

First evidence of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^{+*}$

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Abstract: The decay $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ is analyzed using 14×10^6 $\psi(2S)$ events recorded by the Beijing Spectrometer II (BES II) at the Beijing Electron Positron Collider (BEPC). Based upon events with no missing charged tracks and a satisfactory four-constraint kinematic fit, we determine the upper limit for the branching fraction of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ to be 1.5×10^{-4} at a 90% confidence level. By including events with one missing charged track, we are able to report the first evidence of an $\Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ signal with a statistical significance of 3.1σ . The branching fraction of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ is determined to be $(4.80 \pm 1.56(\text{stat}) \pm 1.30(\text{sys})) \times 10^{-5}$.

Key words: upper limit, first evidence, significance level, branching fraction

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1 Introduction

The production of $\psi(2S)$ in e^+e^- annihilation and its two-body hadronic decays can be used to test the predictive power of QCD [1]. These decays occur, mainly, via $c\bar{c}$ annihilation into either three gluons or a photon [2]. The gluons or the photon may lead to baryon antibaryon production e.g., $\Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$. In $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$, Ω^- and $\bar{\Omega}^+$ are produced, predominantly through hadronization of gluons into three $s\bar{s}$ quark antiquark pairs. Earlier studies of this decay mode have provided upper limits at the 90% confidence level: 7.3×10^{-5} [3] and 1.6×10^{-4} [4]. In our analysis we use 14 M $\psi(2S)$ data registered by the BES II detector, to search for $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ decay events. For this purpose we reconstruct the $\Omega^- (\bar{\Omega}^+)$ from $\Lambda K^- (\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$ invariant mass spectrum, where $\Lambda (\bar{\Lambda})$ is reconstructed from $p\pi^- (\bar{p}\pi^+)$ combination. An important aspect of this analysis is that it also includes events with one missing track, which increases the detection efficiency from 1.62% (for events with 6 charged tracks) to 10.17% (for events with 6 or 5 charged tracks). We report an upper limit for the branching fraction of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$, using events satisfying a four-constraint kinematic fit, to

be 1.5×10^{-4} at the 90% confidence level. For events with one missing charged track and satisfying a one-constraint kinematic fit, we determine the branching fraction to be $(4.80 \pm 1.56(\text{stat}) \pm 1.30(\text{sys})) \times 10^{-5}$ with a 3.1σ significance.

2 The BES II Detector

BES II, a large solid-angle magnetic detector, was employed at the BEPC [5]. Its innermost part, the ‘vertex chamber’ (VC) has twelve layers surrounding the Beryllium beam pipe. It provides track and trigger information of events. Outside the VC, there is a forty-layer ‘main drift chamber’ (MDC) covering 85% of the total solid angle. It measures the momentum and energy loss (dE/dx) of charged particles, with resolutions: $\sigma_p/p = 1.78\% \sqrt{1+p^2}$ (p in GeV/ c) and $\sigma_{dE/dx} \sim 8\%$. A barrel-like array of forty-eight scintillation counters outside the MDC and covering 80% of the total solid-angle is employed to provide time-of-flight (TOF) information of particles with resolutions: $\sigma_{\text{TOF}} = 180$ ps (for Bhabha events) and $\sigma_{\text{TOF}} = 200$ ps (for hadronic events). Outside the TOF system, there is a twelve-radiation-length lead-gas ‘barrel shower counter’ (BSC). It measures the

energy and position of electrons and photons, with resolutions: $\sigma_E/E = 21\%/\sqrt{E}$ (E in GeV), $\sigma_\phi = 7.9$ mrad, and $\sigma_z = 2.3$ cm. In the outermost part of the detector, three double layers of proportional counters are instrumented to identify muons.

The performance of the detector is checked through Monte Carlo (MC) simulations. A reasonable agreement is found between the data and MC results in high purity decay channels [6].

3 Event selection

The final state particles of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^-\bar{\Omega}^+$ have momentum values with $p < 0.8$ GeV/ c . Allowing for the possibility of missing low momentum particle(s) during the reconstruction of charged tracks, events with one missing charged track are also selected. Thus $\psi(2S)$ events with six or five charged tracks (net charge: 0 or +1 or -1) that are well reconstructed from the MDC information are selected. All charged tracks are required to have a minimum transverse momentum of 70 MeV/ c and lie within the fiducial region of the MDC; $|\cos\theta| \leq 0.8$. As $\Omega^-(\bar{\Omega}^+)$ and $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ have long life-times: $(0.821 \pm 0.011) \times 10^{-10}$ s [7] and $(2.631 \pm 0.020) \times 10^{-10}$ s [7], respectively, charged tracks are required to satisfy only the loose vertex constraints: $R_{xy} = \sqrt{x_0^2 + y_0^2} \leq 0.2$ m and $|R_{z0}| \leq 0.3$ m (x_0 , y_0 and z_0 are the coordinates of the point of closest approach to the interaction point).

