

Recent finite-volume developments in QED_L

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Overview

- Motivation: Precision tests of the Standard Model
- Isospin-breaking needed \implies Simulate Lattice QCD+QED
- Several ways to have QED in finite volume: QED_L
- My goal today:
 - ① What is QED_L ?
 - ② What about finite-size effects in the simulations?
- Reaching the infinite-volume limit:
 - ① Analytical correction for finite-size effects: Loop calculations
 - ② Simulations at different volumes: Fits

Motivation

- Top row unitarity of CKM matrix: Study $\frac{|V_{us}|}{|V_{ud}|}$
- Leptonic decays: $P^- \rightarrow \ell^- \nu_\ell [\gamma]$ for $P = \pi, K$

$$\Gamma(P^- \rightarrow \ell^- \nu_\ell [\gamma]) = \Gamma^{\text{tree}} [1 + \delta R_P]$$
$$\Gamma^{\text{tree}} = \frac{G_F^2}{8\pi} |V_{ij}|^2 f_P^2 m_P m_\ell^2 \left(1 - \frac{m_\ell^2}{m_P^2}\right)^2$$

- δR_P : $\alpha \neq 0$ and $m_u \neq m_d$
- Ratios of decays: $K_{\ell 2}/\pi_{\ell 2} \rightarrow$ combine experiment and theory

$$\frac{|V_{us}|^2}{|V_{ud}|^2} = \frac{\Gamma(K^- \rightarrow \ell^- \nu_\ell [\gamma])}{\Gamma(\pi^- \rightarrow \ell^- \nu_\ell [\gamma])} \frac{m_{K^-}^3}{m_{\pi^-}^3} \frac{\left(m_{\pi^-}^2 - m_{\mu^-}^2\right)^2}{\left(m_{K^-}^2 - m_{\mu^-}^2\right)^2} \frac{(f_\pi/f_K)^2}{1 + \delta R_K - \delta R_\pi}$$

- Obtain theory part from lattice: Focus on $\delta R_{K\pi} = \delta R_K - \delta R_\pi$

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Our calculation

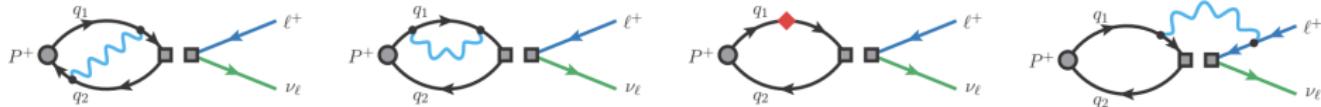
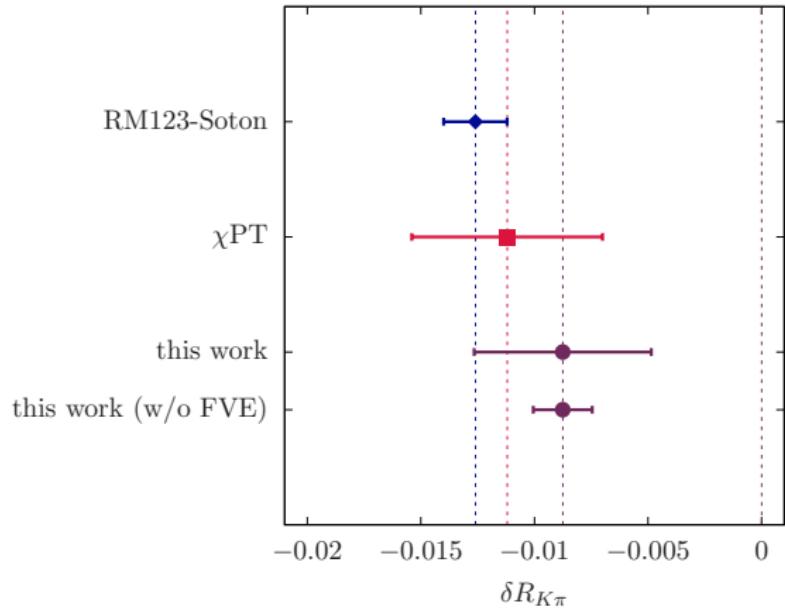


