# $B\pi$ excited-state contamination in B-meson observables

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in collaboration with

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Lattice meets continuum Siegen University October 1st 2024

# Outline

- Motivation: Nucleon-pion-state contamination in nucleon form factors
- ...
- •
- ...
- •

## **MINERvA:** Axial form factor of the nucleon

MINERvA experiment 2022: First measurements of neutrino-proton scattering Cai et al, Nature Vol 614 (2023)

 $\overline{\nu}_{\mu} p \quad \rightarrow \quad \mu^+ n$ 

direct handle on the proton's axial form factor !

Previous measurements used nucleon bound states (e.g. Deuterium) involves "nuclear physics corrections"

Form factor (ff)  
decomposition: 
$$\langle N(p')|A_{\mu}|N(p)\rangle$$
  
 $\uparrow$   
 $G_{\rm P}(Q^2)$  induced pseudo scalar ff  
 $(p'-p)^2 = -Q^2$  momentum transfer  
Nucleon axial radius  $r_A^2 \equiv -\frac{6}{G_{\rm A}(0)} \frac{dG_{\rm A}}{dQ^2}\Big|_{Q^2=0}$   $\Rightarrow$   $r_A = 0.73 \pm 0.17$  fm MINERvA

#### Data by the PACS collaboration



# The form factors can be computed in lattice QCD

Some lattice parameters:

 $a \approx 0.085 \,\mathrm{fm}$  $M_{\pi} \approx 146 \,\mathrm{MeV}$  $L \approx 8.1 \,\mathrm{fm}$ 

#### Data by the PACS collaboration





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Year 2018

 $a \approx 0.085 \,\mathrm{fm}\,,~0.063 \,\mathrm{fm}$  $M_\pi \approx 135 \,\mathrm{MeV}$  Year 2024  $L \approx 10.8 \,\mathrm{fm}$ 

#### Data by the PACS collaboration





# The lattice data underestimate the ff, in particular for small $Q^2$

 $a \approx 0.085 \,\mathrm{fm}\,,~0.063 \,\mathrm{fm}$  $M_\pi \approx 135 \,\mathrm{MeV}$  Year 2024  $L \approx 10.8 \,\mathrm{fm}$ 

Some lattice parameters:

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Year 2018

Origin of the underestimation:

(wide agreement in the lattice community, after many years of discussion ...)

(Large) excited-state contamination due to a two-particle nucleon-pion (N $\pi$ ) state

Based on many studies

- employing lattice simulations
   Jang et al, PRD 109 (2024)
   Barca, Bali and Collins, PRD 107 (2023)
   Bali et al, JHEP 05 (2020)
   Jang et al, PRL 124 (2020)
- using Chiral Perturbation Theory (ChPT) OB, PRD 99 (2019)
  - ChPT  $\rightarrow$  predicts a large N $\pi$ -state contamination
    - predicts an underestimation
    - Provides a correction formula to "remove" the  $N\pi$ -state contamination from the lattice data

#### Data by the PACS collaboration



The "ChPT corrected" data agree much better with the experimental data / ppd model

# Outline

- Motivation: Nucleon-pion-state contamination in nucleon form factors
- Lattice basics: Excited-state contamination in B-meson 2pt function
- ChPT basics: Heavy meson Chiral Perturbation Theory (HM ChPT)
- Application: HM ChPT and the  $B\pi$  excited-state contamination in
  - B-meson decay constant
  - Vector current form factor for  $B \to \pi l \overline{\nu}_l$
- Outlook

## **Introduction: B-meson 2-pt function**

Consider the B-meson 2-pt function

$$C_2(t) = \sum_{\vec{x}} \langle B(\vec{x}, t) B^{\dagger}(\vec{0}, 0) \rangle$$

