

Rare s to d transitions from Lattice QCD

Vera Gülpers

Nordic Lattice Meeting 2026

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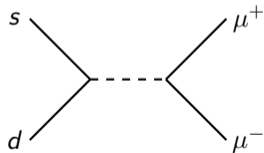


THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Physics
& Astronomy



Weak transition of quarks

- three generations of quarks in the Standard Model
- weak transitions of quarks in the Standard Model
- charged weak interaction (W^\pm):
→ mixes quark generations (CKM matrix)
- neutral weak interaction (Z):
→ no flavour changing neutral currents (FCNC) at tree-level



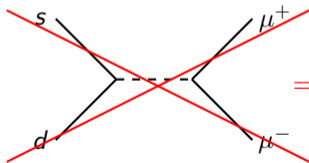
u	c	t
d	s	b

- CKM matrix

	d	s	b
u	■	■	■
c	■	■	■
t	■	■	■

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⇒ no Standard Model process

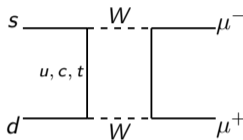
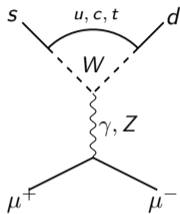
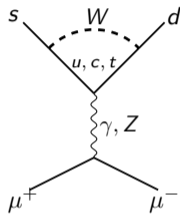
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- CKM matrix

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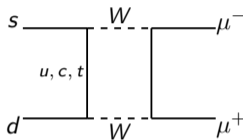
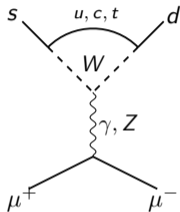
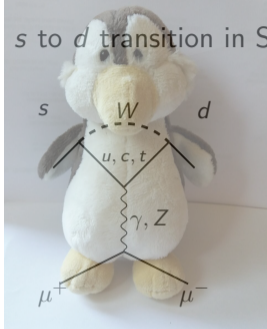
FCNC in the Standard Model

- s to d transition in Standard Model only via loop-processes, e.g.



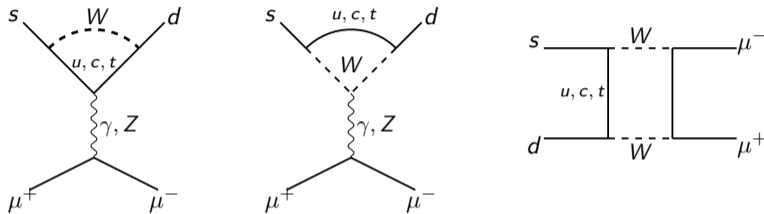
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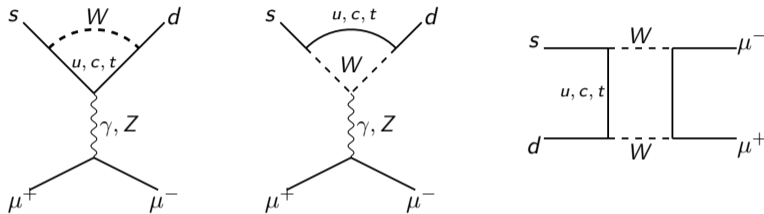


→ rare in the Standard Model

→ sensitive to new physics including a FCNC at tree-level

FCNC in the Standard Model

- s to d transition in Standard Model only via loop-processes, e.g.



