

Overview on pentaquarks

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An overview of the exotic pentaquark states is provided, from early searches in KN scattering experiments in the 1970's to the now-debunked $\Theta^+(1540)$ in the early 2000's, to the discovery two resonances consistent with pentaquark states by LHCb in 2015. We review the full angular analysis of $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^- p$ that led to affirmation of the resonant nature of the $P_c^+(4450)$ and $P_c^+(4380)$ pentaquark candidates. We summarize the latest results, ongoing work and future prospects for other pentaquark searches at LHCb.

*The 15th International Conference on Flavor Physics & CP Violation
5-9 June 2017
Prague, Czech Republic*

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1. Introduction

The idea that non- $q\bar{q}$ or non- qqq stable, color singlet states are expected to occur have been around since the birth of the quark model in the 1960's [1]. Yet, none of these $qq\bar{q}\bar{q}$ (tetraquark) or $qqqqq$ (pentaquark) states were found over the next four decades. The situation changed in 2003 with the Belle discovery of the $X(3872)$ tetraquark candidate, decaying into $J/\psi\pi^+\pi^-$ [2]. Over the next decade, several more tetraquark and pentaquark candidate states have been seen in heavy quark systems (see Ref. [3] for a comprehensive review), but notably none in the light quark sector. The search and study of these states constitute a major thrust at current collider experiments, especially at the LHC, Belle II and BES III.

In these proceedings, after a brief historical overview on pentaquark searches, leading to the first conclusive discovery of pentaquark candidate resonances at LHCb in the $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^- p$ system, we describe some topical details of the amplitude analysis that played a critical role in this discovery. Finally we describe other recent searches at LHCb and further prospects.

2. Historical background

Early searches of pentaquarks in the 1970's focused on the strangeness $S = +1$ baryons, the so-called Z^+ resonances in kaon-nucleon systems (in retrospect, this was before charm was even discovered). For example, "intriguing fluctuations" were seen in LBL [4] K^+ scattering data on deuteron. Figure 1 shows a re-analysis of the same LBL data in 2003 [5] claiming existence of the $\Theta^+(1540)$ pentaquark. By the 1990's, however, interest in these pentaquark claims had waned due to the general skepticism of the partial wave analysis results not being conclusive enough.

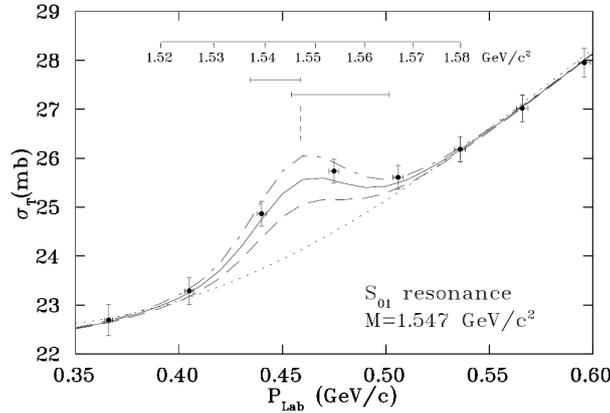


Figure 1: Re-analysis of LBL K^+ -n data [4] by Haidenbauer *et al.* [5] showing the claimed $\Theta^+(1540)$ pentaquark.

The second wave of interest came in 2002 from the LEPS [6] claim of the $\Theta^+(1540) \rightarrow K^+n$ pentaquark in inclusive $\gamma(n) \rightarrow K^+K^-(nX)$. The main motivation for this search was a chiral-soliton model based prediction by Polyakov *et al.* [7] of a $J^P = \frac{1}{2}^+$ narrow ($\Gamma \sim 15$ MeV) $uudd\bar{s}$ Θ^+ state with a mass around 1530 MeV. Between 2002 and 2004, a flurry of both positive and negative results from virtually every running HEP experiment followed (see Ref [8] for a review).

Finally, in 2006, the CLAS Collaboration published [9] a strong negative result from a dedicated high statistics photoproduction run, that drew curtain on the Θ^+ saga.

