Observation of Thirteen New Exclusive Multi-body Hadronic Decays of the $\psi(2S)$

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Abstract

Using data accumulated with the CLEO detector corresponding to an integrated luminosity of \( L = 5.63 \text{ pb}^{-1} \) on the peak of the \( \psi(2S) \) \((3.08 \times 10^6 \psi(2S) \text{ decays}) \) and 20.70 \( \text{ pb}^{-1} \) at \( \sqrt{s} = 3.67 \text{ GeV} \), we report first measurements of the branching fractions for the following 13 decay modes of the \( \psi(2S) \): \( \eta \pi^0 \), \( \eta' \pi^0 \), \( \rho K^+ K^- \), \( K^+ K^- \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \), \( 2(K^+ K^-) \pi^0 \), \( \rho p \bar{p} \), \( pp \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \), \( \eta p \bar{p} \), \( p \bar{p} \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \), \( \eta' p \bar{p} \), \( p \bar{p} K^+ K^- \), \( \Lambda \bar{\Lambda} \pi^+ \pi^- \), \( \Lambda \bar{\Lambda} K^+ \), and more precise measurements of 8 previously measured modes: \( 2(\pi^+ \pi^-) \), \( \rho \pi^+ \pi^- \), \( 2(\pi^+ \pi^-) \pi^0 \), \( \omega \pi^+ \pi^- \), \( K^+ K^- \pi^+ \pi^- \), \( \omega K^+ K^- \), \( \phi K^+ K^- \), and \( pp \pi^+ \pi^- \). We also report new branching fraction measurements of \( \phi \pi^+ \pi^- \) and \( \omega pp \bar{p} \) and upper limits for \( \eta \pi^+ \pi^- \), \( \eta K^+ K^- \) and \( \phi pp \bar{p} \). Results are compared, where possible, with the corresponding \( J/\psi \) branching ratios to provide new tests of the 12% rule.
The states $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ are non-relativistic bound states of a charm and an anti-charm quark. In perturbative QCD the decays of these states are expected to be dominated by the annihilation of the constituent $c\bar{c}$ into three gluons or a virtual photon. The partial width for the decays into an exclusive hadronic state $h$ is expected to be proportional to the square of the $c\bar{c}$ wave function overlap at zero quark separation, which is well determined from the leptonic width [1]. Since the strong coupling constant, $\alpha_s$, is not very different at the $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ masses, it is expected that for any state $h$ the $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ branching ratios are related by [2]

$$Q_h = \frac{B(\psi(2S) \to h)}{B(J/\psi \to h)} \approx \frac{B(\psi(2S) \to \ell^+\ell^-)}{B(J/\psi \to \ell^+\ell^-)} = (12.7 \pm 0.5)\%,$$

(1)

where $B$ denotes a branching fraction, and the leptonic branching fractions are taken from the Particle Data Group (PDG) [1]. This relation is sometimes called “the 12% rule”. Modest deviations from the rule are expected [3]. Although the rule works well for some specific decay modes of the $\psi(2S)$, isospin conserving $\psi(2S)$ decay to two-body final states consisting of one vector and one pseudoscalar meson exhibit strong suppression; $\rho\pi$ is suppressed by a factor of seventy compared to the expectations of the rule [1, 4, 5, 6]. Also, vector-tensor channels such as $\rho\pi$ are unsatisfactory. Clearly, more experimental results are desirable.

A recent review [3] of relevant theory and experiment concludes that current theoretical explanations are unsatisfactory. Clearly, more experimental results are desirable.

