

# Experimental $b \rightarrow c\ell\nu$ : how to deal with form-factors uncertainties?

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Taming hadronic uncertainties in and beyond the Standard Model

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HELMHOLTZ

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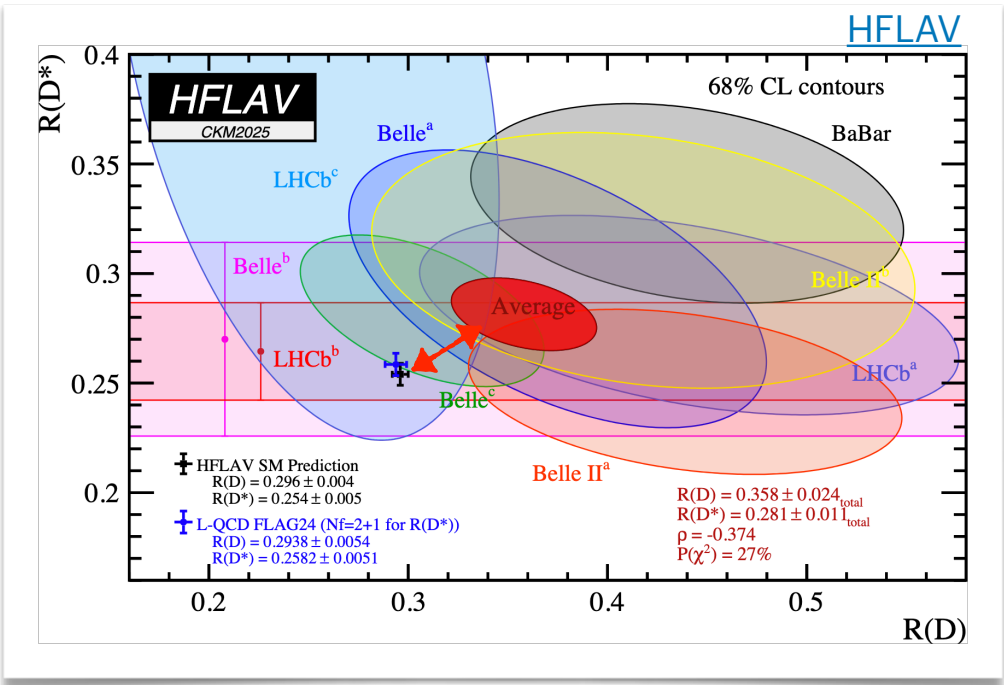
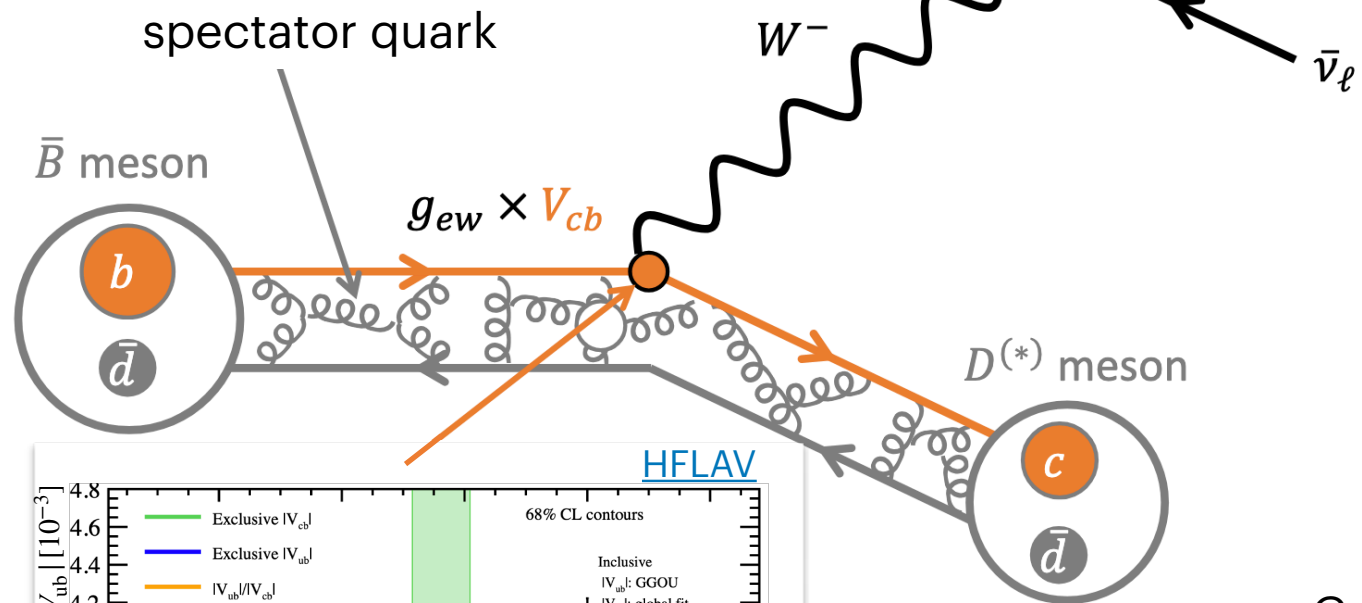


# Overview

- Brief overview of  $b \rightarrow c\ell\nu$  decays.
- Form factors for  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  and current methods for estimating their uncertainties.
- Assessment of the impact of these uncertainties on current measurements of  $|V_{cb}|$ ,  $R(D^{(*)})$ ...
- Applications and future prospects for ongoing/upcoming measurements, including strategies to reduce or mitigate these uncertainties using:
  1. Data-driven approach: e.g. first combined  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  analysis at Belle II.
  2. Optimised variables for next  $R(D)$ - $R(D^*)$  measurements.

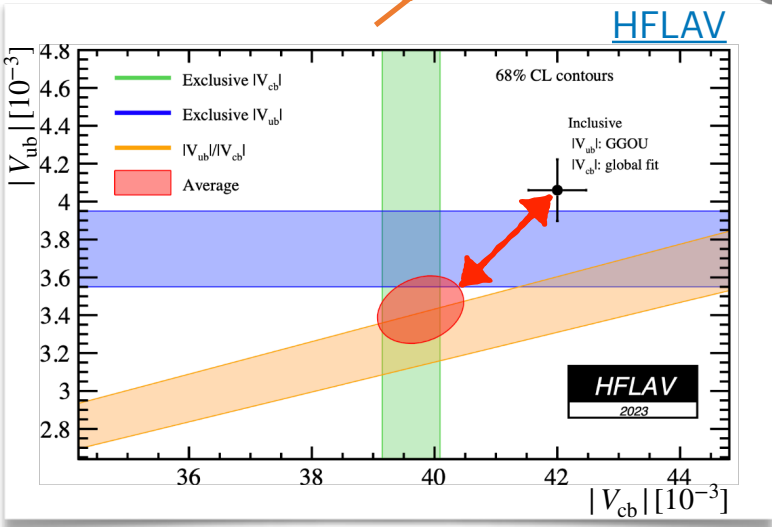
# The $b \rightarrow c \ell \nu$ decays

Form factors (FF) parameterise the hadronic interactions with



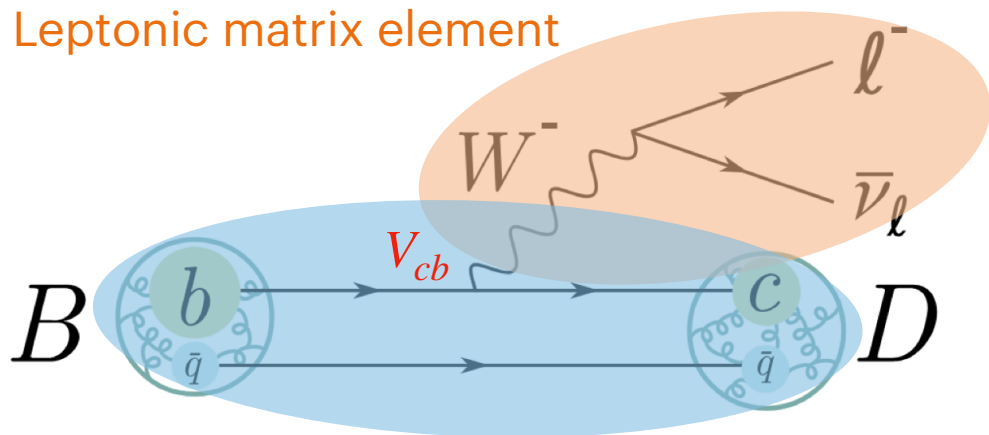
Good understanding of the form factors is crucial for precise predictions and determinations of observables

$$R(D^{(*)}), |V_{cb}|, A_{FB}, P_{\tau}(D^{(*)}), F_{L,\tau}(D^{(*)})$$



# Exclusive $B \rightarrow D^{(*)}\ell\nu$ decays

Leptonic matrix element



Hadronic matrix element

Hadronic matrix element can not be calculated from first principles:

→ can be parameterised with form factors and extracted from data

→ theory must provide (at least) inputs on their normalisation

Semileptonic decays of  $B \rightarrow D^{(*)}$ :

easy probe to measure  $|V_{cb}|$ .

$$d\Gamma \propto G_F^2 |V_{cb}|^2 |L^\mu H_\mu|^2$$

Determine  $|V_{cb}|$  by removing the hadronic interaction effects



Differential distributions [[PRD, 108, 012002](#)]

Angular coefficients [[PRL, 133, 131801](#)]

Essential to provide measurements that are as independent as possible from the FF model

## $B \rightarrow D^{(*)}\ell\nu$ form factors

- $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  decay rate in the massless-lepton limit is

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dw} \propto \Gamma_0(w) |V_{cb}|^2 |G(w)|^2$$

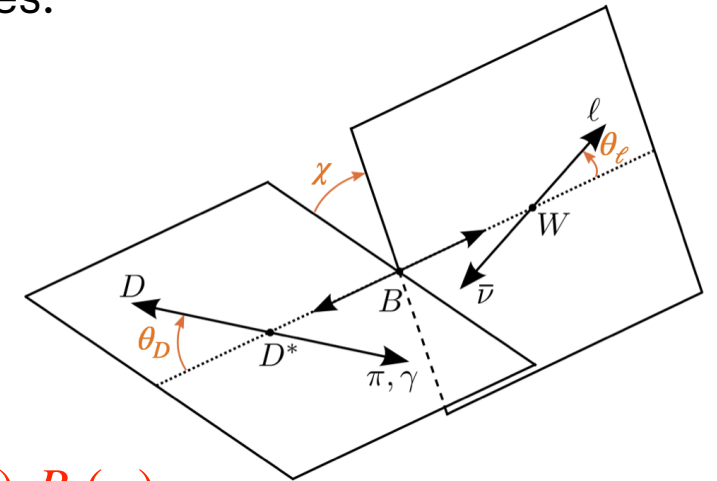
where  $w = E_D/m_D$  and  $G(w)$  encapsulates the form factor:  $G(w) = \frac{\sqrt{4r}}{1+r^2} f_+(w)$ , with  $r = m_D/m_B$  ↗ one form factor

