Search for CP-violating charge asymmetry in $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi K^\pm$ decays

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We present the result of a search for a charge asymmetry in $B^\pm \to J/\psi K^\pm$ decays using $772 \times 10^6$ $B\bar{B}$ pairs collected at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance by the Belle detector at the KEKB asymmetric-energy $e^+e^-$ collider. The $CP$-violating charge asymmetry is measured to be $A_{CP}(B^+ \to J/\psi K^+) = [-0.76 \pm 0.50 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.22 \text{ (syst)}\%]$.

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Violation of $CP$ symmetry in the Standard Model (SM) has been well established. Interest has now shifted to the search for new sources of $CP$ violation due to physics beyond the SM, since the $CP$ violation content of the SM does not explain the matter-antimatter asymmetry of the Universe [1]. In the SM, $CP$-violating phenomena in the quark sector are described by the Kobayashi-Maskawa theory [2], in which a single irreducible complex phase gives rise to all $CP$-violating asymmetries. The decay $B^+ \to J/\psi K^+$ is mediated by a color-suppressed $b \to c\bar{c}s$ transition, where the dominant $b \to c\bar{c}$ tree-level amplitude and the $b \to s$ penguin amplitude have a small relative complex phase, $\arg \left( -V_{cb}^*V_{ts}/V_{ts}V_{cb}^* \right)$ [2] in the SM [3]. The charge asymmetry in the decay $B^+ \to J/\psi K^+$ is defined as

$$A_{CP}(B^+ \to J/\psi K^+) = \frac{B(B^- \to J/\psi K^-) - B(B^+ \to J/\psi K^+)}{B(B^- \to J/\psi K^+) + B(B^+ \to J/\psi K^+)},$$

where $B$ denotes the branching fraction. Direct $CP$ violation would appear as a nonzero $A_{CP}(B^+ \to J/\psi K^+)$ value and is predicted to be quite small, $\approx 0.3\%$ [4], in the SM. Some new physics models predict enhanced values of this asymmetry [3]. For example, a model with an extra $U(1)'$ gauge boson [5] and another model with an extra coupling to the charged Higgs boson [6] predict asymmetries of $O(1\%)$ and $O(10\%)$, respectively.

The $B^+ \to J/\psi K^+$ decay mode has low backgrounds and a large branching fraction, when compared to that of other charmonium decay modes. These properties enable a precise $A_{CP}(B^+ \to J/\psi K^+)$ measurement, which provides an important test of various new physics models and constrains their parameter spaces.

The current world average for $A_{CP}(B^+ \to J/\psi K^+)$ is $(0.9 \pm 0.8\%)$ [7] which is dominated by the D0 result, $(0.75 \pm 0.61 \pm 0.30\%)$ [8], while the most precise result from an $e^+e^-$ collider experiment is the BABAR result of $(3.0 \pm 1.4 \pm 1.9\%)$ [9].

In this paper, we report a measurement of $A_{CP}(B^+ \to J/\psi K^+)$ using a 711 fb$^{-1}$ data set that contains $772 \times 10^6$ $B\bar{B}$ pairs. The $B^+ \to J/\psi K^+$ decay is reconstructed in the $J/\psi \to \ell^+\ell^-$ ($\ell = e$ or $\mu$) channels. For a precise measurement of the charge asymmetry in this decay, the asymmetry of charged kaon detection efficiencies must be carefully studied and corrected for. The asymmetry in detection efficiency arises due to the asymmetric geometry of the detector, different interaction rates of kaons in the detector material, and differences in kaon identification efficiencies for $K^+$ and $K^-$. KEKB is an asymmetric electron-positron storage ring that collides 8.0 GeV electrons with 3.5 GeV positrons at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance (center-of-mass $|e_v|$ energy $\sqrt{s} = 2E_{beam} = 10.58$ GeV). The $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance is boosted by $\beta\gamma = 0.425$ [10]. The Belle detector is a large-solid-angle magnetic spectrometer that consists of a silicon vertex detector (SVD), a 50-layer central drift chamber (CDC), an array of aerogel threshold Cherenkov counters (ACC), a barrel-like arrangement of time-of-flight scintillation counters (TOF), and an electromagnetic calorimeter (ECL) comprised CsI (Tl) crystals located inside a superconducting solenoid coil that provides a 1.5 T magnetic field. An iron flux-return located out-
side of the coil is instrumented to detect $K^0_L$ mesons and to identify muons (KLM). The detector is described in detail elsewhere [11, 12].

