Search for a Structure in the $B_0^s\pi^\pm$ Invariant Mass Spectrum with the ATLAS Experiment

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A search for the narrow structure, $X(5568)$, reported by the D0 Collaboration in the decay sequence $X \rightarrow B_0^s\pi^\pm$, $B_0^s \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$, is presented. The analysis is based on a data sample recorded with the ATLAS detector at the LHC corresponding to 4.9 fb$^{-1}$ of $pp$ collisions at 7 TeV and 19.5 fb$^{-1}$ at 8 TeV. No significant signal was found. Upper limits on the number of signal events, with properties corresponding to those reported by D0, and on the $X$ production rate relative to $B_0^s$ mesons, $\rho_X$, were determined at 95% confidence level. The results are $N(X) < 382$ and $\rho_X < 0.015$ for $B_0^s$ mesons with transverse momenta above 10 GeV, and $N(X) < 356$ and $\rho_X < 0.016$ for transverse momenta above 15 GeV. Limits are also set for potential $B_0^s\pi^\pm$ resonances in the mass range 5550 to 5700 MeV.

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The D0 Collaboration reported evidence of a narrow structure, $X(5568)$, in the decay $X \rightarrow B_0^s\pi^\pm$ with $B_0^s \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$ in proton-antiproton collisions at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV at the Tevatron collider [1]. The structure was interpreted as a tetraquark with four different quark flavors: $b$, $s$, $u$, and $d$. The mass and natural width of this state were fitted to be $m = 5567.8 \pm 2.9$ (stat) $\pm 0.9$ (syst) MeV and $\Gamma = 21.9 \pm 6.4$ (stat) $\pm 2.5$ (syst) MeV, respectively, and the signal significance is 5.1σ. The ratio $\rho_X$ of the yield of $X(5568)$ to the yield of the $B_0^s$ meson for a transverse momentum range $10 < p_T(B_0^s) < 30$ GeV was measured to be $0.086 \pm 0.019$ (stat) $\pm 0.014$ (syst). The result initiated a discussion of the nature of the new state and prospects for observation of other tetraquark hadrons [2–6].

Recently, the D0 Collaboration reported further evidence for the resonance $X(5568)$ [7] in the decay sequence $X \rightarrow B_0^s\pi^\pm$, $B_0^s \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-D_2^\pm$, $D_2^\pm \rightarrow \phi\pi^\pm$, which is consistent with their previous measurement [1]. However, searches for $X(5568)$ in decays to $B_0^s\pi^\pm$, $B_0^s \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$ performed by the LHCb [8] and CMS [9] Collaborations in proton-antiproton ($pp$) collisions at the LHC and by the CDF Collaboration [10] at the Tevatron, revealed no signal. The upper limits $\rho_X < 0.024$ [LHCb, $p_T(B_0^s) > 10$ GeV], $\rho_X < 0.011$ [CMS, $p_T(B_0^s) > 10$ GeV] and $\rho_X < 0.010$ [CMS, $p_T(B_0^s) > 15$ GeV] at 95% confidence level (C.L.) were determined within the acceptances of the LHCb and CMS experiments. CDF set an upper limit $\rho_X < 0.067$ at 95% C.L. within a kinematic range similar to that of D0 [1].

