

## Charmonium-like states with $J^P = 1^+$ and isospin 1

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Many mesons with properties incompatible with a  $\bar{c}c$  structure have already been discovered, e.g. the  $Z_c$  mesons with isospin 1. We investigate the spectrum of exotic charmonium-like mesons using lattice QCD. The focus is on  $\bar{c}c\bar{q}q$  states with  $J^{PC} = 1^{++}$  and isospin 1. This is the first study of four-quark states with these quantum numbers, a non-zero total momentum and two different lattice volumes. We extract the energy levels and determine the scattering length for  $D\bar{D}^*$  scattering close to the threshold using Lüscher's formalism. Our preliminary results show that the energy shifts for eigenstates dominated by  $D\bar{D}^*$  are very small in the  $1^{++}$  channel and consistent with zero in the  $1^{+-}$  channel.

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## 1. Introduction

The first signal of a nonconventional meson was the discovery of the  $\chi_{c1}(3872)$  by Belle in 2003 [1]. Its quantum numbers  $I(J^{PC}) = 0(1^{++})$  are compatible with a naive  $\bar{c}c$  structure, however, its mass and decay properties point to a more complex nature. The clearest evidence that a resonance containing  $\bar{c}c$  cannot be described as a simple quark-antiquark state is when it decays into a charged final state. The first such charged structure in the charmonium sector was discovered in 2013 when the BESIII and Belle collaborations observed the  $Z_c^+(3900)$  in the  $\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi$  invariant mass spectrum [2, 3]. This observation was confirmed by CLEO-c [4]. The quark content of the  $Z_c^+(3900)$  is  $\bar{c}c\bar{d}u$  ( $I_z = 1$ ). Its neutral partner  $Z_c^0(3900)$  has also been seen [4, 5]. The invariant mass of the  $Z_c(3900)$  lies slightly above the  $D\bar{D}^*$  threshold suggesting that it could be observed in the decay channel  $(D\bar{D}^*)_{I=1}$ . This was confirmed by the BESIII collaboration [6, 7]. The current consensus is that  $Z_c(3900)$  is a  $1(1^{+-})$  state with mass  $M = 3887.1 \pm 2.6$  MeV and width  $\Gamma = 28.4 \pm 2.6$  MeV [8]. Higher up in the spectrum, the  $Z_c(4200)$  [9] and the  $Z_c(4430)$  [10–13], have also been seen.

Different binding mechanisms have been suggested for the  $Z_c(3900)$ : it could be a hadronic molecule, have a compact tetraquark structure or result from a simple kinematic effect linked to the opening of meson-meson thresholds. Many studies involving different effective field theory approaches have been performed. Combining local hidden gauge and heavy quark spin symmetry, ref. [14] finds that the exchange of heavy vector mesons gives the most significant contribution. The resulting scattering amplitude contains information about a state with a mass between 3869 and 3875 MeV and a decay width of around 40 MeV. Another work [15], which studies the invariant mass distribution of the  $J/\psi\pi$  and  $D\bar{D}^*$  channels suggests that the  $Z_c(3900)$  signal may originate from a resonance or a virtual state, depending on whether the  $D\bar{D}$   $s$ -wave interaction employed is energy dependent or independent, respectively. If the peak is produced by a virtual state, it must have a hadronic molecular nature. The authors of [16] come to similar conclusions. An analysis of the S-matrix poles in the framework of the constituent quark model involving coupled channels [17] connects the  $Z_c(3900)$  signal with the presence of a virtual state that can be seen as a  $D\bar{D}^*$  threshold cusp, i.e. a feature caused by the opening of a new threshold. This analysis is consistent with the interpretation that the diagonal interaction between the  $D\bar{D}^*$  is too suppressed to develop resonances and that the interaction between different channels is responsible for a peak in the  $D\bar{D}^*$ ,  $J/\psi\pi$  invariant mass distributions.

Several lattice studies of the  $Z_c(3900)$  have been performed so far: two works by the HAL QCD collaboration [18, 19] suggest the importance of cross-channel interaction, which is consistent with the conclusions of ref. [17]. However, works which employ Lüscher's formalism have not been able to confirm a narrow resonance-like peak close to the threshold. This includes [20–24] and the more recent coupled channel analysis of [25]. In particular, no additional eigenstates are found and the energy shifts with respect to the non-interacting levels turn out to be insignificant. Comparing results from both methods is difficult since the HAL QCD approach does not provide information on the energy shifts.

