

Measurements of branching fractions of $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$, and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$

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Utilizing 7.9 fb^{-1} of e^+e^- collision data taken with the BESIII detector at the center-of-mass energy of 3.773 GeV, we report the measurements of absolute branching fractions of the hadronic decays $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$. The $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$ decay is measured with improved precision, while the latter two decays are observed with statistical significance higher than 5σ for the first time. The absolute branching fractions of these decays are determined to be $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-) = (1.35 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.08) \times 10^{-4}$, $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0) = (19.0 \pm 1.1 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-4}$, and $\mathcal{B}(D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0) = (6.57 \pm 0.69 \pm 0.33) \times 10^{-4}$, where the first uncertainties are statistical and the second systematic.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Experimental measurements of hadronic D decays are important for studies of CP violation, $D^0 - \bar{D}^0$ mixing, and flavor SU(3) symmetry breaking effects in the charm sector [1–5]. Precise and comprehensive measurements of the absolute branching fractions (BFs) of hadronic decays of D mesons containing three charged pions are valuable inputs for understanding important backgrounds in studies of $B \rightarrow D^{*+} \tau^+ \nu_\tau$ decays, where enticing hints of lepton flavor universality violation are observed [6,7].

The measured BFs of the inclusive decays $D^{0(+)} \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^- X$ [8] indicate that there is some room for unmeasured $D^{0(+)}$ decays containing three charged pions, which are $(1.55 \pm 0.50)\%$ and $(0.51 \pm 0.57)\%$ for D^0 and D^+ decays, respectively. Certain Cabibbo-favored multibody hadronic $D^{0(+)}$ decays containing one kaon and multiple pions, are promising, as proposed by Ref. [9]. Much progress has been made recently in experimental studies of $D^{0(+)}$ decays containing one kaon along with one to four pions [10]. However, the experimental knowledge of the hadronic $D^{0(+)}$ decays containing one kaon and five pions is very poor, mainly due to limited data sample and small BFs [10]. Previously, only the FOCUS Collaboration reported $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-) = (2.2 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-4}$ [11] based on a relative branching ratio. The large e^+e^-

collision data sample taken at the $\psi(3770)$ peak with the BESIII detector allows for measuring the absolute BFs of these six-body hadronic decays.

In this paper, we report measurements of the absolute BFs of the hadronic decays $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, by analyzing the e^+e^- collision data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 7.9 fb^{-1} [12–14] collected with the BESIII detector at the center-of-mass energy $E_{\text{cm}} = 3.773 \text{ GeV}$. Throughout this paper, charge conjugation is always implied, and $D(\bar{D})$ denotes $D^+, D^0(\bar{D}^0, D^-)$ mesons.

II. BESIII DETECTOR AND MONTE CARLO SIMULATION

The BESIII detector [15] records symmetric e^+e^- collisions provided by the BEPCII storage ring [16] in the center-of-mass energy range from 1.84 to 4.95 GeV, with a peak luminosity of $1.1 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ achieved at $E_{\text{cm}} = 3.773 \text{ GeV}$. The cylindrical core of the BESIII detector covers 93% of the full solid angle and consists of a helium-based multilayer drift chamber (MDC), a time-of-flight system (TOF), and a CsI(Tl) electromagnetic calorimeter (EMC), which are all enclosed in a superconducting solenoidal magnet providing a 1.0 T magnetic field. The solenoid is supported by an octagonal flux-return yoke with resistive plate counter muon identification modules interleaved with steel. The charged-particle momentum resolution at 1 GeV/ c is 0.5%, and the dE/dx resolution is 6% for electrons from Bhabha scattering. The EMC measures photon energies with a resolution of 2.5% (5%) at 1 GeV in the barrel (end-cap) region. The time resolution in the plastic scintillator TOF barrel region is 68 ps, while that in the end-cap region was 110 ps.

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The end-cap TOF system was upgraded in 2015 using multigap resistive plate chamber technology, providing a time resolution of 60 ps, which benefits 63% of the data used in this analysis [17].

Monte Carlo (MC) simulated data samples produced with a GEANT4-based [18] software package, which includes the geometric description of the BESIII detector and the detector response, are used to determine detection efficiencies and to estimate backgrounds. The simulation models the beam energy spread and initial state radiation (ISR) in the e^+e^- annihilations with the generator KKMC [19]. The inclusive MC sample includes the production of $D\bar{D}$ pairs (with quantum coherence for the D^0, \bar{D}^0 channels), the non- $D\bar{D}$ decays of the $\psi(3770)$, the ISR production of the J/ψ and $\psi(3686)$ states, and the continuum processes incorporated in KKMC [19]. All particle decays are modeled with EVTGEN [20] using BFs either taken from the Particle Data Group [10], when available, or otherwise estimated with LUNDCHARM [21]. Final state radiation from charged final state particles is incorporated using the PHOTOS package [22].

