



# MEASUREMENT OF THE SEMITAUONIC DECAY $\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^{*+} \tau^- \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ AT LHCb

CERN LHC SEMINAR 30 JUNE 2015 LHCb-PAPER-2015-025 arXiv:1506.08614 [hep-ex] Submitted to Phys. Rev. Lett.

BRIAN HAMILTON ON BEHALF OF THE LHCB COLLABORATION

# B physics & lepton universality

## SM flavor structure and B physics basics

- Standard model flavor structure is described by the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa mixing matrix
- $\circ V_{CKM}$  hierarchical & nearly diagonal
  - Quark flavor transitions mixing different generations suppressed
  - 3rd generation especially "isolated"
- $\odot {\rm This}$  leads to suppression of all tree-level b quark decay amplitudes

 $\circ /V_{cb}/{\sim}0.04$ 

- Makes B physics quite sensitive to NP generically misaligned with CKM
- •Also leads to long *b* quark lifetime:  $c\tau_B \sim 400 \mu m!$  (= about 2x charm lifetime)
  - Very Important for hadron collider b tagging/reconstruction
  - Allows access to time-dependent phenomena

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 - \frac{\lambda^2}{2} & \lambda & A\lambda^3(\rho - i\eta) \\ -\lambda & 1 - \frac{\lambda^2}{2} & A\lambda^2 \\ A\lambda^3(1 - \rho - i\eta) & -A\lambda^2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



## Moving from left...







## Lepton universality

OIn SM, charged lepton flavors are *identical copies* of one another

- Electroweak couplings forced to be the same for all three generations by construction, only masses are different
- Amplitudes for processes involving  $e, \mu, \tau$  must all be identical up to effects depending on lepton mass (which can be large!)

• Examples:

• 
$$\mathcal{B}(Z \to e^+e^-) = \mathcal{B}(Z \to \mu^+\mu^-) = \mathcal{B}(Z \to \tau^+\tau^-)$$

 $\circ \ \mathcal{B}(\psi(2S) \rightarrow e^+e^-) = \mathcal{B}(\psi(2S) \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-) = \mathcal{B}(\psi(2S) \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-)/0.3885$ 

o->Observation of violations of lepton universality would be a clear sign for physics beyond the standard model

Searches have been underway for violations in a number of different systems

$$Z \to \ell \ell, W \to \ell \nu, \tau \to \ell \nu \overline{\nu}, \pi \to \ell \nu$$
, etc...

- Recent interest generated by LHCb in  $b \rightarrow s\ell\ell$  channels:
  - $\frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-)}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+ e^+ e^-)} (1 \le q^2 \le 6 \ GeV^2) = 0.745^{+0.090}_{-0.074} \pm 0.036 \ \text{PRL} \ 113 \ 1510601 \ (2014)$
- No definitive deviations observed yet

Semileptonics & physics beyond the Standard Model



o "Beta decay" of B hadrons – signature is lepton ( $\mu$  or e (or  $\tau$ !)), recoiling hadronic system, and missing momentum

•Theoretically well-understood in the SM

Tree level virtual W emission – strong V-A structure

- No QCD interaction between the lepton-neutrino system and the recoiling hadron(s)
  - $\odot \overline{B} \rightarrow W^{*\pm}D^{(*)}$  half of the decay still needs non-perturbative input

• Charged lepton universality implies branching fractions for semileptonic decays to  $e, \mu, \tau$  differ only phase space and helicity-suppressed contributions

## New Physics in Tree-level decays?



oSemileptonic decay rates to e or  $\mu$  extensively studied in B-factory data, but many unexplored avenues remain.

• In particular, Decays to third generation ( $\tau$ ) remain less well-measured (10% relative uncertainty on branching fractions, c.f. 2% on decays to  $\mu$ )

 In general, room for non-universal tree-level physics to contribute still, especially if there is preferential coupling to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation

## Why expect NP with strong coupling to $\tau$ ?

•What couples preferentially to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation?

• Higgs!

