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Measurement of the inelastic proton-proton cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

The CMS collaboration

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

Abstract: A measurement of the inelastic proton-proton cross section with the CMS detector at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13\,\text{TeV}$ is presented. The analysis is based on events with energy deposits in the forward calorimeters, which cover pseudorapidities of $-6.6 < \eta < -3.0$ and $+3.0 < \eta < +5.2$. An inelastic cross section of $68.6 \pm 0.5(\text{syst}) \pm 1.6(\text{lumi})\,\text{mb}$ is obtained for events with $M_\text{X} > 4.1\,\text{GeV}$ and/or $M_\text{Y} > 13\,\text{GeV}$, where M_X and M_Y are the masses of the diffractive dissociation systems at negative and positive pseudorapidities, respectively. The results are compared with those from other experiments as well as to predictions from high-energy hadron-hadron interaction models.

Keywords: Forward physics, Hadron-Hadron scattering (experiments)

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Contents

1 Introduction

Inclusive hadron-hadron cross sections are fundamental observables in high-energy particle, nuclear, and cosmic ray physics, and have been measured in experiments covering many orders of magnitude in center-of-mass energy, $\sqrt{s}$. The hadron-hadron cross section can be decomposed into elastic and inelastic contributions (including diffractive and nondiffractive topologies), each of which can be described by nonperturbative phenomenological models, based on general principles such as unitarity and analyticity [1]. These models have, however, large uncertainties when extrapolating existing data to higher center-of-mass energies [2–4], and need to be constrained by measurements.

Precise measurements of the proton-proton (pp) cross sections at CERN LHC energies provide valuable input for phenomenological hadronic interaction models, as well as for the tuning of Monte Carlo (MC) event generators used in collider [5–9] and cosmic ray physics [10]. The value of the inelastic pp cross section, σ_{inel}, is also used in the estimation of the number of simultaneous pp interactions occurring in the same beam-bunch crossing (henceforward referred to as "pileup") and is thus an important quantity to properly control the backgrounds in pp collision events measured at the LHC. It is also a crucial ingredient of Glauber models used to describe high-energy nuclear collisions [11].

At $\sqrt{s} = 7\,\text{TeV}$, there have been several pp cross section measurements at the LHC. The CMS Collaboration has measured an inelastic pp cross section of $60.2 \pm 0.2\,(\text{stat}) \pm$

1.1 (syst) ± 2.4 (lumi) mb for $\xi = M^2/s > 5 \times 10^{-6}$ (corresponding to $M > 15.7\,\text{GeV}$) [12]. The phase space region for which this measurement was obtained excludes elastic and diffractive proton dissociation events with very low invariant mass of the dissociation system, M being the invariant mass of the larger of the two diffractive dissociation systems. The ATLAS [13] and ALICE [14] Collaborations measured the inelastic pp cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 7\,\text{TeV}$ in the same phase space and reported consistent values. Several collaborations have extrapolated their measurements to the full inelastic phase space. The values reported for the total inelastic pp cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 7\,\text{TeV}$ range from 66.9 ± 5.3 to $73.7 \pm 3.4\,\text{mb}$ [13–19]. The TOTEM Collaboration, in particular, derived the inelastic cross section by exploiting the optical theorem, thereby avoiding model-dependent extrapolations for the low-mass diffraction contribution. A value of $73.2 \pm 1.3\,\text{mb}$ was obtained [18].

At $\sqrt{s} = 8\,\text{TeV}$, the TOTEM Collaboration also measured the total, elastic, and inelastic pp cross sections [20], reporting a value of $\sigma_{\text{inel}} = 74.7 \pm 1.7\,\text{mb}$.

At $\sqrt{s} = 13\,\text{TeV}$, the ATLAS Collaboration reported a measurement of the inelastic pp cross section of $68.1 \pm 0.6\,(\text{syst}) \pm 1.3\,(\text{lumi})\,\text{mb}$ for $\xi > 10^{-6}$ (corresponding to $M > 13\,\text{GeV}$) [21]. This value has been extrapolated to the total inelastic phase space, yielding $\sigma_{\text{inel}} = 78.1 \pm 0.6\,(\text{syst}) \pm 1.3\,(\text{lumi}) \pm 2.6\,(\text{extr})\,\text{mb}$, with the last number being the extrapolation uncertainty. Finally, the TOTEM Collaboration obtained a value for the inelastic cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13\,\text{TeV}$ of $\sigma_{\text{inel}} = 79.5 \pm 1.8\,(\text{syst})\,\text{mb}$ [22].

This paper presents a new measurement of the inelastic cross section in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13\,\text{TeV}$. Data collected with the CMS forward calorimeters HF and CASTOR, described in section 2 and covering pseudorapidities $-6.6 < \eta < -3.0$ and $+3.0 < \eta < +5.2$, are analyzed. These detectors provide sensitivity to a large part of the total inelastic cross section, including diffractive events with dissociated protons that produce particles only at forward rapidity, with the exception of low-mass diffraction and events that happen to have rapidity gaps in the regions covered, including central exclusive production, e.g., diffractive dissociation mediated via double pomeron exchange. The fiducial cross section is therefore measured in a phase space region excluding fractional momentum losses of the scattered protons $\xi_\text{X} = M_\text{X}^2/s < 10^{-7}$ and $\xi_\text{Y} = M_\text{Y}^2/s < 10^{-6}$, corresponding to $M_\text{X} < 4.1\,\text{GeV}$ and $M_\text{Y} < 13\,\text{GeV}$, where M_X and M_Y are defined as the invariant masses of the dissociated proton systems with negative and positive pseudorapidities, respectively. The use of the CASTOR forward calorimeter allows the extension of this type of measurement to a low mass region so far unexplored.

2 The CMS detector

CMS uses a right-handed coordinate system, with the origin at the nominal interaction point, the x axis pointing to the center of the LHC, the y axis pointing up (perpendicular to the LHC plane), and the z axis along the anticlockwise-beam direction.

The central feature of the CMS apparatus [23] is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of $B = 3.8\,\text{T}$ parallel to the beams. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker (covering $|\eta| < 2.5$), a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter ($|\eta| < 3$) , and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter ($|\eta| < 3$), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections.

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Extensive forward calorimetry complements the coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors. The forward hadron (HF) calorimeters are located on each side of the detector, covering the range $3.0 < |\eta| < 5.2$, and are each composed of 18 steel azimuthal (ϕ) wedges, with embedded quartz fibers running parallel to the beam direction. Each wedge is subdivided into 13 segments in η, called towers. The very forward angles are covered at one end of CMS ($-6.6 < \eta < -5.2$) by the CASTOR calorimeter [24]. This detector, consisting of tungsten absorbers and quartz detection planes, is segmented in 16 ϕ-sectors and into 2 electromagnetic and 12 hadronic modules along the beam line, corresponding to a total of 224 cells. For operational reasons the CASTOR calorimeter was only partially included in the detector setup during the run periods considered in this analysis, and the data with CASTOR included were taken with the solenoid switched off ($B = 0\,\mathrm{T}$).

A more detailed description of the CMS detector can be found in ref. [23].

3 Physics models

Various Monte Carlo event generators are used to correct the measured cross section for acceptance and instrumental effects, as well as to compare the final results to different hadron-hadron interaction model predictions.

The PYTHIA MC generator [5, 6] uses the Donnachie-Landshoff (DL) parametrization [2] for the total hadron-hadron cross section, and provides different approaches to determine the elastic and diffractive contributions (unless stated otherwise, the default Schuler-Sjöstrand (SS) model [3, 4] is used). The difference between the total cross section and the sum of the elastic and diffractive cross sections is used to normalize the non-diffractive part, which is generated through a regularization of perturbative multi-parton interaction cross sections. Event samples are generated with different underlying event tunes: the Z2* [25] tune is used for the PYTHIA 6 (version 6.426) sample, while PYTHIA 8 (version 8.205) samples are generated with the Monash [26] and CUETP8M1 [27] tunes. These differ in the parameters used to describe initial- and final-state parton showers, multi-parton interactions, and hadronization. Samples are generated with the Monash DL (using the Donnachie-Landshoff diffraction model [28]) and Minimum-Bias-Rockefeller (MBR) [29] tunes. The MBR approach is based on a phenomenological renormalized Regge theory [30, 31].

