

Measurements of the CKM angle γ in tree-dominated decays at LHCb

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Abstract. We review the first measurements of the CKM angle γ from LHCb. These measurements have been performed with b -hadron decays dominated by $b \rightarrow u$ and $b \rightarrow c$ tree-level amplitudes, from which γ can be determined without theoretical uncertainties. Precision is achieved by averaging results from $B^- \rightarrow Dh^-$ ($h = K, \pi$) decays with $D \rightarrow h^+h^-$, $D \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$, and $D \rightarrow K^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$, and $D \rightarrow K_s^0 h^+h^-$. Prospects for these and future measurements of γ using neutral b -hadron decays are briefly discussed.

1 Introduction

The measurement of the CKM angle γ [$\gamma = \arg(-V_{ud}V_{ub}^*/V_{cd}V_{cb}^*)$] of the Unitarity Triangle (UT) is an important goal of the LHCb physics programme. The angle γ plays a unique role among all CP-violating parameters because it can be determined using pure tree-level decays of B mesons without theoretical uncertainties. As tree-level measurements are expected to be insensitive to physics beyond the Standard Model (SM), the value of γ determined in this way provides an important SM benchmark against which other measurements, more likely to be affected by physics beyond the SM, can be compared. The power of this approach to new physics searches relies on precise measurements. Despite results from B -factories and Tevatron have improved considerably the knowledge of the UT angles and sides, γ is still the least-well determined angle, with an experimental uncertainty from tree-level measurements of $9 - 12^\circ$ [1, 2]. This precision can be significantly improved with large datasets at LHCb.

The angle γ can be measured in a theoretically clean way by exploiting the interference between $b \rightarrow u$ and $b \rightarrow c$ tree-level transitions in decays of b -hadrons with a charm meson in the final state. Many $B \rightarrow DH$ decays are suitable, where D indicates a D^0 or \bar{D}^0 and H is the bachelor hadronic system, e.g., a kaon or a K^{*0} in the most sensitive measurements.

The first constraints on γ at LHCb have been obtained from time-integrated measurements of charged B mesons [3], which do not require flavour-tagging, therefore can exploit the full statistical power of the large $b\bar{b}$ production cross-section in pp collisions at the LHC. In these measurements γ is determined from the interference between $B^+ \rightarrow D^0 h^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{D}^0 h^+$ ($h = K, \pi$)¹, where D^0 and \bar{D}^0 decay to a common final state. In addition to γ , the interference depends on two B hadronic parameters,

which are known as δ_B , the relative strong phase between the two B decay amplitudes, and r_B , the relative ratio of the suppressed over the favoured amplitude. Different methods exist to determine these and other D hadronic parameters from data without theoretical uncertainties. Three types of D decays have been studied by LHCb, corresponding to three well-established methods to determine γ and all the unknown parameters: the GLW method [4, 5], which uses decays to CP eigenstates ($D \rightarrow K^+K^-$ and $D \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$); the ADS method [6], which uses decays to quasi-specific flavour eigenstates ($D \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ and $D \rightarrow K^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$); and the GGSZ method [7], which uses self-conjugate three-body final states ($D \rightarrow K_s^0\pi^+\pi^-$ and $D \rightarrow K_s^0K^+K^-$).

Time-integrated measurements can also be performed with neutral b -hadrons when the concerned decay is self-tagged. This is the case of $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$, where the charge of the kaon from the $K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ decay identifies the flavour of the neutral B meson. Preliminary results on these decays have recently been presented by LHCb [8].

In addition, LHCb has recently performed the first time-dependent analysis of $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^\mp K^\pm$ decays [9], which is sensitive to $\gamma - 2\beta_s$ [$\beta_s = \arg(-V_{ts}V_{tb}^*/V_{cs}V_{cb}^*)$].

All the presented results use the 2011 dataset, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 1 fb^{-1} collected at $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$.

2 Measurements with charged B decays

2.1 ADS/GLW results

Charged B decays to Dh^+ with $D \rightarrow h^+h^-$, where each h can be a kaon or a pion, are characterised by an easy topology and can be reconstructed with relatively high efficiency at LHCb [10]. A combined GLW and ADS analysis is performed using the CP-even eigenstates $D \rightarrow h^+h^-$ and the quasi-flavour-specific eigenstate $D \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$. The observables with sensitivity to γ are constructed by taking ratio of yields, so that many systematic uncertainties

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¹Charge-conjugation is implied throughout this paper unless otherwise stated.

