

# Dynamical lattice computation of the Isgur-Wise functions $\tau_{1/2}$ and $\tau_{3/2}$

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We perform a two-flavor dynamical lattice computation of the Isgur-Wise functions  $\tau_{1/2}$  and  $\tau_{3/2}$  at zero recoil in the static limit. We find  $\tau_{1/2}(1) = 0.297(26)$  and  $\tau_{3/2}(1) = 0.528(23)$  fulfilling Uraltsev's sum rule by around 80%. We also comment on a persistent conflict between theory and experiment regarding semileptonic decays of  $B$  mesons into orbitally excited  $P$  wave  $D$  mesons, the so-called "1/2 versus 3/2 puzzle", and we discuss the relevance of lattice results in this context.

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## 1. Introduction

We are concerned with semileptonic decays of  $B$  mesons ( $B$  and  $B^*$ ) into orbitally excited  $P$  wave  $D$  mesons (collectively denoted as  $D^{**}$ 's):  $B^{(*)} \rightarrow D^{**} l \nu$ . These decays are of particular interest, because there is a persistent conflict between theory and experiment, the so-called “1/2 versus 3/2 puzzle”: while experimental results indicate that a decay into “1/2  $P$  wave  $D^{**}$ 's” is more likely, theory favors the decay into “3/2  $P$  wave  $D^{**}$ 's” (for recent reviews cf. [1, 2]).

### 1.1 Heavy-light mesons

A heavy-light meson is made from a heavy quark ( $b, c$ ) and a light quark ( $u, d$ ), i.e.  $B = \{\bar{b}u, \bar{b}d\}$  and  $D = \{\bar{c}u, \bar{c}d\}$ .

In the static limit ( $m_b, m_c \rightarrow \infty$ ) there are no interactions involving the static quark spin. Therefore, it is appropriate to classify states according to parity  $\mathcal{P}$  and the total angular momentum of the light quarks and gluons  $j$  (cf. the left column of Table 1).

If  $m_b, m_c$  are finite,  $j$  is not a good quantum number anymore. States have to be classified according to parity  $\mathcal{P}$  and total angular momentum  $J$  (cf. the right column of Table 1). Although  $j$  is not a “true quantum number” anymore, it is still an approximate quantum number justifying the notation  $D_J^j$ . The above mentioned  $P$  wave  $D^{**}$ 's are  $\{D_0^*, D_1', D_1, D_2^*\} = \{D_0^{1/2}, D_1^{1/2}, D_1^{3/2}, D_2^{3/2}\}$ .

$j^{\mathcal{P}}$	$J^{\mathcal{P}}$
$(1/2)^- \equiv S$	$0^- \equiv B, D$ $1^- \equiv B^*, D^*$
$(1/2)^+ \equiv P_-$	$0^+ \equiv D_0^* \equiv D_0^{1/2}$ $1^+ \equiv D_1' \equiv D_1^{1/2}$
$(3/2)^+ \equiv P_+$	$1^+ \equiv D_1 \equiv D_1^{3/2}$ $2^+ \equiv D_2^* \equiv D_2^{3/2}$

**Table 1:** Classification of heavy-light mesons (left: static limit; right: finite heavy quark masses).

### 1.2 The 1/2 versus 3/2 puzzle

Experiments (ALEPH, BaBar, BELLE, CDF, DELPHI, DØ), which have studied the semileptonic decay  $B \rightarrow X_c l \nu$  (where  $X_c$  is some hadronic part containing a  $c$  quark), find the following composition of  $X_c$ :

- $\approx 75\%$   $D$  and  $D^*$ , i.e.  $S$  wave states (which is in agreement with theory).
- $\approx 10\%$   $D_1^{3/2}$  and  $D_2^{3/2}$ , i.e.  $j = 3/2$   $P$  wave states (which is in agreement with theory).
- For the remaining  $\approx 15\%$  the situation is rather vague: a natural candidate would be  $D_0^{1/2}$  and  $D_1^{1/2}$ , i.e.  $j = 1/2$   $P$  wave states. This, however, would imply  $\Gamma(B \rightarrow D_{0,1}^{1/2} l \nu) > \Gamma(B \rightarrow D_{1,2}^{3/2} l \nu)$ , which is in conflict with theory. This conflict between experiment and theory is called the 1/2 versus 3/2 puzzle.