- $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  decay rate depends on  $w = E_{D^*}/m_{D^*}$  and three helicity angles:

$$\frac{d^4\Gamma}{dw d\cos\theta_\ell d\cos\theta_D d\chi} \propto \Gamma'_0(w) |V_{cb}|^2 \sum_{i=1}^6 H_i(w) k_i(\theta_\ell, \theta_D, \chi)$$

angular functions ↗

↘ helicity amplitudes



helicity amplitudes encapsulate the three form factors  $h_{A_1}(w)$ ,  $R_1(w)$ ,  $R_2(w)$



# Form-factors, experimentally

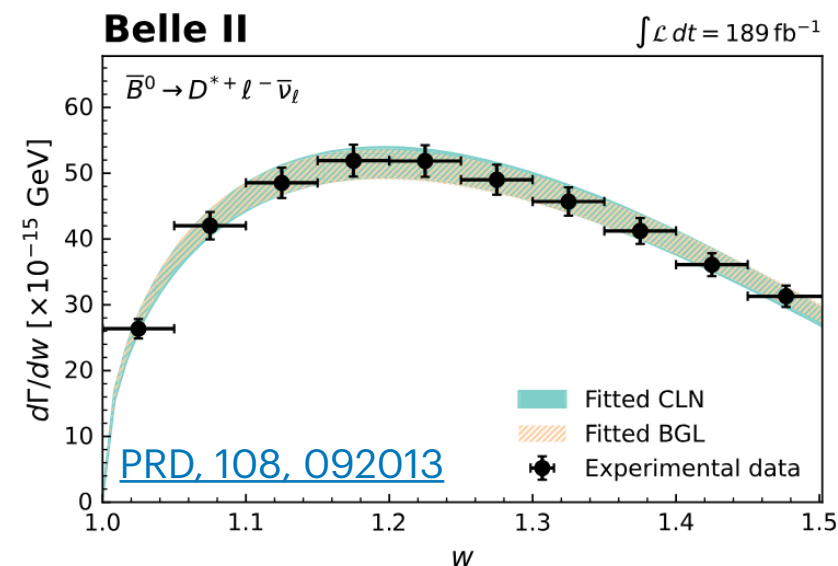
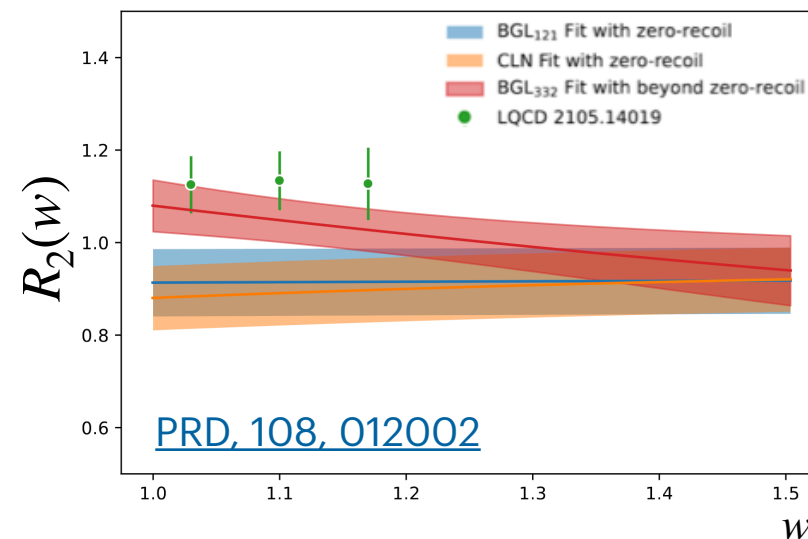
Two different FF parametrisations:

1. **Caprini-Lellouch-Neubert (CLN):**  
few parameters but strong theoretical assumptions.
2. **Boyd-Grinstein-Lebed (BGL):**  
less restrictive, recommended by theorists.

Might lead to model-dependent results, a concern especially for  $B \rightarrow D^* \ell \nu$ .

Current approach: unfolded (1D) distributions of  $w$ ,  $\cos\theta_\ell$ ,  $\cos\theta_D$ ,  $\chi$  and fitted with different models.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^4\Gamma}{dw d\cos\theta_D d\cos\theta_\ell d\chi} = & \frac{3}{16\pi} \Gamma_0(w) |V_{cb}|^2 \left\{ H_+^2(w) \sin^2\theta_D (1 - \cos\theta_\ell)^2 \right. \\ & + H_-^2(w) \sin^2\theta_D (1 + \cos\theta_\ell)^2 + 4 H_0^2(w) \cos^2\theta_D \sin^2\theta_\ell \\ & - 2 H_-(w) H_+(w) \sin^2\theta_D \sin^2\theta_\ell \cos 2\chi \\ & - 2 H_+(w) H_0(w) \sin 2\theta_D \sin\theta_\ell (1 - \cos\theta_\ell) \cos\chi \\ & \left. + 2 H_-(w) H_0(w) \sin 2\theta_D \sin\theta_\ell (1 + \cos\theta_\ell) \cos\chi \right\} \end{aligned}$$



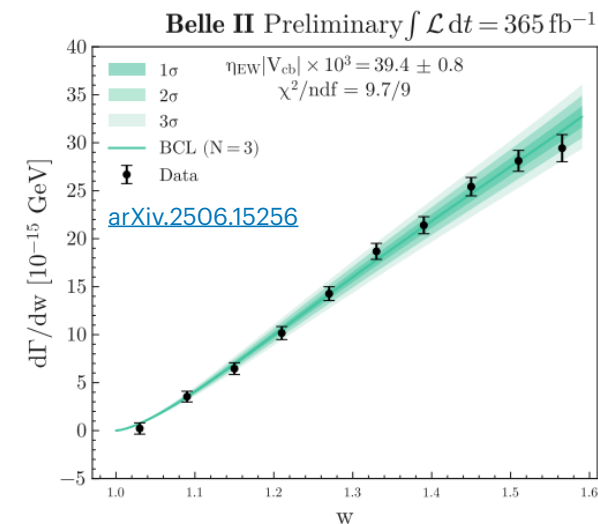
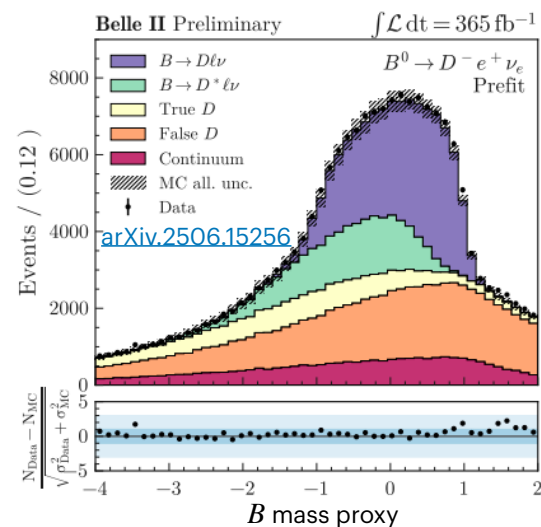
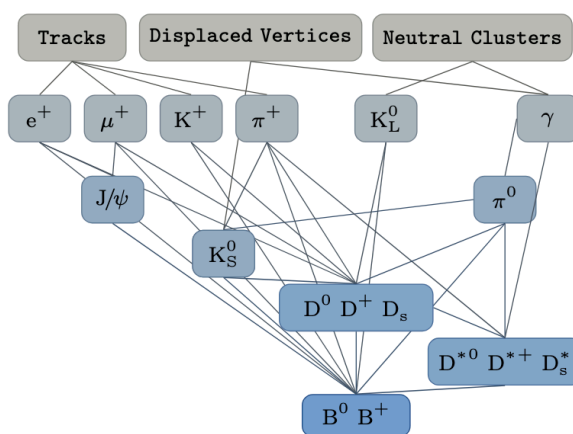
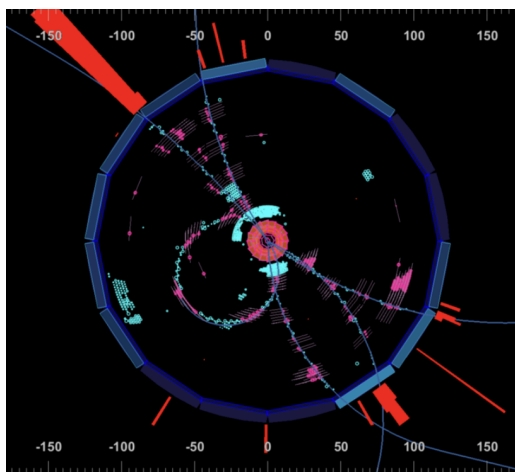
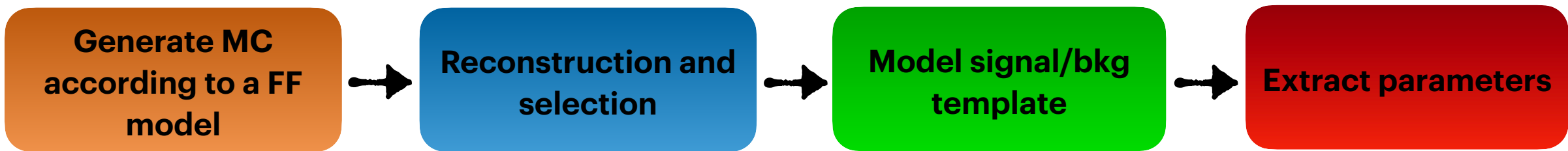
How do we deal with a choice of FF model?

# Dealing with form factors

## Fitting the form factors

Form factors determine the shape and behaviour of our signal models. Experimentally, we adjust them to better match the experimental data, allowing the signal shapes to adapt to observations.

