

Measurement of the $B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$ branching fraction and photon energy spectrum using the recoil method

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We present a measurement of the branching fraction and photon-energy spectrum for the decay $B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$ using data from the *BABAR* experiment. The data sample corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 210 fb^{-1} , from which approximately 680 000 $B\bar{B}$ events are tagged by a fully reconstructed hadronic decay of one of the B mesons. In the decay of the second B meson, an isolated high-energy photon is identified. We measure $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma) = (3.66 \pm 0.85_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.60_{\text{sys}}) \times 10^{-4}$ for photon energies E_γ above 1.9 GeV in the B rest frame. From the measured spectrum we calculate the first and second moments for different minimum photon energies, which are used to extract the heavy-quark parameters m_b and μ_π^2 . In addition, measurements of the direct CP asymmetry and isospin asymmetry are presented.

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I. INTRODUCTION

We present measurements of the branching fraction and photon-energy spectrum of the rare radiative penguin decay $B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$ using $Y(4S) \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ events. We use a new technique where one of the B mesons (called the tag B) decays to hadrons and is fully reconstructed. This approach allows for the determination of the charge, flavor and momentum of both of the B mesons, and thus the photon spectrum can be determined in the rest frame of the signal B . The method results in an improved purity for the signal sample, allows separate measurements for charged and neutral B mesons and enables the measurement of the direct CP asymmetry A_{CP} . This approach is complementary to those used in previous studies [1–4] and incurs different systematic uncertainties.

In the standard model (SM), the decay $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ proceeds via a flavor-changing neutral current. The decay is sensitive to new physics through non-SM heavy particles entering at the loop level [5]. Recent next-to-next-to-leading-order calculations predict SM branching fractions in the range $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma) = (3.0 - 3.5) \times 10^{-4}$ for $E_\gamma > 1.6 \text{ GeV}$ with uncertainties that vary from 7% to 14% [6–8]. Here E_γ is the energy of the signal photon in the rest frame of the B meson, and the cutoff is chosen to avoid nonperturbative effects at lower energies. The current world average measured branching fraction is $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma) = (3.55 \pm 0.26) \times 10^{-4} (E_\gamma > 1.6 \text{ GeV})$ [9,10]. The moments of the photon-energy spectrum are sensitive to the heavy quark expansion parameters m_b and μ_π^2 , related to the mass and momentum of the b quark within the B meson [11]. Improved measurements of these parameters can be used to reduce the uncertainty in the CKM matrix elements $|V_{cb}|$ and $|V_{ub}|$ [9,10].

The measurements presented here are based on a sample of 232×10^6 $B\bar{B}$ pairs collected on the $Y(4S)$ resonance by the *BABAR* detector [12] at the PEP-II asymmetric-energy e^+e^- storage ring operating at SLAC, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 210 fb^{-1} . After reconstruction of the tag B , the remaining particles in the event are assigned to the second B (the signal B) and events containing a high-energy photon are selected. The signal process $B \rightarrow X \gamma$ at this stage is taken to mean events from either $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ or $b \rightarrow d \gamma$ decays; the small contribution from $b \rightarrow d \gamma$ is subtracted at the end of the analysis. The sample also

includes background from continuum (non- $B\bar{B}$) events and $B\bar{B}$ events in which the tag B is misreconstructed. These are subtracted by means of a fit to the beam-energy-substituted mass (defined below) of the tag B .

The remaining background events, where the photon candidate is not from the signal process (e.g., a photon from a π^0 or η decay), are subtracted using a Monte Carlo (MC) model based on EVTGEN [13] and GEANT4 [14]. The MC predictions are scaled to data in the low E_γ region, where the signal contribution is very small. This allows a reliable measurement for photon energies $E_\gamma > 1.9 \text{ GeV}$. Finally, to compare with other experiments and predictions, the measured rate is extrapolated using theoretical models to give the rate for $E_\gamma > 1.6 \text{ GeV}$.

This measurement is currently limited by statistics, and furthermore, the dominant systematic errors are of the type that should decrease with a larger data sample. Therefore, the approach followed here is expected to provide an increasingly competitive level of precision when applied to the larger data sample currently being collected by the *BABAR* experiment.

