Measurement of $R_b$ Using a Vertex Mass Tag


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We report a new measurement of \( R_b = \Gamma_{Z^0 \rightarrow b\bar{b}}/\Gamma_{Z^0 \rightarrow \text{hadrons}} \) using a double tag technique, where the \( b \) hemisphere selection is based on the reconstructed mass of the \( B \) hadron decay vertex. The measurement was performed using a sample of \( 130 \times 10^3 \) hadronic \( Z^0 \) events, collected with the SLD detector at SLC. The method utilizes the 3D vertexing abilities of the CCD pixel vertex detector and the small stable SLC beams to obtain a high \( b\) tagging efficiency and purity. We obtain \[ R_b = 0.2142 \pm 0.0034(\text{stat}) \pm 0.0015(\text{syst}) \pm 0.0002(R_b). \]

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We report a new measurement of \( R_b \), the fraction of \( Z^0 \rightarrow b\bar{b} \) events in hadronic \( Z^0 \) decays, collected at the SLAC Linear Collider (SLC) with the SLC Large Detector (SLD), using a mass tag technique. The ratio \( R_b \) is of special interest as a test of the standard model (SM), since it is sensitive to possible new physics effects which modify the radiative corrections to Zb\bar{b} vertex. The vertex corrections are isolated because \( R_b \) is a ratio between two hadronic rates, hence propagator (oblique), radiative, and QCD corrections common to all quark flavors mostly cancel. Recent measurements yielded a world average \( R_b \) value 3\( \sigma \) higher than that predicted by the SM [1]. Previous measurements [2] selected \( b\bar{b} \) events based upon mainly the long \( B \) hadron lifetime and were limited systematically by contamination in the sample from residual \( c\bar{c} \) events. To avoid this limitation our \( b \) tag exploits the large \( B \) mass, since the mass distribution has a very small charm contamination beyond the charm mass cutoff. Taking advantage of SLD’s precise 3D vertexing capability and the small and stable SLC beam spot, we achieve a very efficient and pure \( b \) selection. We use a self-calibrating double tag technique [2], which allows one to measure both \( R_b \) and the \( b \)-tag efficiency, \( \epsilon_b \), simultaneously.

This measurement is performed using approximately \( 130 \times 10^3 \) e\(^+\)e\(^-\) \( \rightarrow \) Z\(^0\) \( \rightarrow q\bar{q} \) events collected during 1993–1995. A detailed description of the detector can be found elsewhere [3]. We used the information from charged particle tracks measured with the charge-coupled device (CCD) pixel vertex detector (VXD) along with the central drift chamber. The event selection and the determination of the thrust axis use the energy deposits measured with the liquid argon calorimeter.

The luminous region of the SLC interaction point (IP) has a size of about \( 1.5 \times 0.8 \) \( \mu m \) in the \( x-y \) plane transverse to the beam direction and 700 \( \mu m \) along the beam direction. We use the average IP position of small groups of sequential hadronic events to determine the primary vertex (PV) in the \( x-y \) plane. The longitudinal position of the PV is determined for each event individually [3]. This results in a PV position measurement with uncertainties of 7 \( \mu m \) transverse to the beam axis and 35 \( \mu m \) (52 \( \mu m \) for \( b\bar{b} \) events) along the axis. The measured track impact parameter resolution is \( \sigma_{\rho}[\mu m] = 11 \pm 70/p \sin^{3/2} \theta \), \( \sigma_{\rho}[\mu m] = 37 \pm 70/p \sin^{3/2} \theta \), where \( \theta \) stands for the quadratic sum of the two terms and \( p \) is the track momentum expressed in GeV/c.

The hadronic event selection is based on charged track multiplicity and track visible energy requirements as described in Ref. [3]. The event selection is studied with Monte Carlo (MC) events generated using a JETSET 7.4 event generator [4], where the \( B \) hadron decays are simulated using a model tuned to current \( B \) and \( D \) decay data [5]. A plane transverse to the thrust axis is used to divide the event into two hemispheres. In order to ensure that the events are well contained within the acceptance of the VXD, the polar angle of the thrust is required to be within \( \cos \theta_{\text{thrust}} < 0.71 \). In addition, to ensure that the event hemisphere division is sensible and to reduce the contribution from events containing \( g \rightarrow b\bar{b} \), we require that the event contain no more than three jets (defined using charged tracks and the JADE algorithm [6] with \( y_{\text{cut}} = 0.02 \)). A total of 72 074 events were selected.