While charmonium-like states with  $1(1^{+-})$  have been discovered in experiment, no states with  $1(1^{++})$  and quark content  $\bar{c}c\bar{d}u$  have been observed. Such a state would be an isospin partner of the  $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ . Two lattice QCD studies [26, 27], which find the state  $\chi_{c1}(3872)$  slightly below the

$D\bar{D}^*$  threshold, also do not see any new candidates in this spectrum.

In this proceedings, we report on a lattice study of charmonium-like states with quantum numbers  $1(1^{\pm})$ . We employ meson-meson interpolating operators that are projected on to two different total momenta. The corresponding two-point correlation functions are calculated on two lattices with different spatial extents. The extraction of the energy levels is challenging since we are interested in the region near the  $D\bar{D}^*$  threshold, which lies above several other meson-meson thresholds, e.g.,  $J/\psi\pi$  and  $\eta_c\rho$  in the  $1(1^{+-})$  channel and  $J/\psi\rho$  in the  $1(1^{++})$  channel.

## 2. Lattice details

We employ two ensembles of gauge field configurations with  $N_f = 2 + 1$  non-perturbatively  $O(a)$  improved Wilson dynamical fermions, a lattice spacing  $a = 0.08636(98)(40)$  fm and a pion mass  $m_\pi = 280(3)$  MeV. The ensembles are provided by the Coordinated Lattice Simulations consortium [28, 29]. The spatial volumes are  $N_L^3 = 24^3$  and  $N_L^3 = 32^3$ , where we utilise 255 and 492 configurations, respectively [30]. Open boundary conditions in time are imposed [31] and the sources of the correlation functions are located in the bulk away from the boundary. The study is performed for a charm quark mass which is slightly larger than the physical quark mass [32].

## 3. Interpolating operators

The finite-volume energies are determined from the correlation matrices

$$C_{ij}(t) = \langle O_i(t_{\text{src}} + t) O_j^\dagger(t_{\text{src}}) \rangle, \quad (1)$$

where  $O_i$  ( $O_j^\dagger$ ) is an interpolator that annihilates (creates) a state with certain quantum numbers.  $\bar{c}c$  interpolators are not considered since we are interested in isospin  $I = 1$ , while local diquark-antidiquark interpolators are also omitted as they seem to have very little influence, according to [27]. The interpolators used are of two types: charmonium-light meson,  $H(|\mathbf{p}_i|^2)L(|\mathbf{p}_j|^2)$ , and  $D$ -meson- $D$ -meson,  $\bar{M}_i(|\mathbf{p}_i|^2)M_j(|\mathbf{p}_j|^2)$ , where every  $H(\mathbf{p}_i)$ ,  $L(\mathbf{p}_j)$ ,  $\bar{M}_i(\mathbf{p}_i)$  and  $M_j(\mathbf{p}_j)$  has an appropriate Dirac structure and is separately projected on to definite momentum  $\mathbf{p}_i$ ,  $\mathbf{p}_j$  so that the total momentum is  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{p}_j$ . The full set of interpolating operators used are given in Tables 1 and 2. They are constructed for  $\Lambda^P = T_1^+$  and  $\Lambda = A_2$ , which are irreducible representations of the spatial lattice symmetry groups  $O_h$  ( $|\mathbf{P}| = 0$ ) and  $\text{Dic}_4$  ( $|\mathbf{P}| = 1 \cdot 2\pi/L$ ), respectively. The quantum numbers contributing to the chosen irreducible representations are not only  $J^P = 1^+$  but also unwanted higher  $J = 3, \dots$  and, in the case of  $\Lambda = A_2$ ,  $J^P = 0^-, 2^-$ . The Wick contractions are evaluated using the distillation method [33] with 90 (100) Laplacian eigenvectors for  $N_L = 24$  (32).

## 4. Preliminary results

### 4.1 Energy levels

We extract energy levels  $E_n^{\text{lat}}$  from single-exponential fits to the eigenvalues  $\lambda^{(n)}(t) \propto e^{-E_n^{\text{lat}}t}$  of the generalized eigenvalue problem [34]. They are shown in Fig. 1 for  $1^{++}$  and Fig. 2 for  $1^{+-}$ .

