



$b \rightarrow cl\nu$ decays at LHCb

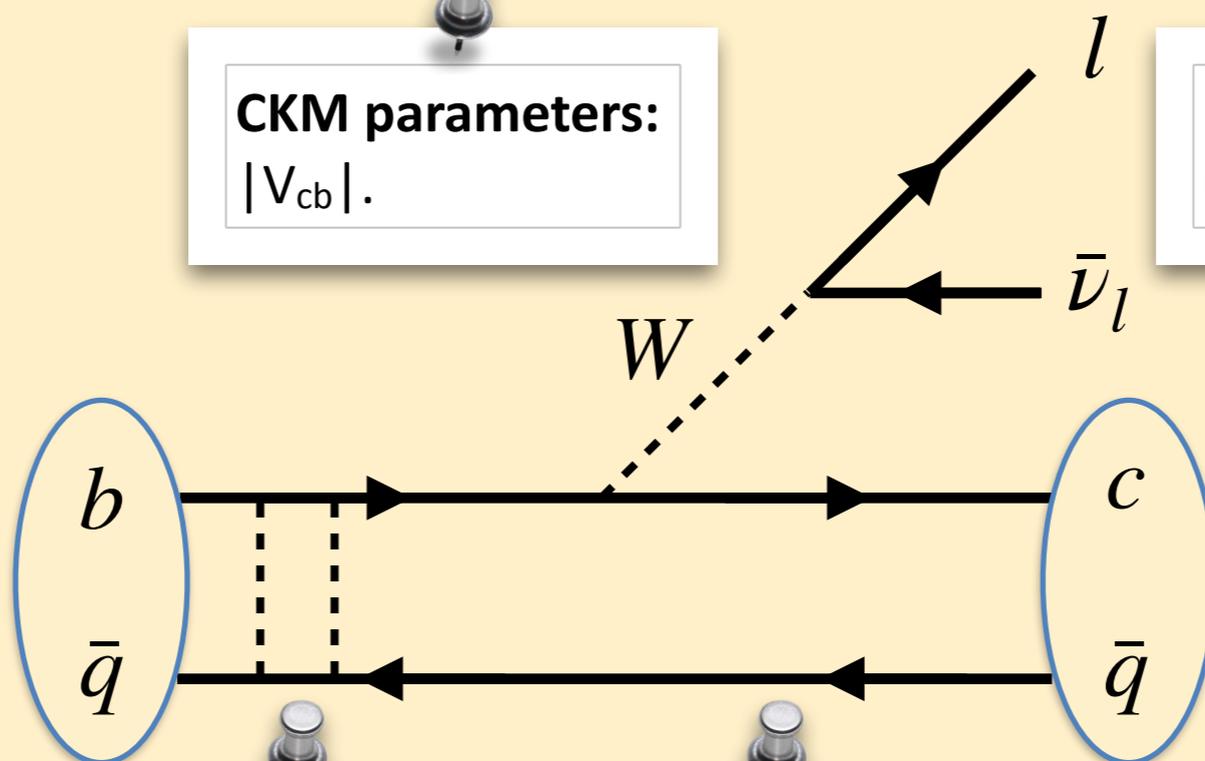
Julián García Pardiñas¹
on behalf of the LHCb Collaboration

1 CERN (Switzerland)



CKM parameters:
 $|V_{cb}|$.

Lepton-flavour
universality (LFU) ratios.



b-hadron properties:
production fractions,
lifetimes.

c-hadron properties:
production fractions,
lifetimes.

Neutral
meson
mixing

Decay properties:
BF, form factors,
angular coefficients.

Advantages

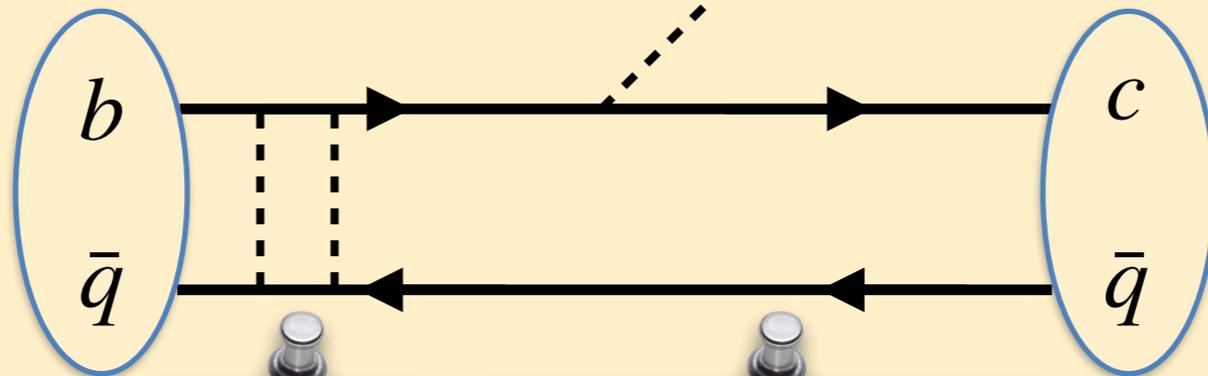
- ▶ Large data samples.
- ▶ Theoretically clean: only $b \rightarrow c$ hadronic current.

Challenges

- ▶ All decays are **partially reconstructed** due to the neutrinos.
- ▶ Large amounts of **background**.



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LFU ratios

Muonic τ decay

Hadronic τ decay

Angular analyses

LFU ratios

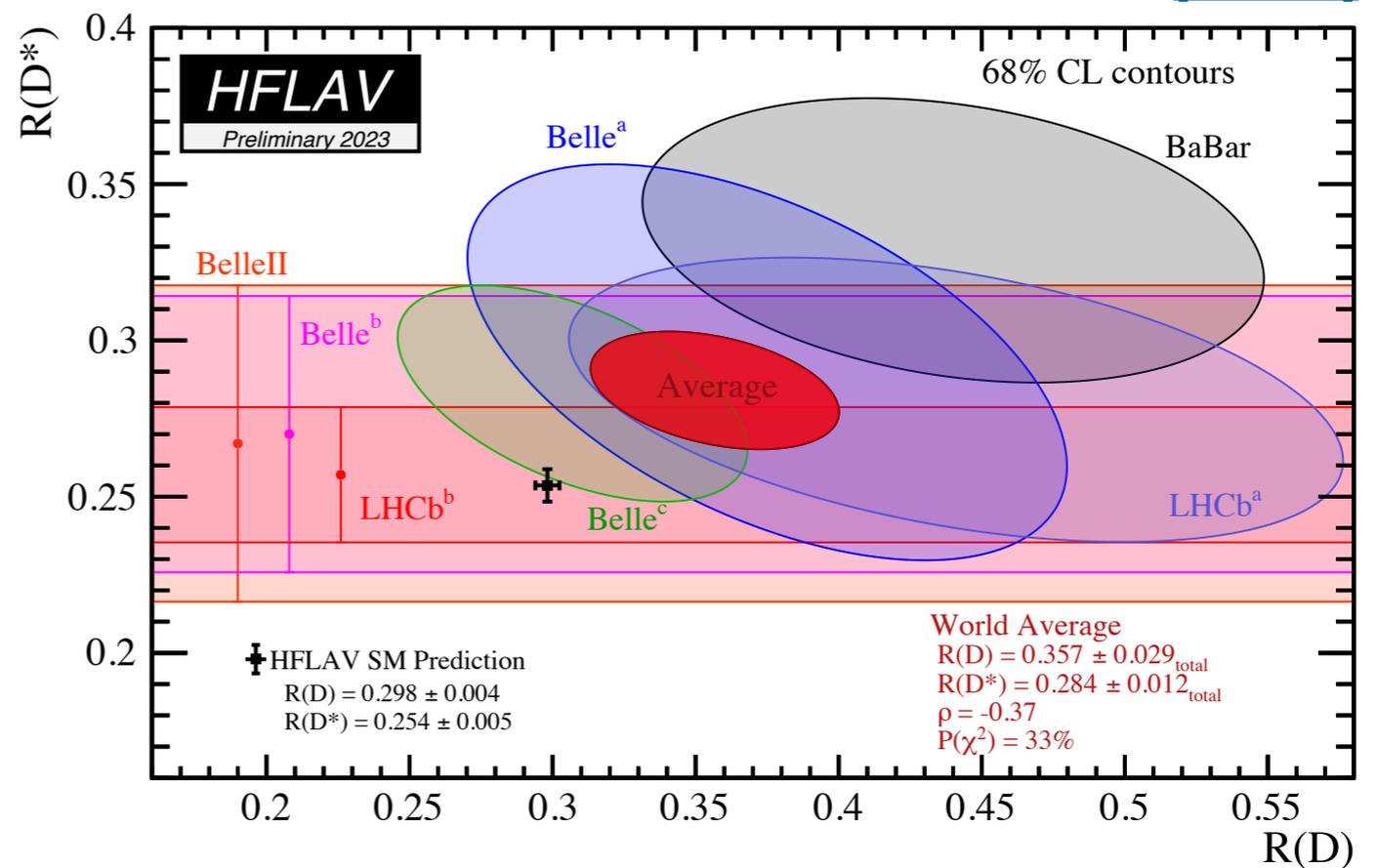
$$R(\mathcal{H}_c) = \frac{\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_b \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_c \tau \nu_\tau)}{\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_b \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_c \mu \nu_\mu)}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_b = B^0, B_{(c)}^+, \Lambda_b^0, B_s^0 \dots$$

$$\mathcal{H}_c = D^*, D^0, D^+, D_s, \Lambda_c^{(*)}, J/\psi \dots$$

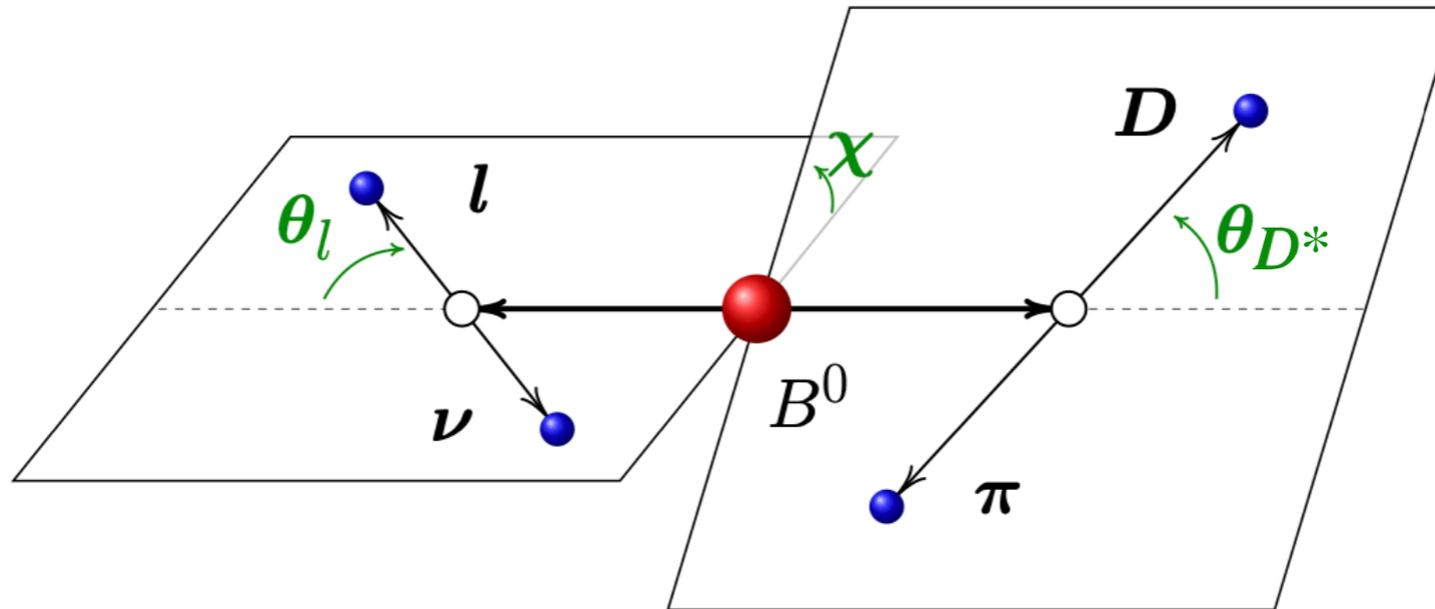
- **Precise measurements** both theoretically and experimentally.
- Deviations seen by several experiments.
 - ↳ Current combined tension at the level of **3.34 σ** .
- Potential physics beyond the Standard Model (BSM) affecting **semi-tauonic decays**.

[HFLAV]



Angular analyses

From integrated BFs to differential measurements: angular analyses of semi-tauonic decays to **probe the spin structure** of possible BSM physics.

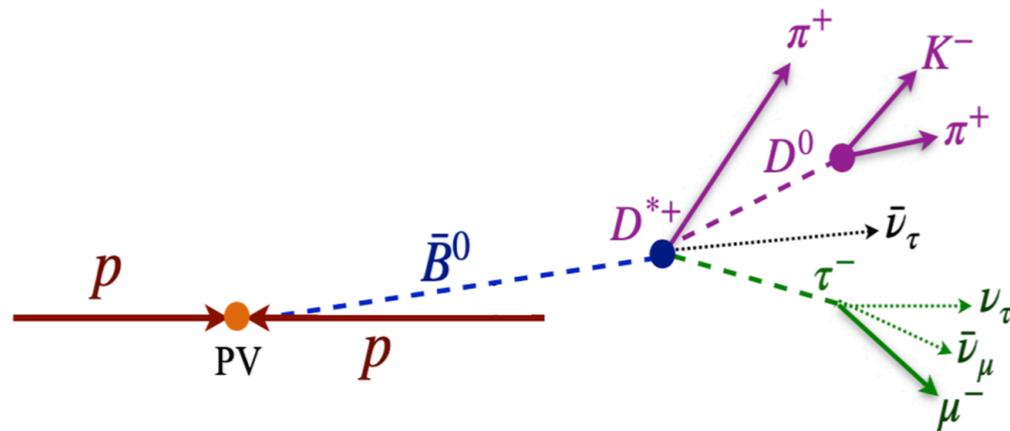


$$\frac{d^4(B^0 \rightarrow D^* l^+ \nu_l)}{dq^2 d\cos^2\theta_\ell d\cos\theta_{D^*} d\chi} \propto |V_{cb}|^2 \sum_i \mathcal{H}_i(q^2) f_i(\theta_\ell, \theta_{D^*}, \chi)$$

Sensitivity to BSM physics.

