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Heavy flavour decay properties with ATLAS

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We present the results on CP-violation searches in the B_s system, studied in the $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$ decay, and in the B_d system through the comparison of the decay time distributions in the flavour specific state $J/\psi K^*$ and in the CP eigenstate $J/\psi K_s$. We also present new results in the search for the rare decays of B_d and B_s into $\mu^+\mu^-$. All results are based on the full sample of pp collisions data recorded during LHC Run 1 by the ATLAS detector at \sqrt{s} 7 and 8 TeV. The consistency with the Standard Model predictions and with other available measurements is discussed.

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1. Introduction

The production of *B* hadrons at the Large Hadron Collider [1] provides excellent opportunities for measurements of heavy flavour decay properties and indirect searches for new physics. Various rare decay modes occur in Standard Model (SM) at the loop level and are sensitive to contributions from physics phenomena beyond SM, mainly as a result of the interference with SM diagrams.

The ATLAS experiment [2] is a general-purpose detector with a cylindrical geometry and nearly 4π coverage in solid angle. The Inner Detector (ID) detects tracks of charged particles and consists of pixel, silicon strip and transition radiation subdetectors embedded in a 2 T solenoidal magnetic field. The ID is surrounded by a liquid-argon sampling electromagnetic calorimeter and a steel/scintillator tile hadronic calorimeter. The outermost Muon Spectrometer (MS) consists of three large toroids and a system of gaseous detectors: monitored drift tubes and cathode strip chambers for precise measurements and resistive plate chambers and thin gap chambers for triggering.

The ATLAS trigger in LHC Run 1 was based on hardware Level-1 trigger and a 2-staged software High Level Trigger (HLT). The muon trigger at Level-1 is based on pattern search for different $p_{\rm T}$ thresholds in the MS. The regions of interest around these patterns are then used as seeds for the HLT reconstruction, matching information from both the MS and ID.

All results presented here are based on dataset collected during LHC Run 1 in 2011 (at \sqrt{s} = 7 TeV) and 2012 (at \sqrt{s} = 8 TeV) corresponding to a total integrated luminosity of 25 fb⁻¹.

2. Measurement of the CP-violating phase ϕ_s and B_s decay width difference $\Delta \Gamma_s$ with $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ decay

New phenomena beyond SM may alter the CP-violation in decays of *B* hadrons. The $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ decay is expected to be sensitive to these contributions because the CP-violation emerges from interference between direct decays and $B_s - \overline{B_s}$ mixing. The CP-violating phase ϕ_s is predicted to be small in SM [3] and is a good candidate for new physics searches.

Events for this measurement [4] are selected by di-muon triggers searching for $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^$ candidates with muon p_T thresholds of 4 GeV or 6 GeV. The muon object is identified either as a combination of ID and MS track segments, referred to as a combined muon, or segment-tagged muon, formed from a MS track segment not associated with MS track but matched to an ID track. Muon track parameters are determined by the ID measurement only, since the precision of track parameters is dominated by the ID track reconstruction in the kinematic range of this analysis. The $\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-$ candidates are reconstructed from tracks with $p_T > 1$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$ not identified as muons and each combination of J/ψ and ϕ is fitted to a common vertex. Candidates are accepted if the invariant mass of hadronic track pairs falls within interval (1.0085 GeV $< m_{K^+K^-} < 1.0305$ GeV) around ϕ mass and if the criteria on vertex fit quality and number of ID hits for tracks are met. In total, 376 987 B_s candidates are selected in B_s mass range of 5.15 – 5.65 GeV.

