

Lattice QCD for charm at STCF

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- Introduction
- Charmed meson **radiative** decay
- Charmed meson **semileptonic** decay
- Charmed meson **rare** decay
- Summary

- "November Revolution"— The discovery of the J/ψ particle in 1974 greatly facilitated the establishment of the Standard Model.
- How to translate the "charm" in Chinese, "美" or "魅" ? 粲!

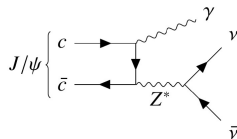
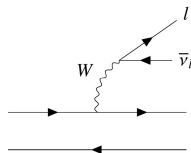
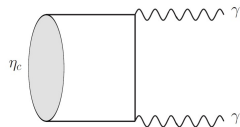


王竹溪

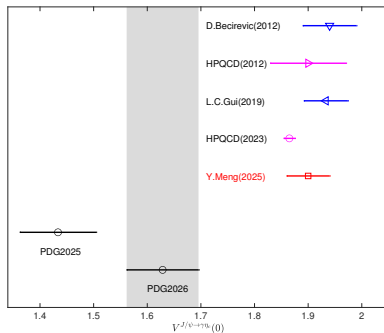
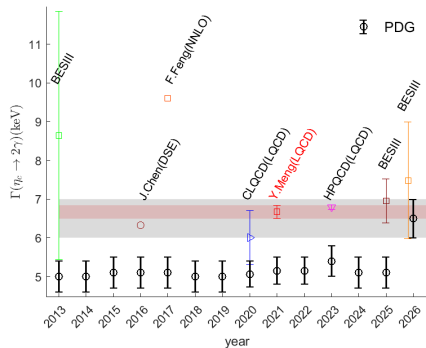
《诗经·唐风·绸缪》全文
绸缪束薪，三星在天。
今夕何夕，见此良人。
子兮子兮，如此良人何！
绸缪束刍，三星在隅。
今夕何夕，见此邂逅。
子兮子兮，如此邂逅何！
绸缪束楚，三星在户。
今夕何夕，见此粲者。
子兮子兮，如此粲者何！

Charmed high-precision frontier

- Many puzzles to be resolved
 - Charmonium decay puzzle
- Precise test for Standard Model
 - CKM matrix element $V_{cs(d)}$
- Search for new physics
 - rare decay with $\text{Br} < 10^{-10}$



Charmonium decay puzzle



- $\Gamma(\eta_c \rightarrow 2\gamma) = 6.67(16)(6) \text{ keV}$

Y.M et al, Sci Bull 68,1880(2023)

- $\Gamma(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c) = 2.30(10) \text{ keV}$

Y.M et al, PRD 111,014508(2025)

- A first step toward resolving the long-standing charmonium-decay puzzle
 - We find **2.9σ tension** and **PDG-fit is misleading**, arXiv:2109.09381
 - H-P.Wang and C-Z.Yuan, New puzzle in charmonium decays, arXiv:2112.08584
 - HPQCD(2023) and BESIII(2025/2026)

PDG25 $\rightarrow$ PDG26

[illegible]

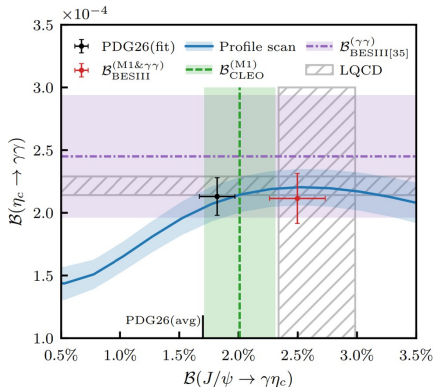
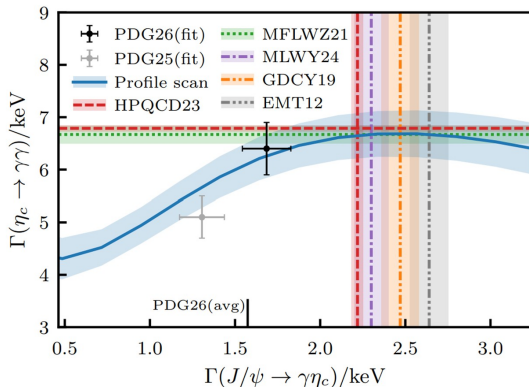
X_{60}	-41	-37	-29	-17	-22	-76	-45	-20	-16	-33	-51	-23	-20	100
$X^{hc}(1P)_{30}$	-12	-12	-10	-6	-8	-36	-25	-25	-12	-13	-21	-15	-9	29
$X^{\psi(2S)}_{199}$	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-3	-2	-3	-1	-3	-3	-1	-1	3
$X^{J/\psi(1S)}_{248}$	-20	-30	-34	-20	-30	-42	-25	-16	-10	-46	-43	-17	-32	43
$X^{B^+}_{274}$	-18	-18	-19	-9	-12	-50	-30	-11	-23	-19	-39	-55	-30	41
$\Gamma\eta_c(1S)$	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-3	-2	-1	-1	-1	1	-1	-1	-15

