

Measurements of semileptonic mixing asymmetries for B^0 and B_s^0 mesons at the D0 Experiment

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We present measurements of the semileptonic mixing asymmetries for $B_{(s)}^0$ mesons, $a_{\text{sl}}^{d(s)}$, using a data sample corresponding to 10.4 fb^{-1} of $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96 \text{ TeV}$, collected with the D0 experiment at the Fermilab Tevatron collider. For the a_{sl}^d measurement, two independent decay channels are used: $B^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ D^- X$, with $D^- \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^-$; and $B^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ D^{*-} X$, with $D^{*-} \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \pi^-$, $\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$. For the a_{sl}^s measurement, the channel $B_s^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ D_s^- X$, with $D_s^- \rightarrow \phi \pi^-$, $\phi \rightarrow K^+ K^-$ is used. For each channel, we extract the raw charge asymmetries, correct for detector-related asymmetries using data-driven methods, and account for dilution from charge-symmetric processes using Monte Carlo simulation. The final a_{sl}^d measurement combines four visible proper decay length regions for each channel, yielding $a_{\text{sl}}^d = [0.68 \pm 0.45 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.14 \text{ (syst.)}] \%$. This is the single most precise measurement of this parameter, with uncertainties smaller than the current world average of B factory measurements. Using the B_s^0 meson sample, we make a single time-integrated measurement, $a_{\text{sl}}^s = [-1.12 \pm 0.74 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.17 \text{ (syst.)}] \%$. Both measurements are in agreement with the standard model predictions.

Additional details, and comprehensive citations, are available for the a_{sl}^d measurement in Ref. [1], and for the a_{sl}^s measurement in Ref. [2]

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1. Introduction

The observed matter-dominance of the universe cannot be explained by the particle interactions described in the standard model (SM) alone. One necessary ingredient to drive such an asymmetry is the violation of CP symmetry (CPV). Certain SM processes indeed satisfy this requirement, as a result of the complex phase in the quark mixing matrix of the weak interaction; however, their effects are too weak to explain the matter dominance. As such, it is important to search for further non-SM sources of CPV.

Studies of neutral B meson oscillations, whereby a neutral meson changes into its own antiparticle via a box-diagram-mediated weak interaction, provide a sensitive probe for such CPV processes. The semileptonic mixing asymmetry, defined as:

$$a_{\text{sl}}^q = \frac{\Gamma(\bar{B}_q^0 \rightarrow B_q^0 \rightarrow \ell^+ X) - \Gamma(B_q^0 \rightarrow \bar{B}_q^0 \rightarrow \ell^- X)}{\Gamma(\bar{B}_q^0 \rightarrow B_q^0 \rightarrow \ell^+ X) + \Gamma(B_q^0 \rightarrow \bar{B}_q^0 \rightarrow \ell^- X)}, \quad (1.1)$$

allows the effects of any CP-violating processes to be directly observed in terms of the resulting asymmetry of the decay products.

The standard model predictions for both a_{sl}^s and a_{sl}^d are very small, effectively negligible compared to the current experimental precision. The measurement of any significant deviation from zero is therefore an unambiguous signal of new physics, which could lead to order-of-magnitude enhancements of $|a_{\text{sl}}^q|$. The B^0 semileptonic mixing asymmetry, a_{sl}^d , has been extensively studied by the B factories operating at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance. The current world average of these measurements is $a_{\text{sl}}^d = (-0.05 \pm 0.56)\%$. The most precise published measurement of a_{sl}^s was performed by the D0 Collaboration, $a_{\text{sl}}^s = [-0.17 \pm 0.91 \text{ (stat.) } {}^{+0.12}_{-0.23} \text{ (syst.)}] \%$.

The recent evidence for a non-zero dimuon charge asymmetry by the D0 experiment is sensitive to the linear combination of B^0 and B_s^0 mixing asymmetries, with approximately equal contributions from each source. The measurement constrains a band in the $(a_{\text{sl}}^d, a_{\text{sl}}^s)$ plane, which is inconsistent with the SM prediction at the 3.9 standard deviations level. On the other hand, recent searches for CPV in $B_s^0 \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ decays from the D0, CDF, and LHCb collaborations find agreement of the CP-violating phase ϕ_s with SM predictions. Given the current body of experimental evidence, improved measurements of both a_{sl}^d and a_{sl}^s are required in order to constrain the possible sources of new physics in B meson mixing and decay.

2. Overview

For the B^0 meson case, two separate decay channels (plus charge conjugate process) are used:

1. $B^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu D^- X$, with $D^- \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^-$;
2. $B^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu D^{*-} X$, with $D^{*-} \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \pi^-$, $\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$;

The two channels are treated separately, with each being used to extract a_{sl}^d , before the final measurements are combined. For the B_s^0 measurement, a single channel (plus CC process) is used:

1. $B_s^0 \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu D_s^- X$, with $D_s^- \rightarrow \phi \pi^-$, $\phi \rightarrow K^+ K^-$;

For clarity, the charges are henceforward only included where necessary to avoid ambiguity, and the three channels are denoted by μD , μD^* , and μD_s respectively.

