## Measurements of $\boldsymbol{C P}$-violating Asymmetries and Branching Fractions in $\boldsymbol{B}$ Meson Decays to $\eta^{\prime} \boldsymbol{K}$

B. Aubert, ${ }^{1}$ R. Barate, ${ }^{1}$ D. Boutigny, ${ }^{1}$ J.-M. Gaillard, ${ }^{1}$ A. Hicheur, ${ }^{1}$ Y. Karyotakis, ${ }^{1}$ J. P. Lees, ${ }^{1}$ P. Robbe, ${ }^{1}$ V. Tisserand, ${ }^{1}$ A. Zghiche, ${ }^{1}$ A. Palano, ${ }^{2}$ A. Pompili, ${ }^{2}$ J. C. Chen, ${ }^{3}$ N. D. Qi, ${ }^{3}$ G. Rong, ${ }^{3}$ P. Wang, ${ }^{3}$ Y. S. Zhu, ${ }^{3}$ G. Eigen,,${ }^{4}$ I. Ofte, ${ }^{4}$ B. Stugu, ${ }^{4}$ G. S. Abrams, ${ }^{5}$ A. W. Borgland, ${ }^{5}$ A. B. Breon, ${ }^{5}$ D. N. Brown, ${ }^{5}$ J. Button-Shafer, ${ }^{5}$ R. N. Cahn, ${ }^{5}$ E. Charles, ${ }^{5}$ C. T. Day, ${ }^{5}$ M. S. Gill, ${ }^{5}$ A. V. Gritsan, ${ }^{5}$ Y. Groysman, ${ }^{5}$ R. G. Jacobsen, ${ }^{5}$ R. W. Kadel, ${ }^{5}$ J. Kadyk, ${ }^{5}$ L. T. Kerth, ${ }^{5}$ Yu. G. Kolomensky, ${ }^{5}$ J. F. Kral, ${ }^{5}$ G. Kukartsev, ${ }^{5}$ C. LeClerc,,${ }^{5}$ M. E. Levi, ${ }^{5}$ G. Lynch, ${ }^{5}$ L. M. Mir, ${ }^{5}$ P. J. Oddone, ${ }^{5}$ T. J. Orimoto, ${ }^{5}$ M. Pripstein, ${ }^{5}$ N. A. Roe, ${ }^{5}$ A. Romosan, ${ }^{5}$ M. T. Ronan, ${ }^{5}$ V. G. Shelkov, ${ }^{5}$ A. V. Telnov, ${ }^{5}$ W. A. Wenzel,,${ }^{5}$ T. J. Harrison, ${ }^{6}$ C. M. Hawkes, ${ }^{6}$ D. J. Knowles, ${ }^{6}$ R. C. Penny, ${ }^{6}$ A. T. Watson, ${ }^{6}$ N. K. Watson, ${ }^{6}$ T. Deppermann, ${ }^{7}$ K. Goetzen, ${ }^{7}$ H. Koch, ${ }^{7}$ B. Lewandowski, ${ }^{7}$ M. Pelizaeus, ${ }^{7}$ K. Peters, ${ }^{7}$ H. Schmuecker, ${ }^{7}$ M. Steinke, ${ }^{7}$ N. R. Barlow, ${ }^{8}$ W. Bhimji, ${ }^{8}$ J. T. Boyd, ${ }^{8}$ N. Chevalier, ${ }^{8}$ W. N. Cottingham, ${ }^{8}$ C. Mackay, ${ }^{8}$ F. F. Wilson, ${ }^{8}$ C. Hearty, ${ }^{9}$ T. S. Mattison, ${ }^{9}$ J. A. McKenna, ${ }^{9}$ D. Thiessen, ${ }^{9}$ P. Kyberd, ${ }^{10}$ A. K. McKemey, ${ }^{10}$ V. E. Blinov, ${ }^{11}$ A. D. Bukin, ${ }^{11}$ V. B. Golubev,,${ }^{11}$ V. N. Ivanchenko, ${ }^{11}$ E. A. Kravchenko, ${ }^{11}$ A. P. Onuchin, ${ }^{11}$ S. I. Serednyakov, ${ }^{11}$ Yu. I. Skovpen, ${ }^{11}$ E. P. Solodov, ${ }^{11}$ A. N. Yushkov, ${ }^{11}$ D. Best, ${ }^{12}$ M. Chao, ${ }^{12}$ D. Kirkby, ${ }^{12}$ A. J. Lankford, ${ }^{12}$ M. Mandelkern, ${ }^{12}$ S. McMahon, ${ }^{12}$ R. K. Mommsen, ${ }^{12}$ W. Roethel, ${ }^{12}$ D. P. Stoker, ${ }^{12}$ C. Buchanan, ${ }^{13}$ H. K. Hadavand, ${ }^{14}$ E. J. Hill,,${ }^{14}$ D. B. MacFarlane, ${ }^{14}$ H. P. Paar, ${ }^{14}$ Sh. Rahatlou, ${ }^{14}$ U. Schwanke, ${ }^{14}$ V. Sharma, ${ }^{14}$ J. W. Berryhill, ${ }^{15}$ C. Campagnari, ${ }^{15}$ B. Dahmes, ${ }^{15}$ N. Kuznetsova, ${ }^{15}$ S. L. Levy, ${ }^{15}$ O. Long,,$^{15}$ A. Lu, ${ }^{15}$ M. A. Mazur, ${ }^{15}$ J. D. Richman, ${ }^{15}$ W. Verkerke, ${ }^{15}$ J. Beringer, ${ }^{16}$ A. M. Eisner, ${ }^{16}$ C. A. Heusch, ${ }^{16}$ W. S. Lockman, ${ }^{16}$ T. Schalk, ${ }^{16}$ R. E. Schmitz, ${ }^{16}$ B. A. Schumm,,${ }^{16}$ A. Seiden,,${ }^{16}$
M. Turri, ${ }^{16}$ W. Walkowiak, ${ }^{16}$ D. C. Williams, ${ }^{16}$ M. G. Wilson, ${ }^{16}$ J. Albert, ${ }^{17}$ E. Chen, ${ }^{17}$ M. P. Dorsten, ${ }^{17}$ G. P. Dubois-Felsmann, ${ }^{17}$ A. Dvoretskii, ${ }^{17}$ D. G. Hitlin, ${ }^{17}$ I. Narsky, ${ }^{17}$ F. C. Porter, ${ }^{17}$ A. Ryd, ${ }^{17}$ A. Samuel, ${ }^{17}$ S. Yang, ${ }^{17}$ S. Jayatilleke, ${ }^{18}$ G. Mancinelli, ${ }^{18}$ B. T. Meadows, ${ }^{18}$ M. D. Sokoloff, ${ }^{18}$ T. Barillari, ${ }^{19}$ F. Blanc, ${ }^{19}$ P. Bloom, ${ }^{19}$ P. J. Clark, ${ }^{19}$ W. T. Ford, ${ }^{19}$ U. Nauenberg, ${ }^{19}$ A. Olivas, ${ }^{19}$ P. Rankin, ${ }^{19}$ J. Roy, ${ }^{19}$ J. G. Smith,,${ }^{19}$ W. C. van Hoek, ${ }^{19}$ L. Zhang, ${ }^{19}$ J. L. Harton, ${ }^{20}$ T. Hu, ${ }^{20}$ A. Soffer, ${ }^{20}$ W. H. Toki, ${ }^{20}$ R. J. Wilson, ${ }^{20}$ J. Zhang, ${ }^{20}$ D. Altenburg, ${ }^{21}$ T. Brandt, ${ }^{21}$ J. Brose, ${ }^{21}$ T. Colberg, ${ }^{21}$ M. Dickopp, ${ }^{21}$ R. S. Dubitzky, ${ }^{21}$ A. Hauke, ${ }^{21}$ H. M. Lacker, ${ }^{21}$ E. Maly, ${ }^{21}$ R. Müller-Pfefferkorn, ${ }^{21}$ R. Nogowski, ${ }^{21}$ S. Otto, ${ }^{21}$ K. R. Schubert, ${ }^{21}$ R. Schwierz, ${ }^{21}$ B. Spaan, ${ }^{21}$ L. Wilden, ${ }^{21}$ D. Bernard, ${ }^{22}$ G. R. Bonneaud, ${ }^{22}$ F. Brochard, ${ }^{22}$ J. Cohen-Tanugi, ${ }^{22}$ Ch. Thiebaux, ${ }^{22}$ G. Vasileiadis, ${ }^{22}$ M. Verderi, ${ }^{22}$ A. Khan, ${ }^{23}$ D. Lavin, ${ }^{23}$ F. Muheim, ${ }^{23}$ S. Playfer, ${ }^{23}$ J. E. Swain, ${ }^{23}$ J. Tinslay, ${ }^{23}$ C. Bozzi, ${ }^{24}$ L. Piemontese, ${ }^{24}$ A. Sarti, ${ }^{24}$ E. Treadwell, ${ }^{25}$ F. Anulli, ${ }^{26, ~}{ }^{*}$ R. Baldini-Ferroli, ${ }^{26}$ A. Calcaterra, ${ }^{26}$ R. de

