Draft to Phys. Rev. Lett.
Measurement of $\psi(2S)$ Hadronic and Radiative Decays to Vector Tensor Final States

BES Collaboration
Contact: LIXH@bepc5.ihep.ac.cn; GUYF@bepc5.ihep.ac.cn

Abstract

The $\psi(2S)$ decays into vector tensor final states have been studied for the first time using a sample of 3.7×10^6 produced $\psi(2S)'s$. The branching fraction for $\psi(2S)\to\gamma f_2$ is measured; upper limits on branching fractions for the $\psi(2S)$ decays into ωf_2, ρa_2, $K^{*0}\overline{K_2}^{*0}+c.c.$, and $\phi f_2'(1525)$ are obtained. The ratio of $\psi(2S)$ to J/ψ branching fractions for the radiative decay is consistent with the theoretical prediction of perturbative QCD, whereas in the case of four hadronic decays this ratio is significantly smaller. The long-standing puzzle of J/ψ and $\psi(2S)$ hadronic decays extends beyond the vector pseudoscalar channels.

One of the most dramatic problems confronting the standard picture of charmonium decays is the long-standing puzzle involving the strong suppression of $\psi(2S)\to\rho\pi$ and $K^*\overline{K}+c.c.$ decays. One expects $J/\psi(\psi(2S))$ to decay to hadrons via three gluons or, occasionally, via a single direct photon. In either case the decay proceeds via $\mid\Psi(0)\mid^2$, where $\Psi(0)$ is the wave function at the origin in the nonrelativistic quark model for $c\bar{c}$. Thus it is reasonable to expect on the basis of perturbative QCD that for any final hadronic state h, we have [1]

$$Q_h\equiv\frac{B(\psi(2S)\to h)}{B(J/\psi\to h)}\cong\frac{B(\psi(2S)\to e^+e^-)}{B(J/\psi\to e^+e^-)}=(14.6\pm2.2)\%,$$

where the leptonic branching fractions from PDG [2] are used. The same relation should also hold good for radiative decays of $\psi(2S)$ and J/ψ to non-charmonium hadrons via a photon and two gluons. It was first observed by the Mark II experiment [3] that, while this is true for a number of exclusive hadronic decay channels, it is badly violated for two vector pseudoscalar (VP) final states, $\rho\pi$ and $K^*\overline{K}+c.c.$. The experimental limits on $Q_{\rho\pi}$ and $Q_{K^*\overline{K}+c.c.}$ show order-of-magnitude discrepancies with the expected rate [2]. This anomaly, called the $\rho\pi$ puzzle, has generated considerable interest; a number of theoretical explanations have been proposed [1]. However, there was meagre progress in experiment, which has hindered the resolution of the puzzle. Until very recently, no further examples of differences between J/ψ and $\psi(2S)$ hadroinc decays have been documented, and experimental data on radiative decays of the $\psi(2S)$ to non-charmonium hadrons remained scarce [2].

In this letter we extend the study of $\psi(2S)$ decays into vector tensor (VT) final states and present measurements of the branching fractions for $\psi(2S)$ decays into ωf_2, ρa_2, $K^{*0}\overline{K_2}^{*0}+$

c.c., $\phi f_2'(1525)$, and γf_2 (where the vector is a photon). The data were taken with the BES detector at the BEPC e^+e^- storage ring located at the IHEP, Beijing. The data sample corresponds to 3.7 million produced $\psi(2S)'s$. The BES detector has been described in detail elsewhere [4]. Charged particles are tracked using a 40-layer cylindrical drift chamber in a 0.4 Tesla magnetic field with a momentum resolution $\sigma_P/P = 2.1\%\sqrt{1+P^2(GeV/c)}$. The tracking chamber is surrounded by an array of 48 time-of-flight (TOF) counters with resolution of about 450 ps for hadrons. Radially outside of TOF are an electromagnetic calorimeter with resolution $\sigma_E/E = 0.22/\sqrt{E(GeV)}$, $\sigma_\phi = 4.5$ mrad, $\sigma_\theta = 12$ mrad, as well as an array of μ counters.