Figure from M. Di Carlo, Lattice 2022

	RBC/UKQCD, 2023
<i>Masses</i>	Phys. point simulation
<i>Fermion action</i>	Domain Wall
<i>Continuum limit</i>	Single lattice spacing
<i>QED prescription</i>	QED_L
<i>Sea-quark effects</i>	Electro-quenched
<i>Infinite-volume limit</i>	Single volume

Single volume: $L/a = 48$, correct $\delta R_{K\pi}$ analytically

The final result



Our work
[RBC/UKQCD 23]:
 $\delta R_{K\pi} = -0.0086(39)$

total	(39)
total (w/o FVE)	(13)
statistical	(3)
FVE	(37)
fit	(11)
QED quenching	(5)
discretisation	(5)

$$\chi^{\text{PT}} : \delta R_{K\pi} = -0.0112(21)$$

$$\text{RM123/Soton} : \delta R_{K\pi} = -0.0126(14)$$

NB: New theoretical approach beyond QED_L suggested [Feng et al., 2023]

QED in a finite volume

- Gauss' law: Difficult to define charged states in finite volume with periodic boundary conditions
(photon zero-momentum modes and absence of mass gap)
- Several prescriptions

- ① QED_C : Charge-conjugated boundary conditions

[Kronfeld, Wiese 1991–1993; RC* 2019]

- ② QED_M : Photon mass m_γ

[Endres, Shindler, Tiburzi, Walker-Loud 2016; Bussone, Della Morte, Janowski 2018]

- ③ QED_∞ : Do the QED part in infinite volume

[Feng, Jin 2018]

- ④ QED_L : Exclude photon zero-mode on each time-slice

[Hayakawa, Uno 2008]

$$\text{QED}_L : \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \Pi} \rightarrow \sum'_{\mathbf{k}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k} \neq 0}$$

- Each has **advantages/drawbacks** : QED_L simple but non-local

Finite-size effects

- Massless photon + no zero-mode (QED_L and QED_C)

$V = \mathbb{R} \times L^3: \implies$ Finite-size effects (FSEs) in observable $\mathcal{O}(L)$:

$$\Delta\mathcal{O}(L) = \mathcal{O}(L) - \mathcal{O}_{\text{IV}} = \kappa_0 + \kappa_{\log} \log m_P L + \kappa_1 \frac{1}{m_P L} + \kappa_2 \frac{1}{(m_P L)^2} + \dots$$

- Scaling in L is observable-dependent:
e.g. self-energy $\kappa_0 = \kappa_{\log} = 0$
- Coefficients depend on physical particle properties: masses, charges, structure (form-factors):
Point-like + structure-dependent
- NB: Coefficients are prescription-dependent!

[Davoudi, Savage 2014; BMW 2015; RM-123/Soton 2017; Davoudi, Harrison, Jüttner, Portelli, Savage 2019; Bijnens, Harrison, H-T, Janowski, Jüttner, Portelli 2019; Di Carlo, Hansen, H-T, Portelli 2021]

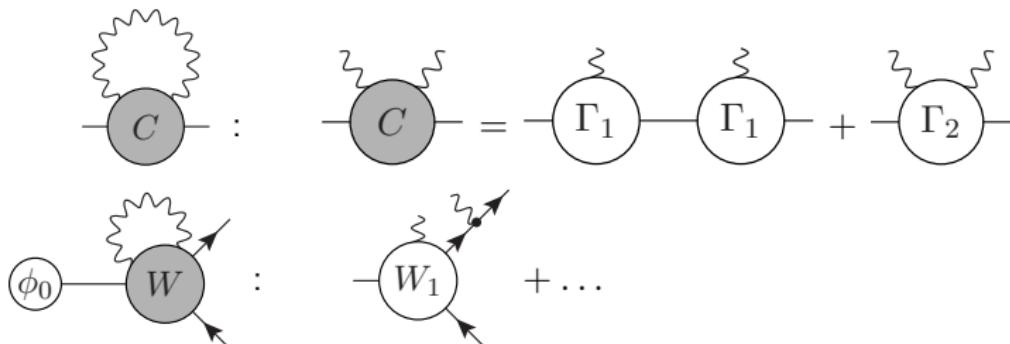
- QED_M and QED_∞ : no power-law effects

