Evidence for $B\to \eta'\pi$ and Improved Measurements for $B\to \eta'K$


(Belle Collaboration)

1Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk
2Chiba University, Chiba
3Chonnam National University, Kwangju
4University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221
5University of Frankfurt, Frankfurt
6University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
7High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), Tsukuba
8Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing
9Institute of High Energy Physics, Vienna
10Institute of High Energy Physics, Protvino
11Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow
12J. Stefan Institute, Ljubljana
13Kanagawa University, Yokohama
14Korea University, Seoul
15Kyungpook National University, Taegu
16Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne, EPFL, Lausanne
17University of Maribor, Maribor
18University of Melbourne, Victoria
19Nagoya University, Nagoya
20Nara Women’s University, Nara
21National Central University, Chung-li
22National Central University, Miao Li
23Department of Physics, National Taiwan University, Taipei
24H. Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Krakow
25Niigata University, Niigata
26Niigata University, Niigata
27Nova Gorica Polytechnic, Nova Gorica
28Osaka City University, Osaka
29Osaka University, Osaka
We report evidence for the exclusive two-body charmless hadronic B meson decay $B \to \eta' \pi$, and improved measurements of $B \to \eta' K$. The results are obtained from a data sample of $386 \times 10^6$ $B\bar{B}$ pairs collected at the $Y(4S)$ resonance, with the Belle detector at the KEKB asymmetric-energy $e^+e^-$ collider. We measure $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+) = (1.66^{+0.67}_{-0.62}(\text{stat})^{+0.15}_{-0.14}(\text{syst})) \times 10^{-6}$ and $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \to \eta' \pi^0) = (2.79^{+1.02}_{-0.90}(\text{stat})^{+0.25}_{-0.32}(\text{syst})) \times 10^{-6}$. We also find the ratio of $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \to \eta' K^0) = 1.17 \pm 0.08(\text{stat}) \pm 0.03(\text{syst})$ and measure the direct CP asymmetries for the charged modes.

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Information on the two-body charmless hadronic $B$ meson decays $B \to \eta' \pi$ are incomplete at present [1]. Measurements of these decay modes can improve the understanding of the flavor-singlet penguin amplitude with intermediate $t$, $c$, and $u$ quarks [2]. Furthermore, measurement of branching fractions for $B \to \eta' \pi$ decays can improve estimates of the expected standard model (SM) deviations of effective sin(2$\phi_1$) values in $b \to s$ modes from the value measured in $b \to c\bar{c}s$ decays [3]. Theoretical predictions for the branching fractions cover the ranges $(1-17) \times 10^{-6}$ and $(0.2-8) \times 10^{-6}$ for the charged and neutral decays, respectively [2,4,5]. Recently, the charged decay was measured by BABAR [6]. In contrast, the channels $B \to \eta' K$ have been precisely measured [7–9]. In the SM the decay $B \to \eta' K$ is believed to proceed dominantly via gluonic penguin processes [10], and has been evaluated with various QCD factorization and gluon anomaly approaches [11–15]. The measured branching fractions are, however, larger than the early expectations. This has led to speculations that SU(3)-singlet couplings unique to the $\eta'$ meson or new physics [16] contribute to the amplitude. More precise measurements, in particular, for $B \to \eta' \pi$ are needed to constrain the amplitudes and to distinguish between theoretical models.

Additional constraints can be provided by the direct CP asymmetry, $A_{CP} = \frac{\mathcal{B}(B^0 \to f) - \mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to f)}{\mathcal{B}(B^0 \to f) + \mathcal{B}(\bar{B}^0 \to f)}$, where $f$ is the final state and $\bar{f}$ is its CP conjugate. Direct CP violation in the $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ mode can be large in the SM [4], while a nonzero value for $A_{CP}$ in $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ may indicate a new physics contribution [10].