III. MEASUREMENT METHOD

In e^+e^- collisions at $E_{\text{cm}} = 3.773$ GeV, the $D^0\bar{D}^0$ or D^+D^- pairs are produced without any additional hadrons. This property offers an ideal platform to measure the absolute BFs of the hadronic D decays by using the double-tag (DT) method [23]. The single-tag (ST) \bar{D}^0 mesons are reconstructed from three hadronic decays $\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+\pi^-, K^+\pi^-\pi^0, K^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^0$, and the ST D^- mesons are reconstructed from six hadronic decays $D^- \rightarrow K^+\pi^-\pi^-, K_S^0\pi^-, K^+\pi^-\pi^-\pi^0, K_S^0\pi^-\pi^0, K_S^0\pi^+\pi^-\pi^-,$ and $K^+K^-\pi^-$. Then DT candidates are formed by selecting signal decays in the recoiling side against the \bar{D} mesons. The BF of the signal decay can be determined as

$$\mathcal{B}_{\text{sig}} = N_{\text{DT}} / (N_{\text{ST}}^{\text{tot}} \epsilon_{\text{sig}}), \quad (1)$$

where $N_{\text{ST}}^{\text{tot}}$ is the yield of ST \bar{D} mesons summed over all tag modes, N_{DT} is the yield of DT events, and ϵ_{sig} is the efficiency of detecting the signal D decay, averaged over all tag modes, given by

$$\epsilon_{\text{sig}} = \sum_i (N_{\text{ST}}^i \epsilon_{\text{DT}}^i / \epsilon_{\text{ST}}^i) / N_{\text{ST}}^{\text{tot}}, \quad (2)$$

where ϵ_{ST}^i and ϵ_{DT}^i are the efficiencies of detecting ST and DT candidates in the tag mode i , respectively.

IV. EVENT SELECTION

All charged tracks, except those from K_S^0 decays, are required to satisfy $V_{xy} < 1$ cm, $|V_z| < 10$ cm, where V_{xy} and V_z are the distances of closest approach to the interaction point along the beam direction and in the plane

perpendicular to the beam direction, respectively. We also require $|\cos\theta| < 0.93$, where θ is the polar angle with respect to the symmetry axis of the MDC. We perform particle identification (PID) on charged tracks with combined dE/dx and TOF information, using the calculated confidence levels [24] for the pion and kaon hypotheses, CL_π and CL_K . Tracks with $CL_K > CL_\pi$ and $CL_\pi > CL_K$ are assigned as kaon and pion candidates, respectively.

The K_S^0 candidates are reconstructed via $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$ decays. Two oppositely charged tracks are required to satisfy $|V_z| < 20$ cm and $|\cos\theta| < 0.93$, and they are assumed to be pions with no PID. The accepted $\pi^+\pi^-$ pairs are then constrained to originate from a common vertex and their invariant mass is required to be within (0.487, 0.511) GeV/ c^2 , corresponding to approximately three times the fitted resolution around the known K^0 mass [10]. The decay length of each K_S^0 candidate must be at least twice the vertex resolution from the interaction point. The four-vector from the vertex fit is used for later kinematics.

The π^0 candidates are reconstructed via $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decays. Each photon candidate is selected from EMC shower start time within 700 ns of the event start time and a minimal deposited energy of more than 25 MeV in the barrel region ($|\cos\theta| < 0.80$) or 50 MeV in the end-cap region ($0.86 < |\cos\theta| < 0.92$). The energy deposited in the neighboring TOF counters is included to improve the reconstruction efficiency and energy resolution. The minimum opening angle between the shower and the nearest charged track must be larger than 10° . The $\gamma\gamma$ combinations with invariant masses in the range of (0.115, 0.150) GeV/ c^2 are retained as π^0 candidates. To improve the resolution, a kinematic fit is performed on the selected photon pair, constraining the $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass to the known π^0 mass [10] and the constrained four-vector is used for later kinematics.

For $\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ candidates, backgrounds from cosmic rays and Bhabha events are removed with the following requirements. First, the two charged tracks must have a TOF time difference of less than 5 ns and they must not be consistent with being a muon pair or an electron-positron pair. Second, there must be at least one EMC shower with an energy larger than 50 MeV or at least one additional good (i.e., passing the previous selections) charged track detected in the MDC [25].

V. YIELDS OF SINGLE-TAG \bar{D} MESONS

We use the same method to obtain the ST yields and ST efficiencies as in Ref. [26]. To distinguish the tagged \bar{D} mesons from combinatorial backgrounds, we define two kinematic variables, e.g., energy difference

$$\Delta E_{\text{tag}} \equiv E_{\text{tag}} - E_{\text{b}}, \quad (3)$$

and beam-constrained mass

TABLE I. The ΔE^i requirements, the ST \bar{D} yields in data, N_{ST}^i , and the ST efficiencies, ϵ_{ST}^i , for each tag mode, where the uncertainties are statistical only.

Tag mode	ΔE^i (GeV)	$N_{\text{ST}}^i (\times 10^3)$	ϵ_{ST}^i (%)
$\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^-$	(-0.027, 0.027)	1482.8 ± 1.3	66.89 ± 0.01
$\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^0$	(-0.062, 0.049)	3118.2 ± 2.1	37.68 ± 0.01
$\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^- \pi^+$	(-0.026, 0.024)	1997.9 ± 1.6	41.88 ± 0.01
$D^- \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^-$	(-0.025, 0.024)	2215.3 ± 1.6	52.44 ± 0.01
$D^- \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^-$	(-0.025, 0.026)	256.0 ± 0.5	51.89 ± 0.02
$D^- \rightarrow K^+ \pi^- \pi^- \pi^0$	(-0.057, 0.046)	735.4 ± 1.2	27.19 ± 0.01
$D^- \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^- \pi^0$	(-0.062, 0.049)	590.4 ± 1.0	27.57 ± 0.01
$D^- \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^-$	(-0.028, 0.027)	307.7 ± 0.7	29.68 ± 0.01
$D^- \rightarrow K^+ K^- \pi^-$	(-0.024, 0.023)	191.8 ± 0.5	42.05 ± 0.02

