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Quenched B_K -parameter from Osterwalder-Seiler tmQCD quarks and mass-splitting discretization effects



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ABSTRACT: We apply an Osterwalder-Seiler version of twisted mass QCD to a study of the B_K parameter, in which three of the four quark fields making up the relevant $\Delta S = 2$ operator are maximally twisted with the same twist angle, while the fourth one has a twist angle of opposite sign. It is known that this setup ensures automatic improvement of the bare $K^0-\bar{K}^0$ operator matrix element and multiplicative renormalization of the $\Delta S = 2$ operator, at the price of breaking the $K^0-\bar{K}^0$ mass degeneracy by discretization effects. As a result, two dominant systematic errors of the B_K determination with Wilson fermions are kept under control. With the Clover term included in the fermion action, we perform a feasibility study and find, in the quenched approximation, a significant improvement of the scaling behaviour of B_K , compared to earlier standard tmQCD determinations. Moreover, we study in detail the $K^0-\bar{K}^0$ mass splitting that characterizes this approach and confirm that, in the presence of the Clover term, it is greatly reduced in a maximally twisted theory.

KEYWORDS: Lattice QCD, Lattice Gauge Field Theories, CP violation, Kaon Physics

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1 Introduction

The bag parameter of neutral K -meson oscillations B_K , has been the object of many lattice QCD computations. Several discretizations of lattice fermions have been implemented for this purpose. For the most recent quenched result see ref. [1]. Attention has now shifted to unquenched estimates; see ref. [2] for a recent review.

The Wilson fermion results of B_K are normally the least accurate, due to a limited control of two sources of systematic error:

1. Loss of chiral symmetry causes the relevant $\Delta S = 2$ four-fermion operator to mix, under renormalization, with four other operators of the same dimension and different chiral representation [3]. In lattice discretizations which do not violate chiral symmetry this operator is multiplicatively renormalizable.
2. Discretization effects of the B_K estimate at finite lattice spacing are $O(a)$; with staggered and Ginsparg-Wilson fermions they are $O(a^2)$. The traditional remedy of Symanzik improvement is not viable here, because of the large number of higher dimensional $O(a)$ counterterms required.

The first of these problems has been dealt with in ref. [4], by using Ward identities, and in refs. [5, 6], by implementing twisted Wilson fermions [7]. In the latter case, the lattice fermion action consists of a twisted up-down fermion doublet (tmQCD) and a standard (untwisted) Wilson strange fermion. A second possibility, valid only in the quenched approximation, is that of a tmQCD discretization of a degenerate down-strange doublet. The lack of mixing with other operators in both tmQCD variants is achieved through the mapping of the usual, parity-even $\Delta S = 2$ operator to its parity-odd counterpart, which is known to be multiplicatively renormalizable, even with Wilson fermions [8, 9]. Both formalisms have been applied in refs. [5, 6], combined with the Schrödinger functional renormalization and RG-running of ref. [10].

In order to implement $O(a)$ improvement, without the use of Symanzik counterterms, one must ensure that all flavours are regularized in a tmQCD framework at maximal twist. In other words, the twist angle for all quark flavours must be tuned to $\pm\pi/2$, while the mapping from parity-even to parity-odd $\Delta S = 2$ operator must be preserved. As discussed in ref. [11] this is not possible in the standard tmQCD formalism. A way round this problem was provided in ref. [12], by using somewhat different regularizations for sea and valence quarks. The former may be standard tmQCD, while the latter is the so-called Osterwalder-Seiler variant of tmQCD. Each valence quark is maximally twisted to $\pm\pi/2$. However, unlike in standard tmQCD, the valence flavours are not combined into isospin doublets. The four-fermion operator consists of four distinct, maximally twisted valence flavours, three of which have twist angle with the same sign (say, $+\pi/2$) while the fourth twist angle has the opposite sign (say, $-\pi/2$). This combination of valence quarks ensures that the $\Delta S = 2$ operator of interest is multiplicatively renormalizable and its $K^0 - \bar{K}^0$ matrix element is automatically improved; the same is true for B_K .

It is not surprising that a price has to be paid for these advantages. In the setup described above, the K^0 -meson consists of a strange/down valence quark-antiquark pair with, say, the same twist angle, while the \bar{K}^0 -meson has a pair with opposite twist angles. This means that the two mesons have (pseudoscalar) masses which differ by $O(a^2)$ discretization effects. Although in principle this mass splitting vanishes in the continuum limit, it may be quite sizeable at finite lattice spacing. In the quenched approximation such effects have indeed been studied in the past (cf. refs [13–15]), being indirect manifestations of flavour symmetry breaking by tmQCD.

In this work we have also performed a similar study of such flavour symmetry breaking effects for the K -meson mass m_K and decay constant f_K . A comparison of our results with those of refs. [13, 14] indicates that the presence of the Clover term in the action greatly reduces such flavour breaking systematics, in accordance with the findings of an earlier study [15]. Moreover, we find that the scaling of B_K with the lattice spacing is significantly improved, if compared to the previous standard tmQCD quenched studies of refs. [5, 6].

2 Twisted and Osterwalder-Seiler valence quarks at maximal twist

The setup of our formalism follows very closely that of ref. [12]. Each valence quark field q_f (the subscript labels flavour, $q_f = u, d, s, \dots$) is discretized by a fermionic action of the form

$$S_f = a^4 \sum_x \bar{q}_f(x) [D_w + m_f + i\gamma_5 \mu_f] q_f(x) , \tag{2.1}$$

where D_w is the standard Wilson-Dirac fermion matrix *with a Clover term*. The Wilson plaquette action is the regularization of the pure gauge sector of the theory. In this work all flavours are degenerate; this is only a matter of choice. As our simulations are performed in the quenched approximation, we will ignore issues concerning the lattice regularization of the sea quarks; see [12] for a related discussion.