On the theory side most statements are made in the static limit  $m_b, m_c \rightarrow \infty$ . In this limit the eight matrix elements relevant for decays  $B \rightarrow D^{**} l \nu$  can be parameterized by two form factors, the Isgur-Wise functions  $\tau_{1/2}$  and  $\tau_{3/2}$  [3]. Here we only list two of these matrix elements:

$$\langle D_0^{1/2}(v') | \bar{c} \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu b | B(v) \rangle \propto \tau_{1/2}(w)(v - v')_\mu \quad (1.1)$$

$$\langle D_2^{3/2}(v', \varepsilon) | \bar{c} \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu b | B(v) \rangle \propto \tau_{3/2}(w) \left( (w+1) \varepsilon_{\mu\alpha}^* v^\alpha - \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^* v^\alpha v^\beta v'_\nu \right), \quad (1.2)$$

where  $v$  and  $v'$  are the four velocities associated with the  $B$  and the  $D$  meson respectively,  $w = (v' \cdot v)$  and  $\varepsilon$  is the polarization tensor of the  $D$  meson.

By means of operator product expansion (OPE) a couple of sum rules has been derived in the static limit [4, 5]. The most prominent in this context is the Uraltsev sum rule,

$$\sum_n \left( \left| \tau_{3/2}^{(n)}(1) \right|^2 - \left| \tau_{1/2}^{(n)}(1) \right|^2 \right) = \frac{1}{4}, \quad (1.3)$$

where  $\tau_{1/2} \equiv \tau_{1/2}^{(0)}$ ,  $\tau_{3/2} \equiv \tau_{3/2}^{(0)}$  and the sum is over all 1/2 and 3/2  $P$  wave states respectively. From experience with sum rules one expects approximate saturation from the ground states, i.e.

$$\left| \tau_{3/2}^{(0)}(1) \right|^2 - \left| \tau_{1/2}^{(0)}(1) \right|^2 \approx \frac{1}{4}, \quad (1.4)$$

which implies  $|\tau_{1/2}(1)| < |\tau_{3/2}(1)|$ . This in turn strongly suggests

$\Gamma(B \rightarrow D_{0,1}^{1/2} l \nu) < \Gamma(B \rightarrow D_{1,2}^{3/2} l \nu)$ , which, as already mentioned, is in conflict with experiment.

Phenomenological models [6, 7] give the same qualitative picture, even when considering finite heavy quark masses [8].

Possible explanations to resolve the 1/2 versus 3/2 puzzle include the following:

- The experimental signal for the remaining 15% of  $X_c$  is rather vague; therefore, only a small part might actually be  $D_0^{1/2}$  and  $D_1^{1/2}$ .
- Sum rules like (1.3) might not be saturated by the ground states.
- Sum rules derived by OPE hold in the static limit and might change for finite heavy quark masses.
- Sum rules make statements about the zero recoil situation ( $w = 1$ ), where the  $B$  and the  $D$  meson have the same velocity; to obtain decay rates, however, one has to integrate over  $w$ .

With a dynamical lattice computation of  $\tau_{1/2}(1)$  and  $\tau_{3/2}(1)$  in the static limit, which is presented in the following section, we attempt to shed some light on this puzzle.

## 2. Lattice computation of $\tau_{1/2}$ and $\tau_{3/2}$

For a more detailed presentation of this computation we refer to [9]. We use a method, which was proposed and tested in the quenched case in [10].

