# Spectator scattering and annihilation contributions as a solution to the $\pi K$ and $\pi \pi$ puzzles within QCD factorization approach

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The large branching ratios for pure annihilation  $\bar{B}_s^0 \to \pi^+\pi^-$  and  $\bar{B}_d^0 \to K^+K^-$  decays reported by CDF and LHCb collaborations recently and the so-called  $\pi K$  and  $\pi \pi$  puzzles indicate that spectator scattering and annihilation contributions are important to the penguin-dominated, color-suppressed tree dominated, and pure annihilation nonleptonic *B* decays. Combining the available experimental data for  $B_{u,d} \to \pi \pi, \pi K$ and  $K\bar{K}$  decays, we do a global fit on the spectator scattering and annihilation parameters  $X_H(\rho_H, \phi_H)$ ,  $X_A^i(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  and  $X_A^f(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ , which are used to parametrize the end point singularity in amplitudes of spectator scattering, nonfactorizable and factorizable annihilation topologies within the QCD factorization framework, in three scenarios for different purpose. Numerically, in Scenario II, we get  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i [^\circ]) =$  $(2.88^{+1.52}_{-1.30}, -103^{+33}_{-40})$  and  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f [^\circ]) = (1.21^{+0.22}_{-0.25}, -40^{+12}_{-8})$  at the 68% confidence level, which are mainly demanded by resolving the  $\pi K$  puzzle and confirm the presupposition that  $X_A^i \neq X_A^f$ . In addition, correspondingly, the *B*-meson wave function parameter  $\lambda_B$  is also fitted to be  $0.18^{+0.11}_{-0.08}$  MeV, which plays an important role for resolving both  $\pi K$  and  $\pi \pi$  puzzles. With the fitted parameters, the QCD factorization results for observables of  $B_{u,d} \to \pi \pi, \pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  decays are in good agreement with experimental measurements. Many more experimental and theoretical efforts are expected to understand the underlying QCD dynamics of spectator scattering and annihilation contributions.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Charmless hadronic *B*-meson decays provide a fertile ground for testing the standard model (SM) and exploring the source of *CP* violation, which has attracted much attention in the past years. Thanks to the fruitful accomplishment of *BABAR* and Belle, the constraints on the sides and interior angles of the unitarity triangle significantly reduce the allowed ranges of some of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) elements, and many rare *B* decays are well measured. With the successful running of LHC and the advent of Belle II at SuperKEKB, heavy flavor physics has entered a new exciting era and more *B* decay modes will be measured precisely soon.

Recently, the evidence of pure annihilation decays  $\bar{B}_s^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$  and  $\bar{B}_d^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-$  is first reported by the CDF collaboration [1], and soon confirmed by the LHCb collaboration [2]. The Heavy Flavor Averaging Group (HFAG) presents their branching ratios [3]:

$$\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}_s^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-) = (0.73 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-6}, \qquad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0_d \to K^+ K^-) = (0.12 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-6}.$$
 (2)

Such results, if confirmed, imply unexpectedly large annihilation contributions in B decays and significant

flavor symmetry breaking effects between the annihilation amplitudes of  $B_{u,d}$  and  $B_s$  decays, which attracted much attention recently, for instance Refs. [4–7].

Theoretically, as noticed already in Refs. [8–11], even though the annihilation contributions are formally  $\Lambda_{\rm QCD}/m_b$ power suppressed, they are very important and indispensable for charmless *B* decays. By introducing the parton transverse momentum and the Sudakov factor to regulate the end point divergence, there is a large complex annihilation contribution within the perturbative QCD (pQCD) approach [8,9]. The latest renewed pQCD estimations<sup>1</sup>  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0_s \to \pi^+\pi^-) =$  $(5.10^{+1.96+0.25+1.05+0.29}_{-1.68-0.19-0.83-0.20}) \times 10^{-7}$  and  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0_d \to K^+K^-) = (1.56^{+0.44+0.23+0.22+0.13}_{-0.42-0.22-0.19-0.09}) \times 10^{-7}$  [7] give an appropriate account of the CDF and LHCb measurements within uncertainties. In the QCD factorization (QCDF) framework 12]], the end point divergence in annihilation amplitudes is usually parametrized by  $X_A(\rho_A, \phi_A)$  [see Eq. (9)]. The parameters  $\rho_A \sim 1$  and  $\phi_A \sim 55^\circ$  (Scenario S4) [11] are adopted conservatively in evaluating the amplitudes of  $B \to PP$  decays, which lead to the predictions<sup>2</sup>  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0_s \to$  $\pi^+\pi^-) = (0.26^{+0.00+0.10}_{-0.00-0.09}) \times 10^{-6}$  and  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0_d \to K^+K^-) =$  $(0.10^{+0.03+0.03}_{-0.02-0.03}) \times 10^{-6}$  [13]. It is obvious that the QCDF prediction of  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0_d \to K^+ K^-)$  agrees well with the data

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The first three uncertainties come from meson wave functions, the last one is from the CKM factors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The second uncertainty comes from parameters  $\rho_{A,H}$  and  $\phi_{A,H}$  of annihilation and spectator contributions.

[Eq. (2)], but the one of  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0_s \to \pi^+\pi^-)$  is much smaller than the present experimental measurement [Eq. (1)]. This discrepancy kindles the passions of restudy on annihilation contributions [4–6].

At present, there are two major issues among the wellconcerning focus on the annihilation contributions within the QCDF framework, one is whether  $X_A(\rho_A, \phi_A)$  is universal for B decays, and the other is what its value should be. As to the first issue, there is no imperative reason for the annihilation parameters  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  to be the same for different  $B_{u,d,s}$  decays, even for different annihilation topologies, although they were usually taken to be universal in the previous numerical calculation for simplicity [10,11]. Phenomenologically, it is almost impossible to account for all of the well-measured two-body charmless B decays with the universal values of  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  based on the QCDF approach [5,6,11,13]. In addition, the pQCD study on B-meson decays also indicates that the annihilation parameters  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  should be process dependent. In fact, in the practical OCDF application to the  $B \rightarrow PP$ , PV decays [where P and V denote the light pseudoscalar and vector SU(3) meson nonet, respectively], the nonuniversal values of annihilation phase  $\phi_A$  with respect to *PP* and *PV* final states are favored (Scenario S4) [11]; the process-dependent values of  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  are given based on an educated guess [13,14] or the comparison with the updated measurements [6]; the flavor-dependent values of  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  are suggested recently in the nonfactorizable annihilation contributions [5]. In principle the value of  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  should differ from each other for different topologies with different flavors, but we hope that the QCDF approach can accommodate and predict much more hadronic B decays with less input parameters. So much attention in phenomenological analysis on the weak annihilation B decays is devoted to what the appropriate values of the parameters  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  should be. This is the second issue. In principle, a large value of  $\rho_A$  is unexpected by the power counting rules and the selfconsistency validation within the QCDF framework. The original proposal is that  $\rho_A \leq 1$  and an arbitrary strong interaction phase  $\phi_A$  are universal for all decay processes, and that a fine-tuning of the phase  $\phi_A$  is required to be reconciled with experimental data when  $\rho_A$  is significantly larger than 1 [11]. The recent study on the annihilation contributions shows that  $\rho_A > 2$  and  $|\phi_A| \ge 30^\circ$  are acceptable, even necessary, to reproduce the data for some twobody nonleptonic  $B_{u,d,s}$  decay modes [5,6]. In this paper, we will perform a fitting on the parameters  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  by considering  $B \to \pi \pi$ ,  $\pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  decay modes, on one hand, to investigate the strength of annihilation contribution, on the other hand, to study their effects on the anomalies in *B* physics, such as the well-known  $\pi K$  and  $\pi \pi$  puzzles.

The so-called  $\pi K$  puzzle is reflected by the difference between the direct *CP* asymmetries for  $B^- \to K^- \pi^0$  and  $\bar{B}^0 \to K^- \pi^+$  decays. With the up-to-date HFAG results [3], we get

$$\Delta A \equiv A_{CP}(B^- \to K^- \pi^0) - A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to K^- \pi^+)$$
  
= (12.2 ± 2.2)%, (3)

which differs from zero by about 5.5 $\sigma$ . However, the direct *CP* asymmetries of  $A_{CP}(B^- \to K^-\pi^0)$  and  $A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to K^-\pi^+)$  are expected to be approximately equal with the isospin symmetry in the SM, numerically for instance  $\Delta A \sim 0.5\%$  in the S4 scenario of QCDF [11].

