The $Hb\bar{b}$ vertex at four loops and hard matching coefficients in SCET for various currents

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We compute the four-loop corrections to the Higgs-bottom vertex within massless QCD and present analytic results for all color structures. The infrared poles of the renormalized form factor agree with the predicted four-loop pattern. Furthermore, we use the results for the Higgs-bottom, photon-quark, and Higgs-gluon form factors to provide hard matching coefficients in soft-collinear effective theory up to four-loop accuracy.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the next decade the Higgs boson will play a central role in many of the analyses performed with data taken at the general purpose experiments ATLAS and CMS at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. Improved analysis tools will increase the precision of observables, motivating new calculations on the theory side in order to match the uncertainties of the experiments.

The dominant channel for Higgs boson production is via gluon fusion. Although in the Standard Model (SM) the contribution from bottom quark annihilation is only at the percent level it might be important in extended models with an enhanced coupling of the Higgs boson to bottom quarks. In the SM, state-of-the-art for the inclusive production rate $bb \rightarrow H + X$, with $X$ being any hadronic state, is next-to-next-to-next-to-leading order (N$^3$LO) [1, 2] (see refs. [3–5] for the NNLO corrections). An important ingredient in the analysis of ref. [2] is the three-loop Higgs-bottom form factor which has been computed in ref. [6] and cross checked in refs. [1, 7]. In this work we provide results for the four-loop corrections to the Higgs-bottom form factor, which constitutes a building block for the Higgs boson production cross section and the differential rate of Higgs boson decays to bottom quarks at N$^4$LO.

There are two different ways to view Higgs boson production in bottom-antibottom quark annihilation. In the so-called five-flavour scheme, the bottom quark is considered as a massless parton which is part of the proton. In the four-flavour scheme, the first step is the production of two (massive) bottom and antibottom quark pairs via gluon splitting. Afterwards a bottom and an antibottom quark annihilate to produce the Higgs boson. From the technical point of view the four-flavour scheme is more involved and, in fact, in this approach only NLO corrections are available [8–10], which are of the same order in the strong coupling as the N$^3$LO corrections available in the five-flavour scheme [1, 2].

An attractive framework to describe high-energy cross sections is based on soft-collinear effective theory (SCET) [11–17], which can be used to separate the various scales present in a process and to perform a resummation of potentially large logarithms. The matching of SCET to QCD is achieved with the help of so-called hard matching coefficients which can be extracted from the massless form factors computed in QCD. In this work, we calculate matching coefficients from results for the four-loop $Hb\bar{b}$, $\gamma^*qq$ and $Hgg$ form factors. An important aspect of this derivation is an explicit check of the prediction [18–30] for the infrared poles of the renormalized $Hb\bar{b}$ form factor using recent results for the four-loop cusp [31–34] and quark collinear [34, 35] anomalous dimensions.

The outline of the paper is as follows. In section II, we discuss the bare Higgs-bottom form factor and present our result for the four-loop term. For the Higgs-bottom, photon-quark and Higgs-gluon form factors, we discuss the ultraviolet (UV) renormalization in section III and the infrared (IR) subtractions in section IV. The SCET hard matching coefficients for all three form factors are presented in section V. We conclude in section VI.
II. THE $H\bar{b}b$ FORM FACTOR AT FOUR LOOPS

We define the Higgs-bottom form factor via

$$F_b(q^2) = -\frac{1}{2q^2} \text{Tr} \left( q_2 \Gamma_b q_1 \right),$$

where $\Gamma_b$ is the Higgs-bottom vertex function, $q_1$ and $q_2$ are the incoming quark and antiquark momenta and $q = q_1 + q_2$ is the momentum of the Higgs boson. Sample Feynman diagrams contributing to $F_b$ at the four-loop level are shown in fig. 1. We employ conventional dimensional regularization to regularize UV and IR divergences, and for the number of space-time dimensions $d$ we use $d = 4 - 2\epsilon$. Two- and three-loop corrections to $F_b$ have been computed in refs. [36] and [6], respectively. The extension of the three-loop result up to order $\epsilon^2$ and the four-loop results with two and three closed fermion loops have been computed in [7]. In this work we complete the four-loop corrections by computing the contributions of all remaining color factors.

The bare form factor is conveniently parametrized in terms of the bare strong coupling constant and the bare Yukawa coupling $y_0 = m_{b,0}/v$ where $m_{b,0}$ and $v$ are the bare bottom quark mass and Higgs vacuum expectation value. The perturbative expansion of this bare form factor reads

$$F_b = y_0 \left[ 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} a_0^n \left( \frac{\mu_0^2}{-q^2 - i\epsilon} \right)^{n\epsilon} S_\epsilon F_b^{(n)} \right],$$

where

$$S_\epsilon = e^{-\epsilon \gamma(4\pi)^\epsilon}, \quad a_0 = \frac{\alpha_s^0}{4\pi},$$

$\alpha_s^0$ is the bare strong coupling, $\mu_0$ the 't Hooft scale, $\gamma \approx 0.577216$ Euler’s constant, and the $-i\epsilon$ description fixes the branch cut ambiguity for $q^2 > 0$. We stress that we keep a non-zero bottom mass only in the Yukawa coupling and treat the bottom quark as a massless particle otherwise. $F_b^{(n)}$ develops poles up to $1/\epsilon^{2n}$. However, non-trivial information specific to some loop order is contained only in the $1/\epsilon^2$ poles and higher order $\epsilon$ terms. All higher poles, $1/\epsilon^{2n}, \ldots, 1/\epsilon^3$, are fixed from the lower-loop contributions. In fact, the $1/\epsilon^2$ poles are determined by the (universal) cusp anomalous dimension and the $1/\epsilon$ poles are determined by the collinear anomalous dimension.

