



CERN Joint EP/PP Seminars

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TITLE: **Difference in direct charge-parity violation between charged and neutral B meson decays**
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ABSTRACT

Equal amounts of matter and antimatter are predicted to have been produced in the Big Bang, but our observable Universe is clearly matter-dominated. One of the prerequisites¹ for understanding this elimination of antimatter is the nonconservation of charge-parity (CP) symmetry. So far, two types of CP violation have been observed in the neutral K meson (K^0) and B meson (B^0) systems: CP violation involving the mixing between K^0 and its antiparticle (and likewise for B^0 and B^0_{bar}), and direct CP violation in the decay of each meson. The observed effects for both types of CP violation are substantially larger for the B^0 meson system. However, they are still consistent with the standard model of particle physics, which has a unique source⁹ of CP violation that is known to be too small¹⁰ to account for the matter-dominated Universe. Here we report that the direct CP violation in charged BK^0 decay is different from that in the neutral B^0 counterpart. The direct CP-violating decay rate asymmetry, (that is, the difference between the number of observed B^-K^0 event versus B^+ to $K^+\pi^0$ events, normalized to the sum of these events) is measured to be about +7%, with an uncertainty that is reduced by a factor of 1.7 from a previous measurement. However, the asymmetry for versus B^0 to $K^+\pi^0$ is at the -10% level. Although it is susceptible to strong interaction effects that need further clarification, this large deviation in direct CP violation between charged and neutral B meson decays could be an indication of new sources of CP violation which would help to explain the dominance of matter in the Universe.