→ rare in the Standard Model

→ sensitive to new physics including a FCNC at tree-level

Outline

- rare Kaon decay $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$ [VG et al Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023) 1, L011503]
- rare Hyperon decay $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p l^+ l^-$ [VG et al JHEP 04 (2023) 108, JHEP 07 (2025) 038]

The rare Kaon Decay $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$

The rare Kaon decay

- rare decay of a charged kaon $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$
- measured experimentally by NA48, NA62 @CERN [PDG]

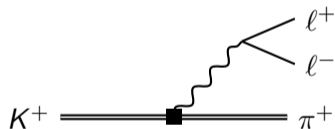
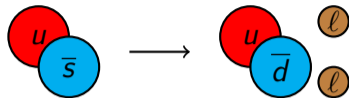
$$\text{Br}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ e^+ e^-) = (3.00 \pm 0.09) \times 10^{-7}$$

$$\text{Br}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \mu^+ \mu^-) = (9.17 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-8}$$

- long-distance dominated [D'Ambrosio *et al* 1998]
- decay via virtual photon $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma^* \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$

$$\mathcal{A}_\mu(q^2) = \int d^4x \langle \pi(\vec{p}) | T [J_\mu(0) H_W(x)] | K(\vec{k}) \rangle$$

- em current J_μ
- $\Delta S = 1$ effective weak Hamiltonian H_W



The rare Kaon decay - hadronic amplitude

- H_W given by four-quark operators

$$H_W = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{us}^* V_{ud} \sum_{j=1}^2 C_j (Q_j^u - Q_j^c)$$

[Buchalla *et al* 1996]

- Wilson coefficients C_j

- form factor decomposition for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \gamma^*$ amplitude

$$\mathcal{A}_\mu(q^2) = -i \frac{G_F}{(4\pi)^2} V(q^2/M_K^2) [q^2(k+p)_\mu - (M_K^2 - M_\pi^2)q_\mu]$$

- em form factor $V(z)$ parameterised as

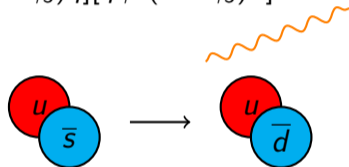
[D'Ambrosio *et al* 1998]

$$V(z) = a_+ + b_+ z + V^{\pi\pi}(z)$$

- four quark operators

$$Q_1^q = [\bar{s}\gamma_\mu(1 - \gamma_5)d][\bar{q}\gamma^\mu(1 - \gamma_5)q]$$

$$Q_2^q = [\bar{s}\gamma_\mu(1 - \gamma_5)q][\bar{q}\gamma^\mu(1 - \gamma_5)d]$$



	a_+	b_+
NA48 $\ell = e$	-0.578(16)	-0.779(66)
NA64 $\ell = \mu$	-0.592(15)	-0.699(58)

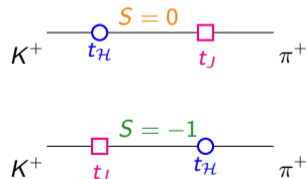
The rare Kaon decay from Euclidean space-time

- strategy developed in [N. Christ et al, PRD 92, 094512 (2015)]
- interested in the **Minkowski** amplitude

$$\mathcal{A}_\mu(q^2) = \int d^4x \langle \pi(\vec{p}) | T [J_\mu(0) H_W(x)] | K(\vec{k}) \rangle$$

- spectral representation

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_\mu(q^2) = & i \int_0^\infty dE \frac{\rho(E)}{2E} \frac{\langle \pi(p) | J_\mu | E, k \rangle \langle E, k | H_W | K(\vec{k}) \rangle}{E_{K(\vec{k})} - E + i\epsilon} \\ & - i \int_0^\infty dE \frac{\sigma(E)}{2E} \frac{\langle \pi(p) | H_W | E, p \rangle \langle E, p | J_\mu | K(\vec{k}) \rangle}{E - E_{\pi(\vec{p})} - i\epsilon} \end{aligned}$$



- spectral densities ρ (strangeness $S=0$), σ (strangeness $S=1$)

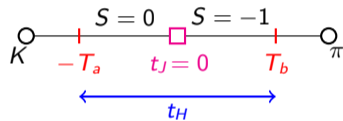
The rare Kaon decay from Euclidean space-time

- Euclidean 4pt function

$$\Gamma_{\mu}^{(4)}(t_H, t_{\pi}, t_K; \vec{p}, \vec{k}) = \int d\vec{x} \langle \psi^{\pi}(t_{\pi}, \vec{p}) \mathcal{H}_W(t_H, \vec{x}) J_{\mu}(0) \bar{\psi}^K(t_K, \vec{k}) \rangle$$

