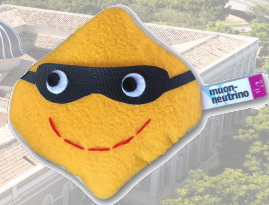


Introduction to $c \rightarrow u\nu\bar{\nu}$ decays

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Belle II Physics week, October 6–10, 2025, KEK (Japan)

The “myth” of charm physics

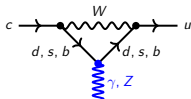
- ① Hadronic effects dominate – large uncertainties.
- ② Energy scale $\sim 1 \text{ GeV}$ – perturbative expansion in $1/m_c$ breaks down.
- ③ Strong GIM suppression.

$1 + 2 + 3 = \text{Not a promising place to search for NP}$

But is this really true?

Rare charm decays are special!

- 1 A unique window to probe FCNCs in the up sector!
- 2 Strong non-perturbative dynamics $\rightarrow$ “Null tests” $\mathcal{O} \pm \delta\mathcal{O}$
 - Use SM symmetries: $\mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}} = 0$,
 - Small uncertainties: $\delta\mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}} \ll \mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}}$,
 - Use large hadronic effects to enhance NP contributions,
 - Construct $\mathcal{O}$ to be sensitive to specific NP,
- 3 Very efficient GIM mechanism: $\sum_i \lambda_i = 0$ with $\lambda_i \equiv V_{ci}^* V_{ui}$.



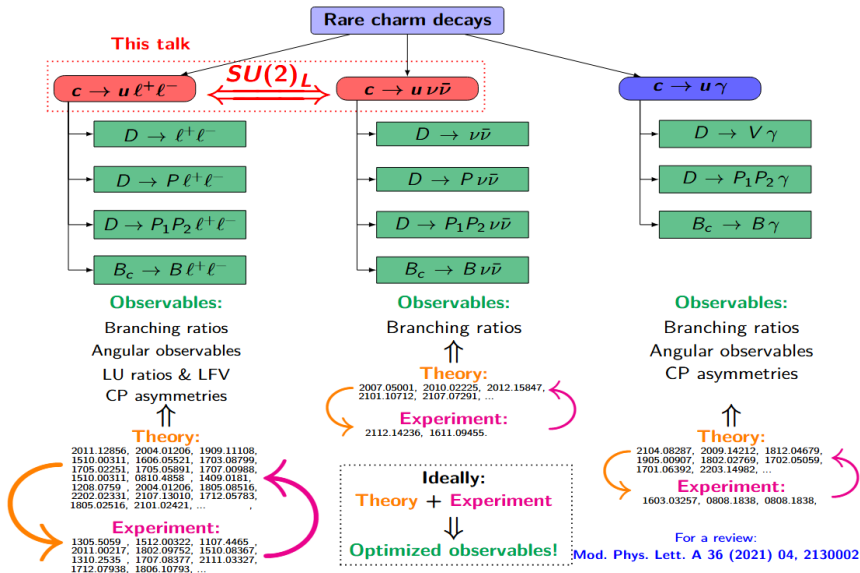
$$= \sum_{i=d,s,b} \lambda_i f_i = \lambda_s \left[(f_s - f_d) + \frac{\lambda_b}{\lambda_s} (f_b - f_d) \right]$$

$$f_i \sim \frac{m_i^2}{(4\pi)^2 M_W^2}, \quad \text{Im}(\lambda_b/\lambda_s) \sim 10^{-3}$$

BRs (A_{CP}) are loop-(CKM-) suppressed!

An excellent place to search for BSM physics!

Plenty of opportunities!



