

Observation of a State $X(2600)$ in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ System in the Process $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$

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Based on $(10087 \pm 44) \times 10^6 J/\psi$ events collected with the BESIII detector, the process $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ is studied using two largest decay channels of the η' meson, $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \eta\pi^+\pi^-$, $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$. A new resonance, which we denote as the $X(2600)$, is observed with a statistical significance larger than 20σ in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ invariant mass spectrum, and it has a connection to a structure around $1.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in the $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectrum. A simultaneous fit on the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ and $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectra with the two η' decay modes indicates that the mass and width of the $X(2600)$ state are $2618.3 \pm 2.0_{-1.4}^{+16.3} \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $195 \pm 5_{-17}^{+26} \text{ MeV}$, where the first uncertainties are statistical, and the second systematic.

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Radiative decays of the J/ψ meson are ideally suited for light hadron spectroscopy studies, including in particular searches for exotic hadrons, e.g., of glueballs and hybrids [1,2]. The $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ mode is of special interest since it is one of the favored modes to search for a pseudoscalar glueball [3,4]. Lattice quantum chromodynamics (LQCD) predicts

that the ground state of the 0^{-+} glueballs has a mass around 2.3–2.6 GeV/ c^2 [5–8]. Therefore, it is important to search for all possible mesons in the 2.3–2.6 GeV/ c^2 region in $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays with the unprecedented sample of J/ψ events collected at BESIII.

In the process $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$, a set of exotic states have already been observed. The $X(1835)$ resonance was first observed by the BES Collaboration [9] with a statistical significance of 7.7σ and confirmed with a statistical significance larger than 20σ by the BESIII Collaboration [10]. The $X(2120)$ and $X(2370)$ resonances were first observed with statistical significances of 7.2σ and 6.4σ , respectively, by the BESIII Collaboration [10]. The spin parity of the $X(1835)$ resonance is determined to be 0^{-+} in the process $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K_S^0 K_S^0 \eta$ [11]. The theoretical interpretation of $X(1835)$ is still in question. Possibilities include a $p\bar{p}$ bound state [12], the second radial excitation of the η' [13], and a pseudoscalar glueball [14]. The measured mass of $X(2370)$ is consistent with the LQCD prediction for the pseudoscalar glueball [7]. Further observations of the process $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ are important to help the understanding of QCD and hadronic physics.

In this Letter, the process $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ is studied with the two largest η' decay modes, $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ using the J/ψ data sample collected with the BESIII detector in the years 2009, 2012, 2018, and 2019. The number of J/ψ decays is $(10087 \pm 44) \times 10^6$ [15]. A resonance, which we denote the $X(2600)$, is observed in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ invariant mass spectrum.

The BESIII detector [16] records symmetric e^+e^- collisions provided by the BEPCII storage ring [17], which operates with a peak luminosity of $1 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in the center-of-mass energy range from 2.0 to 4.7 GeV. The cylindrical core of the BESIII detector covers 93% of the full solid angle and consists of a helium-based multilayer 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 (0.9 T in 2012) magnetic field. The solenoid is supported by an octagonal flux-return yoke with resistive plate counter muon identification modules interleaved with steel. The charged-particle momentum resolution at 1 GeV/ c is 0.5%, and the dE/dx resolution is 6% for electrons from Bhabha scattering. The EMC measures photon energies with a resolution of 2.5%(5%) at 1 GeV in the barrel (end cap) region. The time resolution in the TOF barrel region is 68 ps, while that in the end cap region is 110 ps. The end cap TOF system was upgraded in 2015 using multigap resistive plate chamber technology, providing a time resolution of 60 ps [18–20].

Simulated data samples produced with GEANT4-based [21] Monte Carlo (MC) software, which includes the geometric description of the BESIII detector and the detector response, are used to determine detection efficiencies and to estimate backgrounds. The simulation models

the beam energy spread and initial state radiation in the e^+e^- annihilations with the generator KKMC [22,23]. An inclusive MC sample includes both the production of the J/ψ resonance and the continuum processes incorporated in KKMC [22,23]. The known decay modes are modeled with EVTGEN [24,25] using branching fractions taken from the Particle Data Group (PDG) [26], and the remaining unknown charmonium decays are modeled with LUNDCHARM [27,28]. Final state radiation from charged final state particles is incorporated using PHOTOS [29].

