


## Observation of a Resonant Structure near the $D_s^+ D_s^-$ Threshold in the $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$ Decay

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An amplitude analysis of the  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  decay is carried out to study for the first time its intermediate resonant contributions, using proton-proton collision data collected with the LHCb detector at center-of-mass energies of 7, 8, and 13 TeV. A near-threshold peaking structure, referred to as  $X(3960)$ , is observed in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  invariant-mass spectrum with significance greater than 12 standard deviations. The mass, width, and the quantum numbers of the structure are measured to be  $3956 \pm 5 \pm 10$  MeV,  $43 \pm 13 \pm 8$  MeV, and  $J^{PC} = 0^{++}$ , respectively, where the first uncertainties are statistical and the second systematic. The properties of the new structure are consistent with recent theoretical predictions for a state composed of  $c\bar{c}s\bar{s}$  quarks. Evidence for an additional structure is found around 4140 MeV in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  invariant mass, which might be caused either by a new resonance with the  $0^{++}$  assignment or by a  $J/\psi\phi \leftrightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-$  coupled-channel effect.

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Exotic hadrons (hadrons that are not composed either of a quark-antiquark pair or of three quarks or three antiquarks) are collectively called exotic hadrons) play a crucial role in studies of quantum chromodynamics (QCD), and provide a unique window to understand the nature of the strong interaction. Dozens of charged states with hidden charm or beauty, which imply exotic nature, such as  $Z_c(4430)^+$  [1,2],  $Z_b(10610)^+$  [3],  $Z_c(3900)^+$  [4–6],  $Z_c(4020)^+$  [7,8],  $P_c(4450)^+$  [9,10],  $Z_{cs}(3985)^+$  [11],  $Z_{cs}(4000)^+$  [12], have been recently discovered by various experiments. (The inclusion of charge-conjugate processes is always implied and natural units with  $\hbar = c = 1$  are used throughout the Letter.) Over the last two years, the LHCb Collaboration reported three new open-charm tetraquark states,  $X_{0,1}(2900)^0$  [13,14] and  $T_{cc}(3875)^+$  [15,16], composed of  $cs\bar{u}\bar{d}$  and  $cc\bar{u}\bar{d}$  quarks, respectively. Interestingly, most of these states have masses close to thresholds of hadron pairs, which may indicate that they are hadronic molecules loosely bound by deuteronlike meson-exchange forces [17–20]. There are a number of other possible explanations, including that these particles are compact multiquark states [21–23], hadroquarkonia in which a  $c\bar{c}$  core is bound to light quarks and/or gluons via chromoelectric dipole interactions [24,25], or cusps produced by near-threshold

kinematics involving open-charm hadrons, or other dominant processes [26,27].

The  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  state was observed by the LHCb Collaboration in the  $D^+ D^-$  invariant-mass spectrum [14]. The mass and width of this state are consistent with those of the  $X(3915)$  resonance observed in the  $\omega J/\psi$  invariant-mass spectrum [28–31]. Moreover, the  $X(3915)$  has preferred spin ( $J$ ), parity ( $P$ ), and charge-parity ( $C$ ) quantum numbers of  $J^{PC} = 0^{++}$  [31,32], so the two states are treated as a single hadron in the following discussions unless otherwise specified. However, the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  state is not considered to be consistent with being a candidate for either the  $\chi_{c0}(2P)$  or  $\chi_{c0}(3P)$  state [33–37]. Lebed *et al.* [38] propose that it is the lightest  $c\bar{c}s\bar{s}$  state. Calculations based on QCD sum rules [39] favor the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  state as a  $0^{++} [cq][\bar{c}\bar{q}]$  (where  $q = u, d$ ) or  $[cs][\bar{c}\bar{s}]$  tetraquark. Recent lattice QCD results also indicate that this state is dominated by the  $c\bar{c}s\bar{s}$  constituents [40]. The  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  molecular interpretation is also possible, as suggested by the quark delocalization color-screening model [41] and other phenomenological studies [42,43]. All these developments point to a potential resonant structure in the vicinity of the threshold in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  invariant-mass spectrum.

Previously, only the Belle experiment studied the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  invariant-mass spectrum in processes involving initial-state radiation, where only  $1^{--}$  charmonium(like) states can contribute [44]. The  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  process, given its large branching fraction measured in the accompanying paper [45], provides a good opportunity to study resonances in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  final states, both scalars and those of higher spin, such as the  $0^{++}$  charmonium(like) states  $\chi_{c0}(4500)$  and  $\chi_{c0}(4700)$  possibly having an intrinsic  $c\bar{c}s\bar{s}$

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component [12], the well-known  $1^{--}$  charmonium states, such as  $\psi(4040)$ ,  $\psi(4160)$ ,  $\psi(4260)$ ,  $\psi(4415)$ , and  $\psi(4660)$  [32,46,47].

In this Letter, an amplitude analysis of about 360 reconstructed  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  signal decays is presented, leading to the first observation of a near-threshold peaking structure in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  system, denoted by  $X(3960)$ . The analysis is based on proton-proton ( $pp$ ) collision data collected by the LHCb experiment at center-of-mass energies of 7, 8, and 13 TeV between 2011 and 2018, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . The  $D_s^+$  candidates are reconstructed via the  $D_s^+ \rightarrow K^- K^+ \pi^+$  decay. The details of the detector, data and simulation, selection criteria, background composition, and  $B^+$  invariant-mass fit can be found in the accompanying article [45].

To improve the resolution on the masses of the two-body combinations that are used in the amplitude analysis, the four momentum of each final-state particle is determined from a kinematic fit [48] where the  $B^+$  mass is constrained to its known value [32]. Figure 1 shows the resulting Dalitz-plot distribution for the  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  signal decays, where the non- $B^+$  background is subtracted by the  $sPlot$  technique [49] with the reconstructed  $B^+$  mass as the discriminating variable. The most evident feature is the band near the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  threshold. To validate that this peaking structure is not due to the combinatorial background, the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  invariant-mass distribution of candidates in the  $B^+$  mass region from 5360 to 5600 MeV is investigated and no peak is observed.

Employing an unbinned maximum-likelihood method, an amplitude fit with the  $sFit$  technique [50] is performed to investigate the intermediate states and determine the quantum numbers  $J^{PC}$  of any new particle. Two known  $1^{--}$  charmonium states,  $\psi(4260)$  and  $\psi(4660)$  [32,46,47], and two new  $0^{++}$   $X$  states are needed to fit the structures in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  spectrum. One of these scalars,  $X(3960)$ , describes the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  threshold enhancement and the other,

designated  $X_0(4140)$ , is necessary to model the dip around 4140 MeV, as shown in Fig. 2. The subscript 0 is used to distinguish the latter from the  $1^{++}$   $X(4140)$  state seen in the  $J/\psi\phi$  final state [32]. Additionally, an  $S$ -wave three-body phase-space function [32] is employed to model the nonresonant (NR)  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  component. Since no significant contribution of any state is observed in either the  $D_s^- K^+$  or  $D_s^+ K^+$  systems, these five contributions constitute the baseline model.

The helicity formalism [51] is used to construct the amplitude model of the  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  decay, with a similar approach applied to previous LHCb analyses of  $B^+$  and  $B_s^0$  decays to three pseudoscalar particles [14,52–54]. The resonant structure near the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  mass threshold is parametrized by a Flatté-like function [19,32,55] depending on the invariant mass  $m$

$$R(m|M_0, g_j) = \frac{1}{M_0^2 - m^2 - iM_0 \sum_j g_j \rho_j(m)}, \quad (1)$$

where  $M_0$  is the mass of the resonance,  $g_j$  denotes the coupling of this resonance to the  $j$ th channel,  $\rho_j(m)$  is the phase-space factor [32] for the  $j$ th two-body decay. When the value of  $m$  is below the threshold of the channel  $j$ , i.e.,  $q_j^2 < 0$ , an analytic continuation is applied for  $q_j = i\sqrt{-q_j^2}$  [55,56]. The total width of the resonance is calculated as  $\Gamma_0 = \sum_j g_j \rho_j(M_0)$ . In the baseline model, only the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  channel ( $j = 1$ ) is included in the Flatté-like parametrization.

Other resonances are modeled by a relativistic Breit-Wigner function  $\text{BW}(m|M_0, \Gamma_0)$  with a mass-dependent width [32]. The radius of each resonance entering the Blatt-Weisskopf barrier factor [57–59] is set to  $3 \text{ GeV}^{-1}$ , corresponding to about 0.6 fm.

The total probability density function is the squared modulus of the total decay amplitude multiplied by the efficiency, normalized to ensure that the integral over the Dalitz plot is unity. The fit fraction  $\mathcal{F}_i$  expresses the fraction of the total rate due to the component  $i$ , and the interference fraction  $\mathcal{I}_{ij}$  describes the interference between components  $i$  and  $j$ . They are defined in Eqs. (18) and (19) of Ref. [53], such that  $\sum_i \mathcal{F}_i + \sum_{i < j} \mathcal{I}_{ij} = 1$ .

As shown in Fig. 2, the two-body mass distributions are well modeled by the baseline amplitude fit. The corresponding numerical results are summarized in Table I, including the mass, width, fit fraction, and significance ( $\mathcal{S}$ ) of each component. The significance of a given component is evaluated by assuming that the change of twice the negative log-likelihood ( $-2 \ln \mathcal{L}$ ) between the baseline fit and the fit without that component obeys a  $\chi^2$  distribution, where the number of degrees of freedom (d.o.f) is given by the change in the number of free parameters. All the components included in the baseline model have a statistical significance greater than three standard deviations ( $\sigma$ ),

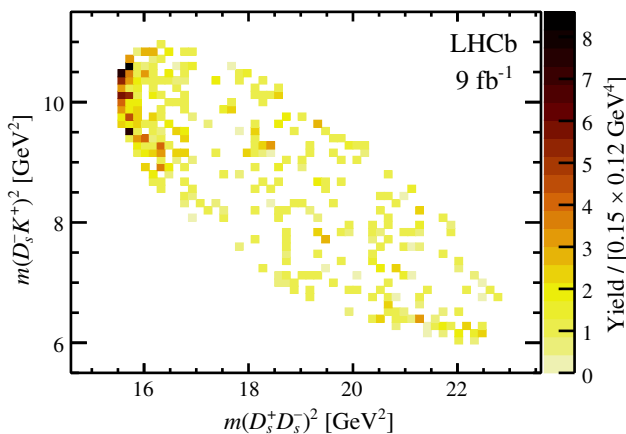


FIG. 1. Dalitz-plot distribution for the  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  decay after background subtraction.

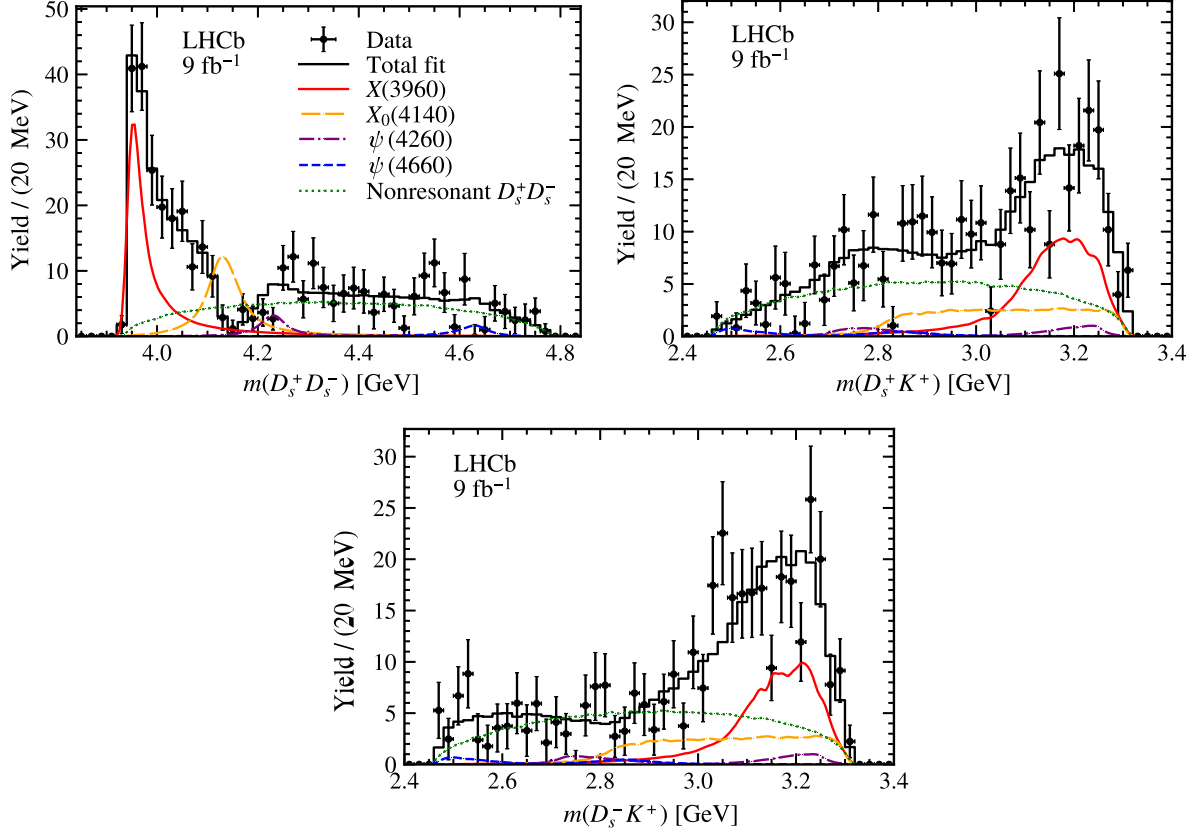


FIG. 2. Background-subtracted invariant-mass distributions (top left)  $m(D_s^+ D_s^-)$ , (top right)  $m(D_s^+ K^+)$  and (bottom)  $m(D_s^- K^+)$  for the  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  signal. The projections of the fit with the baseline amplitude model are also shown.

where the  $X(3960)$  and  $X_0(4140)$  states are found to be  $14.6\sigma$  and  $4.1\sigma$  significant, respectively. The obtained significances for the  $X(3960)$  and  $X_0(4140)$  resonances are also validated using pseudoexperiments.

The  $J^{PC}$  assignment for the system of a pair of oppositely charged pseudoscalar mesons must be in the series  $0^{++}$ ,  $1^{--}$ ,  $2^{++}$ , etc. States with higher intrinsic spin are not expected to contribute significantly in the current dataset. To determine the  $X(3960)$  quantum numbers, fits with the baseline model are performed under alternative  $J^{PC}$  hypotheses,  $1^{--}$ ,  $2^{++}$ , instead of  $0^{++}$ . The significance to reject a  $J^{PC}$  hypothesis is computed as  $\sqrt{\Delta(-2 \ln \mathcal{L})}$ , where  $\Delta(-2 \ln \mathcal{L}) = -[2 \ln \mathcal{L}(0^{++}) - 2 \ln \mathcal{L}(J^{PC})]$ , and

indicates the likelihood difference between the fits for the preferred  $0^{++}$  assignment and for each alternative  $J^{PC}$  hypothesis. To ensure that for different  $J^{PC}$  hypotheses this resonance corresponds to the same particle, the mass and the width are limited to be within a  $\pm 3\sigma$  range of the baseline fit results. The  $0^{++}$  assignment is preferred over  $1^{--}$  and  $2^{++}$  hypotheses by  $9.3\sigma$  and  $12.3\sigma$ , respectively. Similarly, replacing the baseline  $0^{++}$  assignment by  $1^{--}$  or  $2^{++}$  for the  $X_0(4140)$  state deteriorates the fit quality. The  $0^{++}$  assignment is favored over  $1^{--}$  ( $2^{++}$ ) hypothesis at a  $3.5\sigma$  ( $4.2\sigma$ ) level. Within the baseline model this  $0^{++}$  state produces the dip around 4140 MeV via destructive interference with the  $0^{++}$  NR and  $X(3960)$  components, with

TABLE I. Summary of the main results obtained with the baseline model, where the first uncertainty is statistical and the second systematic. The last column shows the signal significance with (without) the systematic uncertainty included.

Component	$J^{PC}$	$M_0$ (MeV)	$\Gamma_0$ (MeV)	$\mathcal{F}$ (%)	$S(\sigma)$
$X(3960)$	$0^{++}$	$3956 \pm 5 \pm 10$	$43 \pm 13 \pm 8$	$25.4 \pm 7.7 \pm 5.0$	12.6 (14.6)
$X_0(4140)$	$0^{++}$	$4133 \pm 6 \pm 6$	$67 \pm 17 \pm 7$	$16.7 \pm 4.7 \pm 3.9$	3.8 (4.1)
$\psi(4260)$	$1^{--}$	4230 [60]	55 [60]	$3.6 \pm 0.4 \pm 3.2$	3.2 (3.6)
$\psi(4660)$	$1^{--}$	4633 [32]	64 [32]	$2.2 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.8$	3.0 (3.2)
NR	$0^{++}$	...	...	$46.1 \pm 13.2 \pm 11.3$	3.1 (3.4)

the interference fractions of, respectively,  $(-22.4 \pm 6.4)\%$  and  $(-5.2 \pm 3.9)\%$ , where the uncertainties are statistical only.

Systematic uncertainties on the measured resonance properties are evaluated, and are summarized in Table 1 in Supplemental Material [61]. Corrections, derived from calibration samples, are applied to account for possible discrepancies between data and simulation in the hardware trigger and particle-identification responses. The uncertainty due to the limited size of the simulation samples is evaluated using the bootstrap method [62]. Additional resonances, not included in the baseline model (states in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  system:  $0^{++} \chi_{c0}(4500)$  and  $\chi_{c0}(4700)$  [12],  $1^{--} \psi(4040)$ ,  $\psi(4160)$ , and  $\psi(4415)$  [32], and  $2^{++} \chi_{c2}(3930)$  [14]; and in the  $D_s^- K^+$  system:  $0^+ \bar{D}_0^*(2300)^0$  [32],  $1^- \bar{D}_1^*(2600)^0$  [32,63] and  $\bar{D}_1^*(2760)^0$  [64], and  $2^+ \bar{D}_2^*(2460)^0$  [32]) are utilized to estimate the uncertainty due to insufficient consideration of possible amplitude components. None of these states significantly improve the baseline model. The  $c \bar{c} s \bar{s}$  candidates  $\chi_{c0}(4500)$  and  $\chi_{c0}(4700)$  have statistical significances of  $0.8\sigma$  and  $1.3\sigma$ , respectively, and their fit fractions are  $(0.6 \pm 1.0)\%$  ( $<3.5\%$  at 90% confidence level) and  $(2.4 \pm 1.8)\%$  ( $<6.7\%$  at 90% confidence level), where the uncertainties are statistical. The Blatt-Weisskopf hadron size is varied between 1.5 and 4.5  $\text{GeV}^{-1}$ . The fixed masses and widths of two baseline  $\psi$  states are varied by their corresponding uncertainties. The Flatté-like parametrization for the  $X(3960)$  state is replaced by a constant-width relativistic Breit-Wigner function. The uncertainty due to the possible bias of the *sFit* method is evaluated using pseudoexperiments. The total systematic uncertainties on mass, width, and fit fraction are obtained by adding all contributions in quadrature, assuming that each source is independent. Regarding the total significance for each component in the baseline model, the smallest significance among these systematic tests is selected.

The measured mass and width of the  $X(3960)$  state are consistent with those of the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  meson [14] within  $3\sigma$ . Assuming that the  $X(3960)$  in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  system and the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  in the  $D^+ D^-$  system are the same state, the baseline model is extended by adding a second channel ( $D^+ D^-$ ) in the Flatté-like parametrization. The corresponding fit projections and numerical results can be found in Supplemental Material [61]. The likelihood is essentially unchanged while the number of d.o.f. is increased by one compared to the baseline fit. The coupling strength of the  $X(3960)$  state to  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  ( $D^+ D^-$ ) is found to be  $0.33 \pm 1.18$  ( $0.15 \pm 0.33$ )  $\text{GeV}$ . The masses and fit fractions of all components are consistent with those in the baseline one-channel Flatté-like model.

In the case that the  $X(3960)$  and  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  states are the same particle, the partial width ratio of such an  $X$  resonance decaying to  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  and  $D^+ D^-$  final states is calculated as

$$\frac{\Gamma(X \rightarrow D^+ D^-)}{\Gamma(X \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-)} = \frac{\mathcal{B}^{(1)} \mathcal{F}_X^{(1)}}{\mathcal{B}^{(2)} \mathcal{F}_X^{(2)}} = 0.29 \pm 0.09 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.08, \quad (2)$$

where the superscripts (1) and (2) indicate the  $B^+ \rightarrow D^+ D^- K^+$  and  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  channels, respectively,  $\mathcal{F}_X^{(1)} = (3.70 \pm 0.92)\%$  is the fit fraction of the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  state in the  $B^+ \rightarrow D^+ D^- K^+$  decay [14],  $\mathcal{F}_X^{(2)}$  is the fit fraction of the  $X(3960)$  resonance presented in this Letter, and the branching fraction ratio  $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}/\mathcal{B}^{(2)}$  is taken from the accompanying paper [45]. The first uncertainty is statistical, the second systematic, and the third is due to uncertainties in the measured branching fractions,  $\mathcal{B}(D^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+)$  and  $\mathcal{B}(D_s^+ \rightarrow K^- K^+ \pi^+)$  [32], and the uncertainty on  $\mathcal{F}_X^{(1)}$  [14]. This ratio is compatible with that of the couplings mentioned above.

It is well known that the creation of an  $s\bar{s}$  quark pair from the vacuum is suppressed relative to  $u\bar{u}$  or  $d\bar{d}$  pairs. Moreover, the  $X \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-$  decay, occurring near the threshold, has a rather smaller phase-space factor than that of  $X \rightarrow D^+ D^-$ . These two features indicate that  $\Gamma(X \rightarrow D^+ D^-)$  should be considerably larger than  $\Gamma(X \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-)$  if  $X$  does not have any intrinsic  $s\bar{s}$  content. However, the value measured in Eq. (2) contradicts this expectation. This implies that the  $X(3960)$  and  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  are either not the same resonance, or they are the same nonconventional charmoniumlike state, for instance, a candidate containing the dominant  $c\bar{c}s\bar{s}$  constituents predicted in recent theoretical models [38–43,65]. Further studies are needed to gain insights into the nature of the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  threshold enhancement, in particular the measurement of the relative branching fraction for the  $D_{(s)} \bar{D}_{(s)}$  and  $\omega J/\psi$  channels, produced in a different environment, such as from two-photon fusion processes by the Belle II experiment.

There is no obvious candidate within conventional charmonium multiplets for  $X(3960)$  or  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  assignment. First of all, the mass of the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  state is far from predictions for the  $\chi_{c0}(3P)$ , which lies within the range 4131–4292 MeV [33,35]. For the  $\chi_{c0}(2P)$  state, most potential models predict a mass in the range 3842–3868 MeV [34–36], except the Godfrey-Isgur model which gives 3916 MeV [33]. Second, the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  state interpreted as  $\chi_{c0}(2P)$  would give too small a mass splitting with respect to the  $\chi_{c2}(3930)$  state [14] identified as  $\chi_{c2}(2P)$  [33–36]. In addition, interpreting the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  state as the  $\chi_{c0}(2P)$  charmonium would result in inconsistent decay widths, as the Okubo-Zweig-Iizuka (OZI) [66,67] suppressed channel  $\chi_{c0}(3930) \rightarrow \omega J/\psi$  has a decay width larger than theoretical expectations, whereas the  $S$ -wave OZI-allowed  $\chi_{c0}(3930) \rightarrow D\bar{D}$  mode has smaller decay width than the expectations [36,37]. As a consequence, neither the  $X(3960)$  nor the  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  is likely to be a pure  $\chi_{c0}(2P)$  or  $\chi_{c0}(3P)$  charmonium state.



To test the possibility that the dip in the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  invariant mass around 4140 MeV can be produced by the opening of the nearby  $J/\psi\phi$  threshold, without introducing an additional resonance, we employ a simple  $K$ -matrix model that contains the single resonance  $X(3960)$  and two coupled channels,  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  and  $J/\psi\phi$ . The  $K$  matrix reads

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{K}_{D_s^+ D_s^- \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-} & \mathcal{K}_{D_s^+ D_s^- \rightarrow J/\psi\phi} \\ \mathcal{K}_{J/\psi\phi \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-} & \mathcal{K}_{J/\psi\phi \rightarrow J/\psi\phi} \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{K}_{11} & \mathcal{K}_{12} \\ \mathcal{K}_{21} & \mathcal{K}_{22} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathcal{K}_{12} = \mathcal{K}_{21}$ , and the subscripts 1 and 2 represent  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  and  $J/\psi\phi$  final states, respectively. One possible choice for the  $2 \times 2$   $K$ -matrix parametrization [32] is

$$\mathcal{K}_{ba}(m) = \sum_R \frac{g_b^R g_a^R}{M_R^2 - m^2} + f_{ba}, \quad (4)$$

where  $M_R$  refers to the bare mass of the resonance  $R$ ,  $m$  is the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  invariant mass,  $g_a^R$  denotes the bare coupling of the resonance  $R$  to the channel  $a$ , and the  $f_{ba}$  is a real matrix parametrizing the nonpole part of the  $K$  matrix. As the  $X(3960)$  mass is about 160 MeV lower than the  $J/\psi\phi$  threshold and its width is less than 50 MeV, the coupling of the  $X(3960)$  state to  $J/\psi\phi$  should be negligible, giving  $g_2^R = 0$ . This results in the  $X(3960)$  resonance entering the  $\mathcal{K}_{11}$  element only. The production amplitude is expressed in the  $P$ -vector formalism [32,68,69], which gives

$$\mathcal{P}_b(m) = \sum_R \frac{\beta_R g_b^R}{M_R^2 - m^2} + \beta_b, \quad (5)$$

where  $\beta_R$  and  $\beta_b$  are complex free parameters due to rescattering effects or missing channels [60]. The amplitude  $\mathcal{M}$  is

$$\mathcal{M}_a = \sum_b (I - i\rho\mathcal{K})_{ab}^{-1} \mathcal{P}_b, \quad (6)$$

where  $\rho = \text{diag}\{\rho_{11}, \rho_{22}\}$  is the diagonal matrix composed of phase-space factors,  $I$  represents the identity matrix, and  $a = 1$  for the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  channel under consideration.

The fit demonstrates that the dip around the  $J/\psi\phi$  threshold can also be modeled by the  $J/\psi\phi \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-$  rescattering, and results in a  $-2 \ln \mathcal{L}$  that is worse by 6.0, while the number of d.o.f. is increased by one, compared to the baseline fit. The fit projections and numerical results can be found in Supplemental Material [61]. Since the fit quality of the  $K$ -matrix parametrization is close to that of the baseline model, a strong conclusion cannot be drawn whether the dip is due to destructive interference with the  $X_0(4140)$  resonance or caused by the  $J/\psi\phi \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-$  rescattering.

In addition, it is found that the fits with the two-channel Flatté-like and  $K$ -matrix parametrizations are unstable, due to having too many free parameters for the limited data

sample size. Consequently, the statistical uncertainties for some parameters are large. Therefore, neither of these parametrizations are taken as the baseline model.

In conclusion, the first amplitude analysis of the  $B^+ \rightarrow D_s^+ D_s^- K^+$  decay is performed using  $pp$  collision data with an integrated luminosity of  $9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  collected by the LHCb experiment between 2011 and 2018. A peaking structure near the  $D_s^+ D_s^-$  mass threshold, denoted as  $X(3960)$ , is observed with a significance larger than  $12\sigma$ . Its quantum numbers are determined to be  $J^{PC} = 0^{++}$ , favored over  $1^{--}$  or  $2^{++}$  with a significance greater than  $9\sigma$ . As argued above, the  $X(3960)$  and  $\chi_{c0}(3930)$  states are unlikely to be the same pure conventional charmonium state. The  $X(3960)$  resonance presented in this Letter could be a candidate for an exotic state predominantly consisting of  $c\bar{c}s\bar{s}$  constituents, as suggested in recent theoretical literature [38–43,65]. If predominant  $c\bar{c}s\bar{s}$  content is confirmed, this state should be labeled  $T_{\psi\phi}^f(3960)$  in the new naming scheme for exotic hadrons [70]. In addition, a dip around 4140 MeV can be described either by a  $0^{++} X_0(4140)$  resonance having a significance of  $3.5\sigma$ , or the coupled-channel effect of the  $J/\psi\phi \leftrightarrow D_s^+ D_s^-$  reaction. The data from the forthcoming Run 3 of the LHCb experiment and from the Belle II experiment will be critical to clarify the nature of these phenomena.

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Couturier<sup>42</sup> D. C. Craik<sup>58</sup> J. Crkovská<sup>61</sup> M. Cruz Torres<sup>1,h</sup> R. Currie<sup>52</sup> C. L. Da Silva<sup>61</sup> S. Dadabaev<sup>38</sup> L. Dai<sup>65</sup> X. Dai<sup>5</sup> E. Dall'Occo<sup>15</sup> J. Dalseno<sup>40</sup> C. D'Ambrosio<sup>42</sup> J. Daniel<sup>9</sup> A. Danilina<sup>38</sup> P. d'Argent<sup>15</sup> J. E. Davies<sup>56</sup> A. Davis<sup>56</sup> O. De Aguiar Francisco<sup>56</sup> J. de Boer<sup>42</sup> K. De Bruyn<sup>73</sup> S. De Capua<sup>56</sup> M. De Cian<sup>43</sup> U. De Freitas Carneiro Da Graca<sup>1</sup> E. De Lucia<sup>23</sup> J. M. De Miranda<sup>1</sup> L. De Paula<sup>2</sup> M. De Serio<sup>19,i</sup> D. De Simone<sup>44</sup> P. De Simone<sup>23</sup> F. De Vellis<sup>15</sup> J. A. de Vries<sup>74</sup> C. T. Dean<sup>61</sup> F. Debernardis<sup>19,i</sup> D. Decamp<sup>8</sup> V. Dedu<sup>10</sup> L. Del Buono<sup>13</sup> B. Delaney<sup>58</sup> H.-P. Dembinski<sup>15</sup> V. 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 E. Jans<sup>32</sup> B. K. Jashal<sup>41</sup> A. Jawahery<sup>60</sup> V. Jevtic<sup>15</sup> E. Jiang<sup>60</sup> X. Jiang<sup>4,6</sup> Y. Jiang<sup>6</sup> M. John<sup>57</sup>  
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 M. Karacson<sup>42</sup> D. Karpenkov<sup>38</sup> M. Karpov<sup>38</sup> J. W. Kautz<sup>59</sup> F. Keizer<sup>42</sup> D. M. Keller<sup>62</sup> M. Kenzie<sup>50</sup>  
 T. Ketel<sup>32</sup> B. Khanji<sup>15</sup> A. Kharisova<sup>38</sup> S. Kholodenko<sup>38</sup> G. Khreich<sup>11</sup> T. Kim<sup>14</sup> V. S. Kirsebom<sup>43</sup>  
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 S. Kotriakhova<sup>46</sup> A. Kozachuk<sup>38</sup> P. Kravchenko<sup>38</sup> L. Kravchuk<sup>38</sup> R. D. Krawczyk<sup>42</sup> M. Kreps<sup>50</sup>  
 S. Kretzschmar<sup>14</sup> P. Krokovny<sup>38</sup> W. Krupa<sup>34</sup> W. Krzemien<sup>36</sup> J. Kubat,<sup>17</sup> W. Kucewicz<sup>35,34</sup> M. Kucharczyk<sup>35</sup>  
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 D. Lancierini<sup>44</sup> C. Landesa Gomez<sup>40</sup> J. J. Lane<sup>56</sup> R. Lane<sup>48</sup> G. Lanfranchi<sup>23</sup> C. Langenbruch<sup>14</sup> J. Langer<sup>15</sup>  
 O. Lantwin<sup>38</sup> T. Latham<sup>50</sup> F. Lazzari<sup>29,n</sup> M. Lazzaroni<sup>25</sup> R. Le Gac<sup>10</sup> S. H. Lee<sup>77</sup> R. Lefèvre<sup>9</sup> A. Leflat<sup>38</sup>  
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 R. Litvinov<sup>27,j</sup> G. Liu<sup>66</sup> H. Liu<sup>6</sup> Q. Liu<sup>6</sup> S. Liu<sup>4,6</sup> A. Lobo Salvia<sup>39</sup> A. Loi<sup>27</sup> R. Lollini<sup>72</sup>  
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 F. Maciuc<sup>37</sup> I. Mackay<sup>57</sup> V. Macko<sup>43</sup> P. Mackowiak<sup>15</sup> L. R. Madhan Mohan<sup>48</sup> A. Maevskiy<sup>38</sup>  
 D. Maisuzenko<sup>38</sup> M. W. Majewski,<sup>34</sup> J. J. Malczewski<sup>35</sup> S. Malde<sup>57</sup> B. Malecki<sup>35,42</sup> A. Malinin<sup>38</sup> T. Maltsev<sup>38</sup>  
 G. Manca<sup>27,j</sup> G. Mancinelli<sup>10</sup> C. Mancuso<sup>11,25,q</sup> D. Manuzzi<sup>20</sup> C. A. Manzari<sup>44</sup> D. Marangotto<sup>25,q</sup>  
 J. M. Maratas<sup>9,r</sup> J. F. Marchand<sup>8</sup> U. Marconi<sup>20</sup> S. Mariani<sup>22,b</sup> C. Marin Benito<sup>39</sup> J. Marks<sup>17</sup>  
 A. M. Marshall<sup>48</sup> P. J. Marshall,<sup>54</sup> G. Martelli<sup>72,s</sup> G. Martellotti<sup>30</sup> L. Martinazzoli<sup>42,e</sup> M. Martinelli<sup>26,e</sup>  
 D. Martinez Santos<sup>40</sup> F. Martinez Vidal<sup>41</sup> A. Massafferri<sup>1</sup> M. Materok<sup>14</sup> R. Matev<sup>42</sup> A. Mathad<sup>44</sup>  
 V. Matiunin<sup>38</sup> C. Matteuzzi<sup>26</sup> K. R. Mattioli<sup>77</sup> A. Mauri<sup>32</sup> E. Maurice<sup>12</sup> J. Mauricio<sup>39</sup> M. Mazurek<sup>42</sup>  
 M. McCann<sup>55</sup> L. McConnell<sup>18</sup> T. H. McGrath<sup>56</sup> N. T. McHugh<sup>53</sup> A. McNab<sup>56</sup> R. McNulty<sup>18</sup> J. V. Mead<sup>54</sup>  
 B. Meadows<sup>59</sup> G. Meier<sup>15</sup> D. Melnychuk<sup>36</sup> S. Meloni<sup>26,e</sup> M. Merk<sup>32,74</sup> A. Merli<sup>25,q</sup> L. Meyer Garcia<sup>2</sup>  
 D. Miao<sup>4,6</sup> M. Mikhasenko<sup>70,t</sup> D. A. Milanese<sup>69</sup> E. Millard,<sup>50</sup> M. Milovanovic<sup>42</sup> M.-N. Minard,<sup>8,8,a</sup> A. Minotti<sup>26,e</sup>  
 T. Miralles<sup>9</sup> S. E. Mitchell<sup>52</sup> B. Mitreska<sup>56</sup> D. S. Mitzel<sup>15</sup> A. Mödden<sup>15</sup> R. A. Mohammed<sup>57</sup> R. D. Moise<sup>14</sup>  
 S. Mokhnenko<sup>38</sup> T. Mombächer<sup>40</sup> M. Monk<sup>50,63</sup> I. A. Monroy<sup>69</sup> S. Monteil<sup>9</sup> M. Morandin<sup>28</sup> G. Morello<sup>23</sup>  
 M. J. Morello<sup>29,c</sup> J. Moron<sup>34</sup> A. B. Morris<sup>70</sup> A. G. Morris<sup>50</sup> R. Mountain<sup>62</sup> H. Mu<sup>3</sup> E. Muhammad<sup>50</sup>  
 F. Muheim<sup>52</sup> M. Mulder<sup>73</sup> K. Müller<sup>44</sup> C. H. Murphy<sup>57</sup> D. Murray<sup>56</sup> R. Murta<sup>55</sup> P. Muzzetto<sup>27,j</sup> P. Naik<sup>48</sup>  
 T. Nakada<sup>43</sup> R. Nandakumar<sup>51</sup> T. Nanut<sup>42</sup> I. Nasteva<sup>2</sup> M. Needham<sup>52</sup> N. Neri<sup>25,q</sup> S. Neubert<sup>70</sup>  
 N. Neufeld<sup>42</sup> P. Neustroev,<sup>38</sup> R. Newcombe,<sup>55</sup> J. Nicolini<sup>15,11</sup> E. M. Niel<sup>43</sup> S. Nieswand,<sup>14</sup> N. Nikitin<sup>38</sup>  
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