
Radiative B decays at LHCb

Carla Marin

on behalf of the LHCb Collaboration

11th International Workshop on the CKM Unitarity Triangle

November 2021



b (several results with b-baryons!)

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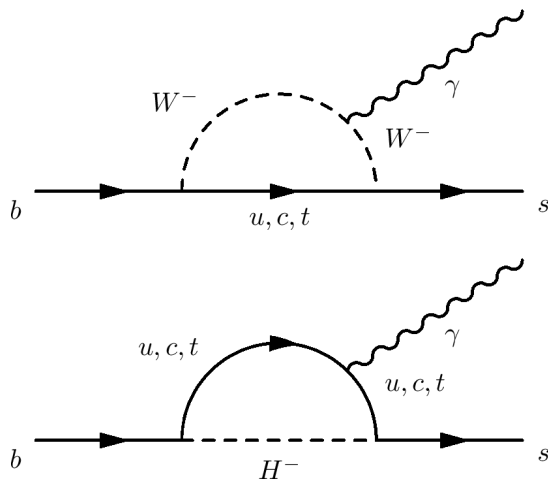
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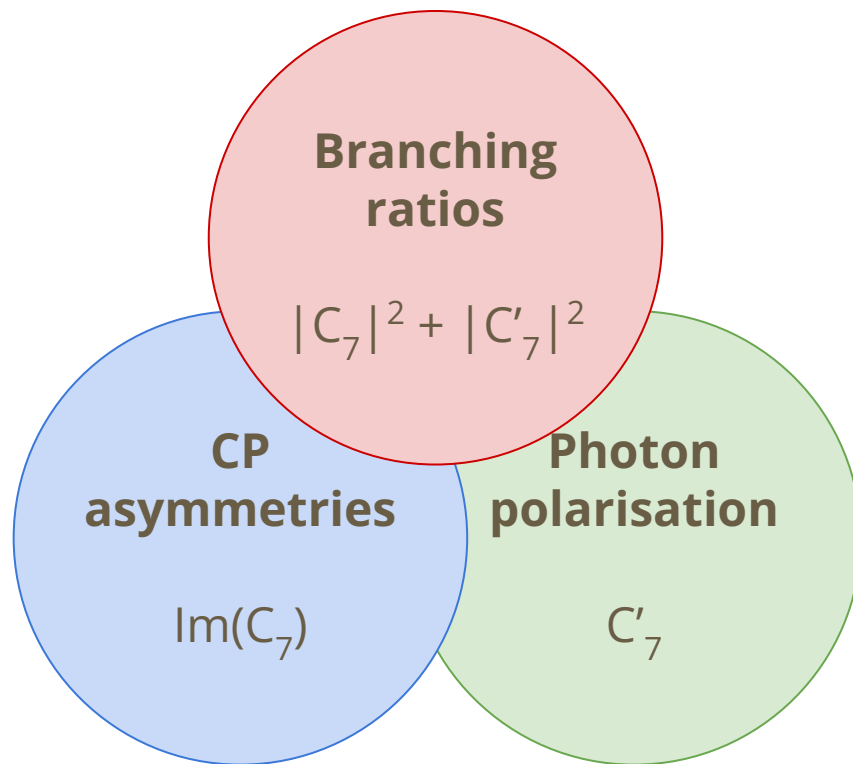
Why radiative b decays?

- FCNC sensitive to indirect effects of New Physics (NP) in loops
 - branching fractions, CPV, photon polarisation, etc.
- Access to much larger scales than direct searches