Sangro, ${ }^{26}$ D. Falciai, ${ }^{26}$ G. Finocchiaro, ${ }^{26}$ P. Patteri, ${ }^{26}$ I. M. Peruzzi, ${ }^{26, *}$ M. Piccolo, ${ }^{26}$ A. Zallo, ${ }^{26}$ A. Buzzo, ${ }^{27}$ R. Contri, ${ }^{27}$ G. Crosetti, ${ }^{27}$ M. Lo Vetere, ${ }^{27}$ M. Macri, ${ }^{27}$ M. R. Monge, ${ }^{27}$ S. Passaggio, ${ }^{27}$ F. C. Pastore, ${ }^{27}$ C. Patrignani, ${ }^{27}$ E. Robutti, ${ }^{27}$ A. Santroni, ${ }^{27}$ S. Tosi, ${ }^{27}$ S. Bailey, ${ }^{28}$ M. Morii, ${ }^{28}$ M. L. Aspinwall, ${ }^{29}$
D. A. Bowerman, ${ }^{29}$ P. D. Dauncey, ${ }^{29}$ U. Egede, ${ }^{29}$ I. Eschrich, ${ }^{29}$ G. W. Morton, ${ }^{29}$ J. A. Nash, ${ }^{29}$ P. Sanders,,${ }^{29}$ G. P. Taylor, ${ }^{29}$ G. J. Grenier, ${ }^{30}$ S.-J. Lee, ${ }^{30}$ U. Mallik, ${ }^{30}$ J. Cochran, ${ }^{31}$ H. B. Crawley, ${ }^{31}$ J. Lamsa, ${ }^{31}$ W. T. Meyer, ${ }^{31}$ S. Prell, ${ }^{31}$ E. I. Rosenberg, ${ }^{31}$ J. Yi, ${ }^{31}$ M. Davier, ${ }^{32}$ G. Grosdidier, ${ }^{32}$ A. Höcker, ${ }^{32}$ S. Laplace, ${ }^{32}$ F. Le Diberder, ${ }^{32}$ V. Lepeltier, ${ }^{32}$ A. M. Lutz, ${ }^{32}$ T. C. Petersen, ${ }^{32}$ S. Plaszczynski, ${ }^{32}$ M. H. Schune, ${ }^{32}$ L. Tantot, ${ }^{32}$ G. Wormser, ${ }^{32}$ R. M. Bionta, ${ }^{33}$ V. Brigljević, ${ }^{33}$ C. H. Cheng, ${ }^{33}$ D. J. Lange, ${ }^{33}$ D. M. Wright, ${ }^{33}$ A. J. Bevan, ${ }^{34}$ J. R. Fry, ${ }^{34}$ E. Gabathuler, ${ }^{34}$ R. Gamet, ${ }^{34}$ M. Kay, ${ }^{34}$ D. J. Payne, ${ }^{34}$ R. J. Sloane, ${ }^{34}$ C. Touramanis, ${ }^{34}$ J. J. Back,,${ }^{35}$ G. Bellodi, ${ }^{35}$ P. F. Harrison, ${ }^{35}$ H. W. Shorthouse, ${ }^{35}$ P. Strother, ${ }^{35}$ P. B. Vidal, ${ }^{35}$ G. Cowan,${ }^{36}$ H. U. Flaecher, ${ }^{36}$ S. George, ${ }^{36}$ M. G. Green, ${ }^{36}$ A. Kurup, ${ }^{36}$ C. E. Marker, ${ }^{36}$ T. R. McMahon, ${ }^{36}$ S. Ricciardi, ${ }^{36}$ F. Salvatore,,${ }^{36}$ G. Vaitsas, ${ }^{36}$ M. A. Winter, ${ }^{36}$ D. Brown, ${ }^{37}$ C. L. Davis, ${ }^{37}$ J. Allison, ${ }^{38}$ R. J. Barlow, ${ }^{38}$ A. C. Forti, ${ }^{38}$ P. A. Hart,,${ }^{38}$ F. Jackson, ${ }^{38}$ G. D. Lafferty, ${ }^{38}$ A. J. Lyon, ${ }^{38}$ J. H. Weatherall, ${ }^{38}$ J. C. Williams, ${ }^{38}$ A. Farbin, ${ }^{39}$ A. Jawahery, ${ }^{39}$ D. Kovalskyi, ${ }^{39}$ C. K. Lae,, 39 V. Lillard,,${ }^{39}$ D. A. Roberts, ${ }^{39}$ G. Blaylock, ${ }^{40}$ C. Dallapiccola, ${ }^{40}$ K. T. Flood, ${ }^{40}$ S. S. Hertzbach, ${ }^{40}$ R. Kofler, ${ }^{40}$ V. B. Koptchev, ${ }^{40}$ T. B. Moore ${ }^{40}$ H. Staengle,,${ }^{40}$ S. Willocq, ${ }^{40}$ R. Cowan, ${ }^{41}$ G. Sciolla, ${ }^{41}$ F. Taylor, ${ }^{41}$ R. K. Yamamoto, ${ }^{41}$ D. J. J. Mangeol, ${ }^{42}$ M. Milek, ${ }^{42}$ P. M. Patel, ${ }^{42}$ A. Lazzaro, ${ }^{43}$ F. Palombo, ${ }^{43}$ J. M. Bauer, ${ }^{44}$ L. Cremaldi, ${ }^{44}$ V. Eschenburg, ${ }^{44}$ R. Godang, ${ }^{44}$ R. Kroeger, ${ }^{44}$ J. Reidy, ${ }^{44}$ D. A. Sanders, ${ }^{44}$ D. J. Summers, ${ }^{44}$ H. W. Zhao, ${ }^{44}$ C. Hast, ${ }^{45}$ P. Taras, ${ }^{45}$ H. Nicholson, ${ }^{46}$ C. Cartaro, ${ }^{47}$ N. Cavallo, ${ }^{47, 母 \text { G. De Nardo, }{ }^{47} \text { F. Fabozzi, }{ }^{47},{ }^{4} \text { 畐 }}$
C. Gatto, ${ }^{47}$ L. Lista, ${ }^{47}$ P. Paolucci, ${ }^{47}$ D. Piccolo,,${ }^{47}$ C. Sciacca, ${ }^{47}$ M. A. Baak,,${ }^{48}$ G. Raven,,${ }^{48}$ J. M. LoSecco,,${ }^{49}$ T. A. Gabriel, ${ }^{50}$ B. Brau, ${ }^{51}$ T. Pulliam, ${ }^{51}$ J. Brau, ${ }^{52}$ R. Frey, ${ }^{52}$ M. Iwasaki, ${ }^{52}$ C. T. Potter, ${ }^{52}$ N. B. Sinev, ${ }^{52}$ D. Strom, ${ }^{52}$ E. Torrence, ${ }^{52}$ F. Colecchia,,${ }^{53}$ A. Dorigo, ${ }^{53}$ F. Galeazzi, ${ }^{53}$ M. Margoni, ${ }^{53}$ M. Morandin, ${ }^{53}$ M. Posocco, ${ }^{53}$ M. Rotondo, ${ }^{53}$ F. Simonetto, ${ }^{53}$ R. Stroili, ${ }^{53}$ G. Tiozzo, ${ }^{53}$ C. Voci, ${ }^{53}$ M. Benayoun, ${ }^{54}$ H. Briand, ${ }^{54}$ J. Chauveau, ${ }^{54}$ P. David, ${ }^{54}$ Ch. de la Vaissière, ${ }^{54}$ L. Del Buono, ${ }^{54}$ O. Hamon, ${ }^{54}$ Ph. Leruste,,${ }^{54}$ J. Ocariz, ${ }^{54}$ M. Pivk, ${ }^{54}$ L. Roos, ${ }^{54}$ J. Stark, ${ }^{54}$ S. T'Jampens, ${ }^{54}$ P. F. Manfredi, ${ }^{55}$ V. Re, ${ }^{55}$ L. Gladney, ${ }^{56}$ Q. H. Guo, ${ }^{56}$ J. Panetta, ${ }^{56}$ C. Angelini, ${ }^{57}$ G. Batignani, ${ }^{57}$ S. Bettarini, ${ }^{57}$ M. Bondioli, ${ }^{57}$ F. Bucci, ${ }^{57}$ G. Calderini, ${ }^{57}$ M. Carpinelli, ${ }^{57}$ F. Forti, ${ }^{57}$ M. A. Giorgi, ${ }^{57}$ A. Lusiani, ${ }^{57}$ G. Marchiori, ${ }^{57}$ F. Martinez-Vidal, ${ }^{57}$, 团 M. Morganti, ${ }^{57}$ N. Neri, ${ }^{57}$ E. Paoloni,,${ }^{57}$ M. Rama, ${ }^{57}$ G. Rizzo, ${ }^{57}$ F. Sandrelli, ${ }^{57}$ J. Walsh, ${ }^{57}$ M. Haire, ${ }^{58}$ D. Judd, ${ }^{58}$ K. Paick, ${ }^{58}$ D. E. Wagoner,,${ }^{58}$ N. Danielson, ${ }^{59}$ P. Elmer, ${ }^{59}$ C. Lu, ${ }^{59}$ V. Miftakov, ${ }^{59}$ J. Olsen, ${ }^{59}$ A. J. S. Smith, ${ }^{59}$ E. W. Varnes, ${ }^{59}$ F. Bellini, ${ }^{60}$ G. Cavoto, ${ }^{59,60}$ D. del Re, ${ }^{60}$ R. Faccini, ${ }^{14,60}$ F. Ferrarotto, ${ }^{60}$ F. Ferroni, ${ }^{60}$ M. Gaspero, ${ }^{60}$ E. Leonardi, ${ }^{60}$ M. A. Mazzoni, ${ }^{60}$ S. Morganti, ${ }^{60}$ M. Pierini, ${ }^{60}$ G. Piredda, ${ }^{60}$ F. Safai Tehrani, ${ }^{60}$ M. Serra, ${ }^{60}$ C. Voena, ${ }^{60}$ S. Christ, ${ }^{61}$ G. Wagner, ${ }^{61}$ R. Waldi, ${ }^{61}$ T. Adye, ${ }^{62}$ N. De Groot, ${ }^{62}$ B. Franek, ${ }^{62}$ N. I. Geddes, ${ }^{62}$ G. P. Gopal, ${ }^{62}$ E. O. Olaiya, ${ }^{62}$ S. M. Xella, ${ }^{62}$ R. Aleksan, ${ }^{63}$ S. Emery, ${ }^{63}$ A. Gaidot, ${ }^{63}$ S. F. Ganzhur, ${ }^{63}$ P.-F. Giraud,,${ }^{63}$ G. Hamel de Monchenault, ${ }^{63}$ W. Kozanecki, ${ }^{63}$ M. Langer,,${ }^{63}$ G. W. London, ${ }^{63}$ B. Mayer, ${ }^{63}$ G. Schott,,${ }^{63}$ G. Vasseur, ${ }^{63}$ Ch. Yeche, ${ }^{63}$ M. Zito, ${ }^{63}$ M. V. Purohit,,${ }^{64}$ A. W. Weidemann, ${ }^{64}$ F. X. Yumiceva, ${ }^{64}$ D. Aston,,${ }^{65}$ R. Bartoldus, ${ }^{65}$ N. Berger, ${ }^{65}$ A. M. Boyarski, ${ }^{65}$ O. L. Buchmueller, ${ }^{65}$ M. R. Convery, ${ }^{65}$ D. P. Coupal, ${ }^{65}$ D. Dong, ${ }^{65}$ J. Dorfan, ${ }^{65}$ D. Dujmic,,${ }^{65}$ W. Dunwoodie, ${ }^{65}$ R. C. Field, ${ }^{65}$ T. Glanzman, ${ }^{65}$ S. J. Gowdy, ${ }^{65}$ E. Grauges-Pous, ${ }^{65}$ T. Hadig, ${ }^{65}$ V. Halyo, ${ }^{65}$ T. Hryn'ova, ${ }^{65}$ W. R. Innes, ${ }^{65}$ C. P. Jessop,,${ }^{65}$ M. H. Kelsey, ${ }^{65}$ P. Kim, ${ }^{65}$ M. L. Kocian, ${ }^{65}$ U. Langenegger, ${ }^{65}$ D. W. G. S. Leith, ${ }^{65}$ S. Luitz, ${ }^{65}$ V. Luth, ${ }^{65}$ H. L. Lynch,,${ }^{65}$ H. Marsiske, ${ }^{65}$ S. Menke, ${ }^{65}$ R. Messner, ${ }^{65}$ D. R. Muller, ${ }^{65}$ C. P. O’Grady, ${ }^{65}$ V. E. Ozcan, ${ }^{65}$ A. Perazzo, ${ }^{65}$ M. Perl,,${ }^{65}$ S. Petrak, ${ }^{65}$ B. N. Ratcliff, ${ }^{65}$ S. H. Robertson, ${ }^{65}$ A. Roodman, ${ }^{65}$ A. A. Salnikov, ${ }^{65}$ R. H. Schindler, ${ }^{65}$ J. Schwiening, ${ }^{65}$ G. Simi, ${ }^{65}$ A. Snyder, ${ }^{65}$ A. Soha, ${ }^{65}$ J. Stelzer, ${ }^{65}$ D. Su, ${ }^{65}$ M. K. Sullivan, ${ }^{65}$ H. A. Tanaka, ${ }^{65}$ J. Va'vra, ${ }^{65}$ S. R. Wagner, ${ }^{65}$ M. Weaver, ${ }^{65}$ A. J. R. Weinstein, ${ }^{65}$ W. J. Wisniewski, ${ }^{65}$ D. H. Wright, ${ }^{65}$ C. C. Young ${ }^{65}$ P. R. Burchat, ${ }^{66}$ T. I. Meyer, ${ }^{66}$ C. Roat, ${ }^{66}$ S. Ahmed, ${ }^{67}$ J. A. Ernst,,${ }^{67}$ W. Bugg, ${ }^{68}$ M. Krishnamurthy, ${ }^{68}$ S. M. Spanier, ${ }^{68}$ R. Eckmann, ${ }^{69}$ H. Kim, ${ }^{69}$ J. L. Ritchie, ${ }^{69}$ R. F. Schwitters, ${ }^{69}$ J. M. Izen, ${ }^{70}$ I. Kitayama, ${ }^{70}$ X. C. Lou, ${ }^{70}$ S. Ye, ${ }^{70}$ F. Bianchi, ${ }^{71}$ M. Bona, ${ }^{71}$ F. Gallo, ${ }^{71}$ D. Gamba, ${ }^{71}$ C. Borean, ${ }^{72}$ L. Bosisio, ${ }^{72}$ G. Della Ricca, ${ }^{72}$ S. Dittongo, ${ }^{72}$ S. Grancagnolo, ${ }^{72}$ L. Lanceri, ${ }^{72}$ P. Poropat,, , ${ }^{72}$, L. Vitale, ${ }^{72}$ G. Vuagnin, ${ }^{72}$ R. S. Panvini, ${ }^{73}$ Sw. Banerjee, ${ }^{74}$ C. M. Brown, ${ }^{74}$ D. Fortin, ${ }^{74}$ P. D. Jackson, ${ }^{74}$ R. Kowalewski, ${ }^{74}$ J. M. Roney, ${ }^{74}$ H. R. Band, ${ }^{75}$ S. Dasu, ${ }^{75}$ M. Datta, ${ }^{75}$ A. M. Eichenbaum, ${ }^{75}$ H. Hu, ${ }^{75}$ J. R. Johnson, ${ }^{75}$ R. Liu, ${ }^{75}$ F. Di Lodovico, ${ }^{75}$ A. K. Mohapatra, ${ }^{75}$ Y. Pan, ${ }^{75}$ R. Prepost, ${ }^{75}$ S. J. Sekula, ${ }^{75}$ J. H. von Wimmersperg-Toeller, ${ }^{75}$ J. Wu, ${ }^{75}$ S. L. Wu, ${ }^{75}$ Z. Yu, ${ }^{75}$ and H. Neal ${ }^{76}$ (The BABAR Collaboration)

