

Measurement of $B \rightarrow D_s^{(*)} K \pi$ branching fractions

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We report a measurement of the exclusive B^+ meson decay to the $D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ final state using $657 \times 10^6 B\bar{B}$ pairs collected at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance with the Belle detector at the KEKB asymmetric-energy e^+e^- collider. We use $D_s^{*-} \rightarrow D_s^- \gamma$ and the $D_s^- \rightarrow \phi \pi^-$, $\bar{K}^*(892)^0 K^-$ and $K_S^0 K^-$ decay modes for $D_s^{(*)}$ reconstruction and measure the following branching fractions: $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- K^+ \pi^+) = (1.71^{+0.08}_{-0.07}(\text{stat})^{+0.20}_{-0.20}(\text{syst}) \pm 0.15(\mathcal{B}_{\text{int}})) \times 10^{-4}$ and $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} K^+ \pi^+) = (1.31^{+0.13}_{-0.12}(\text{stat})^{+0.25}_{-0.25}(\text{syst}) \pm 0.12(\mathcal{B}_{\text{int}})) \times 10^{-4}$. The uncertainties are due to statistics, experimental systematic errors, and uncertainties of intermediate branching fractions, respectively.

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The dominant process in the decays $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ [1] is mediated by the $b \rightarrow c$ quark transition and includes the production of an additional $s\bar{s}$ pair, as shown by the Feynman diagram in Fig. 1(a). This process produces at least three final-state particles and can thus be distinguished from much more dominant decays, which include direct D_s production from the W boson vertex. An example of a process that does not involve $s\bar{s}$ quark popping is shown in Fig. 1(b); this is the dominant Feynman diagram describing two-body $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} \bar{D}^0$ decays with $\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$. Although both $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} \bar{D}^0 (\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-)$ decays give a similar three-body final state, the different decay mechanisms lead to opposite charges for the D_s and π mesons. In addition, due to the similarities of the final states, the latter decay, $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} \bar{D}^0$, can be used to check the experimental procedure for the exclusive measurements of the former one, $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$. These three-body decay modes were recently observed by *BABAR* [2] and need further confirmation.

Studies of $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ decays are also motivated by interest in the intermediate resonances that can be formed from the three final-state particles. These resonances are visible as bands in the Dalitz plots for different two-body subsystems [3].

In this paper we report measurements of the branching fractions for $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ decays. We also studied the invariant mass distributions for the two-body subsystems to search for new resonances. The analysis is performed on a data sample containing $(657 \pm 9) \times 10^6 B\bar{B}$ pairs, collected with the Belle detector at the KEKB asymmetric-energy e^+e^- collider [4] that operates at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance. The production of $B^+ B^-$ and $B^0 \bar{B}^0$ pairs is assumed to be equal.

The Belle detector is a large-solid-angle magnetic spectrometer that consists of a silicon vertex detector, a 50-layer central drift chamber (CDC), an array of aerogel threshold Cherenkov counters (ACC), a barrel-like ar-

range of time-of-flight (TOF) scintillation counters, and an electromagnetic calorimeter composed of CsI(Tl) crystals, located inside a superconducting solenoid coil that provides a 1.5 T magnetic field. An iron flux return located outside of the coil is instrumented to detect K_L^0 mesons and to identify muons. The detector is described in detail elsewhere [5]. Two inner detector configurations were used. A 2.0 cm beam pipe and a 3-layer silicon vertex detector were used for the first sample of $152 \times 10^6 B\bar{B}$ pairs, while a 1.5 cm beam pipe, a 4-layer silicon detector, and a small-cell inner drift chamber were used to record the remaining $505 \times 10^6 B\bar{B}$ pairs [6].

Charged tracks are required to have a distance of the closest approach to the interaction point less than 5 cm in the beam direction (along the z axis) and less than 5 mm in the transverse ($r - \phi$) plane. In addition, we only select charged tracks that have transverse momenta larger than 100 MeV/ c .

