



# Search for Higgs boson decay to a charm quark-antiquark pair in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

The CMS Collaboration\*

## Abstract

A search for the standard model Higgs boson decaying to a charm quark-antiquark pair,  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ , produced in association with a leptonically decaying  $V$  ( $W$  or  $Z$ ) boson is presented. The search is performed with proton-proton collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV collected by the CMS experiment, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . Novel charm jet identification and analysis methods using machine learning techniques are employed. The analysis is validated by searching for  $Z \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  in  $VZ$  events, leading to its first observation at a hadron collider with a significance of 5.7 standard deviations. The observed (expected) upper limit on  $\sigma(VH) \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  is  $0.94$  ( $0.50^{+0.22}_{-0.15}$ ) pb at 95% confidence level (CL), corresponding to 14 ( $7.6^{+3.4}_{-2.3}$ ) times the standard model prediction. For the Higgs-charm Yukawa coupling modifier,  $\kappa_c$ , the observed (expected) 95% CL interval is  $1.1 < |\kappa_c| < 5.5$  ( $|\kappa_c| < 3.4$ ), the most stringent constraint to date.

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The discovery of a Higgs boson (H) with the LHC Run 1 data by the ATLAS [1] and CMS [2, 3] experiments in 2012 was a major advance in the understanding of the electroweak (EW) symmetry breaking mechanism. The measured Higgs boson mass is  $125.38 \pm 0.14$  GeV [4]. The observed interactions with gauge bosons and third-generation fermions [5–15], and all measured properties [4, 16–24], are compatible with standard model (SM) predictions. Recently, the CMS Collaboration reported the first evidence of Higgs boson decays to muons, i.e., second-generation leptons [25]. An important next milestone is the observation of its coupling to second-generation quarks. In this Letter, we focus on a search for Higgs boson decay to  $c\bar{c}$ , a charm quark-antiquark pair. The corresponding Yukawa coupling,  $y_c$ , can be significantly modified in the presence of physics beyond the SM [26–31]. However, the small branching fraction predicted by the SM, ubiquitous production of quark and gluon jets at the LHC, and the difficulty of identifying charm quark jets in a hadronic environment, including distinguishing them from bottom quark jets, make this a challenging measurement. Searches for  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  reported in Refs. [32–34] by the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations target the associated production of a Higgs boson with a V (W or Z) boson. Using  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data at 13 TeV, the most recent search by the ATLAS Collaboration obtains an observed (expected) upper limit on the product of the production cross section  $\sigma(\text{VH})$  and branching fraction  $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  of 26 (31) times the SM prediction at 95% confidence level (CL) [34].

This Letter presents a search for  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  in VH production using proton-proton (pp) collision data at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV, collected by the CMS detector in 2016–2018, and corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  [35–37]. Building upon a previous analysis by the CMS Collaboration [33], advanced c jet reconstruction and identification algorithms and sophisticated analysis techniques using machine learning (ML) have been further developed to significantly improve sensitivity.

The CMS apparatus [38] is a multipurpose, nearly hermetic detector, designed to trigger on [39, 40] and identify electrons, muons, photons, and (charged and neutral) hadrons [41–43]. A global reconstruction “particle-flow” (PF) algorithm [44] combines the information provided by the all-silicon inner tracker and by the crystal electromagnetic and brass-scintillator hadron calorimeters, operating inside a 3.8 T superconducting solenoid, with data from gas-ionization muon detectors embedded in the solenoid flux-return yoke, to reconstruct charged and neutral hadrons, electrons, photons, and muons (PF candidates) and build  $\tau$  leptons, jets, missing transverse momentum, and other physics objects [45–47].

Two collections of jets, formed by PF candidates clustered with the anti- $k_T$  algorithm [48, 49], are used in the search. The first uses a distance parameter  $R = 0.4$ , and will be referred to as “small- $R$ ” jets. The second uses  $R = 1.5$  and contains what are referred to as “large- $R$ ” jets. The impact of particles from additional pp interactions within the same or nearby bunch crossings (pileup) is mitigated via the charged hadron subtraction algorithm [44] for small- $R$  jets, and via the PUPPI [50, 51] algorithm for large- $R$  jets. A regression algorithm [52] is developed to improve large- $R$  jet mass reconstruction that exploits properties of the PF candidates and secondary vertices associated to the jet using the PARTICLENET graph neural network [53]. Mass resolution is improved by about 50% over traditional jet grooming algorithms [54, 55]. The small- $R$  (large- $R$ ) jets are required to have transverse momentum ( $p_T$ ) above 25 (200) GeV and to be within the tracker acceptance.

Signal and background processes are simulated using various Monte Carlo event generators. The detector response is modeled with GEANT4 [56]. The WH and quark-induced ZH signal processes are generated at next-to-leading order (NLO) accuracy in quantum chromodynamics (QCD) using the POWHEG v2 [57–59] event generator extended with the multi-scale improved

NLO (MiNLO) procedure [60, 61], while the gluon-induced ZH process is generated at leading order (LO) accuracy with POWHEG v2. The Higgs boson mass is set to 125 GeV for all simulations. The production cross sections of the signal processes [62] are corrected as a function of  $p_T(V)$  to next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) QCD + NLO EW accuracy combining the VHNNLO [63–66], VH@NNLO [67, 68], and HAWK v2.0 [69] generators, as described in Ref. [62].

The V+jets background samples are generated with MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO v2.6.0 [70] at NLO with up to two additional partons. The top quark pair ( $t\bar{t}$ ) [71] and single top quark production processes [72–74] are generated to NLO accuracy with POWHEG v2. The production cross sections for the  $t\bar{t}$  samples are scaled to the NNLO prediction with the next-to-next-to-leading logarithmic resummation result obtained from TOP++ v2.0 [75], and the differential cross sections as a function of top quark  $p_T$  are corrected to the NNLO QCD + NLO EW prediction [76]. Diboson backgrounds are generated at NLO with POWHEG v2 (MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO v2.4.2) for the WW [77] (WZ and ZZ) process. Production cross sections of the diboson processes are reweighted as a function of the subleading vector boson  $p_T$  to NNLO QCD + NLO EW accuracy [78].

The NLO NNPDF3.0 [79] (NNLO NNPDF3.1 [80]) parton distribution function (PDF) set is used for the 2016 (2017 and 2018) simulations. For parton showering and hadronization, including the  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  decay, matrix element generators are interfaced with PYTHIA v8.230 [81] with the CUETP8M1 [82] (CP5 [83]) underlying event tune for 2016 (2017 and 2018) samples. The matching of jets from matrix element calculations and those from parton showers is done with the FxFx [84] (MLM [85]) prescription for NLO (LO) samples. For all samples, pileup interactions are simulated with PYTHIA and added to the hard-scattering process. Events are then reweighted to match the pileup profile observed in data.

The analysis is carried out in mutually exclusive channels targeting leptonic decays of the vector bosons:  $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$ ,  $W \rightarrow \ell\nu$ , and  $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ , where  $\ell$  is an electron or a muon, and referred to as the 0L, 1L, and 2L channels. Events are collected using triggers based on large missing transverse momentum, or the presence of one, or two well-identified and isolated leptons. The event selection criteria are detailed in Ref. [33].

As for the previous search [33], the analysis reconstructs the Higgs boson candidate ( $H_{\text{cand}}$ ) assuming either a “merged-jet” topology, in which the hadronization products of the two charm quarks are reconstructed as a single large- $R$  jet, or a “resolved-jet” topology, in which the  $H_{\text{cand}}$  is reconstructed from two well-separated and individually resolved small- $R$  c jets. These two topologies can have significant overlap and are made distinct in reference to whether a given  $H_{\text{cand}}$ , identified through a large- $R$  jet in the event, has  $p_T$  above or below a threshold of 300 GeV for the definition of the merged-jet and the resolved-jet topology, respectively, where the dividing line is chosen to maximize sensitivity to  $VH(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$ .

On average, the  $H_{\text{cand}}$  large- $R$  jets in the signal process have larger  $p_T$  than those from the V+jets and  $t\bar{t}$  backgrounds. Thus, the high- $p_T$  regime explored in the merged-jet topology, although amounting to less than 5% of the signal cross section, provides significant sensitivity to the search. Because the highly boosted Higgs boson decay produces a more narrowly concentrated collection of final-state particles, the use of a single large- $R$  jet enhances the probability of correctly capturing the hadronization products of both charm quarks, and facilitates the accounting of final-state radiation (FSR) emitted by the quarks. A detailed discussion of the advantages can be found in Refs. [33, 55, 86].

State-of-the-art performance in the reconstruction and identification of the pair of c quarks from the Higgs boson decay is achieved with PARTICLENET [53], a novel jet identification algorithm.

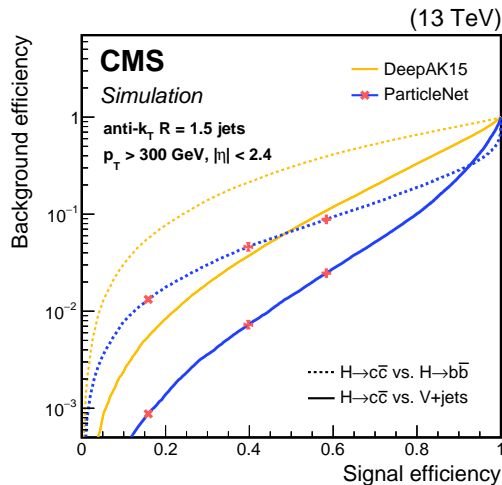


Figure 1: Performance of PARTICLENET (blue lines) for identifying a  $c\bar{c}$  pair for large- $R$  jets with  $p_T > 300$  GeV. The solid (dashed) line shows the efficiency to correctly identify  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  vs. the efficiency of misidentifying quarks or gluons from the  $V$ +jets process (vs.  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ ). The red crosses represent the three working points used in the merged-jet analysis. The performance of DEEPAK15 (yellow lines) used in Ref. [33] is shown for comparison.

Using PF candidates and secondary vertices associated to large- $R$  jets as inputs, PARTICLENET simultaneously exploits information related to jet substructure, flavor, and pileup with a graph neural network [87], yielding substantial gains over other approaches [88, 89]. Decorrelation of the algorithm’s response with the jet mass is achieved by training it with a dedicated set of simulations produced with the same jet mass distributions for the signal and background processes [88]. Figure 1 shows the performance of the  $c\bar{c}$  discriminant in identifying a pair of  $c$  quarks from Higgs boson decay for large- $R$  jets with  $p_T > 300$  GeV. PARTICLENET is compared to the previous state-of-the-art  $c\bar{c}$  discriminant “DEEPAK15” [33, 90], yielding an improvement by a factor of 4 to 7 in the rejection of other jet flavors. Three working points are defined on the  $c\bar{c}$  discriminant distribution with approximately 58, 40, and 16% efficiencies for identifying a  $c\bar{c}$  pair. The corresponding misidentification rates of light quark and gluon jets ( $b\bar{b}$  jets) are 2 (9), 0.7 (5), and 0.08 (1)%. These working points are used to separate events into three mutually exclusive categories with different  $c\bar{c}$  purity to improve the sensitivity of the analysis. The  $c\bar{c}$  identification efficiency in data is measured using a sample of events containing a gluon splitting to  $c\bar{c}$ . To increase the similarity to  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  decay, a dedicated BDT classifier is developed to enrich jets where a large fraction of momentum is carried by the quark pair from gluon splitting rather than by additionally radiated gluons [91]. The  $p_T$ -dependent data-to-simulation efficiency ratios (used as corrective scale factors) are typically 0.9–1.3 with corresponding uncertainties of 20–30%.

