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WEAK $D \rightarrow K\pi$ DECAYS REVISITED^{*}

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ABSTRACT

Soft theorems of current algebra are consistently applied to $D \to K\pi$ decay amplitudes from which D^* , F^* and K^* pole contributions have been removed. The K^* pole, ignored in previous calculations, represents the contribution of the flavor annihilation channel. The net effect is an improved, though not entirely satisfactory, understanding of $D \to K\pi$ data.

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1. Introduction

Now that the new Mark III data¹ reconfirm that $(D^0 \to \overline{K}{}^0 \pi^0)$ is not color suppressed,² it is time to examine the effect of heretofore ignored "helicitysuppressed" W-exchange quark graphs on the theory. A recent model-independent analysis³ of $D \to K\pi$ decays based on the following two branching fractions^{1,4}

$$R_{00} \equiv \Gamma(D^0 \to \overline{K}{}^0 \pi^0) / \Gamma(D^0 \to K^- \pi^+) = 0.35 \pm 0.07 \pm 0.07$$
 (1a)

$$R_{0+} \equiv \Gamma(D^0 \to K^- \pi^+) / \Gamma(D^+ \to \overline{K}{}^0 \pi^+) = 3.7 \pm 1.0 \pm 0.8$$
(1b)

(where in the latter we have used $\tau_{D^+}/\tau_{D^0} = 2.5 \pm 0.6$) finds that: (1) real amplitudes cannot fit the two ratios in (1a) and (1b) simultaneously, and (2) a sizeable W-exchange (non-spectator) contribution is needed to lift color-suppression. In this paper we first apply the standard current algebra techniques combined with P-wave vector meson F^{*+} and D^{*0} pole graphs but also include, in the spirit of using vector mesons only, the K^* pole graphs in flavor annihilation channels. Though on-shell this contributions is "helicity-suppressed", it is not a priori obvious that the application of soft-theorems will not result in some constant contribution as a remnant of the K^* pole. We find that the K^* pole nevertheless approximately decouples from the final on-shell decay amplitudes and is thus effectively helicity suppressed.

The result of this procedure can, however, lift color suppression to a degree and come close to explaining the two ratios in (1a) and (1b) for a color-enhanced to color-suppressed F^* to D^* transition ratio about -2.5. One naively expects the absolute magnitude of this ratio to be 3. Furthermore the self-consistent current algebra-PCAC requirement forces the amplitudes in the approximate "vacuumsaturated" quark spectator minus color-suppressed quark spectator form employed in Refs. 5 for all two-body weak decay amplitudes to match favorably the observed scales. One exception is the $(D^0 \to \overline{K}{}^0 \pi^0)$ mode.

In Section 2 we develop current algebra-PCAC theorems for $D \to K\pi$ decays, introducing all possible *P*-wave vector meson pole graphs. These pole graphs account for the rapid variation of the amplitude as one of the particles is taken off-shell. The background, once the pole contributions are subtracted, is assumed not to have any energy dependence. After noting that the K^* pole in the "flavor annihilation" channel does not contribute significantly to the final on-shell $D \to$ $K\pi$ amplitudes, we attempt to match the decay rate ratios to (1a) and (1b) and find that a near fit is obtained with a F^* to D^* transition ratio of ≈ -2.5 . Next in Section 3 we show that the PCAC consistency requirements are identical to vacuum saturation of quark spectator and color-suppressed spectator graphs. We then predict the scales of the three decay amplitudes $(D^0 \to K^-\pi^+), (D^0 \to \overline{K}^0\pi^0)$ and $(D^+ \to \overline{K}^0\pi^+)$.

We summarize our analysis in Section 4 that we have tried to constrain the K^* pole in the flavor-annihilation channel by current algebra and PCAC and find that its contribution to *D*-decays is minimal. This analysis generates approximately the correct scale for all two-body *D*-decay amplitudes except $(D^0 \rightarrow \overline{K}{}^0\pi^0)$.