The so-called  $\pi\pi$  puzzle is reflected by the following two ratios of the *CP*-averaged branching fractions [15]:

$$R_{+-}^{\pi\pi} \equiv 2 \left[ \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^- \to \pi^- \pi^0)}{\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-)} \right] \frac{\tau_{B^0}}{\tau_{B^+}}, \quad R_{00}^{\pi\pi} \equiv 2 \left[ \frac{\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \pi^0)}{\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-)} \right].$$
(4)

It is generally expected that branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+\pi^-) \gtrsim \mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^- \to \pi^-\pi^0)$  and  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+\pi^-) \gg \mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0\pi^0)$  within the SM. To date, the agreement of  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$  between the S4 scenario QCDF  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$  (QCDF) = 1.83 [11] and the refined experimental data  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$  (Exp) = 1.99 ± 0.15 [3] can be achieved consistently within experimental error, while the discrepancy in  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$  between the S4 scenario QCDF  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$  (QCDF) = 0.027 (where theoretical uncertainties are unenclosed) [11] and the progressive experimental data  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$  (Exp) = 1.99 ± 0.15 [3] is unexpectedly large.

It is claimed [15] that the so-called  $\pi\pi$  puzzle could be accommodated by the nonfactorizable contributions in SM. It is argued [14,15] that to solve the so-called  $\pi K$ puzzle, a large complex color-suppressed tree amplitude C' or a large complex electroweak penguin contribution  $P'_{\rm EW}$  or a combination of them are essential. An enhanced complex  $P'_{\rm EW}$  with a nontrivial strong phase can be obtained from new physics effects [15]. To get a large complex C', one can resort to spectator scattering and final state interactions [13,14]. Recently, the annihilation amplitudes with large parameters  $\rho_A$  are suggested to conciliate the recent measurements [Eqs. (1) and (2)], so surprisingly, the  $\pi K$  puzzle is also resolved simultaneously [5]. Theoretically, the power corrections, such as spectator scattering at the twist-3 order and annihilation amplitudes, are important to account for the large branching ratios and CP asymmetries of penguin-dominated and/or colorsuppressed tree-dominated B decays. So, before claiming a new physics signal, it is essential to examine whether power corrections could retrieve "problematic" deviations from the SM expectations. Interestingly, our study shows that with appropriate parameters, the annihilation and spectator scattering contributions could provide some possible solutions to the  $\pi K$  and  $\pi \pi$  puzzles.

Our paper is organized as following. In Sec. II, we give a brief overview of the hard spectator and annihilation calculations and recent studies within QCDF. In Sec. III, focusing on  $\pi K$  and  $\pi \pi$  puzzles, the effects of spectator scattering and annihilation contributions on  $B \rightarrow \pi \pi$ ,  $\pi K$ 

### SPECTATOR SCATTERING AND ANNIHILATION ...

and  $K\bar{K}$  decays are studied in detail in three scenarios. In each scenario, a fitting on relevant parameters is performed. Our conclusions are summarized in Sec. IV. Appendix A recapitulates the building blocks of annihilation and spectator scattering amplitudes. The input parameters and our fitting approach are given in Appendices B and C, respectively.

## II. BRIEF REVIEW OF SPECTATOR SCATTERING AND ANNIHILATION AMPLITUDES WITHIN QCDF

The effective Hamiltonian for nonleptonic B weak decays is [16]

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{p,q} V_{pb} V_{pq}^* \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{10} C_i O_i + C_{7\gamma} O_{7\gamma} + C_{8g} O_{8g} \right\}$$
  
+ H.c., (5)

where  $V_{pb}V_{pq}^*$  (p = u, c and q = d, s) is the product of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix elements;  $C_i$  is the Wilson coefficient corresponding to the local four-quark operator  $O_i$ ;  $O_{\gamma\gamma}$  and  $O_{8g}$  are the electromagnetic and chromomagnetic dipole operators.

With the effective Hamiltonian [Eq. (5)], the QCDF method has been fully developed and extensively employed to calculate the hadronic two-body *B* decays, for example, see [10–13]. The spectator scattering and annihilation amplitudes (see Fig. 1) are expressed as the convolution of scattering functions with the light-cone wave functions of the participating mesons [11,12]. The explicit expressions for the basic building blocks of spectator scattering and annihilation amplitudes have been given by Ref. [11], which are also listed in Appendix A for convenience. With the asymptotic light-cone distribution amplitudes, the building blocks for annihilation amplitudes of Eqs. (A1)–(A5) could be simplified as [11]

$$A_{1}^{i} \simeq A_{2}^{i} \simeq 2\pi\alpha_{s} \left[9\left(X_{A} - 4 + \frac{\pi^{2}}{3}\right) + r_{\chi}^{M_{1}}r_{\chi}^{M_{2}}X_{A}^{2}\right], \quad (6)$$

$$A_{3}^{i} \simeq 6\pi\alpha_{s}(r_{\chi}^{M_{1}} - r_{\chi}^{M_{2}})\left(X_{A}^{2} - 2X_{A} + \frac{\pi^{2}}{3}\right),\tag{7}$$

$$A_3^f \simeq 6\pi\alpha_s (r_\chi^{M_1} + r_\chi^{M_2})(2X_A^2 - X_A), \tag{8}$$

where the superscripts *i* (or *f*) refer to gluon emission from the initial (or final) state quarks, respectively (see Fig. 1). For the  $\pi\pi$ ,  $\pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  final state,  $A_3^i$  is numerically negligible due to  $r_{\chi}^{M_1} \simeq r_{\chi}^{M_2}$ . The model-dependent parameter  $X_A$  is used to estimate the end point contributions, and expressed as

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} \to X_A = (1 + \rho_A e^{i\phi_A}) \ln \frac{m_B}{\Lambda_h},\tag{9}$$

where  $\Lambda_h = 0.5$  GeV. For spectator scattering contributions, the calculation of twist-3 distribution amplitudes also suffers from end point divergence, which is usually dealt with in the same manner as Eq. (9) and labeled by  $X_H$  [11]. Moreover, a quantity  $\lambda_B$  is used to parametrize our ignorance about *B*-meson distribution amplitude [see Eq. (A6)] through [11]

$$\int_0^1 \frac{d\xi}{\xi} \Phi_B(\xi) \equiv \frac{m_B}{\lambda_B}.$$
 (10)

The QCDF approach itself cannot give information or/ and constraint on the phenomenological parameters of  $X_A$ ,  $X_H$  and  $\lambda_B$ . These parameters should be determined from experimental data. To conform with measurements of nonleptonic  $B \rightarrow PP$  decays, we will adopt a similar method used in Ref. [5] to deal with the contributions from weak annihilation and spectator scattering. Focusing



FIG. 1. The lowest order diagrams of weak annihilation (a)-(d) and spectator scattering [(e) and (f)].

on the flavor dependence, without consideration of theoretical uncertainties, annihilation contributions are reevaluated in detail [5] to explain the  $\pi K$  puzzle and the recent measurements on pure annihilation decays  $\bar{B}_s^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$  and  $\bar{B}_d^0 \to K^+ K^-$  [see Eqs. (1) and (2)]. The authors of Ref. [5] find that the flavor symmetry breaking effects should be carefully considered for  $B_{u,d,s}$  decays, and suggest that the parameters of  $\rho_A$  and  $\phi_A$  in nonfactorizable annihilation topologies  $A_k^i$  [see Eqs. (6) and (7)] should be different from those in factorizable annihilation topologies  $A_k^J$ [see Eq. (8)]. (1) For factorizable annihilation topologies, i.e., the gluon emission from the final states [Figs. 1(c) and 1(d)], the flavor symmetry breaking effects are embodied in the decay constants, because the asymptotic light-cone distribution amplitudes of final states are the same. In addition, all decay constants have been factorized outside from the hadronic matrix elements of factorizable annihilation topologies. So  $A_k^j$  is independent of the initial state, and is the same for  $B_{u,d,s}$  annihilation decays to two light pseudoscalar mesons, that is to say,  $\rho_A^f$  and  $\phi_A^f$  should be universal for  $B_{u,d,s} \rightarrow PP$  decays. (2) For nonfactorizable annihilation topologies, i.e., the gluon emission from the initial B meson Figs. 1(a) and 1(b), besides the factorized decay constants and the same asymptotic light-cone distribution amplitudes, *B*-meson wave functions  $\Phi_B(\xi)$  are involved in the convolution integrals of hadronic matrix elements. Hence,  $A_k^i$  should depend on the initial state and be different for  $B_{u,d}$  from the  $B_s$  meson due to flavor symmetry breaking effects, i.e., parameters of  $\rho_A^i$  and  $\phi_A^i$ should be nonuniversal for  $B_s$  and  $B_{u,d}$  meson decays, and be different from parameters of  $\rho_A^f$  and  $\phi_A^f$  for  $A_k^f$ . In fact, the symmetry breaking effects have been considered in previous QCDF studies on two-body hadronic B decays [6,11,13,14,17], but with parameters of  $\rho_A^f = \rho_A^i$  and  $\phi_A^f = \phi_A^i$ . So, it is essential to systematically reevaluate factorizable and nonfactorizable annihilation contributions and perform a global fit on the annihilation parameters with the current available experimental data. In this paper, we will pay much attention to  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow KK$ ,  $\pi K$ ,  $\pi \pi$  decays and the aforementioned  $\pi K$ ,  $\pi \pi$  puzzles with a distinction between  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$  and  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ , i.e.,  $X_A^i \neq X_A^f$ .