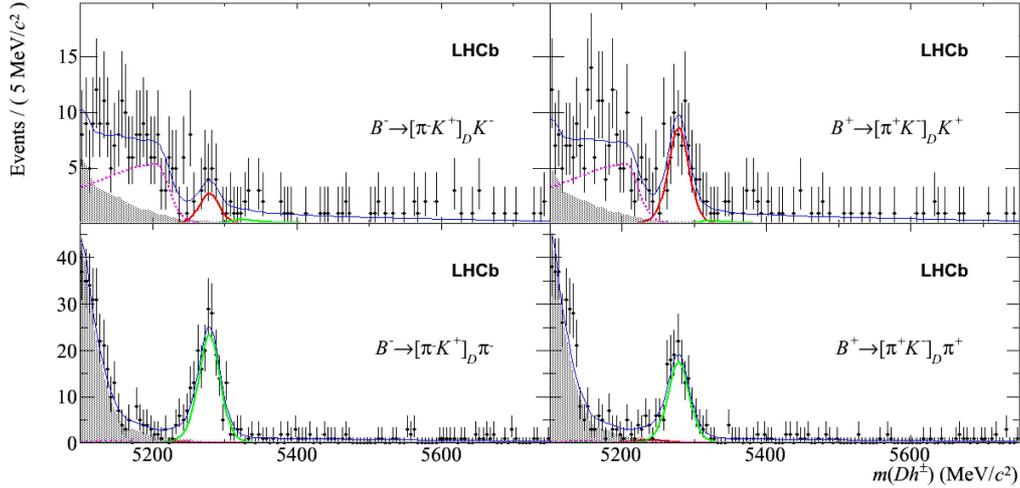


Figure 1. Mass distributions of the suppressed ADS decays: (left,top) $B^- \rightarrow D(K^+\pi^-)K^-$; (right,top) $B^+ \rightarrow D(K^+\pi^-)K^+$; (left,bottom) $B^- \rightarrow D(K^+\pi^-)\pi^-$; and (right,bottom) $B^+ \rightarrow D(K^+\pi^-)\pi^+$.

cancel. CP asymmetries and ratios of partial widths of suppressed over favoured modes are determined with a simultaneous fit to the B mass of all 16 possible final states. The expected CP asymmetries in the $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ channels are smaller than the corresponding ones in the $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ channels, since the value of r_B , which controls the size of the CP interference, is naively ~ 20 times smaller, but the large yields in the $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ channels help constrain the mass shape in the fit.

Among the results, we note the first evidence of non-zero CP asymmetry, A_{CP} , between $B^- \rightarrow DK^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ decays with $D \rightarrow K^+K^-$, $A_{CP}(KK) = 0.148 \pm 0.037 \pm 0.010$, and $D \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$, $A_{CP}(\pi\pi) = 0.135 \pm 0.066 \pm 0.010$, which combined give 4.5σ significance for CP violation in these modes. No significant asymmetry is found in the corresponding $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ modes.

Another important result of this analysis is the first observation of the rare ADS mode, $B^+ \rightarrow D(K^-\pi^+)K^+$, with more than 10σ significance. This mode is particularly sensitive to γ since the two interfering amplitudes (i.e., the favoured $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{c}$ transition, followed by a doubly-Cabibbo-suppressed D decay, and the suppressed $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{u}$ transition, followed by the Cabibbo-favoured D decay) have similar size, hence can give large asymmetries. The invariant mass distribution of both the suppressed $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ modes, separated by B charge, are shown in Fig. 1. There is evidence for large CP asymmetry in the $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ mode, $A_{ADS}^K(K\pi) = -0.52 \pm 0.15 \pm 0.02$, and a hint of asymmetry in the $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$, $A_{ADS}^\pi(K\pi) = 0.143 \pm 0.062 \pm 0.011$. Further results on GLW and ADS observables are given in Ref. [10].

