# Measurement of the Direct CP Asymmetry in $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ Decays 

B. Aubert, ${ }^{1}$ R. Barate, ${ }^{1}$ D. Boutigny, ${ }^{1}$ F. Couderc, ${ }^{1}$ J.-M. Gaillard, ${ }^{1}$ A. Hicheur, ${ }^{1}$ Y. Karyotakis, ${ }^{1}$ J. P. Lees, ${ }^{1}$ 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, ${ }^{5}$ G. Kukartsev, ${ }^{5}$ C. LeClerc,,${ }^{5}$ G. Lynch, ${ }^{5}$ A. M. Merchant, ${ }^{5}$ L. M. Mir, ${ }^{5}$ P. J. Oddone, ${ }^{5}$ T. J. Orimoto, ${ }^{5}$ M. Pripstein, ${ }^{5}$ N. A. Roe, ${ }^{5}$ M. T. Ronan, ${ }^{5}$ V. G. Shelkov, ${ }^{5}$ W. A. Wenzel, ${ }^{5}$ K. Ford, ${ }^{6}$ T. J. Harrison, ${ }^{6}$ C. M. Hawkes, ${ }^{6}$ S. E. Morgan, ${ }^{6}$ A. T. Watson, ${ }^{6}$ M. Fritsch, ${ }^{7}$ K. Goetzen, ${ }^{7}$ T. Held, ${ }^{7}$ H. Koch, ${ }^{7}$ B. Lewandowski, ${ }^{7}$ M. Pelizaeus, ${ }^{7}$ M. Steinke, ${ }^{7}$ J. T. Boyd, ${ }^{8}$ N. Chevalier, ${ }^{8}$ W. N. Cottingham, ${ }^{8}$ M. P. Kelly, ${ }^{8}$ T. E. Latham, ${ }^{8}$ F. F. Wilson, ${ }^{8}$ T. Cuhadar-Donszelmann, ${ }^{9}$ C. Hearty, ${ }^{9}$ N. S. Knecht, ${ }^{9}$ T. S. Mattison, ${ }^{9}$ J. A. McKenna, ${ }^{9}$ D. Thiessen, ${ }^{9}$ A. Khan, ${ }^{10}$ P. Kyberd,,$^{10}$ L. Teodorescu,,$^{10}$ V. E. Blinov, ${ }^{11}$ A. D. Bukin, ${ }^{11}$
V. P. Druzhinin, ${ }^{11}$ 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. Bruinsma, ${ }^{12}$ M. Chao, ${ }^{12}$ I. Eschrich, ${ }^{12}$ D. Kirkby, ${ }^{12}$ A. J. Lankford, ${ }^{12}$ M. Mandelkern, ${ }^{12}$ R. K. Mommsen, ${ }^{12}$ W. Roethel,,${ }^{12}$ D. P. Stoker, ${ }^{12}$ C. Buchanan, ${ }^{13}$ B. L. Hartfiel, ${ }^{13}$ J. W. Gary, ${ }^{14}$ B. C. Shen, ${ }^{14}$ K. Wang, ${ }^{14}$ D. del Re, ${ }^{15}$ H. K. Hadavand, ${ }^{15}$ E. J. Hill, ${ }^{15}$ D. B. MacFarlane, ${ }^{15}$ H. P. Paar, ${ }^{15}$ Sh. Rahatlou, ${ }^{15}$ V. Sharma, ${ }^{15}$ J. W. Berryhill, ${ }^{16}$ C. Campagnari, ${ }^{16}$ B. Dahmes, ${ }^{16}$ S. L. Levy, ${ }^{16}$ O. Long, ${ }^{16}$ A. Lu, ${ }^{16}$ M. A. Mazur, ${ }^{16}$ J. D. Richman, ${ }^{16}$ W. Verkerke, ${ }^{16}$ T. W. Beck, ${ }^{17}$ A. M. Eisner, ${ }^{17}$ C. A. Heusch, ${ }^{17}$ W. S. Lockman, ${ }^{17}$ T. Schalk, ${ }^{17}$ R. E. Schmitz, ${ }^{17}$ B. A. Schumm, ${ }^{17}$ A. Seiden, ${ }^{17}$ P. Spradlin, ${ }^{17}$ D. C. Williams, ${ }^{17}$ M. G. Wilson, ${ }^{17}$ J. Albert, ${ }^{18}$ E. Chen, ${ }^{18}$ G. P. Dubois-Felsmann, ${ }^{18}$ A. Dvoretskii, ${ }^{18}$ D. G. Hitlin, ${ }^{18}$ I. Narsky, ${ }^{18}$ T. Piatenko, ${ }^{18}$ F. C. Porter, ${ }^{18}$ A. Ryd, ${ }^{18}$ A. Samuel, ${ }^{18}$ S. Yang, ${ }^{18}$ S. Jayatilleke, ${ }^{19}$ G. Mancinelli, ${ }^{19}$ B. T. Meadows, ${ }^{19}$ M. D. Sokoloff, ${ }^{19}$ T. Abe, ${ }^{20}$ F. Blanc, ${ }^{20}$ P. Bloom, ${ }^{20}$ S. Chen, ${ }^{20}$ W. T. Ford, ${ }^{20}$ U. Nauenberg, ${ }^{20}$ A. Olivas, ${ }^{20}$ P. Rankin, ${ }^{20}$ J. G. Smith, ${ }^{20}$ J. Zhang, ${ }^{20}$ L. Zhang, ${ }^{20}$ A. Chen, ${ }^{21}$ J. L. Harton, ${ }^{21}$ A. Soffer, ${ }^{21}$ W. H. Toki, ${ }^{21}$ R. J. Wilson, ${ }^{21}$ Q. L. Zeng, ${ }^{21}$ D. Altenburg, ${ }^{22}$ T. Brandt, ${ }^{22}$ J. Brose, ${ }^{22}$ T. Colberg, ${ }^{22}$ M. Dickopp, ${ }^{22}$ E. Feltresi, ${ }^{22}$ A. Hauke, ${ }^{22}$ H. M. Lacker, ${ }^{22}$ E. Maly, ${ }^{22}$ R. Müller-Pfefferkorn, ${ }^{22}$ R. Nogowski, ${ }^{22}$ S. Otto,,${ }^{22}$ A. Petzold, ${ }^{22}$ J. Schubert, ${ }^{22}$ K. R. Schubert, ${ }^{22}$ R. Schwierz, ${ }^{22}$ B. Spaan,,${ }^{22}$ J. E. Sundermann, ${ }^{22}$ D. Bernard, ${ }^{23}$ G. R. Bonneaud, ${ }^{23}$ F. Brochard, ${ }^{23}$ P. Grenier, ${ }^{23}$ S. Schrenk, ${ }^{23}$ Ch. Thiebaux, ${ }^{23}$ G. Vasileiadis, ${ }^{23}$ M. Verderi, ${ }^{23}$ D. J. Bard, ${ }^{24}$ P. J. Clark, ${ }^{24}$ D. Lavin, ${ }^{24}$ F. Muheim, ${ }^{24}$ S. Playfer, ${ }^{24}$ Y. Xie, ${ }^{24}$ M. Andreotti, ${ }^{25}$ V. Azzolini, ${ }^{25}$ D. Bettoni, ${ }^{25}$ C. Bozzi, ${ }^{25}$ R. Calabrese, ${ }^{25}$ G. Cibinetto, ${ }^{25}$ E. Luppi, ${ }^{25}$ M. Negrini, ${ }^{25}$ L. Piemontese, ${ }^{25}$ A. Sarti, ${ }^{25}$ E. Treadwell, ${ }^{26}$ R. Baldini-Ferroli, ${ }^{27}$ A. Calcaterra, ${ }^{27}$ R. de Sangro, ${ }^{27}$ G. Finocchiaro, ${ }^{27}$ P. Patteri, ${ }^{27}$ M. Piccolo,,${ }^{27}$ A. Zallo, ${ }^{27}$ A. Buzzo, ${ }^{28}$ R. Capra, ${ }^{28}$ R. Contri, ${ }^{28}$ G. Crosetti, ${ }^{28}$ M. Lo Vetere, ${ }^{28}$ M. Macri, ${ }^{28}$ M. R. Monge, ${ }^{28}$ S. Passaggio, ${ }^{28}$ C. Patrignani, ${ }^{28}$ E. Robutti, ${ }^{28}$ A. Santroni, ${ }^{28}$ S. Tosi, ${ }^{28}$ S. Bailey, ${ }^{29}$ G. Brandenburg, ${ }^{29}$ M. Morii, ${ }^{29}$ E. Won, ${ }^{29}$ R. S. Dubitzky, ${ }^{30}$ U. Langenegger, ${ }^{30}$ W. Bhimji, ${ }^{31}$ D. A. Bowerman, ${ }^{31}$ P. D. Dauncey, ${ }^{31}$ U. Egede, ${ }^{31}$ J. R. Gaillard, ${ }^{31}$ G. W. Morton, ${ }^{31}$ J. A. Nash, ${ }^{31}$ G. P. Taylor, ${ }^{31}$ G. J. Grenier, ${ }^{32}$ U. Mallik, ${ }^{32}$ J. Cochran, ${ }^{33}$ H. B. Crawley, ${ }^{33}$ J. Lamsa, ${ }^{33}$ W. T. Meyer, ${ }^{33}$ S. Prell, ${ }^{33}$ E. I. Rosenberg, ${ }^{33}$ J. Yi, ${ }^{33}$ M. Davier, ${ }^{34}$ G. Grosdidier, ${ }^{34}$ A. Höcker, ${ }^{34}$ S. Laplace, ${ }^{34}$ F. Le Diberder, ${ }^{34}$ V. Lepeltier, ${ }^{34}$ A. M. Lutz, ${ }^{34}$ T. C. Petersen, ${ }^{34}$ S. Plaszczynski, ${ }^{34}$ M. H. Schune, ${ }^{34}$ L. Tantot, ${ }^{34}$ G. Wormser, ${ }^{34}$ C. H. Cheng, ${ }^{35}$ D. J. Lange, ${ }^{35}$ M. C. Simani, ${ }^{35}$ D. M. Wright, ${ }^{35}$ A. J. Bevan, ${ }^{36}$ J. P. Coleman, ${ }^{36}$ J. R. Fry, ${ }^{36}$ E. Gabathuler, ${ }^{36}$ R. Gamet, ${ }^{36}$ R. J. Parry, ${ }^{36}$ D. J. Payne, ${ }^{36}$ R. J. Sloane, ${ }^{36}$ C. Touramanis, ${ }^{36}$ J. J. Back, ${ }^{37}$ C. M. Cormack, ${ }^{37}$ P. F. Harrison, ${ }^{37,}{ }^{*}$ G. B. Mohanty, ${ }^{37}$ C. L. Brown, ${ }^{38}$ G. Cowan, ${ }^{38}$ R. L. Flack, ${ }^{38}$ H. U. Flaecher, ${ }^{38}$ M. G. Green, ${ }^{38}$ C. E. Marker, ${ }^{38}$ T. R. McMahon, ${ }^{38}$ S. Ricciardi, ${ }^{38}$ F. Salvatore, ${ }^{38}$ G. Vaitsas, ${ }^{38}$ M. A. Winter, ${ }^{38}$ D. Brown, ${ }^{39}$ C. L. Davis, ${ }^{39}$ J. Allison, ${ }^{40}$ N. R. Barlow, ${ }^{40}$ R. J. Barlow, ${ }^{40}$ P. A. Hart, ${ }^{40}$ M. C. Hodgkinson, ${ }^{40}$ G. D. Lafferty, ${ }^{40}$ A. J. Lyon, ${ }^{40}$ J. C. Williams, ${ }^{40}$ A. Farbin, ${ }^{41}$ W. D. Hulsbergen, ${ }^{41}$ A. Jawahery, ${ }^{41}$ D. Kovalskyi, ${ }^{41}$ C. K. Lae, ${ }^{41}$ V. Lillard, ${ }^{41}$ D. A. Roberts, ${ }^{41}$ G. Blaylock, ${ }^{42}$ C. Dallapiccola, ${ }^{42}$ K. T. Flood, ${ }^{42}$ S. S. Hertzbach, ${ }^{42}$ R. Kofler, ${ }^{42}$ V. B. Koptchev, ${ }^{42}$ T. B. Moore, ${ }^{42}$ S. Saremi, ${ }^{42}$ H. Staengle, ${ }^{42}$ S. Willocq, ${ }^{42}$ R. Cowan, ${ }^{43}$ G. Sciolla, ${ }^{43}$ F. Taylor, ${ }^{43}$ R. K. Yamamoto, ${ }^{43}$ D. J. J. Mangeol, ${ }^{44}$ P. M. Patel, ${ }^{44}$ S. H. Robertson, ${ }^{44}$ A. Lazzaro, ${ }^{45}$ F. Palombo, ${ }^{45}$ J. M. Bauer, ${ }^{46}$ L. Cremaldi, ${ }^{46}$ V. Eschenburg, ${ }^{46}$ R. Godang, ${ }^{46}$ R. Kroeger, ${ }^{46}$ J. Reidy, ${ }^{46}$ D. A. Sanders, ${ }^{46}$ D. J. Summers, ${ }^{46}$ H. W. Zhao, ${ }^{46}$ S. Brunet, ${ }^{47}$ D. Côté, ${ }^{47}$ P. Taras,,$^{47}$ H. Nicholson, ${ }^{48}$ N. Cavallo, ${ }^{49}$ F. Fabozzi, ${ }^{49,}{ }^{母}$ C. Gatto, ${ }^{49}$ L. Lista, ${ }^{49}$ D. Monorchio, ${ }^{49}$ P. Paolucci, ${ }^{49}$
D. Piccolo, ${ }^{49}$ C. Sciacca, ${ }^{49}$ M. Baak, ${ }^{50}$ H. Bulten, ${ }^{50}$ G. Raven, ${ }^{50}$ L. Wilden,,${ }^{50}$ C. P. Jessop, ${ }^{51}$ J. M. LoSecco, ${ }^{51}$ T. A. Gabriel, ${ }^{52}$ T. Allmendinger, ${ }^{53}$ B. Brau, ${ }^{53}$ K. K. Gan, ${ }^{53}$ K. Honscheid,,${ }^{53}$ D. Hufnagel, ${ }^{53}$ H. Kagan, ${ }^{53}$ R. Kass, ${ }^{53}$ T. Pulliam, ${ }^{53}$ A. M. Rahimi, ${ }^{53}$ R. Ter-Antonyan, ${ }^{53}$ Q. K. Wong, ${ }^{53}$ J. Brau, ${ }^{54}$ R. Frey, ${ }^{54}$ O. Igonkina, ${ }^{54}$ C. T. Potter, ${ }^{54}$ N. B. Sinev, ${ }^{54}$ D. Strom, ${ }^{54}$ E. Torrence, ${ }^{54}$ F. Colecchia, ${ }^{55}$ A. Dorigo, ${ }^{55}$ F. Galeazzi, ${ }^{55}$ M. Margoni, ${ }^{55}$ M. Morandin, ${ }^{55}$ M. Posocco, ${ }^{55}$ M. Rotondo, ${ }^{55}$ F. Simonetto, ${ }^{55}$ R. Stroili, ${ }^{55}$ G. Tiozzo, ${ }^{55}$ C. Voci, ${ }^{55}$ M. Benayoun, ${ }^{56}$ H. Briand,,${ }^{56}$ J. Chauveau, ${ }^{56}$ P. David, ${ }^{56}$ Ch. de la Vaissière, ${ }^{56}$ L. Del Buono, ${ }^{56}$ O. Hamon, ${ }^{56}$ M. J. J. John, ${ }^{56}$ Ph. Leruste, ${ }^{56}$ J. Ocariz, ${ }^{56}$ M. Pivk, ${ }^{56}$ L. Roos, ${ }^{56}$ S. T'Jampens, ${ }^{56}$ G. Therin,,${ }^{56}$ P. F. Manfredi, ${ }^{57}$ V. Re, ${ }^{57}$ P. K. Behera, ${ }^{58}$ L. Gladney, ${ }^{58}$ Q. H. Guo, ${ }^{58}$ J. Panetta, ${ }^{58}$ F. Anulli, ${ }^{27,59}$ M. Biasini, ${ }^{59}$ I. M. Peruzzi, ${ }^{27,59}$ M. Pioppi, ${ }^{59}$ C. Angelini, ${ }^{60}$ G. Batignani, ${ }^{60}$ S. Bettarini, ${ }^{60}$ M. Bondioli, ${ }^{60}$ F. Bucci, ${ }^{60}$ G. Calderini, ${ }^{60}$
M. Carpinelli, ${ }^{60}$ V. Del Gamba, ${ }^{60}$ F. Forti, ${ }^{60}$ M. A. Giorgi, ${ }^{60}$ A. Lusiani, ${ }^{60}$ G. Marchiori, ${ }^{60}$ F. Martinez-Vidal, ${ }^{60, ~}{ }^{\ddagger}$ M. Morganti, ${ }^{60}$ N. Neri, ${ }^{60}$ E. Paoloni, ${ }^{60}$ M. Rama, ${ }^{60}$ G. Rizzo, ${ }^{60}$ F. Sandrelli, ${ }^{60}$ J. Walsh, ${ }^{60}$ M. Haire, ${ }^{61}$ D. Judd, ${ }^{61}$ K. Paick, ${ }^{61}$ D. E. Wagoner, ${ }^{61}$ N. Danielson, ${ }^{62}$ P. Elmer, ${ }^{62}$ Y. P. Lau, ${ }^{62}$ C. Lu, ${ }^{62}$ V. Miftakov, ${ }^{62}$ J. Olsen, ${ }^{62}$ A. J. S. Smith, ${ }^{62}$ A. V. Telnov, ${ }^{62}$ F. Bellini, ${ }^{63}$ G. Cavoto, ${ }^{62,}{ }^{63}$ R. Faccini, ${ }^{63}$ F. Ferrarotto, ${ }^{63}$ F. Ferroni, ${ }^{63}$ M. Gaspero, ${ }^{63}$ L. Li Gioi, ${ }^{63}$ M. A. Mazzoni, ${ }^{63}$ S. Morganti, ${ }^{63}$ M. Pierini, ${ }^{63}$ G. Piredda, ${ }^{63}$ F. Safai Tehrani, ${ }^{63}$ C. Voena, ${ }^{63}$ S. Christ, ${ }^{64}$ G. Wagner, ${ }^{64}$ R. Waldi, ${ }^{64}$ T. Adye, ${ }^{65}$ N. De Groot, ${ }^{65}$ B. Franek, ${ }^{65}$ N. I. Geddes, ${ }^{65}$ G. P. Gopal, ${ }^{65}$ E. O. Olaiya, ${ }^{65}$ R. Aleksan, ${ }^{66}$ S. Emery, ${ }^{66}$ A. Gaidot, ${ }^{66}$ S. F. Ganzhur, ${ }^{66}$ P.-F. Giraud, ${ }^{66}$ G. Hamel de Monchenault, ${ }^{66}$ W. Kozanecki, ${ }^{66}$ M. Langer, ${ }^{66}$ M. Legendre, ${ }^{66}$ G. W. London, ${ }^{66}$ B. Mayer, ${ }^{66}$ G. Schott, ${ }^{66}$ G. Vasseur, ${ }^{66}$ Ch. Yèche, ${ }^{66}$ M. Zito, ${ }^{66}$ M. V. Purohit, ${ }^{67}$ A. W. Weidemann, ${ }^{67}$ F. X. Yumiceva, ${ }^{67}$ D. Aston, ${ }^{68}$ R. Bartoldus, ${ }^{68}$ N. Berger, ${ }^{68}$ A. M. Boyarski, ${ }^{68}$ O. L. Buchmueller, ${ }^{68}$ M. R. Convery, ${ }^{68}$ M. Cristinziani, ${ }^{68}$ G. De Nardo, ${ }^{68}$ D. Dong, ${ }^{68}$ J. Dorfan, ${ }^{68}$ D. Dujmic, ${ }^{68}$ W. Dunwoodie, ${ }^{68}$ E. E. Elsen, ${ }^{68}$ S. Fan, ${ }^{68}$ R. C. Field, ${ }^{68}$ T. Glanzman, ${ }^{68}$ S. J. Gowdy, ${ }^{68}$ T. Hadig, ${ }^{68}$ V. Halyo, ${ }^{68}$ C. Hast, ${ }^{68}$ T. Hryn'ova, ${ }^{68}$ W. R. Innes, ${ }^{68}$ M. H. Kelsey, ${ }^{68}$ P. Kim, ${ }^{68}$ M. L. Kocian, ${ }^{68}$ D. W. G. S. Leith, ${ }^{68}$ J. Libby, ${ }^{68}$ S. Luitz, ${ }^{68}$ V. Luth, ${ }^{68}$ H. L. Lynch, ${ }^{68}$ H. Marsiske, ${ }^{68}$ R. Messner, ${ }^{68}$ D. R. Muller, ${ }^{68}$ C. P. O’Grady, ${ }^{68}$ V. E. Ozcan, ${ }^{68}$ A. Perazzo, ${ }^{68}$ M. Perl, ${ }^{68}$ S. Petrak, ${ }^{68}$ B. N. Ratcliff, ${ }^{68}$ A. Roodman, ${ }^{68}$ A. A. Salnikov, ${ }^{68}$ R. H. Schindler, ${ }^{68}$ J. Schwiening, ${ }^{68}$ G. Simi, ${ }^{68}$ A. Snyder, ${ }^{68}$ A. Soha, ${ }^{68}$ J. Stelzer, ${ }^{68}$ D. Su, ${ }^{68}$ M. K. Sullivan, ${ }^{68}$ J. Va'vra, ${ }^{68}$ S. R. Wagner, ${ }^{68}$ M. Weaver, ${ }^{68}$ A. J. R. Weinstein, ${ }^{68}$ W. J. Wisniewski, ${ }^{68}$ M. Wittgen, ${ }^{68}$ D. H. Wright, ${ }^{68}$ A. K. Yarritu, ${ }^{68}$ C. C. Young, ${ }^{68}$ P. R. Burchat, ${ }^{69}$ A. J. Edwards, ${ }^{69}$ T. I. Meyer, ${ }^{69}$ B. A. Petersen, ${ }^{69}$ C. Roat, ${ }^{69}$ S. Ahmed, ${ }^{70}$ M. S. Alam, ${ }^{70}$ J. A. Ernst, ${ }^{70}$ M. A. Saeed, ${ }^{70}$ M. Saleem, ${ }^{70}$ F. R. Wappler, ${ }^{70}$ W. Bugg, ${ }^{71}$ M. Krishnamurthy, ${ }^{71}$ S. M. Spanier, ${ }^{71}$ R. Eckmann, ${ }^{72}$ H. Kim, ${ }^{72}$ J. L. Ritchie, ${ }^{72}$ A. Satpathy, ${ }^{72}$ R. F. Schwitters, ${ }^{72}$ J. M. Izen, ${ }^{73}$ I. Kitayama, ${ }^{73}$ X. C. Lou, ${ }^{73}$ S. Ye, ${ }^{73}$ F. Bianchi, ${ }^{74}$ M. Bona, ${ }^{74}$ F. Gallo, ${ }^{74}$ D. Gamba, ${ }^{74}$ C. Borean, ${ }^{75}$ L. Bosisio, ${ }^{75}$ C. Cartaro, ${ }^{75}$ F. Cossutti, ${ }^{75}$ G. Della Ricca, ${ }^{75}$ S. Dittongo, ${ }^{75}$ S. Grancagnolo, ${ }^{75}$ L. Lanceri, ${ }^{75}$ P. Poropat, ${ }^{75}$, ${ }^{\delta}$ L. Vitale, ${ }^{75}$ G. Vuagnin, ${ }^{75}$ R. S. Panvini, ${ }^{76}$