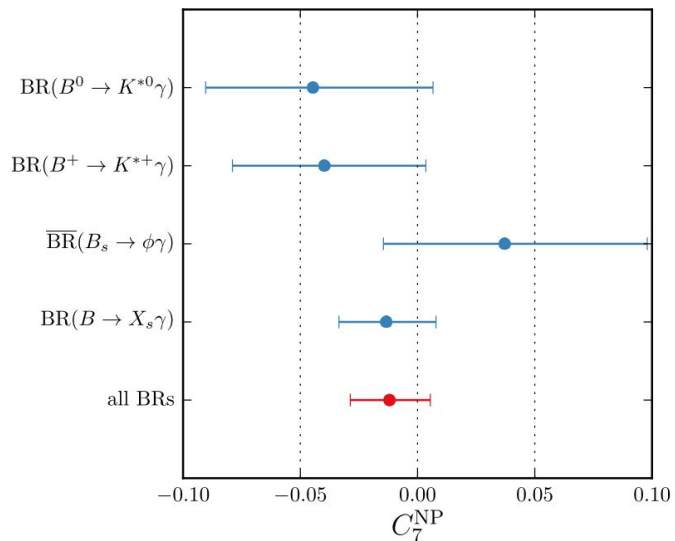
Radiative b-decay observables

$$\mathcal{H}_{eff} \propto V_{ts}^* V_{tb} (C_7 O_7 + C'_7 O'_7)$$

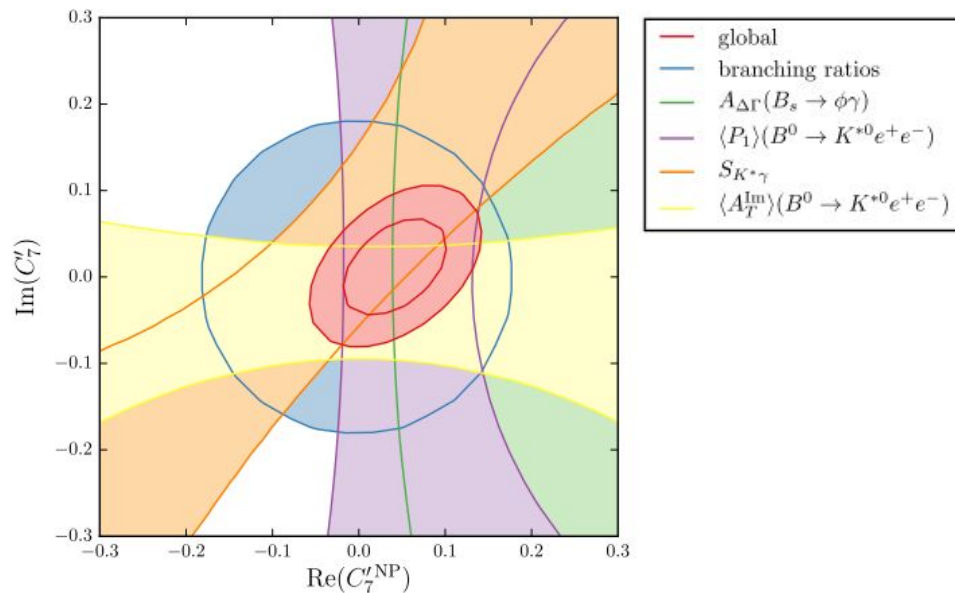


New Physics constraints from $b \rightarrow s\gamma$

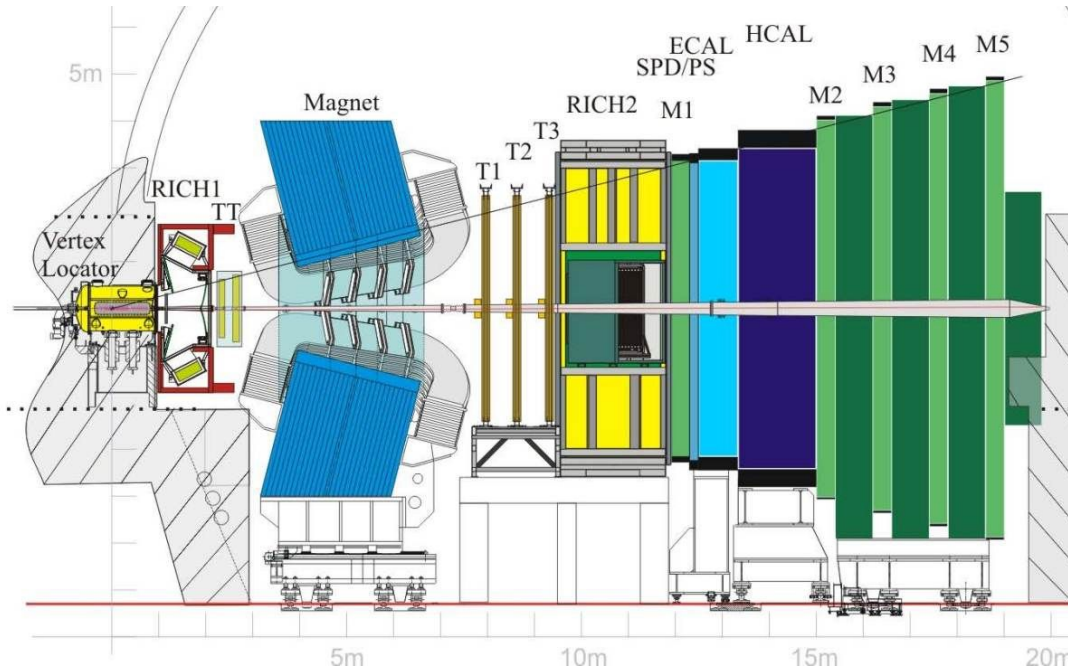
Paul & Straub [[JHEP04\(2017\)027](#)]



$$\text{Im } \Delta C_7(\mu_b) = -0.027 \pm 0.016 \quad \text{for } B^0 \rightarrow K^*\gamma$$



The LHCb detector



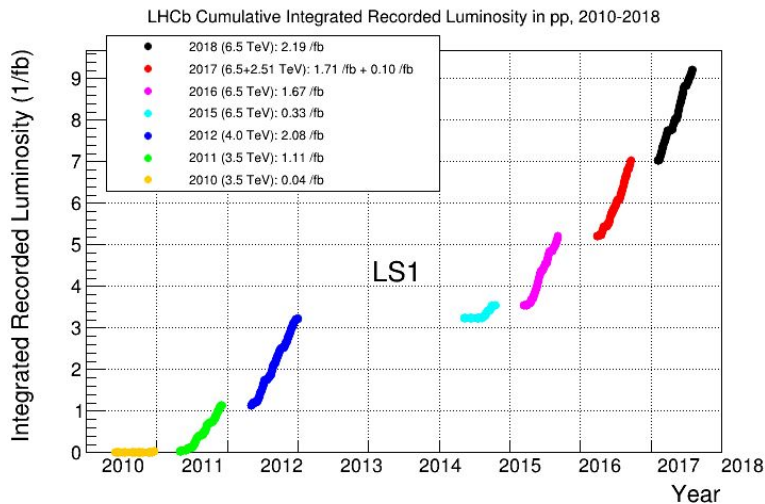
$$\Delta p / p = 0.5 - 1.0\%$$
$$\Delta IP = (15 + 29/p_T[\text{GeV}]) \mu\text{m}$$

$$\Delta E/E_{\text{ECAL}} = 1\% + 10\% / \sqrt{E[\text{GeV}]}$$

Electron ID ~90% for ~5% e→h
mis-id probability

Kaon ID ~ 95 % for ~ 5 % π→K
mis-id probability

LHCb dataset



All b-hadron species!

$$\bullet \quad B_s: \frac{f_s}{f_d+f_u} = 0.259 \pm 0.018$$

$$\bullet \quad \Lambda_b: \frac{f_{\Lambda_b}}{f_d+f_u} = 0.122 \pm 0.006$$

average in LHCb acceptance [[PRD100\(2019\)031102](#)]

and more: $\Xi_b, \Omega_b, B_c, B^* \dots$

Total recorded luminosity $\sim 9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$:

- Run 1 (2011-2012) $\sim 3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$
- Run 2 (2015-2018) $\sim 6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ and $\sigma_b(13\text{TeV})/\sigma_b(7\text{TeV}) \sim 2$ [[JHEP1712\(2017\)026](#)]

Recent LHCb results

Since the last CKM workshop:

- **First observation of the radiative decay $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$** [[PRL123\(2019\)031801](#)]
- **Measurement of CP-violating and mixing-induced observables in $B_s \rightarrow \Phi \gamma$ decays** [[PRL123\(2019\)081802](#)]
- Strong constraints on the $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ photon polarisation from $B^0 \rightarrow K^* e^+ e^-$ decays [[JHEP12\(2020\)081](#)]
- **Search for the radiative $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- \gamma$ decays** [[arXiv:2108.07678](#)]
- Analysis of neutral B-meson decays into two muons [[arXiv:2108.09283](#)]
- **Measurement of the photon polarization in $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$ decays** [[arXiv:2111.10194](#)]

See talk by M. Kreps for photon polarisation from $B^0 \rightarrow K^* e^+ e^-$

See talk by F. Dettori for first limit on $B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \gamma$ decays

Photon polarization in $B_s \rightarrow \phi\gamma$

Time dependent decay rate for f_{CP} states gives access to photon polarization:

$$\Gamma(t) \propto e^{-\Gamma_s t} \left[\cosh\left(\frac{\Delta\Gamma(s)}{2}\right) - \mathcal{A}^\Delta \sinh\left(\frac{\Delta\Gamma(s)}{2}\right) \pm \mathcal{C}_{CP} \cos(\Delta m(s)t) \mp \mathcal{S}_{CP} \sin(\Delta m(s)t) \right]$$

Accessible from decay time distribution

[PRL 118\(2017\)2,021801](#)

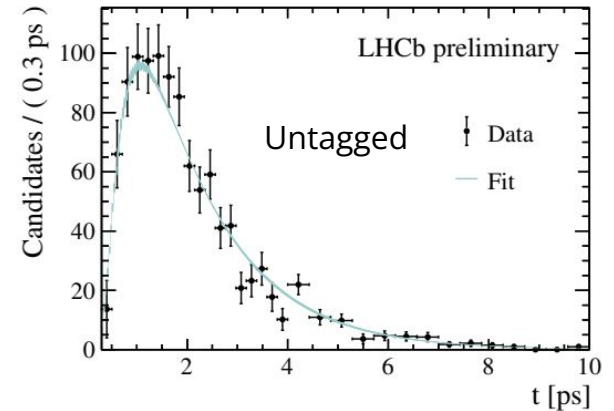
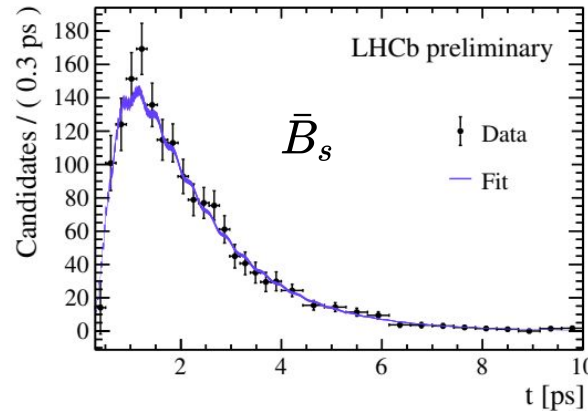
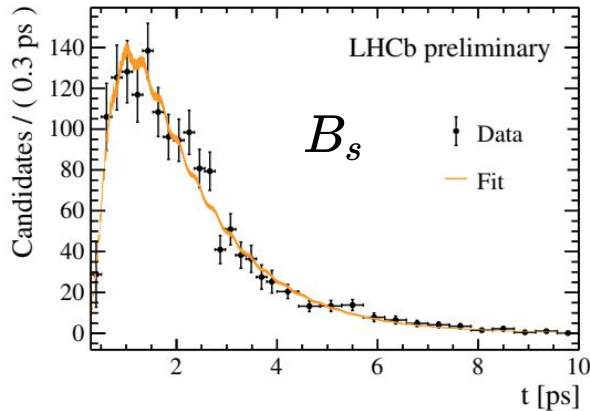
Require knowledge of the B_s flavour at production

