

# Search for a heavy resonance decaying into a Z and a Higgs boson in events with an energetic jet and two electrons, two muons, or missing transverse momentum in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV



## The CMS collaboration

*E-mail:* [cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch](mailto:cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch)

**ABSTRACT:** A search is presented for a heavy resonance decaying into a Z boson and a Higgs (H) boson. The analysis is based on data from proton-proton collisions at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ , recorded with the CMS experiment in the years 2016–2018. Resonance masses between 1.4 and 5 TeV are considered, resulting in large transverse momenta of the Z and H bosons. Final states that result from Z boson decays to pairs of electrons, muons, or neutrinos are considered. The H boson is reconstructed as a single large-radius jet, recoiling against the Z boson. Machine-learning flavour-tagging techniques are employed to identify decays of a Lorentz-boosted H boson into pairs of charm or bottom quarks, or into four quarks via the intermediate  $H \rightarrow WW^*$  and  $ZZ^*$  decays. The analysis targets H boson decays that were not generally included in previous searches using the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  channel. Compared with previous analyses, the sensitivity for high resonance masses is improved significantly in the channel where at most one b quark is tagged.

**KEYWORDS:** Beyond Standard Model, Hadron-Hadron Scattering , Jets, Vector Boson Production

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## 1 Introduction

The standard model (SM) of particle physics provides a remarkably accurate description of physical interactions up to the highest energy scales observed. Nevertheless, there are indications that extensions to the SM are necessary. A large variety of theories beyond the SM (BSM) have been proposed and are being tested by searches at the CERN LHC [1–3].

From an experimental perspective, direct searches for new elementary particles are typically not sensitive to all the parameters of the underlying theory, but instead only to those that affect the production and decay rates of the new particles. As a consequence, it is sufficient to simplify the complete theory as an effective interaction that captures the dynamics of the BSM signal. One such simplified model is the heavy vector triplet (HVT) model [4], which describes the production and decay of electroweak spin-1 resonances that arise from different theories such as weakly coupled extended gauge sectors [5–8] and little Higgs models [9, 10], as well as composite Higgs scenarios [11–15]. Previous searches for a heavy resonance decaying to an SM Higgs (H) boson and an electroweak vector boson ( $V = W, Z$ ) have already been carried out in lepton+jets final states [16–22] and in fully hadronic final states [23–25] by the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations. The results of these searches are converted into upper limits on the production cross sections and lower limits on the heavy-resonance masses in the HVT model [23, 26].

This article presents a new search for a heavy resonance decaying into a Z and an H boson, where the H boson decays hadronically and the Z boson decays into a pair of oppositely charged leptons,  $e^+e^-$  or  $\mu^+\mu^-$ , or into neutrinos. The search uses proton-proton (pp) collision data at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV, collected by the CMS experiment between 2016 and 2018, corresponding to a total integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . Advanced jet

identification algorithms using machine-learning techniques are used to exploit the H boson decays to quarks that have not been generally targeted by previous searches. Specifically, this search is more sensitive to H boson decays into charm quark pairs ( $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$ ) and to four-quarks final states ( $H \rightarrow VV^* \rightarrow 4$  quarks) than previous searches. Furthermore, loosely identified H boson decays to bottom quark pairs ( $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ ) that were not included in previous searches that targeted  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decays, are included in this search. In a previous search for ZH resonances by the CMS Collaboration [18], two event categories based on the H boson decay mode were used. One category focused on  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  events in which both b quarks were identified experimentally. The other category targeted the remaining hadronic H boson decays. The combination of these categories resulted in mass exclusion limits of 3.5 and 3.7 TeV, depending on the benchmark scenario of the HVT model. The analysis presented in this article demonstrates a significant improvement in the sensitivity for the category with fewer than two identified b quarks, while rejecting events with two or more identified b quarks.

The analysis strategy is the following. A pair of oppositely charged leptons or the missing transverse momentum are used to identify the  $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$  and  $\mu^+\mu^-$ , or  $\nu\bar{\nu}$  decays, respectively. A large-radius jet recoiling against the measured Z boson is used to reconstruct the H boson decay. The internal structure of the H boson candidate jet, resulting from the hadronization of two or four quarks, and its identified quark flavour content are highly discriminating features employed to separate a BSM signal from SM background processes [27–29]. Jet substructure and quark flavour identification play an essential role in this analysis, and state-of-the-art techniques are employed to improve the sensitivity for high resonance masses. The search is performed in a signal-enriched region by examining the distribution of the invariant mass or transverse mass of the reconstructed ZH system for a localized excess over a monotonically decreasing background distribution. The prediction of the SM background is obtained by fitting a one-dimensional function to the observed data and does not rely on simulation. The procedure is validated in a background-enriched region with kinematic properties similar to those of the signal region.

Tabulated results are provided in the HEPData record for this analysis [30].

## 2 The CMS detector and object reconstruction

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Forward calorimeters extend the pseudorapidity coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors. Muons are measured in gas-ionization detectors embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid. More detailed descriptions of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in refs. [31, 32].

Events of interest are selected using a two-tiered trigger system [33]. The first level, composed of custom hardware processors, uses information from the calorimeters and muon detectors to select events at a rate of around 100 kHz within a fixed latency of about  $4\mu\text{s}$  [34]. The second level, known as the high-level trigger, consists of a farm of processors running a

version of the full event reconstruction software optimized for fast processing, and reduces the event rate to around 1 kHz before data storage [33].

The particle-flow (PF) algorithm [35] aims to reconstruct and identify each particle in an event, with an optimized combination of information from the various elements of the CMS detector. The energy of photons is obtained from the ECAL measurement [36]. The energy of electrons is determined from a combination of the electron momentum at the primary interaction vertex as determined by the tracker, the energy of the corresponding ECAL cluster, and the energy sum of all bremsstrahlung photons spatially compatible with originating from the electron track [36]. The energy of muons is obtained from the curvature of the corresponding track [37]. The energy of charged hadrons is determined from a combination of their momentum measured in the tracker and the matching ECAL and HCAL energy deposits, corrected for the response of the calorimeters to hadronic showers. Finally, the energy of neutral hadrons is obtained from the corresponding corrected ECAL and HCAL energies. Jet momentum is determined as the vectorial sum of all particle momenta in the jet, and is found from simulation to be, on average, within 5 to 10% of the true momentum over the entire  $p_T$  spectrum and detector acceptance. Additional pp interactions within the same or nearby bunch crossings (pileup) can contribute additional tracks and calorimetric energy depositions, increasing the apparent jet momentum.

The pileup-per-particle identification algorithm (PUPPI) [38, 39] is used to mitigate the effect of pileup at the reconstructed PF candidates level, making use of local shape information, event pileup properties, and tracking information. A local shape variable is defined, which distinguishes between collinear and soft diffuse distributions of other particles surrounding the particle under consideration. The former is attributed to particles originating from the hard scatter and the latter to particles originating from pileup interactions. Charged particles identified to be originating from pileup vertices are discarded. For each neutral particle, a local shape variable is computed using the surrounding charged particles compatible with the primary vertex within the tracker acceptance of  $|\eta| < 2.5$ , where  $\eta$  denotes the pseudorapidity. Both charged and neutral particles are used in the region outside of the tracker coverage. The momenta of the neutral particles are then rescaled according to their probability of originating from the primary interaction vertex deduced from the local shape variable, superseding the need for jet-based pileup corrections [38].

The large-radius jets used in this analysis are clustered with the FASTJET package [40] using the anti- $k_T$  algorithm [41] with a distance parameter of  $R = 0.8$  (AK8 jets). The soft-drop algorithm [42], which is a generalization of the modified mass drop tagger algorithm [43], is used to identify the subjets of a Lorentz-boosted H boson candidate jet. This algorithm, with an angular exponent  $\beta = 0$  and a soft-cutoff threshold  $z_{\text{cut}} < 0.1$ , is applied to AK8 jets reclustered using the Cambridge-Aachen algorithm [44, 45], and removes soft, wide-angle radiation from the jet.

Jet energy corrections are derived from simulation studies so that the average measured energy of jets becomes identical to that of jets at the particle level. In situ measurements of the momentum balance in dijet,  $\gamma$ +jet, Z+jet, and multijet events are used to determine any residual differences between the jet energy scale in data and simulation, and appropriate corrections are made [46]. Additional selection criteria are applied to each jet to remove jets originating from instrumental effects or reconstruction failures [38].

The missing transverse momentum vector  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is computed as the negative vector sum of the transverse momenta of all the PF candidates in an event and its magnitude is denoted as  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  [47]. The PUPPI algorithm is applied to reduce the pileup dependence of the  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  observable. The  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is computed from the PF candidates weighted by their probability to originate from the primary interaction vertex [47]. The  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is modified to account for corrections to the energy scale of the reconstructed jets in the event.

### 3 Data and simulated samples

Data events were collected with the CMS detector in pp collisions in the years 2016 to 2018 at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . The data analyzed in this search were recorded using triggers that required the presence of a single lepton or significant  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$ . To collect events where the Z boson decays into a pair of electrons, a combination of isolated and nonisolated [36] electron triggers and photon triggers is used to achieve optimal efficiency over the whole range of electron energies. Single-muon triggers without isolation [37] criteria are chosen to avoid efficiency losses in case of very collimated dimuon events. The  $p_T$  thresholds for the muon triggers ( $p_T > 50$  GeV) are lower than for electron triggers ( $p_T > 115$  GeV) without isolation criteria, such that adding isolated-muon triggers is not necessary in this analysis.

The signal samples are generated using the HVT model [4]. The couplings of the heavy spin-1 resonance  $Z'$  to the H and V bosons ( $g_H = c_H g_V$ ) and to the fermions ( $g_F = g^2 c_F / g_V$ ) are expressed in terms of the  $SU(2)_L$  gauge coupling  $g$ , and of the two dimensionless coefficients  $c_H$  and  $c_F$  that control the relative contributions to the total interaction strength  $g_V$ . Universal couplings to different flavours of leptons and quarks are assumed. Two benchmark scenarios are considered in this analysis [26]:

- Model A, with  $c_H = -0.556$ ,  $c_F = -1.316$ , and  $g_V = 1$ , and
- Model B, with  $c_H = -0.976$ ,  $c_F = 1.024$ , and  $g_V = 3$ .

Model A has comparable branching fractions into fermions and bosons and reproduces a model with a weakly coupled extended gauge theory [5]. Model B has branching fractions predominantly into bosons and very suppressed fermionic decays. It mimics a minimal strongly coupled composite Higgs model [11].

We generate signal samples for different heavy resonance masses  $m_{Z'}$  in the range of 1.4 to 5 TeV, produced via  $q\bar{q}$  annihilation. The signal simulations use the narrow-width approximation, and we have verified that the natural widths of the signals are negligible as compared with the detector resolution. The spin-1 resonance  $Z'$  decays to a Z boson and an H boson in all simulated events. Only Z boson decays to charged leptons and neutrinos are simulated, whereas all possible decays of the H boson in the SM are considered.

The main backgrounds in this search originate from V boson production with additional jets (V+jets), which includes W+jets and Z+jets production. Both signal and V+jets events are generated with MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO 2.6.5 [48, 49] at leading order (LO) in perturbative quantum chromodynamics (QCD). The V+jets background is generated with up to four additional partons. Subdominant background processes include diboson and top quark

pair production, which are generated with PYTHIA 8.240 [50] at LO and POWHEG v2 [51–55] at next-to-LO (NLO), respectively. The cross section for the  $t\bar{t}$  background is adjusted to a prediction at next-to-NLO (NNLO) accuracy in perturbative QCD, using a next-to-next-to-leading logarithmic soft-gluon resummation, obtained with the TOP++ 2.0 program [56].

The parton showering and hadronization processes are simulated with PYTHIA, the underlying event simulation uses the CP5 tune [57], and the NNPDF 3.1 [58] NNLO parton distribution function (PDF) set is employed.

All simulated samples are processed through a GEANT4-based [59] simulation of the CMS detector. To simulate the effect of pileup collisions, additional inelastic events are generated using PYTHIA with a total inelastic cross section of 69.2 mb [60] and superimposed on the hard-scattering events. The generated number of pp interactions is corrected such that the simulated distribution in the number of primary vertices matches that observed in the data.

## 4 Event selection and reconstruction

The final state targeted in this search consists of an energetic AK8 jet from the hadronic H boson decay, recoiling against a pair of charged leptons or  $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$  from the Z boson decay. Events in the charged-lepton channels  $\ell^+\ell^-$  ( $\ell = e, \mu$ ) are placed into mutually exclusive categories based on the flavour of the reconstructed leptons. Each category requires the presence of two leptons of the same flavour and opposite sign. Additionally, events with different-flavour leptons are discarded. In the  $\ell^+\ell^-$  channels, events are required to have at least two leptons with  $p_{\text{T}} > 52$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.4$  each. The invariant mass of the dilepton pair must be within 81–101 GeV, consistent with the Z boson mass. In events with more than one pair of leptons, corresponding to less than 0.1% of the cases, the pair with mass closest to the nominal Z boson mass is chosen. The Z boson four-momentum is reconstructed from the dilepton system. A heavy resonance decay would result in a large  $p_{\text{T}}$  for the Z boson, satisfying  $p_{\text{T}}(\text{Z}) > 200$  GeV. The leptons are required to be isolated, and to pass the “loose” criteria of the cutoff-based algorithm and the “tight” criteria of the “track-based” algorithm for electrons and muons, respectively. The isolation methods and algorithms are detailed further in refs. [36, 37]. When building the isolation variable for one lepton, the other lepton is not considered in the list of particles inside the isolation cone. This procedure prevents the rejection of events from very collimated Z boson decays where the two leptons are reconstructed within each other’s isolation cone. In Z+jets events, the two leptons are expected to have a large angular separation compared with signal events, where the angular separation is defined as  $\Delta R(\ell_1, \ell_2) = \sqrt{[\Delta\eta(\ell_1, \ell_2)]^2 + [\Delta\phi(\ell_1, \ell_2)]^2}$ , with  $\Delta\eta$  and  $\Delta\phi$  denoting the differences in  $\eta$  and the azimuthal angle  $\phi$ . We require that the angular separation between the two leptons must be less than 0.45. The neutrino channel requires the absence of any electrons or muons, and  $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}} > 250$  GeV. A veto on the presence of additional leptons is imposed on leptons passing the same quality criteria of each of the charged-lepton channels.