•Recall, SM scalar sector:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi} = |D_{\mu}\phi|^{2} - \mu^{2}\phi^{\dagger}\phi - \lambda(\phi^{\dagger}\phi)^{2} - \lambda_{ij}^{L}L_{ia}\phi_{a}E_{j} - \lambda_{ij}^{D}Q_{ia}\phi_{a}D_{j} - \lambda_{ij}^{U}Q_{ia}\left[\epsilon^{ab}\phi_{b}^{\dagger}\right]U_{j}$$

This setup is *minimal* to break EW symmetry and induce all fermion mass terms

- Generically, more than one doublet is possible instead, or even more complicated structures
- Anything more complicated (e.g. a second doublet) can introduce new charged Higgs bosons which can mediate new charged currents

## Prototypical $H^{\pm}$ scenario

Prototypical new physics we all know and love: MSSM

- Simplest SU(2) doublet Higgs sector of the Standard Model isn't workable in MSSM
  - Why? SM Quark Yukawa terms are problematic in SUSY:

$$\mathcal{L}_Q = -\lambda_{ij}^D Q_{ia} \phi_a D_j - \lambda_{ij}^U Q_{ia} \left[ \epsilon^{ab} \phi_b^{\dagger} \right] U_j$$

- The bracketed (red) term has no SUSY-invariant equivalent
- Instead, MSSM introduces up- and down- Higgs doublets

$$y_{ij}^D Q_i H_d D_j + y_{ij}^U Q_i H_u U_j$$

 One linear combination acts as SM would-be goldstone bosons, while the other combination mediates new charged current interactions

 Separate doublets for up and down known generally as "Type-II 2-Higgs doublet model" (caveat: MSSM itself only type-II at tree level)



## Aside: more general 2HDM

 Abandoning for the moment the the MSSM motivation, generically each of the two Higgs doubles may couple to both up and down-type fermions

 Requires some finesse to avoid flavor bounds from, e.g. neutral K mixing. Bad terms look like:

$$\xi_{ij}\bar{D}^iH_2^0D_R^j$$

(and similar for U, L)

 $^\circ\,$  Popular choice (due to Cheng and Sher) is to take  $\xi$  to be proportional to the geometric mean  $m_im_i$ 

oGenerally known as Type-III 2HDM

 Less well-motivated (depending on whom you ask) but with more "knobs"

 Other NP structures of course also possible, so long as couplings to light leptons are somehow suppressed

# Measuring semitauonic B decays

## What we want to measure

$$R(D^*) \equiv \frac{\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to D^{*+} \tau^- \bar{\nu}_{\tau})}{\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to D^{*+} \mu^- \bar{\nu}_{\mu})}$$

• Theoretically clean due to cancellation of form factor uncertainties

- Poorly-measured helicity suppressed amplitudes give dominant uncertainty
- SM: R(D\*) = 0.252(3)
  PRD 85 094025 (2012)

### • Experimentally nice with $\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_\tau$

- Results in identical (visible) final state
- large, well-measured BF:  $\mathcal{B}(\tau^- \to \mu^- \bar{\nu}_{\mu} \nu_{\tau}) = (17.41 \pm 0.04)\%$ 
  - Expected (signal)/(normalization)=0.439%
- Disentangle from  $\overline{B}{}^0 \to D^{*+} \mu^- \overline{\nu}_{\mu}$  using invariant mass of invisible system, lepton energy spectrum



14





• In 2012/2013, BaBar presented the most precise measurement yet of  $R(D^{(*)}) \equiv \frac{\mathcal{B}(\overline{B} \to D^{(*)}\tau^{-}(\to \ell^{-}\overline{\nu}\nu)\overline{\nu_{\tau}})}{\mathcal{B}(\overline{B} \to D^{(*)}\ell^{-}\overline{\nu})}, \ell = e \text{ or } \mu$ 

• Including anticorrelation between D and  $D^*$  gives 3.2 $\sigma$  above SM expectation

- Anticorrelation induced by feed-down from  $D^*$  decay into D samples
- Strongly in tension with type-II 2HDM as well
- Earlier measurements from Belle and BaBar consistently above SM
- Follow-up measurements have badly needed since

## **B**-factory measurements

 $e^+$ 

- •B-factory measurements exploit the simple kinematics of the  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B\overline{B}$  reaction
  - Small Q-value means no additional hadrons produced
- "Hadronically-tagged" analyses preferred in channels with multiple neutrinos
  - Reconstruct 2<sup>nd</sup> B meson in decay mode with no missing particles
  - Provides precise knowledge of kinematics of missing system
  - Reduces backgrounds from  $e^+e^- \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  and from background partially-reconstructed B decays
  - Efficiency of few  $10^{-3}$  -- costly!