Particle identification is based only upon the track's dE/dx information (using time-of-flight information also, would result in comparatively low detection efficiency). The corrected dE/dx information of each charged track is used to determine χ^2 values for each of the three particle/antiparticle hypotheses:

$$\chi_{dE/dx}^2(i) = \left[\frac{dE/dx_{\text{measured}} - dE/dx_{\text{expected}}(i)}{\sigma_{dE/dx}(i)} \right]^2,$$

where dE/dx_{measured} , $dE/dx_{\text{expected}}(i)$ and $\sigma_{dE/dx}(i)$ represent the measured dE/dx , the expected dE/dx and the dE/dx resolution for a particle/antiparticle hypothesis i , respectively. For each charged track of an event, three $\chi_{dE/dx}^2$ values are obtained, one for each of the three particle/antiparticle hypotheses (p , π^+ , K^+ or \bar{p} , π^- , K^-). Proton (p), pion (π^+) and kaon (K^+) are identified by using, respectively, the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{dE/dx}^2(p) &< \chi_{dE/dx}^2(\pi^+) \text{ and } \chi_{dE/dx}^2(p) < \chi_{dE/dx}^2(K^+), \\ \chi_{dE/dx}^2(\pi^+) &< \chi_{dE/dx}^2(p) \text{ and } \chi_{dE/dx}^2(\pi^+) < \chi_{dE/dx}^2(K^+), \\ \chi_{dE/dx}^2(K^+) &< \chi_{dE/dx}^2(\pi^+) \text{ and } \chi_{dE/dx}^2(K^+) < \chi_{dE/dx}^2(p). \end{aligned}$$

Negatively charged particles (\bar{p} , π^- and K^-) are also identified using similar criteria. The $\chi_{dE/dx}^2$ distributions for the three particle/anti-particle hypotheses when a proton/anti-proton is identified, are shown in Fig. 1. The individual events have distinct values of $\chi_{dE/dx}^2$ for three hypotheses but for all events an overlapping between adjacent $\chi_{dE/dx}^2$ distributions is seen as shown in Fig. 1.

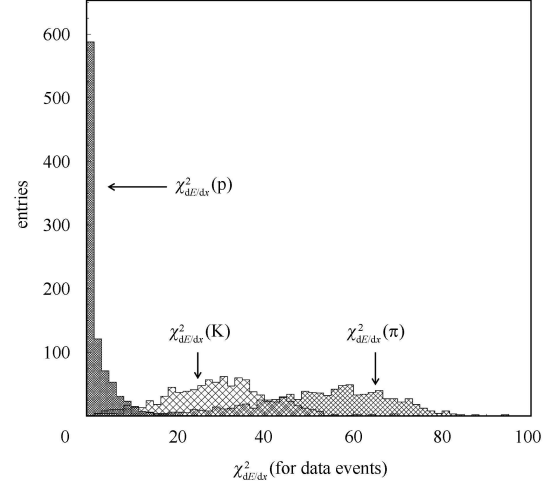


Fig. 1. The $\chi_{dE/dx}^2$ distributions of p , π and K hypotheses for the selected data events when p is identified.

Events with six identified particles are subjected to a four constraint (4C) kinematic fit imposing energy and momentum conservation, and those with five identified particles to a one constraint (1C) kinematic fit imposing energy conservation. Events passing the 4C kinematic fit are required to have $\chi_{4C}^2 < 20$, while for those passing the 1C fit, an optimized cut i.e., $\chi_{1C}^2 < 10$ is applied. For events passing either the 4C or 1C kinematic fit, the $p\pi^-$ ($\bar{p}\pi^+$) and ΛK^- ($\bar{\Lambda}K^+$) invariant mass spectra are reconstructed to select Λ ($\bar{\Lambda}$) and Ω^- ($\bar{\Omega}^+$) signals. For events satisfying the 4C selection, the mass resolutions of Λ ($\bar{\Lambda}$) and Ω^- ($\bar{\Omega}^+$) signals are determined to be ≈ 3 MeV/ c^2 and ≈ 5 MeV/ c^2 , respectively, through single Gaussian fits to the respective MC invariant mass spectra. In this case, Λ ($\bar{\Lambda}$) and Ω^- ($\bar{\Omega}^+$) mass limits are selected as $|M_{p\pi^-} - M_\Lambda| < 9$ ($|M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} - M_{\bar{\Lambda}}| < 9$) MeV/ c^2 and $|M_{\Lambda K^-} - M_{\Omega^-}| < 15$ ($|M_{\bar{\Lambda}K^+} - M_{\bar{\Omega}^+}| < 15$) MeV/ c^2 .