To provide a H boson candidate, events must contain at least one AK8 jet with  $p_{\text{T}} > 200$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.4$ . The H boson candidate is reconstructed as a single AK8 jet, referred to as H jet, and is required to have a large azimuthal separation from the reconstructed Z boson system,  $\Delta\phi(\text{H}, \text{Z}) > 2$ .

The previous CMS result [18] was obtained by using a combination of two mutually exclusive event categories, based on the number of b-tagged subjets of a boosted H boson candidate jet that includes all decay products of the H boson decay chain. The two categories were obtained by separating events into cases where the H jet contains two (2b category) or one or fewer ( $\leq 1$ b category) b-tagged subjets. While the first category targets  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decays, the latter category includes all remaining hadronic H boson decays, including decays to b quarks that failed identification by the DEEPCSV algorithm [61]. The working point of the algorithm was chosen to correspond to a 10% misidentification rate for jets originating from light quarks or gluons, and to yield an efficiency between 80 and 90% for selecting b-quark-initiated jets. This led to an optimal sensitivity of the 2b category. In this analysis, we veto events that contain H boson candidates with two b-tagged subjets using the identical DEEPCSV algorithm with the same working point. The requirement of  $\leq 1$  b-tagged subjets results in a rejection of 40–70% of  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  events, depending on the resonance mass, while retaining 80–90% of both  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  and  $H \rightarrow q\bar{q}q\bar{q}$  events. This requirement ensures that the selected events are statistically independent of the 2b category of the previous CMS analysis [18]. We then reanalyze the data in the  $\leq 1$ b category with enhanced techniques to improve the sensitivity.

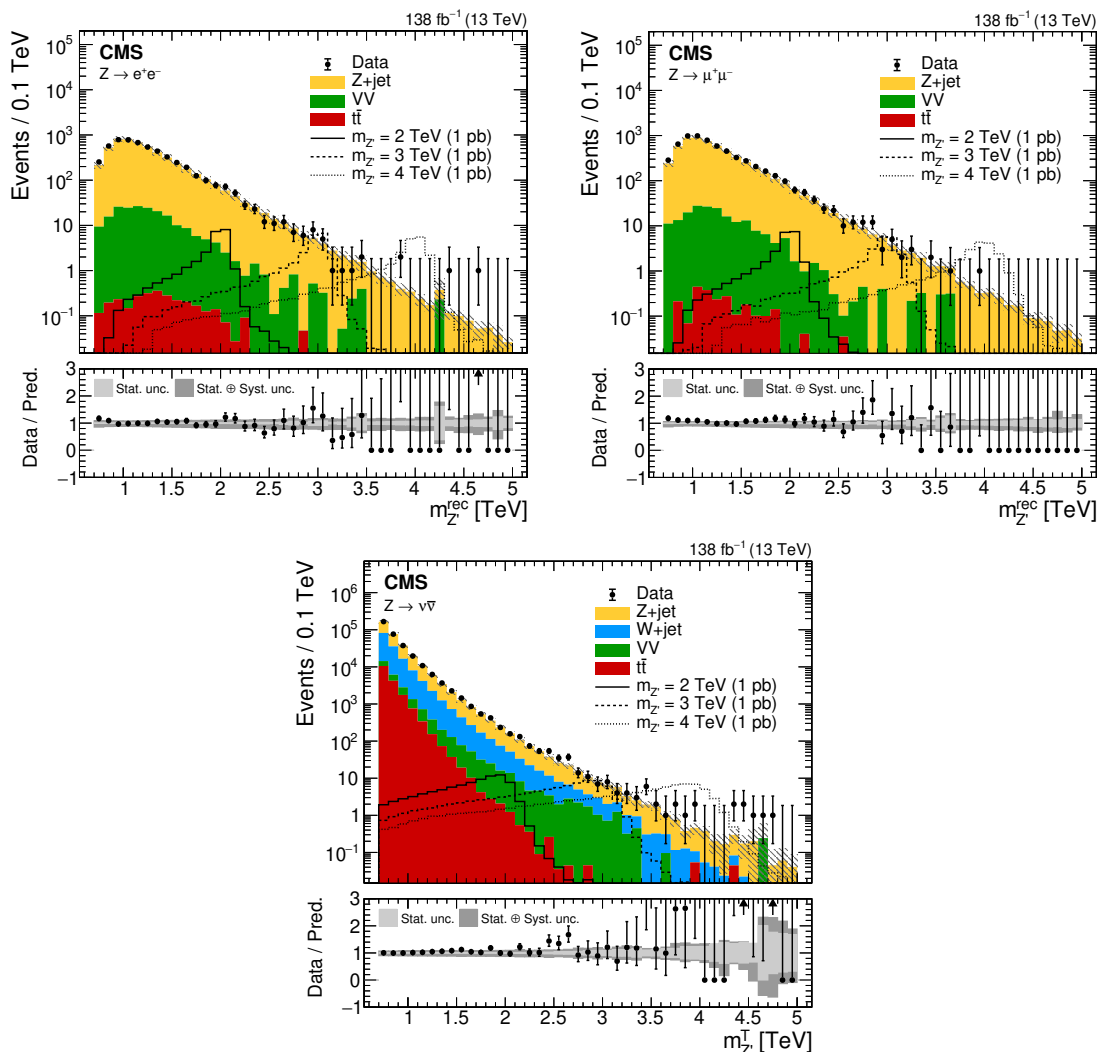
The primary source of background arises from V+jets production. For such events, the V boson is produced in association with a highly energetic jet, which is misidentified as an H boson jet. In the neutrino channel, the second largest source of background events consists of W+jets events where the charged lepton from the leptonic W boson decay is not reconstructed. The signal would appear as a local enhancement in the distribution of the reconstructed invariant mass of the ZH system, denoted by  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$ , in the charged-lepton channels. In the neutrino channel, the sensitive observable is the transverse mass,

$$m_{Z'}^{\text{T}} = \sqrt{2p_{\text{T}}^{\text{H}}p_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}[1 - \cos \Delta\phi(\vec{p}_{\text{T}}^{\text{H}}, \vec{p}_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}})]}, \quad (4.1)$$

where  $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{H}}$  is the transverse momentum of the H jet and  $\Delta\phi(\vec{p}_{\text{T}}^{\text{H}}, \vec{p}_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}})$  is the angular difference in azimuth between the  $\vec{p}_{\text{T}}$  of the H jet and  $\vec{p}_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ . Figure 1 shows the distributions in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  for the charged-lepton channels (upper) and the distribution in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  for the neutrino channel (lower). The shapes and normalizations of these distributions are generally well described by the simulation. In the next step, the signal-to-background ratio is improved by selecting events that contain a jet consistent with originating from the decay of a boosted H boson.

The quark flavour tagging of subjets in the selected H jet provides discrimination between the signal and background processes. In V+jets events, jets are produced from initial- or final-state radiation and originate most commonly from the fragmentation of gluons or light-flavour quarks. Conversely, jets originating from decays of boosted H bosons are characterized by a more complex substructure and a larger component from the fragmentation of heavy-flavour quarks.

We improve the signal-to-background ratio by applying the PARTICLENET-MD [62, 63] algorithm to the H jet. This heavy-flavour jet identification algorithm is based on a neural network (NN), and provides several classification output nodes, corresponding to probability-like scores  $p$ . In particular, the mass-decorrelated [64] version of this algorithm is used in this work. This version ensures that the background distribution is not altered by a selection



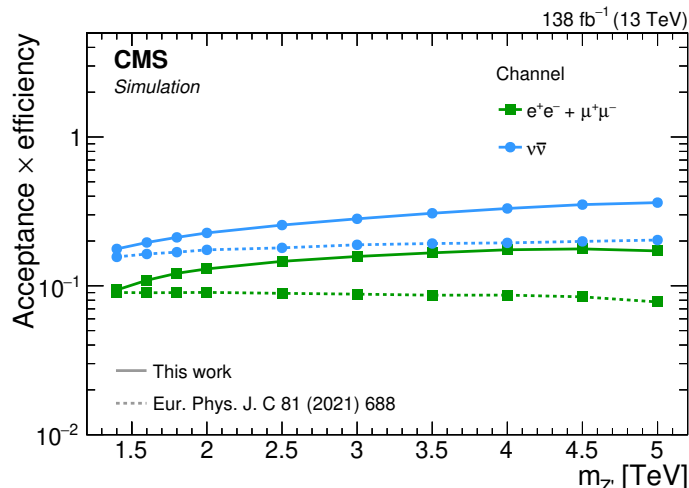
**Figure 1.** Distributions in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  for the dielectron (upper left), dimuon (upper right), and in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  for the neutrino (lower) channels, after the kinematic selections. The data are compared with simulation. The ratios of the data to the total SM background are shown in the lower panels, where the statistical and total uncertainties are displayed as grey regions. The signal distributions are shown for an arbitrary cross section of 1 pb.

based on the PARTICLENET-MD algorithm score [65]. A combination of these probabilities is used to identify a region enriched in events with H-boson-initiated jets and depleted in events with light-quark- and gluon-initiated jets. The chosen variable is defined as

$$\text{HvsQCD} = \frac{p(X \rightarrow b\bar{b}) + p(X \rightarrow c\bar{c}) + p(X \rightarrow q\bar{q})}{p(X \rightarrow b\bar{b}) + p(X \rightarrow c\bar{c}) + p(X \rightarrow q\bar{q}) + p(\text{QCD})}, \quad (4.2)$$

where X is a spin-0 particle with unknown mass decaying to single jets containing pairs of b quarks, c quarks, and light quarks; and  $p(\text{QCD})$  is the probability that the jet is produced in a QCD multijet event. Additional details on the PARTICLENET-MD network and its calibration can be found in refs. [62, 63].





**Figure 2.** The product of signal acceptance and efficiency for signal events as a function of  $m_Z$  for the charged-lepton and neutrino channels in the SR. The efficiency is calculated with respect to Z boson decays to charged leptons and neutrinos for the charged-lepton and neutrino channels, respectively. For comparison, the results from the  $\leq 1b$  category of the previous CMS search in the ZH channel [18] are shown as dashed lines.

The HvsQCD discriminant is used to define our signal region (SR) by requiring the score of the AK8 jet to be greater than 0.95, which corresponds to a background misidentification rate of 1%. The  $X \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  probability alone provides substantial background rejection while selecting a significant fraction of signal events. The inclusion of the  $X \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  and  $X \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  probabilities further improves the overall signal selection and enables precise calibration of the identification and misidentification rates of the tagger. This novel technique enables a generalized approach to the tagging of hadronic final states, remaining largely independent of specific branching fractions, which allows for a more model-independent search.

Given the dominant branching fraction of  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ , approximately 60% of the selected signal events consist of  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decays despite the rejection of jets with two b-tagged subjects. The selection based on the HvsQCD discriminant retains most of the remaining  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  events and provides a substantial background rejection at the same time. After applying the selection on the HvsQCD score, the observed relative contributions of signal events from  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ ,  $q\bar{q}q\bar{q}$ ,  $c\bar{c}$ , and  $\tau\tau$  decays are about 60%, 20%, 15%, and 5%, respectively. The analysis selection increases the fraction of signal events from  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  and  $q\bar{q}q\bar{q}$  decays by factors of five and three, respectively, as compared with the SM branching fractions. Specifically, 25% of the  $H \rightarrow q\bar{q}q\bar{q}$  events have all four quarks matched to the same AK8 jet, whereas in the remaining 75%, at most three quarks are matched. A significant fraction of these quarks matched to the AK8 jet are c quarks, which results in an increased HvsQCD tagging probability.

The product of the geometrical acceptance and the selection efficiency for different channels in the SR for all simulated signal samples is shown in figure 2. In the neutrino channel, the efficiency is calculated with respect to Z boson decays to neutrinos, and in the charged-lepton channels with respect to Z boson decays to electrons, muons, and  $\tau$  leptons. We observe a gain in the product of signal acceptance and efficiency of about a factor of two

as compared with the  $\leq 1b$  category of the previous CMS analysis [18]. Using the flavour and substructure of the selected H jet allows us to achieve the same level of background suppression with a gain in signal efficiency.

## 5 Signal and background modelling

The search is performed by examining the distributions in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  and  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  in the SRs for localized excesses over monotonically decreasing background distributions. Each SM background prediction is obtained by fitting the free parameters of a one-dimensional function to the data. This procedure reduces statistical fluctuations and systematic uncertainties associated with the simulation of background processes. The parametric background model is tested in a background-enriched validation region (VR), defined by inverting the selection on the HvsQCD discriminant. Since the kinematic properties of the SRs and VRs are similar, the functional form of the background prediction can be tested on data in the VRs before examining the SRs.

