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Improved Direct Measurement of the Parity-Violation Parameter A_b Using a Mass Tag and Momentum-Weighted Track Charge

The SLD Collaboration[**]

Stanford Linear Accelerator Center
Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94309

Abstract

We present an improved direct measurement of the parity-violation parameter A_b in the Z boson–b quark coupling using a self-calibrating track-charge technique applied to a sample enriched in $Z \to b\bar{b}$ events via the topological reconstruction of the B hadron mass. Manipulation of the SLC electron-beam polarization permits the measurement of A_b to be made independently of other Z-pole coupling parameters. From the 1996-98 sample of 400,000 hadronic Z decays, produced with an average beam polarization of 73.4%, we find $A_b = 0.906 \pm 0.022(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.023(\text{syst.})$.

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Measurements of b quark production asymmetries at the Z^0 pole determine the extent of parity violation in the $Zb\bar{b}$ coupling. At Born level, the differential cross section for the process $e^+e^- \to Z^0 \to b\bar{b}$ can be expressed as a function of the polar angle θ of the b quark relative to the electron beam direction,

$$\sigma^b(\xi) \equiv d\sigma_b/d\xi \propto (1 - A_e P_e)(1 + \xi^2) + 2A_b(A_e - P_e)\xi, \tag{1}$$

where P_e is the longitudinal polarization of the electron beam ($P_e > 0$ for predominantly right-handed polarized beam), and $\xi = \cos\theta$. The parameter $A_f = 2v_f a_f/(v_f^2 + a_f^2)$, where v_f (a_f) is the vector (axial vector) coupling of the fermion f to the Z^0 boson, with $f = e$ or b, expresses the extent of parity violation in the $Zf\bar{f}$ coupling.

From the conventional forward-backward asymmetries formed with an unpolarized electron beam ($P_e = 0$), such as that used by the CERN Large Electron-Positron Collider (LEP) experiments, only the product $A_e A_b$ of parity-violation parameters can be measured [1]. With a longitudinally polarized electron beam, however, it is possible to measure A_b independently of A_e by fitting simultaneously to the differential cross sections of Eq. (1) formed separately for predominantly left- and right-handed beam. The resulting direct measurement of A_b is largely independent of propagator effects that modify the effective weak mixing angle, and thus is complementary to other electroweak asymmetry measurements performed at the Z^0 pole.

In this Letter, we present a measurement of A_b based on the use of an inclusive vertex mass tag (improved relative to that of previous publications due to the use of an upgraded vertex detector) to select $Z \to b\bar{b}$ events, and the net momentum-weighted track charge [2] to identify the charge of the underlying quark. This result, incorporating data collected during the 1996-98 runs of the Stanford Linear Collider (SLC), is over twice as precise as that of our previous publication [4], which was based on data from 1993-95.

The operation of the SLC with a polarized electron beam has been described elsewhere [5]. During the 1996-98 run, the SLC Large Detector (SLD) [6] recorded an integrated luminosity of 14.0 pb^{-1}, at a mean center-of-mass energy of 91.24 GeV, and with a luminosity-weighted

mean electron-beam polarization of $|P_e| = 0.734 \pm 0.004$ [3]. The 1996-98 run of the SLD detector incorporated the upgraded VXD3 CCD pixel vertex detector [7], which featured a greater coverage in $\cos\theta$, as well as a larger outer radius and substantially less material per layer, than that of the VXD2 vertex detector [8] in place from 1993-95.

The SLD measures charged particle tracks with the Central Drift Chamber (CDC), which is immersed in a uniform axial magnetic field of 0.6T. The VXD3 vertex detector provides an accurate measure of particle trajectories close to the beam axis. For the 1996-98 data, the combined $r\phi$ (rz) impact parameter resolution of the CDC and VXD3 is 7.7 (9.6) μm at high momentum, and 34 (34) μm at $p_\perp\sqrt{\sin\theta} = 1$ GeV/c, where $p_\perp$ is the momentum transverse to the beam direction, and r (z) is the coordinate perpendicular (parallel) to the beam axis. The combined momentum resolution in the plane perpendicular to the beam axis is $\delta p_\perp/p_\perp = \sqrt{(.01)^2 + (.0026\ p_\perp/GeV/c)^2}$. The thrust axis is reconstructed using the Liquid Argon Calorimeter, which covers the angular range $|\cos\theta| < 0.98$.