[PRL 123 \(2019\) 081802](#)

$$\mathcal{A}_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta \simeq \frac{\text{Re}(e^{-i\phi_s} C_7 C_7')}{|C_7|^2 + |C_7'|^2} \quad \mathcal{S}_{\phi\gamma} \simeq \frac{\text{Im}(e^{-i\phi_s} C_7 C_7')}{|C_7|^2 + |C_7'|^2}$$

Photon polarization in $B_s \rightarrow \phi\gamma$

- Fit to time-dependent decay rate using full Run 1 data (3 fb^{-1}):



Compatible with SM and
previous result for A^Δ

$$S_{\phi\gamma} = 0.43 \pm 0.30 \pm 0.11$$

$$C_{\phi\gamma} = 0.11 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.11$$

$$A_{\phi\gamma}^\Delta = -0.67^{+0.37}_{-0.41} \pm 0.17$$

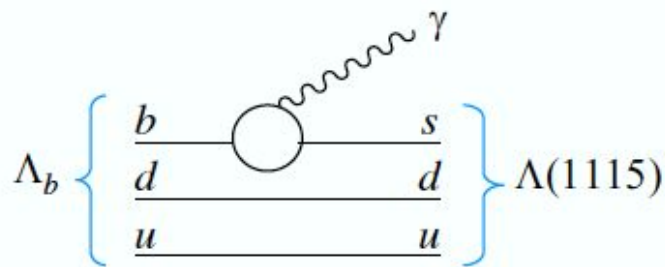
First measurement in B_s system

First observation of $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$

[PRL 123 031801 \(2019\)](#)

Baryonic $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ **not prev. observed**

BR $< 1.9 \cdot 10^{-3}$ [CDF [PhysRevD.66.112002](#)]



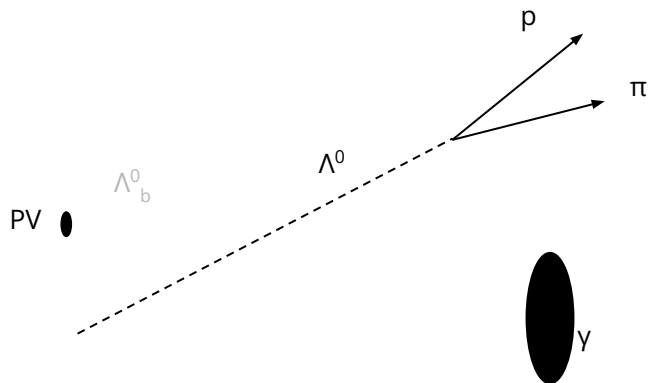
BR_{SM} $\in [0.06, 1] \times 10^{-5}$ [[Wang et al.](#),
[Mannel et al.](#), [Gan et al.](#), [Faustov et al.](#)]

Gives **access to photon polarisation**

[[Mannel & Recksiegel](#), [Hiller & Kagan](#)]

Very **challenging topology** \rightarrow

dedicated reconstruction in Run 2



Huge combinatorial background

mitigated with performant MVA

First observation of $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$

[PRL 123 031801 \(2019\)](#)

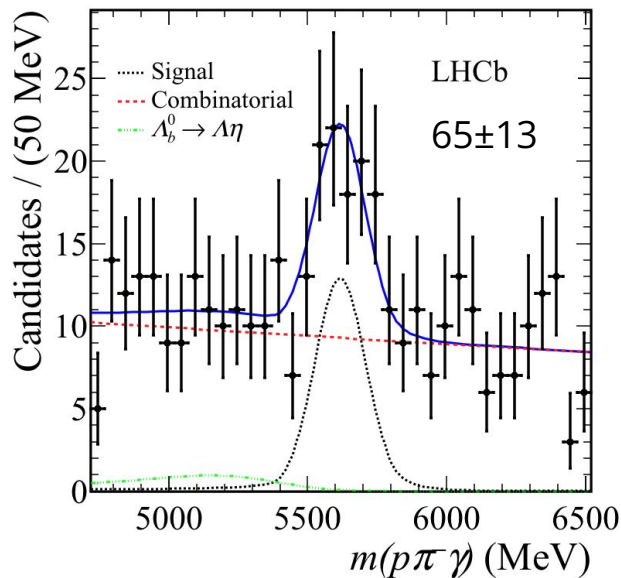
Using 2016 dataset (1.7 fb^{-1})

Significance of 5.6σ → **First observation!**

Normalising to the well-known $B^0 \rightarrow K^* \gamma$:

$$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma) = (7.1 \pm 1.5 \pm 0.6 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-6}$$

statistically dominated; main systematic from production fraction



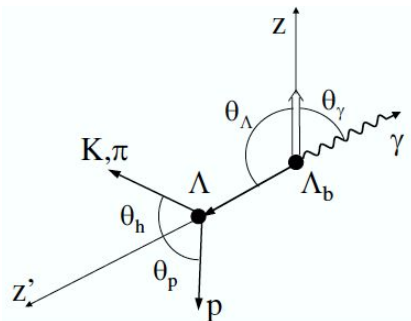
Photon polarisation in $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$

Proton helicity gives access to the photon polarisation [[Mannel & Recksiegel](#), [Hiller & Kagan](#)]:

$$\alpha_\gamma = \frac{P(\gamma_L) - P(\gamma_R)}{P(\gamma_L) + P(\gamma_R)}$$

$$\alpha_\gamma = \frac{1 - |r|^2}{1 + |r|^2}$$

$$r^{LO} = \frac{C'_7}{C_7} \sim \frac{m_s}{m_b} \text{ in SM}$$



$$\frac{d\Gamma}{d \cos \theta_\gamma} \propto 1 - \alpha_\gamma P_{\Lambda_b} \cos \theta_\gamma$$

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{d \cos \theta_p} \propto 1 - \alpha_\gamma \alpha_{p,1/2} \cos \theta_p$$

P_{Λ_b} consistent with 0 [[JHEP 06 \(2020\) 110](#)]

$\alpha_{p,1/2} = (0.750 \pm 0.009)$ [[Nature Phys.15\(2019\)631-634](#)]

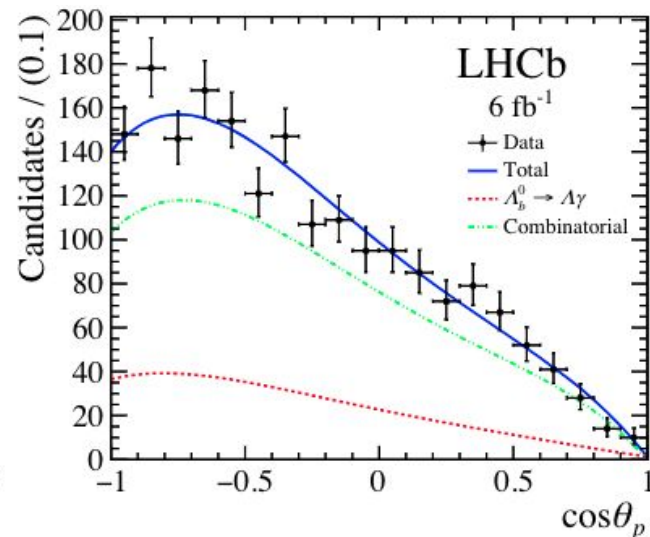
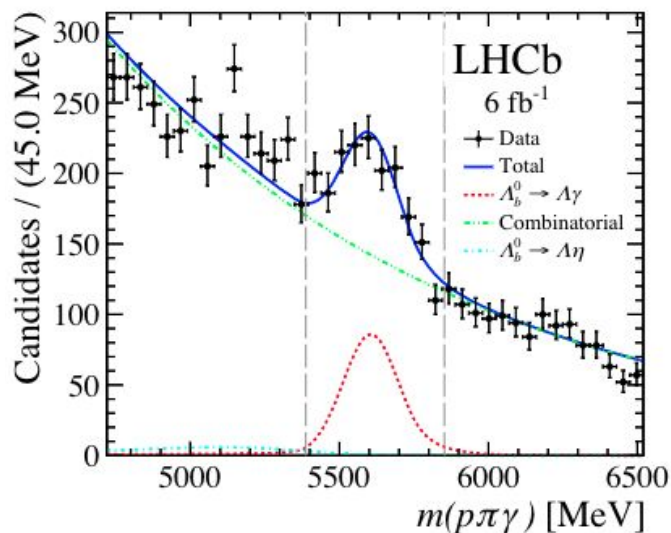
Sensitive to right handed currents