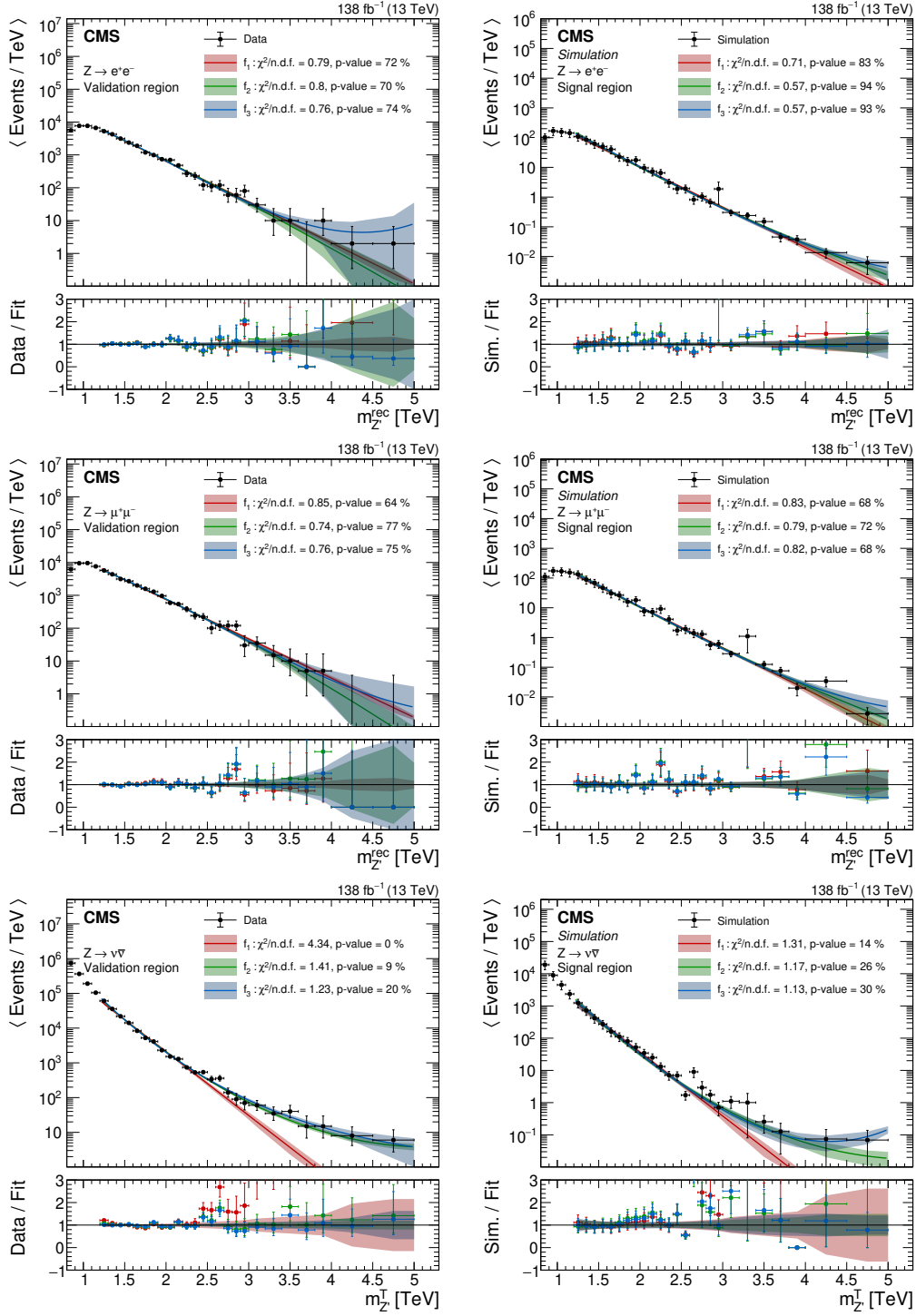
The functional form used to fit the background components in the  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  and  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  distributions is given by

$$f_N(x) = \exp\left(\sum_{i=0}^N p_i x^i\right), \quad (5.1)$$

where  $N$  represents the degree of the polynomial function in the exponent and the coefficients  $p_i$  are free parameters. The fit range excludes the kinematic turn-on in the  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  and  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  distributions, resulting from the selection criteria on the leptons,  $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ , and AK8 jet. The lower bound of the fit range is chosen uniformly across all channels at 1.2 TeV, such that the peak position of the signal with the lowest resonance mass considered in this search,  $m_{Z'} = 1.4 \text{ TeV}$ , is about three times the mass resolution higher than the lower bound.

An  $F$ -test [66] is used to determine the minimum number of free parameters needed to describe the distributions of data in the VRs and of the simulations in the SRs and VRs. The result is  $N = 2$ , where functions with  $N = 1$  are not able to describe the high-mass tail in the VR of the neutrino channel, and  $N = 3$  does not lead to a statistically significant improvement of the fit quality. Fits of the background functions to the distributions in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  and  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  are shown in figure 3 for simulated events in the SRs and collision data in the VRs. The simulation in the SRs and the data in the VRs have higher statistical precision than the data in the SRs, giving confidence that the chosen background function can reliably describe the background shape and normalization in the SRs. The best fit parameters and their uncertainties obtained from the simulation in the SRs and the data in the VRs are not used further in the analysis. The  $F$ -test is repeated later using the data in the SR, confirming the choice of  $N = 2$ .

The line shape of the simulated signals in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  and  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  can be described by a Gaussian core centred around the generated  $m_{Z'}$  and a long tail towards smaller masses. These asymmetric tails result from the off-shell production of the heavy resonance and from decay particles not reconstructed in the jet. The distributions in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  and  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  of the signals are modelled with a double-sided Crystal Ball function [67–69], which accurately describes the line shape of the simulated signals.



**Figure 3.** Fits of the background functions to the  $m_{Z^I}$  and  $m_{Z^T}^I$  distributions in data in the VRs (left) and simulation in the SRs (right) for the electron (upper), muon (middle), and neutrino (lower) channels. The number of events in each bin is divided by the bin width. In the panels below the distributions, the ratios of data to the background functions are displayed. The ratios to the functions  $f_1$ ,  $f_2$ , and  $f_3$ , are shown by red, green, and blue points, respectively. The shaded colored areas represent the statistical uncertainty from the fit. The  $\chi^2$  values per number of degrees of freedom ( $\chi^2/n.d.f.$ ) and the corresponding  $p$ -values are provided for each fit.

Source	Uncertainty	Source	Uncertainty
PARTICLENET-MD H jet identification	2.0–5.0%	Trigger	0.9–1.5%
b tagging veto	0.4–1.0%	Muon identification	0.1–0.3%
Jet energy scale and resolution	0.2–2.0%	Electron identification	5.2–6.0%
Pileup	0.3–1.8%	Lepton reconstruction	0.9–2.0%
Integrated luminosity	1.6%	PDF	0.3–13.4%
L1 ECAL trigger inefficiency	0.3–0.8%	Ren. and fact. scales	6.6–17.2%

**Table 1.** Sources of signal systematic uncertainties considered in this analysis, and their effect on the signal normalization. The uncertainty ranges correspond to different signal masses. These uncertainties are subleading compared with those in the background predictions.

## 6 Systematic uncertainties

The analysis sensitivity is dominated by the statistical uncertainty from the number of events in the SRs. The background parameters from eq. (5.1) have the largest impact on the results of the analysis because the data in the SRs only loosely constrain the background model in the high-mass tails of the distributions. The statistical uncertainties in the background predictions for the charged-lepton SRs range from 15% for  $m_{Z'} = 1.5$  TeV to 100% for  $m_{Z'} = 3.0$  TeV. Likewise, for the neutrino SR, these uncertainties vary between 5% and 45%. The uncertainties in the background predictions translate into uncertainties in the signal normalization ranging from about 15% up to about 35%, depending on  $m_{Z'}$  and the signal cross section. The systematic uncertainty due to the choice of the background model is negligible compared with the statistical uncertainty.

Several additional sources of systematic uncertainty are considered, as these can affect the normalization and lineshapes of the signal distributions. These are briefly described in the following. Table 1 summarizes the effect of each source of systematic uncertainty on the signal normalization.

Differences in the selection efficiencies between data and simulation are corrected with data-to-simulation scale factors (SFs). The experimental uncertainties are evaluated by varying the SFs up and down by one standard deviation for each uncertainty source and propagating the resulting change through the analysis. The resulting systematic uncertainties are treated as fully correlated across the channels. The largest experimental systematic uncertainty is related to the H jet identification using the PARTICLENET-MD algorithm and amounts to 2–5%. The uncertainty related to the rejection of double-b-tagged jets amounts to 0.4–1.0%. The jet energy scale and resolution uncertainties amount to up to 2% each. These uncertainties affect all channels equally and therefore have the largest impact on the analysis. Uncertainties in the trigger efficiency, lepton identification, and reconstruction are considered in the charged-lepton channels, leading to uncertainties of 5–6% for the electron channel and up to 2% for the muon channel. Additional systematic uncertainties originate from estimations of the pileup reweighting, the integrated luminosity [70–72], and L1 ECAL trigger inefficiency due to detector timing issues [34], each having an effect of less than 2%. While most of these uncertainties affect both the normalization and shape of the signal distributions, the effect on the normalization is the dominant effect.

In addition, we consider theoretical uncertainties related to the production of the heavy resonance. The signal cross sections are affected by the choice of the QCD renormalization and factorization scales, as well as by the uncertainties in the PDFs used to generate the signal samples. The effect of these is estimated following the PDF4LHC recommendations [73]. We find that acceptance effects from these uncertainties are small as compared with other uncertainties and we do not consider them as part of the signal uncertainties. Instead, we include these theoretical uncertainties in the predictions of the production cross sections for Models A and B, based on ref. [4]. The size of these is 6.6–17.2% and 0.3–13.4% for the scale variations and PDFs, respectively. The uncertainties increase at higher signal masses.

## 7 Results

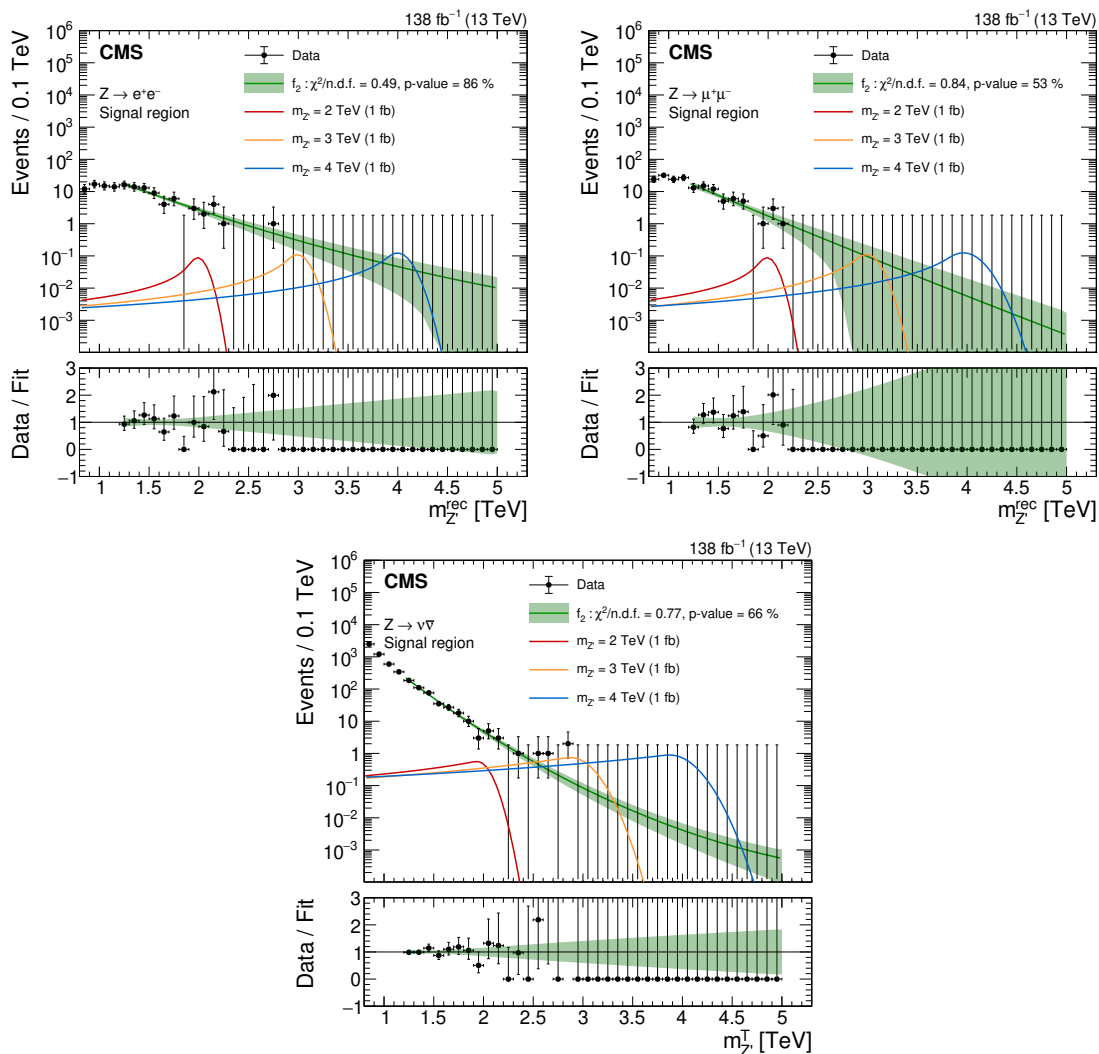
The modified frequentist approach [74–76], known as the  $CL_s$  criterion with the profile likelihood ratio as the test statistic, is used in this search to set 95% confidence level (CL) upper limits on the product of production cross section  $\sigma(pp \rightarrow Z')$  and branching fraction  $\mathcal{B}(Z' \rightarrow ZH)$ . We use the asymptotic approximation to the profile likelihood test statistic [77]. The following results have been determined using the CMS statistical analysis tool COMBINE [78], which is based on the ROOFIT [79] and ROOSTATS [80] frameworks.