$$M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}} \equiv \sqrt{E_b^2 - |\vec{p}_{\text{tag}}|^2}, \quad (4)$$

where E_b is the beam energy, and \vec{p}_{tag} and E_{tag} are the momentum and energy of the tagged \bar{D} candidate in the rest frame of e^+e^- system, respectively. The ΔE^i requirements for different tag modes are listed in Table I. For each tag mode, if there are multiple candidates in an event, we only retain the one giving the minimum value of $|\Delta E_{\text{tag}}|$ [26].

To extract the yield of ST \bar{D} mesons for each tag mode, a binned maximum-likelihood fit is performed on the $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ distribution of the accepted candidates. In the fit, the \bar{D} signal is described with an MC-simulated shape convolved with a double-Gaussian function to take into account the difference in resolution between data and MC simulation. The combinatorial background is described by an ARGUS function [27]. The results of the fits to the M_{BC} distributions of different tag modes are shown in Fig. 1. The ST \bar{D} yields in data and ST efficiencies for the different tag modes are listed in Table I. Summing over all tag modes gives the total yields of ST \bar{D}^0 and D^- mesons to be $(6599.0 \pm 2.9_{\text{stat}}) \times 10^3$ and $(4296.6 \pm 2.4_{\text{stat}}) \times 10^3$, respectively.

VI. YIELDS OF DOUBLE-TAG EVENTS

Candidates for signal D decays are selected using the remaining tracks and showers not used for reconstructing the tag side \bar{D} (ST). The charged D signal decay must have charge opposite to that of the tag side; while for the neutral D signal decays, the charge of the kaon on the signal side must be opposite to that on the tag side. For all three signal decays, to suppress backgrounds with $\pi^+ \pi^-$ produced from $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$ decays, the $\pi^+ \pi^-$ invariant masses are required to be outside the range of (0.468, 0.528) GeV/c^2 . For $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$, to suppress backgrounds from $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- K_S^0 (\rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0)$, the $\pi^0 \pi^0$ invariant masses are

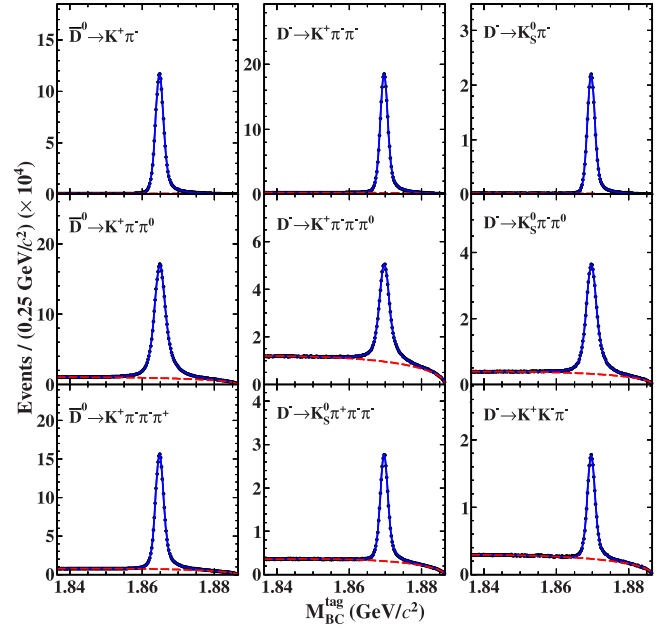


FIG. 1. Fits to the $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ distributions of the \bar{D}^0 (left column) and D^- (middle and right columns) ST candidates. The points with error bars are data, the solid blue curves are the fit results, and the dashed red curves are the fitted background components.

required to be outside the range of (0.448, 0.548) GeV/c^2 . We note that various narrow hadronic resonances (e.g., $\eta, \eta', \omega, \phi$) potentially present in the final state are not removed.

The signal D mesons are identified using the energy difference ΔE_{sig} and the beam-constrained mass $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}}$, which are calculated with Eqs. (3) and (4), respectively, by replacing “sig” with “tag.” For each signal D decay, if there are multiple candidates in an event, only the one with the smallest $|\Delta E_{\text{sig}}|$ is kept for further analysis. The signal D decays are required to satisfy mode-dependent ΔE_{sig} requirements, as shown in the second column of Table II.

Figure 2 shows the $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ versus $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}}$ distribution of the accepted DT candidates in data. The signal events concentrate around $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}} = M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}} = M_D$, where M_D is the known D mass [10]. The events distributed along the lines near $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}} = M_D$ or $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}} = M_D$, defined as BKG I, are mainly from a correctly reconstructed $D(\bar{D})$ combined with an incorrectly reconstructed $\bar{D}(D)$. The events smeared along the diagonal line, defined as BKG II, referred to as ISR, are mainly from the $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ processes and incorrectly reconstructed $D\bar{D}$. The events dispersed across the whole plane, defined as BKG III, are mainly from incorrectly reconstructed D and \bar{D} .