- Σ<sub>x</sub>: projection to zero momentum
- B: interpolating field, quantum numbers of the B-meson

excited-state contribution

• Spectral decomposition  
finite spatial volume 
$$\Rightarrow$$
 discrete spectrum
$$\rightarrow C_2(t) = b_0 e^{-M_B t} + b_1 e^{-E_1 t} + b_2 e^{-E_2 t} + \dots$$

$$\propto |\langle 0|B(\vec{0},0)|B(\vec{p}=0)\rangle|^2$$

$$M_{\rm eff}(t) = -\partial_t \ln C_2(t) \qquad \rightarrow \qquad M_{\rm eff}(t) = M_B + \frac{b_1}{b_0} e^{-\Delta E_1 t} + \frac{b_2}{b_0} e^{-\Delta E_2 t} + \dots$$
 effective mass

 $\Delta E_k = E_k - M_B$ 

⇒ time separation needs to be sufficiently large for small excited-state corrections

Note: same statement for 3-pt functions with more than one time separation







The number of low-lying  $B^*\pi$  states increases rapidly with decreasing pion mass





Infinite volume: continuous 2-particle spectrum, threshold =  $M_B + M_\pi$ 

$$M_{\text{eff}}(t) \approx M_B + \frac{b_1}{b_0} e^{-E_{\pi}(\vec{p}_1)} + \frac{b_2}{b_0} e^{-E_{\pi}(\vec{p}_2)} + \dots$$

- Expectation: Many  $B\pi$  states contribute to the correlator and the effective mass
- However: Their impact depends also on the prefactors  $b_k/b_0$ Known:  $b_k \propto 1/L^3$

Again: not a finite volume (FV) effect, number of states increases for larger volumes

- Two questions
  - 1. How big is their impact ( = how big is  $b_k/b_0$ )?

2. If non-negligible: How to deal with them ?

• Concerning 1. → Use Chiral Perturbation theory to get estimates

## Chiral perturbation theory (ChPT)

• Well-established and widely used:

ChPT: low-energy effective theory of QCD

Weinberg 1979 Gasser, Leutwyler 1984

- Based on spontaneous (and small explicit) chiral symmetry breaking
  - Energy gap (the pions are fairly light)
  - Pion coupling is proportional to pion momenta (small at low energies) and pion mass
- Many applications in lattice QCD
  - Pion mass dependence of observables
  - FV effects due to pions
  - Taste-breaking effects with staggered fermions
  - N $\pi$ -state contamination in nucleon observables (charges, form factors,...)

<u>...</u>

In the following:  $B\pi$ -state contamination in B-meson observables

## QCD with a static b-quark

• Our starting point: QCD with a <u>heavy static b-quark</u>  $\mathcal{L} = \sum_{r} \overline{q}_{r} (\gamma_{\mu} D_{\mu} + m_{l}) q_{r} + \overline{Q} (D_{4} + m_{b}) Q + \mathcal{L}_{gauge}$ E. Eichten and B. Hill (1990), ...

Note: LO in the heavy quark expansion,  $1/m_b$  corrections (not here)

- High degree of symmetry

  - Local flavor number (LFN) symmetry:  $Q(x) \rightarrow \exp[i\eta(\vec{x})] Q(x)$
  - Chiral symmetry (in the light quark sector)
  - ▶ Isospin symmetry (if we assume  $m_l = m_u = m_d$ ) → 3 mass degenerate pions
- Corresponding chiral effective theory → Heavy Meson (HM) ChPT
   M.Wise (1992)
   Burdman, Donoghue (1992)

. . .

• Note: We work in continuum QCD (and ignore Lorentz symmetry breaking at finite lattice spacing)

## **Basics of Heavy Meson (HM) ChPT**

Heavy quark spin symmetry  $\rightarrow$  multiplet  $H = P_+ \left( i B_k^* \gamma_k + i B \gamma^5 \right)$   $P_+ = (1 + \gamma_4)/2$  $\bar{H} = \gamma_4 H^{\dagger} \gamma_4$ 

Relevant interaction given by 



## Interpolating B-meson fields in HMChPT

• We are interested in correlation functions of interpolating fields for the B-mesons

Quark level:  $\overline{q}_r(x)\Gamma Q(x)$   $\Gamma$ : Clifford algebra element e.g.  $\gamma_5$  or  $\gamma_k$ 

light u,d quark heavy (static) b-quark

• Are mapped to HMChPT as usual: most general term compatible with the symmetries



# $B\pi$ contribution in HMChPT - 2pt function

• Calculation of the correlation functions is a standard task in PT (euclidean space time, finite spatial volume V=L<sup>3</sup>, L  $\rightarrow \infty$  in the end)



## $B\pi$ contribution in HMChPT - 2pt function

Comments

expected 1/L<sup>3</sup> dependence (2-particle state!)