As aforesaid [14,15], the nonfactorizable spectator scattering amplitudes contribute to a large complex C', which is important to resolve the  $\pi K$ ,  $\pi \pi$  puzzles. From the building block [Eq. (A6)], it can be easily seen that B-meson wave functions  $\Phi_B(\xi)$  appear in the spectator scattering amplitudes. Therefore, the symmetry breaking effects should also be considered for the quantity  $X_H$  that is introduced to parametrize the end point singularity in the twist-3 level spectator scattering corrections. Similar to  $X_4^i$ , the quantity  $X_H$  is related to the topologies that the gluon emits from the initial B meson. So, for simplicity, the approximation  $X_H = X_A^i$  is assumed in our coming numerical evaluation (Scenarios I and II, see the next section for detail). Of course, this approximation is neither based on solid ground or from some underlying principle, and should be carefully studied and deserve much research. In fact, our coming phenomenological study (Scenarios III) shows that the approximation  $X_H = X_A^i$  is allowable with the up-todate measurement on  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow KK$ ,  $\pi K$ ,  $\pi \pi$  decays. In addition, it can be seen from Eq. (A6) that the spectator scattering corrections depend strongly on the inverse moment parameter  $\lambda_B$  given in Eq. (10). Recently, the value of  $\lambda_B$  is an increasing concern of theoretical and experimental physicists [18-23]. A scrutiny of parameter  $\lambda_B$  becomes imperative. In this paper, we will give some information on  $\lambda_B$  required by present experimental data of  $B_{u,d} \to K\bar{K}, \pi K, \pi \pi$  decays.

## **III. NUMERICAL ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS**

With the conventions in Ref. [11], the decay amplitudes for  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$ ,  $\pi\pi$  decays within the QCDF framework can be written as

$$\mathcal{A}_{B^{-} \to \pi^{-} \tilde{K}^{0}} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{ps}^{*} A_{\pi K} \bigg\{ \alpha_{4}^{p} - \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} + \delta_{pu} \beta_{2} + \beta_{3}^{p} + \beta_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} \bigg\},$$
(11)

$$\sqrt{2}\mathcal{A}_{B^{-}\to\pi^{0}K^{-}} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{ps}^{*} \left\{ A_{\pi K} [\delta_{pu}(\alpha_{1}+\beta_{2}) + \alpha_{4}^{p} + \alpha_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} + \beta_{3}^{p} + \beta_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^{p}] + A_{K\pi} \left[ \delta_{pu}\alpha_{2} + \frac{3}{2}\alpha_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} \right] \right\}, \quad (12)$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^{0} \to \pi^{+} K^{-}} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{ps}^{*} A_{\pi K} \bigg\{ \delta_{pu} \alpha_{1} + \alpha_{4}^{p} + \alpha_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} + \beta_{3}^{p} - \frac{1}{2} \beta_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} \bigg\},$$
(13)

$$\sqrt{2}\mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^{0}\to\pi^{0}\bar{K}^{0}} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{ps}^{*} \left\{ A_{\pi K} \left[ -\alpha_{4}^{p} + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} - \beta_{3}^{p} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} \right] + A_{K\pi} \left[ \delta_{pu}\alpha_{2} + \frac{3}{2}\alpha_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} \right] \right\},\tag{14}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{B^{-} \to K^{0} \bar{K}^{0}} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{pd}^{*} A_{KK} \bigg\{ \alpha_{4}^{p} - \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} + \delta_{pu} \beta_{2} + \beta_{3}^{p} + \beta_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} \bigg\},$$
(15)

SPECTATOR SCATTERING AND ANNIHILATION ...

$$\mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^0 \to K^- K^+} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{pd}^* \bigg\{ B_{\bar{K}K} [\delta_{pu} b_1 + b_4^p + b_{4,\text{EW}}^p] + B_{K\bar{K}} \bigg[ b_4^p - \frac{1}{2} b_{4,\text{EW}}^p \bigg] \bigg\},\tag{16}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^0 \to \bar{K}^0 K^0} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{pd}^* \left\{ A_{\bar{K}K} \left[ \alpha_4^p - \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^p + \beta_3^p + \beta_4^p - \frac{1}{2} \beta_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^p - \frac{1}{2} \beta_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^p \right] + B_{K\bar{K}} \left[ b_4^p - \frac{1}{2} b_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^p \right] \right\}, \tag{17}$$

$$\sqrt{2}\mathcal{A}_{B^{-}\to\pi^{-}\pi^{0}} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{pd}^{*} A_{\pi\pi} \bigg\{ \delta_{pu}(\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}) + \frac{3}{2} (\alpha_{3,\rm EW}^{p}+\alpha_{4,\rm EW}^{p}) \bigg\},\tag{18}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^{0}\to\pi^{+}\pi^{-}} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{pd}^{*} A_{\pi\pi} \bigg\{ \delta_{pu} (\alpha_{1} + \beta_{1}) + \alpha_{4}^{p} + \alpha_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} + \beta_{3}^{p} + 2\beta_{4}^{p} - \frac{1}{2} \beta_{3,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{4,\mathrm{EW}}^{p} \bigg\},$$
(19)

$$-\mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^{0}\to\pi^{0}\pi^{0}} = \sum_{p=u,c} V_{pb} V_{pd}^{*} A_{\pi\pi} \left\{ \delta_{pu} (\alpha_{2} - \beta_{1}) - \alpha_{4}^{p} + \frac{3}{2} \alpha_{3,\text{EW}}^{p} + \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{4,\text{EW}}^{p} - \beta_{3}^{p} - 2\beta_{4}^{p} + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{3,\text{EW}}^{p} - \frac{1}{2} \beta_{4,\text{EW}}^{p} \right\} \right\}.$$
(20)

For the sake for convenient discussion, we reiterate the expressions of the annihilation coefficients [11],

$$\beta_i^p = b_i^p B_{M_1 M_2} / A_{M_1 M_2}, \tag{21}$$

$$b_1 = \frac{C_F}{N_c^2} C_1 A_1^i, \qquad b_2 = \frac{C_F}{N_c^2} C_2 A_1^i, \tag{22}$$

$$b_3^p = \frac{C_F}{N_c^2} [C_3 A_1^i + C_5 (A_3^i + A_3^f) + N_c C_6 A_3^f], \quad (23)$$

$$b_4^p = \frac{C_F}{N_c^2} [C_4 A_1^i + C_6 A_2^i], \qquad (24)$$

$$b_{3,\text{EW}}^{p} = \frac{C_{F}}{N_{c}^{2}} [C_{9}A_{1}^{i} + C_{7}(A_{3}^{i} + A_{3}^{f}) + N_{c}C_{8}A_{3}^{f}], \quad (25)$$

$$b_{4,\text{EW}}^{p} = \frac{C_{F}}{N_{c}^{2}} [C_{10}A_{1}^{i} + C_{8}A_{2}^{i}].$$
(26)

Numerically, coefficients of  $b_{3,\text{EW}}^p$  and  $b_{4,\text{EW}}^p$  are negligible compared with the other effective coefficients due to the small electroweak Wilson coefficients, and so their effects would be not discussed in this paper.

In order to illustrate the contributions of annihilation and spectator scattering, we explore three parameter scenarios in which certain parameters are changed freely.

(i) Scenario I: B<sub>u,d</sub> → πK and KK̄ decays, including the πK puzzle and pure annihilation decay B<sub>d</sub> → K<sup>-</sup>K<sup>+</sup>, are studied in detail. Combining the latest experimental data on the *CP*-averaged branching ratios, direct and mixing-induced *CP*asymmetries, total 14 observables (see Tables II, III, and IV) for seven B<sub>u,d</sub> → πK, KK̄ decay modes [see Eqs. (11)–(17)], the fit on four parameters (ρ<sup>f</sup><sub>A</sub>, φ<sup>f</sup><sub>A</sub>) and (ρ<sup>i</sup><sub>A</sub>, φ<sup>i</sup><sub>A</sub>) is performed with the fixed value  $\lambda_B = 0.2$  GeV and the approximation  $(\rho_H, \phi_H) = (\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ , where  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ ,  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  and  $(\rho_H, \phi_H)$  are assumed to be universal for factorizable annihilation amplitudes, nonfactorizable annihilation amplitudes and spectator scattering corrections, respectively.