This Letter presents new measurements of a wide selection of $\psi(2S)$ decays including modes with and without strange particles and with and without baryons. The following modes of the $\psi(2S)$ are observed for the first time: $\eta 3\pi$, $\eta' 3\pi$, $\rho K^0 K^-$, $K^+ K^- \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, $2(K^+ K^-)$, $2(K^+ K^-) \pi^0$, $\rho \bar{p} p$, $\rho \bar{p} \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, $\eta \bar{p} p$, $p p K^+ K^-$, $\Lambda \Lambda \pi^+ \pi^-$, $\Lambda p K^+$, and $\Lambda p K^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$. More precise branching fraction measurements of previously measured modes $2(\pi^+ \pi^-)$, $\rho \pi^+ \pi^-$, $2(\pi^+ \pi^-) \pi^0$, $\omega \pi^+ \pi^-$, $K^+ K^- \pi^+ \pi^-$, $\omega K^+ K^-$, $\phi K^+ K^-$, and $p p \pi^+ \pi^-$ are also reported. We also measure $\phi \pi^+ \pi^-$ and $\omega p \bar{p}$ and obtain upper limits for $\eta \pi^+ \pi^-$, $\eta K^+ K^-$ and $\phi \bar{p} p$. Where applicable, the inclusion of charge conjugate modes is implied. As 14 of the modes we study have been previously observed at the $J/\psi$, 14 tests of the 12% rule are made, 5 for the first time and 9 with greater precision than corresponding previous tests.

The data sample used in this analysis is obtained at the $\psi(2S)$ and the nearby continuum in $e^+ e^-$ collisions produced by the Cornell Electron Storage Ring (CESR) and acquired with the CLEO detector. The CLEO III detector [5] features a solid angle coverage for charged and neutral particles of 93%. The charged particle tracking system, operating in a 1.0 T magnetic field along the beam axis, achieves a momentum resolution of ~0.6% at $p = 1$ GeV/c. The calorimeter attains a photon energy resolution of 2.2% at $E_\gamma = 1$ GeV and 5% at 100 MeV. Two particle identification systems, one based on energy loss ($dE/dx$) in the drift chamber and the other a ring-imaging Cherenkov (RICH) detector, are used together to separate $K^\pm$ from $\pi^\pm$. The combined $dE/dx$-RICH particle identification procedure has efficiencies exceeding 90% and misidentification rates below 5% for both $\pi^\pm$ and $K^\pm$ for the momenta below 2.5 GeV/c.

Half of the $\psi(2S)$ data and all the continuum data were taken after a transition to the CLEO-c detector configuration, in which CLEO III’s silicon-strip vertex detector was replaced with a six-layer all-stereo drift chamber. The two detector configurations also correspond to different accelerator lattices: the former with a single wiggler magnet and a center-of-mass energy spread of 1.5 MeV, the latter (CESR-c) with six wiggler magnets and an energy spread of 2.3 MeV.
The integrated luminosity ($\mathcal{L}$) of the datasets was measured using $e^+e^-$, $\gamma \gamma$, and $\mu^+\mu^-$ final states. Event counts were normalized with a Monte Carlo (MC) simulation based on the Babayaga [11] event generator combined with GEANT-based [12] detector modeling. The data consist of $\mathcal{L}=5.63$ pb$^{-1}$ on the peak of the $\psi(2S)$ (2.74 pb$^{-1}$ for CLEO III, 2.89 pb$^{-1}$ for CLEO-c) and 20.70 pb$^{-1}$ at $\sqrt{s}=3.67$ GeV (16 MeV below the $\psi(2S)$, all CLEO-c). The nominal scale factor used to normalize continuum yields to $\psi(2S)$ data is $f_{\text{nom}} = 0.270 \pm 0.005$, and is determined from the integrated luminosities of the data sets corrected for the $1/s$ dependence of the cross section, where the error is from the relative luminosity uncertainty, and the uncertainty in the $s$ dependence of the cross section. (The scale factor does not differ appreciably if a high power of $1/s$ is used: a factor of 0.87% for each power). The value of $f$ used for each mode also corrects for the small difference in efficiency between the $\psi(2S)$ and continuum data.

