

2021 Update on ε_K with lattice QCD inputs

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We present recent updates for ε_K determined directly from the standard model (SM) with lattice QCD inputs such as \hat{B}_K , $|V_{cb}|$, $|V_{us}|$, ξ_0 , ξ_2 , ξ_{LD} , f_K , and m_c . We find that the standard model with exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ and other lattice QCD inputs describes only 66% of the experimental value of $|\varepsilon_K|$ and does not explain its remaining 34%, which leads to a strong tension in $|\varepsilon_K|$ at the $4.5\sigma \sim 3.7\sigma$ level between the SM theory and experiment. We also find that this tension disappears when we use the inclusive value of $|V_{cb}|$ obtained using the heavy quark expansion based on the QCD sum rule approach.

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1. Introduction

This paper is an update of our previous papers [1–6]. Here, we present recent progress in determination of $|\varepsilon_K|$ with updated inputs from lattice QCD.

Here, we follow the color convention of our previous papers [1–6] in Tables 1–7. We use the red color for the new input data which is used to evaluate ε_K . We use the blue color for the new input data which is not used for some obvious reason.

2. Input parameter ξ_0

The absorptive part of long distance effects on ε_K is parametrized into ξ_0 .

$$\xi_0 = \frac{\text{Im } A_0}{\text{Re } A_0}, \quad \xi_2 = \frac{\text{Im } A_2}{\text{Re } A_2}, \quad \text{Re} \left(\frac{\varepsilon'}{\varepsilon} \right) = \frac{\omega}{\sqrt{2}|\varepsilon_K|} (\xi_2 - \xi_0). \quad (1)$$

There are two independent methods to determine ξ_0 in lattice QCD: the indirect and direct methods. The indirect method is to determine ξ_0 using Eq. (1) with lattice QCD results for ξ_2 combined with experimental results for ε'/ε , ε_K , and ω . The direct method is to determine ξ_0 directly using the lattice QCD results for $\text{Im } A_0$, combined with experimental results for $\text{Re } A_0$.

In Table 1 (a), we summarize experimental results for $\text{Re } A_0$ and $\text{Re } A_2$. In Table 1 (b), we summarize lattice results for $\text{Im } A_0$ and $\text{Im } A_2$ calculated by RBC-UKQCD. In Table 1 (c), we summarize results for ξ_0 which is obtained using results in Table 1 (a) and (b).

Here, we use results of the indirect method for ξ_0 to evaluate ε_K , since its systematic and statistical errors are much smaller than those of the direct method.

3. Input parameters: $|V_{cb}|$

In Table 2 (a) and (b), we present recent updates for exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ and inclusive $|V_{cb}|$ respectively. In Table 2 (a), we summarize results for exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ obtained by various groups: HFLAV, BELLE, BABAR, FNAL/MILC, LHCb, and FLAG. Results from LHCb comes from analysis on $B_s \rightarrow D_s^* \ell \bar{\nu}$ decays which are not available in the B -factories. Since the decays modes of B_s have poor statistics, the final results have overall uncertainty much larger than those of B by an order of magnitude. Hence, we drop out results of LHCb in this article without loss of fairness. The rest of results for exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ have comparable size of errors and are consistent with one another within 1.0σ statistical uncertainty. In addition, it is nice to observe all the results be consistent between the CLN and BGL analysis, after all the boisterous debates [2, 11].

In Table 2 (b), we present recent results for inclusive $|V_{cb}|$. The HFLAV group has reported the same results for inclusive $|V_{cb}|$ in 2021 as in 2017, while FLAG reported updated results.

4. Input parameters: Wolfenstein parameters

In Table 3 (a), we present the Wolfenstein parameters on the market. As explained in Ref. [2, 6], we use the results of angle-only-fit (AOF) in Table 3 (a) in order to avoid unwanted correlation between $(\varepsilon_K, |V_{cb}|)$, and $(\bar{\rho}, \bar{\eta})$. We determine λ from $|V_{us}|$ which is obtained from the $K_{\ell 2}$ and $K_{\ell 3}$ decays using lattice QCD inputs for form factors and decay constants. We determine the A parameter from $|V_{cb}|$.

parameter	method	value	Ref.	source
Re A_0	exp	$3.3201(18) \times 10^{-7}$ GeV	[7, 8]	NA
Re A_2	exp	$1.4787(31) \times 10^{-8}$ GeV	[7]	NA
ω	exp	0.04454(12)	[7]	NA
$ \varepsilon_K $	exp	$2.228(11) \times 10^{-3}$	[9]	PDG-2021
Re (ε'/ε)	exp	$1.66(23) \times 10^{-3}$	[9]	PDG-2021

