

Antiheavy-Antiheavy-Light-Light Four-Quark Bound States

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We present our recent results on antiheavy-antiheavy-light-light tetraquark systems using lattice QCD. Our study of the $\bar{b}\bar{b}us$ four-quark system with quantum numbers $J^P = 1^+$ and the $\bar{b}\bar{c}ud$ four-quark systems with $I(J^P) = 0(0^+)$ and $I(J^P) = 0(1^+)$ utilizes scattering operators at the sink to improve the extraction of the low-lying energy levels. We found a bound state for $\bar{b}\bar{b}us$ with $E_{\text{bind},\bar{b}\bar{b}us} = (-86 \pm 22 \pm 10)$ MeV, but no indication for a bound state in both $\bar{b}\bar{c}ud$ channels. Moreover, we show preliminary results for $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ with $I(J^P) = 0(1^+)$, where we used scattering operators both at the sink and the source. We found a bound state and determined its infinite-volume binding energy with a scattering analysis, resulting in $E_{\text{bind},\bar{b}\bar{b}ud} = (-103 \pm 8)$ MeV.

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1. Introduction

Within the last years, a large number of four-quark states have been discovered experimentally as well as predicted theoretically. There are also a lot of ongoing activities and more discoveries are expected in the near future. An example of a recent discovery is the T_{cc}^+ $(cc\bar{u}\bar{b})$ tetraquark state which has been found as a weakly bound tetraquark state by the LHCb collaboration [1, 2]. A subsequent lattice study investigating the same $cc\bar{u}\bar{b}$ state predicts a virtual bound state slightly below the DD^* threshold [3]. In this work, we also use lattice QCD and study similar antiheavyantiheavy-light-light four-quark states $\bar{Q}\bar{Q}'qq'$, where at least one of the heavy quarks is a bottom quark, i.e. $\bar{Q} = \bar{b}$.

Such systems were first investigated with lattice methods using the Born-Oppenheimer approximation. Those studies predicted a hadronically stable $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ tetraquark with binding energy $\approx 60...90$ MeV below the BB^* threshold in the $I(J^P) = 0(1^+)$ channel [4–9]. Additionally, a $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ resonance with quantum numbers $I(J^P) = 0(1^-)$ was found ≈ 20 MeV above the BB threshold with decay width $\Gamma \approx 100$ MeV [10]. Furthermore, full lattice QCD studies using NRQCD for the bottom quarks confirm the existence of the hadronically stable $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ tetraquark, predicting a binding energy of magnitude 130...190 MeV [11–13]. Moreover, extensive studies of $\bar{b}\bar{b}us$ case, a hadronically stable tetraquark with binding energy of ≈ 80 MeV has been predicted, while for the $\bar{b}\bar{c}ud$ systems, the situation is less clear and results are still inconclusive [12, 14–19].

In this paper, we summarize our recent and ongoing activities with improved operator bases using scattering operators at the sink for $\bar{b}\bar{b}us$ and $\bar{b}\bar{c}ud$ as well as using scattering operators both at the sink and the source for $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$.

2. Investigation of $\bar{b}\bar{b}us$ and $\bar{b}\bar{c}ud$ four-quark states using scattering operators at the sink

In previous lattice QCD studies focusing on $b\bar{b}us$ and $b\bar{c}ud$ four-quark systems, only local operators have been utilized. With local operators we refer to operators in which all four quarks are centered at the same point in space with total momentum projected to zero. Here we extend the operator basis by scattering operators, which resemble two spatially separated mesons, i.e. the meson momenta are separately projected to zero. If a bound state exists in a specific channel, we expect that local operators generate sizable overlaps to that bound state. Moreover, scattering operators allow to also resolve two-meson scattering states, which are expected to be close to possibly existing bound states. In recent work [13, 19], we highlighted the importance of scattering operators by demonstrating that the ground-state energy decreases for all systems significantly, if scattering operators are included.

In this section, we summarize our recent publication [19], where we studied quantum numbers $J^P = 1^+$ for quark flavors $\bar{b}\bar{b}us$ and the two channels $I(J^P) = 0(0^+)$ and $I(J^P) = 0(1^+)$ for quark flavors $\bar{b}\bar{c}ud$. For each system, we consider several local mesonic operators and one local diquarkantidiquark operator both at the sink and the source as well as several scattering operators only at the sink. For more details about the operators, we refer to Ref. [19].

2.1 Lattice setup

We used gauge link configurations generated by the RBC and UKQCD collaboration with 2 + 1 flavours of domain-wall fermions and Iwasaki gauge action [20, 21]. We used five different ensembles which differ in the lattice spacing, the spatial extent and the pion mass, with one ensemble at the physical pion mass. The parameters of the five ensembles can be found in Table 1 of Ref. [19].

