Search for the Decay $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

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We report the result of a search for the rare decay $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ in 426 fb$^{-1}$ of data, corresponding to 226 million $B^0\overline{B}^0$ pairs, collected on the $T(4S)$ resonance at the PEP-II asymmetric-energy $e^+e^-$ collider using the BABAR detector. We use a maximum likelihood fit to extract the signal yield and observe $21.8\pm3.0_{\text{stat}}\pm2.3_{\text{syst}}$ signal events with a statistical significance of 1.9$\sigma$. This corresponds to a branching fraction $B(B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma) = (1.7\pm1.1_{\text{stat}}\pm0.2_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-7}$. Based on this result, we set a 90% confidence level upper limit of $B(B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma) < 3.3 \times 10^{-7}$.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the standard model (SM), the decay $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ occurs through a flavor-changing neutral current (FCNC) transition involving electroweak loop diagrams, as illustrated in Figure 1. The decays $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ and $B_s \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ are closely related, with the $b \rightarrow d\gamma$ transition being suppressed with respect to $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ by Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) factors $|V_{td}|^2/|V_{ts}|^2 \sim 0.04$. Hadron dynamics introduces uncertainties into the prediction of branching fractions for these decays and may modify the ratio away from the CKM-implied value. While $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ is expected to have a smaller branching fraction than $B_s \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$, a search for the latter faces the experimental challenge of obtaining a large sample of $B_s$ mesons, whereas large samples of $B^0$ mesons are readily available from $B$ Factory experiments running on the $T(4S)$ resonance.

A leading order calculation for the branching fraction of $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ yields an estimate of $3.1^{+6.4}_{-1.6} \times 10^{-8}$ 2. This mode is sensitive to new physics that could lead to an enhancement of the branching fraction due to possible contributions of non-SM heavy particles occurring in the loop of the leading-order Feynman diagrams. Such enhancements to the branching fraction for $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ are less constrained than those for $B_s \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ due to the fact that the $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ transition, responsible for $B_s \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$, is known much more accurately than $b \rightarrow d\gamma$. For example,
FIG. 1: Examples of lowest order SM Feynman diagrams for $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$. The symbol $q$ represents a $u$, $c$, or $t$ quark. In some new physics scenarios, the $W$-boson may be replaced by a charged Higgs particle.

some new physics scenarios involving an extended Higgs sector may considerably enhance the branching fractions with respect to the SM expectation [2]. Supersymmetry with broken $R$-parity [3] also provides scenarios where order of magnitude enhancements are possible. In addition, since the two-photon final state can be either $CP$-even or $CP$-odd, studies of $CP$-violating effects may ultimately be possible.

The best previous upper limit on the branching fraction at 90% confidence level (CL) is $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma) < 6.2 \times 10^{-7}$ set by the Belle experiment [4] using a dataset recorded at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance with an integrated luminosity of 104 fb$^{-1}$. For the related process $B_\pm \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, Belle has set an upper limit on the branching fraction of $8.7 \times 10^{-6}$ (90% CL) based on 23.6 fb$^{-1}$ of data taken on the $\Upsilon(5S)$ resonance [5].

We report herein a new search for the decay $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ which uses a data sample with integrated luminosity of 426 fb$^{-1}$ taken at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance. This corresponds to the entire BABAR $\Upsilon(4S)$ dataset and contains 226 million $B^0\bar{B}^0$ pairs. The analysis does not distinguish between $B^0$ and $\bar{B}^0$, and throughout this article, charge conjugation is implied for all reactions.

The analysis proceeds through several steps. The full dataset is first reduced to a manageable size by selecting events based on loose kinematic criteria consistent with the $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ hypothesis. Studies are then performed to determine an optimal set of event selection criteria to maximize the efficiency for detecting $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ events while effectively rejecting background events. This analysis is performed “blind” in the sense that the event selection criteria are determined without considering the on-resonance data within a specific signal region, as defined below. We use an unbinned extended maximum likelihood fit to extract the signal yield from the remaining events. Finally, since no statistically significant $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ signal is observed, an upper limit on the branching fraction is calculated based on the likelihood function determined from the fit.