•  $\Sigma_p \rightarrow$  "tower of states" (recall: 1-loop diagrams)

- ► infinite volume limit can be taken ( → non-zero, involves modified Bessel and Struve functions )
- depends on LECs *f*,*g* (LO) and  $\beta_1$  (NLO) in case of local interpolating fields

Estimates: 
$$f \approx f_{\pi} \approx 93 \,\text{MeV}$$
 PDG  
 $g \approx 0.49$  Lattice: A. Gerardin *et al.* (2022)  $\Rightarrow$  ChPT prediction for the  
 $B\pi$  contamination in  
effective mass and decay constant

## $B\pi$ contribution in the effective decay constant

Example

$$\langle 0 | A_4^{\rm RGI}(0) | B(\vec{p} = 0) \rangle \equiv \hat{f}$$

heavy light decay constant

 $\hat{f} = f_B \sqrt{M_B} \, / \, C_{\rm PS}$ 

Estimator not unique

$$\hat{f}_{\text{eff}}(t) = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{C_2(t)} e^{\frac{1}{2}M_B^{\text{eff}}(t) t}$$

$$=\hat{f}\left(1+\Delta\hat{f}^{B\pi}(t)\right) \quad \xrightarrow{t \to \infty} \quad \hat{f}$$

## $B\pi$ contribution in the effective decay constant



*t* =1.3 fm: B $\pi$ -state contamination leads to an *overestimation* of  $\approx 2\%$ 

small effect but relevant for % precision

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Analogous results for B-meson mass, BB<sup>\*</sup> $\pi$  coupling  $g_{\pi} \rightarrow B\pi$  contamination  $\approx$  a few percent

A. Broll, OB and R. Sommer Eur. Phys. J C 83 (2023) 757

## **Semileptonic B decay**



• Extract form factors from suitably defined ratio of 3pt and 2pt functions

► effective form factors 
$$h_{\perp}^{\text{eff}}(t_V, E_{\pi}) = h_{\perp}(E_{\pi}) \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \Delta h_{\perp}(t_V, E_{\pi}) \end{bmatrix}$$
  
current insertion time  $B_{\pi}$ -state contamination stemming from  $\langle \pi | V^k | B^* \pi \rangle$ 

## **B** $\pi$ contamination $\Delta h_{\perp}$



The  $B^*\pi$  contamination in the 3-pt function ...

- leads to an <u>underestimation of ~ 20%</u> of the form factor
- Why so much bigger than in the 2-pt function ?

# Why is the $B\pi$ contamination in $\Delta h_{\perp}$ so big?



## **B** $\pi$ contamination $\Delta h_{\perp}$



 $\Delta h_{\perp}^{B\pi}(t_V, E_{\pi, \vec{p}}) \approx \Delta h_{\perp}^{B\pi, \text{tree}}(t_V, E_{\pi, \vec{p}}) = -1 \times e^{-E_{\pi, \vec{p}} t_V} + \text{NLO}$ 

Note: • no factor  $1/L^3 \Rightarrow$  sometimes called "volume enhanced" contribution

- no sum over pion momenta (i.e. no tower of states), <u>one fixed pion momentum only</u>
- exactly the same result as in  $\tilde{G}_{P}$  in the nucleon sector (recall *Motivation*)

## **Questions / Outlook**

- HM ChPT predicts a non-negligible and in some cases a significant  $B\pi$  contamination
  - ► How reliable are these NLO ChPT results? needs to be checked with lattice data → first promising results: A. Gerardin, Lattice 2024
- How to deal with the  $B\pi$  contamination ?
  - Apply HMChPT results to subtract (some of the) excited-state contamination? What about remaining uncertainties?
  - Smeared interpolating fields? Is smearing helpful/effective in suppressing Bπ excited states ? needs to be checked with lattice data → first results: A. Gerardin, Lattice 2024
  - GEVP including two-hadron (Bπ) interpolating fields ?
     *Currently under investigation …*