The decays $\psi(2S) \to \omega f_2$, ρa_2, $K^{*0}\overline{K_2}^{*0} + c.c.$ and $\phi f_2'$ have been observed in the final states $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$, $\pi^+\pi^-K^+K^-$ and $K^+K^-K^+K^-$, respectively. Each analysis requires events to have four charged tracks with total charge zero and at least two photons in the case of $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$. Particle identification is accomplished by combining the specific ionization measurement from the drift chamber with TOF information, whenever available, to derive probabilities for each charged track to be consistent with the pion or kaon mass hypothesis. Tracks compatible with electrons in electromagnetic calorimeter or muon in muons detector are discarded. A particle species dependent correction for energy loss in the beam pipe is made for all charged tracks. A correction of -0.42% is also applied to the momentum of each charged track to compensate for a shift in the BES magnetic field. Events are kinematically fitted to energy-momentum constraints and a cut on the probability > 0.01 is applied. A neutral pion candidate is formed from a pair of showers detected in the calorimeter which yields a $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass within 2.5σ ($\sigma \sim 14$MeV) of the known π^0 mass. The analysis efficiency in this letter is calculated using events generated with uniform phase space distribution.

In the selection of the $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ final state, the background contribution from $\psi(2S) \to \eta J/\psi$, where η decays to $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ and J/ψ decays to leptons, is removed by a cut $M(\pi^+\pi^-) < 2.9\ GeV/c^2$. The contamination of $\psi(2S) \to \pi^+\pi^- J/\psi$ with J/ψ decays into $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ is rejected by requiring the $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ mass not within $50 MeV/c^2$ of known J/ψ mass. The $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ mass distribution of the selected events shows a clean ω signal owing to the good mass resolution ($\sigma = 13.4\ MeV/c^2$) and the proximity of the phase space limit. The $\omega\pi^+\pi^-$ events are selected by requiring that $740 < m_{\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0} < 820\ MeV/c^2$. The decay $\psi(2S) \to \omega f_2$ is looked for in the spectrum of $\pi^+\pi^-$ mass recoiling against the ω (FIG. 1). Taking the expected mass resolution of f_2 about $12.3\ MeV/c^2$ into account, a fit to a Breit-Wigner function added to a quadratic background yields 8.8 ± 9.2 ωf_2 events. The mass and width of f_2 are fixed to PDG [2] values in the fit. Using an isospin ratio 2:1 for f_2 decays into $\pi^+\pi^-$ to $\pi^0\pi^0$ and the efficiency of 0.074, one gets an upper limit on the branching fraction

$$B(\psi(2S) \to \omega f_2) < 1.8 \times 10^{-4} \qquad \text{(C.L.=90\%)}$$

The channel ρa_2 is analyzed in $\rho^0\rho^\pm\pi^\mp$ combination which also decays to the $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ final state. The best $\rho^0\rho^\pm\pi^\mp$ combination is selected by minimizing the quantity [5]

$$\sqrt{(m_{\pi^+\pi^-} - m_{\rho^0})^2 + (m_{\pi^0\pi^\pm} - m_{\rho^\pm})^2}.$$

and a cut at 200 MeV/c^2 is applied to select $\rho^0\rho^\pm\pi^\mp$ candidates. Events compatible with the $\omega\pi^+\pi^-$ dynamics are already discarded. The combined mass plot of $\rho^0\pi^\pm$ and $\rho^\pm\pi^\mp$ (FIG. 2) is fitted to a Breit-Wigner line shape over a quadratic background and the number of ρa_2 events is 3.9 ± 15.7. The mass and width of a_2 are fixed to PDG values [2] in the fit. The expected a_2 mass resolution is around 10.3 MeV/c^2. Using an isospin ratio of $\rho^+a_2^- : \rho^-a_2^+ : \rho^0a_2^0 = 1:1:1$ and the detection efficiency of 0.074, one calculates

$$B(\psi(2S) \to \rho a_2) < 2.5 \times 10^{-4} \qquad \text{(C.L.=90\%)}.$$

In the selection of $\pi^+\pi^-K^+K^-$ final state, each event has four assignments of π^+, π^-, K^+, K^- tracks. The TOF, dE/dx measurement and kinematic fit quality are combined to get a combined probability for an assignment. The combined χ^2 is calculated as