EFT approach to charm physics

① **Dynamical fields ϕ_i at μ_{EW} :** $\phi_i^{\text{SM}} = q_i, \ell_i, A_\mu, \dots$

② **Symmetries to build all O_i up to the desired dimension ($D = 6$):**

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} \sim \frac{4 G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\alpha_e}{4\pi} \sum_i C_i O_i$$

$$O_1^q = (\bar{u}_L \gamma_\mu T^a q_L)(\bar{q}_L \gamma^\mu T^a c_L), \quad O_2^q = (\bar{u}_L \gamma_\mu q_L)(\bar{q}_L \gamma^\mu c_L), \quad q = d, s,$$

$$O_7^{(\prime)} = \frac{m_c}{e} (\bar{u}_{L(R)} \sigma_{\mu\nu} c_{R(L)}) F^{\mu\nu}, \quad O_{9(10)}^{(\prime)} = (\bar{u}_{L(R)} \gamma_\mu c_{L(R)}) (\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu (\gamma_5) \ell),$$

$$O_{S(P)}^{(\prime)} = (\bar{u}_{L(R)} c_{R(L)}) (\bar{\ell} (\gamma_5) \ell), \quad O_T^{(T5)} = \frac{1}{2} (\bar{u} \sigma_{\mu\nu} c) (\bar{\ell} \sigma^{\mu\nu} (\gamma_5) \ell).$$

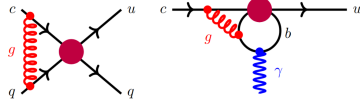
③ **Compute $C_i(\mu_{EW})$ to avoid large $\alpha_s(\mu_{\text{low}}) \log(\mu_{\text{low}}^2/\mu_{EW}^2)$.**

$$m_{q_{\text{light}}} = 0 + \text{GIM mechanism} \implies C_{7,9,10}^{\text{SM}}(\mu_{EW}) = 0$$

EFT approach to charm physics

- ① **RGEs to run down to $\mu_{\text{low}} \approx m_c$ (matching at μ_{EW} and m_b).**
- **Penguins generated at $\mu = m_b$.**
- **$O_{7,9}$ mix with $O_{1,2}$:**

$$|C_7^{\text{eff}}(\mu_c)| \lesssim 0.004, \quad |C_9^{\text{eff}}(\mu_c)| \lesssim 0.01$$



- **But note: the other SM WCs vanish:**

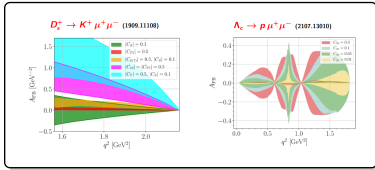
$$C_i^{\text{SM}} = C_S^{\text{SM}} = C_T^{\text{SM}} = C_{T5}^{\text{SM}} = C_{10}^{\text{SM}} = 0$$

Rock stars of charm physics!

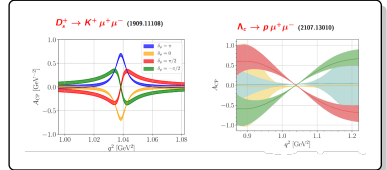
Any observable proportional to these WCs is a null test.

- ② **$\langle O_i(\mu_{\text{low}}) \rangle$ non-perturbative techniques (lattice, LCSR, etc).**
- ③ **Include resonances: Breit–Wigner distributions + exp. data.**

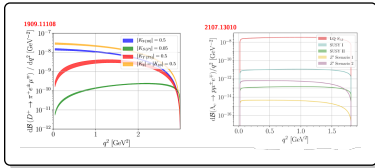
1, 2, 3, null tests!



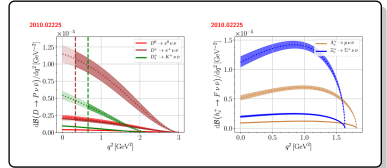
Angular



CPV



LFV



$\nu \bar{\nu}$

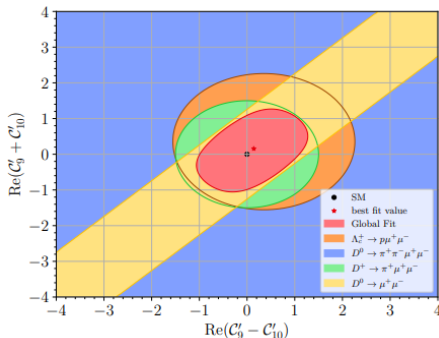
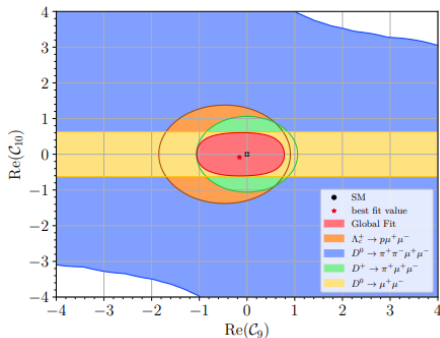
$1 + 2 + 3 \neq$ not a promising place to search for NP

