

CKM angle γ measurement at LHCb

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Data collected at the LHCb experiment have been used to determine the CKM angle γ with $B^- \rightarrow DK^-$, $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$, $K_S^0 K^+ K^-$ decays, leading to the most precise measurement of γ from a single analysis. Decay-time-dependent CP asymmetries in $B^0 \rightarrow D^\mp \pi^\pm$ decays have been measured for the first time at a hadron collider and used to place constraints on $|\sin(2\beta + \gamma)|$ and γ that are consistent with world average values. Combining these new results with other LHCb measurements leads to the most precise determination of γ from a single experiment. Decay modes with future sensitivity to γ , such as $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$ and $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^{*0} \phi$, have been observed for the first time, and the most precise determinations of the branching fractions of $B^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$ and $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \phi$ decays have been obtained.

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The angle $\gamma = \arg(-V_{ud}V_{ub}^*/(V_{cd}V_{cb}^*))$ of the CKM unitarity triangle can be measured directly with tree-level b -hadron decays, using methods that exploit the weak-phase difference of γ between $b \rightarrow u$ and $b \rightarrow c$ quark transitions. The current world average value of γ , determined from direct measurements, is $\gamma = (73.5_{-5.1}^{+4.2})^\circ$ [1]. Theoretically, within the Standard Model, the value of γ determined in this way is very clean [2] but new physics phenomena, beyond the Standard Model, could affect its value at a level just below current experimental accuracy [3].

The LHCb detector [4] at the Large Hadron Collider is specifically designed for the study of particles containing b or c quarks. Of particular relevance for γ measurements is its high-precision tracking system, which provides a measurement of the momentum of charged particles with a relative uncertainty that varies from 0.5% at low momentum to 1.0% at 200 GeV/ c , and a decay time resolution of approximately 50 fs [5]. The impact parameter, the minimum distance between a track and a primary proton-proton interaction vertex, is measured with a resolution of $(15 + 29/p_T) \mu\text{m}$, where p_T is the component of the momentum transverse to the beam, in GeV/ c . Different types of charged hadrons, such as kaons and pions, are distinguished using information from two ring-imaging Cherenkov detectors.

1. GGSZ analysis of $B^- \rightarrow DK^-$ with $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$, $K_S^0 K^+ K^-$ decays

Time-integrated measurements of γ can be made using $B^- \rightarrow DK^-$ decays¹, where D represents a superposition of D^0 and \bar{D}^0 mesons decaying to the same final state. Alongside γ , the related parameters r_B (the magnitude of the ratio of amplitudes of the interfering decays) and δ_B (the strong-phase difference between them) are also measured.

The GGSZ method [6] allows γ to be measured from the difference between the distributions of B^- and B^+ candidate decays across the $D \rightarrow K_S^0 h^+ h^-$ phase space ($h = \pi$ or K). The resonant structure of the multi-body D decay must therefore be taken into account. In particular, knowledge of the strong-phase difference between D^0 and \bar{D}^0 decays across the phase space is required. One possible ‘‘model-independent’’ approach uses direct measurements of the strong-phase difference in binned regions of phase space, obtained using quantum-correlated charm threshold data [7].

Using proton-proton collision data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 2.0 fb^{-1} recorded by LHCb at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV, $B^- \rightarrow DK^-$ with $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$, $K_S^0 K^+ K^-$ decays have been used to measure the CP observables $x_\pm = r_B \cos(\delta_B \pm \gamma)$ and $y_\pm = r_B \sin(\delta_B \pm \gamma)$ with the model-independent method [8],

$$\begin{aligned} x_+ &= (-7.7 \pm 1.9 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.7 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.4 \text{ (extl.)}) \times 10^{-2}, \\ y_+ &= (-1.0 \pm 1.9 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.4 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.9 \text{ (extl.)}) \times 10^{-2}, \\ x_- &= (9.0 \pm 1.7 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.7 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.4 \text{ (extl.)}) \times 10^{-2}, \\ y_- &= (2.1 \pm 2.2 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.5 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 1.1 \text{ (extl.)}) \times 10^{-2}, \end{aligned}$$

where the third uncertainties arise from external strong-phase difference input measurements. These results constitute the first observation of CP violation in $B^- \rightarrow DK^-$ with $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$, $K_S^0 K^+ K^-$ decays.