In each event, well-measured tracks [3] are used to search for a secondary vertex (SV). The SV are found by searching for areas of high track overlap density from the individual track resolution functions, in 3D coordinate space [7]. The SV are required to be separated from the PV by at least 1 mm and to contain at least two tracks each with a 3D impact parameter with respect to the IP \( \geq 130 \) \( \mu m \), ensuring that they originate from the decay of a particle with a relatively long lifetime. Simulation

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studies show that secondary vertices are found in 50% of all $b$ hemispheres, in 15% of the charm, and <1% of the light quark hemispheres [7]. The SV consists, on average, of 3.8 tracks.

Because of the cascade structure of the $B$ decay, not all of the tracks in the decay chain will come from a common decay point, thus the SV is incomplete. We improve our estimate of the $B$ decay vertex mass by attaching additional tracks to the SV which are consistent with the hypothesis of originating from the same SV. We illustrate this in Fig. 1(a). We define the vertex axis to be the straight line between the PV and SV centroids. For each track not in the SV, the 3D distance of closest approach $T$ and the distance from the PV along the vertex axis to this point $L$ are calculated. Tracks with $T < 1$ mm and $L/D > 0.25$, where $D$ is the distance from the PV to the SV, are attached to the SV to form a $B$ decay candidate. On average, 0.7 tracks are attached to the SV with the above algorithm; 82% of which come from the secondary and tertiary vertices, 6% come from the PV, and the remaining come from strange and long lived particles. The fraction of true prompt $B$ decay tracks in the combined SV and attached $B$ candidate tracks is 93%, while PV track fraction is 3%. The invariant mass $M_{ch}$ of the $B$ candidate is obtained by assuming each track has the mass of a charged $\pi$; the distribution of $M_{ch}$ is shown in Fig. 2(a). If we require $M_{ch}$ to be well above the charm mass, $M_{ch} > 2$ GeV/$c^2$, it results in a $b$ hemisphere tagging efficiency of 28% with a purity of 98%.

We improve the $b$ tagging efficiency by applying a kinematic correction to the calculated $M_{ch}$. Because of the neglect of information about the neutral particles in the decay, the SV flight path and the SV momentum vector are typically acollinear. In order to compensate for the acollinearity we correct $M_{ch}$ using the minimum missing momentum ($P_t$) transverse to the SV flight path.

$$R_b = \frac{\left[F_s - R_c(e_c - e_{uds}) - e_{uds}\right]^2}{F_s - R_c(e_c - e_{uds})^2 + e_{uds}^2 - 2F_s e_{uds} - \lambda_b R_b(e_b - e_b^2)},$$

$$e_b = \frac{F_b - R_c(e_c - e_{uds}) - F_s e_{uds} - \lambda_b R_b(e_b - e_b^2)}{F_s - R_c(e_c - e_{uds}) - e_{uds}}.$$

The only term dependent upon $B$ production and decay modeling is the $b$ hemisphere tagging correlation, $\lambda_b = \frac{\epsilon_{uds} - \epsilon_b}{\epsilon_b - \epsilon_c} = 0.59\%$, where we have used the simulation to estimate $\lambda_b$. Estimates of the hemisphere tagging rates of light quarks, $\epsilon_{uds} = 0.06\%$, and charm quarks, $\epsilon_c = 0.69\%$, are also derived from the simulation, and we assume $R_c = \frac{\Gamma_{uds}}{\Gamma_{uds} + \Gamma_{uds}} = 0.171$. We measure $R_b = 0.2142 \pm 0.0034$ which includes a correction of +0.0003 for the $e^+e^- \to \gamma \to b\bar{b}$ contribution as calculated by ZFITTER [8]. The measured value of $e_b = 35.3\% \pm 0.6\%$ is in good agreement with the MC estimate of 35.5%.

The systematic uncertainty on $R_b$, given in detail in Table I, results from a combination of detector related effects and physics uncertainties in the simulation which affect our estimates of $\epsilon_c$, $\epsilon_{uds}$, $\lambda_b$, and event selection bias. The physics systematic errors are assigned by comparing the nominal simulation distributions with an alternative set of distributions which reflect the uncertainties in the world average measurements of the MC physics parameters [9]. The two significant sources of systematic errors from light quark events come from the uncertainties in long lived strange particle production and gluon splitting into heavy quark pairs. The effects of strange particle production are studied by varying the $s\bar{s}$ production probability in jet fragmentation. The $g \to b\bar{b}$ and $g \to c\bar{c}$ production rates are varied based upon the OPAL $g \to c\bar{c}$
measurement [10] and the theoretical prediction for the ratio \( g \rightarrow b\bar{b}/g \rightarrow c\bar{c} \) [9].