A different way of thinking is required for charm: we target observables with $\mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}} = 0$ to avoid large hadronic uncertainties.

$$\Delta\mathcal{O} = (\mathcal{O}_{\text{exp}} - \cancel{\mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}}}) \pm \sqrt{(\cancel{\delta\mathcal{O}_{\text{SM}}})^2 + (\delta\mathcal{O}_{\text{exp}})^2}$$

How large can NP be in charm?

2410.00115



Constraints mainly set by $D^0 \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ and $D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\mu^+\mu^-$

Plenty of room for NP!

One WC at a time

fit parameter	best fit	1σ
$\text{Re } C_7$	0.01	$[-0.26, +0.18]$
$\text{Re } C_9$	-0.21	$[-0.85, +0.55]$
$\text{Re } C_{10}$	-0.09	$[-0.50, +0.50]$
$\text{Re } C'_7$	0.05	$[-0.18, +0.25]$
$\text{Re } C'_9$	0.15	$[-0.61, +0.82]$
$\text{Re } C'_{10}$	0.00	$[-0.45, +0.45]$
$\text{Im } C_7$	0.09	$[-0.20, +0.24]$
$\text{Im } C_9$	0.32	$[-0.76, +0.85]$
$\text{Im } C_{10}$	0.06	$[-0.47, +0.47]$
$\text{Im } C'_7$	-0.09	$[-0.22, +0.21]$
$\text{Im } C'_9$	-0.28	$[-0.82, +0.80]$
$\text{Im } C'_{10}$	-0.03	$[-0.46, +0.46]$

Dineutrino modes $c \rightarrow u \nu \bar{\nu}$

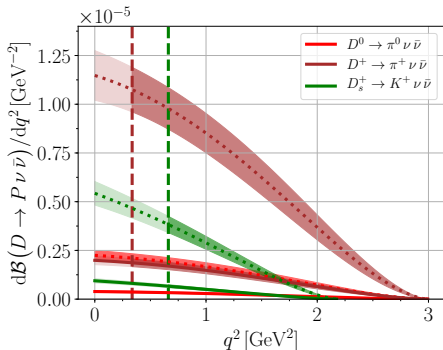
- Extremely GIM-suppressed in the SM (hep-ph/0112235, 0908.1174)

$$\mathcal{B}(D \rightarrow \pi \nu \bar{\nu})_{\text{SM}} \sim 10^{-16}$$

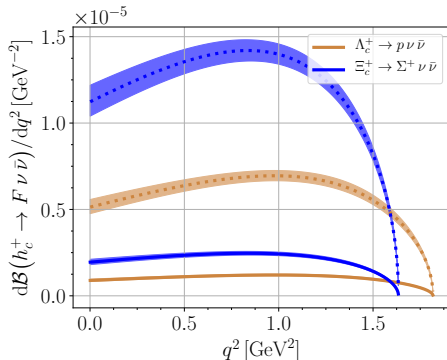
- Only experimental information (90% C.L.) (1611.09455, 2112.14236)

$$\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}) < 9.4 \times 10^{-5}, \quad \mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) < 2.1 \times 10^{-4}$$

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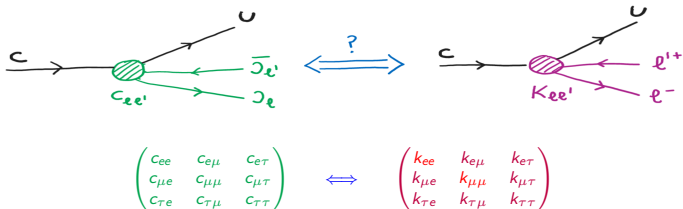


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Can we get information from dineutrino modes?

ℓ and ν_ℓ (with $\ell = e, \mu, \tau$) belong to the same $\text{SU}(2)_L$ doublet in the SM.



