

# Model-independent constraints on $\Delta F = 2$ operators and the scale of new physics



UTfit Collaboration

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**ABSTRACT:** We update the constraints on new-physics contributions to  $\Delta F = 2$  processes from the generalized unitarity triangle analysis, including the most recent experimental developments. Based on these constraints, we derive upper bounds on the coefficients of the most general  $\Delta F = 2$  effective Hamiltonian. These upper bounds can be translated into lower bounds on the scale of new physics that contributes to these low-energy effective interactions. We point out that, due to the enhancement in the renormalization group evolution and in the matrix elements, the coefficients of non-standard operators are much more constrained than the coefficient of the operator present in the Standard Model. Therefore, the scale of new physics in models that generate new  $\Delta F = 2$  operators, such as next-to-minimal flavour violation, has to be much higher than the scale of minimal flavour violation, and it most probably lies beyond the reach of direct searches at the LHC.

**KEYWORDS:** Beyond Standard Model, Heavy Quark Physics, B-Physics, Kaon Physics.

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## 1. Introduction

Starting from the pioneering measurements of the  $K^0 - \bar{K}^0$  mass difference  $\Delta m_K$  and of the CP-violating parameter  $\varepsilon_K$ , continuing with the precision measurements of the  $B_d - \bar{B}_d$  mixing parameters  $\Delta m_{B_d}$  and  $\sin 2\beta$  and with the recent determination of the  $B_s - \bar{B}_s$  oscillation frequency  $\Delta m_{B_s}$  and the first bounds on the mixing phase  $-2\beta_s$ , until the very recent evidence of  $D^0 - \bar{D}^0$  mixing,  $\Delta F = 2$  processes have always provided some of the most stringent constraints on New Physics (NP).

For example, it has been known for more than a quarter of century that supersymmetric extensions of the Standard Model (SM) with generic flavour structures are strongly constrained by  $K^0 - \bar{K}^0$  mixing and CP violation [1]. The constraints from  $K^0 - \bar{K}^0$  mixing are particularly stringent for models that generate transitions between quarks of different chiralities [2–4]. More recently, it has been shown that another source of enhancement of chirality-breaking transitions lies in the QCD corrections [5], now known at the Next-to-Leading Order (NLO) [6, 7].

Previous phenomenological analyses of  $\Delta F = 2$  processes in supersymmetry [8, 9] were affected by a large uncertainty due to the SM contribution, since no determination of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa [10] (CKM) CP-violating phase was available in the presence of NP. A breakthrough was possible with the advent of the  $B$  factories and the measurement of time-dependent CP asymmetries in  $B$  decays, allowing for a simultaneous determination of the CKM parameters and of the NP contributions to  $\Delta F = 2$  processes in the  $K^0$  and  $B_d$  sectors [11–13]. Furthermore, the Tevatron experiments have provided the first measurement of  $\Delta m_{B_s}$  and the first bounds on the phase of  $B_s - \bar{B}_s$  mixing. Combining all these ingredients, we can now determine the allowed ranges for all NP  $\Delta F = 2$  amplitudes in the down-quark sector.

To complete the picture, the recent evidence of  $D^0 - \bar{D}^0$  mixing allows to constrain NP contributions to the  $\Delta C = 2$  amplitude [14, 15].

Our aim in this work is to consider the most general effective Hamiltonian for  $\Delta F = 2$  processes ( $\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\Delta F=2}$ ) and to translate the experimental constraints into allowed ranges for the Wilson coefficients of  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\Delta F=2}$ . These coefficients in general have the form

$$C_i(\Lambda) = \frac{F_i L_i}{\Lambda^2} \tag{1.1}$$

where  $F_i$  is a function of the (complex) NP flavour couplings,  $L_i$  is a loop factor that is present in models with no tree-level Flavour Changing Neutral Currents (FCNC), and  $\Lambda$  is the scale of NP, i.e. the typical mass of the new particles mediating  $\Delta F = 2$  transitions. For a generic strongly-interacting theory with arbitrary flavour structure, one expects  $F_i \sim L_i \sim 1$  so that the allowed range for each of the  $C_i(\Lambda)$  can be immediately translated into a lower bound on  $\Lambda$ . Specific assumptions on the flavour structure of NP, for example Minimal [16 – 18] or Next-to-Minimal [19] Flavour Violation (MFV or NMFV), correspond to particular choices of the  $F_i$  functions, as detailed below.

Our study is analogous to the operator analysis of electroweak precision observables [20], but it provides much more stringent bounds on models with non-minimal flavour violation. In particular, we find that the scale of heavy particles mediating tree-level FCNC in models of NMFV must lie above  $\sim 60$  TeV, making them undetectable at the LHC. This bound applies for instance to the Kaluza-Klein excitations of gauge bosons in a large class of models with (warped) extra dimensions [21]. Flavour physics remains the main avenue to probe such extensions of the SM.

The paper is organised as follows. In section 2 we briefly discuss the experimental novelties considered in our analysis. In section 3 we present updated results for the analysis of the Unitarity Triangle (UT) in the presence of NP, including the model-independent constraints on  $\Delta F = 2$  processes, following closely our previous analyses [11, 12]. In section 4 we discuss the structure of  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\Delta F=2}$ , the definition of the models we consider and the method used to constrain the Wilson coefficients. In section 5 we present our results for the Wilson coefficients and for the scale of NP. Conclusions are drawn in section 6.

## 2. Experimental input

We use the same experimental input as ref. [12], updated after the Winter '07 conferences. We collect all the numbers used throughout this paper in tables 1 and 2. We include the following novelties: the most recent result for  $\Delta m_s$  [22], the semileptonic asymmetry in  $B_s$  decays  $A_{\text{SL}}^s$  [23] and the dimuon charge asymmetry  $A_{\text{SL}}^{\mu\mu}$  from DØ [24] and CDF [25], the measurement of the  $B_s$  lifetime from flavour-specific final states [26], the determination of  $\Delta\Gamma_s/\Gamma_s$  from the time-integrated angular analysis of  $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$  decays by CDF [27], the three-dimensional constraint on  $\Gamma_s$ ,  $\Delta\Gamma_s$ , and the phase  $\phi_s$  of the  $B_s - \bar{B}_s$  mixing amplitude from the time-dependent angular analysis of  $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$  decays by DØ [28].

The use of  $\Delta\Gamma_s/\Gamma_s$ , from the time-integrated angular analysis of  $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$  decays, is described in ref. [12]. In this paper, we only use the CDF measurement as input, since

Parameter	Value	Gaussian ( $\sigma$ )	Uniform (half-width)
$\lambda$	0.2258	0.0014	-
$ V_{cb}  \times 10^3$ (excl.)	39.1	0.6	1.7
$ V_{cb}  \times 10^3$ (incl.)	41.7	0.7	-
$ V_{ub}  \times 10^4$ (excl.)	34	4	-
$ V_{ub}  \times 10^4$ (incl.)	43.1	3.9	-
$\Delta m_d$ (ps $^{-1}$ )	0.507	0.005	-
$\Delta m_s$ (ps $^{-1}$ )	17.77	0.12	-
$\epsilon_K \times 10^3$	2.232	0.007	-
$\sin 2\beta$	see Winter '07 analysis at <a href="http://www.utfit.org">http://www.utfit.org</a>		
$\cos 2\beta$	see Winter '07 analysis at <a href="http://www.utfit.org">http://www.utfit.org</a>		
$\alpha$	see Winter '07 analysis at <a href="http://www.utfit.org">http://www.utfit.org</a>		
$\gamma$	see Winter '07 analysis at <a href="http://www.utfit.org">http://www.utfit.org</a>		
$2\beta + \gamma$	see Winter '07 analysis at <a href="http://www.utfit.org">http://www.utfit.org</a>		
$\bar{m}_t$ (GeV)	161.2	1.7	-
$\alpha_s(M_Z)$	0.119	0.003	-
$\tau_{B_s}$ (ps)	1.39	0.12	-
$\tau_{B_s}^{FS}$ (ps)	1.454	0.040	-
$A_{SL}^d$	-0.0005	0.0056	-
$A_{SL}^s$	0.0245	0.0196	-
$A_{SL}^{\mu\mu}$	-0.0043	0.0030	-
$\Delta\Gamma_d/\Gamma_d$	0.009	0.037	-
$\Delta\Gamma_s/\Gamma_s$	0.65	0.33	-
$\phi_s$ [rad]	-0.79	0.56	$\phi_s - \tau_{B_s}$ corr. 0.727
$\tau_{B_s}$ (ps)	1.49	0.08	$\tau_{B_s} - \Delta\Gamma_s/\Gamma_s$ corr. -0.172
$\Delta\Gamma_s/\Gamma_s$	0.17	0.09	$\Delta\Gamma_s/\Gamma_s - \phi_s$ corr. -0.188

