

Light Quark Spectroscopy at BESIII

Fang Liu^{*†}

Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

E-mail: liufang@mail.ihep.ac.cn

The BESIII experiment at the Beijing Electron and Positron Collider is successfully operating since 2008 and has collected large data samples in the tau-mass region, including the world's largest data samples of J/ψ , $\psi(3686)$, $\psi(3770)$ and $\psi(4040)$ decays. In particular J/ψ and $\psi(3686)$ decays provides a rich and clean environment to study light quark spectroscopy. Many latest experimental searches on the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold enhancement and $X(1835)$ have been performed by BESIII Collaboration with a high statistical events and provides valuable information that helps to clarify the nature of the states around 1.8 GeV. A Partial Wave Analysis (PWA) of the system $\pi^0\pi^0$ is shown with a focus on the parametrization of the the $\pi\pi$ scattering amplitude. A PWA of the decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\phi\phi$ shows that the intermediate states in the $\phi\phi$ invariant mass are dominantly 0^{-+} states, in which the $\eta(2225)$ is confirmed. In this presentation recent results of the light quark spectroscopy will be highlighted.

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^{*}Speaker.

[†]on behalf of BESIII Collaboration

1. Introduction

Glueballs and other resonances with large gluonic components are predicted as bound states by QCD. The lightest (scalar) glueballs is estimated to have a mass in the range from 1 to 2 GeV/c²; pseudoscalar and tensor glueballs are expected at higher masses. Radiative decays of the charmonium provide a glueon rich environment and are therefore regarded as one of the most promising hunting grounds for glueballs and hybrids.

BESIII (Beijing Spectrometer) is a general purpose 4 π detector at the upgraded BEPCII (Beijing Electron and Positron Collider) that operated in the τ -charm threshold energy region [1]. Since 2009, it has collected the world's largest samples of J/ψ , $\psi(3686)$, $\psi(3770)$ and $\psi(4040)$ decays. More recently, data were taken in the energy region above 4 GeV, where energies up to about 4.6 GeV are accessible. These data are being used to make a variety of interesting and unique studies of light hadron spectroscopy, charmonium spectroscopy, high statistic measurements of charmonium decays and D meson decays.

2. Light Quark Spectroscopy

2.1 $p\bar{p}$ Mass threshold enhancement and $X(1835)$

An anomalously strong $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold enhancement was first observed by the BESII experiment in the radiative decay process $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma p\bar{p}$ [2] and was recently confirmed by the BESIII and CLEO-c [3] experiments. Curiously, no apparent corresponding structures were seen in near-threshold $p\bar{p}$ cross section measurements, in B -meson decays [4], in radiative ψ' or $\Upsilon \rightarrow \gamma p\bar{p}$ decays [5]. These non-observations disfavor the mass-threshold enhancement attribution to the effects of $p\bar{p}$ final state interactions (FSI) [6, 7, 8].

A number of theoretical speculations have been proposed to interpret the nature of this structure [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]. Among them, one intriguing suggestion is that it is due to a $p\bar{p}$ bound state, sometimes called baryonium [12], an object with a long history and the subject of many experimental searches [13]. The observation of the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold enhancement also stimulated many experimental analyses on BESIII experiment.

The Partial Wave Analysis (PWA) of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma p\bar{p}$ and $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma p\bar{p}$ decays are performed using 225 Million J/ψ and 106 Million ψ' events [14]. In J/ψ radiative decays, the events with $M_{p\bar{p}} < 2.2\text{GeV}/c^2$ are composed of significant $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold enhancement $X(p\bar{p})$, $f_2(1920)$ and $f_0(2100)$ and non-resonant 0^{++} phase space, as shown in PWA results of Fig. 1. The near-threshold enhancement $X(p\bar{p})$ is determined to be a 0^{-+} state. With the inclusion of Julich-FSI effects, the mass, width and product branching fraction (BR) for the $X(p\bar{p})$ are measured to be: $M = 1832_{-5}^{+19}$ (stat) $_{-17}^{+18}$ (syst) ± 19 (model) MeV/c², $\Gamma = 13 \pm 39$ (stat) $_{-13}^{+10}$ (syst) ± 4 (model) MeV/c² (a total width of $\Gamma < 76$ MeV/c² at the 90% C.L) and $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X) \times \mathcal{B}(X \rightarrow p\bar{p}) = (9.0_{-1.1}^{+0.4}(\text{stat})_{-5.0}^{+1.5}(\text{syst}) \pm 2.3(\text{model})) \times 10^{-5}$, respectively. The product BR for $X(p\bar{p})$ in ψ' decay is first measured to be $\mathcal{B}(\psi' \rightarrow \gamma X) \times \mathcal{B}(X \rightarrow p\bar{p}) = (4.57 \pm 0.36$ (stat) $_{-4.07}^{+1.23}$ (syst) ± 1.28 (model)) $\times 10^{-6}$ and the ratio of product branching fractions for the $X(p\bar{p})$ between J/ψ and ψ' radiative decays is $R = (5.08_{-0.45}^{+0.71}$ (stat) $_{-3.58}^{+0.67}$ (syst) ± 0.12 (model))%.