For each signal D decay, the yield of DT events, N_{DT} , is obtained from a two-dimensional (2D) unbinned maximum-likelihood fit [28] to the $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ versus $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}}$ distribution of the accepted candidates. In the fit, the probability density

TABLE II. The ΔE_{sig} requirements, the fitted DT yields (N_{DT}), the signal efficiencies (ϵ_{sig}), and the obtained BFs (\mathcal{B}_{sig}) for each signal decay, where the first and second uncertainties of \mathcal{B}_{sig} are statistical and systematic, respectively, while the uncertainties of N_{DT} and ϵ_{sig} are statistical only.

Signal decay	ΔE_{sig} (GeV)	N_{DT}	ϵ_{sig} (%)	\mathcal{B}_{sig} ($\times 10^{-4}$)
$D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$	(-0.031, 0.028)	64 ± 11	7.20 ± 0.19	$1.35 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.08$
$D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$	(-0.042, 0.032)	441 ± 26	3.61 ± 0.14	$19.0 \pm 1.1 \pm 1.5$
$D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$	(-0.036, 0.030)	157 ± 17	5.68 ± 0.19	$6.57 \pm 0.69 \pm 0.33$

functions (PDFs) of signal, BKG I, BKG II, and BKG III are constructed as

- (i) Signal: $a(x, y)$,
- (ii) BKG I: $b(x)c_y(y; E_b, \xi_y) + b(y)c_x(x; E_b, \xi_x)$,
- (iii) BKG II: $c_z(z; \sqrt{2}E_b, \xi_z), g(k)$,
- (iv) BKG III: $c_x(x; E_b, \xi_x)c_y(y; E_b, \xi_y)$,

respectively. Here, $x = M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}}$, $y = M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$, $z = (x + y)/\sqrt{2}$, and $k = (x - y)/\sqrt{2}$. The PDFs of signal $a(x, y)$, $b(x)$, and $b(y)$ are taken from the corresponding MC-simulated shapes and $c_f(f; E_{\text{end}}, \xi_f)$ is the ARGUS function defined as $A_f f (1 - \frac{f^2}{E_b^2})^{0.5} e^{\xi_f (1 - (f/E_b)^2)}$, where f denotes x , y , or z ; E_b is fixed at 1.8865 GeV, A_f is a normalization factor; and ξ_f is a fit parameter. The signal shape $a(x, y)$ is convolved with a 2D Gaussian function. The PDF $g(k)$ is a Gaussian function with mean of zero and standard deviation parameterized by $\sigma_k = \sigma_0 (\sqrt{2}E_b/c^2 - k)^p$, where σ_0 and p are

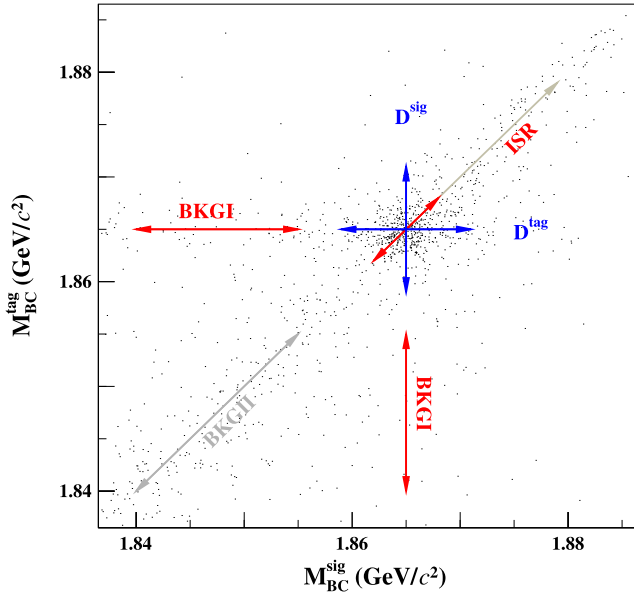


FIG. 2. The distribution of $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ versus $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}}$ of the candidates for $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ in data, which have been summed over all \bar{D}^0 tag modes. Here, D^{sig} and D^{tag} denote the bands from correctly reconstructed signals, with $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}} = M_D$, and correctly reconstructed tags, with $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}} = M_D$, respectively. Backgrounds are discussed in the main text.

fit parameters. For each signal decay, the statistical significance is greater than 5σ , as calculated from the maximum likelihoods with and without the signal component in the fit and accounting for the change in the number of degrees of freedom.

Figure 3 shows the $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ and $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}}$ projections of the 2D fits to the data. From these fits, we obtain the DT yields of each signal D decay; these results are listed in Table II.

The DT efficiencies are estimated based on MC simulation. To account for the effect of intermediate resonance structures on the efficiency, each of these decays is modeled by a corresponding mixed-signal MC sample, in which the dominant decay modes containing resonances of η , ω , and $K^*(892)$ are mixed with the phase-space signal MC