Angular analyses

Muonic τ decay



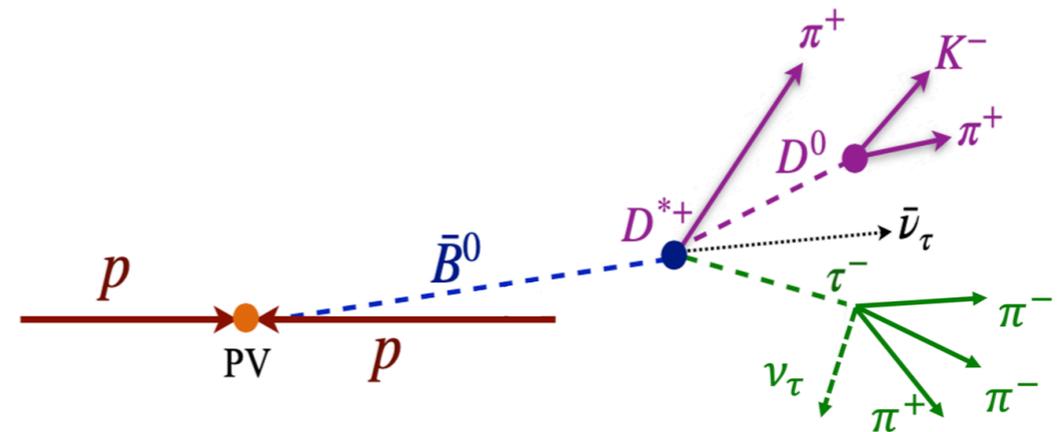
Pros:

- **Direct measurement of $R(D^{(*)})$** , as normalisation channel shares the same visible final state.
- **Large signal and normalisation yields.**

Cons:

- **Multiple missing neutrinos:** use boost approximation ($p_B^{\parallel} \propto p_{vis}^{\parallel}$) to estimate B momentum.
- **Large background contributions** that need to be controlled very accurately.

Hadronic τ decay



Pros:

- Tau vertex measurement and 3π kinematics allow for strong background rejection and **high purity**.
- **Better resolution**, as B momentum can be determined up to a 2-fold ambiguity.

Cons:

- **Lower yields** due to smaller BF.
- **Requirement of external BF** to measure $R(D^{(*)})$.

LFU ratios

Muonic τ decay

Hadronic τ decay

R(D^{*+}) Run 1
[PRL 115, 111803] (2015)

R(D⁰) & R(D^{*+,0}) Run 1
[PRL 131, 111802] (2023)

R(D^{*+}) Run 1
[PRL 120, 171802] (2018)

R(D^{*+}) Partial Run 2
[PRD 108, 012018] (2023)

Angular analyses

LFU ratios

Muonic τ decay

Hadronic τ decay

R(J/ ψ) Run 1

[PRL 120, 121801] (2018)

R(Λ_c^+) Run 1

[PRL 128, 191803] (2022)

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R(D^{*+}) Partial Run 2

[PRD 108, 012018] (2023)

R(D⁺) & R(D^{*+}) Partial Run 2 [NEW!]

[LHCb-PAPER-2024-007, in preparation] (2024)

D^{*} F_L Run 1 & partial Run 2

[arXiv:2311.05224] (2023)

Angular analyses

LFU ratios

Muonic τ decay

Hadronic τ decay

$R(D^+)$ & $R(D^{*+})$ Partial Run 2 [NEW!]
[LHCb-PAPER-2024-007, in preparation] (2024)

Angular analyses

Measurement of $R(D^{*+})$

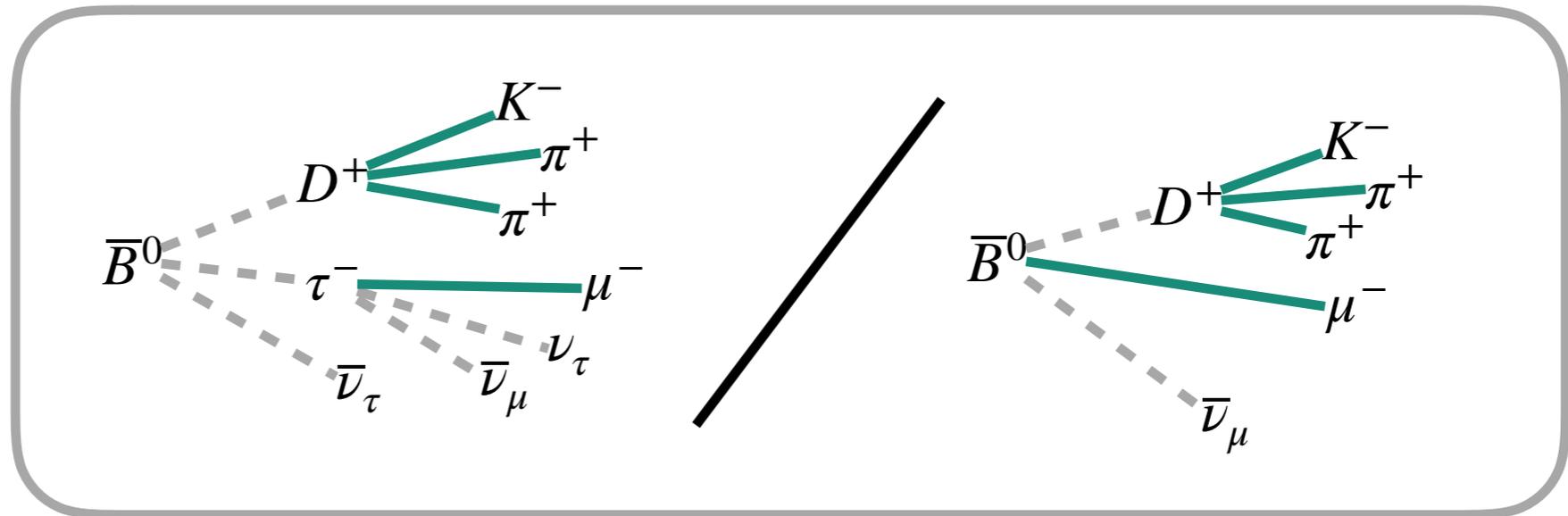
LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

First LHCb measurement using the D^+ ground state, with $D^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$, **muonic-tau decay**.

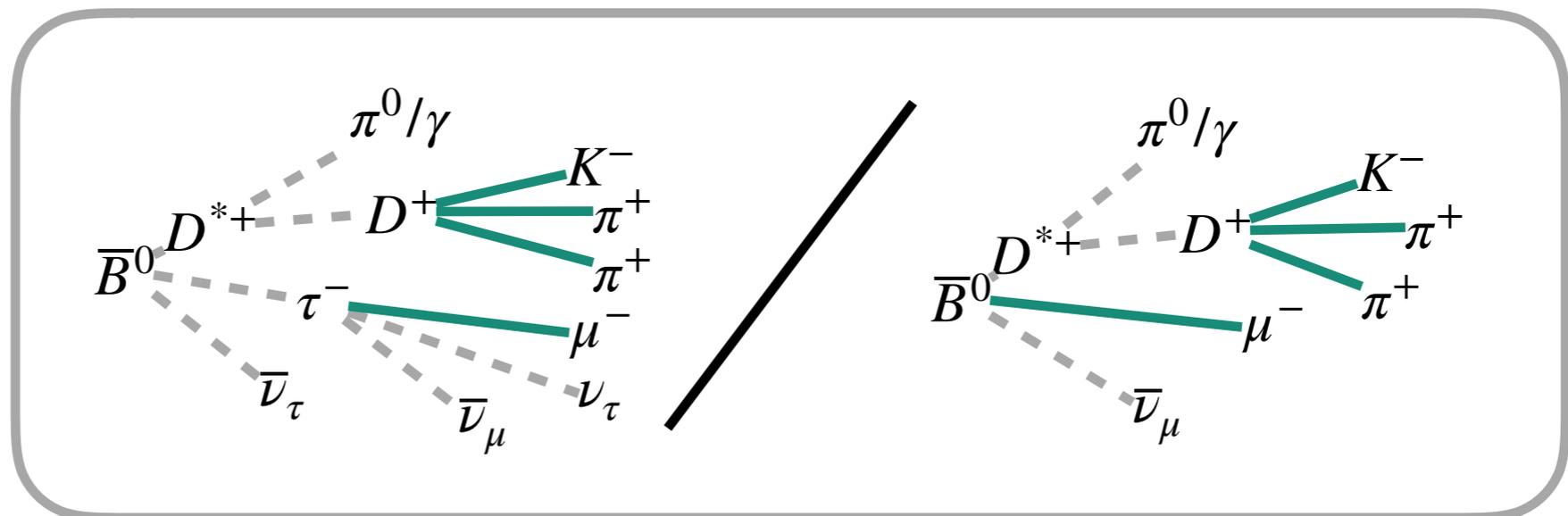
➔ Primary goal is to measure $R(D^+)$.

➔ Feed down from $D^{*+} \rightarrow D^+ \pi^0 / \gamma$ with not reconstructed π^0 / γ gives also access to $R(D^{*+})$ in the same visible final state $K^- \pi^+ \pi^+ \mu^-$.

$R(D^+) =$



$R(D^{*+}) =$



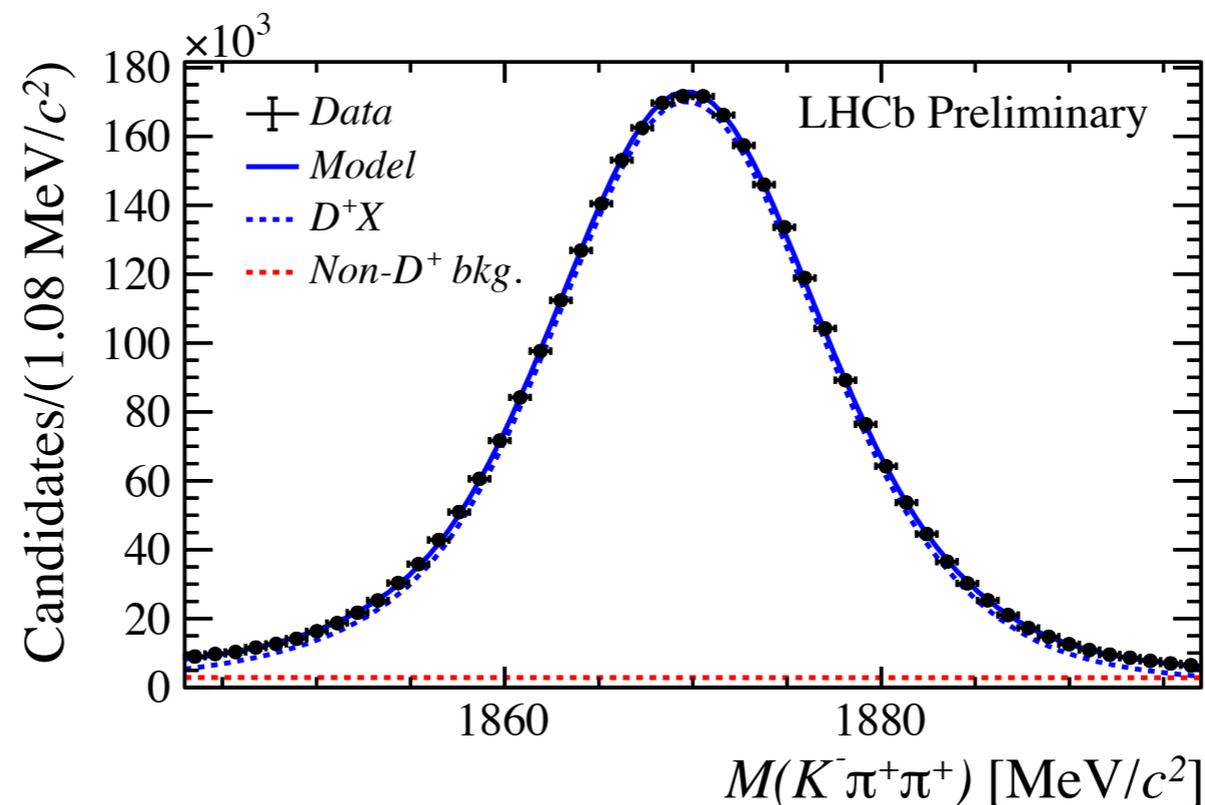
Background reduction

LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

Data sample: 2fb^{-1} . collected in **2015 and 2016**.

Candidate selection:

- **Basic requirements on $K^-\pi^+\pi^+\mu^-$ candidates** (topologic, kinematic and particle-identification).
- **Isolation against both charged and neutral particles** from the rest of the event.
 - ↳ Inverse requirements on the charged isolation are combined with particle-identification requirements on extra particles to define **complementary control samples** (see next slide).
- **Fake- D^+ bkg. statistically subtracted with *sPlot* technique**, by fitting the $M(K^-\pi^+\pi^+)$ distribution.



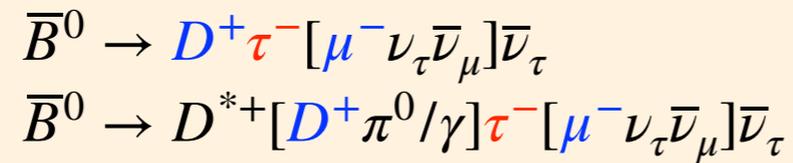
Strategy to measure signal and norm. yields

[NEW!]

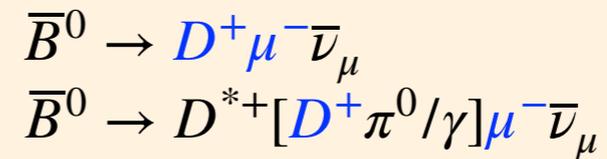
LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

3D binned template fit to data, using the rest-frame quantities m^2_{miss} , E_l^* and $q^2=(p_B-p_{D^+})^2$.

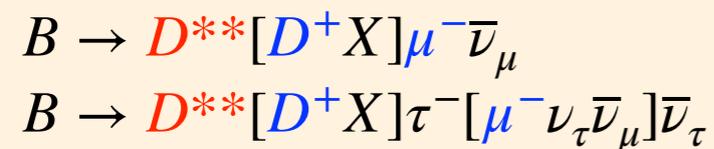
Signal modes



Normalisation modes



Feed-down bkg. from 1P D** states



Double-charm bkg.



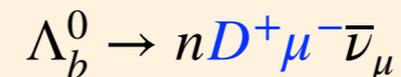
Muon Mis-ID bkg.



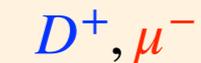
Feed-down bkg. from higher-mass D** states



Neutronic bkg.



Combinatorial bkg.

