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Measurements of Baryon Pair Decays of χ_{cJ} Mesons

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Abstract

Using 106 million ψ' decays collected with the BESIII detector at the BEPCII, three decays of χ_{cJ} ($J = 0, 1, 2$) with a baryon pairs ($\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$, $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$) in the final state have been studied. The branching fractions are measured to be $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c0,1,2} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}) = (33.3 \pm 2.0 \pm 2.6) \times 10^{-5}$, $(12.2 \pm 1.1 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-5}$, $(20.8 \pm 1.6 \pm 2.3) \times 10^{-5}$; $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c0,1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0) = (47.8 \pm 3.4 \pm 3.9) \times 10^{-5}$, $(3.8 \pm 1.0 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-5}$, $(4.0 \pm 1.1 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-5}$; and $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c0,1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-) = (45.4 \pm 4.2 \pm 3.0) \times 10^{-5}$, $(5.4 \pm 1.5 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-5}$, $(4.9 \pm 1.9 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-5}$, where the first error is statistical and the second is systematic. Upper limits on the branching fractions for the decays of $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$, $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, are estimated to be $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0) < 6.2 \times 10^{-5}$, $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c2} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0) < 6.5 \times 10^{-5}$, $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-) < 8.7 \times 10^{-5}$ and $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c2} \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-) < 8.8 \times 10^{-5}$ at the 90% confidence level.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the standard quark model, χ_{cJ} ($J = 0, 1, 2$) mesons are $c\bar{c}$ states in an $L = 1$ configuration. Experimental studies on χ_{cJ} decay properties are essential to test perturbative Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) models and QCD-based calculations. The importance of the color octet mechanism (COM) for χ_{cJ} decays has been pointed out for many years [1], and theoretical predictions of two-body exclusive decays have been made based on it. The predictions of COM theory for some χ_{cJ} decays into baryon pairs ($B\bar{B}$) disagree with measured values. For example, the branching fraction of $\chi_{c0} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ is predicted to be $(93.5 \pm 20.5) \times 10^{-5}$ according to Ref. [2], and $(11.9 \sim 15.1) \times 10^{-5}$ according to Ref. [3], while the world average of experimental measurements is $(33.0 \pm 4.0) \times 10^{-5}$ [4]. One finds that the theoretical prediction is either about two times larger, or several times smaller than the experimental measurement. Although some experimental results on χ_{cJ} exclusive decays have been reported [5–7], many decay modes of $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ have not been observed yet, such as $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$, $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, or measured with poor precision. For further testing of the COM in the decays of the P-wave charmonia, measurements of other baryon pair decays of χ_{cJ} , such as $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, are desired.

In addition, measurements of $\chi_{c0} \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ are helpful for further understanding the helicity selection rule (HSR) [8], which prohibits χ_{c0} decays into baryon-antibaryon pairs. However, the measured branching fractions for $\chi_{c0} \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ do not vanish, for example $\chi_{c0} \rightarrow p\bar{p}$ [4], which demonstrates a strong violation of HSR in charmonium decays. It is necessary to measure the decays of $\chi_{c0} \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ in other channels to provide additional tests of the HSR.

While χ_{cJ} mesons are not produced directly in e^+e^- annihilations, the large branching fractions of $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{cJ}$ make e^+e^- collision at the ψ' peak a very clean environment for χ_{cJ} investigation. In this paper, the results of two-body decays of $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final states are presented. This analysis is based on 106 million ψ' events [9] collected with BESIII at the BEPCII. A sample of 44 pb⁻¹ of data taken at $\sqrt{s} = 3.65$ GeV is used for continuum background study.

II. BESIII DETECTOR AND MONTE CARLO SIMULATION

BEPCII is a double-ring e^+e^- collider that has reached peak luminosity of about $0.6 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at the peak energy of $\psi(3770)$. The cylindrical core of the BESIII detector consists of a helium-based main drift chamber (MDC), a plastic scintillator time-of-flight system (TOF), and a CsI(Tl) electromagnetic calorimeter (EMC), which are all enclosed in a superconducting solenoidal magnet providing a 1.0 T magnetic field. The solenoid is supported by an octagonal flux-return yoke with resistive plate counter muon identifier modules interleaved with steel. The acceptance for charged particles and photons is 93% over 4π stereo angle, and the charged-particle momentum and photon energy resolutions at 1 GeV are 0.5% and 2.5%, respectively. The detector is described in more detail in Ref. [10].