It is worth mentioning here that certain bound meson-baryon molecular states can also be considered as pseudo-pentaquark states. For example, the $\Lambda(1405)$, occurring just below the $N\bar{K}$ threshold has minimal quark content usd , but can also be considered as $uuds\bar{u}$ in the chiral-unitary model [10] as a dynamically generated $N\bar{K}$ state with two poles. Another example is the ϕp bound state with quark content $s\bar{s}uud$, the equivalent of the LHCb hidden-charm P_c^+ states in the strange sector [11]. It is interesting to note that both the LEPS [12] and CLAS Collaborations [13] reported a strong local enhancement at $\sqrt{s} \sim 2.1$ GeV in photoproduction experiments (see Fig. 2). Since ordinary excited nucleons (N^* 's) are not anticipated to contain sufficient hidden strangeness, and the dominant production mechanism is by Pomeron exchange, this structure is not expected. Lebed *et al.* [11] has proposed that a rapidly separating $[su][\bar{s}ud]$ diquark-antitriple quark pair could be the explanation, along the same lines as for the LHCb hidden charm pentaquarks.

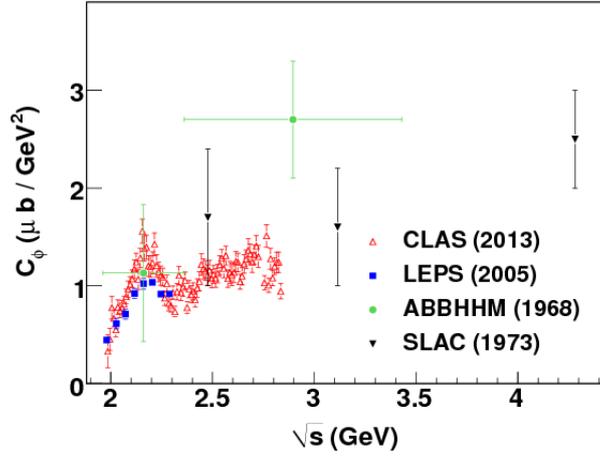


Figure 2: Local enhancement at $\sqrt{s} \sim 2.1$ GeV in $\gamma p \rightarrow P_s^+ \rightarrow \phi p$ [13] from a potential ϕp bound state that can be considered as a strange sibling of the P_c^+ states [11].

We note here that a recent Belle analysis [14] has examined the ϕp invariant mass in $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow \phi p \pi^0$. Within statistical limitations, no significant excess is seen in the $m(\phi p) \sim 2$ GeV region, but more data from Belle II is awaited.

3. The LHCb pentaquarks in $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^- p$ and $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \pi^- p$

Among dedicated heavy-flavor physics experiments, the LHCb detector [16] is unique in having access to a wide range of decay modes of numerous b -hadron species. Λ_b^0 hadrons are produced copiously in pp interactions at the LHC, and within the LHCb acceptance, the number of b -hadron species detected is approximately in the ratio $B : B_s^0 : \Lambda_b^0$ is approximately 4 : 2 : 1 [17]. Compared to the spin-0 B mesons, Λ_b^0 is particularly interesting due to its spin-1/2 nature that allows access to spin observables in b -decays. The first look at $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^- p$ at LHCb with 1/fb (2011) data focused on a precise measurement of the Λ_b^0 lifetime [18] where a long-standing discrepancy between the heavy quark effective theory (HQET) expectation of comparable lifetimes among all b -hadron species [19] and measurements [20]. While the HQET expectation was confirmed, some structures

in the $m(J/\psi p)$ variable were visible (see Fig. 3b). Initially, the conjecture was that these artifacts were resulting from $\Lambda^* \rightarrow pK^-$ reflections. However, with the full 3/fb Run I dataset [21], with a very clean sample of ~ 27000 Λ_b^0 decays, a band in $m(J/\psi p)$ is clearly visible in the Dalitz plane, as shown in Fig. 3a.

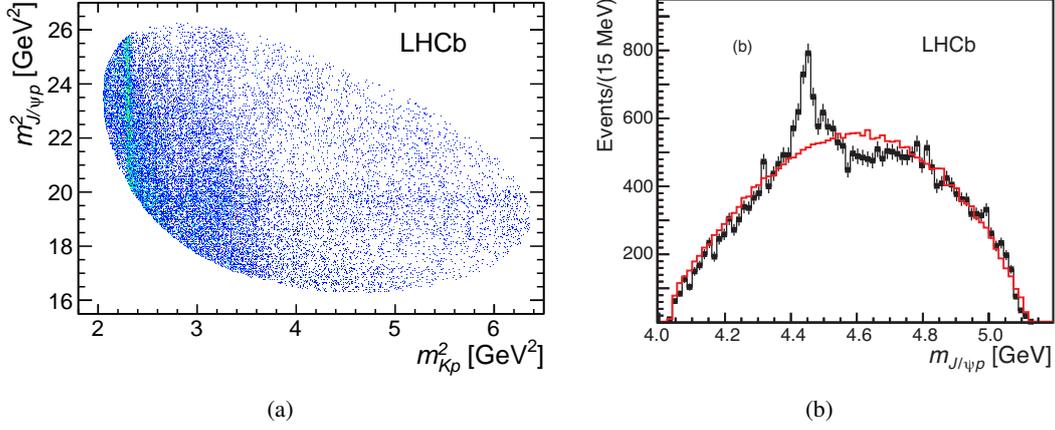


Figure 3: $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^- p$: (a) Dalitz distribution in $m^2(J/\psi p)$ and $m^2(pK^-)$ from Ref. [21]. (b) $m(J/\psi p)$ distribution in data (black) compared to expectation from phase-space (red).