Study of the hadronic decays $J/\psi \rightarrow \omega p\bar{p}$ and $\phi p\bar{p}$ may also shed further light on the nature of $X(p\bar{p})$. The decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \omega p\bar{p}$ has been studied [15], using 225.3×10^6 J/ψ events accumulated

at BESIII in 2009. No significant enhancement $X(p\bar{p})$ near the $p\bar{p}$ invariant-mass threshold is observed as shown in Fig. 2. The upper limit of the branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \omega X(p\bar{p}) \rightarrow \omega p\bar{p})$ is determined to be 3.9×10^{-6} at the 95% confidence level, which is suppressed with one order of magnitude comparing to the branching fraction of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(p\bar{p}) \rightarrow \gamma p\bar{p}$. Another hadronic decay $J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{p}\phi$ is studied [16] via two decay modes, $\phi \rightarrow K_S K_L$ and $\phi \rightarrow K^+ K^-$, using a data sample of 1.31×10^9 J/ψ events accumulated with the BESIII detector in 2009 and 2012. No evident enhancement $X(p\bar{p})$ near the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold, is observed as shown in Fig. 3, and the upper limit on the branching fraction of $J/\psi \rightarrow X(p\bar{p})\phi \rightarrow p\bar{p}\phi$ is determined to be $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow X(p\bar{p})\phi \rightarrow p\bar{p}\phi) < 2.1 \times 10^{-7}$ at the 90% confidence level, which is much suppressed with two order of magnitude comparing to that of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(p\bar{p}) \rightarrow \gamma p\bar{p}$.

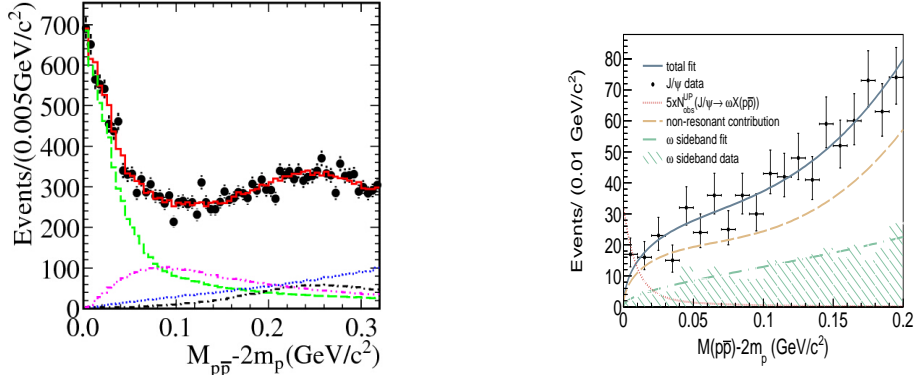


Figure 1: Comparisons of the $p\bar{p}$ invariant mass between data and PWA fit projection. The black dots with error bars are data, the solid histograms show the PWA total projection, and the dashed, dotted, dash-dotted and dash-dot-dotted lines show the contributions of the $X(p\bar{p})$, 0^{++} phase space, $f_0(2100)$ and $f_2(1910)$, respectively. The dotted line is the shape of the signal which is consistent with zero. The hatched area is from the sideband region.

