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T. Aaltonen *et al.* (CDF Collaboration)  
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# Measurement of the branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)$ at CDF

T. Aaltonen,<sup>21</sup> B. Álvarez González<sup>x,9</sup> S. Amerio,<sup>40</sup> D. Amidei,<sup>32</sup> A. Anastassov<sup>v,15</sup> A. Annovi,<sup>17</sup> J. Antos,<sup>12</sup> G. Apollinari,<sup>15</sup> J.A. Appel,<sup>15</sup> T. Arisawa,<sup>54</sup> A. Artikov,<sup>13</sup> J. Asaadi,<sup>49</sup> W. Ashmanskas,<sup>15</sup> B. Auerbach,<sup>57</sup> A. Aurisano,<sup>49</sup> F. Azfar,<sup>39</sup> P. Azzurri<sup>ee,42</sup> W. Badgett,<sup>15</sup> T. Bae,<sup>25</sup> A. Barbaro-Galtieri,<sup>26</sup> V.E. Barnes,<sup>44</sup> B.A. Barnett,<sup>23</sup> P. Barria<sup>ff,42</sup> P. Bartos,<sup>12</sup> M. Baucé<sup>dd,40</sup> F. Bedeschi,<sup>42</sup> S. Behari,<sup>23</sup> G. Bellettini<sup>ee,42</sup> J. Bellinger,<sup>56</sup> D. Benjamin,<sup>14</sup> A. Beretvas,<sup>15</sup> A. Bhatti,<sup>46</sup> M. Binkley<sup>\*,15</sup> D. Bisello<sup>dd,40</sup> I. Bizjak,<sup>28</sup> K.R. Bland,<sup>5</sup> B. Blumenfeld,<sup>23</sup> A. Bocci,<sup>14</sup> A. Bodek,<sup>45</sup> D. Bortoletto,<sup>44</sup> J. Boudreau,<sup>43</sup> A. Boveia,<sup>11</sup> L. Brigliadori<sup>cc,6</sup> C. Bromberg,<sup>33</sup> E. Brucken,<sup>21</sup> J. Budagov,<sup>13</sup> H.S. Budd,<sup>45</sup> K. Burkett,<sup>15</sup> G. Busetto<sup>dd,40</sup> P. Bussey,<sup>19</sup> A. Buzatu,<sup>31</sup> A. Calamba,<sup>10</sup> C. Calancha,<sup>29</sup> S. Camarda,<sup>4</sup> M. Campanelli,<sup>28</sup> M. Campbell,<sup>32</sup> F. Canelli<sup>11,15</sup> B. Carls,<sup>22</sup> D. Carlsmith,<sup>56</sup> R. Carosi,<sup>42</sup> S. Carrillo<sup>l,16</sup> S. Carron,<sup>15</sup> B. Casal<sup>j,9</sup> M. Casarsa,<sup>50</sup> A. Castro<sup>cc,6</sup> P. Catastini,<sup>20</sup> D. Cauz,<sup>50</sup> V. Cavaliere,<sup>22</sup> M. Cavalli-Sforza,<sup>4</sup> A. Cerri<sup>e,26</sup> L. Cerrito<sup>q,28</sup> Y.C. Chen,<sup>1</sup> M. Chertok,<sup>7</sup> G. Chiarelli,<sup>42</sup> G. Chlachidze,<sup>15</sup> F. Chlebana,<sup>15</sup> K. Cho,<sup>25</sup> D. Chokheli,<sup>13</sup> W.H. Chung,<sup>56</sup> Y.S. Chung,<sup>45</sup> M.A. Ciocci<sup>ff,42</sup> A. Clark,<sup>18</sup> C. Clarke,<sup>55</sup> G. Compostella<sup>dd,40</sup> M.E. Convery,<sup>15</sup> J. Conway,<sup>7</sup> M. Corbo,<sup>15</sup> M. Cordelli,<sup>17</sup> C.A. Cox,<sup>7</sup> D.J. Cox,<sup>7</sup> F. Crescioli<sup>ee,42</sup> J. Cuevas<sup>x,9</sup> R. Culbertson,<sup>15</sup> D. Dagenhart,<sup>15</sup> N. d'Ascenzo<sup>u,15</sup> M. Datta,<sup>15</sup> P. de Barbaro,<sup>45</sup> M. Dell'Orso<sup>ee,42</sup> L. Demortier,<sup>46</sup> M. Deninno,<sup>6</sup> F. Devoto,<sup>21</sup> M. d'Errico<sup>dd,40</sup> A. Di Canto<sup>ee,42</sup> B. Di Ruzza,<sup>15</sup> J.R. Dittmann,<sup>5</sup> M. D'Onofrio,<sup>27</sup> S. Donati<sup>ee,42</sup> P. Dong,<sup>15</sup> M. Dorigo,<sup>50</sup> T. Dorigo,<sup>40</sup> K. Ebina,<sup>54</sup> A. Elagin,<sup>49</sup> A. Eppig,<sup>32</sup> R. Erbacher,<sup>7</sup> S. Errede,<sup>22</sup> N. Ershaidat<sup>bb,15</sup> R. Eusebi,<sup>49</sup> H.C. Fang,<sup>26</sup> S. Farrington,<sup>39</sup> M. Feindt,<sup>24</sup> J.P. Fernandez,<sup>29</sup> R. Field,<sup>16</sup> G. Flanagan<sup>s,15</sup> R. Forrest,<sup>7</sup> M.J. Frank,<sup>5</sup> M. Franklin,<sup>20</sup> J.C. Freeman,<sup>15</sup> Y. Funakoshi,<sup>54</sup> I. Furic,<sup>16</sup> M. Gallinaro,<sup>46</sup> J.E. Garcia,<sup>18</sup> A.F. Garfinkel,<sup>44</sup> P. Garosi<sup>ff,42</sup> H. Gerberich,<sup>22</sup> E. Gerchtein,<sup>15</sup> V. Giakoumopoulou,<sup>3</sup> P. Giannetti,<sup>42</sup> K. Gibson,<sup>43</sup> C.M. Ginsburg,<sup>15</sup> N. Giokaris,<sup>3</sup> P. Giromini,<sup>17</sup> G. Giurgiu,<sup>23</sup> V. Glagolev,<sup>13</sup> D. Glenzinski,<sup>15</sup> M. Gold,<sup>35</sup> D. Goldin,<sup>49</sup> N. Goldschmidt,<sup>16</sup> A. Golossanov,<sup>15</sup> G. Gomez,<sup>9</sup> G. Gomez-Ceballos,<sup>30</sup> M. Goncharov,<sup>30</sup> O. González,<sup>29</sup> I. Gorelov,<sup>35</sup> A.T. Goshaw,<sup>14</sup> K. Goulianos,<sup>46</sup> S. Grinstein,<sup>4</sup> C. Grosso-Pilcher,<sup>11</sup> R.C. Group<sup>53,15</sup> J. Guimaraes da Costa,<sup>20</sup> Z. Gunay-Unalan,<sup>33</sup> C. Haber,<sup>26</sup> S.R. Hahn,<sup>15</sup> E. Halkiadakis,<sup>48</sup> A. Hamaguchi,<sup>38</sup> J.Y. Han,<sup>45</sup> F. Happacher,<sup>17</sup> K. Hara,<sup>51</sup> D. Hare,<sup>48</sup> M. Hare,<sup>52</sup> R.F. Harr,<sup>55</sup> K. Hatakeyama,<sup>5</sup> C. Hays,<sup>39</sup> M. Heck,<sup>24</sup> J. Heinrich,<sup>41</sup> M. Herndon,<sup>56</sup> S. Hewamanage,<sup>5</sup> A. Hocker,<sup>15</sup> W. Hopkins<sup>f,15</sup> D. Horn,<sup>24</sup> S. Hou,<sup>1</sup> R.E. Hughes,<sup>36</sup> M. Hurwitz,<sup>11</sup> U. Husemann,<sup>57</sup> N. Hussain,<sup>31</sup> M. Hussein,<sup>33</sup> J. Huston,<sup>33</sup> G. Introzzi,<sup>42</sup> M. Iori<sup>hh,47</sup> A. Ivanov<sup>o,7</sup> E. James,<sup>15</sup> D. Jang,<sup>10</sup> B. Jayatilaka,<sup>14</sup> E.J. Jeon,<sup>25</sup> S. Jindariani,<sup>15</sup> W. Johnson,<sup>7</sup> M. Jones,<sup>44</sup> K.K. Joo,<sup>25</sup> S.Y. Jun,<sup>10</sup> T.R. Junk,<sup>15</sup> T. Kamon,<sup>49</sup> P.E. Karchin,<sup>55</sup> A. Kasmai,<sup>5</sup> Y. Kato<sup>n,38</sup> W. Ketchum,<sup>11</sup> J. Keung,<sup>41</sup> V. Khotilovich,<sup>49</sup> B. Kilminster,<sup>15</sup> D.H. Kim,<sup>25</sup> H.S. Kim,<sup>25</sup> J.E. Kim,<sup>25</sup> M.J. Kim,<sup>25</sup> S.B. Kim,<sup>25</sup> S.H. Kim,<sup>51</sup> Y.K. Kim,<sup>11</sup> Y.J. Kim,<sup>25</sup> N. Kimura,<sup>54</sup> M. Kirby,<sup>15</sup> K. Knoepfel,<sup>15</sup> K. Kondo<sup>\*,54</sup> D.J. Kong,<sup>25</sup> J. Konigsberg,<sup>16</sup> A.V. Kotwal,<sup>14</sup> M. Kreps,<sup>24</sup> J. Kroll,<sup>41</sup> D. Krop,<sup>11</sup> M. Kruse,<sup>14</sup> V. Krutelyov<sup>c,49</sup> T. Kuhr,<sup>24</sup> M. Kurata,<sup>51</sup> S. Kwang,<sup>11</sup> A.T. Laasanen,<sup>44</sup> S. Lami,<sup>42</sup> S. Lammel,<sup>15</sup> M. Lancaster,<sup>28</sup> R.L. Lander,<sup>7</sup> K. Lannon<sup>w,36</sup> A. Lath,<sup>48</sup> G. Latino<sup>ee,42</sup> T. LeCompte,<sup>2</sup> E. Lee,<sup>49</sup> H.S. Lee,<sup>11</sup> J.S. Lee,<sup>25</sup> S.W. Lee<sup>z,49</sup> S. Leo<sup>ee,42</sup> S. Leone,<sup>42</sup> J.D. Lewis,<sup>15</sup> A. Limosani<sup>r,14</sup> C.-J. Lin,<sup>26</sup> J. Linacre,<sup>39</sup> M. Lindgren,<sup>15</sup> E. Lipeles,<sup>41</sup> A. Lister,<sup>18</sup> D.O. Litvintsev,<sup>15</sup> C. Liu,<sup>43</sup> H. Liu,<sup>53</sup> Q. Liu,<sup>44</sup> T. Liu,<sup>15</sup> S. Lockwitz,<sup>57</sup> A. Loginov,<sup>57</sup> D. Lucchesi<sup>dd,40</sup> J. Lueck,<sup>24</sup> P. Lujan,<sup>26</sup> P. Lukens,<sup>15</sup> G. Lungu,<sup>46</sup> J. Lys,<sup>26</sup> R. Lysak,<sup>12</sup> R. Madrak,<sup>15</sup> K. Maeshima,<sup>15</sup> P. Maestro<sup>ff,42</sup> S. Malik,<sup>46</sup> G. Manca<sup>a,27</sup> A. Manousakis-Katsikakis,<sup>3</sup> F. Margaroli,<sup>47</sup> C. Marino,<sup>24</sup> M. Martínez,<sup>4</sup> K. Matera,<sup>22</sup> M.E. Mattson,<sup>55</sup> A. Mazzacane,<sup>15</sup> P. Mazzanti,<sup>6</sup> K.S. McFarland,<sup>45</sup> P. McIntyre,<sup>49</sup> R. McNulty<sup>i,27</sup> A. Mehta,<sup>27</sup> P. Mehtala,<sup>21</sup> C. Mesropian,<sup>46</sup> T. Miao,<sup>15</sup> D. Mietlicki,<sup>32</sup> A. Mitra,<sup>1</sup> H. Miyake,<sup>51</sup> S. Moed,<sup>15</sup> N. Moggi,<sup>6</sup> M.N. Mondragon<sup>l,15</sup> C.S. Moon,<sup>25</sup> R. Moore,<sup>15</sup> M.J. Morello<sup>gg,42</sup> J. Morlock,<sup>24</sup> P. Movilla Fernandez,<sup>15</sup> A. Mukherjee,<sup>15</sup> Th. Muller,<sup>24</sup> P. Murat,<sup>15</sup> M. Mussini<sup>cc,6</sup> J. Nachtman<sup>m,15</sup> Y. Nagai,<sup>51</sup> J. Naganoma,<sup>54</sup> I. Nakano,<sup>37</sup> A. Napier,<sup>52</sup> J. Nett,<sup>49</sup> C. Neu,<sup>53</sup> M.S. Neubauer,<sup>22</sup> J. Nielsen<sup>d,26</sup> L. Nodulman,<sup>2</sup> S.Y. Noh,<sup>25</sup> O. Norniella,<sup>22</sup> L. Oakes,<sup>39</sup> S.H. Oh,<sup>14</sup> Y.D. Oh,<sup>25</sup> I. Oksuzian,<sup>53</sup> T. Okusawa,<sup>38</sup> R. Orava,<sup>21</sup> L. Ortolan,<sup>4</sup> S. Pagan Griso<sup>dd,40</sup> C. Pagliarone,<sup>50</sup> E. Palencia<sup>e,9</sup> V. Papadimitriou,<sup>15</sup> A.A. Paramonov,<sup>2</sup> J. Patrick,<sup>15</sup> G. Pauletta<sup>ii,50</sup> M. Paulini,<sup>10</sup> C. Paus,<sup>30</sup> D.E. Pellett,<sup>7</sup> A. Penzo,<sup>50</sup> T.J. Phillips,<sup>14</sup> G. Piacentino,<sup>42</sup> E. Pianori,<sup>41</sup> J. Pilot,<sup>36</sup> K. Pitts,<sup>22</sup> C. Plager,<sup>8</sup> L. Pondrom,<sup>56</sup> S. Poprocki<sup>f,15</sup> K. Potamianos,<sup>44</sup> O. Poukhov<sup>\*,13</sup> F. Prokoshin<sup>aa,13</sup> A. Pranko,<sup>26</sup> F. Ptohos<sup>g,17</sup> G. Punzi<sup>ee,42</sup> A. Rahaman,<sup>43</sup> V. Ramakrishnan,<sup>56</sup> N. Ranjan,<sup>44</sup> I. Redondo,<sup>29</sup> P. Renton,<sup>39</sup> M. Rescigno,<sup>47</sup> T. Riddick,<sup>28</sup> F. Rimondi<sup>cc,6</sup> L. Ristori<sup>42,15</sup> A. Robson,<sup>19</sup> T. Rodrigo,<sup>9</sup> T. Rodriguez,<sup>41</sup> E. Rogers,<sup>22</sup> S. Rolli<sup>h,52</sup> R. Roser,<sup>15</sup> F. Ruffini<sup>ff,42</sup> A. Ruiz,<sup>9</sup> J. Russ,<sup>10</sup> V. Rusu,<sup>15</sup> A. Safonov,<sup>49</sup> W.K. Sakumoto,<sup>45</sup> Y. Sakurai,<sup>54</sup> L. Santi<sup>ii,50</sup> K. Sato,<sup>51</sup> V. Saveliev<sup>u,15</sup> A. Savoy-Navarro<sup>y,15</sup> P. Schlabbach,<sup>15</sup> A. Schmidt,<sup>24</sup> E.E. Schmidt,<sup>15</sup> M.P. Schmidt<sup>\*,57</sup> T. Schwarz,<sup>15</sup> L. Scodellaro,<sup>9</sup> A. Scribano<sup>ff,42</sup> F. Scuri,<sup>42</sup> S. Seidel,<sup>35</sup> Y. Seiya,<sup>38</sup> A. Semenov,<sup>13</sup> F. Sforza<sup>ff,42</sup> S.Z. Shalhout,<sup>7</sup> T. Shears,<sup>27</sup> P.F. Shepard,<sup>43</sup> M. Shimojima<sup>t,51</sup> M. Shochet,<sup>11</sup> I. Shreyber-Tecker,<sup>34</sup> A. Simonenko,<sup>13</sup> P. Sinervo,<sup>31</sup> A. Sissakian<sup>\*,13</sup> K. Sliwa,<sup>52</sup>