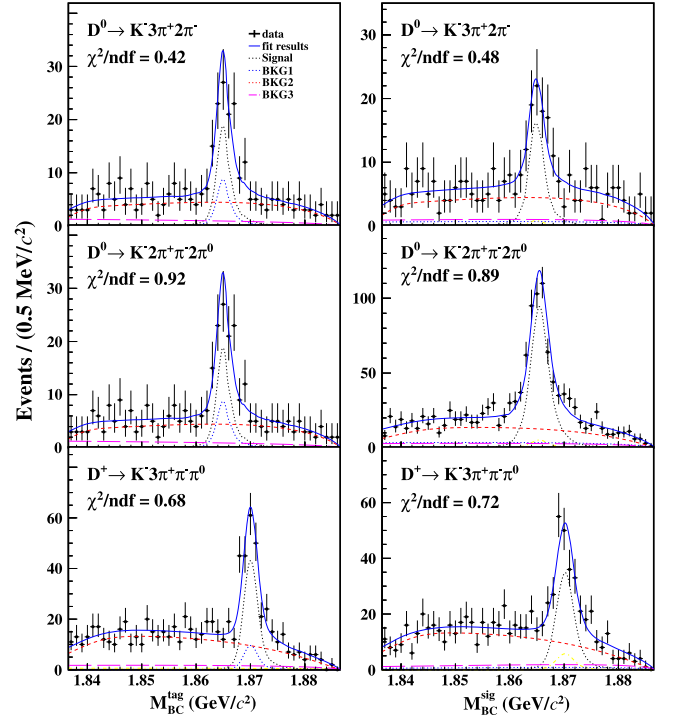


FIG. 3. Projections of the 2D fits to the distributions of (left) $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ and (right) $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}}$. The points with error bars are data. The solid blue, dotted black, dot-dashed blue, dot-long-dashed red, long-dashed magenta and dashed green curves denote the overall fit results, signal, BKG I, BKG II, BKG III, and peaking background components (see text), respectively.

samples. The mixing ratios are determined by examining the corresponding invariant mass and momentum distributions. We generate mixed signal MC samples to determine the efficiencies according to the mixing ratios. For the decay $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$, the mixing ratio of the components $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^0 \omega, K^- \pi^+ \pi^0 \eta, K^{*0}(892)\pi^+ \pi^0 \pi^- \pi^0, K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ is 41:36:16:7. For the decay $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, the mixing ratio of the components $D^+ \rightarrow K^{*0}(892)\pi^+ \omega, K^- \pi^+ \pi^+ \eta, K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$ is 54:31:15. Figures 4–6 show the distributions of momenta and cosines of polar angles of daughter particles, the invariant masses of two-body or three-body particle combinations of the accepted candidates for $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$ between data and MC simulations. Good consistency between data and MC simulation ensures the reliability of the signal efficiencies,

provided that the efficiencies across the variables are fairly uniform and there is no large resonant signal appearing in areas of very low efficiency.

The ΔE_{sig} requirements, the fitted DT yields (N_{DT}), the signal efficiencies (ϵ_{sig}), and the obtained BFs (\mathcal{B}_{sig}) for each signal decay are summarized in Table II.

VII. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

In the measurements of the BFs using Eq. (1), all uncertainties associated with the selection of the tag side cancel. Other uncancelled systematic uncertainties in the BF measurements are discussed below and are stated relative to the measured BFs.

The systematic uncertainties in the total yields of ST \bar{D} mesons due to the fits to the $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ distributions are estimated to be 0.3% for the ST \bar{D}^0 and D^- [26].