Hadronic events are initially selected by requiring at least three reconstructed charged tracks, a total reconstructed ECL energy in the c.m. in the range $0.1\sqrt{s} - 0.8\sqrt{s}$, at least one large-angle cluster in the ECL, a total visible energy – calculated from all charged tracks and isolated neutral showers – greater than $0.2\sqrt{s}$, an absolute value of the $z$ component of the c.m. momentum less than $0.5\sqrt{s}$, and a reconstructed primary vertex that is consistent with the known location of the interaction point. To remove charged particle tracks that are poorly measured or do not come from the interaction region, we require $dz < 5$ cm for all tracks, where $dz$ is the absolute value of the coordinate along the beam direction at the point on the track closest to the origin.

The $J/\psi$ meson is reconstructed from one tightly and one loosely identified lepton. For muon tracks, the tight identification criterion is based on track penetration depth and hit scatter in the KLM system, while the loose identification criterion requires only that the tracks have an energy deposit in the ECL that is consistent with that of a minimum ionizing particle. Electron tracks are tightly identified by a requirement on a combination of $dE/dx$ from the CDC, $E/p$ ($E$ is the energy deposit in the ECL and $p$ is momentum measured by the SVD and the CDC), and shower shape in the ECL. For loose identification, either $dE/dx$ or $E/p$ is required to be consistent with the electron hypothesis. We correct for final-state radiation or bremsstrahlung in the loose identification criterion requires only that the electron hypothesis.

In order to determine the signal yield and charge asymmetry, we fit $M_{bc}$ distributions after requiring $|\Delta E| < 40$ MeV. Each $M_{bc}$ distribution for $5.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{bc} < 5.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ is fitted with the sum of a Gaussian for the signal and an ARGUS function [14] for background. We simultaneously fit the $B^+ + B^-$ distributions with common shape parameters for the signal and background, except for the mean of the signal Gaussians. In the fit we assume that there is no asymmetry in the background; the effect of a possible asymmetry is included in the systematic error evaluation. We neglect a small contribution from correlated $B$ background, which peaks at the signal position in the $M_{bc}$ distribution. The effect of this "peaking background" is included in the systematic error as described below. Shape parameters and normalizations are allowed to vary in the fit. To correct for the kaon detection asymmetry, which depends on the momentum $p_K^0$ and polar angle $\cos \theta^K_{lab}$ of kaons in the laboratory system, we perform fits in ten bins of $(p_K^0, \cos \theta^K_{lab})$. The binning is shown in Fig. [1] The bins are labeled 1 to 10 with increasing $p_K$. We observe a total signal yield of $41,315 \pm 205$ events. The $M_{bc}$ distribution for all bins combined is shown in Fig. [2] The measured raw asymmetry ($A^{raw}_{FB}$) in each bin is given in Table [1].

We measure the kaon detection asymmetry, $A^K_{FB}$, in data using $D^+ \to K^0 \pi^+ (\phi \to K^+K^-)$ and $D^0 \to K^-\pi^+$ decay modes [13]. Here, we denote $A^2 = \frac{N_{x^+} - N_{x^-}}{N_{x^+} + N_{x^-}}$. The measured asymmetries of the above modes can be written as

$$A^{D^+_K}_{rec} = A^{D^+_FB} + A^{x^+}_{FB}$$
$$A^{D^0}_{rec} = A^{D^0_{FB}} + A^x_{FB} + A^x_{K^+},$$

assuming the asymmetries are small. Here $A^{x}_{FB}$ denotes vertex-constrained fit to the leptons from the $J/\psi$ decay].