Let us consider quark bilinear operators with distinct flavours. We distinguish two cases, depending on the relative sign of the twisted mass terms (or equivalently, the twist

angle) of these flavours. For example, the pseudoscalar density

$$P_{ds}^{\text{tm}}(x) = \bar{d}(x) \gamma_5 s(x) \quad (\text{with } \mu_d = -\mu_s) \quad (2.2)$$

is said to be of “twisted mass” (tm) type, if the corresponding twisted mass terms have opposite signs (i.e. $\mu_d = -\mu_s$). In this case the two flavours may be grouped in a doublet, with a mass term of the form $i\mu\gamma_5\tau_3$, corresponding to the standard tmQCD formalism (τ_3 is the Pauli isospin matrix). A second possibility is that of $\mu_d = \mu_s$; this will be referred to as the Osterwalder-Seiler (OS) case [16]. The pseudoscalar density is then denoted by

$$P_{ds}^{\text{OS}}(x) = \bar{d}(x) \gamma_5 s(x) \quad (\text{with } \mu_d = \mu_s) . \quad (2.3)$$

Analogous definitions hold for other quark bilinear operators. The OS discretization is only applicable to valence quarks. Sea quarks, if regularized by the tmQCD lattice action, must be organized in doublets, with a flavour non-singlet twisted mass term $i\mu\gamma_5\tau_3$, in order to avoid the generation of an unwanted θ -term. The implementation of OS valence flavours is a mixed action formulation. Inevitably, in full (unquenched) QCD this introduces unitarity violation at finite lattice spacing.

The specific continuum operators of interest to us are $P_{ds}(x) = \bar{d}(x)\gamma_5s(x)$ and $A_{\mu,ds}(x) = \bar{d}(x)\gamma_\mu\gamma_5s(x)$. As shown in ref. [7], once the lattice theory is renormalized in a mass-independent renormalization scheme, such quantities are related, up to cutoff effects, to those of the lattice twisted theory through the quark field chiral rotations¹

$$\psi^{\text{cont}}(x) = \exp\left[\frac{i}{2}\gamma_5\tau_3\alpha\right] [\psi(x)]_{\text{R}} \quad \bar{\psi}^{\text{cont}}(x) = [\bar{\psi}(x)]_{\text{R}} \exp\left[\frac{i}{2}\gamma_5\tau_3\alpha\right] ; \quad (2.4)$$

the phase α is the so-called twist-angle, defined through $\tan(\alpha) = \mu_{\text{R}}/m_{\text{R}}$. This of course refers to the standard tmQCD formulation, with an isospin quark doublet ψ and a twisted mass term of the form $i\mu\bar{\psi}\gamma_5\tau_3\psi$. For the case under consideration, with a distinct action (2.1) for each flavour q_f , the corresponding rotations of the valence quark fields are

$$q_f(x)^{\text{cont}} = \exp\left[\frac{i}{2}\gamma_5\alpha_f\right] [q_f(x)]_{\text{R}} \quad \bar{q}_f(x)^{\text{cont}} = [\bar{q}_f(x)]_{\text{R}} \exp\left[\frac{i}{2}\gamma_5\alpha_f\right] , \quad (2.5)$$

where the sign of the phase α_f is that of the corresponding mass term μ_f . In order to ensure automatic improvement, we consider the case of maximal twist ($\alpha_f = \pm\pi/2$), for which the above chiral rotations induce the following relations for the two-fermion operators under consideration:

$$P_{ds}^{\text{cont}} = [P_{ds}^{\text{tm}}]_{\text{R}} = Z_P P_{ds}^{\text{tm}} \quad (2.6)$$

$$A_{\nu,ds}^{\text{cont}} = -i[V_{\nu,ds}^{\text{tm}}]_{\text{R}} = -iZ_V V_{\nu,ds}^{\text{tm}} \quad (2.7)$$

$$P_{ds}^{\text{cont}} = i[S_{ds}^{\text{OS}}]_{\text{R}} = iZ_S S_{ds}^{\text{OS}} \quad (2.8)$$

$$A_{\nu,ds}^{\text{cont}} = [A_{\nu,ds}^{\text{OS}}]_{\text{R}} = Z_A A_{\nu,ds}^{\text{OS}} . \quad (2.9)$$

¹Our notation is the following: the superscript “cont” denotes continuum quantities, while $[\dots]_{\text{R}}$ stands for lattice (re)normalized quantities, corresponding to either tm or OS discretization.

All such relations, understood to be shorthand expressions for equations between correlation functions (or matrix elements) involving these operators, are valid up to discretization effects.

Maximal twist is achieved by tuning the standard mass parameter m_0 to its critical value m_{cr} (with corresponding value κ_{cr} of the hopping parameter). There are several ways of doing this. A popular procedure consists in choosing a two-point correlation function which in the continuum violates parity and flavour symmetry and must therefore vanish. Thus, at fixed μ , the point $m_0 = m_{\text{cr}}(\mu)$ is determined, for which the bare correlation function vanishes. Finally, the critical mass m_{cr} is found by extrapolating $m_{\text{cr}}(\mu)$ to $\mu = 0$ (unless the smallness of μ renders the extrapolation unnecessary). For details see ref. [17]. This procedure, based entirely on a tmQCD setup, ensures the absence of $O(a^{2k})$ discretization effects (with k integer) in the determination of m_{cr} , while $O(a)$ effects are present. On the other hand, physical quantities like hadronic masses and matrix elements are automatically $O(a)$ -improved; more precisely all $O(a^{2k+1})$ discretization effects are absent.

In the present work, we follow a very different approach, described in detail in refs. [5, 6]. It consists in using the standard Schrödinger functional estimate of m_{cr} , by requiring the vanishing of the PCAC quark mass, as in ref. [18]. This procedure uses standard (non-twisted) Wilson fermions, thus obtaining an explicitly μ -independent estimate of m_{cr} . However, in order for this m_{cr} to be $O(a)$ -improved, both the fermionic action and the axial current in the PCAC relation must have $O(a)$ Symanzik-counterterms. Therefore the non-perturbative estimates of c_{SW} and c_A , determined with standard Wilson fermions are essential in this procedure. With m_{cr} thus obtained in a non-twisted, improved Wilson fermion setup, we compute hadronic masses and matrix elements in a maximally twisted framework. This approach has also been adopted in ref. [15], with lattices having periodic, rather than Schrödinger functional, boundary conditions. In that work, a detailed comparison is made, at $\beta = 6.0$, between pseudoscalar masses and decay constants (of the tm variety), obtained with the two estimates of κ_{cr} described above.