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \chi^2(TOF) + \sum_i \chi^2(dE/dx) + \chi^2(4C-fit).$$

Similarly are the combined degrees of freedom calculated. The track assignment with the largest combined probability is selected for a $\pi^+\pi^-K^+K^-$ candidate. The contamination of $\psi(2S) \to \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi$ is discarded by a cut on the $\pi^+\pi^-$ recoiling mass. The $K^{*0}K^\pm\pi^\mp$ events are selected by requiring that $800 < m(K^\pm\pi^\mp) < 1000$ MeV/c^2. The contamination of $\psi(2S) \to \phi\pi^+\pi^-$ with $\phi \to K^+K^-$ is negligible. The plot of $K^\pm\pi^\mp$ mass recoiling against the K^{*0} is fitted with two Breit-Wigner curves of K^{*0} and K_2^{*0} over a quadratic background (figure 3). The mass and width of K_2^{*0} are set to PDG [2]. So is the width of K^{*0}. With the expected mass resolution 4.9 MeV/c^2 for the K^{*0} and 6.7 MeV/c^2 for the K_2^{*0}, respectively, the fit yields 1.4 ± 8.6 $K^{*0}K_2^{*0}$ events. Applying $K^\pm\pi^\mp : K^0\pi^0 = 2:1$ for both K^{*0} and K_2^{*0} decays and using the efficiency of 0.171, one gets

$$B(\psi(2S) \to K^{*0}\overline{K_2}^{*0} + c.c.) < 1.4 \times 10^{-4} \qquad (C.L. = 90\%).$$

There are 41 events selected as $K^+K^-K^+K^-$ candidates. The K^+K^- mass spectrum shows the ϕ signal with mass resolution σ =4.1 MeV/c^2. The ϕK^+K^- candidates are selected by requiring that $m_{K^+K^-} < 1040$ MeV/c^2. FIG. 4 shows the spectrum of the K^+K^- mass recoiling against the ϕ where no clear evidence for enhancement at the mass of the f_2' resonance is found. The mass resolution of f_2' is expected to be 6 MeV/c^2. There are 3 events in FIG. 4 that fall into 80 MeV/c^2 region around the known f_2' mass. Taken all of them as f_2' candidates, at the 90% confidence level the event number is less than 6.68. The branching fraction is calculated by using the efficiency of 0.181 to be

$$B(\psi(2S) \to \phi f_2'(1525)) < 4.7 \times 10^{-5} \qquad \text{(C.L.=90\%)}.$$

The decay $\psi(2S) \to \gamma f_2$ has been observed in the $\gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ final state. The analysis has been made on the basis of the same general event selection criteria as above. Events with two opposite charged tracks and at least one photon are fitted kinematically by the $\gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and γK^+K^- hypotheses and accepted if the confidence level satisfies conditions $CL(\gamma K^+K^-) < CL(\gamma\pi^+\pi^-)$ and $CL(\gamma\pi^+\pi^-) > 0.01$. The $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass distribution (FIG. 5) indicates the production of f_2 and also a structure at lower mass which is consistent with the radiative production of ρ^0 meson [6] and also confirmed by a similar analysis of a data sample taken near $\tau^+\tau^-$ threshold which was used for τ mass measurement [7]. The

expected mass resolution is 7.6MeV for f_2 and 5.7MeV for ρ^0, respectively. A combined fit to two Breit-Wigner curves with the corresponding widths fixed to PDG [2] added to a quadratic background leads to 130.8 ± 27.6 f_2 signals with mass 1242.1 ± 16.7 MeV. Adopting an isospin ratio 2:1 for f_2 decays into $\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\pi^0\pi^0$, and using the efficiency 39.2%, one obtains

$$B(\psi(2S) \to \gamma f_2) = (1.59 \pm 0.34 \pm 0.41) \times 10^{-4}$$

where the first error is statistical and the second is systematic which includes the uncertainties from the event selection criteia (18%), the number of produced $\psi(2S)$ events (10%), branching fraction of $f_2 \to \pi^+\pi^-$ (2.9%), and the MC efficiency calculation (15%).