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2. Current Algebra-PCAC Theorems for $D \rightarrow K\pi$

In what follows, the *D*-meson will always be kept on mass shell, with $p_D^2 = m_D^2$, where $p_D = D$ -meson 4-momentum. The Nambu-Goldstone bosons π and K will be taken off mass-shell with 4-momentum always conserved, $p_D = p_K + p_{\pi}$, so that $p_K^2 \to m_D^2$ as $p_{\pi} \to 0$. Such a long extrapolation in p_K^2 is not likely to be smooth as it spans the resonance region. We account for the rapid variation of the amplitude M_P in this extrapolation by vector meson F^* , D^* and K^* poles shown in Figs. 1a-1c. The expectation is that the background amplitude \overline{M} in $M = M_P + \overline{M}$ is smoothly behaved. The on-shell amplitude can then be computed in the usual manner⁶

$$M^{on} = M_P^{on} + M_{CC} - M_P(0) , \qquad (2)$$

where $M_P(0)$ denotes the soft π or K meson pole amplitude. The charge commutator amplitude M_{CC} is obtained from the PCAC relation, for example with $p_{\pi} \rightarrow 0$ and $f_{\pi} \approx 93 \ MeV$,

$$M_{CC} = -\langle \pi, K | H_W | D \rangle_{p_{\pi} \to 0} = \left(\frac{i}{f_{\pi}}\right) \langle K | [Q_5^{\pi}, H_W] | D \rangle$$
(3)

combined with $[Q_5, H_W] = -[Q, H_W]$ for H_W built from V-A left-handed currents.

The vector meson pole graphs of Fig. 1 in the limit $p_{\pi} \rightarrow 0$ correspond to

$$(M_P - M_P(0))_{F^*} = M_{P,F^*} \propto \frac{(m_D^2 - m_K^2)}{m_F^2} \left\langle \pi^+ | H_W | F^{*+} \right\rangle$$
(4a)

$$(M_P - M_p(0))_{D^*} = -\frac{m_{\pi}^2}{m_D^2} M_{P,D^*} \propto -\frac{m_{\pi}^2}{m_D^2} \left\langle \overline{K}^0 | H_W | D^{*0} \right\rangle$$
(4b)

$$(M_P - M_P(0))_{K^*} = -\frac{(m_D^2 - m_K^2)}{m_K^2} M_{P,K^*} \propto -\frac{(m_D^2 - m_K^2)}{m_{K^*}^2} \langle K^{*0} | H_W | D^0 \rangle (4c)$$

If we instead take the limit, $p_K \rightarrow 0$, then (4) is replaced by

$$(M_P - M_P(0))_{F^*} = -\frac{m_K^2}{m_D^2 - m_K^2} M_{P,F^*} \propto -\frac{m_K^2}{m_{F^*}^2} \left\langle \pi^+ |H_W| F^{*+} \right\rangle$$
(5a)

$$(M_P - M_P(0))_{D^*} = M_{P,D^*} \propto \frac{m_D^2}{m_{D^*}^2} \left\langle \overline{K}^0 | H_W | D^{*+} \right\rangle$$
(5b)

$$(M_P - M_P(0))_{K^*} = \frac{m_D^2 + m_K^2}{m_K^2} M_{P,K^*} \propto \frac{m_D^2 + m_K^2}{m_{K^*}^2} \langle \overline{K}^{*0} | H_W | D^0 \rangle$$
. (5c)

In (4) and (5) $M_{P,K}$ represents the K^* pole term with similar definitions for $M_{P,D}$ and $M_{P,F}$. We have neglected m_{π}^2 compared to m_D^2 in (4) and (5).

It is interesting that while the naive vector meson F^* and D^* pole model is recovered in (4a) and (5b), the "helicity-suppressed" (or "mass-suppressed") K^* pole graphs of Fig. 1c is significantly enhanced by a factor $m_D^2/m_K^2 \simeq 14$ in (3c) and (4c). In quark language this means that while the spectator and the color-suppressed spectator graphs of Figs. 2a and 2b remain unaltered, the contribution of K^* pole in the annihilation channel, Fig. 2c, is enhanced to the level of other quark graphs. But in spite of this effect we shall see below that the K^* pole contribution will nevertheless be suppressed in the physical on-shell amplitude due to a consistency requirement imposed by current algebra and PCAC.