¹The inclusion of charge conjugated processes is implied throughout.

Combining them with previous measurements made using LHCb data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 3.0 fb^{-1} recorded at centre-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV [9] results in the constraints $\gamma = (80_{-9}^{+10})^\circ$, $r_B = 0.080 \pm 0.011$ and $\delta_B = (110 \pm 10)^\circ$. Two-dimensional projections of the corresponding confidence regions are shown in Fig. 1, alongside the constraints obtained using the two separate data sets, demonstrating good agreement between results.

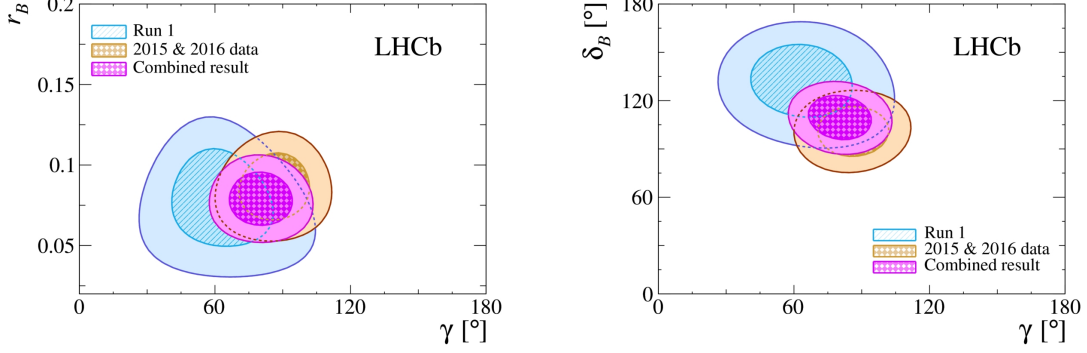


Figure 1: Two-dimensional projections of the 68.3% and 95.5% confidence regions onto the (γ, r_B) and (γ, δ_B) planes [8]. The constraints from measurements using an integrated luminosity of 3.0 fb^{-1} recorded at centre-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV (“Run 1”) and 2.0 fb^{-1} at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV (“2015 & 2016 data”) are shown, along with their combination.

2. Time-dependent analysis of $B^0 \rightarrow D^\mp \pi^\pm$ decays

Measurements of CP violation in $B^0 \rightarrow D^\mp \pi^\pm$ decays provide information on the angles $\beta = \arg(-(V_{cd}V_{cb}^*)/(V_{td}V_{tb}^*))$ and γ of the unitarity triangle. A total phase difference of $2\beta + \gamma$ arises between the amplitude of a direct $B^0 \rightarrow D^\mp \pi^\pm$ decay and a decay after oscillation to \bar{B}^0 . It is possible to measure decay-time-dependent CP asymmetries in $B^0 \rightarrow D^\mp \pi^\pm$ decays using the decay rates of B^0 and \bar{B}^0 mesons of known initial flavour, as a function of their decay time t . For an initial B^0 meson, the decay rate to final state $f = D^- \pi^+$ ($\bar{f} = D^+ \pi^-$) is $\Gamma_{B^0 \rightarrow f(\bar{f})}(t) \propto e^{-\Gamma t} [1 + C_{f(\bar{f})} \cos(\Delta m t) - S_{f(\bar{f})} \sin(\Delta m t)]$, where Γ is the average B^0 decay width and Δm is the B^0 - \bar{B}^0 oscillation frequency. It is assumed that there is no CP violation in the decay, that $|q/p| = 1$, where q and p are the coefficients defining the heavy and light mass eigenstates of the B^0 meson system, and that $\Delta\Gamma = 0$, where $\Delta\Gamma$ is the difference in decay width between the two mass eigenstates. Under these assumptions, the CP asymmetries $C_{f(\bar{f})}$ and $S_{f(\bar{f})}$ are defined as

