Observation of a resonance in B⁺→K⁺⁺⁻ decays at low recoil

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Abstract: A broad peaking structure is observed in the dimuon spectrum of B⁺→K⁺⁺⁻ decays in the kinematic region where the kaon has a low recoil against the dimuon system. The structure is consistent with interference between the B⁺→K⁺⁺⁻ decay and a resonance and has a statistical significance exceeding six standard deviations. The mean and width of the resonance are measured to be 4191±9−8 MeV/c² and 65±22−16 MeV/c², respectively, where the uncertainties include statistical and systematic contributions. These measurements are compatible with the properties of the (4160) meson. First observations of both the decay B⁺→(4160)K⁺ and the subsequent decay (4160)→⁺⁻ are reported. The resonant decay and the interference contribution make up 20% of the yield for dimuon masses above 3770 MeV/c². This contribution is larger than theoretical estimates.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.111.112003

Posted at the Zurich Open Repository and Archive, University of Zurich
ZORA URL: https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-91567
Journal Article
Published Version

Originally published at:
LHCb Collaboration; et al; Bernet, R; Müller, K; Steinkamp, O; Straumann, U; Vollhardt, A (2013). Observation of a resonance in B⁺→K⁺⁺⁻ decays at low recoil. Physical Review Letters, 111:112003. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.111.112003
Observation of a Resonance in $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ Decays at Low Recoil

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(Received 29 July 2013; revised manuscript received 20 August 2013; published 10 September 2013)

A broad peaking structure is observed in the dimuon spectrum of $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ decays in the kinematic region where the kaon has a low recoil against the dimuon system. The structure is consistent with interference between the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ decay and a resonance and has a statistical significance exceeding six standard deviations. The mean and width of the resonance are measured to be $4191^{+9}_{-8}$ MeV/$c^2$ and $65^{+12}_{-10}$ MeV/$c^2$, respectively, where the uncertainties include statistical and systematic contributions. These measurements are compatible with the properties of the $\psi(4160)$ meson. First observations of both the decay $B^+ \rightarrow \psi(4160)K^+$ and the subsequent decay $\psi(4160) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ are reported. The resonant decay and the interference contribution make up 20% of the yield for dimuon masses above 3770 MeV/$c^2$. This contribution is larger than theoretical estimates.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.111.112003 PACS numbers: 14.40.Pq, 13.20.He

The decay of the $B^+$ meson to the final state $K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ receives contributions from tree level decays and decays mediated through virtual quantum loop processes. The tree level decays proceed through the decay of a $B^+$ meson to a vector $c\bar{c}$ resonance and a $K^+$ meson, followed by the decay of the resonance to a pair of muons. Decays mediated by flavor changing neutral current (FCNC) loop processes give rise to pairs of muons with a nonresonant mass distribution. To probe contributions to the FCNC decay from physics beyond the standard model (SM), it is essential that the tree level decays are properly accounted for. In all analyses of the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ decay, from discovery [1] to the latest most accurate measurement [2], this has been done by placing a veto on the regions of dimuon mass $m_{\mu^+\mu^-}$ dominated by the $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ resonances. In the low recoil region, corresponding to a dimuon mass above the open charm threshold, theoretical predictions of the decay rate can be obtained with an operator product expansion (OPE) [3] in which the $c\bar{c}$ contribution and other hadronic effects are treated as effective interactions.

Nearly all available information about the $J^{PC} = 1^{--}$ charmonium resonances above the open charm threshold, where the resonances are wide as decays to $D^{(*)}\bar{D}^{(*)}$ are allowed, comes from measurements of the cross-section ratio of $e^+e^- \rightarrow$ hadrons relative to $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$. Among these analyses, only that of the BES Collaboration in Ref. [4] takes interference and strong phase differences between the different resonances into account. The broad and overlapping nature of these resonances means that they cannot be excluded by vetoes on the dimuon mass in an efficient way, and a more sophisticated treatment is required.

This Letter describes a measurement of a broad peaking structure in the low recoil region of the $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ decay, based on data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 3 fb$^{-1}$ taken with the LHCb detector at a center-of-mass energy of 7 TeV in 2011 and 8 TeV in 2012. Fits to the dimuon mass spectrum are performed, where one or several resonances are allowed to interfere with the nonresonant $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ signal, and their parameters determined. The inclusion of charge conjugated processes is implied throughout this Letter.