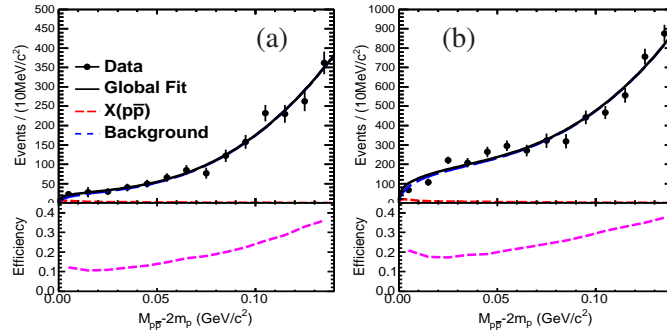


Figure 3: Distributions of $M_{p\bar{p}} - 2m_p$ and the fit results corresponding to the upper limit on the branching fraction at the 90% C.L., the dashed line at the bottom is the efficiency as a function of the $p\bar{p}$ mass, (a) for $\phi \rightarrow K_S^0 K_L^0$, (b) for $\phi \rightarrow K^+ K^-$.

The observation of the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold enhancement also stimulated an experimental analy-

sis of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays, in which a $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ resonance, the $X(1835)$, was first observed by the BESII experiment [17]. A high statistics data sample collected with BESIII in 2009 provides an opportunity to confirm the existence of the $X(1835)$ and look for possible related states that decay to $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$. The decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ is studied [18] combining two η' decay modes: $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\rho^0$. The $X(1835)$ in the $\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass as shown in Fig. 4 is confirmed with a statistical significance that is larger than 20σ . In addition, in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ invariant mass spectrum, the $X(2120)$ and the $X(2370)$, are observed with statistical significances larger than 7.2σ and 6.4σ , respectively. For the $X(1835)$, the angular distribution of the radiative photon is consistent with expectations for a pseudoscalar, but other spin-parity assignment is not excluded. Then systematic studies of $X(1835)$ are ongoing at BESIII to understand its nature, measurement of its J^{PC} and search for new decays modes is very crucial.

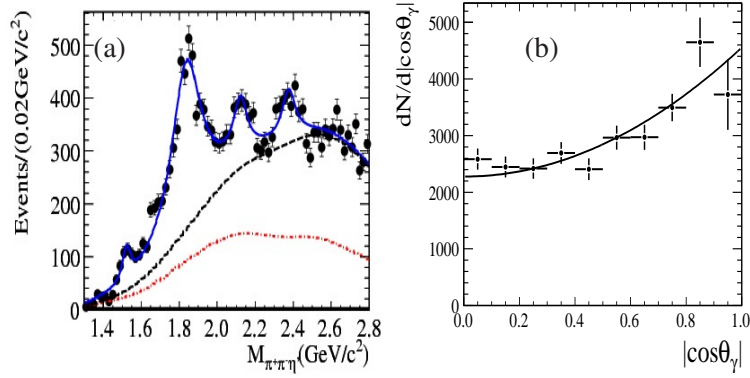


Figure 4: The $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ mass spectrum fitting with four resonances (a) and acceptance-corrected $|\cos\theta_\gamma|$ distribution of the $X(1835)$ (b). For (a), the dash-dot line is contributions of non- η' events and the $\pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ background for two η' decay modes and the dash line is contributions of the total background and non-resonant $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ process.

We study a new decay mode $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$ [19] using data sample of $1.31 \times 10^9 J/\psi$ events collected with the BESIII detector. Figure 5 (a) shows the scatter plot of the invariant mass of $K_S^0 K_S^0$ versus $K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$, indicating the structure around $1.85 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ is strong correlated with $f_0(980)$. A partial wave analysis of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$ has been performed in the mass range $M_{K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta} < 2.8 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ after requiring $M_{K_S^0 K_S^0} < 1.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. Figures 5 (b) and (c) are the invariant mass distribution of $K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$ and $K_S^0 K_S^0$. Overlaid on the data are the PWA fit projections, as well as the individual contributions from each component. The PWA fit requires a contribution from $X(1835) \rightarrow \gamma K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$ with a statistical significance larger than 12.9σ , whether $X(1835) \rightarrow \gamma K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$ is dominated by $f_0(980)$ production. The spin parity of the $X(1835)$ is determined to be 0^{-+} . The mass and width of the $X(1835)$ are measured to be $1844 \pm 9(\text{stat})_{-25}^{+16}(\text{syst}) \text{ MeV}$ and $192_{-17}^{+20}(\text{stat})_{-43}^{+62}(\text{syst}) \text{ MeV}$, respectively. The corresponding product branching fraction is measured to be $(3.31_{-0.30}^{+0.33}(\text{stat})_{-1.29}^{+1.96}(\text{syst})) \times 10^{-5}$. The mass and width of the $X(1835)$ are consistent with the values obtained from the decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ [18]. These results are all first-times measurements and provide important information to further understand the nature of the $X(1835)$. Another 0^{-+} state, the $X(1560)$, is also observed in data with a statistical significance larger than 8.9σ . The mass and width of the $X(1560)$ are consistent with those of the $\eta(1405)$ and $\eta(1475)$ as given in Ref. [20] within 2.0σ and 1.4σ , respectively.