Following previous LHCb work on the exotic $Z^+(4430)$ [22] tetraquark, it was quickly realized that a full angular analysis would be a must to place any pentaquark claim on firm footing. Figure 4 shows the relevant angles:

- $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi (\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) \Lambda^* (\rightarrow pK^-)$ decay chain: 5 angles $\{\theta_{\Lambda_b^0}, \theta_K, \phi_K, \theta_{\psi}, \phi_{\psi}\}$ and $m(pK)$, as shown in Fig. 4a
- $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow P_c^+ (\rightarrow J/\psi (\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) p) K^-$ decay chain: 6 angles $\{\theta_{\Lambda_b^0}^{P_c}, \phi_{P_c}, \phi_{\psi}^{P_c}, \theta_{P_c}, \phi_{\mu}^{P_c}, \theta_{\psi}^{P_c}, \phi_{\psi}^{P_c}\}$ as shown in Fig. 4b.

The angles $\theta_{\Lambda_b^0}^{(P_c)}$ in Fig. 4 arise only when the initial Λ_b^0 is produced polarized, although the production polarization of Λ_b^0 decays in pp collisions is known to be quite small [22].

The analysis employed the helicity formalism to build up sequential decays, where the spin-quantization axis for a given decay leg is the flight direction of the mother particle. An additional complication here is that for final-state particles with spin, $\{\mu^\pm, p\}$, the helicity frames are different between the Λ^* and P_c^+ amplitudes that must be added coherently. Therefore, the spin-quantization axes do not align and an additional rotation is required to align the $|\lambda_{\{\mu^\pm p\}}^{P_c}\rangle$ helicity basis states in to the $|\lambda_{\{\mu^\pm p\}}^{\Lambda^*}\rangle$ basis states. For the proton, the rotation angle θ_p is the polar angle between the boost directions of the Λ^* and P_c^+ rest-frames, calculated in the proton rest-frame. For the muons, the helicity direction is the same in both Λ^* and P_c^+ chains, with respect to the mother J/ψ and only the azimuthal angle changes by an amount α_μ . The total matrix element reads

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 = \sum_{\lambda_p = \pm \frac{1}{2}} \sum_{\Delta \lambda_\mu = \pm 1} \left| \mathcal{M}_{\lambda_p, \Delta \lambda_\mu}^{\Lambda^*} + e^{i\Delta \lambda_\mu \alpha_\mu} \sum_{\lambda_p^{P_c} = \pm \frac{1}{2}} d_{\lambda_p^{P_c}, \lambda_p}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\theta_p) \mathcal{M}_{\lambda_p^{P_c}, \Delta \lambda_\mu}^{P_c} \right|^2, \quad (3.1)$$

