## A Search for the Decay $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$

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#### Abstract

We search for the rare leptonic decay $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ in a sample of $232 \times 10^{6} B \bar{B}$ pairs collected with the BABAR detector at the SLAC PEP-II $B$-Factory. Signal events are selected by examining the properties of the $B$ meson recoiling against the semileptonic decay $B^{-} \rightarrow D^{* 0} \ell^{-} \bar{\nu}_{\ell}$. We find no evidence for a signal and set an upper limit on the branching fraction of $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)<2.8 \times 10^{-4}$ at the $90 \%$ confidence level. We combine this result with a previous, statistically independent BABAR search for $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ to give an upper limit of $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)<2.6 \times 10^{-4}$ at the $90 \%$ confidence level.


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In the Standard Model (SM) the purely leptonic decay $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ [1] proceeds via the annihilation of the $\bar{b}$ and $u$ quarks into a virtual $W$ boson. Its amplitude is proportional to the product of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix [2] element $\left|V_{u b}\right|$ and the $B$ meson decay constant $f_{B}$. The SM branching fraction is given by [3]:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)=\frac{G_{F}^{2} m_{B}}{8 \pi} m_{\tau}^{2}\left(1-\frac{m_{\tau}^{2}}{m_{B}^{2}}\right)^{2} f_{B}^{2}\left|V_{u b}\right|^{2} \tau_{B} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $G_{F}$ is the Fermi coupling constant, $m_{\tau}$ and $m_{B}$ are the $\tau^{+}$lepton and $B^{+}$meson masses, and $\tau_{B}$ is the $B^{+}$lifetime. The branching fractions for $B^{+} \rightarrow e^{+} \nu_{e}$ and $B^{+} \rightarrow \mu^{+} \nu_{\mu}$ are helicity-suppressed by $m_{\ell}^{2} / m_{B}^{2}$, where $m_{\ell}$ is the mass of $e^{+}$or $\mu^{+}$. Using the value of $\left|V_{u b}\right|=(3.67 \pm 0.47) \times 10^{-3}[4]$ and the lattice QCD calculation of $f_{B}=(0.196 \pm 0.032) \mathrm{GeV}[5]$, we determine an expected value of $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)=(9.3 \pm 3.9) \times 10^{-5}$. Currently, our best knowledge of $f_{B}$ comes from lattice QCD calculations, with a current theoretical uncertainty of roughly $16 \%$ [5]. Observation of $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ could provide the first direct measurement of $f_{B}$. The ratio of $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)$ and $\Delta m_{d}$, the difference in heavy and light neutral $B_{d}$ masses [6], can be used to determine the ratio of CKM matrix elements $\left|V_{u b}\right| /\left|V_{t d}\right|$ with roughly $4 \%$ theoretical uncertainties $[4,5]$, dominated by the uncertainties on square root of the bag parameter $\sqrt{B_{B}}$ [5].

No evidence of the $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ decay has been reported to date. The most stringent published experimental limit is $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)<4.2 \times 10^{-4}$ at the $90 \%$ confidence level (C.L.) [7]. Physics beyond the SM, such as supersymmetry or two-Higgs-doublet models, could enhance $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)$ up to the current experimental limits [8].