**correct procedure at each fit iteration**

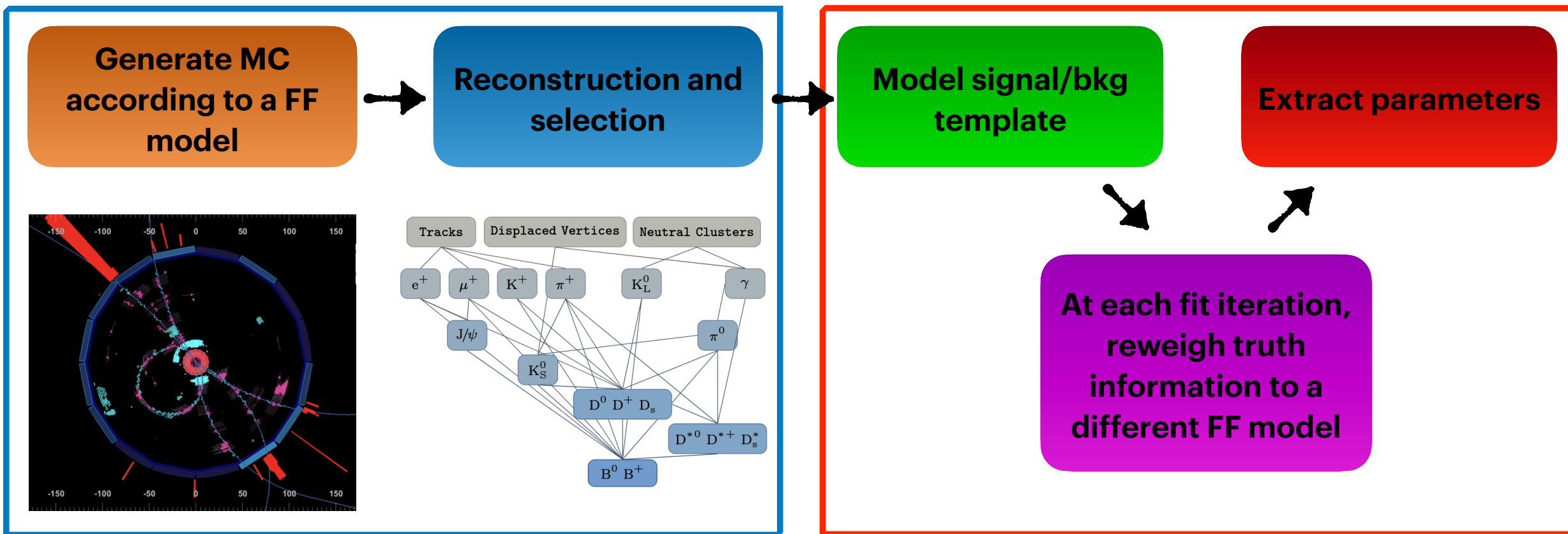


This is not pragmatic!

# Dealing with form factors

## Fitting the form factors

### Practical approach



Assume reconstruction and selection are not heavily model dependent

Techniques developed using different tools: Hammer, eFFORT2...



# Dealing with form factors

## Reweighting procedure

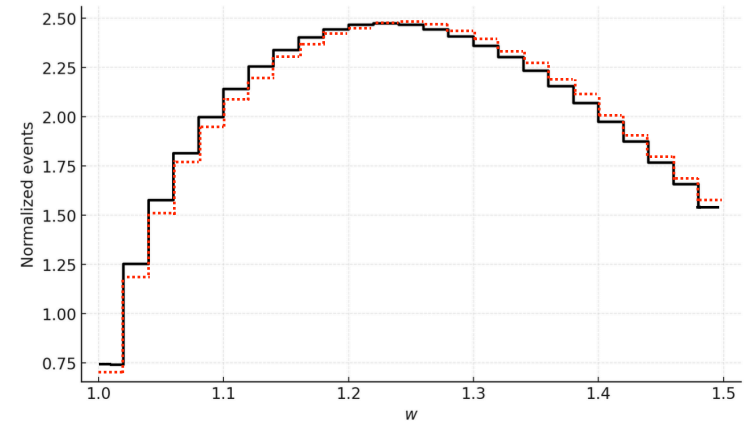
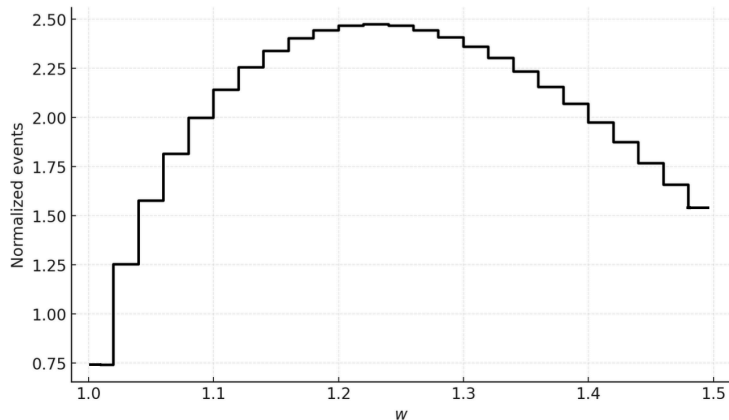
- Dependence on the form factors included in the fit through a reweighting of the reference templates.
- At each call of the fit minimisation, the signal templates are rebuilt using a weight:

$$p_i = \frac{\Gamma_{ref}}{\Gamma_{new}} \frac{d\Gamma_{new}/d\Omega}{d\Gamma_{ref}/d\Omega}$$

$d\Gamma_{ref}$  = reference model, what is assumed in simulation to generate the sample.

$d\Gamma_{new}$  = new model used in the fit to measure the form-factors.

$\Omega = w$  for  $D\ell\nu$ ,  $\Omega = (w, \cos\theta_\ell, \cos\theta_D, \chi)$  for  $D^*\ell\nu$  ....



Assign a systematic uncertainty due to the choice of the form-factor model by evaluating the impact of differences between the alternative and nominal fit results on physical observables

# Form-factors uncertainties

## $|V_{cb}|$ and $R(D)-R(D^*)$ measurements

Form-factor uncertainties are not always negligible:

### $|V_{cb}|$ at Belle II

| Source                                    | Uncertainty [%] |
|---|-----------------|
| Statistical                               | 0.9             |
| Systematic                                | 1.5             |
| $B^{0/+}$ lifetime                        | 0.1             |
| Signal form factor                        | 0.1             |
| $B \rightarrow D^* \ell \nu$ form factor  | 0.1             |
| $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_c \ell \nu)$ | 0.3             |
| $\mathcal{B}(D \rightarrow K \pi(\pi))$   | 0.5             |
| Tracking efficiency                       | 0.5             |
| $N_{\Upsilon(4S)}$                        | 0.7             |
| $f_{00}/f_{+-}$                           | 0.1             |
| $f_B$                                     | 0.4             |
| Background $w$ modelling                  | 0.3             |
| $(E_Y^*, m_Y)$ reweighting                | 0.3             |
| Lepton identification                     | 0.3             |
| Kaon identification                       | 0.6             |
| Vertex fit $\chi^2$ correction            | 0.3             |
| Simulation sample size                    | 0.5             |
| Theoretical                               | 1.3             |
| to set the normalisation                  |                 |
| Lattice QCD inputs                        | 1.2             |
| Long-distance QED                         | 0.5             |
| Total                                     | 2.1             |

### $R(D)-R(D^*)$ at Belle II

| Source  | $R(D^*)$ | $R(D)$ | $\rho$ |
|---|----------|--------|--------|
| Simulation sample size  | 4.8%     | 8.4%   | -0.44  |
| gap-mode branching fraction   | 2.6%     | 2.6%   | 0.00   |
| $\bar{B} \rightarrow D^{**} \tau^- / (\ell^-) \bar{\nu}_\ell$ branching fractions | 0.3%     | 1.3%   | 0.25   |
| Hadronic $B$ decay branching fractions  | 1.6%     | 1.5%   | -0.26  |
| Form factors  | 0.5%     | 0.9%   | -0.70  |
| Fraction of misreconstructed $D^{(*)}$  | 0.5%     | 1.2%   | 0.00   |
| Continuum background  | 2.4%     | 2.1%   | 0.93   |
| Fit biases  | 0.3%     | 1.2%   | 0.00   |
| Low-momentum $\pi^0, \gamma$ efficiency   | 2.2%     | 2.4%   | 0.99   |
| Other efficiency corrections  | 0.7%     | 1.4%   | 0.92   |
| $B$ -tagging efficiency of data   | 0.9%     | 1.8%   | -1.00  |
| $B$ -tagging efficiency of $B \rightarrow D \tau \nu$                             | 0.1%     | 1.8%   | 1.00   |
| $M_{\text{miss}}^2$ resolution  | 0.5%     | 0.8%   | 0.48   |
| Total systematic uncertainty  | 6.7%     | 10.2%  | -0.20  |
| Statistical uncertainty   | 8.3%     | 16.3%  | -0.40  |

### $R(D)-R(D^*)$ at LHCb

| Source  | $R(D^+)$ | $R(D^{*+})$ |
|---|----------|-------------|
| Form factors  | 0.023    | 0.035       |
| $\bar{B} \rightarrow D^{**} [D^+ X] \mu / \tau \nu$ fractions | 0.024    | 0.025       |
| $\bar{B} \rightarrow D^+ X_c X$ fraction                      | 0.020    | 0.034       |
| Misidentification   | 0.019    | 0.012       |
| Simulation size   | 0.009    | 0.030       |
| Combinatorial background                                      | 0.005    | 0.020       |
| Data vs simulation agreement                                  | 0.016    | 0.011       |
| Muon identification   | 0.008    | 0.027       |
| Multiple candidates   | 0.007    | 0.017       |
| Total systematic uncertainty                                  | 0.047    | 0.085       |
| Statistical uncertainty                                       | 0.043    | 0.081       |

[PRL, 134, 061801 \(2025\)](#)

To be submitted to PRL

[arXiv.2506.15256](#) submitted to PRD

Can we go beyond this?

**Application:**  
**first combined  $B \rightarrow D^{(*)}\ell\nu$  at Belle II**

# Exclusive measurements at Belle II

## $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$ and $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$

Exclusive approach:  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  decays. They have been analysed independently so far at Belle II.