Sw. Banerjee, ${ }^{77}$ C. M. Brown, ${ }^{77}$ D. Fortin, ${ }^{77}$ P. D. Jackson, ${ }^{77}$ R. Kowalewski, ${ }^{77}$ J. M. Roney, ${ }^{77}$ H. R. Band, ${ }^{78}$ S. Dasu, ${ }^{78}$ M. Datta, ${ }^{78}$ A. M. Eichenbaum, ${ }^{78}$ M. Graham, ${ }^{78}$ J. J. Hollar, ${ }^{78}$ J. R. Johnson, ${ }^{78}$ P. E. Kutter, ${ }^{78}$ H. Li, ${ }^{78}$ R. Liu, ${ }^{78}$ F. Di Lodovico, ${ }^{78}$ A. Mihalyi, ${ }^{78}$ A. K. Mohapatra, ${ }^{78}$ Y. Pan, ${ }^{78}$ R. Prepost, ${ }^{78}$ A. E. Rubin, ${ }^{78}$ S. J. Sekula, ${ }^{78}$ P. Tan, ${ }^{78}$ J. H. von Wimmersperg-Toeller, ${ }^{78}$ J. Wu, ${ }^{78}$ S. L. Wu, ${ }^{78}$ Z. Yu, ${ }^{78}$ and H. Neal ${ }^{79}$
(The BABAR Collaboration)

