Investigation of the photon polarisation in $B \rightarrow K\pi\pi\gamma$ decays at LHCb



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Image: Paul - Stacked polarizers







Observation of non-zero photon polarisation in B→Kππγ decays 3D amplitude analysis of the Kππ system



Proof of concept for a measurement of the photon polarisation using a 5D amplitude analysis of the $K\pi\pi\gamma$ system







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Radiative B decays

- FCNC with a final state photon
- The b \rightarrow sy transition occurs through a penguin loop



 In the SM, the photon in b → sγ transitions is mostly left-handed

Photon polarisation in SM b \rightarrow sy transitions

• The decay amplitude for $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ transitions is proportional to:

$$\langle f | \mathcal{H}_{eff} | i \rangle = -4 \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{tb} V_{ts}^* \underbrace{C_7^{eff}(m_b)}_{7} \langle f | \mathcal{O}_7(m_b) | i \rangle + \underbrace{C_7'^{eff}(m_b)}_{7} \langle f | \mathcal{O}_7'(m_b) | i \rangle \Big]$$
Coupling to left-handed photon Coupling to right-handed photon [arXiv:1206.1502]

• In SM, Wilson coefficients C₇ and C_{7'} are such that: $C_{7'}/C_7 \cong m_s/m_b \cong 0.02$

• The photon polarisation parameter λ_{γ} is defined as:

$$\lambda_{\gamma} = \frac{|C_7'|^2 - |C_7|^2}{|C_7'|^2 + |C_7|^2}$$

In SM, $\lambda_{\gamma} \cong 1$ (with corrections of $O(m_s^2/m_b^2)$) for decays of a B⁺ meson

Photon polarisation: a probe for NP

• NP processes could introduce right-handed currents, hence modifying the photon polarisation (e.g. Charged Higgs models as in arXiv:1208.1251v2)



- The measurement of the photon polarisation is a test of the SM but it has not been done yet
- Maybe some new penguins around !







Photon polarisation in radiative B decays



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Why do we need 3 hadrons in the final state?

Minimum number of tracks needed to build a P-odd quantity proportional to the photon polarisation using the final state momenta

$$\vec{p}_{\gamma} \cdot (\vec{p}_1 \times \vec{p}_2)$$



 $B^+ \rightarrow K^+_{res}(K\pi\pi)\gamma$ decay rate

• Decay rate for the B⁺ \rightarrow K⁺_{res} (\rightarrow K⁺ $\pi^{-}\pi^{+}$) γ decay: [Gronau et al, PRD66 (2002) 054008]

$$\mathrm{d}\Gamma(B \to K\pi\pi\gamma) = \left|\sum_{k} \frac{c_{k,R}^{\mathrm{weak}} \times A_{k,R}^{\mathrm{strong}}}{m_{K\pi\pi}^2 - m_k^2 - im_k\Gamma_k}\right|^2 + \left|\sum_{k} \frac{c_{k,L}^{\mathrm{weak}} \times A_{k,L}^{\mathrm{strong}}}{m_{K\pi\pi}^2 - m_k^2 - im_k\Gamma_k}\right|^2$$

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$$\frac{|c_{R}^{\text{weak}}|^{2} - |c_{L}^{\text{weak}}|^{2}}{|c_{R}^{\text{weak}}|^{2} + |c_{L}^{\text{weak}}|^{2}} = \frac{|C_{7}'|^{2} - |C_{7}|^{2}}{|C_{7}'|^{2} + |C_{7}|^{2}} = \lambda_{\gamma}$$

Photon polarisation parameter

How to access λ_{γ} in B⁺ \rightarrow K⁺_{res}(K $\pi\pi$) γ decays ?



where s stands for m²(K $\pi\pi$), s₁₃ for m²(K π) and s₂₃ for m²($\pi\pi$)

Adding resonances is not so simple

Adding more resonances (1⁺, 2⁺, 1⁻), the formula gets complex:

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{ds_{13}ds_{23}d\cos\theta} = |A|^2 \left\{ \frac{1}{4} |\vec{J}|^2 (1+\cos^2\theta) + \frac{1}{2}\lambda_\gamma \operatorname{Im}[\vec{n} \cdot (\vec{J} \times \vec{J}^*)] \cos\theta \right\}$$

+
$$|B|^2 \left\{ \frac{1}{4} |\vec{K}|^2 (\cos^2\theta + \cos^2 2\theta) + \frac{1}{2}\lambda_\gamma \operatorname{Im}[\vec{n} \cdot (\vec{K} \times \vec{K}^*)] \cos\theta \cos 2\theta \right\} + |C|^2 \frac{1}{2} \sin^2\theta$$

+
$$\left\{ \frac{1}{2} (3\cos^2\theta - 1) \operatorname{Im}[AB^*\vec{n} \cdot (\vec{J} \times \vec{K}^*)] + \lambda_\gamma \operatorname{Re}[AB^*(\vec{J} \cdot \vec{K}^*)] \cos^3\theta \right\} .$$

[Gronau et al, PRD66 (2002) 054008]

As the $K^+\pi^-\pi^+$ system is not known, simplification is needed !

How to access λ_{γ} in B⁺ \rightarrow K⁺_{res}(K $\pi\pi$) γ decays ?

