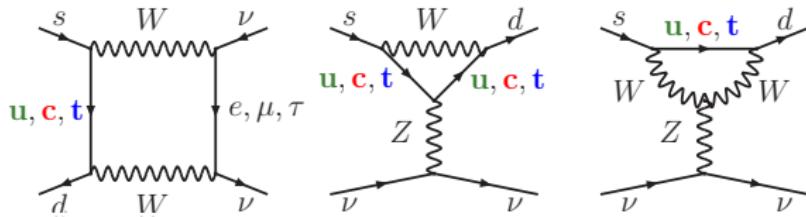
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NP}} = \frac{C_{\text{NP}}}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{s}_L \gamma^\nu d_L)(\bar{\mu}_L \gamma_\nu \mu_L) + \text{hc}$$

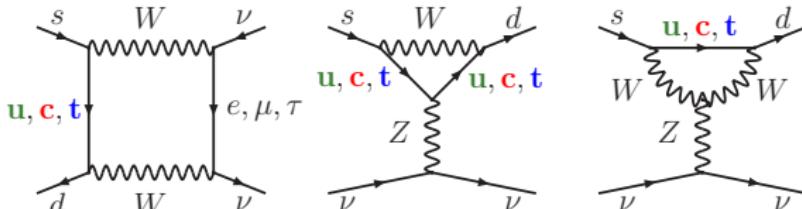
- Measurement at 10% would probe $\Lambda \sim 600 \text{ TeV}$ for $\text{Im}[C_{\text{NP}}]$

The golden modes

$$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$$

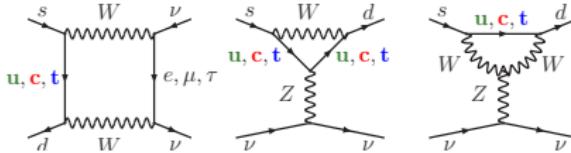
$$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$$





$$\sum_i \lambda_i F(x_i) = \lambda_t (\textcolor{blue}{F(x_t)} - \textcolor{blue}{F(x_u)}) + \lambda_c (\textcolor{red}{F(x_c)} - \textcolor{red}{F(x_u)})$$

- Top: $\lambda_t \textcolor{blue}{F(x_t)} \propto \lambda^5 m_t^2 / M_W^2$
matching NLO@QCD [Misiak, Urban 99; Buchalla, Buras 99], NLO@EW [Brod, Gorbahn, ES 10], matching NNLO@QCD [in progress with Gorbahn, Yu]
- Charm: $\lambda_c \textcolor{red}{F(x_c)} \propto \lambda m_c^2 / M_W^2 \log(m_c/M_W)$ obtained via operator mixing in EFT
running NNLO@QCD [Buras et al 06] NLO@EW [Brod, Gorbahn 08]
- Up: $\lambda_u \textcolor{green}{F(x_u)} \propto \lambda \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 / M_W^2$ from χPT and lattice
small, 10% of total charm contribution



$K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}$ **CP violating mode** (1% from CP-conserving amplitude $\times \epsilon_K$)

→ only top-quark contribution: short-dist. uncertainty of $\mathcal{O}(2\%)$

$$\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})^{\text{SM}} = \kappa_L r_{\epsilon_K} \left(\frac{\text{Im} \lambda_t}{\lambda^5} X_t \right)^2$$

