Search for lepton flavour universality violation in \( B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \ell^+ \ell^- \) decays

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CERN Seminar

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Outline

- Introduction to $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$ decays
- Status of measurements
- New measurement of Lepton Flavour Universality in $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$ at LHCb
- Conclusions
Quest for New Physics: The indirect approach

- Study processes that are suppressed or even forbidden in the SM - NP effects can then be relatively large
- Precision measurement of observables that are very well predicted in the SM
- Access to higher mass scales, due to virtual contributions, in a model independent way
Flavour Changing Neutral Currents

- FCNC transitions, such as $b \rightarrow s (d) l^+ l^-$ decays, are excellent candidates for indirect NP searches.

Strongly suppressed in the SM because:
- arise only at the loop level
- quark-mixing is so hierarchical (off-diagonal CKM elements $\ll 1$)
- the GIM mechanism
- only the left-handed chirality participates in flavour-changing interactions

But these conditions **do not necessarily apply to physics beyond the SM!**
Exclusive decays

Unfortunately, we do not observe the quark-transition, but the hadron decay
⇒ We need to compute hadronic matrix elements (form-factors and decay constants)

\[ b \to s \mu \mu \implies B^+ \to K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-, B^0 \to K^{*0} \mu^+ \mu^-, B_s \to \phi \mu^+ \mu^- \ldots \]

→ Non-pertubative QCD, i.e. these are difficult to compute.
(Lattice QCD, QCD factorisation, Light-Cone sum rules...)

→ Certain observables will profit from cancellation of these hadronic nuisances, making them more sensitive to New Physics contributions.
Flavour anomalies

In recent years, we have observed an interesting set of tensions with the SM predictions

A) In $b \rightarrow s\ell^+\ell^-$ transitions (FCNC)
   - Branching fractions of $b \rightarrow s\mu^+\mu^-$ decays
   - Angular observables in $b \rightarrow s\mu^+\mu^-$ decays
   - Lepton Flavour Universality tests in $\mu/e$ ratios

B) In $b \rightarrow c\ell\nu$ transitions (tree-level)
   - Lepton Flavour Universality tests in $\mu/\tau$ ratios
Branching fraction measurements

- Branching fractions consistently below the SM prediction at low \( q^2 = [m(\ell^+\ell^-)]^2 \) for many \( b \to s\mu\mu \) processes

- SM predictions suffer from large hadronic uncertainties
Angular observables - $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} \mu^+ \mu^-$ [LHCb, JHEP 02 (2016) 104]

- Complementary constraints on NP & orthogonal experimental systematics compared to BR's
- Give access to observables with reduced dependence on hadronic effects

[JHEP 1204 (2012) 104]
Theoretical framework - Effective theory

- Can describe these interactions in terms of an effective Hamiltonian that describes the full theory at lower energies ($\mu$)

$$H_{\text{eff}} \sim \sum_i C_i(\mu)O_i(\mu)$$

$C_i(\mu) \rightarrow$ Wilson coefficient
(perturbative, short-distance physics, sensitive to $E > \mu$)

$O_i \rightarrow$ Local operators
(non-perturbative, long-distance physics, sensitive to $E < \mu$)

→ Contributions from New Physics will modify the measured value of the Wilson coefficients present in the SM or introduce new operators
Global fits to $b \to s\mu^+\mu^-$ observables

- Best fit prefers shifted vector coupling $C_9$
  (or $C_9$ and axial-vector $C_{10}$)

- Branching fractions and angular observables consistent

New Physics or QCD?

Unaccounted for $c\bar{c}$-loop contributions would mimic vector-like NP $\Rightarrow$ shifts in $C_9$

[Phys. Rev. D 98 (2018)]

To resolve this situation:

- Improve experimental precision on angular observables
- Make new measurements of clean observables with reduced dependence on these theory uncertainties and still sensitive to NP effects...

LFU in $B^+ \to K^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$
Lepton flavour universality tests

- In the Standard Model, couplings of the gauge bosons to leptons are independent of lepton flavour
  \[ \text{branching fractions of } e, \mu \text{ and } \tau \text{ differ only by phase space and helicity-suppressed contributions} \]

- Ratios of the form:
  \[ R_K = \frac{BR(B^+ \rightarrow K^+\mu^+\mu^-)}{BR(B^+ \rightarrow K^+e^+e^-)} \approx 1 \]

- Free from QCD uncertainties that may affect other observables
  (hadronic effects cancel in the ratio, error is \( O(10^{-4}) \) [JHEP 07 (2007) 040])

- QED corrections can be \( O(10^{-2}) \) [EPJC 76 (2016) 8,440]