More recently, LHCb has published measurements of CP observables using the $B^+ \rightarrow D(K^\mp\pi^\pm\pi^\mp\pi^\pm)h^+$ decay [11]. The ADS observables share the same B decay parameters (r_B , δ_B) with $B^+ \rightarrow D(K^\mp\pi^\pm)h^+$, but different D decay parameters, therefore, the inclusion of this decay adds complementary information, not just additional statistics, to the determination of γ from a combined fit to

all the modes. We note that the suppressed ADS modes in both the $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ channels have not previously been observed. In addition to the first observation of these modes at LHCb, with a significance which exceeds 5σ and 10σ , respectively, we mention a hint of CP asymmetry, $A_{ADS}^K(K3\pi) = -0.42 \pm 0.22$ in the $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ mode. The asymmetry in the $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ mode is measured to be $A_{ADS}^\pi(K3\pi) = 0.13 \pm 0.10$.

2.2 GGSZ results

The GGSZ method exploits the different interference pattern, for $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ and $B^- \rightarrow DK^-$ decays, in the $D \rightarrow K_s^0 h^+ h^-$ Dalitz plot. This is a powerful method which dominates the sensitivity on γ at B -factories, thanks to the rich resonance structure and the relatively large branching fraction of the $D \rightarrow K_s^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$ decay. The determination of γ requires external information on the variation of the $D \rightarrow K_s^0 h^+ h^-$ amplitude phase over the Dalitz plot, δ_D . A model-independent approach is taken in the first LHCb analysis with this method, which uses the CLEO [12] measurements of δ_D in bins of the Dalitz plot. The cartesian coordinates $x_\pm = r_B \cos(\delta_B \pm \gamma)$ and $y_\pm = r_B \sin(\delta_B \pm \gamma)$, are then extracted from a simultaneous fit to the B^\pm mass distribution in each Dalitz-plot bin. The signal yields in each bin, $N(B^\pm)_i$, are related to the cartesian coordinates by the following relations

$$N(B^+)_{\pm i} \propto K_{\mp i} + (x_+^2 + y_+^2)K_{\pm i} + 2\sqrt{K_{+i}K_{-i}}(x_+c_{\pm i} \mp y_+s_{\pm i}),$$

and

$$N(B^-)_{\pm i} \propto K_{\pm i} + (x_-^2 + y_-^2)K_{\mp i} + 2\sqrt{K_{+i}K_{-i}}(x_-c_{\pm i} \pm y_-s_{\pm i}),$$

where c_i and s_i are the amplitude weighted average cosine and sine of the strong phase difference between the D^0 and \bar{D}^0 decay in bin i , and K_i is the number of events in bin i of a flavour-tagged $D^0 \rightarrow K_s^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$ Dalitz plot. The index $\pm i$ varies over the number of bins, $\pm i = \pm 1, \pm 8(\pm 2)$

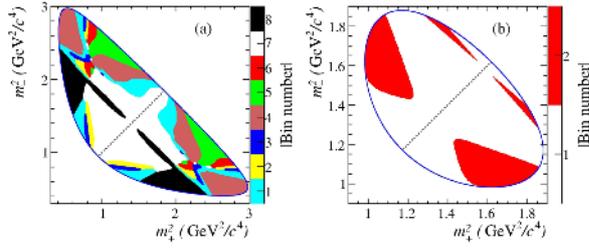


Figure 2. The Dalitz plot binning schemes for (a) $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$ and (b) $D \rightarrow K_S^0 K^+ K^-$ decays.

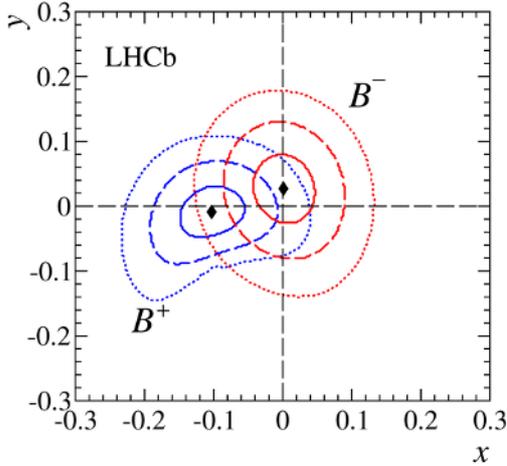


Figure 3. Cartesian coordinates results for (blue) $B^+ \rightarrow D(K_S^0 h^+ h^-) K^+$ and (red) $B^- \rightarrow D(K_S^0 h^+ h^-) K^-$: (solid) one, (dashed) two, and (dotted) three standard deviation confidence levels (statistical only). The points represent the best fit central values.

for $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$ ($D \rightarrow K_S^0 K^+ K^-$). The chosen binning schemes are shown in Fig. 2. The observed $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ yields are 690 for $D \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$ and 110 $D \rightarrow K_S^0 K^+ K^-$. In this analysis, the $B^\pm \rightarrow D\pi^\pm$ modes are used not only to constrain the $B \rightarrow DK$ mass shape in the fit, but are also used to determine the variation in the reconstruction efficiency over the Dalitz plot. To do so the assumption of no CP violation in these decays is made and a systematic uncertainty is assigned.