${ }^{1}$ Laboratoire de Physique des Particules, F-74941 Annecy-le-Vieux, France<br>${ }^{2}$ Università di Bari, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-70126 Bari, Italy<br>${ }^{3}$ Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing 100039, China ${ }^{4}$ University of Bergen, Inst. of Physics, N-5007 Bergen, Norway<br>${ }^{5}$ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA<br>${ }^{6}$ University of Birmingham, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{7}$ Ruhr Universität Bochum, Institut für Experimentalphysik 1, D-44780 Bochum, Germany<br>${ }^{8}$ University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TL, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{9}$ University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T $1 Z 1$<br>${ }^{10}$ Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{11}$ Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk 630090, Russia<br>${ }^{12}$ University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697, USA<br>${ }^{13}$ University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90024, USA<br>${ }^{14}$ University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA<br>${ }^{15}$ University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA<br>${ }^{16}$ University of California at Santa Cruz, Institute for Particle Physics, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA<br>${ }^{17}$ California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA<br>${ }^{18}$ University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221, USA<br>${ }^{19}$ University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309, USA<br>${ }^{20}$ Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, USA<br>${ }^{21}$ Technische Universität Dresden, Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, D-01062 Dresden, Germany<br>${ }^{22}$ Ecole Polytechnique, LLR, F-91128 Palaiseau, France<br>${ }^{23}$ University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{24}$ Università di Ferrara, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-44100 Ferrara, Italy