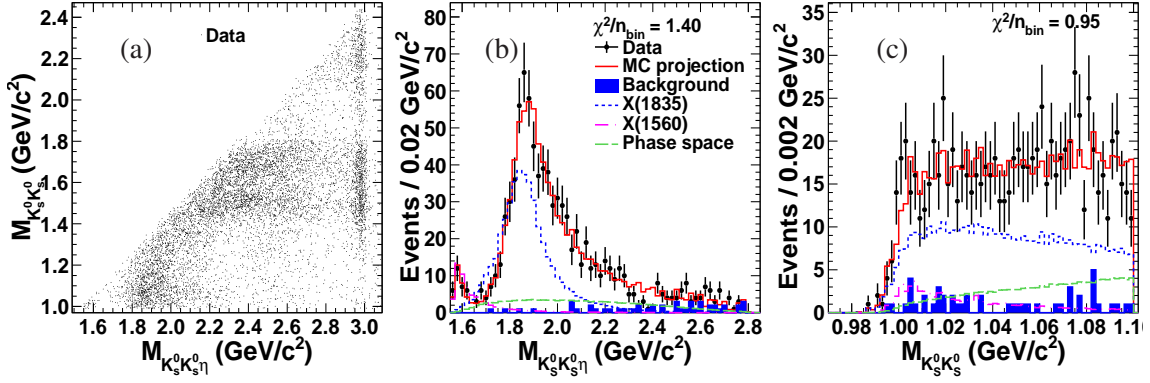


Figure 5: The scatter plot of $M_{K_S^0 K_S^0}$ versus $M_{K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta}$; Comparisons between data and PWA fit projections. (b), and (c) are the invariant mass distributions of $M_{K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta}$ and $M_{K_S^0 K_S^0}$. The dots with error bars are data, the solid histograms are the PWA total projections, the shaded histograms are the non- η backgrounds estimated by the η sideband, and the short-dashed, dash-dotted, and long-dashed histograms show the contributions of $X(1835)$, $X(1560)$, and the non-resonant component, respectively.

The above experimental results stimulate many various theoretical interpretations on the nature of the $X(1835)$ and $X(p\bar{p})$ [9, 10, 11, 21, 22], a particularly intriguing one suggests that the two structures originate from a $p\bar{p}$ bound state [23, 24, 25, 26, 27]. If the $X(1835)$ is really a $p\bar{p}$ bound state, it should have a strong coupling to $0^- p\bar{p}$ systems, in which case the line shape of $X(1835)$ at the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold would be affected by the opening of the $X(1835) \rightarrow p\bar{p}$ decay mode. A study of the $\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ line shape of $X(1835)$ with high statistical precision therefore provides valuable information that helps clarify the nature of the $X(1835)$ and $X(p\bar{p})$. We use a total sample of $1.09 \times 10^9 J/\psi$ decay events [28] accumulated by the BESIII experiment in 2012, and report the observation of a significant abrupt change in slope of the $X(1835) \rightarrow \eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ line shape at the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold in a larger sample of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ events [29] collected in the BESIII detector at the BEPCII e^+e^- storage ring. The η' is also reconstructed in its two major decay modes: $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \eta\pi^+\pi^-$ ($\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$). Figure 6 shows the $\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectra after all selection criteria, where peaks corresponding to the $X(1835)$, $X(2120)$, $X(2370)$, η_c , and a structure near 2.6 GeV that has not been seen before are evident for both η' decays. Thanks to the high statistical precision, an abrupt change in slope of the $X(1835)$ line shape at the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold is evident in both event samples.