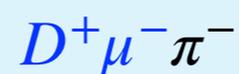


Simultaneous fit to four data samples, with enhanced sensitivity to specific components:

Signal sample



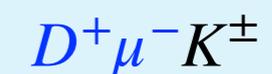
1 π sample



2 π sample



1K sample

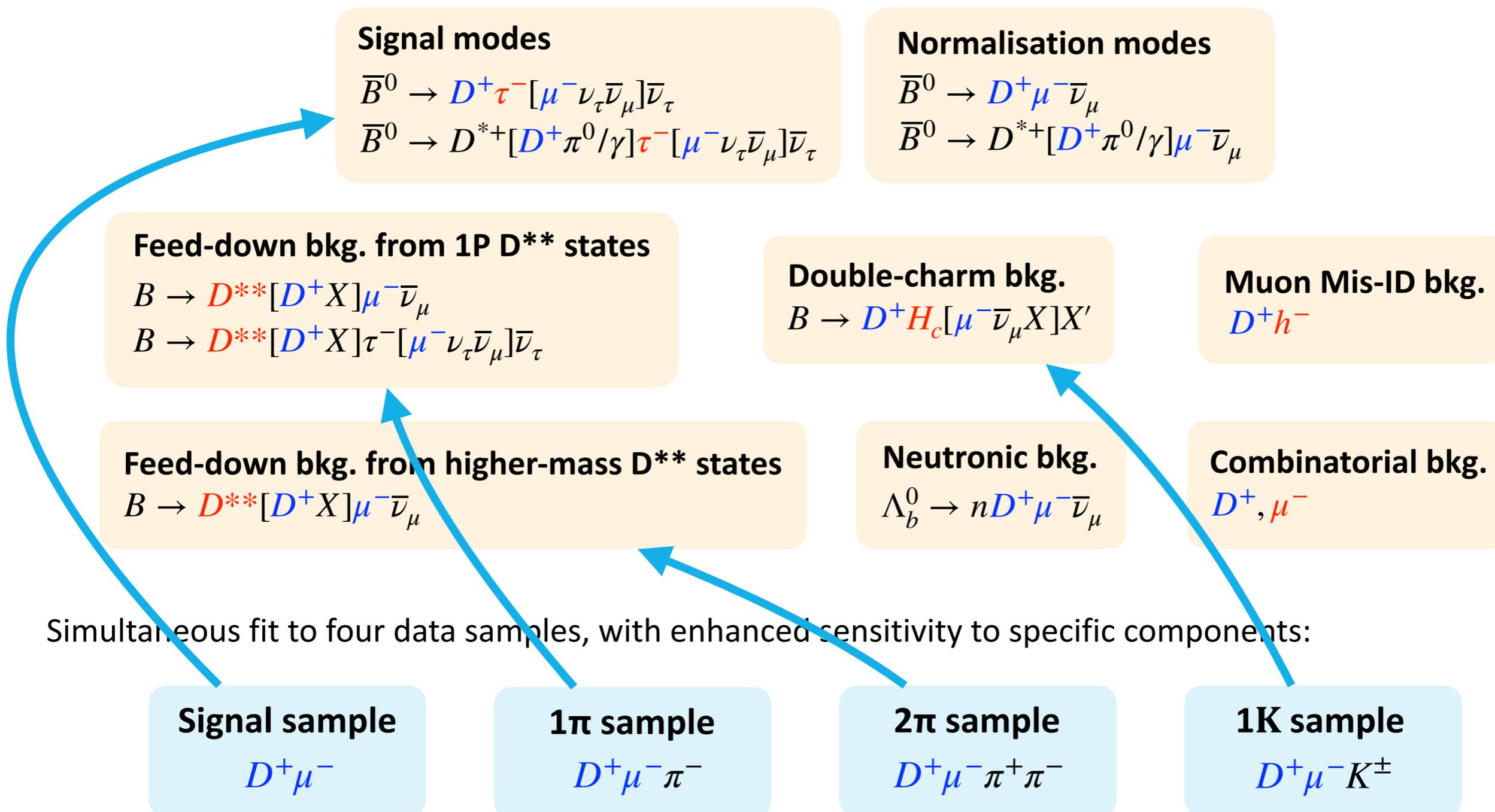


Strategy to measure signal and norm. yields

[NEW!]

LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

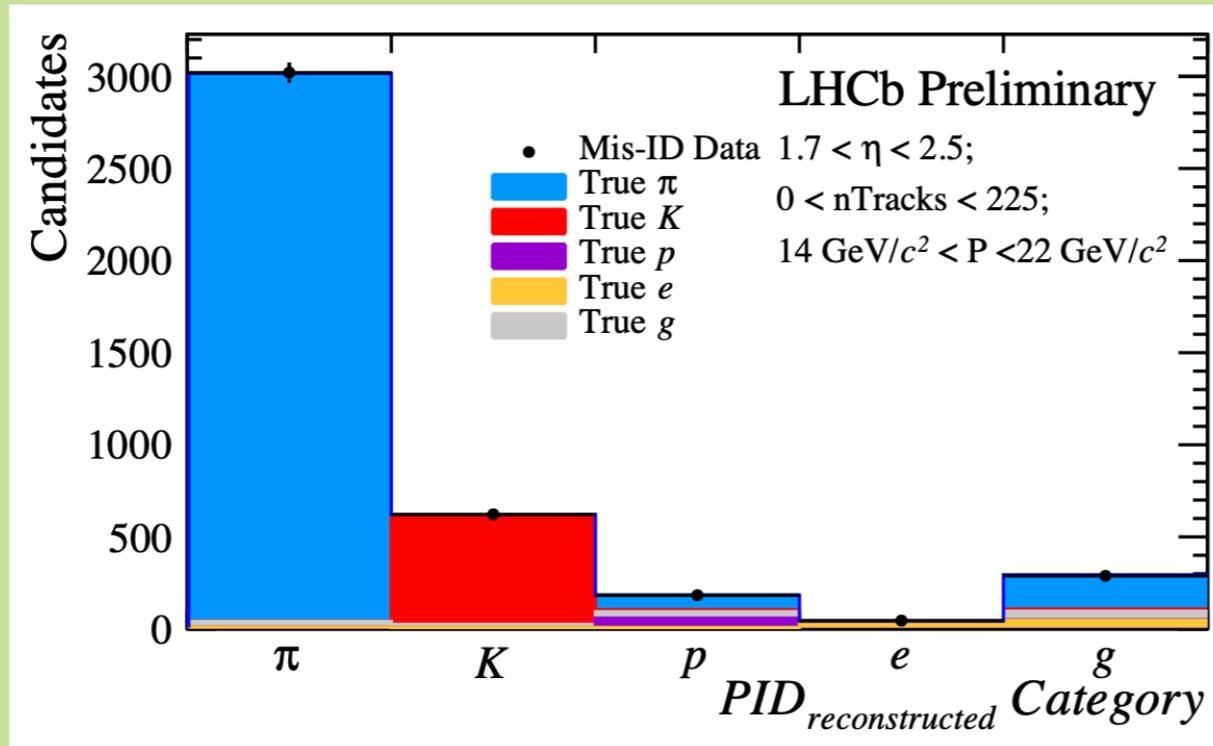
3D binned template fit to data, using the rest-frame quantities m^2_{miss} , E_l^* and $q^2=(p_B-p_{D^+})^2$.



Data-based templates

LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

Obtained from **non-muon control sample**.
True-particle-type composition unfolded by fitting the reconstructed-particle-type category.



(g ("ghost") = fake tracks)

ation modes

$$\mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu + [D^+ \pi^0 / \gamma] \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

Muon Mis-ID bkg.

$$D^+ h^-$$

bkg.

$$\mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

Combinatorial bkg.

$$D^+, \mu^-$$

Obtained from **wrong-sign ($D^+ \mu^+$) control sample**.

Simulation-based templates: form factors

[NEW!]

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Signal modes

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{B}^0 &\rightarrow D^+ \tau^- [\mu^- \nu_\tau \bar{\nu}_\mu] \bar{\nu}_\tau \\ \bar{B}^0 &\rightarrow D^{*+} [D^+ \pi^0 / \gamma] \tau^- [\mu^- \nu_\tau \bar{\nu}_\mu] \bar{\nu}_\tau \end{aligned}$$

Normalisation modes

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{B}^0 &\rightarrow D^+ \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \\ \bar{B}^0 &\rightarrow D^{*+} [D^+ \pi^0 / \gamma] \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \end{aligned}$$

Feed-down bkg. from 1P D** states

$$\begin{aligned} B &\rightarrow D^{**} [D^+ X] \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \\ B &\rightarrow D^{**} [D^+ X] \tau^- [\mu^- \nu_\tau \bar{\nu}_\mu] \bar{\nu}_\tau \end{aligned}$$

Feed-down bkg. from higher-mass D** states

$$B \rightarrow D^{**} [D^+ X] \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu$$

Form factor parameterisations:

$$B \rightarrow D^+: \text{BGL} [\text{PRD } 94 \text{ (2016) } 094008]$$

$$B \rightarrow D^*: \text{BGL} [\text{Eur. Phys. J. C } 82, 1141 \text{ (2022)}]$$

$$B \rightarrow D^{**}: \text{BLR} [\text{PRD } 95 \text{ (2017) } 014022]$$

First analysis that uses HAMMER [[Eur. Phys. J. C. 80 \(2020\) 883](#)] and **RoosHammerModel** [[JINST 17 \(2022\) T04006](#)] to vary the form factor parameters in the fit (with external constraints applied).

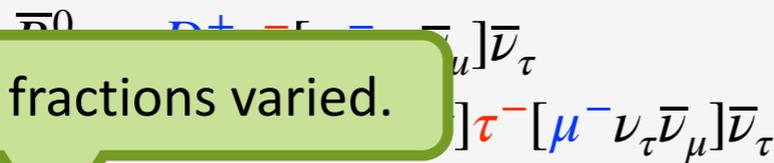
B^0 decays	B^+ decays
$B^0 \rightarrow D_0^*(2400)^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}_0^*(2400)^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
$B^0 \rightarrow D_2^*(2460)^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}_2^*(2460)^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
$B^0 \rightarrow D_1^*(2420)^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}_1^*(2420)^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
$B^0 \rightarrow D_1(H)^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}_1(H)^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$

Simulation-based templates: decay composition

[NEW!]

LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

Signal modes

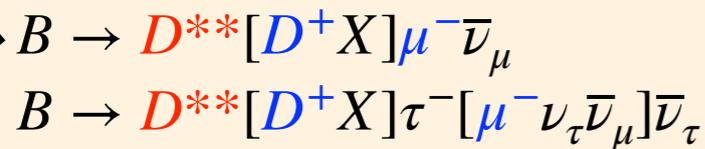


Component fractions varied.

Normalisation modes

Component fractions varied + shape corrections.

Feed-down bkg. from 1P D** states



Double-charm bkg.



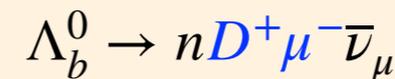
Muon Mis-ID bkg.



Feed-down bkg. from higher-mass D** states



Neutronic bkg.



Shape correction.

Shape correction.

B^0 decays	B^+ decays
$B^0 \rightarrow D_0^*(2400)^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}_0^*(2400)^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
$B^0 \rightarrow D_2^*(2460)^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}_2^*(2460)^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
$B^0 \rightarrow D_1^*(2420)^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}_1^*(2420)^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
$B^0 \rightarrow D_1(H)^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu$	$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}_1(H)^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$

Modelling of detector effects in simulation

[NEW!]

LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

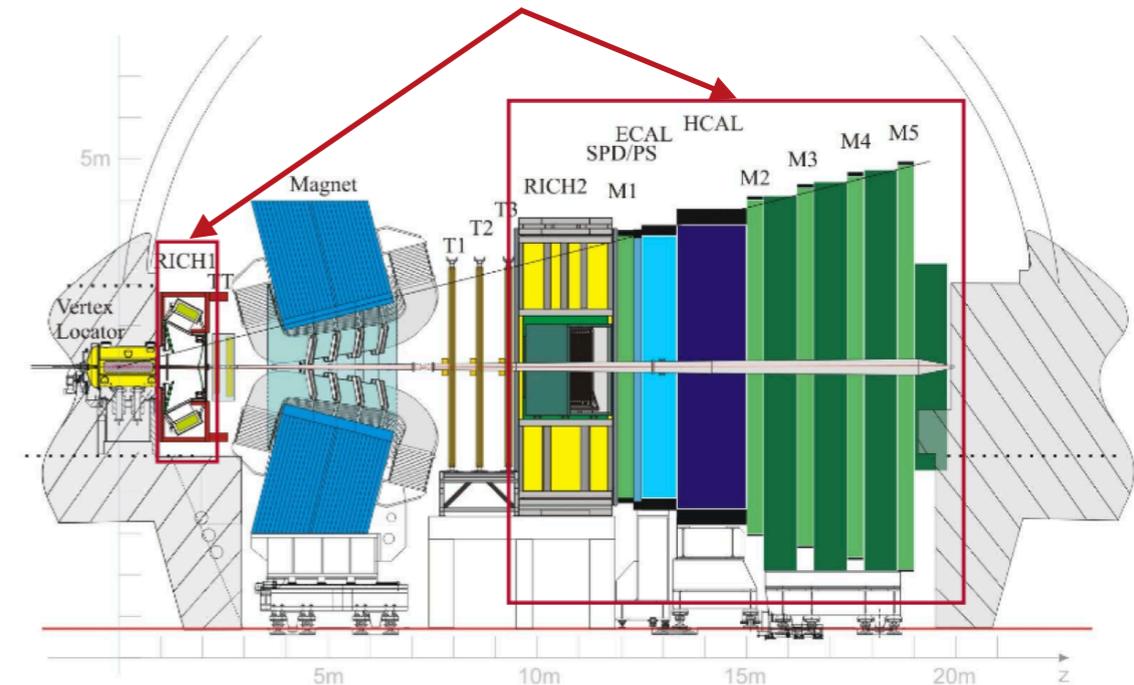
Tracker-Only ultra-fast simulation

- ➔ First analysis that uses this method.
- ➔ Reduce syst. uncertainty on simulation sample size.
- ➔ Emulation of missing features at analysis level.

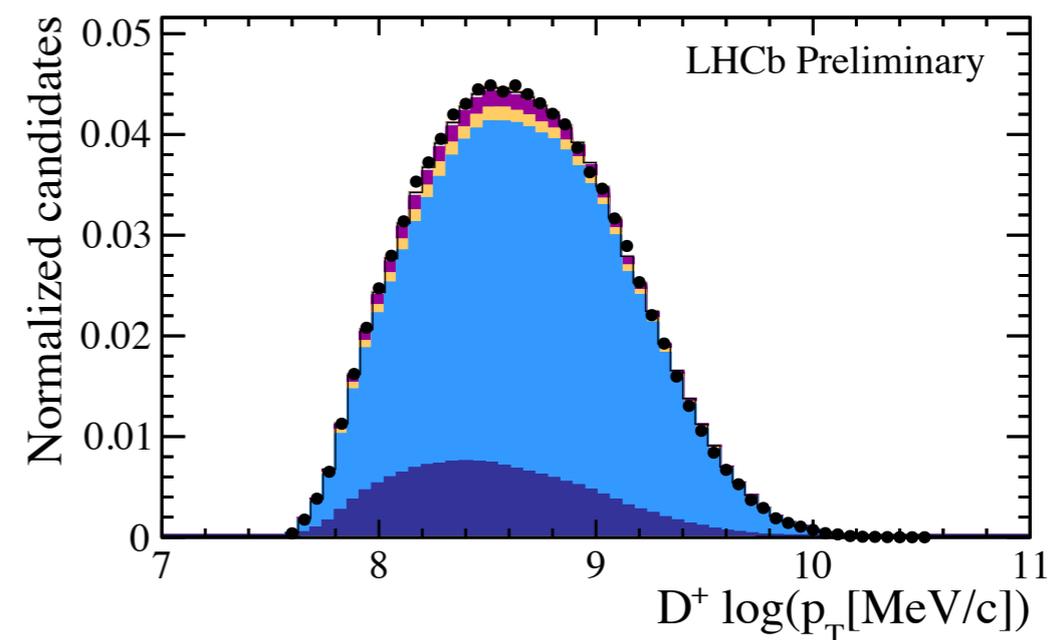
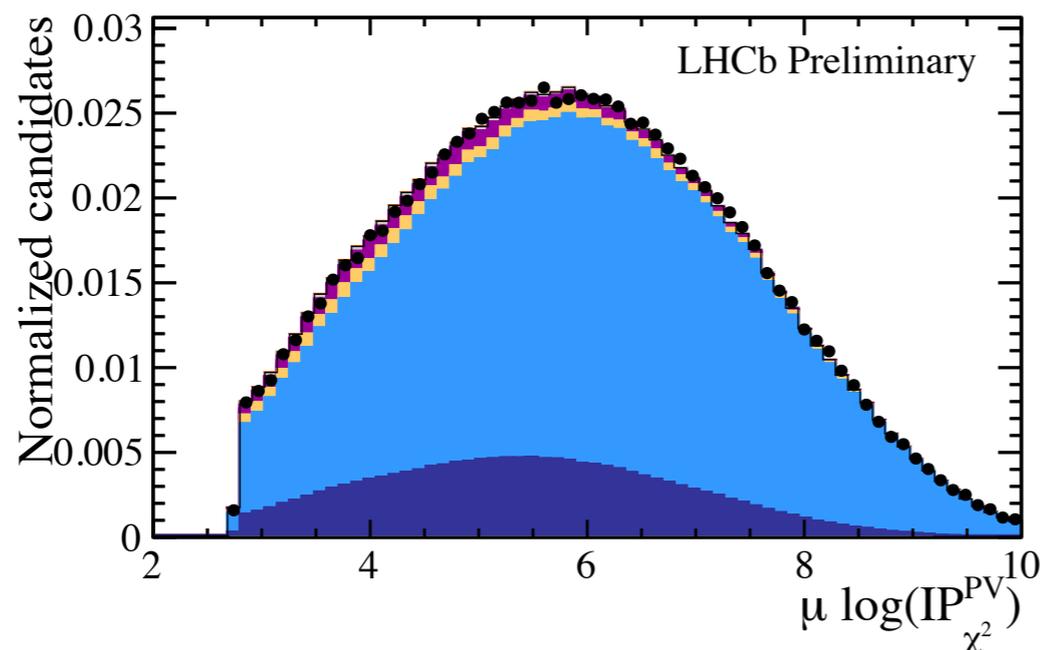
Data/simulation corrections

- ➔ Multi-dimensional reweightings.
- ➔ Correction of QED effects [[PRL 120, 261804 \(2018\)](#)].

