

# $K\pi$ scattering and the $K^*(892)$ resonance in 2+1 flavor QCD

**Gumaro Rendon<sup>\*a</sup>, Luka Leskovec<sup>b</sup>, Stefan Meinel<sup>a,d</sup>, John W. Negele<sup>e</sup>, Srijit Paul<sup>c,f</sup>, Marcus Petschlies<sup>g</sup>, Andrew Pochinsky<sup>e</sup>, Giorgio Silvi<sup>i</sup>, Sergey Syritsyn<sup>d,h</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA

<sup>b</sup>Theory Center, Jefferson Lab, Newport News, VA 23606, USA

<sup>c</sup>Computation-based Science and Technology Research Center, The Cyprus Institute, 2121 Nicosia, Cyprus

<sup>d</sup>RIKEN BNL Research Center, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY 11973, USA

<sup>e</sup>Center for Theoretical Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

<sup>f</sup>Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Wuppertal, D-42119 Wuppertal, Germany

<sup>g</sup>Helmholtz-Institut für Strahlen- und Kernphysik, University of Bonn, D-53115 Bonn, Germany

<sup>h</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA

<sup>i</sup>Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, Jülich Supercomputing Centre, 52425 Jülich, Germany  
E-mail: [jgrs@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jgrs@email.arizona.edu)

In this project, we will compute the form factors relevant for  $B \rightarrow K^*(\rightarrow K\pi)\ell^+\ell^-$  decays. To map the finite-volume matrix elements computed on the lattice to the infinite-volume  $B \rightarrow K\pi$  matrix elements, the  $K\pi$  scattering amplitude needs to be determined using Lüscher's method. Here we present preliminary results from our calculations with 2 + 1 flavors of dynamical clover fermions. We extract the  $P$ -wave scattering phase shifts and determine the  $K^*$  resonance mass and the  $K^*K\pi$  coupling for two different ensembles with pion masses of 317(2) and 178(2) MeV.

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\*Speaker.

## 1. Introduction

Processes of the type  $b \rightarrow s\ell^+\ell^-$  occur at one-loop order and higher in the Standard Model and hence are suppressed. It is for this reason that these flavor-changing neutral-current decays are very important in the search for physics beyond the Standard Model. The effective Hamiltonian that describes  $b \rightarrow s\ell^+\ell^-$  decays at low energies [1] has the operators

$$O_{7(7')} = \frac{m_b}{e} \bar{s} \sigma^{\mu\nu} P_{R(L)} b F_{\mu\nu}, \quad O_{9(9')} = \bar{s} \gamma_\mu P_{L(R)} b \bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \ell, \quad O_{10(10')} = \bar{s} \gamma_\mu P_{L(R)} b \bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \ell, \quad (1.1)$$

as well as four-quark and gluonic operators. The coefficients  $C_i$  corresponding to these operators encode the short-distance physics and can be computed perturbatively in the Standard Model or in various new physics models. Global fits of experimental data from mesonic  $b \rightarrow s\ell^+\ell^-$  transitions show deviations from Standard-Model predictions, in particular in the Wilson coefficient  $C_9^{(\mu)}$  for the muonic final states [2, 3]. One process that contributes significantly to this tension is  $B \rightarrow K^*(\rightarrow K\pi)\ell^+\ell^-$ . The hadron  $K^*(892)$  in this process is unstable under the strong interaction, with a decay width of approximately 50 MeV. The  $B \rightarrow K^*$  form factors have been previously studied on the lattice in the single-hadron approach [4, 5], in which only a quark-antiquark interpolating field is used for the  $K^*$  and the analysis is performed as if the  $K^*$  were stable. This approach has uncontrolled systematic uncertainties, which are expected to become more severe as the quark masses are lowered toward their physical values and the  $K^*$  becomes broader.