In this Letter, a search for the $X(5568)$ state by the ATLAS experiment at the LHC is presented ($B_0^s$ refers to both the $B_0^s$ and $B_0^s$ mesons). The $B_0^s$ mesons are reconstructed in their decays to $J/\psi(\mu^+\mu^-)\phi(K^+K^-)$. The analysis is based on a combined sample of $pp$ collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV corresponding to integrated luminosities of 4.9 and 19.5 fb$^{-1}$, respectively. The ATLAS detector [11] covers nearly the entire solid angle around the collision point with layers of tracking detectors, calorimeters, and muon chambers. The muon and tracking systems are of particular importance in the reconstruction of $B$ mesons. The inner tracking detector (ID) consists of a silicon pixel detector, a silicon microstrip detector and a transition radiation tracker. The muon spectrometer (MS) surrounds the calorimeters and consists of three large superconducting toroids with eight coils each, a system of tracking chambers, and detectors for triggering. To study the detector response, to estimate backgrounds, and to model systematic effects, $12 \times 10^6$ Monte Carlo (MC) simulated $B_0^s \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$ and $1 \times 10^6$ $B_0^s\pi^\pm$ events were generated using Pythia 8.183 [12,13] tuned with ATLAS data [14]. Multiple overlaid proton-antiproton collisions (pileup) were simulated with Pythia soft QCD processes. The detector response was simulated using the ATLAS simulation framework [15] based on GEANT4 [16]. The MC events were weighted to reproduce the same pileup and trigger conditions as in the data. As in the D0 analysis [1], the $B_0^s\pi^\pm$ resonance was generated using the Breit-Wigner (BW) parametrization appropriate for an $S$-wave two-body decay near threshold.
where $m(B_s^0\pi^\pm)$ is the invariant mass of the $B_s^0\pi^\pm$ candidate and $m_X$ and $\Gamma_X$ are the mass and the natural width of the resonance. The mass-dependent width is $\Gamma(m(B_s^0\pi^\pm)), \Gamma_X = \Gamma_X \times (q_1/q_0)$, where $q_1$ and $q_0$ are the magnitudes of the three-vector momenta of the $B_s^0$ meson in the rest frame of the $B_s^0\pi^\pm$ system at the invariant masses equal to $m(B_s^0\pi^\pm)$ and $m_X$, respectively. The mass and the width were set to $m_X = 5567.8$ MeV and $\Gamma_X = 21.9$ MeV, as reported in Ref. [1]. The events were selected by the dimuon triggers [17] based on identification of a $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ decay, with $p_T$ thresholds of either 4 or 6 GeV, with both symmetric, (4, 4) or (6, 6) GeV, and asymmetric, (4,6) GeV, combinations. In addition, each event must contain at least one reconstructed primary vertex (PV), formed from at least six ID tracks. The selection of $J/\psi$ and $\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-$ candidates is identical to the one described in detail in Ref. [18]. Candidates for $B_s^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ decays are selected by fitting the tracks for each combination of $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ and $\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-$ to a common vertex. The fit is further constrained by fixing the invariant mass of the two muon tracks to the $J/\psi$ mass [19]. A quadruplet of tracks is accepted for further analysis if the vertex fit has a $\chi^2$/d.o.f. $< 3$. For each $B_s^0$ meson candidate the proper decay time $t$ is extracted using the method described in Ref. [18]. Events with $t > 0.2$ ps are selected to reduce the background from the events with a $J/\psi$ produced directly in the $pp$ collision. If there is more than one accepted $B_s^0$ candidate in the event, the candidate with the lowest $\chi^2$/d.o.f. of the vertex fit is selected. For the selected events the average number of proton-proton interactions per bunch crossing is 21, necessitating a choice of the best candidate for the PV at which the $B_s^0$ meson is produced. The variable used is the three-dimensional impact parameter $d_0$, which is calculated as the distance between the line extrapolated from the reconstructed $B_s^0$ meson vertex in the direction of the $B_s^0$ momentum, and each PV candidate. The chosen PV is the one with the smallest $d_0$. Using MC simulation it was shown that the fraction of $B_s^0$ candidates that are assigned the wrong PV is less than 1% [18] and that the corresponding effect on the results is negligible. Finally, a requirement that the $B_s^0$ transverse momentum is greater than 10 GeV is applied. Figure 1 shows the reconstructed $J/\psi K^+K^-$ mass distribution and the result of an extended unbinned maximum-likelihood fit in the range (5150–5650) MeV, in which the signal is modeled by a sum of two Gaussian distributions and an exponential function is used to model the combinatorial background. The observed signal width is consistent with MC simulation. The fitted $B_s^0$ mass is $m_{\text{fit}}(B_s^0) = 5366.6 \pm 0.1$ (stat) MeV, in agreement with the world average value 5366.89 ± 0.19 MeV [19]. For further investigation, only candidates with a reconstructed mass in the signal region 5346.6–5386.6 MeV are included, which gives $N(B_s^0) = 52750 \pm 280$ (stat) candidates. The $B_s^0\pi^\pm$ candidates are constructed by combining each of the tracks forming the selected PV with the selected $B_s^0$ candidate. Tracks that were already used to reconstruct the $B_s^0$ candidate and tracks identified as leptons ($e$ or $\mu$) are excluded, as well as tracks with transverse momentum $p_T < 500$ MeV. This $p_T$ selection was chosen to maximize the ratio of the $B_s^0\pi^\pm$ signal to the background, based on MC simulation. Assigning the pion mass hypothesis to the tracks that pass these selection criteria, the mass $m(B_s^0\pi^\pm)$ is calculated as $m(J/\psi KK\pi^\pm) - m(J/\psi KK) + m_{\text{fit}}(B_s^0)$, where $m_{\text{fit}}(B_s^0) = 5366.6$ MeV. On average there are 1.8 $B_s^0\pi^\pm$ candidates in each selected event and all are retained for the analysis. A systematic study has shown that the effect on the results due to multiple candidates is negligible. The mass distribution of $B_s^0\pi^\pm$ candidates is fitted using an extended unbinned maximum-likelihood method. The probability density function (PDF) for the background component is defined as a threshold function:

$$F_{\text{back}}(m(B_s^0\pi^\pm)) = \left( \frac{m(B_s^0\pi^\pm) - m_{\text{thr}}}{n} \right)^a \times \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{4} p_i \left( \frac{m(B_s^0\pi^\pm) - m_{\text{thr}}}{n} \right)^i \right),$$

where $m_{\text{thr}} = m_{\text{fit}}(B_s^0) + m_x$ and $n$, $a$, and $p_i$ are free parameters of the fit. The background PDF was tested using
The first background sample contains data events where \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \) candidates are formed using “fake” \( B^0_s \) mesons from the mass sidebands, shown in Fig. 1 by red shaded bands, defined as 5150 < \( m(J/\psi K^+ K^-) \) < 5210 MeV and 5510 < \( m(J/\psi K^+ K^-) \) < 5650 MeV. The second background sample is modeled using MC events containing only \( B^0_s \) mesons not originating from the \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \) signal, tuned to reproduce the \( B^0_s \) transverse momentum distribution in data. In these events the \( B^0_s \) meson is combined with each of the tracks originating from the selected PV. The first sample is normalized to the fitted number of \( B^0_s \) background events in the \( B^0_s \) mass signal region 5346.6–5386.6 MeV, while the second sample is normalized to the fitted number of \( B^0_s \) signal events in the same region. The sum of these two distributions is consistent with the distribution of the data. The function in Eq. (2) describes both background distributions as well as their sum within uncertainties. The signal PDF \( F_{\text{sig}}(m(B^0_s \pi^\pm)) \) is defined as a convolution of an S-wave Breit-Wigner PDF, defined in Eq. (1), and the detector resolution represented by a Gaussian function with a width that is calculated individually for each \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \) candidate from the tracking and vertexing error matrices. Using MC and data samples, it has been verified that the per candidate mass resolutions are the same for the \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \) signal and for the background events passing the selection criteria. The average resolution for the \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \) signal, with the mass and width corresponding to those of the structure reported by the D0 Collaboration (\( m_X = 5567.8 \) MeV and \( \Gamma_X = 21.9 \) MeV), is 3.2 MeV. The full probability function used is

\[
F(m(B^0_s \pi^\pm)) = N(X) F_{\text{sig}}(m(B^0_s \pi^\pm)) + [N_{\text{can}} - N(X)] F_{\text{bck}}(m(B^0_s \pi^\pm)),
\]

where \( N(X) \) is the number of signal events and \( N_{\text{can}} \) is the number of all selected \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \) candidates. The signal mass and width are fixed to the central values reported by the D0 Collaboration. Following other experiments, fits are performed for two subsets of \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \) candidates, first with \( p_T(B^0_s) > 10 \) GeV and second with \( p_T(B^0_s) > 15 \) GeV. The results of the fits are shown in Fig. 2 and summarized in Table I. No significant \( X(5568) \) signal is observed. Additional selections such as cuts on the angle between the momenta of the \( B^0_s \) and \( \pi^\pm \) candidates were investigated and did not produce evidence of a signal. These were found to introduce peaking background so are not included in the analysis. The yields \( N(X) \) and \( N(B^0_s) \) obtained from the fits are used to evaluate the \( X \) production rate relative to \( B^0_s \) within the ATLAS acceptance, using the formula

\[
\rho_X = \frac{\sigma(pp \rightarrow X + \text{anything}) \times B(X \rightarrow B^0_s \pi^\pm)}{\sigma(pp \rightarrow B^0_s + \text{anything})} = \frac{N(X)}{N(B^0_s)} \frac{1}{\epsilon^{\text{rel}}(X)},
\]

where \( \sigma \) represents the production cross section for each of the particles, within the ATLAS acceptance, and the relative efficiency \( \epsilon^{\text{rel}}(X) = e(X)/e(B^0_s) \) is the selection efficiency for the state \( X \), decaying to \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \), relative to that for the \( B^0_s \) meson and accounts for the reconstruction and selection