Section II of this article describes the BABAR detector and the $\Upsilon(4S)$ dataset. Section III outlines the optimization of the event selection criteria and discusses backgrounds due to exclusive $B$ decays. Section IV describes the fit methodology and Section V discusses the sources of systematic uncertainties. Finally, Section VI reports the resulting branching fraction and the upper limit.

### II. THE BABAR DETECTOR AND DATASET

The BABAR detector recorded data from the PEP-II $B$ Factory located at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. In PEP-II, head-on collisions of 9.0 GeV electrons and 3.1 GeV positrons provide a center-of-mass (CM) energy of 10.58 GeV that lies at the peak of the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance. The $\Upsilon(4S)$ meson decays almost exclusively to $B\bar{B}$ pairs. The subsequent $B$ meson decays were observed in the BABAR detector, which has been described in detail elsewhere [6]. Briefly, a superconducting solenoid produces a 1.5 T magnetic field approximately parallel to the colliding electron and positron beams. Most detector subsystems are inside the volume of the solenoid. Charged particle tracking is accomplished by a combination of a five layer double-sided silicon strip vertex detector and a 40 layer drift chamber. The track reconstruction algorithm accepts tracks with a transverse momentum greater than 50 MeV/c. Identification of charged particles is accomplished using a ring-imaging Cherenkov detector augmented with energy loss measurements in the tracking detectors. Photons are detected in the electromagnetic calorimeter (EMC), which consists of 6580 CsI(Tl) crystals, oriented in a quasi-projective geometry with respect to the interaction point. Outside of the solenoid, the steel flux return is instrumented with a combination of resistive-plate chambers and limited streamer tubes to provide detection of muons and long-lived neutral hadrons.

The EMC is the most important detector subsystem for the $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ search. It provides polar angle coverage in the laboratory frame from $15.8^\circ$ to $141.8^\circ$, and full azimuthal coverage, corresponding to a solid-angle coverage of 90% in the $\Upsilon(4S)$ CM frame. When a photon interacts with the EMC it creates an electromagnetic shower depositing its energy into many contiguous crystals, typically 10 to 30, hereafter called a “cluster”. If no track in the event points to the cluster, it is designated as a photon candidate. Individual crystals are read out by a pair of silicon PIN photodiodes attached to the rear face of the crystal. Amplified signals are sampled and digitized with a period of 270 ns, providing a continuous data stream to which gain and pedestal corrections are applied. When a first level trigger is recorded, data samples in a time window of $\pm 1 \mu s$ are selected, producing a waveform which is analyzed by a feature extraction algorithm running in real time in readout modules. For events passing a higher level trigger, any EMC signal with energy above a 0.5 MeV threshold has its deposited energy and timing information recorded for offline analysis.

The energy resolution of the EMC is parameterized as the sum of two terms added in quadrature, given by [6]:

$$\frac{\sigma_E}{E} = \frac{2.30\%}{\sqrt{E (\text{GeV})}} \oplus 1.35\%,$$
while the angular resolution in the polar angle $\theta$ and the azimuthal angle $\phi$ is given by:

$$
\sigma_\theta = \sigma_\phi = \frac{4.16}{\sqrt{E\ (\text{GeV})}} \text{ mrad.}
$$

In addition to the on-resonance data, a data sample of $44 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ taken about $40 \text{ MeV}$ below the $\Upsilon(4S)$ peak is recorded and used to validate the Monte Carlo (MC) simulation of continuum processes, $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$, where $q = u, d, s, or c$ and $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$. MC simulated events are produced using the EVTGEN package to model the physics of $B$ meson decays and JETSET to model quark fragmentation. The GEANT4 toolkit is used to simulate the interaction of these events with the detector model. These tools are designed to take into account the varying detector and beam conditions encountered during data-taking. The MC events were analyzed with the same reconstruction algorithms, event selection and fitting procedures as data. MC samples of $B\overline{B}$ events correspond to about four times the integrated luminosity of the data. Those for $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ events correspond to twice the data luminosity, while those for $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ (where $q = u, d, or s$) and $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ correspond to approximately the same luminosity as data. In addition, special MC data sets are created in which large samples of rare $B$ meson decays are generated for the purpose of investigating the signal $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decay as well as possible backgrounds due to other $B$ decays.