To eliminate these systematic uncertainties, in this project we will compute the  $B \rightarrow K\pi$  matrix elements of the relevant  $b \rightarrow s$  currents, using the Briceño-Hansen-Walker-Loud generalization [6] of the Lellouch-Lüscher formalism [7] to map the finite-volume matrix elements computed on the lattice to the desired infinite-volume  $B \rightarrow K\pi$  matrix elements. The formalism requires a determination of the  $K\pi$  scattering amplitude on the same lattice using Lüscher's method [8, 9]. In this contribution, we present our preliminary results for this scattering amplitude. Previous lattice studies of  $K\pi$  scattering can be found in Refs. [10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15].

## 2. Calculating the scattering amplitude using lattice QCD

Lüscher's method [8, 9] utilizes the energy shifts caused by the interactions of the two-hadron system in the finite lattice volume to extract the infinite-volume scattering amplitude. The cubic box with periodic boundary conditions in the spatial dimensions leads to a quantization of the momenta and a purely discrete energy spectrum. In addition, the cubic box breaks the  $SO(3)$  rotational symmetry, reducing it to  $O_h$ , or to the relevant Little Group  $LG^{\vec{P}}$  at nonzero total momentum  $\vec{P}$ .

The operators that we use to extract the energy spectrum with the quantum numbers of the  $K^*$  must have  $I = 1/2$  and must be projected to irreps of  $LG^{\vec{P}}$  that contain the  $P$  wave (see Table 1). We use operators with quark-antiquark and  $K$ - $\pi$  structure,

$$\begin{aligned} O_{\bar{q}q,i}(\vec{p}) &= \sum_{\vec{x}} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \bar{s}(x) \gamma_i u(x), \quad O_{\bar{q}q,0i}(\vec{p}) = \sum_{\vec{x}} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \bar{s}(x) \gamma_0 \gamma_i u(x), \\ O_{K\pi}(\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2) &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \pi^+(\vec{p}_1) K^0(\vec{p}_2) - \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \pi^0(\vec{p}_2) K^+(\vec{p}_1), \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

$\frac{L}{2\pi}\vec{P}$	Little Group $LG^{\vec{P}}$	Irrep $\Lambda^{\vec{P},r}$	Spin content	Dimension
(0,0,0)	$O_h$	$A_{1g}$	$J = 0, 4, \dots$	1
(0,0,0)	$O_h$	$T_{1u}$	$J = 1, 3, \dots$	3
(0,0,1)	$C_{4v}$	$A_1$	$J = 0, 1, \dots$	1
(0,0,1)	$C_{4v}$	$E$	$J = 1, 2, \dots$	2
(0,1,1)	$C_{2v}$	$A_1$	$J = 0, 1, \dots$	1
(0,1,1)	$C_{2v}$	$B_3$	$J = 1, 2, \dots$	1
(0,1,1)	$C_{2v}$	$B_2$	$J = 1, 2, \dots$	1
(1,1,1)	$C_{3v}$	$A_1$	$J = 0, 1, \dots$	1
(1,1,1)	$C_{3v}$	$E$	$J = 1, 2, \dots$	2

**Table 1:** List of the total momenta  $\vec{P}$  that we use, along with their corresponding little groups, irreducible representations, and spin content [16]. Since we are interested in  $J = 1$ , we only consider the highlighted irreps.

where, for example,  $K^+(\vec{p}_1) = \sum_{\vec{x}} e^{i\vec{p}_1 \cdot \vec{x}} \bar{s}(x) \gamma_5 u(x)$ . We project these operators to the required irreps using the following procedure, which is based on the characters  $\chi(R)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 O_{K\pi, \Lambda}^{\vec{P}} &= \frac{\dim(\Lambda)}{\text{order}(LG^{\vec{P}})} \sum_{R \in LG^{\vec{P}}, \vec{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^3} \chi(R) O_{K\pi} \left( \vec{P}/2 + R(\vec{P}/2 + \frac{2\pi}{L}\vec{m}), \vec{P}/2 - R(\vec{P}/2 + \frac{2\pi}{L}\vec{m}) \right), \\
 O_{\bar{q}q, \Lambda}^{\vec{P}} &= \frac{\dim(\Lambda)}{\text{order}(LG^{\vec{P}})} \sum_{R \in LG^{\vec{P}}} \chi(R) R O_{\bar{q}q}(\vec{P}).
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