$ \mathbf{P} ^2 = 0, \Lambda^{PC} = T_1^{+-}$			$ \mathbf{P} ^2 = 1, \Lambda^C = A_2^-$		
$N_L = 24$ 15 interpolators	$N_L = 32$ 21 interp.	$J/\psi(0)\pi(0) \times 2$	$J/\psi(1)\pi(0) \times 2$	$N_L = 24$ 21 interp.	
		$J/\psi(1)\pi(1) \times 2$	$J/\psi(0)\pi(1) \times 2$		
		$J/\psi(2)\pi(2) \times 3$	$J/\psi(2)\pi(1) \times 2$		
		$\eta_c(0)\rho(0)$	$J/\psi(1)\pi(2) \times 2$		
		$\eta_c(1)\rho(1) \times 2$	$J/\psi(4)\pi(1)$		
		$\bar{D}^*(0)D(0) \times 2$	$\eta_c(1)\rho(0)$		
		$\bar{D}^*(1)D(1) \times 2$	$\eta_c(0)\rho(1)$		
		$\bar{D}^*(0)D^*(0)$	$\eta_c(2)\rho(1) \times 2$		
		$J/\psi(3)\pi(3) \times 2$	$\bar{D}^*(0)D(1) \times 2$		
		$\eta_c(2)\rho(2) \times 3$	$\bar{D}^*(1)D(0) \times 2$		
		$h_c(1)\pi(1)$	$\bar{D}^*(1)D(2) \times 2$		
			$\bar{D}^*(2)D(1) \times 2$		

**Table 1:** Table of interpolators transforming under irreducible representations  $\Lambda^{PC} = T_1^{+-}$  and  $\Lambda^C = A_2^-$  which correspond to  $J^{PC} = 1^{+-}$ . All momenta here are in units of  $2\pi/L$ .

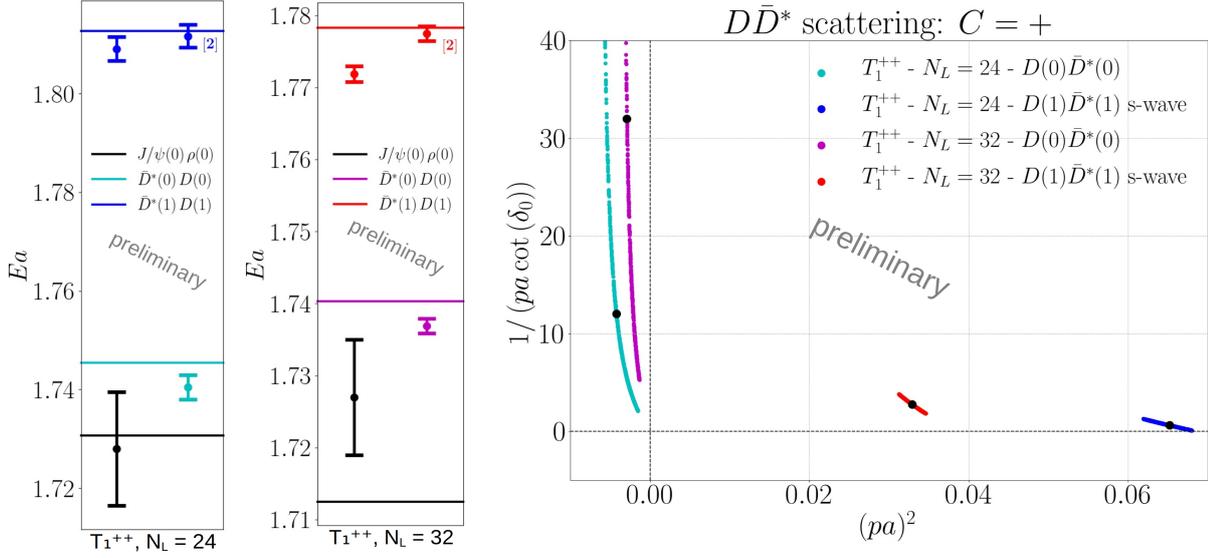
$ \mathbf{P} ^2 = 0, \Lambda^{PC} = T_1^{++}$			$ \mathbf{P} ^2 = 1, \Lambda^C = A_2^+$		
$N_L = 24$ 5 interpolators	$N_L = 32$ 10 interp.	$J/\psi(0)\rho(0)$	$\eta_c(1)a_0(0)$	$N_L = 32$ 17 interp.	$N_L = 24$ 13 interp.
		$\bar{D}^*(0)D(0) \times 2$	$\chi_{c0}(1)\pi(0)$		
		$\bar{D}^*(1)D(1) \times 2$	$\chi_{c0}(0)\pi(1)$		
		$J/\psi(1)\rho(1) \times 3$	$J/\psi(1)\rho(0)$		
		$\chi_{c0}(1)\pi(1)$	$J/\psi(0)\rho(1)$		
		$\bar{D}^*(0)D(1) \times 2$			
		$\bar{D}^*(1)D(0) \times 2$			
		$\bar{D}^*(1)D(2) \times 2$			
		$\bar{D}^*(2)D(1) \times 2$			
		$\eta_c(0)a_0(1)$			
		$\chi_{c0}(2)\pi(1)$			
		$\chi_{c0}(4)\pi(1)$			
		$\chi_{c1}(2)\pi(1)$			