We perform simultaneous fits to the $\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass distributions between 1.3 GeV and 2.25 GeV for both selected event samples, and the significant distortion of the $\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ line shape near the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold cannot be accommodated by an ordinary Breit-Wigner resonance function as shown in Fig. 7 (a). Two typical models for such a line shape are used to fit the data. The first model assumes the state around 1.85 GeV couples with $p\bar{p}$ and the distortion reflects the opening of the $p\bar{p}$ decay channel. The fit result for this model, as shown in Fig. 7 (b), yields a strong coupling between the broad structure and the $p\bar{p}$ of $\frac{g_{p\bar{p}}^2}{g_0^2} = 2.31 \pm 0.37^{+0.83}_{-0.60}$, with a statistical significance larger than 7σ for being non-zero. The pole nearest to the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold of this state is located at $M_{\text{pole}} = 1909.5 \pm 15.9(\text{stat})_{-27.5}^{+9.4}(\text{syst})$ MeV and $\Gamma_{\text{pole}} = 273.5 \pm 21.4(\text{stat})_{-64.0}^{+6.1}(\text{syst})$ MeV. The second model assumes the distortion reflects interference between the $X(1835)$ and an-

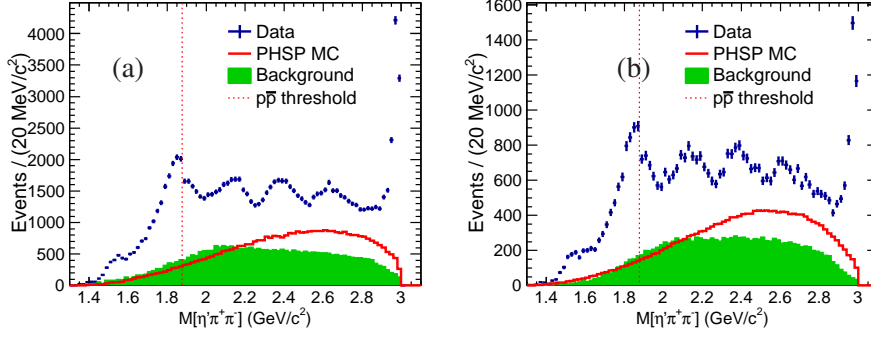


Figure 6: The $\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectra with the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ channel (a) and $\eta' \rightarrow \eta(\rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\pi^+\pi^-$ channel (b). In both plots, the dots with error bars are data, the shaded histograms are the background, the solid histograms are phase space (PHSP) MC events of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ (arbitrary normalization), the dotted vertical line shows the position of $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold.

other resonance with mass close to the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold. A fit with this model uses a coherent sum of two interfering Breit-Wigner amplitudes to describe the $\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ mass spectrum around 1.85 GeV. This fit, as shown in Fig. 7 (c), yields a narrow resonance below the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold with $M = 1870.2 \pm 2.2(\text{stat})_{-0.7}^{+2.3}(\text{syst})$ MeV and $\Gamma = 13.0 \pm 6.1(\text{stat})_{-3.8}^{+2.1}(\text{syst})$ MeV, with a statistical significance larger than 7σ . With current data, both models fit the data well with fit qualities, and both suggest the existence of a state, either a broad state with strong couplings to $p\bar{p}$, or a narrow state just below the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold. For the broad state above the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold, its strong couplings to $p\bar{p}$ suggests the existence of a $p\bar{p}$ molecule-like state. For the narrow state just below $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold, its very narrow width suggests that it be an unconventional meson, most likely a $p\bar{p}$ bound state. So both fits support the existence of a $p\bar{p}$ molecule-like or bound state. With current statistics, more sophisticated models such as a mixture of above two models cannot be ruled out. In order to elucidate further the nature of the states around 1.85 GeV, more data are needed to further study $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ process. Also, line shapes for other decay modes should be studied near the $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold, including further studies of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma p\bar{p}$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$.