To identify charged hadrons, we combine information from the CDC, ACC, and TOF into pion, kaon, and proton likelihood variables \mathcal{L}_π , \mathcal{L}_K , and \mathcal{L}_p . For kaon candidates we then require the likelihood ratio $\mathcal{L}_{K/\pi} = \frac{\mathcal{L}_K}{\mathcal{L}_K + \mathcal{L}_\pi}$ to be larger than 0.6. We also apply the proton veto condition $\mathcal{L}_{p/K} < 0.95$. Pions are selected from tracks with low kaon probabilities satisfying a likelihood ratio condition $\mathcal{L}_{K/\pi} < 0.6$ together with a proton veto $\mathcal{L}_{p/K} < 0.95$. In addition, we reject all charged tracks consistent with the electron or muon hypothesis. The above selection results in a typical kaon (pion) identification efficiency ranging from 92% to 97% (94% to 98%) for various decay modes, while 2% to 15% of kaon candidates are misidentified pions and 4% to 8% of pion candidates are misidentified kaons.

The D_s^+ candidates are reconstructed in three final states: $\phi(\rightarrow K^+ K^-) \pi^+$, $\bar{K}^*(892)^0(\rightarrow K^- \pi^+) K^+$, and $K_S^0(\rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-) K^+$. We accept $K^+ K^-$ ($K^- \pi^+$) pairs as ϕ [$\bar{K}^*(892)^0$] candidates if their invariant mass is within 10 (100) MeV/ c^2 of the nominal ϕ ($\bar{K}^*(892)^0$) mass [7]. This requirement corresponds to $\pm 2.5\sigma$ in all cases. Candidate

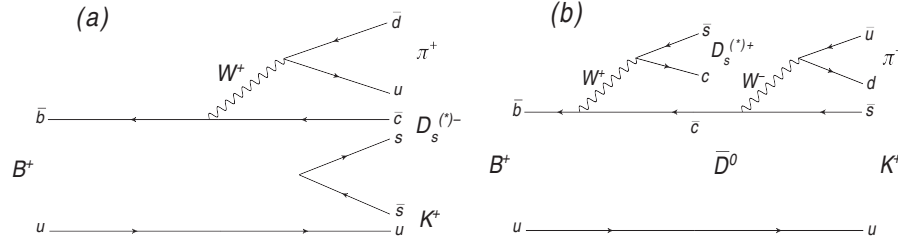


FIG. 1. Diagrams for the decays (a) $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ and (b) $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} \bar{D}^0$, $\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$.

K_S^0 mesons are selected by combining oppositely charged pions with an invariant mass not differing by more than $6 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ from the nominal K_S^0 mass. In addition, the vertices of these $\pi^+ \pi^-$ pairs must be displaced from the interaction point by at least 5 mm. Photons used for $D_s^* \rightarrow D_s \gamma$ reconstruction are accepted if their energies exceed 100 MeV in the laboratory frame. No selection requirements are imposed on the $D_s^{(*)}$ mass at this stage.

A B meson is reconstructed by combining the $D_s^{(*)}$ candidate with an identified kaon and pion and by applying a loose requirement on the quality of the vertex fit ($\chi_B^2/\text{no. dof} < 60$) to the K , π , and $D_s^{(*)}$ trajectories, where the $D_s^{(*)}$ mass is constrained to the world average value [7]. The signal B meson decays are identified by three kinematic variables: the $D_s^{(*)}$ invariant mass, the energy difference $\Delta E = E_B - E_{\text{beam}}$, and the beam-energy-constrained mass $M_{\text{bc}} = \sqrt{E_{\text{beam}}^2 - p_B^2}$. Here E_B and p_B are the reconstructed energy and momentum of the B candidate, and E_{beam} is the run-dependent beam energy; all are calculated in the center-of-mass (c.m.) frame. For further analysis we retain events in the candidate region defined as $1.91 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M(D_s) < 2.03 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ [$2.06 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M(D_s^*) < 2.16 \text{ GeV}/c^2$], $5.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{\text{bc}} < 5.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$, and $-0.08 \text{ GeV} < \Delta E < 0.2 \text{ GeV}$. The lower bound in ΔE for candidate events is chosen to exclude a possible background from $B \rightarrow D_s X$ decays with higher multiplicities. From GEANT [8] based Monte Carlo (MC) simulation, we deduce that the signal peaks in a signal region defined by the requirements: $1.9532 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M(D_s) < 1.9832 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ [$2.092 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M(D_s^*) < 2.132 \text{ GeV}/c^2$], $5.27 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{\text{bc}} < 5.29 \text{ GeV}/c^2$, and $|\Delta E| < 0.03 \text{ GeV}$. Based on MC simulation, the region $2.88 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M(K^+ K^- \pi^+ \pi^-) < 3.18 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ is excluded to remove background from $B^+ \rightarrow ((c\bar{c}) \rightarrow K^+ K^- \pi^+ \pi^-) K^+$ decays, where $(c\bar{c})$ are charmonium states such as the J/ψ or η_c . For $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ \bar{D}^0 (\rightarrow K^+ \pi^-)$ decays the events in the candidate region are required to have $K^+ \pi^-$ invariant mass within a $15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ (3σ) interval of the nominal D^0 mass.