The best fit values for x_\pm and y_\pm are given in Ref. [13] and shown in Fig. 3 together with 1, 2, 3 σ contours for the statistical uncertainty which are obtained from the likelihood scan. A non-zero value of the angle between the two vectors joining the origin in the x - y plane and the best fit values is a signature of CP violation. The current data are compatible with both the CP violation hypothesis and its absence. A frequentist approach is used to determine γ , r_B and δ_B from the results on x_\pm and y_\pm . The solution for the physics parameters has a two-fold ambiguity, (γ, δ_B) and $(\gamma + 180^\circ, \delta_B + 180^\circ)$. The solution that satisfies $0 < \gamma < 180^\circ$ is $\gamma = (44_{-38}^{+43})^\circ$, $r_B = 0.07 \pm 0.04$ and $\delta_B = (137_{-46}^{+35})^\circ$. The value of r_B is consistent with, but

lower than, the world average of results from previous experiments [14]. This low value and its large correlation with the other physics parameters, also visible in Fig. 4, explain the large uncertainty on the values of γ obtained from this analysis. More stringent constraints are obtained when these results are combined with the GLW and ADS measurements, which have complementary sensitivity to the same physics parameters.

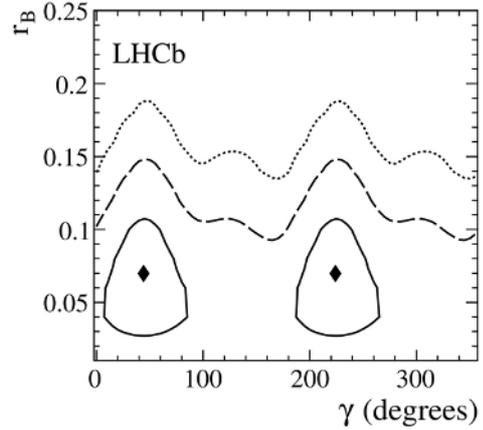


Figure 4. Two-dimensional projection of confidence regions onto the (γ, r_B) plane showing the one (solid), two (dashed), three (dotted) standard deviation contours from the GGSZ method alone. The point marks are the central values.

3 The LHCb γ average

Precision on γ is achieved by combining all the results obtained with charged B decays that are mentioned in Sect. 2. A frequentist approach has been used by LHCb [3]. The combination uses additional inputs from CLEO [15] for the $D \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$ and $D \rightarrow K^+ \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+$ decay parameters. The recent evidence for a difference in the CP asymmetries in $D \rightarrow K^+ K^-$ and $D \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$, $\Delta a_{CP}^{dir} = (-0.656 \pm 0.154) \times 10^{-2}$ [16], is taken into account in the combination, however it has only marginal effects on the final results.

The combination of all the LHCb results from $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ decays gives at 68% C.L.

$$\gamma = 71.1_{-15.7}^{+16.6}(\circ),$$

$$r_B = 0.092 \pm 0.008,$$

$$\delta_B = 112.0_{-15.5}^{+12.6}(\circ).$$

Both the central value of γ and its uncertainty are in good agreement with the averages recently published by BaBar [17] and Belle [18]. While results from $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ exhibit approximately Gaussian behaviour, as shown in Fig. 5, a double-peaked structure in the γ 1-C.L. plot arises when the GLW/ADS results for $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ are included in the combination, as shown in Fig. 6. We set the confidence limits of

$$\gamma \in [61.8, 67.8]^\circ \text{ or } [77.9, 92.4]^\circ \text{ at 68\% C.L.,}$$

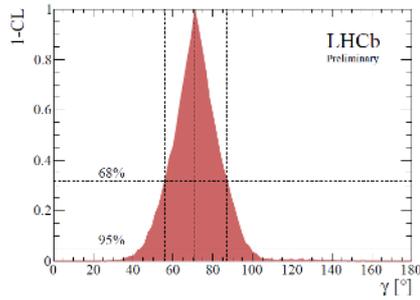


Figure 5. 1-C.L. curve for γ for the combination of the measurements using $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ decays.