Two models based on Regge-Gribov phenomenology [32, 33], including the Abramowski-Gribov-Kancheli cutting rules [34], are also used: EPOS [7] (version 1.99) with its LHC tune and QGSJET-II (version 04) [8, 9].

4 Event selection and reconstruction

4.1 Event selection

This analysis is based on pp collision data collected with the CMS detector in 2015 at $\sqrt{s} = 13\,\mathrm{TeV}$, during several running periods with low pileup. Runs for which the solenoid was off ($B = 0\,\mathrm{T}$), as well as runs with the solenoid at its nominal field strength ($B = 3.8\,\mathrm{T}$) are analyzed. The former runs, with CASTOR included in the detector setup, are used because of its larger acceptance for inelastic collisions.

The total integrated luminosity recorded in these runs amounts to 40.8 (28.0) μb^{-1} for $B = 3.8\,$T ($B = 0\,$T). The measurement of the integrated luminosity for the $B = 3.8\,$T data is based on the pixel tracker, and has been calibrated by means of a dedicated analysis of van der Meer scans [35] with an accuracy of 2.3%. The integrated luminosity for the $B = 0\,$T sample is obtained by normalizing the fiducial cross section found at $B = 3.8\,$T to the one at $B = 0\,$T in the same phase space.

The CMS data acquisition was triggered [36] by the presence of both beams in the interaction point ("zero bias"), signaled by beam pick-up monitors located at $\pm 175\,$m from the interaction point. Additional triggers requiring the presence of only one beam ("single bunch") or no beams ("empty bunch") were used to study beam-gas, electronic noise, and other backgrounds. These triggers are 100% efficient for the event selection under consideration. A first sample of inelastic events is then selected offline by requiring an energy deposit above 5 GeV in either of the two HF calorimeters. This threshold was optimized by studying detector noise in events without beam. The rate of selected events from single bunches was found to be consistent with the one from empty bunches. This demonstrates that the presence of the beam on one side does not generate more background events compared to no beam, and that the total background contribution can be estimated from the empty bunch events alone.

The presence of the CASTOR calorimeter in the $B = 0\,$T data sample allows a larger coverage of the phase space for inelastic pp collisions. In this case, inelastic events are selected offline by requiring either an energy deposit above 5 GeV in either of the two HF calorimeters, or an energy deposit above 5 GeV in CASTOR.

4.2 Correction for noise and pileup

The selected number of inelastic events is first corrected for the contribution of detector noise. The corrected number of interactions is obtained as

$$N_{\text{cor}} = N_{\text{ZB}}[(F_{\text{ZB}} - F_{\text{EB}}) + F_{\text{EB}}(F_{\text{ZB}} - F_{\text{EB}})], \tag{4.1}$$

where N_{ZB} is the number of events triggered by the zero bias trigger and F_{ZB} and F_{EB} are the fractions of events triggered by the zero bias and empty bunch triggers that are selected offline by requiring an energy deposit above threshold, respectively. In eq. (4.1), the second term on the right-hand side is a first-order correction for genuine signal events (with occurrence approximated by $F_{\text{ZB}} - F_{\text{EB}}$) overlaid with noise (with occurrence F_{EB}). Corrections of higher order in F_{EB} are found to be negligible. Table 1 includes an overview of the noise-subtracted fraction of events ($N_{\text{cor}}/(N_{\text{ZB}}\, F_{\text{ZB}})$) found in the various runs.

The number of events is further corrected for the effect of pileup. The observed number of pp collisions per bunch crossing, n, follows a Poisson distribution, $P(n, \lambda)$, with average value λ. As the probability to find an interaction in a crossing with filled bunches is given by $N_{\text{cor}}/N_{\text{ZB}}$, the probability to have no interaction can be obtained as $P(0, \lambda) \equiv \exp(-\lambda) = 1 - N_{\text{cor}}/N_{\text{ZB}}$, which allows λ to be determined from the data. With this information it is possible to correct the inelastic event count using the pileup correction factor:

$$f_{\text{PU}} = \frac{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nP(n,\lambda)}{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(n,\lambda)} = \frac{\lambda}{1 - P(0,\lambda)}. \tag{4.2}$$

Runs $B = 3.8\,\mathrm{T}$	$N_{\mathrm{cor}}/(N_{\mathrm{ZB}}\,F_{\mathrm{ZB}})$ (%)	λ	Fiducial cross section (mb) $\xi > 10^{-6}$
254989	98.5	0.52	67.35 ± 0.05
255019	99.9	0.54	67.66 ± 0.04
255029	99.3	0.54	67.50 ± 0.04

Runs $B = 0\,\mathrm{T}$	$N_{\mathrm{cor}}/(N_{\mathrm{ZB}}\,F_{\mathrm{ZB}})$ (%)	λ	Fiducial cross section (mb) $\xi_{\mathrm{X}} > 10^{-7}$ or $\xi_{\mathrm{Y}} > 10^{-6}$
247324	98.5	0.05	68.88 ± 0.49
247920	98.9	0.34	68.63 ± 0.08
247934	98.8	0.32	68.63 ± 0.09

Table 1. Overview of the noise-subtracted fraction of events ($N_{\mathrm{cor}}/(N_{\mathrm{ZB}}\,F_{\mathrm{ZB}})$), average pileup ($\lambda$), and fiducial cross section for all runs used in this analysis. The uncertainties in the noise-subtracted fraction of events and pileup have a negligible contribution to the uncertainty in the fiducial cross section, which is quoted with its statistical uncertainty only.

The values of λ in the studied runs range from 0.05 to 0.54 and are given in table 1. The average pileup value for run 247324 is substantially lower than for the other runs and demonstrates the robustness of the pileup correction, even though the statistical error on the fiducial cross section for this run, as obtained below, is larger due to the smaller number of recorded events. As the beam intensity may vary from one proton bunch to another, the actual pileup correction is applied bunch-by-bunch. The total reconstructed number of interactions, corrected for the contributions of noise and pileup, is then given by

$$N_{\mathrm{int}} = \sum_{\mathrm{bunches}} N^{\mathrm{b}}_{\mathrm{cor}}\, f^{\mathrm{b}}_{\mathrm{PU}}, \tag{4.3}$$

with the number of noise-corrected events $N^{\mathrm{b}}_{\mathrm{cor}}$ (eq. (4.1)) and pileup correction factors $f^{\mathrm{b}}_{\mathrm{PU}}$ (eq. (4.2)) calculated for individual bunches.

5 Extraction of the fiducial inelastic cross section

Before comparison to theoretical predictions, the experimental results need to be corrected for various detector effects, including the event selection efficiency and the resolution in the energy measurement. Corrected results are obtained by means of a simulation of the CMS detector based on Geant4 [37–39].

The event selection criteria at the detector level are optimized in order to obtain a sample of inelastic events in the largest possible phase space. Low-mass diffractive dissociation events will, however, escape the detector. Central diffractive dissociation is found to contribute at the level of 0.1-0.2 mb, both from predictions obtained with the pythia MBR model and from counting events in the data with activity in the central detectors but without any energy deposited in the forward calorimeters, and is neglected in the further analysis. Adapting the particle-level phase space to the detector acceptance results in a smaller correction of the results, and thus also in a smaller model dependence of the correction factors. A precise definition of the phase space at the level of generated stable particles, for which corrected results are presented, is obtained as follows.

The collection of stable final-state particles (with proper lifetime $c\tau > 1\,\text{cm}$) is divided into two systems, X and Y, based on the mean rapidity of the two particles separated by the largest rapidity gap in the event. All particles on the negative (positive) side of the largest gap are assigned to the system X (Y). The invariant masses, M_X and M_Y, of each system are calculated from the four-momenta of the individual particles, and are used to obtain the squared ratios of the mass over the center-of-mass energy, ξ_X and ξ_Y. For convenience, ξ can be defined by $\xi = \max(\xi_\text{X}, \xi_\text{Y})$. These Lorentz-invariant variables are well defined for any type of events (diffractive and nondiffractive) and are related to the size of the largest rapidity gap [1].