**Table 1:** Values of the experimental input used in our analysis. The Gaussian and the flat contributions to the uncertainty are given in the third and fourth columns respectively (for details on the statistical treatment see [29]). See text for details.

the  $D\bar{O}$  analysis is now superseded by the new time-dependent study. The latter provides the first direct constraint on the  $B_s - \bar{B}_s$  mixing phase, but also a simultaneous bound on  $\Delta\Gamma_s$  and  $\Gamma_s$ . We implemented the full  $3 \times 3$  correlation matrix. The time-dependent analysis determines the  $B_s - \bar{B}_s$  mixing phase with a four-fold ambiguity.<sup>1</sup> First of all, the  $B_s$  mesons are untagged, so the analysis is not directly sensitive to  $\sin \phi_s$ , resulting in the ambiguity  $(\phi_s, \cos \delta_{1,2}) \leftrightarrow (-\phi_s, -\cos \delta_{1,2})$ , where  $\delta_{1,2}$  represent the strong phase differences between the transverse polarization and the other ones. Second, at fixed sign of  $\cos \delta_{1,2}$ , there is the ambiguity  $(\phi_s, \Delta\Gamma_s) \leftrightarrow (\phi_s + \pi, -\Delta\Gamma_s)$ . Concerning the strong phases

<sup>1</sup>Notice that the definition used by  $D\bar{O}$  is the one of ref. [30], namely  $\phi_s = 2\beta_s = 2\arg(-(V_{ts}V_{tb}^*)/(V_{cs}V_{cb}^*))$  in the SM. Notice also that in the arXiv version of ref. [28] the definition of  $\phi_s$  is unclear.

Parameter	Value	Gaussian ( $\sigma$ )	Uniform (half-width)
$F_D$ (MeV)	201	3	17
$F_{B_s}\sqrt{B_s}$ (MeV)	262	35	-
$\xi = \frac{F_{B_s}\sqrt{B_s}}{F_{B_d}\sqrt{B_d}}$	1.23	0.06	-
$\hat{B}_K$	0.79	0.04	0.08
$\overline{m}_b$ (GeV)	4.21	0.08	-
$\overline{m}_c$ (GeV)	1.3	0.1	-
$R_1$	1	-	-
$R_2$	-12.9	3.0	-
$R_3$	3.98	0.89	-
$R_4$	20.8	4.4	-
$R_5$	5.2	1.2	-
$B_1^D$	0.865	0.02	0.015
$B_2^D$	0.82	0.03	0.01
$B_3^D$	1.07	0.05	0.08
$B_4^D$	1.08	0.02	0.02
$B_5^D$	1.455	0.03	0.075
$B_1^B$	0.88	0.04	0.10
$B_2^B$	0.82	0.03	0.09
$B_3^B$	1.02	0.06	0.13
$B_4^B$	1.15	0.03	0.13
$B_5^B$	1.99	0.04	0.24

**Table 2:** Values of the hadronic parameters used in our analysis. The Gaussian and the flat contributions to the uncertainty are given in the third and fourth columns respectively (for details on the statistical treatment see [29]). See the text for details.

$\delta_i$ , there is a two-fold ambiguity corresponding to  $\delta_i \rightarrow \pi - \delta_i$ . The two experimental determinations are roughly  $\delta_2 \sim 0$ ,  $\delta_1 \sim \pi$  and  $\delta_1 \sim 0$ ,  $\delta_2 \sim \pi$ . In the literature it is often found that factorization corresponds to the first choice [30–32]. However, we find that factorization predicts  $\delta_1 \sim 0$ ,  $\delta_2 \sim \pi$  [33–35]. This result is also compatible with the BaBar measurement in  $B \rightarrow J/\Psi K^*$  [36], which can be related to  $B_s \rightarrow J/\Psi\phi$  using SU(3) and neglecting singlet contributions.<sup>2</sup> However, waiting for future, more sophisticated experimental analyses which could resolve this ambiguity, we prefer to be conservative and keep the four-fold ambiguity in our analysis.

The use of  $\Delta m_s$  was already discussed in ref. [12]. The only difference with respect to that is the update of the experimental inputs: we now use the improved measurement by CDF [22], and we take  $\tau_{B_s}$  only from the study of  $B_s$  decays to CP eigenstates [37]. The value of  $\tau_{B_s}$  obtained from  $B_s$  decaying to flavour-specific final states, using a single

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<sup>2</sup>In the first version of this manuscript, we stated that factorization disagreed with SU(3), based on the factorization prediction in refs. [30–32].

exponential in the fit, is related to the values of  $\Gamma_s$  and  $\Delta\Gamma_s$  by the relation [38]

$$\tau_{B_s}^{FS} = \frac{1}{\Gamma_s} \frac{1 + \left(\frac{\Delta\Gamma_s}{2\Gamma_s}\right)^2}{1 - \left(\frac{\Delta\Gamma_s}{2\Gamma_s}\right)^2}, \quad (2.1)$$

which provides an independent constraint on  $\Delta\Gamma_s/\Gamma_s$ . We compute  $\Delta\Gamma_s$  and  $A_{\text{SL}}^s$  using eq. (7) of ref. [12] (recalling that  $A_{\text{SL}}^s = 2(1 - |q/p|_s)$ ). Following ref. [39], we use the value of  $A_{\text{SL}}^{\mu\mu}$  recently presented by DØ [24] and CDF [25], in the form

$$A_{\text{SL}}^{\mu\mu} = \frac{f_d\chi_{d0}A_{\text{SL}}^d + f_s\chi_{s0}A_{\text{SL}}^s}{f_d\chi_{d0} + f_s\chi_{s0}}, \quad (2.2)$$

with  $f_d = 0.397 \pm 0.010$ ,  $f_s = 0.107 \pm 0.011$ ,  $\chi_{q0} = (\chi_q + \bar{\chi}_q)/2$ .  $\chi_q$  and  $\bar{\chi}_q$  are computed using equations (3)-(5) of ref. [12].<sup>3</sup>

Finally, concerning  $D^0 - \bar{D}^0$  mixing, we use as input the results for the NP amplitude obtained in ref. [14] combining the experimental information from refs. [40].

### 3. UT analysis and constraints on NP

The contribution of NP to  $\Delta F = 2$  transitions can be parameterized in a model-independent way as the ratio of the full (SM+NP) amplitude to the SM one. In this way, we can define the parameters  $C_{B_q}$  and  $\phi_{B_q}$  ( $q = d, s$ ) as [41]:

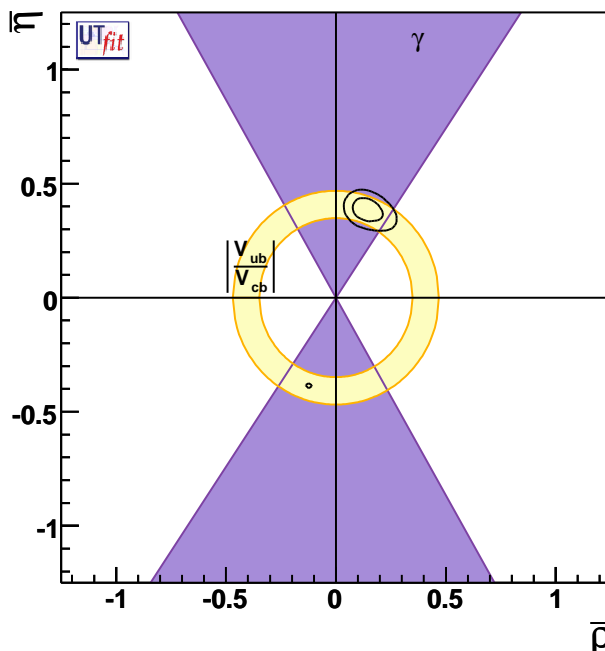
$$C_{B_q} e^{2i\phi_{B_q}} = \frac{\langle B_q | H_{\text{eff}}^{\text{full}} | \bar{B}_q \rangle}{\langle B_q | H_{\text{eff}}^{\text{SM}} | \bar{B}_q \rangle}, \quad (3.1)$$

and write all the measured observables as a function of these parameters and the SM ones ( $\bar{\rho}$ ,  $\bar{\eta}$ , and additional parameters such as masses, form factors, and decay constants). Details are given in refs. [11, 12]. In a similar way, one can write

$$C_{\epsilon_K} = \frac{\text{Im}[\langle K^0 | H_{\text{eff}}^{\text{full}} | \bar{K}^0 \rangle]}{\text{Im}[\langle K^0 | H_{\text{eff}}^{\text{SM}} | \bar{K}^0 \rangle]}, \quad C_{\Delta m_K} = \frac{\text{Re}[\langle K^0 | H_{\text{eff}}^{\text{full}} | \bar{K}^0 \rangle]}{\text{Re}[\langle K^0 | H_{\text{eff}}^{\text{SM}} | \bar{K}^0 \rangle]}. \quad (3.2)$$

Concerning  $\Delta m_K$ , to be conservative, we add to the short-distance contribution a possible long-distance one that varies with a uniform distribution between zero and the experimental value of  $\Delta m_K$ .