Neutrino flavour not tagged!

$$\mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \nu \bar{\nu}) = \sum_{\ell, \ell'} \mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \nu_\ell \bar{\nu}_{\ell'})$$

LU, cLFC, or general:

$$\mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \nu \bar{\nu}) \sim \frac{1}{3} \sum_{\ell, \ell'} c_{\ell\ell'}$$

Charged leptons tagged!

LU:

$$R_H \sim \frac{\mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \mu^+ \mu^-)}{\mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u e^+ e^-)} \sim 1 + (k_{\mu\mu} - k_{ee})$$

cLFC or general:

$$\mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \ell'^+ \ell^-) \sim k_{\ell\ell'}$$

Is there a link between $c_{\ell\ell'}$ and $k_{\ell\ell'}$?

Low-energy $|\Delta c| = |\Delta u| = 1$ EFT description

$$\boxed{c \rightarrow u \nu_\ell \bar{\nu}_{\ell'}} \quad \overset{?}{\longleftrightarrow} \quad \boxed{c \rightarrow u \ell^- \ell'^+}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\nu_\ell \bar{\nu}_{\ell'}} = -\frac{4 G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \sum_k C_k^{U\ell\ell'} Q_k^{U\ell\ell'}$$

Only two operators (no RH neutrinos, as in the SM).

$$Q_{L(R)}^{U\ell\ell'} = (\bar{u}_{L(R)} \gamma_\mu C_{L(R)}) (\bar{\nu}_{\ell' L} \gamma^\mu \nu_{\ell L})$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}^{\ell^- \ell'^+} = -\frac{4 G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \sum_k \mathcal{K}_k^{U\ell\ell'} O_k^{U\ell\ell'}$$

Additional operators are not connected.

$$O_{L(R)}^{U\ell\ell'} = (\bar{u}_{L(R)} \gamma_\mu C_{L(R)}) (\bar{\ell}'_L \gamma^\mu \ell_L), \dots$$

Dineutrino BR is obtained via an incoherent neutrino flavour sum:

$$\mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \nu \bar{\nu}) = \sum_{\ell, \ell'} \mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \nu_\ell \bar{\nu}_{\ell'}) \sim \sum_{\ell, \ell'} |C_L^{U\ell\ell'} \pm C_R^{U\ell\ell'}|^2$$

C^P and $\mathcal{K}^P$ are in the mass basis. $P = D$ ($P = U$) $\rightarrow$ down-quark sector (up-quark sector).

Correlating neutrinos and charged leptons with $SU(2)_L$

Lowest order $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ -invariant effective theory (1008.4884)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}}^{\text{LO}} \supset \frac{C_{\ell q}^{(1)}}{v^2} \bar{Q} \gamma_\mu Q \bar{L} \gamma^\mu L + \frac{C_{\ell q}^{(3)}}{v^2} \bar{Q} \gamma_\mu \tau^a Q \bar{L} \gamma^\mu \tau^a L \\ + \frac{C_{\ell u}}{v^2} \bar{U} \gamma_\mu U \bar{L} \gamma^\mu L + \frac{C_{\ell d}}{v^2} \bar{D} \gamma_\mu D \bar{L} \gamma^\mu L.$$

- ① **Writing in $SU(2)_L$ components:** ($C \rightarrow$ dineutrinos and $K \rightarrow$ dileptons in the gauge basis)

$$C_L^U = K_L^D = \frac{2\pi}{\alpha} (C_{\ell q}^{(1)} + C_{\ell q}^{(3)}), \quad C_R^U = K_R^U = \frac{2\pi}{\alpha} C_{\ell u}.$$

- ② **Mass basis:**

$$C_L^U = W^\dagger \mathcal{K}_L^D W + \mathcal{O}(\lambda), \quad C_R^U = W^\dagger \mathcal{K}_R^U W$$

