

# Impact of the Asqtad Gauge Configurations

In this attachment we show some of the results obtained from the Asqtad gauge configurations and compare them with experiment. We also describe the impact of the Asqtad gauge configurations on the determination of the CKM matrix elements, and discuss the work of other physicists who have used them.

## Comparison of Lattice Calculations with Experiment

In order to validate our approach, we and others making use of the Asqtad gauge configurations have calculated a number of quantities whose values can be determined to high accuracy on the lattice, and are well known experimentally [1, 2, 3]. In Table 1 we compare results for  $\alpha_S(M_Z)$ , the strong coupling constant evaluated at the mass of the  $Z$  boson;  $f_\pi$  and  $f_K$ , the leptonic decay constants of the  $\pi$  and  $K$  mesons;  $V_{us}$ , the CKM matrix element for the weak transition of a  $u$  to an  $s$  quark;  $M_{\Omega^-}$ , the mass of the  $\Omega^-$  baryon; and  $\Delta E_\psi(1P - 1S)$  and  $\Delta E_\Upsilon(1P - 1S)$ , the  $1P - 1S$  level splittings in the charmonium and bottomonium spectra. Note that this list includes some quantities with only up, down, and/or strange valence quarks, and others with heavier charm or bottom valence quarks. The quantities measured to determine  $\alpha_S(M_Z)$  have no valence quarks at all. These and additional validation results are shown in Figure 1 of the progress report.

Quantity	Lattice QCD	Experiment
$\alpha_S(M_Z)$	$0.1170 \pm 0.0012$	$0.1185 \pm 0.0014$
$f_\pi$	$128.3^{+2.5}_{-3.5}$ MeV	$130.7 \pm 0.4$ MeV
$f_K/f_\pi$	$1.202^{+0.008}_{-0.014}$	$1.223 \pm 0.012$
$V_{us}$	$0.2246^{+0.0025}_{-0.0013}$	$0.2257 \pm 0.0021$
$M_{\Omega^-}$	$1667 \pm 52$ MeV	$1672$ MeV
$\Delta E_\psi(1P - 1S)$	$422 \pm 16$ MeV	$428$ MeV
$\Delta E_\Upsilon(1P - 1S)$	$447 \pm 9$ MeV	$440$ MeV

Table 1: Comparison of several quantities calculated on the lattice with their experimental determinations. When no experimental error is given, it is smaller than the last digit shown.

Perhaps the most convincing test of methods is to make successful predictions in advance of experimental measurements. Five such predictions have been tested to date: the mass of the  $B_c$  meson [4, 5], the leptonic decay constants of the  $D^+$ ,  $D_s$  and  $B$  mesons [5, 6, 7], and the shape and normalization of the  $D \rightarrow Kl\nu$  semileptonic form factor. The original predictions for the first four quantities and the initial experimental results confirming them are shown in Table 2. The predictions and experimental results for the  $D \rightarrow Kl\nu$  form factor are shown in Fig. 1.

Quantity	Lattice QCD	Experiment
$f_{D^+}$	$201 \pm 3 \pm 17$ MeV	$223 \pm 17 \pm 3$ MeV
$f_{D_s}/f_{D^+}$	$1.21 \pm 0.01 \pm 0.04$	$1.27 \pm 0.12 \pm 0.03$
$M_{B_c}$	$6304 \pm 22$ MeV	$6286 \pm 5$ MeV
$f_B$	$216 \pm 22$ MeV	$229 \pm 36 \pm 34$ MeV

Table 2: Lattice predictions for the leptonic decay constants of the  $D$ ,  $D_s$  and  $B$  mesons and the mass of the  $B_c$  meson, along with the experimental results that initially confirmed them.

During the past year there have been very interesting new experimental measurements and lattice calculations of  $f_{D^+}$  and  $f_{D_s}$ . Averaging over results from recent experiments, Rosner and Stone find  $f_{D^+} = 205.8 \pm 8.9$  MeV and  $f_{D_s}/f_{D^+} = 1.33 \pm 0.07$  [8]. Meanwhile, the HPQCD Collaboration has made a new determination of these quantities on the lattice using the Asqtad gauge configurations and valence quarks