Since the ‘‘Isgur-Wise relations’’ (1.1) and (1.2) are not directly useful to compute  $\tau_{1/2}(1)$  and  $\tau_{3/2}(1)$  (the right hand sides vanish at zero recoil), they have to be rewritten as shown in [11]:

$$\langle D_0^{1/2}(v) | \bar{c} \gamma_5 \gamma_j D_k b | B(v) \rangle = -ig_{jk} \left( m(D_0^{1/2}) - m(B) \right) \tau_{1/2}(1) \quad (2.1)$$

$$\langle D_2^{3/2}(v, \varepsilon) | \bar{c} \gamma_5 \gamma_j D_k b | B(v) \rangle = +i\sqrt{3}\varepsilon_{jk} \left( m(D_2^{3/2}) - m(B) \right) \tau_{3/2}(1). \quad (2.2)$$

We compute  $\tau_{1/2}$  by means of (2.1) and an ‘‘effective form factor’’:

$$\tau_{1/2}(1) = \lim_{t_0-t_1 \rightarrow \infty, t_1-t_2 \rightarrow \infty} \tau_{1/2, \text{effective}}(t_0-t_1, t_1-t_2) \quad (2.3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{1/2, \text{effective}}(t_0-t_1, t_1-t_2) &= \\ &= \frac{1}{Z_{\mathcal{O}}} \left| \frac{N(P_-)N(S) \left\langle \left( \mathcal{O}^{(P_-)}(t_0) \right)^\dagger (\bar{Q} \gamma_5 \gamma_3 D_3 Q)(t_1) \mathcal{O}^{(S)}(t_2) \right\rangle}{\left( m(P_-) - m(S) \right) \left\langle \left( \mathcal{O}^{(P_-)}(t_0) \right)^\dagger \mathcal{O}^{(P_-)}(t_1) \right\rangle \left\langle \left( \mathcal{O}^{(S)}(t_1) \right)^\dagger \mathcal{O}^{(S)}(t_2) \right\rangle} \right|. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

To this end we need static-light meson creation operators  $\mathcal{O}^{(S)}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}^{(P_-)}$  and  $\mathcal{O}^{(P_+)}$ , static-light meson masses  $m(S)$ ,  $m(P_-)$  and  $m(P_+)$ , 2-point and 3-point functions, and norms  $N(S)$ ,  $N(P_-)$  and  $N(P_+)$ .  $Z_{\mathcal{O}}$  is a perturbatively computed renormalization constant, whose derivation is explained in detail in [12, 9]. The computation of  $\tau_{3/2}$  is analogous. Explicit formulae can be found in [9].

## 2.1 Simulation setup

We use  $L^3 \times T = 24^3 \times 48$  gauge configurations produced by the European Twisted Mass Collaboration (ETMC). The gauge action is tree-level Symanzik improved and the fermionic action  $N_f = 2$  Wilson twisted mass at maximal twist yielding automatic  $\mathcal{O}(a)$  improvement of physical quantities. The lattice spacing is  $a = 0.0855$  fm. To be able to extrapolate our results to physical light quark masses, we consider three different bare quark masses  $\mu_q$  corresponding to ‘‘pion masses’’  $m_{\text{PS}}$ , which are listed in Table 2. For more details regarding these gauge configuration we refer to [13, 14].

$\mu_q$	$m_{\text{PS}}$ in MeV	number of gauge configurations
0.0040	314(2)	1400
0.0064	391(1)	1450
0.0085	448(1)	1350

**Table 2:** Bare quark masses, pion masses and number of gauge configurations.

## 2.2 Static-light meson creation operators

The meson creation operators we use are latticized versions of the continuum expression

$$\mathcal{O}^{(\Gamma)}(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{Q}(\mathbf{x}) \int d\hat{\mathbf{n}} \Gamma(\hat{\mathbf{n}}) U(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x} + r\hat{\mathbf{n}}) \psi^{(u)}(\mathbf{x} + r\hat{\mathbf{n}}), \quad (2.5)$$

where  $\bar{Q}(\mathbf{x})$  creates a static antiquark at position  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\psi^{(u)}(\mathbf{x} + r\hat{\mathbf{n}})$  creates a light quark separated by a distance  $r$  from the static antiquark,  $U$  is a gauge covariant parallel transporter and  $\Gamma$  a combination of spherical harmonics and  $\gamma$  matrices yielding well defined parity  $\mathcal{P}$  and total angular momentum of the light degrees of freedom  $j$ . The operators are collected in Table 3.