We find that for $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- K^+ \pi^+$ ($B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} K^+ \pi^+$) decays at most 11% (29%) of events have more than one B candidate. In such cases we select the B candidate with the smallest value of χ_B^2 . Moreover, when there are at least two

combinations with the same χ_B^2 value, the one containing a kaon—originating directly from the B decay—with the highest likelihood ratio $\mathcal{L}_{K/\pi}$ is selected. For $B \rightarrow D_s^* K \pi$ decays, we further choose the combination that minimizes the quantity $|M(D_s^*) - M(D_s) - 143.8 \text{ MeV}/c^2|$.

We exploit the event topology to discriminate between spherical $B\bar{B}$ events and the dominant background from jetlike continuum events, $e^+ e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ ($q = u, d, s, c$). We use the event shape variable R_2 defined as the ratio of the second and zeroth Fox-Wolfram moments [9] and require that R_2 be less than 0.4.

The signal yields are extracted using unbinned extended maximum-likelihood fits to the $(\Delta E, M_{\text{bc}}, M(D_s^{(*)}))$ distributions of the selected candidate events. The likelihood function is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N!} (N_S + N_B)^N e^{-N_S - N_B} \times \prod_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{N_S}{N_S + N_B} \mathcal{P}_S^i + \frac{N_B}{N_S + N_B} \mathcal{P}_B^i \right), \quad (1)$$

where i is the event identifier, N is the total number of events in the fit, and $N_S(N_B)$ is the number of signal and background events, respectively. We use Gaussian functions to parametrize the signal probability density function in ΔE and M_{bc} and a double Gaussian function with a common mean for the $M(D_s^{(*)})$ distribution:

$$\mathcal{P}_S^i = \mathcal{G}(\Delta E^i; \overline{\Delta E}, \sigma_{\Delta E}) \mathcal{G}(M_{\text{bc}}^i; m_B, \sigma_{M_{\text{bc}}}) \times [f_{D_s^{(*)}}^S \mathcal{G}(M^i(D_s^{(*)}); m_{D_s^{(*)}}, \sigma_{D_s^{(*)}}^{(1)}) + (1 - f_{D_s^{(*)}}^S) \mathcal{G}(M^i(D_s^{(*)}); m_{D_s^{(*)}}, \sigma_{D_s^{(*)}}^{(2)})], \quad (2)$$

where $\overline{\Delta E}$, m_B , $m_{D_s^{(*)}}$, $\sigma_{\Delta E}$, $\sigma_{M_{\text{bc}}}$, $f_{D_s^{(*)}}^S$, $\sigma_{D_s^{(*)}}^{(1)}$, and $\sigma_{D_s^{(*)}}^{(2)}$ are fit parameters. The latter three, which describe the signal shape corresponding to the $M(D_s^{(*)})$ distributions, are fixed to the values obtained from the fit to the $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} \bar{D}^0$ control channels. In addition, we use the $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} \bar{D}^0$ data samples to fix the signal widths for ΔE and M_{bc} for the $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} K^+ \pi^+$ decays.