Charged tracks detected in the MDC are required to be within the polar angle (θ) range of $|\cos\theta| < 0.93$, where θ is defined with respect to the z axis, which is the symmetry axis of the MDC. The distance of closest approach to the interaction point must be less than 10 cm along the z axis and less than 1 cm in the transverse plane. Particle identification (PID) for charged tracks combines measurements of the dE/dx in the MDC and the flight time in the TOF to form likelihoods for each hadron (p , K , and π) hypothesis; each track is assigned to the particle type that corresponds to the hypothesis with the highest confidence level. Photon candidates are identified using showers in the EMC. The deposited energy of each shower must be more than 25 MeV in the barrel region ($|\cos\theta| < 0.8$) and more than 50 MeV in the end cap region ($0.86 < |\cos\theta| < 0.92$). To suppress electronic noise and showers unrelated to the event, the difference between the EMC time and the event start time is required to be within (0, 700) ns.

For the $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$, $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ channel, event candidates are required to have four charged tracks with at least three charged tracks identified as pions and at least two photons with energies larger than 100 MeV. A four-constraint (4C) kinematic fit, which constrains the total four-momentum of all final state particles to the initial four-momentum of the e^+e^- system, is performed to the $\gamma\gamma\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$ hypothesis, and $\chi_{4C}^2 < 40$ is required. If there are more than two photons, the combination with the least χ_{4C}^2 will be chosen. The η' candidates are required to be within $|M_{\gamma\pi^+\pi^-} - m_{\eta'}| < 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$, where $m_{\eta'}$ is the mass of η' reported by the PDG [26]. If there is more than one $\gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ combination passing the above criteria, the combination with least $|M_{\gamma\pi^+\pi^-} - m_{\eta'}|$ will be selected. For the photons of the selected combination, the requirements $|M_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{\pi^0}| < 40 \text{ MeV}/c^2$, $|M_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{\eta}| < 30 \text{ MeV}/c^2$, and $720 < M_{\gamma\gamma} < 820 \text{ MeV}/c^2$, where m_{π^0} and m_{η} are the masses of π^0 and η mesons from the PDG [26], are rejected to suppress the backgrounds from the processes of $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$, $J/\psi \rightarrow \eta\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$, and $J/\psi \rightarrow \omega(\omega \rightarrow \gamma\pi^0)\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$. The requirement that rejects events within $400 \text{ MeV}/c^2 < M_{\gamma\pi^+\pi^-} < 563 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ is used to suppress the background from the processes of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta(\eta \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-)\pi^+\pi^-$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\eta(\eta \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-) \times \pi^+\pi^-$. In order to suppress the background from $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays, the J/ψ radiative photon is paired with

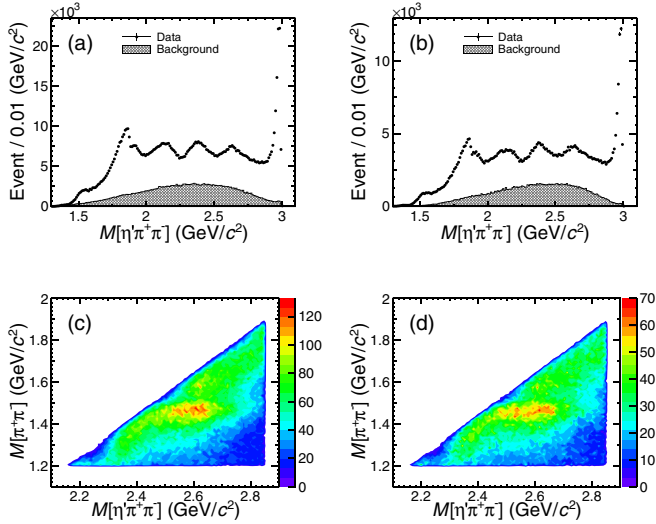


FIG. 1. The $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ candidates: (top) the invariant mass spectrum of the final state $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ after event selection (a) with the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ channel, (b) with the $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$ channel, where the dots with error bars are data and the shade histograms are contributions of non- η' events and $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ background, and (bottom) the two-dimensional distribution of $M_{\pi^+\pi^-}$ versus $M_{\pi^+\pi^-\eta'}$ with $M_{\pi^+\pi^-} > 1.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $2.2 < M_{\pi^+\pi^-\eta'} < 2.85 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ (c) with the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ channel and (d) with the $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$ channel.

all additional photons, and events with any pairing with $|M_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{\pi^0}| < 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ are rejected. After application of the above selection criteria, there are clear signatures of the $X(1835)$, $X(2120)$, $X(2370)$, as well as a distinct signal of the η_c meson in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ invariant mass spectrum, shown in Fig. 1(a), and these are all consistent with previous BESIII results [10]. In addition, there is a structure around $2.6 \text{ GeV}/c^2$, the $X(2600)$, in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ invariant mass spectrum, which has a connection with a structure around $1.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in the $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectrum as shown in Fig. 1(c).

