

NNLO Vertex Corrections in charmless hadronic B decays: Imaginary part

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Abstract

We compute the imaginary part of the 2-loop vertex corrections in the QCD Factorization framework for hadronic two-body decays as $B \rightarrow \pi\pi$. This completes the NNLO calculation of the imaginary part of the topological tree amplitudes and represents an important step towards a NNLO prediction of direct CP asymmetries in QCD Factorization. Concerning the technical aspects, we find that soft and collinear infrared divergences cancel in the hard-scattering kernels which demonstrates factorization at the 2-loop order. All results are obtained analytically including the dependence on the charm quark mass. The numerical impact of the NNLO corrections is found to be significant, in particular they lead to an enhancement of the strong phase of the colour-suppressed tree amplitude.

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1 Introduction

Charmless hadronic B decays provide important information on the unitarity triangle which may help to reveal the nature of flavour mixing and CP violation. In order to exploit the rich amount of data that is currently being collected at the B factories, a quantitative control of the underlying strong-interaction effects is highly desirable. In the QCD Factorization framework [1] the hadronic matrix elements of the operators in the effective weak Hamiltonian simplify considerably in the heavy-quark limit. Schematically,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle M_1 M_2 | Q_i | \bar{B} \rangle &\simeq F_+^{BM_1}(0) f_{M_2} \int du T_i^I(u) \phi_{M_2}(u) \\ &+ \hat{f}_B f_{M_1} f_{M_2} \int d\omega dv du T_i^{II}(\omega, v, u) \phi_B(\omega) \phi_{M_1}(v) \phi_{M_2}(u), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where the non-perturbative strong-interaction effects are encoded in a form factor $F_+^{BM_1}$ at $q^2 = 0$, decay constants f_M and light-cone distribution amplitudes ϕ_M . The short-distance kernels $T_i^I = \mathcal{O}(1)$ and $T_i^{II} = \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ provide the basis for a systematic implementation of radiative corrections; the former contain the short-distance interactions that do not involve the spectator antiquark from the decaying \bar{B} meson (*vertex corrections*) and the latter describe the ones with the spectator antiquark (*spectator scattering*).

The next-to-leading order (NLO) corrections to the kernels $T_i^{I,II}$, which constitute an $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ correction to naive factorization, are already known from [1]. Recently, the next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) corrections to T_i^{II} have been computed [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]. Due to the interaction with the soft spectator antiquark, the spectator scattering term receives contributions from the hard scale $\sim m_b$ and from an intermediate (hard-collinear) scale $\sim (\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} m_b)^{1/2}$. Both types of contributions are now available at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ (1-loop), indicating that the NNLO corrections are numerically important.

In this work we compute NNLO corrections to T_i^I for the so-called topological tree amplitudes (which arise from the insertion of current-current operators). In contrast to the spectator scattering term, the vertex corrections are dominated solely by hard effects and amount to a 2-loop calculation. In particular, we address the imaginary part of the hard-scattering kernels which is the origin of a strong rescattering phase shift that blurs the information on the weak phases. As an imaginary part is first generated at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$, higher order perturbative corrections are expected to significantly influence the pattern of strong phases and hence direct CP asymmetries. Our calculation represents an important step towards a NNLO prediction of direct CP asymmetries in QCD Factorization.

The outline of this paper is as follows: In Section 2 we present our strategy for the calculation of the topological tree amplitudes by introducing two different operator bases. Section 3 contains the technical aspects of the 2-loop calculation. In Section 4 we show how to extract the hard-scattering kernels from the hadronic matrix elements. Our analytical results can be found in Section 5. The numerical impact of the NNLO vertex corrections is investigated in Section 6 and we finally conclude in Section 7. A more detailed presentation of the considered calculation can be found in [7].

2 Choice of operator basis

In view of the calculation of topological tree amplitudes, we restrict our attention to the current-current operators of the effective weak Hamiltonian for $b \rightarrow u$ transitions

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{ub} V_{ud}^* (C_1 Q_1 + C_2 Q_2) + \text{h.c.} \quad (2)$$

Due to the fact that we work within Dimensional Regularization (DR), we also have to consider evanescent operators [8]. These non-physical operators vanish in four dimensions but contribute at intermediate steps of the calculation in $d = 4 - 2\varepsilon$ dimensions. As the imaginary part has effectively 1-loop complexity with respect to renormalization at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$, the considered calculation only requires 1-loop evanescent operators. For our purposes the complete operator basis is thus given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{Q}_1 &= [\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu L b_i] [\bar{d}_j \gamma_\mu L u_j], \\ \tilde{Q}_2 &= [\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu L b_j] [\bar{d}_j \gamma_\mu L u_i], \\ \tilde{E}_1 &= [\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho L b_i] [\bar{d}_j \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho L u_j] - (16 - 4\varepsilon) \tilde{Q}_1, \\ \tilde{E}_2 &= [\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho L b_j] [\bar{d}_j \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho L u_i] - (16 - 4\varepsilon) \tilde{Q}_2, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where i, j are colour indices and $L = 1 - \gamma_5$. The operator basis in (3) has been used in all previous calculations within QCD Factorization [1, 2, 3, 4]. We refer to this basis as the *traditional basis* for convenience and denote the corresponding Wilson coefficients and operators with a tilde.

It has been argued by Chetyrkin, Misiak and Münz (CMM) that one should use a different operator basis in order to perform multi-loop calculations [9]. Although the deeper reason is related to the penguin operators which we do not consider here, we prefer to introduce the *CMM basis* in view of future extensions of our work. This basis allows to consistently use DR with a naive anticommuting γ_5 to all orders in perturbation theory. In the CMM basis the current-current operators and corresponding 1-loop evanescent operators read (indicated by a hat)

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{Q}_1 &= [\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu L T_{ij}^A b_j] [\bar{d}_k \gamma_\mu L T_{kl}^A u_l], \\ \hat{Q}_2 &= [\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu L b_i] [\bar{d}_j \gamma_\mu L u_j], \\ \hat{E}_1 &= [\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho L T_{ij}^A b_j] [\bar{d}_k \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho L T_{kl}^A u_l] - 16 \hat{Q}_1, \\ \hat{E}_2 &= [\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho L b_i] [\bar{d}_j \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho L u_j] - 16 \hat{Q}_2, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

with colour matrices T^A and colour indices i, j, k, l .

Comparing the operator bases in (3) and (4) we observe two differences: First, the two bases use different colour decompositions which is a rather trivial point. More importantly, they contain slightly different definitions of evanescent operators. Whereas the

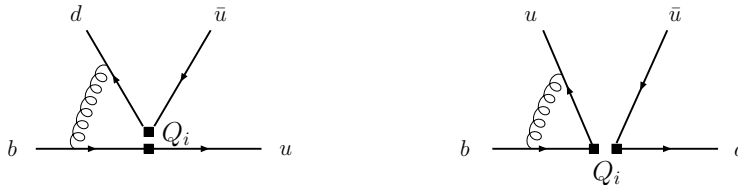


Figure 1: *Generic 1-loop diagram with different insertions of a four-quark operator Q_i . The upper lines go into the emitted meson M_2 , the quark to the right of the vertex and the spectator antiquark in the \bar{B} meson (not drawn) form the recoil meson M_1 .*

definitions in the CMM basis correspond to the simplest prescription to define evanescent operators, subleading terms of $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$ appear in the one of the traditional basis. These terms have been properly adjusted such that Fierz symmetry holds to 1-loop order in d dimensions.

We follow the notation of [10] and express the hadronic matrix elements of the effective weak Hamiltonian in terms of topological amplitudes $\alpha_i(M_1 M_2)$. E.g. the $B^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^0$ decay amplitude is written as

$$\sqrt{2} \langle \pi^- \pi^0 | \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} | B^- \rangle = V_{ub} V_{ud}^* [\alpha_1(\pi\pi) + \alpha_2(\pi\pi)] A_{\pi\pi}, \quad (5)$$

where $A_{\pi\pi} = iG_F/\sqrt{2} m_B^2 F_+^{B\pi}(0) f_\pi$. The amplitude $\alpha_1(M_1 M_2)$ is called the colour-allowed tree amplitude which corresponds to the flavour content $[\bar{q}_s b]$ of the decaying \bar{B} meson, $[\bar{q}_s u]$ of the recoil meson M_1 and $[\bar{u} d]$ of the emitted meson M_2 . The colour-suppressed tree amplitude $\alpha_2(M_1 M_2)$ then belongs to the flavour contents $[\bar{q}_s b]$, $[\bar{q}_s d]$ and $[\bar{u} u]$, respectively. For more details concerning the definition of the topological amplitudes we refer to section 2.2 in [10].

According to this definition, the left (right) diagram in Figure 1 contributes to the tree amplitude α_1 (α_2). On the technical level these two insertions of a four-quark operator correspond to two different calculations. Instead of performing both calculations explicitly, we may alternatively compute the amplitude α_2 by inserting Fierz reordered operators into the left diagram of Figure 1. To do so, it is essential to work with an operator basis that respects Fierz symmetry in d dimensions. As we have argued above, Fierz symmetry indeed holds to 1-loop order in the traditional basis from (3) which allows us to *derive* α_2 directly from α_1 .

We conclude that the CMM basis is the appropriate choice for a 2-loop calculation whereas the traditional basis provides a short-cut for the derivation of the colour-suppressed amplitude. We therefore pursue the following strategy for the calculation of the imaginary part of the NNLO vertex corrections: We perform the explicit 2-loop calculation in the CMM basis using the first type of operator insertion in the left diagram from Figure 1. From this we obtain $\alpha_1(\tilde{C}_i)$. We then transform this expression into the traditional basis which yields $\alpha_1(\tilde{C}_i)$ and finally apply Fierz symmetry arguments to derive $\alpha_2(\tilde{C}_i)$ from $\alpha_1(\tilde{C}_i)$ by simply exchanging $\tilde{C}_1 \leftrightarrow \tilde{C}_2$.