Sub-detector response turned off



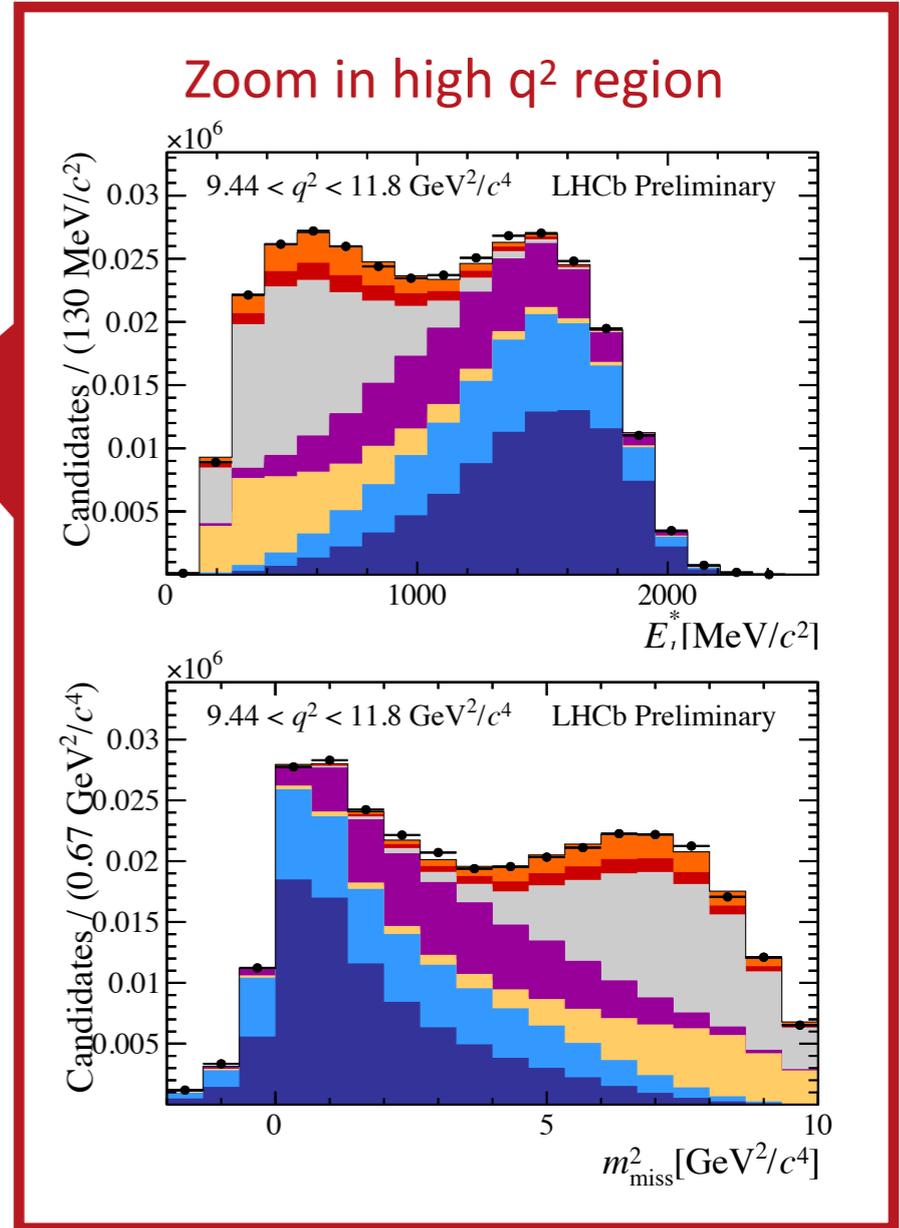
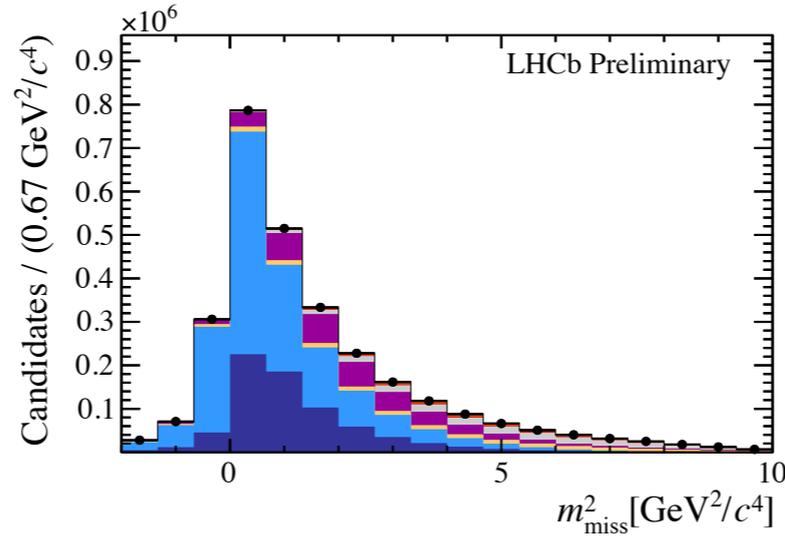
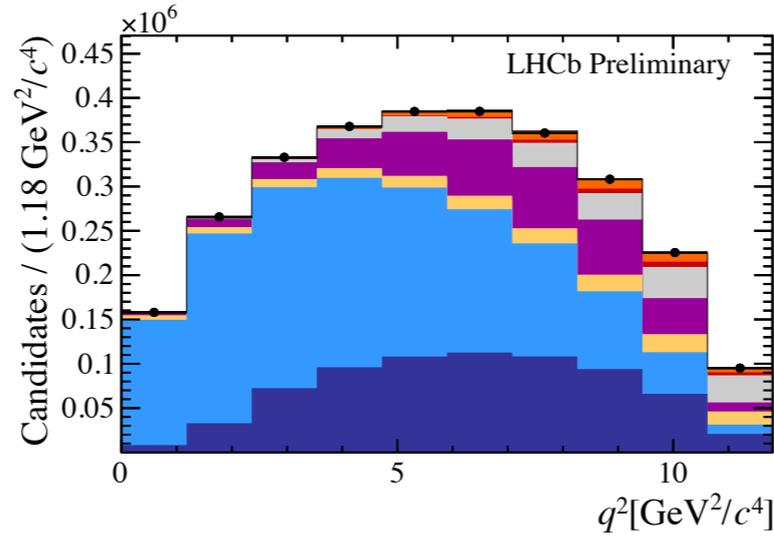
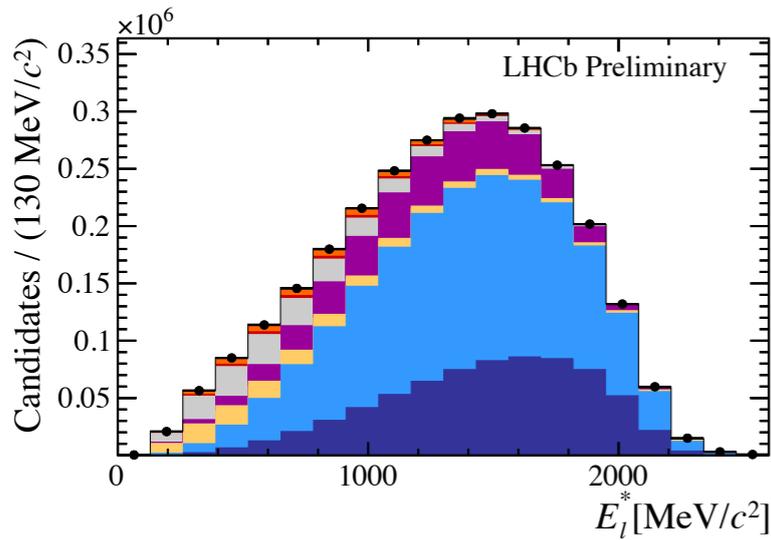
Excellent agreement achieved (see below for a normalisation-enriched control region).



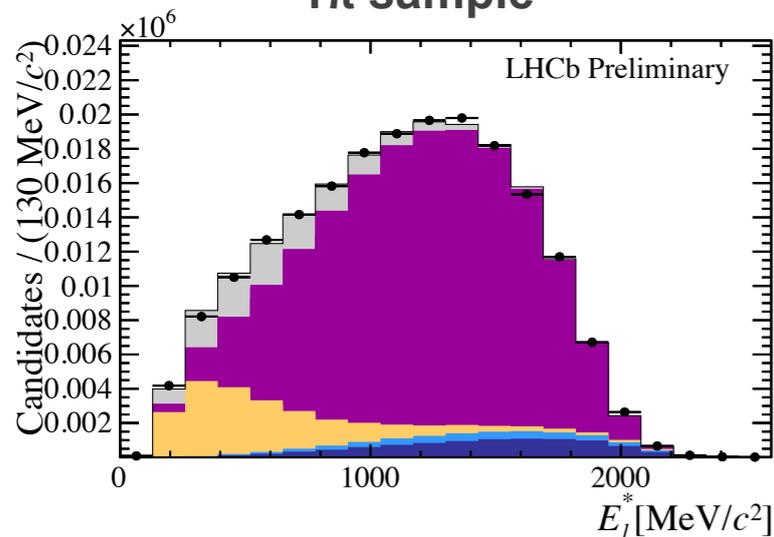
Results

Signal sample

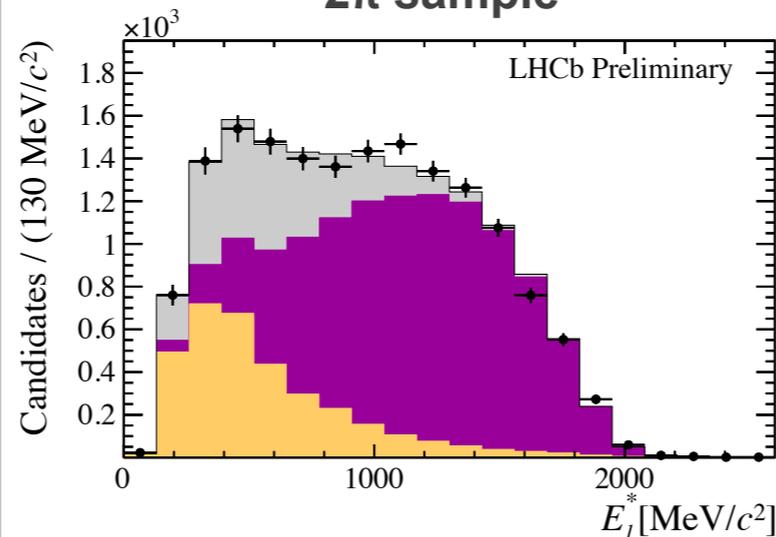
- $B \rightarrow D^+ \tau \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \tau \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^+ X_c X$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \mu/\tau \nu$
- Comb + misID
- $B \rightarrow D^+ \mu \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \mu \nu$



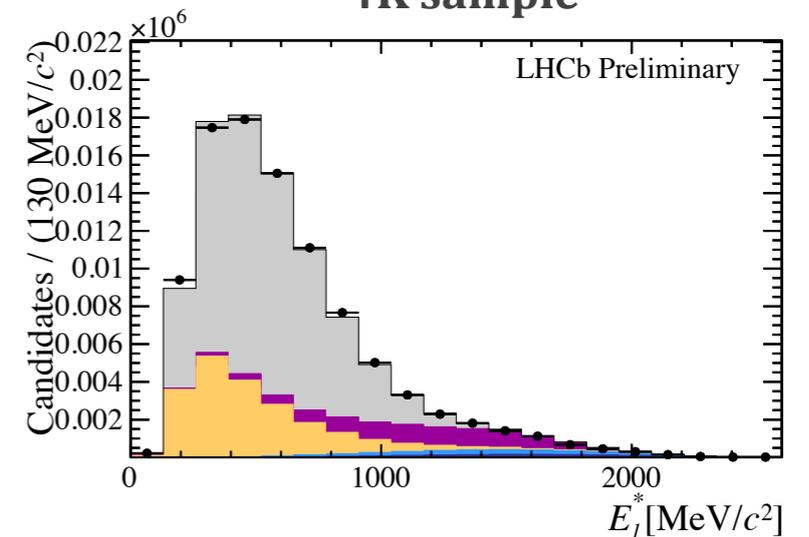
1 π sample



2 π sample



1K sample



Results

From simulation.

LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

$$R(D^{(*)+}) = \frac{\epsilon_{\mu}^{D^{(*)+}} N_{\tau}^{D^{(*)+}}}{\epsilon_{\tau}^{D^{(*)+}} N_{\mu}^{D^{(*)+}}} \frac{1}{\mathcal{B}(\tau^{-} \rightarrow \mu^{-} \nu_{\tau})}$$

[LHCb preliminary]

$$R(D^{+}) = 0.249 \pm 0.043(stat) \pm 0.047(syst)$$

$$R(D^{*+}) = 0.402 \pm 0.081(stat) \pm 0.085(syst)$$

$$\rho = -0.39$$

Results compatible with the SM at the **0.78 σ** level.