We use the  $m_{Z'}$  and  $m_{Z'}^T$  distributions measured in the three SRs for the statistical interpretation. The distributions in data are shown in figure 4. The background functions have been obtained from a fit with the background-only hypothesis, where the parameters of the fit functions have been left unconstrained to ensure an unbiased result. The data are in agreement with the background-only fits.

We set upper limits at 95% CL on the product  $\sigma(pp \rightarrow Z') \mathcal{B}(Z' \rightarrow ZH)$  as functions of  $m_{Z'}$ . The expected 95% CL limits obtained for the individual channels and their combination are shown in figure 5. The neutrino channel is the most sensitive channel over the entire mass range because of the larger branching fraction and the higher selection efficiency.

The final expected and observed exclusion limits at 95% CL resulting from the combination of the muon, electron, and neutrino channels are shown in figure 6. The observed 95% CL limits agree with the expectations from the background-only hypothesis within about one standard deviation over the full mass range considered. We observe an improvement in the sensitivity as compared with the non-VBF production category studied in the previous CMS analysis [18]. The analysis has better expected sensitivity than the  $\leq 1b$  category from the previous analysis by up to about 60% on  $\sigma(pp \rightarrow Z') \mathcal{B}(Z' \rightarrow ZH)$ . The analysis has better sensitivity than the 2b category for  $m_{Z'} > 3.4$  TeV, where previously this crossing point was at 3.85 TeV. The lower  $Z'$  boson mass limits from this analysis alone are at 2.8 and 3 TeV for Models A and B, respectively. We used a combination of b, c, and light-flavour tagging for hadronic H boson final states to improve the sensitivity of a BSM search at high resonance masses. This approach enhances H boson decays into  $c\bar{c}$  and  $VV^* \rightarrow 4$  quarks while also recovering misidentified  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decays.

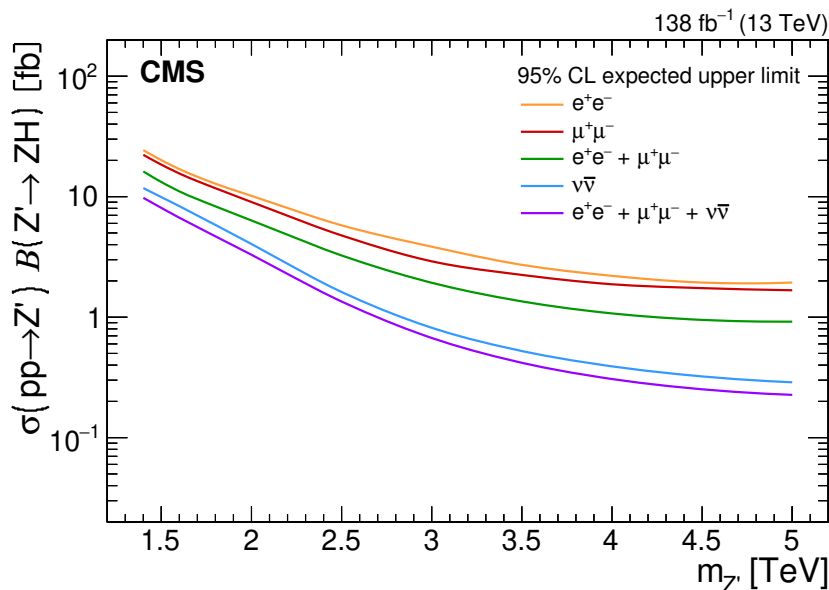
The upper limits on the cross sections are translated into two-dimensional upper limits on the coupling parameters for fermions ( $g_F$ ), and bosons ( $g_H$ ) in the HVT model. The resulting exclusion contours are shown in figure 7.



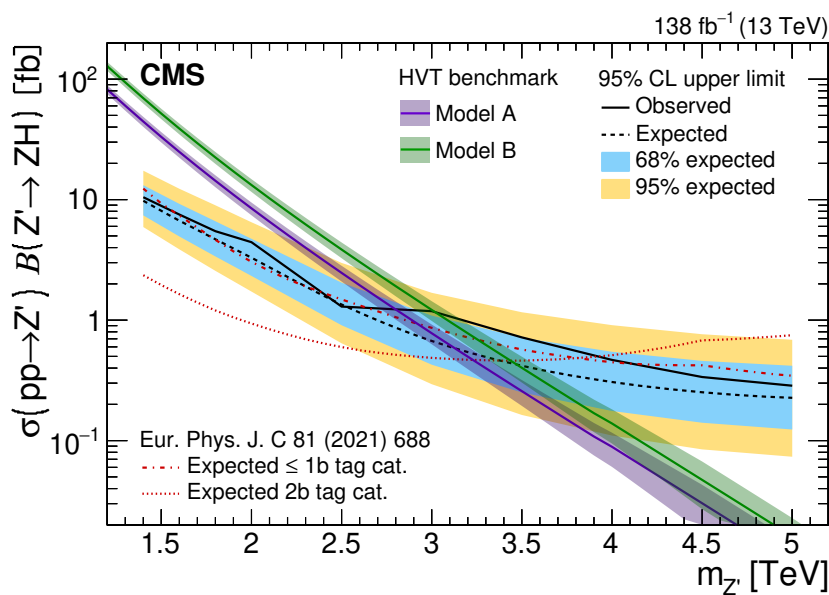
**Figure 4.** Distributions in  $m_{Z'}^{\text{rec}}$  and  $m_{Z'}^{\text{T}}$  for data in the SRs, together with fits of the background functions under the background-only hypothesis for the electron (upper left), muon (upper right), and neutrino (lower) channels. The signal predictions are shown for different  $Z'$  boson masses, normalized to an arbitrary cross section of 1 fb. In the panels below the distributions, the ratios of data to the background function are displayed. The shaded green areas represent the statistical uncertainty from the fit. The  $\chi^2$  values per number of degrees of freedom ( $\chi^2/\text{n.d.f.}$ ) and the corresponding  $p$ -values are provided for each fit.

## 8 Summary

A search has been presented for the production of a heavy resonance with mass in the range of 1.4–5 TeV that decays into a Z and a Higgs (H) boson. The analysis is performed using data recorded with the CMS detector at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . Exclusion limits at 95% confidence level are set on both the mass of a heavy resonance and the couplings to fermions and bosons in the heavy vector triplet model. Resonances with masses below 3 TeV are excluded.

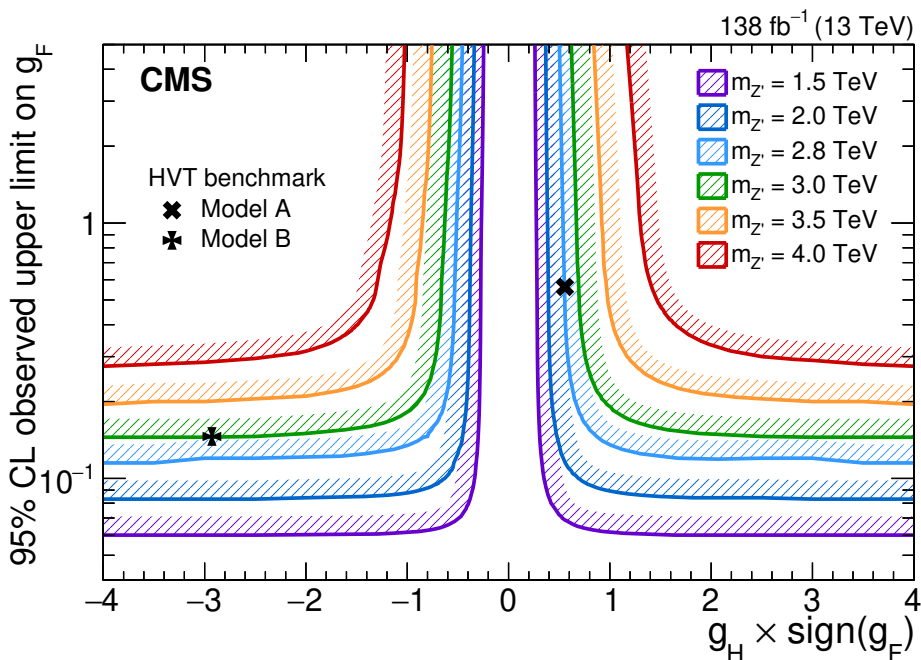


**Figure 5.** Expected upper limits at 95% CL on the product of the production cross section  $\sigma(pp \rightarrow Z')$  and branching fraction  $\mathcal{B}(Z' \rightarrow ZH)$  as functions of the  $Z'$  boson mass. The lines correspond to the three different final states and their combinations.



**Figure 6.** Expected and observed upper limits at 95% CL on the product of the production cross section  $\sigma(pp \rightarrow Z')$  and branching fraction  $\mathcal{B}(Z' \rightarrow ZH)$  as functions of the  $Z'$  boson mass from the combination of all final states. The limits are compared with the predictions of the HVT model and the expected limits (shown by red curves) from a previous analysis [18].

The analysis focuses on  $Z$  boson decays into a pair of electrons, muons, or neutrinos, and the hadronic decays of the  $H$  boson reconstructed as a single large-radius jet. A novel approach analyzing the flavour content and substructure of the  $H$  boson jet is deployed



**Figure 7.** Observed upper limits at 95% CL on  $g_F$  for different  $Z'$  boson masses as functions of the product of  $g_H$  with the sign of  $g_F$ . The two benchmark scenarios of the HVT model are shown by the black markers.

to improve the sensitivity for high resonance masses. This analysis employs state-of-the-art algorithms to identify hadronic H boson decays. The use of these advanced taggers significantly improves the signal-to-background ratio for H boson jets with less than two b-tagged subjets. The signal H boson jets comprise about 60, 20, and 15%  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ ,  $q\bar{q}q\bar{q}$ , and  $c\bar{c}$  decays, respectively, where the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decays correspond to jets that are rejected by a selection based on two b-tagged subjets and are recovered by this analysis. A significantly improved sensitivity for high resonance masses in the ZH channel is provided by the new techniques employed by this analysis.

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**Data Availability Statement.** Release and preservation of data used by the CMS collaboration as the basis for publications is guided by the CMS data preservation, re-use, and

open access policy, <https://cms-docdb.cern.ch/cgi-bin/PublicDocDB/RetrieveFile?docid=6032&filename=CMSDataPolicyV1.2.pdf&version=2>.

**Code Availability Statement.** The CMS core software is publicly available on GitHub, <https://github.com/cms-sw/cmssw>.