(a) Experimental results for ω , Re A_0 and Re A_2 .

parameter	method	value (GeV)	Ref.	source
Im A_0	lattice	$-6.98(62)(144) \times 10^{-11}$	[10]	RBC-UK-2020 p4t1
Im A_2	lattice	$-8.34(103) \times 10^{-13}$	[10]	RBC-UK-2020 p31e90

(b) Results for Im A_0 , and Im A_2 in lattice QCD.

parameter	method	value	ref	source
ξ_0	indirect	$-1.738(177) \times 10^{-4}$	[10]	SWME
ξ_0	direct	$-2.102(472) \times 10^{-4}$	[10]	SWME

(c) Results for ξ_0 obtained using the direct and indirect methods in lattice QCD.

Table 1: Results for ξ_0 . The p4t1 is an abbreviation for Table 1 in page 4. The p31e90 is an abbreviation for Eq. (90) in page 31.

5. Input parameters: \hat{B}_K , ξ_{LD} , and others

In FLAG 2021 [17], they report lattice QCD results for \hat{B}_K with $N_f = 2$, $N_f = 2 + 1$, and $N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$. Here, we use the results for \hat{B}_K with $N_f = 2 + 1$, which is obtained by taking an average over the four data points from BMW 11, Laiho 11, RBC-UKQCD 14, and SWME 15 in Table 4 (a).

The dispersive long distance (LD) effect is defined as

$$\xi_{LD} = \frac{m'_{LD}}{\sqrt{2}\Delta M_K}, \quad m'_{LD} = -\text{Im} \left[\mathcal{P} \sum_C \frac{\langle \bar{K}^0 | H_w | C \rangle \langle C | H_w | K^0 \rangle}{m_{K^0} - E_C} \right] \quad (2)$$

As explained in Refs. [2], there are two independent methods to estimate ξ_{LD} : one is the BGI estimate [27], and the other is the RBC-UKQCD estimate [28, 29]. The BGI method is to estimate the size of ξ_{LD} using chiral perturbation theory as follows,

$$\xi_{LD} = -0.4(3) \times \frac{\xi_0}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (3)$$

The RBC-UKQCD method is to estimate the size of ξ_{LD} as follows,

$$\xi_{LD} = (0 \pm 1.6)\%. \quad (4)$$

channel	value	method	ref	source
ex-comb	39.13(59)	comb	[12]	HFLAV-2017
ex-comb	39.25(56)	CLN	[13] p115e223	HFLAV-2021
$B \rightarrow D^* \ell \bar{\nu}$	39.0(2)(6)(6)	CLN	[14] erratum p4	BELLE-2021
$B \rightarrow D^* \ell \bar{\nu}$	38.9(3)(7)(6)	BGL	[14] erratum p4	BELLE 2021
$B \rightarrow D^* \ell \bar{\nu}$	38.40(84)	CLN	[15] p5t2	BABAR-2019
$B \rightarrow D^* \ell \bar{\nu}$	38.36(90)	BGL	[15] p5t1	BABAR-2019
$B \rightarrow D^* \ell \bar{\nu}$	38.57(78)	BGL	[11]	FNAL/MILC-2021
			p27e5.22, p34e6.1	
$B_s \rightarrow D_s^* \ell \bar{\nu}$	41.4(6)(9)(12)	CLN	[16] p15	LHCb-2020
$B_s \rightarrow D_s^* \ell \bar{\nu}$	42.3(8)(9)(12)	BGL	[16] p15	LHCb-2020
ex-comb	39.48(68)	comb	[17] p191	FLAG-2021

(a) Exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ in units of 10^{-3} .

channel	value	ref	source
kinetic scheme	42.19(78)	[12, 13]	HFLAV-2021
kinetic scheme	42.00(64)	[17] p192	FLAG-2021
1S scheme	41.98(45)	[12, 13]	HFLAV-2021

(b) Inclusive $|V_{cb}|$ in units of 10^{-3} .

Table 2: Results for (a) exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ and (b) inclusive $|V_{cb}|$. The same notation as in Table 1 is used.

