

Charm quarks in lattice QCD - heavy or light?

Relativistic light quark advantages:

- $E_{sim} = m$
- PCAC relation (if enough chiral symmetry) gives Z = 1 for decay constants
- same action as for u, d, s. Can take ratios to light physics.

Key issue is discretisation errors:

 $m_c a \approx 0.4, (m_c a)^2 \approx 0.2, \alpha_s (m_c a)^2 \approx 0.06, (m_c a)^4 \approx 0.04$

Need to remove *all* of these errors for precision results

Improved staggered formalism



Naik term removes treelevel a^2 errors. Smeared link reduces tasteexchange $\alpha_s a^2$ errors

Highly Improved staggered formalism

Second level of smearing (with polar projection) reduces taste-exchange errors further. Change Naik coefficient to remove leading $(am_c)^4$ errors

(check speed of light) (check speed of light)

Used HISQ valence light and charm quarks on MILC very coarse, coarse and fine configs with imp.stagg sea quarks

Excellent statistical accuracy from random wall sources (as used by MILC for light mesons)



Allows systematic errors to be studied in detail



2008 Improved accuracy from CLEO-c

Determine decay constant from leptonic rate and taking Vcs=Vud, Vcd=Vus



New physics? see Kronfeld talk Friday 2:50pm

Further checks of lattice calculations important ...1. Spectrum





Further taste effects



"Double HISQ" reduces tasteexchange discretisation errors further -"Treble HISQ" worse again

Too much smearing makes disc. errors worse again



2. Decay constants



Again, no



Conclusions

HISQ allows us to do charm physics accurately

 $f_{D_s} = 241(3)MeV$ 3 σ from expt

All other charmonium and charm-light results agree with expt at few % level.

Future: Similarly accurate 3pt calculations

See also: Lepage talk, Thursday 9:10am Allison talk, Thursday 9:30am for 1% accurate m_c

Bazavov talk, Tuesday 5:00pm, dynamical HISQ