Experimentally, the semileptonic mixing asymmetries can be expressed in the following form:

$$a_{\text{sl}}^q = \frac{A - A_{\text{BG}}}{F_{B(s)}^{\text{osc}}}, \quad \text{where} \quad A = \frac{N_{\mu^+ D(s)^-} - N_{\mu^- D(s)^+}}{N_{\mu^+ D(s)^-} + N_{\mu^- D(s)^+}} \equiv \frac{N_{\text{diff}}}{N_{\text{sum}}}. \quad (2.1)$$

Here, A is the measured raw asymmetry, given in terms of the number of reconstructed $\mu^\pm D_{(s)}^{(*)\mp}$ signal candidates, $N_{\mu^\pm D_{(s)}^{(*)\mp}}$. The term A_{BG} accounts for inherent detector-related background asymmetries, for example due to the different reconstruction efficiencies for positively and negatively charged kaons. The denominator $F_{B(s)}^{\text{osc}}$ is defined as the fraction of all $\mu D_{(s)}^{(*)}$ signal events that arise from decays of $B_{(s)}^0$ mesons after they have oscillated. All background asymmetries are extracted using data-driven methods, while Monte Carlo (MC) simulation is used to determine the fraction of $B_{(s)}^0$ mesons that have undergone mixing prior to decay.

The B^0 meson has a mixing period of comparable scale to the lifetime, hence the fraction of oscillated B^0 mesons is a strong function of the measured decay time. As such, the extraction of a_{sl}^d is performed in six regions of visible proper decay length, $\text{VPDL} = L_{xy}(B) \cdot cM(B)/p_T(\mu D)$, where L_{xy} is the decay length of the B^0 meson in the transverse plane. The two bins at smallest VPDL have negligible contributions from oscillated B^0 mesons, and are used as a control region in which the measured raw asymmetry should be dominated by the background contribution, i.e., $A - A_{\text{BG}} \approx 0$.

In contrast, the mixing frequency of the B_s^0 meson is much higher, resulting in a dilution $F_{B_s}^{\text{osc}}$ which is consistently around 50% for all measured decay times. In this case, a single time-integrated measurement is performed, without division into $\text{VPDL}(B_s^0)$ bins.

3. Event Selection

The measurements presented here use data collected by the D0 detector from 2002–2011, corresponding to $\sim 10.4 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ of $p\bar{p}$ collisions at center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 1.96 \text{ TeV}$. Signal candidates are collected using single and dimuon triggers without impact parameter requirements.

For all three channels, events are considered for selection if they contain a muon candidate passing tight quality requirements, and matched to a track in the central tracking system. The muon must have transverse momentum $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}/c$, and total momentum $p > 3 \text{ GeV}/c$. For events fulfilling these requirements, $D_{(s)}^{(*)}$ candidates are constructed by combining three other tracks associated with the same initial $p\bar{p}$ interaction. Each track must satisfy $p_T > 0.7 \text{ GeV}/c$, and the resulting $D_{(s)}^{(*)}$ candidate must be consistent with originating from a common vertex with the muon. The $\mu D_{(s)}^{(*)}$ candidates must have an invariant mass consistent with the expectations from $B_{(s)}^0$ decay.

The final event selections utilize channel-specific multivariate discriminants, which combine several variables into a single parameter with improved ability to separate signal and background events. The multivariate discriminants are optimised using Monte Carlo (MC) simulation to model the signal, and sideband regions in data to model the background. The choice of cuts are selected to maximise the signal significance of the $D_{(s)}^{(*)}$ peaks. For the B^0 case, the cuts are optimized

separately in each VPDL bin, taking advantage of the diminishing background at larger values to improve the signal efficiency and significantly improve the final precision on a_{sl}^d .

The polarities of both the solenoidal and toroidal magnets in the D0 detector were regularly reversed during data acquisition, approximately every two weeks, resulting in almost equal beam exposure in each of the four polarity configurations. This feature is crucial in reducing detector-related asymmetries, for example due to the different trajectories of positive and negative muons as they traverse the magnetic fields in the detector. To ensure maximal cancellation of these instrumental asymmetries, an additional event-by-event weighting is applied such that the sums of weights in each (solenoid,toroid) configuration are the same, for a given sample.

This procedure is performed separately for each channel, and for each VPDL bin in the B^0 case. Event weights are typically in the range 0.90–1.00, with very little variation between VPDL bins. The total signal yields after event weighting are $N(\mu D) = 721\,519 \pm 3537$, $N(\mu D^*) = 519\,066 \pm 3446$, and $N(\mu D_s) = 203\,513 \pm 1337$.