3 2-loop calculation

The core of the considered calculation consists in the computation of the matrix elements

$$\langle \hat{Q}_{1,2} \rangle \equiv \langle u(p') d(q_1) \bar{u}(q_2) | \hat{Q}_{1,2} | b(p) \rangle \quad (6)$$

to $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ which represents a 2-loop calculation. As will be described in Section 4.2, only (naively) non-factorizable diagrams with at least one gluon connecting the two currents in the left diagram of Figure 1 have to be considered here. The full NNLO calculation thus involves the 2-loop diagrams depicted in Figure 2, but only about half of the diagrams give rise to an imaginary part. It is an easy task to identify this subset of diagrams since the generation of an imaginary part is always related to final state interactions.

In our calculation we treat the partons on-shell and write $q_1 = uq$, $q_2 = \bar{u}q$ and $p' = p - q$ satisfying $q^2 = 0$ and $p'^2 = 2p \cdot q = m_b^2$ (with $\bar{u} \equiv 1 - u$). We use DR for the regularization of ultraviolet (UV) and infrared (IR) divergences and an anticommuting γ_5 according to the NDR scheme. We stress that we do not perform any projection onto the bound states in the partonic calculation. We instead treat the two currents in the four-quark operators independently and make use of the equations of motion in order to simplify the Dirac structures of the diagrams. In order to calculate the large number of 2-loop integrals we proceed as follows: Using a general tensor decomposition of the loop integrals, we essentially deal with the calculation of scalar integrals. With the help of an automatized reduction algorithm, we are able to express several thousands of scalar integrals in terms of a small set of so-called Master Integrals (MIs). The most difficult part finally consists in the calculation of these MIs.

In the remainder of this section we present some techniques that we have found useful for the considered calculation. We sketch the basic ideas of the aforementioned reduction algorithm and discuss several techniques for the calculation of the MIs. We refer to the references quoted in the following subsections for more detailed descriptions (see also [7]).

3.1 Reduction to Master Integrals

Any scalar 2-loop integral in our calculation can be expressed as

$$I(u) = \int d^d k d^d l \frac{\mathcal{S}_1^{m_1} \dots \mathcal{S}_s^{m_s}}{\mathcal{P}_1^{n_1} \dots \mathcal{P}_p^{n_p}}, \quad (7)$$

where the \mathcal{S}_i are scalar products of a loop momentum with an external momentum or of two loop momenta. The \mathcal{P}_i denote the denominators of propagators and the exponents fulfil $n_i, m_i \geq 0$. The scalar integrals themselves depend on the convolution variable u in the factorization formula (1). Very few integrals, arising from diagrams with a charm quark in a closed fermion loop, depend in addition on the ratio $z \equiv m_c/m_b$. We have suppressed this dependence in (7) for simplicity.

Notice that an integral has different representations in terms of $\{\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{P}, n, m\}$ because of the freedom to shift loop momenta in DR. It is the underlying topology, i.e. the interconnection of propagators and external momenta, which uniquely defines the integral.

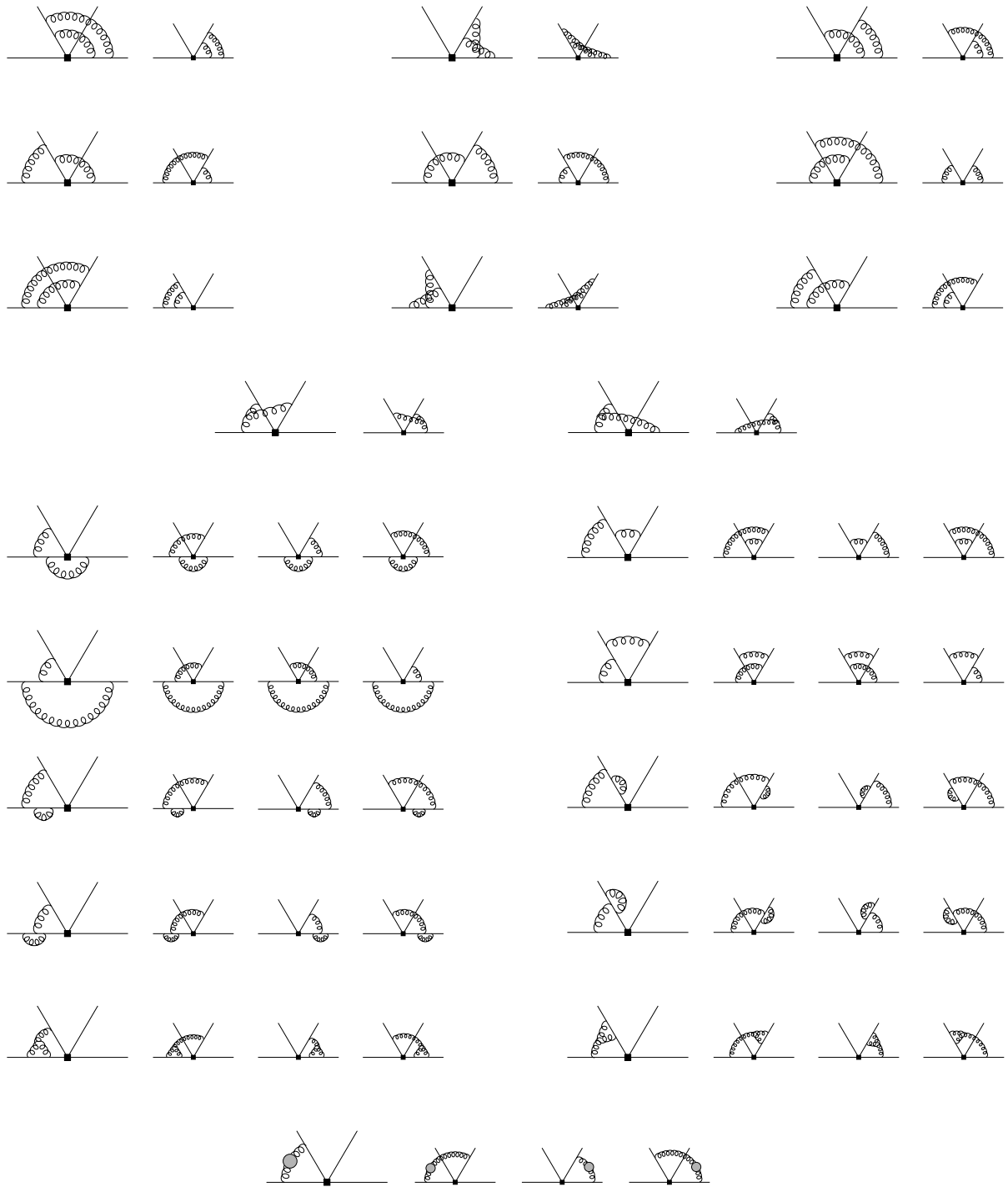


Figure 2: Full set of (naively) non-factorizable 2-loop diagrams. The bubble in the last four diagrams represents the 1-loop gluon self-energy. Only diagrams with final state interactions, i.e. with at least one gluon connecting the line to the right of the vertex with one of the upper lines, give rise to an imaginary part.

In the following we loosely use the word topology in order to classify the integrals. An integral with t different propagators \mathcal{P}_i with $n_i > 0$ is called a t -topology. The integrals in the considered calculation have topology $t \leq 6$.

The reduction algorithm makes use of various identities which relate integrals with different exponents $\{n, m\}$. The most important class of identities are the integration-by-parts identities [11] which follow from the fact that surface terms vanish in DR

$$\int d^d k d^d l \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\mu} \frac{\mathcal{S}_1^{m_1} \dots \mathcal{S}_s^{m_s}}{\mathcal{P}_1^{n_1} \dots \mathcal{P}_p^{n_p}} = 0, \quad v \in \{k, l\}. \quad (8)$$

In order to obtain scalar identities we may contract (8) with any loop or external momentum under the integral before performing the derivative. In our case of two loop and two external momenta we generate in this way eight identities from each integral.

A second class of identities, called Lorentz-invariance identities [12], exploits the fact that the integrals in (7) transform as scalars under a Lorentz-transformation of the external momenta. In this way we may generate up to six identities from each integral depending on the number of external momenta. In our example with only two linearly independent external momenta p and q there is only one such identity given by

$$\int d^d k d^d l \left[p \cdot q \left(p^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial p^\mu} - q^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \right) + q^2 p^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} - p^2 q^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial p^\mu} \right] \frac{\mathcal{S}_1^{m_1} \dots \mathcal{S}_s^{m_s}}{\mathcal{P}_1^{n_1} \dots \mathcal{P}_p^{n_p}} = 0. \quad (9)$$

In total we obtain nine identities from a given integral, each of the identities containing the integral itself, simpler integrals with smaller $\{n, m\}$ and more complicated integrals with larger $\{n, m\}$. It is important that the number of identities grows faster than the number of unknown integrals for increasing $\{n, m\}$. Hence, for large enough $\{n, m\}$ the system of equations becomes (apparently) overconstrained and can be used to express more complicated integrals in terms of simpler ones. Not all of the identities being linearly independent, some integrals turn out to be irreducible to which we refer as MIs.

In the considered calculation we typically deal with systems of equations made of several thousands equations. The solution being straight-forward, the runtime of the reduction algorithm depends strongly on the order in which the equations are solved. As a guideline for an efficient implementation we have followed the algorithm from [13].

The reduction algorithm enables us to express the diagrams of Figure 2 as linear combinations of MIs which are multiplied by some Dirac structures. As the coefficients in these linear combinations are real, we may extract the imaginary part of a diagram at the level of the MIs which is a much simpler task than for the full diagrams. As depicted in Figure 3, we find 14 MIs that contribute to the calculation of the imaginary part of the NNLO vertex corrections.