In this Letter, we report evidence for the decays $B \to \eta' \pi$, improved measurements of the $B \to \eta' K$ branching fractions, and the search for direct CP violation in the charged $B$-meson decay modes. The results are based on a data sample that contains $386 \times 10^6$ $B\bar{B}$ pairs, which is 35 times larger than our previous data set [8], collected with the Belle detector at the KEKB asymmetric-energy $e^+e^-$ (3.5 on 8 GeV) collider [17]. KEKB operates at the $Y(4S)$ resonance ($\sqrt{s} = 10.58$ GeV).

The Belle detector is a large-solid-angle magnetic spectrometer that consists of a silicon vertex detector, a 50-layer central drift chamber (CDC), an array of aerogel threshold Cerenkov counters (ACC), a barrel-like arrangement of time-of-flight scintillation counters (TOF), and an electromagnetic calorimeter comprised of CsI(Tl) crystals located inside a superconducting solenoid coil that provides a 1.5 T magnetic field. An iron flux return located outside of the coil is instrumented to detect $K_L^0$ mesons and to identify muons. The detector is described in detail elsewhere [18]. Two inner detector configurations are used. A 2.0 cm beam pipe and a 3-layer silicon vertex detector are used for the first sample of $152 \times 10^6$ $B\bar{B}$ pairs (Set I),
while a 1.5 cm beam pipe, a 4-layer silicon detector, and a small-cell inner drift chamber are used to record the remaining 234 × 10^6 B̅B̅ pairs (Set II) [19]. Charged hadrons are identified by combining information from the CDC (dE/dx), ACC, and TOF systems. Both kaons and pions are selected with an average efficiency of 86%. Tighter criteria are applied to the pion candidate in B^+ → η' π^+, resulting in an average efficiency (kaon misidentification probability) of 77% (4%).

The η' mesons are reconstructed in the decays η' → ηπ^+π^− (with η → γγ) and η' → ρ^0γ. We reconstruct π^0, ρ^0, η, η′, and K^0 mesons using the mass windows given in Table I. Photons originating from π^0 and η decays are required to have an energy of at least 50 MeV, and photons from η in η → ρ^0γ of at least 100 MeV. The momenta of the π^± for ρ^0 candidates transverse to the beam line have to be greater than 200 MeV/c, suppressing 60% of the background. The vertex of the beam line have to be greater than the momentum direction must be consistent with its flight direction for a detailed description, see [20]. For B^0 → ηπ^0, we require |h_ηπ| = (E_{π^+} - E_{π^-}) |< 0.95(0.6) for η → ηπ^+π^− (η → ρ^0γ), where E(γ) is the energy of the two π^0 decay photons. Similarly, we require |h_η| < 0.85. For combinatorial background arising from low energy photons [h] peaks at 1.

B meson candidates are formed by combining an η' meson with a pion or a kaon candidate. Two kinematic variables are used to extract the B meson signal: the energy difference, ΔE = E_B - Ebeam, and the beam-energy constrained mass, M_{bc} = \sqrt{E_{beam}/c^4 - (P_B/c)^2}, where E_{beam} is the beam energy and E_B and P_B are the reconstructed energy and momentum of the B candidate. Events satisfying the requirements M_{bc} > 5.22 GeV/c^2 and |ΔE| < 0.25 GeV are selected for further analysis. About 10% of these events have multiple B candidates. For these events, the candidate with the smallest χ^2_{lcs} + χ^2_η is selected, where χ^2_{lcs} is an estimator of the vertex quality for all charged particles not from K_S and χ^2_η = [(M(η') - m_η)/σ_η]^2, where M(η') is the η' candidate mass, m_η is the nominal mass of the η', and σ_η = 8 MeV/c^2 is the width of the reconstructed η' mass. About 8% of signal MC events are reconstructed with a random photon or pion.

Several event shape variables are used to distinguish the spherical B̅B̅ topology from the jetlike e^+e^- → q̅q (q = u, d, s, c) continuum events. The thrust angle θ_r is defined as the angle between the η' momentum direction and the thrust axis formed by all particles not belonging to the reconstructed B meson. Continuum events tend to peak near |cosθ_r| = 1, while spherical events have a uniform distribution. The requirement |cosθ_r| < 0.9 is applied prior to all other event-topology selections.

