

Search for the radiative transition $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$

- M. Ablikim¹, M. N. Achasov^{4,c}, P. Adlarson⁷⁵, O. Afedulidis³, X. C. Ai⁸⁰, R. Aliberti³⁵, A. Amoroso^{74A,74C}, M. R. An³⁹, Q. An^{71,58,a}, Y. Bai⁵⁷, O. Bakina³⁶, I. Balossino^{29A}, Y. Ban^{46,h}, H.-R. Bao⁶³, V. Batozskaya^{1,44}, K. Begzsuren³², N. Berger³⁵, M. Berlowski⁴⁴, M. Bertani^{28A}, D. Bettoni^{29A}, F. Bianchi^{74A,74C}, E. Bianco^{74A,74C}, A. Bortone^{74A,74C}, I. Boyko³⁶, R. A. Briere⁵, A. Brueggemann⁶⁸, H. Cai⁷⁶, X. Cai^{1,58}, A. Calcaterra^{28A}, G. F. Cao^{1,63}, N. Cao^{1,63}, S. A. Cetin^{62A}, J. F. Chang^{1,58}, G. R. Che⁴³, G. Chelkov^{36,b}, C. Chen⁴³, C. H. Chen⁹, Chao Chen⁵⁵, G. Chen¹, H. S. Chen^{1,63}, H. Y. Chen²⁰, M. L. Chen^{1,58,63}, S. J. Chen⁴², S. L. Chen⁴⁵, S. M. Chen⁶¹, T. Chen^{1,63}, X. R. Chen^{31,63}, X. T. Chen^{1,63}, Y. B. Chen^{1,58}, Y. Q. Chen³⁴, Z. J. Chen^{25,i}, Z. Y. Chen^{1,63}, S. K. Choi^{10A}, G. Cibinetto^{29A}, F. Cossio^{74C}, J. J. Cui⁵⁰, H. L. Dai^{1,58}, J. P. Dai⁷⁸, A. Dbeysi¹⁸, R. E. de Boer³, D. Dedovich³⁶, C. Q. Deng⁷², Z. Y. Deng¹, A. Denig³⁵, I. Denysenko³⁶, M. Destefanis^{74A,74C}, F. De Mori^{74A,74C}, B. Ding^{66,1}, X. X. Ding^{46,h}, Y. Ding³⁴, Y. Ding⁴⁰, J. Dong^{1,58}, L. Y. Dong^{1,63}, M. Y. Dong^{1,58,63}, X. Dong⁷⁶, M. C. Du¹, S. X. Du⁸⁰, Z. H. Duan⁴², P. Egorov^{36,b}, Y. H. Fan⁴⁵, J. Fang^{1,58}, J. Fang⁵⁹, S. S. Fang^{1,63}, W. X. Fang¹, Y. Fang¹, Y. Q. Fang^{1,58}, R. Farinelli^{29A}, L. Fava^{74B,74C}, F. Feldbauer³, G. Felici^{28A}, C. Q. Feng^{71,58}, J. H. Feng⁵⁹, Y. T. Feng^{71,58}, M. Fritsch³, C. D. Fu¹, J. L. Fu⁶³, Y. W. Fu^{1,63}, H. Gao⁶³, X. B. Gao⁴¹, Y. N. Gao^{46,h}, Yang Gao^{71,58}, S. Garbolino^{74C}, I. Garzia^{29A,29B}, L. Ge⁸⁰, P. T. Ge⁷⁶, Z. W. Ge⁴², C. Geng⁵⁹, E. M. Gersabeck⁶⁷, A. Gilman⁶⁹, K. Goetzen¹³, L. Gong⁴⁰, W. X. Gong^{1,58}, W. Gradi³⁵, S. Gramigna^{29A,29B}, M. Greco^{74A,74C}, M. H. Gu^{1,58}, Y. T. Gu¹⁵, C. Y. Guan^{1,63}, Z. L. Guan²², A. Q. Guo^{31,63}, L. B. Guo⁴¹, M. J. Guo⁵⁰, R. P. Guo⁴⁹, Y. P. Guo^{12,g}, A. Guskov^{36,b}, J. Gutierrez²⁷, K. L. Han⁶³, T. T. Han¹, X. Q. Hao¹⁹, F. A. Harris⁶⁵, K. K. He⁵⁵, K. L. He^{1,63}, F. H. Heinsius³, C. H. Heinz³⁵, Y. K. Heng^{1,58,63}, C. Herold⁶⁰, T. Holtmann³, P. C. Hong³⁴, G. Y. Hou^{1,63}, X. T. Hou^{1,63}, Y. R. Hou⁶³, Z. L. Hou¹, B. Y. Hu⁵⁹, H. M. Hu^{1,63}, J. F. Hu^{56,j}, S. L. Hu^{12,g}, T. Hu^{1,58,63}, Y. Hu¹, G. S. Huang^{71,58}, K. X. Huang⁵⁹, L. Q. Huang^{31,63}, X. T. Huang⁵⁰, Y. P. Huang¹, T. Hussain⁷³, F. Hölzken³, N. Hüskens^{27,35}, N. in der Wiesche⁶⁸, J. Jackson²⁷, S. Janchiv³², J. H. Jeong^{10A}, Q. Ji¹, Q. P. Ji¹⁹, W. Ji^{1,63}, X. B. Ji^{1,63}, X. L. Ji^{1,58}, Y. Y. Ji⁵⁰, X. Q. Jia⁵⁰, Z. K. Jia^{71,58}, D. Jiang^{1,63}, H. B. Jiang⁷⁶, P. C. Jiang^{46,h}, S. S. Jiang³⁹, T. J. Jiang¹⁶, X. S. Jiang^{1,58,63}, Y. Jiang⁶³, J. B. Jiao⁵⁰, J. K. Jiao³⁴, Z. Jiao²³, S. Jin⁴², Y. Jin⁶⁶, M. Q. Jing^{1,63}, X. M. Jing⁶³, T. Johansson⁷⁵, S. Kabana³³, N. Kalantar-Nayestanaki⁶⁴, X. L. Kang⁹, X. S. Kang⁴⁰, M. Kavatsyuk⁶⁴, B. C. Ke⁸⁰, V. Khachatryan²⁷, A. Khoukaz⁶⁸, R. Kiuchi¹, O. B. Kolcu^{62A}, B. Kopf³, M. Kuessner³, X. Kui^{1,63}, N. Kumar²⁶, A. Kupsc^{44,75}, W. Kühr³⁷, J. J. Lane⁶⁷, P. Larini¹⁸, L. Lavezzi^{74A,74C}, T. T. Lei^{71,58}, Z. H. Lei^{71,58}, M. Lellmann³⁵, T. Lenz³⁵, C. Li⁴⁷, C. Li⁴³, C. H. Li³⁹, Cheng Li^{71,58}, D. M. Li⁸⁰, F. Li^{1,58}, G. Li¹, H. B. Li^{1,63}, H. J. Li¹⁹, H. N. Li^{56,j}, Hui Li⁴³, J. R. Li⁶¹, J. S. Li⁵⁹, Ke Li¹, L. J. Li^{1,63}, L. K. Li¹, Lei Li⁴⁸, M. H. Li⁴³, P. R. Li^{38,l}, Q. M. Li^{1,63}, Q. X. Li⁵⁰, R. Li^{17,31}, S. X. Li¹², T. Li⁵⁰, W. D. Li^{1,63}, W. G. Li^{1,a}, X. Li^{1,63}, X. H. Li^{71,58}, X. L. Li⁵⁰, X. Z. Li⁵⁹, Xiaoyu Li^{1,63}, Y. G. Li^{46,h}, Z. J. Li⁵⁹, Z. X. Li¹⁵, C. Liang⁴², H. Liang^{71,58}, H. Liang^{1,63}, Y. F. Liang⁵⁴, Y. T. Liang^{31,63}, G. R. Liao¹⁴, L. Z. Liao⁵⁰, J. Libby²⁶, A. Limphirat⁶⁰, C. C. Lin⁵⁵, D. X. Lin^{31,63}, T. Lin¹, B. J. Liu¹, B. X. Liu⁷⁶, C. Liu³⁴, C. X. Liu¹, F. H. Liu⁵³, Fang Liu¹, Feng Liu⁶, G. M. Liu^{56,j}, H. Liu^{38,k,l}, H. B. Liu¹⁵, H. M. Liu^{1,63}, Huanhuan Liu¹, Huihui Liu²¹, J. B. Liu^{71,58}, J. Y. Liu^{1,63}, K. Liu^{38,k,l}, K. Y. Liu⁴⁰, Ke Liu²², L. Liu^{71,58}, L. C. Liu⁴³, Lu Liu⁴³, M. H. Liu^{12,g}, P. L. Liu¹, Q. Liu⁶³, S. B. Liu^{71,58}, T. Liu^{12,g}, W. K. Liu⁴³, W. M. Liu^{71,58}, X. Liu³⁹, X. Liu^{38,k,l}, Y. Liu⁸⁰, Y. Liu^{38,k,l}, Y. B. Liu⁴³, Z. A. Liu^{1,58,63}, Z. D. Liu⁹, Z. Q. Liu⁵⁰, X. C. Lou^{1,58,63}, F. X. Lu⁵⁹, H. J. Lu²³, J. G. Lu^{1,58}, X. L. Lu¹, Y. Lu⁷, Y. P. Lu^{1,58}, Z. H. Lu^{1,63}, C. L. Luo⁴¹, M. X. Luo⁷⁹, T. Luo^{12,g}, X. L. Luo^{1,58}, X. R. Lyu⁶³, Y. F. Lyu⁴³, F. C. Ma⁴⁰, H. Ma⁷⁸, H. L. Ma¹, J. L. Ma^{1,63}, L. L. Ma⁵⁰, M. M. Ma^{1,63}, Q. M. Ma¹, R. Q. Ma^{1,63}, T. Ma^{71,58}, X. T. Ma^{1,63}, X. Y. Ma^{1,58}, Y. Ma^{46,h}, Y. M. Ma³¹, F. E. Maas¹⁸, M. Maggiore^{74A,74C}, S. Malde⁶⁹, Y. J. Mao^{46,h}, Z. P. Mao¹, S. Marcello^{74A,74C}, Z. X. Meng⁶⁶, J. G. Messchendorp^{13,64}, G. Mezzadri^{29A}, H. Miao^{1,63}, T. J. Min⁴², R. E. Mitchell²⁷, X. H. Mo^{1,58,63}, B. Moses²⁷, N. Yu. Muchnoi^{4,c}, J. Muskalla³⁵, Y. Nefedov³⁶, F. Nerling^{18,e}, L. S. Nie²⁰, I. B. Nikolaev^{4,c}, Z. Ning^{1,58}, S. Nisar^{11,m}, Q. L. Niu^{38,k,l}, W. D. Niu⁵⁵, Y. Niu⁵⁰, S. L. Olsen⁶³, Q. Ouyang^{1,58,63}, S. Pacetti^{28B,28C}, X. Pan⁵⁵, Y. Pan⁵⁷, A. Pathak³⁴, P. Patteri^{28A}, Y. P. Pei^{71,58}, M. Pelizaeus³, H. P. Peng^{71,58}, Y. Y. Peng^{38,k,l}, K. Peters^{13,e}, J. L. Ping⁴¹, R. G. Ping^{1,63}, S. Plura³⁵, V. Prasad³³, F. Z. Qi¹, H. Qi^{71,58}, H. R. Qi⁶¹, M. Qi⁴², T. Y. Qi^{12,g}, S. Qian^{1,58}, W. B. Qian⁶³, C. F. Qiao⁶³, X. K. Qiao⁸⁰, J. J. Qin⁷², L. Q. Qin¹⁴, L. Y. Qin^{71,58}, X. S. Qin⁵⁰, Z. H. Qin^{1,58}, J. F. Qiu¹, Z. H. Qu⁷², C. F. Redmer³⁵, K. J. Ren³⁹, A. Rivetti^{74C}, M. Rolo^{74C}, G. Rong^{1,63}, Ch. Rosner¹⁸, S. N. Ruan⁴³, N. Salone⁴⁴, A. Sarantsev^{36,d}, Y. Schelhaas³⁵, K. Schoenning⁷⁵, M. Scodellaro^{29A}, K. Y. Shan^{12,g}, W. Shan²⁴, X. Y. Shan^{71,58}, Z. J Shang^{38,k,l}, J. F. Shangguan⁵⁵, L. G. Shao^{1,63}, M. Shao^{71,58}, C. P. Shen^{12,g}, H. F. Shen^{1,8}, W. H. Shen⁶³, X. Y. Shen^{1,63}, B. A. Shi⁶³, H. Shi^{71,58}, H. C. Shi^{71,58}, J. L. Shi^{12,g}, J. Y. Shi¹, Q. O. Shi⁵⁵, S. Y. Shi⁷², X. Shi^{1,58}, J. J. Song¹⁹, T. Z. Song⁵⁹, W. M. Song^{34,i}, Y. J. Song^{12,g}, Y. X. Song^{46,h,n}, S. Sosio^{74A,74C}, S. Spataro^{74A,74C}, F. Stieler³⁵, Y. J. Su⁶³, G. B. Sun⁷⁶, G. X. Sun¹, H. Sun⁶³, H. K. Sun¹, J. F. Sun¹⁹, K. Sun⁶¹, L. Sun⁷⁶, S. S. Sun^{1,63}, T. Sun^{51,f}, W. Y. Sun³⁴, Y. Sun⁹, Y. J. Sun^{71,58}, Y. Z. Sun¹, Z. Q. Sun^{1,63}, Z. T. Sun⁵⁰, C. J. Tang⁵⁴, G. Y. Tang¹, J. Tang^{71,58}, M. Tang^{71,58}, Y. A. Tang⁷⁶, L. Y. Tao⁷², Q. T. Tao^{25,i}, M. Tat⁶⁹, J. X. Teng^{71,58}, V. Thoren⁷⁵, W. H. Tian⁵⁹, Y. Tian^{31,63}, Z. F. Tian⁷⁶, I. Uman^{62B}, Y. Wan⁵⁵, S. J. Wang⁵⁰, B. Wang¹, B. L. Wang⁶³, Bo Wang^{71,58}, D. Y. Wang^{46,h}, F. Wang⁷², H. J. Wang^{38,k,l}, J. J. Wang⁷⁶, J. P. Wang⁵⁰, K. Wang^{1,58}, L. L. Wang¹, M. Wang⁵⁰, Meng Wang^{1,63}, N. Y. Wang⁶³, S. Wang^{38,k,l}, S. Wang^{12,g}, T. Wang^{12,g}, T. J. Wang⁴³, W. Wang⁵⁹, W. Wang⁷², W. P. Wang^{35,71,o}, X. Wang^{46,h}, X. F. Wang^{38,k,l}, X. J. Wang³⁹, X. L. Wang^{12,g}, X. N. Wang¹, Y. Wang⁶¹, Y. D. Wang⁴⁵, Y. F. Wang^{1,58,63}, Y. L. Wang¹⁹, Y. N. Wang⁴⁵, Y. Q. Wang¹, Yaqian Wang¹⁷, Yi Wang⁶¹, Z. Wang^{1,58}, Z. L. Wang⁷², Z. Y. Wang^{1,63}, Ziyi Wang⁶³, D. H. Wei¹⁴, F. Weidner⁶⁸, S. P. Wen¹, Y. R. Wen³⁹, U. Wiedner³, G. Wilkinson⁶⁹, M. Wolke⁷⁵, L. Wollenberg³, C. Wu³⁹, J. F. Wu^{1,8}, L. H. Wu¹, L. J. Wu^{1,63}, X. Wu^{12,g}, X. H. Wu³⁴, Y. Wu^{71,58}, Y. H. Wu⁵⁵, Y. J. Wu³¹, Z. Wu^{1,58}, L. Xia^{71,58}, X. M. Xian³⁹, B. H. Xiang^{1,63}, T. Xiang^{46,h}, D. Xiao^{38,k,l}, G. Y. Xiao⁴², S. Y. Xiao¹, Y. L. Xiao^{12,g}, Z. J. Xiao⁴¹, C. Xie⁴², X. H. Xie^{46,h},

Y. Xie⁵⁰, Y. G. Xie^{1,58}, Y. H. Xie⁶, Z. P. Xie^{71,58}, T. Y. Xing^{1,63}, C. F. Xu^{1,63}, C. J. Xu⁵⁹, G. F. Xu¹, H. Y. Xu⁶⁶, M. Xu^{71,58}, Q. J. Xu¹⁶, Q. N. Xu³⁰, W. Xu¹, W. L. Xu⁶⁶, X. P. Xu⁵⁵, Y. C. Xu⁷⁷, Z. P. Xu⁴², Z. S. Xu⁶³, F. Yan^{12,g}, L. Yan^{12,g}, W. B. Yan^{71,58}, W. C. Yan⁸⁰, X. Q. Yan¹, H. J. Yang^{51,f}, H. L. Yang³⁴, H. X. Yang¹, Tao Yang¹, Y. Yang^{12,g}, Y. F. Yang⁴³, Y. X. Yang^{1,63}, Yifan Yang^{1,63}, Z. W. Yang^{38,k,l}, Z. P. Yao⁵⁰, M. Ye^{1,58}, M. H. Ye⁸, J. H. Yin¹, Z. Y. You⁵⁹, B. X. Yu^{1,58,63}, C. X. Yu⁴³, G. Yu^{1,63}, J. S. Yu^{25,i}, T. Yu⁷², X. D. Yu^{46,h}, Y. C. Yu⁸⁰, C. Z. Yuan^{1,63}, J. Yuan³⁴, L. Yuan², S. C. Yuan¹, Y. Yuan^{1,63}, Y. J. Yuan⁴⁵, Z. Y. Yuan⁵⁹, C. X. Yue³⁹, A. A. Zafar⁷³, F. R. Zeng⁵⁰, S. H. Zeng⁷², X. Zeng^{12,g}, Y. Zeng^{25,i}, Y. J. Zeng⁵⁹, X. Y. Zhai³⁴, Y. C. Zhai⁵⁰, Y. H. Zhan⁵⁹, A. Q. Zhang^{1,63}, B. L. Zhang^{1,63}, B. X. Zhang¹, D. H. Zhang⁴³, G. Y. Zhang¹⁹, H. Zhang^{71,58}, H. Zhang⁸⁰, H. C. Zhang^{1,58,63}, H. H. Zhang⁵⁹, H. H. Zhang³⁴, H. Q. Zhang^{1,58,63}, H. R. Zhang^{71,58}, H. Y. Zhang^{1,58}, J. Zhang⁵⁹, J. Zhang⁸⁰, J. J. Zhang⁵², J. L. Zhang²⁰, J. Q. Zhang⁴¹, J. S. Zhang^{12,g}, J. W. Zhang^{1,58,63}, J. X. Zhang^{38,k,l}, J. Y. Zhang¹, J. Z. Zhang^{1,63}, Jianyu Zhang⁶³, L. M. Zhang⁶¹, Lei Zhang⁴², P. Zhang^{1,63}, Q. Y. Zhang³⁴, R. Y. Zhang^{38,k,l}, Shuihan Zhang^{1,63}, Shulei Zhang^{25,i}, X. D. Zhang⁴⁵, X. M. Zhang¹, X. Y. Zhang⁵⁰, Y. Zhang⁷², Y. T. Zhang⁸⁰, Y. H. Zhang^{1,58}, Y. M. Zhang³⁹, Yan Zhang^{71,58}, Yao Zhang¹, Z. D. Zhang¹, Z. H. Zhang¹, Z. L. Zhang³⁴, Z. Y. Zhang⁴³, Z. Y. Zhang⁷⁶, Z. Z. Zhang⁴⁵, G. Zhao¹, J. Y. Zhao^{1,63}, J. Z. Zhao^{1,58}, Lei Zhao^{71,58}, Ling Zhao¹, M. G. Zhao⁴³, N. Zhao⁷⁸, R. P. Zhao⁶³, S. J. Zhao⁸⁰, Y. B. Zhao^{1,58}, Y. X. Zhao^{31,63}, Z. G. Zhao^{71,58}, A. Zhemchugov^{36,b}, B. Zheng⁷², B. M. Zheng³⁴, J. P. Zheng^{1,58}, W. J. Zheng^{1,63}, Y. H. Zheng⁶³, B. Zhong⁴¹, X. Zhong⁵⁹, H. Zhou⁵⁰, J. Y. Zhou³⁴, L. P. Zhou^{1,63}, S. Zhou⁶, X. Zhou⁷⁶, X. K. Zhou⁶, X. R. Zhou^{71,58}, X. Y. Zhou³⁹, Y. Z. Zhou^{12,g}, J. Zhu⁴³, K. Zhu¹, K. J. Zhu^{1,58,63}, K. S. Zhu^{12,g}, L. Zhu³⁴, L. X. Zhu⁶³, S. H. Zhu⁷⁰, S. Q. Zhu⁴², T. J. Zhu^{12,g}, W. D. Zhu⁴¹, Y. C. Zhu^{71,58}, Z. A. Zhu^{1,63}, J. H. Zou¹, J. Zu^{71,58}

(BESIII Collaboration)

¹ Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing 100049, People's Republic of China

² Beihang University, Beijing 100191, People's Republic of China

³ Bochum Ruhr-University, D-44780 Bochum, Germany

⁴ Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics SB RAS (BINP), Novosibirsk 630090, Russia

⁵ Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, USA

⁶ Central China Normal University, Wuhan 430079, People's Republic of China

⁷ Central South University, Changsha 410083, People's Republic of China

⁸ China Center of Advanced Science and Technology, Beijing 100190, People's Republic of China

⁹ China University of Geosciences, Wuhan 430074, People's Republic of China

¹⁰ Chung-Ang University, Seoul, 06974, Republic of Korea

¹¹ COMSATS University Islamabad, Lahore Campus, Defence Road, Off Raiwind Road, 54000 Lahore, Pakistan

¹² Fudan University, Shanghai 200433, People's Republic of China

¹³ GSI Helmholtzcentre for Heavy Ion Research GmbH, D-64291 Darmstadt, Germany

¹⁴ Guangxi Normal University, Guilin 541004, People's Republic of China

¹⁵ Guangxi University, Nanning 530004, People's Republic of China

¹⁶ Hangzhou Normal University, Hangzhou 310036, People's Republic of China

¹⁷ Hebei University, Baoding 071002, People's Republic of China

¹⁸ Helmholtz Institute Mainz, Staudinger Weg 18, D-55099 Mainz, Germany

¹⁹ Henan Normal University, Xinxiang 453007, People's Republic of China

²⁰ Henan University, Kaifeng 475004, People's Republic of China

²¹ Henan University of Science and Technology, Luoyang 471003, People's Republic of China

²² Henan University of Technology, Zhengzhou 450001, People's Republic of China

²³ Huangshan College, Huangshan 245000, People's Republic of China

²⁴ Hunan Normal University, Changsha 410081, People's Republic of China

²⁵ Hunan University, Changsha 410082, People's Republic of China

²⁶ Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai 600036, India

²⁷ Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, USA

²⁸ INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, (A)INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, I-00044, Frascati, Italy; (B)INFN Sezione di Perugia, I-06100, Perugia, Italy; (C)University of Perugia, I-06100, Perugia, Italy

²⁹ INFN Sezione di Ferrara, (A)INFN Sezione di Ferrara, I-44122, Ferrara, Italy; (B)University of Ferrara, I-44122, Ferrara, Italy

³⁰ Inner Mongolia University, Hohhot 010021, People's Republic of China

³¹ Institute of Modern Physics, Lanzhou 730000, People's Republic of China

³² Institute of Physics and Technology, Peace Avenue 54B, Ulaanbaatar 13330, Mongolia

³³ Instituto de Alta Investigación, Universidad de Tarapacá, Casilla 7D, Arica 1000000, Chile

³⁴ Jilin University, Changchun 130012, People's Republic of China

³⁵ Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Johann-Joachim-Becher-Weg 45, D-55099 Mainz, Germany

³⁶ Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, 141980 Dubna, Moscow region, Russia

³⁷ Justus-Liebig-Universitaet Giessen, II. Physikalisches Institut, Heinrich-Buff-Ring 16, D-35392 Giessen, Germany

³⁸ Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, People's Republic of China

³⁹ Liaoning Normal University, Dalian 116029, People's Republic of China

⁴⁰ Liaoning University, Shenyang 110036, People's Republic of China

⁴¹ Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing 210023, People's Republic of China

- ⁴² Nanjing University, Nanjing 210093, People's Republic of China
⁴³ Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, People's Republic of China
⁴⁴ National Centre for Nuclear Research, Warsaw 02-093, Poland
⁴⁵ North China Electric Power University, Beijing 102206, People's Republic of China
⁴⁶ Peking University, Beijing 100871, People's Republic of China
⁴⁷ Qufu Normal University, Qufu 273165, People's Republic of China
⁴⁸ Renmin University of China, Beijing 100872, People's Republic of China
⁴⁹ Shandong Normal University, Jinan 250014, People's Republic of China
⁵⁰ Shandong University, Jinan 250100, People's Republic of China
⁵¹ Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai 200240, People's Republic of China
⁵² Shanxi Normal University, Linfen 041004, People's Republic of China
⁵³ Shanxi University, Taiyuan 030006, People's Republic of China
⁵⁴ Sichuan University, Chengdu 610064, People's Republic of China
⁵⁵ Soochow University, Suzhou 215006, People's Republic of China
⁵⁶ South China Normal University, Guangzhou 510006, People's Republic of China
⁵⁷ Southeast University, Nanjing 211100, People's Republic of China
⁵⁸ State Key Laboratory of Particle Detection and Electronics, Beijing 100049, Hefei 230026, People's Republic of China
⁵⁹ Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou 510275, People's Republic of China
⁶⁰ Suranaree University of Technology, University Avenue 111, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000, Thailand
⁶¹ Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, People's Republic of China
⁶² Turkish Accelerator Center Particle Factory Group, (A)Istinye University, 34010, Istanbul, Turkey; (B)Near East University, Nicosia, North Cyprus, 99138, Mersin 10, Turkey
⁶³ University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, People's Republic of China
⁶⁴ University of Groningen, NL-9747 AA Groningen, The Netherlands
⁶⁵ University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA
⁶⁶ University of Jinan, Jinan 250022, People's Republic of China
⁶⁷ University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, United Kingdom
⁶⁸ University of Muenster, Wilhelm-Klemm-Strasse 9, 48149 Muenster, Germany
⁶⁹ University of Oxford, Keble Road, Oxford OX13RH, United Kingdom
⁷⁰ University of Science and Technology Liaoning, Anshan 114051, People's Republic of China
⁷¹ University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, People's Republic of China
⁷² University of South China, Hengyang 421001, People's Republic of China
⁷³ University of the Punjab, Lahore-54590, Pakistan
⁷⁴ University of Turin and INFN, (A)University of Turin, I-10125, Turin, Italy; (B)University of Eastern Piedmont, I-15121, Alessandria, Italy; (C)INFN, I-10125, Turin, Italy
⁷⁵ Uppsala University, Box 516, SE-75120 Uppsala, Sweden
⁷⁶ Wuhan University, Wuhan 430072, People's Republic of China
⁷⁷ Yantai University, Yantai 264005, People's Republic of China
⁷⁸ Yunnan University, Kunming 650500, People's Republic of China
⁷⁹ Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, People's Republic of China
⁸⁰ Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450001, People's Republic of China
- ^a Deceased
- ^b Also at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow 141700, Russia
^c Also at the Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, 630090, Russia
^d Also at the NRC "Kurchatov Institute", PNPI, 188300, Gatchina, Russia
^e Also at Goethe University Frankfurt, 60323 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- ^f Also at Key Laboratory for Particle Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology, Ministry of Education; Shanghai Key Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology; Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics, Shanghai 200240, People's Republic of China
- ^g Also at Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Ion-beam Application (MOE) and Institute of Modern Physics, Fudan University, Shanghai 200443, People's Republic of China
- ^h Also at State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing 100871, People's Republic of China
- ⁱ Also at School of Physics and Electronics, Hunan University, Changsha 410082, China
- ^j Also at Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Nuclear Science, Institute of Quantum Matter, South China Normal University, Guangzhou 510006, China
- ^k Also at MOE Frontiers Science Center for Rare Isotopes, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, People's Republic of China
- ^l Also at Lanzhou Center for Theoretical Physics, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, People's Republic of China
- ^m Also at the Department of Mathematical Sciences, IBA, Karachi 75270, Pakistan
- ⁿ Also at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland
- ^o Also at Helmholtz Institute Mainz, Staudinger Weg 18, D-55099 Mainz, Germany

Using 9.0 fb⁻¹ of e⁺e⁻ collision data collected at center-of-mass energies from 4.178 to 4.278

GeV with the BESIII detector at the BEPCII collider, we perform the first search for the radiative transition $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$. No $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$ signal is observed. The upper limit on the ratio of branching fractions $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823), \psi_2(3823) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1})/\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi)$ is set as 0.075 at the 90% confidence level. Our result contradicts theoretical predictions under the assumption that the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ is the pure charmonium state $\chi_{c1}(2P)$.

I. INTRODUCTION

As the prototypical example of charmonium-like XYZ states, the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ has been extensively investigated in the past two decades since it was discovered by the Belle experiment [1] in 2003. From a global fit to the measurements by LHCb, BESIII, Belle, BaBar, and others, its mass and width are determined to be $M = 3871.65 \pm 0.06$ MeV/c 2 and $\Gamma = 1.19 \pm 0.21$ MeV, respectively [2]. Its spin, parity and charge-conjugation parity quantum numbers are determined to be $J^{PC} = 1^{++}$ [3]. So far, the observed decay modes of the particle include $D^{*0}\bar{D}^0 + c.c.$, $\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi$, $\omega J/\psi$, $\gamma J/\psi$, and $\pi^0\chi_{c1}$ [4–13]. Although tremendous effort has been made from both the experimental and theoretical sides, the interpretation of the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ remains inconclusive. Due to the proximity of its mass to the $D^{*0}\bar{D}^0 + c.c.$ mass threshold, it is conjectured to have a large $D^{*0}\bar{D}^0 + c.c.$ molecular component [14, 15]. Indeed, some theoretical models consider it to be a mixture of a conventional 2^3P_1 charmonium state $\chi_{c1}(2P)$ and a $D^{*0}\bar{D}^0 + c.c.$ molecule [16, 17].

The measurement of new $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ decay modes can help to improve our understanding of its internal structure. Ref. [19] extracted the absolute branching fractions of the known $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ decays by performing a global fit of the absolute branching fraction of the $B^+ \rightarrow \chi_{c1}(3872)K^+$ channel measured by BaBar [18] together with information from other experiments. The fraction of $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ decays not observed in experiments is estimated to be $31.9^{+18.1}_{-31.5}\%$. If the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ contains a component of the excited spin-triplet state $\chi_{c1}(2P)$, then the radiative decay $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$ could happen naturally via a E1 transition [20], where the $\psi_2(3823)$ is considered as the 1^3D_2 charmonium state. The BESIII experiment has reported the observation of $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(3872)$ at center-of-mass energies $\sqrt{s} = 4.178 - 4.278$ GeV [21, 22]. Using the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ signal produced in these data samples, we search for the radiative transition $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$, where the $\psi_2(3823)$ is reconstructed with the cascade decay $\psi_2(3823) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}$, $\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \gamma J/\psi$, $J/\psi \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ ($\ell = e, \mu$). The branching fraction ratio of this decay relative to the well-established $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi$ decay, $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)} \equiv \mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823), \psi_2(3823) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1})/\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi)$, is determined in this work.

Many theoretical models predict the partial widths of the radiative transitions between different conventional charmonium states. The partial widths of $\chi_{c1}(2P) \rightarrow \gamma\psi(1^3D_2)$ and $\psi(1^3D_2) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(1P)$ are calculated with the non-relativistic (NR) potential model and the

Godfrey-Isgur (GI) relativistic potential model [20]. Recently, the partial width of $\psi(1^3D_2) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(1P)$ was calculated with lattice QCD (LQCD) [23], and the total width of the $\psi(1^3D_2)$ was estimated according to the BESIII measurements and some phenomenological results. Combining these predictions with the total width of the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$, $\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(3872)} = 1.19 \pm 0.21$ MeV, and the branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi) = (3.8 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-2}$ from the PDG [2], we obtain the ratio of branching fractions, $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(2P)} \equiv \mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(2P) \rightarrow \gamma\psi(1^3D_2), \psi(1^3D_2) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(1P))/\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi)$, as listed in Table I. It is worth pointing out that the total width of the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ measured in experiments is highly dependent on the parameterization of its lineshape. The value $(1.19 \pm 0.21$ MeV) used here is from a global fit to the experimental measurements of the decay mode $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi$ which describe the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ lineshape with a Breit-Wigner (BW) function. The decay $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow D^{*0}\bar{D}^0 + c.c.$, however, will distort the lineshape due to the proximity of its mass to the $D^{*0}\bar{D}^0 + c.c.$ threshold. LHCb studied the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ lineshape with a Flatté model instead [24], and determined the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the lineshape to be $0.22^{+0.07+0.11}_{-0.06-0.13}$ MeV, which is much smaller than that obtained from the BW model. Recently, BESIII performed a coupled-channel analysis of the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ lineshape and reported a FWHM of $0.44^{+0.13+0.38}_{-0.35-0.25}$ MeV [25], consistent with the LHCb result. If the FWHM values provided by LHCb and BESIII are used to calculate $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(2P)}$, the ratios shown in Table I will increase significantly. The experimental measurement of this ratio will help to determine whether the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ is the conventional charmonium state, $\chi_{c1}(2P)$.

II. BESIII DETECTOR AND DATA SETS

The BESIII detector [26] has an effective geometrical acceptance of 93% of 4π . A helium-based main drift chamber (MDC) immersed in a 1 T solenoidal magnetic field measures the momentum of charged particles with a resolution of 0.5% at 1 GeV/c as well as the specific energy loss (dE/dx) with a resolution better than 6%. An CsI(Tl) crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (EMC) is used to measure energies and positions of photons, where the energy resolution for a 1.0 GeV photon is about 2.5% in the barrel and 5.0% in the end caps. A plastic scintillator time-of-flight system (TOF), with a time resolution of 80 ps (110 ps) in the barrel (end cap), is used to identify the particles combined with the dE/dx information measured in the MDC. In addition, a multi-gap resistive plate chamber technology is used in the TOF end cap

TABLE I. The calculated values for $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(2P)}$, by including as input values the partial decay widths $\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(2P) \rightarrow \gamma\psi(1^3D_2)}$ and $\Gamma_{\psi(1^3D_2) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(1P)}$ predicted by the NR and GI models and LQCD, the total widths, $\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$ and $\Gamma_{\psi_2(3823)}$, and the branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi)$. The “–” means unavailable. The two values of the ratio for the LQCD case correspond to the results by taking the $\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(2P) \rightarrow \gamma\psi(1^3D_2)}$ width from the NR and GI models as input, respectively.

$\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(3872)} = 1190 \pm 210$ keV [2]			
$\Gamma_{\psi_2(3823)} = 520 \pm 100$ keV [23]			
$\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi) = (3.8 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-2}$ [2]			
	NR [20]	GI [20]	LQCD [23]
$\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(2P) \rightarrow \gamma\psi(1^3D_2)}$ (keV)	35	18	–
$\Gamma_{\psi(1^3D_2) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(1P)}$ (keV)	307	268	337 ± 27
$\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(2P)}$	0.46 ± 0.19	0.21 ± 0.09	$0.50 \pm 0.21,$ 0.26 ± 0.11

starting from 2015 to improve the time resolution to 60 ps [27]; the data sets in this work benefit from this improvement except for the data taken at $\sqrt{s} = 4.226$ and 4.258 GeV. A muon system interleaved in the steel flux return of the magnet based on resistive plate chambers with 2 cm position resolution provides powerful information to separate muons from pions.

The e^+e^- collision data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 4.178 - 4.278$ GeV is used in this analysis. The integrated luminosity at each energy point is measured with the Bhabha scattering process with a precision better than 1% [28] as listed in Table II. A GEANT4-based [29] software package is used to generate the Monte Carlo (MC) simulated data samples. The inclusive MC samples, used to estimate the backgrounds, include the open-charm hadronic processes, continuum processes, and the initial-state-radiation effects, and are generated with KKMC [30] in conjunction with EVTGEN [31]. The signal MC samples $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(3872)$, with the decay chain $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$, $\psi_2(3823) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}$, $\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \gamma J/\psi$, $J/\psi \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ ($\ell = e, \mu$), are used to determine the detection efficiency. The $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(3872)$ decay is simulated as an E1 transition according to the measurement from BE-SIII [21]. The $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$ and $\psi_2(3823) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}$ decays are produced with a phase space model.

III. EVENT SELECTION AND RESULT

According to the decay chain of the signal process, $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}(3872)$, $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$, $\psi_2(3823) \rightarrow \gamma\chi_{c1}$, $\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \gamma J/\psi$, $J/\psi \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ ($\ell = e, \mu$), the final state contains a lepton pair from the J/ψ decay and four radiative photons. For the leptons, each corresponding charged track is required to have its point of closest approach to the beam axis within 1 cm in the radial direction and within 10 cm along the beam direction, and to lie within the polar-angle coverage of the MDC, $|\cos\theta| < 0.93$, in the laboratory frame. We require exactly two good charged tracks in the candi-

TABLE II. The data sets and their integrated luminosity at each energy point.

\sqrt{s} (GeV)	Luminosity (pb $^{-1}$)
4.178	3189.0
4.189	526.7
4.199	526.0
4.209	517.1
4.219	514.6
4.226	1101.0
4.236	530.3
4.244	538.1
4.258	828.4
4.267	531.1
4.278	175.7

date events. EMC information discriminates between the electrons and muons: electrons are required to deposit at least 0.8 GeV in the EMC, and the muons less than 0.4 GeV. Photons are reconstructed from isolated showers in the EMC, at least 10 degrees away from any charged track, with an energy deposit of at least 25 MeV in both the barrel ($|\cos\theta| < 0.80$) and the endcap ($0.86 < |\cos\theta| < 0.92$) regions. In order to suppress electronic noise unrelated to the event, the EMC time, t , of the photon candidate must be in the range $0 \leq t \leq 700$ ns, consistent with collision events. We require at least four photons for each candidate event.

A four-constraint (4C) kinematic fit is applied to constrain the total four-momentum of the lepton pair and the four photons to that of the colliding beams, to suppress backgrounds and improve the resolution. For events with more than four photons, the combination with the best fit quality corresponding to the minimum fit chi-square, χ^2_{4C} , is retained. The J/ψ is reconstructed by requiring the invariant mass, $M(\ell\ell)$, of the lepton pair to satisfy $|M(\ell\ell) - m(J/\psi)| < 30$ MeV/ c^2 , where $m(J/\psi)$ is the nominal J/ψ mass. The dominant background is from the process $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0J/\psi$. After the J/ψ selection, we veto π^0 candidates by requiring that

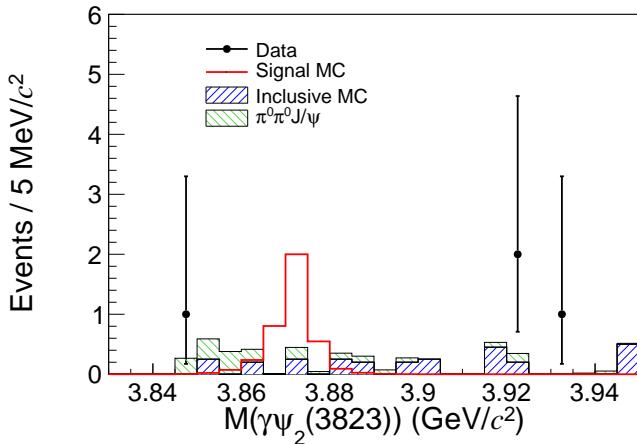


FIG. 1. Distribution of $M(\gamma\psi_2(3823))$. The dots with error bars are data, the red histogram is the signal MC sample with arbitrary scale, the filled blue histogram is the inclusive MC sample without the process $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0J/\psi$, and the green stacked histogram is the contribution from $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0J/\psi$.

the invariant mass of all photon pairs is more than 15 MeV/ c^2 away from the nominal π^0 mass. After these requirements, a seven-constraint (7C) kinematic fit with an additional three constraints on the masses of $M(\ell\ell)$, $M(\gamma\ell\ell)$, and $M(\gamma\gamma\ell\ell)$ to the nominal masses of J/ψ , χ_{c1} , and $\psi_2(3823)$, respectively, is applied to distinguish the radiative photon in each cascade decay. The best-fit combination with the minimum chi-square, χ^2_{7C} , is retained; $\chi^2_{7C} < 100$ is also required to further suppress the combinatorial backgrounds.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of the invariant mass of the radiative photon and the $\psi_2(3823)$, $M(\gamma\psi_2(3823))$ for the selected candidates, summed over all the energy points. No signal is observed in the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ signal region in data. After normalizing the MC samples according to the luminosity and cross section in data, the contributions of the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0J/\psi$ process and of the other backgrounds, estimated with the inclusive MC sample, are also shown in Fig. 1.

The branching ratio $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$ is calculated by

$$\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)} = \frac{N_{\text{obs}} - r \cdot N_{\text{obs}}^{\text{sdb}}}{N_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi} \cdot \frac{\epsilon_{\gamma\psi_2(3823)}}{\epsilon_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}} \cdot \mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \gamma J/\psi)}, \quad (1)$$

where $N_{\text{obs}} = 0$ is the number of observed events in the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ signal region [3.855, 3.885] GeV/ c^2 from all data; $N_{\text{obs}}^{\text{sdb}} = 4$ is the number of the observed events in the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ sideband region [3.840, 3.855] and [3.885, 3.940] GeV/ c^2 ; r , the background scaling factor from the sideband regions to the signal region, is 0.474 based on the inclusive MC sample (taking into account its systematic uncertainty; see Sec. IV); $N_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi} = 80.7 \pm 9.0$ is taken from the BESIII measurement [10]; the branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \gamma J/\psi) = 0.343 \pm 0.010$ is quoted from the PDG [2]; $\epsilon_{\gamma\psi_2(3823)}$ is the efficiency of the sig-

nal process determined with the signal MC sample; and $\epsilon_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$ is the efficiency of the process $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-J/\psi$ [10]. The efficiency ratio $\epsilon_{\gamma\psi_2(3823)}/\epsilon_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$ at each energy point is shown in Fig. 2, which is almost independent on the center-of-mass energy. The mean value with the error, $\epsilon_{\gamma\psi_2(3823)}/\epsilon_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi} = 0.433 \pm 0.004$, is used to calculate the $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$ value. The upper limit of $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$ at the 90% confidence level (C.L.) is computed with the TRolke program implemented in the ROOT framework [33] by assuming the background $N_{\text{obs}}^{\text{sdb}}$ and the denominator of $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$ follow Poisson and Gaussian distributions, respectively, where the systematic uncertainties discussed in the following section is taken as the standard deviation of the Gaussian function to be considered in the upper limit. We obtain an upper limit of $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)} < 0.075$ at the 90% C.L.

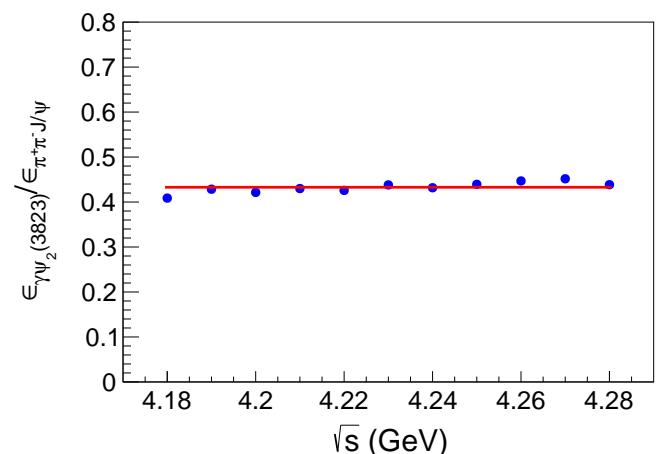


FIG. 2. Values of $\epsilon_{\gamma\psi_2(3823)}/\epsilon_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$ at each energy point (blue dots). The red line indicates the mean value.

IV. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

Systematic uncertainties on $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$ arise mainly from the estimations of r , $N_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$, $\epsilon_{\gamma\psi_2(3823)}/\epsilon_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$, and $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \gamma J/\psi)$. The background scaling factor r is determined from the inclusive MC samples. We use a 1st or 2nd order polynomial function to fit the $M(\gamma\psi_2(3823))$ distribution from the inclusive MC samples; the r value is calculated several times using the parameters from the fit and varying them within 1σ . The value $r = 0.474$ is chosen from the obtained values since it provides the most conservative upper limit.

Both statistical and systematic uncertainties of $N_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$ contribute as sources of systematic uncertainty, where the statistical part (11.2%) is obtained by assuming that $N_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$ follows a Poisson distribution, and the systematic part (4.1%) is obtained from Ref. [10] where the dominant contribution is from the parametrization of the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ signal shape. The sys-

TABLE III. The relative systematic uncertainties on $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$. Systematics on the sideband scaling ratio, r , are treated separately (see text).

Item		sys. (%)
$N_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$	stat.	11.2
	sys.	4.1
$\epsilon_{\gamma\psi_2(3823)}/\epsilon_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$	tracking	2.0
	photon	3.0
	kinematic fit	2.2
$\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \gamma J/\psi)$	π^0 veto	5.3
		2.9
	Sum	14.1

tematic uncertainty (2.9%) due to $\mathcal{B}(\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \gamma J/\psi)$ is taken from the PDG [2]. The systematic uncertainty of $\epsilon_{\gamma\psi_2(3823)}/\epsilon_{\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi}$ comes mainly from the tracking (2.0%), the photon selection (3.0%), and the kinematic fit (2.2%) uncertainties, estimated with the control sample $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0J/\psi$. The systematic uncertainty due to the π^0 veto is mainly caused by potential differences in the angular distributions of the radiative photon between the data and the signal MC sample, and it is estimated by changing the angular distribution of the radiative γ in $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$ to $1 \pm \cos^2\theta$ (from flat) in the generator model. The relative difference of 5.3% between the efficiencies obtained with the photon angular distributions of $1 - \cos^2\theta$ and $1 + \cos^2\theta$ is taken as the systematic uncertainty.

The systematic uncertainties are listed in Table III. The total systematic uncertainty is obtained by summing all systematic uncertainties in quadrature, assuming they are uncorrelated.

V. SUMMARY

In summary, we search for the radiative decay $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \gamma\psi_2(3823)$ for the first time by using the e^+e^- collision data accumulated at $\sqrt{s} = 4.178 - 4.278$ GeV with the BESIII detector. No signal is observed, and the upper limit on the branching fraction ratio $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$ is determined to be 0.075 at the 90% C.L. This upper limit is more than 1σ below the theoretical calculations

of $\mathcal{R}_{\chi_{c1}(3872)}$ under the assumption that the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ is the pure charmonium state $\chi_{c1}(2P)$, listed in Table I, and much smaller than the predictions based on the FWHMs measured by LHCb and BESIII [24, 25]. Our result therefore indicates that the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ is not a pure $\chi_{c1}(2P)$ charmonium state.

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