### III. EVENT SELECTION AND BACKGROUNDS

#### A. Event Selection

The full $\Upsilon(4S)$ on-resonance dataset is first reduced by selecting events that contain at least two photons with energies of $1.15 \leq E_{\gamma} \leq 3.50 \text{ GeV}$, where the asterisk indicates a quantity in the $\Upsilon(4S)$ CM frame. We consider all combinations of two photons whose energies lie in this range and add their four-momentum to create $B$ meson candidates. Hereafter, these photons are referred to as $B$ candidate photons. The distribution of correctly reconstructed $B$ candidates will peak in two nearly uncorrelated variables, $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E$. The beam energy substituted mass is defined as $m_{ES} = \sqrt{E_{\text{beam}}^2 - p_B^2}/c^2$ and the energy difference is $\Delta E = E_B - E_{\text{beam}}$, where $E_{\text{beam}}$ is the beam energy, and $E_B$ and $E_* B$ are the three-momentum and energy of the $B$ candidate, respectively. For $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ events, the $m_{ES}$ distribution will peak at the $B$ meson mass, $5.279 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ [11]. The MC predicts a full-width at half maximum (FWHM) of $6.5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. The $\Delta E$ distribution is asymmetric and will peak near zero with a tail to the negative $\Delta E$ side due to photon energy loss outside the active volume of the EMC. The FWHM for $\Delta E$ predicted by the MC is about $150 \text{ MeV}$. We select an event for further analysis if it contains exactly one $B$ candidate with $m_{ES} > 5.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $-0.50 \leq \Delta E \leq 0.50 \text{ GeV}$. We find that in $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ MC only 0.06% of events have more than one $B$ candidate and are removed by this selection. Events from continuum processes, $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$, are suppressed by requiring the ratio of the second to zeroth Fox-Wolfram moments [12], $R_2$, to be less than 0.90. This ratio is calculated from the momenta of all charged and neutral particles in the event. To suppress backgrounds from $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ events, which tend to have lower multiplicity compared to $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ events, the number of reconstructed charged tracks in the event is required to be greater than two.

We define a signal region in the $m_{ES}-\Delta E$ plane by fitting each variable in $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ MC and selecting a range around the peak of the distribution. The $m_{ES}$ distribution is fit with a Crystal Ball (CB) shape [13] and we take a $\pm 3 \sigma$ region around the CB peak corresponding to $5.27 \leq m_{ES} \leq 5.29 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. The $\Delta E$ distribution is parameterized using a double-sided modified Gaussian with tail parameters given by

$$
f(\Delta E) \propto \exp \left( \frac{-(\Delta E - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2_{\text{L.R}} + \alpha_{\text{L.R}}(\Delta E - \mu)^2} \right),
$$

where $\mu$ is the peak of the $\Delta E$ distribution, $\sigma_{\text{L.R}}$ and $\alpha_{\text{L.R}}$ are the distribution widths, and $\alpha_{\text{L.R}}$ are tail parameters on the left and right side of the peak, respectively. We again take a $\pm 3 \sigma$ interval around the peak corresponding to $-0.30 \leq \Delta E \leq 0.30 \text{ GeV}$. This region is blinded in the on-resonance data until the maximum likelihood fit is performed. With this definition of the signal region, an $m_{ES}$ sideband region is defined as $5.20 < m_{ES} < 5.27 \text{ GeV}/c^2$, and lower and upper $\Delta E$ sidebands are defined as $-0.50 \leq \Delta E < -0.30 \text{ GeV}$ and $0.13 < \Delta E \leq 0.50 \text{ GeV}$, respectively.