Additional continuum suppression is obtained by using modified Fox-Wolfram moments [21] and |cosθ_B|, where θ_B is the angle between the flight direction of the reconstructed B candidate and the beam axis. A Fischer discriminant (F) [22] is formed from a linear combination of |cosθ_F|, S_\perp [23], and five modified Fox-Wolfram moments. S_\perp is the ratio of the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of all tracks outside a 45° cone around the η' direction to the scalar sum of their total momenta. These variables are then combined to form an event-topology likelihood function L_F (L_0), where s (q̅q) represents signal (continuum background). For channels with an η → ρ^0γ decay an additional variable θ_2, which is the angle between the η' momentum and the direction of one of the decay pions in the ρ^0 rest frame, is included for better signal-background separation. It behaves like a cosine (exponential) function for signal (continuum) events. We use the quality of B flavor tagging for the accompanying B meson to improve continuum rejection. The standard Belle B tagging package [24] is used, which gives the B flavor and a tagging quality r ranging from zero for no flavor identification to unity for unambiguous flavor assignment. The data are divided into three r regions. Signal-like events are selected by applying likelihood ratio R = L_F/(L_0 + L_0) requirements optimized on Monte Carlo (MC) events in the three r regions separately, assuming either previously measured branching fractions or 5 × 10^{-6}.

The branching fractions are extracted using simultaneous (in ΔE and M_{bc}) extended unbinned maximum-likelihood fits for the η' → ηπ^+π^- and η' → ρ^0γ subdecays simultaneously. The extended likelihood function used is

\[
L(N_s, N_{b}) = \frac{e^{-(N_s + \sum_i N_{b,i})}}{N!} \prod_i^{N_i} [N_sP_s(ΔE_i, M_{bc}) + \sum_i N_{b,i}P_{b,i}(ΔE_i, M_{bc})],
\]

where N_s (N_{b,i}) is the number of signal events (background events of source j) with probability density functions (PDFs) P_s (P_{b,i}), and the index i runs over the total number of events.

### Table I. Mass windows to reconstruct intermediate states.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Mass window (MeV/c^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>π^0 → γγ</td>
<td>[118, 150]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ρ^0 → π^+π^-</td>
<td>[550, 870]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>η</td>
<td>[500, 570]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>η' → ηπ^+π^-</td>
<td>[945, 970]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>η' → ρ^0γ</td>
<td>[935, 975]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>η' → ρ^0γ (in η'K)</td>
<td>[950, 965]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K^0 → π^+π^-</td>
<td>[845, 510]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The reconstruction efficiencies are determined from signal MC samples, using the \textsc{evgtemp} package [25] with final state radiation simulated by the \textsc{photos} package [26] [thus measuring $B \to \eta' h$ ($y_{FSR}$)]. The efficiencies are calculated separately for both Set I and Set II. The absolute efficiency for Set II is typically about 0.5% larger than for Set I (for efficiencies averaged over the two sets, see Table II). The signal yield is expressed as $N_S = \epsilon_1 N_{B(B)} B + \epsilon_2 N_{B(B)} B$, where $B$ is the signal branching fraction, and $\epsilon_1$ and $N_{B(B)}$ are the efficiency and the number of $B\bar{B}$ pairs for Set I and Set II. The numbers of $B^+B^-$ and $B^0\bar{B}^0$ pairs are assumed to be equal. Corrections due to differences between data and MC calculations are included for the charged track identification and photon, $\pi^0$ and $\eta$ reconstruction, resulting in an overall correction factor of $\approx 0.9$.

The PDF shapes for each contribution are determined by MC calculations. The signal shapes for $\Delta E$ and $M_{bc}$ are assumed to be independent. We model the signal using a Gaussian with an exponential tail (Crystal Ball function) [27] plus a Gaussian for $\Delta E$ and a Gaussian with an exponential tail for $M_{bc}$.