We perform a global analysis using the method of ref. [29] and determine simultaneously  $\bar{\rho}$ ,  $\bar{\eta}$ ,  $C_{B_q}$ ,  $\phi_{B_q}$ ,  $C_{\epsilon_K}$  and  $C_{\Delta m_K}$  using flat a-priori distributions for these parameters. The resulting probability density function (p.d.f.) in the  $\bar{\rho} - \bar{\eta}$  plane is shown in figure 1. Only a small region close to the result of the SM fit survives. The mirror solution in the third quadrant is suppressed down to about 5% probability by the measurements of  $A_{\text{SL}}^d$  and  $A_{\text{SL}}^{\mu\mu}$ . The results for  $\bar{\rho}$  and  $\bar{\eta}$  reported in table 3 are at a level of accuracy comparable to the SM fit [42], so that the SM contribution to FCNC processes *in the presence of arbitrary NP* is bound to lie very close to the results of the SM *in the absence of NP*. This



**Figure 1:** Determination of  $\bar{\rho}$  and  $\bar{\eta}$  from the NP generalized analysis. 68% and 95% probability regions for  $\bar{\rho}$  and  $\bar{\eta}$  are shown, together with the  $2\sigma$  contours given by the tree-level determination of  $|V_{ub}|$  and  $\gamma$ .

result represents a major improvement in the study of FCNC processes beyond the SM, and opens up the possibility of precision studies of flavour processes in the presence of NP.

The constraining power of this analysis is evident in the results for the NP parameters given in table 3 and shown in figure 2. Compared to our previous analysis in ref. [12], and to similar analyses in the literature [43, 39], we see that the additional experimental input discussed above improves considerably the determination of the phase of the  $B_s - \bar{B}_s$  mixing amplitude. The fourfold ambiguity inherent in the untagged analysis of ref. [28] is somewhat reduced by the measurements of  $A_{SL}^s$  and  $A_{SL}^{\mu\mu}$ , which prefer negative values of  $\phi_{B_s}$ .<sup>4</sup> Ref. [32] recently claimed a  $2\sigma$  deviation from zero in  $\phi_{B_s}$ , taking the sign of  $\cos \delta_{1,2}$  from factorization. We confirm that, with the same assumptions of ref. [32] on strong phases,<sup>5</sup> the deviation from zero of  $\phi_{B_s}$  slightly exceeds  $2\sigma$ . Without assuming strong

<sup>3</sup>To combine the CDF and  $D\bar{O}$  measurements, we have converted the value for  $A$  defined in ref. [24] into a value for  $A_{SL}^{\mu\mu}$ .

<sup>4</sup>With respect to ref. [32], we find that the inclusion of  $A_{SL}^{\mu\mu}$  has a weaker impact in reducing the ambiguity coming from several small differences in the analysis (theoretical assumptions on NP in  $A_{SL}^d$ , presence of NP in penguin contributions to  $A_{SL}^{d,s}$ , inclusion of the CDF measurement of  $A_{SL}^{\mu\mu}$ , etc.).

<sup>5</sup>We find that factorization gives  $\delta_1 \sim 0$  and  $\delta_2 \sim \pi$ , resolving the ambiguity of the  $D0$  untagged analysis in favour of  $\phi_s \sim 0.79$  for positive  $\Delta\Gamma$ , while ref. [32] uses  $\delta_1 \sim \pi$ ,  $\delta_2 \sim 0$  and  $\phi_s \sim -0.79$ . However, this sign difference in  $\phi_s$  is compensated by the fact that  $\phi_s$  as defined in ref. [32] should be compared to  $-\phi_s$  as measured by  $D0$ .

Parameter	68% Probability	95% Probability
$C_{B_d}$	$1.05 \pm 0.34$	[0.53, 2.05]
$\phi_{B_d} [^\circ]$	$-3.4 \pm 2.2$	[-8.3, 1.6]
$C_{B_s}$	$1.11 \pm 0.32$	[0.63, 2.07]
$\phi_{B_s} [^\circ]$	$(-69 \pm 14) \cup (-20 \pm 14) \cup (20 \pm 5) \cup (72 \pm 8)$	$[-86, -46] \cup [-43, 35] \cup [56, 87]$
$C_{\Delta m_K}$	$0.93 \pm 0.32$	[0.51, 2.07]
$C_{\epsilon_K}$	$0.92 \pm 0.14$	[0.66, 1.31]
$\bar{\rho}$	$0.140 \pm 0.046$	[0.049, 0.258]
$\bar{\eta}$	$0.384 \pm 0.035$	[0.304, 0.460]
$\alpha [^\circ]$	$86 \pm 7$	[73, 104]
$\beta [^\circ]$	$24.3 \pm 2.0$	[19.9, 28.6]
$\gamma [^\circ]$	$70 \pm 7$	[53, 83]
$\text{Re}\lambda_t [10^{-5}]$	$-31.3 \pm 1.8$	[-35, -27]
$\text{Im}\lambda_t [10^{-5}]$	$14.8 \pm 1.3$	[12.3, 17.3]
$ V_{ub}  [10^{-3}]$	$3.91 \pm 0.28$	[3.36, 4.44]
$ V_{cb}  [10^{-2}]$	$4.09 \pm 0.05$	[3.98, 4.18]
$ V_{td}  [10^{-3}]$	$8.7 \pm 0.5$	[7.6, 9.6]
$ V_{td}/V_{ts} $	$0.217 \pm 0.012$	[0.187, 0.240]
$R_b$	$0.413 \pm 0.030$	[0.354, 0.471]
$R_t$	$0.943 \pm 0.048$	[0.819, 1.037]
$\sin 2\beta$	$0.748 \pm 0.044$	[0.643, 0.841]
$\sin 2\beta_s$	$0.0409 \pm 0.0038$	[0.0321, 0.0494]