- (ii) Scenario II:  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$  and  $\pi\pi$  decays, including the  $\pi\pi$  puzzle, are studied. Combining the latest experimental data on the *CP*-averaged branching ratios, direct and mixing-induced *CP* asymmetries, total 21 observables (see Tables II, III, and IV) for ten  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$ ,  $\pi\pi$  decay modes [see Eqs. (11)–(20)], the fit on five parameters  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ ,  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  and  $\lambda_B$  is performed with the approximation  $(\rho_H, \phi_H) = (\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ .
- (iii) Scenario III: As a general scenario, to clarify the relative strength among  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ ,  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  and  $(\rho_H, \phi_H)$ , and check whether the approximation  $(\rho_H, \phi_H) = (\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  is allowed or not, a fit on such six free parameters is performed.

Other input parameters used in our evaluation are summarized in Appendix B. Our fit approach is illustrated in detail in Appendix C.

## A. Scenario I

Comparing Eq. (12) with Eq. (13), it can be clearly seen that  $\sqrt{2}A_{B^-\to\pi^0K^-} \simeq A_{\bar{B}^0\to\pi^+K^-}$  if  $\delta_{pu}\alpha_2 + \frac{3}{2}\alpha_{3,\rm EW}^p$  is negligible compared with  $\delta_{pu}\alpha_1 + \alpha_4^p$ . Hence it is expected  $\Delta A \simeq 0$  in SM, which significantly disagrees with the current experimental data in Eq. (3); this is the so-called  $\pi K$  puzzle. To resolve the  $\pi K$  puzzle, one possible solution is that there is a large complex contribution from  $\delta_{pu}\alpha_2 + \frac{3}{2}\alpha_{3,\rm EW}^p$ . Many proposals have been offered, such as the enhancement of color-suppressed tree amplitude  $\alpha_2$ in Ref. [14], significant new physics corrections to the



FIG. 2 (color online). The direct *CP* asymmetries  $A_{CP}(B^- \to \pi^0 K^-)$ ,  $A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-)$  and their difference  $\Delta A$  via (a) parameters  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  with  $\rho_A^f = \phi_A^f = 0$  and (b) parameters  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$  with  $\rho_A^i = \phi_A^i = 0$ , where the solid and dashed lines correspond to  $\rho_A^{i,f} = 1$  and 2, respectively; The shaded band is the experimental result for  $\Delta A$  with  $1\sigma$  error.

electroweak penguin coefficient  $\alpha_{3,EW}^p$  in Ref. [15], and so on. Indeed, it has been shown [11] that the coefficients  $\alpha_2$ and  $\alpha_{3 \text{ EW}}^p$  are seriously affected by spectator scattering corrections within the QCDF framework. Consequently, the nonfactorizable spectator scattering parameters  $X_H$  or  $(\rho_H, \phi_H)$  will have great influence on the observable  $\Delta A$ . Furthermore, a scrutiny of difference between Eqs. (12) and (13), another possible resolution to the  $\pi K$  puzzle might be provided by annihilation contributions, such as coefficient  $\beta_2$ , as suggested in Ref. [5]. If so, then  $\Delta A$  will depend strongly on the nonfactorizable annihilation parameters  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  because  $\beta_2$  is proportional to  $A_1^i$  in Eq. (22). Additionally, it can be seen from Eqs. (12) and (13) that annihilation coefficient  $\beta_3^p$  contributes to amplitudes both  $\mathcal{A}_{B^- \to \pi^0 K^-}$  and  $\mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-}$ . If  $\beta_3^p$  could offer a large strong phase, then its effect should contribute to the direct CP asymmetries  $A_{CP}(B^- \to \pi^0 K^-)$  and  $A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-)$ rather than  $\Delta A$ . Due to the fact that the lion's share of  $\beta_3^p$  comes from  $N_c C_6 A_3^f$  in Eq. (23), the direct *CP* asymmetries  $A_{CP}(B^- \to \pi^0 K^-)$  and  $A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-)$ should vary greatly with the factorizable annihilation parameters  $X_A^J$ , while  $\Delta A$  should be insensitive to variation of parameters  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ . The above analysis and speculations are confirmed by Fig. 2.

From Eq. (16), it is seen that the amplitude  $\mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^0 \to K^- K^+}$  depends heavily on coefficients  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_4^p$ , which are closely associated with the nonfactorizable annihilation parameter  $X_A^i$  only. The factorizable annihilation contributions vanish due to the isospin symmetry, which is consistent with the pQCD calculation [7]. The large branching ratio [Eq. (2)] would appeal for large nonfactorizable annihilation parameter  $X_A^i$  or  $\rho_A^i$ . The dependence of branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to K^- K^+)$  on the parameters  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  is displayed in Fig. 3.

To get more information on annihilation and spectator scattering, we perform a fit on the parameters  $X_H = X_A^i$  and  $X_A^f$ , considering the constraints of the *CP*-averaged branching ratios, direct and mixing-induced *CP* asymmetries,

from  $B \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$  decays. The experimental data are summarized in the second column of Tables II–IV. Our fitting results are shown by Fig. 4, and the corresponding numerical results are listed in Tables I–IV.

It is found that two possible solutions entitled Parts A and B in Table I, correspond to almost the same  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i) \approx (2.8, -108^\circ)$ . The large errors on parameter  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  are mainly caused by the current loose experimental constraints on CP asymmetries measurements for  $B \to \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$  decays. In principle, the pure annihilation  $\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^- K^+$  decays whose amplitudes depend predominantly on  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ , besides the decays constants, should give rigorous constraint on  $X_A^i$ . It is a pity that the available measurement accuracy on its branching ratio is too poor to efficiently confine  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  to some tiny spaces. The large  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  mean large  $X_A^i$  and  $X_H$ , i.e., there must exist large nonfactorizable annihilation and spectator scattering contributions to accommodate the current measurements. Our fit results on parameter  $\rho_A^i$  provide a robust evidence to the educated guesswork about  $\rho_{Ad}^i = 2.5$  in Ref. [5]. In fact, the strong phase  $\phi_A^i$  educed from measurements of branching ratios for  $B^0 \to K\bar{K}$  decays in Ref. [5] can have either



FIG. 3 (color online). The dependence of branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to K^- K^+)$  on nonfactorizable annihilation parameters  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ . The notes are the same as Fig. 2.



FIG. 4 (color online). The allowed regions of annihilation parameters at 68% C.L. and 95% C.L. in  $(\rho_A^{i,f}, \phi_A^{i,f})$  planes, where the bestfit points of Parts A and B correspond to  $\chi^2_{\min} = 2.47$  and  $\chi^2_{\min} = 2.46$ , respectively.

positive or negative values with the magnitudes of  $\gtrsim 100^{\circ}$  (see Fig. 5 of Ref. [5]), where the positive value  $\phi_A^i = +100^{\circ}$  used in Ref. [5] will be excluded by our fit with much more experimental data on  $B \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$  decays. The large value of  $\phi_A^i$ , corresponding to a large imaginary part of the enhanced complex corrections, also lends some support to the pQCD claim that the annihilation amplitudes can provide a large strong phase [8].

There are two possible solutions for the factorizable annihilation parameters, namely, Part A  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f) \approx (1.1, -40^\circ)$  and Part B  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f) \approx (2.7, 166^\circ)$ . From Fig. 4, it can be seen that there is no overlap between the regions of  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$  and  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  at the 95% confidence level, which indicates that it might be wrong to treat  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f) = (\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i) = (\rho_A, \phi_A)$  as universal parameters for nonfactorizable and factorizable annihilation topologies in previous studies. Our fit results certify the suggestion of Refs. [4,5] that different annihilation topologies should be parametrized by different annihilation parameters, i.e.,  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f) \neq (\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ . Compared with the results of  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ , the errors on parameter  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$  are relatively small (see Table I), because the available measurements on branching ratios for  $B \to \pi K$  decays are highly precise. The conjecture about  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$  in [5] is somewhat like our fit results of Part A.

The value of term  $(2X_A^f - X_A^f)$  in Eq. (A5) is about (27.2 - i26.2) with parameters for Part A and (28.9 - i25.5) for Part B, that is to say, these two solutions, Parts A and B, will present similar factorizable annihilation contributions. Nevertheless, a small value of  $\rho_A^f$  is more easily accepted by the QCDF approach [11]. So with the best fit parameters of Part A in Table I, we present our evaluations on branching ratios, direct and mixing-induced *CP* 

TABLE I. Numerical results of annihilation parameters in Scenario I.

	$ \rho_H = \rho_A^i $	$\phi_{H}=\phi^{i}_{A}[^{\circ}]$	$ ho_A^f$	$\phi^f_A[^\circ]$
Part A	$2.82^{+2.73}_{-1.15}$	$-108^{+44}_{-50}$	$1.07\substack{+0.30\\-0.20}$	$-40^{+10}_{-11}$
Part B	$2.86^{+2.68}_{-1.20}$	$-108^{+42}_{-51}$	$2.72\substack{+0.30 \\ -0.22}$	$166^{+3}_{-4}$

asymmetries for  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$ ,  $\pi\pi$  decays in the "Scenario I" column of Tables II, III, and IV, respectively. For comparison, the results of Scenario S4 QCDF [11] are also collected in the "S4" column. It is easily found that all theoretical results are in good agreement with experimental data within errors. Especially, the difference  $\Delta A$ , which  $\sim 0.5\%$  in Scenario S4 QCDF, is enhanced to the experimental level  $\sim 11\%$ . It is interesting that although  $B \rightarrow \pi\pi$  decays are not considered in the Scenario I fit, all predictions on these decays, including the ratios  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$  and  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$ , are also in good consistence with the experimental measurements within errors, which implies that the  $\pi K$  and  $\pi\pi$  puzzles could be resolved by annihilation and spectator corrections, at the same time, without violating the agreement of other observables. The reason will be excavated in Scenario II.