Photon polarisation in $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$

[arXiv:2111.10194](https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.10194)

Uses full Run 2 dataset (6 fb⁻¹) and reoptimised selection

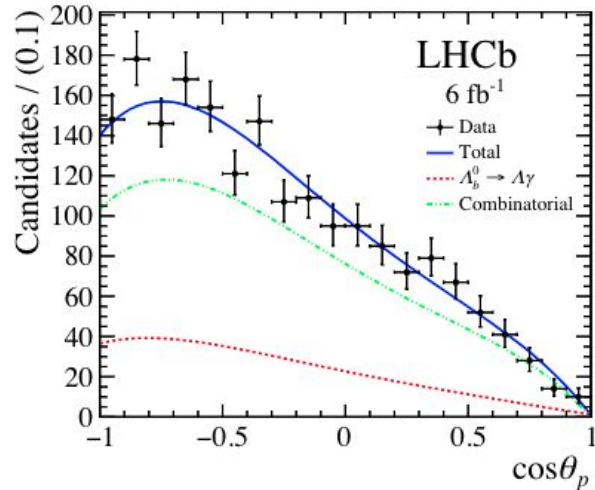
$$\frac{d\Gamma}{d \cos \theta_p} \propto 1 - \alpha_\gamma \alpha_{p,1/2} \cos \theta_p$$



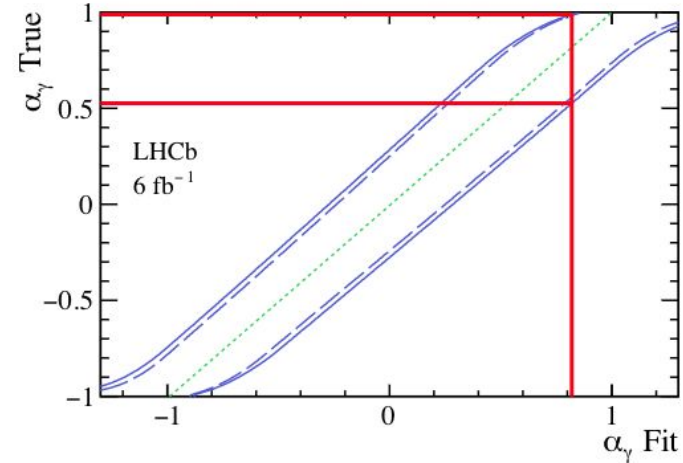
Fit signal and background angular distributions in signal mass region,
main systematic from background shape

Photon polarisation in $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$

Confidence interval in physical region obtained through Feldman-Cousins



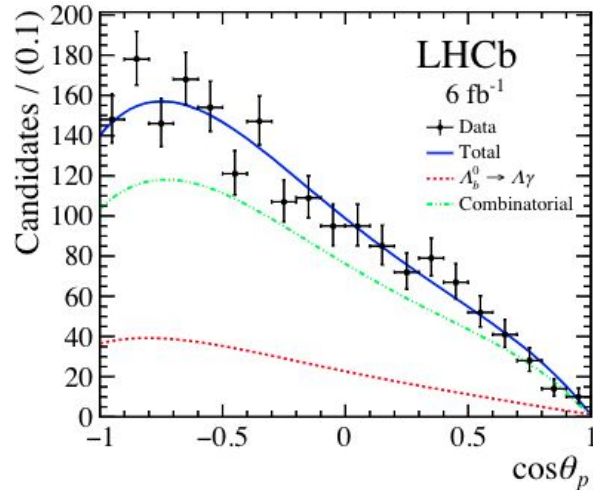
$$\alpha_\gamma = 0.82 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.13.$$



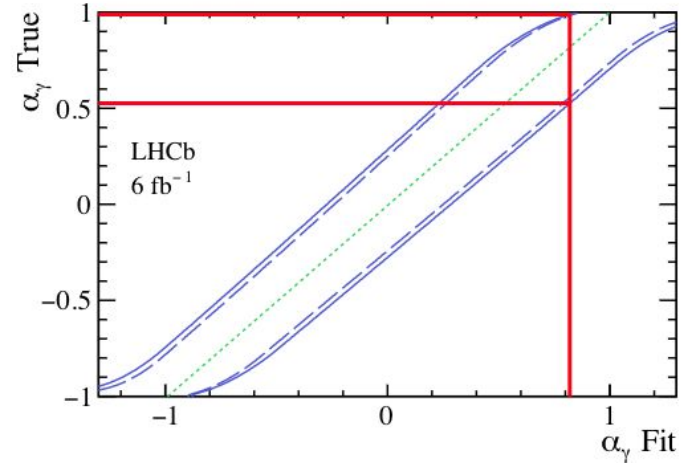
$$\alpha_\gamma = 0.82^{+0.17}_{-0.26} \text{ (stat.) } ^{+0.04}_{-0.13} \text{ (syst.)}$$

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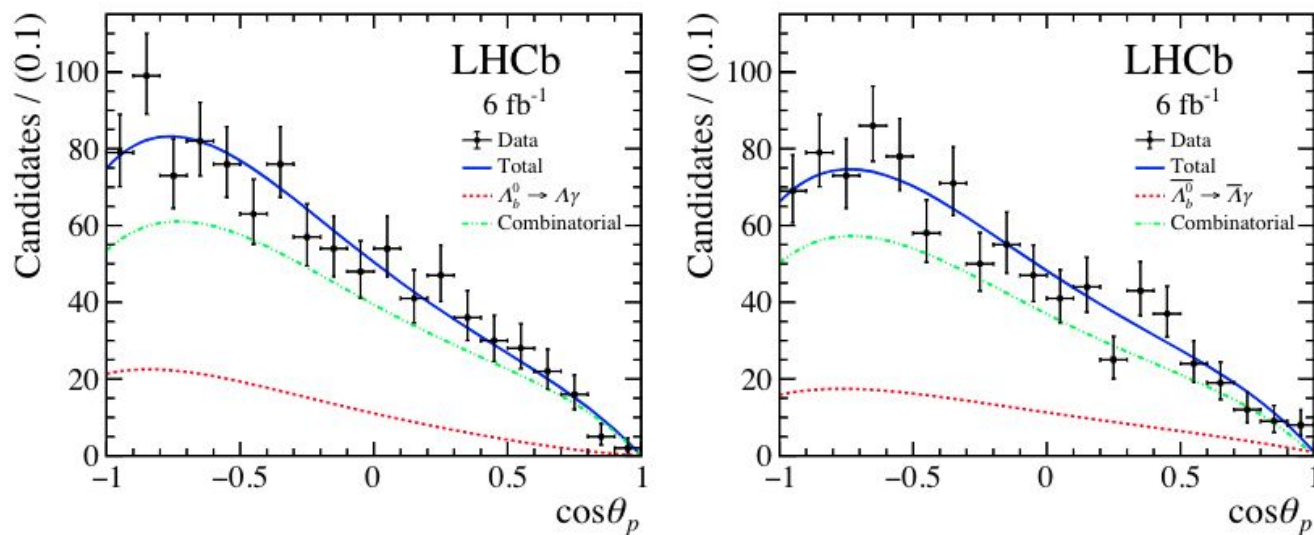
$$\alpha_\gamma = 0.82^{+0.17}_{-0.26} \text{ (stat.) } ^{+0.04}_{-0.13} \text{ (syst.)}$$

First measurement of the $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ photon polarisation in b -baryon decays!

