

Measurement of the CKM angle γ at LHCb

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The CKM angle γ is the least well known angle of the unitarity triangle, and the only one easily accessible at tree level. The ultimate goal of degree level precision requires exploitation of all possible channels and techniques. Presented here are some of the latest results on the CKM angle γ from the LHCb experiment. Included are measurements of CP violation using the $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm$ decays and a variety of different D decay modes, and a measurement γ from $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$ where the D decays to either $K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$ or $K_S^0 K^+ K^-$. A combination of these and other γ -related measurements is also presented.

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1. Introduction

Of the three angles that make up the CKM unitarity triangle, the least well known remains γ [1]. A precise measurement of this quantity is highly desirable. Assuming the absence of new physics within tree-level decays, the direct measurement of γ forms a Standard Model benchmark. Through the use of all other CKM observables an indirect determination of γ can be made which is driven by the measurement of the angle β and the ratio of $\Delta(m_s)/\Delta(m_d)$, both of which are loop-level processes and hence their values could be altered by new physics particles participating within the virtual loops [2]. The CKMfitter group determines that the combination of all direct measurements of $\gamma = (73.2^{+6.3}_{-7.0})^\circ$, while an indirect determination that excludes the direct measurements leads to $\gamma = (66.85^{+0.94}_{-3.44})^\circ$ [1]. It is clear that a reduction in the uncertainty associated with the direct measurements is required to enable the chance to observe a discrepancy between these two values of γ .

The results presented in these proceedings demonstrate some of the variety in the decay modes and techniques that can be used to determine γ at LHCb. The results are based on the full Run-1 dataset which was collected in 2011 and 2012, corresponding to 3 fb^{-1} . The decay modes useful for studies of the CKM angle γ are fully hadronic and therefore benefit from a number of features of the LHCb experiment including the low-level hadronic trigger, the excellent vertex and momentum resolution and the good separation between pions and kaons due to the RICH detectors.

2. CP violation in $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm$ decays

Sensitivity to γ arises from the interference of $b \rightarrow c$ and $b \rightarrow u$ quark transitions. The most used decays are $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+$ (favoured) and $B^+ \rightarrow D^0 K^+$ (suppressed)¹. For interference to occur, the \bar{D}^0 and D^0 must decay to a final state accessible to both. The overall decay in this situation is referred to as $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ where D represents a superposition of D^0 and \bar{D}^0 . A number of D modes can be used. The asymmetry in the observed number of B^- and B^+ decays in corresponding final states is related to three physics parameters that are common across all $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ analyses. They are r_B , the ratio of the suppressed and favoured B decay amplitudes, δ_B the strong-phase difference between the suppressed and favoured B decay amplitudes, and γ , the parameter of primary interest. Depending on the D decay, further hadronic parameters relating to the decay of the D also feature in the equations that relate the observed rates of decay to γ .

A very sensitive D decay mode is $D^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$ which is doubly-Cabibbo-suppressed. The use of this decay mode allows the two interfering amplitudes to be of similar size, which enhances the sensitivity to γ , and is commonly referred to as an ‘ADS’ decay mode [3] after the theorists who first proposed it. The asymmetry between B^- and B^+ is related to γ and other parameters via

$$\frac{\Gamma(B^-) - \Gamma(B^+)}{\Gamma(B^-) + \Gamma(B^+)} = \frac{2r_B r_D \sin(\delta_B + \delta_D) \sin(\gamma)}{r_B^2 + r_D^2 + 2r_B r_D \cos(\delta_B + \delta_D) \cos(\gamma)} \quad (2.1)$$

where r_D and δ_D are analogous parameters for the D decay and are measured through studies of D mixing. The invariant mass distribution for this decay is shown in Fig. 1. The total signal yield is 550 events, There is a clear enhancement of the yield of the B^+ decay in comparison to the B^-

¹Charge conjugation is implied throughout

decay. This decay has only been observed at LHCb, and the CP violation is observed at a level of 8σ [4].