**Table 3:** Determination of NP and UT parameters from the UT fit.

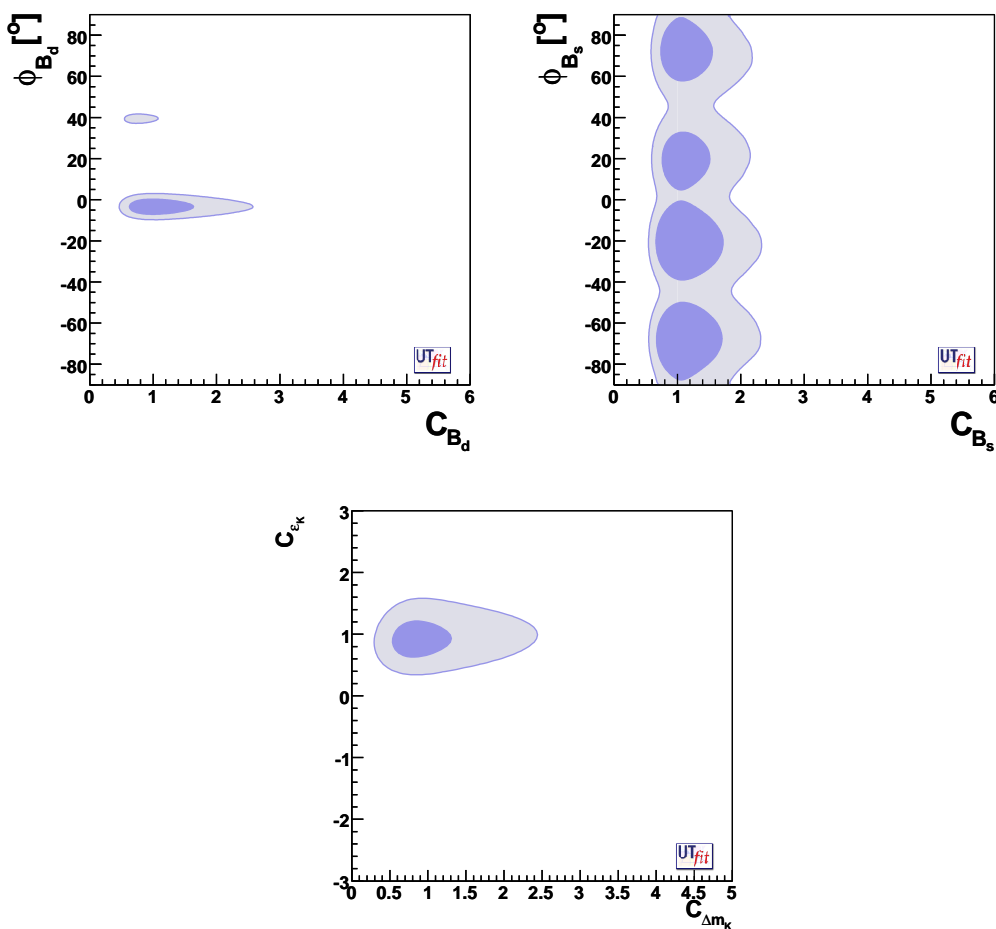
phases from factorization, we find a deviation of  $\phi_{B_s}$  from zero of  $1.4 \sigma$ , of the same size of the deviation found experimentally by ref. [28].

It is important to stress that the information contained in these constraints does not rely on any specific model for NP. The list of applications in NP phenomenology is rich. For instance, restricting to the case of SUSY models, the two-dimensional constraint of the  $b \rightarrow s$  ( $b \rightarrow d$ ) sector can be translated into a limit on the mass-insertion complex parameters  $\delta_{23}^d$  ( $\delta_{13}^d$ ), using the NLO supersymmetric expression of the  $B_q-\bar{B}_q$  mixing amplitude [7]. This bound, combined with the constraint from  $b \rightarrow s$  decays [44], allows to obtain the best available information on the off-diagonal terms of the squark mass matrix [45]. However, in the following, rather than considering an explicit model for NP, we perform a general analysis based on the most general Hamiltonian for  $\Delta F = 2$  processes.

#### 4. NP contributions to $\Delta F = 2$ processes

The most general effective Hamiltonians for  $\Delta F = 2$  processes beyond the SM have the





**Figure 2:** Constraints on  $\phi_{B_d}$  vs.  $C_{B_d}$ ,  $\phi_{B_s}$  vs.  $C_{B_s}$  and  $C_{\epsilon_K}$  vs  $C_{\Delta m_K}$  from the NP generalized analysis.

following form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\Delta S=2} &= \sum_{i=1}^5 C_i Q_i^{sd} + \sum_{i=1}^3 \tilde{C}_i \tilde{Q}_i^{sd} \\
 \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\Delta C=2} &= \sum_{i=1}^5 C_i Q_i^{cu} + \sum_{i=1}^3 \tilde{C}_i \tilde{Q}_i^{cu} \\
 \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\Delta B=2} &= \sum_{i=1}^5 C_i Q_i^{bq} + \sum_{i=1}^3 \tilde{C}_i \tilde{Q}_i^{bq}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.1}$$

where  $q = d(s)$  for  $B_{d(s)} - \bar{B}_{d(s)}$  mixing and

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q_1^{q_i q_j} &= \bar{q}_{jL}^\alpha \gamma_\mu q_{iL}^\alpha \bar{q}_{jL}^\beta \gamma^\mu q_{iL}^\beta, \\
 Q_2^{q_i q_j} &= \bar{q}_{jR}^\alpha q_{iL}^\alpha \bar{q}_{jR}^\beta q_{iL}^\beta,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Q_3^{q_i q_j} &= \bar{q}_{jR}^\alpha q_{iL}^\beta \bar{q}_{jR}^\beta q_{iL}^\alpha, \\
Q_4^{q_i q_j} &= \bar{q}_{jR}^\alpha q_{iL}^\alpha \bar{q}_{jL}^\beta q_{iR}^\beta, \\
Q_5^{q_i q_j} &= \bar{q}_{jR}^\alpha q_{iL}^\beta \bar{q}_{jL}^\beta q_{iR}^\alpha.
\end{aligned}
\tag{4.2}$$

Here  $q_{R,L} = P_{R,L} q$ , with  $P_{R,L} = (1 \pm \gamma_5)/2$ , and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are colour indices. The operators  $\tilde{Q}_{1,2,3}^{q_i q_j}$  are obtained from the  $Q_{1,2,3}^{q_i q_j}$  by the exchange  $L \leftrightarrow R$ . In the following we only discuss the operators  $Q_i$  as the results for  $Q_{1,2,3}$  apply to  $\tilde{Q}_{1,2,3}$  as well.

The NLO anomalous dimension matrix has been computed in [6]. We use the Regularisation-Independent anomalous dimension matrix in the Landau gauge (also known as RI-MOM), since this scheme is used in lattice QCD calculations of the matrix elements with non-perturbative renormalization.

The  $C_i(\Lambda)$  are obtained by integrating out all new particles simultaneously at the NP scale  $\Lambda$ .<sup>6</sup> We then have to evolve the coefficients down to the hadronic scales  $\mu_b = m_b = 4.6$  GeV ( $m_b \equiv m_b(\mu = m_b)$  is the RI-MOM mass) for bottom mesons,  $\mu_D = 2.8$  GeV for charmed mesons, and  $\mu_K = 2$  GeV for Kaons, which are the renormalisation scales of the operators used in lattice computations for the matrix elements [46, 47].

We give here an analytic formula for the contribution to the  $B_q - \bar{B}_q$  mixing amplitudes induced by a given NP scale coefficient  $C_i(\Lambda)$ , denoted by  $\langle \bar{B}_q | \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} | B_q \rangle_i$ , as a function of  $\alpha_s(\Lambda)$ :

$$\langle \bar{B}_q | \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\Delta B=2} | B_q \rangle_i = \sum_{j=1}^5 \sum_{r=1}^5 \left( b_j^{(r,i)} + \eta c_j^{(r,i)} \right) \eta^{a_j} C_i(\Lambda) \langle \bar{B}_q | Q_r^{bq} | B_q \rangle,
\tag{4.3}$$

where  $\eta = \alpha_s(\Lambda)/\alpha_s(m_t)$ , the magic numbers  $a_j$ ,  $b_j^{(r,i)}$  and  $c_j^{(r,i)}$  and the matrix elements can be found in eqs. (10) and (12) of ref. [9] respectively. The values of the  $B_i^B$  parameters can be found in table 2. A similar formula holds for  $D^0 - \bar{D}^0$  mixing, with the parameters  $B_i^D$  given in table 2 and the following magic numbers:

$$\begin{aligned}
a_i &= (0.286, -0.692, 0.787, -1.143, 0.143) \\
b_i^{(11)} &= (0.837, 0, 0, 0, 0), & c_i^{(11)} &= (-0.016, 0, 0, 0, 0), \\
b_i^{(22)} &= (0, 2.163, 0.012, 0, 0), & c_i^{(22)} &= (0, -0.20, -0.002, 0, 0), \\
b_i^{(23)} &= (0, -0.567, 0.176, 0, 0), & c_i^{(23)} &= (0, -0.016, 0.006, 0, 0), \\
b_i^{(32)} &= (0, -0.032, 0.031, 0, 0), & c_i^{(32)} &= (0, 0.004, -0.010, 0, 0), \\
b_i^{(33)} &= (0, 0.008, 0.474, 0, 0), & c_i^{(33)} &= (0, 0.000, 0.025, 0, 0), \\
b_i^{(44)} &= (0, 0, 0, 3.63, 0), & c_i^{(44)} &= (0, 0, 0, -0.56, 0.006), \\
b_i^{(45)} &= (0, 0, 0, 1.21, -0.19), & c_i^{(45)} &= (0, 0, 0, -0.29, -0.006), \\
b_i^{(54)} &= (0, 0, 0, 0.14, 0), & c_i^{(54)} &= (0, 0, 0, -0.019, -0.016), \\
b_i^{(55)} &= (0, 0, 0, 0.045, 0.839), & c_i^{(55)} &= (0, 0, 0, -0.009, 0.018).
\end{aligned}
\tag{4.4}$$

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<sup>6</sup>Clearly, without knowing the masses of new particles, one cannot fix the scale  $\Lambda$  of the matching. However, an iterative procedure quickly converges thanks to the very slow running of  $\alpha_s$  at high scales.