#### **B. Scenario II**

From Eq. (18), it is obviously found that the amplitude of  $B^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^0$  decay is independent of annihilation contributions, and dominated by  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2$ . Moreover, comparing Eq. (19) with Eq. (20), it is easily found that the annihilation contributions are almost helpless for  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$  puzzle due to  $\mathcal{A}_{B^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-}^{anni} \simeq \mathcal{A}_{B^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0}^{anni}$ . So, the spectator scattering corrections, which play an important role in the colorsuppressed coefficient  $\alpha_2$  [11,14,17], would be another important key for the good results of Scenario I, especially for  $B \rightarrow \pi\pi$  decays.

Within the QCDF framework, besides  $X_H$ , the inverse moment  $\lambda_B$  of the *B* wave function defined by Eq. (10) is another important quantity in evaluating the contributions of spectator scattering. Unfortunately, its value is hardly to be obtained reliably with theoretical methods until now, for instance  $350 \pm 150$  MeV (200 MeV in Scenario S2) in Ref. [11],  $200^{+250}_{-0}$  MeV in Ref. [19] and  $300 \pm 100$  MeV in Ref. [14], though the QCD sum rule prefers  $460 \pm$ 110 MeV at the scale of 1 GeV [20]. Experimentally, the upper limits on parameter  $\lambda_B$  are set at the 90% C.L. via measurements on the branching fraction of radiative leptonic  $B \rightarrow \ell \bar{\nu}_{\ell} \gamma$  decay by the *BABAR* collaboration,

TABLE II. The *CP*-averaged branching ratios (in units of  $10^{-6}$ ) of  $B \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$ ,  $\pi\pi$  decays. For the Part A results of Scenarios I and II, the first and second theoretical uncertainties are caused by the CKM and other input parameters, respectively.

Decay mode	Experiment [3]	Scenario I	Scenario II	S4 [11]
$B^- \rightarrow \pi^- \bar{K}^0$	$23.79\pm0.75$	$20.53^{+1.52+4.28}_{-0.65-3.87}$	$21.54^{+1.60+4.40}_{-0.68-3.99}$	20.3
$B^- \to \pi^0 K^-$	$12.94_{-0.51}^{+0.52}$	$11.29_{-0.45-1.96}^{+0.88+2.14}$	$11.78\substack{+0.92+2.20\\-0.47-2.01}$	11.7
$\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-$	$19.57_{-0.52}^{+0.53}$	$17.54_{-0.65-3.27}^{+1.34+3.61}$	$18.51^{+1.41+3.73}_{-0.67-3.38}$	18.4
$\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \bar{K}^0$	$9.93\pm0.49$	$8.05\substack{+0.60+1.84\\-0.27-1.65}$	$8.60\substack{+0.65+1.90\\-0.29-1.72}$	8.0
$B^- \rightarrow K^- K^0$	$1.19\pm0.18$	$1.45\substack{+0.13+0.32\\-0.09-0.29}$	$1.51\substack{+0.13+0.32\\-0.09-0.29}$	1.46
$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^- K^+$	$0.12\pm0.05$	$0.13\substack{+0.01+0.02\\-0.01-0.02}$	$0.15\substack{+0.02+0.02\\-0.01-0.02}$	0.07
$\bar{B}^0 \to K^0 \bar{K}^0$	$1.21\pm0.16$	$1.22\substack{+0.11+0.27\\-0.08-0.24}$	$1.32_{-0.08-0.25}^{+0.12+0.27}$	1.58
$B^- \to \pi^- \pi^0$	$5.48^{+0.35}_{-0.34}$	$5.20^{+0.64+1.11}_{-0.47-1.00}$	$5.59_{-0.51-1.04}^{+0.68+1.15}$	5.1
$\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-$	$5.10\pm0.19$	$5.88^{+0.66+1.66}_{-0.49-1.45}$	$5.74_{-0.47-1.42}^{+0.64+1.63}$	5.2
$\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \pi^0$	$1.91\substack{+0.22\\-0.23}$	$1.67^{+0.22+0.25}_{-0.19-0.23}$	$2.13_{-0.24-0.29}^{+0.29+0.32}$	0.7
$R^{\pi\pi}_{+-}$	$1.99\pm0.15$	$1.64_{-0.06-0.11}^{+0.06+0.13}$	$1.80\substack{+0.07+0.17\\-0.07-0.13}$	1.82
$R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$	$0.75\pm0.09$	$0.57\substack{+0.06+0.16\\-0.06-0.12}$	$0.74\substack{+0.08+0.22\\-0.08-0.17}$	0.27

TABLE III. The direct *CP* asymmetries (in units of  $10^{-2}$ ) of  $B \to \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$ ,  $\pi\pi$  decays. The notes on uncertainties are the same as Table II.

Decay mode	Experiment [3]	Scenario I	Scenario II	S4 [11]
$B^- \rightarrow \pi^- \bar{K}^0$	$-1.5 \pm 1.9$	$-0.05^{+0.00+0.13}_{-0.00-0.15}$	$-0.17^{+0.01+0.14}_{-0.01-0.15}$	0.3
$B^- \rightarrow \pi^0 K^-$	$4.0\pm2.1$	$3.2^{+0.2+0.6}_{-0.2-0.6}$	$2.5^{+0.1+0.6}_{-0.1-0.6}$	-3.6
$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ K^-$	$-8.2\pm0.6$	$-7.7\substack{+0.4+0.9\\-0.4-0.9}$	$-9.1_{-0.5-0.9}^{+0.4+0.9}$	-4.1
$\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \bar{K}^0$	$-1 \pm 10$	$-10.3^{+0.6+0.9}_{-0.6-1.0}$	$-10.6\substack{+0.6+0.9\\-0.6-0.9}$	0.8
$\Delta A$	$12.2\pm2.2$	$10.9\substack{+0.6+0.9\\-0.5-0.8}$	$11.6^{+0.6+0.9}_{-0.6-0.8}$	0.5
$B^- \to K^- K^0$	$3.9\pm14.1$	$-0.6^{+0.0+3.2}_{-0.0-2.9}$	$2.0_{-0.1-3.0}^{+0.1+3.4}$	-4.3
$\bar{B}^0 \to K^0 \bar{K}^0$	$-6 \pm 26$	$-17^{+1+2}_{-1-2}$	$-16^{+1+2}_{-1-2}$	-11.5
$B^- \to \pi^- \pi^0$	$2.6\pm3.9$	$-1.1\substack{+0.1+0.1\\-0.1-0.1}$	$-1.2^{+0.1+0.1}_{-0.1-0.1}$	-0.02
$ar{B}^0  o \pi^+\pi^-$	$29\pm5$	$19^{+1+4}_{-1-4}$	$24^{+2+5}_{-2-4}$	10.3
$\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \pi^0$	$43\pm24$	$46^{+3+6}_{+3-6}$	$38^{+2+6}_{-2-6}$	-19.0

 $\lambda_B > 669 (591)$  MeV with different priors based on 232 million  $B\bar{B}$  samples where the photon is not required to be sufficiently energetic in order not to sacrifice statistics [21], and  $\lambda_B > 300$  MeV based on 465 million  $B\bar{B}$  pairs [22]. Considering radiative and power corrections, an improved analysis is performed in Ref. [18] with the conclusion that present *BABAR* measurements cannot put significant

TABLE IV. The mixing-induced *CP* asymmetries (in units of  $10^{-2}$ ) of  $B \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$ ,  $\pi\pi$  decays. The notes on uncertainties are the same as Table II.

Decay mode	Experiment [3]	Scenario I	Scenario II
$\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \bar{K}^0$	57 ± 17	$78^{+3+1}_{-3-1}$	$79^{+3+1}_{-3-1}$
$\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow K^- K^+$		$-86^{+6+0}_{-5-0}$	$-86^{+6+0}_{-5-0}$
$\bar{B}^0 \to K^0 \bar{K}^0$	$-108\pm49$	$-10^{+1+0}_{-1-0}$	$-11^{+1+0}_{-1-0}$
$ar{B}^0  o \pi^+\pi^-$	$-65\pm 6$	$-59^{+11+2}_{-10-3}$	$-60^{+10+2}_{-10-2}$
$\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \pi^0$		$77^{+6+1}_{-8-2}$	$77^{+7+1}_{-9-2}$

constrains on  $\lambda_B$  and that  $\lambda_B > 115$  MeV from the experimental results [22]. Anyway, the study of hadronic *B* decays favors a relatively small value of  $\lambda_B \approx 200$  MeV to achieve a satisfactory description of color-suppressed tree decay modes [23]. At the present time, the value of  $\lambda_B$  is still a point of controversy. In the following analysis and evaluations, we treat  $\lambda_B$  as a free parameter.

