Strange Quark Mass Determination from Cabibbo–Suppressed Tau Decays

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ABSTRACT: We present a general analysis of SU(3) breaking effects in the semi-inclusive tau hadronic width. The recent ALEPH measurements of the inclusive Cabibbo–suppressed decay width of the $\tau$ and several moments of its invariant mass distribution are used to determine the value of the strange quark mass. We obtain, in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme, $m_s(M_{\tau}^2) = (119 \pm 24)$ MeV to $O(\alpha_s^3)$, which corresponds to $m_s(1\text{GeV}^2) = (164 \pm 33)$ MeV, $m_s(4\text{GeV}^2) = (114 \pm 23)$ MeV.

KEYWORDS: Quark Masses and SM Parameters, QCD.
1. Introduction

Among the free parameters of the Standard Model, the quark masses are the ones less precisely known. The lack of accurate measurements sensitive to quark mass effects and the theoretical uncertainties associated with the non-perturbative nature of QCD in the infrared region make quite difficult to perform reliable determinations of quark masses. In particular, the value of the strange quark mass has been a subject of great controversy in recent years.

In the last version of the Review of Particle Physics [1], the running strange quark mass at 2 GeV in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme is quoted to be in between 60 MeV to 170 MeV. This wide range reflects both the uncertainties in the hadronic input needed in strange quark mass determinations within the context of QCD Sum Rules and the spread in $m_s$ values obtained within lattice QCD calculations.

The high precision data on tau decays [2] collected at LEP and CESR provide a very powerful tool to analyse strange quark mass effects in a cleaner environment. The QCD analysis of the inclusive tau decay width has already made possible [3] an accurate measurement of the strong coupling constant at the $\tau$ mass scale, $\alpha_s(M_\tau^2)$, which complements and competes in accuracy with the high precision measurements of $\alpha_s(M_Z^2)$ performed at LEP. More recently, detailed experimental studies of the Cabibbo–suppressed width of the $\tau$ have started to become available [4, 5], which allows to initiate a systematic investigation of the corrections induced by the strange quark mass in the $\tau$ decay width. First theoretical studies were presented in [6, 7].

What makes a $m_s$ determination from $\tau$ data very interesting is that the hadronic input does not depend on any extra hypothesis; it is a purely experimental issue, which accuracy can be systematically improved. The major part of the uncertainty will eventually come from the theoretical side. However, owing to its inclusive character, the total Cabibbo–suppressed tau decay width can be rigorously analyzed within QCD, using the Operator Product Expansion (OPE). Therefore, the theoretical input is in principle under control and the associated uncertainties can be quantified.

In the following we will compile and analyze in detail all what is presently known about quark mass corrections to the quark current correlation functions relevant in tau decay. In particular, we will investigate the size of these effects in the tau decay width and related observables, and the theoretical uncertainties of the corresponding predictions.

Even with the relatively large uncertainties one gets from the present data, we will show that the strange quark mass determination from tau decays has already an accuracy good enough to reduce substantially the range quoted by the Particle Data Group. The foreseen $\tau$–charm and B–factories will further increase the precision of this measurement, allowing for much more detailed studies. Clearly, the tau decay data will provide in the future a precise determination of the strange quark mass.
2. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical analysis of the inclusive hadronic tau decay width \([8, 9, 10]\) involves the two–point correlation functions

\[
\Pi_{ij,V}^{\mu\nu}(q) \equiv i \int d^4x \, e^{iqx} \langle 0| T \{ V_{ij}^\mu(x) \, V_{ij}^\nu(0) \} |0 \rangle, \tag{2.1}
\]

\[
\Pi_{ij,A}^{\mu\nu}(q) \equiv i \int d^4x \, e^{iqx} \langle 0| T \{ A_{ij}^\mu(x) \, A_{ij}^\nu(0) \} |0 \rangle, \tag{2.2}
\]

associated with the vector, \(V_{ij}^\mu(x) \equiv \overline{q}_j \gamma^\mu q_i\), and axial–vector, \(A_{ij}^\mu(x) \equiv \overline{q}_j \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 q_i\), colour–singlet quark currents. The subscripts \(i, j\) denote the corresponding light quark flavours (up, down, and strange). These correlators have the Lorentz decompositions

\[
\Pi_{ij,V/A}^{\mu\nu}(s) = \left( -g^{\mu\nu} q^2 + q^\mu q^\nu \right) \Pi_{ij,V/A}^T(q^2) + q^\mu q^\nu \Pi_{ij,V/A}^L(q^2), \tag{2.3}
\]

where the superscript in the transverse and longitudinal components denotes the corresponding angular momentum \(J = 1\) (T) and \(J = 0\) (L) in the hadronic rest frame.

The imaginary parts of the two–point functions \(\Pi_{ij,V/A}^J(s)\) are proportional to the spectral functions for hadrons with the corresponding quantum numbers. The semi-hadronic decay rate of the \(\tau\) lepton,

\[
R_\tau \equiv \frac{\Gamma[\tau^- \rightarrow \text{hadrons} \nu_\tau(\gamma)]}{\Gamma[\tau^- \rightarrow e^- \nu_e \nu_\tau(\gamma)]}, \tag{2.4}
\]

can be expressed as an integral of the spectral functions \(\text{Im} \, \Pi^T(s)\) and \(\text{Im} \, \Pi^L(s)\) over the invariant mass \(s\) of the final–state hadrons as follows:

\[
R_\tau = 12\pi \int_0^{M_\tau^2} \frac{ds}{M_\tau^2} \left( 1 - \frac{s}{M_\tau^2} \right)^2 \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{2s}{M_\tau^2} \right) \text{Im} \, \Pi^T(s) + \text{Im} \, \Pi^L(s) \right]. \tag{2.5}
\]

The appropriate combinations of two–point correlation functions are

\[
\Pi^J(s) \equiv |V_{ud}|^2 \left[ \Pi_{ud,V}^J(s) + \Pi_{ud,A}^J(s) \right] + |V_{us}|^2 \left[ \Pi_{us,V}^J(s) + \Pi_{us,A}^J(s) \right], \tag{2.6}
\]

with \(|V_{ij}|\) the corresponding Cabibbo–Kobayashi–Maskawa (CKM) quark mixing factors.

Experimentally, one can disentangle vector from axial–vector Dirac structures in the Cabibbo–allowed \((\bar{u}d)\) flavour decays. Since \(G\)-parity is not a good quantum number for modes with strange particles, this separation is problematic for the...
Cabibbo–suppressed decays. It is then convenient to decompose the predictions for $R_\tau$ into the following three categories:

$$R_\tau \equiv R_{\tau,V} + R_{\tau,A} + R_{\tau,S}.$$  \(2.7\)

Where $R_{\tau,V}$ and $R_{\tau,A}$ correspond to the the two terms proportional to $|V_{ud}|^2$ in (2.6) and $R_{\tau,S}$ contains the remaining $|V_{us}|^2$ contributions.

Exploiting the analytic properties of $\Pi^J(s)$, we can express (2.5) as a contour integral in the complex $s$-plane running counter-clockwise around the circle $|s| = M_\tau^2$:

$$R_\tau = -\pi i \oint_{|s|=M_\tau^2} \frac{ds}{s} \left(1 - \frac{s}{M_\tau^2}\right)^3 \left\{3 \left(1 + \frac{s}{M_\tau^2}\right) D^{L+T}(s) + 4 D^L(s)\right\}. \quad (2.8)$$

We have used integration by parts to rewrite $R_\tau$ in terms of the logarithmic derivatives of the relevant correlators,

$$D^{L+T}(s) \equiv -s \frac{d}{ds} \left[\Pi^{L+T}(s)\right], \quad D^L(s) \equiv \frac{s}{M_\tau^2} \frac{d}{ds} \left[s \Pi^L(s)\right], \quad (2.9)$$

which satisfy homogeneous renormalization group (RG) equations. In this way, one eliminates unwanted (renormalization–scheme and scale dependent) subtraction constants, which do not contribute to any physical observable.

For large enough $-s$, the contributions to $D^J(s)$ can be organized using the OPE in a series of local gauge–invariant scalar operators of increasing dimension $D = 2n$, times the appropriate inverse powers of $-s$. This expansion is expected to be well behaved along the complex contour $|s| = M_\tau^2$, except in the crossing point with the positive real axis [11]. As shown in eq. (2.8), the region near the physical cut is strongly suppressed by a zero of order three at $s = M_\tau^2$. Therefore, the uncertainties associated with the use of the OPE near the time–like axis are very small. Inserting this series in (2.8) and evaluating the contour integral, one can rewrite $R_\tau$ as an expansion in inverse powers of $M_\tau^2$ [8],

$$R_\tau \equiv 3 \left(|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2\right) S_{EW} \left\{1 + \delta_{EW}' + \delta^{(0)} + \sum_{D=2,4,}\left(\cos^2 \theta_C \delta_{ud}^{(D)} + \sin^2 \theta_C \delta_{us}^{(D)}\right)\right\}, \quad (2.10)$$

where $\sin^2 \theta_C \equiv |V_{us}|^2/\left(|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2\right)$ and we have pulled out the electroweak corrections $S_{EW} = 1.0194$ [12] and $\delta_{EW}' \simeq 0.0010$ [13].

The dimension–zero contribution $\delta^{(0)}$ is the purely perturbative correction, neglecting quark masses, which, owing to chiral symmetry, is identical for the vector and axial–vector parts. The symbols $\delta_{ij}^{(D)} \equiv \left[\delta_{ij,V}^{(D)} + \delta_{ij,A}^{(D)}\right]/2$ stand for the average of the vector and axial–vector contributions from dimension $D \geq 2$ operators; they contain an implicit suppression factor $1/M_\tau^D$. 


A general analysis of the relevant $\delta_{ij}^{(D)}$ contributions was presented in ref. [8]. A more detailed study of the perturbative piece $\delta^{(0)}$ was later performed in ref. [14], where a resummation of higher–order corrections induced by running effects along the integration contour was achieved with RG techniques. More recently, the leading quark–mass corrections of dimension two have been investigated in ref. [6]; these contributions are the dominant SU(3) breaking effect, which generates the wanted sensitivity to the strange quark mass.

In order to simplify the presentation, we will relegate a detailed compilation of the different contributions to $R_\tau$ to the Appendix.

3. Moments of the Hadronic Invariant Mass Distribution

The measurement of the invariant mass distribution of the final hadrons provides additional information on the QCD dynamics. The moments [15]

$$R_{\tau}^{kl} \equiv \int_0^{M_\tau^2} ds \left(1 - \frac{s}{M_\tau^2}\right)^k \left(\frac{s}{M_\tau^2}\right)^l \frac{dR_\tau}{ds},$$

(3.1)
can be calculated theoretically in the same way as $R_\tau \equiv R_{\tau}^{00}$. The corresponding contour integrals can be written as

$$R_{\tau}^{kl} = -\pi i \int_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x} \left\{3F_{L+T}^{kl}(x) D^{L+T}(M_\tau^2 x) + 4F_{L}^{kl}(x) D^{L}(M_\tau^2 x)\right\},$$

(3.2)

where all kinematical factors have been absorbed into the kernels

$$F_{L+T}^{kl}(x) \equiv 2 \left(1 - x\right)^{3+k} \times \sum_{n=0}^{l} \frac{l!}{(l-n)! n!} (x-1)^n \frac{(6 + k + n) + 2(3 + k + n)x}{(3 + k + n)(4 + k + n)},$$

(3.3)

$$F_{L}^{kl}(x) \equiv 3 \left(1 - x\right)^{3+k} \sum_{n=0}^{l} \frac{l!}{(l-n)! n!} \frac{(x-1)^n}{3 + k + n}.$$  

(3.4)

Table 1 shows the explicit form of these kernels for the moments which we are going to analyze in the following sections.

One can rewrite the moments $R_{\tau}^{kl}$ as an expansion in inverse powers of $M_\tau^2$, analogously to (2.10). The corresponding contributions from dimension $D$ operators will be denoted by $\delta_{ij}^{k(D)}$.

4. SU(3) Breaking

The separate measurement of the Cabibbo–allowed and Cabibbo–suppressed decay widths of the $\tau$ [4] allows one to pin down the SU(3) breaking effect induced by the
Table 1: Explicit values of the relevant kinematical kernels.

| $(k, l)$ | $F^{kl}_{L+T}(x)$ | $F^{kl}_L(x)$ |
|----------|------------------|---------------|
| $(0, 0)$ | $(1 - x)^3 (1 + x)$ | $(1 - x)^3$ |
| $(1, 0)$ | $\frac{1}{10} (1 - x)^4 (7 + 8x)$ | $\frac{3}{4} (1 - x)^4$ |
| $(2, 0)$ | $\frac{2}{15} (1 - x)^5 (4 + 5x)$ | $\frac{3}{8} (1 - x)^5$ |
| $(1, 1)$ | $\frac{1}{6} (1 - x)^4 (1 + 2x^2)$ | $\frac{3}{20} (1 - x)^4 (1 + 4x)$ |
| $(1, 2)$ | $\frac{1}{210} (1 - x)^4 (13 + 52x + 130x^2 + 120x^3)$ | $\frac{1}{20} (1 - x)^4 (1 + 4x + 10x^2)$ |

4.1 Dimension–Two Corrections

The dimension–two corrections to the $\tau$ hadronic width are perturbative contributions proportional to $m_q^2$. We studied in a previous paper [6] the uncertainties associated with these corrections, in the limit $m_u = m_d = 0$. The main conclusion of that work was the relatively large uncertainty in the prediction of these corrections arising from the very bad behaviour of the $J = L$ component. We give here the general result, for arbitrary light quark masses.

In terms of the running quark masses and the QCD coupling, the $D = 2$ contributions to the correlation functions take the form

$$D^{L+T}_{ij,V/A}(s)\bigg|_{D=2} = \frac{3}{4\pi^2 s} \left\{ m_i^2 (-\xi^2 s) + m_j^2 (-\xi^2 s) \right\} \sum_{n=0}^\infty \tilde{c}^{L+T}(\xi) a^n (-\xi^2 s) \pm m_i (-\xi^2 s) m_j (-\xi^2 s) \sum_{n=1}^\infty \tilde{e}^{L+T}(\xi) a^n (-\xi^2 s)$$

$$+ \left[ \sum_k m_k^2 (-\xi^2 s) \right] \sum_{n=2}^\infty \tilde{f}^{L+T}(\xi) a^n (-\xi^2 s), \quad (4.2)$$

$$D^L_{ij,V/A}(s)\bigg|_{D=2} = -\frac{3}{8\pi^2 M^2 \tau} \left[ m_i (-\xi^2 s) \mp m_j (-\xi^2 s) \right]^2 \sum_{n=0}^\infty \tilde{d}^L_n(\xi) a^n (-\xi^2 s), \quad (4.3)$$

where $a \equiv \alpha_s/\pi$ and $\xi$ is an arbitrary scale factor of order unity. The coefficients $\tilde{c}^{L+T}_n(\xi)$, $\tilde{e}^{L+T}_n(\xi)$, $\tilde{f}^{L+T}_n(\xi)$, and $\tilde{d}^L_n(\xi)$ are constrained by the RG equations satisfied
by the corresponding $D^J(s)$ functions (in fact all of them follow the same RG equations). Their scale dependence is given in Appendix B, together with the values of the presently known coefficients in the \(\overline{\text{MS}}\) scheme.

Inserting these expressions into the contour integral (3.2), the corresponding $D = 2$ contributions to $R_{\tau}^{kl}$, $\delta_{ij,V/A}^{kl(2)}$, are given by analogous expansions, with the running coupling $a^n(-\xi^2 s)$ replaced by the functions:

\[
B_{L+T}^{kl(n)}(a_\xi) \equiv \frac{-1}{4\pi^2} \int_{|x|=1} dx \frac{F_{L+T}^{kl}(x)}{x^2} \left[ \frac{m(-\xi^2 M_T^2 x)}{m(M_T^2)} \right]^2 a^n(-\xi^2 M_T^2 x), \tag{4.4}
\]

\[
B_{L}^{kl(n)}(a_\xi) \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int_{|x|=1} dx \frac{F_{L}^{kl}(x)}{x} \left[ \frac{m(-\xi^2 M_T^2 x)}{m(M_T^2)} \right]^2 a^n(-\xi^2 M_T^2 x). \tag{4.5}
\]

These integrals only depend on $a_\xi \equiv \alpha_s(\xi^2 M_T^2)/\pi$, $\log(\xi)$, and the expansion coefficients $\beta_i$ and $\gamma_j$ of the QCD beta and gamma functions. They were already studied in ref. [6] for the case $(k,l) = (0,0)$.

We only need the contribution to $\delta R_{\tau}^{kl}$, which is given by

\[
\delta R_{\tau}^{kl} \bigg|_{D=2} = 24 S_{EW} \frac{m^2_\tau(M_T^2)}{M^2_\tau} \left( 1 - \epsilon_d^2 \right) \Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_\tau), \tag{4.6}
\]

where $a_\tau \equiv \alpha_s(M^2_\tau)/\pi$, $\epsilon_d \equiv m_d/m_s = 0.053 \pm 0.002$ [16] and

\[
\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_\tau) = \frac{1}{4} \left\{ 3 \sum_{n=0} \bar{c}_{L+T}^{(n)}(\xi) B_{L+T}^{kl(n)}(a_\xi) + \sum_{n=0} \bar{d}_{L}^{(n)}(\xi) B_{L}^{kl(n)}(a_\xi) \right\}
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{4} \left\{ 3 \Delta_{L+T}^{L}(a_\tau) + \Delta_{L}^{L}(a_\tau) \right\}. \tag{4.7}
\]

The longitudinal series $\Delta_{L}^{L}(a_\tau)$ is unfortunately quite problematic. The bad perturbative behaviour of $D_{ij,V/A}^{L}(s) \bigg|_{D=2}$ gets reinforced by running effects along the integration contour, giving rise to a badly defined series. The convergence can be improved [6] by fully keeping the known four–loop information on the function integrals $B_{j}^{kl(n)}(a_\xi)$, i.e. using in eqs. (4.4) and (4.5) the exact solution for $m(-\xi^2 s)$ and $a(-\xi^2 s)$ obtained from the RG equations. This “contour–improved” prescription [14] allows us to resum the most important higher–order corrections, but the resulting “improved” series is still rather badly behaved. For instance,

\[
\Delta_{00}^{L}(0.1) = 1.5891 + 1.1733 + 1.1214 + 1.2489 + \cdots \tag{4.8}
\]

which has $O(a^2)$ and $O(a^3)$ contributions of the same size. On the contrary, the $J = L + T$ series converges very well:

\[
\Delta_{00}^{L+T}(0.1) = 0.7824 + 0.2239 + 0.0831 - 0.0000601 \epsilon_3^{L+T} + \cdots \tag{4.9}
\]

\[\text{Notice that } \Delta_{00}^{L+T} \text{ is slightly different from the analogous quantity } \Delta_{L+T}^{L+T} \text{ defined in ref. [6] with } \bar{d}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) \equiv \bar{c}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) + \bar{f}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi). \text{ The SU}(3) \text{ singlet component } \bar{f}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) \text{ drops out in } \delta R_{\tau}^{kl}.\]
Fortunately, the longitudinal contribution to $\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_\tau)$ is parametrically suppressed by a factor $1/3$. Thus, the combined final expansion looks still acceptable for the first few terms:

$$\Delta_{00}^{(2)}(0,1) = 0.9840 + 0.4613 + 0.3427 + \left(0.3122 - 0.000045 \frac{c_3^{L+T}}{c_1^{L+T}}\right) + \cdots \quad (4.10)$$

Nevertheless, after the third term the series appears to be dominated by the longitudinal contribution, and the bad perturbative behaviour becomes again manifest. Using $c_3^{L+T} \sim c_2^{L+T} \left(c_2^{L+T}/c_1^{L+T}\right) \approx 323$, the fourth term becomes $0.298$; i.e. a $5\%$ reduction only. We can then take the size of the $O(a^3)$ contribution to $\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}$ as an educated estimate of the perturbative uncertainty.

The final numerical values of the relevant perturbative expansions are shown in Table 2. We have used the value of the strong coupling constant determined by the total hadronic decay width $[3]$:

$$\alpha_s(M_T^2) = 0.35 \pm 0.02. \quad (4.11)$$

Two different errors are quoted in Table 2. The first one gives the estimated theoretical uncertainties for the central value of $\alpha_s(M_T^2)$, while the second one shows the changes induced by the present uncertainty in the strong coupling.

Since the longitudinal series (4.8) seems to reach an asymptotic behaviour at $O(a^3)$, we have taken the following criteria in our numerical estimates. The central values of $\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_\tau)$ have been evaluated adding to the fully known $O(a^2)$ result one half of the $O(a^3)$ contribution. The $O(a^3)$ running effects in the $L+T$ contribution have been also included; the remaining $O(a^3)$ contribution from the unknown constant $c_3^{L+T}$ was estimated above to be less than $1\%$ in $\Delta_{00}^{(2)}$. To estimate the associated theoretical uncertainties, we have taken one half of the size of the last known perturbative contribution plus the variation induced by a change of the renormalization scale in the range $\xi \in [0.75,2]$ (added in quadrature). Finally the central values have been obtained by symmetrizing the error bars.

| $(k,l)$ | $\Delta_{kl}^{L+T}(a_\tau)$ | $\Delta_{kl}^L(a_\tau)$ | $\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_\tau)$ |
|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| (0,0)  | $0.97 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.07$    | $5.1 \pm 2.1 \pm 0.5$    | $2.0 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.1$     |
| (1,0)  | $1.37 \pm 0.12 \pm 0.05$    | $5.3 \pm 2.5 \pm 0.7$    | $2.4 \pm 0.7 \pm 0.1$     |
| (2,0)  | $1.70 \pm 0.30 \pm 0.09$    | $5.8 \pm 3.2 \pm 0.8$    | $2.7 \pm 1.0 \pm 0.2$     |
| (1,1)  | $-0.37 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.02$   | $-0.45 \pm 0.66 \pm 0.25$| $-0.39 \pm 0.25 \pm 0.07$ |
| (1,2)  | $0.02 \pm 0.03 \pm 0.01$    | $0.23 \pm 0.17 \pm 0.08$ | $0.07 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.02$  |

Table 2: Numerical values of the relevant $D=2$ perturbative expansions for $\alpha_s(M_T^2) = 0.35 \pm 0.02$. The first error shows the estimated theoretical uncertainties taking $\alpha_s = 0.35$; the second one shows the changes induced by the present uncertainty in the strong coupling.
Notice from Table 2 that the \( L + T \) series is more sensitive to the value of the moment parameter \( k \) than the \( L \) series. On the other side, the two last moments with \( l \neq 0 \) give rise to perturbative expansions for \( \Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_\tau) \) which are clearly unreliable; therefore, we will discard these two moments in our final \( m_s \) analysis.

### 4.2 Dimension-Four Corrections

The SU(3)–breaking piece of the \( D = 4 \) contribution to the correlation functions is given by

\[
s^2 \left[ D_{ud,V+A}^{L+T}(s) - D_{us,V+A}^{L+T}(s) \right] \bigg|_{D=4} = -4 \delta O_4(-\xi^2 s) \sum_{n=0} \tilde{\eta}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) a^n(-\xi^2 s) + \frac{6}{\pi^2} m_s^4(-\xi^2 s) \left(1 - \epsilon_d^2\right) \sum_{n=0} \left\{ (1 + \epsilon_d^2) \tilde{h}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) - \epsilon_u^2 \tilde{g}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) \right\} a^n(-\xi^2 s),
\]

\[
s \, M_\tau^2 \left[ D_{ud,V+A}^{L}(s) - D_{us,V+A}^{L}(s) \right] \bigg|_{D=4} = 2 \delta O_4(-\xi^2 s) - \frac{3}{\pi^2} m_s^4(-\xi^2 s) \left(1 - \epsilon_d^2\right) \sum_{n=0} \left\{ (1 + \epsilon_d^2) \tilde{h}_{n}^{L}(\xi) + \tilde{j}_{n}^{L}(\xi) \right\} + \epsilon_u^2 \left[ 2\tilde{h}_{n}^{L}(\xi) - 3\tilde{h}_{n}^{L}(\xi) + \tilde{j}_{n}^{L}(\xi) \right] a^n(-\xi^2 s),
\]

where \( \epsilon_u \equiv m_u/m_s = 0.029 \pm 0.003 \) [16], \( \epsilon_d \) was defined before, and

\[
\delta O_4(\mu^2) \equiv \langle 0 | m_s \bar{s}s - m_d \bar{d}d | 0 \rangle(\mu^2).
\]

The quark condensates are defined in the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \)-scheme, at the scale \( \mu^2 = -\xi^2 s \).

The perturbative expansion coefficients \( \tilde{\eta}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) \), \( \tilde{h}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) \), \( \tilde{g}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) \), \( \tilde{h}_{n}^{L}(\xi) \), \( \tilde{k}_{n}^{L}(\xi) \), and \( \tilde{j}_{n}^{L}(\xi) \) are given in Appendix C.

Inserting these expressions into the contour formula (3.2), one gets the corresponding contributions to \( \delta R_{\tau}^{kl} \). They can be written in the form

\[
\delta R_{\tau}^{kl} \bigg|_{D=4} = 12 S_{EW} \left\{ \frac{3 \, m_s^4(M_\tau^2)}{M_\tau^4} (1 - \epsilon_d^2) \left[ (1 + \epsilon_d^2) \, T_{kl}(a_\tau) - 2 \epsilon_u^2 \, S_{kl}(a_\tau) \right] - 4 \pi^2 \frac{\delta O_4(M_\tau^2)}{M_\tau^4} Q_{kl}(a_\tau) \right\}.
\]

The normalization of the perturbative expansions \( T_{kl}(a_\tau) \), \( S_{kl}(a_\tau) \), and \( Q_{kl}(a_\tau) \) has been chosen so that, for the lowest–order moments, these quantities are just one at leading order, i.e. \( T_{00}(0) = S_{00}(0) = Q_{00}(0) = 1 \). Their explicit expressions are given in Appendix E, for the \( (k, l) \) values which are going to be relevant in our analysis.

Table 3 here and Tables 9, and 10 in Appendix E show their corresponding numerical values.

In principle, the SU(3)–breaking condensate \( \delta O_4(M_\tau^2) \) could be extracted from the \( \tau \) decay data, together with \( m_s \), through a combined fit of different \( \delta R_{\tau}^{kl} \) moments.
Table 3: Numerical values of the relevant $D = 4$ perturbative expansions for $\alpha_s(M^2_T) = 0.35 \pm 0.02$. The first error shows the estimated theoretical uncertainties taking $\alpha_s = 0.35$; the second one shows the changes induced by the present uncertainty in the strong coupling.

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
(k,l) & T_{kl}(a_T) & S_{kl}(a_T) & Q_{kl}(a_T) \\
\hline
(0,0) & 1.5 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.1 & 1.0 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.05 & 1.08 \pm 0.03 \pm 0.01 \\
(1,0) & 3.2 \pm 0.7 \pm 0.2 & 1.9 \pm 0.6 \pm 0.2 & 1.52 \pm 0.03 \pm 0.01 \\
(2,0) & 5.2 \pm 0.9 \pm 0.3 & 3.5 \pm 1.4 \pm 0.2 & 1.93 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.003 \\
(1,1) & -2.0 \pm 0.3 \pm 0.2 & -1.5 \pm 0.3 \pm 0.1 & -0.41 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.005 \\
(1,2) & 0.45 \pm 0.20 \pm 0.20 & 0.3 \pm 0.1 \pm 0.1 & -0.02 \pm 0.01 \pm 0.003 \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

However, this is not possible with the actual experimental accuracy. In the future this could be the best determination of the SU(3)–breaking condensate $\delta O_4(M^2_T)$.

We can estimate the value of $\delta O_4(M^2)$ using the constraints provided by the chiral symmetry of QCD. To lowest order in Chiral Perturbation Theory [17], $\delta O_4(\mu^2)$ is scale independent and is fully predicted in terms of the pion decay constant and the pion and kaon masses:

\[
\left. \delta O_4(M^2_T) \right|_{O(p^2)} = (m_s - m_d) \langle 0|\bar{q}q|0 \rangle \simeq -f^2_\pi \left( m^2_K - m^2_\pi \right) \simeq -1.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV}^4 . \tag{4.16}
\]

Here, $\langle 0|\bar{q}q|0 \rangle$ denotes the quark condensate in the chiral limit, which we take to be approximately given by $2\hat{m} \langle 0|\bar{q}q|0 \rangle \simeq \hat{m} \langle 0|\bar{d}d + \bar{u}u|0 \rangle \simeq -f^2_\pi m^2_\pi \ [17, 18]$, where $\hat{m} \equiv (m_u + m_d)/2$.

We can improve this estimate, taking into account the leading $O(p^4)$ corrections through the ratio of quark vacuum condensates

\[
v_s \equiv \frac{\langle 0|\bar{s}s|0 \rangle}{\langle 0|\bar{d}d|0 \rangle} = 0.8 \pm 0.2 . \tag{4.17}
\]

This ratio has been phenomenologically estimated to be around $0.6 \sim 0.9$ for scales between 1 and 2 GeV where the scale dependence is very soft [19, 20, 21]. To be conservative, we have enlarged slightly its allowed range to include the SU(3) symmetric value $v_s = 1$. Taking this correction into account, we get our final estimate

\[
\left. \delta O_4(M^2_T) \right|_{O(p^4)} = (v_s m_s - m_d) \langle 0|\bar{d}d|0 \rangle \simeq \frac{m_s}{2\hat{m}} (v_s - \epsilon_d) f^2_\pi m^2_\pi \\
\simeq -(1.5 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV}^4 , \tag{4.18}
\]

\[\text{Strictly speaking this ratio is UV scale dependent in QCD. As shown in Appendix D, this dependence is canceled by } m^4 \text{ terms and is then of order } p^8 \text{ in the momentum expansion. For typical hadronic scales, these } O(m^4) \text{ corrections are very small and will be neglected in the following.}\]
where we have used the known values of quark mass ratios \( m_s/\hat{m} = 24.4 \pm 1.5 \) and \( \epsilon_d \) given before. At this order, \( \delta O_4(\mu^2) \) is still scale independent in QCD.

For typical hadronic scales the quark condensate gives a sizeable contribution to \( \delta R_{kl}^{4} \), proportional to \(-4\pi^2\delta O_4(M_\tau^2)/M_\tau^4 \approx (5.9 \pm 1.6) \times 10^{-3} \), which is much larger than the remaining \( O(m^4) \) corrections. Those \( m^4 \) contributions are of the same order than the scale dependence of \( \delta O_4(\mu^2) \), which is smaller than the accuracy of our estimate (4.18). To be consistent, we will therefore neglect all \( m^4 \) corrections together with the scale dependence of \( \delta O_4(\mu^2) \).

### 4.3 Higher–Dimension Corrections

The leading order coefficients of dimension six and eight corrections for two point functions have been studied in the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) scheme \([22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29]\). However, in view of the theoretical uncertainties in the dimension two and four corrections and the unknown values of the dimension six and eight condensates, we shall not include the \( D \geq 6 \) contributions and regard them as an additional theoretical uncertainty.

To get an order of magnitude estimate of the possible size of those effects, let us neglect their logarithmic dependences and parameterize the leading \( D = 6 \) contributions to the two-point correlators as

\[
s^3 \left[ D^{L+T}_{ud,V+A}(s) - D^{L+T}_{us,V+A}(s) \right]_{D=6} = -3 \delta O_6^{L+T},
\]

\[
s^2 M_\tau^2 \left[ D^L_{ud,V+A}(s) - D^L_{us,V+A}(s) \right]_{D=6} = 2 \delta O_6^L.
\]

(4.19)

The corresponding contribution to the different \( \delta R_{kl}^{4} \) moments is then:

\[
\delta R_{k0}^{00} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx -\frac{12\pi^2}{M_\tau^6} \left[ 3 \delta O_6^{L+T} - 4 \delta O_6^L \right],
\]

\[
\delta R_{k1}^{00} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx -\frac{12\pi^2}{M_\tau^6} \left[ 3 \delta O_6^{L+T} - 6 \delta O_6^L \right],
\]

\[
\delta R_{k2}^{00} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx -\frac{12\pi^2}{M_\tau^6} \left[ 2 \delta O_6^{L+T} - 8 \delta O_6^L \right],
\]

\[
\delta R_{k1}^{11} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx -\frac{12\pi^2}{M_\tau^6} \left[ \delta O_6^{L+T} + 2 \delta O_6^L \right],
\]

\[
\delta R_{k2}^{12} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx \frac{12\pi^2}{M_\tau^6} \delta O_6^{L+T}.
\]

(4.20)

One could expect that the leading \( D = 6 \) contributions come from four–quark operators, because they are not suppressed by light quark masses (the \( G^3 \) operator is flavour symmetric and therefore does not contribute to \( \delta R_{kl}^{4} \)). Obviously, only the \( L + T \) piece gets such a contribution, which can be obtained from ref. \([8]\) in the vacuum saturation approximation,

\[
\delta R_{k0}^{00} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx -S_{EW} \frac{36\pi^2}{M_\tau^6} \delta O_6^{L+T} \approx S_{EW} \frac{256\pi^4}{9} a_\tau \frac{\langle 0|s\bar{s}|0 \rangle^2(M_\tau^2) - \langle 0|\bar{d}d|0 \rangle^2(M_\tau^2)}{M_\tau^6}
\]
\[ \approx 3 \, S_{EW} \, e_{ud}^{(D=6)} \left( 1 - \frac{m_s^2}{2} \right) \approx (0.6 \pm 2.3) \times 10^{-3}. \]  

(4.21)

In that case, we also have

\[ \delta R_{\tau}^{00} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx \delta R_{\tau}^{10} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx \frac{3}{2} \delta R_{\tau}^{20} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx 3 \delta R_{\tau}^{11} \bigg|_{D=6} \approx -3 \delta R_{\tau}^{12} \bigg|_{D=6}. \]  

(4.22)

To get the final number, we have used the measured value of the Cabibbo–allowed correction \[30, 31] \, e_{ud}^{(D=6)} = 0.001 \pm 0.004.

The size of dimension six corrections proportional to four–quark operators is smaller than the uncertainty from the dimension four corrections for the three moments that we are going to use \([k, l] = (0, 0), (1, 0), (2, 0)\). We thus conclude that dimension six and higher corrections are negligible given the actual experimental accuracy (see Table 4) and do not add any further uncertainty to the \(m_s\) determination at present if one uses the three moments above. They will become eventually important for the determination of the SU(3)–breaking condensate \(\delta O_4(M_s^2)\).

Notice that higher–order corrections could be important and even dominant in some cases. For instance, in the moment \((k, l) = (1, 2)\) there is a strong suppression of the contributions with dimensions two and four (see Tables 2 and 3), which makes necessary to consider the \(D = 6\) terms.

5. Numerical Analysis

Discarding \(O(m^4)\) corrections, which are much smaller than the present experimental uncertainties, and up to dimension six corrections, which are around eight times smaller than the uncertainty in the dimension four contribution for the three moments \([k, l] = (0, 0), (1, 0), (2, 0)\] considered here,

\[ m_s^2(M_\tau^2) = \frac{M_\tau^2}{2(1 - \epsilon_s^2)} \frac{1}{\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_\tau)} \left[ \frac{\delta R_{\tau}^{kl}}{12S_{EW}} + 4\pi^2 \frac{\delta O_4(M_s^2)}{M_\tau^2} Q_{kl}(a_\tau) \right]. \]  

(5.1)

The ALEPH collaboration has measured [4] the weighted differences \(\delta R_{\tau}^{kl}\) for five different values of \((k, l)\). The experimental results are shown in Table 4, together with the corresponding \(m_s(M_s^2)\) values. Since the QCD counterparts to the moments \((k, l) = (1, 1)\) and \((1, 2)\) have theoretical uncertainties larger than 100 %, we only use the moments \((k, l) = (0, 0), (1, 0),\) and \((2, 0)\).

The experimental errors quoted in Table 4 do not include the present uncertainty in \(|V_{us}|\). To estimate the corresponding error in \(m_s\), we take the following numbers published by ALEPH [4, 30]: \(R_{\tau,V+A}^{00} = 3.486 \pm 0.015\), \(R_{\tau,S}^{00} = 0.1610 \pm 0.0066\), \(|V_{ud}| = 0.9751 \pm 0.0004\) and \(|V_{us}| = 0.2218 \pm 0.0016\). This gives \(\delta R_{\tau}^{00} = 0.394 \pm 0.135 \pm 0.047, \)

\footnote{Using the PDG98 [1] values (with the constraint \(|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 1\) \(|V_{ud}| = 0.97525 \pm 0.00046\) and \(|V_{us}| = 0.2211 \pm 0.0020\), we get \(\delta R_{\tau}^{00} = 0.372 \pm 0.136 \pm 0.060\), which lowers 5 MeV the central value of \(m_s(M_s^2)\) from \(\delta R_{\tau}^{00}\).}
Table 4: Measured [4] values of $\delta R_{kl}^{\tau}$ and the strange quark mass at $M_\tau$. The first error is experimental and the second is from the uncertainty in the QCD counterpart.

where the second error comes from the uncertainty in $|V_{us}|$ and translates into an additional uncertainty of 10 MeV in the strange quark mass. Since the ALEPH collaboration does not quote the values of $R_{\tau,V+A}^{kl}$ and $R_{\tau,S}^{kl}$ for the other moments, we will put the same $|V_{us}|$ uncertainty to the other two moments.

Taking the information from the three moments into account, we get our final result for $m_s(M_\tau^2)$:

$$m_s(M_\tau^2) = (119 \pm 12 \pm 18 \pm 10) \text{ MeV} = (119 \pm 24) \text{ MeV} \quad (5.2)$$

The first error is experimental, the second reflects the QCD uncertainty and the third one is from the present uncertainty in $|V_{us}|$. Since the three moments are highly correlated, we have taken the smaller individual errors as errors of the final average.

At the usual scales $\mu = 1 \text{ GeV}$ and $\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}$ (used as reference values by the QCD Sum Rules and lattice communities, respectively), our determination (5.2) corresponds to

$$m_s(1 \text{ GeV}^2) = (164 \pm 17 \pm 25 \pm 14) \text{ MeV} = (164 \pm 33) \text{ MeV} \quad (5.3)$$

and

$$m_s(4 \text{ GeV}^2) = (114 \pm 12 \pm 17 \pm 10) \text{ MeV} = (114 \pm 23) \text{ MeV} . \quad (5.4)$$

6. Phenomenological Subtraction of the $J = L$ Piece

In order to avoid the large theoretical uncertainties associated with the bad perturbative behaviour of $\Delta_{kl}^{L}(a_\tau)$, it would be nice to have “experimental values” for the $J = L + T$ contributions to $\delta R_{kl}^{\tau}$.

Using the positivity of the spectral functions, the known pion and kaon poles provide the lower bounds

$$\text{Im} \, \Pi_{ud}^L(s) \geq 2\pi f_\pi^2 \delta(s - m_\pi^2), \quad \text{Im} \, \Pi_{us}^L(s) \geq 2\pi f_K^2 \delta(s - m_K^2), \quad (6.1)$$
Table 5: Bounds on $\delta R_{\tau,L+T}^{kl}$ and the strange quark mass at $M_{\tau}$.

| $(k,l)$ | $\delta R_{\tau,L+T}^{kl}$ | $m_s(M_{\tau}^2)$ (MeV) |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| (0,0)  | $< 0.411$                | $< 287$               |
| (1,0)  | $< 0.351$                | $< 246$               |
| (2,0)  | $< 0.326$                | $< 202$               |
| (1,1)  | $< 0.030$                | $-$                   |
| (1,2)  | $< 0.020$                | $-$                   |

which translate into upper limits on the corresponding $J = L$ contributions to $R_{\tau}^{kl}$,

$$R_{\tau,L}^{kl} = -24\pi \int_0^{M_{\tau}^2} \frac{ds}{M_{\tau}^2} \left(1 - \frac{s}{M_{\tau}^2}\right)^{2+k} \left(\frac{s}{M_{\tau}^2}\right)^{1+l} \text{Im} \Pi^L(s)$$

$$= -4\pi i \int_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x} \mathcal{F}^L_{kl}(x) D^L(M_{\tau}^2 x).$$  \hspace{1cm} (6.2)

After subtracting the Goldstone boson pole, $\text{Im} \Pi^L_{ij}(s)$ is proportional to light quark masses squared. Since $m_s \gg m_u,d$, we can then safely conclude

$$\delta R_{\tau,L}^{kl} > 48\pi^2 \times \left[ \frac{f_K^2}{M_{\tau}^2} \left(1 - \frac{m_K^2}{M_{\tau}^2}\right)^{2+k} \left(\frac{m_K^2}{M_{\tau}^2}\right)^{1+l} - \frac{f_\pi^2}{M_{\tau}^2} \left(1 - \frac{m_\pi^2}{M_{\tau}^2}\right)^{2+k} \left(\frac{m_\pi^2}{M_{\tau}^2}\right)^{1+l} \right].$$ \hspace{1cm} (6.3)

Subtracting this contribution from the measured values of $\delta R_{\tau,L}^{kl}$, one gets upper bounds on $\delta R_{\tau,L+T}^{kl}$. Therefore, using the relation

$$m_s^2(M_{\tau}^2) = \frac{2M_{\tau}^2}{3(1 - \epsilon_d^2)} \frac{1}{\Delta_{kl}^{L+T}(a_{\tau})} \left[ \frac{\delta R_{\tau,L+T}^{kl}}{12S_{\text{EW}}} + 4\pi^2 \delta O_4(M_{\tau}^2) Q_{kl}^{L+T}(a_{\tau}) \right],$$ \hspace{1cm} (6.4)

we can get non-trivial upper bounds on $m_s(M_{\tau}^2)$. The resulting numerical values are given in Table 5.

To improve on these bounds it would be necessary to have a better understanding of the $J = L$ spectral functions.

### 7. Comparison with the ALEPH Analysis

The ALEPH collaboration has also performed a phenomenological analysis of the weighted differences $\delta R_{\tau}^{kl}$ in Table 4. However, the resulting values of the strange quark mass quoted by ALEPH [4] are larger:

$$m_s(M_{\tau}^2) = \begin{cases} 
(149^{+24}_{-30})^{+21}_{-25} \text{MeV} & \text{(inclusive),} \\
(176^{+37}_{-48})^{+24}_{-28} \text{MeV} & \text{($L + T$ only).}
\end{cases} \hspace{1cm} (7.1)$$
To derive these numbers, ALEPH has used our published results in references [6], [8], and [14]. Since we have analysed here the same ALEPH data with improved theoretical input, it is worthwhile to understand qualitatively the main origin of the numerical difference.

ALEPH makes a global fit to the five measured moments. Moreover, they also fit two additional parameters $\delta_S^{(6)}$ and $\delta_S^{(8)}$, trying to extract higher-order non-perturbative corrections from the data. As we have pointed out before, the last two moments have theoretical errors (in the leading $D = 2$ contribution) larger than 100% and therefore are unreliable. Unfortunately, the sensitivity to the small $D \geq 6$ corrections comes precisely from these two moments (see our comments at the end of Section 4.3), which makes the fitted $\delta_S^{(6,8)}$ values very questionable.

Owing to the asymptotic behaviour of $\Delta L_{kl}(a_T)$, ALEPH truncates the contribution of this perturbative series at $O(a)$ (in the “inclusive” analysis), neglecting the known (and positive) $O(a^2)$ and $O(a^3)$ longitudinal contributions. But the relevant quantity for this analysis is $\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_T)$ which does not reach its minimum term before $O(a^3)$ [6] [see Eq. (4.10)], so it is inconsistent to neglect the large and positive longitudinal contributions to $\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_T)$ as ALEPH did. Thus, they use a smaller value of $\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_T)$ and, therefore, get a larger result for the strange quark mass, because the sensitivity to this parameter is through the product $m_s^2(M_\tau^2) \Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_T)$. Since they put rather conservative errors, their result [the value quoted as “inclusive” in eq. (7.1)] is consistent with ours. Nevertheless, it is a clear overestimate of $m_s$ because they underestimate $\Delta_{kl}^{(2)}(a_T)$.

In order to avoid the large perturbative corrections in the longitudinal piece, the ALEPH collaboration has made a second analysis, subtracting the $J = L$ contribution in a way completely analogous to the one presented in Section 6. However, besides subtracting the pion and kaon poles, ALEPH makes a tiny ad-hoc correction to account for the remaining unknown $J = L$ contribution, and quotes the resulting number as a $m_s(M_\tau^2)$ determination [the value quoted as “$L + T$ only” in eq. (7.1)]. Since they add a generous uncertainty, their number does not disagree with ours. It is clear, however, from our discussion in Section 6, that this is actually an upper bound on $m_s(M_\tau^2)$ and not a determination of this parameter.

8. Summary

We have analysed the SU(3) breaking effects in the semi-inclusive $\tau$ hadronic width in complete generality. This has been used to obtain the strange quark mass from the recent ALEPH measurement of the inclusive Cabibbo-suppressed decay width

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4 In fact, larger values of $m_s$ were also obtained in the first determinations of this parameter from QCD sum rules, performed at $O(\alpha_s)$. Once the large higher-order perturbative corrections to the corresponding correlators were known, the resulting $m_s$ values shifted down by a sizeable amount.
and several moments of its invariant mass distribution. We get

\[ m_s(M_\tau^2) = (119 \pm 12 \pm 18 \pm 10) \text{ MeV} = (119 \pm 24) \text{ MeV} \quad (8.1) \]

to \( O(a_s^3) \) within the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) scheme\(^5\). The first error comes from the experimental uncertainty, the second one from the uncertainty in the QCD counterpart and the third from the uncertainty in \( |V_{us}| \).

At the customary scales where quark masses are quoted, this result translates into

\[ m_s(1 \text{ GeV}^2) = (164 \pm 17 \pm 25 \pm 14) \text{ MeV} = (164 \pm 33) \text{ MeV} \quad (8.2) \]

and

\[ m_s(4 \text{ GeV}^2) = (114 \pm 12 \pm 17 \pm 10) \text{ MeV} = (114 \pm 23) \text{ MeV} \quad (8.3) \]

This agrees within errors with the findings in ref. [6], where only \( \delta R_{\tau}^{00} \) was used.

Subtracting the known kaon and pion poles, we have also obtained an upper bound on the strange quark mass,

\[ m_s(M_\tau^2) < 202 \text{ MeV}, \quad (8.4) \]

which corresponds to \( m_s(1 \text{ GeV}^2) < 277 \text{ MeV} \) and \( m_s(4 \text{ GeV}^2) < 194 \text{ MeV} \). This bound is completely free from the problems associated with the bad perturbative behaviour of the \( J = L \) contribution. Our result is compatible with the lower bounds presented in refs. [32, 33, 34].

There is a great deal of activity calculating the strange quark mass by the lattice community [35]. The results are still very confusing and the spread in values obtained using different approximations to QCD is quite large. For a critical view of the situation see [36].

The latest QCD Sum Rules determinations [37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42] have been obtaining results which are very compatible with our number. The systematic error in those determinations is however still unclear.

The sum of the up and down quark masses has been determined with Finite Energy Sum Rules in ref. [18] with the result \((m_u + m_d)(4 \text{ GeV}^2) = (9.8 \pm 1.9) \text{ MeV} \). Using the ratio of light quark masses \( 2m_s/(m_u + m_d) = 24.4 \pm 1.5 \), obtained within \( O(p^4) \) Chiral Perturbation Theory and large \( N_c \) [16], this result is also in nice agreement with our determination.

We have not made any attempt to reduce the theoretical error, which we defer to a future publication. As stated in ref. [6], once the invariant mass distribution of the final \( \tau \)-decay hadrons is known, it should be possible to find weighted distributions

\(^5\)There is a remaining \( O(a^3) \) contribution from the unknown constant \( c_3^{L+T} \), which was estimated in Section (4.1) to modify \( m_s \) by less than 0.5%.
with smaller theoretical errors for the dimension–two QCD counterpart. If the SU(3)–
breaking data from tau decays is improved at future facilities, it could be the source
of precise determinations of both the strange quark mass and the SU(3)–breaking
condensate \( \delta O_4(M^2_T) \).

**Acknowledgments**

We have benefit from useful discussions with Shaomin Chen, Michel Davier and An-
dreas Höcker. J.P. would like to thank the hospitality of the CERN Theory Division
and the Departament de Física Teòrica at the Universitat de València (Spain) where
part of his work was done. This work has been supported in part by the European
Union TMR Network EURODAPHNE (Contract No. ERBFMX-CT98-0169), by
CICYT, Spain, under grants No. AEN-96/1672 and PB97-1261, and by Junta de
Andalucía, Grant No. FQM-101.

**A. Dimension–Zero Corrections**

Though they have been extensively studied in refs. [8] and [14], for the sake of
completeness, we give here also the dimension–zero corrections to \( R_{\tau}^{kl} \). They are
flavour independent and are identical for the vector and axial–vector correlators.
Moreover, only the transverse piece gets \( D = 0 \) contributions:

\[
D(s) \equiv D_{ij,V/A}^{L+T}(s) \bigg|_{D=0} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{K}_n(\xi) a^n(-\xi^2 s) .
\]

The coefficients \( \tilde{K}_n(\xi) \) are constrained by the homogeneous RG equations satis-
fied by the Adler function \( D(s) \):

\[
\xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{K}_n(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} (k - n) \beta_k \tilde{K}_{n-k}(\xi) ,
\]

for \( n \geq 1 \), and

\[
\frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{K}_0(\xi) = 0 .
\]

Thus,

\[
\tilde{K}_0(\xi) = K_0 ,
\]

\[
\tilde{K}_1(\xi) = K_1 ,
\]

\[
\tilde{K}_2(\xi) = K_2 - \beta_1 K_1 \ln \xi ,
\]

\[
\tilde{K}_3(\xi) = K_3 - [\beta_2 K_1 + 2\beta_1 K_2] \ln \xi + \beta_1^2 K_1 \ln^2 \xi ,
\]

\[
\tilde{K}_4(\xi) = K_4 - \cdots
\]

(A.4)
The factors $\beta_k$ are the expansion coefficients of the QCD beta function, defined as
\[
\beta(a) \equiv \mu \frac{da}{d\mu} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \beta_k a^k,
\] (A.5)
which are known to four loops [43, 44]. For three flavours and in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme,
\[
\beta_1 = -\frac{9}{2}, \quad \beta_2 = -8, \quad \beta_3 = -\frac{3863}{192}, \quad \beta_4 = -\frac{140599}{2304} - \frac{445}{16} \zeta_3.
\] (A.6)
The perturbative expansion of the Adler function is fully known up to order $\alpha_s^3$. At $\xi = 1$, its coefficients have the values [45, 46]:
\[
K_0 = K_1 = 1, \quad K_2 = \frac{299}{24} - 9 \zeta_3, \quad K_3 = \frac{58057}{288} - \frac{779}{4} \zeta_3 - \frac{75}{2} \zeta_5.
\] (A.7)
The perturbative component of $R_\tau$ is given by
\[
\delta^{kl(0)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{K}_n(\xi) A_{kl}^{(n)}(a_\xi),
\] (A.8)
where the functions [14]
\[
A_{kl}^{(n)}(a_\xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x} \mathcal{F}^{kl}_{L+T}(x) a^n(-\xi^2 M_r^2 x),
\] (A.9)
are contour integrals in the complex plane which only depend on $a_\xi \equiv \alpha_s(\xi^2 M_r^2)/\pi$, $\ln(\xi)$, and the expansion coefficients $\beta_k$ of the QCD beta function. A detailed analysis of this contribution to $R_\tau$ and its associated uncertainty can be found in ref. [14].

B. Dimension–Two Corrections

The dimension–two corrections to the correlators $D_{ij,V/A}(s)$ are given in eqs. (4.2) and (4.3). The corresponding expansion coefficients obey the RG equation
\[
\xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{C}_n(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} [2\gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \tilde{C}_{n-k}(\xi),
\] (B.1)
for $n \geq 1$ and
\[
\frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{C}_0(\xi) = 0,
\] (B.2)
where the generic notation $\tilde{C}(\xi)$ stands for $\tilde{c}_n^{L+T}(\xi)$, $\tilde{e}_n^{L+T}(\xi)$, $\tilde{f}_n^{L+T}(\xi)$, and $\tilde{d}_n^L(\xi)$. Therefore,
\[
\tilde{C}_0(\xi) = C_0.
\]
\[ \tilde{C}_1(\xi) = C_1 + 2\gamma_1 C_0 \ln \xi, \]
\[ \tilde{C}_2(\xi) = C_2 + [2\gamma_2 C_0 + (2\gamma_1 - \beta_1)C_1] \ln \xi + \gamma_1 (2\gamma_1 - \beta_1) C_0 \ln^2 \xi, \]
\[ \tilde{C}_3(\xi) = C_3 + [2\gamma_3 C_0 + (2\gamma_2 - \beta_2)C_1 + 2(\gamma_1 - \beta_1) C_2] \ln \xi \]
\[ + [(-\gamma_1 \beta_2 + 2\gamma_2 (2\gamma_1 - \beta_1)) C_0 + (\gamma_1 - \beta_1)(2\gamma_1 - \beta_1) C_1] \ln^2 \xi \]
\[ + \frac{2}{3} \gamma_1 (\gamma_1 - \beta_1)(2\gamma_1 - \beta_1) C_0 \ln^3 \xi, \]
\[ \tilde{C}_4(\xi) = C_4 + \cdots. \] (B.3)

The factors \( \gamma_k \) are the expansion coefficients of the QCD gamma function, defined as
\[ \gamma(a) \equiv -\frac{\mu}{m} \frac{d}{d\mu} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \gamma_k a^k, \] (B.4)
which are known to four loops [44, 47, 48]. For three flavours and in the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) scheme,
\[ \gamma_1 = 2, \quad \gamma_2 = \frac{91}{12}, \quad \gamma_3 = \frac{8885}{288} - 5\zeta_3, \]
\[ \gamma_4 = \frac{2077517}{20736} - \frac{9295}{216} \zeta_3 + \frac{135}{8} \zeta_4 - \frac{125}{6} \zeta_5. \] (B.5)

The \( J = L + T \) coefficients are known to \( O(\alpha_s^2) \) [49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55] while the \( J = L \) coefficients are known to \( O(\alpha_s^3) \) [49, 50, 51, 55]. Their values at \( \xi = 1 \) are
\[ c_0^{L+T} = 1, \quad c_1^{L+T} = \frac{13}{3}, \quad c_2^{L+T} = \frac{23077}{432} + \frac{179}{54} \zeta_3 - \frac{520}{27} \zeta_5, \]
\[ e_0^{L+T} = 0, \quad e_1^{L+T} = \frac{2}{3}, \quad e_2^{L+T} = \frac{769}{54} - \frac{55}{27} \zeta_3 - \frac{5}{27} \zeta_5, \]
\[ f_0^{L+T} = 0, \quad f_1^{L+T} = 0, \quad f_2^{L+T} = -\frac{32}{9} + \frac{8}{3} \zeta_4, \] (B.6)
and
\[ d_0^L = 1, \quad d_1^L = \frac{17}{3}, \quad d_2^L = \frac{9631}{144} - \frac{35}{2} \zeta_3, \]
\[ d_3^L = \frac{4748953}{5184} - \frac{91519}{216} \zeta_3 - \frac{5}{2} \zeta_4 + \frac{715}{12} \zeta_5. \] (B.7)

In the limit \( m_u = m_d = 0 \), taken in ref. [6], the expansion of the \( J = L + T \) correlator is governed by the combinations \( \tilde{d}_n^{L+T}(\xi) \equiv c_n^{L+T}(\xi) + f_n^{L+T}(\xi) \).

C. Dimension–Four Corrections

The dimension–four corrections to the correlators \( D_{ij,V/A}^J(s) \) can be written in the form:
\[ D_{ij,V/A}^{L+T}(s) \bigg|_{D=4} = \frac{1}{s^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\Omega}_n^{L+T}(\xi, s) a^n (-\xi^2 s), \] (C.1)
\[
D_{ij,V/A}(s)\big|_{D=4} = \frac{1}{M_s^2 s} \left\{ -\langle (m_i \mp m_j) (\bar{q}_i q_i \mp \bar{q}_j q_j) \rangle \xi 
+ \frac{3}{2\pi^2} (m_i \mp m_j)^2 \sum_{n=0} \tilde{\Omega}^L_n(\xi, s) a^n (-\xi^2 s) \right\}, \tag{C.2}
\]

where

\[
\tilde{\Omega}^{L+T}_n(\xi, s) = \frac{1}{6} < G^2 > \xi \tilde{p}^{L+T}_n(\xi) + \langle \sum_k m_k \bar{q}_k q_k \rangle \xi \tilde{r}^{L+T}_n(\xi) 
+ 2 \langle m_i \bar{q}_i q_i + m_j \bar{q}_j q_j \rangle \xi \tilde{q}^{L+T}_n(\xi) 
- \frac{3}{\pi^2} \left\{ \left( \bar{m}_i^4 + \bar{m}_j^4 \right) \tilde{h}^{L+T}_n(\xi) \right. 
+ \frac{5}{3} \bar{m}_i \bar{m}_j \left( \bar{m}_i^2 + \bar{m}_j^2 \right) \tilde{k}^{L+T}_n(\xi) 
- \bar{m}_i^2 \bar{m}_j^2 \tilde{g}^{L+T}_n(\xi) + \sum_{k \neq l} \bar{m}_k \bar{m}_l \tilde{j}^{L+T}_n(\xi) + 2 \bar{m}_k \bar{m}_l \tilde{u}^{L+T}_n(\xi) \left. \right\}, \tag{C.3}
\]

\[
\tilde{\Omega}^L_n(\xi, s) = \left( \bar{m}_i^2 + \bar{m}_j^2 \right) \tilde{h}^L_n(\xi) \pm \frac{3}{2} \bar{m}_i \bar{m}_j \tilde{k}^L_n(\xi) + \sum_k \bar{m}_k^2 \tilde{j}^L_k(\xi). \tag{C.4}
\]

In these expressions, the running masses and vacuum condensates are defined in the \(\overline{\text{MS}}\) scheme at the scale \(\mu^2 = -\xi^2 s\), i.e.

\[
\bar{m}_i \equiv m_i (-\xi^2 s), \quad < G^2 > \xi \equiv \langle 0 | G^2 | 0 \rangle (-\xi^2 s), \quad \langle m_i \bar{q}_i q_i \rangle \xi \equiv \langle 0 | m_i \bar{q}_i q_i | 0 \rangle (-\xi^2 s). \tag{C.5}
\]

In ref. [8] the \(D = 4\) contributions were given in terms of scale–invariant condensates. This simplifies the \(R_c\) contour integration, but introduces inverse powers of \(\alpha_s\) in some \(m^4\) terms, generating larger quark–mass corrections which cancel numerically with the condensate contributions [56]. With the minimally subtracted operators (C.5), used here, one gets slightly more stable numerical results for the dimension–four mass corrections.

The quark condensate contribution to the longitudinal correlator (C.2) is fixed to all orders in perturbation theory by a Ward identity.

The perturbative expansion coefficients in eqs. (C.1) and (C.2) are known to \(O(a^2)\) [27, 29, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64] for the condensate contributions,

\[
\tilde{p}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \tilde{p}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 1, \quad \tilde{p}_2^{L+T}(\xi) = \frac{7}{6},
\]

\[
\tilde{r}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \tilde{r}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \tilde{r}_2^{L+T}(\xi) = -\frac{5}{3} + \frac{8}{3} \xi_3 + \frac{4}{3} \ln \xi,
\]

\[
\tilde{q}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 1, \quad \tilde{q}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = -1, \quad \tilde{q}_2^{L+T}(\xi) = -\frac{131}{24} - \frac{9}{2} \ln \xi,
\]

\[
\tilde{t}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \tilde{t}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 1, \quad \tilde{t}_2^{L+T}(\xi) = \frac{17}{2} + \frac{9}{2} \ln \xi, \tag{C.6}
\]

while the \(m^4\) terms have been only computed to \(O(a)\) [24, 62, 63, 65, 66]:
\[ \tilde{h}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 1 + \ln \xi, \quad \tilde{h}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = \frac{25}{4} - 2 \zeta_3 + \frac{25}{3} \ln \xi + 4 \ln^2 \xi, \]
\[ \tilde{k}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \tilde{k}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 1 + \frac{4}{5} \ln \xi, \]
\[ \tilde{g}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 1, \quad \tilde{g}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = \frac{94}{9} - \frac{4}{3} \zeta_3 + 8 \ln \xi, \]
\[ \tilde{j}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \tilde{j}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \tilde{u}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \tilde{u}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad (C.7) \]
\[ \bar{h}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 1 + \ln \xi, \quad \bar{h}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = \frac{41}{6} - 2 \zeta_3 + \frac{28}{3} \ln \xi + 4 \ln^2 \xi, \]
\[ \bar{k}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 1 + \frac{2}{3} \ln \xi, \quad \bar{k}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 8 - \frac{4}{3} \zeta_3 + \frac{80}{9} \ln \xi + \frac{8}{3} \ln^2 \xi, \]
\[ \bar{j}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad \bar{j}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 0. \quad (C.8) \]

The scale dependence of all these coefficients is fixed by the homogeneous RG equations satisfied by the corresponding \(D^j(s)\) functions:

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{h}_{n\geq2}^{L+T}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (2k - n) \beta_k \bar{h}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi), \quad \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{p}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \]
\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{r}_{n\geq3}^{L+T}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} (k - n) \beta_k \bar{r}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi) + \frac{2}{3} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \gamma_k \bar{p}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi), \]
\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{q}_{n\geq1}^{L+T}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} (k - n) \beta_k \bar{q}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi), \quad \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{g}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \]
\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{t}_{n\geq2}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (k - n) \beta_k \bar{t}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi), \quad \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{t}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \quad (C.9) \]

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{h}_{n\geq1}^{L+T}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} [4 \gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \bar{h}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{n} \gamma_0^{ii(k)} \bar{q}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi), \]
\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{h}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = -\frac{1}{2} \gamma_0^{ii(0)} \bar{q}_0^{L+T}(\xi), \]
\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{k}_{n\geq2}^{L+T}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [4 \gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \bar{k}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi) - \frac{2}{3} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \gamma_0^{ii(k)} \bar{r}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi), \]
\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{k}_1^{L+T}(\xi) = -\frac{2}{5} \gamma_0^{ii(0)} \bar{r}_1^{L+T}(\xi), \]
\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{g}_{n\geq1}^{L+T}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [4 \gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \bar{g}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi), \quad \frac{d}{d\xi} \bar{g}_0^{L+T}(\xi) = 0 \]
\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{j}_{n \geq 3}^{L+T}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} [4\gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \tilde{j}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi) + \frac{1}{24} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \gamma_0^{ii} \tilde{p}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{j}_{n \leq 1}^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \]

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{j}_{2}^{L+T}(\xi) = \frac{1}{24} \gamma_{0(1)}^{ii} \tilde{p}_{1}^{L+T}(\xi) - \frac{1}{4} \gamma_{0(0)}^{ii} \tilde{p}_{2}^{L+T}(\xi), \]

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{u}_{n \geq 3}^{L+T}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} [4\gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \tilde{u}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi) + \frac{1}{24} \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} k \gamma_0^{i\neq j} \tilde{p}_{n-k}^{L+T}(\xi) \]

\[ \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{u}_{n \leq 2}^{L+T}(\xi) = 0, \]

(C.10)

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{h}_{n \geq 1}^{L}(\xi) = -\frac{1}{2} \gamma_{0(n)}^{ii} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} [4\gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \tilde{h}_{n-k}^{L}(\xi), \]

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{h}_{0}^{L}(\xi) = -\frac{1}{2} \gamma_{0(0)}^{ii}, \]

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{h}_{n \geq 1}^{L}(\xi) = -\frac{1}{3} \gamma_{0(n)}^{ii} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} [4\gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \tilde{h}_{n-k}^{L}(\xi), \]

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{h}_{0}^{L}(\xi) = -\frac{1}{3} \gamma_{0(0)}^{ii}, \]

\[ \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{h}_{n \geq 2}^{L}(\xi) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} [4\gamma_k - (n - k) \beta_k] \tilde{h}_{n-k}^{L}(\xi), \]

\[ \frac{d}{d\xi} \tilde{h}_{n \leq 2}(\xi) = 0. \]

(C.11)

D. Scale Evolution of the \( D = 4 \) Operators

The factors \( \gamma_{0(0)}^{ij} \) appearing in the RG equations (C.10) and (C.11) are the anomalous dimensions of the QCD vacuum energy,

\[ 4E_0 \equiv -\Theta_\mu^\mu + \sum_{k=u,d,s} m_k \bar{q}_k q_k, \] (D.1)

where \( \Theta_\mu^\mu \) is the trace of the QCD energy–momentum tensor, in the three light flavour effective theory, and

\[ \mu \frac{dE_0}{d\mu} \equiv \frac{3}{16\pi^2} \sum_{i,j=u,d,s} m_i^2 m_j^2 \gamma_{0}^{ij}(a); \quad \gamma_{0}^{ij}(a) = \gamma_{0(0)}^{ij} + a \gamma_{0(1)}^{ij} + \cdots \] (D.2)

The anomalous dimension matrix \( \gamma_{0}^{ij}(a) \) is symmetric, i.e. \( \gamma_{0}^{ij}(a) = \gamma_{0}^{ji}(a) \). Moreover, since QCD is flavour blind, \( \gamma_{0}^{ii}(a) = \gamma_{0}^{jj}(a) \) and all non-diagonal elements \( \gamma_{0}^{i\neq j}(a) \) are equal. To two loops, \( \gamma_{0}^{ij}(a) \) is proportional to the identity with [45]

\[ \gamma_{0(0)}^{ii} = -2, \quad \gamma_{0(1)}^{ii} = -\frac{8}{3}, \] (D.3)
for \( i = u, d, s \). The first non-diagonal terms appear at three-loops.

The anomalous dimension matrix \( \gamma_0(a) \) governs the scale evolution of the \( D = 4 \) operators. After using the QCD equations of motion, there are three types of gauge–invariant operators of dimension four, namely, \( G^2 \equiv G_{\mu\nu}^a(t) G_{\mu\nu}^a \), \( m_q \), and \( m^4 \). In minimal subtraction–like schemes, these three operators mix under renormalization [45]:

\[
\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \langle G^2 \rangle = -a \frac{\partial \beta(a)}{\partial a} \langle G^2 \rangle + \frac{3}{4\pi^2} a \sum_{i,j=u,d,s} m_i^2 m_j^2 \frac{\partial \gamma_{ij}^0(a)}{\partial a} - 4a \frac{\partial \gamma(a)}{\partial a} \sum_{i=u,d,s} \langle m_i \bar{q}_i q_i \rangle,
\]

(D.4)

\[
\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \langle m_i \bar{q}_i q_i \rangle = -\frac{3}{4\pi^2} m_i m_j \sum_k m_k^2 \gamma_{ij}^k(a),
\]

(D.5)

\[
\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} m^4 = -4 \gamma(a) m^4.
\]

(D.6)

One can introduce [45] the following scale–invariant condensates, which are combinations of the previous minimally subtracted operators:

\[
\beta_1(a G^2)_1 \equiv \beta(a) \langle G_{\mu\nu}^a(t) G_{\mu\nu}^a \rangle + 4 \gamma(a) \sum_{i=u,d,s} \langle m_i \bar{q}_i q_i \rangle - \frac{3}{4\pi^2} \sum_{i,j=u,d,s} m_i^2 m_j^2 \gamma_{ij}^0(a),
\]

(D.7)

\[
\langle m_i \bar{q}_i q_i \rangle_1 \equiv \langle m_i \bar{q}_i q_i \rangle - \frac{3m_i m_j}{4\pi^2 a} \left\{ \frac{\gamma_{0i}^{00}}{\beta_1 + 4\gamma_1} + \left[ \frac{\gamma_{0i}^{01}}{4\gamma_1} - \frac{\gamma_{0i}^{00}}{4\gamma_1} \beta_2 + 4\gamma_2 \right] a \ldots \right\}
\]

\[
= \langle m_i \bar{q}_i q_i \rangle + \frac{3m_i m_j}{7\pi^2 a} \left\{ 1 - \frac{53}{24} a + \ldots \right\}.
\]

(D.8)

\( \delta O_4(\mu^2) = \delta O_4(M^2_\tau) + \frac{3}{7\pi^2} \left( 1 - \epsilon_d^4 \right) m_s^4(M^2_\tau) \left\{ \frac{1}{a_\tau} \left[ 1 - \frac{53}{24} a_\tau + \ldots \right] - \frac{m_s^4(\mu^2)}{m_s^4(M^2_\tau)} \frac{1}{a(\mu^2)} \left[ 1 - \frac{53}{24} a(\mu^2) + \ldots \right] \right\} \).  