	X_1	X_6	X_9	X_{16}	X_{18}	X_{37}	X_{38}	X_{41}	X_{45}	X_{48}	X_{52}	X_{54}	X_{55}	X_{60}	X^h_p	
Mode	Rate															
	Scale factor															
Γ_1	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow \eta'(958)\pi\pi$	$(1.59 \pm 0.34) \times 10^{-2}$														1.7
Γ_6	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow K^*(892)\bar{K}^*(892)$	$(5.5 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-3}$														1.2
Γ_9	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow \phi\phi$	$(1.4 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-3}$														2.9
Γ_{16}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow \omega\omega$	$(2.1 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-3}$														2.4
Γ_{18}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow f_2(1270)f_2(1270)$	$(8.4 \pm 2.4) \times 10^{-3}$														1.2
Γ_{37}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow K\bar{K}\pi$	$(5.9 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-2}$														1.8
Γ_{38}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow K\bar{K}\eta$	$(1.11 \pm 0.15) \times 10^{-2}$														1.3
Γ_{41}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-$	$(6.7 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-3}$														2.4
Γ_{45}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow 2(K^+K^-)$	$(1.2 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-3}$														1.6
Γ_{48}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow 2(\pi^-\pi^-)$	$(7.5 \pm 1.3) \times 10^{-3}$														1.6
Γ_{52}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow p\bar{p}$	$(1.11 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-3}$														1.4
Γ_{54}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-$	$(3.4 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-3}$														1.2
Γ_{55}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow A\bar{A}$	$(9.4 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-4}$														1.2
Γ_{60}	$\eta_c(1S) \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	$(2.13 \pm 0.15) \times 10^{-4}$														1.5
$\Gamma_{hc}(1P)_{30}$	$h_c(1P) \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c(1S)$	$(64 \pm 5) \times 10^{-2}$														1.2
$\Gamma^{\psi(2S)}_{199}$	$\psi(2S) \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c(1S)$	$(3.6 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-3}$														1.3
Γ	$J/\psi(1S) \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c(1S)$	$(1.82 \pm 0.15) \times 10^{-2}$														1.6
$\Gamma^{B^+}_{274}$	$B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+$	$(1.20 \pm 0.08) \times 10^{-3}$														1.3
$\Gamma_{\eta_c(1S)}$	$\eta_c(1S)$ WIDTH	30.0 ± 0.5 (MeV)														1.2

- (i) New constraints from experiments; (ii) Highly correlated with other decay channels

Towards resolving the puzzle

M. C. Schaaf and A. Vairo, arXiv:2606.19902



- PDG fit dependence on $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c)$
- **Model-independent** photon line shape for $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c$
 - peak strength rather than integrating photon energy — no damping function

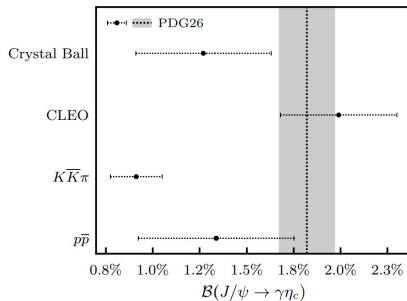
Role of STCF

Based on 10 billion J/ψ samples, BESIII have measured

- $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c) \times \mathcal{B}(\eta_c \rightarrow 2\gamma) = 5.23(26)(30) \times 10^{-6}$ PRL134,181901(2025)
- $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c) \times \mathcal{B}(\eta_c \rightarrow p\bar{p}) = 2.11(2)(7) \times 10^{-5}$ PRL136,051901(2026)
- Absolute branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(\eta_c \rightarrow 2\gamma) = 2.45(48)(09) \times 10^{-4}$. PRL accepted(2026)