- Any sign of lepton flavour non-universality would be a direct sign for New Physics
\( R_K \) \& \( R_{K^*} \) with LHCb Run 1

- Both results below the SM expectation, although significance is still low.
- Tensions could be explained, together with anomalous measurements in \( b \rightarrow s\mu\mu \) decays, in a coherent NP picture.
$R_K \& R_{K^*}$ with LHCb Run 1

Today:

Update $R_K$ measurement using Run 1 and part of Run 2 LHCb data

- Both results below the SM expectation, although significance is still low.
- Tensions could be explained, together with anomalous measurements in $b \rightarrow s\mu\mu$ decays, in a coherent NP picture.
The LHCb detector

- Forward arm spectrometer to study $b$- and $c$-hadron decays ($2 < \eta < 5$)
  - Good vertex and impact parameter resolution ($\sigma(IP) = 15 + 29/p_T m$)
  - Excellent momentum resolution ($\sigma(m_B) \sim 25 \text{MeV}/c^2$ for 2-body decays)
  - Excellent particle ID ($\mu$ ID 97% for $\pi \rightarrow \mu$ misID of 1-3%)
  - Versatile & efficient trigger

JINST 3 (2008) S080005

**LFU in \( B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \ell^+ \ell^- \)**

\[
R_K = \frac{\int_{6.0 \text{ GeV}^2}^{1.1 \text{ GeV}^2} \frac{d\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-)}{dq^2} dq^2}{\int_{6.0 \text{ GeV}^2}^{1.1 \text{ GeV}^2} \frac{d\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-)}{dq^2} dq^2}
\]

Measurement performed in \( 1.1 < q^2 < 6.0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4 \) on

- Reanalysed 2011 & 2012 data (3 fb\(^{-1}\)),
  - Improved reconstruction and re-optimised analysis strategy
- Added 2015 and 2016 datasets (\( \sim 2 \text{ fb}^{-1} \)),
  - Larger \( b\bar{b} \) cross-section due to higher \( \sqrt{s} \)

In total, this update uses \( \sim \)twice as many \( B \)'s as previous analysis.
LFU in $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$

$$R_K = \frac{\int_{6.0 \text{ GeV}^2}^{1.1 \text{ GeV}^2} dB(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-) dq^2}{\int_{6.0 \text{ GeV}^2}^{1.1 \text{ GeV}^2} dB(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ e^+ e^-) dq^2}$$

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Electron Bremsstrahlung

Electrons lose a large fraction of their energy through Bremsstrahlung radiation

Bremsstrahlung recovery procedure to improve momentum measurement for electrons

→ Look for photon clusters in the calorimeter \((E_T > 75\text{ MeV})\) compatible with electron direction before magnet
Electrons VS Muons

1. Even after Bremsstrahlung recovery, electrons still have degraded momentum, and mass/$q^2$ resolution

![Graphs showing $q^2$ vs $m(K^+\mu^+\mu^-)$ and $m(K^+e^+e^-)$ distributions]
Electrons VS Muons

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![Graph showing $q^2$ vs $m(K^+\mu^+\mu^-)$ and $q^2$ vs $m(K^+e^+e^-)$ distributions.]

$LHCb$
Electrons VS Muons

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2. Very different trigger signatures: Lower trigger efficiency for electrons
   ○ Muons identified by Muon stations
   ○ Electrons rely on signal in the Calorimeter
     (higher occupancy ⇒ higher trigger thresholds)
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→ Critical aspect of the analysis: Get the differences between electron and muon efficiencies fully under control
\[ R_K = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+\mu^+\mu^-)}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+J/\psi(\mu^+\mu^-))} \left/ \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+e^+e^-)}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+J/\psi(e^+e^-))} \right. \]

\[ = \frac{N(B^+ \rightarrow K^+\mu^+\mu^-)}{N(B^+ \rightarrow K^+J/\psi(\mu^+\mu^-))} \times \frac{\varepsilon_{B^+\rightarrow K^+J/\psi(\mu^+\mu^-)}}{\varepsilon_{B^+\rightarrow K^+\mu^+\mu^-}} \times \frac{N(B^+ \rightarrow K^+J/\psi(e^+e^-))}{N(B^+ \rightarrow K^+e^+e^-)} \times \frac{\varepsilon_{B^+\rightarrow K^+e^+e^-}}{\varepsilon_{B^+\rightarrow K^+J/\psi(e^+e^-)}} \]

- \( R_K \) is measured as a **double ratio** to cancel out most systematics
  \( \rightarrow B^+ \rightarrow K^+J/\psi(\ell^+\ell^-) \) measured to be LF-universal within 0.4%