The details of the analysis procedure are similar to those of the 1993-95 sample analysis. Events are classified as hadronic Z^0 decays if they: (1) contain at least seven well-measured tracks (as described in Ref. [6]), (2) exhibit a visible charged energy of at least 20 GeV, and (3) have a thrust axis polar angle satisfying $|\cos\theta_{thrust}| < 0.7$. The resulting hadronic sample from the 1996-98 data consists of 245,048 events with a non-hadronic background estimated to be $< 0.1\%$.

We select against multi-jet events in order to reduce the dependence of the measured value of A_b on the effects of gluon radiation and inter-hemisphere correlation. Events are discarded if they are found to have four or more jets by the JADE jet-finding algorithm with $y_{cut} = 0.02$ [9], using reconstructed charged tracks as input. In addition, any event found to have three or more jets with $y_{cut} = 0.1$ is discarded.

To increase the $Z^0 \to b\overline{b}$ content of the sample, a tagging procedure based on the invariant mass of 3-dimensional topologically reconstructed secondary decay vertices is applied [10]. The mass of the reconstructed vertex is corrected for missing transverse momentum relative to the reconstructed B hadron flight direction in order to partially account for neutral

particles. The requirement that the event contain at least one secondary vertex with mass greater than 2 GeV/c^2 results in a sample of 36,936 candidate $Z^0 \to b\overline{b}$ decays. The purity (97%) and efficiency (77%) of this sample are calculated from the data by comparing the rates for finding a high mass vertex in either a single or both hemispheres, where the two hemispheres are defined relative to the plane perpendicular to the thrust axis. This procedure assumes *a-priori* knowledge of the small *udsc* tagging efficiency, as well as the size of inter-hemisphere correlations, both of which are taken from Monte Carlo (MC) simulation. This procedure also assumes knowledge of the relative $Z \to c\bar{c}$ and $Z \to b\bar{b}$ widths, which are assigned their Standard Model rates, which are assigned their Standard Model values of 0.172 and 0.216, respectively.

Using all track-charge quality tracks, as defined in Ref. [11], we form the track-direction-signed (Q) and unsigned (Q_+) momentum-weighted track-charge sums

$$Q = -\sum_{tracks} q_j \cdot \mathrm{sgn}(\vec{p}_j \cdot \hat{T})|(\vec{p}_j \cdot \hat{T})|^\kappa, \tag{2}$$

$$Q_+ = \sum_{tracks} q_j |(\vec{p}_j \cdot \hat{T})|^\kappa, \tag{3}$$

where q_j and $\vec{p}_j$ are the charge and momentum of track j, respectively, and $\hat{T}$ is a unit vector chosen along the direction of the reconstructed thrust axis so that $Q > 0$. The vector $\hat{T}$ is therefore an estimate of the b-quark direction. We use $\kappa = 0.5$ to maximize the analyzing power of the track charge algorithm for $Z^0 \to b\overline{b}$ events, resulting in a correct-assignment probability of 70%. Fig. 1 shows the $T_z = \cos\theta_{thrust}$ distribution of the b-enriched sample separately for left- and right-handed electron beams. Clear forward-backward asymmetries are observed, with respective signs as expected from the cross-section formula in Eq. 1.

The value of A_b is extracted via a maximum likelihood fit to the differential cross section (see Eq. 1)

$$\rho^i(A_b) = (1 - A_e P_e^i)(1 + (T_z^i)^2) + 2(A_e - P_e^i)T_z^i[A_b f_b^i(2p_b^i - 1)(1 - \Delta^i_{QCD,b}) + A_c f_c^i(2p_c^i - 1)(1 - \Delta^i_{QCD,c}) + A_{bckg}(1 - f_b^i - f_c^i)(2p^i_{bckg} - 1)], \tag{4}$$

where P_e^i is the signed polarization of the electron beam for event i, $f^i_{b(c)}$ the probability that the event is a $Z^0 \to b\overline{b}(c\overline{c})$ decay (parameterized as a function of the secondary vertex mass), and $\Delta^i_{QCD,b,c}$ are final-state QCD corrections, to be discussed below. A_{bckg} is the estimated asymmetry of residual $u\overline{u}$, $d\overline{d}$, and $s\overline{s}$ final states. The parameters p are estimates of the probability that the sign of Q accurately reflects the charge of the respective underlying quark, and are functions of $|Q|$, as well as the secondary vertex mass and $|T_z|$.

