Fragmentation Production of Bc Mesons and Their Excited States

Xu-Chang Zheng（郑绪昌）

Department of Physics, Chongqing University

In collaboration with Chao-Hsi Chang and Xing-Gang Wu

第九届强子谱和强子结构研讨会@ Henan Normal University, 2026.08.18

Outline

1. Background

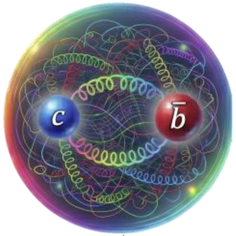
2. Fragmentation functions at NLO

3. Applications

4. Summary

1. Background

➢ Unique Properties of Bc family



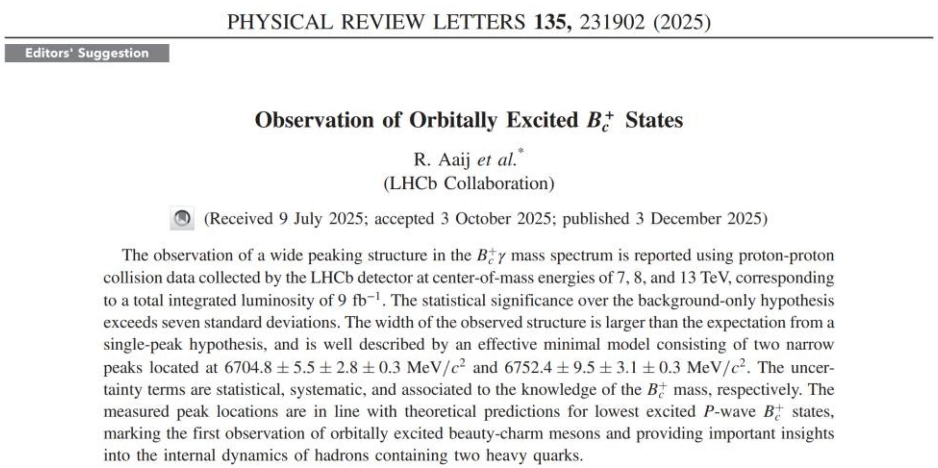
- The only meson system containing two different heavy flavors
- Possesses a rich spectrum of excited states cascading down via radiative or hadronic transitions

➢ Production Dynamics

- Can be systematically described within NRQCD factorization
- Provides a cleaner test for NRQCD, as its production strictly requires the simultaneous creation of two heavy-quark pairs ($c\bar{c}$ and $b\bar{b}$)

- Two structures consistent with orbitally excited Bc states have been observed.

1998: Bc ground state ⟶ **2019: 2S states** ⟶ **2025: orbital excitations**


PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **135,** 231902 (2025)

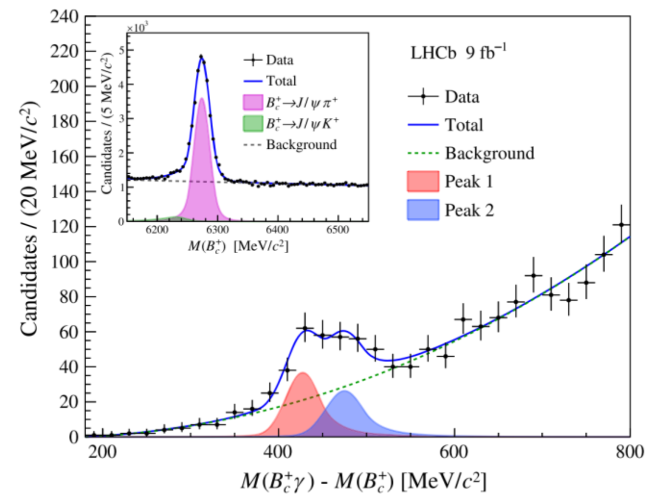
Editors' Suggestion

Observation of Orbitally Excited B_c^+ States

R. Aaij *et al.*[*]
(LHCb Collaboration)

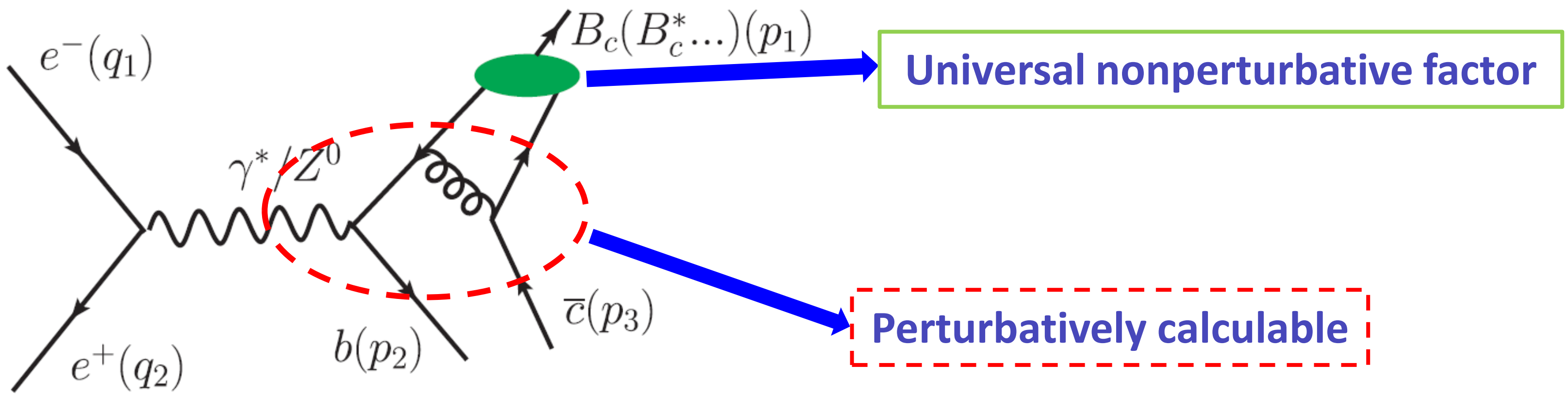
(Received 9 July 2025; accepted 3 October 2025; published 3 December 2025)

The observation of a wide peaking structure in the $B_c^+\gamma$ mass spectrum is reported using proton-proton collision data collected by the LHCb detector at center-of-mass energies of 7, 8, and 13 TeV, corresponding to a total integrated luminosity of 9 fb^{-1}. The statistical significance over the background-only hypothesis exceeds seven standard deviations. The width of the observed structure is larger than the expectation from a single-peak hypothesis, and is well described by an effective minimal model consisting of two narrow peaks located at $6704.8 \pm 5.5 \pm 2.8 \pm 0.3$ MeV$/c^2$ and $6752.4 \pm 9.5 \pm 3.1 \pm 0.3$ MeV$/c^2$. The uncertainty terms are statistical, systematic, and associated to the knowledge of the B_c^+ mass, respectively. The measured peak locations are in line with theoretical predictions for lowest excited P-wave B_c^+ states, marking the first observation of orbitally excited beauty-charm mesons and providing important insights into the internal dynamics of hadrons containing two heavy quarks.



