

Decoherence free B_d and B_s meson systems

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We study the impact of decoherence on B meson systems with specific emphasis on B_s . For consistency we also study the B_d mesons based on the most recent data. We find that the B_d mesons are 34σ away from total decoherence, while the B_s mesons are seen to be upto 31σ away from total decoherence. Thus, our results prove, with experimental verity, that neutral meson systems are free from decoherence effects. Therefore, this provides a very useful laboratory for testing the foundations of quantum mechanics.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Any system that evolves is affected by its surroundings which could be considered to be its environment. When the effect of the environment is taken into account for the dynamics of the system of interest, one is lead naturally to phenomenon such as decoherence. This is an open system way of treating these issues, making the evolution of the quantum system of interest to be non unitary in general. Such ideas have been fruitfully used in studies in quantum optics [1, 2], quantum information [3] and condensed matter physics [4]. Hence, it is a natural question to pose whether the K and B mesons produced at the K and B factories, and which serve as a rich laboratory for probing physics of and beyond the standard model, are affected by such open systems effects such as decoherence or not.

The foundations of quantum mechanics are usually studied in optical or electronic systems. Here the detection efficiency is much lower than that of the corresponding detectors at the high energy frontier experiments such as the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Therefore, it will be interesting to test the foundations of quantum mechanics in unstable massive systems at high energies over a macroscopic scale ($\sim 10^{-3}$ cm), as provided by, for e.g., the B factories. Thus these systems will provide an alternative platform for testing foundations of quantum mechanics.

In this context there have been many attempts to connect foundational aspects such as decoherence and quantum coherence over macroscopic distances in these meson systems [5–13]. Here our motivation is to study the impact of decoherence on B meson systems with specific emphasis on B_s mesons where a lot of accurate data is recently coming from LHC. For consistency we also study the B_d mesons based on the most recent data. We find that these systems are *remarkably coherent*, i.e., free from the effect of decoherence. This makes them pristine objects for the study of foundations of quantum mechanics. We also find this view to be corroborated in the K meson systems [9–12]. This thus provides a remarkable scenario where unitary quantum evolution is supported in real time dynamics.

The paper is organized as follows: In Sec. II we discuss the methodology for determining the decoherence in neutral B meson systems. In Sec. III, we present the results obtained for the decoherence parameter in B_d and B_s mesons. Finally in

Sec. IV, we present our conclusions.

II. THE QUANTUM MECHANICS OF NEUTRAL B MESONS

Here we study the quantum mechanics of neutral self-conjugate pairs of B mesons. There are two such systems: $B_d(\overline{B}_d)$ and $B_s(\overline{B}_s)$ mesons. In these B mesons there are two flavor eigenstates, which have definite quark content and are useful for understanding particle production and decay processes. Also, there are mass eigenstates pertaining to states with definite mass and lifetime.

In these systems, the mass eigenstates B_L and B_H (L and H indicate the light and heavy states, respectively) are admixtures of the flavor eigenstates B_q and \overline{B}_q ($q = d, s$):

$$\begin{aligned} |B_L\rangle &= p|B_q\rangle + q|\overline{B}_q\rangle, \\ |B_H\rangle &= p|B_q\rangle - q|\overline{B}_q\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

with $|p|^2 + |q|^2 = 1$. As a result, the initial flavor eigenstates oscillate into one another according to the evolution equation

$$i\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} |B_q(t)\rangle \\ |\overline{B}_q(t)\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} M^q - i\frac{\Gamma^q}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} |B_q(t)\rangle \\ |\overline{B}_q(t)\rangle \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

where $M = M^\dagger$ and $\Gamma = \Gamma^\dagger$ correspond respectively to the dispersive and absorptive parts of the mass matrix. The off-diagonal elements, $M_{12}^q = M_{21}^{q*}$ and $\Gamma_{12}^q = \Gamma_{21}^{q*}$, are generated by B_q - \overline{B}_q mixing. We define

$$\Gamma_q \equiv \frac{\Gamma_H + \Gamma_L}{2}, \quad \Delta M_q \equiv M_H - M_L, \quad \Delta\Gamma_q \equiv \Gamma_L - \Gamma_H. \quad (3)$$