Photon polarisation in $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$

[arXiv:2111.10194](https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.10194)

CPV measurement by splitting the sample according to the p charge:

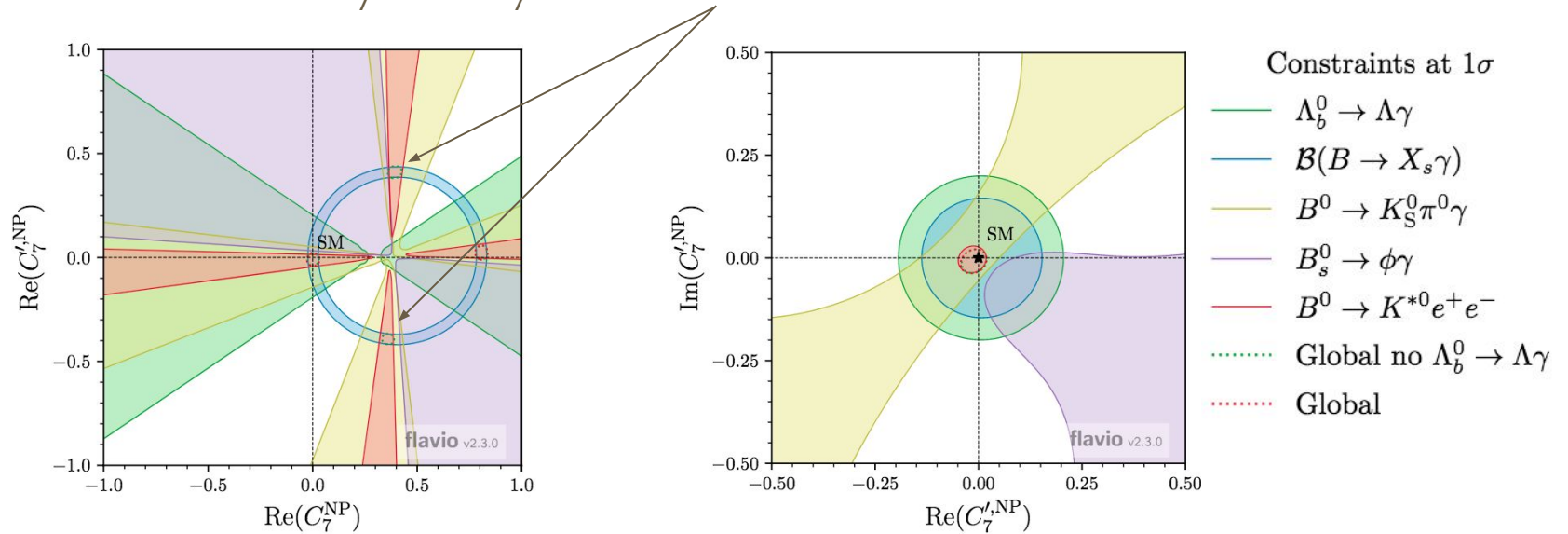


$$\alpha_\gamma^- > 0.56 \text{ (0.44) at 90\% (95\%) CL,}$$

$$\alpha_\gamma^+ = -0.56_{-0.33}^{+0.36} \text{ (stat.)}_{-0.09}^{+0.16} \text{ (syst.),}$$

Photon polarisation in $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$

New constraints on C_7 and C'_7 : discard 2 so-far allowed solutions



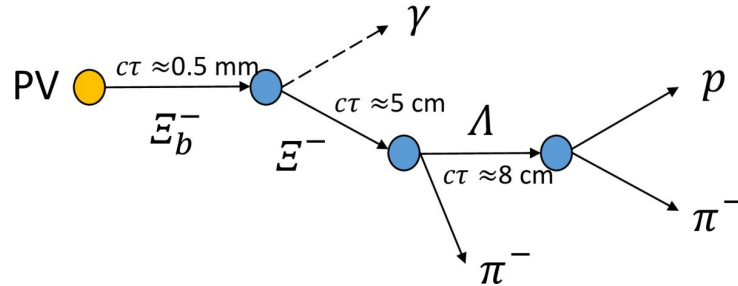
CPV results not included: need theory input (and better precision)

Search for $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- \gamma$ decays

No previous search. SM predictions:

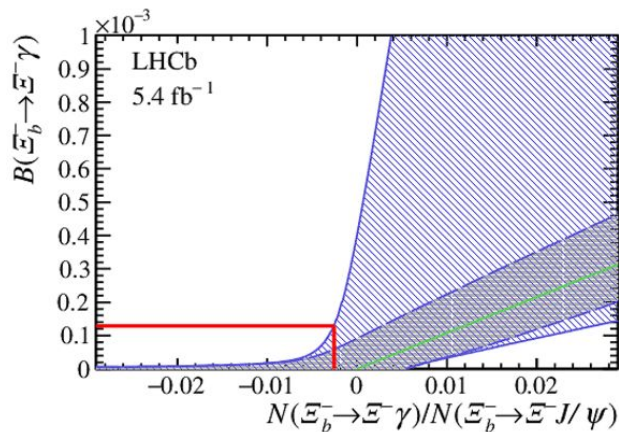
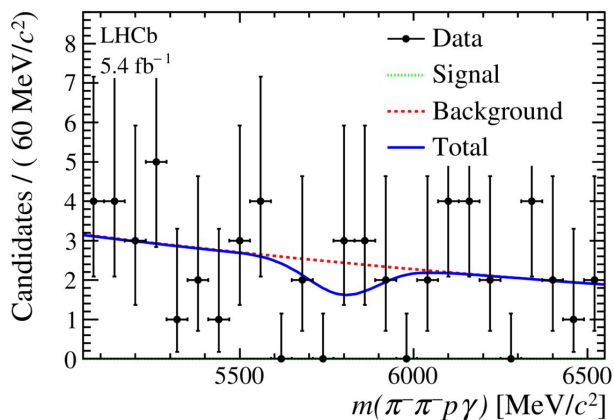
- $BR_{SM} = (3.03 \pm 0.10) \times 10^{-4}$ [[Liu et al., '11](#)] based on LCSR - rather high for a radiative decay
- $BR_{SM} = (1.23 \pm 0.64) \times 10^{-5}$ [[Wang et al., '20](#)] based on measured $BR(\Lambda_b \rightarrow \Lambda^0 \gamma) + SU(3)$

Very challenging topology at LHCb, only 5% decay in the vertex locator



Search for $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- \gamma$ decays

Uses Run 2 data (5.4 fb⁻¹) and $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- J/\psi$ as control mode



No signal found \rightarrow limit from Feldman-Cousins

- dominated by systematic from $\text{BR}(\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- J/\psi)$

$$\text{BR}(\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- \gamma) / \text{BR}(\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- J/\psi) < 0.12 \\ (0.08) \text{ at } 95\% (90\%) \text{ CL}$$

$$\text{BR}(\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- \gamma) < 1.3(0.6) \times 10^{-4} \\ \text{at } 95\% (90\%) \text{ CL}$$