For events passing the 1C selection, the mass resolutions of Λ ($\bar{\Lambda}$) and Ω^- ($\bar{\Omega}^+$) signals are determined to be ≈ 10 MeV/ c^2 and ≈ 20 MeV/ c^2 , respectively, through double Gaussian fits to the respective MC invariant mass spectra. In this case Λ ($\bar{\Lambda}$) and Ω^- ($\bar{\Omega}^+$) asymmetric mass limits are determined for 97.3% area of the invariant mass spectra to be

$1090 < M_{p\pi^-} < 1150$ ($1090 < M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} < 1150$) MeV/c^2
and $1630 < M_{\Lambda K^-} < 1750$ ($1630 < M_{\bar{\Lambda}K^+} < 1750$)
 MeV/c^2 .

4 The analysis results

Comparisons between $p\pi^-$ (ΛK^-) and $\bar{p}\pi^+$ ($\bar{\Lambda}K^+$) invariant mass spectra of data events are shown in Figs. 2 and 3, where the histograms represent $p\pi^-$ and ΛK^- invariant mass spectra and the dots with error bars represent $\bar{p}\pi^+$ and $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$ invariant mass spectra. Background is analyzed by using exclusive MC samples as well as a 14 million inclusive $\psi(2S)$ MC. The exclusive background channels, each with 10,000 MC events, include $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda} \pi^+ \pi^-$; $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda} \phi(1020)$, $\phi \rightarrow K^+ K^-$; $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Xi^- \bar{\Xi}^+, \Xi^- \rightarrow \Lambda \pi^-, \bar{\Xi}^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda} \pi^+$; and $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{p} K^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$. $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda} \phi(1020)$, with $\phi(1020) \rightarrow K^+ K^-$, is found to be the main background channel. The $K^+ K^-$ invariant mass spectrum for data events is shown in Fig. 4.

From a single Gaussian fit to the MC $K^+ K^-$ invariant mass spectrum, the mass resolution (σ_ϕ) is found to be $\approx 5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. The background contribution of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda} \phi(1020)$, with $\phi(1020) \rightarrow K^+ K^-$ in the $\Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ signal region for 1C selected events is removed by requiring $|M(K^+ K^-) - M(\phi(1020))| > 3 \times \sigma_\phi$. This requirement is applied only for 1C events in the signal region of the scatter plot of $M(\Lambda K^-)$ versus $M(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$.

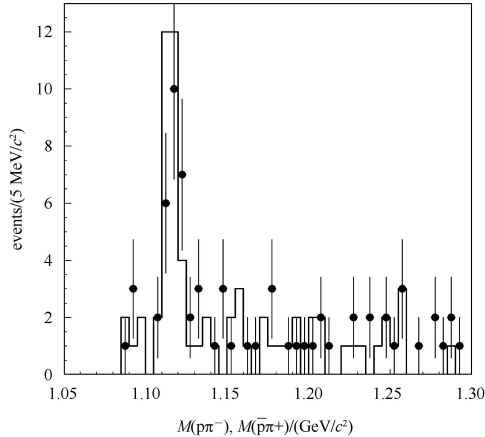


Fig. 2. Comparison of $p\pi^-$ and $\bar{p}\pi^+$ invariant mass distributions (from data). The histogram represents $M_{p\pi^-}$ obtained under the requirements: $|M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} - M_{\bar{\Lambda}}| < 9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 20$ or $1090 < M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{1C}^2 < 10$ whereas the dots with error bars represent $M_{\bar{p}\pi^+}$ obtained under the requirements $|M_{p\pi^-} - M_{\Lambda}| < 9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 20$ or $1090 < M_{p\pi^-} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{1C}^2 < 10$. Background seen is mainly from $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda} \phi(1020)$, where $\phi(1020) \rightarrow K^+ K^-$.

