

# Parity doubling as a tool for right-handed current searches

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**James Gratrex and Roman Zwicky**

*Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics, School of Physics and Astronomy,  
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, Scotland*

*E-mail:* [j.gratrex@ed.ac.uk](mailto:j.gratrex@ed.ac.uk), [roman.zwicky@ed.ac.uk](mailto:roman.zwicky@ed.ac.uk)

**ABSTRACT:** The V-A structure of the weak interactions leads to definite amplitude hierarchies in exclusive heavy-to-light decays mediated by  $b \rightarrow (d, s)\gamma$  and  $b \rightarrow (d, s)\ell\bar{\ell}$ . However, the extraction of right-handed currents beyond the Standard Model is contaminated by V-A long-distance contributions leaking into right-handed amplitudes. We propose that these quantum-number changing long-distance contributions can be controlled by considering the almost parity-degenerate vector meson final states by exploiting the *opposite* relative sign of left- versus right-handed amplitudes. For example, measuring the time-dependent rates of a pair of vector  $V(J^P = 1^-)$  and axial  $A(1^+)$  mesons in  $B \rightarrow (V, A)\gamma$ , up to an order of magnitude is gained on the theory uncertainty prediction, controlled by long-distance ratios to the right-handed amplitude. This renders these decays clean probes to null tests, from the theory side.

**KEYWORDS:** Heavy Quark Physics, Global Symmetries

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## 1 Introduction

It is well-known that the V-A structure of the weak interaction leaves characteristic traces in the polarisation of weak decays e.g. [1–3]. This is particularly attractive in heavy-to-light flavour-changing neutral currents (FCNCs), such as  $b \rightarrow D\gamma$  or  $b \rightarrow D\ell\bar{\ell}$  with  $D = d, s$  and  $\ell = e, \mu, \tau$ . These transitions therefore make excellent probes to search for new physics with V+A structure, referred to as right-handed currents (RHC) below. Schematically, the effective Hamiltonian for such decays reads

$$H_{\text{eff}}^{b \rightarrow d\gamma} \sim C \bar{d}_L \Gamma b O_r + C' \bar{d}_R \Gamma b O'_r, \quad C^{(\prime)} = C_{\text{SM}}^{(\prime)} + C_{\text{NP}}^{(\prime)}, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $2d_{L(R)} = (1 \mp \gamma_5)d$ , and  $O_r^{(\prime)}$  stands for the (r)emaining part of the operator, to be made more precise in section 2. The  $b \rightarrow s\gamma$  case is recovered by  $d \rightarrow s$ , with according changes in the CKM factors. In the Standard Model (SM),  $(C'/C)_{\text{SM}} \sim m_D/m_b$ , whereas

in generic New Physics (NP) models  $(C'/C)_{\text{NP}} \gg (C'/C)_{\text{SM}}$  [4–7], with current constraints on the electroweak penguin operator around  $(C'_7/C_7)_{\text{NP}} \sim 1/5$  [8–10]. In the terminology of the Minimal Flavour Violation (MFV) effective field theory framework, the  $O$ - and  $O'$ -type operators, with the above mentioned hierarchies, are referred to as MFV and non-MFV type [11].

Non-perturbative matrix elements, connecting  $H_{\text{eff}}$  to amplitudes, can dilute the cleanliness of the signal. For  $\bar{B} \rightarrow V\gamma$ , where  $V$  is a vector meson (e.g.  $\rho, K^*, \dots$ ), the form factors, referred to as short-distance (SD) contributions hereafter, obey exact algebraic relations, leading to accidental control in the SD part. However, sizeable tree-level four-quark operators with charm and up quarks,  $H_{\text{eff}} \sim \bar{d}_L \gamma_\mu U \bar{U}_L \gamma^\mu b$  ( $U = u, c$ ), induce genuine long-distance (LD) effects, which are more difficult to control. It was argued, based on studying the inclusive  $\bar{B} \rightarrow X_s \gamma$  decay, that such contaminations could be rather significant [12], whereas actual computations show smaller effects in exclusive channels [13–17].

In this article, we show that these LD effects can be controlled by a symmetry that in turn also explains the smallness found in the concrete computation [13] quoted just above. The symmetry in question is the *chiral restoration limit*. The crucial point is that decays of opposite parity, such as  $\bar{B} \rightarrow \rho(1^{--})\gamma$  versus  $\bar{B} \rightarrow a_1(1^{++})\gamma$ , are opposite in sign in the right-handed amplitude between the exact SD and LD contributions (originating from the sizeable V-A part).<sup>1</sup> While decays of axial mesons have received some attention as complementary probes for RHC (e.g. [21–23]), we advocate that the combination of the two decay channels allows for a cleaner extraction of the relevant observables controlled by ratios of vector to axial LD amplitudes. In light-cone approaches, this necessitates axial vector meson distribution amplitudes (DAs) [24], whose symmetry relations with vector meson DAs can be studied rather systematically [25]. For a simplified discussion of the main ideas of this paper we refer the reader to [26].

The paper is organised as follows. In section 2 it is shown, using the path integral, that the fraction of LD- over SD-RHC flips sign for parity doublers. In section 3, the parity doublers are listed (section 3.1), followed by a discussion of the sources of correction to the symmetry limit in section 3.2. Applications to the time-dependent rates of  $\bar{B} \rightarrow (V, A)\gamma$ , a detailed breakdown of  $\bar{B}_s \rightarrow \phi(f_1)\gamma$ , and remarks on  $B \rightarrow (V, A)\ell\bar{\ell}$  are presented in sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 respectively. The paper ends with conclusions in section 5, including comments on the experimental feasibility of the measurement. A discussion on the chiral order parameter, illustrating some technical aspects of the paper, is given in appendix A.

## 2 The use of parity doubling for right-handed current searches

After briefly discussing the structure of  $B \rightarrow V\gamma$  amplitudes in section 2.1, we demonstrate in section 2.2 how the left- and right-handed amplitudes of opposite parity states come with a relative minus sign.

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<sup>1</sup>We choose to use the  $\rho$  and  $a_1$  as the prime examples for general discussions on historical grounds, in connection with the Weinberg sum rules [18, 19]. Other parity doubling pairs, with considerably smaller widths, are tabulated in section 3.1. For an exhaustive review on the physics and history of parity doubling, we refer the reader to reference [20]. Some more discussion can be found in appendix B.

## 2.1 Chirality hierarchy of amplitudes in the Standard Model

The  $B \rightarrow V\gamma$  amplitude can be expressed in terms of the two photon polarisations as<sup>2</sup>

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv \langle \gamma(q, \varepsilon) V(p, \eta) | H_{\text{eff}} | \bar{B}(p_B) \rangle = \bar{\mathcal{A}}_L^{\bar{B} \rightarrow V\gamma} S_L + \bar{\mathcal{A}}_R^{\bar{B} \rightarrow V\gamma} S_R, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $S_{L(R)} \equiv [\varepsilon(\varepsilon^*, \eta^*, p, q) \pm i\{(\varepsilon^* \eta^*)(pq) - (\varepsilon^* p)(\eta^* q)\}]$ , Levi-Civita sign convention  $\epsilon_{0123} = 1$ , contractions of vectors are understood, and  $\varepsilon$  and  $\eta$  are the polarisation vectors of the photon and the meson respectively. The bar refers to  $\bar{B}$ -transitions ( $b \rightarrow D\gamma$ ), where  $D = (d, s)$ , as opposed to the  $B$ -transition ( $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{D}\gamma$ ). Each chirality amplitude can then be decomposed into contributions from  $O$  and  $O'$  operators (1.1):

$$\bar{\mathcal{A}}_\chi^{\bar{B} \rightarrow V\gamma} = \bar{A}_\chi + \bar{A}'_\chi, \quad \chi = L, R, \quad (2.2)$$

dropping the superscript for brevity. The V-A interactions imply  $|\bar{A}_\chi| \gg |\bar{A}'_\chi|$ , which is, for example, encoded in  $C'_7/C_7 = m_D/m_b$  in the SM, where the  $C_7$  and  $C'_7$  are Wilson coefficients of the effective Hamiltonian ( $U = u, c$  and  $\lambda_U^{(D)} = V_{Ub}V_{UD}^*$ )

$$H_{\text{eff}}^{b \rightarrow (D=d,s)\gamma} = \frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \lambda_U^{(D)} [C_1 O_1^U + C_2 O_2^U] - \lambda_t^{(D)} \sum_{i=3}^8 C_i O_i \right) + \{C, D_L \rightarrow C', D_R\}, \quad (2.3)$$

with more detailed definitions in appendix C.

