$B^0$ lifetime measurement in the CP-odd decay channel $B^0 \to J/\psi f_0(980)$

The lifetime of the $B^0_s$ meson is measured in the decay channel $B^0_s \rightarrow J/\psi \pi^+\pi^-$ with $880 \leq M_{\pi^+\pi^-} \leq 1080$ MeV/$c^2$, which is mainly a CP-odd state and dominated by the $f_0(980)$ resonance. In 10.4 fb$^{-1}$ of data collected with the D0 detector in Run II of the Tevatron, the lifetime of the $B^0_s$ meson is measured to be $\tau(B^0_s) = 1.70 \pm 0.14$ (stat) $\pm 0.05$ (syst) ps. Neglecting CP violation in $B^0_s/B^0_s$ mixing, the measurement can be translated into the width of the heavy mass eigenstate of the $B^0$, $\Gamma_H = 0.59 \pm 0.05$ (stat) $\pm 0.02$ (syst) ps$^{-1}$.

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The $B^0_s$ and $B^0$ mesons are produced as flavor eigenstates at hadron colliders, but the particles propagate as mass eigenstates. There are two mass eigenstates, the so-called heavy and light states, which are linear combinations of the flavor eigenstates. In the absence of CP-violation in mixing, the mass eigenstates are also CP even states, with the heavier state expected to be the CP-odd state. CDF$^3$ and LHCb$^5$ have measured this lifetime in this channel gives access to the lifetime of the heavy mass eigenstate. The lifetime measurement can be transformed into a measurement of the parameter $\Gamma_H$, the decay width of the heavy $B^0$ mass eigenstate. CDF$^3$ and LHCb$^5$ have measured this lifetime, reporting $\tau(B^0_s) = (1.70 \pm 0.12 \pm 0.03)$ ps and $\tau(B^0_s) = (1.70 \pm 0.04 \pm 0.026)$ ps respectively, which are in good agreement with each other and somewhat longer than the mean lifetime $\tau(B^0_s) = (1.52 \pm 0.007)$ ps$^6$.

In this analysis, we report the lifetime of the $B^0_s$ meson measured in the decay channel $B^0_s \rightarrow J/\psi(\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-)\pi^+\pi^-$ with $880 \leq M_{\pi^+\pi^-} \leq 1080$ MeV/$c^2$, which is dominated by the $f_0(980)$ resonance and which is CP-odd at the 99% level$^7$$^8$. The data used in this analysis were collected with the D0 detector during Run II of the Tevatron collider at a center-of-mass energy of 1.96 TeV, and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 10.4 fb$^{-1}$.

The D0 detector is described in detail elsewhere$^9$. The detector components most relevant to this analysis are the central tracking and the muon systems. The former consists of a silicon microstrip tracker (SMT) and a central scintillating fiber tracker (CFT) surrounded by a 2 T superconducting solenoidal magnet. The SMT has a design optimized for tracking and vertexing for pseudo-
rapidity of $|\eta| < 3$ \cite{14}. For charged particles, the resolution on the distance of closest approach as provided by the tracking system is approximately 50 $\mu$m for tracks with $p_T \approx 1$ GeV/c, where $p_T$ is the component of the momentum perpendicular to the beam axis. It improves asymptotically to 15 $\mu$m for tracks with $p_T > 10$ GeV/c.

Preshower detectors and electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters surround the tracker. The muon system Preshower detectors and electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters surround the tracker. The muon system

To determine the decay time of the $B_s^0$, the distance traveled by the candidate projected in a plane transverse to the beam direction is measured, and then a correction for the Lorentz boost is applied. The transverse decay length is defined as $L_{xy} = L_{xy} \cdot p_T/p_T$, where $L_{xy}$ is the vector that points from the primary vertex \cite{13} to the $B_s^0$ decay vertex, and $p_T$ is the transverse momentum vector of the $B_s^0$ candidate. The event-by-event value of the proper transverse decay length, $\lambda$, for the $B_s^0$ candidate is given by:

$$\lambda = L_{xy} \frac{cM_B}{p_T},$$

(1)

where $M_B$ is the world average mass value of the $B_s^0$ meson \cite{15}. In order to remove background, $B_s^0$ candidates are required to have $\lambda > 0.02$ cm and uncertainties on $\lambda$ of less than 0.01 cm.

A simultaneous unbinned maximum likelihood fit to the mass and proper decay length distributions is performed to measure the lifetime. The likelihood function $\mathcal{L}$ is defined by:

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_{j=1}^{N} \left[ N_{\text{sig}} F_{\text{sig}}^j + N_{\text{comb}} F_{\text{comb}}^j + N_{\text{xf}} F_{\text{xf}}^j + N_{B^+} F_{B^+}^j \right],$$

(2)

where $N$ is the total number of events and $N_{\text{sig}}, N_{\text{comb}}, N_{\text{xf}}$ and $N_{B^+}$ are the expected number of signal, combinatorial background, cross-feed contamination and $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^{\pm}$ events in the sample, respectively. All these parameters are determined in the fit. The different background contributions are discussed below.

