Measurement of the ratio $\mathcal{B}(B^- \to D^{*+}K^-)/\mathcal{B}(B^- \to D^{*0}\pi^-)$ and of the $CP$ asymmetry of $B^- \to D^{*0}C_P K^+$ decays

MEASUREMENT OF THE RATIO $B(B^+ \to D^{*0} K^-)/B(B^- \to D^{*0} \pi^-) \ldots$ PHYSICAL REVIEW D 71, 031102 (2005)

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We study the decays $B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^0$, where the $D^{*0}$ decays into $D^0 \pi^0$, with the $D^0$ reconstructed in the $CP$-even ($CP^+$) eigenstates $K^- K^+$ and $\pi^- \pi^+$ and in the (non-$CP$) channels $K^- \pi^+$, $K^- \pi^- \pi^+$, and $\pi^- \pi^+ \pi^0$. Using a sample of about $123 \times 10^6 B\bar{B}$ pairs, we measure the ratios of decay rates $R_{non-CP}^* \equiv \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^0_{CP})}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^+)} = 0.0813 \pm 0.0040 \text{(stat)} \pm 0.0031 \text{(syst)}$, and provide the first measurements of $R_{CP}^* \equiv \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^0_{CP})}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^+)} = 0.086 \pm 0.021 \text{(stat)} \pm 0.007 \text{(syst)}$, and of the $CP$ asymmetry

$$A_{CP}^* \equiv \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^0_{CP}) - \mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^+)}{\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^0_{CP}) + \mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D^{*0} K^+)},$$

$$A_{CP}^* = -0.10 \pm 0.23 \text{(stat)} \pm 0.04 \text{(syst)}.$$
A mass-constrained fit is applied to the $D$ candidate. The resolution of the difference between the masses of the $D^{*0}$ and the daughter $D^0$ candidates ($\Delta M$) is typically in the range 0.8–1.0 MeV/$c^2$, depending on the $D^0$ decay mode. A combined cut on the measured $D^0$ and soft-pion invariant masses and on $\Delta M$ is also applied by means of a $\chi^2$ defined as:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(m_{D^0} - \bar{m}_{D^0})^2}{\sigma_{m_{D^0}}} + \frac{(m_{\pi^+} - \bar{m}_{\pi^+})^2}{\sigma_{m_{\pi^+}}} + \frac{(\Delta M - \bar{M})^2}{\sigma_{\Delta M}},$$

(3)

where the mean values ($m_{D^0}, m_{\pi^+}, \bar{M}$) and the resolutions ($\sigma_{m_{D^0}}, \sigma_{m_{\pi^+}}, \sigma_{\Delta M}$) are measured in the data. Correlations between the observables used in the $\chi^2$ in Eq. (3) are negligible. Events with $\chi^2 > 9$ are rejected.

$B$ meson candidates are reconstructed by combining a $D^{*0}$ candidate with a high-momentum charged track. For the non-$CP$ modes, the charge of the prompt track $h$ must match that of the kaon from the $D^0$ meson decay. Two quantities are used to discriminate between signal and background: the beam-energy-substituted mass $m_{\text{ES}}$ defined as:

$$m_{\text{ES}} = \sqrt{(E_i^2/2 + p_i \cdot p_B/E_i^2)^2 - p_B^2},$$

and the energy difference $\Delta E = E_B - E_i^2/2$, where the subscripts $i$ and $B$ refer to the initial $e^+e^-$ system and the $B$ candidate, respectively, and the asterisk denotes the CM frame.

The $m_{\text{ES}}$ distribution for the $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}h^-$ signal can be described by a Gaussian function centered at the $B$ mass and does not depend on the nature of the prompt track. Its resolution, about 2.6 MeV/$c^2$, is dominated by the uncertainty of the beam energy and is slightly dependent on the $D^0$ decay mode. The observable $\Delta E$ does depend on the mass assigned to the tracks forming the $B$ candidate, and on the $D^0$ momentum resolution. We calculate $\Delta E$ with the kaon hypothesis for the prompt track and indicate this quantity with $\Delta E_K$. For $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}K^-$ events $\Delta E_K$ is described approximately by a Gaussian centered at zero and with resolution 17–18 MeV, whereas for $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^-$ events $\Delta E_K$ is shifted positively by about 50 MeV. $B$ candidates with $m_{\text{ES}}$ in the range 5.2–5.3 GeV/$c^2$ and with $\Delta E_K$ in the range (−100 to 130) MeV are selected.