The main backgrounds,  $t\bar{t}$  and  $V$ +jets, are suppressed by a separate boosted decision tree (BDT) classifier for each channel, using kinematical variables that are not correlated with the  $H_{\text{cand}}$  mass,  $m(H_{\text{cand}})$ , or the  $c\bar{c}$  discriminant as inputs. The BDT design relies on previous developments [33] with improvements in variable selection and training procedure, leading to  $\approx 15\%$  enhancement of the sensitivity of the analysis. The BDT discriminants are used to define 2 (1) signal regions (SRs) in the 1L (0L and 2L) channel. Events in the SRs are further subdivided into the three  $c\bar{c}$  discriminant categories mentioned above. The  $m(H_{\text{cand}})$  distributions are used to separate signal and background contributions in each SR, as both the BDTs and the  $c\bar{c}$  discriminant are designed to be largely independent of  $m(H_{\text{cand}})$ .

More than 95% of the VH events have a Higgs boson with  $p_T(\text{H}) < 300$  GeV, corresponding to the phase space region where the Higgs boson decay products generally give rise to two distinctly reconstructed small- $R$  jets. The resolved-jet topology exploits a large fraction of this phase space, which, however, contains higher background contamination than that used in the merged-jet analysis. The  $\text{H}_{\text{cand}}$  is reconstructed via two distinct small- $R$  jets. The identification of c jets relies on the ML-based DEEPJET algorithm [92, 93]. The discrimination between c jets and light quark or gluon jets (b jets) is achieved via the ratio of the corresponding probabilities, defined as  $CvsL$  ( $CvsB$ ) [94]. Potential differences in the discriminant shapes between data and simulation are taken into account by flavor-dependent simulation-to-data efficiency scale factors [94], which are typically in the 0.9–1.0 range. The corresponding uncertainties range from  $\approx 2\%$  for light quark and gluon jets or b jets, to  $\approx 5\%$  for c jets.

The two jets with the highest  $CvsL$  discriminants in each event are selected to reconstruct the  $\text{H}_{\text{cand}}$  momentum four-vector. To improve sample purity, criteria are imposed on  $CvsL$  and  $CvsB$  for the leading jet that correspond to  $\approx 40\%$  c jet efficiency, for  $\approx 4$  ( $\approx 16\%$ ) light quark or gluon jet (b jet) misidentification rate. Multiple corrections are applied to improve the  $m(\text{H}_{\text{cand}})$  reconstruction. To account for a potential underestimation of the c jet energy, due to the presence of undetected neutrinos in c hadron decays, an ML-based jet energy regression algorithm [95], originally developed for b jets, is adapted for c jets. In addition, small- $R$  jets reconstructed in the vicinity of  $\text{H}_{\text{cand}}$  jets, often stemming from FSR, are included in the  $\text{H}_{\text{cand}}$  reconstruction [33]. The  $m(\text{H}_{\text{cand}})$  resolution in the 2L channel is further improved via a kinematic fit by balancing the momenta of the two small- $R$  jets and the lepton pair within experimental uncertainties [96]. These steps improve the  $m(\text{H}_{\text{cand}})$  resolution up to 20%. Finally, a BDT classifier is developed to maximize the discrimination power between signal and background processes in each channel, using event-level kinematical variables, c jet identification discriminants, and properties of  $\text{H}_{\text{cand}}$ , including  $m(\text{H}_{\text{cand}})$ , as inputs [33].

The signal strength modifier  $\mu$ , defined as  $(\sigma\mathcal{B})_{\text{obs}} / (\sigma\mathcal{B})_{\text{SM}}$  where  $\sigma$  is the signal production cross section and  $\mathcal{B}$  is the branching fraction, is measured via a binned maximum likelihood fit to data. The best-fit value of  $\mu$  and an approximate 68% CL confidence interval are extracted following the procedure in Ref. [17]. The fitted variable is  $m(\text{H}_{\text{cand}})$  in the merged-jet analysis, and the BDT discriminant in the resolved-jet analysis. The normalizations of the main backgrounds, namely  $V$ +jets and  $t\bar{t}$ , are estimated by including dedicated control regions in the fit following the strategy detailed in Ref. [33]. Contributions from single top, diboson and  $\text{VH}(\text{H} \rightarrow \text{b}\bar{\text{b}})$  processes are estimated from simulation assuming SM production rates. Because of improvements in c jet identification, the difficult  $\text{VH}(\text{H} \rightarrow \text{b}\bar{\text{b}})$  background contribution in the high  $c\bar{c}$  purity SRs is reduced from about twenty times to only about twice that expected for  $\text{VH}(\text{H} \rightarrow \text{c}\bar{\text{c}})$ , and the  $\text{VZ}(\text{Z} \rightarrow \text{b}\bar{\text{b}})$  yield is reduced from more than 100% to about 10% of that expected for  $\text{VZ}(\text{Z} \rightarrow \text{c}\bar{\text{c}})$ . Contributions from  $\text{H} \rightarrow \tau\tau$  decays are negligible after the above-mentioned selection criteria, and are not considered.

Systematic uncertainties affecting normalizations and shapes of fitted variables are taken into account via nuisance parameters. The relative contribution of each uncertainty source to the total uncertainty in the fitted  $\mu$  is summarized in Table 1. The leading uncertainty is statistical because of the limited number of events in the SRs as well as the control regions used to extract background normalizations. The main experimental systematic uncertainties are associated with limited simulation sample sizes, particularly due to large fractions of negatively weighted events in the NLO  $V$ +jets samples, and the c jet identification efficiencies, representing  $\approx 37$  and  $\approx 23\%$  of the total, respectively. Theoretical uncertainties in the cross sections,  $p_T$  spectra, PDFs, renormalization and factorization scales, represent  $\approx 22\%$  of the total uncertainty in  $\mu$ .

Table 1: The relative contributions to the total uncertainty in the signal strength modifier  $\mu$  for the  $VH(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  process, where the best fit is  $\mu_{VH(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})} = 7.7^{+3.8}_{-3.5}$ .

Uncertainty source	$\Delta\mu / (\Delta\mu)_{\text{tot}}$
Statistical	85%
Background normalizations	37%
Experimental	48%
Sizes of the simulated samples	37%
c jet identification efficiencies	23%
Jet energy scale and resolution	15%
Simulation modeling	11%
Integrated luminosity	6%
Lepton identification efficiencies	4%
Theory	22%
Backgrounds	17%
Signal	15%

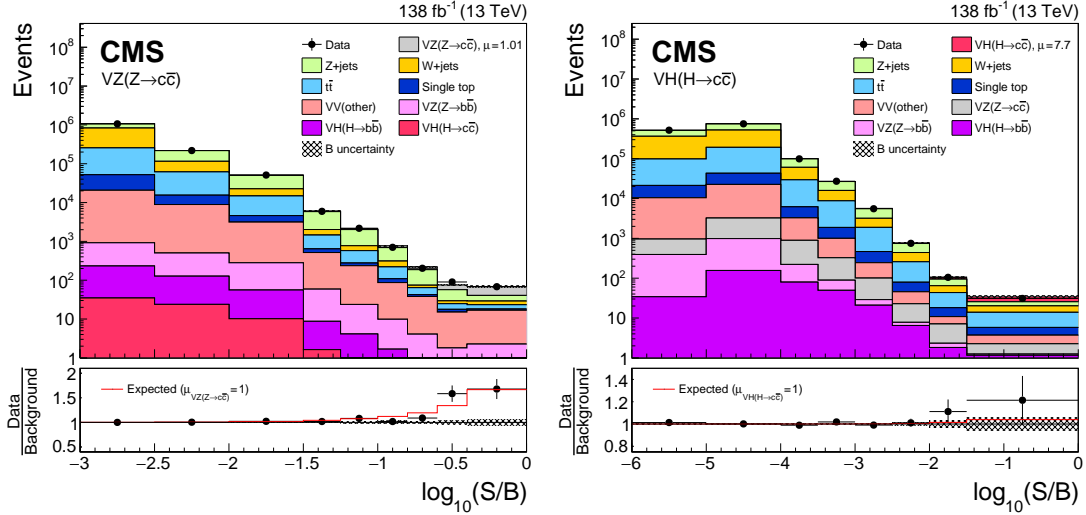


Figure 2: Distribution of events as a function of  $S/B$  in the  $VZ(Z \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  (left) and  $VH(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  (right) searches, where  $S$  and  $B$  are the postfit signal and background yields, respectively, in each bin of the fitted  $m(H_{\text{cand}})$  or BDT discriminant distributions. The bottom panel shows the ratio of data to the total background, with the uncertainty in background indicated by gray hatching. The red line represents background plus SM signal divided by background.

A search for the analogous SM process  $VZ(Z \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  is performed to validate the analysis strategy. The BDTs in the resolved-jet topology are modified by training them with  $VZ(Z \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  as signal. No modification is needed for the BDTs in the merged-jet topology as they are independent of  $m(H_{\text{cand}})$ . The best fit  $\mu$  of this process is  $\mu_{VZ(Z \rightarrow c\bar{c})} = 1.01^{+0.23}_{-0.21}$ , in agreement with the SM expectation. Figure 2 (left) shows the distribution of events in all channels, sorted into bins of similar signal-to-background ratios. The observed data show a visible excess over the expected backgrounds. The significance of the excess is computed using the asymptotic distribution of a test statistic based on the profile likelihood ratio [97, 98]. The observed (expected) significance is 4.4 (4.7) standard deviations for the merged-jet analysis, 3.1 (3.3) standard deviations for the resolved-jet analysis, and 5.7 (5.9) standard deviations for their combination. This is the first observation of  $Z \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  at a hadron collider.

Figure 2 (right) compares the observed data to the SM prediction in the search for  $VH(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$ ,

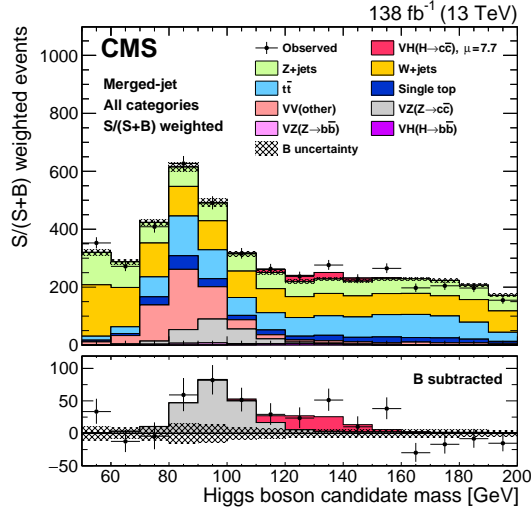


Figure 3: Combined  $m(H_{\text{cand}})$  distribution in all channels of the merged-jet analysis. The fitted  $m(H_{\text{cand}})$  distribution in each SR is weighted by  $S/(S+B)$ , where  $S$  and  $B$  are the postfit  $\text{VH}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  signal and total background yields. The lower panel shows data (points) and the fitted  $\text{VH}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  (red) and  $\text{VZ}(Z \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  (grey) distributions after subtracting all other processes. Error bars represent pre-subtraction statistical uncertainties in data, while the gray hatching indicates the total uncertainty in the signal and all background processes.

where the best fit is  $\mu_{\text{VH}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})} = 7.7^{+3.8}_{-3.5}$ . The fitted  $m(H_{\text{cand}})$  distribution in the merged-jet topology is displayed in Fig. 3. No significant excess over the background-only hypothesis is observed. An upper limit on  $\mu_{\text{VH}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})}$  is extracted using the  $\text{CL}_s$  criterion [99, 100]. The test statistic is the profile likelihood ratio modified for upper limits [97], and the asymptotic approximation [98] is used in the limit setting procedure. The observed (expected) 95% CL upper limit on  $\mu_{\text{VH}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})}$  is 14 ( $7.6^{+3.4}_{-2.3}$ ), which is equivalent to an observed (expected) upper limit on  $\sigma(\text{VH}) \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  of 0.94 ( $0.50^{+0.22}_{-0.15}$ ) pb. Contributions from the individual channels are summarized in Fig. 4. Tabulated results are provided in the HEPData record for this analysis [101].