The BESIII detector is modeled with a Monte Carlo (MC) simulation based on GEANT4 [11, 12]. The ψ' resonance is produced with KKMC [13], while the subsequent decays are generated with EVTGEN [14] according to the branching fractions provided by the Particle Data Group (PDG) [4], and the remaining unmeasured decay modes are generated with LUNDCHARM [15].

III. EVENT SELECTION

The investigated final states include $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$, $p(\bar{p})$, neutral π^0 mesons and a radiative photon from the decay $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{cJ}$, where $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ decays to $\pi^-p(\pi^+\bar{p})$, while π^0 is reconstructed in the decay to $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$. Candidate events are required to satisfy the following selection criteria. A charged track should have good quality in the track fitting and be within the angle coverage of the MDC ($|\cos\theta| < 0.92$). Photons are reconstructed from isolated showers in the EMC. The energy deposited in the nearby TOF counter is included to improve the reconstruction efficiency and energy resolution. Photon energies are required to be greater than 25 MeV in the EMC barrel region ($|\cos\theta| < 0.8$), and greater than 50 MeV in the EMC endcap ($0.86 < |\cos\theta| < 0.92$). The showers in the angular range between the barrel and the endcap are poorly reconstructed and excluded from the analysis. Moreover, the EMC timing of the photon candidate must be in coincidence with collision events, $0 \leq t \leq 700$ ns, to suppress electronic noise and energy deposits unrelated to the events.

A. $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda}$

Candidate events contain at least two positively-charged tracks, two negatively-charged tracks and one photon. The $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ candidates are reconstructed from pairs of oppositely charged tracks, which are constrained to secondary vertices and have invariant masses closest to the nominal Λ mass. The χ^2 of the secondary vertex fit must be less than 500. The candidate photon and the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ pair are subjected to a four constraint (4C) kinematic fit under the hypothesis of $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ to reduce background and improve the mass resolution. When additional photons are found in an event, all possible combinations are iterated over, and the one with the best kinematic fit χ_{4C}^2 is kept. Furthermore, $\chi_{4C}^2 < 50$ is required to suppress potential background from $\psi' \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$. The χ_{4C}^2 selection criterion is determined by optimizing the figure of merit (FOM), $FOM = \frac{S}{\sqrt{S+B}}$, where S is the number of signal events and B is the number of background events based on the MC simulation. Figure 1 (a) shows the comparison of χ_{4C}^2 between data and MC simulation, which is normalized with the number of events satisfying the χ^2 requirement. Figure 1 (b) shows the scatter plots of $M_{p\pi^-}$ versus $M_{\bar{p}\pi^+}$ from the data. Clear $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ signals can be seen. The square around the Λ nominal mass with a width of 20 MeV/c² is taken as the signal region, which is also determined by maximizing the FOM . From events with two or more photons, additional selection criteria are applied to suppress backgrounds from $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ decays. The $\psi' \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ candidates are selected by minimizing $\sqrt{(M_{\gamma\Lambda} - M_{\Sigma^0})^2 + (M_{\gamma\bar{\Lambda}} - M_{\bar{\Sigma}^0})^2}$ from all combinations. However, some backgrounds remain in the signal region from $\psi' \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ events in which one photon from the Σ^0 decays is not reconstructed. To remove these, events falling into $|M_{\gamma\Lambda} - M_{\Sigma^0}| < 6$ MeV/c² and $|M_{\gamma\bar{\Lambda}} - M_{\bar{\Sigma}^0}| < 6$ MeV/c² have been discarded.

B. $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$

Candidate events have at least two positively-charged tracks, two negatively-charged tracks and three photons. The charged track selection and $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ reconstruction are the same as described above for the $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ decay. The mass window of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ is optimized to be $|M_{p\pi} - M_{\Lambda}| < 7$ MeV/c². The candidate photons and the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ pair are subjected to a 4C kinematic fit under the hypothesis of $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ to reduce background and improve the mass resolution. When additional photons are found in an event, all possible