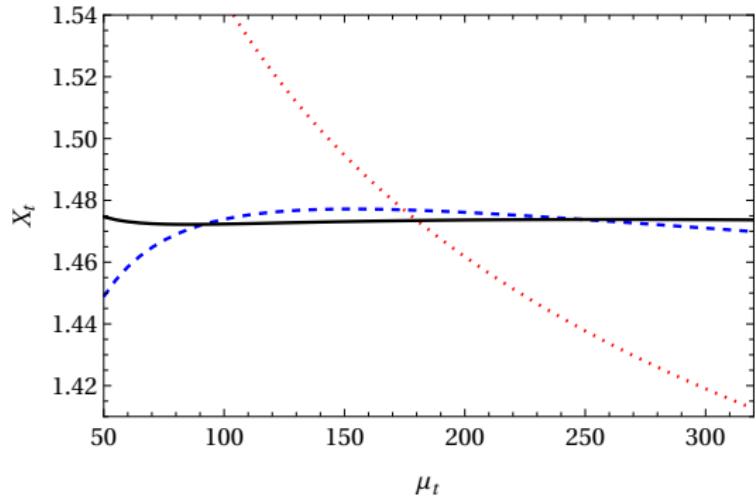
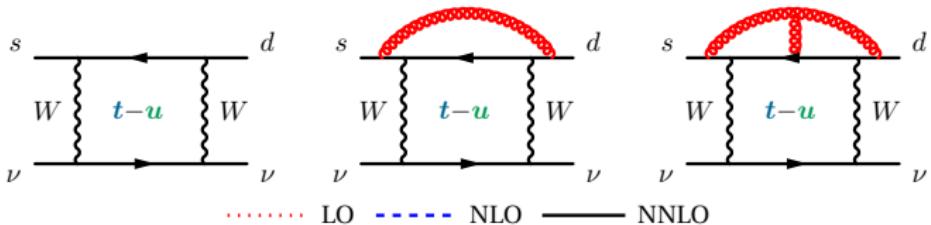
$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$ **CP conserving mode**

→ charm contributes: $\mathcal{O}(3\%)$ long-distance theory uncertainties

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})^{\text{SM}} &= \kappa_+ (1 + \Delta_{\text{EM}}) \left[\left(\frac{\text{Im} \lambda_t}{\lambda^5} X_t \right)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\frac{\text{Re} \lambda_c}{\lambda} (P_c + \delta P_{cu}) + \left(\frac{\text{Re} \lambda_t}{\lambda^5} X_t \right) \right)^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

[details in Brod, Gorbahn, ES from BEAUTY2020]

Top-contribution X_t at NNLO in QCD



Reduces uncertainty from $\pm 1\%$ (@NLO) down to $\pm 0.1\%$ (@NNLO)

SM prediction using PDG input

Preliminary numerics including X_t @NNLO

$$\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})^{\text{SM}} = 8.25(11)_{\text{SD}}(25)_{\text{LD}}(57)_{\text{para}} \times 10^{-11}$$

$$\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})^{\text{SM}} = 2.83(1)_{\text{SD}}(2)_{\text{LD}}(30)_{\text{para}} \times 10^{-11}$$

NA62 and KOTO measurements

$$\text{BR}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})^{\text{NA62}} = (10.6^{+3.4}_{-3.4} |_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.9 |_{\text{sys}}) \times 10^{-11}$$

$$\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})^{\text{KOTO}} < 3.0 \times 10^{-9} \quad @90\% \text{ CL}$$

Ratios of rates as clean SM tests

[Buras, Venturini 21]

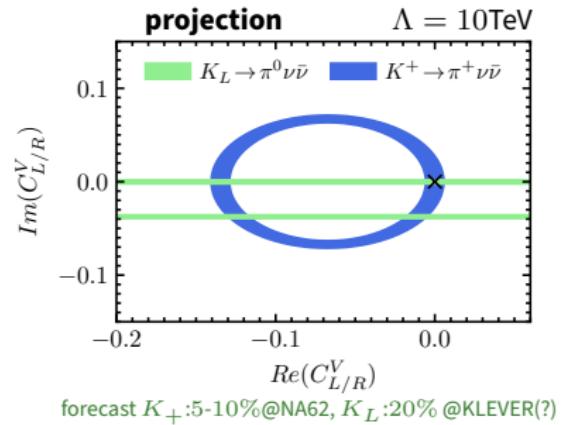
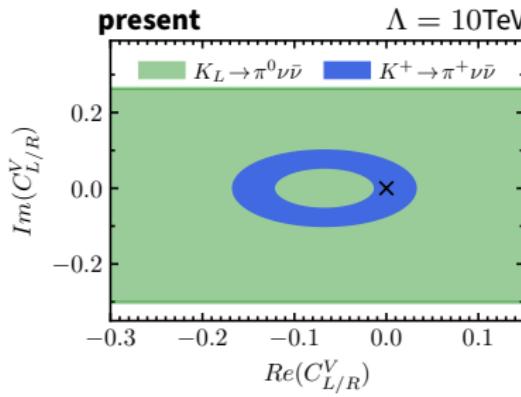
$$R_S = \frac{\text{BR}(K_S \rightarrow \mu\mu)_{\ell=0}}{\text{BR}(K_L \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})} \sim 1.55 \times 10^{-2} \frac{Y(x_t)}{X(x_t)}$$