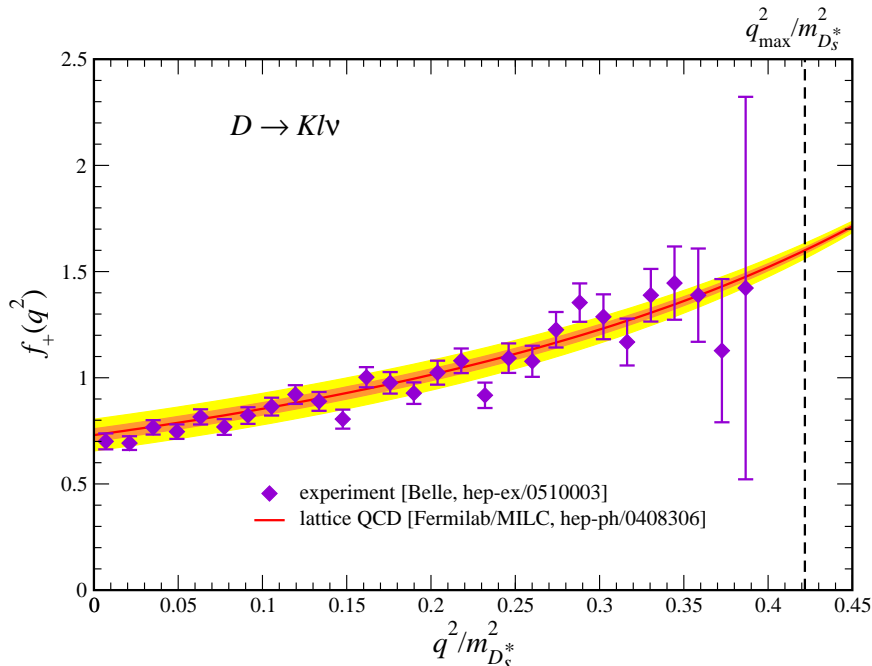


Figure 1: The semileptonic form factor  $f_+(q^2)$  for the decay of a  $D$  meson into a  $K$  meson, a lepton, and a neutrino, as a function of the momentum transfer to the leptons  $q^2$ . The orange curve is the lattice prediction, and the blue points are the experimental results of the Belle Collaboration.

from the highly improved staggered quark (HISQ) action, which it recently developed [9]. HPQCD obtained  $f_{D^+} = 208 \pm 4$  MeV and  $f_{D_s}/f_{D^+} = 1.162 \pm 0.009$  [10]. Thus, the HPQCD result for  $f_{D^+}$  is in good agreement with the experiment, but its result for the ratio of decay constants disagrees with the experimental result by 2.4 standard deviations. The most recent Fermilab-MILC calculation of this ratio, which uses the same Asqtad configurations, Asqtad light valence quarks, and the Fermilab formulation of charmed valence quarks, yields  $f_{D_s}/f_{D^+} = 1.20 \pm 0.025$  [11]. It is clearly very important to improve the accuracy of both lattice calculations, and work is in progress to do so. A disagreement between the lattice calculation and experimental determination of  $f_{D_s}$  could signal the presence of physics not included in the Standard Model [12].

## Impact on the Determination of CKM Matrix Elements

The level of accuracy we seek in our calculations is determined in large part by our studies of the weak interactions of strongly interacting particles. An international effort is in progress to determine the elements of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix, which determines how quarks, the fundamental strongly interacting particles, couple to the weak interactions. In most cases both an accurate experiment and lattice calculation are needed. By determining individual elements of the CKM matrix from different experiments and lattice calculations, one can place powerful constraints on the range of validity of the Standard Model. The U.S. Lattice QCD Executive Committee, which is leading an effort to develop computational infrastructure for our field, has made a detailed analysis of the impact of improved lattice calculations on the determination of CKM matrix elements. It is based in large part on the configurations we have or are planning to generate. Table 3 summarizes the portion of the study relevant to this proposal. The first column indicates the decay process to be studied. For the first row one must perform a lattice calculation of the ratio of the leptonic decay constants of the  $K$  and  $\pi$  mesons, and in the remaining rows one must determine the semileptonic form factors of the process indicated. The second column shows the CKM matrix element to be determined, the third column the present errors on the CKM matrix element arising from experimental uncertainties, and the fourth column the present errors arising from uncertainties in the lattice calculations. The fifth and sixth columns show the expected lattice contributions to the errors by the end of 2009 and 2014, respectively. One notes that in all cases the current lattice errors are larger than the experimental ones. Our

goal is to bring the lattice errors down to or below the experimental ones, which will themselves be decreasing over the next few years. The importance of doing so can be seen from the fact that a significant fraction of the \$750,000,000 per year that the United States has spent on experimental high energy physics over the last several years has been devoted to the study of the weak decays of strongly interacting particles. It is clear that to fully capitalize on this investment, the lattice calculations must keep pace with the experimental measurements.