[^0]${ }^{20}$ University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309, USA<br>${ }^{21}$ Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, USA<br>${ }^{22}$ Technische Universität Dresden, Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, D-01062 Dresden, Germany<br>${ }^{23}$ Ecole Polytechnique, LLR, F-91128 Palaiseau, France<br>${ }^{24}$ University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{25}$ Università di Ferrara, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-44100 Ferrara, Italy<br>${ }^{26}$ Florida A $\mathcal{G M}$ University, Tallahassee, FL 32307, USA<br>${ }^{27}$ Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati dell'INFN, I-00044 Frascati, Italy<br>${ }^{28}$ Università di Genova, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-16146 Genova, Italy<br>${ }^{29}$ Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA<br>${ }^{30}$ Universität Heidelberg, Physikalisches Institut, Philosophenweg 12, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany<br>${ }^{31}$ Imperial College London, London, SW7 2AZ, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{32}$ University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA<br>${ }^{33}$ Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3160, USA<br>${ }^{34}$ Laboratoire de l'Accélérateur Linéaire, F-91898 Orsay, France<br>${ }^{35}$ Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94550, USA<br>${ }^{36}$ University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 72E, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{37}$ Queen Mary, University of London, E1 4NS, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{38}$ University of London, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{39}$ University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292, USA<br>${ }^{40}$ University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{41}$ University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA<br>${ }^{42}$ University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, USA<br>${ }^{43}$ Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA<br>${ }^{44}$ McGill University, Montréal, QC, Canada H3A $2 T 8$<br>${ }^{45}$ Università di Milano, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-20133 Milano, Italy<br>${ }^{46}$ University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, USA<br>${ }^{47}$ Université de Montréal, Laboratoire René J. A. Lévesque, Montréal, QC, Canada H3C 3J7<br>${ }^{48}$ Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA 01075, USA<br>${ }^{49}$ Università di Napoli Federico II, Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche and INFN, I-80126, Napoli, Italy<br>${ }^{50}$ NIKHEF, National Institute for Nuclear Physics and High Energy Physics, NL-1009 DB Amsterdam, The Netherlands<br>${ }^{51}$ University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA<br>${ }^{52}$ Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, USA<br>${ }^{53}$ Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, USA<br>${ }^{54}$ University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, USA<br>${ }^{55}$ Università di Padova, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-35131 Padova, Italy<br>${ }^{56}$ Universités Paris VI et VII, Lab de Physique Nucléaire H. E., F-75252 Paris, France<br>${ }^{57}$ Università di Pavia, Dipartimento di Elettronica and INFN, I-27100 Pavia, Italy<br>${ }^{58}$ University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA<br>${ }^{59}$ Università di Perugia, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-06100 Perugia, Italy<br>${ }^{60}$ Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Fisica, Scuola Normale Superiore and INFN, I-56127 Pisa, Italy<br>${ }^{61}$ Prairie View AछBM University, Prairie View, TX 77446, USA<br>${ }^{62}$ Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA<br>${ }^{63}$ Università di Roma La Sapienza, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-00185 Roma, Italy<br>${ }^{64}$ Universität Rostock, D-18051 Rostock, Germany<br>${ }^{65}$ Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QX, United Kingdom<br>${ }^{66}$ DSM/Dapnia, CEA/Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France<br>${ }^{67}$ University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, USA<br>${ }^{68}$ Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Stanford, CA 94309, USA<br>${ }^{69}$ Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-4060, USA<br>${ }^{70}$ State Univ. of New York, Albany, NY 12222, USA<br>${ }^{71}$ University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, USA<br>${ }^{72}$ University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, USA<br>${ }^{73}$ University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX 75083, USA<br>${ }^{{ }^{1 /}}$ Università di Torino, Dipartimento di Fisica Sperimentale and INFN, I-10125 Torino, Italy<br>${ }^{75}$ Università di Trieste, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-34127 Trieste, Italy<br>${ }^{76}$ Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235, USA<br>${ }^{77}$ University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 3P6<br>${ }^{78}$ University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA<br>${ }^{79}$ Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511, USA