We used smeared point-to-all propagators for all quark flavors. The bottom quarks are treated in the framework of NRQCD [22, 23], whereas we applied a relativistic heavy quark action for the charm quarks [24]. Due to the use of point-to-all propagators, scattering operators could only be implemented at the sink. Consequently, our correlation matrices are non-square.

2.2 Existence of a hadronically stable $\bar{b}\bar{b}us$ four-quark state with $J^P = 1^+$

We determined the ground-state energy for all five ensembles discussed in Sec. 2.1. In Fig. 1, we plot the ground-state energy as function of the squared pion mass relative to the lowest twomeson threshold BB_s^* . For all ensembles this energy is clearly below the threshold, which provides strong evidence for a hadronically stable tetraquark state. Additionally, we performed a chiral extrapolation to the physical pion mass, which yields a binding energy of

$$\Delta E_0(m_{\pi,\text{phys}}) = (-86 \pm 22 \pm 10) \text{ MeV}.$$
 (1)



Figure 1: Ground-state energy as function of the squared pion mass for the $\bar{b}\bar{b}us$ system. The blue line and error band indicates the fit to the data points and linear extrapolation to the physical pion mass at $m_{\pi,\text{phys}} = 135 \text{ MeV}$.

We also computed the overlaps of the trial states to the low lying energy eigenstates. In particular we found that one of our local operators generates a large ground-state overlap but only little overlap to excited states. This supports our interpretation of the ground-state as a hadronically stable tetraquark. For more details see Ref. [19].

2.3 $\bar{b}\bar{c}ud$ four-quark states with $I(J^P) = 0(0^+)$ and $I(J^P) = 0(1^+)$

We present the results for the two $b\bar{c}ud$ channels in Fig. 2. In both cases we find the lowest energy level above or in agreement with the lowest associated two-meson threshold. Accordingly, there is no indication that a stable tetraquark state exists in either of the two channels.

As before, we also computed the overlap factors. The results suggest that the ground-states are two-meson scattering states rather than tetraquarks (see Ref. [19] for details).



Figure 2: Ground-state energy as function of the squared pion mass for the $\bar{b}\bar{c}ud$ system with $I(J^P) = 0(0^+)$ (left) and with $I(J^P) = 0(1^+)$ (right).

3. Investigation of a $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ four-quark state using scattering operators both at the sink and at the source

We have studied the $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ system with $I(J^P) = 0(1^+)$ already some time ago using the same setup and techniques as discussed in Sec. 2, i.e. employing scattering operators only at the sink [13]. Now we are in the process of improving these calculations by including the scattering operators also at the source. The full implementation of scattering operators is highly beneficial for reliably extracting the low-lying energy levels [25]. Moreover, a rigorous scattering analysis using Lüscher's method, enabled by such a complete implementation, is essential for the study of other tetraquark systems closer to or above strong-decay thresholds.

3.1 Lattice setup

This calculation is carried out on gauge link configurations generated by the MILC collaboration with 2 + 1 + 1 flavors of HISQ fermions [26]. For the valence quarks we use a Wilson-clover action following the approach in Refs. [27, 28]. We list the parameters of the six ensembles used in this computation in Table 1. Note that we have three ensembles with almost the same lattice spacings and pion masses but different spatial extents (a12m220S, a12m220, a12m220L) which allow us to perform a high-quality scattering analysis based on finite-volume energy levels from three different spatial volumes.

We use smeared point-to-all propagators for diagrams with local operators at the source and stochastic timeslice-to-all propagators for diagrams with scattering operators at the source. As before, the bottom quarks are treated in the framework of NRQCD.

3.2 Existence of a hadronically stable $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ four-quark state with $I(J^P) = O(1^+)$

We use the same operator basis as in our previous work [13]. This time, however, we compute the full squared correlation matrix. The lowest finite-volume energy levels are determined by

Ensemble	$N_s^3 \times N_t$	<i>a</i> [fm]	$m_{\pi}^{(\text{sea})}$ [MeV]	$m_{\pi}^{(\mathrm{val})}$ [MeV]	N _{conf}
a12m310	$24^3 \times 64$	0.1207(11)	305.3(4)	310.2(2.8)	1053
a12m220S	$24^{3} \times 64$	0.1202(12)	218.1(4)	225.0(2.3)	1020
a12m220	$32^3 \times 64$	0.1184(10)	216.9(2)	227.9(1.9)	1000
a12m220L	$40^{3} \times 64$	0.1189(09)	217.0(2)	227.6(1.7)	1030
a09m310	$32^{3} \times 96$	0.0888(08)	312.7(6)	313.0(2.8)	1166
a09m220	$48^3 \times 96$	0.0872(07)	220.3(2)	225.9(1.8)	657