Normalising to the dominant SD contribution, the amplitudes (2.2) read

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathcal{A}}_L^{\bar{B} \rightarrow V\gamma} &= 4\sqrt{2}G_F \lambda_t C_7 T_1(0) \left( 1 + \tilde{\lambda}_i(\epsilon_{V,L}^i + \epsilon'_{V,L}^i) \right), \\ \bar{\mathcal{A}}_R^{\bar{B} \rightarrow V\gamma} &= 4\sqrt{2}G_F \lambda_t C_7 T_1(0) \left( \hat{C}'_7 + \tilde{\lambda}_i(\epsilon_{V,R}^i + \epsilon'_{V,R}^i) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

with summation over  $i = u, c$  implied,  $-2T_1(0)S_{L(R)} = \langle V | \bar{s}_{L(R)} \sigma \cdot F b | \bar{B} \rangle$ , and  $\epsilon'_{V,\chi}$  includes the ratio of Wilson coefficients and the QCD matrix element but not the CKM contribution  $\tilde{\lambda}_i \equiv \lambda_i/\lambda_t$  (with  $(D)$  superscript suppressed). The NP part  $\Delta_R e^{i\phi_{\Delta_R}}$  of the RHC is encoded in

$$\hat{C}'_7 \equiv \frac{C'_7}{C_7} = \hat{m}_{d,s} + \Delta_R e^{i\phi_{\Delta_R}}, \quad \hat{m}_D \equiv m_D/m_b, \quad (2.5)$$

where, by convention,  $\Delta_R \geq 0$ , and  $\phi_{\Delta_R}$  is the weak (CP-odd) phase relative to the SM phase originating from  $\lambda_t^{(D)}$ . For further discussion, it is convenient to break down the relative parts into the following table,

$\bar{\mathcal{A}}_\chi^{\bar{B} \rightarrow V\gamma}$	$\bar{A}_{SD,\chi}$	$\bar{A}_{LD,\chi}$	$\bar{A}'_{SD,\chi}$	$\bar{A}'_{LD,\chi}$
$\chi = L$	1	$\tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon_{V,L}^i$	0	$\tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon'_{V,L}^i$
$\chi = R$	0	$\tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon_{V,R}^i$	$\hat{m}_{d,s} + \Delta_R e^{i\phi_{\Delta_R}}$	$\tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon'_{V,R}^i$

(2.6)

<sup>2</sup>The extension to the notation of  $B \rightarrow V\ell\bar{\ell}$  is as follows:  $\mathcal{A}_{L(R)} \sim H_\mp$ , with photon polarisation vectors  $\varepsilon(\pm) = (0, \pm 1, i, 0)/\sqrt{2}$ , and the amplitudes are frequently written in terms of  $\sqrt{2}\mathcal{A}_{\perp(\parallel)} = H_+ \mp H_-$  [27, 28]. Away from  $q^2 = 0$ , one also needs the amplitude  $\mathcal{A}_0$ , corresponding to the longitudinal polarisation of the vector meson or the off-shell photon.

The two zero entries in (2.6) are due to the algebraic relation  $\sigma^{\alpha\beta}\gamma_5 = -\frac{i}{2}\epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}\sigma_{\gamma\delta}$ , which descends to the form-factor relation  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$ .

The relative importance of the LD contributions in  $b \rightarrow D\gamma$  depends on the CKM hierarchy (C.5). More specifically, the  $\bar{A}'_{LD,\chi}$  are not of major importance, as only the  $C'_8 O'_8$ -operator contributes, and it was shown in [29] that, at leading twist,  $\bar{A}'_{LD,L} = 0$ , while  $\bar{A}'_{LD,R}$  is at the percent level in the normalisation above. The  $\epsilon^i_{V,L,R}$  are the, potentially sizeable, LD contributions. Throughout this presentation we assume  $\epsilon^i_{V,L,R} \ll 1$ , which is a circumstance that can be checked experimentally for the  $\epsilon^i_{V,R}$  contribution (cf. section 4.2).

Crucially, the breakdown (2.6) reveals that, in a vector-meson final state of definite parity,  $\epsilon^i_{V,R}$  cannot be distinguished from the RHC  $\Delta_R e^{i\phi_{\Delta_R}}$ . It is the aim of this work to show, however, that  $\Delta_R e^{i\phi_{\Delta_R}}$  can be unambiguously identified when two parity-doubler vector meson final states, to be listed in section 3.1, are taken into account. In order to gain some insight, we first discuss the procedure in the chiral symmetry restoration limit, before returning to QCD in section 3.

## 2.2 The chiral symmetry restoration limit

We consider the effect of the chiral symmetry restoration limit on the breakdown (2.6), using  $B \rightarrow \rho$  versus  $B \rightarrow a_1$  as a template. In this limit, suppressing the Baryon number  $U(1)_V$ , the global flavour symmetry of  $N_F$  fermions is restored:

$$\{m_q, \langle \bar{q}q \rangle, \dots\} \rightarrow 0, \quad \Rightarrow \quad SU(N_F)_V \rightarrow SU(N_F)_V \times SU(N_F)_A \times U(1)_A, \quad (2.7)$$

where  $SU(N_F)_V \times SU(N_F)_A \simeq SU(N_F)_L \times SU(N_F)_R$ , and the dots stand for other  $SU(N_F)_A \times U(1)_A$ -violating condensates such as  $\langle \bar{q}\sigma \cdot Gq \rangle$  (see appendix A for further discussion). Let us mention in passing that such a situation can be simulated on the lattice at temperatures above the chiral phase transition, cf. footnote 15 in appendix B.

### 2.2.1 Path integral representation of matrix elements

In establishing our main result, the path-integral formalism, with quarks propagating in a background gluon field, will prove powerful.<sup>3</sup> The  $\rho$ - and  $a_1$ -meson can be represented by the interpolating currents, with isospin  $I$ ,

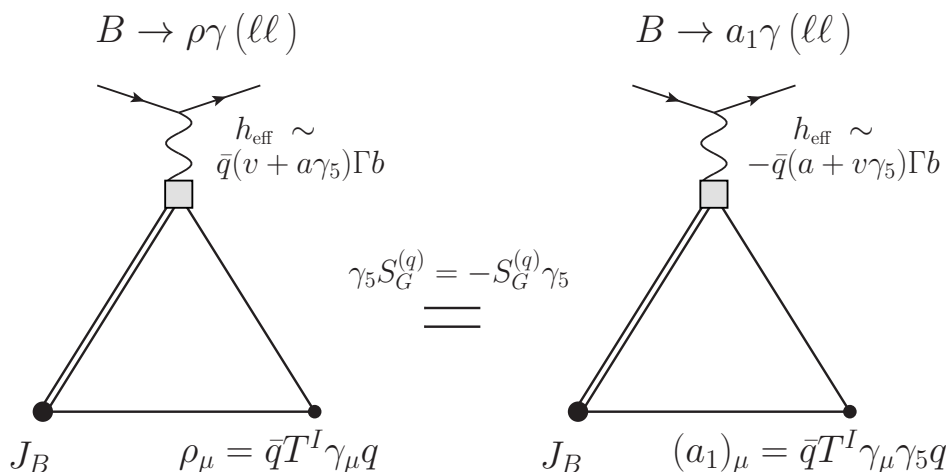
$$\rho^I_\mu = \bar{q}\gamma_\mu T^I q, \quad (a_1)^I_\mu = \bar{q}\gamma_\mu \gamma_5 T^I q, \quad (2.8)$$

while the  $B$ -meson  $J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$  can be interpolated by  $J_B = \bar{b}\gamma_5 q$ . The correlation function<sup>4</sup>

$$\mathcal{M}_{(v,a)}^{[V]} \equiv \langle 0 | T J_B(x) V^I_\mu(y) h_{\text{eff}}(0) | 0 \rangle, \quad (2.9)$$

<sup>3</sup>The realisation in concrete computations, e.g. light-cone sum rules, is rather subtle, which is to do with the nature of the restoration limit [13].