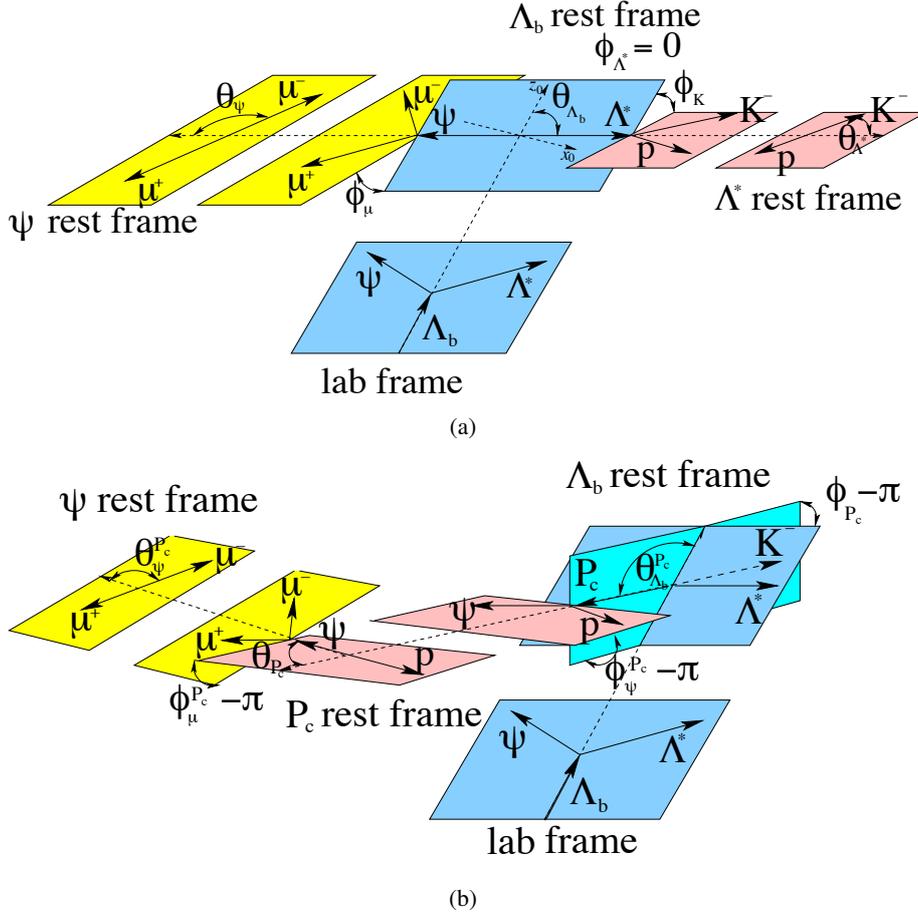


Figure 4: Angular variables for the (a) $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi(\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-)\Lambda^*(\rightarrow pK^-)$ and (b) $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow P_c^+(\rightarrow J/\psi(\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-)p)K^-$ decay chains.

where the λ 's denote the various helicities. For the couplings in the Λ^* and P_c^+ decay chains, instead of helicity couplings, the so-called LS couplings were employed. For the two-body decay $A \rightarrow BC$, the outgoing spin is $\vec{S}_A = \vec{J}_B + \vec{J}_C$ with $|J_C - J_B| \leq S_A \leq |J_C + J_B|$, while the total angular momentum is $\vec{J}_A = \vec{S}_A + \vec{L}_A$ and L_A is the break-up orbital angular momentum. The helicity basis $|\lambda_B, -\lambda_C\rangle$ and the LS basis $|L, S\rangle$ are related by Clebsch-Gordan coefficients. The efficacy of the LS formalism is that higher L_A partial waves are suppressed and can be ignored in the fits.

Figure 5 shows the projections of the fit results in two variables with only known Λ^* resonances included. While the $m(pK)$ spectrum is well described, the model clearly disagrees with the data in $m(J/\psi p)$. Figure 6 shows the same with the P_c^+ contributions included. The best fit results show strong evidence for a broad $P_c^+(4380)$ and a narrow $P_c^+(4450)$ consistent with pentaquark candidature, at 9σ and 12σ significance, respectively. The most-preferred spin-parity configuration is $\{\frac{3}{2}^-, \frac{5}{2}^+\}$, while $\{\frac{3}{2}^+, \frac{5}{2}^-\}$ and $\{\frac{5}{2}^+, \frac{3}{2}^-\}$ are also possible, the two states always having opposite parities. The phase-motions of the P_c^+ amplitudes were also studied: the $P_c^+(4450)$ phase clearly show a counter-clockwise motion as expected for a true resonance, while, for the $P_c^+(4380)$, the evidence is somewhat less obvious.