We consider four types of backgrounds separately in the fit: continuum events, $b \to c$, and two types of charmless decays. Continuum background is modeled by a first or second order polynomial for $\Delta E$ and an ARGUS function [28] for $M_{bc}$. Charmless $B$ decays and $b \to c$ backgrounds are modeled with smoothed two-dimensional histograms. The contributions from charmless $B$ decays are split into two components, one for the decay with the largest contribution and one for all other charmless decays. For $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$, the dominant mode, which is modeled separately, is $B \to \eta' K^+$; for $B^0 \to \eta' K^0_S$ it is $B \to \rho^+ K^0_S$; for $B^0 \to \eta' \pi^0$ it is $B \to \rho \gamma$; and for $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ it is the $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ cross feed. The cross feed in $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ is modeled with the same PDFs as used for the $\eta' K^+$ signal, shifted and with a corrected width in $\Delta E$.

The continuum shape parameters that are allowed to float in all modes are the slopes of the polynomial and ARGUS function. The signal mean and width parameters are free for the kaon modes. For the $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ model these parameters are fixed to the values obtained from the charged kaon mode. The resulting signal PDFs are shifted by up to $-2$ MeV and the width is smaller by up to 5%. For $\eta' \to \eta \pi^+ \pi^-$ modes our background MC studies show that no contributions from $b \to c$ decays are expected. The sizes of background contributions other than continuum are constrained to the values expected from the MC simulations. For example, for $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ we expect 718 $b \to c$ events, 105 charmless events, and 10 $B \to \eta' K^+$ events. The $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ component in the $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ decay is fixed to the branching fraction of $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ as reported here. Simultaneous fits with the branching fraction and the charge asymmetry (for the charged modes) as fit parameters are performed. The resulting projection plots are shown in Fig. 1. The reconstruction efficiencies and fit results are given in Table II.

We find first evidence for the neutral decay:

$$B (B^0 \to \eta' \pi^0) = [2.79^{+1.02}_{-0.96}(\text{stat})^{+0.25}_{-0.34}(\text{syst})] \times 10^{-6},$$

and evidence for the charged decay:

$$B (B^\pm \to \eta' \pi^\mp) = [1.76^{+0.67}_{-0.62}(\text{stat})^{+0.15}_{-0.14}(\text{syst})] \times 10^{-6}.$$

The ratio of the branching fractions for charged and neutral $B \to \eta' K$ decays is found to be $1.17 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.03$. The charge asymmetries for the $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ and $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ decay modes, listed in Table II, show no significant deviation from zero.

Systematic errors are estimated with various high statistics data samples. The dominant sources are the uncertainties in the reconstruction efficiency of charged tracks (3–4%), the uncertainties in the reconstruction efficiencies of $\eta$ mesons and photons (3–6%), and the uncertainty of the PDF shapes and parameters (1–9%). Other systematic uncertainties arise from the $K$ cross feed in $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ ($\approx 2\%$), the differences between data and MC calculations for $\Delta E$ and $M_{bc}$ in $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ ($\approx 4\%$), the $K_S$ reconstruction efficiency uncertainty ($4\%$), the uncertainty of the subdecay branching fractions as given by the Particle Data Group (PDG) [29] (1.5%), the number of $B\bar{B}$ mesons produced (1%), the efficiency differences due to signal simulation by different MC generators (1.4%), the uncer-