## Interpolating B-meson fields in HMChPT

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## Smeared interpolating B-meson fields in HMChPT

• We are interested in correlation functions of interpolating fields for the B-mesons



• Difference between local and smeared interpolators: different values for the LECs

## Impact of smearing (?)

Interpolating B-meson field

local

smeared

 $\beta_1 \approx 0.14(4) \,\mathrm{GeV}^{-1}$ 

B. Colquhoun et al. [JLQCD], 2022

 $ilde{eta_1} pprox \$ ?

Expectation:

Smearing

increases overlap with the ground state decreases overlap with the excited states

Justified for  $B\pi$  states?



Smearing has the potential to significantly reduce the B $\pi$  contamination But: Is there a smearing procedure that causes  $\tilde{\beta}_1 \approx -5\beta_1$ ?

## Lattice determination of LECs $\beta_1$ and $\tilde{\beta}_1$

**p**<sup>\*</sup>: reference momentum

HM ChPT prediction to NLO:

A. Broll, R. Sommer, OB, (2023)

$$R(\mathbf{p}) \equiv \frac{\langle \pi(\mathbf{p}) | V_k | B \rangle}{\langle \pi(\mathbf{p}^*) | V_k | B \rangle} = \frac{1 - \beta_1 E_\pi(\mathbf{p})/g}{1 - \beta_1 E_\pi(\mathbf{p}^*)/g} \times \frac{E_\pi(\mathbf{p}^*)}{E_\pi(\mathbf{p})} \times \frac{\mathbf{p}_k}{(\mathbf{p}^*)_k}$$

 $\rightarrow$  extract  $\beta_1$  from the pion energy dependence

Lattice estimator:  $R^{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{p}, t_V)$ 

suitably defined ratio of 3pt and 2pt functions

Smearing of the vector current:  $V_k \to \tilde{V}_k \implies R(\mathbf{p}) \to \tilde{R}(\mathbf{p})$  $\beta_1 \to \tilde{\beta}_1$  $\Rightarrow \text{ extract } \tilde{\beta}_1$ 

# Lattice determination of LECs $\beta_1$ and $\tilde{\beta}_1$

Lattice results (preliminary) → contribution by Antoine Gerardin, *Lattice 2024* 



 $\beta_1 \approx \beta_1 \implies$  small impact of Gaussian smearing on B $\pi$  excited states !

Recall:  $\beta_1 \approx 0.14(4) \text{GeV}^{-1}$  by JLQCD

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     *Currently under investigation* ...

Preliminary answer for Gaussian smearing: No

But: Distillation looks better work in progress ...

# **Backup slides**

## $B\pi$ contribution in the 2pt function



*t* =1.3 fm: Bπ-state contamination leads to an *overestimation* of ≈ 1% if local interpolating fields are used

## $B\pi$ contribution in the 2pt function



dashed lines:  $M_{\pi}L = 4$ 

solid lines: infinite volume limit

## $B\pi$ contribution in the effective mass



t = 1.3 fm: B $\pi$ -state contamination leads to an *overestimation* of  $\approx 5 \text{ MeV}$ if local interpolating fields are used

### Antoine Gerardin, talk at Lattice 2024

#### Calculation of the LECs : $\beta_1$ and $\beta_1$

► HM $\chi$ PT prediction (at NLO) for the form factor  $h_{\perp}$  [ref still missing]

$$\frac{\langle \pi(\mathbf{p})|V_k|B\rangle}{\langle \pi(\mathbf{p}^{\star})|V_k|B\rangle} = \frac{1 - \beta_1/g \, E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p})}{1 - \beta_1/g \, E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}^{\star})} \times \frac{E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}^{\star})}{E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p})} \times \frac{p_k}{(p^{\star})_k}$$