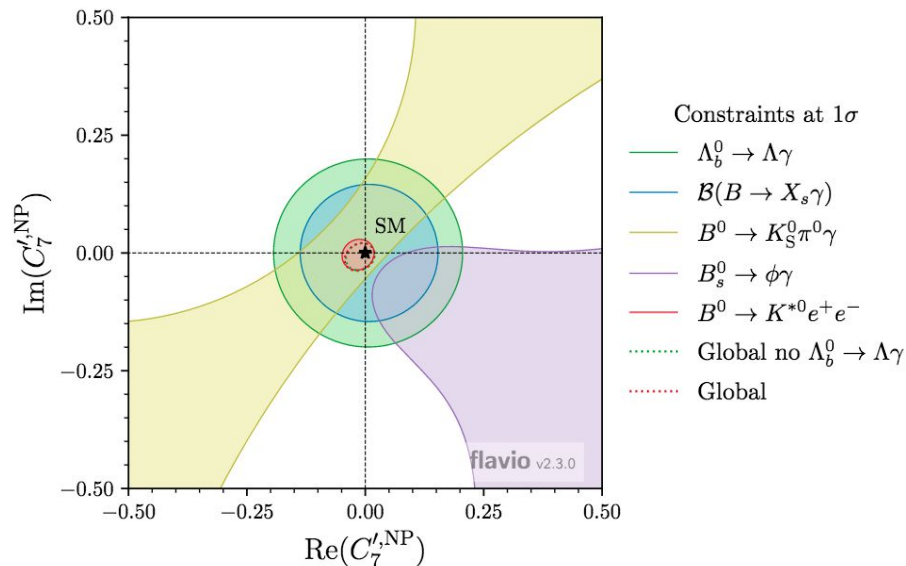
Conclusions

LHCb is a b-hadron factory: access to radiative decays of all hadron species

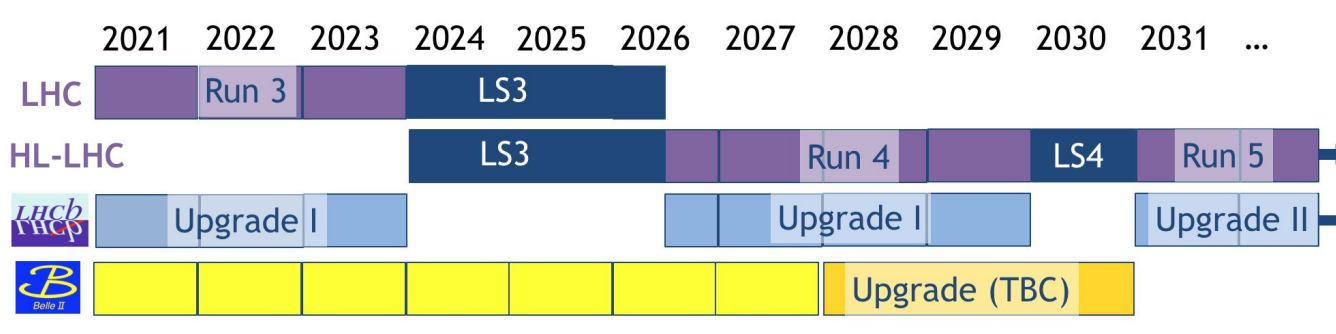
- most precise $B_s \rightarrow \varphi\gamma$ results
- first measurement of photon polarisation in baryon $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ decays

Precision era in $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ measurements:

- world-best constraints on C'_7



Future prospects

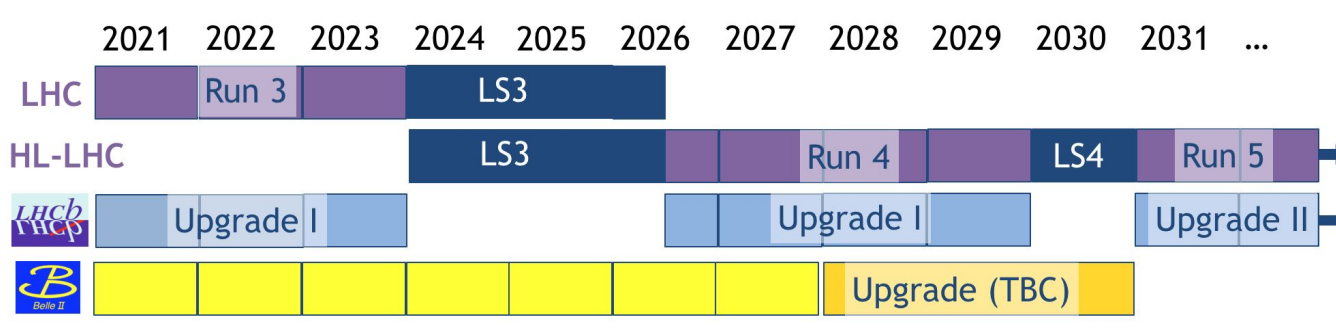


Decay mode	Upgrade 2 (300 fb ⁻¹)
$B_s \rightarrow \varphi \gamma$	$\delta A^\Delta \sim 0.02$
$\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$	$\delta \alpha_\gamma \sim 4\%$
$\Xi_b^- \rightarrow \Xi^- \gamma$	$\delta \alpha_\gamma \sim 10\%$
$B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$	$\delta \alpha_\gamma \sim 1\%$
$B^0 \rightarrow K^* e^+ e^-$	$\delta A_T^{(2)} \sim 2\%$

+ modes with more neutrals, eg $B^0 \rightarrow K_S \pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$
 + $b \rightarrow d \gamma$ decays

Good control of systematic uncertainties will be critical

Future prospects



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Stay tuned!

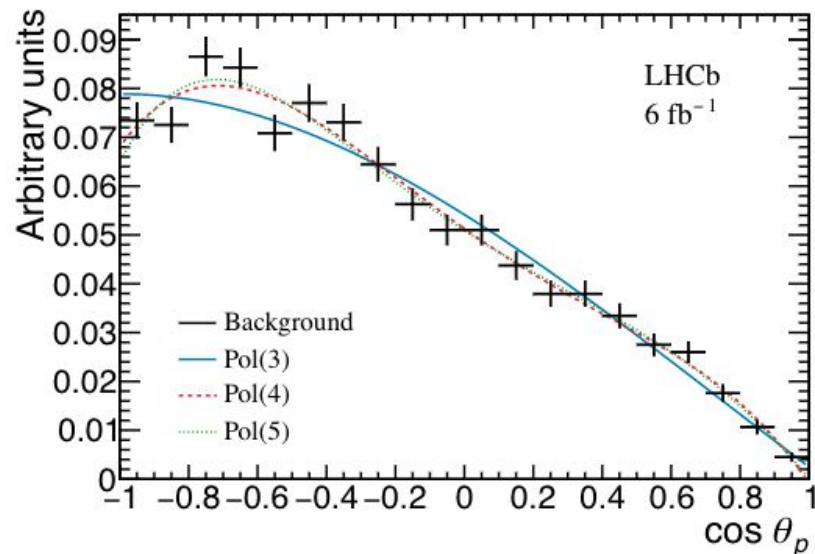
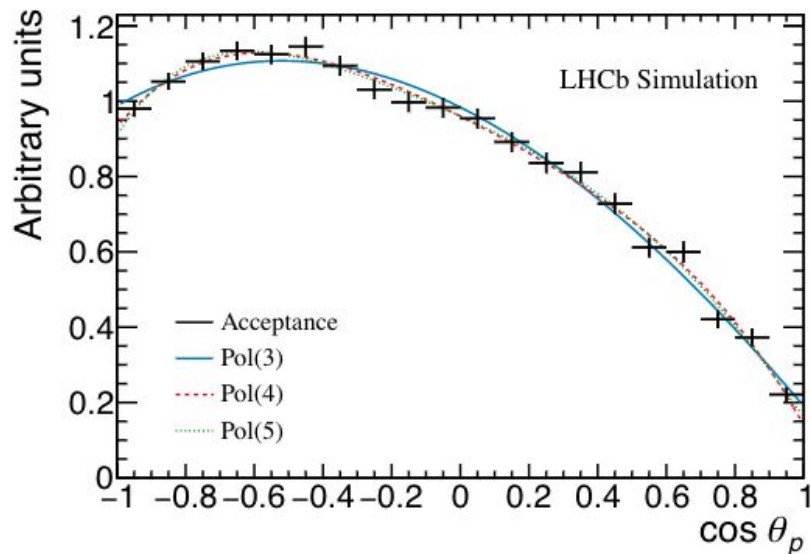
Thanks for the attention

Questions?