The LHCb detector [5] is a single-arm forward spectrometer covering the pseudorapidity range $2 < \eta < 5$, designed for the study of particles containing $b$ or $c$ quarks. The detector includes a high-precision tracking system consisting of a silicon-strip vertex detector surrounding the interaction region, a large-area silicon-strip detector located upstream of a dipole magnet with a bending power of about 4 Tm, and three stations of silicon-strip detectors and straw drift tubes placed downstream. The combined tracking system provides a momentum measurement with relative uncertainty that varies from 0.4% at 5 GeV/$c$ to 0.6% at 100 GeV/$c$, and impact parameter resolution of 20 $\mu m$ for tracks with high transverse momentum. Charged hadrons are identified using two ring-imaging Cherenkov detectors. Muons are identified by a system composed of alternating layers of iron and multiwire proportional chambers. Simulated events used in this analysis are produced using the software described in Refs. [6–11].

Candidates are required to pass a two stage trigger system [12]. In the initial hardware stage, candidate events are selected with at least one muon with transverse momentum, $p_T > 1.48 (1.76)$ GeV/$c$ in 2011 (2012). In the subsequent software stage, at least one of the final state particles is required to have both $p_T > 1.0$ GeV/$c$ and

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impact parameter larger than 100 $\mu$m with respect to all of the primary $pp$ interaction vertices (PVs) in the event. Finally, a multivariate algorithm [13] is used for the identification of secondary vertices consistent with the decay of a $b$ hadron with muons in the final state.

The selection of the $K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ final state is made in two steps. Candidates are required to pass an initial selection, which reduces the data sample to a manageable level, followed by a multivariate selection. The dominant background is of a combinatorial nature, where two correctly identified muons from different heavy flavor hadron decays are combined with a kaon from either of those decays. This category of background has no peaking structure in either the dimuon mass or the $K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ mass. The signal region is defined as $5240 < m_{K^+\mu^+\mu^-} < 5320$ MeV/$c^2$ and the sideband region as $5350 < m_{K^+\mu^+\mu^-} < 5500$ MeV/$c^2$.

The multivariate selection is based on a boosted decision tree (BDT) [14] with the AdaBoost algorithm [15] to separate signal from background. It is trained with a signal sample from simulation and a background sample consisting of 10% of the data from the sideband region. The multivariate selection uses geometric and kinematic variables, where the most discriminating variables are the $\chi^2_{IP}$ of the final state particles and the vertex quality of the $B^+$ candidate. The selection with the BDT has an efficiency of 90% on signal surviving the initial selection while retaining 6% of the background. The overall efficiency for the reconstruction, trigger and selection, normalized to the total number of $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ decays produced at the LHCb interaction point, is 2%. As the branching fraction measurements are normalized to the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ decay, only relative efficiencies are used. The yields in the $K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ final state from $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \psi(2S) K^+$ decays are $9.6 \times 10^5$ and $8 \times 10^4$ events, respectively.

In addition to the combinatorial background, there are several small sources of potential background that form a peak in either or both of the $m_{K^+\mu^+\mu^-}$ and $m_{\mu^+\mu^-}$ distributions. The largest of these backgrounds are the decays $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \psi(2S) K^+$, where the kaon and one of the muons have been interchanged. The decays $B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \pi^+ \pi^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D^0 \pi^+$ followed by $D^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$, with the two pions identified as muons are also considered. To reduce these backgrounds to a negligible level, tight particle identification criteria and vetoes on $\mu^- K^+$ combinations compatible with $J/\psi$, $\psi(2S)$, or $D^0$ meson decays are applied. These vetoes are 99% efficient on signal.

A kinematic fit [16] is performed for all selected candidates. In the fit the $K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ mass is constrained to the nominal $B^+$ mass and the candidate is required to originate from its associated PV. For $B^+ \rightarrow \psi(2S) K^+$ decays, this improves the resolution in $m_{\mu^+\mu^-}$ from 15 to 5 MeV/$c^2$. Given the widths of the resonances that are subsequently analyzed, resolution effects are neglected. While the $\psi(2S)$ state is narrow, the large branching fraction means that its non-Gaussian tail is significant and hard to model. The $\psi(2S)$ contamination is reduced to a negligible level by requiring $m_{\mu^+\mu^-} > 3770$ MeV/$c^2$. This dimuon mass range is defined as the low recoil region used in this analysis.