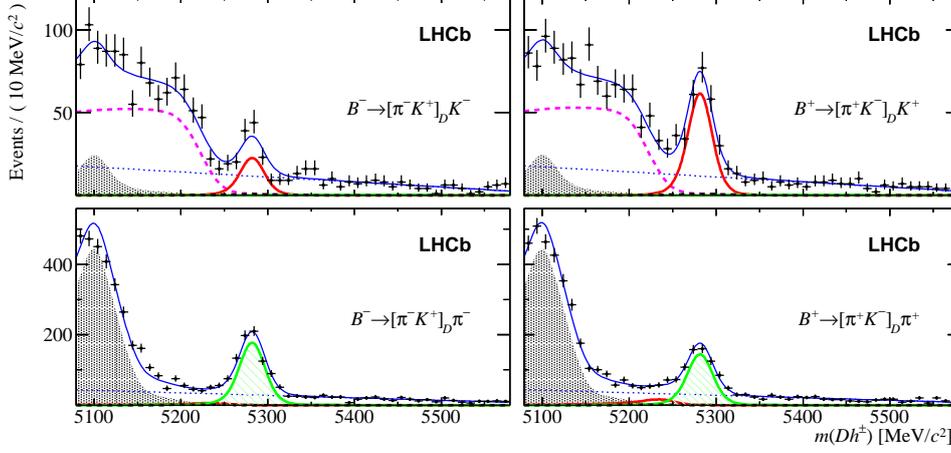


Figure 1: Invariant mass distributions of selected $B^\pm \rightarrow [K^\mp \pi^\pm]_D h^\pm$ candidates, separated by charge, with B^- (B^+) candidates on the left (right). The top plots contain the $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm$ candidate sample. The bottom row contains the $B^\pm \rightarrow D\pi^\pm$ sample. The red (thick, open) and green (hatched-area) curves represent the $B \rightarrow DK$ and $B \rightarrow D\pi$ signals. The shaded part indicates partially reconstructed decays, the dotted line, where visible, shows the combinatorial component, and the total PDF is drawn as a thin blue line.

Another family of D decay modes that can be used are self-conjugate decays such as $D \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$. These are referred to as quasi-GLW [5] decay modes (where the quasi is dropped in the case of a CP eigenstate [6]). In this case the asymmetry is related to

$$\frac{\Gamma(B^-) - \Gamma(B^+)}{\Gamma(B^-) + \Gamma(B^+)} = \frac{2r_B(2F_+ - 1)\sin(\delta_B)\sin(\gamma)}{1 + r_B^2 + 2r_B(2F_+ - 1)\cos(\delta_B)\cos(\gamma)} \quad (2.2)$$

where F_+ is a hadronic parameter of the D decay which represents the CP -even content of the decay. For a CP even (odd) eigenstate F_+ would be 1 (0). In the case of $D \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$, F_+ has been measured using data from the CLEO-c and is determined to be 0.737 ± 0.028 [7]. The asymmetry is shown in Fig 2. A small hint of asymmetry is seen and this is the first time this decay mode has been used to provide sensitivity to γ . This is only possible due to the external information on F_+ . In both Figs. 1 and 2 the invariant mass distributions for the related decay in $B^\pm \rightarrow D\pi^\pm$ are also shown. CP violation effects are expected to be less noticeable here given that the ratio of B decay amplitudes, r_B^π , is expected to be about an order of magnitude smaller than $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm$. Nonetheless the combination of asymmetries in $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ decays using the decay modes $D^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^-, \pi^+ \pi^-, K^+ \pi^-, \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ and $K^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ leads to evidence of CP violation at the level of 3.9σ .