The data used in this analysis were collected with the BABAR detector [9] at the PEP-II asymmetric-energy $e^{+} e^{-}$storage ring. The results are based on a data sample of $(231.8 \pm 2.6) \times 10^{6} B \bar{B}$ events, in an integrated luminosity of $210.6 \mathrm{fb}^{-1}$ collected at the $\Upsilon(4 S)$ resonance. An additional sample of $21.6 \mathrm{fb}^{-1}$ was collected at a center-of-mass (CM) energy approximately 40 MeV below the $\Upsilon(4 S)$ resonance. We used the latter sample to study continuum events, $e^{+} e^{-} \rightarrow q \bar{q}(q=u, d, s, c)$ and
$e^{+} e^{-} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \tau^{-}$. Charged-particle tracking and $\mathrm{d} E / \mathrm{d} x$ measurements for particle identification (PID) are provided by a five-layer double-sided silicon vertex tracker and a 40-layer drift chamber operated in the 1.5 T magnetic field of a superconducting solenoid. A detector of internally reflected Cherenkov light (DIRC) is used to identify charged kaons and pions. The energies of neutral particles are measured by an electromagnetic calorimeter (EMC) consisting of $6580 \mathrm{CsI}(\mathrm{Tl})$ crystals. The magnetic flux return of the solenoid is instrumented with resistive plate chambers in order to provide muon identification. A full detector Monte Carlo (MC) simulation based on EvtGen [10] and GEANT4 [11] is used to evaluate signal efficiencies and to identify and study background sources.

Due to the presence of at least two neutrinos in the final state, the $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ decay lacks the kinematic constraints that are usually exploited in $B$ decay searches in order to reject both continuum and $B \bar{B}$ backgrounds. The strategy adopted to search for this decay is to reconstruct the $B^{-}$meson from an $\Upsilon(4 S) \rightarrow B^{+} B^{-}$event in a semileptonic final state, denoted by $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$. All remaining charged and neutral particles in that event, referred to as the "signal-side" particles throughout this paper, are then examined under the assumption that they are attributable to the decay of the accompanying $B^{+}$("signal $B$ ").

The $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$is reconstructed in the decay modes $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-} \rightarrow$ $D^{* 0} \ell^{-} \bar{\nu}_{\ell}(\ell=e$ or $\mu)$. The $D^{* 0}$ is reconstructed in the modes $D^{0} \pi^{0}$ and $D^{0} \gamma$. The $D^{0}$ is reconstructed in four decay modes: $K^{-} \pi^{+}, K^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+}, K^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{0}$, and $K_{S}^{0} \pi^{+} \pi^{-}$. All kinematic variables are calculated in the CM-frame of the $\Upsilon(4 S)$ unless otherwise noted.

Photon candidates are obtained from EMC clusters with laboratory-frame energy $E_{\gamma}$ greater than 30 MeV and no associated charged track. Photon pairs with invariant mass between 115 and $150 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$ are taken as $\pi^{0}$ candidates.

The $D^{0}$ candidates are reconstructed by selecting combinations of identified pions and kaons with invariant mass within $40 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$ of the nominal $D^{0}$ mass [4], except for the $K^{-} \pi^{+} \pi^{0}$ mode, where this window is 70 $\mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$. Each $D^{0}$ candidate is combined with a soft $\pi^{0}$
or $\gamma$ candidate to form a $D^{* 0}$. The $\pi^{0}$ and $\gamma$ candidates are required to have momentum less than $450 \mathrm{MeV} / c$. Further, the $\gamma$ candidate must have $E_{\gamma}>100 \mathrm{MeV}$. The invariant mass difference $\Delta M$ between the $D^{* 0}$ and $D^{0}$ is required to be within the range $135-150 \mathrm{MeV} / \mathrm{c}^{2}$ for the $D^{0} \pi^{0}$ mode, and $130-155 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$ for the $D^{0} \gamma$ mode.