As in our previous publication [4], we measure p_b directly from the data [12]. Defining Q_b ($Q_{\overline{b}}$) to be the unsigned momentum-weighted track charge sum for the thrust hemisphere containing the b ($\overline{b}$) quark, the quantities

$$Q_{sum} = Q_b + Q_{\overline{b}} \ , \quad Q_{dif} = Q_b - Q_{\overline{b}} \ , \tag{5}$$

may be related to the experimental observables defined in Eqs. 2 and 3 respectively: $|Q_{dif}| = |Q|$ and $Q_{sum} = Q_+$. Our MC simulation indicates that the Q_b and $Q_{\overline{b}}$ distributions are approximately Gaussian. In this limit [12],

$$p_b(|Q|) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\alpha_b |Q|}} \ , \tag{6}$$

with

$$\alpha_b = \frac{2q^0_{dif}}{\sigma^2_{dif}} = \frac{2\sqrt{\langle |Q_{dif}|^2 \rangle - \sigma^2_{dif}}}{\sigma^2_{dif}} \ , \tag{7}$$

where q^0_{dif} and σ_{dif} are the mean and width, respectively, of the Gaussian Q_{dif} distribution. Figure 2 compares the distributions of the observable combinations $|Q_{dif}|$ and Q_+ between data and MC.

In the absence of a correlation between Q_b and $Q_{\overline{b}}$, $\sigma_{dif} = \sigma_{sum}$, where σ_{sum} is the observed width of the Q_+ distribution. Thus α_b can be derived from experimental observables. In the presence of a correlation, $\sigma_{dif} = (1 + \lambda)\sigma_{sum}$, where λ characterizes the strength of the correlation, which can be determined from the MC simulation. For JETSET 7.4 [13] with parton shower evolution, string fragmentation, and full detector simulation, λ is found to be 0.040. The effects of light flavor contamination are taken into account by adjusting

the observed widths σ^2_{sum} and $\langle|Q_{dif}|^2\rangle$, using the magnitude and width of the light-flavor and $c\bar{c}$ contributions estimated from the MC. This correction increases the value of α_b by 2% to 0.2944 ± 0.0078, bringing it into good agreement with the value of 0.2949 ± 0.0007 extracted from the $Z \to b\bar{b}$ simulation.

Final-state gluon radiation reduces the observed asymmetry from its Born-level value. This effect is incorporated in our analysis by applying a correction $\Delta_{QCD}(|\cos\theta|)$ to the likelihood function (Eq. 4). Calculation of the quantity Δ_{QCD} has been performed by several groups [14].

For an unbiased sample of $b\bar{b}$ events, correcting for final-state gluon radiation increases the measured asymmetry by $\sim 3\%$. However, QCD radiative effects are mitigated by the use of the thrust axis to estimate the b-quark direction, the $Z^0 \to b\overline{b}$ enrichment algorithm, the self-calibration procedure, and the cut on the number of jets. A MC simulation of the analysis chain indicates that these effects can be represented by a $\cos\theta$-independent suppression factor, $x_{QCD} = 0.074$, such that $\Delta_{QCD} = x_{QCD}\Delta^{TH}_{QCD}$.

Effects due to gluon splitting to $b\bar{b}$ and $c\bar{c}$ have been estimated by rescaling the JETSET simulation production of such quark pairs to current world-average gluon splitting measurements [15], leading to a correction of $+0.3\%$ on the value of A_b. Additional radiative effects, such as those due to initial-state radiation and γ/Z interference, lead to a further correction of -0.2% to the measured value of A_b.

While, as described above, the overall tagging efficiency is derived from data, the dependence of the b-tagging efficiency upon the secondary vertex mass must be estimated from the MC simulation, as must be the charm correct-signing probability p_c. The value of A_c is set to its Standard Model value of 0.67, with an uncertainty commensurate with current experimental data [16]. The value of A_{bckg} is set to zero, with an uncertainty corresponding to the full physical range $|A_{bckg}| < 1$. The resulting value of A_b extracted from the fit is $A_b = 0.907 \pm 0.022$ $(stat)$. This result is found to be insensitive to the value of the b-tag mass cut, and the value of weighting exponent κ used in the definition (2) and (3) of the

momentum-weighted track charge sum.