<sup>4</sup>Our notation follows Minkowski space conventions, and, since our argument is formal, we shall ignore questions of convergence of the path integral. The argument would also apply to Euclidean space, in so far as one manages to obtain the LD matrix elements from this formalism. Finite-width effects of the vector mesons are not crucial for the argument, and partly cancel in the symmetry limit.



**Figure 1.** Diagram representing the procedure outlined in the text, using the relation (2.12), which necessitates both the limits  $m_q \rightarrow 0$  and  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle \rightarrow 0$  in (2.7). The argument only requires that the weak vertex  $h_{\text{eff}}$  be a local operator, and thus applies to both SD (form-factor) and LD (charm-loop) contributions. Note that the argument also applies to the annihilation topology where the photon is emitted from the  $b$ -quark or light-quark lines in the triangle graph. The schematic correlation functions on the left and right are exactly equal, from where the information on the matrix elements can be assessed via the LSZ formalism or dispersion relations, when taking into account finite-width effects. Corrections to this exact equality, beyond the chiral symmetry limit, are discussed in section 3.

provides all the necessary information to understand the properties of the matrix element  $\langle V|H_{\text{eff}}|B \rangle$ , e.g. by using the LSZ formalism or dispersion representations in case finite-width effects are to be studied. Above,  $V_\mu^I$  stands for either of the interpolating currents defined in (2.8), and

$$h_{\text{eff}} = \bar{q}(v + a\gamma_5)\Gamma b O_r, \tag{2.10}$$

is a schematic substitute for  $H_{\text{eff}}$  (2.3), where  $(v, a) = (1, \pm 1)$  correspond to  $O$ - and  $O'$ -like operators. SD and LD charm contributions correspond to  $O_r \sim 1, \bar{c}\Gamma_r c$  for example. Lorentz/colour contractions over  $\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma_r$  are suppressed, as these have no impact on our argument. Integrating out the quarks in the path integral, the matrix element (2.9) assumes the form

$$\mathcal{M}_{(v,a)}^{[\rho^0]} \sim \int D\mu_G \text{Tr}[(v + a\gamma_5)S_G^{(b)}(0, x)\gamma_5 S_G^{(d)}(x, y)\gamma_\mu S_G^{(d)}(y, 0)], \tag{2.11}$$

where  $D\mu_G = DG_\mu \det(\not{D} + iM_f)e^{iS(G)}$  ( $D_\mu = (\partial - igG)_\mu$ ) is the path integral measure,  $S(G)$  the Yang-Mills action, and  $M_f$  denotes the mass matrix, which comprises of all flavours. The quark propagator in the gluon background field is  $S_G^{(q)}(w, z) = \langle w|(\not{D} + im_q)^{-1}|z \rangle$ , and obeys

$$\gamma_5 S_G^{(q)}(w, z) = -S_G^{(q)}(w, z)\gamma_5, \tag{2.12}$$

in the restoration limit (2.7). We stress that (2.12), upon which the argument is based, necessitates both the vanishing  $SU(2)_A \times U(1)_A$ -violating condensates and the limit  $m_q \rightarrow 0$ , with some more detail on related matters deferred to appendix A.

### 2.2.2 Relating matrix elements of parity doublers

Now comes the main step, where we replace  $\gamma_\mu \rightarrow \gamma_\mu(\gamma_5)^2$  and use (2.12) to arrive at

$$\mathcal{M}_{(a,v)}^{[a_1]} = -\mathcal{M}_{(v,a)}^{[\rho^0]}, \quad (2.13)$$

which can also be written symbolically as  $H_{\text{eff}}^{V\pm A}|_\rho \rightarrow \pm H_{\text{eff}}^{V\pm A}|_{a_1}$ . This relation translates into the amplitudes (2.1), with  $CO$ - and  $C'O'$ -contributions in (2.3):

$$\bar{\mathcal{A}}_\chi^{\bar{B} \rightarrow \rho\gamma}(C, C') = \bar{\mathcal{A}}_\chi^{\bar{B} \rightarrow a_1\gamma}(-C, C'). \quad (2.14)$$

Moreover, in terms of the breakdown (2.6), the relations (2.13) and (2.14) lead to

$\bar{\mathcal{A}}_\chi^{\bar{B} \rightarrow \rho(a_1)\gamma}$	$\bar{A}_{SD,\chi}$	$\bar{A}_{LD,\chi}$	$\bar{A}'_{SD,\chi}$	$\bar{A}'_{LD,\chi}$	(2.15)
$\chi = L$	$\pm 1$	$\pm \tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon_{V,L}^i$	$0$	$\tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon'_{V,L}{}^i$	
$\chi = R$	$0$	$\pm \tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon_{V,R}^i$	$\hat{m}_{d,s} + \Delta_R e^{i\phi_{\Delta R}}$	$\tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon'_{V,R}{}^i$	

We wish to emphasise that the procedure in this section leading to (2.13) works for any local operator of the form in (2.10), and so, in particular, applies to both the LD and SD contributions, which is reflected in the second amplitude breakdown (2.15). This argument establishes the main point of this work, and we now turn to the discussion of how this can be applied beyond the symmetry limit.

## 3 Beyond the symmetry limit

We briefly discuss the question of how to isolate the relevant phenomenology using parity doubling.<sup>5</sup>

### 3.1 Parity doubling for phenomenologically relevant vector mesons

Table 1 indicates the main  $B \rightarrow V(1^-)$  and  $J^P = 1^+ B \rightarrow A(1^+)$  final states, which we refer to as parity doublers in this work. Note that the charge quantum number is not of importance for practical purposes, so that  $1^{++}$  and  $1^{+-}$  can both be considered as effective parity doublers of the  $1^{--}$  (or  $1^{-+}$ , cf. caption of table 1) states. The interpolating operators, denoted  $O_V$  in the table, are

$$V_{(5)}^{(I)} = \bar{q}\gamma_\lambda(\gamma_5)(T^I)q, \quad T_{(5)}^{(I)} = \bar{q}\sigma_{\kappa\lambda}(\gamma_5)(T^I)q, \quad (3.1)$$

where  $q = u, d$ , and Lorentz indices have been suppressed on the left-hand side. Vector and axial mesons couple to these currents as

$$\langle 0|V_{(5)}|V(A)\rangle \sim \eta_\lambda, \quad \langle 0|T_{(5)}|V(A)\rangle \sim \eta_{[\lambda p_\kappa]}, \quad (3.2)$$

where square brackets denote antisymmetrisation in indices. The canonical parity doublers are listed on the horizontal lines. However, by  $SU(N_F)_V$  flavour symmetry, it will become clear that the measurement of a single parity doubler can reveal important information on primed Wilson coefficients  $C'_{7,8}$  (and  $C'_{9,10}$ ) by disentangling the LD contributions.

<sup>5</sup>See also appendix B for more details on parity doubling.