**Table 2:** Table of interpolators transforming under irreducible representations  $\Lambda^{PC} = T_1^{++}$  and  $\Lambda^C = A_2^+$  which correspond to  $J^{PC} = 1^{++}$ . All momenta here are in units of  $2\pi/L$ .

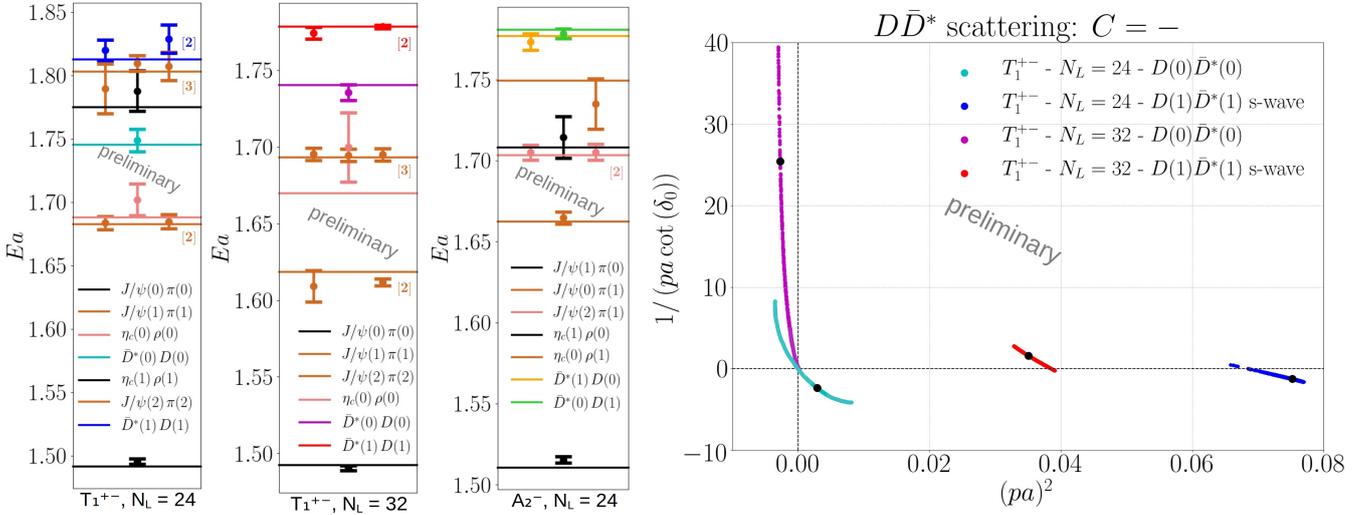
Many states lie below the lowest  $D\bar{D}^*$  levels, in particular, for non-zero total momentum and the larger lattice volume. The energy shifts of states dominated by  $D\bar{D}^*$  are very small in the  $1^{++}$  case and negligible within the present uncertainties in the  $1^{+-}$  case. Despite the light mesons  $\rho$  and  $a_0$  being resonances, they have been treated as stable particles. In the energy level plots in Figs. 1 and 2, one can see that eigen-energies dominated by interpolators containing the  $\rho$  meson have significant uncertainties.