3.2 Calculation of Master Integrals

Some MIs in Figure 3 can be solved easily e.g. with the help of Feynman parameters. For the more complicated MIs the method of differential equations [14] in combination with the formalism of Harmonic Polylogarithms (HPLs) [15] turned out to be very useful. In

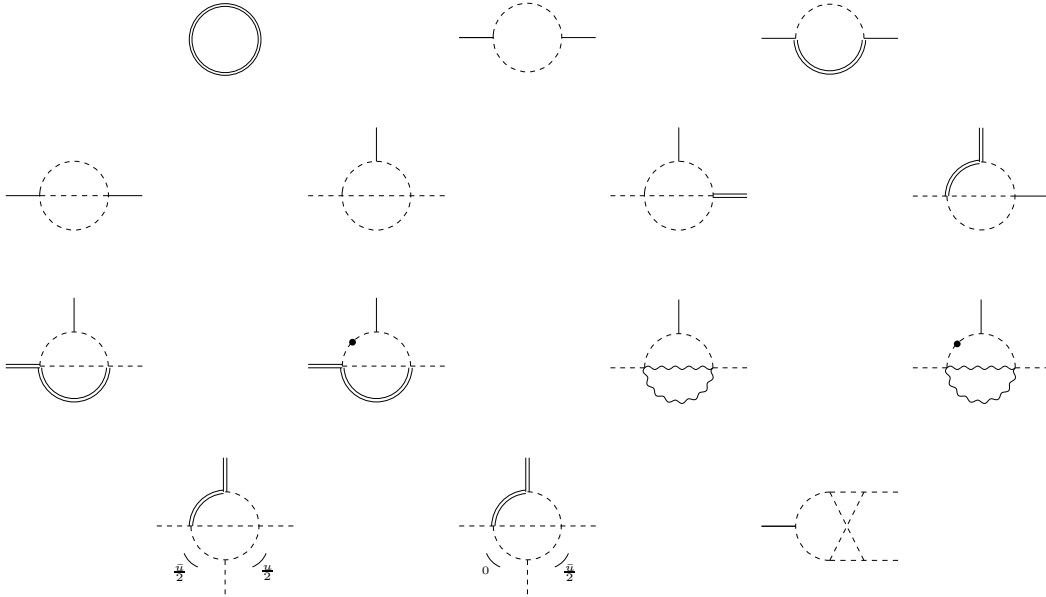


Figure 3: *Scalar Master Integrals that appear in our calculation.* We use dashed lines for massless propagators and double (wavy) lines for the ones with mass m_b (m_c). Dashed/solid/double external lines correspond to virtualities $0 / um_b^2 / m_b^2$, respectively. Dotted propagators are taken to be squared.

this section we give brief reviews of these techniques and conclude with a comment on the calculation of the boundary conditions to the differential equations.

The analytical results for the MIs from Figure 3 can be found in Appendix A.1 of [7]. As an independent check of our results we evaluated the MIs numerically using the method of sector decomposition [16].

Method of Differential Equations

The MIs are functions of the physical scales of the process which are given by scalar products of the external momenta and masses of the particles. In our calculation the MIs depend on the dimensionless variable u as in (7).

For a given MI we perform the derivative with respect to u and interchange the order of integration and derivation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u} \text{MI}_i(u) = \int d^d k d^d l \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \frac{\mathcal{S}_1^{m_1} \dots \mathcal{S}_s^{m_s}}{\mathcal{P}_1^{n_1} \dots \mathcal{P}_p^{n_p}}. \quad (10)$$

The right-hand side being of the same type as equations (8) and (9), this procedure again leads to a sum of various integrals with different exponents $\{n, m\}$. With the help of the reduction algorithm, these integrals can be expressed in terms of MIs which yields a differential equation of the form

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u} \text{MI}_i(u) = a(u; d) \text{MI}_i(u) + \sum_{j \neq i} b_j(u; d) \text{MI}_j(u), \quad (11)$$

where we indicated that the coefficients a and b_j may depend on the dimension d . The inhomogeneity of the differential equation typically contains MIs of subtopologies which are supposed to be known in a bottom-up approach. In case of the MIs from the third line of Figure 3, one MI in the inhomogeneous part is of the same topology as the MI on the left hand side of (11) and thus unknown. Writing down the differential equation for this MI, we find that we are left with a coupled system of linear, first order differential equations.

We are looking for a solution of the differential equation in terms of an expansion

$$\text{MI}_i(u) = \sum_j \frac{c_{ij}(u)}{\varepsilon^j}. \quad (12)$$

Expanding (11) then gives much simpler differential equations for the coefficients c_{ij} which can be solved order by order in ε . In addition, in the case where we were left with a coupled system of differential equations, the system turns out to decouple in the expansion. The solution of the homogeneous equations is in general straight-forward. The inhomogeneous equations can then be addressed with the method of the variation of the constant. This in turn leads to indefinite integrals over the inhomogeneities which typically contain products of rational functions with logarithms or related functions as dilogarithms. With the help of the formalism of HPLs these integrations simplify substantially.

Harmonic Polylogarithms

The formalism of HPLs [15] allows to rewrite the integrations mentioned at the end of the last section in terms of familiar transcendental functions which are defined by repeated integration over a set of basic functions. We briefly summarize their basic features here, focussing on the properties that are relevant for our calculation.

The HPLs, denoted by $H(\vec{m}_w; x)$, are described by a w -dimensional vector \vec{m}_w of parameters and by its argument x . We restrict our attention to the parameters 0 and 1 in the following. The basic definitions of the HPLs are for weight $w = 1$

$$H(0; x) \equiv \ln x, \quad H(1; x) \equiv -\ln(1-x) \quad (13)$$

and for weight $w > 1$

$$H(a, \vec{m}_{w-1}; x) \equiv \int_0^x dx' f(a; x') H(\vec{m}_{w-1}; x'), \quad (14)$$

where the basic functions $f(a; x)$ are given by

$$f(0; x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} H(0; x) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad f(1; x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} H(1; x) = \frac{1}{1-x}. \quad (15)$$

In the case of $\vec{m}_w = \vec{0}$, the definition in (14) does not apply and the HPLs read

$$H(0, \dots, 0; x) \equiv \frac{1}{w!} \ln^w x. \quad (16)$$

The HPLs form a closed and linearly independent set under integrations over the basic functions $f(a; x)$ and fulfil an algebra such that a product of two HPLs of weight w_1 and w_2 gives a linear combination of HPLs of weight $w = w_1 + w_2$.

As described above, the solution of the differential equations leads to integrals over products of some rational functions with some transcendental functions as logarithms or dilogarithms. More precisely, we find e.g. integrals of the type

$$\int^x dx' \left\{ \frac{1}{1-x'}, \frac{1}{x'^2}, 1 \right\} H(\vec{m}_w; x'). \quad (17)$$

It turns out that all these integrals can be expressed as linear combinations of HPLs of weight $w + 1$. This is obvious for the first integral as it simply corresponds to the definition of a HPL, cf. (14) with $a = 1$. For the other integrals in (17), an integration-by-parts leads either to a recurrence relation or again to integrals of the type (14). Not all integrals in our calculation fall into the simple pattern (17), but a large part of this calculation can be performed along these lines.

In the considered calculation we encounter HPLs of weight $w \leq 3$. Our results can be expressed in terms of the following minimal set of HPLs

$$\begin{aligned} H(0; x) &= \ln x, & H(0, 0, 1; x) &= \text{Li}_3(x), \\ H(1; x) &= -\ln(1-x), & H(0, 1, 1; x) &= \text{S}_{1,2}(x). \\ H(0, 1; x) &= \text{Li}_2(x), & & \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

The situation is more complicated for the last two MIs in the third line of Figure 3 where the internal charm quark introduces a new scale. However, a closer look reveals that these MIs depend on two physical scales only, namely um_b^2 and $m_c^2 = z^2 m_b^2$. The MIs can then be solved within the formalism of HPLs in terms of the ratio $\xi \equiv z^2/u$ if we allow for more complicated arguments of the HPLs as e.g. $\eta \equiv \frac{1}{2} (1 - \sqrt{1+4\xi})$.

Boundary conditions

A unique solution of a differential equation requires the knowledge of its boundary conditions. In the considered calculation the boundary conditions typically represent single-scale integrals corresponding to $u = 0$ or 1 . It is of crucial importance that the integral has a smooth limit at the chosen point such that setting $u = 0$ or $u = 1$ does not modify the divergence structure introduced in (12).

In some cases the methods described so far can also be applied for the calculation of the boundary conditions since setting $u = 0$ or 1 leads to simpler topologies which may turn out to be reducible. If so, the reduction algorithm can be used to express the integral in terms of known MIs. If not, a different strategy is mandatory. In this case we tried to calculate the integral with the help of Feynman parameters and managed in some cases to express the integral in terms of hypergeometric functions which we could expand in ε with the help of the MATHEMATICA package HYPEXP [17]. Finally, the most difficult single-scale integrals could be calculated with Mellin-Barnes techniques [18].

4 Renormalization and IR subtractions

The matrix elements $\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle$ which we obtained from computing the 2-loop diagrams in Figure 2 are ultraviolet (UV) and infrared (IR) divergent. In this section we show how to extract the finite hard-scattering kernels T_i^I from these matrix elements.

4.1 Renormalization

The renormalization procedure involves standard QCD counterterms, which amount to the calculation of various 1-loop diagrams, as well as counterterms from the effective Hamiltonian. We write the renormalized matrix elements as

$$\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren}} = Z_\psi \hat{Z}_{ij} \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{bare}}, \quad (19)$$

where $Z_\psi \equiv Z_b^{1/2} Z_q^{3/2}$ contains the wave-function renormalization factors Z_b of the b -quark and Z_q of the massless quarks, whereas \hat{Z} is the operator renormalization matrix in the effective theory. We introduce the following notation for the perturbative expansions of these quantities

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren/bare}} &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^k \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren/bare}}^{(k)}, \\ Z_\psi &= 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^k Z_\psi^{(k)}, \quad \hat{Z}_{ij} = \delta_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^k \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(k)} \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

and rewrite (19) in perturbation theory up to NNLO which yields

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren}}^{(0)} &= \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{bare}}^{(0)}, \\ \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren}}^{(1)} &= \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{bare}}^{(1)} + \left[\hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} + Z_\psi^{(1)} \delta_{ij} \right] \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{bare}}^{(0)}, \\ \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren}}^{(2)} &= \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{bare}}^{(2)} + \left[\hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} + Z_\psi^{(1)} \delta_{ij} \right] \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{bare}}^{(1)} + \left[\hat{Z}_{ij}^{(2)} + Z_\psi^{(1)} \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} + Z_\psi^{(2)} \delta_{ij} \right] \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{bare}}^{(0)}. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

The full calculation thus requires the operator renormalization matrices $\hat{Z}^{(1,2)}$. For the calculation of the imaginary part, the terms proportional to the tree level matrix elements do not contribute and $\hat{Z}^{(2)}$ drops out in (21) as expected for an effective 1-loop calculation.

