Measurements of Branching Fractions and \( CP \)-Violating Asymmetries in \( B^0 \to \pi^+\pi^- \), \( K^+\pi^- \), \( K^+K^- \) Decays

The \( BABAR \) Collaboration

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Abstract

We present updated measurements of branching fractions and \( CP \)-violating asymmetries for neutral \( B \) meson decays to two-body final states of charged pions and kaons. The results are obtained from a data sample of about 60 million \( T(4S) \to B\bar{B} \) decays collected between 1999 and 2001 by the \( BABAR \) detector at the PEP-II asymmetric-energy \( B \) Factory at SLAC. The sample contains 124\( ^{+16}_{-15} \) \( \pi\pi \), 403\( \pm \) 24 \( K\pi \), and 0.6\( ^{+8.0}_{-7.4} \) \( KK \) candidates, from which we measure the following quantities:

\[
\begin{align*}
B(B^0 \to \pi^+\pi^-) &= (5.4 \pm 0.7 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-6}, \\
B(B^0 \to K^+\pi^-) &= (17.8 \pm 1.1 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-6}, \\
B(B^0 \to K^+K^-) &< 1.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ (90\% C.L.)}, \\
A_{K\pi} &= -0.05 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.01 \ [-0.14, +0.05], \\
S_{\pi\pi} &= -0.01 \pm 0.37 \pm 0.07 \ [-0.66, +0.62], \\
C_{\pi\pi} &= -0.02 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.07 \ [-0.54, +0.48],
\end{align*}
\]

where the errors are statistical and systematic, respectively, and the asymmetry limits correspond to the 90\% confidence level. These results are preliminary.

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The BABAR Collaboration,

B. Aubert, D. Boutigny, J.-M. Gaillard, A. Hicheur, Y. Karyotakis, J. P. Lees, P. Robbe, V. Tisserand, A. Zghiche

Laboratoire de Physique des Particules, F-74941 Annecy-le-Vieux, France

A. Palano, A. Pompili

Università di Bari, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-70126 Bari, Italy

G. P. Chen, J. C. Chen, N. D. Qi, G. Rong, P. Wang, Y. S. Zhu

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing 100039, China

G. Eigen, I. Ofte, B. Stugu

University of Bergen, Inst. of Physics, N-5007 Bergen, Norway

G. S. Abrams, A. W. Borgland, A. B. Breon, D. N. Brown, J. Button-Shafer, R. N. Cahn, E. Charles, M. S. Gill, A. V. Gritsan, Y. Groysman, R. G. Jacobsen, R. W. Kadel, J. Kadyk, L. T. Kerth, Yu. G. Kolomensky, J. F. Kral, C. LeClerc, M. E. Levi, G. Lynch, L. M. Mir, P. J. Oddone, M. Pripstein, N. A. Roe, A. Romosan, M. T. Ronan, V. G. Shelkov, A. V. Telnov, W. A. Wenzel

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

T. J. Harrison, C. M. Hawkes, D. J. Knowles, S. W. O'Neale, R. C. Penny, A. T. Watson, N. K. Watson

University of Birmingham, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom

T. Deppermann, K. Goetzen, H. Koch, B. Lewandowski, K. Peters, H. Schmuecker, M. Steinke

Ruhr Universität Bochum, Institut für Experimentalphysik 1, D-44780 Bochum, Germany

N. R. Barlow, W. Bhimji, N. Chevalier, P. J. Clark, W. N. Cottingham, B. Foster, C. Mackay, F. F. Wilson

University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TL, United Kingdom

K. Abe, C. Hearty, T. S. Mattison, J. A. McKenna, D. Thiessen

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z1

S. Jolly, A. K. McKemey

Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH, United Kingdom

V. E. Blinov, A. D. Bukin, D. A. Bukin, A. R. Buzykaev, V. B. Golubev, V. N. Ivanchenko, A. A. Korol, E. A. Kravchenko, A. P. Onuchin, S. I. Serednyakov, Yu. I. Skovpen, A. N. Yushkov

Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk 630090, Russia

D. Best, M. Chao, D. Kirkby, A. J. Lankford, M. Mandelkern, S. McMahon, D. P. Stoker

University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697, USA

K. Arisaka, C. Buchanan, S. Chun

University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90024, USA

D. B. MacFarlane, S. Prell, Sh. Rahatlou, G. Raven, V. Sharma

University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA
Recent measurements of the CP-violating asymmetry parameter sin2β by the BABAR [1] and Belle [2] collaborations established CP violation in the B0 system. These measurements, as well as an updated result by BABAR [3] reported at this conference, are consistent with the Standard Model expectation based on measurements and theoretical estimates of the elements of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa [4] (CKM) quark-mixing matrix.

The study of B decays to charmless hadronic two-body final states will yield important information about the remaining angles (α and γ) of the Unitarity Triangle. In the Standard Model, the time-dependent CP-violating asymmetry in the decay B0 → π+π− is related to the angle α, and ratios of branching fractions for various ππ and Kπ decay modes are sensitive to the angle γ. In this paper, we update our previous measurements of branching fractions [5] and CP-violating asymmetries [6] in B0 → π+π−, K+π−, and K+K− decays using a sample of 60 million BB pairs.

We reconstruct a sample of B mesons (Brec) decaying to the h+h′ final state, where h and h′ refer to π or K, and examine the remaining charged particles in each event to “tag” the flavor of the other B meson (Btag). The decay rate distribution f+ (f−) when h+h′ = π+π− and Btag = B0 (B0) is given by

\[ f_\pm (\Delta t) = \frac{e^{-|\Delta t|/\tau}}{4\tau} [1 \pm S_{\pi\pi} \sin(\Delta m_d \Delta t) \mp C_{\pi\pi} \cos(\Delta m_d \Delta t)], \]

where \( \tau \) is the mean B0 lifetime, \( \Delta m_d \) is the eigenstate mass difference, and \( \Delta t = t_{\text{rec}} - t_{\text{tag}} \) is the time between the Brec and Btag decays. The CP-violating parameters \( S_{\pi\pi} \) and \( C_{\pi\pi} \) are defined as

\[ S_{\pi\pi} = \frac{2I_m \lambda}{1 + |\lambda|^2} \quad \text{and} \quad C_{\pi\pi} = \frac{1 - |\lambda|^2}{1 + |\lambda|^2}. \tag{2} \]

If the decay proceeds purely through the \( b \to uW^- \) tree process, then \( \lambda \) is given by

\[ \lambda(B \to \pi^+\pi^-) = \begin{pmatrix} V_{tb}^* V_{td} \\ V_{tb} V_{td}^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_{ub}^* V_{ub} \\ V_{ud} V_{ub}^* \end{pmatrix}. \tag{3} \]

In this case \( C_{\pi\pi} = 0 \) and \( S_{\pi\pi} = \sin2\alpha \), where \( \alpha = \arg[-V_{td}V_{tb}^*/V_{ub} V_{ub}^*] \). In general, the \( b \to dg \) penguin amplitude modifies both the magnitude and phase of \( \lambda \), so that \( C_{\pi\pi} \neq 0 \) and \( S_{\pi\pi} = \sqrt{1 - C_{\pi\pi}^2} \sin2\alpha_{\text{eff}} \), where \( \alpha_{\text{eff}} \) depends on the magnitudes and relative strong and weak phases of the tree and penguin amplitudes. Several approaches have been proposed to obtain information on \( \alpha \) in the presence of penguins [4].

The data sample used in this analysis consists of 55.6 fb−1, corresponding to (60.2±0.7) million BB pairs, collected on the Y(4S) resonance with the BABAR detector at the SLAC PEP-II storage ring between October 1999 and December 2001. A detailed description of the detector is presented in Ref. [6]. Charged particle (track) momenta are measured in a tracking system consisting of a 5-layer double-sided silicon vertex tracker (SVT) and a 40-layer drift chamber (DCH) filled with a gas mixture of helium and isobutane. The SVT and DCH operate within a 1.5 T superconducting solenoidal magnet. Photons are detected in an electromagnetic calorimeter (EMC) consisting of 6580 CsI(Tl) crystals arranged in barrel and forward endcap subdetectors. The flux return for the solenoid is composed of multiple layers of iron and resistive plate chambers for the identification of muons and long-lived neutral hadrons. Tracks from the Brec decay are identified as pions or kaons by the Cherenkov angle \( \theta_c \) measured with a detector of internally reflected Cherenkov light (DIRC).