Standard requirements are used to select charged particles reconstructed in the tracking system and photon candidates in the CsI calorimeter. We require tracks of charged particles to have momenta $p > 100$ MeV/$c$ and to satisfy $|\cos \theta| < 0.90$, where $\theta$ is the polar angle with respect to the $e^+$ direction. Each photon candidate satisfies $E_\gamma > 30$ MeV and is more than 8 cm away from the projections of tracks into the calorimeter. Particle identification from $dE/dx$ and the RICH detector is used on all charged particle candidates. Pions, kaons, and protons must be positively and uniquely identified. That is: pion candidates must be consistent with the known parent mass is made. Fake $\pi^0$s and $\eta$s are suppressed by requiring that each electromagnetic shower profile be consistent with that of a photon. For $\eta \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^−\pi^0$ and $\omega \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^−\pi^0$, the $\pi^0$ is selected as described above, and then combined with all possible combinations of two oppositely charged pions choosing the combination that is closest to the $\eta(\omega)$ mass. A kinematically constrained fit is not used for either of these modes, or for $\phi$‘s or for $\Lambda$‘s. For $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^−$, a fit of the $p\pi^−$ trajectories to a common vertex separated from the $e^+e^-$ interaction ellipsoid is made. Contamination from $K_S^0$ decays is eliminated by the energy and momentum requirements imposed on the event, and by particle identification.

Energy and momentum conservation requirements are imposed on the reconstructed final state hadrons, which have momentum $p_i$ and combined measured energy $E_{\text{vis}}$. We require the measured scaled energy $E_{\text{vis}}/E_{\text{c.m.}}$ be consistent with unity within experimental resolution, which varies by final state. We require $|\Sigma p_i/E_{\text{c.m.}}| < 0.02$. Together these requirements suppress backgrounds with missing energy or incorrect mass assignments. The experimental resolutions are smaller than 1% in scaled energy and 2% in scaled momentum.

For the final states with four charged tracks and a $\pi^0$, an additional cut is applied to remove a background of radiative events. When the photon is combined with a low-energy photon candidate, it can imitate a $\pi^0$. We require $(E_{\text{tracks}} + E_{\gamma})/E_{\text{c.m.}} < 0.995$, where $E_{\gamma}$ is the energy of the highest energy photon.
In order to compute $Q_h$ in modes with two or more charged pions, two $\pi^0$'s or an $\eta$, it is necessary to remove the contribution from the transitions $\psi(2S) \to J/\psi X$, where $X = \pi^+\pi^-$, $\pi^0\pi^0$, or $\eta$ [13]. Accordingly we reject events in which the mass of any of the following falls within the range $3.05 < m < 3.15$ GeV [14]: the two highest momentum oppositely charged tracks, the recoil mass against the two lowest momentum oppositely charged tracks, or the mass recoiling against the $2\pi^0$'s or $\eta$.

For every final state, a signal selection range in $E_{\text{vis}}/E_{\text{c.m.}}$ is determined by Monte Carlo simulation, and a sideband selection range is defined to measure background. Final states with an intermediate $\rho$, $\eta$, $\eta'$, $\omega$, $\phi$ or $\Lambda$ must satisfy a scaled energy signal selection range requirement identical to the corresponding mode without the intermediate particle. For example, the scaled energy signal selection range is the same for $\phi K^+ K^-$ and $K^+ K^- K^+ K^-$. For final states with an $\eta$, $\eta'$, $\omega$, $\phi$, or $\Lambda$ the event yield is determined from signal and sideband selection ranges of the particle mass. For final states with a $\rho$ the event yield is determined from a fit to the $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass by a Breit-Wigner with parameters taken from the PDG [1] for $\rho\pi^+\pi^-$, the same-sign $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass distribution is used to estimate the background); an exception is $\rho\pi\pi$, where the yield is determined from the signal region: $0.54 \leq m_{\pi\pi} \leq 1.0$ GeV assuming a linear background. Most modes studied in this Letter have resonant sub-modes, however; we only report branching ratios for resonant sub-modes which can be cleanly separated from background.