Table 1: Gauge link ensembles [26] used in this work. N_s , N_t : number of lattice sites in spatial and temporal directions; *a*: lattice spacing; $m_{\pi}^{(sea)}$: sea quark pion mass; $m_{\pi}^{(val)}$: valence quark pion mass; N_{conf} : number of gauge link configurations.

solving a standard generalized eigenvalue problem on all six available ensembles. To determine the infinite-volume ground-state energies on each of the ensembles a09m220, a09m310 and a12m310 and on the set of three ensembles with similar *a* and m_{π} (a12m220S, a12m220, a12m220L), we perform scattering analyses including the two lowest energy levels from each ensemble.

We define the scattering momenta k_n (n = 0, 1) for each ensemble via

$$k_n^2 = \frac{\Delta E_n (\Delta E_n + 2m_{B,kin}) (\Delta E_n + 2m_{B^*,kin}) (\Delta E_n + 2m_{B,kin} + 2m_{B^*,kin})}{4(\Delta E_n + m_{B,kin} + m_{B^*,kin})^2}$$
(2)

with $\Delta E_n = E(n) - E_B - E_B^*$, where E(n) is the *n*-th energy level of the $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ system and E_B and E_B^* are the lattice energies of the *B*- and B^* -meson. The kinetic meson masses $m_{B,kin}$ and $m_{B^*,kin}$ are calculated in the same way as described in Sec. IV of Ref. [13].

The finite-volume scattering momenta are related to the infinite-volume S-wave phase shift [29] by

$$\cot(\delta_0(k_n)) = \frac{2Z_{00}(1; (k_n L/2\pi)^2)}{\pi^{1/2} k_n L}.$$
(3)

By parametrizing the scattering phase shift via the effective-range-expansion (ERE),

$$k \cot \delta_0(k) = \frac{1}{a_0} + \frac{1}{2}r_0k^2,$$
(4)

we relate the parameters a_0 and r_0 to finite-volume energy levels $E_{par}(L, n; a_0, r_0)$, n = 0, 1. This allows us to define and to minimize the χ^2 function

$$\chi^{2} = \sum_{L} \sum_{n,n'} \left(E(L,n) - E_{\text{par}}(L,n;\{a_{i}\}) \right) \mathbb{C}^{-1}(L,n,n') \left(E(L,n') - E_{\text{par}}(L,n';\{a_{i}\}) \right), \quad (5)$$

where E(L, n) is the *n*-th lattice energy level for lattice extent L and \mathbb{C}^{-1} is the corresponding inverse covariance matrix. Finally, the infinite-volume ground-state energy is obtained by determining the pole of the scattering amplitude

$$T_0(k) = \frac{1}{\cot \delta_0(k) - i}.$$
 (6)

We show in Fig. 3 (left) the lowest finite-volume energy levels for three different lattice sizes at $a \simeq 0.12$ fm and $m_{\pi} \simeq 220$ MeV as well as the corresponding ERE fit. The infinite-volume ground-state energy level, which is shown as red horizontal band, is essentially identical to the finite-volume energies.

In that way we have determined the infinite-volume ground-state energies for all four different pairs of pion masses and lattice spacings. We present them in Fig. 3 (right) together with a chiral extrapolation to the physical pion mass (lattice discretization errors are ignored at the moment). This leads to an infinite-volume binding energy at the physical pion mass $m_{\pi,phys} = 135$ MeV of

$$\Delta E_0(m_{\pi, \text{phys}}) = (-103 \pm 8) \,\text{MeV}.$$
(7)

This result is slightly smaller, but still consistent with our previous result $(-128 \pm 24 \pm 10)$ MeV from Ref. [13], where we have used scattering operators only at the sink. Note that further technical details of our ongoing study were presented at the same conference [25].



Figure 3: $\bar{b}\bar{b}ud$ system with $I(J^P) = 0(1^+)$. Left: Finite-volume energy levels for the ensembles a12m220S, a12m220 and a12m220L (black data points are used in the scattering analysis). The yellow points are the energy levels obtained by the ERE fit and the red horizontal line represents the resulting infinite-volume ground-state energy. Right: Ground-state energy as function of the squared pion mass. The blue line and error band indicates the fit and linear extrapolation to the physical point at $m_{\pi,phys} = 135$ MeV.

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