The initial flavour of B_s meson is measured by opposite-side tagging (OST) which is extracting information from the second *b*-quark present in the event. Several tagging methods are implemented: the measured charge of a muon or electron from a semileptonic decay of *B* meson provides a strong separation power but the result is diluted because of neutral *B* meson oscillations and cascade decays $b \rightarrow c \rightarrow \ell$. For muon-based tagging, methods using combined or segment-tagged

| Tagger | Efficiency [%] | Dilution [%] | Tagging Power [%] |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Combined μ | 4.12 ± 0.02 | 47.4 ± 0.2 | 0.92 ± 0.02 |
| Electron | 1.19 ± 0.01 | 49.2 ± 0.3 | 0.29 ± 0.01 |
| Segment-tagged μ | 1.20 ± 0.01 | 28.6 ± 0.2 | 0.10 ± 0.01 |
| Jet-charge | 13.15 ± 0.03 | 11.85 ± 0.03 | 0.19 ± 0.01 |
| Total | 19.66 ± 0.04 | 27.56 ± 0.06 | 1.49 ± 0.02 |

Table 1: Summary of tagging performance for the different flavour tagging methods [4]. Uncertainties shown are statistical only. The efficiency and tagging power are each determined by summing over the individual bins of the charge distribution. The effective dilution is obtained from the measured efficiency and tagging power. For the efficiency, dilution, and tagging power, the corresponding uncertainty is determined by combining the appropriate uncertainties in the individual bins of each charge distribution.

muons are treated as distinct and are optimised separately. For electron-based tagging, an electron is identified using information from the ID and is required to satisfy tight electron quality criteria and kinematic cuts to remove electrons from other vertices and from signal-side of the decay. If more than one lepton is found in the event, the lepton with the highest p_T is selected. A lepton cone charge is measured as a weighted sum of the charge of tracks in a cone $\Delta R < 0.5$ around the lepton direction. If no lepton is present, a weighted sum of the charge of tracks in a jet tagged by b-tagging is used. To study the OST for this analysis, a sample of self-tagging $B^{\pm} \rightarrow J/\psi K^{\pm}$ was selected from 2012 dataset satisfying similar selection as signal candidates. Tagging performance of all flavour tagging methods is summarized in Table 1.

An unbinned maximum likelihood fit is performed on selected events to extract parameters of the signal decay. The fit uses reconstructed mass, proper decay time, proper decay time uncertainty, tagging probability and transversity angles of each candidate. The likelihood function is defined as a combination of probability density functions \mathscr{F}_s for signal, \mathscr{F}_{B^0} and \mathscr{F}_{Λ_b} for B^0 and Λ_b background contributions and \mathscr{F}_{bkg} for other backgrounds as

$$\ln \mathscr{L} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \{ w_i \cdot \ln(f_{\mathrm{s}} \mathscr{F}_{\mathrm{s}} + f_{\mathrm{s}} f_{B^0} \mathscr{F}_{B^0} + f_{\mathrm{s}} f_{\Lambda_b} \mathscr{F}_{\Lambda_b} + (1 - f_{\mathrm{s}} (1 + f_{B^0} + f_{\Lambda_b})) \mathscr{F}_{\mathrm{bkg}}) \} ,$$

where N is the number of candidates, w_i is the trigger weight, f_s is the fraction of signal candidates and f_{B^0} (f_{Λ_b}) are the fractions of B^0 (Λ_b) events misidentified as B_s . The full fit depends on 9 physical parameters and additional parameters such as signal and background fractions, parameters describing mass, proper decay time, flavour and angular distributions of signal and background events, as well as the detector acceptance. In total, the fit extracted 74900 ± 400 signal candidates. The mass, proper decay time and angle fit projections can be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 3 shows the likelihood contours in $\phi_s - \Delta \Gamma_s$ plane, together with the SM expectations. Measured values are consistent with those obtained in the previous analysis of 7 TeV data. A Best Linear Unbiased Estimate combination [5] is used to combine the 7 TeV and 8 TeV measurements.



Figure 1: Mass and proper decay time fit projections for the $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ sample. [4]



Figure 2: Fit projections of the transversity angles for the $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ sample. [4]