Thus the mass difference ΔM_q is positive by definition. The ratio q/p is given by

$$\frac{q}{p} = \frac{\Delta M_q - \frac{i}{2}\Delta\Gamma_q}{2(M_{12}^q - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma_{12}^q)} = \frac{2(M_{12}^{q*} - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma_{12}^{q*})}{\Delta M_q - \frac{i}{2}\Delta\Gamma_q}. \quad (4)$$

The wavefunction of a $B_q\overline{B}_q$ pair is in the entangled state

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|B_q\rangle \otimes |\overline{B}_q\rangle - |\overline{B}_q\rangle \otimes |B_q\rangle). \quad (5)$$

The time evolution of Eq. (5) can be shown to be

$$\begin{aligned} |B_q(t)\rangle &= g_+(t) |B_q\rangle + \frac{q}{p} g_-(t) |\bar{B}_q\rangle, \\ |\bar{B}_q(t)\rangle &= \frac{p}{q} g_-(t) |B_q\rangle + g_+(t) |\bar{B}_q\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} g_+(t) &= e^{-iM_q t} e^{-\Gamma_q t/2} \cos(\Delta M_q t/2), \\ g_-(t) &= i e^{-iM_q t} e^{-\Gamma_q t/2} \sin(\Delta M_q t/2), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

and $M_q = (M_H + M_L)/2$.

A fruitful approach used to study the effect of decoherence on the evolution of the B system, as introduced in [6] for the B_d mesons, is the modification of the interference term of the expression denoting the decay of the meson state $|\Psi\rangle$ into its final products f_1 and f_2 , see Eq. (12), by a parameter $1 - \zeta$. Here ζ comes from the phenomenological modelling of the process of decoherence (which originates from the effect of the environment on the evolution of the B system) and takes possible values from 0 to 1, where 0 corresponds to complete coherence and 1 to complete decoherence. This phenomenological prescription of the range of ζ comes from the understanding that decoherence is a form of noise inherent to the systems evolution. Thus $\zeta = 0$ and 1 would correspond to zero and maximal noise, respectively.

From the probability of the decay of the meson state into its final products [14, 15], it can be shown that the ratio of the like-sign to opposite-sign dilepton events in $B_q \bar{B}_q$ decay is [6]

$$R_q \equiv \frac{N_{++} + N_{--}}{N_{+-} + N_{-+}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\left| \frac{p}{q} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{q}{p} \right|^2 \right) \frac{x_q^2 + y_q^2 + \zeta_q \left[y_q^2 \frac{1+x_q^2}{1-y_q^2} + x_q^2 \frac{1-y_q^2}{1+x_q^2} \right]}{2 + x_q^2 - y_q^2 + \zeta_q \left[y_q^2 \frac{1+x_q^2}{1-y_q^2} - x_q^2 \frac{1-y_q^2}{1+x_q^2} \right]}, \quad (8)$$

where

$$x_q = \frac{\Delta M_q}{\Gamma_q} \quad \text{and} \quad y_q = \frac{\Delta \Gamma_q}{2\Gamma_q}. \quad (9)$$

The parameter R_q can be written as

$$R_q = \frac{\chi_q}{1 - \chi_q}, \quad (10)$$

where

$$\chi_q = \frac{x_q^2 + y_q^2}{2(1 + x_q^2)}. \quad (11)$$

$x_d = 0.770 \pm 0.008$	$x_s = 26.49 \pm 0.29$
$y_d = 0.0$	$y_s = 0.088 \pm 0.014$ [16, 17]
$\chi_d = 0.1862 \pm 0.0023$	$\chi_s = 0.499292 \pm 0.000016$

TABLE I: Inputs that we use in order to obtain the decoherence parameter ζ_q . When not explicitly stated, we take the inputs from Particle Data Group [18].