For the $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$, $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ channel, event candidates are required to have four charged tracks with at least three charged tracks identified as pions and at least three photons with energies larger than 100 MeV. A 4C kinematic fit is performed to the $\gamma\gamma\pi^+\pi^-\pi^+\pi^-$ hypothesis, and $\chi^2_{4C} < 40$ is required. If there are more than three photon candidates, the combination with the least χ^2_{4C} will be chosen. The η candidates are reconstructed with the requirement of $|M_{\gamma\gamma} - m_\eta| < 30 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. For the three selected photons, the requirement $|M_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{\pi^0}| > 40 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ is used for all photon pairs to suppress the π^0 background. Besides the 4C kinematic fit, a five-constraint (5C) kinematic fit is performed, in which in addition to the constraint on the total four momentum of the final-state particles, the invariant mass of two photons coming from η is constrained to m_η , and $\chi^2_{5C} < 40$ is

required. If more than one combination is found in an event, the combination with the least χ^2_{5C} will be selected. To select η' candidates, $|M_{\pi^+\pi^-\eta} - m_{\eta'}| < 10 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ is required. If there is more than one $\pi^+\pi^-\eta$ combination passing the above criteria, the combination with least $|M_{\pi^+\pi^-\eta} - m_{\eta'}|$ will be selected as the η' candidate. In order to suppress the background from the processes of $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$, the J/ψ radiative photon is paired with all additional photons, and events with any pair with $|M_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{\pi^0}| < 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ are rejected. After the above selection criteria, the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ mass spectrum as shown in Fig. 1(b) is similar to that in the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ channel. There is a structure around $2.6 \text{ GeV}/c^2$, the $X(2600)$, in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ invariant mass spectrum, which has a connection with the structure around $1.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in the $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectrum as shown in Fig. 1(d).

Possible background contributions are studied using an inclusive MC sample. There are two kinds of background. One is from non- η' processes and the other is from the process $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$. The former one can be estimated with the η' sideband regions in data, which are chosen to be $30 < |M_{\gamma\pi^+\pi^-} - m_{\eta'}| < 45 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ for the channel of $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$, and $20 < |M_{\pi^+\pi^-\eta} - m_{\eta'}| < 30 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ for the $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ channel. Background coming from $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays can pass the final selection criteria for $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays if one of the photons from the π^0 decay is not reconstructed or is out of the detector acceptance. To estimate the background contribution from the $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays, we use a control sample of decays passing the selection criteria for $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays, but with a reversed π^0 veto criterion, $|M_{\gamma\gamma} - m_{\pi^0}| < 15 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. The residual $\pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ background contribution in the $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ signal region can be estimated by reweighting the events from the control sample. The weight factors are dependent on the radiative photon energy, and equal to the MC efficiency ratio of the $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ signal selection and the $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ background sample selection. Neither of these background components produces a peaking structure in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ and $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectrum.

In order to determine the signal of the $X(2600)$ resonance with a consequent decay to a resonance at mass around $1.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in the $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectrum, a simultaneous fit to the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ and $\pi^+\pi^-$ mass spectra is performed, including the two decay channels of $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$. In the fit, the number of events is the same in the two projected mass spectra for a given channel. Moreover, the mass, width, and branching fraction of each resonance are common between the two η' decay channels in the simultaneous fit. The line shape of the $X(2600)$ resonance in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ mass spectrum is described with an efficiency-corrected Breit-Wigner function convolved with a double Gaussian function describing the detector resolution. The FWHM (full width at half