An important consequence, shared by these methods of tuning to maximal twist, is that the so-called “chirally enhanced” discretization effects of the form a^2/m_π^2 , present in lattice correlation functions of fermion multi-local operators, are reduced to $a^2 \times a^2/m_\pi^2$; cf. ref. [17]. This is however of little relevance to our results obtained close to the K -meson mass region, i.e. far from the chiral limit.

3 Results

We performed quenched simulations at three values of the gauge coupling, namely $\beta = 6.0, 6.1, 6.2$. At each coupling we have tuned the degenerate quark masses $a\mu_d = a\mu_s$ to a couple of values which are close to half the strange quark mass, so as to simulate charged K -mesons with degenerate flavours. In practice this entails tuning the twisted mass values so as to obtain pseudoscalar meson masses close to that of the physical Kaon. The values of κ_{cr} , used in the simulations in order to achieve maximal twist, are collected in table 3 of ref. [6]. We use the renormalization constants, improvement coefficients and the ratio r_0/a

β	$\frac{a}{2r_0}$	(L, T)	$[\frac{x_0^{\min}}{2r_0}, \frac{x_0^{\max}}{2r_0}]$	N_{meas}	$a\mu_d = a\mu_s$	dataset
6.0	0.0931	(24, 48)	[1.30, 3.17]	100	0.0135	I
6.0	0.0931	(24, 48)	[1.30, 3.17]	100	0.0115	II
6.1	0.0789	(24, 60)	[1.26, 3.47]	100	0.0125	I
6.1	0.0789	(24, 60)	[1.26, 3.47]	100	0.0110	II
6.2	0.0677	(32, 72)	[1.35, 3.52]	50	0.0105	I
6.2	0.0677	(32, 72)	[1.35, 3.52]	50	0.0090	II

Table 1. Details of the runs for three values of the gauge coupling.

as collected in appendix A of ref. [5]. Physical quantities are usually expressed in units of r_0 in the present work [19].

The details of our simulations are listed in table 1. The lattice size is $L^3 \times T$ with standard Schrödinger functional boundaries. The lattice calibration, expressed in terms of $a/2r_0$, is that of ref. [5]. In the table we also show the range (in units of $x_0/2r_0$) for which the ground state of our correlation functions (i.e. the K-meson) has been isolated.

3.1 Comparison of discretization effects between tm and OS quantities

All observables computed in this work are obtained from the large time asymptotic limit of operator correlation functions with Schrödinger functional boundary conditions. The notation is standard, following closely that adopted e.g. in ref. [5]. For instance, f_A (f'_A) denotes the Schrödinger functional correlation function between a fermionic operator A_0 in the bulk and a pseudoscalar boundary operator $\bar{\zeta}_s \gamma_5 \zeta_d$ at time-slice $x_0 = 0$ ($x_0 = T$). All such correlation functions are properly (anti)symmetrized in time, when used to extract effective pseudoscalar masses and decay constants. These quantities (as well as B_K in subsection 3.2) are obtained at large time-separations from the boundaries, in order to avoid contamination from higher excited states. The discretization effects from the boundaries are $O(g_0^2 a)$; see ref. [20]. Since the hadron masses and weak matrix elements we are interested in are computed at asymptotically large times from the boundaries, these effects do not spoil $O(a)$ improvement. Hence, $O(a)$ discretization effects from the boundaries may be considered negligible.²

²This claim, typical of ALPHA collaboration simulations, has been addressed in ref. [21]. From eqs. (2.11)-(2.15) of the above work, it is deduced that these boundary effects reside in the coefficients η_X^π and η_X^0 of the excited states' corrections, which decay exponentially. The fact that their contribution is small has been numerically demonstrated in ref. [22] where detailed scaling tests have been performed at intermediate physical volumes ($L \approx 0.75$ fm and $T \approx 1.5$ fm). We are working at larger physical volumes ($L \approx 2$ fm and $T \approx 4$ fm) where these effects are further suppressed.

β	dataset	r_0M^{tm}	r_0M^{OS}	R_M in %
6.0	I	1.255(5)	1.346(8)	15
6.0	II	1.169(5)	1.267(9)	17
6.1	I	1.295(6)	1.349(8)	8
6.1	II	1.222(6)	1.279(8)	9
6.2	I	1.268(8)	1.301(10)	5
6.2	II	1.182(8)	1.217(10)	6

Table 2. Pseudoscalar masses of tm and OS type and their mass splitting as defined in Eq (3.2).

We have measured pseudoscalar effective masses $aM(x_0)$, both in the tm and OS framework:

$$aM^{\text{tm}}(x_0) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left[\frac{f_V^{\text{tm}}(x_0 - a)}{f_V^{\text{tm}}(x_0 + a)} \right]; \quad aM^{\text{OS}}(x_0) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left[\frac{f_A^{\text{OS}}(x_0 - a)}{f_A^{\text{OS}}(x_0 + a)} \right]. \quad (3.1)$$

In table 2 we show the results of the pseudoscalar meson masses from both regularisations. Recall that the physical value of the Kaon mass in units of r_0 is $r_0M_K = 1.2544$. Therefore, for all three β -values, the K-meson decay constant F_K and the bag parameter B_K discussed below, are obtained through short “interpolations” between two points. We also show in table 2 that the relative mass splitting, defined by

$$R_M = \frac{(r_0M^{\text{OS}})^2 - (r_0M^{\text{tm}})^2}{(r_0M^{\text{tm}})^2}, \quad (3.2)$$

decreases with decreasing lattice spacing. This is a clear evidence that the mass splitting is a discretisation effect.