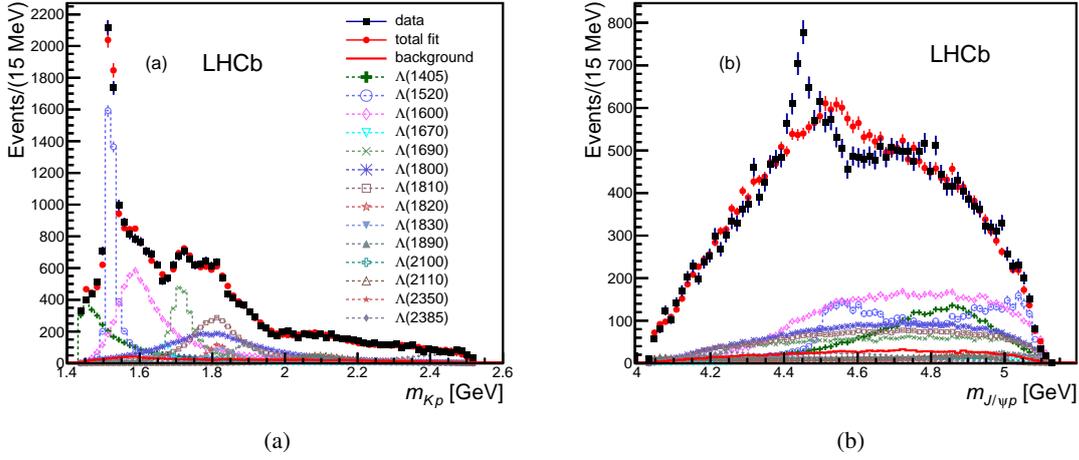


Figure 5: $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^- p$ fit results with only Λ^* contributions: (a) $m(pK^-)$ and (b) $m(J/\psi p)$ projections.

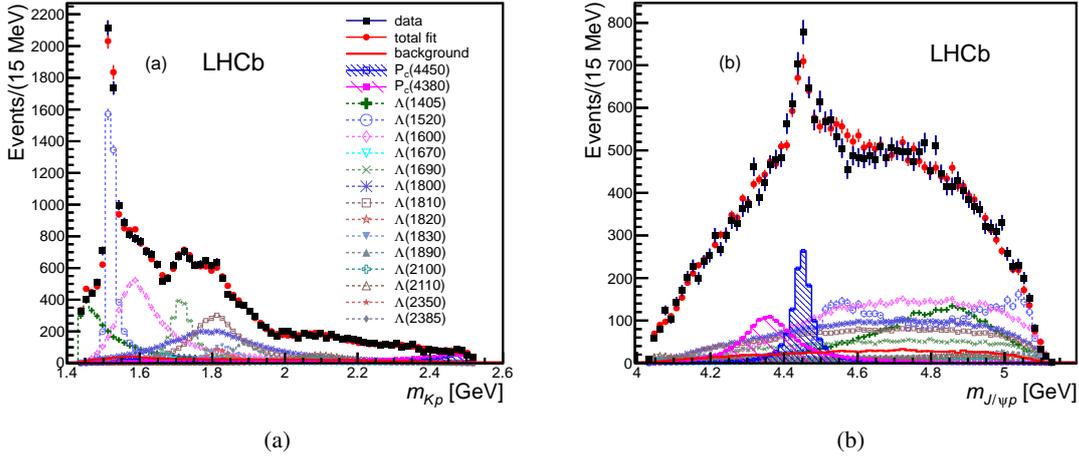


Figure 6: $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^- p$ fit results with two P_c^+ contributions included: (a) $m(pK^-)$ and (b) $m(J/\psi p)$ projections. The significances for the $P_c^+(4380)$ and $P_c^+(4450)$ are 9σ and 12σ , respectively.

The initial LHCb pentaquark analysis [21] was followed by two more confirmations. First, the Cabibbo suppressed $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \pi^- p$ mode [24] with a Run I signal yield of ~ 1885 show a 3.1σ evidence for presence of exotic contributions, including the $P_c^+(4380)$ and $P_c^+(4450)$. In particular, the broad $P_c^+(4380)$ is more evident here, as shown in Fig. 7a.

Second, the largest systematic uncertainty in the original pentaquark paper was the poorly understood spectrum of the conventional Λ^* resonances. To overcome this, LHCb studied the hypothesis that the structures in the $m^2(pK^-) - m^2(J/\psi p)$ Dalitz plane can be explained by $\Lambda^* \rightarrow pK^-$ decays only [25]. The method relies on constructing a data-driven model out of Legendre polynomial angular moments of the $\Lambda^* \rightarrow pK^-$ decay helicity angle. No detailed knowledge of the underlying Λ^* spectra is required except that the highest order of the moments be truncated at a reasonable point. On the other hand, reflections from the P_c^+ states would lead to moments of un-

physically high orders. Figure 7b shows the projection in $m(J/\psi p)$ from this Λ^* -only model. The overall deviation from the data stands at more than 9σ , showing in a model-independent fashion that Λ^* resonances can not explain all features of the data.

