



Search for a heavy composite Majorana neutrino in the final state with two leptons and two quarks at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV



The CMS Collaboration*

CERN, Switzerland

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ABSTRACT

A search for physics beyond the standard model in the final state with two same-flavour leptons (electrons or muons) and two quarks produced in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV is presented. The data were recorded by the CMS experiment at the CERN LHC and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 2.3 fb^{-1} . The observed data are in good agreement with the standard model background prediction. The results of the measurement are interpreted in the framework of a recently proposed model in which a heavy Majorana neutrino, N_ℓ , stems from a composite-fermion scenario. Exclusion limits are set for the first time on the mass of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino, m_{N_ℓ} , and the compositeness scale Λ . For the case $m_{N_\ell} = \Lambda$, the existence of N_e (N_μ) is excluded for masses up to 4.60 (4.70) TeV at 95% confidence level.

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1. Introduction

Experimental evidence has promoted the standard model (SM) to the role of the reference theory for high-energy particle physics. Despite its successes, there are several fundamental aspects of observed particle physics that lack a complete explanation within the SM. One of these is the mass hierarchy of fermions, for which a possible solution has been offered by composite-fermion models [1–3].

In the composite-fermion scenario, quarks and leptons are assumed to have an internal substructure that should manifest itself at some sufficiently high energy scale, the compositeness scale Λ . Ordinary fermions are considered as bound states of some not yet observed fundamental constituents generically referred to as *preons*. Two model-independent properties [4–7] are experimentally relevant: the existence of a contact interaction, in addition to the gauge interaction, which represents an effective approach for describing the effects of the unknown internal dynamics of compositeness, and the existence of excited states of quarks and leptons with masses lower than or equal to Λ . A particular case of such excited states could be a heavy composite Majorana neutrino (HCMN), N_ℓ ($\ell = e, \mu, \tau$) [8–11].

In this Letter we present, for the first time, the results of a search for heavy composite Majorana neutrinos predicted in the

framework of a new model described in Ref. [12]. In that reference, the production and decay of N_ℓ are analyzed, considering both gauge and contact interactions. The total interaction is given by the coherent sum of the contact and the gauge contributions, as shown in Fig. 1. The contribution of the contact interaction to the production cross section is two to three orders of magnitude higher compared to that of the gauge interaction [12].

The contact interaction is described by an effective four-fermion Lagrangian of the type

$$\mathcal{L}_C = \frac{g_*^2}{\Lambda^2} \frac{1}{2} j^\mu j_\mu, \quad (1)$$

with

$$j_\mu = \eta_L^a \bar{f}_L \gamma_\mu f_L' + \eta_L^b \bar{f}_L^* \gamma_\mu f_L'^* + \eta_L^c \bar{f}_L^* \gamma_\mu f_L' + \text{h.c.} + (\text{L} \rightarrow \text{R}), \quad (2)$$

where f_L and f_L^* are the SM and excited left-handed fermion fields, $g_*^2 = 4\pi$, and the η factors, which define the chiral structure, are set equal to one. The gauge interaction between the SM fermions and the excited fermions is described by a magnetic-type coupling

$$\mathcal{L}_G = \frac{1}{2\Lambda} \bar{L}_R^* \sigma^{\mu\nu} \left(g f \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \cdot \vec{W}_{\mu\nu} + g' f' Y B_{\mu\nu} \right) L_L + \text{h.c.} \quad (3)$$

where L_R^* and L_L are the right-handed excited doublet and left-handed SM doublet, g and g' are the $SU(2)_L$ and $U(1)_Y$ gauge

* E-mail address: cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch.

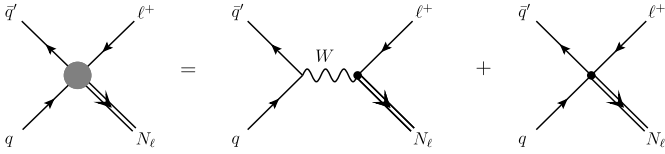


Fig. 1. Leading order diagrams representing heavy composite Majorana neutrino production. The total interaction is the coherent sum of the gauge and contact interactions. Charge-conjugate reactions are implied. See Ref. [12].

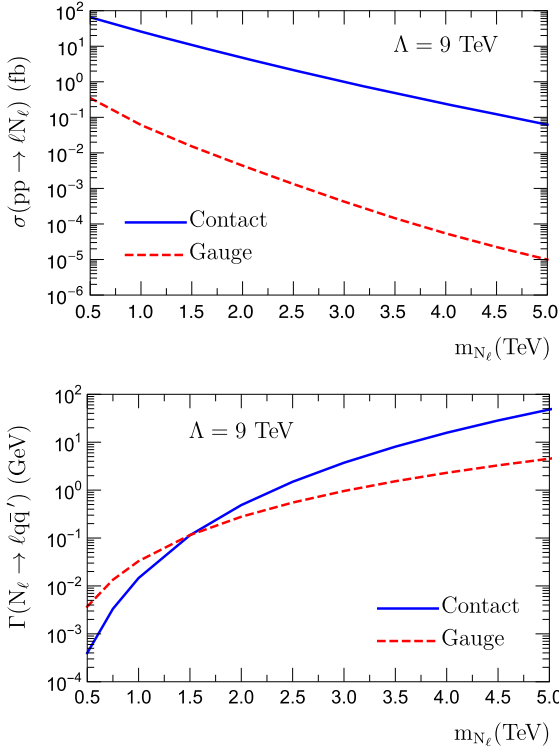


Fig. 2. Production cross section in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino via gauge and contact interactions as a function of Majorana mass at $\Lambda = 9$ TeV (top) and decay width of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino for $\Lambda = 9$ TeV as a function of its mass (bottom). The figures illustrate LO results of calculations based on Ref. [12].

couplings, $\vec{W}_{\mu\nu}$ and $B_{\mu\nu}$ are the field strengths for the $SU(2)_L$ and $U(1)_Y$ gauge fields, respectively, $\vec{\tau}$ are the Pauli matrices, Y is the weak hypercharge, and f and f' are dimensionless couplings, assumed to be 1 [7].

From the Lagrangians in Eqs. (1) and (3) we can infer that the higher the value of Λ , the lower the production cross section of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino. Since N_ℓ is its own antiparticle, it can be produced either as a neutrino or an antineutrino. In pp collisions it can be produced in association with a lepton through quark–antiquark annihilation ($q\bar{q}' \rightarrow \ell^+ N_\ell$). This process can occur via both gauge and contact interactions. The latter is dominant for a wide range of Λ values, including the ones to which we are sensitive in this search. Fig. 2 (top) shows the leading order (LO) production cross section, as a function of the N_ℓ mass, for the case $\Lambda = 9$ TeV, which is one of the values considered in this Letter whose calculation is based on Ref. [12].

The heavy composite Majorana neutrino can decay through both gauge and contact interactions. In this case, either the gauge or the contact interaction is dominant, depending on Λ and on the mass of N_ℓ , as illustrated in Fig. 2 (bottom).

Being a Majorana particle, N_ℓ can decay either as a neutrino or an antineutrino with possible decay modes:

$$N_\ell \rightarrow \ell q \bar{q}', \quad N_\ell \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- \nu_\ell (\bar{\nu}_\ell), \quad N_\ell \rightarrow \nu_\ell (\bar{\nu}_\ell) q \bar{q}',$$

where the parentheses indicate that the decay product can be a neutrino or an antineutrino. The possible final states are:

$$\ell \ell q \bar{q}', \quad \ell \ell \ell \nu_\ell (\bar{\nu}_\ell), \quad \ell \nu_\ell (\bar{\nu}_\ell) q \bar{q}'.$$

In this Letter, the final state $\ell \ell q \bar{q}'$ is considered, as it has the highest sensitivity. We focus on the cases in which ℓ is either an electron or a muon, giving rise to the channels $eeq\bar{q}'$ and $\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$.

For our analysis we use a data sample of proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV recorded in 2015 with the CMS detector at the CERN LHC, which corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 2.3 fb^{-1} [13].

Previous searches for compositeness models have been carried out at pp, $p\bar{p}$, e^+e^- , and ep colliders. The most recent results, from the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations, are given in [14,15] and exclude the existence of excited electrons (muons) up to masses of 2.45 (2.47) TeV at 95% confidence level (CL), for the case $m_{\ell^*} = \Lambda$. The search performed in the context of Ref. [12], which is discussed below, can reach a sensitivity for the existence of heavy composite Majorana neutrinos up to masses of 4.55 (4.77) TeV for N_e (N_μ), for the case $m_{\ell^*} = \Lambda$.

Direct searches for heavy neutrinos have been performed by the ATLAS [16,17] and CMS [18–21] Collaborations. These previous searches have been performed in the $\ell \ell q \bar{q}'$ ($\ell = e, \mu, \tau$) channels, considering two leptons and two spatially separated jets. However, in our case, this selection has limited acceptance for gauge boson mediated decays, for which the two jets are expected to overlap, as they originate from highly Lorentz-boosted hadronic W boson decay products. We overcome this constraint by selecting events with at least one jet with angular radius large enough to contain a merged pair of partons. Such a requirement is also highly efficient for heavy composite Majorana neutrino decays mediated by the contact interaction, where we select only one of the two decay jets, as described later in this paper. This final selection, considered for the first time in a search for heavy neutrinos, could improve the sensitivity of searches for heavy neutrinos in the framework of other models, such as the one considered in Refs. [19,20].

2. The CMS detector

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid, of 6 m internal diameter, providing a field of 3.8 T. Within the field volume are the inner tracker, the crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and the brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL). The inner tracker is composed of a pixel detector and a silicon strip tracker, and measures charged-particle trajectories in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.5$. The finely segmented ECAL consists of nearly 76 000 lead-tungstate crystals that provide coverage up to $|\eta| = 3.0$. The HCAL consists of a sampling calorimeter, which utilizes alternating layers of brass as an absorber and plastic scintillator as an active material, covering the range $|\eta| < 3$, and is extended to $|\eta| < 5$ by a forward hadron calorimeter. The muon system covers the region $|\eta| < 2.4$ and consists of up to four planes of gas ionization muon detectors installed outside the solenoid and sandwiched between the layers of the steel flux-return yoke. A detailed description of the CMS detector can be found elsewhere [22].

3. Data samples and simulation

Monte Carlo (MC) event generators are used to simulate the signal and the SM background processes. The MC samples for the signal are generated at LO with CALCHEP (v3.6) [23] for four values of the parameter Λ : 1, 5, 9, and 13 TeV and six values of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino mass: 0.5, 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, 4.5,

and 6.5 TeV, but only for the cases in which m_{N_ℓ} is lower than Λ . The signal samples produced with $\Lambda = 9$ TeV are used as reference samples in the analysis, while the samples generated with other values of Λ are used to study how the signal efficiency changes, as discussed in Section 4.