In order to compare our results to those of other collaborations [13–15], we consider the pseudoscalar meson mass splitting in units of r_0 :

$$\Delta(r_0^2M^2) \equiv [r_0M^{\text{OS}}]^2 - [r_0M^{\text{tm}}]^2. \quad (3.3)$$

The tm-OS pseudoscalar mass splitting may be affected by two factors: (i) the presence of the Clover term and (ii) the way κ_{cr} is determined in order to ensure maximal twist. We first recall the different choices of fermion action and κ_{cr} , made in refs. [13–15]:

- Both refs. [13, 14] have data obtained with a maximally twisted Wilson action (*without a Clover term*) but implement different methods for computing κ_{cr} . In particular, ref. [13] uses two methods, namely the PCAC relation for maximally twisted quarks (yielding an “optimal” κ_{cr}) and the vanishing of the pseudoscalar meson mass in the standard (untwisted) theory. On the other hand the authors of ref. [14] choose to tune κ_{cr} through the vanishing of the parity-odd correlation function $\langle V^{\text{cont}}(x)P^{\text{cont}}(0) \rangle$,

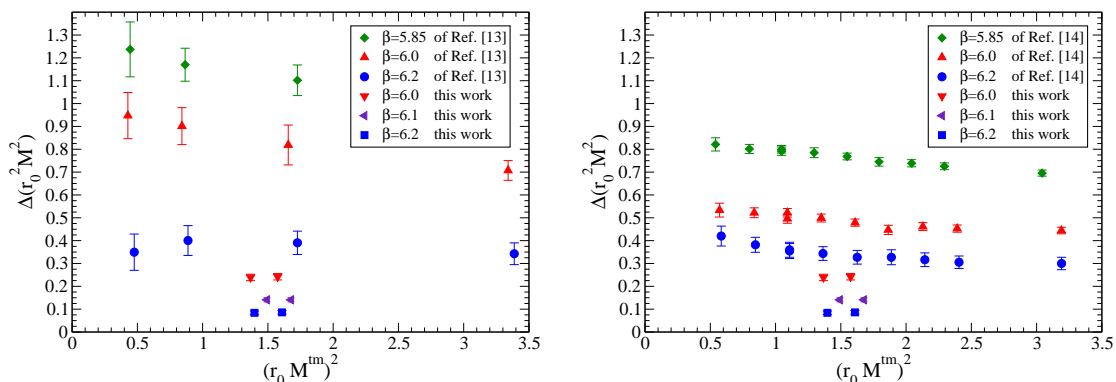


Figure 1. Square-mass splitting between tm and OS pseudoscalar mesons, as a function of the tm pseudoscalar meson mass: (a) Comparison between our results and those of ref. [13]; the latter are obtained using the PCAC determination of κ_{cr} . (b) Comparison between our results and those of ref. [14].

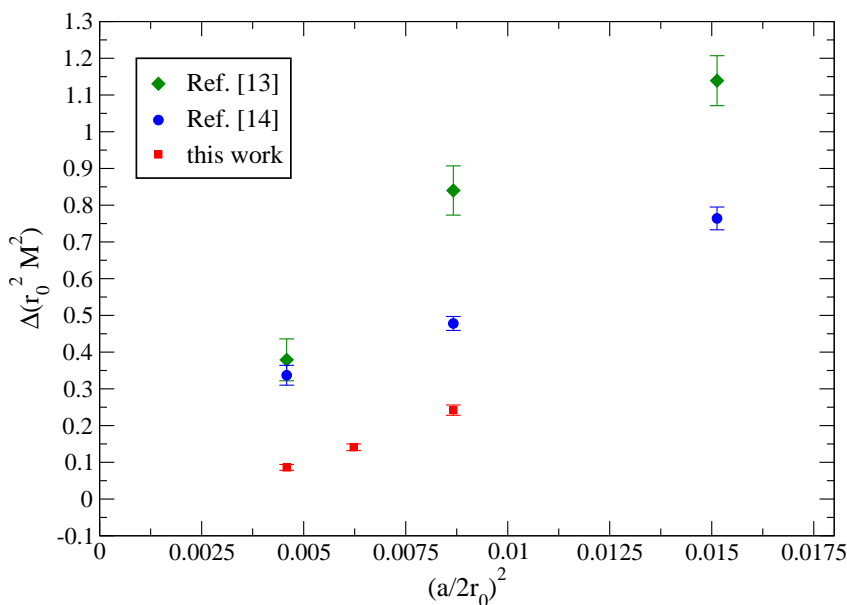


Figure 2. Square-mass splitting between tm and OS K -mesons, as a function of the lattice spacing squared. The data of ref. [13], displayed here, are obtained using the PCAC determination of κ_{cr} .

corresponding to another definition of an “optimal” κ_{cr} . A further difference is that in ref. [14], the values of $\kappa_{\text{cr}}(\mu)$, computed at each twisted mass, are not extrapolated to $\mu \rightarrow 0$.

- In ref. [15] the Clover term is included in the fermion action, just like in the present work. Their determination of κ_{cr} is based on the PCAC relation, evaluated in the

standard Wilson theory (i.e. zero twist) with periodic boundary conditions, at large pseudoscalar masses, extrapolated to the chiral limit. On the other hand, our κ_{cr} determination is based on the PCAC relation with Schrödinger Functional boundary conditions, extrapolated to the chiral limit from small masses.³ Both estimates are $O(a)$ -improved.

Comparisons between results of these works are mostly limited to pseudoscalar mesons in the region of M_K . Pseudoscalar masses in the lighter mass range may be subject to finite volume effects (e.g. $L = 16^3$ at $\beta = 6.0$), while those related to heavier masses are subject to larger discretization errors. A close look at the details of these works suggests that the tm pseudoscalar masses in the M_K range agree reasonably well, while the OS ones do not. Thus any discrepancies in $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$ are due to the latter mass. We may therefore conclude that these works indicate that the pseudoscalar mass M^{tm} is *weakly* dependent on the presence or absence of a Clover term and/or the way maximally twist is implemented.