combinations are looped over, the one with the smallest χ_{4C}^2 is kept, and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 35$ is required to suppress the dominant background from $\psi' \rightarrow \Sigma^0 \bar{\Sigma}^0$. Figure 1 (c) shows the comparison of χ_{4C}^2 between data and MC simulation, which is normalized with the number of events satisfying the χ^2 requirement. The $\Sigma^0 \bar{\Sigma}^0$ candidates are chosen by minimizing $\sqrt{(M_{\gamma\Lambda} - M_{\Sigma^0})^2 + (M_{\gamma\bar{\Lambda}} - M_{\bar{\Sigma}^0})^2}$. Figure 1 (d) shows the scatter plot of $M_{\gamma\Lambda}$ versus $M_{\gamma\bar{\Lambda}}$ from the data. Clear $\Sigma^0 \bar{\Sigma}^0$ signals can be seen. The square around the Σ^0 nominal mass with a width of 32 MeV/c² represents the signal region.

C. $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^+ \bar{\Sigma}^-$

Candidate events contain at least one positively-charged, one negatively-charged tracks and five photons. We impose a 4C kinematic fit to the selected tracks and photons under the $\psi' \rightarrow 5\gamma p\bar{p}$ hypothesis and keep the one with the smallest χ_{4C}^2 , and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 50$ is required to suppress the dominant background from $\psi' \rightarrow \Sigma^+ \bar{\Sigma}^-$. Figure 1 (e) shows the comparison of χ_{4C}^2 between data and MC simulation, which is normalized with the number of events satisfying the χ^2 requirement. The π^0 candidates are reconstructed by selecting the combination which minimizes $\sqrt{(M_{\gamma\gamma}^{(1)} - M_{\pi^0})^2 + (M_{\gamma\gamma}^{(2)} - M_{\pi^0})^2}$. The $\Sigma^+ \bar{\Sigma}^-$ pair is selected by minimizing $\sqrt{(M_{p\pi^0} - M_{\Sigma^+})^2 + (M_{\bar{p}\pi^0} - M_{\bar{\Sigma}^-})^2}$. Figure 1 (f) shows the scatter plot of $M_{p\pi^0}$ versus $M_{\bar{p}\pi^0}$ from the data. Clear $\Sigma^+ \bar{\Sigma}^-$ signals can be seen. The square of $1.17 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{p\pi^0} < 1.20 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $1.17 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{\bar{p}\pi^0} < 1.20 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ denotes the signal region.

IV. BACKGROUND STUDY

A. Continuum backgrounds

The events collected at $E_{\text{cm}} = 3.65 \text{ GeV}$, whose integrated luminosity is more than 1/4 of ψ' samples, are analyzed to estimate the contribution from the continuum process. No events are survived in the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, $\Sigma^0 \bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+ \bar{\Sigma}^-$ signal regions. Therefore, backgrounds from the continuum are neglected.