The background is parametrized with a second-order polynomial (p_2) in the ΔE distribution. For the M_{bc} background distribution we choose a parametrization that was

first used by the ARGUS Collaboration [10], $f(M_{bc}, \zeta) \propto M_{bc} \sqrt{1 - (M_{bc}/E_{beam})^2} e^{-\zeta(1 - (M_{bc}/E_{beam})^2)}$, where ζ is a fit parameter. Finally, the $M(D_s^{(*)})$ background distribution is described by the sum of a double Gaussian function and a second-order polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_B^i &= p_2(\Delta E^i; w_0, w_1, w_2) f(M_{bc}^i; \zeta) \\ &\times [p_2(M^i(D_s^{(*)}); v_0, v_1, v_2) \\ &+ f_{D_s^{(*)}}^B \mathcal{G}(M^i(D_s^{(*)}); m_{D_s^{(*)}}, \sigma_{D_s^{(*)}}^{(1)}) \\ &+ (1 - f_{D_s^{(*)}}^B) \mathcal{G}(M^i(D_s^{(*)}); m_{D_s^{(*)}}, \sigma_{D_s^{(*)}}^{(2)})]. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The values of the variables $w_0, w_1, w_2, \zeta, v_0, v_1,$ and v_2 are determined in the fit, whereas the $f_{D_s^{(*)}}^B$ are fixed to the values resulting from the fits to the appropriate control channels. Figures 2 and 3 show the distributions of $\Delta E, M_{bc},$ and $M(D_s^{(*)})$ together with the fits described above.

For decays containing a $K^*(892)^0$ meson a few percent correction is applied to the signal yields obtained from the fit. The $K^*(892)^0$ mass sidebands, $(0.746-0.796) \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $(0.996-1.046) \text{ GeV}/c^2$, are fitted and a noticeable background contributing to the signal yields is found for the $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- (\rightarrow K^{*0} K^-) K^+ \pi^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ (\rightarrow K^{*0} K^-) \bar{D}^0$ channels. Final signal yields are ob-