Essentially CKM-parameter free (up to $\mathcal{O}(3\%)$ correction)

Heavy NP in $K \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu}$

- powerful probes of NP (for Vector “SM-like” NP)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NP}} = \frac{C_{L/R}^V}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{s} \gamma^\mu P_{L/R} d)(\bar{\nu}_L \gamma_\mu \nu_L) + h.c.$$

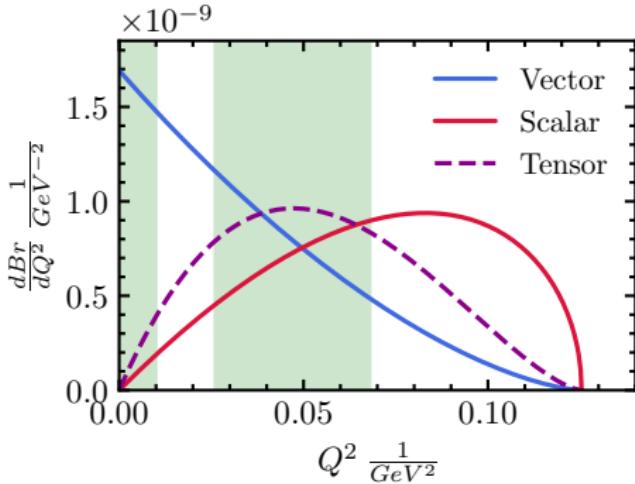


Lepton-Number-Violation in $K \rightarrow \pi\nu\nu$ distributions

- Lepton-number-violating (LNV) NP in $s \rightarrow d\nu\nu$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LNV}} = \frac{C_{L/R}^S}{\Lambda^2} \underbrace{(\bar{s}P_{L/R}d)(\nu_L^T \mathcal{C} \nu_L)}_{\text{scalar}} + \frac{C^T}{\Lambda^2} \underbrace{(\bar{s}_R \sigma_{\mu\nu} d_L)(\nu_L^T \mathcal{C} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \nu_L)}_{\text{tensor/only LFV}} + hc$$

- Modified $\nu\nu$ distributions \rightarrow probing LNV at NA62

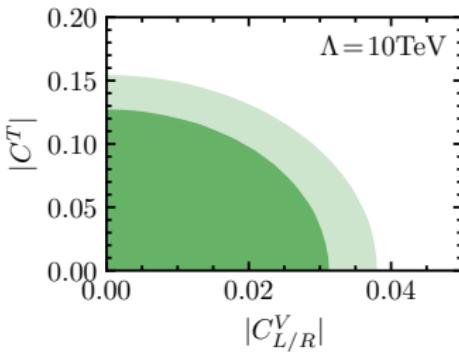


[in progress with Sieja, Tabet; SMEFT/scalar-case Deppisch et al 20]

Lepton-Number-Violation in $K \rightarrow \pi\nu\nu$ distributions

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LNV}} = \frac{C_{L/R}^S}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{s}P_{L/R}d)(\nu_L^T \mathcal{C} \nu_L) + \frac{C^T}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{s}_R \sigma_{\mu\nu} d_L)(\nu_L^T \mathcal{C} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \nu_L) + hc$$

- correlations/preliminary recast of NA62



- washout process, constrain Leptogenesis [Deppisch et al 15,18; Chun et al 17]
- Further options:** sterile- ν signatures ($K \rightarrow \pi\nu_l\nu_h, \pi\nu_h\nu_h$), SU(2) invariant models and LNV pheno, KOTO data, projections
[in progress with Gorbahn and Moldanazarova]