Next, we examine the influence of κ_{cr} in the evaluation of M^{OS} and consequently of $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$. Our conclusions may be summarized as follows:

1. The results of ref. [13], obtained with two choices of κ_{cr} , indicate that, for the coarser lattices, these quantities are affected by the way κ_{cr} is determined.
2. The comparison made in ref. [14], between their M^{OS} and those of ref. [13], obtained with the PCAC determination of κ_{cr} , also shows discrepancies (cf. figure 1 of ref. [14]; see also our figures 1, 2). Again the choice of κ_{cr} affects M^{OS} and $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$.
3. We observe a better agreement between $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$ of ref. [14] and that of ref. [13], obtained with the pseudoscalar determination of κ_{cr} .
4. From figure 5 of ref. [15], we estimate that at the K -meson region, $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2) \sim 0.27$ (for $\beta = 6.0$), while in our computations we find $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2) \sim 0.25$.

The good agreement of the latter estimates suggests that once the Clover term is included in the action and an $O(a)$ -improved κ_{cr} is used to tune to maximal twist, the tm-OS pseudoscalar mass splitting is only mildly affected by the details of the κ_{cr} determination. Conversely, it appears that the $O(a)$ effects in the “optimal” determination of κ_{cr} (with a Wilson action without a Clover term) may somehow induce large $O(a^2)$ effects in M^{OS} and consequently in $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$.

We now investigate the direct influence of the Clover term in the mass splitting $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$. In figure 1 we plot our data against those of refs. [13, 14]. The mass splitting of our results is significantly smaller.⁴ We attribute this to the inclusion of the Clover term in the action. This effect, already seen in ref. [15] at $\beta = 6.0$, is confirmed here

³In our simulations, the twisted mass angle, measured from the ratio $\partial_0 f_V^{\text{tm}} / \partial_0 f_A^{\text{tm}}$, varies between $87^\circ - 90^\circ$.

⁴In refs. [13, 14] the pseudoscalar masses aM^{tm} and aM^{OS} are tabulated. From these we can easily compute $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$. The error on the latter quantity has been read off from figure 2 of ref. [13] and figure 3 of ref. [14]. This rough error estimate is adequate for the present qualitative comparison with our data.

for more lattice spacings. As the data of refs. [13, 14] clearly indicate, this splitting depends weakly upon the quark mass values. We expect a similarly weak mass dependence in our case.

In figure 2 we plot $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$ against the lattice spacing squared, for the present work and for refs. [13, 14]. In all cases this cutoff effect is decreasing with the lattice spacing. Contrary to expectations, there is no clear evidence for its vanishing in the continuum limit.⁵ This is probably due to the fact that we only have results at three lattice spacings for each case. Moreover, our lattices are probably too coarse to reveal the vanishing of $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$ in the continuum limit.⁶

Finally, we point out that this mass splitting has been recently studied in an unquenched $N_f = 2$ framework, with a maximally tmQCD action *without a Clover term*; see ref. [23]. In this preliminary work, pronounced R_M values of up to about 50% have been reported.

A similar analysis is performed for the pseudoscalar meson decay constants. In the Schrödinger functional framework they are obtained from the axial current correlation functions f_{AR} , properly normalized by the boundary-to-boundary correlation function f_1 ; see [21] for details. For the maximally twisted tm and OS cases under investigation, the specific expressions for the decay constants F^{tm} and F^{OS} are (in the large-time asymptotic regime):

$$F^{\text{tm}} \approx 2(M^{\text{tm}} L^3)^{-1/2} \exp[(x_0 - T/2)M^{\text{tm}}] \frac{-iZ_V f_V^{\text{tm}}(x_0)}{\sqrt{f_1^{\text{tm}}}}, \quad (3.4)$$

$$F^{\text{OS}} \approx 2(M^{\text{OS}} L^3)^{-1/2} \exp[(x_0 - T/2)M^{\text{OS}}] \frac{Z_A f_A^{\text{OS}}(x_0)}{\sqrt{f_1^{\text{OS}}}}. \quad (3.5)$$

In practice the above quantities are obtained in the x_0 -range in which the pseudoscalar effective masses have been extracted.

A further method for computing F is based on the PCVC relation, expressed in terms of Schrödinger functional correlation functions:

$$-M^{\text{tm}} Z_V f_V^{\text{tm}}(x_0) = 2i\mu f_P^{\text{tm}}(x_0). \quad (3.6)$$

The corresponding decay constant is computed as

$$F^{\text{PCVC}} \approx -4 \frac{\mu}{M^{\text{tm}}} (M^{\text{tm}} L^3)^{-1/2} \exp[(x_0 - T/2)M^{\text{tm}}] \frac{f_P^{\text{tm}}(x_0)}{\sqrt{f_1^{\text{tm}}}}. \quad (3.7)$$

In table 3 we show our results for the pseudoscalar decay constants. These values are in a general agreement with the corresponding estimates in tables 6 and 7 of ref. [6], but

⁵This contradicts the claim of ref. [13], where the mass splitting is shown to vanish in the continuum, for lighter pseudoscalar masses. In this respect we wish to point out that the tm and OS pseudoscalars were computed in that work with much bigger errors. Moreover, the $L = 16^3, \beta = 6.0$ results at the lightest values of $a\mu$ may not be free of finite size effects. Thus we consider the conclusion of that work on the mass splitting under consideration as not definitive.

⁶Most peculiarly, the vanishing of $\Delta(r_0^2 M^2)$ in the continuum appears to be supported by our data if plotted against a^4 . The data is well fit either by a function of the form $C_0 + C_4 a^4$ or by one like $C_2 a^2 + C_4 a^4$.