We generate the Feynman diagrams with Qgraf [37] and employ Form 4 [38] to express the form factor in terms of unreduced scalar Feynman integrals. For the color algebra we use Color.h [39], which conveniently produces a result that is valid for a general simple Lie algebra. We find the color structures listed in fig. 1, where $C_R$ is the quadratic Casimir operator and $d_R^{abcd}$ is the fully symmetrical tensor originating from the trace over four generators, with $R = F, A$ for the fundamental and adjoint representation, respectively. Further, $N_F$ the dimension of the fundamental representation and $n_f$ is the number of light quarks. For a $SU(N_c)$ gauge group the relevant invariants or color factors...
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\[ C_F = (N_c^2 - 1)/(2N_c) , \]
\[ C_A = N_c , \]
\[ d_F^{abcd} d_F^{abcd} / N_F = (18 - 6N_c^2 + 4N_c^2 - 1)/(96N_c^2) , \]
\[ d_A^{abcd} d_A^{abcd} / N_F = (N_c^2 - 1)(N_c^2 + 6)/48 . \]

We note that diagrams where the Higgs couples to a closed quark loop do not contribute. This is clear from the fact that the Yukawa coupling requires a helicity flip and all quarks are massless in our calculation. For the same reason, there are also no \( d_F^{abcd} d_F^{abcd} \) contributions, which are present in the case of the \( \gamma^* q \bar{q} \) form factor [40].

The computation of massless four-loop form factor integrals requires advanced techniques both for the reduction to master integrals but also for the computation of the latter. For the reduction it is essential to have at hand an efficient program. For our calculation we use Reduze 2 [41] together with the code Finred employing finite field arithmetic and further techniques from [42–48].

For the master integrals two complementary methods are applied. The first one uses finite master integrals [49–51] in \( d_0 - 2\epsilon \) dimensions where \( d_0 = 4, 6, \ldots \) and applies the program HyperInt [52] in cases where the corresponding Feynman parametric representation can be rendered linearly reducible [53, 54]. In this approach, the actual integration is applied to individual master integrals. The second method considers all master integrals of a given integral family at the same time. In a first step one of the massless external legs is made massive. Choosing \( q_t^2 \neq 0 \) it is possible to define \( x = q_t^2/q^2 \), where \( q^2 \) is the virtuality of the Higgs boson. Our aim is the computation of the master integrals for \( x = 0 \). On the other hand, for \( x = 1 \) the vertex integrals turn into massless two-point functions, which are well studied in the literature [55, 56]. It is indeed possible to use the powerful method of differential equations [57–62] to transport the information from \( x = 1 \) to \( x = 0 \). For more details on this approach we refer to ref. [31].

We obtain for the bare four-loop form factor

\[
F^{(4)}_b = C_F \left[ \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left( \frac{2}{3} \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left( -\frac{4}{3} \zeta_2 + \frac{8}{3} \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon^3} \left( -\frac{272}{9} \zeta_3 + 12 \zeta_2 + \frac{16}{3} \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon^4} \left( \frac{296}{15} \zeta_2^2 - 60 \zeta_3 + \frac{80}{3} \zeta_2 + 68 \frac{1}{3} \right) \right. \\
+ \frac{1}{\epsilon^3} \left( -\frac{3008}{15} \zeta_5 + \frac{640}{9} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 - 12 \zeta_2^2 + \frac{2336}{9} \zeta_3 + \frac{340}{3} \zeta_2 + 52 \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left( \frac{13960}{27} \zeta_3^2 - \frac{6784}{315} \zeta_2^3 - 1100 \zeta_5 - 480 \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + \frac{118}{15} \zeta_2^2 \right) \\
+ \frac{668}{9} \zeta_3 + 506 \zeta_2 - 254 \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left( \frac{14162}{21} \zeta_7 - \frac{5792}{9} \zeta_5 \zeta_2 + \frac{6208}{9} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 - \frac{11800}{9} \zeta_2^2 - \frac{17326}{21} \zeta_3 - \frac{11352}{19} \zeta_5 - \frac{21398}{9} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 \right) \\
+ \frac{4867}{5} \zeta_7^2 + \frac{69733}{9} \zeta_9 + \frac{5159}{2} \zeta_2 - \frac{12707}{6} + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left( \frac{32384}{15} \zeta_5 \zeta_3 + \frac{739328}{45} \zeta_5 \zeta_2 - \frac{66392}{27} \zeta_2^2 - \frac{7486576}{27} \zeta_4 - \frac{47217}{2} \zeta_7 \right) \\
- \frac{31928}{5} \zeta_5 \zeta_2 - \frac{11092}{5} \zeta_9 \zeta_2 - \frac{242282}{27} \zeta_3 - \frac{250138}{45} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 - \frac{392059}{15} \zeta_5 - \frac{121270}{9} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + \frac{28514}{3} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{21206}{3} \zeta_3 + \frac{53859}{4} \zeta_2 \\
- \frac{71295}{4} \right) \]
Our result is expressed in terms of regular zeta values \( \zeta_2, \zeta_3, \zeta_5, \zeta_7 \) and one multiple zeta value \( \zeta_{5,3} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{m^n n^3} \approx 0.0377076729848 \).

As expected for a generic four-loop form factor in QCD, the leading pole is \( 1/\epsilon^8 \) and the finite part has transcendental weight up to 8.

We have performed the following checks on our result in eq. (5) for the bare four-loop form factor \( F_b^{(4)} \). First, we have recalculated the known \( n_f^2 \) and \( n_f^3 \) contributions and found agreement with the results of ref. [7]; all other terms are new. For the leading color contribution we have performed two independent calculations and verified that the results agree. Furthermore, we have checked that all poles \( 1/\epsilon^8, \ldots, 1/\epsilon \) agree with predictions derived from known anomalous dimensions through to four-loop order and lower loop contributions through to transcendental weight 8. This is a strong check of our result and a confirmation of the literature expression for the quark collinear anomalous dimensions up to 8.

Details for this derivation will be given in the sections below. For the sake of completeness, we have also recalculated the lower loop bare form factors \( F_b^{(1)}, F_b^{(2)}, F_b^{(3)} \) through to weight 8 and found full agreement with the results of ref. [7]. We also extracted the maximal transcendental weight 8 part and find that it coincides with that of the \( \gamma^*q\bar{q} \) form factor [40, 63] (and, after modifying the Casimir operators such that quarks and gluons are in the adjoint color representation, also with that of the \( Hgg \) form factor [40, 63]).