Figure from T. Lück's talk at ICHEP 2014

recoi

### Following up using LHC data



OIN hadron collisions, things are not nearly as "nice" as in  $\Upsilon(4S)$  decay

- Unknown CM frame for  $gg \rightarrow b\overline{b}$  production
- Lots of additional particles in the event (showering, MPI etc)

• Different handles are needed to deal with (1) missing neutrinos and underconstrained kinematics as well as (2) large backgrounds from partiallyreconstructed *B* decays

## The LHCb experiment

HEAVY FLAVOR AT LHC



 $^{\circ}$  At 7 TeV:  $\sigma_{c\bar{c}} ~^{\sim}$  6 mb  $\sigma_{b\bar{b}} ~^{\sim}$  280  $\mu b$ 

Production dominantly occurs at high η with highly-boosted CM frame

 $_{\odot}$  Central detector (| $\eta$ | < 2.5) scheme covers only 52% (45%) of b quark (pair) production despite surrounding >98% of the solid angle

 Alternate approach: focus on forward direction: cover 27% (25%) of (pair) production while instrumenting < 3% of the solid angle</li>

## Run 1 Dataset





 $\circ$ Single-arm forward spectrometer covering approximately 1.9 <  $\eta$  < 4.9 (~15-300 mrad) optimized for flavor physics studies at LHC point 8



Vertex Locator (VELO) and tracking stations give > 96% tracking efficiency for charged particles traversing the whole detector

VELO provides  $20\mu m$  resolution on impact parameter, 45 fs decay time resolution on b hadron decays





## Triggering

#### Performance paper: JINST 8 P04022 (2013)

- Large cross section for heavy flavor production means a robust triggering system is needed
  - Triggering inclusively as possible is essential in order to not limit the physics program
  - Hardware trigger relies on muon and calorimetery
  - Software high-level trigger performs full event reconstruction for all tracks above 300 MeV of p<sub>T</sub>

### oFor this measurement:

- Trigger signal and normalization through the exclusive charm trigger path in software
  - Moderately high  $p_T D^0 \to K^- \pi^+$  with wellseparated vertex that loosely points to a PV in the event
- No hardware muon trigger requirement



# Event Selection $\mu^ \pi^+_{slow}$

•Combine  $D^0 \to K^- \pi^+$  candidate passing charm trigger with  $\mu^-$  and  $\pi^+_{slow}$ 

- Require  $D^0 \to K^- \pi^+$  decay vertex well-separated from PV
- Require  $\mu^-$ ,  $K^-\pi^+$  all to have significant impact parameter with respect to PV
- Remove prompt charm background with impact parameter requirements on  $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$  (main background killed by full event reco at B-factories)

### Rest-frame kinematics at LHCb

•How to compute the rest frame of the B in hadron collisions?

- B flight direction is well-measured, but only provides enough constraints (with B mass) to solve for B momentum with single missing particle
  - Even then, 2-fold ambiguity remains
  - Exact solution impossible without more information
- Important observation: resolution on rest frame variables doesn't matter much because distributions are broad to begin with
  - well-behaved approximation will still preserve differences between signal, normalization and backgrounds



## Rest-frame approximation at LHCb



### • Take $(\gamma \beta_Z)_{\bar{B}} = (\gamma \beta_Z)_{D^* \mu} \implies (p_Z)_{\bar{B}} = \frac{m_B}{m(D^* \mu)} (p_Z)_{D^* \mu}$

- Inspiration: B boost along z >> boost of decay products in B frame
- Equivalent to choosing a decay axis in the rest frame approximation is independent of B momentum
  - Small momentum dependence due to momentum dependence of resolution on flight direction

## Reconstructed fit variables



•18% resolution on B momentum approximation gives excellent shapes to use for fit