FIG. 1: (color online). Illustration of the $(p_{lab}^K, \cos \theta^K_{lab})$ binning. $p_{lab}^K$ is divided into ten bins each with a width of 0.15 GeV/c. The $\cos \theta^K_{lab}$ bin width is 0.7, and fully contains the $B^+ \to J/\psi K^+$ signal. The bins are centered at the kinematically determined values for the two-body decay (blue circles). The small black dots in the figure are $B^+ \to J/\psi K^+$ events generated by a Monte Carlo simulation.
the forward-backward asymmetry due to the $\gamma^* - Z^0$ interference in $e^+e^- \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ and $A_{FB}^{+}$ is the pion detection asymmetry. We can extract $-A_{FB}^{+}$ by subtracting the $A_{FB}^{+}$ value from the $A_{FB}^{0}$ assumption $A_{FB}^{D^+} = A_{FB}^{D^0}$. This assumption is reasonable because the effect of the fragmentation on the forward-backward asymmetry is expected to be small. Possible deviations from this assumption are checked in data and included as a small contribution to the systematic error. The subtraction is performed in bins of pion momentum, $p_{lab}^\pi$, and polar angle in the laboratory system, $\cos \theta_{lab}^\pi$, and the charmed meson’s polar angle in the c.m. system, $\cos \theta_{CMS}^{D}$ (since $\cos \theta_{CMS}^{D}$ is correlated with $\cos \theta_{lab}^\pi$ and $A_{FB}^{+}$ depends on it).

We reconstruct $D_s^{+} \rightarrow \phi \pi^+$ and $D^{0} \rightarrow K^{-} \pi^+$ decays with charged tracks that originate from the vicinity of the interaction point. We require $R_K > 0.6$ for kaons and $R_K < 0.4$ for pions. The $\phi$ meson candidates are selected with the requirement $1.00 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{K^{+}K^{-}} < 1.04 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. To remove $D_s^{+}$ and $D^{0}$ mesons produced in $B$ meson decays, we require the charmed meson momentum in the c.m. system be greater than 2.5 GeV/c. The invariant mass distributions of $D_s^{+} \rightarrow \phi \pi^+$ and $D^{0} \rightarrow K^{-} \pi^+$ candidates after these requirements are shown in Figs. 3.

We first obtain the $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ map in three-dimensional (3D) bins of $(p_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{CMS}^{D})$. In each bin, $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ is obtained by fitting the reconstructed $D_s^{+}$ candidate mass distributions $(1.89 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{\phi^{+}} < 2.09 \text{ GeV}/c^2)$. The fits are performed in a manner similar to those performed for $B^{+} \rightarrow J/\psi K^{+}$. $D_s^{+}$ signals are parameterized as a sum of two Gaussian functions and a bifurcated Gaussian, which represents the tail of the distribution (for high-statistics bins only). The bin-dependent fractions of Gaussians are fixed to those obtained from Monte Carlo simulations. The background is parametrized as a first-order polynomial and its asymmetry is allowed to vary in the fits. Figure 4 shows the $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ map in bins of $(p_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{CMS}^{D})$. The 3D binning $(3 \times 3 \times 3)$ is selected to have sufficient granularity with large enough statistics in each bin.