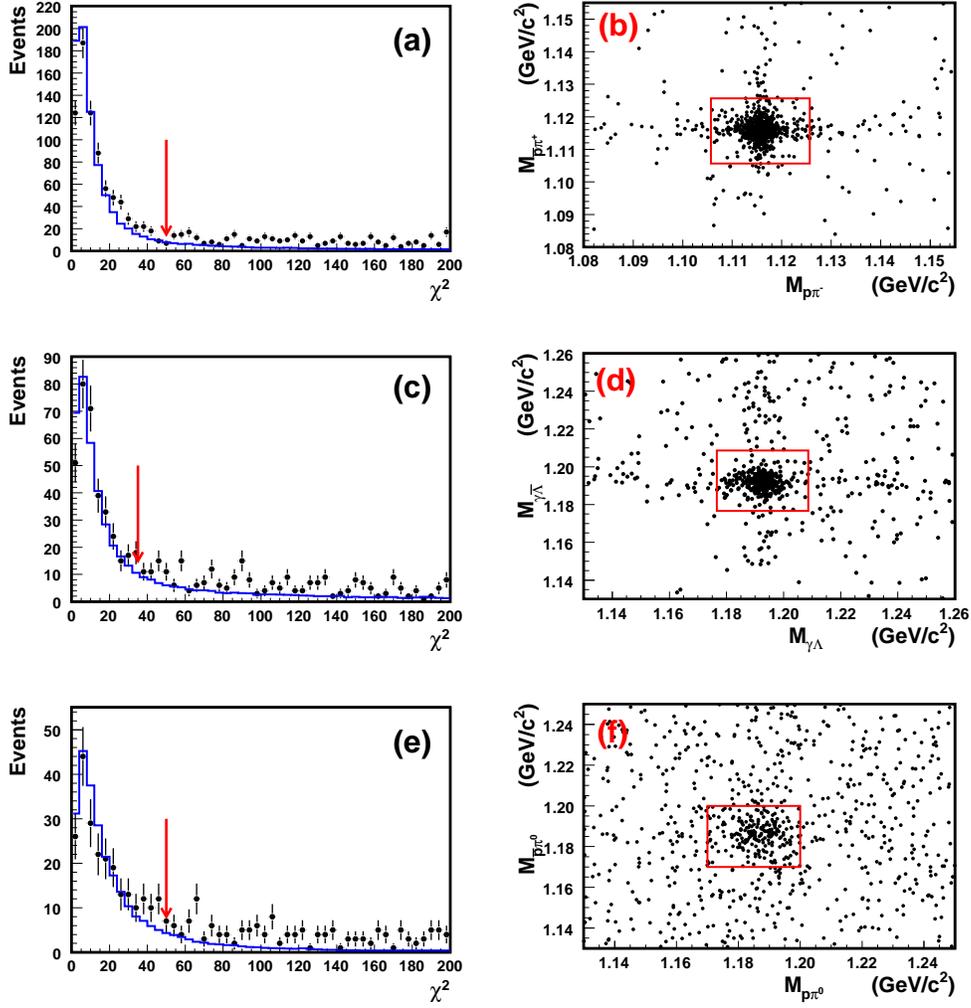


FIG. 1. (a) the χ^2_{4C} distribution and (b) $M_{p\pi^-}$ versus $M_{p\pi^+}$ (data) for the $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{cJ}, \chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ candidates; (c) the χ^2_{4C} distribution and (d) $M_{\gamma\Lambda}$ versus $M_{\gamma\bar{\Lambda}}$ (data) for the $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{cJ}, \chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ candidates; (e) the χ^2_{4C} distribution and (f) $M_{p\pi^0}$ versus $M_{\bar{p}\pi^0}$ (data) for the $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{cJ}, \chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ candidates.

B. Dominant backgrounds in $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final states

By using 106 million inclusive MC events, we find that the dominant background for $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ comes from the decay $\psi' \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ in which one photon is missing. The non- $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ background from the decay $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-p\bar{p}$ is negligibly small due to the low efficiency near the mass threshold. For $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$, the dominant background is also found to arise from $\psi' \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$. But this background mainly distributes around the ψ' mass region in

the $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ invariant mass. In addition, a few background events come from $\psi' \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0 J/\psi$ and $\psi' \rightarrow \Xi^0\bar{\Xi}^0$. For $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, the backgrounds are small, they are from the decay $\psi' \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, $\psi' \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0 J/\psi$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{p}$ (or $\gamma p\bar{p}$). The contributions of all backgrounds mentioned above are estimated by MC simulation according to their branching fractions.

V. FIT TO THE SIGNAL OF χ_{cJ}

The invariant mass of the baryon pairs $M_{B\bar{B}}$ for all selected events are shown in Figs. 2 (a), (b), and (c) for $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, respectively. Clear $\chi_{c0,1,2}$ signals can be seen in $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ final state, and a clear χ_{c0} signal is seen in both $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final state, while the $\chi_{c1,2}$ signals are not significant in $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final state. We fit the invariant mass spectra of baryon pairs, $M_{B\bar{B}}$, to extract the numbers of χ_{cJ} signal events, where the signals are represented by Breit-Wigner functions convolved with a Crystal Ball (CB) function to account for the detector resolution, a second order Chebychev polynomial is used to describe non-peaking backgrounds, and the dominant background events, estimated by MC simulation, have been directly subtracted from the data. The widths of the Breit-Wigner functions were fixed according to the known values [4], the parameters of the CB function are fixed based on MC simulation, and these parameters are varied by $\pm \sigma$ for the determination of systematic uncertainties. To determine the goodness of fit, we bin the data so that the number of events in each bin is at least ten. The calculated $\chi^2/d.o.f$ is 1.03, 1.53 and 1.71 for the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final states, respectively. The numbers of $\chi_{c0,1,2}$ signal events from the fits are listed in Table I. For the decay $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0, \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, the upper limits of the branching fractions at the 90% C.L. are also determined with a Bayesian method [16]. The statistical significances of the signals are calculated as $\sqrt{-2\Delta \ln \mathcal{L}}$, where $\Delta \ln \mathcal{L}$ is the difference between the logarithmic maximum likelihood (ML) values of the fit with and without the corresponding signal function. They are 4.3σ and 4.6σ for $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$, and 4.4σ and 3.0σ for $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, respectively. The signal efficiencies determined from MC simulation are also listed in Table I, where the proper angular distributions for photons emitted in $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{cJ}$ are used [17]. The decay of $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ and the decay of baryons are generated with a phase space model.