- extract amplitude \mathcal{A}_{μ} by integrating over t_H

$$I_{\mu}(T_a, T_b; \vec{p}, \vec{k}) = \int_{-T_a}^{T_b} dt_H \Gamma_{\mu}^{(4)}(t_H, t_{\pi}, t_K; \vec{p}, \vec{k})$$



- spectral representation

$$I_{\mu}(T_a, T_b; \vec{p}, \vec{k}) \propto - \int_0^{\infty} dE \frac{\rho(E)}{2E} \frac{\langle \pi(p) | J_{\mu} | E, k \rangle \langle E, k | H_W | K(\vec{k}) \rangle}{E_K(\vec{k}) - E} \left[1 - e^{(E_K(\vec{k}) - E)T_a} \right] \\ + \int_0^{\infty} dE \frac{\sigma(E)}{2E} \frac{\langle \pi(p) | H_W | E, p \rangle \langle E, p | J_{\mu} | K(\vec{k}) \rangle}{E_K(\vec{k}) - E} \left[1 - e^{-(E - E_{\pi}(\vec{p}))T_b} \right]$$

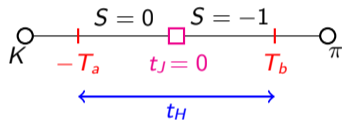
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$$I_\mu(T_a, T_b; \vec{p}, \vec{k}) \propto - \int_0^\infty dE \frac{\rho(E)}{2E} \frac{\langle \pi(p) | J_\mu | E, k \rangle \langle E, k | H_W | K(\vec{k}) \rangle}{E_K(\vec{k}) - E} \left[1 - e^{(E_K(\vec{k}) - E)T_a} \right] + \int_0^\infty dE \frac{\sigma(E)}{2E} \frac{\langle \pi(p) | H_W | E, p \rangle \langle E, p | J_\mu | K(\vec{k}) \rangle}{E_K(\vec{k}) - E} \left[1 - e^{-(E - E_\pi(\vec{p}))T_b} \right]$$

desired \mathcal{A}_μ

Growing exponentials

- all intermediate states $|E, p\rangle$ with $S = 1$ have $E > E_\pi(\vec{p})$

$$\int_0^\infty dE \frac{\sigma(E)}{2E} \frac{\langle \pi(p) | H_W | E, p \rangle \langle E, p | J_\mu | K(\vec{k}) \rangle}{E_{K(\vec{k})} - E} \left[1 - e^{-(E - E_\pi(\vec{p}))T_b} \right] \quad \text{for } T_b \rightarrow \infty$$

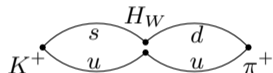
- $S = 0$ intermediate states $|E, k\rangle$ with $E < E_K(\vec{k}) \rightarrow$ growing exponentials for $T_a \rightarrow \infty$

$$\int_0^\infty dE \frac{\rho(E)}{2E} \frac{\langle \pi(p) | J_\mu | E, k \rangle \langle E, k | H_W | K(\vec{k}) \rangle}{E_{K(\vec{k})} - E} \left[1 - e^{(E_{K(\vec{k})} - E)T_a} \right]$$

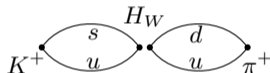
- ▶ single pion: needs to be removed (e.g. by explicit reconstruction)
- ▶ two pions: $\langle \pi | J_\mu | \pi\pi \rangle$ vanishes for $a \rightarrow 0$
- ▶ three pions: phase-space suppressed

Wick contractions

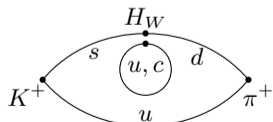
- Wick contractions of 3pt function $C_{H_W}^{3\text{pt}}(t_H, \vec{p}) = \sum_{\vec{x}} \langle \phi_\pi(t_\pi, \vec{p}) H_W(t_H, \vec{x}) \phi_K^\dagger(0, \vec{p}) \rangle$