J.R. Smith,<sup>7</sup> F.D. Snider,<sup>15</sup> A. Soha,<sup>15</sup> V. Sorin,<sup>4</sup> P. Squillacioti<sup>ff</sup>,<sup>42</sup> M. Stancari,<sup>15</sup> R. St. Denis,<sup>19</sup> B. Stelzer,<sup>31</sup>  
 O. Stelzer-Chilton,<sup>31</sup> D. Stentz<sup>v</sup>,<sup>15</sup> J. Strologas,<sup>35</sup> G.L. Strycker,<sup>32</sup> Y. Sudo,<sup>51</sup> A. Sukhanov,<sup>15</sup> I. Suslov,<sup>13</sup>  
 K. Takemasa,<sup>51</sup> Y. Takeuchi,<sup>51</sup> J. Tang,<sup>11</sup> M. Tecchio,<sup>32</sup> P.K. Teng,<sup>1</sup> J. Thom<sup>f</sup>,<sup>15</sup> J. Thome,<sup>10</sup> G.A. Thompson,<sup>22</sup>  
 E. Thomson,<sup>41</sup> D. Toback,<sup>49</sup> S. Tokar,<sup>12</sup> K. Tollefson,<sup>33</sup> T. Tomura,<sup>51</sup> D. Tonelli,<sup>15</sup> S. Torre,<sup>17</sup> D. Torretta,<sup>15</sup>  
 P. Totaro,<sup>40</sup> M. Trovato<sup>gg</sup>,<sup>42</sup> Y. Tu,<sup>41</sup> F. Ukegawa,<sup>51</sup> S. Uozumi,<sup>25</sup> A. Varganov,<sup>32</sup> E. Vataga<sup>ee</sup>,<sup>42</sup> F. Vázquez<sup>l</sup>,<sup>16</sup>  
 G. Velev,<sup>15</sup> C. Vellidis,<sup>15</sup> M. Vidal,<sup>44</sup> I. Vila,<sup>9</sup> R. Vilar,<sup>9</sup> J. Vizán,<sup>9</sup> M. Vogel,<sup>35</sup> G. Volpi,<sup>17</sup> P. Wagner,<sup>41</sup>  
 R.L. Wagner,<sup>15</sup> T. Wakisaka,<sup>38</sup> R. Wallny,<sup>8</sup> S.M. Wang,<sup>1</sup> A. Warburton,<sup>31</sup> D. Waters,<sup>28</sup> W.C. Wester III,<sup>15</sup>  
 D. Whiteson<sup>b</sup>,<sup>41</sup> A.B. Wicklund,<sup>2</sup> E. Wicklund,<sup>15</sup> S. Wilbur,<sup>11</sup> F. Wick,<sup>24</sup> H.H. Williams,<sup>41</sup> J.S. Wilson,<sup>36</sup>  
 P. Wilson,<sup>15</sup> B.L. Winer,<sup>36</sup> P. Wittich<sup>f</sup>,<sup>15</sup> S. Wolbers,<sup>15</sup> H. Wolfe,<sup>36</sup> T. Wright,<sup>32</sup> X. Wu,<sup>18</sup> Z. Wu,<sup>5</sup> K. Yamamoto,<sup>38</sup>  
 D. Yamato,<sup>38</sup> T. Yang,<sup>15</sup> U.K. Yang<sup>p</sup>,<sup>11</sup> Y.C. Yang,<sup>25</sup> W.-M. Yao,<sup>26</sup> G.P. Yeh,<sup>15</sup> K. Yi<sup>m</sup>,<sup>15</sup> J. Yoh,<sup>15</sup> K. Yorita,<sup>54</sup>  
 T. Yoshida<sup>k</sup>,<sup>38</sup> G.B. Yu,<sup>14</sup> I. Yu,<sup>25</sup> S.S. Yu,<sup>15</sup> J.C. Yun,<sup>15</sup> A. Zanetti,<sup>50</sup> Y. Zeng,<sup>14</sup> and S. Zucchelli<sup>cc6</sup>