The fiducial phase space can then be quantified at the stable-particle level by appropriate limits on ξ_X and ξ_Y. These acceptance limits are obtained from a dedicated study based on the hadron-hadron interaction models mentioned in section 3 using fully simulated events, and are chosen such that the factors required to correct the data to stable-particle level are close to unity, thereby minimizing the model dependence of the correction. An inelastic event is selected at the stable-particle level if $\xi > 10^{-6}$ for the selection based on the HF calorimeter alone, and, because the CASTOR calorimeter allows a lower ξ limit on one side, if $\xi_\text{X} > 10^{-7}$ or $\xi_\text{Y} > 10^{-6}$ when the HF and CASTOR calorimeters are combined.

The relationship between the stable-particle level phase space definition and the detector-level offline selection can be quantified through efficiency and contamination factors. The efficiency, ϵ_ξ, is defined as the fraction of selected stable-particle level events that fulfill the detector-level offline selection criteria, while the contamination, b_ξ, is defined as the fraction of detector-level offline selected events that are not part of the considered stable-particle level phase space. The efficiency and contamination factors are calculated as the average over MC models and are found to be equal to 97.6% and 0.6% (98.6% and 0.6%) for the HF (HF+CASTOR) fiducial region, respectively.

Finally, the fiducial cross section is calculated as

$$\sigma = \frac{N_\text{int}(1 - b_\xi)}{\epsilon_\xi\, \mathcal{L}}, \tag{5.1}$$

and is given in table 1 for all runs used in the analysis. The integrated luminosity, $\mathcal{L}$, of the $B = 0\,\text{T}$ runs has been rescaled in order to yield the same cross section for $\xi > 10^{-6}$ as measured in the $B = 3.8\,\text{T}$ runs, thus exploiting the more accurate luminosity determination in the latter runs.

6 Systematic uncertainties

The following sources of systematic bias are investigated and the corresponding uncertainties are evaluated.

- *Model dependence.* The efficiency and contamination factors are obtained from MC simulation. Although the phase space domains are chosen so as to minimize extrapolations, there is a remaining model dependence due to the matching of stable-particle

	$\sigma(\xi > 10^{-6})$ (mb)	$\sigma(\xi_X > 10^{-7}$ or $\xi_Y > 10^{-6})$ (mb)
Model dependence	0.68	0.39
HF energy scale uncertainty	0.35	0.14
CASTOR energy scale uncertainty	—	0.04
Run-to-run variation	0.15	0.14
Total	0.78	0.45
Integrated luminosity uncertainty	1.55	1.58

Table 2. Overview of systematic uncertainties from various sources that contribute to the cross section uncertainty in the two phase space regions considered in this analysis.

level and detector-level selections. These factors are defined as fractions and are therefore not very sensitive to the absolute magnitude of the inelastic cross section itself; instead they are affected by the way in which a hadronic system of a particular invariant mass fragments into individual particles that deposit energy in the calorimeters. The uncertainty is therefore taken as the standard deviation of the correction factors obtained from all the models discussed in section 3, even if some models do not describe the measured cross sections well.

- *HF and CASTOR energy scale uncertainties.* The energy scales for the HF and CASTOR calorimeters have been estimated with an accuracy of 10% [40] and 15% [41, 42], respectively. The systematic uncertainties are estimated as the change in the fiducial cross section after varying the reconstructed energy in HF and CASTOR by the energy scale uncertainty upwards and downwards.

- *Run-to-run variation.* The cross sections are obtained from various runs and the run-to-run variation is taken as an additional source of systematic uncertainty, estimated as the standard deviation of the cross section distribution.

- *Integrated luminosity.* The integrated luminosity of the runs at $B = 3.8\,\mathrm{T}$ is determined with an accuracy of 2.3% [35]. The integrated luminosity of the $B = 0\,\mathrm{T}$ runs is rescaled using the ratio of the cross sections for $\xi > 10^{-6}$ at $B = 0\,\mathrm{T}$ and $B = 3.8\,\mathrm{T}$. Because the energy scale and model uncertainties are fully correlated between the $B = 0\,\mathrm{T}$ and $B = 3.8\,\mathrm{T}$ samples, the same accuracy of 2.3% is used to determine the systematic uncertainty due to the integrated luminosity determination at $B = 0\,\mathrm{T}$.

Table 2 gives an overview of the systematic uncertainties.

7 Results

The fully corrected cross sections in phase space domains corresponding to the specific detector acceptances (fiducial cross sections) are given in table 1. The weighted average of the results at $B = 3.8\,\mathrm{T}$ obtained with the HF calorimeters only is

$$\sigma(\xi > 10^{-6}) = 67.5 \pm 0.8\,(\mathrm{syst}) \pm 1.6\,(\mathrm{lumi})\,\mathrm{mb}, \tag{7.1}$$

with a statistical uncertainty that is smaller than the least significant reported digit. This can be compared to the cross section reported by ATLAS for inelastic pp collisions at 13 TeV with $\xi > 10^{-6}$ of $68.1 \pm 0.6\,(\text{syst}) \pm 1.3\,(\text{lumi})$ mb [21].

Averaging the cross sections obtained from runs with the HF and CASTOR calorimeters in the extended phase space yields

$$\sigma(\xi_X > 10^{-7}\,\text{or}\,\xi_Y > 10^{-6}) = 68.6 \pm 0.5\,(\text{syst}) \pm 1.6\,(\text{lumi})\,\text{mb}, \tag{7.2}$$

also with a statistical uncertainty that is smaller than the least significant reported digit.

Figure 1 shows the inelastic cross sections in the two phase space domains compared to the predictions of the various models used in this analysis. Table 3 shows the increase in the cross section from $\xi > 10^{-6}$ to $\xi_X > 10^{-7}$ or $\xi_Y > 10^{-6}$ for the data and the various models. These models are used with their set of tunable parameters as described in section 3. Different models and tunes are used to investigate the sensitivity of the fiducial cross section to these parameters, and no uncertainties on individual model predictions are displayed. The variation between model predictions is mainly due to different descriptions of the diffractive contribution to the cross section. This can be concluded from the fact that models with the same approach to diffraction predict very similar cross sections (EPOS LHC and QGSJETII-04, versus PYTHIA 6 Z2* (SS) and PYTHIA 8 CUETP8M1 (SS), respectively). The relative increase in the inelastic cross section observed in the data is three times larger than the experimental uncertainty. Most models describe reasonably well this small, but significant, relative increase in the inelastic cross section, but in general overpredict their value in both ξ ranges. The PYTHIA 8 Monash (DL) model describes data fairly well for $\xi > 10^{-6}$, but predicts a too steep increase for $\xi_X > 10^{-7}$ or $\xi_Y > 10^{-6}$. Moreover, a comparison of the same models to fiducial and total inelastic cross section measurements at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 13 TeV [12–18, 21, 22] indicates that, while the total inelastic cross section is reasonably well described, the cross section for diffractive dissociation events escaping detection, at masses even lower than those considered here, is substantially underestimated by the models, leading to an overestimation of the fiducial cross sections. One may therefore conclude that a model-based extrapolation of the fiducial cross section to the total inelastic phase space would yield a value that is too low for most models.