3. CP violation in the decay $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$

Studies of γ are not restricted to $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$. The $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$ decay is expected to be promising as in this case the ratio of amplitudes of the favoured and suppressed B decays, r_{B^0} is expected

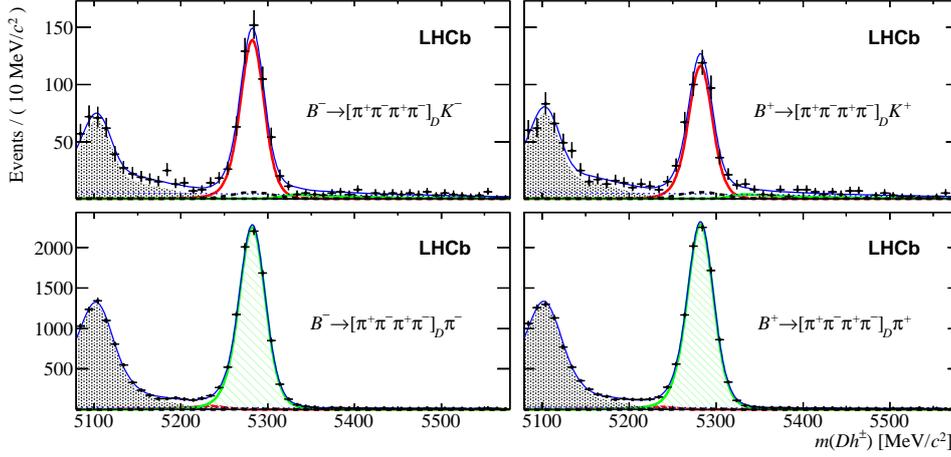


Figure 2: Invariant mass distributions of selected $B^\pm \rightarrow [\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-]_D h^\pm$ candidates, separated by charge, with B^- (B^+) candidates on the left (right). The top plots contain the $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm$ candidate sample. The bottom row contains the $B^\pm \rightarrow D\pi^\pm$ sample. The red (thick, open) and green (hatched-area) curves represent the $B \rightarrow DK$ and $B \rightarrow D\pi$ signals. The shaded part indicates partially reconstructed decays, the dotted line, where visible, shows the combinatorial component, and the total PDF is drawn as a thin blue line.

to be around 0.3, and hence the enhanced interference will compensate for the lower branching fraction of this decay in comparison to $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm$. Despite this being a neutral B meson there is no need for time dependence or flavour tagging as the charge of the Kaon from the $K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ tags the flavour of the B at the point of decay. The D decay modes used in a recent analysis are $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$ and $D \rightarrow K_S^0 K^+ K^-$ (referred to as ‘GGSZ’ modes [9]). While these are self-conjugate modes it is not prudent to analyse them in a quasi-GLW style way since $F_+ \sim 0.5$. Hence there is expected to be very little asymmetry in the overall B^0 and \bar{B}^0 yields. However in this case the rich resonance structure of the three-body D decay can be harnessed to provide the sensitivity to γ . In this analysis the Dalitz plot is divided into regions. The signal yield in each Dalitz plot bin is related to γ , r_{B^0} , δ_{B^0} and the charm hadronic and strong-phase parameters relating to the average D decay amplitudes in those bins. The charm hadronic and strong-phase parameters are determined from an analysis using CLEO-c data that exploits the quantum correlation in $\psi(3770) \rightarrow DD$ decays, and therefore has direct access to the strong-phases of the decay [8]. This is an advantage as the subsequent measurement of γ has well-defined uncertainties and is not subject to uncertainties from phases determined in amplitude models of the D decay which can be difficult to assign. The interference in this $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$ is rich, and allows for a standalone determination of $\gamma = (71 \pm 20)^\circ$ [10] with a further solution at $(71 + 180)^\circ$. The 1 and 2 σ contours of γ vs r_{B^0} and γ vs δ_{B^0} are depicted in Fig. 3. A model-dependent analysis has also been performed at LHCb where the hadronic parameters of the D decay are determined from an amplitude analysis. The results of the two analyses are compatible [11].

4. Combination of all analyses

As seen in Eqs 2.1 and 2.2 the relation between the laboratory observables and the physics