The $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ values are extracted using $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$ decays as follows: fits are performed to the $D^0$ candidate invariant mass distribution in $1.79 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{K^-\pi^+} < 1.99 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ with a parameterization similar to that used for the $D_s^{+}$. Here $N_{FB}^{D^0}$ and $N_{FB}^{D^0}$ are corrected according to the $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ values in bins of $(p_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{CMS}^{D})$. The obtained values of $N_{FB}^{D^0}$ and $N_{FB}^{D^0}$ are already corrected for $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ and $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ and their asymmetry gives $-A_{FB}^{D^+}$. The values of the kaon asymmetry $A_{FB}^{K^+}$ are determined for different $(p_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{lab}^\pi)$ bins defined in Fig. 3. These results are shown in Fig. 5 and the obtained kaon asymmetry values are quoted in the last column of Table I.

Finally, the measured $A_{CP}^{raw}$ values are corrected by $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ in each bin. The results are shown in Fig. 6 and summarized in Table I. We obtain $A_{CP}^{B^{+} \rightarrow J/\psi K^{+}} = (-0.76 \pm 0.50 \%)$, which is a weighted average of corrected asymmetries, and in which the error includes only the statistical error of the $A_{CP}^{raw}$ determination. The weights in the averaging procedure are also based only on the statistical error of the $A_{CP}^{raw}$. Statistical and systematic uncertainties of $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ are included in the systematic error as described below.

**TABLE I: Summary of asymmetries (in units of %).** $A_{CP}$ is the corrected charge asymmetry. The final $A_{CP}$ values are weighted averages with the statistical errors from $A_{CP}^{raw}$. The first error in $A_{FB}^{K^+}$ is the statistical error of the $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$ signal yield. The second error comes from the statistical errors in $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ and has correlation among bins.

| Bin | $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ | $A_{CP}^{D^+}$ | $A_{FB}^{K^+}$ | $A_{CP}^{K^+}$ |
|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1   | +0.75          | +2.30 $\pm$ 2.47 | -1.55 $\pm$ 0.35 $\pm$ 0.26 |
| 2   | -1.91          | -1.04 $\pm$ 1.49 | -0.86 $\pm$ 0.24 $\pm$ 0.22 |
| 3   | -2.23          | -1.65 $\pm$ 1.47 | -0.58 $\pm$ 0.23 $\pm$ 0.21 |
| 4   | -0.36          | +0.16 $\pm$ 1.46 | -0.52 $\pm$ 0.22 $\pm$ 0.19 |
| 5   | -0.41          | +0.01 $\pm$ 1.46 | -0.42 $\pm$ 0.21 $\pm$ 0.18 |
| 6   | -2.52          | -2.19 $\pm$ 1.42 | -0.33 $\pm$ 0.20 $\pm$ 0.18 |
| 7   | +1.05          | +1.04 $\pm$ 1.41 | +0.01 $\pm$ 0.20 $\pm$ 0.19 |
| 8   | -0.14          | +0.20 $\pm$ 1.41 | -0.35 $\pm$ 0.22 $\pm$ 0.23 |
| 9   | -0.23          | -0.01 $\pm$ 1.57 | -0.22 $\pm$ 0.24 $\pm$ 0.24 |
| 10  | -0.63          | -0.68 $\pm$ 2.61 | +0.05 $\pm$ 0.27 $\pm$ 0.24 |