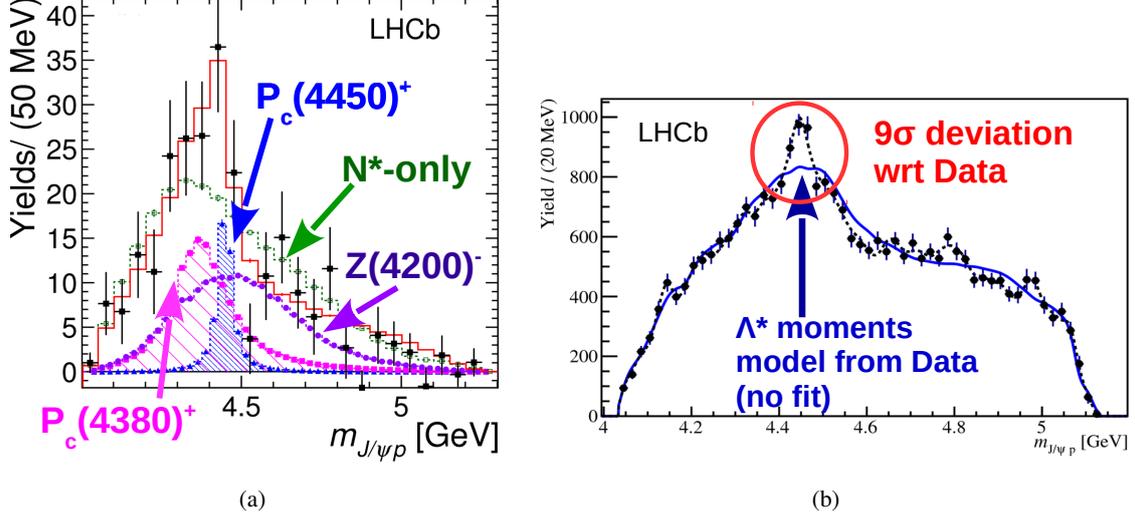


Figure 7: Further evidence of pentaquarks from LHCb: (a) P_c^+ contributions are consistent with $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \pi^- p$ data as well [24] (figure covers the $m(p\pi^-) > 1.8$ GeV region). (b) shows the predictions from the Λ^* angular moments in $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^- p$ model-independent approach, with a 9σ deviation from the data.

4. Other pentaquark searches at LHCb

Broadly speaking, ongoing searches at LHCb are on three fronts:

- new decay modes of the observed P_c^+ 's: $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c\{1,2\}} p K^-$, $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{D}^0 K^-$.
- new production modes of the observed P_c^+ : $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi p K^{*-}$, $\{Y, B_s\} \rightarrow J/\psi p \bar{p}$, $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow J/\psi p K^- K^-$, inclusive $J/\psi p$.
- new pentaquark multiplets: $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda K^-$, $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow J/\psi p \bar{p}$, $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda \phi$, $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c^{++} h^+ \pi^- \pi^- h^-$, $h \in \{\pi, K\}$.

We cover three of the above topics where Run I results are published.

4.1 First observation of $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c\{1,2\}} p K^-$

The main motivation for this mode is the observation that the $P_c^+(4450)$ occurs just above the $[\chi_{c1} p]$ threshold and could arise from a rescattering effect [26]. Guo *et al* [26] showed that the observed phase-motion of the $P_c^+(4450)$ amplitude is also accountable in this rescattering picture. They also proposed that if the $P_c^+(4450)$ is a true resonance, a tell-tale sign would be its signature in the $[\chi_{c1} p]$ mode itself, which rescattering would not explain as a peak above threshold. The LHCb analysis [27] including the full 3/fb Run I dataset is the first observation of this mode. The decays

$\chi_{c\{1,2\}} \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma$ were employed, with $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi pK^-$ as the normalization mode. Data-driven techniques were used to correct for data/simulation differences in Λ_b^0 production kinematics, particle identification, and χ_{cJ} polarization. The final Λ_b^0 mass fits with J/ψ and χ_{c1} mass-constrained in a kinematic fit are shown in Fig. 8a. Note that the χ_{c1} mass constraint pushes the $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c2} pK^-$ contribution to lower masses. Figure 8b shows the background-subtracted χ_{cJ} mass spectra with the χ_{c1} mass-constraint removed. The signal yields are 453 ± 25 and 285 ± 23 for the χ_{c1} and χ_{c2} , respectively. The small breakup momenta in these decays allow for a precise measurement of the Λ_b^0 mass as

$$m(\Lambda_b^0) = 5619.44 \pm 0.28(stat) \pm 0.26(sys). \quad (4.1)$$

The relative branching fractions are measured as

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c2} pK^-)}{\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c1} pK^-)} = 1.02 \pm 0.11 \quad (4.2)$$

which is somewhat at odds with a previous LHCb measurement [30]

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c2} K^*)}{\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c1} K^*)} = 0.17 \pm 0.05 \quad (4.3)$$

While the $m(\chi_{cJ} p)$ and $m(pK)$ mass spectra have been investigated, more data will be required. The addition of Run II statistics will facilitate an amplitude analysis, where we note that the radiative photon make the analysis different from $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi pK^-$.