In Fig. 1 the scaled energy and invariant mass distributions are shown for three typical modes: $2(\pi^+\pi^-)$, $2(\pi^+\pi^-)\pi^0$, and $K^+ K^- \pi^+\pi^-$. Evidence for production of the $\rho$, $\omega$ and $\phi$ resonances, respectively, is observed in the corresponding mass spectra.

Event totals are shown for both the $\psi(2S)$ and the continuum in Table I where $S_{\psi(2S)}$ ($S_{\text{co}}$) is the number of events in the signal region and $B_{\psi(2S)}$ ($B_{\text{co}}$) the number of events in the sideband region in $\psi(2S)$ (continuum) data. Under the assumption that interference between $\psi(2S)$ decay and continuum production of the same final state is absent, the number of events attributable to each $\psi(2S)$ decay mode, $N_S$, is

$$N_S = S_{\psi(2S)} - B_{\psi(2S)} - f(S_{\text{co}} - B_{\text{co}}),$$

where $f$ is mode dependent and listed in Table I. We observe a statistically significant signal in all modes except $\eta\pi^+\pi^-$, $\eta K^+ K^-$ and $\phi\pi\pi$. The signal with the least statistical significance is $\eta\pi\pi$ (4.2$\sigma$).

The efficiency, $\epsilon$, for each final state is the average obtained from MC simulations [12] for both detector configurations; the two values are typically within a few percent (relative) to each other. No initial state radiation is included in the Monte Carlo, but final state radiation is accounted for. The efficiencies in Table I include the branching ratios for intermediate final states.

We correct $N_S$ by the efficiency and normalize to the number of $\psi(2S)$ decays in the data: $3.08 \times 10^6$ determined by the method described in [13]. The resulting branching ratios are listed in Table I along with a comparison to the PDG [1]. With the exception of $2(\pi^+\pi^-)$ and $\rho\pi^+\pi^-$, none of the branching ratios in [1] were corrected for the contribution from continuum production.

The systematic errors on the ratio of branching fractions share common contributions from the number of $\psi(2S)$ decays (3.0%), uncertainty in $f$ (2.0%), trigger efficiency (1%), and Monte Carlo statistics (2%). Other sources vary by channel. We include the following contributions for detector performance modeling quality: charged particle tracking (0.7% per track), $\pi^0/\eta(\to\gamma\gamma)$ finding (4.4%), $\Lambda$ finding (3%), $\pi/K/p$ identification
FIG. 1: Distributions for the modes $2(\pi^+\pi^-)$ (a) and (b), $2(\pi^+\pi^-)\pi^0$ (c) and (d), and $K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-$ (e) and (f). The pairs of arrows indicate the signal regions. (a), (c), and (e) The scaled total energy (filled circle with error bar: $\psi(2S)$ data, solid line: Monte Carlo, shaded histogram: continuum). (b) The $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ invariant mass in $2(\pi^+\pi^-)$ (solid line: data, dashed line: like sign $\pi^+\pi^+$ invariant mass, which is used to estimate combinatorial background). (d) The $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ invariant mass in $2(\pi^+\pi^-)\pi^0$ (filled circle with error bar: $\psi(2S)$ data, solid line: Monte Carlo, shaded histogram: continuum). (f) The $K^+K^-$ invariant mass in $K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-$. (The symbol key is the same as (d).)