All other magic numbers vanish. Finally, for  $K^0 - \bar{K}^0$  mixing we obtain

$$\langle \bar{K}^0 | \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\Delta S=2} | K^0 \rangle_i = \sum_{j=1}^5 \sum_{r=1}^5 \left( b_j^{(r,i)} + \eta c_j^{(r,i)} \right) \eta^{a_j} C_i(\Lambda) R_r \langle \bar{K}^0 | Q_r^{sd} | K^0 \rangle, \quad (4.5)$$

where now the magic numbers can be found in eq. (2.7) of ref. [8]. We use the values in table 2 for the ratios  $R_r$  of the matrix elements of the NP operators  $Q_r^{sd}$  over the SM one. These values correspond to the average of the results in ref. [46], applying a scaling factor to the errors to take into account the spread of the available results.

To obtain the p.d.f. for the Wilson coefficients at the NP scale  $\Lambda$ , we switch on one coefficient at a time in each sector and calculate its value from the result of the NP analysis presented in section 3.

As we discussed in eq. (1.1), the connection between the  $C_i(\Lambda)$  and the NP scale  $\Lambda$  depends on the general properties of the NP model, and in particular on the flavour structure of the  $F_i$ . Assuming strongly interacting new particles, we have from eq. (1.1) with  $L_i = 1$

$$\Lambda = \sqrt{\frac{F_i}{C_i}}. \quad (4.6)$$

Let us now discuss four notable examples:

- In the case of MFV with one Higgs doublet or two Higgs doublets with small or moderate  $\tan \beta$ , we have  $F_1 = F_{\text{SM}}$  and  $F_{i \neq 1} = 0$ , where  $F_{\text{SM}}$  is the combination of CKM matrix elements appearing in the top-quark mediated SM mixing amplitude, namely  $(V_{tq} V_{tb}^*)^2$  for  $B_q - \bar{B}_q$  mixing and  $(V_{td} V_{ts}^*)^2$  for  $\varepsilon_K$ .  $\Delta m_K$  and  $D^0 - \bar{D}^0$  mixing do not give significant constraints in this scenario due to the presence of long-distance contributions.
- In the case of MFV at large  $\tan \beta$ , we have this additional contribution to  $B_q - \bar{B}_q$  mixing [18]:

$$C_4(\Lambda) = \frac{(a_0 + a_1)(a_0 + a_2)}{\Lambda^2} \lambda_b \lambda_q F_{\text{SM}}, \quad (4.7)$$

where  $\lambda_{b,q}$  represent the corresponding Yukawa couplings,  $a_{0,1,2}$  are  $\tan \beta$ -enhanced loop factors of  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  and  $\Lambda$  represents the NP scale corresponding to the non-standard Higgs bosons.

- In the case of NMFV, we have  $|F_i| = F_{\text{SM}}$  with an arbitrary phase [19] (following ref. [18], for  $\Delta m_K$  and  $D^0 - \bar{D}^0$  mixing we take  $F_{\text{SM}} = |V_{td} V_{ts}|^2$ ). This condition is realized in models in which right-handed currents also contribute to FCNC processes, but with the same hierarchical structure in the mixing angles as in the SM left-handed currents. Given the order-of-magnitude equalities  $m_d/m_b \sim |V_{td}|$ ,  $m_s/m_b \sim |V_{ts}|$ , bounds obtained in this scenario are also of interest for extra-dimensional models with FCNC couplings suppressed linearly with quark masses [21]. Clearly, given the QCD and, for  $K^0 - \bar{K}^0$  mixing, chiral enhancement of NP operators, the constraints on the NP scale are much stronger for NMFV than for MFV, as shown explicitly in the next section.

- For arbitrary NP flavour structures, we expect  $|F_i| \sim 1$  with arbitrary phase. In this case, the constraints on the NP scale are much tighter due to the absence of the CKM suppression in the NP contributions.

## 5. Results

In this section, we present the results obtained for the four scenarios described above. In deriving the lower bounds on the NP scale  $\Lambda$ , we assume  $L_i = 1$ , corresponding to strongly-interacting and/or tree-level NP. Two other interesting possibilities are given by loop-mediated NP contributions proportional to  $\alpha_s^2$  or  $\alpha_W^2$ . The first case corresponds for example to gluino exchange in the MSSM. The second case applies to all models of SM-like loop-mediated weak interactions. To obtain the lower bound on  $\Lambda$  for loop-mediated contributions, one simply multiplies the bounds we quote in the following by  $\alpha_s(\Lambda) \sim 0.1$  or by  $\alpha_W \sim 0.03$ .

Let us first consider MFV models and update our results presented in ref. [11, 12]. In practice, the most convenient strategy in this case is to fit the shift in the Inami-Lim top-quark function entering  $B_d$ ,  $B_s$  and  $K^0$  mixing. We fit for this shift using the experimental measurements of  $\Delta m_d$ ,  $\Delta m_s$  and  $\epsilon_K$ , after determining the parameters of the CKM matrix with the universal unitarity triangle analysis [17].<sup>7</sup> We obtain the following lower bounds at 95% probability:

$$\Lambda > 5.5 \text{ TeV} \quad (\text{small } \tan \beta), \quad (5.1)$$

$$\Lambda > 5.1 \text{ TeV} \quad (\text{large } \tan \beta). \quad (5.2)$$

The bound for large  $\tan \beta$  comes from contributions proportional to the same operator present in the SM.

As mentioned above, at very large  $\tan \beta$  additional contributions to  $C_4(\Lambda)$  can be generated by Higgs exchange. From these contributions, we obtain the following lower bound on the scale  $\Lambda$ , which in this case is the mass of non-standard Higgs bosons:

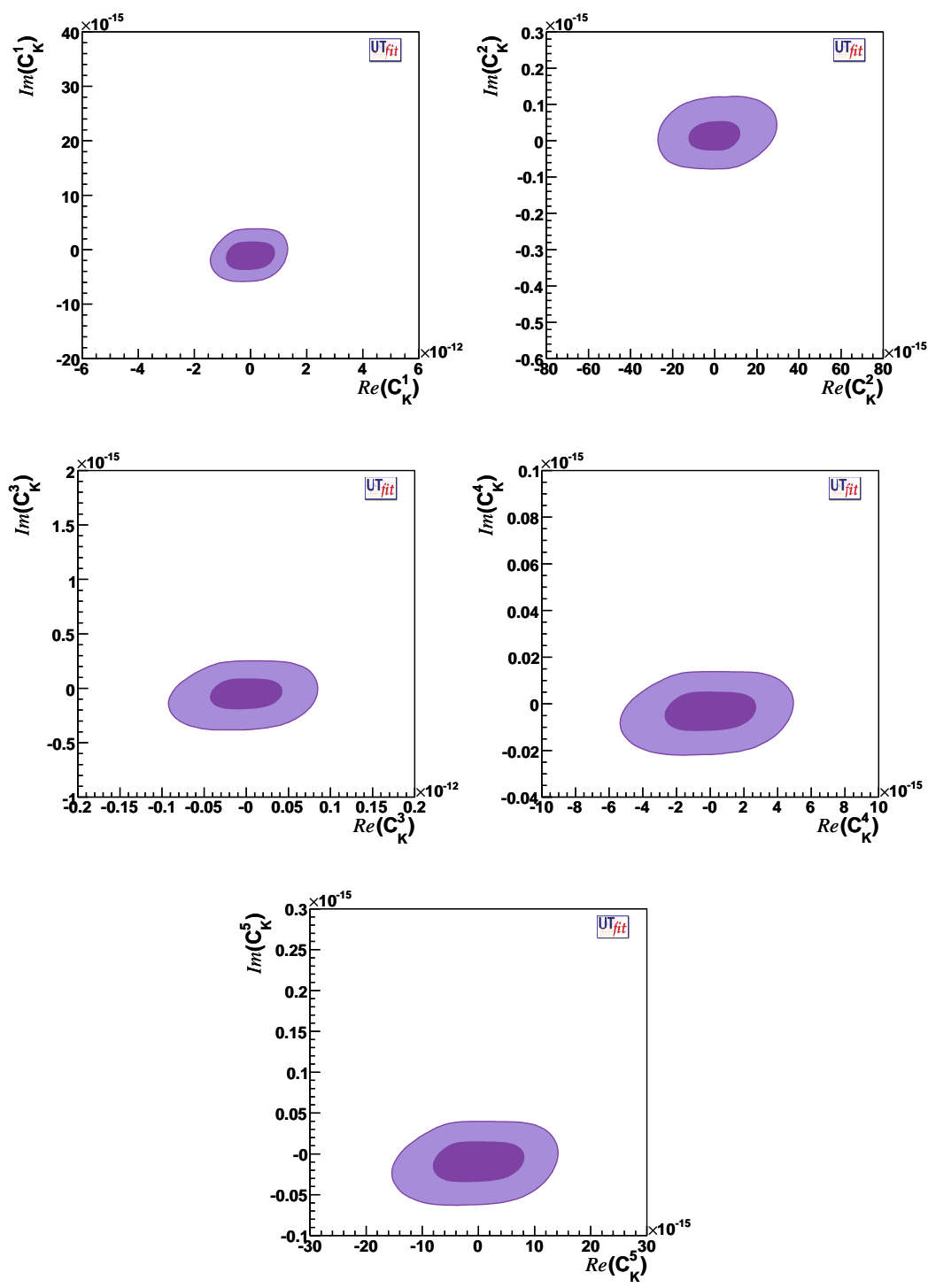
$$M_H > 5 \sqrt{(a_0 + a_1)(a_0 + a_2)} \left( \frac{\tan \beta}{50} \right) \text{ TeV}. \quad (5.3)$$