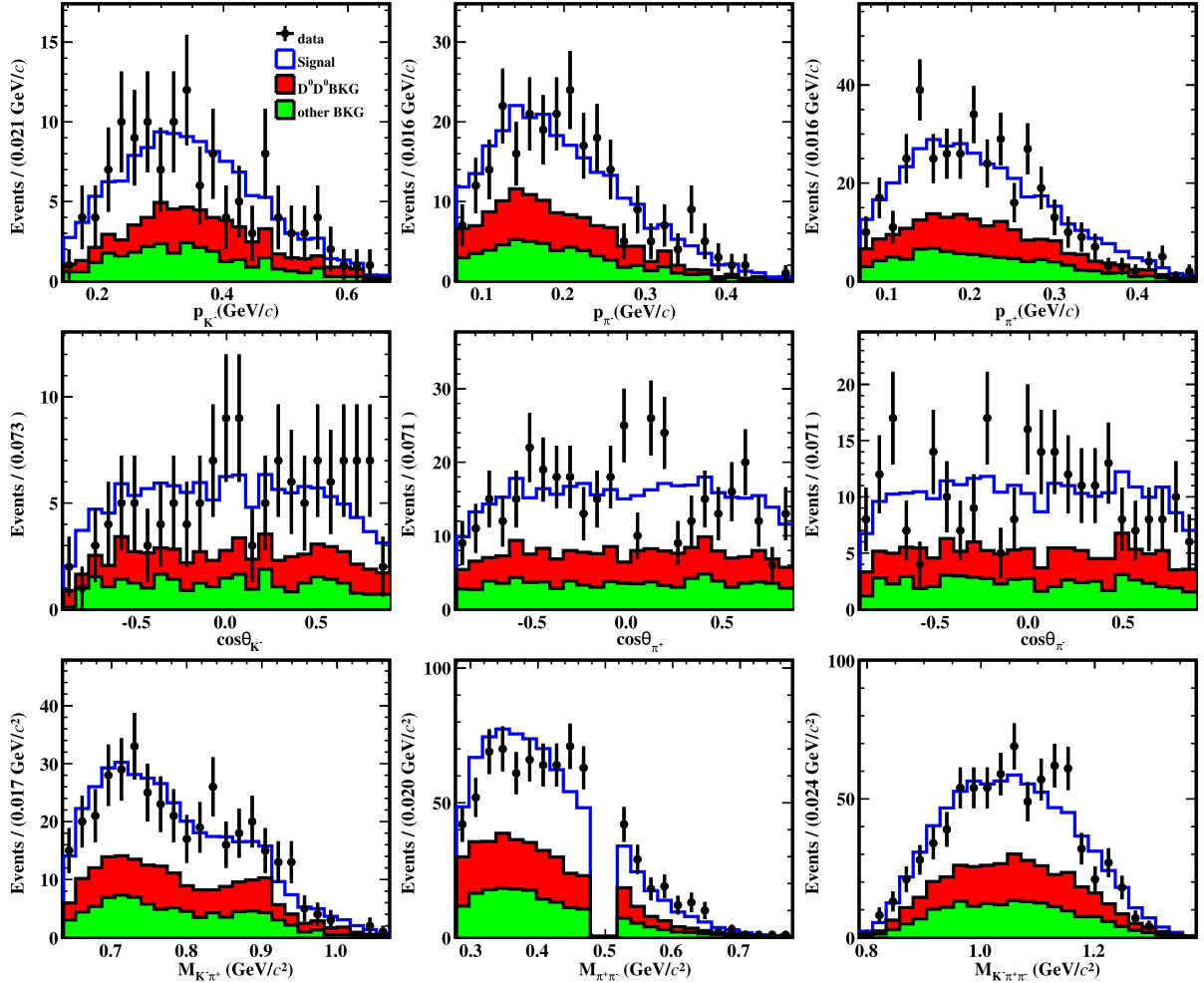


FIG. 4. Comparisons of the distributions of momenta and cosines of polar angles of daughter particles, the invariant masses of two-body or three-body particle combinations of the accepted candidates for $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$ between data (dots with error bars) and the total MC simulation (blue histogram). This total MC histogram is the sum of the signal MC events (white histogram) plus the MC-simulated backgrounds from the inclusive MC samples (red and green histograms). Events here satisfy the additional requirements of $|M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}} - 1.865| < 0.005 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}} - 1.865| < 0.005 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and there are three entries for π^+ and two entries for π^- per event.