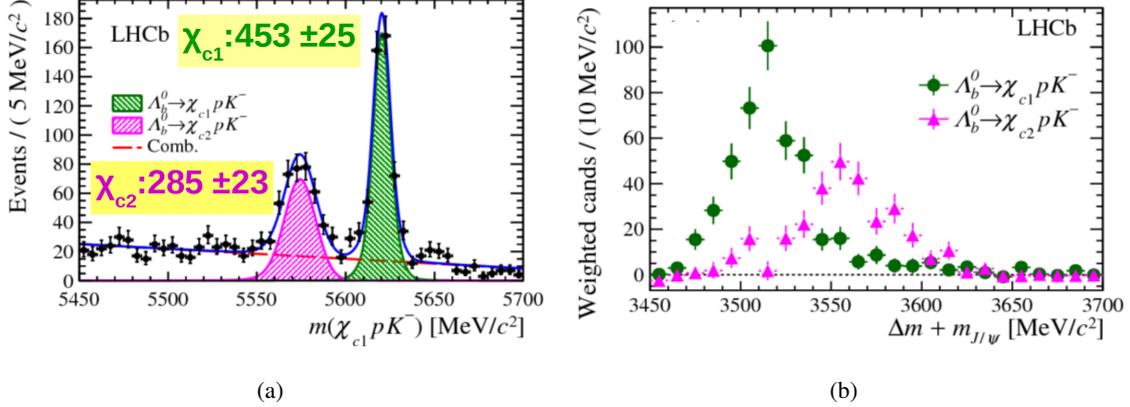


Figure 8: Mass fits for Run I $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c\{1,2\}} pK^-$ [27]: (a) with and (b) without the χ_{c1} mass-constrained

4.2 First observation of the decay $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda K^-$

In the chiral unitary model of Chen *et al.* [29], the $P_c^+(4450)$ is of a molecular nature and implies a strangeness hidden-charm partner of mass ~ 4650 MeV and width ~ 10 MeV, decaying as $P_{cs} \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda$. Chen *et al.* suggested looking at the $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda K^-$ to search for the P_{cs} . LHCb has made the first observation of this mode employing the Run I dataset [30]. The long lifetime of the Λ results in two separate categories of events depending on whether the Λ decays inside (LL) or outside (DD) the innermost vertex detector. The analysis employs $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda$ as a normalization

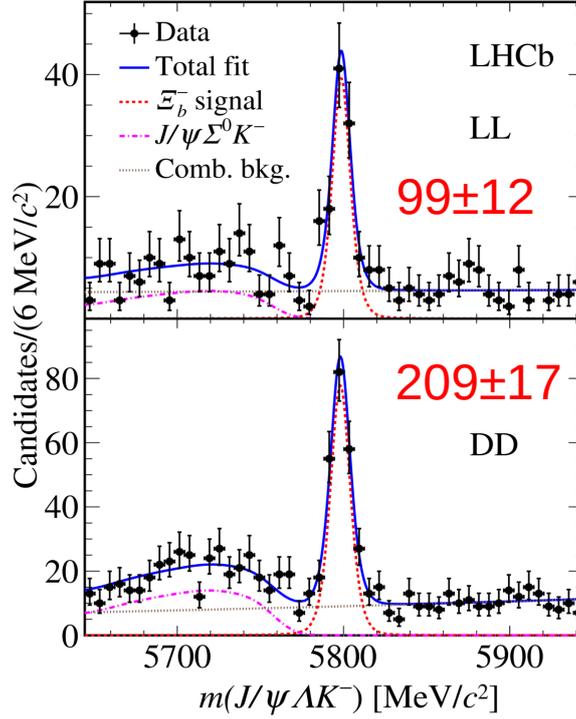


Figure 9: Mass fits for Run I $\Xi_b^- \rightarrow J/\psi AK^-$ [30] for the LL and DD Λ samples.

mode. Figure 9 shows the mass fits and the signal yields. Where $f_{\{\Xi_b, \Lambda_b^0\}}$ are the $b \rightarrow \{\Xi_b, \Lambda_b^0\}$ are the fragmentation fractions, LHCb measured:

$$\frac{f_{\Xi_b} \mathcal{B}(\Xi_b^- \rightarrow J/\psi AK^-)}{f_{\Lambda_b^0} \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda)} = 0.0419 \pm 0.0029(stat) \pm 0.0014(sys). \quad (4.4)$$

More data will be required to search for the P_{cs} .