Table I summarizes the results of branching fraction measurements for all decay modes of the $\psi(2S)$ analyzed. The table includes the data for the corresponding J/ψ decays [8] as well as the ratios of branching fractions of the $\psi(2S)$ to the J/ψ. Among the five decay modes studied, only γf_2 gives a value of the ratio of branching fractions of the $\psi(2S)$ to the J/ψ consistent with the theoretical expectation of 15% and the other four do not. Those four states, all being vector-tensor meson combinations, appear to be suppressed by a factor of at least three compared to the theoretically predicted value ralative to the corresponding J/ψ decays. It is noted that the radiative and hadronic decays, both to VT final states, do not resemble each other in pattern of $\psi(2S)$ decays relative to the J/ψ. It is also noted that, in a perturbative QCD quark scheme, the hadonic VT decays are allowed by the Hadron Helicity Conservation (HHC) theorem [9], unlike the VP hadronic decays which are forbidden by the same theorem [10]. It thus seems even more puzzling why hadronic $\psi(2S)$ decays to VT mesons are missing in HHC allowed channels while J/ψ decays to VP mesons ($\rho\pi$ and $K^*\overline{K} + c.c.$) are enhanced in HHC forbidden channels. This unusal suppression poses a new challenge to the present theoretical understanding of the charmonium decay mechanism.

In conclusion, we have presented first measurements of $\psi(2S)$ decays into ωf_2, ρa_2, $K^{*0}\overline{K_2}^{*0} + c.c.$, $\phi f_2'(1525)$, and γf_2. The branching fraction of $\psi(2S) \to \gamma f_2$ is measured; upper limits are set on branching fractions for other four decay modes, for which the ratio of $\psi(2S)$ to J/ψ branching fractions is substantially smaller than the theoretical expectation. The puzzle of the hadronic decays of the J/ψ and $\psi(2S)$ extends beyond the VP decay to the VT decay.

Table I. Branching fractions measured for $\psi(2S)$ decays into vector tensor final states. The data of corresponding J/ψ branching fractions [8] are also given for calculating the ratio of $\psi(2S)$ to J/ψ branching fractions. All limits are set at 90% confidence level.

Final state	$B(\psi(2S))$ $(\times 10^{-4})$	$B(J/\psi)$ $(\times 10^{-3})$	$B(\psi(2S))/B(J/\psi)$
γf_2	$1.59 \pm 0.34 \pm 0.41$	1.38 ± 0.14	0.115 ± 0.040
ωf_2	< 1.8	4.3 ± 0.6	< 0.042
ρa_2	< 2.5	10.9 ± 2.2	< 0.023
$K^{*0}\overline{K_2}^{*0} + c.c.$	< 1.4	6.7 ± 2.6	< 0.022
$\phi f_2'$	< 0.47	$1.23 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.20$	< 0.038