A large fraction of the background consists of continuum (non $B\bar{B}$) events and a powerful set of selection criteria is needed to suppress it. The selection is chosen to maximize the expected significance of the results, based on MC studies. In the CM frame, this background typically has two-jet structure, while $B\bar{B}$ events are isotropic. We define $\theta_T$ as the angle between the thrust axes of the $B$ candidate and of the remaining charged and neutral particles in the event, both evaluated in the CM frame, and signed so that the thrust axis component along the $e^-$ beam direction is positive. The distribution of $|\cos \theta_T|$ is strongly peaked near one for continuum events and is approximately uniform for $B\bar{B}$ events. For the non-$CP$ modes, $|\cos \theta_T|$ is required to be less than 0.9 for the $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+$ mode, and less than 0.85 for $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^+$ and $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^0$ modes for which the levels of the continuum background are higher. For the $CP$ modes, $\cos \theta_T$ is required to be in the ranges (−0.9 to 0.85) and (−0.85 to 0.8) for the $D^0 \rightarrow K^-K^+$ and $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^-\pi^+$ modes, respectively. Other mode-dependent selection criteria are applied: for the $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^0$ and $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^0$ modes we reject events with $\cos \theta_{PD} < 0.9$ (or $\cos \theta_{PD} > 0.95$), where $\theta_{PD}$ is the angle between the direction of the $D^0$ in the laboratory and the opposite of the direction of the $K^-\pi^-$ for the $D^0 \rightarrow \pi^-\pi^+$ mode from the $D^0$ in the $D^0$ rest frame. Finally, to reduce combinatorial background in the $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^0$ final state, only those events that fall in the enhanced regions of the Dalitz plots, according to the results of the Fermilab E691 experiment [5], are selected. This last requirement alone rejects 80% of the background and accepts 69% of the signal, according to the MC simulation.

Multiple candidates are found in about 10%–12% of the selected events with two- and four-body $D^0$ decays and in 17% of the events with $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^0$ decays. The best candidate in each event is selected based on the $\chi^2$ previously defined. The number of candidates constructed with the same $D^{*0}$, but different prompt track, is negligible; in this rare case the best one in the event is randomly chosen. The reconstruction efficiencies, based on MC simulation, are reported in Table I.

According to the simulation, the main contributions to the $B\bar{B}$ background for $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}h^-$ events originate from the decays $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}\rho^-$ and $B^0 \rightarrow D^-\pi^-$. $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}(\rightarrow D^0\gamma)h^-$ events are also considered background as their $CP$ modes have $CP$ eigenvalues opposite to the ones of the $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}h^-$ signal [6].

For each $D^0$ decay mode, an unbinned maximum-likelihood (ML) fit is used to extract yields from the data for six candidate types: signal, continuum background, and $B\bar{B}$ background, for the kaon and pion choices for the mass hypothesis of the prompt track in the candidate decays $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}h^-$. 