Bc spectroscopy has entered the era of orbital excitations

- NRQCD factorization



$$d\sigma(e^+ + e^- \to Bc + b + \bar{c})$$
$$= \sum_n d\hat{\sigma}(e^+ + e^- \to c\bar{b}[n] + b + \bar{c})\langle O^{Bc}(n)\rangle$$

NRQCD factorization

Short-distance coefficients

Long-distance matrix elements

- NRQCD factorization

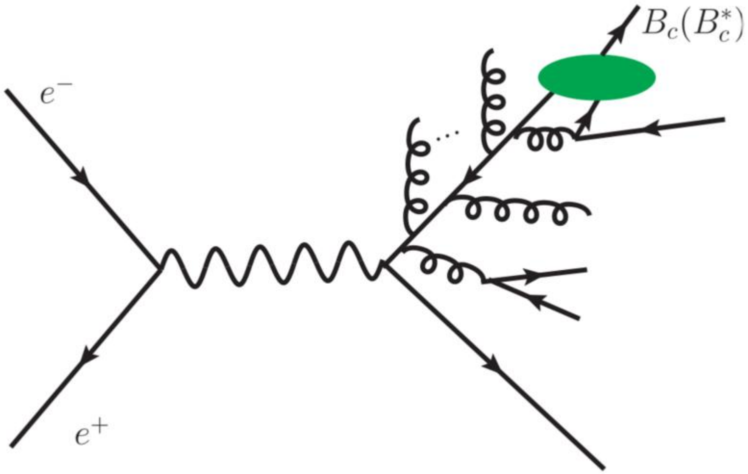
$$d\sigma(e^+ + e^- \to Bc + b + \bar{c})$$
$$= \sum_n d\sigma(e^+ + e^- \to (c\bar{b})[n] + b + \bar{c})\langle O^{Bc}(n)\rangle$$

Energy scales:
$\sqrt{s}, m_Q$

Log-terms appear in short-distance coefficients:

$$\boxed{\alpha_s^m \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha_s^n \ln^n(s/m_Q^2)}$$

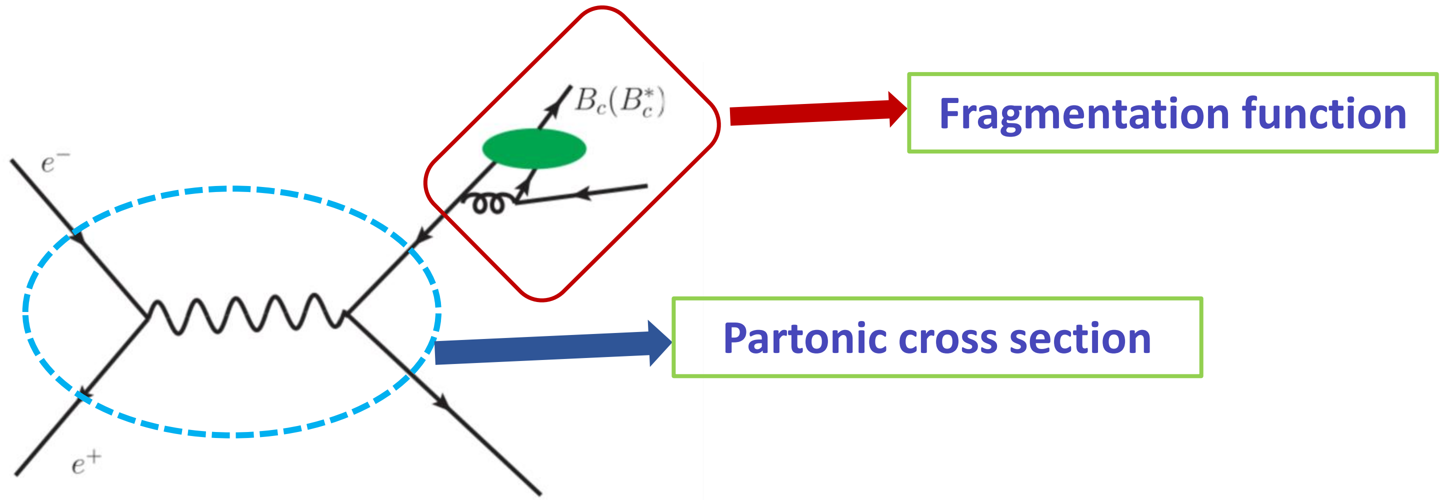
Collinear emission



Spoil or weaken the convergence of the series

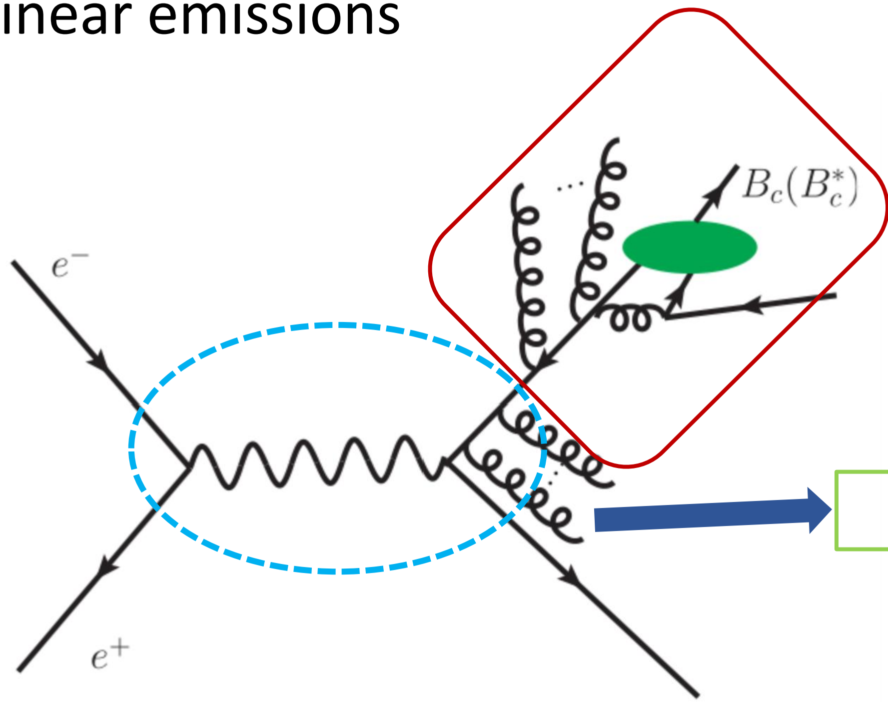
$\ln(p_t^2/m_Q^2)$ appearing in the production at a hadron collider

- Fragmentation-function approach



$$d\sigma(e^+ + e^- \to Bc(p) + b + \bar{c})$$
$$= \sum_i d\hat{\sigma}(e^+ + e^- \to i + X)(p/z, \mu_F) \otimes D_{i\to Bc}(z, \mu_F) + \mathrm{O}(m_Q^2 / s)$$