$I^G$	$1^{--}$	$\frac{\Gamma_V}{m_V}$	$O_V$	$I^G$	$1^{++}$	$\frac{\Gamma_V}{m_V}$	$O_V$	$I^G$	$1^{+-}$	$\frac{\Gamma_V}{m_V}$	$O_V$
$1^+$	$\rho(770)$	19.1(1)	$(V, T)^I$	$1^-$	$a_1(1260)$	35(14)	$V_5^I$	$1^+$	$b_1(1235)$	11.5(7)	$T_5^I$
$0^-$	$\omega(782)$	1.08(1)	$V, T$	$0^+$	$f_1(1285)$	1.77(1)	$V_5$	$0^-$	$h_1(1170)$	31.0(5)	$T_5$
$0^-$	$\phi(1020)$	0.417(2)	$(V, T)^{\bar{s}s}$	$0^+$	$f_1(1420)$	3.8(2)	$V_5^{\bar{s}s}$	$0^-$	$h_1(1380)$	6.3(16)	$T_5^{\bar{s}s}$
$I$	$1^-$				$1^+$				$1^+$		
$\frac{1}{2}$	$K^*(895)$	5.6(1)	$(V, T)^s$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$K_1(1270)$	7.1(16)	$V_5^s$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$K_1(1400)$	12.0(9)	$T_5^s$

**Table 1.** Mass ( $m_V$ ) and width ( $\Gamma_V$ ) data for the neutral mesons, from the latest PDG data [31]. Uncertainties in these parameters are also indicated in brackets alongside the central values. The  $I^G$  and  $J^{PC}$  quantum numbers have also been indicated. The  $K$  particles are separated, as they do not have definite  $G$ -parity states. The two  $K_1$ -particles are subject to a mixing angle  $\theta_{K_1}$ , which is fortunately known to reasonable accuracy [32]. Mixing between particles in the same column has to be taken into account as well, cf. appendix C of [33] for the discussion of the  $1^{--}$ -states for example. The interpolating operators under the  $O_V$ -column are described in the main text in (3.1) and superscripts  $s$  and  $\bar{s}s$  denote replacements of the light quarks  $q \rightarrow s$ . In addition, there are “exotic”  $1^{+-}$  states, with interpolating operators of the type  $O_V \sim \bar{q}\gamma_\lambda T^I \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu q$  and  $\bar{q}\sigma_{\lambda\kappa} T^I \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu q$ . The  $\pi_1(1400)$  [31] ( $I^G = 1^-$ ) is a candidate particle for carrying these quantum numbers. Such states are rather broad, e.g.  $\Gamma_{\pi_1}/m_{\pi_1} \sim 1/4$ , and are not well-studied. The particle content of some non-exotic states in the table remains to be definitively established [31], but all states are expected to have significant  $\bar{q}q$ -wave functions. For example, from ALEPH data [34], e.g. figure 63 and 65, it can be inferred that the statement above is correct for  $a_1(1260)$ . The determination of the 3-particle content, or the matrix element  $\langle 0|\bar{q}Gq|V(A)\rangle$ , is an important problem which deserves assessment from lattice QCD, in addition to the existing QCD sum rule results.

### 3.2 Sources of correction to the symmetry limit

In the real world,  $SU(N_F)_A \times U(1)_A$  is broken, e.g. by  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_{\mu=1\text{GeV}} \simeq (-0.24(1)\text{ GeV})^3$ , raising the question of the corrections to (2.13) and the resultant breakdown (2.15). We find it advantageous to distinguish two sources: corrections to the  $\gamma_5$ -trick (2.12), and those arising from the hadronic parameters of the vector mesons.

Corrections to (2.13), for instance, can be understood by considering the light-cone Operator Product Expansion (OPE), with the interpolating current replaced by a  $B$ -meson light-cone DA e.g. [30], in place of the complete path integral (2.11). In this case, (2.12) results in both  $m_q$ - and  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$ -corrections, along with other condensates. Whereas the former are parametrically small, the latter are suppressed in effect by  $\mathcal{O}(1)|\langle \bar{q}q \rangle/M^3| \simeq \mathcal{O}(1)(1/4)^3$ , where  $M \simeq 1\text{ GeV}$  is the Borel mass scale. It remains to be seen how effective this suppression is in explicit computations. The remaining corrections to the symmetric breakdown (2.15) arise from differences in the hadronic parameters, namely the meson mass and the DA parameters. The latter are either (partly) known or are expressible in terms of  $m_q$ ,  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$ , and higher-dimensional condensates [25]. Moreover, these can be assessed experimentally, cf. section 4.



## 4 Applications to experimental searches

### 4.1 Right-handed currents from time-dependent rates

A relevant question is how to test the chirality hierarchy (2.6). The decay rate does not lend itself to such tests, as the right-handed amplitude is dominated by the left-handed one. The situation is, however, favourable in the case where the  $B$ -meson is neutral and undergoes mixing [2] (and/or decays to at least 3 hadrons and a photon [21, 35–37]). The mixing is driven by particle and antiparticle having a common final state, e.g.  $\bar{B} \rightarrow V\gamma_L \leftarrow B$ . In this case, one of the amplitudes is chirally suppressed, giving rise to a direct linear behaviour in right-handed amplitudes,  $\Gamma_{\text{mix}} \sim \bar{\mathcal{A}}_R$ , compared to the unfavourable behaviour of the  $t = 0$ -rate  $\Gamma \sim |\bar{\mathcal{A}}_L|^2 + |\bar{\mathcal{A}}_R|^2$ .

The time-dependent rate of a  $B_D$  meson, produced at  $t = 0$ , assuming CPT-invariance and  $|q/p| = 1$ ,<sup>6</sup> takes the form

$$\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}_D[B_D] \rightarrow V\gamma) = B_0 e^{-\Gamma_D t} \left[ \text{ch}\left(\frac{\Delta\Gamma_D}{2}t\right) - H \text{sh}\left(\frac{\Delta\Gamma_D}{2}t\right) \mp C \cos(\Delta m_D t) \pm S \sin(\Delta m_D t) \right], \quad (4.1)$$

where  $\Delta\Gamma_D \equiv \Gamma_D^{(H)} - \Gamma_D^{(L)}$  is the width difference, and  $\Delta m_D \equiv m_D^{(H)} - m_D^{(L)}$  the mass difference, of the heavy ( $H$ ) and light ( $L$ ) mass eigenstates. The quantities  $S$  and  $C$  are related to indirect and direct CP violation respectively. In the Particle Data Group (PDG) notation [31],  $H \equiv \mathcal{A}^{\Delta\Gamma}$ . In terms of the decomposition (2.1), dropping the superscripts for brevity, these quantities read ( $\mathcal{N} = |\mathcal{A}_L|^2 + |\bar{\mathcal{A}}_L|^2 + |\mathcal{A}_R|^2 + |\bar{\mathcal{A}}_R|^2$ )

$$S(H) = 2\text{Im}(\text{Re}) \left[ \frac{q}{p} (\bar{\mathcal{A}}_L \mathcal{A}_L^* + \bar{\mathcal{A}}_R \mathcal{A}_R^*) \right] \mathcal{N}^{-1}, \quad (4.2)$$

and we quote  $C = ((|\mathcal{A}_L|^2 + |\mathcal{A}_R|^2) - (|\bar{\mathcal{A}}_L|^2 + |\bar{\mathcal{A}}_R|^2)) \mathcal{N}^{-1}$ , although this observable is of no further relevance for this work.

In the SM, there are three weak phases originating from  $\lambda_{u,c,t}$ , one of which can be eliminated by the unitarity relation  $\lambda_u + \lambda_c + \lambda_t = 0$ . Hence, one may write

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathcal{A}}_L &\sim (1 + \tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon_{V,L}^i) \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_R \sim \xi_V (1 + \tilde{\lambda}_i^* \epsilon_{V,L}^i), \\ \bar{\mathcal{A}}_R &\sim (\hat{C}'_7 + \tilde{\lambda}_i \epsilon_{V,R}^i) \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_L \sim \xi_V (\hat{C}'_7 + \tilde{\lambda}_i^* \epsilon_{V,R}^i), \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

where the result on the right follows by CP conjugation, and  $\xi_V$  is the CP eigenvalue of  $V$ . The observables  $S$  and  $H$  take the form

$$\begin{aligned} S(H)_{V(A)\gamma} &= 2\xi_V \left\{ \pm (\hat{m}_D \sin_{\text{COS}}(2\phi_t - \phi_{B_D}) + \Delta_R \sin_{\text{COS}}(2\phi_t + \phi_R - \phi_{B_D})) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + |\tilde{\lambda}_i| \text{Re}[\epsilon_{V(A),R}^i] \sin_{\text{COS}}(\phi_t + \phi_i - \phi_{B_D}) \right\} (1 + \mathcal{O}(\hat{m}_D, \Delta_R, \epsilon_{V(A),X}^i)), \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

---

<sup>6</sup>The quantities  $p$  and  $q$  describe the transition matrix from mass to flavour eigenstates where  $\arg(q/p) = -\phi_{B_D}$ . In  $B_D$ - $\bar{B}_D$  mixing they are indeed compatible with the assumption  $|q/p| = 1$ , up to negligible corrections [38].

where the sines and cosines refer to  $S$  and  $H$ , and the signs  $\pm$  follow from the breakdown (2.15). Corrections to (4.4) can be expected to be small, and are not difficult to restore, but we have chosen to present a simple formula for illustrative purposes.