We then use these operators to construct a correlation matrix,  $C_{ij}(t) = \langle O_i(t) O_j^\dagger(0) \rangle$ , for each of the irreducible representations. There exist several methods to determine the spectrum from these correlation matrices; we use the generalized eigenvalue problem (GEVP) [17, 18], where we solve the equation

$$C_{ij}(t) u_j^n(t) = \lambda_n(t, t_0) C_{ij}(t_0) u_j^n(t) \tag{2.3}$$

for the eigenvalues  $\lambda_n(t, t_0)$  and eigenvectors  $u_j^n(t)$ . For large  $t$ , the eigenvalues satisfy  $\lambda_n(t, t_0) \propto e^{-E_n t}$ , and we perform single-exponential fits to  $\lambda_n(t, t_0)$  to extract  $E_n$ . Once we obtain the finite-volume spectrum, we map it to the infinite-volume phase shifts using the Lüscher quantization condition [8]

$$\det \left[ e^{2i\delta} (M^{\vec{P}} - i) - (M^{\vec{P}} + i) \right] = 0. \tag{2.4}$$

Here,  $[e^{2i\delta}]_{lm, l'm'} \equiv e^{2i\delta_l} \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}$  corresponds to the scattering matrix, where  $\delta_l$  is the scattering phase shift for angular momentum  $l$ , and  $M$  is a known matrix of finite-volume functions depending on the the total momentum  $\vec{P}$ , the scattering momentum, and the box size. When neglecting  $D$ -wave and higher contributions, it takes the form

$$M^{\vec{P}} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 00 & 10 & 11 & 1-1 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 00 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 1-1 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} w_{00}^{\vec{P}} & i\sqrt{3}w_{10}^{\vec{P}} & i\sqrt{3}w_{11}^{\vec{P}} & i\sqrt{3}w_{1-1}^{\vec{P}} \\ -i\sqrt{3}w_{10}^{\vec{P}} & w_{00}^{\vec{P}} + 2w_{20}^{\vec{P}} & \sqrt{3}w_{21}^{\vec{P}} & \sqrt{3}w_{2-1}^{\vec{P}} \\ i\sqrt{3}w_{1-1}^{\vec{P}} & -\sqrt{3}w_{2-1}^{\vec{P}} & w_{00}^{\vec{P}} - w_{20}^{\vec{P}} & -\sqrt{6}w_{2-2}^{\vec{P}} \\ i\sqrt{3}w_{11}^{\vec{P}} & -\sqrt{3}w_{21}^{\vec{P}} & -\sqrt{6}w_{22}^{\vec{P}} & w_{00}^{\vec{P}} - w_{20}^{\vec{P}} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, \quad (2.5)$$

where

$$w_{lm}^{\vec{P}} \equiv \frac{1}{\pi^{3/2} \sqrt{2l+1} \gamma q^{l+1}} Z_{lm}^{\vec{P}}(1; q^2), \quad (2.6)$$

with the relativistic Lorentz factor  $\gamma$ , the generalized zeta function  $Z_{lm}$ , and the dimensionless scattering momentum  $q = \frac{L}{2\pi}k$ . The scattering momentum  $k$  of the  $n$ -th energy level is determined by solving

$$\sqrt{s_n^{\vec{P}, \Lambda}} = \sqrt{m_\pi^2 + (k_n^{\vec{P}, \Lambda})^2} + \sqrt{m_K^2 + (k_n^{\vec{P}, \Lambda})^2}, \quad (2.7)$$

where the center-of-mass energy  $s_n^{\vec{P}, \Lambda}$  is related to the energy  $E_n^{\vec{P}, \Lambda}$  on the lattice via  $\sqrt{s_n^{\vec{P}, \Lambda}} = \sqrt{(E_n^{\vec{P}, \Lambda})^2 - (\vec{P})^2}$ . The matrix  $M^{\vec{P}}$  simplifies to a block-diagonal form once the specific symmetries belonging to the system with total momentum  $\vec{P}$  are taken into account. The quantization condition (2.4) then becomes a product of quantization conditions, each belonging to its own irreducible representation  $\Lambda$ .