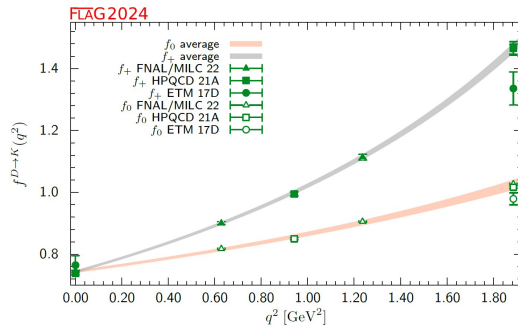
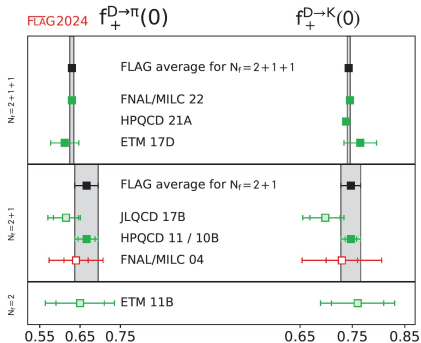
Based on 1000 billion J/ψ samples
per year on STCF

- A direct measurement $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c)$
- More precise constraints on $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c) \times \mathcal{B}(\eta_c \rightarrow X_i)$



Charmed meson semileptonic decay

FLAG24: no results away from $q^2 = 0$ provided due to discrepancy among ETM17 and others.



- More lattice QCD calculations on $D \rightarrow K$. **in progress**
- Independent determination on CKM matrix element from other channels, i.e. $P \rightarrow V$

Why $P \rightarrow V$ semileptonic decay?

- For $P' \rightarrow P$:

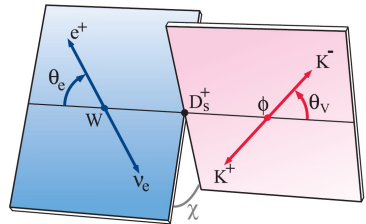
$$\frac{d\Gamma(P' \rightarrow P e \nu)}{dq^2} = \frac{G_F^2}{24\pi^3} |\vec{p}|^3 |V_{xy}|^2 |f_+(q^2)|^2$$

for example, $D \rightarrow \pi$ and $D \rightarrow K$

- For $P \rightarrow V$:

$$\frac{d\Gamma(P \rightarrow V e \nu)}{dq^2 d\chi d\cos\theta_\ell d\cos\theta_V} = \frac{G_F^2 |V_{xy}|^2 |\vec{p}| q^2}{12(2\pi)^4 M^2} W(q^2, \theta_V, \theta_\ell, \chi)$$

- Independent** determination of the CKM matrix element
- Stronger test** with abundant polarization information



$P \rightarrow V$ semileptonic decay

- Experiments:

Channels	r_V	r_2	Refs
$D^0 \rightarrow K^*(892)$			
(μ)	$1.37 \pm 0.09 \pm 0.03$	$0.76 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.02$	PRL134,011803(2025)
(μ)	$1.46 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.04$	$0.71 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.03$	PRL135,111803(2025)
(e)	$1.48 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.02$	$0.70 \pm 0.04 \pm 0.02$	JHEP03,197(2025)
LQCD	$1.48(12) \& 1.46(11) \rightarrow 1.44(28)$	$0.6(3) \& 1.0(2) \rightarrow 1.5(6)$	NPB119,625(2003)
$D_s \rightarrow \phi$			
(μ)	$1.58 \pm 0.17 \pm 0.02$	$0.71 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.02$	JHEP12,072(2023)
(e)	$1.807 \pm 0.046 \pm 0.065$	$0.816 \pm 0.036 \pm 0.030$	PRD78,051101(2008)
LQCD	$1.72(21)$	$0.74(12)$	PRD90,074506(2014)
$D^0 \rightarrow \rho^- e^+ \nu_e$	$1.695 \pm 0.083 \pm 0.051$	$0.845 \pm 0.056 \pm 0.039$	PRL122,062001(2019)