2.2 Amplitude analysis of the $\pi^0\pi^0$ system produced in radiative J/ψ decay

A mass independent amplitude analysis of the $\pi^0\pi^0$ system in radiative decays is performed [30]. This analysis uses the world's largest sample of its type, collected with the BESIII detector, to extract a piecewise function that describes the scalar and tensor $\pi\pi$ amplitudes in this decay. While the analysis strategy employed to obtain results has complications, namely ambiguous solutions, a large number of parameters, and potential bias in subsequent analysis from non-Gaussian effects, it minimizes systematic bias arising from assumptions about $\pi\pi$ dynamics, and consequently, permits the developments of dynamical models or parameterizations for the data.

The intensities and phase differences for the amplitudes in the fit are presented as a function of $M_{\pi^0\pi^0}$ in Ref. [30]. Additionally, in order to facilitate the development of models, the intensities and phases of each bin of $M_{\pi^0\pi^0}$ are given in supplemental materials. These results may be combined with those of similar reactions for a more comprehensive study of the light scalar meson spectrum.

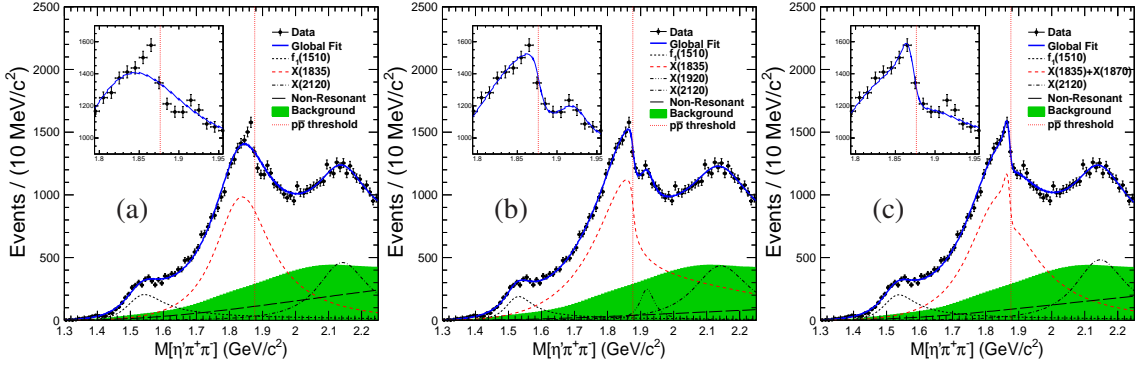


Figure 7: Fit results with simple Breit-Wigner formulae (a), using Flatté formula (b) and using a coherent sum of two Breit-Wigner amplitudes (c), respectively. The dashed dotted vertical line shows the position of $p\bar{p}$ mass threshold, the dots with error bars are data, the solid curves are total fit results, the short-dashed curves the $f_1(1510)$, the dash-dot curves the $X(2120)$, and the long-dashed curves are the non-resonant $\eta'\pi^+\pi^-$ fit results; the shaded histograms are background events. The dashed curves are the $X(1835)$, the state around 1.85 GeV and the sum of $X(1835)$ and $X(1870)$ for (a) (b) and (c) respectively. The inset shows the data and the global fit between 1.8 GeV and 1.95 GeV.

Finally, the branching fraction of radiative J/ψ decays to $\pi^0\pi^0$ is measured to be $(1.15 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-3}$, where the error is systematic only and the statistical error is negligible. This is the first measurement of this branching fraction.

2.3 Partial Wave Analysis of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\phi\phi$

The low lying pseudoscalar glueball is predicted to be around $2.3 - 2.6 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ by Lattice QCD [31]. Aside from the $\eta(2225)$, very little is known in the pseudoscalar sector above $2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. A partial wave analysis of the decay of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\phi\phi$, as shown in Fig. 8, is performed [32] in order to study the intermediate states. The most remarkable feature of the PWA results is that 0^{-+} states are dominant. The existence of the $\eta(2225)$ is confirmed and two additional pseudoscalar states, $\eta(2100)$ with a mass of $230^{+64+77}_{-35-26} \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and a width $250^{+36+187}_{-30-164} \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $X(2500)$ with a mass $2470^{+15+63}_{-19-23} \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and a width $230^{+64+53}_{-35-33} \text{ MeV}/c^2$, are obtained. The new experimental results are helpful for mapping out pseudoscalar excitations and search for a 0^{-+} glueball. The three tensors $f_2(2100)$, $f_2(2300)$ and $f_2(2340)$ observing $\pi^- p \rightarrow \phi\phi n$ [33] are also observed in $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\phi\phi$. Recently, the production rate of the pure gauge tensor glueball in J/ψ radiative decays has been predicted by Lattice QCD [34], which is compatible with the large production rate of the $f_2(2340)$ in $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\phi\phi$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta\eta$ [35].