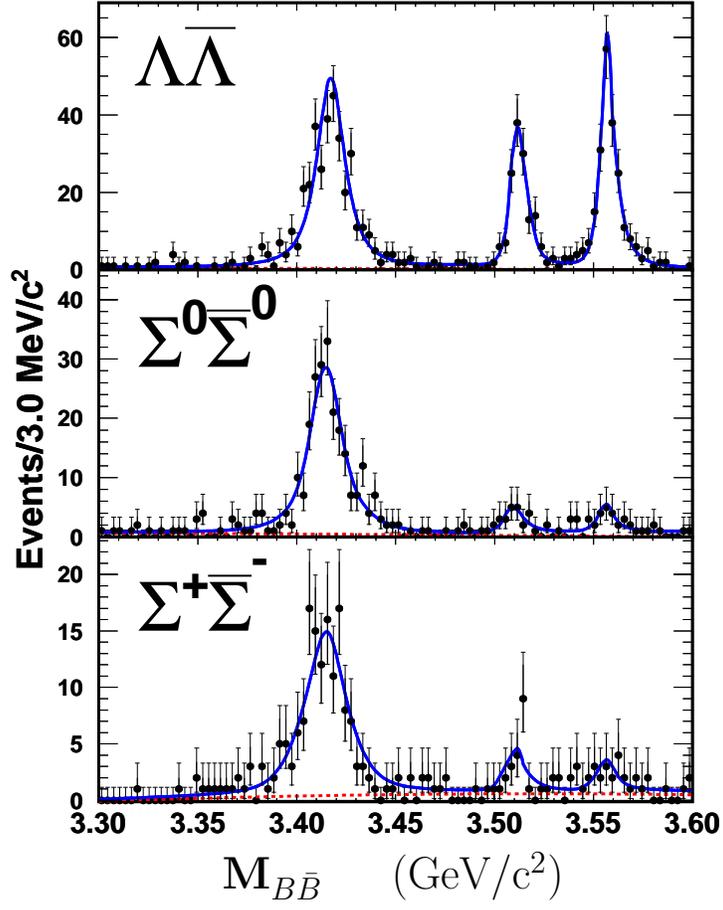


FIG. 2. The fit to the invariant mass $M_{B\bar{B}}$. Dots with error bars are for data. Solid line is the fit results. Dashed-line is other background. The parameters of signal function are fixed to those obtained from MC simulation.

TABLE I. Efficiencies (ϵ in %) obtained from MC simulation, and the signal yields N^{obs} determined from fit.

Mode	χ_{c0}		χ_{c1}		χ_{c2}	
	N^{obs}	ϵ	N^{obs}	ϵ	N^{obs}	ϵ
$\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$	368.9 ± 22.1	26.6 ± 0.2	135.6 ± 12.6	27.9 ± 0.2	207.1 ± 15.7	26.3 ± 0.2
$\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$	242.8 ± 17.1	12.2 ± 0.1	20.0 ± 5.3	13.2 ± 0.1	18.9 ± 5.3	12.7 ± 0.1
$\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$	147.8 ± 13.8	12.3 ± 0.1	18.0 ± 5.4	13.1 ± 0.1	14.5 ± 5.6	12.3 ± 0.1

VI. SYSTEMATIC ERROR

The systematic errors mainly originate from the uncertainties of the tracking efficiency, $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ reconstruction efficiency, the photon efficiency, 4C kinematic fit, the branching fractions of the intermediate states, fit range, the angular distribution of $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow B\bar{B}$, background shape, signal lineshape, MC resolution and the total number of ψ' events.