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We describe a measurement of the direct $C P$ asymmetry between inclusive $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ and $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma$ decays. This asymmetry is expected to be less than 0.01 in the Standard Model, but could be
enhanced up to about 0.10 by new physics contributions. We use a sample of 89 million $B \bar{B}$ pairs recorded with the BABAR detector at PEP-II, from which we reconstruct a set of 12 exclusive $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ final states containing one charged or neutral kaon and one to three pions. We measure an asymmetry of $A_{C P}(b \rightarrow s \gamma)=0.025 \pm 0.050$ (stat.) $\pm 0.015$ (syst.), corresponding to an allowed range of $-0.06<A_{C P}(b \rightarrow s \gamma)<+0.11$ at $90 \%$ confidence level.

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The inclusive decay $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ is a flavor-changing neutral current process described by a radiative penguin loop diagram. The world average branching fraction is $(3.5 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-4}$ [1] in good agreement with recent theoretical predictions 2]. Earlier experimental values of the branching fraction have been used to constrain new physics beyond the Standard Model [3]. A measurement of the direct $C P$ asymmetry between $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ and $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma$ decays provides an independent and significant test of these predictions. In the Standard Model the dominant loop contribution contains a top quark, with other contributions being suppressed by CKM factors and the GIM mechanism. The lack of interference between comparable amplitude contributions leads to a rather small predicted asymmetry [4]:

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{C P}^{T H}=\frac{\Gamma(b \rightarrow s \gamma)-\Gamma(\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma)}{\Gamma(b \rightarrow s \gamma)+\Gamma(\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma)}=0.0044_{-0.0014}^{+0.0024} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

which has little sensitivity to the photon energy cut-off or to the distribution of hadronic final states. The dominant errors are due to the uncertainty of the charm quark mass and the choice of the perturbative scale. The inclusion of contributions to the loop beyond the Standard Model can increase the predicted asymmetry up to about 0.10 [4].