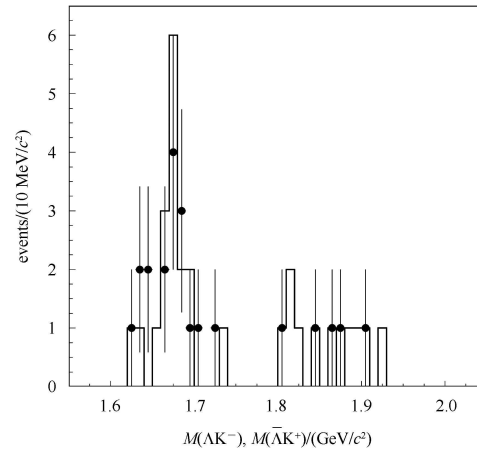


Fig. 3. Comparison of ΛK^- and $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ invariant mass distributions (from data). The histogram represents $M_{\Lambda K^-}$ obtained under the requirements: $|M_{p\pi^-} - M_{\Lambda}| < 9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} - M_{\bar{\Lambda}}| < 9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{\bar{\Lambda}K^+} - M_{\bar{\Omega}^+}| < 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 20$ or $1090 < M_{p\pi^-} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $1090 < M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $1630 < M_{\bar{\Lambda}K^+} < 1750 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{1C}^2 < 10$, and the dots with error bars represent $M_{\bar{\Lambda}K^+}$ obtained under the requirements: $|M_{p\pi^-} - M_{\Lambda}| < 9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} - M_{\bar{\Lambda}}| < 9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{\Lambda K^-} - M_{\Omega^-}| < 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 20$ or $1090 < M_{p\pi^-} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $1090 < M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $1630 < M_{\Lambda K^-} < 1750 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{1C}^2 < 10$. Main background channel is $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda} \phi(1020)$, with $\phi(1020) \rightarrow K^+ K^-$.

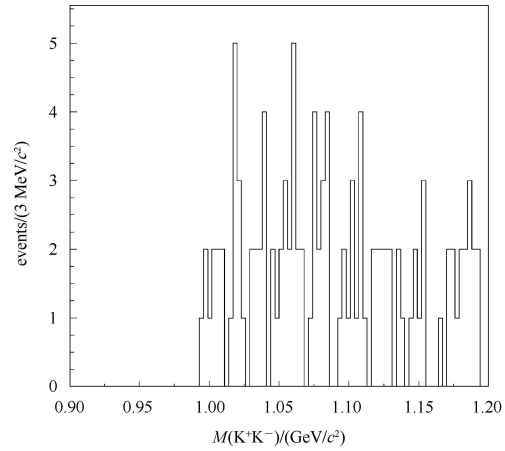


Fig. 4. $K^+ K^-$ invariant mass spectrum (for data events) under the constraints: $\chi_{1C}^2 < 10$ and $1090 < M_{p\pi^-} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $1090 < M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$.

The number of signal and background events are determined from the scatter plot of $M_{\Lambda K^-}$ versus

$M_{\bar{\Lambda}K^+}$ by employing the technique used in Ref. [8]. For 4C fit events, the scatter plot is obtained under the requirements $|M_{p\pi^-} - M_{\Lambda}| < 9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} - M_{\bar{\Lambda}}| < 9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 20$ (Fig. 5). In this scatter plot, the signal region is defined by a circle with center at $(1672 \text{ MeV}/c^2, 1672 \text{ MeV}/c^2)$ and radius of $15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. In this region, only one event is found. In this case, the detection efficiency is determined to be 1.62%. Assuming that the observed events follow the Poisson probability distribution [9]:

$$P(x, U) = \frac{e^{-U} U^x}{x!},$$

where x is the number of observed events in an experiment (in this case $x = 1$) and U is the expected number of events, an upper limit for the expected number of events is determined to be $U = 3.89$ at the 90% confidence level.