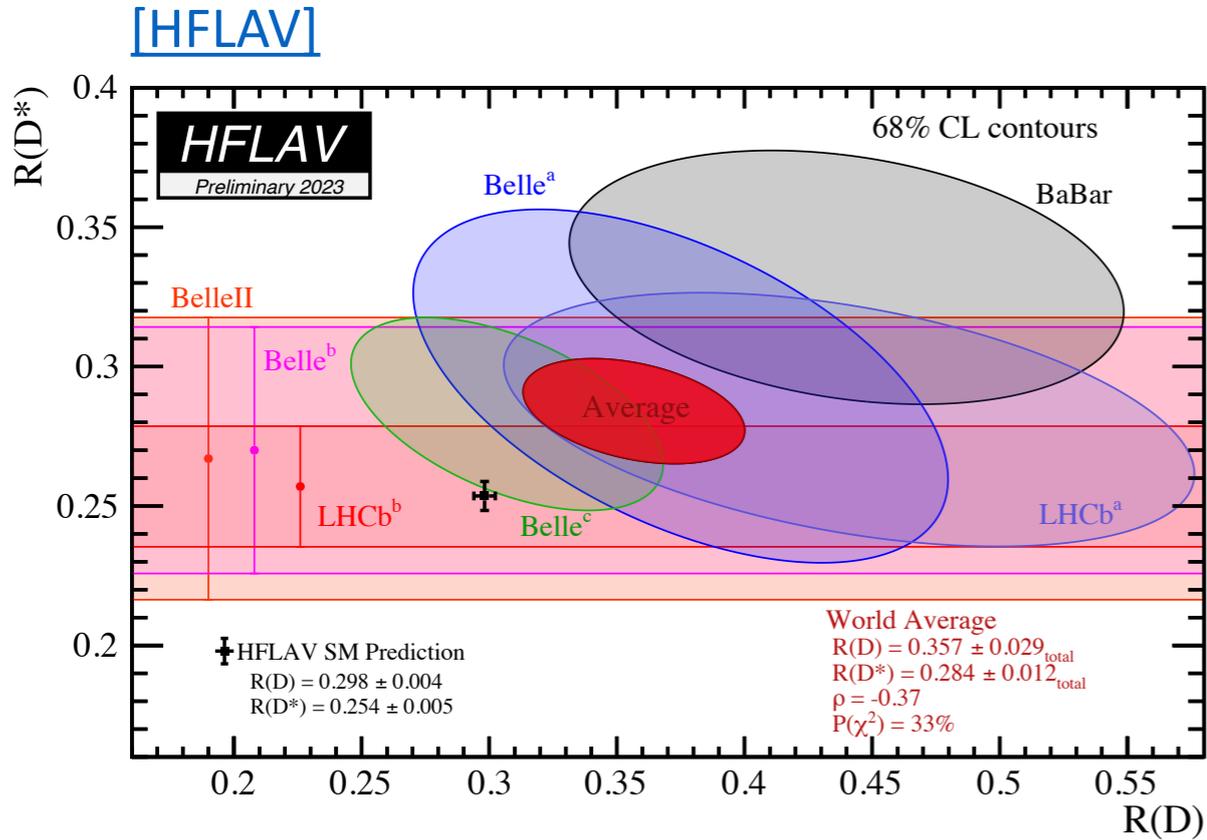
Results compatible with the (previous) World Average at the **1.09 σ** level.

Source	$\mathcal{R}(D^{+})$	$\mathcal{R}(D^{*+})$
Form factors	0.023	0.035
$B \rightarrow D^{**}[D^{+}X]\mu/\tau\nu$ fractions	0.024	0.025
$B \rightarrow D^{+}X_cX$ fractions	0.020	0.034
Misidentification	0.019	0.012
Simulation size	0.009	0.030
Combinatorial background	0.005	0.020
Data/simulation agreement	0.016	0.011
Muon identification	0.008	0.027
Multiple candidates	0.007	0.017
Total systematic uncertainty	0.047	0.086

Main systematic uncertainties from form-factor parameterisation and background modelling.

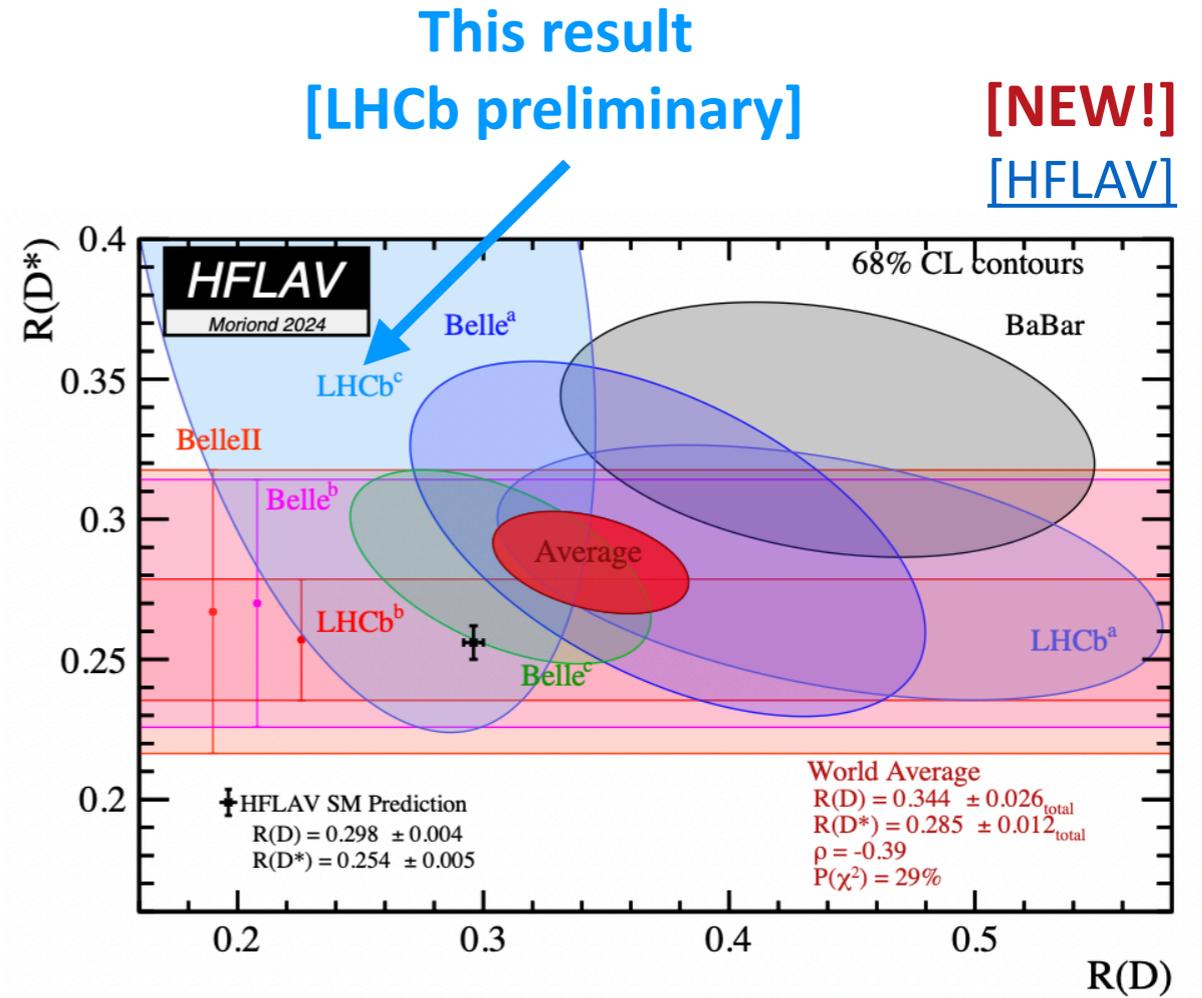
New World Average

LHCb-PAPER-2024-007



Previous World Average.

Tension with SM at the level of **3.34 σ** .



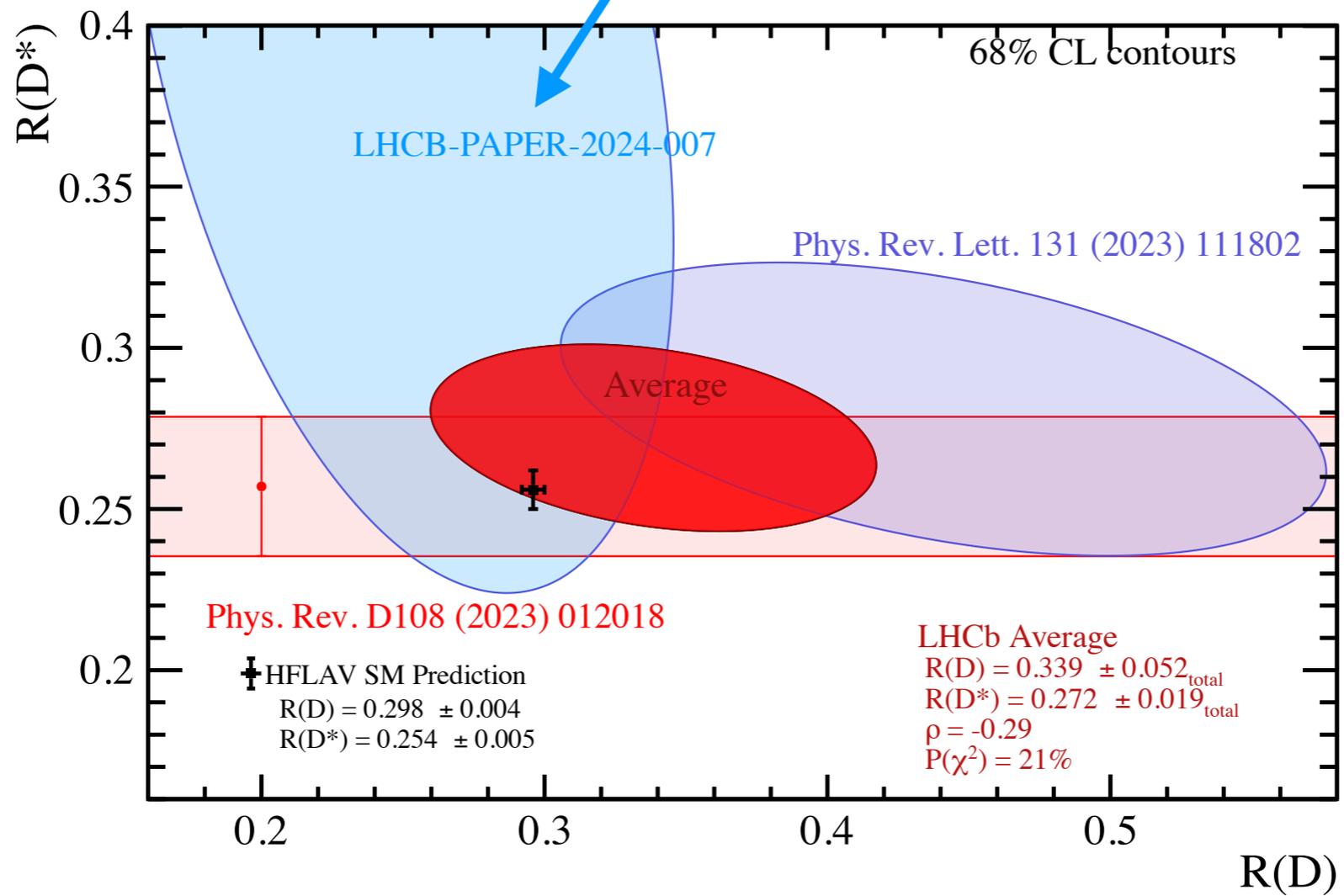
New World Average.

Tension with SM at the level of **3.17 σ** .

LHCb combination

LHCb-PAPER-2024-007

This result
[LHCb preliminary]



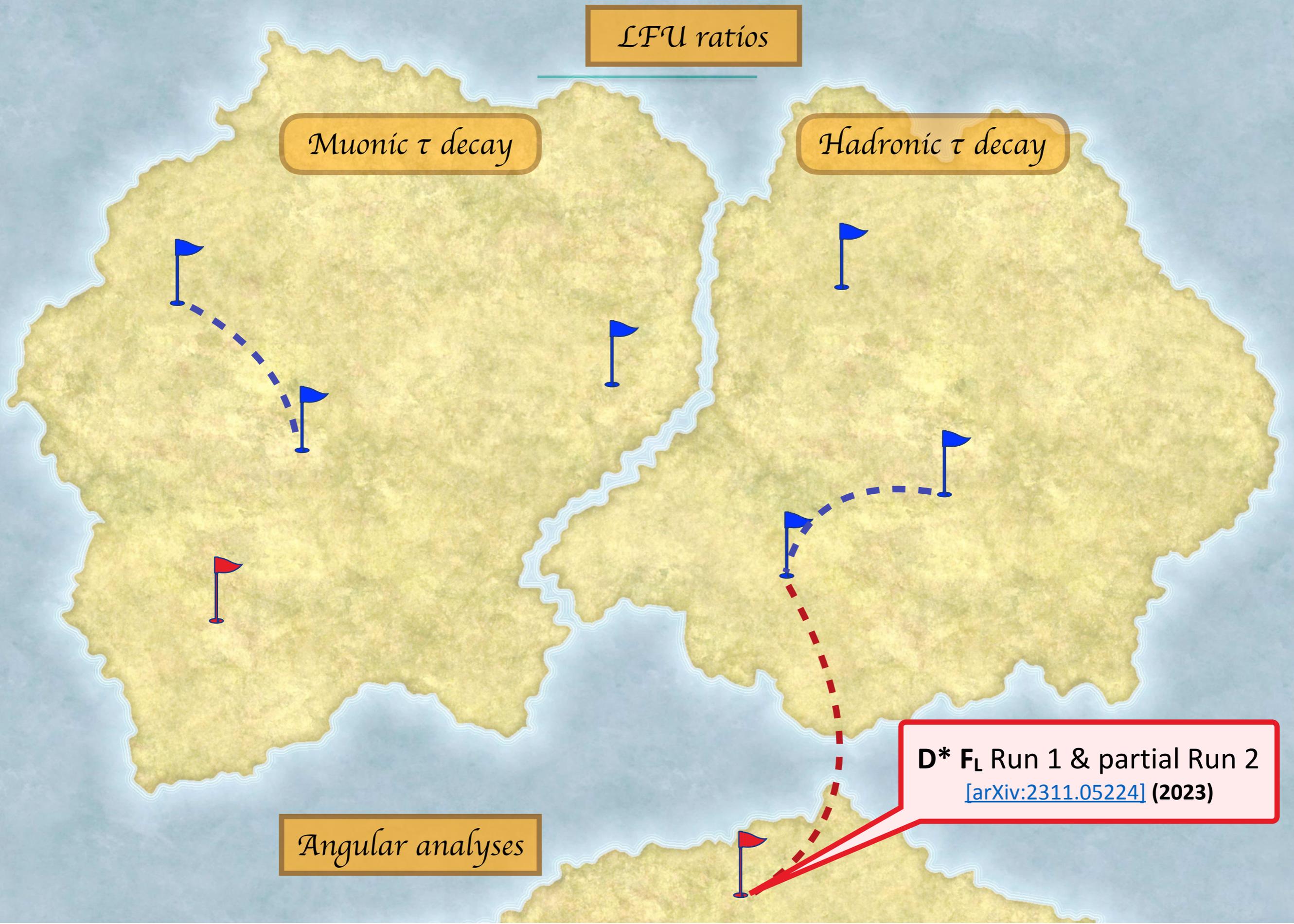
LFU ratios

Muonic τ decay

Hadronic τ decay

Angular analyses

D* F_L Run 1 & partial Run 2
[\[arXiv:2311.05224\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.05224) (2023)



D* polarisation fraction in $\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^{*+}[D^0\pi^+]\tau^-\bar{\nu}_\tau$ decays