The $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-} \rightarrow D^{* 0} \ell^{-} \bar{\nu}_{\ell}$ candidates are identified by combining a $D^{* 0}$ candidate of momentum $p_{D^{* 0}}>0.5 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ with a lepton candidate of momentum $p_{\ell}>1.0 \mathrm{GeV} / c$. The lepton candidate must be identified as either an electron or a muon. The invariant mass $m_{D^{* 0} \ell}$ of the $D^{* 0} \ell$ candidate is required to be greater than $3.0 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$. Under the assumption that a massless neutrino is the only missing particle, the cosine of the angle between the directions of the $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$and the lepton $-D^{* 0}$ combination is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\cos \theta_{B, D^{* 0} \ell} \equiv \frac{2 E_{\mathrm{beam}} \cdot E_{D^{* 0} \ell}-m_{B}^{2}-m_{D^{* 0} \ell}^{2}}{2\left|\mathbf{p}_{D^{* 0} \ell}\right| \cdot \sqrt{E_{\mathrm{beam}}^{2}-m_{B}^{2}}} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $E_{\text {beam }}$ is the expected $B^{-}$meson energy. The energy and momentum of the $D^{* 0} \ell$ candidate are $E_{D^{* 0} \ell}$ and $\mathbf{p}_{D^{* 0} \ell}$, respectively. Correctly reconstructed candidates populate the range $[-1,1]$, whereas combinatorial backgrounds can take unphysical values well outside this range. We retain $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$candidates in the wider interval $\left|\cos \theta_{B, D^{* 0} \ell}\right|<1.1$, allowing for the effects of detector energy and momentum resolutions. If more than one $D^{* 0} \ell$ candidate is reconstructed in an event, the best candidate is selected using a likelihood based on the simulated $D^{0}$ mass and $\Delta M$ distributions. We further require that the sum of the charges of all the particles in the event ("net charge") must be equal to zero.

The $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$reconstruction efficiency for events containing a $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ decay is determined from signal simulation after verifying that the simulated $B \bar{B}, u \bar{u}$, $d \bar{d}, s \bar{s}, c \bar{c}$, and $\tau^{+} \tau^{-}$events are consistent with data. This procedure compensates for differences in the $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$ reconstruction efficiency in the low-multiplicity environment of $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ events compared with the generic $B^{+} B^{-}$environment. The simulated efficiency is further cross-checked by comparing the yield of events in which a $B^{+} \rightarrow \bar{D}^{* 0} \ell^{+} \nu_{\ell}$ decay has been reconstructed in addition to a $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$("double semileptonic decays"). In the signal simulation the $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$reconstruction efficiency is $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{sl}}=(1.75 \pm 0.07$ (stat.) $\pm 0.05$ (syst.) $) \times 10^{-3}$. The $D^{* 0} \ell^{-} \bar{\nu}_{\ell}, D^{* 0}$, and $D^{0}$ branching fractions are factored in $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{sl}}$.

Events that contain a $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$are examined for evidence of a $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ decay. Charged tracks and EMC clusters not already utilized for the $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$reconstruction are assumed to originate from the signal candidate $B^{+}$decay. We identify the $\tau$ lepton in six mutually exclusive channels: $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, \mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, \pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, \pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, and "misidentified lepton". The misidentified-lepton channel selects signal events from the $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ or $\mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ signal decays in which the momentum of the $e^{+}$or $\mu^{+}$from the
signal $\tau^{+}$is too low to pass the lepton identification criteria. The identified $\tau^{+}$modes all together correspond to approximately $81 \%$ of all $\tau^{+}$decays [4].

Signal candidates are searched in events that are required to possess exactly one signal-side charged track, except for $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ candidate events, which must have three signal-side charged tracks. The signal track from the $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}\left(\mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}\right)$ channel is required to be identified as an electron (a muon), and not to satisfy either muon (electron) or kaon PID criteria. In the $\pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, \pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, and misidentified-lepton channels the signal track(s) must not satisfy electron, muon, or kaon PID. In addition, each signal track from the $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ channel has to be identified as a pion. For the $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ channel the signal track is combined with a signal-side $\pi^{0}$ candidate, reconstructed from a signal-side photon pair ( $E_{\gamma}>50 \mathrm{MeV}$ for each photon) with invariant mass between 100 and $160 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{2}$. If several signal-side $\pi^{0}$ candidates are reconstructed in an event, the candidate with $\gamma \gamma$ invariant mass closest to the nominal $\pi^{0}$ mass [4] is chosen. We require that the events in the $\pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ and misidentified-lepton channels contain no signal-side $\pi^{0}$ candidates. Events in the $\pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ and misidentified-lepton channels are distinguished by requiring the momentum of the signal track to be greater than $1.2 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ in the former, and less than $1.2 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ in the latter.