The result is interpreted in the  $\kappa$ -framework [62, 102] by reparameterizing  $\mu_{\text{VH}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})}$  in terms of the Higgs-charm Yukawa coupling modifier  $\kappa_c$ , assuming only the Higgs boson decay widths are altered:

$$\mu_{\text{VH}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})} = \frac{\kappa_c^2}{1 + \mathcal{B}_{\text{SM}}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c}) (\kappa_c^2 - 1)}. \quad (1)$$

The observed 95% CL interval is  $1.1 < |\kappa_c| < 5.5$ , and the corresponding expected constraint is  $|\kappa_c| < 3.4$ .

In summary, a search for the SM Higgs boson decaying to a pair of charm quarks in the CMS experiment is presented. Novel jet reconstruction and identification tools, and analysis techniques are developed for this analysis, which is validated by measuring the  $\text{VZ}(Z \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  process. The observed Z boson signal relative to the SM prediction is  $\mu_{\text{VZ}(Z \rightarrow c\bar{c})} = 1.01^{+0.23}_{-0.21}$ , with an observed (expected) significance of 5.7 (5.9) standard deviations above the background-only hypothesis. This is the first observation of  $Z \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  at a hadronic collider.

The observed (expected) upper limit on  $\sigma(\text{VH}) \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})$  is 0.94 ( $0.50^{+0.22}_{-0.15}$ ) pb, corresponding to 14 ( $7.6^{+3.4}_{-2.3}$ ) times the theoretical prediction for an SM Higgs boson mass of 125.38 GeV. The observed (expected) 95% CL interval on the modifier,  $\kappa_c$ , for the Yukawa coupling of the Higgs boson to the charm quark is  $1.1 < |\kappa_c| < 5.5$  ( $|\kappa_c| < 3.4$ ). This is the most stringent constraint on  $\kappa_c$  to date.



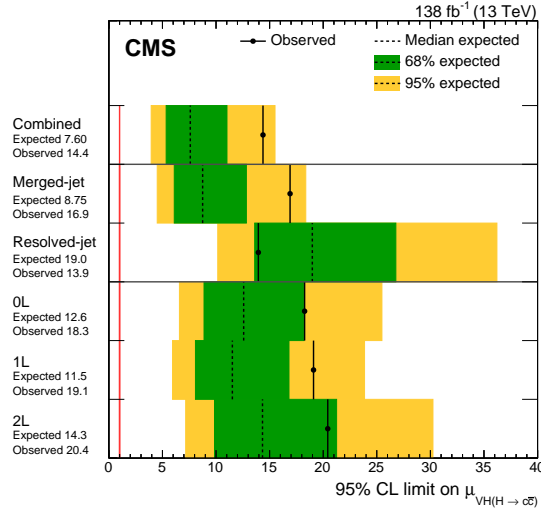


Figure 4: The 95% CL upper limits on  $\mu_{VH(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})}$ . Green and yellow bands indicate the 68 and 95% intervals on the expected limits, respectively. The vertical red line indicates the SM value  $\mu_{VH(H \rightarrow c\bar{c})} = 1$ .

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















## A The CMS Collaboration


### Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

A. Tumasyan<sup>1</sup> 













### Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Vienna, Austria

W. Adam , J.W. Andrejkovic, T. Bergauer , S. Chatterjee , K. Damanakis , M. Dragicevic , A. Escalante Del Valle , P.S. Hussain , M. Jeitler<sup>2</sup> , N. Krammer , L. Lechner , D. Liko , I. Mikulec , P. Paulitsch, F.M. Pitters, J. Schieck<sup>2</sup> , R. Schöfbeck , D. Schwarz , S. Templ , W. Waltenberger , C.-E. Wulz<sup>2</sup> 











### Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

M.R. Darwish<sup>3</sup> , T. Janssen , T. Kello<sup>4</sup>, H. Rejeb Sfar, P. Van Mechelen 










### Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

E.S. Bols , J. D'Hondt , A. De Moor , M. Delcourt , H. El Faham , S. Lowette , S. Moortgat , A. Morton , D. Müller , A.R. Sahasransu , S. Tavernier , W. Van Doninck, D. Vannerom 










### Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

B. Clerbaux , G. De Lentdecker , L. Favart , J. Jaramillo , K. Lee , M. Mahdavi-khorami , I. Makarenko , A. Malara , S. Paredes , L. Pétré , N. Postiau, E. Starling , L. Thomas , M. Vanden Bemden, C. Vander Velde , P. Vanlaer 

### Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

D. Dobur , J. Knolle , L. Lambrecht , G. Mestdach, M. Niedziela , C. Rendón, C. Roskas , A. Samalan, K. Skovpen , M. Tytgat , N. Van Den Bossche , B. Vermassen, L. Wezenbeek 






















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A. Benecke , A. Bethani , G. Bruno , F. Bury , C. Caputo , P. David , C. Delaere , I.S. Donertas , A. Giammanco , K. Jaffel , Sa. Jain , V. Lemaître, K. Mondal , J. Prisciandaro, A. Taliervo , T.T. Tran , P. Vischia , S. Wertz 








### Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

G.A. Alves , E. Coelho , C. Hensel , A. Moraes , P. Rebello Teles 

### Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

W.L. Aldá Júnior , M. Alves Gallo Pereira , M. Barroso Ferreira Filho , H. Brandao Malbouisson , W. Carvalho , J. Chinellato<sup>5</sup>, E.M. Da Costa , G.G. Da Silveira<sup>6</sup> , D. De Jesus Damiao , V. Dos Santos Sousa , S. Fonseca De Souza , J. Martins<sup>7</sup> , C. Mora Herrera , K. Mota Amarilo , L. Mundim , H. Nogima , A. Santoro , S.M. Silva Do Amaral , A. Sznajder , M. Thiel , F. Torres Da Silva De Araujo<sup>8</sup> , A. Vilela Pereira 

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C.A. Bernardes<sup>6</sup> , L. Calligaris , T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei , E.M. Gregores , P.G. Mercadante , S.F. Novaes , Sandra S. Padula 




### Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

A. Aleksandrov , G. Antchev , R. Hadjiiska , P. Iaydjiev , M. Misheva , M. Rodozov, M. Shopova , G. Sultanov 




### University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria

A. Dimitrov , T. Ivanov , L. Litov , B. Pavlov , P. Petkov , A. Petrov, E. Shumka 
















**Beihang University, Beijing, China**

T. Cheng , T. Javaid<sup>9</sup>, M. Mittal , L. Yuan 











**Department of Physics, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China**

M. Ahmad , G. Bauer<sup>10</sup>, Z. Hu , S. Lezki , K. Yi<sup>10,11</sup>

**Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China**

G.M. Chen<sup>9</sup> , H.S. Chen<sup>9</sup> , M. Chen<sup>9</sup> , F. Iemmi , C.H. Jiang, A. Kapoor , H. Liao , Z.-A. Liu<sup>12</sup> , V. Milosevic , F. Monti , R. Sharma , J. Tao , J. Thomas-Wilsker , J. Wang , H. Zhang , J. Zhao 



**State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China**

A. Agapitos , Y. An , Y. Ban , C. Chen, A. Levin , C. Li , Q. Li , X. Lyu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian , X. Sun , D. Wang , J. Xiao , H. Yang

**Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China**

M. Lu , Z. You 





**Institute of Modern Physics and Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Ion-beam Application (MOE) - Fudan University, Shanghai, China**

X. Gao<sup>4</sup> , D. Leggat, H. Okawa , Y. Zhang 





**Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China**

Z. Lin , C. Lu , M. Xiao 


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C. Avila , D.A. Barbosa Trujillo, A. Cabrera , C. Florez , J. Fraga 

**Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia**

J. Mejia Guisao , F. Ramirez , M. Rodriguez , J.D. Ruiz Alvarez 

**University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Split, Croatia**

D. Giljanovic , N. Godinovic , D. Lelas , I. Puljak 










**University of Split, Faculty of Science, Split, Croatia**

Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac , T. Sculac 




**Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia**

V. Brigljevic , B.K. Chitroda , D. Ferencek , D. Majumder , M. Roguljic , A. Starodumov<sup>13</sup> , T. Susa 

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A. Attikis , K. Christoforou , G. Kole , M. Kolosova , S. Konstantinou , J. Mousa , C. Nicolaou, F. Ptochos , P.A. Razis , H. Rykaczewski, H. Saka 


**Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic**

M. Finger<sup>13</sup> , M. Finger Jr.<sup>13</sup> , A. Kveton 




























































































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








E. Ayala 

**Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador**










E. Carrera Jarrin 

**Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian**





















**Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt**H. Abdalla<sup>14</sup> , Y. Assran<sup>15,16</sup>**Center for High Energy Physics (CHEP-FU), Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt**M. Abdullah Al-Mashad , M.A. Mahmoud **National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia**S. Bhowmik , R.K. Dewanjee , K. Ehataht , M. Kadastik, S. Nandan , C. Nielsen , J. Pata , M. Raidal , L. Tani , C. Veelken **Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland**P. Eerola , H. Kirschenmann , K. Osterberg , M. Voutilainen **Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland**S. Bharthuar , E. Brücken , F. Garcia , J. Havukainen , M.S. Kim , R. Kinnunen, T. Lampén , K. Lassila-Perini , S. Lehti , T. Lindén , M. Lotti, L. Martikainen , M. Myllymäki , J. Ott , M.m. Rantanen , H. Siikonen , E. Tuominen , J. Tuominiemi **Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland**P. Luukka , H. Petrow , T. Tuuva**IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France**C. Amendola , M. Besancon , F. Couderc , M. Dejardin , D. Denegri, J.L. Faure, F. Ferri , S. Ganjour , P. Gras , G. Hamel de Monchenault , P. Jarry , V. Lohezic , J. Malcles , J. Rander, A. Rosowsky , M.Ö. Sahin , A. Savoy-Navarro<sup>17</sup> , P. Simkina , M. Titov **Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, CNRS/IN2P3, Ecole Polytechnique, Institut Polytechnique de Paris, Palaiseau, France**C. Baldenegro Barrera , F. Beaudette , A. Buchot Perraguin , P. Busson , A. Cappati , C. Charlot , O. Davignon , B. Diab , G. Falmagne , B.A. Fontana Santos Alves , S. Ghosh , R. Granier de Cassagnac , A. Hakimi , B. Harikrishnan , J. Motta , M. Nguyen , C. Ochando , L. Portales , J. Rembser , R. Salerno , U. Sarkar , J.B. Sauvan , Y. Sirois , A. Tarabini , E. Vernazza , A. Zabi , A. Zghiche **Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, Strasbourg, France**J.-L. Agram<sup>18</sup> , J. Andrea, D. Apparù , D. Bloch , G. Bourgatte, J.-M. Brom , E.C. Chabert , C. Collard , D. Darej, U. Goerlach , C. Grimault, A.-C. Le Bihan , E. Nibigira , P. Van Hove **Institut de Physique des 2 Infinis de Lyon (IP2I ), Villeurbanne, France**S. Beauceron , C. Bernet , G. Boudoul , C. Camen, A. Carle, N. Chanon , J. Choi , D. Contardo , P. Depasse , C. Dozen<sup>19</sup> , H. El Mamouni, J. Fay , S. Gascon , M. Gouzevitch , G. Grenier , B. Ille , I.B. Laktineh, M. Lethuillier , L. Mirabito, S. Perries, K. Shchablo, V. Sordini , L. Torterotot , M. Vander Donckt , P. Verdier , S. Viret**Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia**A. Khvedelidze<sup>13</sup> , I. Lomidze , Z. Tsamalaidze<sup>13</sup> **RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany**V. Botta , L. Feld , K. Klein , M. Lipinski , D. Meuser , A. Pauls , N. Röwert , M. Teroerde **RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany**S. Diekmann , A. Dodonova , N. Eich , D. Eliseev , M. Erdmann , P. Fackeldey 