Mass and wave function renormalization are found to be higher order effects. For the renormalization of the coupling constant we use

$$Z_g = 1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi\epsilon} \left(\frac{11}{2} - \frac{1}{3} n_f \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2). \quad (22)$$

according to the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ -scheme. The expression for the 1-loop renormalization matrix $\hat{Z}^{(1)}$ can be found e.g. in [19] and reads

$$\hat{Z}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & \frac{4}{3} & \frac{5}{12} & \frac{2}{9} \\ 6 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\epsilon}, \quad (23)$$

where the two lines correspond to the basis of physical operators $\{\hat{Q}_1, \hat{Q}_2\}$ and the four columns to the extended basis $\{\hat{Q}_1, \hat{Q}_2, \hat{E}_1, \hat{E}_2\}$ including the evanescent operators $\hat{E}_{1,2}$ defined in (4).

4.2 Factorization in NNLO

In this section it will be convenient to introduce the following short-hand notation for the factorization formula (1)

$$\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren}} = F \cdot T_i \otimes \Phi + \dots \quad (24)$$

where F denotes the $B \rightarrow M_1$ form factor, T_i the hard-scattering kernels T_i^I and Φ the product of the decay constant f_{M_2} and the distribution amplitude ϕ_{M_2} . The convolution in (1) has been represented by the symbol \otimes and the ellipsis contain the terms from spectator scattering which we disregard in the following.

Formally, we may introduce the perturbative expansions

$$F = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^k F^{(k)}, \quad T_i = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^k T_i^{(k)}, \quad \Phi = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^k \Phi^{(k)}. \quad (25)$$

Up to NNLO the expansion of (24) then yields

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren}}^{(0)} &= F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)}, \\ \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren}}^{(1)} &= F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(1)}, \\ \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{ren}}^{(2)} &= F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(2)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(1)} \\ &\quad + F^{(2)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(1)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(2)}. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

In LO the comparison of (21) and (26) gives the trivial relation

$$\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle^{(0)} \equiv \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{bare}}^{(0)} = F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} \quad (27)$$

which states that the LO kernels $T_i^{(0)}$ can be computed from the tree level diagram in Figure 4a. In order to address higher order terms we split the matrix elements into its (naively) factorizable (f) and non-factorizable (nf) contributions

$$\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{bare}}^{(k)} \equiv \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{f}}^{(k)} + \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(k)}. \quad (28)$$

The corresponding 1-loop diagrams are shown in Figure 4b and 4c respectively. To this order (21) and (26) lead to

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{f}}^{(1)} + \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(1)} + \left[\hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} + Z_{\psi}^{(1)} \delta_{ij} \right] \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle^{(0)} \\ &= F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(1)}, \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

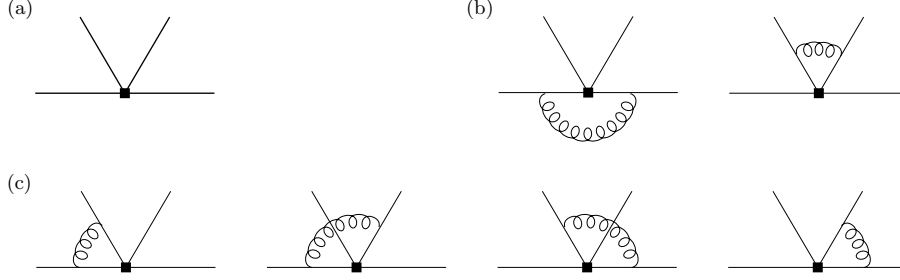


Figure 4: *Tree level diagram (a), naively factorizable (b) and non-factorizable (c) NLO diagrams.*

which splits into

$$\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(1)} + \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle^{(0)} = F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} \quad (30)$$

for the calculation of the NLO kernels $T_i^{(1)}$ and

$$\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{f}}^{(1)} + Z_\psi^{(1)} \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle^{(0)} = F^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(1)}, \quad (31)$$

which shows that the factorizable diagrams and the wave-function renormalization are absorbed by the form factor and wave function corrections $F^{(1)}$ and $\Phi^{(1)}$.

This suggests in NNLO the following structure

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{f}}^{(2)} + Z_\psi^{(1)} \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{f}}^{(1)} + Z_\psi^{(2)} \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle^{(0)} \\ & = F^{(2)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(1)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(0)} \otimes \Phi^{(2)}. \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

These terms are thus irrelevant for the calculation of the NNLO kernels $T_i^{(2)}$ which justifies that we could restrict our attention to the non-factorizable 2-loop diagrams from Figure 2. In NNLO the remaining terms from (21) and (26) contain non-trivial IR subtractions

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(2)} + Z_\psi^{(1)} \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(1)} + \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} \left[\langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(1)} + \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{f}}^{(1)} \right] + \left[\hat{Z}_{ij}^{(2)} + Z_\psi^{(1)} \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} \right] \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle^{(0)} \\ & = F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(2)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

This equation can be simplified further when we make the wave function renormalization factors in the form factor and the distribution amplitude explicit

$$F = Z_b^{1/2} Z_q^{1/2} F_{\text{amp}}, \quad \Phi = Z_q \Phi_{\text{amp}}. \quad (34)$$

Notice that the resulting amputated form factor F_{amp} and wave function Φ_{amp} contain UV-divergences by construction. Using (30), we see that the wave function renormalization factors cancel and arrive at the final formula for the calculation of the NNLO kernels $T_i^{(2)}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(2)} + \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} \left[\langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(1)} + \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{f}}^{(1)} \right] + \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(2)} \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle^{(0)} \\ & = F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(2)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F_{\text{amp}}^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi_{\text{amp}}^{(1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

As the tree level matrix elements and the factorizable 1-loop diagrams do not give rise to an imaginary part, these terms can be disregarded in the present calculation.

4.3 IR subtractions

We now consider the IR subtractions on the right hand side of (35) in some detail. Let us first address the NLO kernels $T_i^{(1)}$ which can be determined from equation (30). The renormalization in the evanescent sector implies that the left hand side of (30) is free of contributions from evanescent operators *up to the finite order* ε^0 . However, as the NLO kernels enter (35) in combination with the form factor correction $F_{\text{amp}}^{(1)}$ which contains double (soft and collinear) IR divergences, the NLO kernels are required here up to $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$. Concerning the subleading terms of $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$, the evanescent operators do not drop out on the left hand side of (30) and we therefore have to extend the factorization formula on the right hand side to include these evanescent structures as well. Schematically,

$$\langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(1)} + \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle^{(0)} = F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F_E^{(0)} \cdot T_{i,E}^{(1)} \otimes \Phi_E^{(0)} \quad (36)$$

with a kernel $T_{i,E}^{(1)} = \mathcal{O}(1)$ and an evanescent tree level matrix element $F_E^{(0)} \Phi_E^{(0)} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$. Similarly, the right hand side of (35) has to be modified to include these evanescent structures

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \hat{Q}_i \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(2)} + \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(1)} \left[\langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{nf}}^{(1)} + \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle_{\text{f}}^{(1)} \right] + \hat{Z}_{ij}^{(2)} \langle \hat{Q}_j \rangle^{(0)} \\ &= F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(2)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F_{\text{amp}}^{(1)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi^{(0)} + F^{(0)} \cdot T_i^{(1)} \otimes \Phi_{\text{amp}}^{(1)} \\ &+ F_E^{(0)} \cdot T_{i,E}^{(2)} \otimes \Phi_E^{(0)} + F_{\text{amp},E}^{(1)} \cdot T_{i,E}^{(1)} \otimes \Phi_E^{(0)} + F_E^{(0)} \cdot T_{i,E}^{(1)} \otimes \Phi_{\text{amp},E}^{(1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

Notice that the term with the kernel $T_{i,E}^{(2)} = \mathcal{O}(1)$ is not required to extract the finite piece of the physical NNLO kernel $T_i^{(2)}$.

From the calculation of the 1-loop diagrams in Figure 4c, we find that the NLO kernels vanish in the colour-singlet case, $T_2^{(1)} = T_{2,E}^{(1)} = 0$, whereas the imaginary part of the colour-octet kernels is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } T_1^{(1)}(u) &= \frac{C_F}{2N_c} \left\{ (-3 - 2 \ln u + 2 \ln \bar{u}) \left(1 + \varepsilon L + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 L^2 \right) \right. \\ &\quad - (11 - 3 \ln \bar{u} - \ln^2 u + \ln^2 \bar{u}) (\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2 L) \\ &\quad + \left[\frac{3\pi^2}{4} - 26 + \left(2 + \frac{\pi^2}{2} \right) \ln u + \left(9 - \frac{\pi^2}{2} \right) \ln \bar{u} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \frac{3}{2} \ln^2 \bar{u} - \frac{1}{3} (\ln^3 u - \ln^3 \bar{u}) \right] \varepsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3) \right\}, \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } T_{1,E}^{(1)}(u) &= -\frac{C_F}{4N_c} \left\{ 1 + \varepsilon L + \left(\frac{8}{3} - \frac{1}{2} \ln u - \frac{1}{2} \ln \bar{u} \right) \varepsilon + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

where $L \equiv \ln \mu^2/m_b^2$ and we recall that $\bar{u} \equiv 1 - u$.

Form factor subtractions

We now address the form factor corrections which require the calculation of the diagram in Figure 5 (for on-shell quarks) and its counterterm. According to the definition of F_{amp} in (34), we do not have to consider the wave function renormalization of the quark fields.