- $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  measurement:

limited by systematic uncertainties:

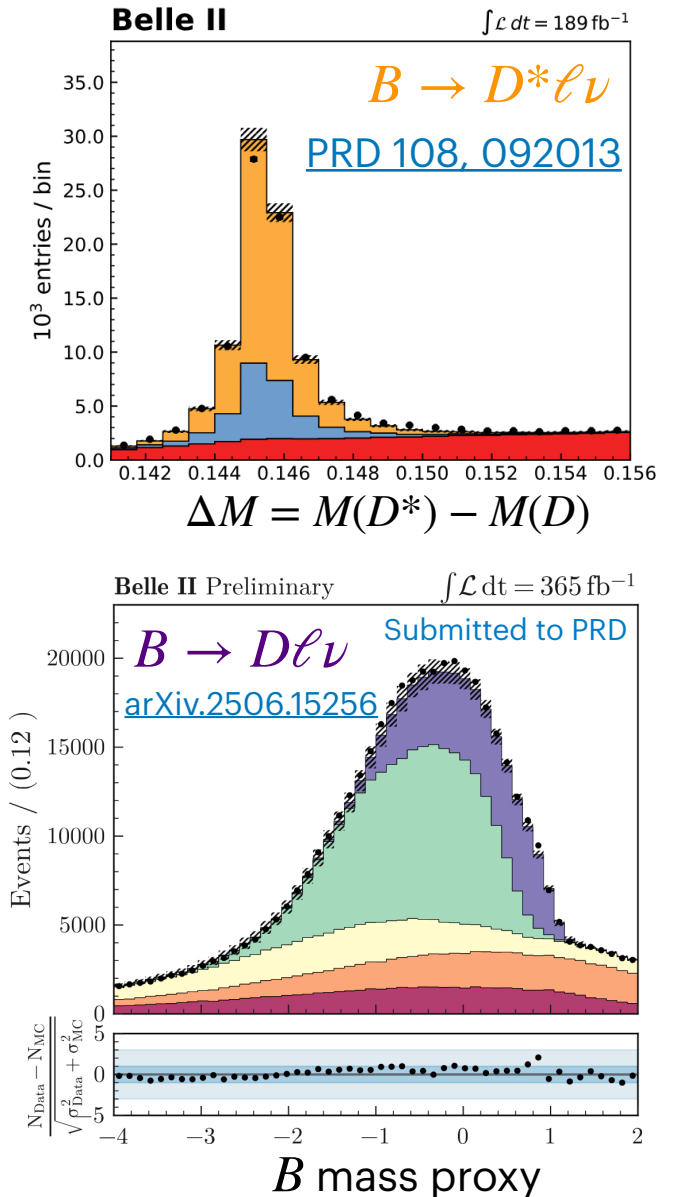
pion reconstruction efficiency in the  $D^{*+} \rightarrow \bar{D}^0\pi^+$  transition.

(Impact  $\sim 1.5\%$  on  $|V_{cb}|$ ).

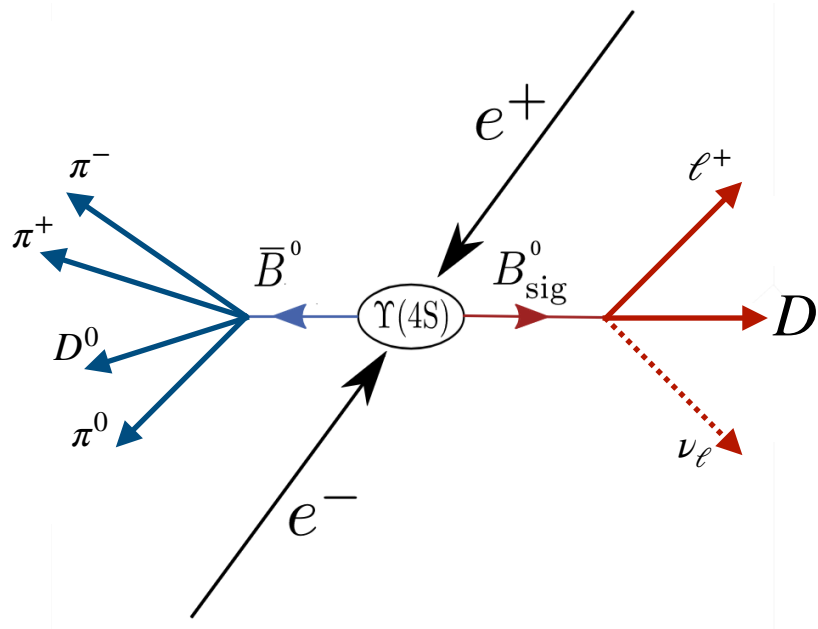
- $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  measurement:

provide smaller samples compared to the  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  decays.

Large feed-down contribution from  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  decays.



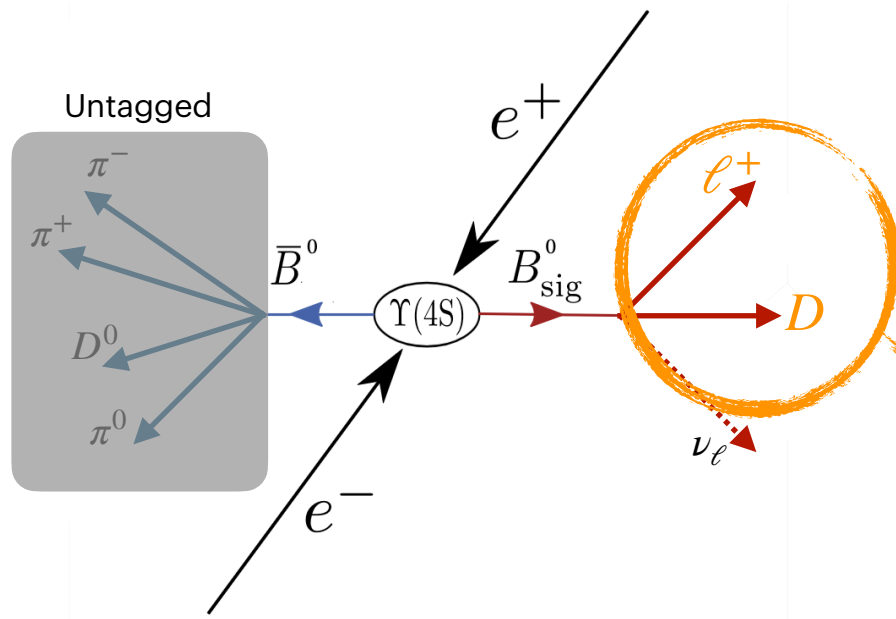
# Production at Belle II



- $e^+e^-$  collisions at 10.6 GeV energy.
- $BB$  mesons pairs from  $\Upsilon(4S)$  decays.



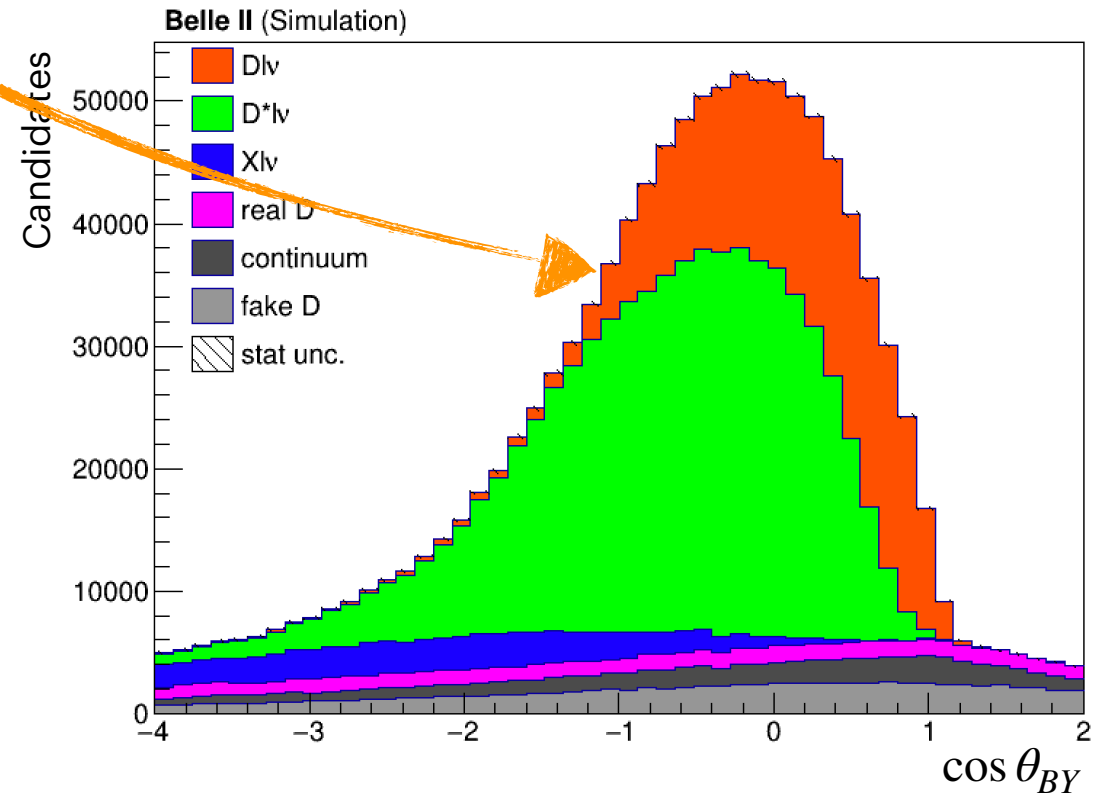
# $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$ decays at Belle II



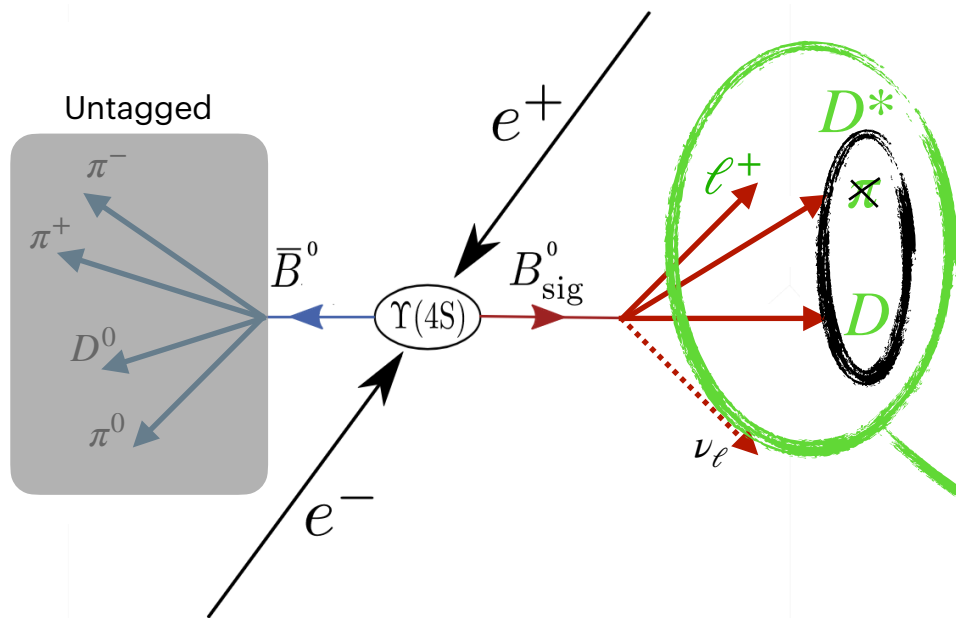
- $e^+e^-$  collisions at 10.6 GeV energy.
- $BB$  mesons pairs from  $\Upsilon(4S)$  decays.

