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Measurement of the $B_d^0 \bar{B}_d^0$ oscillation frequency using dimuon data in $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8\text{TeV}$

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Measurement of the $B^0_d \bar{B}_d$ oscillation frequency using dimuon data in $pp$ collisions

at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV

We present a measurement of the mass difference $\Delta m_d$ of the two $B_d^0$ mass eigenstates. We use a flavor tagging method based on the lepton charge, in a sample of events with two muons at low transverse momentum. The sample corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 90 pb$^{-1}$ collected by the Collider Detector at Fermilab. The result obtained is $\Delta m_d = 0.503 \pm 0.064 \text{(stat)} \pm 0.071 \text{(syst)} \text{ ps}^{-1}$. [S0556-2821(99)50215-4]

PACS number(s): 12.15.Ff, 13.20.He, 14.40.Nd

The $B_d^0$ meson, a bound state of a $\bar{b}$ quark and $d$ quark, is one of a few particles which can transform from its particle state to the associated antiparticle state. This takes place via a second-order weak process involving an internal loop with two $W$ bosons and two up-type ($u,c,t$) quarks coupling to the $\bar{b}$ and $d$ quarks. By far the dominant contribution to this process comes from loops with top quarks, and so a measurement of the rate of $B_d^0 \to \bar{B}_d^0$ transitions is sensitive to the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) [1] matrix element.

*Visitor.
where $\tau$ is the average of the lifetimes of the two mass eigenstates of the $B^0_d$-$\bar{B}^0_d$ system [2]. Measuring the time evolution of this probability of a $B^0_d$ oscillating into a $\bar{B}^0_d$ requires a determination of the $b$-quark flavor (i.e., $b$ or $\bar{b}$) of the $B$ particle at both its production and decay times (flavor tagging), and the measurement of its proper decay time.

In this paper, we determine the mass difference $\Delta m_d$ by measuring the frequency of oscillations of $B^0_d \rightarrow \bar{B}^0_d$. The data used in this analysis were collected during the 1994–95 run of the Tevatron $p\bar{p}$ Collider, with the Collider Detector at Fermilab (CDF), and correspond to an integrated luminosity $\int L dt = 90$ pb$^{-1}$. The sample consists of events containing two muons and at least one displaced vertex of tracks not consistent with coming from the primary interaction point. The distance between these vertices is used for the estimate of the decay length of the $B$ candidate.

The charge of the muon in the semileptonic decay $b \rightarrow c \mu^- \bar{\nu}$ [3] is used to identify the flavor of the $B$ at the time of its decay (where $B$ refers generically to any particle, including baryons, containing a $b$ or $\bar{b}$ quark). Since QCD processes produce $B$ particles in pairs of opposite flavor, we infer the flavor at production of one $B$ from the charge sign of the muon coming from the semileptonic decay of the other $B$.

The ability to perform precision $b$ physics measurements at a $p\bar{p}$ collider has been demonstrated by CDF with the $B$ lifetime measurements [4] and the determination of $\Delta m_d$ [5]. These measurements have been obtained using fully or partially reconstructed $B$ decay events, where the background calculations are rather straightforward, but the number of events is limited. In this paper, we show that a precise measurement of $\Delta m_d$ is also possible using a more inclusive $B$ meson identification. This provides a much larger data sample at the cost of a lower purity and a more complicated background evaluation.

The mass difference $\Delta m_d$ is obtained by fitting for the oscillation frequency in a plot of the like-sign event fraction, $f_{LS}(ct) = N_{LS}(ct)/(N_{LS}(ct) + N_{OS}(ct))$, where $N_{OS}(ct)/(N_{LS}(ct))$ is the number of events in which the two muons are of opposite (like) sign.

Since the $b$ and $\bar{b}$ quarks hadronize and decay independently, each muon can come from several sources. First, the $b$ quark can hadronize into a $B^0_d$ which decays directly to a muon of negative charge, or into a $\bar{B}^0_d$ which oscillates to a $B^0_d$ and then decays directly to a muon of positive charge. Second, the $b$ quark can hadronize into a $B^-$ or $\Lambda_b$, and decay directly to a muon. third, the $b$ quark can hadronize into a $\bar{B}^+_d$, which can oscillate into a $B^0$, with a much higher frequency than a $B^0_d$ [6], effectively giving a random-sign muon. Fourth, for all of the above cases, the muon can also be produced in a sequential semileptonic decay $b \rightarrow c \rightarrow \mu^- \bar{\nu}$, which has the exact opposite correlation of muon sign with $b$ flavor from the above sources. Fifth, residual punch through or decay in flight of hadrons contribute to muon detection not related with a $b \rightarrow c \mu^- \bar{\nu}$ decay. Finally, events with two muons can be generated by direct production and decay of charm. The shape of the $f_{LS}$ histogram is then obtained by taking all possible combinations of two muons from these sources, weighted with the appropriate fractions of each source.