### III. UV RENORMALIZATION FOR \( Hb\bar{b}, \gamma^*q\bar{q} \) AND \( Hgg \) FORM FACTORS

In this section, we discuss the UV renormalization of different form factors, focusing first on the \( Hb\bar{b} \) form factor. We perform UV renormalization in the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) scheme and replace the bare couplings \( a_0 \) and \( y_0 \) by the renormalized couplings \( a \) and \( y \) with

\[
S_\epsilon\mu^{2\epsilon}a_0 = Z_a\mu^{2\epsilon}a, \\
y_0 = Z_my.
\]

With the \( \beta \) function and the quark anomalous dimension \( \gamma^m \)

\[
\beta(a) = -a\frac{\text{d}\ln Z_a}{\text{d}\ln \mu^2} = -a^2\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a^n \beta_n, \\
\gamma^m(a) = -\frac{\text{d}\ln Z_m}{\text{d}\ln \mu^2} = -a\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a^n \gamma^m_n,
\]

one has from (7) for the renormalized coupling \( da/\text{d}\ln \mu^2 = \beta - a\epsilon \) and thus

\[
\frac{\text{d}\ln Z_a}{da} = -\frac{\beta}{\alpha(\beta - a\epsilon)}, \\
\frac{\text{d}\ln Z_m}{da} = -\frac{\gamma^m}{\beta - a\epsilon}.
\]

Solving these differential equations perturbatively results in

\[
Z_a = 1 + a\left(-\frac{\beta_0}{\epsilon}\right) + a^2\left(\frac{\beta_0^2}{2\epsilon^2} - \frac{\beta_1}{2\epsilon}\right) + a^3\left(-\gamma_0^m_0 + \frac{\gamma_0^m_1}{6\epsilon^2} - \frac{\beta_3}{3\epsilon}\right) + a^4\left(\frac{\beta_0^4}{4\epsilon^4} - \frac{23\beta_0^2\beta_1}{12\epsilon^3} + \frac{9\beta_1^2 + 20\beta_3\beta_2 - \beta_3^2}{24\epsilon^2}\right) + O(a^5),
\]

\[
Z_m = 1 + a\left(-\gamma^m_0\right) + a^2\left(\frac{\gamma_0^m_0(\beta_0 + \gamma^m_0)}{2\epsilon^2} - \gamma^m_1\right) + a^3\left(-\gamma_0^m_0(\beta_0 + \gamma^m_0)(2\beta_0 + \gamma^m_0)\right) + a^4\left(-6\beta_0\beta_1\gamma^m_1 - 4\beta_1\gamma^m_1 - 3\beta_0^2\gamma^m_0 + \gamma^m_1 + 7\beta_0\beta_1\gamma^m_0 - \gamma^m_1\right) + O(a^5).
\]
The coefficients of the $\beta$ function read [64, 65]

\begin{align}
\beta_0 &= C_A \left( \frac{11}{3} \right) + n_f \left( - \frac{2}{3} \right), \\
\beta_1 &= C_A^2 \left( \frac{34}{3} \right) + n_f C_A \left( - \frac{10}{3} \right) + n_f C_F \left( - 2 \right), \\
\beta_2 &= C_A^3 \left( \frac{2857}{54} \right) + n_f C_A^2 \left( - \frac{1415}{54} \right) + n_f C_A C_F \left( - \frac{205}{54} \right) + n_f C_F^2 \left( \frac{1}{9} \right) + n_f^2 C_A \left( \frac{79}{54} \right) + n_f^2 C_F \left( \frac{11}{9} \right), \\
\beta_3 &= C_A^4 \left( - \frac{44}{9} \right) + n_f C_A^3 \left( \frac{150653}{486} \right) + \frac{d_{A \bar{A}}^{bd e c} y_{F A}^{bd e c}}{N_A} \left( \frac{704}{3} \right) + n_f C_A^2 \left( \frac{68}{9} \right) + n_f C_A C_F \left( - \frac{30143}{162} \right) + n_f C_F^2 \left( \frac{328}{9} \right) + 7073 \left( \frac{3965}{162} \right) \\
&\quad + n_f C_A C_F^2 \left( - \frac{2102}{27} \right) + n_f C_F^2 \left( \frac{1}{3} \right) - 1664 \left( \frac{3}{9} \right) + n_f C_F^2 \left( \frac{512}{9} \right) + n_f C_A \left( \frac{53}{243} \right) \\
&\quad + n_f^3 C_A C_F \left( \frac{112}{9} \right) + n_f^2 C_F \left( \frac{3488}{243} \right) + n_f^2 C_F^2 \left( \frac{176}{9} \right) + n_f^2 C_F \left( \frac{338}{27} \right) + n_f^2 \frac{d_{A \bar{A}}^{bd e c} y_{F A}^{bd e c}}{N_A} \left( \frac{53}{243} \right) \\
&\quad + n_f^3 C_F \left( \frac{154}{243} \right),
\end{align}

and the coefficients of the quark mass anomalous dimension are given by [66, 67]