Finite-size effects

- Consider IR-safe quantity \mathcal{O} at order α
- Let $k = (k_0, \mathbf{k})$ be the photon momentum
- Finite-size effects in $\mathcal{O}(L)$ given by:

$$\Delta\mathcal{O}(L) = \mathcal{O}(L) - \mathcal{O}_{\text{IV}} = \left(\frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \Pi} - \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \right) \int \frac{dk_0}{2\pi} \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(k_0, \mathbf{k})}{k^2 [(p - k)^2 + m^2]}$$

- The function $f_{\mathcal{O}}(k_0, \mathbf{k})$ has no poles: Depends on observable and is **structure-dependent**
- **Examples:** Self-energy or leptonic decays



Finite-size effects

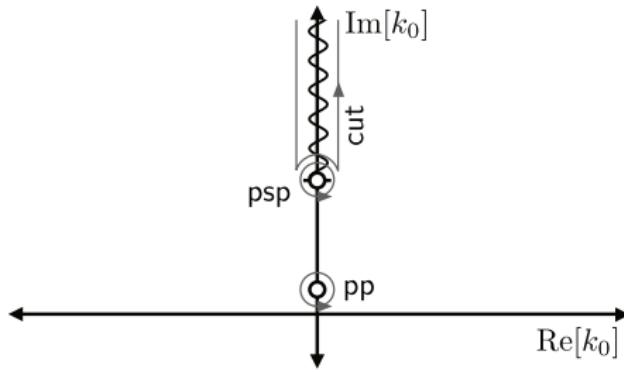
- Let us first consider the k_0 integral

$$g_{\mathcal{O}}(\mathbf{k}) = \int \frac{dk_0}{2\pi} \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(k_0, \mathbf{k})}{k^2 [(p - k)^2 + m^2]}$$

- 2 poles and residual analytical structure (cut)

$$g_{\mathcal{O}}(\mathbf{k}) = \int_{\text{poles}} \frac{dk_0}{2\pi} \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(k_0, \mathbf{k})}{k^2 [(p - k)^2 + m^2]} + \int_{\text{rest}} \frac{dk_0}{2\pi} \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(k_0, \mathbf{k})}{k^2 [(p - k)^2 + m^2]}$$

Example: Self-energy



Finite-size effects

- Once we have determined $g_{\mathcal{O}}(\mathbf{k}) = g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k}) + g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{rest}}(\mathbf{k})$ we have

$$\Delta \mathcal{O}(L) = \left(\frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \Pi} - \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \right) [g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k}) + g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{rest}}(\mathbf{k})]$$

- Soft photons:** Expand in small $|\mathbf{k}| = \frac{2\pi |\mathbf{n}|}{L} \implies$ expansion in L

$$\Delta \mathcal{O}(L) = \kappa_0 + \kappa_{\log} \log m_P L + \kappa_1 \frac{1}{m_P L} + \kappa_2 \frac{1}{(m_P L)^2} + \kappa_3 \frac{1}{(m_P L)^3} \dots$$

- $g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{rest}}(\mathbf{k})$ only contributes in non-local theory: QED_L at order $1/L^3$
- Leptonic decays problem: $g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{rest}}(\mathbf{k})$ unknown

General expansion of $g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k})$

$$g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k}) = \int_{\text{poles}} \frac{dk_0}{2\pi} \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(k_0, \mathbf{k})}{k^2 [(p - k)^2 + m^2]}$$

- **p on-shell:** $p = (i\omega(\mathbf{p}), \mathbf{p})$, $\omega(\mathbf{p}) = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2}$

- **Velocity** $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{p}/\omega(\mathbf{p})$