${ }^{25}$ Florida AछM University, Tallahassee, FL 32307, USA<br>${ }^{26}$ Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati dell'INFN, I-00044 Frascati, Italy<br>${ }^{27}$ Università di Genova, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-16146 Genova, Italy<br>${ }^{28}$ Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA<br>${ }^{29}$ Imperial College London, London, SW7 2BW, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{30}$ University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA<br>${ }^{31}$ Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3160, USA<br>${ }^{32}$ Laboratoire de l'Accélérateur Linéaire, F-91898 Orsay, France<br>${ }^{33}$ Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94550, USA<br>${ }^{34}$ University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{35}$ Queen Mary, University of London, E1 4NS, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{36}$ University of London, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{37}$ University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292, USA<br>${ }^{38}$ University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{39}$ University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA<br>${ }^{40}$ University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, USA<br>${ }^{41}$ Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA<br>${ }^{42}$ McGill University, Montréal, QC, Canada H3A $2 T 8$<br>${ }^{43}$ Università di Milano, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-20133 Milano, Italy<br>${ }^{44}$ University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, USA<br>${ }^{45}$ Université de Montréal, Laboratoire René J. A. Lévesque, Montréal, QC, Canada H3C 3J7<br>${ }^{46}$ Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA 01075, USA<br>${ }^{47}$ Università di Napoli Federico II, Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche and INFN, I-80126, Napoli, Italy<br>${ }^{48}$ NIKHEF, National Institute for Nuclear Physics and High Energy Physics, NL-1009 DB Amsterdam, The Netherlands<br>${ }^{49}$ University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA<br>${ }^{50}$ Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, USA<br>${ }^{51}$ Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, USA<br>${ }^{52}$ University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, USA<br>${ }^{53}$ Università di Padova, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-35131 Padova, Italy<br>${ }^{54}$ Universités Paris VI et VII, Lab de Physique Nucléaire H. E., F-75252 Paris, France<br>${ }^{55}$ Università di Pavia, Dipartimento di Elettronica and INFN, I-27100 Pavia, Italy<br>${ }^{56}$ University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA<br>${ }^{57}$ Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Fisica, Scuola Normale Superiore and INFN, I-56127 Pisa, Italy<br>${ }^{58}$ Prairie View AछM University, Prairie View, TX 77446, USA<br>${ }^{59}$ Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA<br>${ }^{60}$ Università di Roma La Sapienza, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-00185 Roma, Italy<br>${ }^{61}$ Universität Rostock, D-18051 Rostock, Germany<br>${ }^{62}$ Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QX, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{63}$ DSM/Dapnia, CEA/Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France<br>${ }^{64}$ University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, USA<br>${ }^{65}$ Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Stanford, CA 94309, USA<br>${ }^{66}$ Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-4060, USA<br>${ }^{67}$ State Univ. of New York, Albany, NY 12222, USA<br>${ }^{68}$ University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, USA<br>${ }^{69}$ University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, USA<br>${ }^{70}$ University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX 75083, USA<br>${ }^{71}$ Università di Torino, Dipartimento di Fisica Sperimentale and INFN, I-10125 Torino, Italy<br>${ }^{72}$ Università di Trieste, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-34127 Trieste, Italy<br>${ }^{73}$ Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235, USA<br>${ }^{74}$ University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 3P6<br>${ }^{75}$ University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA<br>${ }^{76}$ Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511, USA