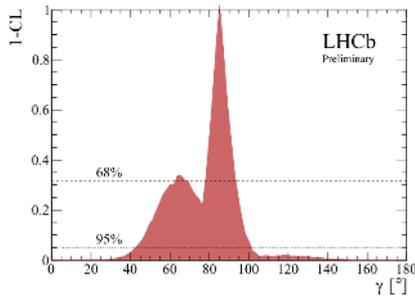


Figure 6. 1-C.L. curve for γ for the combination of the measurements using both $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ decays.

$$\gamma \in [43.8, 101.5]^\circ \text{ at } 95\% \text{ C.L.},$$

where all values are modulo 180° . We note that the best fit value shifts to 85° but the 95% confidence level is essentially unchanged. Despite the combined value is less than 1σ from the $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ best fit value, the impact of $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ channel in the combination is probably larger than naively expected, and corresponds to rather high values of $r_B(D\pi^+)$ ($\in [0.010-0.024]$ at 64% C.L.), which are preferred by the data. LHCb is the only experiment which has included $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ results in the γ average. Understanding and eventually fully exploiting $B^+ \rightarrow D\pi^+$ decays will be investigated with the analysis of the 2012 dataset.

4 Measurements with B^0 decays

The use of $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$ decays is particularly interesting because r_B for this mode is naively a factor ~ 3 larger than the analogous ratio for $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ decays, hence the system can exhibit large CP -violating effects. The invariant mass distribution of the selected $D(K^+K^-)K^{*0}$ candidates is shown in Fig. 7. In addition to the B^0 mass peak, also a peak at the B_s^0 mass is observed. The $\bar{B}_s^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$ decay is used as control channel, as no large CP violation is expected in this mode. The CP asymmetries, computed from the efficiency-corrected signal yields, are found to be

$$A_{CP}^d = -0.45 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.02,$$

$$A_{CP}^s = 0.04 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.01,$$

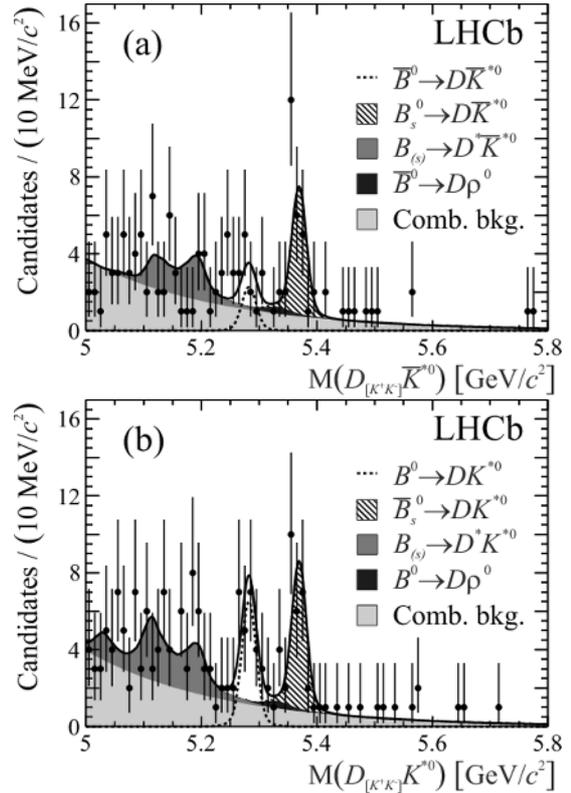


Figure 7. Invariant mass distributions of (a) $D_{[K^+K^-]}\bar{K}^{*0}$ and (b) $D_{[K^+K^-]}K^{*0}$ candidates. The fit functions are superimposed.

for B^0 and \bar{B}_s^0 , respectively. Other results for the GLW observables can be found in Ref. [8]. These are the first measurements of CP asymmetries in B^0 and \bar{B}_s^0 to DK^{*0} decays with the neutral D meson decaying into a CP -even final state. With more data, improved measurements of these and other quantities in $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$ decays will set important constraints on γ .