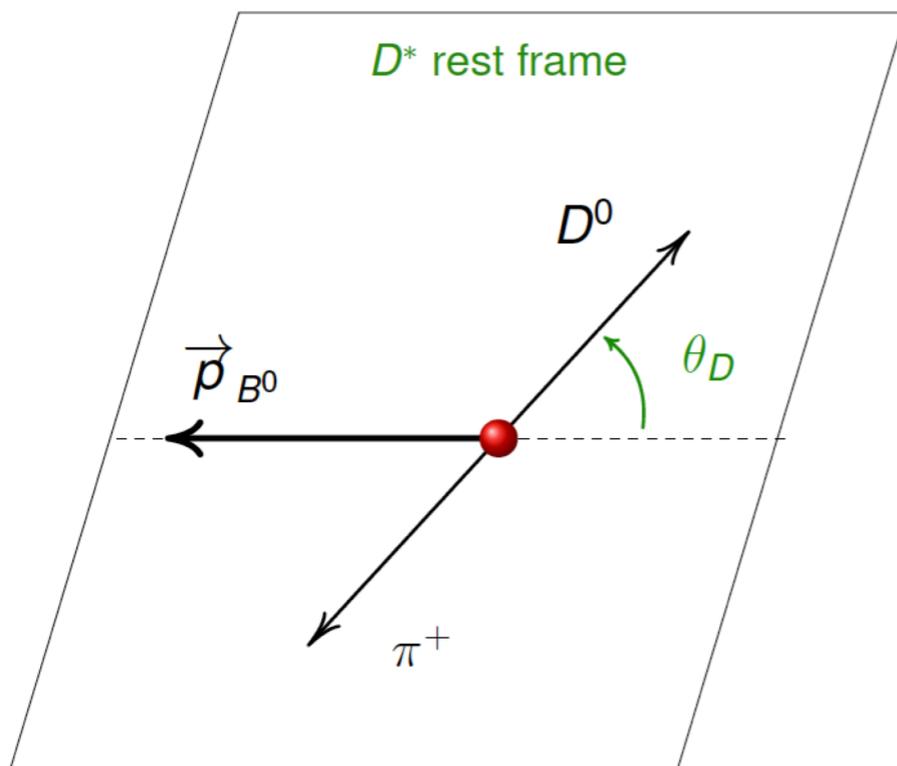
[arXiv:2311.05224]

$$\frac{d^2\Gamma}{dq^2 d\cos\theta_D} = \mathbf{a}_{\theta_D}(q^2) + \mathbf{c}_{\theta_D}(q^2) \cos^2\theta_D$$

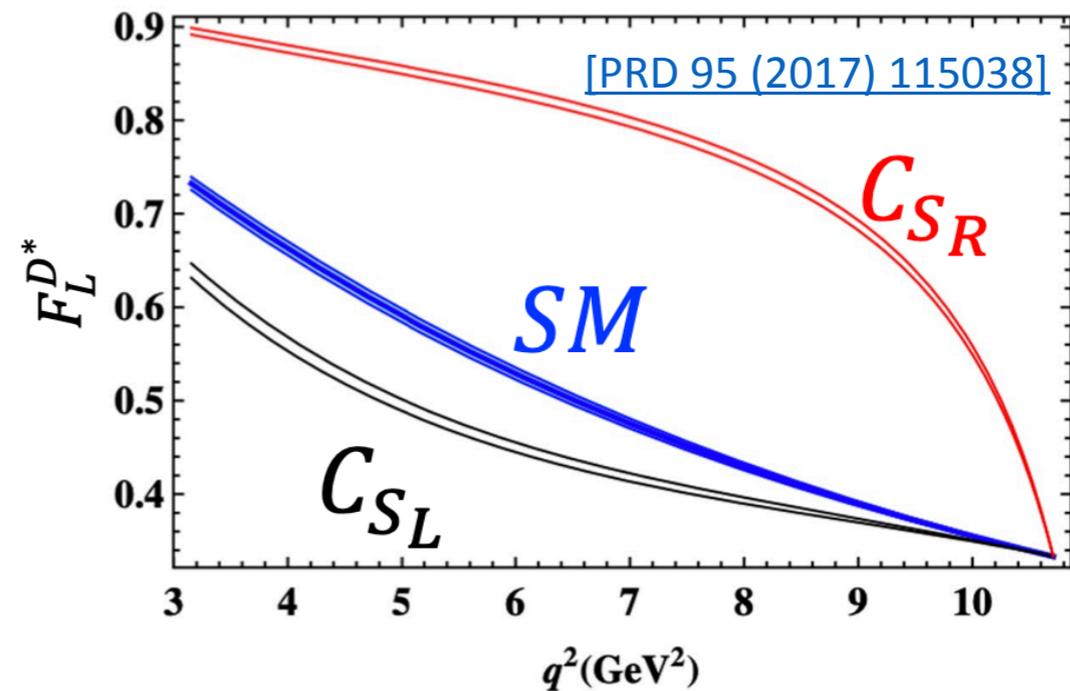
$$F_L^{D^*} = \frac{\mathbf{a}_{\theta_D}(q^2) + \mathbf{c}_{\theta_D}(q^2)}{3\mathbf{a}_{\theta_D}(q^2) + \mathbf{c}_{\theta_D}(q^2)}$$

unpolarised signal fraction

polarised signal fraction



The presence of new mediators impacts the polarisation fraction.



Analysis and results

[arXiv:2311.05224]

Run 1 + partial Run 2 (5fb⁻¹), **hadronic τ decay**.

➔ Background suppression and control **similar to Run 2 R(D*) analysis** [PRD 108, 012018].

Measurement of $F_L^{D^*}$:

- **4D-binned template fit** on: τ decay time, anti- D_s BDT output, **$\cos \theta_D$** and q^2 ($q^2 \leq 7 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4$).
- Two signal components: **polarised & unpolarised**.

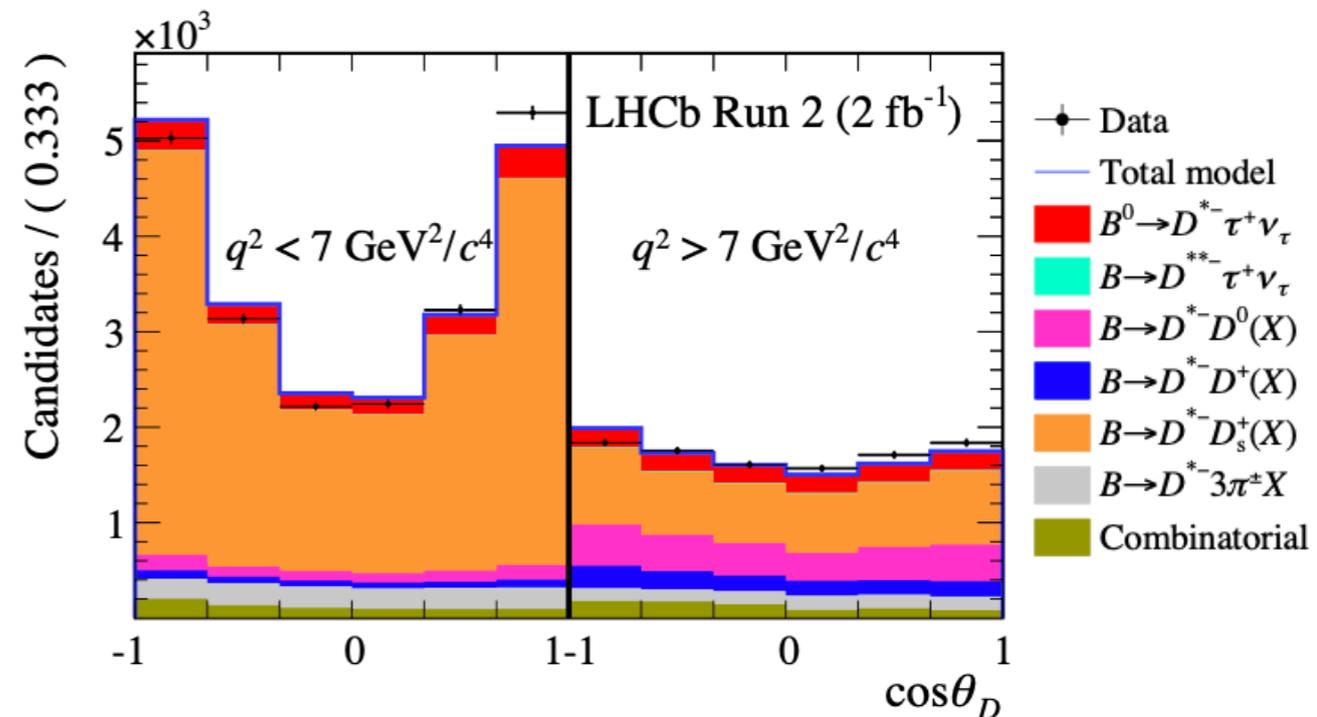
Measured values of $F_L^{D^*}$:

$$q^2 < 7 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4 : 0.51 \pm 0.07 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.03 \text{ (syst)}$$

$$q^2 > 7 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4 : 0.35 \pm 0.08 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.02 \text{ (syst)}$$

$$q^2 \text{ whole range} : 0.43 \pm 0.06 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.03 \text{ (syst)}$$

Main systematic uncertainties from size of simulated samples, FF parameterisation and double-charm background modelling.



Compatible with previous Belle measurement:

$$F_L^{D^*} = 0.60 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.04 \text{ [arXiv:1903.03102]}$$

Compatible with SM:

$$F_L^{D^*} = 0.441 \pm 0.006 \text{ [PRD 98 (2018) 095018]}$$

$$F_L^{D^*} = 0.457 \pm 0.010 \text{ [Eur. Phys. J. C 79, 268 (2019)]}$$

$$F_L^{D^*} = 0.467 \pm 0.009 \text{ [Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 347 (2020)]}$$

$$F_L^{D^*} = 0.422 \pm 0.010 \text{ [arXiv:2310.03680]}$$

$$F_L^{D^*}[q^2 < 7 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4] = 0.495 \pm 0.017 \text{ [arXiv:2310.03680]}$$

$$F_L^{D^*}[q^2 > 7 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4] = 0.383 \pm 0.006 \text{ [arXiv:2310.03680]}$$

Summary and outlook

Review of recent LHCb measurements of charged-current semileptonic decays, focused on $b \rightarrow c\tau\nu$ transitions.

First LHCb measurement of $R(D^+)$ & $R(D^{*+})$ [NEW!], with a muonic decay of the tau lepton.

- ➔ **Compatible with the World Average and with the SM.**
- ➔ **New HFLAV average: overall tension at the level of 3.17σ .**

First LHCb angular analysis of charged-current semitauonic decays, measuring the D^* polarisation fraction in $B^0 \rightarrow D^*\tau\nu$ with a hadronic decay of the tau lepton.

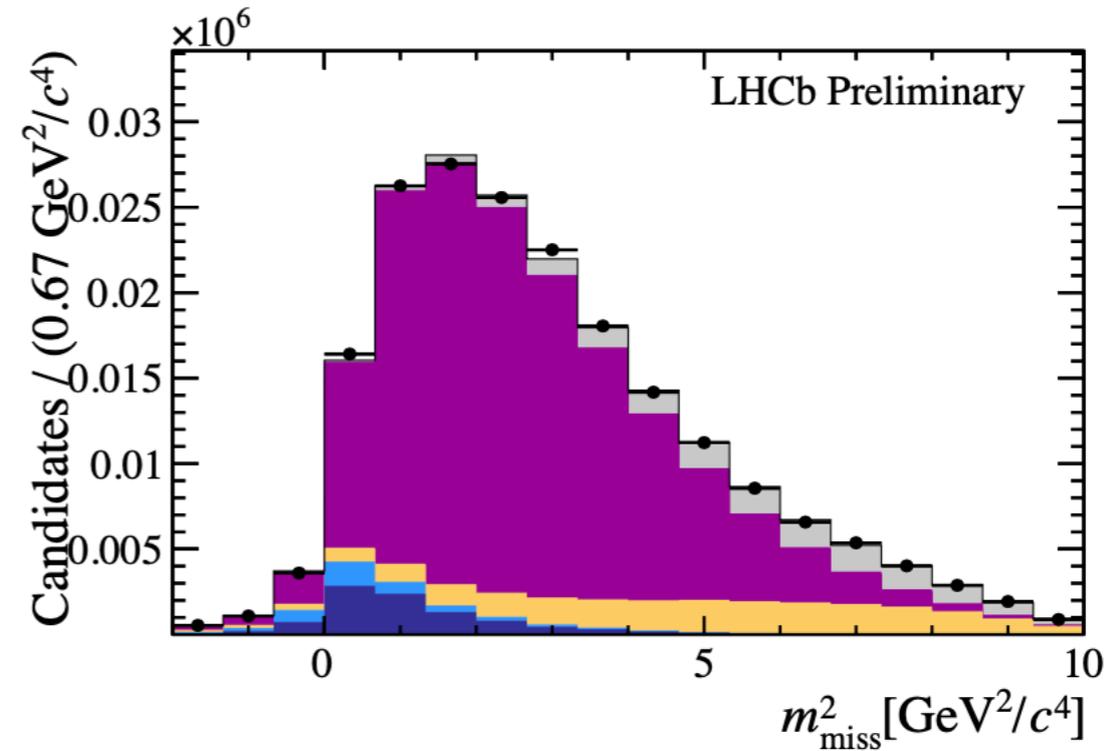
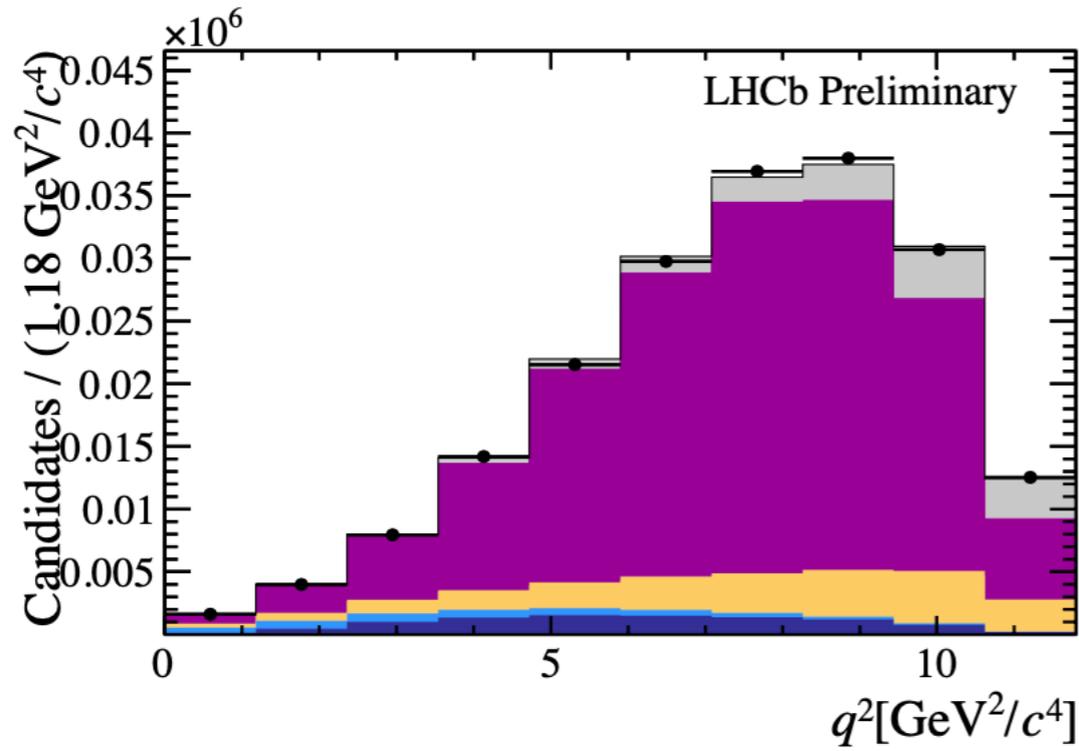
- ➔ **Better precision than previous result, compatible with it and with the SM.**