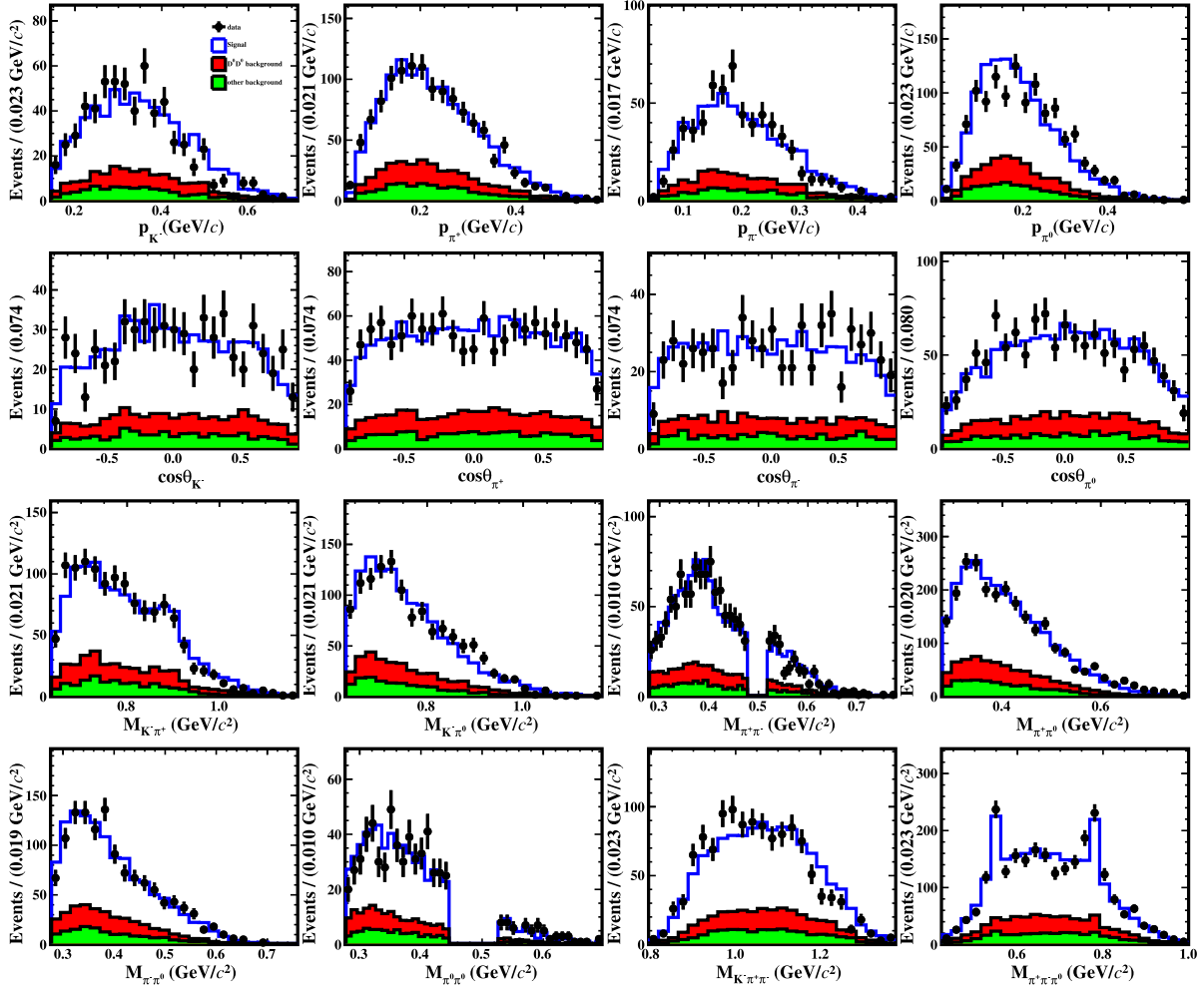


FIG. 5. Comparisons of the distributions of momenta and cosines of polar angles of daughter particles, and the invariant masses of two-body or three-body particle combinations of the accepted candidates for $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ between data (dots with error bars) and the total MC simulation (blue histogram). This total MC histogram is the sum of the signal MC events (white histogram) plus the MC-simulated backgrounds from the inclusive MC samples (red and green histograms). Events here satisfy the additional requirements of $|M_{BC}^{\text{tag}} - 1.865| < 0.005 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{BC}^{\text{sig}} - 1.865| < 0.005 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and there are two entries for π^+ and two entries for π^0 per event.

The systematic uncertainties in tracking or PID of charged tracks are assigned as 0.5% per K^\pm or π^\pm , by using the DT hadronic events with D decaying into $K^-\pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$, $K^-\pi^+\pi^+\pi^+$, and \bar{D} decaying into their conjugated modes, in which a K^\pm or π^\pm is missed, as control samples [26].

The systematic uncertainty due to π^0 reconstruction is estimated to be 2.0% per π^0 , by analyzing the DT hadronic events of $\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K^+\pi^-\pi^0$ and $\bar{D}^0 \rightarrow K_S^0\pi^0$ tagged by either $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+$ or $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$.

The systematic uncertainties of the ΔE_{sig} requirement are assigned by using the control samples of $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^+\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^0\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^+\pi^0$. The differences of the signal efficiencies are taken as the systematic uncertainties, 1.5%, 3.6%, and 1.6% for

$D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$, and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, respectively.

The systematic uncertainty due to the K_S^0 rejection is studied with the control samples of $D^+ \rightarrow K_S^0 e^+ \nu_e$ and $D^0 \rightarrow K_S^0 \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$. The fitted K_S^0 mass and resolutions of data and MC simulation are in agreement with each other. This systematic uncertainty is therefore deemed negligible.

The systematic uncertainties due to the mixing MC model are assigned by varying the fractions of various signal components by $\pm 1\sigma$ of the quoted BFs, when available; and by one quarter of the component fraction for each unmeasured processes. The largest changes of the signal efficiencies are assigned as the corresponding systematic uncertainties, which are 1.8%, 2.6%, and