(Dated: February 7, 2008)
We present measurements of the branching fractions of the decays $B^{+} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{+}$and $B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{0}$. For $B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}$ we also measure the time dependent $C P$-violation parameters $S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$ and $C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$, and for $B^{+} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{+}$the time-integrated charge asymmetry $\mathcal{A}_{c h}$. The data sample corresponds to 88.9 million $B \bar{B}$ pairs produced by $e^{+} e^{-}$annihilation at the $\Upsilon(4 S)$. The results are $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{+}\right)=$ $(76.9 \pm 3.5 \pm 4.4) \times 10^{-6}, \mathcal{B}\left(B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{0}\right)=(60.6 \pm 5.6 \pm 4.6) \times 10^{-6}, S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}=0.02 \pm 0.34 \pm 0.03$, $C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}=0.10 \pm 0.22 \pm 0.04$, and $\mathcal{A}_{c h}=0.037 \pm 0.045 \pm 0.011$.

PACS numbers: $13.25 . \mathrm{Hw}, 12.15 . \mathrm{Hh}$, 11.30.Er

Non-conservation of $C P$ in the neutral $B$ meson system has been clearly established [1, 2] in decays to charmonium such as $B^{0} \rightarrow J / \psi K_{S}^{0}$. The $C P$ effect arises from the interference between mixing and decay involving the $C P$-violating phase $\beta=\arg \left(-V_{c d} V_{c b}^{*} / V_{t d} V_{t b}^{*}\right)$ of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) mixing matrix, and appears experimentally as an asymmetry in the time evolution of the $B^{0} \bar{B}^{0}$ meson pair. These decays occur via a CKM-favored (though color-suppressed) $b \rightarrow c$ tree amplitude.

Here we report results of a similar analysis of the decay $B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}$, a CKM-suppressed process that is expected to be dominated by penguin $b \rightarrow s$ transitions, while the tree and electroweak contributions are expected to be small [3, 4, [5]. The observed branching fraction is 3-10 times larger than initially expected [3], which has motivated a variety of conjectures by way of explanation, including flavor singlet [4] and charm enhanced [6] terms. A recent next-to-leading order QCD factorization calculation [5] suggests that the decay rate is not significantly enhanced by these mechanisms, but is adequately predicted by constructive interference between the penguin diagrams in which the spectator quark is contained in the $\eta^{\prime}$ or in the kaon.

The results presented in this paper are based on data collected in 1999-2002 with the BABAR detector [7] at the PEP-II asymmetric $e^{+} e^{-}$collider [8] located at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. An integrated luminosity of $81.9 \mathrm{fb}^{-1}$, corresponding to 88.9 million $B \bar{B}$ pairs, was recorded at the $\Upsilon(4 S)$ resonance (center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s}=10.58 \mathrm{GeV})$.

Charged particles from the $e^{+} e^{-}$interactions are detected, and their momenta measured, by a combination of a vertex tracker (SVT) consisting of five layers of doublesided silicon microstrip detectors, and a 40-layer central drift chamber, both operating in the 1.5 T magnetic field of a superconducting solenoid. Photons and electrons are detected by a $\operatorname{CsI}(\mathrm{Tl})$ electromagnetic calorimeter. Charged particle identification (PID) is provided by the average energy loss $(d E / d x)$ in the tracking devices, and by an internally reflecting ring imaging Cherenkov detector (DIRC) covering the central region.