In order to estimate the amount of background present in the $m_{\mu^+\mu^-}$ spectrum, an unbinned extended maximum likelihood fit is performed to the $K^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$ mass distribution without the $B^+$ mass constraint. The signal shape is taken from a mass fit to the $B^+ \rightarrow \psi(2S) K^+$ mode in data with the shape parameterized as the sum of two Crystal Ball functions [17], with common tail parameters, but different widths. The Gaussian width of the two components is increased by 5% for the fit to the low recoil region as determined from simulation. The low recoil region contains 1830 candidates in the signal mass window, with a signal to background ratio of 7.8.

The dimuon mass distribution in the low recoil region is shown in Fig. 1. Two peaks are visible, one at the low edge corresponding to the expected decay $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ and a wide peak at a higher mass. In all fits, a vector resonance component corresponding to this decay is

![FIG. 1 (color online). Dimuon mass distribution of data with fit results overlaid for the fit that includes contributions from the nonresonant vector and axial vector components, and the $\psi(3770)$, $\psi(4040)$, and $\psi(4160)$ resonances. Interference terms are included and the relative strong phases are left free in the fit.](image-url)
This region its direction is aligned with the $B^+$ candidate and therefore also with the PV.

Initially, a fit with a single resonance in addition to the $\psi(3770)$ and nonresonant terms is performed. This additional resonance has its phase, mean, and width left free. The parameters of the resonance returned by the fit are a mass of $4191^{+9}_{-8}$ MeV/$c^2$ and a width of $65^{+22}_{-16}$ MeV/$c^2$. Branching fractions are determined by integrating the square of the Breit-Wigner amplitude returned by the fit, normalizing to the $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ yield, and multiplying with the product of branching fractions, $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+) \times \mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$ [21]. The product $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow X K^+) \times \mathcal{B}(X \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$ for the additional resonance $X$ is determined to be $(3.9^{+0.7}_{-0.6}) \times 10^{-9}$. The uncertainty on this product is calculated using the profile likelihood. The data are not sensitive to the vector fraction of the nonresonant component as the branching fraction of the resonance will vary to compensate. For example, if the vector fraction is lowered to 30%, the central value of the branching fraction increases to $4.6 \times 10^{-9}$. This reflects the lower amount of interference allowed between the resonant and nonresonant components.

The significance of the resonance is obtained by simulating pseudoexperiments that include the nonresonant, $\psi(3770)$, and background components. The log likelihood ratios between fits that include and exclude a resonant component for $6 \times 10^5$ such samples are compared to the difference observed in fits to the data. None of the samples have a higher ratio than observed in data and an extrapolation gives a significance of the signal above 6 standard deviations.

The properties of the resonance are compatible with the mass and width of the $\psi(4160)$ resonance as measured in Ref. [4]. To test the hypothesis that $\psi$ resonances well above the open charm threshold are observed, another fit including the $\psi(4040)$ and $\psi(4160)$ resonances is performed. The mass and width of the two are constrained to the measurements from Ref. [4]. The data have no sensitivity to a $\psi(4415)$ contribution. The fit describes the data well and the parameters of the $\psi(4160)$ meson are almost unchanged with respect to the unconstrained fit. The fit overlaid on the data is shown in Fig. 1 and Table I reports the fit parameters.

**TABLE I.** Parameters of the dominant resonance for fits where the mass and width are unconstrained and constrained to those of the $\psi(4160)$ meson [4], respectively. The branching fractions are for the $B^+$ decay followed by the decay of the resonance to muons.

| Parameter | Unconstrained | $\psi(4160)$ |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| $\mathcal{B}[\times 10^{-9}]$ | $3.9^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$ | $3.5^{+0.9}_{-0.8}$ |
| Mass [MeV/$c^2$] | $4191^{+9}_{-8}$ | $4190 \pm 5$ |
| Width [MeV/$c^2$] | $65^{+22}_{-16}$ | $66 \pm 12$ |
| Phase [rad] | $-1.7 \pm 0.3$ | $-1.8 \pm 0.3$ |
The resulting profile likelihood ratio compared to the best fit as a function of branching fraction can be seen in Fig. 2. In the fit with the three \( \psi \) resonances, the \( \psi(4160) \) meson is visible with \( \mathcal{B}(\psi(4160) \rightarrow \psi(4160)K^+) \times \mathcal{B}(\psi(4160) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) = (3.5^{+0.9}_{-0.8}) \times 10^{-9} \) but for the \( \psi(4040) \) meson, no significant signal is seen, and an upper limit is set. The limit \( \mathcal{B}(\psi(4040) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) < 1.3 (1.5) \times 10^{-9} \) at 90 (95)% confidence level is obtained by integrating the likelihood ratio compared to the best fit and assuming a flat prior for any positive branching fraction.