![FIG. 2. Results of the fit to the \( B^0_s \pi^\pm \) mass distribution for candidates with \( p_T(B^0_s) > 10 \) GeV (left) and \( p_T(B^0_s) > 15 \) GeV (right). The bottom panels show the difference between each data point and the fit divided by the statistical uncertainty of that point.](image)
The relative efficiency, $e_{\text{rel}}(X)$, was determined using MC simulation of events containing $X \rightarrow B^0\pi^\pm$ and $B^0$ decays. In the ratio, the acceptance of the $B^0$ decay cancels, so the value to be determined is the pion reconstruction efficiency for $B^0\pi^\pm$ events in which the $B^0$ meson satisfies acceptance, reconstruction, and selection criteria. Based on MC events, $e_{\text{rel}}(X)$ is determined as a function of $p_T(B^0)$ and of $m(B^0\pi^\pm)$. Using an MC-based function, the acceptance is determined individually for each $B^0\pi^\pm$ candidate, based on its measured values of $p_T(B^0)$ and $m(B^0\pi^\pm)$. The acceptance ratio, $e_{\text{rel}}(X)$, is calculated as an average over the events included in the $m(B^0\pi^\pm)$ interval within which the search for a resonance is performed. The width of this interval is defined by a BW function convolved with the mass resolution function, with the start and end points of the range chosen to include 99% of the signal events. The uncertainty of $e_{\text{rel}}(X)$ is calculated by varying the fitted parameters of the MC-based function used to describe the acceptance as a function of $p_T(B^0)$ within their uncertainties. Small variations of this function due to the pseudorapidity of the $B^0$ were investigated and are included in the systematic uncertainties. The error also includes the uncertainty in the number of data events used in the average and the statistical uncertainty in the $p_T(B^0)$ distribution of these events. The error in the pion reconstruction efficiency, arising from uncertainties in the amount of ID material, is found to have a negligible effect on $\rho_X$.

As no significant signal is observed, corresponding to the properties of the $X(5568)$ as reported by Ref. [1], upper limits are determined for the number of $B^0\pi^\pm$ signal events, $N(X)$, and for the relative production rate, $\rho_X$. These are calculated using the asymptotic approximation from the profile likelihood formalism [20] based on the CL$_s$ frequentist method [21]. To establish the limit on the number of $B^0\pi^\pm$ signal events, the PDF models for signal and background, defined respectively by Eqs. (1) and (2), are used as inputs to the CL$_s$ method. Without systematic uncertainties, the extracted upper limits at 95% C.L. are $N(X) < 264$ for $p_T(B^0) > 10$ GeV and $N(X) < 213$ for $p_T(B^0) > 15$ GeV. Systematic uncertainties affecting these limits are included in the determination of $N(X)$. To obtain results that can be compared to the state $X(5568)$ reported by the D0 Collaboration, systematic uncertainties are assigned by varying the values of $m_X$ and $\Gamma_X$ independently within Gaussian constraints, with uncertainties equal to those quoted in Ref. [1]. The default model of the $X$ resonance, which is assumed to be spinless, is changed to a BW $P$-wave resonance. To include the systematic uncertainty due to the modeling of the background, the default PDF of Eq. (2) is replaced by a seventh-order Chebyshev polynomial, allowing more free parameters in the fit. For the detector resolution, the default per-candidate mass resolution model is replaced by the sum of three Gaussian functions with a common mean. The parameters used are determined from the $B^0\pi^\pm$ MC sample. Using these alternative models, upper limits that include systematic uncertainties are extracted, leading to values $N(X) < 382$ for $p_T(B^0) > 10$ GeV and $N(X) < 356$ for $p_T(B^0) > 15$ GeV. To extract the upper limits on $\rho_X$ additional systematic uncertainties are included. The calculation of $\rho_X$ also depends on the precision of extracting the number of $B^0$ signal events and the relative efficiency $e_{\text{rel}}(X)$. To include these uncertainties, the central values and the uncertainties of the number of $B^0$ signal events and $e_{\text{rel}}(X)$ are used to construct Gaussian constraints, which are included as additional inputs to the CL$_s$ method. Both the statistical and systematic uncertainties are included after being summed in quadrature. For the $B^0$ signal, the default fit model of two Gaussian functions is changed to a triple Gaussian function and the change in the result is taken as a systematic uncertainty. The uncertainty due to the proper decay time requirement $t > 0.2$ ps was estimated by varying it within the time resolution and found to be negligible. The resulting upper limits at 95% C.L. are $\rho_X < 0.015$ for $p_T(B^0) > 10$ GeV and $\rho_X < 0.016$ for $p_T(B^0) > 15$ GeV. A hypothesis test is performed for the presence of a $B^0\pi^\pm$ peak for every 5 MeV step in its mass from 5550 to 5700 MeV, assuming a resonant state as described by Eq. (1), with a BW width of 21.9 MeV [1] and $p_T(B^0) > 10$ GeV. For each $B^0\pi^\pm$ mass tested, $e_{\text{rel}}(X)$ is calculated using the same method as for $X(5568)$. The values of $e_{\text{rel}}(X)$ vary from 0.50 to 0.55 in the search interval. The upper limit of $\rho_X$ at 95% C.L. is determined for each tested