8 Summary

A measurement of the inelastic proton-proton cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with the CMS detector at the LHC has been presented. An inelastic cross section of $67.5 \pm 0.8\,(\text{syst}) \pm 1.6\,(\text{lumi})$ mb is obtained for $\xi = M^2/s > 10^{-6}$ (corresponding to $M > 13$ GeV), with M the larger of M_X and M_Y, where M_X and M_Y are the masses of the diffractive dissociation systems with negative and positive pseudorapidities, respectively. This result is consistent with a previous measurement in the same phase space [21]. In addition, an inelastic cross section of $68.6 \pm 0.5\,(\text{syst}) \pm 1.6\,(\text{lumi})$ mb is obtained in the enlarged phase space $\xi_X > 10^{-7}$ and/or $\xi_Y > 10^{-6}$ (corresponding to $M_X > 4.1$ GeV and/or $M_Y > 13$ GeV). The measured

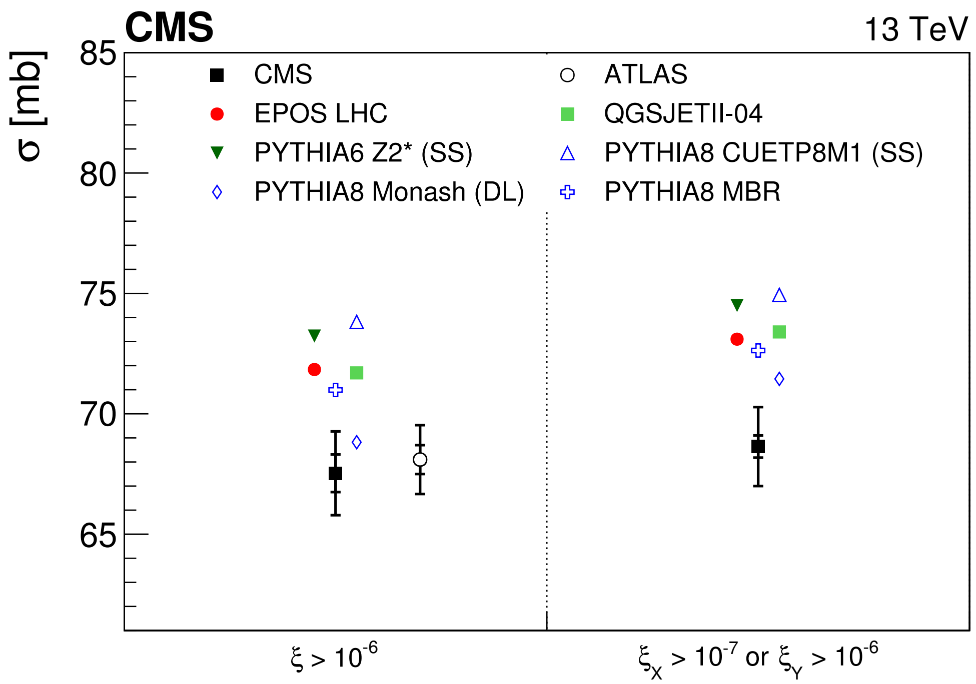

Figure 1. Proton-proton inelastic cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13\,\text{TeV}$ in two phase space regions, where $\xi = M^2/s$, compared to different models and to the ATLAS result. The inner error bar on the CMS and ATLAS data points indicates the systematic uncertainty only, while the full error bar reflects the quadratic sum of systematic and integrated luminosity uncertainties. The horizontal placement of the points within each phase space bin is arbitrary.

	Relative cross section increase in %
Data	1.64 ± 0.53
EPOS LHC	1.76
QGSJETII-04	2.36
PYTHIA 6 Z2* (SS)	1.74
PYTHIA 8 CUETP8M1 (SS)	1.52
PYTHIA 8 Monash (DL)	3.83
PYTHIA 8 MBR	2.32

Table 3. Relative increase in the cross section from the $\xi > 10^{-6}$ to the $\xi_X > 10^{-7}$ or $\xi_Y > 10^{-6}$ fiducial region. The uncertainty in the cross section ratio in data is obtained using systematic uncertainties only, varying each uncertainty source simultaneously for both phase space regions and obtaining the total uncertainty from the variation of the ratio, thus assuming full correlation between both measurements.

cross sections are smaller than those predicted by the majority of models for hadron-hadron scattering, as previously observed in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7\,\text{TeV}$ [12]. In contrast, the same models generally describe reasonably well the measurements of the total inelastic cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13\,\text{TeV}$ [21, 22]. Given that the difference between the two sets of measurements is dominated by the contribution from low-mass diffractive processes, the data-model discrepancies observed here suggest a theoretical underestimation of the cross section for such events.

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The CMS collaboration

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Wien, Austria
W. Adam, F. Ambrogi, E. Asilar, T. Bergauer, J. Brandstetter, E. Brondolin, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, A. Escalante Del Valle, M. Flechl, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth[1], V.M. Ghete, J. Grossmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler[1], A. König, N. Krammer, I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, T. Madlener, I. Mikulec, E. Pree, N. Rad, H. Rohringer, J. Schieck[1], R. Schöfbeck, M. Spanring, D. Spitzbart, A. Taurok, W. Waltenberger, J. Wittmann, C.-E. Wulz[1], M. Zarucki

Institute for Nuclear Problems, Minsk, Belarus
V. Chekhovsky, V. Mossolov, J. Suarez Gonzalez

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium
E.A. De Wolf, D. Di Croce, X. Janssen, J. Lauwers, M. Pieters, M. Van De Klundert, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, N. Van Remortel

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

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium
D. Beghin, B. Bilin, H. Brun, B. Clerbaux, G. De Lentdecker, H. Delannoy, B. Dorney, G. Fasanella, L. Favart, R. Goldouzian, A. Grebenyuk, A.K. Kalsi, T. Lenzi, J. Luetic, T. Maerschalk, T. Seva, E. Starling, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, D. Vannerom, R. Yonamine, F. Zenoni

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium
T. Cornelis, D. Dobur, A. Fagot, M. Gul, I. Khvastunov[2], D. Poyraz, C. Roskas, D. Trocino, M. Tytgat, W. Verbeke, M. Vit, N. Zaganidis

Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
H. Bakhshiansohi, O. Bondu, S. Brochet, G. Bruno, C. Caputo, A. Caudron, P. David, S. De Visscher, C. Delaere, M. Delcourt, B. Francois, A. Giammanco, G. Krintiras, V. Lemaitre, A. Magitteri, A. Mertens, M. Musich, K. Piotrzkowski, L. Quertenmont, A. Saggio, M. Vidal Marono, S. Wertz, J. Zobec

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Fisicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
W.L. Aldá Júnior, F.L. Alves, G.A. Alves, L. Brito, G. Correia Silva, C. Hensel, A. Moraes, M.E. Pol, P. Rebello Teles

Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
E. Belchior Batista Das Chagas, W. Carvalho, J. Chinellato[3], E. Coelho, E.M. Da Costa, G.G. Da Silveira[4], D. De Jesus Damiao, S. Fonseca De Souza, L.M. Huertas

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Guativa, H. Malbouisson, M. Melo De Almeida, C. Mora Herrera, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, L.J. Sanchez Rosas, A. Santoro, A. Sznajder, M. Thiel, E.J. Tonelli Manganote[3], F. Torres Da Silva De Araujo, A. Vilela Pereira

Universidade Estadual Paulista[a], Universidade Federal do ABC[b], São Paulo, Brazil

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

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

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

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria

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

Beihang University, Beijing, China

W. Fang[5], X. Gao[5], L. Yuan

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China

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

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

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

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Y. Wang

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

C. Avila, A. Cabrera, C.A. Carrillo Montoya, L.F. Chaparro Sierra, C. Florez, C.F. González Hernández, J.D. Ruiz Alvarez, M.A. Segura Delgado

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

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

University of Split, Faculty of Science, Split, Croatia

Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia

V. Brigljevic, D. Ferencek, K. Kadija, B. Mesic, A. Starodumov[6], T. Susa

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

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

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Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

M. Finger[7], M. Finger Jr.[7]

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

S. Elgammal[8], A. Ellithi Kamel[9], M.A. Mahmoud[10,8]

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia

S. Bhowmik, R.K. Dewanjee, M. Kadastik, L. Perrini, M. Raidal, C. Veelken

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

P. Eerola, H. Kirschenmann, J. Pekkanen, M. Voutilainen

Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland

J. Havukainen, J.K. Heikkilä, T. Järvinen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Laurila, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, T. Mäenpää, H. Siikonen, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominiemi

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland

T. Tuuva

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

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, C. Leloup, E. Locci, M. Machet, J. Malcles, G. Negro, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, M.Ö. Sahin, M. Titov