(CDF Collaboration<sup>†</sup>)

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan 11529, Republic of China*

<sup>2</sup>*Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA*

<sup>3</sup>*University of Athens, 157 71 Athens, Greece*

<sup>4</sup>*Institut de Física d'Altes Energies, ICREA, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, E-08193, Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain*

<sup>5</sup>*Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798, USA*

<sup>6</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Bologna, <sup>cc</sup>University of Bologna, I-40127 Bologna, Italy*

<sup>7</sup>*University of California, Davis, Davis, California 95616, USA*

<sup>8</sup>*University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California 90024, USA*

<sup>9</sup>*Instituto de Física de Cantabria, CSIC-University of Cantabria, 39005 Santander, Spain*

<sup>10</sup>*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, USA*

<sup>11</sup>*Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA*

<sup>12</sup>*Comenius University, 842 48 Bratislava, Slovakia; Institute of Experimental Physics, 040 01 Kosice, Slovakia*

<sup>13</sup>*Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, RU-141980 Dubna, Russia*

<sup>14</sup>*Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708, USA*

<sup>15</sup>*Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510, USA*

<sup>16</sup>*University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA*

<sup>17</sup>*Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, I-00044 Frascati, Italy*

<sup>18</sup>*University of Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland*

<sup>19</sup>*Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom*

<sup>20</sup>*Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA*

<sup>21</sup>*Division of High Energy Physics, Department of Physics,  
University of Helsinki and Helsinki Institute of Physics, FIN-00014, Helsinki, Finland*

<sup>22</sup>*University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA*

<sup>23</sup>*The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218, USA*

<sup>24</sup>*Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, D-76131 Karlsruhe, Germany*

<sup>25</sup>*Center for High Energy Physics: Kyungpook National University,*

*Daegu 702-701, Korea; Seoul National University, Seoul 151-742,*

*Korea; Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon 440-746,*

*Korea; Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information,*

*Daejeon 305-806, Korea; Chonnam National University, Gwangju 500-757,*

*Korea; Chonbuk National University, Jeonju 561-756, Korea*

<sup>26</sup>*Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, USA*

<sup>27</sup>*University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 7ZE, United Kingdom*

<sup>28</sup>*University College London, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom*

<sup>29</sup>*Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas, E-28040 Madrid, Spain*

<sup>30</sup>*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA*

<sup>31</sup>*Institute of Particle Physics: McGill University, Montréal, Québec,  
Canada H3A 2T8; Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia,*

*Canada V5A 1S6; University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario,*

*Canada M5S 1A7; and TRIUMF, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6T 2A3*

<sup>32</sup>*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, USA*

<sup>33</sup>*Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824, USA*

<sup>34</sup>*Institution for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, ITEP, Moscow 117259, Russia*

<sup>35</sup>*University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131, USA*

<sup>36</sup>*The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA*

<sup>37</sup>*Okayama University, Okayama 700-8530, Japan*

<sup>38</sup>*Osaka City University, Osaka 588, Japan*

<sup>39</sup>*University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3RH, United Kingdom*

<sup>40</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Padova-Trento, <sup>dd</sup>University of Padova, I-35131 Padova, Italy*

- <sup>41</sup>University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA  
<sup>42</sup>Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Pisa, <sup>ee</sup>University of Pisa,  
<sup>ff</sup>University of Siena and <sup>gg</sup>Scuola Normale Superiore, I-56127 Pisa, Italy  
<sup>43</sup>University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, USA  
<sup>44</sup>Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907, USA  
<sup>45</sup>University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627, USA  
<sup>46</sup>The Rockefeller University, New York, New York 10065, USA  
<sup>47</sup>Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Roma 1,  
<sup>hh</sup>Sapienza Università di Roma, I-00185 Roma, Italy  
<sup>48</sup>Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey 08855, USA  
<sup>49</sup>Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, USA  
<sup>50</sup>Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare Trieste/Udine,  
I-34100 Trieste, <sup>ii</sup>University of Udine, I-33100 Udine, Italy  
<sup>51</sup>University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan  
<sup>52</sup>Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts 02155, USA  
<sup>53</sup>University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22906, USA  
<sup>54</sup>Waseda University, Tokyo 169, Japan  
<sup>55</sup>Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48201, USA  
<sup>56</sup>University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, USA  
<sup>57</sup>Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA

We report an analysis of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay in a data sample collected by the CDF II detector at the Fermilab Tevatron corresponding to  $2.4 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of integrated luminosity. We reconstruct the currently largest samples of the decay modes  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^-$  (with  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+ \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$ ),  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^-$  (with  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+ \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$ ),  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \pi^- \pi^-$  (with  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+$ ), and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$  (with  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$ ) and measure the branching fractions relative to the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  branching fraction. We measure the ratio  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)/\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-) = 3.04 \pm 0.33(\text{stat})_{-0.55}^{+0.70}(\text{syst})$  which is used to derive  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) = (26.8_{-11.2}^{+11.9}) \times 10^{-3}$ .