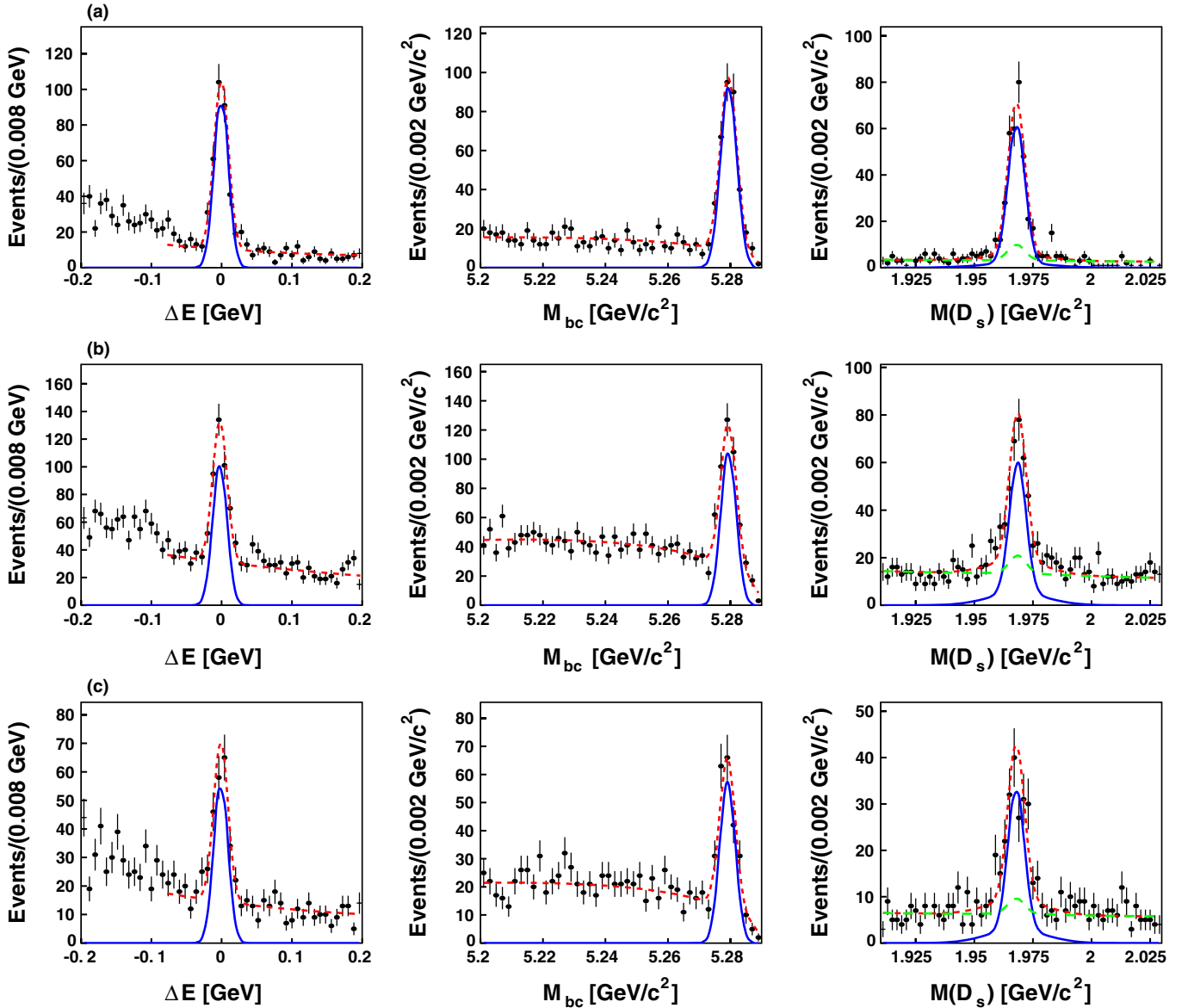


FIG. 2 (color online). Distributions of $\Delta E, M_{bc},$ and $M(D_s)$ for (a) $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- (\rightarrow \phi \pi^-) K^+ \pi^+$, (b) $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- (\rightarrow K^{*0} K^-) K^+ \pi^+$, and (c) $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- (\rightarrow K_s^0 K^-) K^+ \pi^+$ decays. The distribution for each quantity— $\Delta E, M_{bc},$ and $M(D_s)$ —is shown in the signal region of the remaining two quantities. The red dashed curves show the results of the overall fit described in the text, the blue solid curves correspond to the signal components, and the green long-dashed curves indicate the fitted background for $M(D_s)$.