β	dataset	$r_0 F^{\text{PCVC}}$	$r_0 F^{\text{tm}}$	$r_0 F^{\text{OS}}$
6.0	I	0.407(7)	0.411(6)	0.412(12)
6.0	II	0.397(6)	0.401(6)	0.408(13)
	$r_0 M_K$	0.407(6)	0.411(6)	0.412(12)
6.1	I	0.415(8)	0.419(8)	0.410(9)
6.1	II	0.407(8)	0.411(8)	0.404(10)
	$r_0 M_K$	0.411(8)	0.415(8)	0.407(10)
6.2	I	0.417(12)	0.420(11)	0.419(14)
6.2	II	0.408(11)	0.411(11)	0.412(14)
	$r_0 M_K$	0.416(11)	0.419(11)	0.418(14)

Table 3. Pseudoscalar decay constants obtained from PCVC, and the axial current of tm and OS type. We also show the interpolations at the physical K-meson point.

the errors are bigger, due to reduced statistics.⁷ The principal observation is that F^{tm} and F^{OS} are compatible within errors.

In figure 3, we extrapolate (linearly in a^2) the three estimates of the decay constant determinations to the continuum limit. The results thus obtained for f_K are fully compatible. In particular, we find

$$\begin{aligned}
 r_0 F_K^{\text{PCVC}} &= 0.424(21) \\
 r_0 F_K^{\text{tm}} &= 0.427(21) \\
 r_0 F_K^{\text{OS}} &= 0.417(30)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.8}$$

which compares nicely with

$$\begin{aligned}
 r_0 F_K &= 0.421(07) \quad (\text{ref. [6]}) \\
 r_0 F_K &= 0.408(13) \quad (\text{ref. [14]}) \\
 r_0 F_K &= 0.415(09) \quad (\text{ref. [24]}) \\
 r_0 F_K &= 0.410(11) \quad (\text{ref. [25]})
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.9}$$

3.2 Improved B_K parameter

We now pass to the computation of the B_K parameter, on the lines of ref. [12], which ensures that the bare B_K is automatically improved. The four-fermion operator of interest is

$$Q_{VV+AA}^{\text{cont}} = [\bar{s}\gamma_\mu d][\bar{s}\gamma_\mu d] + [\bar{s}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5 d][\bar{s}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5 d].
 \tag{3.10}$$

⁷The quantities $r_0 F^{\text{PCVC}}$ and $r_0 F^{\text{tm}}$ have also been computed in ref. [6]. However these computations had been performed at significantly heavier quark masses and extrapolated to the Kaon mass value. This accounts for the 4% difference between these results and ours at $\beta = 6.0$; this difference decreases with increasing β .

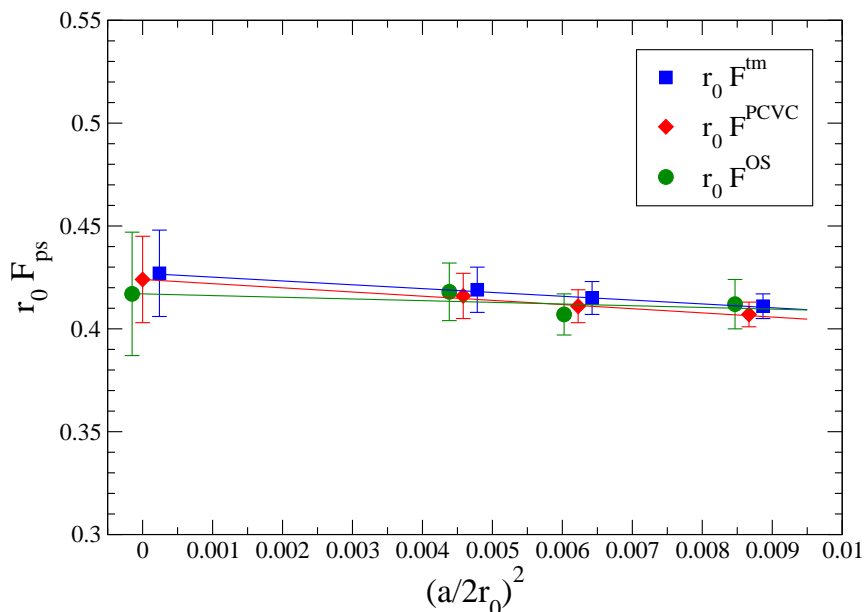


Figure 3. Pseudoscalar decay constant, computed with three different methods, as a function of the squared lattice spacing. (Symbols are slightly shifted for clarity.)

On the lattice, we discretize this operator as proposed in ref. [12]; i.e. it is expressed in terms of current products made of both tm and OS type, at maximal twist:

$$Q_{VA+AV}^{\text{tm-OS}} = [\bar{s}\gamma_\mu d]^{\text{tm}}[\bar{s}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5 d]^{\text{OS}} + [\bar{s}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5 d]^{\text{tm}}[\bar{s}\gamma_\mu d]^{\text{OS}}. \quad (3.11)$$

Using the chiral rotations of eq. (2.5), we obtain the relation between the lattice and continuum operators, up to discretization effects:

$$Q_{VV+AA}^{\text{cont}} = [Q_{VA+AV}^{\text{tm-OS}}]_{\text{R}} = Z_{VA+AV} Q_{VA+AV}^{\text{tm-OS}} \quad (3.12)$$

The main reason behind using this mixed tm-OS formalism is the fact that in this way the B_K matrix element, computed with (twisted) Wilson fermions, is both automatically improved and multiplicatively renormalizable.

B_K is obtained from the ratio

$$R_{B_K} = \frac{iZ_{VA+AV}F_{VA+AV}^{\text{tm-OS}}}{(8/3)[iZ_V f_V^{\text{tm}}][Z_A f_A^{\text{OS}}]}, \quad (3.13)$$

where $F_{VA+AV}^{\text{tm-OS}}$ is the Schrödinger functional correlation function with the four-fermion operator of eq. (3.11) in the bulk and the usual boundary sources at the time edges. Note that these sources are of tm type at time-slice $x_0 = 0$ and of OS type at time-slice $x_0 = T$. Thus, away from the time boundaries, the correlation function $F_{VA+AV}^{\text{tm-OS}}$ displays an asymptotic behaviour of the form $\exp[-M^{\text{tm}}x_0]\exp[-M^{\text{OS}}(T-x_0)]$. In order to match this choice and cancel the exponentials, the denominator consists of a correlation function f_V^{tm} of the tm type, involving the $x_0 = 0$ boundary, and a correlation function