- Reconstruct the  $\ell$  and  $D$  meson.
- Cannot detect the  $\nu_\ell$ , broad peak.

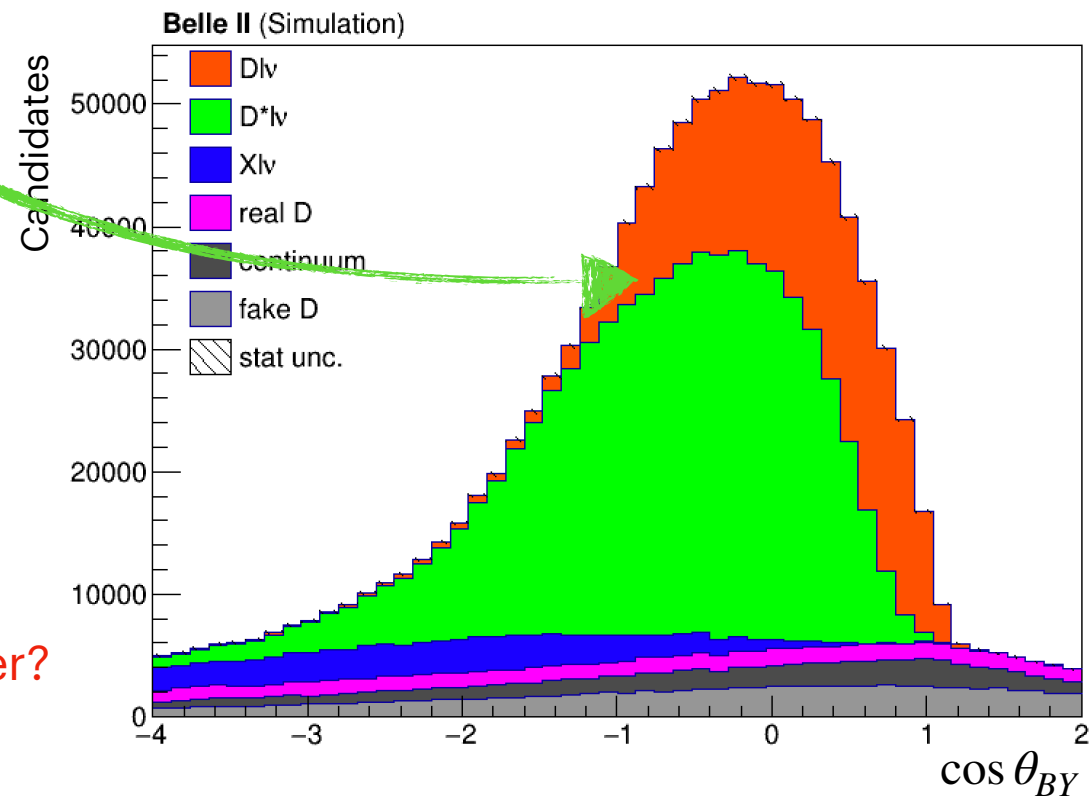
$\cos \theta_{BY}$  = angle between the  $B$  mesons and  $D\ell$  system in the CMS.



# Feed-down contribution from $B \rightarrow D^* \ell \nu$



- Reconstruct the  $\ell$  and  $D$  meson.
- $B \rightarrow D^* \ell \nu$  decays peaks at lower values: missing also the  $\pi$ .



- $e^+e^-$  collisions at 10.6 GeV energy.
- $BB$  mesons pairs from  $\Upsilon(4S)$  decays.

Can we analyse  $B \rightarrow D \ell \nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^* \ell \nu$  together?

# First combined $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$ and $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$ at Belle II

Perform the first simultaneous analysis of  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  at Belle II where  $D^*$  is partially reconstructed. Measure:

1.  $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D\ell\nu)$  and  $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu)$
2.  $|V_{cb}|$  and the decay form factors **[main focus of this talk]**
3.  $f_{+-}/f_{00} = \mathcal{B}(\Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B^+B^-)/\mathcal{B}(\Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B^0\bar{B}^0)$

Variables to further characterise the  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  decay:

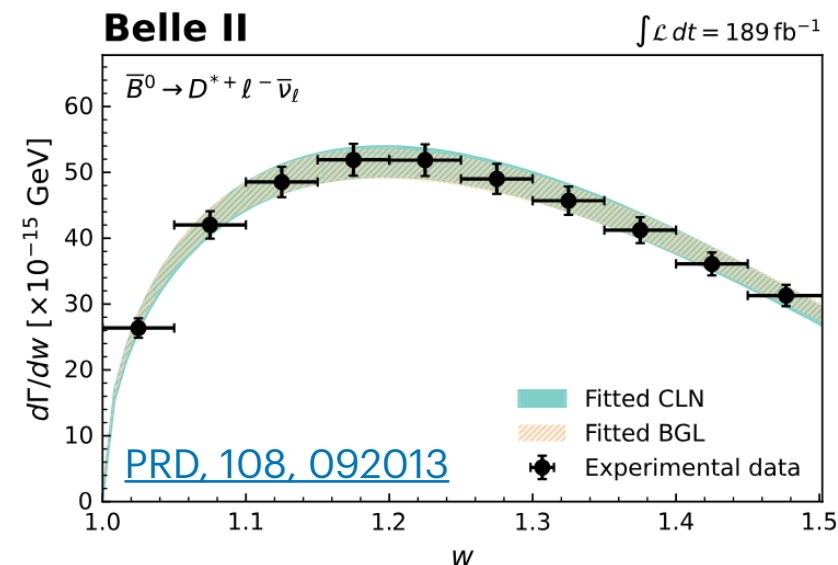
3. Forward-backward asymmetry ( $A_{FB}$ )
4. Longitudinal  $D^*$  polarisation ( $F_L^{D^*}$ )

# A novel approach

## Current approach

Unfolded (1D) distributions of  $w$ ,  $\cos\theta_\ell$ ,  $\cos\theta_D$ ,  $\chi$  and fitted with different models.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^4\Gamma}{dw d\cos\theta_v d\cos\theta_\ell d\chi} = & \frac{3}{16\pi} \Gamma_0(w) |V_{cb}|^2 \left\{ H_+^2(w) \sin^2\theta_v (1 - \cos\theta_\ell)^2 \right. \\ & + H_-^2(w) \sin^2\theta_v (1 + \cos\theta_\ell)^2 + 4 H_0^2(w) \cos^2\theta_v \sin^2\theta_\ell \\ & - 2 H_-(w) H_+(w) \sin^2\theta_v \sin^2\theta_\ell \cos 2\chi \\ & - 2 H_+(w) H_0(w) \sin 2\theta_v \sin\theta_\ell (1 - \cos\theta_\ell) \cos\chi \\ & \left. + 2 H_-(w) H_0(w) \sin 2\theta_v \sin\theta_\ell (1 + \cos\theta_\ell) \cos\chi \right\} \end{aligned}$$



## New approach

Measure  $|V_{cb}| * H_i$  in bins of  $w$  w/o assuming a FF parametrisation.

Helicity amplitudes  $H_i$  depend on the form-factors: obtain a model-independent measurement.

This new approach can be applied to any decay

# Model-independent observables

Define, for the first time, the following model-independent observables:

$D\ell\nu$ , one FF, differential rate depends on the recoil variable  $w$ :

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dw} \propto \Gamma_0(w) \underbrace{|V_{cb}|^2 |G(w)|^2}_{G'(w) \text{ measured in 7 bins of } w}$$

FF  
↙

$D^*\ell\nu$ , richer structure, rate depends on decay angles too:

$$\frac{d^2\Gamma^*}{dw d\cos\theta_\ell} \propto \Gamma'_0(w) |V_{cb}|^2 \underbrace{\left\{ a(w) + b(w)\cos\theta_\ell + c(w)\cos^2\theta_\ell \right\}}_{a'(w), b'(w), c'(w), \text{ measured in 5 bins of } w}$$