There is a previous measurement of direct $C P$ asymmetry [5] in a sum of $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ and $b \rightarrow d \gamma$ decays. In the Standard Model, the total of the $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ and $b \rightarrow d \gamma$ asymmetries is exactly zero in the U-spin symmetry limit, $m_{d}=m_{s}$, as a consequence of CKM unitarity [6]. The measurement in Ref. [5] gives $-0.27<0.965 \times A_{C P}(b \rightarrow$ $s \gamma)+0.02 \times A_{C P}(b \rightarrow d \gamma)<0.10$.

We use a sample of $(88.9 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{6} B \bar{B}$ pairs collected at the $\Upsilon(4 \mathrm{~S})$ resonance with the $B A B A R$ detector at the PEP-II asymmetric $e^{+} e^{-}$collider. A detailed description of the detector can be found elsewhere 7]. For this analysis the most important detector elements are the fortylayer drift chamber, situated in a 1.5 T solenoidal magnetic field, which measures charged particle momenta, the $\operatorname{CsI}(\mathrm{Tl})$ electromagnetic calorimeter, which measures the energies of the photons, and the detector of internally reflected Cherenkov light (DIRC), which is used to identify charged kaons.

We reconstruct $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ decays as the sum of twelve exclusive final states:
$B^{-} \rightarrow K^{-} \pi^{0} \gamma, K^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{-} \gamma, K^{-} \pi^{0} \pi^{0} \gamma, K^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{0} \gamma$ $\bar{B}^{0} \rightarrow K^{-} \pi^{+} \gamma, K^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{0} \gamma, K^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{0} \pi^{0} \gamma, K^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \gamma$ $B^{-} \rightarrow K_{S}^{0} \pi^{-} \gamma, K_{S}^{0} \pi^{-} \pi^{0} \gamma, K_{S}^{0} \pi^{-} \pi^{0} \pi^{0} \gamma, K_{S}^{0} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{-} \gamma$
and measure the yield asymmetry with respect to their charge conjugate decays $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma$. The identification of charged kaons removes $b \rightarrow d \gamma$ decays. We do not use $\bar{B}^{0}$ decays to final states with $K_{S}^{0}$ to determine the direct $C P$ asymmetry, since these are not flavor-specific, but we study them to understand systematic effects.

The high energy photon is detected from an isolated energy cluster in the calorimeter, with shape consistent with a single photon, and energy $E_{\gamma}^{*}>1.8 \mathrm{GeV}$ in the $e^{+} e^{-}$center-of-mass frame. A veto is applied to the high energy photons that combined with another photon form either a $\pi^{0}$ within the mass range $117-150 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$ or an $\eta$ within the mass range $524-566 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$.

Neutral kaons are reconstructed as $K_{S}^{0} \rightarrow \pi^{+} \pi^{-}$candidates with an invariant mass within $9 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$ of the nominal mass [1] and a transverse flight distance $>2 \mathrm{~mm}$ from the primary event vertex. Charged kaons are tracks identified as kaons from information in the DIRC. The remaining tracks are considered to be charged pions. Both charged and neutral kaons are required to have a laboratory momentum $>0.7 \mathrm{GeV} / c$. Above this threshold the rate for charged pions to be mis-identified as kaons is $<$ $2.0 \%$.

Neutral pions are reconstructed from pairs of photons with energies $>30 \mathrm{MeV}$. A $\pi^{0}$ mass cut is applied between 117 and $150 \mathrm{MeV} / \mathrm{c}^{2}$. Charged and neutral pions are required to have laboratory momenta $>0.5,0.3$ or $0.2 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ for states with 1,2 or 3 pions, respectively, to reject combinatoric background.

The mass of the hadronic system, $X_{s}$, formed from the kaon and pions is required to be between $0.6 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$ and $2.3 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$, corresponding to a photon energy threshold $E_{\gamma}>2.14 \mathrm{GeV}$ in the $B$ rest frame.

The signal Monte Carlo sample is generated according to Ref. 8], which predicts that $(83 \pm 5) \%$ of the $b \rightarrow$ $s \gamma$ spectrum is above our photon energy threshold. We use JETSET [9] to hadronize the system of the strange and spectator quarks. Within the selected hadronic mass range, the twelve final states constitute $48 \%$ of the total rate. If we also include the $\bar{B}^{0}$ decays to $K_{S}^{0}$ and equate the decays to $K_{L}^{0}$ with those to $K_{S}^{0}$, this increases to $73 \%$ of the total rate. As a part of our analysis, we check the dependence of the asymmetry on the hadronic mass and final state.

Most of the background in this analysis arises from continuum production of a high energy photon, either by initial state radiation, or from the decays of $\pi^{0}$ and $\eta$ mesons. We remove $86 \%$ of these backgrounds by selec-
tions on the angle between the thrust axis of the $B$ meson candidate and the thrust axis of all the other particles of the event, $\left|\cos \theta_{T}^{*}\right|<0.80$, and the angle between the $B$ candidate and the beam axis, $\left|\cos \theta_{B}^{*}\right|<0.80$, both defined in the $e^{+} e^{-}$center-of-mass system. We then use a neural network to combine information from a set of event shape variables, including a set of energy flow cones. This halves the continuum background compared to our initial selection.

In $12 \%$ of the signal events, we can identify an electron or muon from the decay of the other $B$ [10]. This is a very effective signature for removing continuum background, so the remaining background in this sample comes mostly from other $B$ decays. We present separately our results for the sample of events which are lepton-tagged.