\footnote{Unless explicitly stated, charge conjugate decay modes are assumed throughout this paper.}
Event selection is identical to that described in Ref. [3]. Candidate $B_{\text{rec}}$ decays are reconstructed from pairs of oppositely-charged tracks forming a good quality vertex, where the $B_{\text{rec}}$ four-vector is calculated assuming the pion mass for both tracks. We require each track to have an associated $\theta_c$ measurement with a minimum of six Cherenkov photons above background, where the average is approximately 30 for both pions and kaons. Protons are rejected based on $\theta_c$ and electrons are rejected based on $dE/dx$ measurements in the tracking system, shower shape in the EMC, and the ratio of shower energy and track momentum. Background from the reaction $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ ($q = u, d, s, c$) is suppressed by removing jet-like events from the sample: we define the center-of-mass (c.m.) angle $\theta_S$ between the sphericity axes of the B candidate and the remaining tracks and photons in the event, and require $|\cos \theta_S| < 0.8$, which removes 83% of the background. The total efficiency on signal events for all of the above selection is approximately 38%.

Signal decays are identified kinematically using two variables. We define a beam-energy substituted mass $m_{\text{ES}} = \sqrt{E_b^2 - p_B^2}$, where the $B$ candidate energy is defined as $E_b = (s/2 + \mathbf{p}_i \cdot \mathbf{p}_B)/E_i$, $\sqrt{s}$ and $E_i$ are the total energies of the $e^+e^-$ system in the c.m. and laboratory frames, respectively, and $\mathbf{p}_i$ and $\mathbf{p}_B$ are the momentum vectors in the laboratory frame of the $e^+e^-$ system and the $B_{\text{rec}}$ candidate, respectively. Signal events are Gaussian distributed in $m_{\text{ES}}$ with a mean near the $B$ mass and a resolution of 2.6 MeV/c$^2$, dominated by the beam energy spread. The background shape is parameterized by a threshold function [9] with a fixed endpoint given by the average beam energy.

We define a second kinematic variable $\Delta E$ as the difference between the energy of the $B_{\text{rec}}$ candidate in the c.m. frame and $\sqrt{s}/2$. Signal $\pi\pi$ decays are Gaussian distributed with a mean value near zero. For decays with one (two) kaons, the distribution is shifted relative to $\pi\pi$ on average by $-45 \text{ MeV} (-91 \text{ MeV})$, respectively, where the exact separation depends on the laboratory momentum of the kaon(s). The resolution on $\Delta E$ is approximately 26 MeV and is validated in large samples of fully reconstructed $B$ decays. The background is parameterized by a quadratic function.

Candidate $h^+h'^-$ pairs selected in the region $5.2 < m_{\text{ES}} < 5.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $|\Delta E| < 0.15 \text{ GeV}$ are used to extract yields and CP-violating asymmetries with an unbinned maximum likelihood fit. The total number of events in the fit region satisfying all of the above criteria is 17585.

To determine the flavor of the $B_{\text{tag}}$ meson we use the same $B$-tagging algorithm used in the BABAR sin2$\beta$ analysis [10]. The algorithm relies on the correlation between the flavor of the $b$ quark and the charge of the remaining tracks in the event after removal of the $B_{\text{rec}}$ candidate. We define five mutually exclusive tagging categories: Lepton, Kaon, NT1, NT2, and Un-tagged. Lepton tags rely on primary electrons and muons from semileptonic $B$ decays, while Kaon tags exploit the correlation in the process $b \rightarrow c \rightarrow s$ between the net kaon charge and the charge of the $b$ quark. The NT1 (more certain tags) and NT2 (less certain tags) categories are derived from a neural network that is sensitive to charge correlations between the parent $B$ and unidentified leptons and kaons, soft pions, or the charge and momentum of the track with the highest c.m. momentum. The addition of Un-tagged events improves the signal yield estimates and provides a larger sample for determining background shape parameters directly in the maximum likelihood fit.