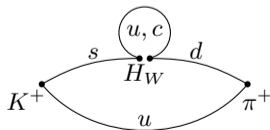
connected



Wing



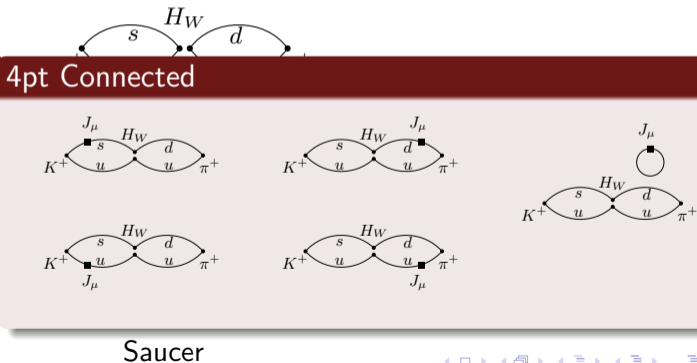
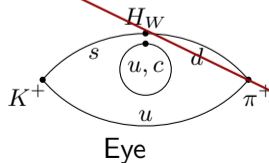
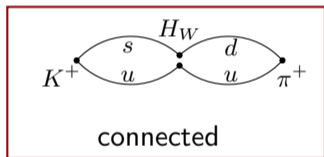
Eye



Saucer

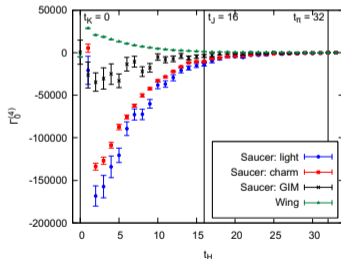
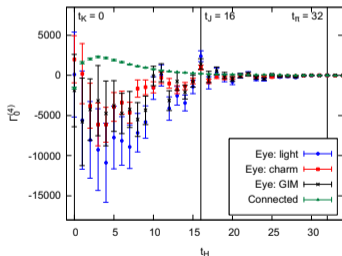
Wick contractions

- Wick contractions of 3pt function $C_{H_W}^{3\text{pt}}(t_H, \vec{p}) = \sum_{\vec{x}} \langle \phi_\pi(t_\pi, \vec{p}) H_W(t_H, \vec{x}) \phi_K^\dagger(0, \vec{p}) \rangle$
- Wick contractions of 4pt function $C_\mu^{4\text{pt}}(t_H, t_J, \vec{k}, \vec{p}) = \sum_{\vec{x}} \sum_{\vec{y}} e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{x}} \langle \phi_\pi(t_\pi, \vec{p}) J_\mu(t_J, \vec{x}) H_W(t_H, \vec{y}) \phi_K^\dagger(t_K, \vec{k}) \rangle$

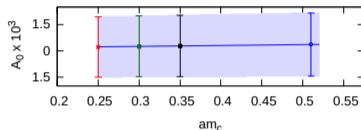


$K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$ physical quark-mass result [VG et al, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023) 1, L011503]

- $N_f = 2 + 1$ Möbius Domain Wall Fermions
- $48^3 \times 96$ lattice with $a^{-1} = 1.73$ GeV
- physical light and strange mass
- three lighter-than-physical charm masses
- kinematics: $\vec{k} = 0, \vec{p} = (1, 0, 0) 2\pi/L$



- extrapolation of \mathcal{A}_0 to physical charm mass



- form factor $V(q^2/M_K^2)$

$$V(0.013) = 0.87(4.44)$$

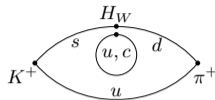
- reduction of ≈ 10 in error needed to be sensitive to experiment

