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

(The D0 Collaboration*)

1LAFEX, Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, RJ 22290, Brazil
2Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ 20550, Brazil
3Universidade Federal do ABC, Santo André, SP 09210, Brazil
4University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, People’s Republic of China
5Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, 111711, Colombia
6Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Center for Particle Physics, 116 36 Prague 1, Czech Republic
7Czech Technical University in Prague, 116 36 Prague 6, Czech Republic
8Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, 182 21 Prague, Czech Republic
9University San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador
10LPC, Université Blaise Pascal, CNRS/IN2P3, Clermont, F-63178 Aubière Cedex, France
11LPSC, Université Joseph Fourier Grenoble 1, CNRS/IN2P3, Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, F-38026 Grenoble Cedex, France
12CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS/IN2P3, F-13288 Marseille Cedex 9, France
13LAL, Univ. Paris-Sud, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, F-91405 Orsay Cedex, France
14LPNHE, Universités Paris VI and VII, CNRS/IN2P3, F-75005 Paris, France
15CEA Saclay, Irfu, SPP, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette Cedex, France
16IPHC, Université de Strasbourg, CNRS/IN2P3, F-67037 Strasbourg, France
17IPNL, Université Lyon 1, CNRS/IN2P3, F-69622 Villeurbanne Cedex, France and Université de Lyon, F-69361 Lyon CEDEX 07, France
18III. Physikalisches Institut A, RWTH Aachen University, 52056 Aachen, Germany
19Physikalisches Institut, Universität Freiburg, 79085 Freiburg, Germany
20II. Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, 37073 Göttingen, Germany
21Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, 55099 Mainz, Germany
22Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, 80539 München, Germany
23Panjab University, Chandigarh 160014, India
24Delhi University, Delhi-110 007, India
25Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai-400 005, India
26University College Dublin, Dublin 4, Ireland
27Korea Detector Laboratory, Korea University, Seoul, 02841, Korea
28CINVESTAV, Mexico City 07360, Mexico
29Nikhef, Science Park, 1098 XG Amsterdam, the Netherlands
30Radboud University Nijmegen, 6525 AJ Nijmegen, the Netherlands
31Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna 141980, Russia
32Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow 117259, Russia
33Moscow State University, Moscow 119991, Russia
34Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Moscow region 142281, Russia
35Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, St. Petersburg 188300, Russia
36Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats (ICREA) and Institut de Física d’Altes Energies (IFAE), 08193 Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain
37Uppsala University, 751 05 Uppsala, Sweden
38Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kiev, 01601, Ukraine
39Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YB, United Kingdom
40Imperial College London, London SW7 2AZ, United Kingdom
41The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom
42University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721, USA
43University of California Riverside, Riverside, California 92521, USA
44Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306, USA
45Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510, USA
46University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60607, USA
47Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115, USA
48Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60208, USA
49Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, USA
50Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, Indiana 46323, USA
51University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556, USA
52Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011, USA
53University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, USA
54Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana 71272, USA
55Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA
56University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, USA
57Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824, USA
58University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677, USA
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 $B_s^0$, $\Gamma_h = 0.59 \pm 0.05$ (stat) $\pm 0.02$ (syst) ps$^{-1}$.

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The $B^0$ and $B^0_s$ 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 eigenstates, with the heavier state expected to be the CP-odd state. The lifetimes of the two mass eigenstates can be different from each other and different from the average $B^0_s$ lifetime. A measurement of the $B^0_s$ lifetime in either a pure CP-odd state or pure CP-even state would give important additional information about the $B_s^0$ system.

The $B_s^0 \rightarrow J/\psi f_0(980)$ decay channel corresponds to a pure CP-odd eigenstate decay due to angular momen-

tum conservation, since the parent $B^0_s$ is spin 0, the $f_0(980)$ has $J^{PC} = 0^{++}$, and the $J/\psi$ has $J^{PC} = 1^{--}$. Throughout this Letter, the appearance of a specific charge state also implies its charge conjugate. This decay channel was first observed by the LHCb collaboration [1], and later confirmed by the Belle [2] and CDF [3] and D0 [4] collaborations. A measurement of the $B_s^0$ 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 $B^0_s$ 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 $\tau(B^0) = (1.52 \pm 0.007)$ ps [6].

In this analysis, we report the lifetime of the $B_s^0$ 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 |η| < 3 \cite{10}. For charged particles, the resolution on the distance of closest approach as provided by the tracking system is approximately 50 μm 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 μm for tracks with \( p_T > 10 \) GeV/c. Preshower detectors and electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters surround the tracker. The muon system is located outside the calorimeter, and consists of multi-layer drift chambers and scintillation counters inside 1.8 T iron toroidal magnets, and two similar layers outside the toroids. Muon identification and tracking for a mass in the range 2.80–3.35 GeV/\( c \) 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:

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

where \( N \) is the total number of events and \( N_{\text{sig}}, N_{\text{comb}}, N_{\text{xf}} \) and \( N_{B^\pm} \) 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

\[
F_\alpha = M_\alpha(m_j) T_\alpha(\lambda_j) |\sigma_\lambda_j| E_\alpha(\sigma_\lambda_j), \quad \alpha = \{ \text{sig, comb, xf, } B^+ \},
\]

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

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

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

\[
M_{\text{comb}}(m_j; a_0) = e^{a_0 m_j},
\]
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 $B_s^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K K$ are reconstructed at mass below the signal of the $B_s^0$, 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 $B_s^0$ events. If the higher $P_T$ non-muon track in $B_s^0$ 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 to determine the shape of the mass distribution of the $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ contamination in the $B_s^0$ 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 $B_s^0$ to be measured. The $\lambda$ distribution for the background components is parametrized by the sum of two exponential decay functions: a 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 $T_{\text{B+}}(\lambda_j)$ for $B_s^0$ 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 $c\tau(B_s^0) = 504 \pm 42$ $\mu$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 $B^0_s$ 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 $5.4 \mu m$ [20]. The invariant mass window used for the $\pi^+\pi^-$ distribution is varied from its nominal value of 200 MeV/$c^2$ to 160 and 240 MeV/$c^2$ and the fit is performed for each new mass window selection. This results in a systematic uncertainty of $8 \mu m$. 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 $\mu m$. 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 $\mu m$ for an input lifetime of 500 $\mu m$ 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 $\lambda$ 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 $\lambda$ 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 $B^0_s$ mass is used instead of the world average [4] 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 $B^0$ lifetime [6], and its fraction to be 0.01 as found by the LHCb experiment [3]. The lifetime fit finds a variation of 1 $\mu m$ with respect to the nominal fit result.

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

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

from which we determine:

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

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

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