We again have to compute the corrections for physical and evanescent operators. Concerning the physical operators with Dirac structure $[\gamma^\mu L]$ $[\gamma_\mu L]$ the counterterm is found to vanish and we get

$$F_{\text{amp}}^{(1)} \Phi^{(0)} = -C_F \left(\frac{e^{\gamma_E} \mu^2}{m_b^2} \right)^\varepsilon \Gamma(\varepsilon) \frac{1 - \varepsilon + 2\varepsilon^2}{\varepsilon(1 - 2\varepsilon)} F^{(0)} \Phi^{(0)} \quad (39)$$

reflecting the $1/\varepsilon^2$ -singularities mentioned at the beginning of this section. On the other hand, the evanescent operators with Dirac structure $[\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho L]$ $[\gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\rho L] - 16[\gamma^\mu L]$ $[\gamma_\mu L]$ yield a contribution proportional to the evanescent *and* the physical operators. We find a non-vanishing contribution from the counterterm diagram in this case and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{amp,E}}^{(1)} \Phi_E^{(0)} &= C_F \left[\left(\frac{e^{\gamma_E} \mu^2}{m_b^2} \right)^\varepsilon \Gamma(\varepsilon) \frac{24\varepsilon(1 + \varepsilon)}{(1 - \varepsilon)^2} - 24 \right] F^{(0)} \Phi^{(0)} \\ &\quad - C_F \left(\frac{e^{\gamma_E} \mu^2}{m_b^2} \right)^\varepsilon \Gamma(\varepsilon) \frac{1 - 3\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2 + 3\varepsilon^3 + 2\varepsilon^4}{\varepsilon(1 - 2\varepsilon)(1 - \varepsilon)^2} F_E^{(0)} \Phi_E^{(0)}. \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

The form factor subtractions in (37) then follow from combining (38), (39) and (40). We emphasize that the corrections related to the evanescent operators *do not* induce a contribution to the physical NNLO kernel $T_1^{(2)}$ in this case since

$$\frac{1}{\pi} F_{\text{amp,E}}^{(1)} \text{Im} T_{1,E}^{(1)} \Phi_E^{(0)} \rightarrow \left[\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right] F^{(0)} \Phi^{(0)}. \quad (41)$$

Wave function subtractions

Concerning the wave function corrections we are left with the calculation of the diagrams in Figure 6 for collinear and on-shell partons with momenta uq and $\bar{u}q$. However, as in our set-up $q^2 = 0$ all these diagrams vanish due to scaleless integrals in DR. We conclude that the wave function corrections are determined entirely by the counterterms. We compute these counterterms by calculating the diagrams from Figure 6 with an (IR-finite) off-shell regularization prescription in order to isolate the UV-divergences (which are independent

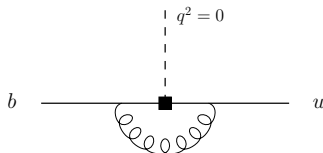


Figure 5: 1-loop contribution to the form factor correction $F_{\text{amp}}^{(1)}$.

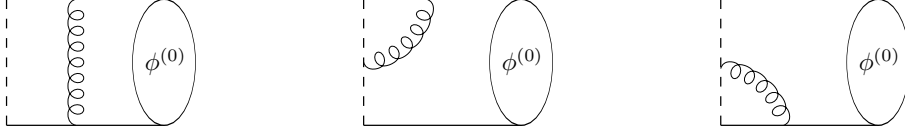


Figure 6: 1-loop contributions to the wave function correction $\Phi_{\text{amp}}^{(1)}$. The dashed line indicates the Wilson-line connecting the quark and antiquark fields.

of the IR regulator). The counterterm for the physical operators is found to be

$$F^{(0)} \Phi_{\text{amp}}^{(1)}(u) = -\frac{2C_F}{\varepsilon} \int_0^1 dw V(u, w) F^{(0)} \Phi^{(0)}(w) \quad (42)$$

with the familiar Efremov-Radyushkin-Brodsky-Lepage (ERBL) kernel [20]

$$V(u, w) = \left[\theta(w - u) \frac{u}{w} \left(1 + \frac{1}{w - u} \right) + \theta(u - w) \frac{\bar{u}}{\bar{w}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\bar{w} - \bar{u}} \right) \right]_+ \quad (43)$$

where the plus-distribution is defined as $[f(u, w)]_+ = f(u, w) - \delta(u - w) \int_0^1 dv f(v, w)$. For the evanescent operators we obtain

$$F_E^{(0)} \Phi_{\text{amp,E}}^{(1)}(u) = -\frac{2C_F}{\varepsilon} \int_0^1 dw \left[24\varepsilon V_E(u, w) F^{(0)} \Phi^{(0)}(w) + V(u, w) F_E^{(0)} \Phi_E^{(0)}(w) \right] \quad (44)$$

where $V_E(u, w)$ denotes the spin-dependent part of the ERBL kernel given by

$$V_E(u, w) = \theta(w - u) \frac{u}{w} + \theta(u - w) \frac{\bar{u}}{\bar{w}}. \quad (45)$$

Notice that the evanescent operators *do* induce a finite contribution to the physical NNLO kernel $T_1^{(2)}$ in this case as the convolution with the corresponding NLO kernel implies

$$\frac{1}{\pi} F_E^{(0)} \text{Im} T_{1,E}^{(1)} \Phi_{\text{amp,E}}^{(1)} \rightarrow \left[\frac{6C_F^2}{N_c} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right] F^{(0)} \Phi^{(0)}. \quad (46)$$

We finally quote the result for the convolution with the physical NLO kernel

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\pi} F^{(0)} \text{Im} T_1^{(1)} \Phi_{\text{amp}}^{(1)} &= \frac{C_F^2}{N_c} \left\{ \left[\frac{\pi^2}{3} + \frac{\ln u}{\bar{u}} - \frac{\ln \bar{u}}{u} + \ln^2 u - 2 \ln u \ln \bar{u} - \ln^2 \bar{u} - 4\text{Li}_2(u) \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + L \right) + \frac{\pi^2}{2} - \frac{15}{4} - 2\zeta_3 + \frac{5u - 4}{2} \left(\frac{\ln u}{\bar{u}} + \frac{\ln \bar{u}}{u} \right) - \frac{\pi^2}{3} \ln \bar{u} \\ &\quad - 3\text{Li}_2(u) - \frac{1}{2\bar{u}} \ln^2 u + \frac{1 - 3u}{2u} \ln^2 \bar{u} - \frac{2}{3} \ln^3 u + \ln^2 u \ln \bar{u} \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{2}{3} \ln^3 \bar{u} + 2 \ln \bar{u} \text{Li}_2(u) + 2\text{Li}_3(u) + 2\text{S}_{1,2}(u) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right\} F^{(0)} \Phi^{(0)}. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

5 Vertex Corrections in NNLO

We now have assembled all pieces required for the calculation of the NNLO kernels $T_i^{(2)}$ from (37). We indeed observe that all UV and IR divergences cancel in the hard-scattering kernels as predicted by the QCD Factorization framework. Since this is the result of a complicated subtraction procedure, this can also be seen as a very stringent cross-check of our calculation.

5.1 α_1 in CMM basis

The procedure outlined so far leads to the colour-allowed tree amplitude in the CMM operator basis defined in (4). We write

$$\alpha_1(M_1 M_2) = \hat{C}_2 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \frac{C_F}{2N_c} \left[\hat{C}_1 \hat{V}^{(1)} + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\hat{C}_1 \hat{V}_1^{(2)} + \hat{C}_2 \hat{V}_2^{(2)} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2) \right] + \dots \quad (48)$$

where the ellipsis denote the terms from spectator scattering which are irrelevant for our purposes. In the CMM basis, the imaginary part of the vertex corrections $\hat{V}^{(1,2)}$ takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \hat{V}^{(1)} &\equiv \int_0^1 du g_1(u) \phi_{M_2}(u), \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \hat{V}_1^{(2)} &\equiv \int_0^1 du \left\{ \left[\left(\frac{29}{3} C_A - \frac{2}{3} n_f \right) g_1(u) + C_F h_1(u) \right] \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m_b^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + C_F h_2(u) + C_A h_3(u) + (n_f - 2) h_4(u; 0) + h_4(u; z) + h_4(u; 1) \right\} \phi_{M_2}(u), \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \hat{V}_2^{(2)} &\equiv \int_0^1 du \left\{ -6 g_1(u) \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m_b^2} + h_0(u) \right\} \phi_{M_2}(u). \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

In writing (49) we have made the dependence on the renormalization scale explicit and disentangled contributions that belong to different colour structures. The NLO kernel $g_1(u)$ is given by

$$g_1(u) = -3 - 2 \ln u + 2 \ln \bar{u} \quad (50)$$

and the NNLO kernels $h_i(u)$ will be specified below. The kernel $h_4(u; z_f)$ stems from diagrams with a closed fermion loop and depends on the mass of the internal quark through $z_f = m_f/m_b$. We keep a non-zero charm quark mass and write $z \equiv z_c = m_c/m_b$ for simplicity.