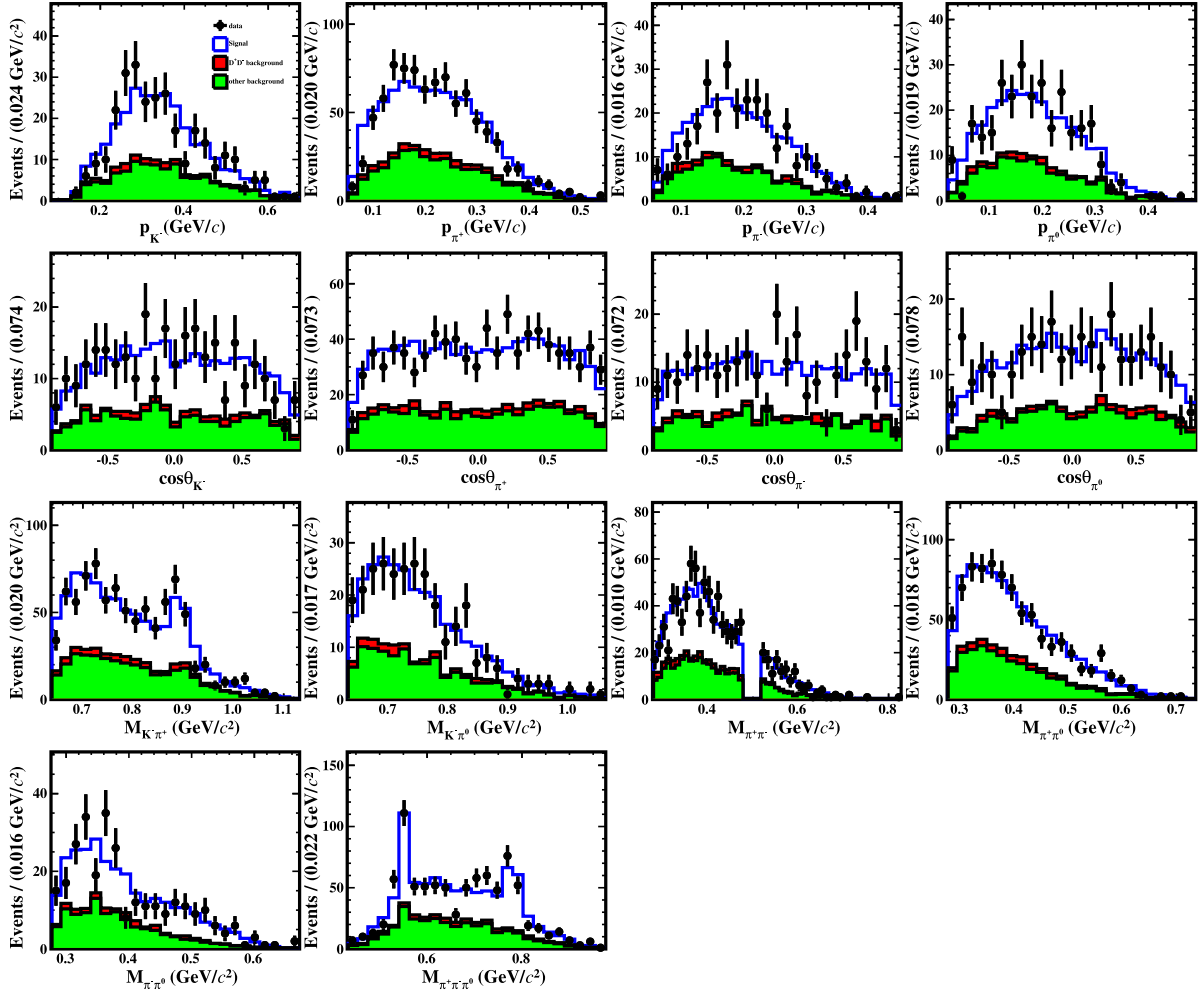


FIG. 6. Comparisons of the distributions of momenta and cosines of polar angles of daughter particles, and the invariant masses of two-body or three-body particle combinations of the accepted candidates for $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$ between data (dots with error bars) and the total MC simulation (blue histogram). This total MC histogram is the sum of the signal MC events (white histogram) plus the MC-simulated backgrounds from the inclusive MC samples (red and green histograms). Events here satisfy the additional requirements of $|M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}} - 1.869| < 0.005 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $|M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}} - 1.869| < 0.005 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and there are three entries for π^+ per event.

TABLE III. Relative systematic uncertainties in % for the BF measurements.

Source	$D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$	$D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$	$D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$
$N_{\text{ST}}^{\text{tot}}$	0.3	0.3	0.3
K^-, π^\pm tracking	3.0	2.0	2.5
K^-, π^\pm PID	3.0	2.0	2.5
π^0 reconstruction	...	4.0	2.0
ΔE_{sig} cut	1.5	3.6	1.6
K_S^0 rejection	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
MC generator	1.8	2.6	1.2
MC statistics	1.1	1.6	1.3
$\pi^0 \mathcal{B}$...	0.06	0.03
2D fit	3.5	3.5	1.5
Total	6.1	7.7	5.0

TABLE IV. Comparison of the newly measured BFs and the one previous result; the first and second uncertainties are statistical and systematic, respectively.

Signal decay	$\mathcal{B}_{\text{sig}}(\times 10^{-4})$	$\mathcal{B}_{\text{FOCUS}}(\times 10^{-4})$
$D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$	$1.35 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.08$	$2.2 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.3$
$D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$	$19.0 \pm 1.1 \pm 1.5$...
$D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$	$6.57 \pm 0.69 \pm 0.33$...

1.2% for $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, respectively.

The uncertainties due to MC statistics, which are 1.1%, 1.6%, and 1.3% for $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, respectively, are taken as individual systematic uncertainties.

The uncertainty of the quoted BF of $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ is 0.03% per π^0 [10].

The systematic uncertainty in the 2D fit to the $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{tag}}$ versus $M_{\text{BC}}^{\text{sig}}$ distribution is examined in two ways. An alternative signal shape is obtained by varying the mean and width of the smeared Gaussian resolution function by $\pm 1\sigma$ and an alternative background shape is obtained by varying the endpoint of the ARGUS function by $\pm 0.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. Adding the largest effect from each pair of plus-minus variations in quadrature gives the systematic uncertainties, which are 3.5%, 3.5%, and 1.5% for $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, respectively.

Table III summarizes these systematic uncertainties in the BF measurements. For each signal decay, the total systematic uncertainty is calculated by adding all above sources in quadrature; and they are 6.1%, 7.6%, and 4.9% for $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$, respectively.

VIII. SUMMARY

By analyzing 7.9 fb^{-1} of e^+e^- collision data taken with the BESIII detector at $E_{\text{cm}} = 3.773 \text{ GeV}$, we report the first observations of the hadronic decays $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0$ and $D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0$ as well as an improved measurement of $D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-$. Their absolute BFs are determined to be $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ 2\pi^-) = (1.35 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.08) \times 10^{-4}$, $\mathcal{B}(D^0 \rightarrow K^- 2\pi^+ \pi^- 2\pi^0) = (19.0 \pm 1.1 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-4}$, and $\mathcal{B}(D^+ \rightarrow K^- 3\pi^+ \pi^- \pi^0) = (6.57 \pm 0.69 \pm 0.33) \times 10^{-4}$, where the first uncertainties are statistical and the second systematic. A summary of the measured BFs and the one previous result is shown in Table IV. In the near future, amplitude analyses of these decays with a larger data sample from BESIII [29,30] will allow exploration of the intermediate

states in these decays, which benefit the understanding of the decay mechanisms of charmed mesons.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this article are not publicly available because of legal restrictions preventing unrestricted public distribution. The data are available from the authors upon reasonable request.

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