Further requirements are made on the (total) momentum of the signal track(s) for some channels: $p_{e^{+}}<$ $1.4 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ for $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, and $p_{\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+}}>1.0 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ for $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$. We apply constraints on the missing mass $M_{\text {miss }}$ of the event, which is determined by subtracting the total four-momentum of reconstructed tracks and neutrals from that for the $\Upsilon(4 S)$ system. This quantity tends to be larger for events with more neutrinos. Signal events must satisfy $M_{\text {miss }}>4 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$ for $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ and $\mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, M_{\text {miss }}>3 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$ for $\pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ and misidentified-lepton, and $M_{\text {miss }}>2 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$ for $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$.

Additional kinematic constraints are applied on the $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}\left(\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}\right)$ channel, which proceeds mainly via intermediate $\rho^{+}\left(a_{1}^{+}\right.$and $\left.\rho^{0}\right)$ resonance(s). In the $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ channel the invariant mass of the $\pi^{+} \pi^{0}$ must be between 0.55 and $1.0 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$. For the $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ channel the invariant mass of the three-pion system is required to be within the range $1.0-1.6 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$. The $\pi^{+} \pi^{-}$combination of the three-pion system, with invariant mass closest to the nominal $\rho^{0}$ mass [4], is required to have momentum greater then $0.5 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ and invariant mass between 0.55 and $1.0 \mathrm{GeV} / c^{2}$. We further require that the cosine of the angle between the directions of the $\tau^{+}$and the $\pi^{+} \pi^{0}$ $\left(\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+}\right)$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\cos \theta_{\tau, \text { had }} \equiv \frac{2 E_{\tau} \cdot E_{\mathrm{had}}-m_{\tau}^{2}-m_{\mathrm{had}}^{2}}{2\left|\mathbf{p}_{\tau}\right| \cdot\left|\mathbf{p}_{\mathrm{had}}\right|} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

is within $[-1.1,1.1]$. Here $E_{\text {had }}, \mathbf{p}_{\text {had }}$ and $m_{\text {had }}$ are the energy, momentum and invariant mass, respectively, of
the $\pi^{+} \pi^{0}\left(\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+}\right)$. The energy $E_{\tau}$ and momentum $\mathbf{p}_{\tau}$ of the $\tau^{+}$from $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ decay are calculated under the assumption that the $B^{+}$is at rest in the CM-frame.

Continuum background events contribute to the $\pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, misidentified-lepton, $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, and $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ channels. To suppress this background we combine five variables in a linear Fisher discriminant [12]: $p_{D^{* 0}}, p_{\ell}, \cos \theta_{B, D^{* 0} \ell}$, the cosine of the angle between the thrust axis of the decay products of $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$and the thrust axis of the rest of the event, and the ratio of the second and zeroth FoxWolfram moments using all the particles in the event [13]. The requirement placed on the output of the Fisher discriminant selects about $93 \%$ of signal events and rejects about $37 \%$ of continuum background events. After this requirement the continuum background in each channel is less than $40 \%$ of the total background.

The sum of the laboratory-frame energies of the neutral EMC clusters with $E_{\gamma}>30 \mathrm{MeV}$, which are not associated with either the $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$or the $\pi^{0}$ candidate from $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ channel, is denoted by $E_{\text {extra }}$ (Fig. 1). For signal events the neutral clusters contributing to $E_{\text {extra }}$ come only from hadronic shower fragments, bremsstrahlung, and beam-related background. This variable peaks near zero for signal while for background, which contains additional sources of neutral clusters, it takes on larger values. Signal events are required to have $E_{\text {extra }}$ less than 250 MeV for $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, 150 \mathrm{MeV}$ for $\mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, 300$ MeV for $\pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, 170 \mathrm{MeV}$ for misidentified lepton, 250 MeV for $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, and 200 MeV for $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, which are selected based on MC study to provide the tightest branching fraction upper limit. The $E_{\text {extra }}$ selection region defines the "signal region" for each channel. The $350<E_{\text {extra }}<1000 \mathrm{MeV}$ region is defined as the "side band" for all the channels.