B. Fischer , T. Hebbeker , K. Hoepfner , F. Ivone , M.y. Lee , L. Mastrolorenzo, M. Merschmeyer , A. Meyer , S. Mondal , S. Mukherjee , D. Noll , A. Novak , F. Nowotny, A. Pozdnyakov , Y. Rath, H. Reithler , A. Schmidt , S.C. Schuler, A. Sharma , L. Vigilante, S. Wiedenbeck , S. Zaleski




### **RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut B, Aachen, Germany**

C. Dziwok , G. Flügge , W. Haj Ahmad<sup>20</sup> , O. Hlushchenko, T. Kress , A. Nowack , O. Pooth , A. Stahl<sup>21</sup> , T. Ziemons , A. Zotz 






























### **Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany**

H. Aarup Petersen, M. Aldaya Martin , P. Asmuss, S. Baxter , M. Bayatmakou , O. Behnke, A. Bermúdez Martínez , S. Bhattacharya , A.A. Bin Anuar , F. Blekman<sup>22</sup> , K. Borras<sup>23</sup> , D. Brunner , A. Campbell , A. Cardini , C. Cheng, F. Colombina, S. Consuegra Rodríguez , G. Correia Silva , M. De Silva , L. Didukh , G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, L.I. Estevez Banos , O. Filatov , E. Gallo<sup>22</sup> , A. Geiser , A. Giraldi , G. Greau, A. Grohsjean , V. Guglielmi , M. Guthoff , A. Jafari<sup>24</sup> , N.Z. Jomhari , B. Kaech , A. Kasem<sup>23</sup> , M. Kasemann , H. Kaveh , C. Kleinwort , R. Kogler , D. Krücker , W. Lange, D. Leyva Pernia, K. Lipka , W. Lohmann<sup>25</sup> , R. Mankel , I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann , M. Mendizabal Morentin , J. Metwally, A.B. Meyer , G. Milella , M. Mormile , A. Mussgiller , A. Nürnberg , Y. Otariid, D. Pérez Adán , A. Raspereza, B. Ribeiro Lopes , J. Rübenach, A. Saggio , A. Saibel , M. Savitskyi , M. Scham<sup>26,23</sup> , V. Scheurer, S. Schnake<sup>23</sup> , P. Schütze , C. Schwanenberger<sup>22</sup> , M. Shchedrolosiev , R.E. Sosa Ricardo , D. Stafford, N. Tonon<sup>†</sup> , M. Van De Klundert , F. Vazzoler , A. Ventura Barroso , R. Walsh , D. Walter , Q. Wang , Y. Wen , K. Wichmann, L. Wiens<sup>23</sup> , C. Wissing , S. Wuchterl , Y. Yang, A. Zimmermann Castro Santos 

### **University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany**

R. Aggleton, A. Albrecht , S. Albrecht , M. Antonello , S. Bein , L. Benato , M. Bonanomi , P. Connor , K. De Leo , M. Eich, K. El Morabit , F. Feindt, A. Fröhlich, C. Garbers , E. Garutti , M. Hajheidari, J. Haller , A. Hinzmann , H.R. Jabusch , G. Kasieczka , R. Klanner , W. Korcari , T. Kramer , V. Kutzner , J. Lange , T. Lange , A. Lobanov , C. Matthies , A. Mehta , L. Moureaux , M. Mrowietz, A. Nigamova , Y. Nissan, A. Paasch , K.J. Pena Rodriguez , M. Rieger , O. Rieger, P. Schleper , M. Schröder , J. Schwandt , H. Stadie , G. Steinbrück , A. Tews, M. Wolf 









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J. Bechtel , S. Brommer , M. Burkart, E. Butz , R. Caspart , T. Chwalek , A. Dierlamm , A. Droll, N. Faltermann , M. Giffels , J.O. Gosewisch, A. Gottmann , F. Hartmann<sup>21</sup> , C. Heidecker, M. Horzela , U. Husemann , P. Keicher, M. Klute , R. Koppenhöfer , S. Maier , S. Mitra , Th. Müller , M. Neukum, G. Quast , K. Rabbertz , J. Rauser, D. Savoie , M. Schnepf, D. Seith, I. Shvetsov, H.J. Simonis , R. Ulrich , J. van der Linden , R.F. Von Cube , M. Wassmer , M. Weber , S. Wieland , R. Wolf , S. Wozniowski , S. Wunsch




### **Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (INPP), NCSR Demokritos, Aghia Paraskevi, Greece**

G. Anagnostou, P. Assiouras , G. Daskalakis , A. Kyriakis, A. Stakia 

### **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece**

M. Diamantopoulou, D. Karasavvas, P. Kontaxakis , A. Manousakis-Katsikakis , A. Panagiotou, I. Papavergou , N. Saoulidou , K. Theofilatos , E. Tziaferi , K. Vellidis , E. Vourliotis 

**National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece**

G. Bakas , T. Chatzistavrou, K. Kousouris , I. Papakrivopoulos , G. Tsipolitis, A. Zacharopoulou






**University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece**

K. Adamidis, I. Bestintzanos, I. Evangelou , C. Foudas, P. Giannelios , P. Katsoulis, P. Kokkas , N. Manthos , I. Papadopoulos , J. Strologas 


**MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary**

M. Csanád , K. Farkas , M.M.A. Gadallah<sup>27</sup> , S. Lökös<sup>28</sup> , P. Major , K. Mandal , G. Pásztor , A.J. Rádl<sup>29</sup> , O. Surányi , G.I. Veres 

**Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary**

M. Bartók<sup>30</sup> , G. Bencze, C. Hajdu , D. Horvath<sup>31,32</sup> , F. Sikler , V. Veszpremi 




**Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary**

N. Beni , S. Czellar, D. Fasanella , J. Karancsi<sup>30</sup> , J. Molnar, Z. Szillasi, D. Teyssier 


















**Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary**

P. Raics, B. Ujvari<sup>33</sup> 











**Karoly Robert Campus, MATE Institute of Technology, Gyongyos, Hungary**

T. Csorgo<sup>29</sup> , F. Nemes<sup>29</sup> , T. Novak 






**Panjab University, Chandigarh, India**

J. Babbar , S. Bansal , S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar , G. Chaudhary , S. Chauhan , N. Dhingra<sup>34</sup> , R. Gupta, A. Kaur , A. Kaur , H. Kaur , M. Kaur , S. Kumar , P. Kumari , M. Meena , K. Sandeep , T. Sheokand, J.B. Singh<sup>35</sup> , A. Singla , A. K. Viridi 














**University of Delhi, Delhi, India**

A. Ahmed , A. Bhardwaj , B.C. Choudhary , M. Gola, S. Keshri , A. Kumar , M. Naimuddin , P. Priyanka , K. Ranjan , S. Saumya , A. Shah 


**Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, HBNI, Kolkata, India**

S. Baradia , S. Barman<sup>36</sup> , R. Bhattacharya , S. Bhattacharya , D. Bhowmik, S. Dutta , S. Dutta, B. Gomber<sup>37</sup> , M. Maity<sup>36</sup>, P. Palit , P.K. Rout , G. Saha , B. Sahu , S. Sarkar

**Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Madras, India**

P.K. Behera , S.C. Behera , P. Kalbhor , J.R. Komaragiri<sup>38</sup> , D. Kumar<sup>38</sup> , A. Muhammad , L. Panwar<sup>38</sup> , R. Pradhan , P.R. Pujahari , A. Sharma , A.K. Sikdar , P.C. Tiwari<sup>38</sup> , S. Verma 

**Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India**

K. Naskar<sup>39</sup> 

**Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-A, Mumbai, India**

T. Aziz, S. Dugad, M. Kumar , G.B. Mohanty , P. Suryadevara

**Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-B, Mumbai, India**








S. Banerjee , R. Chudasama , M. Guchait , S. Karmakar , S. Kumar , G. Majumder , K. Mazumdar , S. Mukherjee , A. Thachayath 

**National Institute of Science Education and Research, An OCC of Homi Bhabha National Institute, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India**



S. Bahinipati<sup>40</sup> , A.K. Das, C. Kar , P. Mal , T. Mishra , V.K. Muraleedharan Nair Bindhu<sup>41</sup> , A. Nayak<sup>41</sup> , P. Saha , N. Sur , S.K. Swain, D. Vats<sup>41</sup> 

**Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, India**

A. Alpana , S. Dube , B. Kansal , A. Laha , S. Pandey , A. Rastogi , S. Sharma 

**Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran**

H. Bakhshiansohi<sup>42</sup> , E. Khazaie , M. Zeinali<sup>43</sup> 


































**Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran**

S. Chenarani<sup>44</sup> , S.M. Etesami , M. Khakzad , M. Mohammadi Najafabadi 




























**University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**

M. Grunewald 

**INFN Sezione di Bari<sup>a</sup>, Università di Bari<sup>b</sup>, Politecnico di Bari<sup>c</sup>, Bari, Italy**

M. Abbrescia<sup>a,b</sup> , R. Aly<sup>a,c,45</sup> , C. Aruta<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Colaleo<sup>a</sup> , D. Creanza<sup>a,c</sup> , N. De Filippis<sup>a,c</sup> , M. De Palma<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Di Florio<sup>a,b</sup> , W. Elmetenawee<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Errico<sup>a,b</sup> , L. Fiore<sup>a</sup> , G. Iaselli<sup>a,c</sup> , M. Ince<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Maggi<sup>a,c</sup> , M. Maggi<sup>a</sup> , I. Margjeka<sup>a,b</sup> , V. Mastrapasqua<sup>a,b</sup> , S. My<sup>a,b</sup> , S. Nuzzo<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Pellecchia<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Pompili<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Pugliese<sup>a,c</sup> , R. Radogna<sup>a</sup> , D. Ramos<sup>a</sup> , A. Ranieri<sup>a</sup> , G. Selvaggi<sup>a,b</sup> , L. Silvestris<sup>a</sup> , F.M. Simone<sup>a,b</sup> , Ü. Sözbilir<sup>a</sup> , A. Stamerra<sup>a</sup> , R. Venditti<sup>a</sup> , P. Verwilligen<sup>a</sup> , A. Zaza<sup>a,b</sup> 

















**INFN Sezione di Bologna<sup>a</sup>, Università di Bologna<sup>b</sup>, Bologna, Italy**

G. Abbiendi<sup>a</sup> , C. Battilana<sup>a,b</sup> , D. Bonacorsi<sup>a,b</sup> , L. Borgonovi<sup>a</sup> , L. Brigliadori<sup>a</sup>, R. Campanini<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Capiluppi<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Castro<sup>a,b</sup> , F.R. Cavallo<sup>a</sup> , M. Cuffiani<sup>a,b</sup> , G.M. Dallavalle<sup>a</sup> , T. Diotallevi<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Fabbri<sup>a</sup> , A. Fanfani<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Giacomelli<sup>a</sup> , L. Giommi<sup>a,b</sup> , C. Grandi<sup>a</sup> , L. Guiducci<sup>a,b</sup> , S. Lo Meo<sup>a,46</sup> , L. Lunerti<sup>a,b</sup> , S. Marcellini<sup>a</sup> , G. Masetti<sup>a</sup> , F.L. Navarria<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Perrotta<sup>a</sup> , F. Primavera<sup>a,b</sup> , A.M. Rossi<sup>a,b</sup> , T. Rovelli<sup>a,b</sup> , G.P. Siroli<sup>a,b</sup> 