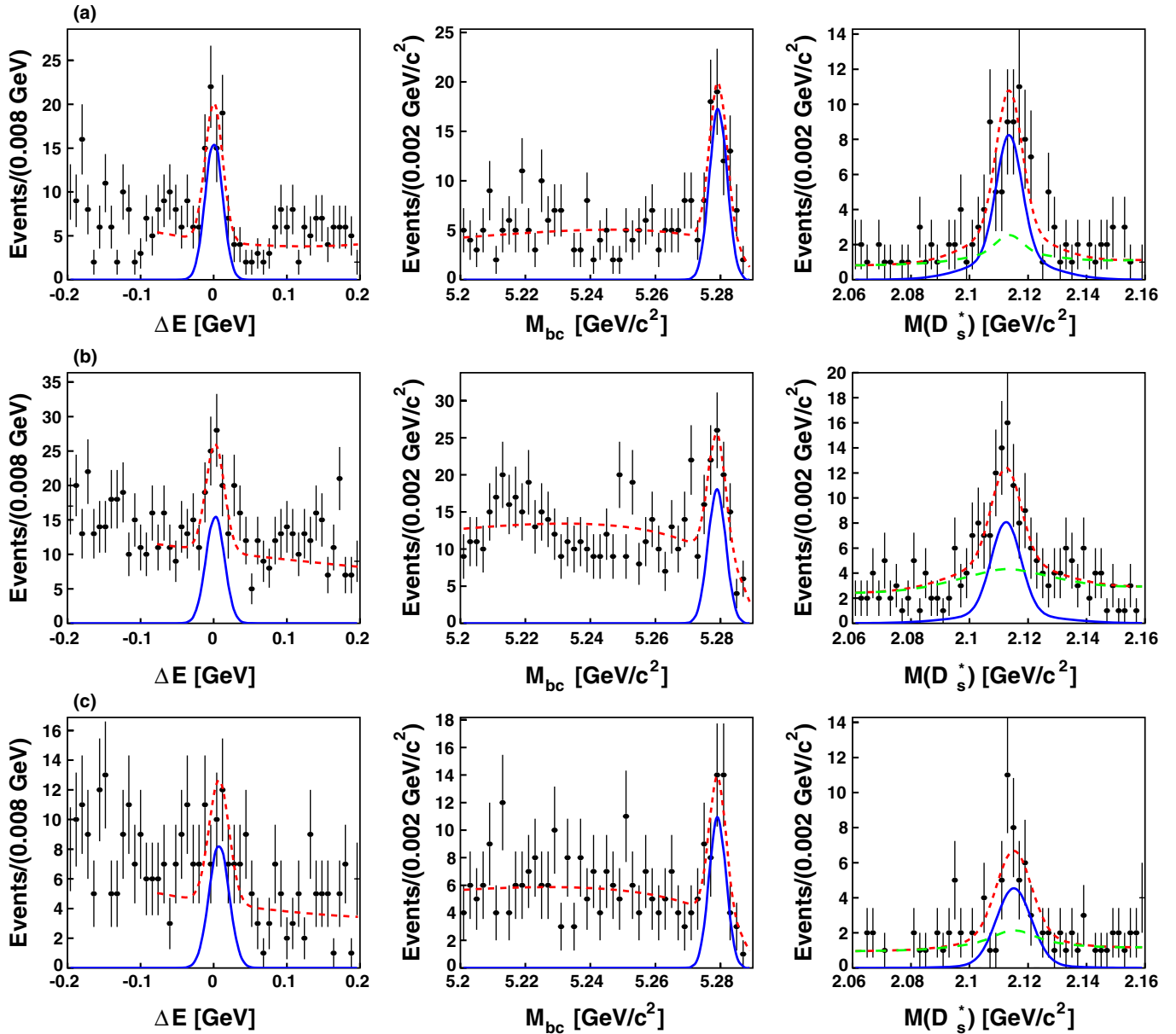


FIG. 3 (color online). Distributions of ΔE , M_{bc} , and $M(D_s^*)$ for (a) $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-}(\rightarrow \phi \pi^-) K^+ \pi^+$, (b) $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-}(\rightarrow K^{*0} K^-) K^+ \pi^+$, and (c) $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-}(\rightarrow K_S^0 K^-) K^+ \pi^+$ decays. The distribution for each quantity— ΔE , M_{bc} , and $M(D_s^*)$ —is shown in the signal region of the remaining two quantities. The red dashed curves show the results of the overall fit described in the text, the blue solid curves correspond to the signal components, and the green long-dashed curves indicate the fitted background for $M(D_s^*)$.

tained by subtracting these contributions from the nominal fit values.

The signal yields together with statistical significances are listed in Table I. The significance is defined as $\sqrt{-2 \ln(\mathcal{L}_0/\mathcal{L}_{\max})}$, where \mathcal{L}_{\max} (\mathcal{L}_0) denotes the maximum likelihood with the signal yield at its nominal value (fixed to zero).

The reconstruction efficiencies, determined using MC samples of $e^+e^- \rightarrow Y(4S) \rightarrow B^+B^-$ decays, are listed in Table I. This table also contains the values obtained for the branching fractions of the decays $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ and

$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} \bar{D}^0$. The last error (Table I) is due to uncertainties in the branching fractions for the decays of intermediate particles, predominantly those of the $D_s^{(*)}$ [7]. The systematic uncertainties are evaluated only for the three-body $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ decays. We find branching fractions for the $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} \bar{D}^0$ control samples in agreement with world averages [7].