It is instructive to expand (4.4) for specific modes. There are four classes of  $B \rightarrow V\gamma$  decays, due to the choice of initial state meson,  $B_d$  or  $B_s$ , while the transition itself can be either  $b \rightarrow d$  or  $b \rightarrow s$ . Since  $\Delta\Gamma_d$  is too small to have an observable effect, this makes the  $H_{B_d}$  parameter unobservable in practice. Below, we present the observables (4.4) for three of these classes, postponing details on  $B_s \rightarrow \bar{K}^*$  ( $b \rightarrow s$ ) to [13] as the decay is experimentally less attractive. The formulae in (4.4) take the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_{B_d \rightarrow \rho(a_1)\gamma} &\simeq 2\{\pm\Delta_R \sin\phi_R + \sin\beta|\tilde{\lambda}_c^{(d)}|\text{Re}[\epsilon_{\rho(a_1),R}^c] - \sin(\beta+\gamma)|\tilde{\lambda}_u^{(d)}|\text{Re}[\epsilon_{\rho(a_1),R}^u]\}, \\
 S_{B_d \rightarrow K^*(K_1)\gamma} &\simeq 2\xi_{K^*(K_1)}\{\mp(\Delta_R \sin(2\beta - \phi_R) + \hat{m}_s \sin 2\beta) + \sin 2\beta \text{Re}[\epsilon_{K^*(K_1),R}^c]\}, \\
 S_{B_s \rightarrow \phi(f_1)\gamma} &\simeq 2\{\pm\Delta_R \sin(\phi_R)\}, \\
 H_{B_s \rightarrow \phi(f_1)\gamma} &\simeq 2\{\pm(\Delta_R \cos(\phi_R) + \hat{m}_s) - \text{Re}[\epsilon_{\phi(f_1),R}^c]\}, \tag{4.5}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\tilde{\lambda}_{c,u}^{(d)} = O(1)$ ,  $\tilde{\lambda}_u^{(s)} \ll \tilde{\lambda}_c^{(s)} \equiv \lambda_c^{(s)}/\lambda_t^{(s)} \simeq -1$ , and we have used  $\xi_{V,A} = 1$ . For  $S_{B_d \rightarrow K^*(K_1)\gamma}$ , either (near) CP eigenstate ( $K_{S,L}\pi^0$ ) can be observed in the subsequent decay, so we indicate the explicit CP eigenvalue  $\xi_{K^*(K_1)}$  in this case.<sup>7</sup> The vanishing of  $S_{B_s \rightarrow \phi(f_1)\gamma} \simeq 0$  in the SM comes from the cancelation of all weak phases involved, and this quantity is therefore a null test for weak phases of RHC.

The expressions (4.5) are for the  $J^{PC} = 1^{++}$  parity doublers. If, instead, one were to use doublers with the  $J^{PC} = 1^{+-}$  quantum numbers, then  $\xi_{(1^{+-})} = -1$ , and the corresponding observables  $S$  and  $H$  pick up an additional minus sign.

## 4.2 The approach exemplified in $B_s \rightarrow \phi(f_1)\gamma$

From (4.5), it can be seen that both observables  $S$  and  $H$  in (4.4) are of interest, and can be observed experimentally, in the decay  $B_s \rightarrow \phi(f_1/h_1)\gamma$ , where  $f_1 \equiv f_1(1420)$  and  $h_1 \equiv h_1(1380)$ . Using  $\xi_{h_1} = -1$ , one gets a remarkable equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 (H_{\phi\gamma} \pm H_{f_1(h_1)\gamma}) &\simeq -2\text{Re}[\epsilon_{\phi,R}^c + \epsilon_{f_1(h_1),R}^c] \\
 &= -2\text{Re}[\epsilon_{\phi,R}^c](1 + \mathbb{R}_{f_1(h_1),\phi}^c), \tag{4.6}
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathbb{R}_{A,V}^i \equiv \frac{\text{Re}[\epsilon_{A,R}^i]}{\text{Re}[\epsilon_{V,R}^i]} = 1 + \mathcal{O}(m_q, \langle \bar{q}q \rangle). \tag{4.7}$$

and the  $\simeq$  in (4.6) indicates the approximations made in (4.4), as well as neglecting the  $\lambda_u$  LD contribution.<sup>8</sup> Eq. (4.6) is remarkable in that it shows that it is possible to measure

<sup>7</sup>Taking the difference in  $S_{B_d \rightarrow K^*(K_S\pi^0)} - S_{B_d \rightarrow K^*(K_L\pi^0)}$  will enhance the statistics, but cannot eliminate the LD contribution, as the CP-eigenvalue is just a global phase.

<sup>8</sup>These approximations can be easily relaxed if required, depending on the required accuracy, cf. also the discussion following eq. (4.4).

the sum of the LD (charm) contributions without any compromise from the symmetry breaking, thanks to the exact form factor relation  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$ . In extracting the LD contribution, what matters is not how far away  $\mathbb{R}_{A,V}$  is from unity but the uncertainty itself. As an example, supposing we could determine  $\mathbb{R}_{A,V}$  to 20% uncertainty, with  $\mathbb{R}_{A,V}$  being one of the four values (1, 1.2, 1.5, 2). Then one could extract  $\epsilon_{\phi,R}^c$  from experiment with an accuracy of (10, 11, 12, 13)% respectively. This is very much improved situation in two ways. Firstly, one can extract the LD contribution by solely predicting the uncertainty on  $\mathbb{R}_{A,V}^i$  rather than the LD matrix element itself. In addition, this translates into a considerably smaller uncertainty of the LD matrix element than one could hope to get from an a priori computation.

Finally, we mention that the counterpart of (4.6) is the equation where the SD part is enhanced and the LD part reduced, and reads

$$\Delta_R \cos(\phi_{\Delta_R}) = \frac{1}{4}(H_{\phi\gamma} \mp H_{f_1(h_1)\gamma}) + \frac{1}{2}\text{Re}[\epsilon_{\phi,R}^c - \epsilon_{f_1(h_1),R}^c] - \hat{m}_s. \quad (4.8)$$

It remains to be seen in the future how well such quantities can be measured and how well the ratios  $\mathbb{R}_{A,V}^i$  can be predicted. It is clear that the potential improvement is significantly larger than what can be hoped for in a direct computation, as many uncertainties will cancel, some of them due to the symmetry limit.

### 4.3 $B \rightarrow V\ell\bar{\ell}$ and other decay channels

Decays such as  $B \rightarrow K^*(\rightarrow K\pi)\mu^+\mu^-$  are an important probe of NP in the flavour sector [39–42], as their angular distributions allow the assessment of a wealth of observables, twelve for the dimension-six  $H_{\text{eff}}$  [43]; higher-dimensional operators are also accessible by extracting higher moments (modulo QED effects) [28].

The parity-doubling approach can be extended to  $B \rightarrow (V,A)\ell\bar{\ell}$  rather straightforwardly by considering the angular observables. In the notation of [28], the moments, or angular coefficients, are  $\mathbb{G}_m^{l_k,l_\ell}$ , where  $l_{k,\ell}$  denote the partial wave of the  $K\pi$  and  $\mu\mu$ -pair respectively, and  $m$  is the relative helicity difference. An interference of left- and right-handed polarisation corresponds to the helicity difference  $m = 2$ , which leads to the real and imaginary parts of  $\mathbb{G}_m^{l_k,l_\ell} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_2^{2,2}$  being the observables of interest. These have indeed been identified, with the acronyms  $P_1 = A_T^{(2)} \sim \text{Re}[\mathbb{G}_2^{2,2}]$ ,  $P_3 \sim \text{Im}[\mathbb{G}_2^{2,2}]$ , some time ago (e.g. [44, 45]) as giving access to RHC at low  $q^2$ .<sup>9</sup> A measurement of the right-handed LD contribution at  $q^2 = 0$ , or at low  $q^2$ , could also provide invaluable information on the angular anomalies [46] (most notably,  $P'_5 \sim \text{Re}[\mathbb{G}_1^{2,1}]$ ) observed in  $B \rightarrow K^*\ell\bar{\ell}$  at LHCb, in connection with approaches using analyticity [47, 48]. In this respect,  $B \rightarrow K^*e^+e^-$  is an even more promising channel, studied at the LHCb experiment [49], and with good prospects at Belle II. Exploring the potential of time-dependent angular distributions would also seem to be an interesting possibility [50].

