

High Energy Physics - Experiment

Observation of the Rare Decay $B^0 \rightarrow K_s K^{\pm} \pi^{\mp}$

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We report an analysis of charmless hadronic decays of neutral B mesons to the final state $K_s K^{\pm} \pi^{\mp}$, using a data sample of $(465 \pm 5) \times 10^6$ $B\bar{B}$ events collected with the BABAR detector at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance. We observe an excess of signal events with a significance of 5.2 standard deviations including systematic uncertainties and measure the branching fraction to be $BF(B^0 \rightarrow K_s K^{\pm} \pi^{\mp}) = (3.2 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-6}$, where the uncertainties are statistical and systematic, respectively.

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