- Yields determined from a fit to the invariant mass of the final state particles

- Efficiencies computed using simulation that is calibrated with control channels in data
Strategy (II)

Resonant and nonresonant are separated in $q^2$

→ However, good overlap between $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (\ell^+ \ell^-)$ in the variables relevant to the detector response
Selection & backgrounds

• Identical selection between resonant and rare modes (except for $q^2$ and $m(K^+\ell^+\ell^-)$ requirements)

• Use particle ID requirements and mass vetoes to suppress peaking backgrounds from exclusive $B$-decays to negligible levels
  ○ Backgrounds from $b \rightarrow c \rightarrow s$ cascade decays
  ○ Mis-ID backgrounds, e.g. $B \rightarrow K\pi^{+} (\rightarrow e^+) \pi^- (\rightarrow e^-)$

• Multivariate selection to reduce combinatorial background and improve signal significance (BDT)
Efficiency calibration

Ratio of efficiencies determined with simulation carefully calibrated using control channels selected from data:

- Particle ID calibration
  - Tune particle ID variables for diff. particle species using kinematically selected calibration samples ($D^{*-} \rightarrow D^0 (K^- \pi^+) \pi^+ \ldots$) [EPJ T&I(2019)6:1]
- Calibration of $q^2$ and $m(K^+e^+e^-)$ resolutions
  - Use fit to $m(J/\psi)$ to smear $q^2$ in simulation to match that in data
- Calibration of $B^+$ kinematics
- Trigger efficiency calibration
Calibration of $B^+$ kinematics

- Calibrate the simulation so that it describes correctly the kinematics of the $B^+$'s produced at LHCb.
- Compare distributions in data and simulation using $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi(\ell^+ \ell^-)$ candidates.
- Iterative reweighing of $p_T(B^+) \times \eta(B^+)$, but also the vertex quality and the significance of the $B^+$ displacement.

none

$\mu\mu$ L0Muon, nominal

$\mu\mu$ LOTIS

$ee$ L0Electron

$VTX \chi^2$: $ee$ L0Electron, $p_T(B) \times \eta(B)$, $IP \chi^2$: $\mu\mu$ L0Muon

→ Systematic uncertainty from RMS between all these weights
The trigger efficiency is computed in data using $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (\ell^+ \ell^-)$ decays through a tag-and-probe method.

Especially for the electron samples, need to take into consideration some subtleties:
- dependence on how the calibration sample is selected,
- correlation between the two leptons in the signal.

Repeat calibration with different samples/different requirements on the accompanying lepton

$\rightarrow$ Associated systematic in the ratio of efficiencies is small

$$\mathcal{E}_{B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \ell^+ \ell^-} / \mathcal{E}_{B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (\ell^+ \ell^-)}$$
• After calibration, very good data/MC agreement in all key observables

\[ B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (\mu^+ \mu^-) \]

\[ B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (e^+ e^-) \]

Before calibration  
After calibration
Cross-check 1: Measurement of $r_{J/\psi}$

To ensure that the efficiencies are under control, check

$$r_{J/\psi} = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+ J/\psi(\mu^+ \mu^-))}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+ J/\psi(e^+ e^-))} = 1,$$

known to be true within 0.4%.

- Very stringent check, as it requires direct control of muons vs electrons.

- Result:

$$r_{J/\psi} = 1.014 \pm 0.035 \text{ (stat + syst)}$$

- Checked that the value of $r_{J/\psi}$ is compatible with unity for both Run 1 and Run 2 datasets, and in all trigger samples.
Cross-check 2: $r_{J/\psi}$ as a function of kinematics

Check that efficiencies are understood in all kinematic regions $\rightarrow r_{J/\psi}$ is flat for all variables examined

$\rightarrow$ e.g. given expected $\min(p_T(\ell^+), p_T(\ell^-))$ spectra, bias expected on $R_K$ if deviations are genuine rather than fluctuations is 0.1%

[LHCb-PAPER-2019-009]
Cross-check 3: $r_{J/\psi}$ in 2D

- Repeat the exercise in 2D, to check against correlated effects.
- Choose $q^2$-dependent variables relevant for the detector response.
- Select $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (\ell^+ \ell^-)$ events in bins of this 2D space and compute $r_{J/\psi}$ in each of them

$\rightarrow$ Flatness of $R^{2D}_{J/\psi}$ plots gives confidence that efficiencies are understood over all phase-space
Cross-check 4 & 5

• Measurement of the double ratio

\[
R_{\psi(2S)} = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+\psi(2S)(\mu^+\mu^-))}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+J/\psi(\mu^+\mu^-))} \bigg/ \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+\psi(2S)(e^+e^-))}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+J/\psi(e^+e^-))},
\]

Result well compatible with unity:

\[
R_{\psi(2S)} = 0.986 \pm 0.013 \text{ (stat + syst)}
\]

→ Good compatibility found separately for Run 1 and Run 2 datasets, and in all trigger categories.