WP	CKMfitter	UTfit	AOF	Input	Value	Ref.
λ	0.22475(25) [18]	0.22500(100) [19]	0.2249(5) [17] p80	η_{cc}	1.72(27)	[3]
$\bar{\rho}$	0.1577(96) [18]	0.148(13) [19]	0.146(22) [20]	η_{tt}	0.5765(65)	[21]
$\bar{\eta}$	0.3493(95) [18]	0.348(10) [19]	0.333(16) [20]	η_{ct}	0.496(47)	[22]

(a) Wolfenstein parameters

(b) η_{ij}

Table 3: (a) Wolfenstein parameters and (b) QCD corrections: η_{ij} with $i, j = c, t$.

Here, we use both methods to estimate the size of ξ_{LD} .

In Table 3 (b), we present higher order QCD corrections: η_{ij} with $i, j = t, c$. A new approach using $u - t$ unitarity instead of $c - t$ unitarity appeared in Ref. [30], which is supposed to have a better convergence with respect to the charm quark mass. But we have not incorporated this into our analysis yet, which we will do in near future.

In Table 4 (b), we present other input parameters needed to evaluate ε_K .

6. Quark mass

In Table 5, we present the charm quark mass $m_c(m_c)$ and top quark mass $m_t(m_t)$. From FLAG 2021 [17], we take the results for $m_c(m_c)$ with $N_f = 2+1$, since there is some inconsistency among

Collaboration	Ref.	\hat{B}_K	Input	Value	Ref.
SWME 15	[23]	0.735(5)(36)	G_F	$1.1663787(6) \times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$	PDG-21 [9]
RBC/UKQCD 14	[24]	0.7499(24)(150)	M_W	80.379(12) GeV	PDG-21 [9]
Laiho 11	[25]	0.7628(38)(205)	θ	$43.52(5)^\circ$	PDG-21 [9]
BMW 11	[26]	0.7727(81)(84)	m_{K^0}	497.611(13) MeV	PDG-21 [9]
FLAG 2021	[17]	0.7625(97)	ΔM_K	$3.484(6) \times 10^{-12} \text{ MeV}$	PDG-21 [9]
			F_K	155.7(3) MeV	FLAG-21 [17]

(a) \hat{B}_K

(b) Other parameters

Table 4: (a) Results for \hat{B}_K and (b) other input parameters.

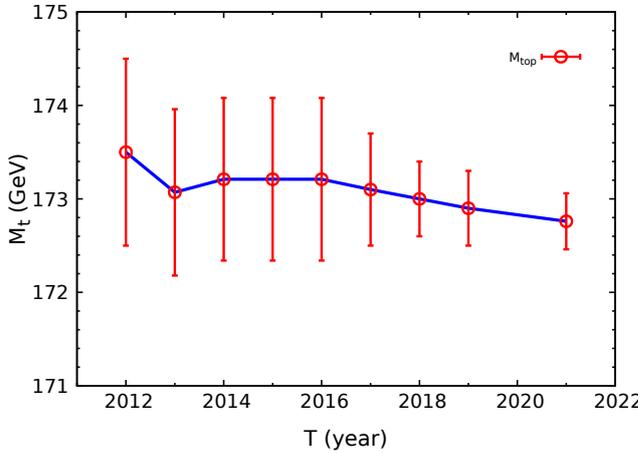
Collaboration	N_f	$m_c(m_c)$	Ref.	Collaboration	M_t	$m_t(m_t)$	Ref.
FLAG 2021	2 + 1	1.275(5)	[17]	PDG 2019	172.9(4)	163.08(38)(17)	[31]
FLAG 2021	2 + 1 + 1	1.278(13)	[17]	PDG 2021	172.76(30)	162.96(28)(17)	[9]

(a) $m_c(m_c)$ [GeV]

(b) $m_t(m_t)$ [GeV]

Table 5: Results for (a) charm quark mass and (b) top quark mass.

the lattice results of various groups with $N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$. For the top quark mass, we use the PDG 2021 results for the pole mass M_t to obtain $m_t(m_t)$.



(a) History of M_t (top quark pole mass).

source	error (%)	memo
$ V_{cb} $	44.7	Exclusive
$\bar{\eta}$	21.4	AOF
η_{ct}	18.1	$c - t$ Box
η_{cc}	7.7	$c - c$ Box
$\bar{\rho}$	3.2	$c - c$ Box
ξ_{LD}	1.9	RBC-UKQCD
\hat{B}_K	1.5	FLAG
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots

(b) Error budget for $|\varepsilon_K|^{SM}$

Table 6: (a) M_t history (b) error budget.