Collinear emissions



Fragmentation function

Partonic cross section

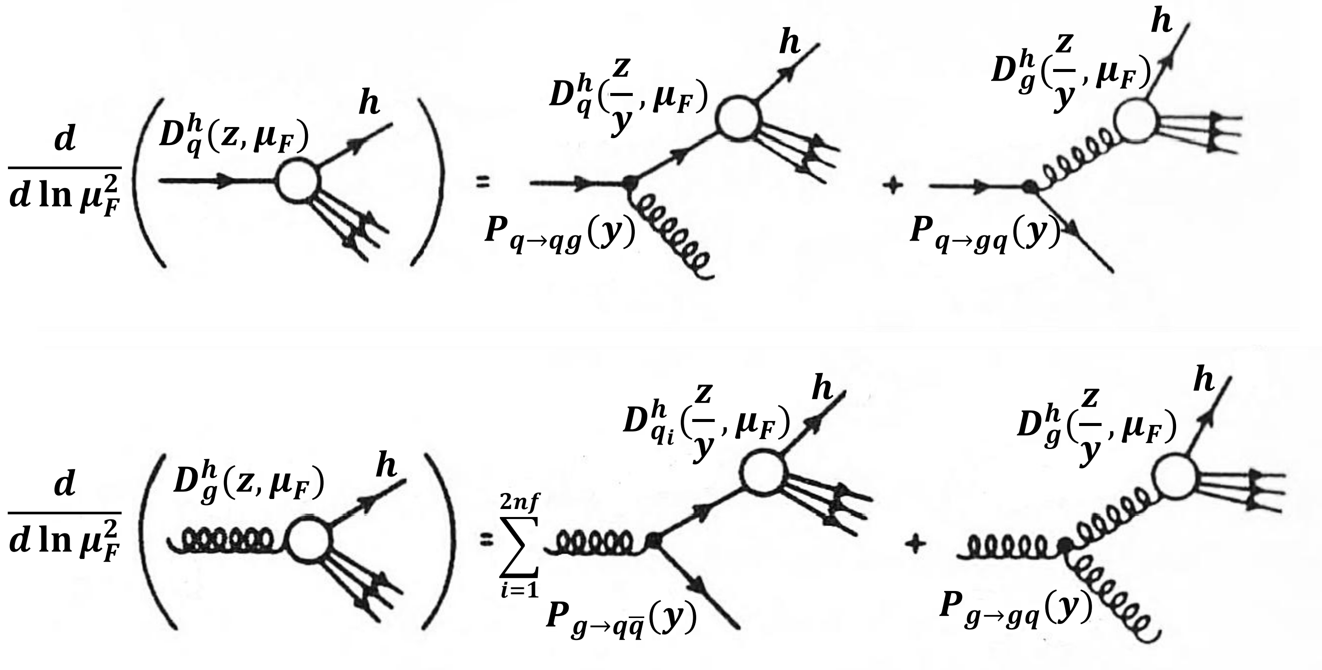
Large Logrithms of s/m_Q^2?

Involving $\ln(s/\mu_F^2)$ $\quad \mu_F = O(\sqrt{s})$

$$d\sigma(e^+ + e^- \to Bc(p) + b + \bar{c})$$
$$= \sum_i \boxed{d\hat{\sigma}(e^+ + e^- \to i + X)(p/z, \mu_F)} \otimes \boxed{D_{i\to Bc}(z, \mu_F)} + O(m_Q^2/s)$$

Involving $\ln(\mu_F^2/m_Q^2)$

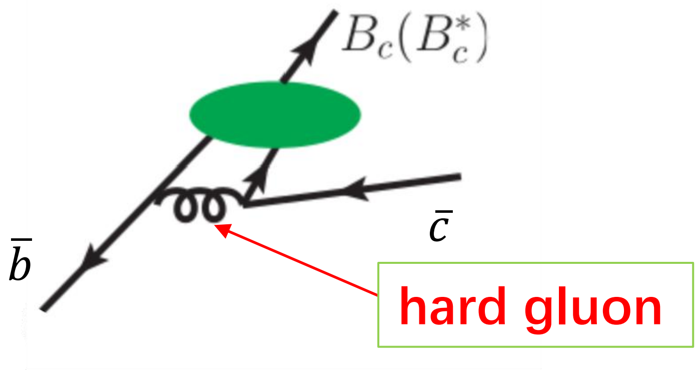
DGLAP evolution



Collinear log-terms can be resummed through the DGLAP evolution.

Boundary condition: $D_i^h(z,\mu_{F0})$ with $\mu_{F0}=O(m_Q)$

NRQCD factorization for FFs:



The fragmentation process contains perturbatively calculable information

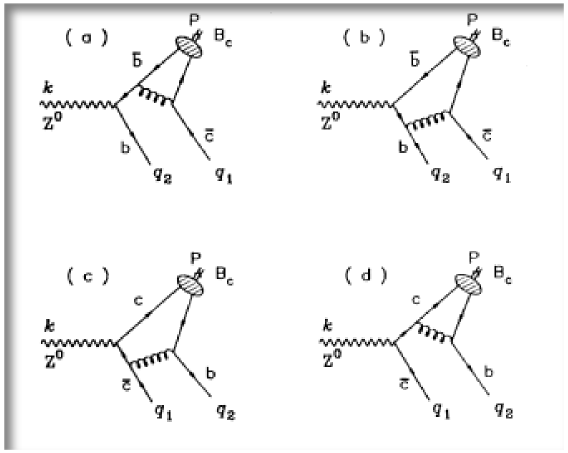
$$D_{i\to Bc}(z,\mu_{F0})=\sum_n d_{i\to c\bar{b}[n]}(z,\mu_{F0})\langle O^{\mathrm{Bc}}(n)\rangle$$

Involving $\ln(\mu_{F0}^2/m_Q^2)$ $\quad\mu_{F0}=O(m_Q)$

The FFs at a higher scale can be obtained by solving the DGLAP equations

➢ LO fragmentation functions for the Bc production

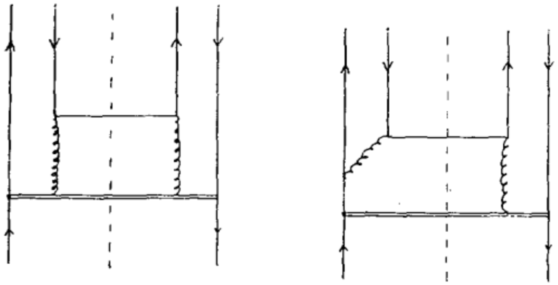
- Extracting from the LO calculation of process $Z^0 \to Bc + b + \bar{c}$



C.-H. Chang, Y.-Q. Chen, PRD 46, 3845, (1992);

E. Braaten et al, PRD 48, R5049, (1993).

- Calculating from the definition:



J.-P. Ma, PLB 332, 398, (1994).

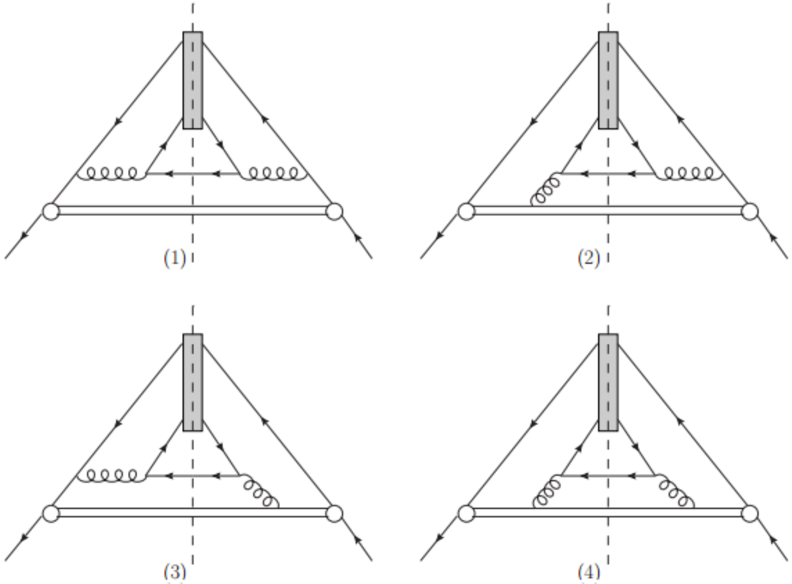
2. FFs at NLO

Based on the definition of FFs by **Collins and Soper.**

Nucl. Phys. B 194, 445, (1982).