<sup>9</sup>The restriction to low  $q^2$  is due to kinematics and matrix element effects. Firstly, the kinematics of Lorentz invariance enforces that the helicity amplitudes are degenerate at maximal  $q^2$  (the kinematic endpoint) [27], so that the V-A effect is maximally diluted. Secondly, the accidental control  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$  is weakened when  $q^2$  is increased, as the LD effect enters the left-handed amplitude.

Thus,  $B \rightarrow (V, A)\ell\bar{\ell}$  allows the assessment of all the right-handed operators  $O'_{7,8,9,10}$ , or their respective Wilson coefficients, without resorting to time-dependent amplitudes, meaning that decay modes for charged mesons can also be assessed in this manner.

We wish to emphasise that the ideas in this paper, whilst they have been discussed primarily in the context of  $B \rightarrow (V, A)\gamma$  and  $B \rightarrow (V, A)\ell\bar{\ell}$  decays, can be extended to other decays of interest, as long as such systems admit parity-doubling partner decays.<sup>10</sup> Examples include the  $D \rightarrow V\gamma(\ell\bar{\ell})$  sector, e.g. [51, 52], as well as higher-spin states e.g.  $B \rightarrow K_2\gamma(\ell\bar{\ell})$ , since parity doubling occurs in those modes [20].<sup>11</sup> Applications to symmetry-based amplitude parametrisations in  $B \rightarrow PV(A)$ , with  $P$  being a pseudoscalar meson, are another possibility, although one would expect stronger breaking effects in final-state interactions than in the LD amplitude of radiative decays.

## 5 Discussion and conclusions

In this paper, we have advocated that the contamination of right-handed currents in  $B \rightarrow V\gamma(\ell\bar{\ell})$  decays due to long-distance effects can be controlled by considering in addition the corresponding decay  $B \rightarrow A\gamma(\ell\bar{\ell})$ . It was shown, in the chiral symmetry restoration limit (2.7), that the leaking of the V-A contributions into the right-handed amplitude for the parity doublers comes with exactly the opposite sign, as compared to the leading short-distance contributions (2.15).

The case beyond the symmetry limit is briefly discussed in the previous section for  $B \rightarrow V(A)\ell\bar{\ell}$ , and for  $B \rightarrow V(A)\gamma$  the summary is as follows. The sum of the vector and axial long-distance contribution can still be extracted from experiment (e.g. (4.6)), because of the exact form factor relation  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$ . This then allows to test theory predictions of exclusive long-distance contributions [13, 14, 16, 54] and contrast them with the, somewhat larger, indirect estimation from the inclusive  $b \rightarrow X_s\gamma$  channel [12]. More concretely, the charm contamination was computed to be 0.6% for  $S_{B_d \rightarrow K^*\gamma}$  in [16], whereas [12] estimated the contaminations to be up to 6%. In addition, the smallness of the theoretical result can be understood by invoking the parity-doubling limit [13].

From (4.6) one can extract the sum of the axial and vector long-distance contribution. One can obtain the individual contributions by taking into account a theory prediction of the ratio  $\mathbb{R}_{A,V}$  (4.7), which comes with reduced uncertainty due to standard uncertainty cancelations, further enhanced by the symmetry limit. An error on  $\mathbb{R}_{A,V}$  of 20% results in an uncertainty on the single long-distance contribution of just around 10%, if no experimental error is assumed. In summary, we have proposed a data-theory-driven program to reduce the uncertainty of the long-distance contamination, paving the way to much cleaner searches for right-handed currents.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup>This excludes the Kaon system, for example, which decays into pions; being pseudo-Goldstone bosons, these do not have parity-doubling partners.

<sup>11</sup>A hybrid of the two types of decay discussed above is the photon conversion  $B \rightarrow (K^* \rightarrow K\pi)(\gamma N \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-N)$ , proposed in [53], for which the methods of this paper apply equally when the  $K^*$  is replaced by the  $K_1(1270)$ , for example.

<sup>12</sup>In reference [35] it was suggested, though not worked out in detail, that the use of  $B \rightarrow P_1P_2\gamma$  together with a Dalitz-plot analysis could be used to disentangle the long-distance- from the short-distance contribution.

Let us turn at last to the experimental perspectives. For Belle II, an uncertainty of 3% is anticipated in this observable with a data set of  $50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$  [55]. This estimate does not yet take into account the gain in photon efficiency in differences and sums of rates, relevant to the parity-doubling approach cf. (4.6), (4.8). The analysis of axial vector meson final states is more challenging, because of their decay chains. However, the measurement of a single channel can still provide invaluable information on the long-distance contributions (4.6), as they are related by  $\text{SU}(N_F)_V$  flavour symmetry, taking into account normalisation issues such as mixing angles. Promising states are the  $K_1(1270)$  and the  $f_1(1285)$  or  $f_1(1420)$ . Belle has reported a time-dependent measurement of  $B^0 \rightarrow \rho^0 K_s \gamma$  [56] and the rate  $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K_1^+(1270)\gamma) \simeq 4.3(9)(9) \cdot 10^{-5}$  [57]. At the LHCb experiment, the  $K_1$  states were seen in  $B \rightarrow K^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$  at the LHCb [58], and the first observation of  $\mathcal{B}(B_{s,d} \rightarrow f_1(1285)J/\Psi) \simeq 7 \cdot 10^{-5}, 8 \cdot 10^{-6}$  was reported in [59].

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## A Chiral restoration limit and $\gamma_5 S_G^{(q)} = -S_G^{(q)} \gamma_5$ eq. (2.12)

The pion decay constant,  $F_\pi \simeq 92 \text{ MeV}$  in QCD, is defined by  $\langle \pi^b(p) | J_\mu^{A,a} | 0 \rangle = \delta^{ab} p_\mu F_\pi$ , with  $J_\mu^{A,a} = \bar{q} T^a \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 q$ , and  $q$  are  $N_F$  light quarks.  $F_\pi$  is the order parameter of spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking. At the heuristic level,  $F_\pi \neq 0$  implies the non-invariance of the vacuum with respect to the axial flavour charge  $Q^{A,a} = \int_V d^3x J_0^{A,a}$ . In this appendix, we aim to show that our formula (2.12),

$$m_q, \langle \bar{q}q \rangle = \dots = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \gamma_5 S_G^{(q)}(w, z) = -S_G^{(q)}(w, z) \gamma_5 \quad (\Leftrightarrow \quad F_\pi = 0), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

depends, as expected, on the restoration limit. This result serves to illustrate (2.12) in some more detail than discussed in the main text.