\begin{align}
\gamma_0^m &= C_F \left( \frac{2}{3} \right), \\
\gamma_1^m &= C_F C_A \left( \frac{97}{6} \right) + C_F^2 \left( \frac{3}{2} \right) + n_f C_F \left( - \frac{10}{6} \right), \\
\gamma_2^m &= C_F \left( \frac{129}{2} \right) + C_F^2 C_A \left( - \frac{129}{4} \right) + C_F C_A \left( \frac{11413}{108} \right) + n_f C_F^2 \left( 24 \right) + n_f C_F \left( - 24 \right) + n_f \left( - 278 \right), \\
&\quad + n_f^2 C_F \left( \frac{35}{27} \right), \\
\gamma_3^m &= C_F^3 \left( - \frac{336}{9} \right) + C_F^2 C_A \left( \frac{316}{9} \right) + C_F C_A \left( \frac{15449}{12} \right) + C_F C_A \left( \frac{440}{9} \right) + n_f \left( - 440 \right) + n_f \left( \frac{1418}{9} \right) \\
&\quad + n_f \left( - \frac{7055}{72} \right) + \frac{d_{A \bar{A}}^{bd e c} y_{F A}^{bd e c}}{N_A} \left( \frac{240}{3} \right) + n_f C_F^3 \left( - 240 \right) + n_f C_F \left( 276 \right) + n_f C_A \left( - 132 \right) + n_f \left( 184 \right) \\
&\quad + n_f \left( \frac{8819}{54} \right) + n_f C_F C_A \left( \frac{12 \right) + n_f C_F \left( \frac{120}{9} \right) + n_f \left( \frac{14 \right) \\
&\quad + n_f \left( \frac{240}{9} \right) + n_f \left( \frac{7073}{81} \right) + n_f \left( \frac{34045}{36} \right) + n_f C_F \left( 24 \right) + n_f \left( 76 \right) \\
&\quad + n_f \left( \frac{16}{3} \right) + n_f \left( \frac{671}{162} \right) + n_f \left( \frac{324}{324} \right) + n_f C_F \left( \frac{16}{9} \right) + n_f \left( \frac{132}{9} \right) + n_f \left( \frac{120}{9} \right) + n_f \left( \frac{7073}{81} \right).
\end{align}

In addition to the $Hb\bar{b}$ form factor (1), we consider also the UV renormalization of the bare form factors for the $\gamma^*q\bar{q}$ and $Hgg$ vertices

\begin{align}
\mathcal{F}_g &= - \frac{1}{4(1 - \epsilon) q^2} \text{Tr} \left( q^2 \Gamma^\mu \Gamma^\nu \right), \\
\mathcal{F}_g &= \left( \frac{q_1 \cdot q_2 \cdot g_{\mu\nu} - q_1 \cdot q_2 \cdot g_{\mu\nu} - q_1 \cdot q_2 \cdot g_{\mu\nu}}{2(1 - \epsilon)} \right) \Gamma^\mu \Gamma^\nu.
\end{align}

Here, the projections are applied to the $\gamma^*q\bar{q}$ and $Hgg$ vertex functions $\Gamma^\mu_q$ and $\Gamma^\mu_g$. The $Hgg$ interaction is taken in the infinite top-quark-mass limit, where it can be described by the bare effective Lagrangian

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = - \frac{\lambda_0}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F_{a,\mu\nu}.
$$

The bare form factor $\mathcal{F}_g$ depends on the bare coupling $\lambda_0$, which is renormalized according to

\begin{equation}
\lambda_0 = Z_\lambda \lambda,
\end{equation}

where the renormalization constant $Z_\lambda$ is given to all orders by coefficients of the QCD $\beta$-function [68],

\begin{align}
Z_\lambda &= \left| \frac{1}{1 - \beta/(ae)} \right| \\
&= 1 - a \left( \frac{\beta_0}{\epsilon} + a^2 \left( \frac{\beta_0^2}{\epsilon^2} - \frac{\beta_1}{\epsilon} \right) + a^3 \left( \frac{\beta_0^3}{\epsilon^3} + \frac{2\beta_0 \beta_1}{\epsilon^2} - \frac{\beta_2}{\epsilon} \right) + a^4 \left( \frac{\beta_0^4}{\epsilon^4} + \frac{3\beta_0^2 \beta_1}{\epsilon^3} + \frac{\beta_2^2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{2\beta_0 \beta_2}{\epsilon} - \frac{\beta_3}{\epsilon} \right) + O(a^5) \right|
\end{align}
In summary, we arrive at the renormalized form factors for the $Hbb$, $\gamma^* q\bar{q}$ and $Hgg$ vertices, respectively,

$$F_{\text{ren}}^{f} = y \Lambda_{\text{f}} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} (\alpha \Lambda_{\text{f}})^{n} e^{-n \varepsilon L} F_{\text{ren}}^{(n)} \right] = yF_{\text{ren}}^{f}$$

$$F_{q}^{\text{ren}} = 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} (\alpha \Lambda_{q})^{n} e^{-n \varepsilon L} F_{q}^{(n)} = F_{q}^{\text{ren}},$$

$$F_{g}^{\text{ren}} = \Lambda \Lambda_{g} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} (\alpha \Lambda_{g})^{n} e^{-n \varepsilon L} F_{g}^{(n)} \right] = \Lambda F_{g}^{\text{ren}},$$

where

$$L \equiv \ln \left( \frac{-q^2 - i0}{\mu^2} \right)$$

contains the dependence on the renormalization scale.

**IV. IR SUBTRACTION FOR Hbb, $\gamma^* q\bar{q}$ AND Hgg FORM FACTORS**

We begin by considering a general UV renormalized scattering amplitude $\mathcal{M}^{\text{ren}}$ with IR poles in $\epsilon$. These divergences shall be absorbed by introducing a quantity $Z$ such that

$$\mathcal{M}^{\text{fin}} = Z^{-1} \mathcal{M}^{\text{ren}},$$

where $\mathcal{M}^{\text{fin}}$ is finite for $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. For strongly interacting external states, $\mathcal{M}^{\text{ren}}$ and $\mathcal{M}^{\text{fin}}$ are vectors in color space and $Z$ is a matrix. Interestingly, the matrix $Z$ exhibits universal, process-independent features, see [69] for a recent review. Defining the anomalous dimension matrix $\Gamma$ via

$$\Gamma(\mu, a) = -Z^{-1} \frac{dZ}{d\ln \mu}$$

the matrix $Z$ can be expressed as [30]

$$\ln Z = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{a} \frac{da'}{\beta(a') - ea'} \left( \Gamma(\mu, a') - \frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{a'} \frac{da''}{\beta(a'') - ea''} \Gamma'(a'') \right).$$