The simulations for the processes $t\bar{t}$, tW , and $\bar{t}W$ (the latter two referred as tW in the rest of the paper) are performed at next-to-the-leading order (NLO) with POWHEG (v2) [24–26], while the Drell–Yan (DY) and the W +jets samples are generated with MADGRAPH5_AMC@NLO (v5.2) [27]. The WW , WZ , and ZZ processes are produced with PYTHIA (v8.2) [28] and are normalized to NLO.

The NNPDF 3.0 [29] parton distribution functions (PDF) are used, and all simulated samples use the PYTHIA program with the CUETP8M1 tune [30] to describe parton showering and hadronization. Additional collisions in the same or adjacent bunch crossings (pileup) are taken into account by superimposing simulated minimum bias interactions onto the hard scattering process, with a number distribution matching that observed in data. Simulated events are propagated through the full GEANT4 based simulation [31] of the CMS detector.

4. Event selection

Single-lepton triggers that require either an electron with transverse momentum $p_T > 105$ GeV or a muon with $p_T > 50$ GeV within $|\eta| < 2.4$, are thus used to select events in the $eeq\bar{q}'$ and $\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$ channels, respectively. As the signal is characterized by high-momentum leptons in the final state, the difference in trigger thresholds does not affect the relative signal sensitivity.

Electrons are reconstructed as superclusters in the ECAL associated with tracks in the tracking detector [32]. Requirements on energy deposits in the calorimeter and number of track measurements are imposed to distinguish prompt electrons from charged pions and from electrons produced by photon conversions. Muons are reconstructed using the inner tracker and muon detectors [33]. Quality requirements, based on the minimum number of measurements in the silicon tracker, pixel detector, and muon detectors are applied in order to suppress backgrounds from decays in flight of hadrons and from hadron shower remnants that reach the muon system. We require exactly two electrons or exactly two muons and the two leptons must come from the same vertex. The p_T of the leading (subleading) electron is required to be higher than 110 (35) GeV; the corresponding threshold for muons is 53 (30) GeV. All lepton candidates have to be reconstructed within $|\eta| < 2.4$ and to pass isolation requirements, as specified in [32,33] in order to reduce background from misidentified jets.

Jets are reconstructed using the anti- k_T clustering algorithm [34, 35] applied to the objects reconstructed with the particle-flow (PF) algorithm [36]. The latter combines information from all CMS sub-detectors and reconstructs individual particles in the event (electrons, muons, photons, neutral and charged hadrons). Jets are reconstructed with a distance parameter of $R = 0.8$, and are referred to as “large-radius jets” (and labelled by the symbol “J”) in the rest of the text. This distance parameter is suitable for reconstructing jets that originate from both gauge and contact interactions. The large-radius jets are required to have a $p_T > 190$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.4$, and to be separated from leptons by $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} > 0.8$, where ϕ is the azimuthal angle.

Using MC signal samples we find that requiring one or more large-radius jets guarantees high signal efficiency for events with two leptons (greater than 95% for heavy composite Majorana neutrinos of masses above 1 TeV) and is suitable for N_ℓ decays through both the gauge and the contact interactions. The signal region for the search for heavy composite Majorana neutrinos is defined by requiring two leptons, selected without specifying the charge, with

invariant mass $m_{\ell\ell} > 300$ GeV and at least one large-radius jet satisfying the previously described requirements. The requirement on $m_{\ell\ell}$ is introduced in order to reduce the DY background and part of the $t\bar{t}$ background, without affecting the signal acceptance. With this selection, the total efficiency for events entering the signal region is expected to be about 50% in the $eeq\bar{q}'$ channel and 75% in the $\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$ channel, for masses of N_ℓ greater than 1 TeV and $\Lambda = 9$ TeV. We find that the total signal efficiency varies by at most 25% for signal samples produced with Λ of 1 and 13 TeV, while it changes less than 3% for signal samples generated with Λ between 5 and 13 TeV. A shape-based analysis is performed, searching for evidence of a signal by considering the distribution of the mass of the two leptons and the leading large-radius jet, $m_{\ell\ell J}$. This variable provides good discrimination between the signal and the SM background contributions, as can be seen in Fig. 4.

5. Background estimation

The dominant background process is top quark pair production, $t\bar{t}$, which is estimated together with the single top quark tW contribution. These two sources of background are always considered together in this analysis and the combination is referred to as $t\bar{t} + tW$. The estimation is performed using a control sample in data free of signal contamination. This control sample consists of $\ell\ell'q\bar{q}'$ events in which one lepton is required to be an electron and the other a muon. The acceptance and efficiency differ between muons and electrons, and we find that the overall event efficiency depends most strongly on the kinematics of the leading lepton. We therefore define samples of separate and distinct final states $e\mu J$ and $\mu e J$, where the first named lepton is the leading one, as control samples for the signal samples eeJ and $\mu\mu J$, respectively. All other requirements are the same for both the control and signal samples. We have verified that the m_{eeJ} and $m_{\mu\mu J}$ distributions are well-modelled by the corresponding $m_{e\mu J}$ and $m_{\mu e J}$ distributions using the MC samples. Fig. 3 shows good agreement between data and expectation from MC simulation for the $m_{e\mu J}$ and the $m_{\mu e J}$ distributions. Backgrounds from processes other than $t\bar{t} + tW$ in these control samples are estimated from simulation and subtracted prior to being transferred to the signal region. The final $t\bar{t} + tW$ contribution is estimated from the mass shapes of the different flavour control regions scaled to the signal regions by transfer factors. The transfer factors depend on $m_{\ell\ell J}$ and are estimated in bins corresponding to those of Fig. 3, which are then used for the final mass distributions in the signal regions. They are evaluated using MC simulation and account for differences in acceptances and efficiencies of selected $e\mu q\bar{q}'$ and $\mu e q\bar{q}'$ events of the control regions with respect to the selected $eeq\bar{q}'$ and $\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$ events of the signal regions.

The DY process gives rise to another source of background when two leptons are produced together with initial-state radiation that results in a jet. This contribution is estimated from the MC simulation normalised to data in the signal-free region around the Z boson mass peak given by $80 < M(\ell\ell) < 100$ GeV. In order to check the validity of the measured normalization factors for masses above the Z boson mass peak, we compare the data with the MC prediction in the signal-depleted region given by $100 < M(\ell\ell) < 300$ GeV. We find that the normalisation factors vary by 8% between these two mass ranges, and we use this value to assign a systematic uncertainty. The statistical and systematic uncertainties of the normalisation factor are then combined with the statistical uncertainty of the DY simulation to estimate the total systematic uncertainty.

Multijet events with at least three jets may enter the signal or control region for estimating backgrounds related to top quarks if two of these jets are misidentified as leptons. The contamina-

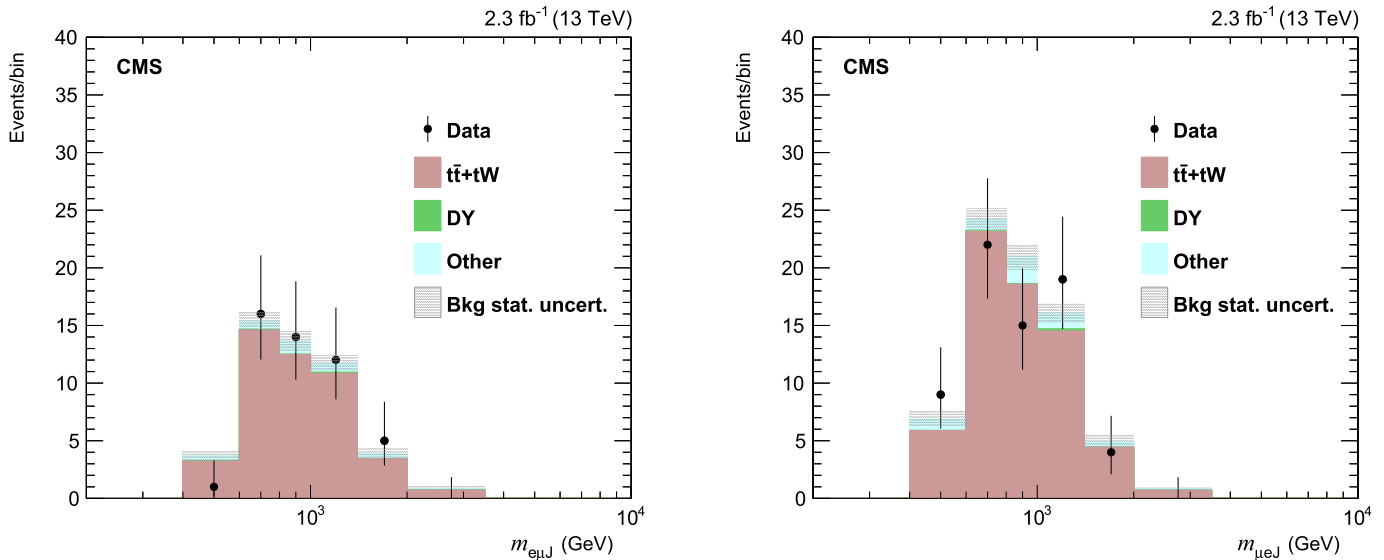


Fig. 3. Data events in the $e\mu q\bar{q}'$ control regions used to estimate the $t\bar{t} + tW$ contribution in the $eeq\bar{q}'$ (left) and $\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$ (right) channels, compared to the expectations of the background simulations. “Other” stands for the contribution from W +jets and diboson events. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

tion due to this process is found to be negligible because of the low rate at which jets are misidentified as leptons. We verify this with a method developed in the CMS search for Z' -like resonances in electron pair or muon pair final states [37]. Nonisolated lepton candidates selected from data are weighted by a correction factor to extrapolate the final contribution to the signal region. The correction factor is the rate of a nonisolated lepton to pass the full selection and is measured from data as a function of p_T and η .

The other SM backgrounds, arising from W +jets and diboson production, are small ($\sim 5\%$ of the total), and their contribution is taken directly from MC simulation.

6. Systematic uncertainties

The systematic uncertainties are taken into account through their effect on the mass distribution and the yield normalisation. The uncertainty in the calculation of the $t\bar{t} + tW$ and DY backgrounds is dominated by the statistical uncertainty of the control samples used for the estimations. The contamination from sub dominant backgrounds in these control regions has a negligible effect on the systematic uncertainty. The uncertainties related to the background estimations vary between 20 and 30% (40 and 100%) from the lowest to the highest mass bin in which the $t\bar{t} + tW$ (DY) processes contribute. The uncertainty associated with the estimation of the W +jets and diboson backgrounds, which together represent only a small fraction of the events in the signal region, has a negligible impact on the limit calculation. The uncertainty in the acceptance associated with the PDFs is evaluated in accordance with the PDF4LHC recommendations [38], using the PDF4LHC15 Hessian PDF set with 100 eigenvectors. The PDF uncertainty amounts to 10% for the DY background and 4% for the signal. Uncertainties related to the trigger, and to lepton reconstruction, identification, and isolation efficiencies are measured by dedicated analyses using $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ events [32,33] and amount on average to 3% (6%) for the background and 4% (10%) for the signal in the electron (muon) channel. The systematic uncertainty in the lepton energy scale and resolution are found to be approximately 5% (6%) for the background and 3% (4%) for the signal. The uncertainty related to jet energy scale amounts to 3% (4%) for the background of the $eeq\bar{q}'$ ($\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$) channel, and around 1% for the

Table 1

Number of events observed in data are compared to the expected background yields and those of a hypothetical heavy composite Majorana neutrino of mass 1.5 and 2.5 TeV, and $\Lambda = 9$ TeV, given for all values of $m_{\ell\ell J}$ (upper table) and for $m_{\ell\ell J} > 1.4$ TeV (lower table). The expected signal yields are computed at LO accuracy. “Other” stands for the contribution from W +jets and diboson events. The background and signal simulation yields are given with both statistical and systematic uncertainties. Statistical uncertainties given as 0.0 correspond to values much smaller than the systematical uncertainty.