**INFN Sezione di Catania<sup>a</sup>, Università di Catania<sup>b</sup>, Catania, Italy**

S. Costa<sup>a,b,47</sup> , A. Di Mattia<sup>a</sup> , R. Potenza<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Tricomi<sup>a,b,47</sup> , C. Tuve<sup>a,b</sup> 

**INFN Sezione di Firenze<sup>a</sup>, Università di Firenze<sup>b</sup>, Firenze, Italy**

G. Barbagli<sup>a</sup> , B. Camaiani<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Cassese<sup>a</sup> , R. Ceccarelli<sup>a,b</sup> , V. Ciulli<sup>a,b</sup> , C. Civinini<sup>a</sup> , R. D'Alessandro<sup>a,b</sup> , E. Focardi<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Latino<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Lenzi<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Lizzo<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Meschini<sup>a</sup> , S. Paoletti<sup>a</sup> , R. Seidita<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Sguazzoni<sup>a</sup> , L. Viliani<sup>a</sup> 
























**INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy**

L. Benussi , S. Bianco , D. Piccolo 

**INFN Sezione di Genova<sup>a</sup>, Università di Genova<sup>b</sup>, Genova, Italy**

M. Bozzo<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Ferro<sup>a</sup> , R. Mulargia<sup>a</sup> , E. Robutti<sup>a</sup> , S. Tosi<sup>a,b</sup> 




















**INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca<sup>a</sup>, Università di Milano-Bicocca<sup>b</sup>, Milano, Italy**

A. Benaglia<sup>a</sup> , G. Boldrini<sup>a</sup> , F. Brivio<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Cetorelli<sup>a,b</sup> , F. De Guio<sup>a,b</sup> , M.E. Dinardo<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Dini<sup>a</sup> , S. Gennai<sup>a</sup> , A. Ghezzi<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Govoni<sup>a,b</sup> , L. Guzzi<sup>a,b</sup> , M.T. Lucchini<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Malberti<sup>a</sup> , S. Malvezzi<sup>a</sup> , A. Massironi<sup>a</sup> , D. Menasce<sup>a</sup> , L. Moroni<sup>a</sup> , M. Paganoni<sup>a,b</sup> , D. Pedrini<sup>a</sup> , B.S. Pinolini<sup>a</sup>, S. Ragazzi<sup>a,b</sup> , N. Redaelli<sup>a</sup> , T. Tabarelli de Fatis<sup>a,b</sup> , D. Zuolo<sup>a,b</sup> 











**INFN Sezione di Napoli<sup>a</sup>, Università di Napoli 'Federico II'<sup>b</sup>, Napoli, Italy; Università della Basilicata<sup>c</sup>, Potenza, Italy; Università G. Marconi<sup>d</sup>, Roma, Italy**

S. Buontempo<sup>a</sup> , F. Carnevali<sup>a,b</sup> , N. Cavallo<sup>a,c</sup> , A. De Iorio<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Fabozzi<sup>a,c</sup> , A.O.M. Iorio<sup>a,b</sup> , L. Lista<sup>a,b,48</sup> , S. Meola<sup>a,d,21</sup> , P. Paolucci<sup>a,21</sup> , B. Rossi<sup>a</sup> , C. Sciacca<sup>a,b</sup> 















**INFN Sezione di Padova<sup>a</sup>, Università di Padova<sup>b</sup>, Padova, Italy; Università di Trento<sup>c</sup>, Trento, Italy**

P. Azzi<sup>a</sup> , N. Bacchetta<sup>a,49</sup> , D. Bisello<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Bortignon<sup>a</sup> , A. Bragagnolo<sup>a,b</sup> , R. Carlin<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Checchia<sup>a</sup> , T. Dorigo<sup>a</sup> , F. Gasparini<sup>a,b</sup> , U. Gasparini<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Grosso<sup>a</sup>, L. Layer<sup>a,50</sup>, E. Lusiani<sup>a</sup> , M. Margoni<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Marini<sup>a</sup> , A.T. Meneguzzo<sup>a,b</sup> , J. Pazzini<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Ronchese<sup>a,b</sup> , R. Rossin<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Simonetto<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Strong<sup>a</sup> , M. Tosi<sup>a,b</sup> , H. Yarar<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Zanetti<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Zotto<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Zucchetta<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Zumerle<sup>a,b</sup> 




















**INFN Sezione di Pavia<sup>a</sup>, Università di Pavia<sup>b</sup>, Pavia, Italy**

C. Aimè<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Braghieri<sup>a</sup> , S. Calzaferri<sup>a,b</sup> , D. Fiorina<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Montagna<sup>a,b</sup> , V. Re<sup>a</sup> , C. Riccardi<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Salvini<sup>a</sup> , I. Vai<sup>a</sup> , P. Vitulo<sup>a,b</sup> 














**INFN Sezione di Perugia<sup>a</sup>, Università di Perugia<sup>b</sup>, Perugia, Italy**

P. Asenov<sup>a,51</sup> , G.M. Bilei<sup>a</sup> , D. Ciangottini<sup>a,b</sup> , L. Fanò<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Magherini<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Mantovani<sup>a,b</sup>, V. Mariani<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Menichelli<sup>a</sup> , F. Moscatelli<sup>a,51</sup> , A. Piccinelli<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Presilla<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Rossi<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Santocchia<sup>a,b</sup> , D. Spiga<sup>a</sup> , T. Tedeschi<sup>a,b</sup> 




















**INFN Sezione di Pisa<sup>a</sup>, Università di Pisa<sup>b</sup>, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa<sup>c</sup>, Pisa, Italy; Università di Siena<sup>d</sup>, Siena, Italy**

P. Azzurri<sup>a</sup> , G. Bagliesi<sup>a</sup> , V. Bertacchi<sup>a,c</sup> , L. Bianchini<sup>a,b</sup> , T. Boccali<sup>a</sup> , E. Bossini<sup>a,b</sup> , D. Bruschini<sup>a,c</sup> , R. Castaldi<sup>a</sup> , M.A. Ciocci<sup>a,b</sup> , V. D'Amante<sup>a,d</sup> , R. Dell'Orso<sup>a</sup> , M.R. Di Domenico<sup>a,d</sup> , S. Donato<sup>a</sup> , A. Giassi<sup>a</sup> , F. Ligabue<sup>a,c</sup> , E. Manca<sup>a,c</sup> , G. Mandorli<sup>a,c</sup> , D. Matos Figueiredo<sup>a</sup> , A. Messineo<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Musich<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Palla<sup>a</sup> , S. Parolia<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Ramirez-Sanchez<sup>a,c</sup> , A. Rizzi<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Rolandi<sup>a,c</sup> , S. Roy Chowdhury<sup>a,c</sup> , A. Scribano<sup>a</sup> , N. Shafiei<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Spagnolo<sup>a</sup> , R. Tenchini<sup>a</sup> , G. Tonelli<sup>a,b</sup> , N. Turini<sup>a,d</sup> , A. Venturi<sup>a</sup> , P.G. Verdini<sup>a</sup> 








**INFN Sezione di Roma<sup>a</sup>, Sapienza Università di Roma<sup>b</sup>, Roma, Italy**

P. Barria<sup>a</sup> , M. Campana<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Cavallari<sup>a</sup> , D. Del Re<sup>a,b</sup> , E. Di Marco<sup>a</sup> , M. Diemoz<sup>a</sup> , E. Longo<sup>a,b</sup> , P. Meridiani<sup>a</sup> , G. Organtini<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Pandolfi<sup>a</sup> , R. Paramatti<sup>a,b</sup> , C. Quaranta<sup>a,b</sup> , S. Rahatlou<sup>a,b</sup> , C. Rovelli<sup>a</sup> , F. Santanastasio<sup>a,b</sup> , L. Soffi<sup>a</sup> , R. Tramontano<sup>a,b</sup> 













**INFN Sezione di Torino<sup>a</sup>, Università di Torino<sup>b</sup>, Torino, Italy; Università del Piemonte Orientale<sup>c</sup>, Novara, Italy**

N. Amapane<sup>a,b</sup> , R. Arcidiacono<sup>a,c</sup> , S. Argiro<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Arneodo<sup>a,c</sup> , N. Bartosik<sup>a</sup> , R. Bellan<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Bellora<sup>a,b</sup> , J. Berenguer Antequera<sup>a,b</sup> , C. Biino<sup>a</sup> , N. Cartiglia<sup>a</sup> , M. Costa<sup>a,b</sup> , R. Covarelli<sup>a,b</sup> , N. Demaria<sup>a</sup> , M. Grippo<sup>a,b</sup> , B. Kiani<sup>a,b</sup> , F. Leggera<sup>a</sup> , C. Mariotti<sup>a</sup> , S. Maselli<sup>a</sup> , A. Mecca<sup>a,b</sup> , E. Migliore<sup>a,b</sup> , E. Monteil<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Monteno<sup>a</sup> , M.M. Obertino<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Ortona<sup>a</sup> , L. Pacher<sup>a,b</sup> , N. Pastrone<sup>a</sup> , M. Pelliccioni<sup>a</sup> , M. Ruspa<sup>a,c</sup> , K. Shchelina<sup>a</sup> , F. Siviero<sup>a,b</sup> , V. Sola<sup>a</sup> , A. Solano<sup>a,b</sup> , D. Soldi<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Staiano<sup>a</sup> , M. Tornago<sup>a,b</sup> , D. Trocino<sup>a</sup> , G. Umoret<sup>a,b</sup> , A. Vagnerini<sup>a,b</sup> 

**INFN Sezione di Trieste<sup>a</sup>, Università di Trieste<sup>b</sup>, Trieste, Italy**

S. Belforte<sup>a</sup> , V. Candelise<sup>a,b</sup> , M. Casarsa<sup>a</sup> , F. Cossutti<sup>a</sup> , A. Da Rold<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Della Ricca<sup>a,b</sup> , G. Sorrentino<sup>a,b</sup> 


**Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea**

S. Dogra , C. Huh , B. Kim , D.H. Kim , G.N. Kim , J. Kim, J. Lee , S.W. Lee ,  
C.S. Moon , Y.D. Oh , S.I. Pak , S. Sekmen , Y.C. Yang 





**Chonnam National University, Institute for Universe and Elementary Particles, Kwangju, Korea**

H. Kim , D.H. Moon 

**Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea**

E. Asilar , T.J. Kim , J. Park 



**Korea University, Seoul, Korea**

S. Cho, S. Choi , B. Hong , K. Lee, K.S. Lee , J. Lim, J. Park, S.K. Park, J. Yoo 















**Kyung Hee University, Department of Physics, Seoul, Korea**

J. Goh 

**Sejong University, Seoul, Korea**

H. S. Kim , Y. Kim, S. Lee, G.B. Yu 



**Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea**

J. Almond, J.H. Bhyun, J. Choi , S. Jeon , W. Jun , J. Kim , J. Kim , J.S. Kim, S. Ko ,  
H. Kwon , H. Lee , J. Lee , S. Lee, B.H. Oh , M. Oh , S.B. Oh , H. Seo , U.K. Yang,  
I. Yoon 




**University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea**

W. Jang , D.Y. Kang, Y. Kang , D. Kim , S. Kim , B. Ko, J.S.H. Lee , Y. Lee , J.A. Merlin,  
I.C. Park , Y. Roh, M.S. Ryu , D. Song, Watson, I.J. , S. Yang 