Process independent approach

LO cut diagrams:



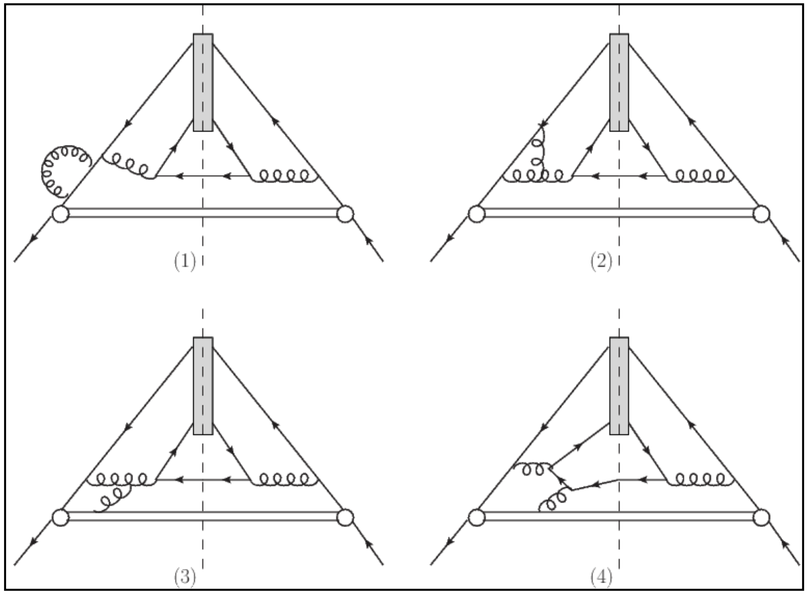
LO fragmentation functions:

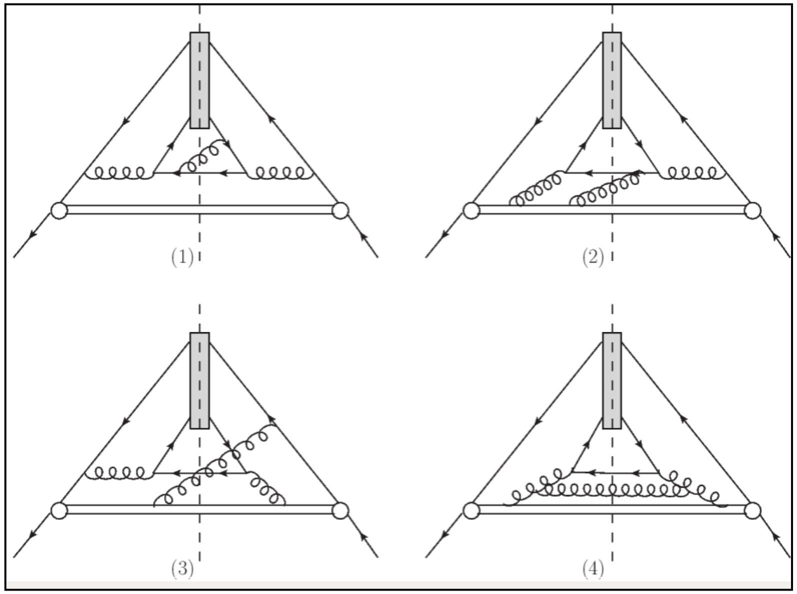
$$D^{\rm LO}_{\bar{b}\to B_c}(z) = \frac{2\alpha_s^2 z(1-z)^2|R_S(0)|^2}{81\pi r_c^2(1-r_b z)^6 M^3}[6-18(1-2r_c)z+(21-74r_c+68r_c^2)z^2 -2r_b(6-19r_c+18r_c^2)z^3+3r_b^2(1-2r_c+2r_c^2)z^4],$$

$$D^{\rm LO}_{\bar{b}\to B_c^*}(z) = \frac{2\alpha_s^2 z(1-z)^2|R_S(0)|^2}{27\pi r_c^2(1-r_b z)^6 M^3}[2-2(3-2r_c)z+3(3-2r_c+4r_c^2)z^2 -2r_b(4-r_c+2r_c^2)z^3+r_b^2(3-2r_c+2r_c^2)z^4].$$

NLO corrections

Sample NLO cut diagrams





54 virtual cut diagrams， 72 real cut diagrams.

- **Virtual corrections**

Loop-integral reduction

Many integrals containing an eikonal line, e.g,

$$\int \frac{d^D l}{[(l-p_1)^2 - m_1^2 + i\varepsilon][(l-p_2)^2 - m_2^2 + i\varepsilon][(l-p_3)^2 - m_3^2 + i\varepsilon](l \cdot n + i\varepsilon)}$$

- **Real corrections**

UV and IR divergences!

$$\mathrm{D}^{real}_{\bar{b}\to Bc}(z) = \int N_{CS} d\phi_{real}(A_{real} - A_S) + \int N_{CS} d\phi_{real} A_S$$

Calculated in 4 dimensions

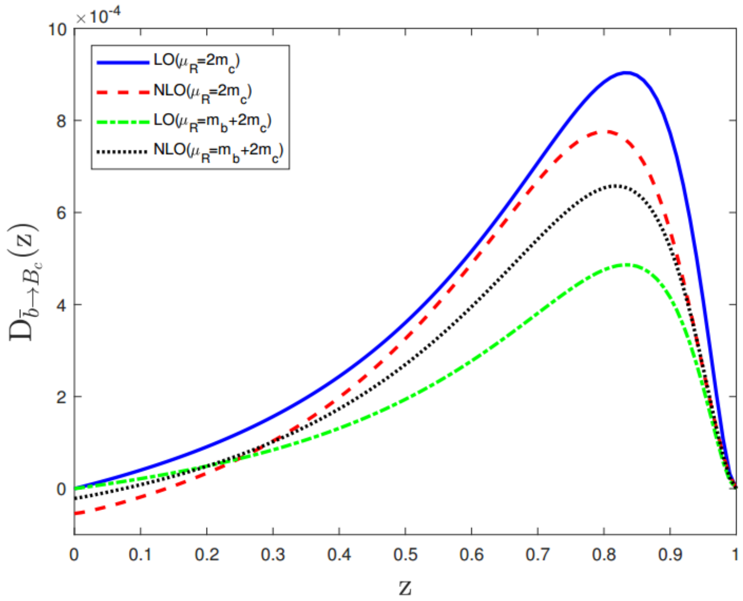
Calculated in d dimensions

Various types of subtraction terms need to be integrated!

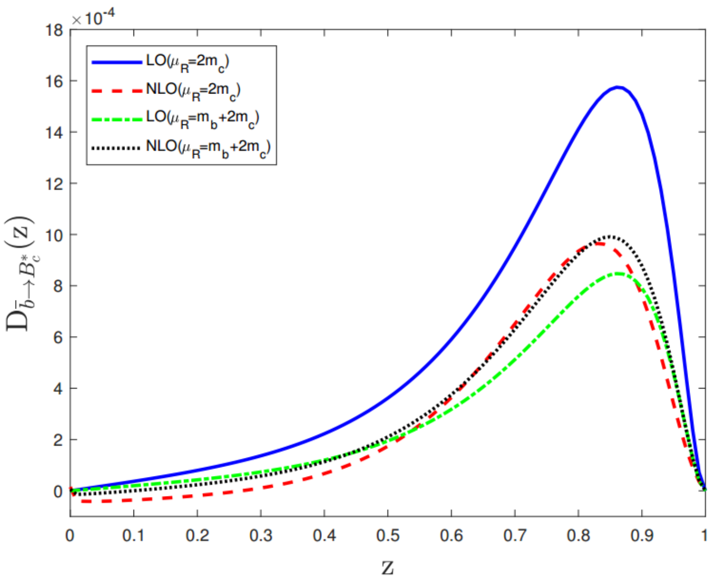
NLO results

PRD 100, 034004, (2019),
X.-C. Zheng, C.-H. Chang, T.-F Feng, X.-G. Wu.