5 Time-dependent measurements in the B_s^0 system

Interference effects are expected to be large also in the tree-level decays $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^\mp K^\pm$, since the $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^\mp K^\pm$ and $\bar{B}_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^\mp K^\pm$ interfering amplitudes are of the same order in the Wolfenstein parameter λ , $O(\lambda^3)$. A time-dependent analysis is performed as the two final states of interest are accessible by both B_s^0 and \bar{B}_s^0 . The decay time-evolution is sensitive to $\gamma - 2\beta_s$, where $2\beta_s$ is the B_s^0 mixing phase, which is small in the SM and is measured with $B_s^0 \rightarrow J\psi\phi$ decays.

The first preliminary measurement of time-dependent CP violation observables in $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^\mp K^\pm$ decays has recently been reported by LHCb [9]. This measurement is unique to LHCb, because it is the only existing experiment which has accumulated a sufficiently large sample of B_s^0 decays and is able to distinguish the rapid B_s^0 - \bar{B}_s^0 oscillations (thanks to its excellent proper-time resolution and the boost of the B_s^0 mesons at LHC). Additional ex-

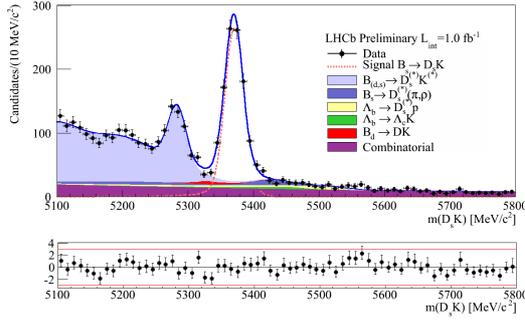


Figure 8. Results of the mass fit to $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^+ K^-$ candidates.

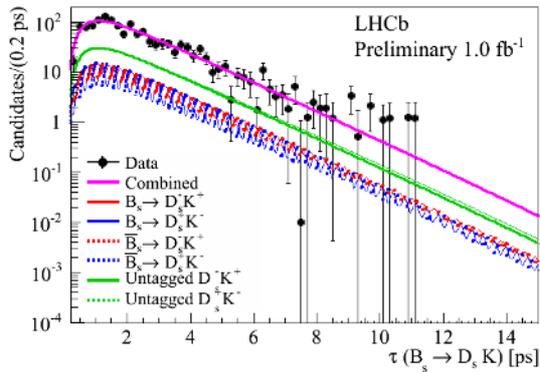


Figure 9. Results of the proper-time fit to $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^+ K^-$ candidates. The top magenta curve represents the result of the combined fit to all the samples. The green solid (dashed) curve represents the result for the untagged $D_s^+ K^-$ ($D_s^+ K^+$) sample. The four flavour-tagged samples are represented with red and blue curves corresponding to $D_s^- K^+$ and $D_s^+ K^-$, respectively; solid (dashed) lines are used for candidates tagged as B_s^0 (\bar{B}_s^0) at production.

perimental challenges for this measurement are related to the efficiency of the flavour-tagging algorithms and the determination of the proper-time acceptance. The LHCb results include both untagged and flavour-tagged candidates. Untagged events carry additional sensitivity to the weak phase since the decay width difference in the B_s^0 system, $\Delta\Gamma_s$, is sizeably different from zero. The mass distribution of the total sample is shown in Fig. 8, and the proper-time distribution in Fig. 9, where the contribution of all the different components to the combined sample can be appreciated. The results on the CP observables can be found in [9]. The correlations between the systematic uncertainties have an important impact on the determination of $\gamma - 2\beta_s$ and require further studies. No attempt has been made at this stage to derive confidence intervals for the weak phase.

6 Conclusions and prospects

Using 1 fb^{-1} of the 2011 dataset, LHCb obtains $\gamma = 71.1^{+16.6}_{-15.7}(\circ)$ by combining GLW, ADS and GGSZ $B^+ \rightarrow DK^+$ observables. This result is in good agreement and has comparable precision to the combined results recently

published by BaBar [17] and Belle [18]. Time-integrated measurements with $B^0 \rightarrow DK^{*0}$ and time-dependent measurement with $B_s^0 \rightarrow D_s^+ K^-$ decays are also showing promising results. Statistical uncertainties are the dominant uncertainties in all these measurements. Precision on γ is expected to improve significantly in the next years using these and other tree-level decays, which will become accessible with larger datasets. It has been estimated that sub-degree precision can be achieved with 50 fb^{-1} at the proposed LHCb upgrade using a combination of several decay channels [19].

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