We first proceed to show that  $\gamma_5 S_G^{(q)}(w, z) = -S_G^{(q)}(w, z) \gamma_5 \Rightarrow F_\pi = 0$ . For this purpose, consider the correlation function, used to derive the Weinberg sum rules [18],

$$(\Pi_{LR}^{a,b})_{\mu\nu}(q^2) = i \int d^4x e^{iq \cdot x} \langle T J_\mu^{a,L}(x) J_\nu^{b,R}(x) \rangle = (q_\mu q_\nu - q^2 g_{\mu\nu}) \Pi_{LR}^{a,b}(q^2), \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where  $J_\mu^{a,L(R)} = 2\bar{q} T^a \gamma_\mu (\gamma_5) q_{L(R)}$ , and  $(a, b)$  are  $\text{SU}(N_F)_{(L,R)}$  flavour indices. One may integrate out the fermion in the path integral formulation to obtain

$$(\hat{\Pi}_{LR}^{a,b})_{\mu\nu}(x) = \frac{1}{2} \delta^{ab} \int D\mu_G \left( \text{Tr}[S_G^{(q)}(x, 0) \gamma_\mu S_G^{(q)}(0, x) \gamma_\nu] - \text{Tr}[S_G^{(q)}(x, 0) \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 S_G^{(q)}(0, x) \gamma_\nu \gamma_5] \right), \quad (\text{A.3})$$

where the hat denotes the Fourier transform, and the path integral measure, already defined below eq. (2.11), is  $D\mu_G = DG_\mu \det(\not{D} + iM_f)e^{iS(G)}$ . Using  $\gamma_5 S_G^{(q)}(w, z) = -S_G^{(q)}(w, z)\gamma_5$  (2.12), one concludes that  $(\hat{\Pi}_{LR}^{a,b})_{\mu\nu}(x) = 0$  by commuting the  $\gamma_5$  through the fermion propagator and the  $\gamma$ -matrix in (A.3). Since  $4(\Pi_{LR}^{a,b})_{\mu\nu} = \delta^{ab}((\Pi_{VV})_{\mu\nu} - (\Pi_{AA})_{\mu\nu})$ , the spectral densities

$$\rho_V(s) = \rho_A(s), \tag{A.4}$$

of the dispersion representation ( $\pi\rho_{V,A}(s) = \text{Im}[\Pi_{VV(AA)}(s)]$ )<sup>13</sup>

$$\Pi_{V(A)}(q^2) = \int_0^\infty ds \frac{\rho_{V(A)}(s)}{s - q^2 - i0}, \tag{A.5}$$

are point-by-point identical. The spectral densities are given by

$$\rho_A(s) = F_\pi^2 \delta(s - m_\pi^2) + F_{a_1}^2 \delta(s - m_{a_1}^2) + \dots, \quad \rho_V(s) = F_\rho^2 \delta(s - m_\rho^2) + \dots, \tag{A.6}$$

where the dots stand for higher states, and the fact that we used the narrow width approximation for the  $\rho$  and  $a_1$  meson is immaterial. The only crucial point is that (A.4) necessarily implies  $F_\pi = 0$ , since there is no massless particle in the vector channel.

In the second part, we show that  $m_q, \langle \bar{q}q \rangle = \langle \bar{q}\sigma \cdot Gq \rangle = \dots = 0 \Leftrightarrow \gamma_5 S_G^{(q)}(w, z) = -S_G^{(q)}(w, z)\gamma_5$ , which is what was used in the main text in section 2.2.1. In practical computations, using the OPE one uses the formula [60]

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \bar{q}_m(x_1)q_n(x_2) \rangle &= N_c \left[ \frac{1}{12} \left( 1 + \frac{i}{d} m_q \not{x}_{12} \right)_{nm} \langle \bar{q}q \rangle + \frac{g^2}{288} \left( \frac{i}{12} x_{12}^2 (\not{x}_{12})_{nm} \langle V_q^a V_f^a \rangle \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{192} x_{12}^2 \left( 1 + \frac{i}{6} m_q \not{x}_{12} \right)_{nm} \langle \bar{q}\sigma \cdot Gq \rangle + \dots \right] \end{aligned} \tag{A.7}$$

where  $x_{12} \equiv (x_1 - x_2)$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are Dirac indices,  $\langle V_q^a V_f^a \rangle = \langle \bar{q}\gamma_\mu t^a q \sum_f \bar{f}\gamma^\mu t^a f \rangle$ , and the dots stand for higher dimensional condensates. We only consider the terms which do not vanish in the  $m_q \rightarrow 0$  limit. It is readily seen that  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$  and  $\langle \bar{q}\sigma \cdot Gq \rangle$  are obstructions to (2.12), which is expected since they are not invariant under  $SU(N_F)_A$  (and  $U(1)_A$ ). The contrary applies to  $\langle V_q^a V_f^a \rangle$ . The statement about  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$  can be made slightly more rigorous. Following the argument of [61], the fermion propagator in the external gluon field may be written as

$$\langle q(x)\bar{q}(0) \rangle_G = iS_G(x, 0) = \sum_n \frac{\phi_n(x)\phi_n^\dagger(0)}{m_q - i\lambda_n} \tag{A.8}$$

where  $\phi_n$  are the Dirac operator eigenmodes  $i\not{D}\phi_n = \lambda_n\phi_n$ . Noting that  $\gamma_5\phi_n$  is an eigenmode of eigenvalue  $-\lambda_n$ , and that the zero eigenmodes are suppressed by  $V^{-1/2}$  in the infinite-volume limit, one finds

$$\langle \bar{q}q \rangle = \frac{1}{V} \int_V d^4x \langle \bar{q}q \rangle \xrightarrow{V \rightarrow \infty} -2m_q \int_0^\infty d\lambda \frac{\rho(\lambda)}{m_q^2 + \lambda^2}, \tag{A.9}$$

<sup>13</sup>Strictly speaking, one would need to subtract the dispersion representation once, but it is immaterial for the presentation.

where the function  $\rho(\lambda)$  is the Dirac eigenmode density. In the limit  $m_q \rightarrow 0$ , one obtains the celebrated Banks-Casher relation  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle = -\text{sign}(m) \pi \rho(0)$  [61]. Therefore, one concludes that  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle = 0$  ( $\rho(0) = 0$ ) is a necessary condition for  $\gamma_5 S_G^{(q)}(w, z) = -S_G^{(q)}(w, z) \gamma_5$  (2.12) to hold. Similar arguments would apply to further terms in (A.7), but are more difficult to render rigorous. Since  $F_\pi = 0 \Rightarrow m_q, \langle \bar{q}q \rangle = \dots = 0$ , this finally results in (A.1).

## B Parity doubling

In this section, we provide some minimal background on parity doubling, which has a long history in particle physics [20]. Parity doubling achieved its modern paradigm shift with the advent of the Weinberg sum rules [18], partly described in the previous section, and has recently been investigated on the lattice [62–64].<sup>14,15</sup>

The basic idea is that a global symmetry, generated by a charge  $Q$ , induces degeneracies in the spectrum, as it commutes with the Hamiltonian. Examples include supersymmetry, with degeneracies between bosons and fermions, or simply the global  $SU(N_f)_V$  flavour symmetry, leading to isospin multiplets. In the restoration limit (2.7), which leads to the enhanced flavour symmetry  $SU(N_f)_V \rightarrow SU(N_f)_V \times SU(N_f)_A \times U(1)_A$ , the same types of degeneracy can be expected. There is, however, another important point that accompanies this effect: namely, that the additional global symmetry gives rise to new quantum numbers.

For the sake of concreteness, let us choose  $N_f = 2$  below. In the case at hand,  $SU(2)_V \times SU(2)_A \simeq SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ , this leads to both a left- and right-handed isospin quantum number  $(I_L, I_R)$  instead of just the isospin  $I_V$  itself. The classification of the representations is discussed in [69]. More precisely, the particles are classified according to the parity-chiral group  $SU(2) \times SU(2) \times C_i$ , where  $C_i$  is the space reflection. The lowest irreducible representations  $(I_L, I_R)$ , of dimension  $(2I_L + 1)(2I_R + 1)$ , are listed in figure 2. The splitting from left to right can be understood as the branching rule of  $(I_L, I_R)|_{SU_V(2)}$ ; e.g.  $(1/2, 1/2)_a|_{SU_V(2)} \rightarrow 3_{b_\perp} + 1_{\omega_\perp}$ . The two interpolating currents discussed as templates in the text (3.1) correspond to the  $(1, 0) \oplus (0, 1)$  multiplet. The two  $(1/2, 1/2)$  representations denoted by superscripts  $a$  and  $b$  are distinct by the parity operation. The use of  $\parallel$  and  $\perp$  as superscripts is non-standard, and inspired by the notation of the corresponding decay constants. As a last generic remark, let us add that, in the real world, the  $\rho$  and the  $\rho' = \rho(1450)$  are admixtures of the  $\rho^\parallel$  and  $\rho^\perp$ -states. In the following subsection, we give an example where one can explicitly see how the  $U(1)_A \times SU(2)_A$ -violating condensates control differences in the hadronic data between the  $\rho$  and  $a_1$ .

<sup>14</sup>The restoration of the axial flavour symmetries for excited states in the spectrum was proposed in [65] and subsequently challenged in [66].