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Due to the high  $b$ -quark mass, weak decays of baryons containing a  $b$  quark are a good testing ground of some

approximations in quantum chromodynamics (QCD) calculations, such as heavy-quark effective theory (HQET) [1]. Alternatively, when using such calculations, the  $\Lambda_b^0$  may provide a determination of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) couplings with systematic uncertainties different from the determinations from the decays of  $B$  mesons [2]. While the  $B$  mesons are well studied, less is known about the  $\Lambda_b^0$  baryon. Only nine decay modes of the  $\Lambda_b^0$  have been observed so far, with the sum of their measured branching fractions of the order of only 0.1 and with large uncertainties on the measurements [3]. While theoretical predictions are available for the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  branching fraction [4], no prediction is currently available for the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay mode. LHCb recently reported the measurement of the ratio of branching fractions  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)/\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-) = 1.43 \pm 0.16(\text{stat}) \pm 0.13(\text{syst})$  [5].

This paper reports a study of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay mode and is especially distinguished by the high yields and high precision measurement of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  resonant contributions, the following decay modes:

$$\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^- ,$$

$$\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^- ,$$

$$\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \pi^- \pi^- ,$$

$$\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0 \pi^+ \pi^- .$$

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<sup>†</sup>With visitors from <sup>a</sup>Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Cagliari, 09042 Monserrato (Cagliari), Italy, <sup>b</sup>University of CA Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697, USA, <sup>c</sup>University of CA Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA, <sup>d</sup>University of CA Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA, <sup>e</sup>CERN, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland, <sup>f</sup>Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA, <sup>g</sup>University of Cyprus, Nicosia CY-1678, Cyprus, <sup>h</sup>Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, USA, <sup>i</sup>University College Dublin, Dublin 4, Ireland, <sup>j</sup>ETH, 8092 Zurich, Switzerland, <sup>k</sup>University of Fukui, Fukui City, Fukui Prefecture, Japan 910-0017, <sup>l</sup>Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico D.F., Mexico, <sup>m</sup>University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA, <sup>n</sup>Kinki University, Higashi-Osaka City, Japan 577-8502, <sup>o</sup>Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, USA, <sup>p</sup>University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom, <sup>q</sup>Queen Mary, University of London, London, E1 4NS, United Kingdom, <sup>r</sup>University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia, <sup>s</sup>Muons, Inc., Batavia, IL 60510, USA, <sup>t</sup>Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan, <sup>u</sup>National Research Nuclear University, Moscow, Russia, <sup>v</sup>Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208, USA, <sup>w</sup>University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA, <sup>x</sup>Universidad de Oviedo, E-33007 Oviedo, Spain, <sup>y</sup>CNRS-IN2P3, Paris, F-75252 France, <sup>z</sup>Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79609, USA, <sup>aa</sup>Universidad Tecnica Federico Santa Maria, 110v Valparaiso, Chile, <sup>bb</sup>Yarmouk University, Irbid 211-63, Jordan,

We measure the branching fraction of each resonant decay mode relative to the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  decay mode, and the ratio of branching fractions  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) / \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$ . The measurement is performed using a sample of  $p\bar{p}$  collisions corresponding to  $2.4 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  integrated luminosity collected by CDF II between February 2002 and May 2007. We reconstruct  $\Lambda_b^0$  decays from particles whose trajectory projections in the plane transverse to the beamline do not intersect the beamline (displaced tracks). The signal yields of interest are extracted by fitting mass differences to minimize the effect of systematic uncertainties. As a crosscheck, we repeat the analysis on the reference decay modes  $B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+$  and  $B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+$ .

The structure of the paper is as follows. Section II describes the detector systems relevant to this analysis. Event selection and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  candidate reconstruction are described in Sec. III. In Sec. IV we present the signal yields. In Sec. V we describe the evaluation of the detector acceptance and the relative branching fraction measurements, while in Sec. VI the systematic uncertainties are discussed. Final results are reported in Sec. VII.

## II. THE CDF II DETECTOR AND TRIGGER

The CDF II detector is a multipurpose magnetic spectrometer surrounded by calorimeters and muon detectors. The components relevant to this analysis are briefly described here. A more detailed description can be found elsewhere [6]. A silicon microstrip detector (SVX and ISL) [7] and a cylindrical drift chamber (COT) [8] immersed in a 1.4 T solenoidal magnetic field allow the reconstruction of charged particle trajectories in the pseudorapidity [9] range  $|\eta| < 1.0$  [10]. The SVX detector consists of microstrip sensors arranged in six cylindrical shells around the beamline with radii between 1.5 and 10.6 cm, and with a total  $z$  coverage of 90 cm. The first SVX layer, also referred to as the L00 detector, is made of single-sided sensors mounted on the beryllium beam pipe. The remaining five SVX layers are made of double-sided sensors and divided into three contiguous five-layer sections along the beam direction  $z$ . The two additional silicon layers of the ISL help to link tracks in the COT to hits in the SVX. The COT has 96 measurement layers between 40 and 137 cm in radius, organized into alternating axial and  $\pm 2^\circ$  stereo superlayers. The charged particle transverse momentum resolution is  $\sigma_{p_T} / p_T \simeq 0.07\% p_T$  (GeV/c), and the resolution on the transverse distance of closest approach of the particle trajectory to the beamline (impact parameter,  $d_0$ ) is  $\approx 40 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ , including a  $\approx 30 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$  contribution from the beamline.

Candidate events for this analysis are selected by a three-level on-line event selection system (trigger). At level 1, charged particles are reconstructed in the COT axial superlayers by a hardware processor, the Extremely Fast Tracker (XFT) [11]. Two charged particles are re-

quired with transverse momenta  $p_T \geq 2 \text{ GeV}/c$ . At level 2, the Silicon Vertex Trigger (SVT) [12] associates SVX  $r - \phi$  position measurements with XFT tracks. This provides a precise measurement of the track impact parameter  $d_0$ . We select  $b$ -hadron candidates by requiring two SVT tracks with  $120 \text{ } \mu\text{m} \leq d_0 \leq 1000 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ . To reduce background from light-quark jet pairs, the two trigger tracks are required to have an opening angle in the transverse plane  $2^\circ \leq \Delta\phi \leq 90^\circ$ . The tracks must also satisfy the requirement  $L_T > 200 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ , where  $L_T$  is defined as the distance in the transverse plane from the beam line to the two-track intersection point, projected onto the two-track momentum vector. The level 1 and 2 trigger requirements are then confirmed at trigger level 3, where the event is fully reconstructed.

## III. EVENT RECONSTRUCTION

The search for  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  candidates begins with the reconstruction of the  $\Lambda_c^+$  using the three-body decay  $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p K^- \pi^+$  [13]. Three tracks, assumed to be a kaon, a proton, and a pion, with a total charge of +1, are fit to a common vertex. No particle identification is used in this analysis. All particle hypotheses consistent with the candidate decay chain are considered. Additional selection criteria (cuts) are applied on fit probability ( $P(\chi^2(\Lambda_c^+)) > 10^{-5}$ ), transverse momentum ( $p_T(\Lambda_c^+) > 4.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ ), and transverse decay length relative to the beamline ( $L_T(\Lambda_c^+) > 200 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ ). We also require  $p_T(p) > p_T(\pi^+)$ , to suppress random-track combinatorial background. The reconstructed  $\Lambda_c^+$  mass ( $m(\Lambda_c^+)$ ) distribution is comparable to the one reported in Ref. [14]. The reconstructed  $\Lambda_c^+$  mass is required to be close to the known  $\Lambda_c^+$  mass (2.240 - 2.330 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>) [3]. Since mass differences are used to search for the resonances, no mass constraint is applied in the  $\Lambda_c^+$  reconstruction. The  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  ( $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$ ) candidate is reconstructed by performing a fit to a common vertex of the reconstructed  $\Lambda_c^+$  and three (one) additional tracks, assumed to be pions, with  $p_T > 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c$ , and a total charge of -1. For all the possible track pairs out of the six (four) tracks that form the  $\Lambda_b^0$  candidate, we require the difference between the  $z$  coordinate of the points of closest approach of the two tracks to the beam to be less than 5 cm. Additional cuts on the  $\Lambda_b^0$  candidate fit probability ( $P(\chi^2(\Lambda_b^0)) > 10^{-4}$ ), transverse momentum ( $p_T(\Lambda_b^0) > 6.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ ), transverse decay length relative to the beamline ( $L_T(\Lambda_b^0) > 200 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ ), and  $\Lambda_c^+$  transverse decay length relative to the beamline ( $L_T(\Lambda_c^+) > 200 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ ) and to the  $\Lambda_b^0$  vertex ( $L_T(\Lambda_c^+ \text{ from } \Lambda_b^0) > -200 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ ) are applied. We also require that the transverse momentum of the pion produced in the  $\Lambda_c^+$  decay is larger than the transverse momentum of the same-charge pion produced in the  $\Lambda_b^0$  decay, which considerably reduces the combinatorial background due to the larger boost of the pion produced in the  $\Lambda_c^+$  decay. To improve the purity of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  signal,