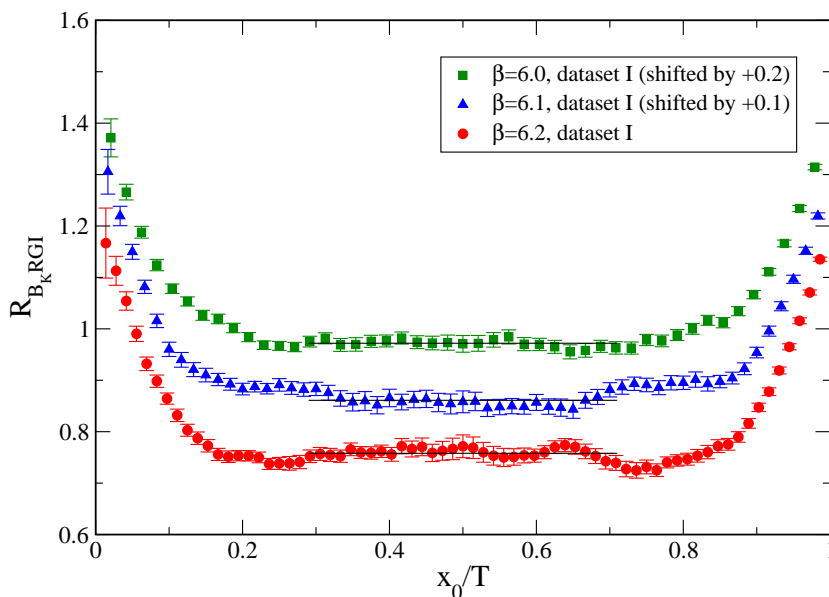


Figure 4. The ratio $R_{B_K}^{\text{RGI}}$ as a function of time, for three values of the gauge coupling. The data for $\beta = 6.0$ and 6.1 have been shifted for clarity. The horizontal lines indicate the B_K averages and the extension of the plateau.

$f_A^{\prime\text{OS}}$ of the OS-type, involving the $x_0 = T$ boundary. The axial and vector currents in these correlation functions are the corresponding tm and OS twisted versions of the axial current; cf. eqs. (2.7), (2.9). In our analysis we have also considered the symmetric situation with tm and OS sources exchanged and the denominator of the above equation adjusted accordingly. The B_K result quoted below is the average of the two estimates thus obtained. The quality of our raw results for R_{B_K} is shown in figure 4.

At large time separations from the boundary, the dependence of the bare B_K estimate on the lattice spacing, besides the standard logarithmic divergence, is characterized by $O(a^2)$ discretization effects. This is due to the fact that all fermion propagators are evaluated at maximal twist (i.e. we have the automatic improvement of ref. [12]). The renormalization constant Z_{VA+AV} is known non-perturbatively from ref. [10]. As it is computed in the chiral limit but is not improved, it suffers from $O(a\Lambda_{\text{QCD}})$ discretization effects. Our results show a very weak $O(a)$ dependence of B_K (see figure 5(b) below) and indicate that this is not a source of sizable discretization effects.

In table 4 we list our B_K^{RGI} estimates. The scaling of these results is to be compared to the ones of refs. [5, 6]. We remind the reader that the latter had been computed in two distinct frameworks: (i) the so-called $\pi/2$ case, consisting of a maximally twisted down quark and a non-twisted strange one and (ii) the so-called $\pi/4$ case, in which down and strange flavours were in the same isospin doublet with a twist angle $\pi/4$. Both frameworks have quark flavours which are not maximally twisted and this implies that the results of refs. [5, 6] are not improved.

In this respect, we wish to draw the reader’s attention to a subtlety related to the

β	dataset	B_K^{RGI}
6.0	I	0.772(10)(9)
6.0	II	0.753(12)(9)
	$r_0 M_K$	0.772(10)(9)(14)
6.1	I	0.762(12)(9)
6.1	II	0.746(13)(9)
	$r_0 M_K$	0.753(12)(9)(15)
6.2	I	0.758(12)(9)
6.2	II	0.742(13)(9)
	$r_0 M_K$	0.756(12)(9)(15)

Table 4. B_K^{RGI} results of the present work. The errors are, in order of appearance: (i) statistical, (ii) uncertainty due to the renormalization constants Z_{VA+AV} , Z_A and Z_V , (iii) total error, obtained by adding the first two in quadrature.

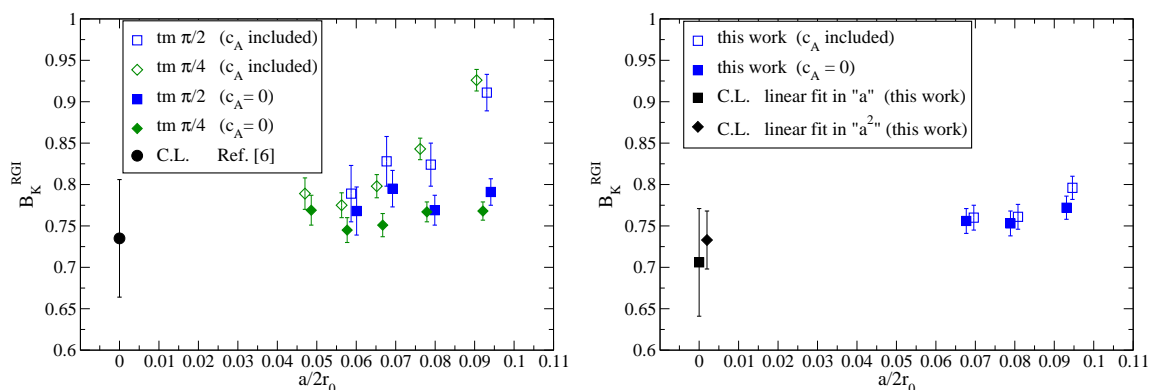


Figure 5. (a) Scaling behaviour of the B_K^{RGI} results of refs. [5, 6] for: (i) the $\pi/2$ case with a c_A term (empty squares) and with $c_A = 0$ (filled squares); (ii) the $\pi/4$ case with a c_A term (empty diamonds) and with $c_A = 0$ (filled diamonds). (b) Scaling behaviour of the B_K^{RGI} results from the present work with $c_A = 0$ (filled squares) and with a c_A term (empty squares). Symbols have been shifted for clarity. See the text for details on the continuum limit extrapolations (C.L.).