To see how this happens quantitatively, we work out in detail the current algebra-PCAC analysis (2)-(5) for the $(D^0 \to K^-\pi^+)$ amplitude M^{-+} , the $(D^0 \to \overline{K}{}^0\pi^0)$ amplitude M^{00} and the $(D^+ \to \overline{K}{}^0\pi^+)$ amplitude M^{0+} as $p_{\pi} \to 0$.

This leads to the following on-shell physical amplitudes,

$$M^{+-} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2} f_{\pi}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle - g_{V} \frac{(m_{D}^{2} - m_{K}^{2})}{\sqrt{2} m_{F}^{2}} \left\langle \pi^{+} | H_{W} | F^{*+} \right\rangle + g_{V} \frac{(m_{D}^{2} - m_{K}^{2})}{\sqrt{2} m_{K}^{2}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{*0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle$$
(6a)

$$M^{00} = -\frac{i}{f_{\pi}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle - g_{V} \frac{(m_{D}^{2} - m_{K}^{2})}{2 m_{K}^{2}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{*0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle$$
(6b)

$$M^{+0} = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2} f_{\pi}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle - g_{V} \frac{(m_{D}^{2} - m_{K}^{2})}{\sqrt{2} m_{F}^{2}} \left\langle \pi^{+} | H_{W} | F^{*+} \right\rangle , \quad (6c)$$

where g_V is the VPP SU(4) coupling constant and m_{π}^2 has been neglected compared to m_D^2 throughout. Note also that the $\Delta I = 1$ isospin sum rule

$$M^{+-} + \sqrt{2} M^{00} = M^{+0} \tag{7}$$

is identically satisfied by (6).

If we instead take the limit $p_K \rightarrow 0$, then current algebra-PCAC leads to the following on-shell matrix elements,

$$M^{-+} = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2} f_{K}} \left[\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \rangle + \langle \pi^{+} | H_{W} | F^{+} \rangle \right] + \frac{g_{V}}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{m_{K}^{2}}{m_{F}^{2}} \left\langle \pi^{+} | H_{W} | F^{*+} \right\rangle - g_{V} \frac{(m_{D}^{2} + m_{K}^{2})}{\sqrt{2} m_{K}^{2}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{*0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle$$
(8a)
$$M^{00} = \frac{i}{2 f_{K}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle - \frac{g_{V}}{2} \frac{m_{D}^{2}}{m_{D}^{2}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{*0} \right\rangle + \frac{g_{V}}{2} \frac{(m_{D}^{2} + m_{K}^{2})}{m_{K}^{2}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{*0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle$$
(8b)

$$M^{0+} = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2} f_K} \left\langle \pi^+ |H_W|F^+ \right\rangle + \frac{g_V}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{m_K^2}{m_{F^*}^2} \left\langle \pi^+ |H_W|F^{*+} \right\rangle - \frac{g_V}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{m_D^2}{m_{D^*}^2} \left\langle \overline{K}^0 |H_W|D^{*0} \right\rangle .$$
(8c)

Again (7) is identically satisfied by (8).

Since the on-shell amplitudes must be the same, no matter whether p_K or p_{π} is made soft, inspection of (6) and (8) shows that the following PCAC-consistency conditions must be valid:

$$\frac{i}{f_K} \left\langle \pi^+ |H_W|F^+ \right\rangle = g_V \frac{m_D^2}{m_{F^*}^2} \left\langle \pi^+ |H_W|F^{*+} \right\rangle \tag{9a}$$

$$\frac{i}{f_{\pi}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle = g_{V} \frac{m_{D}^{2}}{m_{D^{*}}^{2}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{*0} \right\rangle$$
(9b)