From a $B^{0} \bar{B}^{0}$ meson pair produced in $\Upsilon(4 S)$ decay we reconstruct one of the mesons in the final state $f=\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}$, a $C P$ eigenstate with eigenvalue $\eta_{f}=-1$. For the time evolution measurement, we also identify the flavor $\left(B^{0}\right.$ or $\bar{B}^{0}$ ) and reconstruct the decay vertex of the partner $\left(B_{\mathrm{tag}}\right)$. The asymmetric beam configuration in the laboratory frame provides a boost of $\beta \gamma=0.56$ to the $\Upsilon(4 S)$, which allows the determination of the proper decay time difference $\Delta t \equiv t_{f}-t_{\mathrm{tag}}$ from the vertex separation of the two $B$ meson candidates. The distribution of $\Delta t$ is

$$
\begin{aligned}
F(\Delta t)= & \frac{e^{-|\Delta t| / \tau}}{4 \tau}[1 \mp \Delta w \pm \\
& \left.(1-2 w)\left(S_{f} \sin \left(\Delta m_{d} \Delta t\right)-C_{f} \cos \left(\Delta m_{d} \Delta t\right)\right)\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

The upper (lower) sign denotes a decay accompanied by a $B^{0}\left(\bar{B}^{0}\right)$ tag, $\tau$ is the mean $B^{0}$ lifetime, $\Delta m_{d}$ is the mixing frequency, and the mistag parameters $w$ and $\Delta w$ are the average and difference, respectively, of the probabilities that a true $B^{0}\left(\bar{B}^{0}\right)$ meson is tagged as a $\bar{B}^{0}\left(B^{0}\right)$. The tagging algorithm is described in 1], and has a measured analyzing power (efficiency times $(1-2 w)^{2}$ ) of ( $28.1 \pm 0.7$ ) \% .

The parameter $C_{f}$ measures direct $C P$ violation. If $C_{f}=0$, then $S_{f}=\sin 2 \beta_{\text {eff }}$, with $\beta_{\text {eff }}$ equal to $\beta$ combined with any weak phase difference arising from multiple amplitudes in the decay. Assuming the tree amplitudes are negligible, a deviation from the value found in charmonium channels can be considered an effect of phases coming from new physics [9]. Direct $C P$ violation can also be detected as an asymmetry $\mathcal{A}_{c h}=\left(\Gamma^{-}-\Gamma^{+}\right) /\left(\Gamma^{-}+\Gamma^{+}\right)$ in the rates $\Gamma^{ \pm}=\Gamma\left(B^{ \pm} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{ \pm}\right)$.

We reconstruct a $B$ meson candidate by combining a $K^{+}$[10] or $K_{S}^{0}$ with an $\eta^{\prime} \rightarrow \eta \pi^{+} \pi^{-}\left(\eta_{\eta \pi \pi}^{\prime}\right)$ or $\eta^{\prime} \rightarrow \rho^{0} \gamma$ $\left(\eta_{\rho \gamma}^{\prime}\right)$. The $K_{S}^{0} \rightarrow \pi^{+} \pi^{-}, \eta^{\prime}, \eta \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$, and $\rho^{0} \rightarrow \pi^{+} \pi^{-}$ candidates are selected with requirements on the relevant invariant masses similar to those of our previous analysis 11]. Distributions from the data and from Monte Carlo (MC) simulations 12] guide the choice of these selection criteria. For those quantities taken subsequently as observables for fitting we retain sidebands adequate to characterize the background as well as the signal. For charged $B$ decays, the $K^{+}$candidate must have an associated DIRC Cherenkov angle between $-5 \sigma$ and $+2 \sigma$ of the value expected for a kaon. This requirement rejects $91 \%$ of pions.

The $B$-meson candidate is characterized by the energy substituted mass $m_{E S}=\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2} s+\mathbf{p}_{0} \cdot \mathbf{p}_{B}\right)^{2} / E_{0}^{2}-\left|\mathbf{p}_{B}\right|^{2}}$ and energy difference $\Delta E=E_{B}^{*}-\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{s}$, where the subscripts 0 and $B$ refer to the initial $\Upsilon(4 S)$ and the $B$ candidate, respectively, and the asterisk denotes the $\Upsilon(4 S)$ rest frame. The resolutions on these quantities measured for signal events are 29 MeV for $\Delta E$ and $2.9 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$ for $m_{E S}$. We require $|\Delta E| \leq 0.2 \mathrm{GeV}$ and $5.2 \leq m_{E S} \leq 5.29 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$.

Backgrounds arise primarily from combinatorics among continuum events. To reject these we make use of the angle $\theta_{T}$ between the thrust axis of the $B$ candidate in the $\Upsilon(4 S)$ frame and that of the rest of the charged tracks and neutral clusters in the event. The distribution of $\cos \theta_{T}$ is sharply peaked near $\pm 1$ for combinations drawn from jet-like $q \bar{q}$ pairs, and nearly uniform for the isotropic $B$ meson decays; we require $\left|\cos \theta_{T}\right|<0.9$.

We obtain the yields and decay time evolution from extended unbinned maximum likelihood fits, with input observables $\Delta t, \Delta E, m_{E S}, m_{\eta^{\prime}}$, and a Fisher discriminant $\mathcal{F}$. The Fisher discriminant 13] combines four variables: the angles with respect to the beam axis of the $B$ momentum and $B$ thrust axis (in the $\Upsilon(4 S)$ frame), and the zeroth and second angular moments of the en-
ergy flow (excluding the $B$ candidate) about the $B$ thrust axis.

We use MC simulation to estimate backgrounds from other $B$ decays, including final states with and without charm. These contributions are negligible for the $\eta_{\eta \pi \pi}^{\prime}$ modes. For $\eta_{\rho \gamma}^{\prime}$ we include in the fit a $B \bar{B}$ component (which we find to be small).

Since we measure the correlations among the observables to be small in the (background-dominated) data samples entering the fit, we take the probability density function (PDF) for each event to be a product of the PDFs for the separate observables. The efficiencies and mistag rates $w$ for each of four tagging categories are measured with a large sample ( $B_{\text {flav }}$ ) of decays to fully reconstructed flavor eigenstates [1]. The signatures of the four tagging categories are essentially lepton, $K^{+}$from $D^{*}, K^{+}$, and a flavor-correlated inclusive class. For each event hypothesis $j$ (signal, $B \bar{B}$ background, continuum background) and tagging category $k$, we define the PDF (to be evaluated with the observable set for event $i$ ) as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{P}_{j, k}^{i}=\mathcal{P}_{j}\left(m_{E S}\right) \cdot \mathcal{P}_{j}(\Delta E) \cdot \mathcal{P}_{j}(\mathcal{F}) \cdot \mathcal{P}_{j}\left(m_{\eta^{\prime}}\right) \cdot \mathcal{P}_{j}\left(\Delta t ; \sigma_{\Delta t}, k\right) . \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The likelihood function for each decay chain is then

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{L}=\prod_{k} \exp \left(-\sum_{j} Y_{j, k}\right) \prod_{i}^{N_{k}}\left[\sum_{j} Y_{j, k} \mathcal{P}_{j, k}^{i}\right] \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $Y_{j, k}$ is the yield of events of hypothesis $j$ found by the fitter in category $k$, and $N_{k}$ is the number of category $k$ events in the sample.