• Checked that the \(\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to K^+\mu^+\mu^-)\) is compatible with previous determination [LHCb JHEP06 (2014) 133], but less precise owing to the selection being optimised for \(R_K\).

→ Good compatibility between the measurements in the Run 1 and Run 2 samples is also found.
Systematics uncertainties

- Efficiency calibration
  - Dependence with tag, in tag-and-probe determinations;
  - Parameterisation bias (e.g. factorisation of PID efficiencies for kaons and electrons) tag and trigger bias;
  - Dependence of \( q^2 \) and \( m(K^+e^+e^-) \) resolution with \( q^2 \);
  - Inaccuracies in material description in simulation (tracking efficiency)

- Statistics of simulation and calibration samples
  - Bootstrapping method that takes into account correlations between calibration samples and final measurement

- Choice of fit model
  - Associated signal and partially reconstructed background shape

→ Total relative systematic of 1.7% in the final \( R_K \) measurement ⇒ Expected to be statistically dominated
Fit to the resonant modes

Yields for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi(\ell^+\ell^-)$, used as input for cross-checks and final determination of $R_K$, obtained from a fit to the $J/\psi$-constrained $B$ mass

- Signal and background shapes determined from calibrated simulation
- Allow for a shift in the position in the signal peak and a scale factor to the resolution to float in the fit
Simultaneous fit to extract $R_K$

- Get $R_K$ directly as a parameter of the fit

- Perform simultaneous fit to $m(K^+ e^+ e^-)$ and $m(K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-)$ distributions

\[
R_K = \frac{N_{K\mu\mu}^r}{N_{Kee}^{rt}} \cdot \frac{N_{J/\psi ee}^{rt}}{N_{J/\psi\mu\mu}^r} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon_{Kee}^{rt}}{\varepsilon_{K\mu\mu}^r} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon_{J/\psi\mu\mu}^r}{\varepsilon_{J/\psi ee}^{rt}}
\]

\[
= \frac{N_{K\mu\mu}^r}{N_{Kee}^{rt}} \cdot c_{K}^{rt},
\]

for $r =$Run 1, Run 2 and $t =$L0Electron, L0Hadron, L0TIS.

- $c_{K}^{rt}$ are included as a multidimensional Gaussian constraint, with uncertainties and correlations according to the $6 \times 6$ covariance matrix $\sigma$

- Partially reconstructed background comes essentially from $B \rightarrow K^* e^+ e^-$ and so it can be constrained using

\[
\frac{N_{pre}^{r,t}}{N_{pre}^{r,eTOS}} = \frac{\varepsilon_{trig, mass}^{r,t}(K^* ee)}{\varepsilon_{trig, mass}^{r,eTOS}(K^* ee)} = r_{pre}^{rt}
\]
Fit to $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \ell^+ \ell^-$ candidates

- Signal and background shapes determined from calibrated simulation.
- Mass shift and resolution scale fixed to that observed in the fit to the resonant mode.
- Leakage from $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi (ee) K^+$ in the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ e^+ e^-$ signal region ($1.1 < q^2 < 6.0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^4$), constrained from the fit to the resonant mode.
Final results

Using 2011 and 2012 LHCb data:

\[ R_K = 0.745 \pm 0.090 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.036 \text{ (syst)}, \]

compatible with the SM expectation at 2.6\( \sigma \).

*LHCb Run1 bin centre horizontally displaced for illustration.*
Final results

Using 2011 and 2012 LHCb data:

\[ R_K = 0.745 \pm 0.090 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.036 \text{ (syst)}, \]

compatible with the SM expectation at 2.6\( \sigma \).

Reanalysing 2011-2012 and adding 2015 and 2016 data, \( R_K \) becomes

\[ R_K = 0.846 \pm 0.060 \pm 0.014 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.016 \text{ (syst)} \]

which is compatible with the SM expectation at 2.5\( \sigma \).
Compatibility with the Standard Model

- Include a Gaussian constraint on the SM prediction for $R_K$, to take into account the theory uncertainty ($\mathcal{O}(10^{-2})$).
- Compatibility with the SM obtained by integrating the profiled likelihood as a function of $R_K$ above 1.
- The result is compatible with the SM at 2.5 standard deviations.