$\Gamma(\hat{\mathbf{n}})$	$J^{\mathcal{P}}$	$j^{\mathcal{P}}$	$O_h$	lattice $j^{\mathcal{P}}$	notation
$\gamma_5$	$0^-$	$(1/2)^-$	$A_1$	$(1/2)^-, (7/2)^-, \dots$	$S$
1	$0^+$	$(1/2)^+$		$(1/2)^+, (7/2)^+, \dots$	$P_-$
$\gamma_1 \hat{n}_1 - \gamma_2 \hat{n}_2$ (cyclic)	$2^+$	$(3/2)^+$	$E$	$(3/2)^+, (5/2)^+, \dots$	$P_+$
$\gamma_5(\gamma_1 \hat{n}_1 - \gamma_2 \hat{n}_2)$ (cyclic)	$2^-$	$(3/2)^-$		$(3/2)^-, (5/2)^-, \dots$	$D_{\pm}$

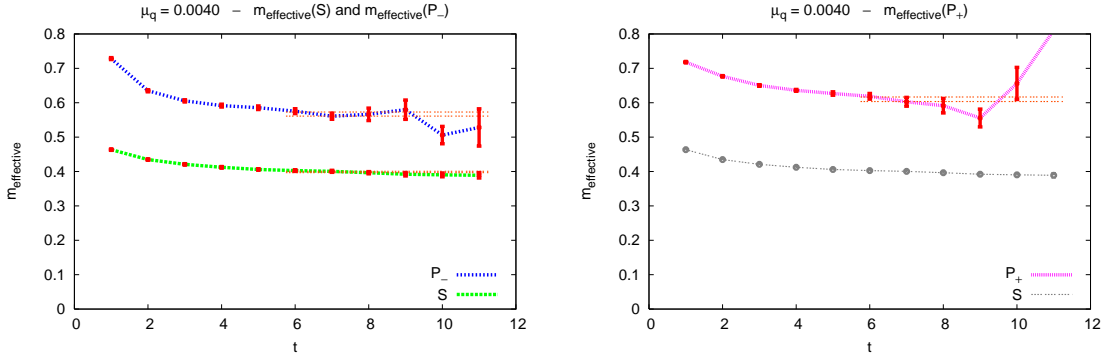
**Table 3:**  $J$ : total angular momentum;  $j$ : total angular momentum of the light degrees of freedom;  $\mathcal{P}$ : parity.

### 2.3 2-point functions, static-light meson masses, norms of meson states

With meson creation operators (2.5) at hand it is straightforward to compute the 2-point functions

$$\mathcal{C}^{(\Gamma)}(t) = \left\langle \left( \mathcal{O}^{(\Gamma)}(t) \right)^\dagger \mathcal{O}^{(\Gamma)}(0) \right\rangle, \quad \Gamma \in \{\gamma_5, 1, \gamma_1 \hat{n}_1 - \gamma_2 \hat{n}_2\}. \quad (2.6)$$

From these 2-point functions we extract the meson masses  $m(S)$ ,  $m(P_-)$  and  $m(P_+)$  via effective mass plateaus. To illustrate the quality of our data we show effective masses for  $\mu_q = 0.0040$  in Figure 1. For details regarding the computation of the low lying static-light meson spectrum within our twisted mass setup we refer to [15, 16].



**Figure 1:** Effective masses for  $S$ ,  $P_-$  and  $P_+$  for  $\mu_q = 0.0040$ .

Moreover, we obtain the ground state norms  $N(S)$ ,  $N(P_-)$  and  $N(P_+)$  by fitting exponentials to the 2-point functions (2.6) at large temporal separations.

