

Structure-Dependent Electromagnetic Finite-Size Effects

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We present a model-independent and relativistic approach to analytically derive electromagnetic finite-size effects beyond the point-like approximation. The key element is the use of electromagnetic Ward identities to constrain vertex functions, and structure-dependence appears via physical form-factors and their derivatives. We apply our general method to study the leading finite-size structure-dependence in the pseudoscalar mass (at order $1/L^3$) as well as in the leptonic decay amplitudes of pions and kaons (at order $1/L^2$). Knowledge of the latter is essential for Standard Model precision tests in the flavour physics sector from lattice simulations.

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1. Introduction

Lattice quantum chromodynamics (QCD) allows for systematically improvable Standard Model (SM) precision tests from numerical simulations performed in a finite-volume (FV), discretised Euclidean spacetime. In order to reach (sub-)percent precision in lattice predictions, also strong and electromagnetic isospin breaking corrections have to be included. The latter are encoded via quantum electrodynamics (QED), but the inclusion of QED in a FV spacetime is complicated because of Gauss' law [1]. This problem is related to zero-momentum modes of photons and the absence of a QED mass-gap. Several prescriptions of how to include QED in a finite volume have been formulated and the one used here is QED_L where the spatial zero-modes are removed on each time-slice. The long-range nature of QED in addition enhances the FV effects (FVEs), which typically leads to power-law FVEs that are larger than the exponentially suppressed ones for single-particle matrix elements in QCD alone.

The FVEs for a QCD+QED process depend on properties of the involved particles, including masses and charges, but also structure-dependent quantities such as electromagnetic form-factors and their derivatives. In order to analytically capture the finite-volume scaling fully, one cannot neglect hadron structure, and in the following we develop a relativistic and model-independent method to go beyond the point-like approximation at order e^2 in QED_L.

We consider a space-time with periodic spatial extents L but with infinite time-extent. To exemplify the method, we first consider the pseudoscalar mass in Sec. 2, and then proceed to leptonic decays in Sec. 3. The discussion is based on the results in Ref. [2], and the reader is referred there for further technical details.

2. Pseudoscalar Mass

To study the finite-size scaling in the mass $m_P(L)$ of a charged hadronic spin-0 particle P , we first define the full QCD+QED infinite-volume two-point Euclidean correlation function

$$C_2^\infty(p) = \int d^4x \langle 0 | T[\phi(x)\phi^\dagger(0)] | 0 \rangle e^{-ipx}. \quad (1)$$

Here ϕ is an interpolating operator coupling to P , and $p = (p_0, \mathbf{p})$ is the momentum. We denote the finite-volume counterpart of this correlator $C_2^L(p)$, but for the moment only consider $C_2^\infty(p)$. This can be diagrammatically represented as

$$C_2^\infty(p) = \text{---}\phi\text{---}\phi\text{---} = Z_P \cdot D(p) \cdot Z_P, \quad D(p) = \frac{Z(p^2)}{p^2 + m_P^2}, \quad Z_P = \langle 0 | \phi(0) | P, \mathbf{p} \rangle, \quad (2)$$

where the double-line represents the QCD+QED propagator $D(p)$, the ϕ -blob is the overlap between ϕ and P and $Z(p^2) = 1 + O(p^2 + m_P^2)$ is the residue of the propagator. Expanding $C_2^\infty(p)$ in (2) around $e = 0$ yields

$$\text{---}\phi\text{---}\phi\text{---} = \text{---}\phi_0\text{---}\phi_0\text{---} + \text{---}\phi_0\text{---}\text{---}C\text{---}\phi_0\text{---} + O(e^4), \quad (3)$$

where the c_j are finite-volume coefficients specific to QED_L arising from the sum-integral difference in (5). These are discussed in detail in Ref. [2]. Here we see the charge radius $\langle r_p^2 \rangle$ appearing at order $1/L^3$ and its coefficient agrees with that derived within non-relativistic scalar QED [6]. However, there is an additional structure-dependent term C related to the branch-cut of the forward, on-shell Compton amplitude. This contribution can be found, in other forms, also in Refs. [3, 7], and only arises because of the QED_L prescription with the subtracted zero-mode. Its value is currently unknown but one can show $C > 0$ [2], meaning that it cannot cancel the charge radius contribution. Note that all unphysical off-shell contributions from the form-factors F and G have vanished.

3. Leptonic Decays

Leptonic decay rates of light mesons are of the form $P^- \rightarrow \ell^- \bar{\nu}_\ell$, where P is a pion or kaon, ℓ a lepton and ν_ℓ the corresponding neutrino. These are important for the extraction of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa matrix elements $|V_{us}|$ and $|V_{ud}|$ [8, 9]. The leading virtual electromagnetic correction to this process yields an infrared (IR) divergent decay rate Γ_0 . One must therefore add the real radiative decay rate $\Gamma_1(\Delta E)$ for $P^- \rightarrow \ell^- \bar{\nu}_\ell \gamma$, where the photon has energy below ΔE , to cancel the IR-divergence in Γ_0 . The IR-finite inclusive decay rate is thus $\Gamma(P^- \rightarrow \ell^- \nu_\ell[\gamma])$, and following the lattice procedure first laid out in Ref. [8] we may write

$$\Gamma_0 + \Gamma_1(\Delta E_\gamma) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} [\Gamma_0(L) - \Gamma_0^{\text{uni}}(L)] + \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} [\Gamma_0^{\text{uni}}(L) + \Gamma_1(L, \Delta E_\gamma)]. \quad (9)$$