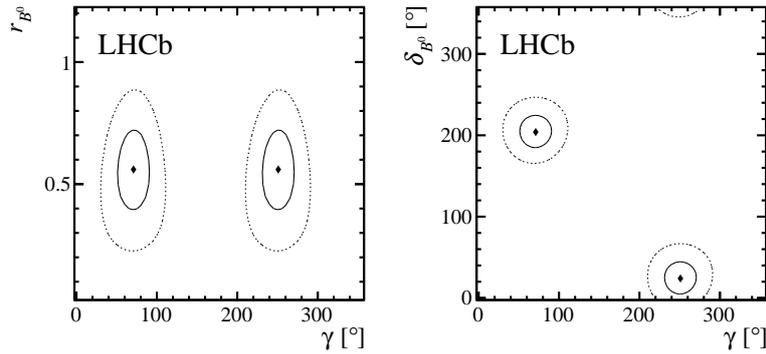


Figure 3: The three-dimensional confidence volumes projected onto the (γ, r_{B^0}) and (γ, δ_{B^0}) planes. The confidence levels correspond to 68.3% and 95.5% confidence levels when projected onto one dimension and are denoted by solid and dotted contours, respectively. The diamonds mark the central values.

parameter of interest can contain complex trigonometrical relations which can lead to multiple solutions. The interplay between different $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm$ analyses is shown in Fig 4. The ADS and (quasi)-GLW decay modes lead to 4 separate solutions with small uncertainty (blue, beige). Conversely the ‘GGSZ’ decay mode analysis leads to a single solution albeit with larger uncertainty (pink). Hence the power is in the combination (red). The B modes included are $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm$, $B^\pm \rightarrow DK^\pm \pi^\pm \pi^\mp$, $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$, $B^0 \rightarrow DK^+ \pi^-$, and $B_s \rightarrow D_s K$ with a range of subsequent D decays. In total there are 71 observables and 32 parameters involved with a number of external inputs to describe some of the D decays. Frequentist and Bayesian combinations are performed with the results in good agreement. The combination of these results yields $\gamma = (70.9_{-8.5}^{+7.1})^\circ$ [12] and the contribution from different B decays is shown in Fig 4². This level of sensitivity meets the LHCb Run 1 target, is approximately a factor of two better than either of the B factory combinations and is 20% more precise than the previous LHCb combination from 2014.

5. Outlook

The LHCb experiment continues to analyse a wider variety of B and D decays to improve the precision on the CKM angle γ . Data from Run-2 is now being analysed and plans for the LHCb upgrade should allow for degree level precision within 15 years [13]. To probe for new physics it is evident that precision of the order of a degree will be required, and this remains one of the main goals of the LHCb experiment. The results from Run-1 have provided a significant improvement in our knowledge of the parameter γ and the LHCb experiment demonstrates that it remains on target to reach degree level precision with the data from the LHCb upgrade.

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²Since the conference these preliminary results and plots regarding the combination have been updated. Information can be found in LHCb-PAPER-2016-032, which will be submitted to JHEP in November 2016.

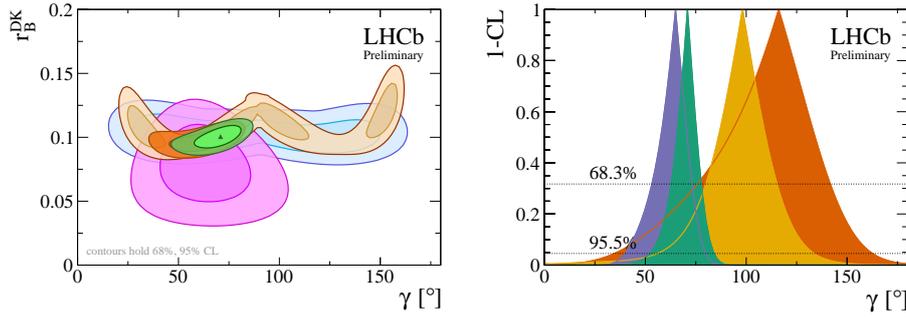


Figure 4: Left: Two-dimensional distributions of γ vs. r_B^{DK} for various sub-combinations. These are (blue) $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+, D \rightarrow h\pi\pi\pi/hh'\pi^0$, (beige) $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+, D \rightarrow hh$, (pink) $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+, D \rightarrow K_s^0 hh$, (red) all B^+ modes and (green) the full combination, where h is either a kaon or pion. Right: 1-CL plots for combinations split by the initial B meson flavour as follows: (orange) B_s^0 , (yellow) B^0 , (blue) B^+ and (green) the full combination.

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