The CDF detector has been described in detail elsewhere [7]. Only the features most relevant to this analysis are reported here. CDF consists of a magnetic spectrometer surrounded by a calorimeter and muon chambers. The momenta of charged particles are measured up to a pseudorapidity $|\eta|<1.1$ in the central tracking chamber (CTC), which is inside a 1.4 T superconducting solenoidal magnet. A low-noise, four-layer silicon microstrip vertex detector [9], located immediately outside the beampipe, provides precise track reconstruction in the plane transverse to the beam and is used to identify secondary vertices from $b$ and $c$ quark decays. The muon detection system (CMU) consists of drift chambers, located outside the calorimeter, allowing the reconstruction of track segments for penetrating particles. In this analysis, only the region up to $|\eta|<0.6$ is used. An additional set of chambers (CMP), located outside a 0.6 m thick iron wall, provides additional information for the detection of muons. A three-level dimuon trigger selects events with two muons of transverse momentum $p_t>2.2$ GeV/$c$, as measured by the Central Fast Tracker (CFT), a hardware track processor with a momentum resolution of $\delta p_t/p_t^2 = 0.03$ (GeV/$c$)$^{-1}$. At least one of the muons has to be detected in both the CMU and CMP drift chambers.

Offline muon identification is based on the three-dimensional matching of the track segment in the muon chambers with the segment reconstructed in the CTC and on the energy deposited in the calorimeter towers close to the muon trajectory. The invariant mass of the two muons is required to be greater than 5 GeV/$c^2$ in order to reject dimuons from the following sources: muons produced by the same $B$ particle in a double semileptonic decay $b \rightarrow c \mu^- \bar{\nu}$, muons from a $J/\psi$ decay; or muons from $b$'s in gluon splitting to $b\bar{b}$. In addition, the transverse momentum relative to the beamline of each muon is required to be greater than 3 GeV/$c$. This requirement, almost fulfilled by muons detected both in the CMU and CMP, is motivated by the description of the fake muon contamination, as discussed later.

The algorithm used to find displaced vertices (presumed to be $b$ or $c$ quark decay vertices distinct from the primary one) is based on the correlation between the impact parameter $d$ [10] and the azimuthal angle $\phi$ of tracks coming from these vertices. Tracks from a displaced vertex form a line in the $d$-$\phi$ plane with a non-zero slope, while tracks from the primary vertex will have a small $d$ and show no obvious correlation with $\phi$. A cluster is formed by three or more
correlated tracks, with each (excluding muon tracks) having a significance \( d/\sigma_d > 2 \), where \( \sigma_d \) is the uncertainty on the impact parameter. At least one of the muons has to be associated with the cluster of tracks identified, regardless of its impact parameter significance. The tertiary vertex position (presumed to be the charm decay vertex) is then found by fitting all the tracks in the cluster excluding the muon track. The direction of the momentum obtained is extrapolated back from the vertex to the muon trajectory. The position of the intersection with the muon is taken as the secondary vertex reconstruction efficiency is flat above one decay length. In addition, we correct the production fractions of these species as determined in the CLEO experiment at the Cornell Electron-Positron Storage Ring (CESR) and experiments at the Large Electron Positron collider (LEP) at CERN [13]. A detailed simulation of the CDF detector and the reconstruction code is applied to each event. In addition, a simulation is used to replicate the trigger conditions for dimuon events. We used the HERWIG generator [14] as a check for possible effects on this analysis from a different fragmentation and hadronization modelling. The fraction \( f_{LS} \) is described with a model that takes into account the sample composition, resolution effects and the lifetime of \( B \) mesons. We use the simulation to parametrize the secondary vertex reconstruction efficiency, as a function of the reconstructed proper time, and the resolution in momentum and position of the vertex. The secondary vertex reconstruction efficiency is flat above one \( B \) lifetime. In addition, we correct the production fractions of \( B \) particle species, assumed equal to the ones measured at the CERN \( e^+e^- \) collider LEP [13], to account for the different analysis efficiencies of these species as determined in the simulation. Sequential \( b \rightarrow c \rightarrow \mu^+ \) decays constitute a major source of dilution of the mixing oscillation because they misidentify the \( B \) flavor. The fractions of sequential decays for muons on the secondary vertex side and for muons on the away side are determined using the Monte Carlo simulation, and the possible dependence of this fraction on the reconstructed proper time is also taken into account.