## 4.2 $D\bar{D}^*$ scattering

To simplify the procedure, we focus on  $D\bar{D}^*$  scattering near the threshold. Its coupling to other channels ( $J/\psi\pi, \eta_c\rho, J/\psi\rho$ ) is neglected when studying the scattering amplitudes. The spectrum is expected to be dominated by the  $\ell = 0$  partial wave. The finite volume eigen-energies are connected



**Figure 1:** Results for  $I(J^{PC}) = 1(1^{++})$ . The two panes on the left represent the energy levels (points,  $E_n^{\text{lat}}$ ) and non-interacting energies (lines,  $E_{H_i(\mathbf{p}_i)}^{\text{lat}} + E_{H_j(\mathbf{p}_j)}^{\text{lat}}$ ). From left to right the panes represent  $T_1^{++}$  with  $N_L = 24$  and  $T_1^{++}$  with  $N_L = 32$ , respectively. Numbers within the square brackets refer to the multiplicity of certain non-interacting levels. The plot on the right shows  $1/(p \cot(\delta))$  where the colors of the states match those in the spectra, and  $\delta$  is the s-wave  $DD^*$  scattering phase shift with approximations stated in subsection 4.2. Results are shown with  $1\sigma$  statistical uncertainty.



**Figure 2:** Results for  $I(J^{PC}) = 1(1^{+-})$ . The three panes on the left represent the energy levels (points,  $E_n^{\text{lat}}$ ) and non-interacting energies (lines,  $E_{H_i(\mathbf{p}_i)}^{\text{lat}} + E_{H_j(\mathbf{p}_j)}^{\text{lat}}$ ). From left to right the panes represent  $T_1^{+-}$  with  $N_L = 24$ ,  $T_1^{+-}$  with  $N_L = 32$  and  $A_2^-$  with  $N_L = 24$ , respectively. Numbers within the square brackets refer to the multiplicity of certain non-interacting levels. The plot on the right shows  $1/(p \cot(\delta))$  where the colors of the states match those in the spectra, and  $\delta$  is the s-wave  $DD^*$  scattering phase shift with approximations stated in subsection 4.2. Results are shown with  $1\sigma$  statistical uncertainty.

to the infinite volume s-wave  $D\bar{D}^*$  scattering phase shift  $\delta$  via

$$p \cot(\delta(p)) = \frac{2\mathcal{Z}_{00}^{\mathbf{d}}(1, (\frac{pL}{2\pi})^2)}{\gamma\sqrt{\pi}L}, \quad (2)$$

where higher partial waves are omitted, and the momentum  $p = |\mathbf{p}_{cm}|$  in the center-of-mass frame is derived from

$$E_{cm} = \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_{cm}|^2 + m_i^2} + \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_{cm}|^2 + m_j^2}, \quad \text{where} \quad E_{cm} = \sqrt{E_n^2 - |\mathbf{P}|^2}. \quad (3)$$

Discretization effects modify the dispersion relation, which deviates from the continuum one. To mitigate this, we use the following energies

$$E_n = E_n^{\text{lat}} + E_{H_i(\mathbf{p}_i)}^{\text{con}} + E_{H_j(\mathbf{p}_j)}^{\text{con}} - E_{H_i(\mathbf{p}_i)}^{\text{lat}} - E_{H_j(\mathbf{p}_j)}^{\text{lat}}, \quad (4)$$

where  $E_{H(\mathbf{p})}^{\text{lat}}$  and  $E_{H(\mathbf{p})}^{\text{con}} = (|\mathbf{p}|^2 + m_H^2)^{1/2}$  are single-hadron energies. Within the aforementioned approximations, the scattering amplitude can be parametrized in terms of  $\delta$

$$T = \frac{1}{p \cot(\delta(p)) - ip}. \quad (5)$$

Assuming elastic scattering near the threshold, one can perform the effective range expansion  $p \cot(\delta(p)) = 1/a_0 + r_0 p^2/2 + \mathcal{O}(p^4)$ . Our preliminary results are presented in Figs. 1 and 2. One can infer the smallness of the interaction from the small  $1/(p \cot(\delta))$  values, which are zero in the non-interacting limit.

## 5. Conclusion and outlook

We have extracted the spectrum of charmonium-like states with  $1(1^+)$ . This is the first study considering hadronic states with these quantum numbers, a non-zero total momentum and two different lattice volumes. The energy shifts are small, which is consistent with conclusions from previous lattice QCD studies using the Lüscher method. This disfavors a significant attraction between  $D$  and  $\bar{D}^*$ . Experimental evidence and findings from this preliminary study perhaps suggest that a significant coupling between channels causes the existence of  $Z_c$ . In the near future, we will make a comparison with phenomenological approaches and put constraints on them. In particular, we aim to compare our lattice eigen-energies with the energy levels that different models, such as [14, 17], predict.

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