Here, Ref. [8] chose to add and subtract the universal finite-volume decay rate $\Gamma_0^{\text{uni}}(L)$, calculated in point-like scalar QED in Ref. [4], to cancel separately the IR-divergences in Γ_0 and Γ_1 . In the following we are interested in only the first term in brackets. The subtracted term $\Gamma_0^{\text{uni}}(L)$ cancels the FVEs in $\Gamma_0(L)$ through order $1/L$, and hence $\Gamma_0(L) - \Gamma_0^{\text{uni}}(L) \sim \mathcal{O}(1/L^2)$. Structure-dependence enters at order $1/L^2$. With the goal of systematically improving the finite-volume scaling order by order including structure-dependence, we replace the universal contribution by

$$\Gamma_0^{\text{uni}}(L) \longrightarrow \Gamma_0^{(n)}(L) = \Gamma_0^{\text{uni}}(L) + \sum_{j=2}^n \Delta\Gamma_0^{(j)}(L), \quad (10)$$

where $n \geq 2$ and $\Delta\Gamma_0^{(j)}(L)$ contains the FVEs at order $1/L^j$. This means that the finite-volume residual instead scales as $\Gamma_0(L) - \Gamma_0^{(n)}(L) \sim \mathcal{O}(1/L^{n+1})$. We may parametrise $\Gamma_0^{(n)}(L)$ in terms of a finite-volume function $Y^{(n)}(L)$ according to

$$\Gamma_0^{(n)}(L) = \Gamma_0^{\text{tree}} \left[1 + 2 \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} Y^{(n)}(L) \right] + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{L^{n+1}}\right), \quad (11)$$

where Γ_0^{tree} is the tree-level decay rate.

Since we are interested in the leading structure-dependent contribution we consider $Y^{(2)}(L)$. In order to derive it, we define the QCD+QED correlation function

$$C_W^{rs}(p, p_\ell) = \int d^4z e^{ipz} \langle \ell^-, \mathbf{p}_\ell, r; \nu_\ell, \mathbf{p}_{\nu_\ell}, s | \text{T}[\mathcal{O}_W(0)\phi^\dagger(z)] | 0 \rangle, \quad (12)$$

where $p_\ell = (p_\ell^0, \mathbf{p}_\ell)$ is the momentum of the on-shell lepton of mass m_ℓ , $p_{\nu_\ell} = (p_{\nu_\ell}^0, \mathbf{p}_{\nu_\ell})$ is the momentum of the massless neutrino and $\mathcal{O}_W(0)$ is the four-fermion operator of the decay in question. We may diagrammatically represent this in a similar way as for the mass according to

$$C_W^{rs}(p, p_\ell) = \text{diagram with } \phi \text{ and } \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \text{ blob} = \text{diagram with } \phi_0 \text{ and } \tilde{\mathcal{M}}_0 \text{ blob} + \text{diagram with } \phi_0 \text{ and } W \text{ blob}. \quad (13)$$

The grey blob containing W is of order e^2 and can be separated, just like the Compton amplitude, into several irreducible vertex functions. The exact definitions of these vertex functions are quite involved and can be found in Ref. [2], but several comments can be made. First of all, the vertex functions are related to various structure-dependent form-factors containing both on-shell and off-shell information. Again, the off-shellness must cancel. The vertex functions also contain physical structure-dependent information (similar to how Γ_1 depends on the charge radius) and for $Y^{(2)}(L)$ this is the axial-vector form-factor $F_A(-m_P^2) = F_A^P$ from the real radiative decay $P^- \rightarrow \ell^- \bar{\nu}_\ell \gamma$.

By performing the amputation on the external meson leg in (12) to obtain the matrix element needed for the decay rate in (11), one finds the finite-volume function $Y^{(2)}(L)$ to be

$$Y^{(2)}(L) = \frac{3}{4} + 4 \log\left(\frac{m_\ell}{m_W}\right) + 2 \log\left(\frac{m_W L}{4\pi}\right) + \frac{c_3 - 2(c_3(\mathbf{v}_\ell) - B_1(\mathbf{v}_\ell))}{2\pi} - \quad (14)$$

$$- 2 A_1(\mathbf{v}_\ell) \left[\log\left(\frac{m_P L}{2\pi}\right) + \log\left(\frac{m_\ell L}{2\pi}\right) - 1 \right] - \frac{1}{m_P L} \left[\frac{(1+r_\ell^2)^2 c_2 - 4 r_\ell^2 c_2(\mathbf{v}_\ell)}{1-r_\ell^4} \right] +$$

$$+ \frac{1}{(m_P L)^2} \left[-\frac{F_A^P}{f_P} \frac{4\pi m_P [(1+r_\ell^2)^2 c_1 - 4 r_\ell^2 c_1(\mathbf{v}_\ell)]}{1-r_\ell^4} + \frac{8\pi [(1+r_\ell^2) c_1 - 2 c_1(\mathbf{v}_\ell)]}{(1-r_\ell^4)} \right].$$

Here, $r_\ell = m_\ell/m_P$, $\mathbf{v}_\ell = \mathbf{p}_\ell/E_\ell$ the lepton velocity in terms of the energy E_ℓ , and m_W the W -boson mass. Also, c_k , $A_1(\mathbf{v}_\ell)$, $B_1(\mathbf{v}_\ell)$ and $c_j(\mathbf{v}_\ell)$ are finite-volume coefficients defined in Ref. [2]. Note that no unphysical quantities appear. At order $1/L^2$, there is one structure-dependent contribution proportional to F_A^P and the other term is purely point-like. This result is in perfect agreement with Ref. [4] for the universal terms up to $\mathcal{O}(1/L)$, which we derived in a completely different approach. The numerical impact of the $1/L^2$ -corrections is studied in Ref. [2].

4. Conclusions

We have presented a relativistic and model-independent method to derive electromagnetic FVEs beyond the point-like approximation. We are currently working to obtain the leading FVEs for semi-leptonic kaon decays, relevant for future precision tests in the SM flavour physics sector.

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