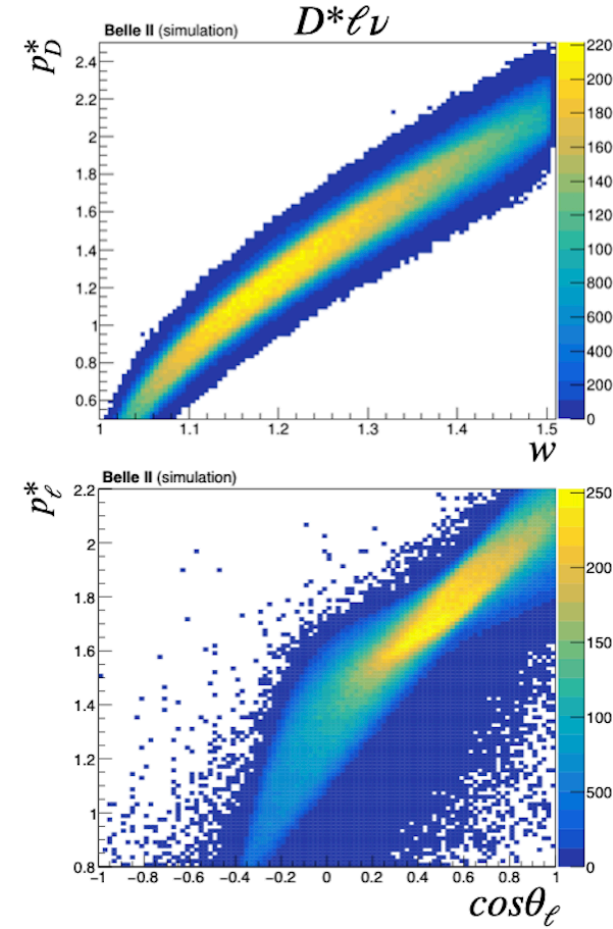
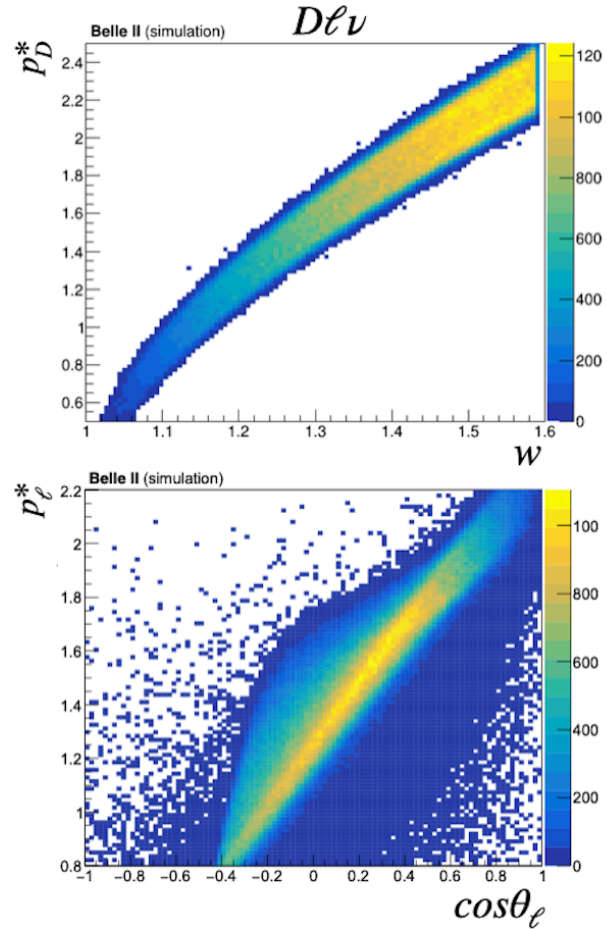
combinations of FF  
↙   ↘   ↘

Measuring these observables directly using data w/o assuming any FF parametrisation  
→ get rid of FF systematic uncertainties



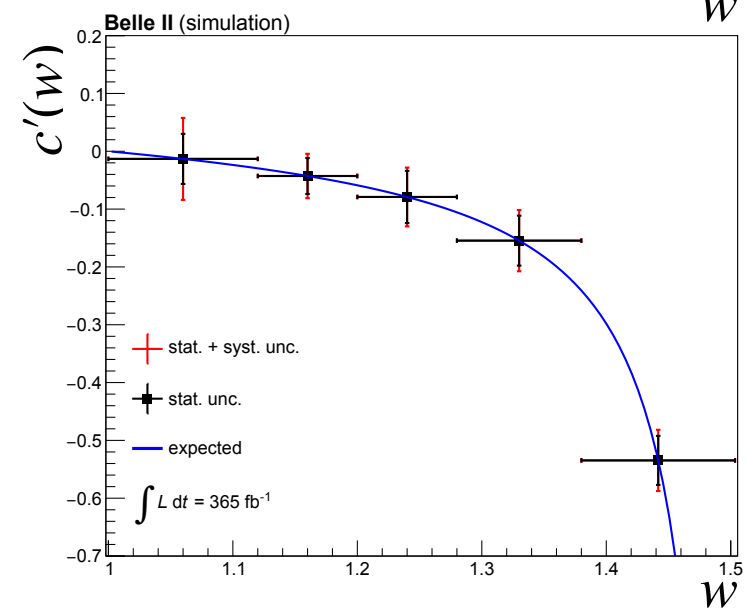
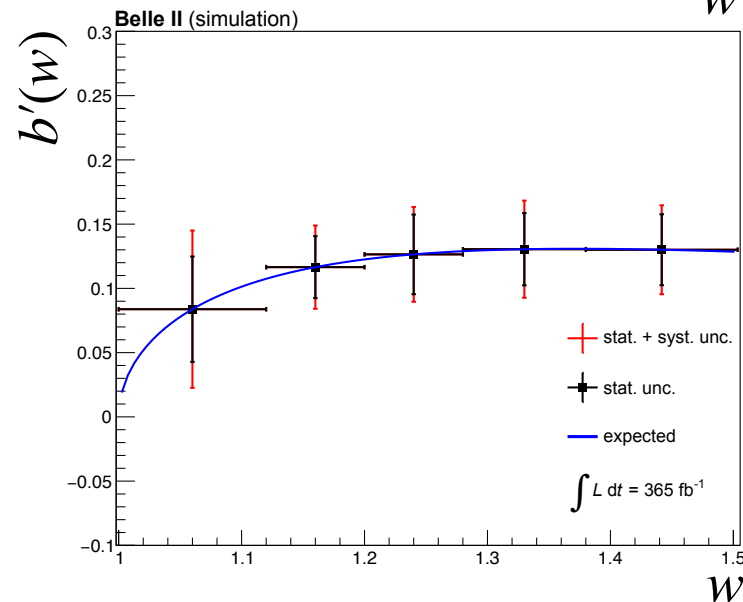
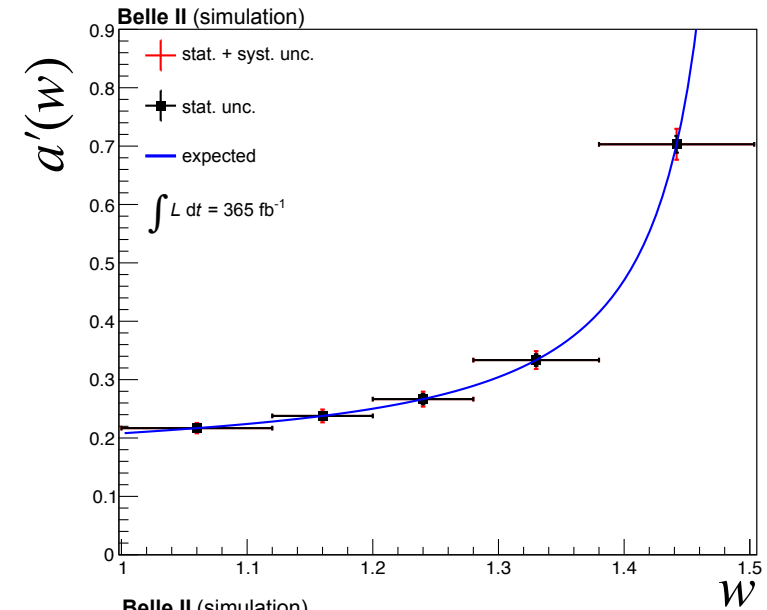
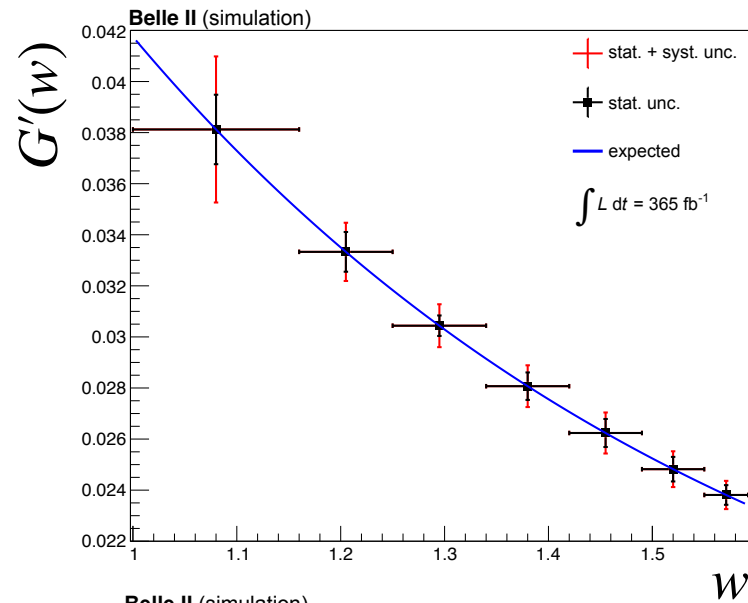
# Proxy variables

- $p_D^*$  momentum of the  $D$  in the CMS, encapsulates  $w$  for both  $D\ell\nu$  and  $D^*\ell\nu$ .
- $p_\ell^*$  momentum of the lepton in the CMS, encapsulates  $\cos\theta_\ell$  for  $D^*\ell\nu$ .



$p_D^*$  and  $p_\ell^*$  allow the measurements of  $G', a', b', c'$

# Expected impact on model-independent observables



Obtained the same generator values

## $|V_{cb}|$ extraction

Extract  $|V_{cb}|$  simultaneously from  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  using a  $\chi^2$  fit of the measured model-independent observables:

Model-independent  
observables

$$\begin{array}{lcl} G'(w) & = & |V_{cb}| \times G(w) \\ a'(w) & = & |V_{cb}|^2 \times a(w) \\ b'(w) & = & |V_{cb}|^2 \times b(w) \\ c'(w) & = & |V_{cb}|^2 \times c(w) \end{array}$$

Need to assume a model  
for the form factors

Form factors must be known at least in one value of  $w$ : use lattice QCD calculations.

Lattice points at  $w = 1$ :

- $G(1) : 1.054 \pm 0.009$  for  $D\ell\nu$
- $h_{A_1}(1) : 0.908 \pm 0.013$  for  $D^*\ell\nu$

# $|V_{cb}|$ extraction

## BGL parametrisation

- Assume a BGL parametrisation: series expansions in a variable  $z(w) \ll 1$ , with coefficients to be determined experimentally, or computed from e.g. lattice QCD.

$$G'(w) = |V_{cb}| \times \boxed{G(w)} \quad D\ell\nu, 1 \text{ series}$$

$$a'(w) = |V_{cb}|^2 \times \boxed{a(w)}$$

$$b'(w) = |V_{cb}|^2 \times \boxed{b(w)} \quad D^*\ell\nu, \text{ combination of 3 series}$$

$$c'(w) = |V_{cb}|^2 \times \boxed{c(w)}$$

- Form-factor expansion are infinite series: must be truncated at a specific order. Some truncation introduces a model dependency into the measurement.
- To extract  $|V_{cb}|$ , important to check the stability of the results on the truncation order.