4. Extracting the Raw Asymmetry

The raw asymmetry is extracted by fitting the invariant mass distributions: $M(K\pi\pi)$ for the μD candidates, $[\Delta M \equiv M(D^0\pi) - M(D^0)]$ for the μD^* candidates, and $M(\phi\pi)$ for the μD_s candidates. The sum distribution H_{sum} is constructed by weighting all $\mu D_{(s)}^{(*)}$ candidates according to the magnet polarity weight. A difference distribution H_{diff} is constructed by taking the difference between the $\mu^+ D_{(s)}^{(*)-}$ and $\mu^- D_{(s)}^{(*)+}$ distributions. The sum and difference distributions are modeled by, respectively, the functions:

$$F_{\text{sum}} = F_{\text{sum}}^{\text{BG}} + N_{\text{sum}} \cdot F^{\text{sig}}, \quad (4.1)$$

$$F_{\text{diff}} = F_{\text{diff}}^{\text{BG}} + A \cdot N_{\text{sum}} \cdot F^{\text{sig}}, \quad (4.2)$$

where N_{sum} is the total $\mu D_{(s)}^{(*)}$ yield, and A is the corresponding raw charge asymmetry defined in Eq. (2.1). Different models are used to parametrize the backgrounds for the sum ($F_{\text{sum}}^{\text{BG}}$) and difference ($F_{\text{diff}}^{\text{BG}}$) histograms, while a single model F^{sig} is used for the signal in both cases. The yields, asymmetries, and signal and background parameters in these models are extracted by a simultaneous binned fit to the two distributions, to minimise the total χ^2 with respect to the fitting functions.

Figure 1 shows an example of the sum and difference fits for the μD^* channel, in the region $(0.10 < \text{VPDL}(B^0) < 0.20)$ cm. For the B_s^0 case, a single raw asymmetry is obtained, $A = [-0.40 \pm 0.33 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (syst.)}]%$. Systematic uncertainties are assigned to account for the choice of bin width, fitting limits, and signal and background models. Charge-randomised ensemble tests demonstrate that the extraction of the raw asymmetries is unbiased and provides accurate uncertainties.

5. Accounting for Detector Asymmetries

Neglecting asymmetries of second order or higher, the background asymmetry for both B^0 channels (which contain the same final-state particles $\mu^\pm K^\pm \pi^\mp \pi^\mp$) simplifies to $A_{\text{BG}}(B^0) = a^\mu +$

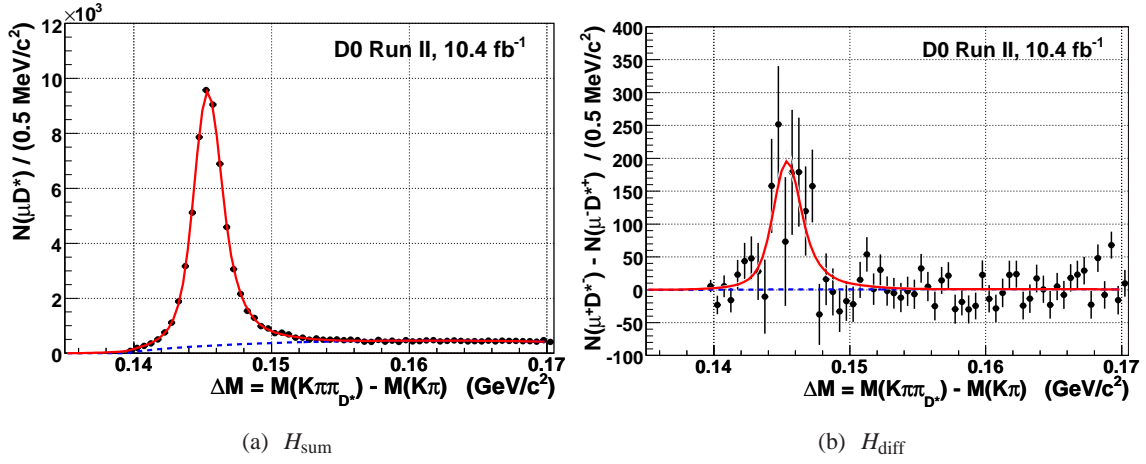


Figure 1: Examples of the raw asymmetry fit for the μD^* channel, for the fifth VPDL(B^0) bin corresponding to $(0.10 < \text{VPDL}(B^0) < 0.20)$ cm. In both cases, the solid line represents the total fit function, with the background part shown separately by the dashed line.