$$\frac{i}{f} \left\langle \overline{K}^{0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle = -g_{V} \frac{m_{D}^{2}}{m_{K^{*}}^{2}} \left\langle \overline{K}^{*0} | H_{W} | D^{0} \right\rangle , \qquad (9c)$$

where $1/f = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{f_{\pi}} + \frac{1}{f_{K}}\right)$. With $f_K/f_{\pi} = 1.25$, which we use throughout, $f_{\pi}/f = 0.9$. Before studying the significance of the identities (9), we first substitute (9) back into (6) or (8) to obtain the final on-shell $D \to K\pi$ amplitudes,

$$iM(D^{0} \to K^{-}\pi^{+}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}f_{K}} \left(1 - \frac{m_{K}^{2}}{m_{D}^{2}}\right) F$$
$$-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\left(\frac{1}{f} - \frac{1}{f_{K}}\right) + \frac{1}{f} \frac{m_{K}^{2}}{m_{D}^{2}} \right] D \qquad (10a)$$

$$iM(D^0 \to \overline{K}{}^0 \pi^0) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\frac{2}{f_\pi} - \frac{1}{f} \right) + \frac{1}{f} \frac{m_K^2}{m_D^2} \right] D$$
(10b)

$$iM(D^+ \to \overline{K}{}^0\pi^+) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}f_K} \left(1 - \frac{m_K^2}{m_D^2}\right) F + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}f_\pi} D$$
 (10c)

where we have defined

$$F \equiv \left\langle \pi^+ | H_W | F^+ \right\rangle \qquad D \equiv \left\langle \overline{K}^0 | H_W | D^0 \right\rangle . \tag{11}$$

We note that although the K^* -pole term, signalled by (9c), is enhanced to the same size as the D^* pole graphs (signalled by (9b)), its effect in the on-shell amplitudes (signalled by 1/f terms in (10) is minimal, largely cancelling against the charge commutator terms in (10a) and (10b). The net effect is close to a model with only F^* and D^* poles (i.e. spectator and color-suppressed spectator quark graphs). For reference, in a model with F^* and D^* poles only and unconstrained by current algebra, (10) is replaced by (where (9a) and (9b) are used),

$$iM(D^0 \to K^- \pi^+) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} f_K} \left(1 - \frac{m_K^2}{m_D^2}\right) F$$
 (12a)

$$iM(D^0 \to \overline{K}{}^0 \pi^0) = \frac{D}{2f_\pi}$$
(12b)

$$iM(D^+ \to \overline{K}{}^0\pi^+) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}f_K} \left(1 - \frac{m_K^2}{m_D^2}\right) F + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}f_\pi} D$$
 (12c)

The ratios R_{00} and R_{0+} of (1) now depend on the ratio F/D defined in (11). In Table I we have tabulated R_{00} and R_{0+} as functions of F/D. We notice that for $F/D \approx -2.0$ to -2.5, color suppression of R_{00} is partially lifted and we come close to a simultaneous fit to R_{00} and R_{0+} . A fit to R_{00} requires F/D closer to -2.0 while R_{0+} requires it to be closer to -3.0. A magnitude of 3 for F/Dcorresponds to the color-suppression of $\langle \overline{K}^0 | H_W | D^0 \rangle$ relative to $\langle \pi^+ | H_W | F^+ \rangle$ as expected.² Even the relative sign is anticipated once one appreciates⁵ that while Fierz reshuffling of quark fields in H_W gives² F/D = 3, the extra minus sign enters this ratio due to the Cartesian phases of hadron states in the strong (Ademollo-Gatto) coupling at the vertices $\langle K^- | V_{\mu} | D^0 \rangle$ versus $\langle \pi^+ | V_{\mu} | D^0 \rangle$.

3. Vacuum-Saturated $D \rightarrow K\pi$ Scales

In this section we test the scales of the three amplitudes in (10) by using vacuum saturation. In Refs. 5 and 7 the authors have discussed the scale of the vacuum-saturated amplitudes for $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^0$ and $D \rightarrow K\pi$ decays and shown that a satisfactory fit to the $K \rightarrow 2\pi$ and $D \rightarrow K\pi$ amplitudes is obtained through vacuum saturation of the matrix element.