II. EVENT SELECTION

Using 1114 exclusive hadronic decay channels [15], which represent about 5% of the total decay width of the B^0 and B^+ mesons, we identify events in which one of the two B mesons is fully reconstructed. The kinematic consistency of the tag B candidates is checked with two variables, the beam-energy-substituted mass $m_{\text{ES}} = \sqrt{s/4 - \vec{p}_B^2}$, and the energy difference $\Delta E = E_B - \sqrt{s}/2$, where s is the total energy squared in the center-of-mass (c.m.) frame, and E_B and \vec{p}_B are the c.m. energy and momentum of the tag B candidate. We require $|\Delta E| \leq 60 \text{ MeV}$, a window of approximately $\pm 3\sigma$.

Those particles in the event that are not reconstructed as part of the tag B are regarded as coming from the signal B . Among these particles we require an isolated photon candidate with energy $E_\gamma > 1.3 \text{ GeV}$ in the B frame. To ensure a well reconstructed photon, we require the electromagnetic shower to lie well within the calorimeter acceptance and to satisfy isolation and shower shape requirements.

The background events consist of nonsignal B decays and continuum background from $u\bar{u}$, $d\bar{d}$, $s\bar{s}$ and $c\bar{c}$ events. The continuum events are suppressed by using a Fisher discriminant that combines 12 variables related to the different event decay topologies of $B\bar{B}$ and continuum events. These include event-shape variables such as the thrust, as well as information on the energy flow relative to the direction of the candidate signal photon.

To discriminate against photons from π^0 and η decays, we combine the signal candidate photon with any other photon in the event associated with the signal B . The event is vetoed if the pair's invariant mass is consistent with a π^0 or η . Furthermore, the event is rejected if the candidate photon combined with a π^\pm is consistent with a $\rho^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \pi^0$ decay assuming that the second photon from the π^0 decay is lost.

III. FIT OF SIGNAL RATES

The distribution of m_{ES} for the selected events has a peak around the mass of the B meson, corresponding to correctly reconstructed $B\bar{B}$ events, and a broad background component that stems from non- $B\bar{B}$ and misreconstructed $B\bar{B}$ events. The peak is modeled with a crystal ball (CB) function [16]. This contains two parameters that correspond to the mean and width of the Gaussian core and two additional parameters that describe a power-law tail extended to masses below the core region. The nonpeak background term is described with an ARGUS function [17].

Applying the selection criteria outlined above yields approximately 7700 events. We divide the event sample into 14 intervals of photon energy, each 100 MeV wide, spanning the range 1.3 to 2.7 GeV. In each interval, we extract the number of peak events with a binned maximum likelihood fit to the m_{ES} distribution.

The limited size of the data sample means that it is not possible to fit all of the parameters related to the shape of the CB and ARGUS functions individually in separate

intervals of photon energy. One expects, however, a smooth variation of the shapes as a function of E_γ . To impose this smoothness, a simultaneous fit of the m_{ES} distributions for all of the photon-energy intervals is carried out. The variation of the shape parameters with photon energy is described by polynomials, whose orders are the lowest possible that allow an adequate modeling of the data. Examples of the m_{ES} distributions and results of the simultaneous fit are shown in Fig. 1. The global χ^2 is 330 for the charged B sample and 357 for the neutral sample, both for 387 degrees of freedom.

The measured numbers of B events are shown in Fig. 1(c) as a function of photon energy. The points are from data; the solid histogram is from a $B\bar{B}$ MC sample that excludes the signal decay $B \rightarrow X\gamma$. Because of the large background at low energy the signal region is defined as $E_\gamma > 1.9$ GeV. This choice was optimized in MC studies. The MC prediction has been scaled by fitting to the data region between $1.3 < E_\gamma < 1.9$ GeV, taking into account the small contribution from $B \rightarrow X\gamma$ decays in that region. For $E_\gamma > 1.9$ GeV, we observe 119 ± 22 $B \rightarrow X\gamma$ signal events over a $B\bar{B}$ background of 145 ± 9 events.

For $1.3 < E_\gamma < 1.9$ GeV a comparison of the data and background gives a χ^2 of 9.7 for 5 degrees of freedom. The probability to observe a value at least this great is 8.4%. Our estimate of the systematic uncertainty in the background (described below) is in fact smaller than the observed data-background difference; therefore we regard this difference primarily as a statistical fluctuation.