The various charm hadron production rates and fragmentation parameters in \( Z^0 \) decays are varied within the present CERN Large Electron-Positron Collider (LEP) measurement errors. Charmed hadron fragmentation is studied by varying the average scaled energy \( \langle x_E \rangle \) in the Peterson fragmentation function [11], as well as by studying the difference between the Peterson and Bowler models [12] for the same values of \( \langle x_E \rangle \). Charmed hadron decay lifetimes are varied according to the world average measurement errors [13]. The charmed hadron decay charged multiplicity and \( K^0 \) production rate systematic uncertainties are based on measurements by Mark-III [14]. Charmed hadron decays with fewer neutral particles have higher charged mass and are therefore more likely to be tagged. Thus, an additional systematic uncertainty is estimated by varying the rates of charmed hadron decays with no \( \pi^0 \)'s by \( \pm 10\% \).

The \( B \) production and decay modeling uncertainty enters via the \( \lambda_b \) estimation. It is studied by varying the \( B \) lifetime, \( B \) baryon production rate, \( B \) fragmentation function, and the \( B \) decay charged multiplicity in a manner similar to that for the charm systematic studies. Simulation uncertainties which affect the tagging efficiency are studied by comparing the angular distribution of the \( b \)-tagging rate between data and simulation, and a systematic error is assigned to the difference. Hard gluon radiation effects are estimated from a \( \pm 30\% \) variation of the fraction of simulation events, where both \( B \) hadrons are contained within the same hemisphere and a hard gluon is in the other. Another systematic error is assigned to the effects of \( B \) hadron momentum correlation between the two hemispheres, due mainly to soft gluon radiation and fragmentation effects, which in turn translate to a \( b \)-tagging efficiency correlation. This is estimated by comparing the \( B \) momentum correlation in the HERWIG [15] and JETSET [4] event generators.

As a cross check, we decomposed the efficiency correlation into an independent set of components which represent all sources of correlation between the two \( b \) hemispheres. The components we have studied and their

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**TABLE I. Summary of systematic uncertainties for the \( \mathcal{M} > 2.0 \text{ GeV}/c^2 \) cut.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Systematic</th>
<th>( \delta R_b )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Light Quark Systematic (( \epsilon_{uds} ))</td>
<td>( \delta R_b )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( g \rightarrow b\bar{b} ) 0.31 ( \pm 0.11% )</td>
<td>-0.00033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( g \rightarrow c\bar{c} ) 2.38 ( \pm 0.48% )</td>
<td>-0.00004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( K^0 ) production ( \pm 10% )</td>
<td>-0.00003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( A ) production ( \pm 10% )</td>
<td>-0.00002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ( uds ) physics systematic</td>
<td>( 0.00034 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charm Systematic (( \epsilon_c ))</td>
<td>( \delta R_b )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D^+ ) production 0.259 ( \pm 0.028 )</td>
<td>-0.00011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D_s ) production 0.115 ( \pm 0.037 )</td>
<td>-0.00005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( c )-baryon production 0.074 ( \pm 0.029 )</td>
<td>0.00011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( c )-frag. ( \langle x_E \rangle ) 0.482 ( \pm 0.008 )</td>
<td>0.00006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( c )-frag. function shape</td>
<td>-0.00001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D^0 ) lifetime 0.415 ( \pm 0.004 ) ps</td>
<td>-0.00003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D^+ ) lifetime 1.057 ( \pm 0.015 ) ps</td>
<td>-0.00001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D_s ) lifetime 0.467 ( \pm 0.017 ) ps</td>
<td>-0.00002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Lambda_c ) lifetime 0.200 ( \pm 0.011 ) ps</td>
<td>-0.00001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D^0 ) decay ( \langle N_{ch} \rangle ) 2.54 ( \pm 0.05 )</td>
<td>-0.00006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D^+ ) decay ( \langle N_{ch} \rangle ) 2.50 ( \pm 0.06 )</td>
<td>-0.00006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D_s ) decay ( \langle N_{ch} \rangle ) 2.65 ( \pm 0.33 )</td>
<td>-0.00009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D^0 ) decay no-( \pi^0 ) frac. 0.401 ( \pm 0.059 )</td>
<td>+0.00015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D^+ ) decay no-( \pi^0 ) frac. 0.499 ( \pm 0.050 )</td>
<td>-0.00008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( D_s ) decay no-( \pi^0 ) frac. 0.352 ( \pm 0.035 )</td>
<td>&lt;0.00001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Charm Physics systematic</td>
<td>( 0.00033 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B decay modeling (( \lambda_b ))</td>
<td>( \delta R_b )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( B ) lifetime ( \pm 0.05 ) ps</td>
<td>0.00004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( B ) decay ( \langle N_{ch} \rangle ) 5.73 ( \pm 0.35 )</td>
<td>0.00003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( b ) fragmentation</td>
<td>0.00019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \lambda_b ) production fraction 0.074 ( \pm 0.03 )</td>
<td>0.00008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard gluon radiation</td>
<td>0.00008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( B ) momentum correlation</td>
<td>0.00029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( b )-tag cos ( \theta ) dependency</td>
<td>0.00001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ( b\bar{b} ) Physics systematic</td>
<td>( 0.00038 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detector Systematic</td>
<td>( \delta R_b )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracking resolution</td>
<td>0.00096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracking efficiency</td>
<td>0.00040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \langle P_T \rangle ) tail</td>
<td>0.00010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC statistics</td>
<td>0.00053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event selection bias</td>
<td>0.00071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total detector and MC</td>
<td>( 0.00137 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( R_c ) 0.171 ( \pm 0.006 )</td>
<td>( 0.00021 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (excl. ( R_c ))</td>
<td>( 0.00150 )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
contributions are the PV measurement (−0.02%), the track resolution effect on the IP determination (+0.04%), the detector nonuniformity via the tagging angular distribution dependence (+0.49%), the momentum distribution of the B hadron in each hemisphere (+0.08%), and the effect of hard gluon emission forcing the two B hadrons into one hemisphere (+0.07%). The estimated $\lambda_b$ (0.59 ± 0.11)% and that from the sum of the components (0.67)% are in good agreement. The largest correlation component of detector nonuniformity is due mainly to the tagging efficiency dependence on $|\cos \theta|$, combined with the back-to-back nature of events. The source of this dependence is the variation of the effective thickness of detector material affecting track multiple scattering, which is well simulated by the MC and verified by comparing data and simulation for the hemisphere tag rate dependence on $\cos \theta$.