We select photon candidates according to criteria chosen to remove poorly reconstructed photons. The energy of the cluster must be spread over at least 10 crystals with all crystals in the cluster having active electronics with correct calibrations. The shape of the cluster cross section, these “pile-up” events often involve high-energy electrons which may produce EMC clusters. Since the tracking detectors are sensitive over a narrower time window, electron-induced tracks may not point to the EMC clusters, causing them to be treated as photon candidates. If their energy is also measured incorrectly, artificial $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ candidates may result. This scenario
is effectively rejected by requiring the total event energy to be less than 15.0 GeV and the cluster time of each B candidate photon to be consistent with the trigger event time.

The dominant source of backgrounds are photons produced from high energy \( \pi^0 \) and \( \eta \) decays in continuum events. These events are suppressed using a likelihood ratio rejection technique. Each B candidate photon is separately combined with all other photons in the event and the invariant mass, \( m_{\gamma\gamma'} \), and energy of the other photon, \( E_{\gamma'} \), are used to calculate a likelihood ratio given by

\[
L_i = \frac{P_i(m_{\gamma\gamma'}, E_{\gamma'})}{P_{\text{sig}}(m_{\gamma\gamma'}, E_{\gamma'}) + P_i(m_{\gamma\gamma'}, E_{\gamma'})}.
\]

In this equation, \( i \) is a label for \( \pi^0 \) or \( \eta \), and \( P \) represents a two-dimensional probability density function (PDF). For each B candidate photon the pairing that gives the largest value of the likelihood ratio is assigned. The signal PDF, \( P_{\text{sig}} \), is constructed using simulated \( B^0\bar{B}^0 \) events containing a \( B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \) decay where all B candidate photon pairings are used. The PDF for a \( \pi^0 \) or \( \eta \), \( P_i \), is constructed from simulated \( e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q} \) and \( e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- \) events. The B candidate photon in this case is required to be produced from a \( \pi^0 \) or \( \eta \) decay, while the other photon daughter is required to be reconstructed in the calorimeter. The energy of the other photon and the invariant mass of the pair are then used to construct the \( \pi^0 \) and \( \eta \) PDFs. A likelihood ratio near 1.0 (0.0) is consistent with the B candidate photon originating from a \( \pi^0 \) or \( \eta \) (signal B). Figure 2 shows the \( L_{\pi^0} \) and \( L_{\eta} \) distributions for \( B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \) MC events and for B candidate photons from \( \pi^0 \) and \( \eta \) decays in MC continuum background events.

For high energy \( \pi^0 \) decays with \( E_{\pi^0} \gtrsim 2 \) GeV, the daughter photons may not be separated enough in the EMC to be resolved individually. In this case the photon clusters are said to be “merged.” A merged \( \pi^0 \) can mimic a B candidate photon because the cluster will have the full energy of the parent \( \pi^0 \) and will have no associated track. At a given energy, the second moment of the energy distribution around the center of the cluster will be different for a photon and a merged \( \pi^0 \). This allows for the construction of a quantity called the merged \( \pi^0 \) consistency based on the energy and second moment of the cluster. This variable compares the two inputs against known distributions from photons as well as merged \( \pi^0 \) decays to estimate the likelihood that the cluster originates from either source. The \( \pi^0 \) energy range that contributes B candidate photons in this analysis begins at about 2 GeV and extends above 6 GeV. To reduce this source of merged \( \pi^0 \) background, we select B candidate photons whose merged \( \pi^0 \) consistency is compatible with that of a photon.