The  $K\pi$  system has no parity symmetry at non-zero momentum [12]; consequently, certain irreps will have contributions from  $S$ -wave and  $P$ -wave scattering states at the same time. This becomes a challenging technical problem, because the  $S$ -wave phase shift is non-negligible in the region of interest. In this first analysis, we therefore limit ourselves to the irreducible representations that do not contain  $l = 0$ , as indicated in Table 1.

### 3. Parameters of the lattice gauge-field ensembles

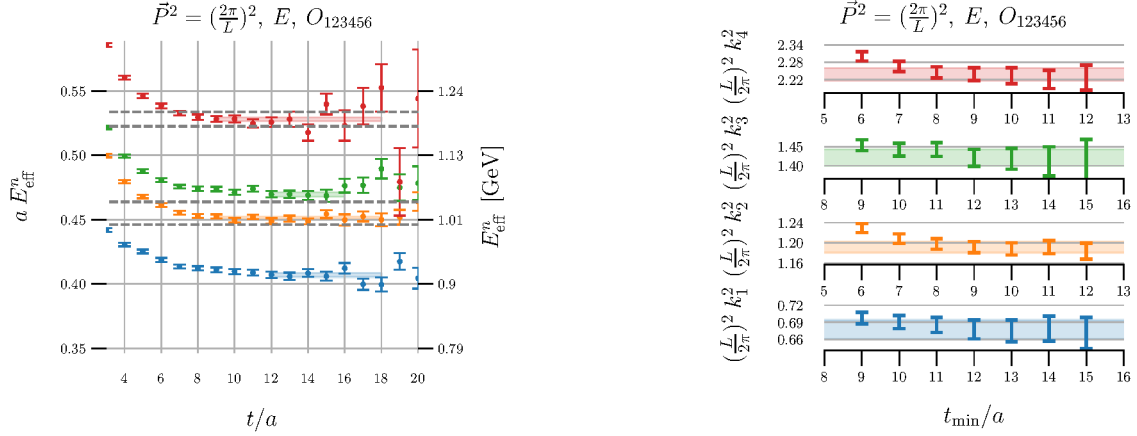
We use two ensembles with  $N_f = 2 + 1$  dynamical quark flavors, utilizing a clover-improved Wilson action and the tadpole-improved tree-level Symanzik gauge action. The gauge links in the fermion action are smeared using one level of stout smearing to avoid instabilities in the hybrid-Monte-Carlo evolution. The parameters of the lattice gauge ensembles are given in Table 2.

Label	$N_L^3 \times N_t$	$a$ (fm)	$L$ (fm)	$m_\pi$ (MeV)	$m_K$ (MeV)	$N_{\text{meas}}$
C13	$32^3 \times 96$	0.11403(77)	3.65(2)	317(2)	527(4)	7060
D6	$48^3 \times 96$	0.08766(79)	4.21(4)	178(2)	514(5)	5248

**Table 2:** Parameters of the two ensembles and numbers of measurements analyzed.

#### 4. Preliminary results

Figure 1 (left) shows an example of an effective mass plot from the eigenvalues  $\lambda_n(t, t_0)$  obtained with the GEVP method, for the  $E$  irrep with  $\vec{P}^2 = (\frac{2\pi}{L})^2$ . In Fig. 1 (right) the stability of the single-exponential fits to  $\lambda_n(t, t_0)$  is demonstrated by varying the  $t_{\min}$  at which the fits start. We choose the  $t_{\min}$  at which the energies (or equivalently, the scattering momenta) reach stable plateaus.