 $\rightarrow$  extract  $\beta_1$  from the pion energy dependence  $\rightarrow$  smearing of the vector current  $(V_{\mu} \rightarrow \widetilde{V}_{\mu})$ : gives access to  $\widetilde{\beta}_1$  (LECs for smeared *B* operators) [O. Bär, A. Broll, R. Sommer '23]

Matrix element obtained from 3-point functions in the static limit

$$C^{(3)}_{\mu}(t_{\pi}, t_{v}; \mathbf{p}) = \frac{a^{9}}{V^{2}} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_{f}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}_{i}} \langle \overline{\mathcal{O}}_{\pi}(\mathbf{x}_{f}, t_{v} + t_{\pi}) V_{\mu}(\mathbf{y}, t_{v}) \mathcal{O}_{B}(\mathbf{x}_{i}, 0) \rangle \ e^{-i\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}_{f} - \mathbf{y})}$$

Replace local by smeared vector current :  $\widetilde{V}_{\mu} \longrightarrow \widetilde{C}^{(3)}_{\mu}$  **\pi** 

Lattice estimator :

$$R^{\text{eff}}(t,t_v;\mathbf{p}) \equiv \frac{E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p})}{E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}^{\star})} \frac{(p^{\star})_k}{p_k} \times \frac{\widetilde{C}_k^{(3)}(t_{\pi},t_v;\mathbf{p})}{\widetilde{C}_k^{(3)}(t_{\pi},t_v;\mathbf{p}^{\star})} \frac{C_{\pi}^{(2)}(t_{\pi},\mathbf{p}^{\star})}{C_{\pi}^{(2)}(t_{\pi},\mathbf{p})}$$

 $\rightarrow$  this estimator is itself affected by excited states : can be used to correct our data

$$1 + \delta_{B\pi}(t_v; \mathbf{p}) = \frac{1 + \Delta h_{\perp}(t_v; \mathbf{p})}{1 + \Delta h_{\perp}(t_v; \mathbf{p}^{\star})} \approx 1 + e^{-(E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}) - E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}^{\star}))t_v} + \frac{\beta_1 + \tilde{\beta}_1}{g} \left( E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}) e^{-E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p})t} - E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}^{\star}) e^{-E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}^{\star})t} \right) + \cdots$$

Antoine Gérardin

## Antoine Gerardin, talk at Lattice 2024

#### Preliminary results : $\beta_1$ and $\tilde{\beta_1}$

$$R^{\text{eff}}(t,t_v;\mathbf{p}) \equiv \frac{E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p})}{E_{\pi}(\mathbf{p}^{\star})} \frac{(p^{\star})_k}{p_k} \times \frac{\widetilde{C}_k^{(3)}(t,t_v;\mathbf{p})}{\widetilde{C}_k^{(3)}(t,t_v;\mathbf{p}^{\star})} \frac{C_{\pi}^{(2)}(t-t_v,\mathbf{p}^{\star})}{C_{\pi}^{(2)}(t-t_v,\mathbf{p})}$$

• Plateaus at fixed  $t_{\pi}$  (left) or at fixed  $t_{v}$  (right)



• Repeat the analysis for different values of  $E_\pi$  in the range [0.29 : 0.85] GeV

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## Antoine Gerardin, talk at Lattice 2024

Test of  $HM\chi PT$  : two-point heavy-light function with distillation

- $\widetilde{\beta}_1$  depends on the detail of the smearing operator
  - $\rightarrow$  other smearings may yield better results ( ?)
- Preliminary results obtained with distillation [M Peardon et al. '09]



 $\rightarrow$  preliminary results suggest smaller overlap with  $B^*\pi$  states as compared to gauss smearing  $\rightarrow$  next step : compute  $\tilde{\beta}_1$  in distillation (applicability of HLChPT?)

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- Analogous results for
  - B-meson mass
  - BB\* $\pi$  coupling  $g_{\pi}$

with  $B\pi$  contamination  $\approx$  a few percent

• But: The  $B\pi$  contamination can be significantly larger in some cases

Example: Vector current form factor

A. Broll, OB and R. Sommer Eur. Phys. J C 83 (2023) 757