Expansion in $a$ according to eq. (9),

$$\Gamma(\mu, a) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^{n} \Gamma_{n}(\mu),$$

$$\Gamma'(a) = \frac{d\Gamma(\mu, a)}{d\ln(\mu)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^{n} \Gamma'_{n},$$

and integration gives [70]

$$\ln Z = a \left( \frac{\Gamma'_{1}}{4\epsilon^{2}} + \frac{\Gamma_{1}}{2\epsilon} \right) + a^{2} \left( -\frac{3\beta_{0}\Gamma'_{1}}{16\epsilon^{3}} + \frac{\Gamma'_{2}}{16\epsilon^{2}} - \frac{4\beta_{0}\Gamma_{1}}{16\epsilon} + \frac{\Gamma_{2}}{4\epsilon} \right) + a^{3} \left( \frac{11\beta_{0}^{2}\Gamma'_{1}}{72\epsilon^{4}} + \frac{12\beta_{0}^{2}\Gamma_{1}}{72\epsilon^{3}} - \frac{8\beta_{1}\Gamma'_{1}}{192\epsilon^{5}} + \frac{8\beta_{1}\Gamma_{1}}{192\epsilon^{4}} - \frac{5\beta_{0}\Gamma_{2}}{192\epsilon^{3}} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{\Gamma'_{3}}{36\epsilon^{2}} - \frac{6\beta_{0}\Gamma_{2} - 6\beta_{1}\Gamma_{1}}{36\epsilon^{2}} + \frac{\Gamma_{3}}{6\epsilon} + a^{4} \left( -\frac{25\beta_{0}^{2}\Gamma'_{1}}{96\epsilon^{5}} + \frac{\beta_{0}(13\beta_{0}\Gamma'_{2} + 40\beta_{1}\Gamma'_{1} - 24\beta_{0}^{3}\Gamma_{1})}{192\epsilon^{4}} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{7\beta_{0}\Gamma'_{3} - 9\beta_{1}\Gamma'_{2} + 24\beta_{0}^{2}\Gamma_{2} - 15\beta_{2}\Gamma_{1}}{192\epsilon^{3}} + a^{5} \left( -\frac{8\beta_{0}\Gamma_{3}}{64\epsilon^{2}} - \frac{8\beta_{0}\Gamma_{2} - 8\beta_{2}\Gamma_{1}}{8\epsilon} + \frac{\Gamma_{4}}{8\epsilon} \right) + O(a^{5}).$$

Through to three loops, the matrices $\Gamma_{n}$ and $\Gamma'_{n}$ are known [29, 30, 71–76] in terms of cusp and collinear anomalous dimensions, depending only on the type of external state. In particular, they contain a sum over so-called dipole
contributions, each of which is generated from color correlations of two external states. Starting at three loops, also quadrupole contributions involving three or four external partons at a time appear \cite{70, 76–79} through the anomalous dimension matrix $Z$. At four loops, structural information about the matrix $Z$ is available \cite{70, 80–82}, but its complete expression is not known yet.

For four loop form factors with only two colored external states, there is only one dipole contribution and the structure simplifies significantly. In particular, the matrix $Z$ becomes diagonal and, see \cite{30},

$$Z = Z_r,$$

$$\Gamma_n = -\Gamma_{nr} \ln \left( -\frac{\mu^2}{q^2 - i0} \right) - \gamma_n^r,$$

$$\Gamma_n' = -2\Gamma_{nr}^r,$$

where $r = q, g$ denotes the type of external particle and

$$\Gamma^r (a) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^n \Gamma^r_n,$$

$$\gamma^r (a) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^n \gamma^r_n$$

are the cusp and collinear anomalous dimensions, respectively. The coefficients of the cusp anomalous dimension through to four-loop order are \cite{33, 34}

$$\Gamma_1^r = C_R \left( 1 \right)$$

$$\Gamma_2^r = C_R C_A \left( -8 \zeta_2 + \frac{268}{9} \right) + n_f C_R \left( -\frac{40}{9} \right),$$

$$\Gamma_3^r = C_R C_A^2 \left( \frac{176}{5} \zeta_2 + \frac{88}{3} \zeta_3 - \frac{1072}{9} \zeta_2 + \frac{490}{3} \right) + n_f C_R C_A \left( -\frac{112}{3} \zeta_3 + \frac{160}{9} \zeta_2 - \frac{836}{27} \right) + n_f C_R C_F \left( 32 \zeta_3 - \frac{110}{3} \right) + n_f^2 C_R \left( -\frac{16}{27} \right),$$

$$\Gamma_4^r = C_R C_A^3 \left( -16 \zeta_3^2 - \frac{20032}{105} \zeta_3^2 - \frac{3608}{9} \zeta_3 - \frac{352}{3} \zeta_2 + \frac{20944}{27} \zeta_3 - \frac{83600}{81} \zeta_2 + \frac{3520}{3} \zeta_3 - \frac{400}{3} \zeta_2 - \frac{20032}{81} \zeta_3 - \frac{83600}{81} \right) + \frac{d_{Rabcd}^2 d_{A}^{abcd} d_{NR}}{N_R} \left( -384 \zeta_3^2 \right)$$

$$+ n_f C_R C_A C_F \left( 160 \zeta_5 - 128 \zeta_5 \zeta_2 - \frac{352}{5} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{3712}{9} \zeta_3 - \frac{400}{3} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{34066}{81} \right) + n_f C_R C_F^2 \left( -320 \zeta_5 + \frac{592}{3} \zeta_3 + \frac{572}{9} \right) + n_f \frac{d_{Rabcd}^2 d_{A}^{abcd} d_{NR}}{N_R} \left( -\frac{1280}{9} \zeta_5 - 256 \zeta_5 \zeta_2 + \frac{256}{3} \zeta_3 + 256 \zeta_2 \right) + n_f^2 C_R C_A \left( -\frac{224}{15} \zeta_5 + \frac{224}{27} \zeta_3 - \frac{608}{27} \zeta_2 + \frac{923}{81} \right) + n_f^2 C_R C_F \left( \frac{64}{3} \zeta_2 \right)$$