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

A. Abdulsalam[11], C. Amendola, I. Antropov, S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, P. Busson, L. Cadamuro, C. Charlot, R. Granier de Cassagnac, M. Jo, I. Kucher, S. Lisniak, A. Lobanov, J. Martin Blanco, M. Nguyen, C. Ochando, G. Ortona, P. Paganini, P. Pigard, R. Salerno, J.B. Sauvan, Y. Sirois, A.G. Stahl Leiton, Y. Yilmaz, A. Zabi, A. Zghiche

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

J.-L. Agram[12], J. Andrea, D. Bloch, J.-M. Brom, M. Buttignol, E.C. Chabert, C. Collard, E. Conte[12], X. Coubez, F. Drouhin[12], J.-C. Fontaine[12], D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, M. Jansová, P. Juillot, A.-C. Le Bihan, N. Tonon, P. Van Hove

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

S. Gadrat

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

S. Beauceron, C. Bernet, G. Boudoul, N. Chanon, R. Chierici, D. Contardo, 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. Popov[13], V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, S. Viret, S. Zhang

Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia

A. Khvedelidze[7]

Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

D. Lomidze

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

C. Autermann, L. Feld, M.K. Kiesel, K. Klein, M. Lipinski, M. Preuten, C. Schomakers, J. Schulz, M. Teroerde, B. Wittmer, V. Zhukov[13]

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

A. Albert, D. Duchardt, M. Endres, M. Erdmann, S. Erdweg, T. Esch, R. Fischer, A. Güth, T. Hebbeker, C. Heidemann, K. Hoepfner, S. Knutzen, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, P. Millet, S. Mukherjee, T. Pook, M. Radziej, H. Reithler, M. Rieger, F. Scheuch, D. Teyssier, S. Thüer

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

G. Flügge, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, A. Künsken, T. Müller, A. Nehrkorn, A. Nowack, C. Pistone, O. Pooth, A. Stahl[14]

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

M. Aldaya Martin, T. Arndt, C. Asawatangtrakuldee, K. Beernaert, O. Behnke, U. Behrens, A. Bermúdez Martínez, A.A. Bin Anuar, K. Borras[15], V. Botta, A. Campbell, P. Connor, C. Contreras-Campana, F. Costanza, C. Diez Pardos, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, T. Eichhorn, E. Eren, E. Gallo[16], J. Garay Garcia, A. Geiser, J.M. Grados Luyando, A. Grohsjean, P. Gunnellini, M. Guthoff, A. Harb, J. Hauk, M. Hempel[17], H. Jung, M. Kasemann, J. Keaveney, C. Kleinwort, I. Korol, D. Krücker, W. Lange, A. Lelek, T. Lenz, K. Lipka, W. Lohmann[17], R. Mankel, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, M. Missiroli, G. Mittag, J. Mnich, A. Mussgiller, D. Pitzl, A. Raspereza, M. Savitskyi, P. Saxena, R. Shevchenko, N. Stefaniuk, G.P. Van Onsem, R. Walsh, Y. Wen, K. Wichmann, C. Wissing, O. Zenaiev

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

R. Aggleton, S. Bein, V. Blobel, M. Centis Vignali, T. Dreyer, E. Garutti, D. Gonzalez, J. Haller, A. Hinzmann, M. Hoffmann, A. Karavdina, G. Kasieczka, R. Klanner, R. Kogler, N. Kovalchuk, S. Kurz, D. Marconi, M. Meyer, M. Niedziela, D. Nowatschin, 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, A. Vanhoefer, B. Vormwald

Institut für Experimentelle Teilchenphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany
M. Akbiyik, C. Barth, M. Baselga, S. Baur, E. Butz, R. Caspart, T. Chwalek, F. Colombo, W. De Boer, A. Dierlamm, N. Faltermann, B. Freund, R. Friese, M. Giffels, M.A. Harrendorf, F. Hartmann[14], S.M. Heindl, U. Husemann, F. Kassel[14], 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

Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (INPP), NCSR Demokritos, Aghia Paraskevi, Greece
G. Anagnostou, G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, I. Topsis-Giotis

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
G. Karathanasis, S. Kesisoglou, A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou, E. Tziaferi

National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece
K. Kousouris

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece
I. Evangelou, C. Foudas, P. Gianneios, P. Katsoulis, P. Kokkas, S. Mallios, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, E. Paradas, J. Strologas, F.A. Triantis, D. Tsitsonis

MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
M. Csanad, N. Filipovic, G. Pasztor, O. Surányi, G.I. Veres[18]

Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary
G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, D. Horvath[19], Á. Hunyadi, F. Sikler, V. Veszpremi, G. Vesztergombi[18]

Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary
N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Karancsi[20], A. Makovec, J. Molnar, Z. Szillasi

Institute of Physics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary
M. Bartók[18], P. Raics, Z.L. Trocsanyi, B. Ujvari

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India
S. Choudhury, J.R. Komaragiri

National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, India
S. Bahinipati[21], P. Mal, K. Mandal, A. Nayak[22], D.K. Sahoo[21], N. Sahoo, S.K. Swain

Panjab University, Chandigarh, India
S. Bansal, S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, R. Chawla, N. Dhingra, A. Kaur, M. Kaur, S. Kaur, R. Kumar, P. Kumari, A. Mehta, J.B. Singh, G. Walia

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

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Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, HBNI, Kolkata, India
R. Bhardwaj[23], R. Bhattacharya, S. Bhattacharya, U. Bhawandeep[23], D. Bhowmik, S. Dey, S. Dutt[23], S. Dutta, S. Ghosh, N. Majumdar, A. Modak, K. Mondal, S. Mukhopadhyay, S. Nandan, A. Purohit, P.K. Rout, A. Roy, S. Roy Chowdhury, S. Sarkar, M. Sharan, B. Singh, S. Thakur[23]

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Madras, India
P.K. Behera

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India
R. Chudasama, D. Dutta, V. Jha, V. Kumar, A.K. Mohanty[14], P.K. Netrakanti, L.M. Pant, P. Shukla, A. Topkar

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-A, Mumbai, India
T. Aziz, S. Dugad, B. Mahakud, S. Mitra, G.B. Mohanty, N. Sur, B. Sutar

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research-B, Mumbai, India
S. Banerjee, S. Bhattacharya, S. Chatterjee, P. Das, M. Guchait, Sa. Jain, S. Kumar, M. Maity[24], G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, T. Sarkar[24], N. Wickramage[25]

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, India
S. Chauhan, S. Dube, V. Hegde, A. Kapoor, K. Kothekar, S. Pandey, A. Rane, S. Sharma

Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran
S. Chenarani[26], E. Eskandari Tadavani, S.M. Etesami[26], M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, M. Naseri, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi[27], F. Rezaei Hosseinabadi, B. Safarzadeh[28], M. Zeinali

University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
M. Felcini, M. Grunewald

INFN Sezione di Bari[a], Università di Bari[b], Politecnico di Bari[c], Bari, Italy
M. Abbrescia[a,b], C. Calabria[a,b], A. Colaleo[a], D. Creanza[a,c], L. Cristella[a,b], N. De Filippis[a,c], M. De Palma[a,b], A. Di Florio[a,b], F. Errico[a,b], L. Fiore[a], G. Iaselli[a,c], S. Lezki[a,b], 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], A. Ranieri[a], G. Selvaggi[a,b], A. Sharma[a], L. Silvestris[a,14], R. Venditti[a], P. Verwilligen[a]

INFN Sezione di Bologna[a], Università di Bologna[b], Bologna, Italy
G. Abbiendi[a], C. Battilana[a,b], D. Bonacorsi[a,b], L. Borgonovi[a,b], S. Braibant-Giacomelli[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], C. Grandi[a], L. Guiducci[a,b], F. Iemmi, S. Marcellini[a], G. Masetti[a], A. Montanari[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]

INFN Sezione di Catania[a], Università di Catania[b], Catania, 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]