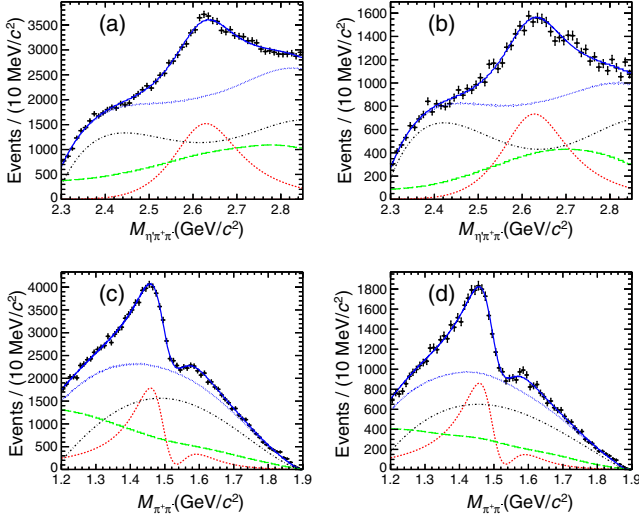


FIG. 2. The $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ and $\pi^+\pi^-\eta$ mass spectra distributions with the two decay channels of η' , $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, with the simultaneous fit results overlaid: (a) and (c) are fit results for $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ channel, (b) and (d) are fit results for the $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$ channel. The dots with error bar are data, the blue solid lines are the total fits, the red dashed lines describe the $X(2600)$ signal in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ mass spectrum, and the structure around $1.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in $\pi^+\pi^-$ mass spectrum, the black dash-dotted lines correspond to the background described with a polynomial function, and the green long dashed lines are $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ and non- η' background, the blue dotted lines are the total background, including the $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$, non- η' background and polynomial background.

maximum) resolution of the $M_{\pi^+\pi^-\eta'}$ distribution is around $10 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. The structure around $1.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in the $\pi^+\pi^-$ mass spectrum is described with an efficiency-corrected interference between the $f_0(1500)$ and an additional resonance, denoted as $X(1540)$, convolved with a double Gaussian function describing the detector resolution. The FWHM resolution of $M_{\pi^+\pi^-}$ is about $9 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. Two Breit-Wigner functions are used to describe the line shape of the two resonances. The contributions from other processes with the $\gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ final state are described with two different fourth order polynomial functions in the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ and $\pi^+\pi^-$ mass spectra, and are treated as incoherent. The background contributions from the non- η' events and $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays are estimated with the two different methods as described earlier, and both the mass line shapes and yields are fixed in the fit.

Figure 2 shows the simultaneous fit results with the two η' decay modes in the region with $M_{\pi^+\pi^-} > 1.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $2.3 < M_{\pi^+\pi^-\eta'} < 2.85 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. The statistical significance is determined from the change of $-2 \ln L$ (L is the combined likelihood of simultaneous fit) in the fit with and without signal assumption, considering the change of degrees of freedom of the fits. The significances of the $X(2600)$, $f_0(1500)$, and $X(1540)$ resonances are all larger

TABLE I. Masses and widths of the $f_0(1500)$, $X(1540)$, and $X(2600)$. The first uncertainties are statistical, and the second are systematic.

Resonance	Mass (MeV/c^2)	Width (MeV)
$f_0(1500)$	$1492.5 \pm 3.6^{+2.4}_{-20.5}$	$107 \pm 9^{+21}_{-7}$
$X(1540)$	$1540.2 \pm 7.0^{+36.3}_{-6.1}$	$157 \pm 19^{+11}_{-77}$
$X(2600)$	$2618.3 \pm 2.0^{+16.3}_{-1.4}$	$195 \pm 5^{+26}_{-17}$

than 20σ . The mass and width of the $X(2600)$ are 2618.3 ± 2.0 (stat) MeV/c^2 and 195 ± 5 (stat) MeV, respectively. The mass and width are 1492.5 ± 3.6 (stat) MeV/c^2 and 107 ± 9 (stat) MeV for the $f_0(1500)$, which are consistent with PDG values [26]. The mass and width for the $X(1540)$ are $M = 1540.2 \pm 7.0$ (stat) MeV/c^2 and $\Gamma = 157 \pm 19$ (stat) MeV. They are summarized in Table I. If the mass and width of the $X(1540)$ are fixed to the PDG values of the $f_2'(1525)$ [26], the value of $\ln L$ becomes worse by 10 with the number of parameter decrease by 2. It is known that there are two nontrivial solutions in a fit using a coherent sum of two Breit-Wigner functions [30]. In the parametrization of the fit, the two solutions share the same masses and widths for all the resonances, but have different interference between the $f_0(1500)$ and $X(1540)$. Both of the solutions have destructive interference to characterize the $\pi^+\pi^-$ mass line shapes around $1.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$, and the little interference difference is observed, which is taken into account as one systematic uncertainty on the branching fraction measurement from the interference assumption. With selection efficiencies of 19% and 15% for the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ modes, respectively, the branch fractions are measured to be $B[J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(2600)] \cdot B[X(2600) \rightarrow f_0(1500)\eta'] \cdot B[f_0(1500) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-] = 3.09 \pm 0.21$ (stat) $\times 10^{-5}$ and $B[J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(2600)] \cdot B[X(2600) \rightarrow X(1540)\eta'] \cdot B[X(1540) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-] = [2.69 \pm 0.19$ (stat)] $\times 10^{-5}$. The numbers of signal events and branching fractions are listed in Table II.