The functions $F$ are the product of three probability density functions that model distributions of the mass $m$, the proper transverse decay length $\lambda$, and the uncertainty on the proper decay length $\sigma_{\lambda}$ for the signal, combinatorial background, cross-feed contamination, and $B^\pm$ events

$$F_{\alpha} = M_{\alpha}(m_j) T_{\alpha}(\lambda_j) E_{\alpha}(\sigma_{\lambda_j});$$

$$\alpha = \{\text{sig, comb, xf, } B^+\},$$

(3)

where $m_j$, $\lambda_j$, and $\sigma_{\lambda_j}$ represent the mass, the transverse proper decay length, and its uncertainty, respectively, for a given event $j$. The use of the probability density functions $T$ and $E$ follows the method of reference \cite{15}. The specific models and parameters used in the fit are described below.

For the signal, the mass distribution is modeled by a Gaussian function $M_{\text{sig}}(m_j) = G(m_j; \mu_m, \sigma_m)$, where

$$G(m_j; \mu_m, \sigma_m) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_m} e^{-\frac{(m_j - \mu_m)^2}{(2\sigma_m^2)}},$$

(4)

with $\mu_m$ and $\sigma_m$ the mean and the width of the Gaussian, determined from the fit.

The combinatorial background is primarily due to random combinations of $J/\psi$’s with additional tracks in the event, and its mass distribution is described by an exponential function

$$M_{\text{comb}}(m_j; a_0) = e^{a_0 m_j},$$

(5)
with $a_0$ determined from the likelihood fit.

The physics cross-feed contamination is mainly produced by the combination of $J/\psi$ mesons from $b$ hadron decays with other particles produced in the collision, including from the same $b$ hadron. Other $b$ hadron decays with final states such as $B^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K\pi$, $B^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \pi\pi$ and $B^0_s \rightarrow J/\psi KK$ are reconstructed at mass below the signal of the $B^0$, either due to the lower mass of the $B^0$ or the incorrect mass assignment of the pion mass to a kaon track. Simulations of these decays show that the cross-feed contamination can be described by a single Gaussian component

$$M_{\text{xf}}(m_j) = G(m_j; \mu_{\text{xf}}, \sigma_{\text{xf}}),$$

where $\mu_{\text{xf}}$ and $\sigma_{\text{xf}}$ are the mean and the width of the Gaussian, determined from the likelihood fit.

The final contribution arises from $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ decays in which the kaon has been assigned a pion mass, and an additional track accidentally forms a vertex with the $J/\psi K^\pm$. The candidate mass is reconstructed in the region of real $B^0$ events. If the higher $p_T$ non- muon track in $B^0_s$ candidates is assigned a kaon mass, a clear $B^\pm$ signal emerges. Events in this $B^\pm$ mass peak, when interpreted as $J/\psi \pi\pi$, are used as a template [10] to determine the shape of the mass distribution of the $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ contamination in the $B^0_s$ candidates.

The $\lambda$ distribution for the signal is parameterized by an exponential decay convoluted with a resolution function

$$T_{\text{sig}}(\lambda_j|\sigma_{\lambda_j}) = \frac{1}{\lambda_B} \int_0^\infty G(x; \lambda_j, \sigma_{\lambda_j}) \exp \left( -\frac{x}{\lambda_B} \right) dx,$$

with $\lambda_B = c\tau$ of the $B^0_s$ to be measured. The $\lambda$ distribution for the background components is parametrized by the sum of two exponential decay functions modeling combinatorial background $T_{\text{comb}}(\lambda_j)$, an exponential decay for the cross-feed contamination $T_{\text{xf}}(\lambda_j)$, and an exponential decay function that describes $T_{B^\pm}(\lambda_j)$ for $B^\pm$ contamination.

The distribution of the $\lambda$ uncertainty $E_{\text{sig}}(\sigma_{\lambda_j})$ is described by a phenomenological model, using an exponential with decay constant $1/\zeta$, convoluted with a Gaussian with mean $\epsilon$ and width $\delta$:

$$E_{\text{sig}}(\sigma_{\lambda_j}; \zeta, \epsilon, \delta) = \frac{1}{\zeta} e^{-\sigma_{\lambda_j}/\zeta} \otimes G(\sigma_{\lambda_j}; \epsilon, \delta),$$

where the parameters $\zeta$, $\epsilon$ and width $\delta$ are determined from the fit in the sample of events. The uncertainties in $\lambda$ for the background components are treated in the same manner.