### Table I. Results of the yields from the ML fit. For the $CP$ modes the results of the fit separately for the $B^+$ and $B^-$ samples are also quoted. Errors are statistical only. The efficiencies ($\epsilon$) based on MC simulation are also reported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$D^0$ mode</th>
<th>$N(B \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^0)$</th>
<th>$N(B \rightarrow D^{*0}K^-)$</th>
<th>$\epsilon(D^{*0}\pi^0)$ (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$K^-\pi^+$</td>
<td>2639 ± 56</td>
<td>226 ± 18</td>
<td>17.5 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K^-\pi^+\pi^0$</td>
<td>3249 ± 68</td>
<td>247 ± 21</td>
<td>5.9 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K^-\pi^+\pi^+\pi^0$</td>
<td>3071 ± 64</td>
<td>242 ± 21</td>
<td>9.7 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K^-K^+$</td>
<td>258 ± 19</td>
<td>23.4 ± 5.6</td>
<td>15.3 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K^-K^+ [B^+]$</td>
<td>123 ± 13</td>
<td>13.4 ± 4.1</td>
<td>15.6 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K^-K^+ [B^-]$</td>
<td>134 ± 13</td>
<td>9.9 ± 3.7</td>
<td>14.9 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\pi^-\pi^+$</td>
<td>124 ± 14</td>
<td>6.3 ± 4.6</td>
<td>14.6 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\pi^-\pi^+ [B^+]$</td>
<td>75 ± 11</td>
<td>0.7 ± 3.2</td>
<td>14.5 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\pi^-\pi^+ [B^-]$</td>
<td>49 ± 9</td>
<td>5.3 ± 3.5</td>
<td>14.8 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three quantities from each selected candidate are used as input to the fits: $\Delta E_K$, $m_{ES}$, and the $\theta_C$ of the prompt track. The distributions of $\Delta E_K$ and $m_{ES}$ for the six candidate types are parametrized to build the probability density functions (PDFs) that are used in the fit.

Correlations between the $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E_K$ variables for signal events are about $-5\%$ according to the simulation. To account for these, we use signal MC events to parametrize the signal PDFs with a method based on kernel estimation [7], which allows the description of a twodimensional PDF. The shapes of MC and data distributions of these observables are in good agreement, according to comparisons performed with pure samples of $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^{-}$ events, obtained with very tight particle identification and kinematic selection. To the extent that we find differences in the data and MC distributions, we adjust the shapes of the PDFs to conform to the data. Systematic uncertainties due to limited statistics associated with this procedure are included in the final results.

We obtain the PDFs for the $m_{ES}$ distribution for continuum background from off-resonance data, applying the standard selection criteria. The $m_{ES}$ distributions are parametrized with a threshold function [8] defined as $f(m_{ES}) \propto y\sqrt{1-y}\exp[-\xi(1-y^2)]$, where $y = m_{ES}/m_0$ and $m_0$ is the mean energy of the beams in the CM frame. The PDFs for the $\Delta E_K$ distributions for background candidates from the continuum are well-parametrized with exponential functions whose parameters are determined by fitting the $\Delta E_K$ distributions of the selected $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^{-}$ sample in the off-resonance data. Both the $m_{ES}$ and the $\Delta E_K$ PDFs for the continuum background are taken to be the same for $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^{-}$ and $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}K^{-}$ decays. The shapes of MC and data distributions of $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E_K$ obtained with looser selection criteria to increase the statistics, agree well for $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^{-}$ and $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}K^{-}$ decays, validating this assumption. For the $CP$ modes very few off-resonance events pass the selection criteria, hence we use the PDFs determined for the $D^{0} \rightarrow K^{-}\pi^{+}$ mode. This is justified by a separate comparison of the $CP$ modes with the flavor-definite modes in data and MC samples obtained with looser selection criteria.

The correlation between $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E_K$ for the $B\bar{B}$ background is taken into account with a two-dimensional PDF determined from simulated events, in a similar way to that used for the signal.

We obtain PDFs for the particle identification determination for the prompt track from the distributions, in bins of momentum and polar angle, of the difference between the reconstructed and expected $\theta_C$ of kaons and pions from $D^{0}$ decays in a control sample that exploits the decay chain $D^{*+} \rightarrow D^{0}\pi^{+}$, $D^{0} \rightarrow K^{-}\pi^{+}$ to identify the tracks kinematically.

Initial PDFs are parametrized for each candidate type as detailed above. With these we then fit pure samples of simulated signal events and of background from off-resonance real and MC data. With the yields from these fits we establish an efficiency matrix accounting for small cross feeds among the components. The corrections affecting the signal yields are typically of order 1%. The fractional systematic uncertainties for the signal yields associated with these corrections are in the range 0.1%–6.0% depending on the $D^{0}$ decay mode.