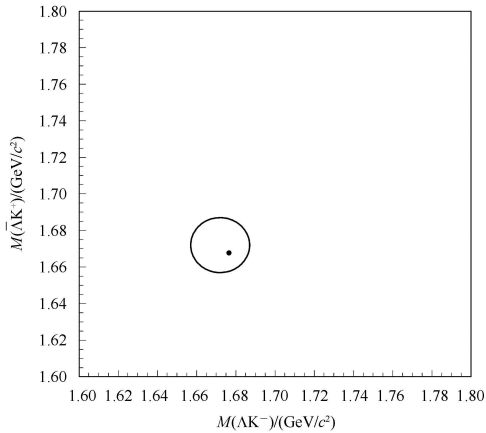


Fig. 5. Scatter plot of ΛK^- versus $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ for 4C fit events under the constraints: $|M_{p\pi^-} - M_{\Lambda}| < 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} - M_{\bar{\Lambda}}| < 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 20$. The circle with center: $(1672 \text{ MeV}/c^2, 1672 \text{ MeV}/c^2)$ and radius of $60 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ represents the signal region.

For 1C fit events, the scatter plot is obtained under the requirements $1090 < M_{p\pi^-} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $1090 < M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $|M(K^+K^-) - M(\phi(1020))| > 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{1C}^2 < 10$ (Fig. 6). In this case the signal region is defined by a circle with center at $(1690 \text{ MeV}/c^2, 1690 \text{ MeV}/c^2)$ and radius of $60 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. Two concentric circles of $120 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $180 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ radii are used for background estimation in the signal region.

The center of these circles is shifted from nominal central mass value $(1672 \text{ MeV}/c^2)$ of Ω^- ($\bar{\Omega}^+$) due to the asymmetric nature of the ΛK^- ($\bar{\Lambda} K^+$) invariant mass distribution. The numbers of events found in the signal and background regions are 12 and 6, respectively. So the number of $\Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ signal events

is determined to be $12 - 6/5 = 10.8 \pm 3.5$, where 5 is the normalization factor (area of the background region/area of signal region), and the error is statistical. In this case, the detection efficiency is determined to be 8.55%. The significance of the $\Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ signal is obtained to be 3.1σ by using the method described in Ref. [9].

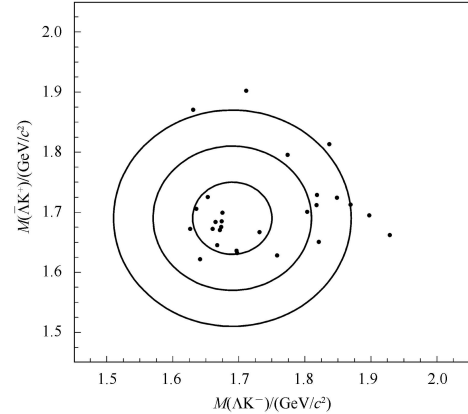


Fig. 6. Scatter plot of ΛK^- versus $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ for 1C fit events under the constraints: $|M(K^+K^-) - 1020| > 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $1090 < M_{p\pi^-} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $1090 < M_{\bar{p}\pi^+} < 1150 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $\chi_{1C}^2 < 10$. Circles are centered at $(1690 \text{ MeV}/c^2, 1690 \text{ MeV}/c^2)$ due to asymmetric mass limits of Ω^- and $\bar{\Omega}^+$: $(1630-1750) \text{ MeV}/c^2$, with radii of $60 \text{ MeV}/c^2$, $120 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $180 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. The innermost circle represents the signal region, and the region between the outer circles is used to estimate the normalized background in the signal region.

5 Systematic error analysis

Uncertainties in the branching fraction are studied for 4C and 1C kinematic fit results. The uncertainties of the hadronic interaction model are determined to be 23.3% and 13.2%, respectively, by comparing the numbers of $\Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ MC events reconstructed using the GCALOR and FLUKA models. Particle identification uncertainties are taken as 6% and 5% [6], respectively. MDC tracking errors are taken as 12% and 10% [6], respectively. Kinematic fit uncertainties are 19.1% and 14.6%, respectively, by studying $J/\psi \rightarrow \Xi^- \bar{\Xi}^+$ ($\Xi^- \rightarrow \Lambda \pi^-$, $\Lambda \rightarrow p \pi^-$ and $\bar{\Xi}^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda} \pi^+$, $\bar{\Lambda} \rightarrow \bar{p} \pi^+$) decays with and without the kinematic fits. Comparing MC $\Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ signal under different values of the angular distribution parameter: $\alpha = 0.5, +1$ & -1 with that from the nominal value $\alpha = 0$, the uncertainties are 16.7% and 14.0%, respectively. Monte Carlo statistical errors are evaluated to be 3.6% and 1.5%. The uncertainty due to intermediate branching fractions is 2.4% (by combining the errors in the

branching fractions of intermediate resonances [7]) for both the 4C and 1C events. The uncertainty in the number of $\psi(2S)$ data events is 4.3% [10]. Combining all uncertainties in quadrature, the uncertainties for 4C and 1C fit results, are 37.4% and 27.1%, respectively. These results are also listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Systematic uncertainties (%) in the Branching Fraction.