Process (all $m_{\ell\ell J}$)	$eeq\bar{q}'$ (mean \pm stat \pm syst)	$\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$ (mean \pm stat \pm syst)
$t\bar{t} + tW$	$26 \pm 4 \pm 3$	$44 \pm 6 \pm 5$
Drell–Yan	$22 \pm 1 \pm 5$	$30 \pm 1 \pm 7$
Other	$3.3 \pm 0.8 \pm 0.1$	$4.7 \pm 0.9 \pm 0.4$
Total	$51 \pm 4 \pm 6$	$80 \pm 6 \pm 8$
Observed	64	88
N_ℓ (1.5 TeV)	$9.7 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.3$	$12.8 \pm 0.0 \pm 1.6$
N_ℓ (2.5 TeV)	$2.4 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.1$	$3.2 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.4$

Process ($m_{\ell\ell J} > 1.4$ TeV)	$eeq\bar{q}'$ (mean \pm stat \pm syst)	$\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$ (mean \pm stat \pm syst)
$t\bar{t} + tW$	$2.8 \pm 1.5 \pm 0.9$	$2.9 \pm 1.8 \pm 1.3$
Drell–Yan	$3.2 \pm 0.3 \pm 2.0$	$4.3 \pm 0.4 \pm 2.7$
Other	$0.36 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.04$	$0.25 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.11$
Total	$6.4 \pm 1.5 \pm 2.2$	$7.5 \pm 1.8 \pm 3.0$
Observed	8	10
N_ℓ (1.5 TeV)	$9.4 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.3$	$12.4 \pm 0.0 \pm 1.6$
N_ℓ (2.5 TeV)	$2.4 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.1$	$3.2 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.4$

signal regardless of the channel. Uncertainties related to jet energy resolution correspond to 2 and 4% for the background and the signal, respectively, in both channels. The imperfect modelling of pileup interactions leads to a systematic uncertainty of about 4% for background and 2% for signal. The uncertainty in the total integrated luminosity amounts to 2.3% for the 2015 data [13].

7. Results

Table 1 lists the estimated background yields, the total number of observed events for each channel and the number of events ex-

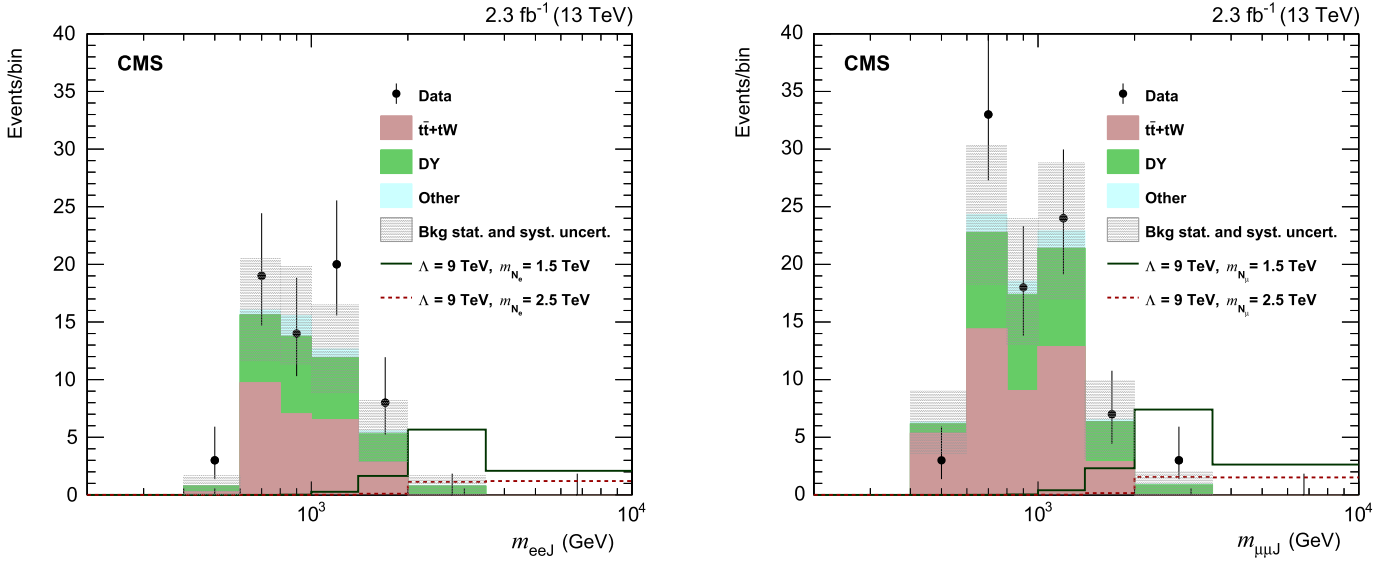


Fig. 4. Distribution of the variable $m_{\ell\ell j}$ for the data (black points), the estimated SM backgrounds (stacked filled histograms), and the signal (lines) with $\Lambda = 9$ TeV and masses of N_{ℓ} equal to 1.5 and 2.5 TeV, for the $ee\bar{q}\bar{q}$ (left) and the $\mu\mu q\bar{q}$ (right) channels. “Other” stands for the contribution from W+jets and diboson events. The background uncertainties are the combined statistical and systematic uncertainties. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

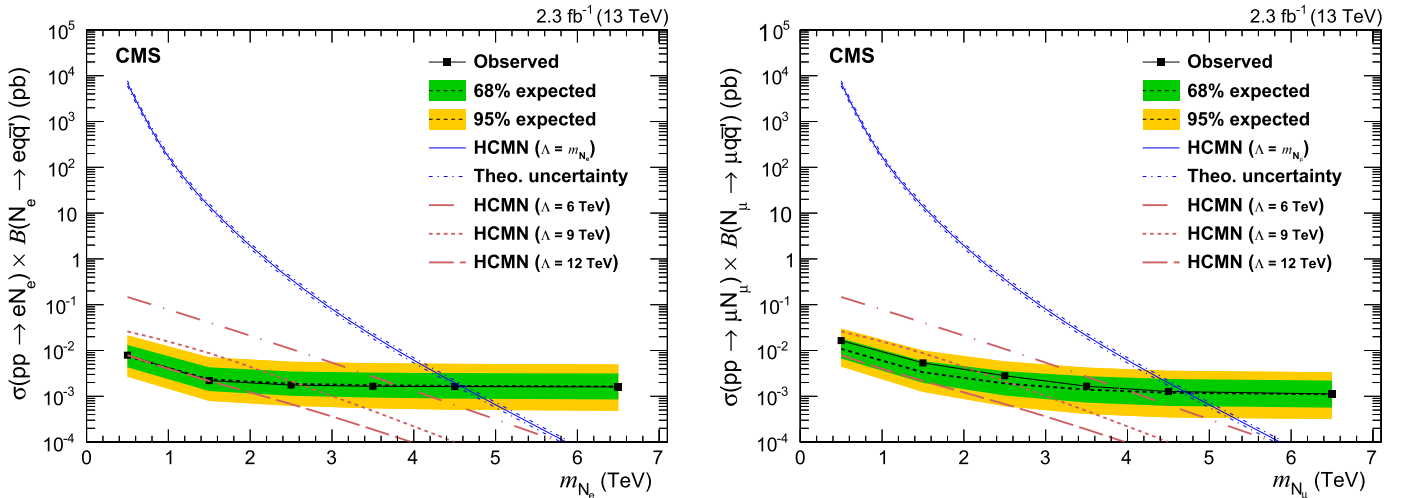


Fig. 5. The observed 95% CL upper limits (solid black lines) on $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \ell N_{\ell}) \mathcal{B}(N_{\ell} \rightarrow \ell q\bar{q}')$, obtained in the analysis of the $ee\bar{q}\bar{q}'$ (left) and the $\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$ (right) final states, as a function of the mass of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino, N_{ℓ} . The corresponding expected limits are shown by the dotted lines, and the bands represent the expected variation of the limit to one and two standard deviation(s). The solid blue curve indicates the theoretical prediction of $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \ell N_{\ell}) \mathcal{B}(N_{\ell} \rightarrow \ell q\bar{q}')$ for $\Lambda = m_{N_{\ell}}$. The uncertainty in the theoretical prediction is derived by taking into account the factorization and normalization scales. The light red textured curves give the theoretical predictions for three Λ values ranging from 6 to 12 TeV in steps of 3 TeV. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

pected for the signal, considering $\Lambda = 9$ TeV and two hypotheses for the masses of N_{ℓ} : 1.5 and 2.5 TeV. Table 1 (upper) shows the number of events integrated over all values of the reconstructed mass, while Table 1 (lower) shows the agreement for the high sensitivity region above 1.4 TeV.

Distributions of $m_{\ell\ell j}$ are shown in Fig. 4, where the data are compared with the estimated SM backgrounds and two different signal hypotheses are superimposed. The figures are for the $ee\bar{q}\bar{q}'$ (left) and $\mu\mu q\bar{q}'$ (right) channels. The uncertainties on the background estimation are the combination of the statistical and the systematic uncertainties.

The observations are in agreement with the background expectations from the SM. We use a modified frequentist CL_s criterion [39,40] to set an upper limit at 95% CL on the product cross section for production of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino

produced in association with a lepton and the branching fraction for the N_{ℓ} decay to a same-flavour lepton and two quarks, $(pp \rightarrow \ell N_{\ell}) \mathcal{B}(N_{\ell} \rightarrow \ell q\bar{q}')$. We also set upper limits on the compositeness scale Λ . The $m_{\ell\ell j}$ distributions for the MC signal, SM backgrounds, and observed data are used as input in the limit computation together with the systematic uncertainties discussed in Section 6, which are treated as uncorrelated among the bins of the mass distribution, if they are related to the background estimations, and correlated otherwise.