$$+ n_f^2 C_R \left( \frac{64}{27} \zeta_3 - \frac{32}{81} \right),$$

where $R = F$ for $r = q$ and $R = A$ for $r = g$. The collinear anomalous dimensions are known to four-loop order as well \cite{34, 35}, and the coefficients read

$$\gamma_1^q = C_F \left( 6 \right),$$

$$\gamma_2^q = C_F^3 \left( 48 \zeta_3 - 24 \zeta_2 + 3 \right) + C_F C_A \left( -52 \zeta_3 + 22 \zeta_2 + \frac{961}{27} \right) + n_f C_F \left( -4 \zeta_2 - \frac{130}{27} \right),$$

$$\gamma_3^q = C_F^3 \left( -480 \zeta_5 - 64 \zeta_4 \zeta_2 + \frac{576}{5} \zeta_2^2 + 136 \zeta_3 + 36 \zeta_2 + 29 \right) + C_F^2 C_A \left( 240 \zeta_5 + 32 \zeta_4 \zeta_2 + \frac{1976}{15} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{1688}{3} \zeta_3 + \frac{820}{3} \zeta_2 + \frac{151}{2} \right)$$

$$+ C_F C_A^2 \left( 272 \zeta_5 + \frac{176}{3} \zeta_4 \zeta_2 + \frac{332}{5} \zeta_2^2 - \frac{7052}{9} \zeta_3 + \frac{14326}{81} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{13945}{1458} \right) + n_f C_F^3 \left( -\frac{112}{3} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{512}{9} \zeta_3 + \frac{52}{3} \zeta_2 - \frac{2953}{27} \right)$$

$$+ n_f C_F C_A \left( -\frac{88}{5} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{1928}{27} \zeta_3 - \frac{5188}{81} \zeta_2 + \frac{17318}{729} \right) + n_f^2 C_F \left( \frac{16}{27} \zeta_3 + \frac{40}{9} \zeta_2 - \frac{4834}{729} \right),$$

$$\gamma_4^q = C_F^3 \left( 11760 \zeta_7 - 768 \zeta_6 \zeta_2 + \frac{256}{5} \zeta_3 \zeta_2^2 - 2304 \zeta_4 \zeta_2 - \frac{33776}{35} \zeta_2^3 - 5040 \zeta_5 - 240 \zeta_4 \zeta_2 - \frac{1368}{5} \zeta_2^2 + 4008 \zeta_3 - 900 \zeta_2 + \frac{4873}{12} \right)$$

$$+ C_F^2 C_A \left( -21840 \zeta_7 + 4128 \zeta_6 \zeta_2 + \frac{512}{5} \zeta_3 \zeta_2^2 + 6440 \zeta_2^3 + \frac{634376}{315} \zeta_2^3 - 1952 \zeta_5 - \frac{3976}{3} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + \frac{8668}{5} \zeta_2^2 - 6520 \zeta_3 + 2334 \zeta_2 \right)$$
We stress that the factor and collinear anomalous dimensions coincide with that of refs. [34, 35]. In particular, the quantity \( \gamma \) derived from eq. (5) indeed is finite for \( f \) and \( a \). The fact that our explicit four-loop result form factors. The quantity \( \gamma_2 \) used here is negative times the quantity denoted by \( \gamma_2 \) in ref. [30]. With the above, the finite remainders for our form factors are obtained as

\[
F^{\text{fin}}_q = Z_q^{-1} F^{\text{ren}},
\]

\[
F^{\text{fin}}_g = Z_g^{-1} F^{\text{ren}},
\]

We stress that the factor \( Z_q \) is the same for the \( \gamma \) form factors. The fact that our explicit four-loop result for \( F_b \) derived from eq. (5) indeed is finite for \( \epsilon \rightarrow 0 \) is a non-trivial check of the pole subtraction framework and the involved anomalous dimensions.
Finally, we note that the scheme considered here is a \textit{minimal} subtraction of just the poles in $\epsilon$ for $F^{\text{ren}}_r$, order-by-order in the coupling $a$. While the poles of $\ln F^{\text{ren}}_r$ are equal to the poles of $\ln Z_r$ and thus are universal, due to exponentiation, the poles of $F^{\text{ren}}_r$ at a given loop order are process dependent. In particular, their prediction based on (37) involves also higher order $\epsilon$ contributions from $F^{\text{ren}}_r$ at lower loops.

V. HARD MATCHING COEFFICIENTS IN SCET FROM $H\bar{b}b$, $\gamma^* q\bar{q}$, AND $Hgg$ FORM FACTORS

In physical problems with widely separated scales the perturbative expansion can be spoiled since powers of the coupling are accompanied by powers of logarithms of large scale ratios. In such cases, the large logarithms can be resummed to all orders in perturbation theory by means of renormalization-group techniques formulated in the language of effective field theory. For the calculation of cross sections and kinematic distributions in collider physics the appropriate framework is provided by SCET [11–17], which is used for instance in Drell-Yan and Higgs production for rapidity [83–90], transverse-momentum [91–98] and thrust distributions [99–101], or for the treatment of threshold effects in deep-inelastic scattering, see e.g. [102, 103]. For all of these applications, the hard matching coefficients in SCET are required, which can be extracted from the form factors discussed above.

In dimensionally regularized SCET, the IR divergences in $F^{\text{ren}}_r$, $r = b, g, g$, become the UV poles of the bare matching coefficients. In particular, performing the matching on-shell, loop integrals in SCET are scaleless and vanish, i.e. their UV and IR poles cancel each other. Furthermore, the IR poles must reproduce those of $F^{\text{ren}}_r$, and hence we obtain the renormalized matching coefficients $C''$ by subtracting the IR poles of $F^{\text{ren}}_r$ through a multiplicative renormalization factor, which is precisely the procedure applied in eqs. (55) – (57). We can therefore define the SCET hard matching coefficients $C''$ for $r = b, q, g$ and their perturbative expansion according to

$$C'' = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} F^{\text{ren}}_r = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^n C''_n.$$ (58)

The matching coefficients depend on the renormalization scale $\mu$ through the renormalized coupling $a = a(\mu^2)$ and the logarithm $L$. Results through to three loops are available for $r = q, g$ in the literature [104], while to the best of our knowledge the full $H\bar{b}b$ matching coefficient is presented here for the first time (the $L$-independent part through to three loops can be found in [87]).