- error dominated by eye-type diagrams with GIM

Split-even estimators for eye-type diagrams

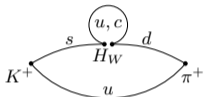
- Eye-type diagrams (GIM) need quark-loop differences

$$\Delta L(x_H) = S^\ell(x_H|x_H) - S^c(x_H|x_H) = (m_c - m_\ell) \sum_x S^\ell(x_H|x) S^c(x|x_H)$$



- standard noise estimator

$$S^q(x_H|x_H) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \phi_i^q(x_H) \eta_i^\dagger(x_H) \quad \text{with} \quad \sum_{x_H} D^q(x|x_H) \phi_i^q(x_H) = \eta_i(x)$$



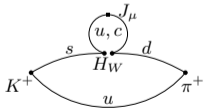
- split-even estimator can greatly improve noise-to-signal [L. Giusti et al, Eur. Phys. J. C 79 (2019)]

$$\Delta L(x_H) = (m_c - m_\ell) \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{x,y} S^\ell(x_H|x) \eta_i(x) \eta_i^\dagger(y) S^c(y|x_H)$$

- current insertion on loop:

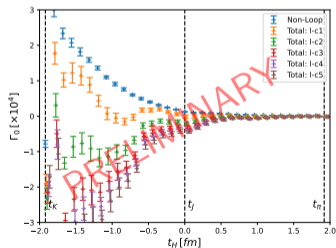
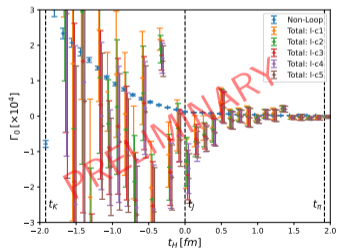
$$S^u(x_H|x) \gamma_\mu S^u(x|x_H) - S^c(x_H|x) \gamma_\mu S^c(x|x_H)$$

$$[S^u(x_H|x) \gamma_\mu S^u(x|x_H) - S^c(x_H|x) \gamma_\mu S^u(x|x_H)] + [S^c(x_H|x) \gamma_\mu S^u(x|x_H) - S^c(x_H|x) \gamma_\mu S^c(x|x_H)]$$



Preliminary results using split-even

- Preliminary results with split-even estimator [R. Hodgson, VG et al, PoS Lattice 2024]
- small statistics: 10 gauge configurations, 6 time translations, 32 noise sources
- five charm masses ($m_s^{\text{phys}} \leq m_{c_i} < m_c^{\text{phys}}$)
 - frequency splitting: $l - c = (l - c_1) + (c_1 - c_2) + \dots + (c_N - c)$
- left: standard noise estimator, right: split-even estimator

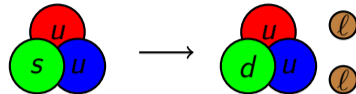


- $\mathcal{O}(10)\times$ reduction in statistical error with split-even

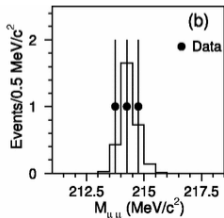
The rare Hyperon Decay $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p l^+ l^-$

The rare Hyperon decay - Experiment

- rare Hyperon decay $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p \ell^+ \ell^-$

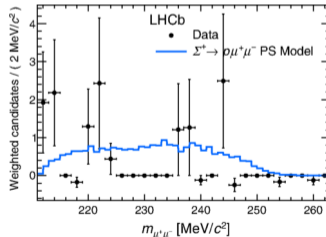


- HyperCP @Fermilab (2005)
- 3 events
- $\mathcal{B}(\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p \mu^+ \mu^-) = (8.6_{-5.4}^{+6.6} \pm 5.5) \times 10^{-8}$
- all at $M_{\mu\mu} \approx 214 \text{ MeV}$
"HyperCP-anomaly"



HyperCP
[PRL 94 (2005) 021801]

- LHCb @CERN (2018)
- 10 events
- $\mathcal{B}(\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p \mu^+ \mu^-) = (2.2_{-1.3}^{+1.8}) \times 10^{-8}$



