

QCD factorization for exclusive hadronic decays

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Cluster of Excellence

Precision Physics, Fundamental Interactions and Structure of Matter



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 \Rightarrow These diagrams **do exist** and are typically important.

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1. The $q\bar{q}$ -current generated from the diagram is of a **more complicated spin structure** than what we know from the decay constant's definition:

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2. The field operators are **not** evaluated **at the same space-time coordinate**:

$$J \sim \bar{q}(x) \dots q(y)$$

Exclusive Radiative Decays of ${\rm W}$ and ${\rm Z}$ Bosons in QCD Factorization

Yuval Grossman, MK, Matthias Neubert

JHEP 1504 (2015) 101, arXiv:1501.06569

Exclusive Radiative Z-Boson Decays to Mesons with Flavor-Singlet Components

Stefan Alte, MK, Matthias Neubert

JHEP 1602 (2016) 162, arXiv:1512.09135

Exclusive Radiative Higgs Decays as Probes of Light-Quark Yukawa Couplings MK. Matthias Neubert

JHEP 1508 (2015) 012, arXiv:1505.03870

Exclusive Weak Radiative Higgs Decays

Stefan Alte, MK, Matthias Neubert

arXiv:160x.soonish









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The scale separation in the case at hand calls for an effective theory description!

The simplest way to imagine the meson in its rest frame:



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Now: Boost to the rest frame of the decaying Z boson:



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In the Z boson's rest frame, the two quarks move collinear with momenta

$$k_i^{\mu} = \frac{m_Z}{2} \left(x_i n^{\mu} + \lambda \, n_{i\perp}^{\mu} \right) \qquad \lambda = \frac{\Lambda_{\rm QCD}}{m_Z}$$

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In an expansion in λ our list of operators starts with two collinear quarks at leading power and contributions with three or more particles are power-suppressed - and in our case completely negligible.

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In fact, an **infinite number of derivatives** can be has to be taken into account. Summing these up leads to:

$$J_q \sim \bar{q}_c \dots q_c + \bar{q}_c \dots (\bar{n} \cdot \partial)q_c + \bar{q}_c \dots (\bar{n} \cdot \partial)^2 q_c + \dots$$
$$= \bar{q}_c(x) \dots q_c(x + t\bar{n})$$

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The result is that the current **operator** can be **non-local along the light-cone** - a typical feature of SCET.

With our effective operator $J_q(t) = \bar{q}_c(t\bar{n})\Gamma[t\bar{n}, 0]q_c(0)$ the amplitude for $X \to M + V$ is then given by:

$$i\mathcal{A} = \int \mathcal{C}(t,\dots) \langle M(k) | J_q(t,\dots) | 0 \rangle dt$$

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The hadronic matrix element defines a function analogous to the decay constants. In fact, these are just the local case (t = 0) above. The generalization to our **bi-local current operator**

$$\langle M(k)| J_q(t,\dots) |0\rangle \sim f_M \int e^{i(t\bar{n})\cdot(xk)} \phi_M^q(x) dx$$

defines the light-cone distribution amplitude (LCDA), which encodes the non-perturbative physics in the exclusive hadronic final state.

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The Wilson coefficients C contain the hard scattering processes that are integrated out at the factorization scale.

Renormalization of the LCDAs

Remember, we are dealing with a huge scale hierarchy: m_Z vs. $\Lambda_{
m QCD}$

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 \Rightarrow Large logarithms $\alpha_s \log(m_Z/\Lambda_{\rm QCD})$ need to be resummed.

Examples of corrections to the LCDAs at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$:



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$$\begin{pmatrix} \phi_q^{\text{ren}} \\ \phi_g^{\text{ren}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \checkmark & \checkmark \\ \checkmark & \checkmark \\ \checkmark & \checkmark \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} \phi_q^{\text{bare}} \\ \phi_g^{\text{bare}} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} \phi_q^{\text{ren}}(x,\mu)\\ \phi_g^{\text{ren}}(x,\mu) \end{pmatrix} = \int_0^1 \left[\mathbf{1} \cdot \delta(x-y) + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi\epsilon} \begin{pmatrix} V_{qq}(x,y) & V_{qg}(x,y)\\ V_{gq}(x,y) & V_{gg}(x,y) \end{pmatrix} \right] \begin{pmatrix} \phi_q^{\text{bare}}(y)\\ \phi_g^{\text{bare}}(y) \end{pmatrix} dy$$

[Brodsky, Lepage (1980), Phys. Rev. D 22, 2157]
 [Terentev (1981), Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 33, 911]
 [Ohrndorf (1981), Nucl. Phys. B 186, 153]
 [Shifman, Vysotsky (1981), Nucl. Phys. B 186, 475]
 [Baier, Grozin (1981), Nucl.Phys. B192 476-488]

The LCDAs are expanded in the eigenfunctions of the evolution Kernels:

$$\phi_M^q(x,\mu) = 6x \,\bar{x} \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^M(\mu) C_n^{(3/2)}(2x-1) \right]$$

$$\phi_M^q(x,\mu) = 30x^2 \bar{x}^2 \left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n^M(\mu) C_{n-1}^{(5/2)}(2x-1) \right]$$

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At one-loop order, the scaling is governed by:

$$\left[\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_n^{qq} & \gamma_n^{qg} \\ \gamma_n^{gq} & \gamma_n^{gg} \end{pmatrix}\right] \begin{pmatrix} a_n^M \\ b_n^M \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2) = 0$$

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At higher orders, moments of order $n \mod n$ mix with moments of order k < n.

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For μ at the EW scale, they are already strongly suppressed:



LCDAs for mesons at different scales, dashed lines: $\phi_M(x, \mu = \mu_0)$, solid lines: $\phi_M(x, \mu = m_Z)$, grey dotted lines: $\phi_M(x, \mu \to \infty)$

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At high scales compared to $\Lambda_{\rm QCD}$ (e.g. $\mu \sim m_Z$) the sensitivity to poorly-known a_n^M , b_n^M is greatly reduced!

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- Solving the RGE and running the LCDA to the hard scattering scale resums the large logarithms $\alpha_s \log m_Z^2 / \Lambda_{\text{OCD}}^2$.

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Thank you for your attention!

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