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## The CMS collaboration

### Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

A. Hayrapetyan, A. Tumasyan <sup>1</sup>













### Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Vienna, Austria

W. Adam , J.W. Andrejkovic, T. Bergauer , S. Chatterjee , K. Damanakis , M. Dragicevic , P.S. Hussain , M. Jeitler <sup>2</sup>, N. Krammer , A. Li , D. Liko , I. Mikulec , J. Schieck <sup>2</sup>, R. Schöfbeck , D. Schwarz , M. Sonawane , W. Waltenberger , C.-E. Wulz <sup>2</sup>

















### Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

T. Janssen , T. Van Laer, P. Van Mechelen 













### Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

N. Breugelmans, J. D’Hondt , S. Dansana , A. De Moor , M. Delcourt , F. Heyen, S. Lowette , I. Makarenko , D. Müller , S. Tavernier , M. Tytgat <sup>3</sup>, G.P. Van Onsem , S. Van Putte , D. Vannerom 















### Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

B. Bilin , B. Clerbaux , A.K. Das, G. De Lentdecker , H. Evard , L. Favart , P. Gianneios , J. Jaramillo , A. Khalilzadeh, F.A. Khan , K. Lee , M. Mahdavihorrani , A. Malara , S. Paredes , M.A. Shahzad, L. Thomas , M. Vanden Bemden , C. Vander Velde , P. Vanlaer 











### Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

M. De Coen , D. Dobur , G. Gokbulut , Y. Hong , J. Knolle , L. Lambrecht , D. Marckx , K. Mota Amarilo , A. Samalan, K. Skovpen , N. Van Den Bossche , J. van der Linden , L. Wezenbeek 

















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

A. Benecke , A. Bethani , G. Bruno , C. Caputo , J. De Favereau De Jeneret , C. Delaere , I.S. Donertas , A. Giammanco , A.O. Guzel , Sa. Jain , V. Lemaitre, J. Lidrych , P. Mastrapasqua , T.T. Tran , S. Wertz 








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

G.A. Alves , M. Alves Gallo Pereira , E. Coelho , G. Correia Silva , C. Hensel , T. Menezes De Oliveira , C. Mora Herrera <sup>4</sup>, A. Moraes , P. Rebello Teles , M. Soeiro, A. Vilela Pereira <sup>4</sup>






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

W.L. Aldá Júnior , M. Barroso Ferreira Filho , H. Brandao Malbouisson , W. Carvalho , J. Chinellato<sup>5</sup>, E.M. Da Costa , G.G. Da Silveira <sup>6</sup>, D. De Jesus Damiao , S. Fonseca De Souza , R. Gomes De Souza, M. Macedo , J. Martins <sup>7</sup>, L. Mundim , H. Nogima , J.P. Pinheiro , A. Santoro , A. Sznajder , M. Thiel 

**Universidade Estadual Paulista, Universidade Federal do ABC, São Paulo, Brazil**

C.A. Bernardes , L. Calligaris , T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei , E.M. Gregores ,  
 B. Lopes Da Costa, I. Maietto Silverio , P.G. Mercadante , S.F. Novaes , B. Orzari ,  
 Sandra S. Padula 




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

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

**University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria**

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



**Instituto De Alta Investigación, Universidad de Tarapacá, Casilla 7 D, Arica, Chile**

S. Keshri , D. Laroze , S. Thakur 













**Beihang University, Beijing, China**

T. Cheng , T. Javaid , L. Yuan 














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

Z. Hu , Z. Liang, J. Liu, K. Yi <sup>8,9</sup>

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

G.M. Chen <sup>10</sup>, H.S. Chen <sup>10</sup>, M. Chen <sup>10</sup>, F. Iemmi , C.H. Jiang, A. Kapoor <sup>11</sup>, H. Liao ,  
 Z.-A. Liu <sup>12</sup>, R. Sharma <sup>13</sup>, J.N. Song<sup>12</sup>, J. Tao , C. Wang<sup>10</sup>, J. Wang , Z. Wang<sup>10</sup>, H. Zhang ,  
 J. Zhao 

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

A. Agapitos , Y. Ban , A. Carvalho Antunes De Oliveira , S. Deng , B. Guo, C. Jiang ,  
 A. Levin , C. Li , Q. Li , Y. Mao, S. Qian, S.J. Qian , X. Qin, X. Sun , D. Wang , H. Yang,  
 L. Zhang , Y. Zhao, C. Zhou 

**Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Nuclear Science and Guangdong-Hong Kong Joint Laboratory of Quantum Matter, South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China**

S. Yang 

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

Z. You 

**University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China**

K. Jaffel , N. Lu 

**Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China**

G. Bauer<sup>14</sup>, B. Li, J. Zhang 



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

X. Gao <sup>15</sup>, Y. Li

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

Z. Lin , C. Lu , M. Xiao 

**Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia**

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

**Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia**

F. Ramirez , C. Rendón, M. Rodriguez , A.A. Ruales Barbosa , J.D. Ruiz Alvarez 

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

D. Giljanovic , N. Godinovic , D. Lelas , A. Sculac 









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

M. Kovac , A. Petkovic, T. Sculac 

**Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia**

P. Bargassa , V. Brigljevic , B.K. Chitroda , D. Ferencek , K. Jakovic, S. Mishra , A. Starodumov <sup>16</sup>, T. Susa 

**University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus**

A. Attikis , K. Christoforou , A. Hadjiagapiou, C. Leonidou , J. Mousa , C. Nicolaou, L. Paizanos, F. Ptochos , P.A. Razis , H. Rykaczewski, H. Saka , A. Stepenov 

**Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic**

M. Finger , M. Finger Jr. , A. Kveton 

**Escuela Politecnica Nacional, Quito, Ecuador**

E. Ayala 

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

E. Carrera Jarrin 









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
















































































B. El-mahdy, S. Khalil <sup>17</sup>, E. Salama <sup>18,19</sup>

**Center for High Energy Physics (CHEP-FU), Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt**






























A. Lotfy , Y. Mohammed 

**National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia**









K. Ehataht , M. Kadastik, T. Lange , S. Nandan , C. Nielsen , J. Pata , M. Raidal , L. Tani , C. Veelken 

**Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland**H. Kirschenmann , K. Osterberg , M. Voutilainen **Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland**S. Bharthuar , N. Bin Norjoharuddeen , E. Brücken , F. Garcia , P. Inkaew ,  
K.T.S. Kallonen , T. Lampén , K. Lassila-Perini , S. Lehti , T. Lindén , L. Martikainen ,  
M. Myllymäki , M.m. Rantanen , H. Siikonen , J. Tuominiemi **Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland**P. Luukka , H. Petrow **IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France**M. Besancon , F. Couderc , M. DeJardin , D. Denegri, J.L. Faure, F. Ferri , S. Ganjour ,  
P. Gras , G. Hamel de Monchenault , M. Kumar , V. Lohezic , J. Malcles , F. Orlandi ,  
L. Portales , A. Rosowsky , M.Ö. Sahin , A. Savoy-Navarro <sup>20</sup>, P. Simkina , M. Titov ,  
M. Tornago **Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, CNRS/IN2P3, Ecole Polytechnique, Institut Polytechnique de Paris, Palaiseau, France**F. Beaudette , G. Boldrini , P. Busson , A. Cappati , C. Charlot , M. Chiusi , F. Damas ,  
O. Davignon , A. De Wit , I.T. Ehle , B.A. Fontana Santos Alves , S. Ghosh , A. Gilbert ,  
R. Granier de Cassagnac , A. Hakimi , B. Harikrishnan , L. Kalipoliti , G. Liu , M. Nguyen ,  
C. Ochando , R. Salerno , J.B. Sauvan , Y. Sirois , L. Urda Gómez , E. Vernazza ,  
A. Zabi , A. Zghiche **Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, Strasbourg, France**J.-L. Agram <sup>21</sup>, J. Andrea , D. Apparú , D. Bloch , J.-M. Brom , E.C. Chabert ,  
C. Collard , S. Falke , U. Goerlach , R. Haeberle , A.-C. Le Bihan , M. Meena , O. Poncet ,  
G. Saha , M.A. Sessini , P. Van Hove , P. Vaucelle **Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucleaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France**A. Di Florio **Institut de Physique des 2 Infinis de Lyon (IP2I), Villeurbanne, France**D. Amram, S. Beauceron , B. Blancon , G. Boudoul , N. Chanon , D. Contardo ,  
P. Depasse , C. Dozen <sup>22</sup>, H. El Mamouni, J. Fay , S. Gascon , M. Gouzevitch , C. Greenberg,  
G. Grenier , B. Ille , E. Jourdhuy, I.B. Laktineh, M. Lethuillier , L. Mirabito, S. Perries,  
A. Purohit , M. Vander Donckt , P. Verdier , J. Xiao **Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia**I. Lomidze , T. Toriashvili <sup>23</sup>, Z. Tsamalaidze <sup>16</sup>**RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany**V. Botta , S. Consuegra Rodríguez , L. Feld , K. Klein , M. Lipinski , D. Meuser ,  
A. Pauls , D. Pérez Adán , N. Röwert , M. Teroerde 



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

S. Diekmann , A. Dodonova , N. Eich , D. Eliseev , F. Engelke , J. Erdmann ,  
M. Erdmann , P. Fackeldey , B. Fischer , T. Hebbeker , K. Hoepfner , F. Ivone , A. Jung ,  
M.y. Lee , F. Mausolf , M. Merschmeyer , A. Meyer , S. Mukherjee , D. Noll , F. Nowotny,  
A. Pozdnyakov , Y. Rath, W. Redjeb , F. Rehm, H. Reithler , V. Sarkisovi , A. Schmidt ,  
C. Seth, A. Sharma , J.L. Spah , A. Stein , F. Torres Da Silva De Araujo <sup>24</sup>, S. Wiedenbeck ,  
S. Zaleski
























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

C. Dziwok , G. Flügge , T. Kress , A. Nowack , O. Pooth , A. Stahl , T. Ziemons ,  
A. Zotz 






















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

H. Aarup Petersen , M. Aldaya Martin , J. Alimena , S. Amoroso, Y. An , J. Bach ,  
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F. Blekman <sup>25</sup>, K. Borrás <sup>26</sup>, A. Campbell , A. Cardini , C. Cheng, F. Colombina ,  
M. De Silva , G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein , L.I. Estevez Banos , O. Filatov , E. Gallo <sup>25</sup>,  
A. Geiser , V. Guglielmi , M. Guthoff , A. Hinzmann , L. Jeppe , B. Kaech ,  
M. Kasemann , C. Kleinwort , R. Kogler , M. Komm , D. Krücker , W. Lange,  
D. Leyva Pernia , K. Lipka <sup>27</sup>, W. Lohmann <sup>28</sup>, F. Lorkowski , R. Mankel ,  
I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann , M. Mendizabal Morentin , A.B. Meyer , G. Milella ,  
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J. Park , E. Ranken , A. Raspereza , D. Rastorguev , J. Rübenach, L. Rygaard, A. Saggio ,  
M. Scham <sup>29,26</sup>, S. Schnake <sup>26</sup>, P. Schütze , C. Schwanenberger <sup>25</sup>, D. Selivanova ,  
K. Sharko , M. Shchedrolosiev , D. Stafford, F. Vazzoler , A. Ventura Barroso , R. Walsh ,  
D. Wang , Q. Wang , Y. Wen , K. Wichmann, L. Wiens <sup>26</sup>, C. Wissing , Y. Yang ,  
A. Zimmermann Castro Santos 

**University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany**

A. Albrecht , S. Albrecht , M. Antonello , S. Bein , L. Benato , S. Bollweg, M. Bonanomi ,  
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M. Sommerhalder , H. Stadie , G. Steinbrück , A. Tews, M. Wolf 

**Karlsruher Institut fuer Technologie, Karlsruhe, Germany**

S. Brommer , M. Burkart, E. Butz , T. Chwalek , A. Dierlamm , A. Droll, U. Elicabuk,  
N. Faltermann , M. Giffels , A. Gottmann , F. Hartmann <sup>30</sup>, R. Hofsaess , M. Horzela ,  
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A. Lintuluoto , B. Maier , S. Maier , S. Mitra , M. Mormile , Th. Müller , M. Neukum,  
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R.F. Von Cube , M. Wassmer , S. Wieland , F. Wittig, R. Wolf , X. Zuo 

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

G. Anagnostou, G. Daskalakis<sup>19</sup>, A. Kyriakis, A. Papadopoulos<sup>30</sup>, A. Stakia<sup>19</sup>

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

P. Kontaxakis<sup>19</sup>, G. Melachroinos, Z. Painesis<sup>19</sup>, I. Papavergou<sup>19</sup>, I. Paraskevas<sup>19</sup>, N. Saoulidou<sup>19</sup>, K. Theofilatos<sup>19</sup>, E. Tziaferi<sup>19</sup>, K. Vellidis<sup>19</sup>, I. Zisopoulos<sup>19</sup>

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

G. Bakas<sup>19</sup>, T. Chatzistavrou, G. Karapostoli<sup>19</sup>, K. Kousouris<sup>19</sup>, I. Papakrivopoulos<sup>19</sup>, E. Siamarkou, G. Tsipolitis<sup>19</sup>, A. Zacharopoulou

**University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece**

K. Adamidis, I. Bestintzanos, I. Evangelou<sup>19</sup>, C. Foudas, C. Kamtsikis, P. Katsoulis, P. Kokkas<sup>19</sup>, P.G. Kosmoglou Kioseoglou<sup>19</sup>, N. Manthos<sup>19</sup>, I. Papadopoulos<sup>19</sup>, J. Strologas<sup>19</sup>

**HUN-REN Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary**

C. Hajdu<sup>19</sup>, D. Horvath<sup>19,31,32</sup>, K. Márton, A.J. Rádl<sup>19,33</sup>, F. Sikler<sup>19</sup>, V. Veszpremi<sup>19</sup>

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

M. Csanád<sup>19</sup>, K. Farkas<sup>19</sup>, A. Fehérkuti<sup>19,34</sup>, M.M.A. Gadallah<sup>19,35</sup>, Á. Kadlecik<sup>19</sup>, P. Major<sup>19</sup>, G. Pásztor<sup>19</sup>, G.I. Veres<sup>19</sup>

**Faculty of Informatics, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary**

B. Ujvari<sup>19</sup>, G. Zilizi<sup>19</sup>

**HUN-REN ATOMKI - Institute of Nuclear Research, Debrecen, Hungary**

G. Bencze, S. Czellar, J. Molnar, Z. Szillasi

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

T. Csorgo<sup>19,34</sup>, F. Nemes<sup>19,34</sup>, T. Novak<sup>19</sup>

**Panjab University, Chandigarh, India**

S. Bansal<sup>19</sup>, S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar<sup>19</sup>, G. Chaudhary<sup>19</sup>, S. Chauhan<sup>19</sup>, N. Dhingra<sup>19,36</sup>, A. Kaur<sup>19</sup>, A. Kaur<sup>19</sup>, H. Kaur<sup>19</sup>, M. Kaur<sup>19</sup>, S. Kumar<sup>19</sup>, K. Sandeep<sup>19</sup>, T. Sheokand, J.B. Singh<sup>19</sup>, A. Singla<sup>19</sup>
