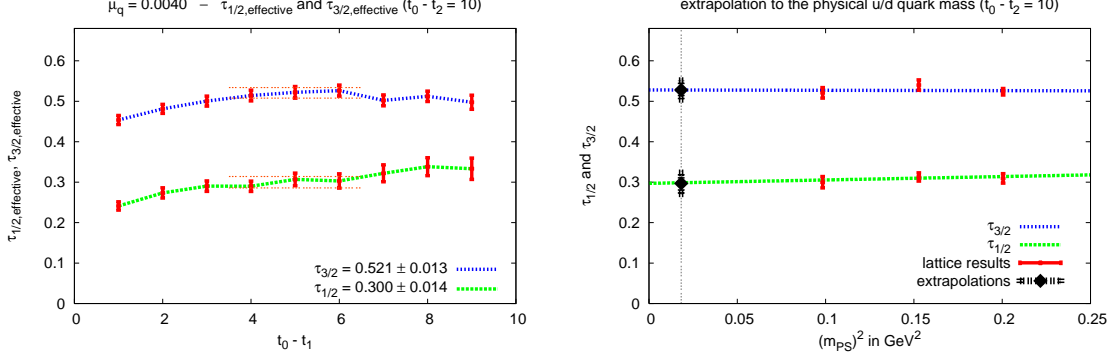
### 2.4 3-point functions

The computation of the 3-point functions is again straightforward. We chose to represent the covariant derivative inside the heavy-heavy current in a symmetric way by a single spatial link in positive and negative direction.

### 2.5 Results

In Figure 2a we show the effective form factors  $\tau_{1/2,\text{effective}}$  (eqn. (2.4)) and  $\tau_{3/2,\text{effective}}$  for  $t_0 - t_2 = 10$  as functions of  $t_0 - t_1$  for  $\mu_q = 0.0040$  (plots for the other two quark masses look

qualitatively identical). We extract  $\tau_{1/2}$  and  $\tau_{3/2}$  by fitting constants to the central three data points as indicated by the dashed lines. Results are collected in Table 4.



**Figure 2:** a) Effective form factors  $\tau_{1/2, \text{effective}}$  and  $\tau_{3/2, \text{effective}}$  for  $t_0 - t_2 = 10$  and  $\mu_q = 0.0040$ . b) Linear extrapolation of  $\tau_{1/2}$  and  $\tau_{3/2}$  in  $(m_{\text{PS}})^2$  to the physical  $u/d$  quark mass.

$\mu_q$	$\tau_{1/2}(1)$	$\tau_{3/2}(1)$	$(\tau_{3/2})^2 - (\tau_{1/2})^2$
0.0040	0.300(14)	0.521(13)	0.181(16)
0.0064	0.313(10)	0.540(13)	0.194(13)
0.0085	0.309(12)	0.524(8)	0.178(9)

**Table 4:**  $\tau_{1/2}$  and  $\tau_{3/2}$  and their contribution to the Uraltsev sum rule.

As expected from sum rules  $\tau_{3/2}$  is significantly larger than  $\tau_{1/2}$ . Moreover, we find that the ground states fulfill the Uraltsev sum rule (1.3) by around 80%.

We use our results at three different values of the pion mass to linearly extrapolate  $\tau_{1/2}$  and  $\tau_{3/2}$  in  $(m_{\text{PS}})^2$  to the physical  $u/d$  quark mass ( $m_{\text{PS}} = 135 \text{ MeV}$ ; cf. Figure 2b). Our final result is

$$\tau_{1/2}^{m_{\text{phys}}}(1) = 0.297(26) \quad , \quad \tau_{3/2}^{m_{\text{phys}}}(1) = 0.528(23). \quad (2.7)$$

### 3. Conclusions

Our result (2.7) confirms the sum rule expectation that  $\tau_{3/2}(1) \gg \tau_{1/2}(1)$  in the static limit. When comparing to the experimentally measured form factors ( $\tau_{1/2}^{\text{exp}}(1) = 1.28$  and  $\tau_{3/2}^{\text{exp}}(1) = 0.75$  [17]) we find fair agreement for  $\tau_{3/2}$  but a strong discrepancy for  $\tau_{1/2}$ .

In our opinion this discrepancy calls for action both on the theoretical and the experimental side: it would be highly desirable to have a first principles lattice computation of  $\tau_{1/2}$  and  $\tau_{3/2}$  beyond the zero recoil situation and also for finite heavy quark masses; on the other hand a thoroughly refined experimental analysis of the decay into  $1/2 D^{**}$ 's, for which the signal is rather faint, seems to be necessary.

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