In any given model, one can specify the value of the  $a_i$  couplings and of  $\tan \beta$  to obtain a lower bound on the non-standard Higgs mass. The bound we obtained is in agreement with ref. [18], taking into account the present experimental information. If a non-standard Higgs boson is seen at hadron colliders, this implies an upper bound on the  $a_i$  couplings and/or  $\tan \beta$ .

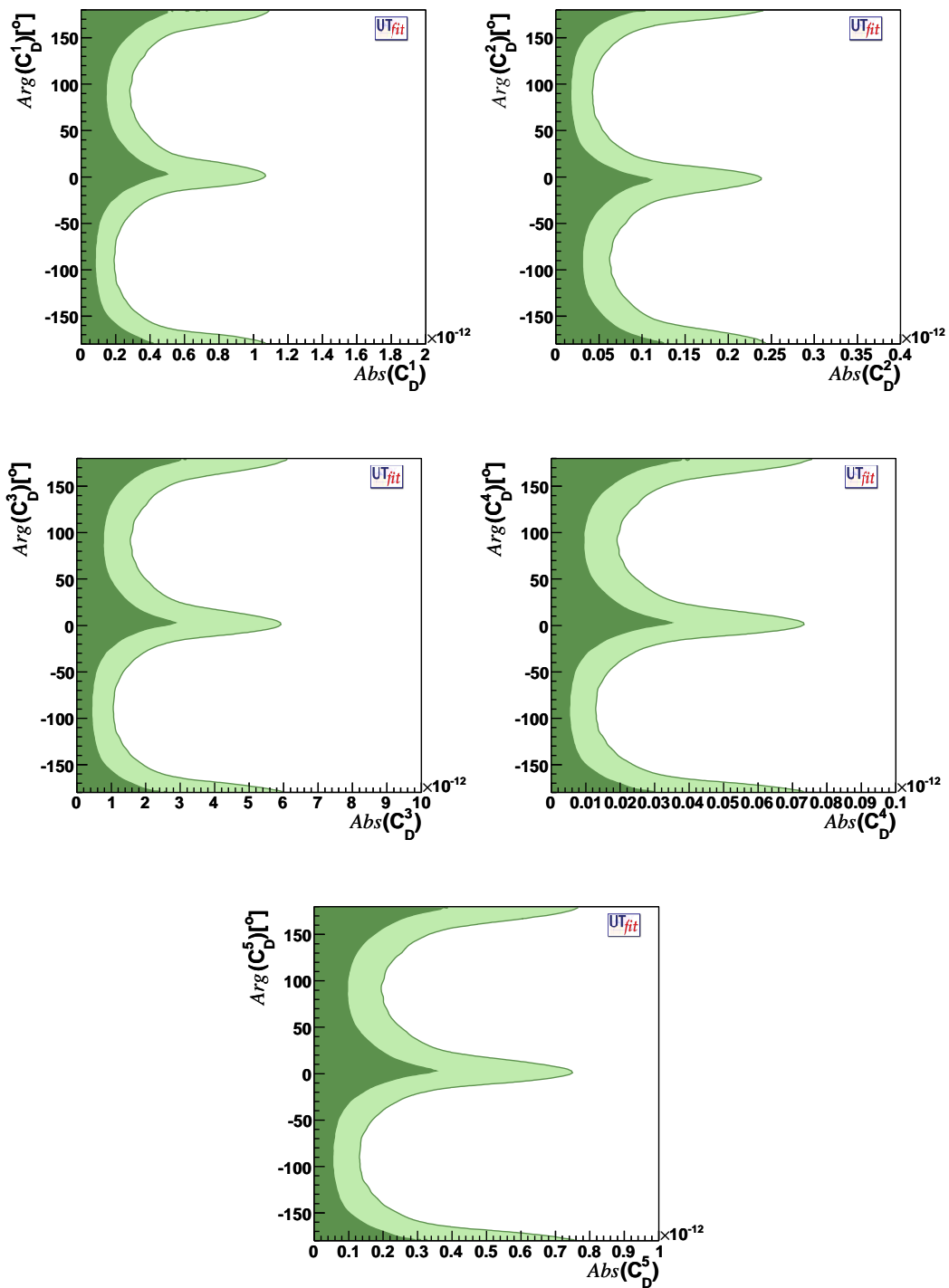
In figure 3 we present the allowed regions in the  $\text{Re}C^i$ - $\text{Im}C^i$  planes for the  $K^0$  sector, while in figures 4-6 we show the allowed regions in the  $\text{Abs}C^i$ - $\text{Arg}C^i$  planes for the  $D^0$ ,  $B_d$  and  $B_s$  sectors. All coefficients are given in  $\text{GeV}^{-2}$ . From these allowed regions we obtain the 95% probability regions for  $C^i$  reported in the second column of table 4. This result is completely model-independent.