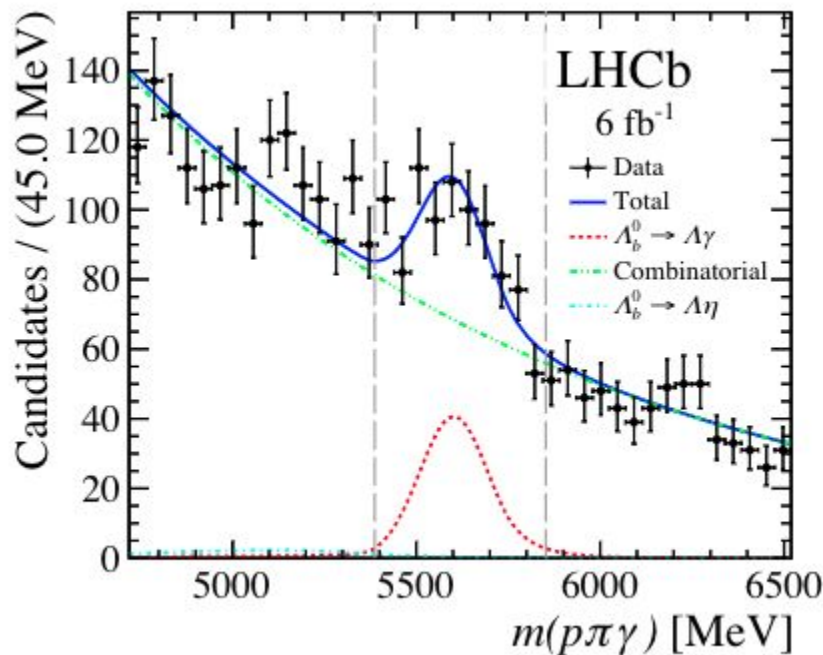
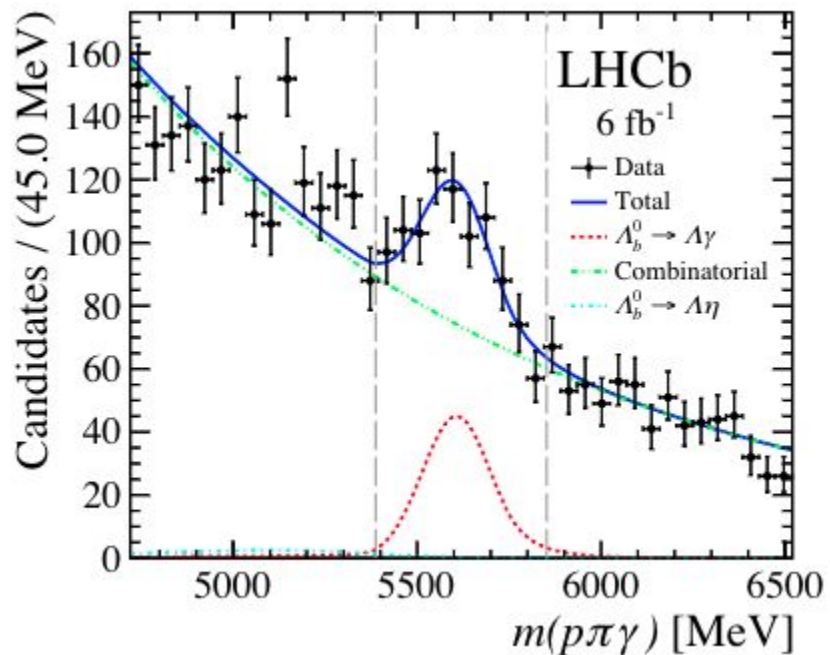
Comments?

BACK-UP

$\Lambda_b \rightarrow \Lambda^0 \gamma$: acceptance and background



$\Lambda_b \rightarrow \Lambda^0 \gamma$: CP mass fits



Exploiting $b \rightarrow se^+e^-$ at very low q^2

Angular coefficients $A_T^{(2)}$ and A_T^{Im} give access to C'_7 :

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{d(\Gamma + \bar{\Gamma})/dq^2} \frac{d^4(\Gamma + \bar{\Gamma})}{dq^2 d\cos\theta_\ell d\cos\theta_K d\tilde{\phi}} = \\ & = \frac{9}{16\pi} \left[\frac{3}{4}(1 - F_L) \sin^2\theta_K + F_L \cos^2\theta_K + \right. \\ & \quad \left(\frac{1}{4}(1 - F_L) \sin^2\theta_K - F_L \cos^2\theta_K \right) \cos 2\theta_\ell + \\ & \quad \frac{1}{2}(1 - F_L) A_T^{(2)} \sin^2\theta_K \sin^2\theta_\ell \cos 2\tilde{\phi} + \\ & \quad (1 - F_L) A_T^{\text{Re}} \sin^2\theta_K \cos\theta_\ell + \\ & \quad \left. \frac{1}{2}(1 - F_L) A_T^{\text{Im}} \sin^2\theta_K \sin^2\theta_\ell \sin 2\tilde{\phi} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

after folding ϕ to reduce number of parameters

$$A_T^{(2)}(q^2 \rightarrow 0) = \frac{2\text{Re}(C_7 C_7'^*)}{|C_7|^2 + |C_7'|^2}$$

$$A_T^{\text{Im}}(q^2 \rightarrow 0) = \frac{2\text{Im}(C_7 C_7'^*)}{|C_7|^2 + |C_7'|^2}$$

Pollution from $C_{9,10}$ when q^2 far from zero \rightarrow analysis at very low q^2

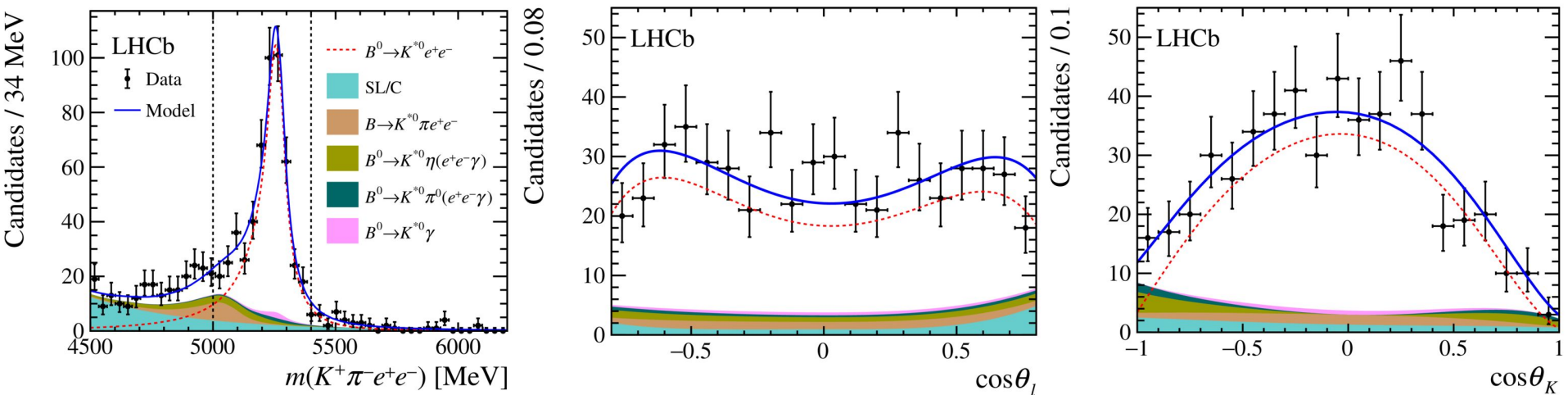
- Run 1 analysis: $q^2 \in [0.002, 1.120]$ GeV^2/c^4
- Run 1+2: $q^2 \in [0.0008, 0.257]$ GeV^2/c^4