The observed and expected upper limits on $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \ell N_{\ell}) \times \mathcal{B}(N_{\ell} \rightarrow \ell q\bar{q}')$ as a function of the mass of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino are shown in Fig. 5. The bands represent expected variations of the limit to one and two standard deviation(s). The solid blue curve indicates the theoretical prediction of $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \ell N_{\ell}) \mathcal{B}(N_{\ell} \rightarrow \ell q\bar{q}')$ for $m_{N_{\ell}} = \Lambda$, while the light red

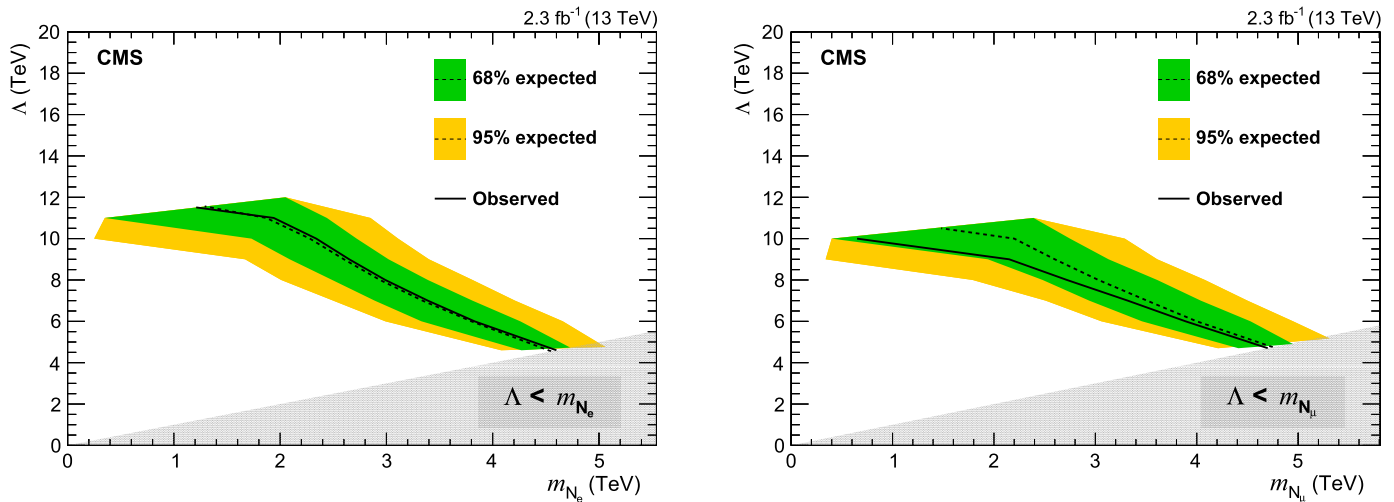


Fig. 6. The observed 95% CL lower limits (solid black lines) on the compositeness scale Λ , obtained in the analysis of the $eeq\bar{q}$ (left) and the $\mu\mu q\bar{q}$ (right) final states, as a function of the mass of the heavy composite Majorana neutrino, N_ℓ . The dotted lines represent the corresponding expected limits and the bands, the expected variation to one and two standard deviation(s). The grey zone represents the phase space $\Lambda < m_{N_\ell}$, which is not allowed by the model.

textured curves show the same theoretical prediction for three Λ values ranging from 6 to 12 TeV. The corresponding exclusion limits on the compositeness scale Λ are displayed in Fig. 6. At low N_ℓ masses, values of the compositeness scale Λ can be excluded up to 11.5 and 10.0 TeV in the $eeq\bar{q}$ and $\mu\mu q\bar{q}$ channel, respectively. The sensitivity to Λ decreases at higher masses of N_ℓ . For the case of $m_{N_\ell} = \Lambda$, the resulting exclusion limits on m_{N_ℓ} are up to 4.60 (4.55) TeV in the $eeq\bar{q}$ channel and 4.70 (4.75) TeV in the $\mu\mu q\bar{q}$ channel, considering the observation (SM expectation). When deriving these limits, we assume that the signal efficiency is independent of Λ . This hypothesis has been validated for signal samples produced with Λ between 5 and 13 TeV, while for samples with Λ lower than 5 TeV the difference can be up to 25%. Despite this difference, the whole region in Fig. 6 remains excluded because of the much higher cross section for lower Λ points. We further verify that the upper limits on m_{N_ℓ} for a given Λ value vary at most by 5% comparing the cases in which the MC signal $m_{\ell\ell}$ distributions produced with Λ equal to 5 and 13 TeV are used as input in the limit calculation.

8. Summary

A search for physics beyond the standard model has been performed in the framework of a new model [12] predicting a heavy Majorana neutrino, N_ℓ , that originates from a composite-fermion scenario and is produced in association with a matched-flavour charged lepton. The measurement is performed analysing the final state with two leptons, selected without specifying the charge, and at least one large-radius jet, a signature not previously utilized in searches for heavy neutrinos. The data set used corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 2.3 fb^{-1} collected with the CMS detector at the LHC in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$. Good agreement between the data and the standard model prediction is observed. Upper limits are set at 95% confidence level both on the product of the cross section $\sigma(\text{pp} \rightarrow \ell N_\ell)$ and the branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(N_\ell \rightarrow \ell q\bar{q})$, and on the compositeness scale Λ , as a function of m_{N_ℓ} , ℓ being an electron or a muon. For the representative case $\Lambda = m_{N_\ell}$, N_e masses up to 4.60 TeV and N_μ masses up to 4.70 TeV are excluded. This measurement represents the first search that places constraints on the model described in Ref. [12].

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The CMS Collaboration

A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

W. Adam, F. Ambrogio, E. Asilar, T. Bergauer, J. Brandstetter, E. Brondolin, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, M. Flechl, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth¹, V.M. Ghete, J. Grossmann, N. Hörmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler¹, A. König, I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, T. Madlener, I. Mikulec, E. Pree, D. Rabady, N. Rad, H. Rohringer, J. Schieck¹, R. Schöfbeck, M. Spanring, D. Spitzbart, J. Strauss, W. Waltenberger, J. Wittmann, C.-E. Wulz¹, M. Zarucki

Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Wien, Austria

V. Chekhovsky, V. Mossolov, J. Suarez Gonzalez

Institute for Nuclear Problems, Minsk, Belarus

E.A. De Wolf, X. Janssen, J. Lauwers, M. Van De Klundert, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, N. Van Remortel, A. Van Spilbeek

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

S. Abu Zeid, F. Blekman, J. D'Hondt, I. De Bruyn, J. De Clercq, K. Deroover, G. Flouris, S. Lowette, S. Moortgat, L. Moreels, A. Olbrechts, Q. Python, K. Skovpen, S. Tavernier, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders, I. Van Parijs

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

H. Brun, B. Clerbaux, G. De Lentdecker, H. Delannoy, G. Fasanella, L. Favart, R. Goldouzian, A. Grebenyuk, G. Karapostoli, T. Lenzi, J. Luetic, T. Maerschalk, A. Marinov, A. Randle-conde, T. Seva, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, D. Vannerom, R. Yonamine, F. Zenoni, F. Zhang²

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

A. Cimmino, T. Cornelis, D. Dobur, A. Fagot, M. Gul, I. Khvastunov, D. Poyraz, S. Salva, M. Tytgat, W. Verbeke, N. Zaganidis

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

H. Bakhshiansohi, O. Bondu, S. Brochet, G. Bruno, A. Caudron, S. De Visscher, C. Delaere, M. Delcourt, B. Francois, A. Giammanco, A. Jafari, M. Komm, G. Krintiras, V. Lemaitre, A. Magitteri, A. Mertens, M. Musich, K. Piotrkowski, L. Quertenmont, M. Vidal Marono, S. Wertz

Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

N. Belyi

Université de Mons, Mons, Belgium

W.L. Aldá Júnior, F.L. Alves, G.A. Alves, L. Brito, C. Hensel, A. Moraes, M.E. Pol, P. Rebello Teles

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

E. Belchior Batista Das Chagas, W. Carvalho, J. Chinellato³, A. Custódio, E.M. Da Costa, G.G. Da Silveira⁴, D. De Jesus Damiao, S. Fonseca De Souza, L.M. Huertas Guativa, H. Malbouisson, M. Melo De Almeida, C. Mora Herrera, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, A. Santoro, A. Sznajder, E.J. Tonelli Manganote³, F. Torres Da Silva De Araujo, A. Vilela Pereira

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

S. Ahuja^a, C.A. Bernardes^a, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei^a, E.M. Gregores^b, P.G. Mercadante^b, C.S. Moon^a, S.F. Novaes^a, Sandra S. Padula^a, D. Romero Abad^b, J.C. Ruiz Vargas^a

^a *Universidade Estadual Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil*

^b *Universidade Federal do ABC, São Paulo, Brazil*

A. Aleksandrov, R. Hadjiiska, P. Iaydjiev, M. Misheva, M. Rodozov, S. Stoykova, G. Sultanov, M. Vutova

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy of Bulgaria Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

A. Dimitrov, I. Glushkov, L. Litov, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria

W. Fang⁵, X. Gao⁵

Beihang University, Beijing, China

M. Ahmad, J.G. Bian, G.M. Chen, H.S. Chen, M. Chen, Y. Chen, C.H. Jiang, D. Leggat, Z. Liu, F. Romeo, S.M. Shaheen, A. Spiezia, J. Tao, C. Wang, Z. Wang, E. Yazgan, H. Zhang, J. Zhao

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China

Y. Ban, G. Chen, Q. Li, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, D. Wang, Z. Xu

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

C. Avila, A. Cabrera, L.F. Chaparro Sierra, C. Florez, C.F. González Hernández, J.D. Ruiz Alvarez

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, I. Puljak, P.M. Ribeiro Cipriano, T. Sculac

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

Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac

University of Split, Faculty of Science, Split, Croatia

V. Brigljevic, D. Ferencek, K. Kadija, B. Mesic, T. Susa

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia

M.W. Ather, A. Attikis, G. Mavromanolakis, J. Mousa, C. Nicolaou, F. Ptochos, P.A. Razis, H. Rykaczewski

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

M. Finger⁶, M. Finger Jr.⁶

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

E. Carrera Jarrin

Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador

Y. Assran^{7,8}, M.A. Mahmoud^{9,8}, A. Mahrous¹⁰

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt

R.K. Dewanjee, M. Kadastik, L. Perrini, M. Raidal, A. Tiko, C. Veelken

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia

P. Eerola, J. Pekkanen, M. Voutilainen

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

J. Härkönen, T. Järvinen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominiemi, E. Tuovinen

Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland

J. Talvitie, T. Tuuva

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland

M. Besancon, F. Couderc, M. Dejardin, D. Denegri, J.L. Faure, F. Ferri, S. Ganjour, S. Ghosh, A. Givernaud, P. Gras, G. Hamel de Monchenault, P. Jarry, I. Kucher, E. Locci, M. Machet, J. Malcles, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, M.Ö. Sahin, M. Titov

IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

A. Abdulsalam, I. Antropov, S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, P. Busson, L. Cadamuro, C. Charlot, O. Davignon, R. Granier de Cassagnac, M. Jo, S. Lisniak, A. Lobanov, M. Nguyen, C. Ochando, G. Ortona, P. Paganini, P. Pigard, S. Regnard, R. Salerno, Y. Sirois, A.G. Stahl Leiton, T. Strebler, Y. Yilmaz, A. Zabi, A. Zghiche

Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole polytechnique, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Palaiseau, France

J.-L. Agram¹¹, J. Andrea, D. Bloch, J.-M. Brom, M. Buttignol, E.C. Chabert, N. Chanon, C. Collard, E. Conte¹¹, X. Coubez, J.-C. Fontaine¹¹, D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, A.-C. Le Bihan, P. Van Hove

Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67000 Strasbourg, France

S. Gadrat

Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucleaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France

S. Beauceron, C. Bernet, G. Boudoul, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, B. Courbon, P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fay, L. Finco, S. Gascon, M. Gouzevitch, G. Grenier, B. Ille, F. Lagarde, I.B. Laktineh, M. Lethuillier, L. Mirabito, A.L. Pequegnot, S. Perries, A. Popov¹², V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, S. Viret

Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS-IN2P3, Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon, Villeurbanne, France

T. Toriashvili¹³

Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Z. Tsamalaidze⁶

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

C. Autermann, S. Beranek, L. Feld, M.K. Kiesel, K. Klein, M. Lipinski, M. Preuten, C. Schomakers, J. Schulz, T. Verlage

RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany

A. Albert, M. Brodski, E. Dietz-Laursonn, D. Duchardt, M. Endres, M. Erdmann, S. Erdweg, T. Esch, R. Fischer, A. Güth, M. Hamer, T. Hebbeker, C. Heidemann, K. Hoepfner, S. Knutzen, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, P. Millet, S. Mukherjee, M. Olschewski, K. Padeken, T. Pook, M. Radziej, H. Reithler, M. Rieger, F. Scheuch, L. Sonnenschein, D. Teyssier, S. Thüer

RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany

G. Flügge, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, A. Künsken, J. Lingemann, T. Müller, A. Nehr Korn, A. Nowack, C. Pistone, O. Pooth, A. Stahl¹⁴

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

M. Aldaya Martin, T. Arndt, C. Asawatrangkuldee, K. Beernaert, O. Behnke, U. Behrens, A.A. Bin Anuar, K. Borras¹⁵, V. Botta, A. Campbell, P. Connor, C. Contreras-Campana, F. Costanza, C. Diez Pardos, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, T. Eichhorn, E. Eren, E. Gallo¹⁶, J. Garay Garcia, A. Geiser, A. Gizhko, J.M. Grados Luyando, A. Grohsjean, P. Gunnellini, A. Harb, J. Hauk, M. Hempel¹⁷, H. Jung, A. Kalogeropoulos, M. Kasemann, J. Keaveney, C. Kleinwort, I. Korol, D. Krücker, W. Lange, A. Lelek, T. Lenz, J. Leonard, K. Lipka, W. Lohmann¹⁷, R. Mankel, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, G. Mittag, J. Mnich, A. Mussgiller, E. Ntomari, D. Pitzl, R. Placakyte, A. Raspereza, B. Roland, M. Savitskyi, P. Saxena, R. Shevchenko, S. Spannagel, N. Stefaniuk, G.P. Van Onsem, R. Walsh, Y. Wen, K. Wichmann, C. Wissing, O. Zenaiev

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

S. Bein, V. Blobel, M. Centis Vignali, A.R. Draeger, T. Dreyer, E. Garutti, D. Gonzalez, J. Haller, M. Hoffmann, A. Junkes, R. Klanner, R. Kogler, N. Kovalchuk, S. Kurz, T. Lapsien, I. Marchesini, D. Marconi, M. Meyer, M. Niedziela, D. Nowatschin, F. Pantaleo¹⁴, T. Peiffer, A. Perieanu, C. Scharf, P. Schleper, A. Schmidt, S. Schumann, J. Schwandt, J. Sonneveld, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, F.M. Stober, M. Stöver, H. Tholen, D. Troendle, E. Usai, L. Vanelderren, A. Vanhoefer, B. Vormwald

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

M. Akbiyik, C. Barth, S. Baur, C. Baus, J. Berger, E. Butz, R. Caspart, T. Chwalek, F. Colombo, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, B. Freund, R. Friese, M. Giffels, A. Gilbert, D. Haitz, F. Hartmann¹⁴, S.M. Heindl, U. Husemann, F. Kassel¹⁴, S. Kudella, H. Mildner, M.U. Mozer, Th. Müller, M. Plagge, G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, M. Schröder, I. Shvetsov, G. Sieber, H.J. Simonis, R. Ulrich, S. Wayand, M. Weber, T. Weiler,

S. Williamson, C. Wöhrmann, R. Wolf

Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany

G. Anagnostou, G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, V.A. Giakoumopoulou, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, I. Topsis-Giotis

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

S. Kesiosoglou, A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

I. Evangelou, C. Foudas, P. Kokkas, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, E. Paradas, J. Strologas, F.A. Triantis

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece

M. Csanad, N. Filipovic, G. Pasztor

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

G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, D. Horvath¹⁸, F. Sikler, V. Veszpremi, G. Vesztergombi¹⁹, A.J. Zsigmond

Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary

N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Karancsi²⁰, A. Makovec, J. Molnar, Z. Szillasi

Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary

M. Bartók¹⁹, P. Raics, Z.L. Trocsanyi, B. Ujvari

Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

S. Choudhury, J.R. Komaragiri

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India

S. Bahinipati²¹, S. Bhowmik, P. Mal, K. Mandal, A. Nayak²², D.K. Sahoo²¹, N. Sahoo, S.K. Swain

National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, India

S. Bansal, S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, U. Bhawandeep, R. Chawla, N. Dhingra, A.K. Kalsi, A. Kaur, M. Kaur, R. Kumar, P. Kumari, A. Mehta, M. Mittal, J.B. Singh, G. Walia

Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Ashok Kumar, Aashaq Shah, A. Bhardwaj, S. Chauhan, B.C. Choudhary, R.B. Garg, S. Keshri, A. Kumar, S. Malhotra, M. Naimuddin, K. Ranjan, R. Sharma, V. Sharma

University of Delhi, Delhi, India

R. Bhardwaj, R. Bhattacharya, S. Bhattacharya, S. Dey, S. Dutt, S. Dutta, S. Ghosh, N. Majumdar, A. Modak, K. Mondal, S. Mukhopadhyay, S. Nandan, A. Purohit, A. Roy, D. Roy, S. Roy Chowdhury, S. Sarkar, M. Sharan, S. Thakur

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, HBNI, Kolkata, India

P.K. Behera

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Madras, India

R. Chudasama, D. Dutta, V. Jha, V. Kumar, A.K. Mohanty¹⁴, P.K. Netrakanti, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla, A. Topkar

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India

T. Aziz, S. Dugad, B. Mahakud, S. Mitra, G.B. Mohanty, B. Parida, N. Sur, B. Sutar

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-A, Mumbai, India

S. Banerjee, S. Bhattacharya, S. Chatterjee, P. Das, M. Guchait, Sa. Jain, S. Kumar, M. Maity²³, G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, T. Sarkar²³, N. Wickramage²⁴

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-B, Mumbai, India

S. Chauhan, S. Dube, V. Hegde, A. Kapoor, K. Kothekar, S. Pandey, A. Rane, S. Sharma

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

S. Chenarani²⁵, E. Eskandari Tadavani, S.M. Etesami²⁵, M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, M. Naseri, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi²⁶, F. Rezaei Hosseinabadi, B. Safarzadeh²⁷, M. Zeinali

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

M. Felcini, M. Grunewald

University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

M. Abbrescia^{a,b}, C. Calabria^{a,b}, C. Caputo^{a,b}, A. Colaleo^a, D. Creanza^{a,c}, L. Cristella^{a,b}, N. De Filippis^{a,c}, M. De Palma^{a,b}, L. Fiore^a, G. Iaselli^{a,c}, G. Maggi^{a,c}, M. Maggi^a, G. Miniello^{a,b}, S. My^{a,b}, S. Nuzzo^{a,b}, A. Pompili^{a,b}, G. Pugliese^{a,c}, R. Radogna^{a,b}, A. Ranieri^a, G. Selvaggi^{a,b}, A. Sharma^a, L. Silvestris^{a,14}, R. Venditti^a, P. Verwilligen^a

^a INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy

^b Università di Bari, Bari, Italy

^c Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy

G. Abbiendi^a, C. Battilana, D. Bonacorsi^{a,b}, S. Braibant-Giacomelli^{a,b}, L. Brigliadori^{a,b}, R. Campanini^{a,b}, P. Capiluppi^{a,b}, A. Castro^{a,b}, F.R. Cavallo^a, S.S. Chhibra^{a,b}, G. Codispoti^{a,b}, M. Cuffiani^{a,b}, G.M. Dallavalle^a, F. Fabbri^a, A. Fanfani^{a,b}, D. Fasanella^{a,b}, P. Giacomelli^a, L. Guiducci^{a,b}, S. Marcellini^a, G. Masetti^a, F.L. Navarria^{a,b}, A. Perrotta^a, A.M. Rossi^{a,b}, T. Rovelli^{a,b}, G.P. Siroli^{a,b}, N. Tosi^{a,b,14}

^a INFN Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

^b Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

S. Albergo^{a,b}, S. Costa^{a,b}, A. Di Mattia^a, F. Giordano^{a,b}, R. Potenza^{a,b}, A. Tricomi^{a,b}, C. Tuve^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy

^b Università di Catania, Catania, Italy

G. Barbagli^a, K. Chatterjee^{a,b}, V. Ciulli^{a,b}, C. Civinini^a, R. D'Alessandro^{a,b}, E. Focardi^{a,b}, P. Lenzi^{a,b}, M. Meschini^a, S. Paoletti^a, L. Russo^{a,28}, G. Sguazzoni^a, D. Strom^a, L. Viliani^{a,b,14}

^a INFN Sezione di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

^b Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

L. Benussi, S. Bianco, F. Fabbri, D. Piccolo, F. Primavera¹⁴

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy

V. Calvelli^{a,b}, F. Ferro^a, E. Robutti^a, S. Tosi^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy

^b Università di Genova, Genova, Italy

L. Brianza^{a,b}, F. Brivio^{a,b}, V. Ciriolo^{a,b}, M.E. Dinardo^{a,b}, S. Fiorendi^{a,b}, S. Gennai^a, A. Ghezzi^{a,b}, P. Govoni^{a,b}, M. Malberti^{a,b}, S. Malvezzi^a, R.A. Manzoni^{a,b}, D. Menasce^a, L. Moroni^a, M. Paganoni^{a,b}, K. Pauwels^{a,b}, D. Pedrini^a, S. Pigazzini^{a,b,29}, S. Ragazzi^{a,b}, T. Tabarelli de Fatis^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