NLO fragmentation functions for $\bar{b} \to B_c$ and $\bar{b} \to B_c^*$

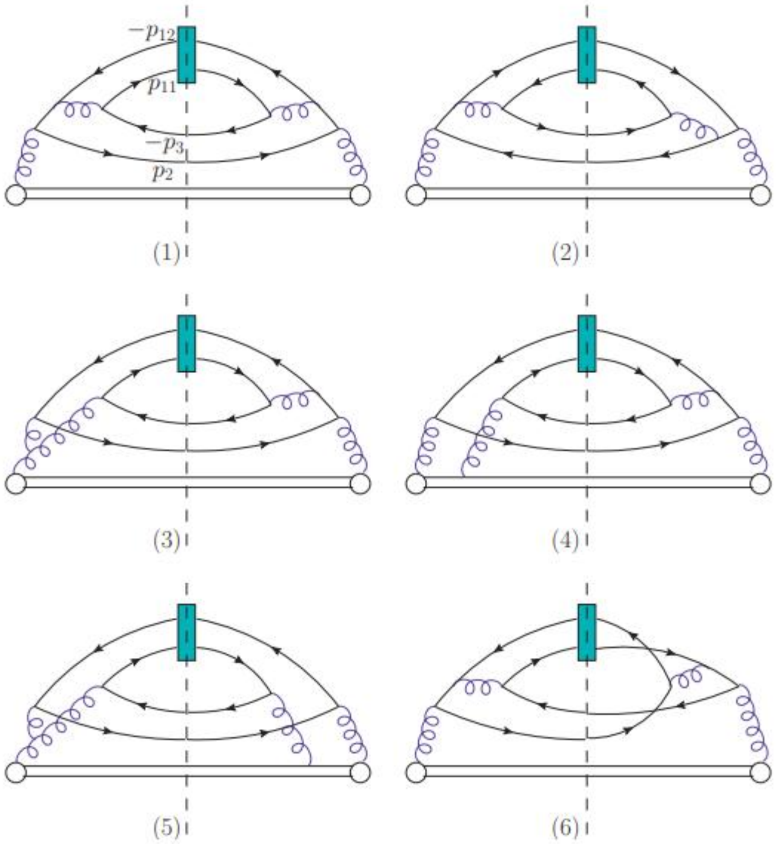


$$D_{\bar{b}\to Bc}(z,\mu_F = m_b + 2m_c)$$



$$D_{\bar{b}\to B_c^*}(z,\mu_F = m_b + 2m_c)$$

g->Bc(Bc*) FFs

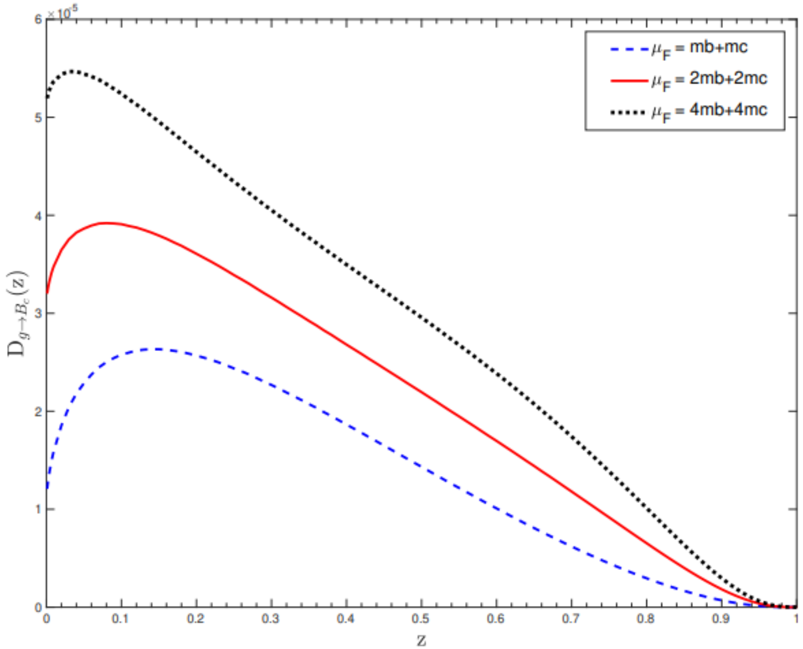


Six of the 49 cut diagrams

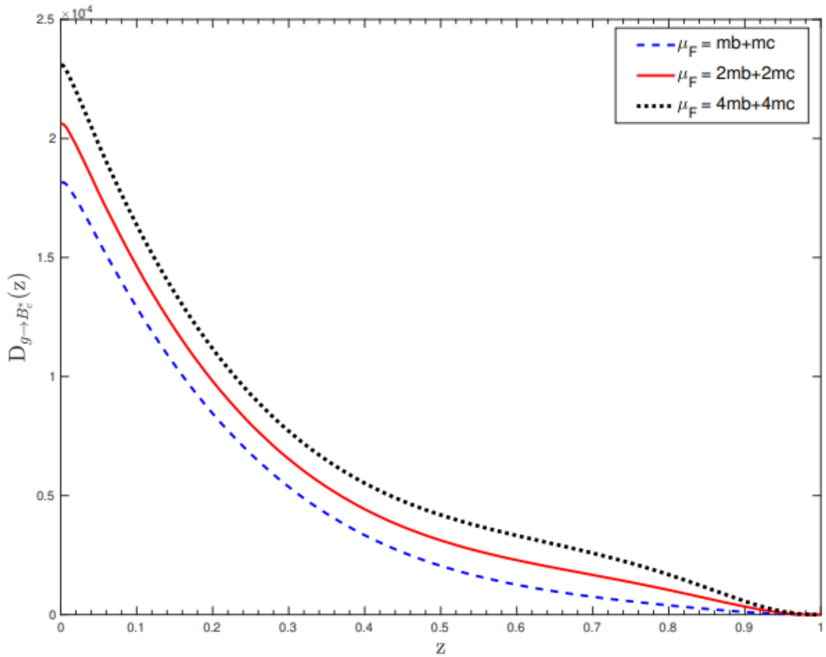
末态有三个粒子，且相空间积分存在紫外发散。

g->Bc(Bc*) FFs

JHEP 05, 036, (2022),
X.-C. Zheng, C.-H. Chang, X.-G. Wu.



g->Bc FFs



g->Bc* FFs

FFs at NLO

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **106**, 054030 (2022)

Gluon fragmentation into $B_c^{(*)}$ in NRQCD factorization

Feng Feng,[1,2,*] Yu Jia,[2,3,†] and Deshan Yang[3,2,‡]
[1]China University of Mining and Technology, Beijing 100083, China
[2]Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China
[3]School of Physical Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

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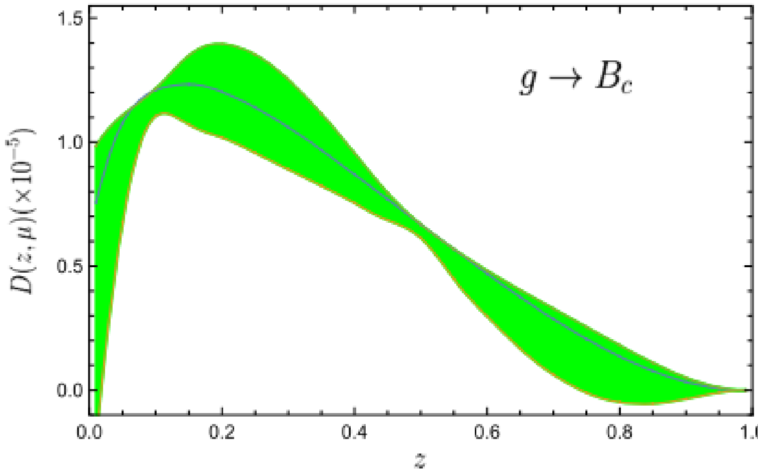
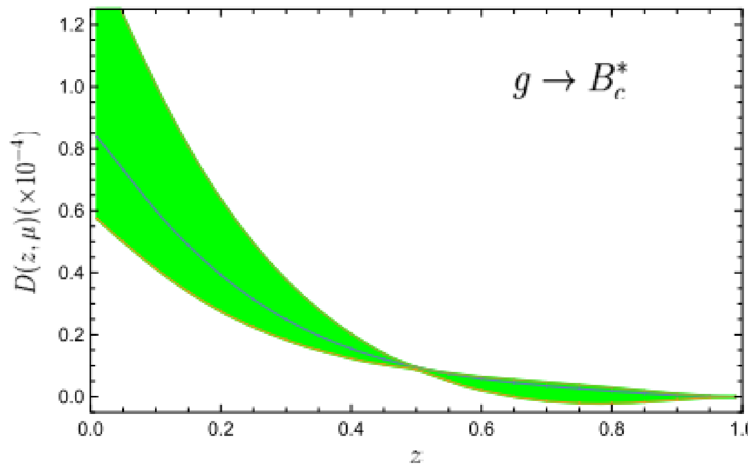
The universal fragmentation functions of gluon into the flavored quarkonia B_c and (polarized) B_c^* are computed within NRQCD factorization framework at the lowest order in velocity expansion and strong coupling constant. It is mandatory to invoke the Dokshitzer-Gribov-Lipatov-Altarelli-Parisi renormalization program to render the NRQCD short-distance coefficients UV finite in a pointwise manner. The calculation is facilitated with the sector decomposition method, with the final results presented with high numerical accuracy. This knowledge is useful to enrich our understanding toward the large-p_T behavior of $B_c^{(*)}$ production at LHC experiment.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.106.054030