In Table 6 Fig. (a), we present the time evolution of top pole mass M_t . Here we find that the average value drifts downward a little bit and the error shrinks fast as time goes on, since LHC has been accumulating high statistics on M_t . The data for 2020 is dropped out intentionally to reflect on the absence of Lattice 2020 due to COVID-19, even though it is available.

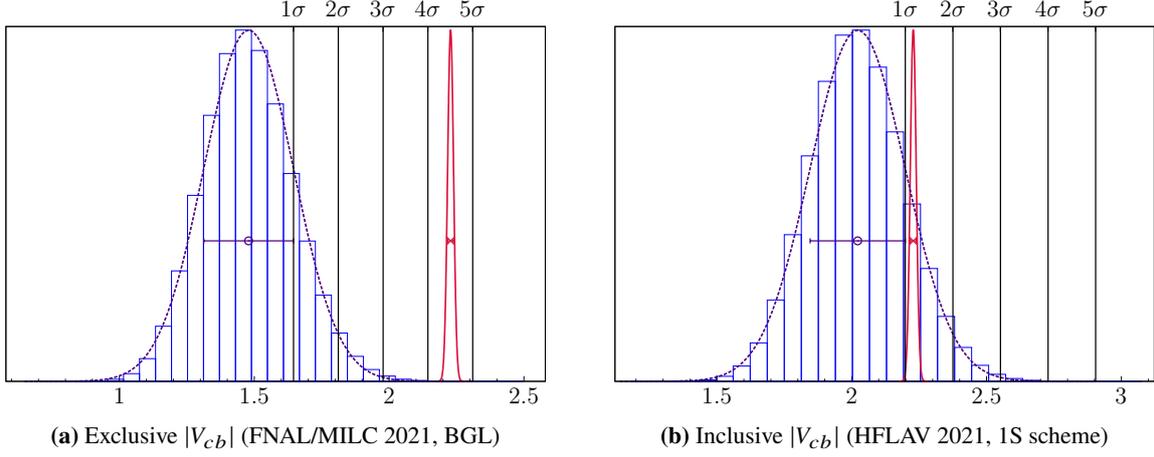


Figure 1: $|\varepsilon_K|$ with (a) exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ (left) and (b) inclusive $|V_{cb}|$ (right) in units of 1.0×10^{-3} .

7. Results for ε_K

In Fig. 1, we show results for $|\varepsilon_K|$ evaluated directly from the standard model (SM) with lattice QCD inputs given in the previous sections. In Fig. 1 (a), the blue curve represents the theoretical evaluation of $|\varepsilon_K|$ obtained using the FLAG-2021 results for \hat{B}_K , AOF for Wolfenstein parameters, the [FNAL/MILC 2021, BGL] results for exclusive $|V_{cb}|$, results for ξ_0 with the indirect method, and the RBC-UKQCD estimate for ξ_{LD} . The red curve in Fig. 1 represents the experimental results for $|\varepsilon_K|$. In Fig. 1 (b), the blue curve represents the same as in Fig. 1 (a) except for using the 1S scheme results for the inclusive $|V_{cb}|$.

Our results for $|\varepsilon_K|^{\text{SM}}$ and $\Delta\varepsilon_K$ are summarized in Table 7. Here, the superscript SM represents the theoretical expectation value of $|\varepsilon_K|$ obtained directly from the SM. The superscript Exp represents the experimental value of $|\varepsilon_K| = 2.228(11) \times 10^{-3}$. Results in Table 7 (a) are obtained using the RBC-UKQCD estimate for ξ_{LD} , and those in Table 7 (b) are obtained using the BGI estimate for ξ_{LD} . In Table 7 (a), we find that the theoretical expectation values of $|\varepsilon_K|^{\text{SM}}$ with lattice QCD inputs (with exclusive $|V_{cb}|$) has $4.54\sigma \sim 3.68\sigma$ tension with the experimental value of $|\varepsilon_K|^{\text{Exp}}$, while there is no tension with inclusive $|V_{cb}|$ (obtained using heavy quark expansion and QCD sum rules).

In Fig. 2 (a), we show the time evolution of $\Delta\varepsilon_K$ starting from 2012 to 2022. In 2012, $\Delta\varepsilon_K$ was 2.5σ , but now it is 4.5σ with exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ (FNAL/MILC 2021, BGL). In Fig. 2 (b), we show the time evolution of the average $\Delta\varepsilon_K$ and the error $\sigma_{\Delta\varepsilon_K}$ during the period of 2012–2022.