In the \( \Upsilon(4S) \) CM frame, the B mesons are produced nearly at rest and subsequently decay isotropically, whereas events produced in continuum processes are typically collimated in jets along the \( q\bar{q} \) axis. This difference in event shape is exploited to further separate signal from continuum background events using a neural network (NN) multivariate classifier. The NN utilizes 19 input variables that characterize event level features whose distributions show separation power between signal and continuum background events. The inputs include the minimum distance between each B candidate photon EMC cluster and all other EMC clusters in the event, the polar angle of the B candidate momentum in the lab frame, the number of neutral particles reconstructed, the number of tracks in the event, the missing energy and the total transverse momentum. We also include quantities that characterize the rest-of-the-event (ROE), calculated using all reconstructed particles in the event except one or both B candidate photons. These are: the polar angle of the event thrust axis when either B candidate photon is removed; the first, second,
independent samples of
the CM frame. We train and validate the NN using
moved are used; all energies and momenta are calculated
and the sphericity with both
R
B

tons are removed. Additionally,

FIG. 3: Output of the neural network on the validation sam-
ple of simulated signal (open histogram) and background
(shaded histogram) events. Selected events have a NN re-
sponse greater than 0.54 as denoted by the arrow.

and third angular moments of the event when the B can-
didate photon with the larger energy in the lab frame is
removed; and the second angular moment with respect to
the thrust axis of the event when both B candidate pho-
tons are removed. Additionally, R_γ, the total sphericity,
and the sphericity with both B candidate photons re-
moved are used; all energies and momenta are calculated
in the CM frame. We train and validate the NN using
independent samples of B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma and continuum MC
events. The training samples are constructed by first ap-
plying the photon quality, event pile-up, and merged \pi^0
selections to the MC events. The surviving events are
randomly divided into one set for training and one for
validation. Each set contains 45,200 events where half
are B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma MC events and the other half are contin-
uum MC events whose composition of e^+e^- \rightarrow q \bar{q} and
e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- events is scaled to the luminosity of the
on-resonance data for each component. The parameters
of the NN are tuned to achieve the highest level of back-
ground rejection while avoiding overtraining the classi-
fier. The validation sample is then used to verify its
performance. The NN response is a value between 0.0
(background-like) and 1.0 (signal-like). Figure 3 shows
the NN response for the validation samples for B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma
and continuum background MC events.

The selection criteria for L_{e^+e^-}, L_\eta, the NN response,
and the number of tracks are optimized using B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma
MC events and on-resonance sideband data. The num-
ber of background events is estimated by extrapolating
the sideband data into the signal region. The optimiza-
tion proceeds by iterating over the space of each variable
individually until we find a maximum of the figure-of-
merit [12] given by the expression \varepsilon_{sig}/(3/2 + \sqrt{B}). In
this equation, \varepsilon_{sig} is the efficiency of the event selec-
tion derived from B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma MC and B is the number
of background events. The iterative process continues to
cycle through all variables until the selection values con-
verge. We find the optimum values to be: L_{e^+e^-} < 0.84,
L_\eta < 0.84, NN response greater than or equal to 0.54,
and the number of tracks to be greater than two. The
optimum selection criteria are found to have an overall
efficiency of 26.7% on a collection of 1.96 million simu-
lated B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma events, while rejecting about 99.9% of
background events.

B. Exclusive B Decay Backgrounds

Backgrounds from B decays that may peak in the m_{ES}
and \Delta E signal region are studied with large samples of
simulated events. Twelve B decay modes were identi-
fied as potential background sources, and exclusive MC
samples were generated for each mode. The optimized
event selection is applied to each of these samples and the
estimated number of background events expected in on-
resonance data are determined from the latest branching
fractions [11]. After scaling the yields of these modes to
the luminosity of the on-resonance data, it is estimated
that they contribute a total of 1.18 \pm 0.22 background
events to the signal region. This number is comparable
to the expected number of signal events predicted from the
SM branching fraction (\sim 4 events). The modes expected
to contribute significantly are B^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0, B^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\eta,
B^0 \rightarrow \eta\eta, and B^0 \rightarrow \omega\gamma. The m_{ES} distributions
of these modes peak at the same value as true signal events,
while the \Delta E distributions peak at a value less than zero.
This difference in shape of the \Delta E distributions between
B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma decays and these “peaking” background B
decays is exploited by adding a component that describes
them to the maximum likelihood function.