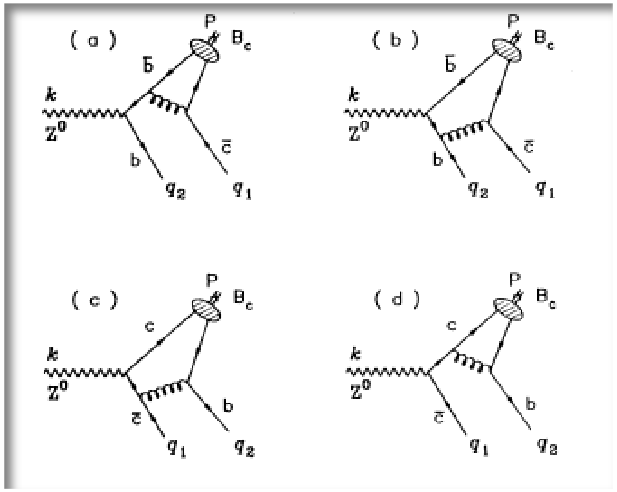
$c_1^{Bc}(z)$	z=0.1	Z=0.2	Z=0.5	Z=0.8	Z=0.9
Zheng et al	0.2323	0.2311	0.1282	0.02612	0.006144
Feng et al	0.2324	0.2311	0.1282	0.02612	0.006143

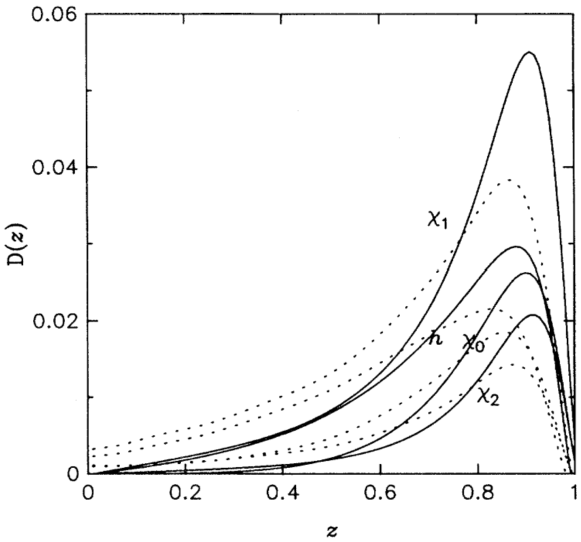


$c_1^{Bc^*}(z)$	z=0.1	Z=0.2	Z=0.5	Z=0.8	Z=0.9
Zheng et al	1.155	0.7554	0.1822	0.03412	0.009589
Feng et al	1.155	0.7550	0.1822	0.03411	0.009586

➢ FFs for a heavy quark into P-wave Bc mesons

- Y.-Q. Chen, PRD 48, 5181, (1993);
- T. C. Yuan, PRD 50, 5664, (1994).



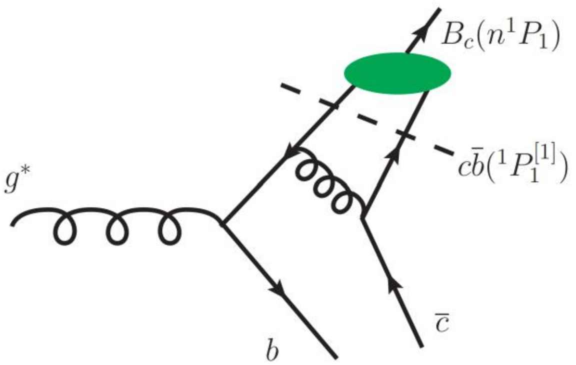


g->Bc(nP) FFs

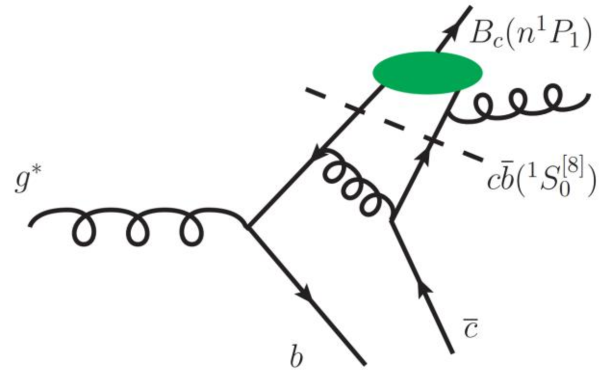
At LO in v, the FFs can be factorized as

$$D_{g\to B_c(n^1P_1)}(z,\mu_F) = d_{g\to(c\bar{b})[^1P_1^{[1]}]}(z,\mu_F)\langle\mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1P_1^{[1]})\rangle + d_{g\to(c\bar{b})[^1S_0^{[8]}]}(z,\mu_F)\langle\mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1S_0^{[8]})\rangle,$$

$$D_{g\to B_c(n^3P_J)}(z,\mu_F) = d_{g\to(c\bar{b})[^3P_J^{[1]}]}(z,\mu_F)\langle\mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^3P_J)}(^3P_J^{[1]})\rangle + d_{g\to(c\bar{b})[^3S_1^{[8]}]}(z,\mu_F)\langle\mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^3P_J)}(^3S_1^{[8]})\rangle,$$



Color-singlet mechanism



Color-octet mechanism

The heavy quark spin symmetry (HQSS) relation:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^3P_J)}(^3P_J^{[1]})\rangle \approx \frac{(2J+1)}{3}\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1P_1^{[1]})\rangle,$$
$$\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^3P_J)}(^3S_1^{[8]})\rangle \approx \frac{(2J+1)}{3}\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1S_0^{[8]})\rangle.$$

The color-singlet LDMEs can be estimated by wave function:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1P_1^{[1]})\rangle \approx \frac{9N_c}{2\pi}|R'_{nP}(0)|^2.$$

The RGE of the color-octet LDMEs:

$$\mu_\Lambda \frac{d}{d\mu_\Lambda}\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1S_0^{[8]})\rangle = \frac{4\alpha_s(\mu_\Lambda)}{27\pi m_{\rm red}^2}\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1P_1^{[1]})\rangle,$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1S_0^{[8]})\rangle_{\mu_\Lambda} = \langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1S_0^{[8]})\rangle_{\mu_{\Lambda 0}} + \frac{8}{27\beta_0 m_{\rm red}^2}\ln\left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu_{\Lambda 0})}{\alpha_s(\mu_\Lambda)}\right)\langle \mathcal{O}^{B_c(n^1P_1)}(^1P_1^{[1]})\rangle,$$

The color-octet LDMEs can be estimated through this equation.