^b Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

S. Buontempo^a, N. Cavallo^{a,c}, S. Di Guida^{a,d,14}, F. Fabozzi^{a,c}, F. Fienga^{a,b}, A.O.M. Iorio^{a,b}, W.A. Khan^a, L. Lista^a, S. Meola^{a,d,14}, P. Paolucci^{a,14}, C. Sciacca^{a,b}, F. Thyssen^a

^a INFN Sezione di Napoli, Napoli, Italy

^b Università di Napoli 'Federico II', Napoli, Italy

^c Università della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy

^d Università G. Marconi, Roma, Italy

P. Azzi^{a,14}, N. Bacchetta^a, L. Benato^{a,b}, A. Boletti^{a,b}, R. Carlin^{a,b}, A. Carvalho Antunes De Oliveira^{a,b}, P. Checchia^a, M. Dall'Osso^{a,b}, P. De Castro Manzano^a, T. Dorigo^a, S. Fantinel^a, F. Fanzago^a, U. Gasparini^{a,b}, F. Gonella^a, A. Gozzelino^a, S. Lacaprara^a, M. Margoni^{a,b}, A.T. Meneguzzo^{a,b}, N. Pozzobon^{a,b}, P. Ronchese^{a,b}, R. Rossin^{a,b}, F. Simonetto^{a,b}, E. Torassa^a, M. Zanetti^{a,b}, P. Zotto^{a,b}, G. Zumerle^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Padova, Padova, Italy

^b Università di Padova, Padova, Italy

^c Università di Trento, Trento, Italy

A. Braghieri^a, F. Fallavollita^{a,b}, A. Magnani^{a,b}, P. Montagna^{a,b}, S.P. Ratti^{a,b}, V. Re^a, M. Ressegotti, C. Riccardi^{a,b}, P. Salvini^a, I. Vai^{a,b}, P. Vitulo^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Pavia, Pavia, Italy

^b Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy

L. Alunni Solestizi^{a,b}, G.M. Bilei^a, D. Ciangottini^{a,b}, L. Fanò^{a,b}, P. Lariccia^{a,b}, R. Leonardi^{a,b}, G. Mantovani^{a,b}, V. Mariani^{a,b}, M. Menichelli^a, O. Panella^a, A. Saha^a, A. Santocchia^{a,b}, D. Spiga^a

^a INFN Sezione di Perugia, Perugia, Italy

^b Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy

K. Androsov^a, P. Azzurri^{a,14}, G. Bagliesi^a, J. Bernardini^a, T. Boccali^a, L. Borrello, R. Castaldi^a, M.A. Ciocci^{a,b}, R. Dell'Orso^a, G. Fedi^a, A. Giassi^a, M.T. Grippo^{a,28}, F. Ligabue^{a,c}, T. Lomtadze^a, L. Martini^{a,b}, A. Messineo^{a,b}, F. Palla^a, A. Rizzi^{a,b}, A. Savoy-Navarro^{a,30}, P. Spagnolo^a, R. Tenchini^a, G. Tonelli^{a,b}, A. Venturi^a, P.G. Verdini^a

^a INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

^b Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

^c Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

L. Barone^{a,b}, F. Cavallari^a, M. Cipriani^{a,b}, D. Del Re^{a,b,14}, M. Diemoz^a, S. Gelli^{a,b}, E. Longo^{a,b}, F. Margaroli^{a,b}, B. Marzocchi^{a,b}, P. Meridiani^a, G. Organtini^{a,b}, R. Paramatti^{a,b}, F. Preiato^{a,b}, S. Rahatlou^{a,b}, C. Rovelli^a, F. Santanastasio^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Roma, Rome, Italy

^b Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy

N. Amapane^{a,b}, R. Arcidiacono^{a,c,14}, S. Argiro^{a,b}, M. Arneodo^{a,c}, N. Bartosik^a, R. Bellan^{a,b}, C. Biino^a, N. Cartiglia^a, F. Cenna^{a,b}, M. Costa^{a,b}, R. Covarelli^{a,b}, A. Degano^{a,b}, N. Demaria^a, B. Kiani^{a,b}, C. Mariotti^a, S. Maselli^a, E. Migliore^{a,b}, V. Monaco^{a,b}, E. Monteil^{a,b}, M. Monteno^a, M.M. Obertino^{a,b}, L. Pacher^{a,b}, N. Pastrone^a, M. Pelliccioni^a, G.L. Pinna Angioni^{a,b}, F. Ravera^{a,b}, A. Romero^{a,b}, M. Ruspa^{a,c}, R. Sacchi^{a,b}, K. Shchelina^{a,b}, V. Sola^a, A. Solano^{a,b}, A. Staiano^a, P. Traczyk^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Torino, Torino, Italy

^b Università di Torino, Torino, Italy

^c Università del Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy

S. Belforte^a, M. Casarsa^a, F. Cossutti^a, G. Della Ricca^{a,b}, A. Zanetti^a

^a INFN Sezione di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

^b Università di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

D.H. Kim, G.N. Kim, M.S. Kim, J. Lee, S. Lee, S.W. Lee, Y.D. Oh, S. Sekmen, D.C. Son, Y.C. Yang

Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Republic of Korea

A. Lee

Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, Republic of Korea

H. Kim, D.H. Moon, G. Oh

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

J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, J. Goh, T.J. Kim

Hanyang University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

S. Cho, S. Choi, Y. Go, D. Gyun, S. Ha, B. Hong, Y. Jo, Y. Kim, K. Lee, K.S. Lee, S. Lee, J. Lim, S.K. Park, Y. Roh

Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

J. Almond, J. Kim, J.S. Kim, H. Lee, K. Lee, K. Nam, S.B. Oh, B.C. Radburn-Smith, S.h. Seo, U.K. Yang, H.D. Yoo, G.B. Yu

Seoul National University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

M. Choi, H. Kim, J.H. Kim, J.S.H. Lee, I.C. Park, G. Ryu

University of Seoul, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Y. Choi, C. Hwang, J. Lee, I. Yu

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Republic of Korea

V. Dudenas, A. Juodagalvis, J. Vaitkus

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

I. Ahmed, Z.A. Ibrahim, M.A.B. Md Ali ³¹, F. Mohamad Idris ³², W.A.T. Wan Abdullah, M.N. Yusli, Z. Zolkapli

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

H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, I. Heredia-De La Cruz ³³, R. Lopez-Fernandez, J. Mejia Guisao, A. Sanchez-Hernandez

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

S. Carrillo Moreno, C. Oropeza Barrera, F. Vazquez Valencia

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico

I. Pedraza, H.A. Salazar Ibarguen, C. Uribe Estrada

Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico

A. Morelos Pineda

Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

D. Krofcheck

University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

P.H. Butler

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

A. Ahmad, M. Ahmad, Q. Hassan, H.R. Hoorani, A. Saddique, M.A. Shah, M. Shoaib, M. Waqas

National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

H. Bialkowska, M. Bluj, B. Boimska, T. Frueboes, M. Górski, M. Kazana, K. Nawrocki, K. Romanowska-Rybinska, M. Szleper, P. Zalewski

National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland

K. Bunkowski, A. Byszuk³⁴, K. Doroba, A. Kalinowski, M. Konecki, J. Krolikowski, M. Misiura, M. Olszewski, A. Pyskir, M. Walczak

Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

P. Bargassa, C. Beirão Da Cruz E Silva, B. Calpas, A. Di Francesco, P. Faccioli, M. Gallinaro, J. Hollar, N. Leonardo, L. Lloret Iglesias, M.V. Nemallapudi, J. Seixas, O. Toldaiev, D. Vadrucchio, J. Varela

Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal

S. Afanasiev, P. Bunin, M. Gavrilenko, I. Golutvin, I. Gorbunov, A. Kamenev, V. Karjavin, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, V. Matveev^{35,36}, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, S. Shmatov, S. Shulha, N. Skatchkov, V. Smirnov, N. Voytishin, A. Zarubin

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia

Y. Ivanov, V. Kim³⁷, E. Kuznetsova³⁸, P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev

Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia

Yu. Andreev, A. Dermenev, S. Gninenko, N. Golubev, A. Karneyeu, M. Kirsanov, N. Krasnikov, A. Pashenkov, D. Tlisov, A. Toropin

Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia

V. Epshteyn, V. Gavrillov, N. Lychkovskaya, V. Popov, I. Pozdnyakov, G. Safronov, A. Spiridonov, A. Stepenov, M. Toms, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia

T. Aushev, A. Bylinkin³⁶

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow, Russia

P. Parygin, D. Philippov, V. Rusinov

National Research Nuclear University, 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia

V. Andreev, M. Azarkin³⁶, I. Dremin³⁶, M. Kirakosyan, A. Terkulov

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia

A. Baskakov, A. Belyaev, E. Boos, M. Dubinin³⁹, L. Dudko, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, V. Klyukhin, O. Kodolova, I. Lokhtin, I. Miagkov, S. Obraztsov, S. Petrushanko, V. Savrin, A. Snigirev

Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

V. Blinov⁴⁰, Y. Skovpen⁴⁰, D. Shtol⁴⁰

Novosibirsk State University (NSU), Novosibirsk, Russia

I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, D. Elumakhov, V. Kachanov, A. Kalinin, D. Konstantinov, V. Krychkin, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, A. Sobol, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia

P. Adzic⁴¹, P. Cirkovic, D. Devetak, M. Dordevic, J. Milosevic, V. Rekovic

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

J. Alcaraz Maestre, M. Barrio Luna, M. Cerrada, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, A. Escalante Del Valle, C. Fernandez Bedoya, J.P. Fernández Ramos, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, P. Garcia-Abia, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, A. Pérez-Calero Yzquierdo, J. Puerta Pelayo, A. Quintario Olmeda, I. Redondo, L. Romero, M.S. Soares, A. Álvarez Fernández

Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain

J.F. de Trocóniz, M. Missiroli, D. Moran

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

J. Cuevas, C. Erice, J. Fernandez Menendez, I. Gonzalez Caballero, J.R. González Fernández, E. Palencia Cortezon, S. Sanchez Cruz, I. Suárez Andrés, P. Vischia, J.M. Vizán García

Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain

I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, B. Chazin Quero, E. Curras, M. Fernandez, J. Garcia-Ferrero, G. Gomez, A. Lopez Virto, J. Marco, C. Martinez Rivero, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, F. Matorras, J. Piedra Gomez, T. Rodrigo, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, N. Trevisani, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC-Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain

D. Abbaneo, E. Auffray, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, M. Bianco, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, C. Botta, T. Camporesi, R. Castello, M. Cepeda, G. Cerminara, E. Chapon, Y. Chen, D. d'Enterria, A. Dabrowski, V. Daponte, A. David, M. De Gruttola, A. De Roeck, E. Di Marco⁴², M. Dobson, B. Dorney, T. du Pree, M. Dünser, N. Dupont, A. Elliott-Peisert, P. Everaerts, G. Franzoni, J. Fulcher, W. Funk, D. Gigi, K. Gill, F. Glege, D. Gulhan, S. Gundacker, M. Guthoff, P. Harris, J. Hegeman, V. Innocente, P. Janot, O. Karacheban¹⁷, J. Kieseler, H. Kirschenmann, V. Knünz, A. Kornmayer¹⁴, M.J. Kortelainen, C. Lange, P. Lecoq, C. Lourenço, M.T. Lucchini, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, A. Martelli, F. Meijers, J.A. Merlin, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, P. Milenovic⁴³, F. Moortgat, M. Mulders, H. Neugebauer, S. Orfanelli, L. Orsini, L. Pape, E. Perez, M. Peruzzi, A. Petrilli, G. Petrucciani, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, A. Racz, T. Reis, G. Rolandi⁴⁴, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, J.B. Sauvan, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, M. Seidel, M. Selvaggi, A. Sharma, P. Silva, P. Sphicas⁴⁵, J. Steggemann, M. Stoye, M. Tosi, D. Treille, A. Triossi, A. Tsirou, V. Veckalns⁴⁶, G.I. Veres¹⁹, M. Verweij, N. Wardle, W.D. Zeuner

CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland

W. Bertl[†], K. Deiters, W. Erdmann, R. Horisberger, Q. Ingram, H.C. Kaestli, D. Kotlinski, U. Langenegger, T. Rohe, S.A. Wiederkehr

Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland

F. Bachmair, L. Bäni, P. Berger, L. Bianchini, B. Casal, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, C. Grab, C. Heidegger, D. Hits, J. Hoss, G. Kasieczka, T. Klijnsma, W. Lustermann, B. Mangano, M. Marionneau, M.T. Meinhard, D. Meister, F. Micheli, P. Musella, F. Nessi-Tedaldi, F. Pandolfi, J. Pata, F. Pauss, G. Perrin,

L. Perrozzi, M. Quittnat, M. Rossini, M. Schönenberger, L. Shchutska, A. Starodumov⁴⁷, V.R. Tavolaro, K. Theofilatos, M.L. Vesterbacka Olsson, R. Wallny, A. Zagodzinska³⁴, D.H. Zhu

Institute for Particle Physics, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

T.K. Aarrestad, C. AMSler⁴⁸, L. Caminada, M.F. Canelli, A. De Cosa, S. Donato, C. Galloni, A. Hinzmann, T. Hreus, B. Kilminster, J. Ngadiuba, D. Pinna, G. Rauco, P. Robmann, D. Salerno, C. Seitz, A. Zucchetta

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

V. Candelise, T.H. Doan, Sh. Jain, R. Khurana, M. Konyushikhin, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, A. Pozdnyakov, S.S. Yu

National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan

Arun Kumar, P. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, P.H. Chen, F. Fiori, W.-S. Hou, Y. Hsiung, Y.F. Liu, R.-S. Lu, M. Miñano Moya, E. Paganis, A. Psallidas, J.f. Tsai

National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan

B. Asavapibhop, K. Kovitangoon, G. Singh, N. Srimanobhas

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

A. Adiguzel⁴⁹, M.N. Bakirci⁵⁰, F. Boran, S. Cerci⁵¹, S. Damarseckin, Z.S. Demiroglu, C. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, Y. Guler, I. Hos⁵², E.E. Kangal⁵³, O. Kara, A. Kayis Topaksu, U. Kiminsu, M. Oglakci, G. Onengut⁵⁴, K. Ozdemir⁵⁵, B. Tali⁵¹, S. Turkcapar, I.S. Zorbakir, C. Zorbilmez

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

B. Bilin, G. Karapinar⁵⁶, K. Ocalan⁵⁷, M. Yalvac, M. Zeyrek

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey

E. Gülmez, M. Kaya⁵⁸, O. Kaya⁵⁹, S. Tekten, E.A. Yetkin⁶⁰

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

M.N. Agaras, S. Atay, A. Cakir, K. Cankocak

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

B. Grynyov

Institute for Scintillation Materials of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kharkov, Ukraine

L. Levchuk, P. Sorokin

National Scientific Center, Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, Kharkov, Ukraine

R. Aggleton, F. Ball, L. Beck, J.J. Brooke, D. Burns, E. Clement, D. Cussans, H. Flacher, J. Goldstein, M. Grimes, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, J. Jacob, L. Kreczko, C. Lucas, D.M. Newbold⁶¹, S. Paramesvaran, A. Poll, T. Sakuma, S. Seif El Nasr-storey, D. Smith, V.J. Smith

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

K.W. Bell, A. Belyaev⁶², C. Brew, R.M. Brown, L. Calligaris, D. Cieri, D.J.A. Cockerill, J.A. Coughlan, K. Harder, S. Harper, E. Olaiya, D. Petyt, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous, A. Thea, I.R. Tomalin, T. Williams

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom

M. Baber, R. Bainbridge, S. Breeze, O. Buchmuller, A. Bundock, S. Casasso, M. Citron, D. Colling, L. Corpe, P. Dauncey, G. Davies, A. De Wit, M. Della Negra, R. Di Maria, P. Dunne, A. Elwood, D. Futyan, Y. Haddad, G. Hall, G. Iles, T. James, R. Lane, C. Laner, L. Lyons, A.-M. Magnan, S. Malik, L. Mastrolorenzo, T. Matsushita, J. Nash, A. Nikitenko⁴⁷, J. Pela, M. Pesaresi, D.M. Raymond, A. Richards, A. Rose, E. Scott,

C. Seez, A. Shtipliyski, S. Summers, A. Tapper, K. Uchida, M. Vazquez Acosta⁶³, T. Virdee¹⁴,
D. Winterbottom, J. Wright, S.C. Zenz

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom

J.E. Cole, P.R. Hobson, A. Khan, P. Kyberd, I.D. Reid, P. Symonds, L. Teodorescu, M. Turner

Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom

A. Borzou, K. Call, J. Dittmann, K. Hatakeyama, H. Liu, N. Pastika

Baylor University, Waco, USA

R. Bartek, A. Dominguez

Catholic University of America, Washington DC, USA

A. Buccilli, S.I. Cooper, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio, C. West

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA

D. Arcaro, A. Avetisyan, T. Bose, D. Gastler, D. Rankin, C. Richardson, J. Rohlf, L. Sulak, D. Zou

Boston University, Boston, USA

G. Benelli, D. Cutts, A. Garabedian, J. Hakala, U. Heintz, J.M. Hogan, K.H.M. Kwok, E. Laird, G. Landsberg,
Z. Mao, M. Narain, S. Piperov, S. Sagir, R. Syarif, D. Yu

Brown University, Providence, USA

R. Band, C. Brainerd, D. Burns, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, M. Chertok, J. Conway, R. Conway,
P.T. Cox, R. Erbacher, C. Flores, G. Funk, M. Gardner, W. Ko, R. Lander, C. Mclean, M. Mulhearn, D. Pellett,
J. Pilot, S. Shalhout, M. Shi, J. Smith, M. Squires, D. Stolp, K. Tos, M. Tripathi, Z. Wang

University of California, Davis, Davis, USA

M. Bachtis, C. Bravo, R. Cousins, A. Dasgupta, A. Florent, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, N. Mccoll, D. Saltzberg,
C. Schnaible, V. Valuev

University of California, Los Angeles, USA

E. Bouvier, K. Burt, R. Clare, J. Ellison, J.W. Gary, S.M.A. Ghiasi Shirazi, G. Hanson, J. Heilman, P. Jandir,
E. Kennedy, F. Lacroix, O.R. Long, M. Olmedo Negrete, M.I. Paneva, A. Shrinivas, W. Si, H. Wei,
S. Wimpenny, B.R. Yates

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA

J.G. Branson, G.B. Cerati, S. Cittolin, M. Derdzinski, B. Hashemi, A. Holzner, D. Klein, G. Kole, V. Krutelyov,
J. Letts, I. Macneill, M. Masciovecchio, D. Olivito, S. Padhi, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon,
M. Tadel, A. Vartak, S. Wasserbaech⁶⁴, J. Wood, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, G. Zevi Della Porta

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA

N. Amin, R. Bhandari, J. Bradmiller-Feld, C. Campagnari, A. Dishaw, V. Dutta, M. Franco Sevilla, C. George,
F. Golf, L. Gouskos, J. Gran, R. Heller, J. Incandela, S.D. Mullin, A. Ovcharova, H. Qu, J. Richman, D. Stuart,
I. Suarez, J. Yoo

University of California, Santa Barbara – Department of Physics, Santa Barbara, USA

D. Anderson, J. Bendavid, A. Bornheim, J.M. Lawhorn, H.B. Newman, T. Nguyen, C. Pena, M. Spiropulu,
J.R. Vlimant, S. Xie, Z. Zhang, R.Y. Zhu

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA

M.B. Andrews, T. Ferguson, T. Mudholkar, M. Paulini, J. Russ, M. Sun, H. Vogel, I. Vorobiev, M. Weinberg

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA

J.P. Cumalat, W.T. Ford, F. Jensen, A. Johnson, M. Krohn, S. Leontsinis, T. Mulholland, K. Stenson, S.R. Wagner

University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, USA

J. Alexander, J. Chaves, J. Chu, S. Dittmer, K. McDermott, N. Mirman, J.R. Patterson, A. Rinkevicius, A. Ryd, L. Skinnari, L. Soffi, S.M. Tan, Z. Tao, J. Thom, J. Tucker, P. Wittich, M. Zientek

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, G. Apollinari, A. Apresyan, A. Apyan, S. Banerjee, L.A.T. Bauerdick, A. Beretvas, J. Berryhill, P.C. Bhat, G. Bolla, K. Burkett, J.N. Butler, A. Canepa, H.W.K. Cheung, F. Chlebana, M. Cremonesi, J. Duarte, V.D. Elvira, J. Freeman, Z. Gecse, E. Gottschalk, L. Gray, D. Green, S. Grünendahl, O. Gutsche, R.M. Harris, S. Hasegawa, J. Hirschauer, Z. Hu, B. Jayatilaka, S. Jindariani, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, B. Klima, B. Kreis, S. Lammel, D. Lincoln, R. Lipton, M. Liu, T. Liu, R. Lopes De Sá, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, N. Magini, J.M. Marraffino, S. Maruyama, D. Mason, P. McBride, P. Merkel, S. Mrenna, S. Nahn, V. O'Dell, K. Pedro, O. Prokofyev, G. Rakness, L. Ristori, B. Schneider, E. Sexton-Kennedy, A. Soha, W.J. Spalding, L. Spiegel, S. Stoynev, J. Strait, N. Strobbe, L. Taylor, S. Tkaczyk, N.V. Tran, L. Uplegger, E.W. Vaandering, C. Vernieri, M. Verzocchi, R. Vidal, M. Wang, H.A. Weber, A. Whitbeck

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA

D. Acosta, P. Avery, P. Bortignon, A. Brinkerhoff, A. Carnes, M. Carver, D. Curry, S. Das, R.D. Field, I.K. Furic, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov, K. Kotov, P. Ma, K. Matchev, H. Mei, G. Mitselmakher, D. Rank, D. Sperka, N. Terentyev, L. Thomas, J. Wang, S. Wang, J. Yelton