- **Then:** $f_{\mathcal{O}}(k_0, \mathbf{k}) = f_{\mathcal{O}}(k_0, |\mathbf{k}|, \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})$

- Two poles in the integrand (upper plane)

$$k_0 = i|\mathbf{k}|, \quad k_0 = p_0 + i\omega(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k})$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k}) &= i \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(i|\mathbf{k}|, |\mathbf{k}|, \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})}{2|\mathbf{k}| [(i\omega(\mathbf{p}) - i|\mathbf{k}|)^2 + \omega(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k})^2]} \\ &\quad + i \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(i\omega(\mathbf{p}) + i\omega(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k}), |\mathbf{k}|, \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})}{2\omega(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k}) [(i\omega(\mathbf{p}) + i\omega(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k}))^2 + |\mathbf{k}|^2]} \end{aligned}$$

General expansion of $g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k})$

- Let us expand the denominators for $\mathbf{k} = 2\pi\mathbf{n}/L$:

$$\frac{i}{L^3} \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(i|\mathbf{k}|, |\mathbf{k}|, \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})}{2|\mathbf{k}| [(i\omega(\mathbf{p}) - i|\mathbf{k}|)^2 + \omega(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k})^2]} = \frac{1}{L} \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}\left(i\frac{2\pi|\mathbf{n}|}{L}, \frac{2\pi|\mathbf{n}|}{L}, \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}\right)}{16\pi^2|\mathbf{n}|^2 (1 - \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}})\omega(\mathbf{p})}$$

- Physical singularities: $1/|\mathbf{n}|$ (soft) and $1/(1 - \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}})$ (collinear)
- NB: Need to expand numerators too: Possible cancellations!
- Finite-size effects given by

$$\Delta_{\text{poles}} \mathcal{O} = \left(\sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \Pi_{\mathbf{n}}} - \int d^3\mathbf{n} \right) \frac{1}{L^3} g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}\left(\frac{2\pi\mathbf{n}}{L}\right)$$

- Define **prescription-dependent** coefficients

$$c_j(\mathbf{v}) = \left(\sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \Pi_{\mathbf{n}}} - \int d^3\mathbf{n} \right) \frac{1}{|\mathbf{n}|^j (1 - \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}})}$$

- QED_L: $\Pi_{\mathbf{n}} = \mathbb{Z}^3 \setminus \{\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{0}\}$

Finite-size effects of $g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k})$

$$\Delta_{\text{poles}} \mathcal{O} = \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(0, 0, 0) c_2(\mathbf{v})}{16\pi^2 L \omega(\mathbf{p})}$$

$$+ \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0,0,1)}(0, 0, 0) \omega(\mathbf{p}) (c_1(\mathbf{v}) - c_1) + \left(f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0,1,0)}(0, 0, 0) + i f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(1,0,0)}(0, 0, 0) \right) c_1(\mathbf{v})}{8\pi L^2 \omega(\mathbf{p})}$$

$$\frac{1}{8L^3} \left\{ \frac{c_0(\mathbf{v})}{\omega(\mathbf{p})} \left[f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0,0,2)}(0, 0, 0) \omega(\mathbf{p})^2 + 2 \left(f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0,1,1)}(0, 0, 0) + i f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(1,0,1)}(0, 0, 0) \right) \omega(\mathbf{p}) \right. \right.$$

$$+ f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0,2,0)}(0, 0, 0) + 2 i f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(1,1,0)}(0, 0, 0) - f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(2,0,0)}(0, 0, 0) \Big] \\ - c_0 \left[f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0,0,2)}(0, 0, 0) \omega(\mathbf{p}) + 2 f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0,1,1)}(0, 0, 0) + 2 i f_{\mathcal{O}}^{(1,0,1)}(0, 0, 0) - \frac{f_{\mathcal{O}}(2i\omega(\mathbf{p}), 0, 0)}{\omega(\mathbf{p})^3} \right]$$

- QED_L: $\mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{v}|(1, 1, 1)/\sqrt{3}$: (non-locality/collinear sing.)