The quality of tagging is expressed in terms of the effective efficiency $Q = \sum_c \epsilon_c D_c^2$, where $\epsilon_c$ is the fraction of events tagged in category $c$ and the dilution $D_c = 1 - 2w_c$ is related to the mistag fraction $w_c$. Table 1 summarizes the tagging performance in a data sample $B_{\text{flav}}$ of fully reconstructed neutral $B$ decays into $D^{(*)-}h^+$ ($h^+ = \pi^+, \rho^+, \gamma_1^+$) and $J/\psi K^{*0}$ ($K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$) flavor eigenstates. We use the same tagging efficiencies and dilutions for signal $\pi\pi$, $K\pi$, and $KK$ decays. Separate background efficiencies for each species are determined simultaneously with $S_{\pi\pi}$ and $C_{\pi\pi}$ in the maximum likelihood fit.
The time difference $\Delta t$ is obtained from the measured distance between the $z$ positions of the $B_{\text{rec}}$ and $B_{\text{tag}}$ decay vertices and the known boost of the $e^+e^-$ system. The $z$ position of the $B_{\text{tag}}$ vertex is determined with an iterative procedure that removes tracks with a large contribution to the total $\chi^2$. An additional constraint is constructed from the three-momentum and vertex position of the $B_{\text{rec}}$ candidate, and the average $e^+e^-$ interaction point and boost. For 99.5% of candidates with a reconstructed vertex the r.m.s. $\Delta z$ resolution is 180 $\mu$m (1.1 ps). We require $|\Delta t| < 20$ ps and $\sigma_{\Delta t} < 2.5$ ps, where $\sigma_{\Delta t}$ is the error on $\Delta t$. The resolution function for signal candidates is a sum of three Gaussians, identical to the one described in Ref. [3], with parameters determined from a fit to the $B_{\text{flav}}$ sample (including events in all five tagging categories). The background $\Delta t$ distribution is parameterized as the sum of an exponential convolved with a Gaussian, and two additional Gaussians to account for tails. A common parameterization is used for all tagging categories, and the parameters are determined simultaneously with the $CP$ parameters in the maximum likelihood fit. We find that 86% of background events are described by an effective lifetime of about 0.6 ps, while tails are described by 12 (2)% of events with a resolution of approximately 2 (8) ps.

Identification of $h^+h^-$ tracks as pions or kaons is accomplished with the Cherenkov angle measurement from the DIRC. We construct Gaussian probability density functions (PDFs) from the difference between measured and expected values of $\theta_c$ for the pion or kaon hypothesis, normalized by the resolution. The DIRC performance is parameterized using a sample of $D^{*+} \rightarrow D^0\pi^+$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+$ decays, reconstructed in data. The typical separation between pions and kaons varies from 8$\sigma$ at 2 GeV/c to 2.5$\sigma$ at 4 GeV/c, where $\sigma$ is the average resolution on $\theta_c$ (Fig. [4]).

We use an unbinned extended maximum likelihood fit to extract yields and $CP$ parameters from the $B_{\text{rec}}$ sample. The likelihood for candidate $j$ tagged in category $c$ is obtained by summing the product of event yield $n_{ji}$, tagging efficiency $\epsilon_{i,c}$, and probability $P_{i,c}$ over the eight possible signal categories.
Figure 1: Variation of the separation between the kaon and pion Cherenkov angles with momentum, as obtained from a control sample of $D^{*+} \rightarrow D^0 \pi^+$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$ decays reconstructed in data.

and background hypotheses $i$ (referring to $\pi\pi$, $K^+\pi^-$, $K^-\pi^+$, and $KK$ decays),

$$L_c = \exp\left(-\sum_i n_i \epsilon_i, c\right) \prod_j \left[\sum_i n_i \epsilon_i, c P_i, c(\vec{x}_j; \vec{\alpha}_i)\right].$$