Summary and conclusions

- Kaons remain at the frontier of searches for **heavy NP** and **light NP**
- **Precision predictions** necessary to disentangle NP effects
 - Recent and expected improvements targeting 0.1%-level accuracy ($\epsilon_K, K \rightarrow \pi\nu\bar{\nu}$)
- **New ideas** to maximize impact of data
 - e.g., time-dependent rate in $K \rightarrow \mu\mu$ or $K \rightarrow \pi\nu\bar{\nu}$ distributions

backup

ϵ_K : indirect CP violation

- If CP is conserved $K_L \not\rightarrow \pi\pi$, but mixing allows it:

$$\epsilon_K \equiv \frac{\langle (\pi\pi)_{I=0} | K_L \rangle}{\langle (\pi\pi)_{I=0} | K_S \rangle} = \frac{1 - \lambda_0}{1 + \lambda_0}$$

- With $\lambda_0 = \frac{q}{p} \frac{\langle (\pi\pi)_{I=0} | \bar{K}^0 \rangle}{\langle (\pi\pi)_{I=0} | K^0 \rangle} = 1 - i\phi \underbrace{\frac{\Delta M_K}{\Delta M_K + i\Delta\Gamma_K/2}}_{\text{Take from experiment}}$
- With the weak phase $\phi = \underbrace{\arg(-M_{12}/\Gamma_{12})}_{\text{Compute}}$
[Nierste in Anikeev et al; hep-ph/0201071]

ϵ_K : indirect CP violation

In **PDG-phase convention** M_{12} and Γ_{12} nearly real

$$\epsilon_K = e^{i\phi_\epsilon} \sin \phi_\epsilon \left(\frac{\textcolor{blue}{Im}(M_{12})}{\Delta M_K} + \xi \right)$$

- $\phi_\epsilon \equiv \arctan \frac{\Delta M_K}{\Delta \Gamma_K / 2}$ and $\xi = -\frac{Im(\Gamma_{12})}{2Re(\Gamma_{12})}$ (non-perturbative / long-distance)

(Estimates from: ϵ'/ϵ [Nierste 02, Buras et al 08], ChPT [Buras et al 10], lattice [Blum et al 15, Bai et al 15])

- $\textcolor{blue}{Im}(M_{12})$: scale separation (EFT) **factorizes** computation

$$\langle \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} \rangle = \underbrace{\langle Q^{\Delta S=2} \rangle(\mu_{\text{had}}) U(\mu_{\text{had}}, \mu_c)}_{\text{hadronic matrix element, } \hat{B}_K} \underbrace{U(\mu_c, \mu_W) C(\mu_W)}_{\text{perturbative evolution of } C}$$

Traditional: ct-unitarity

$$\mathcal{H}^{\Delta S=2} = \frac{G_F^2 M_W^2}{4\pi^2} Q_{S2} \left\{ \lambda_t^2 C^{tt} + \lambda_c^2 C^{cc} + \lambda_c \lambda_t C^{ct} \right\} + \text{h.c.} + \dots$$

Match to phase-convention “independent” Hamiltonian

- $C^{cc} = \mathcal{C}_1 \quad C^{ct} = 2\mathcal{C}_1 + \mathcal{C}_3 \quad C^{tt} = 2\mathcal{C}_1 + \mathcal{C}_2 + \mathcal{C}_3$
- \mathcal{C}_1 , controlling ΔM_K , enters all pieces

→ **Bad news**

- ΔM_K is long-distance dominated [Brod, Gorbahn 11]
- We artificially included \mathcal{C}_1 into the prediction of ϵ_K !

We can do better.

New: ut-unitarity

First proposed for a lattice computation [Christ et al 12, see also Barbieri 07]

$$\mathcal{H}^{\Delta S=2} = \frac{G_F^2 M_W^2}{4\pi^2} Q_{S2} \left\{ \lambda_t^2 C^{tt} + \lambda_u^2 C^{uu} + \lambda_u \lambda_t C^{ut} \right\} + \text{h.c.} + \dots$$