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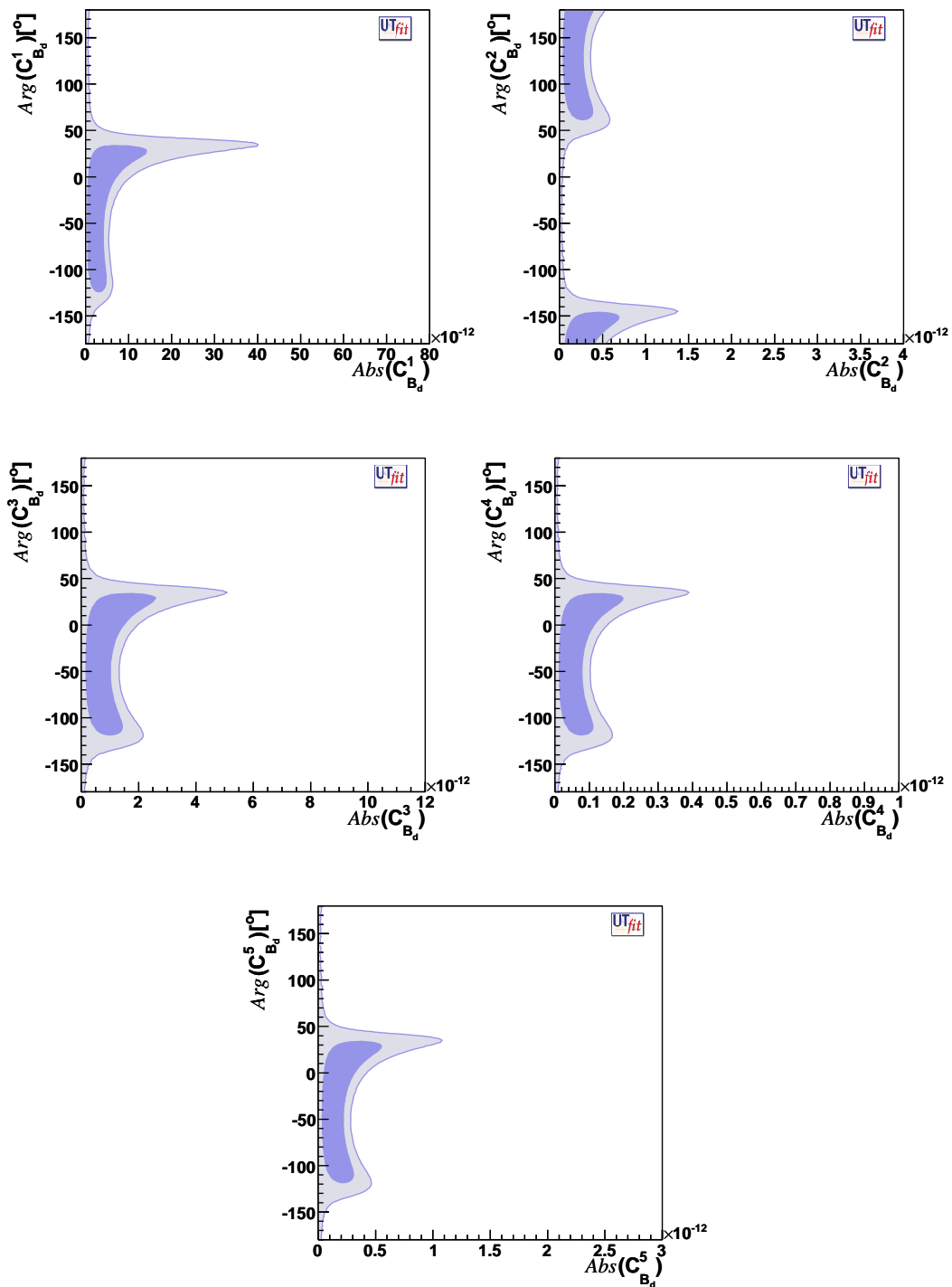
<sup>7</sup>With respect to the original proposal of ref. [17], we do not use the ratio  $\Delta m_s/\Delta m_d$  in the fit in order to allow for Higgs-mediated contributions affecting  $\Delta m_s$  at very large  $\tan \beta$ .



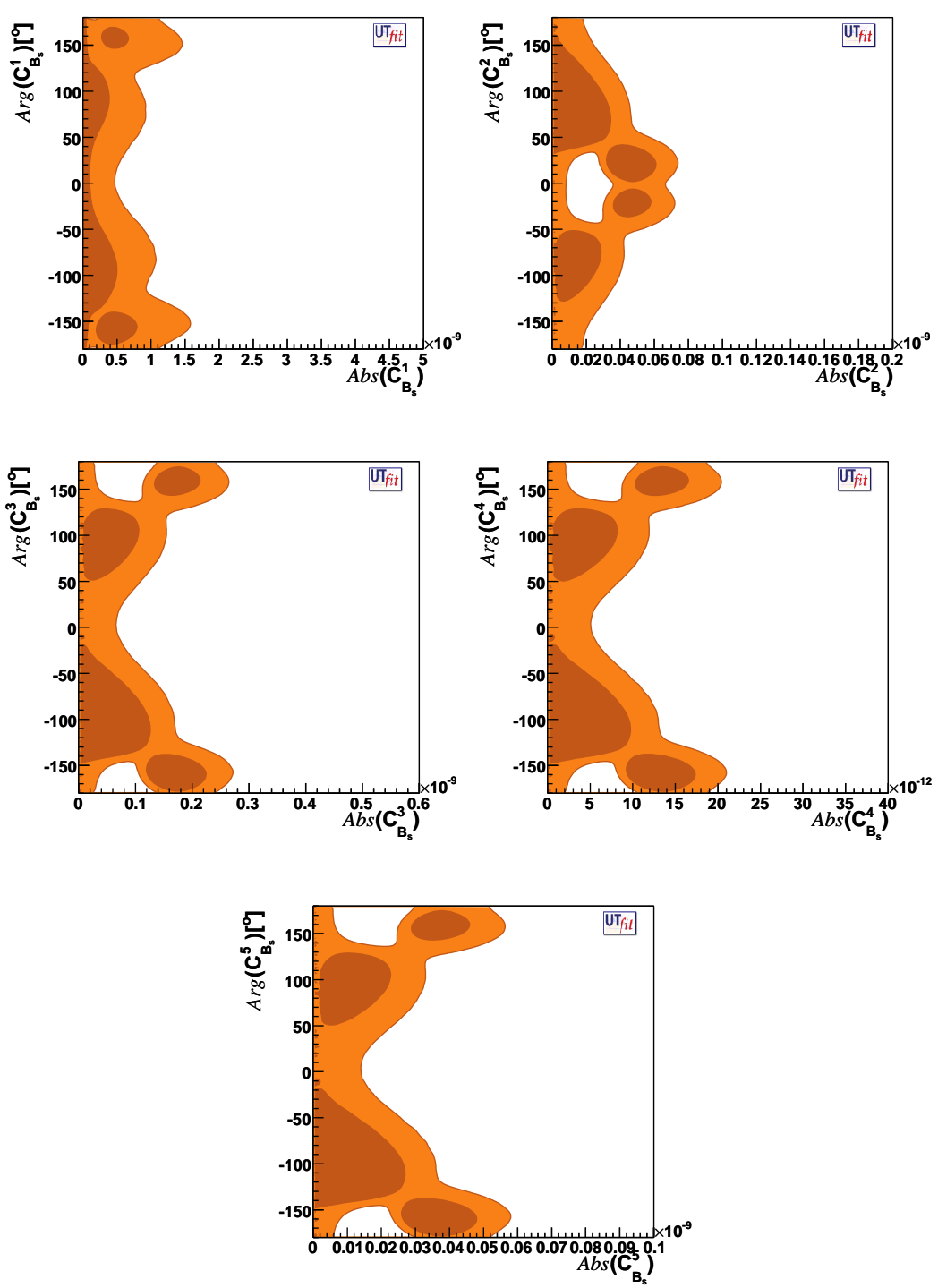
**Figure 3:** Allowed ranges in the  $ReC_K^i$ - $ImC_K^i$  planes in  $\text{GeV}^{-2}$ . Light (dark) regions correspond to 95% (68%) probability regions.



**Figure 4:** Allowed ranges in the  $AbsC_D^i$ - $ArgC_D^i$  planes in  $\text{GeV}^{-2}$ . Light (dark) regions correspond to 95% (68%) probability regions.



**Figure 5:** Allowed ranges in the  $AbsC_{B_d}^i$ - $ArgC_{B_d}^i$  planes in  $GeV^{-2}$ . Light (dark) regions correspond to 95% (68%) probability regions.



**Figure 6:** Allowed ranges in the  $AbsC_{B_s}^i - ArgC_{B_s}^i$  planes in  $GeV^{-2}$ . Light (dark) regions correspond to 95% (68%) probability regions.