$(0.3%/1.3%/1.3%$ per identified $\pi/K/p)$, and scaled energy and mass resolutions $(2\%)$. The systematic error associated with the uncertainty in the level of background is obtained by recomputing the branching ratio when the background at the $\psi(2S)$ and the continuum are coherently increased by $1\sigma$. Since the background in many modes is small, the Poisson probability for the observed number of background events to fluctuate up to the $68\%$ C.L. value is calculated and interpreted as the uncertainty in the level of background. Many of the modes studied have resonant submodes, for example: $2(\pi^+\pi^-)$ where $\rho\pi\pi$ is dominant, $\omega\pi\pi$ where $b_1\pi$ is dominant and $\omega f_2(1270)$ is significant, $K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-$ where $K^+(892)K\pi$ and $\rho K^+K^-$ are large and $\phi\pi^+\pi^-$ is small, and $\eta 3\pi$ where $\eta\pi^0\rho^0$, $\eta\rho^+\pi^-$, and $\eta\rho^-\pi^+$ dominate. The efficiencies for the modes with resonant submodes were weighted using the fractions of the submodes. Allowing for the presence of resonant submodes changes the efficiency by less than $5\%$ relative to the non-resonant efficiency for most modes we have studied. The difference between the weighted efficiency and phase space efficiency is taken as a measure of the uncertainty in the efficiency. For those modes with no observed sub-modes, a conservative $10\%$ uncertainty is assigned for decay model dependence. Systematic uncertainties are significant for all modes and the dominant error for many. The measurements in this Letter are in reasonable agreement with previous measurements where such exist [1].

For the 14 modes where the same final state has been previously measured at the $J/\psi$, the $Q_h$ value is computed using the absolute $\psi(2S)$ branching ratios determined in this analysis and $J/\psi$ branching ratios from [1] and given in Table II. For 5 of these modes:
TABLE I: For each final state $h$ the following quantities are given: the number of events in the signal region, $S_{co}$, and background from sidebands, $B_{co}$, in continuum data; the scale factor, $f$; the number of events in the signal region, $S_{\psi(2S)}$, and background from sidebands, $B_{\psi(2S)}$, in $\psi(2S)$ data; the number of events attributable to $\psi(2S)$ decay, $N_S$, computed according to Eq. 2; the average efficiency, $\varepsilon$; the absolute branching fraction with statistical (68% C.L.) and systematic errors; previous branching fraction measurements from the PDG \[^1\], and the $Q_h$ value. For $\eta 3\pi$, the two decays modes $\eta 3\pi(\eta \rightarrow \gamma \gamma)$ and $\eta 3\pi(\eta \rightarrow 3\pi)$ are combined on line $\eta 3\pi$.

| mode         | $h$       | $S_{co}$ | $B_{co}$ | $f$   | $S_{\psi(2S)}$ | $B_{\psi(2S)}$ | $N_S$ | $\varepsilon$ | $\mathcal{B}(\psi(2S) \rightarrow h)$ (units of $10^{-4}$) | $\mathcal{B}$ (PDG) (units of $10^{-4}$) | $Q_h$ (%) |
|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|----------------|----------------|-------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|
| $2(\pi^+\pi^-)$ | 1471      | 28       | 0.2668   | 713   | 20             | 308.0          | 0.4507 | 2.2±0.2 | 4.50±1.00                                                   | 5.55±1.53                                      | 27       |
| $\eta 3\pi(\eta \rightarrow \gamma \gamma)$ | 27        | 2        | 0.2513   | 243   | 35             | 201.7          | 0.0639 | 10.3±0.8 | -                                                   | -                                             |          |
| $\eta 3\pi(\eta \rightarrow 3\pi)$ | 20        | 9        | 0.1820   | 53    | 1              | 50.0           | 0.0199 | 8.1±1.4 | -                                                   | -                                             |          |
| $\phi K^-$     | 100       | 11       | 0.2669   | 85    | 2              | 59.2           | 0.3118 | 0.6±0.1 | -                                                   | 6.71±2.74                                     |          |
| $2(\pi^+\pi^-)\pi^0$ | 43        | 9        | 0.2357   | 437   | 38             | 391.0          | 0.1553 | 8.2±0.5 | 4.80±0.90                                                   | 11.35±1.94                                     |          |
| $\eta K^-K^-$   | 333       | 28       | 0.2509   | 1010  | 28             | 904.5          | 0.4943 | 5.9±0.2 | 8.00±2.00                                                   | 9.90±1.16                                     |          |
| $\eta K^-K^-$   | 23        | 9        | 0.2570   | 67    | -              | 61.1           | 0.4119 | 0.5±0.1 | -                                                   | -                                             |          |
| $\omega K^-K^-$ | 200       | 9        | 0.2312   | 499   | 19             | 434.9          | 0.1921 | 7.3±0.4 | -                                                   | 18.70±5.80                                    |          |
| $\phi K^-$     | 2         | 1        | 0.2350   | 12    | 2              | 9.8            | 0.0399 | 0.8±0.3 | -                                                   | 3.80±2.09                                    |          |
| $\phi K^-$     | 25        | 1        | 0.2478   | 37    | 1              | 30.1           | 0.3671 | 0.3±0.1 | -                                                   | -                                             |          |
| $\Lambda K^-$  | 23        | 4        | 0.1902   | 91    | 14             | 73.4           | 0.0844 | 2.8±0.4 | -                                                   | -                                             |          |
| $\Lambda K^+$  | 65        | 7        | 0.2586   | 97    | 8              | 74.0           | 0.2472 | 1.0±0.1 | -                                                   | 10.92±2.93                                   |          |
| $\Lambda \bar{K}^+$ | 29      | 3        | 0.1631   | 57    | 7              | 45.8           | 0.0847 | 1.8±0.3 | -                                                   | -                                             |          |