Exclusive $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ decays are characterized by two kinematic variables: the beam-energy substituted mass, $m_{E S}=\sqrt{(\sqrt{s} / 2)^{2}-p_{B}^{* 2}}$, and the energy difference between the $B$ candidate and the beam energy, $\Delta E=$ $E_{B}^{*}-(\sqrt{s} / 2)$, where $E_{B}^{*}$ and $p_{B}^{*}$ are the energy and momentum of the $B$ candidate in the $e^{+} e^{-}$center-of-mass frame, and $\sqrt{s}$ is the total center-of-mass energy. We require candidates to have $|\Delta E|<0.10 \mathrm{GeV}$, and remove multiple candidates in each event by selecting the one with the smallest value of $|\Delta E|$. This technique is $>90 \%$ efficient when the true $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ decay is among the reconstructed candidates. We then fit the $m_{E S}$ distribution between 5.22 and $5.29 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$ to extract the signal yield. When calculating $m_{E S}$, the value of $p_{B}^{*}$ is corrected for the tail of the high energy photon response function by scaling the measured $E_{\gamma}^{*}$ to the value that would give $\Delta E=0$, the value expected for true signal.

In order to fit the $m_{\mathrm{ES}}$ distribution in data, we need to understand the different components of the signal and background events. We have identified the following four contributions as shown in Figure 1 The signal events are described by a Crystal Ball function [11] with a resolution $\sigma\left(m_{E S}\right)=2.2 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$. The continuum background is described by an ARGUS shape 12], which is crosschecked by a fit to a sample of $9.6 \mathrm{fb}^{-1}$ of data taken $40 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$ below the $\Upsilon(4 \mathrm{~S})$ resonance. We use a $B \bar{B}$ Monte Carlo sample to model the background from $B$ decays other than $b \rightarrow s \gamma$, which is significant for $X_{s}$ masses above $1.9 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$. This background is described by the sum of an ARGUS shape and a peaking component which is modelled by the signal shape.

The last background component is cross-feed from incorrectly reconstructed $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ events. This is modelled by the signal Monte Carlo sample, where we identify events reconstructed in the wrong final state. Cross-feed occurs when the true $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ decay is not among the reconstructed candidates, or in a multiple candidate event when the wrong candidate is chosen. The shape of the cross-feed is described by the sum of an ARGUS shape and a peaking signal shape. We regard cross-feed as a background to be subtracted.


FIG. 1: Monte Carlo simulations of the four contributions to the beam-energy substituted mass distribution of events selected as $b \rightarrow s \gamma$, with the corresponding fits: (a) signal, (b) continuum, (c) $B \bar{B}$ decays and (d) cross-feed. The plots are normalized to the luminosity of our data sample.

We fit the data $m_{\text {ES }}$ distributions separately for each flavor. For the total sample, the fit function is parametrized by two ARGUS shapes and a Crystal Ball function. One ARGUS shape is fixed to be as the continuum ARGUS shape, while the other one is free to represent the sum of the non-peaking $B \bar{B}$ and cross-feed backgrounds. The Crystal Ball function fits the combination of the peaking components. For the lepton-tagged sample, we use only one free ARGUS shape and a Crystal Ball function. In all cases we use an unbinned maximum likelihood fit. The fitting technique has been validated with a large sample of Monte Carlo simulated events. In Figure 2 we present the final fits to the $m_{E S}$ distributions for $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ and $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma$ events. The lower plots are for the lepton-tagged sample. All the fits have $\chi^{2}$ per degree-of-freedom close to 1 , if we make a fit to a binned distribution as shown in Figure 2 The sum of events in the $b$ and $\bar{b}$ peaks is $1644 \pm 72$, of which $201 \pm 18$ are lepton-tagged. To get the true signal yields these have to be corrected for the predicted yield of peaking $B \bar{B}$ and cross-feed backgrounds from Monte Carlo samples (see Figure (1), which is $88 \pm 27$, where $10 \pm 8$ are leptontagged.

The direct $C P$ asymmetry is calculated from:

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{C P}=\frac{1}{\langle D\rangle}\left(\frac{(n-\bar{n})}{(n+\bar{n})}-\frac{\Delta D}{2}\right)-A_{C P}^{D E T} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $n$ and $\bar{n}$ are the numbers of observed $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ and $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma$ events after the peaking background is subtracted, $\Delta D=2(\bar{w}-w)$ is the difference in the wrong flavor-fraction between $b$ and $\bar{b}$ decays, and $\langle D\rangle=$ $1-(w+\bar{w})$ is the dilution factor from the average wrong flavor-fraction. $A_{C P}^{D E T}$ is the flavor-asymmetry of the detector. We find $\Delta D=0.001 \pm 0.002$ and $\langle D\rangle=0.989 \pm 0.001$ from Monte Carlo samples. The


FIG. 2: Fits to the beam-energy substituted mass distributions in data events for: (a) all $b \rightarrow s \gamma$, (b) all $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma$, (c) lepton-tagged $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ and (d) lepton-tagged $\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{s} \gamma$ decays. Contributions are shown from peaking Crystal Ball (dotteddashed), fixed continuum ARGUS shape (dotted) and free $B \bar{B}$ and cross-feed ARGUS shape (dashed).
small wrong-flavor fraction is due to charged pions misidentified as charged kaons.

We need to correct the measured value of $A_{C P}$ for the flavor-asymmetry of the detector $A_{C P}^{D E T}$. While it is known that the kaon-nucleon cross-sections are asymmetric at low momenta, there are few accurate measurements 1]. This means that our Monte Carlo sample is not expected to model correctly the asymmetries due to the interactions of kaons with the inner part of the detector. The kaon identification efficiency of the DIRC for reconstructed tracks is measured with a control sample of kaons from $D^{*}$ decays. Averaging over the kaon spectrum in $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ events we obtain a small asymmetry of $-0.002 \pm 0.001$ from particle identification. We measure the overall detector asymmetry of the data events in our $m_{E S}$ and $\Delta E$ sidebands, increasing the statistics by removing the neural network cut. Most of these events are from the continuum, where we do not expect any physics mechanism to generate a flavorasymmetry. We observe a significant asymmetry for kaon momenta below $1 \mathrm{GeV} / c$. The asymmetry as a function of the kaon momentum is applied to the signal Monte Carlo to determine what shift should be applied to the data. This gives an overall flavor-asymmetry correction $A_{C P}^{D E T}=-0.014 \pm 0.015$.