we optimize the analysis cuts to maximize the signal significance  $\mathcal{S}/\sqrt{\mathcal{S} + \mathcal{B}}$ . The number of  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  candidates  $\mathcal{S}$  and the number of background events  $\mathcal{B}$  are estimated in data by performing a fit of the  $m(\Lambda_b^0)$  distribution. This procedure determines the final selection criteria:  $p_T(\Lambda_b^0) > 9.0$  GeV/c,  $L_T(\Lambda_b^0)/\sigma_{L_T(\Lambda_b^0)} > 16$ ,  $d_0(\Lambda_b^0) < 70$   $\mu\text{m}$ , and  $\Delta R(\pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) < 1.2$ , where  $d_0(\Lambda_b^0)$  is the impact parameter of the reconstructed  $\Lambda_b^0$  candidate relative to the beamline and  $\Delta R(\pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)$  is the maximum  $\sqrt{\Delta\eta^2 + \Delta\phi^2}$  distance between the two pions in each of the three possible pairs of pions. We verified that by splitting the data sample in two independent samples, the optimization procedure yields the same final selection criteria when applied separately to the two samples, and that the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  yield is evenly distributed. This ensures that our optimization procedure does not introduce a bias on the branching fraction measurement. To reduce possible systematic effects in the estimate of the reconstruction efficiency due to Monte Carlo simulation model inaccuracy, the same selection cuts optimized for  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  are also applied to the selection of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  signal, except for the  $\Delta R(\pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)$  cut.

#### IV. DETERMINATION OF THE SIGNAL YIELDS

Figure 1(a) shows the distribution of the difference between the reconstructed  $\Lambda_b^0$  and  $\Lambda_c^+$  masses,  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$ , of the selected  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  candidates with the fit projection overlaid. A significant signal of  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  is visible centered approximately at 3.330 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>. Backgrounds include misreconstructed multibody  $b$ -hadron decays (physics background) and random combinations of charged particles that accidentally meet the selection requirements (combinatorial background). We use an unbinned extended maximum-likelihood fit to estimate the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  signal yield. The signal peak is modeled with a Gaussian, with mean and width left floating in the fit. The combinatorial background is modeled with an exponential function of  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  with floating slope and normalization. The distribution of the main physics backgrounds, due to the  $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow D_{(s)}^{(*)-} \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+$  decay modes, are derived from simulation and included in the fit with fixed shape and floating normalization. The  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  yield estimated by the fit of the data is  $1087 \pm 101$  candidates, the world's largest sample currently available of this decay mode. Figure 1(b) shows the  $\Lambda_b^0$  mass distribution of the selected  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  candidates. The  $\Lambda_b^0$  mass distribution is described by several components: the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  Gaussian signal, a combinatorial background, reconstructed  $B$  mesons that pass the  $\Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  selection criteria, partially reconstructed  $\Lambda_b^0$  decays (*e.g.*  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ l^- \bar{\nu}_l$ ), and fully reconstructed  $\Lambda_b^0$  decays other than  $\Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  (*e.g.*  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ K^-$ ). Also in this case the dis-

tributions of physics backgrounds are derived from simulation and included in the fit with fixed shapes and floating normalization, as detailed in Ref. [15]. The  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  yield estimated by the fit of the data is  $3052 \pm 78$  candidates.

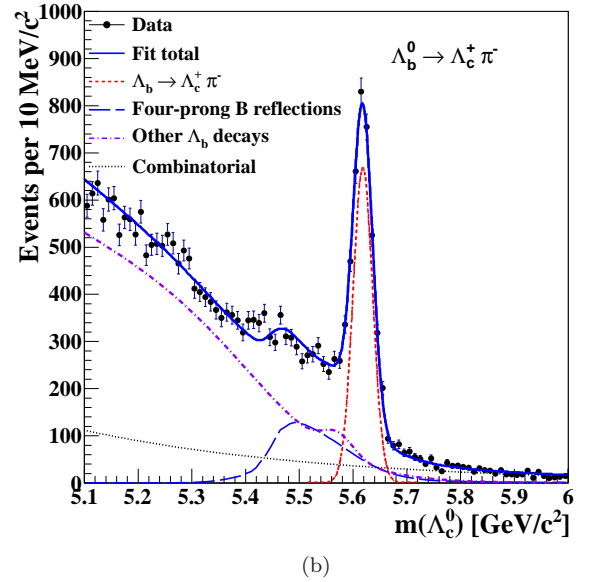
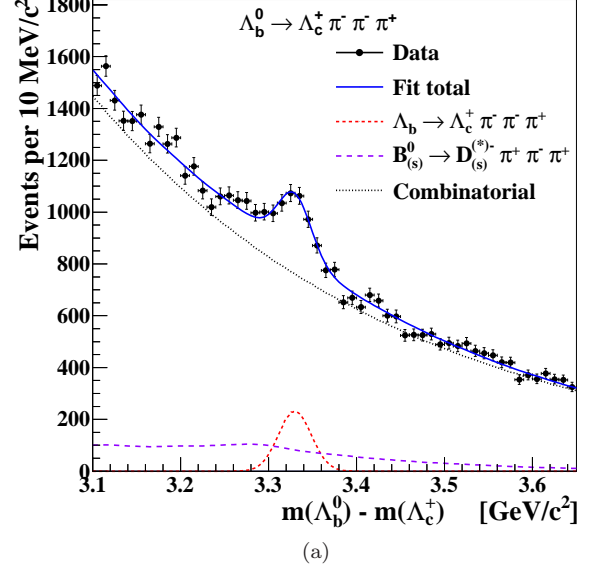


FIG. 1: The reconstructed invariant mass spectra after applying all the selection criteria: (a) the mass difference  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  candidates; (b) the  $m(\Lambda_b^0)$  distribution of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  candidates.

In the reconstructed  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  sample we searched for the resonant decay modes:  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow$

$\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}\pi^-\pi^-$ , and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0\pi^+\pi^-$ . The available energy transferred to the decay products in the decays of the charmed baryons ( $\Lambda_c(2595)^+$ ,  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+$ ,  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$ , and  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0$ ) into  $\Lambda_c^+$  is small. Therefore the differences of the reconstructed masses  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$ ,  $m(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$ , and  $m(\Sigma_c(2455)^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  are determined with better resolution than the masses of the charmed baryons, since the mass resolution of the  $\Lambda_c^+$  signal and most of the mass systematic uncertainties cancel in the difference. Figure 2(a) shows the  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution, for  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$  candidates with mass in a  $\pm 3\sigma$  range ( $\pm 57$  MeV/c<sup>2</sup>) around the  $\Lambda_b^0$  mass. The  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+$  and  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+$  signals are clearly visible. Although there are two possible  $\Lambda_c^{*+}$  candidates for each  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$  decay, only the candidate made with the  $\pi^-$  with lower  $p_T$  has a value of  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  in the mass region where the  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+$  and  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+$  signals are expected. To check that the  $\Lambda_c^{*+}$  signal is entirely due to the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$  decay, we verified that the  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution (Fig. 2(a), yellow filled histogram) for the  $\Lambda_b^0$  candidates from the high-mass sideband of the  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution (Fig. 1(a)), has negligible statistics in the  $\Lambda_c^{*+}$  signal mass window. The  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+$  and  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+$  signal yields are estimated with an unbinned extended maximum-likelihood fit. The  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+$  and  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+$  signals are modeled with two non-relativistic Breit-Wigner functions convolved with the same Gaussian resolution function, since the mass difference between the two resonances is tiny. The background is modeled by a linear function. The  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+$  natural width is mass dependent to take into account the threshold effects, as reported in Ref. [14], the  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+$  natural width and the width of the Gaussian resolution function are free parameters of the fit. Table I reports the estimated signal yields and significances, evaluated by means of the likelihood ratio test,  $LR \equiv L/L_{bck}$ , where  $L$  and  $L_{bck}$  are the likelihood of the signal and no signal hypotheses, respectively [16].

Figures 2(b) and 2(c) show the  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution restricted to candidates with  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+) < 0.325$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup> and  $0.325 < m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+) < 0.360$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>, respectively, i.e. compatible with the  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+$  and  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+$  expected signals. Each signal is modeled with a Gaussian function, with floating mean and width. The combinatorial background is modeled with an exponential function with floating slope and normalization, and the physics background, which is mainly due to semileptonic  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+l^-\bar{\nu}_l$  decays, is derived from simulation and introduced in the fit with fixed shape and floating normalization. We verified that the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+\pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+\pi^-$  yields estimated by fitting the  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution are compatible (with lower statistical significance) with the yields extracted from the resonance mass distributions and reported in Table I.