At present, we find that the largest error ($\approx 45\%$) in $|\varepsilon_K|^{\text{SM}}$ comes from $|V_{cb}|$.¹ Hence, it is essential to reduce the error in $|V_{cb}|$ significantly. To achieve this goal, there is an on-going project to extract exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ using the Oktay-Kronfeld (OK) action for the heavy quarks to calculate the form factors for $\bar{B} \rightarrow D^{(*)} \ell \bar{\nu}$ decays [32–37].

A large portion of interesting results for $|\varepsilon_K|^{\text{SM}}$ and $\Delta\varepsilon_K$ could not be presented in Table 7 and in Fig. 2 due to lack of space: for example, results for $|\varepsilon_K|^{\text{SM}}$ obtained using exclusive $|V_{cb}|$ (FLAG 2021), results for $|\varepsilon_K|^{\text{SM}}$ obtained using ξ_0 determined by the direct method, and so on. We plan to report them collectively in Ref. [38].

¹Refer to Table 6 (b) for more details.

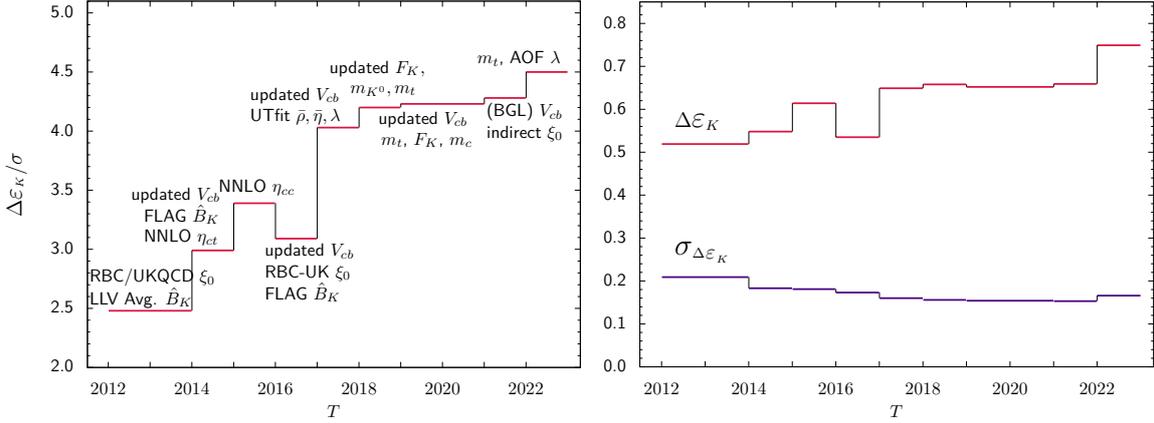
$ V_{cb} $	method	reference	$ \varepsilon_K ^{\text{SM}}$	$\Delta\varepsilon_K$
exclusive	CLN	BELLE 2021	1.542 ± 0.181	3.79σ
exclusive	BGL	BELLE 2021	1.528 ± 0.190	3.68σ
exclusive	CLN	BABAR 2019	1.456 ± 0.170	4.54σ
exclusive	BGL	BABAR 2019	1.451 ± 0.176	4.42σ
exclusive	CLN	HFLAV 2021	1.577 ± 0.155	4.21σ
exclusive	BGL	FNAL/MILC 2021	1.479 ± 0.166	4.50σ
inclusive	kinetic	FLAG 2021	2.027 ± 0.195	1.03σ
inclusive	IS	HFLAV 2021	2.022 ± 0.176	1.17σ

(a) RBC-UKQCD estimate for ξ_{LD}

$ V_{cb} $	method	reference	$ \varepsilon_K ^{\text{SM}}$	$\Delta\varepsilon_K$
exclusive	CLN	HFLAV 2021	1.625 ± 0.157	3.85σ
exclusive	BGL	FNAL/MILC 2021	1.527 ± 0.169	4.15σ

(b) BGI estimate for ξ_{LD}

Table 7: $|\varepsilon_K|$ in units of 1.0×10^{-3} , and $\Delta\varepsilon_K = |\varepsilon_K|^{\text{Exp}} - |\varepsilon_K|^{\text{SM}}$.



(a) Time evolution of $\Delta\varepsilon_K/\sigma$

(b) Time evolution of the average and error of $\Delta\varepsilon_K$

Figure 2: Time history of (a) $\Delta\varepsilon_K/\sigma$, and (b) $\Delta\varepsilon_K$ and $\sigma_{\Delta\varepsilon_K}$.

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