Observation of the baryonic $B$-decay $\bar{B}_0^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ K^- \pi^+$
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OBSERVATION OF THE BARYONIC B-DECAY ...

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We report the observation of the baryonic $B$-decay $\bar{B}^0 \to \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$, excluding contributions from the decay $\bar{B}^0 \to \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^- \pi^+$, using a data sample of $467 \times 10^6 \bar{B}\bar{B}$ pairs collected with the BABAR detector at the PEP-II storage ring at SLAC, the measured branching fraction is $(3.33 \pm 0.82_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.33_{\text{syst}} \pm 1.13_{\Lambda_c^+}) \times 10^{-5}$. In addition we find evidence for the resonant decay $\bar{B}^0 \to (2455) \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$ and determine its branching fraction to be $(1.11 \pm 0.30_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.09_{\text{syst}} \pm 0.29_{\Lambda_c^+}) \times 10^{-5}$. The errors are statistical, systematic, and due to the uncertainty in the $\Lambda_c^+$ branching fraction. For the resonant decay $\bar{B}^0 \to \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^{*0}$ we obtain an upper limit of $2.42 \times 10^{-5}$ at 90% confidence level.

The separation of signal and background of the candidate sample is obtained using two kinematic variables, $\Delta E = E^*_{\text{B}} - \sqrt{s}/2$ and $m_{\text{ES}} = \sqrt{(s/2 + p_1 \cdot p_B)^2/E_{\text{B}}^2 - |p_B|^2}$. Here, $\sqrt{s}$ is the initial center-of-mass energy, $E^*_{\text{B}}$ the energy of the $B$-candidate in the center-of-mass system, $(E_i, p_i)$ is the four-momentum vector of the $e^+ e^-$ system and $p_B$ the $B$-candidate momentum vector, both measured in the laboratory frame. For true $B$-decays $m_{\text{ES}}$ is centered at the $B$-meson mass and $\Delta E$ is centered at zero. Throughout this analysis, $B$-candidates are required to have an $m_{\text{ES}}$ value between 5.275 and 5.286 GeV/$c^2$.

After applying all selection criteria there are on average 1.16 candidates per event. If the $B$-candidates have different $\Lambda_c^+$ candidates we select the one with the invariant $pK^-\pi^+\pi^+$ mass closest to the nominal $\Lambda_c^+$ mass [1]. If the candidates share the same $\Lambda_c^+$ we retain the one with the best vertex fit.

The significance of the $\bar{B}^0 \to \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$ signal is determined from a fit to the observed $\Delta E$ distribution (see Fig. 1). As the fit function we use a straight line for background and a Gaussian for signal. Fitting between $-0.12$ GeV and 0.12 GeV we obtain $82 \pm 17$ signal events and determine a significance of 8.8 standard deviations for this decay. Here, and in the following, we calculate the significance as the square root of the difference of 2 times the log likelihood of a fit with and without signal component.
Like the Cabibbo-favored decay $\Lambda_c^+ p \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$, the Cabibbo-suppressed decay can proceed via different resonant subchannels. Figures 2 and 3 show the sideband subtracted $\Lambda_c^+ \pi^+$ and $K^- \pi^+$ invariant mass distributions, respectively. Here, the signal region corresponds to $|\Delta E| < 0.024$ GeV, and the sideband regions to $0.024 < |\Delta E| < 0.12$ GeV. We find evidence for the decay $B^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \bar{p}K^-$ (4.3$\sigma$) and hints on the decay $B^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p}K^{*0}$ (2.7$\sigma$). For the determination of the significance we use in both cases a second order polynomial for background and as signal function we use in the first case a Gaussian and in the latter a nonrelativistic Breit-Wigner.

For the determination of the efficiency corrected signal yield, we divide the phase space into smaller regions. In order to account for the resonant substructure, the following regions are used:

1. The $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$ signal region in the range from 2.447 to 2.461 GeV/c$^2$ in $m(\Lambda_c^+ \pi^+)$,

2. the $K^{*0}$ signal region from 0.8 to 1.1 GeV/c$^2$ in $m(K^- \pi^+)$, excluding region 1), and

3. all events that are not in region 1) or 2).