A major source of detector systematic uncertainty is due to the discrepancy in modeling the track impact parameter resolution, mainly along the beam axis. In the simulation track $z$ impact parameters are smeared using a random Gaussian distribution of width 20 $\mu$m/$\sin \theta$, as well as being adjusted for $z$ impact parameter mean position shifts to match the data. The full difference in $R_b$ between the nominal and resolution-corrected samples is conservatively assigned to be the resolution systematic error. The difference between the measured and simulation charged track multiplicity as a function of $\cos \theta$ and momentum is attributed to an unsimulated tracking inefficiency correction. Both the tracking resolution and efficiency corrections require the use of a random number generator. After application of these corrections, the results vary slightly with different random sequences. These fluctuations are included as an additional MC statistical uncertainty. The uncertainty on the primary vertex $x$-$y$ location simulation is estimated from the effect of adding a Gaussian tail to the IP distribution of 100 $\mu$m width for 0.5% of the simulated events.

The JETSET simulation [4] shows that the $\leq 3$ jets requirement in the event selection favors $b\bar{b}$ over other $q\bar{q}$ events, which biases our measurement by +0.55%. We verified this bias in the data, by measuring $R_b$ with and without applying the $\leq 3$ jet criterion, and found that our measured $R_b$ value changed by only 0.0001, which is consistent with a statistical fluctuation. We have also examined the effect of the running mass of the $b$ quark, $m_b$, on the above $\leq 3$ jet cut. A systematic error is conservatively assigned to the effect of the full difference in calculated $\geq 4$ jet $b$ event rates compared between using the pole mass and using the running mass at $M_Z$ for $m_b$ [16]. Including the fragmentation and reconstruction effects, the resulting uncertainty on $R_b$ due to bias introduced by the $\leq 3$ jet requirement on event selection is 0.31%. Another bias of $+0.26 \pm 0.12$% is introduced by the other event selection criteria, thus the combined bias is 0.82 ± 0.33% and was corrected.

Finally, the $M$ cut value of 2 GeV/$c^2$ was chosen to minimize the total statistics plus systematic uncertainties.

Where the statistical error increases as the mass cut is increased, the charmed hadron systematic contribution, which dominates the $R_b$ uncertainty at low values of $M$ cut, drops rapidly as the mass cut is raised beyond the charmed hadron mass. As a cross check, we repeated the analysis using different $M$ cuts, resulting in consistent $R_b$ values for values of $M$ between 0–3 GeV/$c^2$.

In summary, we have measured

$$R_b = 0.2142 ± 0.0034(\text{stat}) ± 0.0015(\text{syst})$$

$$± 0.0002(R_b)$$

which includes a correction of +0.0003 for the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ contribution. This value supersedes our previous $R_b$ measurements [3] and is in good agreement with the SM prediction of 0.2158. A new high precision measurement has recently been reported by ALEPH [17], which also incorporates mass information to improve a lifetime-based probability tag. With the new SLD and LEP measurements, the gap between the SM prediction of $R_b$ and the world average has narrowed.

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† Also at the Università di Genova, I-16146 Genova, Italy.
‡ Also at the Università di Perugia, I-06100 Perugia, Italy.


[9] The LEP Electroweak Working Group, “Presentation of the LEP Electroweak Heavy Flavour Results for Summer