4.3 Search for $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow J/\psi p \bar{p}$

While phase-space is much more restricted here, with $m(J/\psi p) \leq 4341$ and 4429 MeV for the B^0 and B_s^0 cases, respectively, at least the P_c^+ (4380) is accessible for the B_s^0 mode. In addition, the ground state pentaquarks can also be searched here. LHCb has analyzed these modes using 1/fb of Run I data collected in 2011 [31]. The mass fits are shown in Fig. 10. No observation of the decays were seen and the following upper limits were placed

$$\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow J/\psi p \bar{p}) < 6.0 \times 10^{-7} @95\%CL \quad (4.5)$$

$$\mathcal{B}(B_s \rightarrow J/\psi p \bar{p}) < 5.3 \times 10^{-6} @95\%.CL \quad (4.6)$$

The analysis is currently being extended to full Run I and Run II.

5. Direct photoproduction at JLab

Direct photoproduction of $\gamma p \rightarrow P_c^+ \rightarrow J/\psi p$ is a natural extension of ϕp photoproduction as described above, from the light s -quark to the heavy flavor sector. The 12-GeV upgrade of

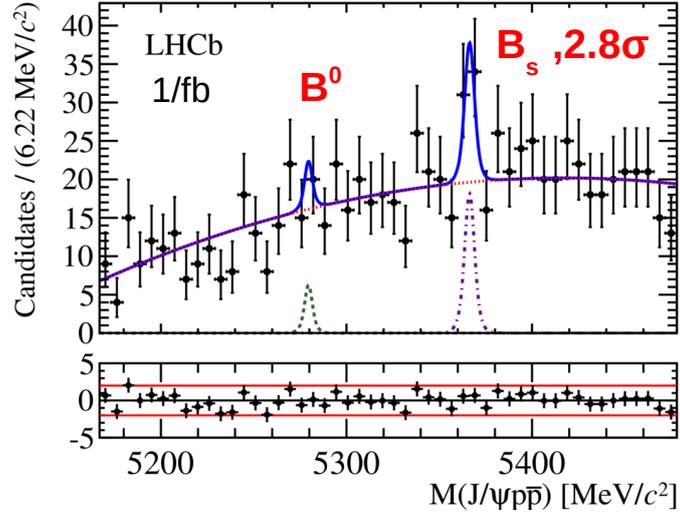


Figure 10: Mass fits for the 1/fb Run I $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow J/\psi p \bar{p}$ LHCb analysis [31].

the CEBAF accelerator is well suited to search for these at JLab using the CLAS12 and GlueX detectors. Several proposals already exist toward this [32, 33, 34]. Figure 11 shows a prediction from Ref. [33], assuming the P_c^+ decays only to $J/\psi p$.

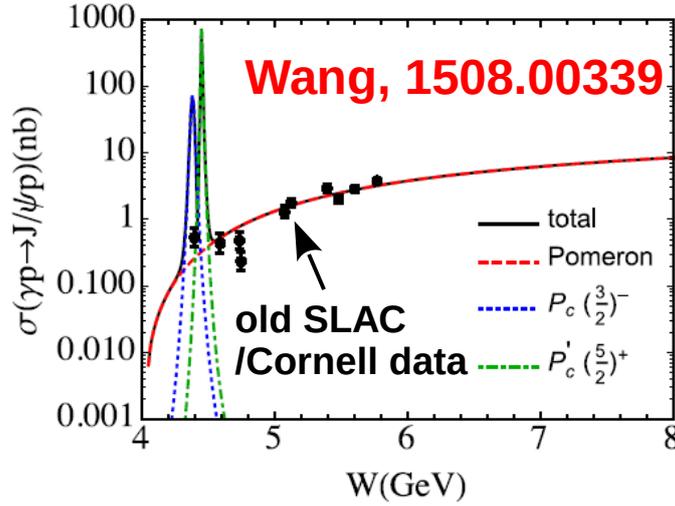


Figure 11: Predictions of the P_c^+ photoproduction cross section from Ref. [33].

6. Summary

In summary, the 2015 LHCb discovery of two resonant states consistent with pentaquark candidates heralded a new era of our understanding of QCD, especially in the heavy quark sector. It is not clear whether these are genuine five-quark bound states or rescattering effects or molecular

states. Indeed, according to Karliner and Rosner [35] a whole gamut of double-heavy meson-baryon molecules could be assessable at the LHC. On the other hand, if these are true pentaquarks, we need to cast a wide net to understand their properties. The spin-parity assignments of the LHCb P_c^+ 's are still ambiguous. Complementary observations in other modes and in direct photoproduction, therefore, remain keenly awaited.

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