$K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$, $2(K^+K^-), p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$, $\eta p\bar{p}$ and $\Lambda\bar{p}K^+$, this is the first measurement of $Q_h$. All modes except $p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ have $Q_h$ below 12.7%. The modes $\phi K^+K^-$, $2(\pi^+\pi^-)$, $2(\pi^+\pi^-)\pi^0$, $\eta p\bar{p}$, and $\omega p\bar{p}$ are suppressed with a significance of 4.7, 4.4, 4.1, 4.1, and 3.5 combined statistical and systematic standard deviations, respectively.
In summary we have presented first branching fraction measurements for 13 modes of the $\psi(2S)$: $\eta\pi^3$, $\eta'\pi^3$, $\rho K^+K^-$, $K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$, $2(K^+K^-)$, $2(K^+K^-)\pi^0$, $\rho\rho\bar{p}$, $\rho\rho\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$, $\eta\eta\bar{p}$, $p\bar{p}K^+K^-$, $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}\pi^+\pi^-$, $\Lambda\bar{\rho}K^+\pi^+$, $\bar{\Lambda}\bar{\rho}K^+\pi^-$, and more precise measurements of 8 previously measured modes: $2(\pi^+\pi^-)$, $\rho\pi^+\pi^-$, $2(\pi^+\pi^-)\pi^0$, $\omega\pi^+\pi^-$, $K^-K^+\pi^+\pi^-$, $\omega K^+K^-$, $\phi K^+K^-$, $p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-$. We also measure the branching ratios for $\phi\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\omega\rho\bar{p}$ and obtain upper limits for $\eta\pi^+\pi^-$, $\eta K^+K^-$ and $\phi\rho\bar{p}$. A full set of measurements of $\pi^+\pi^-+X$, $K^+K^-+X$ and $p\bar{p}+X$ where X is $\rho/\eta/\omega/\phi$ is included in this analysis. Results are compared, where possible, with the corresponding $J/\psi$ branching ratios to test the 12% rule. Five modes are inconsistent with the rule, but all values of $Q_h$ are within a factor of 2 of 12.7%. Since this analysis covers a wide variety of final states including modes with and without strange particles and with and without baryons, the pattern of branching ratios and $Q_h$ values provide tests of theoretical models and should allow new insight into the production widths and the final state interactions operative in the decays of the $\psi(2S)$.

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[13] We do not veto $J/\psi$ from $\psi(2S) \to J/\psi\pi^0$ since it is a very small contribution as $\mathcal{B}(\psi(2S) \to J/\psi\pi^0) = (9.6 \pm 2.1) \times 10^{-4}$ [1].

[14] For the final state $\eta\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ we require $2.95 < m < 3.15$ GeV.

[15] CLEO Collaboration, S.B. Athar et al., Phys. Rev. D 70, 112002 (2004).