The NNLO kernels were so far unknown. They are found in this work to be

$$\begin{aligned}
h_0(u) = & \left[\frac{155}{4} + 4\zeta_3 + 4\text{Li}_3(u) - 4\text{S}_{1,2}(u) - 12 \ln u \text{Li}_2(u) + \frac{4}{3} \ln^3 u - 6 \ln^2 u \ln \bar{u} \right. \\
& + \frac{2-u^2}{\bar{u}} \text{Li}_2(u) - \frac{5-3u+3u^2-2u^3}{2\bar{u}} \ln^2 u + \frac{3-2u^4}{2u\bar{u}} \ln u \ln \bar{u} \\
& \left. - \left(\frac{4-11u+2u^2}{\bar{u}} + \frac{4\pi^2}{3} \right) \ln u - \frac{(5+6u^2-12u^4)\pi^2}{24u\bar{u}} + (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \right] \\
& + \left[\frac{3-u+7u^2}{2\bar{u}} \ln^2 u - \frac{11-10u^2}{4u\bar{u}} \text{Li}_2(u) + \frac{1-14u^2}{4\bar{u}} \ln u \ln \bar{u} \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{46-51u}{\bar{u}} \ln u - \frac{(41-42u^2)\pi^2}{24\bar{u}} - (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \right],
\end{aligned}$$

$$h_1(u) = 36 + \left[2 \ln^2 u - 4\text{Li}_2(u) + \frac{2(13-12u)}{\bar{u}} \ln u - (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \right],$$

$$\begin{aligned}
h_2(u) = & \left[79 + 32\zeta_3 - 16\text{Li}_3(u) - 32\text{S}_{1,2}(u) + \frac{8}{3} \ln^3 u + \frac{2(4-u^2)}{\bar{u}} \text{Li}_2(u) \right. \\
& - \frac{13-9u+6u^2-4u^3}{2\bar{u}} \ln^2 u + \frac{17-6u^2-8u^4}{4u\bar{u}} \ln u \ln \bar{u} \\
& \left. - 2 \left(\frac{5-11u+2u^2}{\bar{u}} + \frac{4\pi^2}{3} \right) \ln u - \frac{(1+14u^2-8u^4)\pi^2}{8u\bar{u}} + (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \right] \\
& + \left[4\text{Li}_3(u) + 4\text{S}_{1,2}(u) - \frac{2}{3} \ln^3 u + 2 \ln^2 u \ln \bar{u} - \frac{9-14u^2}{u\bar{u}} \text{Li}_2(u) \right. \\
& + \frac{13-11u+14u^2}{2\bar{u}} \ln^2 u + \frac{5-7u^2}{\bar{u}} \ln u \ln \bar{u} \\
& \left. + 4 \left(\frac{24-23u}{\bar{u}} + \frac{\pi^2}{3} \right) \ln u - \frac{(26-21u^2)\pi^2}{6\bar{u}} - (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \right],
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
h_3(u) = & \left[-\frac{1379}{24} - 12\zeta_3 + 6\text{Li}_3(u) + 12\text{S}_{1,2}(u) - \ln^3 u - \frac{4-u^2}{\bar{u}} \text{Li}_2(u) \right. \\
& + \frac{9-2u+6u^2-4u^3}{4\bar{u}} \ln^2 u - \frac{7+4u^2-4u^4}{4u\bar{u}} \ln u \ln \bar{u} \\
& \left. + \left(\frac{41-66u+8u^2}{4\bar{u}} + \pi^2 \right) \ln u + \frac{(1+6u^2-4u^4)\pi^2}{8u\bar{u}} + (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \right] \\
& + \left[-2\text{Li}_3(u) + 4\text{S}_{1,2}(u) + 4 \ln u \text{Li}_2(u) + \frac{1}{3} \ln^3 u + \frac{15-26u^2}{4u\bar{u}} \text{Li}_2(u) \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{11-14u-42u^2}{12\bar{u}} \ln^2 u - \frac{11-14u^2}{4\bar{u}} \ln u \ln \bar{u} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \left(\frac{2165 - 2156u}{36\bar{u}} - \frac{\pi^2}{3} \right) \ln u + \frac{(53 - 42u^2)\pi^2}{24\bar{u}} - (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \Big], \\
h_4(u; z) = & \left[\frac{17}{6} + \frac{7\xi}{\bar{u}} - 2\xi^2 \ln^2 \frac{x_1}{x_2} + \frac{\xi}{\bar{u}} \ln z^2 - (1 + 2\xi) \ln u \right. \\
& + \left. \left(2(1 + 4\xi)x_1 + 4\xi x_2 \right) \ln x_1 - \left(4\xi x_1 + 2(1 + 4\xi)x_2 \right) \ln x_2 + (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \right] \\
& + \left[\frac{94z^2}{9\bar{u}} - \frac{2(1 - 3\xi^2)}{3} \ln^2 \frac{x_1}{x_2} - \frac{4}{3} \ln u \ln z^2 + \frac{(1 - 2u)(6\bar{u} - u\xi^2)}{9u\bar{u}\xi} \ln z^2 \right. \\
& + \frac{12 + 29\xi + 2\xi^2}{9\xi} \ln u - \frac{2}{9\xi} \left((1 + 4\xi)(6 + 5\xi)x_1 - 6(1 - 3\xi^2)x_2 \right) \ln x_1 \\
& \left. - \frac{2}{9\xi} \left(6(1 - 3\xi^2)x_1 - (1 + 4\xi)(6 + 5\xi)x_2 \right) \ln x_2 - (u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}) \right], \tag{51}
\end{aligned}$$

where the last kernel has been given in terms of

$$x_1 \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{1 + 4\xi} - 1 \right), \quad x_2 \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{1 + 4\xi} + 1 \right), \quad \xi \equiv \frac{z^2}{u}. \tag{52}$$

In the massless limit $h_4(u; z)$ becomes

$$h_4(u; 0) = \frac{17}{3} - \frac{2}{3} \ln^2 u + \frac{2}{3} \ln^2 \bar{u} + \frac{20}{9} \ln u - \frac{38}{9} \ln \bar{u}. \tag{53}$$

5.2 α_1 and α_2 in traditional basis

Following our strategy from Section 2, we compute the colour-suppressed amplitude α_2 by rewriting the colour-allowed amplitude α_1 in the traditional operator basis from (3). Manifest Fierz symmetry in this basis relates the two amplitudes via

$$\alpha_i(M_1 M_2) = \tilde{C}_i + \frac{\tilde{C}_{i\pm 1}}{N_c} + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \frac{C_F}{N_c} \left[\tilde{C}_{i\pm 1} \tilde{V}^{(1)} + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\tilde{C}_i \tilde{V}_1^{(2)} + \tilde{C}_{i\pm 1} \tilde{V}_2^{(2)} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2) \right] + \dots \tag{54}$$

where the upper (lower) signs apply for $i = 1$ ($i = 2$) and the ellipsis correspond to the terms from spectator scattering. In order to derive $\tilde{V}^{(1,2)}$ we have to transform the Wilson coefficients in the CMM basis \hat{C}_i into the ones of the traditional basis \tilde{C}_i . To NLL approximation this transformation can be found e.g. in [9] and reads

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{C}_1 &= 2\tilde{C}_2 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(4\tilde{C}_1 + \frac{14}{3}\tilde{C}_2 \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2), \\
\hat{C}_2 &= \tilde{C}_1 + \frac{1}{3}\tilde{C}_2 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{16}{9}\tilde{C}_2 \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2). \tag{55}
\end{aligned}$$

Combining (48), (54) and (55) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \tilde{V}^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \hat{V}^{(1)} \\
&= \int_0^1 du g_1(u) \phi_{M_2}(u), \\
\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \tilde{V}_1^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \left[\frac{1}{2} \hat{V}_2^{(2)} + 2 \hat{V}^{(1)} \right] \\
&= \int_0^1 du \left\{ -3 g_1(u) \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m_b^2} + 2 g_1(u) + \frac{1}{2} h_0(u) \right\} \phi_{M_2}(u), \\
\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \tilde{V}_2^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \left[\hat{V}_1^{(2)} + \left(\frac{C_A}{2} - C_F \right) \hat{V}_2^{(2)} + (4C_F - C_A) \hat{V}^{(1)} \right] \\
&= \int_0^1 du \left\{ \left[\left(\frac{20}{3} C_A + 6C_F - \frac{2}{3} n_f \right) g_1(u) + C_F h_1(u) \right] \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m_b^2} \right. \\
&\quad + C_F \left[h_2(u) - h_0(u) + 4g_1(u) \right] + C_A \left[h_3(u) + \frac{1}{2} h_0(u) - g_1(u) \right] \\
&\quad \left. + (n_f - 2) h_4(u; 0) + h_4(u; z) + h_4(u; 1) \right\} \phi_{M_2}(u). \tag{56}
\end{aligned}$$

Equation (56) represents the central result of our analysis, specifying the imaginary part of the colour-allowed tree amplitude α_1 and the colour-suppressed tree amplitude α_2 according to (54). The expression for $\tilde{V}^{(1)}$ is in agreement with [1], whereas the expressions for $\tilde{V}_{1,2}^{(2)}$ are new. The kernels $g_1(u)$ and $h_i(u)$ can be found in (50) and (51), respectively. The terms proportional to n_f have already been considered in the analysis of the large β_0 -limit in [21]. Our results are in agreement with these findings.

5.3 Convolutions in Gegenbauer expansion

Our results in (56) have been given in terms of convolutions of hard-scattering kernels with the light-cone distribution amplitude of the emitted meson M_2 . We may explicitly calculate these convolution integrals by expanding the distribution amplitude into the eigenfunctions of the 1-loop evolution kernel

$$\phi_{M_2}(u) = 6u\bar{u} \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^{M_2} C_n^{(3/2)}(2u-1) \right], \tag{57}$$

where $a_n^{M_2}$ and $C_n^{(3/2)}$ are the Gegenbauer moments and polynomials, respectively. We truncate the Gegenbauer expansion at $n = 2$ and perform the convolution integrals