In Fig. 3 the likelihood scan of the fit with a single extra resonance is shown as a function of the mass and width of the resonance. The fit is compatible with the \( \psi(4160) \) resonance, while a hypothesis where the resonance corresponds to the decay \( Y(4260) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \) is disfavored by more than 4 standard deviations.

Systematic uncertainties associated with the normalization procedure are negligible as the decay \( B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+ \) has the same final state as the signal and similar kinematics. Uncertainties due to the resolution and mass scale are insignificant. The systematic uncertainty associated to the form factor parametrization in the fit model is taken from Ref. [20]. Finally, the uncertainty on the vector fraction of the nonresonant amplitude is obtained using the EOS tool described in Ref. [20] and is dominated by the uncertainty from short distance contributions. All systematic uncertainties are included in the fit as Gaussian constraints. From comparing the difference in the uncertainties on masses, widths and branching fractions for fits with and without these systematic constraints, it can be seen that the systematic uncertainties are about 20% the size of the statistical uncertainties and thus contribute less than 2% to the total uncertainty.

In summary, a resonance has been observed in the dimuon spectrum of \( B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^- \) decays with a significance of above 6 standard deviations. The resonance can be explained by the contribution of the \( \psi(4160) \), via the decays \( B^+ \rightarrow \psi(4160)K^+ \) and \( \psi(4160) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \). It constitutes first observations of both decays. The \( \psi(4160) \) is known to decay to electrons with a branching fraction of \( (6.9 \pm 4.0) \times 10^{-6} \) [4]. Assuming lepton universality, the branching fraction of the decay \( B^+ \rightarrow \psi(4160)K^+ \) is measured to be \( (5.1^{+1.3}_{-1.2} \pm 3.0) \times 10^{-4} \), where the second uncertainty corresponds to the uncertainty on the \( \psi(4160) \rightarrow e^+ e^- \) branching fraction. The corresponding limit for \( B^+ \rightarrow \psi(4040)K^+ \) is calculated to be \( 1.3 (1.7) \times 10^{-4} \) at a 90 (95)% confidence level. The absence of the decay \( B^+ \rightarrow \psi(4040)K^+ \) at a similar level is interesting, and suggests future studies of \( B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^- \) decays based on larger data sets may reveal new insights into \( c \bar{c} \) spectroscopy.

The contribution of the \( \psi(4160) \) resonance in the low recoil region, taking into account interference with the nonresonant \( B^+ \rightarrow K^+ \mu^+ \mu^- \) decay, is about 20% of the total signal. This value is larger than theoretical estimates, where the \( c \bar{c} \) contribution is ~10% of the vector amplitude, with a small correction from quark-hadron duality violation [23]. Results presented in this Letter will play an important role in controlling charmonium effects in future inclusive and exclusive \( b \rightarrow s \mu^+ \mu^- \) measurements.

We express our gratitude to our colleagues in the CERN accelerator departments for the excellent performance of the LHC. We thank the technical and administrative staff at the LHCb institutes. We acknowledge support from CERN and from the following national agencies: CAPES, CNPq, FAPERJ and FINEP (Brazil); NSFC (China); CNRS/IN2P3 and Region Auvergne (France); BMBF, DFG, HGF and MPG (Germany); SFI (Ireland); INFN (Italy); FOM and NWO (The Netherlands); SCSR (Poland); MEN/IFA (Romania); MinES, Rosatom, RFBR and NRC “Kurchatov Institute” (Russia); MinECo, XuntaGal and...
GENCAT (Spain); SNSF and SER (Switzerland); NAS Ukraine (Ukraine); STFC (United Kingdom); NSF (USA). We also acknowledge the support received from the ERC under FP7. The Tier1 computing centers are supported by IN2P3 (France), KIT and BMBF (Germany), INFN (Italy), NWO and SURF (Netherlands), PIC (Spain), GridPP (United Kingdom). We are thankful for the computing resources put at our disposal by Yandex LLC (Russia), as well as to the communities behind the multiple open source software packages that we depend on.

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