The likelihood $\mathcal{L}$ for the selected sample is given by the product of the final PDFs for each individual candidate and a Poisson factor:

$$\mathcal{L} \equiv \frac{e^{-N'(N_i)^N}}{N!} \prod_{i=1}^{6} \frac{N_j}{N_i} \mathcal{P}_j(m_{ES}, \Delta E_K, \theta_C)$$

where $N$ is the total number of events, $N_j$ are the yields for each of the previously defined six candidate types, and $N' = \sum_{j=1}^{6} N_j$. $\mathcal{P}_j(m_{ES}, \Delta E_K, \theta_C)$ is the probability to measure the particular set of physical quantities ($m_{ES}, \Delta E_K, \theta_C$) in the $i$th event for a candidate of type $j$. The Poisson factor is the probability of observing $N$ total events when $N'$ are expected. The quantity $\mathcal{L}$ is maximized with respect to the six yields using the MINUIT program [9]. The fit has also been performed on luminosity-weighted MC and high statistics toy MC events and it has been found to be unbiased.

The results of the fit are reported in detail in Table I. These yields are used to determine the $CP$ asymmetry parameters. We measure:

$$R_{CP}^* = 0.086 \pm 0.021(stat) \pm 0.007(syst),$$
$$R_{non-CP}^*/R_{CP}^* = 1.06 \pm 0.26(stat) \pm 0.06(syst),$$
$$A_{CP}^* = -0.10 \pm 0.23(stat) \pm 0.04(syst).$$

Figure 1 shows the distributions of $\Delta E_K$ for the combined non-$CP$ and $CP$ modes before and after the enhancement of the $B \rightarrow D^{0}K^{-}$ component. The enhancement is accomplished by requiring that the prompt track be consistent with the kaon hypothesis and that $m_{ES} > 5.27 \text{GeV}/c^2$. The $\Delta E_K$ projections of the fit results are also shown.

The ratio of the decay rates for $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^{-}$ and $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}K^{-}$ is separately calculated for the different $D^{0}$ decay channels and is computed with the signal yields estimated with the ML fit and listed in Table I. The resulting ratios are scaled by correction factors of a few percent, which are estimated with simulated data and which take into account small differences in the efficiency between $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}K^{-}$ and $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^{-}$ event selections. The results are listed in Table II.

The sources of systematic uncertainties for the yields have been identified and their contributions (for the measurement of $R_{CP}^*$) are reported in Table III. Uncertainties of the signal parametrizations of $\Delta E_K$ and $m_{ES}$ arise from the assumed shapes of the PDFs and dis-
measurements; results obtained with alternative PID PDFs, which account for different $\theta_{CP}$ residual shapes and for discrepancies between data and simulation, are also included as systematic uncertainties. The systematic uncertainties due to the fit cross feeds have been evaluated. Finally, errors associated with the efficiency correction factor are also included.

Many of the systematic uncertainties for the signal yields have similar effects on the $B^+ \to D^{(*)}K^-$ and $B^+ \to D^{(*)}\pi^-$ events (they increase or decrease both fractions simultaneously), hence their effect is reduced in deriving the systematic uncertainty for the measurement of the ratio, when all correlations are taken into account. Overall, the main sources of systematic uncertainties for the measurement of both $R_{(non-)CP}$ and $A_{CP}$ are due to the characterization of the shapes of $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E_K$ for the signal, to the characterization of the $m_{ES}$ PDFs for the background, to the particle identification, and to the uncertainty of the fit cross feeds and of the efficiency correction factors. The systematic uncertainty for $A_{CP}$ due to possible detector charge asymmetries is evaluated by measuring asymmetries analogous to those defined in Eq. (2), but for $B^+ \to D^{(*)}\pi^-$ and $B^+ \to D^{(*)}K^-$ events (the latter uniquely for the non-$CP$ modes), where $CP$ violation is expected to be negligible. Results for all modes are then combined, taking correlations into account. The measured asymmetry is $-0.008 \pm 0.012$ (stat) $\pm 0.001$ (syst). Though it is consistent with zero, it is also consistent with $-0.020$ at 1 s.d. level, hence we take the magnitude of this value as a further symmetric systematic uncertainty on $A_{CP}$. When combining the results for the different modes, all systematic and statistical uncertainties are considered to be uncorrelated, except for the contributions of the PID PDF (common to all modes) and of the detector charge asymmetry in the measurement of $A_{CP}$, which are considered to be completely correlated. For the measurement of $R_{(non-)CP}$, all systematic uncertainties have been considered to be uncorrelated; this assumption is