We begin by demonstrating that vacuum-saturation does indeed imply the consistency conditions of (9). More specifically, we assume the usual form for H_W constructed out of left-handed currents,

$$H_{W} = \frac{G_{F}}{2\sqrt{2}} \left(J_{\mu}^{\dagger} J^{\mu} + J_{\mu} J^{\dagger \mu} \right) \,. \tag{13}$$

Vacuum-saturating the left-hand-side of (9a) leads to

$$\frac{i}{f_K} \langle \pi^+ | H_W | F^+ \rangle = \frac{i}{f_K} \frac{G_F}{2\sqrt{2}} \langle \pi^+ | A^{\dagger}_{\mu} | 0 \rangle \langle 0 | A^{\mu} | F^+ \rangle$$

$$= i \frac{f_{\pi} f_F}{f_K} \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} c_1^2 p^2$$
(14a)

and

$$F \equiv \left\langle \pi^+ | H_W | F^+ \right\rangle = \frac{f_F}{\sqrt{2}} \left(3.57 \times 10^{-6} \, GeV \right) \tag{14b}$$

where c_1 is the cosine of the Cabibbo-mixing angle and $p^2 = m_D^2$ for *D*-decay on shell. The right hand side of (9a) involves the $F^{*+} \to \pi^+$ transition amplitude (note that in defining the matrix elements involving vector particles in (6) and (8) we have already factored out $\epsilon \cdot p$ where ϵ_{μ} is the polarization 4-vector and p_{μ} the 4-momentum of the particle) appearing in the amplitude

$$A(F^{*+} \to \pi^+) \equiv \left\langle \pi^+ | H_W | F^{*+} \right\rangle (\epsilon \cdot p) . \qquad (15a)$$

With vacuum saturation one has with J = V - A,

$$A(F^{*+} \to \pi^{+}) = \frac{G_F}{2\sqrt{2}} \langle \pi^{+}| - A^{+}_{\mu}|0\rangle \langle 0|V^{\mu}|F^{*+}\rangle$$

$$= \frac{G_F c_1^2}{\sqrt{2}} (if_{\pi}) (\epsilon \cdot p) \frac{m_{F^{*}}^2}{g_V}.$$
(15b)

Comparing (15a) and (15b) we obtain

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$$\left\langle \pi^+ | H_W | F^{*+} \right\rangle = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} c_1^2 (i f_\pi) \frac{m_{F^*}^2}{g_V} .$$
 (16)

Then (14) and (16) lead to (9a) in the approximation $f_F = f_K$. Similar analyses likewise lead to (9b) and (9c).

Returning now to the decay amplitudes in (10) but with $f_F \neq f_K$, we can compute their magnitudes using the scale of F set by vacuum saturation (14) and an assumed F/D ratio. The magnitudes of the amplitudes are then given by

$$|M_{-+}| = \frac{G_F c_1^2 f_\pi m_D^2 f_F}{2} \left[\left(\frac{1}{f_K} + \frac{1}{f} \frac{D}{F} \right) \left(1 - \frac{m_K^2}{m_D^2} \right) - \frac{1}{f_\pi} \frac{D}{F} \right]$$
(17*a*)

$$|M_{00}| = \frac{G_F c_1^2 f_\pi m_D^2 f_F}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\frac{1}{f_\pi} - \frac{1}{2f} \left(1 - \frac{m_K^2}{m_D^2} \right) \right] \frac{D}{F}$$
(17b)

$$|M_{0+}| = \frac{G_F c_1^2 f_\pi m_D^2 f_F}{2} \left[\frac{1}{f_K} \left(1 - \frac{m_K^2}{m_D^2} \right) + \frac{1}{f_\pi} \frac{D}{F} \right] .$$
 (17c)