LHCb [PRL 120 (2018) 22, 221803]

The rare Hyperon decay - Standard Model Prediction

- long distance dominated [He et al, Phys.Rev.D72 (2005) 074003]

$$\mathcal{B}^{\text{short}} \sim 10^{-12}$$

- long distance given by hadronic amplitude for $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p\gamma^*$

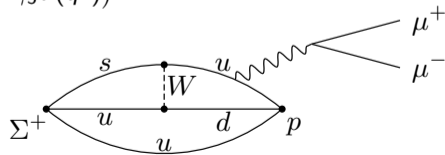
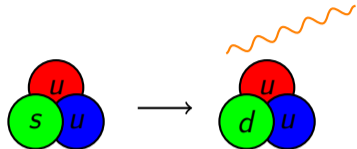
$$\mathcal{A}_\mu^{rs}(q^2) = \int d^4x \langle p(\vec{p}_N), r | T[\mathcal{H}_W(x) J_\mu(0)] | \Sigma^+(\vec{p}_\Sigma), s \rangle \equiv \bar{u}_N^r \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_\mu(q^2) u_\Sigma^s$$

- form factor decomposition

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_\mu(q^2) = i\sigma_{\nu\mu}q^\nu (a(q^2) + \gamma_5 b(q^2)) + (q^2\gamma_\mu - q_\mu\not{q}) (c(q^2) + \gamma_5 d(q^2))$$

- positive parity a, c , negative parity b, d
- SM prediction (Models & experimental input)

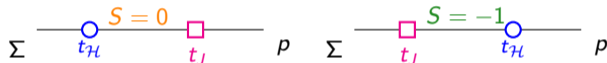
$$1.6 \times 10^{-8} < \mathcal{B}(\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p\mu^+\mu^-) < 9.0 \times 10^{-8}$$



The rare Hyperon decay from Lattice QCD

- formalism developed in [VG et al, JHEP 04 (2023) 108]
- rare Hyperon decay 4pt function

$$\Gamma_{\mu}^{(4)}(t_H, t_p, t_{\Sigma}; \vec{p}, \vec{k})_L = \int d\vec{x} \left\langle \psi^p(t_p, \vec{p}) \mathcal{H}_W(t_H, \vec{x}) J_{\mu}(0) \bar{\psi}^{\Sigma^+}(t_{\Sigma}, \vec{k}) \right\rangle_L$$

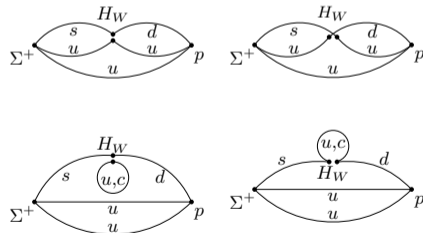


- intermediate states with $S = 0$: single proton $P(k)$; $N\pi$ state with $E_{N\pi}(k) < E_{\Sigma}(k)$

→ growing exponentials when integrating over t_H

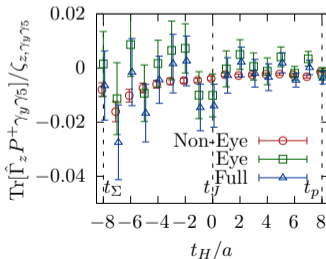
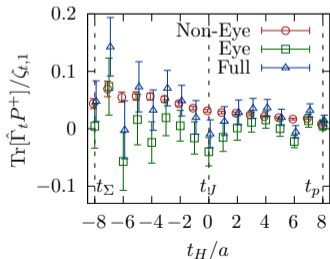
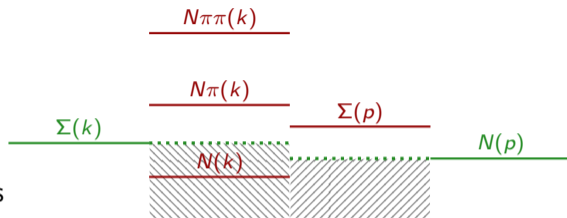
→ FV corrections from $N\pi$ state