analytically. We find

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^1 du g_1(u) \phi_{M_2}(u) &= -3 - 3 a_1^{M_2}, \\
\int_0^1 du h_0(u) \phi_{M_2}(u) &= \frac{1333}{12} + \frac{47\pi^2}{45} - 16\zeta_3 + \left(\frac{15}{4} + \frac{23\pi^2}{5}\right) a_1^{M_2} \\
&\quad - \left(\frac{173}{30} + \frac{18\pi^2}{35}\right) a_2^{M_2}, \\
\int_0^1 du h_1(u) \phi_{M_2}(u) &= 36 + 28 a_1^{M_2}, \\
\int_0^1 du h_2(u) \phi_{M_2}(u) &= \frac{1369}{6} + \frac{139\pi^2}{45} - 32\zeta_3 - \left(\frac{17}{6} - \frac{51\pi^2}{5}\right) a_1^{M_2} \\
&\quad - \left(\frac{103}{15} + \frac{71\pi^2}{35}\right) a_2^{M_2}, \\
\int_0^1 du h_3(u) \phi_{M_2}(u) &= -\frac{481}{3} + \frac{7\pi^2}{30} + 12\zeta_3 - \left(\frac{643}{12} + \frac{11\pi^2}{10}\right) a_1^{M_2} \\
&\quad - \left(\frac{1531}{80} - \frac{169\pi^2}{70}\right) a_2^{M_2}, \\
H_4(z) &\equiv \int_0^1 du h_4(u; z) \phi_{M_2}(u) \\
&= \frac{22}{3} + 148z^2 - 96z^4 F(z) - 36z^4 \ln^2 \frac{y_1}{y_2} \\
&\quad - 2 \left[1 - (2y_1 + 1)(1 + 22z^2) \right] \ln \frac{y_1}{y_2} - 4 \ln y_2 \\
&\quad + \left\{ 7 + 164z^2 + 180z^4 + 144z^6 - 288z^4 F(z) + 12z^4(3 + 16z^2 + 12z^4) \ln^2 \frac{y_1}{y_2} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - 2 \left[1 - (2y_1 + 1)(1 + 22z^2 + 84z^4 + 72z^6) \right] \ln \frac{y_1}{y_2} - 4 \ln y_2 \right\} a_1^{M_2} \\
&\quad + \left\{ \frac{3}{5} + 244z^2 + \frac{148}{3}z^4 - 640z^6 - 960z^8 + 24z^4(1 - 30z^4 - 40z^6) \ln^2 \frac{y_1}{y_2} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - 576z^4 F(z) + 8z^2(2y_1 + 1)(6 + 11z^2 - 70z^4 - 120z^6) \ln \frac{y_1}{y_2} \right\} a_2^{M_2}, \quad (58)
\end{aligned}$$

where we defined

$$\begin{aligned}
y_1 &\equiv \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{1 + 4z^2} - 1 \right), \quad y_2 \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{1 + 4z^2} + 1 \right), \\
F(z) &\equiv \text{Li}_3(-y_1) - \text{S}_{1,2}(-y_1) - \ln y_1 \text{Li}_2(-y_1) + \frac{1}{2} \ln y_1 \ln^2 y_2 - \frac{1}{12} \ln^3 z^2 + \zeta_3. \quad (59)
\end{aligned}$$

In the massless limit the function $H_4(z_f)$ simplifies to

$$H_4(0) = \frac{22}{3} + 7a_1^{M_2} + \frac{3}{5}a_2^{M_2}. \quad (60)$$

The finiteness of the convolution integrals in (58) completes the explicit factorization proof of the imaginary part of the NNLO vertex corrections.

We summarize our results for the vertex corrections in the Gegenbauer representation of the light-cone distribution amplitude of the meson M_2 (with $C_F = \frac{4}{3}$, $C_A = 3$, $n_f = 5$)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \tilde{V}^{(1)} &= -3 - 3a_1^{M_2}, \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \tilde{V}_1^{(2)} &= (9 + 9a_1^{M_2}) \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m_b^2} + \frac{1189}{24} + \frac{47\pi^2}{90} - 8\zeta_3 - \left(\frac{33}{8} - \frac{23\pi^2}{10} \right) a_1^{M_2} \\ &\quad - \left(\frac{173}{60} + \frac{9\pi^2}{35} \right) a_2^{M_2}, \\ \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im } \tilde{V}_2^{(2)} &= - \left(26 + \frac{110}{3} a_1^{M_2} \right) \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m_b^2} - \frac{10315}{72} + \frac{674\pi^2}{135} - \frac{28}{3} \zeta_3 \\ &\quad - \left(\frac{10793}{72} - \frac{166\pi^2}{15} \right) a_1^{M_2} - \left(\frac{3155}{48} - \frac{187\pi^2}{42} \right) a_2^{M_2} + H_4(z) + H_4(1), \quad (61) \end{aligned}$$

with $H_4(z_f)$ given in (58). In order to illustrate the relative importance of the individual contributions, we set $\mu = m_b$ and $z = m_c/m_b = 0.3$ which yields

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im } \tilde{V}^{(1)} &= -9.425 - 9.43a_1^{M_2}, \\ \text{Im } \tilde{V}_1^{(2)} &= 141.621 + 58.36 a_1^{M_2} - 17.03 a_2^{M_2}, \\ \text{Im } \tilde{V}_2^{(2)} &= -317.940 - 115.62 a_1^{M_2} - 68.31 a_2^{M_2}. \quad (62) \end{aligned}$$

We thus find large coefficients for the NNLO vertex corrections and expect only a minor impact of the higher Gegenbauer moments, in particular in the symmetric case with $a_1^{M_2} = 0$. Notice that all contributions add constructively in $\alpha_{1,2}$ due to the relative signs of the Wilson coefficients, $\tilde{C}_1 \sim 1.1$ and $\tilde{C}_2 \sim -0.2$. In the case of α_1 the contribution from $\tilde{V}_1^{(2)}$ is found to exceed the formally leading contribution $\tilde{V}^{(1)}$ due to the fact that the latter is multiplied by the small Wilson coefficient \tilde{C}_2 . Concerning α_2 the NNLO vertex corrections are also substantial, roughly saying they amount to a 50% correction. In both cases the impact of the charm quark mass is small, we find a correction of $\sim 3\%$ compared to the massless case. A more detailed numerical analysis including the contributions from spectator scattering will be given in the following section.

We finally remark that the large β_0 -limit considered in [21] fails to reproduce the imaginary part of α_1 as it completely misses the leading contribution from $\tilde{V}_1^{(2)}$. In the case of α_2 the approximation turns out to be reasonably good with a deviation of $\sim 10\%$ compared to the full NNLO result.

6 Numerical analysis

6.1 Implementation of Spectator Scattering

In the numerical analysis we combine our results with the NNLO corrections from 1-loop spectator scattering obtained in [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]. In contrast to the vertex corrections considered in this work, the spectator term receives contributions from the hard scale $\mu_h \sim m_b$ and the hard-collinear scale $\mu_{hc} \sim (\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} m_b)^{1/2}$. According to this, the kernels T_i^{II} from (1) factorize into hard functions H_i^{II} and a (real) hard-collinear jet-function $J_{||}$. Evaluating both kernels at the same scale μ would imply parametrically large logarithms which may spoil the convergence of the perturbative expansion.

In order to resum these logarithms we follow reference [2] and perform the substitution

$$\begin{aligned} C_i(\mu) T_i^{II}(\mu) \otimes [\hat{f}_B \phi_B](\mu) \otimes \phi_{M_1}(\mu) \otimes \phi_{M_2}(\mu) \\ \rightarrow C_i(\mu_h) H_i^{II}(\mu_h) \otimes \mathcal{U}_{||}(\mu_h, \mu_{hc}) \otimes J_{||}(\mu_{hc}) \otimes [\hat{f}_B \phi_B](\mu_{hc}) \otimes \phi_{M_1}(\mu_{hc}) \otimes \phi_{M_2}(\mu_h), \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

where $\mathcal{U}_{||} = e^{-S} U_{||}$ consists of a universal Sudakov factor S and a non-local evolution kernel $U_{||}$. As an imaginary part is first generated at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ in the spectator term, we implement the resummation in the leading-logarithmic (LL) approximation. In the traditional operator basis from (3) the respective imaginary part takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im } \alpha_i(M_1 M_2) \Big|_{\text{spec}} = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_h) \alpha_s(\mu_{hc}) C_F}{4N_c^2} \frac{9 f_{M_1} \hat{f}_B(\mu_{hc})}{m_b F_+^{B M_1}(0) \lambda_B(\mu_{hc})} \sum_{n,m} a_m^{M_1}(\mu_{hc}) a_n^{M_2}(\mu_h) \\ \times \text{Im} \left[\tilde{C}_{i\pm 1}(\mu_h) \tilde{R}_1^{mn}(\mu_h, \mu_{hc}) + \tilde{C}_i(\mu_h) \tilde{R}_2^{mn}(\mu_h, \mu_{hc}) \right] + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3), \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

where we made the scale dependence of the parameters explicit and introduced the first inverse moment of the B meson light-cone distribution amplitude λ_B^{-1} . We further wrote $1 = a_0^M(\mu)$ in order to simplify the notation. In (64) the resummation is encoded in

$$\tilde{R}_i^{mn}(\mu_h, \mu_{hc}) = \frac{1}{9} e^{-S(\mu_h, \mu_{hc})} \int_0^1 du \, 6u\bar{u} C_n^{(3/2)}(2u-1) \int_0^1 dz \, \mathcal{C}_m(z; \mu_h, \mu_{hc}) r_i(u, z), \quad (65)$$

with the Sudakov factor S given in LL approximation in equation (106) of [6] and the kernels r_i in equations (38) and (39) of [2]. Following [4] we defined

$$\mathcal{C}_m(z; \mu_h, \mu_{hc}) = \int_0^1 dv \, 6v C_m^{(3/2)}(2v-1) U_{||}(\bar{v}, \bar{z}; \mu_h, \mu_{hc}), \quad (66)$$

which can be computed by solving numerically the integro-differential equation

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu} \mathcal{C}_m(z; \mu, \mu_{hc}) = - \int_0^1 dw \, \gamma_{||}(\bar{z}, \bar{w}) \mathcal{C}_m(w; \mu, \mu_{hc}) \quad (67)$$

with initial condition $\mathcal{C}_m(z; \mu_{hc}, \mu_{hc}) = 6z C_m^{(3/2)}(2z-1)$ and $\gamma_{||}$ from equation (99) of [6].

In order to illustrate the numerical importance of the resummation we compare the values of the imaginary part of \tilde{R}_i^{mn} for $m, n \leq 2$ and $\mu_h = \mu_{hc}$ (line I, without resummation) and $\mu_h = 4.8\text{GeV}$, $\mu_{hc} = 1.5\text{GeV}$ (line II, with resummation) in Table 1. We observe that the resummation leads to a suppression of the spectator term of $\sim 10\%$ due to the universal Sudakov factor ($e^{-S} \simeq 0.89$ for our choice of input parameters). The resummation effects induced by U_{\parallel} turn out to be of minor numerical importance.