$$C_f = -C_{\bar{f}} = \frac{1 - r_{D\pi}^2}{1 + r_{D\pi}^2}, \quad S_f = -\frac{2r_{D\pi} \sin[\delta - (2\beta + \gamma)]}{1 + r_{D\pi}^2}, \quad S_{\bar{f}} = \frac{2r_{D\pi} \sin[\delta + (2\beta + \gamma)]}{1 + r_{D\pi}^2}$$

where $r_{D\pi} = |A(B^0 \rightarrow D^+ \pi^-)/A(B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+)|$ is the ratio of decay amplitudes and δ is the CP -conserving phase between them.

A measurement of the CP asymmetries S_f and $S_{\bar{f}}$ has been performed using proton-proton collision data collected at LHCb at centre-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV and corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 3.0 fb^{-1} [10]. In this analysis, terms $\mathcal{O}(r_{D\pi}^2)$ are neglected, due to the small value of $r_{D\pi}$; this fixes $C_f = -C_{\bar{f}} = 1$. Using external measurement constraints for Δm and Γ ,

this first measurement of the asymmetries at a hadron collider results in $S_f = 0.058 \pm 0.020$ (stat.) ± 0.011 (syst.) and $S_{\bar{f}} = 0.038 \pm 0.020$ (stat.) ± 0.007 (syst.), which agree with, and are more precise than, previous measurements [11]. They are used to place constraints on $|\sin(2\beta + \gamma)|$ and γ , shown in Fig. 2, that are consistent with world average values.

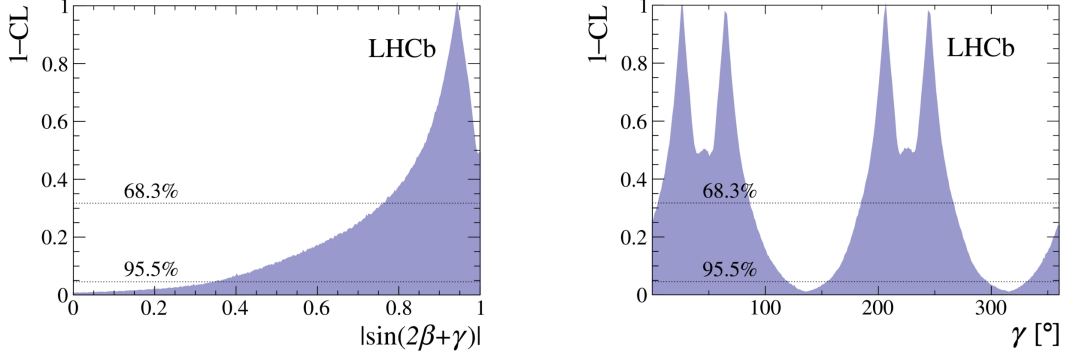


Figure 2: 1-CL (confidence level) as a function of $|\sin(2\beta + \gamma)|$ (left) and γ (right), determined from CP asymmetries in $B^0 \rightarrow D^\mp \pi^\pm$ decays [10].

3. Combination of LHCb measurements

Using LHCb data, measurements of γ using time-integrated GLW [12], ADS [13], GGSZ [6] and Dalitz [14] approaches have been performed using b -hadron decays such as $B^- \rightarrow D^{(*)} K^{(*)-}$, $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{(*)0}$, $B^0 \rightarrow DK^+ \pi^-$ and $B^- \rightarrow DK^- \pi^+ \pi^+$ [15]. Time-dependent measurements [16] have also been performed with $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^\mp K^\pm$ and $B^0 \rightarrow D^\mp \pi^\pm$ decays. These results, including the new measurements described in Sections 1 and 2, are combined using a frequentist approach to determine γ with the highest precision from a single experiment, $\gamma = (74.0_{-5.8}^{+5.0})^\circ$ [17].