Parameter	95% allowed range (GeV <sup>-2</sup> )	Lower limit on $\Lambda$ (TeV) for arbitrary NP	Lower limit on $\Lambda$ (TeV) for NMFV
$\text{Re}C_K^1$	$[-9.6, 9.6] \cdot 10^{-13}$	$1.0 \cdot 10^3$	0.35
$\text{Re}C_K^2$	$[-1.8, 1.9] \cdot 10^{-14}$	$7.3 \cdot 10^3$	2.0
$\text{Re}C_K^3$	$[-6.0, 5.6] \cdot 10^{-14}$	$4.1 \cdot 10^3$	1.1
$\text{Re}C_K^4$	$[-3.6, 3.6] \cdot 10^{-15}$	$17 \cdot 10^3$	4.0
$\text{Re}C_K^5$	$[-1.0, 1.0] \cdot 10^{-14}$	$10 \cdot 10^3$	2.4
$\text{Im}C_K^1$	$[-4.4, 2.8] \cdot 10^{-15}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^4$	5.6
$\text{Im}C_K^2$	$[-5.1, 9.3] \cdot 10^{-17}$	$10 \cdot 10^4$	28
$\text{Im}C_K^3$	$[-3.1, 1.7] \cdot 10^{-16}$	$5.7 \cdot 10^4$	19
$\text{Im}C_K^4$	$[-1.8, 0.9] \cdot 10^{-17}$	$24 \cdot 10^4$	62
$\text{Im}C_K^5$	$[-5.2, 2.8] \cdot 10^{-17}$	$14 \cdot 10^4$	37
$ C_D^1 $	$< 7.2 \cdot 10^{-13}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^3$	0.40
$ C_D^2 $	$< 1.6 \cdot 10^{-13}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^3$	0.82
$ C_D^3 $	$< 3.9 \cdot 10^{-12}$	$0.51 \cdot 10^3$	0.17
$ C_D^4 $	$< 4.8 \cdot 10^{-14}$	$4.6 \cdot 10^3$	1.5
$ C_D^5 $	$< 4.8 \cdot 10^{-13}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^3$	0.47
$ C_{B_d}^1 $	$< 2.3 \cdot 10^{-11}$	$0.21 \cdot 10^3$	1.8
$ C_{B_d}^2 $	$< 7.2 \cdot 10^{-13}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^3$	8.5
$ C_{B_d}^3 $	$< 2.8 \cdot 10^{-12}$	$0.60 \cdot 10^3$	4.4
$ C_{B_d}^4 $	$< 2.1 \cdot 10^{-13}$	$2.2 \cdot 10^3$	14
$ C_{B_d}^5 $	$< 6.0 \cdot 10^{-13}$	$1.3 \cdot 10^3$	8.8
$ C_{B_s}^1 $	$< 1.1 \cdot 10^{-9}$	30	1.3
$ C_{B_s}^2 $	$< 5.6 \cdot 10^{-11}$	130	4.6
$ C_{B_s}^3 $	$< 2.1 \cdot 10^{-10}$	70	2.4
$ C_{B_s}^4 $	$< 1.6 \cdot 10^{-11}$	250	7.9
$ C_{B_s}^5 $	$< 4.5 \cdot 10^{-11}$	150	4.9

**Table 4:** 95% probability range for  $C(\Lambda)$  and the corresponding lower bounds on the NP scale  $\Lambda$  for arbitrary NP flavour structure and for NMFV. See the text for details.

Assuming strongly interacting and/or tree-level NP contributions with generic flavour structure (i.e.  $L_i = |F_i| = 1$ ), we can translate the upper bounds on  $C_i$  into the lower bounds on the NP scale  $\Lambda$  reported in the third column of table 4. As anticipated above, we see that in the  $K^0$  sector all bounds from non-standard operators are one order of magnitude stronger than the bound from the SM operator, due to the chiral enhancement. In addition, operator  $Q_4$  has the strongest Renormalization Group (RG) enhancement. In the  $D^0$ ,  $B_d$  and  $B_s$  sectors, the chiral enhancement is absent, but the RG enhancement is still effective. The overall constraint on the NP scale  $\Lambda$  comes from  $\text{Im}C_K^4$  and reads, for strongly interacting and/or tree-level NP,  $\alpha_s$  loop mediated or  $\alpha_W$  loop mediated respectively:

$$\Lambda_{\text{tree}}^{\text{GEN}} > 2.4 \cdot 10^5 \text{ TeV}, \quad \Lambda_{\alpha_s}^{\text{GEN}} > 2.4 \cdot 10^4 \text{ TeV}, \quad \Lambda_{\alpha_W}^{\text{GEN}} > 8 \cdot 10^3 \text{ TeV}. \quad (5.4)$$

Assuming strongly interacting and/or tree-level NP contributions with NMFV flavour

Scenario	strong/tree	$\alpha_s$ loop	$\alpha_W$ loop
MFV (small $\tan\beta$ )	5.5	0.5	0.2
MFV (large $\tan\beta$ )	5.1	0.5	0.2
$M_H$ in MFV at large $\tan\beta$	$5\sqrt{(a_0+a_1)(a_0+a_2)}\left(\frac{\tan\beta}{50}\right)$		
NMFV	62	6.2	2
General	24000	2400	800

**Table 5:** Summary of the 95% probability lower bound on the NP scale  $\Lambda$  (in TeV) for several possible flavour structures and loop suppressions.

structure (i.e.  $L_i = 1$  and  $|F_i| = |F_{SM}|$ ), we can translate the upper bounds on  $C_i$  into the lower bounds on the NP scale  $\Lambda$  reported in the fourth column of table 4. The flavour structure of NMFV models implies that the bounds from the four sectors are all comparable, the strongest one being obtained from  $\text{Im}C_K^4$  (barring, as always, accidental cancellations):

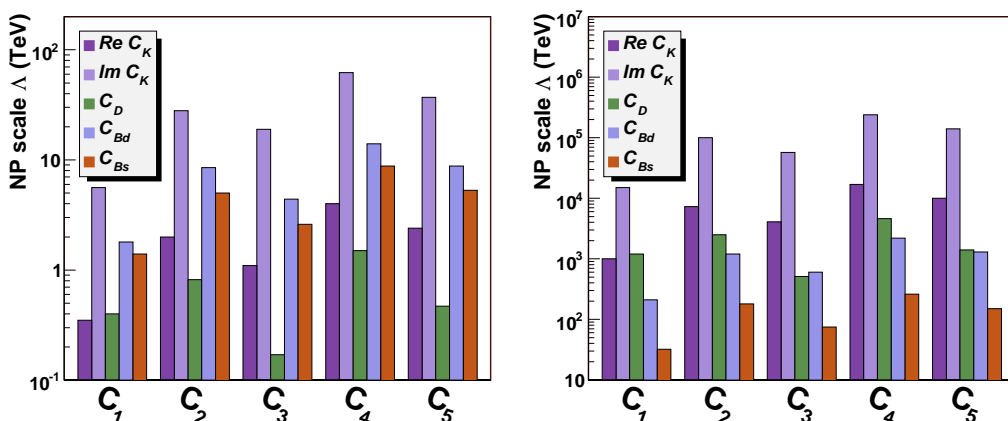
$$\Lambda_{\text{tree}}^{\text{NMFV}} > 62 \text{ TeV}, \quad \Lambda_{\alpha_s}^{\text{NMFV}} > 6.2 \text{ TeV}, \quad \Lambda_{\alpha_W}^{\text{NMFV}} > 2 \text{ TeV}. \quad (5.5)$$

Let us now comment on the possibility of direct detection of NP at LHC, given the bounds we obtained. Clearly, a loop suppression is needed in all scenarios to obtain NP scales that can be reached at the LHC. For NMFV models, an  $\alpha_W$  loop suppression might not be sufficient, since the resulting NP scale is 2 TeV. Of course, if there is an accidental suppression of the NP contribution to  $\epsilon_K$ , the scale for weak loop contributions might be as low as 0.5 TeV. The general model is out of reach even for  $\alpha_W$  (or stronger) loop suppression. For MFV models at large values of  $\tan\beta$ , stringent constraints on the mass of the non-standard Higgs bosons can be obtained. These particles may or may not be detectable at the LHC depending on the actual value of  $\tan\beta$ . Finally, the reader should keep in mind the possibility of accidental cancellations among the contribution of different operators, which might weaken the bounds we obtained.

## 6. Conclusions

We have presented bounds on the NP scale  $\Lambda$  obtained from an operator analysis of  $\Delta F = 2$  processes, using the most recent experimental measurements, the NLO formulae for the RG evolution and the Lattice QCD results for the matrix elements. We have considered four scenarios: MFV at small  $\tan\beta$ , MFV at large  $\tan\beta$ , NMFV and general NP with arbitrary flavour structure. The lower bounds on the scale  $\Lambda$  of strongly-interacting NP for NMFV and general NP scenarios (barring accidental cancellations) are reported in figure 7. Taking the most stringent bound for each scenario, we obtain the bounds given in table 5.

We conclude that any model with strongly interacting NP and/or tree-level contributions is beyond the reach of direct searches at the LHC. Flavour and CP violation remain the main tool to constrain (or detect) such NP models. Weakly-interacting extensions of the SM can be accessible at the LHC provided that they enjoy a MFV-like suppression of  $\Delta F = 2$  processes, or at least a NMFV-like suppression with an additional depletion of the NP contribution to  $\epsilon_K$ .



**Figure 7:** Summary of the 95% probability lower bound on the NP scale  $\Lambda$  for strongly-interacting NP in NMFV (left) and general NP (right) scenarios.

## Acknowledgments

We thank Guennadi Borissov, Brendan Casey, Stefano Giagu, Marco Rescigno, Andrzej Ziemiński, and Jure Zupan for useful discussions. We acknowledge partial support from RTN European contracts MRTN-CT-2004-503369 “The Quest for Unification”, MRTN-CT-2006-035482 “FLAVIANet” and MRTN-CT-2006-035505 “Heptools”.

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