The combined results for fit parameters are [4]

$$\begin{split} \phi_s &= -0.090 \pm 0.078 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.041 \text{ (syst.) rad} \\ \Delta \Gamma_s &= 0.085 \pm 0.011 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.007 \text{ (syst.) ps}^{-1} \\ \Gamma_s &= 0.675 \pm 0.003 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.003 \text{ (syst.) ps}^{-1} \\ |A_{\parallel}(0)|^2 &= 0.227 \pm 0.004 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.006 \text{ (syst.)} \\ |A_0(0)|^2 &= 0.522 \pm 0.003 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.007 \text{ (syst.)} \\ |A_s(0)|^2 &= 0.072 \pm 0.007 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.018 \text{ (syst.)} \\ \delta_{\perp} &= 4.15 \pm 0.32 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.16 \text{ (syst.) rad} \\ \delta_{\parallel} &= 3.15 \pm 0.10 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.01 \text{ (syst.) rad} \\ \delta_{\perp} &= -\delta_{\mathrm{S}} &= -0.08 \pm 0.03 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.01 \text{ (syst.) rad}. \end{split}$$

The likelihood contours in the $\phi_s - \Delta \Gamma_s$ plane for the combination are shown in Figure 3 (right). They agree with the SM predictions.



Figure 3: Likelihood contours in the $\phi_s - \Delta \Gamma_s$ plane for individual results from 7 TeV and 8 TeV data (left) and a final statistical combination of the results from 7 TeV and 8 TeV data (right). [4]

3. Study of the rare decays of B_d and B_s into muon pairs

Indirect searches for physics beyond the SM include decays mediated by flavour-changing neutral currents that are highly suppressed in the SM. The branching fractions of rare decays $B_{(s)} \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ are of particular interest because of the additional helicity suppression.

The $B_{(s)} \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ branching fractions are measured as a relative branching ratio with a reference decay $B^{\pm} \rightarrow J/\psi$ ($\rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$) K^{\pm} in order to minimise systematic uncertainties [6]. A dimuon trigger was used to select events and the 2011 sample contains events with two muons with $p_T >$ 4 GeV. Due to higher pile-up during the 2012 data taking, this trigger was prescaled in the beginning of each run so a tighter selection was applied: $p_T > 6$ GeV or $|\eta| < 1.05$ for one of the muons. Additional loose cut on dimuon invariant mass was applied at the HLT level to select events in the $B_{(s)}$ or J/ψ mass window. After offline reconstruction, a preselection is made requiring muons with $p_T > 4$ GeV, good quality of tracks and reconstructed vertices and minimal numbers of hits in the ID subdetectors. Similar cuts are applied to reference channel candidates with $p_T > 1$ GeV for kaons. This procedure selected 2.6×10^6 signal and 2.3×10^6 reference channel candidates in the signal regions (for the $B_{(s)}$ the signal region is defined as 5166 MeV $< m_{\mu^+\mu^-} < 5526$ MeV).

Three categories of background events are considered: the combinatorial background is studied in signal mass sidebands and it is found to be correctly described by the inclusive $b\bar{b} \rightarrow \mu\mu X$ MC sample. A boosted decision tree (BDT) based on 15 variables describing *B* meson vertex, muons forming the candidate and variables related to the rest of event, is used to reduce this component. The resulting signal efficiency of continuum-BDT is 54% with a reduction of combinatorial background by a factor of about 10³. The second source is formed by partially reconstructed $B \rightarrow \mu\mu X$ decays that are characterized by non-reconstructed particles and thus are accumulating in the low-mass sideband. Several topologies contribute to this component: same-side background from decay cascades $b \rightarrow c\mu \rightarrow s(d)\mu\mu$, same vertex background from *B* decays containing a



Figure 4: Dimuon mass distribution for the partially reconstructed background from simulation, together with the SM expectation for the $B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ signal (left), and mass distribution of the peaking background components from $B_s \rightarrow hh'$ (right). All distributions are normalised to the expected yield for the analysed integrated luminosity. [6]

muon pair $(B \to K^* \mu^+ \mu^-, B \to J/\psi X \to \mu \mu \mu X')$, B_c decays (e.g. $B_c \to J/\psi \mu \to \mu \mu \mu$) and semileptonic *B* decays where the final-state hadron is misidentified as muon (mainly $B \to \pi \mu \nu$, $B_s \to K \mu \nu$ or $\Lambda_b \to p \mu \nu$). Inclusive MC samples were generated and their dimuon mass distributions are shown in Figure 4 (left). Finally, the peaking background due to $B_{(s)}$ decays with two hadrons misidentified as muons contributes to the signal region, as can be seen in Figure 4 (right). After preselection the probability for a kaon (pion) to be misidentified as muon is 0.4% (0.2%), the probability for protons is negligible (< 0.01%). An additional BDT is tuned for 95% efficiency for the signal sample while it reduces the hadron misidentification by a factor of 0.37, resulting in misidentification probability of 0.09% for kaons and 0.04% for pions.