$a^K - 2a^\pi$, where the asymmetries a^X are defined as the difference in reconstruction efficiency for the positively and negatively charged particles. The equivalent correction for the B_s^0 case is $A_{\text{BG}}(B_s^0) = a^\mu + a^\phi - a^\pi$.

By far the largest background asymmetry to be taken into account is due to differences in the behavior of positive and negative kaons as they traverse the detector. The kaon asymmetry is measured as a function of $(p(K), |\eta(K)|)$ using a dedicated sample of $K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$ decays, with the final correction determined by the weighted average of $a^K[p(K), |\eta(K)|]$ over the $p(K)$ and $|\eta(K)|$ distributions in the signal events. The resulting corrections a^K are typically in the range 1.08–1.16%. For the B_s^0 case, the kaon reconstruction asymmetry cancels almost exactly, except for a slight residual effect caused by interference between the ϕ and $f_0(980)$ which leads to slightly different momentum distributions for the two kaons. The final correction to the raw B_s^0 asymmetry from this $\phi \rightarrow K^+ K^-$ asymmetry is $a^\phi = (+0.020 \pm 0.002)\%$.

The residual charge asymmetry for muon identification is measured using $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ decays. A small but significant asymmetry is observed, with a sizeable dependence on the muon transverse momentum. The final B^0 muon asymmetry corrections for each VPDL bin and both channels vary in the range 0.097–0.108%. For the B_s^0 measurement, the single muon correction is determined to be $a^\mu = (+0.11 \pm 0.03)\%$.

Possible pion reconstruction asymmetries are studied using $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$ and $K^{\pm*} \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^\pm$ decays in data, in addition to the use of dedicated simulations. No significant asymmetry is observed in any case, and the pion correction a^π is taken to be zero. A systematic uncertainty of $\pm 0.05\%$ is allocated to account for the limited precision on this quantity.

6. Sample Composition: $F_{B(s)^0}^{\text{osc}}$

Not all $\mu D_{(s)}$ combinations originate from the decay of oscillated $B_{(s)}^0$ mesons. Alternative charge symmetric sources will contribute only to the denominator in the raw asymmetry extrac-

tion, and hence dilute any physical asymmetry a_{sl}^q . The total fraction of signal events arising from oscillated $B_{(s)}^0$ meson decays is determined using inclusive MC simulations in which the only requirement at the generator level is the presence of the appropriate $D_{(s)}^{(*)\mp}$ decay channel, and the presence of a muon (of any charge). Possible asymmetry contributions from B^0 decays in the B_s^0 sample, and vice versa, are taken into account, but found to be negligible. The fraction for both B^0 channels increases from $\sim 1\%$ in the first two VPDL bins, up to a maximum of $\sim 70\%$ in the largest VPDL bin. For the B_s^0 case, the single dilution fraction is determined to be $F_{B_s^0}^{\text{osc}} = 0.465 \pm 0.017$, accounting for the fact that around 93% of the μD_s candidates are from B_s^0 decay, and almost exactly 50% of these oscillate prior to decay. Systematic uncertainties are allocated to account for the limited knowledge of the decay branching ratios of B mesons, and for the finite precision on the lifetimes and mixing frequencies. The statistical uncertainty from the MC samples is also categorised as systematic for the final measurement.

7. Results

From the raw asymmetries, detector-related asymmetries, and the dilution fractions $F_{B_{(s)}^0}^{\text{osc}}$, the final value of the semileptonic mixing asymmetry a_{sl}^d is determined for each VPDL bin and for both channels. The first two VPDL bins are not included, as these represent the control region in which the expected signal contribution is negligible. These results are combined by weighted average, firstly into two channel-specific measurements:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\text{sl}}^d(\mu D) &= [0.43 \pm 0.63 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.16 \text{ (syst.)}] \%, \\ a_{\text{sl}}^d(\mu D^*) &= [0.92 \pm 0.62 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.16 \text{ (syst.)}] \%, \end{aligned}$$

and finally into a single measurement:

$$a_{\text{sl}}^d = [0.68 \pm 0.45 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.14 \text{ (syst.)}] \%.$$

Correlations between uncertainties are properly accounted for in these combinations. The resulting precision is dominated by limited statistics in the signal channel, and is better than the current world-average precision obtained by combining results from the B factories.

The corresponding single measurement in the B_s^0 channel is

$$a_{\text{sl}}^s = [-1.12 \pm 0.74 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.17 \text{ (syst.)}] \%.$$

This is significantly more precise than the previous best measurement of this parameter. In both cases, the measured asymmetries are consistent with the SM prediction, and also with the equivalent measurements from the D0 dimuon asymmetry analysis.

References

- [1] V. M. Abazov *et al.* [D0 Collaboration], Phys. Rev. D **86**, 072009 (2012)
- [2] V. M. Abazov *et al.* [D0 Collaboration], Phys. Rev. Lett. **110**, 011801 (2013)