Exploiting $b \rightarrow se^+e^-$ at very low q^2

[arXiv:2010.06011](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.06011)



Much cleaner selection achieved in new analysis



Mass shape, angular acceptance and model validated with $B \rightarrow K^* \gamma (\rightarrow e^+ e^-)$

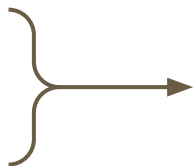
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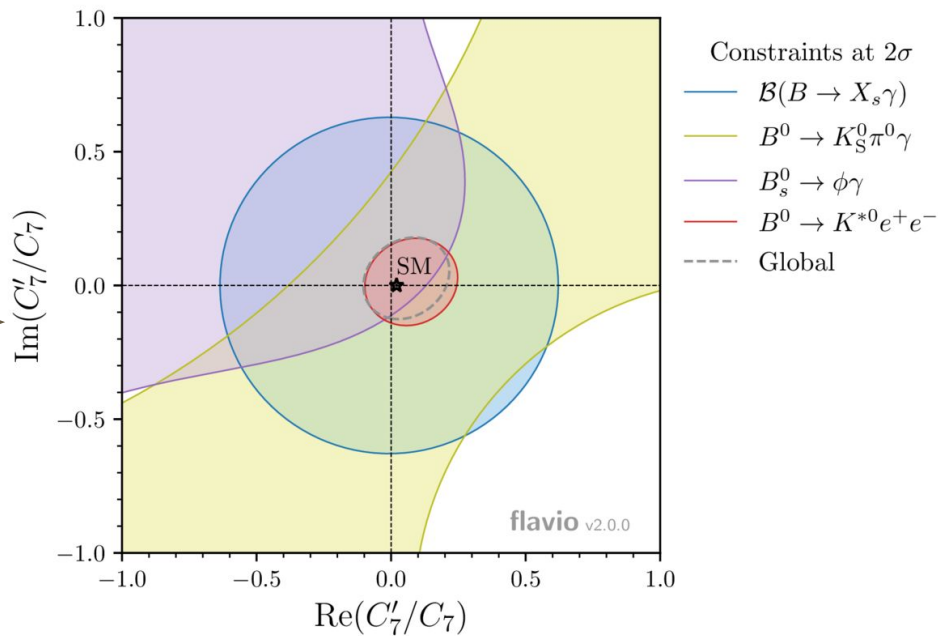
World-best constraints on C'_7 achieved!

$$\begin{aligned} F_L &= 0.044 \pm 0.026 \pm 0.014, \\ A_T^{\text{Re}} &= -0.06 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.02, \\ A_T^{(2)} &= +0.11 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.02, \\ A_T^{\text{Im}} &= +0.02 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.01, \end{aligned}$$

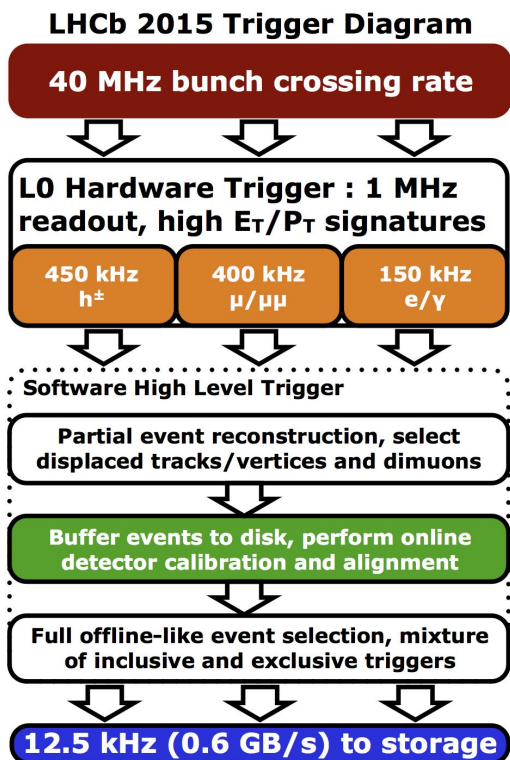


Perfect agreement with SM

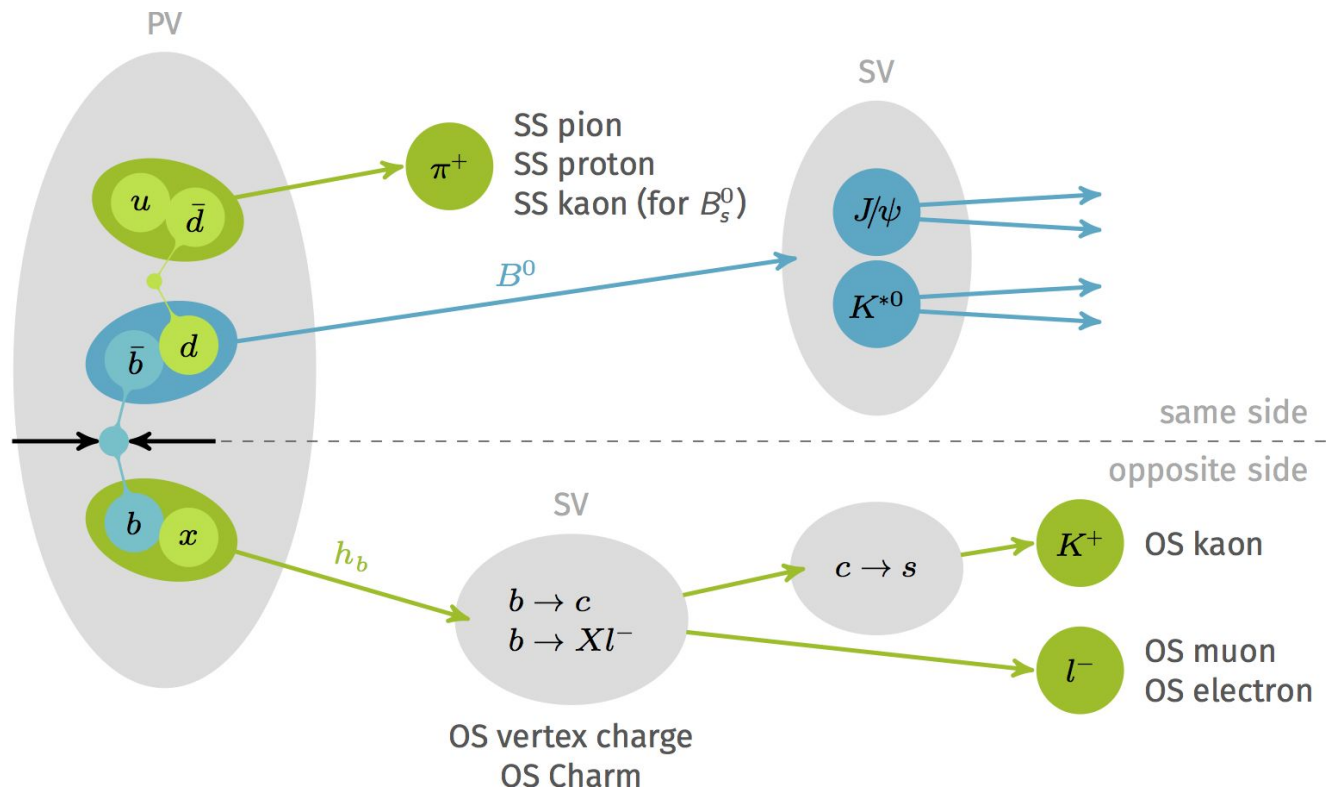
still room for NP?



LHCb Trigger



Flavour tagging at LHCb



LHCb Upgrade for photon polarisation

Projections with 300 fb^{-1} , assuming same performances as Run 1/2