To determine the partial branching fractions, we require the total number of $B\bar{B}$ events in the sample after selection of the tag B candidates. In a procedure analogous to that described for the m_{ES} fits in bins of E_γ , we divide the data into four intervals of estimated tag B candidate purity and perform a simultaneous fit of the m_{ES} distributions. We obtain approximately 680 000 $B\bar{B}$ events corresponding to an efficiency of 0.3%.

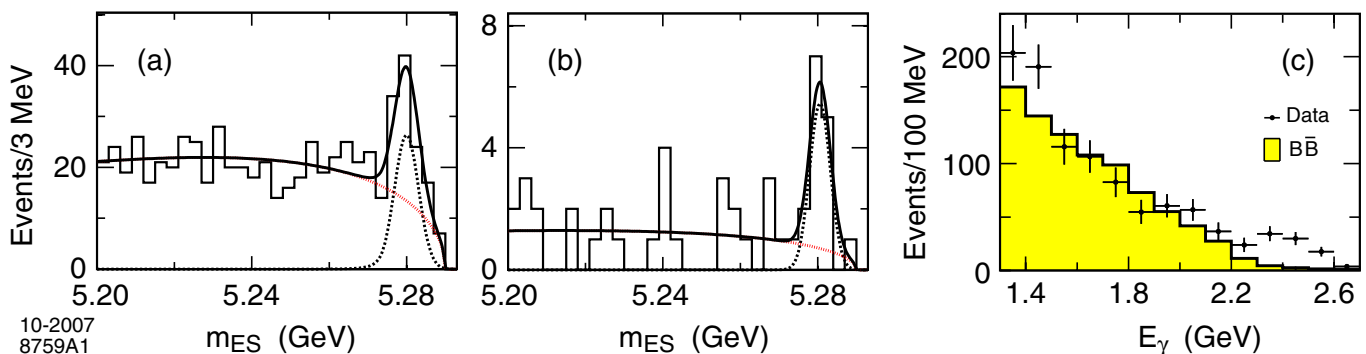


FIG. 1 (color online). Fits to the distribution of the beam-energy-substituted mass m_{ES} for two E_γ regions. The dashed curve shows the CB term and the dotted curve is the ARGUS term, corresponding to B and non- B events, respectively; the solid curve is their sum. (a) $1.6 \text{ GeV} < E_\gamma < 1.7 \text{ GeV}$ for the charged B sample. (b) $2.3 \text{ GeV} < E_\gamma < 2.4 \text{ GeV}$ for the neutral B sample. (c) The measured numbers of B events as a function of photon energy. The points are from data; the histogram is from a $B\bar{B}$ MC sample which excludes the signal decay $B \rightarrow X\gamma$.

IV. DETERMINING THE PHOTON SPECTRUM

The differential decay rate $(1/\Gamma_B)(d\Gamma/dE_\gamma)$ is measured in bins of the (B -frame) photon energy for $E_\gamma > 1.9$ GeV up to the kinematic limit at 2.6 GeV. It is estimated for the i th bin as

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma_B} \frac{d\Gamma_i}{dE_\gamma} = \frac{N_i - b_i}{\varepsilon_i N_B}, \quad (1)$$

where N_i is the number of B events in the bin, b_i is the number of B mesons from decays other than $B \rightarrow X\gamma$, N_B is the total number of B mesons in the sample, and ε_i is the efficiency, which corrects for both acceptance and bin-to-bin resolution effects. The values b_i are determined by means of a simultaneous fit to the m_{ES} distributions as described previously, using a sample of MC data consisting of $B\bar{B}$ events excluding the signal decay $B \rightarrow X\gamma$. As the differential decay rate is normalized using the total width of the B meson, Γ_B , the integral of (1) over all photon energies yields the branching fraction. To evaluate the selection efficiency ε_i , we model the signal photon-energy spectrum using the kinetic scheme [18] with $m_b = 4.60$ GeV and $\mu_\pi^2 = 0.4$ GeV². The value of ε_i is determined from