Total $-0.76$ $-0.33 \pm 0.50$ $-0.43 \pm 0.07 \pm 0.17$

Systematic errors arise from three sources: the systematic uncertainty in $A_{CP}^{raw}$ measurement, the uncertainty of the $A_{FB}^{K^+}$ due to $A_{FB}^{D^+}$ and due to $A_{FB}^{D^+}$. The systematic errors are summarized in Table III. The systematic uncertainties due to the choice of binning, fit range, and mass windows are estimated from variations of the fit results, obtained by refitting the data using different choices.
The dominant systematic error comes from the uncertainty in $A_{rec}^{D^+}$, in which the statistical error in $D_s^+ \to \phi\pi^+$ signal yields contributes 0.17%. The choice of 3D binning in $(p_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{lab}^\pi, \cos \theta_{CMS}^D)$ contributes 0.08%. The kaon detection asymmetry in $\phi \to K^+K^-$ cancels if the momentum distributions of $K^+$ and $K^-$ are identical in $D_s^+$ decay. We find a small difference between them that arises from asymmetry in the helicity angle distribution due to the interference between the $\phi$ and S-wave component in $D_s^+ \to K^+K^-\pi^+$ decay. We estimate the effect on our measurement to be 0.05% from the difference of momentum distributions in data. The effect of empty bins in the $A_{rec}^{D^+}$ map is estimated by setting $A_{rec}^{D^+}$ values of empty bins to ±2% and results in a negligibly small contribution of 0.001%. The uncertainty in $A_{rec}^{D^0}$ mainly comes from the statistical errors in the $D^0 \to K^-\pi^+$ (0.07%) and $(p_{lab}^K, \cos \theta_{lab}^K)$ binning.
Asymmetry is verified by repeating the whole procedure following the background asymmetry to vary. The background (0.022%) is estimated by repeating fits allowing for possible asymmetry in non-peaking background. No significant evidence of $A_{CP}$ violation is observed.

In conclusion, using $772 \times 10^6 B\bar{B}$ meson pairs, we have measured the $CP$-violating charge asymmetry $A_{CP}(B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+)$ to be $(-0.76 \pm 0.50 \pm 0.22)\%$, where the first uncertainty is statistical and second is systematic. No significant evidence of $CP$ violation is observed. Our measurement is consistent with the world average $(0.9 \pm 0.8)\%$. This result significantly improves the precision from previous measurements at $e^+e^-$ collider experiments [3,10] and supersedes our earlier result [20]. The Belle result is slightly more precise than the DØ measurement [8]. The two most precise measurements to date differ by less than two standard deviations.

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### TABLE II: Summary of systematic uncertainties.

| Source | Source | % |
|--------|--------|---|
| $A_{CP}^{D_{FB}}$ | Peaking background | 0.01 |
| ARGUS background | 0.02 |
| $M_{br}$ bin width | < 0.01 |
| $(p_{br}^{b}, \cos \theta_{br}^{b})$ binning | 0.02 |
| $A_{CP}^{D^{(*)}}$ | $D^{(*)} \rightarrow \phi \pi^{+}$ statistics | 0.17 |
| $M_{\phi \pi}$ | 0.02 |
| $M_{\phi \pi}$ mass window | < 0.01 |
| $(p_{br}^{b}, \cos \theta_{br}^{b})$ binning | 0.08 |
| Empty bins | < 0.01 |
| $\phi \rightarrow K^{+} K^{-}$ asymmetry | 0.05 |
| $A_{CP}^{D_{FB}}$ | $D^{0} \rightarrow K^{-} \pi^{+}$ statistics | 0.07 |
| $M_{K^{-} \pi^{+}}$ bin width | < 0.01 |
| $M_{K^{-} \pi^{+}}$ mass window | < 0.01 |
| $(p_{br}^{b}, \cos \theta_{br}^{b})$ binning | 0.04 |
| Possible $A_{CP}^{D_{FB}}$ | 0.01 |
| $A_{CP}^{D_{FB}} = A_{CP}^{D_{FB}}$ assumption | 0.01 |
| Total | 0.22 |

In conclusion, using $772 \times 10^6 B\bar{B}$ meson pairs, we have measured the $CP$-violating charge asymmetry $A_{CP}(B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+)$ to be $(-0.76 \pm 0.50 \pm 0.22)\%$, where the first uncertainty is statistical and second is systematic. No significant evidence of $CP$ violation is observed. Our measurement is consistent with the world average $(0.9 \pm 0.8)\%$. This result significantly improves the precision from previous measurements at $e^+e^-$ collider experiments [3,10] and supersedes our earlier result [20]. The Belle result is slightly more precise than the DØ measurement [8]. The two most precise measurements to date differ by less than two standard deviations.

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