Outlook:

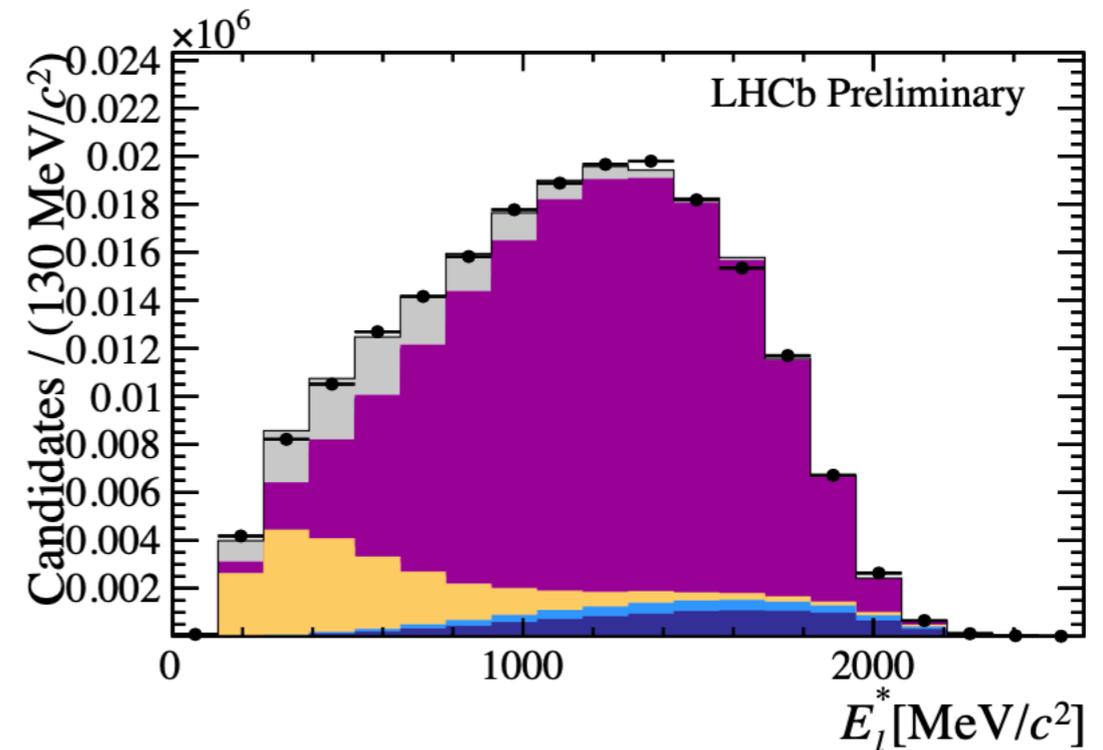
- Improve the precision of the current measurements: updates with full Run 2, Runs 3 and 4, Upgrade II (aiming to collect 300 fb^{-1}).
- Measure new observables: other $R(H_c)$ ratios, other angular observables.

Backup slides

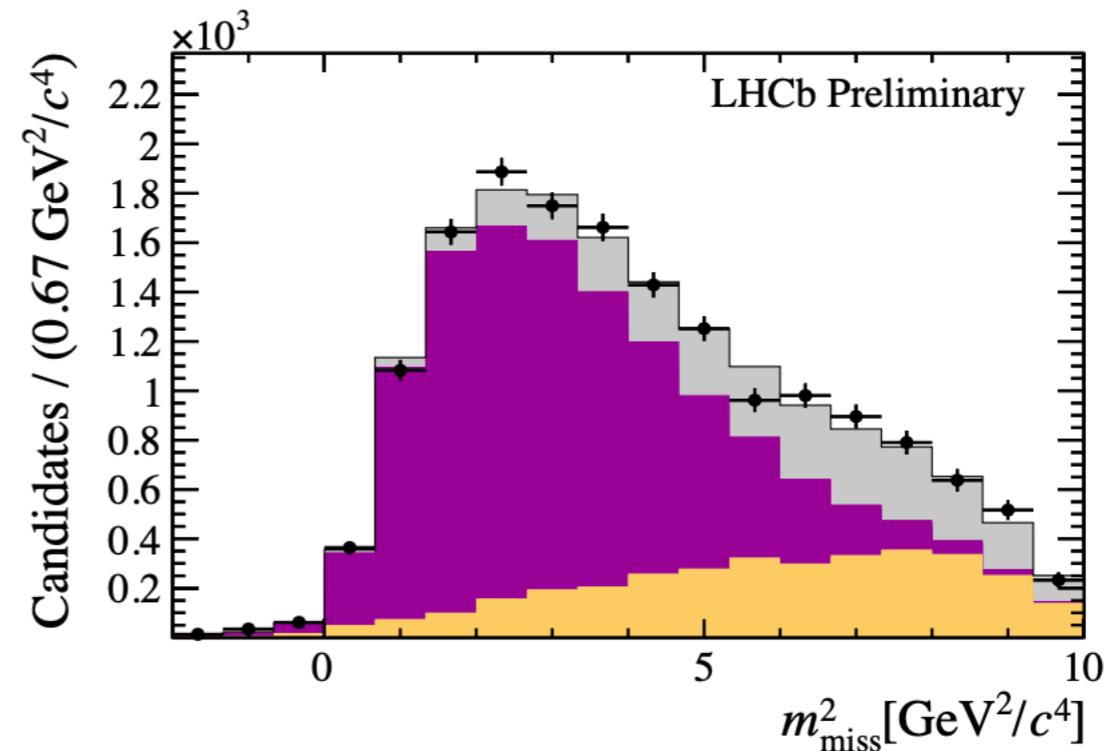
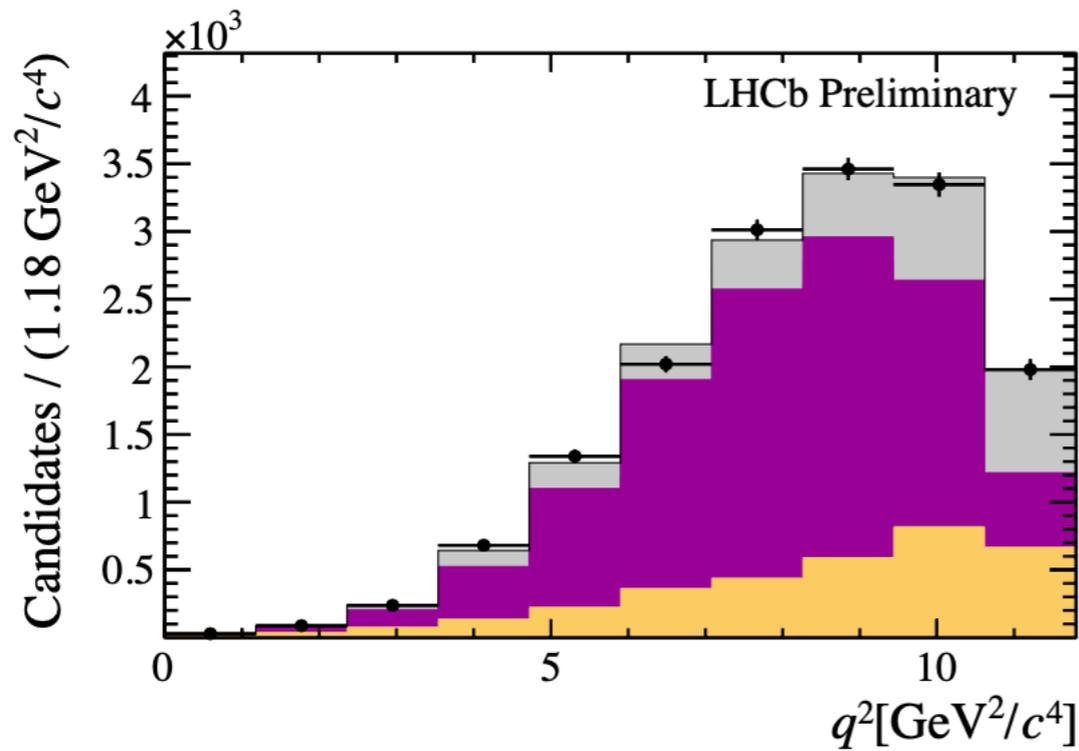
Measurement of $R(D^{(*)+})$: fit projections in 1π sample



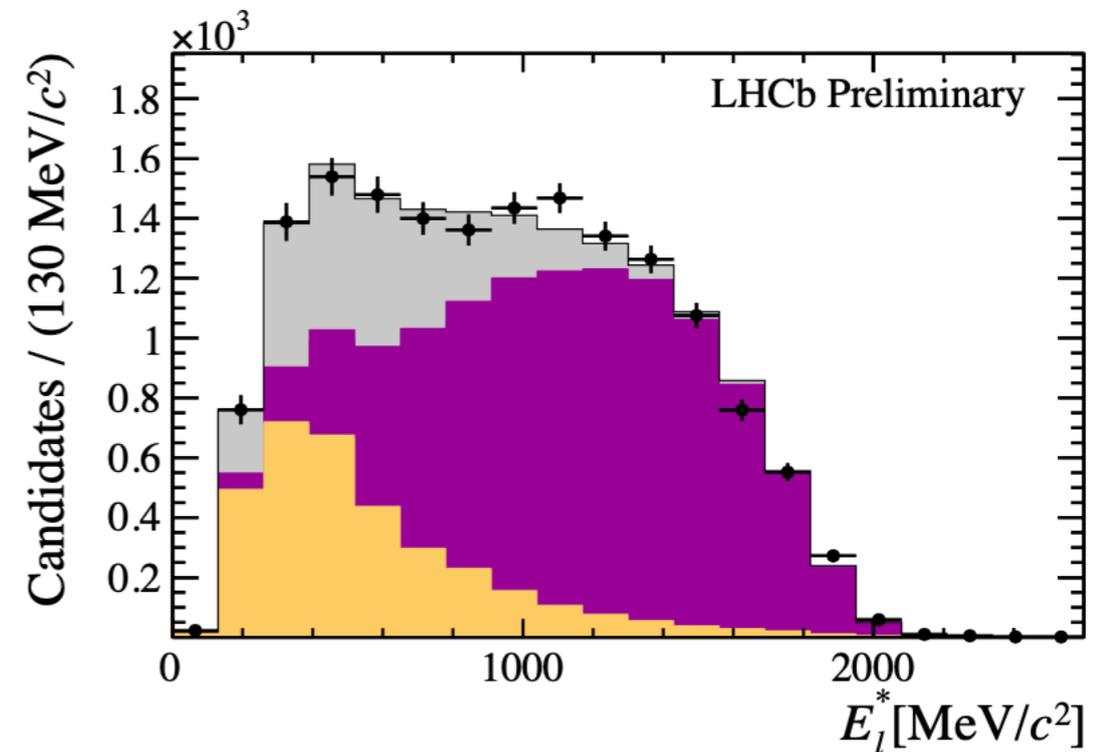
- $B \rightarrow D^+ \tau \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \tau \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^+ X_c X$
- $B \rightarrow D^{**} \mu/\tau \nu$
- Comb + misID
- $B \rightarrow D^+ \mu \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \mu \nu$



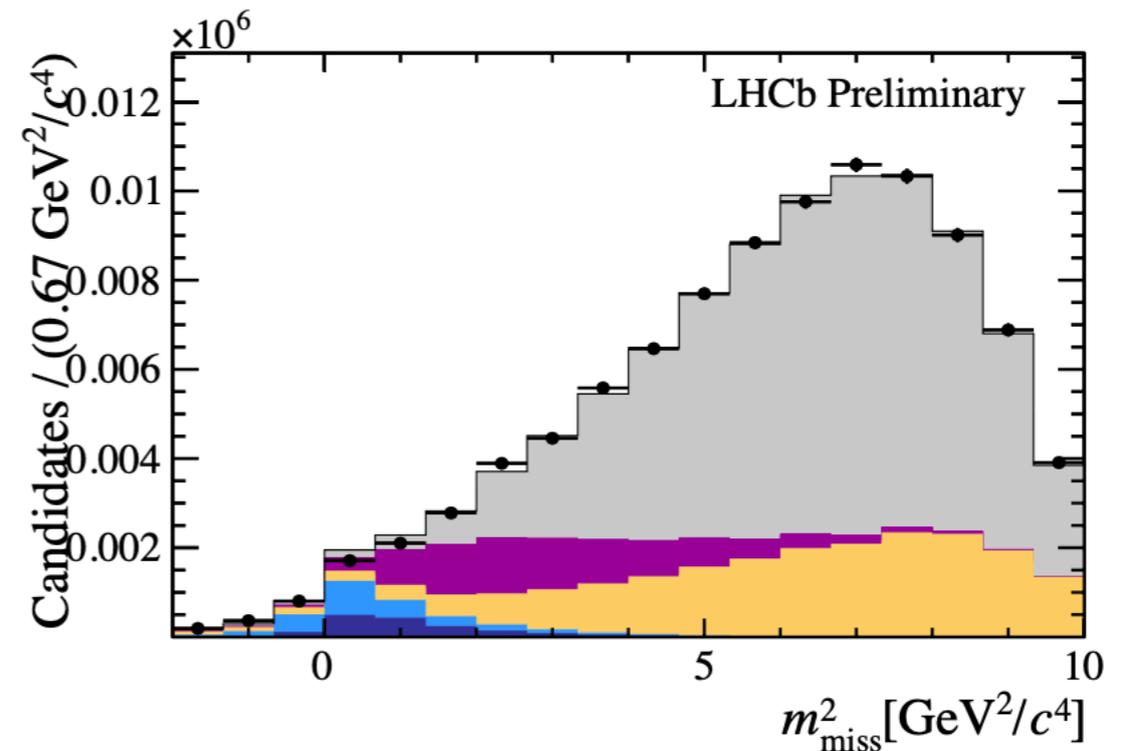
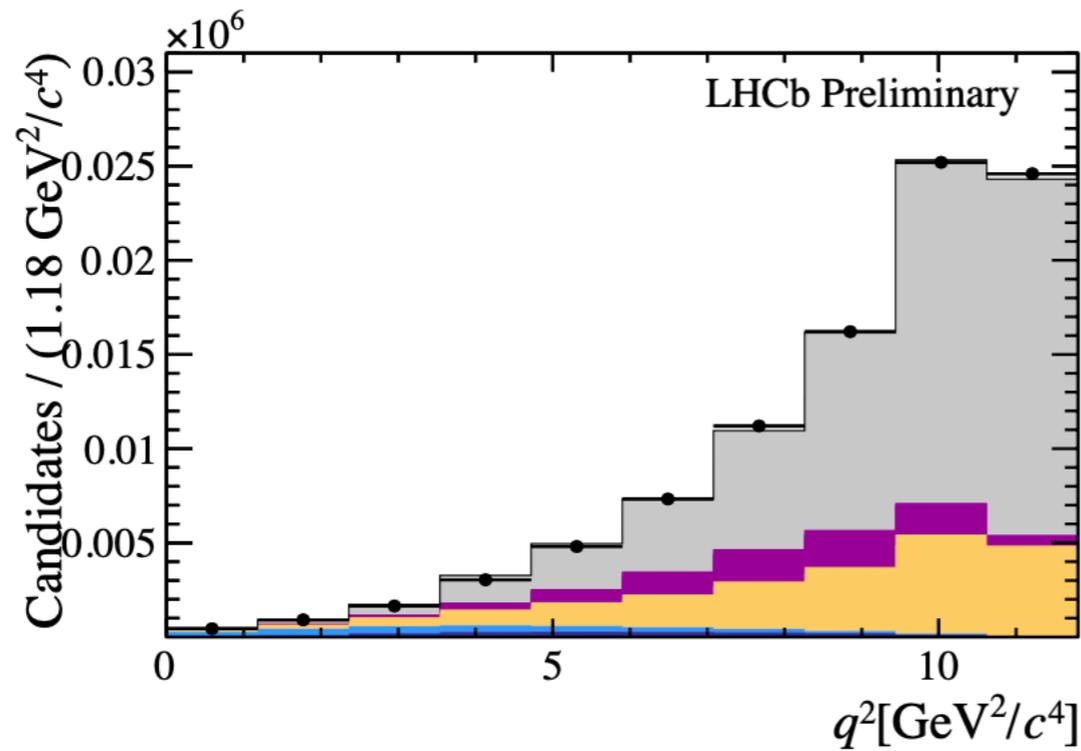
Measurement of $R(D^{(*)+})$: fit projections in 2π sample