- ③ **BRs are independent of the PMNS matrix! (field redefinition of ν_L)**

$$\mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \nu \bar{\nu}) \sim \sum_{\ell, \ell'} |C_L^{U \ell \ell'} \pm C_R^{U \ell \ell'}|^2 = \text{Tr}[(C_L^U \pm C_R^U)(C_L^U \pm C_R^U)^\dagger] \\ = \text{Tr}[W^\dagger (\mathcal{K}_L^D \pm \mathcal{K}_R^U) W W^\dagger (\mathcal{K}_L^D \pm \mathcal{K}_R^U)^\dagger W] \\ = \sum_{\ell, \ell'} |\mathcal{K}_L^{D \ell \ell'} \pm \mathcal{K}_R^{U \ell \ell'}|^2 + \mathcal{O}(\lambda).$$

Predictions for dineutrino rates with different leptonic flavour structures $\mathcal{K}_{L,R}^{\ell \ell'}$ can be probed with lepton-specific measurements!

Possible leptonic flavour structures for $\mathcal{K}_{L,R}^{\ell\ell'}$

$$\mathcal{B}(c \rightarrow u \nu \bar{\nu}) \sim \sum_{\ell, \ell'} |\mathcal{K}_L^{D\ell\ell'} \pm \mathcal{K}_R^{U\ell\ell'}|^2$$

i) *Lepton-universality (LU).*

$$\begin{pmatrix} k & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & k \end{pmatrix}$$

ii) *Charged lepton flavour conservation (cLFC).*

$$\begin{pmatrix} k_{ee} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_{\mu\mu} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & k_{\tau\tau} \end{pmatrix}$$

iii) $\mathcal{K}_{L,R}^{\ell\ell'}$ arbitrary.

$$\begin{pmatrix} k_{ee} & k_{e\mu} & k_{e\tau} \\ k_{\mu e} & k_{\mu\mu} & k_{\mu\tau} \\ k_{\tau e} & k_{\tau\mu} & k_{\tau\tau} \end{pmatrix}$$

Dineutrino branching ratios

$$\mathcal{B} = A_+ x^+ + A_- x^-, \quad x^\pm = \sum_{\ell, \ell'} \left| c_L^{U \ell \ell'} \pm c_R^{U \ell \ell'} \right|^2$$

→ Long-distance dynamics & kinematics $A_\pm$: LCSR (low q^2) + Lattice (high q^2)

→ Short-distance dynamics $x^\pm$: Wilson coefficients (BSM)

→ Excellent complementarity of $\mathcal{B}$:

- $A_- = 0$ in $D \rightarrow P \nu \bar{\nu}$ decays.
- $A_- > A_+$ in $D \rightarrow P_1 P_2 \nu \bar{\nu}$ decays.
- $A_- = A_+$ in inclusive D decays.

$D \rightarrow F$	A_+ [10^{-8}]	A_- [10^{-8}]
$D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0$	0.9	0
$D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+$	3.6	0
$D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0$	0	0.2
$D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- (*)$	0	0.4
$D^0 \rightarrow X$	2.2	2.2
$D^+ \rightarrow X$	5.6	5.6

(*) heavy hadron chiral perturbation theory; new results data-driven
 from $D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$ (2509.10447): $A_+^{D^0 \pi^+ \pi^-} = 0.1 \cdot 10^{-8}$
 and $A_-^{D^0 \pi^+ \pi^-} = 0.5 \cdot 10^{-8}$.

Correlations between different dineutrino modes

- The **excellent complementarity** between dineutrino modes provides a **formidable environment for NP searches!**

$$\mathcal{B}(h_c \rightarrow F \nu \bar{\nu}) = A_+^{h_c F} x_+ + A_-^{h_c F} x_-$$

- **Correlations test the completeness of the EFT:**

$$\mathcal{B}(h_c \rightarrow F \nu \bar{\nu}) = r_+^{h_c F} \mathcal{B}(D \rightarrow P \nu \bar{\nu}) + r_-^{h_c F} \mathcal{B}(D' \rightarrow P_1 P_2 \nu \bar{\nu})$$

where $r_+^{h_c F} = A_+^{h_c F} / A_+^{DP}$ and $r_-^{h_c F} = A_-^{h_c F} / A_-^{DP_1 P_2}$.