3. Summary

With the world's largest sample of J/ψ , $\psi(3686)$, $\psi(3770)$ and $Y(4040)$. From e^+e^- production, the BESIII experiment made a significant contribution to the study of the light quark spectroscopy. BESIII will continue to run 6 – 8 years. Complementary to other experiment, with various production mechanisms, BESIII will give more interesting results and continue shedding light on the nature of hadrons.

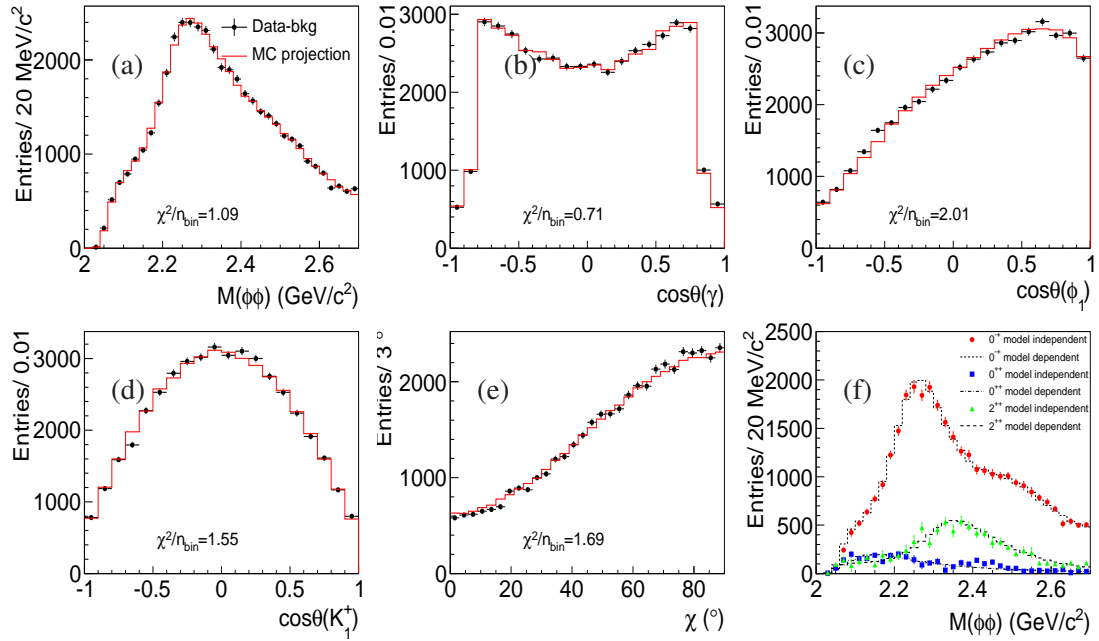


Figure 8: Superposition of data and the PWA fit projections for: (a) invariant mass distributions of $\phi\phi$; (b) $\cos\theta$ of γ in the J/ψ rest frame; (c) $\cos\theta$ of ϕ_1 in the X rest frame; (d) $\cos\theta$ of K_1^+ in the ϕ_1 rest frame; (e) the azimuthal angle between the normals to the two decay planes of ϕ in the X rest frame. Black dots with error bars are data with background events subtracted and the solid red lines are projections of the model-dependent fit. (f) Intensities of individual J^{PC} components. The red dots, blue boxes and green triangles with error bars are the intensities of $J^{PC} = 0^{-+}, 0^{++}$ and 2^{++} , respectively, from the model-independent fit in each bin. The short-dashed, dash-dotted and long-dashed histograms show the coherent superpositions of the BW resonances with $J^{PC} = 0^{-+}, 0^{++}$ and 2^{++} , respectively, from the model-dependent fit.

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