The efficiencies $\varepsilon_{i}$ for each $\tau$ selection channel $i$ are determined using simulated events. Cross-feeds among the $\tau$-decay channels are taken into account. The systematic uncertainties in the selection efficiency arise from tracking efficiency ( $1.4 \%$ per track), particle identification $(0.2 \%-2.0 \%), E_{\text {extra }}$ simulation $(3.0 \%-8.0 \%), \pi^{0}$ reconstruction (3.3\%), and data and MC differences in the output of the Fisher discriminant (1.0\%). Systematic uncertainties due to the $E_{\text {extra }}$ simulation are determined by evaluating the effect of varying the MC $E_{\text {extra }}$ distribution within a range representing the observed level of agreement with data in samples containing $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$and up to seven additional tracks. For further cross-check the $E_{\text {extra }}$ distributions of the data and MC events for the double semileptonic decays are compared. The signal selection efficiencies for the six selection channels are listed in Table I. The total $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ selection efficiency is roughly $31 \%$.

The remaining background consists primarily of $B^{+} B^{-}$ events with correctly reconstructed $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$. For these events the signal side contains $K_{L}^{0}$ '(s), neutrino(s), or particles that pass outside the detector acceptance. For each chan-


FIG. 1: The distribution of $E_{\text {extra }}$ after applying all other selection criteria, plotted for (a) $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, (b) $\mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, (c) $\pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, (d) misidentified lepton, (e) $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, and (f) $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ channels. The data and background MC samples are represented by the points with error bars and solid histograms, respectively. The dotted lines indicate the $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ signal distribution from MC. The signal MC events for the $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, \mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}, \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$, and misidentified-lepton $\left(\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}\right.$ and $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ ) channels are normalized assuming a branching fraction of $10^{-3}\left(10^{-2}\right)$ for $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ decay.
nel we estimate the background $b_{i}$ in the signal region using events in the data side band and the simulated $E_{\text {extra }}$ distribution:

$$
\begin{equation*}
b_{i}=N_{\text {SideB }}^{\text {data }} \times\left(N_{\text {SigR }}^{\mathrm{MC}} / N_{\text {SideB }}^{\mathrm{MC}}\right) \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Here $N_{\text {SideB }}^{\text {data }}$ is the number of data events in the side band, and $N_{\text {SigR }}^{\mathrm{MC}}$ and $N_{\text {SideB }}^{\mathrm{MC}}$ are the numbers of MC background events in the signal region and side band, respectively. Background estimation is cross-checked using data and MC events that satisfy the full signal selection, with the exception of having two signal-side tracks, or non-zero net charge, or the $\Delta M$ of the $D^{* 0}$ outside the selection region. The uncertainties in the background estimations are predominantly statistical; smaller systematic uncertainties arise from the simulation of the $E_{\text {extra }}$ shape in the background MC.

We determine the $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ branching fraction from the number of signal candidates $s_{i}$ expected for each $\tau$ selection channel, where $s_{i} \equiv N_{B^{ \pm}} \varepsilon_{\mathrm{sl}} \varepsilon_{i} \mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)$. $N_{B^{ \pm}}=(231.8 \pm 2.6) \times 10^{6}$ is the estimated number of $B^{ \pm}$mesons in the data sample. The results for each channel are combined using the estimator $Q \equiv \mathcal{L}(s+$ b) $/ \mathcal{L}(b)[14,15]$, where