- Wick contractions: four topologies



The rare Hyperon decay - exploratory calculation [VG et al, JHEP 07 (2025) 038]

- $24^3 \times 64$ lattice, $a^{-1} = 1.78$ GeV
- $m_\pi \approx 340$ MeV
- $\vec{k} = 0$ and $\vec{p} = (1, 0, 0) \frac{2\pi}{L}$
- 4pt functions (Baryons) spin-matrices
- traces with Γ -structures to access form factors



- positive parity form factors

	Re a [MeV]	Re c [10^{-2}]
NE	-6.2(8.3)	-1.6(1.7)
Full	-27.0(39.0)	-2.7(9.4)

- \mathcal{O} of pheno results:

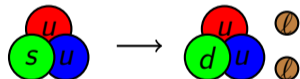
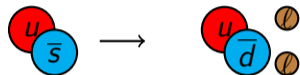
$$\text{Re } a \sim 10 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\text{Re } c \sim 10^{-2}.$$

Conclusions

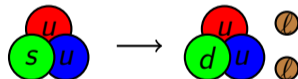
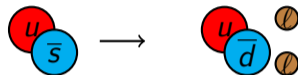
Summary

- weak decays with $s \rightarrow d$ quark transitions require FCNC \rightarrow sensitive to new physics
 - ▶ rare Kaon decay $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$
 - ▶ rare Hyperon decay $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p l^+ l^-$
- physical quark-mass results for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ l^+ l^-$
 - ▶ error dominated by eye-type diagrams with GIM subtraction
 - ▶ preliminary results using split-even approach promising
- exploratory calculation for $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p l^+ l^-$ with m_π 340 MeV
 - ▶ positive parity form factors same \mathcal{O} as phenomenology
 - ▶ physical mass calculation very challenging



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Thank you

appendix

Subtraction of single pion growing exponential

- single pion intermediate state with growing exponential

$$\sim \langle K(\vec{k}) | H_W | \pi(\vec{p}) \rangle \langle \pi(\vec{p}) | J_\mu | \pi(\vec{p}) \rangle$$

- reconstruct the single-pion state from 3pt functions

$$\Gamma_H^3 = \langle \psi^\pi(\vec{p}) H_W \bar{\psi}^K(\vec{k}) \rangle \quad \Gamma_J^3 = \langle \psi^\pi(\vec{p}) J_\mu \bar{\psi}^\pi(\vec{p}) \rangle$$

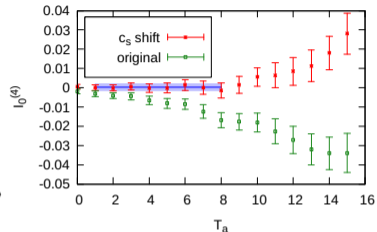
- direct fit of growing term to 4pt function
- reconstruct from Γ^3 and subtract
- approximation: 0 mom transfer
- approximation: $SU(3)$ symmetry

- additive scalar shift to the weak Hamiltonian

$$H'_W = H_W - c_s \bar{s}d$$

leaves amplitude \mathcal{A}_μ unchanged

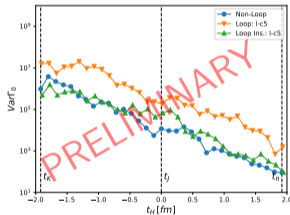
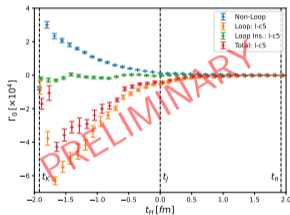
[Christ et al, Phys.Rev.D 92 (2015) 9, 094512]



Analysis	$\mathcal{A}_0 @ m_{c_1}$
Method 1	
Direct fit	-0.00052(208)
2pt/3pt recon	-0.00036(162)
0 mom transfer	-0.00087(165)
$SU(3)$ symm lim	0.00055(165)
Method 2	
c_s shift	0.00022(172)