To explicitly show the effects of the spectator scattering contributions on the  $\pi K$  puzzle, dependance of  $A_{CP}(B^- \to \pi^0 K^-)$ ,  $A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-)$  and their difference  $\Delta A$  on parameter  $\lambda_B$  are displayed in Fig. 5. It is found that (1) observables of  $A_{CP}(B^- \to \pi^0 K^-)$  and  $\Delta A$  are more sensitive to variation of  $\lambda_B$  than  $A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-)$ in the region of  $\lambda_B \ge 100$  MeV. The reason is the aforementioned fact that coefficient  $\alpha_2$  in amplitude  $\mathcal{A}_{B^- \to \pi^0 K^-}$ [see Eq. (12)] receives significant spectator scattering corrections. A noticeable change of observables is easily seen in the low region of  $\lambda_B$  because spectator scattering corrections are inversely proportional to  $\lambda_B$ 



FIG. 5 (color online). The dependance of the direct *CP* asymmetries  $A_{CP}(B^- \to \pi^0 K^-)$ ,  $A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-)$  and their difference  $\Delta A$  on  $\lambda_B$  (in units of GeV) with the fitted annihilation parameters of Scenario I (Part A). Their experimental results with  $1\sigma$  error are shown by shaded bands with the same color as the lines.

[see Eqs. (10) and (A6)]. (2) A relative small value of  $\lambda_B \in [150 \text{ MeV}, 220 \text{ MeV}]$ , as expected in [23], is required to confront with available measurements. Especially, the value  $\lambda_B \approx 190$  MeV provides a perfect description of the experimental data on  $A_{CP}(B^- \to \pi^0 K^-)$ ,  $A_{CP}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ K^-)$  and  $\Delta A$  simultaneously. For  $B \to \pi \pi$ decays, from Eqs. (18)–(20), it is easily seen that amplitude  $\mathcal{A}_{B^- \to \pi^- \pi^0} \propto \alpha_1 + \alpha_2, \ \mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-} \propto \alpha_1, \ \mathcal{A}_{\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \pi^0} \propto \alpha_2.$  The coefficient  $\alpha_2$ , corresponding to the color-suppressed tree contribution, its value is small relative to  $\alpha_1$ , so the experimental data on  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$  can be well explained with Scenario S4 QCDF where  $X_A^i = X_A^f$  and  $\rho_A^{f,i} = 1$  (see Table II). But as to observable  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$  or/and branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \pi^0)$ , an enhanced  $\alpha_2$  is desirable. Hence, the nonfactorizable spectator scattering contributions, which have significant effects on  $\alpha_2$ , would play an important role in studying the color-suppressed tree B decays, and possibly provide a solution to the  $\pi\pi$  puzzle. The dependencies of the branching fractions of  $B \rightarrow \pi \pi$  decays and ratios  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$ ,  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$  on  $\lambda_B$  are shown in Fig. 6 where the fitted parameters of Part A in Table I are used. It is interesting that beside a large value  $\rho_H$ , a small value of  $\lambda_B \sim 200$  MeV is also required to confront with experimental data on  $\mathcal{B}(B \to \pi\pi)$ ,  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$  and  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$ .

With the available experimental data on  $B \rightarrow \pi \pi, \pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  decays, we perform a comprehensive fit on both annihilation parameters  $(\rho_A^{i,f}, \phi_A^{i,f})$  and *B*-meson wave function parameter  $\lambda_B$ . The allowed parameter spaces are shown in Fig. 7, and the corresponding numerical results are summarized in Table V. Like Scenario I, there are two allowed spaces which are labeled by Parts A and B. It is easily found that (1) parameters  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i) = (\rho_H, \phi_H)$  are still required to have large values (see Table V), that is to say, it is necessary for penguin-dominated or colorsuppressed tree B decays to own large corrections from nonfactorizable annihilation and spectator scattering topologies. (2) There is still no overlap between the regions of  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$  and  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  at the 95% confidence level. (3) The cental values of  $\rho_A^{i,f}$  are a little larger than those in Scenario I. The uncertainties on  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  are a little smaller than those in Scenario I, because more processes from  $B \rightarrow \pi \pi$ decays are considered in fitting and the amplitudes for  $B \rightarrow$  $\pi\pi$  decays are sensitive to  $X_A^i$  and  $X_H$  rather than  $X_A^f$ . (4) A small value of parameter  $\lambda_B \leq 350$  MeV at the 95% confidence level is strongly required to reconcile discrepancies between results of QCDF approach and available experimental data on  $B \to \pi\pi$ ,  $\pi K$  and KK decays.

The two solutions of Scenario II, Parts A and B, will give similar results, as discussed before. With the best fit parameters of Part A in Table V, we present our evaluations on branching ratios, direct and mixing-induced *CP* asymmetries for  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}, \pi\pi$  decays in the "Scenario II" column of Tables II, III, and IV, respectively. It is found that the central values of branching ratios for  $B \rightarrow \pi\pi, \pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  decays, except  $\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$  decay, with the Part A parameters of Scenario II, are a little larger than those of Scenario I (see Table II), because a bit larger values of  $\rho_A^{i,f}$ and a bit smaller value of  $\lambda_B$  than those of Scenario I are taken in Scenario II. Compared with results of Scenario S4



FIG. 6 (color online). The dependence of the branching fractions  $\mathcal{B}(B^- \to \pi^- \pi^0)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to \pi^0 \pi^0)$  and ratios  $R_{+-}^{\pi\pi}$ ,  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$  on  $\lambda_B$  with the same notes as Fig. 5.



FIG. 7 (color online). The allowed regions of annihilation parameters  $(\rho_A^{i,f}, \phi_A^{i,f})$  and  $\lambda_B$  at 68% C.L. and 95% C.L. The best-fit points of Parts A and B correspond to  $\chi^2_{min} = 3.66$  and  $\chi^2_{min} = 3.67$ , respectively.

QCDF, agreement between theoretical results within two scenarios and experimental measurements is improved, especially for the observables  $\Delta A$ ,  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$  and  $A_{CP}(B^0 \rightarrow \pi\pi)$ .

### C. Scenario III

The above analyses and results are based on the assumption that  $X_A^i = X_H$  [i.e.,  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i) = (\rho_H, \phi_H)$ ] for simplicity. While, there is no compellent requirement for such simplification, except for the fact that wave functions of *B* mesons are involved in the convolution integrals of both spectator scattering and nonfactorizable annihilation corrections, but are irrelevant to the factorable annihilation amplitudes. So, as a general scenario (named Scenario III), we would reevaluate the strength of annihilation for the parameters  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ ,  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  and  $(\rho_H, \phi_H)$ .

Considering the constraints from observables of  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow K\bar{K}$ ,  $\pi K$  and  $\pi \pi$  decays, a fit for the annihilation and hard-spectator parameters is performed again. In this fit,  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f), (\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  and  $(\rho_H, \phi_H)$  are treated as six free parameters. Moreover, from the hard-spectator corrections

TABLE V. Numerical results of annihilation parameters and moment parameter  $\lambda_B$  in Scenario II.

	$ ho_A^i$	$\phi^i_A[^\circ]$	$ ho_A^f$	$\pmb{\phi}^f_A[^\circ]$	$\lambda_B$ [GeV]
Part A	$2.88\substack{+1.52 \\ -1.30}$	$-103_{-40}^{+33}$	$1.21\substack{+0.22 \\ -0.25}$	$-40^{+12}_{-8}$	$0.18\substack{+0.11 \\ -0.08}$
Part B	$2.98\substack{+1.50 \\ -1.40}$	$-106^{+35}_{-39}$	$2.78\substack{+0.29 \\ -0.18}$	$165^{+4}_{-3}$	$0.19\substack{+0.09 \\ -0.10}$

illustrated by Eq. (A6), it can be seen that  $\lambda_B$  and  $X_H$  are always combined together.

Although the inverse moment  $\lambda_B$  of the *B* wave function could be determined or constricted by further experiments [18,21–23],  $\lambda_B$  is more like a free parameter for the moment due to loose limitation on it. So it is impossible to strictly bound on  $\lambda_B$  and  $X_H$  simultaneously due to the interference effects between them. In our following fit, we will fix  $\lambda_B = 200$  MeV. Our fitting results at 68% C.L. are presented in Fig. 8, where the range of  $\phi \in [-360^\circ, 0^\circ]$ is assigned to illustrate their relative magnitude. Numerically, we get



FIG. 8 (color online). The allowed regions of annihilation and hard-spectator parameters  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ ,  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  and  $(\rho_H, \phi_H)$  at 68% C.L. The two solutions of  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$  and  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  are labeled as Parts A, B and A', B', respectively.