Calculation of SDCs

Applying NRQCD factorization to an on-shell quark pair:

$$D_{g\to(c\bar{b})[n]}(z,\mu_F)=\sum_{n'}d_{g\to(c\bar{b})[n']}(z,\mu_F)\langle\mathcal{O}^{(c\bar{b})[n]}(n')\rangle.$$

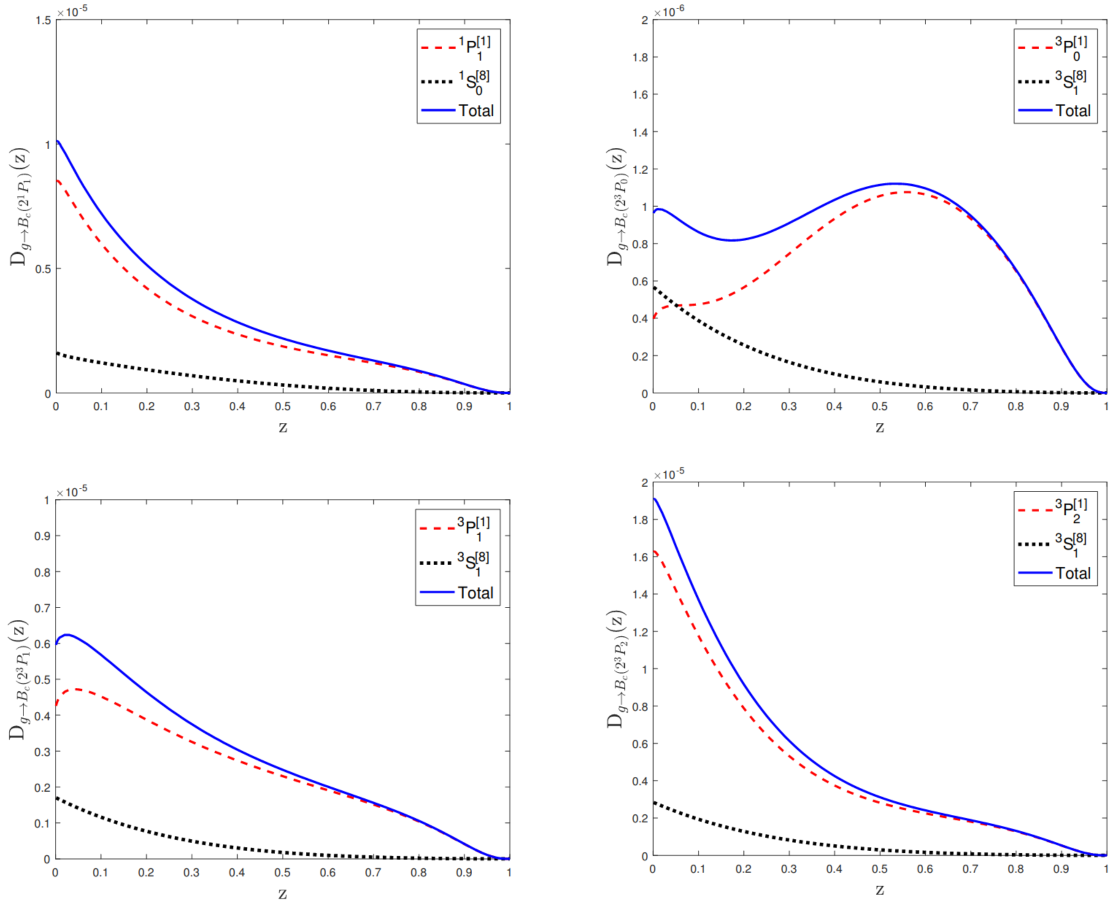
Calculated through Feynman diagrams

Calculated from the operator definition

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle\mathcal{O}^{(c\bar{b})[^1S_0^{[8]}]}(^1S_0^{[8]})\rangle &= N_c^2-1,\\
\langle\mathcal{O}^{(c\bar{b})[^3S_1^{[8]}]}(^3S_1^{[8]})\rangle &= (d-1)(N_c^2-1),\\
\langle\mathcal{O}^{(c\bar{b})[^1P_1^{[1]}]}(^1P_1^{[1]})\rangle &= 2(d-1)N_c\,\boldsymbol{q}^2,\\
\langle\mathcal{O}^{(c\bar{b})[^3P_J^{[1]}]}(^3P_J^{[1]})\rangle &= 2\,(2J+1)N_c\boldsymbol{q}^2,
\end{aligned}$$

The SDCs can be determined through **matching**.

FFs for 2P Bc excited states: **arXiv: 2602.01211, X.-C. Zheng, X.-G. Wu.**



Fitting functions for FFs: **arXiv: 2602.01211, X.-C. Zheng, X.-G. Wu.**

$$d_{g\to(c\bar{b})[^{2S+1}L_J^{[1(8)]}]}(z,\mu_F)=\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\ln\frac{\mu_F^2}{4M^2}\int_z^1\left[\sum_{Q=\bar{b},c}P_{Qg}(y)d^{\rm LO}_{Q\to(c\bar{b})[^{2S+1}L_J^{[1(8)]}]}(z/y)\right]\frac{dy}{y}$$
$$+\frac{\alpha_s^3}{M^{(2L+3)}}f_{[^{2S+1}L_J^{[1(8)]}]}(z),$$

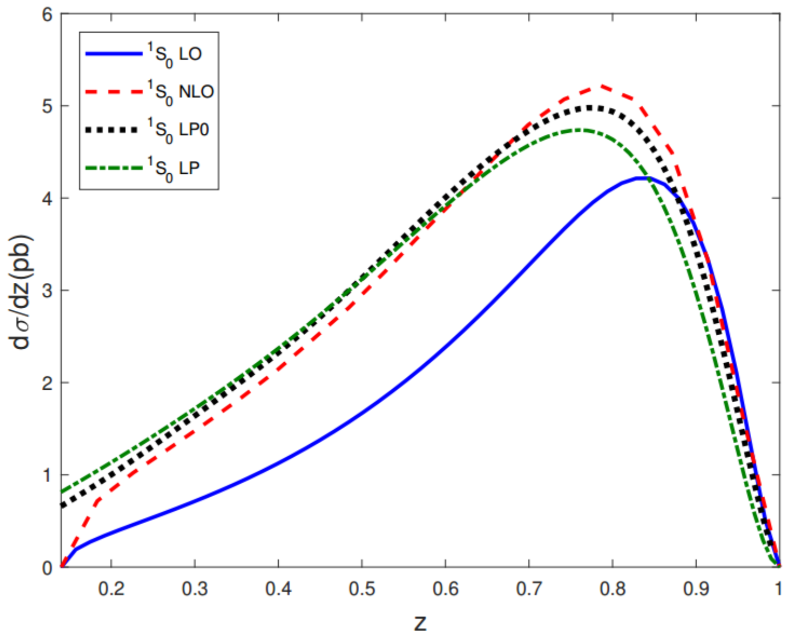
$$f_{[^{2S+1}L_J^{[1(8)]}]}(z)=N\,z^{\alpha}(1-z)^{\beta}\left(1+\sum_{i=1}^{6}a_i\,z^i\right).$$