<sup>15</sup>Lattice simulations at temperatures above the chiral phase transition have been performed [67, 68], where a restoration of the  $U(1)_A$ -anomaly has been observed. The restoration of the symmetry in the spectrum, along with enhanced symmetries, has been found in lattice simulations with truncated eigenmodes of the Dirac operator [62, 63]. The motivation for this truncation is that the lowest eigenvalues are related to the breaking of chiral symmetry by the Banks-Casher relation [61]. The restoration of the flavour symmetry, and some of the symmetry enhancements, have been confirmed by the above mentioned finite-temperature simulations [64]. Whereas more is to be learnt from this interesting topic in the future, the precise outcomes are not important for our practical purposes. However, if one were able to perturb in  $\langle qq \rangle$  and  $m_q$ , then the exact limit would be of interest.

$(I_L, I_R)$	$V(I, J^{PC})$		$V(I, J^{PC})$
$(0, 0)$	$f_1^{\parallel}(0, 1^{++})$ $\gamma\lambda\gamma_5$		$\omega^{\parallel}(0, 1^{--})$ $\gamma\lambda$
$(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})_a$	$b_1^{\perp}(1, 1^{+-})$ $\sigma_{\kappa\lambda}\gamma_5 T^I$	$\longleftrightarrow$ $SU(2)_A$	$\omega^{\perp}(0, 1^{--})$ $\sigma_{\kappa\lambda}$
$(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})_b$	$\rho^{\perp}(1, 1^{--})$ $\sigma_{\kappa\lambda} T^I$	$\longleftrightarrow$ $SU(2)_A$	$h_1^{\perp}(0, 1^{+-})$ $\sigma_{\kappa\lambda}\gamma_5$
$(1, 0) \oplus (0, 1)$	$\rho^{\parallel}(1, 1^{--})$ $\gamma\lambda T^I$	$\longleftrightarrow$ $SU(2)_A$	$a_1^{\parallel}(1, 1^{++})$ $\gamma\lambda\gamma_5 T^I$

**Figure 2.** Lowest-lying particles coupling to vector and tensor currents of isosinglet- and isotriplet-type, making a total of 16 vector mesons. For simple comparison, we use the same graphic presentation with similar notation as used in [62]. The interpolating operators are defined in (3.1) where the coupling to the states is specified further below. In the restoration limit (2.7), one would expect a 4-, 4- and 6-plet degeneracy by the restoration of the  $SU(2)_A$  (red arrows). In the case where  $U(1)_A$  (blue arrows) symmetry is also restored, this leads to a 8- and 6-plet degeneracy. The actual degeneracy is found to be larger [62], compatible with an emergent  $SU(4)$  [70] (or even  $SU(4) \times SU(4)$  [71]) symmetry.

### B.1 The Weinberg sum rules as an example

From group-theoretic considerations, one can argue that the first correction to the chirality correlation function (A.2) is given by  $(\Pi_{LR}^{a,b})_{\mu\nu}(q^2) \sim \langle O_{\chi SB} \rangle Q^{-6} + O(Q^{-8})$ , where  $q^2 \equiv -Q^2$  (e.g. [72]),  $4O_{\chi SB} = \bar{q}T^3\lambda^i q_L \bar{q}T^3\lambda^i q_R$ , and  $\lambda^i$  are the  $SU(3)$  colour matrices. One can then power-expand the denominator and arrive at the first two Weinberg sum rules

$$\int_0^\infty s^n (\rho_V(s) - \rho_A(s)) = 0, \quad n = 0, 1. \quad (\text{B.1})$$

The leading correction, or the third sum rule, is given by

$$\int_0^\infty s^2 (\rho_V(s) - \rho_A(s)) = 2\pi\alpha_s \langle O_{\chi SB} \rangle. \quad (\text{B.2})$$

So far, everything is exact. Since the correlation functions are well-described at high  $q^2$  by perturbation theory, which is equal for the  $V$ - and the  $A$ -channel,  $\rho_V(s) \simeq \rho_A(s)$  will hold for some  $s > s_0$ . Weinberg [18] assumed that  $s_0$  is just above the  $a_1$  resonance, and



restricted himself to the parametrisations found in (A.6), from which he deduced

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_\rho^2 - F_\pi^2 - F_{a_1}^2 &= 0, \\
 m_\rho^2 F_\rho^2 - m_{a_1}^2 F_{a_1}^2 &= 0, \\
 m_\rho^4 F_\rho^2 - m_{a_1}^4 F_{a_1}^2 &= 2\pi\alpha_s \langle O_{\chi SB} \rangle.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{B.3}$$

These sum rules are rather well-satisfied at the empirical level. The last equation nicely illustrates, in a concrete setting, how the restoration limit is controlled by the  $SU(2)_A \times U(1)_A$ -violating condensate  $\langle O_{\chi SB} \rangle$ . We note that, in the vacuum factorisation approximation,  $\langle O_{\chi SB} \rangle = -\frac{N_c^2-1}{N_c^2} \langle \bar{q}q \rangle^2$  [60].

### C Definition of effective Hamiltonian

Here we describe in more detail the effective Hamiltonian for  $b \rightarrow (d, s)\gamma$  and  $b \rightarrow (d, s)\ell\bar{\ell}$  decays, clarifying the notation in (2.3). In the basis of [73], the operators contributing to (2.3) are: the four-quark tree-level operators

$$\begin{aligned}
 O_1^U &= \bar{D}_{L,i}\gamma_\mu U_j \bar{U}_{L,j}\gamma^\mu b_i, \\
 O_2^U &= \bar{D}_L\gamma_\mu U \bar{U}_L\gamma^\mu b;
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{C.1}$$

the loop-induced four-quark operators,  $O_{3,\dots,6}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 O_3 &= (\bar{D}_L\gamma_\mu b) \sum_q (\bar{q}_L\gamma^\mu q), & O_4 &= (\bar{D}_{L,i}\gamma_\mu b_j) \sum_q (\bar{q}_{L,j}\gamma^\mu q_i), \\
 O_5 &= (\bar{D}_L\gamma_\mu b) \sum_q (\bar{q}_R\gamma^\mu q), & O_6 &= (\bar{D}_{L,i}\gamma_\mu b_j) \sum_q (\bar{q}_{R,j}\gamma^\mu q_i);
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{C.2}$$

and the electromagnetic and QCD dipoles (with  $D_\mu = \partial_\mu - ig_s G_\mu - ieA_\mu$  convention)

$$O_{7(8)} = -\frac{e(g)}{16\pi^2} m_b \bar{s}_L \sigma \cdot F(G) b.
 \tag{C.3}$$

The  $C_i$  are scale-dependent Wilson coefficients, which can be calculated perturbatively using renormalisation group methods (e.g. [73, 74]). The most relevant  $C_i$  for the discussion in the paper are  $(C_2, C_1, C_7)(m_b) \simeq (1, -0.13, -0.37)$ .

For  $b \rightarrow (d, s)\ell\bar{\ell}$  decays, one also needs the operators

$$O_{9,(10)} = \frac{\alpha_{EM}}{4\pi} \bar{D}_L\gamma_\mu b \bar{\ell}\gamma^\mu (\gamma_5) \ell.
 \tag{C.4}$$

Parity-flipped versions of the operators above can be obtained by the replacement  $O' = O|_{\bar{D}_L \rightarrow \bar{D}_R}$ , as well as (in the SM)  $m_b \rightarrow m_D$  in  $O_{7,8}$ . The relative importance of the  $O_{1,2}^{U=u,c}$  operators is dependent on the CKM hierarchy  $\lambda_U^{(D)} = V_{Ub} V_{UD}^*$  for  $b \rightarrow d$  and  $b \rightarrow s$

$$\lambda_u^{(s)} : \lambda_c^{(s)} : \lambda_t^{(s)} = \lambda^4 : \lambda^2 : \lambda^2, \quad \lambda_u^{(d)} : \lambda_c^{(d)} : \lambda_t^{(d)} = \lambda^3 : \lambda^3 : \lambda^3,
 \tag{C.5}$$

respectively. Above,  $\lambda$  is the Wolfenstein parameter, with the approximate value  $\lambda \simeq 0.225$  [31].

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