**Yonsei University, Department of Physics, Seoul, Korea**

S. Ha , H.D. Yoo 





**Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea**

M. Choi , H. Lee, Y. Lee , I. Yu 

**College of Engineering and Technology, American University of the Middle East (AUM), Dasman, Kuwait**

T. Beyrouthy, Y. Maghrbi 




**Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia**

K. Dreimanis , A. Gaile , A. Potrebko , T. Torims, V. Veckalns 







**Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania**

M. Ambrozas , A. Carvalho Antunes De Oliveira , A. Juodagalvis , A. Rinkevicius ,  
G. Tamulaitis 








**National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

N. Bin Norjoharuddeen , S.Y. Hoh<sup>52</sup> , I. Yusuff<sup>52</sup> , Z. Zolkapli




































































**Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), Hermosillo, Mexico**

J.F. Benitez , A. Castaneda Hernandez , H.A. Encinas Acosta, L.G. Gallegos Maríñez,  
M. León Coello , J.A. Murillo Quijada , A. Sehwat , L. Valencia Palomo 

**Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico City, Mexico**

G. Ayala , H. Castilla-Valdez , E. De La Cruz-Burelo , I. Heredia-De La Cruz<sup>53</sup> ,  
R. Lopez-Fernandez , C.A. Mondragon Herrera, D.A. Perez Navarro ,  
A. Sánchez Hernández 



**Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico**C. Oropeza Barrera , F. Vazquez Valencia **Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico**I. Pedraza , H.A. Salazar Ibarguen , C. Uribe Estrada **University of Montenegro, Podgorica, Montenegro**I. Bubanja, J. Mijuskovic<sup>54</sup>, N. Raicevic **National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan**A. Ahmad , M.I. Asghar, A. Awais , M.I.M. Awan, M. Gul , H.R. Hoorani , W.A. Khan , M. Shoaib , M. Waqas **AGH University of Science and Technology Faculty of Computer Science, Electronics and Telecommunications, Krakow, Poland**V. Avati, L. Grzanka , M. Malawski **National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland**H. Bialkowska , M. Bluj , B. Boimska , M. Górski , M. Kazana , M. Szeleper , P. Zalewski **Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland**K. Bunkowski , K. Doroba , A. Kalinowski , M. Konecki , J. Krolikowski **Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal**M. Araujo , P. Bargassa , D. Bastos , A. Boletti , P. Faccioli , M. Gallinaro , J. Hollar , N. Leonardo , T. Niknejad , M. Pisano , J. Seixas , O. Toldaiev , J. Varela **VINCA Institute of Nuclear Sciences, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia**P. Adzic<sup>55</sup> , M. Dordevic , P. Milenovic , J. Milosevic **Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain**M. Aguilar-Benitez, J. Alcaraz Maestre , A. Álvarez Fernández , M. Barrio Luna, Cristina F. Bedoya , C.A. Carrillo Montoya , M. Cepeda , M. Cerrada , N. Colino , B. De La Cruz , A. Delgado Peris , J.P. Fernández Ramos , J. Flix , M.C. Fouz , O. Gonzalez Lopez , S. Goy Lopez , J.M. Hernandez , M.I. Josa , J. León Holgado , D. Moran , C. Perez Dengra , A. Pérez-Calero Yzquierdo , J. Puerta Pelayo , I. Redondo , D.D. Redondo Ferrero , L. Romero, S. Sánchez Navas , J. Sastre , L. Urda Gómez , J. Vazquez Escobar , C. Willmott**Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain**J.F. de Trocóniz **Universidad de Oviedo, Instituto Universitario de Ciencias y Tecnologías Espaciales de Asturias (ICTEA), Oviedo, Spain**B. Alvarez Gonzalez , J. Cuevas , J. Fernandez Menendez , S. Folgueras , I. Gonzalez Caballero , J.R. González Fernández , E. Palencia Cortezon , C. Ramón Álvarez , V. Rodríguez Bouza , A. Soto Rodríguez , A. Trapote , N. Trevisani , C. Vico Villalba **Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC-Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain**J.A. Brochero Cifuentes , I.J. Cabrillo , A. Calderon , J. Duarte Campderros , M. Fernandez , C. Fernandez Madrazo , P.J. Fernández Manteca , A. García Alonso, G. Gomez , C. Lasiosa García , C. Martinez Rivero , P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol , F. Matorras , P. Matorras Cuevas , J. Piedra Gomez , C. Prieels, A. Ruiz-Jimeno 

L. Scodellaro , I. Vila , J.M. Vizan Garcia 

**University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

M.K. Jayananda , B. Kailasapathy<sup>56</sup> , D.U.J. Sonnadara , D.D.C. Wickramarathna 



**University of Ruhuna, Department of Physics, Matara, Sri Lanka**

W.G.D. Dharmaratna , K. Liyanage , N. Perera , N. Wickramage 




































**CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland**

D. Abbaneo , J. Alimena , E. Auffray , G. Auzinger , J. Baechler, P. Baillon<sup>†</sup>, D. Barney , J. Bendavid , M. Bianco , B. Bilin , A. Bocci , E. Brondolin , C. Caillol , T. Camporesi , G. Cerminara , N. Chernyavskaya , S.S. Chhibra , S. Choudhury, M. Cipriani , L. Cristella , D. d'Enterria , A. Dabrowski , A. David , A. De Roeck , M.M. Defranchis , M. Deile , M. Dobson , M. Dünser , N. Dupont, A. Elliott-Peisert, F. Fallavollita<sup>57</sup>, A. Florent , L. Forthomme , G. Franzoni , W. Funk , S. Ghosh , S. Giani, D. Gigi, K. Gill, F. Glege , L. Gouskos , E. Govorkova , M. Haranko , J. Hegeman , V. Innocente , T. James , P. Janot , J. Kaspar , J. Kieseler , M. Komm , N. Kratochwil , S. Laurila , P. Lecoq , A. Lintuluoto , C. Lourenço , B. Maier , L. Malgeri , M. Mannelli , A.C. Marini , F. Meijers , S. Mersi , E. Meschi , F. Moortgat , M. Mulders , S. Orfanelli, L. Orsini, F. Pantaleo , E. Perez, M. Peruzzi , A. Petrilli , G. Petrucciani , A. Pfeiffer , M. Pierini , D. Piparo , M. Pitt , H. Qu , T. Quast, D. Rabady , A. Racz, G. Reales Gutiérrez, M. Rovere , H. Sakulin , J. Salfeld-Nebgen , S. Scarfi, M. Selvaggi , A. Sharma , P. Silva , W. Snoeys , P. Sphicas<sup>58</sup> , A.G. Stahl Leitner , S. Summers , K. Tatar , V.R. Tavolaro , D. Treille , P. Tropea , A. Tsiros, J. Wanczyk<sup>59</sup> , K.A. Wozniak , W.D. Zeuner
























**Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland**

L. Caminada<sup>60</sup> , A. Ebrahimi , W. Erdmann , R. Horisberger , Q. Ingram , H.C. Kaestli , D. Kotlinski , C. Lange , M. Missiroli<sup>60</sup> , L. Noehte<sup>60</sup> , T. Rohe 


**ETH Zurich - Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics (IPA), Zurich, Switzerland**

T.K. Aarrestad , K. Androsov<sup>59</sup> , M. Backhaus , P. Berger, A. Calandri , A. De Cosa , G. Dissertori , M. Dittmar, M. Donegà , F. Eble , M. Galli , K. Gedia , F. Glessgen , T.A. Gómez Espinosa , C. Grab , D. Hits , W. Lustermann , A.-M. Lyon , R.A. Manzoni , L. Marchese , C. Martin Perez , A. Mascellani<sup>59</sup> , M.T. Meinhard , F. Nessi-Tedaldi , J. Niedziela , F. Pauss , V. Perovic , S. Pigazzini , M.G. Ratti , M. Reichmann , C. Reissel , T. Reitspiess , B. Ristic , D. Ruini, D.A. Sanz Becerra , J. Steggemann<sup>59</sup> , D. Valsecchi<sup>21</sup> , R. Wallny 










**Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland**

C. Amsler<sup>61</sup> , P. Bäertschi , C. Botta , D. Brzhechko, M.F. Canelli , K. Cormier , A. De Wit , R. Del Burgo, J.K. Heikkilä , M. Huwiler , W. Jin , A. Jofrehei , B. Kilminster , S. Leontsinis , S.P. Liechi , A. Macchiolo , P. Meiring , V.M. Mikuni , U. Molinatti , I. Neutelings , A. Reimers , P. Robmann, S. Sanchez Cruz , K. Schweiger , M. Senger , Y. Takahashi 

**National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan**

C. Adloff<sup>62</sup>, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, S.S. Yu 




















**National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan**

L. Ceard, Y. Chao , K.F. Chen , P.s. Chen, H. Cheng , W.-S. Hou , Y.y. Li , R.-S. Lu , E. Paganis , A. Psallidas, A. Steen , H.y. Wu, E. Yazgan , P.r. Yu

**Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Science, Department of Physics, Bangkok, Thailand**

C. Asawatrangkuldee , N. Srimanobhas 

**Çukurova University, Physics Department, Science and Art Faculty, Adana, Turkey**

D. Agyel , F. Boran , Z.S. Demiroglu , F. Dolek , I. Dumanoglu<sup>63</sup> , E. Eskut, Y. Guler<sup>64</sup> , E. Gurpinar Guler<sup>64</sup> , C. Isik , O. Kara, A. Kayis Topaksu , U. Kiminsu , G. Onengut , K. Ozdemir<sup>65</sup> , A. Polatoz , A.E. Simsek , B. Tali<sup>66</sup> , U.G. Tok , S. Turkcapar , E. Uslan , I.S. Zorbakir 

**Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey**

G. Karapinar, K. Ocalan<sup>67</sup> , M. Yalvac<sup>68</sup> 

**Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey**

B. Akgun , I.O. Atakisi , E. Gülmez , M. Kaya<sup>69</sup> , O. Kaya<sup>70</sup> , Ö. Özçelik , S. Tekten<sup>71</sup> 


**Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey**

A. Cakir , K. Cankocak<sup>63</sup> , Y. Komurcu , S. Sen<sup>72</sup> 

**Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey**

O. Aydilek , S. Cerci<sup>66</sup> , B. Hacisahinoglu , I. Hos<sup>73</sup> , B. Isildak<sup>74</sup> , B. Kaynak , S. Ozkorucuklu , C. Simsek , D. Sunar Cerci<sup>66</sup> 
















**Institute for Scintillation Materials of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kharkiv, Ukraine**

B. Grynyov 
















**National Science Centre, Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology, Kharkiv, Ukraine**

L. Levchuk 


































**University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom**

D. Anthony , E. Bhal , J.J. Brooke , A. Bundock , E. Clement , D. Cussans , H. Flacher , M. Glowacki, J. Goldstein , G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath , L. Kreczko , B. Krikler , S. Paramesvaran , S. Seif El Nasr-Storey, V.J. Smith , N. Stylianou<sup>75</sup> , K. Walkingshaw Pass, R. White 




**Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom**

A.H. Ball, K.W. Bell , A. Belyaev<sup>76</sup> , C. Brew , R.M. Brown , D.J.A. Cockerill , C. Cooke , K.V. Ellis, K. Harder , S. Harper , M.-L. Holmberg<sup>77</sup> , J. Linacre , K. Manolopoulos, D.M. Newbold , E. Olaiya, D. Petyt , T. Reis , T. Schuh, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous , I.R. Tomalin, T. Williams 

**Imperial College, London, United Kingdom**

R. Bainbridge , P. Bloch , S. Bonomally, J. Borg , S. Breeze, C.E. Brown , O. Buchmuller, V. Cacchio, V. Cepaitis , G.S. Chahal<sup>78</sup> , D. Colling , J.S. Dancu, P. Dauncey , G. Davies , J. Davies, M. Della Negra , S. Fayer, G. Fedi , G. Hall , M.H. Hassanshahi , A. Howard, G. Iles , J. Langford , L. Lyons , A.-M. Magnan , S. Malik, A. Martelli , M. Mieskolainen , D.G. Monk , J. Nash<sup>79</sup> , M. Pesaresi, B.C. Radburn-Smith , D.M. Raymond, A. Richards, A. Rose , E. Scott , C. Seez , A. Shtipliyski, R. Shukla , A. Tapper , K. Uchida , G.P. Uttley , L.H. Vage, T. Virdee<sup>21</sup> , M. Vojinovic , N. Wardle , S.N. Webb , D. Winterbottom

**Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom**

K. Coldham, J.E. Cole , A. Khan, P. Kyberd , I.D. Reid 

**Baylor University, Waco, Texas, USA**

S. Abdullin , A. Brinkerhoff , B. Caraway , J. Dittmann , K. Hatakeyama , A.R. Kanuganti , B. McMaster , M. Saunders , S. Sawant , C. Sutantawibul , J. Wilson 

















**Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, USA**

R. Bartek , A. Dominguez , R. Uniyal , A.M. Vargas Hernandez 






















**The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA**

A. Buccilli , S.I. Cooper , D. Di Croce , S.V. Gleyzer , C. Henderson , C.U. Perez , P. Rumerio<sup>80</sup> , C. West 



















**Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

A. Akpınar , A. Albert , D. Arcaro , C. Cosby , Z. Demiragli , C. Erice , E. Fontanesi , D. Gastler , S. May , J. Rohlf , K. Salyer , D. Sperka , D. Spitzbart , I. Suarez , A. Tsatsos , S. Yuan 














**Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA**

G. Benelli , B. Burkle , X. Coubez<sup>23</sup> , D. Cutts , M. Hadley , U. Heintz , J.M. Hogan<sup>81</sup> , T. Kwon , G. Landsberg , K.T. Lau , D. Li , J. Luo , M. Narain , N. Pervan , S. Sagir<sup>82</sup> , F. Simpson , E. Usai , W.Y. Wong , X. Yan , D. Yu , W. Zhang 











**University of California, Davis, Davis, California, USA**

J. Bonilla , C. Brainerd , R. Breedon , M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez , M. Chertok , J. Conway , P.T. Cox , R. Erbacher , G. Haza , F. Jensen , O. Kukral , G. Mocellin , M. Mulhearn , D. Pellett , B. Regnery , D. Taylor , Y. Yao , F. Zhang 























**University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA**

M. Bachtis , R. Cousins , A. Datta , D. Hamilton , J. Hauser , M. Ignatenko , M.A. Iqbal , T. Lam , W.A. Nash , S. Regnard , D. Saltzberg , B. Stone , V. Valuev 
























**University of California, Riverside, Riverside, California, USA**

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








**University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA**

J.G. Branson , P. Chang , S. Cittolin , S. Cooperstein , D. Diaz , J. Duarte , R. Gerosa , L. Giannini , J. Guiang , R. Kansal , V. Krutelyov , R. Lee , J. Letts , M. Masciovecchio , F. Mokhtar , M. Pieri , B.V. Sathia Narayanan , V. Sharma , M. Tadel , F. Würthwein , Y. Xiang , A. Yagil 














**University of California, Santa Barbara - Department of Physics, Santa Barbara, California, USA**

N. Amin , C. Campagnari , M. Citron , G. Collura , A. Dorsett , V. Dutta , J. Incandela , M. Kilpatrick , J. Kim , A.J. Li , B. Marsh , P. Masterson , H. Mei , M. Oshiro , M. Quinnan , J. Richman , U. Sarica , R. Schmitz , F. Setti , J. Sheplock , P. Siddireddy , D. Stuart , S. Wang 












**California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, USA**

A. Bornheim , O. Cerri , I. Dutta , J.M. Lawhorn , N. Lu , J. Mao , H.B. Newman , T. Q. Nguyen , M. Spiropulu , J.R. Vlimant , C. Wang , S. Xie , Z. Zhang , R.Y. Zhu 


















**Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA**

J. Alison , S. An , M.B. Andrews , P. Bryant , T. Ferguson , A. Harilal , C. Liu , T. Mudholkar , S. Murthy , M. Paulini , A. Roberts , A. Sanchez , W. Terrill 






























































**University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, USA**

J.P. Cumalat , W.T. Ford , A. Hassani , G. Karathanasis , E. MacDonald, R. Patel, A. Perloff , C. Savard , N. Schonbeck , K. Stenson , K.A. Ulmer , S.R. Wagner , N. Zipper 



















#### **Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA**

J. Alexander , S. Bright-Thonney , X. Chen , D.J. Cranshaw , J. Fan , X. Fan , D. Gadkari , S. Hogan , J. Monroy , J.R. Patterson , D. Quach , J. Reichert , M. Reid , A. Ryd , J. Thom , P. Wittich , R. Zou 









#### **Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois, USA**

M. Albrow , M. Alyari , G. Apollinari , A. Apresyan , L.A.T. Bauerdick , D. Berry , J. Berryhill , P.C. Bhat , K. Burkett , J.N. Butler , A. Canepa , G.B. Cerati , H.W.K. Cheung , F. Chlebana , K.F. Di Petrillo , J. Dickinson , V.D. Elvira , Y. Feng , J. Freeman , A. Gandrakota , Z. Gecse , L. Gray , D. Green, S. Grünendahl , O. Gutsche , R.M. Harris , R. Heller , T.C. Herwig , J. Hirschauer , L. Horyn , B. Jayatilaka , S. Jindariani , M. Johnson , U. Joshi , T. Klijnsma , B. Klima , K.H.M. Kwok , S. Lammel , D. Lincoln , R. Lipton , T. Liu , C. Madrid , K. Maeshima , C. Mantilla , D. Mason , P. McBride , P. Merkel , S. Mrenna , S. Nahn , J. Ngadiuba , V. Papadimitriou , N. Pastika , K. Pedro , C. Pena<sup>83</sup> , F. Ravera , A. Reinsvold Hall<sup>84</sup> , L. Ristori , E. Sexton-Kennedy , N. Smith , A. Soha , L. Spiegel , J. Strait , L. Taylor , S. Tkaczyk , N.V. Tran , L. Uplegger , E.W. Vaandering , H.A. Weber , I. Zoi 








#### **University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA**

P. Avery , D. Bourilkov , L. Cadamuro , V. Cherepanov , R.D. Field, D. Guerrero , M. Kim, E. Koenig , J. Konigsberg , A. Korytov , K.H. Lo, K. Matchev , N. Menendez , G. Mitselmakher , A. Muthirakalayil Madhu , N. Rawal , D. Rosenzweig , S. Rosenzweig , K. Shi , J. Wang , Z. Wu 




















#### **Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA**

T. Adams , A. Askew , R. Habibullah , V. Hagopian , R. Khurana, T. Kolberg , G. Martinez, H. Prosper , C. Schiber, O. Viazlo , R. Yohay , J. Zhang












#### **Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida, USA**

M.M. Baarmand , S. Butalla , T. Elkafrawy<sup>85</sup> , M. Hohlmann , R. Kumar Verma , D. Noonan , M. Rahmani, F. Yumiceva 

#### **University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, Illinois, USA**

M.R. Adams , H. Becerril Gonzalez , R. Cavanaugh , S. Dittmer , O. Evdokimov , C.E. Gerber , D.J. Hofman , D. S. Lemos , A.H. Merrit , C. Mills , S. Nanda , G. Oh , T. Roy , S. Rudrabhatla , M.B. Tonjes , N. Varelas , X. Wang , Z. Ye , J. Yoo 













#### **The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA**

M. Alhusseini , K. Dilsiz<sup>86</sup> , L. Emediato , R.P. Gandrajula , O.K. Köseyan , J.-P. Merlo, A. Mestvirishvili<sup>87</sup> , J. Nachtman , H. Ogul<sup>88</sup> , Y. Onel , A. Penzo , C. Snyder, E. Tiras<sup>89</sup> 














#### **Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA**

O. Amram , B. Blumenfeld , L. Corcodilos , J. Davis , A.V. Gritsan , S. Kyriacou , P. Maksimovic , J. Roskes , M. Swartz , T.Á. Vámi 








#### **The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, USA**

A. Abreu , L.F. Alcerro Alcerro , J. Anguiano , P. Baringer , A. Bean , Z. Flowers , T. Isidori , S. Khalil , J. King , G. Krintiras , M. Lazarovits , C. Le Mahieu 



C. Lindsey, J. Marquez , N. Minafra , M. Murray , M. Nickel , C. Rogan , C. Royon , R. Salvatico , S. Sanders , E. Schmitz , C. Smith , Q. Wang , Z. Warner, J. Williams , G. Wilson 


















#### **Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA**

B. Allmond , S. Duric, R. Guju Gurunadha , A. Ivanov , K. Kaadze , D. Kim, Y. Maravin , T. Mitchell, A. Modak, K. Nam, J. Natoli , D. Roy 





















#### **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California, USA**

F. Rebassoo , D. Wright 














#### **University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA**

E. Adams , A. Baden , O. Baron, A. Belloni , S.C. Eno , N.J. Hadley , S. Jabeen , R.G. Kellogg , T. Koeth , Y. Lai , S. Lascio , A.C. Mignerey , S. Nabili , C. Palmer , C. Papageorgakis , M. Seidel , L. Wang , K. Wong 

#### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA**

D. Abercrombie, R. Bi, W. Busza , I.A. Cali , Y. Chen , M. D'Alfonso , J. Eysermans , C. Freer , G. Gomez-Ceballos , M. Goncharov, P. Harris, M. Hu , D. Kovalskyi , J. Krupa , Y.-J. Lee , K. Long , C. Mironov , C. Paus , D. Rankin , C. Roland , G. Roland , Z. Shi , G.S.F. Stephans , J. Wang, Z. Wang , B. Wyslouch 















#### **University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA**

R.M. Chatterjee, B. Crossman, A. Evans , J. Hiltbrand , Sh. Jain , B.M. Joshi , M. Krohn , Y. Kubota , J. Mans , M. Revering , R. Rusack , R. Saradhy , N. Schroeder , N. Strobbe , M.A. Wadud 

#### **University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, USA**

L.M. Cremaldi 




















#### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA**

K. Bloom , M. Bryson, S. Chauhan , D.R. Claes , C. Fangmeier , L. Finco , F. Golf , C. Joo , I. Kravchenko , I. Reed , J.E. Siado , G.R. Snow<sup>†</sup>, W. Tabb , A. Wightman , F. Yan , A.G. Zecchinelli 









#### **State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, USA**

G. Agarwal , H. Bandyopadhyay , L. Hay , I. Iashvili , A. Kharchilava , C. McLean , M. Morris, D. Nguyen , J. Pekkanen , S. Rappoccio , A. Williams 





















#### **Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

G. Alverson , E. Barberis , Y. Haddad , Y. Han , A. Krishna , J. Li , J. Lidrych , G. Madigan , B. Marzocchi , D.M. Morse , V. Nguyen , T. Orimoto , A. Parker , L. Skinnari , A. Tishelman-Charny , T. Wamorkar , B. Wang , A. Wisecarver , D. Wood 








#### **Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA**

S. Bhattacharya , J. Bueghly, Z. Chen , A. Gilbert , T. Gunter , K.A. Hahn , Y. Liu , N. Odell , M.H. Schmitt , M. Velasco




















#### **University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA**

R. Band , R. Bucci, M. Cremonesi, A. Das , R. Goldouzian , M. Hildreth , K. Hurtado Anampa , C. Jessop , K. Lannon , J. Lawrence , N. Loukas , L. Lutton , J. Mariano, N. Marinelli, I. Mcalister, T. McCauley , C. Mcgrady , K. Mohrman , C. Moore , Y. Musienko<sup>13</sup> , R. Ruchti , A. Townsend , M. Wayne , H. Yockey, M. Zarucki , L. Zygala 

**The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA**

B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin , B. Francis , C. Hill , A. Lesauvage , M. Nunez Ornelas , K. Wei, B.L. Winer , B. R. Yates 




















**Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, USA**

F.M. Addesa , B. Bonham , P. Das , G. Dezoort , P. Elmer , A. Frankenthal , B. Greenberg , N. Haubrich , S. Higginbotham , A. Kalogeropoulos , G. Kopp , S. Kwan , D. Lange , D. Marlow , K. Mei , I. Ojalvo , J. Olsen , D. Stickland , C. Tully 

**University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, USA**

S. Malik , S. Norberg
















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A.S. Bakshi , V.E. Barnes , R. Chawla , S. Das , L. Gutay, M. Jones , A.W. Jung , D. Kondratyev , A.M. Koshy, M. Liu , G. Negro , N. Neumeister , G. Paspalaki , S. Piperov , A. Purohit , J.F. Schulte , M. Stojanovic , J. Thieman , F. Wang , R. Xiao , W. Xie 












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J. Dolen , N. Parashar 


**Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA**

D. Acosta , A. Baty , T. Carnahan , M. Decaro, S. Dildick , K.M. Ecklund , S. Freed, P. Gardner, F.J.M. Geurts , A. Kumar , W. Li , B.P. Padley , R. Redjimi, J. Rotter , W. Shi , S. Yang , E. Yigitbasi , L. Zhang<sup>90</sup>, Y. Zhang , X. Zuo 















**University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA**

A. Bodek , P. de Barbaro , R. Demina , J.L. Dulemba , C. Fallon, T. Ferbel , M. Galanti, A. Garcia-Bellido , O. Hindrichs , A. Khukhunaishvili , E. Ranken , R. Taus , G.P. Van Onsem 





**The Rockefeller University, New York, New York, USA**

K. Goulianos 














**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA**

B. Chiarito, J.P. Chou , Y. Gershtein , E. Halkiadakis , A. Hart , M. Heindl , O. Karacheban<sup>25</sup> , I. Laflotte , A. Lath , R. Montalvo, K. Nash, M. Osherson , S. Salur , S. Schnetzer, S. Somalwar , R. Stone , S.A. Thayil , S. Thomas, H. Wang 



**University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA**

H. Acharya, A.G. Delannoy , S. Fiorendi , T. Holmes , S. Spanier 










**Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA**

O. Bouhali<sup>91</sup> , M. Dalchenko , A. Delgado , R. Eusebi , J. Gilmore , T. Huang , T. Kamon<sup>92</sup> , H. Kim , S. Luo , S. Malhotra, R. Mueller , D. Overton , D. Rathjens , A. Safonov 








**Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA**

N. Akchurin , J. Damgov , V. Hegde , K. Lamichhane , S.W. Lee , T. Mengke, S. Muthumuni , T. Peltola , I. Volobouev , Z. Wang, A. Whitbeck 

**Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA**

E. Appelt , S. Greene, A. Gurrola , W. Johns , A. Melo , F. Romeo , P. Sheldon , S. Tuo , J. Velkovska , J. Viinikainen 




















**University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA**

B. Cardwell , B. Cox , G. Cummings , J. Hakala , R. Hirosky , M. Joyce ,  
A. Ledovskoy , A. Li , C. Neu , C.E. Perez Lara , B. Tannenwald 

**Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, USA**

P.E. Karchin , N. Poudyal 

**University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA**

S. Banerjee , K. Black , T. Bose , S. Dasu , I. De Bruyn , P. Everaerts , C. Galloni,  
H. He , M. Herndon , A. Herve , C.K. Koraka , A. Lanaro, A. Loeliger , R. Loveless ,  
J. Madhusudanan Sreekala , A. Mallampalli , A. Mohammadi , D. Pinna, A. Savin,  
V. Shang , V. Sharma , W.H. Smith , D. Teague, W. Vetens 

**Authors affiliated with an institute or an international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN**

S. Afanasiev, V. Andreev , Yu. Andreev , T. Aushev , M. Azarkin , A. Babaev ,  
A. Belyaev , V. Blinov<sup>93</sup>, E. Boos , V. Borshch , D. Budkouski , V. Bunichev ,  
O. Bychkova, V. Chekhovsky, R. Chistov<sup>93</sup> , M. Danilov<sup>93</sup> , A. Dermenev , T. Dimova<sup>93</sup> ,  
I. Dremin , M. Dubinin<sup>83</sup> , L. Dudko , V. Epshteyn<sup>94</sup> , A. Ershov , G. Gavrilo ,  
V. Gavrilo , S. Gninenko , V. Golovtsov , N. Golubev , I. Golutvin, I. Gorbunov ,  
A. Gribushin , V. Ivanchenko , Y. Ivanov , V. Kachanov , L. Kardapoltsev<sup>93</sup> ,  
V. Karjavine , A. Karneyeu , V. Kim<sup>93</sup> , M. Kirakosyan, D. Kirpichnikov , M. Kirsanov ,  
V. Klyukhin , O. Kodolova<sup>95</sup> , D. Konstantinov , V. Korenkov , A. Kozyrev<sup>93</sup> , N. Kras-  
nikov , E. Kuznetsova<sup>96</sup>, A. Lanev , P. Levchenko , A. Litomin, N. Lychkovskaya ,  
V. Makarenko , A. Malakhov , V. Matveev<sup>93</sup> , V. Murzin , A. Nikitenko<sup>97</sup> ,  
S. Obraztsov , V. Okhotnikov , A. Oskin, I. Ovtin<sup>93</sup> , V. Palichik , P. Parygin<sup>98</sup> , V. Pere-  
lygin , S. Petrushanko , G. Pivovarov , S. Polikarpov<sup>93</sup> , V. Popov, O. Radchenko<sup>93</sup> ,  
M. Savina , V. Savrin , V. Shalae , S. Shmatov , S. Shulha , Y. Skovpen<sup>93</sup> ,  
S. Slabospitskii , V. Smirnov , D. Sosnov , A. Stepenov , V. Sulimov , E. Tcherniaev ,  
A. Terkulov , O. Teryaev , I. Tlisova , M. Toms<sup>99</sup> , A. Toropin , L. Uvarov ,  
A. Uzunian , E. Vlasov<sup>100</sup> , A. Vorobyev, N. Voytishin , B.S. Yuldashev<sup>101</sup>, A. Zarubin ,  
I. Zhizhin , A. Zhokin 

†: Deceased

<sup>1</sup>Also at Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia

<sup>2</sup>Also at TU Wien, Vienna, Austria

<sup>3</sup>Also at Institute of Basic and Applied Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Alexandria, Egypt

<sup>4</sup>Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

<sup>5</sup>Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil

<sup>6</sup>Also at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

<sup>7</sup>Also at UFMS, Nova Andradina, Brazil

<sup>8</sup>Also at The University of the State of Amazonas, Manaus, Brazil

<sup>9</sup>Also at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

<sup>10</sup>Also at Nanjing Normal University Department of Physics, Nanjing, China

<sup>11</sup>Now at The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA

<sup>12</sup>Also at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

<sup>13</sup>Also at an institute or an international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN

<sup>14</sup>Also at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

<sup>15</sup>Also at Suez University, Suez, Egypt



- 
- <sup>16</sup>Now at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt
- <sup>17</sup>Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA
- <sup>18</sup>Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France
- <sup>19</sup>Also at Department of Physics, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
- <sup>20</sup>Also at Erzincan Binali Yildirim University, Erzincan, Turkey
- <sup>21</sup>Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
- <sup>22</sup>Also at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
- <sup>23</sup>Also at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany
- <sup>24</sup>Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran
- <sup>25</sup>Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany
- <sup>26</sup>Also at Forschungszentrum Jülich, Juelich, Germany
- <sup>27</sup>Also at Physics Department, Faculty of Science, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt
- <sup>28</sup>Also at Karoly Robert Campus, MATE Institute of Technology, Gyongyos, Hungary
- <sup>29</sup>Also at Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary
- <sup>30</sup>Also at Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
- <sup>31</sup>Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
- <sup>32</sup>Now at Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai - Facultatea de Fizica, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- <sup>33</sup>Also at Faculty of Informatics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
- <sup>34</sup>Also at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India
- <sup>35</sup>Also at UPES - University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, India
- <sup>36</sup>Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
- <sup>37</sup>Also at University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India
- <sup>38</sup>Also at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India
- <sup>39</sup>Also at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, India
- <sup>40</sup>Also at IIT Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India
- <sup>41</sup>Also at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India
- <sup>42</sup>Also at Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany
- <sup>43</sup>Also at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
- <sup>44</sup>Also at Department of Physics, University of Science and Technology of Mazandaran, Behshahr, Iran
- <sup>45</sup>Also at Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt
- <sup>46</sup>Also at Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, Bologna, Italy
- <sup>47</sup>Also at Centro Siciliano di Fisica Nucleare e di Struttura Della Materia, Catania, Italy
- <sup>48</sup>Also at Scuola Superiore Meridionale, Università di Napoli 'Federico II', Napoli, Italy
- <sup>49</sup>Also at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois, USA
- <sup>50</sup>Also at Università di Napoli 'Federico II', Napoli, Italy
- <sup>51</sup>Also at Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto Officina dei Materiali, Perugia, Italy
- <sup>52</sup>Also at Department of Applied Physics, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Malaysia
- <sup>53</sup>Also at Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico City, Mexico
- <sup>54</sup>Also at IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
- <sup>55</sup>Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
- <sup>56</sup>Also at Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Nilaveli, Sri Lanka
- <sup>57</sup>Also at INFN Sezione di Pavia, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
- <sup>58</sup>Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
- <sup>59</sup>Also at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
- <sup>60</sup>Also at Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
- <sup>61</sup>Also at Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics, Vienna, Austria

<sup>62</sup>Also at Laboratoire d'Annecy-le-Vieux de Physique des Particules, IN2P3-CNRS, Annecy-le-Vieux, France

<sup>63</sup>Also at Near East University, Research Center of Experimental Health Science, Mersin, Turkey

<sup>64</sup>Also at Konya Technical University, Konya, Turkey

<sup>65</sup>Also at Izmir Bakircay University, Izmir, Turkey

<sup>66</sup>Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey

<sup>67</sup>Also at Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey

<sup>68</sup>Also at Bozok Universitetesi Rektörlüğü, Yozgat, Turkey

<sup>69</sup>Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey

<sup>70</sup>Also at Milli Savunma University, Istanbul, Turkey

<sup>71</sup>Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey

<sup>72</sup>Also at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey

<sup>73</sup>Also at Istanbul University - Cerrahpasa, Faculty of Engineering, Istanbul, Turkey

<sup>74</sup>Also at Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

<sup>75</sup>Also at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

<sup>76</sup>Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom

<sup>77</sup>Also at University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

<sup>78</sup>Also at IPPP Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

<sup>79</sup>Also at Monash University, Faculty of Science, Clayton, Australia

<sup>80</sup>Also at Università di Torino, Torino, Italy

<sup>81</sup>Also at Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

<sup>82</sup>Also at Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, Karaman, Turkey

<sup>83</sup>Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, USA

<sup>84</sup>Also at United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, USA

<sup>85</sup>Also at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

<sup>86</sup>Also at Bingol University, Bingol, Turkey

<sup>87</sup>Also at Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia

<sup>88</sup>Also at Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey

<sup>89</sup>Also at Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey

<sup>90</sup>Also at Institute of Modern Physics and Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Ion-beam Application (MOE) - Fudan University, Shanghai, China

<sup>91</sup>Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar

<sup>92</sup>Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea

<sup>93</sup>Also at another institute or international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN

<sup>94</sup>Now at Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey

<sup>95</sup>Also at Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

<sup>96</sup>Now at University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

<sup>97</sup>Also at Imperial College, London, United Kingdom

<sup>98</sup>Now at University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA

<sup>99</sup>Now at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, USA

<sup>100</sup>Now at INFN Sezione di Torino, Università di Torino, Torino, Italy; Università del Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy

<sup>101</sup>Also at Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, Tashkent, Uzbekistan