The signal PDF factor $\mathcal{P}_{\text {sig }}\left(\Delta t ; \sigma_{\Delta t}, k\right)$ is equal to the convolution of $F(\Delta t ; k)$ (Eq. (1), with the signal resolution function, determined from the $B_{\text {flav }}$ sample; $\sigma_{\Delta t}$ is the error on $\Delta t$ for a given event. We determine the remaining PDFs from simulation for the signal and $B \bar{B}$ background components, and from $\left(m_{E S}, \Delta E\right)$ sideband data for continuum background. Each of the functions $\mathcal{P}_{\text {sig }}\left(m_{E S}\right), \mathcal{P}_{\text {sig }}(\Delta E), \mathcal{P}_{j}(\mathcal{F}), \mathcal{P}_{\text {bkg }}(\Delta t ; k)$, and the peaking component of $\mathcal{P}_{j}\left(m_{\eta^{\prime}}\right)$ is parameterized as a Gaussian function, with or without a second or third Gaussian or asymmetric width as required to describe the distribution. Slowly varying distributions (combinatoric background under mass or energy peaks) are represented by linear or quadratic dependences, or for $m_{E S}$, by the function $x \sqrt{1-x^{2}} \exp \left[-\xi\left(1-x^{2}\right)\right]$, with $x \equiv 2 m_{E S} / \sqrt{s}$ and parameter $\xi$. Large control samples of $B$ decays to charmed final states of similar topology are used to verify the simulated resolutions in $\Delta E$ and $m_{E S}$.

We compute the branching fractions and $\mathcal{A}_{c h}$ from fits made without $\Delta t$ or flavor tagging. Seven parameters of the background PDF are free in the fit, along with signal and continuum background yields, for $\eta_{\rho \gamma}^{\prime} K$ the $B \bar{B}$ background yield, and for charged modes the signal and background $\mathcal{A}_{c h}$. We compute the branching


FIG. 1: The $B$ candidate $m_{E S}$ and $\Delta E$ projections for $B^{+} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{+}(\mathrm{a}, \mathrm{b})$ and $B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}(\mathrm{c}, \mathrm{d})$. Points with errors represent the data, solid curves the full fit functions, and dashed curves the background functions; the shaded histogram represents the $\eta_{\eta \pi \pi}^{\prime} K$ subset.
fractions from the fitted signal yields, reconstruction efficiencies, daughter branching fractions, and the number of produced $B$ mesons, assuming equal production rates of charged and neutral pairs. To determine the reconstruction efficiency, including any yield bias of the likelihood fit, we apply the method to simulated samples constructed to contain the signal and continuum background populations expected for data.

Table $\rrbracket$ shows for each decay chain the branching fraction we measure, together with the quantities entering into its computation. The purity estimate is given by the ratio of the signal yield to the effective background plus signal, defined as the square of the error on the yield. In Fig. 1 we show projections onto $m_{E S}$ and $\Delta E$ of a subset of the data for which the signal likelihood (computed without the variable plotted) exceeds a mode-dependent threshold that optimizes the sensitivity.

For the time evolution we combine the two decay chains in a single fit with 28 free parameters: $S_{f}, C_{f}$, signal fractions (2), $\eta_{\rho \gamma}^{\prime} K B \bar{B}$ background yield (1), common background $\mathcal{F}$ PDF parameters (3), and separate background $\Delta t, m_{E S}, \Delta E, m_{\eta^{\prime}}$ PDF parameters (20). The last four columns of Table $\square$ give the tagged subsample yields with their purity, along with $S_{f}$ and $C_{f}$. The $S_{f}$ and $C_{f}$ values for $B^{+} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{+}$are included as a control; they are consistent with zero, as expected. We show in Fig. 22 the $\Delta t$ projections and asymmetry of the combined neutral modes for events selected as for Fig. 1

Most of the systematic errors on yields, which arise from PDF uncertainties ( $1-2 \%$, depending on the decay mode), have already been incorporated into the overall statistical error, because their background parameters are free in the fit. We verify that the likelihood of each fit is consistent with the distribution found in simulation.

The uncertainty in our knowledge of the efficiency is found from auxiliary studies to be $0.8 \%$ per charged

TABLE I: Signal yield, purity $P$, detection efficiency $\epsilon$, daughter branching fraction product that was forced to $100 \%$ in our signal mode simulation, measured branching fraction, background $\left(\mathcal{A}_{c h}^{q q}\right)$ and signal $\left(\mathcal{A}_{c h}\right)$ charge asymmetries, tagged subsample yield $Y_{\text {tag }}$ and purity $P_{\text {tag }}, S_{f}$, and $C_{f}$ for each decay chain, and the combined result for each mode, with statistical error.

| Mode | Yield | $P(\%)$ | $\epsilon(\%)$ | $\prod \mathcal{B}_{i}(\%)$ | $\mathcal{B}\left(10^{-6}\right)$ | $\mathcal{A}_{c h}^{q q}(\%)$ | $\mathcal{A}_{c h}(\%)$ | $Y_{\text {tag }}$ | $P_{\text {tag }}(\%)$ | $S_{f}$ | $C_{f}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\eta_{\eta \pi \pi}^{\prime} K^{+}$ | $268 \pm 19$ | 78 | 25 | 17.4 | $71 \pm 5$ | $0.6 \pm 1.6$ | $-0.1 \pm 6.8$ | 183 | 92 | $0.08 \pm 0.20$ | $-0.16 \pm 0.15$ |
| $\eta_{\rho \gamma}^{\prime} K^{+}$ | $514 \pm 31$ | 55 | 24 | 29.5 | $82 \pm 5$ | $-0.9 \pm 0.5$ | $6.3 \pm 5.9$ | 355 | 63 | $-0.07 \pm 0.16$ | $-0.14 \pm 0.11$ |
| $\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\prime} \boldsymbol{K}^{+}$ |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{7 6 . 9} \pm \mathbf{3 . 5}$ | $-0.8 \pm 0.4$ | $\mathbf{3 . 7} \pm \mathbf{4 . 5}$ |  | $-0.01 \pm 0.13$ | $-0.15 \pm 0.09$ |  |
| $\eta_{\eta \pi \pi}^{\prime} K^{0}$ | $48 \pm 8$ | 75 | 22 | 6.0 | $42 \pm 7$ |  |  | 31.6 | 75 | $0.75 \pm 0.51$ | $-0.21 \pm 0.35$ |
| $\eta_{\rho \gamma}^{\prime} K^{0}$ | $155 \pm 17$ | 59 | 23 | 10.1 | $76 \pm 8$ |  | 77.6 | 61 | $-0.41 \pm 0.42$ | $0.24 \pm 0.27$ |  |
| $\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\prime} \boldsymbol{K}^{\mathbf{0}}$ |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{6 0 . 6} \pm \mathbf{5 . 6}$ |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{0 . 0 2} \pm \mathbf{0 . 3 4}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 0} \pm \mathbf{0 . 2 2}$ |