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INFN Sezione di Firenze[a], Università di Firenze[b], Firenze, Italy
G. Barbagli[a], K. Chatterjee[a,b], V. Ciulli[a,b], C. Civinini[a], R. D'Alessandro[a,b], E. Focardi[a,b], G. Latino, P. Lenzi[a,b], M. Meschini[a], S. Paoletti[a], L. Russo[a,29], G. Sguazzoni[a], D. Strom[a], L. Viliani[a]

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
L. Benussi, S. Bianco, F. Fabbri, D. Piccolo, F. Primavera[14]

INFN Sezione di Genova[a], Università di Genova[b], Genova, Italy
V. Calvelli[a,b], F. Ferro[a], F. Ravera[a,b], E. Robutti[a], S. Tosi[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca[a], Università di Milano-Bicocca[b], Milano, Italy
A. Benaglia[a], A. Beschi[b], L. Brianza[a,b], F. Brivio[a,b], V. Ciriolo[a,b,14], 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,30], S. Ragazzi[a,b], T. Tabarelli de Fatis[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Napoli[a], Università di Napoli 'Federico II'[b], Napoli, Italy, Università della Basilicata[c], Potenza, Italy, Università G. Marconi[d], Roma, 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]

INFN Sezione di Padova[a], Università di Padova[b], Padova, Italy, Università di Trento[c], Trento, Italy
P. Azzi[a], N. Bacchetta[a], L. Benato[a,b], D. Bisello[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], F. Gasparini[a,b], U. Gasparini[a,b], A. Gozzelino[a], S. Lacaprara[a], P. Lujan, 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], A. Tiko, E. Torassa[a], S. Ventura[a], M. Zanetti[a,b], P. Zotto[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Pavia[a], Università di Pavia[b], Pavia, Italy
A. Braghieri[a], A. Magnani[a], P. Montagna[a,b], S.P. Ratti[a,b], V. Re[a], M. Ressegotti[a,b], C. Riccardi[a,b], P. Salvini[a], I. Vai[a,b], P. Vitulo[a,b]

INFN Sezione di Perugia[a], Università di Perugia[b], Perugia, Italy
L. Alunni Solestizi[a,b], M. Biasini[a,b], G.M. Bilei[a], C. Cecchi[a,b], D. Ciangottini[a,b], L. Fanò[a,b], P. Lariccia[a,b], R. Leonardi[a,b], E. Manoni[a], G. Mantovani[a,b], V. Mariani[a,b], M. Menichelli[a], A. Rossi[a,b], A. Santocchia[a,b], D. Spiga[a]

INFN Sezione di Pisa[a], Università di Pisa[b], Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa[c], Pisa, Italy
K. Androsov[a], P. Azzurri[a,14], G. Bagliesi[a], L. Bianchini[a], T. Boccali[a], L. Borrello, R. Castaldi[a], M.A. Ciocci[a,b], R. Dell'Orso[a], G. Fedi[a], L. Giannini[a,c], A. Giassi[a], M.T. Grippo[a,29], F. Ligabue[a,c], T. Lomtadze[a], E. Manca[a,c], G. Mandorli[a,c], A. Messineo[a,b], F. Palla[a], A. Rizzi[a,b], P. Spagnolo[a], R. Tenchini[a], G. Tonelli[a,b], A. Venturi[a], P.G. Verdini[a]

INFN Sezione di Roma[a], Sapienza Università di Roma[b], Rome, Italy

L. Barone[a,b], F. Cavallari[a], M. Cipriani[a,b], N. Daci[a], D. Del Re[a,b], E. Di Marco[a,b], 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]

INFN Sezione di Torino[a], Università di Torino[b], Torino, Italy, Università del Piemonte Orientale[c], Novara, Italy

N. Amapane[a,b], R. Arcidiacono[a,c], S. Argiro[a,b], M. Arneodo[a,c], N. Bartosik[a], R. Bellan[a,b], C. Biino[a], N. Cartiglia[a], R. Castello[a,b], 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], 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]

INFN Sezione di Trieste[a], Università di Trieste[b], Trieste, Italy

S. Belforte[a], M. Casarsa[a], F. Cossutti[a], G. Della Ricca[a,b], A. Zanetti[a]

Kyungpook National University

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

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

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

Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea

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

Korea University, Seoul, 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

Seoul National University, Seoul, 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

University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea

H. Kim, J.H. Kim, J.S.H. Lee, I.C. Park

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea

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

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

V. Dudenas, A. Juodagalvis, J. Vaitkus

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

Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico City, Mexico
Duran-Osuna, M. C., H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, Ramirez-Sanchez, G., I. Heredia-De La Cruz[33], Rabadan-Trejo, R. I., R. Lopez-Fernandez, J. Mejia Guisao, Reyes-Almanza, R, A. Sanchez-Hernandez

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico
S. Carrillo Moreno, C. Oropeza Barrera, F. Vazquez Valencia

Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico
J. Eysermans, I. Pedraza, H.A. Salazar Ibarguen, C. Uribe Estrada

Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, Mexico
A. Morelos Pineda

University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand
D. Krofcheck

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand
P.H. Butler

National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan
A. Ahmad, M. Ahmad, Q. Hassan, H.R. Hoorani, A. Saddique, M.A. Shah, M. Shoaib, M. Waqas

National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland
H. Bialkowska, M. Bluj, B. Boimska, T. Frueboes, M. Górski, M. Kazana, K. Nawrocki, M. Szleper, P. Zalewski

Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
K. Bunkowski, A. Byszuk[34], K. Doroba, A. Kalinowski, M. Konecki, J. Krolikowski, M. Misiura, M. Olszewski, A. Pyskir, M. Walczak

Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal
P. Bargassa, C. Beirão Da Cruz E Silva, A. Di Francesco, P. Faccioli, B. Galinhas, M. Gallinaro, J. Hollar, N. Leonardo, L. Lloret Iglesias, M.V. Nemallapudi, J. Seixas, G. Strong, O. Toldaiev, D. Vadruccio, J. Varela

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
S. Afanasiev, P. Bunin, M. Gavrilenko, I. Golutvin, I. Gorbunov, A. Kamenev, V. Karjavin, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, V. Matveev[35,36], P. Moisenz, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, S. Shmatov, S. Shulha, N. Skatchkov, V. Smirnov, N. Voytishin, A. Zarubin

Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia
Y. Ivanov, V. Kim[37], E. Kuznetsova[38], P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, D. Sosnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev

Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia
Yu. Andreev, A. Dermenev, S. Gninenko, N. Golubev, A. Karneyeu, M. Kirsanov, N. Krasnikov, A. Pashenkov, D. Tlisov, A. Toropin

Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
V. Epshteyn, V. Gavrilov, N. Lychkovskaya, V. Popov, I. Pozdnyakov, G. Safronov, A. Spiridonov, A. Stepennov, V. Stolin, M. Toms, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow, Russia
T. Aushev, A. Bylinkin[36]

National Research Nuclear University 'Moscow Engineering Physics Institute' (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
M. Chadeeva[39], P. Parygin, D. Philippov, S. Polikarpov, E. Popova, V. Rusinov

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia
V. Andreev, M. Azarkin[36], I. Dremin[36], M. Kirakosyan[36], S.V. Rusakov, A. Terkulov

Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
A. Baskakov, A. Belyaev, E. Boos, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, L. Khein, V. Klyukhin, O. Kodolova, I. Lokhtin, O. Lukina, I. Miagkov, S. Obraztsov, S. Petrushanko, V. Savrin, A. Snigirev

Novosibirsk State University (NSU), Novosibirsk, Russia
V. Blinov[40], D. Shtol[40], Y. Skovpen[40]

State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics of NRC &quot, Kurchatov Institute&quot, , Protvino, Russia
I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, D. Elumakhov, A. Godizov, V. Kachanov, A. Kalinin, D. Konstantinov, P. Mandrik, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, A. Sobol, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk, Russia
A. Babaev

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
P. Adzic[41], P. Cirkovic, D. Devetak, M. Dordevic, J. Milosevic

Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain
J. Alcaraz Maestre, A. Álvarez Fernández, I. Bachiller, M. Barrio Luna, M. Cerrada, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, C. Fernandez Bedoya, J.P. Fernández Ramos, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, D. Moran,