**University of Delhi, Delhi, India**

A. Ahmed<sup>19</sup>, A. Bhardwaj<sup>19</sup>, A. Chhetri<sup>19</sup>, B.C. Choudhary<sup>19</sup>, A. Kumar<sup>19</sup>, A. Kumar<sup>19</sup>, M. Naimuddin<sup>19</sup>, K. Ranjan<sup>19</sup>, M.K. Saini, S. Saumya<sup>19</sup>

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

S. Baradia<sup>19</sup>, S. Barman<sup>19,37</sup>, S. Bhattacharya<sup>19</sup>, S. Das Gupta, S. Dutta<sup>19</sup>, S. Dutta, S. Sarkar










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

M.M. Ameen , P.K. Behera , S.C. Behera , S. Chatterjee , G. Dash , P. Jana , P. Kalbhor ,  
S. Kamble , J.R. Komaragiri <sup>38</sup>, D. Kumar <sup>38</sup>, P.R. Pujahari , N.R. Saha , A. Sharma ,  
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




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

S. Dugad, G.B. Mohanty , B. Parida , M. Shelake, P. Suryadevara











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G. Majumder , K. Mazumdar , S. Parolia , A. Thachayath 

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

S. Bahinipati <sup>39</sup>, C. Kar , D. Maity <sup>40</sup>, P. Mal , T. Mishra ,  
V.K. Muraleedharan Nair Bindhu <sup>40</sup>, K. Naskar <sup>40</sup>, A. Nayak <sup>40</sup>, S. Nayak, K. Pal, P. Sadangi,  
S.K. Swain , S. Varghese <sup>40</sup>, D. Vats <sup>40</sup>








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

S. Acharya <sup>41</sup>, A. Alpana , S. Dube , B. Gomber <sup>41</sup>, P. Hazarika , B. Kansal , A. Laha ,  
B. Sahu <sup>41</sup>, S. Sharma , K.Y. Vaish 

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

H. Bakhshiansohi <sup>42</sup>, A. Jafari <sup>43</sup>, M. Zeinali <sup>44</sup>
































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

S. Bashiri, S. Chenarani <sup>45</sup>, S.M. Etesami , Y. Hosseini , M. Khakzad , E. Khazaie <sup>46</sup>,  
M. Mohammadi Najafabadi , S. Tizchang <sup>47</sup>























**University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**

M. Felcini , M. Grunewald 

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

M. Abbrescia <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Colaleo <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Creanza <sup>a,c</sup>, B. D'Anzi <sup>a,b</sup>, N. De Filippis <sup>a,c</sup>,  
M. De Palma <sup>a,b</sup>, W. Elmetenawee <sup>a,b,48</sup>, L. Fiore <sup>a</sup>, G. Iaselli <sup>a,c</sup>, L. Longo <sup>a</sup>, M. Louka <sup>a,b</sup>,  
G. Maggi <sup>a,c</sup>, M. Maggi <sup>a</sup>, I. Margjeka <sup>a</sup>, V. Mastrapasqua <sup>a,b</sup>, S. My <sup>a,b</sup>, S. Nuzzo <sup>a,b</sup>,  
A. Pellecchia <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Pompili <sup>a,b</sup>, G. Pugliese <sup>a,c</sup>, R. Radogna <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Ramos <sup>a</sup>, A. Ranieri <sup>a</sup>,  
L. Silvestris <sup>a</sup>, F.M. Simone <sup>a,c</sup>, Ü. Sözbilir <sup>a</sup>, A. Stamerra <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Troiano <sup>a,b</sup>, R. Venditti <sup>a,b</sup>,  
P. Verwilligen <sup>a</sup>, A. Zaza <sup>a,b</sup>

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




















G. Abbiendi <sup>a</sup>, C. Battilana <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Bonacorsi <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Capiluppi <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Castro <sup>†,a,b</sup>,  
F.R. Cavallo <sup>a</sup>, M. Cuffiani <sup>a,b</sup>, G.M. Dallavalle <sup>a</sup>, T. Diotallevi <sup>a,b</sup>, F. Fabbri <sup>a</sup>,  
A. Fanfani <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Fasanella <sup>a</sup>, P. Giacomelli <sup>a</sup>, L. Giommi <sup>a,b</sup>, C. Grandi <sup>a</sup>, L. Guiducci <sup>a,b</sup>,  
S. Lo Meo <sup>a,49</sup>, M. Lorusso <sup>a,b</sup>, L. Lunerti <sup>a</sup>, S. Marcellini <sup>a</sup>, G. Masetti <sup>a</sup>, F.L. Navarria <sup>a,b</sup>,

G. Paggi <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Perrotta <sup>a</sup>, F. Primavera <sup>a,b</sup>, A.M. Rossi <sup>a,b</sup>, S. Rossi Tisbeni <sup>a,b</sup>,  
T. Rovelli <sup>a,b</sup>, G.P. Siroli <sup>a,b</sup>

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

S. Costa <sup>a,b,50</sup>, A. Di Mattia <sup>a</sup>, A. Lapertosa <sup>a</sup>, R. Potenza <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Tricomi <sup>a,b,50</sup>, C. Tuve <sup>a,b</sup>

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

P. Assiouras <sup>a</sup>, G. Barbagli <sup>a</sup>, G. Bardelli <sup>a,b</sup>, B. Camaiani <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Cassese <sup>a</sup>, R. Ceccarelli <sup>a</sup>,  
V. Ciulli <sup>a,b</sup>, C. Civinini <sup>a</sup>, R. D'Alessandro <sup>a,b</sup>, E. Focardi <sup>a,b</sup>, T. Kello <sup>a</sup>, G. Latino <sup>a,b</sup>,  
P. Lenzi <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Lizzo <sup>a</sup>, M. Meschini <sup>a</sup>, S. Paoletti <sup>a</sup>, A. Papanastassiou <sup>a,b</sup>, G. Sguazzoni <sup>a</sup>,  
L. Viliani <sup>a</sup>


























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

L. Benussi <sup>a</sup>, S. Bianco <sup>a</sup>, S. Meola <sup>51</sup>, D. Piccolo <sup>a</sup>










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

P. Chatagnon <sup>a</sup>, F. Ferro <sup>a</sup>, E. Robutti <sup>a</sup>, S. Tosi <sup>a,b</sup>





























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

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











**INFN Sezione di Napoli<sup>a</sup>, Università di Napoli 'Federico II'<sup>b</sup>, Napoli, Italy;  
Università della Basilicata<sup>c</sup>, Potenza, Italy; Scuola Superiore Meridionale  
(SSM)<sup>d</sup>, Napoli, Italy**

S. Buontempo <sup>a</sup>, A. Cagnotta <sup>a,b</sup>, F. Carnevali <sup>a,b</sup>, N. Cavallo <sup>a,c</sup>, F. Fabozzi <sup>a,c</sup>,  
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












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

R. Ardino <sup>a</sup>, P. Azzi <sup>a</sup>, N. Bacchetta <sup>a,53</sup>, D. Bisello <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Bortignon <sup>a</sup>, G. Bortolato <sup>a,b</sup>,  
A. Bragagnolo <sup>a,b</sup>, A.C.M. Bulla <sup>a</sup>, R. Carlin <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Checchia <sup>a</sup>, T. Dorigo <sup>a</sup>,  
F. Gasparini <sup>a,b</sup>, E. Lusiani <sup>a</sup>, M. Margoni <sup>a,b</sup>, G. Maron <sup>a,54</sup>, A.T. Meneguzzo <sup>a,b</sup>,  
M. Migliorini <sup>a,b</sup>, J. Pazzini <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Ronchese <sup>a,b</sup>, R. Rossin <sup>a,b</sup>, F. Simonetto <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Tosi <sup>a,b</sup>,  
A. Triossi <sup>a,b</sup>, S. Ventura <sup>a</sup>, M. Zanetti <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Zotto <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Zucchetta <sup>a,b</sup>, G. Zumerle <sup>a,b</sup>



































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

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
















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

S. Ajmal <sup>a,b</sup>, M.E. Ascioti <sup>a,b</sup>, G.M. Bilei <sup>a</sup>, C. Carrivale <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Ciangottini <sup>a,b</sup>, L. Fanò <sup>a,b</sup>,  
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





























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

C.A. Alexe <sup>a,c</sup>, P. Asenov <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Azzurri <sup>a</sup>, G. Bagliesi <sup>a</sup>, R. Bhattacharya <sup>a</sup>, L. Bianchini <sup>a,b</sup>, T. Boccali <sup>a</sup>, E. Bossini <sup>a</sup>, D. Bruschini <sup>a,c</sup>, R. Castaldi <sup>a</sup>, M.A. Ciocci <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Cipriani <sup>a,b</sup>, V. D'Amante <sup>a,d</sup>, R. Dell'Orso <sup>a</sup>, S. Donato <sup>a</sup>, A. Giassi <sup>a</sup>, F. Ligabue <sup>a,c</sup>, A.C. Marini <sup>a</sup>, D. Matos Figueiredo <sup>a</sup>, A. Messineo <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Musich <sup>a,b</sup>, F. Palla <sup>a</sup>, A. Rizzi <sup>a,b</sup>, G. Rolandi <sup>a,c</sup>, S. Roy Chowdhury <sup>a</sup>, T. Sarkar <sup>a</sup>, A. Scribano <sup>a</sup>, P. Spagnolo <sup>a</sup>, R. Tenchini <sup>a</sup>, G. Tonelli <sup>a,b</sup>, N. Turini <sup>a,d</sup>, F. Vaselli <sup>a,c</sup>, A. Venturi <sup>a</sup>, P.G. Verdini <sup>a</sup>








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

C. Baldenegro Barrera <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Barria <sup>a</sup>, C. Basile <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Campana <sup>a,b</sup>, F. Cavallari <sup>a</sup>, L. Cunqueiro Mendez <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Del Re <sup>a,b</sup>, E. Di Marco <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Diemoz <sup>a</sup>, F. Errico <sup>a,b</sup>, E. Longo <sup>a,b</sup>, J. Mijuskovic <sup>a,b</sup>, G. Organtini <sup>a,b</sup>, F. Pandolfi <sup>a</sup>, R. Paramatti <sup>a,b</sup>, C. Quaranta <sup>a,b</sup>, S. Rahatlou <sup>a,b</sup>, C. Rovelli <sup>a</sup>, F. Santanastasio <sup>a,b</sup>, L. Soffi <sup>a</sup>















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

N. Amapane <sup>a,b</sup>, R. Arcidiacono <sup>a,c</sup>, S. Argiro <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Arneodo <sup>a,c</sup>, N. Bartosik <sup>a</sup>, R. Bellan <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Bellora <sup>a,b</sup>, C. Biino <sup>a</sup>, C. Borca <sup>a,b</sup>, N. Cartiglia <sup>a</sup>, M. Costa <sup>a,b</sup>, R. Covarelli <sup>a,b</sup>, N. Demaria <sup>a</sup>, L. Finco <sup>a</sup>, M. Grippo <sup>a,b</sup>, B. Kiani <sup>a,b</sup>, F. Legger <sup>a</sup>, F. Luongo <sup>a,b</sup>, C. Mariotti <sup>a</sup>, L. Markovic <sup>a,b</sup>, S. Maselli <sup>a</sup>, A. Mecca <sup>a,b</sup>, L. Menzio <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Meridiani <sup>a</sup>, E. Migliore <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Monteno <sup>a</sup>, R. Mulargia <sup>a</sup>, M.M. Obertino <sup>a,b</sup>, G. Ortona <sup>a</sup>, L. Pacher <sup>a,b</sup>, N. Pastrone <sup>a</sup>, M. Pelliccioni <sup>a</sup>, M. Ruspa <sup>a,c</sup>, F. Siviero <sup>a,b</sup>, V. Sola <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Solano <sup>a,b</sup>, A. Staiano <sup>a</sup>, C. Tarricone <sup>a,b</sup>, D. Trocino <sup>a</sup>, G. Umoret <sup>a,b</sup>, R. White <sup>a,b</sup>

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

J. Babbar <sup>a,b</sup>, S. Belforte <sup>a</sup>, V. Candelise <sup>a,b</sup>, M. Casarsa <sup>a</sup>, F. Cossutti <sup>a</sup>, K. De Leo <sup>a</sup>, G. Della Ricca <sup>a,b</sup>





**Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea**

S. Dogra <sup>a</sup>, J. Hong <sup>a</sup>, C. Huh <sup>a</sup>, B. Kim <sup>a</sup>, J. Kim <sup>a</sup>, D. Lee <sup>a</sup>, H. Lee <sup>a</sup>, S.W. Lee <sup>a</sup>, C.S. Moon <sup>a</sup>, Y.D. Oh <sup>a</sup>, M.S. Ryu <sup>a</sup>, S. Sekmen <sup>a</sup>, B. Tae <sup>a</sup>, Y.C. Yang <sup>a</sup>

**Department of Mathematics and Physics - GWNNU, Gangneung, Korea**

M.S. Kim <sup>a</sup>








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











G. Bak <sup>a</sup>, P. Gwak <sup>a</sup>, H. Kim <sup>a</sup>, D.H. Moon <sup>a</sup>

**Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea**













E. Asilar <sup>a</sup>, J. Choi <sup>a</sup>, D. Kim <sup>a</sup>, T.J. Kim <sup>a</sup>, J.A. Merlin <sup>a</sup>, Y. Ryou <sup>a</sup>