IV. MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD FIT

The signal yield is extracted using a two-dimensional
unbinned extended maximum likelihood (ML) fit in the
region m_{ES} > 5.2 GeV/c^2 and -0.5 \leq \Delta E \leq 0.5 GeV.
The likelihood function for a sample of N events with
signal, continuum, and peaking B\bar{B} background compo-
nents is given by

\begin{equation}
\mathcal{L} = \exp \left( - \sum_{i=1}^{3} n_i \right) \prod_{j=1}^{N} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{3} n_i \mathcal{P}_i(x_j; \alpha_i) \right),
\end{equation}

where i in this equation is an index for the three compo-
nents in the fit and n_i is the event yield for each. Since
the correlations between m_{ES} and \Delta E are found to be
small, the signal and continuum background PDFs, \mathcal{P}_i,
are each defined as a product of one-dimensional PDFs in the
observables x_j \in \{m_{ES}, \Delta E\}, with parameters \alpha_i. A
two-dimensional histogram PDF is used for the peaking
background component.

The signal PDF shapes for m_{ES} and \Delta E are deter-
mined from simulated B^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma events. The m_{ES} distri-
bution is parameterized by a Crystal Ball function [13],
and the $\Delta E$ shape is parameterized by a double-sided modified Gaussian with tail parameters given by Equation (11). In the ML fit, the signal PDF parameters are fixed to the MC-determined values. All fixed signal parameters are later varied to evaluate the systematic uncertainty that this choice of parameterization has on the signal yield.

The continuum background $m_{ES}$ distribution is parameterized by an ARGUS shape [16], while the $\Delta E$ distribution is fit with a first-order polynomial. The endpoint of the ARGUS function is fixed to the kinematic limit for $B$ decays (5.29 GeV/$c^2$), while all other parameters are allowed to float. The PDF for the peaking background component is parameterized using large samples of simulated exclusive $B$ decays in the form of a two-dimensional histogram PDF in $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E$. Both the shape and yield of this component are fixed in the ML fit. The yield is fixed to $3.13 \pm 0.54$ events, which is the predicted number in the fit region determined from the exclusive MC studies. The fixed peaking background PDF shape and yield are later varied to evaluate the systematic uncertainty on the signal yield.

The fit is validated on an ensemble of prototype datasets whose signal and background content and shape are as expected in the on-resonance data. For the signal content, one-half, one, and two times the expected SM branching fractions [1] are used to populate the prototype datasets. Two types of datasets are constructed: one where both the signal and background events are generated by randomly sampling from their respective PDFs, and the other where the background events are generated from a random sampling of the background PDF while the signal events are embedded directly from the simulated signal dataset. The results of the validation show that the fit returns the correct signal yield and does not introduce a bias.

The on-resonance $\Upsilon(4S)$ data contains 1679 events after the optimized event selection criteria are applied. We perform the ML fit to extract the signal yield and find $N_{sig} = 21^{+13}_{-12}$ events corresponding to a statistical significance of 1.9 $\sigma$. The significance is computed as $\sqrt{2 \cdot \Delta \ln L}$, where $\Delta \ln L$ is the difference in the log-likelihood between the best fit to on-resonance data and a fit where the signal yield is fixed to zero. Figure 4 shows projections of the PDF components from the ML fit. For the $m_{ES}$ projection, the range of $\Delta E$ has been restricted to $-0.30 \leq \Delta E \leq 0.13$ GeV. For the $\Delta E$ projection, the range of $m_{ES}$ is restricted to $m_{ES} > 5.27$ GeV/$c^2$.

V. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINITIES

Systematic errors that affect the calculation of the branching fraction are investigated and include uncertainties on the number of $B^0\bar{B}^0$ events in the dataset, signal efficiency, and the signal yield from the fit. Differences between data and MC can lead to an error on the derived signal efficiency. The identified sources that can lead to this error include uncertainties in tracking, track multiplicity, photon reconstruction, the $L_{\pi\eta}$ and $L_{\eta}$ requirements, and the NN selection. The uncertainties in the modeling of the signal and $B\bar{B}$ background shapes in the maximum likelihood fit can also affect the uncertainty on the signal yield.

The systematic error associated with counting the number of $B\bar{B}$ pairs in the dataset is 1.1%. The number of $B^0\bar{B}^0$ pairs is obtained by multiplying the $\Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B^0\bar{B}^0$ branching fraction, equal to $(48.4 \pm 0.6) \%$ [11], with the total number of $B\bar{B}$ pairs, from which a systematic error of 1.7% is assigned. A study of the track finding inefficiency results in an assignment of a 0.2% systematic uncertainty for the selection of events with at least three reconstructed tracks. The uncertainty in the signal

![Figure 4](image-url)
efficiency due to the requirement of at least three reconstructed charged tracks is estimated to be 3.4%, including components for both generator-level simulation errors and detector-associated data versus MC differences. The efficiencies in data and MC for detecting high-energy photons which pass the selection criteria were compared using a sample of $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\gamma$ events with the photon energy in the CM frame restricted to be consistent with the energy of $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ photons. No significant difference is observed. An uncertainty of 2% per photon is assigned to account for possible data versus MC differences due to the required minimum distance between the candidate-photon cluster and all other clusters, based on a study that embedded high-energy photons in both data and MC events. We combine this uncertainty linearly for both photons in $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and assign an overall photon efficiency systematic of 4%. The cluster time selection is compared in data and MC and we assign a systematic uncertainty of 0.7% for each $B$ candidate. The systematic uncertainty due to the $\pi^0$ and $\eta$ likelihood ratios is estimated to be 1.0% for each, based on a study that embedded signal-like photons in data and MC events in which one $B$ meson was fully reconstructed in the decay $B \rightarrow D\pi$. The signal efficiencies for the $L_{\pi^0}$ and $L_\eta$ selections for data and MC are calculated by pairing the embedded signal-like photon with all other photons in these events that are not associated with the reconstructed $B$. The systematic uncertainty due to the NN is estimated by comparing the efficiencies of data to MC in signal-like events. Signal-like events are selected by applying all event selection criteria, but reversing either the NN, the $L_{\pi^0}$ or the $L_\eta$ selection for one of the $B$ candidate photons. The efficiencies are then calculated from events in the fit region with the signal region excluded. For all selection reversal scenarios, the ratio of the efficiencies is found to be consistent with unity and has a typical statistical error of 3.0%, which is taken as the systematic uncertainty.