$$\varepsilon_i = \frac{N_{\text{found},i}/N_{\text{sim}}}{N_{\text{true},i}/N_{\text{gen}}} C_{\text{tag}}, \quad (2)$$

where $N_{\text{found},i}$ is the number of events found in a MC sample of $B \rightarrow X_s\gamma$ with detector simulation and N_{sim} is the number of events in the simulated sample. These quantities are found using the same fit procedure as applied to the real data for N_i and N_B . In the denominator of (2), $N_{\text{true},i}$ is the true number of events with photon energies in bin i and N_{gen} is the total number of events generated. These values are determined using the event generator for $B \rightarrow X_s\gamma$ decays only, without detector simulation. The factor C_{tag} , estimated using the MC model, corrects for the small dependence of the probability to find a tag B on the presence of a $B \rightarrow X\gamma$ final state. The efficiency increases roughly linearly with photon energy, and is approximately 30% (65%) for $E_\gamma = 1.9$ GeV (2.6 GeV).

To compare with other results we subtract the $B \rightarrow X_d\gamma$ component from the differential decay rates using the standard model prediction (for the CP and isospin asymmetries discussed below, however, we do not make this correction). The values $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_d\gamma)$ and $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_s\gamma)$ are in the ratio $|V_{td}/V_{ts}|^2$ assuming the same efficiency for the two categories of events. Therefore, the branching ratio is lowered by $(4.0 \pm 0.4)\%$ [19,20].

V. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

There are four main sources of systematic uncertainty, which are summarized in Table I: modeling of the $B\bar{B}$ background, the m_{ES} fits, detector response and depen-

TABLE I. Results for the differential decay rate $(1/\Gamma_B) \times (d\Gamma/dE_\gamma)$ and moments of the photon spectrum with statistical and systematic errors. The major contributions to the systematic uncertainties are also listed: (a) background modeling, (b) m_{ES} fit parametrization, (c) detector response, (d) $B \rightarrow X_s\gamma$ model.

		$(1/\Gamma_B)(d\Gamma/dE_\gamma)(10^{-4})$					
E_γ (GeV)	Value	σ_{stat}	σ_{syst}	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.9–2.0	0.28	0.56	0.34	0.26	0.13	0.19	0.03
2.0–2.1	0.60	0.42	0.24	0.18	0.12	0.08	0.05
2.1–2.2	0.31	0.29	0.14	0.11	0.06	0.03	0.03
2.2–2.3	0.40	0.23	0.13	0.07	0.05	0.09	0.03
2.3–2.4	0.91	0.22	0.13	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.06
2.4–2.5	0.74	0.17	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.05
2.5–2.6	0.43	0.12	0.09	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.04
		$\langle E_\gamma \rangle$ (GeV)					
E_γ (GeV)	Value	σ_{stat}	σ_{syst}	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.9–2.6	2.289	0.058	0.027	0.018	0.019	0.009	0.002
2.0–2.6	2.315	0.036	0.019	0.013	0.011	0.009	0.001
2.1–2.6	2.371	0.025	0.009	0.007	0.005	0.003	0.001
2.2–2.6	2.398	0.016	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.000
2.3–2.6	2.427	0.010	0.006	0.000	0.001	0.005	0.000
		$\langle (E_\gamma - \langle E_\gamma \rangle)^2 \rangle$ (GeV ²)					
E_γ (GeV)	Value	σ_{stat}	σ_{syst}	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.9–2.6	0.0334	0.0124	0.0062	0.0040	0.0025	0.0037	0.0013
2.0–2.6	0.0265	0.0057	0.0024	0.0018	0.0010	0.0007	0.0011
2.1–2.6	0.0142	0.0037	0.0013	0.0009	0.0005	0.0004	0.0006
2.2–2.6	0.0092	0.0015	0.0010	0.0002	0.0002	0.0009	0.0003
2.3–2.6	0.0059	0.0007	0.0003	0.0000	0.0000	0.0003	0.0002

dence on the $B \rightarrow X_s\gamma$ signal model. In addition there is an uncertainty from the subtraction of the $B \rightarrow X_d\gamma$ contribution.