A. Pérez-Calero Yzquierdo, J. Puerta Pelayo, I. Redondo, L. Romero, M.S. Soares, A. Triossi

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

C. Albajar, J.F. de Trocóniz

Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain

J. Cuevas, C. Erice, J. Fernandez Menendez, S. Folgueras, I. Gonzalez Caballero, J.R. González Fernández, E. Palencia Cortezon, S. Sanchez Cruz, P. Vischia, J.M. Vizan Garcia

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

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

CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland

D. Abbaneo, B. Akgun, E. Auffray, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, J. Bendavid, M. Bianco, A. Bocci, C. Botta, T. Camporesi, M. Cepeda, G. Cerminara, E. Chapon, Y. Chen, D. d'Enterria, A. Dabrowski, V. Daponte, A. David, M. De Gruttola, A. De Roeck, N. Deelen, M. Dobson, T. du Pree, M. Dünser, N. Dupont, A. Elliott-Peisert, P. Everaerts, F. Fallavollita[42], G. Franzoni, J. Fulcher, W. Funk, D. Gigi, A. Gilbert, K. Gill, F. Glege, D. Gulhan, J. Hegeman, V. Innocente, A. Jafari, P. Janot, O. Karacheban[17], J. Kieseler, V. Knünz, A. Kornmayer, M.J. Kortelainen, M. Krammer[1], 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. Milenovic[43], F. Moortgat, M. Mulders, H. Neugebauer, J. Ngadiuba, S. Orfanelli, L. Orsini, F. Pantaleo[14], L. Pape, E. Perez, M. Peruzzi, A. Petrilli, G. Petrucciani, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, F.M. Pitters, D. Rabady, A. Racz, T. Reis, G. Rolandi[44], M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, M. Seidel, M. Selvaggi, A. Sharma, P. Silva, P. Sphicas[45], A. Stakia, J. Steggemann, M. Stoye, M. Tosi, D. Treille, A. Tsirou, V. Veckalns[46], M. Verweij, W.D. Zeuner

Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland

W. Bertl[†], L. Caminada[47], K. Deiters, W. Erdmann, R. Horisberger, Q. Ingram, H.C. Kaestli, D. Kotlinski, U. Langenegger, T. Rohe, S.A. Wiederkehr

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

M. Backhaus, L. Bäni, P. Berger, B. Casal, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, C. Dorfer, C. Grab, C. Heidegger, D. Hits, J. Hoss, 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. Reichmann,

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D.A. Sanz Becerra, M. Schönenberger, L. Shchutska, V.R. Tavolaro, K. Theofilatos, M.L. Vesterbacka Olsson, R. Wallny, D.H. Zhu

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

T.K. Aarrestad, C. Amsler[48], D. Brzhechko, M.F. Canelli, A. De Cosa, R. Del Burgo, S. Donato, C. Galloni, T. Hreus, B. Kilminster, I. Neutelings, D. Pinna, G. Rauco, P. Robmann, D. Salerno, K. Schweiger, C. Seitz, Y. Takahashi, A. Zucchetta

National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan

V. Candelise, Y.H. Chang, K.y. Cheng, T.H. Doan, Sh. Jain, R. Khurana, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, A. Pozdnyakov, S.S. Yu

National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan

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

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

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

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

A. Bat, F. Boran, S. Cerci[49], S. Damarseckin, Z.S. Demiroglu, C. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, Y. Guler, I. Hos[50], E.E. Kangal[51], O. Kara, U. Kiminsu, M. Oglakci, G. Onengut, K. Ozdemir[52], D. Sunar Cerci[49], B. Tali[49], U.G. Tok, H. Topakli[53], S. Turkcapar, I.S. Zorbakir, C. Zorbilmez

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey

G. Karapinar[54], K. Ocalan[55], M. Yalvac, M. Zeyrek

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

E. Gülmez, M. Kaya[56], O. Kaya[57], S. Tekten, E.A. Yetkin[58]

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

M.N. Agaras, S. Atay, A. Cakir, K. Cankocak, S. Sen[59], Y. Komurcu

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

B. Grynyov

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

L. Levchuk

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

F. Ball, L. Beck, J.J. Brooke, D. Burns, E. Clement, D. Cussans, O. Davignon, H. Flacher, J. Goldstein, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, L. Kreczko, D.M. Newbold[60], S. Paramesvaran, T. Sakuma, S. Seif El Nasr-storey, D. Smith, V.J. Smith

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Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
K.W. Bell, A. Belyaev[61], C. Brew, R.M. Brown, L. Calligaris, D. Cieri, D.J.A. Cockerill, J.A. Coughlan, K. Harder, S. Harper, J. Linacre, E. Olaiya, D. Petyt, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous, A. Thea, I.R. Tomalin, T. Williams, W.J. Womersley

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom
G. Auzinger, R. Bainbridge, P. Bloch, J. Borg, S. Breeze, O. Buchmuller, A. Bundock, S. Casasso, D. Colling, L. Corpe, P. Dauncey, G. Davies, M. Della Negra, R. Di Maria, Y. Haddad, G. Hall, G. Iles, T. James, M. Komm, R. Lane, C. Laner, L. Lyons, A.-M. Magnan, S. Malik, L. Mastrolorenzo, T. Matsushita, J. Nash[62], A. Nikitenko[6], V. Palladino, M. Pesaresi, D.M. Raymond, A. Richards, A. Rose, E. Scott, C. Seez, A. Shtipliyski, T. Strebler, S. Summers, A. Tapper, K. Uchida, M. Vazquez Acosta[63], T. Virdee[14], N. Wardle, D. Winterbottom, J. Wright, S.C. Zenz

Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom
J.E. Cole, P.R. Hobson, A. Khan, P. Kyberd, A. Morton, I.D. Reid, L. Teodorescu, S. Zahid

Baylor University, Waco, U.S.A.
A. Borzou, K. Call, J. Dittmann, K. Hatakeyama, H. Liu, N. Pastika, C. Smith

Catholic University of America, Washington DC, U.S.A.
R. Bartek, A. Dominguez

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, U.S.A.
A. Buccilli, S.I. Cooper, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio, C. West

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

Brown University, Providence, U.S.A.
G. Benelli, D. Cutts, M. Hadley, J. Hakala, U. Heintz, J.M. Hogan[64], K.H.M. Kwok, E. Laird, G. Landsberg, J. Lee, Z. Mao, M. Narain, J. Pazzini, S. Piperov, S. Sagir, R. Syarif, D. Yu

University of California, Davis, Davis, U.S.A.
R. Band, C. Brainerd, R. Breedon, D. Burns, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, M. Chertok, J. Conway, R. Conway, P.T. Cox, R. Erbacher, C. Flores, G. Funk, W. Ko, R. Lander, C. Mclean, M. Mulhearn, D. Pellett, J. Pilot, S. Shalhout, M. Shi, J. Smith, D. Stolp, D. Taylor, K. Tos, M. Tripathi, Z. Wang, F. Zhang

University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A.
M. Bachtis, C. Bravo, R. Cousins, A. Dasgupta, A. Florent, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, N. Mccoll, S. Regnard, D. Saltzberg, C. Schnaible, V. Valuev

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, U.S.A.
E. Bouvier, K. Burt, R. Clare, J. Ellison, J.W. Gary, S.M.A. Ghiasi Shirazi, G. Hanson, G. Karapostoli, E. Kennedy, F. Lacroix, O.R. Long, M. Olmedo Negrete, M.I. Paneva, W. Si, L. Wang, H. Wei, S. Wimpenny, B. R. Yates

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University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, U.S.A.

J.G. Branson, S. Cittolin, M. Derdzinski, R. Gerosa, D. Gilbert, B. Hashemi, A. Holzner, D. Klein, G. Kole, V. Krutelyov, J. Letts, M. Masciovecchio, D. Olivito, S. Padhi, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, M. Tadel, A. Vartak, S. Wasserbaech[65], J. Wood, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, G. Zevi Della Porta

University of California, Santa Barbara - Department of Physics, Santa Barbara, U.S.A.