## Fit

•Using rest frame approximation, construct 3D "template" histograms for each process contributing to  $D^{*+}\mu^-$ 

- Signal, normalization, and partially reconstructed backgrounds use simulated events, other backgrounds use control data
- Templates are functions of any relevant model parameters via interpolation between histograms generated with different fixed values of those parameters
- •These templates are then used as PDFs for a maximum likelihood fit to data
- -> distributions shown previously directly translate to one-dimensional projections of the 3D templates for signal and normalization



### Reducing partially reconstructed backgrounds



•Make use of superb tracking system

- Scan over every reconstructed track and compare against  $D^{*+}\mu^-$  vertex
  - Check for vertex quality with PV and SV, change in displacement of SV,  $p_T$ , alignment of track and  $D^{*+}\mu^-$  momenta

Each track receives BDT score as "SV-like" (high) vs "PV-like" (low)

- Cut on most SV-like track below threshold: get signal sample enriched in exclusive decays. Rejects 70% of events with 1 additional slow pion
- Cut on most SV-like track(s) being above threshold: get control samples enriched in interesting backgrounds

## Semileptonic Backgrounds



• Contributions of excited charm states in the  $B^{\pm,0} \rightarrow (c\bar{q})\mu\nu$  transition are large

- 1P states decaying as  $D^*\pi$  known and reasonably well-described by theory (HQET)
  - $D^{*+}\mu^{-}\pi^{-}$  control sample sets nonperturbative shape parameters for input to signal fit
- States decaying as  $D^*\pi\pi$  less well-understood, fit insensitive to exact composition.
  - $D^{*+}\mu^{-}\pi^{+}\pi^{-}$  control sample used to correct  $q^{2}$  spectrum to match data

• Distinguishable by "edge" at missing mass  $\approx (2)m_{\pi}$ 

## $B \rightarrow D^{*+}H_{c}(\rightarrow \mu\nu X')X$ background

- $b \rightarrow c\bar{c}q$  decays can lead to very similar shapes to the semitauonic decay (e.g.  $\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow D^{*+}D_s^-(\rightarrow \phi\mu\nu)$  +many others)
- Branching fractions well-cataloged, but detailed descriptions of the  $D^*DK(n \ge 0 \pi)$  final states are not well-simulated
  - Dedicated  $D^{*+}\mu^-K^{\pm}$  control sample used to improve the template to match data





## Signal Fit Results

## Fit Result – Full projections



•Projections of (left)  $m^2_{miss}$  and (middle)  $E^*_{\mu}$  and (right)  $q^2$ 

•Signal clearly much smaller than normalization, as expected from phasespace suppression combined with  $\mathcal{B}(\tau^- \to \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_\tau) \cong 17\%$ 

## Detailed fit projections

- •Projections of (left)  $m_{miss}^2$ and (right)  $E_{\mu}^*$  in bins of increasing  $q^2$  from top to bottom
- •Signal more clearly visible here in highest  $q^2$  bin
  - Note different y scales, most signal actually in second-highest q<sup>2</sup> bin



## Systematics

Model uncertainties	Absolute size $(\times 10^{-2})$	
Simulated sample size	2.0	Expected to be reduced
Misidentified $\mu$ template shape	1.6	Expected to be reduced
$\overline{B}{}^0 \to D^{*+}(\tau^-/\mu^-)\overline{\nu}$ form factors	0.6	
$\overline{B} \to D^{*+}H_c(\to \mu\nu X')X$ shape corrections	0.5	
$\mathcal{B}(\overline{B} \to D^{**}\tau^-\overline{\nu}_\tau)/\mathcal{B}(\overline{B} \to D^{**}\mu^-\overline{\nu}_\mu)$	0.5	
$\overline{B} \to D^{**} (\to D^* \pi \pi) \mu \nu$ shape corrections	0.4	Will scale down
Corrections to simulation	0.4	with more data
Combinatorial background shape	0.3	
$\overline{B} \to D^{**} (\to D^{*+} \pi) \mu^- \overline{\nu}_{\mu}$ form factors	0.3	
$\overline{B} \to D^{*+}(D_s \to \tau \nu) X$ fraction	0.1	
Total model uncertainty	2.8	
Normalization uncertainties	Absolute size $(\times 10^{-2})$	
Simulated sample size	0.6	
Hardware trigger efficiency	0.6	
Particle identification efficiencies	0.3	
Form-factors	0.2	
$\mathcal{B}(\tau^- \to \mu^- \overline{\nu}_\mu \nu_\tau)$	< 0.1	
Total normalization uncertainty	0.9	
Total systematic uncertainty	3.0	