4. Future γ decay modes: $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^{(*)0} \phi$ and $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$

Proton-proton collision data collected at LHCb at centre-of-mass energies of 7 and 8 TeV and corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 3.0 fb^{-1} have been used to measure and set limits on the branching fractions of $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$, $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \phi$ and $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^{*0} \phi$ decays [18].

The decays $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$ and $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^{*0} \phi$ are observed for the first time with measured branching fractions $\mathcal{B}(B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-) = (5.7 \pm 0.5 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.4 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.5 \text{ (norm.)}) \times 10^{-5}$ and $\mathcal{B}(B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^{*0} \phi) = (3.7 \pm 0.5 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.3 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.2 \text{ (norm.)}) \times 10^{-5}$; the third uncertainties arise from the branching fractions of decay modes used for normalisation. The most precise determinations of $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-) = (6.1 \pm 0.4 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.3 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.3 \text{ (norm.)}) \times 10^{-5}$ and $\mathcal{B}(B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \phi) = (3.0 \pm 0.3 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.2 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.2 \text{ (norm.)}) \times 10^{-5}$ are obtained, and an upper limit on the branching fraction of $B^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \phi$ is set, $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \phi) < 2.0 \text{ (2.2)} \times 10^{-6}$ at 90% (95%) confidence level. Figure 3 shows the $B_{(s)}^0$ candidate invariant mass distributions fitted to determine these results.

In future, with larger data samples, $B_s^0 \rightarrow D^{(*)} \phi$ will be a promising decay mode to measure γ , and a time-dependent amplitude analysis of $B_s^0 \rightarrow DK^+ K^-$ decays will allow constraints to be placed on γ and the CP -violating phase ϕ_s of the B_s^0 meson system.

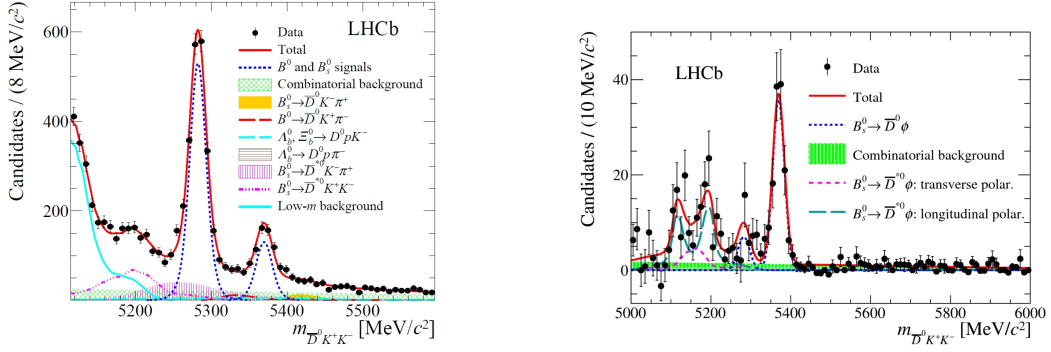


Figure 3: Fitted invariant mass distributions for $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$ candidates [18]. The left distribution shows all selected $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$ candidates. The right distribution shows the subset of candidates that have been statistically separated as $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \phi$ using a fit to the $K^+ K^-$ invariant mass distribution.

5. Conclusions and prospects

Using LHCb data, the most precise measurement of γ from a single analysis has been determined with $B^- \rightarrow DK^-$ with $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$, $K_S^0 K^+ K^-$ decays. The first measurement of decay-time-dependent CP asymmetries in $B^0 \rightarrow D^\mp \pi^\pm$ decays at a hadron collider has been used to place constraints on $|\sin(2\beta + \gamma)|$ and γ that are consistent with world average values. A combination of LHCb γ measurements, including these new results, leads to the most precise determination of γ from a single experiment. Decay modes with future sensitivity to γ , such as $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$ and $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^{*0} \phi$, have been observed for the first time, and the most precise determinations of the branching fractions of $B^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 K^+ K^-$ and $B_s^0 \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 \phi$ decays have been obtained. Studies of other new decay modes and analysis updates to include additional LHCb data will provide further measurements and constraints on γ in the near future.

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