$$c_0(|\mathbf{v}| = 0.27) = 1.03, \quad c_0 = -1,$$

$$c_1(|\mathbf{v}| = 0.27) = 2.91, \quad c_1 = 2.84,$$

$$c_0(|\mathbf{v}| = 0.91) = 2.12, \quad c_j(|\mathbf{v}| \rightarrow 1) = \pm\infty$$

Finite-size effects of $\mathcal{O}(L)$

- The above approach extendable to any number of propagators/order
- In general we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\mathcal{O}(L) &= \left(\frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{k} \in \Pi} - \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \right) [g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k}) + g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{rest}}(\mathbf{k})] \\ &= \Delta_{\text{poles}}\mathcal{O} + \Delta_{\text{rest}}\mathcal{O}\end{aligned}$$

- If we know $g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{poles}}(\mathbf{k})$ we get $\Delta_{\text{poles}}\mathcal{O}$
- **Caveat** when we do not know $g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{rest}}(\mathbf{k})$
- $g_{\mathcal{O}}^{\text{rest}}(\mathbf{k})$ depends on skeleton expansion

Skeleton expansion

- Need to define kernels: Compton scattering amplitude

[Di Carlo, Hansen, H.-T., Portelli 2022]

$$C_{\mu\nu}(p, k, q) = \text{---} \circlearrowleft \text{---}$$

$$\lim_{p^2 \rightarrow -m_{P,0}^2} C_{\mu\nu}(p, k, -k) = e^2 \int d^4x e^{-ik \cdot x} \langle P, \mathbf{p} | T \{ J_\mu(x) J_\nu(0) \} | P, \mathbf{p} \rangle$$

- Method: Decompose into irreducible vertex functions $\Gamma_1 = \Gamma_\mu$, $\Gamma_2 = \Gamma_{\mu\nu}$

$$\text{---} \circlearrowleft \text{---} = \text{---} \circlearrowleft \text{---} \Gamma_1 \text{---} \circlearrowleft \text{---} \Gamma_1 \text{---} + \text{---} \circlearrowleft \text{---} \Gamma_2 \text{---}$$

- Amplitude $C_{\mu\nu}(p, k, q)$ satisfies Ward identities:

- Γ_μ and $\Gamma_{\mu\nu}$ must satisfy them as well, but arbitrary separation!
- Non-physical (off-shell) and physical (structure-dependent) terms