![FIG. 1](color online) Distributions of $\Delta E_K$ in the $B \to D^{(*)}h$ sample, for $D^0 \to K^-\pi^+, K^-\pi^+\pi^0, K^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ [(a),(b)] and $D^0 \to K^-\pi^+, \pi^+\pi^-$ [(c),(d)], before $[(a),(c)]$ and after $[(b),(d)]$ enhancing the $B \to D^{(*)}K$ component by requiring that the prompt track be consistent with the kaon hypothesis and $m_{ES} > 5.27$ GeV/$c^2$. The $B^+ \to D^{(*)}\pi^-$ signal contribution on the right of each plot is shown as a dashed line, the $B^+ \to D^{(*)}K^-$ signal on the left as a dotted line, and the background as a dashed-dotted line. The total fit with all the contributions is shown with a thick solid line.

### TABLE II. Measured ratios for different $D^0$ decay modes. The first error is statistical, the second is systematic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$B^- \to D^{(*)}h^- \ Mode \ Mode$</th>
<th>$B(B \to D^{(<em>)}K)/B(B \to D^{(</em>)}\pi^-)$ (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$D^0 \to K^-\pi^+$</td>
<td>$8.93 \pm 0.73^{+0.38}_{-0.30}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$D^0 \to K^-\pi^+\pi^0$</td>
<td>$7.59 \pm 0.65^{+0.32}_{-0.27}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$D^0 \to K^-\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$</td>
<td>$7.91 \pm 0.72^{+0.61}_{-0.59}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighted mean (non-$CP$)</td>
<td>$8.13 \pm 0.40^{+0.42}_{-0.31}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$D^0 \to K^-K^+$</td>
<td>$9.4 \pm 2.3 \pm 0.6$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$D^0 \to -\pi^-\pi^+$</td>
<td>$5.9 \pm 4.4^{+1.0}_{-1.4}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighted mean ($CP$)</td>
<td>$8.6 \pm 2.1 \pm 0.7$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Systematic source</th>
<th>$\Delta R^<em>_{(non-)CP}/R^</em>_{(non-)CP}$ (%)</th>
<th>$\Delta R^<em>_{CP}/R^</em>_{CP}$ (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta E_K$ (signal)</td>
<td>+2.0</td>
<td>+2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta E_K(q\bar{q})$</td>
<td>+0.3</td>
<td>+0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta E_K(BB)$</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m_{ES}$ (signal)</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
<td>+0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m_{ES}(q\bar{q})$</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m_{ES}(BB)$</td>
<td>+0.4</td>
<td>+0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDF cross feeds</td>
<td>+0.8</td>
<td>-2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID PDF</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
<td>-3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrector</td>
<td>+2.8</td>
<td>+0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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conservative, and has negligible effect on the final result, which is largely statistically limited.

In conclusion, we have measured the ratio of the decay rates for $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}K^-$ and $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^-$ processes with non-$CP$ eigenstates. This constitutes the most precise measurement for this channel. We have also performed the first measurement of the same ratio and of the $CP$ asymmetry $A^*_{CP+}$ for $D^0$ mesons decaying to $CP$ eigenstates. These results, together with measurements exploiting $B^- \rightarrow D^{0}K^-$, $B^- \rightarrow D^{0}K^*$ and $B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}K^*$ decays [2,10], constitute a first step towards measuring the angle $\gamma$. Furthermore, assuming factorization and flavor-SU(3) symmetry, theoretical calculations (in the tree-level approximation) predict: $\mathcal{B}(B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}K^-)/\mathcal{B}(B^- \rightarrow D^{*0}\pi^-) \sim (V_{us}/V_{ud})^2(f_K/f_\pi)^2 \sim 0.074$, where $f_K$ and $f_\pi$ are the meson decay constants [11]. Our results accord with these predictions.

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