- First-principle lattice calculation is urgent

Lattice setup

Configuration	Volume	a/fm	m_π/MeV	$N_{\text{conf}} \times N_t \times N_s$
C24P29	$24^3 \times 72$	0.10524(05)	292.3(1.0)	$450 \times 72 \times 2$
C32P29	$32^3 \times 64$	0.10524(05)	293.1(0.8)	$397 \times 64 \times 2$
C32P23	$32^3 \times 64$	0.10524(05)	227.9(1.2)	$333 \times 64 \times 3$
F32P30	$32^3 \times 96$	0.07753(03)	300.4(1.2)	$360 \times 96 \times 2$
F48P21	$48^3 \times 96$	0.07753(03)	207.5(1.1)	$241 \times 48 \times 4$
G36P29	$36^3 \times 108$	0.06887(12)	297.2(0.9)	$300 \times 54 \times 2$
F48P32	$48^3 \times 144$	0.05199(08)	316.6(1.0)	$300 \times 72 \times 2$

- Four lattice spacings $[0.052 - 0.105]$ fm $\rightarrow$ continuum limit
- $m_\pi = 208 - 317$ MeV $\rightarrow$ physical pion masses
- Same lattice spacings and pion mass: C24P29 vs C32P29 $\rightarrow$ finite-volume effect

$D_s \rightarrow \phi$: mass and decay constant

CLQCD, PRD111, 054504 (2025)

$$m_{D_s} = 1966.7(1.5) \text{ MeV}$$

$$f_{D_s} = 247.0(2.1) \text{ MeV}$$

This work 2510.14478

$$m_\phi = 1021.1(7.6) \text{ MeV}$$

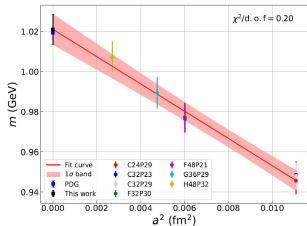
$$f_\phi = 246.2(4.1) \text{ MeV}$$

much improved than

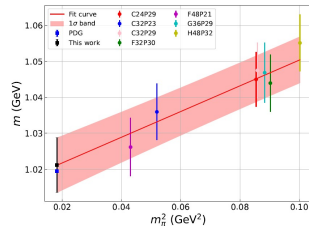
$$m_\phi = 1032(16) \text{ MeV}$$

$$f_\phi = 241(18) \text{ MeV}$$

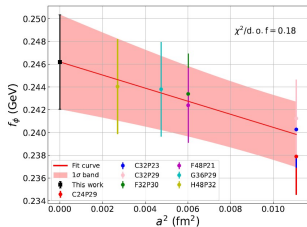
HPQCD, PRD90, 074506 (2014)



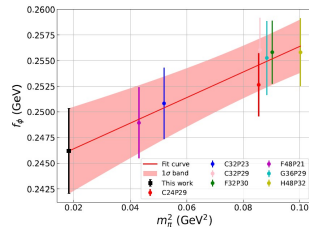
(i) ϕ mass at $m_\pi = 0.135$ GeV.



(ii) ϕ mass at $a = 0.0$ fm.



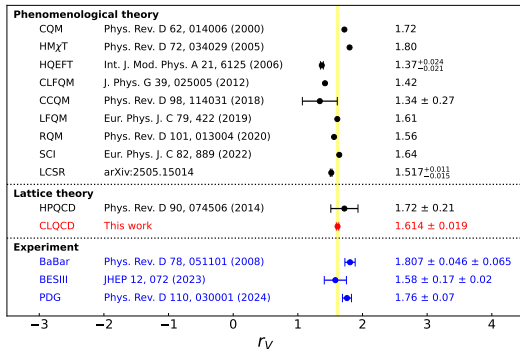
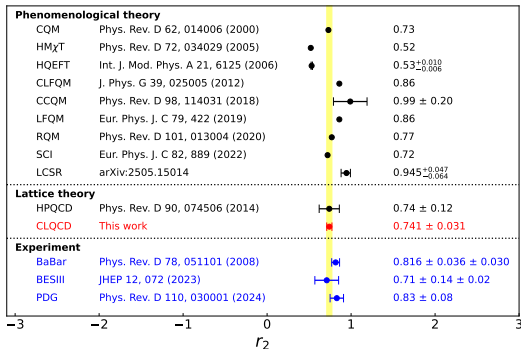
(iii) ϕ decay constant at $m_\pi = 0.135$ GeV.