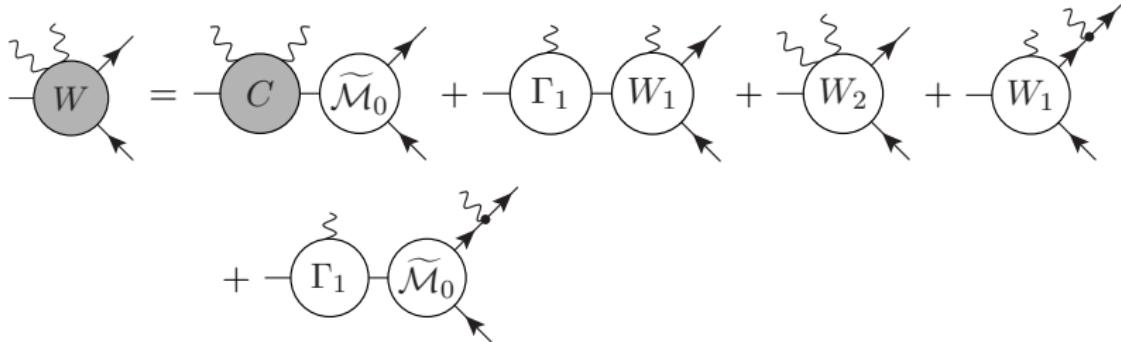
Self-energy in the moving frame

- We can choose the moving frame with $\mathbf{p} \neq \mathbf{0}$: New result

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta m_P^2(L) = & e^2 m_P^2 \left\{ \frac{1}{\gamma(|\mathbf{v}|)} \frac{c_2(\mathbf{v})}{4\pi^2 m_P L} + \frac{c_1}{2\pi(m_P L)^2} \right. \\ & + \frac{c_0}{(m_P L)^3} \left[\frac{(\gamma(|\mathbf{v}|)^2 - 1) \left(1 - \frac{2\langle r_P^2 \rangle m_P^2 \gamma(|\mathbf{v}|)^2}{3}\right)^2}{2\gamma(|\mathbf{v}|)^3} - \frac{2\langle r_P^2 \rangle m_P^2}{3} \gamma(|\mathbf{v}|) \right] \\ & \left. + \frac{\tilde{\mathcal{C}}}{(m_P L)^3} + \mathcal{O}\left[\frac{1}{(m_P L)^4}, e^{-m_P L}\right] \right\}\end{aligned}$$

- Lorentz contraction factor: $\gamma(|\mathbf{v}|) = (1 - |\mathbf{v}|^2)^{-1/2}$
- Point-like approximation agrees with [Davoudi, Harrison, Jüttner, Portelli, Savage 2019]
- Branch-cut: Specific to QED_L (not in QED_C) [Lucini, Patella, Ramos, Tantalo 2016]
- Only the velocity-dependent coefficient $c_2(\mathbf{v})$ appears

Leptonic decays $P \rightarrow \ell\nu$



- Finite-size effects of virtual decay rate $\Gamma(P \rightarrow \ell\nu)$: $Y^{(n)}(L)$
- W_1 : $A(k^2, (p+k)^2)$, $V(k^2, (p+k)^2)$, $H_{1,2}(k^2, (p+k)^2)$: appear in $P^- \rightarrow \ell^- \nu_\ell \gamma^{(*)}$
- W_2 : Three additional form factors $C_{1,2,3}(k^2, (p+k)^2)$ from $P^- \rightarrow \ell^- \nu_\ell \gamma^{(*)} \gamma^{(*)}$
- **Skeleton expansion:** $W_{1,2}$ depend on off-shellness that **has to cancel**
- Does not occur due to $g_O^{\text{rest}}(\mathbf{k}) \implies$ On-shell representation

Leptonic decays: Finite-size effects

$$\begin{aligned}
Y^{(3)}(L) = & \frac{3}{4} + 4 \log \left(\frac{m_\ell}{m_W} \right) + \frac{c_3 - 2 c_3(v_\ell)}{2\pi} - 2 A_1(v_\ell) + 2 \log \left(\frac{m_W L}{4\pi} \right) \\
& - 2 A_1(v_\ell) \left[\log \left(\frac{m_P L}{4\pi} \right) + \log \left(\frac{m_\ell L}{4\pi} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{m_P L} \left[\frac{(1+r_\ell^2)^2 c_2 - 4 r_\ell^2 c_2(v_\ell)}{1-r_\ell^4} \right] \\
& + \frac{1}{(m_P L)^2} \left[- \frac{F_A^P}{f_P} \frac{4\pi m_P [(1+r_\ell^2)^2 c_1 - 4 r_\ell^2 c_1(v_\ell)]}{1-r_\ell^4} + \frac{8\pi [(1+r_\ell^2) c_1 - 2 c_1(v_\ell)]}{(1-r_\ell^4)} \right] \\
& + \frac{4\pi^2}{3 f_P (1-r_\ell^2) (1+r_\ell^2)^3 (m_P L)^3} \left\{ 24 m_P (1+r_\ell^2)^2 c_0(v_\ell) [F_V^P - F_A^P + 2m_P^2 r_\ell^2 A^{(0,1)}(0, -m_P^2)] \right. \\
c_0 \left[& f_P (-1+r_\ell^2) (\langle r_P^2 \rangle m_P^2 (1+r_\ell^2)^3 - 24 (2+r_\ell^2)) \right. \\
& + 6 m_P (1+r_\ell^2) [F_A^P (1+r_\ell^2)^3 + 4 A(-m_P^2 (1+r_\ell^2)^2, -m_P^2 r_\ell^4) r_\ell^2 (-2+r_\ell^2 + r_\ell^4)] \\
& - 2 (1+r_\ell^2) ((1+r_\ell^2) F_V^P - m_P (-1+r_\ell^4) H_1(0, -m_P^2)) \\
& - 2 m_P (-2+r_\ell^2 + r_\ell^4) H_1(-m_P^2 (1+r_\ell^2)^2, -m_P^2 r_\ell^4) \\
& \left. - m_P^3 (-1+r_\ell^4) H_2(0, -m_P^2) + m_P^2 (1+r_\ell^2)^2 A^{(0,1)}(0, -m_P^2) \right)] \left. \right\} + \frac{c_\ell}{(m_P L)^3}
\end{aligned}$$