The candidates passing preselection are classified to three intervals in the continuum-BDT with equal efficiency for signal events and an unbinned maximum-likelihood fit of dimuon invariant mass is performed. Figure 5 shows the dimuon mass in three intervals of the continuum-BDT with results of the fit. Without applying any boundary on fitted values, the number of signal B_s and B_d candidates is $N_s = 16 \pm 12$ and $N_d = -11 \pm 9$. Restricting yields to be non-negative, the resulting values are $N_s = 11$ and $N_d = 0$.

The branching fractions for $B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ and $B_d \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ are extracted from data using a profile-likelihood fit. The value of relative hadronisation probability f_s/f_d used in normalisation terms is taken from the ATLAS measurement $f_s/f_d = 0.240 \pm 0.020$ [7], assuming $f_u/f_d = 1$.

Figure 6 shows the fit result as likelihood contours in plane of $\mathscr{B}(B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-) - \mathscr{B}(B_d \to \mu^+ \mu^-)$ allowing negative values of branching fractions. Using the CL_S method [8], upper limits are placed on the branching ratios

$$\mathscr{B}(B_d \to \mu^+ \mu^-) < 4.2 \times 10^{-10} 95\% \text{ CL}$$

 $\mathscr{B}(B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-) < 3.0 \times 10^{-9} 95\% \text{ CL}.$

A Neyman construction [9] is used to determine the 68.3% confidence interval for $\mathscr{B}(B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-)$ with pseudo-MC experiments as

$$\mathscr{B}(B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-) = (0.9 \, {}^{+1.1}_{-0.8}) \times 10^{-9}.$$



Figure 5: Dimuon invariant mass distributions in three intervals of continuum-BDT. Superimposed is the result of the maximum-likelihood fit, obtained imposing the boundary of non-negative signal yields. [6]

The $\mathscr{B}(B_d \to \mu^+ \mu^-)$ limit is compatible with predictions based on the SM and with the combined result of CMS and LHCb experiments. The upper limit on $\mathscr{B}(B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-)$ is lower than SM prediction and in better agreement with the measurement of CMS and LHCb.



Figure 6: Likelihood contours in plane of $\mathscr{B}(B_s \to \mu^+\mu^-) - \mathscr{B}(B_d \to \mu^+\mu^-)$ for intervals of $-2\Delta \ln(L)$ equal to 2.3, 6.2 and 11.8 of maximum likelihood allowing negative values of the branching fractions. The maximum within physical boundary is shown with error bars for 68.3% interval for $\mathscr{B}(B_s \to \mu^+\mu^-)$. Results of the CMS and LHCb combination and SM predictions are also shown. [6]

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4. Measurement of relative width difference of the $B_d - \overline{B_d}$ system

The width difference $\Delta\Gamma_d$ describes time evolution of the $B_d - \overline{B_d}$ system and the relative value $\Delta\Gamma_d/\Gamma_d$ is predicted to be $(0.42 \pm 0.08) \times 10^{-2}$ in the SM, while the experimental uncertainty is large, 1×10^{-2} [3]. The ATLAS analysis [10] is based on measurement of the ratio of the time evolution of $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi K_S$ and $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi K^*$ decays. The decay rates can be described as

$$\begin{split} B_d &\to J/\psi \, K_{\rm S} \, : \, \Gamma_d(t) \sim e^{-\Gamma_d t} (\cosh \frac{\Delta \Gamma_d t}{2} + \cos(2\beta) \sinh \frac{\Delta \Gamma_d t}{2} - A_{\rm P} \sin(2\beta) \sin(\Delta m_d t)) \\ B_d &\to J/\psi \, K^* \, : \, \Gamma_d(t) \sim e^{-\Gamma t} \cosh \frac{\Delta \Gamma_d t}{2} \, , \end{split}$$