To extract the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++}\pi^-\pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0\pi^+\pi^-$  signals, the contributions due to the

$\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+\pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+\pi^-$  decay modes are removed by applying the veto requirement  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+) > 0.380$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>. In Fig. 3(a) and 3(b) the resulting  $m(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  and  $m(\Sigma_c(2455)^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distributions are shown. Prominent  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$  and  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0$  signals are visible. While there is only one  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$  candidate for each  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$  decay, two  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0$  candidates are possible. Also in this case, only the candidate made with the  $\pi^-$  with lower  $p_T$  is in the  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0$  mass region. The potential background contribution due to  $\Sigma_c^{++0}$  candidates not produced in  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$  decays, is excluded since the  $m(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++0}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distributions (yellow filled histograms in Fig. 3(a) and 3(b)) obtained from the  $\Lambda_b^0$  candidates in the higher mass sideband (Fig. 1(a)) show no evidence of a  $\Sigma_c^{++0}$  signal. The  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$  and  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0$  signals are modeled with non-relativistic Breit-Wigner functions convolved with a Gaussian resolution function, with the addition of an empirical background [17, 18]. The  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$  and  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0$  natural widths are Gaussian constrained to the world average values [3], while the width of the Gaussian resolution function is determined to be 1 MeV/c<sup>2</sup> from larger statistics samples of  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$  and  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0$  in the  $\Lambda_b^0$  lower mass region and is fixed in the fit. The effect of this approximation is taken into account in the systematic uncertainties. The estimated  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++}\pi^-\pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0\pi^+\pi^-$  yields and significances are reported in Table I.

In Fig. 3(c) and 3(d) the  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distributions are shown restricted to candidates with  $0.160 < m(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++0}) - m(\Lambda_c^+) < 0.176$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>, where the  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}$  and  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0$  signals are contained. The  $\Lambda_b^0$  signal is modeled with a Gaussian distribution, with floating mean and width, while the combinatorial background is an exponential function with floating slope and normalization. We verified that the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++}\pi^-\pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0\pi^+\pi^-$  yields estimated by fitting the  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution are compatible (with lower statistical significance) with the yields extracted from the resonance mass distributions and reported in Table I. The fitted masses and widths of the four resonances are in agreement with the world averages [3] and the recent CDF II measurements [14].

TABLE I: Yields and significances of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$  decay modes. The quoted uncertainty is statistical only.

$\Lambda_b^0$ decay mode	Yield	Significance( $\sigma$ )
$\Lambda_c(2595)^+\pi^- \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$	$46.0 \pm 8.2$	6.2
$\Lambda_c(2625)^+\pi^- \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$	$135 \pm 15$	>8
$\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}\pi^-\pi^- \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$	$110 \pm 19$	6.6
$\Sigma_c(2455)^0\pi^+\pi^- \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$	$36 \pm 11$	3.4
$\Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$ (other)	$790 \pm 100$	>8

The residual  $\Lambda_b^0$  signal (named  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$  (other)) is selected by applying the

cuts  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+) > 0.380$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup> and  $m(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++},0) - m(\Lambda_c^+) > 0.190$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup> to remove the contribution due to the resonant decay modes (Fig. 4). Monte Carlo simulation shows that the veto requirements reject 99% of the  $\Lambda_c^{*+}$  and  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++},0$  yields, while retaining  $\sim 99\%$  of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) signal. This residual  $\Lambda_b^0$  signal is likely due to a combination of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1(1260)^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-$  with non-resonant  $\rho^0 \pi^-$  (i.e. not produced by a  $a_1(1260)^-$  decay), and non-resonant  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay modes, in unknown proportions. A fit is performed with a Gaussian function, with floating mean and width to model the signal, an exponential function with floating slope and normalization to model the combinatorial background, and a physics background due to the  $B_{(s)}^0 \rightarrow D_{(s)}^{(*)-} \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+$  decay modes, derived from simulation and included in the fit with fixed shape and floating normalization. The resulting yield is  $790 \pm 100$  candidates (Table I). The unknown composition of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) sample is taken into account as a source of systematic uncertainty.

## V. MEASUREMENT OF THE RATIO OF BRANCHING FRACTIONS

$$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) / \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$$

We measure the following ratio of branching fractions:

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)}{\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)} = \sum_i \frac{N(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow i \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)}{N(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)} \frac{\epsilon_{\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-}}{\epsilon_i}, \quad (1)$$

where  $N$  are the measured signal yields reported in Table I, and the sum on the intermediate “ $i$ ” states includes  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \pi^- \pi^-$ ,  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$ , and  $\Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other). In the last state, we assume equal proportions of the three decay modes  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1(1260)^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-$ , and non-resonant  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ . To convert event yields into relative branching fractions, we apply the corrections  $\epsilon_{\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-} / \epsilon_i$  for the various trigger and offline selection efficiencies of the decay modes  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow i \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ . All corrections are determined from the detailed detector simulation. The BGENERATOR program produces samples of specific  $B$  hadron decays according to measured  $p_T$  and rapidity spectra [19]. Decays of  $b$  and  $c$  hadrons and their daughters are simulated using the EVTGEN package [20]. The geometry and response of the detector components are simulated with the GEANT software package [21] and simulated events are processed with a full simulation of the CDF II detector and trigger. The  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay modes show different kinematics, due to the presence of two low transverse momen-

tum pions in the  $\Lambda_c^{*+} \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+$  decay, one low transverse momentum pion in the  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++},0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+$  decay, and looser constraints in the  $\Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) decays. These kinematic differences result in different corrections  $\epsilon_{\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-} / \epsilon_i$ ,  $4.70 \pm 0.10$ ,  $4.66 \pm 0.10$ ,  $5.28 \pm 0.11$ , and  $18.49 \pm 0.66$ , respectively, for the  $\Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \pi^- \pi^-$ , and  $\Sigma_c(2455)^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay modes, and  $7.36 \pm 0.18$ ,  $9.47 \pm 0.25$ , and  $11.64 \pm 0.34$ , respectively, for the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1(1260)^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-$ , and non-resonant  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay modes. For the  $\Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) decay mode a correction factor equal to  $9.16 \pm 0.14$  is obtained by combining the correction factors of the last three decay modes assumed in equal proportions.

With a similar method, we also measure the ratios of the branching fractions of the intermediate resonances contributing to  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ ,

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow j \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)}{\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)} = \frac{N(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow j \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)}{\sum_i N(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow i \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) \frac{\epsilon_i}{\epsilon_j}}. \quad (2)$$

## VI. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

The dominant sources of systematic uncertainty are the unknown relative fractions of  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1(1260)^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-$ , and non-resonant  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ , which affect the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) decay mode efficiency, and the unknown  $\Lambda_b^0$  production and  $\Lambda_c^+$  decay polarizations, which affect the estimate of all the  $\epsilon_i$  and  $\epsilon_{\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-}$  efficiencies. The correction

$\epsilon_{\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-} / \epsilon_{\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^- \text{ (other)}}$  has an average value of 9.16 and varies between a minimum of 7.36 and a maximum of 11.64, obtained in the extreme cases in which the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) sample is assumed to be entirely composed of  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1(1260)^-$  or non-resonant  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ , respectively. The dependence of  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) / \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$  on the fraction of  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1(1260)^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-$  in the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) sample is shown in Fig. 5. The difference between the values computed with the average and the minimum (maximum) efficiency correction, respectively, is taken as an estimate of the lower (upper) associated systematic uncertainty.