Table 【 presents the measured signal yields and corrected $C P$ asymmetries. The lepton-tagged results are consistent with the results for the total sample. We divide the total sample into four bins in $X_{s}$ mass, and observe no significant mass dependence of the asymmetry. The first bin corresponds to the $K^{*}(892)$ resonance, for which the world average asymmetry from studies of exclusive $B \rightarrow K^{*} \gamma$ decays is $A_{C P}\left(B \rightarrow K^{*} \gamma\right)=$ $-0.005 \pm 0.037$ 1]. Our result is consistent with this
average.
We divide our total sample into three types of decay mode: $B^{0}\left(\bar{B}^{0}\right) \rightarrow K^{ \pm}, B^{ \pm} \rightarrow K^{ \pm}$and $B^{ \pm} \rightarrow K_{S}^{0}$. We observe a discrepancy of $2.3 \sigma$ between the two $B^{ \pm}$categories which we regard as a statistical fluctuation, since it is not correlated with a specific final state or hadronic mass bin. The combination of the $B^{ \pm}$samples is consistent with a null asymmetry, as is the $B^{0}$ sample.

TABLE I: Signal yields and $C P$ asymmetries for total and only lepton-tagged event samples. The total sample is also divided up into four bins in $X_{s}$ mass in $\mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$, and into three types of decay modes. The errors on $n$ and $\bar{n}$ are statistical only, while for $A_{C P}$ we quote the additional systematic error from the detector asymmetry.

| Sample | $n$ | $\bar{n}$ | $A_{C P}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total Sample | $787 \pm 54$ | $769 \pm 54$ | $0.025 \pm 0.050 \pm 0.015$ |
| Lepton-tagged | $91 \pm 14$ | $100 \pm 13$ | $-0.04 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.02$ |
| $M_{X s}=0.6-1.1$ | $378 \pm 32$ | $396 \pm 33$ | $0.003 \pm 0.059 \pm 0.015$ |
| $M_{X s}=1.1-1.5$ | $162 \pm 22$ | $136 \pm 23$ | $0.11 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.02$ |
| $M_{X s}=1.5-1.9$ | $139 \pm 19$ | $124 \pm 21$ | $0.07 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.03$ |
| $M_{X s}=1.9-2.3$ | $101 \pm 29$ | $67 \pm 36$ | $0.23 \pm 0.30 \pm 0.04$ |
| $B^{0}$ | $455 \pm 36$ | $447 \pm 38$ | $0.015 \pm 0.059 \pm 0.014$ |
| $B^{ \pm} \rightarrow K^{ \pm}$ | $229 \pm 31$ | $148 \pm 30$ | $0.22 \pm 0.12 \pm 0.02$ |
| $B^{ \pm} \rightarrow K_{S}^{0}$ | $100 \pm 24$ | $166 \pm 25$ | $-0.20 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.03$ |

The dominant systematic error in our measurement is the uncertainty of 0.015 in the flavor-asymmetry of the detector. For the lepton-tagged sample we add an additional systematic uncertainty of 0.010 to account for a possible charge asymmetry in the lepton tagging efficiency. This is derived from studies of control samples 10].

We have tested the effect of possible flavor asymmetries in the peaking cross-feed and $B \bar{B}$ backgrounds by varying them within the current experimental bounds ( $90 \%$ C.L.). We added a 0.10 asymmetry to the crossfeed events, and a 0.02 asymmetry to the peaking background from $B \bar{B}$ decays, which comes primarily from $B \rightarrow D^{(*)} \rho$ decays. The change in our measured asymmetry due to these changes in the cross-feed and $B \bar{B}$ flavor-asymmetries is 0.004 , which gives a negligible contribution to the error.

We have checked that the parameters of the ARGUS shapes and Crystal Ball functions are the same for both flavors within $1 \sigma$, so the detector asymmetry is simply an overall normalization difference between the two samples. We have also checked that the neural net distributions for signal and continuum background are flavor-symmetric.

Our estimates of the cross-feed background and the detector asymmetry correction, $A_{C P}^{D E T}$, depend on the mix of final states in our signal Monte Carlo sample. We check these, also using information from $\bar{B}^{0}$ decays to final states with $K_{S}^{0}$, by varying the ratios of final states with $K^{+}$or $K_{S}^{0}$, and $\pi^{0}$ to $\pi^{+}$measured in our data by $\pm 3 \sigma$. Note that the measured ratios are consistent
with our signal Monte Carlo. Changing the ratios has no significant effect on the cross-feed or the detector asymmetry correction.

Our final result for the direct $C P$ asymmetry in $b \rightarrow s \gamma$ is $A_{C P}=0.025 \pm 0.050 \pm 0.015$ for the total sample, and $A_{C P}=-0.04 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.02$ for the lepton-tagged sample. The total sample provides the best constraint, $-0.06<A_{C P}<+0.11$ at $90 \%$ confidence level.

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* Now at Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom
$\dagger$ Also with Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy
$\ddagger$ Also with IFIC, Instituto de Física Corpuscular, CSICUniversidad de Valencia, Valencia, Spain
§ Deceased
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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Laboratoire de Physique des Particules, F-74941 Annecy-le-Vieux, France
    ${ }^{2}$ Università di Bari, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-70126 Bari, Italy ${ }^{3}$ Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing 100039, China
    ${ }^{4}$ University of Bergen, Inst. of Physics, N-5007 Bergen, Norway
    ${ }^{5}$ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA
    ${ }^{6}$ University of Birmingham, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom
    ${ }^{7}$ Ruhr Universität Bochum, Institut für Experimentalphysik 1, D-44780 Bochum, Germany ${ }^{8}$ University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TL, United Kingdom
    ${ }^{9}$ University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T $1 Z 1$
    ${ }^{10}$ Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH, United Kingdom
    ${ }^{11}$ Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk 630090, Russia
    ${ }^{12}$ University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697, USA
    ${ }^{13}$ University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90024, USA
    ${ }^{14}$ University of California at Riverside, Riverside, CA 92521, USA
    ${ }^{15}$ University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA
    ${ }^{16}$ University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA
    ${ }^{17}$ University of California at Santa Cruz, Institute for Particle Physics, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA
    ${ }^{18}$ California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA ${ }^{19}$ University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221, USA