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA

Y.R. Joshi, S. Linn, P. Markowitz, G. Martinez, J.L. Rodriguez

Florida International University, Miami, USA

A. Ackert, T. Adams, A. Askew, S. Hagopian, V. Hagopian, K.F. Johnson, T. Kolberg, T. Perry, H. Prosper, A. Santra, R. Yohay

Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA

M.M. Baarmand, V. Bhopatkar, S. Colafranceschi, M. Hohlmann, D. Noonan, T. Roy, F. Yumiceva

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA

M.R. Adams, L. Apanasevich, D. Berry, R.R. Betts, R. Cavanaugh, X. Chen, O. Evdokimov, C.E. Gerber, D.A. Hangal, D.J. Hofman, K. Jung, J. Kamin, I.D. Sandoval Gonzalez, M.B. Tonjes, H. Trauger, N. Varelas, H. Wang, Z. Wu, J. Zhang

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

B. Bilki⁶⁵, W. Clarida, K. Dilsiz⁶⁶, S. Durgut, R.P. Gandrajula, M. Haytmyradov, V. Khristenko, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya⁶⁷, A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, H. Ogul⁶⁸, Y. Onel, F. Ozok⁶⁹, A. Penzo, C. Snyder, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, K. Yi

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA

B. Blumenfeld, A. Cocoros, N. Eminizer, D. Fehling, L. Feng, A.V. Gritsan, P. Maksimovic, J. Roskes, U. Sarica, M. Swartz, M. Xiao, C. You

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

A. Al-bataineh, P. Baringer, A. Bean, S. Boren, J. Bowen, J. Castle, S. Khalil, A. Kropivnitskaya, D. Majumder, W. Mcbrayer, M. Murray, C. Royon, S. Sanders, E. Schmitz, R. Stringer, J.D. Tapia Takaki, Q. Wang

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA

A. Ivanov, K. Kaadze, Y. Maravin, A. Mohammadi, L.K. Saini, N. Skhirtladze, S. Toda

Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA

F. Rebassoo, D. Wright

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA

C. Anelli, A. Baden, O. Baron, A. Belloni, B. Calvert, S.C. Eno, C. Ferraioli, N.J. Hadley, S. Jabeen, G.Y. Jeng, R.G. Kellogg, J. Kunkle, A.C. Mignerey, F. Ricci-Tam, Y.H. Shin, A. Skuja, S.C. Tonwar

University of Maryland, College Park, USA

D. Abercrombie, B. Allen, V. Azzolini, R. Barbieri, A. Baty, R. Bi, S. Brandt, W. Busza, I.A. Cali, M. D'Alfonso, Z. Demiragli, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, D. Hsu, Y. Iiyama, G.M. Innocenti, M. Klute, D. Kovalskyi, Y.S. Lai, Y.-J. Lee, A. Levin, P.D. Luckey, B. Maier, A.C. Marini, C. McGinn, C. Mironov, S. Narayanan, X. Niu, C. Paus, C. Roland, G. Roland, J. Salfeld-Nebgen, G.S.F. Stephans, K. Tatar, D. Velicanu, J. Wang, T.W. Wang, B. Wyslouch

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

A.C. Benvenuti, R.M. Chatterjee, A. Evans, P. Hansen, S. Kalafut, S.C. Kao, Y. Kubota, Z. Lesko, J. Mans, S. Nourbakhsh, N. Ruckstuhl, R. Rusack, N. Tambe, J. Turkewitz

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

J.G. Acosta, S. Oliveros

University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA

E. Avdeeva, K. Bloom, D.R. Claes, C. Fangmeier, R. Gonzalez Suarez, R. Kamalieddin, I. Kravchenko, J. Monroy, J.E. Siado, G.R. Snow, B. Stieger

University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Lincoln, USA

M. Alyari, J. Dolen, A. Godshalk, C. Harrington, I. Iashvili, D. Nguyen, A. Parker, S. Rappoccio, B. Roozbahani

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA

G. Alverson, E. Barberis, A. Hortiangtham, A. Massironi, D.M. Morse, D. Nash, T. Orimoto, R. Teixeira De Lima, D. Trocino, R.-J. Wang, D. Wood

Northeastern University, Boston, USA

S. Bhattacharya, O. Charaf, K.A. Hahn, N. Mucia, N. Odell, B. Pollack, M.H. Schmitt, K. Sung, M. Trovato, M. Velasco

Northwestern University, Evanston, USA

N. Dev, M. Hildreth, K. Hurtado Anampa, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, N. Kellams, K. Lannon, N. Loukas, N. Marinelli, F. Meng, C. Mueller, Y. Musienko³⁵, M. Planer, A. Reinsvold, R. Ruchti, G. Smith, S. Taroni, M. Wayne, M. Wolf, A. Woodard

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA

J. Alimena, L. Antonelli, B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, S. Flowers, B. Francis, A. Hart, C. Hill, W. Ji, B. Liu, W. Luo, D. Puigh, B.L. Winer, H.W. Wulsin

The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA

A. Benaglia, S. Cooperstein, O. Driga, P. Elmer, J. Hardenbrook, P. Hebda, D. Lange, J. Luo, D. Marlow, K. Mei, I. Ojalvo, J. Olsen, C. Palmer, P. Piroué, D. Stickland, A. Svyatkovskiy, C. Tully

Princeton University, Princeton, USA

S. Malik, S. Norberg

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA

A. Barker, V.E. Barnes, S. Folgueras, L. Gutay, M.K. Jha, M. Jones, A.W. Jung, A. Khatiwada, D.H. Miller, N. Neumeister, J.F. Schulte, J. Sun, F. Wang, W. Xie

Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA

T. Cheng, N. Parashar, J. Stupak

Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, USA

A. Adair, B. Akgun, Z. Chen, K.M. Ecklund, F.J.M. Geurts, M. Guilbaud, W. Li, B. Michlin, M. Northup, B.P. Padley, J. Roberts, J. Rorie, Z. Tu, J. Zabel

Rice University, Houston, USA

A. Bodek, P. de Barbaro, R. Demina, Y.t. Duh, T. Ferbel, M. Galanti, A. Garcia-Bellido, J. Han, O. Hindrichs, A. Khukhunaishvili, K.H. Lo, P. Tan, M. Verzetti

University of Rochester, Rochester, USA

R. Ciesielski, K. Goulianos, C. Mesropian

The Rockefeller University, New York, USA

A. Agapitos, J.P. Chou, Y. Gershtein, T.A. Gómez Espinosa, E. Halkiadakis, M. Heindl, E. Hughes, S. Kaplan, R. Kunnawalkam Elayavalli, S. Kyriacou, A. Lath, R. Montalvo, K. Nash, M. Osherson, H. Saka, S. Salur, S. Schnetzer, D. Sheffield, S. Somalwar, R. Stone, S. Thomas, P. Thomassen, M. Walker

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

M. Foerster, J. Heideman, G. Riley, K. Rose, S. Spanier, K. Thapa

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

O. Bouhali⁷⁰, A. Castaneda Hernandez⁷⁰, A. Celik, M. Dalchenko, M. De Mattia, A. Delgado, S. Dildick, R. Eusebi, J. Gilmore, T. Huang, T. Kamon⁷¹, R. Mueller, Y. Pakhotin, R. Patel, A. Perloff, L. Perniè, D. Rathjens, A. Safonov, A. Tatarinov, K.A. Ulmer

Texas A&M University, College Station, USA

N. Akchurin, J. Damgov, F. De Guio, P.R. Duderø, J. Faulkner, E. Gурpinar, S. Kunori, K. Lamichhane, S.W. Lee, T. Libeiro, T. Peltola, S. Undleeb, I. Volobouev, Z. Wang

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA

S. Greene, A. Gurrola, R. Janjam, W. Johns, C. Maguire, A. Melo, H. Ni, P. Sheldon, S. Tuo, J. Velkovska, Q. Xu

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA

M.W. Arenton, P. Barria, B. Cox, R. Hirosky, A. Ledovskoy, H. Li, C. Neu, T. Sinthuprasith, X. Sun, Y. Wang, E. Wolfe, F. Xia

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA

C. Clarke, R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, J. Sturdy, S. Zaleski

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

D.A. Belknap, J. Buchanan, C. Caillol, S. Dasu, L. Dodd, S. Duric, B. Gomber, M. Grothe, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, U. Hussain, P. Klabbers, A. Lanaro, A. Levine, K. Long, R. Loveless, G.A. Pierro, G. Polese, T. Ruggles, A. Savin, N. Smith, W.H. Smith, D. Taylor, N. Woods

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI, USA

† Deceased.

¹ Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria.

² Also at State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China.

³ Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil.

⁴ Also at Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil.

⁵ Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium.

⁶ Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia.

⁷ Also at Suez University, Suez, Egypt.

⁸ Now at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt.

⁹ Also at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt.

¹⁰ Now at Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt.

¹¹ Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France.

¹² Also at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

¹³ Also at Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

¹⁴ Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland.

¹⁵ Also at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany.

¹⁶ Also at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.

¹⁷ Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany.

¹⁸ Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary.

¹⁹ Also at MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

²⁰ Also at Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary.

²¹ Also at Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India.

²² Also at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India.

²³ Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India.

²⁴ Also at University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.

²⁵ Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran.

²⁶ Also at Yazd University, Yazd, Iran.

²⁷ Also at Plasma Physics Research Center, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.

²⁸ Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy.

²⁹ Also at INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca; Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy.

³⁰ Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA.

³¹ Also at International Islamic University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

³² Also at Malaysian Nuclear Agency, MOSTI, Kajang, Malaysia.

³³ Also at Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico city, Mexico.

³⁴ Also at Warsaw University of Technology, Institute of Electronic Systems, Warsaw, Poland.

³⁵ Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia.

³⁶ Now at National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia.

³⁷ Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

³⁸ Also at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.

³⁹ Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA.

⁴⁰ Also at Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk, Russia.

⁴¹ Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.

⁴² Also at INFN Sezione di Roma; Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy.

⁴³ Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia.

⁴⁴ Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell'INFN, Pisa, Italy.

⁴⁵ Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece.

⁴⁶ Also at Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia.

⁴⁷ Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia.

⁴⁸ Also at Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics, Bern, Switzerland.

⁴⁹ Also at Istanbul University, Faculty of Science, Istanbul, Turkey.

⁵⁰ Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey.

⁵¹ Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey.

⁵² Also at Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey.

- ⁵³ Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey.
- ⁵⁴ Also at Cag University, Mersin, Turkey.
- ⁵⁵ Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁵⁶ Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey.
- ⁵⁷ Also at Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey.
- ⁵⁸ Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁵⁹ Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey.
- ⁶⁰ Also at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁶¹ Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom.
- ⁶² Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom.
- ⁶³ Also at Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, La Laguna, Spain.
- ⁶⁴ Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, USA.
- ⁶⁵ Also at Beykent University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁶⁶ Also at Bingol University, Bingol, Turkey.
- ⁶⁷ Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey.
- ⁶⁸ Also at Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey.
- ⁶⁹ Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁷⁰ Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar.
- ⁷¹ Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Republic of Korea.