We start with the matching coefficient for the $H\bar{b}b$ form factor,

$$C^b_1 = C_F \left[ L^2 \left( -1 + (\zeta_2 - 2) \right) \right],$$ (59)

$$C^b_2 = C_F^2 \left[ L^4 \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) + L^2 \left( -\zeta_2 + 2 \right) + L \left( 24 \zeta_3 - 12 \zeta_2 \right) + \left( - \frac{83}{10} \zeta_2^2 - 30 \zeta_3 + 14 \zeta_2 + 6 \right) \right] + C_F C_A \left[ L^3 \left( \frac{11}{9} \right) + L^2 \left( 2 \zeta_2 \right) - \frac{67}{9} \right] + L \left( -26 \zeta_3 + 22 \zeta_3 \right) + L^2 \left( - \frac{44}{5} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{151}{9} \zeta_3 - \frac{103}{18} \zeta_2 - \frac{467}{81} \right) \right] + C_F n_f \left[ L^3 \left( - \frac{2}{9} \right) + L^2 \left( \frac{10}{9} \right) + L \left( - \frac{4}{3} \zeta_2 \right) - \frac{56}{27} \right] + \left( \frac{5}{9} \zeta_2 + \frac{2}{9} \zeta_3 + \frac{200}{81} \right),$$ (60)

$$C^b_3 = C_F^3 \left[ L^6 \left( - \frac{1}{6} \right) + L^4 \left( \frac{1}{2} \zeta_2 - 1 \right) + L^3 \left( -24 \zeta_3 + 12 \zeta_2 \right) + L^2 \left( \frac{83}{10} \zeta_2^2 + 30 \zeta_3 - 14 \zeta_2 - 6 \right) \right] + L \left( -240 \zeta_5 - 8 \zeta_3 \zeta_2 \right) + \frac{228}{5} \zeta_2^2 + 29 \zeta_3 + 42 \zeta_2 - 50 \right] + \left( 16 \zeta_2 + 37729 \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + 242 \zeta_5 + 178 \zeta_3 \zeta_2 - 77 \zeta_2^2 - 654 \zeta_3 - \frac{353}{3} \zeta_2 + \frac{579}{3} \right) \right] + C_F C_A \left[ L^5 \left( - \frac{11}{9} \right) + L^4 \left( -2 \zeta_2 + \frac{67}{9} \right) + L^3 \left( 26 \zeta_3 - \frac{55}{9} \zeta_2 - \frac{308}{27} \right) \right] + L^2 \left( - \frac{34}{5} \zeta_2 - 943 \zeta_3 + 689 \zeta_2 + \frac{1673}{81} \right) + \left( \frac{120}{5} \zeta_5 - 10 \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + 6 \zeta_2^2 + \frac{1660}{3} \zeta_3 - 7012 \zeta_2 + 6414 \zeta_2 \right) + \left( 296 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_2 + 12676 \zeta_3 \zeta_2 - \frac{1676}{9} \zeta_3 - \frac{3049}{9} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 - \frac{893}{27} \zeta_2^2 - \frac{4820}{27} \zeta_3 \right) + \left( 31819 \zeta_3 + 9335 \zeta_2 + \frac{13900}{27} \zeta_3 + 964 \zeta_2 \right) + \left( - \frac{1136}{9} \zeta_3^2 - 652 \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + \frac{106}{9} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + 1093 \zeta_2^2 + \frac{107648}{243} \zeta_3 \right) + \left( - \frac{26455}{1458} \zeta_2^2 + \frac{5964431}{26244} \right) + n_f C_F^2 \left[ L^5 \left( \frac{2}{9} \right) + L^4 \left( - \frac{10}{9} \right) + L^3 \left( \frac{10}{9} \zeta_2 + \frac{50}{27} \right) \right] + L^2 \left( \frac{70}{9} \zeta_3 - 67 \zeta_2 + 725 \zeta_2 + \frac{28}{5} \zeta_2 \right).
\[C^\prime = \frac{F_A}{L^A}\left(\frac{L}{27}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2^2} + L^B\left(\frac{1}{6} + L^C\right)\right) + \frac{L^D}{L^E}\left(\frac{1}{2^2} + L^F\right) + \frac{1}{2^2} \left(\frac{1}{2^2} + L^G\right)\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{In the case of the } \gamma^* q\bar{q} \text{ form factor, the lower-loop results can be found in [104] and we use the same normalization here. The four-loop result can be extracted from } F_q^{(4)} \text{ in ref. [63] and reads}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
C_4 &= C_4^{(2)} \left[ L^8 \left( \frac{1}{24} \right) + L^7 \left( - \frac{1}{2} \right) + L^6 \left( - \frac{1}{6} \right) + L^5 \left( \frac{43}{12} \right) + L^4 \left( 83 \right) + L^3 \left( 213 \right) \right]
\end{align*}
\]
\[-2752 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_3 - 1376 \zeta_2 - 7040 \frac{9}{9} \] + n_{\gamma T} C A \frac{d^{\text{beta}}_{\gamma e} d^{\text{beta}}_{\gamma e}}{N_F} \left[ L \left( 7040 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_5 + 176 \frac{5}{5} \zeta_2 - 1232 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_3 - 880 \zeta_2 - 352 \right) + \left( - \frac{1372}{3} \zeta \right) \right] \\
- 1840 \zeta_5 \zeta_2 - 784 \frac{5}{5} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 - 8752 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_2 - \frac{523448}{945} \zeta_2 - 11740 \frac{9}{9} \zeta_5 + 7192 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 - \frac{43948}{45} \zeta_2 + 12568 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_3 + 39344 \frac{9}{9} \zeta_2 + 20384 \frac{9}{9} \zeta_2 \\
+ n_{7}^{2} C_{P} \left[ L^{5} \left( \frac{8}{81} \right) + L^{5} \left( \frac{44}{27} \right) + L^{4} \left( \frac{10}{9} \zeta_2 + 5471 \frac{486}{486} \right) + L^{3} \left( \frac{380}{81} \zeta_5 - 434 \frac{27}{27} \zeta_2 - 62959 \frac{1458}{1458} \right) + L^{2} \left( \frac{692}{135} \zeta_2 + 11350 \frac{243}{243} \zeta_3 + 7415 \frac{81}{81} \zeta_2 \right) \\
+ 1473913 \frac{26244}{26244} + L \left( - 104 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_5 - 568 \frac{27}{27} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + 184 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_2 + 71018 \frac{243}{243} \zeta_3 + 170090 \frac{2187}{2187} \zeta_2 + 235108 \frac{81}{81} \zeta_3 + 3520 \frac{189}{189} \zeta_3 + 3796 \frac{27}{27} \zeta_5 \right) + 18802 \frac{243}{243} \zeta_5 \zeta_2 + 107507 \frac{810}{810} \zeta_2 + 514580 \frac{729}{729} \zeta_3 + 5818805 \frac{26244}{26244} \zeta_2 - \frac{73476853}{299992} \zeta_2 \right] + n_{7}^{2} C_{P} C_{A} \left[ L^{5} \left( \frac{22}{45} \right) + L^{4} \left( \frac{4}{9} \zeta_2 + 224 \frac{27}{27} \zeta_2 \right) + L^{3} \left( - \frac{16}{3} \zeta_3 \right) \right] \\
+ 184 \frac{27}{27} \zeta_5 + 11651 \frac{162}{162} \zeta_3 + 20 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_2 + 508 \frac{9}{9} \zeta_3 - 2860 \frac{27}{27} \zeta_2 - 154433 \zeta_2 + \frac{456}{81} \zeta_3 + 3520 \frac{189}{189} \zeta_3 + 3796 \frac{27}{27} \zeta_5 \right) \right] + 224 \zeta_4 - 32 \frac{5}{5} \zeta_2 + 224 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_3 + 160 \zeta_2 + 64 \right) + 1408 \frac{3}{3} \zeta_3 + 11264 \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + 3520 \frac{9}{9} \zeta_5 - \frac{448}{3} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + 608 \frac{9}{9} \zeta_2 \right) \\
+ L \left( - 104 \frac{45}{45} \zeta_2 - 40 \frac{81}{81} \zeta_3 - 162 \frac{81}{81} \zeta_2 - 69874 \frac{2187}{2187} \right) + \left( - \frac{106}{135} \zeta_5 + \frac{4}{9} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + \frac{3044}{405} \zeta_2 + 104 \frac{243}{243} \zeta_3 + 19766 \frac{729}{729} \zeta_2 + 1865531 \frac{52488}{52488} \right). \quad (63) \]