SPECTATOR SCATTERING AND ANNIHILATION ...

$$(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f[^\circ]) = \begin{cases} (1.18^{+0.26}_{-0.23}, -40^{+12}_{-8}) & \text{Part A} \\ (2.79^{+0.26}_{-0.20}, -196^{+5}_{-3}) & \text{Part B}, \end{cases}$$
(27)

$$(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i[^\circ]) = \begin{cases} (2.85^{+2.18}_{-1.92}, -103^{+52}_{-63}) & \text{PartA'} \\ (6.54^{+1.81}_{-3.30}, -206^{+23}_{-24}) & \text{PartB'}, \end{cases}$$
(28)

$$(\rho_H, \phi_H[^\circ]) = (3.09^{+1.64}_{-1.53}, -102^{+40}_{-31}).$$
<sup>(29)</sup>

It can be easily seen from Fig. 8 that: (1) for factorizable annihilation parameters  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ , similar to Scenarios I and II, there are two allowed regions (labeled by Parts A and B); (2) for nonfactorizable annihilation parameters  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ , besides the solution similar to Scenarios I and II (labeled by Part A'), another solution (labeled by Part B') with a very large value of  $\rho_A^i$  is gotten. (3) It is very interesting that the allowed space of  $(\rho_H, \phi_H)$  overlaps almost entirely with the "Part A'" allowed space of  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ . Moreover, their best-fit points  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i) = (2.85, -103^\circ)$  of Part A' and  $(\rho_H, \phi_H) = (3.09, -102^\circ)$  are very close to each other. It might imply that the assumption  $X_A^i(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i) = X_H(\rho_H, \phi_H)$  used in Scenarios I and II is a good simplification.

With the best fit parameters in Scenario III, either the small value of  $\rho_A^i$  in Part A' or the large value in "Part B'," our evaluations on branching ratios, direct and mixinginduced *CP* asymmetries for  $B_{u,d} \rightarrow \pi K$ ,  $K\bar{K}$ ,  $\pi\pi$  decays are similar to those given in our Scenarios I and II, so are no longer listed here. For the two solutions A' and B' of  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$ , it is expected by the QCDF approach [11] that the parameter  $\rho_A^i$  should have a small value, which is also favored by our Scenarios I and II fit. In fact, such two solutions lead to the same results of  $A_{1,2}^i$ , but the different ones of  $A_3^i$ , which principally provide an opportunity to refute one of them. However, because  $A_3^i$  is numerically trivial due to  $(r_{\chi}^{M_1} - r_{\chi}^{M_2}) \sim 0$  for the light mesons, such a way is practically unfeasible for current accuracies of theoretical calculation and experimentally measurement.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

The recent CDF and LHCb measurements of large branching ratios for pure annihilation  $\bar{B}^0_s \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$  and  $\bar{B}^0_d \rightarrow K^+K^-$  decays imply possible large annihilation contributions, which induce us to modify the traditional QCDF treatment for annihilation parameters. Following the suggestion of Ref. [5], two sets of annihilation parameters  $X^i_A$  and  $X^f_A$  are used to parametrize the end point singularity in nonfactorizable and factorizable annihilation amplitudes, respectively. Besides annihilation effects, the resolution of so-called  $\pi K$  and  $\pi \pi$  puzzles also expects constructive contributions from spectator scattering topologies. With the approximation of  $X^i_A = X_H$ , we perform a global fit on both annihilation parameters  $(\rho^{i,f}_A, \phi^{i,f}_A)$  and *B*-meson wave function parameter  $\lambda_B$  based on available experimental data for  $B \to \pi\pi$ ,  $\pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  decays. Our main conclusions and findings are summarized as follows:

- (i) The 95% C.L. allowed region of  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  is entirely different from that of  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ . This fact means that the traditional QCDF treatment  $(\rho_A, \phi_A)$  as universal parameters for different annihilation topologies might be unapplicable to hadronic *B* decays.
- (ii) The current experimental data on  $B \to \pi\pi$ ,  $\pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  decays seems to favor a large value of  $\rho_A^i \sim 2.9$ , which corresponds to sizable nonfactorizable annihilation contributions. But the range of  $(\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  is still very large, because the measurement precision of *CP* asymmetries is low now.
- (iii) There are two possible choices for parameters  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$ . One is  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f) \sim (1.1, -40^\circ)$ , the other is  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f) \sim (2.7, 165^\circ)$ . These two choices correspond to similar factorizable annihilation contributions, although the QCDF approach tends to have a small value of  $\rho_A^f$  [11]. The space for  $(\rho_A^f, \phi_A^f)$  is relatively tight due to the well measured branching ratios for  $B \to \pi\pi$ ,  $\pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  decays.
- (iv) The spectator scattering corrections play an important role in resolving both  $\pi K$  and  $\pi \pi$  puzzles. Within the QCDF approach, the spectator scattering amplitudes depend on parameters  $(\rho_H, \phi_H)$  and *B*-meson wave function parameter  $\lambda_B$ . In our analysis, the approximation  $(\rho_H, \phi_H) = (\rho_A^i, \phi_A^i)$  is assumed, which is proven to be a good simplification by a global fit in Scenario III. A small value of  $\lambda_B \leq$ 350 MeV at the 95% C.L. is obtained by the global fit on  $B \to \pi\pi$ ,  $\pi K$  and  $K\bar{K}$  decays, which needs to be further tested by future improved measurement on  $B \to \ell \nu_{\ell} \gamma$  decays. An enhanced color-suppressed tree coefficient  $\alpha_2$ , which is supported by both large value of  $\rho_H \sim 2.9$  and small value of  $\lambda_B \sim 200$  MeV, is helpful to reconcile discrepancies on  $\Delta A$  and  $R_{00}^{\pi\pi}$ between QCDF approach and experiments.

The spectator scattering and annihilation contributions can offer significant corrections to observables of hadronic *B* decays, and deserve intensive research especially when we apply the QCDF approach to the penguin-dominated, color-suppressed tree, and pure annihilation nonleptonic Bdecays. As suggested in Refs. [4,5] and proofed by the pQCD approach [8], different parameters corresponding to different topologies should be introduced to regulate the end point divergences in spectator scattering and annihilation amplitudes within QCDF approach, even parameters reflecting the flavor symmetry-breaking effects should be considered for  $B_{u,d,s}$  decays [4–6,11,13,14,17]. This treatment might provide a possible solution to problematic discrepancies between QCDF results and available measurements. Of course, a fine-tuning of these parameters is required to be compatible with the experimental constraints. With the running LHCb and the upcoming SuperKEKB experiments, more refined measurements on *B*-meson decays can be obtained, which will provide more powerful grounds to test various approaches and confirm or refute some theoretical hypotheses.

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## APPENDIX A: BUILDING BLOCKS OF ANNIHILATION AND SPECTATOR SCATTERING CONTRIBUTIONS

The annihilation amplitudes for two-body nonleptonic  $B \rightarrow M_1 M_2$  decays (here  $M_i$  denotes the light pseudoscalar meson) can be expressed as the following building blocks [11]:

$$A_{1}^{i} = \pi \alpha_{s} \int_{0}^{1} dx dy \bigg\{ \Phi_{M_{2}}^{a}(x) \Phi_{M_{1}}^{a}(y) \bigg[ \frac{1}{y(1-x\bar{y})} + \frac{1}{\bar{x}^{2}y} \bigg] + r_{\chi}^{M_{1}} r_{\chi}^{M_{2}} \frac{2\Phi_{M_{2}}^{p}(x)\Phi_{M_{1}}^{p}(y)}{\bar{x}y} \bigg\},$$
(A1)

$$A_{2}^{i} = \pi \alpha_{s} \int_{0}^{1} dx dy \bigg\{ \Phi_{M_{2}}^{a}(x) \Phi_{M_{1}}^{a}(y) \bigg[ \frac{1}{\bar{x}(1-x\bar{y})} + \frac{1}{\bar{x}y^{2}} \bigg] + r_{\chi}^{M_{1}} r_{\chi}^{M_{2}} \frac{2\Phi_{M_{2}}^{p}(x)\Phi_{M_{1}}^{p}(y)}{\bar{x}y} \bigg\},$$
(A2)

$$A_{3}^{i} = \pi \alpha_{s} \int_{0}^{1} dx dy \bigg\{ r_{\chi}^{M_{1}} \frac{2\bar{y} \Phi_{M_{2}}^{a}(x) \Phi_{M_{1}}^{p}(y)}{\bar{x}y(1 - x\bar{y})} - r_{\chi}^{M_{2}} \frac{2x \Phi_{M_{1}}^{a}(y) \Phi_{M_{2}}^{p}(x)}{\bar{x}y(1 - x\bar{y})} \bigg\},$$
(A3)