The semileptonic dilepton charge asymmetry is

$$A_{sl}^q \equiv \frac{N(\bar{B}_q(t) \rightarrow l^+ \nu_l X) - N(B_q(t) \rightarrow l^- \bar{\nu}_l X)}{N(\bar{B}_q(t) \rightarrow l^+ \nu_l X) + N(B_q(t) \rightarrow l^- \bar{\nu}_l X)} = \frac{|\frac{p}{q}|^2 - |\frac{q}{p}|^2}{|\frac{p}{q}|^2 + |\frac{q}{p}|^2}. \quad (12)$$

Using Eqs. (8) and (12), we have

$$\zeta_q = \frac{R_q (2 + x_q^2 - y_q^2) - \alpha_q (x_q^2 + y_q^2)}{(\alpha_q - R_q) \left(y_q^2 \frac{1+x_q^2}{1-y_q^2} \right) + (\alpha_q + R_q) \left(\frac{x_q^2(1-y_q^2)}{1+x_q^2} \right)}, \quad (13)$$

where

$$\alpha_q = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (A_{sl}^q)^2}}. \quad (14)$$

The effect of decoherence on the B_d system evolution was studied in Ref. [6] in the flavour basis and in Ref. [7] in the mass basis. In Ref. [8], it was shown that the effect of decoherence is expected to be stronger in the flavor basis. In our analysis we have made use of the flavour basis because if it turns out that the effect of decoherence in this basis is negligible then that understanding tends to the other basis as well.

III. RESULTS

In this section we present our results for the decoherence parameter ζ_q , Eq. (13), for B_d and B_s mesons. The input parameters are given in Table I.

A. Decoherence parameter ζ_d for B_d system

The values of ζ_d for various experimental values of semileptonic dilepton charge asymmetry A_{sl}^d are presented in Table II. The value of A_{sl}^d in the first row of Table

A_{sl}^d	ζ_d
0.0002 ± 0.0031	0.001 ± 0.029
0.0023 ± 0.0026	0.001 ± 0.029
0.0016 ± 0.0023	0.001 ± 0.029

TABLE II: Decoherence parameter ζ_d for B_d meson system for different values of semileptonic dilepton charge asymmetry A_{sl}^d .

II is an average of all measurements performed at B factories [19]. Adding the $D\bar{O}$ measurement obtained with reconstructed B_d decays [20] to A_{sl}^d given in the first row, yields the value given in second row. The latest dimuon $D\bar{O}$ analysis separates the B_d and B_s contributions by exploiting their dependence on the muon impact parameter cut [21]. The value of A_{sl}^d given in third row is obtained by combining this latest result obtained by $D\bar{O}$ with the average A_{sl}^d given in the second row [19].

It is obvious from Table II that for all values of A_{sl}^d , ζ_d is 34σ away from total decoherence. This is an improvement over the estimate made in [6, 24]. Thus we see that the B_d meson system is free from decoherence.

B. Decoherence parameter ζ_s for B_s system

Here we present our results, pertaining to the effect of decoherence on B_s systems for the first time. The values of ζ_s for various experimental values of semileptonic dilepton charge asymmetry A_{sl}^s are presented in Table III.

The values of A_{sl}^s in the first and second row of Table III are obtained by $D\bar{O}$ [22] and LHCb [23] collaborations, respectively, by measuring the time-integrated charge asymmetry of untagged $B_s \rightarrow D_s \mu X$ decays. The value of A_{sl}^s obtained by LHCb is the most precise value to date. The value of A_{sl}^s in the third row is obtained from CDF, $D\bar{O}$ and LHCb analysis [19].

It is obvious from Table III that depending upon the value of A_{sl}^s , ζ_s is 24σ to 31σ away from total decoherence. For the most precise data, obtained from LHCb [23], the deviation from total decoherence is seen to be 31σ . Thus we see that like the B_d meson system, B_s is also free from decoherence.

A_{sl}^s	ζ_s
$-0.0108 \pm 0.0072 \pm 0.0017$ [22]	-0.023 ± 0.042
$-0.0024 \pm 0.0054 \pm 0.0033$ [23]	-0.004 ± 0.032
-0.0119 ± 0.0038 [19]	-0.028 ± 0.036

TABLE III: Decoherence parameter ζ_s for B_s meson system for different values of semileptonic dilepton charge asymmetry A_{sl}^s .

IV. CONCLUSION

We study the impact of decoherence on B meson systems with specific emphasis on B_s . For consistency we also study the B_d mesons based on the most recent data. We find, using the currently available data, that the B_d mesons are 34σ away from total decoherence, while the B_s mesons are 24σ to 31σ away from total decoherence, depending upon the input data on the semileptonic dilepton charge asymmetry. Using the most recent experimental data, our results thus prove that neutral mesons are free from decoherence effects. Therefore, this provides a very useful laboratory for testing the foundations of quantum mechanics.

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