**Figure 1:** Left: effective-mass plot of the GEVP eigenvalues for irrep  $E$ , which has a total momentum squared of  $\vec{P}^2 = (\frac{2\pi}{L})^2$ . Right: the squared dimensionless scattering momenta obtained from the fitted energies, plotted as a function of  $t_{\min}$ . The data shown here are from the D6 ensemble.

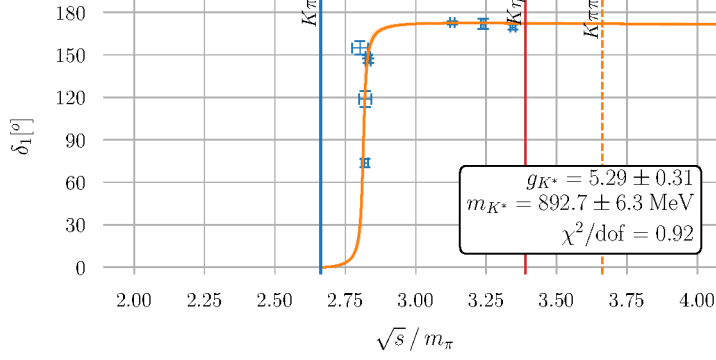
The preliminary phase shift fit results obtained using Lüscher's method are shown in Figs. 2 and 3 for ensembles C13 and D6, respectively. Also shown in the figures are fits of the energy-dependence using Breit-Wigner parametrizations of the form

$$\delta_{l=1} = \arccot \left( \frac{6\pi\sqrt{s}}{g_{K^*}^2 k^3} (m_{K^*}^2 - s) \right). \quad (4.1)$$

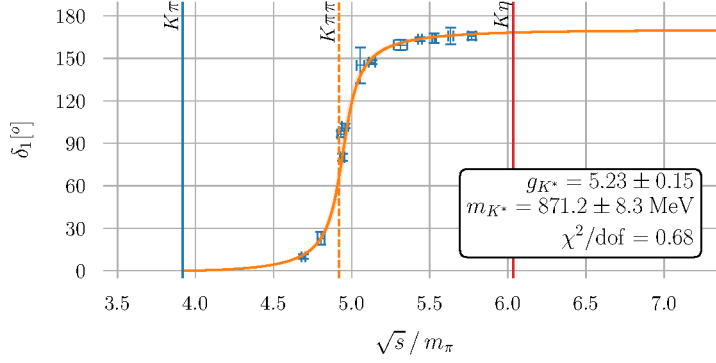
For both ensembles, we truncated the data before reaching the  $K\eta$  threshold in order to avoid any inelastic effects. For the D6 ensemble, the  $K\pi\pi$  threshold is located near the resonance, as shown in Fig. 3. However, the coupling of this three-meson channel with the  $K\pi$  channel is not observed in experiment [19], and it is therefore reasonable to assume that it does not significantly affect our elastic scattering results. The values of  $g_{K^*}$  and  $m_{K^*}$  obtained from our fits, also displayed in Figs. 2 and 3, are consistent with previous lattice calculations at similar pion masses [12, 13, 14, 15].

#### 5. Outlook

In the near future we plan to add a third ensemble of lattice gauge configurations, which will allow us to study the dependence on both  $m_\pi$  and  $a$ . Furthermore, we will include the irreducible representations in which the  $S$  and  $P$  waves mix, and we will include the coupling to the  $K\eta$  channel. After the determinations of the scattering amplitudes are completed, we will proceed with the analysis of the transition matrix elements for the process  $B \rightarrow K\pi\ell^+\ell^-$ , which is the main goal of this project.



**Figure 2:** Phase shift points obtained from the C13 ensemble, along with a Breit-Wigner fit using Eq. (4.1). The parameters obtained from the fit are given in the bottom-right corner. The relevant thresholds are indicated with vertical lines.



**Figure 3:** Like Fig. 2, but for the D6 ensemble.

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