Finally, we consider the Hgg case. The lower-loop results can be found in [104] as well, and we find from the Hgg form factor \( F_{P}^{4} \) in ref. [63]
to four-loop order. The RGE assumes the expected generic form (see e.g. eq. (e.g. ref. [40, 63] for details).

Taking $d \ln \mu$ of eqs. (55) – (57) and using the IR structure presented in eqs. (34) – (40) one can derive a renormalization group equation (RGE) for the hard matching coefficients, which is used to resum logarithms of disparate scales in the SCET framework. The RGE assumes the expected generic form (see e.g. [105–107])

$$\frac{dC^{\tau}}{d \ln \mu} = \left[ \Gamma^{\tau}(a) L - \gamma^{\tau}(a) - 2 \mathcal{G}^{\tau} \right] C^{\tau}.$$  

For a given particle species and color representation the RGE consists of two universal terms related to the renormalization properties of the SCET current, of which the cusp anomalous dimension $\Gamma^\tau$ controls the leading Sudakov double logarithms, while the collinear anomalous dimension $\gamma^\tau$ is responsible for resumming single logarithms. The third term $\mathcal{G}^\tau$, which also governs the single-logarithmic evolution, is related to the anomalous dimension of the QCD current and therefore is non-universal. We get $\mathcal{G}^a = 0$ since the vector current is conserved, while for the scalar current this piece reads $\mathcal{G}^b = -(d \ln Z_m)/(d \ln \mu^2) = \gamma^m$. For the gluonic case we find quite analogously $\mathcal{G}^g = -(d \ln Z_a)/(d \ln \mu^2) = a (d/\beta/d\alpha)$. We checked explicitly that all our matching coefficients satisfy (65) through to four-loop order.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we computed the four-loop corrections to the $H \bar{b} \bar{b}$ vertex in massless QCD. Our main result is the analytic expression for the bare form factor presented in eq. (5). After renormalization of the strong coupling constant

$$C_4^\tau$$ and $C_2^\tau$, $d_{abc}^{\mu}$ are the fully symmetrical tensor originating from the trace over three generators, $N_A$ is the dimension of the adjoint representation, and $n_{qz} = \sum_q Q_q / Q_s$ is the charge-weighted sum over the quark flavours normalized to the charge of the external quark, see refs. [40, 63] for details.

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VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we computed the four-loop corrections to the $H \bar{b} \bar{b}$ vertex in massless QCD. Our main result is the analytic expression for the bare form factor presented in eq. (5). After renormalization of the strong coupling constant
and the Higgs-bottom Yukawa coupling, the infrared poles agree with the form predicted in the literature and confirm previous results for the cusp and quark collinear anomalous dimensions. In addition to the new results for the Higgs-bottom form factor, we considered the previously published four-loop results for the bare photon-quark and Higgs-gluon form factors. For all three cases, we employed $Z$ factors to minimally subtract the IR poles from the renormalized form factors, extracted the finite SCET hard matching coefficients, and presented the analytic four-loop results. Our results are available in plain text format in the ancillary files on arXiv.

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