The idea is to integrate over the Dalitz plot and the angular distribution to obtain the up-down asymmetry:

$$\mathcal{A}_{\rm ud} \equiv \frac{\int_0^1 \mathrm{d}\cos\theta \frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}\cos\theta} - \int_{-1}^0 \mathrm{d}\cos\theta \frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}\cos\theta}}{\int_{-1}^1 \mathrm{d}\cos\theta \frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}\cos\theta}} = C\lambda_{\gamma}$$

where C takes into account the integrations and depends on the $K\pi\pi$ system content



Selection of the $B \rightarrow K\pi\pi\gamma$ events



	[PRL 112, 161801 (2014)]
	Signal
	Combinatorial background
	Missing pion background
	Partially reconstructed background
	Total fit
+	Data

- Almost 14,000 signal events are reconstructed and selected in the full 3 fb⁻¹ LHCb Run 1 data sample
- The backgroundsubtracted Kππ mass spectrum is obtained and divided in m(Kππ) bins

Observation of λ_{γ}

- > In each m(K $\pi\pi$) bin, the cos θ distribution is fitted
- > As A_{ud} is proportional to λ_{γ} : Observation of a non-zero photon polarisation with A_{ud} different from 0 at 5.2 σ .
- > Missing knowledge of the $K\pi\pi$ system to make a measurement



Amplitude analysis of the $K\pi\pi$ system



Amplitude analysis of the $K\pi\pi$ system



Relating A_{UD} with the $K\pi\pi$ system

Toys using a simple model with two amplitudes (and their interference): $\mathcal{A}(B^+ \rightarrow K(1270) (\rightarrow K^* (\rightarrow K^+\pi^-) \pi^+) \gamma) = \mathcal{A}_{K^*\pi}$ $\mathcal{A}(B^+ \rightarrow K(1270) (\rightarrow \rho (\rightarrow \pi^-\pi^+) K^+) \gamma) = \mathcal{A}_{\rho K}$ Systems described by (r, $\Delta \varphi$) such that $\mathcal{A}_{\rho K}/\mathcal{A}_{K^*\pi} = r \times e^{i\Delta \varphi}$



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Radius: Ratio of amplitudes r

Phase: Difference of phase between the two amplitudes $\Delta \varphi$

Color scale:

Up-down asymmetry in % (for samples generated with $\lambda_{\gamma} = 1$)



Limits of the measurement of A_{UD}

From theory: $A_{UD} = C. \lambda_{\gamma}$

In regions where $A_{UD} = 0$, there is no sensitivity to the photon polarisation



How to measure the photon polarisation parameter?

• To measure the photon polarisation, a **fit in 5 dimensions** is necessary

→ Use of the squared masses + the angles (θ and χ) describing the orientation of the Knn system with respect to the photon







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Toy studies with a 2-amplitude model in 5D

- > Now possible using a dedicated piece of software [arXiv:1201.5716]
- ➤ Toy studies with a 2-amplitude model containing K(1270) → K^{*}π and K(1270) → Kρ with (r, Δφ) corresponding to data and $\lambda_{\gamma} = 1$
- > 3 free parameters of the fit: r, $\Delta \varphi$ and λ_{γ}
- The fitted parameters are compatible with the generated ones



Advantage of the 5D fit

On a simplified 2-amplitude model: Similar error on the photon polarisation parameter independently of the phase difference between amplitudes



Generating a realistic $K\pi\pi\gamma$ system

Using our knowledge of the Kππ system, we can generate more realistic simulated samples



Fitting a realistic model in 5D

2

3

- Generate samples of pure signal with 7 amplitudes and $\lambda_{v} = 1$, fit with 13 free parameters
- > Uncertainty on $\lambda_{\gamma} \sim 0.03$ from toy studies (no background)

A.U. / (0.10)

400

350

300

250

200

150

100

50

0

-3

-2

-1



Conclusion

- > The study of the up-down asymmetry in $B \rightarrow K\pi\pi\gamma$ decays has lead to the **observation of a non-zero photon polarisation**
- The knowledge of the Kππ system has been dramatically improved thanks to the 3D fit
- ➤ Toy studies have shown that λ_γ can be accessed by performing a 5D fit of the B→Kππγ decays, and that the sensitivity does not depend much on the configuration of the Kππ system
- > Realistic models of the $K\pi\pi$ system can be generated and fitted
- > Nexts steps:
 - Include backgrounds
 - Fit data from LHCb Run1 and 2





Thanks for your attention



DEFINITION OF THE χ VARIABLE

 $\sin \chi = \left[\left(\hat{p}_{\gamma} \times \hat{p}_{\pi^+} \right) \times \left(\hat{p}_{\gamma} \times \hat{p}_{K^+} \right) \right] \cdot \left(\hat{p}_{\gamma} + \hat{p}_{K^+} \right)$ $\cos\chi = (\hat{p}_{\gamma} \times \hat{p}_{\pi^+}) \cdot (\hat{p}_{\gamma} \times \hat{p}_{K^+})$



DEFINITION OF THE $COS\theta$ VARIABLE



Amplitude analysis of the $K\pi\pi$ system



Main challenges for radiative decays

- High level of **background in pp collisions**
- For energies above 4 GeV the two clusters from π⁰ → γγ are reconstructed as a single cluster in the calorimeter
- Mass resolution dominated by photon
 reconstruction





Adding resonances is not so simple

A 7-amplitude model reproduces well the data between 1200 and 1600 MeV