After subtraction of the nonpeak background using the m_{ES} distribution, the remaining background is mainly composed of $B\bar{B}$ events with the selected photon coming from a π^0 or η decay. Photons from π^0 account for 55% to 65% depending on E_γ and the charge of the tag B , while the contribution from η mesons varies from 18% to 29%. The remaining backgrounds include fake photons from \bar{n} annihilation, real photons from bremsstrahlung or from ω decays, and electromagnetic showers from e^\pm misidentified as photons. As the MC prediction for the $B\bar{B}$ background is scaled to the data at low energy, there is no uncertainty stemming from the absolute rate, but rather only from the shape of the distribution as a function of E_γ . The uncertainty from the inclusive π^0 and η spectra is investigated by using E_γ dependent correction factors for the π^0 and η yields from a large control sample of $B \rightarrow X\gamma$ candidate events, obtained using a lepton tag. These correction factors are typically around 5% for π^0 yields while they can be up to 30% for η yields. The remaining backgrounds have a roughly linear slope with E_γ ; this is varied by $\pm 30\%$. We use the difference obtained with the modi-

fied MC compared to the standard MC simulation as a systematic uncertainty.

To assess the uncertainty related to the parametrization chosen for the m_{ES} fit, additional coefficients are introduced that allow linear or higher-order dependence of the CB and ARGUS function shape parameters on the photon energy. The maximum variation in the fitted rates is taken as the systematic uncertainty. A similar set of variations for the dependence of the shape parameters on the B meson purity is carried out for the m_{ES} fits used to determine the total number of B mesons in the data sample. To allow for a small peaking component in the distribution of m_{ES} from B^\pm decays reconstructed as B^0 (\bar{B}^0) decays and vice versa, we remove these events from the MC sample and take the difference in the result as a systematic uncertainty.

The uncertainties related to the detector modeling and event reconstruction are estimated by comparing MC simulations of track and photon efficiencies as well as particle identification efficiencies with data control samples. From these comparisons we estimate corresponding systematic errors, which are in all cases small compared to other uncertainties.

To assess the uncertainty in the efficiency due to the assumed shape of the E_γ spectrum, we vary m_b and μ_π^2 in the kinetic scheme by ± 0.1 GeV and ± 0.1 GeV², respectively. These variations are large compared to the uncertainties in the world average [10] in order to cover alternative Ansätze for the heavy quark distribution function [21,22]. They also account for uncertainties related to the small rate of $B \rightarrow X\gamma$ decays expected below 1.9 GeV.

VI. RESULTS

The partial branching fractions $(1/\Gamma_B)(d\Gamma/dE_\gamma)$ are shown in Fig. 2 after all corrections. The inner error bars show the statistical uncertainties. The outer error bars show the quadratic sum of the statistical and systematic terms.

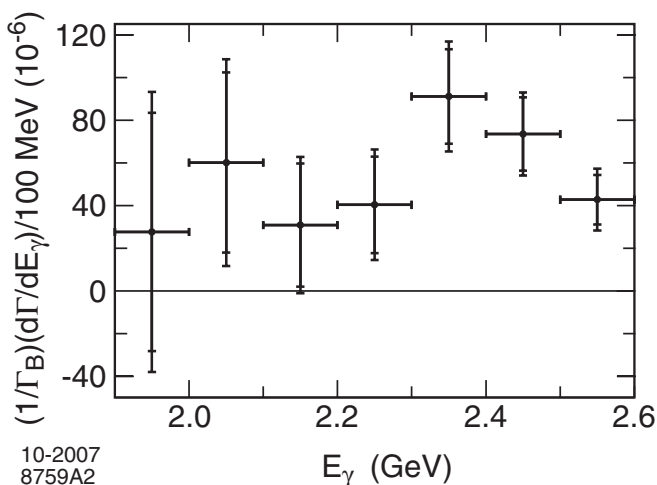


FIG. 2. The partial branching fractions $(1/\Gamma_B)(d\Gamma/dE_\gamma)$ with statistical (inner) and total (outer) uncertainties.

By integrating the spectrum, we obtain $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma) = (3.66 \pm 0.85_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.60_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-4}$. The results for the differential decay rate and for the moments of the photon-energy spectrum for various minimum photon energies E_{cut} are given in Table I. The branching fraction for larger values of E_{cut} and the correlations between the measurements are given in Ref. [23]. Our results are in good agreement with those presented in Refs. [1–4].