State	N	α	β	a_1	a_2	a_3	a_4	a_5	a_6
$^1P_1^{[1]}$	6.705	0.01418	2.172	-2.293	7.423	-18.93	47.56	-65.72	41.25
$^3P_0^{[1]}$	1.297	0.06646	2.269	0.7862	4.369	34.07	140.1	-381.9	336.1
$^3P_1^{[1]}$	3.753	0.03236	2.138	2.702	-15.01	51.22	-66.48	26.77	18.66
$^3P_2^{[1]}$	7.580	0.01234	2.114	-1.318	-2.371	14.21	-17.72	4.866	8.175
$^1S_0^{[8]}$	1.420	-0.01096	3.101	0.3302	7.717	-33.55	86.58	-108.5	56.07
$^3S_1^{[8]}$	1.619	0.001004	1.675	-2.113	2.244	-2.408	2.907	-2.043	0.4914

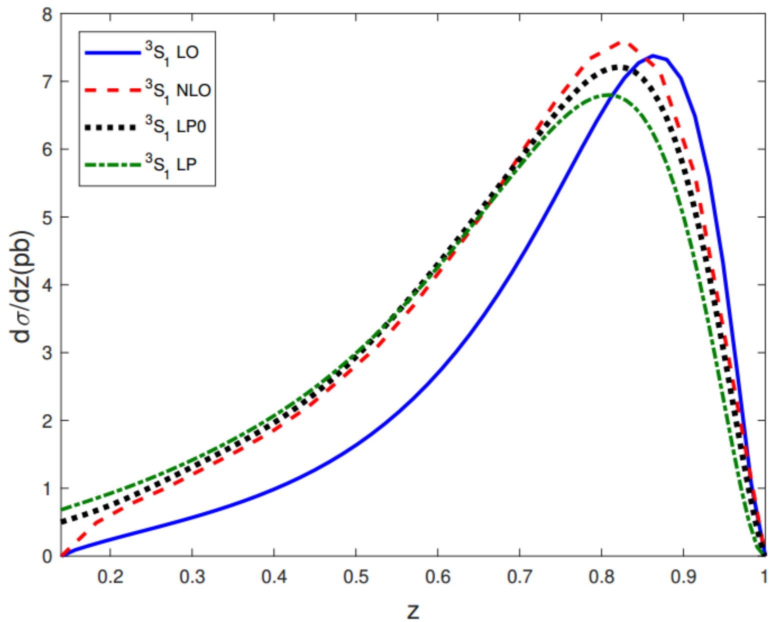
3. Applications

PRD 100, 034004, (2019),
X.-C. Zheng, C.-H. Chang, X.-G. Wu.

- Bc production at the Z pole



$d\sigma/dz(Bc)$



$d\sigma/dz(Bc^*)$

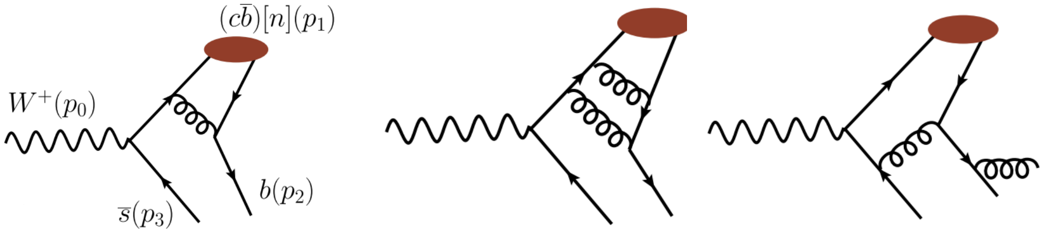
LO,NLO: direct NRQCD approach

LP0： fragmentation approach, no DGLAP evolution.

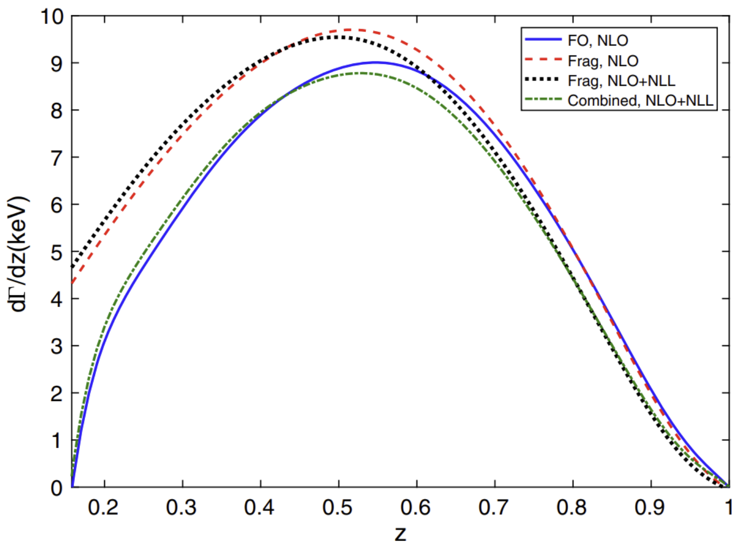
LP： fragmentation approach, evolved with DGLAP equation.

- Bc production via W^{+}-boson decay

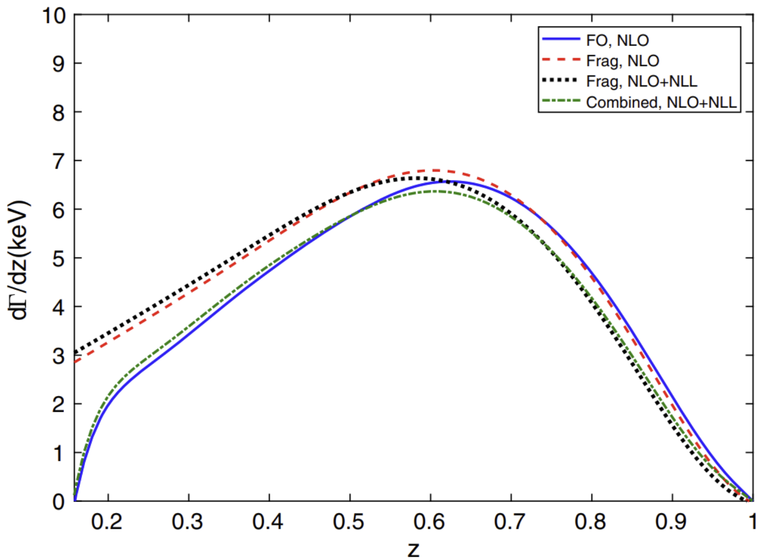
PRD 101, 034029, (2020),
X.-C. Zheng, C.-H. Chang, X.-G. Wu, et al.



Typical Feynman diagrams under the Fixed-order approach



$d\Gamma / dz(Bc)$



$d\Gamma / dz(Bc^{*})$

➢ Bc production via Higgs-boson decay

PRD 107, 074005, (2023), X.-C. Zheng, X.-G. Wu et al.

Two sources of large logarithms:

- Renormalization of the Yukawa couplings;
- Collinear emission of gluons and quarks.

Running quark masses

DGLAP evolution

Contributions	Direct NRQCD	FF approach
$\bar{b}$-fragmentation	1.20	1.22
c-fragmentation	4.13×10^{-3}	4.26×10^{-3}
Interference	1.25×10^{-2}	
Total	1.22	1.22

Decay width under the fixed-order calculation

Contributions	B_c
$\bar{b}$-fragmentation	0.673
c-fragmentation	1.47×10^{-3}
g-fragmentation	-1.80×10^{-3}
Triangle top-loop	4.59×10^{-2}
Total	0.719

Decay width after resuming the large log terms

Summary

- Fragmentation-function approach can be used to **resum the large logarithms** arising from the collinear emissions;
- The **NLO fragmentation functions** for a quark or gluon into S- and P-wave Bc mesons have been obtained;
- These **fragmentation functions** can be studied at the high energy colliders, such as CEPC, FCC-ee, etc.

Thank you！