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FIGURES

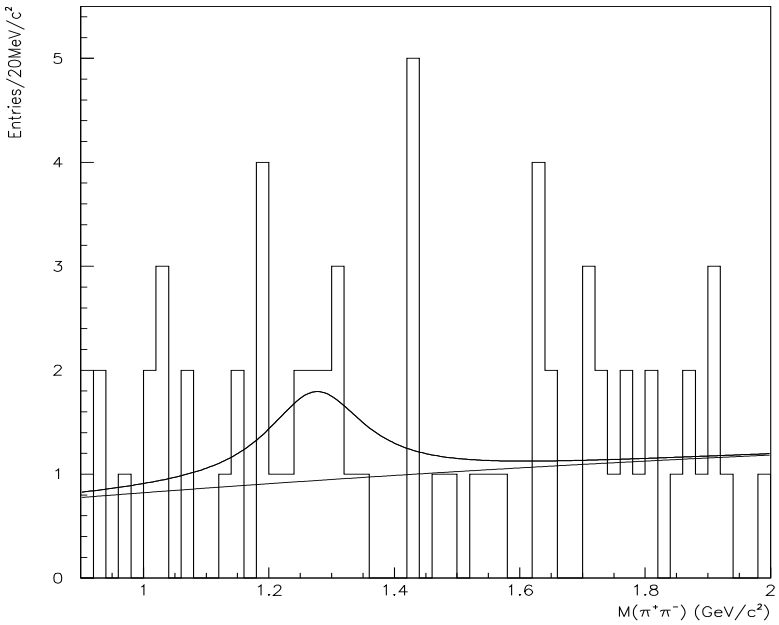

FIG. 1. The $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass recoiling against the ω for events of the type $\psi(2S) \to \omega\pi^+\pi^-$. The curve shows a fit to quadratic background plus f_2 resonance (to see the text).

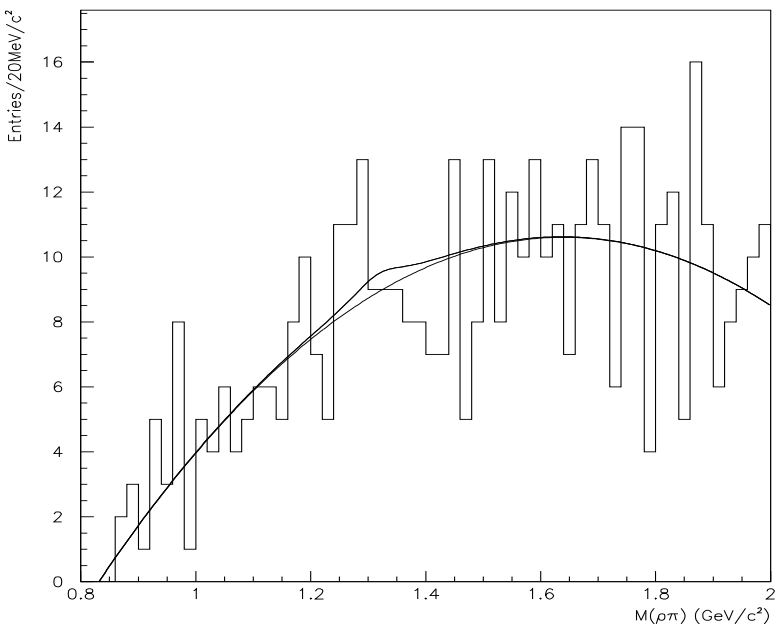

FIG. 2. The $\rho\pi$ invariant mass for events of the type $\psi(2S) \to \rho^0\rho^{\mp}\pi^{\pm}$. The curve shows a fit to quadratic background plus a_2 resonance (to see the text).

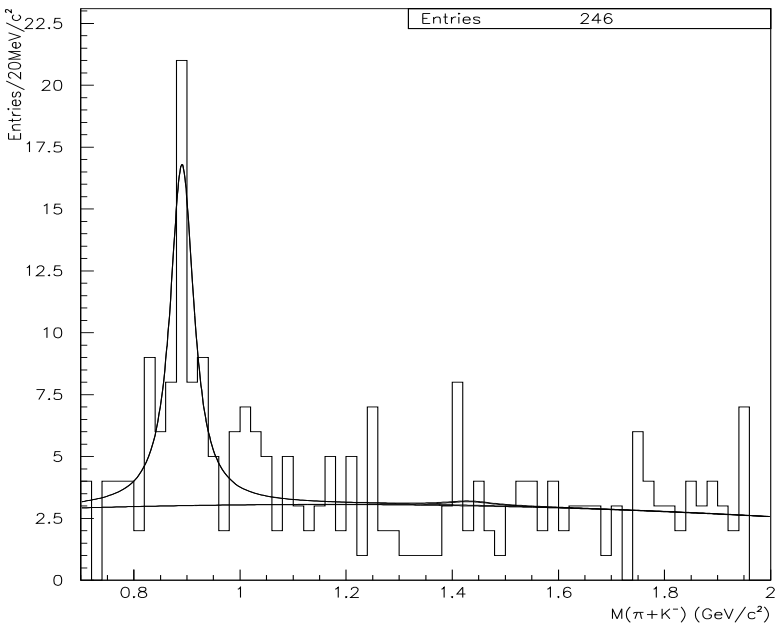

FIG. 3. The $\pi^{\pm}K^{\mp}$ invariant mass recoiling against the K^{*0} for events of the type $\psi(2S) \to K^{*0}\pi^{\pm}K^{\mp}$. The curve shows a fit to quadratic background plus K^{*0} and K_2^{*0} resonances (to see the text).