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In Table II we have listed the numerical values of those amplitudes for different values of the ratios F/D and f_F/f_{π} . In SU(4) breaking f_F/f_{π} could be⁸ $\sqrt{m_c + m_s}/\sqrt{2m_u} \simeq 1.73$. The "experimental" amplitudes calculated by us are

$$|M_{-+}|_{\exp} = (2.51 \pm 0.22 \pm 0.24) \ 10^{-6} \ GeV$$
 (18a)

$$|M_{00}|_{\exp} = (1.51 \pm 0.18 \pm 0.17) \, 10^{-6} \, \tilde{GeV}$$
(18b)

$$|M_{0+}|_{\exp} = (1.37 \pm 0.15 \pm 0.11) \, 10^{-6} \, GeV \; .$$
 (18c)

In computing these amplitudes we have used⁹

$$\tau_{D^+} = (8.9 \pm 0.9) \, 10^{-13} \, sec \tag{19a}$$

$$\tau_{D^0} = (3.8 \pm 0.3) \, 10^{-13} \, sec \tag{19b}$$

and the two-body branching ratios in (1) from Ref. 10.

The scales computed by us with $f_F/f_{\pi} = 1.73$ and F/D = -3 are reasonable except for M_{00} which is too low by about two standard deviations. One could raise M_{00} by using F/D = -2.0 but then M_{0+} would be lowered further while M_{+-} would rise slightly.

4. Conclusion

Since helicity suppressed quark graphs are usually ignored in $D \to K\pi$ decays, our goal in this paper was to introduce W-exchange (flavor annihilation) diagrams into the theory in a systematic manner. The application of soft theorems of current algebra to $D \to K\pi$ decays entails large extrapolations through kinematic regions populated by resonances. We assume that the resonant behaviour is approximated by vector resonances, D^* , F^* , and K^* , and apply the soft-theorems to a smooth amplitude from which the resonant parts have been removed. We expect this to be a reasonably reliable procedure to incorporate K^* in the theory. The final amplitudes so obtained, Eq. (10), differ slightly from those predicted by a model with D^* and F^* poles alone and unconstrained by current algebra, Eq. (12). The net effect is to lead to an improved, though not a completely satisfactory, fit to the ratios R_{00} and R_{0+} .

Proceeding further we evaluated the magnitudes of the three amplitudes, the scale having been set by vacuum saturation of the matrix element F defined in (11). Since a simultaneous fit to R_{00} and R_{0+} could not be secured we find that the theory reasonably well explains the magnitudes of $(D^0 \to K^- \pi^+)$ and $(D^+ \to \overline{K}{}^0 \pi^+)$ amplitudes, but the troublesome $(D^0 \to \overline{K}{}^0 \pi^0)$ amplitude is about 2 standard deviations below the experimental value.

We, therefore, deduce that the inclusion of the flavor-annihilation channel through a K^* pole in the theory in a consistent manner leads to an improved understanding of the data. Nonetheless we would expect future experiments, particularly on the mode $(D^0 \to \overline{K}{}^0\pi^0)$, to clarify the situation.

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Table	εI

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F/D	R_{00}	R_{0+}	
-2.0	0.25	11.45	 -
-2.1	0.23	9.43	
-2.2	0.21	8.0	
-2.3	0.19	6.94	
-2.4	0.18	6.15	
-2.5	0.17	5.53	
-2.6	0.15	5.0	
-2.7	0.14	4.63	

Table II

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All ampltiudes in units of 10^{-6} GeV.

f_F/f_{π}	F/D	$ M_{-+} $	$ M_{00} $	$ M_{0+} $	
1.25	-2.0	1.84	0.92	0.54	
1.25	-2.5	1.80	0.73	0.77	
1.25	-3.0	1.77	0.61	0.92	
1.73	-2.0	2.77	1.26	0.76	
1.73	-2.5	2.72	1.01	1.07	
1.73	-3.0	2.69	0.84	1.27	

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

- 1. Vector meson F^* , D^* and K^* pole graphs for $D \to K\pi$ decays. The cross within the circle represents weak transition.
- 2. Equivalent quark spectator, color suppressed spectator and W-exchange quark graphs for $D \to K\pi$ decays.





Fig. 1









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