The events in region 3 show no further significant resonant structure, but are also not uniformly distributed in phase space. Since we use a phase space model in our Monte Carlo simulation we correct the efficiency as a function of $m(\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} \pi^+)$. We determine the signal yield in the different regions by subtracting the extrapolated background from the observed number of $B$-candidates in the $\Delta E$ signal region. The background is determined with a linear fit to the $\Delta E$ distribution in the $\Delta E$ sidebands, 0.024 < $|\Delta E|$ < 0.12 GeV. For the efficiency estimation we use the same fit strategy as for the signal yields, but instead of a straight line we use a second order polynomial as fit function to account for the small combinatoric background in the signal Monte Carlo simulation. Here, we use nonresonant Monte Carlo events for regions 2 and 3 and for region 1 we use $B^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \bar{p}K^-$ Monte Carlo events since this region is almost saturated by resonant events. The number of signal events $N_{\text{sig}}$, as well as the efficiencies $\epsilon$, for the three regions are listed in Table I.

Using these values the overall branching fraction is calculated as

$$B(B^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p}K^- \pi^+) = \frac{1}{B(\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow pK^- \pi^+)} \cdot \frac{3}{\sum_i N_{\text{sig},i}} \epsilon_i$$

$$= (4.33 \pm 0.82_{\text{stat}} \pm 1.13_{\text{sys}}) \times 10^{-5},$$

(1)

with $B(\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow pK^- \pi^+) = (5.0 \pm 1.3)\%$ [1] and $N_{BB} = N_{\rho^0} + N_{\rho^0} = (467 \pm 5) \times 10^3$, assuming equal production of $B^0 \bar{B}^0$ and $B^+ B^-$ in the decay of the $Y(4S)$. In Eq. (1) and in the following branching fractions, the first
uncertainty is statistical, while the second one arises from the branching fraction of the $\Lambda_c^+$. The final state $\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^- \pi^+$ may also include contributions from the decay $B^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{A} K^-$. Our cut on the vertex fit probability, however, would strongly suppress this contribution, hence the branching fraction (1) is understood to not include this decay. This is corroborated by the fact that the $\bar{p} \pi^+$ invariant mass distribution shows no $\bar{A}$ peak.

For the $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$ subchannel we determine the signal yield with a fit to the $\Delta E$ sideband subtracted $m(\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^-)$ distribution. We obtain the signal yield by subtracting from the number of events observed in the $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$ signal region the background yield extrapolated from a fit of a second order polynomial to the $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$ mass sidebands. Here, the signal region is defined as $2.447 < m(\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^-) < 2.461$ GeV/$c^2$, while the mass sidebands are $2.426 < m(\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^-) < 2.447$ GeV/$c^2$ and $2.461 < m(\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^-) < 2.481$ GeV/$c^2$. The efficiency is estimated by using the same fit strategy on $B^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \bar{p} K^-$ Monte Carlo events. Both, the signal yield as well as the efficiency for this resonant subchannel are given in Table II. Using these values we obtain a branching fraction of $(1.11 \pm 0.30_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.29_{\Lambda_c^+}) \times 10^{-5}$ for this subchannel, under the assumption that the $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$ decays entirely into $\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^-$. For the $K^{*0}$ subchannel we determine the signal yield by a fit to the $\Delta E$ sideband subtracted $m(K^- \pi^+)$ distribution, excluding the $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$ signal region. Here, we use the sum of a second order polynomial and a nonrelativistic Breit-Wigner function in the range from 0.64 to 1.6 GeV/$c^2$ as the fit function. The nonrelativistic Breit-Wigner distribution is added in order to get a proper background description from the fit. For the fit we fix the width and the mean of the Breit-Wigner function to its measured values [1], and determine the signal yield by subtracting the integral of the background function between 0.8 and 1.0 GeV/$c^2$ from the number of events in this region. The efficiency is estimated applying the same fit procedure to $B^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^{*0}$ Monte Carlo events. With the obtained values, which are listed in Table II, we estimate a branching fraction of $(1.60 \pm 0.61_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.42_{\Lambda_c^+}) \times 10^{-5}$ for this subchannel taking into account that $2/3$ of the $K^{*0}$ decay into $K^- \pi^+$. Several sources of systematic uncertainties have been investigated. Most of these are derived from studies of data control samples and by comparison between data and Monte Carlo events. The systematic uncertainties arise from the reconstruction of charged tracks (1.4%), the charged particle identification (2.4%), and the number of $B \bar{B}$ pairs (1.1%). The uncertainty due to the $\Delta E$ background parametrization in data is determined by extracting the signal yield with a second order polynomial instead of a straight line (4.7%). The influence of the signal- and sideband definitions is estimated by changing their definitions to $|\Delta E| < 0.036$ GeV and $0.036 < |\Delta E| < 0.12$ GeV, respectively, and extracting the signal yields with these new definitions (3.3%). A further systematic uncertainty is the phase space model used for the Monte Carlo simulation (1.0%), which is determined by reweighting the Monte Carlo events to match the observed $m(\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^-)$ distribution in data. In order to estimate the uncertainties arising from the applied $m(\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^-)$ (3.4%) and $\chi^2$ probability (0.8%) selection criteria we vary the criteria by 0.5 MeV/$c^2$ and 0.001, respectively. The overall systematic uncertainty is 7.5%.