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{L}(s+b) \equiv \prod_{i=1}^{6} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathrm{d} b_{i}^{\prime} \frac{e^{-\frac{\left(b_{i}^{\prime}-b_{i}\right)^{2}}{2 \sigma_{i}^{2}}}}{\sqrt{2 \pi \sigma_{i}^{2}}} \frac{e^{-\left(s_{i}+b_{i}^{\prime}\right)}\left(s_{i}+b_{i}^{\prime}\right)^{n_{i}}}{n_{i}!} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

is the likelihood function for signal-plus-background hypotheses, $n_{i}$ is the observed number of data events in each

TABLE I: Efficiency $\left(\varepsilon_{i}\right)$ with statistical and systematic errors, expected background $\left(b_{i}\right)$, and observed data candidates $\left(n_{i}\right)$ for each reconstructed $\tau$ selection channels. The crossfeeds among the $\tau$ decay modes are taken into account. The $\varepsilon_{i}$ values include the branching fractions of the $\tau$ decay modes.

| selection | $\varepsilon_{i}(\%)$ | $b_{i}$ | $n_{i}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $e^{+} \nu_{e} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ | $7.5 \pm 0.4 \pm 0.2$ | $13.4 \pm 2.4$ | 17 |
| $\mu^{+} \nu_{\mu} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ | $2.9 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.1$ | $6.2 \pm 1.7$ | 5 |
| $\pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ | $8.0 \pm 0.4 \pm 0.3$ | $27.7 \pm 5.0$ | 26 |
| $\pi^{+} \pi^{0} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ | $2.5 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.1$ | $28.6 \pm 4.3$ | 31 |
| $\pi^{+} \pi^{-} \pi^{+} \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ | $1.4 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.1$ | $21.6 \pm 3.0$ | 26 |
| misidentified lepton | $9.0 \pm 0.4 \pm 0.4$ | $33.4 \pm 5.1$ | 45 |

$\tau$ selection channel, and $\sigma_{i}$ is the uncertainty in the background estimate $b_{i}$ (Table I). The likelihood function for background-only hypotheses $\mathcal{L}(b)$ can be obtained from Eq. 5 by setting $s_{i}$ to zero.

The measured branching fraction, which is the value that maximizes the likelihood ratio estimator, is $\left(1.3_{-1.1}^{+1.2}\right) \times 10^{-4}$. This value is compatible with a zero branching fraction. The $n_{i}$ and $b_{i}$ values (Table I) do not indicate any significant excess of observed events. Therefore, we set an upper limit on the branching fraction [15] of $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)<2.8 \times 10^{-4}$ ( $90 \%$ C.L.). The expected branching fraction upper limit for background only hypothesis is $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)<1.8 \times 10^{-4}(90 \%$ C.L.).

The $B A B A R$ Collaboration has previously performed a search for the $B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ decay based on a sample of $88.9 \times 10^{6} B \bar{B}$ pairs, where the $B^{-}$meson accompanying the signal $B^{+}$is reconstructed in a variety of hadronic or semileptonic modes [7]. The hadronic $B^{-}$selection is mutually exclusive with the current $B_{\mathrm{sl}}^{-}$selection. Therefore the two samples are statistically independent and may be combined. The hadronic reconstruction analysis obtained a limit $\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)<4.2 \times 10^{-4}$ at the $90 \%$ C.L. To combine the results from the previous hadronic and current semileptonic samples, we create a combined estimator from the product of the semileptonic $\left(Q_{\mathrm{sl}}\right)$ and hadronic $\left(Q_{\mathrm{had}}\right)$ likelihood ratio estimators, $Q \equiv Q_{\mathrm{sl}} \times Q_{\text {had }}$. The measured branching fraction from the combined sample is $\left(1.3_{-0.9}^{+1.0}\right) \times 10^{-4}$. This value is compatible with a zero branching fraction, and we set a combined upper limit,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{B}\left(B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}\right)<2.6 \times 10^{-4}(90 \% \text { C.L. }) \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

These results represent the most stringent limits on
$B^{+} \rightarrow \tau^{+} \nu_{\tau}$ reported to date.

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