The systematic uncertainty on the signal yield due to the choice of fit model has four components. The first is due to the fixed signal shape for the $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E$ PDFs. To estimate the systematic uncertainty related to this choice of parameterizations, the fixed parameters are varied within their ±1 σ errors, the on-resonance dataset is refit, and the change in the signal yield is calculated for each parameter. The total systematic uncertainty is taken to be the sum in quadrature of all variations and is found to be 0.6 events. A comparison between photon response in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\gamma$ events in data and MC, using photons in the energy range relevant to the decay $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, shows that the size of the variation in the signal shape parameters is sufficient to take into account any systematic effects from parameterizing the signal PDF shapes from MC. The second component is due to the parameterization choice for the signal shape. While the PDF used to fit the $m_{ES}$ distribution replicates the shape in $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ MC, there is a slight disagreement between the $\Delta E$ distribution in $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ MC and that of the double-sided modified Gaussian used to describe it, Eq. (1). To test how large of an effect this difference may have on the signal yield, the $\Delta E$ distribution is parameterized using a Crystal Ball shape [13] that provides a larger discrepancy from the MC shape. Ensembles of simulated experiments are performed wherein each experiment consists of an independent dataset fit first using the $\Delta E$ parameterization described in Section IV and then using the alternative parameterization described here. The signal yields for each fit are compared and the average difference is found to be 0.2 events which is assigned as the systematic uncertainty. The third component is due to the choice of the $\Delta E$ continuum background shape. Repeating the fit to data using a second-order polynomial for $\Delta E$ results in an increase of 1.9 events in the signal yield, which we take to be the systematic error for this component. The fourth component is due to the choice of shape and normalization for the peaking background PDF, both of which are fixed in the ML fit. The shape is fixed from the $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E$ distributions of simulated exclusive $B$ decays, while the yield is fixed to the expected number of events in on-resonance data. To estimate the systematic uncertainty on the signal yield, both the peaking background yield and shape are varied. The uncertainties on the yields of the individual peaking background modes are added linearly to determine the uncertainty on the total yield of the peaking component in the ML fit. This results in a range for the peaking yield between 2.02 and 4.24 events. The shape of the peaking PDF is varied by replacing it solely with the shape derived from $B^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0$ MC. The $\Delta E$ distribution of this mode most closely resembles that from $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ MC. Another ensemble of simulated experiments were performed where the differences in the signal yield were compared when using these set of extreme variations in the peaking component and those from the ML fit to data. We take the maximal change in the signal yield and assign a conservative systematic uncertainty of 0.5 events. The four components are added in quadrature to give a systematic uncertainty for the ML fit of 2.1 events corresponding to 9.9%.

These results are added in quadrature to give a total systematic uncertainty on the signal yield of 2.6 events, corresponding to 12.1%. The separate contributions to the systematic uncertainty are summarized in Table I.

VI. RESULTS

The branching fraction is calculated from the measured signal yield using

$$\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) = \frac{N_{\text{sig}}}{\varepsilon_{\text{sig}} \cdot 2 \cdot N_{B^0\pi^0\pi^0}},$$

where $N_{\text{sig}}$ is the signal yield from the maximum likelihood fit, $\varepsilon_{\text{sig}}$ is the signal selection efficiency determined from simulated $B^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ events, and $N_{B^0\pi^0\pi^0}$ is the number of neutral $B$ meson pairs in the on-resonance dataset.
TABLE I: Summary of the systematic uncertainties expressed as a percent of the signal yield.

| Source                | Uncertainty on \( N_{\text{sig}} \) (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| \( B^+B^- \) counting | 1.7                                    |
| Tracking efficiency   | 0.2                                    |
| Track multiplicity    | 3.4                                    |
| Photon efficiency     | 4.0                                    |
| Cluster time          | 0.7                                    |
| \( L_{\gamma\gamma} \) and \( L_{\gamma} \) | 2.8                                   |
| Neural network        | 3.0                                    |
| Fit uncertainty       | 9.9                                    |
| **Sum in quadrature** | **12.1**                               |

The upper limit at the 90% CL is obtained by integrating the likelihood curve resulting from the ML fit from zero to the value of \( N_{\text{sig}} \) which contains 90% of the area under the curve. To incorporate the systematic uncertainty into the determination of the upper limit, the likelihood curve is convolved with a Gaussian shape whose width is equal to the total systematic uncertainty of 2.6 events. This yields a value of \( N_{\text{sig}} = 39 \) events corresponding to an upper limit of

\[
\mathcal{B}(B^0 \to \gamma\gamma) < 3.3 \times 10^{-7} \quad (90\% \text{ CL}).
\] (6)

Figure 5 shows the likelihood curve from the fit after convolution with the Gaussian shape. The shaded region corresponds to the 90% integral of the curve. This limit is nearly a factor of two below the best previous upper limit of \( \mathcal{B}(B^0 \to \gamma\gamma) < 6.2 \times 10^{-7} \) set by Belle [4], and is consistent with the SM branching fraction. This limit may allow tighter constraints on models that incorporate physics beyond the SM.

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