We also measure the isospin asymmetry Δ_{0-} ,

$$\Delta_{0-} = \frac{\Gamma(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow X_{s,d} \gamma) - \Gamma(B^- \rightarrow X_{s,d} \gamma)}{\Gamma(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow X_{s,d} \gamma) + \Gamma(B^- \rightarrow X_{s,d} \gamma)}, \quad (3)$$

where inclusion of charge conjugate modes is implied. It has been argued that enhanced power corrections to the $B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$ rate could also lead to values of Δ_{0-} as large as +10% [24]. Therefore, experimental measurements of Δ_{0-} can help determine the size of these effects and hence reduce the theoretical uncertainty on the total rate. To obtain decay rates from the branching fractions we use the B meson lifetimes: $\tau(B^0) = 1.530 \pm 0.008$ ps and $\tau(B^+) = 1.638 \pm 0.011$ ps [25]. For photon energies greater than 2.2 GeV, we obtain $\Delta_{0-} = -0.06 \pm 0.15_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.07_{\text{syst}}$.

The direct CP asymmetry A_{CP} ,

$$A_{CP} = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_{s,d} \gamma) - \mathcal{B}(\bar{B} \rightarrow X_{s,d} \gamma)}{\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_{s,d} \gamma) + \mathcal{B}(\bar{B} \rightarrow X_{s,d} \gamma)} \frac{1}{1 - 2\omega}, \quad (4)$$

is measured by splitting the tag sample into B and \bar{B} mesons. The dilution factor $\frac{1}{1-2\omega}$ accounts for the mistag fraction ω , here simply the time integrated B^0 mixing probability of $\chi_d = 0.188 \pm 0.003$ [25] multiplied by the fraction of B^0 events in the total data sample. A_{CP} can be significantly enhanced by new physics [19] while in the SM it is predicted to be around 10^{-9} [26,27]. We obtain a value of $A_{CP} = 0.10 \pm 0.18_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.05_{\text{syst}}$ for photon energies above 2.2 GeV.

For both Δ_{0-} and A_{CP} , a photon-energy cutoff of 2.2 GeV is chosen because it facilitates comparison with previous results and minimizes the total uncertainty. Our results are in good agreement with previous measurements [3,4,28–30].

Finally, we use heavy-quark expansions in the kinetic scheme [18] and our measurements of the E_γ moments to determine the parameters m_b and μ_π^2 . We include the theoretical uncertainties quoted in Ref. [18] in the overall covariance matrix used in the fit. To minimize the theoretical uncertainty we only use moments with $E_{\text{cut}} \leq 2.0$ GeV and obtain $m_b = 4.46^{+0.21}_{-0.23}$ GeV and $\mu_\pi^2 = 0.64^{+0.39}_{-0.38}$ GeV² with a correlation of $\rho = -0.94$.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

We have measured the $B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$ branching fraction and moments of the photon-energy spectrum above several

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minimum photon energies. We find $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma) = (3.66 \pm 0.85_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.60_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-4}$ for photon energies E_γ above 1.9 GeV. Dividing by an extrapolation factor of 0.936 ± 0.010 [10] we obtain $\mathcal{B}(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma) = (3.91 \pm 0.91_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.64_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-4}$ for $E_\gamma > 1.6$ GeV. The moments of the spectrum can be used to improve the knowledge of the heavy-quark parameters m_b and μ_π^2 ; we obtain $m_b = 4.46_{-0.23}^{+0.21}$ GeV and $\mu_\pi^2 = 0.64_{-0.38}^{+0.39}$ GeV² in the kinetic scheme. In addition we measured the isospin asymmetry $\Delta_{0-} = -0.06 \pm 0.15_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.07_{\text{syst}}$ and direct CP asymmetry $A_{CP} = 0.10 \pm 0.18_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.05_{\text{syst}}$ for photon energies above 2.2 GeV. The full reconstruction (recoil) method provides an almost background free measurement above photon energies of 2.2 GeV. Although statistics are limited at present, this approach is expected to provide a competitive measurement of the decay $B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$ with the larger data sample that is being accumulated at the

B -factories, in particular, as the main systematic uncertainties will also be reduced with a larger data sample.

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