**Korea University, Seoul, Korea**

S. Choi <sup>a</sup>, S. Han <sup>a</sup>, B. Hong <sup>a</sup>, K. Lee <sup>a</sup>, K.S. Lee <sup>a</sup>, S. Lee <sup>a</sup>, J. Yoo <sup>a</sup>








**Kyung Hee University, Department of Physics, Seoul, Korea**J. Goh , S. Yang **Sejong University, Seoul, Korea**H. S. Kim , Y. Kim, S. Lee**Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea**J. Almond, J.H. Bhyun, J. Choi , J. Choi, W. Jun , J. Kim , S. Ko , H. Kwon , H. Lee , J. Lee , J. Lee , B.H. Oh , S.B. Oh , H. Seo , U.K. Yang, I. Yoon **University of Seoul, Seoul, Korea**W. Jang , D.Y. Kang, Y. Kang , S. Kim , B. Ko, J.S.H. Lee , Y. Lee , I.C. Park , Y. Roh, I.J. Watson **Yonsei University, Department of Physics, Seoul, Korea**S. Ha , H.D. Yoo **Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Korea**M. Choi , M.R. Kim , H. Lee, Y. Lee , I. Yu **College of Engineering and Technology, American University of the Middle East (AUM), Dasman, Kuwait**

T. Beyrouthy, Y. Gharbia

**Kuwait University - College of Science - Department of Physics, Safat, Kuwait**F. Alazemi **Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia**K. Dreimanis , A. Gaile , C. Munoz Diaz, D. Osite , G. Pikurs, A. Potrebko , M. Seidel , D. Sidiropoulos Kontos**University of Latvia (LU), Riga, Latvia**N.R. Strautnieks **Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania**M. Ambrozas , A. Juodagalvis , A. Rinkevicius , G. Tamulaitis **National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**I. Yusuff <sup>56</sup>, Z. Zolkapli**Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), Hermosillo, Mexico**J.F. Benitez , A. Castaneda Hernandez , H.A. Encinas Acosta, L.G. Gallegos Maríñez, M. León Coello , J.A. Murillo Quijada , A. Sehwat , L. Valencia Palomo 





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A. Sánchez Hernández 

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

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




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

K. Bunkowski , K. Doroba , A. Kalinowski , M. Konecki , J. Krolkowski , A. Muhammad 

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**Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia**

P. Adzic , P. Milenovic 

**VINCA Institute of Nuclear Sciences, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia**

M. Dordevic , J. Milosevic , V. Rekovic















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








**Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain**

J.F. de Trocóniz 

**Universidad de Oviedo, Instituto Universitario de Ciencias y Tecnologías Espaciales de Asturias (ICTEA), Oviedo, Spain**

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

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







B. Kailasapathy <sup>58</sup>, D.D.C. Wickramarathna 

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


W.G.D. Dharmaratna <sup>59</sup>, K. Liyanage , N. Perera 

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





































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D. Walter , J. Wanczyk <sup>61</sup>, J. Wang, K.A. Wozniak <sup>62</sup>, S. Wuchterl , P. Zehetner , P. Zejdl ,  
W.D. Zeuner




















### PSI Center for Neutron and Muon Sciences, Villigen, Switzerland

T. Bevilacqua <sup>63</sup>, L. Caminada <sup>63</sup>, A. Ebrahimi , W. Erdmann , R. Horisberger , Q. Ingram ,  
H.C. Kaestli , D. Kotlinski , C. Lange , M. Missiroli <sup>63</sup>, L. Noehte <sup>63</sup>, T. Rohe 

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

T.K. Aarrestad , K. Androsov <sup>61</sup>, M. Backhaus , G. Bonomelli, A. Calandri , C. Cazzaniga ,  
K. Datta , P. De Bryas Dexmiers D'archiac <sup>61</sup>, A. De Cosa , G. Dissertori , M. Dittmar,  
M. Donegà , F. Eble , M. Galli , K. Gedia , F. Glessgen , C. Grab , N. Härringer ,  
T.G. Harte, D. Hits , W. Lustermann , A.-M. Lyon , R.A. Manzoni , M. Marchegiani ,  
L. Marchese , C. Martin Perez , A. Mascellani <sup>61</sup>, F. Nessi-Tedaldi , F. Pauss , V. Perovic ,  
S. Pigazzini , C. Reissel , B. Ristic , F. Riti , R. Seidita , J. Steggemann <sup>61</sup>, A. Tarabini ,  
D. Valsecchi , R. Wallny 












### Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

C. Amsler <sup>64</sup>, P. Bärtschi , M.F. Canelli , K. Cormier , M. Huwiler , W. Jin , A. Jofrehei ,  
B. Kilminster , S. Leontsinis , S.P. Liechti , A. Macchiolo , P. Meiring , F. Meng ,  
U. Molinatti , J. Motta , A. Reimers , P. Robmann, M. Senger , E. Shokr, F. Stäger ,  
R. Tramontano 

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

C. Adloff<sup>65</sup>, D. Bhowmik, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, P.K. Rout , P.C. Tiwari <sup>38</sup>, S.S. Yu 



















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

L. Ceard, K.F. Chen , P.s. Chen, Z.g. Chen, A. De Iorio , W.-S. Hou , T.h. Hsu, Y.w. Kao,  
S. Karmakar , G. Kole , Y.y. Li , R.-S. Lu , E. Paganis , X.f. Su , J. Thomas-Wilsker ,  
L.s. Tsai, D. Tsiou, H.y. Wu, E. Yazgan 

### High Energy Physics Research Unit, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

C. Asawatangtrakuldee , N. Srimanobhas , V. Wachirapusanand 

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

D. Agyel , F. Boran , F. Dolek , I. Dumanoglu <sup>66</sup>, E. Eskut , Y. Guler <sup>67</sup>,  
E. Gurpinar Guler <sup>67</sup>, C. Isik , O. Kara, A. Kayis Topaksu , U. Kiminsu , G. Onengut ,  
K. Ozdemir <sup>68</sup>, A. Polatoz , B. Tali <sup>69</sup>, U.G. Tok , S. Turkcapar , E. Uslan , I.S. Zorbakir 






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

G. Sokmen, M. Yalvac <sup>70</sup>

### Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

B. Akgun , I.O. Atakisi , E. Gülmez , M. Kaya <sup>71</sup>, O. Kaya <sup>72</sup>, S. Tekten <sup>73</sup>

**Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey**

A. Cakir , K. Cankocak <sup>66,74</sup>, G.G. Dincer <sup>66</sup>, Y. Komurcu , S. Sen <sup>75</sup>

**Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey**

O. Aydılek <sup>76</sup>, B. Hacisahinoglu , I. Hos <sup>77</sup>, B. Kaynak , S. Ozkorucuklu , O. Potok ,  
H. Sert , C. Simsek , C. Zorbilmez 

**Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey**

S. Cerci <sup>69</sup>, B. Isildak <sup>78</sup>, D. Sunar Cerci , T. Yetkin 















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

A. Boyaryntsev , B. Grynyov 




















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

L. Levchuk 




































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

D. Anthony , J.J. Brooke , A. Bundock , F. Bury , E. Clement , D. Cussans , H. Flacher ,  
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L. Robertshaw, S. Seif El Nasr-Storey, V.J. Smith , N. Stylianou <sup>79</sup>, K. Walkingshaw Pass

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

A.H. Ball, K.W. Bell , A. Belyaev <sup>80</sup>, C. Brew , R.M. Brown , D.J.A. Cockerill , C. Cooke ,  
A. Elliot , K.V. Ellis, K. Harder , S. Harper , J. Linacre , K. Manolopoulos, D.M. Newbold ,  
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C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous , I.R. Tomalin , K.C. Whalen , T. Williams 













**Imperial College, London, United Kingdom**

I. Andreou , R. Bainbridge , P. Bloch , C.E. Brown , O. Buchmuller, V. Cacchio,  
C.A. Carrillo Montoya , G.S. Chahal <sup>81</sup>, D. Colling , J.S. Dancu, I. Das , P. Dauncey ,  
G. Davies , J. Davies, M. Della Negra , S. Fayer, G. Fedi , G. Hall , M.H. Hassanshahi ,  
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A.-M. Magnan , S. Mallios, M. Mieskolainen , J. Nash <sup>82</sup>, M. Pesaresi , P.B. Pradeep,  
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K. Uchida , G.P. Uttley , L.H. Vage, T. Virdee <sup>30</sup>, M. Vojinovic , N. Wardle ,  
D. Winterbottom 






**Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom**

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





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S. Abdullin , A. Brinkerhoff , E. Collins , M.R. Darwish <sup>83</sup>, J. Dittmann , K. Hatakeyama ,  
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



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

R. Bartek , A. Dominguez , C. Huerta Escamilla, A.E. Simsek , R. Uniyal ,  
A.M. Vargas Hernandez 


















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

B. Bam , A. Buchot Perraguin , R. Chudasama , S.I. Cooper , C. Crovella , S.V. Gleyzer ,  
E. Pearson, C.U. Perez , P. Rumerio <sup>84</sup>, E. Usai , R. Yi 



















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

A. Akpinar , C. Cosby , G. De Castro, Z. Demiragli , C. Erice , C. Fangmeier ,  
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



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

G. Benelli , D. Cutts , L. Gouskos , M. Hadley , U. Heintz , J.M. Hogan <sup>85</sup>, T. Kwon ,  
G. Landsberg , K.T. Lau , D. Li , J. Luo , S. Mondal , N. Pervan , T. Russell, S. Sagir <sup>86</sup>,  
X. Shen, F. Simpson , M. Stamenkovic , N. Venkatasubramanian, X. Yan 





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

S. Abbott , C. Brainerd , R. Breedon , H. Cai , M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez ,  
M. Chertok , M. Citron , J. Conway , P.T. Cox , R. Erbacher , F. Jensen , O. Kukral ,  
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



















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M. Bachtis , R. Cousins , A. Datta , G. Flores Avila , J. Hauser , M. Ignatenko ,  
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**University of California, Santa Barbara - Department of Physics, Santa Barbara, California, USA**

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

S. Bhattacharya , A. Bornheim , O. Cerri, A. Latorre, J. Mao , H.B. Newman ,  
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**Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA**

J. Alison , S. An , P. Bryant , M. Cremonesi, V. Dutta , T. Ferguson ,  
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




























































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

J.P. Cumalat , W.T. Ford , A. Hart , A. Hassani , G. Karathanasis , N. Manganelli ,  
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










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

J. Alexander , S. Bright-Thonney , X. Chen , D.J. Cranshaw , J. Fan , X. Fan , S. Hogan ,  
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










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

M. Albrow , M. Alyari , O. Amram , G. Apollinari , A. Apresyan , L.A.T. Bauerdick ,  
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C. Pena <sup>87</sup>, F. Ravera , A. Reinsvold Hall <sup>88</sup>, L. Ristori , M. Safdari , E. Sexton-Kennedy ,  
N. Smith , A. Soha , L. Spiegel , S. Stoynev , J. Strait , L. Taylor , S. Tkaczyk ,  
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
**University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA**

C. Aruta , P. Avery , D. Bourilkov , P. Chang , V. Cherepanov , R.D. Field, E. Koenig ,  
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J. Wang 
























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

T. Adams , A. Al Kadhim , A. Askew , S. Bower , V. Hagopian , R. Hashmi , R.S. Kim ,  
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J. Zhang











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

B. Alsufyani, M.M. Baarmand , S. Butalla , S. Das , T. Elkafrawy <sup>19</sup>, M. Hohlmann ,  
E. Yanes

**University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA**

M.R. Adams , A. Baty , C. Bennett, R. Cavanaugh , R. Escobar Franco , O. Evdokimov , C.E. Gerber , M. Hawksworth, A. Hingrajiya, D.J. Hofman , J.h. Lee , D. S. Lemos , A.H. Merrit , C. Mills , S. Nanda , G. Oh , B. Ozek , D. Pilipovic , R. Pradhan , E. Prifti, T. Roy , S. Rudrabhatla , M.B. Tonjes , N. Varelas , M.A. Wadud , Z. Ye , J. Yoo 
























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M. Alhousseini , D. Blend, K. Dilsiz <sup>89</sup>, L. Emediato , G. Karaman , O.K. Köseyan , J.-P. Merlo, A. Mestvirishvili <sup>90</sup>, O. Neogi, H. Ogul <sup>91</sup>, Y. Onel , A. Penzo , C. Snyder, E. Tiras <sup>92</sup>

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

B. Blumenfeld , L. Corcodilos , J. Davis , A.V. Gritsan , L. Kang , S. Kyriacou , P. Maksimovic , M. Roguljic , J. Roskes , S. Sekhar , M. Swartz 


















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

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















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

B. Allmond , R. Gujju Gurunadha , A. Ivanov , K. Kaadze , Y. Maravin , J. Natoli , D. Roy , G. Sorrentino 












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

A. Baden , A. Belloni , J. Bistany-riebman, Y.M. Chen , S.C. Eno , N.J. Hadley , S. Jabeen , R.G. Kellogg , T. Koeth , B. Kronheim, Y. Lai , S. Lascio , A.C. Mignerey , S. Nabili , C. Palmer , C. Papageorgakis , M.M. Paranjpe, E. Popova <sup>94</sup>, A. Shevelev , L. Wang 