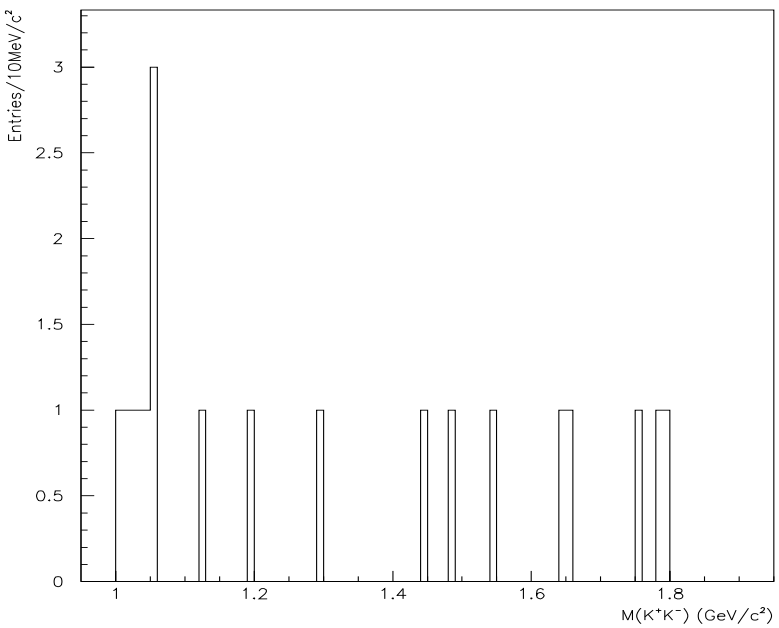

FIG. 4. The K^+K^- invariant mass recoiling against the ϕ for events of the type $\psi(2S) \to \phi K^+K^-$. 3 events fall into 80 MeV/c^2 region around the known f_2' mass.

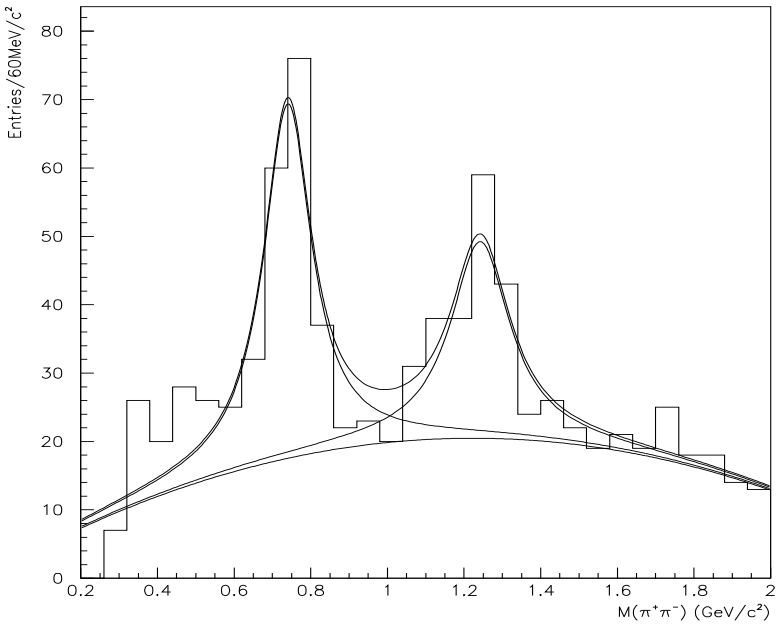

FIG. 5. The $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass for events of the type $\psi(2S) \to \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$. The curve shows a fit to quadratic background plus ρ^0 and f_2 resonances (to see the text).