Symanzik improvement of the axial currents, $Z_A[f_A + ac_A\tilde{\partial}_0 f_P]$, in the denominator of B_K ($\tilde{\partial}_0$ is the lattice symmetrized partial derivative). In the formulation of refs. [5, 6], the ratio R_{B_K} contains the product of two axial currents in the denominator, each with an improvement counterterm $ac_A\partial_0 P$; cf. eqs. (3.21), (3.22) and (3.23) of ref. [5]. In these earlier works, the influence of this term in the scaling behaviour of B_K was carefully monitored. The result of this analysis is summarized in figure 5(a). Note that B_K^{RGI} scales much better when $c_A = 0$ (i.e. when the B_K denominator is not improved), than when it

is tuned so as to eliminate $O(a)$ effects from the axial current. In ref. [5] it was speculated that this could be due to some cancellation between the discretization effects of the B_K numerator and denominator, which is spoilt once the c_A term is switched on. Whatever the reason, the data of figure 5(a) clearly indicate that $O(a)$ effects influence significantly the scaling behaviour of B_K . The continuum limit value shown in this figure is the final result quoted in ref. [6]. It has been obtained by a combined fit, linear in $a/2r_0$, of the $\pi/2$ and $\pi/4$ data with a c_A term in the denominator (which is the most conservative option).

In the present paper, the counterterm $ac_A\tilde{d}_0f_P^{\text{OS}}$ may be included in the definition of the axial current correlation function in the denominator of R_{B_K} . Note that due to automatic improvement, this is now an $O(a^2)$ effect. In figure 5(b) we show our results, plotted against the linear lattice spacing $a/2r_0$. They are shown both for $c_A = 0$ and for non-zero c_A , in order to monitor the influence of the relevant counterterm. The compatibility between the two sets of results in figure 5(b) indicates that, unlike the previous case, the c_A term does not spoil the good scaling properties of B_K . Moreover, the almost flat scaling behaviour may suggest that the $O(a\Lambda_{\text{QCD}})$ discretization effects of Z_{VA+AV} , as well as the $O(\mu^2 a^2)$ effects of the $K^0 - \bar{K}^0$ matrix element, are small. In the light of this we have performed two continuum limit extrapolations, one linear in a and another linear in a^2 . Both extrapolation results are shown in figure 5(b), for the $c_A = 0$ data.

The linear fit of our B_K^{RGI} data with respect to a gives the following continuum result:

$$B_K^{\text{RGI}} = 0.706(65) \quad (\chi^2/dof = 0.30)$$

while the linear fit with respect to a^2 gives:

$$B_K^{\text{RGI}} = 0.733(34) \quad (\chi^2/dof = 0.26) .$$

Both results compare nicely with the published value: $B_K^{\text{RGI}} = 0.735(71)$ of ref. [6]. Our error in the latter value is smaller because the extrapolation in a^2 is shorter.

To recapitulate, at fixed lattice spacing, the result of ref. [6], suffers from $O(a)$ discretization effects which arise from several sources: (i) the renormalization constant Z_{VA+AV} ; (ii) the bare matrix element of the four fermion operator; (iii) the currents in the denominator of R_{B_K} , once we set $c_A = 0$. The result of the present paper is only contaminated by the $O(a\Lambda_{\text{QCD}})$ discretization errors of the renormalization constant Z_{VA+AV} ; all other quantities are automatically $O(a)$ improved. In order to obtain a fully improved result, the $O(a)$ effects in Z_{VA+AV} need to be eliminated. This would require the computation of this renormalization constant in a suitably modified renormalization scheme, as for example proposed in ref. [26] (in a Schrödinger functional setup, with chirally rotated boundary conditions) or in ref. [23] (in a maximally tmQCD framework). Such computations are beyond the scope of this paper.

4 Conclusions

In this work we have addressed a couple of issues related to the proposal of ref. [12] for the computation of B_K in a tmQCD setup, using a four-fermion operator made of two tm-type

quarks and two OS-type quarks, all maximally twisted. This ensures that the operator is multiplicatively renormalizable and automatically improved. The price to pay is that in this way the Kaon and anti-Kaon states of the weak matrix element $\langle \bar{K}^0 | O^{\Delta S=2} | K^0 \rangle$ are composed of different lattice quark field combinations (tm and OS) and thus are non degenerate at finite lattice spacing.

We have performed a quenched study in order to address these issues. In particular, we find that the inclusion of the Clover term in the fermionic action significantly reduces the mass splitting between Kaon and anti-Kaon at finite lattice spacing. This result, already observed in an earlier work at a single lattice spacing, has been confirmed by us for several β -values. It should also be noted that in earlier studies, in which a Clover term was not included in the action, this mass splitting, besides being much bigger than the one we measure, was found to be significantly affected by the choice of non-perturbative procedure for tuning the lattice theory to maximal twist. This does not appear to be the case once an $O(a)$ Symanzik-improved procedure, with a standard (untwisted) mass term, is used to tune the hopping parameter to its critical value. We also confirm that this splitting decreases as the continuum limit is approached.

The second objective of the present paper is the presentation of first results for B_K , obtained in this tm-OS setup. We have compared our results to the earlier ones of refs. [5, 6], in which B_K had been computed in a tmQCD setup, without maximal twist on all flavours and thus without automatic $O(a)$ -improvement. These results were rather sensitive to discretization errors, as revealed by the dependence of B_K on the Symanzik $O(a)$ term of the axial current at coarser lattice spacings. In the present work, bare matrix elements are automatically $O(a)$ -improved, leaving us only with $O(a\Lambda_{\text{QCD}})$ effects from the renormalization constant of the four-fermion operator. Our results display significantly better scaling, compatible with an $O(a^2)$ behaviour.

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