We have investigated a number of systematic effects which can change the measured value of A_b; these are summarized in Table I. The uncertainty in α_b due to the statistical uncertainties in $\langle |Q_{dif}|^2 \rangle$ and σ^2_{sum} corresponds to a 1.6% uncertainty in A_b. The uncertainty in the hemisphere correlation parameter λ is estimated by varying fragmentation parameters within JETSET 7.4, and by comparison with the HERWIG 5.7 [17] fragmentation model. The resulting uncertainty in A_b is 1.4%. The sensitivity of the result to the shape of the underlying Q_b distribution is tested by generating various triangular distributions as well as double Gaussian distributions with offset means. The test distributions are constrained to yield a Q_+ distribution consistent with data, and the total uncertainty is found to be 0.8%. In addition, while the mean value of the self-calibration parameter α_b is constrained by the data, it has a $\cos\theta$ dependence due to the fall-off of the tracking efficiency at high $|\cos\theta|$ which must be estimated using the simulation, leading to a 0.4% uncertainty in A_b.

The extracted value of A_b is sensitive to our estimate of the $Z^0 \to c\overline{c}$ background, which tends to reduce the observed asymmetry due to the positive charge of the underlying c quark. The uncertainty in the purity estimate of $96.9 \pm 0.3\%$ is dominated by the uncertainties in the charm tagging efficiency ($\epsilon_c = 0.0218 \pm 0.0004$) and the statistical uncertainty of the bottom tagging efficiency determined from data, leading to a 0.5% uncertainty in A_b. An outline of the charmed quark efficiency uncertainty determination can be found in Ref. [18].

Agreement between the data and MC simulation charged track multiplicity distributions is obtained only after the inclusion of additional ad-hoc tracking inefficiency. This random inefficiency was parameterized as a function of total track momentum, and averages 0.4 charged tracks per event, leading to an overall change of +1.3% in A_b. As a check, we employ an alternative approach, matching the efficiency of the linking of the independent CDC and VXD3 track segments between data and MC simulation. This yields a change of +0.5% in A_b; we take the difference of 0.8% as an estimate of the systematic error on the modeling of the tracking efficiency. Combining all systematic uncertainties in quadrature yields a total relative systematic uncertainty of 2.6%.

In conclusion, we have exploited the highly polarized SLC electron beam and precise vertexing capabilities of the SLD detector to perform a direct measurement of $A_b = 0.906 \pm 0.022(\text{stat}) \pm 0.023(\text{syst})$, from the 1996-98 SLD data sample. Combined with our previously published result [4] based on the 1993-95 data sample, we find

$$A_b = 0.907 \pm 0.020(\text{stat}) \pm 0.024(\text{syst}), \tag{8}$$

for the full 1993-98 data sample. This result is in good agreement with the Standard Model prediction of 0.935, and represents an improvement of over a factor of two in the precision of the determination of A_b via the use of momentum-weighted track charge.