FIG. 2: Projections onto $\Delta t$ for $B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}$ data (points with errors), the fit function (solid line), and background function (dashed line), for (a) $B^{0}$ and (b) $\bar{B}^{0}$ tagged events, and (c) the asymmetry between $B^{0}$ and $\bar{B}^{0}$ tags.
track, $2.5 \%$ per photon, and $4 \%$ per $K_{S}^{0}$. Our estimate of the $B$ production systematic error is $1.1 \%$. The estimate of systematic bias from the fitter itself $(0-4 \%)$ comes from fits of simulated samples with varying background populations. Published data [14] provide the $B$ daughter product branching fraction uncertainties (3.4\%). Selection efficiency uncertainties are $1 \%$ for $\cos \theta_{\mathrm{T}}$ and $0.5 \%$ for PID. As can be seen in Table $\square$ the branching fractions we find for $B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{0}$ are rather different (3 standard deviations) as measured with $\eta^{\prime} \rightarrow \eta \pi \pi$ or $\eta^{\prime} \rightarrow \rho \gamma$. Having exhausted other explanations, we attribute this difference to a statistical fluctuation, and include both components in the final measurement.

Using several large inclusive kaon and $B$-decay samples, we find a systematic uncertainty for $\mathcal{A}_{c h}$ of $1.1 \%$ due to the dependence of reconstruction efficiency on the
charge of the high momentum $K^{ \pm}$.
We find systematic uncertainties for $S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$ and $C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$ by varying within their errors the fit parameters controlling the PDF shapes. We use the $B_{\text {flav }}$ sample to determine the errors associated with the signal $\Delta t$ resolutions, tagging efficiencies, and mistag rates, and published measurements [14] for $\tau_{B}$ and $\Delta m_{d}$. All of these sum to 0.013 ( 0.014 ) for $S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}\left(C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}\right)$. The contributions from the $m_{E S}, \Delta E, m_{\eta^{\prime}}$, and $\mathcal{F}$ PDFs are 0.025 (0.014), for $S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}\left(C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}\right)$. We take systematic uncertainties due to SVT alignment (0.01), beam spot (0.01), boost and $z$ scale (negligible) from previous determinations of these effects 1]. We estimate an uncertainty in $C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$ of 0.025 from the effect on some tag-side $B$ decays of the interference between the CKM-suppressed $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{u} c \bar{d}$ amplitude with that of the favored $b \rightarrow c \bar{u} d$ [15].

We have reconstructed about 800 events of $B^{+} \rightarrow$ $\eta^{\prime} K^{+}$and 200 of $B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}$ with which we have measured the branching fractions, the time-integrated charge asymmetry $\mathcal{A}_{c h}$ and the time-dependent asymmetry parameters $S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$ and $C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$. We find $S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}=$ $0.02 \pm 0.34 \pm 0.03$ and $C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}=0.10 \pm 0.22 \pm 0.04$. These are in agreement with a previous measurement by the Belle collaboration 16]. A non-zero value of $C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$ would indicate direct $C P$ non-conservation in the $B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}$ decay. With $C_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}=0$, and provided the decay is dominated by amplitudes with a single weak phase, $S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$ is equal to $\sin 2 \beta$. Our result for $S_{\eta^{\prime} K_{S}^{0}}$ is about two standard deviations smaller than the value obtained with $B^{0} \rightarrow J / \psi K_{S}^{0}[1,2]$, and consistent with zero.

The measured branching fractions are $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow\right.$ $\left.\eta^{\prime} K^{+}\right)=(76.9 \pm 3.5 \pm 4.4) \times 10^{-6}$ and $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{0}\right)=$ ( $60.6 \pm 5.6 \pm 4.6) \times 10^{-6}$, and we find $\mathcal{A}_{c h}=0.037 \pm 0.045 \pm$ 0.011. The null result for $\mathcal{A}_{c h}$ represents a limit on direct $C P$ non-conservation in $B^{+} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{+}$; the $90 \%$ CL limit range is $[-0.04,0.11]$, and is consistent with predictions 5]. These values supersede our previous measurements 11], and are more than a factor of two more precise than previous results 11, 17]. The branching fractions depend on $R_{+/ 0} \equiv \mathcal{B}\left(\Upsilon(4 S) \rightarrow B^{+} B^{-}\right) / \mathcal{B}\left(\Upsilon(4 S) \rightarrow B^{0} \bar{B}^{0}\right)$, which we have assumed to be unity. To compare the decay rates we form their ratio, making use of measurements
[18] of $r_{+/ 0} \equiv R_{+/ 0} \times \tau\left(B^{+}\right) / \tau\left(B^{0}\right)=1.14 \pm 0.06$ (our average); we find

$$
\frac{\Gamma\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{+}\right)}{\Gamma\left(B^{0} \rightarrow \eta^{\prime} K^{0}\right)}=1.12 \pm 0.13 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.06
$$

where the last error is from $r_{+/ 0}$.
We are grateful for the excellent luminosity and machine conditions provided by our PEP-II colleagues, and for the substantial dedicated effort from the computing organizations that support BABAR. The collaborating institutions wish to thank SLAC for its support and kind hospitality. This work is supported by DOE and NSF (USA), NSERC (Canada), IHEP (China), CEA and CNRS-IN2P3 (France), BMBF and DFG (Germany), INFN (Italy), FOM (The Netherlands), NFR (Norway), MIST (Russia), and PPARC (United Kingdom). Individuals have received support from the A. P. Sloan Foundation, Research Corporation, and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

* Also with Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy
${ }^{\dagger}$ Also with Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy
$\ddagger$ Also with IFIC, Instituto de Física Corpuscular, CSICUniversidad de Valencia, Valencia, Spain
${ }^{\S}$ Deceased
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