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

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, U.S.A.

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

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, U.S.A.

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

University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, U.S.A.

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

Cornell University, Ithaca, U.S.A.

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

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, U.S.A.

S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, M. Alyari, 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, G.B. Cerati, 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, J. Hanlon, 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, D. Mason, P. McBride, P. Merkel, S. Mrenna, S. Nahn, V. O'Dell, K. Pedro, O. Prokofyev, G. Rakness, L. Ristori, A. Savoy-Navarro[66], 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, W. Wu

University of Florida, Gainesville, U.S.A.

D. Acosta, P. Avery, P. Bortignon, D. Bourilkov, A. Brinkerhoff, A. Carnes, M. Carver, D. Curry, R.D. Field, I.K. Furic, S.V. Gleyzer, B.M. Joshi, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov,

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K. Kotov, P. Ma, K. Matchev, H. Mei, G. Mitselmakher, K. Shi, D. Sperka, N. Terentyev, L. Thomas, J. Wang, S. Wang, J. Yelton

Florida International University, Miami, U.S.A.

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

Florida State University, Tallahassee, U.S.A.

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

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, U.S.A.

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

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, U.S.A.

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

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, U.S.A.

B. Bilki[67], W. Clarida, K. Dilsiz[68], S. Durgut, R.P. Gandrajula, M. Haytmyradov, V. Khristenko, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya[69], A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, H. Ogul[70], Y. Onel, F. Ozok[71], A. Penzo, C. Snyder, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, K. Yi

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A.

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

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, U.S.A.

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

Kansas State University, Manhattan, U.S.A.

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

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, U.S.A.

F. Rebassoo, D. Wright

University of Maryland, College Park, U.S.A.

A. Baden, O. Baron, A. Belloni, S.C. Eno, Y. Feng, 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

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, U.S.A.

D. Abercrombie, B. Allen, V. Azzolini, R. Barbieri, A. Baty, G. Bauer, R. Bi, S. Brandt, W. Busza, I.A. Cali, M. D'Alfonso, Z. Demiragli, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, P. Harris, D. Hsu, M. Hu, Y. Iiyama, G.M. Innocenti, M. Klute, D. Kovalskyi, Y.-J. Lee, A. Levin, P.D. Luckey, B. Maier, A.C. Marini, C. Mcginn, C. Mironov, S. Narayanan,

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X. Niu, C. Paus, C. Roland, G. Roland, J. Salfeld-Nebgen, G.S.F. Stephans, K. Sumorok, K. Tatar, D. Velicanu, J. Wang, T.W. Wang, B. Wyslouch

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, U.S.A.

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

University of Mississippi, Oxford, U.S.A.

J.G. Acosta, S. Oliveros

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, U.S.A.

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

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, U.S.A.

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

Northeastern University, Boston, U.S.A.

G. Alverson, E. Barberis, C. Freer, A. Hortiangtham, A. Massironi, D.M. Morse, T. Orimoto, R. Teixeira De Lima, T. Wamorkar, B. Wang, A. Wisecarver, D. Wood

Northwestern University, Evanston, U.S.A.

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

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, U.S.A.

R. Bucci, N. Dev, M. Hildreth, K. Hurtado Anampa, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, N. Kellams, K. Lannon, W. Li, N. Loukas, N. Marinelli, F. Meng, C. Mueller, Y. Musienko[35], M. Planer, A. Reinsvold, R. Ruchti, P. Siddireddy, G. Smith, S. Taroni, M. Wayne, A. Wightman, M. Wolf, A. Woodard

The Ohio State University, Columbus, U.S.A.

J. Alimena, L. Antonelli, B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, S. Flowers, B. Francis, A. Hart, C. Hill, W. Ji, T.Y. Ling, W. Luo, B.L. Winer, H.W. Wulsin

Princeton University, Princeton, U.S.A.

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

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, U.S.A.

S. Malik, S. Norberg

Purdue University, West Lafayette, U.S.A.

A. Barker, V.E. Barnes, S. Das, L. Gutay, M. Jones, A.W. Jung, A. Khatiwada, D.H. Miller, N. Neumeister, C.C. Peng, H. Qiu, J.F. Schulte, J. Sun, F. Wang, R. Xiao, W. Xie

Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, U.S.A.

T. Cheng, N. Parashar

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Rice University, Houston, U.S.A.
Z. Chen, K.M. Ecklund, S. Freed, F.J.M. Geurts, M. Guilbaud, M. Kilpatrick, W. Li, B. Michlin, B.P. Padley, J. Roberts, J. Rorie, W. Shi, Z. Tu, J. Zabel, A. Zhang

University of Rochester, Rochester, U.S.A.
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

The Rockefeller University, New York, U.S.A.
R. Ciesielski, K. Goulianos, C. Mesropian

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, U.S.A.
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

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, U.S.A.
A.G. Delannoy, J. Heideman, G. Riley, K. Rose, S. Spanier, K. Thapa

Texas A&M University, College Station, U.S.A.
O. Bouhali[72], A. Castaneda Hernandez[72], A. Celik, M. Dalchenko, M. De Mattia, A. Delgado, S. Dildick, R. Eusebi, J. Gilmore, T. Huang, T. Kamon[73], R. Mueller, Y. Pakhotin, R. Patel, A. Perloff, L. Perniè, D. Rathjens, A. Safonov, A. Tatarinov

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, U.S.A.
N. Akchurin, J. Damgov, F. De Guio, P.R. Dudero, J. Faulkner, E. Gurpinar, S. Kunori, K. Lamichhane, S.W. Lee, T. Mengke, S. Muthumuni, T. Peltola, S. Undleeb, I. Volobouev, Z. Wang

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, U.S.A.
S. Greene, A. Gurrola, R. Janjam, W. Johns, C. Maguire, A. Melo, H. Ni, K. Padeken, P. Sheldon, S. Tuo, J. Velkovska, Q. Xu

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, U.S.A.
M.W. Arenton, P. Barria, B. Cox, R. Hirosky, M. Joyce, A. Ledovskoy, H. Li, C. Neu, T. Sinthuprasith, Y. Wang, E. Wolfe, F. Xia

Wayne State University, Detroit, U.S.A.
R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, N. Poudyal, J. Sturdy, P. Thapa, S. Zaleski

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, WI, U.S.A.
M. Brodski, J. Buchanan, C. Caillol, D. Carlsmith, 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, V. Rekovic, T. Ruggles, A. Savin, N. Smith, W.H. Smith, N. Woods

†: Deceased
1: Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

2: Also at IRFU; CEA; Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
3: Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil
4: Also at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil
5: Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium
6: Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia
7: Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
8: Now at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt
9: Now at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt
10: Also at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt
11: Also at Department of Physics; King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
12: Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France
13: Also at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics; Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
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 MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group; Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
19: Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, 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 Shoolini University, Solan, India
24: Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India
25: Also at University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka
26: Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran
27: Also at Yazd University, Yazd, Iran
28: Also at Plasma Physics Research Center; Science and Research Branch; Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
29: Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy
30: Also at INFN Sezione di Milano-Bicocca; Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy
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, U.S.A.
39: Also at P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia
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 Pavia; Università di Pavia, Pavia, 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

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45: Also at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
46: Also at Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia
47: Also at Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
48: Also at Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics (SMI), Vienna, Austria
49: Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey
50: Also at Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey
51: Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey
52: Also at Piri Reis University, Istanbul, Turkey
53: Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey
54: Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey
55: Also at Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey
56: Also at Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey
57: Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey
58: Also at Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey
59: Also at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey
60: Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
61: Also at School of Physics and Astronomy; University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom
62: Also at Monash University; Faculty of Science, Clayton, Australia
63: Also at Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, La Laguna, Spain
64: Also at Bethel University, ST. PAUL, U.S.A.
65: Also at Utah Valley University, Orem, U.S.A.
66: Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, U.S.A.
67: Also at Beykent University, Istanbul, Turkey
68: Also at Bingol University, Bingol, Turkey
69: Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey
70: Also at Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey
71: Also at Mimar Sinan University; Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey
72: Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar
73: Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea

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