For the $K^\pm \pi^\pm$ components, the yield is parameterized as $n_i = N_{K\pi} (1 \pm A_{K\pi}) / 2$, where $N_{K\pi} = N_{K^+\pi^-} + N_{K^-\pi^+}$ and $A_{K\pi} \equiv (N_{K^-\pi^+} - N_{K^+\pi^-})/(N_{K^+\pi^-} + N_{K^-\pi^+})$. The probabilities $P_{i, c}$ are evaluated as the product of PDFs for each of the independent variables $\vec{x}_j = \{m_{ES}, \Delta E, F, \theta^+_c, \theta^-_c, \Delta t\}$, where $\theta^+_c$ and $\theta^-_c$ are the Cherenkov angles for the positively and negatively charged tracks. We use the same PDF parameters for $\theta^+_c$ and $\theta^-_c$. The total likelihood $L$ is the product of likelihoods for each tagging category and the free parameters are determined by minimizing the quantity $-\ln L$.

In order to minimize systematic error on the branching fraction measurements, we perform an initial fit without tagging or $\Delta t$ information. A total of 16 parameters are varied in the fit, including signal and background yields (6 parameters) and asymmetries (2), and parameters for the background shapes in $m_{ES}$ (1), $\Delta E$ (2), and $F$ (5). Table 2 summarizes results for signal yields, total efficiencies, branching fractions, and $A_{K\pi}$. The upper limit on the signal yield for $B^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-$ is given by the value of $n^0$ for which $\int_0^{n^0} L_{\text{max}} \, dn / \int_0^{\infty} L_{\text{max}} \, dn = 0.90$, where $L_{\text{max}}$ is the likelihood as a function of $n$, maximized with respect to the remaining fit parameters. The branching fraction upper limit is calculated by increasing the signal yield upper limit and reducing the efficiency by their respective systematic errors. The dominant systematic error on the branching fraction measurements is due to uncertainty in the shape of the $\theta_c$ PDF, while the dominant error on $A_{K\pi}$ is due to possible charge bias in track and $\theta_c$ reconstruction. All measurements reported
Table 2: Summary of results for total detection efficiencies (Eff), fitted signal yields $N_s$, measured branching fractions $B$, and the $K\pi$ charge asymmetry $A_{K\pi}$. The sample corresponds to (60.2 ± 0.7) million $B\bar{B}$ pairs produced, where equal branching fractions for $\Upsilon(4S) \to B^0\bar{B}^0$ and $B^+B^-$ are assumed. The statistical and systematic errors on $A_{K\pi}$ are added in quadrature when calculating the 90% confidence level (C.L.).

| Mode  | Eff (%) | $N_s$ | $B(10^{-6})$ | $A_{K\pi}$ | $A_{K\pi}$ 90% C.L. |
|-------|---------|-------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| $\pi^+\pi^-$ | 38.5 ± 0.7 | 124$^{+10+7}_{-15-9}$ | 5.4 ± 0.7 ± 0.4 | -0.05 ± 0.06 ± 0.01 | [-0.14, +0.05] |
| $K^+\pi^-$ | 37.6 ± 0.7 | 403 ± 24 ± 15 | 17.8 ± 1.1 ± 0.8 | -0.06 ± 0.07 ± 0.01 | [-0.14, +0.05] |
| $K^+K^-$ | 36.7 ± 0.7 | 0.6$^{+8.0}_{-7.4}$ (< 15.6) | 1 < 1.1 (90% C.L.) | -0.06 ± 0.07 ± 0.01 | [-0.14, +0.05] |

in Table 2 are consistent with our previous results reported in Ref. [5].

Figure 2 shows the expected oscillation given the value of $\Delta E_{ES}$ (4). The signal tagging efficiencies and dilutions are fixed to the values in Table 1, while $\Delta t$ is determined from a second fit including tagging and $\Delta t$ information, with the yields and $A_{K\pi}$ fixed to the results of the first fit. The $\Delta t$ PDF for signal $\pi^+\pi^-$ decays is given by Eq. (1), modified to include the dilution and dilution difference for each tagging category, and convolved with the signal resolution function. The $\Delta t$ PDF for signal $K\pi$ events takes into account $B^0-\bar{B}^0$ mixing, depending on the charge of the kaon and the flavor of $B_{tag}$. We parameterize the $\Delta t$ distribution in $B^0 \to K^+K^-$ decays as an exponential convolved with the resolution function.