$$A_1^f = A_2^f = 0, (A4)$$

$$A_{3}^{f} = \pi \alpha_{s} \int_{0}^{1} dx dy \bigg\{ r_{\chi}^{M_{1}} \frac{2(1+\bar{x})\Phi_{M_{2}}^{a}(x)\Phi_{M_{1}}^{p}(y)}{\bar{x}^{2}y} + r_{\chi}^{M_{2}} \frac{2(1+y)\Phi_{M_{1}}^{a}(y)\Phi_{M_{2}}^{p}(x)}{\bar{x}y^{2}} \bigg\},$$
(A5)

where the subscripts k on  $A_k^{i,f}$  correspond to three possible Dirac current structures, namely, k = 1, 2, 3 for  $(V-A) \otimes (V-A)$ ,  $(V-A) \otimes (V+A)$ ,  $-2(S-P) \otimes (S+P)$ , respectively.  $r_{\chi}^M = 2m_M^2/m_b(m_1+m_2)$ , where  $m_{1,2}$  are the current quark mass of the pseudoscalar meson with mass  $m_M$ .  $\Phi_M^a$  and  $\Phi_M^p$  are the twist-2 and twist-3 light-cone distribution amplitudes, respectively. Their asymptotic forms are  $\Phi_M^a(x) = 6x\bar{x}$  and  $\Phi_M^p(x) = 1$ .

The spectator scattering corrections are given by [11]

$$H_{i}(M_{1}M_{2}) = \begin{cases} +\frac{B_{M_{1}M_{2}}}{A_{M_{1}M_{2}}} \int_{0}^{1} d\xi \frac{\Phi_{B}(\xi)}{\xi} \int_{0}^{1} dx dy \left[ \frac{\Phi_{M_{2}}^{a}(x)\Phi_{M_{1}}^{a}(y)}{\bar{x}\bar{y}} + r_{\chi}^{M_{1}} \frac{\Phi_{M_{2}}^{a}(x)\Phi_{M_{1}}^{p}(y)}{\bar{x}\bar{y}} \right], & \text{for } i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 \\ -\frac{B_{M_{1}M_{2}}}{A_{M_{1}M_{2}}} \int_{0}^{1} d\xi \frac{\Phi_{B}(\xi)}{\xi} \int_{0}^{1} dx dy \left[ \frac{\Phi_{M_{2}}^{a}(x)\Phi_{M_{1}}^{a}(y)}{\bar{x}\bar{y}} + r_{\chi}^{M_{1}} \frac{\Phi_{M_{2}}^{a}(x)\Phi_{M_{1}}^{p}(y)}{\bar{x}\bar{y}} \right], & \text{for } i = 5, 7 \end{cases}$$

$$(A6)$$

where the factorized matrix elements are parametrized as [11]

$$A_{M_1M_2} = i \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} m_B^2 F_0^{B \to M_1} f_{M_2}, \qquad B_{M_1M_2} = i \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} f_B f_{M_1} f_{M_2}.$$
(A7)

For the CKM matrix elements, we adopt the fitting results for the Wolfenstein parameters given by the CKMfitter group [24]:

$$\begin{split} \bar{\rho} &= 0.140^{+0.027}_{-0.026}, \qquad \bar{\eta} = 0.343^{+0.015}_{-0.014}, \\ A &= 0.802^{+0.029}_{-0.011}, \qquad \lambda = 0.22543^{+0.00059}_{-0.00094}. \end{split} \tag{B1}$$

The pole masses of quarks are [25]

$$m_u = m_d = m_s = 0,$$
  $m_c = 1.67 \pm 0.07$  GeV,  
 $m_b = 4.78 \pm 0.06$  GeV,  $m_t = 173.5 \pm 1.0$  GeV.  
(B2)

The running masses of quarks are [25]

$$\frac{\bar{m}_s(\mu)}{\bar{m}_q(\mu)} = 27 \pm 1,$$
  

$$\bar{m}_s(2 \text{ GeV}) = 95 \pm 5 \text{ MeV},$$
  

$$\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c) = 1.275 \pm 0.025 \text{ GeV},$$
  

$$\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b) = 4.18 \pm 0.03 \text{ GeV},$$
  

$$\bar{m}_t(\bar{m}_t) = 160.0^{+4.8}_{-4.3} \text{ GeV}.$$
(B3)

The decay constants of THE *B* meson and light mesons are [25]

$$f_B = (0.190 \pm 0.013) \text{ GeV},$$
  

$$f_{\pi} = (130.4 \pm 0.2) \text{ MeV},$$
  

$$f_K = (156.1 \pm 0.8) \text{ MeV}.$$
 (B4)

We take the following heavy-to-light transition form factors [26]:

$$F_0^{B \to \pi}(0) = 0.258 \pm 0.031,$$
  

$$F_0^{B \to K}(0) = 0.331 \pm 0.041.$$
 (B5)

Moreover, for the Gegenbauer coefficients, we take [27]

$$a_1^{\pi}(2 \text{ GeV}) = 0, \qquad a_2^{\pi}(2 \text{ GeV}) = 0.17,$$
  
 $a_1^{K}(2 \text{ GeV}) = 0.05, \qquad a_2^{K}(2 \text{ GeV}) = 0.17.$  (B6)

$$\chi^{2} = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \begin{cases} \frac{\left[\left[f_{j\,\text{theo}} - \delta_{j\,\text{theo,sub}}\right] - f_{j\,\text{exp}}\right]^{2}}{\sigma_{j\,\text{exp}}^{2}} \\ \frac{\left[f_{j\,\text{exp}} - \left[f_{j\,\text{theo}} + \delta_{j\,\text{theo,sup}}\right]\right]^{2}}{\sigma_{j\,\text{exp}}^{2}} \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

where  $\delta_{j \text{ theo,sup}}$  and  $\delta_{j \text{ theo,sub}}$  denote asymmetric theoretical uncertainties, and are defined as  $(f_{j \text{ theo}})^{+\delta_{j \text{ theo,sup}}}_{-\delta_{j \text{ theo,sub}}}$ . As to the asymmetric experimental errors, we choose the larger one as weighting factor. Correspondingly, the confidence levels are defined by the function

$$CL(\{y_i\}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^{N_{dof}}}\Gamma(N_{dof}/2)} \int_{\Delta\chi^2(\{y_i\})}^{\infty} e^{-t/2} t^{N_{dof}/2 - 1} dt,$$
(C3)

For the other inputs, such as the masses and lifetimes of mesons and so on, we take their central values given by PDG [25].

#### **APPENDIX C: FITTING APPROACH**

Our fit is performed in a simple way, which is similar to the one adopted in Ref. [28] based on the frequentist framework. Considering a set of N observables  $f_j$ , the experimental measurements are assumed to be Gaussian distributed with the mean value  $f_{j exp}$  and error  $\sigma_{j exp}$ . The theoretical prediction  $f_{j theo}$  for each observable could be treated as a function of a set of "unknown" free parameters  $\{y_i\}$  (here  $y_i = \rho_A^{i,f}$ ,  $\phi_A^{i,f}$  and  $\lambda_B$  in this paper). To estimate the values of unknown parameters  $\{y_i\}$  and compare the theoretical results  $f_{j theo}$  with the experimental data  $f_{j exp}$ , typically, it is need to construct a  $\chi^2$  function as

$$\chi^{2}(\{y_{i}\}) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{(f_{j \text{ theo}}(\{y_{i}\}) - f_{j \text{ exp}})^{2}}{\sigma_{j \text{ exp}}^{2}}.$$
 (C1)

In the evaluation of  $f_{j \text{ theo}}$  for hadronic *B* decays, one always encounters theoretical uncertainties induced by input parameters, like form factor and decay constant, whose probability distribution is unknown. Following the treatment of the Rfit scheme [24,29] that input values are treated on an equal footing, irrespective of how close they are from the edge of the allowed range, the  $\chi^2$  function is modified as [28]

if 
$$f_{j \exp} < [f_{j \text{ theo}} - \delta_{j \text{ theo,sub}}],$$
  
if  $f_{j \exp} > [f_{j \text{ theo}} + \delta_{j \text{ theo,sup}}],$  (C2)

otherwise,

with  $\Delta \chi^2 = \chi^2 - \chi^2_{\text{min}}$  and  $N_{\text{dof}}$  the number of degrees of freedom of free parameters.

With the input parameters summarized in Appendix B, we scan the space of the parameters  $y_i$  and calculate the theoretical results  $f_{j \text{ theo}}$ . The  $\chi^2$  could be obtained with Eq. (C2). The numerical results at  $1\sigma$  and  $2\sigma$  confidence levels are gotten from Eq. (C3) by taking CL = 1 - 68.27% and CL = 1 - 95.45%, respectively.

QIN CHANG et al.

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