The consistency between the two η' decay channels is verified by fitting the two channels separately with the method described above. The fit to the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ channel gives $M = 2619.8 \pm 3.1$ (stat) MeV/c^2 and $\Gamma = 185 \pm 10$ (stat) MeV. For the fit to the $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$ channel, the mass and width of $X(2600)$ are determined to

TABLE II. Branching fractions for $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(2600)$, $X(2600) \rightarrow f_0(1500)/X(1540)\eta'$, $f_0(1500)/X(1540) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$. BF is the product of the three branching fractions involved. The first uncertainties are statistical, and the second are systematic.

Case	$f_0(1500)$	$X(1540)$
Events	24585 ± 1689	21203 ± 1456
BF ($\times 10^{-5}$)	$3.09 \pm 0.21^{+1.14}_{-0.77}$	$2.69 \pm 0.19^{+0.38}_{-1.21}$

be $M = 2616.7 \pm 4.5$ (stat) MeV/ c^2 and $\Gamma = 207 \pm 13$ (stat) MeV. The statistical significances of the two η' decay channels are each greater than 10σ . The masses and widths of the $X(2600)$ are in good agreement between the two η' decay channels.

The systematic uncertainties of the mass and width are mainly from the fit strategy, fit range, background estimation, phase space of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ decays, quantum number assumption of the $X(2600)$ state, and treatment of the contribution from the other processes with the final state of $\gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$. The uncertainties are determined by including an additional resonance in the fit, a different quantum number assignment for the $X(2600)$, and different treatment of the contribution from the other processes, as well as varying the fit range, sideband region, and the control region of $J/\psi \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ background. The dominant uncertainty sources are from including an additional resonance in the fit and assuming different quantum numbers for the $X(2600)$. To estimate the uncertainty from the fit with the additional resonance, the $X(2370)$ [10] is included into the simultaneous fit, and interference between the $X(2370)$ and the $X(2600)$ is included. Two different hypotheses for the quantum numbers of $X(2600)$, 0^{-+} and 2^{-+} , are used in the simultaneous fit, the difference between them is treated as the uncertainty caused by the quantum number assumption for the $X(2600)$ state. The largest deviations from the baseline case are taken as the systematic errors. The total uncertainties on the mass and width of the $X(2600)$ are $^{+16.3}_{-1.4}$ MeV/ c^2 and $^{+26}_{-17}$ MeV.

To estimate the systematic error of the branching fraction measurement, additional uncertainties are considered, including different interference assumptions, the data-MC difference in the charged track reconstruction efficiency, photon detection efficiency, PID efficiency, the kinematic fit, and the number of J/ψ events. The total systematic uncertainties on the branching fraction are $^{+37\%}_{-25\%}$ and $^{+14\%}_{-45\%}$ for the $B[J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(2600)] \cdot B[X(2600) \rightarrow f_0(1500)\eta'] \cdot B[f_0(1500) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-]$ and $B[J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(2600)] \cdot B[X(2600) \rightarrow X(1540)\eta'] \cdot B[X(1540) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-]$, respectively.

In summary, the process $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$, with $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, is studied with $(10087 \pm 44) \times 10^6$ J/ψ events collected by the BESIII detector. A resonance, the $X(2600)$, is observed for the first time, with a statistical significance greater than 20σ . There is a connection between the $X(2600)$ and the structure at 1.5 GeV/ c^2 in the $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectrum. A simultaneous fit of the $\pi^+\pi^-\eta'$ and $\pi^+\pi^-$ mass spectra with the two η' decay channels of $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$ is performed. The structure around 1.5 GeV/ c^2 in the $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass spectra can be well described with the interference between the $f_0(1500)$ and the $X(1540)$ resonances. The mass and width of the $X(2600)$ are measured to be $2618.3 \pm 2.0^{+16.3}_{-1.4}$ MeV/ c^2 and $195 \pm 5^{+26}_{-17}$ MeV, respectively. The measurements of the corresponding product

branching fractions of $B[J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma X(2600)] \cdot B[X(2600) \rightarrow f_0(1500)/X(1540)\eta'] \cdot B[f_0(1500)/X(1540) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-]$ are listed in Table II.

Based upon the observed decay modes, the nature of $X(1540)$ is not known and could arise from various different sources, such as the $f_2'(1525)$ or $f_2(1565)$, which can be further investigated via the decay channel of $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma K^+K^-\eta'$. In order to understand the nature of the $X(2600)$ state, whether it can be interpreted as an η radial excitation [31] or an exotic hadron, it is important to determine its spin parity and to study its production and decay properties in other J/ψ decay channels.

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