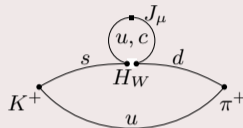
Split-even estimators: current insertion at loop

- comparison of noise of eye-type diagrams with current at loop (loop insertion LI) or not at loop
- LI computationally more expensive than non non-LI
- correlators on left, variance on the right

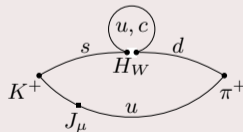


- noise dominated by eye-type diagrams with current not inserted at the loop

example: eye-type LI



example: eye-type non-LI



rare Hyperon decay - phenomenological estimate

- Standard Model prediction

[He *et al*, Phys.Rev.D 72 (2005) 074003, JHEP 10 (2018) 040]

- Baryon ChiPT & experimental input $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow N\pi$
- vector meson dominance
- experimental input from $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p\gamma$

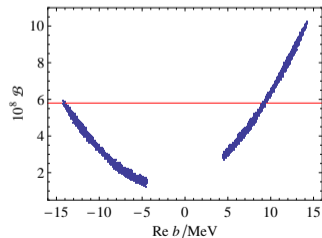
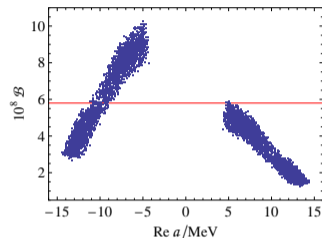
$$\Gamma(\Sigma \rightarrow p\gamma) \propto (|a(0)|^2 + |b(0)|^2)$$

$$\frac{d\Gamma(\Sigma \rightarrow p\gamma)}{d\cos\theta} \rightarrow 2 \operatorname{Re}(a(0)b(0)^*)$$

- arrive at a large range of results

$$1.6 \times 10^{-8} < \mathcal{B}(\Sigma^+ \rightarrow p\mu^+\mu^-)_{\text{SM}} < 9.0 \times 10^{-8}$$

[He *et al*, JHEP 10 (2018) 040]



rare Hyperon decay: from integrated 4pt to form factors

- integrated 4pt function for both time orderings

$$I_{\mu}^{\rho} = -i \int_{-T}^0 dt_H \hat{\Gamma}_{\mu}^{(4)}$$

$$I_{\mu}^{\sigma} = -i \int_0^T dt_H \hat{\Gamma}_{\mu}^{(4)}$$

- construct appropriate traces

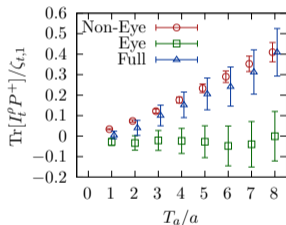
$$\text{Tr}[\mathcal{A}_{\mu} \Gamma] = \zeta_{\mu}^{\Gamma} f_{\mu}$$

- ζ_{μ}^{Γ} : kinematic factors
- f_{μ} : linear combinations of form factors

$$\begin{pmatrix} f_t \\ f_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & m_{\Sigma} + m_p \\ m_{\Sigma} + m_p & q^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ c \end{pmatrix}$$

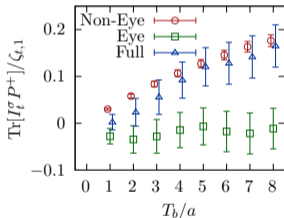
- fits to the data give

	$f_t^{\rho} [10^{-1}]$	$f_t^{\sigma} [10^{-1}]$
NE	2.81(0.33)	-3.07(0.26)
Full	3.41(1.14)	-3.94(0.93)



exp growing

$$\mathcal{A}_t^{\rho} = c_t^{\rho} e^{-(m_p - m_{\Sigma})T}$$



exp slowly decaying

$$\mathcal{A}_t^{\sigma} = c_t^{\sigma} e^{-(E_{\Sigma} - E_p)T}$$