According to (64) we must evolve the Gegenbauer moments of the mesons M_1 and M_2 to the hard-collinear and the hard scale, respectively. In LL approximation the Gegenbauer moments do not mix and the evolution reads

$$a_i^M(\mu) = \left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu_0)}{\alpha_s(\mu)} \right)^{\gamma_i/2\beta_0} a_i^M(\mu_0) \quad (68)$$

with anomalous dimensions $\gamma_1 = -\frac{64}{9}$ and $\gamma_2 = -\frac{100}{9}$.

We are left with the evolution of the B meson parameters to the hard-collinear scale. We convert the HQET decay constant \hat{f}_B into the physical one f_B using the LL relation

$$\hat{f}_B(\mu) = \left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(m_b)} \right)^{-2/\beta_0} f_B. \quad (69)$$

The evolution of λ_B is more complicated. The solution of the integro-differential equation, which governs the LL evolution of the B meson light-cone distribution amplitude, can be found in [22]. Here we adopt a model-description for the B meson distribution amplitude to generate the evolution of λ_B . We take the model from [22] which has the correct asymptotic behaviour and is almost form-invariant under the evolution.

Finally we implement the BBNS model from [1] in order to estimate the size of power corrections to the factorization formula (1). This results in an additional contribution from spectator scattering related to subleading projections on the light-cone distribution amplitudes of the light mesons. It is given by

$$\text{Im } \alpha_i(M_1 M_2) \Big|_{\text{power}} = \frac{\pi \alpha_s C_F}{N_c^2} \frac{3 f_{M_1} \hat{f}_B}{m_b F_+^{BM_1}(0) \lambda_B} \tilde{C}_{i\pm 1} r_{\chi}^{M_1} \Delta_{M_2} \text{Im}[X_H], \quad (70)$$

	\tilde{R}_i^{00}	\tilde{R}_i^{01}	\tilde{R}_i^{02}	\tilde{R}_i^{10}	\tilde{R}_i^{11}	\tilde{R}_i^{12}	\tilde{R}_i^{20}	\tilde{R}_i^{21}	\tilde{R}_i^{22}
$i = 1$ (I)	11.0	23.2	29.4	14.1	23.8	30.8	15.1	23.8	31.3
$i = 1$ (II)	9.88	20.9	26.5	12.5	21.5	27.8	13.4	21.5	28.2
$i = 2$ (I)	-5.29	-8.43	-8.24	-6.58	-11.0	-11.3	-7.04	-12.0	-12.6
$i = 2$ (II)	-4.77	-7.60	-7.43	-5.85	-9.72	-9.98	-6.27	-10.6	-11.2

Table 1: Numerical values of the imaginary part of $\tilde{R}_i^{mn}(\mu_h, \mu_{hc})$ from (65) for $\mu_h = \mu_{hc}$ (line I, without resummation) and $\mu_h = 4.8\text{GeV}$, $\mu_{hc} = 1.5\text{GeV}$ (line II, with resummation).

Parameter	Value	Parameter	Value
$\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{(5)}$	0.225	f_π	0.131
m_b	4.8	f_B	0.21 ± 0.02
m_c	1.6 ± 0.2	$F_+^{B\pi}(0)$	0.25 ± 0.05
$\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)$	4.2	$\lambda_B(1\text{GeV})$	0.48 ± 0.12
$(\bar{m}_u + \bar{m}_d)(2\text{GeV})$	0.008 ± 0.002	$a_2^\pi(1\text{GeV})$	0.25 ± 0.2

Table 2: *Theoretical input parameters (in units of GeV or dimensionless).*

where $r_\chi^M(\mu) = 2m_M^2/\bar{m}_b(\mu)/(\bar{m}_q + \bar{m}_{\bar{q}})(\mu)$, $\Delta_M = 1 + \sum_n (-1)^n a_n^M$ and X_H parameterizes an endpoint-divergent convolution integral. The latter is written as

$$X_H = (1 + \rho_H e^{i\varphi_H}) \ln \frac{m_B}{\Lambda_h} \quad (71)$$

which may generate an imaginary part due to soft rescattering of the final state mesons. We take $\ln m_B/\Lambda_h \simeq 2.3$, $\rho_H = 1$ and allow for an arbitrary phase φ_H .

6.2 Tree amplitudes in NNLO

The numerical implementation of the vertex corrections from (54) is easier since they can be evaluated at the hard scale $\mu_h \sim m_b$ and depend only on few parameters. As can be read off from (61), the first Gegenbauer moment of the meson M_2 enters the leading term $\tilde{V}^{(1)}$. We therefore require its next-to-leading logarithmic (NLL) evolution (which can be found in [23]) but as we restrict our attention to $B \rightarrow \pi\pi$ decays in the following the first moment does not contribute at all. Since the second Gegenbauer moment does not enter $\tilde{V}^{(1)}$, it is only required in LL approximation given by (68).

Our input parameters for the $B \rightarrow \pi\pi$ tree amplitudes are summarized in Table 2. The value for the B meson decay constant is supported by QCD sum rule calculations [24] and recent lattice results [25]. The form factor $F_+^{B\pi}$ (at large recoil) has been addressed in the light-cone sum rule (LCSR) approach [26]. As we implement the model from [22] for the B meson distribution amplitude, we take the respective value for λ_B . This value is somewhat larger than the one used in previous QCD Factorization analyses [1, 2, 3, 4], but it is supported by a QCD sum rule and a LCSR calculation [27]. The value for the second Gegenbauer moment of the pion can be interfered from a LCSR analysis [28] and lattice results [29].

In order to estimate the size of higher-order perturbative corrections we vary the hard scale in the range $\mu_h = 4.8_{-2.4}^{+4.8}$ GeV and the hard-collinear scale independently between $\mu_{hc} = 1.5_{-0.5}^{+0.9}$ GeV. Throughout we use 2-loop running of α_s with $n_f = 5$ ($n_f = 4$) for quantities that are evaluated at the hard scale μ_h (hard-collinear scale μ_{hc}). The quark masses are interpreted as pole masses except for those entering r_χ^M .

With these input parameters the complete NNLO result for the imaginary part of the topological tree amplitudes is found to be

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Im } \alpha_1(\pi\pi) &= 0.012|_{V^{(1)}} + 0.031|_{V^{(2)}} - 0.012|_{S^{(2)}} \\
&= 0.031 \pm 0.015 \text{ (scale)} \pm 0.006 \text{ (param)} \pm 0.010 \text{ (power)} \\
&= 0.031 \pm 0.019, \\
\text{Im } \alpha_2(\pi\pi) &= -0.077|_{V^{(1)}} - 0.052|_{V^{(2)}} + 0.020|_{S^{(2)}} \\
&= -0.109 \pm 0.023 \text{ (scale)} \pm 0.010 \text{ (param)} \pm 0.045 \text{ (power)} \\
&= -0.109 \pm 0.052. \tag{72}
\end{aligned}$$

In these expressions we disentangled the contributions from the NLO (1-loop) vertex corrections $V^{(1)}$, NNLO (2-loop) vertex corrections $V^{(2)}$ and NNLO (1-loop) spectator scattering $S^{(2)}$. In both cases the NNLO corrections are found to be important, although small in absolute terms. For the imaginary part of α_1 the NNLO corrections exceed the formally leading NLO result which can be explained by the fact that the latter is multiplied by the small Wilson coefficient \tilde{C}_2 , cf. the discussion after (62). We further observe that the individual NNLO corrections come with opposite signs which leads to a partial cancellation in their sum. The phenomenologically most important consequence of our calculation may be the enhancement of the imaginary part of the colour-suppressed tree amplitude α_2 .

In our error estimate in (72) we distinguished between uncertainties which originate from the variation of the hard and the hard-collinear scale (scale), from the variation of the input parameters in Table 2 (param) and from the BBNS model which we used to estimate the size of power-corrections (power). By now we expect the power corrections to be the main limiting factor for an accurate determination of the amplitudes. However, although the inclusion of NNLO corrections has reduced the dependence on the renormalization scales, it still remains sizeable (in particular for μ_h). For our final error estimate in the third line of each amplitude, we added all uncertainties in quadrature.

Finally we remark that our numerical values for the NNLO spectator terms are much smaller than the ones quoted in [2]. This is partly related to the fact that we use different hadronic input parameters, in particular a much larger value for λ_B . In addition to this, the authors of [2] essentially evaluate the hard functions H_i^{II} at the hard-collinear scale in order to partly implement the (unknown) NLL resummation of parametrically large logarithms. The NLL approximation is indeed required for the real part of the amplitudes, but as long as we concentrate on the imaginary part it is consistent to work in the LL approximation as discussed in Section 6.1. As the spectator term is the main source for the uncertainties from the hadronic input parameters, we also obtain smaller error bars than [2].

7 Conclusion

We computed the imaginary part of the 2-loop vertex corrections to the topological tree amplitudes in charmless hadronic B decays. Together with the 1-loop spectator scattering contributions considered in [2, 3, 4, 5, 6], the imaginary part of the tree amplitudes is now completely determined at NNLO in QCD Factorization.

Among the technical issues we showed that soft and collinear infrared divergences cancel in the hard-scattering kernels and that the resulting convolutions are finite, which demonstrates factorization at the 2-loop order. In our numerical analysis we found that the NNLO corrections are significant, in particular they enhance the strong phase of the colour-suppressed tree amplitude α_2 . Further improvements of the calculation still require a better understanding of power corrections to the factorization formula.

Our calculation represents an important step towards a NNLO prediction of direct CP asymmetries in QCD Factorization. As the topological penguin amplitudes, which also affect the direct CP asymmetries, have not yet been computed completely at NNLO (the contribution from spectator scattering can be found in [4]), we refrained from discussing them already in this work. Moreover, the strategy outlined in this work may also be applied for the calculation of the real part of the topological tree amplitudes, which is, however, technically more involved [7, 30].

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