The fit yields $c\tau(B^0_s) = 504 \pm 42 \, \mu\text{m}$ and the numbers of signal decays to be $494 \pm 85$. Figure 1 shows the mass, $\lambda$ and $\lambda$ uncertainty distributions for data with the fit results superimposed. Figure 2 shows the $M(\pi^+\pi^-)$ mass distribution for events with $M(\mu^+\mu^-\pi^+\pi^-)$ within one
σ of the $B_s^0$ mass. The $M(\pi^+\pi^-)$ distribution is fit with a Flatté function [17–19] and a polynomial background. Table I summarizes the systematic uncertainties considered for this measurement. The contribution from possible misalignment of the SMT detector has been previously determined to be 5.4 μm [20]. The invariant mass window used for the $\pi^+\pi^-$ distribution is varied from its nominal value of 200 MeV/c² to 160 and 240 MeV/c² and the fit is performed for each new mass window selection. This results in a systematic uncertainty of 8 μm. We test the modeling and fitting method used to estimate the lifetime using data generated in pseudoexperiments with a range of lifetimes from 300 to 800 μm. A bias arises due to imperfect separation of signal and background. Since the background has a shorter lifetime than the signal, the result is a slight underestimate of the signal lifetime. The bias has a value of -4.4 μm for an input lifetime of 500 μm and 500 signal events. We have corrected the lifetime for this bias and a 100% uncertainty on the correction has been applied to the result. We estimate the systematic uncertainty due to the models for the λ and mass distributions by varying the parameterizations of the different components: (i) the cross-feed contamination is modeled by two Gaussian functions instead of one, (ii) the exponential mass distribution for the combinatorial background model is replaced by a first order polynomial, (iii) the smoothing of the non-parametric function that models the $B^\pm$ contamination is varied, and (iv) the exponential functions modelling the background λ distributions are smeared with a Gaussian resolution similar to the signal. To take into account correlations between the effects of the different models, a fit that combines all different model changes is performed. We quote the difference between the result of this fit and the nominal fit as the systematic uncertainty.

Several cross-checks of the lifetime measurement are performed. The mass windows are varied, the reconstructed $B_s^0$ mass is used instead of the world average value, and the data sample is split into different regions of pseudorapidity and of azimuthal angle. All results obtained with these variations are consistent with the nominal measurement. Using the $B^\pm$ background sample extracted from the data, we performed a fit for the lifetime of this component of the background. The result is in good agreement with the values obtained from the global fit. We have also fit the lifetime of the cross-feed contamination from the simulation and again good agreement with the global fit is observed.

In order to estimate the effect of a small non CP-odd component in the analysis, we performed the fit with two exponential decay components for the signal, with the lifetime of one of them fixed to the world average of the CP-even $B_s^0$ lifetime [6], and its fraction to be 0.01 as found by the LHCb experiment [3]. The lifetime fit finds a variation of 1 μm with respect to the nominal fit result.

In summary, the lifetime of the $B_s^0$ is measured to be:

$$\tau(B_s^0) = 508 \pm 42 \text{ (stat)} \pm 16 \text{ (syst) } \mu\text{m},$$

from which we determine:

$$\tau(B_s^0) = 1.70 \pm 0.14 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (syst) } \text{ps},$$

in the decay channel $B_s^0 \rightarrow J/\psi\pi^+\pi^-$ with $880 \leq M_{\pi^+\pi^-} \leq 1080 \text{ MeV/c}^2$. In the absence of CP violation in mixing, this measurement can be translated into the width of the heavy mass eigenstate of the $B_s^0$.

$$\Gamma_H = 0.59 \pm 0.05 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.02 \text{ (syst) } \text{ps}^{-1}. $$

This result is in good agreement with previous measurements and provides an independent confirmation of the longer lifetime for the CP-odd eigenstate of the $B_s^0/B^0_s$ system.

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\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|}
\hline
Source & Variation (μm) \\
\hline
Alignment & 5.4 \\
π⁺π⁻ invariant mass window & 8.0 \\
Fit bias & 4.4 \\
Distribution models & 12.5 \\
Total & 16.4 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Summary of systematic uncertainties in the $B_s^0$ lifetime measurement. The total uncertainty is determined by combining individual uncertainties in quadrature.}
\end{table}
Instituteº of the Russian Federation, and Russian Foundation for Basic Research (Russia); National Council for the Development of Science and Technology and Carlos Chagas Filho Foundation for the Support of Research in the State of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Science and Technology (India); Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (Colombia); National Council of Science and Technology (Mexico); National Research Foundation of Korea (Korea); Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (The Netherlands); Science Foundation of Korea (Korea); Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (The Netherlands); Science Foundation of China (China); and Ministry of Education and Technology Facilities Council and The Royal Society (United Kingdom); Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Czech Republic); Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) (Germany); Science Foundation Ireland (Ireland); Swedish Research Council (Sweden); China Academy of Sciences and National Natural Science Foundation of China (China); and Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (Ukraine).

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