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

J. Bendavid , I.A. Cali , P.c. Chou , M. D'Alfonso , J. Eysermans , C. Freer , G. Gomez-Ceballos , M. Goncharov, G. Grosso, P. Harris, D. Hoang, D. Kovalskyi , J. Krupa , L. Lavezzo , Y.-J. Lee , K. Long , C. Meginn, A. Novak , M.I. Park , C. Paus , C. Roland , G. Roland , S. Rothman , G.S.F. Stephans , Z. Wang , B. Wyslouch , T. J. Yang 









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

B. Crossman , B.M. Joshi , C. Kapsiak , M. Krohn , D. Mahon , J. Mans , B. Marzocchi , M. Revering , R. Rusack , R. Saradhy , N. Strobbe 

















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

K. Bloom , D.R. Claes , G. Haza , J. Hossain , C. Joo , I. Kravchenko , J.E. Siado , W. Tabb , A. Vagnerini , A. Wightman , F. Yan , D. Yu 

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

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












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

G. Alverson , E. Barberis , J. Bonilla , J. Dervan, Y. Haddad , Y. Han , A. Krishna , J. Li , M. Lu , G. Madigan , R. Mccarthy , D.M. Morse , V. Nguyen , T. Orimoto , A. Parker , L. Skinnari , D. Wood 

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

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





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

G. Agarwal , R. Band , R. Bucci, S. Castells , A. Das , R. Goldouzian , M. Hildreth , K.W. Ho , K. Hurtado Anampa , T. Ivanov , C. Jessop , K. Lannon , J. Lawrence , N. Loukas , L. Lutton , J. Mariano, N. Marinelli, I. Mcalister, T. McCauley , C. Mcgrady , C. Moore , Y. Musienko <sup>16</sup>, H. Nelson , M. Osherson , A. Piccinelli , R. Ruchti , A. Townsend , Y. Wan, M. Wayne , H. Yockey, M. Zarucki , L. Zygala 

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

A. Basnet , B. Bylsma, M. Carrigan , L.S. Durkin , C. Hill , M. Joyce , M. Nunez Ornelas , K. Wei, B.L. Winer , B. R. Yates 


















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

H. Bouchamaoui , P. Das , G. Dezoort , P. Elmer , A. Frankenthal , B. Greenberg , N. Haubrich , K. Kennedy, G. Kopp , S. Kwan , D. Lange , A. Loeliger , D. Marlow , I. Ojalvo , J. Olsen , D. Stickland , C. Tully 

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

S. Malik 














**Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA**

A.S. Bakshi , S. Chandra , R. Chawla , A. Gu , L. Gutay, M. Jones , A.W. Jung , A.M. Koshy, M. Liu , G. Negro , N. Neumeister , G. Paspalaki , S. Piperov , V. Scheurer, J.F. Schulte , M. Stojanovic , J. Thieman , A. K. Viridi , F. Wang , A. Wildridge , W. Xie , Y. Yao 










**Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, Indiana, USA**

J. Dolen , N. Parashar , A. Pathak 

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





















D. Acosta , T. Carnahan , K.M. Ecklund , P.J. Fernández Manteca , S. Freed, P. Gardner, F.J.M. Geurts , I. Krommydas , W. Li , J. Lin , O. Miguel Colin , B.P. Padley , R. Redjimi, J. Rotter , E. Yigitbasi , Y. Zhang 

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











A. Bodek , P. de Barbaro , R. Demina , J.L. Dulemba , A. Garcia-Bellido , O. Hindrichs , A. Khukhunaishvili , N. Parmar, P. Parygin <sup>94</sup>, R. Taus 

















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

B. Chiarito, J.P. Chou , S.V. Clark , D. Gadkari , Y. Gershtein , E. Halkiadakis ,  
M. Heindl , C. Houghton , D. Jaroslowski , S. Konstantinou , I. Laflotte , A. Lath ,  
R. Montalvo, K. Nash, J. Reichert , H. Routray , P. Saha , S. Salur , S. Schnetzer,  
S. Somalwar , R. Stone , S.A. Thayil , S. Thomas, J. Vora , H. Wang 











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

D. Ally , A.G. Delannoy , S. Fiorendi , S. Higginbotham , T. Holmes , A.R. Kanuganti ,  
N. Karunarathna , L. Lee , E. Nibigira , S. Spanier 












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

D. Aebi , M. Ahmad , T. Akhter , O. Bouhali <sup>95</sup>, R. Eusebi , J. Gilmore , T. Huang ,  
T. Kamon <sup>96</sup>, H. Kim , S. Luo , R. Mueller , D. Overton , D. Rathjens , A. Safonov 

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

N. Akchurin , J. Damgov , N. Gogate , V. Hegde , A. Hussain , Y. Kazhykarim,  
K. Lamichhane , S.W. Lee , A. Mankel , T. Peltola , I. Volobouev 

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

E. Appelt , Y. Chen , S. Greene, A. Gurrola , W. Johns , R. Kunnawalkam Elayavalli ,  
A. Melo , F. Romeo , P. Sheldon , S. Tuo , J. Velkovska , J. Viinikainen 























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

B. Cardwell , H. Chung, B. Cox , J. Hakala , R. Hirsosky , A. Ledovsky , C. Neu 

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
























S. Bhattacharya , P.E. Karchin 

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


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

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

S. Afanasiev , V. Alexakhin , D. Budkouski , I. Golutvin <sup>†</sup>, I. Gorbunov , V. Karjavine ,  
V. Korenkov , A. Lanev , A. Malakhov , V. Matveev <sup>97</sup>, V. Palichik , V. Perelygin ,  
M. Savina , V. Shalaev , S. Shmatov , S. Shulha , V. Smirnov , O. Teryaev , N. Voytishin ,  
B.S. Yuldashev<sup>98</sup>, A. Zarubin , I. Zhizhin , G. Gavrilo , V. Golovtsov , Y. Ivanov ,  
V. Kim <sup>97</sup>, P. Levchenko <sup>99</sup>, V. Murzin , V. Oreshkin , D. Sosnov , V. Sulimov ,  
L. Uvarov , A. Vorobyev<sup>†</sup>, Yu. Andreev , A. Dermenev , S. Gninenko , N. Golubev ,  
A. Karneyev , D. Kirpichnikov , M. Kirsanov , N. Krasnikov , I. Tlisova , A. Toropin ,  
T. Aushev , V. Gavrilo , N. Lychkovskaya , A. Nikitenko <sup>100,101</sup>, V. Popov , A. Zhokin ,  
M. Chadeeva <sup>97</sup>, R. Chistov <sup>97</sup>, S. Polikarpov <sup>97</sup>, V. Andreev , M. Azarkin , M. Kirakosyan,

A. Terkulov , E. Boos , V. Bunichev , M. Dubinin <sup>87</sup>, L. Dudko , A. Ershov , A. Gribushin , V. Klyukhin , O. Kodolova <sup>101</sup>, S. Obraztsov , M. Perfilov, S. Petrushanko , V. Savrin , V. Blinov<sup>97</sup>, T. Dimova <sup>97</sup>, A. Kozyrev <sup>97</sup>, O. Radchenko <sup>97</sup>, Y. Skovpen <sup>97</sup>, V. Kachanov , D. Konstantinov , S. Slabospitskii , A. Uzunian , A. Babaev , V. Borshch , D. Druzhkin <sup>102</sup>

## Authors affiliated with an institute formerly covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN

V. Chekhovsky, V. Makarenko 

<sup>†</sup> *Deceased*

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

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

<sup>3</sup> *Also at Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium*

<sup>4</sup> *Also at Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

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

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

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

<sup>8</sup> *Also at Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China*

<sup>9</sup> *Now at The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA*

<sup>10</sup> *Also at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China*

<sup>11</sup> *Also at China Center of Advanced Science and Technology, Beijing, China*

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

<sup>13</sup> *Also at China Spallation Neutron Source, Guangdong, China*

<sup>14</sup> *Now at Henan Normal University, Xinxiang, China*

<sup>15</sup> *Also at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium*

<sup>16</sup> *Also at an institute or an international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN*

<sup>17</sup> *Also at Zewail City of Science and Technology, Zewail, Egypt*

<sup>18</sup> *Also at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt*

<sup>19</sup> *Now at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt*

<sup>20</sup> *Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA*

<sup>21</sup> *Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France*

<sup>22</sup> *Also at Istinye University, Istanbul, Turkey*

<sup>23</sup> *Also at Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia*

<sup>24</sup> *Also at The University of the State of Amazonas, Manaus, Brazil*

<sup>25</sup> *Also at University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany*

<sup>26</sup> *Also at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany*

<sup>27</sup> *Also at Bergische University Wuppertal (BUW), Wuppertal, Germany*

<sup>28</sup> *Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany*

<sup>29</sup> *Also at Forschungszentrum Jülich, Juelich, Germany*

<sup>30</sup> *Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland*

<sup>31</sup> *Also at HUN-REN ATOMKI - Institute of Nuclear Research, Debrecen, Hungary*

<sup>32</sup> *Now at Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai - Facultatea de Fizica, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

<sup>33</sup> *Also at MTA-ELTE Lendület CMS Particle and Nuclear Physics Group, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary*

<sup>34</sup> *Also at HUN-REN Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary*

<sup>35</sup> *Also at Physics Department, Faculty of Science, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt*

<sup>36</sup> *Also at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India*

<sup>37</sup> *Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India*

<sup>38</sup> *Also at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India*

<sup>39</sup> *Also at IIT Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, India*

<sup>40</sup> *Also at Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, India*

<sup>41</sup> *Also at University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India*

- <sup>42</sup> Also at *Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany*
- <sup>43</sup> Also at *Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran*
- <sup>44</sup> Also at *Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran*
- <sup>45</sup> Also at *Department of Physics, University of Science and Technology of Mazandaran, Behshahr, Iran*
- <sup>46</sup> Also at *Department of Physics, Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran*
- <sup>47</sup> Also at *Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Arak University, ARAK, Iran*
- <sup>48</sup> Also at *Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt*
- <sup>49</sup> Also at *Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, Bologna, Italy*
- <sup>50</sup> Also at *Centro Siciliano di Fisica Nucleare e di Struttura Della Materia, Catania, Italy*
- <sup>51</sup> Also at *Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, Roma, Italy*
- <sup>52</sup> Also at *Scuola Superiore Meridionale, Università di Napoli 'Federico II', Napoli, Italy*
- <sup>53</sup> Also at *Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois, USA*
- <sup>54</sup> Also at *Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro dell'INFN, Legnaro, Italy*
- <sup>55</sup> Also at *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto Officina dei Materiali, Perugia, Italy*
- <sup>56</sup> Also at *Department of Applied Physics, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Malaysia*
- <sup>57</sup> Also at *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico City, Mexico*
- <sup>58</sup> Also at *Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Nilaveli, Sri Lanka*
- <sup>59</sup> Also at *Saegis Campus, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka*
- <sup>60</sup> Also at *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece*
- <sup>61</sup> Also at *Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland*
- <sup>62</sup> Also at *University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria*
- <sup>63</sup> Also at *Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland*
- <sup>64</sup> Also at *Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics, Vienna, Austria*
- <sup>65</sup> Also at *Laboratoire d'Annecy-le-Vieux de Physique des Particules, IN2P3-CNRS, Annecy-le-Vieux, France*
- <sup>66</sup> Also at *Near East University, Research Center of Experimental Health Science, Mersin, Turkey*
- <sup>67</sup> Also at *Konya Technical University, Konya, Turkey*
- <sup>68</sup> Also at *Izmir Bakircay University, Izmir, Turkey*
- <sup>69</sup> Also at *Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey*
- <sup>70</sup> Also at *Bozok Universitetesi Rektörlüğü, Yozgat, Turkey*
- <sup>71</sup> Also at *Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey*
- <sup>72</sup> Also at *Milli Savunma University, Istanbul, Turkey*
- <sup>73</sup> Also at *Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey*
- <sup>74</sup> Now at *Istanbul Okan University, Istanbul, Turkey*
- <sup>75</sup> Also at *Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey*
- <sup>76</sup> Also at *Erzincan Binali Yildirim University, Erzincan, Turkey*
- <sup>77</sup> Also at *Istanbul University - Cerrahpasa, Faculty of Engineering, Istanbul, Turkey*
- <sup>78</sup> Also at *Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey*
- <sup>79</sup> Also at *Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium*
- <sup>80</sup> Also at *School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom*
- <sup>81</sup> Also at *IPPP Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom*
- <sup>82</sup> Also at *Monash University, Faculty of Science, Clayton, Australia*
- <sup>83</sup> Also at *Institute of Basic and Applied Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Alexandria, Egypt*
- <sup>84</sup> Also at *Università di Torino, Torino, Italy*
- <sup>85</sup> Also at *Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA*
- <sup>86</sup> Also at *Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, Karaman, Turkey*
- <sup>87</sup> Also at *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, USA*
- <sup>88</sup> Also at *United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, USA*
- <sup>89</sup> Also at *Bingol University, Bingol, Turkey*
- <sup>90</sup> Also at *Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia*
- <sup>91</sup> Also at *Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey*

<sup>92</sup> Also at *Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey*

<sup>93</sup> Also at *Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH), Bucharest, Romania*

<sup>94</sup> Now at another institute or international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN

<sup>95</sup> Also at *Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar*

<sup>96</sup> Also at *Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea*

<sup>97</sup> Also at another institute or international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN

<sup>98</sup> Also at *Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, Tashkent, Uzbekistan*

<sup>99</sup> Also at *Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA*

<sup>100</sup> Also at *Imperial College, London, United Kingdom*

<sup>101</sup> Now at *Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia*

<sup>102</sup> Also at *Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium*