

Coulomb Corrections in Rare B-Decays: A Key to Improved Precision

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We present a systematic analysis of Coulomb corrections for the interaction of charged leptons in the final state in lepton and semi-lepton decays of neutral B -mesons. The calculation is performed within the Furry picture. For scalar systems, a comparison is made between the nonrelativistic Gamow-Sommerfeld-Sakharov approximation, the exact relativistic method of Crater-Alstine-Sazdjian, and the Furry approach. Based on this comparison, an assumption is made about the applicability of the Furry method for calculating Coulomb corrections in the considered B -meson decays. The corrections are applied to the analysis of lepton ($B_{d,s}^0 \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$) and semi-lepton ($B_{d,s}^0 \rightarrow h^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$, $B_{d,s}^0 \rightarrow V^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$) channels. Differential and angular distributions and partial decay widths are calculated.

For the $B_s^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ channel, Coulomb corrections improve the prediction of the partial width by 2%, improving the agreement with the LHCb/CMS experimental results within the current experimental (11%) and theoretical (5% lattice QM) errors. In the decays $B^0 \rightarrow K^0 \mu^+ \mu^-$ and $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} \mu^+ \mu^-$, Coulomb effects also reduce the discrepancies between theoretical predictions and experimental data (to less than 1% and from 11% to 4% respectively). Finally, for the decays $B_{d,s}^0 \rightarrow \{h^0, V^0\} \tau^+ \tau^-$, the Coulomb correction reaches 7%, which is comparable to the uncertainties of the non-perturbative contributions of the strong interaction. The latter result suggests that the Coulomb correction may become significant in the search for new physics in rare B -meson decays, especially those involving τ -leptons in the final states.

Authors: MANUKHOV, Stepan; NIKITIN, Nikolay (Lomonosov Moscow State University)

Presenter: MANUKHOV, Stepan

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