The unpolarized  $\Lambda_b^0$  and  $\Lambda_c^+$  simulation samples are used to obtain the central values of the efficiency corrections. For the study of the systematic uncertainties, angular distributions in simulation are reweighted according to all possible combinations of the  $\Lambda_b^0$  production polarization states along the normal to the production plane, with the  $\Lambda_c^+$  polarization states. The  $\Lambda_b^0$  polarization and the  $\Lambda_c^+$  polarizations are both taken to vary



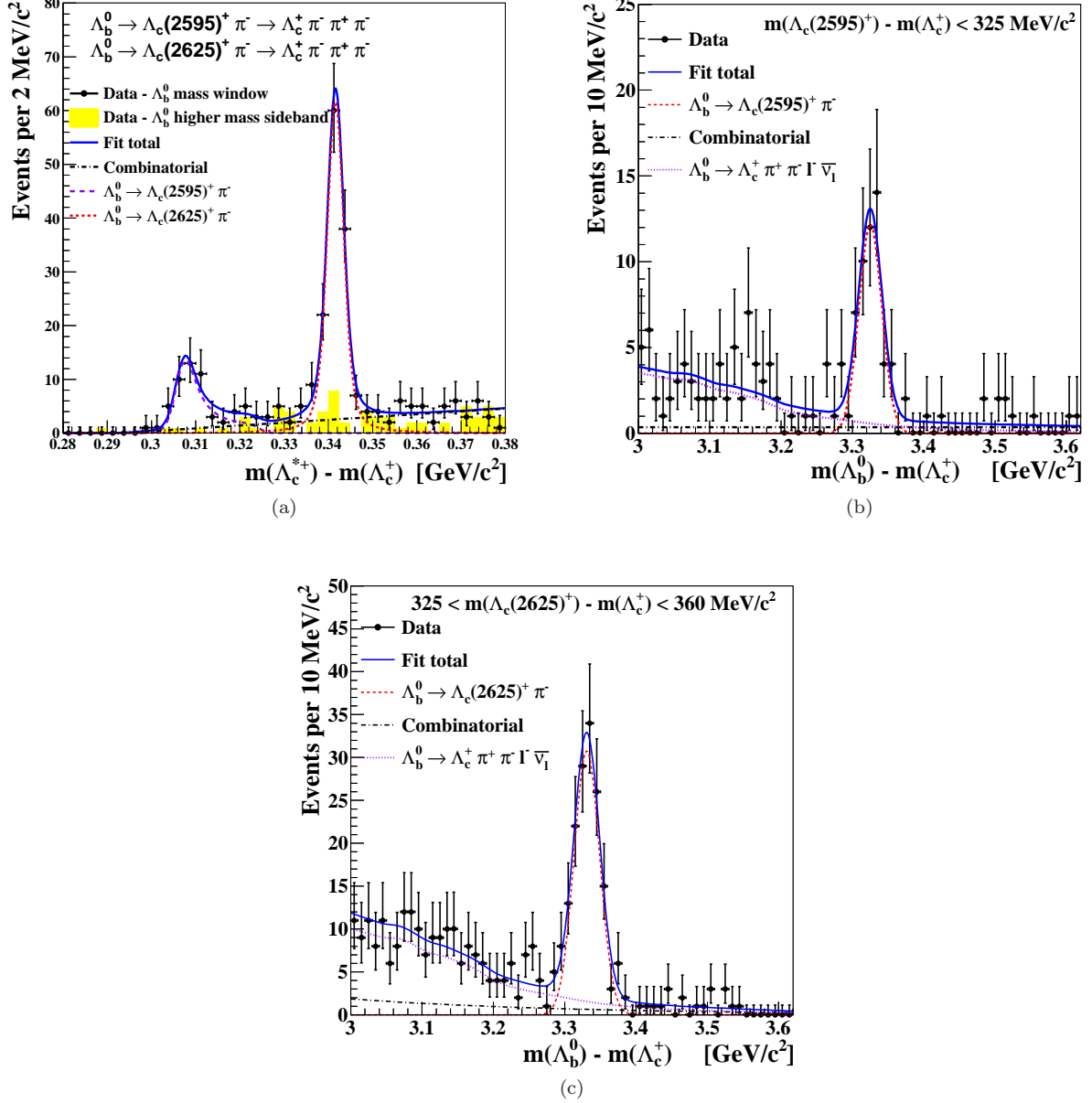


FIG. 2: The  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^-$  signals: (a)  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution for candidates in a  $\pm 3\sigma$  range ( $\pm 57$  MeV/c<sup>2</sup>) around the  $\Lambda_b^0$  mass; (b)  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution restricted to candidates in the region  $m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+) < 0.325$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>; (c)  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution restricted to candidates in the region  $0.325 < m(\Lambda_c^{*+}) - m(\Lambda_c^+) < 0.360$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>.

independently in the range  $\pm 1$ . We assume the extreme scenarios where both the  $\Lambda_b^0$  and  $\Lambda_c^+$  baryons are 100% polarized and we recompute the efficiency corrections assuming the four possible  $\Lambda_b^0$  and  $\Lambda_c^+$  polarization combinations. The difference in the efficiency corrections between the simulation with reweighted angular distributions and the simulation with unpolarized  $\Lambda_b^0$  and  $\Lambda_c^+$  is used to determine the associated systematic uncertainty. These two sources of systematic uncertainty account for approximately 98% of the total systematic un-

certainty on the measurement of the relative branching fraction  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) / \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$ . Other systematic errors stem from the uncertainties on the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  background shapes; on the Cabibbo suppressed decay mode contributions, which affect the estimate of the signal yields; on the Monte Carlo simulation of the signal decay modes (limited sample statistics, trigger emulation, and  $\Lambda_b^0$  production transverse momentum distribution), which affect the estimate of the efficiency corrections. The contributions due to the uncertainties

TABLE II: Measured branching fractions relative to the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  decay mode (second column). Absolute branching fractions (third column) are derived by normalizing to the known value  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-) = (8.8 \pm 3.2) \times 10^{-3}$  [22]. The first quoted uncertainty is statistical, the second is systematic, and the third is due to the uncertainty on the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  branching fraction.

$\Lambda_b^0$ decay mode	Relative $\mathcal{B}$ to $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$	Absolute $\mathcal{B}(10^{-3})$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_c(2595)^+ \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+ \pi^-)$	$(7.1 \pm 1.3 \pm 0.6) \cdot 10^{-2}$	$0.62 \pm 0.11 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.23$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_c(2625)^+ \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+ \pi^-)$	$(20.6 \pm 2.4^{+1.4}_{-1.5}) \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.81 \pm 0.21^{+0.12}_{-0.13} \pm 0.66$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \pi^- \pi^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+)$	$(19.0 \pm 3.3 \pm 1.1) \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.67 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.61$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0 \pi^+ \pi^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(\Sigma_c(2455)^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$	$(21.5 \pm 6.5^{+4.5}_{-2.9}) \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.89 \pm 0.57^{+0.40}_{-0.26} \pm 0.69$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^- \text{ (other)})$	$2.36 \pm 0.32^{+0.68}_{-0.53}$	$20.8 \pm 2.8^{+6.0}_{-4.7} \pm 7.6$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)$	$3.04 \pm 0.33^{+0.70}_{-0.55}$	$26.8 \pm 2.9^{+6.2}_{-4.8} \pm 9.7$

on the  $\Sigma_c^{++}$  and  $\Sigma_c^0$  signal and background shapes, the  $\Lambda_c^+$  and  $\Lambda_c^{*+}$  branching fractions, and the  $\Lambda_b^0$  and  $\Lambda_c^+$  lifetimes are negligible.

As a cross-check of the analysis, we also measure the relative branching fraction  $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+) / \mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+)$ , using the same data sample and vertex reconstruction procedure developed for the  $\Lambda_b^0$  analysis. We apply the same optimized cuts to the  $B^0$  candidates, with the additional request to have a  $D^-$  candidate with mass within  $\pm 22$  MeV/c<sup>2</sup> of the known mass of  $D^-$  [3]. We estimate  $B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+$  and  $B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+$  yields of  $431 \pm 32$  and  $1352 \pm 44$  candidates, respectively. Our measurement  $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+ \pi^- \pi^+) / \mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow D^- \pi^+) = 3.06 \pm 0.25(\text{stat})$  is in good agreement with the value calculated from the measured absolute branching fractions of the  $B^0$  decay modes reported in Ref. [3].

## VII. RESULTS

We measure the relative branching ratio of  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  to  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  decays to be

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-)}{\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)} = 3.04 \pm 0.33(\text{stat})^{+0.70}_{-0.55}(\text{syst}).$$

The relative branching fractions of the intermediate states contributing to  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  with respect to  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  are reported in Table II. The absolute branching fractions are derived by normalizing to the known value  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-) = (8.8 \pm 3.2) \times 10^{-3}$  [22].

To compare our result with the recent LHCb measurement [5] of  $1.43 \pm 0.16(\text{stat}) \pm 0.13(\text{syst})$ , we assume the composition of the admixture to be  $2/3 \Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1(1260)^-$  and  $1/3 \Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-$ , and use the overall  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  yield and a global efficiency correction to compute  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) / \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$ , as in the LHCb analysis. This results in a value of  $2.55 \pm 0.25(\text{stat})^{+0.82}_{-0.27}(\text{syst})$ , which is inconsistent with the LHCb result at the level of 2.6 Gaussian standard deviations.

We also measure the relative branching fractions of the intermediate resonances contributing to the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay (Table III). These results are of comparable or higher precision than existing measurements.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

In summary, we reconstruct the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  decay mode and the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \pi^- \pi^-$ , and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$  resonant decay modes in CDF II data corresponding to 2.4 fb<sup>-1</sup> of integrated luminosity. We measure the branching fraction of the resonant decay modes relative to the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  branching fraction. We also measure  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) / \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-) = 3.04 \pm 0.33(\text{stat})^{+0.70}_{-0.55}(\text{syst})$ . Using the known value of  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$  [22] we find  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) = (26.8 \pm 2.9(\text{stat})^{+6.2}_{-4.8}(\text{syst}) \pm 9.7(\text{norm})) \times 10^{-3}$ , where the third quoted uncertainty arises from the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-$  normalization uncertainty.