Adopted a choice, but the measured model-independent observables can be reinterpreted with any future advanced form-factor parametrisation for a new  $|V_{cb}|$  determination from data

## $|V_{cb}|$ and BRs expected uncertainties

Simultaneous measurement of  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  avoids major systematics of separate analyses (e.g.  $f_{+-}/f_{00}$ , slow pion efficiency reconstruction), but introduces complementary systematics.

|  | Expected results                                   | Best measurements   |
|--|--|---|
| $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \ell^+ \nu)$    | $XXX \pm 0.01(stat) \pm 0.07(syst)$                | BaBar<br>$2.34 \pm 0.03(stat) \pm 0.13(syst)$<br><a href="#">PRD, 79, 012002</a>                                |
| $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^{*0} \ell^+ \nu)$ | $XXX \pm 0.02(stat) \pm 0.14(syst)$                | BaBar<br>$5.40 \pm 0.02(stat) \pm 0.21(syst)$<br><a href="#">PRD, 79, 012002</a>                                |
| $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow D^- \ell^+ \nu)$          | $XXX \pm 0.01(stat) \pm 0.06(syst) \pm 0.02(th)$   | Belle<br>$2.31 \pm 0.03(stat) \pm 0.11(syst)$<br><a href="#">PRD, 93, 032006</a>                                |
| $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow D^{*-} \ell^+ \nu)$       | $XXX \pm 0.02(stat) \pm 0.13(syst) \pm 0.05(th)$   | Belle<br>$4.90 \pm 0.02(stat) \pm 0.16(syst)$<br><a href="#">PRD, 100, 052007</a>                               |
| $ V_{cb}  [10^{-3}]$                                   | $XXX \pm 0.29(stat) \pm 0.70(syst) \pm 0.45(latt)$ | Latest Belle II results<br>$39.2 \pm 0.4(stat) \pm 0.6(syst) \pm 0.5(latt)$<br><a href="#">arXiv.2506.15256</a> |

submitted  
to PRD

Analysis is still under review, showing the potential of the measurement using simulation



# Model-independent observables

## Pros and cons



- Remove systematic uncertainty from FF model
- More model-independent measurement
- Flexibility with data
- Measurement can be reinterpreted with any future FF model improvements



- Add more fit parameters
- Increase uncertainty on physical parameters
- $|V_{cb}|$  extraction still requires:
  1. An assumed FF parametrisation
  2. At least one theoretical point for normalisation

Model-independent observables are useful but their advantage depends on whether the analysis is statistics- or systematics-limited

**Application:**  
 $R(D) - R(D^*)$

# $R(D)-R(D^*)$

## Current status

One way to investigate LFU in semileptonic  $B$  decays is to define the ratio:

$$R(D^{(*)})_{\tau/\ell} = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)}\tau\nu_\tau)}{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)}\ell\nu_\ell)}$$

Long-standing tension between  $R(D^{(*)})$  value and the SM prediction.

With the latest Belle II measurement this tension increases to  $3.8\sigma$

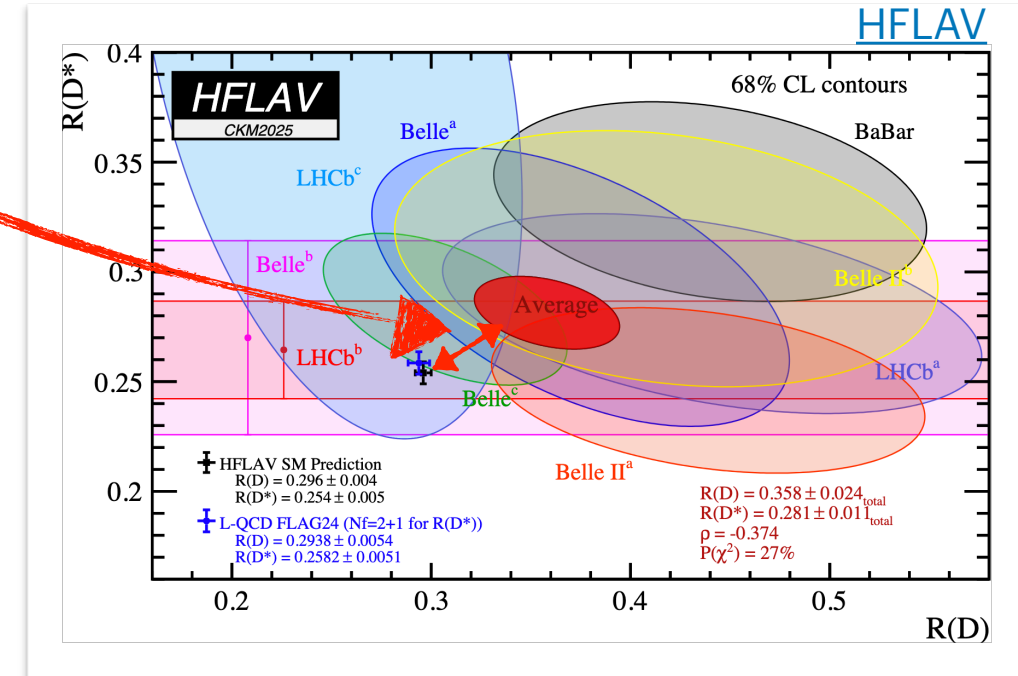
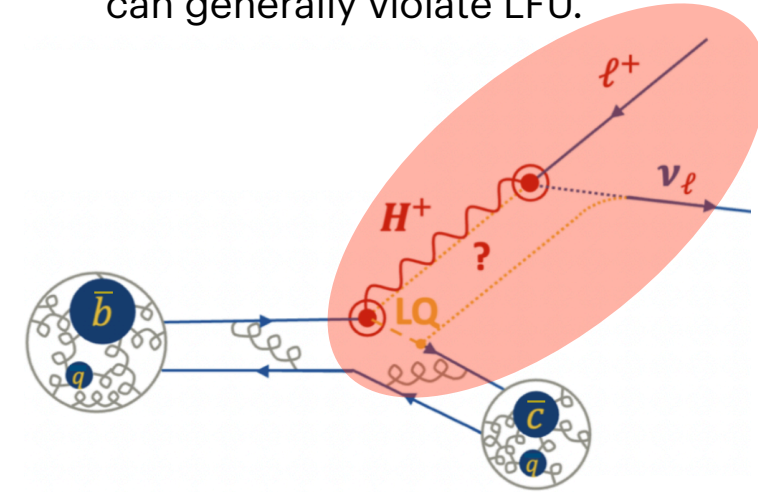
Measurements statistically limited but

Syst. unc.  $R(D_{\tau/\ell}^*)$ : form factors 8.7% [LHCb]  
 Syst. unc.  $R(D_{\tau/\ell})$ : form factors 9.2% [LHCb]

Syst. unc.  $R(D_{\tau/\ell}^*)$ : form factors 0.5% [Belle II]  
 Syst. unc.  $R(D_{\tau/\ell})$ : form factors 0.9% [Belle II]

Reducing uncertainties on both the prediction and measurements sides is crucial to better understand this tension

Non-SM contributions ( $H^+$ ,  $LQ$ , SUSY...) can generally violate LFU.



$R(D)-R(D^*)$ **How to improve  $R(D)-R(D^*)$  predictions/measurements?**

- Can use model-independent observables  $\rightarrow$  increase total uncertainty on  $R(D^{(*)})$ .
- Alternative: slightly redefine the ratio to reduce FF uncertainties in the predictions and measurements.

## Classic definition

$$R(D^{(*)})_{\tau/\ell} = \frac{\int_{m_\tau^2}^{q_{\max}^2} dq^2 \frac{d\Gamma}{dq^2}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \tau \nu_\tau)}{\int_{m_\ell^2}^{q_{\max}^2} dq^2 \frac{d\Gamma}{dq^2}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \ell \nu_\ell)}$$

Rel. unc. ~5%  
using Latt. (FNAL)

## New definition

$$R(D^{(*)})_{\tau/\ell} = \frac{\int_{m_\tau^2}^{q_{\max}^2} dq^2 \frac{d\Gamma}{dq^2}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \tau \nu_\tau)}{\int_{m_\tau^2}^{q_{\max}^2} dq^2 \frac{d\Gamma}{dq^2}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \ell \nu_\ell)}$$

Rel. unc. ~2%  
using Latt. (FNAL)

## New definition + reweighting

$$R(D^{(*)})_{\tau/\ell} = \frac{\int_{m_\tau^2}^{q_{\max}^2} dq^2 \frac{d\Gamma}{dq^2}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \tau \nu_\tau)}{\int_{m_\tau^2}^{q_{\max}^2} dq^2 \frac{w_\tau(q^2)}{w_\ell(q^2)} \frac{d\Gamma}{dq^2}(B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \ell \nu_\ell)}$$

Rel. unc. ~0.4%  
using Latt. (FNAL)

Achieve roughly a 10x improvement in form factor uncertainty making this approach particularly useful for both predictions and measurements

# Summary

- Discussed form factors for  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  decays, including current methods for estimating their uncertainties.
- Assessed the impact of form-factor uncertainties on current measurements of  $|V_{cb}|$  and  $R(D^{(*)})$ .
- Explored strategies to reduce or mitigate these uncertainties, including:
  1. Data-driven approach, illustrated through a simulation study of the first combined  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  analysis at Belle II.
  2. Optimised variables, aimed at improving predictions and measurements for next analyses enabling a significant reduction in form-factor uncertainties.