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FIGURES

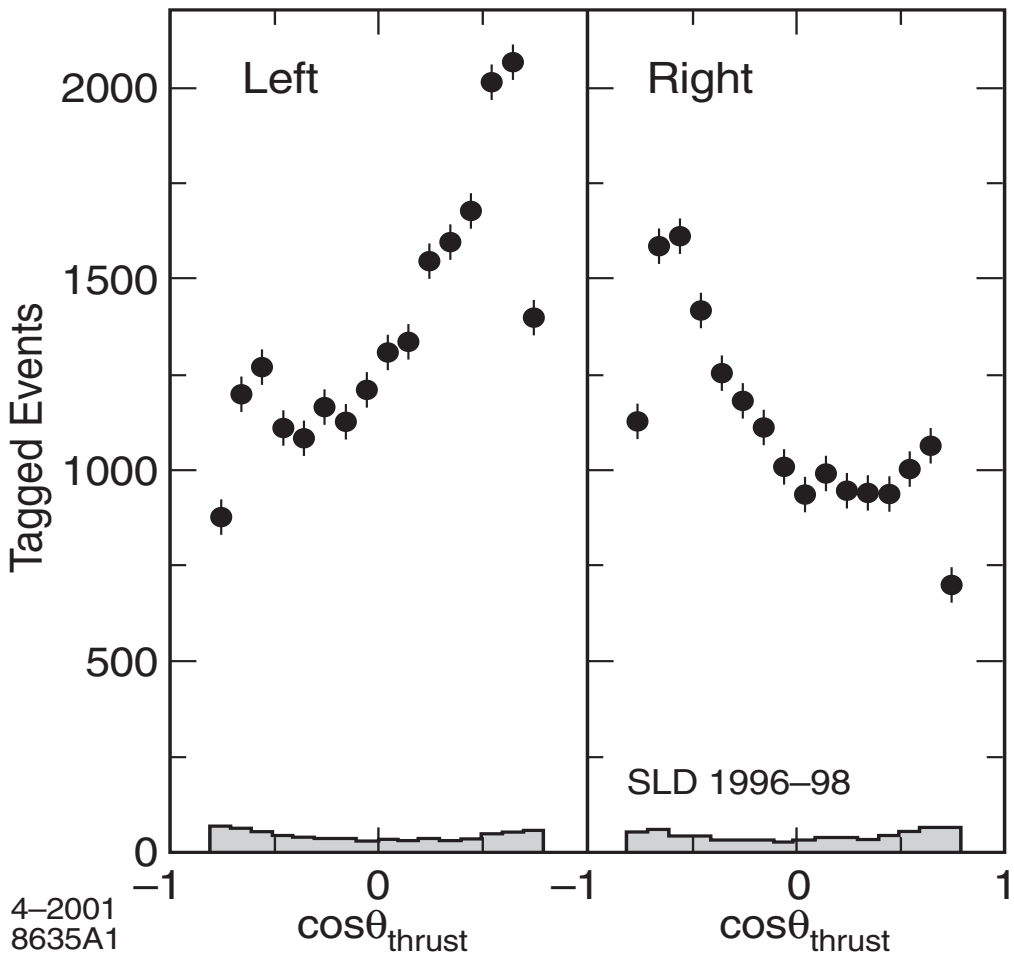

FIG. 1. Polar angle distributions for track-charge-signed $Z \to b\bar{b}$ candidates, separately for left- and right-handed electron beam. The shaded histogram represents the contribution from non-$b\bar{b}$ background, estimated as described in the text. The analysis employs a cut of $|\cos\theta| < 0.7$.