(iv) ϕ decay constant at $a = 0.0$ fm.

$D_s \rightarrow \phi$ form factors

$$r_2 \equiv A_2(0)/A_1(0), \quad r_V \equiv V(0)/A_1(0)$$



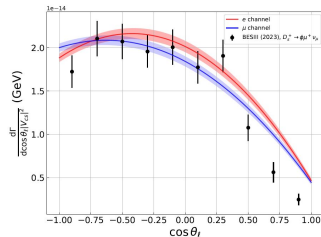
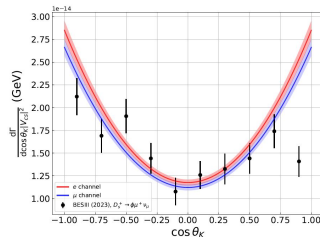
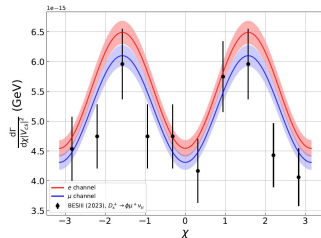
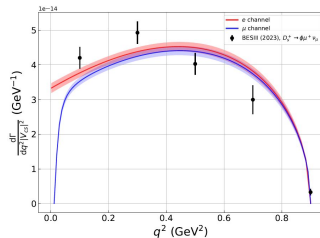
- Precision improved by up to an order of magnitude

G.-F.Fan, Y.M, C.Liu, Z.-F Liu, T.-X Wang, T.-H Shen, K.-L Zhang, and L.Zhang, arXiv:2510.14478

$D_s \rightarrow \phi$ differential decay width

$\mathcal{B}(D_s \rightarrow \phi \ell \nu_\ell) \times 10^{-2}$	μ channel	e channel	$\mathcal{R}_{\mu/e}$
This work (z -expansion)	2.378(80)	2.521(87)	0.9430(17)
This work (single pole)	2.378(55)	2.521(61)	0.9433(13)
This work (modified pole)	2.378(53)	2.520(58)	0.9437(12)
BaBar (2008) [1]	—	2.61(17)	—
CLEO (2015) [2]	—	2.14(19)	—
BESIII (2018) [3]	1.94(54)	2.26(46)	0.86(29)
BESIII (2023) [4]	2.25(11)	—	—
PDG [27]	2.24(11)	2.34(12)	0.957(68)

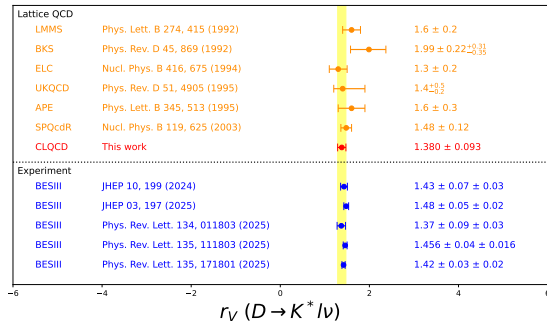
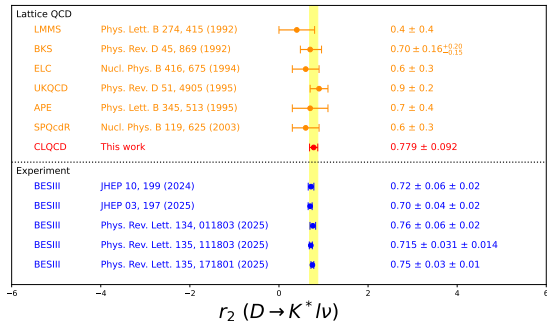
• $D_s \rightarrow \phi e \nu_e$



• Discrepancy in q^2 -distribution compared to BESIII measurement on $D_s \rightarrow \phi \mu \nu_\mu$

$D \rightarrow K^*$ form factors (preliminary)