Solid line represents the profiled likelihood. For reference, dashed lines depict quadratic behaviour.
Compatibility between categories

- Checked compatibility with previous analysis [LHCb, PRL 113 (2014) 151601] taking into account the sample overlap

- Checked internal compatibility of the analysis - 3 trigger categories and 2 runs
  - Look at $\Delta \log L = \min (\log L)_{\text{indep}} - \min (\log L)_{\text{comb}}$
Final results (II)

• $R_K$ is obtained from a simultaneous fit to Run 1 and Run 2 datasets.

• If instead the Run 1 and Run 2 were fitted separately:

$$R_K^{\text{old Run1}} = 0.745^{+0.090}_{-0.074} \pm 0.036,$$

$$R_K^{\text{new Run1}} = 0.717^{+0.083+0.017}_{-0.071-0.016},$$

$$R_K^{2015 + 2016} = 0.928^{+0.089+0.020}_{-0.076-0.017}.$$

Compatibility taking correlations into account:

→ Previous Run 1 result vs. this Run 1 result: $< 1\sigma$
  (new reconstruction, selection)

→ Run 1 result vs. Run 2 result: $1.9\sigma$
Final results (III)

- Determination of $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ branching fraction:
  - Compatible with previous result ([JHEP06(2014)133]),
  - Run 1 and Run 2 results also compatible,

- Combining the measurement of $R_K$ with the previously published value for $B(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-)$ [LHCb-PAPER-2014-006]

\[
\frac{d\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ e^+ e^-)}{dq^2} = (28.6 ^{+2.0}_{-1.7}\text{(stat)} \pm 1.4\text{(syst)}) \times 10^{-9} \frac{c^4}{\text{GeV}^2}
\]

in the range $q^2 \in [1.1, 6] \text{GeV}^2/c^4$.

- Dominant systematic come from the $B(B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi)$.
- This is the most precise determination of this branching fraction to date.
First estimation of the impact on Global Fits

- Best fit point still in tension with the SM
- Worse compatibility between $R_K^{(*)}$ & $b \rightarrow s\mu^+\mu^-$ observables
- Muonic NP: Best fit closer to the SM, $C_9 = -C_{10}$ still preferred
- Adding LFU NP: Slight preference for universal shift in $C_9$

Conclusions

- Performed measurement of the LFU ratio $R_K$ using 2011-2016 data with significantly improved precision.

- However, compatibility with the SM unchanged: $2.5\sigma \Rightarrow$ LFU breaking not confirmed, nor ruled out.
Conclusions (II)

- With the LHCb dataset in hand, many interesting results still to come → \(2 \times\) as many \(B\)'s as in present \(R_K\) update.
  - Update of \(R_K\) and \(R_{K^{*0}}\) with full Run 2 dataset
  - LFU test in different channels
  - Update of angular observables of \(b \rightarrow s\mu^+\mu^-\) decays

- The larger dataset accessible to LHCb upgrade, starting in 2021, will allow us to definitely understand the present flavour anomalies.
BACKUP
Cross-check 3: $r_{J/\psi}$ in 2D

- Our control channel sits at $q^2 = (m_{J/\psi})^2$, however the detector response is not a direct function of $q^2$...
- ... rather it depends on different set of variables that are a function of $q^2$: $\alpha_{J/\psi}$, $\max p_\ell$, $\min p_\ell$, $\alpha_\ell$, $(\alpha_B^+, \phi_B, \phi_{\ell\ell}, \phi_\ell)$

- In these variables, $B^+ \to K^+ J/\psi (e^+ e^-)$ decays give good coverage of the rare decay spectrum in 1D and even 2D.

→ Parameterise the decay in the frame of the detector and use the high yield of the $J/\psi$ mode to look for trends as a function of these variables.
Fit window for $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ e^+ e^-$

Remaining backgrounds:

• Combinatorial

• $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ J/\psi (e^+ e^-)$

• Partially reconstructed $B \rightarrow K X \ell\ell$ decays

Choose the $m(K^+ e^+ e^-)$ window so that the contribution from partially reconstructed decays is dominated by $B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} e^+ e^-$,

$\rightarrow$ Included the contribution from $B \rightarrow K^{**} e^+ e^-$ decays, $K^{**} \equiv \{K_1, K_2^{*0(+)}\}$, as a systematic

$$\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow K^{**} e^- e^-) = \mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow K^{*0} e^- e^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow K^{**} J/\psi)/\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow K^{*0} J/\psi)$$