Systematic uncertainties are listed in Table II. The contribution (f) due to the selection procedure is dominated by the R_2 requirement. This uncertainty is estimated conservatively as the maximum variation of the efficiency-

TABLE I. Signal yields, reconstruction efficiencies, statistical significances, and branching fractions for $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)+} K^+ \pi^-$ decays.

Decay	Signal yield	Efficiency (%)	Statistical signif. (σ)	Branching fraction (10^{-4})
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- (\rightarrow \phi \pi^-) K^+ \pi^+$	$306.0^{+19.7}_{-19.1}$	13.09 ± 1.00	31.5	$1.63^{+0.11+0.18}_{-0.10-0.18} \pm 0.25$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- (\rightarrow K^{*0} K^-) K^+ \pi^+$	$281.7^{+24.7}_{-23.6}$	9.48 ± 0.67	26.5	$1.74^{+0.15+0.20}_{-0.15-0.20} \pm 0.27$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- (\rightarrow K_S^0 K^-) K^+ \pi^+$	$179.4^{+16.7}_{-16.0}$	14.49 ± 1.11	20.4	$1.82^{+0.17+0.24}_{-0.16-0.25} \pm 0.11$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} (\rightarrow \phi \pi^-) K^+ \pi^+$	$59.0^{+9.3}_{-8.6}$	3.51 ± 0.52	11.0	$1.24^{+0.20+0.23}_{-0.18-0.23} \pm 0.19$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} (\rightarrow K^{*0} K^-) K^+ \pi^+$	$61.7^{+10.6}_{-9.8}$	2.88 ± 0.42	9.3	$1.33^{+0.23+0.25}_{-0.21-0.25} \pm 0.21$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} (\rightarrow K_S^0 K^-) K^+ \pi^+$	$35.7^{+7.7}_{-6.9}$	4.02 ± 0.59	8.0	$1.39^{+0.30+0.29}_{-0.27-0.28} \pm 0.08$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ (\rightarrow \phi \pi^+) \bar{D}^0$	$597.4^{+25.0}_{-24.3}$	13.03 ± 0.12	56.8	$82.31^{+3.45}_{-3.35} \pm 12.50$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ (\rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} K^+) \bar{D}^0$	$512.6^{+26.2}_{-25.3}$	9.21 ± 0.10	53.3	$83.80^{+4.28}_{-4.14} \pm 12.94$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ (\rightarrow K_S^0 K^+) \bar{D}^0$	$294.5^{+17.8}_{-17.2}$	14.22 ± 0.20	38.9	$78.61^{+4.74}_{-4.56} \pm 4.86$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*+} (\rightarrow \phi \pi^+) \bar{D}^0$	$150.2^{+15.7}_{-14.8}$	3.97 ± 0.07	19.0	$72.15^{+7.52}_{-7.12} \pm 10.98$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*+} (\rightarrow \bar{K}^{*0} K^+) \bar{D}^0$	$151.9^{+15.1}_{-14.3}$	3.09 ± 0.06	20.8	$78.68^{+7.83}_{-7.43} \pm 12.16$
$B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*+} (\rightarrow K_S^0 K^+) \bar{D}^0$	$95.3^{+12.4}_{-11.6}$	4.40 ± 0.12	15.0	$87.27^{+11.32}_{-10.63} \pm 5.43$

corrected signal yield, when the R_2 selection value is varied over a wide range (values between 0.25 and 0.55). The uncertainty (g) due to the fit range is determined by varying the candidate region. To evaluate the contribution (h) we repeat the fits varying the shape parameters by $\pm 1\sigma$. The uncertainty (i) is estimated as the statistical error in the selection efficiency, increased conservatively by a factor obtained from the difference between the value of the branching fraction for the appropriate control channel and the generated branching fraction. The systematic uncertainty (i) also includes efficiency variations over the $M(D_s^{(*)} K)$ phase space. The overall systematic error is obtained by summing these contributions in quadrature.

The average branching fractions for the decays $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- K^+ \pi^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} K^+ \pi^+$ are determined from a simultaneous fit to the data containing events from all three

D_s decay modes. Here, the systematic uncertainties are calculated as in the individual channels (Table II).