- Adding C48P14 and F48P30, 9 ensembles give: $m_{K^*} = 886(11)$ MeV



- First full lattice QCD calculation!
- Systematic study with a^2 , m_π^2 , and $e^{-m_\pi L}$ extrapolation

Charmonium weak decay

- Experiments

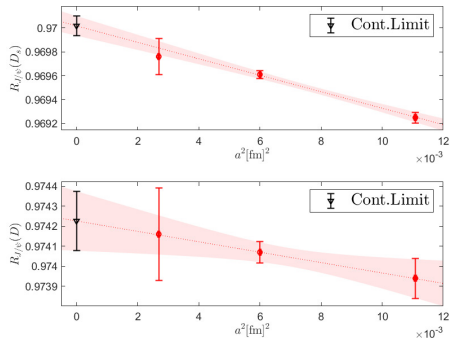
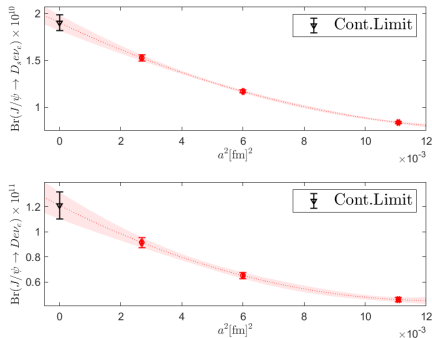
channels	Upper limit	J/ψ number	Refs
$J/\psi \rightarrow D_s e \nu_e$	4.9×10^{-5}	5.8×10^7	PLB639,418(2006)
$J/\psi \rightarrow D_s e \nu_e$	1.3×10^{-6}	2.3×10^8	PRD90,112014(2014)
$J/\psi \rightarrow D e \nu_e$	7.1×10^{-8}	1.01×10^{10}	JHEP06,157(2021)
$J/\psi \rightarrow D \mu \nu_\mu$	5.6×10^{-7}	1.01×10^{10}	JHEP01,126(2024)
$J/\psi \rightarrow D_s e \nu_e$	9.9×10^{-8}	1.01×10^{10}	2510.25100

BES & BESIII collaboration

- Future measurements ?

channels	Upper limit	J/ψ number	Refs
$J/\psi \rightarrow D_s \mu \nu_\mu$	—	1.01×10^{10}	BESIII
$J/\psi \rightarrow D_{(s)} e \nu_e$	—	$\sim 10^{12}$	STCF
$J/\psi \rightarrow D_{(s)} \mu \nu_\mu$	—	$\sim 10^{12}$	STCF

$J/\psi \rightarrow D_{(s)}$ branching fraction



- The branching fraction **Y.M et al, PRD110,074510(2024).**

$$\text{Br}(J/\psi \rightarrow D_s e \nu_e) = 1.90(6)_{\text{stat}}(5)_{V_{cs}} \times 10^{-10}$$

$$\text{Br}(J/\psi \rightarrow D e \nu_e) = 1.21(6)_{\text{stat}}(9)_{V_{cd}} \times 10^{-11}$$

Cuttent status of the dark matter search on the collider

- Remarkable candidates
 - Dark photon A' : coupling to the photon through the kinetic mixing $\frac{\epsilon}{2} F^{\mu\nu} F'_{\mu\nu}$, free parameters are $m_{A'}$ and ϵ
 - CP-odd Higgs Boson A^0 : m_{A^0} and $g_{a l \bar{l}}$
 - Axion-like particle a : m_a and $g_{a \gamma \gamma}$
- Dark matter can be produced on the collider
 - Direct production: $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma X$
BABAR,PRL119,131804(2017) BESIII,PLB839,137785(2023)
 - Resonant production: $e^+e^- \rightarrow J/\psi/\Upsilon(1S) \rightarrow \gamma + X$
CLEO,PRD81,091101(2010) BABAR,PRL107,021804(2011)
Belle,PRL122,011801(2019) Belle,PRL128,081804 (2022)
BESIII,PRD101,112005(2020) BESIII,PRD105,012008(2022)
BESIII,PLB838,137698(2023)

Light dark matter search at the collider

CLEO 2010

PHYSICAL REVIEW D 81, 091101(R) (2010)
Search for the decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma + \text{invisible}$
(CLEO Collaboration)

$J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma + X$
invisible to detector
light dark matter?