- **$x^\pm$ -independent! Model-independent correlations!**
- **All dineutrino branching ratios can be inferred from two experimental measurements.**
- **Measurements of *a priori* disconnected modes can hint at missing information in the EFT, i.e., light fields.**

Upper limits on dineutrino modes can probe LU!

- Limits from high- p_T and charged-dilepton D and K decays ([†]):¹

	$ \mathcal{K}_A^{P\ell\ell'} $	ee	$\mu\mu$	$\tau\tau$	$e\mu$	$e\tau$	$\mu\tau$
$s d$	$ \mathcal{K}_L^{D\ell\ell'} $	$5 \times 10^{-2\dagger}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-2\dagger}$	6.7	$6.6 \times 10^{-4\dagger}$	6.1	6.6
$c u$	$ \mathcal{K}_R^{U\ell\ell'} $	2.9	$0.9^\dagger$	5.6	1.6	4.7	5.1

$$x^\pm < 2x, \quad x = \sum_{\ell,\ell'} \left(|\mathcal{K}_L^{D\ell\ell'}|^2 + |\mathcal{K}_R^{U\ell\ell'}|^2 \right) + \mathcal{O}(\lambda) = \sum_{\ell,\ell'} R^{\ell\ell'} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda)$$

$$x = 3 R^{\mu\mu} \lesssim 2.6, \quad (\text{Lepton Universality}) \quad \text{LU is fixed by muons.}$$

$$x = R^{ee} + R^{\mu\mu} + R^{\tau\tau} \lesssim 156, \quad (\text{charged Lepton Flavor Conservation})$$

$$x = R^{ee} + R^{\mu\mu} + R^{\tau\tau} + 2(R^{e\mu} + R^{e\tau} + R^{\mu\tau}) \lesssim 655.$$

¹2007.05001

Upper limits on dineutrino branching ratios

2007.05001, 2010.02225

$$\mathcal{B}(h_c \rightarrow F \nu \bar{\nu}) = A_+^{h_c F} x_+ + A_-^{h_c F} x_-, \quad x_{\pm} = \sum_{ij} |c_L^{Uij} \pm c_R^{Uij}|^2 < 2x.$$

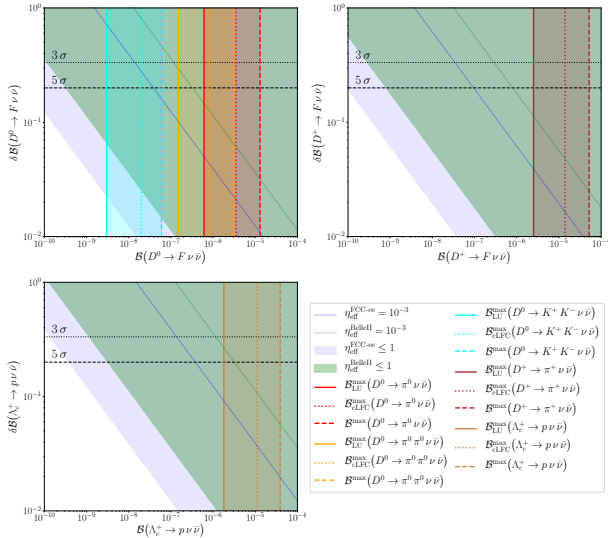
$$N_i = \eta_{\text{eff}} \mathcal{B}_i N(h_c), \quad N(c\bar{c})_{\text{Belle II}} = 65 \cdot 10^9, \quad \text{luminosity } 50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$$

$h_c \rightarrow F$	$\mathcal{B}_{\text{LU}}^{\text{max}}$ [10 ⁻⁷]	$\mathcal{B}_{\text{cLFC}}^{\text{max}}$ [10 ⁻⁷]	$\mathcal{B}^{\text{max}}$ [10 ⁻⁷]	$N_{\text{LU}}^{\text{Belle II}}/\eta_{\text{eff}}$ [10 ⁵]	$N_{\text{cLFC}}^{\text{Belle II}}/\eta_{\text{eff}}$ [10 ⁵]	$N_{\text{max}}^{\text{Belle II}}/\eta_{\text{eff}}$ [10 ⁵]
$D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0$	3.2	18	67	0.3	1.4	5.4
$D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+$	13	74	270	0.4	2.2	8.1
$D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0$	1.5	9	32	0.1	0.7	2.6
$D^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$	1.5	9	31	0.1	0.7	2.5
$\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p^+$	9.7	56	200	0.08	0.4	1.6
$\Xi_c^+ \rightarrow \Sigma^+$	19	110	400	0.2	0.9	3.2