For the low significance $\Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^{*0}$ signal, we determine an upper limit of $2.42 \times 10^{-5}$ at 90% confidence level. This limit is calculated assuming a Gaussian $a$ posteriori probability density with $\sigma = 0.63 \times 10^{-5}$, which includes statistical and systematic errors, and evaluating 90% of the integral in the physical region.

In summary, we observe the decay $B^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^- \pi^+$ with a significance of $8 \sigma$, and measure a branching fraction of

$$B(B^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} K^- \pi^+) = (4.33 \pm 0.82_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.33_{\text{syst}} \pm 1.13_{\Lambda_c^+}) \times 10^{-5}. \quad (2)$$

The ratio of the branching fraction of this decay to that of $B^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} \pi^- \pi^+ [3,4]$ is 0.038 ± 0.009, which is smaller than $|V_{us}/V_{ud}|^2 = 0.0536 \pm 0.0020$ [1]. This is a possible indication that additional decay amplitudes for the Cabibbo-favored decay are not negligible. Here, and in the following, the error on the ratio includes statistical and systematic uncertainties, while the uncertainty on the $\Lambda_c^+$ branching fraction cancels.

The branching fraction of the decay $B^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \bar{p} K^-$ is determined to be

$$B(B^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \bar{p} K^-) = (1.11 \pm 0.30_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.09_{\text{syst}} \pm 0.29_{\Lambda_c^+}) \times 10^{-5}. \quad (3)$$

The ratio of this branching fraction to that of $B^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \bar{p} \pi^- [3,4]$ is 0.048 ± 0.016, compatible with $|V_{us}/V_{ud}|^2$.

### Table I

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Region</th>
<th>$N_{\text{sig}}$</th>
<th>$\varepsilon$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2^{+}$</td>
<td>17.3 ± 4.6</td>
<td>(6.64 ± 0.04)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K^{*0}$</td>
<td>26.5 ± 9.7</td>
<td>(8.60 ± 0.07)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>39.7 ± 12.2</td>
<td>(8.94 ± 0.25)%</td>
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### Table II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resonance</th>
<th>$N_{\text{sig}}$</th>
<th>$\varepsilon$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$</td>
<td>16.0 ± 4.3</td>
<td>(6.15 ± 0.04)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K^{*0}$</td>
<td>20.9 ± 7.9</td>
<td>(8.38 ± 0.05)%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the decay $\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} \bar{K}^{*0}$ the branching fraction is determined to be

$$\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} \bar{K}^{*0}) = (1.60 \pm 0.61_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.12_{\text{syst}} \pm 0.42_{\Lambda_c^+}) \times 10^{-5}. \quad (4)$$

The 90% confidence level upper limit for this decay is

$$\mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \bar{p} \bar{K}^{*0}) < 2.42 \times 10^{-5}. \quad (5)$$

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[2] Throughout this paper, all decay modes represent that mode and its charge conjugate.