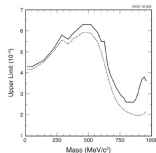


FIG. 4. The 90% confidence level upper limits for $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X$, where X is invisible to the detector. The dashed line shows the results for statistical uncertainties alone, and the solid line includes systematic and statistical uncertainties.

The upper limit corresponding to $m_X = 0$
is 4.3×10^{-6} at the 90% confidence level

BESIII

PHYSICAL REVIEW D 101, 112005 (2020)
Search for the decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma + \text{invisible}$

Upper bound $B \sim 7.0 \times 10^{-7}$

PHYSICAL REVIEW D 105, 012008 (2022)
Search for a CP-odd light Higgs boson in $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma A^0$

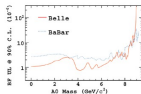
Upper bound $B(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma A^0) \times B(A^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) \sim (1.2 - 778.0) \times 10^{-9}$

BABAR Belle

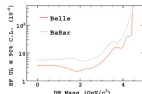
$\Upsilon(1S) \rightarrow \gamma + X$

PRL 107, 021804 (2011)
Search for Production of Invisible Final States in Single-Photon Decays of $\Upsilon(1S)$
(BABAR Collaboration)

PRL 122, 011801 (2019)
Search for a Light CP-odd Higgs Boson and Low-Mass Dark Matter at the Belle Exper
(Belle Collaboration)



$B(T \rightarrow \gamma A^0) \times B(A^0 \rightarrow \text{invisible})$

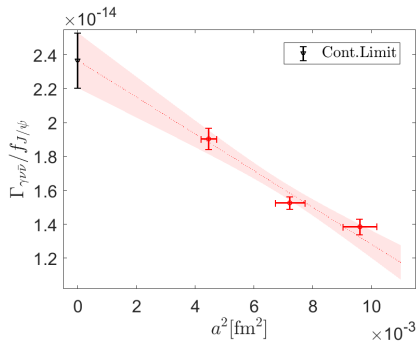
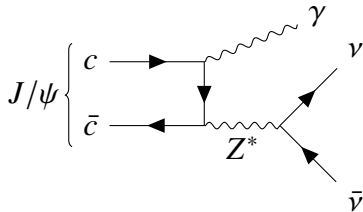


$B(T(1S) \rightarrow \gamma \chi \chi)$

PHYSICS LETTERS B 838, 137698 (2023)
Search for an axion-like particle in radiative J/ψ decays

We search for an axion-like particle (ALP) a through the process $\psi(3686) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- J/\psi$, $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma a$, $a \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ in a data sample of $(2.71 \pm 0.01) \times 10^9 \psi(3686)$ events collected by the BESIII detector. No significant ALP signal is observed over the expected background, and the upper limits on the branching fraction of the decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma a$ and the ALP-photon coupling constant $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$ are set at 95% confidence level in the mass range of $0.165 \leq m_a \leq 2.84 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. The limits on $B(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma a)$ range from 8.3×10^{-8} to 1.8×10^{-6} over the search region, and the constraints on the ALP-photon coupling are the most stringent to date for $0.165 \leq m_a \leq 1.468 \text{ GeV}/c^2$.

Standard model background in J/ψ invisible decay



- The first lattice QCD calculation **Y.M et al, 2601.18209**

$$\text{Br}[J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\nu\bar{\nu}] = 1.04(7)(8) \times 10^{-10}$$

- Phenomenological estimation $\sim 0.7 \times 10^{-10}$

Dao-Neng Gao, PRD **90**, 077501 (2014)

Outlook and role of the STCF

- Charmonium decay puzzle
 - $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c$ and $\eta_c \rightarrow 2\gamma$
 - Model-independent determination of $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta_c)$
- Semileptonic decay
 - $D_s \rightarrow \phi$ and $D \rightarrow K^*$
 - Real photon radiation: $D \rightarrow K\gamma l\nu_l$
- Rare decay
 - $J/\psi \rightarrow D_{(s)}$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\nu\bar{\nu}$
 - Axion-like particle search: $D \rightarrow l\nu_l a$

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Thanks to the STCF!