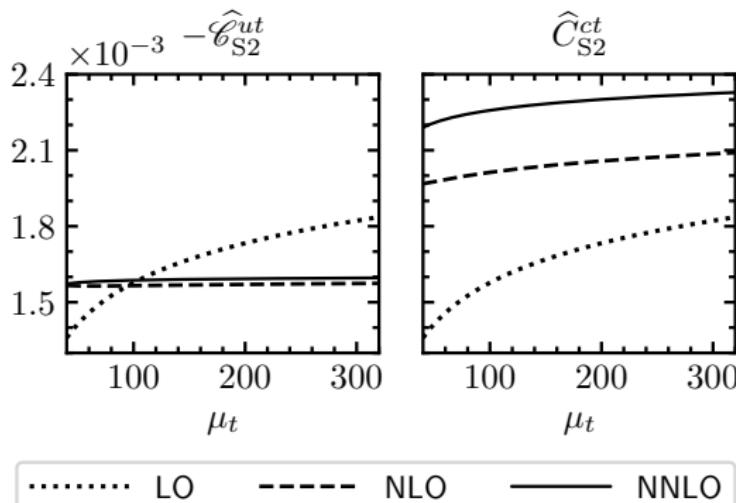
Match to phase-convention “independent” Hamiltonian

- $C^{uu} = \mathcal{C}_1$ $C^{tt} = \mathcal{C}_2$ $C^{ut} = \mathcal{C}_3$
- Disentangled $\text{Re}(M_{12})$ and $\text{Im}(M_{12})$
- **Good news!**, $\text{Im}(M_{12})$ without ΔM_K pollution
- + It can be shown that Wilson coefficients and ADMs can be extracted from the “traditional” results

[Brod, Gorbahn, ES 19]

Comparison: ut VS ct

- Residual theory uncertainties from scale variation (μ_t, μ_c)



- Miserable convergence behaviour of ct-unitarity (right panel)
- Excellent convergence behaviour of ut-unitarity (left panel)

$$\eta_{ut} = 0.402 \pm 0.005$$

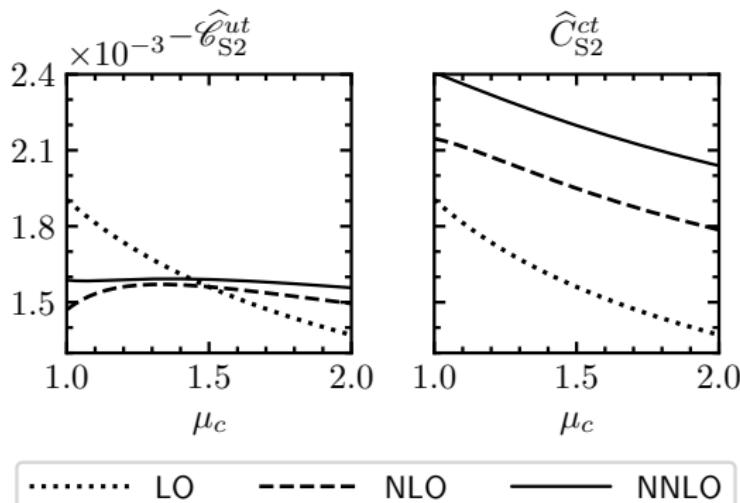
@ NNLO [Brod, Gorbahn, ES 19]

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@ NLO [Buras et al 90 with our variation]

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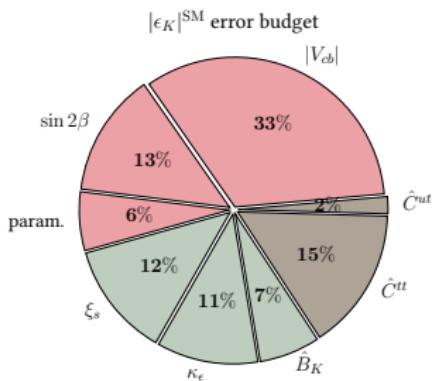
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Towards permille-level accuracy in ϵ_K

- Charm no longer leading uncertainty

→ Reassessment of uncertainties



- Reduce top uncertainty by NNLO QCD matching
[in progress with Brod, Gorbahn, and Hang]
- Residual EW/QED uncertainties 2%? [path analogous to Brod, Gorbahn, ES 10; Brod, Gorbahn 08, Bobeth, Gorbahn, ES 14; Gambino, Kwiatkowski, Pott 98]
- Lattice target: ME with dynamical charm. Will allow to fully compute ϵ_K
- Reassess contributions from ion-local insertions