$\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu}) < 2.1 \times 10^{-4}$ (BESIII) is about one order of magnitude above our predictions. [2112.14236](#)

$\delta\mathcal{B}$ vs $\mathcal{B}$: exp. projections and theo. predictions

2010.02225



Including light right-handed neutrinos

- Light RH neutrinos admit additional $D = 6$ dineutrino operators:

$$Q_{LR}^{ij} = (\bar{u}_L \gamma_\mu c_L)(\bar{\nu}_{jR} \gamma^\mu \nu_{iR}), \quad Q_{S(P)}^{ij} = (\bar{u}_L c_R)(\bar{\nu}_j (\gamma_5) \nu_i),$$

$$Q_{RR}^{ij} = (\bar{u}_R \gamma_\mu c_R)(\bar{\nu}_{jR} \gamma^\mu \nu_{iR}), \quad Q_{T(T5)}^{ij} = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{u} \sigma_{\mu\nu} c)(\bar{\nu}_j \sigma^{\mu\nu} (\gamma_5) \nu_i).$$

- $Q_{S(P)}$ are constrained by the branching ratio of $D^0 \rightarrow \nu \bar{\nu}$ (Belle, [1611.09455](#)):

$$\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow \text{inv.}) < 9.4 \times 10^{-5} \quad (90\% \text{ C.L.}).$$

- Bounds on $D \rightarrow P \nu \bar{\nu}$ from $D^0 \rightarrow \text{inv.}$ (scalar/pseudoscalar dominance):

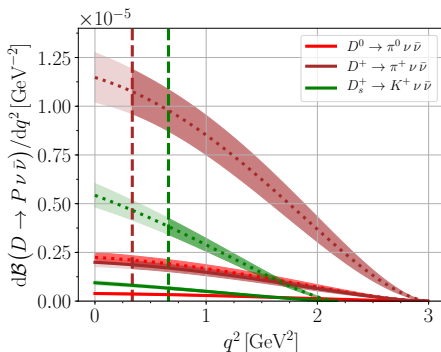
$$\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \nu \bar{\nu})_{S,P} \lesssim 2.4 \times 10^{-6}, \quad \mathcal{B}(D^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu})_{S,P} \lesssim 1.22 \times 10^{-5},$$

$$\mathcal{B}(D_s^+ \rightarrow K^+ \nu \bar{\nu})_{S,P} \lesssim 2.3 \times 10^{-6}.$$

- Corrections of $\sim 20\%$ to the general flavour branching-ratio limits.
- $Q_{S,P}$ could become irrelevant if the bound on $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow \text{inv.})$ improves: requiring the LU impact $< 10\%$ implies $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow \text{inv.}) \lesssim 2 \times 10^{-6}$. An improvement by two orders of magnitude would exclude S and P contributions.

Two important comments

- 1 SM model backgrounds in charged model like $D^+ \rightarrow \tau^+(\rightarrow \pi^+ \bar{\nu}_\tau) \nu_\tau$ can be removed by kinematic cuts: $q^2 > (m_\tau^2 - m_\pi^2)(m_D^2 - m_\tau^2)/m_\tau^2$.
- 2 Since these channels involve missing energy, the invisible final state is not necessarily neutrinos - it could be new light BSM states. To identify the underlying new physics, providing differential branching ratios is more useful than only integrated rates.



Conclusion

- ★ Window to explore FCNCs in the up sector.
- ★ Unique phenomenology (strong GIM suppression).
- ★ Clean null-test observables can probe NP.
- ★ Plenty of opportunities, not only charm decays with missing energy:
 - Angular observables
 - CP asymmetries
 - LU ratios
 - LFV
- ★ $c \rightarrow u\nu\bar{\nu}$ well suited to Belle II.

Thank you for your attention!