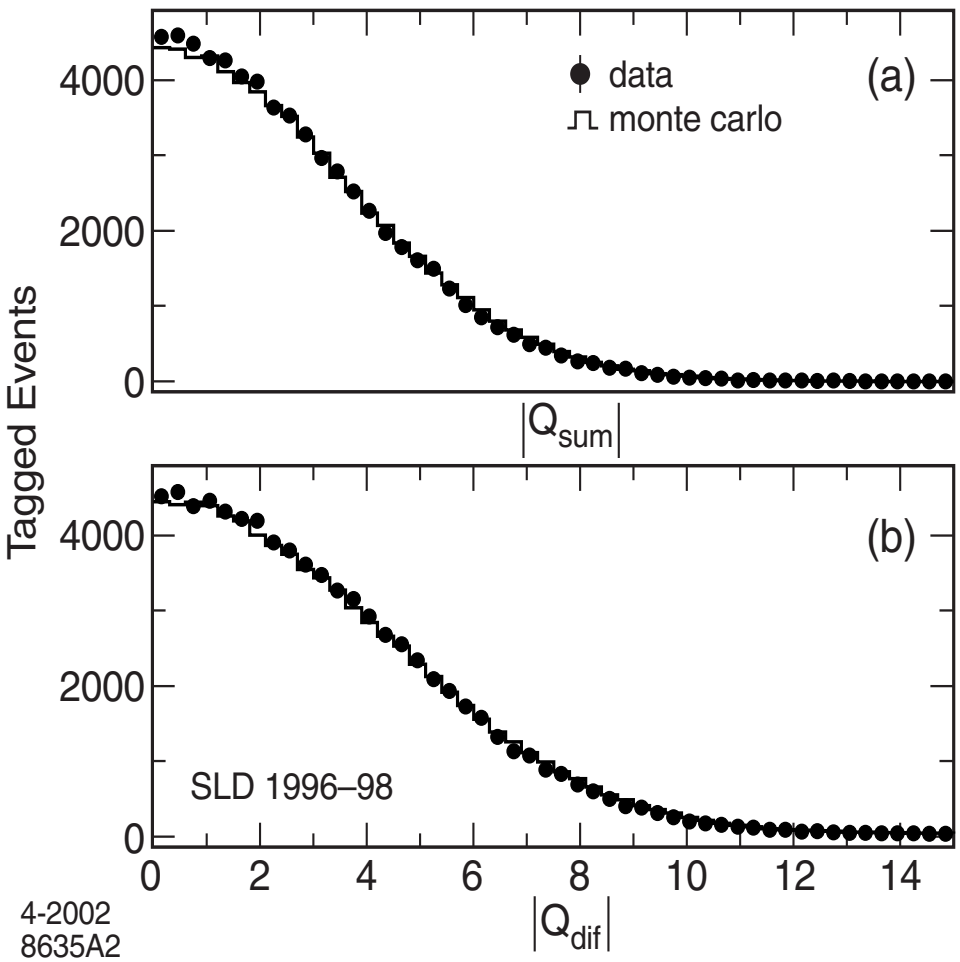

FIG. 2. Comparison between data (points) and MC (histogram) for the observables $|Q_{sum}|$ and $|Q_{dif}|$ (see text), for $Z \to b\bar{b}$ candidates.

TABLES

Error Source	**Variation**	$\delta A_b/A_b$
Self-Calibration		
α_b statistics	$\pm 1\sigma$	1.6%
λ_b Correlation	JETSET, HERWIG	1.4%
$P(Q_b)$ shape	Different shapes	0.8%
$\cos\theta$ shape of α_b	MC Shape *vs* Flat	0.4%
Light Flavor	50% of correction	0.2%
Analysis		
Tag Composition	Procedure from [18]	0.5%
Detector Modeling	Compare tracking eff. corrections	0.8%
Beam Polarization	$\pm 0.5\%$	0.5%
QCD	Full correction	0.3%
Gluon Splitting	Full Correction	0.1%
A_c	0.67 ± 0.04	0.1%
A_{bckg}	0 ± 0.50	0.2%
Total		**2.6%**

TABLE I. Relative systematic errors on the measurement of A_b.

List of Figures

1 Polar angle distributions for track-charge-signed $Z \to b\bar{b}$ candidates, separately for left- and right-handed electron beam. The shaded histogram represents the contribution from non-$b\bar{b}$ background, estimated as described in the text. The analysis employs a cut of $|\cos\theta| < 0.7$. 11

2 Comparison between data (points) and MC (histogram) for the observables $|Q_{sum}|$ and $|Q_{dif}|$ (see text), for $Z \to b\bar{b}$ candidates. 12