The time-dependent CP asymmetries $S_{\pi\pi}$ and $C_{\pi\pi}$ are determined from a second fit including tagging and $\Delta t$ information, with the yields and $A_{K\pi}$ fixed to the results of the first fit. The $\Delta m_d$ is fixed to their PDG values [11]. To validate the analysis technique, we measure $\tau$ and $\Delta m_d$ in the $B_{rec}$ sample and find $\tau = (1.66 \pm 0.09)$ ps and $\Delta m_d = (0.517 \pm 0.062)h$ ps$^{-1}$. Figure 3 shows the asymmetry $A_{mix} = (N_{unmixed} - N_{mixed})/(N_{unmixed} + N_{mixed})$ in a sample of events enhanced in $B \to K\pi$ decays. The curve shows the expected oscillation given the value of $\Delta m_d$ measured in the full sample.

The fit yields

$$S_{\pi\pi} = -0.01 \pm 0.37 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.07 \text{ (syst)} \ [ -0.66, +0.62] ,$$

$$C_{\pi\pi} = -0.02 \pm 0.29 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.07 \text{ (syst)} \ [ -0.54, +0.48] .$$

For each parameter, we also calculate the 90% confidence level (C.L.) interval taking into account the systematic error. The correlation between $S_{\pi\pi}$ and $C_{\pi\pi}$ is $-13\%$. Systematic uncertainties on $S_{\pi\pi}$ and $C_{\pi\pi}$ are dominated by uncertainty in the shape of the $\theta_c$ PDF. Since we measure asymmetries near zero, multiplicative systematic errors have also been evaluated (0.05). We sum in quadrature multiplicative errors, evaluated at one standard deviation, with the additive systematic
Figure 2: Distributions of $m_{ES}$ and $\Delta E$ (histograms) for events enhanced in signal $\pi\pi$ (top) and $K\pi$ (bottom) decays based on the likelihood ratio selection described in the text. Solid curves represent projections of the maximum likelihood fit result after accounting for the efficiency of the additional selection, while dashed curves represent $q\bar{q}$ and $\pi\pi \leftrightarrow K\pi$ cross-feed background.
Figure 3: The asymmetry $A_{\text{mix}}$ between mixed and unmixed events in a sample enhanced in $K\pi$ decays. The curve indicates the expected oscillation corresponding to $\Delta m_d = 0.517 \text{ h ps}^{-1}$. The dilution from $q\bar{q}$ events is evident in the reduced amplitude near $|\Delta t| = 0$.

uncertainties. Figure 4 shows the $\Delta t$ distributions and the asymmetry $A_{\pi\pi}(\Delta t) = (N_B(\Delta t) - N_{\overline{B}}(\Delta t))/(N_B(\Delta t) + N_{\overline{B}}(\Delta t))$ for tagged events enhanced in signal $\pi\pi$ decays. The selection procedure is the same as Fig. 2, with the likelihoods defined including the PDFs for $\theta_c$, $F$, $m_{ES}$, and $\Delta E$.

In summary, we have presented updated measurements of branching fractions and CP-violating asymmetries in $B^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$, $K^+\pi^-$, and $K^+K^-$ decays. All results are consistent with previous measurements. Our measurement of $A_{K\pi}$ is currently the most accurate available, and disfavors theoretical models that predict a large asymmetry [12, 13].

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Figure 4: Distributions of $\Delta t$ for events enhanced in signal $\pi\pi$ decays based on the likelihood ratio selection described in the text. The top two plots show events (points with errors) with $B_{\text{tag}} = B^0$ or $\bar{B}^0$. Solid curves represent projections of the maximum likelihood fit, dashed curves represent the sum of $q\bar{q}$ and $K\pi$ background events. The bottom plot shows $A_{\pi\pi}(\Delta t)$ for data (points with errors) and the fit projection.

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