Leptonic decays: Finite-size effects

- Structure-dependent finite-size effects through order $1/L^2$ + point-like $1/L^3$ in [Di Carlo, Hansen, H.-T., Portelli 2022]
- New: Structure-dependent $1/L^3$ part:
 $F_A^P, F_V^P, A(-m_P^2(1+r_\ell^2)^2, -m_P^2 r_\ell^4), A^{(0,1)}(0, -m_P^2), H_{1,2}(0, -m_P^2), H_1(-m_P^2(1+r_\ell^2)^2, -m_P^2 r_\ell^4)$
- Obtainable from chiral perturbation theory [Bijnens, Ecker, Gasser 1992], lattice [RM-123/Soton 2020/2022, RBC/UKQCD 2023], experiment [...]
- The branch-cut \mathcal{C}_ℓ still unknown so no prediction
- Important: Collinear divergence contributes with $c_0(\mathbf{v}_\ell)$ at order $1/L^3$
- New finding but expected since collinear singularities physical

Conclusions

- Finite-size effects at order $1/L^3$ difficult in QED_L: Branch-cut
- Branch-cut depends on the effective representation of vertices
- New: $1/L^3$ excluding branch-cut
Self-energy in moving frame and leptonic decays
- Collinear divergences $c_j(\mathbf{v})$: Appear from underlying physics
- Life would be simpler without the $1/L^3$: On-going work in Edinburgh
(Lattice 23)

Back-up slides

Decomposing vertex functions

- Step 2: Form-factor decomposition (**structure-dependence!**)

$$\Gamma_\mu(p, k) = (2p + k)_\mu \textcolor{red}{F}(k^2, (p+k)^2, p^2) + k_\mu \textcolor{red}{G}(k^2, (p+k)^2, p^2)$$

- Contains both on-shell and off-shell dependence

$$F^{(1,0,0)}(0, -m_P^2, -m_P^2) \equiv F'(0) = -\langle r_P^2 \rangle / 6$$

- $F^{(0,0,n)}(0, -m_P^2, -m_P^2)$: **Unphysical derivative!** → Must always cancel in the end!
- How must they cancel, and what about $\textcolor{red}{G}(k^2, (p+k)^2, p^2)$?

Decomposing vertex functions

- Step 3: Use Ward identities, e.g.

$$k_\mu \Gamma^\mu(p, k) = D(p+k)^{-1} - D(p)^{-1}$$

- Define full propagator ($Z(p^2)$): z_n [BMW 2015; RM-123/Soton 2017])

$$D(p) = \frac{Z(p^2)}{p^2 + m_P^2}$$

- Ward identity yields G as a function of F and

$$F(0, p^2, -m_P^2) = F(0, -m_P^2, p^2) = Z(p^2)^{-1}$$

- Example relation: $z_1 = F^{(0,0,1)}(0, -m_P^2, -m_P^2)$
- Unphysical derivative! → Must always cancel in the end!
- Equivalently: We could put all non-physical quantities to zero directly

$$F(k^2, (p+k)^2, p^2) \rightarrow F(k^2) = 1 + k^2 F'(0) + \dots$$

$$Z(p^2) \rightarrow 1$$

- Off-shellness does not cancel at order $1/L^3$ for self-energy or leptonic decays ⇒ $\Delta_{\text{rest}} \mathcal{O}$ depends on definition of vertex functions