List of Tables

I Relative systematic errors on the measurement of A_b. 13

** The SLD Collaboration

Kenji Abe,[15] Koya Abe,[24] T. Abe,[21] I. Adam,[21] H. Akimoto,[21] D. Aston,[21]
K.G. Baird,[11] C. Baltay,[30] H.R. Band,[29] T.L. Barklow,[21] J.M. Bauer,[12]
G. Bellodi,[17] R. Berger,[21] G. Blaylock,[11] J.R. Bogart,[21] G.R. Bower,[21] J.E. Brau,[16]
M. Breidenbach,[21] W.M. Bugg,[23] D. Burke,[21] T.H. Burnett,[28] P.N. Burrows,[17]
A. Calcaterra,[8] R. Cassell,[21] A. Chou,[21] H.O. Cohn,[23] J.A. Coller,[4]
M.R. Convery,[21] V. Cook,[28] R.F. Cowan,[13] G. Crawford,[21] C.J.S. Damerell,[19]
M. Daoudi,[21] N. de Groot,[2] R. de Sangro,[8] D.N. Dong,[21] M. Doser,[21] R. Dubois,[21]
I. Erofeeva,[14] V. Eschenburg,[12] S. Fahey,[5] D. Falciai,[8] J.P. Fernandez,[26]
K. Flood,[11] R. Frey,[16] E.L. Hart,[23] K. Hasuko,[24] S.S. Hertzbach,[11] M.E. Huffer,[21]
X. Huynh,[21] M. Iwasaki,[16] D.J. Jackson,[19] P. Jacques,[20] J.A. Jaros,[21] Z.Y. Jiang,[21]
A.S. Johnson,[21] J.R. Johnson,[29] R. Kajikawa,[15] M. Kalelkar,[20] H.J. Kang,[20]
R.R. Kofler,[11] R.S. Kroeger,[12] M. Langston,[16] D.W.G. Leith,[21] V. Lia,[13] C. Lin,[11]
G. Mancinelli,[20] S. Manly,[30] G. Mantovani,[18] T.W. Markiewicz,[21] T. Maruyama,[21]
A.K. McKemey,[3] R. Messner,[21] K.C. Moffeit,[21] T.B. Moore,[30] M. Morii,[21]
D. Muller,[21] V. Murzin,[14] S. Narita,[24] U. Nauenberg,[5] H. Neal,[30] G. Nesom,[17]
N. Oishi,[15] D. Onoprienko,[23] L.S. Osborne,[13] R.S. Panvini,[27] C.H. Park,[22]
I. Peruzzi,[8] M. Piccolo,[8] L. Piemontese,[7] R.J. Plano,[20] R. Prepost,[29]
C.Y. Prescott,[21] B.N. Ratcliff,[21] J. Reidy,[12] P.L. Reinertsen,[26] L.S. Rochester,[21]
P.C. Rowson,[21] J.J. Russell,[21] O.H. Saxton,[21] T. Schalk,[26] B.A. Schumm,[26]
J. Schwiening,[21] V.V. Serbo,[21] G. Shapiro,[10] N.B. Sinev,[16] J.A. Snyder,[30]
H. Staengle,[6] A. Stahl,[21] P. Stamer,[20] H. Steiner,[10] D. Su,[21] F. Suekane,[24]
A. Sugiyama,[15] S. Suzuki,[15] M. Swartz,[9] F.E. Taylor,[13] J. Thom,[21] E. Torrence,[13]
T. Usher,[21] J. Va'vra,[21] R. Verdier,[13] D.L. Wagner,[5] A.P. Waite,[21] S. Walston,[16]
A.W. Weidemann,[23] E.R. Weiss,[28] J.S. Whitaker,[4] S.H. Williams,[21] S. Willocq,[11]
R.J. Wilson,[6] W.J. Wisniewski,[21] J.L. Wittlin,[11] M. Woods,[21] T.R. Wright,[29]
R.K. Yamamoto,[13] J. Yashima,[24] S.J. Yellin,[25] C.C. Young,[21] H. Yuta.[1]

(The SLD Collaboration)

[1] *Aomori University, Aomori , 030 Japan,*
[2] *University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom,*
[3] *Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH United Kingdom,*
[4] *Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts 02215,*
[5] *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309,*
[6] *Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado 80523,*
[7] *INFN Sezione di Ferrara and Universita di Ferrara, I-44100 Ferrara, Italy,*
[8] *INFN Lab. Nazionali di Frascati, I-00044 Frascati, Italy,*

[9] *Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218-2686,*
[10] *Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720,*
[11] *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003,*
[12] *University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677,*
[13] *Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139,*
[14] *Institute of Nuclear Physics, Moscow State University, 119899, Moscow Russia,*
[15] *Nagoya University, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya, 464 Japan,*
[16] *University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403,*
[17] *Oxford University, Oxford, OX1 3RH, United Kingdom,*
[18] *INFN Sezione di Perugia and Universita di Perugia, I-06100 Perugia, Italy,*
[19] *Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0QX United Kingdom,*
[20] *Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey 08855,*
[21] *Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94309,*
[22] *Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea 156-743,*
[23] *University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996,*
[24] *Tohoku University, Sendai 980, Japan,*
[25] *University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California 93106,*
[26] *University of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California 95064,*
[27] *Vanderbilt University, Nashville,Tennessee 37235,*
[28] *University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98105,*
[29] *University of Wisconsin, Madison,Wisconsin 53706,*
[30] *Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06511.*