## IX. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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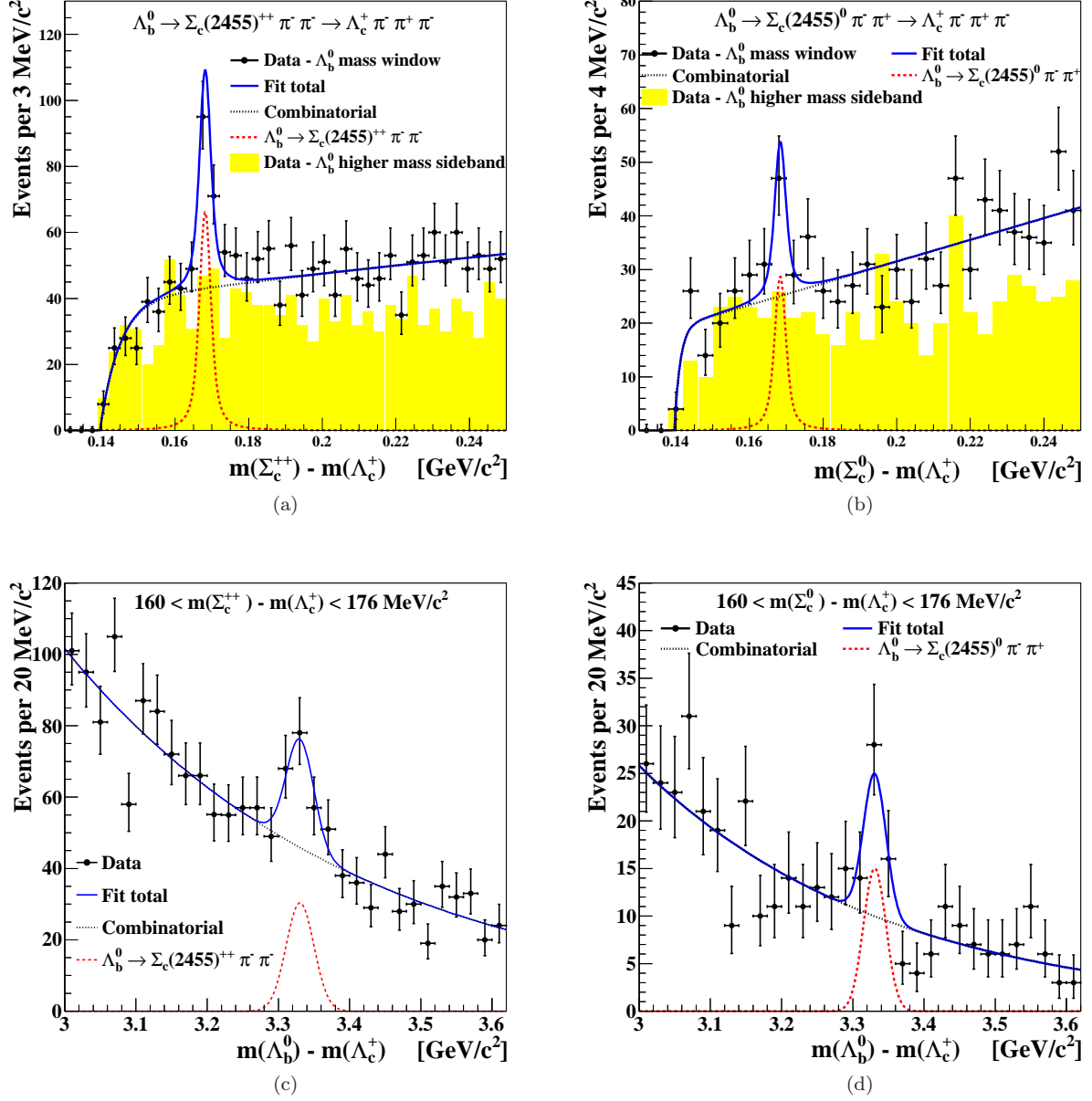


FIG. 3: The  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \pi^- \pi^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0 \pi^+ \pi^-$  signals: (a)  $m(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution for candidates in a  $\pm 3\sigma$  range ( $\pm 57$  MeV/c<sup>2</sup>) around the  $\Lambda_b^0$  mass; (b)  $m(\Sigma_c(2455)^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution for candidates in a  $\pm 3\sigma$  range around the  $\Lambda_b^0$  mass; (c)  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution restricted to candidates in the region  $0.160 < m(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++}) - m(\Lambda_c^+) < 0.176$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>; (d)  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution restricted to candidates in the region  $0.160 < m(\Sigma_c(2455)^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+) < 0.176$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>.

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TABLE III: Measured branching fractions of the resonant decay modes relative to  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ . The first quoted uncertainty is statistical, the second is systematic.

$\Lambda_b^0$ decay mode	Relative $\mathcal{B}(10^{-2})$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2595)^+ \pi^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_c(2595)^+ \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+ \pi^-)$	$2.3 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.4$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c(2625)^+ \pi^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_c(2625)^+ \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+ \pi^-)$	$6.8 \pm 1.0 \pm 1.3$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \pi^- \pi^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(\Sigma_c(2455)^{++} \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^+)$	$6.2 \pm 1.2 \pm 1.3$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Sigma_c(2455)^0 \pi^+ \pi^-) \cdot \mathcal{B}(\Sigma_c(2455)^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$	$7.1 \pm 2.1^{+1.5}_{-1.3}$
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^- (\text{other}))$	$77.6 \pm 3.0^{+4.0}_{-4.1}$



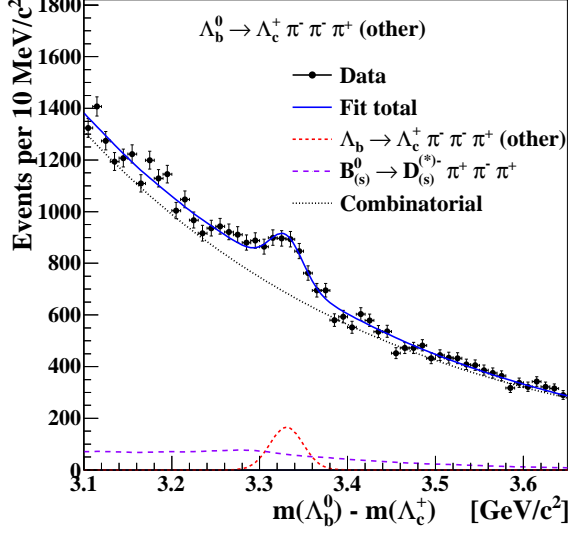


FIG. 4: The  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) signal after vetoing the resonant decay modes:  $m(\Lambda_b^0) - m(\Lambda_c^+)$  distribution.

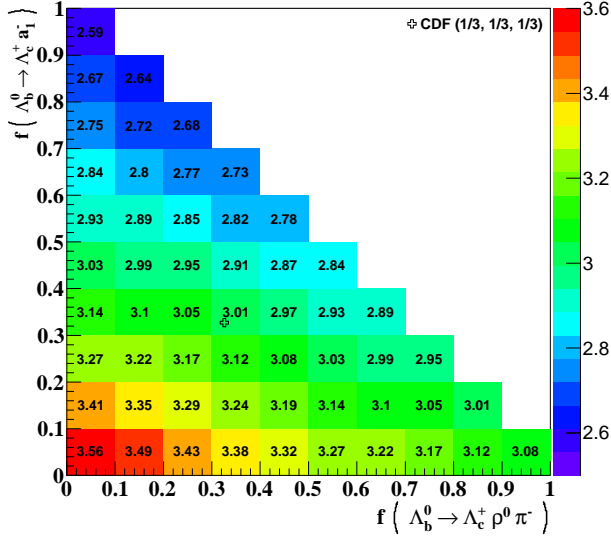


FIG. 5:  $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-) / \mathcal{B}(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^-)$  (color scale) as a function of the assumed fractions of  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1^-$  and  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-$  in the composition of the  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  (other) sample. The central value of the ratio is overlaid in each bin. The fraction of non-resonant  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$  is equal to  $1 - f(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1^-) - f(\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-)$ . The cross represents the composition chosen for the present measurement assuming equal proportions of  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ a_1^-$ ,  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \rho^0 \pi^-$  and non-resonant  $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^-$ .

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