Two sources of background were investigated: fake iden-
TABLE I. Values of the parameters considered in the $\chi^2$ fit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Input to fit</th>
<th>Output from fit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta m_d$</td>
<td>1.56±0.06 ps</td>
<td>1.53±0.04 ps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_d$</td>
<td>(38.5±2.2)%</td>
<td>(38.2±2.2)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_s$</td>
<td>(8.9±2.1)%</td>
<td>(8.6±2.0)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_{bkg}$</td>
<td>(16.7±5.2)%</td>
<td>(17.6±3.6)%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fake muon contamination was studied on a sample of dimuon events in which one muon track is detected in the CMU chambers and extrapolates into the fiducial region of the CMP chambers, but is not detected there. This sample consists mainly of hadrons not interacting strongly in the calorimeter. The charge of the two particles detected as muons is completely uncorrelated and the absolute contributions to the sample of LS and OS events were verified to be the same within the errors. The $ct$ distribution of these events was extracted taking into account the small contamination of real muons in the fake sample. In addition, from a comparison of the kinematic characteristics of this sample of misidentified muons and the Monte Carlo simulation of the $b\bar{b}$ signal, we determined the expected fraction of fake events in the data to be $F_{bkg} = (16.7±5.2)\%$. This study was based on the muon impact parameter, on the transverse component of the muon momentum with respect to the cluster of displaced tracks and on the invariant mass of the cluster. The last two variables were also defined with respect to a jet of tracks within a cone around the muon. The same study of the kinematic behavior of the data sample selected shows that the charm contribution is consistent with zero. The effect of possible residual charm contamination is considered in the discussion of the systematic effects in the measurement of $\Delta m_d$.

A $\chi^2$ fit was then applied to the fraction $f_{LS}$ of like-sign dimuon events, constraining the $B$ particle lifetime to the value $\tau = 1.56±0.06$ ps [13], the fraction of $B_0^0$ mesons at $F_d = (38.5±2.2)\%$, the fraction of $B^0$ mesons at $F_s = (8.9±2.1)\%$ (these values are corrected for the species dependent efficiency), and finally, the fraction of events with fake muons at $F_{bkg} = (16.7±5.2)\%$ with a $ct$ shape as determined above. The results obtained are reported in Table I, where the errors are the output from the fit. The $\chi^2$ per degree of freedom of the fit is 1.1. The function used in the fit procedure to describe the fraction $f_{LS}$ of like-sign dimuon events is superimposed on the data in Fig. 2.

The error on $\Delta m_d$ returned by the fit is due to both the statistics and the errors assumed on the constrained parameters. We separate these two contributions in our final result, including the contribution from the uncertainty on $\tau$, $F_d$, $F_s$ and $F_{bkg}$ in the systematic error. This separation has been done both analytically and by Monte Carlo with consistent results.

Table II summarizes the different sources of systematic errors on $\Delta m_d$, which have been estimated as follows. The uncertainties on the parameters constrained in the fit give a contribution of $±0.043$ ps$^{-1}$. The shape of the fake muon background has been parametrized independently of the $f_{LS}$ like-sign fraction. Variations of this shape contribute less than $±0.011$ ps$^{-1}$ to the $\Delta m_d$ value. The fraction of sequential decays has been varied by $±15\%$ with respect to the value obtained by the Monte Carlo and used in the fit, with a contribution of $±0.048$ ps$^{-1}$. The effect of a residual charm contamination was evaluated with a contribution of $2\%$ and a variation of $±20\%$ of the charm effective lifetime obtained from simulation. The resulting uncertainty is $±0.027$ ps$^{-1}$. From simulation, the bias of the fitting procedure on $\Delta m_d$ has been evaluated to be $±0.013$ ps$^{-1}$. This bias is not used to correct $\Delta m_d$, but rather is considered as a contribution to the total systematic uncertainty. Finally, the other small effects listed in Table II are estimated by varying the corresponding contributions in the fit.

The total systematic uncertainty is obtained by adding all the contributions in quadrature. The final result is:

$$\Delta m_d = 0.503±0.064(stat)±0.071(syst) \text{ ps}^{-1}.$$ 

This result is consistent with the world average [6] $\Delta m_d = 0.464±0.018 \text{ ps}^{-1}$.

The overlapping of the sample used in this analysis with the one used in [5] is negligible.

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[2] In this formula, the relative difference between the widths of the two mass eigenstates has been neglected because, unlike the $K^0$-$/\bar{K}^0$ system, it is expected to be very small in the $B^0_d$-$/\bar{B}^0_d$ system [see A. J. Buras, W. Slominski, and H. Steger, Nucl. Phys. B245, 369 (1984)].
[3] Throughout this paper, charge conjugate modes are always implied.
In the CDF coordinate system, $\theta$ and $\phi$ are respectively the polar and azimuthal angles with respect to the proton beam direction ($z$ axis). Pseudorapidity $\eta$ is defined as $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$ with $\theta$ measured assuming a $z$-vertex position of zero unless otherwise noted.

The impact parameter $d$ is the distance of closest approach of a track with respect to the primary vertex in a plane tranverse to the beam direction. In this analysis, the particles detected as muons were not included in the reconstruction of the primary vertex.

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