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Perturbative versus non-perturbative decoupling of heavy quarks

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We simulate a theory with $N_f=2$ heavy quarks of mass M . At energies much smaller than M the heavy quarks decouple and the theory can be described by an effective theory which is a pure gauge theory to leading order in $1/M$. We present results for the mass dependence of ratios such as $t_0(M)/t_0(0)$. We compute these ratios from simulations and compare them to the perturbative prediction. The latter relies on a factorization formula for the ratios which is valid to leading order in $1/M$ in the low energy effective theory.

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