(D.9)

E. \( D = 4 \) Expansion Coefficients for \( \delta R^k_l \)

The functions \( Q_{kl}(a) = Q_{kl}^L(a) + Q_{kl}^{L+T}(a) \), \( T_{kl}(a) = T_{kl}^L(a) + T_{kl}^{L+T}(a) \) and \( S_{kl}(a) = S_{kl}^L(a) + S_{kl}^{L+T}(a) \) in eq. (4.15) are given by the following contour integrals

\[
Q_{kl}^L = -\frac{1}{6\pi i} \oint_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x^2} \frac{F_{kl}^L(x)}{\delta O_4(-\xi^2 M^2_\tau)} \frac{\delta o_4(-\xi^2 M^2_\tau)}{\delta O_4(M^2_\tau)},
\]
\[ Q_{kl}^{L+T} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x} \mathcal{F}^{k}_{L+T}(x) \frac{\delta O_4(-\xi^2 M^2_T x)}{\delta O_4(M^2_T)} \sum_n \tilde{q}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) a^n(-\xi^2 M^2_T x), \]

\[ T_{kl}^L = \frac{-1}{3\pi} \int_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x^2} \mathcal{F}^{k}_{L}(x) \left( \frac{m(-\xi^2 M^2_T x)}{m(M^2_T)} \right)^4 \sum_n [\tilde{h}_n^{L}(\xi) + \tilde{j}_n^{L}(\xi)] a^n(-\xi^2 M^2_T x), \]

\[ T_{kl}^{L+T} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x^2} \mathcal{F}^{k}_{L+T}(x) \left( \frac{m(-\xi^2 M^2_T x)}{m(M^2_T)} \right)^4 \sum_n [\tilde{h}_n^{L+T}(\xi) + \tilde{j}_n^{L+T}(\xi)] a^n(-\xi^2 M^2_T x), \]

\[ S_{kl}^L = -\frac{1}{6\pi} \int_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x^2} \mathcal{F}^{k}_{L}(x) \left( \frac{m(-\xi^2 M^2_T x)}{m(M^2_T)} \right)^4 \sum_n [3\tilde{k}_n^{L}(\xi) - 2\tilde{h}_n^{L}(\xi) - \tilde{j}_n^{L}(\xi)] a^n(-\xi^2 M^2_T x), \]

\[ S_{kl}^{L+T} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{|x|=1} \frac{dx}{x^3} \mathcal{F}^{k}_{L+T}(x) \left( \frac{m(-\xi^2 M^2_T x)}{m(M^2_T)} \right)^4 \sum_n \tilde{q}_{n}^{L+T}(\xi) a^n(-\xi^2 M^2_T x). \] (E.1)

To be consistent with our estimate of \( \delta O_4(\mu^2) \), which is scale independent, we will also neglect the \( \delta O_4(\mu^2) \) scale dependence in the functions \( Q_{kl}(a) \). In the following tables we summarize the known values of the different \( D = 4 \) perturbative expansions for the \((k, l)\) values used in the paper. We also give their numerical values obtained form the exact integration along the closed contour, using the corresponding RG equations.

| \((k, l)\) | \( T_{kl}(a) \) | \( S_{kl}(a) \) | \( Q_{kl}(a) \) |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| \((0, 0)\) | \( 1 + \left( \frac{65}{6} - 4\zeta - \frac{2}{3} \pi^2 \right) a \) | \( 1 + \frac{19}{3} a \) | \( 1 + \frac{27}{8} a^2 \) |
| \((1, 0)\) | \( \frac{5}{2} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{281}{30} - \frac{42}{5} \zeta - \frac{2}{5} \pi^2 \right) a \right] \) | \( \frac{3}{2} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{244}{27} - \frac{4}{3} \zeta \right) a \right] \) | \( \frac{3}{2} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{3} a + \frac{13}{72} a^2 \right] \) |
| \((2, 0)\) | \( \frac{25}{6} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{1381}{150} - \frac{48}{5} \zeta - \frac{8}{25} \pi^2 \right) a \right] \) | \( 2 \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{193}{18} - \frac{2}{3} \zeta \right) a \right] \) | \( 2 \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{2} a - \frac{163}{96} a^2 \right] \) |
| \((1, 1)\) | \( -\frac{5}{3} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{269}{30} - \frac{6}{5} \zeta - \frac{4}{5} \pi^2 \right) a \right] \) | \( -\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{143}{9} - \frac{4}{3} \zeta \right) a \right] \) | \( -\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - a - \frac{43}{3} a^2 \right] \) |
| \((1, 2)\) | \( \frac{1}{8} \left[ 1 + \frac{236}{15} a \right] \) | \( \frac{1}{2} a \) | \( -\frac{63}{160} a^2 \) |

Table 6: Known terms of the relevant \( D = 4 \) perturbative expansions.

| \((k, l)\) | \( T_{kl}^L(a) \) | \( S_{kl}^L(a) \) | \( Q_{kl}^L(a) \) |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| \((0, 0)\) | \( \frac{5}{4} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{28}{13} - \frac{8}{3} \zeta - \frac{1}{17} \pi^2 \right) a \right] \) | \( 1 + \frac{37}{3} a \) | \( 1 \) |
| \((1, 0)\) | \( \frac{17}{6} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{496}{51} - \frac{24}{17} \zeta - \frac{4}{17} \pi^2 \right) a \right] \) | \( 1 + \frac{41}{3} a \) | \( 1 \) |
| \((2, 0)\) | \( \frac{37}{12} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{1115}{111} - \frac{48}{37} \zeta - \frac{8}{37} \pi^2 \right) a \right] \) | \( 1 + \frac{44}{3} a \) | \( 1 \) |
| \((1, 1)\) | \( -\frac{1}{4} \left[ 1 + \frac{41}{3} a \right] \) | \( -a \) | \( 0 \) |
| \((1, 2)\) | \( -\frac{1}{20} \left[ 1 + \frac{157}{15} a \right] \) | \( -\frac{4}{5} a \) | \( 0 \) |

Table 7: Known terms of the relevant \( D = 4 \) perturbative expansions for \( J = L \).
Table 8: Known terms of the relevant $D = 4$ perturbative expansions for $J = L + T$.

| $(k,l)$ | $T_{kl}^{L+T}(a)$ | $S_{kl}^{L+T}(a)$ | $Q_{kl}^{L+T}(a)$ |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (0,0)   | $-\frac{3}{2} \left[ 1 + \frac{25}{3} a \right]$ | $-6a$ | $\frac{27}{8} a^2$ |
| (1,0)   | $-\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{140}{12} + 6 \zeta_3 + \pi^2 \right) a \right]$ | $\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{7}{9} + \frac{1}{3} \zeta_3 \right) a \right]$ | $\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - a + \frac{13}{49} a^2 \right]$ |
| (2,0)   | $\frac{13}{12} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{266}{69} - \frac{48}{17} \zeta_3 - \frac{8}{125} \pi^2 \right) a \right]$ | $1 + \left( \frac{11}{13} - \frac{1}{3} \zeta_3 \right) a$ | $1 - a - \frac{166}{49} a^2$ |
| (1,1)   | $-\frac{172}{12} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{415}{51} - \frac{24}{17} \zeta_3 - \frac{4}{17} \pi^2 \right) a \right]$ | $-\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{124}{9} - \frac{4}{3} \zeta_3 \right) a \right]$ | $-\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - a - \frac{22}{3} a^2 \right]$ |
| (1,2)   | $\frac{7}{40} \left[ 1 + \frac{144}{105} a \right]$ | $\frac{7}{10} a$ | $-\frac{63}{160} a^2$ |

Table 9: Numerical values of the relevant $D = 4$ perturbative expansions for $\alpha_s(M_T^2) = 0.35 \pm 0.02$ for $J = L$. The first error shows the estimated theoretical uncertainties taking $\alpha_s = 0.35$; the second one shows the changes induced by the present uncertainty in the strong coupling.

| $(k,l)$ | $T_{kl}^L(a_\tau)$ | $S_{kl}^L(a_\tau)$ | $Q_{kl}^L(a_\tau)$ |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (0,0)   | $3.10 \pm 0.40 \pm 0.04$ | $2.1 \pm 0.7 \pm 0.2$ | $1.0 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.0$ |
| (1,0)   | $3.80 \pm 0.40 \pm 0.08$ | $2.7 \pm 1.0 \pm 0.2$ | $1.0 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.0$ |
| (2,0)   | $4.4 \pm 0.3 \pm 0.2$    | $3.2 \pm 1.3 \pm 0.2$ | $1.0 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.0$ |
| (1,1)   | $-0.66 \pm 0.07 \pm 0.06$ | $-0.6 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.1$ | $0.0 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.0$ |
| (1,2)   | $-0.03 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.07$ | $-0.01 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.01$ | $0.0 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.0$ |

Table 10: Numerical values of the relevant $D = 4$ perturbative expansions for $\alpha_s(M_T^2) = 0.35 \pm 0.02$ for $J = L + T$. The first error shows the estimated theoretical uncertainties taking $\alpha_s = 0.35$; the second one shows the changes induced by the present uncertainty in the strong coupling.

| $(k,l)$ | $T_{kl}^{L+T}(a_\tau)$ | $S_{kl}^{L+T}(a_\tau)$ | $Q_{kl}^{L+T}(a_\tau)$ |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (0,0)   | $-1.60 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.1$ | $-1.1 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.1$ | $0.08 \pm 0.03 \pm 0.01$ |
| (1,0)   | $-0.6 \pm 0.4 \pm 0.2$ | $-0.6 \pm 0.4 \pm 0.1$ | $0.52 \pm 0.03 \pm 0.01$ |
| (2,0)   | $0.80 \pm 0.60 \pm 0.05$ | $0.25 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.05$ | $0.93 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.003$ |
| (1,1)   | $-1.30 \pm 0.20 \pm 0.15$ | $-0.86 \pm 0.18 \pm 0.02$ | $-0.41 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.005$ |
| (1,2)   | $0.48 \pm 0.20 \pm 0.20$ | $0.3 \pm 0.1 \pm 0.1$ | $-0.02 \pm 0.01 \pm 0.003$ |

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