source of uncertainty	4C fit	1C fit
	uncertainty	uncertainty
models of Hadron Interaction	23.3	13.2
particle identification	6	5
MDC tracking	12	10
kinematic fit	19.1	14.6
angular distribution	16.7	14
MC statistics	3.6	1.5
intermediate branching fractions	2.4	2.4
total number of $\psi(2S)$ events	4.3	4.3
	total = 37.4	total = 27.1

6 Determination of branching fraction

Using the following formula:

$$\frac{N^{\text{upper}}/(1-\sigma_{\text{sys}})}{\epsilon \cdot [B(\Omega^- \rightarrow \Lambda K^-)]^2 \cdot [B(\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-)]^2 \cdot N_{\psi(2S)}},$$

where $N^{\text{upper}} = 3.89$, $B(\Omega^- \rightarrow \Lambda K^-) = (67.8 \pm 0.7)\%$ [7], $B(\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-) = (63.9 \pm 0.5)\%$ [7], $N_{\psi(2S)} = (14 \pm 0.6) \times 10^6$ (number of $\psi(2S)$ data events) [10], $\epsilon = 0.0162$ and $\sigma_{\text{sys}} = 0.374$, an upper limit for the branching fraction of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ is determined to be 1.5×10^{-4} at the 90% confidence level, for 4C fit events. Using the formula:

$$\frac{N^{\text{obs}}}{\epsilon \cdot [B(\Omega^- \rightarrow \Lambda K^-)]^2 \cdot [B(\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-)]^2 \cdot N_{\psi(2S)}},$$

where $N^{\text{obs}} = 10.8 \pm 3.5$ and $\epsilon = 0.0855$, the branching ratio is determined to be $(4.80 \pm 1.56(\text{stat}) \pm 1.30(\text{sys})) \times 10^{-5}$ for 1C fit events. In the limit of $SU(3)$ flavor symmetry, the phase-space-corrected reduced branching fraction ($|M|^2$) for $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ is calculated by using the following formula [3]:

$$|M|^2 = \frac{B(\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+)}{\pi p^* / \sqrt{s}},$$

where p^* is the momentum of Ω^- or $\bar{\Omega}^+$ in $\psi(2S)$ rest frame. In Fig. 7, the reduced branching fraction for $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ is plotted along with other octet baryon-antibaryon pairs computed by using the branching fractions from Particle Data Group 2012 [7]. The plot shows a trend towards smaller values of reduced branching fractions for baryon-antibaryon pairs of higher masses.

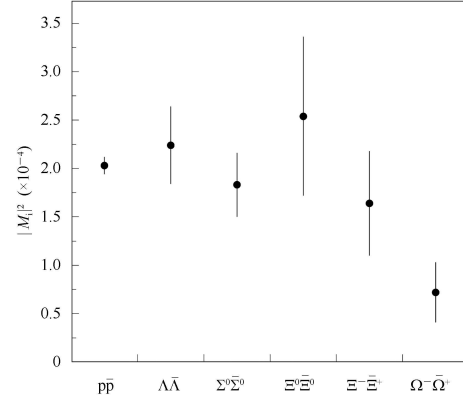


Fig. 7. The reduced branching fractions: $|M_i|^2 = B(\psi(2S) \rightarrow B_i \bar{B}_i) / (\pi p^* / \sqrt{s})$, where p^* is momentum of baryon (antibaryon) in rest frame of $\psi(2S)$.

7 Conclusion

Using 14 million $\psi(2S)$ decay events recorded by the BES II detector at BEPC, we report an upper limit for the branching fraction of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ to be 1.5×10^{-4} at 90% confidence level based upon the 4C fit result. We report the first evidence of an $\Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ signal, with a statistical significance of about 3.1σ using 1C events. The branching fraction of $\psi(2S) \rightarrow \Omega^- \bar{\Omega}^+$ is determined to be $(4.80 \pm 1.56(\text{stat}) \pm 1.30(\text{sys})) \times 10^{-5}$ and is consistent with the upper limit.

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