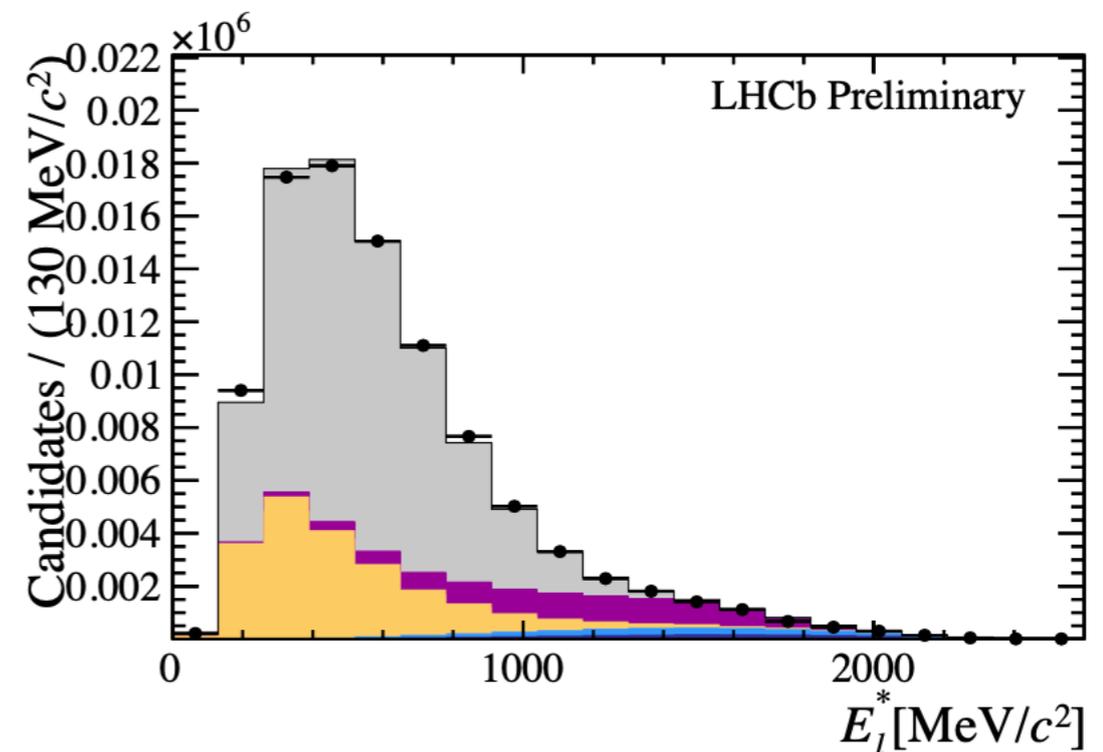
- $B \rightarrow D^+ \tau \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \tau \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^+ X_c X$
- $B \rightarrow D^{**} \mu/\tau \nu$
- Comb + misID
- $B \rightarrow D^+ \mu \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \mu \nu$



Measurement of $R(D^{(*)+})$: fit projections in 1K sample



- $B \rightarrow D^+ \tau \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \tau \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^+ X_c X$
- $B \rightarrow D^{**} \mu/\tau \nu$
- Comb + misID
- $B \rightarrow D^+ \mu \nu$
- $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \mu \nu$



Measurement of $R(D^{(*)+})$: analysis strategy

[\[arXiv:2311.05224\]](#)

Dataset: **Run 1 + partial Run 2** (5fb^{-1} in total), **hadronic τ decay**.

Background suppression and control similar to the Run 2 $R(D^*)$ analysis
[\[PRD 108, 012018\]](#).

Measurement of $F_L^{D^*}$:

- 4D-binned template fit simultaneous on Run1 and Run2 data on: $\cos \theta_D$, q^2 (split in two regions $q^2 \leq 7 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4$), τ decay time and anti- D_s BDT output.
- Split the signal model into polarised and unpolarised components, whose relative fraction can be used to determine $F_L^{D^*}$.

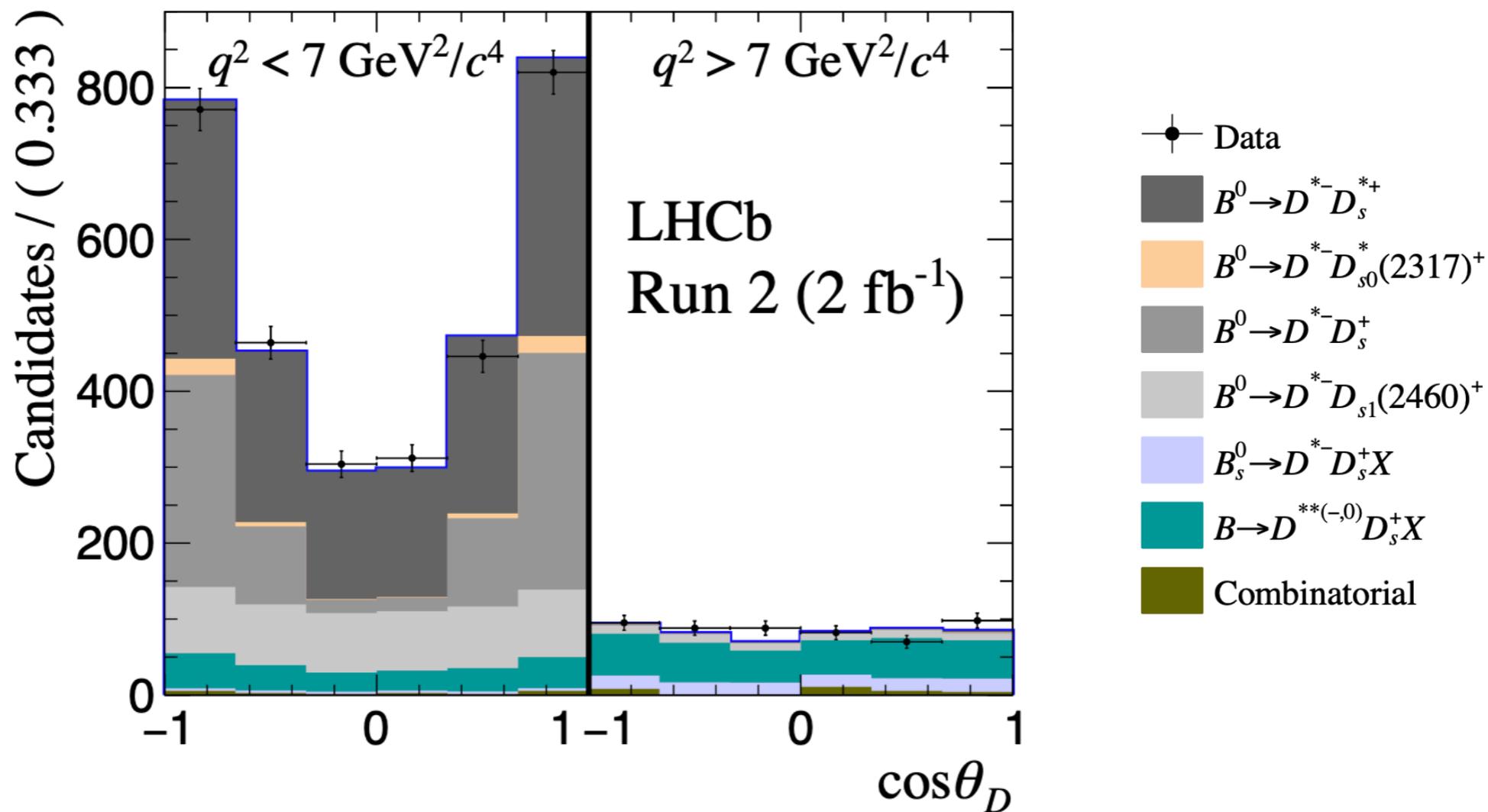
Background suppression:

- **“Prompt-decay” bkg., $B \rightarrow D^* 3\pi X$ (BF $\sim 100x$ signal):** require **displacement** between τ and B vertices + BDT in Run 2.
- **Double charm bkg., $B \rightarrow D^* D^{+,0}_{(s)} X$ (BF $\sim 10x$ signal):** **isolation** from extra charged particles + anti- D_s BDT (including isolation from extra neutral particles and **3π kinematics**).

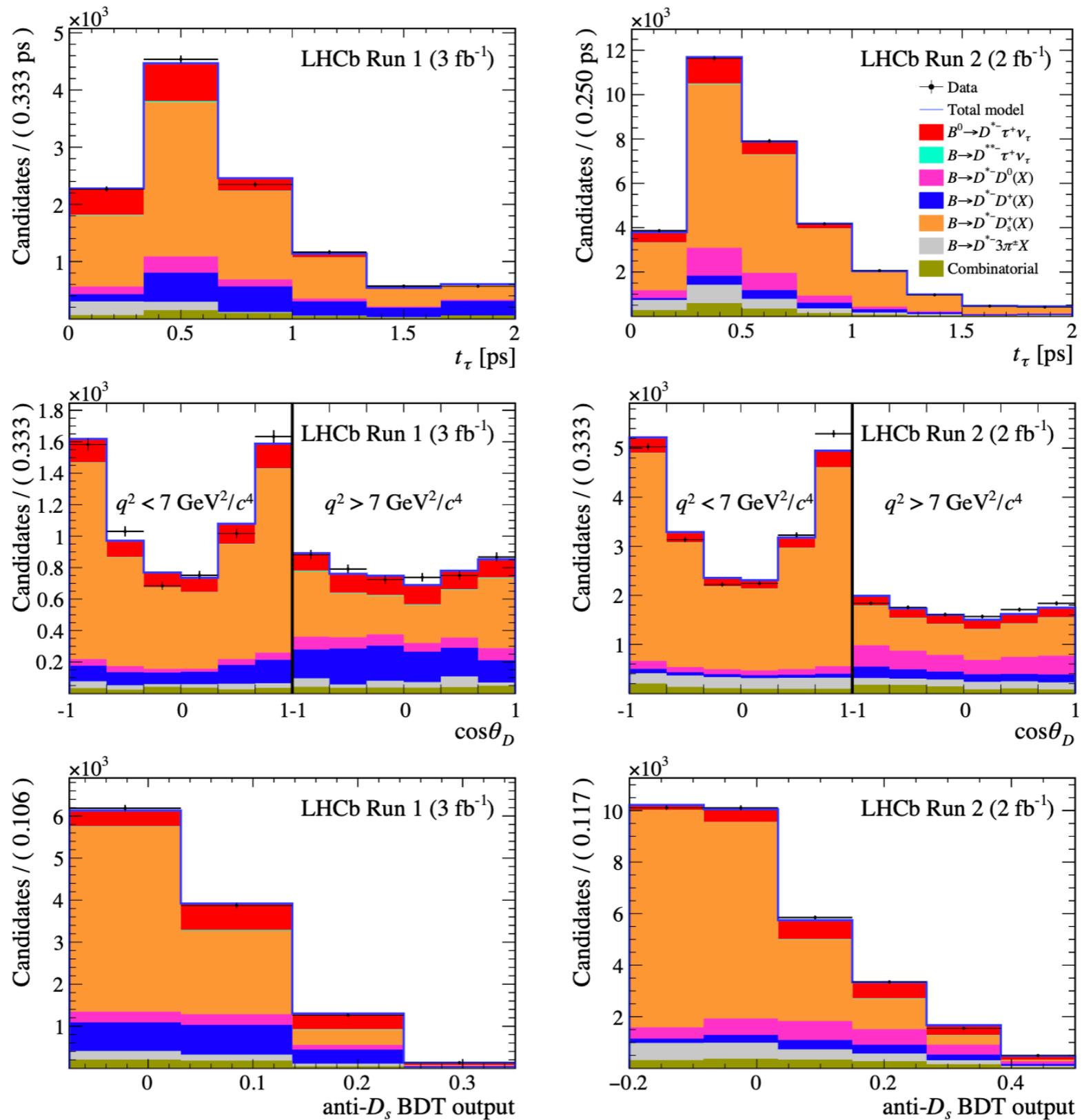
Data-driven correction of simulation samples:

- $D_s^{(*,**)}$ production fractions and D_s decay models in **$B \rightarrow D^* D^{+,0}_s X$** .
- **$B \rightarrow D^* D^{0,+} X$** templates.

Measurement of D^* F_L : control sample for $B \rightarrow D^* D^{+,0}_s X$



Measurement of D^* F_L : fit projections



Measurement of $D^* F_L$: systematic uncertainties

[\[arXiv:2311.05224\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.05224)

Source	low- q^2	high- q^2	whole q^2 range
Fit validation	0.003	0.002	0.003
FF model	0.007	0.003	0.005
FF parameters	0.013	0.006	0.011
Limited template statistics	0.027	0.017	0.019
Fraction of signal $\tau^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^0 \nu_\tau$ decays	0.001	0.001	0.001
Fraction of D^{**} feed-down	0.001	0.004	0.003
Signal selection	0.005	0.004	0.005
Bin migration	0.008	0.006	0.007
$F_L^{D^*}$ in simulation	0.007	0.003	0.007
D_s^+ decay model	0.008	0.009	0.009
Shape of $\cos \theta_D$ template in $D^{*-} D_s^+$ decays	0.002	0.001	0.002
Shape of $\cos \theta_D$ template in $D^{*-} D_s^{*+}$ decays	0.007	0.002	0.004
Shape of $\cos \theta_D$ template in $D^{*-} D_s^+ X$ decays	0.007	0.006	0.007
Shape of $\cos \theta_D$ template in $D^{*-} D^+ X$ decays	0.002	0.002	0.003
Shape of $\cos \theta_D$ template in $D^{*-} D^0 X$ decays	0.002	0.002	0.003
$F_L^{D^*}$ integration method	-	-	0.002
Total	0.036	0.023	0.029