1. The decay $\psi' \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ with $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-$ and $\Lambda \rightarrow \bar{p}\pi^-$ is employed to study the $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ reconstruction efficiency. The selection criteria of charged tracks are the same as before except we use particle identification information to suppress background. Candidate events have at least one positively-charged and one negatively-charged tracks, which are required to be identified as a $\pi^+(\pi^-)$ track and an $\bar{p}(p)$ track, respectively. Also, the invariant mass of $\pi^+\bar{p}(\pi^-p)$ must be within 10 MeV/ c^2 of the nominal $\bar{\Lambda}$ mass. Furthermore, the momentum of $\bar{\Lambda}(\Lambda)$ candidates is required to be within 20 MeV/ c of its nominal value in two-body decay of $\psi' \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$. The number of Λ signal events, N_{Λ}^0 , is extracted by fitting the recoiling mass spectrum of $\bar{\Lambda}$, $M_{recoil}^{\bar{\Lambda}}$. Then two additional opposite charged tracks, a $\pi^-(\pi^+)$ and a $p(\bar{p})$, are required to reconstruct Λ and are constrained to the secondary vertex. The number of Λ signal events, N_{Λ}^1 , is extracted by fitting $M_{recoil}^{\bar{\Lambda}}$ after requiring a Λ secondary vertex constraint. The $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ reconstruction efficiency is determined as $\epsilon_{\Lambda} = \frac{N_{\Lambda}^1}{N_{\Lambda}^0}$. The difference of the efficiencies between data and MC simulation is found to be 2.0% for a Λ and 5.0% for a $\bar{\Lambda}$, which are taken as the systematic error due to $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ reconstruction efficiency.
2. Since the decay length for $\Sigma^+(\bar{\Sigma}^-)$ is small, the decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-p\bar{p}$ is used to study the MDC tracking efficiency for the proton and anti-proton of the $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final state. It is found that the efficiency for MC simulated events agrees with that determined from data within 1.0% for each charged track. Hence, 2.0% is taken as the systematic error for the proton and anti-proton of the $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final state.
3. The uncertainty due to photon detection efficiency is 1% per photon, which is determined from the decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \rho\pi$ [18].
4. Five decays, $J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, $J/\psi \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$, $J/\psi \rightarrow \Xi^0\bar{\Xi}^0$, $\psi' \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0 J/\psi$ ($J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{p}$) and $\psi' \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0 J/\psi$ ($J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{p}\pi^0$) are used to study the efficiencies of the 4C kinematic

fits. The signal events are selected from data and inclusive MC events without the 4C fit information. The remaining background is found to be negligible according to the studies of the inclusive MC events. The efficiency of the 4C kinematic fit is defined as $\frac{N_1}{N_0}$, where N_0 is the the number of signal events, N_1 is the number of events survived the. For the $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, where the final state is $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, two decays, $J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, and $J/\psi \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$, are used to investigate the systematic error due to the 4C kinematic fit. The final states of these two control samples contain one photon less or more than the signal channel. Conservatively, the larger difference observed in the two control samples, 2.4%, is taken as the systematic error. Similarly, the larger difference in $J/\psi \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \Xi^0\bar{\Xi}^0$, 2.9%, is taken as the systematic error of the $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ channel, and the larger difference in $\psi' \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0 J/\psi$ ($J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{p}$) and $\psi' \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0 J/\psi$ ($J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{p}\pi^0$), 1.3%, is taken as the error of $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$.

5. When changing mass ranges in fitting $M_{B\bar{B}}$ signals to 3.30-3.62 GeV/ c^2 or to 3.25-3.62 GeV/ c^2 , the fitted numbers of $\chi_{c0,1,2}$ have some changes for data and MC simulation. Taking the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ channel as an example, the results in the range of 3.30 GeV/ c^2 to 3.60 GeV/ c^2 are taken as central values, when the fit range is changed to 3.32-3.60 GeV/ c^2 , the changes relative to central values are found to be 2.7%, 3.6% and 2.2% for the $\chi_{c0,1,2}$ decays, respectively, while in the range 3.25-3.62 GeV/ c^2 , the changes are found to be 2.2%, 0.9%, 4.3%. Conservatively, we take the larger ones, 2.7%, 3.6% and 4.3%, as the systematic errors for the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ final state. With the same method, the systematic errors for the other two channels are determined to be 1.4%, 6.7%, 4.3% for the $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ final state, and 1.4%, 3.0%, 7.2% for the $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final state.
6. In the fits to the $M_{B\bar{B}}$ invariant mass, the signals are described by a parameterized shape obtained from MC simulation in which the widths of χ_{cJ} are fixed since we only observe a small number of signal events in $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$. When changing the parameters of χ_{cJ} widths in this MC simulation by $\pm \sigma$, it is found that the difference of the numbers of fitted $\chi_{c1,2}$ events between data and MC is 1.2%, 0.0%, 0.0% for the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ final state; 1.9%, 0.0%, 3.7% for the $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ final state and 1.0%, 0.5%, 2.0% for the $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final state. Hence, we take the difference as the systematic error due to the χ_{cJ} widths.
7. The partial width for an E1/M1 radiative transition is proportional to the cube of