Quantity	CKM element	Present expt. error	Present lattice error	2009 lattice error	2014 lattice error	Error from non-lattice method
$f_K/f_\pi$	$V_{us}$	0.3%	0.9%	0.5 %	0.3%	0.9% ( $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu$ )
$D \rightarrow \pi \ell \nu$	$V_{cd}$	3%	11%	6%	4%	4.8% (v scatt.)
$D \rightarrow K \ell \nu$	$V_{cs}$	1%	11%	5%	2%	5% (v scatt.)
$B \rightarrow D^* \ell \nu$	$V_{cb}$	1.8%	2.4%	1.6%	0.8%	< 2% (Incl. $b \rightarrow c$ )
$B \rightarrow \pi \ell \nu$	$V_{ub}$	3.2%	14%	10%	4%	10% (Incl. $b \rightarrow u$ )

Table 3: Present status and future prospects for lattice calculations which directly determine elements of the CKM matrix. All errors are quoted for the CKM elements themselves. Estimates are from the contributions of Juettner, Laiho, Lüth, Shipsey, and van de Water to Ref. [13], and from Ref. [14]. The last column, if present, shows the present error attainable on the CKM element using competing, non-lattice approaches.

## Use of the Asqtad Gauge Configurations by Other Physicists

As noted in the proposal, a total of sixty-seven physicists outside our collaboration have used the Asqtad gauge configurations we are generating in their own research. These include colleagues at thirty-three institutions throughout the world. Their research covers a very broad range of topics including determinations of the strong coupling constant, the quark masses, the quarkonium spectrum and decay widths, the mass spectrum of mesons with a heavy quark and a light antiquark, the masses of mesons and baryons, as well as studies of the weak decays of mesons containing heavy quarks, the mixing of neutral  $K$  and  $B$  mesons with their antiparticles, the quark and gluon structure of hadrons, the scattering lengths of pions and nucleons, the hadronic contributions to the muon anomalous magnetic moment, and meson spectral functions. We believe that the outstanding research they are doing with our configurations is an additional justification for the resources we request.

Some of the physicists using our gauge configurations are collaborating with us, while others are using them for separate projects. Here we list the papers published in refereed journals or conference proceedings by physicists from outside our collaboration that are based on the use of our configurations.

## Publications Enabled by the Asqtad Gauge Configurations

### Publications In or Submitted to Refereed Journals

1. The Fermilab, HPQCD, MILC and UKQCD Collaborations: C.T.H. Davies, *et al.*, “High-Precision Lattice QCD Confronts Experiment,” *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **92**, 022001 (2004) [arXiv:hep-lat/0304004].
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  9. The NPLQCD Collaboration: S. Beane, *et al.*, “ $I=2$  pi-pi Scattering from Fully-Dynamical Mixed-Action Lattice QCD,” Phys. Rev. **D73**, 054503 (2006) xi[arXiv:hep-lat/0506030].
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- The HPQCD Collaboration: Q. Mason *et al.*, “High-precision determination of the light-quark masses from realistic lattice QCD,” Phys. Rev. D **73**, 114501 (2006) [arXiv:hep-ph/0511160].
14. The HPQCD Collaboration: E. Dalgic, *et al.*, “B Meson Semileptonic Form Factors from Unquenched Lattice QCD,” Phys. Rev. D **73**, 074502 (2006) [Erratum-ibid. D **75**, 119906 (2007)] [arXiv:hep-lat/0601021].
  15. The NPLQCD Collaboration: S. R. Beane, P. F. Bedaque, K. Orginos and M. J. Savage, “Nucleon nucleon scattering from fully-dynamical lattice QCD,” Phys. Rev. Lett. **97**, 012001 (2006) [arXiv:hep-lat/0602010].
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39. The HPQCD Collaboration: I. Allison *et al.*, “High-Precision Charm-Quark Mass from Current-Current Correlators in Lattice and Continuum QCD,” arXiv:0805.2999 [hep-lat].
40. The NPLQCD Collaboration: S. Beane, *et al.* “Hadronic Interactions from Lattice QCD,” arXiv:0805.4629 [hep-lat], to be published in International Journal of Modern Physics C.
41. A. Walker-Loud, *et al.*, “Light hadron spectroscopy using domain wall valence quarks on an Asqtad sea,” arXiv:0806.4549 [hep-lat].

### Publications in Conference Proceedings

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29. P. B. Mackenzie, “CKM physics from lattice QCD,” *In the Proceedings of 4th Flavor Physics and CP Violation Conference (FPCP 2006)*, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 9-12 Apr 2006, pp 022 [arXiv:hep-ph/0606034].
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