where *t* is the proper decay time of B_d meson, β is the angle of the unitarity triangle of CKM matrix, A_P is the production asymmetry of B_d and $\overline{B_d}$ in pp collisions and Δm_d is the mass difference of physical mass eigenstates. In this analysis, the proper decay length of the B_d meson, $L_{prop}^B = ct$, is used in place of the proper decay time *t*. The width difference $\Delta \Gamma_d$ can be than obtained from fit to the ratio $R(L_{prop}^B)$ of the distributions of the number of reconstructed $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi K_S$ and $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi K^*$ decays which cancel many experimental uncertainties.

To select events for analysis, a set of dimuon trigger chains for $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ was used. During offline reconstruction, the J/ψ candidates are formed from pairs of oppositely charged muons with $p_T > 2.5$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$. The $K_S \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$ and $K^* \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ candidates are reconstructed from pairs of oppositely charged tracks with $p_T > 400$ MeV (or 800 MeV for kaon track from K^*). Additional criteria on number of ID tracks, fit quality of all vertices and projection of the distance between the J/ψ and K_S (K^*) vertices are applied. The masses of K_S and K^* candidate are required to be in (450-550) MeV and (850-950) MeV intervals. No particle identification is used for the reconstruction of the K^* . Therefore each combination of mass hypotheses is assigned to the hadron tracks and the combination with smaller deviation from the nominal K^* mass is used.

The total number of $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi K_S$ decays extracted from fit is 28170 ± 250 for the 2011 dataset and 110830 ± 520 for the 2012 dataset. For $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi K^*$ decays, the corresponding values are 129200 ± 900 and 555800 ± 1900 candidates, respectively. Figure 7 shows example of the fitted mass distributions for decay length bin (0-0.3) mm.



Figure 7: The invariant mass distributions of the $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi$ K_S candidates (left) and $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi$ K^{*} candidates (right) for the 2012 data sample for $0.0 < L_{\text{prop}}^B < 0.3$ mm. [10]

The production asymmetry A_P of the B_d mesons can be obtained from the time-dependent charge asymmetry of the flavour-specific $B_d \rightarrow J/\psi K^*$ and it's anti-decay. In addition to the oscillations, the differences in reconstruction of positive and negative particle tracks introduces a detector-related asymmetry A_{det} (mainly from a different interaction cross-section of charged kaons with the ID material). Asymmetries are further diluted by misidentification of pion and kaon from the K^* . The detector and production asymmetries are measured to be

$$A_{\text{det}} = (1.33 \pm 0.24 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.30 \text{ (syst.)}) \times 10^{-2}$$

$$A_{\text{prod}} = (0.25 \pm 0.48 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (syst.)}) \times 10^{-2}.$$



Figure 8: Efficiency-corrected ratio of the observed decay length distributions, $R_{\text{corr}}(L_{\text{prop}}^B)$ for the 2011 (left) and the 2012 (right) datasets. The normalisation of the two datasets is arbitrary. [10]

Finally, the ratio of observed events is corrected for efficiency and the resulting distribution is fitted in bins of L_{prop}^B separately for the 2011 and the 2012 samples. The results of the fit are shown in Figure 8 and the fitted values are

$$\Delta\Gamma_d/\Gamma_d = (-2.8 \pm 2.2 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 1.7 \text{ (syst.)}) \times 10^{-2} \text{ (7 TeV)}$$

$$\Delta\Gamma_d/\Gamma_d = (0.8 \pm 1.3 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.8 \text{ (syst.)}) \times 10^{-2} \text{ (8 TeV)}$$

$$\Delta\Gamma_d/\Gamma_d = (-0.1 \pm 1.1 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.9 \text{ (syst.)}) \times 10^{-2} \text{ (combined)},$$

where the combination is done using χ^2 method. It is currently the most precise measurement of this quantity. It agrees well with the SM prediction and it is consistent with measurements done by other experiments.

5. Conclusions

Analyses of rare *B*-hadron decays using dataset collected during Run 1 are presented. No deviations from the Standard model predictios are found and the results are consistent with measurements done by other experiments.

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