TABLE II. Signal efficiencies ($\epsilon_{\text{tot}}$) with subdecay branching fractions included and averaged for Set I and Set II for $\eta' \to \eta \pi^+ \pi^-$ and $\eta' \to \rho^0 \gamma$, total signal yields $N_S$, total number of events $N_{\text{tot}}$, branching fractions $B$, charge asymmetries $A_{CP}$, significances $\sigma$, and goodness of fit (GOF). The first errors are statistical and the second (where given) systematic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$B^+ \to \eta' K^+$</th>
<th>$B^0 \to \eta' K^0$</th>
<th>$B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$</th>
<th>$B^0 \to \eta' \pi^0$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\epsilon_{\text{tot}}(\eta' \to \eta \pi^+ \pi^-)$ [%]</td>
<td>4.31 ± 0.03</td>
<td>1.19 ± 0.03</td>
<td>2.84 ± 0.03</td>
<td>1.72 ± 0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\epsilon_{\text{tot}}(\eta' \to \rho^0 \gamma)$ [%]</td>
<td>2.78 ± 0.04</td>
<td>1.07 ± 0.04</td>
<td>2.89 ± 0.04</td>
<td>1.72 ± 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_S$</td>
<td>1895.7 ± 59.5</td>
<td>515.3 ± 31.7</td>
<td>39.0 ± 13.2</td>
<td>35.8 ± 12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_{\text{tot}}$</td>
<td>25281</td>
<td>6044</td>
<td>8411</td>
<td>1345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$B [10^{-6}]$</td>
<td>69.2 ± 2.2 ± 3.7</td>
<td>58.9 ± 3.6 ± 4.3</td>
<td>1.76 ± 0.07 ± 0.15</td>
<td>2.79 ± 0.10 ± 0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$A_{CP}$</td>
<td>0.028 ± 0.028 ± 0.021</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>0.20 ± 0.03 ± 0.04</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma$</td>
<td>&gt;10</td>
<td>&gt;10</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(GOF)</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
tainty in the efficiency (1%) and the uncertainty from particle identification (0.7%). The systematic errors are added in quadrature and found to be $\pm 5.4\%$, $\pm 7.3\%$, $\pm 8.5\%$, and $\pm 12.1\%$ for $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$, $B^0 \to \eta' K^0$, $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$, and $B^0 \to \eta' \pi^0$, respectively. For the charge asymmetry, efficiency based systematic errors cancel. We estimate the possible detector bias on $A_{CP}$ from the charge asymmetry of the continuum background in the $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ sample which is obtained from the fit. We assign 0.02 as systematic error both for $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ and $\eta' \pi^+$. Other contributions from fitting and normalization together result in a systematic error of 0.003 for $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$. For $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ the uncertainties from PDF shapes and cross feed contributions add up to $0.03$. The significance of the $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$ yield is 3.2$\sigma$, which is calculated as $\sigma = \sqrt{2 \ln(L_{\text{max}}/L_0)}$, where $L_{\text{max}}$ and $L_0$ denote the maximum-likelihood value and the likelihood value at zero branching fraction, respectively. The systematic error is included in the significance calculation. For $B^0 \to \eta' \pi^0$ the corresponding significance with systematics is 3.1$\sigma$.

We calculate a goodness of the fit (GOF) for $\Delta E$ and $M_{bc}$ projections shown in Fig. 1 as a measure of the quality of the fit. The GOF is defined as the average of $\chi^2$/dof for $\Delta E$ and $M_{bc}$ with $\chi^2 = \sum_{i}^{n} \frac{(n_i - \bar{n}_i)^2}{\bar{n}_i}$, where $n_i$ is number of observed (fitted) events in $i$th bin of total $N$ bins and dof is a degree of freedom. The GOF values are listed in Table II.

In summary, evidence for $B \to \eta' \pi$ with greater than $3\sigma$ significance is found and improved measurements for the charged and neutral $B \to \eta' K$ decays are reported. The measurements of branching fractions for $B \to \eta' K$ decays reported here supersede our previous results [8] and are consistent with the measurements by CLEO [7] and BABAR [6]. No charge asymmetry is observed in the decay modes $B^+ \to \eta' K^+$ and $B^+ \to \eta' \pi^+$. We thank the KEKB group for excellent operation of the accelerator, the KEK cryogenics group for efficient solenoid operations, and the KEK computer group and the NII for valuable computing and Super-SINET network support. We acknowledge support from MEXT and JSPS (Japan); ARC and DEST (Australia); NSFC and KIP of CAS (Contract No. 10575109 and No. IHEP-U-503, China); DST (India); the BK21 program of MOEHRD, and the CHEP SRC and BR (Grant No. R01-2005-000-10089-0) programs of KOSEF (Korea); KBN (Contract No. 2P03B 01324, Poland); MIST (Russia); ARRS (Slovenia); SNSF (Switzerland); NSC and MOE (Taiwan); and DOE (USA).

[1] Throughout this Letter, the inclusion of the charge conjugate mode decay is implied unless otherwise stated.