![FIG. 3. Upper limits on $\rho_X$ at 95% C.L. (black squares connected by line) at different masses of a hypothetical resonant state $X$ decaying to $B^0\pi^\pm$, for events with $p_T(B^0) > 10$ GeV. A BW width of $21.9 \pm 6.4$ (stat)$^{+5.5}_{-2.5}$ (syst) MeV is assumed, as reported by D0. The values include systematic uncertainties. The expected 95% C.L. upper limits (central black dot-dashed line) with $\pm 1\sigma$ (green) and $\pm 2\sigma$ (yellow) uncertainty bands on $\rho_X$ are shown as a function of the assumed resonance mass.](https://example.com/fig3.png)
mass. The same systematic uncertainties as in the determination of $\rho_X$ for the state $X(5568)$ are included, with the exception of the $X(5568)$ mass uncertainty. The median expected upper limit at 95% C.L. as a function of the $B^0_s\pi^\pm$ mass is also determined with $\pm 1\sigma$ and $\pm 2\sigma$ error bands. The results are shown in Fig. 3.

In conclusion, a search for a new state $X(5568)$ decaying to $B^0_s\pi^\pm$, with properties as reported by the D0 Collaboration, was performed by the ATLAS experiment at the LHC, using 4.9 fb$^{-1}$ of $pp$ collision data at 7 TeV and 19.5 fb$^{-1}$ at 8 TeV. No significant signal was found. Within the acceptance in which this analysis is performed, upper limits on the number of signal events, $N(X)$, and on the $X$ production rate relative to $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, Investissements d'Union; Investissements d'Europe 2020 and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, European Union; Investissements d’Avenir Labex and Idex, ANR, Région Auvergne and Fondation Partager le Savoir, France; DFG and AvH Foundation, Germany; Herakleitos, Thales and Aristea programmes co-financed by EU-ESF and the Greek NSRF; B"SF, GIF and Minerva, Israel; BRF, Norway; CERCA Programme Generalitat de Catalunya, Generalitat Valenciana, Spain; the Royal Society and Leverhulme Trust, United Kingdom. The crucial computing support from all WLCG partners is acknowledged gratefully, in particular from CERN, the ATLAS Tier-1 facilities at TRIUMF (Canada), NDGF (Denmark, Norway, Sweden), CC-IN2P3 (France), KIT/GridKA (Germany), INFN-CNAF (Italy), NL-T1 (Netherlands), PIC (Spain), ASGC (Taiwan), RAL (UK) and BNL (USA), the Tier-2 facilities worldwide and large non-WLCG resource providers. Major contributors of computing resources are listed in Ref. [22].


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