the radiative photon energy (E_γ^3), which leads to a diverging tail in the lower mass region. Two damping factors have been proposed by the KEDR [19] and the CLEO [20] collaborations and have been included to describe the signal lineshape. Differences in the signal yields with respect to the fit not taking into account this damping factor are observed, and the greater differences are 0.7%, 2.1%, 2.7% for the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ final state; 1.4%, 1.0%, 2.2% for the $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ final state and 0.0%, 2.7%, 5.5% for the $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final state, which are taken as the systematic error associated with the signal lineshape.

8. From the decay $J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, it is found that the average resolution is 7.90 ± 0.09 MeV/ c^2 for the data, and 7.08 ± 0.04 MeV/ c^2 for MC. Differences in fitting the χ_{cJ} signal with and without fixing the MC parameters are found to be 1.5%, 0.5% and 2.4% for the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ final states, which are taken as the systematic error of the resolution. However, from the decays $J/\psi \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, one can find that the resolutions between data and MC are consistent. Therefore, the systematic errors of the resolution for the $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final state are neglected.
9. To estimate the uncertainty of the angular distribution, we use another model in which the angular distribution of $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ is taken into account according to the helicity amplitude [21]. When the two independent helicity amplitudes, $B_{\frac{1}{2},-\frac{1}{2}}$ and $B_{-\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2}}$, are set to be 1.0, the efficiencies are found to be $(28.8 \pm 0.2)\%$ and $(27.9 \pm 0.2)\%$ for the $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ final state, respectively. The differences from phase space are 3.2% and 6.0%. Similar comparisons are also done for the $\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ final states, and the differences are smaller. Conservatively, we take the difference of the $\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ final state as the systematic error of the angular distribution for all $B\bar{B}$ final states.
10. In Fig. 2, the combinatorial background curves are fitted with a second order Chebyshev polynomial. The background function is changed to first and third order polynomials, and the largest difference is taken as the systematic error due to the uncertainty in the description of the background shape.
11. The total number of ψ' events are obtained by studying inclusive hadronic ψ' decays with uncertainty of 0.81% [9].

Table II lists all systematic error contributions, and the total systematic error is obtained by adding the individual contributions in quadrature.

TABLE II. Systematic errors in the branching fraction measurements (%)

Source	$\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda}$			$\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^0 \bar{\Sigma}^0$			$\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Sigma^+ \bar{\Sigma}^-$		
	χ_{c0}	χ_{c1}	χ_{c2}	χ_{c0}	χ_{c1}	χ_{c2}	χ_{c0}	χ_{c1}	χ_{c2}
The total number of ψ'	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81
MDC tracking (p, \bar{p})	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.0	2.0	2.0
Photon efficiency	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Λ reconstruction	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	–	–	–
$\bar{\Lambda}$ reconstruction	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	–	–	–
Kinematic fit	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.9	2.9	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.3
Fitting range	2.7	3.6	4.3	1.4	6.7	4.3	1.4	3.0	7.2
χ_{cJ} width	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	3.7	1.0	0.5	2.0
Angular distribution	0.0	3.2	6.0	0.0	3.2	6.0	0.0	3.2	6.0
Background shape	0.5	1.3	1.3	1.7	7.8	6.0	1.8	2.5	3.0
Signal lineshape	0.7	2.1	2.7	1.4	1.0	2.2	0.0	2.7	5.5
MC resolution	1.5	0.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
$\mathcal{B}(\psi' \rightarrow \gamma \chi_{cJ})$	3.2	4.3	4.0	3.2	4.3	4.0	3.2	4.3	4.0
$\mathcal{B}(\Sigma \rightarrow p\pi)$	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.82	0.82	0.82
$\mathcal{B}(\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi)$	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	–	–	–
Total systematic error	7.7	9.3	11.1	8.3	13.6	13.2	7.0	9.1	13.4

VII. RESULTS

The branching fraction of $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ is determined by

$$\mathcal{B}(\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow B\bar{B}) = \frac{N^{obs}[\chi_{cJ}]}{N_{\psi'} \cdot \epsilon \cdot \prod_i \mathcal{B}_i},$$

and if the signal is not significant, the corresponding upper limit of branching fraction is set with

$$\mathcal{B}(\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow B\bar{B}) < \frac{N_{UL}^{obs}[\chi_{cJ}]}{N_{\psi'} \cdot \epsilon \cdot \prod_i \mathcal{B}_i \cdot (1.0 - \sigma_{sys.})},$$

where, N^{obs} is the number of observed signal events and N_{UL}^{obs} is the upper limit of the number of events, ϵ is the detection efficiency shown in Table I, $\sigma_{sys.}$ is the relative the systematic error, $N_{\psi'}$ is the total number of ψ' events [9], and $\prod_i \mathcal{B}_i$ is the product of the branching fractions taken from the world average [4] for the $\psi' \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{cJ}$ and the other decays that are involved. With the numbers listed in Table I and the branching fractions for the relevant baryon decays, the branching fractions or the upper limits at the 90% C.L. for χ_{cJ} decays are determined, as listed in Table III.

TABLE III. Branching fractions (or their upper limits) of $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}, \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$ (in units of 10^{-5}). The first error is statistical and the second is systematic.

Mode		χ_{c0}	χ_{c1}	χ_{c2}
$\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$	This work	$33.3 \pm 2.0 \pm 2.6$	$12.2 \pm 1.1 \pm 1.1$	$20.8 \pm 1.6 \pm 2.3$
	PDG	33.0 ± 4.0	11.8 ± 1.9	18.6 ± 2.7
	CLEO	$33.8 \pm 3.6 \pm 2.2 \pm 1.7$	$11.6 \pm 1.8 \pm 0.7 \pm 0.7$	$17.0 \pm 2.2 \pm 1.1 \pm 1.1$
	Theory	$(93.5 \pm 20.5^a, 22.1 \pm 6.1^b)^{[2]}$	–	$(15.2 \pm 1.7^a, 4.3 \pm 0.6^b)^{[2]}$
		$11.9 \sim 15.1^{[3]}$	$3.9^{[22]}$	$3.5^{[22]}$
$\Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$	This work	$47.8 \pm 3.4 \pm 3.9$	$3.8 \pm 1.0 \pm 0.5 (< 6.2)$	$4.0 \pm 1.1 \pm 0.5 (< 6.5)$
	PDG	42.0 ± 7.0	< 4.0	< 8.0
	CLEO	$44.1 \pm 5.6 \pm 4.2 \pm 2.2$	< 4.4	< 7.5
	Theory	$(25.1 \pm 3.4^a, 18.7 \pm 4.5^b)^{[2]}$	–	$(38.9 \pm 8.8^a, 4.2 \pm 0.5^b)^{[2]}$
		–	$3.3^{[22]}$	$5.0^{[22]}$
$\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$	This work	$45.4 \pm 4.2 \pm 3.0$	$5.4 \pm 1.5 \pm 0.5 (< 8.7)$	$4.9 \pm 1.9 \pm 0.7 (< 8.8)$
	PDG	31.0 ± 7.0	< 6.0	< 7.0
	CLEO	$32.5 \pm 5.7 \pm 4.0 \pm 1.7$	< 6.5	< 6.7
	Theory	$5.5 \sim 6.9^{[3]}$	$3.3^{[22]}$	$5.0^{[22]}$

VIII. SUMMARY

Three χ_{cJ} decays to the baryon pairs are observed, and their branching fractions are measured at BESIII, which are consistent with the world averages within the errors. For

the decay of $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$, the experimental results are still inconsistent with theoretical predictions [2, 3, 22], which are helpful to check the theoretical model of decays of $\chi_{cJ} \rightarrow \Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$. For the decays of $\chi_{c1,2} \rightarrow \Sigma^0\bar{\Sigma}^0$ and $\Sigma^+\bar{\Sigma}^-$, the significances are improved relative to the previous measurements, but the comparisons of their branching fractions between experiments and theoretical predictions are inconclusive due to the limited experimental precision.

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