In summary, the following branching fractions are determined:

$$\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- K^+ \pi^+) = (1.71_{-0.07}^{+0.08}(\text{stat})_{-0.20}^{+0.20}(\text{syst}) \pm 0.15(\mathcal{B}_{\text{int}})) \times 10^{-4}, \quad (4)$$

$$\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} K^+ \pi^+) = (1.31_{-0.12}^{+0.13}(\text{stat})_{-0.25}^{+0.25}(\text{syst}) \pm 0.12(\mathcal{B}_{\text{int}})) \times 10^{-4}. \quad (5)$$

These branching fractions are compatible with the values reported by the *BABAR* Collaboration [2].

The invariant mass distributions of the $D_s^{(*)-} K^+$ subsystem are incompatible with those expected for three-body phase space production and exhibit strong enhancements around $2.7 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ (see Fig. 4). These features may be

TABLE II. Systematic uncertainties on the branching fractions for $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{(*)-} K^+ \pi^+$ decay modes, given in percent.

Source	D_s^- final state			D_s^{*-} final state		
	$\phi \pi^-$	$K^{*0} K^-$	$K_S^0 K^-$	$\phi \pi^- \gamma$	$K^{*0} K^- \gamma$	$K_S^0 K^- \gamma$
(a) Tracking	5	5	5	5	5	5
(b) Hadron identification	5	5	5	5	5	5
(c) K_S^0 reconstruction	...	...	4.5	...	...	4.5
(d) Photon reconstruction	...	...	...	5	5	5
(e) Uncertainty in $N(B\bar{B})$	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
(f) Selection procedure	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
(g) Size of candidate region	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.2	1.5
(h) Signal shape	+1.2 -1.3	+3.4 -3.4	+5.6 -6.3	+5.6 -6.7	+6.9 -7.4	+9.7 -7.8
(i) MC statistics	7.6	7.0	7.7	14.8	14.5	14.8
Total	+11.2 -11.2	+11.3 -11.3	+13.3 -13.6	+18.5 -18.8	+18.6 -18.9	+20.7 -19.8

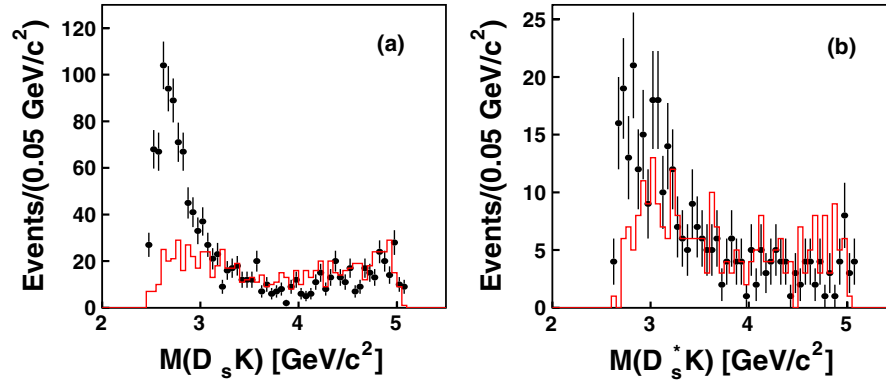


FIG. 4 (color online). The invariant mass distributions of (a) $D_s^- K^+$ for the decay $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^- K^+ \pi^+$ and (b) of $D_s^{*-} K^+$ for $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^{*-} K^+ \pi^+$ corresponding to the signal regions described in the text. The histograms show the background contributions corresponding to $5.22 \text{ GeV} < M_{bc} < 5.24 \text{ GeV}$.

explained by the production of charm resonances with masses below $D_s^{(*)-} K^+$ threshold [3]. The discrepancy between the data sample and the MC phase space distribution is taken into account in evaluation of the efficiency and the corresponding systematic uncertainty.

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- [1] Throughout this paper, the inclusion of the charge-conjugate decay mode is implied unless otherwise stated.
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