*Reducing form-factor uncertainties is crucial for improving precision in many flavour observables, and ongoing approaches show promising results*



# Backup

# Sources of systematic uncertainty

|                  | Sources   | Description   |
|------------------|---|---|
| external inputs  | NBB   | Gaussian constraint: $(387 \pm 6) \cdot 10^6$   |
|                  | BR(D decays)  | Gaussian constraints:<br>$\mathcal{B}(D \rightarrow K\pi) = (3.95 \pm 0.03) \%$ , $\mathcal{B}(D \rightarrow K\pi\pi) = (9.38 \pm 0.16) \%$ , $\mathcal{B}(D^{*+} \rightarrow D^0 X) = (67.7 \pm 0.5) \%$   |
|                  | Lifetime ratio  | Gaussian constraint: $0.929 \pm 0.004$  |
|                  | BR(D <sup>++</sup> + gap)                               | Include D <sup>**</sup> and gap modes as a Gaussian constraints with their uncertainties.   |
| efficiencies     | track efficiency  | $\epsilon(1 + 0.0024K)^N$ with N=#tracks and K Gaussian constrained to a Normal distribution.   |
|                  | efficiency corrections                                  | Gaussian constraints: $0.995 \pm 0.003 (D^0)$ , $1.007 \pm 0.007 (D^-)$   |
|                  | HadronID/LeptonID                                       | Apply 100 weight variations for both hadronID and leptonID to the simulated samples. Perform 100 Asimov fits to the data set.   |
| bkg modeling     | Fake D +continuum                                       | Normalization as Gaussian constraints for both signal and control regions. Generated toys with the MC templates in the signal region, fit with the template obtained from the strategy of D mass sidebands. |
|                  | Real D (prim.)  | Simulated pseudo-experiments with a variation of 20% assumed yield from PDG BR uncertainty.   |
|                  | Real D (sec.)   | Simulated pseudo-experiments with a variation of 20% assumed yield from PDG BR uncertainty.   |
|                  | Real D (fake)   | Simulated pseudo-experiments with a variation of 20% assumed yield from PDG BR uncertainty.   |
|                  | $D^{(*)*} \tau \nu_\tau, D^{(*)} \ell_{misID} \nu_\ell$ | Simulated pseudo-experiments with a variation of 30% assumed yield from PDG BR uncertainty.   |
|                  | Form factors D <sup>**</sup>                            | Fit Asimov data set with 100 different FF variations. Take the average residuals as systematic uncertainties.   |
| bias             | Fit bias  | Take the average residuals as systematic uncertainties.   |
| theoretical unc. | Isospin breaking  | Include a factor $(1 + \alpha\pi\theta)$ in the lifetime ratio, Gaussian constraint on $\theta$ with a normal distribution.   |
| statistics       | MC stat   | Obtain from the difference of covariance matrices between a fit w/ and w/o the uncertainties on the templates.  |
|                  | stat  | Obtain from a fit w/o any of the previous sources.  |

# Expected uncertainties on BRs and $f_{+-}/f_{00}$

|                               | Relative unc. [%] on $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D\ell\nu)$ | Relative unc. [%] on $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu)$ | Relative unc. [%] on $f_{+-}/f_{00}$ |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>NBB</b>                    | 1.5  | 1.5  | < 0.1                                |
| <b>BR(D decays)</b>           | 1.0  | 0.7  | 1.9                                  |
| <b>Lifetime ratio</b>         | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.4                                  |
| <b>track efficiency</b>       | 0.8  | 0.8  | 0.2                                  |
| <b>Efficiency corrections</b> | 0.5  | 0.3  | 0.7                                  |
| <b>BR(D** + gap)</b>          | 1.3  | 1.2  | 1.1                                  |
| <b>Form factors (D**)</b>     | 0.4  | 0.4  | 0.4                                  |
| <b>Backgr. model</b>          | 0.8  | 0.9  | 0.4                                  |
| <b>HadronID</b>               | 1.4  | 1.0  | 0.8                                  |
| <b>LeptonID</b>               | 0.3  | 0.3  | < 0.1                                |
| <b>Fit bias</b>               | < 0.1  | 0.1  | < 0.1                                |
| <b>MC stat.</b>               | 0.3  | 0.2  | 0.3                                  |
| <b>Isospin breaking (th.)</b> | 1.0  | 1.1  | 2.3                                  |
| <b>TOTAL SYST</b>             | 2.9 (syst) + 1.0 (th)                                      | 2.6 (syst) + 1.1 (th)  | 2.5 (syst) + 2.3 (th)                |
| <b>STAT</b>                   | 0.5  | 0.4  | 0.7                                  |

## $|V_{cb}|$ extraction

### BGL parametrisation

Extract  $|V_{cb}|$  simultaneously from  $B \rightarrow D\ell\nu$  and  $B \rightarrow D^*\ell\nu$  using a  $\chi^2$  fit of the measured model-independent observables:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i,j}^{22} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_i^{BGL}) C_{ij}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_j^{BGL})$$

The diagram illustrates the components of the  $\chi^2$  fit equation. At the top, the text "Predicted values using BGL model" has two arrows pointing down to  $\mathbf{x}_i^{BGL}$  and  $\mathbf{x}_j^{BGL}$  in the equation. Between these two terms, the text "cov. matrix" has an arrow pointing down to the  $C_{ij}^{-1}$  term. At the bottom, the text "Measured values of the model-independent observables" has two arrows pointing up to  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and  $\mathbf{x}_j$  in the equation. The  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and  $\mathbf{x}_j$  terms are highlighted in red in the original image.

Form factors must be known at least in one value of  $w$ : use lattice QCD calculations.

Lattice points at  $w = 1$ :

- $G(1) : 1.054 \pm 0.009$  for  $D\ell\nu$
- $h_{A_1}(1) : 0.908 \pm 0.013$  for  $D^*\ell\nu$

# Expected uncertainties on $|V_{cb}|$ and FFs

|                             | Rel. unc. [%] on | Uncertainty [ $10^{-2}$ ] on |            |         |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                             | $ V_{cb} $       | $a_1^{f+}$                   | $a_2^{f+}$ | $a_0^g$ | $a_1^g$ | $a_1^f$ | $a_1^F$ | $a_2^F$ |
| NBB                         | 0.7              | < 0.01                       | < 0.1      | < 0.01  | < 0.1   | < 0.1   | < 0.01  | < 0.1   |
| BR(D decays)                | 0.4              | 0.10                         | 1.1        | < 0.01  | 0.2     | < 0.1   | < 0.01  | 0.1     |
| Lifetime ratio              | 0.1              | < 0.01                       | < 0.1      | < 0.01  | < 0.1   | < 0.1   | < 0.01  | < 0.1   |
| track efficiency            | 0.4              | 0.01                         | 0.1        | < 0.01  | < 0.1   | < 0.1   | < 0.01  | < 0.1   |
| eff. corrections            | 0.1              | 0.03                         | 0.4        | < 0.01  | 0.1     | < 0.1   | < 0.01  | 0.1     |
| BR(D** + gap)               | 0.6              | 0.05                         | 0.7        | 0.02    | 0.3     | 0.1     | 0.02    | 0.3     |
| Form factors (D**)          | 0.5              | 0.58                         | 3.4        | 0.06    | 1.7     | 0.3     | 0.11    | 2.5     |
| Backgr. modelling           | 1.0              | 0.43                         | 5.5        | 0.16    | 2.5     | 1.0     | 0.22    | 3.5     |
| HadronID                    | 0.7              | 0.09                         | 1.9        | < 0.01  | 0.3     | 0.2     | 0.02    | 0.2     |
| LeptonID                    | 0.4              | 0.09                         | 0.8        | < 0.01  | 1.8     | 0.7     | 0.09    | 1.8     |
| Fit bias                    | 0.1              | 0.01                         | 0.2        | < 0.01  | 0.1     | < 0.1   | 0.01    | 0.3     |
| MC stat.                    | 0.5              | 0.24                         | 3.2        | 0.12    | 2.5     | 1.0     | 0.19    | 3.2     |
| TOTAL SYST                  | 1.8              | 0.76                         | 7.3        | 0.23    | 4.1     | 1.5     | 0.30    | 5.2     |
| Isospin breaking (th. unc.) | 0.5              | < 0.01                       | < 0.1      | < 0.01  | < 0.1   | < 0.1   | < 0.01  | < 0.1   |
| STAT                        | 0.7              | 0.39                         | 5.5        | 0.18    | 4.2     | 1.5     | 0.27    | 4.6     |
| Lattice points              | 1.2              | 0.57                         | 6.5        | 0.03    | 0.5     | 0.2     | 0.01    | 0.2     |
| TOTAL                       | 2.3              | 1.03                         | 11.2       | 0.29    | 5.9     | 2.1     | 0.40    | 6.9     |

## $A_{FB}$ and $F_L^{D*}$

From the coefficient  $a'$ ,  $b'$  and  $c'$ , one can also obtain the lepton forward-backward asymmetry and longitudinal polarisation:

$$A_{FB}(w) = \frac{\int_0^1 \frac{d^2\Gamma}{dw d\cos\theta_\ell} d\cos\theta_\ell - \int_{-1}^0 \frac{d^2\Gamma}{dw d\cos\theta_\ell} d\cos\theta_\ell}{\int_{-1}^1 \frac{d^2\Gamma}{dw d\cos\theta_\ell} d\cos\theta_\ell} = \frac{3b'(w)}{6a'(w) + 2c'(w)}$$

$$F_L^{D*}(w) = \frac{H_0^2(w)}{H_0^2(w) + H_+^2(w) + H_-^2(w)} = \frac{a'(w) - c'(w)}{3a'(w) + c'(w)}$$

where:

$$a'(w) = |V_{cb}|^2 a(w), \quad b'(w) = |V_{cb}|^2 b(w), \quad c'(w) = |V_{cb}|^2 c(w)$$

with:

$$a(w) = H_+^2(w) + H_-^2(w) + 2H_0^2(w), \quad b(w) = 2H_-^2(w) - 2H_+^2(w), \quad c(w) = H_+^2(w) + H_-^2(w) - 2H_0^2(w)$$

# Expected uncertainties on $A_{FB}$ and $F_L^{D*}$

|                        | $A_{FB}[10^{-2}]$ | $F_L^{D*}[10^{-2}]$ |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>NBB</b>             | < 0.01            | < 0.01              |
| BR(D decays)           | 0.03              | 0.03                |
| Lifetime ratio         | < 0.01            | < 0.01              |
| track efficiency       | < 0.01            | 0.01                |
| efficiency corrections | 0.03              | 0.01                |
| BR(D** + gap)          | 0.10              | 0.13                |
| Form factors (D**)     | 0.42              | 0.78                |
| Backgr. model          | 1.71              | 1.57                |
| HadronID               | 0.05              | 0.02                |
| LeptonID               | 0.28              | 0.60                |
| Fit bias               | 0.61              | 0.64                |
| MC stat.               | 1.01              | 0.91                |
| Isospin breaking (th.) | < 0.01            | < 0.01              |
| <b>TOTAL SYST</b>      | 2.15 (syst + th)  | 2.16 (syst + th)    |
| <b>STAT</b>            | 1.96              | 1.81                |