## Result

• Full result:

 $R(D^*) = 0.336 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.030$ 

- Close agreement with BaBar result
- $^\circ~2.1\sigma$  from SM. Not significant alone, but tantalizing given history of high results in this channel

![](_page_39_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

•WARNING: Average shown is the naïve weighted average with no correlations or use of fit likelihoods!

•Plot and average courtesy of M. Rotondo

## Summary

•LHCb has produced a competitive measurement of the ratio of semileptonic branching fractions  $R(D^*) \equiv \frac{\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to D^{*+} \tau^- \bar{\nu}_{\tau})}{\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to D^{*+} \mu^- \bar{\nu}_{\mu})}$ 

- Result:  $R(D^*) = 0.336 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.030$ 
  - Good agreement with similar measurements at the B-factories
- Plans for simultaneous measurement of R(D) and  $R(D^*)$  with existing data, as well as analogous measurement in other b hadron decays
- Prospects for Run2 and beyond very good, with most systematics expected to scale with size of (control) data
- • $\bar{B}^0 \to D^{*+} \tau^- (\to \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \nu_\tau) \bar{\nu}_\tau$  using Run1 data underway
  - Will provide complimentary information via different systematic uncertainties

•"Real" main result: semitauonic B decays are still very interesting, and will remain so for the foreseeable future

# Backup

## Aside: nonperturbative factors

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)

•Know the general form  $|\mathcal{M}|^2 = L^{\alpha\beta}H_{\alpha\beta}$ 

- $L^{\alpha\beta}$  describes  $W^{*\pm} \rightarrow \ell^{\pm}\nu$  and is completely calculable (messy spinor algebra)
- $H_{\alpha\beta}$  describes  $\overline{B} \to W^{*\pm}D^{(*)}$ , and is non-perturbative
  - BUT it can only depend on the 4-velocities of the  $\overline{B}$  and  $D^{(*)}$ , as well as  $m_{W^*}$  and the  $D^*$  polarization (if  $D^*$ )
    - Finite number of Lorentz-covariant combinations of the 4-vectors
    - Each combination is multiplied by a scalar function of  $m_{W^*}^2 = q^2$ -> "form factors"

## Efficiency Ratio

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Tau backgrounds

![](_page_45_Figure_1.jpeg)

•All backgrounds with real  $\tau \rightarrow \mu \overline{\nu} \nu$  decays are an order of magnitude (at least) smaller than the signal

- Background contributions from  $\overline{B} \to D^{**} \tau^- \overline{\nu}_{\tau}$  are considered to be fixed relative to the corresponding decay modes to muons
  - Very small component, varying this contribution by 50% only moves R(D\*) by 0.005
- Similarly,  $\overline{B} \to D^{*+}D_s^-(\to \tau^-\nu)X$  are fixed to a known fraction of the  $\overline{B} \to D^{*+}H_c(\to \mu\nu X')X$  background
  - Again, these have a negligible effect on R(D\*)

## Other backgrounds

- •Other backgrounds from "junk" reconstructed as  $D^{*+}\mu^{-}$ 
  - combinatorial (top), fake D\*+ candidates (middle), hadrons misidentified as muons (bottom), all derived from control samples

![](_page_46_Figure_3.jpeg)

 Misidentification background particularly troublesome due to ambiguities in deriving fit shapes from the control sample

![](_page_46_Figure_5.jpeg)

A global look

![](_page_47_Figure_1.jpeg)

•WARNING: Average shown is the simple weighted average -- no correlations or likelihood combinations (yet)!

- Purple: sketch of 2HDM central value plotted for  $0 < \frac{\tan \beta}{m_H} < 1$  just to show shape
  - General punchline: 0<sup>+</sup> contributions interfere destructively with SM to suppress R(D\*), some other Lorentz structure needed...